

Fabrication of perpendicular magnetized spin-filter junctions using ferromagnetic insulator CoFe_2O_4

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【Introduction】 The generation of highly spin-polarized electron currents is one of the dominant focuses in the field of spintronics. A spin-filter junction with a ferromagnetic insulator is potential candidate for practical spin-polarized current sources. Many investigations have been carried out on the development of in-plane magnetized spin-filter junctions using ferromagnetic insulator CoFe_2O_4 [1]. On the other hand, several studies have reported that the CoFe_2O_4 films have the perpendicular magnetic anisotropy induced by lattice strain on $\text{MgO}(100)$ substrate [2]. In this work, we fabricated the perpendicular magnetized spin-filter junctions using CoFe_2O_4 and investigated the magnetotransport properties.

【Experiment】 The perpendicular magnetized spin-filter junctions were prepared by reactive MBE method. Sample structures were $\text{MgO}(100)/\text{Cr}(20\text{ nm})/\text{Pt}(10\text{ nm})/\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4(3\text{--}7\text{ nm})/\text{MgO}(2\text{ nm})/\text{FePt}(10\text{ nm})/\text{Au}(30\text{ nm})$. CoFe_2O_4 thin films were deposited at 300°C in the oxygen radical atmosphere of 4×10^{-4} Pa and annealed at 450°C . FePt films were prepared from individual Fe and Pt sources at 500°C . The epitaxial growth and surface structures were observed by RHEED and AFM. The magnetic properties were measured by MOKE at RT. The films were patterned into $10 \times 10\text{ }\mu\text{m}^2$ devices with photolithography, Ar ion milling and sputtering.

【Results】 Fig.1 shows MOKE loops of CoFe_2O_4 layers for various thickness. The magnetic field was applied perpendicular to the film plane. The films showed clear perpendicular magnetic anisotropy. The RHEED of CoFe_2O_4 was clear streak pattern and the Root Mean Square(RMS) was estimated as 0.29 nm from AFM measurements. Fig.2 shows a MR curve of the perpendicular magnetized spin-filter junctions at 10 K with a bias of 0.3 V . The MR curve of -1.1% was observed.

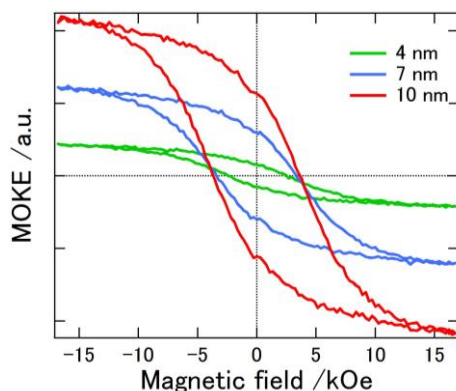


Fig.1. MOKE loops of CoFe_2O_4 layers for various thickness at R.T.

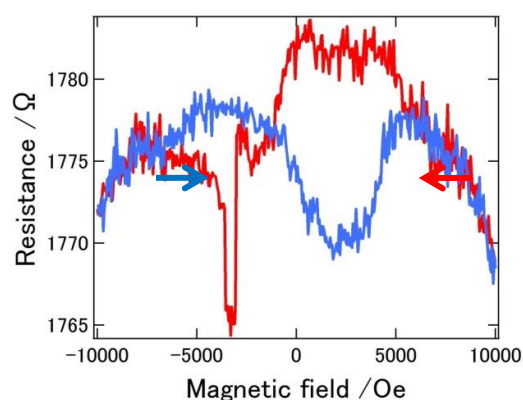


Fig.2. MR curve of the perpendicular magnetized spin-filter junctions at 10 K .

[1] Y. K. Takahashi *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. **96**, 072512(2010).

[2] H. Yanagihara *et al.*, J Appl. Phys., **109**, 07C122(2011).