

光学学报

cBN基台面结构pin紫外光电探测器建模与性能

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摘要 采用Silvaco TCAD软件构建了立方氮化硼(cBN)基台面结构pin型光电探测器数值计算模型, 采用控制变量法研究了n型、i型、p型cBN层材料掺杂浓度、厚度对探测器光电性能的影响, 并利用器件物理相关理论对结果进行了分析与讨论。结果表明:p型cBN层掺杂浓度增大时, 光电流、暗电流和内量子效率先增大后减小; i型层掺杂浓度增大时, 暗电流减小; n型层掺杂浓度增大, 光电流、内量子效率增加; 光电流和内量子效率随着p层厚度的增大而减小, 随着i层厚度的增加而增大; n层厚度越大, 光电流越大。

关键词 探测器; cBN; 光电流; 暗电流; 内量子效率

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1 引言

随着第三代宽禁带半导体的发展, 宽禁带半导体材料因其优异的光电特性受到学者的广泛关注, 并且被广泛应用于制作电子电力器件、光电器件等。紫外光探测器在现代信息社会中的工业、医学等领域发挥着极其重要的作用^[1-2]。许多学者对材料性质优异的高性能探测器进行了深入研究, 例如自供电ZnO紫外光电探测器^[3], 以及由MoS₂、黑磷(BP)、六方氮化硼(hBN)等二维材料构成的光电探测器等^[4-5]。

近年来, 高质量hBN材料生长与hBN光电探测器制备成为了新的研究热点。Veeralingam等^[6]在金属Cu表面合成hBN, 制成MS结型探测器, 该探测器的最大响应度为5.022 A/W, 外量子效率达到2945%, 并且器件可弯曲; Kaushik等^[7]采用hBN薄膜、金属铂(Pt)电极制作了MSM型紫外光电探测器, 探测器的暗电流低至10⁻¹⁴ A, 但在205 nm光照下的光电流仅达到1.79×10⁻¹³ A; Li等^[8]采用hBN厚膜、Ti/Au复合电极制作了MSM型紫外光电探测器, 探测器的最大响应度为0.5 A/W, 204 nm光照下的光电流达到10⁻⁶ A以上, 但暗电流最大值接近10⁻⁶ A; Liu等^[9]在ZnO纳米阵列/h-BN异质结构中实现了能量带隙以外的光子吸收上转换, ZnO阵列发生强光子捕获, 从而使吸收效率大于99.5%, 响应度高达700 A/W, 光电导增益约为2×10³; Wang等^[10]采用亚微米间距气相沉积(SSVD)方法, 以硼薄膜为固体源, 在蓝宝石衬底上获得了从单层到几十纳米厚度的2 inch(1 inch=

2.54 cm)hBN单晶层, 外延hBN层具有极高的结晶质量, 可用于二维半导体电子和光电子器件制备。

与hBN相比, 立方氮化硼(cBN)具有更大的禁带宽度[cBN:(6.4±0.5) eV; hBN:(5.9±1.0) eV], 以及更高的硬度和熔点^[11-13], 因此cBN基光电探测器更具优势。然而, 目前有关cBN基光电探测器的报道很少, 主要原因是cBN内部存在大量自发缺陷, 并且工艺不统一^[14-16], 导致制备器件的掺杂效率不高, 同时不同的掺杂质表现出的光学、电学性能不尽相同^[17], 使得探测器性能表现不佳。另外, 不同的pin结构^[18]、APD结构^[19], 或者异质结类型^[20]的光电探测器也会带来性能的差异。

Silvaco TCAD是目前商用最为成功的半导体工艺和器件仿真软件之一, 其数值计算是基于一系列的物理模型及物理方程, 这些方程以已经成熟的固体物理和半导体物理理论或者一些经验公式为基础, 可以精确预测半导体器件的电学、热学、光学结果。另外, 允许用户自定义材料库中没有的材料, 这为研究设计带来极大的便利。基于此, 本文通过Silvaco TCAD软件中的Atlas工具自定义cBN材料, 构建了cBN基台面结构pin光电探测器的数值计算模型。采用控制变量法, 模拟计算了n型、i型、p型cBN层掺杂浓度及厚度对pin光电探测器的光电流、暗电流以及内量子效率的影响, 并对相关的结果进行了分析与探讨。

2 结构设计与建模

cBN基pin光电探测器的器件结构^[21-24]如图1所

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示,自下而上依次为0.2 μm厚的蓝宝石衬底、2.0 μm厚的n型cBN层、0.6 μm厚的本征cBN层、0.1 μm厚的p型cBN层。阴、阳电极采用Ti/Al、Ni/Au复合电极,厚度为0.5 μm,长度为0.5 μm。

采用Silvaco TCAD中的Atlas软件建立的cBN台面结构pin光电探测器数值计算模型如图2所示。考虑到实际器件制备实验过程中通常无法得到本征cBN材料,为了反映器件实际情况,图2中用轻掺杂的n型cBN代替本征cBN层,设其载流子浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 。Ti/Al阴极、Ni/Au阳极与cBN材料的接触类型为欧姆接触。

