

# T.C. YÜKSEKÖĞRETİM KURULU BAŞKANLIĞI ANKARA

05.03.2024

## **OKUL TANIMA BELGESİ**

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## Açıklama

Yurtdışındaki yükseköğretim kurumlarından örgün eğitim yoluyla alınan diplomaların denklik işlemi, 2547 sayılı Yükseköğretim Kanunu'nun 2880 sayılı kanunla değişik 7/p maddesi ile 05.12.2017 tarihli Resmi Gazete'de yayımlanan "Yurtdışı Yükseköğretim Diplomaları Tanıma ve Denklik Yönetmeliği" hükümleri uyarınca yapılmakta olup, söz konusu Yönetmelik yatay geçiş, dikey geçiş ve lisans tamamlama gibi kavramları kapsamamaktadır.

Yurtdışındaki yükseköğretim kurumlarından uzaktan öğretim yoluyla alınacak diplomalar ise söz konusu Yönetmeliğin 10. maddesi ve ilgili mevzuat çerçevesinde değerlendirilmektedir.

Öğrenim dili Türkçe olan yurt dışındaki yükseköğretim programlarından alınan diplomalar için yapılan başvurular Yönetmelik'in 7. madde, 6. fikra, (ç) bendi "Türkiye'nin taraf olduğu uluslararası anlaşmalarla öğrenim dilinin Türkçe olduğu belirlenen programlar veya Yükseköğretim Kurulunca tanınan yurtdışındaki Türkçe yükseköğretim programları dışında, yükseköğretim kurumlarının açtığı ve öğrenim dili Türkçe olan programlardan alınan diplomalar için yapılan başvurular reddedilir." hükmü çerçevesinde karara bağlanacaktır.

Diploma denklik başvurusunda aranacak belgeler ile inceleme ve değerlendirme usul ve esasları Yurtdışı Yükseköğretim Diplomaları Tanıma ve Denklik Yönetmeliği'nde belirtilmiş olup; ilgili Yönetmelik ve detaylı bilgiye Yükseköğretim Kurulu web sayfasından ulaşılabilmektedir.

Yatay geçiş başvuruları, 08.02.2008 tarih ve 636/2732 sayılı yazımız ile "Yükseköğretim Kurumları Arasında Ön lisans ve Lisans Düzeyindeki Programlar Arasında Geçiş, Çift Anadal, Yan Dal ile Kurumlar Arası Kredi Transferi Yapılması Esaslarına İlişkin Yönetmelik" hükümlerine; lisansüstü eğitim başvuruları ise 26.09.2017 tarih ve 64528 sayılı yazı ile "Lisansüstü Eğitim ve Öğretim Yönetmeliği" hükümlerine uygun olarak, alınan dersler incelenmek suretiyle başvuru yapılan Üniversite tarafından değerlendirilmekte ve karara bağlanmaktadır.

2547 Sayılı Kanun'un 11 b/5 maddesi uyarınca yurtdışında yapılan doktora eğitimleri Üniversitelerarası Kurul tarafından değerlendirilmektedir. Yurtdışında yapılan doktora eğitiminin Türkiye'de yapılan doktoraya eşdeğer olup olmayacağı hususunda önceden herhangi bir görüş belirtmek mümkün olmadığı gibi, söz konusu eşdeğerlik, doktora tamamlandıktan sonra ilgili komisyon ve kurullar tarafından incelenmektedir.

Öte yandan diploma denklik başvuruları, ilgili Komisyon ve Kurullar tarafından münferiden değerlendirildiğinden yurt dışındaki yükseköğretim kurumlarından alınmış ön lisans, lisans ve yüksek lisans diplomalarının ülkemizdeki diplomalara eşdeğer olup olmayacağı hususunda önceden herhangi bir görüş belirtmek mümkün olmadığı gibi, eğitim alınan yükseköğretim kurumunun tanınırlığına ilişkin olarak Kurulumuzun yeni kararlar alma hakkı saklıdır.

Yurt dışında yükseköğrenim görmek isteyen öğrencilerin konuyla ilgili güncel gelişme ve kararları Kurulumuz internet adresinden takip etmeleri yararlarına olacaktır.

