2007

Chemical solution deposition of LaMnO₃ buffer layers for coated conductors

Xuebin Zhu

University of Wollongong, xuebin@uow.edu.au

Hechang Lei

Chinese Academy of Sciences

Dongqi Shi

University of Wollongong, dongqi@uow.edu.au

Li Zhang

Anhui Institute of Architecture & Industry, China

Lin Wang

University of Wollongong

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/engpapers>

Part of the [Engineering Commons](#)

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/engpapers/3519>

Recommended Citation

Zhu, Xuebin; Lei, Hechang; Shi, Dongqi; Zhang, Li; Wang, Lin; Sun, Yuping; Song, Wenhai; Dou, S. X.; Yang, Jian; and Gu, Hongwei: Chemical solution deposition of LaMnO₃ buffer layers for coated conductors 2007, 3880-3885.

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/engpapers/3519>

Authors

Xuebin Zhu, Hechang Lei, Dongqi Shi, Li Zhang, Lin Wang, Yuping Sun, Wenhai Song, S. X. Dou, Jian Yang, and Hongwei Gu

Chemical Solution Deposition of LaMnO_3 Buffer Layers for Coated Conductors

Xuebin Zhu, Hechang Lei, Dongqi Shi, Li Zhang, Lin Wang, Yuping Sun, Wenhai Song, Shixue Dou, Jian Yang, and Hongwei Gu

Abstract—Chemical solution deposition (CSD) is used to prepare LaMnO_3 (LMO) buffer layers on different substrates. The results show that biaxially oriented LMO films can be successfully prepared on single-crystal SrTiO_3 (STO) and STO buffered single-crystal LaAlO_3 substrates when humid 4% H_2 - N_2 annealing atmosphere is used. The orientation of LMO-Ni is (110)-oriented even when the annealing atmosphere is humid 4% H_2 - N_2 . When CSD-derived STO-Ni is used as a template, biaxially oriented LMO buffer layers with c-axis orientation can be successfully prepared. The results provide an effective route to prepare LMO-based buffer layers using CSD.

Index Terms—Buffer layers, chemical solution deposition (CSD), coated conductors.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE rolling-assisted biaxially textured substrates (RABiTS) and ion-beam assisted deposition approaches have been identified recently as the leading techniques to fabricate long lengths of high-performance YBCO coated conductors [1]. For the RABiTS approach, if the buffer layer(s) and the superconducting film are both fabricated through chemical solution deposition (CSD), the route is called an all-chemical approach for coated conductors, which is considered as a very promising method for large-scale preparation of coated conductors with low cost since the route is a nonvacuum method [2], [3].

In order to prepare coated conductors using an all-chemical approach, one of the key problems is to fabricate suitable buffer layers. The buffer layers play twofold functions: one is to transmit the biaxial texture of the metallic substrate to the superconducting film; another is to block the interdiffusion between the metallic substrate and the superconducting film [4]. In order to satisfy the above two functions, the buffer layer

should have a similar lattice constant and thermal expansion coefficient to both the metallic substrate and the superconducting film. Moreover, the oxygen from the superconducting film should have a low diffusion constant in the buffer layer, and the metallic ions from the metallic substrate also should have a low diffusion constant in the buffer layer.

Many potential buffer layer materials have been identified for coated conductors on cube-textured Ni-based substrates using CSD, including CeO_2 [5]–[7], Y-stabilized ZrO_2 [7], Y_2O_3 [8], $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ [9]–[15], $\text{Gd}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ [16], LaMnO_3 (LMO) [17], SrTiO_3 (STO) [18]–[21], and so on.

For LMO-Ni buffer layers, it is observed that RF-magnetron sputtered buffer layers are highly c-axis oriented, the interdiffusion between the metallic substrate and the superconducting films can be nearly completely blocked when the thickness of LMO is higher than 60 nm, and the critical current density of the YBCO film on the LMO-Ni can be higher than 1 MA/cm², which indicates that the LMO is a very promising buffer layer for coated conductors [22], [23]. However, in the CSD process, it is reported that the LMO-Ni buffer layers are difficult to crystallization under dry reducing atmosphere, and when annealed in a wet reducing atmosphere the LMO-Ni is highly (110)-oriented [17]. Moreover, there are no relevant reports about CSD for highly c-axis oriented LMO-Ni buffer layers, and the CSD growth mechanism of LMO-Ni is not yet very clear. Additionally, the divalent alkali-earth element Sr-doped LMO, $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$ can be used as conductive buffer layers, which has been prepared by CSD method recently [24].

