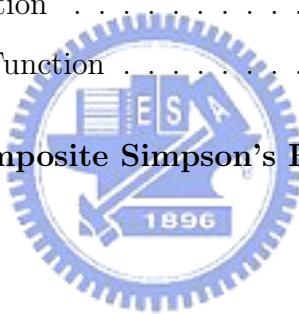


Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The History of Kondo Effect: Dilute Magnetic Alloys	1
1.2	Kondo Effect in Tunnel Junctions	3
1.3	Why We Study Kondo Effect through the Al/AlO _x /Sc Tunnel Junctions?	5
2	Theory	6
2.1	Electron Tunneling Spectroscopy	6
2.1.1	Tunneling between Two Free-Electron Metals	8
2.1.2	Density of States Effect and Assisted Tunneling	17
2.2	Kondo Effect in Bulk Samples	26
2.2.1	Weak Coupling Regime	26
2.2.2	Strong Coupling Regime	27
2.3	Kondo Effect in Tunnel Junctions	29
2.3.1	Weak Coupling Regime	29
2.3.2	Strong Coupling Regime	39

3 Experiment	42
3.1 Samples Fabrication	42
3.1.1 Al Films Deposition	42
3.1.2 The Growth of the AlO_x	43
3.1.3 Sc Films Deposition	46
3.1.4 Initial Test of the Junctions	46
3.2 Measurement Circuits	46
3.2.1 The Principles of the Lock-in Amplifier	46
3.2.2 The "Send I Measure V " Circuit	51
3.2.3 The "Send V Measure I " Circuit	52
3.3 The ^3He Cryostat	54
3.3.1 A Brief Description	54
3.3.2 The Cool Down Process	54
4 Results and Discussion	58
4.1 The Quality, Height, and Thickness of the Barrier	58
4.1.1 The Quality of the Barrier	58
4.1.2 The Height and Thickness of the Barrier	64
4.2 Differential Conductance in $\text{Al}/\text{AlO}_x/\text{Sc}$ Tunnel Junctions	65
4.2.1 $G(0, T)$ vs. T	65
4.2.2 $G(V, T)$ vs. V	67
4.3 The DOS Effects in the Al and Sc Leads	72
4.3.1 The DOS Effect in the Al Lead	72
4.3.2 The DOS Effect in the Sc Lead	77
4.4 Subtracting the Background from the Measured dI/dV Data	80

4.5	Weak Coupling Regime	86
4.5.1	$G_{even,data}(V, T)$	86
4.5.2	$G_{even,data}(0, T)$	99
4.5.3	$G_{odd,data}(V, T)$	101
4.6	Strong Coupling Regime	103
4.7	The Effect of Applying a Magnetic Field	116
4.8	Summary	119
5	Conclusions	122
A	The Proof of $G_{even}^{weak}(V)$ Is an Even Function	125
A.1	$Q(\omega)$ Is an Even Function	125
A.2	$G_{even}^{weak}(V)$ Is an Even Function	126
B	Simpson's Rule and Composite Simpson's Rule	127



List of Tables

4.1 The fitted values of T_K and α in several Al/AlO_x/Sc tunnel junctions. 113



List of Figures

2.1	(a) A M-I-M tunnel junction. (b) The band diagram of the M-I-M tunnel junction.	7
2.2	The integration range of Eq. (2.15).	11
2.3	The asymmetric barrier.	15
2.4	(a) Transfer-Hamiltonian model. (b) $G(V)$ as $T \rightarrow 0$	18
2.5	The plots of $R_{Hamann}(T/T_K)$ and $R_{NRG}(T/T_K)$	30
2.6	A schematic representation of a tunnel junction which contains a magnetic impurity in its barrier.	31
3.1	A schematic representation of the glow discharge.	45
3.2	The functional block diagram of the SR830 lock-in Amplifier.	50
3.3	The "send I measure V " circuits.	51
3.4	The "send V measure I " circuits.	52
3.5	The schematic representation of the IVC of the ^3He fridge.	55
4.1	The bias polarity in the tunnel junctions under measurement.	59
4.2	The superconducting gap of the Al film.	61
4.3	The zero-bias conductance $G(0, T)$ as a function of temperature.	63
4.4	The $G(V, T)$ spectra of two Al/AlO _x /Al junctions.	66

4.5	$G(0, T)$ as a function of temperature for $T \lesssim 50$ K.	68
4.6	$G(V, T)$ as a function of V at several temperatures of a Al/AlO _x /Sc tunnel junction.	69
4.7	$G(V, T)$ as a function of V for several temperatures of another Al/AlO _x /Sc tunnel junction	70
4.8	$\rho(T)$ vs. T for an Al film whose $\rho(300$ K) ≈ 15.6 $\mu\Omega$ cm.	73
4.9	The $G(V, T)$ spectra of an Al (15 $\mu\Omega$ cm)/AlO _x /Al (15 $\mu\Omega$ cm) tunnel junction.	74
4.10	$\rho(T)$ vs. T for an Al film whose $\rho(300$ K) ≈ 66 $\mu\Omega$ cm	76
4.11	The $G(V, T)$ spectra of an Al (15 $\mu\Omega$ cm)/AlO _x /Al (66 $\mu\Omega$ cm) tunnel junction.	78
4.12	$\rho(T)$ vs. T for a Sc film whose $\rho(300$ K) ≈ 107 $\mu\Omega$ cm.	79
4.13	$G(V, T)$ as a function of V at several temperatures of the 20061002_Al/AlO _x /Sc tunnel junction.	82
4.14	$G_{remainder} (\equiv G_{original} - G_{background})$ of the 20061002_Al/AlO _x /Sc tunnel junction.	83
4.15	$G_{even,data}(V, T)$ as a function of V at several temperatures.	84
4.16	$G_{odd,data}(V, T)$ as a function of V at several temperatures.	85
4.17	$G_{even,data}(V, T)$ vs. $h(V, T)$ plots at several temperatures.	88
4.18	The linear fitting of $G_{even,data}(V, T)$ vs. $h(V, T)$ plots at $T = 32, 24, 16$ K.	89
4.19	The fitting of $G_{even,data}(V, T)$ in terms of $G_{even}^{weak}(V, T)$ at $T = 32$ K.	90
4.20	The fitting of $G_{even,data}(V, T)$ in terms of $G_{even}^{weak}(V, T)$ at $T = 24$ K.	91
4.21	The fitting of $G_{even,data}(V, T)$ in terms of $G_{even}^{weak}(V, T)$ at $T = 16$ K.	92

4.41 The $G_{even,data}(V,T)$ at $T = 2.5$ K for $H = 0$ and $H = 4$ T, which is enlarged from Fig. 4.40.	118
B.1 The composite Simpson's rule.	128

