## High hole mobility in strained $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$ quantum well with high quality $AI_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$ buffer layer

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## High hole mobility in strained $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$ quantum well with high quality $AI_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$ buffer layer

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We have demonstrated high hole mobility in strained In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb quantum well (QW) structure with a high quality Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer for future single channel complementary metaloxide-semiconductor circuits. The Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer is important to achieve low substrate leakage and guarantee good channel material quality and high hole mobility. We grew buffer layers with various Sb effective flux conditions using molecular beam epitaxy to obtain high crystal quality and proper electrical properties. We systematically evaluated the relationship between the crystal quality and electrical properties using X-ray diffraction, atomic force microscope, Raman, and the Hall effect measurement system. Then, on this optimized buffer layer, we grew the In<sub>0.2</sub>Al<sub>0.8</sub>Sb/In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb/linear-graded Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb QW structure to obtain high hole mobility with compressive strain. Moreover, the compressive strain and hole mobility were measured by Raman and Hall effect measurement system. The results show a compressive strain value of 1.1% in  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  QW channel, which is very close to the theoretical value of 1.1% from lattice mismatch, exhibiting the highest hole mobility of  $1170 \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$  among reported mobility in In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW. Furthermore, it was able to be fabricated as p-type Fin-FET and shown the excellent electrical characteristics with low Smin and high gm. Published by AIP Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5043509

There has been remarkable progress in the development of narrow bandgap III-V compound semiconductors such as In-rich InGaAs for high performance metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistors (MOSFETs).<sup>1-6</sup> However, InGaAs has a low hole mobility in contrast with its high electron mobility, resulting in the difficulty of implementing single channel CMOS circuits. On the other hand, among III-V materials, antimonide (Sb)-based compound semiconductors have also been studied as a channel material for advanced CMOS logic applications with one significant merit which is that these materials can offer not only the highest bulk hole mobility among all III-V materials, but also high electron mobility.<sup>7-10</sup> Many efforts have been made to fabricate high performance MOSFETs using the binary alloy GaSb and the ternary alloy In<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>Sb as channel materials.<sup>11,12</sup>

One of the critical challenges for InGaSb MOSFETs is poor junction characteristics, which causes large leakage current through the junction. Therefore, to operate InGaSb MOSFETs in strong inversion with a low leakage current, it is necessary for the layer structure to be grown on a semiinsulating (SI) substrate. Ideally, SI GaSb could be used for the growth of these lattice-matched heterostructures. However, SI GaSb wafers with low carrier concentration are currently not available.<sup>13</sup> Thus, most GaSb-based devices are grown on the SI GaAs substrate with buffer layers such as AlSb or Al<sub>y</sub>Ga<sub>1-y</sub>Sb because these buffer layers are excellent candidates for semi-insulating materials with high bulk-resistivity.<sup>14</sup>

Furthermore, the buffer layers must be relaxed with a thickness thicker than 1  $\mu$ m in order to relax the lattice strain from a lattice mismatch with the GaAs substrate. At the same time, the buffer layers should have high crystalline quality because dangling bonds in dislocation cores may act as traps and dislocations propagate into the active layer on the top. This would result in the degradation of the insulating property due to shallow level generation near the valence band.<sup>15</sup>

To guarantee high film quality of Sb-based layers, Sb/III flux ratio and substrate temperature must be precisely controlled in terms of material growth. Many recent works on GaSb-based transistors have reported the evaluation mainly on the relationship between the crystal quality and growth parameters in the channel material, but there is limited analysis of the buffer layer quality, although it is a very important layer to reduce and/or minimize the bulk leakage current.<sup>16</sup>

In this work, we have systematically investigated the  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  buffer layer on SI-GaAs with different growth parameters of Sb effective flux in terms of not only the crystal quality but also the electronic properties of resistivity ( $\rho$  in  $\Omega$  cm) and carrier concentration ( $N_b$  in./cm<sup>3</sup>). Furthermore, on this optimized  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  buffer layer, we grew

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In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb as a channel material because In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb grown on Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer should be compressively strained due to the lattice mismatch. Compressive strain in In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb causes the band separation between heavy hole state (HH) and light hole state (LH), resulting in enhanced hole mobility.<sup>17</sup>

Finally, we demonstrated the high crystal quality of  $In_{0.2}Al_{0.8}Sb/In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb/linearly$  graded  $Al_{0.8}Ga_{0.2}Sb/Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  structure with high hole mobility. Furthermore, an  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  Fin-FET was able to be fabricated using this QW structure and we measured the electrical characteristics.<sup>12</sup>

