

X-ray-diffraction studies of $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) and $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) high-temperature-superconductor thin films

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Single-phase $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films on LaAlO_3 (100) substrates were prepared by molecular-beam deposition and post annealing and they were studied by x-ray-diffraction (XRD) and resistivity measurements. The values of lattice constant c_0 were determined after correcting for sample displacement errors in the XRD measurements. For an epitaxial $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) film, which showed the onset of superconductivity at 53 K, the lattice constant c_0 was determined as 11.592 ± 0.018 Å. Similar superconducting behavior and same lattice parameter c_0 have been observed for bulk $\text{Eu}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ by Iwata *et al.* [Jpn. J. Appl. Phys. **26**, L2049 (1987)]. Bulk $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ and $\text{Eu}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ have almost the same lattice parameters. Hence the value of x in the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin film was derived as 0.3 (uncertainty = $-0.03, +0.05$). The $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) thin film showed complete superconductivity at 89.5 ± 0.5 K (critical transition temperature, $T_{c,0}$). Its lattice constant c_0 was measured as 11.644 ± 0.006 Å. Again, the composition was determined by comparison with lattice parameter (c_0) and $T_{c,0}$ of bulk $\text{Eu}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ as reported by Iwata *et al.* Since this film is a 90-K superconductor, it is labeled as $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ instead of $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (uncertainty in the value of $x = -0.03, +0.05$).

I. INTRODUCTION

There is a great thrust to understand the mechanisms of high-temperature superconductivity in $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($R = \text{Y, Er, Dy, Gd, Sm, or Eu}$) materials.¹⁻³ The $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ high-temperature superconductors show complete superconductivity at 90 K (for $\delta \leq 0.01$). The crystal structure of $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ high-temperature superconductors is very interesting. The unit cell consists of three perovskite-type (cubic) cells stacked together along the c axis.⁴⁻⁷ There are two Cu-O₂ planar layers and one Cu-O chain layer in each unit cell which play crucial roles in the high-temperature superconductivity.⁸ The 90-K $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ superconductor has an orthorhombic crystal structure for which the lattice constants, in case of $R = \text{Dy}$, are $a_0 = 3.83$ Å, $b_0 = 3.88$ Å, and $c_0 = 11.71$ Å.⁴ There are two ways to modulate the composition of single-phase $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ high-temperature superconductors: (1) The oxygen content can be reduced. In this case, its critical transition temperature (T_c) drops and the superconductivity is lost as δ approaches 1.³ When the value of δ is greater than 0.6, the material adopts a tetragonal crystal structure.⁴ (2) Single-phase $R_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ ($x = 0-0.5$) materials can be prepared.^{4,9,10} When x is greater than zero, some Ba atoms are replaced by smaller R atoms in the unit cell of $R\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$. Again, this compositional change reduces T_c . In $R_{1.5}\text{Ba}_{1.5}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$, the superconductivity is completely lost.⁹ In fact, $R_{1.5}\text{Ba}_{1.5}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ ($R = \text{La and Pr}$) materials were synthesized and studied before the invention of high- T_c superconductors.¹¹

In this paper, we report on the structural studies of $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) and $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films by x-ray diffraction (XRD). The values of x in the

single-phase $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{1-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ thin films were derived from investigation of transport properties and XRD studies, which are described in the text.

II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

$\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) and $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films were prepared by molecular beam deposition (MBD) and post annealing. The process is described in detail elsewhere.¹² The thin-film deposition was carried out in a miniature ultrahigh-vacuum (UHV) MBD system. Dy, BaF₂, and Cu were coevaporated from effusion cells in presence of O₂ (oxygen pressure in 4×10^{-6} to 6×10^{-6} Torr range). The films were deposited on LaAlO_3 (100) substrates. The arrival rates (flux) of constituent vapors were determined just before and after thin-film deposition by a movable water-cooled thin-film-thickness monitor (FTM). The flux of vapors remained constant during deposition (within $\pm 2\%$). The films were post annealed in a particular cycle in wet and dry O₂ to get the oxide.^{12,13} The relationships between FTM reading for any constituent vapor and its real flux was determined in separate experiments, but the initial calibrations were crude.¹² Hence, the films deposited with these calibrations were not good. Improvement in calibrations of FTM was necessary to obtain the epitaxial films as described in the next paragraph. The sensitivity of FTM sensor was increased by reading total thickness on the quartz crystal in 200 sec and the thickness value was divided by time to get the (FTM) deposition rate. Note that the deposition rate in Å/sec is related to flux in atoms (or molecules)/cm² sec.

