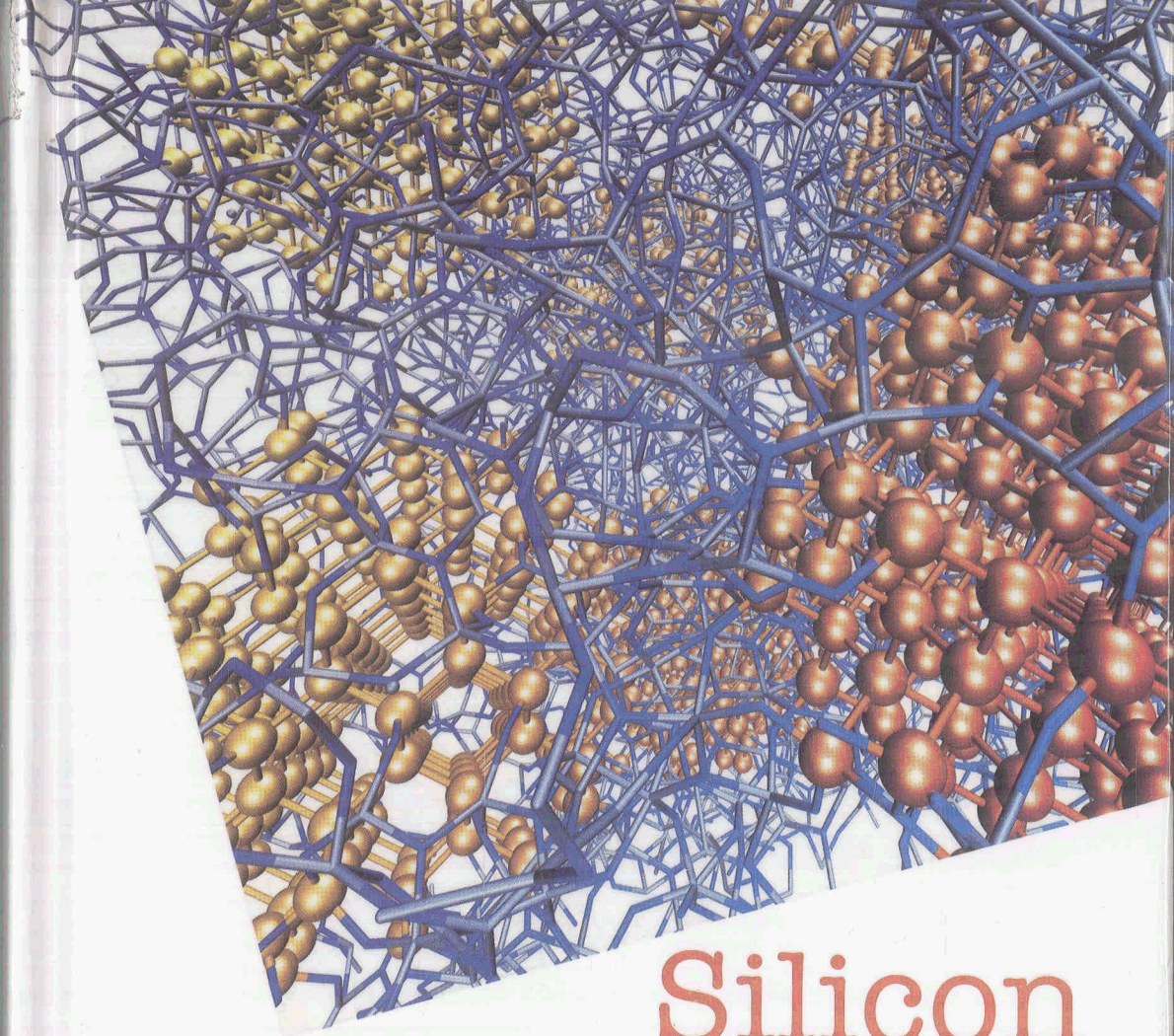




Silicon Nanophotonics

Basic Principles, Present Status and Perspectives

Leonid Khriachtchev

Editor



CONTENTS

Preface		vii
Chapter 1	Silicon Nanocrystals Enabling Silicon Photonics <i>Nicola Daldosso and Lorenzo Pavesi</i>	1
	1. The Need of a Silicon Photonics.....	1
	1.1. Silicon Photonics.....	2
	1.1.1. Waveguides	3
	1.1.2. Modulators.....	4
	1.1.3. Sources	5
	1.1.4. Detectors.....	6
	2. Nanosilicon for Photonics.....	7
	2.1. Si-nc waveguides.....	7
	2.2. Non-linear effects: fast optical switches	9
	2.3. Light emission and optical gain in Si nanocrystals.....	11
	2.4. Si nanocrystals LEDs	12
	2.5. Er coupled to nano-Si for optical amplifiers	14
	2.6. Carrier absorption within Si nanocrystals waveguides.....	17
	3. Conclusions	20
	References.....	20
Chapter 2	Theoretical Studies of Absorption, Emission and Gain in Silicon Nanostructures <i>Elena Degoli, Roberto Guerra, Federico Iori, Rita Magri, Ivan Marri, and Stefano Ossicini</i>	25
	1. Introduction	26

2.	Theoretical Methods	28
2.1.	The Density Functional Theory.....	29
2.1.1.	The Δ -self-consistent approach: Absorption, Emission and Gain.....	31
2.2.	The many body perturbation theory	34
2.2.1.	The GW approach.....	34
2.2.2.	The Bethe-Salpeter equation	37
3.	Physical Systems.....	39
3.1.	Hydrogenated silicon nanocrystals.....	39
3.2.	Oxidized silicon nanocrystals.....	43
3.3.	Doped silicon nanocrystals.....	48
3.4.	Silicon nanocrystals embedded in a SiO ₂ matrix	52
4.	Conclusions	56
	References	58
Chapter 3	Computational Studies of Free-Standing Silicon Nanoclusters	61
	<i>Olli Lehtonen and Dage Sundholm</i>	
1.	Introduction	61
2.	Computational Methods.....	63
2.1.	Time-dependent density functional theory.....	64
2.2.	Coupled-cluster methods.....	65
3.	Accuracy of TDDFT and CC2 Calculations	66