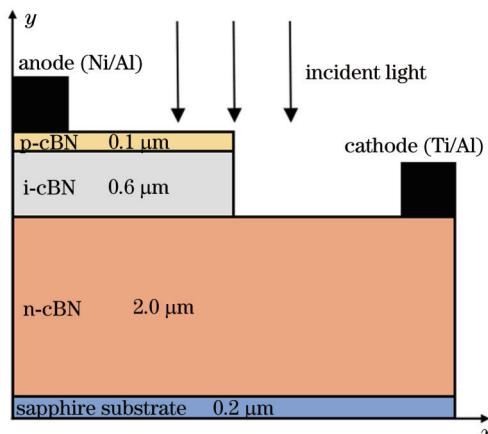


图1 cBN基pin光电探测器结构

Fig. 1 Structure of cBN-based pin photodetector

模拟计算中涉及的模型包括迁移率模型和复合模型,其中迁移率模型采用浓度依赖迁移率模型(commob)和平行电场依赖迁移率模型(fldmob)。在器件内部存在载流子浓度梯度和内建电场,在外加偏压和光照下会发生扩散-漂移运动,形成光、暗电流。浓度依赖迁移率模型也称为低场迁移率模型^[25],可表示为

$$\mu_{n0} = \mu_{mn} \left(\frac{T_L}{300} \right)^{-T_{mn}}, \quad (1)$$

$$R_{SRH} = \frac{pn - n_{ie}^2}{T_{AUP0} \left[n + n_{ie} \exp \left(\frac{E_{TRAP}}{kT_L} \right) \right] + T_{AUN0} \left[p + n_{ie} \exp \left(\frac{-E_{TRAP}}{kT_L} \right) \right]}, \quad (5)$$

式中: p 、 n 、 n_{ie} 分别为材料的空穴、电子和本征载流子浓度; E_{TRAP} 表示发生复合时的陷阱能量; T_{AUP0} 、 T_{AUN0} 分别为室温空穴、电子寿命,其值均为 10^{-8} s ; k 为玻尔兹曼常数。

俄歇复合模型的表达式为

$$R_{Aug} = \kappa_{Aug,n} (pn^2 - mn_{ie}^2) + \kappa_{Aug,p} (np^2 - pn_{ie}^2), \quad (6)$$

式中: $\kappa_{Aug,n}$ 、 $\kappa_{Aug,p}$ 分别表示电子、空穴的俄歇系数,采用软件默认值。

另外,模拟计算过程中涉及的基本方程包括泊松

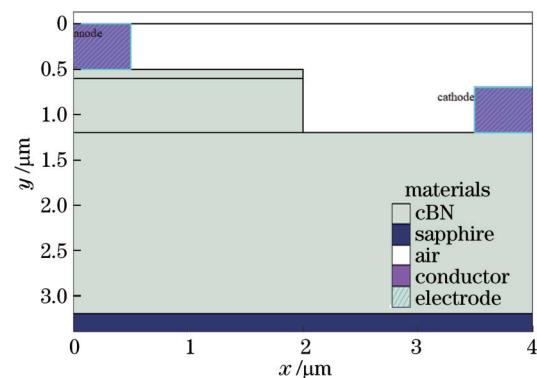


图2 光电探测器数值计算模型

Fig. 2 Numerical calculation model of the photodetector

$$\mu_{p0} = \mu_{mup} \left(\frac{T_L}{300} \right)^{-T_{mup}}, \quad (2)$$

式中: μ_{n0} 、 μ_{p0} 分别为电子、空穴迁移率; μ_{mn} 、 μ_{mup} 表示室温下电子、空穴的迁移率,分别为 $200 \text{ cm}^2/(\text{V} \cdot \text{s})$ 、 $50 \text{ cm}^2/(\text{V} \cdot \text{s})$; T_{mn} 、 T_{mup} 为温度依赖常数; T_L 为晶格温度。

平行电场依赖迁移率模型主要用于计算载流子的漂移速度,由载流子迁移率和电流方向上的电场分量的乘积得到,表达式为

$$\mu_n(E) = \mu_{n0} \left\{ 1 / \left[1 + \left(\frac{\mu_{n0} E}{v_{satn}} \right)^{a_{BETAN}} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{a_{BETAN}}}, \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_p(E) = \mu_{p0} \left\{ 1 / \left[1 + \left(\frac{\mu_{p0} E}{v_{satp}} \right)^{a_{BETAP}} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{a_{BETAP}}}, \quad (4)$$

式中: E 为平行电场; v_{satn} 、 v_{satp} 分别表示电子、空穴的饱和迁移速度; a_{BETAN} 、 a_{BETAP} 为常数,分别取2、1。

复合模型中主要考虑俄歇(Auger)复合与肖克利-里德-霍尔(SRH)复合。Atlas中的SRH模型描述方法为

方程、载流子连续性方程和载流子输运方程。泊松方程为

$$\operatorname{div}(-D) = (\epsilon \nabla^2 \phi) = -\rho, \quad (7)$$

式中: D 为电感应强度; ϵ 为材料相对介电常数与真空介电常数的乘积; ϕ 表示静电势; ρ 为电荷密度。

载流子输运方程为

$$\begin{cases} J_n = qn\mu_n E_n + qD_n \nabla n \\ J_p = qp\mu_p E_p + qD_p \nabla p \end{cases}, \quad (8)$$

式中: J_n 、 J_p 为电子、空穴电流密度; q 为电子电荷量;

D_n 、 D_p 为电子、空穴的扩散系数;电场 E 由静电势 ψ 的负梯度计算得到,即

$$E = -\nabla\psi. \quad (9)$$

载流子连续性方程为

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{q} \operatorname{div} J_n + G_n - R_n \\ \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{q} \operatorname{div} J_p + G_p - R_p \end{cases}, \quad (10)$$

