Defect Structure and Nonlinear Electrical Properties of Manganites $La_{1-c}Sr_cMn_{1-x}Ga_xO_{3+\gamma}$

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Regularities of the influence of Ga and oxygen concentrations on the defect structure of bulk manganites $La_{1-c}Sr_cMn_{1-x}Ga_xO_{3+\gamma}$ (c=0.15, 0.17, 0.19; 0.025 $\leq x \leq 0.125$) were established by using powder X-ray diffraction, modified method of unit cell volume calculation, the data on saturation magnetization, Curie point and resistivity. Structural formulae of manganites were derived. The samples synthesized at 1473 K in air had rhombohedral structure and $\gamma > 0$. In order to provide stoichiometric oxygen content, the samples were annealed at 1223 K and partial pressure of oxygen 10^{-1} Pa. After annealing, some samples contained the mixture of rhombohedral and orthorhombic phases. It was found that manganites reveal negative-resistance behavior at low temperatures. Synthesized samples with c=0.15, x=0.125 exhibit N-type multi-peak current-voltage (I-V) characteristics, and the steepness of current growth as a function of V increases with temperature in the interval 113-133K. There are also the regions where little dependence I(V) takes place. The shape of current-voltage characteristics depends sensitively on the concentration of cation vacancies. Multi-peak negative-resistance behavior of manganites can be ascribed to transformation of energetic level structure and of carrier concentration in energy bands under the influence of threshold field.

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