In subsequent MBD experiments, the Dy and BaF₂ flux were kept constant and the Cu flux was varied. After post annealing, all films were analyzed by XRD using a

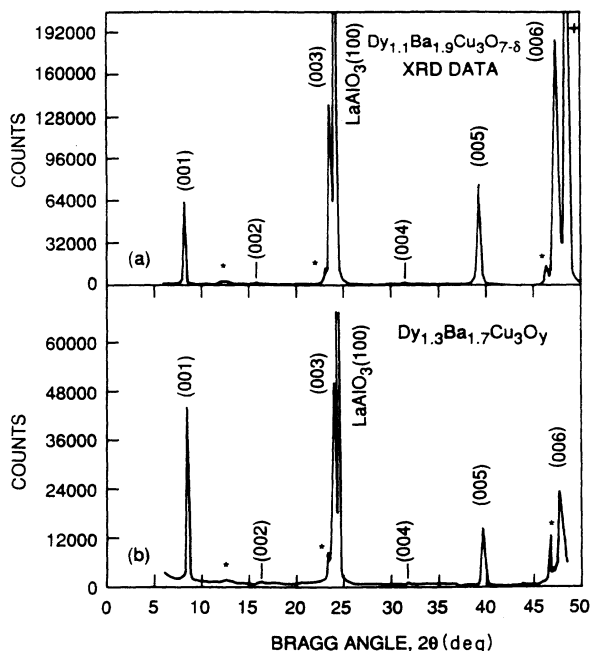


FIG. 1. XRD peak intensity vs Bragg angle for 2θ in 6° – 50° range. (a) XRD spectrum for $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film on $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate; (b) XRD spectrum for $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin film on $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate. The data for $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ terminates at $2\theta=48^\circ$ and, therefore, it does not show the $\text{LaAlO}_3(200)$ peak. [(+) $\text{LaAlO}_3(200)$ peak; (*) peaks due to rhombohedral distortion of the substrate or impurities.]

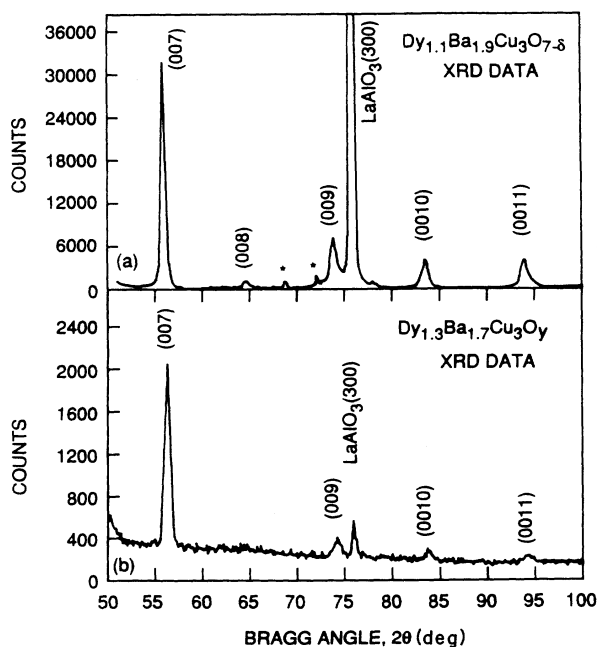


FIG. 2. XRD peak intensity vs Bragg angle for 2θ in 51° – 100° range. (a) XRD spectrum for $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film on $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate; (b) XRD spectrum for $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin film on $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate. [(*) Peaks due to rhombohedral distortion of the substrate or impurities.]

