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M1Or3A-01 [Invited]: My studies of Nb₃Sn, V₃Ga and Nb₃Al wires and tapes in National Research Institute for Metals(NRIM)

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When I joined Tachikawa's group in NRIM(now NIMS) in 1978, they have almost finished the research of bronze-process and they were carrying out many kinds of impurity additions to Nb₃Sn wires. Soon they found that Ti addition is very effective to enhance J_c values at high field region. I measured H_{c2} values of various impurity added bronze processed Nb₃Sn wires at MIT, and found that Ti or Ta addition increased H_{c2} from ~22T(pure Nb₃Sn with bronze) to ~26T. I also studied in situ process for Nb₃Sn and V₃Ga wires and tapes. The in situ V₃Ga tapes were used as conductors of innermost coils of the 18T superconducting magnet constructed in NRIM.

Nb₃Al is one of the promising candidates for high field magnets because of its higher H_{c2} and stronger mechanical tolerance than Nb₃Sn. Tachikawa and I carried out the synthesis of high-J_c Nb₃Al and Nb₃(Al,Ge) tapes using high energy laser or electron beam irradiations to Nb-Al and Nb-Al-Ge precursor tapes. Precursor tapes were prepared by the powder-in-tube method. By the mechanical working to tapes Al and Nb particles were elongated into fibers. The high energy beam irradiation was continuously carried out along the tape length. As the power density was high and the irradiation time was short, the tapes were heated and cooled much faster than a tape heat-treated by a conventional method. As a result stoichiometric Nb₃Al and Nb₃(Al,Ge) compounds were formed without any excess grain coarsening. This led to the high J_c values at high field region. For example, J_c of electron beam irradiated Nb₃(Al,Ge) tape reached ~28,000A/cm² in 25T at 4.2K. This was the highest J_c at that time.

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