

Chapter 6

Electrical and photovoltaic properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions

6.1 Introduction

Heterostructures of transition metal oxides have attracted much interest in the research of oxide electronics, which aim at utilizing the unique electrical properties at heterointerfaces such as the electrically induced reversible resistance switching in $\text{SrRuO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ [49] or the large magnetocapacitance in $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_{3-\delta}/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ [50]. These phenomena indicate that the electrical properties of oxide heterostructures are strongly affected by those of the bulk oxides. In this chapter, from the viewpoint of photocarrier injection, we study the electrical and photovoltaic properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions as examples of oxide heterojunctions. By comparison with the case of $\text{Au}/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ or by varying x in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$, we aim at revealing the effect of the physical properties of oxides on the electrical and photovoltaic properties at the interface.

6.2 Physical properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$

6.2.1 Transport properties

Transport properties of the perovskite manganites are explained by the complex mixing of various parameters, such as lattice distortion and magnetism. Among them, one important concept is the double-exchange (DE) interaction. The perovskite manganites have the general formula $\text{RE}_{1-x}\text{AE}_x\text{MnO}_3$ where RE is usually a trivalent rare earth ion and AE is a divalent alkaline rare earth ion. Octahedral coordination by oxygen ions induces the splitting of the 3d orbitals of Mn to t_{2g} orbital states and e_g orbital states. Lattice distortions driven by the Jahn-Teller effect induce further splitting of t_{2g} and e_g levels (Fig. 6.1 (a)) in the case of $t_{2g}^3e_g^1$ configuration. In the case of $x = 0$, three electrons are filled in the t_{2g} states and one electron is filled in the e_g states of each Mn ion. Because

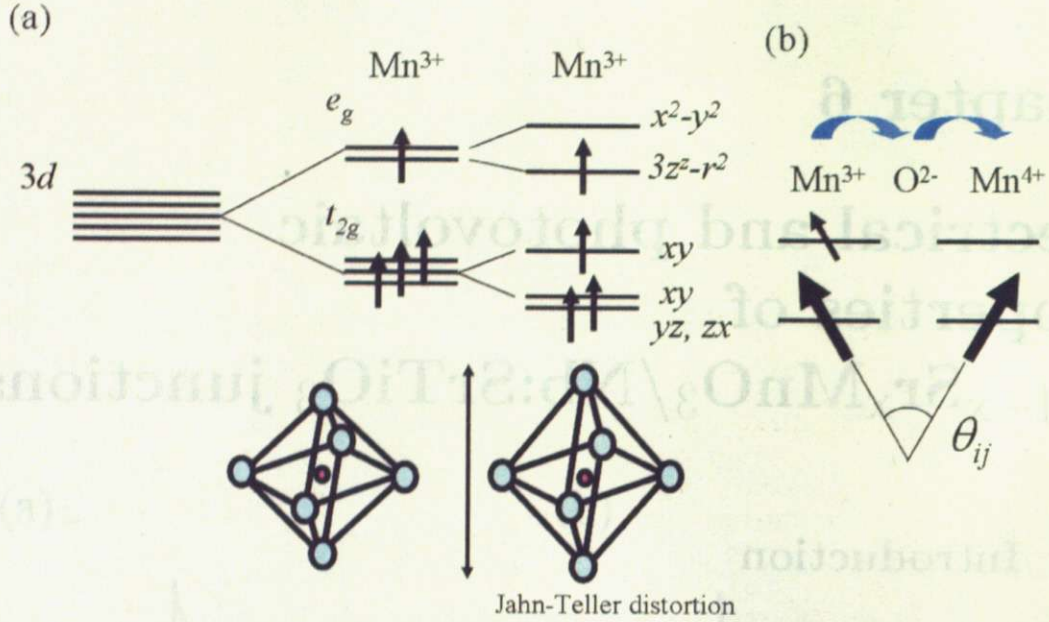


Figure 6.1: (a) Splitting of 3d orbitals caused by the octahedral coordination of O^{2-} . In the case of Mn^{3+} , three electrons are filled in the t_{2g} levels and one electron is filled in the e_g level. The e_g and t_{2g} levels are further splitted by Jahn-Teller distortion. (b) Schematic image of the DE interaction. Effective hopping interaction is determined by the relative angles of the spins of the localized electrons in the t_{2g} levels.

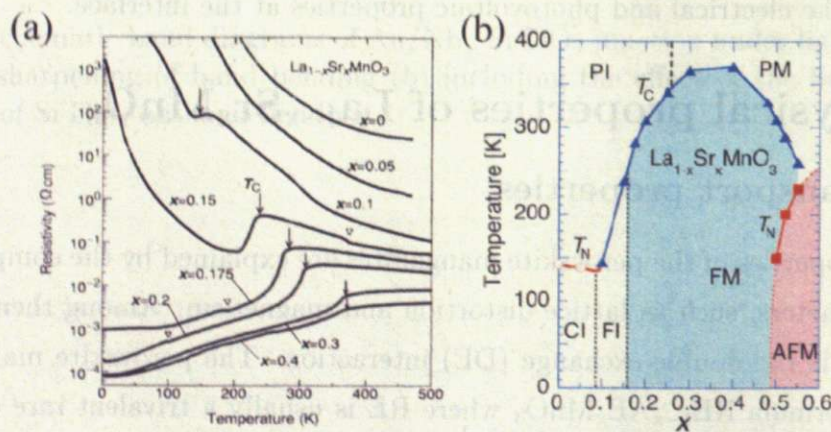


Figure 6.2: (a) Temperature dependent resistivity of $La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO_3$ single crystals [51]. (b) Magnetic phase diagram of the $La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO_3$ system [52].

