

Substitutional nitrogen impurities in pulsed-laser annealed silicon

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trum. If this shift were only 0.2 or 0.1 eV however, significant amounts of this species could conceivably be obscured. In addition, spectra of the F 2s level (shown elsewhere)⁵ revealed only a single approximately Gaussian shaped peak with a full width at half-maximum of 2.7 eV. Splittings in this level, which must occur in the polyfluoro groups, are therefore small. Seel and Bagus⁹ predict the F 1s level of interstitial or threefold surface sites will exhibit large shifts from the polyfluoro F 1s binding energy. While the F 1s level is energetically inaccessible in our experiments, the photoemission behavior of the F 2s is somewhat corelike; thus its single peak nature provides additional argument against the existence of interstitial fluorine for the conditions considered here.

In conclusion, we have identified the types of fluorosilyl moieties formed by the initial attack of fluorine atoms on clean silicon surfaces. The chemical shifts of approximately one, two, and three eV are characteristic of mono- di-, and trifluorosilyl groups, independent of the details of surface structure. No evidence for interstitial or otherwise multiply coordinated fluorine atoms was found.

Finally, we note that difluorosilyl accounted for only a small portion of the total amount of fluorinated silicon found on either of the surfaces studied. Interestingly, a number of the kinetic models for the surface reaction involve difluorosilyl units as the most prominent surface species, presumably because SiF₂ is a reaction product. If the same reaction mechanisms responsible for the initial stages of fluorine at-

tack also dominate during the steady state reaction, then our results indicate these models are incomplete and that more emphasis should be placed on the reaction of trifluorosilyl groups.

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¹¹The intensity of chemically shifted core levels I_c relative to the total core-level emission I , (shifted + unshifted) has been converted into a coverage Θ (in monolayers) of fluorinated Si atoms using a continuum model:

$$\Theta = (l/d) \ln [I_c / (I_c - I_s)]$$

mean free path $l = 4 \text{ \AA}$, average layer spacing $d = 1.565 \text{ \AA}$.

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Substitutional nitrogen impurities in pulsed-laser annealed silicon

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Single-crystal Si samples with nitrogen (N) impurities (Si:N) and with N and phosphorus (P) impurities (Si:N:P) have been investigated by electron spin resonance measurements. It was found that substitutional N impurities N_s cannot be incorporated into Si by cw laser annealing of N ion-implanted Si or by N doping during crystal growth; however, N_s is incorporated into Si by pulsed-laser annealing (PLA) of N ion-implanted Si. The spin density of N_s decreases with doping of P shallow donors into PLA Si:N and increases by introduction of slight point defects in PLA Si:N:P. These results suggest that N_s with a negative charge are formed in PLA Si: N:P system.

It was clarified recently by electron spin resonance (ESR) measurements¹⁻³ that substitutional nitrogen impurities N_s can be introduced into silicon (Si) crystal by N₂⁺ or N⁺ ion implantation and subsequent pulsed laser annealing (PLA). At present, it is very important to explore techniques by which N_s can be introduced into Si, to investigate how deep the localized level of N_s is in the neutral charge state, $N_s^{(0)}$,² and to determine whether negative charge states of N_s exist in the band gap.⁴ In this letter, we report on ESR results of various kinds of Si samples including N impurities (Si:N systems) and on phosphorus (P) doping effects on Si:N systems.

All the ESR measurements were made at 9 Ghz at room temperature (RT). Microwave powers lower than 2 mW were used to avoid the effects of absorption saturation. An ESR standard sample, Mn⁺⁺ in MgO with resonant magnetic fields different from those of $N_s^{(0)}$, was utilized to measure the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$. Consequently, our evaluation of the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ was not affected by degradation in cavity Q due to heavy P doping, even though the ESR intensity decreased with increments in P concentration.

First, we made ESR measurements on three types of Si samples: PLA Si:N, cw laser annealed Si:N, and bulk Si:N. The PLA Si:N system consists of Si crystals which were im-

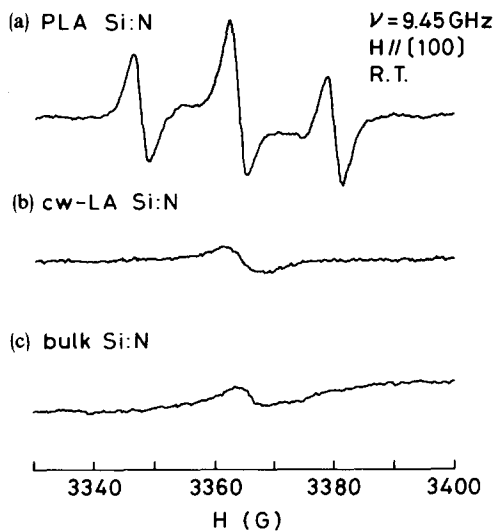


FIG. 1. Typical ESR spectra of the (a) pulsed-laser annealed Si:N (2×10^{14} N_2^+ / cm^2), (b) cw laser annealed Si:N (5×10^{14} N_2^+ / cm^2), and (c) bulk Si:N doped uniformly with the concentration of 6×10^{15} N / cm^3 .