Currently, highly c-axis oriented STO-Ni buffer layers have been successfully prepared by several groups using the CSD method [18]–[21]. However, it is unfortunate to find that the blocking properties of the pure STO buffer layer are not very good. It is always observed that the NiO phase always appears in the chemical processing of superconducting films even if the STO thickness is about 400 nm, and the critical temperature T_{c0} is much lower than 90 K, which suggests that pure STO is not an ideal buffer layer for coated conductors.

In this paper, LMO films on different substrates have been prepared using CSD under reducing atmosphere, and the growth mechanism is also discussed. The results show that the LMO-STO-Ni is a very promising buffer layer sequence for coated conductors using an all-chemical approach.

II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Commercial LaAlO_3 (LAO) and STO single-crystal substrates were cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner using acetone, methanol, and deionized water before annealing at 1000 °C to obtain a well-defined surface. The purchased Ni substrates were

Manuscript received April 17, 2007; revised July 30, 2007 and September 1, 2007. This work was supported by the National Key Basic Research Program of China under Contract 2006CB61005, by the Foundation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences under Contract O64N161294, and by funding from the Australian Research Council under Contract DP 0666771. This paper was recommended by Associate Editor J. O. Willis.

X. Zhu is with the Key Laboratory of Materials Physics, Institute for Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, China, and also with the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, Faculty of Engineering, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia (e-mail: xuebin@uow.edu.au; xbzhu@issp.ac.cn).

H. Lei, Y. Sun, and W. Song are with the Key Laboratory of Materials Physics, Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, China.

D. Shi, L. Wang, and S. Dou are with the Institute of Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia.

L. Zhang is with the Department of Mathematics and Physics, Anhui Institute of Architecture and Industry, Hefei 230022, China.

J. Yang and H. Gu are with the Superconducting Materials Research Center, General Research Institute for Non-ferrous Metals, Beijing 100088, China.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TASC.2007.910165

Fig. 1. XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results of LMO-STO annealed under (a) a dry reducing atmosphere and (b) a humid reducing atmosphere.

also cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner using acetone, methanol, and deionized water, and then the Ni substrates were annealed at 1000 °C under 4% H_2 - N_2 atmosphere in order to eliminate the oxygen atoms at the surface.

The preparation of the STO buffer layers, including the solution preparation, the deposition, and the heat treatment, has been described in detail previously [25]–[27]. In this paper, the STO solution concentration is 0.25M, and the thickness of STO-Ni is about 300 nm.

The synthesis of the precursor solution for obtaining LMO films is as follows: La-acetate (Alfa Aesar, 99.9% in purity) was dissolved in propionic acid at 70 °C, and then Mn-acetate (Alfa Aesar, 99% in purity) was added to the solution and stirred at room temperature for more than 20 h to obtain a well-mixed precursor solution. To obtain the desired solution concentration, the LMO solution was diluted by n-butanol to 0.2M. The deposition of LMO films was conducted using a spin coater with a rotation speed of 4000 r/min and a time of 60 s. The deposited films were then dried at 300 °C for 30 min under flowing H_2 - N_2 atmosphere using a flow of 18 sccm for H_2 and 450 sccm for N_2 . The dried LMO films were then annealed at 900 °C for 120 min with the same flux of H_2 and N_2 as in the drying process. To introduce suitable humidity into the annealing atmosphere, the H_2 - N_2 gas was passed through several bottles filled with deionized water at 30 °C corresponding to a humidity of 2.4%. In order to obtain thicker buffer layers, the depositing, drying, and annealing processes were repeated several times. The thicknesses were checked by ellipsometer (Jobin Yvon-designed Uvisel type), and the results showed that each layer of LMO was about 80 nm in thickness.