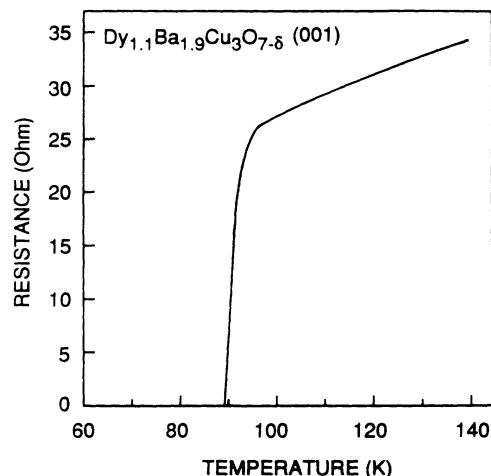


FIG. 3. Superconducting resistive transition of epitaxial $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film on $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate.

Diano diffractometer. A $\text{Cu } K\alpha$ x-ray source (wavelength $\lambda=1.542 \text{ \AA}$) was used in the XRD measurements. The resistivity of the films were measured by four-point resistivity measurements or microwave absorption measurements. After deposition of silver pads for resistivity measurements, the films were annealed at 450°C in dry O_2 for 2 h and slowly furnace cooled. One of the films showed (001) epitaxy without any noticeable contamination and it was labeled as $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$. Microwave-absorption measurements on this film showed that the film was superconducting. However, the onset of superconductivity was at 53 K and the superconductivity transition width was large. The resistivity data were compared with resistivity versus temperature curves for $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ ($x=0$ – 0.5) bulk materials, which has been reported by Iwata *et al.*⁹ From the comparison of transport properties, the x value in the epitaxial film was estimated to be about 0.3. From these experiments, accurate relationships between FTM reading and flux of constituent vapors were obtained.

Using the improved calibrations of FTM, $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin films were prepared in subsequent experiments. After careful XRD analysis, which is reported in this paper, it was determined that these films are $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$. Figures 1(a) and 2(a) show the XRD spectra for one of the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ films. In resistivity measurements, the film showed complete superconductivity at $89.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ K}$ (Fig. 3).

III. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The XRD patterns for $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}(001)$ and $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin films are depicted in Figs. 1(a), 2(a), 1(b), and 2(b). All of the 001 peaks are observable [except for the 008 peak in Fig. 2(b)]. In the second XRD scan for $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ [Fig. 2(b)], the x-ray beam intensity was low. The $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ film is also about 1.5 times thicker than the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ film. For $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$, the intensities of 001 peaks

TABLE I. Displacement-error correction factor, $(-2s/R)$, for x-ray-diffraction data [see Eq. (1)].

| Sample mounting number | XRD data | Standard XRD peak | Measured Bragg angle 2θ (deg) | Calculated Bragg angle 2θ (calc.) (deg) | $-2s/R$ | Average $-2s/R$ |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | Fig. 1(a) | LaAlO ₃ (100) | 24.15 | 23.488 | -0.6772 | |
| 1 | Fig. 1(a) | LaAlO ₃ (200) | 48.66 | 48.042 | -0.6778 | -0.6765 |
| 1 | Fig. 2(a) | LaAlO ₃ (300) | 75.80 | 75.268 | -0.6747 | |
| 2 | Fig. 1(b) | LaAlO ₃ (100) | 24.36 | 23.488 | -0.8923 | -0.8923 |
| 3 | Fig. 2(b) | LaAlO ₃ (300) | 75.91 | 75.268 | -0.8147 | -0.8147 |

compare well with 001 peaks for Er₁Ba₂Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) and Nd₁Ba₂Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) thin films as reported in the literature.^{14,15} The films may not have 100% *c*-oriented epitaxy but the (100) and (010) peaks, which correspond to *a*- and *b*-orientations of the film, are undetectable.

To determine the lattice constant c_0 for Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) and Dy_{1.3}Ba_{1.7}Cu₃O_{*y*}(001) thin films from the XRD data, it was necessary to correct for specimen displacement errors in the XRD measurements. The systematic error correction function for specimen displacement is given by the expression,¹⁶

$$\Delta(2\theta) = -2s(\cos\theta/R), \quad (1)$$

where s is the specimen displacement, R is the radius of the goniometer circle, 2θ is the Bragg's angle for diffraction, which is the angle between directions of incident and diffracted x-rays.