4.	Absorption and Luminescence Spectra.....	73
5.	Hydrogen-Capped Silicon Nanoclusters.....	74
6.	Oxidized Silicon Nanoclusters.....	78
7.	Silane-Capped Silicon Nanoclusters.....	81
8.	Conclusions	83
	References	84
Chapter 4	Optical Gain in Silicon Nanocrystal Waveguides Measured by the Variable Stripe Length Technique	89
	<i>Hui Chen, Jung H. Shin, and Philippe M. Fauchet</i>	
1.	Introduction	89
1.1.	Silicon Photonics: Optical interconnects.....	89
1.2.	Physics of silicon nanocrystal light emission...	92
1.3.	Review of optical gain in silicon nanocrystals.	93

2. Sample Preparation	94
3. The VSL Method	97
4. Results and Discussion	102
4.1. Oxide passivated silicon nanocrystals.....	102
4.1.1. Ion implanted nanocrystal system	102
4.1.2. Magnetron sputtered Si/SiO ₂ superlattices	105
4.1.3. PECVD nanocrystal system.....	107
4.2. Nitride passivated silicon nanocrystals	110
5. Conclusions	115
References	116

Chapter 5	Si-nc Based Light Emitters and Er Doping for Gain Materials	119
	<i>Olivier Jambois, Se-Young Seo, Paolo Pellegrino, and Blas Garrido</i>	

1. Introduction	119
2. Si Nanocluster Based Light Emitters.....	120
2.1. Brief review and perspective.....	120
2.2. Si-nc embedded in SiO ₂ for red emitters.....	124
2.3. Electroluminescence mechanisms.....	125
2.4. C-rich nanoparticles for white emitters	127
3. Er Doping for Gain Materials with Si Nanoclusters .	131
3.1. Resonant excitation by direct absorption	132
3.2. The interaction between silicon nanoclusters and erbium ions	134
3.3. Limiting factors for Er luminescence.....	137
3.4. The effective excitation cross-section	137
3.5. De-excitation processes.....	140
3.6. Optically active Er ions	142
3.7. Location of Er ions and their accessibility by Si-nc	143
3.8. Device realization.....	144
References	146

