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Date:

Place: Varanasi

Dr. Bhola Nath Pal
(Supervisor)

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List of Figures

Figure 1.1: *Schematic diagram and charge transportation in TFT channel under the applied electric field with bottom gate top contact geometry*……………………………………….2

Figure 1.2: *Schematic diagram of the configuration of TFT* ***a)*** *staggered bottom gate* ***b)*** *staggered top gate* ***c)*** *coplanar bottom gate and* ***d)*** *coplanar top gate*……………………….3

Figure 1.3: *Typical* ***a)***, ***c)***, ***e)*** *output and* ***b)***, ***d)***, ***f)*** *transfer characteristics of an n-type, p-type, and ambipolar oxide TFT, respectively* ……………………………………………...5

Figure 1.4: *Different polarization mechanism of dielectric;* ***a)*** *electronics polarization,* ***b)*** *ionic polarization,* ***c)*** *orientation polarization,* ***d)*** *chain relaxation,* ***e)*** *free counter ion polarization in an electrolyte,* ***f)*** *interfacial polarization,* ***g)*** *electrode or EDL polarization,* ***h)*** *the influence of the different polarization mechanism to the dielectric constant with several frequency regions*…………………………………………………………………….10

Figure 1.5: *Schematic diagram of the basic mechanism of parallel plate metal-insulator-metal capacitor* ***a)*** *without dielectric layer,* ***b)*** *with a dielectric layer,* ***c)*** *dipole polarization mechanism under the absence and presence of an applied electric field*……………………………………………………………………………..11

Figure 1.6: *Benchmarks to select the high-k dielectric for a thin film transistor*…………...13

Figure 1.7: *Schematic of dielectric constant vs. measured bandgap of the several metal oxide dielectric [46]*…………………………………………………………………..14

Figure 1.8: *d block metal elements with (n-l)$d^{10}ns^{0}$ (n≥4) configuration [68]*……………...19

Figure 1.9: ***a)*** *First Brillouin zone and* ***b)*** *band structure of graphene with the linear dispersion around the K points [76, 77]* …………………………………………….…21

Figure 1.10: ***a)*** *TEM images of graphene films with different thicknesses,* ***b)*** *typical Raman spectra obtained from different thickness regions of graphene film (with an increasing number of layers from bottom to top) [71]*………………………………………………..23

Figure 1.11: *Solution-processed ion-conducting metal oxide thin film transistor* ***a)*** *crystal structure of SBA dielectric Na^{+} ion is denoted by a blue dot, and red and yellow color represents oxygen and aluminum atoms respectively,* ***b)*** *transfer and* ***c)*** *output characteristics of ZTO transistor with sol-gel coated SBA dielectric based TFT*……………………………25

Figure 2.1: ***a)*** *Flow chart of the cleaning process and* ***b)*** *flow chart of the device fabrication*…………………………………………………………………………....36

Figure 2.2: *Arrangement of the MIM device structure for C-f and I-V measurements*……..43

Figure 2.3: *Layout of the BG-TC device structure for TFT characterization*………………44

Figure 3.1: *Schematic diagram of* ***a)*** *charge polarization of the Li_2ZnO_2 ionic dielectric thin film due to Li+ ion shift under the external bias and* ***b)*** *influence of that dielectric on the flow of electron in an active channel at low voltage*…………………………………...………47

Figure 3.2: *TGA and DTA of the precursor powder of Li_2ZnO_2*……………………………49

Figure 3.3: a) *XRD analysis of Li_2ZnO_2 powder annealed at 500 ^oC,* ***b)*** *GIXRD analysis of Li_2ZnO_2 thin film annealed at 500 ^oC* ………………………………………………………50

Figure 3.4: a) *XRD analysis of SnO_2 powder annealed at 500 ^oC,* ***b)*** *GIXRD analysis of SnO_2 thin film annealed at 500 ^oC* ………………………………………………………………...50