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Abstract	In this study, the reactive radio frequency magnetron sputtering (RFMS) method under varying thickness was used to deposit GeOx on Si substrate at room temperature. The effect of thickness on the structural and optical properties of high-quality germanium dioxide (GeO2) thin films have been investigated by experimental. Structural properties were investigated using X-ray diffraction. It has been observed that the peak intensity of (113) reflection is the highest in the spectrum of 240.22 nm thickness and using scanning electron microscope (SEM) to calculate thickness of different samples. Reflection measurement, which is one of its optical properties, was measured with an optical spectrophotometer. It has been ob-served that as the thickness increases, the total reflectance changes. The absorption coefficient was calcu-lated using the diffuse reflection curve. From this point of view, the energy band gap was calculated and it was seen that it varies between 4.1 eV and 4.4 eV. As a result, it was observed that the energy band gap increased as the thickness increased. And using spectroscopic ellipsometry to calculate the thickness of different, refractive index, extinction coefficient, and oscillator parameters. The oscillator energy decrease as the thickness of films increases	context data and snippets item(s). Background 0 Basis Support 0 Differ 0

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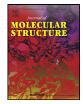
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# Comprehensive growth and characterization study of GeOx/Si

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#### ABSTRACT

In this study, the reactive radio frequency magnetron sputtering (RFMS) method under varying thickness was used to deposit  $\text{GeO}_x$  on Si substrate at room temperature. The effect of thickness on the structural and optical properties of high-quality germanium dioxide ( $GeO_2$ ) thin films have been investigated by experimental. Structural properties were investigated using X-ray diffraction. It has been observed that the peak intensity of (113) reflection is the highest in the spectrum of 240.22 nm thickness and using scanning electron microscope (SEM) to calculate thickness of different samples. Reflection measurement, which is one of its optical properties, was measured with an optical spectrophotometer. It has been observed that as the thickness increases, the total reflectance changes. The absorption coefficient was calculated using the diffuse reflection curve. From this point of view, the energy band gap was calculated and it was seen that it varies between 4.1 eV and 4.4 eV. As a result, it was observed that the energy band gap increased as the thickness increased. And using spectroscopic ellipsometry to calculate the thickness. It have been observed that the thickness varies between 174.29 nm and 332.16 nm. The refractive index increases.

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### 1. Introduction

In recent years, semiconductor thin films have aroused great interest because of their outstanding properties. Germanium dioxide ( $GeO_2$ ) has special optical and electrical properties. Besides, it has attracted the attention of researchers because of its potential applications in modern nanoscale electronic and optical devices [1–3]. In addition,  $GeO_2$  is a promising material that shows interesting properties. Having a higher refractive index slightly higher than silicon,  $GeO_2$  is thermally stable. It is also a material with high transmittance, wide optical band gap (>5 eV), good mechanical strength, high dielectric constant, and high carrier mobility [1–3] These interesting properties of  $GeO_2$  make it useful in many domains like optoelectronics [4–6], memory application [7], as a host the material in luminescent devices [8], optical applications (opti-

cal storage applications and optical waveguides) [4], potential anode materials for high-energy Li-ion batteries [9] and in photodetector [10].

The properties of  $GeO_2$  thin films strongly depend on the deposition parameters. Various methods of depositing of  $GeO_2$  that have been adopted by the researchers for the growth of  $GeO_2$  thin films including radio frequency RF magnetron sputtering [4], laser ablation, liquid phase deposition, [11] and the other techniques [12].

The  $CO_2$  laser irradiation of  $GeO_2$  planar waveguide fabricated by RF-sputtering has been studied by Chiasera A. et al. [4]. In this study, the researchers deposited  $GeO_2$  transparent glassceramic planar waveguides with the RF sputtering technique and then irradiated them with a pulsed  $CO_2$  laser. Using different techniques such as micro-Raman spectroscopy, atomic force microscopy, and positron annihilation spectroscopy for structural effects, they gained knowledge about the structural changes produced after irradiation in waveguide films with a thickness of about 1 µm.

