

研究简报

高效率的有机电致发光器件

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有机电致发光器件(OLEDs)的发光机理包括电子和空穴从电极的注入、激子的形成及复合发光, 其中, 空穴和电子的注入平衡是非常重要的。为了平衡载流子的注入以得到高效率和稳定性好的器件, 人们不仅使用了电子注入更为有效的LiF/Al^[1]和CsF/Al^[2]等复合电极, 同时也使用了空穴缓冲层, 如S. A. Van Slyke等^[3]在ITO和NPB之间使用CuPc, 使得器件的稳定性得到了明显的提高; A. Gyoutoku等^[4]用碳膜使器件的半寿命超过3500小时; 最近, Y. Kurosaka等^[5]和Z. B. Deng^[6]分别在ITO和空穴传输层之间插入一薄层Al₂O₃和SiO₂提高了器件的效率。

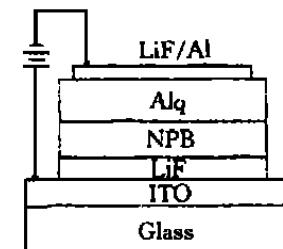
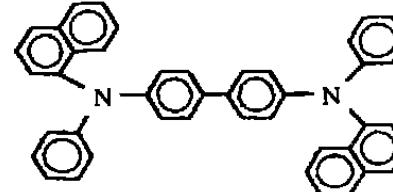
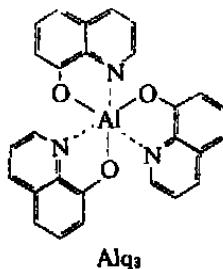
图1 有机材料Alq₃, NPB的分子结构及器件结构

Fig. 1 Organic EL configuration and molecular structures.

图2所示为器件的电流-电压关系, 由图可见, 随着LiF空穴缓冲层厚度的增加, 电流-电压曲线向高电压方向移动, 换句话说, 由于缓冲层的存在, 减少了空穴的注入, 从而导致电流的减小。Y. Kurosaka等^[5]用Al₂O₃(1nm)作空穴缓冲层时观察到类似的现象, 不过后者的电压移动比较大, 有近15V左右, 而用LiF(2nm)只有4V

左右。

图3所示为器件的亮度-电压曲线。没有LiF缓冲层时, 器件的启亮电压为2.6V, 而LiF缓冲层为2.0nm时, 启亮电压增加到4.0V, 同时亮度-电压曲线变得越来越陡, 这对于显示器的驱动来说是有利的。

T. Mori等^[8]发现在LiF/Al复合电极中,

由于 LiF 的存在, Al 向 Alq₃ 中注入电子的有效势垒仅为 0.1 eV, 其注入电子能力比 Mg-Ag 电极强。所以, 器件的启亮电压低而效率高。

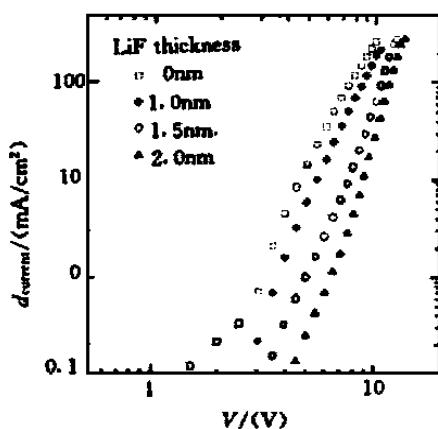


图 2 发光器件的电流-电压特性

Fig. 2 Current density-voltage characteristics of the EL devices.

但是, 由于 Alq₃ 的电子迁移率 ($10^5 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{V} \cdot \text{s}$) 比 NPB 中空穴 ($10^3 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{V} \cdot \text{s}$) 的小两个量级, 在用 LiF/Al 复合电极的器件中, 电子仍为少数载流子, 器件的效率决定于电子, 而电流取决于多数载流子空穴。在本实验中, 使用了 LiF 空穴缓冲层后, 明显提高了器件的效率, 这可能来源于两方面的原因: 多数载流子空穴注入的减少(图 2) 和 ITO 表面光滑性的改善。

前者改善了载流子在发光层中的注入平衡, 导致了器件效率的提高(图 3); 后者则是提高了空穴注入的均匀性。不过, 其真实的作用机理还需要进一步证实。

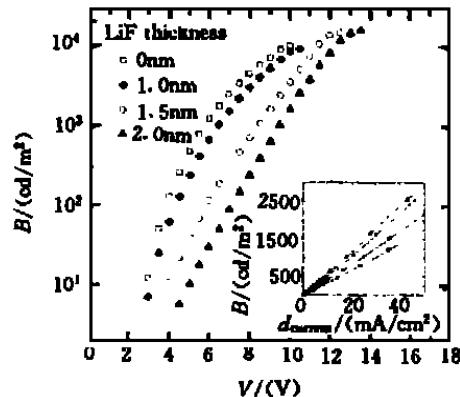


图 3 有机发光器件的亮度-电压特性, 插图为亮度-电流曲线

Fig. 3 Luminance-voltage characteristics of the EL devices. The insert shows the luminance vs forward bias current.

表 1 列出了器件在电流密度为 20 mA/cm^2 条件下的发光特性。从表中可以看出 LiF 缓冲层厚度为 2.0 nm 时, 器件的发光亮度为 1210 cd/m^2 , 效率为 6.0 cd/A , 而没有缓冲层的发光亮度只有 617 cd/m^2 , 效率为 3.2 cd/A , 可见, 由于使用了缓冲层, 器件效率提高了近一倍。

表 1 器件在电流密度为 20 mA/cm^2 条件下的发光特性

Table 1 Luminance data of OLEDs at 20 mA/cm^2 .

LiF thickness (nm)	0	1.0	1.5	2.0
Brightness (cd/m ²)	617	873	1165	1210
Voltage (V)	5.2	6.2	8.4	9.7
Efficiency (cd/A)	3.2	4.1	5.6	6.0
Luminous eff. (lm/W)	1.87	2.1	2.17	1.93

综上所述, 在 ITO 和 NPB 之间插入 LiF 缓冲层减少了空穴的注入, 进一步平衡了发光层中

的电子和空穴, 从而提高器件的效率。

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High Efficiency Organic Thin Film Electroluminescent Devices

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Abstract

The operating mechanisms of the OLEDs involve injection of electrons and holes from the electrodes, and electron-hole recombination which emits the light. To balance the numbers of electrons and holes injected from electrode and obtain high emission efficiency, several hole injecting buffer layers such as CuPc, Carbon, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ have been used to improve the efficiency and lifetime of the OLEDs.

In this study, highly efficient and bright organic electroluminescent devices were developed using lithium fluoride (LiF) film as hole and electron injecting layers. Typical OLEDs have the structure of ITO glass/LiF/NPB(70nm)/Alq(70nm)/LiF(0.5nm)/Al(200nm). The device with a 2.0nm LiF hole injecting layer showed the luminance of 1210cd/m² at 20mA/cm² which corresponds to an efficiency of 6.0cd/A. In contrast, the device without LiF hole injecting layer exhibited 617cd/m² at the same current density which showed an efficiency of 3.2cd/A. These results suggest that the LiF hole injecting layer with a proper thickness can enhance the efficiency of the OLEDs due to blocking the injection of holes.

Key words: buffer layer; organic thin film; electroluminescent devices