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Enhanced anomalous scattering by superconducting nanofilms vs T at O:K, Cu:L_{2,3}, Ba:M_{4,5} edges

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To Neville Francis Mott, mentor to solid state scholars on the 100th anniversary of his birth 9/21/1905

ABSTRACT

Enhanced (001) anomalous scattering by $YBa_2Cu_3O_{7-\delta}$ 50 nm films on $SrTiO_3$ substrates with and without a grain boundary versus temperature is interpreted using crystallographic weights to distinguish it from total electron yield and fluorescence spectra. The power of diffraction enhancement is to ascertain the film oxygen composition from the changes in the c-axis, c_0 as the film surface is scanned across the grain boundary, and to determine that c_0 is constant versus temperature across the superconducting phase transition.

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INTRODUCTION

Synchrotron X-ray absorption spectra (XAS) of layered cuprates, where superconducting planes are intercalated between ionic and perhaps magnetic layers in YBa₂Cu₃O₇ and derived phases (YBCO_{x=6.5 to 6.9}) are compared at the O:K, Cu:L_{2,3} and the Ba:M_{4,5} edges. The film oxygen composition is obtained from the variation in the c-axis, c₀ that determines the (001) enhanced scattered amplitude.

EXPERIMENTAL

The samples are 50 nm films, grown epitaxially by sputtering in an oxygen atmosphere onto a SrTiO₃ crystal with and without a 24 DEG ab grain boundary (GB) at the Complutense University and characterized by synchrotron XRD¹. Spectra were collected versus photon energy, E at LBNL-ALS 6.3.1 station: by the (001) enhanced scattering (I_y/I_0) in the Kortright chamber at different temperatures² and distinguished from fluorescence (F/I₀) and total electron vield (TEY/I_0) in the Nachimuthu chamber where E was calibrated at $E(CuO, Cu:L_3)=931.2eV^3$. A plane polarized beam (10 by 100) μ m wide) of intensity I₀, incident on the 1 cm² film at position x, at fixed angle θ to the film ab plane (FIG. 1) makes an angle 2θ with the detector, as reported in each spectrum (FIG. 2 - 4). The film samples are identified by whether the film is deposited on a single or a bi-crystal (SC or BC) qualified by the year fabricated/year measured. The oxygen composition is obtained by the comparison to XRD data^{1,4,5}



FIG. 1: Sample: (a) Measurement geometry determined by: the fixed horizontal incident beam \mathbf{k}_i , its position and angle θ by the sample displacement and rotation about the x-axis, and \mathbf{k}_s by the detector angle 2θ to \mathbf{k}_i . (b) BC02/03 (001) XRD versus s-s₀₀₅ = $2\sin\theta/\lambda - 5/c_0$. The 100 µm beam on GB detected two c_0 [ref. 1b].



FIG. 2: Phases detected as incident beam position x goes through GB of film (FIG. 1a). Insert shows the appearance of two phases by the maximum change $\Delta E_{Bragg} \approx \Delta c_0/c_0$ from $E_{Bragg} \approx 546$ to $\approx 538eV$, or respectively [ref.5] $c_0 \approx 11.6 \text{\AA}$ (ortho-I phase) increasing to $c_0 \approx 11.7 \text{\AA}$ (ortho-II phase).



FIG. 3: Effect of E_{Bragg} (2) on I_s/I_0 near the $Ba:M_{4,5}$ edges (BC02/03; BC04/04). Lifetime broadening and distortion due to some Ba, commonly occupying Y sites is observed. Broadening is evident in the integrated intensities, I from 730eV and the fit to A (4) indicates different HWHH at the M_5 and M_4 edge white lines, but the ratio of integrated intensities remain equal to one even as the lines narrow.



FIG. 4: Effect of E_{Bragg} on I_s/I_0 near the Cu:L_{2,3} edges for film BC04/04 compared to F/I_0 and fitted to relation (4) $A(L_3)/A(L_2)=3$, α_{Cu} is constant to 1% in 40eV interval. 100eV broad background at $E(Cu:L_3)-E_{Bragg} \sim 18 eV$ disappears at $10^2 eV$.

