唇の大学

博士学位论文

高 Al 组分 AlGaN 半导体中的 Mg 杂质工程

Mg dopant engineering of high Al-content AlGaN semiconductor

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摘要

AlGaN 半导体是制备紫外光电器件的理想材料,其深紫外光源器件在照明、 杀菌消毒、环境净化、以及高密度光学数据存贮等方面有着重大的应用价值和广 阔的市场前景。不过,由于高 Al 组分 AlGaN 半导体的 *p* 型掺杂困难和发光偏振 性因价带反转而引起变化等问题,导致深紫外光源器件的效率低,且随波长减小 急剧下降,制约了它的发展应用。本论文采用第一性原理计算模拟和 MOVPE 外 延技术针对以上两方面问题展开了系统研究,具体研究工作如下:

提出采用 MOVPE 表面工程技术解决 AlGaN 半导体 p 型掺杂中的 Mg 溶解度 低问题。首先,采用第一性原理计算模拟系统研究了高 Al 组分 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 半导体 p型掺杂中的 Mg 浓解度问题。研究结果显示,在 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 体中, Mg_{Al}和 Mg_{Ga} 的形成能均为正,且数值较大;在同一 Al 组分 AlGaN 中, Mg_{Al}的形成能大于 MgGa; 随着 Al 组分增加, MgAl 和 MgGa 的形成能均线性增大。这表明随着 Al 组分的增加 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 中 Mg 的浓解度降低,掺杂变得越加困难。在掺杂应变减 小和电子环境不同于体内等表面因素作用下, Mg 受主形成能降低至负值, 表明 Mg 容易掺入 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 表面。Mg_{Al}的形成能低于 Mg_{Ga}, 且随着 Al 组分的增大 而减小。同时,在富N生长氛围中,Mg受主形成能更低,有利于 Mg的掺入。 基于理论研究结果,我们提出了表面工程技术方法,在常规的 Mg 掺杂 AlGaN 生长过程中周期性、短时间地关停金属源,只通N源。这样在金属源中断期间, V/III 比达极限富 N,最大限度地促进 Mg 掺入,从而提高 Mg 浓度。实验结果显 示,相比于传统方法,用表面工程技术方法生长的不同 Al 组分样品的 Mg 浓度 均得到提高,提升幅度随 Al 组分增加而增大。其中, Al_{0.99}Ga_{0.01}N 样品中 Mg 的 提升比达 5,浓度约为 5×10^{19} cm⁻³。进一步的测试结果显示 H 浓度和 Mg 浓度 相对应地同步提升,表明 Mg 为有效替位掺杂。高浓度 Mg 掺杂的获得为实现高 Al 组分 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 半导体高效率 p 型掺杂打下了基石。

提出采用新型 Mg 掺杂的 3D (Three-dimension) AlGaN 超晶格替代传统超晶格 来提高 p 型掺杂效率。首先,构建了 Mg 掺杂的 3D 和传统 AlN/GaN 超晶格结构 模型,并采用第一性原理模拟预测了 Mg 在两种不同量子结构中的电子结构性

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质。研究结果显示,相比于传统超晶格大部分空穴局域在阱内,3D 超晶格的空 穴分布趋于分散,空穴势垒区域的空穴浓度大幅提高了,空穴势垒明显降低。得 益于 Mg 和 N 间的 p_z杂化增强,沿 c 轴方向与 Mg 原子相连接的 N 原子的 p_z分 波态密度在费米能级附近数值的大幅提高,极大地增加了沿垂直方向输运的空穴 浓度。这些结果表明 Mg 掺杂 3D AlGaN 超晶格结构可以降低空穴在垂直异质界 面方向输运势垒,进而降低其垂直电阻率。基于理论研究结果,我们采用 MOVPE 技术,通过氮化时间调控外延衬底的形貌,外延生长了两种不同类型的 Mg 掺杂 的 Al_{0.63}Ga_{0.37}N/Al_{0.51}Ga_{0.49}N 超晶格外延片。测试结果显示,3D 超晶格的电阻率 为 0.7 Ω• cm,比传统超晶格的低了数十倍;空穴浓度达 3.5×10¹⁸ cm⁻³,且随 温度变化很小,在低温下依然能保持高的空穴浓度和良好的电导,为制备高性能 深紫外光电器件奠定了基础。

