

# Properties of heavily W-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> films deposited on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass by simultaneous rf and dc magnetron sputtering

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Received 2 April 2013; received in revised form 27 May 2013; accepted 31 May 2013

Available online 6 June 2013

## Abstract

TiO<sub>2</sub> films were heavily doped with W (TiO<sub>2</sub>:W) by simultaneous rf magnetron sputtering of TiO<sub>2</sub>, and dc magnetron sputtering of W. The advantage of this method is that the W content could be changed in a wide range. The coexistence of TiO<sub>2</sub>, WO<sub>3</sub> and TiWO<sub>5</sub> in the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film was detected by XPS analysis. Besides, tungsten in TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the bare glass may form mixed valence of W<sup>0+</sup> and W<sup>6+</sup>. Electrical conductivity was primarily due to the contribution of oxygen vacancies and W donors (W<sub>Ti</sub><sup>••</sup>). When the film thickness increased, the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film showed higher carrier concentration and higher mobility. Furthermore, the resistivity and the transmission decreased obviously with film thickness. On comparing with the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film deposited on the bare glass, the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass exhibited lower surface roughness, lower resistivity, higher optical energy gap, higher optical transmission, and lower stress-optical coefficient.

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**Keywords:** Film; Sputtering; Resistivity; Optical energy gap

## 1. Introduction

Titanium dioxide is a material widely used in the ceramic, cosmetic, coating, automobile and pigment industries. Nowadays it has been one of the most extensively studied oxides because of its remarkable optical and electrical properties [1,2]. Compared with other semiconductors, the great advantages of TiO<sub>2</sub> lie in the fact that it possesses appropriate flat band potential and high chemical stability. To date, TiO<sub>2</sub> is still the leading photocatalyst because it can mineralize a large range of organic pollutants [3,4]. However, due to its large band gap energy (typically < 380 nm), TiO<sub>2</sub> can only absorb ultraviolet light rather than visible light that occupies the great part of solar light. Furthermore, the overall quantum yield rate can be influenced by the low rate of electron transfer to dissolved oxygen and a high rate of recombination between electron–hole pairs [5]. Thus, much effort has been made to decrease the band gap energy of TiO<sub>2</sub> by doping TiO<sub>2</sub> with main group

elements including carbon, nitrogen and sulfur [6–8], transition metal elements such as W<sup>6+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Zr<sup>4+</sup>, V<sup>5+</sup> and Mo<sup>6+</sup> [9–12]. Among transition metal elements, W<sup>6+</sup> ion can substantially reduce the recombination process between dopant cation and TiO<sub>2</sub> matrixes. It seems to be an interesting dopant to extend the absorption threshold toward the visible range. Besides, Jo et al. [13] studied WO<sub>3</sub> doped TiO<sub>2</sub> thick film deposited by screen printing, and reported an electrical interaction between WO<sub>3</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> for high temperature gas sensors.

Different methods, such as chemical, physical deposition processes, and ion implantation can be selectively employed to dope TiO<sub>2</sub> films [14]. Among the physical vapor deposition (PVD) techniques, magnetron sputtering has the advantage of being scalable to large-area industrial processes and has shown to be an efficient way to prepare and dope high-quality TiO<sub>2</sub> films [15]. Because doped films generally can be caused to have very stable optical and electrical properties [16]. Furthermore, studies of the conduction mechanism in heavily W-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> (TiO<sub>2</sub>:W) thin films prepared by magnetron sputtering have not been reported. In this work, the TiO<sub>2</sub> films

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were heavily doped with W (TiO<sub>2</sub>:W) by simultaneous rf magnetron sputtering of TiO<sub>2</sub>, and dc magnetron sputtering of W. The advantage of this kind of deposited method is that the W content could be changed in a wide range.

Aluminum oxide is a very promising layer material because of its interesting optical properties and low cost [17]. The formation of fibered morphology of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film was dominated by low Ar pressure, and was good for optical properties [18]. Besides, the glass has been widely used in optical devices and has many important applications. Thus, the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film exhibiting fibered morphology was deposited on the glass and acted as the substrate in this study. The characteristics of films are affected by the preparation conditions such as working pressure, substrate temperature, types of substrates, and the thickness of the films [19,20]. The influence of types of substrates (bare glass and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass) and film thickness on optical and electrical properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films was investigated.

## 2. Experimental procedures

The Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass and TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films were prepared by magnetron sputtering. The targets used in this study were sintered stoichiometric Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (99.99% purity, 5 cm diameter, 5 mm thickness, Target Materials Inc., USA), sintered stoichiometric TiO<sub>2</sub> (99.99% purity, 5 cm diameter, 5 mm thickness, Target Materials Inc., USA) and metallic W (99.95% purity, 5 cm diameter, 5 mm thickness, Target Materials Inc., USA).

The dimension of the glass substrates (Corning 1737) was 24 mm × 24 mm × 1.1 mm. Before deposition, the substrates were ultrasonically cleaned in alcohol, rinsed in deionized water and dried in nitrogen. For the deposition of the films, the sputtering was performed in a pure Ar with a target-to-substrate distance of 15 cm. The substrate was not heated and no external bias voltage was applied to the substrate. The rotating speed of the substrate was 20 rpm.

