Thin-Film Alchemy: Using Epitaxial Engineering to Unleash the Hidden Properties of Oxides

Darrell G. Schlom

Department of Materials Science and Engineering Cornell University

Kavli Institute at Cornell for Nanoscale Science

Unleashing Hidden Properties



 $A_{n+1}B_nO_{3n+1}$: (La,Sr)₂CuO₄, Sr₂RuO₄, Sr₂IrO₄

BaRuO₃ / SrTiO₃ Ba₂RuO₄ / GdScO₃

Unleashing Hidden Properties

- Toolkit Enabling Materials-by-Design of Oxide Thin Films
- Ruthenates—BaRuO₃, (Ca,Sr,Ba)₂RuO₄ altering band structure and properties
- EuTiO₃
 strongest ferromagnetic ferroelectric
- (LuFeO₃)₉ / (LuFe₂O₄)₁ Superlattices strongest ferromagnetic ferroelectric at room temperature

The Sorcerers



Karin Rabe (Rutgers)

The Sorcerer's Apprentices



In Collaboration with the Groups of:

Craig J. Fennie–Cornell University Karin M. Rabe-Rutgers University Kyle M. Shen–Cornell University **David A. Muller**—Cornell University Lena F. Kourkoutis—Cornell University **Peter Schiffer**—University of Illinois **Ramamoorthy Ramesh**—University of California, Berkeley Andreas Scholl—Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory **Elke Arenholz**—Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory **Ezekiel Johnston-Halperin**—Ohio State University **Venkatraman Gopalan**—Penn State University Stanislav Kamba–Institute of Physics, Czech Republic Julie A. Borchers–NIST William D. Ratcliff—NIST Jürgen Schubert–Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH **Reinhard Uecker**—Leibniz Institute für Kristallzüchtung

Important Synthesis Rules

Gibbs' Rule
 ΔG < 0 to form stable phases

• Matthias's Rules for Superconductors ... "Stay away from Theorists"

 Pauling's Rules for Crystal Structures Radius ratio criteria for stability

Rules for QM Synthesis

Gibbs' Rule
 ΔG < 0 to form stable phases

Matthias's Rules for Super unductors
 ... "Stay away from Theorists"

Pauling : Rules for Crystal Structures
 Radiu ratio criteria for stability



Gibbs' Rule ΔG < 0 to form stable phases

Gibbs' Rule







Gibbs' Rule ΔG < 0 to form stable phases Exploit interfacial energy from substrate

Substrates are Important

"Indeed, to achieve the objective of 'psuedomorphic stabilization,' the researcher should make the attempt to choose the substrate ..."



Epitaxial Stabilization



E.S. Machlin and P. Chaudhari, "Theory of 'Pseudomorphic Stabilization' of Metastable Phases in Thin Film Form," in *Synthesis and Properties of Metastable Phases*, edited by E.S. Machlin and T.J. Rowland (The Metallurgical Society of AIME, Warrendale, 1980), pp. 11-29.

Commercial Perovskite Substrates



BaRuO₃ Polymorphs





C.Q. Jin, J.S. Zhou, J.B. Goodenough, Q.Q. Liu, J.G. Zhao, L.X. Yang, Y. Yu, R.C. Yu, T. Katsura, A. Shatskiy, and E. Ito, "High-Pressure Synthesis of the Cubic Perovskite BaRuO₃ and Evolution of Ferromagnetism in $ARuO_3$ (A = Ca, Sr, Ba) Ruthenates," *PNAS* **105** (2008) 7115–7119.