Chapter 6	Silicon Nanocrystals: Structural and Optical Properties and Device Applications	149
	<i>Fabio Iacona, Giorgia Franzò, Alessia Irrera, Simona Boninelli, Maria Miritello, and Francesco Priolo</i>	
	1. Introduction	150
	2. Formation and Evolution of Si-nc Synthesized by Thermal Annealing of SiO _x Films	153
	3. Optical Properties of Si-nc	160
	3.1. Si-nc inside an optical microcavity	163
	4. Light Emitting Devices Based on Si Nanoclusters ...	165
	4.1. Enhancement of the efficiency of light emitting devices based on Si nanoclusters by coupling with photonic crystals.....	171
	5. Conclusions	174
	References	175
Chapter 7	Optical Spectroscopy of Individual Silicon Nanocrystals	179
	<i>Jan Valenta and Jan Linnros</i>	
	1. Introduction	179
	2. Sample Preparation Techniques.....	181
	2.1. Arrays of Si-ncs made by electron-beam lithography	182
	2.2. Colloidal suspensions of porous silicon grains	183
	3. Experimental Set-Ups for Single Nanocrystal Spectroscopy	185
	3.1. Imaging micro-spectroscopy	185
	3.2. Laser scanning confocal microscopy	188
	4. Experimental Results	189
	4.1. Photoluminescence spectra of individual Si-nc at RT	189
	4.2. Low-temperature PL of individual Si-nc.....	191
	4.3. Photoluminescence intermittency – ON-OFF blinking	196
	4.3.1. Blinking of NPSi nanocrystals	196
	4.3.2. Blinking of PSiG nanocrystals	198

	5. Discussion	202
	6. Conclusions	206
	References.....	207
Chapter 8	Silicon Nanocrystal Memories	211
	<i>Panagiotis Dimitrakis, Pascal Normand, and Dimitris Tsoukalas</i>	
	1. Introduction	211
	2. Silicon Nanocrystals in Memory Technology	212
	2.1. The limitations of current memory technology	212
	2.2. Nanocrystal floating gate vs polysilicon floating gate memories.....	216
	2.3 Fabrication of silicon nanocrystals embedded in gate dielectrics.....	219
	3. Operation, Memory Characteristics and Reliability Aspects of Si-nc Nonvolatile Memories	220
	3.1. Operation principles of Si-nc memory devices	220
	3.1.1. Possible source of errors in estimation of charge stored in nanocrystals	225
	3.2. Reliability considerations	228
	3.2.1. Endurance of nc memory cells	229
	3.2.2. Charge retention of nc memory cells....	230
	3.3. Optimization of memory characteristics	235
	4. State of the Art, Novel Devices and Open Issues	239
	5. Summary	241
	References	241
Chapter 9	Engineering the Optical Response of Nanostructured Silicon	245
	<i>Joachim Diener, Minoru Fujii, and Dmitri Kovalev</i>	
	1. Introduction	246
	2. Optical Devices Based on PSi Layers.....	249
	3. Polarization-Dependent Optical Properties of PSi....	252
	3.1. In-plane birefringence of porosified (110) Si wafers.....	253

3.2. Polarization-sensitive Bragg reflectors based on (110) PSi layers	255
3.3. Polarization-sensitive microcavities based on (110) PSi layers	257
3.4. Plane polarizers based on (110) PSi layers	259
4. Conclusions	263
References	264

Chapter 10	Guiding and Amplification of Light due to Silicon Nanocrystals Embedded in Waveguides	267
	<i>Tomáš Ostatnický, Martin Rejman, Jan Valenta, Kateřina Herynková, and Ivan Pelant</i>	

1. Introduction	267
2. Characterization of Waves in Waveguides	270
3. Spectral Filtering of the Modes.....	273
3.1. Substrate and radiation modes.....	274
3.2. Guided modes.....	275
3.3. All modes together, comparison with experiment.....	276
3.4. Differentiation of the substrate modes from the guided modes.....	280
4. Wave Propagation in Waveguides	281
4.1. Guided modes.....	282
4.2. Substrate modes.....	283
4.3. Optical gain	286
5. Numerical Analysis of the Modes.....	289
6. Conclusions and Acknowledgements	294
References	295

Chapter 11	Silicon Nanocrystals in Silica: Optical Properties and Laser-Induced Thermal Effects	297
	<i>Leonid Khriachtchev</i>	

1. Introduction	297
2. Experimental Details.....	299

3. Structural and Optical Properties	300
3.1. Raman and photoluminescence spectra.....	300
3.2. Effect of spectral filtering and optical properties.....	307
4. Laser-Induced Thermal Effects.....	311
4.1. Laser annealing	311
4.2. Light emission and absorption	315
4.3. Laser-induced compressive stress	317
5. Concluding Remarks.....	321
References	322

