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Fabrication and Optical Properties of lift-off InP Membranes

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Abstract: An electrochemical etching based on HCl solution was developed for use in the chemical lift-off of InP membranes. Under the same etching conditions, the diameter of InP pores increases with the increase of etching depth or etching voltage. When the etching depth or etching voltage is over a critical value, the InP layercan be electropolished, leading to the lift-off of nanoporous InP membranes. The lift-off membranes can be transferred onto a substrate. Compared to the planar InP wafer, the etched InP wafer and transferred InP membrane present stronger photoluminescence emission and weaker reflectance in the range of 250-850 nm.

Key Words: InP wafer, Porous materials, Electrochemical etching, Lift-off, Luminescence

1. Introduction

Indium phosphide (InP) with a direct band gap of 1.34 eV has attracted attention over the years as effective materials for high-speed electronics and optoelectronic devices. Since the discovery of intense luminescence form porous silicon [1], porous InP has been extensively investigated [2-6]. Porous InP with a high surface and a low reflectance [2] in the visible light range can improve the performance ability of photosensitive devices such as photodetectors, high-efficiency solar cells, and photoelectrochemical (PEC) splitting of water. However, high-cost of InP wafers limits the development of electronics and optoelectronic devices.

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