Determination of the charge transfer path from TCNQ to SrTiO$_3$(001)

Kenichi Ozawa$^{1,*}$, Naoya Ida$^2$, Yukako Kimura$^2$, Hiroo Kato$^2$, Kazuhiko Mase$^{3,4}$

$^1$Tokyo Institute of Technology, Meguro, Tokyo 152-8551
$^2$Hirosaki University, Hirosaki, Aomori 036-8561
$^3$High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan
$^4$SOKENDAI, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan

1 INTRODUCTION

Controlling interface charge transfer between organic films and metal oxide semiconductors is essential to realize high performance organic-inorganic hybrid devices. Hole-injection and electron-injection barrier heights are key parameters to access the feasibility of the interface charge transfer. Actually, they have been proved to be good indicators in the systems with a weak interface interaction between an organic molecule and a substrate surface. However, it is not obvious to say so if chemical bonds are formed between the molecule and the surface, since the chemical bonds are expected to facilitate the transfer of the holes and electrons which reside at bonding and anti-bonding states, respectively.

In the present study, a core hole clock technique has been utilized to determine the transfer time of photoexcited electrons from organic molecules to the oxide substrate. It is found that the excited electrons in an unoccupied state, whose molecular orbital extends towards the substrate surface, are found to be transferred to the substrate in a femtosecond order.

2 EXPERIMENTAL

The experiment was performed at beamlines (BLs) 3B and 13B. Photoelectron spectroscopy (PES) and X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) measurements were carried out to examine the adsorption state and the adsorption geometry of TCNQ (tetracyanoquinodimethane) on SrTiO$_3$(001). The charge transfer time was estimated by the core hole clock method. Change in the PES intensity of the HOMO state of TCNQ was measured as a function of the photon energy ($h\nu$) in the N K-edge absorption region and an $h\nu$-intensity profile was obtained. The N K-edge XAS spectrum (a lower part) resembles the $h\nu$-intensity profile (an upper part of Fig. 1b); both curves are composed of three peaks with a slightly different intensity ratios. Three peaks are associated with unoccupied levels (LUMO, LUMO+1, and LUMO+2) of TCNQ (Fig. 1c). The $h\nu$-intensity profile, the intensity of the LUMO+1 peak is diminished in comparison with the other two. This implies that the electrons in the LUMO+1 level are transferred to the substrate faster than those in the LUMO and LUMO+2 levels. Assuming that the N 1s core-hole lifetime is 6 fs [1], the intensity analysis allows us to estimate the charge transfer time between 1 fs and 4 fs.

The molecular orbital of the LUMO+1 level extends vertically with respect to the molecular plane, while the spatial extent of the LUMO and LUMO+2 orbitals are within the molecular plane. Thus, the LUMO+1 level is highly probable to interact with substrate orbitals to form chemical bonds. The present results indicate that the faster electron transfer occurs through the chemical bond.

Reference

Fig. 1 (a) Valence band PES of TCNQ/SrTiO$_3$(001) measured from 397 and 403 eV by 0.1 eV intervals. (b) The $h\nu$-HOMO-intensity profile (upper) and the N K-edge XAS spectrum (lower). (c) Unoccupied molecular orbitals of TCNQ from LUMO to LUMO+2.

*ozawa.k.ab@m.titech.ac.jp