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Laser Irradiated GeSn Photodetector for Improved Infrared Photodetection

Authors : Patrik Scajev, Pavels Onufrijevs, Algirdas Mekys, Tadas Malinauskas, Dominykas Augulis, Liudvikas Subacius, Kuo-Chih Lee, Jevgenijs Kaupuzs, Arturs Medvids, Hung Hsiang Cheng

Abstract : In this study, we focused on the optoelectronic properties of the photodiodes prepared by using 200 nm thick $Ge_{0.95}Sn_{0.05}$ epitaxial layers on Ge/n-Si substrate with aluminum contacts. Photodiodes were formed on non-irradiated and Nd: YAG laser irradiated $Ge_{0.95}Sn_{0.05}$ layers. The samples were irradiated by pulsed Nd: YAG laser with 136.7-462.6 MW/cm² intensity. The photodiodes were characterized by using short laser pulses with the wavelength in the 2.0-2.6 μ m range. The laser-irradiated diode was found more sensitive in the long-wavelength range due to laser-induced Sn atoms redistribution providing formation of graded bandgap structure. Sub-millisecond photocurrent relaxation in the diodes revealed their suitability for image sensors. Our findings open the perspective for improving the photo-sensitivity of GeSn alloys in the midinfrared by pulsed laser processing.

Keywords: GeSn, laser processing, photodetector, infrared

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