planted with $1 \times 10^{13} - 1 \times 10^{16}$ N_2^+ / cm^2 at 70 keV followed by Q-switched ruby laser annealing at 1.3 J/cm² in air. This laser energy density yields the high reflectivity phase for a duration of 120 ns as observed by time-resolved optical reflectivity measurements.⁵ The cw laser annealed Si:N system consists of Si crystals which were implanted with 2×10^{14} and 5×10^{14} N_2^+ / cm^2 at 150 keV followed by cw Ar laser annealing (spot size 56 μm , scan speed 25 cm/s, dwelling time 0.22 ms, and scan step 10 μm). The laser powers used were 14 and 10 W which induced liquid phase regrowth and solid phase annealing, respectively. The bulk Si:N system consists of Si crystals in which N impurities are uniformly doped with concentrations from 1×10^{15} to $6 \times 10^{15} / \text{cm}^3$ during Si crystal growth with a special technique.⁶

Typical ESR signals are shown in Fig. 1. They were observed in the three types of samples. In the case of the PLA Si:N, three hyperfine (hf) lines attributed to $N_s^{(0)}$ can be seen as shown in Fig. 1(a). On the other hand, no hf lines were observed for both the cw laser annealed Si:N and bulk Si:N, as shown in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c). The thermal annealing kinetics of $N_s^{(0)}$ centers in PLA Si:N system was estimated to be $\tau^{-1} = (1-100) \times 10^6 \exp(-1.3 \pm 0.2 \text{ eV}/kT) \text{ s}^{-1}$, which will be reported elsewhere. This indicates that cw laser annealing and Si crystal growth maintain high temperatures for long enough times to anneal out $N_s^{(0)}$. Therefore, the great effectiveness of PLA for introducing $N_s^{(0)}$ in Si^{2,3,7} is found to be mainly due to both the extremely high velocity (2-3 m/s) of recrystallization and the extremely rapid cooling (faster than 10^9 °C/s)⁵ after recrystallization.

Secondly, ESR measurements were performed on Si samples which were doubly implanted with N and P ions at 70 keV, followed by PLA at 1.3 J/cm². The average projected ranges of N_2^+ and P^+ are about 920 and 850 Å, respectively. After this double ion implantation, the crystallinity of the implanted Si layer was restored by PLA which activated about 100% of P impurities electrically. Both $N_s^{(0)}$ and P are distributed over approximately 2500 Å as a result of PLA; this was determined by ESR measurements after anodic oxidation and etching in hydrofluoric acid.

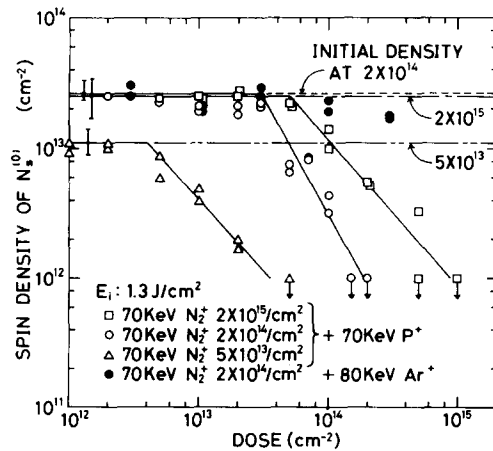


FIG. 2. Effect of phosphorus-donor impurity introduction in PLA Si:N samples which were formed by 5×10^{13} , 2×10^{14} , and 5×10^{14} N_2^+ / cm^2 implantation and subsequent PLA, respectively. The density of $N_s^{(0)}$ is plotted as a function of P^+ dose for PLA Si:N:P samples. The result for Ar^+ implantation is also shown for comparison, where no significant change in spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ can be seen.

Figure 2 shows the effect of P impurity introduction in the PLA Si:N system. It can be seen that the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ decreases with P^+ dose above a critical dose for each PLA Si:N sample. There are three possibilities considered for this decrement; (1) pairing of $N_s^{(0)}$ and P impurities, (2) strong spin-spin interaction between localized spin of $N_s^{(0)}$ and degenerate electrons originating from P shallow donors, and (3) formation of diamagnetic $N_s^{(-)}$ as a result of trapping of P donor electrons by deep level $N_s^{(0)}$ centers. The first possibility can be ruled out because the critical P^+ dose is independent of the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ and increases with the implanted N_2^+ dose, i.e. 4×10^{12} , 3×10^{13} , and 5×10^{13} P^+ / cm^2 for the PLA Si:N samples formed with 5×10^{13} , 2×10^{14} , and 5×10^{14} N_2^+ / cm^2 , respectively. The second possibility is very interesting, but may also be ruled out because no significant ESR line broadening and g shift due to such an interaction have been observed in iron impurities with d electrons in degenerate Si:P⁸ or dangling bonds of Si in implanted, degenerate Si:P systems.⁹