First, we grew an Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer using Riber compact 21E solid source MBE. For the MBE growth, we used a SI GaAs substrate [undoped, orientation: (100),  $\rho$ : 5.93e7  $\Omega$  cm]. The surface oxide was removed from the GaAs substrate by heating at 630 °C under As2 mode. Subsequently, we carried out the fully relaxed  $1 \,\mu$ m-thick epitaxial growth of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb layer at 530 °C with different effective fluxes of Sb (A:  $9.5 \times 10^{-7}$ , B:  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , C:  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , D:  $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , and E:  $4.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr) at constant Ga and Al flux as  $3.31\times 10^{-8}$  and  $1.1\times 10^{-7}\, Torr,$ respectively. In this experiment, we found that the  $1 \times 3$  pattern begins to be shown on the RHEED screen at the Sb flux of  $9.5 \times 10^{-7}$  Torr.<sup>18</sup> Thus, we used this flux as our starting point. Then, we evaluated the layer quality of the grown Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb layers by XRD, Hall effect measurement, AFM, and Raman spectroscopy. Here, the Hall effect measurement of the Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb layer was carried out directly on it.

Finally, for device fabrication, we grew the In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW structure. First, the 950 nm-thick Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb metamorphic buffer layer was grown on SI-GaAs substrate at 530 °C. Then, on this fully relaxed layer, we grew a linearly graded layer of 50 nm-thick Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb with Be-delta doping of  $5 \times 10^{11}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>. In this process step, we also decreased linearly the growth temperature to 505 °C since Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb growth needs lower temperature than Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb growth. After the buffer layer growth, we paused the growth until the substrate temperature becomes stable at 430 °C for the In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel, 6 nm-thick In<sub>0.2</sub>Al<sub>0.8</sub>Sb top barrier layer, 30 nm-thick p<sup>+</sup>-InAs contact layer were grown.<sup>19</sup>

Figure 1(a) shows XRD spectra of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer on GaAs structure with different values of Sb effective flux of A:  $9.5 \times 10^{-7}$ , B:  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , C:  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , D:  $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , E:  $4.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr, using theta/two theta scans. Two peaks, attributed to GaAs and Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb, are clearly observed at 66.05° and 60.26°, respectively. In order to estimate the crystal quality of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb, we analyzed the full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) value of the Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb peak in XRD spectra in Fig. 1(b). It was found that the FWHM becomes smaller from  $0.151^\circ$  to 0.141° with an increase in the Sb-flux probably due to reduction of the Al and Ga anti-sites (Al<sub>Sb</sub> and Ga<sub>Sb</sub>). It is well-known that Sb has a low surface mobility and tends to aggregate together in a low Sb-flux environment. Therefore, many Sb lattice sites will be available for Ga and Al in the Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb layer.<sup>20</sup> Figure 1(b) also shows the impact of Sb effective flux on  $\rho$ , and  $N_{\rm b}$ . At smaller Sb effective flux than  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr, the  $\rho$  value was quite low and the sample exhibits high  $N_{\rm b}$ . Under Sb-rich conditions,  $\rho$  increases significantly to 0.5 M $\Omega$  cm with a low  $N_{\rm b} = 1 \times 10^{11}$ /cm<sup>3</sup>. This result explains that the Al<sub>Sb</sub> and Ga<sub>Sb</sub> defects degrade insulation characteristics with an increased  $N_{\rm b}$  due to the creation of shallow levels. Therefore, to improve the crystal quality of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb, an optimized (over than Sb effective flux of  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr) Sb-rich growth condition is very important.

Surface morphology is also an important parameter to improve the performance of thin body transistors, because the effective mobility strongly depends on interface roughness and thickness fluctuation scattering.<sup>21–24</sup> Therefore, we examined the surface morphology of all samples by AFM. Figure 2(a) shows AFM images with a scan area of  $10 \times 10$  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. Samples A, B, and C have a small root mean square roughness ( $R_{\rm rms}$ ) lower than 0.5 nm, and the step height of the surface is approximately 1 nm in the line profile. However, when the Sb-flux exceeds a certain level, the surface morphology deteriorates. Samples D and E showed a roughed surface with a larger  $R_{\rm rms}$  of 0.79 nm and 1.02 nm, respectively.

In order to determine the physical origin of the roughened surface on the samples with high Sb effective flux, we performed Raman spectroscopy measurements.<sup>25</sup> Figure 2(b) shows the Raman shift peak of the  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  buffer

Carrier concentration

stivity

0

FIG. 1. (a) Two-theta XRD profiles of Al\_{0.95}Ga\_{0.05}Sb with different Sb effective fluxes as (A:  $9.5 \times 10^{-7}$ , B:  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , C:  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , D:  $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , E:  $4.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr) and SI-GaAs. (b) Relationship between FWHM and electrical properties (resistivity and carrier concentration).





