

光学学报

In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As 倍增层对 In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs 雪崩光电探测器的特性影响

叶伟^{1*}, 杜鹏飞¹, 权贝贝², 李梦飞¹, 萧生¹, 刘佳¹

¹陕西理工大学机械工程学院, 陕西 汉中 723001;

²西北工业集团有限公司, 陕西 西安 710043

摘要 倍增层对雪崩光电探测器内部载流子的碰撞电离至关重要,因此,采用三元化合物 In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As 作为倍增层材料,借助器件仿真工具 Silvaco-TCAD,详细探究了 In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs 雪崩光电探测器的倍增层厚度及掺杂浓度对其内部电场强度、电流特性和电容特性的影响规律。研究表明,随着倍增层厚度的增加,器件的电场强度和电容呈减小趋势。同时,倍增层掺杂浓度的增大会引起电容和倍增层内的电场强度峰值增加。进一步研究发现,随着倍增层厚度的增加,器件的穿通电压线性增大,击穿电压先减小后增大,但倍增层掺杂浓度的增加会引起器件击穿电压的减小。此外,用电场分布和倍增因子的结合解释了器件穿通电压与击穿电压的变化。

关键词 探测器; 雪崩光电探测器; 倍增层; 电场分布; 穿通电压; 击穿电压

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1 引言

近红外光电探测器广泛应用于光纤通信^[1-3]、光谱学^[4-5]、光探测与测距^[6-7]等领域,PIN 光电探测器的响应度较低且无法提供内部增益,这限制了它的应用,具有内倍增增益的雪崩光电探测器(APD)在不改变信号特征的前提下比 PIN 光电探测器具有更高的灵敏度,更适合应用在光通信等相关领域^[8]。在材料方面,基于 III-V 化合物的 InGaAs APD 以其高量子效率、高探测率、低噪声和低暗电流在近红外领域表现出了良好的工作性能。在 1~1.5 μm 的光纤通信中,InGaAs APD 因具有波长范围覆盖广和高灵敏度而受到越来越多的关注^[9]。其中,分离吸收、倍增和电荷层结构的 InGaAs APD 得到了研究人员的广泛研究^[10],通过合理设计倍增层的结构参数,可以有效实现电荷层对倍增层高电场和吸收层低电场的同时调控,以达到倍增层更好的倍增效应和抑制吸收层电流产生的目的。近年来,为了提升 APD 的性能,研究人员对器件的结构进行细致的研究和优化。例如,Zhao 等^[11]采用 InGaAs/GaAsSb 超晶格作为 APD 的吸收层,将器件的响应波长扩展到 2.8 μm; MohammadNejad 和 Naseem 等^[12-13]分别采用多层薄 InGaAsP 电荷层结构,有效提高了器件的光响应度,同时优化了噪声特性; Elmahdy 等^[14]在吸收层和渐

变层中嵌入薄的电荷层,形成分离吸收区、渐变区、电荷区和倍增区的边耦合波导型(WG-SAGCM)APD 结构,有效提高了器件的增益。Xing 等^[15]采用 InGaAs 双吸收层结构,此结构在有效提高器件线性度的同时,也保持较高的灵敏度。李宇航等^[16]在金属-半导体-金属(MSM)结构的基础上采用十八硫醇修饰 Al_{0.6}Ga_{0.4}N 层,在减小器件漏电流的同时显著提高了光响应度;王拓等^[17]针对 J 型波导结构的 1310 nm 超辐射器件的结构参数和散热能力进行了研究;马佩等^[18]分析了不同光窗口的位置和面积对 SiGe/Si 异质结器件光响应特性的影响;段雨晗等^[19]在 MSM 结构上提出利用外加偏压控制器件截止波长的方法。此外,三元化合物 In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As(简称为 InAlAs)相比于 InP,其载流子的电离率和电子迁移率均大于 InP;与 InP/InGaAs 探测器相比较,InAlAs/InGaAs 探测器的电离系数对温度变化更敏感。因此,选用 InAlAs 作为雪崩光电探测器的倍增层更具有优势。直到目前,关于倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度对器件性能的影响却鲜有报道,为了深入探索 APD 在线性模式下的变化规律,更清楚地阐述倍增层参数对器件光电性能的影响,本文对 In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs APD(简称为 InGaAs/GaAs)的倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度进行详细讨论,以探究不同倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度对器件电流特性、电场强度和电容

