INF5490 RF MEMS

L2: MEMS – Fabrication

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Today's lecture

- Micromachining
- Important process steps
 - General
 - Summary: MEMS-specific steps
- Examples of processes
 - MultiMEMS
 - polyMUMPs

MEMS for RF?

- Properties making MEMS technology attractive for RF
 - Miniaturization: small dimensions (~µm)
 - Batch processing: parallel processing
 - Many units at low cost
 - Good qualities high performance
 - High Q, low loss, reduced parasitics
 - Low power consumption
 - Making integrated systems possible
- Essential: MICROMACHINING!

Micromachining

- Micromachining, definition:
 - Accurately, to define and implement any microscopic mechanical structure out of or on a material

Silicon micromachining is mature

- Si processes also used by IC industry
 - "grown out of" IC-processing
- New specific MEMS processes also developed
 - A lot of variants, few standards!

What is needed?

- A proper substrate
 - Si, SOI, glass (PSG), quarts
- Methods to
 - Define geometries (pattern)
 - Modify material properties
 - Remove material
 - Add new material
 - Bonding wafers together

2 main methods

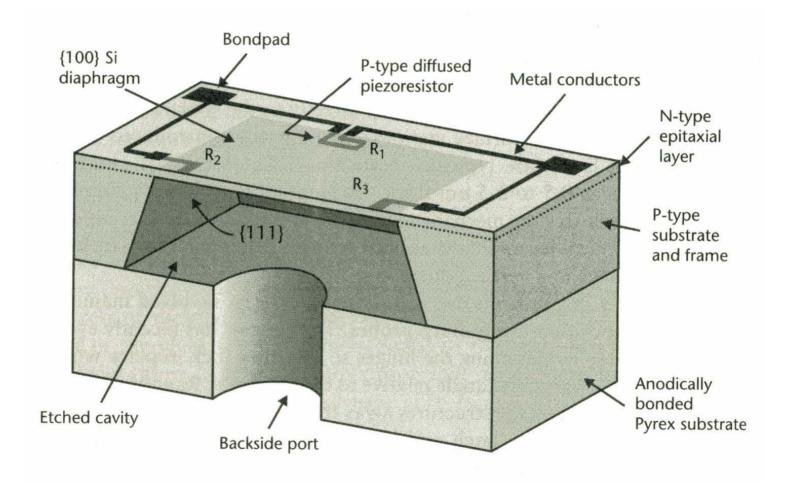
"Bulk" micromachining

"Surface" micromachining

Bulk micromachining

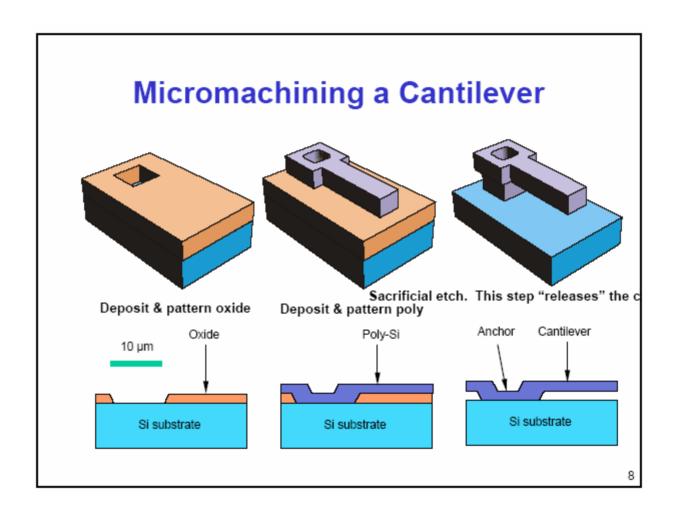
- Selective etching and diffusion into well defined areas of a substrate
 - Etching of the substrate → membranes
 - Etching from back side (wet etching: liquid is used)
 - Possibly combined with dry etching on the front side
- More mature than surface micromachining
- Typical examples
 - Pressure sensor, accelerometer
- "Wafer-bonding" may be necessary
 - Interconnect whole wafers

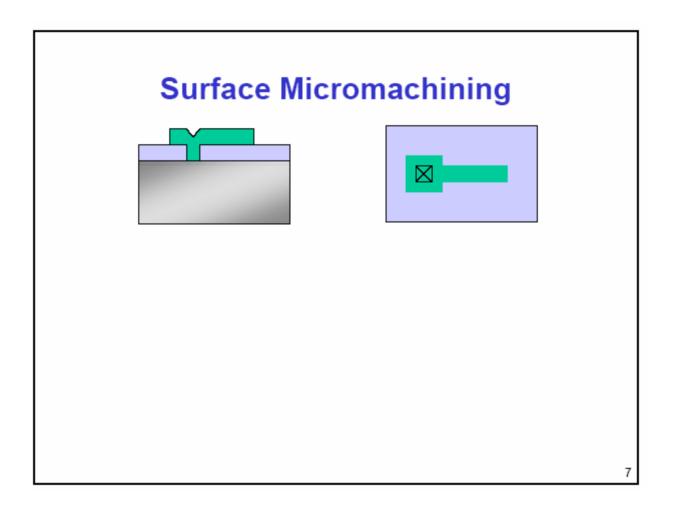
Pressure sensor



Surface micromachining

- "Surface" micromachining
 - Deposit layers
 - Structural layer
 - Sacrificial layer = "distance-keeping" layer
 - Selective etching of structural layers
 - Removing sacrificial layers





Surface micromachining

- + Can make structures with smaller dimensions
- ÷ Structures have smaller "mass"
 - Not meeting requirements for some applications
 - accelerometer
- + Possible to integrate IC-components
- Structural layers must have
 - Desired electrical properties
 - Proper mechanical properties
 - Elasticity, density, reliability
 - Stress: different stress in interfacing films may be a problem
- Sacrificial layer
 - Must be removed effectively by etching
 - Avoid stiction
 - Perforating large surfaces may be needed

Residual Stress in Thin Films

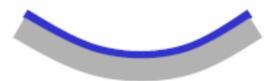
- Residual film stress
 - Microstructure
 - Thermal mismatch