式中: G_n 、 G_p 分别为电子、空穴的产生率; R_n 、 R_p 分别为电子、空穴的复合率。

3 结果与讨论

计算过程中cBN禁带宽度取6.4 eV,介电常数取7.1,电子亲和势取4.5 eV^[25]。当光激励入射波长为120~222 nm,光功率密度为1 W/cm²,外加反向偏置电压为10 V,p型cBN层和n型cBN层掺杂浓度分别为 1×10^{14} cm⁻³和 1×10^{19} cm⁻³时,通过Newton非线性迭代算法^[26]计算得到光谱响应曲线,如图3所示。从图3可以看出,光电流随波长的增加而增大,大约在203 nm处达到峰值,之后随着波长的增加而降低,大约在214 nm处降低为0。这充分说明cBN基光电探测器对深紫外光波段具有较强的响应能力。

模拟计算各cBN层掺杂浓度、厚度对光电探测器性能的影响时,施加的光激励为205 nm单色紫外光,光功率密度仍为1 W/cm²,反向偏置电压以0.5 V为步长从0步进增加至10 V。

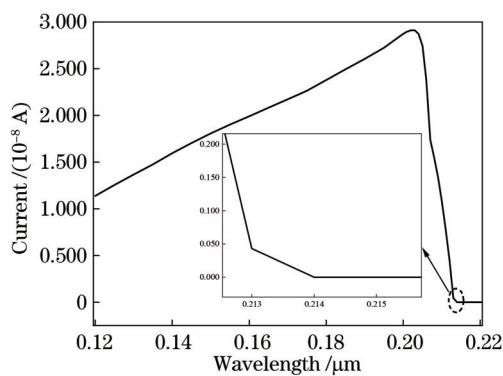


图3 光电探测器光谱响应曲线

Fig. 3 Spectral response curves of the photodetector

3.1 p型cBN层掺杂浓度对器件光电性能的影响

当n型、i型、p型cBN层厚度分别取2.0、0.6、0.1 μm,n型cBN层掺杂浓度为 1×10^{19} cm⁻³,i型cBN层掺杂浓度为 1×10^{15} cm⁻³,p型cBN层掺杂浓度依次为 1×10^{14} 、 1×10^{15} 、 1×10^{16} 、 1×10^{17} 、 1×10^{18} 、 1×10^{19} 、 1×10^{20} cm⁻³时,模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗电流、内量子效率分别如图4~6所示。

从图4可以看出:光电流随p型cBN层掺杂浓度的增加而增大,但掺杂浓度超过 1×10^{17} cm⁻³时,光电

流减小;光电流随着外加电压的增加而增大,最终趋于饱和。掺杂浓度为 1×10^{17} cm⁻³时光电流最大,约为 2.756×10^{-8} A;掺杂浓度为 1×10^{18} cm⁻³时,光电流减小至 2.753×10^{-8} A。p型cBN层重掺杂时出现光电流减小的原因可能是p型cBN层空穴浓度较大,空穴与电子复合的概率增大,电子-空穴浓度减少。

从图5可以看出,p型cBN层掺杂浓度从 1×10^{14} cm⁻³增大到 1×10^{16} cm⁻³时,暗电流逐渐增大,随后开始降低,而当掺杂浓度为 1×10^{19} cm⁻³时暗电流又增大。 1×10^{18} cm⁻³掺杂浓度对应的暗电流减小至 1.008×10^{-16} A。从整体来看,在不同外加偏压下电流值在正负之间变化,这可能是由cBN材料内部缺陷,以及偏压引入的噪声引起的。

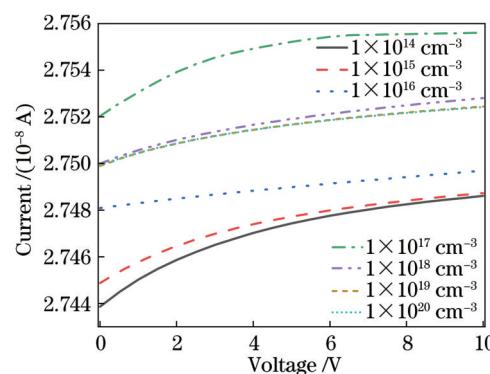


图4 p型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的光电流

Fig. 4 Photocurrent of p-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

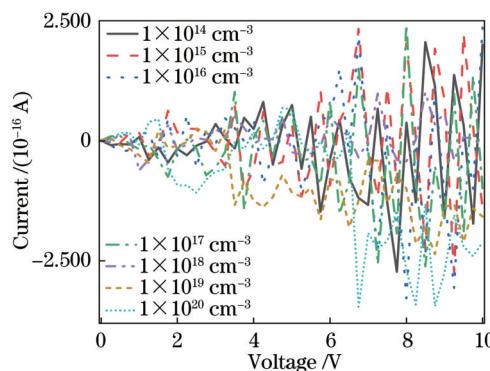


图5 p型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的暗电流

Fig. 5 Dark current of p-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

从图6可以看出,内量子效率在波长约为202 nm处达到峰值,波长大于214 nm时衰减到0。随着p型cBN层掺杂浓度的增大,内量子效率先增加后减小,但峰值内量子效率都在70%以上。掺杂浓度为 1×10^{17} cm⁻³、 1×10^{18} cm⁻³时的内量子效率分别为70.782%、70.707%,掺杂浓度超过 1×10^{18} cm⁻³时内量子效率明显减小。

