
Fabrication of high quality AlO_x thin films with high growth ratio by mist CVD

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KOCHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Symp. H M4-4 1

Thank you for your information. My name is Toshiyuki Kawaharamura. I belong to Institute for Nanotechnology in Kochi University of Technology. Today's topic is fabrication of high quality AlO_x thin films by mist CVD.

ご紹介ありがとうございます。高知工科大学 ナノテクノロジー研究所の川原村です。この発表では、まずはミストCVDについてお話しします。

Background

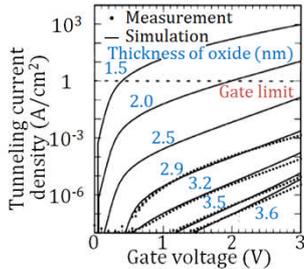
The physical properties of high-k dielectrics

Aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3)

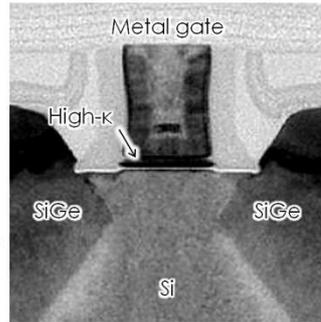
wide band gap
high breakdown field
high dielectric constant
high thermal stability
low penetration

	Band gap E_g (eV)	Dielectric constant $\kappa(-)$	Contact stability with Si (kJ/mol)	Silicate ($^\circ\text{C}$)
SiO_2	9	3.9	-	-
Al_2O_3	7.4-9	9.34	265.3	> 900
HfO_2	5.8	22-25	199.4	727
ZrO_2	4.7-5.8	11-25	177.1	\approx 500
La_2O_3	-6	25-30	412.0	\approx 1000
Y_2O_3	-6	15	488.8	\approx 1000

High-k gate insulators



Leakage current between gate contact and channel through a SiO_2 dielectric in nMOSFET



High-k./Metal Gate @ Intel Corp.

Passivation film



Packaging material for food

Aluminum oxide has wide band gap, high breakdown field, high dielectric constant, and high thermal stability. And Al_2O_3 prevents a penetration of water or air. Therefore, Al_2O_3 is a promising material for high- κ gate insulator and passivation film.

Al_2O_3 は、誘電率が高く、熱的安定性の優れた材料である。また、水や空気の浸透を防ぎます。その為、アルミナは、高誘電(High-k)材料や、デバイスのパッシベーション膜として期待されています。

AlO_x thin film deposition method

Method	precursor	Typical growth temp. (°C)	Growth rate (nm/min)	pressure	Anneal process Time: 1-2h Temp.: 350-1000°C	Ref.
Sputtering	Al, Al ₂ O ₃	RT-300	0.2-100	0.1-10 Pa	○	1-5
MOCVD	Al(CH ₃) ₃ , AlCl ₃	100-450	≈ 1-10		○	6
PECVD	Al(CH ₃) ₃ , AlCl ₃	100-300	≈ 1-10	≈ 10 Pa	○	7
ALD	Al(CH ₃) ₃ , AlCl ₃	100-450	≈ 0.5-5	≈ 100 Pa	○	8-12
Sol-gel	AlCl ₃	200	low	1 atm	○	13,14
Spray	Al(acac) ₃	400-650	1-10	1 atm	(×)	15
Mist CVD	Al(acac) ₃	300-450	10-50	1 atm	(×)	16

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Several deposition processes have been employed for AlO_x thin film deposition. In these reports, annealing process is employed in order to obtain high quality AlO_x film. We have tried high quality AlO_x thin film by mist CVD.

Several deposition processes, such as sputtering, metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), and atomic layer deposition (ALD) have been employed for AlO_x thin film deposition. Also AlO_x thin film deposited by atmospheric pressure process, such as sol-gel and spray, are reported. Anyway, in these reports, annealing process is employed in order to obtain high quality AlO_x thin film.

Then, we have tried high quality AlO_x thin film by mist CVD.