Example – BaRuO₃ / SrTiO₃

- Epitaxially stabilized for ≤ 5 unit cells
- No octahedral rotations
 (2.5% compressive strain → tetragonal)







- Gibbs' Rule
 ΔG < 0 to form stable phases
 Exploit interfacial energy from substrate
- Matthias's Rules for Superconductors ... "Stay away from Theorists"

Rules of B. Matthias for discovering new superconductors

- 1. high symmetry is best
- 2. peaks in density of states are good
- 3. stay away from oxygen

6. stay away from theorists

- 4. stay away from magnetism
- 5. stay away from insulators



stitute of Physics

From Steve Girvin's lecture (Boulder Summer School 2000) courtesy of Mike Norman via Matthew Fisher





Matthias' Rule

Team up with Theorists







Thin-Film Synthesis





Provide useful Feedback to Theory





Gibbs' Rule ΔG < 0 to form stable phases Exploit interfacial energy from substrate

Matthias's Rules for Superconductors

 "Stay away from Theorists"
 Team up with theorists
 (and provide them with useful feedback
 g., Thin-Film Synthesis + ARPES)

Why Thin-Film Synthesis + ARPES ?

"Artificial" Quantum Materials



MBE ≈ **Atomic Spray Painting**





Evolution of MBE



Ist MBE AI Cho at Bell Labs, 1972

Production MBE Today (courtesy of TRW)



Ist University MBE Cornell, 1978



Oxide MBE + ARPES



Angle-Resolved Photoemission Spectroscopy (Kyle Shen)

CANON-RED F. ASE. CORNELL .

MBE + ARPES

Titanates SrTiO₃ Sr₂TiO₄ LaTiO₃

Vanadates SrVO₃ LaVO₃ SrVO₃ / LaVO₃

Manganites La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃ SrMnO₃ LaMnO₃ / SrMnO₃ **Cuprates** La₂CuO₄ *T*' Sr_{1-x}La_xCuO₂

Nickelates

LaNiO₃

Ruthenates RuO₂ SrRuO₂

 $\begin{array}{c} RuO_2\\ SrRuO_3\\ Sr_2RuO_4\\ BaRuO_3\\ Ba_2RuO_4\\ CaRuO_3\\ Ca_2RuO_4\\ Pb_2Ru_2O_{6.5}\end{array}$

Iridates IrO₂ IrO₂ / TiO₂ SrIrO₃ Sr₂IrO₄ Ba₂IrO₄ Bi₂Ir₂O₇ Other Materials YbAl₃ LuAl₃ YbAl₃ / LuAl₃ BaBiO₃ BaSnO₃ BaPbO₃ FeSe



ARPES of BaRuO₃ / SrTiO₃



Quantum Well States in BaRuO₃

Thickness 3 unit cells





Thickness 4 unit cells





Kyle Shen

- FM suppressed because of finite thickness?
- Or tetragonal distortion?

Thickness Dependence



Strain Dependence



Effect of Spin-Orbit (2 ML Cubic)



Spin-Orbit makes little difference except near $(\pi, 0)$



- Gibbs' Rule
 ΔG < 0 to form stable phases
 Exploit interfacial energy from substrate
- Matthias's Rules for Superconductors

 "Stay away from Theorists"
 Team up with theorists
 (and provide them with useful feedback)
- Pauling's Rules for Crystal Structures Radius ratio criteria for stability

Pauling's Rules

First rule: the radius ratio rule [edit]

For typical ionic solids, the cations are smaller than the anions, and each cation is surrounded by coordinated anions which form a polyhedron. The sum of the ionic radii determines the cation-anion distance, while the cation-anion radius ratio r_+/r_- (or r_c/r_a) determines the coordination number (C.N.) of the cation, as well as the shape of the coordinated polyhedron of anions.^{[3][4]}

For the coordination numbers and corresponding polyhedra in the table below, Pauling mathematically derived the *minimum* radius ratio for which the cation is in contact with the given number of anions (considering the ions as rigid spheres). If the cation is smaller, it will not be in contact with the anions which results in instability leading to a lower coordination number.