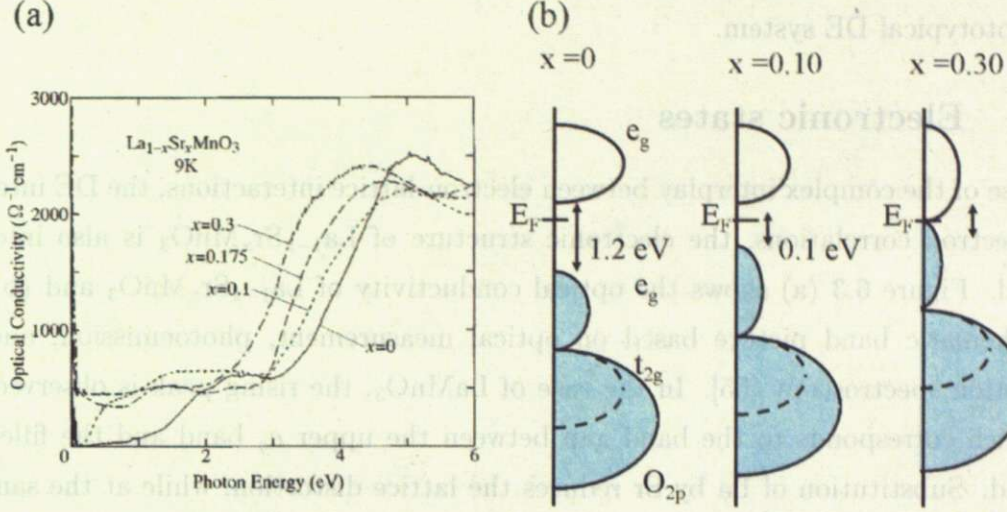


Figure 6.3: (a) Optical conductivity of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.30$) measured at 9 K [54] and (b) schematic band structure of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$. The band gap of LaMnO_3 is 1.2 eV and substitution of La by Sr reduces the gap. At $x = 0.10$, the band gap is reduced to 0.1 eV and the gap disappears at $x \geq 0.175$.

of the electron correlation effect, electrons in e_g states are localized.

Spins in the 3d orbitals are strongly coupled between the t_{2g} localized electron spin ($S = 3/2$) and the conduction electron spin ($S = 1/2$) by Hund's coupling. This Hund's coupling energy is as large as 2-3 eV in manganites and this is larger than the inter-site hopping interaction of electrons in e_g states, t_{ij}^0 . Under this condition, the effective hopping interaction is described as

$$t_{ij} = t_{ij}^0 \cos\left(\frac{\theta_{ij}}{2}\right) \quad (6.1)$$

where θ_{ij} is the relative angle of the neighboring spins. Schematic image of hopping by DE interaction is shown in Fig. 6.1 (b). This relation implies the ferromagnetic order via conduction electrons.

Figure 6.2 shows the temperature dependence of the resistivity in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ system and its magnetic phase diagram. The parent material, LaMnO_3 , is an antiferromagnetic insulator below 120 K. e_g states on the Mn sites are filled by one electron and are localized by the onsite Coulomb repulsion and the Jahn-Teller distortion. Hole doping by substitution of La for Sr induces $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ to become a ferromagnetic metal around $x = 0.17$, associated with an insulator to metal transition mediated by the DE interaction. The Curie temperature becomes as high as 370 K around $x = 0.30$. The transport properties of perovskite manganites is also strongly affected by the lattice distortion, especially in, for example, $\text{Pr}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$ and $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{MnO}_3$ [53]. However, the effect of

lattice distortion is smallest in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ system, so this system can be thought as the prototypical DE system.

6.2.2 Electronic states

Because of the complex interplay between electron-lattice interactions, the DE interaction and electron correlations, the electronic structure of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ is also intensively studied. Figure 6.3 (a) shows the optical conductivity of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ and (b) shows the schematic band picture based on optical measurement, photoemission, and x-ray absorption spectroscopy [55]. In the case of LaMnO_3 , the rising peak is observed at 1.2 eV which corresponds to the band gap between the upper e_g band and the filled lower e_g band. Substitution of La by Sr reduces the lattice distortion, while at the same time doping holes to the e_g band, this reducing the gap between 2 e_g states. The gap is reduced to 0.1 eV in $x = 0.10$ and disappear at $x \geq 0.175$.