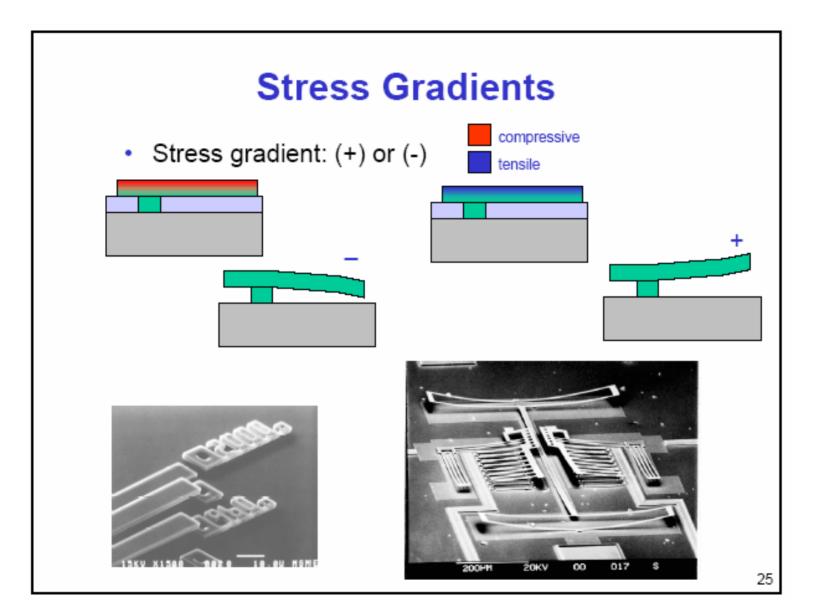
Compressive vs. tensile stress



Under compressive stress, film wants to expand. Constrained to substrate, bends it in convex way.



Under tensile stress, film wants to shrink Constrained to substrate, bends it in concave way.



Important process steps

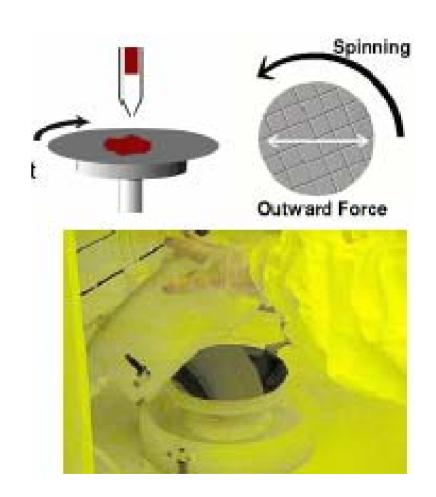
- Define patterns
 - Photolithography
- Modify semiconductor material properties
 - Diffusion
- Remove material
 - Ething
- Adding material build structures
 - Deposition

Photolithography

- Transfer design pattern → pattern in material
 - Optical exposure using photo mask
 - Using photoresist "spin-on"
- Mask -types
 - Emulsion mask
 - Chromium mask
 - Direct patterning on wafer
- Exposure methods
 - Contact: reduces lifetime of mask
 - "Proximity": 25 50 μm distance
 - Projection using complex optics
 - Electron beam (e-beam) writing patterns
- Developing of photoresist→ "post bake" → "treatment" of material (etching/diffusion)

Spin on methods

- Material drop in centre is spinned on
 - For organic materials
 - Photoresist,
 polyimide's, 0.5 20
 µm
 - SU-8 (epoxy-based),> 200 μm
 - For dielectric isolators
 - Thickness depends of
 - Concentration, viscosity, speed, time



Topographic height variations give problems

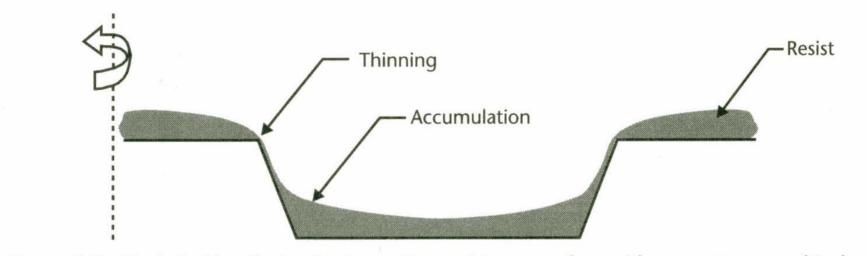
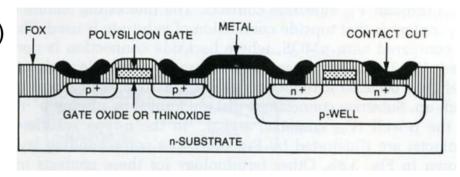


Figure 3.3 Undesirable effects of spin-coating resist on a surface with severe topographical height variations. The resist is thin on corners and accumulates in the cavity.

Maluf

Modify material properties: Diffusion

- Diffusion of impurities in semiconductors
 - Dope materials
 - Phosphorus (n+), Boron (p+)
 - "predeposition",
 - "ion implantation"
 - "drive-in"



- Type and concentration of dope materials determines electrical properties
 - Diffusion current due to concentration gradients of free charges (n, p)
 - Drift of charges due to electric field

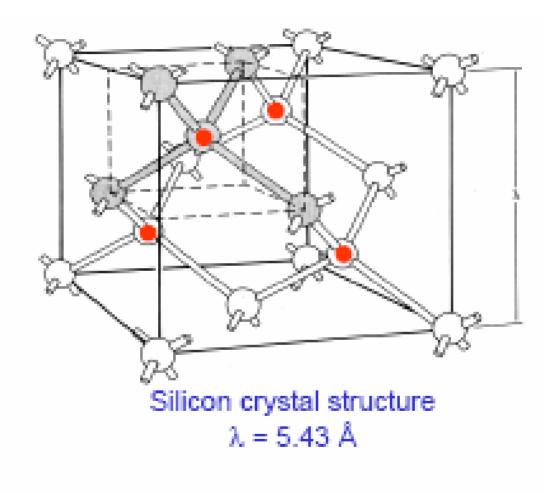
Removing material: Etching

- Wet-etching or dry-etching
- Wet-etching
 - Deep etching of Si is essential in micromachining
 - Using liquids
 - Depends of:
 - Concentration of liquid, time, temperature
 - Low cost batch processing
 - Both isotropic or anisotropic