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The evaluation of lattice dynamics, infrared optical properties, and visible emissions of hexagonal  $GeO_2$  films prepared by liquid phase deposition are studied by Yabin Sun et al. [11]. In this study, the researchers deposited films with a thickness of 10 to 22  $\mu$ m on Si(100) substrate using liquid phase deposition. The effects of crystallographic and vibrational properties and optical properties, X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy, Raman scattering and infrared (IR) reflection/transmittance, and the effects of deposition time on thickness were investigated.

Ion-beam modification of the structural and optical properties of  $GeO_2$  thin films grown using pulsed laser deposition at various substrate temperatures was investigated by Mahendra Singh Rathore et al. [12]. They irradiated the grown films with 100 MeV  $Ag^{7+}$  ions at a constant flow of 1  $\times$  10<sup>13</sup>ions/cm<sup>2</sup> and characterized using X-ray diffraction, atomic force microscopy, Raman spectroscopy, Fourier transform, infrared and photoluminescence spectroscopy.

It is also reported that the synthesis and characterization of  $GeO_2$  thin films prepared by e-beam evaporation have been investigated by Mahendra Singh Rathore et al. [13].  $GeO_2$  thin films were deposited on silicon (100) substrate at 150°C using e-beam evaporation. These as-deposited films were annealed at various temperatures ranging from 600° to 800°C for an hour in an air atmosphere. The surface morphology of as-deposited and annealed films was studied using (AFM). The different vibration modes of  $GeO_2$  were investigated by FTIR spectroscopy. The functional group and different optical phonon modes configuration were analyzed by Raman spectroscopy.

Following the literature review, when we examine the most recent situation concerning the  $GeO_2$  semiconductor oxide material, it is seen as a shortcoming that this material has not been extensively studied on the RF magnetron sputtering method.

The present work concentrates on the performing comprehensive growth and optical and structural characterization of  $GeO_2$ thin films, grown by RF magnetron sputtering deposition method with a variety of thickness at room temperature, on p-Si substrate. Studies were made to understand the effect of the thickness on the structural and optical properties of these many  $GeO_2$  thin films. The results obtained are presented and discussed in this paper.

### 2. Experimental details

GeO<sub>x</sub> thin films were deposited by using reactive RF magnetron sputtering method varying thickness on p-Si substrate. NANOVAK NVTS-400-2TH2SP Thermal & Sputter combined System was used for material deposition. Deposition parameters of the films grown are argon gas 92%,  $O_2$  8% base pressure 8.3 × 10<sup>-6</sup> Torr, working pressure 13×10<sup>-3</sup> Torr, power 60 W and rotate 10 rpm. The crystal structure of  $GeO_x$  were analyzed using X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) technique and using scanning electron microscope (SEM). The optical properties of the grown samples were examined by optical spectrophotometer and spectroscopic ellipsometry. Reflectance spectra were obtained by spectrophotometer measurements and the effect of thickness was investigated. By using the diffuse reflectance curve, the absorption coefficient and then the energy band gap has been calculated with Kubelka Munk method. Optical constants were obtained by using spectroscopic ellipsometry. The spectral dependencies of refractive index, extinction coefficient, and complex dielectric function were revealed by analyzing experimental ellipsometric data under the light of the sample-air optical model. The thickness found from the spectroscopic ellipsometer and the thickness found from the SEM measurement were compared. At the same time, single oscillator energy and dispersion energy were calculated for GeO<sub>x</sub>/Si structures using the Wemple-DiDomenico single oscillator model (WDD) [14-16].

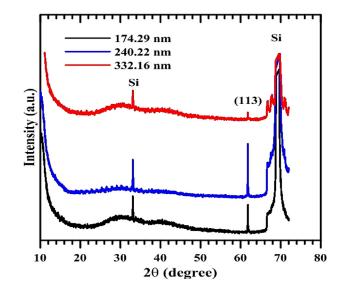


Fig. 1. XRD plot of  $GeO_x$  thin films produced on silicon at different thicknesses.

Table 1X-ray diffraction data summary of GeO2 thin films with different film thicknesses grown by RF Magnetron Sputtering.