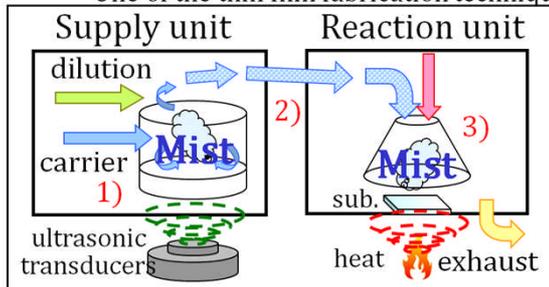
Al₂O₃薄膜の作製手法は、スパッタリングや、MOCVDやPECVD、ALD法などと多数報告されている。アルミナは安定である為スパッタしにくい材料と言われている。CVDやALD等では、トリメチルアルミという活性な材料が使われている。また、スプレーやゾルゲル法等の大気圧手法でも多数報告されている。これらのアルミナはアニールなどを行うことにより高品質な薄膜を作製する事に成功している。

そこで、我々が開発しているミストCVD法でも高品質なAlO_x薄膜が作製出来ないかところもみた。

Mist & its fabrication system image

▶ Mist (chemical vapor) deposition

One of the thin film fabrication techniques under atmospheric pressure.



- 1) In the **supply unit**
the precursor solution is misted by ultrasonic transducers.
- 2) In the **transportation**
the mist is transferred from the supply unit into the reaction unit with a carrier gas.
- 3) In the **reaction unit**
thin films or particles are fabricated by thermal decomposition.

If you want to know mist CVD

Symp. E:

Functional Oxide Thin Film &
Heterostructures for Innovative Devices
19p-M6-7 (15:45-16:15)



Mist deposition is one of the functional thin film fabrication techniques under atmospheric pressure. This figure is schematic image of mist deposition. In mist deposition system, there are two parts, supply unit and reaction unit. Supply unit consists of a solution tank and a few ultrasonic transducers. Reaction unit consists of a reactor chamber and a heater.

First, we prepare the precursor solution and it is misted by ultrasonic transducers in the supply unit. And next, the mist is transferred from the supply unit into the reaction unit with a carrier gas. At last, thin films or particles are fabricated by the thermal decomposition in the reaction unit. If you want to know the detail of mist CVD you can join tomorrow this session in Symposium E.

In this time, fine channel type mist CVD system was employed to grow AlO_x thin films.

ミストデポジション、ミストCVDは、大気圧下で薄膜を作製する為の技術の一つです。こちらに示す図は、ミストデポジションの概略図です。一般的なミストデポジションシステムには二つのパートがあります。供給部と反応部です。供給部は、溶液タンクと超音波振動子から構成されます。反応部は、反応炉とヒータから構成されます。

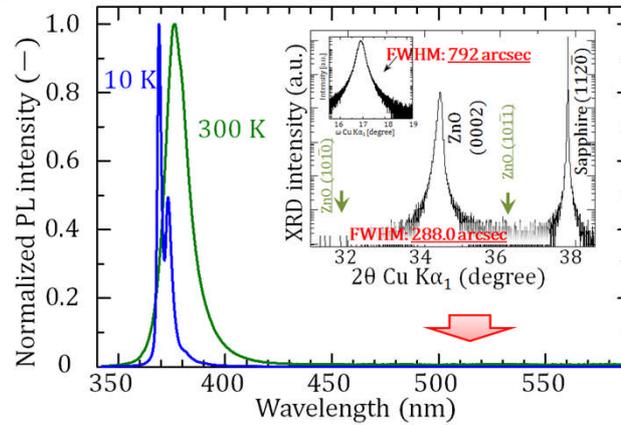
まず、原料溶液を用意し、超音波エネルギーを用いてミスト化します。キャリアガスによって原料ミストを供給部から反応部へ搬送します。そして、薄膜や粒子を熱分解などによって作製します。本手法に関しては、**Symp. H**を参考にしてください。

本実験では、この手法を利用してアルミナ薄膜を作製しました。

The special point of mist CVD

Toshiyuki Kawaharamura Dr. thesis (2008.03)

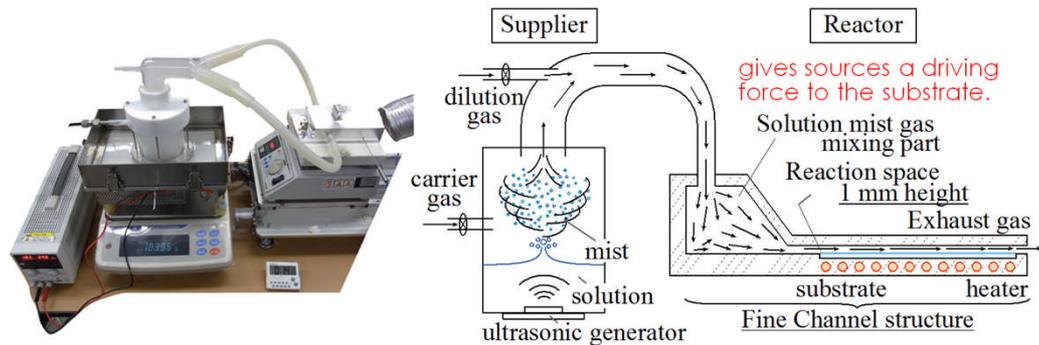
PL spectra and XRD measurement of ZnO thin films grown by mist CVD at high temperature



