# SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si Multilayer Thin Films as a Reference Material for Sputter Depth Profiling

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A multilayer thin film with structure of SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.6 nm)/Si(20.6 nm)/SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.5 nm)/Si(20.4 nm)/SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.0nm)/Si was prepared by rf-magnetron sputtering. The depth profiling of the multilayer film and the commercially available thermal oxide film, SiO<sub>2</sub> (101.6 nm)/Si were performed by Auger electron spectroscopy. The depth resolution of the multilayer film changed from 2.2 nm for the first SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si interface to 4.3 nm for the bottom (5th) interface. In addition, the bottom interface depth resolution of the multilayer film almost is consistent with that of the thermally oxidized film. The high resolution in depth profile of the multilayer films, which is close to that of electron escape depth, was discussed with regards to conformal film growth. The multilayer film reported here was shown to be useful for the optimization of depth profiling as a reference materal.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of advanced ULSI processing techniques requires a high resolution surface chemical analysis to ensure the process' capability, where an excellent depth resolution of nm level should be achieved for the usual composition depth profiling, because the thickness of ultrathin gate oxides for high-performance semiconductor devices will be scaled down to the order of nm [1].

In order to calibrate the thickness in depth profiling on surface chemical analysis, the reference materials such as single layer and multilayer thin films are employed. So far, single layer Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/Ta [2] and SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si [3] films and a multilayer Cr/Ni film [4] have been supplied from governmental institutes as national standards. Recently, the ISO/TC201 Subcommittee on Depth Profiling has discussed the usage of superlattices like GaAs/AlAs and multilayered thin films for the optimization of sputter depth profiling by surface chemical analysis [5].

Since the sputtering rate by ions depends strongly on each material, it is desirable that the reference materials possess similar properties to the analyzed materials. Furthermore, sharp interface and reliable thickness values are the important features for the

precise depth profiling.

To cope with these demands, we aim to develop standard reference materials such as the mulitilayered SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si films. Here, we present the comparison of depth profiles between the SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si multilayer thin film prepared by rf-magnetron sputtering and a commercially available thermal oxide film.

#### 2. EXPERIMENTAL

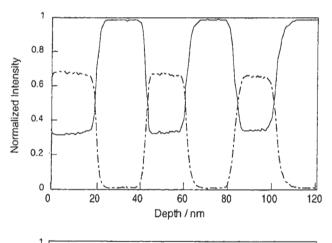
The film deposition was carried out in an ultrahigh vacuum (UHV, base pressure  $1\times10^{-8}$  Pa) rf-magnetron sputtering system. An excellent film thickness uniformity, better than 1% deviation in thickness over a 3 inch wafer, can be achieved [6]. The native oxide layer on n-type Si(111) wafers was removed by rinsing in 1% buffered HF solution(7:1 NH<sub>4</sub>F:HF) before introducing the wafer into the chamber. To further clean the substrate, it was heated to 490°C for 1 hour. The SiO<sub>2</sub> and the Si layers were deposited from pure SiO<sub>2</sub> and Si targets, respectively. The sputtering power and the Ar gas flow(or pressure) were 300 W and 15sccm [7] (or 0.25 Pa) for both SiO<sub>2</sub> and Si depositions. During the deposition the substrate temperature was kept at 310°C.

X-ray reflectivity method was applied to determine

the structural properties of thin films, such as layer thickness, density of each layer, and roughness of surface and interface [8,9]. The multilayer structure was obtained as SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.6 nm)/Si(20.6 nm)/SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.5 nm)/Si(20.4 nm)/SiO<sub>2</sub>(20.0 nm)/Si. However, since the difference in density of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Si is rather small, the accuracy of the data is limitted as that of the single layer film. The thickness of the thermal oxide film (purchased from JEOL LTD) was determined to be 101.6 nm with an accuracy better than 0.5 %.

#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 compares the Auger depth profiles of the multilayer and the single layer films. Measurements were carried out with 1 keV Ar ions and at 55° incidence angle. The experimental profiles were recorded by plotting the peak-to-peak intensities of lock-in differential measurements for Si LVV and O KLL



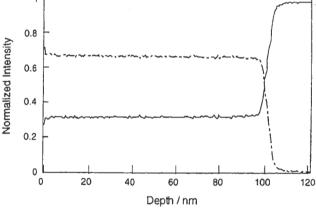


Fig.1 Auger depth profiles for the SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si multilayer film and the thermal oxide film. Solid and dot-dashed lines shows the Si LVV and O KLL intensities, respectively.