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通信作者: *yewei518@163.com

的影响规律,进一步确定器件穿通电压和击穿电压与倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度之间的关系,这对探索器件在线性模式下的工作机理具有重要的意义。

2 器件结构与仿真模型

新型结构的设计对优化器件的工作性能至关重要,在异质结中,将倍增层和吸收层进行分离,引入电荷

层,形成 SACM 结构,此结构在减小器件暗电流的同时,也改善了倍增层和吸收层的电场分布,器件结构及结构参数如图 1 所示。在 GaAs 衬底上生长 InAlAs 缓冲层,上面依次是吸收光纤通信所需波段近红外信号的 InGaAs 吸收层、用于减少载流子在异质结面积累的 InGaAsP 渐变层、调节器件内部电场的 InAlAs 电荷层、p 型 InAlAs 倍增层和 p⁺ 型 InAlAs 接触层。

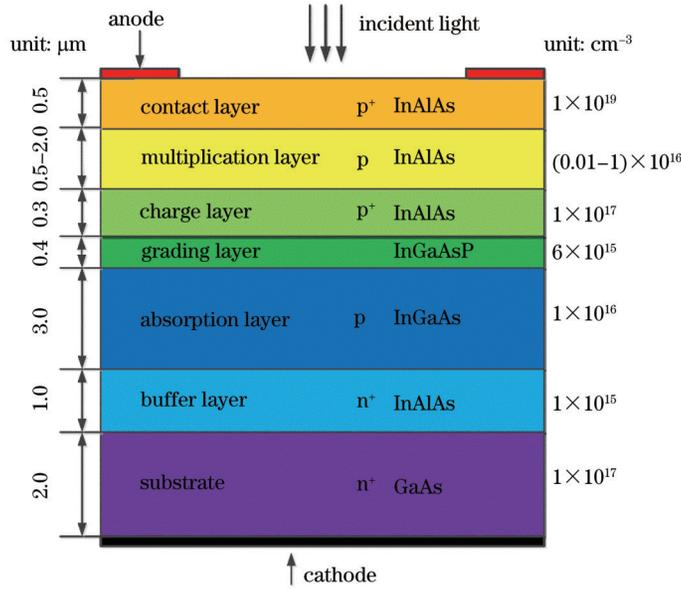


图 1 器件的结构示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of device structure

图 2 为器件的能带和电场分布图。当入射光照射到器件的顶部时,吸收层 InGaAs 中的光子被吸收,产生电子-空穴对,在外部反向偏置电压的作用下,电子向衬底方向移动,空穴通过 InAlAs 和 InGaAs 异质界面传输到倍增层,发生雪崩倍增效应。此外,从图 2 中可知,在 InAlAs 和 InGaAs 之间引入的 InGaAsP 渐变层在改善器件价带不连续的同时增加了带宽,且倍增层内的电场强度达到 100 kV/cm 以上,满足发生雪

崩倍增的条件^[20]。图 2 中, E_c 为导带, E_v 为价带, E_{field} 为电场强度。

为了能够准确模拟出器件的光电特性,在仿真过程中选用相关的物理模型^[21-22]和材料参数,表 1 为仿真模型中选用的部分材料参数。

此外,为了能够使光电器件仿真结果更接近实际情况,在仿真过程中设置了 InGaAs 吸收层和 InAlAs 倍增层材料的光学特性,如图 3 所示。

表 1 仿真模型中的材料参数

Table 1 Material parameters in simulation model

Parameter	InGaAs	InAlAs
Band gap / eV	0.48	0.79
Electron affinity / eV	4.47	4.61
Electron Shockley-Read-Hall (SRH) lifetime / s	1×10^{-10}	4×10^{-13}
Hole SRH lifetime / s	1×10^{-10}	4×10^{-13}
Electron mobility / ($\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{V}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)	1448	2500
Hole mobility / ($\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{V}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)	269	233
Electron Auger coefficient / ($\text{cm}^6 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)	7×10^{-29}	7×10^{-29}
Hole Auger coefficient / ($\text{cm}^6 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)	7×10^{-29}	7×10^{-29}
Effective conduction band density of states / cm^{-3}	1.26×10^{17}	2.61×10^{17}
Effective valence band density of states / cm^{-3}	1.1×10^{19}	7.63×10^{18}
Permittivity	14.63	13.96