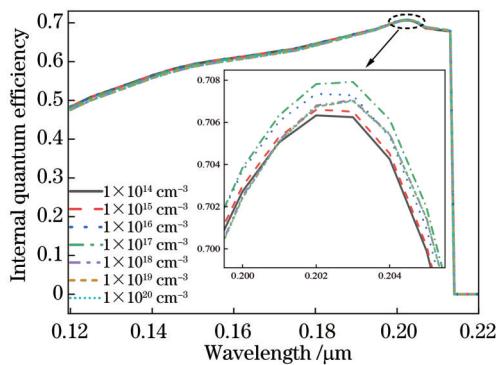


图6 p型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的内量子效率

Fig. 6 Internal quantum efficiency of p-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

3.2 i型cBN层掺杂浓度对器件光电性能的影响

当n型、i型、p型cBN层厚度分别取2.0、0.6、0.1 μm, p型cBN层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, n型cBN层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, i型cBN层掺杂浓度依次为 1×10^{14} 、 5×10^{14} 、 1×10^{15} 、 $5 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时, 模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗电流、内量子效率分别如图7~9所示。

从图7可以看出, 光电流随i型cBN层掺杂浓度的增大而减小, 其中掺杂浓度为 1×10^{14} 、 5×10^{14} 、 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 的光电流最大值约为 $2.756 \times 10^{-8} \text{ A}$, 差值小于 $1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ A}$ 。产生这种现象的原因为: 用n型cBN层代替i层时所增加的掺杂浓度提高了电子浓度, 导致空穴与电子的复合概率增大, 导致光电流减小。

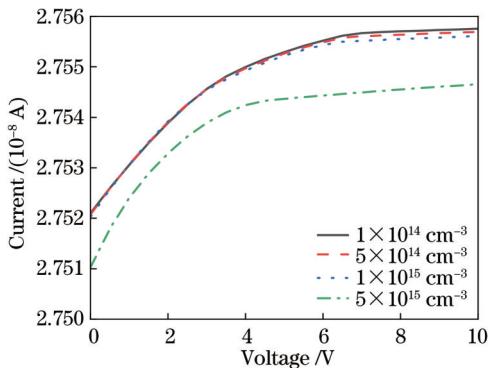


图7 i型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的光电流

Fig. 7 Photocurrent of i-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

从图8可以看出, 暗电流随i型cBN层掺杂浓度的增大而减小。其中: 掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时的暗电流最大值为 $3.116 \times 10^{-16} \text{ A}$; 掺杂浓度为 $5 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时, 暗电流变化起伏最小, 暗电流最大值减小到 $1.839 \times 10^{-16} \text{ A}$ 。产生这种现象的主要原因为: 掺杂浓度增大引起内建电场增强, 耗尽层扩散减弱, 从而抑制了暗电流。

从图9可以看出, 内量子效率曲线基本重合, 可见

内量子效率随掺杂浓度的增大几乎不变。内量子效率在约203 nm处达到峰值, 约为70.790%, 波长大于214 nm时衰减到0。

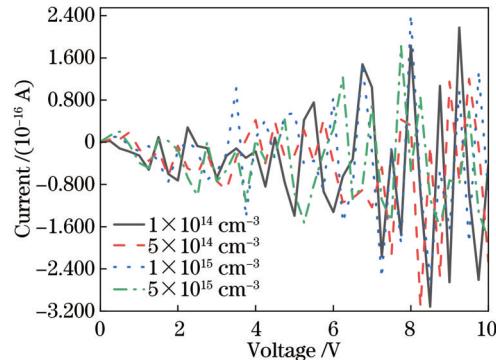


图8 i型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的光电流

Fig. 8 Dark current of i-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

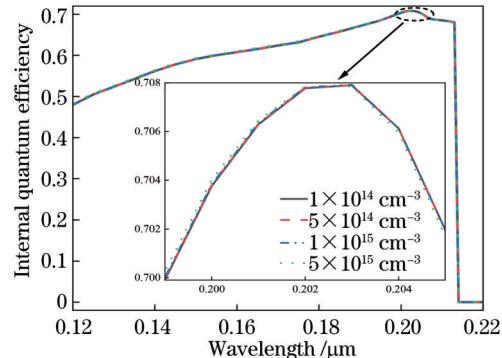


图9 i型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的内量子效率

Fig. 9 Internal quantum efficiency of i-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

3.3 n型cBN层掺杂浓度对器件光电性能的影响

当n型、i型、p型cBN层厚度分别取2.0、0.6、0.1 μm, p型cBN层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, i型cBN层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, n型cBN层掺杂浓度依次为 1×10^{14} 、 1×10^{15} 、 1×10^{16} 、 1×10^{17} 、 1×10^{18} 、 $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时, 模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗电流、内量子效率分别如图10~12所示。

从图10可以看出, 光电流随n型cBN层掺杂浓度的增大而减小。当掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时, 光电流高达 $3.842 \times 10^{-8} \text{ A}$ 。从图11可以看出, n型cBN层掺杂浓度为 1×10^{18} 、 $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时暗电流增大明显。掺杂浓度每增大10倍, 相应暗电流也增大约10倍。掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时的最大暗电流约为 $5.914 \times 10^{-20} \text{ A}$, 在 $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时增大到约 $2.609 \times 10^{-16} \text{ A}$ 。产生该结果的主要原因可能是, 掺杂浓度增大引起扩散电流增大, 暗电流增大, 这也是图10中光电流减小的主要原因。另外, 模拟计算得到的暗电流远小于实验报道的BN体系外光电探测器的最小暗电

流 10^{-14} A^[27], 这可能是因为模拟计算的材料没有缺陷, 比较理想, 而且杂质均匀分布, 因此暗电流小, 而在器件实际实验制备过程中由于受工艺影响, 材料中引入的缺陷以及杂质的非均匀分布使得暗电流大于模拟计算值。