DISCUSSION

In the soft X-ray region only the enhancement of the (001) diffraction is accessible. The scattering amplitude by atoms j depends on the incident and scattered photon: momenta \mathbf{k}_i , \mathbf{k}_s (FIG. 1a), polarization $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i$, $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_s$ and energy $E^{4, 6}$:

 $f_{i}(\mathbf{k}_{i}, \mathbf{k}_{s}, E) = f_{i}^{0}(\mathbf{k}_{i}, \mathbf{k}_{s}) + \Delta f_{i}(\mathbf{k}_{i}, \mathbf{k}_{s}, \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{i}, \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{s}, E).$ (1)The Thomson amplitude f_i^0 is the matrix element of the square of the vector potential acting on the electron number density. The anomalous amplitude near an absorption:

$$\begin{split} \Delta f_{j}(\mathbf{k}_{i},\mathbf{k}_{s},\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{i},\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{s},E) &= f_{j}'+i f_{j}'' \approx \\ \Sigma_{j}\Sigma_{nl}[<&\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{s}.\mathbf{\mu}_{ln} e^{-i\mathbf{k}_{s}.\mathbf{r}_{j}} > e^{i\mathbf{k}_{i}.\mathbf{r}_{j}} \mathbf{\mu}_{nl}*.&\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{l}>]/[E_{n}-E_{l}+E+(\Delta_{n}-i \text{ HWHH})] + \text{HC} \end{split}$$
involves dipole matrix elements μ_{ln} between initial and final states (n,l) with energies E_n , E_l , that depend on: orientation in a layer cuprates' where the incident $\mathbf{\varepsilon}_{X-ray}$ unit vector, $\mathbf{\hat{e}}_{i}$ is in the film ab plane, the half width at half height HWHH determined by lifetime broadening, the crystallographic site diffraction weights $\alpha_i = \sum_i e^{i(\mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_s) \cdot \mathbf{r}_j}$ where $(\mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_s) \cdot \mathbf{c}_0 = 2\pi \text{ E/E}_{\text{Bragg}}$ for (001) diffraction, Δ_n = Lamb shift, f_j '= dispersion, f_j ''= absorption and HC=Hermitean conjugate⁶. The YBCO_x (001) diffraction enhancement depends on α and E through the Bragg relation:

 $E_{Bragg} = hc/2sin(\theta)/c_0 + Stenström correction,$ (2)determined by the magnitude of the c-axis, c₀, h= Planck constant, c= velocity of light. Hanzen^{5a} has correlated the oxygen composition of $YBCO_{x=7-\delta}$ with c_0 in each phase. Thus, at fixed orientation minute changes:

$$E_{\text{Bragg}}/E_{\text{Bragg}} \sim -\Delta c_0/c_0. \tag{3}$$

detect the appearance of new phases as the incident beam scans the film surface with fixed \mathbf{k}_i , \mathbf{k}_s (FIG. 1a).

As E=>E_{Bragg} the edge white line, WL lifetime broadening increases and/or enhanced Compton and Rayleigh scattering is observed. As E_{Bragg}-E increases, the tail of f⁰ becomes a baseline correction (FIG. 2 - 4), but the sample may rotate the plane polarized light by an angle ϕ . The signal and its Hilbert-Kramers-Kronig transform⁴:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{s} / \mathbf{I}_{0} (\mathbf{E}) \\ \mathbf{P} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathbf{I}_{s} / \mathbf{I}_{0} (\mathbf{E}')}{\pi (\mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{E})} d\mathbf{E}' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos (\phi) & -\sin (\phi) \\ \sin (\phi) & \cos (\phi) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{f}' \\ \mathbf{f}'' \end{pmatrix}$$

are a mixture of real and imaginary terms in $(1)^{4, 6}$. The data (FIG. 2 - 4) are analyzed with the purpose to ascertain the film properties for important useful as follows:

(i) A mixture of real and imaginary components is observed in the WL at the $Cu:L_{2,3}$ and $Ba:M_{5,4}$ (FIG. 3-5) for BC and SC films. The TEY/I_0 and F/I_0 show a Lorentz type shape WL with an edge jump weaker than 1% of its amplitude⁷. Thus if the f^0 tail is linear, the enhanced scattered amplitude minus a base line may be compared to:

 $A_i = I_{si}/I_0/\alpha_i = [y \cos(\phi) - \sin(\phi)]/[1 + y^2]$ (4)where $y=(E-E_0)/HWHH$, E_0 is the edge energy and HWHH is the WL half width at half height. The data are normalized to a constant α , and fitted to the minimum and maximum amplitude in (4) to over determine ϕ (A_{max}=Sin²(ϕ /2), A_{min}=- $\cos^2(\phi/2)$, $y(A_{max})-y(A_{min})=2/\cos(\phi)$; $y(A=0)=Tan(\phi)$). The fitted A (FIG. 3-5) indicate that the sample rotates the plane polarized beam by $\phi(Cu:L_3) \approx 3\pi/4 \pm \pi$ at $E(Cu:L_3) - E_{Bragg} = 18$ to 10^2eV . $I_s/I_0[E(\text{Cu:L}_2) \approx E_{\text{Bragg}}] \approx f'$ (FIG. 4) agrees with theory $\phi \approx 0^{4,6}$. Lifetime broadening^{6c} is observed as E_{Bragg} - $E(Cu:L_3)$ decreases from 10^2 to 18eV, with respective HWHH=0.7 to 1.7 eV. ϕ can not be determined from the fit to (4) alone. The WL (FIG 4, 5) absorption at the $L_{2,3}$ edges depends on the Cu valence:

 $Cu^{1+}(.2p^6..) \Leftrightarrow Cu^{+1}(.2p_{3/2}^3..4d_{5/2}); Cu^{+1}(.2p_{1/2}..4d_{3/2}),$ $Cu^{2+}(.2p^{6}3d^{9}) \Leftrightarrow Cu^{+2}(.2p_{3/2}^{3}.3d^{10}); Cu^{+2}(.2p_{1/2}..4d_{3/2}),$ $\operatorname{Cu}^{+3}(.2p^{6}3d^{8}) \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{Cu}^{+3}(.2p_{3/2}^{-3}..3d^{9}); \operatorname{Cu}^{+3}(.2p_{1/2}..3d^{9}),$

the crystal field splitting (different at the L_2 and L_3 edges) and orientation⁷⁻⁹ making it difficult to assign spectral features to the Cu sites in YBCO_x where the local crystal field symmetry near the Cu:2 site is square planar in the abplane while near the site Cu:1 it is square planar in the bcplane. The advantage of scans at different fixed orientations is that site identification is made by changes in $\alpha_i(E) =$ $n_j cos(2\pi z_j E/E_{Bragg})$ for different fixed E_{Bragg} , when n_j is the number of equivalent atom j sites with coordinate z_j in the unit cell (Table I). When $E(Cu:L_2)=E_{Bragg}\approx 950 \text{eV}$, $\alpha_{Cu:2}/\alpha_{Cu:1} \approx -1.4$ the enhanced shoulders ~ 6eV above the main signal, but of opposite sign amplitude may be due to the Cu:1 site contribution. Since the exact cancellation expected for E_{Bragg} = 1083eV, $\alpha_{Cu:1}/\alpha_{Cu:2}\approx-1$ (if the second order matrix elements in Δf_{Cu} for both sites are of the same order of magnitude) is not observed, the contributions from Cu:1 and Cu:2 sites are different and appear at different E, which indicates the sites are occupied by different valence copper and $\phi \approx 3\pi/4$ in (4).

