

学校编码: 10384

分类号 _____ 密级 _____

学号: 18120051301648

UDC _____

廈門大學

碩 士 學 位 論 文

全息方法实现高外量子效率光子晶体 LED

Fabricating high external quantum efficiency photonic
crystal LED using holographic method

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论文提交日期: 2008 年 8 月

论文答辩时间: 2008 年 月

学位授予日期: 2008 年 月

答辩委员会主席: _____

评 阅 人: _____

2008 年 8 月

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摘要

发光二极管 (LED) 被称为21世纪照明光源, 其与传统光源相比具有节能, 环保, 使用寿命长等优点, 其主要应用领域包括: 交通指示灯, 户外全彩色显示器, LCD背光照, 和日常照明以及装饰照明等方面, 是将来社会发展所需要的更高亮度、更低能耗的照明器件。然而, 目前LED要在照明领域上完全替代其他光源, 还需要解决提高光效, 降低成本, 降低芯片发热量, 提高LED使用寿命等问题, 而这些问题全部都受到LED外量子效率很低的制约。LED的外量子效率低主要是由于其表面与空气界面的全反射条件的限制, 导致其光提取效率不高。目前国际上有许多提高LED光提取效率的方法, 如表面粗化, 制作布拉格反射层, 制作二维光子晶体等。在这些方法当中, 利用二维光子晶体提高LED的外量子效率具有工艺简单, 光提取效率高等优点成为目前提高LED外量子效率的研究热点之一。

目前国际上制作光子晶体 LED 的方法各自存在其优缺点, 还没有一种方法能方便、快捷、低成本的制作大面积小晶格常数的光子晶体图形。这使光子晶体 LED 还无法进行产业化生产。利用激光全息技术在光刻胶上制作光子晶体具有成本低, 制作周期短, 可方便制作大面积光子晶体等优点。而且使用全息光学元件 (HOE) 制作光子晶体的光路系统具有工艺简单, 制作系统稳定, 容易调节等优点。因此本研究使用由三个两两夹角为 120° 的全息光栅组成的 HOE 通过一次曝光制作二维六角光子晶体图形的光刻胶掩模层 (在本文中称这种方法为 HOE 光全息方法), 并根据半导体的不同性质, 使用湿法刻蚀将图形转移到 GaN 基 LED 的电流扩展层 ITO 上, 使用干法 ICP 刻蚀技术将图形转移到蓝宝石衬底上, 来提高 GaN 基 LED 的外量子效率。实验结果证明这种方法可以方便、快捷、低成本的制作大面积光子晶体图形, 能够满足产业化生产的要求, 并能有效的提高 LED 的外量子效率。本课题从理论到实验对制作二维光子晶体的方法和提高 LED 外量子效率的效果进行了研究, 本文的主要研究工作和结果包括以下几个方面:

1. 从理论上分析了只要在干涉面上投影两两夹角为 120° 的三束光相干涉就能形成二维六角晶格结构, 模拟分析了不同光强和偏振态对于干涉形成的晶格结构的影响, 结果表明只有三束光的光强和偏振态完全一致才能干涉形成结构完整的二维六角晶格结构。在此基础上, 模拟以正性光刻胶作为记录介质的显影过程。最后从理论上分析HOE

制作光路系统和使用HOE制作光子晶体系统的参数选择。

2. 分析了二维光子晶体提高GaN基LED光提取效率的两种机理，并针对在ITO表面制作二维六角光子晶体作为表面光栅提高GaN基LED光提取效率的机理进行理论分析和计算，得出了能够衍射出LED的入射光角度与光子晶体晶格常数之间的关系，从而找出了最有利于提高GaN基LED光提取效率的晶格常数的范围为250nm~500nm。

3. 使用HOE光全息方法和湿法刻蚀技术相结合在GaN基LED的ITO电流扩展层上制作二维六角光子晶体图形提高GaN基LED的光提取效率。并对相同晶格常数(1 μm)不同表面形貌的结构进行比较，结果表明在晶格常数相同的情况下，结构完整，侧壁有一定侧壁厚度(200nm)，刻蚀深度为70nm的图形有利于提高LED的光提取效率，提高的幅度为25%。接着比较了表面形貌相同的晶格常数分别为1.2 μm 、1.5 μm 、1.8 μm 的结构是提高效果，测试结果表明在表面形貌相同的情况下，小晶格常数(1.2 μm)的结构更有利于LED光提取效率的提高，提高的幅度为22.5%。