Film thickness	174.29 nm	240.22 nm	332.16 nm
2 θ (°)	61.82	61.79	61.82
FWHM (°)	0.0875	0.0812	0.1183
Grain size (nm)	106.28	114.56	78.42
d (nm)	0.1499	0.1496	0.1498

#### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Structural characterization

#### 3.1.1. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) technique

X-ray diffraction patterns of  $\text{GeO}_x$  thin films produced in different thicknesses on silicon substrates were measured by PANalytical EMPYREAN XRD model X-ray spectrometer. The XRD patterns of the GeO<sub>x</sub> films grown are shown in Fig. 1. Three peaks were observed in all films. Two of these peaks belong to the silicon substrate. These peaks belong to (100) and (400) planes. Only one peak was observed for GeO<sub>x</sub>. This peak is around 62° and belongs to the (113) orientation [17–19]. The intensity of (113) is the highest in the spectrum of 240.22 nm thickness.

In Table 1, full width at half maximum (FWHM), grain size, and interplanar distances (d) of 174.29 nm, 240.22 nm, and 332.16 nm films are calculated. As seen in Table 1, the FWHM of the peak (113) of the 240.22 nm film is narrower than the other samples. Accordingly, the grain size is larger than the others.

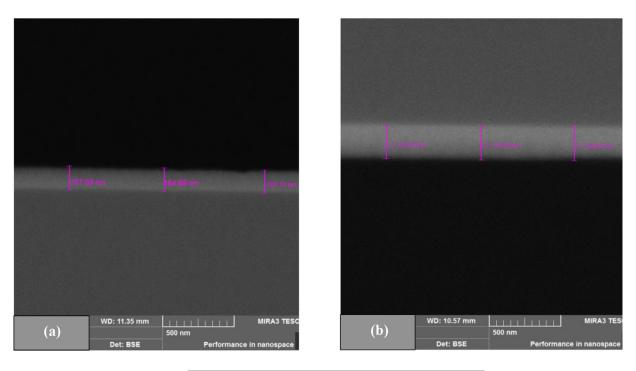
#### 3.1.2. Scanning electron microscope (SEM)

SEM measurement was taken from the cross-section of the sample and only the thickness was measured. The thicknesses of the films were found to be approximately  $\sim$ 164.89 nm,  $\sim$ 240.60 nm, and  $\sim$ 318.98 nm respectively. SEM analyses were performed at 10 kV with a working distance of 11.35 mm for 164.89 nm, 10.57 mm for 240.60 nm, and 9.95 mm for 318.98 nm at 500 nm are shown in Fig. 2(a-c).

## 3.2. Optical characterization

#### 3.2.1. Optical spectrophotomèter

Reflection measurements of  $GeO_x$  thin films produced in different thicknesses on Si (100) substrate were made using Varian Cary



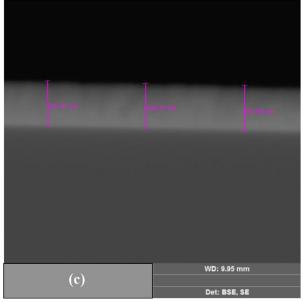


Fig. 2. SEM results of GeO<sub>x</sub> thin films at different thicknesses (a) 164.89 nm, (b) 240.60 nm, (c) 318.98 nm.

5000 model UV–Vis–NIR spectrophotometer and PTFE as reference disc. Total reflection spectra were taken in the range of 200-1200 nm in the air at room temperature, and diffuse reflection spectra were taken in the range of 200–800 nm.

In this study, the Kubelka–Munk function was used to calculate the absorption coefficient. When using the Kubelka–Munk function, diffuse reflection spectra are used. The Kubelka-Munk theory helped us find the energy band gap of thin films on opaque substrates. Diffuse reflectance data (R) was calculated using Kubelka– Munk function by the relation [20]:

$$F(R) = \frac{(1-R)^2}{2R} = \frac{K}{s}$$
 (1)

In Eq. (1), F(R) is the Kubelka–Munk function corresponding to the absorption, K is the absorption coefficient and s is the scattering coefficient. The absorption coefficient of a direct bandgap semi-

conductor is expressed by the Tauc equation [21,22]:

$$\alpha h \nu = A (h \nu - E_g)^n \tag{2}$$

In Eq. (2),  $\alpha$  is the material's linear absorption coefficient, hv is the photon energy, A is the proportionality constant, and n is a constant describing the optical transition type. The Kubelka–Munk function is directly proportional to the absorption coefficient.

$$\alpha = \frac{F(R)}{t} \tag{3}$$

where t is the thickness of film [20].

