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Article

Paramagnetic Properties of Carbon Films

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Abstract: This paper presents the results of the study of carbon films deposited on substrates of quartz, mica and silicon by the method of electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR). This study has identified the dependences of the intensities of the EPR signal, the g-factor, and the line width on the temperature of carbon films on various substrates with perpendicular and parallel arrangement of the sample plane relative to the orientation of the magnetic field are presented. The results of this study show that the dependence of the line width on temperature measurements does not change under both conditions for recording the EPR spectra. The research has also shown that with increasing temperature, the normalized intensity of the EPR signal line increases when carbon is deposited on various substrates (quartz, mica, and silicon) by the method of plasma decomposition of a mixture of CH₄ and H₂.

Keywords: electron paramagnetic resonance; carbon films; magnetic field; paramagnetic property; intensity of signal; various substrates

1. Introduction

Recently, researchers have shown an increased interest in the development of technologies for applying thin carbon films on various materials. The morphology, structure, phase composition, and physical properties of thin films directly depend on the method of their preparation. To obtain such films, various types of substrates are selected, for example, such as quartz, glass, crystalline and monocrystalline silicon, etc. Depending on the synthesis temperature, localized carbon can be represented both in the amorphous state and in the nanocrystalline state. The EPR method is a powerful tool for studying carbon nanotubes. A major advantage of this method is that it allows us to detection of unpaired electrons even at very low concentrations in samples, without destroying or modifying them, and at the same time characterizes their energy states or localization. Electron paramagnetic resonance (ESR) is a widely used method for study- ing carbon nanostructures [1-9]. In work [10] are presented EPR studies of carbon films obtained by laser-plasma deposition using graphite targets of various types. In this work have been studied the influence of the degree of structural perfection of a graphite target and thermal stimulation of the substrate on the structure of deposited carbon films by the laser-plasma method. In the EPR spectra, carbon films have revealed the presence of single signals detected at room temperature for all studied samples. The signal was still under non-saturating conditions at 100 mW. Consequently, the observed paramagnetic centers are associated primarily with imperfect-type defects. Films are characterized and deposited on a "cold" substrate using targets of various graphite by a wide of single linewidth ($\Delta H \sim 15$ G) with a g-factor of 2.0011. The observed line is somewhat for py- rolytic graphite ($\Delta H = 10$ G), and the g-factor is 2.0022. This value is close to the g-factor of a free electron, which is typical of diamond materials. A linewidth of g-factor of 2.0011 wasn't previously observed for carbon materials. Heating the substrate to 500 K leads to a noticeable (several times) narrowing of the lines in the EPR spectra for

all types of targets (cathodes). In this case, the value of the g-factor increases for films obtained using graphite targets (cathodes). In works [11,12], the EPR spectra samples where the graphite considered as cathode an ion source. Weakly asymmetric is a singlet in which the line width with width between the extremes of the derivative 12-14 Gs with a g-factor of 2.010.

This result is typical for polycrystalline graphite's, which have an imperfect structure containing π -electron traps in the valence band [13]. The EPR spectra are also singlet weakly asymmetric lines for carbon in different states (black coals, soot, activated carbon, thin amorphous a-C films obtained by different methods). They have a smaller width (3-4Gs) and another g-factor equal to 2.0027 ± 0.0002 [14]. The EPR spectrum of a carbon film has a complex shape, which was obtained by deposition of vacuum-arc graphite erosion products in the anode chamber of an ion source onto a glass substrate. Computer simulation has shown that this spectrum can be represented as a superposition of two lines. One of them is a wide line with $g=2.0052 \pm 0.0002$ (20 Gs) and the other is narrower with $g=2.0030 \pm 0.0002$ (5 G).

Wagoner [15] investigated the electron spin resonance in quite perfect single crystals of graphite clearly establish that the resonance arises from mobile charge carriers. The temperature dependence of the g-factor in a graphite monocrystal was studied by X-band EPR at 90–300 K temperature range [16]. In this paper given a generalization of McClure equation for the $g=g(T)$ data description which is based on the assumption that (mixing coefficient of the π bond) is temperature dependent.