In the case of ZnO thin films grown by mist CVD, vacancy peak can not be seen, because the reactor is occupied with high active oxide such as steam, and the vacancy is repaired. This is the reason why we want to use this method.

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System & Conditions 1



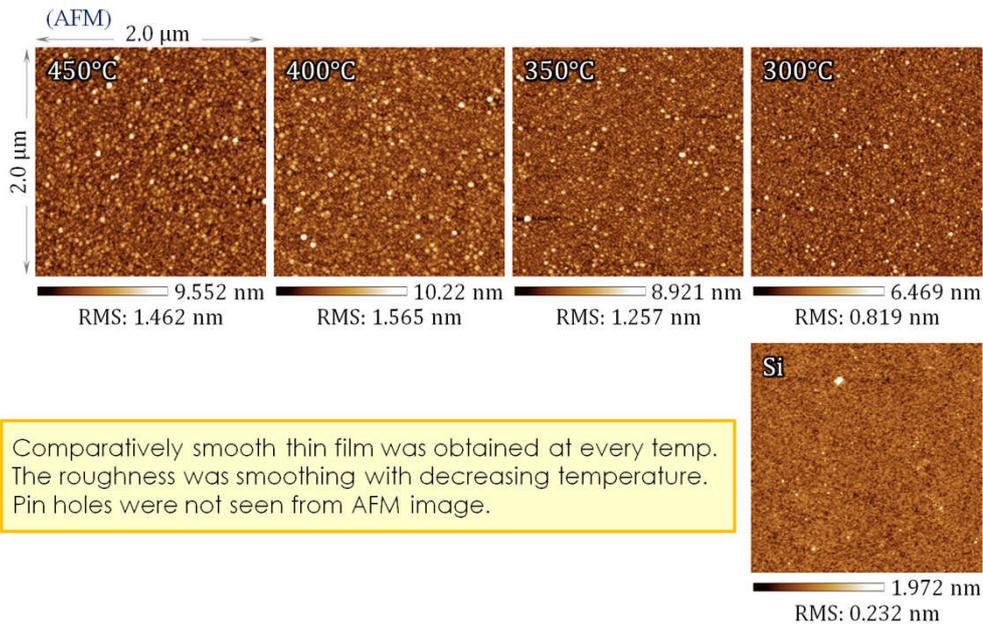
	Air	
Solute	: Al(acac) ₃	AlO _x thin films were grown
Solvent (Mixing ratio)	: Distilled water, Methanol (10 : 90)	
Concentration (mol/L)	: 0.020	at thickness around 50 nm on
Thickness (nm)	: ≈ 50, 200	p ⁺ -Si substrate in order to
Temperature (°C)	: 300-450	evaluate breakdown field (E _{BD}).
Substrate	: p ⁻ -Si, p ⁺ -Si	at thickness around 200 nm on
System	: 30 mm ver. FC system	p ⁻ -Si substrate in order to
Carrier gas (flow rate)	: Air, 2.5 L/min	evaluate FT-IR and C-V.
Dilution gas (flow rate)	: Air, 4.5 L/min	
Ultrasonic transducer	: 2.4 MHz, 24 V·0.6 A, 3	

This is the schematic image of fine channel type mist CVD system. This is the supplier and this is the fine channel reactor, which gives sources a driving force to the substrate.

The growth conditions of AlO_x thin film are shown in this sheet. Aluminum acetylacetonate was used as precursor solute. And mixture of distilled water and methanol was used as a solvent. The concentration of precursor solution is 0.02 mol/L and substrate temperature is from 300°C to 450°C. And carrier gas is air. AlO_x thin films were grown at thickness around 50 nm on high-doped p-type Si (p⁺-Si) substrate in order to evaluate breakdown field and were grown at thickness around 200 nm on low-doped p-type Si (p⁻-Si) substrate in order to evaluate FT-IR and capacitance vs. voltage (C-V).