Figure 3.5: a) *Optical transmittance spectra of the solution-processed Li_2ZnO_2 dielectric thin film annealed at 500 ^oC for Li_2ZnO_2/quartz (inset),* ***b)****Tauc's plot corresponding to Li_2ZnO_2 thin-film* ……………………………………………………………………51

Figure 3.6: *XPS spectra of a different metal element present in Li_2ZnO_2 dielectric thin film* ***a)*** *Li 1s* ***b)*** *O 1s and* ***c)*** *Zn 2p from the sample of p^+-Si/Li_2ZnO_2 annealed at 500 ^oC* ………53

Figure 3.7: *2-D Surface morphology (scan area 5 x 5 µm) of Li_2ZnO_2/p^+-Si annealed at the temperature of* ***a)*** *500 ^oC (2D topography) and* ***b)*** *500 ^oC (3D topography) and Li_2O/p^+-Si annealed at the temperature of* ***c)*** *500 ^oC (2D topography) and* ***d)*** *500 ^oC (3D topography)(scan surface area 5 x 5 µm)* …………………………………………………..54

Figure 3.8: a) *Leakage current density vs. applied voltage of Li_2ZnO_2 and* ***c)*** *Li_2O thin film;* ***b)*** *capacitance vs. frequency curves of solution-processed ionic dielectric Li_2ZnO_2 and* ***d)*** *Li_2O thin-film* …………………………………………………………………………..56

Figure 3.9: a) *Output,* ***b)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with Li_2ZnO_2 dielectric;* ***c)*** *Output and* ***d)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with Li_2O dielectric annealed at 500 ^oC with device architecture p^+-Si/Li_2ZnO_2/ SnO_2/Al and p^+-Si/Li_2O/ SnO_2/Al*……………..59

Figure 3.10: *Operational Stability of the ionic dielectric and evolution of the transfer curves of an ionic dielectric* ***a)*** *Li_2ZnO_2/SnO_2 TFT and* ***b)*** *Li_2O/SnO_2 TFT at a fixed V_D of 2V during the stress test.* …………………………………………………………………………..61

Figure 4.1: *Schematic view of the device structure*..…………………………………………66

Figure 4.2: *Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) and differential thermo-gravimetric analysis (DTA) curves of precursor powder* ***a)*** *$LiInO_2$ and* ***b)*** *$LiGaO_2$*……………………...67

Figure 4.3: *GIXRD analysis of* ***a)*** *$LiInO_2$ and* ***b)*** *$LiGaO_2$ thin film at 550 ^oC annealing temperature and GIXRD analysis of* ***c)*** *$LiInO_2$ and* ***d)*** *SnO_2 thin film at 500 ^oC annealing temperatures* …………………………………………………………………………...68

Figure 4.4: *Surface morphologies (scan surface area 3 x 3 µm) of the solution-processed $LiInO_2$ dielectric thin films for $LiInO_2$/p^+-Si surface* ***a)*** *2-D topography* ***b)*** *3-D topography,*

for $LiGaO_2/p^+$-Si surface ***c)*** *2-D topography* ***d)*** *3-D topography, and for Li_2ZnO_2/p^+-Si surface,* ***e)*** *2-D topography* ***f)*** *3-D topography*……………………………………………69

Figure 4.5: *Optical transmittance spectra of the solution-processed dielectric thin film annealed at 550 ^oC* ***a)*** *$LiInO_2$/quartz (inset) and* ***c)*** *$LiGaO_2$/quartz (inset), The Tauc's plot corresponding to dielectric thin film* ***b)*** *$LiInO_2$ and* ***d)*** *$LiGaO_2$* ……………………………..71

Figure 4.6: a) *Leakage current density vs. applied voltage of $LiInO_2$ thin film annealed at 550 ^oC with p^+-Si/$LiInO_2$/Al device structure and capacitance vs. frequency curves of solution-processed ionic dielectric* ***b)*** *$LiInO_2$* ***c)*** *$LiGaO_2$ and* ***d)*** *Li_2ZnO_2* …………………..72

