## XPS study of high- $T_c$ superconductors

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A carrier concentration in the Cu-O<sub>2</sub> planes is a key parameter to achieve the optimum property of high- $T_c$  superconductors and has been controlled by changing atomic concentrations. However, to estimate real carrier concentrations from atomic concentrations obtained by chemical analysis or electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) often fails. The reason is that the high- $T_c$  cuprates usually have complex charge distributions in crystal structures due to peculiar layered structures (a stack of alternate the blocking layer and the Cu-O<sub>2</sub> plane) and multi-valent ions in the bloking layers. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) is one of the most powerful tools for probing atomically - local electronic structures. We have found that the binding energies of Ba, Sr, Ca, and Y core-levels can be a measure of real hole concentrations in the Cu-O<sub>2</sub> planes. [1] On the other hand, core levels of metallic ions in the blocking layers, such as Tl 4f and Pb 4f, have provided important information about valence states of the blocking layers.[2] In this paper, changes of the charge distributions in the crystal structures caused by controlling oxygen contents and by atomic substitutions are discussed from the core-level spectra for the Bi-Sr-Ca(Y)-Cu-O superconductors.

- [1] M.Nagoshi, Y.Syono, M.Tachiki, and Y.Fukuda, Phys.Rev.B 51, 9352 (1995).
- [2] E.Oshima, M.Kikuchi, M.Nagoshi, Y.Fukuda, and Y.Syono, Physica C 250, 320 (1995).

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