

Influence of Interrupted ZnO Buffer Layer on Optical and Structural Properties of ZnO Thin Films Grown by Plasma-Assisted Molecular Beam Epitaxy

Min Young Cho¹, Byeong Guk Choi¹, Jae Min Lim¹, Su Min Jeon¹, Hyun Young Choi¹, Ghun Sik Kim¹, Do Yeob Kim¹, Min Su Kim¹, Jin Soo Kim², Joo In Lee³, Sung Dong Park⁴, Myong Hyo Jung⁴, Jae-Young Leem^{1*}

¹Department of Nano Systems Engineering, Center for Nano Manufacturing, Inje University

²Division of Advanced Materials Engineering, Chonbuk National University

³Nanosurface Group, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science

⁴ALPHAPLUS Co., Ltd.

ZnO thin films with growth interrupted ZnO buffer layers were grown by plasma-assisted molecular beam epitaxy (PA-MBE). The buffer layers were grown by two step growth. The first step of the ZnO buffer layers were grown without interrupt and the second step of the buffer layer growth was interrupted for 10 s, after the deposition of 18, 12, and 9 s. The cycle from deoposition to interruption were repeated for that were repeated 20, 30, and 40 times respectively, while the O₂ plasma was kept constant during the growth. The structural and the optical properties of the ZnO thin films have been investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and photoluminescence (PL). XRD spectra shows that all films had a strong (002) ZnO peak, indicating c-axis orientation. The full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the ZnO (002) diffraction peak and strain were decreased with increasing the interrupt times. The grain size was also affected by the growth condition. The PL spectra of all samples were consisted of near band edge emission (NBEE) and deep level emission (DLE). The relatively narrower peak of DLE caused by the different origin was observed as the interruption times changed.