Development of In-Air-RBS Method with Tapered Glass Capillary

N. Fujita, K. Ishii *, and H. Ogawa *
Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Nara Women’s University, Nara, 630-8506, Japan
*Department of Physics, Nara Woman’s University, Nara, 630-8506, Japan

Introduction

Developments of In-Air-analysis methods with MeV ion beam have received increasing attention in various fields such as biology, nano-technology and archaeology due to preventing the specimen from desiccation, destruction and so on. Recently a tapered glass capillary has been developed by Nebiki et al to extract ion beam in air and they have performed In-Air-PIXE (Particle Induced X-ray Emission) for the sea sludge[1].

On the other hand, the RBS (Rutherford Backscattering Spectrometry) is well known as one of the useful material analysis method with MeV ion beam[2]. In the conventional RBS method, one measure the energy of a few MeV He ions after large angle scattering at the surface of the target in vacuum chamber and can find the composition of materials as a function of depth from the surface.

In this work, we have attempted to develop In-Air-RBS method with the tapered glass capillary. Here, we introduce procedure, preliminary results, estimated detection limit, and the future plan of In-Air-RBS method.

Experimental Setup

Figure 1: a) The picture of a 1.7 MV tandem electrostatic accelerator in Nara Women’s University and b) schematic diagram of beam line with the detail of In-Air-RBS setup.

Thick Foil Measurements

Since we measure the energy of reflected protons with the SSD by the pulse height analysis mode, we perform the energy calibration by measuring various thin foils such as Pb, Au, Sn, Ag, Cu and Al. In a conventional RBS, the K-factors indicate the energy ratio of ions between before and after scattering which is determined only by the masses of the projectile and target atom and the scattering angle. In present “In-Air-RBS”, we have to consider the energy loss in the air between capillary and detector so that we use the data table for ranges of protons in Figure and perform energy calibration.

\[
E_f = E_b \left(1 - \frac{M_2}{M_1} \rho_z \theta \right)
\]

The In-Air-RBS spectrum for various foils is shown in Figure 2. The peaks at higher energies are corresponding to energies of reflected ions from the foils and each plateaus at lower energies are those from the air. It is clear that the positions of peaks are shifted to higher energy side with increasing the mass of the target foils due to K-Factors.

Table 1: K-factors for several targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>K-factor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pb</td>
<td>0.983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Au</td>
<td>0.982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sn</td>
<td>0.972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag</td>
<td>0.969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu</td>
<td>0.948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al</td>
<td>0.881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results and Discussions

Thickness Measurement

In order to develop one of application fields for In-Air RBS, we perform thickness measurements for several Au foils with different thicknesses. Figure 6 shows “In-Air-RBS” spectra for Au foils with several thicknesses which are 0.75, 1.0, 2.0, and 5.5 um. Note that we use 0.75 and 1.0 um Au target supported by the acrylic foils so that there are second peaks in these spectra. The arrows with \(E_1\) and \(E_2\) in the figure indicate the estimated energies of reflected ions from surface and back face of Au foils and the \(E_f\) are given as follows.

\[
E_f = \frac{E_b}{K_f + 1} = \frac{E_b}{K_f + \left(1 - \frac{M_2}{M_1} \rho_z \theta \right)}
\]

The compound energy spread of protons is estimated around 41 keV/FWHM. This corresponds to 0.1um thickness in the case of Au foils.

Table 2: Considerable energy spread of protons in FWHM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detector</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Detector Geometry</th>
<th>Straggling in Air</th>
<th>SUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 keV</td>
<td></td>
<td>32 keV</td>
<td>41 keV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMARY

We have developed In-Air-RBS method with tapered glass capillary. At first, we have measured “In-Air-RBS” spectra for six different metal foils and then have performed energy calibration taking into account energy losses of ions in air. Second, we have performed the thickness measurement for Au foils with several thickness. Estimated energies are good agreement with experimental results.

It is concluded that present “In-Air-RBS” method is useful to determine the thickness of thin metal from 0.1 um to several microns. Furthermore this method is quite gentle to the specimen (Air around the beam spot as a cold gas) and there are no restrictions of sample size. (We don’t need any chamber for samples). This method is especially expected for archaeological samples in the future.

REFERENCES