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FILM FORMING APPARATUS AND FILM FORMING METHOD

Abstract

A film forming apparatus of embodiments includes: a chamber including a sidewall; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; at least one gas supply portion provided in a region of the chamber other than the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the at least one gas supply portion; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; and an exhaust device connected to the gas exhaust pipe.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2022-071288, filed on Apr. 25, 2022, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

[0002] Embodiments described herein relate generally to a film forming apparatus and a film forming method.

BACKGROUND

[0003] As a method for forming a film on a substrate, there is an atomic layer deposition method. In the ALD method, assuming that the supply of source gas and the exhaust of residual gas is one cycle, a film is formed by repeating the cycle. By shortening the time required for one cycle, the film formation time can be shortened.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a first embodiment;

[0005] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment;

[0006] FIG. 3 is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0007] FIG. 4 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0008] FIG. 5 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0009] FIG. 6 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0010] FIG. 7 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0011] FIG. 8 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0012] FIG. 9 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment;

[0013] FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus of a comparative example;

[0014] FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a modification example of the first embodiment;

[0015] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a modification

example of the first embodiment;

[0016] FIG. **13** is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to a second embodiment;

[0017] FIG. **14** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of a film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the second embodiment;

[0018] FIG. **15** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the second embodiment;

[0019] FIG. **16** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the second embodiment;

[0020] FIG. **17** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the second embodiment;

[0021] FIG. **18** is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a third embodiment;

[0022] FIG. **19** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment;

[0023] FIG. **20** is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0024] FIG. **21** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0025] FIG. **22** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0026] FIG. **23** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0027] FIG. **24** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0028] FIG. **25** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0029] FIG. **26** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment;

[0030] FIG. **27** is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a first modification example of the third embodiment;

[0031] FIG. **28** is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a second modification example of the third embodiment;

[0032] FIG. **29** is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus according to a third modification example of the third embodiment;

[0033] FIG. **30** is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to a fourth embodiment;

[0034] FIG. **31** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of a film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment;

[0035] FIG. **32** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment;

[0036] FIG. **33** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment; and

[0037] FIG. **34** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0038] A film forming apparatus of embodiments includes: a chamber including a sidewall; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; at least one gas supply portion provided in a region of the chamber other

than the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the at least one gas supply portion; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; and an exhaust device connected to the gas exhaust pipe. [0039] Hereinafter, embodiments will be described with reference to the diagrams. In the following description, the same or similar members and the like may be denoted by the same reference numerals, and the description of the members and the like once described may be omitted as appropriate.

[0040] Hereinafter, a film forming apparatus and a film forming method according to embodiments will be described with reference to the diagrams.

First Embodiment

[0041] A film forming apparatus according to a first embodiment includes: a chamber including a sidewall; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; at least one gas supply portion provided in a region of the chamber other than the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the at least one gas supply portion; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; and an exhaust device connected to the gas exhaust pipe.

[0042] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment is a film forming apparatus **100** that forms a film using atomic layer deposition (ALD). The film forming apparatus **100** is a single wafer type film forming apparatus that forms a film on one substrate in one film forming process.

[0043] The film forming apparatus **100** includes, for example, a chamber **10**, a shower head **12**, a holder **14**, a first source gas supply pipe **16**, a second source gas supply pipe **18**, a purge gas supply pipe **20**, a pressure control gas supply pipe **22**, a pressure control gas supply hole **24**, a gas exhaust pipe **26**, a regulator **30**, an exhaust device **32**, a pressure gauge **36**, and a control unit **40**. The chamber **10** includes a sidewall **10a**. In addition, the film forming apparatus **100** includes a first valve **V1**, a second valve **V2**, a third valve **V3**, and a fourth valve **V4**.

[0044] The first source gas supply pipe **16** is an example of the first gas supply pipe. The pressure control gas supply pipe **22** is an example of the second gas supply pipe. The pressure control gas supply hole **24** is an example of a gas supply portion.

[0045] Film formation is performed inside the chamber **10**. The chamber **10** includes the sidewall **10a**. The sidewall **10a** surrounds the shower head **12** and the holder **14**, for example.

[0046] The shower head **12** is provided in the upper part of the chamber **10**. The shower head **12** supplies a gas supplied from the first source gas supply pipe **16**, the second source gas supply pipe **18**, and the purge gas supply pipe **20** into the chamber **10** in the form of a shower.

[0047] The holder **14** is provided in the chamber **10**. For example, a semiconductor wafer **W** is placed on the holder **14**. The semiconductor wafer **W** is an example of a substrate.

[0048] For example, a heater (not shown) is provided inside the holder **14**. It is possible to heat the semiconductor wafer **W** by the heater.

[0049] The first source gas supply pipe **16** is connected to the shower head **12**. The first source gas supply pipe **16** supplies a first source gas to the shower head **12**. The first source gas is an example of the first gas. The first source gas contains, for example, a metal element.

[0050] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing indium (In). The first source gas is, for example, trimethylindium.

[0051] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing gallium (Ga). The first source gas is, for example, trimethylgallium.

[0052] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing zinc (Zn). The first source gas is, for example, dimethylzinc.

[0053] For example, as the first source gas, one of the gas containing indium (In), the gas

containing gallium (Ga), and the gas containing zinc (Zn) can be selected by controlling an on-off valve (not shown).

[0054] The first valve V1 is provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16. The start and stop of the supply of the first source gas to the shower head 12 are controlled by opening and closing the first valve V1.

[0055] The second source gas supply pipe 18 is connected to the shower head 12. The second source gas supply pipe 18 supplies a second source gas to the shower head 12. The second source gas is an example of the first gas.

[0056] The second source gas is, for example, a gas containing oxygen (O). The second source gas is, for example, an ozone gas.

[0057] The fourth valve V4 is provided in the second source gas supply pipe 18. The start and stop of the supply of the second source gas to the shower head 12 are controlled by opening and closing the fourth valve V4.

[0058] The purge gas supply pipe 20 is connected to the shower head 12. The purge gas supply pipe 20 supplies a purge gas to the shower head 12.

[0059] The purge gas contains, for example, an inert gas. The purge gas is, for example, a nitrogen gas, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas.

[0060] The third valve V3 is provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20. The start and stop of the supply of the purge gas to the shower head 12 are controlled by opening and closing the third valve V3.

[0061] The pressure control gas supply hole 24 is provided in a region of the chamber 10 other than the shower head 12. The pressure control gas supply hole 24 is provided, for example, in the sidewall 10a. The pressure control gas supply hole 24 is provided below the upper surface of the holder 14, for example.

[0062] The pressure control gas supply hole 24 is connected to the pressure control gas supply pipe 22. The pressure control gas supply hole 24 supplies the pressure control gas supplied from the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 into the chamber 10.

[0063] The pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is connected to the pressure control gas supply hole 24. The pressure control gas supply pipe 22 supplies the pressure control gas to the pressure control gas supply hole 24.

[0064] The pressure control gas contains, for example, an inert gas. The pressure control gas is, for example, a nitrogen gas, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas.

[0065] The second valve V2 is provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe 22. The start and stop of the supply of the pressure control gas to the pressure control gas supply hole 24 are controlled by opening and closing the second valve V2.

