

*Structural and electrophysical properties in LiNbO₃/CoFeB nanocomposite films*Andrey Emelyanov¹, Vyacheslav Demin², Vladimir Rylkov², Kristina Nikiruy², Pavel Kashkarov²¹NBICS Centre, National Research Centre "Kurchatov Institute", Moscow, Russian Federation, ²NBICS Centre, National Research Centre, Moscow, Russian Federation
E-mail: emelyanov.andrey@mail.ru

Memristive devices are the key contenders for the development of multilevel nonvolatile analog memories and parallel neuromorphic computing architectures [1]. In particular, metal oxide memristors have emerged as promising candidates for hardware implementation of artificial synapses in spiking networks due to their excellent scaling prospects [2]. Memristors with fast switching speed, high endurance and long retention time have been reported in various oxides. Among metal oxides the LiNbO₃ based system has emerged as a promising candidate for the functional oxide layer in memristive devices [3]. In the present work we study structural and electrophysical properties of (Co₄₁Fe₃₉B₂₀)_x(LiNbO₃)_{100-x} nanocomposite (LNO NC) films and their possible application in spiking neuromorphic networks.

The LNO NC films of thickness 3 μm were synthesized by ion-beam sputtering of a composite target, allowing in a single cycle formation of Co₄₁Fe₃₉B₂₀ nanoparticles in the LiNbO₃ matrix with oxygen vacancies. The factor x was varied in a range of 5 – 48 at. %. For the film with x ~ 10 at. % resistive switching (RS) effect was observed. RS weakly dependent on the contacts material (Cu, Cr) and the thickness of the LNO NC layer. The number of switching cycles (endurance) exceeds N_{max} > 105, and the high-resistance to low-resistance state ratio was R_{off}/R_{on} = 65. The obtained value of N_{max} is comparable with those got in HfO₂-based memristors in which, nevertheless, R_{off}/R_{on} ratio is significantly smaller, ~ 6.

Observed RS effect is described by the significant influence of oxygen vacancies on tunneling conductivity of chains of metal nanoclusters, determining the electrical resistance of structures below the percolation threshold. The ability of LNO NC memristive devices to support the spike-time-dependent plasticity was demonstrated. These results give every hope for stable operation of future large neuromorphic networks based on LNO NC memristive devices.

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