A turbo-molecular pump backed by a rotary pump, was used to achieve a base pressure of  $1.3 \times 10^{-4}$  Pa. At a working pressure of 0.29 Pa, an rf power (13.56 MHz, RGN-1302, ULVAC, Japan) of 200 W was supplied to the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> target and the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film was deposited to a thickness of 100 nm. On the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass, the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film with a thickness of 20–300 nm was deposited at a working pressure of 1.5 Pa. An rf power (13.56 MHz, RGN-1302, ULVAC, Japan) of 50 W was supplied to the TiO<sub>2</sub> target, and a dc power (DCS0052B, ULVAC, Japan) of 6 W was applied to the W target.

Film thickness was measured using a surface profiler (Alpha-Step 500, TENCOR, Santa Clara, CA). Surface morphologies and surface roughness were examined by atomic force microscopy (AFM; Agilent 5500, Santa Clara, CA). Elemental compositions were investigated by X-ray photoemission spectroscopy (XPS; PHI 5000 VersaProbe, Japan). The optical transmission spectra of films in the ultraviolet–visible–near infrared (UV–VIS–NIR) region were obtained using a spectrophotometer (HP 8452A diode array spectrophotometer, Hewlett Packard, Palo Alto, CA). The resistivity,

mobility, and carrier concentration were measured by a Hall Effect Measurement System (HMS-2000, ECOPIA, USA). Linear refractive indices of samples were recorded using a spectrometer (MP100-ST, Fremont, CA). Young's modulus was measured by the Nano Indenter XP System (MTS Systems Corporation, MN, USA).

Fig. 1 shows the Moiré deflectometry experimental set-up that is used to measure the nonlinear refractive indices of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films on the bare glass and the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass. Lens L<sub>1</sub> focused a 5-mW He–Ne laser beam (wavelength of 632.8 nm), which was re-collimated by lens L<sub>2</sub>. The focal lengths of lenses L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub> and L<sub>3</sub> were all –250 mm. Two similar Ranchi gratings, G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub> with a pitch of 0.1 mm were used to construct the Moiré fringe patterns. The distance between the planes of G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub> was set to 64 mm, which is one of the Talbot distances of the used gratings. The Talbot distances satisfy  $z_t = tp^2/\lambda$  where  $p$  is the periodicity of the grating;  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of light, and  $t$  is an integer. In this work, the Moiré fringes were clearly formed at a Talbot distance of  $z_{t=4} \approx 64$  mm. The Moiré fringe patterns were projected onto a computerized CCD camera by lens L<sub>3</sub>, which was placed at the back of the second grating.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. The effect of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass substrate

Fig. 2 shows the morphologies of (a) Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass, (b) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and (c) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the bare glass (sample B). In Fig. 2a, the fibered morphology is a consequence of the nucleation of grains that grow geometrically and impinge laterally. It is a result of a competition during deposition between the rate of arrival of new Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> species on the surface and the concurrent redistribution over the surface by diffusion. Hence, the fibered morphology may be due to the nonequilibrium growth [18]. The advantages of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film with fibered morphology were described in a previous paper [18]. According to Fig. 2b and c, sample A and sample B were composed of irregular grains with island structures, but sample A exhibited lower roughness. The roughness values were very close to the morphologies of growing films [21]. Generally, the surface roughness could affect the carrier mobility [22].

The bonding conditions of oxygen on the surfaces of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films were investigated by XPS spectra. Fig. 3 shows Ti 2p photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and (b) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on

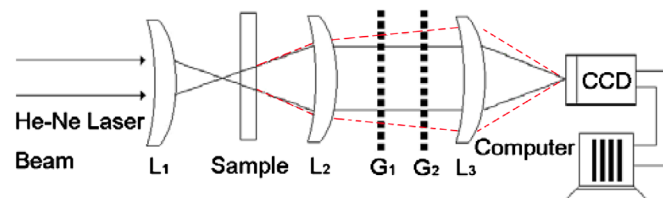


Fig. 1. The experimental set-up for measuring nonlinear refractive index by the Moiré deflectometry technique.

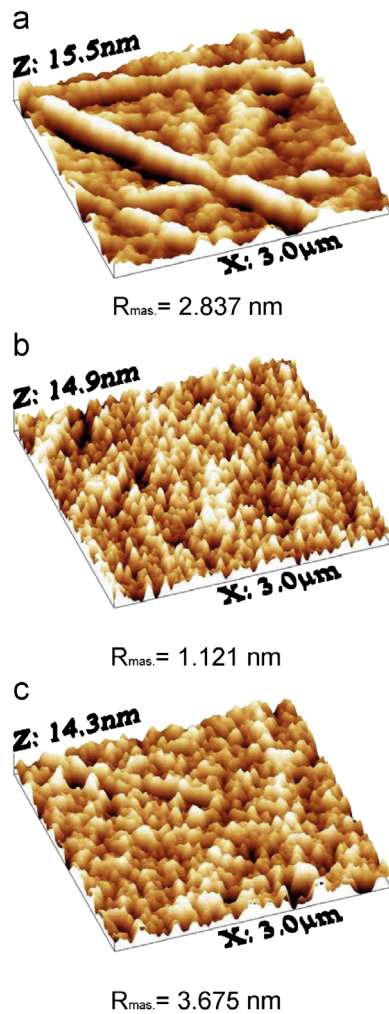


Fig. 2. The morphologies of (a)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass, (b)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass (sample A) and (c)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the bare glass (sample B).

