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Phonon and electronic properties of crystals and chirality studied with resonant X-ray diffraction

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Recent theoretical and experimental results on the diffraction of x-rays near absorption edges of atoms (resonant diffraction) will be presented together with application to electronic and phonon properties of crystals (a review of earlier results can be found in [1]). In comparison with EXAFS, the resonant diffraction is more sensitive to the symmetry of atomic environment and to distortions of the electronic states of atoms in crystals. For example, the resonant forbidden reflections can be caused by opposite chirality of atomic positions in centrosymmetric crystals (observed in Fe₂O₃ and Cr₂O₃), or by phonon displacements of atoms (studied in detail for Ge and ZnO), or by the quantum jumps of hydrogen atoms in KH₂PO₄-type crystals. Symmetry consideration is accompanied by results of the muffin-tin and ab initio simulations. Experimental studies have been done in collaboration with synchrotron groups from Tsukuba, Grenoble, Hamburg, Daresbury, Oxfordshire, and Moscow. This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (project 07-02-00324).


Keywords: resonant scattering, phonon properties, chirality

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The structure and dynamics of GaN(0001) surface during HVPE GaN growth — Ab initio study

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The conditions for the reliable simulation of semiconductor surface structure and processes are formulated for GaN growth by Hydrogen Vapor Phase Epitaxy. The chemical state of the system is formulated within kinetic and thermodynamic picture. The GaN(0001) surface in ammonia-rich (N-rich and H-rich) environment is analyzed. The equilibrium state of GaN(0001) surface is considered using both formulations. Using ab-initio quantum mechanical density functional theory (QM DFT) SIESTA and VASP codes, it is proved that the thermodynamic approach, suggesting the mixed NH₃-NH₂ coverage is in accordance with the dynamic results, which show that ammonia is adsorbed molecularly on the surface. The resulting NH₃ coverage is dynamically unstable with respect of creation of molecular hydrogen (H₂). These molecules move away from the surface, overcoming small, 0.14 eV high energy barrier. The remaining H adatoms move along the surface, jumping between neighboring NH₂ radicals with relatively small (0.15 eV) energy barrier. It is also shown that GaCl is attached on the NH₂-covered surface without any energy barrier. The chlorine adatoms is removed by reaction with the mobile H adatoms creating HCl molecules which leaves GeN(0001) surface.

Keywords: gallium nitride, hydride vapor phase epitaxy, density functional theory

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Hydride vapor phase epitaxy of AlN and AlGaN

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Realization of bulk wafers related to AlN must attract considerable attention for expanding the applications such as optical and electronic devices using the group III nitride semiconductors. Up to now, ultraviolet light emitting devices (UV-LEDs) are fabricated using GaN-template substrates grown on sapphire wafers. Unfortunately, the thermal conductivity of sapphire is very poor compared to AlN and GaN. From the viewpoint of high-power UV optical devices, AlN and AlGaN bulk crystal is a promising substrate material for their devices. Vapor phase epitaxy (VPE) is generally done using MOVPE (metalorganic vapor phase epitaxy) or HVPE (hydride vapor phase epitaxy). The MOVPE method is versatile and thus used for several materials, while HVPE is well developed for GaN wafer fabrication. In the past, HVPE has been thought unsuitable for the growth of Al-containing semiconductors such as AlN and AlGaN, because the major Al-precursor in HVPE is AlCl which cause the reaction between AlCl and the quartz reactor (SiO₂). However, HVPE of AlN has proved successful using AlCl₃, which does not react with the quartz reactor at the growth temperatures [1]. In addition, we have reported that AlGaN ternary alloy can be grown by HVPE using GaCl₂-AlCl₃-NH₃ system [2]. In the presentation, a thermodynamic analysis of the HVPE of AlN using AlCl₃ and AlGaN using AlCl₃ and
GaCl will be shown. The analysis provides us useful information on the growth rate and the deposition composition. Next, HVPE growth of AlN and AlGaN will be described.


Keywords: HVPE, Al-related nitrides, thermodynamic analysis

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Fabrication of InN dot structures by droplet epitaxy using NH3

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Quantum dots (QDs) of nitride semiconductors have been studied intensively because of their usefulness for device applications. Recently, we have fabricated GaN dots by droplet epitaxy. The droplet epitaxy requires neither any anti-surfactants nor the induction of surface strain for the formation of dot structures, which means the possibility of the QD formation on any substrates. In this study, we investigated fabrication of InN dots by droplet epitaxy with changing substrate temperature. After nitridation of Si(111) substrates, 1 ML of In was deposited on the substrates at 200 °C, leading to the formation of In droplets. Then, NH3 gas was irradiated on the In droplets for nitriding. AFM observation showed that the average density of dots of 1.1x1010 cm−2 at 450 °C decreased as the temperature increased. Then, the density increased again up to 4.0x1010 cm−2 at 570 °C. However, no InN dot was observed on the sample nitridated at 600 °C. In 3d XPS spectra in Fig.1 indicates that In-N component was increased as the temperature increased while In-O component was decreased. Almost all In atoms was found to bind to N atoms at 570 °C by the formation of InN crystalline.

Keywords: droplet epitaxy, indium nitride, nitriding

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Dislocation density in silicon ingot during a unidirectional solidification process

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Many dislocations and impurities in the silicon significantly affect the conversion efficiency of solar cells. Thermal stress is one of the major factors responsible for generation of dislocations during the unidirectional solidification process. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the distribution of thermal stresses and dislocation density in the silicon ingot. A transient global model was used to obtain the solution of thermal field within the entire furnace. And then, based on transient global solution of heat transfer, computations were carried out to investigate the distribution of thermal stresses in silicon ingot. Finally, the dislocation density was also simulated by using Haasen-Alexander-Sumino model. The results on boundary condition analysis suggest that it is important to reduce the crucible constraint to grow a silicon ingot with low thermal stresses and dislocation density. The effects of solidification time on thermal stresses and dislocation density were also studied. The results reveal that long solidification time can reduce thermal stresses and dislocation density in a silicon ingot during the solidification process.

Keywords: solidification, stress, dislocations

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AlN and GaN hetero epitaxy on Si substrate using activity modulation migration enhanced MBE

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In order to control chemical and physical nitrogen activities two discharge modes of E and H modes[1] under a radio frequency inductive coupled (RF-ICP) discharge of nitrogen gas was investigated changing RF-power of nitrogen discharge. The chemical activities of dissociated nitrogen atoms N+N* are much higher than those of excited nitrogen molecules N2*. However N2*has small chemical activity but large physical activity, which has large energy in activity modulation migration enhanced epitaxial growth (AM-MEE) method is purported as an application of the MEE[2]. In order to grow high quality layers on a Si substrate the AM-MEE growth method was performed. The sequence of the LB and HB discharges during the AM-MEE the nitrogen flux irradiation plays an important role to control the chemical activity of nitrogen. Activity control of nitrogen is also applied to a fabrication method of beta-Si3N4 epitaxial layer on Si(111) as an initial buffer layer for AlN film.

References