

Study on the Correlation between Deposition Parameters and Optoelectronic Properties in Intrinsic Hydrogenated Amorphous

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ABSTRACT

In this study, intrinsic hydrogenated amorphous silicon (a-Si:H) samples at different combinations of deposition parameters, such as substrate temperature, RF power density, flow rate and deposition pressure, are fabricated to investigate the correlation between deposition parameters and the optoelectronic characteristics in a-Si:H. The characterization techniques used in this systematic study include activation energy, photoconductivity, and sub-bandgap optical absorption measurements. In addition, the chemical growth mechanisms of a-Si:H films are also discussed in detail. The combination of deposition parameters that yields the best a-Si:H films for our PECVD system is obtained as a by-product. This set of deposition parameters is: RF power of 5W, substrate temperature of 275°C, flow rate of 60 sccm and deposition pressure of 550 mTorr. The corresponding growth rate is 300 Å/min. With the set of deposition parameters, the obtained intrinsic a-Si:H films have an activation energy of 0.83 eV; the photoconductivity can increase by 5 orders of magnitude at AM1; the characteristic energy of valence band tails is 0.069 eV. The Schottky diodes fabricated with different contacts to the a-Si:H films also exhibit rectifying I-V characteristics with an ideality factor of 1.1.

Keywords : intrinsic hydrogenated amorphous silicon

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