[0066] The second valve V2 is a high speed valve. The second valve is, for example, a valve whose opening/closing speed is equal to or more than 1 msec and equal to or less than 100 msec. The second valve V2 has only one degree of opening, for example. The second valve V2 is, for example, a valve that performs only opening and closing operations.

[0067] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment. FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view including the holder 14 and the pressure control gas supply hole 24.

[0068] As shown in FIG. 2, a plurality of pressure control gas supply holes 24 are provided in the sidewall of the chamber 10. The plurality of pressure control gas supply holes 24 are arranged, for example, on the circumference along the sidewall 10a. For example, the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes 24 are evenly spaced on the circumference along the sidewall 10a. The plurality of pressure control gas supply holes 24 are arranged, for example, on the circumference surrounding the holder 14.

[0069] For example, the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes 24 are evenly spaced on the circumference surrounding the holder 14.

[0070] The regulator **30** is provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22**. The second valve **V2** is provided between the regulator **30** and the pressure control gas supply hole **24**.

[0071] The regulator **30** has a function of controlling the pressure of the pressure control gas before the second valve **V2** opens to be a predetermined pressure. The regulator **30** is fixed to have a predetermined degree of opening during the formation of a film on the semiconductor wafer **W**, for example.

[0072] The gas exhaust pipe **26** is provided below the chamber **10**, for example. The residual gas in the chamber **10** is exhausted out of the chamber **10** through the gas exhaust pipe **26**. For example, the unconsumed first source gas, the unconsumed second source gas, a buffer gas, or reaction products are exhausted out of the chamber **10** through the gas exhaust pipe **26**.

[0073] The exhaust device **32** is connected to the gas exhaust pipe **26**. The exhaust device **32** is, for example, a vacuum pump.

[0074] The pressure gauge **36** has a function of measuring the pressure in the chamber **10**.

[0075] The control unit **40** has a function of controlling the film forming operation of the film forming apparatus **100**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the first valve **V1**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the second valve **V2**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the third valve **V3**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the fourth valve **V4**.

[0076] The control unit **40** is, for example, a control circuit. The control unit **40** is, for example, an electronic circuit. The control unit **40** includes, for example, hardware and software.

[0077] The control unit **40** includes, for example, a central processing unit (CPU). The control unit **40** includes, for example, a storage device. The storage device included in the control unit **40** is, for example, a semiconductor memory, a solid state device (SSD), or a hard disk.

[0078] Next, a film forming method according to the first embodiment will be described. The film forming method according to the first embodiment is a film forming method using a film forming apparatus including: a chamber including a sidewall; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; a gas supply portion provided in a region of the chamber other than the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the gas supply portion; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; and an exhaust device connected to the gas exhaust pipe.

[0079] The film forming method includes: loading a substrate into the chamber; placing the substrate on the holder; driving the exhaust device to reduce a pressure in the chamber; opening the second valve to supply the second gas containing an inert gas from the second gas supply pipe into the chamber through the gas supply portion; opening the first valve to supply the first gas containing a metal element into the chamber through the shower head; closing the second valve; closing the first valve; and reducing the pressure in the chamber.

[0080] In the film forming method according to the first embodiment, a film containing a metal element is formed on the semiconductor wafer **W** by ALD using the film forming apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment. Hereinafter, a case of forming an oxide film containing indium (In), gallium (Ga), and zinc (Zn), that is, an indium gallium zinc oxide film will be described as an example.

[0081] FIG. **3** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the first embodiment. FIG. **3** is a diagram showing a part of a process sequence when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD.

[0082] As shown in FIG. **3**, when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD, for example, an atomic layer of indium is formed in the first cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the second cycle, thereby forming a molecular layer of indium oxide. Then, an atomic layer of gallium is formed in the third cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the fourth cycle,

thereby forming a molecular layer of gallium oxide. Then, an atomic layer of zinc is formed in the fifth cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the sixth cycle, thereby forming a molecular layer of zinc oxide.

[0083] In all of the cycles, the supply of a source gas, vacuuming, and the supply of a purge gas are performed. By performing vacuuming and supplying the purge gas, a source gas remaining in the chamber is exhausted to the outside of the chamber.

[0084] By repeating the first cycle to the sixth cycle a predetermined number of times, an indium gallium zinc oxide film having a desired thickness is formed.

[0085] FIGS. 4 to 9 are explanatory diagrams of the film forming method according to the first embodiment. FIGS. 4 to 9 are diagrams showing the operation of the film forming apparatus 100. FIGS. 4 to 9 are explanatory diagrams of the first cycle in FIG. 3.

[0086] First, the semiconductor wafer W is loaded into the chamber 10. Then, the loaded semiconductor wafer W is placed on the holder 14 (FIG. 4).

[0087] Then, the exhaust device 32 is driven to reduce the pressure in the chamber 10 to a predetermined pressure (FIG. 5). At this time, the semiconductor wafer W is heated by, for example, a heater (not shown).

[0088] Then, the second valve V2 provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is opened. By opening the second valve V2, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the pressure control gas, is supplied from the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 into the chamber 10 through the pressure control gas supply hole 24 (FIG. 6). By supplying the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10, the exhaust of gas from the chamber 10 is suppressed to increase the pressure in the chamber 10.

[0089] The pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is an example of the second gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas.

[0090] At the same time as opening the second valve V2, the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is opened. By opening the first valve V1, an indium source gas is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12 (FIG. 6). Indium of the source gas is adsorbed on the surface of the semiconductor wafer W, so that an atomic layer of indium is formed. In addition, the timing of opening the second valve V2 and the timing of opening the first valve V1 may not completely match each other. The timing of opening the second valve V2 and the timing of opening the first valve V1 may be different.

[0091] After a predetermined time passes and an atomic layer of indium is formed on the semiconductor wafer W, the second valve V2 provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is closed. By closing the second valve V2, the supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10 is stopped (FIG. 7). By stopping the supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10, the exhaust of gas from the chamber 10 is promoted to reduce the pressure in the chamber 10.

[0092] At the same time as closing the second valve V2, the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is closed. By closing the first valve V1, the supply of the indium source gas into the chamber 10 is stopped (FIG. 7). In addition, the timing of closing the second valve V2 and the timing of closing the first valve V1 may not completely match each other. The timing of closing the second valve V2 and the timing of closing the first valve V1 may be different.

[0093] The supply of the nitrogen gas and the indium source gas into the chamber 10 is stopped to vacuum the chamber 10.

[0094] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is opened. By opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12 (FIG. 8).

[0095] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is closed (FIG. 9). The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10 is stopped, and the purging process for the chamber 10 ends.

[0096] As described above, the first cycle shown in FIG. 3 ends. Thereafter, the source gas is changed, and the second cycle, third cycle, fourth cycle, fifth cycle, and sixth cycle are performed

in the same manner as the first cycle.

[0097] Next, the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the first embodiment will be described.

[0098] In film deposition using ALD, many cycles are repeated. Therefore, in order to shorten the film formation time and improve productivity, it is desirable to shorten the time required for one cycle. In particular, in a single wafer type film forming apparatus that forms a film on one substrate in one film forming process, it is desirable to shorten the time required for one cycle. Hereinafter, the time required for one cycle is referred to as a cycle time.