In the XRD data for Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) and Dy_{1.3}Ba_{1.7}Cu₃O_{*y*}(001) thin films, the diffracting atoms are in (001) set of planes. In Figs. 1 and 2, the 001 peak represents first-order diffraction from (001) planes of atoms (order of Bragg reflection, $n=1$), whereas the peaks labeled as 002, 003, etc., correspond to higher-order diffraction from the (001) planes.

Equation (1) was used to correct for displacement errors. First, the displacement error correction factor, $(2s/R)$, was computed using θ values for 100, 200, and 300 peaks for the LaAlO₃(100) substrate [$a_0=3.79$ Å, $\alpha=90^\circ 4'$ (Ref. 17)]. The results are shown in Table I. Although the LaAlO₃ crystal has a slight rhombohedral

distortion at room temperature, which gives some of the peaks marked by an asterisk in Figs. 1 and 2, its structure can be assumed as cubic, since the positions of $h00$ peaks in XRD spectra for a hypothetical perfectly cubic LaAlO₃ crystal having same lattice constant will be the same.¹⁸ The values of $(-2s/R)$ were substituted in Eq. (1) to get the displacement error correction function $\Delta(2\theta)$. The measured and corrected values of 2θ for 001 peaks are listed in Tables II and III for Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) and Dy_{1.3}Ba_{1.7}Cu₃O_{*y*}(001), respectively. Using the corrected 2θ values, the lattice constants, c_0 , for Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) and Dy_{1.3}Ba_{1.7}Cu₃O_{*y*}(001) thin films were calculated according to the Bragg's law. The results are shown in Tables II and III.

The lattice constant, c_0 , for the Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) thin film is determined as 11.644 ± 0.006 Å whereas c_0 for the Dy_{1.3}Ba_{1.7}Cu₃O_{*y*}(001) film is found to be 11.592 ± 0.018 Å.

IV. DISCUSSION

The lattice constants for bulk Dy₁Ba₂Cu₃O_{7- δ} in its orthorhombic form ($\delta < 0.01$) are known to be $a_0=3.83 \pm 0.003$ Å, $b_0=3.885 \pm 0.002$ Å, and $c_0=11.709 \pm 0.003$ Å.⁴ These values have been derived from precision XRD and neutron-diffraction measurements. Our measured value of 11.644 Å as c_0 for Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) thin film is 0.06 Å smaller than

TABLE II. Calculation of lattice constant c_0 for the Dy_{1.1}Ba_{1.9}Cu₃O_{7- δ} (001) thin film using x-ray-diffraction data [Figs. 1(a) and 2(a)]. The details are described in the text.

| XRD peak, <i>hkl</i> | Measured Bragg angle 2θ (deg) | Displacement error correction factor, $-2s/R$ | $\Delta(2\theta)$ (deg) | Corrected Bragg angle, 2θ (deg) | Lattice constant, c_0 (Å) | Mean c_0 (Å) (standard deviation) |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 001 | 8.26 | -0.6765 | -0.6748 | 7.5852 | 11.656 | |
| 002 | 15.88 | -0.6765 | -0.6701 | 15.2099 | 11.652 | |
| 003 | 23.57 | -0.6765 | -0.6623 | 22.9077 | 11.648 | |
| 004 | 31.36 | -0.6765 | -0.6514 | 30.7086 | 11.647 | |
| 005 | 39.31 | -0.6765 | -0.6371 | 38.6729 | 11.643 | 11.644 |
| 006 | 47.45 | -0.6765 | -0.6194 | 46.8306 | 11.641 | (± 0.006) |
| 007 | 55.84 | -0.6765 | -0.5978 | 55.2422 | 11.641 | |
| 008 | 64.57 | -0.6765 | -0.5720 | 63.9980 | 11.640 | |
| 009 | 73.74 | -0.6765 | -0.5412 | 73.1988 | 11.638 | |
| 0010 | 83.46 | -0.6765 | -0.5049 | 82.9551 | 11.641 | |
| 0011 | 94.00 | -0.6765 | -0.4614 | 93.5386 | 11.640 | |