Figure 4.7: a) *Schematic view of the device structure,* ***b)*** *interdigitated mask with width (W) to channel length (L) ratio of 118 (23 mm/0.2 mm),* ***c)*** *photograph of actual devices with three TFT fabricated on 15 mm x 15 mm substrate,* ***d)*** *cross-sectional SEM image of TFT with $LiInO_2$ gate dielectric* ……………………………………………………………..74

Figure 4.8: a) *Output and* ***d)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with $LiInO_2$ dielectric annealed at 550 ^oC,* ***b)*** *Output and* ***e)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with $LiGaO_2$ dielectric annealed at 550^0C and* ***c)*** *Output and* ***f)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with Li_2ZnO_2 dielectric annealed at 500 ^oC with device architecture Al/SnO_2/$LiInO_2$/p^+-Si, Al/SnO_2/$LiGaO_2$/p^+-Si and Al/SnO_2/ Li_2ZnO_2/p^+-Si respectively, under n-channel operation and transfer characteristics with gate leakage current (I_D/I_G vs. V_G) under n-channel operation* ***g)*** *$LiInO_2$,* ***h)*** *$LiGaO_2$ and* ***i)*** *Li_2ZnO_2 respectively*………………………………...77

Figure 4.9: a) *Output and* ***c)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with $LiInO_2$ dielectric annealed at 550 ^oC,* ***b)*** *Output and* ***d)*** *transfer characteristics of the SnO_2 TFT with $LiGaO_2$ dielectric annealed at 550 ^oC with device architecture Al/SnO_2/$LiInO_2$/p^+-Si, and Al/SnO_2/$LiGaO_2$/p^+-Si under p-channel operation*………………………………………..78

Figure 4.10: *Schematic of deep acceptor level with tin oxide (SnO_2) for* ***a)*** *In,* ***b)*** *Ga and* ***c)*** *schematic presentation of dielectric/semiconductor interfacial doping*……………………..81

Figure 4.11: *Schematic demonstration of the electrical networks for the inverter based on two identical ambipolar transistors*…………………………………………………………83

Figure 4.12: *Inverter characteristics for* ***a)*** *first and* ***b)*** *third quadrants with supply voltages (V_{DD}) of ±1 V, respectively, and corresponding gain of the complementary inverter* ***c)*** *first and* ***d)*** *third quadrants under the supply voltages (V_{DD}) of ± 1V*…………………………....84

Figure 5.1: *Schematic illustration showing the fabricated GFET device*…………………..89

Figure 5.2: a) *Optical micrograph of graphene sheet transferred on p^+-Si/SiO_2 substrate,* ***b)*** *SEM micrograph of graphene sheet* ***c)*** *TEM image of a graphene sheet on lacey carbon-coated TEM grid where lighter region corresponds to the monolayer graphene while darker*

*region corresponds to the folded graphene layer, and **d)** Raman spectrum of graphene*……………………………………………………………………………………..93

***Figure 5.3:** Output characteristics of graphene transistors with different channel lengths **(a-f),** respectively and transfer characteristics of graphene transistors of corresponding channel lengths **(g-l)**, respectively* ……………………………………………………………………96

***Figure 5.4:** **a)** Output characteristics for a Graphene field-effect transistor (GFET) using SiO_2 as a gate dielectric **b)** Capacitance vs. frequency (C-f) curve of Li_5AlO_4 dielectric thin film with a device structure of Al/Li_5AlO_4/p^+-Si*……………………………………………..97

***Figure 5.5:** **a)** Variation of mobility with channel length **b)** Variation of a shift in Dirac point with channel length*……………………………………………………………………………..97

***Figure 5.6:** **a)** Schematic illustration of the device structure of back-gated graphene transistors, **b)** Channel length-dependent Li^+ ion effect in graphene transistors, **c)** and **d)** Transfer characteristics of back-gated graphene transistors at V_D = -2V with different channel lengths*………………………………………………………………………………98

***Figure 5.7:** **a)** Variation of total resistance with the different channel length, and **b)** Variation of contact resistance of device with different channel length*……………………100

