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Schottky barrier tuning *via* dopant segregation in NiGeSn-GeSn contacts

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We present a comprehensive study on the formation and tuning of the Schottky barrier of NiGeSn metallic alloys on Ge_{1-x}Sn_x semiconductors. First, the Ni metallization of GeSn is investigated for a wide range of Sn contents ($x = 0-0.125$). Structural analysis reveals the existence of different poly-crystalline NiGeSn and Ni₃(GeSn)₅ phases depending on the Sn content. Electrical measurements confirm a low NiGeSn sheet resistance of 12 Ω/\square almost independent of the Sn content. We extracted from Schottky barrier height measurements in NiGeSn/GeSn/NiGeSn metal-semiconductor-metal diodes Schottky barriers for the holes below 0.15 eV. They decrease with the Sn content, thereby confirming NiGeSn as an ideal metal alloy for p-type contacts. Dopant segregation for both p- and n-type dopants is investigated as a technique to effectively modify the Schottky barrier of NiGeSn/GeSn contacts. Secondary ion mass spectroscopy is employed to analyze dopant segregation and reveal its dependence on both the Sn content and biaxial layer strain. *Published by AIP Publishing.* [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4984117>]

I. INTRODUCTION

Germanium tin (GeSn) alloys have been the subject of numerous advances in recent years, as highlighted in Ref. 1. Substantial improvements in epitaxial growth have led in 2015 to the first demonstration of lasing in a group IV alloy.^{2,3} Furthermore, the fabrication of GeSn based electronic devices such as Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistors (MOSFETs),^{4,5} Tunnel FETs (TFETs),⁶⁻⁸ and tunnel-diodes⁹ has qualified GeSn as an interesting material in order to (i) boost the mobility in the channels of MOSFETs and (ii) obtain a direct band-to-band tunneling in TFETs. However, in order to assess the real potential of a new semiconductor alloy, device process modules and fabrication technologies also need to be studied and optimized. Due to the reduced thermal stability of high Sn content GeSn, temperatures above 350 °C have to be avoided to prevent Sn-diffusion and precipitation. The availability of low-resistive contacts is a key module to fabricate high performance electronics and opto-electronics devices. This work provides a comprehensive study on the formation and characterization of NiGeSn/GeSn-contacts including the redistribution of dopants during NiGeSn formation.

The formation of metal-semiconductor alloys (such as silicides or germanides) is a well-established method to obtain smooth and low resistive contacts on semiconductors. The Schottky barrier formed at the metal-semiconductor interface should be as low as possible for realizing good Ohmic characteristics. Dopant segregation (DS) can, beside the proper selection of the alloying metal itself, be used to tune the Schottky barrier height (SBH).¹⁰ The aim is then to

achieve a high doping concentration at the metal semiconductor junction, which induces a strong electronic band bending and in turn modifies the effective Schottky barrier height, yielding a reduced contact resistivity. Two methods are mainly used to perform dopant segregation (DS): (i) first, the metallic alloy (e.g., silicide) is formed followed by dopant implantation into the alloy [e.g., implantation-into-silicide (IIS)]. Then, the dopants are driven towards the alloy-semiconductor interface in a second annealing step; (ii) in the alternative approach, dopants are implanted into the semiconductor prior to the metal deposition. The metallic alloy formation and the dopant segregation then occur during the subsequent annealing as one step. In both schemes, the implantation energy is chosen such that the ion implanted region lies completely within the metal alloy or is fully consumed by the subsequent metallization. Mainly metal-Si alloys (i.e., silicides like NiSi, NiAlSi, and CoSi₂) but also metal-Ge alloys (i.e., germanides such as PtGe and NiGe) have been widely studied for different metals and doping species.^{11,12} However, for Sn-based alloys there are only a few studies on nickel-stannide (NiGeSn¹³⁻¹⁷) and NiPtGeSn.¹⁸ In those studies, Schottky barriers were modified with dopants such as boron atoms¹⁵ or impurities such as sulfur and selenium atoms.¹⁶

In this paper, we present a comprehensive study of NiGeSn contact formation including B, P, and As dopant segregation. A systematic structural analysis was performed using transmission-electron-microscopy (TEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) followed by electrical characterization. We evaluated the sheet resistance of NiGeSn, as well as the