Wet-etching

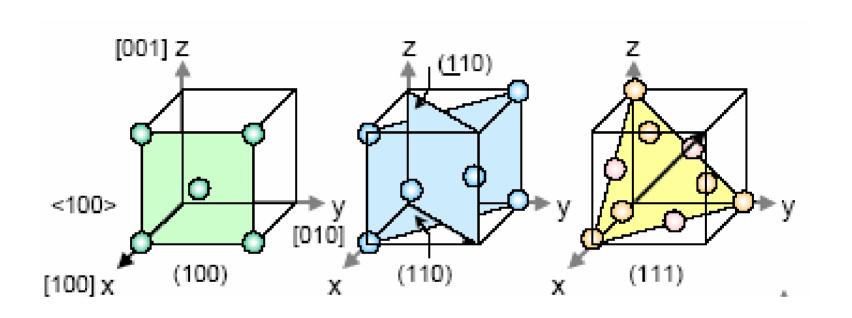
- Isotropic = uniform etching in all directions
 - HF or blends are usual
 - $-0.1 100 \mu m/min$ etch speed
- Anisotropic = etching faster along some directions
 - Etch speed depends of crystal orientation
 - NaOH, KOH used
 - Silicon nitride used as mask for KOH

Crystal orientation in Si



Wolf and Tauber

Crystal directions



Miller indekser: (plan), {familie av plan}, [retning], <familie av retninger>

Different etch methods

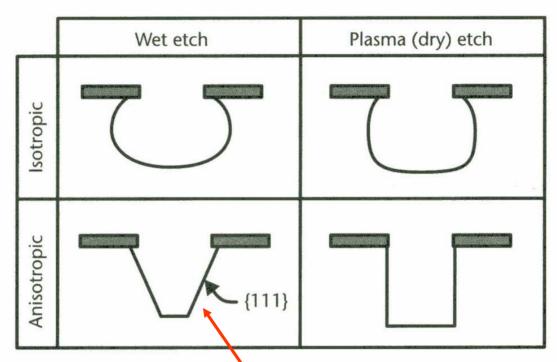


Figure 3.5 Schematic illustration of cross-sectional trench profiles resulting from four different types of etch methods.

54.7°

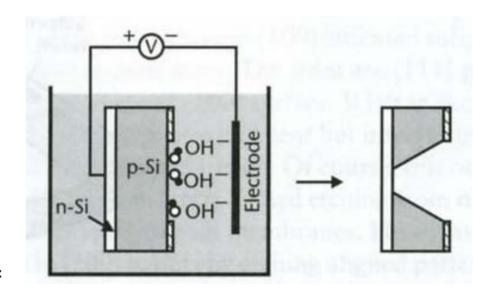
Maluf

Anisotropic wet etching

- KOH-etching
 - {110} planes are etched 2x the speed of {100}
 - {111} plans are etched 100 x slower than {100}
 - Disagreement on reason: density of energy bands or formation of thin oxide layer?
- Used for making V-grooves
- Other anisotropic etch liquids
 - **TMAH**, ratio (100)/(111) = 10 35
 - SiO₂ may then be used as a mask

Controlling etch depth

- Etch depth controlled by electrochemical etching
 - Precise growing of epilayer
 - Ex. n-type on p-wafer
 - Apply electric potential
 - pn-diode reverse biased
 - p-material etched
 - Etching stops at pnjunction
 - Thin SiO2 layer formed
 - Used to define thickness of membranes



Dry-etching

- 1. Vapor-phase etching
- 2. Plasma-etching
- 3. Reactive Ione-Etching
 - -RIE
 - DRIE
- 4. "Ion milling"

Dry-etching, contd.

1. Vapor-phase etching

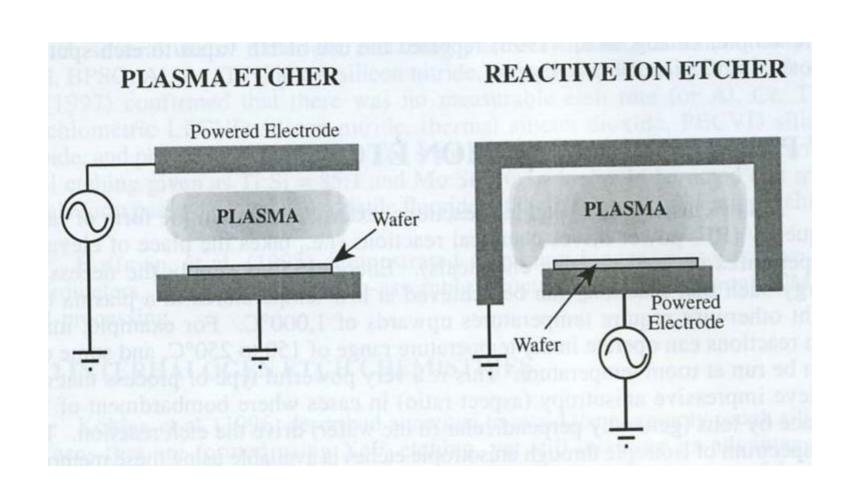
- Use reactive gases ("vapor")
- Both isotropic and anisotropic etching

2. Plasma-etching

- Plasma: "electric neutral, highly ionized gas of ions, electrons and chemical reactive, neutral particles"
- Chemical reactive particles and ions are accelerated in an electric field towards the Si substrate ("target")
- Etching Si, SiO₂, Si₃N₄, polysilicon, metals
- The chemical reaction at the surface is critical for plasma-etching
- Low temperature etching!

Dry-etching, contd.