To evaluate the crystallization quality as well as the out-of-plane and in-plane orientation, X-ray diffraction (XRD) was carried out using $\text{CuK}\alpha$ diffraction (Philips X'pert Pro). Field-emission scanning electronic microscopy [(FE-SEM) FEI-designed, Sirion 200 type] was carried out to investigate the microstructure of the derived samples.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 1 shows the XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results of the LMO-STO films annealed under dry and humid H_2 - N_2 atmosphere. It can be

Fig. 2. XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results of (a) CSD-derived STO-LAO under a humid reducing atmosphere and (b) all CSD-derived LMO-STO-LAO under a humid reducing atmosphere.

seen that there are no diffraction peaks corresponding to the LMO phase when the annealing atmosphere is dry 4% H_2 - N_2 , which is the same result as previous reports and can be attributed to the very low oxygen partial pressure in the annealing atmosphere. However, when the LMO-STO is annealed under humid 4% H_2 - N_2 atmosphere, the XRD result gives clear evidence that the LMO film is highly (h00)-oriented with pseudocubic structure; moreover, the lattice constant calculated from the LMO (200) diffraction peak using the Scherrer formula is about 3.97 Å, which is larger than that of the stoichiometric LMO (3.88 Å)¹ and can be attributed to the oxygen vacancies in the derived LMO film [28]. The above results suggest that the introduction of humidity into the 4% H_2 - N_2 is beneficial to prepare LMO films using the CSD method.

Based on the above results, we carried out the CSD of LMO on STO-LAO templates, and the XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ result of the LMO-STO-LAO is shown in Fig. 2. In order to show the result more clearly, the XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ result of the STO-LAO is also shown in Fig. 2. From Fig. 2, it is seen that the STO-LAO film is highly (h00)-oriented, and the LMO film is also (h00)-oriented. Moreover, the lattice constant calculated from the LMO (200) diffraction peak using the Scherrer formula is also about 3.97 Å, which can be also attributed to the oxygen vacancies in the derived LMO film. Fig. 3 shows the FE-SEM results of the CSD derived STO-LAO and LMO-STO-LAO films. It can be seen that the STO and LMO films are very dense and flat except for some undesired holes shown as black area in the LMO-STO-LAO film, and the root-mean-square roughness is below 8 nm, which is suitable for deposition of superconducting films, such as YBCO [3], [29], [30].

In order to fabricate LMO-based buffer layers suitable for coated conductors using an all-chemical approach, the LMO films are also deposited directly on the Ni substrates under dry and humid 4% H_2 - N_2 annealing atmosphere, and the XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results are shown in Fig. 4. It can be seen that the LMO-Ni buffer layer annealed under dry atmosphere is not crystallized and without any relevant diffraction peaks;

¹PDF card No. 75-0440.

Fig. 3. (a) FE-SEM results of CSD-derived STO-LAO and (b) of all CSD-derived LMO-STO-LAO (b).

Fig. 4. XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results of LMO-Ni annealed under (a) dry 4% H_2-N_2 reducing atmosphere and (b) humid 4% H_2-N_2 reducing atmosphere.

however, the LMO-Ni annealed in a humid atmosphere is highly (110)-oriented, which is different with the results of LMO-LAO or LMO-STO-LAO and is the same as in previous reports [17].

As for the orientation difference between the LMO-Ni and LMO-STO-LAO or LMO-STO, the reasons are not very clear yet. However, this may be explained as follows.

In LMO, the oxygen ratio is different in different planes [31]. As shown in Fig. 5, it is seen that the lowest oxygen ratio is attributed to the (110) plane, that is to say, in a single plane the ratio between the cation and the anion is lowest for the (110) plane. Usually, the orientation of the film is determined by the competition between the interface energy of the film/substrate and the surface energy of the film [32]. As for the orientation of LMO films on STO and STO-LAO, although annealed under humid reducing atmosphere, since of the LMO and STO have the same perovskite structure, the interface energy of LMO-STO is suggested to be the primary factor in determination of the LMO orientation resulting in LMO (h00)<100>/STO (h00)<100>. However, for the LMO on Ni substrate, since the structure difference between the LMO and Ni, the interface energy factor should be compromised with the surface energy of the LMO. That is to say, the interface energy as well as the surface energy will both play important roles in determination of the LMO orientation. Since the annealing atmosphere is humid reducing, the LMO film will have many

Fig. 5. Cartoon picture of different LMO plane giving a different oxygen ratio.

oxygen vacancies, which suggests the LMO (110) is the most stable surface with the lowest surface energy; this will be further studied in the next steps.