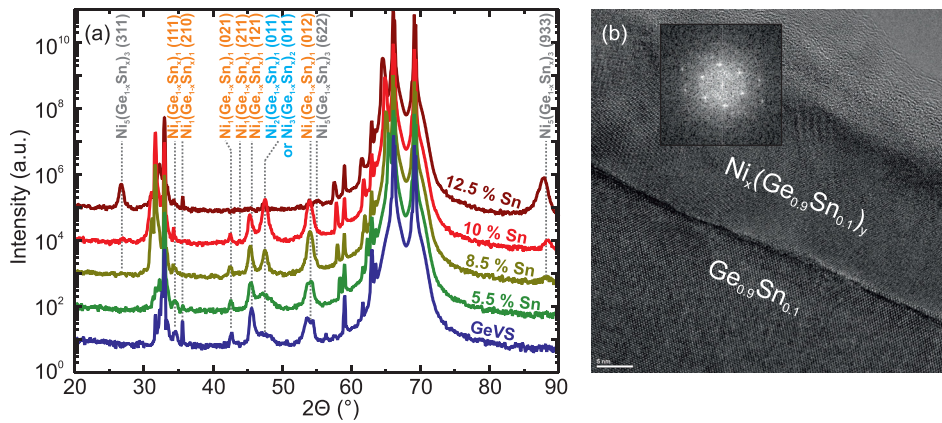


FIG. 1. (a) XRD θ - 2θ spectra of $\text{Ni}_y(\text{Ge}_x\text{Sn}_{1-x})_z$. The unlabeled peaks belong to reflections from GeSn, GeVS, and Si substrates. (b) XTEM image of $\text{Ni}(\text{Ge}_{0.9}\text{Sn}_{0.1})_y$ showing the presence of a smooth interface with the $\text{Ge}_{0.9}\text{Sn}_{0.1}$ layer underneath. The inset shows the FFT pattern of the NiGeSn layer, with a hexagonal symmetry evidenced.

contact resistance and Schottky barrier height (SBH) of NiGeSn/GeSn systems. Emphasis was placed on dopant segregation as a measure to tune the Schottky barrier height and obtain Ohmic contacts. Both methods for dopant segregation: (i) ion implantation into the NiGeSn (Implantation Into Stano Germanide—IISG) and (ii) ion implantation prior to NiGeSn formation (Stano Germanidation Induced Dopant Segregation—SGIDS) were studied. Furthermore, the influence of the Sn content and biaxial compressive strain on dopant segregation was analyzed.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

High quality GeSn epilayers with Sn contents up to 12.5% Sn and thicknesses between 40 nm (pseudomorphic—pm) and 800 nm (partially relaxed) were grown on Ge virtual substrates (Ge-VS) on Si (001) wafers using reduced pressure chemical vapor deposition (RPCVD).^{3,19} After native GeSnO_x removal using a hydrofluoric/hydrochloric acid (HF/HCl) based wet cleaning solution,²⁰ samples were loaded into a sputter-tool and 10 nm Ni were deposited by DC sputtering. Thermal treatment in $\text{H}_2:\text{N}_2$ forming gas at 325 °C for 10 s led to the formation of 23 nm thick metallic NiGeSn poly-crystalline layers with low contact resistivity.¹⁴

A. Structural characterization

XRD θ - 2θ scans of $\text{Ni}_y(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_z$ fabricated on several GeSn alloys with different Sn contents ranging from 0 at. % Sn (Ge-VS) to 12.5 at. % Sn are shown in Fig. 1(a). The GeSn layers were partially relaxed, with thicknesses of 410 nm for the 12.5 at. % Sn layer and ~ 800 nm for the other three Sn contents probed, respectively. The XRD structural analysis revealed the co-existence of several $\text{Ni}_y(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_z$ phases, in agreement with previous studies of NiGeSn formation on pseudomorphically grown (i.e., thin) GeSn layers that revealed mainly $\text{Ni}_1(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_1$ (Refs. 16 and 18) but also $\text{Ni}_5(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_3$.^{14,17} This study indicates that for thick (partially relaxed) layers the phase composition changes with the Sn content even though the metallization was performed at the same temperature for all samples (325 °C). For low Sn content alloys, the main phase is orthorhombic $\text{Ni}_1(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_1$. At about 8.5 at. % Sn, the out-of-plane oriented hexagonal $\text{Ni}_5(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_3$ phase appears and becomes dominant as the Sn content becomes higher and higher. For

NiGeSn alloyed from partially relaxed $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ alloys, the well-oriented $\text{Ni}_5(\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125})_3$ phase is the only one observed. This finding is supported by the fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis of a $\text{Ni}_y(\text{Ge}_{0.92}\text{Sn}_{0.08})_z$ region in the cross-section TEM (XTEM) of Fig. 1(b) showing a hexagonal pattern similar to that reported for $\text{Ni}_5(\text{SiGe})_3$.²¹ For intermediate Sn concentrations (i.e., 5.5 at. % Sn–10 at. % Sn), a third phase with a peak at 47.5° is also detected. This reflection may be attributed to the Ni-rich phases $\text{Ni}_2(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_1$ or $\text{Ni}_3(\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x)_2$. However, due to the multiplicity of possible phases a full crystallographic analysis of NiGeSn is very challenging and beyond the scope of this work.