***Figure 5.8:** **a)** Transconductance of the devices with channel length varies from 0.2 mm to 1.65 mm and **b)** channel length varying from 2.85 mm to 5.7 mm as a function of back-gate voltage under a bias of -2V*…………………………………………………………………102

***Figure 6.1:** **a)** Illustrating fabricated parallel electrode GFET Devices and **b)** schematic of the device with p^+-Si/Li_5AlO_4/Graphene/Ag/MoOx*………………………………………...106

***Figure 6.2:** Gas sensing experimental measurement setup*………………………………..110

***Figure 6.3:** **a)** Raman characteristics of the graphene sheet **b)** SEM micrograph of graphene sheet **c)** TEM image of a graphene sheet on lacey carbon-coated TEM grid where lighter region corresponds to the monolayer graphene while darker region corresponds to the folded graphene layer **d)** GIXRD (inset: UV-Vis absorbance spectrum) **e)** 2D and **f)** 3D surface morphology of p^+-/Si/Li_5AlO_4 dielectric thin film annealed at 500* °C……………………..111

***Figure 6.4:** **a)** C-f and, **b)** J-V characteristics of dielectric with the structure of p^+-Si/Li_5AlO_4 /Al **c)** Output characteristics (I_D vs. V_D) and **d)** Transfer characteristics (I_D vs. V_G) of GFET*……………………………………………………………………………………..112

***Figure 6.5:** Transfer characteristics in the presence of ammonia from **a)** 0 to 1 ppm and **b)** 1 to 3 ppm **c)** Variation of Dirac Voltage and **d)** change in resistivity with a concentration of gas **e)** gas response **f)** current vs. time response of ammonia gas sensor*………………….114

List of Tables

Table 1.1: *Electronic properties of common metal oxide semiconductors [60]*…………..18

Table 1.2: *Comparison of film deposition techniques using printing and coating [5]*…....24

Table 3.1: *The summary of different parameters of SnO_2 TFTs using two different types of dielectric*……………………………………………………………………………………..60

Table 4.1: *The summary of different device parameters of three SnO_2 TFTs fabricated with three different ion-conducting oxide dielectrics*………………………………………………….82

Table 5.1: *Summary of R_{tot} and R_C of different channel length GFETs*…………………….100

Table 5.2: *Summary of the various parameters of GFETs device*……………………..…103

Abbreviations

MO	Metal oxides
BG/TC	Bottom gate/Top contact
SBA	Sodium beta-alumina
κ	Dielectric constant
AOS	Amorphous oxide semiconductor
TFT	Thin film transistor
FET	Field effect transistor
GFET	Graphene field effect transistor
SLG	Single layer graphene
LET	Light-emitting transistor
MIM	Metal insulator metal
ICMO	Ion conducting metal oxide
XRD	X-ray diffraction
GIXRD	Grazing incidence X-ray diffraction
AFM	Atomic force microscope
MIM	Metal insulator metal
RMS	Root-mean-square
SEM	Scanning electron microscope
QD	Quantum Dot
TGA	Thermogravimetric ananlysis
DTA	Differential thermal analysis
UV	Ultraviolet
I-V	Current voltage

SEM	Scanning electron microscope
TEM	Transmission electron microscope
CVD	Chemical vapour deposition
MFC	Mass flow controller
C–f	Capacitance frequency
AMLCD	Active-matrix liquid crystal displays
AMOLED	Active-matrix organic light-emitting diode
SnO_2	Tin oxide
PbS	Lead Sulfide
Si^{++}	Heavily doped p-type silicon
EDT	1,2-ethanedithiol
CMOS	Complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor
C	Capacitance
d	Thickness of dielectric
I_D	Drain current
I_G	Gate current
V_D	Drain voltage
W/L	Channel width to length ratio
V_G	Gate voltage
V_{Th}	Threshold voltage
V_D	Dirac voltage
R_S	Sheet resistance
R_C	Contact resistance
R_{tot}	Total resistance
g_m	Transconductance

g_N	Normalized Transconductance
SS	Subthreshold swing
μ	Mobility
E_g	Band gap
h	Planck's constant
N_{SS}	Interfaces states