从图12可以看出, 内量子效率在波长约为213 nm处达到峰值, 波长大于214 nm时衰减到0。内量子效率随n型cBN层掺杂浓度的增大而减小, 出现该现象的原因与图10中一致: 在低掺杂浓度下, 内量子效率较高; 在高掺杂浓度下, 扩散电流增加, 内量子效率减小。n型cBN层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时内量子效率峰值高达98.732%。

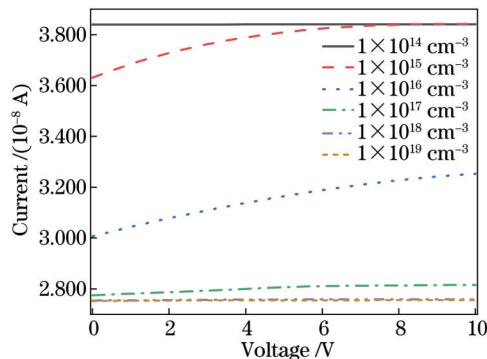


图10 n型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的光电流

Fig. 10 Photocurrent of n-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

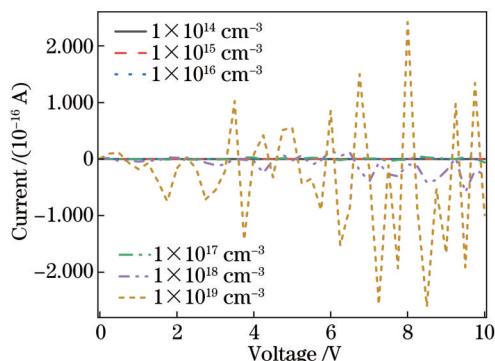


图11 n型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的暗电流

Fig. 11 Dark current of n-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

3.4 p型cBN层厚度对器件光电性能的影响

当p型、i型、n型cBN层掺杂浓度分别取 1×10^{17} 、 1×10^{15} 、 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, n型、i型cBN层厚度分别取2.0 μm和0.6 μm,p层厚度依次为0.1、0.2、0.3、0.4、0.5 μm时, 模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗电流、内量子效率分别如图13~15所示。

从图13可以看出: 光电流随p型cBN层厚度的增大而减小; 光电流随外加偏压的增加而增大, 最终趋向于饱和。当厚度为0.1 μm, 外加偏压为10 V时, 光电

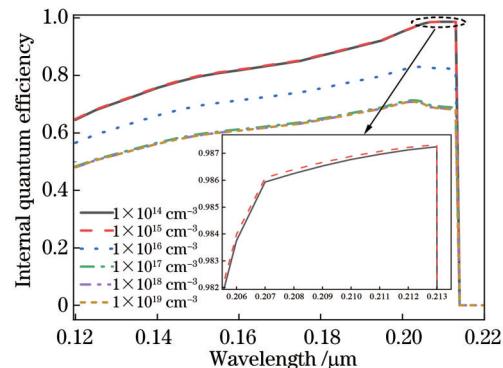


图12 n型cBN层不同掺杂浓度下的内量子效率

Fig. 12 Internal quantum efficiency of n-type cBN layer with different doping concentrations

流约为 3.842×10^{-8} A。

从图14可以看出:p型cBN层厚度较小时, 暗电流随着p型cBN层厚度的增加而增大, 但小于 10^{-19} A; 当厚度超过0.4 μm时, 暗电流随着p型cBN层厚度的增大而减小。

从图15可以看出, 随着波长的增加, 内量子效率增加, 但当波长增大至214 nm时, 内量子效率急剧下降。随着p型cBN层厚度增大, 内量子效率减小。当p型cBN层厚度为0.1 μm时, 内量子效率峰值为98.732%; 当厚度为0.5 μm时, 内量子效率峰值减小到98.059%。产生这种现象的主要原因是入射光从p侧入射, 很多光生载流子会被p层吸收, 不能扩散到电场区而形成光电流^[22]。p型cBN层厚度越薄, 越有利于光吸收, 光电流和内量子效率越高。

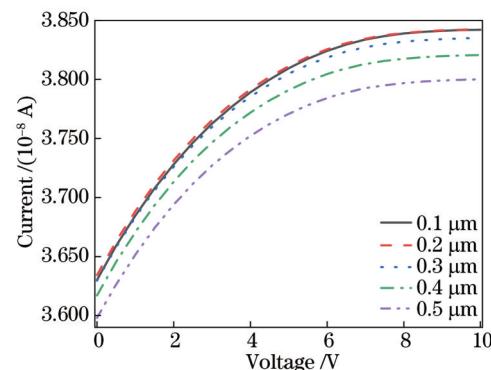


图13 p型cBN层不同厚度下的光电流

Fig. 13 Photocurrent of p-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

3.5 i型cBN层厚度对器件光电性能的影响

当p型、i型、n型cBN层掺杂浓度分别取 1×10^{17} 、 1×10^{15} 、 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, n型、p型cBN层厚度分别取2.0 μm和1.0 μm,i型cBN层厚度依次为0.2、0.4、0.6、0.8、1.0 μm时, 模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗电流、内量子效率分别如图16~18所示。