B. Extraction of sheet resistance and Schottky barrier heights

The NiGeSn sheet resistance was obtained using the Van der Pauw method. According to Fig. 2, the sheet resistance of NiGeSn is nearly independent of the Sn content of the GeSn layer. The measured value of about 10–15 Ω/\square is comparable to literature reports for NiGe.^{22,23}

Apart from the sheet resistance, the Schottky barrier height is an important characteristic for the NiGeSn/GeSn interface. It should indeed be as small as possible to allow for low resistive transport through the junction. The analysis of the temperature dependence of metal/semiconductor/metal (MSM) diode current voltage (I-V) characteristics is

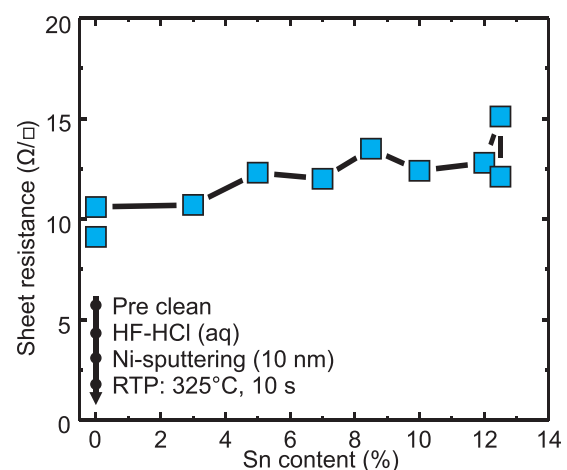


FIG. 2. Sheet resistance of NiGeSn fabricated on GeSn with different Sn contents. The key fabrication steps are shown in the inset.

reported to be a suitable method allowing the extraction of even very low Schottky barrier heights (SBH).²⁴ A further advantage of this method is that the effective contact area does not need to be known ruling out possible inaccuracies due to crowding effects.²⁵ Thus NiGeSn/GeSn/NiGeSn MSM-diodes have been fabricated using standard CMOS technology including optical lithography and dry-etching.

The I-V characteristics of an exemplary 7% Sn MSM diode are plotted in Fig. 3(a). Based on these data, the temperature dependence of the current is extracted for certain voltages. According to thermionic emission-diffusion theory, the slope of the declining linear region of the junction current I plotted as $\ln(I/T^2)$ vs $1/T$ [see Fig. 3(b)] provides the SBH(V) that, due to static and image force lowering, depends linearly on the applied bias:²⁶ $\text{SBH(V)} = \text{SBH}_0 + \beta V$. Outside the linear region of Fig. 3(b), electrical characteristics are dominated by series and shunt-resistances rather than by the Schottky junction. The SBH at zero bias, SBH_0 (in the following just denoted as SBH), is calculated by plotting the voltage dependence of SBH(V) [Fig. 3(c)] and extrapolating it to 0 V. This method yields the Schottky barrier of the majority carriers as the transport through the junction is mediated by majority carriers. Also, the current that flows in a back-to-back MSM diode is controlled by the lowest Schottky barrier. In an ideal case, both electron and hole SBH add up to the band gap $E_g = e\text{SBH} + h\text{SBH}$, providing an easy method for calculating the complementary SBH. However, this equation is not valid if quantum mechanical tunneling through the barrier or minority carrier injection significantly contributes to the carrier transport.²⁵ In these cases, only a smaller apparent (effective) SBH can be extracted and $e\text{SBH}$ and $h\text{SBH}$ do not add up to E_g . The tunneling contribution depends on doping and effective carrier mass.²⁵ Increased doping results in a steeper decay of the band bending and thereby in a thinner tunneling barrier whereupon a smaller effective mass allows easier tunneling through the barrier. In the case of Si-Au contacts, the tunneling current exceeds the thermionic current for $N \geq 10^{18} \text{ 1/cm}^3$ at 300 K.²⁷ Since electron mass m_F and light hole effective mass m_{lh} are smaller in GeSn ($m_F \approx 0.03 m_e$, $m_{lh} \approx 0.035 m_e$)²⁸ than in Si, for GeSn tunneling is expected to affect the effective SBH already for significantly smaller doping levels.

Another effect that might become relevant for this low bandgap material and affect the effective SBH is minority carrier injection. For Si-Au Schottky diodes, the ratio of minority carrier injection and majority carrier injection γ is in the 10^{-5} range for low bias and minority carrier injection can be neglected.²⁵ However, γ quadratically depends on the intrinsic carrier concentration n_i which in turn exponentially depends on the bandgap. n_i is in the 10^{13} to mid 10^{14} 1/cm^3 range for GeSn compared to 10^{10} 1/cm^3 for Si. As a consequence, minority carrier transport can become relevant for Ge and GeSn as mentioned by Green and Shewchun.²⁹ Recently, we experimentally demonstrated that minority carrier response in GeSn MOS-structures is significantly stronger than in Ge.³⁰

According to the above discussion, it should be pointed out that the following SBH-values always denote the effective SBH. This way, the $h\text{SBH}$ was extracted for several intrinsically p-type GeSn alloys with Sn contents ranging from 3 at. % to 10 at. %. Small $h\text{SBH}$ was extracted for all analyzed Sn-contents in line with recent data on the related Ni(SiGeSn)/p-SiGeSn system of $h\text{SBH} = 0.09 \text{ eV}$ for $\text{Si}_{0.07}\text{Ge}_{0.86}\text{Sn}_{0.07}$.³¹ This points towards Fermi-level pinning close to the valence band due to metal induced gap states (MIGS) known from metal-germanide contacts.^{16,32–34} A systematic decrease of the $h\text{SBH}$ with increasing Sn content was evidenced, which is consistent with the bandgap decrease for increasing Sn content [Fig. 3(d)]. However, this does not necessarily infer that changes in $h\text{SBH}$ follow changes in the band-alignment. The intrinsic p-type background doping increases with the Sn content (from mid 10^{16} cm^{-3} to mid 10^{17} cm^{-3}) which might also contribute to the reduction of the effective $h\text{SBH}$.