アルミナの作製システムと条件をこちらに示す。装置は高知工科大学にあるファインチャンネル式ミストCVDシステムを用いた。原料には、アセチルアセトナト化合物を用い、溶媒は、水アルコールの混合溶媒を用いた。溶液濃度は、0.02 mol/Lで、作製温度は、300°Cから450°Cであった。膜厚は、破壊電界強度を求める為に50 nm、CV特性やFT-IRを評価する為に、200 nmとしました。

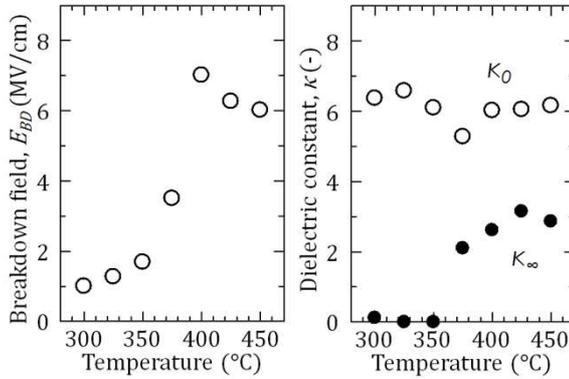
Surface image of AlO_x with Air



First, surface of AlO_x thin films are evaluated by AFM. In these figures the image size is 2 μm square. As you can see, comparatively smooth thin film was obtained at every temperature. The roughness was smoothing with decreasing temperature. Pin holes were not seen from AFM image.

まず、作製したアルミナ薄膜の表面をAFMを用いて評価しました。こちらの図は、すべて2 μm 角のSi基板上的アルミナ薄膜のAFM像です。どの温度領域でも比較的平坦な薄膜が得られていることが分かります。低温ほどラフネスが良くなる傾向が見られ、AFM像からはピンホールなどは見られませんでした。

E_{BD} & κ of AlO_x with Air



The AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures above $400^\circ C$ exhibited the E_{BD} of about 6 MV/cm and the κ_0 of about 6.

However the E_{BD} and the κ_∞ of AlO_x thin films fell dramatically at temperatures below $375^\circ C$

The composition ratio of Al and O in AlO_x thin films grown at every temperature was found to be **2:3** from XPS measurement. Additionally, these values are lower than reported values.

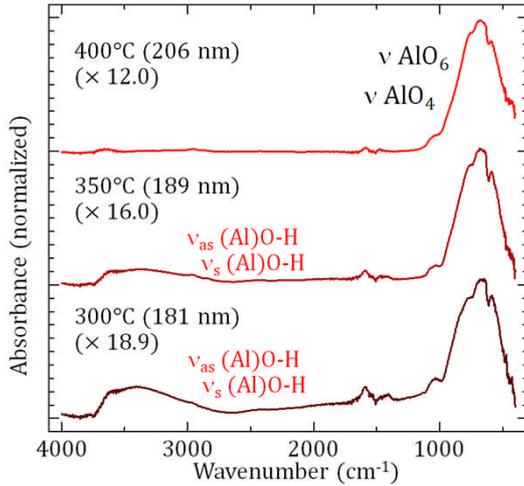


The result of breakdown field and dielectric constant of AlO_x thin films are shown in these figures. The AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures above $400^\circ C$ exhibited the breakdown field of about 6 MV/cm and the static dielectric constant of about 6. However the breakdown field and the dynamic dielectric constant of the AlO_x thin films fall dramatically at temperatures below $375^\circ C$. Such a result was seen, although the composition ratio is almost stoichiometry from XPS measurement.

こちらが、破壊電界強度と、誘電率を評価した結果です。400°C以上で6 MV/cmを超える破壊電界強度、6程度の静的誘電率が見られました。しかしながら、破壊電界強度と、動的誘電率は、375°C以下で急激に減少しています。AlO_x薄膜のAlとOの組成比はどの温度域でも2:3でしたが、このような結果を得られました。

FT-IR of AlO_x with Air

In the FT-IR measurements, samples were kept in the vacuum state to avoid influences of moisture and carbon dioxide.



The typical spectra of AlO_x thin films are seen in this figure. A broad band (FWHM $\approx 400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) are assigned to the stretching mode of octahedral (AlO_6) and tetrahedral (AlO_4).

