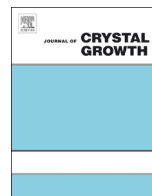




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Growth of wurtzite GaP in InP/GaP core-shell nanowires by selective-area MOVPE

Fumiya Ishizaka ^{a,*}, Yoshihiro Hiraya ^a, Katsuhiko Tomioka ^{a,b}, Takashi Fukui ^a^a Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, and Research Center for Integrated Quantum Electronics (RCIQE), Hokkaido University, North 13 West 8, Sapporo 060-8628, Japan^b PRESTO, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Honcho Kawaguchi, Saitama 332-0012, Japan

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ABSTRACT

A GaP nanowire is promising from the viewpoint of device applications because when its crystal phase is changed from zinc blende (ZB) to wurtzite (WZ), its band gap changes from indirect to direct. GaP in the WZ phase is theoretically and experimentally shown to have the possibility of “green” emission. Here we report on the growth of WZ GaP in InP/GaP core-shell nanowires by selective-area metal-organic vapor-phase epitaxy (SA-MOVPE). WZ InP nanowires were used as a template for transferring the WZ structure to GaP. Transmission electron microscopy revealed that WZ GaP was grown on the sidewalls of the InP core in the lateral $\langle -2\ 1\ 1 \rangle$ direction and that ZB GaP was grown on the top of the InP core in the axial $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_A$ direction. A growth model for the different crystal structures of the GaP shell is proposed from the viewpoint of the growth direction. The WZ structure is “transferred” from the InP core to the GaP shell only when GaP grows in the direction perpendicular to the WZ stacking direction of the InP core. This so-called “crystal structure transfer” can also be applied to p- and n-doped GaP and is therefore promising for fabricating WZ-GaP-based light-emitting diodes.

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1. Introduction

Semiconductor nanowires (NWs) have attracted considerable interest in recent years because of their potential applications in devices such as field-effect transistors [1,2], light-emitting diodes [3–6], and solar cells [7,8]. The most-surprising feature of nanowires is that they can be grown with a wurtzite (WZ) crystal structure by appropriately adjusting the growth conditions such as growth temperature, V/III ratio, and doping amount [9–16], even though they are stable in the zinc blende (ZB) phase of the bulk crystal. This crystal structure engineering opens up a new possibility for the device applications of nanowires because the crystal structure has a significant effect on the physical properties of semiconductor materials. Interestingly, band-structure calculations suggest that GaP in the WZ phase has a direct band gap [17–21], although that in the ZB phase has an indirect band gap. Recently, this suggestion has been experimentally confirmed by using WZ GaP nanowires fabricated by vapor-liquid-solid (VLS) growth, suggesting the direct-band-gap transition at 2.09 eV [14]. This direct-band-gap WZ GaP may increase the efficiency of green light-emitting diodes and close the “green gap” issue.

We have grown III–V compound semiconductor nanowires by selective-area metal-organic vapor-phase epitaxy (SA-MOVPE) [1,4,8–11,22–26]. The crystal structures of InP nanowires can be controlled by adjusting the growth conditions of SA-MOVPE, and pure WZ InP nanowires can be obtained at high growth temperature and low V/III ratio [9,10]. However, this type of control is not yet possible with other III–V compounds, such as GaP, GaAs, and InAs. To promote the crystal-phase change of those compounds, it is necessary to transfer the WZ structure from the core to the shell. We have already reported pure WZ InAs nanotubes based on InP/InAs core-shell nanowires, in which the WZ structure of the InP core is transferred to the InAs shell [22]. In this study, we demonstrate the growth of WZ GaP by using WZ InP nanowires as a template for transferring the WZ structure to GaP, and propose a possible growth model for the crystal structure transfer. InP was chosen as a template because the WZ structures can be easily obtained. From the calculation, the energy difference between the WZ and ZB structures of InP is a minimum in the case of typical III–V compounds including aluminum, gallium, and indium as group-III elements and phosphorus, arsenic, and antimony as group-V elements [27].