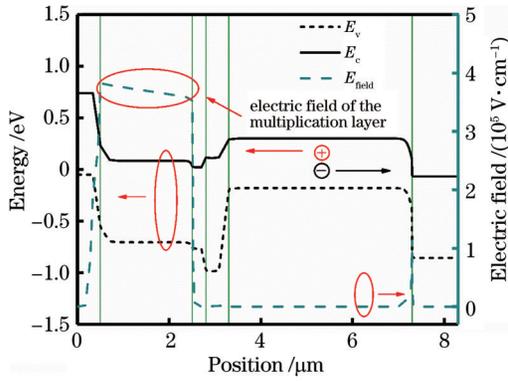


图 2 器件的能带和电场分布图

Fig. 2 Energy band and electric field distribution of device

3 结果与讨论

图 4 是器件在黑暗和光照条件下 (光照强度 $W=1 \text{ W/cm}^2$) 的电流-电压 (I - V) 特性和增益曲线图。在图 4(a) 中可以看到, 在倍增层厚度为 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 时, 随着偏置电压从 0 V 增加到 50 V , 相应的光暗电流从 10^{-13} A

增加到 10^{-7} A , 但此过程中光暗电流并不重合。在偏置电压为 10 V 左右时, 光电流和暗电流开始分开, 且光电流明显高于暗电流, 直到偏压增加到 50 V 时, 光暗电流又再次重合。研究表明, 器件的穿通电压 (V_p) 在 10 V 左右, 而击穿电压 (V_b) 在 50 V 左右。从开始施加偏置电压到电压增大到 V_b , 器件工作在线性模式下, 在此过程中, V_p 的出现表明光生载流子突破壁垒到达倍增层, 随着偏置电压的继续增大, 光生载流子在倍增层内不断发生碰撞, 从而引起器件产生的光电流大于暗电流, 直至偏置电压增加到 V_b 时, 暗光电流急剧增大, 此时器件工作在盖革模式下。利用增益公式^[23][式(1)]计算可得器件在线性模式下的增益曲线图, 如图 4(b) 所示, 当偏置电压增加到 $0.95V_b$ 时, 器件增益增加到 157。

$$M = \frac{I_{\text{ph}} - I_{\text{D}}}{I_{\text{ph0}} - I_{\text{D0}}}, \quad (1)$$

式中: M 为增益; I_{ph} 和 I_{D} 分别为器件的光电流和暗电流; I_{ph0} 和 I_{D0} 分别为器件在电压穿通时的光电流和暗电流数值。

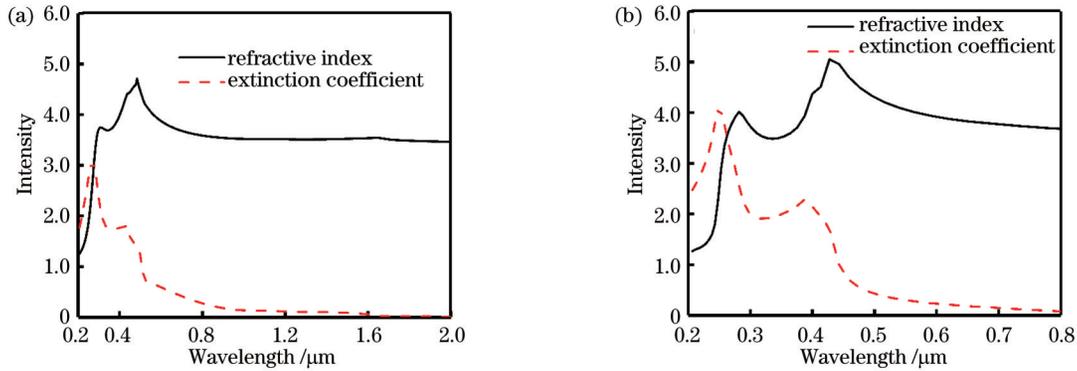


图 3 折射率与波长的关系。(a) InGaAs 材料; (b) InAlAs 材料

Fig. 3 Relationship between refractive index and wavelength. (a) InGaAs material; (b) InAlAs material

