

Dynamics of T-Site Muonium States in Gallium Phosphide

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Muon spin resonance results on semi-insulating GaP suggest the presence of two separate diamagnetic states above roughly 400 K. The diamagnetic RF- μ SR resonance amplitude increases starting at that point, then decreases above 550 K, consistent with two signals displaying different dynamics. The second state, present from ~ 400 to 630 K, is assigned to the negative ion, Mu^{t} , expected to reside in the tetrahedral (T) site with Ga near neighbours. The single state at lower temperatures is assigned to a mobile Mu^+ , claimed [1] to hop among the T-sites with phosphorous neighbours above 300 K, even though the stable site for a stationary Mu^+ is bond-centered. Interactions between mobile Mu centers and Zn acceptors were reported [2] for p-type GaP, and assigned to charge exchange between Mu_T^0 and Zn^0 below ~ 100 K and to Coulomb capture of Mu_T^+ by Zn^{t} above 400 K. Here we report in detail on the motional dynamics of Mu^{t} and the ionization processes related to the Mu_T acceptor state. We obtain an energy of ~ 0.82 eV from the growth step in the RF data for the standard Mu_T acceptor-related hole ionization. The loss of the Mu^{t} RF-component yields an energy of ~ 1.7 eV, which is assigned to thermal promotion of an electron from Mu^{t} to the conduction band, *i.e.* ionization of Mu^{t} . These two results place the Mu_T acceptor level with respect to the valence and conduction band edges, respectively. The difference in these placements represents the Coulomb energy for Mu^{t} in the positively charged T_{Ga} region. Low-field spin precession and zero-field depolarization data on n-type GaP in the 10^{16} to 10^{18} cm^{-3} concentration range show a peak in diamagnetic fraction below 300 K and a roughly linear increase in the net diamagnetic signal above that, nearing the full muon fraction only above 900 K. Both regions show characteristics of Mu^{t} . The onset of Mu^{t} motion above 500 K overlaps with the loss an electron, making a clean separation of these processes in the depolarization data marginal; however, initial results give a barrier of nearly 9 eV. Additionally, a Mu_T charge cycle sets in above the electron loss transition; however, it is not obvious at present whether this represents a $+/0$ or a $0/\text{t}$ cycle, or precisely which transition processes are active in n-type samples at the highest temperatures.

[1] R.L. Lichti, et al, Physica B 308-310 (2001) 862.

[2] R.L. Lichti, et al, Physica B 326 (2003) 167.