[0099] By increasing the pressure in the chamber when supplying the source gas, the efficiency of adsorption of the raw material on the substrate surface increases. Therefore, since the atomic layer can be formed in a short time, it is possible to shorten the cycle time.

[0100] On the other hand, if the pressure in the chamber when supplying the source gas is increased, it takes time to increase and decrease the pressure, resulting in a longer cycle time. Therefore, it is desired to reduce the time required to increase and decrease the pressure.

[0101] FIG. **10** is a schematic diagram of a film forming apparatus of a comparative example. The film forming apparatus of the comparative example is a film forming apparatus **900** that deposits a film using ALD. The film forming apparatus **900** is a single wafer type film forming apparatus that forms a film on one substrate in one film forming process.

[0102] The film forming apparatus **900** of the comparative example is different from the film forming apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment in that the pressure control gas supply pipe **22**, the pressure control gas supply hole **24**, and the regulator **30** are not provided. In addition, the film forming apparatus **900** of the comparative example is different from the film forming apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment in that a pressure control valve **39** is provided.

[0103] The pressure control valve **39** is provided in the gas exhaust pipe **26**. The film forming apparatus **900** of the comparative example adjusts the pressure in the chamber **10** by adjusting the degree of opening of the pressure control valve **39**.

[0104] A case is considered in which the same process as in the first cycle shown in FIG. **3** is performed by using the film forming apparatus **900** of the comparative example.

[0105] When forming an atomic layer of indium on the semiconductor wafer W, in the film forming apparatus **900** of the comparative example, the degree of opening of the pressure control valve **39** is reduced to suppress the exhaust of gas and increase the pressure in the chamber **10**.

[0106] In addition, when performing vacuuming after the atomic layer of indium is formed, the degree of opening of the pressure control valve **39** is increased to promote the exhaust of gas and reduce the pressure in the chamber **10**.

[0107] It takes time to change the degree of opening of the pressure control valve **39**. For this reason, even if the cycle time is shortened by increasing the pressure in the chamber, the time required to increase and decrease the pressure increases, making it difficult to shorten the cycle time.

[0108] The film forming apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment controls the pressure in the chamber **10** by controlling the supply of the nitrogen gas from the pressure control gas supply hole **24** into the chamber **10**.

[0109] The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10** are controlled by the second valve V2 that operates at high speed since the second valve V2 has only a function of controlling opening and closing. As a result, the time required to increase and decrease the pressure in the chamber **10** is reduced.

[0110] Therefore, even in a case where the cycle time is shortened by increasing the pressure in the chamber, the cycle time can be shortened by shortening the time required to increase and decrease the pressure in the chamber **10**.

[0111] As a result, since one cycle time is shortened, the film formation time of the indium gallium zinc oxide film can be shortened, and the productivity of the indium gallium zinc oxide film is

improved.

[0112] From the viewpoint of preventing the flow of the pressure control gas supplied from the pressure control gas supply hole **24** into the chamber **10** from affecting the in-wafer uniformity of the formed film, it is preferable that a plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are arranged on the circumference along the sidewall **10a**. It is preferable that the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are evenly spaced on the circumference along the sidewall **10a**. It is preferable that the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are evenly spaced on the circumference surrounding the holder **14**.

[0113] In addition, from the viewpoint of preventing the flow of the pressure control gas supplied from the pressure control gas supply hole **24** into the chamber **10** from affecting the in-wafer uniformity of the formed film, it is preferable that the pressure control gas supply hole **24** is provided below the upper surface of the holder **14**.

[0114] From the viewpoint of shortening the time required to increase and decrease the pressure, the opening/closing speed of the second valve is preferably equal to or less than 100 msec, more preferably equal to or less than 10 msec.

Modification Example

[0115] A film forming apparatus according to a modification example of the first embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment in that the chamber includes a partition wall surrounding the holder and having an opening and the gas supply portion is provided between the partition wall and the sidewall.

[0116] FIGS. **11** and **12** are schematic diagrams of the film forming apparatus according to the modification example of the first embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the modification example is a film forming apparatus **101** that forms a film using ALD.

[0117] The film forming apparatus **101** includes a partition wall **42**. In addition, the film forming apparatus **101** includes a control gas flow path **44**. FIG. **12** is a cross-sectional view including the shower head **12** and the control gas flow path **44**.

[0118] The partition wall **42** is provided between the holder **14** and the sidewall **10a** in the chamber **10**. An opening **42a** is provided in the partition wall **42**. Gas is exhausted to the gas exhaust pipe **26** through the opening **42a**. By providing the partition wall **42**, for example, the exhaust of the gas in the circumferential direction of the semiconductor wafer **W** becomes uniform.

[0119] The control gas flow path **44** is provided between the partition wall **42** and the sidewall **10a**. The control gas flow path **44** is provided around the shower head **12**. The control gas flow path **44** has an annular shape.

[0120] A plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are provided below the control gas flow path **44**. The plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are arranged, for example, on the circumference along the sidewall **10a**. For example, the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** are evenly spaced on the circumference along the sidewall **10a**.

[0121] The control gas supplied from the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** to the control gas flow path **44** is supplied from the plurality of pressure control gas supply holes **24** to between the partition wall **42** and the sidewall **10a**.

[0122] As described above, according to the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the first embodiment and the modification example, it is possible to shorten the film formation time.

Second Embodiment

[0123] A film forming apparatus according to a second embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the first embodiment in that the control circuit performs control to open the first valve after a first time passes from the opening of the second valve and the control circuit performs control to close the first valve after a second time passes from the closing of the second valve. Hereinafter, the description of a part of the content overlapping the first embodiment may be omitted.

[0124] The film forming apparatus according to the second embodiment has the same configuration as the film forming apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment except for the configuration of the control unit **40**. Hereinafter, the configuration of the film forming apparatus according to the second embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. **1** of the first embodiment.

[0125] The control unit **40** of the film forming apparatus according to the second embodiment performs control to open the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** after the first time passes from the opening of the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22**. In addition, the control unit **40** of the film forming apparatus according to the second embodiment performs control to close the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** after the second time passes from the closing of the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22**.

[0126] FIG. **13** is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to the second embodiment. FIG. **13** is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve.

[0127] For example, when forming a film by supplying the first source gas from the first source gas supply pipe **16** into the chamber **10**, as shown in FIG. **13**, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is opened at time t_2 after a first time (t_x in FIG. **13**) passes from the opening of the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22** at time t_1 . In addition, as shown in FIG. **13**, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is closed at time t_4 after a second time (t_y in FIG. **13**) passes from the closing of the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22** at time t_3 .

[0128] FIG. **14** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the second embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. **14** is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the film forming method of a comparative example. The lower diagram in FIG. **14** shows a change in chamber pressure over time in the film forming method of the comparative example.

[0129] In the film forming method of the comparative example, when forming a film by supplying the first source gas from the first source gas supply pipe **16** into the chamber **10**, as shown in the upper diagram in FIG. **14**, the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22** is opened at time t_1' , and at the same time, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is opened. In addition, as shown in the upper diagram in FIG. **14**, the second valve **V2** provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22** is closed at time t_2' , and at the same time, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is closed.

