

共焦点受光光学系を用いた低温 THz 近接場顕微鏡の開発

Development of low-temperature THz near-field microscopy with a confocal optics

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Passive THz Scattering-type scanning near-field optical microscopy (s-SNOM) without any external light source provides nanometer spatial resolution to probe fluctuating electromagnetic evanescent waves induced by fluctuating charge/current below the sample surface [1,2]. For expanding the application of the passive THz s-SNOM to low-temperature (LT) studies such as phase transition materials and energy dissipation of LT electrotransport devices, we have developed a LT THz optical microscope containing a chamber, providing 4.2 K environment for both CSIP and sample stage, as shown in Fig. 1(a). To efficiently extract the near-field component submerged within a large background component emitted from the focal area of the objective shown in Fig. 1(b), we introduced a confocal optics to exclude the radiation out of the focal area on the surface. In this report, we prepared a NiCr filament as a heater to heat up a Au/SiO₂ sample. In Fig. 1(c), the far-field signals of Au and SiO₂ are clearly distinguished due to the difference in emissivity. The spatial resolution of the confocal microscope is about 70 μm , better than the 110 μm obtained from the single lens optics [3]. Based on the optics improvements, we have observed the thermally excited near-field signals on the heated NiCr wire with the passive LT s-SNOM.

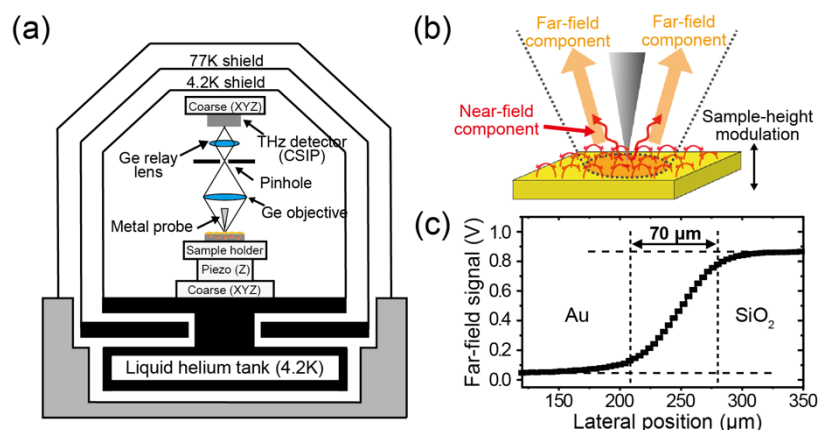


Fig. 1 (a) Schematic view of the low temperature passive THz near-field optical microscope with a confocal optics. (b) Concept of detecting evanescent waves with the LT s-SNOM. (c) Plot of THz far-field profile cross a Au/SiO₂ boundary. The derived spatial resolution is 70 μm .

Reference:

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