6.3 Experimental

We measured the electrical properties and photovoltaic properties of different composition of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ (0.01 wt %) junctions ($x = 0.10, 0.15, 0.20$, and 0.30). 600 Å $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ films were grown by pulsed laser deposition (PLD) at the O_2 partial pressure of 1 mTorr and a substrate temperature of 750 °C. using a KrF excimer laser (Lambda Physik AG COMPex 201) as the ablation laser. Pulse frequency was 4 Hz and the laser energy at the target surface was ~ 30 mJ. Ag wires were placed on the $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ films with Ag paste and Al wire was ultra-sonic soldered to the $\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ as ohmic electrodes. Typical dimensions of the junctions were 1 mm².

6.4 Results and discussion

Electrical properties

Figure 6.4 shows the temperature dependent I - V characteristics of different composition $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions. Rectifying behavior is observed at all junctions. Because of the insulating property of $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$, the I - V characteristics of $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ are strongly affected by the series resistance as seen in the strong temperature dependence in its I - V characteristics at large forward voltage. Unlike $\text{Au}/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions, none of these junctions exhibited anomalous feature of the I - V characteristics at low temperature. The temperature dependence of the tunneling contribution E_0 , which is calculated by $E_0 = q/(\partial \ln J / \partial V)$ from the I - V curves are shown in Fig. 6.5. Except for $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$, the temperature dependent E_0 is well

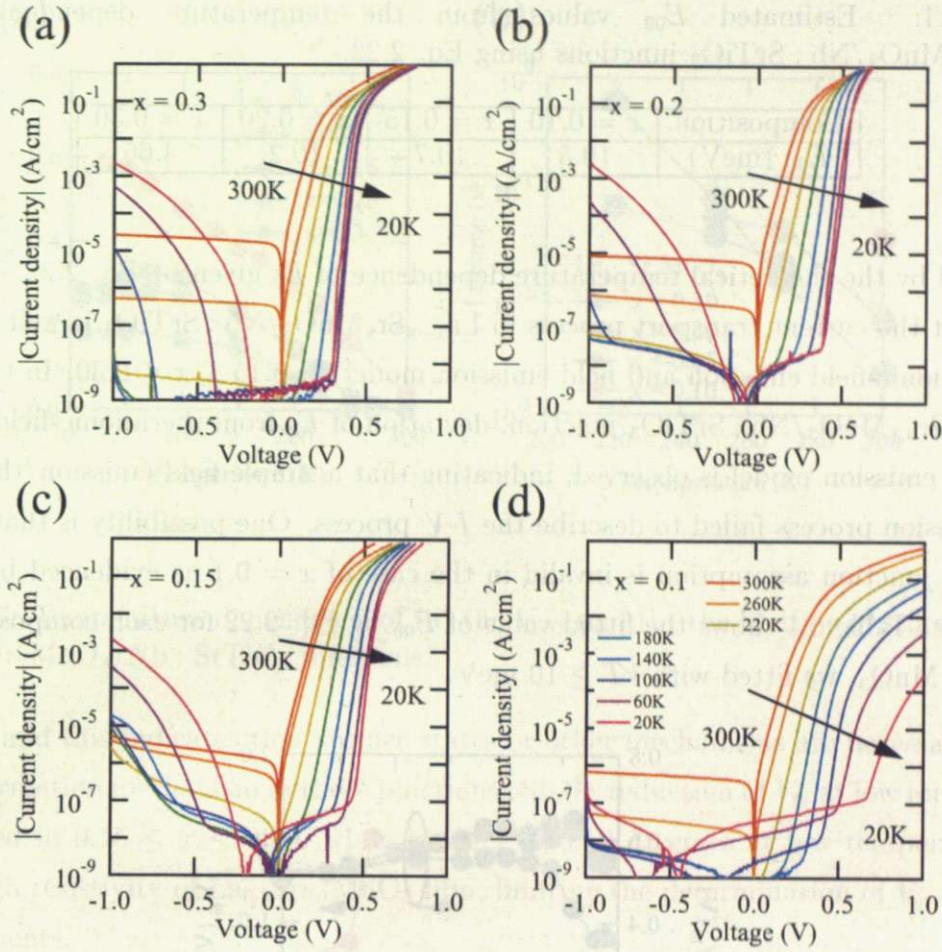


Figure 6.4: Temperature dependent I - V characteristics of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions (a) $x = 0.3$, (b) $x = 0.2$ (c) $x = 0.15$ (d) $x = 0.10$. The I - V characteristics were measured every 40 K from 300 K to 20 K.

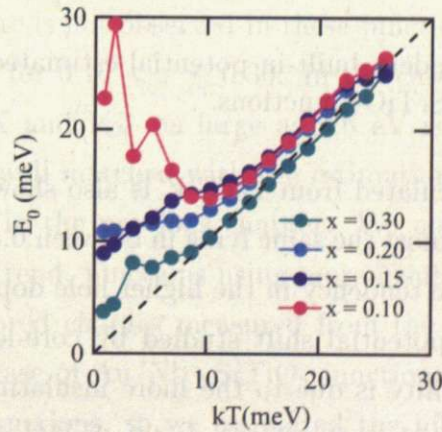


Figure 6.5: Temperature dependent tunneling contribution E_0 estimated from the I - V characteristics of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions using $E_0 = 1/q(\partial \ln J / \partial V)$.