Polyhedron and minimum radius ratio for each coordination number

C.N.	Polyhedron	Radius ratio
3	triangular	0.155
4	tetrahedron	0.225
6	octahedron	0.414
7	capped octahedron	0.592
8	square antiprism (anticube)	0.645
8	cube	0.732
9	triaugmented triangular prism	0.732
12	cuboctahedron	1.00



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pauling%27s_rules

L. Pauling, "The Principles Determining the Structure of Complex Ionic Crystals," J. Am. Chem. Soc. **51** (1929) 1010–1026.

A. Magnus, "Über chemische Komplexverbindungen," Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem. **124** (1922) 289–321.

BREAK Pauling's Rules





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pauling%27s_rules

A. Magnus, "Über chemische Komplexverbindungen," Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem. **124** (1922) 289–321. L. Pauling, "The Principles Determining the Structure of Complex Ionic Crystals," J. Am. Chem. Soc. **51** (1929) 1010–1026.

Straineg SrTiO₃—Transmuting a Dielectric into a Ferroelectric



Straineg SrTiO₃—Transmuting a Dielectric into a Ferroelectric


Straineg EuTiO₃-Strongest Ferromagnetic Ferroelectric



determining the G-AFM structure in ETO.

Strained EuTiO₃-Strongest Ferromagnetic Ferroelectric



(a Doring dielectric) J.H. Lee, L. Fang, E. Vlahos, X. Ke, Y.W. Jung, L.F. Kourkoutis, J-W. Kim, P.J. Ryan, T. Heeg, M. Roeckerath, V. Goian, M. Bernhagen, R. Uecker, P.C. Hammel, K.M. Rabe, S. Kamba, J. Schubert, J.W. Freeland, D.A. Muller, C.J. Fennie, P. Schiffer, V. Gopalan, E. Johnston-Halperin, and D.G. Schlom, *Nature* 466 (2010) 954-958.

Commercial Perovskite Substrates



Effect of Strain on Sr₂RuO₄ (a spin-triplet superconductor)



 \rightarrow apply negative pressure

In-plane Uniaxial Strain Dramatically Increases T_c in Sr₂RuO₄



enhancements in T_c may be tied to proximity of van Hove singularity to E_F , but strains that can be applied to single crystal Sr_2RuO_4 are relatively modest ($\leq 0.8\%$; $T_{c,max}$ of 3.4 K at 0.6% uniaxial compressive strain)

C.W. Hicks, D.O. Brodsky, E.A. Yelland, A.S. Gibbs, J.A.N. Bruin, M.E. Barber, S.D. Edkins, K. Nishimura, S. Yonezawa, Y. Maeno, and A.P. Mackenzie, *Science* **344** (2014) 283–285.

A. Steppke, L. Zhao, M.E. Barber, T. Scaffidi, F. Jerzembeck, H. Rosner, A.S. Gibbs, Y. Maeno, S.H. Simon, A.P. Mackenzie, and C.W. Hicks, *Science* **355**, 9398 (2017).

Much Larger Elastic Strains are Possible in Epitaxial Thin Films



In-Plane Lattice Constant (Å)

Strain Control of Fermi Surface in Sr₂RuO₄

Unstrained Sr₂RuO₄

Sr_2RuO_4 on $SrTiO_3$ (+0.9%)



thin films still non-superconducting due to extreme sensitivity of spin-triplet SC to disorder, but low resistivities (5 $\mu\Omega$ ·cm)

Pushing to Higher "strains" using Epitaxial Stabilization of Ba₂RuO₄



In-Plane Lattice Constant (Å)

• Ba₂RuO₄ is isoelectronic and isostructural to Sr₂RuO₄

• Metastable in bulk, but can be epitaxially stabilized

Strain Control of Fermi Surface in Sr₂RuO₄

 $BS_{r}RRU_{2}$ oon GatStaiO₃ (+0.0%)

Unstrained Sr₂RuO₄



Large epitaxial strains turn the large electron-like Fermi surface closed around Γ to a hole-like Fermi surface closed around X