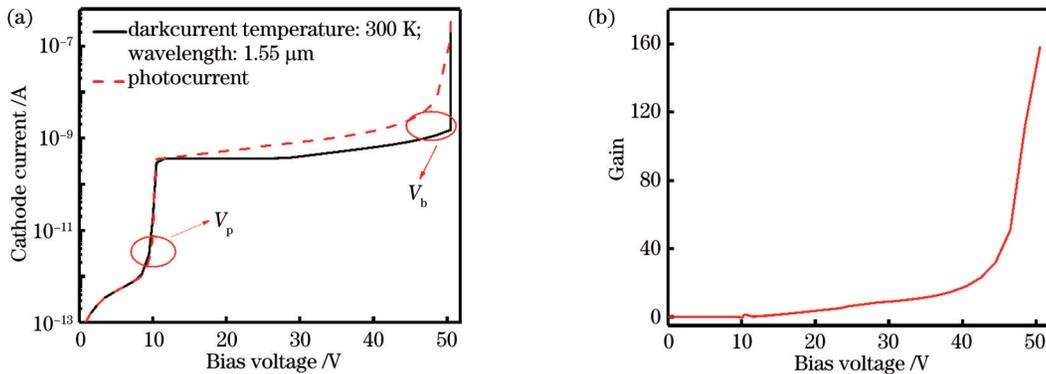


图 4 器件的电流特性。(a) I - V 特性; (b) 增益

Fig. 4 Current characteristics of device. (a) I - V characteristics; (b) gain

图 5 是器件的电场分布图。该器件采用带隙较小的 InGaAs 吸收层和带隙较大的 InAlAs 倍增层将光吸收和载流子的倍增过程分开, 然后利用 InGaAsP 渐变层协助载流子分别传输到倍增层和衬底。为了防止发

生电流隧穿, 则需倍增层和吸收层分别处于高电场和低电场, 同时, 倍增层处于高电场可保证雪崩倍增效应的发生。图 5(a) 是器件在不同倍增层掺杂浓度下的电场分布图, 由图可知, 在倍增层掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

时,器件倍增层内部的电场分布比较均匀,电场强度为 4.1×10^5 V/cm。随着倍增层掺杂浓度的增加,电场强度峰值升高且呈倾斜状态分布,引起电场分布不均匀;当倍增层掺杂浓度增加到 1×10^{16} cm^{-3} 时,电场强度峰值达到 5.6×10^5 V/cm。图 5(b)是器件在不同倍增层厚度下的电场分布图,当倍增层厚度从 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时,相应的电场强度峰值从 4.9×10^5 V/cm 减小到 4.1×10^5 V/cm。研究表明,利

用器件倍增区域的电场分布随倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度的变化规律,可以有效调控器件内部的电场分布。此外,电场强度的变化对倍增层 InAlAs 的碰撞电离产生影响,从而引起器件暗光电流的变化,进而能够调控器件的倍增因子。因此,在保证器件倍增层掺杂浓度使倍增区域电场分布均匀的同时,也为了降低器件暗电流以增大倍增因子,可以适当地增加倍增层厚度。

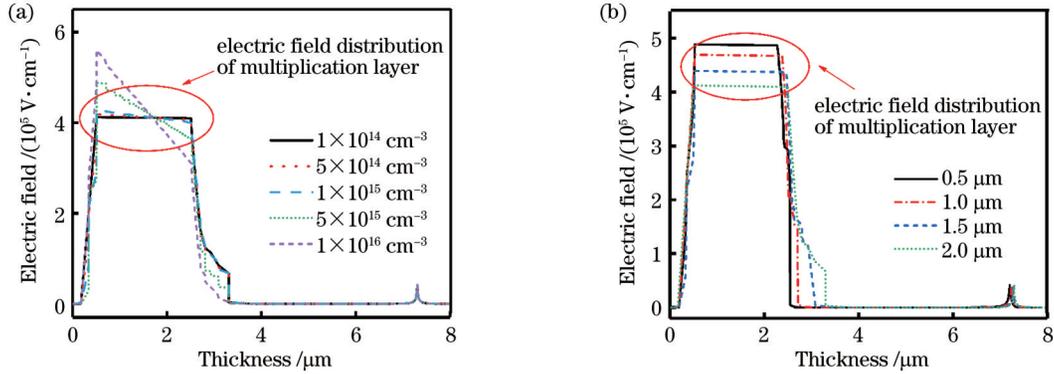


图 5 器件的电场分布。(a)倍增层掺杂浓度对电场分布的影响;(b)倍增层厚度对电场分布的影响
Fig. 5 Electric field distributions of device. (a) Effect of doping concentration of multiplication layer on electric field distribution; (b) effect of thickness of multiplication layer on electric field distribution

图 6 是不同倍增层掺杂浓度的 I - V 特性和击穿电压与击穿电压的变化曲线图。其中,图 6(a)是器件在不同倍增层掺杂浓度下的 I - V 特性,当倍增层掺杂浓度从 1×10^{14} cm^{-3} 增加到 1×10^{16} cm^{-3} 时,器件的 V_p 几乎没有发生变化,保持在 10.5 V 左右,但 V_b 从 50 V 减小到 42 V。不同倍增层掺杂浓度下的 V_p 和 V_b 的变化关系如图 6(b) 所示。在图 6(b) 中可以清晰看到 V_p 和 V_b 随倍增层掺杂浓度的变化而变化的趋

