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École polytechnique - Palaiseau - France



4 - 9 August 2019 Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France Conference Detailed Programme

Monday, 5 August 2019

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Optical properties of nanoscale Ge₂Sb₂Te₅ films modified with Ag and Bi

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Chalcogenide semiconductor thin films of the Ge-Sb-Te (GST) system have successful application in phase memory devices (Phase Change Memory or PCM), in particular, in optical disks of various formats, such as DVD-RW, Blu-Ray, as well as in the creation of a new generation of PC-RAM random-access memory (Phase Change Random Access Memory). For fabrication of optical devices and rewritable optical disk systems the GST films optical properties are important. These properties control in the GST films is possible by modification them with isovalent metal impurities.

The report presents the results of study the optical band gap (E_g) and optical contrast (OC) in nanoscale $Ge_2Sb_2Te_5$ amorphous and crystalline films modified by Ag $(Ge_2Sb_2Te_5 < Ag >)$ and Bi $(Ge_2Sb_2Te_5 < Bi >)$.

Amorphous Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<M> films with thickness from 80 to 90 nm were obtained by ion-plasma RF magnetron sputtering of a combined target from metal (Ag or Bi) and Ge₂Sb₂Te₅ in an Ar atmosphere and by deposition on quartz and c-Si substrates. The composition and thickness of the films were monitored, respectively, by energy-dispersion analysis and scanning the cleavage of c-Si/a-GST<M> on a SEM Quanta 3D 200i. The Ag and Bi concentrations reached 5.0 and 7.3 at. %, respectively. The films were crystallized by annealing at temperature 300 °C.

The spectral dependences of light transmission $T(\lambda)$ and reflection $R(\lambda)$ for the films were recorded on the Shimadzu UV3600 spectrophotometer in the range from 360 to 800 nm. The band gap of the films was determined by the Tauc method. It was found that metal impurity increase leads to a noticeable decrease in the optical band gap in amorphous and crystalline films (**Fig. 1**)

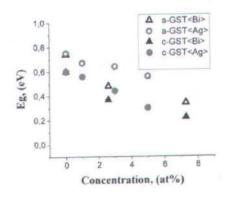


Fig. 1. Optical band gap of amorphous and crystalline Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Ag> and Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Bi> films

The spectral dependence of the OC was determined from the expression $OC = \{R_c(\lambda) - R_a(\lambda)\}/R_c(\lambda)$, where $R_c(\lambda)$ and $R_a(\lambda)$ are the reflection coefficients of the crystalline and amorphous films, respectively.

It is found that in the spectral range from 400 to 800 nm the OC in Ge₂Sb₂Te₅ <Ag> and Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Bi>films significantly differs from that in Ge₂Sb₂Te₅ films. In the Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Ag> films OC increase with Ag concentration is observed in the range from 400 to 550 nm, while in Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Bi> films OC rises with Bi in the range from 600 to 800 nm.

Thus, the modification of Ge₂Sb₂Te₅ films with silver and bismuth impurity results in significant reduces of the optical band gap. The optical contrast increase with metal impurity concentration in Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Ag> and Ge₂Sb₂Te₅<Bi> films occurs in the different spectral ranges.

 $Keywords:\ nanoscale\ Ge_2Sb_2Te_5\ films,\ ion-plasma\ sputtering,\ modification,\ transmission,\ absorption,\ reflection,\ optical\ band\ gap,\ optical\ contrast$

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