STUDY OF TIME-DEPENDENT DIELECTRIC BREAKDOWN (TDDB) IN 15MM JUNCTIONLESS FINFET

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DEDICATION

This project report is dedicated to my father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake. It is also dedicated to my mother, who taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time.

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ABSTRACT

As MOSFETs already reached the limitation in terms of physical and electrical characteristic which is difficult to continue producing with MOSFET due to the level of difficulty and complexity. Although, FinFETs provide several advantages but there are some drawbacks of FinFETs such as higher fabrication cost, difficult to control dynamic threshold voltage etc. Therefore, JL FinFETs has been proposed to overcome the shortcoming. The main difference of FinFETs and JL FinFETs is the presence of junctions and gradient of doping concentration between source and drain. Therefore, JL FinFETs offers higher scalability with lower cost, higher compatibility and additional design parameters like substrate doping concentration. In recent, reliability of device has become one of the major concerns when scaling to nano regime. There are many works on reliability studies have been done includes Negative Bias Temperature Instability (NBTI), Hot Carrier Injection (HCI), Time Dependent Dielectric Breakdown (TDDB) that occurs in MOSFETs. However, the information regarding reliability issue for JL FinFETs is very limited. Therefore, the reliability issue of JL FinFETs become a primary concern and should be investigated. This project mainly discussed about TDDB including type of physical model, typical behavior, constant stress test. The aims of project are to design and simulate the 15nm JL FinFETs device structure and TDDB test applications. Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD will be used for the simulation purpose. The design parameter for n-channel JL FinFETs using 15nm as the gate length, and 10nm for width and height of the fin. Then, TDDB test with Constant Voltage Stress (CVS) method will be carried out by for approx. 10 years with 3 different stresses applied to analyze the threshold voltage shift of 15nm JL FinFETs before and after the stress applications for long-term reliability of the oxide. The stress voltage was determined as 0.9V, 1.35V and 1.8V. Besides, the test will be carried out with several oxide thickness such as 1nm, 2.5nm, 4nm, 6nm and 10nm with numerous types of oxide material like SiO_2 , HfO_2 and Si_3N_4 . According to the experimental result, JL FinFETs with the combination of Si₃N₄ provide the greatest time to failure compared to SiO₂ and HfO₂ with the highest range in threshold voltage shift which is 2.17% - 8.43%.

ABSTRAK

Memandangkan MOSFET telah mencapai had dari segi ciri fizikal dan elektrik yang sukar untuk terus dihasilkan kerana tahap kesukaran dan kerumitan. Walaupun, FinFET memberikan beberapa kelebihan tetapi terdapat beberapa kelemahan FinFET seperti kos fabrikasi yang tinggi, sukar untuk mengawal voltan ambang dinamik. Oleh itu, JL FinFET telah dicadangkan untuk mengatasi kekurangan tersebut. Perbezaan utama FinFET dan JL FinFET ialah kehadiran simpang dan kecerunan kepekatan doping antara sumber dan longkang. Oleh itu, JL FinFET menawarkan kebolehskalaan yang tinggi dengan kos yang rendah, keserasian yang lebih tinggi dan parameter reka bentuk seperti kepekatan doping substrat. Kebolehpercayaan peranti telah menjadi salah satu kebimbangan utama apabila menskalakan kepada rejim nano. Terdapat banyak kerja kajian kebolehpercayaan telah dilakukan termasuklah Ketidakstabilan Suhu Bias Negatif (NBTI), Suntikan Pembawa Panas (HCI), Pecahan Dielektrik Bergantung Masa (TDDB) yang berlaku dalam MOSFET. Walau bagaimanapun, maklumat mengenai isu kebolehpercayaan untuk JL FinFET adalah sangat terhad. Oleh itu, isu kebolehpercayaan JL FinFET menjadi kebimbangan utama dan harus disiasat. Projek ini terutamanya membincangkan TDDB termasuk jenis model fizikal, tingkah laku biasa, ujian tekanan berterusan. Matlamat projek adalah untuk mereka bentuk dan mensimulasikan struktur JL FinFETs 15nm dengan TDDB. Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD akan digunakan untuk tujuan simulasi. Parameter reka bentuk untuk JL FinFET saluran-n menggunakan 15nm sebagai panjang pintu, dan 10nm untuk lebar dan ketinggian sirip. Kemudian, TDDB dengan kaedah Tegasan Voltan Malar (CVS) akan dijalankan selama lebih kurang. 10 tahun dengan 3 voltan tekanan berbeza digunakan untuk menganalisis anjakan voltan ambang 15nm JL FinFET sebelum dan selepas aplikasi tegasan untuk kebolehpercayaan jangka panjang oksida. Voltan tekanan ditentukan sebagai 0.9V, 1.35V dan 1.8V. Selain itu, ujian akan dijalankan dengan beberapa ketebalan oksida seperti 1nm, 2.5nm, 4nm, 6nm dan 10nm dengan pelbagai jenis bahan oksida seperti SiO₂, HfO₂ dan Si₃N₄. Mengikut keputusan eksperimen, JL FinFET dengan gabungan Si3N4 memberikan masa yang paling panjang untuk kegagalan berbanding dengan SiO₂ dan HfO₂ dengan julat tertinggi dalam anjakan voltan ambang iaitu 2.17% - 8.43%.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DIBL	-	Drain Induced Barrier Lowering
SCE	-	Short Channel Effect
EM	-	Electromigration
NBTI	-	Negative Bias Temperature Instability
HCI	-	Hot Carrier Injection
TDDB	-	Time Dependent Dielectric Breakdown
MOS	-	Metal Oxide Semiconductor
CVS	-	Constant Voltage Stress
JL	-	Junctionless
TCAD	-	Technology Computer Aided Design
ESD	-	Electrostatic Discharge
RBD	-	Radiation Induced Gate Rupture
IC	-	Integrated Circuit
F-N	-	Fowler-Nordheim
SILC	-	Stress Induced Leakage Current
SBD	-	Soft Breakdown
HBD	-	Hard Breakdown
CCS	-	Constant Current Stress
JNT	-	JL Nanowire Transistor
MOL	-	Middle-of-Line
SWB	-	Sentaurus Workbench Setup
SDE	-	Sentaurus Structure Editor
SNMESH	-	Sentaurus Mesh
SDevice	-	Sentaurus Device
SS	-	Subthreshold Swing
SiO ₂	-	Silicon Oxide
HfO ₂	-	Hafnium Oxide
Si ₃ N ₄	-	Silicon Nitride