PREFACE

Modern display technology requires higher resolution, wide area, mechanical flexibility, optical transparency, and lower cost. Over time enormous size cathode ray tube (CRO) based display has been replaced by an active matrix light-emitting display (AMLED). Active matrix display and Passive matrix display are the two main types of flat panel display technology. Up to the present time, active-matrix flat panel displays (AM-FPDs) have conquered the bigger market, and that has been developed as an active matrix thin film transistor (TFT) since 1995. The flat-panel LED-based display is thin, light-weight and has the ability to produce high-resolution images which are very useful in many application such as television, monitors, smartphones, laptops, and the portable device. TFTs are the backbone of active matrix display technology and works as a driver (switching device) to drive a pixel in display 'on' (light) or 'off' (dark), therefore, development of low-cost TFT is urgently required. Because of their high carrier mobility and easy manufacturing process, metal oxide TFT may be one ideal choice for this application. In 1940, Bell Telephone Laboratories demonstrated the first working example of a transistor while Weimer at RCA Laboratories recognized the first working thin-film transistor (TFT) in 1962. Thin-film transistors are basically three-terminal metal oxide field effect transistor devices. In a TFT structure, the dielectric layer is sandwiched between the gate electrode and the semiconductor. The charge flow through the semiconducting layer between the source and drain electrodes can be modulated by the gate bias, which induces polarization in the dielectric layer. Thin-film transistors are constructed using three main components; namely, i) a dielectric layer, ii) a semiconducting material, and iii) metallic electrodes (source (S), drain (D), and gate (G)). Dielectric, active channel layer, and their manufacturing process play a very important role in

the performance of thin-film transistors. There are various vacuum-based techniques for making thin-film transistors, e.g., sputtering, molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), chemical, and atomic vapor depositions. While the use of vacuum-based technology can deposit high quality of thin films, these techniques are cost capital and complex. An alternative approach is solution process techniques, which are very simple, convenient, and cost-saving. Solution-processed MOx dielectric materials have been widely studied due to their high-k values, excellent optical transparency, and chemical/environmental stability. Moreover, their main function as a gate dielectric layer in TFTs, high-k dielectrics, also plays a very crucial role in the capacitor and memory devices. In this concern, SiO_2 is the standard gate dielectric because it makes high-quality film without defect (free from the pinhole, impurity) in the form of native oxide with silicon substrates, which is easily deposited through thermally grown. SiO_2, having nearly perfect properties for a gate insulator: high bandgap and electrical resistivity, outstanding Si-SiO_2 interface, least defect density in bulk, and high crystallization temperature. However, one main drawback of this dielectric is its lower dielectric constant (κ), and due to this issue, metal oxide thin film transistor requires high operating voltages that limit its application to low power electronics. Relatively, high-k AlO_x dielectric is a better choice for oxide electronics has been prepared by using various aluminum sources such as aluminum nitrate, aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum chloride, Zirconium and hafnium oxides (HfO_x) constitute another class of most-studied high-k oxide dielectrics that are used for low voltage TFT. Subramanian and co-workers reported high-performance all solution-processed MOx electronics using these high -k dielectrics. Alternatively, Katz and co-workers proposed a novel approach by incorporating ionic dopants into MOx lattices to enhance the k value of host dielectric material dramatically.

However, the processing temperature of this ionic dielectric is very high (>800 ^{o}C), which is required to lower significantly for flexible electronics. Moreover, this ionic dielectric is mostly studied for n-channel TFT fabrication. Although for typical electronics applications, we need both n-channel and p-channel TFT. Therefore, the development of low voltage p-channel TFT is also required.

Keeping those requirements in mind, in this thesis work, we have focused on the development of different ion-conducting gate dielectrics, which required lower processing temperature and can be suitable for p- and n-channel metal oxide TFT fabrication.

