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Intrinsic dead layer effects in relaxed epitaxial BaTiO₃ thin film grown by

pulsed laser deposition

Y. Gagou¹, J. Belhadi¹, B. Asbani¹, M. El Marssi¹, J-L Dellis¹, Yu. I. Yuzyuk², I. P. Raevski²

and J. F Scott³.

¹Université de Picardie Jules Verne, LPMC, 33 rue Saint-Leu, F-80039 Amiens, France

² Southern Federal University, Faculty of Physics, Zorge 5, Rostov-on-Don 344090, Russia

³ Depts. of Chemistry and Physics, St. Andrews University, St. Andrews, Scotland KY16 9ST

Abstract

Epitaxial BaTiO₃ (BT) thin film of about 400 nm thickness was grown on LaSr_{0.5}Co_{0.5}O₃

(LSCO) coated (001)MgO using pulsed laser deposition. Ferroelectric properties of the BT

thin film in Pt/BT/LSCO/MgO heterostructure capacitor configuration were investigated.

Dynamic P-E hysteresis loops at room temperature showed ferroelectric behavior with $P_s = 32$

 μ C/cm², $P_r = 14 \mu$ C/cm² and $E_c = 65 \text{ kV/cm}$. Static C-V measurements confirmed reversible

switching with a coercive field $E_c = 15$ kV/cm. Basing on a model taking into account an

interface dead-layer we show that the capacitance-voltage "butterfly" loops imply only 25%

switching of dipoles that inferred from dynamic polarization-field loops (~ 4 and ~16 kV/cm,

respectively). Dielectric permittivity as a function of temperature revealed a first-order

ferroelectric-to-paraelectric (FE-PE) phase transition in the BT film characterized by a

maximum at $T_C \sim 130$ °C. The very large (~ 126 K at 1 kHz) difference between T_C and the

extrapolated Curie-Weiss temperature T_0 is attributed to the dead-layer effects.

Keywords: Dead layer, Ferroelectric, BaTiO₃, Epitaxial growth, Pulsed laser deposition

Corresponding author: yaovi.gagou@u-picardie.fr

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