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zone catalytic process would be much smaller and simpler, and the use of catalysts would allow tuning of selectivities that is not possible with flame combustors. Catalytic processes also eliminate or strongly reduce pollution associated with flame combustors.

Reactive drop volatilization appears to be a simple and readily adaptable method to convert nonvolatile fuels into H₂ or chemicals for large as well as small scales of production, such as onboard vehicle reforming. It allows the intensification of the process into millisecond time scales and suggests that the conversion of other nonvolatile biomass mixtures such as emulsions, slurries, and powders is possible. The process also requires further experiments, long-term evaluation, and modeling to optimize catalyst performance and determine the exact mechanisms of reactive flash volatilization.

Coherent Electronic Fringe Structure in Incommensurate Silver-Silicon Quantum Wells

N. J. Speer, S.-J. Tang, T. Miller, T.-C. Chiang*

Atomic uniform silver films grown on highly doped n-type Si(111) substrates show fine-structured electronic fringes near the silicon valence band edge as observed by angle-resolved photoemission. No such fringes are observed for silver films grown on lightly doped n-type substrates or p-type substrates, although all cases exhibited the usual quantum-well states corresponding to electronic confinement in the film. The fringes correspond to electronic states extending over the silver film as a quantum well and reaching into the silicon substrate as a quantum slope, with the two parts coherently coupled through an incommensurate interface structure.

Electronic effects in thin films and at interfaces are at the heart of modern solid state electronic technology, and as device dimensions shrink toward the nanoscale, quantum coherence and interference phenomena become increasingly important. For example, a thin film of Ag on Si, a prototypical metal-semiconductor system with an incommensurate interface, can coherently couple through an incommensurate interface structure. In our experiment, the Si(111) substrates were prepared by flash deposition of a Ag film of a thickness of 11 ML deposited on n-type Si substrates are shown in Fig. 1A for a doping level of $n = 2 \times 10^{15}$ cm$^{-3}$ (lightly doped) and Fig. 1B for $n = 5 \times 10^{18}$ cm$^{-3}$ (highly doped). Under our experimental conditions, Ag(111) films grow on Si(111) with an unstrained bulk Ag lattice constant, and the $\Gamma K$ direction, corresponding to the $\Gamma \bar{T} 0$ direction in the bulk, is aligned with the same direction in the substrate. The emission angle refers to the polar angle relative to the surface normal, and the detection plane is oriented along the $\Gamma K$ direction. The results from the lightly doped sample (Fig. 1A) show a surface state (SS) similar to that of bulk Ag(111) (7) and a set of quantum-well states (or subbands) labeled by the quantum number $v = 1$–3. These subbands exhibit approximately parabolic dispersion relations, but with notable “kinks” near the top Si valence band edge caused by a hybridization interaction (8–10). An example of such a kink is indicated by an arrow. The data for the highly doped sample (Fig. 1B) show similar features and, additionally, fringes near the Si valence band edge. An enlarged view of the region in Fig. 1B contained within the rectangular box shows details of the fringes (Fig. 1C).

The film thickness of $N = 8$ ML quoted for the data is an exact thickness. A counting of the atomic layers over a wide range of film coverage leads to an absolute determination of the film thickness (8). In Fig. 2, A to C, we show data for Ag films with coverages of 11, 11.5, and 12 ML, respectively, on highly doped n-type Si. Similar fringe structures were observed for these three coverages, but the quantum-well subbands in Fig. 2B additionally show splittings at places where they are narrow in energy. An example lies in the circled area. The splittings are caused by the presence of two thicknesses, 11 and 12 ML, in the film. This atomic layer resolution allows us to follow the completion of each atomic layer as we gradually increase the film thickness.

Because the fringes depend on the substrate doping, the substrate potential must play an important role in the observed effects. Furthermore,

References and Notes


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Materials and Methods

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each fringe is smoothly connected to a quantum-well subband, as seen in Fig. 1. Thus, the fringes can be viewed as a bundle of quantum-well subbands that pile up near the Si valence band edge. This behavior is not expected based on the standard model that treats the Ag film as a quantum well, with the Si substrate simply providing a boundary that reflects the electrons (I). To explain the results, we show in Fig. 3 a plot of the electronic potential for a film of 8 ML at in-plane wave vector \( k_x = 0.22 \, \text{Å}^{-1} \) (corresponding to a polar emission angle of \( ~6^\circ \)).

The Si substrate has a gap in which the Fermi level \( E_F \) lies. At the Ag-Si interface, \( E_F \) is pinned near midgap (II). Band bending in the depletion region of Si gives rise to an approximately linear depth dependence of the valence band edge, as indicated in Fig. 3 (I2). Propagating electronic states in Si exist only below this edge. There is no gap in Ag at this \( k_x \), and all Ag states below \( E_F \) are propagating in nature.

The electronic potentials in the Ag film and the Si substrate together create a set of confined states. To solve the wave mechanical problem, we used the effective mass approximation (I3, I4). The wave function in the Ag film is given by:

\[
\psi \propto \exp(i k_x x) \cos \left( \frac{2 \pi y}{a} \right) \sin[k_z(z - Nt - \Delta)] \tag{1}
\]

where \( k_z \) is the momentum component perpendicular to the surface measured from the zone boundary, \( t \) is the Ag monolayer thickness, and \( \Delta \) is a charge spillage parameter (I5), which defines an effective boundary at the Ag-vacuum interface. Here, \( z = 0 \) is the Ag-Si boundary, and the wave function vanishes at \( z = Nt + \Delta \). The three factors on the right-hand side of Eq. 1 can be identified as the in-plane wave function, the band-edge wave function, and the envelope function, respectively. The wave function in Si is similarly given by a product of three factors:

\[
\psi \propto \exp(i k_x x) \cos \left( \frac{2 \pi y}{a} \right) \sin[k_z(z - Nt - \Delta)] \tag{2}
\]

where \( a \) is the lattice constant of Si, \( U \) is the linear potential caused by the band bending, \( F \) is the slope of this potential, \( m^* \) is the Si effective mass along the \( z \) direction, and \( \text{Ai} \) denotes the Airy function. The Airy function is a solution of the Schrödinger equation with a linear potential and is the form of the envelope function in Si (I4).