提出采用 Mg 杂质能带工程调控高 Al 组分 AlGaN 量子结构的发光偏振性。 采用第一性原理首先对 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 混晶的发光偏振性随 Al 组分的变化关系进行了 研究。研究结果显示 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 混晶的晶格常数比 *c/a* 和内部参量 *u* 偏离理想值 程度随 Al 组分增加而增大,表明混晶的离子性随之增强。这导致晶体场分裂能 Δ_{cr}逐渐减小,从 GaN 的 40 meV 降至 AlN 的-197 meV。Δ_{cr}从正值到负值转变引 起了价带项能带排序反转,即价带项第一子带从 HH 子带变成 CH 子带。由此, 随着 Al 组分的增加, AlGaN 的带边发光从 TE 波为主逐渐转变成以 TM 波为主。 这从根本上限制了高 Al 组分 *c* 面 AlGaN 发光器件的正面出光,导致发光效率急 剧下降。Mg 掺杂作为能带工程调控的手段,可增大 Al_xGa_{1-x}N 混晶的晶体场分 裂能,进而增加 TE 波发光比重,增大幅度随 Al 组分的增加而增大。进一步地, Mg 掺杂可调控反转 Al_{0.75}Ga_{0.25}N /AlN 量子结构的价带顶的能带排序,使 HH 子 带成为第一子带,而 CH 则移至第三子带,调控带边发光由 TM 波为主转变成 TE 波为主,有望大幅提高深紫外发光器件正面出光。

关键词: AlGaN 半导体; *p* 型掺杂; 光学偏振性质调控; Mg 杂质; 深紫外光电器件; MOVPE 技术; 第一性原理计算。

Abstract

Al-rich AlGaN semiconductor is the most important material for deep ultraviolet (DUV) optoelectronic devices including light-emitting diodes (LED) and laser diodes (LD), which have significant applications and broad market prospects in fields of illumination, sterilization, purification, high-density optical recording, and so on. However, the emission efficiency in those devices is still rather low and rapidly decreases as the wavelength decreases, due to *p*-type doping difficulty and optical polarization varition in Al-rich AlGaN. In this thesis, the systematical studies about *p*-type doping and unusual optical polarization property in Al-rich AlGaN have been performed by first-principle calculation and metal-organic vapor phase epitaxy (MOVPE) technique. The major results are as follows:

The MOVPE surface engineering technique has been proposed to enhance Mg effective incorporation in Al-rich AlGaN. First-principles simulations were utilized to analyze the behavior of substituting Mg for Al and Ga in the bulk and on the surface of Al_xGa_{1-x}N under different growth atmospheres and to demonstrate the mechanism for the preferred Mg incorporation. Mg solubility in Al_xGa_{1-x}N bulk is limited because of the positive and large formation enthalpies mainly caused by the atom-size mismatch. This trend is aggravated with increasing Al content in Al_xGa_{1-x}N. In contrast to the bulk case, the formation enthalpies become negative on Al_xGa_{1-x}N surface and lower in Al-rich $Al_xGa_{1-x}N$, indicating that the surface can provide an effective way of promoting Mg incorporation in Al_xGa_{1-x}N. In addition, the N-rich growth atmosphere can also be favorable to Mg incorporation on the surface by changing the chemical potentials. On the basis of these results, the MOVPE surface engineering technique, which utilizes periodical interruptions under an extremely N-rich atmosphere, was proposed to enhance Mg incorporation. During the interruption, metal flows were closed to produce an ultimate V/III ratio condition without affecting the AlGaN growth. By optimizing the interruption, we obtained a high concentration and uniform distribution Mg in the AlGaN epilayer. The C_{Mg}

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enhancements increase with increasing Al content through this method. Particularly, for the Al_{0.99}Ga_{0.01}N, the enhancement ratio can be achieved up to about 5 and the final Mg concentration was determined to be about 5×10^{19} cm⁻³. Meanwhile, the simultaneous increase of the H concentration confirms the Mg effective incorporation in the desired substitutional sites instead of forming Mg₃N₂. The proposed approach, which is convenient as well as effective, could be used as a general strategy to promote dopant incorporation in wide band-gap semiconductors with stringent dopant solubility limits.

