

MacEtch of β -Ga₂O₃, SiC, and GaN: Plasma-damage-free and High-Aspect-Ratio

Hsien-Chih Huang,¹ Julian Michaels,¹ Clarence Chan,¹ Anhar Bhuiyan,² Zixuan Feng,² Hongping Zhao,² and Xiuling Li^{1,*}

¹Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

²Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, The Ohio State of University, Columbus, OH 43210

*Xiuling@illinois.edu

Metal-assisted Chemical Etching (MacEtch), discovered in 2000 for porous Si generation originally, is a local (open-circuit) electrochemical etching method capable of producing anisotropic high aspect ratio semiconductor structures with a simple wet etching process catalyzed by a patterned metal film. MacEtch eliminates plasma and high-energy ion induced damage typically occur in conventional reactive ion etching. Nanowires, vias, trenches, and numerous other patterns have been demonstrated using MacEtch for silicon (Si), germanium (Ge), and compound semiconductors (including GaAs, InGaAs, InP, GaP, SiC, GaN, β -Ga₂O₃), with unprecedented aspect ratio and sidewall quality. In this talk, we present the MacEtch process and characterization of wide bandgap semiconductors including β -Ga₂O₃, GaN, and SiC.

Acknowledgement: NSF ECCS 18-09946.