势,出现这种现象的原因可以由图 5(a) 解释,即随着器件倍增层掺杂浓度的增加,倍增层内的电场强度不断增加,进而引起载流子碰撞电离系数的增大,但倍增层的厚度没有发生变化,使器件在较小偏置电压下发生雪崩击穿,导致击穿电压变小。与此同时,吸收层内的电场强度保持不变,没有引起光生空穴在吸收层内的漂移速度发生变化,因此,器件的击穿电压没有发生变化。

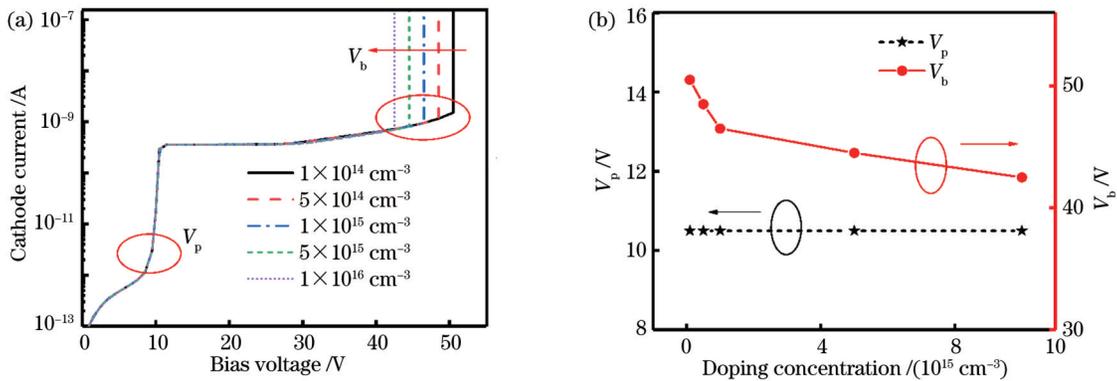


图 6 倍增层掺杂浓度对 V_p 和 V_b 的影响。(a) I - V 特性;(b) 击穿电压与击穿电压的变化曲线
Fig. 6 Effect of doping concentration of multiplication layer on V_p and V_b . (a) I - V characteristics; (b) change curves of V_p and V_b

图 7 是不同倍增层厚度下的 I - V 特性和击穿电压与击穿电压的变化曲线图。图 7(a) 是器件在不同倍增层厚度下的 I - V 特性,由图 7(a) 可以看到,倍增层厚度从 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时,器件的 V_p 从 9.1 V 增加到 10.1 V,如图 7(a) 中的嵌入图所示。如图 7(b) 所示, V_b 是先减小后增大:倍增层厚度从 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到

$1.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时, V_b 从 50 V 减小到 44 V;倍增层厚度从 $1.0 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时,击穿电压从 44 V 增大到 55 V。研究表明,器件的 V_b 是非线性变化,此种现象可以利用倍增因子^[24-25]的变化进行说明,器件的增益 M 的计算公式可表示为

$$M = \frac{1 - k}{\exp[-\beta(1 - k)W_m] - k}, \quad (2)$$

式中: β 为空穴碰撞电离系数; k 为倍增层 InAlAs 空穴与电子的电离系数比; 对 M 关于 V_b 取得最小值情况下的倍增层厚度 W_m 求偏导, 可得

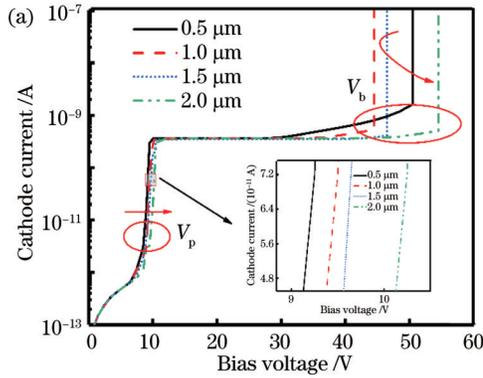
$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial W_m} = M^2 \exp[-\beta W_m(1 - k)] \left(\beta + W_m \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial W_m} \right), \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial W_m} = \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial E_m} \frac{\partial E_m}{\partial W_m}, \quad (4)$$