The EPR spectrum of the carbon film is a narrow singlet line with $g=2.0034$. Wagoner [15] investigated the electron spin resonance in quite perfect single crystals of graphite clearly establish that the resonance arises from mobile charge carriers. The temperature dependence of the g-factor in a graphite monocrystal was studied by X-band EPR at 90–300 K temperature range [16]. In this paper given a generalization of McClure equation for the $g=g(T)$ data description which is based on the assumption that a (mixing coefficient of the p bond) is temperature dependent. The EPR line in crystalline graphite has electronic conductivity and it is characterized with a highly anisotropic g-factor. According to [17], g-factors have $g_{||}=2.0050$ and $g_{\perp}=2.0026$ at room temperature. It is highly dependent on temperature and impurities. Future studies on the current topic are therefore recommended. Data from authors studies suggest that the line with $g=2.0052$ can be attributed to the presence of graphite microcrystallites in the deposited film with some averaged g-factor. The main goal of the current study was to measure and determine the temperature dependence of the EPR signal of thin carbon films deposited on substrates of quartz, mica, and silicon on the annealing temperature.

2. Materials and Methods

Films were obtained on an AX5200S – ECR equipped with a microwave radiator for plasma excitation firms of by Seki Technotron Corp. A darkish color carbon films are formed on various substrates (quartz, mica and silicon) during plasma decomposition of a mixture of CH_4 and H_2 and carbon deposition. In our case, the time of deposition of carbon on the substrate with the formation of a film was 2 hours on excited of plasma in a mixture of CH_4+H_2+Ar at a pressure of $3,8 \times 10^{-2}$ Torr. The microwave power supplied to the chamber was 540 W, and the reflected power was 84W, the leakage into the chamber of CH_4 and H_2 was the same and equal to 20 cm³/min. Samples were measure on a Jeol JES-FA200 spectrometer with sensitivity of 5×10^9 spin /sample. In the text of the article is indicated the temperature of the preliminary processing of the samples. Measurements were carried out at room temperature at a frequency of 9450 MHz and a magnetic field of 336 ± 10 mT. The g-factor of the sample was determined using known parameters of the manganese line. The temporary stability of the spectrometer is 10-6.

The resonator of the spectrometer is cylindrical. The sample is placed in the center of the resonator. A spectrometer feature is that the manganese sample is located outside the resonator, but under the influence of a scattered microwave field. This allows it to be used to calibrate the parameters of recorded operating spectra. Its g-factor is stable when measuring the spectrum of a working sample.

EPR spectroscopy of the sample as the secondary bivalent manganese ions in the lattice is often used a magnesium oxide (Mn^{2+} in MgO). As a reference sample were used Mn^{2+} ions in MgO . The signal from the sample under investigation was recorded between the 3rd and 4th components of the six-coil spectrum from Mn^{2+} . A sample with size 3x5 mm placed in a vial of special glass that did

not give an EPR signal. The EPR spectrum of this sample consists of six EPR lines, between the 3rd and 4th components, which are usually recorded spectra of the studied sample. ESR analysis of the third line, as well as all other lines of divalent manganese spectrum shows that the line connecting its maximum and a minimum, there are no bends. This line is perfectly straight.

An ESR signal appeared within certain limits of changing parameters of when performing on resonance conditions the magnetic field. The EPR spectrum gave printing after detection. A major advantage of EPR is that the given data values of the g-factor of manganese allow them to be used to determine the experimental data of the line between these two components of manganese. It is known that the g-factor enters into the resonance condition $\Delta E = g\mu_B\beta H$ ($\mu_B\beta$ - the Bohr Magneton) and determines the position of the line in the EPR spectrum. A free electron does not have an orbital momentum and equal to $g = 2.0023$. The values of the g-factors are close to the indicated value of ions in the S-state. Small changes in this value (the g-factor is usually recorded with an accuracy of 4–5 decimal places) indicate some changes in the local surroundings of the center. EPR measurement was carried out on 20 sprayed samples at temperatures of from 0 °C (initial) to of 800 °C. Overall, these measuring were twenty samples at both arrangement of plane of sample relative the orientation of the magnetic field..

