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The characteristic carrier-Er interaction distance in Er-doped a-Si/SiO₂ superlattices formed by ion sputtering

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The characteristic interaction distance between Er³⁺ ions and carriers that excite⁽¹⁾ them in Er-doped a-Si/SiO₂ superlattices⁽⁴⁾ is investigated. Superalattice thin films consisting of 12 period of a-Si/SiO₂:Er/SiO₂/SiO₂:Er layers were deposited by ion beam sputtering⁽⁴⁾ and subsequent annealing at 950°C^{(2),(3),(4)}. The dependence of the Er³⁺ photoluminescence(PL) intensity on the thickness of the Er-doped SiO₂ layers indicates that the carrier-mediated excitation efficiency decreases exponentially with a characteristic interaction distance of 0.5±0.1nm.

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