

DLTS and Photoluminescence Analysis of Intentionally B-doped 4H-SiC Epilayers

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The D center and other deep levels in B-doped 4H-SiC epilayers were investigated by deep level transient spectroscopy (DLTS), minority carrier transient spectroscopy (MCTS) and photoluminescence (PL) measurements. The samples were intentionally B-doped (using tri-ethyl-boron (TEB) as the B source) *p*-type and N+B doped *n*-type 4H-SiC (0001) epilayers grown by CVD. Three hole traps, namely D center ($E_V+0.58\sim 0.68$ eV), HK2 ($E_V+0.84$ eV) and HK3 ($E_V+1.23$ eV) were detected in the *p*-type samples through DLTS. The D center concentration was found to increase almost linearly with B doping concentration from 3.9×10^{15} to 6.4×10^{16} cm⁻³ (measured by SIMS) as shown in Fig. 1. The MCTS results for the low N+B doped *n*-type samples indicated that the D center concentration reduced from 9.0×10^{12} cm⁻³ to the detection limit after thermal oxidation. These results are consistent with the D center being a complex consisting of a B atom with an adjacent C vacancy (V_C) [1]. The D center concentration reached the 10^{15} cm⁻³ level, which is more than two orders higher than typical V_C concentrations for the epilayers grown without intentional B doping. This implies that the V_C defects consisting of the D center have been formed by the introduction of B. Figure 2 shows the PL spectra of an N (8.6×10^{18} cm⁻³) + B (2.8×10^{17} cm⁻³) doped 4H-SiC epilayer at 10 K and at room temperature (RT). At 10 K, the many small peaks with regular energy separations observed on a broad luminescence signal (1.9-2.6 eV) indicate phonon assisted donor-acceptor pairs (DAP) recombination. At RT, the DAP luminescence reduced and the free-to-bound luminescence grew, showing the smoothing of the spectrum curve and a blue-shift of the center of the PL spectra. No band-edge luminescence was observed in this N+B doped sample, indicating that band to band recombination was effectively prohibited by the B doping.

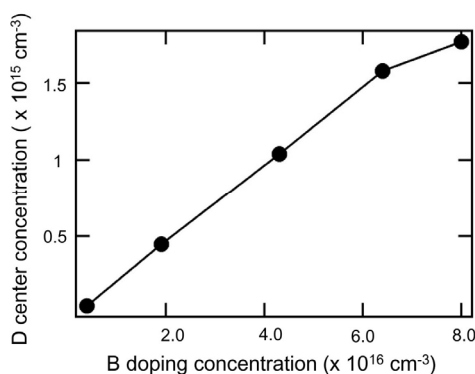


Fig.1. Relationship between D center and B doping concentrations.

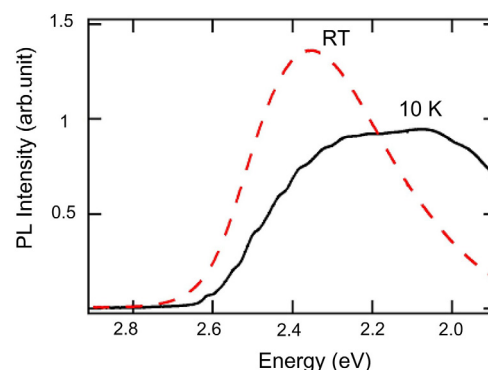


Fig.2. PL spectra of N+B doped 4H-SiC at 10 K (black line) and RT (red dash line).

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[1] A. Duijn-Arnold, et al., Phys. Rev. B 57, 1607 (1998).