3. Results

Figure 1 shows raw data carbon film on substrate of mica at temperature 400 °C. The measurement of samples this approach is that the sample under study is located in the resonator, which the manganese of the sample is located outside the main volume (in a scattered Super High Frequency field). Its phase differs from the influence of this field from the Super high frequency of the phase the signal of in the resonator itself. As a known qualitative methods offer an effective way of measurement of samples with Mn^{2+} in MgO were selected for its reliability and validity. As a result, the signal from the sample and from manganese have opposite phases. In this spectrometer, the sample of Mn^{2+} in MgO is in the scattered microwave field outside the resonator, and therefore the phases of the investigating sample in the resonator and the sample Mn^{2+} in MgO are opposite. The EPR spectrum was calibrated according to a well-known standard, according to the works [18-19].

Figure 1 shows that the relation between the values determined by areas of 3:5 and 8:4 for carbon film on substrate of Mica at temperature of sputtering 400 °C. Thus suggests that the resulting thin carbon film is due to three components. The parameters of the EPR spectra of a carbon film on a mica substrate are as follows: on of the caption to picture presented magnitude of the area has $g = 2.00412 - 2.00420$, which is typical of the EPR spectrum of graphene and its compounds. The second area is g-factor equal to $g = 2.0031$. With such a g-factor of carbon components can be caused by carbon nanotubes. The third component of the carbon film has a g-factor equal to $2.00118 \div 2.00164$ depend on the angle of rotation of the sample in a magnetic field. Thus indicates the presence of carbon film consisting of various forms of graphite with some degree of crystallites [20-21].

The results of measuring the EPR spectra of these the samples are presented in Figures 2-4 and Tables 1-2.

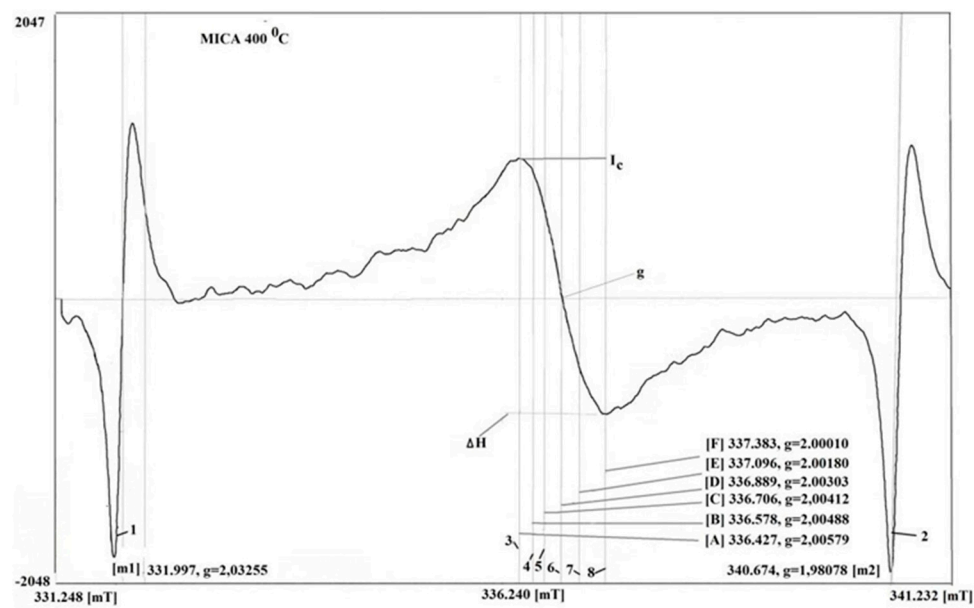


Figure 1. The raw data of carbon film on the substrate of mica at temperature 400°C. The measurement of perpendicular arrangement of plane of sample relative the orientation of the magnetic field 1-2 – signal of Mn, 3-8 – signals of sample and EPR characteristics, 6 - signal of center.

Table 1. The parameters of the EPR spectra of a carbon film on a mica substrate.

No	H, mT	g-factor	No	H, mT	g-factor
1	331.997	2.03255	5	336.706	2.00412
2	340.674	1.98078	6	336.889	2.00303
3	336.427	2.00579	7	337.096	2.00180
4	336.578	2.00488,	8	337.383	2.00010

The measurement was taken at a perpendicular arrangement of the plane of sample relative to the orientation of the magnetic field. These spectra have significant implications for the understanding, how interpreted f all spectra of paramagnetic features measure EPR.