Table 6.1: Estimated E_{00} values from the temperature dependent E_0 of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions using Eq. 2.22.

Composition	$x = 0.10$	$x = 0.15$	$x = 0.20$	$x = 0.30$
E_{00} (meV)	10.5	10.7	10.2	4.66

explained by the theoretical temperature dependence of E_0 given by Eq. 2.22. This indicates that the current transport process in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ is well expressed by thermionic-field emission and field emission model for $0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$. In the case of the $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junction, deviation of E_0 from thermionic-field emission and field emission model is observed, indicating that a simple field emission/thermionic-field emission process failed to describe the I - V process. One possibility is that a simple Schottky junction assumption is invalid in the case of $x = 0.1$ as evidenced by its high resistance. Table 6.1 shows the fitted value of E_{00} by Eq. 2.22 for each composition. For $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$, we fitted with $kT \geq 10$ meV.

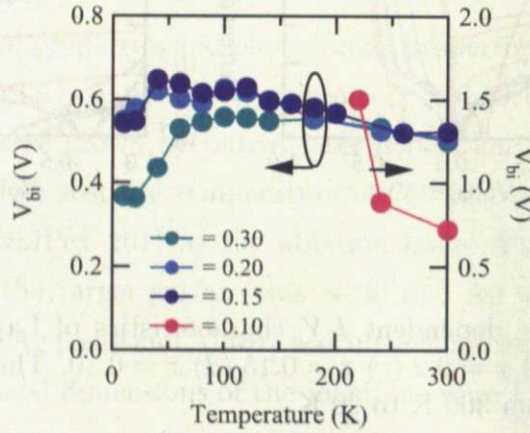


Figure 6.6: Temperature dependent built-in potential estimated from the C-V measurements in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions.

Built-in potential (V_{bi}) calculated from $1/C^2$ - V is also shown in Fig. 6.6. V_{bi} in the range of $0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$ are almost the same lying in between 0.50 V and 0.60 V at 300 K. This result is different from the tendency in the higher hole doping compositions ($0.30 \leq x \leq 1$) [56] or the chemical potential shift studied by core-level X-ray photoemission spectroscopy [57]. One possibility is due to the more insulating behavior at lower hole concentration. Work function of $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{MnO}_3$ is 4.9 eV [58] and the electron affinity of SrTiO_3 is 3.9 eV [29], giving a Schottky barrier height from the Schottky-Mott relation of 1 eV. Since the energy difference between the Fermi level and the conduction band minimum in $\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ is 6 meV, the measured built in potential is much smaller than

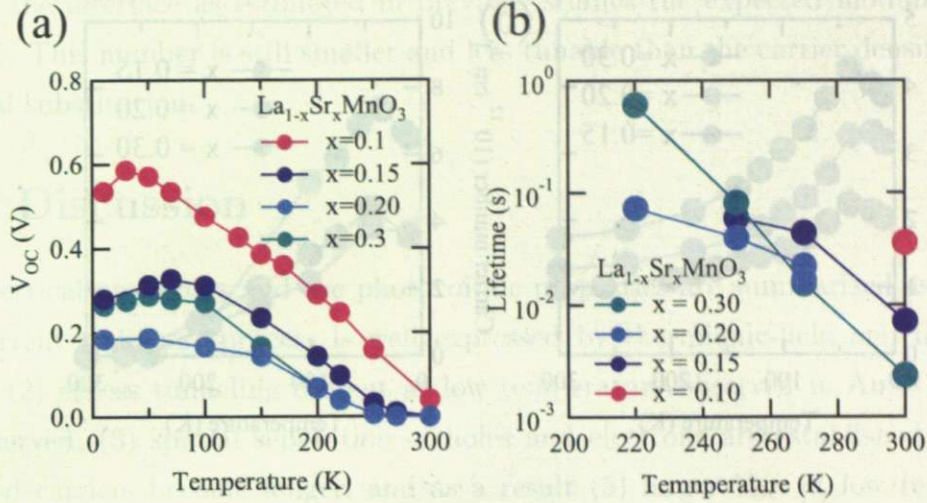


Figure 6.7: Temperature dependence of (a) the V_{OC} and (b) the lifetime of stored charges in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions.

expected and this indicates that surface states or other mechanisms are necessary for the barrier formation mechanism in these junctions. Slight reduction of V_{bi} at low temperature is observed in $0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$, while V_{bi} in $x = 0.10$ diverges at low temperature due to the high resistivity of $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$ film, limiting the determination of V_{bi} from $C-V$ measurements.