C. Contact resistance on *in-situ* doped GeSn

Generally, low resistance Ohmic contacts require highly doped (degenerated) semiconductors. A typical method to obtain high doping levels, for instance in the source-drain regions of Si CMOS devices, is ion beam implantation. The low thermal stability of GeSn, limited to about 300 °C–350 °C, hinders a defect free re-crystallization or efficient annealing of ion implanted regions, making ion implantation inappropriate for GeSn alloys.³⁵ These challenges can be circumvented by *in-situ* doping. It has been demonstrated that

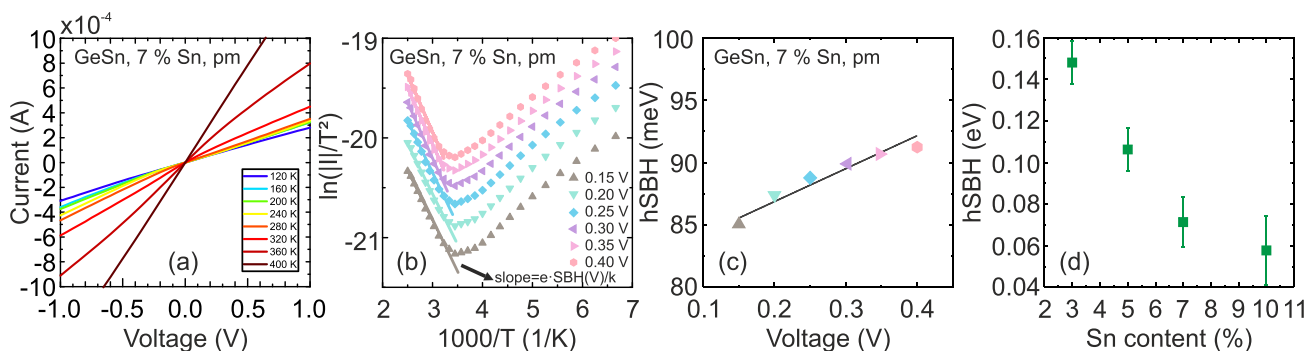


FIG. 3. (a) I-V characteristics of MSM diodes for different temperatures. (b) Corresponding Arrhenius plot of MSM-diode characteristics. e is the elementary charge and k is the Boltzmann constant. (c) The SBH(V) is extracted from the slope in (b) for different voltages and plotted against the applied voltage. The extracted $h\text{SBH}$ at 0 V is plotted in (d) against the Sn content. A systematic decrease of the $h\text{SBH}$ with the Sn content can be observed.

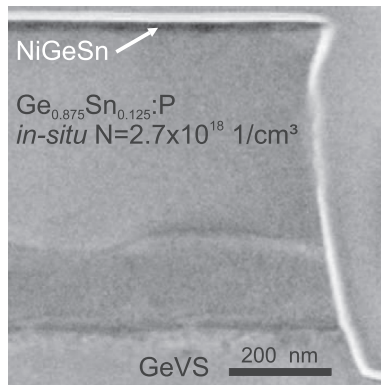


FIG. 4. XTEM image of *in-situ* phosphorous doped $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ with NiGeSn contact showing excellent crystalline quality.

in-situ doping of GeSn is possible and that high doping levels can be achieved for p- and n-type dopants.^{9,36,37} As an example, a nearly defect free NiGeSn on an *in-situ* phosphorous doped $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ layer is shown in the XTEM micrograph of Fig. 4. The n-type carrier concentration amounts to $8 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. Here, only the typical dislocation half-loops due to strain relaxation are visible at the GeSn/Ge interface. However, no threading dislocations or extended crystal defects appear in the TEM lamella. GeSn retains its excellent crystalline quality during metallization annealing. Transfer length model (TLM) structures were then fabricated for contact resistance measurements as follows.

I-V measurements were performed for neighboring contacts with differing distances [see Fig. 5(a)] and the resistance extracted by fitting the linear region. The slope of a linear fit of the measured resistance as a function of the