[0130] As shown in the lower diagram in FIG. **14**, when the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** are opened at the same time, a delay of the first time t_x occurs before the chamber pressure increases from the first pressure **P1** to the desired second pressure **P2**. In other words, the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when increasing the chamber pressure is poor.

[0131] In addition, as shown in FIG. **14**, when the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** are closed at the same time, a delay of the second time t_y occurs before the chamber pressure decreases from the second pressure **P2** to the desired first pressure **P1**. In other words, the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when decreasing the chamber pressure is poor.

[0132] If the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** is poor, for example, the timing of starting and stopping the supply of the source gas deviates from the actual timing of film formation or vacuuming. As a result, it becomes difficult to control the film forming process. In addition, for example, there is a possibility that the cycle time becomes long and accordingly the film formation time becomes long.

[0133] FIG. **15** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus

and the film forming method according to the second embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. 15 is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the film forming method according to the second embodiment. The lower diagram in FIG. 15 shows a change in chamber pressure over time in the film forming method according to the second embodiment.

[0134] As shown in FIG. 15, the second valve V2 is opened at time t1 and the first valve V1 is opened at time t2 after the first time tx passes from time t1, so that there is no delay for the chamber pressure to increase from the first pressure P1 to the desired second pressure P2. In other words, the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve V1 and the second valve V2 when increasing the chamber pressure is improved.

[0135] In addition, as shown in FIG. 15, the second valve V2 is closed at time t3 and the first valve V1 is closed at time t4 after the second time ty passes from time t3, so that there is no delay for the chamber pressure to decrease from the second pressure P2 to the desired first pressure P1. In other words, the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve V1 and the second valve V2 when decreasing the chamber pressure is improved.

[0136] By improving the responsiveness of the chamber pressure to the operation of the first valve V1 and the second valve V2, for example, the timing of starting and stopping the supply of the source gas matches the actual timing of film formation or vacuuming. As a result, it becomes easy to control the film forming process. In addition, for example, since the cycle time can be shortened, the film formation time can be shortened.

[0137] Next, a method for determining the first time tx and the second time ty in the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the second embodiment will be described.

[0138] FIG. 16 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the second embodiment. FIG. 16 is a diagram showing a part of a process sequence when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD.

[0139] As shown in FIG. 16, for example, a feedback cycle is performed before starting the formation of the indium gallium zinc oxide film. By performing the feedback cycle, the first time tx and the second time ty are determined, and the first time tx and the second time ty are fed back to the cycle for film formation.

[0140] For example, the feedback cycle is performed before the first cycle. Specifically, before the second valve V2 provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is opened to supply the nitrogen gas into the chamber and before the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is opened to supply the indium source gas into the chamber 10, the feedback cycle is performed. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas. The indium source gas is an example of the first gas.

[0141] First, the semiconductor wafer W is loaded into the chamber 10. Then, the loaded semiconductor wafer W is placed on the holder 14.

[0142] Then, the exhaust device 32 is driven to reduce the pressure in the chamber 10 to a predetermined pressure. At this time, the semiconductor wafer W is heated by, for example, a heater (not shown).

[0143] Then, the second valve V2 provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 and the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 are opened at the same time.

[0144] By opening the second valve V2, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the pressure control gas, is supplied from the pressure control gas supply pipe 22 into the chamber 10 through the pressure control gas supply hole 24. By supplying the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10, the exhaust of gas from the chamber 10 is suppressed to increase the pressure in the chamber 10. The pressure control gas supply pipe 22 is an example of the second gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas.

[0145] In addition, by opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12. The purge gas supply pipe 20 is

an example of the third gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the third gas.

[0146] After a predetermined time passes, the second valve V2 provided in the pressure control gas supply pipe **22** and the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe **20** are closed at the same time.

[0147] By closing the second valve V2, the supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10** is stopped. By stopping the supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10**, the exhaust of gas from the chamber **10** is promoted to reduce the pressure in the chamber **10**.

[0148] In addition, by closing the third valve V3, the supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10** is stopped.

[0149] The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10** is stopped, and the vacuuming of the chamber **10** is performed.

[0150] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe **20** is opened. By opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber **10** through the shower head **12**.

[0151] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe **20** is closed. The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber **10** is stopped, and the purging process for the chamber **10** ends.

[0152] As described above, the feedback cycle shown in FIG. **16** ends. No film is formed on the semiconductor wafer W during the feedback cycle because the source gas does not flow. Thereafter, for example, a first cycle, a second cycle, a third cycle, a fourth cycle, a fifth cycle, and a sixth cycle are performed to form an indium gallium zinc oxide film.

[0153] In addition, during the feedback cycle, the chamber pressure is monitored by using the pressure gauge **36**.

[0154] FIG. **17** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the second embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. **17** shows the opening/closing timing of the third valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the feedback cycle. The lower diagram in FIG. **17** shows a change in chamber pressure over time.

[0155] In the feedback cycle, the first time tx for the chamber pressure to increase from the first pressure P1 to the desired second pressure P2 after the third valve V3 and the second valve V2 are opened at the same time is measured. In addition, the second time ty for the chamber pressure to decrease from the second pressure P2 to the desired first pressure P1 after the third valve V3 and the second valve V2 are closed at the same time is measured.

[0156] The measured first time tx and second time ty are stored in the storage device of the control unit **40**, for example. For example, in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth cycles following the feedback cycle, film formation is performed based on the first time tx and the second time ty stored in the storage device of the control unit **40**.

[0157] The first time tx and the second time ty measured in the feedback cycle may not necessarily match the first time tx and the second time ty applied to the subsequent film formation cycle. For example, by performing predetermined arithmetic processing on the first time tx and the second time ty measured in the feedback cycle, the first time tx and the second time ty applied to the subsequent film formation cycle may be determined.

[0158] In addition, the third gas containing an inert gas used in the feedback cycle is not limited to the nitrogen gas. For example, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas can be used. In addition, in the second embodiment, the purge gas supplied from the purge gas supply pipe **20** is used as the third gas containing the inert gas. However, for example, a configuration in which a separate gas supply pipe dedicated to the feedback cycle is provided is also possible.

[0159] Although the case where both the second valve V2 and the third valve V3 are opened and closed in the feedback cycle has been described as an example, it is also possible to open and close only either the second valve V2 or the third valve V3, for example.

[0160] In the film forming method according to the second embodiment, the frequency of performing a feedback cycle is arbitrary. For example, it is also possible to always perform a

feedback cycle during film formation. In addition, for example, it is possible to perform a feedback cycle every predetermined number of film formations. In addition, for example, by continuously performing a plurality of feedback cycles, the first time t_x and the second time t_y can be set to the average value of the first time t_x and the average value of the second time t_y of a plurality of feedback runs, respectively.

[0161] As described above, according to the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the second embodiment, it is possible to shorten the film formation time.

Third Embodiment

[0162] A film forming apparatus according to a third embodiment includes: a chamber; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; a first gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; a second gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the second gas exhaust pipe; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a first exhaust device connected to the first gas exhaust pipe; and a second exhaust device connected to the second gas exhaust pipe.

[0163] FIG. **18** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment is a film forming apparatus **200** that forms a film using atomic layer deposition (ALD). The film forming apparatus **200** is a single wafer type film forming apparatus that forms a film on one substrate in one film forming process.