- 3. RIE Reactive Ion Etching
 - Bombarding the Si-surface with reactive particles is important for RIE
 - "Synergy effect"
 - Low pressure
 - Larger anisotropy possible
 - Vertical beam : vertical anisotropy
 - Higher etch speed



Kovacs

DRIE

- DRIE Deep Reactive Ion Etching (1995-)
 - Vertical etching
 - Can etch deep holes (> 500 µm) with almost perfect vertical sidewalls
 - Bosch-method
 - Figure →
 - High "aspect-ratio"
 - Etching and deposition every second step
 - etch: SF6, mostly at the bottom!
 - deposit: polymer

Bosch-process

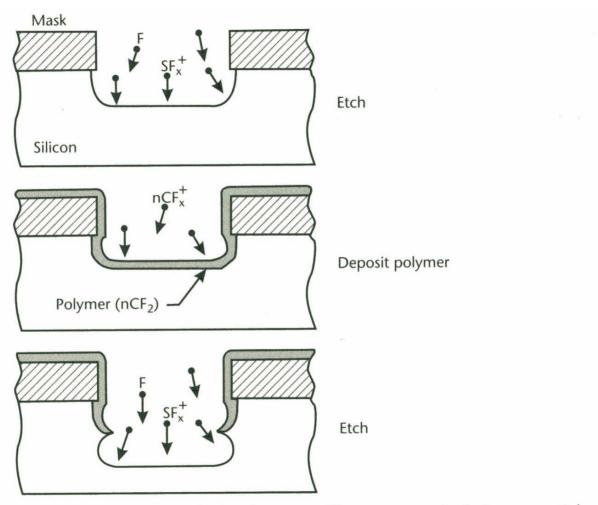
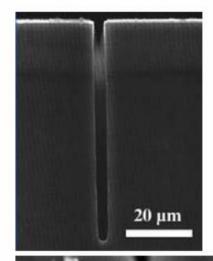
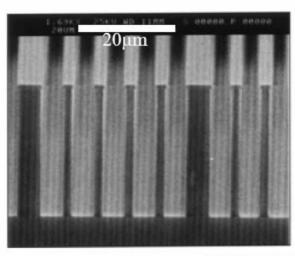


Figure 3.12 Profile of a DRIE trench using the Bosch process. The process cycles between an etch step using SF_6 gas and a polymer deposition step using C_4F_8 . The polymer protects the sidewalls from etching by the reactive fluorine radicals. The scalloping effect of the etch is exaggerated.

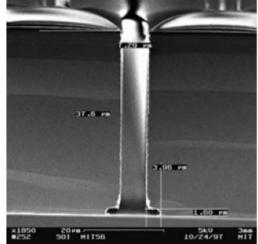
Deep RIE Examples



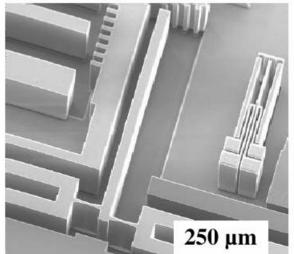
STS 1999



Klaassen et al., 1995 (Stanford)



Ayon et al., 1998 (MIT)



Texas Christian University

Department of Engineering

Ed Kolesar

4. Ion milling

- Inert gas (Ar) accelerated towards substrate
 - − ~ 1kV
- No chemical reaction
 - All materials can be etched by this method
- Vertical etch profile
- Lower etch speed than RIE

Building of structures

- Deposition of thin or thick layers ("films")
 - Conductors: Al, Cu
 - Semiconductors: Si, polySi
 - Isolators: SiO2, Si3N4
 - Polymers (organic)
- Bonding-techniques
 - Interconnecting wafers

Additive process steps

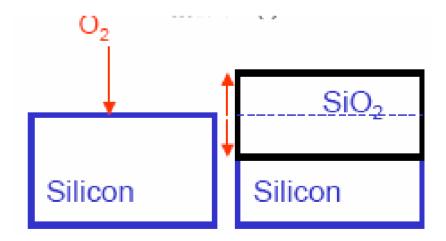
- Formation of films on substrate surface
 - Structural layers
 - Sacrificial layers ("spacers")
- Techniques
 - a. Epitaxial growth
 - b. Oxidation
 - c. Vaporization
 - d. CVD, Chemical Vapor Deposition
 - e. Sputtering
 - f. Moulding

a. Epitaxial growth

- Epitaxial growth
 - Used a lot in IC industry
 - Growth of crystalline Si on a Si-wafer
 - Gives the same crystalline orientation as the wafer
 - Doped materials used: arsenic, phosphorus, boron
 - Vapor-phase chemical deposition > 800 °C
 - Thin, 1-20 μm
 - Growth of polycrystalline material on SiO₂
 - Growth of Si on Sapphire (SOS)

b. Oxidation of Si

- Thermal oxidation
 - High quality thermal grown oxide (amorphous)
 - Dry O₂ or vapor at high temp, 850-1150 °C
 - Thermal oxidation generates compressive stress → deflection!
 - Volume of SiO₂ is larger than Si
 - Different thermal coefficient of expansion



c. Vaporization

- Heating the source to high temp
 - → vapor → condensation → film deposition on wafer
 - ~Vacuum
- Vaporization takes place due to thermal heating or e-beam bombardment
- Is a directive deposition method
 - The source is relatively small
 - Material deposited at a specific angle
 - Gives bad step coverage (corners, sidewalls)
- Mostly films get tensile stress (stretched)

d. CVD

Chemical Vapor Deposition

- Chemical reaction initiated between vapor and heated surface
- High temperature process, > 300 °C
- Gives high quality thin film polySi, dielectric and thin metal films
- Influenced by: temperature, gas-flow, dope material, pressure

Categories

- PECVD, Plasma-enhanced, ~ 300 °C or lower
 - PolySi, SiO2, SiNitrid (0.2 nm 2 μm)
 - Plasma-excitation using RF
 - Good control of stress
- LPCVD, Low-pressure, 400-800 °C

Deposition of polysilicon

- Poly is an attractive material for surface micromachining
 - Various thicknesses may be fabricated (nm → µm)
- Deposition using LPCVD
 - Crystalline grain structure achieved when > 630 °C
 - Temperature determines tensile or compressive stress
 - "Annealing" at 900 °C reduces stress