Figure 2a, b shows the temperature dependences of the intensities of the EPR signal of a carbon film on substrates of quartz, mica, and silicon with the sample plane perpendicular and parallel to the orientation of the magnetic field. It can be seen from the figure that, the amplitude of the EPR signal noticeably decreases with a change in temperature from room temperature to 250-300°C, and then increases with increasing temperature for all samples.

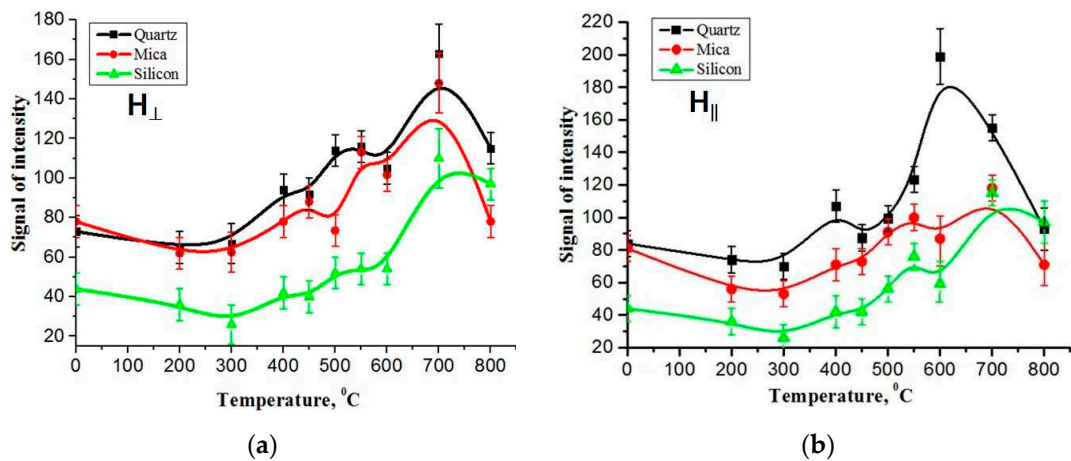


Figure 2. The dependence of the intensity of the EPR signal on the temperature of carbon films on different substrates: (a) at the perpendicular arrangement of plane of a sample relative to the orientation of the

magnetic field, (b) at a parallel arrangement of the plane of the sample relative of the orientation of the magnetic field.

The temperature dependences of the intensity of the EPR signal of the carbon film on different substrates show that with increasing temperature, the signal grows non-uniformly with the formation of intermediate maxima in both orientations of the sample plane relative to orientation of the magnetic field.

As shown in Figure 2a,b that EPR signal has one of characteristic temperature region. The temperature growth of EPR signals in the samples under study was observed in the range of $T = 400\text{--}700^\circ\text{C}$, when measuring in a parallel arrangement of the sample plane relative to the direction of the magnetic field (figure 2b). In both orientations of measurements of the EPR lines are significantly reduced at temperatures above 750°C . It turned out that the temperature behavior of the EPR signal with a perpendicular and parallel arrangement of the sample plane relative to the orientation of the magnetic field is almost the same. This means that EPR signal belongs to the same paramagnetic center, characterized by $g = 2.00322\text{--}2.00323$ at $T = 750^\circ\text{C}$. Typically, carbon films have a rather complex structural composition. Mostly, it includes of graphene-like formations, nanotubes of various parameters, graphite's of different organizations and their oxides.

Figure 3 shows the temperature dependences of the linewidth of EPR of a carbon film on the substrates of quartz, mica and silicon at the perpendicular and parallel arrangement of the relative to the orientation the sample plane of the magnetic field.

It's known [22] that the linewidth of the EPR line strongly depends on the microwave power, temperature, and modulation amplitude of a magnetic field. The linewidth of the carbon film on quartz and mica does not change with increasing temperature.

Generally, this means that the influence of the microwave power and the amplitude of the modulation of the magnetic field on the behavior of the EPR signal of the manifest itself in the same way. This indicates that the centers have the same relaxation times, which may be associated with one local environment of the centers, or with their identical dynamic properties [20]. In addition, temperature measurements do not change under both conditions of registration of the EPR spectra.

