Epitaxial Growth and Characterization of Gallium Nitride Thin Films

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, the influence of the gallium nitride (GaN) surface morphology by buffer layer process was investigated. The GaN epilayer was grown on the c-face Al2O3 by using the horizontal type metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD). Before depositing the GaN, the buffer layer was deposited. By the two-step growth method, the stress of the difference in the lattice mismatch and thermal expansion between GaN and AI2O3 can be released, and the GaN thin films with fine characteristics were obtained. As growing the GaN materials, the chamber pressure of MOCVD was maintained at 100 Torr. To prevent the pre-reaction of the NH3 and III-element materials, the two channel structure to separate III group and V group reactants by the quartz plate in front of the reactor tube was designed. Before growing the GaN, the III group reactants was flowing at under channel , V group reactants was flowing at upper channel. The reactants are well mixed before reaching the graphite susceptor. From the AFM measurement, it was found that the surface morphologies of GaN buffer layers were strong dependence on the ramp temperature from buffer layer growth temperature to epilayer growth temperature, the difference percent between with NH3 and N2. The GaN buffer layer with flatten surface can be achieved after thermal annealing with greater temperature raise rate when the layer was proceed at large flow rate of NH3 and nitrogen free condition. Finally, the GaN films were measured and analysed by X-ray diffraction (XRD), photo-luminance (PL), atomic force microscopy (AFM) and scanning electronic microscopy (SEM) to determine the most suitable parameters for GaN growth. In this thesis, the mirror-like GaN films can be obtained while films are grown at large flow rate of NH3, and the growth rate is 0.6 micro*meter/h, the surface roughness is 9 angstrom?, the FWHM of XRD with (0002) plane is 0.05 degree, the FWHM of PL with low temperature (77K) is 34 meV, and the carrier concentrations with 10e17~10e18 cm-3 is obtained by van der Pauw measurement.

Keywords : Gallium Nitride ; buffer layer ; MOCVD ; two channel structure ; AFM ; to separate ; prereaction ; two-step growth

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