the bare glass (sample B). The Ti 2p spectra consists of Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  and Ti  $2p_{1/2}$  peaks. In Fig. 3a and b, the binding energy corresponding to the Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  state ( $458.5 \pm 0.02$  eV) in the measured samples is shifted by 5 eV as compared with metallic titanium (453.5 eV). The binding energy shift of this value indicates that the films contain titanium at the highest oxidation state  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  [23]. The highest and the lowest energy components have been assigned to  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Ti}^0$ , respectively, while the intermediate component has the energy shift relative to  $\text{TiO}_2$  that falls in between that of  $\text{Ti}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Ti}^{2+}$  [24]. According to Fig. 3a and b, no energy shift relative to  $\text{TiO}_2$  could be observed. It suggested that the contribution of oxidation states of Ti was probably only due to  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  for sample A and sample B.

Fig. 4 shows W 4f photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass (sample A) and (b)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the bare glass (sample B). In Fig. 4a, peaks of W  $4f_{7/2}$  at  $35.5 \pm 0.01$  eV and W  $4f_{5/2}$  at  $37.4 \pm 0.03$  eV, which indicated that the film contained tungsten at the highest oxidation state  $\text{W}^{6+}$  [25]. In Fig. 4b, peaks of W  $4f_{7/2}$  at  $35.5 \pm 0.01$  eV and W  $4f_{5/2}$  at  $37.6 \pm 0.01$  eV, which were attributed to W oxides [26]. Meanwhile, peaks of W  $4f_{7/2}$  at  $31.2 \pm 0.09$  eV and W  $4f_{5/2}$

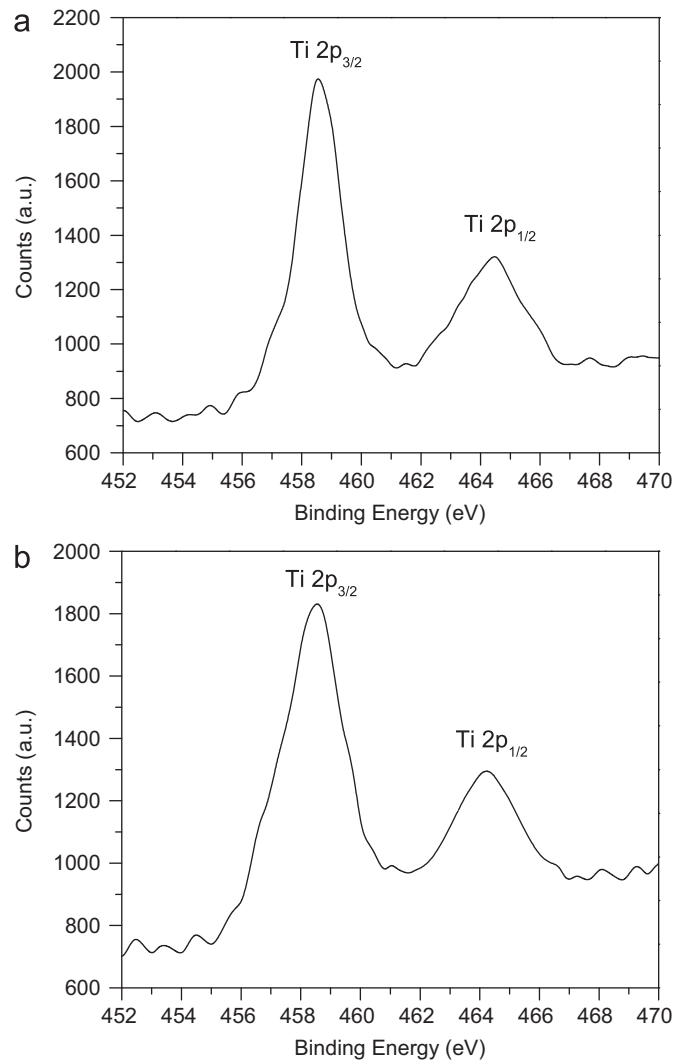


Fig. 3. Ti 2p photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass (sample A) and (b)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the bare glass (sample B).

at  $33.1 \pm 0.08$  eV, which were attributed to W metal [26]. It suggested that tungsten in sample B may form mixed valence of  $\text{W}^{0+}$  and  $\text{W}^{6+}$ . By comparing Fig. 4a with b, metallic tungsten ( $\text{W}^{0+}$ ) presented preferentially and as interstitial atoms in the lattice of  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the bare glass.