Deposition of isolators

- Deposition of SiO2
 - LPCVD or PECVD may be used
 - < 500 °C, LTO = low-temp oxide, amorphous</p>
 - The quality is not that good as for thermal grown oxide!
 - Used as isolator or sacrificial layer
 - Etched using HF
- Deposition of Si₃N₄
 - Used for passivation
 - Used as mask for some etchings (KOH)

e. Sputter deposition

- Low temperature <150 °C
 - Many applications in MEMS
- Many types of materials
 - Both conducting and isolating materials may be sputtered
 - Thin metal films, glass, piezoelectric films (PZT)

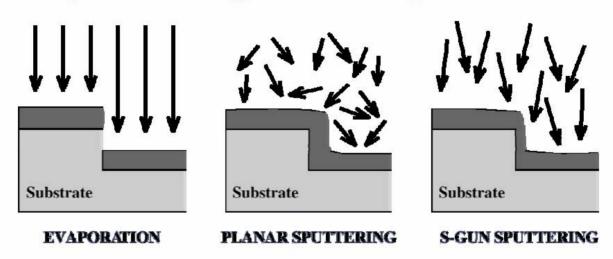
Method:

- Target material bombarded with a flow of inert gas ions (Ar+)
- ~ vacuum
- Released atoms deposit on the wafer
- Different classes of sputtering available
 - lons are accelerated in a DC electric field between "target" and "wafer"
 - RF-excitation of "target"
 - lon beam generated in plasma and is accelerated towards "target"

Sputter deposition, contd.

- Alternative type: reactive sputtering
 - Nitrogen or oxygen gas is added, reacts!
- Direction "randomness" can be achieved
 - When sputter target is larger than wafer
 - Gives good step coverage
- Good stress control
 - Stress level depends of sputter-power and pressure in chamber
 - Tensile stress: low power, high pressure
 - Compressive stress: high power, low pressure

Sputtering vs. Evaporation



Geometry of evaporation and sputtering chambers (as well as electromagnetic fields) determine *directionality* of deposition:

Good or bad step coverage (can be advantage or disadvantage)

Figure: G. Kovacs, 1996.

Texas Christian University Department of Engineering Ed Kolesar

"Adhesion layer"

- Many metals have bad adhesion to Si, SiO₂, Si₃N₄
 - Peeling off
- Add a thin layer to increase adhesion
 - Gold, silver, platinum
 - Cr, Ti
 - Should avoid oxidation of the adhesion layer during processing, - will destroy adhesion

f. Moulding

- LIGA = a moulding method
 - Lithographie, Galvanoformung, Abformung
 - X-ray used for mask exposure
 - Galvanoforming → metal mould is formed
 - Moulding → components formed
 - Plastic, metal, ceramic -components
- + Flexible method
- ÷ X-ray used, high fabrication cost
- + Gives high aspect ratio, 3D components!
- ÷ Limited because 3. dimension is vertical
- Thick photoresist may also be used to build a mould

Summary: MEMS-specific steps

- Methods especially developed for MEMS
 - Anisotropic chemical wet-etching
 - Deep reactive ion-etching, RIE, DRIE
 - Etching of sacrificial layer
 - Moulding
 - "Wafer bonding"
 - Electroplating
 - "Critical-point drying"

Advanced process-steps

Anodic bonding

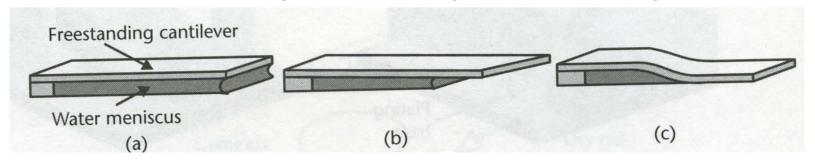
- Si-wafers are bonded together, glass Si
 - Used for pressure sensors (jmfr. MultiMEMS →)
- 200 500 °C, 500 1500 V
- Glass has negative ions at the contact interface with Si

Electroplating

- Thin seed layer is deposited in the Si-substrat
 - "A thin metal layer is electroplated on the surface using either chemical or electrolytic plating"
- Plating using gold, copper, nickel etc.
- May give thick layers, 5 100 μm
- May be used for moulding, making a mould

Supercritical drying

- Removing sacrificial layer is problematic
 - HF etches → water rinsing is used
 - The water may stick to the structures due to the surface tension
 - Thin wafer ("meniscus") is formed
 - The volume of the liquid decreases when dried
 - Structure is pulled down → "stiction" → structure must be released!
- "Supercritical Point Drying": avoids forming of meniscus
 - Wet wafer is placed in a methanol-chamber
 - Liquid CO2 is added → the blend is removed →CO2-rest is heated to the supercritical region (transition: gas - liquid) → the gas is removed



Structural – sacrificial layer

Structure	Sacrificial	Etchant
polySi	SiO ₂ , PSG, LTO	HF, BHF
Al	photoresist	O ₂ plasma
SiO ₂	polySi	XeF ₂
Al	Si	EDP, TMAH, XeF ₂
poly-SiGe	poly-Ge	H_2O_2 , hot H_2O

Srinivasan

Structural layer – sacrificial layer

Structural layer – sacrificial layer (Varadan)

– polySi SiO2

Polyimide aluminum

– Si3N4 polySi

– Wolfram SiO2

Examples of processes

Bulk micromachining

MultiMEMS from SensoNOR →

MPW Process (1)

NOWEL:
n impl. + diff.
BUCON:
p impl. + diff.

The following slides are from MultiMEMS, SensoNOR/Europractice

MPW Process (2)

BURES:
p impl. + diff.

• n epi

MPW Process (3)

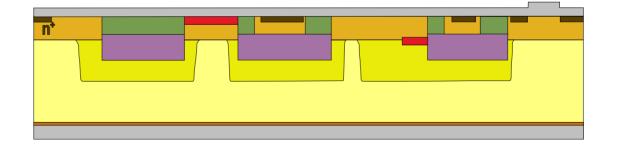
TIKOX:
2 oxidations
SUCON:
p impl. +
diff.