Photovoltaic properties

Figure 6.7 (a) shows V_{OC} as a function of temperature in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions. V_{OC} at room temperature is small, but gradually increases with decrease in temperature, similar to the case of $\text{Au}/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions. However, a rigid decrease of V_{OC} at low temperature is not observed in these junctions, although a slight reduction is observed below 100 K for $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$. In the case of V_{OC} in $x = 0.10$, V_{OC} keep increasing down to 30 K and V_{OC} as large as 0.6 eV is observed. These temperature dependences of V_{OC} are well matched with the estimation based on thermionic-field and field emission theory as in the previous chapter. We also observe the composition dependence. As a general trend, junctions using more insulating compounds exhibit larger V_{OC} . The lifetime of stored charges measured from the decay of V_{OC} is also shown in Fig. 6.7 (b). As in the case of $\text{Au}/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions, we did not observe the linear decay of V_{OC} in these junctions, so we estimated the lifetime from exponential fitting. The maximum lifetime we can measure was in this case about the order of a few seconds. With decreasing the temperature, the lifetime of carriers increases. While the lifetime of stored carriers in $\text{Au}/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ was dramatically reduced at low temperatures, the

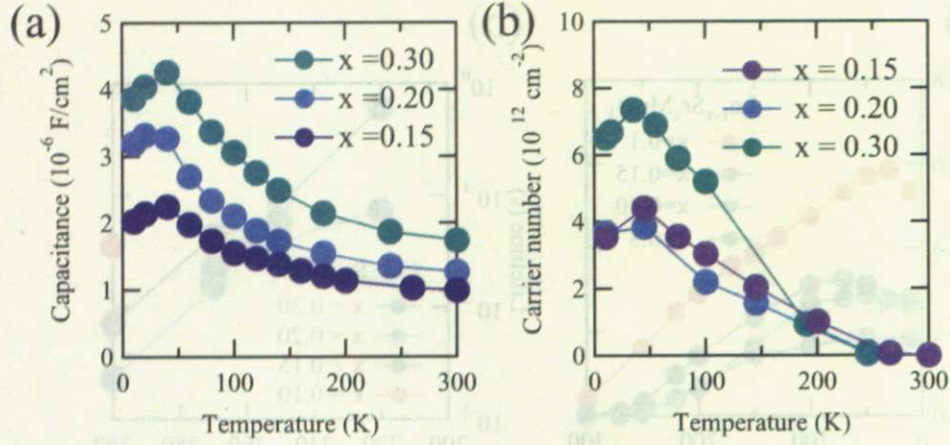


Figure 6.8: (a) Temperature dependent depletion layer capacitance of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions. (b) The number of injected holes estimated from V_{OC} and the depletion layer capacitance.

lifetime of stored charges in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions are more than a few second even at low temperatures.

Figure 6.8 (a) shows the depletion layer capacitance as a function of the temperature and (b) shows the number of holes injected to $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ estimated from V_{OC} and the depletion layer capacitance. The depletion layer capacitances gradually increase with decreasing temperature, but turn to decrease at about 50 K. The capacitances at low temperature are only twice as large as those at 300 K despite the permittivity of SrTiO_3 become about 100 times larger than that of 300 K at zero bias. These results are because of the field dependent permittivity of SrTiO_3 . One interesting thing is that the depletion layer capacitance of $x = 0.30$ is largest in the range $0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$, this tendency is opposite to V_{OC} . Although the built-in potential is almost the same, the capacitance is dependent on the composition of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$. This may be related to the physical properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$. One possibility is the existence of the depletion layer in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$. Between $0.30 \geq x \geq 0.17$, $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ is metallic, so we do not need to consider the depletion layer in the metal according to the model of the Schottky barrier contact. However, if we assume “the depletion layer” in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$, in more insulating compounds, the effective mobile carriers can be considered to small, so “the depletion layer” can become larger. This is consistent to the result of capacitance measurements. The number of injected holes is then largest in $x = 0.30$ at low temperatures and exceeds more than $6 \times 10^{12}/\text{cm}^2$. If the injected carriers are distributed uniformly in the $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ films, the modulated doping level is the order of 10^{17} cm^{-3} and this corresponds to 0.001 % substitution of La by Sr. If the holes are localized in just a few

Å from the interface as estimated in previous studies the expected modulation level is $\sim 0.1\%$. This number is still smaller and less tunable than the carrier density control by chemical substitution.

6.5 Discussion

The electrical properties and the photovoltaic properties are summarized as follows. (1) The current transport process is well expressed by thermionic-field and field emission theory, (2) excess tunneling current at low temperature observed in Au/Nb : SrTiO₃ is not observed, (3) spatial separation of holes and electrons are established, (4) lifetime of stored carriers become longer, and as a result (5) larger V_{OC} at low temperature is observed. The composition dependence of photovoltaic properties are also observed. As a general trend, large V_{OC} is observed in the junction using more insulating La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃.

First we discuss why excess current is reduced at low temperature in La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃/Nb : SrTiO₃ junctions, different from Au/Nb : SrTiO₃ junctions. The most likely possibility is the difference of the built-in potential. In the case of Au/Nb : SrTiO₃ studied in the previous chapter, the built-in potential is 1.2 eV and slightly increased with decreasing the temperature. On the other hand, except for $x = 0.10$, V_{bi} of La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃ were about 0.6 eV at 300 K and decreases to 0.4 eV below about 50 K. Sharpening of the band bending is more significant for larger built-in potential because of the larger electric field at the interface.

