

High-temperature ferromagnetism in heavily Fe-doped ferromagnetic semiconductor (Ga,Fe)Sb

○Nguyen Thanh Tu,¹ Pham Nam Hai,^{1,2} Le Duc Anh,¹ and Masaaki Tanaka¹

¹Department of Electrical Engineering & Information Systems, The University of Tokyo.

²Department of Physical Electronics, Tokyo Institute of Technology.

E-mail: nguyen@cryst.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Although Mn-doped III-V FMSs have been intensively studied, the best Curie temperature (T_C) of (Ga,Mn)As (200 K) and (In,Mn)As (90 K) are still much lower than room temperature.^{1,2)} Recently, we have successfully grown a new p-type Fe-doped FMS ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) ($x = 3.9 - 20\%$) thin films by low-temperature molecular beam epitaxy (LT-MBE). ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) ($x = 3.9 - 20\%$) is an intrinsic FMS and has zinc-blende-type crystal structure with spin-split band structure. Notably, T_C (230 K) of ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) at $x = 20\%$ is the highest in III-V FMSs, indicating that (Ga,Fe)Sb is promising for high- T_C FMS.^{3,4)} In this paper, we report the magnetic properties of heavily Fe-doped ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) with $x = 23\%$ and 25% grown by LT-MBE. Figure 1(a) shows the MCD spectra of our (Ga,Fe)Sb samples at 5 K with a magnetic field of 1 T applied perpendicular to the film plane. For a reference, we also show the MCD spectrum of an undoped GaSb, in which the MCD intensity is very small. In contrast, the MCD spectra of ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) ($x = 23\%$ and 25%) show strongly enhanced peak at E_1 (~ 2.2 eV), corresponding to the optical critical point energy of the GaSb band structure.⁵⁾ Furthermore, we see no broad background which would be observed if metallic Fe-related nanoclusters existed. This result indicates that heavily Fe-doped ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) ($x = 23\%$ and 25%) still preserves the zinc-blende crystal and band structure with large spin-splitting due to the $s,p-d$ exchange interaction. Figures 1(b) and (c) show the MCD- H characteristics of those samples at various temperatures. T_C estimated by Arrott plots are 300 K and 340 K for the sample with $x = 23\%$ and $x = 25\%$, respectively, which are the highest values reported in III-V FMSs so far. Our results show that (Ga,Fe)Sb is promising for room-temperature operation of semiconductor spintronic devices.

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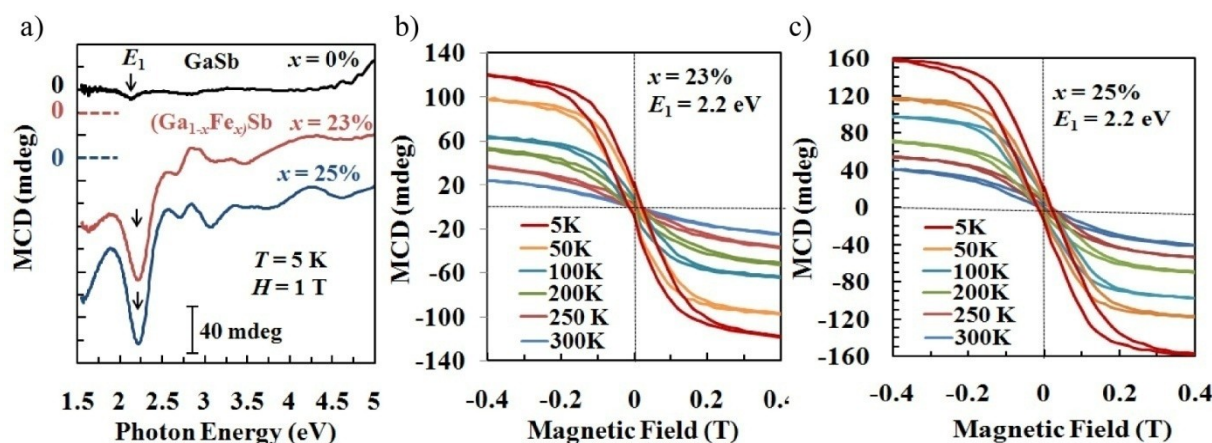


Fig. 1. (a) Reflection MCD spectra measured at 5 K under a magnetic field of 1 T applied perpendicular to the film plane for ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) with $x = 23\%$ and 25% . MCD spectrum of a reference undoped GaSb sample is also shown. (b) and (c) MCD- H characteristics of the ($\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{Sb}$) samples with $x = 23\%$ and 25% at various temperatures.

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