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Force-detected ESR from E' centers PALASH BANERJEE, YULU CHE, K.C. FONG, TIM MEWES, VIDYA BHALLAMUDI, DENIS V. PELEKHOV, P. CHRIS HAMMEL, Ohio State University — Magnetic Resonance Force Microscopy (MRFM) is a novel technique that combines magnetic resonance with scanned probe techniques. We report on low temperature force-detected electron spin resonance (ESR) signals from E'-centers in fused silica (SiO₂). By utilizing the high gradients close to a micron sized SmCo ferromagnetic tip mounted on an AFM cantilever, spin resonance was observed from a sub- micron thick "sensitive slice" whose location can be varied with respect to the sample surface. E' centers at low temperatures (< 10 K) are characterized by long spin-lattice relaxation times T₁ approaching a few seconds. The spins were adiabatically inverted at the appropriate frequency by means of microwave FM techniques and T₁ was studied as a function of field gradient. We also discuss the sensitivity of the microscope and ongoing efforts to improve it.

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