GaN 基板上 AlGaN/GaN HEMT の低抵抗オーミック電極作製

Low resistance ohmic contact on AlGaN/GaN heterostructures grown on GaN substrate

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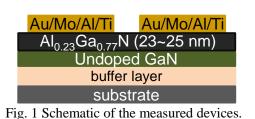
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[Introduction] High density 2DEG at AlGaN/GaN interface and large energy band gap in GaN enable HEMTs with these materials for high power and high frequency applications. Achieving an ohmic contact with low resistance is a key factor to benefit from AlGaN/GaN structure in HEMTs [1]. Al/Ti-based structures are regarded as the standard ohmic contacts for AlGaN/GaN due to formation of TiN spikes which penetrate through AlGaN layer at the threading dislocations within GaN [2]. Therefore, it is assumed that using these contacts on AlGaN/GaN structures with lower number of threading dislocations, would lead to higher contact resistance. In this work, the ohmic contact properties of Au/Mo/Al/Ti contacts on AlGaN/GaN heterostructues epitaxially grown on a free-standing GaN substrate are investigated.

[**Experiment**] Fig. 1 shows the schematic layer structure of devices. AlGaN/GaN layers were grown by MOCVD. Metal contacts were formed by EB evaporation and lift-off method. Similar contacts were also fabricated on AlGaN/GaN grown on (111) Si substrates (GaN-on-Si). Contract resistivity was evaluated by TLM measurements.

[Results] Fig. 2 shows the contact resistivity dependence on annealing temperature for Au/Mo/Al/Ti contacts on both GaN-on-GaN and GaN-on-Si substrates. It is found that ohmic behavior can be obtained from annealing temperatures higher than 700 °C on both substrates. Although GaN-on-Si substrates have 10^3 more threading dislocations than GaN-on-GaN substrates, contact resistivity (ρ_c) as low as 4.5×10^{-6} Ω .cm² at 900 °C is achieved on both substrates. This is contrary to the common point of view that higher amount of threading dislocations should improve ohmic contact properties [2]. Our results suggest that other mechanisms independent of threading dislocations should be considered for designing contacts with low resistivity on high quality AlGaN/GaN heterostructures.



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