式中: E_m 为倍增层电场强度的峰值, 倍增层的电场强度越大, 空穴碰撞电离系数越大, 则有 $\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial E_m} > 0$ 。

由图 5(b) 可知, 随着倍增层厚度的增加, 器件的电场强度减小, 则有 $\frac{\partial E_m}{\partial W_m} < 0$, $\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial W_m} < 0$ 。

令 $W_{V_{\min}} = \beta \frac{\partial W_m}{\partial \beta}$ (下标 V 表示器件发生击穿时的



最小电压), 当 $W_m < W_{V_{\min}}$ 时, 由式 (3) 反推计算可得 $W_m > -\beta \frac{\partial W_m}{\partial \beta}$, 即 $\beta + W_m \frac{\partial W_m}{\partial \beta} > 0$, 因此, $\frac{\partial M}{\partial W_m} > 0$ 。

倍增因子随着倍增层厚度的增加而增加。倍增层区域的电场比较小, 空穴电离系数的变化率处于近似饱和状态, 击穿电压与倍增层厚度呈负相关, 倍增层在更小的电场中就能发生雪崩击穿效应, 故击穿电压随着倍增层厚度的增加而减小。当 $W_m > W_{V_{\min}}$, 计算可得 $W_m < -\beta \frac{\partial W_m}{\partial \beta}$, 即 $\beta + W_m \frac{\partial W_m}{\partial \beta} < 0$, 因此, $\frac{\partial M}{\partial W_m} < 0$ 。

空穴电离系数的变化率随着倍增层厚度的增加呈下降变化趋势, 此时需要通过增加器件的偏置电压来增加电场强度, 使得击穿电压与倍增层厚度呈正相关, 故击穿电压随着倍增层厚度的增加而增大。因此, 随着倍增层厚度的增加, V_b 出现先减小后增大的变化趋势。

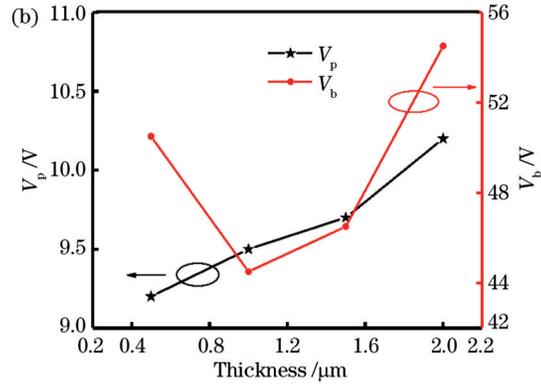


图 7 倍增层厚度对 V_p 和 V_b 的影响。(a) I - V 特性; (b) V_p 和 V_b 的变化曲线

Fig. 7 Effect of thickness of multiplication layer on V_p and V_b . (a) I - V characteristics; (b) change curves of V_p and V_b

图 8 是不同倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度下的交流小信号特性曲线。在仿真过程中, 设置频率为 1×10^6 Hz。其中, 图 8(a) 是在不同倍增层掺杂浓度下的 C - V 曲线, 其中 C 为电容。由图 8 可知, 在 -2 V 外加偏压下, 当倍增层掺杂浓度从 $1 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 增加到 $1 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时, 器件的电容从 $0.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $1.4 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 。同时, 从图 8(b) 中可以看到, 在倍增层厚度一定时, 随着反向偏置电压的增大, 器件的电容逐渐减小。在 -3 V 外加偏压下, 当倍增层厚度从 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时, 器件的电容从 $1.4 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 减小到 $0.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 。此外, 当外部交流小信号频率很高时, 结电容 C_j 以耗尽电容 C_r 为主, 可忽略扩散电容 C_d [26-27]。因此, 在外加交流偏置电压时得到 C_j 为

$$C_j = C_r + C_d = \frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r}{W} + q \frac{dn_\varphi}{dv}, \quad (5)$$

$$W = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_i(V_D - V)}{qN_D}}, \quad (6)$$

$$V_D = \frac{KT}{q} \ln(N_A N_D), \quad (7)$$

式中: ϵ_0 , ϵ_r , ϵ_i 分别为真空介电常数、相对介电常数和等效介电常数; q 为电子电荷; n_φ 为电子浓度; v 为电子速率; V_D 为内建电势; N_D , N_A 分别为施主和受主杂质浓度; K 为波尔兹曼常数; T 为温度。

