ENTITLED EFFECT OF SUBSTRATE ON CHARACTERISTICS OF EVAPORATED THIN DIELECTRIC FILMS

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H C T B

Beside the work conducted in this thesis, the candidate had studied advanced M. Sc. Courses in Physics during one year.

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- 4- Interference
- 5- Spectroscopy
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- 9- Application of laser beam

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CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	
INTRO DUCTION	1
CHAPTER I : LITRATURE REVIEW	
I.1) The ellipsometric method	3
I.2) Basic formulas used in determining the opt	ical
constants of the metallic substrate	4
I.3) The exact formula used in determining the	
refractive index (n ₁) and the thickness (d	1) of a
thin dielectric film deposited on metallic	_
substrates	8
I.4) Graphical Method for Determining Simultineon	usly the
Refractive Index and the Geometrical Thick	ness of
Evaporated Nonabsorbing Film on a Metallic	
Substrates	•••••• 13
CHAPTER II : EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES	
(I.1) Metallic substrate preparation	
II.2) Dielectric thin film preparation on the me	tallic
substrates	10
(I.3) The optical set and the measuring technique	e 17
3.a) The optical system	19
3.b) The measuring technique	20
(I.4) Evaporation technique	23
4.a) Fundamental features of the vacuum s	ystem··· 23
4.b) The evaporation procedure	28

			Page
CHAPTER	R III	: EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	
III <u>•</u> 1)	_	cal constants of the metallic substrates Optical constants of Sb opaque layers used as	
		metallic substrates	
	1.b)	Optical constants of Cr opaque layers used as metallic substrates	
	1.0)	Optical constants of Au opaque layers used as metallic substrates	
	1.d)	Optical constants of Ag opaque layers used as metallic substrates	
III - 2)	geom	rmination of the refractive index and the etrical thickness of thin 206 films evaporated ltaneously on different metallic substrates	
	2•a)	The refractive indices and the geometrical thicknesses of thin Zos films simultaneously evaporated on (Sb, Cr, Au and Ag) substrates	
		group A	•
		2.a.ii) The refractive index and the geometrical thickness of 2nd film deposited on Cr substrate (group a)	
		2.a.iii) The refractive index and the geometrical thickness of 2nS film deposi-	-
		ted on Au substrate (group A)	•• 39

للممان الأعرب المرافعة والمحتفية والمرافعة والمرافعة والمرافعة والمرافعة والمرافعة والمرافعة والمستري المرافعة

I	Page
2.a.iv) The refractive index and the geometrical thickness of ZnS film deposited on Ag substrate (group A).	39
2.b) The refractive indices and the thicknesses of thin 2nS films simultaneously deposited	
on (Sb, Cr, Au and Ag) substrates (Group B.)	40
2.c) Results obtained in the case of (Group C	41
2.d) Results obtained using (Group D.)	42
III.3) Experimental verification using interferometric	
method	43
III.4) Precision of Measurement	47
CONCLUSION	5 0
REFERENCES	52
ARABIC SUMMARY.	

SUMMARY

The effect of substrate on characteristics of evaporated thin dielectric films is investigated applying an ellipsometric method, a method which has proved to be a useful tool for determining the refractive index (n₁) and the geometrical thickness (d₁) of thin dielectric films deposited on metallic substrates (1,2).

For this purpose, different metallic substrates (Au, Ag, Cr and Sb) are prepared by evaporation technique. The optical constants (the refractive index n_2 and the absorption index k_2) of such substrates are determined at certain wavelength ($\lambda = 5500 \text{ Å}$). Then, thin dielectric film (208) is deposited simultaneously on the four different metallic substrates. The refractive index (n_1) and the geometrical thickness (d_1) of the dielectric thin film on each substrate are determined. Hence the effect of the substrate on the determination of these two parameters (n_1) and d_1) is studied.

Investigating the effects of the experimental errors on the obtained results, it was found:

in metallic substrate made of silver affects strongly the determination of both the refractive index(n_1) of the dielectric film and its geometrical thickness (\tilde{a}_1), i.e, a small error in measuring either the angle of incidence(ϕ) or the azimuth angle (ψ) gives a big error in determining n_1 and d_1 . But, when a metallic substrate made of gold is used, the same error in ϕ or ψ yields a big error in determining n_1 and a relatively small error in d_1 .

While, the same error in ϕ or ψ when Sb or Cr is used as a metallic substrate gives a relatively small deviation in determining both n_1 and d_1 .

Therefore, for determining the refractive index n_1 and the geometrical thickness d_1 of thin dielectric film deposited on a metallic substrate, it is of more benefit to use a metallic substrate made of either antimony or chromium.

INTRODUCTION

The role of dielectric thin films whether present as a single film or multilayers is acquiring increasing importance in many fairly modern fields, as an example, reflectors in laser resonators, in optical wave-guides and in some aspects of microelectronics. It is, for this reason, benefitial to determine the refractive index and the geometrical thickness of such nonabsorbing thin films. The method utilized in this work is the ellipsometric method where the exact formulas are used. The high accuracy in determining both the refractive index and the geometrical thickness of the investigated thin dielectric films is the result of selecting the suitable metallic substrate.