From the above experimental results, it is obviously seen that although the LMO film is highly (h00)-oriented when STO or STO-LAO templates are used, the LMO-Ni is (110) oriented, which is not suitable for coated conductors. In order to fabricate highly (h00)-oriented LMO-based buffer layers, some effective methods should be applied. From the enlightenments of the above analysis [33], it is suggested that the architecture of LMO-STO-Ni may be a suitable buffer layer structure for an all-chemical approach for coated conductors.

Fig. 6 is the XRD $\theta - 2\theta$ results of LMO-STO-Ni with different layers of LMO from one to three layers prepared using CSD for both STO and LMO. It should be noted that if the annealing atmosphere is dry 4% H_2-N_2 , the LMO cannot be well crystallized. From Fig. 6, it can be seen that all three samples are highly (h00)-oriented both for the STO and the LMO films. Additionally, the lattice constant of the LMO is also larger than that of the STO, which is similar to the above results about LMO on STO and STO-LAO templates and can also be attributed to the oxygen vacancies in the derived LMO films.

To check the in-plane orientation of the derived LMO-STO-Ni buffer layers, a phi-scan of the (110) plane of LMO (three layers)/STO-Ni was carried out, and the result is shown in Fig. 7. To give a clear relationship between the STO and LMO, a phi-scan of the (110) plane of STO-Ni was also measured and is shown in Fig. 7. It can be seen that the LMO layer grows on the STO-Ni in cube-on-cube mode except for some undesired misoriented LMO domains in the derived buffer layers, which are harmful for the YBCO films. Further experiments are being carried out to eliminate the misoriented LMO domains using several routes, such as higher annealing temperatures, longer annealing times, and a seed layer technique. Moreover, the phi-scan full-width at half-maximum of the LMO layer ($\sim 12^\circ$) is larger than that of the STO layer ($\sim 9^\circ$), which may be attributed to the nucleation within the LMO layers [34].

Fig. 8 shows the FE-SEM result of the LMO (three layers)/STO-Ni and of the STO-Ni. It can be seen that the STO film

Fig. 6. XRD $\theta-2\theta$ results of LMO-STO-Ni with the different LMO layers. (a) One layer LMO; (b) two layers LMO; and (c) three layers LMO.

Fig. 7. (a) Phi-scanning results of STO and (b) three layers LMO on STO buffered Ni.

is granular with clear grain boundaries; the LMO film shows denser microstructure and a relatively smooth surface. The results indicate that the LMO-STO-Ni buffer layers can be used for the deposition of superconducting films.

IV. CONCLUSION

CSD as a very promising method for coated conductors is used to fabricate LMO films on different substrates. It is found that when single-crystal STO and STO-LAO substrates are used as templates, highly biaxially and c-axis oriented LMO films can be successfully obtained under a humid 4% H_2 - N_2 annealing atmosphere. However, under the same annealing atmosphere, when LaMnO_3 is deposited directly on textured Ni substrates, the orientation of LMO buffer layers is (110). When CSD-derived STO-Ni is used as a template, the orientation of LMO can be tuned to highly c-axis oriented. The results provide an effective route to prepare LMO-based buffer layers using CSD.

Fig. 8. (a) FE-SEM results of STO-Ni and (b) LMO (three layers)/STO-Ni.

