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Status of Iron Based Superconductors: characteristics

and relevant properties for applications

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superconductivity

IOP Publishing



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Overview

1. Iron-based superconductors (IBSs)

• Physical properties

2. Tuning of the superconducting properties

- SC transition temperature (strain, monolayer, intercalation, EDLT)
- Grain boundary, GB
- Critical current density (natural defects, APC, thermodynamic approach)

3. Progress Toward applications

• Use of IBS wires and bulks in magnets, and perspective

Discover of Iron based superconductors (IBSs)

First Fe-based superconductor in 2006



Published on Web 07/15/2006

Iron-Based Layered Superconductor: LaOFeP

Yoichi Kamihara,[†] Hidenori Hiramatsu,[†] Masahiro Hirano,^{†,‡} Ryuto Kawamura,[§] Hiroshi Yanagi,[§] Toshio Kamiya,^{†,§} and Hideo Hosono^{*,†,‡}

ERATO-SORST, JST, Frontier Collaborative Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box S2-13, 4259 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku, Yokohama 226-8503, Japan, Frontier Collaborative Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box S2-13, 4259 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku, Yokohama 226-8503, Japan, and Materials and Structures Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Mail Box R3-4, 4259 Nagatsuta, Yokohama 226-8503, Japan

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Published on Web 02/23/2008 In 2008

Iron-Based Layered Superconductor La[O_{1-x}F_x]FeAs (x = 0.05-0.12) with $T_c = 26$ K

Yoichi Kamihara,*,† Takumi Watanabe,‡ Masahiro Hirano,†,§ and Hideo Hosono†,‡,§

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Iron based superconductors (IBSs): FeAs or FeCh tetrahedron



IEEE-CSC, ESAS and CSSJ SUPERCONDUCTIVITY NEWS FORUM (global edition), Issue No. 57, Oct 2024. Plenary presentation given at ASC 2024, Sept 2024, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Electronic structure: Multiband superconductors

Fe3d orbitals play an important role for superconductivity

Fe 3*d* orbitals dominate the total DOS around *E*_F

Five Fe 3*d* bands across $E_F \rightarrow$ Multiband superconductors



D. J. Singh and H.-M. Du, Phys. Rev. Lett. 100 237003 (2008).

V. Vildosola et al., Phys. Rev. B 78 064518 (2008).

Mganetic phase diagrams of 122, 1111 and 11



T. Shibauchi et al., Annu. Rev. Condens. Matter Phys. 5 113 (2014).

not harmful to SC (c.f. Cuprates)

High upper critical field, H_{c2} , and low anisotropy



 H_{c2}

 $\gamma_{\rm Hc2}$

 H_{c2} c

IEEE-CSC, ESAS and CSSJ SUPERCONDUCTIVITY NEWS FORUM (global edition), Issue No. 57, Oct 2024. Plenary presentation given at ASC 2024, Sept 2024, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

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Comparison between cuprates and IBSs

	Cuprates	IBSs	
Degree of freedom in material design	high (many compounds)	high (many compounds)	
Parent compound	Mott insulator	AFM bad metal	
Gap symmetry	d-wave, single band	extended s-wave (s± or s++), 5 bands	
Doping	Hole: $T_c = 154 \text{ K}^{\text{i}}$ Electron: $T_c = 30 \text{ K}^{\text{ii}}$	Hole: $T_c=38 \text{ K}^{\text{iii}}$, isovalent: $T_c=31 \text{ K}^{\text{iv}}$ Electron: $T_c=55 \text{ K}^{\text{v}}$, 65 K ^{vi}	
<i>H</i> _{c2} anisotropy	~5: RE-123 ~150: Bi-2223	1~2: 11 and 122 1~5: <i>Ln</i> -1111	
Pairing mechanism	spin fluctuations?	spin fluctuations? orbital fluctuations?	
	i) HgBa ₂ Ca ₂ Cu ₃ O _{8+δ} w/pressure ii) La _{1-x} Ce _x CuO ₄	iii) $Ba_{0.6}K_{0.4}Fe_2As_2$ v) $LnFeAs(O,F)$ ($Ln=Nd$, Sn iv) $BaFe_2(As_{0.66}P_{0.33})_2$ vi) FeSe monolayer	

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A significant jump of T_c by pressure

9 K -> 37 K (7 GPa)

FeSe:

HgBa₂Ca₂Cu₃O_{8+ δ}: 130 K -> 153 K (15 GPa)



N. Takeshita et al., J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 82 023711 (2013). S. Margadonna et al., PRB 80 064506 (2009).