MPW Process (4)

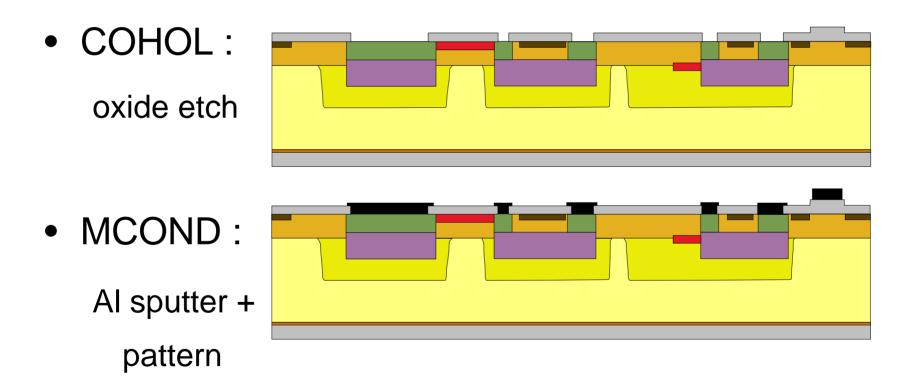
• SURES : p impl.

• NOSUR:

n impl. + diff



MPW Process (5)



MPW Process (6)

• BETCH :

TMAH

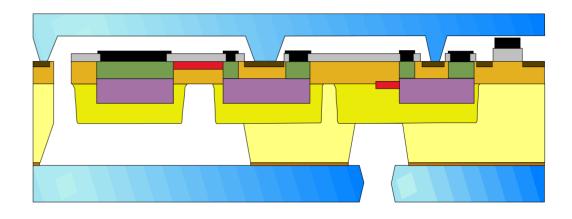
etch

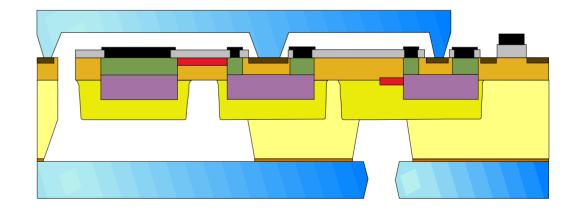
NOBOA :
 oxide etch

• RETCH: dry etch

MPW Process (7)

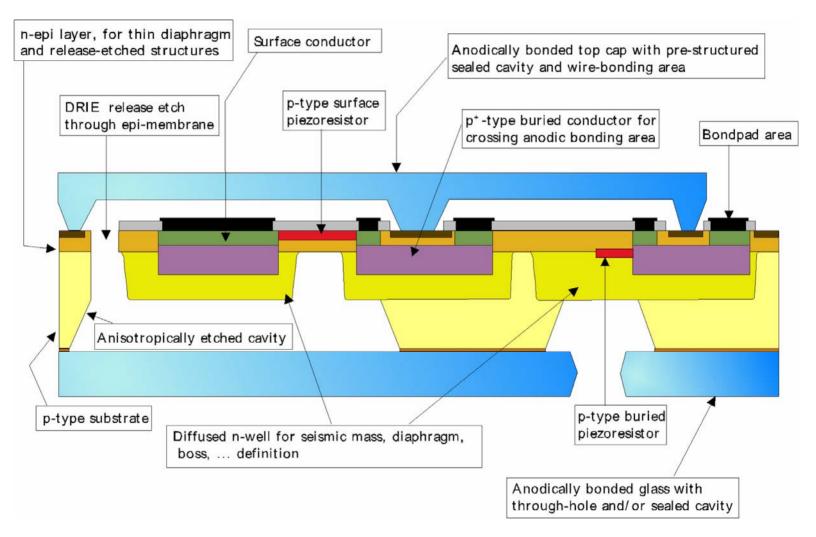
TOGE;
 BOGEF;
 BOGEB:
 wet etching of
 glass +
 anodic
 bonding





Dicing

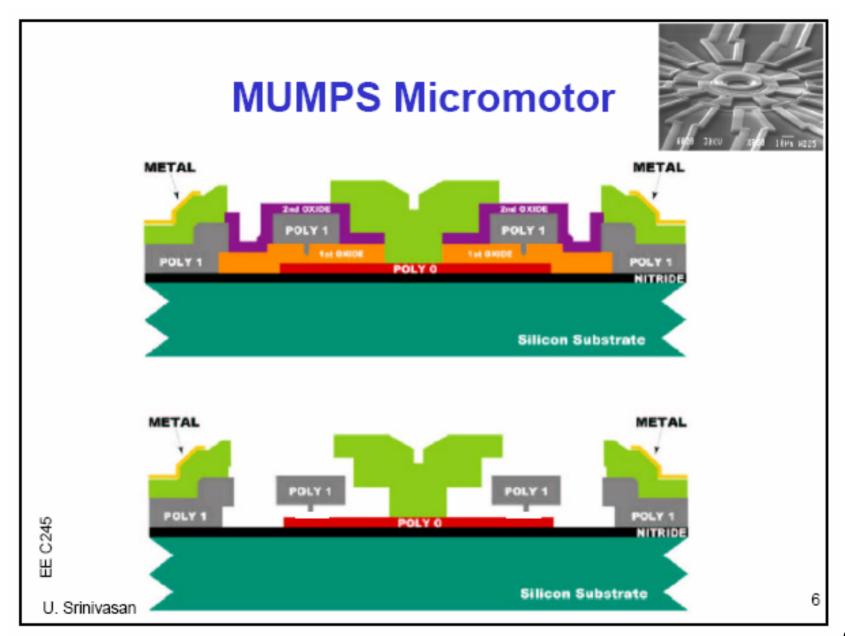
Cross section overview



Examples of processes

Surface micromachining

-polyMUMPs from MEMSCAP →



Følgende slides fra polyMUMPs:



FIGURE 1.2. The surface of the starting n-type (100) wafers are heavily doped with phosphorus in a standard diffusion furnace using POCl 3 as the dopant source. A 600 nm blanket layer of low stress silicon nitride (Nitride) is deposited followed by a blanket layer of 500 nm polysilicon (Poly 0). The wafers are then coated with UV-sensitive photoresist.