REFERENCES

- [1] W. V. Hassenzahl, D. W. Hazelton, B. K. Johnson, P. Komarek, and C. T. Reis, "Electric power applications of superconductivity," *Proc. IEEE*, vol. 92, no. 10, pp. 1655-1674, Oct. 2004.
- [2] X. Obradors, T. Puig, A. Pomar, N. Mestres, F. Sandiumenge, S. Piñol, O. Castaño, A. Cavallaro, A. Palau, J. C. González, M. Coll, and J. Gázquez, "Chemical solution growth of superconductors: A new path towards high critical current coated conductors," *Physica C*, vol. 408-410, pp. 913-914, 2004.
- [3] X. Obradors, T. Puig, A. Pomar, F. Sandiumenge, N. Mestres, M. Coll, A. Cavallaro, N. Rom, J. Gázquez, J. C. González, O. Castaño, J. Gutierrez, A. Palau, K. Zalamova, S. Morlens, A. Hassini, M. Gibert, S. Ricart, J. M. Moretó, S. Piñol, D. Isfort, and J. Bock, "Progress towards all-chemical superconducting $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ -coated conductors," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 19, pp. S13-S26, 2007.
- [4] D. P. Norton, A. Goyal, J. D. Budai, D. K. Christen, D. M. Kroeger, E. D. Specht, Q. He, B. Saffian, M. Paranthaman, C. E. Klabunde, D. F. Lee, B. C. Sales, and F. A. List, "Epitaxial $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ on biaxially textured nickel (001): An approach to superconducting tapes with high critical current density," *Science*, vol. 274, pp. 755-757, 1996.
- [5] M. S. Bhuiyan, M. Paranthaman, S. Sathyamurthy, T. Aytug, S. Kang, D. F. Lee, A. Goyal, E. A. Payzant, and K. Salama, "MOD approach for the growth of epitaxial CeO_2 buffer layers on biaxially textured Ni-W substrates for YBCO coated conductors," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 16, pp. 1305-1309, 2003.
- [6] M. Falter, K. Demmler, W. Häßler, B. Schlobach, B. Holzapfel, and L. Schultz, "Chemical solution deposition (CSD) of $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$ films and oxide buffer layers by dip coating," *IEEE Tran. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 13, no. 2, pt. 3, pp. 2751-2754, Jun. 2003.
- [7] Y. Akin, Z. Aslanoglu, E. Celik, L. Arda, W. Sigmund, and Y. S. Hascicek, "Textured growth of multi-layered buffer layers on Ni tape by sol-gel process," *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 2673-2676, Jun. 2003.
- [8] M. S. Bhuiyan, M. Paranthaman, S. Kang, D. F. Lee, and K. Salama, "Growth of epitaxial Y_2O_3 buffer layers on biaxially textured Ni-W substrates for YBCO coated conductors by MOD approach," *Physica C*, vol. 422, pp. 95-102, 2005.

