Spatially resolved luminescence investigation of AlGaAs/GaAs single quantum wires modified by selective implantation and annealing

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Single Al0.5Ga0.5As/GaAs V-groove quantum wires (QWR) modified by selective implantation and rapid thermally annealing were investigated by spatially resolved microphotoluminescence (micro-PL). The PL from the necking region was clearly observed at room temperature. Optical properties of QWR and the adjacent quantum well structures were strongly degraded by the implantation. The recovery properties of the PL signals from all the structures were dependent on the implantation dose. A critical dose of $1 \times 10^{13}$ cm$^{-2}$ was found for the selective implantation, over which the PL from the necking region could not be recovered. Also the blueshifts of QWR and the necking-region PL peaks were observed for all the annealed samples. This blueshift is caused by the interface intermixing, which is very useful to increase the confinement of carriers in QWR region for optoelectronic device applications. © 1999 American Institute of Physics.

V-groove quantum wires (QWRs) have attracted much attention in recent years due to the fabrication simplicity and device application prospect. The V-groove QWR is fabricated by direct epitaxial growth on V-grooved substrate. One important feature in this V-groove QWR structure is the rather complicated structures near the QWR because of the complicated growth mode near QWR region, where (100), (111), and (311) facets are brought together. Different growth modes compete very strongly with each other during growth, and this competition results in different kind of low dimensional structures, i.e., (111) quantum well (QWL), top (100) QWL, (100) QWR, and (311) necking region. The lateral confinement comes from lateral necking region.

In laser device application, selective implantation is usually used to disable the lateral (111) QWL and confine the current. In selective implantation as shown in Fig. 1, the QWR region will not be directly affected by ions, while the other regions are degraded by the implantation. Since the implanted ion will spread in the material, the quality in the QWR region will be also affected by the implantation in high enough dose. In order to have good QWR device properties, one needs to keep the QWR to be in good quality. So it is important to study the influence of the selective implantation on the optical property of QWR.

In this letter the selective implantation effect with and without rapid thermal annealing (RTA) is investigated by the microphotoluminescence (micro-PL) measurement at room temperature, at which most of the devices operate.

GaAs(100) semi-insulating substrate was processed by standard photolithography and wet etching. 50 periods of 2 μm wide stripes with 2 μm spacing were used to get periodic 4 μm V grooves. After the pattern transfer, a sawtooth-type surface profile (about 2.5 μm depth) was formed by wet chemical etching ($H_3PO_4:H_2O_2:H_2O = 1:1:3$) at 0 °C. The V grooves were aligned along [0-11] direction. The V-grooved substrate was cleaned with warm trichloroethylene, acetone, methanol, and then trim etched with $H_2SO_4:H_2O_2:H_2O (20:1:1)$ for 20 s. A 0.1 μm GaAs buffer layer was grown before 1 μm Al0.5Ga0.5As layer. Nominated 1 nm GaAs well layer was deposited followed by a 0.1 μm Al0.5Ga0.5As top barrier layer. 200 nm GaAs top layer was grown finally. All layers were grown at 750 °C. Figure 1(a) shows the structure schematically. The QWR cross sections by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) for as-grown samples is shown in Fig. 1(b). The dark vertical band is formed at the bottom of the V groove as a low Al composition AlGaAs band due to the longer migration length of the Ga atom than the Al atom, and this low Al composition AlGaAs band form a vertical quantum well (VQWL).

Self-aligned dual implantation technique was used to selectively intermix the sidewall QWL with arsenic at 350 keV and at four different doses: $4 \times 10^{11}$, $1 \times 10^{12}$, $4 \times 10^{12}$, and $1 \times 10^{13}$ cm$^{-2}$ respectively at room temperature. The implantation process was described in Ref. 5. Part of the implanted and as-grown samples were rapid thermally annealed at

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900 °C in the rapid thermal annealer for 30 s. High spatial resolution Dilor-Super-Infinity analytic micro-Raman system was used to measure the micro-PL spectra of QWR samples at room temperature. The Ar\(^+\) laser 514.5 nm line was used as excitation source. The diameter of laser spot is less than 1 μm. Five structures decomponented from PL spectra of as-grown sample at 1.743, 1.777, 1.884, 1.962, and 2.061 eV. Spatial mapping scanning across a single V groove shows that the 1.743 and 1.777 eV are from QWR. They are attributed to transition energy of first heavy and light hole sublevel to first electron sublevel \(E_{1hh-1e}\) and \(E_{1lh-1e}\) in QWR as described later. The peaks located at 1.884 and 1.962 eV co-exist with QWR PL in the spatial scanning. The peak at 1.884 eV is attributed to transitions of first heavy sublevel to first electron sublevel \(E_{1hh-1e}\) in VQWL. But this peak has a high energy tail. This high energy tail is believed to be from the continue distribution of the Al mole composition from the GaAs region to the Al\(_{0.5}\)Ga\(_{0.5}\)As barrier region. Then the peak at 1.962 eV is from \(1hh-1e\) transition in the necking region. The peak at 2.061 eV can be observed in all regions of the sample. It is the interband transition of thick Al\(_{0.5}\)Ga\(_{0.5}\)As barrier. The sidewall \(\sim\{111\}\) QWL PL which is at 1.947 eV cannot be observed in the QWR region. Since we do our experiment at room temperature, the light hole sublevel is thermally occupied. It is reasonable that we can observe the PL signal from the recombination related with both the heavy hole and light hole in QWR.