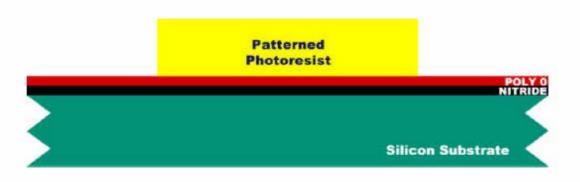


FIGURE 1.3. The photoresist is lithographically patterned by exposing it to UV light through the first level mask (POLY0) and then developing it. The photoresist in exposed areas is removed leaving behind a patterned photoresist mask for etching.

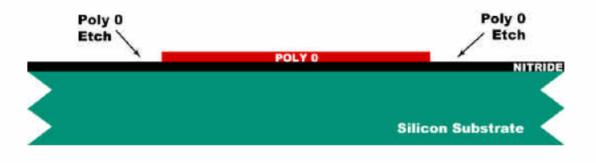


FIGURE 1.4. Reactive ion etching (RIE) is used to remove the unwanted polysilicon. After the etch, the photoresist is chemically stripped in a solvent bath. This method of patterning the wafers with photoresist, etching and stripping the remaining photoresist is used repeatedly in the PolyMUMPs process.



FIGURE 1.5. A $2.0~\mu m$ layer of PSG is deposited on the wafers by low pressure chemical vapor deposition (LPCVD). This is the first sacrificial layer.



FIGURE 1.6. The wafers are coated with photoresist and the second level (DIMPLE) is lithographically patterned. The dimples, 750 nm deep, are reactive ion etched into the first oxide layer. After the etch, the photoresist is stripped.

5

PolyMUMPs Design Handbook, Rev. 10.0

CHAPTER 1

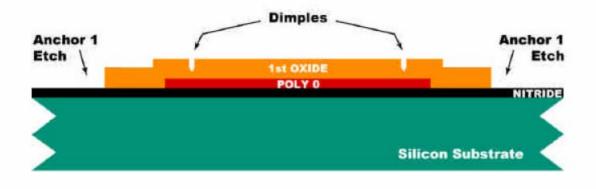


FIGURE 1.7. The wafers are re-coated with photoresist and the third level (ANCHORI) is lithographically catterned. The powerfed oxide is removed in an RIE each and the photoresist is estimated.

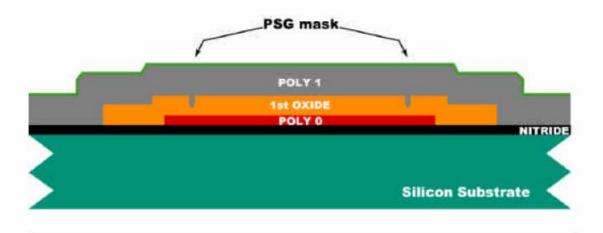


FIGURE 1.8. A blanket 2.0 μm layer of un-doped polysilicon is deposited by LPCVD followed by the deposition of 200 nm PSG and a 1050°C/1 hour anneal. The anneal serves to both dope the polysilicon and reduce its residual stress.



FIGURE 1.9. The wafer is coated with photoresist and the fourth level (POLY1) is lithographically patterned. The PSG is first etched to create a hard mask and then Poly 1 is etched by RIE. After the etch is completed, the photoresist and PSG hard mask are removed.

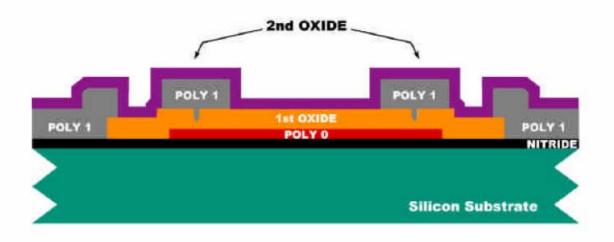


FIGURE 1.10. The Second Oxide layer, 0.75 μm of PSG, is deposited on the wafer. This layer is patterned twice to allow contact to both Poly 1 and substrate layers.

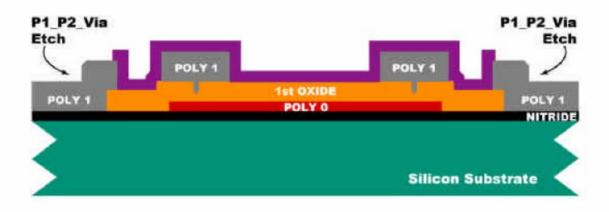


FIGURE 1.11. The wafer is coated with photoresist and the fifth level (POLY1_POLY2_VIA) is lithographically patterned. The unwanted Second Oxide is RIE etched, stopping on Poly 1, and the photoresist is stripped.

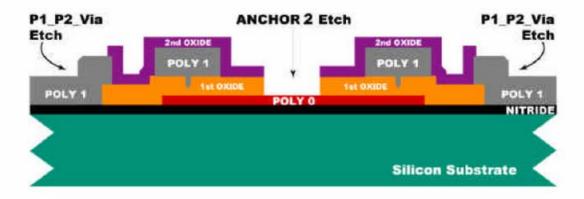


FIGURE 1.12. The wafer is re-coated with photoresist and the sixth level (ANCHOR2) is lithographically patterned. The Second and First Oxides are RIE etched, stopping on either Nitride or Poly 0, and the photoresist is stripped. The ANCHOR2 level provides openings for Poly 2 to contact with Nitride or Poly 0.

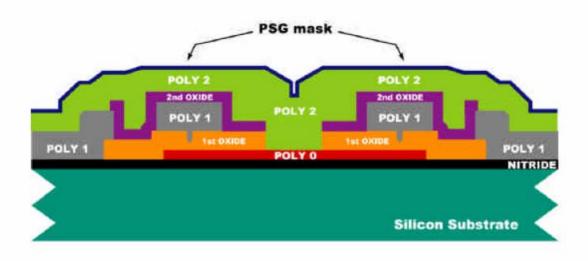


FIGURE 1.13. A $1.5 \mu m$ un-doped polysilicon layer is deposited followed by a 200 nm PSG hardmask layer. The wafers are annealed at 1050° C for one hour to dope the polysilicon and reduce residual stress.