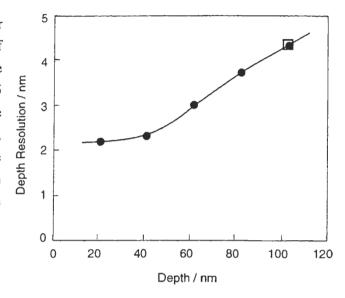


Fig. 2 Change in depth resolution of O KLL profiles with increasing depth. Solid circles show the data obtained from the multilayer interfaces, and the rectangle shows the data by the thermal oxide film.

Auger signals. The normalized intensity plots of the two signals are shown in Figure 1. No other contaminant element was detected except C on the top surface. The averaged sputtering rates were almost the same for each sample; 1.80 nm/min for the multilayer and 1.76 nm/min for the single layer films, respectively. This is related to a very small diference in sputering rate between Si and SiO<sub>2</sub>. The abscissa of Figure 1 refers to these rates.

Figure 2 shows the change in depth resolution calculated from O KLL plots by using the 84-16% definition with increasing thickness. The depth resolution of the multilayer film changed from 2.2 nm for the first SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si interface to 4.3 nm for the bottom (5th) interface. The bottom interface depth resolution of the multilayer film was almost consistent with that of the thermally oxidized film. X-ray reflectivity data suggest that the interface roughnesses are smaller than 0.7 nm.

It is well known that the depth profile broadening at each interface results from several effects like an increase in the sputtering-induced surface roughness, electron escape depth and atomic mixing [10]. For example, the escape depth of O KLL Auger electron is about 1.5-1.7 nm. It is usually believed that the

flat [11]. Since the depth resolutions of these two samples almost coincide with each other, the roughness which could exist in the interfaces of the multilayer is rather small and does not affect the broadening of depth profile. This is because the film growth occurs almost conformally, which means that the initial surface structure of the clean Si surface appears on the top surface even after multilayer deposition. The increase in surface roughness during sputtering accounts for most of the increase in the depth resolution observed in the multilayer depth profiling.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si multilayer film prepared by rf-magnetron sputtering method yielded a high depth resolution for Auger depth profiling which was comparable to the electron escape depth. It is also shown to be useful for the depth profiling as a reference material due to its sharp interface features.

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#### 査読者との議論

田中彰博氏 (アルバックファイ) 梶原和夫氏 (ソニー中研)

著者:丁寧な査読を頂いた両氏に感謝します。また、両氏から、英語に関する指摘を受けましたので、立教大学化学科E. HORN 教授のチェックを受けました。

#### <総論>

#### 田中:

They made a well controlled multiple-layer samples by SiO<sub>2</sub> and Si, as a reference material for optimization of sputter depth profiling for surface chemical analyses. It has generally been told that appropriate reference sample corresponding to each material shall be required for calibration. However, there are only a few certified reference materials. For considering SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si system, we usually use a thermally oxidized sample with various thickness. In this meaning, it is very happy for me that we can use a multiply layered SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si system to calibrate the actual sample thickness, and this report shows important results. I think some corrections, improvements, and clarifications are necessary, but is a good letter for J. Surface Analysis after them.

#### 梶原:

SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si 多層膜を標準試料として開発している という preliminary なレターだと思います。X線 反射率法で膜の評価も精密にされているようで すし、内容的には優れた発表だと思います。

#### <INTRODUCTION>

#### 田中:

(2nd paragraph) 記憶だけなので申し訳ありませんが、NPLは  $Ta_2O_s/Ta$  を扱い、NIST は Cr/Ni を扱いましたが、 $SiO_2/Si$  には触れていなかったと思います。ご確認いただければ幸いです。またどちらがどちらかわからない引用よりは、どれがどちらなのかわかるように引用いただけると読者が後に検索する上でやり易かろうと存じます。

#### 著者:

このパラグラフは現在国立機関から供給され

ているCRMのうちで、著者らの把握している限りこれらの3種だけが深さ分解能の標準試料となりうるものである、ということを述べた部分です。引用文献については該当する箇所に引用記号を移動します。SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si についてはNISTから供給されている標準物質を示しました。

梶原:同上部分 national standards という用語について:

 $Ta_2O_s/Ta$ ,  $SiO_2/Si$  単層膜や Cr/Ni 多層膜 が national standards として国立機関から供給された と記述されていますが、ただ単に `certified reference materials' という位置付けだと認識して います。

#### 著者:

国立機関から供給される `certified reference materials' は national standards という認識です。

# <RESULTS AND DISCUSSION> 田中:

It is usually believed......are atomically flat [9].