从图16可以看出: 在低偏压下, 光电流随着i型

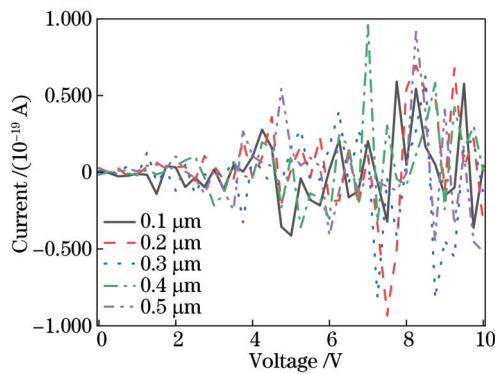


图 14 p型 cBN 层不同厚度下的暗电流

Fig. 14 Dark current of p-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

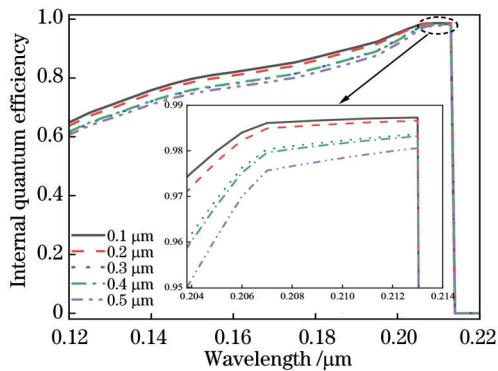


图 15 p型 cBN 层不同厚度下的内量子效率

Fig. 15 Internal quantum efficiency of p-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

cBN层厚度的增大而减小;在高偏压下,光电流随着i型cBN层厚度的增加而增大。低偏压下,i型cBN层厚度为0.2 μm时的光电流最大,该结果与Jubadi等^[28]、王巍等^[29]构建的Si基pin光电二极管得到的结论一致;高偏压下,i型cBN层厚度为1.0 μm时光电流最大约为 3.859×10^{-8} A,该结果与Deilami等^[18]的GaAs、Si基pin探测器的研究结果相同。

从图17可以看出,暗电流随着i型cBN层厚度的增加而增大,这与Chen等^[30]在垂直Ge基pin探测器中得到的结果一致,但低于 10^{-20} A。i型cBN层厚度为0.4、0.8、1.0 μm时,最大暗电流分别为 4.037×10^{-20} 、 6.439×10^{-20} 、 7.798×10^{-20} A。这种现象主要是由缺陷辅助隧穿(TAT)过程中增加高反向偏压引起的^[31]。

从图18可以看出,波长小于207 nm时内量子效率迅速增大,之后增速变缓,并在213 nm处达到峰值,接着在214 nm处截止。这种在截止波长处快速减小的现象说明本征层对大于截止波长的光几乎没有吸收,材料性能表现良好^[32]。内量子效率随着i型cBN层厚度的增大而减小,i型cBN层厚度为0.2 μm和0.8 μm的峰值内量子效率分别为98.720%和98.646%,这与Deilami等^[18]给出的本征层厚度增加,

内量子效率增大矛盾,产生这种现象的主要原因是计算中cBN本征层不是理想的本征层,呈现弱n型,厚度越大,载流子散射越大,内量子效率越低。

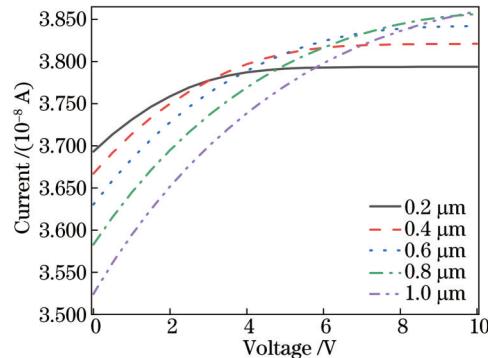


图 16 i型 cBN 层不同厚度下的光电流

Fig. 16 Photocurrent of i-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

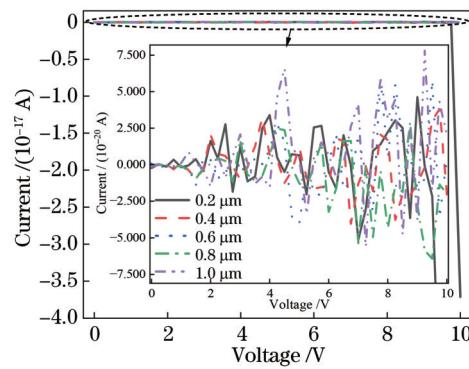


图 17 i型 cBN 层不同厚度下的暗电流

Fig. 17 Dark current of i-type c-BN layer with different thicknesses

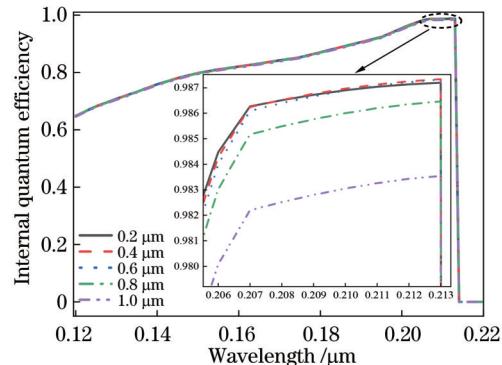


图 18 i型 cBN 层不同厚度下的内量子效率

Fig. 18 Internal quantum efficiency of i-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

3.6 n型cBN层厚度对器件光电性能的影响

当p型、i型、n型cBN层掺杂浓度分别取 1×10^{17} 、 1×10^{15} 、 1×10^{15} cm⁻³,i型、p型cBN层厚度分别取0.8 μm和0.1 μm,n型cBN层厚度依次为1.8、2.0、2.2、2.4、2.6 μm时,模拟计算得到的器件光电流、暗