- [9] S. Sathiyamurthy, M. P. Paranthaman, H. Y. Zhai, S. Kang, H. M. Christen, C. Cantoni, A. Goyal, and P. M. Martin, "Solution processing of lanthanum zirconate films as single buffer layers for high I_c YBCO coated conductors," *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 13, no. 2, pt. 3, pp. 2658–2660, Jun. 2003.
- [10] E. Celik, H. Okuyucu, I. H. Mutlu, M. Tomsic, J. Schwartz, and Y. S. Hascicek, "Textured $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, Gd_2O_3 , and Er_2O_3 buffer layers for a long-length YBCO coated conductors by non-vacuum process," *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 11, no. 1, pt. 3, pp. 3162–3165, Mar. 2003.
- [11] T. G. Chirayil, M. Paranthaman, D. B. Beach, D. F. Lee, A. Goyal, R. K. Williams, X. Cui, D. M. Kroeger, R. Feenstra, D. T. Verebelyi, and D. K. Christen, "Epitaxial growth of $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ thin films on rolled Ni-substrates by sol-gel process for high T_c superconducting tapes," *Physica C*, vol. 336, pp. 63–69, 2000.
- [12] K. Knoth, R. Hühne, S. Oswald, L. Schultz, and B. Holzapfel, "Highly textured $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ buffer layers for YBCO-coated conductors prepared by chemical solution deposition," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 18, pp. 334–339, 2005.
- [13] S. Sathiyamurthy, K. Kim, T. Aytug, and M. Paranthaman, "Effect of relative humidity on the crystallization of sol-gel lanthanum zirconium oxide films," *Chem. Mater.*, vol. 18, pp. 5829–5831, 2007.
- [14] X. B. Zhu, Y. P. Sun, W. H. Song, J. Yang, and H. W. Gu, "Chemical solution deposition of $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Y}_2\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_7$ buffer layers on NiW substrates," *Physica C*, vol. 433, pp. 154–159, 2007.
- [15] S. Sathiyamurthy, M. Paranthaman, L. Heatherly, P. M. Martin, E. D. Specht, A. Goyal, T. Kodanandath, X. P. Li, and M. W. Rupich, "Solution-processed lanthanum zirconium oxide as a barrier layer for high I_c -coated conductors," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 21, pp. 910–915, 2007.
- [16] T. Aytug, M. Paranthaman, K. J. Leonard, H. Y. Zhai, M. S. Bhuiyan, E. A. Payzant, A. Goyal, S. Sathiyamurthy, D. B. Beach, P. M. Martin, D. K. Christen, X. Li, T. Kodanandath, U. Schoop, M. W. Rupich, H. E. Smith, T. Haugan, and P. N. Barnes, "Assessment of chemical solution synthesis and properties of $\text{Gd}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ thin films as buffer layers for second-generation high-temperature superconductor wires," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 20, pp. 2988–2996, 2005.
- [17] K. Venkataraman, E. E. Hellstrom, and M. Paranthaman, "Growth of lanthanum manganate buffer layers for coated conductors via a metal-organic decomposition process," *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 3005–3008, Jun. 2005.
- [18] X. B. Zhu, S. M. Liu, H. R. Hao, P. Tong, C. X. Wang, W. H. Song, Y. P. Sun, K. Shi, Z. Y. Sun, S. Chen, and Z. Han, "Growth of SrTiO_3 thin films on $\text{Ba}_x\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{TiO}_3$ ($x = 0.3, 0.5$) seed layers on ni (200) substrates using spin coating technique," *Scripta Mater.*, vol. 51, pp. 659–663, 2004.
- [19] J. T. Dawley, R. J. Ong, and P. G. Clem, "Chemical solution deposition of $\langle 100 \rangle$ -oriented SrTiO_3 buffer layers on Ni substrates," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 17, pp. 1678–1685, 2002.
- [20] M. P. Siegal, P. G. Clem, J. T. Dawley, R. J. Ong, M. A. Rodriguez, and D. L. Overmyer, "All solution-chemistry approach for $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ -coated conductors," *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, vol. 80, pp. 2710–2712, 2002.
- [21] Y. X. Zhou, S. Bhuiyan, S. Scruggs, H. Fang, M. Mironova, and K. Salama, "Strontium titanate buffer layers deposited on rolled Ni substrates with metal organic deposition," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 16, no. 8, pp. 901–906, Aug. 1, 2003.
- [22] T. Aytug, M. Paranthaman, H. Y. Zhai, H. M. Christen, S. Sathiyamurthy, and D. K. Christen, "Single buffer layers of LaMnO_3 or $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$ for the development of $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ -coated conductors: A comparative study," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 17, pp. 2193–2196, 2002.
- [23] T. Aytug, A. Goyal, N. Rutter, M. Paranthaman, J. R. Thompson, H. Y. Zhai, and D. K. Christen, "High critical current density $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ -coatings on LaMnO_3 -buffered biaxially textured Cu tapes for coated conductor applications," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 18, pp. 872–877, 2003.
- [24] A. Hassini, A. Pomar, J. Gutiérrez, M. Coll, N. Romà, C. Moreno, A. Ruyter, T. Puig, and X. Obradors, "Atomically flat MOD $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$ buffer layers for high critical current $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ TFA films," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 20, pp. S230–S238, 2007.
- [25] X. B. Zhu, S. M. Liu, H. R. Hao, P. Tong, C. X. Wang, W. H. Song, Y. P. Sun, K. Shi, Z. Y. Sun, S. Chen, and Z. Han, "Growth of SrTiO_3 thin films on $\text{Ba}_x\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{TiO}_3$ ($x = 0.3, 0.5$) seed layers on Ni (200) substrates using spin coating technique," *Scr. Mater.*, vol. 51, pp. 659–663, 2004.
- [26] X. B. Zhu, S. M. Liu, H. R. Hao, L. Chen, W. H. Song, Y. P. Sun, K. Shi, Z. Y. Sun, S. Chen, and Z. Han, "Preparation of SrTiO_3 buffer layers on $\text{Ba}_x\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{TiO}_3$ seed layers buffered ni tapes by chemical solution deposition," *Physica C*, vol. 411, pp. 143–147, 2004.
- [27] X. B. Zhu, L. Chen, S. M. Liu, W. H. Song, Y. P. Sun, K. Shi, Z. Y. Sun, S. Chen, and Z. Han, "Effect of seed layers on the preparation of SrTiO_3 buffer layers on Ni tapes via sol-gel method," *Physica C*, vol. 415, pp. 57–61, 2004.
- [28] M. A. Peña and J. L. G. Fierro, "Chemical structure and performance of perovskite oxides," *Chem. Rev.*, vol. 101, pp. 1981–2017, 2001.
- [29] A. Pomar, M. Coll, A. Cavallaro, J. Gàzquez, N. Mestres, F. Sandiumenge, T. Puig, and X. Obradors, "Interface control in all metalorganic deposited coated conductors: Influence on critical currents," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 21, pp. 2176–2184, 2006.
- [30] A. Pomar, M. Coll, A. Cavallaro, J. Gàzquez, J. C. González, N. Mestres, F. Sandiumenge, T. Puig, and X. Obradors, "All-chemical high-J(c) $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ multilayers with SrTiO_3 as cap layer," *J. Mater. Res.*, vol. 21, pp. 1106–1116, 2006.
- [31] L. Pi, H. Zhu, X. J. Xu, and Y. H. Zhang, "Effect of the substrate orientation on the transport properties of $\text{La}_{0.67}\text{Sr}_{0.33}\text{MnO}_3$ epitaxial films," *Chin. Phys. Lett.*, vol. 18, pp. 111–113, 2001.
- [32] D. W. Pashley, "The study of epitaxy in thin surface film," *Adv. Phys.*, vol. 5, pp. 173–240, 1956.
- [33] M. P. Paranthaman, T. Aytug, H. Y. Zhai, L. Heatherly, A. Goyal, and D. K. Christen, "Growth of YBCO films on MgO-based rolling-assisted biaxially textured substrates templates," *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 18, pp. 223–228, 2003.
- [34] R. W. Schwartz, "Chemical solution deposition of perovskite thin films," *Chem. Mater.*, vol. 9, no. 11, pp. 2325–2340, Nov. 18, 1997.

