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SURFACE TREATMENT AND FOUR-POINT PROBE METHOD FOR ELECTRICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF MATERIALS

A.M. Salman

Scientific Supervisor: Professor A.M. Lider

Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russia, Tomsk, Lenin str., 30, 634050

E-mail: Soliman@tpu.ru

ОБРАБОТКА ПОВЕРХНОСТИ И ЧЕТЫРЕХТОЧЕЧНОЕ ЗОНДИРОВАНИЕ ДЛЯ ЭЛЕКТРИЧЕСКОЙ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ МАТЕРИАЛОВ

А.М. Салман

Научный руководитель: профессор. А.М. Лидер

Национальный исследовательский Томский политехнический университет,

Россия, г. Томск, пр. Ленина, 30, 634050

E-mail: Soliman@tpu.ru

Аннотация. *Обработка поверхности — это процесс, используемый для изменения свойств поверхности материала, а метод четырехточечного зонда — это метод, используемый для оценки эффективности методов обработки поверхности для улучшения электрических свойств. Этот метод позволяет измерить сопротивление листа и предоставляет информацию об однородности, шероховатости поверхности и долговременной стабильности. Вместе обработка поверхности и метод четырехточечного зонда могут улучшить характеристики материалов в различных областях применения.*

Introduction. Surface treatment refers to a range of processes that are used to modify the material surface properties. These processes can include physical, chemical, or mechanical methods that alter the material surface characteristics. Some common types of surface treatment include coating that is a process of applying a thin material layer on a substrate to improve its properties. Coatings can be applied through various methods, such as painting, spraying, or dipping. Some examples of coatings are anti-corrosion coatings, anti-fog coatings, and heat-resistant coatings. Anodizing is an electrochemical process used to increase the thickness of the natural oxide layer on metal surfaces. The process involves immersing the metal in an electrolytic solution and passing an electric current through it. Anodizing can improve the corrosion resistance, hardness, and wear resistance of metals. Surface modification is the process of altering the surface properties of a material to improve its performance. Surface modification can include such treatments as plasma treatment, ion implantation, and thermal spraying. These methods can improve adhesion, increase wear resistance, and provide other beneficial properties. Heat treatment is the process of using heat to alter the material properties. Heat treatment can be used to improve the mechanical properties of metals, such as hardness, strength, and ductility. Some common heat treatment methods include annealing, quenching, and tempering. Thermal spraying is a process of coating a substrate with a material by melting and projecting it onto the substrate surface. The process involves heating the

material to a molten state and spraying it onto the substrate using a spray gun. Thermal spraying can be used to improve the wear resistance, corrosion resistance, and thermal conductivity of materials.

Research methods. The four-point probe method is a non-destructive and contact-based technique that can be used to measure the electrical properties of thin films and bulk materials with high accuracy and reproducibility. The method is widely used in the semiconductor industry for monitoring the quality and uniformity of thin film deposition processes, as well as for measuring the electrical properties of wafers and other semiconductor materials. It is also used in the characterization of conductive polymers, carbon nanotubes, and other advanced materials for electronic and optoelectronic applications. The basic principle of the four-point probe method is measuring the voltage drop across a sample as a small current is passed through it using four probes. The method is also non-destructive, as the probes do not damage the sample surface. To use the four-point probe method, the sample is placed on a conductive substrate, such as a metal plate or a conductive glass slide. The four probes are then carefully placed on the sample surface, with the two outer probes spaced apart by a fixed distance and the two inner probes spaced apart by a smaller distance. A small current is then passed through the outer probes, and the voltage drop across the inner probes is measured using a voltmeter. The measurements are typically repeated at several different locations on the sample to ensure accuracy and reproducibility. Once the voltage and current measurements have been taken, the sheet resistance of the sample can be calculated. In some cases, the four-point probe method can also be used to monitor the surface treatment methods effectiveness during the treatment process. For example, if a material is being treated with a plasma or ion beam, the sheet resistance can be measured periodically during the treatment process to evaluate the progress of the treatment and determine when the desired electrical properties have been achieved. Overall, the four-point probe method can be a useful tool for evaluating the surface treatment methods effectiveness in improving the material electrical properties. By providing accurate and reproducible measurements of sheet resistance, the method can help researchers and engineers optimize surface treatment processes for specific applications.

Results. The results obtained from the four-point probe method in surface treatment depend on a specific application and the properties of the material being treated. However, in general, the method can provide several important pieces of information about the surface treatment method effectiveness, including:

1. Sheet resistance: The four-point probe method can measure the sheet resistance of a material, which is a measure of its electrical resistance per unit area. If a surface treatment method is effective in improving the material electrical conductivity, the sheet resistance will decrease after treatment. This measurement can help evaluate the effectiveness of different surface treatment methods and optimize treatment processes.
2. Uniformity: The four-point probe method can also provide information about the uniformity of the electrical properties of a material after treatment. If a surface treatment method is effective, the sheet resistance will be relatively uniform across the material surface. Non-uniformity in the sheet resistance can indicate problems with the surface treatment process or with the material itself.
3. Surface roughness: The four-point probe method can also be used in conjunction with other characterization techniques, such as atomic force microscopy or scanning electron microscopy, to evaluate the effects of surface treatment on the roughness of the material surface. A surface treatment method that increases the electrical conductivity of a material but also increases its surface roughness may not be ideal for some applications.

4. Long-term stability: Finally, the four-point probe method can be used to evaluate the long-term stability of a surface treatment method. If the material electrical properties deteriorate over time due to such factors as aging or exposure to environmental conditions, the method can be used to track these changes and determine the effectiveness of different surface treatment methods for maintaining the material electrical properties over time.

In summary, the four-point probe method can provide valuable information about the effectiveness of surface treatment methods for improving the electrical properties of a material. By measuring sheet resistance and other properties, the method can help to optimize surface treatment processes for specific applications and improve the performance of materials in a range of industries.

Conclusion. In conclusion, surface treatment methods and the four-point probe technique play critical roles in improving the performance of materials for various applications. The choice of surface treatment method depends on the specific properties desired and the material and application in question. The four-point probe method provides valuable information about the effectiveness of surface treatment methods for improving electrical properties such as conductivity, uniformity, surface roughness, and long-term stability. By combining these techniques, it is possible to optimize the performance of materials in a range of industries. Continued research and development in surface treatment methods and characterization techniques will pave the way for further improvements in material performance and lead to innovative applications in the future.

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