The experimental results shown in Fig. 2 can be interpreted qualitatively by the third possibility as followed. No significant changes in the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ are seen up to the P^+ critical doses. This is thought to be due to trapping of P donor electrons by N-related defects³ except N_s which are induced by PLA, as illustrated in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). Because these N-related point defects (designated ΣN , etc.) increase with N_2^+ dose,³ the critical dose increases with N_2^+ dose. The Fermi level rises with the P donor concentration as illustrated schematically in Figs. 3(a)-3(c). The gradual decre-

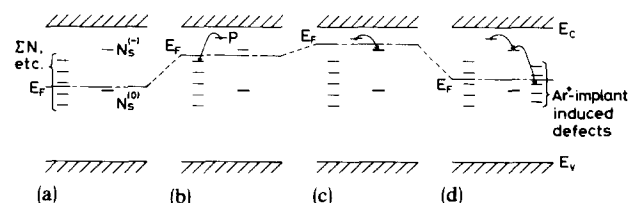


FIG. 3. Schematic energy-level diagram of impurities and defects in (a) PLA Si:N, (b) PLA Si:N:P with lower concentration of P donors and (c) and (d) PLA Si:N:P implanted with a low dose of Ar ion.

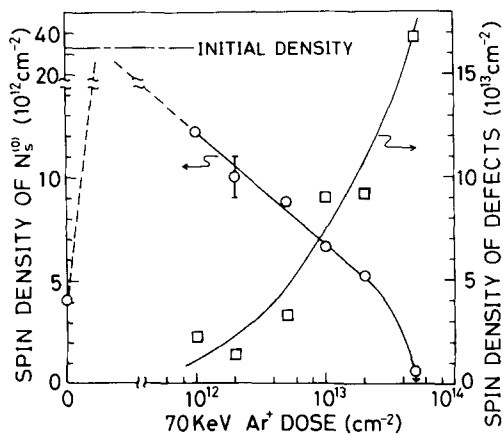


FIG. 4. Effect of Ar ion implantation in PLA Si:N:P system. The densities of $N_s^{(0)}$ and implantation-induced point defects are plotted as functions of Ar^+ dose.

ment of $N_s^{(0)}$ with P^+ dose suggests that the probability that the $N_s^{(-)}$ level is occupied at RT increases gradually with P donor concentration. Consequently, the $N_s^{(-)}$ level seems to be located near the P donor level as illustrated in Fig. 3(c).

Lastly, in order to test the third explanation, we investigated the effects point defects have upon the spin density of deep level $N_s^{(0)}$ centers. In this case, the point defects were introduced by 70-keV Ar ion implantation in PLA Si:N:P samples. Figure 4 shows a typical result for the Si:N:P system which was formed by double ion implantation with 70-keV, $2 \times 10^{14} \text{N}_2^+/\text{cm}^2$ and $1 \times 10^{14} \text{P}^+/\text{cm}^2$ and subsequent PLA at $1.3 \text{J}/\text{cm}^2$. It can be seen that Ar ion implantation with $1 \times 10^{12}/\text{cm}^2$ increases the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ by $8 \times 10^{12}/\text{cm}^2$ and the spin density of $N_s^{(0)}$ recovers to 38% of that ($3.2 \times 10^{13} N_s^{(0)}/\text{cm}^2$) of the initial Si:N system in spite of the production of point defects. The increment seen up to a dose of $2 \times 10^{13}/\text{cm}^2$ becomes smaller with Ar^+ dose. This increment is interpreted in terms of trapping of the second electron of $N_s^{(-)}$ by Ar-implantation induced point defects with deeper levels and lowering of the Fermi level as shown in Fig. 3(d), but is not explained by pairing of $N_s^{(0)}$ and P impurities. Above the dose of $2 \times 10^{13} \text{Ar}^+/\text{cm}^2$, $N_s^{(0)}$ decreases with Ar^+ dose below the initial density (4×10^{12}

$N_s^{(0)}/\text{cm}^2$) of the Si:N:P system, as expected from heavy damage of PLA Si:N:P crystal. According to a perturbative calculation by Pantlides⁴, the $N_s^{(-)}$ center binds two electrons which have the first ionization energy of 52.5 meV and the second ionization energy of 335.9 meV. The former is located near to the level of P donor (46 meV), which is consistent with our interpretation. However, it is obviously necessary to do more investigations to clarify the existence or energy level of $N_s^{(-)}$ center.

In conclusion, the substitutional nitrogen impurities with neutral charge, $N_s^{(0)}$, can be introduced by pulsed-laser annealing of N_2^+ -implanted Si. So far, we have been unable to introduce $N_s^{(0)}$ by either cw laser annealing of N_2^+ -implanted Si or by Si crystal growth with a special doping of N impurities. Our studies suggest that nitrogen is introduced into substitutional sites under conditions involving rapid recrystallization (2–3 m/s) and extremely rapid cooling rates ($> 10^9 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{s}$). The ESR result for doping of P shallow donors into Si:N suggests that the substitutional nitrogen impurities with a negative charge, $N_s^{(-)}$, are formed in the pulsed-laser annealed Si:N:P system.

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