

ON THE DIFFUSION MECHANISMS AND DIFFUSIVITY OF THE III AND V GROUP DOPANT IN SILICON MATERIAL

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Abstract Diffusion of impurity into silicon materials plays an important role in semiconductor device fabrication technology. The determination of diffusion mechanism is a difficult task. So far the diffusion mechanisms in silicon have been discussing. There are three dominated main mechanisms of the III and V group impurity element diffused in silicon crystal such as interstitial mechanism, vacancy mechanism and interstitialcy mechanism. In this report, the author estimated the diffusivities in three cases. An expression of boron diffusivity in silicon based on interstitialcy mechanism was presented. It shows that the diffusion mechanism affected strongly on diffusivity of impurity in silicon.

1. Diffusion and diffusion mechanism of atoms diffusion in silicon crystal

1.1. Fick theory of diffusion

The simple theory of the diffusion given by Fick in 1958 with basic contents consisting two laws of Fick I and Fick II as following:

$$J = -D \frac{\partial C}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x^2}$$

The Fick I and Fick II laws describe only on basis of phenomenology. The Fick theory also indicates that the diffusivity D is constant. However, in fact, the diffusivity depends on many different factors. What does the Fick theory communicate about the dependence of the diffusivity on the mechanism of diffusion?

1.2. Diffusion mechanisms in silicon

The diffusion of dopants into silicon may happen as following mechanism: Direct exchange mechanism, ring mechanism, interstitial mechanism, interstitialcy mechanism, dumbbell mechanism, crowding mechanism, vacancy mechanism and relaxation mechanism (can be seen below in Fig.1) [1,2]. The diffusion mechanism of the III and V group impurities are dominated by interstitial, vacancy and interstitialcy mechanisms.

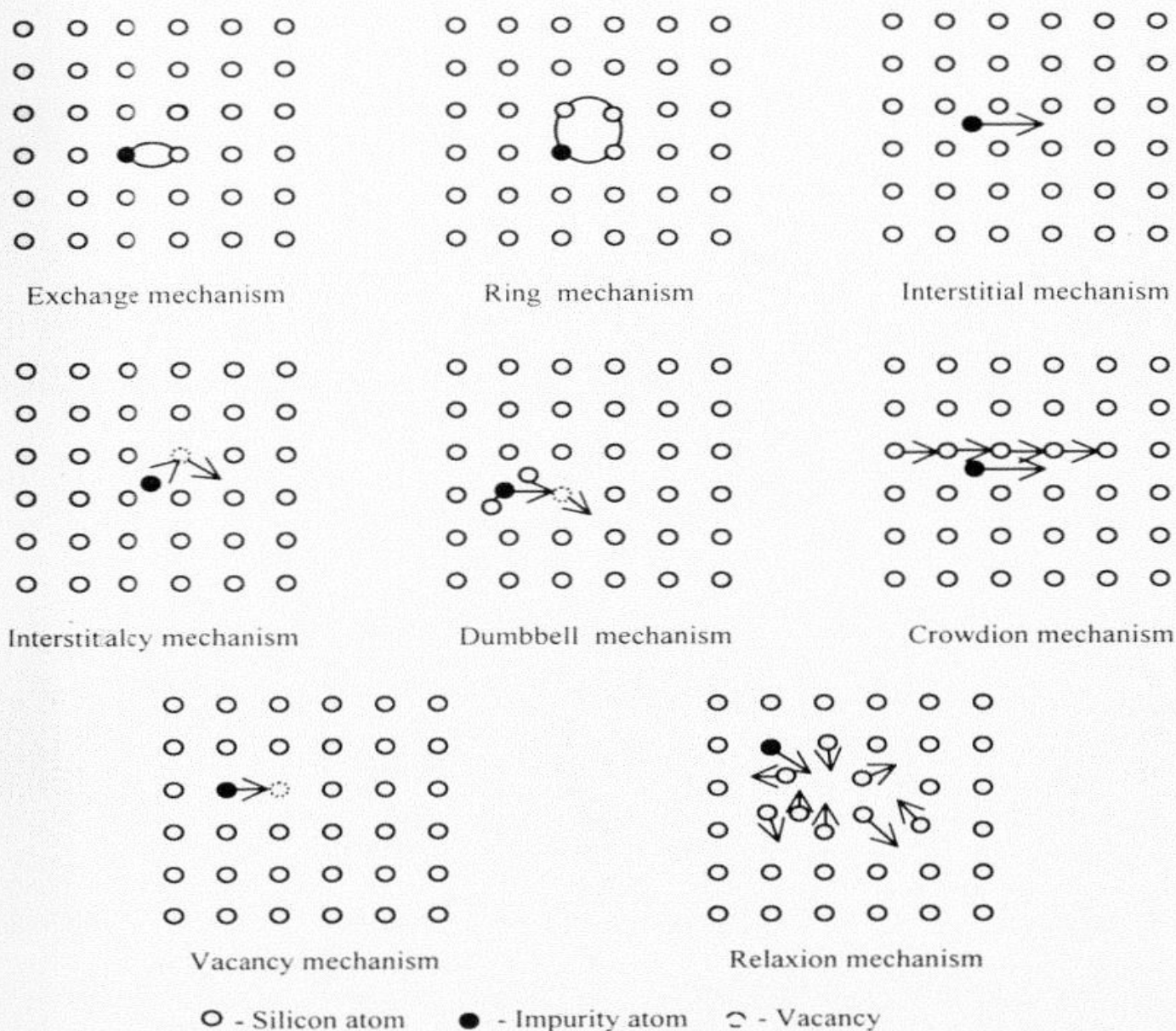


Fig. 1: Some main mechanisms of diffusion in silicon.

