


EE C245 - ME C218 Introduction to MEMS Design Fall 2011

Prof. Clark T.-C. Nguyen

Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Lecture Module 5: Surface Micromachining

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Lecture Outline

- Reading: Senturia Chpt. 3, Jaeger Chpt. 11, Handout: "Surface Micromachining for Microelectromechanical Systems"
- Lecture Topics:
 - ↕ Polysilicon surface micromachining
 - ↕ Stiction
 - ↕ Residual stress
 - ↕ Topography issues
 - ↕ Nickel metal surface micromachining
 - ↕ 3D "pop-up" MEMS
 - ↕ Foundry MEMS: the "MUMPS" process
 - ↕ The Sandia SUMMIT process

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Polysilicon Surface-Micromachining


The diagram illustrates the polysilicon surface-micromachining process. The top cross-section shows a silicon substrate with a stack of layers: Nitride, Isolation Oxide, Interconnect Polysilicon, Sacrificial Oxide, and Structural Polysilicon. The bottom cross-section shows the result after etching: the sacrificial oxide is removed, leaving a free-standing polysilicon beam. A photograph shows a 300 kHz folded-beam micromechanical resonator.

- Uses IC fabrication instrumentation exclusively
- **Variations:** sacrificial layer thickness, fine- vs. large-grained polysilicon, *in situ* vs. POCl_3 -doping

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Polysilicon

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Why Polysilicon?

- Compatible with IC fabrication processes
 - ↖ Process parameters for gate polysilicon well known
 - ↖ Only slight alterations needed to control stress for MEMS applications
- Stronger than stainless steel: fracture strength of polySi ~ 2-3 GPa, steel ~ 0.2GPa-1GPa
- Young's Modulus ~ 140-190 GPa
- Extremely flexible: maximum strain before fracture ~ 0.5%
- Does not fatigue readily

- Several variations of polysilicon used for MEMS
 - ↖ LPCVD polysilicon deposited undoped, then doped via ion implantation, PSG source, POCl₃, or B-source doping
 - ↖ In situ-doped LPCVD polysilicon
 - ↖ Attempts made to use PECVD silicon, but quality not very good (yet) → etches too fast in HF, so release is difficult

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Polysilicon Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

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Layout and Masking Layers

- **At Left:** Layout for a folded-beam capacitive comb-driven micromechanical resonator
- **Masking Layers:**
 - 1st Polysilicon: POLY1(cf)
 - Anchor Opening: ANCHOR(df)
 - 2nd Polysilicon: POLY2(cf)
- Capacitive comb-drive for linear actuation
- Folded-beam support structure for stress relief

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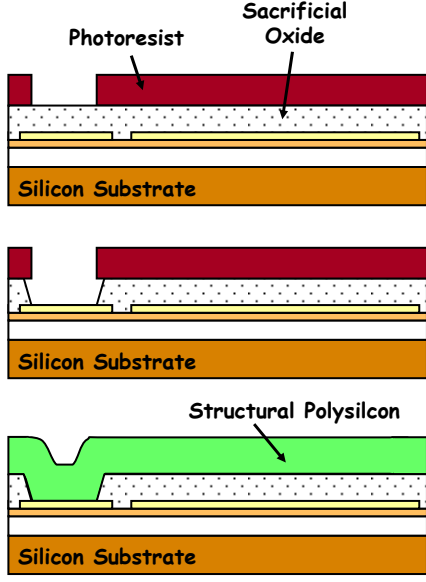
Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

Cross-sections through A-A'

- Deposit isolation LTO (or PSG):
 - ⌘ Target = 2 μ m
 - ⌘ 1 hr. 40 min. LPCVD @450°C
- Densify the LTO (or PSG)
 - ⌘ Anneal @950°C for 30 min.
- Deposit nitride:
 - ⌘ Target = 100nm
 - ⌘ 22 min. LPCVD @800°C
- Deposit interconnect polySi:
 - ⌘ Target = 300nm
 - ⌘ In-situ Phosphorous-doped
 - ⌘ 1 hr. 30 min. LPCVD @650°C
- Lithography to define poly1 interconnects using the POLY1(cf) mask
- RIE polysilicon interconnects:
 - ⌘ CCl₄/He/O₂ @300W, 280mTorr
- Remove photoresist in PRS2000

