



Contribution ID: 165

Type: POSTER

DEFECTS STUDIES IN PURE AND DOPED In_2O_3 SINGLE CRYSTALS BY PAC

semiconductors

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poster

Summary

The indium oxide electronic properties, pure or impurity doped, as massive material or thin films, irrespective of its morphology, i.e. nanoparticles or nanowires, are of high interest due to their potential technological applications. Perturbed Angular Correlations (PAC) measurements on pure and doped In_2O_3 using ^{111}In as radioactive probe are presented.

Already the first paper on the application of the PAC technique to an oxide found the electron capture after-effects (AE) for $^{111}\text{In}/^{111}\text{Cd}$ probes in In_2O_3 . The ^{111}In isotope decays via EC to the $7/2^+$ state of ^{111}Cd and after 170 ps the first γ quanta of the PAC cascade is emitted. The EC-decay caused a hole in the K-shell, which is filled by X-ray and/or Auger transitions. Within 0.01 ps further Auger processes produce additional holes in higher shells. Therefore, the ^{111}Cd -atom is highly ionized after its creation and electrons are needed to stabilize its electron shell. It depends strongly on the properties of the matrix (metal, semiconductor, and insulator) whether enough electrons are available in time or not. In metals the missing electrons are fast supplied and no AE is observed. But in semiconductors or insulators the relaxation time of the excited electron shell may be longer than the mean lifetime of the hyperfine-sensitive intermediate state in ^{111}Cd (≈ 122 ns), leading to time-dependent (fluctuating) EFGs and damped PAC perturbation functions $G_{22}(t)$.

Many different experiments have proven that the EC after-effect is, without doubts, the origin of this damping of the $R(t)$ functions. Implantations at ISOLDE/CERN of the 48 min isotope ^{111m}Cd into different bixbyite oxides showed no aftereffect, the same was observed in the PAC-experiments with the $^{181}\text{Hf}/^{181}\text{Ta}$. In both cases, no EC-decay can distort the probe's electron shell and no additional electron is needed.

The existence of these aftereffects depends on the oxide purity. In this communication are presented results obtained with indium oxides samples contaminated with different impurities. An equimolar mixture of O_2 and In_2O_3 doped with ^{111}In and overnight calcinated at 1273 K in normal air atmosphere, results in In_2O_3 doped with Cd impurities. Additionally, In_2O_3 doped with C was made: a mixture of indium metal and carbon, in a porcelain crucible, loosely cover was overnight calcinated at 1273 K. In this way crystals of In_2O_3 grew on the walls and cover of the crucible. Later the crystals were doped with ^{111}In . PAC spectra of both samples were studied as a function of temperature. The obtained results show pronounced differences, which can be ascribed to the donor or acceptor character of the impurities.

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Track Classification: Semiconductors, Metals and Insulators