

Dynamic nuclear polarization and relaxation in Si:P at very low temperatures

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We report on studies of dynamic nuclear polarization (DNP) and nuclear and electronic relaxation times of ³¹P donors in natural Si. After the pioneering work of Feher [1] the recent interest towards this system has been raised by the proposal of Kane [2] to utilize impurity atoms for quantum computing.

The samples were studied in strong magnetic field and temperatures below 1K. At these conditions donor electron spins are fully polarized and electron and nuclear relaxation times are very long. The DNP in such conditions is very efficient and pumping with very low RF powers (<1 μ W) for reasonably short time (\approx 1 hour) gives very high nuclear polarization of ³¹P. DNP on the neighbouring ²⁹Si nuclei reduces strongly the ESR linewidth of ³¹P. We discuss favourable conditions for DNP and possible physical mechanisms of the observed phenomena.

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