A novel three-dimension (3D) Mg-doped superlattice (SL) has been proposed to substitute conventional Mg-doped AlGaN SL to enhance p-type doing efficiency. Electronic structure calculations within the first-principle theoretical framework indicate that the densities of states (DOS) of the valence band nearby the Fermi level are more deconcentrated along the c-axis than that of conventional SL, and the potential barrier significantly decreases. Hole concentration is greatly enhanced in the barrier of 3D SL. Detailed comparisons of partial charges and decomposed DOS reveal that the improvement of vertical conductance may be ascribed to the stronger p_z hybridization between Mg and N. Based on the theoretical analysis, highly conductive *p*-type 3D Al_{0.63}Ga_{0.37}N/Al_{0.51}Ga_{0.49}N SLs are grown with identified steps via MOVPE. The hole concentration reaches up to 3.5×10^{18} cm⁻³, while the corresponding resistivity is 0.7 Ω • cm at room temperature, which is tens times improvement in conductivity compared with that of conventional SLs. High hole concentration can be maintained even when the temperature is down to 100 K. High *p*-type conductivity in Al-rich structural material is an important step for the future design of superior AlGaN-based DUV devices.

The band engineering via Mg-doping has been proposed to modulate the optical polarization of Al-rich AlGaN quantum structure. Based on first-principles simulations, the complex physics behind the optical polarization probably stem from the fact that the lattice parameter c/a ratio and internal parameter u deviates from the ideal value for a hexagonal close-packed crystal structure. It is found that the deviation degree increases with Al content increases, corresponding to an increase iv

of the ionicity. This results the crystal-field splitting energy Δ_{cr} varing from 40 meV to 0 meV as Al content increases from 0 to 0.5, and finally droped down to -197 meV in AlN. As the Δ_{cr} value changes from positive to negative, the topmost valence subband in AlGaN change from the heavy-hole band to the crystal-field split-off-hole band, and as a consequence the predominant emission switch from transverse electric (TE) polarization to transverse magntic (TM) polarization. Which is unfavorable for light extraction efficiency for optoelectronic devices grown on the *c*-plane, especially for Al-rich AlGaN. The band engineering via Mg-doping allows modulation of the AlGaN quantum structure band structure especially at valence band maximum changing the valence band order so as to switch the emitted light to TE polarization, which will improve light extraction efficiency in Al-rich AlGaN.

Keywords: AlGaN semiconductors, *p*-type doping, modulation of optical polarization, Mg dopant, DUV optoelectronic devices, MOVPE technique, The first-principle calculation.

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#### 第一章 绪论

半导体技术的发展几乎影响到了现代生活的每一个领域,不断地改变着人们 的生活方式,以前所未有的速度改变着世界。以 Si 和 Ge 为代表的第一代半导体, 促成了晶体管、集成电路、以及计算机的发明,是微电子革命的基础。以 GaAs 和 GaP 为代表的第二代半导体的诞生及其光电子器件的应用,促进了雷达、无 线通信、光通信、以及互联网技术的快速发展,进一步加速了人类社会信息化进 程。然而,上述两代半导体虽然在各自领域取得了巨大的成功,但是碍于材料自 身的间接带隙或带隙不宽等固有性质的局限,在高温、高频、高功率、以及抗辐 射方面愈来愈显示出不足,也越来越难以满足现代电子技术的发展要求。于是, 以 GaN 和 ZnO 为代表的第三代半导体因禁带宽度大、热稳定性及化学性质稳定 性高等优势,在十分广泛的应用领域弥补、超越了前两代半导体。其中 III 族氮 化物半导体的特性和发展前景最为引人注目,它的带隙从 InN 的 0.7 eV 到 GaN 的 3.4 eV 再到 AIN 的 6.2 eV 大范围连续可调(图 1.1),发光波长覆盖红外至紫 外,可以匹配全光谱的应用需求^[1,2]。



图 1.1 III 族氮化物和其它半导体禁带宽度与晶格常数的关系^[3]。

由于受到没有合适的衬底、位错密度太高、n型本底浓度太高以及 p型掺杂 无法实现等问题的困扰, GaN 基半导体发展并非一帆风顺^[4-6]。直到上个世纪 90 Degree papers are in the "Xiamen University Electronic Theses and

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