Comparing the AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures above 400°C and below 350°C , differences in the broad peak at around 3300 cm^{-1} assigned to stretching vibrations of OH bonding and/or H_2O included in the thin film can be seen.

The OH bonding included in the AlO_x thin film can be suggested as one factor for the degradation of E_{BD} .

	Air
Min. Temp. ($^\circ\text{C}$)	>400
E_{BD} (MV/cm)	6.0
κ (-)	6
RMS (nm) @350°C	1.2

Therefore, binding properties in the films were evaluated from FT-IR spectra. In the FT-IR measurements, samples were kept in the vacuum state to avoid influences of moisture and carbon dioxide. The typical spectra of AlO_x thin films are seen in this figure. A broad band are assigned to the stretching mode of octahedral (AlO_6) and tetrahedral (AlO_4). Comparing the AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures above 400°C and below 350°C , differences in the broad peak at around 3300 cm^{-1} assigned to stretching vibrations of OH bonding and/or H_2O included in the thin film can be seen. The OH bonding included in the AlO_x thin film can be suggested as one factor for the degradation of E_{BD} .

FT-IRによって薄膜中の結合状態を評価してみました。FT-IR測定では、湿気や二酸化炭素の影響を避ける為、サンプルを真空中で評価しました。測定結果には、典型的な AlO_x 薄膜のピークが見られます。ブロードなピークは、 AlO_6 と AlO_4 の伸縮モードを示しています。400°C以上で作製した AlO_x 薄膜と350°C以下で作製した AlO_x 薄膜を比較すると、OH基や薄膜中に含まれている水分を示す、 3300cm^{-1} 付近のブロードなピークの違いが見られます。これが破壊電界強度及び動的誘電率の急激な減少の理由だと考えられます。

また、いずれにしても、たとえ400°C以上で作製した AlO_x 薄膜であっても、破壊電界強度及び誘電率は、バルクの値に比べて良くありません。

System & Conditions 2

$$\begin{aligned} \text{O}_3 &\rightleftharpoons \text{O}_2 + \text{O}\cdot \\ \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}\cdot &\rightleftharpoons 2\cdot\text{OH} \\ \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{O}\cdot &\rightleftharpoons \cdot\text{CH}_2\text{OH} + \cdot\text{OH} \end{aligned}$$

The reaction area is very high active state.

The atmosphere of reactor in the FCMCVD system is ruled by the evaporated gases such as H₂O and CH₃OH because they are solvents in the actual experiment.

O· generated from O₃ in the reactor. ·OH are generated based on O·.

The reaction area is very high active state because the reactor is occupied by activated oxygen sources such as O₃, O·, and ·OH.

		O ₃
Solute	:	Al(acac) ₃
Solvent (Mixing ratio)	:	Distilled water, Methanol (10 : 90)
Concentration (mol/L)	:	0.020
Thickness (nm)	:	≈ 50, 200
Temperature (°C)	:	300-450
Substrate	:	p-Si, p ⁺ -Si
System	:	30 mm ver. FC system
Carrier gas (flow rate)	:	Air, 2.5 L/min
Dilution gas (flow rate)	:	Air, 3.0 L/min
Assistance gas (flow rate)	:	O ₃ , >5000 ppm in Air 1.5 L/min
Ultrasonic transducer	:	2.4 MHz, 24 V·0.6 A, 3