[0164] The film forming apparatus **200** includes, for example, a chamber **10**, a shower head **12**, a holder **14**, a first source gas supply pipe **16**, a second source gas supply pipe **18**, a purge gas supply pipe **20**, a gas supply hole **21**, an exhaust control gas supply pipe **23**, a gas exhaust hole **25**, a first gas exhaust pipe **27**, a second gas exhaust pipe **28**, a regulator **30**, a first exhaust device **33**, a second exhaust device **34**, a first pressure gauge **37**, a second pressure gauge **38**, and a control unit **40**. The chamber **10** includes a sidewall **10a**. The shower head **12** includes an upper layer portion **12a**, a lower layer portion **12b**, and a diffusion plate **12c**. In addition, the film forming apparatus **200** includes a first valve V1, a second valve V2, a third valve V3, and a fourth valve V4.

[0165] The first source gas supply pipe **16** is an example of the first gas supply pipe. The exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** is an example of the second gas supply pipe.

[0166] Film formation is performed inside the chamber **10**. The chamber **10** includes the sidewall **10a**. The sidewall **10a** surrounds the shower head **12** and the holder **14**, for example.

[0167] The shower head **12** is provided in the upper part of the chamber **10**. The shower head **12** supplies a gas supplied from the first source gas supply pipe **16**, the second source gas supply pipe **18**, and the purge gas supply pipe **20** into the chamber **10** in the form of a shower.

[0168] The shower head **12** includes the upper layer portion **12a**, the lower layer portion **12b**, and the diffusion plate **12c**. The lower layer portion **12b** is provided between the chamber **10** and the upper layer portion **12a**. The diffusion plate **12c** is provided between the upper layer portion **12a** and the lower layer portion **12b**. The diffusion plate **12c** includes a plurality of openings for making the upper layer portion **12a** and the lower layer portion **12b** communicate with each other.

[0169] FIG. **19** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment. FIG. **19** is a top view of the shower head **12**. The gas supply hole **21** and the gas exhaust hole **25** are provided in the shower head **12**. For example, a plurality of gas exhaust holes **25** are provided. The second gas exhaust pipe **28** is connected to the gas exhaust hole **25**.

[0170] The holder **14** is provided in the chamber **10**. For example, a semiconductor wafer W is placed on the holder **14**. The semiconductor wafer W is an example of a substrate.

[0171] For example, a heater (not shown) is provided inside the holder **14**. It is possible to heat the semiconductor wafer W by the heater.

[0172] The first source gas supply pipe **16** is connected to the shower head **12**. The first source gas

supply pipe **16** is connected to the gas supply hole **21**. The first source gas supply pipe **16** supplies a first source gas to the shower head **12**. The first source gas is an example of the first gas. The first source gas contains, for example, a metal element.

[0173] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing indium (In). The first source gas is, for example, trimethylindium.

[0174] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing gallium (Ga). The first source gas is, for example, trimethylgallium.

[0175] The first source gas is, for example, a gas containing zinc (Zn). The first source gas is, for example, dimethylzinc.

[0176] For example, as the first source gas, one of the gas containing indium (In), the gas containing gallium (Ga), and the gas containing zinc (Zn) can be selected by controlling an on-off valve (not shown).

[0177] The first valve **V1** is provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16**. The start and stop of the supply of the first source gas to the shower head **12** are controlled by opening and closing the first valve **V1**.

[0178] The second source gas supply pipe **18** is connected to the shower head **12**. The second source gas supply pipe **18** is connected to the gas supply hole **21**. The second source gas supply pipe **18** supplies a second source gas to the shower head **12**. The second source gas is an example of the first gas.

[0179] The second source gas is, for example, a gas containing oxygen (O). The second source gas is, for example, an ozone gas.

[0180] The fourth valve **V4** is provided in the second source gas supply pipe **18**. The start and stop of the supply of the second source gas to the shower head **12** are controlled by opening and closing the fourth valve **V4**.

[0181] The purge gas supply pipe **20** is connected to the shower head **12**. The purge gas supply pipe **20** is connected to the gas supply hole **21**. The purge gas supply pipe **20** supplies a purge gas to the shower head **12**.

[0182] The purge gas contains, for example, an inert gas. The purge gas is, for example, a nitrogen gas, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas.

[0183] The third valve **V3** is provided in the purge gas supply pipe **20**. The start and stop of the supply of the purge gas to the shower head **12** are controlled by opening and closing the third valve **V3**.

[0184] The exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** is connected to the second gas exhaust pipe **28**. The exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** supplies the exhaust control gas to the second gas exhaust pipe **28**.

[0185] The exhaust control gas contains, for example, an inert gas. The pressure control gas is, for example, a nitrogen gas, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas.

[0186] The second valve **V2** is provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23**. The start and stop of the supply of the exhaust control gas to the second gas exhaust pipe **28** are controlled by opening and closing the second valve **V2**.

[0187] The second valve **V2** is a high speed valve. The second valve is, for example, a valve whose opening/closing speed is equal to or more than 1 msec and equal to or less than 100 msec. The second valve **V2** has only one degree of opening, for example. The second valve **V2** is, for example, a valve that performs only opening and closing operations.

[0188] The regulator **30** is provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23**. The second valve **V2** is provided between the regulator **30** and the second gas exhaust pipe **28**.

[0189] The regulator **30** has a function of controlling the pressure of the pressure control gas before the second valve **V2** opens to be a predetermined pressure. The regulator **30** is fixed to have a predetermined degree of opening during the formation of a film on the semiconductor wafer **W**.

[0190] The first gas exhaust pipe **27** is provided below the chamber **10**, for example. The residual

gas in the chamber **10** is exhausted out of the chamber **10** through the first gas exhaust pipe **27**. For example, the unconsumed first source gas, the unconsumed second source gas, a buffer gas, or reaction products are exhausted out of the chamber **10** through the first gas exhaust pipe **27**.

[0191] The first exhaust device **33** is connected to the first gas exhaust pipe **27**. The first exhaust device **33** is, for example, a vacuum pump.

[0192] The second gas exhaust pipe **28** is connected to the shower head **12**. The second gas exhaust pipe **28** is connected to the gas exhaust hole **25** of the shower head **12**. The residual gas in the shower head **12** is exhausted out of the chamber **10** through the second gas exhaust pipe **28**.

Through the second gas exhaust pipe **28**, for example, the unconsumed first source gas, the unconsumed second source gas, a buffer gas, or reaction products are exhausted out of the shower head **12**.

[0193] The second exhaust device **34** is connected to the second gas exhaust pipe **28**. The second exhaust device **34** is, for example, a vacuum pump.

[0194] The first pressure gauge **37** has a function of measuring the pressure in the chamber **10**. The second pressure gauge **38** has a function of measuring the pressure in the shower head **12**.

[0195] The control unit **40** has a function of controlling the film forming operation of the film forming apparatus **200**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the first valve **V1**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the second valve **V2**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the third valve **V3**. For example, the control unit **40** controls opening and closing of the fourth valve **V4**.

[0196] The control unit **40** is, for example, a control circuit. The control unit **40** is, for example, an electronic circuit. The control unit **40** includes, for example, hardware and software.

