

Realization and Characterization of Vertical Ge n⁺/p Structure

Towards Nanowire Transistor Applications

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Introduction

The excellent transport properties of Ge make it a prime candidate for next-generation CMOS-compatible electronic devices. A crucial problem in making n-MOSFET is the difficulties to form high quality n⁺ Ge for the source/drain [1-2]. In this research, we are focusing on the study of vertically structured Ge n⁺/p junction fabricated by MBE. Realization of vertical Ge p-n junction is promising for the development of nanowire transistor. Here, the effect of junction scaling to the performance of n⁺/p diodes are investigated by a conventional current-voltage measurement.

Experimental Section

An epitaxial Ge layer (100 nm) with high Sb doping ([Sb]: 2×10^{20} and $7 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, measured by SIMS) was deposited on p-Ge (100) substrate using an optimized MBE condition. Then, the samples are patterned using photolithography, followed by dry etching in CF₄ plasma to form vertical n⁺/p junction structure shown in Fig.1(a). Sizes and shapes of the fabricated diodes are shown in Fig.1(b).

Results and Discussion

Well-behaved Ge p-n diodes were confirmed by the I-V curve measurements ($I_{\text{ON}} > I_{\text{OFF}}$). In Fig.2, the increase of diode performance ($I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$ ratio) by nearly 2-orders of magnitude was obtained by reducing the junction area by 0.01 times. This improvement is the result of significant I_{OFF} reduction as shown in the inset of Fig.2. The high I_{OFF} in larger samples indicates the high current leakages, which remarkably suppressed in smaller samples. Top performance of $I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}} = 2.6 \times 10^2$ was obtained on samples with higher Sb concentration ([Sb]: $7 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and might possibly increases by further scaling down of junction area.

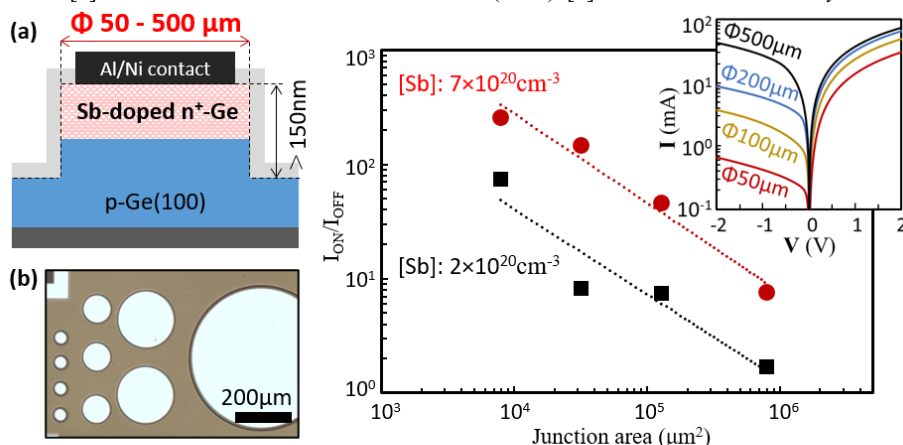


Fig 1. (a) Schematic diagram of the sample. (b) Top-view of the Nomarski microscopic image.

Fig 2. Diode performance ($I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$ at $\pm 2\text{V}$) as a function of junction area. (Inset shows I-V curves of diode with [Sb]: $2 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$)