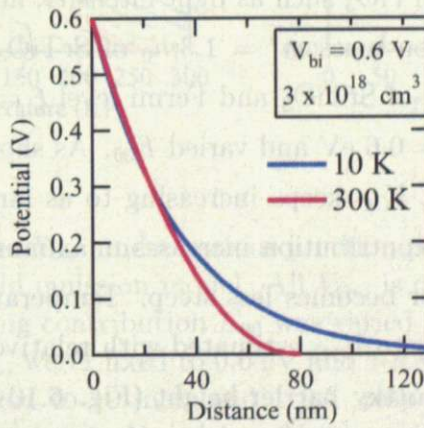


Figure 6.9: Simulation of temperature dependent potential barrier at the interface of La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃ and Nb : SrTiO₃. V_{bi} and doping concentration of SrTiO₃ is fixed to 0.6 V and $3 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Figure 6.9 shows the calculated potential variation from La_{1-x}Sr_xMnO₃/Nb:SrTiO₃ interface using Eq. 3.4 in which the electric field dependence and the temperature depen-

dence of the permittivity of SrTiO_3 is taken into consideration. We fixed V_{bi} and doping concentration of SrTiO_3 to 0.6 V and $3 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. As shown in the figure, the barrier shape at 300 K and 10 K is almost the same and sharpening of the band bending is not observed. The permittivity of the SrTiO_3 is strongly affected by the electric field and temperature, so the shape of the barrier can be strongly changed, but the band shape is not so changed in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$, so excess current transport is not observed.

Next we discuss the photovoltaic properties with the thermionic-field emission and the field emission model. As already mentioned, band structure of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ is affected by the composition, especially between the metallic compound and insulating compound. In this study, $0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$ shows almost same electrical and photovoltaic properties and $x = 0.10$ is slightly different from others. So we discuss these two regimes separately.

$0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$

Figure 6.10 shows the simulation of expected V_{OC} observed in various conditions. We assume that (1) the Schottky barrier is formed at the interface and (2) current transport is expressed by Eq. 2.21 and Eq. 2.22, where J_0 is described as Eq. 2.26 for thermionic-field emission and as Eq. 2.25 for field emission. In this estimation thermionic emission is ignored because we focus on low temperature behavior. (3) Open circuit voltage is roughly estimated with Eq. 5.1. We choose the Schottky barrier height, 0 K tunneling contribution E_{00} and photocurrent density J_L as parameters. The Schottky barrier height and E_{00} represent the junction electrical properties and J_L represents the measurement conditions and physical properties of the SrTiO_3 such as light intensity, and carrier generation rate. We assumed an effective electron mass $m^* = 1.3m_0$ of SrTiO_3 and energy between the bottom of the conduction band of SrTiO_3 and Fermi level $\xi = -6 \text{ meV}$ throughout the simulations. First we fixed $V_{bi} = 0.6 \text{ eV}$ and varied E_{00} . As shown in Fig. 6.10 (a), if the tunneling contribution is small, V_{OC} keeps increasing to as large as V_{bi} with decreasing temperature. As the tunneling contribution increases, maximum V_{OC} is reduced and the temperature dependent behavior becomes less steep. Temperature dependence of measured V_{OC} ($0.15 \leq x \leq 0.30$) is similar to V_{OC} estimated with relatively large tunneling contribution. Next we varied the Schottky barrier height (Fig. 6.10 (b)). The maximum V_{OC} changes with the change of the Schottky barrier height, but the temperature dependent behavior is not changed. Figure 6.10 (c) and (d) show the effect of photocurrent on the temperature dependence of V_{OC} under different tunneling contribution. The effect of the photocurrent is more significant at higher temperature when the tunneling contribution is small. In contrast, if the tunneling contribution is relatively large, V_{OC} become larger with increase the photocurrent, but effect on V_{OC} is smaller compared with other parameters.

Compared to these simulations, the temperature dependence of V_{OC} seems to be most