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Symp. H M4-4 10

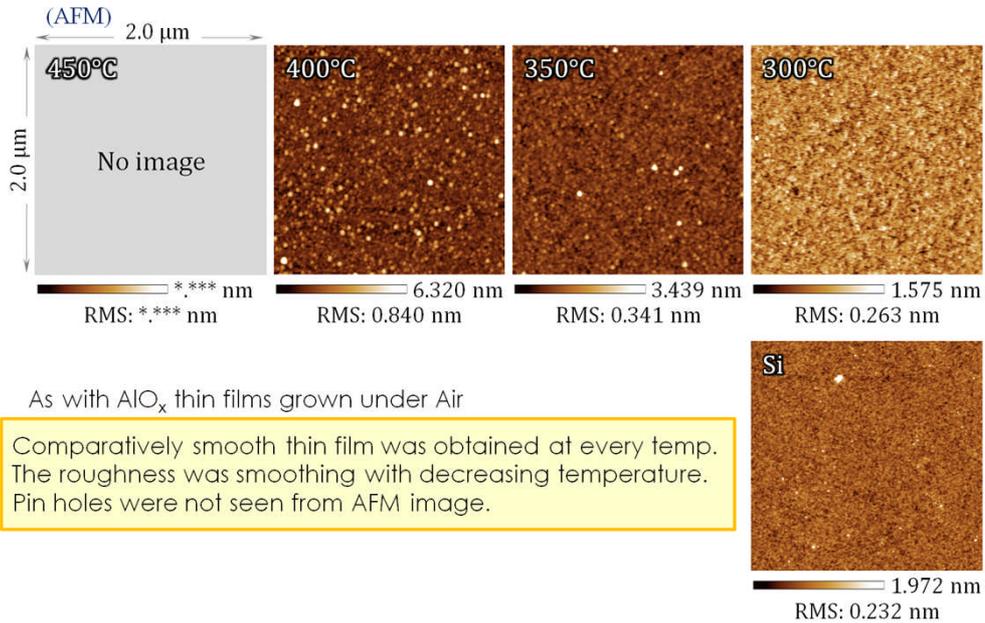
Then, in order to improve the film quality, O₃ has been employed to assist reaction. The atmosphere of reactor in the FCMCVD system is changed and ruled by the evaporated gases such as H₂O and CH₃OH because the solvents are water (H₂O) and/or methanol (CH₃OH) in the actual experiment. Oxygen radicals (O·) generated from O₃ in the reactor. Then, hydroxyl radicals (·OH) are generated based on O·. So, the reaction are is very high active state because the reactor is occupied by activated oxygen sources such as O₃, O·, and ·OH.

The O₃ line was connected to near side of the reactor. O₃ was assisted at a concentration of about 5000 ppm in 1.5 L/min air with an O₃ generator.

そこで、薄膜の品質を向上させるため、オゾンを用いて反応を支援使用用途考えました。ミストCVDでは、水やメタノールを溶媒として用いているため、反応場の雰囲気はそれらのガスに支配されています。オゾンは、熱により容易に酸素ラジカルを生み出し、その酸素ラジカルは、ヒドロキシラジカルを生成します。反応場はO₃, O·, ·OHに支配され、非常に活性状態になっていると想定されます。

オゾンは反応器の近くから導入し、1.5L/minの空気から、5000 ppmのO₃を供給しました。

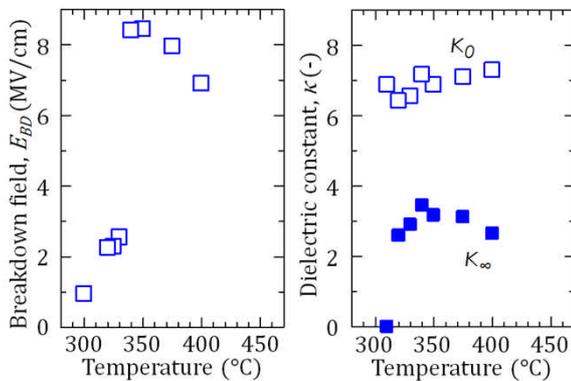
Surface image of AlO_x with O_3



This is the AFM image of AlO_x thin films grown with O_3 assistance. As with AlO_x thin films grown under Air, comparatively smooth thin film was obtained at every temperature, the roughness was smoothing with decreasing temperature, and pin hole was not seen from AFM image.

Airで作製したアルミナ薄膜と同様、どの温度領域でも比較的平坦な薄膜が得られ、低温ほどラフネスが良く、ピンホールなども見られませんでした。Airで作製したアルミナ薄膜より平坦な薄膜が得られていることが分かります。

E_{BD} & κ of AlO_x with O_3



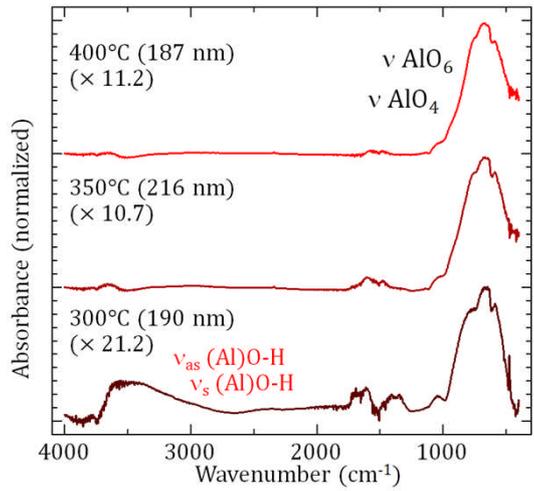
The AlO_x thin films grown with O_3 assistance exhibited the E_{BD} of about 8 MV/cm and the κ_0 of about 7 at temperatures above 340°C.