Strain Control of Band Structure and van Hove singularity



Theory Predicts Enhancement of Spin-triplet Superconductivity





Eun-Ah Kim



Craig Fennie

Spin-triplet superconductivity is predicted to be strongly enhanced when the van Hove singularity is brought near the Fermi level (see arXiv:1604.06661)

Commercial Perovskite Substrates



Ca_2RuO_4 —a very Tunable System



F. Nakamura, M. Sakaki, Y. Yamanaka, S. Tamaru, T. Suzuki, and Y. Maeno, *Sci. Rep.* **3** (2013) 1–6.

in Ca₂RuO₄ Triggered by

- **Temperature** 0
- **Dimensionality** 0
- Pressure 0
- Voltage/current \mathbf{O}



F. Nakamura, T. Goko, M. Ito, T. Fujita, S. Nakatsuji, H. Fukazawa, Y. Maeno, P. Alireza, D. Forsythe, and S. R. Julian Phys. Rev. B 65, (2002) 220402.

Ca_2RuO_4 —Phase Transition at T_{MIT}





 $\theta_i = 91.3^{\circ}$ *a* = 5.410 Å *b* = 5.492 Å *c* = 11.96 Å

F. Nakamura, M. Sakaki, Y. Yamanaka, Metal S. Tamaru, T. Suzuki, and Y. Maeno, em *Sci. Rep.* **3** (2013) 1–6. metallic 12.3 Lattice parameter c 12.2 12.1 Ellc 12.0 290 K insulating 11.9 40 20 80 60 E(V/cm) $\theta_{\rm i}$ > $\theta_{\rm m}$ $\theta_{\rm m}=87.3^\circ$ *a* = 5.361 Å $\Delta a = -0.9\%$ *b* = 5.351 Å $\Delta b = -2.6\%$ c = 12.26 Å

 $\Delta c = 2.5\%$

C

Ca_2RuO_4 —Effect of Strain on T_{MIT}



Transport on Strained Ca₂RuO₄



Bulk – T_{MIT} at 360 K 0.3% tensile – T_{MIT} above 650 K 1.6% compressive – T_{MIT} suppressed or shifted to lower T

Transport on Strained Ca₂RuO₄



Ca₂RuO₄ under Hydrostatic Pressure





F. Nakamura, T. Goko, M. Ito, T. Fujita, S. Nakatsuji, H. Fukazawa, Y. Maeno, P. Alireza, D. Forsythe, and S. R. Julian, *Phys. Rev. B* 65 (2002) 220402.

Unleashing Hidden Properties

- Toolkit Enabling Materials-by-Design of Oxide Thin Films
- Ruthenates—BaRuO₃, (Ca,Sr,Ba)₂RuO₄ altering band structure and properties
- EuTiO₃
 strongest ferromagnetic ferroelectric
- (LuFeO₃)₉ / (LuFe₂O₄)₁ Superlattices strongest ferromagnetic ferroelectric at room temperature

Room-Temperature Multiferroics

Material	$M_{\rm s}$ and $P_{\rm s}$	$T_{\rm N}$ and $T_{\rm C}$	Synthesis
BiFeO ₃	$\frac{M_{\rm s} \sim 0.03 \ \mu_{\rm B}}{P_{\rm s} \sim 95 \ \mu \rm C/cm^2}$	$T_{\rm N} \sim 643 \ { m K}$ $T_{\rm C} \sim 1100 \ { m K}$	
BiCoO ₃	$M_{\rm s} = 0 \text{ (AFM)}$ $P_{\rm s,theory} \sim 170 \mu \rm C/cm^2$	$T_{\rm N} \sim 470 \ { m K}$ $T_{\rm C} > 520 \ { m K}$	60,000 atm
ScFeO ₃ (corundum polymorph)	$M_{\rm s} \sim 0.01 \ \mu_{\rm B}/{\rm Fe}$ $P_{\rm s,theory} \sim 3 \ \mu{\rm C/cm^2}$	$T_{\rm N} \sim 356 { m K}$ $T_{\rm C, theory} \sim 1300 { m K}$	60,000 atm or Epitaxial Stabilization
$[(Ca_{0.6}Sr_{0.4})_{1.15} Tb_{1.85}Fe_2O_7]_{0.83}$	$M_{\rm s} \sim 0.009 \ \mu_{\rm B}/{\rm Fe}$ $P_{\rm s,theory} \sim 10 \ \mu{\rm C/cm^2}$	$T_{\rm N} \sim 330 { m ~K}$ $T_{\rm C} \sim 430 { m ~K}$	