Chapter 12	Light Emission from Silicon-Rich Nitride Nanostructures	327
	<i>Luca Dal Negro, Rui Li, Joseph Warga, Selcuk Yerci, Soumendra Basu, Sebastien Hamel, and Giulia Galli</i>	
1. Introduction		328
2. Fabrication of Silicon Nanostructures via Magnetron Co-Sputtering		330
3. Structural Characterization of Si-nc Films.....		331
4. Optical Characterization of Si-nc in Silicon Nitride.		337
5. Energy Transfer to Erbium Ions		342
6. Ab-Initio Modeling of Si-nc in Silicon Nitride.....		346
6.1. Structural models of SRN Si-nc		346
6.2. Electronic structure of H-, O-, and N-terminated Si-nc		348
6.3. Calculated Stokes shifts of H-, O-, and N-terminated Si-nc		352
7. Conclusions and Outlook.....		353
References		354

Chapter 13	Energy Efficiency in Silicon Photonics	357
	<i>Bahram Jalali, Sasan Fathpour, and Kevin K. Tsia</i>	
1. Introduction		357
2. Energy Efficiency of Optical Interconnects vs. Their Metal Counterparts.....		359

3. Energy Efficiency Crisis in Silicon Photonics	360
4. Theory of Two-Photon Photovoltaic Effect.....	362
5. Energy Harvesting in Nonlinear Silicon Photonics ..	367
6. Comparison of Theory with Experiments	369
7. Performance Predictions	371
8. Conclusions	375
References	376
 Chapter 14 Light Emitting Defects in Ion-Irradiated Alpha-Quartz and Silicon Nanoclusters	 379
<i>Juhani Keinonen, Flyura Djurabekova,</i>	
<i>Kai Nordlund, and Klaus Peter Lieb</i>	
1. Introduction	379
2. Ion-Irradiation Induced Damage in α -Quartz	381
2.1. Damage in the network structure.....	382
2.2. Phase structures in strongly damaged α -quartz	382
3. Ion-Irradiation Induced Light-Emitting Defects in α -Quartz	384
3.1. Intrinsic point defects	385
3.2. Luminescence of intrinsic point defects.....	387
3.3. Luminescence of ion-specific point defects	387
3.4. Atomistic models of embedded nanoclusters...	388
3.5. Luminescence of ion-specific point defects associated with nanoclusters	390
3.6. Quantum confinement and interface defects	391
4. Summary	392
References	393
 Chapter 15 Auger Processes in Silicon Nanocrystals Assemblies	 397
<i>Dmitri Kovalev and Minoru Fujii</i>	
1. Introduction	397
2. Auger Recombination Processes.....	398
2.1. Auger recombination in bulk semiconductors..	398
2.2. Auger recombination in low-dimensional semiconductors.....	401

3. Silicon Nanocrystals Assemblies: Main Observations	403
3.1. Morphological properties of Si nanocrystals assemblies.....	403
3.2. Optical properties of Si nanocrystals.....	405
4. Auger Processes in Si Nanocrystals.....	408
4.1. Nonlinear optical phenomena governed by Auger processes.....	408
4.2. Influence of dopant atoms on the emission properties of Si nanocrystals	415
4.2.1. Preparation of impurity doped Si nanocrystals and evidence of impurity doping	416
4.2.2. Luminescence from p- or n-doped Si nanocrystals.....	417
4.2.3. Luminescence from p- and n-type impurities co-doped Si nanocrystals.....	418
5. Conclusions	421
References.....	421
 Chapter 16 Biological Applications of Silicon Nanostructures	425
<i>Sharon M. Weiss</i>	
1. Introduction	425
2. Silicon Nanostructures	426
2.1. Porous silicon	427
2.2. Ring resonators.....	431
2.3. Slot waveguides.....	432
3. Sensing Applications: Detection of Gases, Chemicals, DNA, Viruses, Proteins, and Cells.....	433
3.1. Porous silicon structures for optical sensing applications.....	434
3.2. Ring resonator sensor applications.....	436
3.3. Slot waveguide sensor applications.....	438
4. Drug Delivery, Molecular Separation, and Tissue Engineering.....	439
5. Conclusions and Outlook.....	441
References.....	442
 Index	449