Xuebin Zhu was born in Jiangsu, China, on December 8, 1975. In 2005, he received his Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

From 2002 to the present, he studied all MOD for coated conductors. At present, he is a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong, Australia, where he is collaborating with Prof. S. Dou and Dr. D. Shi to develop all MOD for coated conductors. His main interests are functional oxide

films including coated conductors, magnetic oxide films, transparent conductive oxide films, and ferroelectric films.

Hechang Lei was born in Jiangsu, China, on December 27, 1981. He received the B.S. degree in materials science and engineering from Nanjing University of Technology, Nanjing, China, in 2004. He is working toward the Ph.D. degree.

Since 2004, he has joined in Prof. Y. Sun's group at the Key Laboratory of Materials Physics, Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei, China, and carried out the all MOD for coated conductors.

Dongqi Shi received the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics from the Department of Physics, Nankai University, China, in July 1985 and 1988, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in engineering from the University of Wollongong, Australia, in 2003.

He is now a Research Fellow at the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong.

Li Zhang was born in Inter Mongolia, China, on December 11, 1977. She received the M.S. degree from the Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in 2003, and the Ph.D. degree from Nanjing University, in 2006.

She is now a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Physics, Anhui Institute of Architecture and Industry, Hefei, China. From 2000 to 2003, she mainly engaged in the study of coated conductors. From 2003 to the present, she has conducted research on flux pinning in high-temperature superconductors.