The band parameters of Ag and Si were taken from an empirical tight binding calculation (I6, I7). The potential and its slope in the Si substrate were calculated from the dopant density. The parameter \( \Delta \) was taken to be 0.4 Å (0.17 ML); the calculated results were not very sensitive to this choice. The only free parameter in the model was the energy of the Si band edge at the Ag-Si interface. The wave functions in Eqs. 1 and 2 were matched, and the Si band edge was varied for a best fit to the observed dispersion relations. The photoemission data for the 8-ML film with the Si band edge indicated are shown in Fig. 4A, and Fig. 4B shows the same data with the calculated dispersion relations superimposed. The agreement is very good for the fringe spacings and dispersions.

The wave functions for the first five states, counting from \( E_F \), are shown in Fig. 3 for \( k_x = 0.22 \, \text{Å}^{-1} \). The first one (\( \nu = 1 \)) lies completely within the Si band gap. Its wave function is confined within the Ag film and decays rapidly inside the Si substrate. The other four states, at lower energies, penetrate into the Si depletion region to various depths. With each increment of \( \nu \) within the group of four states, the energy decreases by \( ~70 \, \text{meV} \), and the wave function penetrates deeper by \( ~10 \, \text{Å} \). The wave functions remain fairly similar within the Ag film. The relatively shallow slope of the potential within the Si causes the electronic states with different \( \nu \)'s to pile up near the Si band edge, giving rise to the closely spaced fringes. As \( k_x \) increases, the Si band edge moves down, and more states become confined within the Ag film, as seen in Fig. 4. States with higher \( \nu \)'s should also be present in the data, but they become fainter for two reasons. The probing depth of photoemission is only a few angstroms. Wave functions extending deeper into the substrate have less weight in the photoemission probing depth, and the emission intensity decreases correspondingly. Also, a finite electron coherence length in the system can limit the range over which discrete states can be clearly observed (I8).

For lightly n-doped Si substrates, the slope of the potential in Si is essentially zero. No fringes are expected, and none are observed. Likewise, no fringes are expected or observed for p-doped substrates, because the direction of band bending...
Solar Nebula Heterogeneity in p-Process Samarium and Neodymium Isotopes

Rasmus Andreasen and Mukul Sharma*

Bulk carbonaceous chondrites display a deficit of ~100 parts per million (ppm) in $^{144}\text{Sm}$ with respect to other meteorites and terrestrial standards, leading to a decrease in their $^{142}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios by ~11 ppm. The data require that samarium and neodymium isotopes produced by the$p$ process associated with photodissociation reactions in supernovae were heterogeneously distributed in the solar nebula. Other samarium and neodymium isotopes produced by rapid neutron capture ($r$ process) in supernovae and by slow neutron capture ($s$ process) in red giants were homogeneously distributed. The supernovae sources supplying the $p$- and $r$-process nuclides to the solar nebula were thus disconnected or only weakly connected.

Planetary crust-mantle differentiation leads to fractionation of Sm from Nd producing variations in the Nd isotopic compositions from the radioactive decay of $^{144}\text{Sm}$ to $^{142}\text{Nd}$ [half-life of $^{146}\text{Sm} = 103$ million years (My)] and of $^{147}\text{Sm}$ to $^{145}\text{Nd}$ [half-life of $^{147}\text{Sm} = 106$ billion years (Gy)]. Deviations in the Nd isotopic compositions of crust-mantle reservoirs from the bulk planetary values reflect the timing and magnitude of planetary evolution. A fundamental assumption in the interpretation of isotope records is that the Nd isotopic composition of bulk planets is identical to that of chondritic meteorites. Recent results show that the $^{142}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios of chondrites and the Moon $(1, 2)$ are ~20 μ (μ = parts in 10$^{6}$) lower than the terrestrial upper mantle, which suggests that Earth contains a complementary reservoir with a low Sm/Nd ratio that resulted from a global differentiation event >4.53 billion years ago (Ga). The Nd isotopic compositions of chondrites are, however, somewhat heterogeneous, displaying ~5 to ~40 μ variations in $^{142}\text{Nd}$ $(1)$ without the correlated variations in $^{143}\text{Nd}$, as expected if there were small differences in the Sm/Nd ratio of the chondrites. Chondrites also preserve grains showing large anomalous variations in the Sm and Nd isotopes produced during nucleosynthesis [e.g., $(3)$]. These observations raise a key question: Were the nucleosynthetic contributions of Sm and Nd isotopes heterogeneously distributed in the solar nebula on a planetary (or planetesimal) scale? We sought to answer this question by examining Sm and Nd isotopes in macroscopic samples of meteorites.

Isotopes produced by the $r$ process (rapid neutron capture) and the $p$ process (photodissociation of nuclides) are considered to be generated in supernovae explosions; those produced by the $s$ process (slow neutron capture) are generated in red giants [e.g., $(4)$]. Relative contributions of stellar sources of Sm and Nd isotopes (Fig. 1) indicate that coupled

References and Notes

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