电流、内量子效率分别如图19~21所示。

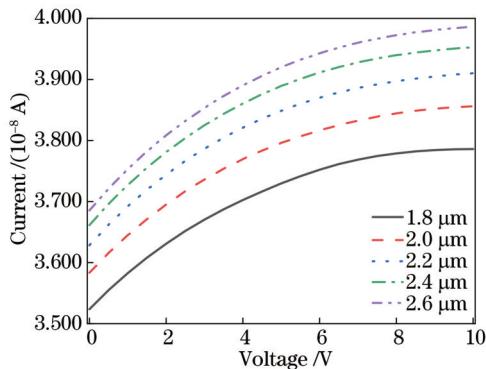


图19 n型cBN层不同厚度下的光电流

Fig. 19 Photocurrent of n-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

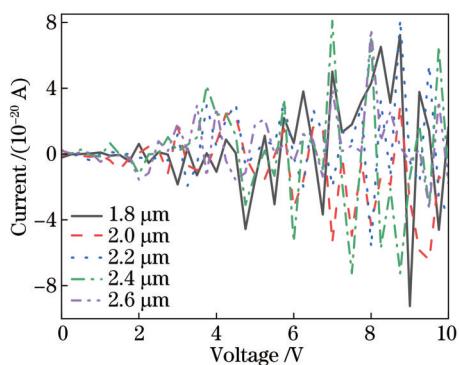


图20 n型cBN层不同厚度下的暗电流

Fig. 20 Dark current of n-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

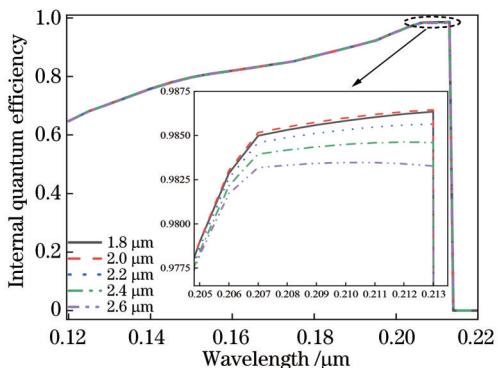


图21 n型cBN层不同厚度下的内量子效率

Fig. 21 Internal quantum efficiency of n-type cBN layer with different thicknesses

从图19可以看出,光电流随着n型cBN层厚度的增加而增大。当n型cBN层厚度为2.2 μm时,光电流为 3.910×10^{-8} A;当厚度为2.6 μm时,光电流高达 3.987×10^{-8} A。产生这种结果的原因可能是n型cBN层厚度增大使得光吸收区域增大,器件体、表面比增大,表面复合减少,光电流增大。

从图20可以看到,暗电流与n型cBN层厚度之间

呈现出不规则的变化规律。当n型cBN层厚度为1.8 μm时,最大暗电流约为 9.242×10^{-20} A;当厚度为2.0 μm时,最大暗电流减小到 6.439×10^{-20} A;当厚度为2.2 μm时,最大暗电流又增大到 8.177×10^{-20} A;当厚度为2.4 μm和2.6 μm时,最大暗电流分别减小到 8.096×10^{-20} A和 7.571×10^{-20} A。

从图21可以看出,内量子效率随着n型cBN层厚度的增加而减小。产生这种现象的原因可能是n型cBN层的电子迁移率比p型cBN层的空穴迁移率高,n型cBN层厚度增加时,电流在n型cBN层附近聚集加强,而电流聚集导致热量局部集中,在电子获得更高的热能后俄歇复合增强,内量子效率降低^[33]。

4 结 论

采用Silvaco TCAD软件构建了cBN基pin型光电探测器的数值计算模型,模拟计算了n型、i型、p型cBN层掺杂浓度、厚度对探测器性能的影响。结果表明:随着p型cBN层掺杂浓度增大,光电流、暗电流、内量子效率均先增大后减小,但变化不大;随着i型cBN层掺杂浓度增大,光电流、暗电流减小,内量子效率几乎无变化;随着n型cBN层掺杂浓度增大,光电流、内量子效率显著增加,暗电流低至 10^{-20} A量级。p型cBN层厚度增大对暗电流几乎无影响,但会使光电流和内量子效率降低;i型cBN层厚度增大,暗电流升高,内量子效率下降,光电流随i型cBN层厚度的变化可能还受到外加反向偏压的影响;n型cBN层厚度增大,光电流升高,对暗电流、内量子效率影响不大。由于计算过程中各层掺杂浓度呈均匀分布,复合模型只考虑俄歇复合和SRH复合,因此本次计算是理想条件下的结果。当p型cBN掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 、厚度为0.1 μm,i型cBN掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 、厚度为0.8 μm,n型cBN掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 、厚度为2.2 μm时,器件光电流为 3.910×10^{-8} A,最大暗电流为 8.177×10^{-20} A,内量子效率高达98.565%。

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Performance and Modeling of pin UV Photodetector with cBN-Based Mesa Structure

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Abstract

Objective In recent years, there have been many studies on the preparation of high-quality hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) materials and the application of hBN ultraviolet (UV) photodetectors. Cubic boron nitride (cBN) has a higher band gap compared with hBN [cBN: (6.4±0.5) eV, hBN: (5.9±1.0) eV], and a higher hardness and melting point, which makes cBN-based UV photodetectors more advantageous. However, on one hand, due to a large number of spontaneous defects inside cBN and the non-uniform process, which result in poor doping efficiency of the prepared devices; on the other hand, different doped impurities exhibit different optical and electrical properties, both making the poor performance of the detectors. Additionally, different photodetector structures such as pin, APD, and heterostructure can also bring about performance differences. Silvaco TCAD software is based on a series of physical models and physical equations that rely on well-established solid-state and semiconductor physics theories or on some empirical formulas to accurately predict the electrical, thermal, and optical results of semiconductor devices. Meanwhile, mesa pin photodetectors feature low dark current and high internal quantum efficiency. Therefore, a numerical model of cBN-based mesa structured pin photodetector is built by Silvaco TCAD software, and the effects of different doping concentrations and thicknesses of the cBN layer on photocurrent, dark current, and internal quantum efficiency of this model are calculated.

