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Dielectric Properties of Conducting Boron-Doped Diamond

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We extract the infrared dielectric function from Fourier transform infrared reflectance spectra 650–4000 cm^{-1} for conducting single crystal and polycrystalline boron-doped ($3\text{--}6 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) diamond (BDD) by Kramers–Kronig (K–K) analysis, validating our method on commercial SiC substrates. This method highlights the importance of using integrable functions in K–K, solving issues with convergence near the endpoints of the measurement spectral range. Polycrystalline BDD shows an elevated optical index $\sim 3\text{--}3.5$ below 2000 cm^{-1} compared to the $\sim 2.5\text{--}2.7$ in single-crystal BDD, and the ~ 2.4 for ideal diamond, accompanied by increased dielectric loss at $\sim 1250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, termed the L2-mode. Raman mapping of this IR-active ω_{L2} revealed elevated levels of graphitic sp^2 inclusions, particularly at grain boundaries. These optical measurements are consistent with polycrystalline BDD showing lower electrical resistivity $0.05 \Omega\text{-cm}$, one order lower than that of the single crystal $0.6 \Omega\text{-cm}$, highlighting the strong role of sp^2 inclusions in grain boundary conductivity as a source of dielectric loss. These results show that extrinsic factors beyond B-doping alone should be considered in the interpretation of the optoelectronic properties of BDD and inform its use for thermal management in codesigned microelectronics for power and RF systems, plasma-assisted epitaxy of cubic boron nitride and electrochemistry.

Academic or Professional Status

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