→ 引用された文献がどのような根拠でatomically flatと考えているかという点を記述に加えて下さると、読者にとって判断がより容易になるかと思います。引用された文献が正しいとは限らないという立場に立って考えてみると、引用する著者も自分の責任で確かだと主張しないといけないのではないかと思うのです。特にこの部分は、レポートの論拠を求める重要な部分かと思いました。(要約させていただきました)

著者: 熱酸化Si 膜が atomically flat というのはこの物質を扱う研究者の間では事実として認知されています。断面TEMやSTM観察の多くの文献があります。詳細は引用文献 [11] およびそこで引用されている文献を見て下さい。

田中: その他の議論(要約させていただきました)

(1) 「ユーザーのための実用オージェ電子分光 法」に入射イオンが試料法線となす角が55度よ りも大きいとスパッタリングイールドがかなり 異なる様子が記されています。また、イオンのエ ネルギーによってもかなり様子は変わるのでは ないでしょうか。つまり、エッチングの条件に よって厚さが異なるように評価される可能性が あるわけで、それぞれの装置でどのように計測 されるものか較正する必要があります。このこ とに言及があると、今回のような参照試料が存 在する意義というものがより明確になると思い ます。

(2) 日本真空技術がオーム社から発行した「真空ハンドブック」にはいろいろな物質のスパッタリングイールドが求められていました。その値は違っていた記憶があります。

## 著者:

ご指摘の件は十分検討しましたが、Introduction で既に述べたことで、再度のべることでLetterとしての簡潔性を損ねることは避けたいと思います。Full paper として報告する際にはご指摘のような点に十分議論を深めたく思います。

梶原: Fig. 2, Depth Resolution について:

本文中にOKLLの escape depth に関する記述がありますから、OKLLに関して84-16%の遷移幅を算出されたと思われますが、図にも本文中にも明記した方がよいと思います。

著者: ご指摘の通りです。本文および図中に記載しました。

梶原:depth profile broadening について:

試料表面に元々存在する original surface (or interface) roughness と、測定する際に発生する sputter-induced surface roughness とを区別して記述することに注意を払う必要があると思います。即ち、(a) 各界面での depth resolution は、i. surface roughness, ii. escape depth, iii. atomic mixing で記述される (by S.Hofmann)。次に、(b) 深さとともに分解能が劣化する現象は、sputtering-induced surface roughness の増加で起きる。(注 Hofmann の論文では、AIAs/GaAs 系は分解能の劣化は起きない系なので、(a) のみについて議論している。)

著者: Letterとしての簡潔性を損ねない範囲で ご指摘に沿うよう書き改めました。 Journal of Surface Analysis Vol. 4 No. 3(1998), N. Fukumoto, T. Fujimoto, B. Li, I. Kojima, H. Takaya High Resolution Depth Profiling

# < CONCLUSION >

## 梶原:

短い論文で、データも2図で(現段階では)、作製されたSiO<sub>2</sub>/Si 多層膜をAES法(1測定条件,1機関)で深さ方向分析したところ、標準試料としての条件を満足出来そうなデータが得られたというレターだという位置付けだと思います。

結論として、ここで作製された SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si 多層膜が、 (i) 1 keV Ar ion と入射角 55 度の条件で、2.2 nm at 20 nm, 4.3 nm at 100 nm という値は、何と比較して very high depth resolution だと証明されたのでしょうか? (ii) reference material として depth profiling の最適化に役に立つことが証明されたのでしょうか?

#### 著者:

田中氏からも「議論としての掲載は不要」としながら、当該部分について見直しのご指摘がありました。両氏のご指摘を考慮し、本論文の論旨に即したものに修正しました。