

ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES OF TANTALUM NANOTUBE ARRAYS PREPARED BY ELECTRODEPOSITION FROM IONIC LIQUID

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Abstract

Electrodeposition (ED) of tantalum at a room or medium temperature (up to 200°C) using ionic liquids (ILs) has been a challenging process over the last decade. The success of first work on ED of Ta over a planar substrate [1] inspired us to advance the process striving to create an array of well aligned spatially ordered tantalum and tantalum oxide nanostructures via electrodeposition from IL 1-butyl-1-methylpyrrolidinium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl) imide, ([BMP]Tf₂N) through nanopores in a thin-film alumina template (100-nm wide and 1- μ m long pores of $\sim 10^9$ cm⁻² population density) prepared by anodizing of aluminium on W/SiO₂/Si substrate. Microscopically flat continuous Ta films (600 nm thick, well adherent to the substrate) and the free-standing arrays of Ta nanotubes filling the alumina pores were achieved via potentiostatic ED technique. XPS analysis revealed the presence of C, Ta, O, Li and F at least in the outer region of the electrodeposited coatings. The coatings annealed at 800°C at 10⁻⁵ Pa were fluoride- and lithium-free, and their surface region comprised Ta₂O₅ (~67at.%), Ta₂O, Ta and tantalum carbide (~33at.% in total). The I-V characteristics measured across the alumina-templated Ta nanotube array revealed a bipolar resistive switching event in the film, when the film behavior changes abruptly and reversely from a high resistance state (4 G cm²) to a low resistance state (78 k cm²) in a low voltage range.

Keywords: Tantalum, nanoarrays, ionic liquids, electrodeposition, electrochemical anodizing

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