Fig. 3(a) shows the total reflectance spectra of  $GeO_2$  thin films at different thicknesses at room temperature in the wavelength range of 200–1200 nm. Multiple peaks in Fig. 3(a) represent interference fringes. Since this study is dependent on the film thickness, the number of interference fringe peaks increases as the film thickness increases.

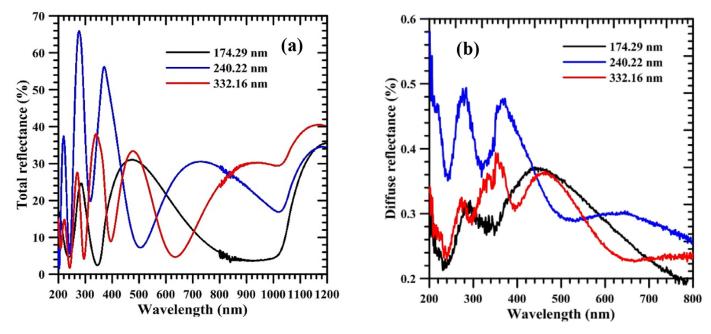


Fig. 3. (a) Total reflectance spectra of GeO<sub>2</sub> thin films on p-Si substrate with different thicknesses, (b) Diffuse reflectance spectra of GeO<sub>2</sub> thin films on p-Si substrate with different thicknesses.

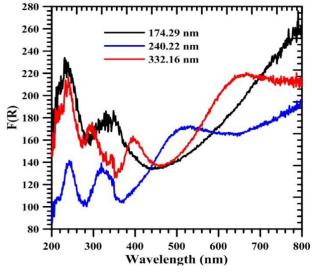
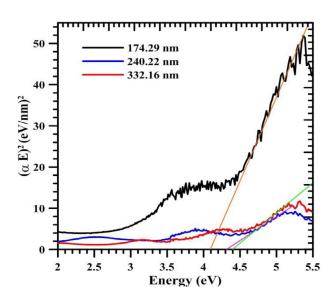


Fig. 4. F(R) versus wavelength.

According to total reflectance spectra, there are two absorption edges. One belongs to  $GeO_x$  and the other belongs to silicon. It is seen that the sharpness of the absorption edge of silicon decreases as the thickness decreases from the absorption region of silicon, which is around 1000 nm. As the thickness decreases, the absorption edge shifts towards the infrared region. Fig. 3(b) shows the diffuse reflectance spectra of  $GeO_x$  thin films at different thicknesses at room temperature in the wavelength range of 200–800 nm. Diffuse reflection measurement is essential for us to find the energy band gap. The diffuse reflection in Eq. (1) was used to find F(R). Fig. 4 shows the change in F(R) in the Kubelka Munk formula for thin films with different thicknesses.

According to the graph of F(R) versus wavelength values (Fig. 4), the UV-absorption edge of 174.29 nm was around 240-290 nm, the UV-absorption edge of 240.22 nm was around 243-280 nm and the UV-absorption edge of 332.16 nm was around 243-275 nm. It has



**Fig. 5.**  $(\alpha E)^2$  spectra of  $GeO_x$  thin films on p-Si substrate with different thicknesses.

 Table 2

 Energy band gap of GeOx thin films on p-Si substrate with different thicknesses.

Thickness (nm)	Substrate temperature (°C)	Energy band gap (eV)
174.29	RT	4.1
240.22	RT	4.3
332.16	RT	4.4

been observed that as the thickness increases, the UV-absorption edge decreases in energy units.

