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Synthesis and Characterization of SnO₂ Thin Films Deposited by Plasma Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition Using SnCl₄ Precursor and Oxygen Plasma

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Tin dioxide (SnO₂) thin film is one of the most important n-type semiconducting materials having a high transparency and chemical stability. Due to their favorable properties, it has been widely used as a base materials in the transparent conducting substrates, gas sensors, and other various electronic applications. Up to now, SnO₂ thin film has been extensively studied by a various deposition techniques such as RF magnetron sputtering, sol-gel process, a solution process, pulsed laser deposition (PLD), chemical vapor deposition (CVD), and atomic layer deposition (ALD) [1-6]. Among them, ALD or plasma-enhanced ALD (PEALD) has recently been focused in diverse applications due to its inherent capability for nanotechnologies. SnO₂ thin films can be prepared by ALD or PEALD using halide precursors or using various metal-organic (MO) precursors. In the literature, there are many reports on the ALD and PEALD processes for depositing SnO₂ thin films using MO precursors [7-8]. However, only ALD-SnO₂ processes has been reported for halide precursors and PEALD-SnO₂ process has not been reported yet.

Herein, therefore, we report the first PEALD process of SnO₂ thin films using SnCl₄ and oxygen plasma. In this work, the growth kinetics of PEALD-SnO₂ as well as their physical and chemical properties were systemically investigated. Moreover, some promising applications of this process will be shown at the end of presentation.

Keywords: Plasma-enhanced atomic layer deposition, SnO₂ thin films, SnCl₄ precursor, O₂ plasma