2. Experimental procedure

As for the process for fabricating the nanowires, a 25-nm-thick SiO₂ film was first deposited on an InP(1 1 1)_A substrate by plasma

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 11 706 7173; fax: +81 11 716 6004.

E-mail address: ishizaka@rciqe.hokudai.ac.jp (F. Ishizaka).

sputtering, and hexagonal-opening patterns were defined by electron-beam (EB) lithography and wet chemical etching using buffered hydrofluoric acid (BHF). The SiO_2 patterns were designed to be a periodic array of openings with a diameter of 90 nm and a pitch of 400 nm. The SA-MOVPE of nanowires was carried out in a horizontal low-pressure MOVPE system using trimethylgallium (TMGa), trimethylindium (TMIn), and tertiarybutylphosphine (TBP) as source materials. The partial pressures of TMIn and TBP were respectively 2.7×10^{-6} and 4.9×10^{-5} atm for InP core growth, and the partial pressures of TMGa and TBP were respectively 4.8×10^{-7} and 3.1×10^{-4} for GaP shell growth. Prior to the growth, the native oxide on the openings was removed by thermal cleaning at 600 °C under a hydrogen and TBP ambient. WZ InP nanowires were grown for 20 min at 660 °C with a V/III ratio of 18, which is the typical condition for growing WZ structures [9,10]. GaP shells were then grown for 3 min at 600 °C with a V/III ratio of 646. This low-temperature and high-V/III-ratio condition was chosen to promote lateral growth of the shell [23,28]. The grown structures were characterized by scanning electron microscope (SEM) and transmission electron microscope (TEM). As for the TEM characterization, the electron-beam projection was parallel to the $\langle -1\ 1\ 0 \rangle$ direction.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Structure of grown InP/GaP core-shell nanowires

Fig. 1 shows a 15°-tilted SEM image of the grown InP/GaP core-shell nanowires, which have hexagonal $\{10\text{-}10\}$ vertical sidewall facets with average diameter and height of 100 nm and 1.6 μm , respectively. Sidewalls of InP nanowires with WZ structures are typically $\{10\text{-}10\}$ facets (which correspond to $\{-2\ 1\ 1\}$ facets in cubic ZB notation), but those with ZB structures are $\{-1\ 1\ 0\}$ facets. SEM studies revealed that growth of the GaP shell was always non-uniform and that three-dimensional growth was partially observed, probably due to the large lattice mismatch of the InP/GaP material system (7.1%). In the case of InP/InAs core-shell nanowires (with lattice mismatch of 3.2%) [22], a uniform InAs shell can be obtained at low growth temperature and a small supply of group-III precursors. Accordingly, to improve the uniformity of the shell, it is necessary to further optimize the growth condition and/or the buffer layer between the core and shell.

The crystal structure of core-shell nanowires was clarified by high-resolution TEM. Fig. 2(a) shows a TEM image of the InP/GaP interface at the sidewall of a core-shell nanowire. As shown in

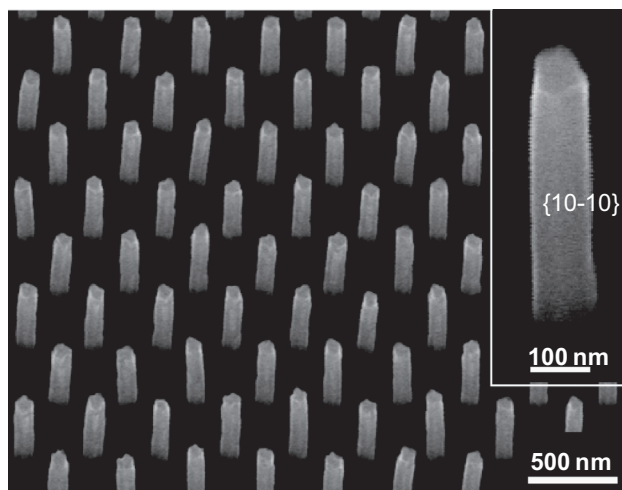


Fig. 1. 15°-tilted SEM image of InP/GaP core-shell nanowires, which have $\{10\text{-}10\}$ side facets. The inset shows a magnified image of one nanowire.

