Fabrication of rhenium Josephson junctions

G. M. Xue, H. F. Yu, Y. F. Ren, Ye Tian, and S. P. Zhao

Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

Rhenium is a hardly oxidizable metal which is often used in superconducting circuits and qubit applications. In this work, superconducting Re/Al-AlO_x/Re tunnel junctions were fabricated using a selective film-etching process similar to that developed in Nb trilayer technology. The Re films had a superconducting transition temperature of 4.8 K and a transition width of 0.2 K. The junction characteristics had good quality with low leakage current and showed a superconducting gap of 0.55 meV. These junctions were found to be reproducible and stable against thermal cycling.