(ii) The data at the O:K edge (FIG. 2) indicates that a displacement of the 100µm wide beam, across the GB detects a new enhancement peak, associated with a higher c_0 phase. Its relative intensity (FIG. 2) in the extended X-ray absorption region (XAFS) centered at 538eV (c₀≈11.7Å) identifies it with the ortho-II phase (YBCO_{<6.5}) relative to that at 546eV ($c_0 \approx 11.6$ Å) for the ortho-I phase (YBCO_{≈ 6.9}) in agreement with the XRD data^{1b} (FIG. 1b). The width of the GB is estimated to be comparable to the beam width since the enhancement, at EBragg ~538eV appears only within $x \approx 4.87 \pm 0.005$ in, while that at 546eV changes very little

across the GB. The relative intensities can not be measured due to strong enhancement dependent I_s/I_0 near E_{Bragg} . YBCO_x c₀ data versus oxygen composition indicates that near the GB a ~5% O decrease induces the ortho-II phase where k_x =- k_y periodic lattice distortions (PLD) release the film strain^{1c,d,5b,8c}.



FIG. 5: $Cu:L_{2,3}$ edge I_s/I_0 (BC04/04, x=5.02in) at different temperatures, T and fixed $E_{Bragg}=1083eV$. Insert shows the superposition of scans 37 to 62 as T decreases across T_c . Two temperature intervals are identified by scans taken 5min. apart as T goes through T_c , showing first a reversible shift of 0.5eV to higher energy, then narrowing from HWHH=0.7 to 0.5eV.

Table I: Assignment of the YBCO_x unit cell sites (Hanzen notation^{5a}) by correlation of I_s/I₀ to crystallographic diffraction weights α when E₌=E_{Bragg}, E_≠≠E_{Bragg} (FIG. 2- 6).

YBCO _x	D ¹⁷ _{2h}	Site:	0:1	0:2	O:3A,B	Cu:1	Cu:2	Ва	Y
(001) enhancement		z:	0	± .18	± .378	0	± .358	± .18	± .5
<u>α(E_):</u>		1	0.8	-2.9	1	-1.4	0.8	-1	
l _s /l₀ Peak		α(E _≠):	1	1.9	3.4	1	-1	1.9	0.6
E (eV)	Sign I _s /I ₀		Site Contribution to Signal				e []	e b	
528	+	+		yes			đ	E	
530	+		yes				Ĩ,	- Cu	2
531-535	-				yes		Y		Cu2
531-535		+			yes		O3B	B B	2 Z
538	+	+	maybe	yes			1-1	U O	u1
545	+	+			yes		T.O	el o	I
779	+	+						yes so	me Ba
793	+	+						yes so	me Ba
932	±	±					yes		
950	-±	±					yes		
936	-±					yes			
954	-±					yes			

The effect of buckling is observed in single crystal films (FIG. 6c #58; 56). Satellites appear next to the 545eV enhanced peak in SC04/04 YBCO_{6.9}, in the XAFS region at E_{Bragg} = 542, 551eV where the tilt in θ follows from the Bragg relation (2), $\Delta\theta/\tan(\theta) = -\Delta E/E = \pm 0.008$ or $\Delta\theta \approx \pm 0.04$.

Evidence of lifetime broadening in I_s/I_0 is obtained by comparison with TEY/ I_0 and F/ I_0 in similar orientation (FIG. 6c), E=528, 530eV for BC and SC films.



FIG. 6: O:K edge comparisons: (a) $I_s/I_0(E_{Bragg} \approx 536; 2*10^3 eV)$ and $F/I_0(\theta = \pi/4, \pi/2)$.



(b) I_s/I_0 through T_c cooling cycle. Only the broad background centered near 528eV decreases across T_c .

The new information obtained by the comparisons (FIG. 6) in similar orientation is on the K-edge transitions:

O:1s².⇔ O:1s.np_{x,y}, n>2 and O:1s².⇔ O:1s.np_z, n>2. The first are allowed when \hat{e}_i is in the ab plane and the second when it is normal according to relation (1). The (001) I_s/I₀ enhancement near 528eV is identified with the O:2 site (Hanzen notation^{5a}) because it increases with α (O:2) when E_{Bragg} increases from 545 to 2*10³eV. The amplitude maximum in F/I₀ and TEY/I₀ remains independent of orientation as is expected in a nearly local octahedral field (FIG. 6). The enhancement near 530eV is identified with site O:1 because it looses relative intensity as α (O:2)/ α (O:1) goes from 0.8 to 1.9 for the different E_{Bragg}, above with \hat{e}_i in the ab-plane. I_s/I₀(E=531 to 536eV) and different E_{Bragg} (FIG. 6) is identified with site O:3_{A,B}):