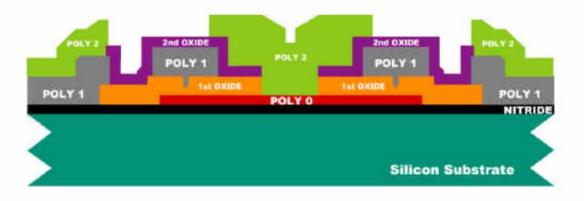


FIGURE 1.14. The wafer is coated with photoresist and the seventh level (POLY2) is lithographically patterned. The PSG hard mask and Poly 2 layers are RIE etched and the photoresist and hard mask are removed. All mechanical structures have now been fabricated. The remaining steps are to deposit the metal layer and remove the sacrificial oxides.

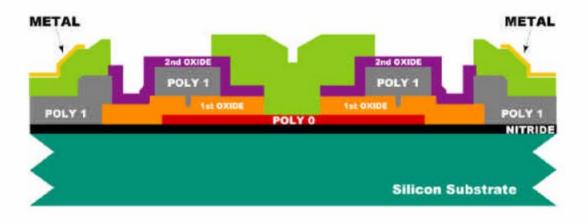


FIGURE 1.15. The wafer is coated with photoresist and the eighth level (METAL) is lithographically patterned. The metal (gold with a thin adhesion layer) is deposited by lift-off patterning which does not require etching. The side wall of the photoresist is sloped at a reentrant angle, which allows the metal to be deposited on the surfaces of the wafer and the photoresist, but provides breaks in the continuity of the metal over the reentrant photoresist step. The photoresist and unwanted metal (atop the photoresist) are then removed in a solvent bath. The process is now complete and the wafers can be coated with a protective layer of photoresist and diced. The chips are sorted and shipped.

CHAPTER 1

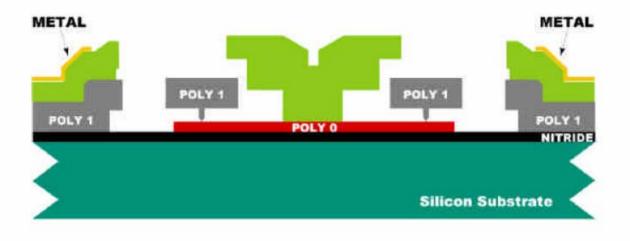
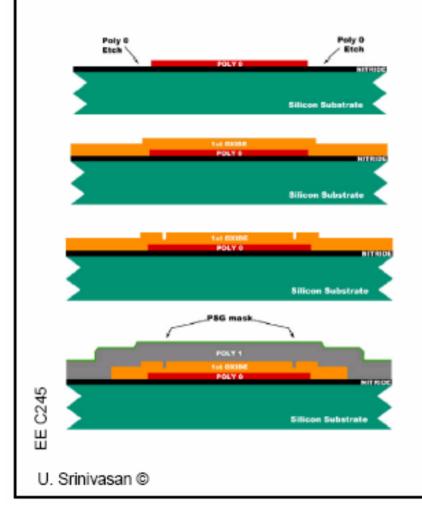
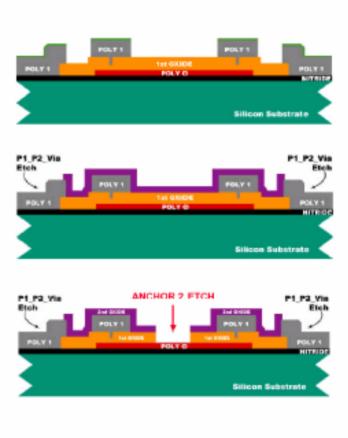


FIGURE 1.16. The structures are released by immersing the chips in a 49% HF solution. The Poly 1 "rotor" can be seen around the fixed Poly 2 hub. The stacks of Poly 1, Poly 2 and Metal on the sides represent the stators used to drive the motor electrostatically.

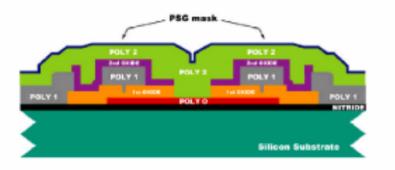
MUMPS Process Flow I

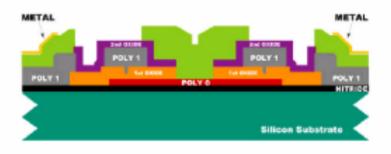


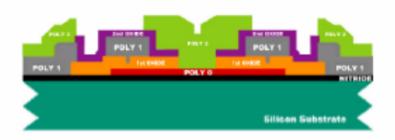


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MUMPS Process Flow II









EE C24

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Example from MiNaLab

Process highlights

- "Full MEMS" processing capabilities
- 100 & 150mm wafer diameter
- Automatic lithography lines
- PECVD deposition of Si₃N₄ and SiO₂
- Dry etching of Al, Poly-Si, Si₃N₄ and SiO₂
- Deep Reactive Ion Etching of silicon
- Wet etching of silicon
- Advanced wafer bonding technologies
- Deposition of Au, Al, Ni, NiCr, Ti, etc
- Automatic visual inspection
- Full automatic electric wafer test
- Wafer dicing





Processing equipment



Diffusion / oxidation furnaces

- Diffusion
- Annealing
- Oxidation
- LPCVD poly-Si
- LPCVD Si3N4
- POCI3
- SiC tube for growth of extra thick oxide

Processing equipment





Mask aligners

- Contact / proximity printing
- Front to back-side alignment
- Throughput of 170 wafers / hour

- Automatic resist coaters
 - Double sided coating
 - fully automated

Processing equipment

- PECVD deposition
 - Si3N4
 - SiO2
 - Amorphous silicon
- RIE etching
 - Silicon (Bosch / Cryo)
 - SiO2
 - Si3N4
 - Poly silicon
 - Aluminum
 - polyimide

