

Dissertation Title	Metrology development of diamond like carbon (DLC) thin film coating on magnetic heads for high-volume manufacturing
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### Abstract

DLC/a-Si bilayer film was deposited on germanium substrate where a-Si layer was firstly deposited on the substrate using DC magnetron sputtering. DLC layer was then deposited on the a-Si layer using pulsed filtered cathodic arc (PFCA) method. In-situ ellipsometry was used to monitor the thicknesses of the growth films, allowing a precise control over the a-Si and DLC thicknesses. The bilayer films were deposited with different DLC/a-Si thickness ratios, including 2/2, 2/6, 4/4, 6/2 and 9/6. The effect of DLC/a-Si thickness ratios on the  $sp^3$  content of DLC was analyzed by Raman spectroscopy. The results show that a-Si layer has no effect on the structure of DLC film. Furthermore, the upper shift in G-peak position and the decrease in  $I_D/I_G$  inform that  $sp^3$  content of the film is directly proportional to DLC thickness. The DLC/a-Si thickness ratio 9/6 was further analyzed using transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopic (XPS) depth profile. It was found that carbon atoms implanting on a-Si layer act not only as a carbon source for DLC formation, but also as a source for SiC formation. The Raman peak positions at  $796\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $972\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponded to the longitudinal optical (LO) and transverse optical (TO) phonon modes SiC, respectively, the thicknesses of bilayer films were also estimated using spectroscopic ellipsometry (SE).

In this work, DLC/a-Si bilayer film with a thickness ratio of 10/7 nm was deposited simultaneously on three types of substrate:  $\text{SiO}_2$ , Ge, and  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ . The results revealed that the thickness of the growth film strongly depended on the surface energy of the substrate. The lowest thickness of a-Si layer of 5.64 nm was observed on  $\text{SiO}_2$  substrate due to the highest substrate surface energy of  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface. The a-Si layer thicknesses of 6.30 and 6.97 nm were observed on Ge and  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ , respectively. This indicates that Ge and  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  have lower substrate surface energy than that of  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface. However, the DLC films deposited on each a-Si layer of three substrates have the same thickness approximately of 9.9 nm, because all of them were deposited on a-Si layer-coated substrates having the same surface energy. This information may be important for analyzing and developing bilayer protective films for future hard disk drive.

Keywords: Amorphous silicon (DLC)/ Diamond-like carbon/  
Pulsed filtered cathodic arc (PFCA)/ Silicon carbide (SiC)

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### บทคัดย่อ

ฟิล์มสองชั้นซึ่งประกอบด้วยฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชร(DLC) และฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอน(a-Si) ถูกเคลือบลงบนแผ่นรองรับเจอร์มาเนียม(Ge) ฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนถูกเคลือบลงบนแผ่นรองรับก่อนด้วยวิธีดีซีแมกนีตรอนสปัตเตอริง หลังจากนั้นฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชรถูกเคลือบลงบนฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนด้วยวิธีพัลส์ฟیلเตอร์คาทอดิกอาร์ค(FCA) ความหนาของฟิล์มถูกวัดและควบคุมด้วยวิธีอินซิทู-อิลิปโซเมทรี ฟิล์มสองชั้นนี้ถูกเคลือบที่อัตราส่วนความหนา(นาโนเมตร) แตกต่างกันไปประกอบด้วย 2/2, 2/6, 4/4, 6/2 และ 9/6 ผลกระทบต่อปริมาณพันธะ  $sp^3$  เนื่องจากความแตกต่างของอัตราส่วนฟิล์มสองชั้นนี้ถูกวิเคราะห์ด้วยรามานสเปกโทรสโคปี ผลที่ได้พบว่าฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนไม่มีผลต่อโครงสร้างของฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชร ส่วนค่าตำแหน่งของพีค G (G-peak position) ที่เพิ่มขึ้น และค่าอัตราส่วนความเข้มของพีค D ต่อพีค G ( $I_D/I_G$ ) ที่ลดลง แสดงว่าปริมาณพันธะ  $sp^3$  แปรผันตรงกับความหนาของฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชร ฟิล์มสองชั้นที่อัตราส่วน 9/6 ถูกนำไปวิเคราะห์ต่อยกกล้องจุลทรรศน์อิเล็กตรอนแบบส่องผ่าน(TEM) และเอกซเรย์สเปกโทรสโคปี(XPS) แบบวิธีเคีปโพรไฟล์(depth profile) พบว่าไม่ใช่มีเพียงแต่การเกิดคาร์บอนในฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชรที่ปลูกบนฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอน(a-Si)เท่านั้นแต่ยังพบว่ามีซิลิกอนคาร์ไบด์(SiC) เกิดขึ้นอีกด้วย นอกจากนี้ยังพบรามานพีคที่  $796\text{ cm}^{-1}$  และ  $972\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ซึ่งตรงกับ LO (longitudinal optical) และ TO (transverse optical) โฟนอนโหมดของซิลิกอนคาร์ไบด์ตามลำดับ ความหนาของฟิล์มสองชั้นนี้ได้ถูกประมาณค่าโดยวิธีสเปกโทรสโคปี อิลิปโซเมทรี

ฟิล์มสองชั้นประกอบด้วยฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชรหนา 10 นาโนเมตร และฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนหนา 7 นาโนเมตร ถูกเคลือบลงบนแผ่นรองรับ 3 ชนิดพร้อมกันซึ่งประกอบด้วยซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์

(SiO<sub>2</sub>) เจอมาเนียม (Ge) และแทนทาลัมเพนตะออกไซด์ (Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) ผลปรากฏว่าความหนาของฟิล์มที่เคลือบบนผิวรองรับทั้งสามชนิดขึ้นกับพลังงานพื้นผิวของแผ่นรองรับอย่างชัดเจน ความหนาบนแผ่นรองรับซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์ต่ำสุดของฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนมีค่าเท่ากับ 5.64 นาโนเมตร เนื่องจากมีพลังงานพื้นผิวสูงสุด ส่วนความหนาของฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนบนแผ่นรองรับเจอมาเนียมและแทนทาลัมเพนตะออกไซด์มีค่าเท่ากับ 6.30 และ 6.97 นาโนเมตร ตามลำดับ ซึ่งเป็นการบ่งชี้ว่าแผ่นรองรับเจอมาเนียมและ แทนทาลัมเพนตะออกไซด์มีพลังงานพื้นผิวต่ำกว่าแผ่นรองรับซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์ อย่างไรก็ตามความหนาของฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชรที่เคลือบบนฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนของแผ่นรองรับทั้ง 3 ชนิด มีค่าใกล้เคียงกันคือ 9.9 นาโนเมตร เนื่องจากว่าฟิล์มคาร์บอนคล้ายเพชรนี้ถูกเคลือบลงบนฟิล์มอะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอนซึ่งมีค่าพลังงานพื้นผิวที่เหมือนกัน ข้อมูลเหล่านี้จึงจะมีความสำคัญในการวิเคราะห์และพัฒนาฟิล์มสองชั้นที่ใช้เคลือบเพื่อการป้องกันผิวฮาร์ดดิสก์ในอนาคต

คำสำคัญ : คาร์บอนคล้ายเพชร/ ซิลิกอนคาร์ไบด์/ พัลส์ฟิลเตอร์คาทอดิกอาร์ก/ อะมอร์ฟัสซิลิกอน

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