> Isotropic pressure enhances T_c

 \succ Chemical pressure also enhances T_{c}



H. Takahashi et al., Nature 453 376 (2008).



Z. Ren, Z. Zhao, Adv. Mater. 21 4584 (2009).

Pressure & strain induced superconductivity in Ba122



S. Kasahara et al., PRB 81 184519 (2010).

J. Engelmann, K.I. et al., Nat. Commun. 4 2877 (2013). J. Kang et al

J. Kang et al., PNAS 117 21170 (2020).

$T_{\rm c} = 65$ K in a monolayer of FeSe





- > SC gap opened at between 55 K $\leq T \leq$ 65 K for 1 ML
- > Only electron-like pockets appeared at M-point for 1 ML
- > Hole-like pocket started to appear at Γ -point for over 2 ML
- FeSe ML is very sensitive to air -> quickly degraded

Wang et al., Chin. Phys. Lett. **29** 037402 (2012). Tan at al., Nat. Mater. **12** 634 (2013).

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Tuning superconducting properties, T_c , by intercalation

(Li,Fe)OHFeSe (11111) single crystal



Dong et al., Phys. Rev. B, 92 064515 (2015).



- (Li,Fe)OHFeSe single crystals grown by ion exchange
- Electronic structure is very similar to the FeSe ML ($T_c \sim 42$ K) ¹⁴

Tuning superconducting properties, T_c , by intercalation



Tuning superconducting properties, T_c , by protonation

Protonation-induced SC in FeSe



Electric double layer transistor (EDLT)



Tuning superconducting properties by EDLT

SC induced by EDLT

first demonstration

in IBS [FeSe~0.6nm]

J. Shiogai et al., Nat. Phys. 12 42 (2016).



T_{c} enhancement by EDLT

FeSe_{0.8}Te_{0.2} (>10 nm)

S. Kouno et al., Sci. Rep. 8 14731 (2018).







So far, enhancement of T_c by EDLT only for FeSe & Fe(Se,Te)

 $TIFe_{1.6}Se_2$ (~20 nm) NdFeAsO (~7 nm)

T. Katase et al., PNAS 111 3979 (2014). K. Iida et al., unpublished



100

, Т(К)

0

200

300

4000

 $R_{\rm sheet}$ (Ω)

3600

3400

 $V_{a}=0$

 V_{G} = +2 V V_{C} = +4 V

10 T (K) 20

Ambipolar suppression of T_c BaFe₂(As,P)₂ (~10 nm)

E. Piatti, K.I. et al., Phys. Rev. Mater. 3 044801 (2019).



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Large critical angle $\theta_{\rm c}$ & constant $J_{\rm c,inter}$ ($\theta_{\rm GB} > \sim 15^{\circ}$)



T. Hatano, K.I. et al., NPG Asia Mater. 16 41 (2024).
K. Iida et al., Supercond. Sci. Technol. 32 074003 (2019).
T. Katase et al., Nat. Commun. 2 409 (2011).
W Si et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 106 032602 (2015).
E. Sarnelli et al., IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond. 27 7400104 (2017).