The technique is based on the choice of different metallic substrates whose optical constants (the refractive index and the absorption index) are determined. Then these metallic substrates are over coated simultaneously with thin 2nS film. The refractive index and the geometrical thickness of such film are evaluated. The precision of the method is checked.

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Chapter I deals with the litratures review, considering the basis of the ellipsometric method, the basic formulas used in determining the optical constants and the graphical method for determining simultaneously the refractive index and the geometrical thickness of evaporated nonabsorbing film on a metallic substrate.

Chapter II deals with the experimental technique and apparatus used during performing the work.

Chapter III deals with the experimental results including the optical constants of the metallic substrates and the refractive index and the geometrical thickness of the thin dielectric layer coating the metallic substrate. Chapter III also deals with an experimental verification using the interferometric method and the protision of measurement to achieve the suitable choice of the metallic substrate which can be used for accurate measurements of both the refractive index and the geometrical thickness of a thin dielectric film deposited on a metallic substrate.

CHAPTER I

I.1) The ellipsometric method:

It is well known that the ellipsometric method is used for the determination of the refractive index (n_1) and the thickness (d_1) of a nonabsorbing film on an absorbing substrate can be used only in the case when the true values of the complex refractive index n_2 $(=n_2-ik_2)$ of the substrate are known precisely (3,4,5).

When a plane polarized light is reflected from an absorbing substrate at nonnormal incidence, it assumes elliptical polarization. The ellipticity of the reflected beam is determined by the relative phase difference \triangle and the azimuth \checkmark where

$$\triangle = (\delta_p - \delta_s)$$
 and $\tan^2 \psi = \frac{R_p}{R_s}$

The subscripts p and s refer to components parallel and perpendicular to the plane of incidence.

Since \triangle and $\not\leftarrow$ are related to the optical constants, a determination of the latter is, in principle, possible from the measurements of \triangle and $\not\leftarrow$.

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I.2) Basic formulas used in determining the optical constants of the metallic substrate:

The ellipsometric method for determining the refractive index (n_2) and the absorption index (k_2) of a metallic substrate is essentially based on the measurement of the phase difference \triangle , the azimuth of the reduced polarization \not and the angle of incidence of light \not .

The values of \triangle and \not are dependent on the amplitudes of the coefficients of reflections r_p and r_s for the p - and s - components.

It is well known (6) that:

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{r}}_{s} = -\frac{\sin (\phi - \phi)}{\sin (\phi + \phi)} = |\mathbf{r}_{s}| e^{i\delta_{s}}$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{r}}_{p} = -\frac{\tan (\delta - \mathbf{e})}{\tan (\delta + \mathbf{e})} = |\mathbf{r}_{p}| e^{i\delta_{p}}$$

$$\frac{r_{p}}{r_{s}} = \frac{\tan (\beta - \theta)}{\sin (\beta - \theta)} = \left| \frac{r_{p}}{r_{s}} \right| e^{i (\beta_{p} - \delta_{s})}$$

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From which

$$\rho_0^{i\Delta} = \frac{\cos(\phi + \phi)}{\cos(\phi + \phi)}$$

The previous equation can be written in the form:

$$\frac{1+\int e^{i\Delta}}{1-\int e^{i\Delta}} = \frac{\cos(\phi-\theta)+\cos(\phi+\theta)}{\cos(\phi-\theta)-\cos(\phi+\theta)}$$

$$= \frac{\cos\phi\cos\theta}{\sin\phi\sin\theta}$$
 (1)

As,
$$\cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta}$$

and
$$\sin \theta = \frac{\sin \phi}{\widehat{n}}$$
 (2)

where $\tilde{n} = n - i k$

$$\cdot \cdot \cos c = \sqrt{1 - (\frac{\sin \phi}{\widetilde{n}})^2} = \frac{1}{\widetilde{n}} \sqrt{\widetilde{n}^2 - \sin^2 \phi}$$
 (3)

Using equations (2) and (3) with equation (1) we get:

$$\frac{1 + \int e^{i\Delta}}{1 - \int e^{i\Delta}} = \frac{\cos \phi \times \frac{1}{n} \int_{n}^{\infty} 2 - \sin^{2}\phi}{\sin \phi \times \frac{1}{n} \sin \phi}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{n^{2} - \sin^{2}\phi}}{\sin \phi \tan \phi}$$

$$= \sin \phi \tan \phi$$

$$= \cos \phi \cos \phi = \sin^{2}\phi \cos \phi$$

$$= \cos^{2}\phi \cos \phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos \phi$$

$$= \cos^{2}\phi \cos \phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi$$

$$= \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi$$

$$= \sin^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi \cos^{2}\phi$$

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