TABLE III. Calculation of lattice constant c_0 for the $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin film using x-ray-diffraction data [Figs. 1(b) and 2(b)]. The details are described in the text.

| XRD peak, hkl | Measured Bragg angle 2θ (deg) | Displacement error correction factor, $-2s/R$ | $\Delta(2\theta)$ (deg) | Corrected Bragg angle, 2θ (deg) | Lattice constant, c_0 (Å) | Mean c_0 (Å) (standard deviation) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 001 | 8.54 | -0.8923 | -0.8898 | 7.6502 | 11.557 | |
| 002 | 16.18 | -0.8923 | -0.8832 | 15.2968 | 11.586 | |
| 003 | 23.90 | -0.8923 | -0.8730 | 23.0270 | 11.588 | |
| 004 | 31.79 | -0.8923 | -0.8582 | 30.9318 | 11.565 | |
| 005 | 39.66 | -0.8923 | -0.8394 | 38.8206 | 11.600 | 11.592 |
| 006 | 47.81 | -0.8923 | -0.8157 | 46.9943 | 11.603 | (±0.018) |
| 007 | 56.19 | -0.8147 | -0.7187 | 55.4713 | 11.597 | |
| 009 | 74.10 | -0.8147 | -0.6502 | 73.4498 | 11.604 | |
| 0010 | 83.83 | -0.8147 | -0.6063 | 83.2237 | 11.610 | |
| 0011 | 94.42 | -0.8147 | -0.5534 | 93.8666 | 11.609 | |

its bulk value. In case of epitaxial thin films on substrates with small lattice mismatch, there may be some elastic strain in the film if the film is not very thick (say, less than 2000 Å). For c -oriented epitaxial $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$, its lattice constants a_0 and b_0 are matched with the lattice constants of the substrate (for LaAlO_3 , its lattice parameter is 3.79 Å). Because of interfacial stresses due to the $\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ substrate, the lattice parameters a_0 and b_0 of the $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ film can only be compressed. As a result, the lattice constant c_0 of a $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film can only expand elastically when its unit cell is compressed along the x and y axes. Note that the measured c_0 value for the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film is not larger than its bulk value.

Stresses due to lattice mismatch in the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin films can be described by a two-dimensional case of plane stress.¹⁹ For simplicity, let us assume that the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ thin film is an isotropic solid in its mechanical properties. In the case of plane stress, stress in the c direction is zero but principal strain in the c direction is nonzero which is described by the relationship

$$\epsilon_3 = -\nu(\sigma_a + \sigma_b) \quad (2a)$$

$$= -\nu(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2), \quad (2b)$$

where σ_a and σ_b are stresses along the a and b axes, σ_1 and σ_2 are principal stresses in the a - b plane, and ν is the Poisson's ratio.¹⁹ The strains in a and b directions are ϵ_a and ϵ_b . If the elastic strains in the a and b directions are not relieved then $\epsilon_a = (3.79 - 3.83)/3.83 = -0.01$ and $\epsilon_b = (3.79 - 3.89)/3.89 = -0.026$. Since these values of strain are very large and the epitaxial growth temperature is also very high (900 °C), the material is bound to undergo plastic deformation. An epitaxial growth process in which the elastic strains due to lattice mismatch are relieved at the film/substrate interface is known as nonpseudomorphic growth. The high annealing temperature (900 °C) used in the epitaxial growth of $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin films will enhance nonpseudomorphic growth. Hence, the elastic strain will be relieved by plastic deformation at the

$\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)/\text{LaAlO}_3(100)$ interface and the lattice mismatch will be accommodated by a network of dislocations at the interface.

To account for residual elastic strains in the films, if present, let us assume that average $\epsilon_1 = -0.001$ and $\epsilon_2 = -0.002$. Then ϵ_3 is calculated to be 0.0013 (using Poisson's ratio, $\nu = 0.3$). With this estimate, the determined values of c_0 for the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin films will be 0.015 Å larger than c_0 in bulklike $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ materials.