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Background

FinFETs also known as Tri-Gate transistor and multi-gate transistor. It has designed to overcome the bottleneck in terms of increasing the number or transistor density and performance of planar MOSFET. Although, FinFETs provide several advantages like superior performance in terms of lower power consumption, lower leakage current, better Drain Induced Barrier Lowering (DIBL), suppressed short-channel effect (SCE) and others. There are some drawbacks of FinFETs such as higher fabrication cost, difficult to control dynamic threshold voltage, higher capacitance, corner effect etc. Therefore, JL FinFETs has been proposed to overcome the shortcoming such as fabrication cost, higher scalability, higher compatibility, lower degradation of mobility with gate voltage and more.

1.2 Problem Statement

In recent, reliability of device has become one of the major concerns when scaling to nano regime. Therefore, there are many research papers regarding reliability issue such as electromigration (EM), Negative Bias Temperature Instability (NBTI), Hot Carrier Injection (HCI), Time-dependent Dielectric Breakdown (TDDB) that occurs in MOS structure device can be easily found from internet source [1]. However, the researcher paper and information regarding reliability issue for JL FinFETs is very limited. This happens due to JL FinFETs can be considered as type of new technology at this moment. Also, a thinner gate dielectric which is lesser than 10nm with aggressive scaling down of the device geometries will affect the long-term reliability and integrity of the oxide layer. Therefore, the reliability issue of JL FinFETs become a primary concern and should be investigated.

1.3 Research Goal

This project aims to design and simulate a 15nm n-channel JL FinFETs device structure with TDDB test applications. TDDB test will be carried out with Constant Voltage Stress (CVS) varies with stress time and understand the degradation of the electrical characteristic of the proposed device before and after VS applications to the gate. will be designed and simulated by using Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD.

1.3.1 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are:

- (1) To design a device structure for 15nm n-channel JL FinFETs
- (2) To study TBDD reliability issues of 15nm n-channel JL FinFETs including the typical behaviour, type of stress etc.
- (3) To analyze the threshold voltage shift after stress application of 15nm n-channel JL FinFETs for different oxide thickness and different oxide material.

1.4 Scope of Works

The scope of the research are:

- The best optimized design structure for n-channel JL FinFETs using 15nm as the gate length, and 10nm for width and height of the fin.
- (2) TDDB test will be applied to the designed JL FinFETs by using CVS for approx.10 years in order to predict the functionality of device.
- (3) TDDB will be carried out by applying CVS method to the designed 15nm nchannel JL FinFETs for 1nm, 2.5nm, 4nm, 6nm and 10nm with several type of material such as SiO₂, HfO₂ and Si₃N₄.

- (4) Characterize the performance of electrical properties for 15nm n-channel JL FinFETs before vs after the stress application
- (5) Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD Simulation will be used to simulate the reliability test and the performance will be investigated based on the I-V characteristic, leakage current with stress time etc.

1.5 Report Structure

The structure of the report will be organized into several chapters which are Chapter 2: Literature Review discuss about the device structure of FinFETs, JL FinFETs, common reliability issue including the fundamental knowledge about TDDB. Besides, Chapter 3: Research Methodology describe the design, model, parameters, and project flow by using Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD Tools Simulation. Also, Chapter 4: Result and discussion which demonstrate concept for the entire project. Lastly, Chapter 5 will be the conclusion of the project including the future work and recommendation where the reference list and appendixes will be attached at the end of project.

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