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## Charge transport mechanisms of topological insulator Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> for Photo Galvanic Applications

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Topological insulators have attracted researchers' attention recently due to their unique surface states protected by time-reversal symmetry [1-5]. Since Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> has a low bandgap, it is expected to perform well in photodetection for visible and infrared optoelectronics [6, 7]. Here, we present the preliminary results from our work on the growth, cleanroom fabrication, and characterization of Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> photodetectors. The Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> was grown on a sapphire substrate by molecular beam epitaxy (MBE). The Raman modes at 72 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 132 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and 175 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to the A<sub>1</sub>g, E<sub>2</sub>g, and A<sub>2</sub>1g vibrational modes, confirming the presence of Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>. A Focused Ion Beam (FIB) was used to prepare the lamellas of Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> for their further detailed analysis by HAADF-STEM imaging and spectroscopy. High-resolution HAADF-STEM images show that the Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> is highly oriented in the (0001) crystallographic direction. The quintuple layers of Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> (Se-Bi-Se-Bi-Se) were observed in the [110] crystallographic direction. The devices were fabricated using microfabrication techniques inside the cleanroom with Cr/Au contacts. The devices' channel lengths range from 4 to 12 μm. I-V curves were measured with a Keithley 2400 source meter in the dark. The results show that the devices generally follow an ohmic behavior, confirming a good contact formation. Some of the device's contacts show Schottky diode behavior. DC conductivity was measured using a Lakeshore Cryo-Probe station as a function of temperature down to 6.5 K. Results from the Arrhenius plot show that the device has four different charge transport mechanisms. At high temperatures, the devices follow the Arrhenius equation with activation energy half of the band gap. In moderate temperatures, the conductivity follows an activated hopping mechanism, with very low activation energy suggesting the formation of charge puddles. At lower temperatures, the devices follow Efros-Shklovski law.

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Condensed Matter Physics and Nanomaterials

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