Methods The numerical calculation model of cBN-based mesa-structured pin is built by Silvaco TCAD software (Fig. 2). As the intrinsic layer is n-type by default in the undoped case, it is replaced by a n-type cBN with a doping concentration of $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and a thickness of 0.6 μm, and p-type and n-type background carrier concentrations are set as $1 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ with thicknesses of 0.1 μm and 2.0 μm respectively. Based on the constant low-field mobility model (conmob), parallel electric field-dependent mobility model (fldmob), Auger recombination, Shockley-Reed-Hall (SRH) recombination, and basic semiconductor equations of Poisson's equation, carrier transport equations, and carrier continuity equations, the effects of doping concentrations of each layer and thicknesses of each layer on the photocurrent, dark current and internal quantum efficiency are simulated and calculated by the "control variate" method. Firstly, the spectral response of the initial structure is obtained in the deep UV band (Fig. 3), which indicates that the device has a strong response to deep ultraviolet. Secondly, on this basis, the doping concentrations of p-type, i-type, and n-type layers are varied to analyze the changes in performance parameters and select the better doping concentration values with sound device performance. Finally, the thicknesses of p-type, n-type, and intrinsic layers are changed to analyze the performance and select better values.

Results and Discussions The doping concentration of p-type rises, and the photocurrent, dark current, and internal quantum efficiency firstly increase and then decrease (Figs. 4–6). This is because the concentration of holes in the p-type region is higher and the probability of recombination increases, resulting in fewer electron-hole pairs generated by photoexcitation. The photocurrent and dark current decrease with the increasing doping concentration of the i-type layer, while internal quantum efficiency is hardly affected (Figs. 7–9). The possible reason is that the intrinsic layer is replaced by a n-type layer and the rising electron concentration increases the recombination probability, leading to the decreased photocurrent. The dark current decreases with the rising doping concentration which enhances the built-in electric field. The dark current increases with the increasing doping concentration of the n-type layer (Fig. 11), but the photocurrent and internal quantum efficiency decrease with it (Figs. 10 and 12). The possible reason is that the heavy doping concentration of the n-type layer increases the diffusion current inside the region, which causes decreased photocurrent and internal quantum efficiency and increased dark current. The photocurrent and internal quantum efficiency decrease while the dark current increases with the rising thickness of the p-type layer (Figs. 13–15). Many photogenerated carriers will be absorbed by the p-type layer, which is too thick to allow carriers to diffuse into the electric field region and form photocurrent. The dark current increases with the thickness of the intrinsic layer while the internal quantum efficiency decreases with it (Figs. 17 and 18). Differently, the thicker intrinsic layer thickness leads to a smaller photocurrent at low bias, but the photocurrent is positively correlated with thickness at high bias (Fig. 16). Thus, the effect of bias voltage on photocurrent should be considered. An increase in the n-type layer thickness increases the photocurrent but causes a little decrease in the

internal quantum efficiency, without clear regularity of thickness and dark current (Figs. 19–21). The increasing thickness of the n-type layer means rising light absorption area, and the rising volume/area ratio decreases the recombination. Those could be the possible factors for the photocurrent increase, which causes the current crowding phenomenon, then local heat concentration, and higher thermal energy obtained by electrons. Finally, Auger recombination is enhanced to reduce the internal quantum efficiency.

Conclusions The increase in the doping concentration of the p-type layer makes all the parameters increase first and then decrease, but the overall change has little effect. The increasing doping concentration of the i-type layer decreases the photocurrent and dark current and has little effect on the internal quantum efficiency. The rising doping concentration of the n-type layer makes the photocurrent and internal quantum efficiency increase, and the dark current greatly decreases to around 10^{-20} A. Increasing the thickness of the p-type layer exerts almost no effect on the dark current, but decreases the photocurrent and internal quantum efficiency. The rise in intrinsic layer thickness will increase the dark current and decrease the internal quantum efficiency. The photocurrent change with the thickness of the intrinsic layer may also be controlled by the bias voltage. The larger thickness of the n-type layer leads to larger photocurrent, but it has little effect on the dark current and internal quantum efficiency. Since there are no defects in the material during the simulation and the impurities are uniformly distributed, the calculation results are ideal. However, the actual experimental preparation of the device is influenced by the process factors, and the various defects introduced in the material and the non-uniform distribution of impurities make the actual value worse than the simulated calculation value. Finally, the doping concentrations of p-type, i-type, and n-type layers are set as $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and the thicknesses of p-type layer, i-type layer, and n-type layer are $0.1 \mu\text{m}$, $0.8 \mu\text{m}$, and $2.2 \mu\text{m}$ respectively, the performance obtains the photocurrent is 3.910×10^{-8} A, with a maximum dark current of 8.177×10^{-20} A and internal quantum efficiency of 98.565%.

Key words detector; cBN; photocurrent; dark current; internal quantum efficiency