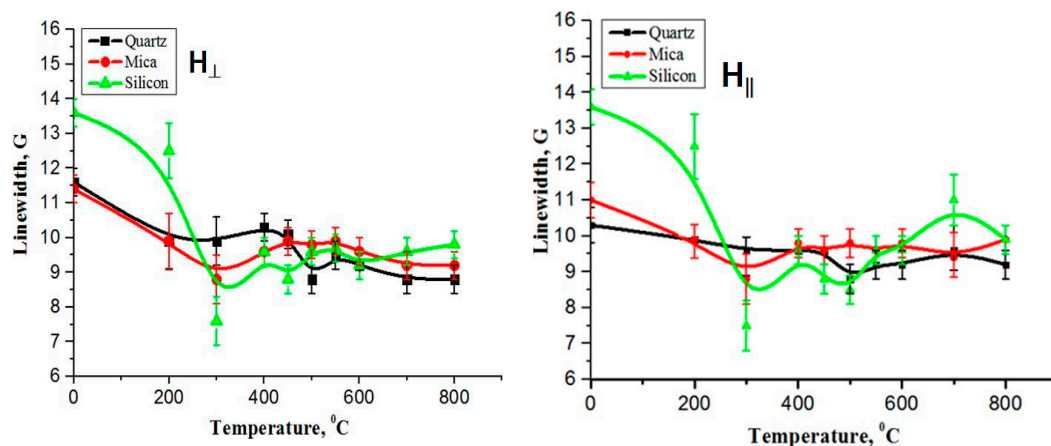


Figure 3. The dependence of the linewidth of the EPR signal on the temperature of carbon films on different substrates: (a) at the perpendicular arrangement of the plane of the sample relative to the orientation of the magnetic field, (b) at the parallel arrangement of the plane of the sample relative to the orientation of the magnetic field.

At the same time, the linewidth of the carbon film from silicon at a temperature of $200\text{--}300^\circ\text{C}$ decreases and, this is remain unanswered at present. A high concentration of paramagnetic centers leads to temperature memory effects, which indicates a high level of deposition of carbon films. There is a strong interaction between polarons, due to their high concentration. There is also a high probability of transformation between polarons and bipolarons [10], which can significantly affect the relaxation of spins (polarons) and their environment. Table 2 shows the dependence of the g-factor of EPR signal on the temperature of carbon films on different substrates at perpendicular arrangement of plane of sample relative the orientation of the and parallel magnetic field.

The research has also shown that at measuring both orientations of the magnetic field dependence of the EPR signal for silicon has a jumplike form. This means that an unpaired electron is localized on a non-carbon atom and deviations at temperatures of 300°C ($g_{\perp} \approx 2.00249$ and $g_{\parallel} \approx 2.00221$), at 450°C ($g_{\perp} \approx 2.00225$ and $g_{\parallel} \approx 2.00221$) and at 550°C ($g_{\parallel} \approx 2.00281$). These deviations of the g-factors (g_{\parallel} and g_{\perp}) in both orientations of the measurement strongly depend on the impurities of the samples [15].

The investigation of this registration has shown that with an increase in temperature of the carbon film from quartz and mica, the g-factor grows in comparison the carbon film from silicon at parallel arrangement of plane of sample relative of the orientation of the magnetic field. Generally, this means that the organic radicals with insignificant concentrations are almost isotropic and differ only slightly [23-24]. The g-factor ($g_{\perp} \approx 2.00238$) decreases at a temperature of 450°C with measuring perpendicular to the position of the sample plane relative to the magnetic field of the carbon film on mica.

Table 2. Parameters of the g-factor at different arrangement of sample of carbon films on various substrates.

T, °C	g _∥ - factor of spectra			g _⊥ - factor of spectra		
	Quartz	Mica	Silicon	Quartz	Mica	Silicon
0	2.00283	2.00279	2.00264	2.00287	2.00293	2.00264
200	2.00292	2.00293	2.00249	2.00291	2.00319	2.00249
300	2.00304	2.00297	2.00221	2.00301	2.00293	2.00221
400	2.00324	2.00303	2.00257	2.00292	2.00288	2.00257
450	2.00311	2.00292	2.00278	2.00303	2.00238	2.00225
500	2.00302	2.00293	2.00294	2.00302	2.00303	2.00237
550	2.00326	2.00313	2.00281	2.00318	2.00313	2.00364
600	2.00319	2.00306	2.00304	2.00292	2.00326	2.00304
700	2.00329	2.00332	2.00303	2.00304	2.00322	2.00306
800	2.00327	2.00301	2.00303	2.00327	2.00292	2.00303