Fig. 5 shows O 1s photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass (sample A) and (b)  $\text{TiO}_2\text{:W}$  film on the bare glass (sample B). In Fig. 5a, the O 1s peak was composed of three peaks ( $\text{O}_I$ ,  $\text{O}_{II}$  and  $\text{O}_{III}$ ). The peak ( $\text{O}_I$ ) at  $531.2 \pm 0.01$  eV may be due to oxygen in  $\text{TiO}_2$  [27]. The peak ( $\text{O}_{II}$ ) at  $530.2 \pm 0.02$  eV could be attributed to oxygen in  $\text{WO}_3$  [25]. The peak ( $\text{O}_{III}$ ) at  $529.6 \pm 0.01$  eV was speculated and probably due to oxygen in  $\text{TiWO}_5$ . In Fig. 5b, the O 1s peak was composed of three peaks ( $\text{O}_I$ ,  $\text{O}_{II}$  and  $\text{O}_{III}$ ). The peak ( $\text{O}_I$ ) at  $531.2 \pm 0.01$  eV may be due to oxygen in  $\text{TiO}_2$ , whereas the peak ( $\text{O}_{II}$ ) at  $530.2 \pm 0.01$  eV was probably due to oxygen in  $\text{WO}_3$ . The peak ( $\text{O}_{III}$ ) at  $529.6 \pm 0.01$  eV was speculated and probably due to oxygen in  $\text{TiWO}_5$ .

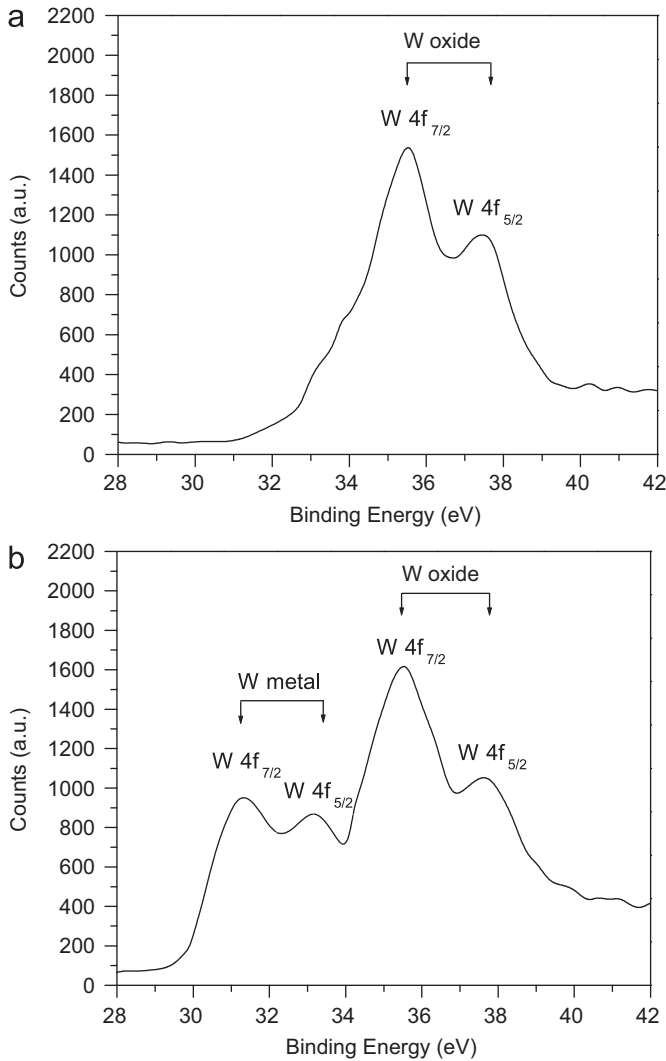


Fig. 4. W 4f photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and (b) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the bare glass (sample B).

We defined the relative strength of a peak as the ratio of its area to the total area of O<sub>I</sub>, O<sub>II</sub> and O<sub>III</sub> peaks. According to Fig. 5a and b, the relative strength of O<sub>II</sub> was relatively low, especially for sample B. It suggested that Ti atoms in TiO<sub>2</sub> crystalline were not substituted favorably by W atoms for the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films, especially on the bare glass.

By XPS measurement, Ti, W and O contents of sample A were 20.6 at%, 13.4 at% and 66 at%, respectively. Similar results were obtained for sample B. The O/(Ti+W) atomic ratio was below 2, suggesting that the deposited films became nonstoichiometric. It also suggested that the formation of oxygen vacancies in the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films.

Results of Hall measurements (Table 1) revealed that TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films are of electrical properties. Sample A showed lower resistivity, higher mobility and carrier concentration. Igasaki and Saito [28] reported that an increase in conduction electrons could be attributed to the increase in donors and/or oxygen vacancies in which incorporation of donors takes place. According to the preceding discussion (Figs. 3–5), the conduction