The Idea: $(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_n$ Superlattices

LuFeO₃



Canted AFM, $T_{\rm N} \sim 147$ K Ferroelectric, $T_{\rm C} \sim 1050$ K

Bossak, A.A. et al. Chem. Mater. 16, 1751 (2004)
Wang, W. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 237601 (20)
Moyer, J. A. et al. APL Mater. 2, 12106 (2014).
Bisseler, S. M. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. V14, 201760
C. J. Fennie, "Bulk Magnetoelectricity in the Hexagonal Manganites and Ferrites," Nature Communications 5, 2998 (2014).



From Lecture #2 Other environments



From Lecture #1

Ferroelectricity + Magnetism: *Multiferroics*



Phase control in ferroics and multiferroics. The electric field *E*, magnetic field *H*, and stress σ control the electric polarization *P*, magnetization *M*, and strain ε , respectively. In a ferroic material, *P*, *M*, or ε are spontaneously formed to produce ferromagnetism, ferroelectricity, or ferroelasticity, respectively. In a multiferroic, the coexistence of at least two ferroic forms of ordering leads to additional interactions. In a magnetoelectric multiferroic, a magnetic field may control *P* or an electric field may control *M* (green arrows).

N.Spaldin, Science, 2005



Structure of multiferroic HoMnO₃. Hexagonal HoMnO₃ is ferroelectric, because the oxygen bipyramids surrounding each Mn³⁺ ion are tilted and shifted relative to the Ho³⁺ ions. It is also magnetic, with ferromagnetic alignment of the Ho³⁺ magnetic moments combined with antiferromagnetic Mn³⁺ ordering. Therefore, hexagonal HoMnO₃ is multiferroic.

The Idea: $(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_n$ Superlattices



S.J. Blundell, Contemp. Phys. 48, 275 (2007)

Ferrimagnetic, $T_{\rm C} \sim 240$ K

Ikeda, N. et al. Nature 436, 1136–1138 (2005). Iida, J. et al. J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 62 (1993) 1723-1735.

Non-Polar

De Groot, J. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **108,** 187601 (2012).

The Idea: $(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_n$ Superlattices



First-Principles DFT: LuFe₂O₄

Spin Configurations



First-Principles DFT: LuFe₂O₄



Energy: Group: Moment:



~1.10 μ_B/Fe Ferroelectric



to above room-temperature.

The Idea: $(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_n$ Superlattices



$Lu_2Fe_3O_7$: A Natural (LuFeO₃)₁ / (LuFe₂O₄)₁ Superlattice



$(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_n$ Superlattices on (111) YSZ

LuFe ₂ O ₄	1-1	2-1	3-1	4-1	5-1
		untekteistustikkei			and a state of the

***************	***				
*************		************	uninen men		statisticitations
$T_{c}=219 \text{ K}$				4754784754784784	the state of the s
					and a state of the
		hautzufanligstauts	anarananara		mmmmm
	************	*********			
	**************	**************************************	45 MARTIN AND AND AND AND A	************	Netterleiterter tert
0-1	7-1	8-1	9-1	10-1	LuFeO ₃
******	unununununun	manananan			,,,
		manatanan	************		und and a state of the state of
	*********************	at the state and	***********	สมสมสมสมสม	and the second second
안방방안안안		Contraction of the local division of the loc		munununun	and a subscription of the
unurununu	unununununu		******	ហើយដែរដំណើរដំណើរ	and a second
ununununu			***************	ununununun u	onomentation of
urunununu	**************************************		T -281 K	ununununun	T _1 /7 IZ
ununununu	RUTELTEATER STREET			unumunumunumu	$I_{\rm C}$ =14/K
ununununun		Letterterterterte	************	ununununun	ananananana
ununununu		utututututu		munununun	anternation of the
	************	unununun		and the second s	and the second second
nunenenenen	warman and a start	hinanana ana	***********	different and an an an	
mananananan	************	*************	************	*************	***************
manananan				feetentententente	