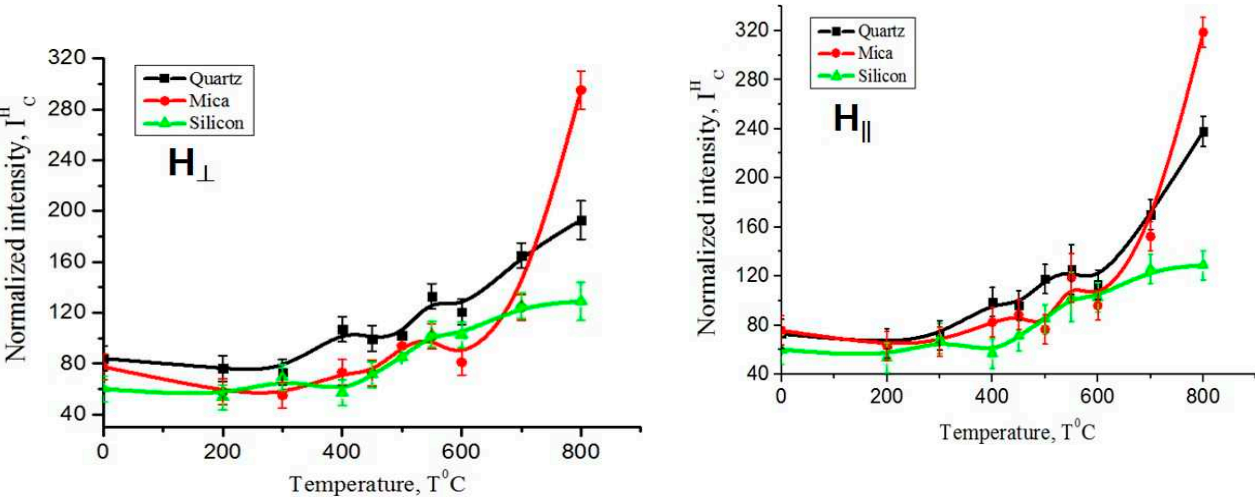


Figure 4. The dependence of the normalized intensity of EPR signal on the temperature of carbon films on different substrates: (a) at the perpendicular arrangement of the plane of the sample relative to the orientation of the magnetic field, (b) at the parallel arrangement of the plane of the sample relative to the orientation of the magnetic field.

At the same time, the g-factor ($g_{\perp} \approx 2.00364$) shows an increase at the temperature of 550°C. This circumstance allows us to conclude that g-factor fluctuations aren't random, but are manifestations

of a change in the surroundings of the average of statically radical or a broken C–C bond. It means that occurs local magnetization or local demagnetization at an external constant magnetic field is applied to the sample and the magnetic component of the microwave radiation in the resonator [24-25]. Figure 4a,b shows the normalized intensity per 1 gram of sample, and the EPR line monotonically increases with growth temperature. The change indicates the shape of the EPR signal line with increasing temperature of carbon deposition on various substrates (quartz, mica, and silicon) during plasma decomposition of a mixture of CH₄ and H₂.

4. Conclusion

The results of this investigation show that the dependences of the parameters of the EPR signal the carbon film on various substrates have been studied (intensities, line widths, g-factor and normalized intensity of the EPR line) at the sample plane perpendicular and parallel to the orientation of the magnetic field. The temperature dependences of the intensity of the EPR signal of the carbon film on different substrates show that with increasing temperature, the signal grows non-uniformly with the formation of intermediate maxima in both orientations of the sample plane relative to the orientation of the magnetic field. In both orientations of measurements of EPR lines are significantly reduced at temperatures above 750°C. This study has found that with increasing temperature, the width of the carbon film line on quartz and mica does not change. The results show that the centers have the same relaxation times, which may be associated with one local environment of the centers, or with their identical dynamic properties. This study has identified as the temperature rises to 750°C, the normalized amplitude intensity of the EPR signal monotonically increases in all samples during carbon deposition of on various substrates (quartz, mica and silicon).

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