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Vacancy-type defects in ion-implanted GaN probed by monoenergetic positron beams

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Gallium nitride is a direct wide-bandgap semiconductor and an ideal material for power electronics. In device structure fabrication, controlled impurity doping in a selective area is essential. Ion implantation is the most commonly used technique to control carrier concentrations. A drawback of ion implantation is the introduction of defects. Thus, controlling damage during and after ion implantation is a key for the reduction of residual defects in GaN. In the present study, we used monoenergetic positron beams constructed at University of Tsukuba and TUM FRM-II to study the annealing behaviors of vacancy-type defects in Mg-implanted GaN.

Mg and H ions were implanted into GaN to obtain 0.1 and 0.7-micrometer-deep box profiles with Mg and H concentrations of $1E19\text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $2E20\text{ cm}^{-3}$, respectively. For the as-implanted samples, the major defect species was determined to be Ga-vacancy related defects such as Ga-vacancy, divacancy, and their complexes with impurities. For Mg-implanted samples, an agglomeration of vacancies started at 800C annealing, leading to the formation of vacancy clusters. For Mg- and H-implanted samples, the hydrogenation of vacancy-type defects started after 800C annealing. Comparing with the annealing behavior of defects for the samples without H-implantation, the clustering of vacancy-type defects was suppressed, which can be attributed to the interaction between Mg, H, and vacancies.

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