The effective mass approximation was used to calculate the electronic structures in the V-groove QWR structure. Since the QWR is not translational symmetric, we apply the recursion method (described in detail in Ref. 7) to solve two-dimensional schrodinger equation (cross section of QWR structure). In our calculation, we take the parameters as follows: \(E_g(GaAs)=1.4224\) eV, \(\Delta E_c=1.247\times0.65x\) eV, \(\Delta E_v=1.247\times0.35x\) eV, \(m_e=0.067\). Figure 2 shows the local density of states in the area of QWR, VQWL, and necking region. We take the Al composition in the VQWL region as \(x=0.35\), the VQWL width 16.4 nm, wire lateral width 15 nm, and the thickness at crescent center 2 nm from TEM image graph [Fig. 1(a)]. In our model the Al composition was simply supposed same in the whole VQWL region, and was evaluated according to the PL experimental results. The calculated transition energies and experimental results are listed in Table I.

From Fig. 2 we find that there is only one confined electron state in the QWR. From the theoretical calculation, the 1.962 eV is from the necking region. The luminescence from the necking region is clearly observed at room temperature, also the QWR PL is very strong at room temperature.

Based on our good understanding of PL spectra of the V-grooved QWR sample, we study the selective implantation effect on optical properties of the QWR structures. The selectively implanted samples with and without RTA were measured by micro-PL. The PL spectra at the wire region are shown as in Fig. 3. All dots are experimental data and solid

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**TABLE I.** \(\epsilon 1-\epsilon h\) excitation energies [eV]. The geometric parameters of the quantum wire system are: \(L=2, c=0.8, a=15, b=30, d=8.2\) nm. The Al mole fraction in the VQWL region is 0.35. \(E_g(GaAs)=1.4224\) eV.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spatial region</th>
<th>(\epsilon 1)</th>
<th>(\epsilon hh1(\epsilon l))</th>
<th>(\epsilon 1-\epsilon hh1(\epsilon l))</th>
<th>Exp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QWR(1-(\epsilon hh1))</td>
<td>0.2417</td>
<td>0.0830</td>
<td>1.7471</td>
<td>1.743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QWR(1-(\epsilon lh1))</td>
<td>0.2417</td>
<td>0.14322</td>
<td>1.80732</td>
<td>1.777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>0.3856</td>
<td>0.1625</td>
<td>1.9705</td>
<td>1.962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QWL</td>
<td>0.3651</td>
<td>0.1589</td>
<td>1.9464</td>
<td>1.946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VQWL</td>
<td>0.2984</td>
<td>0.1550</td>
<td>1.8758</td>
<td>1.884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al(<em>{0.5})Ga(</em>{0.5})As</td>
<td>2.0455</td>
<td>2.061</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**FIG. 1.** (a) is the schematic of QWR structure, (b) is the TEM image graph of the QWR cross section.

**FIG. 2.** Local density of states in the area of the QWR, VQWL, sidewall \(\{111\}\) QWL, and quantum well necking region (Neck).
The lines are fitting curves. RTA only line is PL of rapid thermally annealed as-grown sample. A0 is the implanted sample at dose $4 \times 10^{11}$ cm$^{-2}$ without RTA. A, B, C, and D are spectra of implanted and annealed samples at doses of $4 \times 10^{11}$, $1 \times 10^{12}$, $4 \times 10^{12}$, and $1 \times 10^{13}$ cm$^{-2}$, respectively.

In summary, single Al$_{0.5}$Ga$_{0.5}$As/GaAs $\nabla$-groove QWR modified by selective implantation and RTA was investigated by micro-PL. The interband transitions related with the light and heavy hole are experimentally observed and theoretically analyzed for the QWR and its neighbor region. The PL signal from the necking region quenched for the implanted-only sample at dose of $4 \times 10^{11}$ cm$^{-2}$. RTA can recover the PL signal of the necking region. The unrecoverable quenching of the PL signal from the necking region with implantation doses increased to $1 \times 10^{13}$ cm$^{-2}$ may give the As implantation dose range of $4 \times 10^{11} - 1 \times 10^{13}$ cm$^{-2}$ for laser device application at our implantation conditions.

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