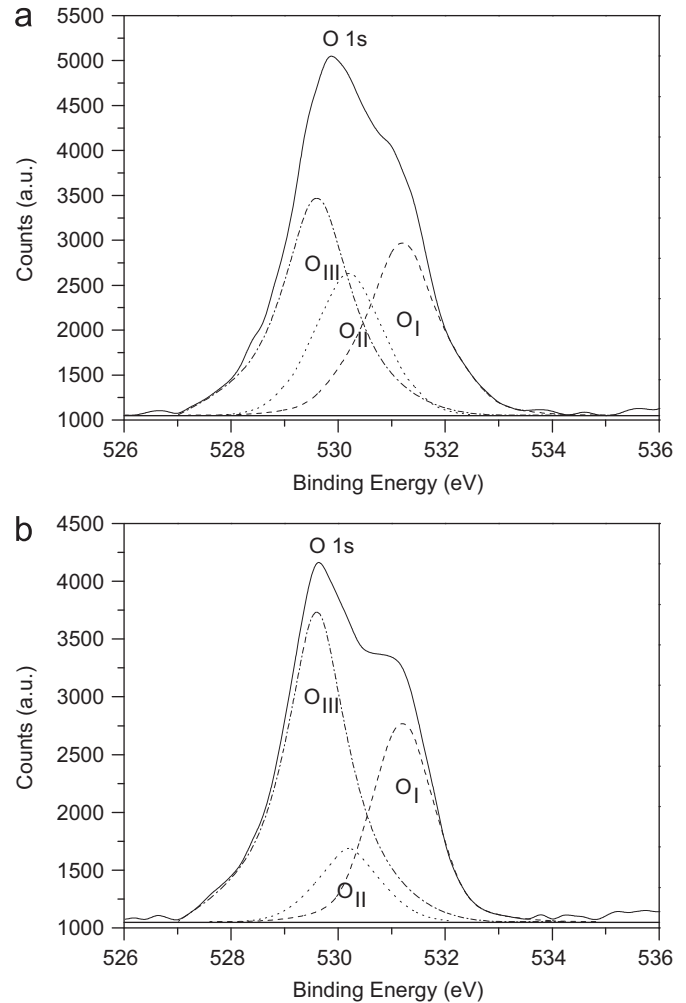
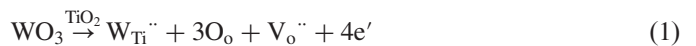


Fig. 5. O 1s photoelectron peaks in the XPS spectra of (a) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and (b) TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film on the bare glass (sample B).

electrons of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films may be originated from the oxygen vacancies (V<sub>O</sub><sup>••</sup>) and W donors (W<sub>Ti</sub><sup>••</sup>) as shown.



Besides, the resistivity  $\rho$  is proportional to the reciprocal of the product of carrier concentration  $N$  and mobility  $\mu$  as the following equation [29]:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{Ne\mu} \quad (2)$$

In Table 1, the lower resistivity of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film was probably caused by the product of carrier concentration  $N$  and mobility  $\mu$  being relatively high. For sample A, Ti atoms in TiO<sub>2</sub> crystalline were substituted favorably by W atoms, which caused higher carrier concentration. Furthermore, sample A exhibited lower roughness, which corresponded to higher mobility.

A change of the linear refractive index caused by stress is called the photoelastic effect [30]. The linear refractive index is specified by the indicatrix, which is an ellipsoid whose coefficients are the components of the relative dielectric



Table 1

Resistivity, mobility, carrier concentration, linear refractive index and Young's modulus of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films deposited on the different substrates.

Sample	A	B
Film	TiO <sub>2</sub> :W	TiO <sub>2</sub> :W
Film thickness (nm)	300	300
Substrate	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -deposited glass	Bare glass
Resistivity $\rho$ ( $\Omega$ -cm)	1.979	7.202
Mobility $\mu$ (cm <sup>2</sup> /V-s)	103.86	71.13
Carrier concentration $N$ (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	$3.04 \times 10^{16}$	$1.22 \times 10^{16}$
Linear refractive index $n_0$	2.305	2.187
Young's modulus (GPa)	54.7	65.6

impermeability tensor  $B_{ij}$  at optical frequencies:

$$B_{ij}x_i x_j = 1 \quad (3)$$

The small change of the linear refractive index produced by stress is a small change in the shape, size and orientation of the indicatrix. This change is specified by the small changes in the coefficients  $B_{ij}$ .

If terms of higher-order than the first in the field of stresses are neglected, then the changes  $\Delta B_{ij}$  in the coefficients are

$$\Delta B_{ij} = \varphi_{ijkl} \sigma_{kl} \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta B_{ij} = p_{ijrs} \varepsilon_{rs} \quad (4)$$

where  $\varphi_{ijkl}$  and  $p_{ijrs}$  are called the piezo-optical and strain-optical coefficients, which typically have the orders of magnitude of  $10^{-12} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$  and  $10^{-1} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$ , respectively.

Based on the relation,  $B = 1/n_0^2$ , the change of linear refractive index for an isotropic film material is assumed to be [30,31]

$$\left( \frac{\partial n_0}{\partial \sigma} \right)_T = -\frac{1}{2} n_0^3 \varphi \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma = E \varepsilon \quad (6)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the stress,  $E$  is the Young's modulus, and  $\varepsilon$  is strain. Young's modulus is related to the bonding strength between the atoms in material, and is proportional to stress [32]. Consequently, a change in the linear refractive index due to film stress may affect the optical performance of an optical thin film, as shown in Eq. (5).

By consulting similar studies of films for nanoindentation tests [33–36], the measured indentation moduli of the films could be influenced by the substrate even at indentation depths less than 2% of the film thickness. As the indenter goes deeper into the film, the effects caused by indenter oscillation become negligible and the substrate effect dominates the indentation process. For the measurement of elastic modulus of the film, the result will be greatly affected by the substrate even if the indentation depth is very small because the elastic deformation is not confined to the film itself; rather, it is a long-range effect that extends into the substrate [34]. According to Table 1, sample A showed higher linear refractive index and lower Young's modulus. The reason was probably due to Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass being able to absorb more applied strain [37].