由式 (5)~(7) 可知, 当增大倍增层厚度和施加偏置电压并降低掺杂浓度时, 耗尽层宽度会展宽, 引起器件电容减小, 这与仿真结果一致。此外, RC 与器件的带宽关系为

$$f_{RC} = \frac{1}{2\pi RC}, \quad (8)$$

式中: R 为电阻; C 为电容。由式 (8) 可知, 在实际应用中, 为了提高器件的响应速度, 应该适当减小电容。

4 结 论

本研究借助器件仿真工具 Silvaco-TCAD, 详细探究了倍增层掺杂浓度和厚度对 InGaAs/GaAs APD 内部的电场强度、电流特性和电容特性的影响规律。结

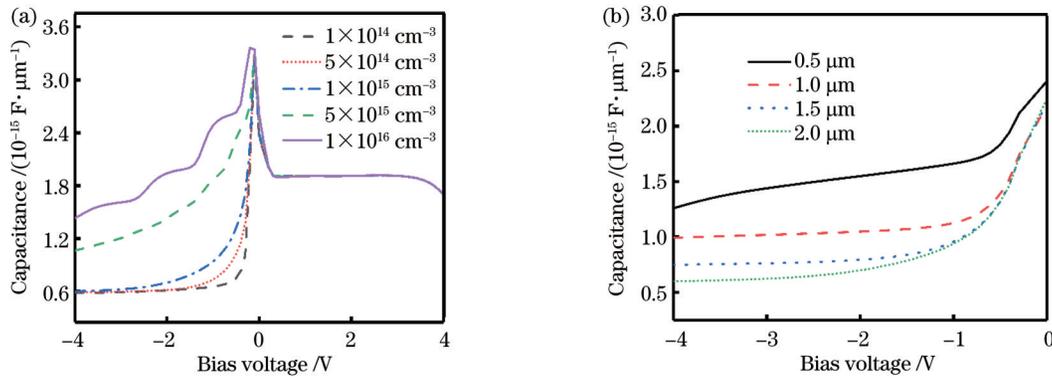


图 8 器件的 $C-V$ 特性。(a) 倍增层掺杂浓度对电容的影响；(b) 倍增层厚度对电容的影响

Fig. 8 $C-V$ characteristic of devices. (a) Effect of doping concentration of multiplication layer on capacitance; (b) effect of thickness of multiplication layer on capacitance

果表明,随着倍增层厚度从 $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ 增加到 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 时,器件倍增层内部的电场强度峰值和电容分别从 $4.9 \times 10^5 \text{ V/cm}$ 、 $1.4 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 相应地减小到 $4.1 \times 10^5 \text{ V/cm}$ 、 $0.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 。此外,倍增层掺杂浓度的增大会引起电容和倍增层内的电场强度峰值增加,在掺杂浓度为 $1 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ 时,其值分别为 $1.4 \times 10^{-15} \text{ F}/\mu\text{m}$ 、 $5.6 \times 10^5 \text{ V/cm}$ 。进一步研究发现,随着倍增层厚度的增加,器件的击穿电压呈线性增大,而击穿电压在厚度为 0.5 、 1.0 、 1.5 、 $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ 处分别为 50 、 44 、 47 、 55 V ,呈先减小后增大的变化趋势,但倍增层掺杂浓度的增加会引起器件击穿电压的减小。这项研究对 InGaAs/GaAs APD 在线性模式下的工作机理和其在未来高速传输的应用中具有重要意义。

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Effect of In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As Multiplication Layer on Characteristics of In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs Avalanche Photodetector

Ye Wei^{1*}, Du Pengfei¹, Quan Beibei², Li Mengfei¹, Xiao Sheng¹, Liu Jia¹

¹*School of Mechanical Engineering, Shaanxi University of Technology, Hanzhong 723001, Shaanxi, China;*

²*Northwest Industries Group Co., Ltd., Xi'an 710043, Shaanxi, China*

Abstract

Objective Avalanche photodetectors with inner multiplication gain have greater sensitivity than PIN photodetectors without altering the signal characteristics, which is more suitable for application in optical communication and other related fields. Among them, the separation of absorption, multiplication, and charge layer structure of InGaAs avalanche photodetectors are extensively studied. Through the reasonable design of multiplication layer structure parameters, the high electric field in the multiplication layer and low electric field in the absorption layer can be regulated by the charge layer at the same time, which results in a better multiplication effect in the multiplication layer and inhibits current generated in the absorption layer. In addition, the ternary compound In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As has higher carrier ionization rate and electron mobility than InP, so it has greater benefits as the multiplication layer for avalanche photodetectors. However, there are few reviews on the effect of the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer on the device performance. To deeply explore the variation rule of avalanche photodetectors in linear mode and elaborate on the impact of the multiplication layer parameters on the device photoelectric performance, this paper studies the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer of In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs avalanche photodetector in detail. It aims to explore the influence of different doping concentrations and thicknesses of the multiplication layer on the current characteristics, electric field intensity, and capacitance of the device, and research the relationship of the punch-through voltage and breakdown voltage of the device with the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer. It is of great significance to discover the working mechanism of the device in linear mode.