FIG. 2. (a) The AFM images of  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  buffer layers with various Sb effective fluxes with a scan area of  $10 \times 10 \ \mu m^2$ , corresponding 3D view, and line profiles of the selected area are shown. (b) Raman shift spectra. (c) Lorentz peak fitting of sample A. (d) Relationship between the Sb-defect Raman peak area and  $R_{\rm rms}$  as a function of Sb effective flux.

layers. Three peaks were observed at Raman frequencies of  $339.4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $210.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $138.4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The first two come from the vibration modes of AISb and GaSb, respectively, and the last one would originate on the presence of native defects and anti-site defects.<sup>26,27</sup> To clearly show a transverse optic mode (TO)-longitudinal optic mode (LO) splitting of GaSb and AlSb and Sb-defect area from the multi peaks, we fitted the Raman peak of all samples using a Lorentz function. Figure 2(c) shows the TO and LO modes of GaSb (LO = 210.5 cm<sup>-1</sup> and  $TO = 232.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), AlSb (TO = 317.12 cm<sup>-1</sup> and LO = 339.4 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and both in-plane vibrational modes (E<sub>g</sub>) and out-of-plane vibration mode  $(A_{1g})$  of amorphous  $\overset{\,\,{}_\circ}{Sb}$  $(E_g = 117.1 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ and } A_{1g} = 160 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ , and disorder-activated modes (DALA) sited at  $138 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in sample A.<sup>26</sup> We also evaluated the change of Sb-defect area of our samples with various Sb flux as inserted graph in Fig. 2(d). The ratio of Sb-defect area is defined in comparison with both AlSb and GaSb peak area, which was estimated from the ratio of Sb-defect area/ Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb peak area. The area ratio tends to be proportional to the Sb flux. Figure 2(d) also shows how the Sb-defect area of the Raman spectra follows a similar trend as  $R_{\rm rms}$ . It can be seen from the figure that when the value of the Sb flux is larger than  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr, the  $R_{\rm rms}$  increased as well as the Sb-defect Raman peak area.

These results strongly suggest that the crystal quality, electrical properties (insulating properties), and surface morphology are in trade-off relationships, suggesting that careful optimization of growth condition (Sb effective flux) is very important. In our experiment, we obtained the highest quality Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb for the buffer layer with FWHM of 0.141°, minimize bulk leakage current with  $\rho$  of 0.4 M $\Omega$ cm, and smooth surface with  $R_{\rm rms}$  of 0.4 nm at the Sb effective flux of 2.0 × 10<sup>-6</sup> Torr.

Based on the good quality of the  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$ buffer layer, we fabricated the  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  QW structure. Figure 3(a) shows the schematic of the full structure. As described earlier, we added a linearly graded layer of 30 nm  $Al_{0.8}Ga_{0.2}Sb$  on the  $Al_{0.95}Ga_{0.05}Sb$  buffer layer to reduce surface oxidation. Also, Be-delta doping was added to form a 2DHG with a high hole density by raising the valence band of the channel above the Fermi energy level. Furthermore, the 6 nm-thick  $In_{0.2}Al_{0.8}Sb$  layer was used to form a channel stopper. Above the top barrier layer, we also added the contact layers with a high Be doping of  $3 \times 10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup> to reduce the contact resistance of the source and drain.

After growing the full structure, the sample was examined using TEM in order to confirm crystalline quality, as shown in Fig. 3(b). In this image, the  $In_{0.2}Al_{0.8}Sb/In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb/Al_{0.8}Ga_{0.2}Sb$  quantum well (QW) interface was found to be very clear and sharp without any identifiable morphological defects. Moreover, the inserted Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) pattern of the high-resolution TEM image demonstrates good crystalline behavior of the linearly graded  $Al_{0.8}Ga_{0.2}Sb$  buffer layer.

In order to evaluate the strain level of the In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel layer on Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb, we analyzed Raman shift spectra. As a reference, we also measured fully relaxed thick  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  layers. Figure 3(c) shows the Raman shift spectra of In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW channel and in a fully relaxed  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  layer. We observed the peak at 227.85 and 231.6 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the relaxed In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb layer and  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  QW layer, respectively, indicating In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW layer is compressively strained. Using the amount of this shift of the peak position, we calculated the value of strain on the channel from the phonon wave equation.<sup>28,29</sup> The calculated value is 1.1%, and it closely corresponds to the theoretical value of the strain of 1.1% from the lattice mismatch between In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb and Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb. Furthermore, we also confirmed the crystal quality and real strained In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb lattice constant of 6.122 Å from the high-resolution TEM data as shown in Fig. 3(d).



