Title of Project: Understanding of the Superconducting Mechanism and Search for a Novel Superconducting State in Uranium Heavy-Fermion Compounds

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Purpose and Background of the Research

The discovery of “ferromagnetic (FM) superconductors” had a great impact to the research community studying “unconventional” superconductivity. Since superconductivity was reported in FM UGe$_2$ under pressure in 2000, similar superconductors have been discovered in uranium compounds, particularly URhGe and UCoGe show superconductivity at ambient pressure, which are suitable for studying the SC properties. The characteristic features of these FM superconductors are that the anisotropy of the SC upper critical fields ($H_{c2}$) is extremely large, and that superconductivity is enhanced by external fields ($H$) or reappears after the suppression with increasing $H$, as shown in Fig. 1. These features have never been observed in any other superconductors before. We have considered that such peculiar behaviors are linked to the SC mechanism of these superconductors.

Research Methods

We have performed nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements to clarify the relationship between the FM fluctuations and superconductivity, since NMR is one of the best measurements to investigate the field dependence of low-energy FM fluctuations down to low temperatures. From the NMR measurements on high-quality, single-crystal samples, we have sought common features, which are related to the SC mechanism. In addition, there are a few Uranium superconductors, which possess a SC multi-phase. We try to understand the SC properties of these superconductors, and try to find similar phenomena in the FM superconductors.

Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance

The goal of the project is to clarify the SC properties and pairing mechanism of the FM superconductors from experimental and theoretical point of view. Particularly, we pursue to understand the properties of “spin-triplet SC state”, expected to be realized in the FM superconductors.

Publications Relevant to the Project


Term of Project: FY2015 - 2019
Budget Allocation: 153,800 Thousand Yen
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