In this study, the energy band gap of  $\text{GeO}_x$  films was calculated by plotting the square of the Kubelka-Munk function with respect to energy. The value of the linear part of the curve on the energy axis gives us the energy band gap of the films in Fig. 5. The corresponding values of  $E_g$  have been given in Table 2.

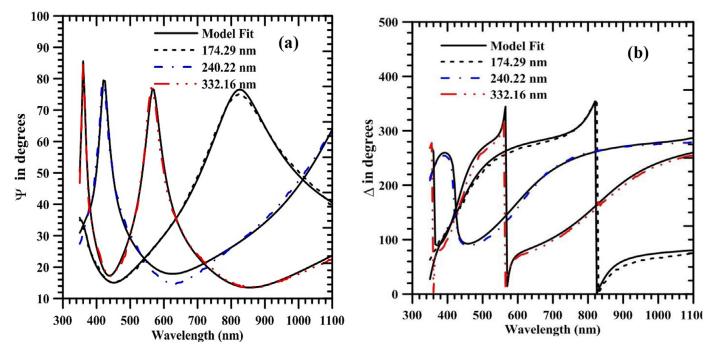


Fig. 6. (a) The spectral dependence of  $\Phi$  for 174.29 nm, 240.22 nm and 332.16 nm, (b) The spectral dependence of  $\Delta$  for 174.29 nm, 240.22 nm and 332.16 nm.

It has been observed that as the thickness increases, the energy band gap increases from 4.1 eV to 4.4 eV. Band gap and optical properties show a strong dependence on film thickness. The variation of the energy band gap with the change of film thickness is related to the density of localized states. Therefore, since the energy band gap increases, the density of localized states is low.

#### 3.2.2. Spectroscopic ellipsometry

Spectroscopic ellipsometry technique was used to carry out the optical analysis in more detail, and the OPT-S9000 Ellipsometer device was used for this. The thickness of the films, refractive index, extinction coefficient, dielectric constant, and oscillator parameters were obtained by the ellipsometry technique. The complex reflection ratio in the spectroscopic ellipsometry technique can be defined as follows [22–24]:

$$\rho = \frac{R_p}{\widetilde{R}_s} = tan\psi \ e^{i\Delta} \tag{4}$$

Here,  $\rho$  shows the ratio of the complex reflection coefficient, which is polarized parallel to the incidence plane  $\widetilde{R_p}$ , and the complex reflection coefficient which is polarized perpendicular to the incidence plane  $\widetilde{R_s}$ . The ratio of  $R_p$  to  $R_s$  gives the expression of the ellipsometric  $\Psi$  parameter:

$$tan\psi = \frac{R_p}{R_s} \tag{5}$$

The phase difference between  $R_p$  and  $R_s$  gives another ellipsometric parameter  $\Delta$ :

$$\Delta = \Delta_p - \Delta_s \tag{6}$$

Here,  $\Delta_p$  and  $\Delta_s$  are the phases of  $R_p$  and  $R_s$ , respectively.

In this study, the measurements were made in the wavelength range of 350–1100 nm with a step size of 5 nm and with an angle of incidence 65°. After measurements, the data were analyzed for determining the refractive index, extinction coefficient, oscillator parameters, and film thickness. For the calculation of the measurements, Cauchy model was used [22]. Cauchy model can be described as follows [22,23]:

$$\boldsymbol{n} = \boldsymbol{n}_{\infty} + \frac{\boldsymbol{A}}{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^2} + \frac{\boldsymbol{B}}{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^4} + \dots$$
(7)

Fig. 6(a) and 6(b) show the theoretical and experimental representative measurements of all samples of spectroscopic  $\psi$  and  $\Delta$  according to wavelength respectively. As can be seen from both graphs, the fit is quite good and the MSE values are between 5 and 10.

The refractive indices of  $GeO_x$  films were determined by using the  $\Psi$  spectra where the correlation between the theoretical model and experimental data was fit the best.

The variation of refractive index of  $GeO_x$  films grown under different thicknesses and with silicon substrate is shown in the Fig. 7(a).

The refractive index is directly related to the internal structure of a film under investigation. As can be seen from the Fig. 7(a), the refractive index increases as the thickness increases. We can say that the orientation of the grains changed as the thickness increased.