Also, the dramatic degradation of E_{BD} and κ_∞ can be seen in the AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures below 330°C,

The breakdown field and the dielectric constant are shown in these figures. The AlO_x thin films grown with O_3 assistance exhibited the breakdown field of about 8 MV/cm and the static dielectric constant of about 7 at temperatures above 340°C. Also, the dramatic decrease of breakdown field and dynamic dielectric constant can be seen in the AlO_x thin films grown at temperatures below 330°C.

—破壊電界強度と誘電率をこちらに示します。340°C以上で8 MV/cmを超える破壊電界強度、7程度の静的誘電率が見られました。しかも、破壊電界強度と動的誘電率の急激な減少は、Airで作製した AlO_x 薄膜の時は、400°C以下で観測されましたが、 O_3 を支援して作製した AlO_x 薄膜の時は、340°C以下で観測されました。

FT-IR of AlO_x with O_3



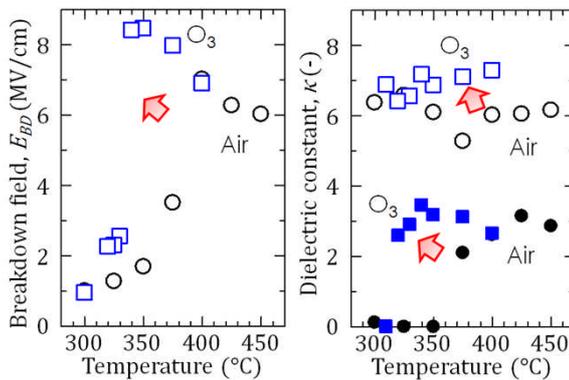
A broad peak based on OH bonding is not obtained in AlO_x thin films grown above 350°C with O_3 assistance.

	O_3
Min. Temp. (°C)	>340
E_{BD} (MV/cm)	8.0
κ (-)	7
RMS (nm) @350°C	0.3

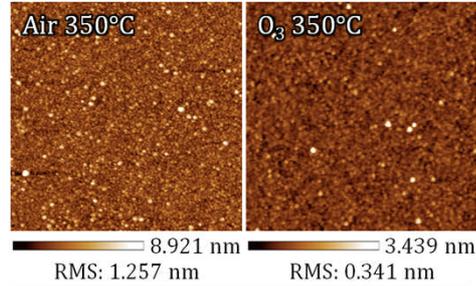
FT-IR spectra are shown in this figure. And a broad peak based on OH bonding is not obtained in AlO_x thin films grown above 350°C with O_3 assistance in FT-IR measurement.

こちらは、FT-IRの測定結果です。こちらのグラフから分かるように、OH基由来のピークが350°Cでは観測されていないことが分かります。

Summary 1



Each property of AlO_x thin films is improved with O₃ assistance.



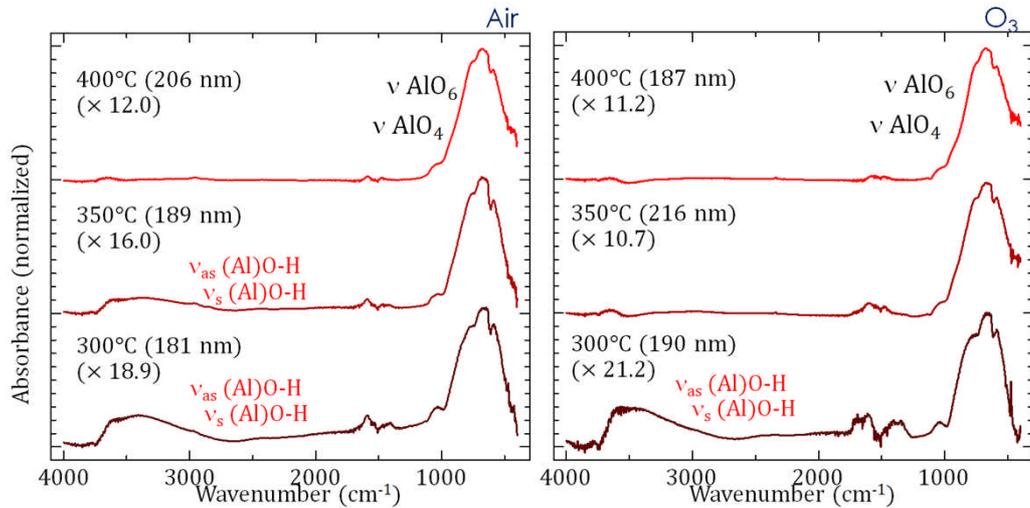
	Air	O ₃
Min. Temp. (°C)	>400	>340
E_{BD} (MV/cm)	6.0	8.0
κ_0 (-)	6	7
RMS (nm) @350°C	1.2	0.3