4. 使用HOE光全息方法和干法ICP刻蚀技术相结合在蓝宝石衬底上制作晶格常数为3.8 μm ，刻蚀深度为800nm的二维六角光子晶体结构。并在制作好的蓝宝石图形衬底上生长GaN材料，制作成PSS-LED器件。通过测试结果证明这是一种提高LED外量子效率的有效途径：PSS-LED相对于普通LED平均光强提高了接近100%，最大光强提高了30%。最后对PSS大幅度提高GaN基LED外量子效率的原因进行分析，认为在GaN晶格质量没有提高的情况下提高外量子效率的主要原因是衬底图形对衬底与GaN层之间的波导光的散射。

关键词：发光二极管；全息术；全息光学元件；二维六角光子晶体；外量子效率；提取效率；ITO；图形蓝宝石衬底

Abstract

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are regarded as the light sources of the 21st Century. Compared with traditional light sources, LEDs have the advantages of power saving, environmental protection and long service life. The main application fields of LEDs are traffic lights, outdoor full-color displays, LCD backlight, general lighting and decorative lighting. They are the high brightness and low power consuming lighting devices which can meet the requirement of future social development. However, there are still several problems prevent LEDs from replacing all other light sources completely, such as low efficiency, high cost, high working temperature, far shorter service life than theoretical value, etc. All these problems are mainly related to the extremely low external quantum efficiency (EQE) of LEDs. The reason of low EQE is that LED's light extraction efficiency (LEE) is very low, which is mainly caused by the total internal reflection (TIR) between the surface of the semiconductor material and the surrounding medium. In recent years several methods have been tried to improve LEE, such as surface roughness, fabrication of Bragg reflector, utilization of two-dimensional (2D) photonic crystals (PCs), etc. Because of its simple fabrication process and high enhancement in EQE, 2D PC method is considered to be one of the most effective ways.

At present, the lack of a convenient, fast and low-cost method to fabricate large area 2D PCs with small lattice constants (LC) stops PC-LED from industrial production. As fabricating 2D PC patterns on photoresist via holographic lithography has the advantages of low-cost, short fabrication period and being able to produce large area PCs with small LCs at a time, the approach was adopted in this research to fabricate 2D PC masks for high EQE PC-LEDs. In the study, a holographic optical element (HOE) consisting of three identical holographic gratings with 120° separation was used to generate three interference beams so that 2D hexagonal PC photoresist masks could be fabricated through one exposure. The use of HOEs to fabricate PC masks makes the mask fabrication system very simple and stable. Then wet etching technique was used to transfer the patterns into ITO layers of GaN-LEDs, and ICP dry etching technique was applied to transfer the mask structure into sapphire substrate. The experimental results show that this approach not only can produce large area 2D PCs with fast processing and low-cost, but also can increase the EQE of GaN-LEDs effectively. The study includes theoretical and experimental researches on 2D hexagonal PC

fabrication technique and the analysis on the mechanism of EQE enhancement. The main research work and results presented in this thesis include:

1. Through theoretical analysis, finding out that three beams can interfere to form a 2D hexagonal lattice structure, in condition that the projection angles between every two beams on the interference plane is 120° . Simulating and analyzing the impact on the interference patterns with varying intensity and polarization of the three beams. The results show that only when the three beams have the same intensity and polarization, a 2D hexagonal PC pattern can be formed without distortion. Based on this analysis, positive photoresist was taken as the recording medium to simulate the development process. Theoretical analysis on the selection of optimal parameters in HOE fabrication system is presented.

2. Analyzing the two mechanisms of enhancing GaN-LEDs' LEE by fabricating 2D PC structures in LEDs. The analysis and calculation of LEE with 2D hexagonal PCs fabricated on the surfaces of ITO layers and used as the diffraction objects were carried out to obtain the condition for the light being able to diffract out of LEDs. The result shows that lattice constants in the range of $250\text{nm}\sim 500\text{nm}$ is the most favorable condition for enhancing LEE.

3. HOE holographic method and wet etching technique were used to fabricate 2D hexagonal PCs on the surfaces of ITO layers of GaN-LEDs to increase LEE. The EQE enhancement for the patterns with the same LC ($1\mu\text{m}$) but different depths and side wall thickness were compared. The results show that the pattern with 200nm thick side wall and 70nm etching depth improved the LED LEE most significantly, with 25% increase of the output intensity. In the same way, patterns with the same depth and side wall thickness but different LCs ($1.2\mu\text{m}$, $1.5\mu\text{m}$ and $1.8\mu\text{m}$) were also compared. As a result, the pattern with small LC ($1.2\mu\text{m}$) achieved 22.5% increase of output intensity, indicating that small LC is more suitable for increasing LED LEE.