> A critical angle θ_c of 9°, which is larger than cuprate

$$\blacktriangleright$$
 The $J_{c,inter}$ is constant at $\theta_{GB} > \sim 15^{\circ}$

Excellent GB properties in (Ba,K)122

Unchanged θ_c for (Ba,K)122 even in field



GB transparency is increased by over-doping (Ba,K)122



- > Over-doped grains enhanced the proximity effect
- SNS JJ model described the data

Z. Cheng et al., Mater. Today Phys. 28 100848 (2022).

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Detailed analyses on polycrystalline (Ba,K)122

Hot-pressed (Ba,K)122 tape



- Grain alignment is important (GB connectivity)
- Clean GB is important (the number of GB connections)

F. Kametani *et al.*, *Appl. Phys.* Express **17** 013004 (2024).

FeAs wetting phase and BaO (Blocking the supercurrent flow)



Detailed in 4MOr2A-01 by F. Kametani (4/9)

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Natural defects in IBS thin films



APC in IBS thin films

Materials	Methods	Microstructure	<i>Т</i> _с (К)	Refs.
Co-doped Ba122	Multilayer or Quasi-	Ba122 or $SrTiO_3$ insertion	25.4 -> 26.0	[1], [2]
Fe(Se,Te)	mullidyer	CeO ₂ insertion, strain	21.3 -> 20.4	[3]
Co-doped Ba122	BaZrO ₃ addition to PLD	Nano BaZrO ₃ rods	27.1 -> 24.6 (2 mol% BZO)	[4]
P-doped Ba122	targets	Nano BaZrO ₃ particles	26.3 -> 25 (3 mol% BZO)	[5]
Co-doped Ba122	BaHfO ₃ addition to PLD targets	Nano BaHfO ₃ particles	22.0 -> 19.5 (1 mol%BHO)	[6]
FeSe	SrTiO ₃ addition to PLD targets	Nano SrTiO ₃ rods	not shown	[7]
Fe(Se,Te)	Proton irradiation	Splayed cascade defects	18 -> 18.5 (1×10 ¹⁵ cm ⁻²)	[8]
NdFeAs(O,F)	α –particle irradiation	No microstructure	49 -> 46 (5×10 ¹⁵ cm ⁻²)	[9]
(Li,Fe)OHFeSe	TM (Mn) doping	No microstructure	42 -> 37	[10]

✓ Unlike cuprates, IBSs are robust against irradiation (disorder)

✓ For Ba-122, T_c decreases with -1 K/mol% (cf. -0.2~-0.1 K/mol% for REBCO)

[1] S. Lee *et al.*, *Nat. Mater.* **12** 392 (2013).

[4] J. Lee et al., SuST **30** 085006 (2017).

[2] C. Tarantini *et al.*, *Sci. Rep.* **4** 7305 (2014).
[3] S. Seo *et al.*, *NPG Asia Materials* **12** 7 (2020).

[6] S. Meyer et al., J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1559 012052 (2020).
[7] T. Horide et al., Thi. Sol. Films 733 138802 (2021).

(20) [9] T. Holide et al., 111. 301. Fillins 733 13880

[8] T. Ozaki *et al.*, *Nat. Commun.* **7** 13036 (2016). [9] C. Tarantini *et al.*, *SuST* **31** 034002 (2018).

[5] M. Miura *et al.*, *Nat. Commun.* **4** 2499 (2013). [10] D. Li *et al.*, *Sust* **32** 12LT01 (2019).



- 0 mol.% BZO

2 mol.% BZO

8 mol.% BZO

4.2K

 $(H \perp film)$

2

4

6

Magnetic Field (T)

8

10

12

14

180

160

140

-4 mol.% BZO

4.2K

 $(H \perp film)$

mol.% BZO



Target modifications (BZO nano cylinders)

1400

700

а Pristine: J_set = 0.9 MA cm⁻² p cm⁻².J.^{sell}= 1.4 MA cm⁻¹ J_c (A cm⁻²)

Proton irradiation

FeSeo.sTeo.s

(splayed cascade defects)



T. Ozaki et al., Nat. Commun. 7 13036 (2016).

S. Seo et al., NPG Asia Materials 12 7 (2020).

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~4 nm

2 mol.% BZO

4 mol.% BZ0

4 6 8 10 12 Magnetic Field (T)

Mn-doped (Li,Fe)OHFeSe (11111) thin films



Thermodynamic approach + APC



Solubility limit in SmFeAsO



 $0^{2-} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^- \text{ or } \mathbf{H}^- + e^-$ (electron doping)



S. Iimura et al., J. Asia Ceramic Societies 5, 357 (2017).

- Substitution level is limited up to ~0.2 (For SmFeAsO_{1-x}F_x)
- For H, the substitution level is increased
 up to ~0.8
- Heavily electron doping can be achieved

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Thermodynamic approach + APC for SmFeAs(O,H)



M. Miura, K. I. et al., Nature Materials (2024).

Current status of the best-performing J_c -H (single xtal. sub.)



