**Characterization of metal nanocomposite synthesized by ion implantation into amorphous SiO$_2$**

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**1 Introduction**

Nano size materials have attracted tremendous attention due to their unique properties, such as luminescence, absorption, magnetic property, catalytic activity and hydrogen absorption. These properties come from their size, shape, alloy system and complex electronic state which is not appear in bulk materials. Metal ions implantation into solid is one of a method to synthesis of nanostructured material this is highly controlled impurity injection with high density of energy into solid. In some cases, metal nanoparticles are formed in silica glass without annealing by ion implantation. We suppose this method is useful to synthesize the new functional nanomaterials with control of alloy structures and phases. So far, we have successfully synthesized new functional nanoparticles in glassy solid by using this method [1,2]. In this study, amorphous SiO$_2$ was alternately irradiated with Ni and Ag ions at room temperature to investigate the effects of multi-ion irradiation and changing their irradiation order on the formation of nanoparticles in solid. We found that it is possible to form metal nano-composite and also the irradiation sequence affects the formation of Ag-Ni metal nano-composite. In this report, we will discuss the structure of nanoparticles synthesized by Ag and Ni ions irradiation in SiO$_2$.

**2 Experimental**

Amorphous silica glass (SiO$_2$: 5 × 5 × 1 mm$^3$) was used as an implantation target. The target was irradiated with 380 keV Ag ions and 200 keV Ni ions at room temperature by using ion implanter at TIARA, National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology (QST-Takasaki). Dual irradiation with Ag and Ni ions has done by changing irradiation order (AN: is irradiated firstly with Ag ions and followed by Ni ions, NA: is vice versa). The irradiation fluence of Ag ion is 5×10$^{15}$ to 7×10$^{16}$/cm$^2$ and that of Ni ions was 1×10$^{15}$ to 1×10$^{17}$/cm$^2$. In order to estimate the structure of synthesized nanocomposites in SiO$_2$, these samples were examined by XPS and EXAFS using X-ray at KEK BL27A and B, Grazing Incidence X-ray Diffraction (GIXD) and Scanning TEM with Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) analysis. Also, the characteristic feature of these samples was measured by scanning TEM with energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) and UV-vis spectroscopy. Fig.1 shows the depth profiles of implanted ions of 380 keV Ag and 200 keV Ni calculated by TRIM, as compared with the result different energy of ions irradiated. By adjusting the ion energy, it is possible to deposit different ions to the same depth.

**3 Results and Discussion**

Figure 1 shows the UV-vis absorption spectra of Ag-Ni and Ni-Ag irradiation ordered samples. In general, it is known that some metal nanoparticles exhibit absorption peaks in the visible light band due to surface plasmon resonance (SPR) of electrons. In this figure, it can be seen absorption profile for each sample showing that formation of metal nanoparticle. However, SPR profile of synthesized nanoparticles by Ag-Ni and Ni-Ag irradiation are clearly different, despite implanting the same doses of ions.
Although the average diameters of fabricated nanoparticles in SiO$_2$ with different irradiation orders were slightly smaller than those of Ni atoms irradiated only with Ni ions for comparison, Ni and Ag ions in reverse order, and that of SiO$_2$ irradiated only with Ni ions for comparison, nanoparticles were elemental analyzed by STEM-EDX mapping depicted as in figure 5. As shown in these figures, Ni-Ag irradiation forms composite nanoparticles with core-shell-like discrete structure, while Ag-Ni irradiation forms mixed alloys or composites of homogeneously assembled small pure metal clusters. Fig. 6 shows that the EXAFS spectra of Ag-Ni and Ni-Ag irradiated SiO$_2$. In this figure, it can be seen that the Ni-Ni bond peak does not change, but their intensities are slightly different. This indicates that although the crystal structure is the same, there is a difference in the ratio of bonding species of Ni atoms in the particles, that is the solubility of Ni and Ag atoms. Thus, it was found that the order of irradiation has a great influence on the formation of nanostructures consist of implanted ions by irradiation of multiple metal ions into a glass solid. One of the reasons for the formation of different aggregates is thought to be the difference in the diffusion coefficient of each ion species within the glass solid.

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References

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