

Superconducting Phase Diagram of (TMTSF)₂ClO₄

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The organic superconductor (TMTSF)₂X (X = ClO₄, PF₆, etc.) is an archetypal quasi-one-dimensional (Q1D) system with a simple electronic structure. The superconducting phase diagram of this family is an interesting and important issue. It has been revealed that superconductivity in (TMTSF)₂X survives in magnetic fields 2-4 times larger than H_p [1] if the field is applied parallel to the second conducting direction, the b' axis. The origin of this behavior can be attributed to either a spin-triplet state or a Fulde-Ferrell-Larkin-Ovchinnikov (FFLO) state [2]. Furthermore, recent theoretical studies suggest possibilities of a singlet-triplet transition [3] or singlet-FFLO-triplet transitions [4] in magnetic fields.

We have studied superconductivity in (TMTSF)₂ClO₄ (the onset temperature $T_c^{\text{onset}} = 1.45$ K at $H = 0$) by precisely controlling the magnetic-field direction, by measuring the c^* -axis resistance of extremely clean single crystals with their mean-free-paths of as high as 1 μm [5]. We have revealed that anomalous behavior of the ab' -plane field-angle ϕ dependence of T_c^{onset} developing above 20 kOe. One example is the appearance of the new principle axis in the $T_c^{\text{onset}}(\phi)$ curve, which suggests a "spontaneous change in the spatial symmetry" in the superconducting state in high fields. We also demonstrated that T_c^{onset} at $H = 50$ kOe remains finite not only for $H // b'$ but also for fields parallel to the most conducting a axis. We propose that our results are consistently explained with a scenario that FFLO states are realized in high magnetic fields above H_p [5].

In the presentation we present the superconducting phase diagram based on results of the resistive measurement described above. We would also like to present results of our recent specific heat study.

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