The value of  $\Delta n_0 / \Delta E$  is equal to the value of  $\Delta n_0 / \Delta \sigma$ . Furthermore, the value of  $\Delta n_0 / \Delta \sigma$  is reportedly similar to the stress-optical coefficient [38]. The stress-optical coefficient,

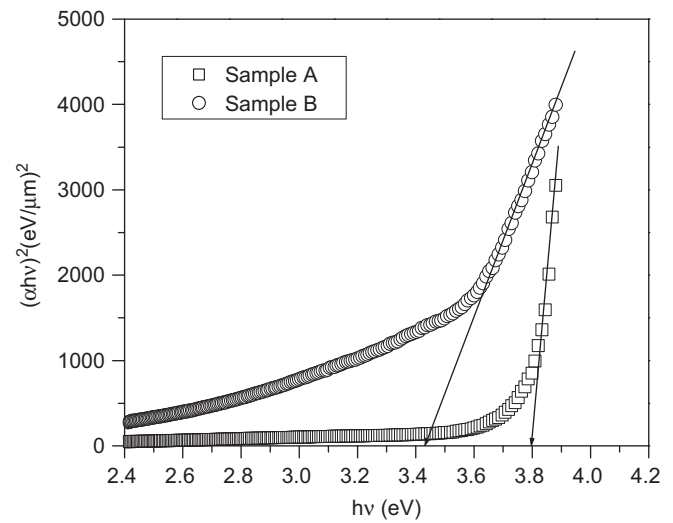


Fig. 6. Plots of  $(ah\nu)^2$  versus  $h\nu$  for TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films deposited on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and the bare glass (sample B).

$(\partial n_0 / \partial \sigma)_T$  of sample A was lower than that of sample B, and was calculated to be in the range of  $-5.2 \times 10^{-12}$  to  $-13.7 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$ .

The optical energy gap  $E_g$  could be obtained from the intercept of  $(ah\nu)^2$  versus  $h\nu$  for direct allowed transitions [39]. Better linearity was observed for  $(ah\nu)^2$  versus  $h\nu$  [39,40] as shown in Fig. 6. Fig. 6 shows the plots of  $(ah\nu)^2$  versus  $h\nu$  for TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films deposited on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and the bare glass (sample B). The values of  $E_g$  were 3.8 eV and 3.43 eV for sample A and sample B, respectively. The change of optical energy gap for sample B has been interpreted as a Moss–Burstein shift, where the change is the result of the decrease in the free carrier concentration, and the corresponding downward shift of the Fermi level to below the band edge [41,42]. The carrier concentration of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film (Table 1) was closely related to optical energy gap (Fig. 6).

Fig. 7 shows the transmission in the UV–VIS–NIR region of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films deposited on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and the bare glass (sample B). According to Figs. 6 and 7, sample A had higher optical energy gap and exhibited higher transmission. It was also probably due to the relatively low surface roughness, which could result in less light scattering [43]. The results indicated that the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass

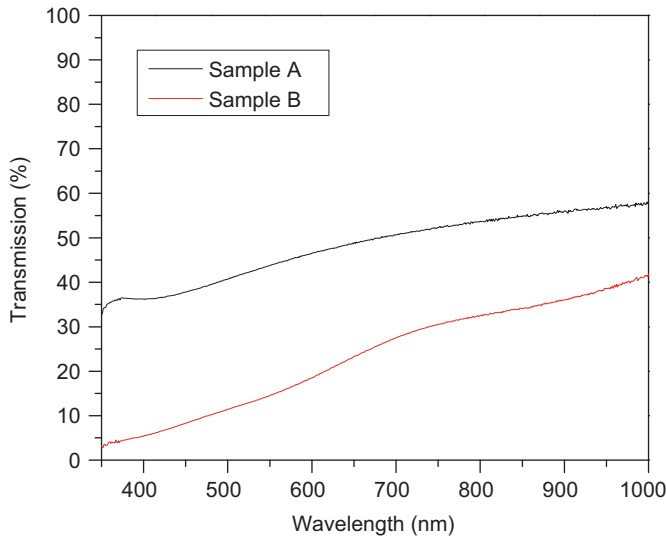


Fig. 7. The transmission in the UV–VIS–NIR region of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films deposited on the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-deposited glass (sample A) and the bare glass (sample B).

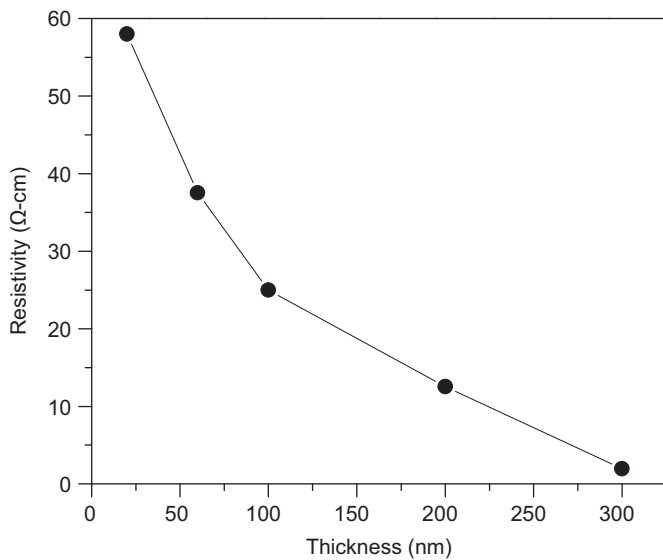


Fig. 8. The resistivity of sample A with different thicknesses.

substrate affected the optical transmission of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film significantly.

