
Generalized Ellipsometry and Complex Optical Systems - Spontaneously Ordered AlInP and GaInP

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PREFACE

The more insight is needed and the more effort is spent, the more questions appear. Today's subjects in science and engineering have reached high complexity based on the exploitation of the technological possibilities available at this time.

The objective of the thesis is the spectroscopic characterization of a structural property that arises during the epitaxial growth of and within many semiconducting materials. The so called atomic order causes the vapor-phase grown III-V semiconductor compounds to show non-scalar dielectric susceptibilities. An adequate tool to obtain the thesis goal shall be spectroscopic ellipsometry which owns remarkable sensitivity to minute optical properties of thin-films. Among the polarization-dependent optical techniques spectroscopic ellipsometry has become a standard method in order to explore the optical properties of solids and liquids. However, until today most of the results obtained with ellipsometry are reported from isotropic materials. Investigations on arbitrarily anisotropic layered systems or samples with geometrical structures of high complexity are mainly restricted to data collection and qualitative analysis. This is because of

- (1) the complex formulas associated with highly anisotropic systems, and
- (2) standard ellipsometry is related to structures which need to behave isotropic with respect to the light propagation.

Hence, a convenient mathematical formalism is necessary that enables the calculation of the optical response of a given layer structure. Likewise, appropriate experimental setups are derived which allow for the determination of non-redundant optical parameters of the anisotropic sample.^{a)}

In this thesis a highly analytical processed matrix algebra is presented including special solutions for homogeneously twisted materials such as twisted nematic liquid crystals. The algebra allows for the computation of a given layer stack and the calculation of the JONES reflection and transmission matrices of the *entire* sample setup. In fact, the JONES matrix of an arbitrary optical system is the most general approach in order to connect predefined incident and observed exit plane electromagnetic waves. Therefore, novel techniques are introduced in this thesis which enable the determination of JONES matrix elements of arbitrary optical systems, such as anisotropic thin-film bulk structures.

Having developed the theoretical and experimental basis for the characterization of *anisotropic* layered structures, the objective of the thesis can be reached by applying the old but sophisticated technique - polarization-dependent optical spectroscopy.

^{a)} For a comprehensive review of the present-day state of data analysis in spectroscopic ellipsometry, see G.E.Jellison Jr., in *Spectroscopic Ellipsometry*, edited by A.C.Boccarda, C.Pickering, J.Rivory (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1993), p.416 (Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry, Paris, France, 1993)

CONTENTS

PREFACE	3
CONTENTS	4
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1. Atomic Order in AlInP and GaInP	5
1.2. Generalized Ellipsometry	6
1.3. The Objectives of the Thesis	6
CHAPTER 2. METHOD	8
2.1. The optical Jones Matrix	8
2.2. Polarization-dependent optical Techniques	10
2.2.1. Dark-Field-Spectroscopy	11
2.2.2. Rotating-Analyzer (Polarizer) Ellipsometry	13
2.2.3. Generalized Ellipsometry	14
2.3. The 4x4 Matrix Formalism	18
2.3.1. The General Transfer Matrix	18
2.3.2. The Jones Matrix Elements	19
2.3.2.1. Transmission and Reflection Coefficients	19
2.3.2.2. Generalized Ellipsometric Parameters	20
2.3.3. Calculation of the General Transfer Matrix	21
2.3.3.1. Partial Transfer Matrix for anisotropic Slabs	21
2.3.3.2. Partial Transfer Matrix for continuously twisted biaxial Media	25
2.3.3.3. Partial Transfer Matrix for isotropic Slabs	28
2.3.3.4. Transition Matrices	29
CHAPTER 3. SPONTANEOUSLY ORDERED ALINP AND GAINP	32
3.1 Properties of ordered III-V Compounds	33
3.1.1. Atomic Order	33
3.1.2. Optical Properties	36
3.2. Experiment	40
3.2.1. Sample Preparation	40
3.2.2. Dark-Field Spectroscopy	42
3.2.3. Results: Valence-Band Splitting and Direct-Gap Reduction in spontaneously ordered AlInP and GaInP	47
3.2.4. Generalized Ellipsometry	48
CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK	53
APPENDIX	
A. Dielectric Function Tensor of uniaxial Titanium Dioxide (rutile)	55
B. Optical Properties of twisted nematic Mixtures of 5CB and CB15 Liquid Crystals	66
C. Magnetron sputtered cubic and hexagonal Boron-Nitride Thin-Films on [001] Si	74
REFERENCES	84
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	89