Ferroelectric Puckering *enhances* **Ferrimagnetism**



LuFe₂O₄

LuFeO₃

 $(LuFeO_3)_9 / (LuFe_2O_4)_1 SL$

Quantifying Magnetic Moment: (LuFeO₃)_m / (LuFe₂O₄)_n

SQUID Magnetometry





All $(LuFeO_3)_m / (LuFe_2O_4)_1$ superlattices have a higher T_C than both LuFeO₃ and LuFe₂O₄

Quantifying Magnetic Moment: (LuFeO₃)_m / (LuFe₂O₄)_n

SQUID Magnetometry

 $(LuFeO_3)_9 / (LuFe_2O_4)_1$

Ferromagnetic fluctuations in (LuFeO₃)₉ / (LuFe₂O₄)₁ superlattice persist above room-temperature

Polarization coupled to Magnetism!

$(LuFeO_3)_9 / (LuFe_2O_4)_1$ superlattice

J.A. Mundy, C.M. Brooks, M.E. Holtz, J.A. Moyer, H. Das, A.F. Rébola, J.T. Heron, J.D. Clarkson, S.M. Disseler, Z. Liu, A. Farhan, R. Held, R. Hovden, E. Padgett, Q. Mao, H. Paik, R. Misra, L.F. Kourkoutis, E. Arenholz, A. Scholl, J.A. Borchers, W.D. Ratcliff, R. Ramesh, C.J. Fennie, P. Schiffer, D.A. Muller, and D.G. Schlom, *Nature* 537 (2016) 523–527.

Electrical Poling Does Not Induce Local Modulation in Fe Valence

- PEEM is used to locally record Fe valence spectra demonstrating no detectable shift in the spectra (e.g. valence modulation) post-poling.
- XMCD-PEEM from the same region showed distinct magnetic order between the poled regions in this sample.

Highest T_C Ferrimagnetic Ferroelectric

LuFe₂O₄ (a ferrimagnet)

LuFeO₃ (a geometric ferroelectric)

(LuFeO₃)_m / (LuFe₂O₄)_n superlattices Ferrimagnetic Ferroelectric (puckering and polarization-doping from ferroelectric *enhance* ferrimagnetism)
Strongest Ferromagnetic Ferroelectric





$\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{r}} =$



Biaxial Strain (%), ε_s

C.J. Fennie and K.M. Rabe Physical Review Letters **97** (2006) 267602.

22 nm thick EuTiO₃ (a boring dielectric)

1.1% Strain (by growing it commensurately)

Multiferroic (1000× stronger than prior ferromagnetic ferroelectrics)

J.H. Lee, L. Fang, E. Vlahos, X. Ke, Y.W. Jung, L.F. Kourkoutis, J-W. Kim, P.J. Ryan, T. Heeg, M. Roeckerath,
V. Goian, M. Bernhagen, R. Uecker, P.C. Hammel, K.M. Rabe, S. Kamba, J. Schubert, J.W. Freeland, D.A. Muller,
C.J. Fennie, P. Schiffer, V. Gopalan, E. Johnston-Halperin, and D.G. Schlom, *Nature* 466 (2010) 954-958.

Conclusions

Using Thin-Film Alchemy:

- Hidden Ground States can be Accessed
- Superior Properties shown to Exist
- Theory + Synthesis is a Powerful Combination (Materials by Design)
- Imagine what Properties Await!