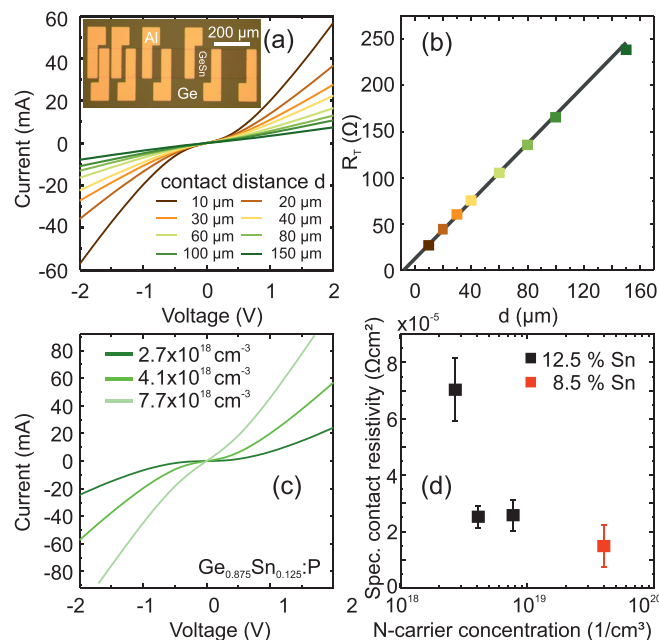


FIG. 5. (a) I-V characteristics of a TLM-structure for different contact distances. The inset shows an optical microscopy image of a fabricated TLM-structure. The resistances extracted from the linear region in (a) are plotted versus the contact distance in (b). (c) I-V characteristics of TLM structures with different phosphorous doping levels in GeSn. (d) Specific contact resistivity vs. doping concentration.

contact distance [Fig. 5(b)] is linked to the sheet resistance R_{sq} of the GeSn:P layer, whereas half the x-intercept gives the transfer length L_T . This way, the specific contact resistivity $\rho_c = L_T \cdot R_{sq}^2$ was extracted for different doping levels and Sn contents. Figure 5(c) shows the I-V characteristics between two contacts for *in-situ* doped n-type $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ with three different doping levels. The behavior becomes Ohmic for higher doping levels, which is consistent with an increased tunneling component through the Schottky barrier as also reported by Srinivasan *et al.*³⁸ for metal/n-GeSn contacts. Specific contact resistivities in the low $10^{-5} \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ range have been achieved [Fig. 5(d)], i.e., significantly lower than those reported by Li *et al.* for NiGeSn/n-GeSn contacts ($\rho_c = 6.4 \times 10^{-4} \Omega \text{ cm}^2$) and in reasonable agreement with values measured by Han *et al.*¹⁵ for p-type NiGeSn/p-GeSn contacts. It should be noted that contact resistivities below $10^{-6} \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ are required for device production.³⁹ The lowest reported values for metal/GeSn contacts are in the $10^{-6} \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ range.³⁸

D. Dopant segregation in NiGeSn

The process flow for the SGIDS and IISG dopant segregation schemes in NiGeSn/GeSn contacts is shown in Figs. 6(a)–6(d) and Figs. 6(a) and 6(e)–6(h), respectively. In both approaches, standard cleanroom technology is used for device fabrication. First, the active area is defined by photo lithography and dry etching. Mesa passivation is realized with a stack of 10 nm atomic layer deposited Al_2O_3 followed by 150 nm of plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposited SiO_2 . Contact windows are then opened with dry-etching [Fig. 6(a)].

First, we analyze DS using the IISG technique [see flow Figs. 6(a) and 6(e)–6(h)]. After converting 10 nm Ni to ~ 23 nm thick NiGeSn by annealing at 325°C for 10 s [Figs. 6(e) and 6(f)], p-type (BF_2^+ , 15.8 keV) or n-type dopants (P^+ , 10 keV, or As^+ , 13 keV) with a dose of $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ were implanted into the metallic NiGeSn layers [Fig. 6(g)]. The dopant implantation energy was chosen such that the dopant distribution resides completely in the NiGeSn layer to avoid crystal damage of the underlying GeSn layer. The implantation was followed by a second annealing at 325°C for 10 s [Fig. 6(h)] to drive out the dopants to the NiGeSn/GeSn interface.

The elemental distribution was analyzed by time of flight secondary ion mass spectroscopy (ToF-SIMS) and showed no dopant pile-up at the NiGeSn/GeSn interface independent of the dopant species [Figs. 7(a)–7(c)]. Consequently, dopant segregation by ion implantation into NiGeSn (IISG) is not effective given the limited annealing temperature allowed by the GeSn stability and the choice of dopant. The diffusion of dopants from the NiGeSn towards the NiGeSn/GeSn interface is obviously not high enough for a significant interface pile-up effect.

E. Stanogermanidation induced dopant segregation (SGIDS)

As an alternate approach, the same ion species, BF_2^+ , P^+ , and As^+ , were tested for SGIDS. The corresponding