Three new ion-conducting gate dielectrics have been developed by the sol-gel route and have been successfully used as a gate dielectric in metal oxide thin film transistor. These three ion-conducting dielectrics are Li_2ZnO_2, $LiInO_2$, and $LiGaO_2$. In these dielectrics, Li_2ZnO_2 was assumed to possess a hexagonal structure while $LiInO_2$ and $LiGaO_2$ have the tetragonal structure. Owing to this Li^+ ion conductivity, a high-capacitive thin film can be produced with these three ion-conducting dielectrics, which is a key factor in the development of low-voltage TFTs. Finally, using these dielectrics, high-performance transistors were fabricated that required ≤ 2 V operating voltage with high carrier mobility and good on/off ratio.

Metal oxide semiconductors are commonly n-type in nature. However, SnO_2 can show ambipolar nature, in case it's doped in a proper way. In this thesis work, a p-type doping SnO_2 channel semiconductor has been made from the dielectric/semiconductor interface and has been utilized to develop high carrier mobility balanced ambipolar oxide-transistor. To introduce this interfacial-doping, a bottom-gate top-contact TFTs have been fabricated by using two different ion-conducting oxide dielectrics which contain trivalent atoms like

indium (In) and gallium (Ga). These ion-conducting dielectrics are $LiInO_2$ and $LiGaO_2$, respectively, containing mobile Li^+ ion. During SnO_2 thin film fabrication on top of those ionic dielectrics, the trivalent atoms allow p- doping to the dielectric/semiconductor interfacial SnO_2 layer to introduce the hole conduction in the channel of TFT. Our comparative electrical data indicates that TFTs with $LiInO_2$ and $LiGaO_2$ dielectric is ambipolar in nature. Most interestingly, by using $LiInO_2$ dielectric, we are capable of fabricating 1V balanced ambipolar TFT with a high electron and hole mobility values of 7 $cm^2\ V^{-1}\ s^{-1}$ and 8 $cm^2\ V^{-1}\ s^{-1}$ respectively with an on/off ratio $>10^2$ for both operations which have been utilized for low-voltage CMOS inverter fabrication.

In the last fifteen years, a large number of literature has been published on graphene TFT; those are mostly fabricated through an expensive lithography process. Moreover, it required a very high gate voltage to get the variation channel current, and it's hard to get a saturation drain current. Because of that limitation, until now, graphene TFT are not used for common electronics. In this thesis work, we have fabricated large channel length (up to 5.7 mm) graphene field-effect transistors (GFETs) through a simple, cost-effective method that required thermally evaporated source-drain electrode deposition, which is less cumbersome from the conventional wet-chemistry based photolithography. The semiconducting nature of graphene has been achieved by utilizing the Li^+ ion of Li_5AlO_4 gate dielectric, which shows current saturation at a low operating voltage (~2V). The length scaling of these GFETs has been studied with channel length variation within a range from 0.2 mm to 5.7 mm. It is observed that the GFET of 1.65 mm channel length shows optimum device performance with good current saturation. This particular GFET shows the 'hole' mobility of 312 $cm^2\ V^{-1}\ s^{-1}$ with on/off ratio 3. For comparison, GFET has been fabricated in the same geometry by

using conventional SiO_2 dielectric that doesn't show any gate-dependent transport property, which indicates the superior effect of Li^+ of the ionic gate dielectric on current saturation.

For an application as chemical gas sensor, our developed large-area graphene TFT, we have fabricated a GFET with a large channel length of 450 μm. The device characteristics are shown excellent low operation behavior within 2V, which is paving the path for portable TFT based chemical gas sensors. The fabricated device has also been tested for very low concentration ammonia under ambient environment conditions at 25 ^{o}C temperature, which shows the enormous potential for ammonia sensing for real-life applications. The average response time and recovery time of this GFET based sensor is ~40 sec and ~120 sec, respectively. A large change in Dirac point variation from 1.4V to 0.7V indicates its high sensitivity in the ammonium atmosphere.

At the end of the thesis, we discussed the main findings of the present work and listed a few suggestions for future investigations.

List of journals and books used to bind up the thesis has been given at the end of the thesis as references.