Magnetic properties of Gd/Co alloys

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 Background and purpose of the project, relationship of the project with other projects
Much effort has been devoted extensively in the research field of spintronics to create a new concept and functionality which can be utilized to develop the next generation spin-driven devices. Here a search of (ferro)magnetic materials is crucial. One stream of this line is of course in dilute magnetic semiconductors where magnetic impurities are introduced in otherwise non magnetic semiconductors (insulators). There, various interesting properties have been already reported including even a possible room temperature ferromagnet This project is to search for a new ferromagnetic materials.

2. Specific usage status of the system and calculation method

Using first principles calculations based on density functional theory, electronic structures are calculated.

3. Result

Our systematic calculations found that 1) stoichiometric surfaces are non magnetic, 2) Hf rich non-stoichiometric surfaces are usually non magnetic, and 3) O rich non-stoichiometric surfaces are ferromagnetic and half metallic when surface reconstruction of oxygen bonding does not take place. The ferromagnetic surface state found here is mostly due to spin polarization of O 2p valence electrons at the surface layer, and is argued to be a novel pathway to ferromagnet for materials without magnetic ions. We have also calculated surface energy for all surfaces studied and discussed a possible reason for recent controversial observations of ferromagnetism in HfO2

4. Conclusion

We have proposed a new class of ferromagnet which can appear at surfaces of non magnetic materials

- 5. Schedule and prospect for the futureWe would like to extend our study to intherface and alloy systems.
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