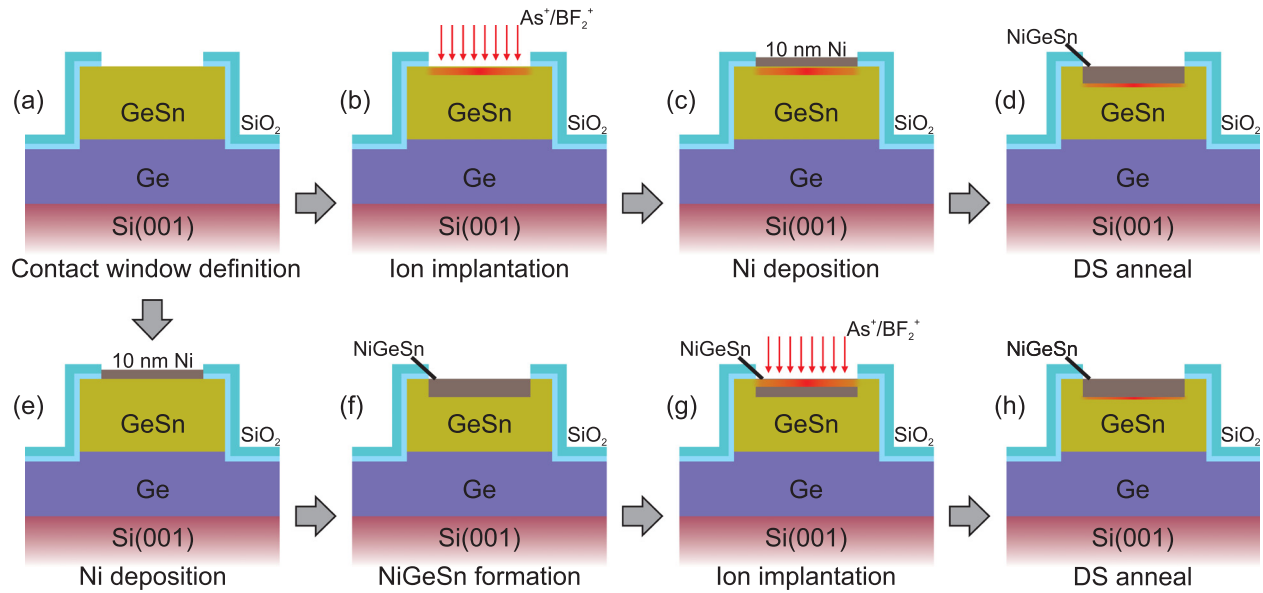


FIG. 6. Fabrication procedure for stanogermanidation induced dopant segregation (SGIDS) (a)–(d) and for dopant segregation by implantation into nickel-stanogermanide (IISG) (e)–(h).

process flow is depicted in Figs. 6(a)–(d). Here, the implantation occurred directly into the GeSn using the following implantation parameters [Fig. 6(b)]: 10 keV for BF₂⁺, 7 keV for P⁺, and 13 keV for As⁺ at a dose of $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. After Ni deposition [Fig. 6(c)], NiGeSn was formed and dopants were driven out in one step thanks to annealing at 325 °C [Fig. 6(d)]. The dopant ion implantation energy was such that the implantation induced damaged region was fully consumed by the NiGeSn, while the dopants may diffuse to the interface with the crystalline (i.e., undamaged) GeSn below. In contrast to the IISG case, the ToF-SIMS spectra [Figs. 7(d) and (f)] indicate a clear dopant distribution peak at the metal/semiconductor interface for

As and B dopants, whereas P shows no dopant segregation effect [Fig. 7(e)].

In opposition to our findings, P segregation during NiGe formation was reported in Ref. 22 albeit at a higher formation temperature of 400 °C. In addition, it was found less effective than As DS.²² The formation of NiGeSn is connected with significant volume changes and the creation of point defects that can enhance dopant diffusion⁴⁰ at the evolving NiGeSn/GeSn interface even at low temperatures leading to a snow plow effect. This might explain why SGIDS worked but not IISG.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the parameters influencing the SGIDS, a systematic study is presented