### 3.2. The effect of film thickness

Fig. 8 shows the resistivity of sample A with different thicknesses. The resistivity decreased with the film thickness. Chiou et al. [44] reported that the resistivity of thick film and thin film could be expressed by Eqs. (7) and (8), respectively.

$$\frac{\rho_f}{\rho_o} = 1 + \frac{3}{8K} \quad (K \gg 1) \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\rho_f}{\rho_o} = \frac{4}{3K \ln \frac{1}{K}} \quad (K \ll 1) \quad (8)$$

Here  $\rho_f$  is the resistivity of thin film,  $\rho_o$  is the resistivity of bulk, and  $K$  is the reduced thickness. ( $K$ =the film thickness/the mean free path of the charge carrier in the bulk material). From Eqs. (7) and (8), it can be seen that the film thickness affects the resistivity of thin film more than thick film. In addition, the resistivity decreased with the increase of film thickness. The resistivity of TiO<sub>2</sub>:W films in this study had a similar behavior.

Fig. 9 shows the mobility and carrier concentration of sample A with different thicknesses. The mobility and carrier concentration increased with the increase of film thickness. On comparing Fig. 8 with Fig. 9, the TiO<sub>2</sub>:W film with 300 nm thickness showed the lowest resistivity, which resulted from the highest product of carrier concentration and mobility.

Fig. 10 shows the transmission in the UV–VIS–NIR region of sample A with different thicknesses. The transmission in the UV–VIS–NIR region increased obviously with the decrease in film thickness.

Nonlinear refractive indices of materials are of great interest because of potential applications in designing optical devices and laser technology [45–48]. The refractive index,  $n$ , which

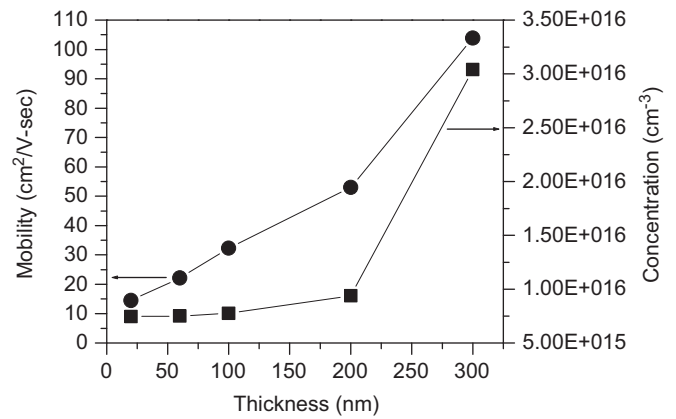


Fig. 9. The mobility and carrier concentration of sample A with different thicknesses.

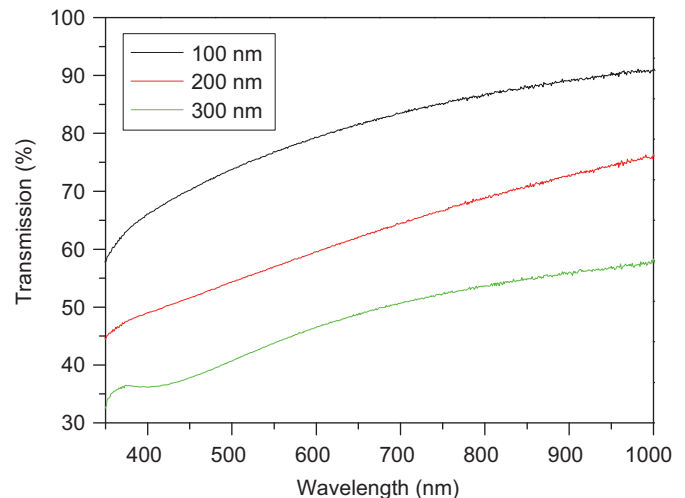


Fig. 10. The transmission in the UV–VIS–NIR region of sample A with different thicknesses.

depends on the radiation intensity, may be expressed in terms of the nonlinear refractive index  $n_2$  ( $\text{cm}^2 \text{W}^{-1}$ ):

$$n(r, z) = n_o + n_2 I(r, z) = n_o + \Delta n(r, z) \quad (9)$$

where  $n_o$  is the linear refractive index,  $I(r, z)$  is the irradiance of the laser beam within the sample, and  $\Delta n(r, z)$  is the light-induced change in refractive index.