FIG. 3. (a) Schematic of full In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW structure. (b) Crosssectional TEM image of the full structure and FFT pattern of the Al<sub>0.8</sub>Ga<sub>0.2</sub>Sb buffer layer. (c) Comparative analysis of the fitted Raman shift spectra of the strained-In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb with a sufficiently relaxed thick-In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb layer. (d) High-resolution TEM image and FFT pattern of the In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel layer. (e) Benchmark of  $\mu_h$ (hole mobility at 300 K) vs. composition of In(x) in the In<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>Sb channel with a  $\mu_{\rm h}$ -mobility guide line.

We measured the electrical characteristics of In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb high hole mobility channel with a compressive strain at 1.1% using the Hall effect measurement system. We found that the hole mobility of  $1170 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}$  s at a sheet charge density of  $3 \times 10^{12}$ /cm<sup>2</sup> was approximately 5 times higher in the strained In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb than in the thick-

bulk In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel. Figure 3(e) benchmarks  $\mu_h$  as a function of indium composition (x) in published In<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>Sb QW structures.<sup>30–32</sup> For fair comparison of mobility, we added guideline of  $\mu_{\rm h} = q\tau/m_{\rm eff}$  with different mean free times ( $\tau$ ). Here, the m<sub>eff</sub> is the effective light hole mass of strained In<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>Sb on the Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb buffer layer, which



FIG. 4. Schematic of FinFET crosssection (a) along the fin and (b) across the fin. (c)  $I_{DS}$ - $V_{GS}$  curves of the InGaSb single-fin device with  $W_{\rm f} \,{=}\, 10\,{\rm nm}, \ L_{\rm g} \,{=}\, 20\,{\rm nm}.$  (d) Output characteristics.

is estimated by the  $k \cdot p$  method. Since  $m_{eff}$  becomes smaller with an increase in the indium composition,  $\mu_h$  increases with an increase in the indium composition. Figure 3(e) indicates that our  $\mu_h$  value is on the same mobility guideline with the highest level of  $\mu_h$  of x = 0.4 among reported data in the  $In_xGa_{1-x}Sb$  quantum well. This would be attributed to the high crystal quality in our  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  channel with the compressive strain.

Using this high quality  $In_{0.25}Ga_{0.75}Sb$  QW channel material, we have previously fabricated and reported the InGaSb p-channel FinFETs.<sup>11,12</sup> Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the schematic of the final device cross sections along and across the fin direction. First, the ohmic contact is deposited on a p<sup>+</sup>-InAs cap by e-beam evaporation of Ni. After gate recess, the fins are patterned by electron beam lithography and RIE-etched using HSQ as the mask. Minimum dimension devices with 10 nm W<sub>f</sub> and 20 nm L<sub>g</sub> were obtained. Figures 4(c) and 4(d) show the electrical characteristics of this aggressively scaled InGaSb single-fin device. A peak trans-conductance (g<sub>m</sub>) of 160  $\mu$ S/ $\mu$ m, a lowest subthreshold (S) of 260 mV/dec, and good output characteristics are obtained.

In conclusion, in order to obtain high-performance transistors based on an In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel, we systematically investigated the buffer layer quality of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb with various Sb effective fluxes. We paid special attention to achieving low substrate leakage and high hole mobility. We grew the buffer layers under different Sb-flux conditions and examined the crystal quality and electrical properties. We demonstrated a high quality buffer layer of Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>Sb with FWHM of 0.141°, minimize bulk leakage current with  $\rho$  of 0.4 M $\Omega$  cm, and smooth surface with  $R_{\rm rms}$  of 0.4 nm in a Sb effective flux of  $2.0 \times 10^{-6}$  Torr. We grew the high quality heterostructure with strained In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel on this buffer layer. We analyzed the compressive strain in the In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb channel layer using Raman shift spectra measurement. The strain value in the channel was found to be 1.1%, which is very close to the theoretical value of 1.1%from lattice mismatch. Thanks to the high crystal quality with the compressive strain, we obtained the highest hole mobility of 1170 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs among reported mobility in In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW. Furthermore, it was able to be fabricated as 10 nm fin width InGaSb p-channel FinFET and shown the excellent electrical characteristics with low  $S_{\min}$  and high gm. This work demonstrated strained In<sub>0.25</sub>Ga<sub>0.75</sub>Sb QW channel on the high quality Al<sub>0.95</sub>Ga<sub>0.05</sub>b buffer layer for a high hole mobility transistor.

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