 $I_s/I_0(E_{Bragg} \sim 546 \text{eV}, \alpha(\text{O:3}_{A,B}) \approx -2.7) \leq 0$

 $I_s/I_0(E_{Bragg} \sim 2*10^3 \text{eV}, \alpha(O:3_{A,B}) \approx 3.5) > 0$



6(c) I_s/I_0 , $F/I_0(\theta = \pi/2)$ for BC and SC films. TEY/ I_0 is constant across GB for BC04/04 except BC02/04 that shows loss of O.

The assignments made by a single diffraction in the soft X-ray region using the variation of α are similar to those made by different measurements⁸ for de-twinned single crystals YBCO_x, and may be correlated to the chemical valence: The most negative ionic valence is associated with the lowest edge energy for site O:2 in the BaO layer, the next higher edge energy is for site O:1 in the CuO chains and finally the highest valence is assigned to sites O:3_{A,B} where molecular orbital calculations show that the CuO₂ layer in YBCO_x nano-particles is covalent with a Mulliken atomic charge at the O:3_{A,B} sites of -1.3 and 0.8 at the Cu:2 sites^{1c, 9}.

The temperature dependence obtains a constant c_0 by the unchanged enhancement peak at $E_{Bragg}(O:K) \approx 546eV$ for the ortho-I phase (FIG. 6b). $\phi(Cu:L_{3,2}) = 3\pi/4$ in (4) (FIG. 5) is constant across T_c but the observed edge shift by 0.5eV at the $Cu:L_{3,2}$ edges is assumed to be due to increased ionization at the Cu:2 sites in CuO₂ plane below T_c .

Enhancement at E_{Bragg} = E(O:K edge XAFS) may be due to resonance shake-up absorption up to 20eV above the edge⁷⁻⁹ identified by α (E=E_{Bragg}) and α (E≠E_{Bragg}) (Table I, FIG. 2, 6). Enhancement at 536eV is associated with O:1 and/or O:2 sites by the increase in α . Enhancement at 545eV is associated with O:3_{AB} through the negative XAFS amplitude F/I₀-µ₀. This suggests that the first are associated with the ortho-II phase and the latter with the ortho-I, in agreement with an oxygen concentration decrease in O:1 sites in ortho-II phase and PLD formation^{5b,8c}. Anisotropy is evident both through the sample properties and the crystallographic weights.

(iii) In the ideal structure, Ba occupies a unique site in YBCO_x (Table I) but in real crystals it also occupies Y sites. As E(Ba:M_{4,5})=> E_{Bragg} the (001) I_s/I₀ WL enhancement shows lifetime broadening with α_{Ba}/α_{Y} =-0.8 but for E_{Bragg}-E(Ba:M_{4,5})> 2*10³ eV, α_{Ba}/α_{Y} =>3 and the WL narrows (FIG. 3 #52 and #33). The expected ratio of amplitudes for transitions:

 $\operatorname{Ba}^{2+}(.3d^{10}.) \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{Ba}^{+2}(.3d_{5/2}{}^5.4f_{7/2}); \operatorname{Ba}^{+2}(.3d_{3/2}{}^3.4f_{5/2}),$

proportional to initial state multiplicities, $A(M_3)/A(M_4)=1.5$ is approached only for $E_{Bragg}> 2*10^3 eV$. A comparison of TEY/I₀ for BC04/04 with a standard BaBr₂ shows that the relative intensities for the WL at the two edges are orientation dependent^{7c, 9}.

In summary, although only the (001) diffraction enhancement I_s/I_0 is accessible in the soft X-ray region, the crystallographic weights α at different E_{Bragg} also provide new valuable information, as in the hard X-ray region⁶.

CONCLUSION

The (001) anomalous enhanced scattering in $YBCO_x$ nano-films is very sensitive to the magnitude of the film c-axis and consequently the O composition in fabricated nano-films and should therefore be used to explain the properties of each in order to characterize their properties for important industrial use.

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