Based on the assumption that a Gaussian beam is traveling in the  $+z$  direction, the beam irradiance can be written as

$$I(r, z) = I_0 \frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega^2(z)} \left[ 1 - \frac{2r^2}{\omega^2(z)} \right] \quad (10)$$

where  $r$  is the radial radius of the imaginary sphere;  $\omega_0$  is the spot size of the beam at the focus;  $\omega(z) = \omega_0(1 + z^2/z_0^2)^{1/2}$  is the beam radius at a distance  $z$  from the position of the waist;  $z_0 = \pi\omega_0^2/\lambda$  is the diffraction length of the Gaussian beam, and  $\lambda$  is the wavelength. The irradiance of the beam at the focus is denoted by  $I_0$  and in terms of the input laser power,  $p_{in}$ , which equals  $2p_{in}/\pi\omega_0^2$ . Therefore, for a Gaussian laser beam, the radial dependence of the irradiance gives rise to a radially-dependent parabolic refractive index change near the beam axis:

$$\Delta n(r, z) = n_2 I_0 \frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega^2(z)} \left[ 1 - \frac{2r^2}{\omega^2(z)} \right] \quad (11)$$

Moiré deflectometry is a sensitive technique for measuring changes in the refractive indices of materials. The sensitivity of this technique is determined by the minimum measurable-angle of rotation ( $\alpha_{min}$ ). Fig. 11 shows the Moiré fringe rotation angle versus  $z$  for sample A. The tested sample was placed at various distances from the focal point of lens  $L_1$ . The minimum angle of rotation was obtained from the figure. The same experiment was performed using only an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass substrate to check the contribution of the substrate to the nonlinear refraction measurement. No observed fringe rotation or change in fringe size was found.

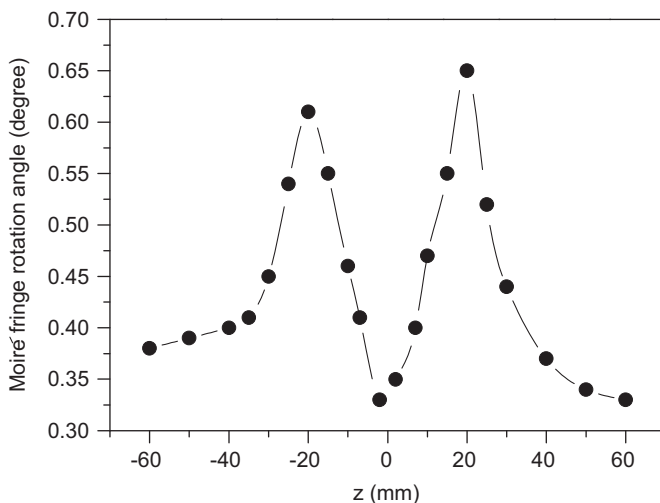


Fig. 11. The Moiré fringe rotation angle versus  $z$  for sample A.

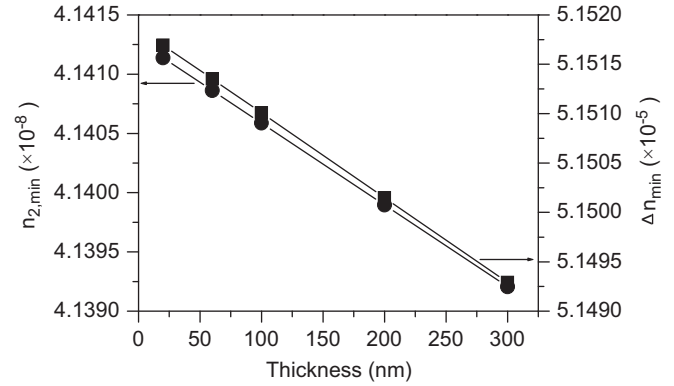


Fig. 12. Minimum nonlinear refractive indices and the change in the minimum refractive indices of sample A with different thicknesses.

For the thin nonlinear medium of thickness  $d$ , the lowest nonlinear refractive index can be written as

$$n_{2,min} = \frac{\theta f_2^2}{2z_t} \frac{\pi \omega_0^4}{2dp_{in}z_0^2} \alpha_{min} \quad (12)$$

and the change in the minimum refractive index is

$$\Delta n_{min} = \frac{\theta f_2^2 \omega_0^2}{z_t dz_0^2} \alpha_{min} \quad (13)$$

Fig. 12 shows the minimum nonlinear refractive indices and the change in the minimum refractive indices of sample A with different thicknesses. The nonlinear refractive index was measured to be of the order of  $10^{-8} \text{cm}^2 \text{W}^{-1}$  and the change in refractive index was of the order of  $10^{-5}$ .

#### 4. Conclusions

In this study, electrical conductivity was primarily due to the contribution of oxygen vacancies and W donors ( $\text{W}_{\text{Ti}}$ ). For the  $\text{TiO}_2:\text{W}$  film on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass, Ti atoms in  $\text{TiO}_2$  crystalline were substituted favorably by W atoms, which caused the higher carrier concentration. However, metallic tungsten ( $\text{W}^{0+}$ ) presented preferentially and as interstitial atoms in the lattice of  $\text{TiO}_2:\text{W}$  film on the bare glass. The  $\text{TiO}_2:\text{W}$  film with lower surface roughness corresponded to higher mobility, higher optical energy gap and higher optical transmission. The nonlinear refractive indices of  $\text{TiO}_2:\text{W}$  films on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -deposited glass were measured to be of the order of  $10^{-8} \text{cm}^2 \text{W}^{-1}$ . Furthermore, the resistivity and the transmission decreased obviously with film thickness. This suggested that the application of thicker  $\text{TiO}_2:\text{W}$  film was limited.

#### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the National Science Council of the Republic of China, Taiwan, for financially supporting this research under Contract no. NSC-99-2221-E-260-017.

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