## [젊은진공기술과학자상 후보 1:표면 및 계면 분과]

Effects of three-dimensional strain on the magnetic and the transport properties of epitaxial CMR bilayered films

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In this study, we present that the Curie temperature can be controlled by the lattice strain, which plays a crucial role in determining the magnetic and the magneto-transport properties of epitaxial hole-doped perovskite manganite films. La<sub>0.9</sub>Ca<sub>0.1</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>/La<sub>0.7</sub>Ca<sub>0.3</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub> (LCMO/LCMO) and La<sub>0.8</sub>Sr<sub>0.2</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>/La<sub>0.8</sub>Ca<sub>0.2</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub> (LSMO/ LCMO) epitaxial bilayered (BL) films were successfully grown on LaAlO<sub>3</sub>(100) substrates by rf-magnetron sputtering from powder-type targets. According to the magnetic and the electronic phase diagrams, bulk La<sub>0.8</sub>Sr<sub>0.2</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub> exhibits the ferromagnetic metallic phase at low temperatures, while bulk La<sub>0.9</sub>Ca<sub>0.1</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub> shows the ferromagnetic insulator phase. The high-resolution electron microscopy and the x-ray diffraction results reveal that both LCMO/LCMO and LSMO/LCMO films are in compressive in-plane strain and tensile out-of-plane strain. In order to investigate the effect of 3-dimensional strain on the magnetic and the transport properties, SQUID and resistance measurements were carried out. It was found that the Curie temperatures of LCMO/LCMO and LSMO/LCMO BL films shift to higher temperatures with respect to La<sub>0.9</sub>Ca<sub>0.1</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>/LaAlO<sub>3</sub> and La<sub>0.8</sub>Sr<sub>0.2</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>/LaAlO<sub>3</sub> films, repectively. It was also observed that the metal-insultator phase transition in the LCMO/LCMO film occurs near the Curie temperature, while there is no metal-insulator transition in La<sub>09</sub>Ca<sub>01</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>/LaAlO<sub>3</sub> film. According to Millis model, the shift of Curie temperature indicates that the strain in LCMO/LCMO and LSMO/LCMO BL films plays an important role for the symmetry-breaking Jahn-Teller distortion. On the other hand, the contribution from Jahn-Teller distortion to the ferromagnetic ordering is reduced with increasing the lattice mismatch between substrate and film.