4. HOE holographic method and dry ICP etching technique were used to fabricate patterned sapphire substrate (PSS). The pattern on the PSS is 2D hexagonal PC structure with $3.8\mu\text{m}$ LC and 800nm depth. Then GaN materials were grown on the PSS using MOCVD, followed by other LED device fabrication process. The results of light intensity measurement proved that this is an effective way to enhance GaN-LEDs' EQE. Compared with conventional GaN-LEDs, the average light intensity of PSS-LEDs increased by almost 100 percent, while the highest light intensity increased by 30 percent. The analysis on the reason that PSS can increase EQE significantly without improving the quality of GaN material

indicates that the enhancement of EQE is mainly due to the scatter of the light when striking on the PC structure of PSS.

Key words: light-emitting diode; holography; holographic optical element, two-dimensional hexagonal photonic crystal; external quantum efficiency; light extraction efficiency; ITO; patterned sapphire substrate

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第一章 绪论

§ 1.1 LED的重要意义

发光二极管(LED)是一种电致发光的光电器件。早在1907年开始,人们就发现某些半导体材料制成的二极管在正向导通时有发光的物理现象,但生产出有一定发光效率的红光LED已是1969年了。到今天,LED已生产了30多年,回顾过去,它已茁壮成长。各种类型的LED、利用LED作二次开发的产品及与LED配套的产品(如白光LED驱动器)发展迅速,新产品不断上市,已发展成不少新型产业。展望未来,还期望更进一步地提高。

众所周知,目前能源危机、温室效应以及生态环境的日益恶化困扰着我们,改变人们的能源获取方式以及提高能源利用率已经成为当前世人的共识。目前在世界电力的使用结构中,照明用电约占总用电量的19%^[1]。发展的水平不同,照明用电所占比重也有所差别,但是照明耗能已经成为了各国能源消费的重要组成部分。照明节能问题也就成了各国政府及专业人员必须面对的棘手问题。

LED作为新型高效光源,特别是白色光源(适用于一般照明)的发展对于大幅度降低照明用电量具有很重要的作用。因为它可以降低电能消耗增长速度,进而减少新增电网容量的费用,降低能源消耗以及减少向大气中排放的温室气体及其他污染物。因此如何制造出高效能的LED以使其早日取代现有的照明光源成为当今科学研究的一个重大课题,并越来越得到各界人士的广泛重视。

§ 1.2 LED的优点、应用领域及市场前景

LED照明具有以下优点:

- (1) 低功耗;
- (2) 寿命极长(理论寿命为100000小时);
- (3) 体积小;
- (4) 防震;
- (5) 高颜色效率;
- (6) 低工作电压;

以前,由于LED的发光功率很低只能用于显示照明,主要的应用只有:信号灯和数

字及字母显示。但是随着LED产业的进一步发展，LED的应用市场越来越广阔。目前LED应用于：汽车内外灯光、显示器背光、室外景观照明，便携式系统闪光灯、投影仪光源、广告灯箱、电筒、交通灯。

LED照明有着广阔的市场前景，单以LED用于显示背光照明为例。在2007年，约有510万台的显示器使用LED背光照明，占整个背照灯市场的1.5%，2008年达到约1900万台和占市场的4.8%。预测2009年将达到4210万台和9.6%，2010年将迅速增加到约6780万台和14.1%，在金额上会达到45亿9900万美元，占总体的25.4%^[2]。

但是LED想要在照明领域上替代其他光源，还需要解决一下几个问题：

- (1) 提高光效；
- (2) 降低成本；
- (3) 降低芯片发热量；
- (4) 提高LED的使用寿命

这4项都受到LED的外量子效率的制约。

§ 1.3 LED的外量子效率以及降低外量子效率的原因

LED的外量子效率 η_{ex} 由以下的公式表示：

$$\eta_{ex} = \eta_{in} \times \eta_{ext} \quad (1.1)$$

其中 η_{in} 是LED的内量子效率， η_{ext} 是LED的光提取效率。目前高质量的LED的内量子效率已经达到90%以上，但是由于光提取效率 η_{ext} 非常低，致使LED的外量子效率有限。

降低LED光提取效率的原因主要有两点：

1. 半导体材料本身对光的吸收
2. 在半导体材料与空气界面，由于折射率差引起的全反射损耗。

由于半导体材料本身对光的吸收是不可避免的，下面主要分析由全反射引起的损耗，普通的LED结构示意图如图1.1所示，从下至上依次是：衬底，N区，用于发光的有源区，P区，最上面是P电极和N电极。有的材料的LED还需要在P区上加电流扩展层（如GaN基LED）。图中， n_1 是介质的折射率， n_2 是空气的折射率， ω_i 是入射角， ω_r 是折射角。

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