Growth of High-Performance M-plane GaN Optical Devices
Tech ID: 25015 / UC Case 2007-316-0

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
A method using MOCVD growth conditions to achieve high performance m-plane GaN optical devices, including LEDs and LDs.

BACKGROUND
GaN and its alloys (AlGaN, InGaN, AlInGaN) have been established as effective for fabrication of visible and ultraviolet optoelectronic devices and high-power electronic devices. These devices are most often grown along the polar c-direction, using a variety of growth techniques, including molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), metalorganic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), or hydride vapor phase epitaxy (HVPE). However, growing devices along the polar c-direction results in charge separation, spontaneous polarization, and degraded device performance. One possible alternative is to grow devices along the m-plane, a nonpolar GaN plane where there is no net polarization, radiative efficiencies should be higher, and no wavelength shift occurs. However, nonpolar GaN devices typically have output powers and efficiencies that are well below c-plane LEDs, mainly due to high dislocation densities.

DESCRIPTION
Researchers at UC Santa Barbara have invented a method using MOCVD growth conditions to achieve high performance m-plane GaN optical devices, including LEDs and LDs. Key components of the invention include using a low defect density substrate or template, thick quantum wells, a low temperature p-GaN growth technique, and a transparent conducting oxide for the p-contact. It is important that defects and stacking faults are eliminated from the active region, because this decreases the number of non-radiative recombination centers and improves carrier transport properties. The p-type GaN is grown at a much lower temperature than the active region temperature, and transparent conducting oxides are used to enhance light extraction. The method can be extended to the use of a three-color active region, which can produce red, green and blue (RGB) emissions. This results in the emission of white light that is polarized due to the nature of m-plane optical devices.

ADVANTAGES
- Emission of polarized, white light
- Very high output powers and high efficiencies
- Enhanced light extraction due to use of transparent oxide electrode (ITO)
- Method can be applied to the a-plane or any of the semipolar planes of GaN

APPLICATIONS
- LEDs
- Laser diodes (LDs)
- Vertical cavity surface emitting lasers (VCSELs)

PATENT STATUS

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ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES BY THESE INVENTORS

- Enhanced Optical Polarization of Nitride LEDs by Increased Indium Incorporation
- Etching Technique for the Fabrication of Thin (Al, In, Ga)N Layers
- Lateral Growth Method for Defect Reduction of Semipolar Nitride Films
- Vertical Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers with Continuous Wave Operation
- III-Nitride-Based Devices Grown With Relaxed Active Region
- Low-Cost Zinc Oxide for High-Power-Output, GaN-Based LEDs (UC Case 2010-183)
- Defect Reduction in GaN films using in-situ SiNx Nanomask
- Enhanced Light Extraction LED with a Tunnel Junction Contact Wafer Bonded to a Conductive Oxide
- Highly Efficient Blue-Violet III-Nitride Semipolar Laser Diodes
- Hybrid Growth Method for Improved III-Nitride Tunnel Junction Devices
- Low Temperature Deposition of Magnesium Doped Nitride Films
- Transparent Mirrorless (TML) LEDs
- Improved GaN Substrates Prepared with Ammonothermal Growth
- Optimization of Laser Bar Orientation for Nonpolar Laser Diodes
- Size-Independent Forward Voltage Micro-LED with an Epitaxial Junction
- Method for Enhancing Growth of Semipolar Nitride Devices
- III-Nitride Tunnel Junction with Modified Interface
- Growth of Polyhedron-Shaped Gallium Nitride Bulk Crystals
- Nonpolar III-Nitride LEDs With Long Wavelength Emission
- Improved Fabrication of Nonpolar InGaN Thin Films, Heterostructures, and Devices
- Growth of High-Quality, Thick, Non-Polar M-Plane GaN Films
- Increased Light Extraction with Multistep Deposition of ZnO on GaN
- Method for Manufacturing Improved III-Nitride LEDs and Laser Diodes: Monolithic Integration of Optically Pumped and Electrically Injected III-Nitride LEDs
- Selective-Area Mesoporous Semiconductors And Devices For Optoelectronic And Photonic Applications
- High-Efficiency, Mirrorless Non-Polar and Semi-Polar Light Emitting Devices
- Method for Growing High-Quality Group III-Nitride Crystals
- Controlled Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Etching by Modification of Local Electrochemical Potential of Semiconductor Structure
- Oxyfluoride Phosphors for Use in White Light LEDs
- Technique for the Nitride Growth of Semipolar Thin Films, Heterostructures, and Semiconductor Devices
- (In,Ga,Al)N Optoelectronic Devices with Thicker Active Layers for Improved Performance
- Thermally Stable, Laser-Driven White Lighting Device
- MOCVD Growth of Planar Non-Polar M-Plane Gallium Nitride
- Reduced Dislocation Density of Non-Polar GaN Grown by Hydride Vapor Phase Epitaxy
- Highly Compact, High-Index Dielectric Nanostructures for Deep-Ultraviolet Devices
- Reduction in Leakage Current and Increase in Efficiency of III-Nitride MicroLEDs
- Methods for Fabricating III-Nitride Tunnel Junction Devices
- Low-Droop LED Structure on GaN Semi-polar Substrates
- Contact Architectures for Tunnel Junction Devices
- Semi-polar LED/LD Devices on Relaxed Template with Misfit Dislocation at Hetero-interface
- Photoelectrochemical Etching Of P-Type Semiconductor Heterostructures
- Semipolar-Based Yellow, Green, Blue LEDs with Improved Performance
- III-Nitride-Based Devices Grown On Thin Template On Thermally Decomposed Material
- Growth of Semipolar III-V Nitride Films with Lower Defect Density
- III-Nitride Tunnel Junction LED with High Wall Plug Efficiency
- Improved Manufacturing of Solid State Lasers via Patterned of Photonic Crystals
- High Efficiency III-Nitride Devices with Smooth Relaxed InGaN Buffer and Strain Compliant Template
- Tunable White Light Based on Polarization-Sensitive LEDs
- Cleaved Facet Edge-Emitting Laser Diodes Grown on Semipolar GaN
- Packaging Technique for the Fabrication of Polarized Light Emitting Diodes
- Improved Anisotropic Strain Control in Semipolar Nitride Devices
- High Light Extraction Efficiency III-Nitride LED
III-V Nitride Device Structures on Patterned Substrates
Activation of P-Type Layers of Tunnel Junctions in Micro-LEDs
Method for Increasing GaN Substrate Area in Nitride Devices
Nitride Based Ultraviolet LED with an Ultraviolet Transparent Contact
Growth of Planar, Non-Polar, A-Plane GaN by Hydride Vapor Phase Epitaxy
GaN-Based Thermoelectric Device for Micro-Power Generation
Limiting Strain-Relaxation in III-Nitride Heterostructures by Substrate Patterning
LED Device Structures with Minimized Light Re-Absorption
Growth of Planar Semi-Polar Gallium Nitride
Nonpolar (Al, B, In, Ga)N Quantum Well Design
UV Optoelectronic Devices Based on Nonpolar and Semi-polar AlInN and AlInGaN Alloys
Defect Reduction of Non-Polar and Semi-Polar III-Nitrides
III-Nitride Based VCSEL with Curved Mirror on P-Side of the Aperture
Enhancing Growth of Semipolar (Al,In,Ga,B)N Films via MOCVD