[0197] The control unit **40** includes, for example, a central processing unit (CPU). The control unit **40** includes, for example, a storage device. The storage device included in the control unit **40** is, for example, a semiconductor memory, a solid state device (SSD), or a hard disk.

[0198] Next, a film forming method according to the third embodiment will be described. The film forming method according to the third embodiment is a film forming method using a film forming apparatus including: a chamber; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; a first gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; a second gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the second gas exhaust pipe; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a first exhaust device connected to the first gas exhaust pipe; and a second exhaust device connected to the second gas exhaust pipe. The film forming method includes: loading a substrate into the chamber; placing the substrate on the holder; driving the first exhaust device to reduce a pressure in the chamber; driving the second exhaust device to reduce a pressure in the shower head; opening the second valve to supply the second gas containing an inert gas from the second gas supply pipe to the second gas exhaust pipe; opening the first valve to supply the first gas containing a metal element into the chamber through the shower head; closing the second valve; closing the first valve; and reducing the pressure in the shower head and the pressure in the chamber.

[0199] In the film forming method according to the third embodiment, a film containing a metal element is formed on the semiconductor wafer **W** by ALD using a film forming apparatus **300** according to the third embodiment. Hereinafter, a case of forming an oxide film containing indium (In), gallium (Ga), and zinc (Zn), that is, an indium gallium zinc oxide film will be described as an example.

[0200] FIG. **20** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the third embodiment. FIG. **20** is a diagram showing a part of a process sequence when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD.

[0201] As shown in FIG. **20**, when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD, for

example, an atomic layer of indium is formed in the first cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the second cycle, thereby forming a molecular layer of indium oxide. Then, an atomic layer of gallium is formed in the third cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the fourth cycle, thereby forming a molecular layer of gallium oxide. Then, an atomic layer of zinc is formed in the fifth cycle and an atomic layer of oxygen is formed in the sixth cycle, thereby forming a molecular layer of zinc oxide.

[0202] In all of the cycles, the supply of a source gas, vacuuming, and the supply of a purge gas are performed. By performing vacuuming and supplying the purge gas, a source gas remaining in the chamber is exhausted to the outside of the chamber.

[0203] By repeating the first cycle to the sixth cycle a predetermined number of times, an indium gallium zinc oxide film having a desired thickness is formed.

[0204] FIGS. 21 to 26 are explanatory diagrams of the film forming method according to the third embodiment. FIGS. 21 to 26 are diagrams showing the operation of the film forming apparatus 200. FIGS. 21 to 26 are explanatory diagrams of the first cycle in FIG. 20.

[0205] First, the semiconductor wafer W is loaded into the chamber 10. Then, the loaded semiconductor wafer W is placed on the holder 14 (FIG. 21).

[0206] Then, the pressure in the shower head 12 and the pressure in the chamber 10 are reduced to predetermined pressures by driving the first exhaust device 33 and the second exhaust device 34 (FIG. 22). At this time, the semiconductor wafer W is heated by, for example, a heater (not shown).

[0207] Then, the second valve V2 provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 is opened. By opening the second valve V2, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the exhaust control gas, is supplied from the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 to the second gas exhaust pipe 28 (FIG. 23). By supplying the nitrogen gas into the second gas exhaust pipe 28, the exhaust of the gas from the shower head 12 is stopped to increase the pressure in the shower head 12.

[0208] The exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 is an example of the second gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas.

[0209] At the same time as opening the second valve V2, the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is opened. By opening the first valve V1, the indium source gas is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12 (FIG. 23). Indium of the source gas is adsorbed on the surface of the semiconductor wafer W, so that an atomic layer of indium is formed. In addition, the timing of opening the second valve V2 and the timing of opening the first valve V1 may not completely match each other. The timing of opening the second valve V2 and the timing of opening the first valve V1 may be different. After a predetermined time passes and an atomic layer of indium is formed on the semiconductor wafer W, the second valve V2 provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 is closed. By closing the second valve V2, the supply of the nitrogen gas to the second gas exhaust pipe 28 is stopped (FIG. 24). By stopping the supply of the nitrogen gas to the second gas exhaust pipe 28, the exhaust of the gas from the shower head 12 is started to reduce the pressure in the shower head 12.

[0210] At the same time as closing the second valve V2, the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is closed. By closing the first valve V1, the supply of the indium source gas into the chamber 10 is stopped (FIG. 24). In addition, the timing of closing the second valve V2 and the timing of closing the first valve V1 may not completely match each other. The timing of closing the second valve V2 and the timing of closing the first valve V1 may be different.

[0211] The supply of the nitrogen gas into the shower head 12 and the supply of the indium source gas into the chamber 10 are stopped to vacuum the chamber 10.

[0212] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is opened. By opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12 (FIG. 25).

[0213] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is closed (FIG. 26). The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10 is stopped, and the purging process for the chamber

10 ends.

[0214] As described above, the first cycle shown in FIG. **20** ends. Thereafter, the source gas is changed, and the second cycle, third cycle, fourth cycle, fifth cycle, and sixth cycle are performed in the same manner as the first cycle.

[0215] Next, the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the third embodiment will be described.

[0216] In film deposition by ALD, assuming that the supply of source gas and the exhaust of residual gas is one cycle, a film is formed by repeating the cycle. For example, if the residual gas is not exhausted sufficiently, the residual source gas may react with the source gas supplied in the subsequent cycle in the gas phase to generate dust. In addition, there is a possibility that the chemical composition of the film will deviate from the desired chemical composition due to the components of the residual source gas being taken into the film.

[0217] In particular, when a film is formed by using a compound containing a plurality of different metal elements, such as an indium gallium zinc oxide film, the change in chemical composition has a great effect on the properties. Therefore, it is particularly desirable that the residual gas is sufficiently exhausted.

[0218] It takes time to exhaust the residual gas in the shower head **12** due to, for example, narrowing of the gas flow path between the shower head **12** and the gas exhaust pipe provided below the chamber **10**. In film deposition using ALD, many cycles are repeated. In order to shorten the film formation time and improve productivity, it is desirable to shorten the time required for one cycle. In particular, in a single wafer type film forming apparatus that forms a film on one substrate in one film forming process, it is desirable to shorten the time required for one cycle. Hereinafter, the time required for one cycle is referred to as a cycle time.

[0219] If it takes time to exhaust the residual gas in the shower head **12**, the cycle time becomes long and accordingly the film formation time becomes long. Therefore, it is desired to shorten the time required for exhausting the residual gas in the shower head **12**.

[0220] In the film forming apparatus **300** according to the third embodiment, the second gas exhaust pipe **28** is directly connected to the shower head **12**. Therefore, the exhaust of residual gas from the shower head **12** is promoted. As a result, it is possible to shorten the cycle time.

[0221] In addition, the film forming apparatus **300** according to the third embodiment controls the stop and start of exhaust from the shower head **12** by controlling the start and stop of the supply of the exhaust control gas from the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** to the second gas exhaust pipe **28**. The control of the supply of the exhaust control gas is performed by controlling opening and closing of the second valve V2. By controlling the start and stop of the supply of the nitrogen gas into the second gas exhaust pipe **28** using the second valve V2 operating at high speed, the time required to increase and decrease the pressure of the shower head **12** is shortened. Therefore, it is possible to further shorten the cycle time.