O₃ contributes to lower the growth temperature of higher quality AlO_x thin films from 400°C to 340°C.

This is summary. Each property of AlO_x thin films is improved with O₃ assistance. The breakdown field (E_{BD}) increases from 6 to 8, the static dielectric constant (κ) increases from 6 to 7, and RMS decreases from 1.2 to 0.3 nm. Moreover, O₃ contributes to lower the growth temperature of higher quality AlO_x thin films, from 400 to 340°C.

空気条件とオゾン条件を比較すると、オゾンを供給する事で、破壊電界強度は、6から8へと向上し、静的誘電率も、6から7へと向上した。ラフネスも、よりスムーズになっている事が分かる。また、オゾンは高品質なAlO_x薄膜をつくれる温度を、400°Cから340°Cまで低下させることに寄与した。

Summary 2



The OH bonding included in the AlO_x thin film can be suggested as one factor for the degradation of E_{BD} and κ_{ac} . It is thought that O₃ can clean up the residual of OH bonding and dangling bond in AlO_x thin film, because of high reaction ability of O₃.

On the other hand, the OH bonding included in the AlO_x thin film can be suggested as one factor for the degradation of the breakdown field and the dynamic dielectric constant. It is thought that O₃ can clean up the residual of OH bonding and dangling bond in AlO_x thin film, because of high reaction ability of O₃.

FT-IR測定結果からも、OH基の存在が、破壊電界強度及び動的誘電率の急激な減少の理由だと考えられます。O₃支援時には、O₃の高い反応活性により、薄膜中へのOH基や未結合手の残余が無くなると考えられる。

Conclusions

1. AlO_x thin film can be grown by mist CVD.
2. The AlO_x thin films grown under Air condition exhibited E_{BD} of about 6 MV/cm, κ_0 of about 6, RMS of 1.2 nm at temperatures above 400°C.
3. The AlO_x thin films grown under O_3 condition exhibited E_{BD} of about 8 MV/cm, κ_0 of about 7, RMS of 0.3 nm at temperatures above 340°C.
4. It is suggested that the residual OH bonding and dangling bond in AlO_x thin film caused the degradation of E_{BD} and κ_∞ at low temperatures.
5. O_3 contributes to lower the growth temperature of higher quality AlO_x thin films from 400°C to 340°C because of the high reaction ability of O_3 .



Finally, conclusions. AlO_x thin film can be grown by mist CVD. The AlO_x thin films grown under Air condition exhibited E_{BD} of about 6 MV/cm, κ of about 6, RMS of 1.2 nm at temperatures above 400°C. The AlO_x thin films grown under O_3 condition exhibited E_{BD} of about 8 MV/cm, κ of about 7, RMS of 0.3 nm at temperatures above 400°C. It is suggested that the residual OH bonding and dangling bond in AlO_x thin film caused the degradation of the E_{BD} and κ at low temperatures. O_3 contributes to lower the growth temperature of higher quality AlO_x thin films from 400°C to 340°C because of the high reaction ability of O_3 .

最後にまとめです。

今回我々は、ミストCVD法でアルミナ薄膜を作製しました。

空気下で作製した AlO_x 薄膜は、破壊電界強度6 MV/cm、静的誘電率6、ラフネス1 nm程度であった。

オゾンを供給して作製した AlO_x 薄膜は、破壊電界強度8 MV/cm、静的誘電率7、ラフネス0.2 nm程度であった。

低温での破壊電界強度や静的誘電率などの特性悪化の原因は薄膜中へのOH基の残余や未結合手の残余が考えられる。

オゾンはその活性力の高さの為に、高品質な AlO_x 薄膜をつくれる温度を、400°Cから340°Cまで低下させることができた。