6.6 Conclusion

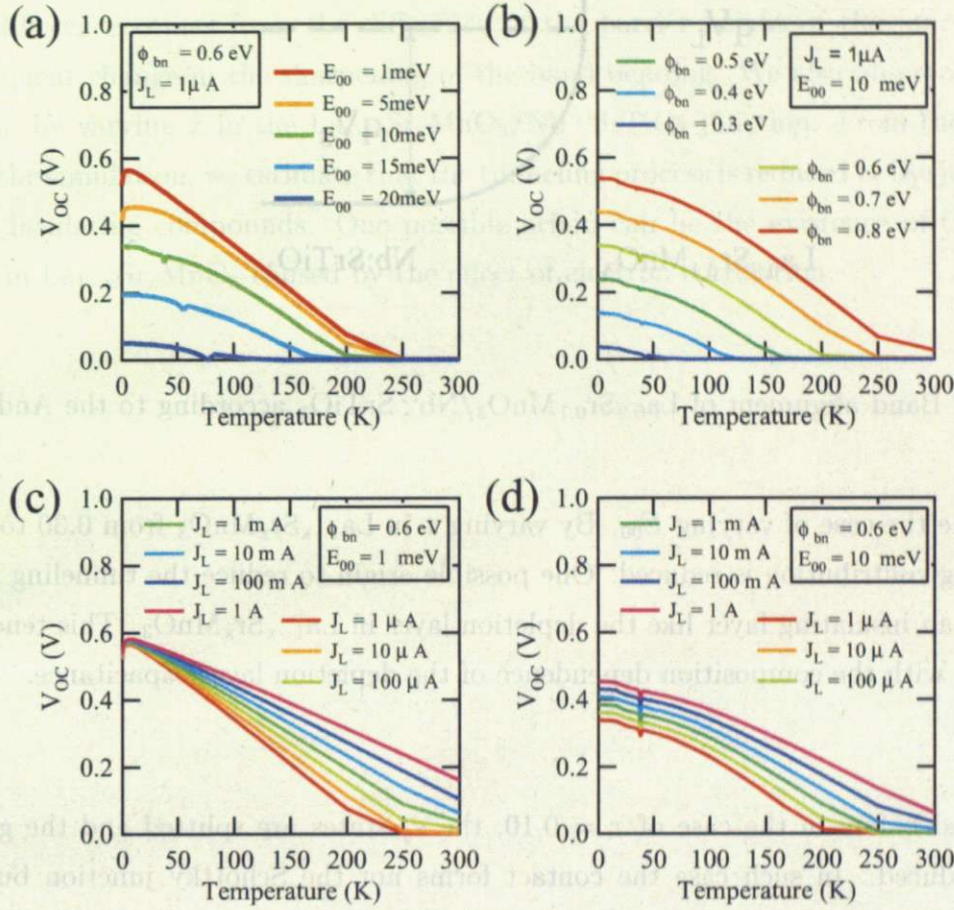


Figure 6.10: The simulated V_{OC} under various junction properties with the assumption of a thermionic-field and field emission model. All V_{OC} is calculated with $m^* = 1.3 m_0$ and $\xi = -6$ meV. (a) Tunneling contribution E_{00} was varied and the Schottky barrier height, ϕ_{bn} , and photocurrent, J_L , were fixed to 0.6 eV and $1 \mu A$, respectively. (b) ϕ_{bn} was varied with E_{00} and J_L were fixed to 10 meV and $1 \mu A$, respectively. In (c) and (d), J_L was varied with ϕ_{bn} and E_{00} were 0.6 eV and 1 meV (c), and ϕ_{bn} and E_{00} were 0.6 eV and 10 meV (d). Kinks observed at low temperature are due to discontinuity of the saturation current estimated from thermionic-field emission model and field emission model.

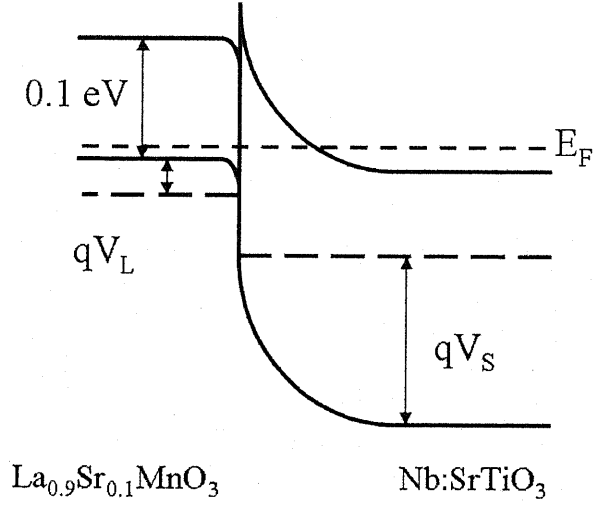


Figure 6.11: Band alignment of $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ according to the Anderson model [59].

similar to the the case of varying E_{00} . By varying x in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ from 0.30 to 0.15, the tunneling contribution is reduced. One possible origin to reduce the tunneling is the existence of an insulating layer like the depletion layer in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$. This tendency is consistent with the composition dependence of the depletion layer capacitance.

$x = 0.10$

As mentioned before in the case of $x = 0.10$, the e_g states are splitted and the gap of 0.1 eV is induced. In such case the contact forms not the Schottky junction but the heterojunction. Figure 6.11 shows the band alignment of $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ junction according to Anderson [59]. In the case of the heterojunction we need to consider the built-in potential(V_{bi}) and the depletion layer of both $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$ (V_L , W_L) and SrTiO_3 (V_S , W_S) respectively. Now we assume that effective carrier density can be much smaller than the doping concentration because carriers are localized by the DE interaction. The depletion layer in $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$ is expressed by

$$W_L = \sqrt{\frac{2N_S\epsilon_S\epsilon_L(V_{bi} - V)}{qN_L(\epsilon_S N_S + \epsilon_L N_L)}}$$

where N_S , N_L , ϵ_S , ϵ_L and V are the carrier density of Nb : SrTiO₃ and $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$, the permittivity of Nb : SrTiO₃, $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{MnO}_3$ and applied voltage to the junction. This depletion layer reduces the tunneling probability, and as a result, larger V_{OC} may be observed.