[0222] From the viewpoint of shortening the time required to stop and start the exhaust from the shower head **12**, the opening/closing speed of the second valve is preferably equal to or less than 100 msec, more preferably equal to or less than 10 msec.

First Modification Example

[0223] A film forming apparatus according to a first modification example of the third embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment in that an end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe is connected to the diffusion plate.

[0224] FIG. **27** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the first modification example of the third embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the first modification example is a film forming apparatus **201** that forms a film using ALD.

[0225] In the film forming apparatus **201**, an end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe **28** is connected to the diffusion plate **12c**. By connecting the end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe **28** to the diffusion plate **12c**, it is possible to efficiently exhaust the residual gas in the lower layer

portion **12b** of the shower head **12**, for example.

Second Modification Example

[0226] A film forming apparatus according to a second modification example of the third embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment in that the end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe is provided in the lower layer portion.

[0227] FIG. **28** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the second modification example of the third embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the second modification example is a film forming apparatus **202** that forms a film using ALD.

[0228] In the film forming apparatus **202**, the end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe **28** is provided in the lower layer portion **12b**. By providing the end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe **28** in the lower layer portion **12b**, it is possible to efficiently exhaust the residual gas from a specific region where the residual gas tends to remain in the lower layer portion **12b**, for example.

Third Modification Example

[0229] A film forming apparatus according to a third modification example of the third embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment in that the first exhaust device and the second exhaust device are the same exhaust device.

[0230] FIG. **29** is a schematic diagram of the film forming apparatus according to the third modification example of the third embodiment. The film forming apparatus according to the third modification example is a film forming apparatus **203** that forms a film using ALD.

[0231] In the film forming apparatus **203**, the second gas exhaust pipe **28** is connected to the first exhaust device **33**, and the second exhaust device **34** is not provided. According to the film forming apparatus **203**, it is possible to simplify the apparatus configuration.

[0232] As described above, according to the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the third embodiment, it is possible to shorten the film formation time.

Fourth Embodiment

[0233] A film forming apparatus according to a fourth embodiment is different from the film forming apparatus according to the third embodiment in that the control circuit performs control to open the first valve after a first time passes from the opening of the second valve and the control circuit performs control to close the first valve after a second time passes from the closing of the second valve. Hereinafter, the description of a part of the content overlapping the third embodiment may be omitted.

[0234] The film forming apparatus according to the fourth embodiment has the same configuration as the film forming apparatus **200** according to the third embodiment except for the configuration of the control unit **40**. Hereinafter, the configuration of the film forming apparatus according to the fourth embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. **18** of the third embodiment.

[0235] The control unit **40** of the film forming apparatus according to the fourth embodiment performs control to open the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** after the first time passes from the opening of the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23**. In addition, the control unit **40** of the film forming apparatus according to the fourth embodiment performs control to close the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** after the second time passes from the closing of the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23**.

[0236] FIG. **30** is an explanatory diagram of a film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. FIG. **30** is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve.

[0237] For example, when forming a film by supplying the first source gas from the first source gas supply pipe **16** into the chamber **10**, as shown in FIG. **30**, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is opened at time **t2** after a first time (**tx** in FIG. **30**) passes from the opening of the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** at time **t1**. In addition, as shown in FIG. **30**, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is

closed at time **t4** after a second time (ty in FIG. **30**) passes from the closing of the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** at time **t3**.

[0238] FIG. **31** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. **31** is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the film forming method of a comparative example. The lower diagram in FIG. **31** shows a change in shower head pressure over time in the film forming method of the comparative example.

[0239] In the film forming method of the comparative example, when forming a film by supplying the first source gas from the first source gas supply pipe **16** into the shower head **12**, as shown in the upper diagram in FIG. **31**, the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** is opened at time **t1'**, and at the same time, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is opened. In addition, as shown in the upper diagram in FIG. **31**, the second valve **V2** provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe **23** is closed at time **t2'**, and at the same time, the first valve **V1** provided in the first source gas supply pipe **16** is closed.

[0240] As shown in FIG. **31**, when the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** are opened at the same time as in the comparative example, a delay of the first time tx occurs before the shower head pressure increases from the first pressure **P1** to the desired second pressure **P2**. In other words, the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when increasing the shower head pressure is poor.

[0241] In addition, as shown in FIG. **31**, when the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** are closed at the same time, a delay of the second time ty occurs before the shower head pressure decreases from the second pressure **P2** to the desired first pressure **P1**. In other words, the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when decreasing the shower head pressure is poor.

[0242] If the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** is poor, for example, the timing of starting and stopping the supply of the source gas deviates from the actual timing of film formation or vacuuming. As a result, it becomes difficult to control the film forming process. In addition, for example, there is a possibility that the cycle time becomes long and accordingly the film formation time becomes long.

[0243] FIG. **32** is an explanatory diagram of the function and effect of the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. **32** is a diagram showing the opening/closing timing of the first valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. The lower diagram in FIG. **32** shows a change in shower head pressure over time.

[0244] As shown in FIG. **32**, the second valve **V2** is opened at time **t1** and the first valve **V1** is opened at time **t2** after the first time tx passes from time **t1**, so that there is no delay for the shower head pressure to increase from the first pressure **P1** to the desired second pressure **P2**. In other words, the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when increasing the shower head pressure is improved.

[0245] In addition, as shown in FIG. **32**, the second valve **V2** is closed at time **t3** and the first valve **V1** is closed at time **t4** after the second time ty passes from time **t3**, so that there is no delay for the shower head pressure to decrease from the second pressure **P2** to the desired first pressure **P1**. In other words, the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2** when decreasing the shower head pressure is improved.

[0246] By improving the responsiveness of the shower head pressure to the operation of the first valve **V1** and the second valve **V2**, for example, the timing of starting and stopping the supply of the source gas matches the actual timing of film formation or vacuuming. As a result, it becomes easy to control the film forming process. In addition, for example, since the cycle time can be shortened, the film formation time can be shortened.

[0247] Next, a method for determining the first time t_x and the second time t_y in the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment will be described.

[0248] FIG. 33 is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. FIG. 33 is a diagram showing a part of a process sequence when forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film by ALD.

[0249] As shown in FIG. 33, for example, a feedback cycle is performed before starting the film formation of the indium gallium zinc oxide film. By performing the feedback cycle, the first time t_x and the second time t_y are determined, and the first time t_x and the second time t_y are fed back to the cycle for film formation.

[0250] For example, the feedback cycle is performed before the first cycle. Specifically, before the second valve V2 provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 is opened to supply the nitrogen gas to the second gas exhaust pipe 28 and before the first valve V1 provided in the first source gas supply pipe 16 is opened to supply the indium source gas into the shower head 12, the feedback cycle is performed. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas. The indium source gas is an example of the first gas.

[0251] First, the semiconductor wafer W is loaded into the chamber 10. Then, the loaded semiconductor wafer W is placed on the holder 14.

[0252] Then, the pressure in the shower head 12 and the pressure in the chamber 10 are reduced to predetermined pressures by driving the first exhaust device 33 and the second exhaust device 34. At this time, the semiconductor wafer W is heated by, for example, a heater (not shown). Then, the second valve V2 provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 and the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 are opened at the same time.