Methods In this study, the effect of the In_{0.83}Al_{0.17}As multiplication layer on the overall performance of In_{0.83}Ga_{0.17}As/GaAs avalanche photodetector is researched with a device simulation tool Silvaco-TCAD. Firstly, the physical models related to conmob, fldmob, auger, srh, bgn, bbt, oprt, and impact selb have been applied to define the material parameters of each layer of the device. The energy band and electric field distribution of the device are simulated, which suggests that the device meets the prerequisites of avalanche multiplication and explains the avalanche multiplication process. Secondly, the *I-V* characteristics of the device in dark and light conditions are simulated. Finally, the effects of the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer on the internal electric field distribution, the punch-through voltage and breakdown voltage, and the traits of the alternating current small signal are simulated. In addition, the combination of electric field distribution and multiplication factor is utilized to explain the variation of punch-through voltage and breakdown voltage.

Results and Discussions With the device simulation tool Silvaco-TCAD, the impact of the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer on the internal electric field intensity, current characteristics, and capacitance characteristics of avalanche photodetector is investigated in detail. Fig. 5(a) and Fig. 8(a) suggest that an increase in the doping concentration of the multiplication layer will lead to the rising peak electric field intensity in the multiplication layer and capacitance, respectively. Meanwhile, Fig. 5(b) and Fig. 8(b) indicate that the electric field intensity and the capacitance of the device decrease with the increase in the thickness of the multiplication layer. Further research suggests that the punch-through voltage of the device turns up linearly with the increase in the thickness of the multiplication layer, and the breakdown voltage turns down first and then up before the thickness of $1.0\ \mu\text{m}$ [Fig. 7(b)]. However, the increase in the doping concentration of the multiplication layer causes a decrease in the breakdown voltage of the device, while the punch-through voltage essentially remains unchanged [Fig. 6(b)]. In addition, the variation of punch-through voltage and breakdown voltage is explained by the combination of the electric field distribution and the multiplication factor.

Conclusions In this study, the impact of the doping concentration and thickness of the multiplication layer on the electric field intensity, current characteristics, and capacitance characteristics of $\text{In}_{0.83}\text{Ga}_{0.17}\text{As}/\text{GaAs}$ avalanche photodetector is explored in detail. The results exhibit that with the thickness of the multiplication layer increasing from $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$ to $2.0\ \mu\text{m}$, the peak electric field intensity and capacitance decline from $4.9 \times 10^5\ \text{V}/\text{cm}$ and $1.4 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{F}/\mu\text{m}$ to $4.1 \times 10^5\ \text{V}/\text{cm}$ and $0.6 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{F}/\mu\text{m}$, respectively. In addition, the rise in the doping concentration of the multiplication layer causes an increase in the capacitance and the peak electric field intensity in the multiplication layer. When the doping concentration of the multiplication layer is $1 \times 10^{16}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$, the values are $1.4 \times 10^{-15}\ \text{F}/\mu\text{m}$ and $5.6 \times 10^5\ \text{V}/\text{cm}$, respectively. Further research shows that with the increment in the thickness of the multiplication layer, the punch-through voltage of the device increases linearly, while the breakdown voltage at the thickness of $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$, $1.0\ \mu\text{m}$, $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$, and $2.0\ \mu\text{m}$ is $50\ \text{V}$, $44\ \text{V}$, $47\ \text{V}$, and $55\ \text{V}$, respectively, which decreases first and then increases. However, a higher doping concentration of the multiplication layer will lead to a lower breakdown voltage of the device. This study is of great significance for the working mechanism of $\text{In}_{0.83}\text{Ga}_{0.17}\text{As}/\text{GaAs}$ avalanche photodetector in linear mode and the application of high-speed transmission in the future.

Key words detectors; avalanche photodetector; multiplication layer; electric field distribution; punch-through voltage; breakdown voltage