The variation of the extinction coefficient of  $GeO_x$  films grown under different thicknesses and with silicon substrate are shown in the Fig. 7(b). As a result of the fit, the thicknesses were found to be 174.29, 240.22, and 332.16 nm, respectively.

Moreover, the complex dielectric constant of a solid is given as:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_1(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) + \boldsymbol{i}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_2(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \tag{8}$$

Here, real and imaginary parts are related to  $n(\lambda)$  and  $k(\lambda)$  as:

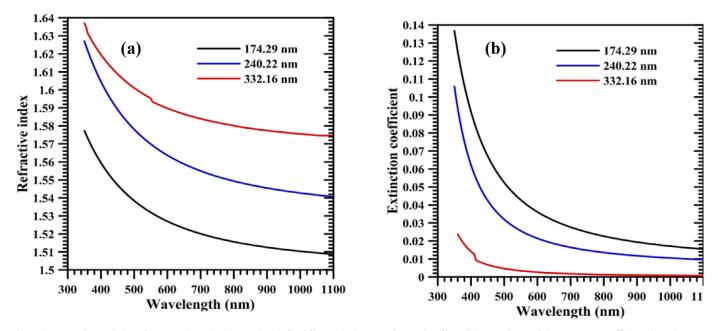
$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{1}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \boldsymbol{n}^{2}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) - \boldsymbol{k}^{2}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$$
(9)

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{2}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = 2\boldsymbol{n}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})\boldsymbol{k}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \tag{10}$$

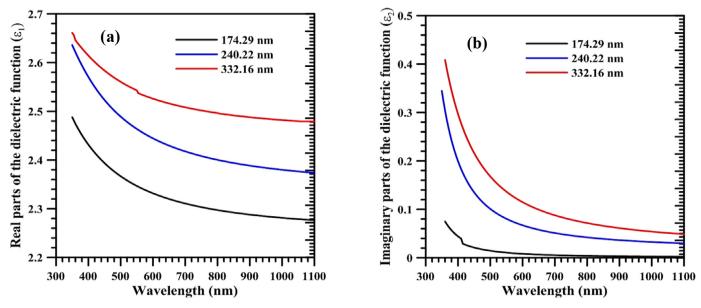
The real part of the dielectric function  $\varepsilon_1(\lambda)$  was determined employing the Eq. (9) and a plot of  $\varepsilon_1(\lambda)$  as a function of wavelength is shown in Fig. 8(a).

As can be seen from Fig. 8(b), it is seen that the real part of the dielectric constant decreases with increasing wavelength in the visible region. The imaginary part of the dielectric function is determined using Eq. (10). The variation of the imaginary part of the dielectric function with respect to wavelength for films produced in different thicknesses is shown in Fig. 9. As can be seen from the

8



**Fig. 7.** (a) Dependence of the refractive index (n) with wavelength for different thicknesses of  $GeO_x$  thin films, (b) Dependence of the extinction coefficient (k) with wavelength for different thicknesses of  $GeO_x$  thin films.



**Fig. 8.** (a) Real parts( $\varepsilon_1$ ) of the dielectric function as function of the wavelength for different thicknesses of GeO<sub>x</sub> thin films, (b) Imaginary parts( $\varepsilon_2$ ) of the dielectric function as function of the wavelength for different thicknesses of GeO<sub>x</sub> thin films.

figure, we can say that the dielectric constant is compatible with the literature [24].

In this study, the refractive index dispersion has been analyzed using the single-oscillator model developed by Wemple and DiDomenico [14–16]. According to this model, the relation between the refractive index n and photon energy E can be written as follows:

$$n = \left[1 + \frac{E_{osc}E_d}{E_{osc}^2 - (E^2)}\right]^2 \tag{11}$$

Where  $E_{osc}$  is the single-oscillator energy and  $E_d$  the dispertion energy. From equation  $E_{osc}$  and  $E_d$  can be obtained by plotting  $(n^2 - 1)^{-1}$  against  $E^2$ .

