Nanostructured surfaces

Angular ellipsometry of indium tin oxide films

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Indium tin oxide (ITO, or tin-doped indium oxide) is a solid solution of indium(III) oxide(In2O3) and tin(IV) oxide(SnO2). ITO is the urgent problem of modern physics. It is applied for the production of transparent electrodes of liquid crystal screens[1] and solar cells[2].

We investigated the optical properties of thin films of indium oxide, produced by reactive magnetron sputtering in DC mode with different deposition times. The total pressure of reactive mixture (1/3 of oxygen and 2/3 of argon) was $7*10^{-3}$ Torr. The camera was exhausted to the vacuum 2-3*10⁻⁵ Torr. The samples were heated up to the temperature of about 130-150 °C during 20-30 min. The unoxidized silicon was used as a substrate. Time of the films deposition was equal to 10, 20, 40 and 60 seconds.

Ellipsometric parameters (Δ phase shift between p- and s- polarization components and azimuth ψ of the restored linear polarization) samples were determined in a wide range of incidence angles ϕ by standard laser ellipsometer " Π Э Φ -3M-1" with helium-neon laser (wavelength $\lambda = 632.8$ nm). The model of non-absorbing homogeneous layer on the absorption substrate (Si) was proposed to calculate the refractive index n and ITO films thickness d[3].

The defined thickness of the films are of 9,0-30,8 nm and the refractive index of 2.05-2.13 depending on the time of deposition according to the proposed model.

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