Release of oxygen from orthorhombic $\text{RBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ materials also results in change in lattice constants. Since the sample was kept in air during the XRD measurements, it could lose oxygen. However, it is known that in oxygen deficient $\text{RBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ materials the value of c_0 increases as δ approaches 1.⁴ Furthermore, for a 90-K $\text{Dy}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ material the value of δ must be less than 0.1.³ Therefore, the small contraction in lattice constant c_0 for the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}(001)$ thin film can not be due to loss of oxygen.

Now, we will explain how the lattice constant c_0 for single-phase $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y(001)$ thin films is related to the value of x in its composition. Iwata *et al.* have reported on the lattice constants of orthorhombic (bulk) $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ materials for $x = 0-0.5$.⁹ In their paper, the values of a_0 , b_0 , and $c_0/3$ have been plotted as a function of x for $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$. For $x = 0$, their XRD measurements show a c_0 value of 11.70 Å for $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (i.e., $\text{Eu}_1\text{Ba}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$), which is about 0.01 Å larger than its bulk value as reported in Ref. 4.

Assuming that the crystal structure and superconducting properties of $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ and $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ are almost identical, our XRD results on lattice parameter c_0 for the epitaxial thin films were compared with c_0 values for $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ ($x = 0-0.5$) as given in Ref. 9. For $\text{Eu}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ bulk material, the c_0 value is 11.59 ± 0.01 Å. Hence, the value of x in the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ thin film, assuming nonpseudomorphic thin film growth, is estimated to be 0.3, since its lattice constant was determined as 11.592 ± 0.018 Å. Uncertainty in the value of x is ± 0.03 , which accounts for differences in c_0 for $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ and $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ for same

value of x . An additional uncertainty of $(-0.0, +0.02)$ is added to account for some elastic strains in the film, if present. Hence, the total uncertainty in the value of x is estimated as $(-0.03, +0.05)$.

Now, the c_0 value for the 90-K superconductor thin film is compared with c_0 values for bulk $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ as shown in Ref. 9. It is found that the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) thin film resembles bulk $\text{Eu}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ because their c_0 value are in 11.65 ± 0.01 Å range and, furthermore, the $\text{Eu}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ material is also a 90-K superconductor. This suggests that the 90-K superconductor thin film is $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) in which the value of x is 0.1 as labeled (uncertainty = $-0.03, +0.05$). The value of y in the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin film is believed to be $(7-\delta)$ because a large change in δ will reduce T_c of the material significantly from 90 K, which is not the case. The 90-K superconductivity in the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) thin film is not surprising since many researchers believe that the pure $\text{RBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ high-temperature superconductors have critical transition temperature ($T_{c,0}$) above 90 K.^{9,20} This does not imply that the 90-K superconductor thin film, which is found to be $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$, is a poor material for superconductivity applications because the $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ materials show the largest diamagnetic response.⁹

V. CONCLUSIONS

$\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) and $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) epitaxial thin films on LaAlO_3 (100) substrates were stud-

ied by x-ray diffraction. The lattice parameter c_0 for $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) thin film was determined as 11.644 ± 0.006 Å, which is about 0.06 Å shorter than its bulk value. The $\text{Dy}_{1.1}\text{Ba}_{1.9}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ (001) film shows complete superconductivity at 89.5 ± 0.5 K ($T_{c,0}$). The $\text{Dy}_{1.3}\text{Ba}_{1.7}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin film, which shows onset of superconductivity at 53 K, has c_0 value of 11.592 ± 0.018 Å. The estimates of composition of the $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films were made by comparison of critical transition temperature (T_c) and lattice parameter c_0 of single phase $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films and $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ bulk materials. Uncertainty in the determined values of x is estimated to be $(-0.03, +0.05)$. The superconducting properties and crystal structure of bulk $\text{Eu}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ materials has been reported in Ref. 9. We have shown that x-ray-diffraction studies can be used for estimation of composition of single-phase $\text{Dy}_{1+x}\text{Ba}_{2-x}\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$ (001) thin films.

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