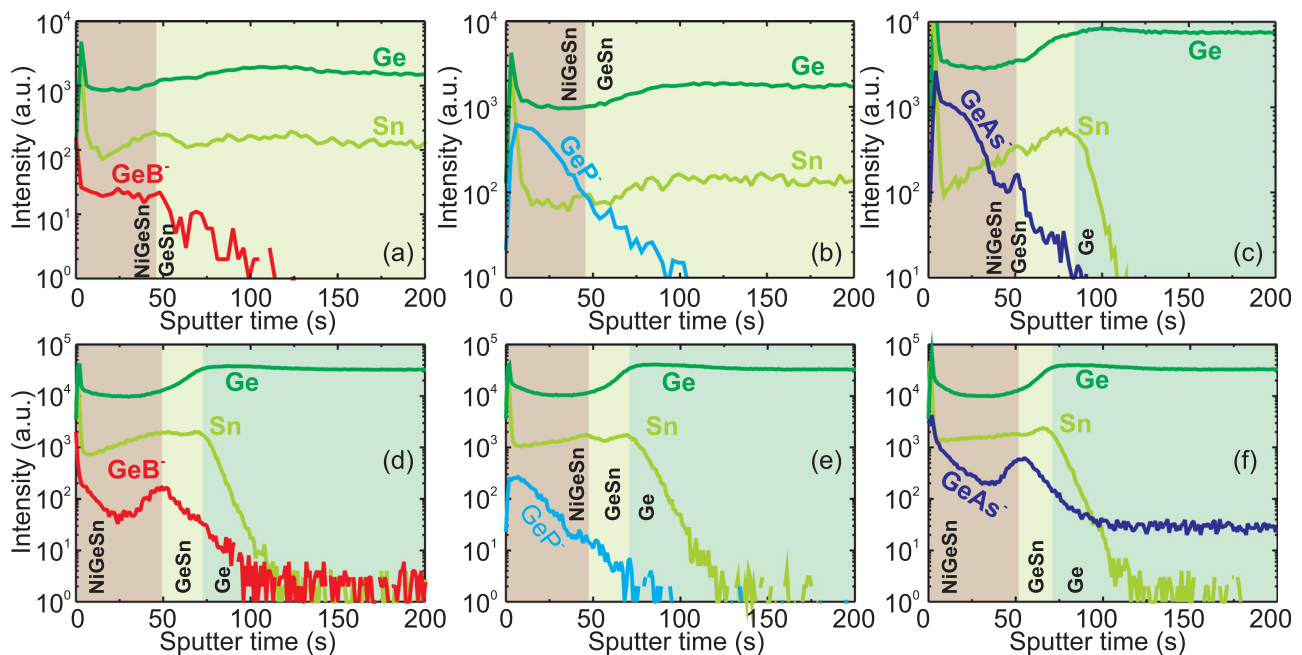


FIG. 7. Elemental TOF-SIMS spectra at the NiGeSn/GeSn interface for IISG (a)–(c) and SGIDS (d)–(f). No DS is observed for IISG for B, P, or As (a)–(c). However, SGIDS is observed for As and BF₂ (d) and (f) implant, not for P (e).

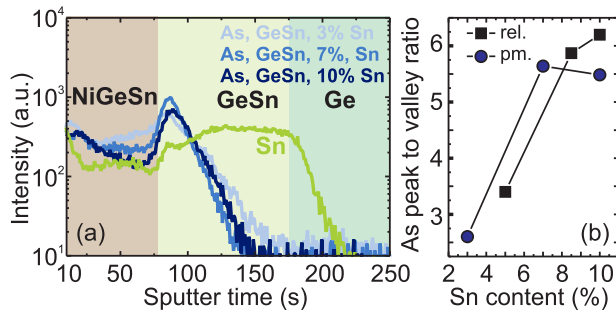


FIG. 8. (a) Elemental TOF-SIMS spectra of SGIDS with arsenic on pseudomorphically (pm.) grown GeSn with different Sn contents. For a better detection, GeAs^- is used as the As signal here. (b) Peak to valley ratio of the As concentration vs. Sn content for SGIDS on pseudomorphic GeSn and relaxed (rel.) GeSn. The Sn-signal is exemplarily shown for the 7% Sn sample.

below for B and As dopants for various Sn contents and elastic strains in the GeSn layer. Samples ranging from 0% Sn (Ge-VS) up to 12% Sn and from pseudomorphically grown on Ge (fully strained) to partially relaxed layers were analyzed.

It should be noted that the complexity of the DS-process only allows a qualitative discussion of the parameters influencing the dopant redistribution.⁴⁰

Dopant segregation of As at the NiGeSn/GeSn interface becomes more pronounced as the Sn content increases, for both pseudomorphic and partially relaxed layers, as shown in Fig. 8(a). This is obvious when looking at the peak-to-valley ratio of the dopant signal in the NiGeSn layer as shown in Fig. 8(b): it increases by more than a factor of two when going from 3 at.% Sn to 10 at.% Sn in the GeSn layer. It is known that the number of point defects (e.g., vacancies) in GeSn increases with the Sn content.⁴¹ Since As diffuses *via* vacancies in Ge⁴² (and thus probably also in GeSn), this might result in stronger diffusion of As explaining the enhanced SGIDS⁴³ effect.

Interestingly, SGIDS with B in NiGeSn shows the opposite Sn dependence, as seen in Fig. 9. The peak to valley ratio of the B concentration drops by a factor of roughly three when going from 3% to 10% Sn. B diffuses interstitially and thereby relies on a fundamentally different mechanism than As diffusion.⁴² However, the observed changes in the doping profile are mainly within the NiGeSn layer.

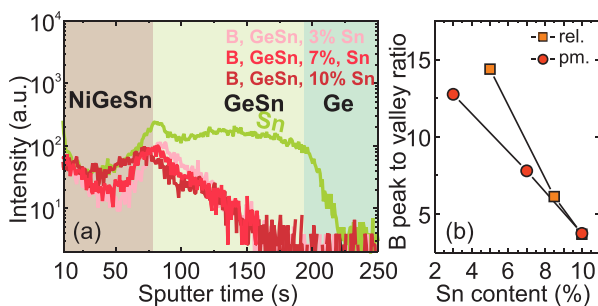


FIG. 9. (a) ToF-SIMS analysis of SGIDS with boron on pseudomorphically grown GeSn layers with different Sn contents. GeB^- is used as the B signal. (b) Peak to valley ratio of the B concentration vs. Sn content for SGIDS on pseudomorphic (pm.) and relaxed (rel.) GeSn alloys. The Sn-signal is exemplarily shown for the 7% Sn sample.