6.6 Conclusion

In this chapter we have studied the electrical and photovoltaic properties of $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions to reveal the effect of correlated oxides in comparison with sample metals. By comparing with Au/SrTiO_3 , we observed the significant enhancement of V_{OC} at low temperatures in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junctions. The main origin of this difference comes from the difference of the barrier height of the junction and the consequent change in the sharpening of the band bending. We also observed the change of V_{OC} by varying x in the $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3/\text{Nb} : \text{SrTiO}_3$ junction. From the comparison with the simulation, we estimate that the tunneling process is reduced in the junction using more insulating compounds. One possible origin can be the existence of the insulating layer in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ caused by the effect of electron correlation.

Chapter 7

Conclusion

In this study, in order to obtain detailed understanding of the photocarrier injection method as a technique of carrier density modulation in transition metal oxides, we studied electrical properties of several junctions using SrTiO_3 from various aspects.

First we studied the electrical properties of Au/SrTiO_3 junctions under light irradiation. By irradiating light to the interface from the SrTiO_3 side, we confirmed rectifying behavior as in a Schottky junction, suggestive of band bending by photocarrier doping in insulating SrTiO_3 . There are several reports of photocarrier injection using insulating SrTiO_3 substrates, so this result can be useful for understanding the detailed process of photocarrier injection in such structures. Secondly, in order to reveal the effect of temperature and the electric field dependent dielectric permittivity in SrTiO_3 on the photovoltaic properties, we studied the photovoltaic properties of Au/Nb : SrTiO_3 junctions in relation with their electrical properties. At low temperature, significant reduction of the open circuit voltage was observed, due to excess tunneling which is attributed to the sharpening of band bending. Finally we studied the photovoltaic properties of oxide-oxide junctions and we have observed the change in the open circuit voltage possibly caused by the electron correlation. Through this study, we have revealed the importance of detailed understanding of the electrical properties of the oxide junctions for the improvement of the photocarrier injection technique.

Based on the results, we would like to consider the maximization of the efficiency of the photocarrier injection. In order to store large number of carriers, the depletion layer capacitance should be large. Maximization of V_{OC} is also important. Maximum V_{OC} is limited by the barrier height of the junction. Furthermore, it is important to reduce the recombination processes of injected carriers, which suppress the maximum V_{OC} and reduce the number of stored carriers.

SrTiO_3 is one of the most suitable materials for photocarrier injection because of the large permittivity, lattice match to other oxides, and well established surface treatment method [60]. However, because of the temperature and the field dependent permittivity in SrTiO_3 , efficiency of photocarrier injection can be extremely reduced especially at

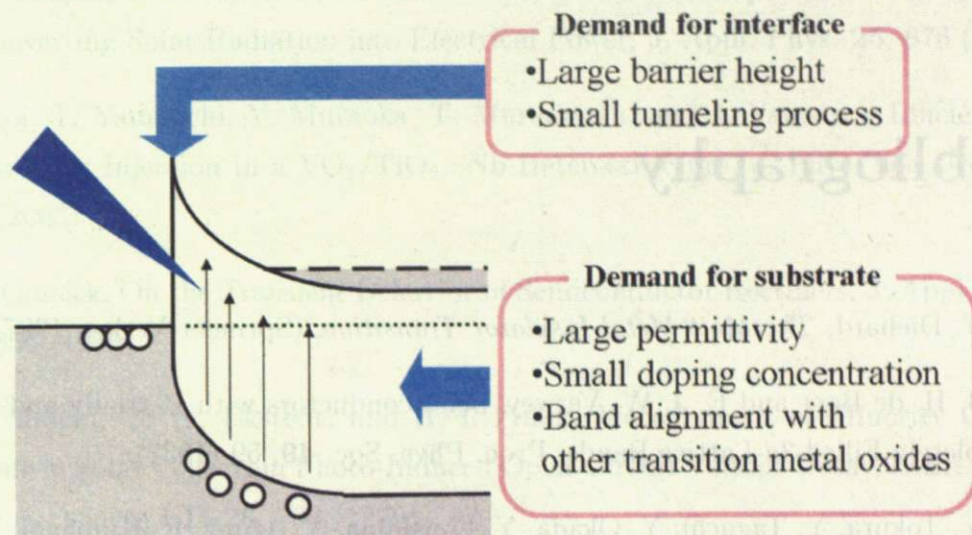


Figure 7.1: A guideline for further improvement of photocarrier injection.

low temperature. Many fascinating phenomena in perovskite oxides are observed at low temperature, so this effect must be removed for the improvement of photocarrier injection. One simple solution is the fabrication of metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) structure. An insulating layer reduces the tunneling current induced by band bending. Another possibility is to reduce the internal electric field. For example, using SrTiO_3 substrate with lower doping concentration reduces the internal electric field at the interface and suppresses the reduction of the permittivity of SrTiO_3 . Photo-doping may also be efficient for this purpose. It may also be interesting to find new materials as a substrate. In such case we should consider the band alignment between transition metal oxides in addition to the large permittivity.

Recently physical properties of electrically carrier doped [61, 62] and optically carrier doped [63] SrTiO_3 has been studied intensively, and these studies reveal the importance of the electrical and optical carrier doping to the oxides in general. We hope our study can help the understanding of improvement of the photocarrier injection method.

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