

Deposition Mechanism of SrTiO₃ Thin Films by Plasma Enhanced Metal Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition

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플라즈마 MOCVD를 이용한 SrTiO₃ 박막 증착 메카니즘

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Strontium-based high dielectric materials such as SrTiO₃ and (Ba,Sr)TiO₃ have attracted great interest in recent years because of their high dielectric constant and small variation of electrical properties with frequency and aging treatment. Main application is capacitor dielectrics for very high density dynamic random access memory (DRAM) cells. Many research results for fabricating SrTiO₃ thin films by MOCVD and rf magnetron sputtering have been reported, but little work has been done on the plasma enhanced metal organic chemical vapor deposition (PEMOCVD) films of SrTiO₃, especially in terms of deposition mechanism.

In this work, to study the growth characteristics and deposition mechanism of SrTiO₃ thin films, the films were deposited on Pt/Si and Ir/Si substrates by the PEMOCVD using Ti(O-i-C₃H₇)₄, bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedionato) strontium (Sr(tmhd)₂) and oxygen under various conditions.

The deposition rates were quite dependent on bubbler temperature, substrate temperature and rf source power. The dissociation of Ti(O-i-C₃H₇)₄ was substantially enhanced by increasing the rf source power, while that of Sr(tmhd)₂ increased with the substrate temperature. The deposition rate and crystallinity of as-deposited SrTiO₃ films were also affected by carrier gas flow rate, leading to substantial amount of SrCO₃ formed with higher flow rate (≥ 160 sccm Ar). Surface morphology showed a smooth surface and good adhesion at the interface. Based on the growth characteristics of films, a deposition mechanism of PECVD SrTiO₃ films was proposed. It was found that the deposition of SrTiO₃ films was controlled by the decomposition rate of Sr(tmhd)₂ on the substrate surface. The optimum deposition conditions obtained were: bubbler temperatures (T_b) = 60 °C for Ti(O-i-C₃H₇)₄ and 220 °C for Sr(tmhd)₂, substrate temperature (T_s) = 550 °C, 130 sccm O₂, 160 W rf source power with carrier gas flow rates of 40 and 130 sccm Ar for titanium and strontium precursors, respectively.

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