Following the discussion by Murarka and Williams,⁴⁰ the increased B signal in the NiGeSn-layer might be attributed to an enhanced solid solubility of B in NiGeSn with increasing Sn-content. At the same time, achieving high B doping levels in GeSn is more challenging than in Ge, presumably due to a decreased solid solubility of B in GeSn.³⁷ The interplay of both effects results in a reduction of the segregation coefficient (peak to valley ratio) as the Sn content increases.

1. Strain dependence

It is known that the diffusion of dopants depends on the strain and the existence of point-defects. We have thus quantified the dependence of SGIDS on biaxial compressive lattice strain in the GeSn layer. Thin GeSn epilayers grown pseudomorphically on Ge are highly compressively strained. When growing GeSn beyond a certain critical thickness (which is a function of the Sn content), these layers start to plastically relax the built-in compressive strain *via* the formation of numerous misfit dislocations. $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ layers with thicknesses of 90, 280, and 414 nm were used here, corresponding to compressive strains of -1.56% , -0.48% , and -0.43% , respectively. Again doped NiGeSn layers with As^+ and BF_2^+ ion implantation were formed by SGIDS. For As atoms, the dopant segregation peak becomes less pronounced as the GeSn thickness increases (the compressive strain decreases) (Fig. 10). As vacancy diffuser,⁴² large volume atoms like As are expected to show enhanced diffusion under compressive strain.⁴⁴ In contrast, no strain dependence was observed for SGIDS with boron. Since boron diffuses *via* interstitials, less strain dependence was expected.

F. Schottky barrier height modulation with dopant segregation

In the following, the effect of DS on the electrical characteristics of MSM diodes is investigated. Thus, MSM diodes on *in-situ* doped $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}\text{:P}$ were fabricated using the process scheme for SGIDS described above. Whereas the un-implanted sample shows a slight diode-like behavior, the I-V characteristics of the sample with As dopant segregation (complementary doping) are perfectly Ohmic [Fig. 11(a)]. In contrast, the sample with boron dopant segregation (counter doping) shows as expected an enhanced diode behavior. The corresponding Schottky

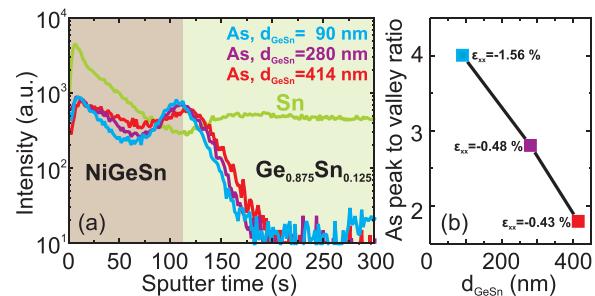


FIG. 10. (a) ToF-SIMS analysis for SGIDS with arsenic on $\text{Ge}_{0.875}\text{Sn}_{0.125}$ with different GeSn thicknesses. For better detection GeAs^- was used as the As signal. The Sn signal is taken for the 414 nm sample. (b) Peak to valley ratio of the As concentration.

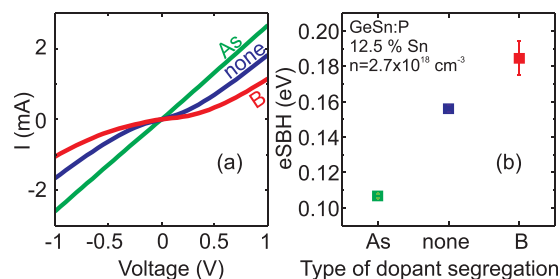


FIG. 11. (a) I - V characteristics of NiGeSn/Ge_{0.875}Sn_{0.125}:P MSM diodes with As and B segregation and (b) corresponding eSBH.

barriers are shown in Fig. 11(b). Arsenic dopant segregation reduces the Schottky barrier, whereas boron dopant segregation leads to an increased Schottky barrier in this *in-situ* n-doped layer. The observed eSBH is comparable to that observed by Tong *et al.*¹⁶ for S and Se segregation on NiGeSn/n-GeSn contacts. What is striking though is the fact that even the eSBH without dopant segregation is comparably low since one might expect an eSBH close to E_g considering the fact that extremely small hSBH were observed on pGeSn [Fig. 3(d)]. However in compliance with the discussion in Section II B one expects a significant contribution from tunneling for the doping level of $2.7 \times 10^{18} \text{ 1/cm}^3$ which effectively reduces the apparent eSBH.

III. CONCLUSION

We have presented a comprehensive study of NiGeSn contacts on GeSn with a wide range of Sn contents for GeSn-based electronic devices. A low NiGeSn sheet resistance was obtained for the whole Sn content range probed. TEM and XRD analysis of NiGeSn revealed the presence of several NiGeSn polycrystalline phases. Investigations of dopant segregation have shown that dopant segregation can be achieved during NiGeSn formation for both p- and n-type dopants and used for Schottky barrier height tuning. Furthermore, dependencies of dopant segregation in NiGeSn on the Sn content and layer strain have been analyzed. These results are important to obtain low contact resistances in GeSn devices such as MOSFETs or electrically pumped lasers.

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