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- > multi turn PLD system, operating at f=20-60 Hz
- > FeSe_{0.4}Te_{0.6} target, $\phi = 60 \text{ mm}$, t = 8 mm
- > Self-field $I_c \sim 108 \text{ A} \otimes 4.2 \text{ K} (1 \text{ m tape}, T_c = 17.5 \text{ K})$
- > Short sample: Self field $I_c \sim 175$ A corresponding to $J_c \sim 2.3$ MA/cm²

L. Liu et al., Adv. Eng. Mater. 25 2201536 (2023).

S. Wei et al., Sust **36** 04LT01 (2023).



Fe(Se,Te) tapes

Realising a cheap, Fe(Se,Te) Coated Conductor



• Thick films of Fe(Se,Te) by e-depo

Reported by L. Piperno (1MOrB-02, 2/9)

• Irradiation effects on Fe(Se,Te) films

Reported by M. Iebole & F. Rizzo (1MOr1B-03, -04, 2/9)

Pinning mechanism

Microwave vortex motion in FeSe

Reported by N. Pompeo

(1MOr1B-05, 2/9)

A STATE



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(Ba,K)122 bulks fabricated by data- & researcher driven process design



CaKFe₄As₄ (1144) bulk samples

Hybrid phase between $AeFe_2As_2$ (Ae = Ca, Sr) and AFe_2As_2 (A=K, Rb, Cs)

- > The *c*-axis textured 1144 was realized
- A self-field J_c of reached 12 kA/cm², which is comparable to that of K:Ba122 bulks



 $T_c \sim 36 \text{ K w/o doping}$

3.0

Current status of J_c -H plots for IBSs tapes (short samples)



- Fe(Se,Te)/IBAD-MgO showed the highest J_c in low field
 regime although T_c is the lowest
- In-field J_c of K-doped Ba122
 tape was superior to that of the
 P-doped Ba122/IBAD-MgO

Perspective (still mature ... but)



IOP Publishing

Supercond. Sci. Technol. 32 (2019) 070501 (3pp)

Superconductor Science and Technology

https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6668/ab1fc9

Viewpoint J. Jaroszynski



Moreover, the cost of IBS wire can be four to five times lower than that of Nb₃Sn, making it more expensive than NbTi, but with much higher critical parameters than Nb₃Sn. Attempts to make a superconducting wire started immediately, using either the powder-in-tube (PIT) [11–13] or coated conductor [14, 15] methods.

The cost of IBS wire can be four to

five times lower than that of Nb₃Sn,

>20 T at 4.2 K or >10 T at 20-30 K making it more expensive than NbTi,

but with much higher critical

parameters than Nb₃Sn.

Summary

- 1. A review of the current status of IBSs has been conducted.
- 2. A review of various techniques for tuning T_c has been conducted.
- 3. High-angle grain boundaries (GBs) do block supercurrent flow, but not as severely as in the cuprates. This is a driving force for magnet applications using polycrystalline wires and bulk materials.
- 4. A strategy for improving the polycrystalline tapes and bulks of K-doped Ba122 has been proposed.
- 5. J_c -B performances have been improved significantly by APC and thermodynamic approach combined with APC (films).
- 6. Long length wires and tapes have been developed significantly.

Thank you for your attention!



Iron-based Superconductors: Advances towards applications

> Phoenix Seagaia Resort Convention Center (Miyazaki, Japan) February 13th – 15th, 2025



https://smartconf.jp/content/ibs2app