Fig. 2(b) and (c), the TEM image of the InP core and the corresponding fast-Fourier-transform (FFT) image revealed that the template InP nanowires had a WZ structure with a few stacking faults per micrometer. From the magnified TEM image and the corresponding FFT image in Fig. 2(d) and (e), it is confirmed that WZ GaP was grown laterally on the sidewalls of the WZ InP nanowires. The thickness of the GaP shell was about 5 nm. The spot splitting in the FFT image was caused by two different lattice spacings, which indicates the existence of the GaP shell. The GaP shell was also confirmed by energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) line scans along the lateral direction of an InP/GaP core-shell nanowire, with a corresponding high-angle annular dark-field (HAADF) image, as shown in Fig. 2(f). Misfit dislocations are also observed in Fig. 2(a) and (d). The correlation between misfit dislocations and strain at the InP/GaP interface was investigated. Under the assumption of complete relaxation of the InP/GaP core-shell nanowires, the spacing between misfit dislocations is calculated from its lattice mismatch of 7.1% to be 4.4 nm by using the ZB lattice parameters of InP and GaP. The measured average spacing was 10.6 nm, which differs from the calculated value. This result means that 40% of interface stress was accommodated by misfit dislocations and the rest was maintained in the InP/GaP interface.

Fig. 3(a) shows a high-resolution TEM image of the top of an InP/GaP core-shell nanowire. The EDX line scans of the GaP top shell in Fig. 3(b) shows that indium at a composition of 20% was incorporated into GaP, probably due to surface segregation of indium during growth of GaP. Magnified TEM and FFT images of GaP grown on the top of an InP nanowire are shown in Fig. 3(c) and (d), which indicate that GaP has a ZB structure. A magnified TEM image of the interface of WZ InP and ZB GaP is shown in Fig. 3(e). The crystal structures of nanowires completely changed from WZ to ZB after growth of a monolayer of GaP, and stacking faults and twins did not appear near the interface except for the phase transition boundary. In other words, when GaP growth started in the $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_A$ direction, the growth mode immediately changed to the same situation as the selective-area growth of GaP on a planar $(1\ 1\ 1)_A$ substrate. In growth of GaP by SA-MOVPE on GaP $(1\ 1\ 1)_A$ and B substrates [25], although hexagonal nanowires are grown in the $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_B$ direction, tetrahedral structures with $(1\ 1\ 1)_B$ facets are formed in the $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_A$ direction. In addition, these tetrahedral GaP structures formed on the $(1\ 1\ 1)_A$ plane are thought to have ZB phase because the corners of all tetrahedrons are pointed in one direction [24]. In the present study, tetrahedral-like GaP structures, in which $(1\ 1\ 1)_B$ facets partially appeared, were formed on the top of InP nanowires and had ZB phase. Note that the InP nanowires, as well as the GaP top shell, were grown in the $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_A$ direction. The present result is consistent with our previous study on growth of GaP by SA-MOVPE.

3.2. Different crystal structures of GaP shell

Crystal structures of InP/GaP core-shell nanowires are summarized schematically in Fig. 4(a). The reason that different crystal structures were grown on the top and side of the InP nanowires is discussed in the following from the viewpoint of the stacking direction of a WZ InP template. Atomistic models for structural transition in InP/GaP core-shell nanowires are shown in Fig. 4(b). In the axial $\langle 1\ 1\ 1 \rangle_A$ direction, the stacking sequences of the WZ phase (ABAB ...) and the ZB phase (ABCABC ...) are geometrically variable to each other without introducing mis-coordinated atoms because the growth direction of the top shell is the same as the WZ stacking direction. The crystal structure of the GaP top shell can therefore be changed in accordance with the materials of the shell and growth conditions. In our previous study on InGaP nanowires on InP $(1\ 1\ 1)_A$ substrates [26], the crystal phase transition from WZ to ZB occurred when a small amount of

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