[0253] By opening the second valve V2, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the exhaust control gas, is supplied from the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 to the second gas exhaust pipe 28. By supplying the nitrogen gas into the second gas exhaust pipe 28, the exhaust of the gas from the shower head 12 is stopped to increase the pressure in the shower head 12. The exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 is an example of the second gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the second gas.

[0254] In addition, by opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12.

[0255] The purge gas supply pipe 20 is an example of the third gas supply pipe. The nitrogen gas is an example of the third gas.

[0256] After a predetermined time passes, the second valve V2 provided in the exhaust control gas supply pipe 23 and the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 are closed at the same time.

[0257] By closing the second valve V2, the supply of the nitrogen gas to the second gas exhaust pipe 28 is stopped. By stopping the supply of the nitrogen gas to the second gas exhaust pipe 28, the exhaust of the gas from the shower head 12 is started to reduce the pressure in the shower head 12.

[0258] In addition, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is closed. By closing the third valve V3, the supply of the nitrogen gas into the shower head 12 is stopped.

[0259] The supply of the nitrogen gas into the shower head 12 is stopped to vacuum the shower head 12 and the chamber 10.

[0260] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is opened. By opening the third valve V3, a nitrogen gas, which is an example of the purge gas, is supplied into the chamber 10 through the shower head 12.

[0261] Then, the third valve V3 provided in the purge gas supply pipe 20 is closed. The supply of the nitrogen gas into the chamber 10 is stopped, and the purging process for the shower head 12 and the chamber 10 ends.

[0262] As described above, the feedback cycle shown in FIG. 33 ends. No film is formed on the

semiconductor wafer W during the feedback cycle because the source gas does not flow. Thereafter, for example, a first cycle, a second cycle, a third cycle, a fourth cycle, a fifth cycle, and a sixth cycle are performed to form an indium gallium zinc oxide film.

[0263] In addition, during the feedback cycle, the shower head pressure is monitored by using the second pressure gauge **38**.

[0264] FIG. **34** is an explanatory diagram of the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment. The upper diagram in FIG. **34** shows the opening/closing timing of the third valve and the opening/closing timing of the second valve in the feedback cycle. The lower diagram in FIG. **34** shows a change in shower head pressure over time.

[0265] In the feedback cycle, the first time t_x for the shower head pressure to increase from the first pressure P_1 to the desired second pressure P_2 after the third valve **V3** and the second valve **V2** are opened at the same time is measured. In addition, the second time t_y for the shower head pressure to decrease from the second pressure P_2 to the desired first pressure P_1 after the third valve **V3** and the second valve **V2** are closed at the same time is measured.

[0266] The measured first time t_x and second time t_y are stored in the storage device of the control unit **40**, for example. For example, in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth cycles following the feedback cycle, film formation is performed based on the first time t_x and the second time t_y stored in the storage device of the control unit **40**.

[0267] The first time t_x and the second time t_y measured in the feedback cycle may not necessarily match the first time t_x and the second time t_y applied to the subsequent film formation cycle. For example, by performing predetermined arithmetic processing on the first time t_x and the second time t_y measured in the feedback cycle, the first time t_x and the second time t_y applied to the subsequent film formation cycle may be determined.

[0268] In addition, the third gas containing an inert gas used in the feedback cycle is not limited to the nitrogen gas. For example, an argon gas, a xenon gas, or a neon gas can be used. In addition, in the fourth embodiment, the purge gas supplied from the purge gas supply pipe **20** is used as the third gas containing the inert gas. However, for example, a configuration in which a separate gas supply pipe dedicated to the feedback cycle is provided is also possible.

[0269] Although the case where both the second valve **V2** and the third valve **V3** are opened and closed in the feedback cycle has been described as an example, it is also possible to open and close only either the second valve **V2** or the third valve **V3**, for example.

[0270] In the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment, the frequency of performing a feedback cycle is arbitrary. For example, it is also possible to always perform a feedback cycle during film formation. In addition, for example, it is possible to perform a feedback cycle every predetermined number of film formations. In addition, for example, by continuously performing a plurality of feedback cycles, the first time t_x and the second time t_y can be set to the average value of the first time t_x and the average value of the second time t_y of a plurality of feedback runs, respectively.

[0271] As described above, according to the film forming apparatus and the film forming method according to the fourth embodiment, it is possible to shorten the film formation time.

[0272] In the first to fourth embodiments, the case of forming an indium gallium zinc oxide film has been described as an example, but the film to be formed is not limited to the indium gallium zinc oxide film.

[0273] While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventions. Indeed, the film forming apparatus and the film forming method described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the devices and methods described herein may be made without departing from the spirit of the inventions. The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope and spirit of the inventions.

Claims

1. A film forming apparatus, comprising: a chamber including a sidewall; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; at least one gas supply portion provided in a region of the chamber other than the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the at least one gas supply portion; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; and an exhaust device connected to the gas exhaust pipe.
2. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a regulator provided in the second gas supply pipe, the second valve being provided between the chamber and the regulator.
3. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the at least one gas supply portion are arranged on a circumference along the sidewall.
4. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one gas supply portion is provided below an upper surface of the holder.
5. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chamber includes a partition wall surrounding the holder and having an opening, and the at least one gas supply portion is provided between the partition wall and the sidewall.
6. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second valve is a valve having an opening/closing speed equal to or less than 100 msec.
7. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a control circuit controlling opening and closing of the first valve and opening and closing of the second valve, wherein the control circuit performs control to open the first valve after a first time passes from opening of the second valve, and the control circuit performs control to close the first valve after a second time passes from closing of the second valve.
8. The film forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first gas contains a metal element, and the second gas contains an inert gas.
- 9-11. (canceled)
12. A film forming apparatus, comprising: a chamber; a shower head provided in an upper part of the chamber; a holder provided in the chamber holding a substrate; a first gas supply pipe supplying a first gas to the shower head; a first valve provided in the first gas supply pipe; a first gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the chamber; a second gas exhaust pipe exhausting a gas from the shower head; a second gas supply pipe supplying a second gas to the second gas exhaust pipe; a second valve provided in the second gas supply pipe; a first exhaust device connected to the first gas exhaust pipe; and a second exhaust device connected to the second gas exhaust pipe.
13. The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising: a regulator provided in the second gas supply pipe, the second valve being provided between the shower head and the regulator.
14. The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the shower head includes an upper layer portion, a lower layer portion provided between the upper layer portion and the chamber, and a diffusion plate provided between the upper layer portion and the lower layer portion and having an opening, and an end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe is connected to the diffusion plate.
15. The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the shower head includes an upper layer portion, a lower layer portion provided between the upper layer portion and the chamber, and a diffusion plate provided between the upper layer portion and the lower layer portion and having an opening, and an end portion of the second gas exhaust pipe is provided in the lower layer portion.
16. The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first exhaust device and the second exhaust device are the same exhaust device.

- 17.** The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the second valve is a valve having an opening/closing speed equal to or less than 100 msec.
- 18.** The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising: a control circuit controlling opening and closing of the first valve and opening and closing of the second valve, wherein the control circuit performs control to open the first valve after a first time passes from opening of the second valve, and the control circuit performs control to close the first valve after a second time passes from closing of the second valve.
- 19.** The film forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first gas contains a metal element, and the second gas contains an inert gas.
- 20-22.** (canceled)
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