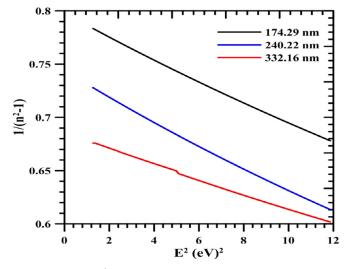
From Fig. 9, the equations for the best fitting straight line are given as:

For 174.29 nm : 
$$\frac{1}{(n^2-1)} = -111, 5 \times 10^{-4}E^2 + 0,797$$

For 240.22 nm : 
$$\frac{1}{(n^2 - 1)} = -119 \times 10^{-4} E^2 + 0,743$$

For 332.16 nm : 
$$\frac{1}{(n^2-1)} = -72, 43 \times 10^{-4}E^2 + 0, 685$$

Oscillator parameters  $E_d$  and  $E_{osc}$  are obtained from the intercepts and the slopes of the lines in the plot. These values have been listed in Table 3.



**Fig. 9.** Plot of  $(n^2 - 1)^{-1}$  versus photon energy squared for different thicknesses of GeO<sub>2</sub> thin films.

 Table 3

 Oscillator parameters of GeO<sub>2</sub> thin films with different film thicknesses.

Samples Thicknesses	$E_d$ (eV)	$E_{osc}$ (eV)	$E_g (eV)$
174.29 nm	10.606	8.453	4.1
240.22 nm	10.63	7.901	4.3
332.16 nm	14 19	9.723	4 4

The refractive index of the incident photon, dispersion energy, average oscillator energy, and energy are parameters that are directly related to the internal structure of a film [25]. The dispersion energy ( $E_d$ ) is related to the electronic oscillator power and the average oscillatory energy ( $E_{osc}$ ) is related to the oscillator energy and consequently the average energy band gap of the studied film. Evidently, the value of  $E_{osc}$  of the GeO<sub>x</sub> films increase as the thickness of films increases, which is expected because it is related directly to the average band gap of the studied film, by an empirical relation of the form  $E_{osc} \sim 2E_g$ .

As a result, it was revealed that there is a strong correlation between the chemical structural changes (lattice constant, chemical bonds, etc.) of the nanocrystalline  $\text{GeO}_x$  films deposited with  $E_d$ . Therefore, we can say that the increase in  $E_d$  as the thickness of the films increases is related to the increase in the lattice parameters.

#### 4. Conclusions

In summary, the GeO<sub>x</sub> films were successfully deposited on silicon substrates by reactive RF magnetron sputtering using germanium target by various thicknesses. The effect of film thickness on structural and optical properties was investigated. When the structural properties were examined, one peak was observed in the (113) orientation of GeO<sub>x</sub>. The energy band gap of films can be calculated by plotting the square of the Kubelka-Munk function versus energy. It has been observed that as the thickness increases, the energy band gap increases from 4.1 eV to 4.4 eV. The ellipsomery measurements were made in the wavelength range of 350-1100 nm with a step size of 5 nm and with an angle of incidence 65°. The Cauchy model was used which is an optical model that is widely used in ellipsometric data analysis. As a result, it was observed that the refractive index increased as the thickness increased. It was observed that the film thicknesses found by SEM analysis and spectroscopic ellipsometry were quite close to each other. The real part of the dielectric constant decreased with increasing wavelength in the visible region. In the normal dispersion region, the refractive index dispersion has been analyzed using the single-oscillator model developed by Wemple and DiDomenico.

#### **CRediT** authorship contribution statement

**Dhouha Baghdedi** Sample preparation and experiments, optical measurements, Writing original draft, Visualization. **Hicret Hopoğlu** Sample preparation and experiments. **Sevda Sarıtaş** Xray data collection. **İlkay Demir** Writing original draft & review, optical measurements. **İsmail Altuntaş** Writing original draft, optical measurements. **Najmeddine Abdelmoula** Methodology, Writing review & editing. **Emre Gür** Methodology, Writing review & editing, X-ray data collection. **Ebru Şenadım Tüzemen** Methodology, Writing original draft, Writing review & editing, Investigation, Visualization.

#### **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### **Data Availability**

The authors do not have permission to share data.

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