Her main interests are coated conductors and flux pinning in high-temperature superconductors.

Lin Wang was born in Inter Mongolia, China, on January 13, 1982. She received the B.S. degree from the Department of Physics, Tsinghua University, in 2004. In 2007, she became a Master's degree candidate at the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong, Australia.

From 2004 to 2006, she was a Research Assistant in the Applied Superconductivity Research Center, Tsinghua University, engaging in the study of MOD for large-area YBCO films. She is now carrying out all MOD for coated conductors under Prof. S. Dou

and Dr. D. Shi's supervision, at the University of Wollongong.

Yuping Sun was born in Anhui, China, on August 15, 1964. He received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei, China, in 1990 and 1997, respectively.

From 1991 to 1997, he was mainly engaged in the study of Bi-2223 silver sheathed tape. From 1998 to 1999, he mainly investigated the flux pinning and flux dynamics of Bi-2212 single crystals. From 2000 to present, he has studied YBCO coating conductors. At present, he is the Vice Director of Key Laboratory of

Materials Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and he is responsible for the preparation and physical properties of transitional function compounds. From 1998 to 1999, he spent one year at Taiwan Tsing Hua University as a Guest Scientist in the Laboratory of Superconductor and Magnetism of Prof. H. C. Ku. In 2003, he spent three months at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kentucky, as a Guest Scientist in the Laboratory of Prof. G. Cao.

Wenhai Song was born in Tongcheng, China in 1970. He received the B.E. degree in chemical physics from the East China University of Chemical Technology, in 1992, and the Ph.D. degree in condensed matter physics from the Institute of Solid State of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei, China, in 1997.

He currently holds the position of Research Fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 2003 and 2005, he was a short-term visiting scholar at the University of Kentucky, and the University of Liverpool, UK, respectively. His interests include

high-temperature superconductors (HTS), colossal magnetoresistance (CMR), and multiferroic materials. The research interests are focused on the fundamental physics, e.g., structure, electrical, and magnetic properties and the strong interplay among the lattice, charge, orbital, and spin degrees of freedom.

Shixue Dou received the Ph.D. from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1984.

From 1984 to the present, he was a Professor at Northeastern University in China, University of New South Wales, and the University of Wollongong in Australia. He now holds an ARC Australian Professorial Fellowship and is the Director of the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, University of Wollongong. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering and a Fellow of the International

Academy of Electrotechnological Science. By May 2006, he had published more than 500 refereed publications and 5200 citations.

Jian Yang was born in Beijing, China, in 1962. She received the B.S. degree from Jiling University in 1985.

She began working at the General Research Institute for Nonferrous Metals (GRINM), Beijing, China, in 1985. She has mainly engaged in the YBCO HTS film research work since 1991. From 1997 to the present, she has studied YBCO coated conductors. Since 2002, she has been a chief of the YBCO coated conductor program supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

of the People's Republic of China. Her research interests include the cube textured substrates, biaxially textured buffer layers, and YBCO film for coated conductor. She was invited for three months by Dr. C. Park as a Visiting Scientist at the Applied Superconductivity Group, Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute (KERI), Changwon, South Korea, involved in the project "Development of Coated Conductor using Physical Vapor Deposition."

Hongwei Gu was born in Henan, China, in 1966. He received his M.S. degree from the University of Science and Technology, Beijing, China, in 1989, and Ph.D. degree from the Beijing General Research Institute for Non-ferrous Metals (GRINM), Beijing, China.

During 1999 to 2001 he was a Guest Scientist (STA fellow) in the National Institute for Materials Science, Japan. Since 1993, he has been with GRINM. From 1989 to 1993, he focused on the aluminum metal matrix composites. From 1993

to 1999, he conducted research on the development of high-temperature superconducting YBCO thin films and succeeded in making high-quality Bi-epitaxial YBCO film. From 1999 to 2001, he studied the high pressure effect on heavy Fermi compounds, including the single crystal's preparation, the specific heat measurement under high pressure to 0.7 K. From 2002 to the present, he is the Director of the Superconducting Materials Research Center of GRINM, conducting the Development of YBCO thin films, coated conductors, and single domain bulk materials.