2. Diffusivity of dopants in silicon

2.1. The general expression of the diffusivity based on jump theory

Jump steps based on jump theory carried out the diffusion of impurity atoms into silicon crystal. Some authors showed that the general expression as following [1]:

$$D = c \cdot D(C) \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \lambda^2 \cdot \nu \quad (3)$$

We suppose that diffusivity is independent on impurity concentration $D(C) = 1$ then we have

$$D = c.h.f.\lambda.\bar{v}.$$

where c is the typical constant of crystal ($c = 1/6$ for diamond lattice), ν is the jump frequency that estimated by the jump theory, λ is the average distance between two jumps, \bar{v} is the average velocity of diffused impurity atoms, h is the correlation factor h is internal field enhanced factor [9].

$$h = 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 4\left(\frac{n_i}{N}\right)^2}}.$$

2.2. Diffusivity of the III and V group impurity element diffused in silicon crystal

If the impurities in silicon have been diffused in depth d , by n_I jumping steps based on the interstitial mechanism. The average distance of each jumping is λ , the time which the jump were happened is t_I and the average velocity of diffused impurity is:

$$\bar{v}_I = \frac{d}{n_I \tau_I},$$

substitute into the Eq. (4) we have:

$$D_S^I = c.h.f.\lambda \frac{d}{n_I \tau_I}.$$

The Eq. (7) is the diffusivity of the pure interstitial mechanism.

If the impurities in silicon have been diffused in depth d by n_V jumping based on the vacancy mechanism, the average distance of each jumping is λ , the time in which jump were happened is t_V and the average velocity of diffused impurity is:

$$\bar{v}_V = \frac{d}{n_V \tau_V},$$

we have:

$$D_S^V = c.h.f.\lambda \frac{d}{n_V \tau_V}.$$

The Eq. (9) is the diffusivity of the pure vacancy mechanism.

If the impurity diffuse due to the interstitialcy mechanism in order to reach depth, the percentage of jumps due to the interstitial mechanism is f_I and that of jumps due to the vacancy mechanism is f_V . Therefore the number of jumps due to the interstitial mechanism of impurity atoms is $n_I f_I$, the time in which the jumps realized is $n_I f_I \tau_I$. Similarly, due to the vacancy mechanism the number of jumps of impurity atoms is $n_V f_V$, the time in which the jumps realized is $n_V f_V \tau_V$. The time in which the atoms with $n = n_I + n_V$ jumps to pass diffusion distance d is:

$$t_{IV} = n f_I \tau_I + n f_V \tau_V. \quad (10)$$

The average velocity in the interstitialcy mechanism will be \bar{v} . This can be written the following form:

$$\bar{v} = \frac{d}{t_{IV}} = \frac{d}{nf_I\tau_I + nf_V\tau_V}. \quad (11)$$

Substitute parameters into the Eq. (4), we have the diffusivity due to interstitialcy mechanism:

$$D_S^{IV} = c.h.f.\lambda.\frac{d}{nf_I\tau_I + nf_V\tau_V}. \quad (12)$$

We suppose that $h = 1, f = 1$ and using equations (7), (9) and (12) yield them we have:

$$D_S^{IV} = \frac{D_S^I D_S^V}{f_I D_S^V + f_V D_S^I}. \quad (13)$$

The Eq. (13) is the diffusivity of the pure interstitialcy mechanism.

Conclusion

1. The diffusion mechanism of impurities in semiconductor materials affects their diffusivity very much.
2. In the interstitialcy mechanism, the diffusivity depends on percentage of the number of the jumps of atoms, due to the interstitial mechanism (f_I) and vacancy mechanism (f_V).
3. The velocity of the diffusion depends strongly on the mechanism of the diffusion.

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VỀ CƠ CHẾ KHUẾCH TÁN VÀ HỆ SỐ KHUẾCH TÁN TẠP CHẤT NHÓM III VÀ V TRONG VẬT LIỆU SILIC

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Khuếch tán tạp chất vào vật liệu bán dẫn là một khâu quan trọng trong công nghệ tạo các linh kiện bán dẫn. Xác định các cơ chế khuếch tán là một việc rất khó. Hiện nay cơ chế khuếch tán trong silic là vấn đề còn có nhiều tranh luận. Tuy nhiên tạp chất thuộc nhóm III và V khuếch tán trong silic theo ba cơ chế chủ yếu là cơ chế điện kẽ, cơ chế nút khuyết và cơ chế hỗn hợp. Trong bài báo này tác giả đã ước lượng được các hệ số khuếch tán trong ba trường hợp. Biểu thức của hệ số khuếch tán theo cơ chế hỗn hợp cũng đã được đưa ra. Các kết quả ước tính cũng chỉ ra rằng cơ chế khuếch tán ảnh hưởng nhiều đến hệ số khuếch tán của tạp chất trong silic