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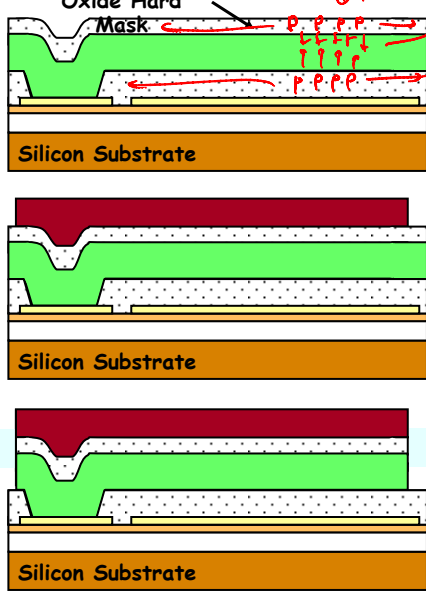
Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

- Deposit sacrificial PSG:
 - ☞ Target = 2μm
 - ☞ 1 hr. 40 min. LPCVD @450°C
- Densify the PSG
 - ☞ Anneal @950°C for 30 min.
- Lithography to define anchors using the ANCHOR(df) mask
 - ☞ Align to the poly1 layer
- Etch anchors
 - ☞ RIE using $\text{CHF}_3/\text{CF}_4/\text{He}$ @350W, 2.8Torr
 - ☞ Remove PR in PRS2000
 - ☞ Quick wet dip in 10:1 HF to remove native oxide
- Deposit structural polySi
 - ☞ Target = 2μm
 - ☞ In-situ Phosphorous-doped
 - ☞ 11 hrs. LPCVD @650°C

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Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

- Deposit oxide hard mask
 - ☞ Target = 500nm
 - ☞ 25 min. LPCVD @450°C
- Stress Anneal
 - ☞ 1 hr. @ 1050°C
 - ☞ Or RTA for 1 min. @ 1100°C in 50 sccm N_2
- Lithography to define poly2 structure (e.g., shuttle, springs, drive & sense electrodes) using the POLY2(cf) mask
 - ☞ Align to the anchor layer
 - ☞ Hard bake the PR longer to make it stronger
- Etch oxide mask first
 - ☞ RIE using $\text{CHF}_3/\text{CF}_4/\text{He}$ @350W, 2.8Torr
- Etch structural polysilicon
 - ☞ RIE using $\text{CCl}_4/\text{He}/\text{O}_2$ @300W, 280mTorr
 - ☞ Use 1 min. etch/1 min. rest increments to prevent excessive temperature

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Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

- Remove PR (more difficult)
 - ↳ Ash in O_2 plasma
 - ↳ Soak in PRS2000
- Release the structures
 - ↳ Wet etch in HF for a calculated time that insures complete undercutting
 - ↳ If 5:1 BHF, then ~ 30 min.
 - ↳ If 48.8 wt. % HF, ~ 1 min.
- Keep structures submerged in DI water after the etch
- Transfer structures to methanol
- Supercritical CO_2 dry release

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Polysilicon Surface-Micromachined Examples

- **Below:** All surface-micromachined in polysilicon using variants of the described process flow

Folded-Beam Comb-Driven Resonator

Free-Free Beam Resonator

Three-Resonator Micromechanical Filter

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Structural/Sacrificial Material Combinations

Structural Material	Sacrificial Material	Etchant
Poly-Si	SiO ₂ , PSG, LTO	HF, BHF
Al	Photoresist	O ₂ plasma
SiO ₂	Poly-Si	XeF ₂
Al	Si	TMAH, XeF ₂
Poly-SiGe	Poly-Ge	H ₂ O ₂ , hot H ₂ O

- Must consider other layers, too, as release etchants generally have a finite E.R. on any material
- Ex: concentrated HF (48.8 wt. %)
 - ✍ Polysilicon E.R. ~ 0
 - ✍ Silicon nitride E.R. ~ 1-14 nm/min
 - ✍ Wet thermal SiO₂ ~ 1.8-2.3 μm/min
 - ✍ Annealed PSG ~ 3.6 μm/min
 - ✍ Aluminum (Si rich) ~ 4 nm/min (much faster in other Al)

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Wet Etch Rates (f/ K. Williams)

ETCHANT EQUIPMENT CONDITIONS	TARGET MATERIAL	MATERIAL																
		SC Si <100>	Poly Si*	Poly undop	Wet Ox	Dry Ox	LTO undop	PSG unrat	PSG unrat	SiCN nitrid	Low-σ Nitrid	AU 2% Si	Sput Tung	Sput Ti	Sput Ti/W	OCG 820#	Olin Hf9R	
Concentrated HF (49%) Wet Slick Room Temperature	Silicon oxides	-	0	-	23k 18k 23k	F	>14k	F	36k	140	52	42	-50	F	-	P	P	0
10:1 HF Wet Slick Room Temperature	Silicon oxides	-	7	0	230 230	230	340	15k	4700	11	3	2300 2300 13k	0	11k	<70	0	0	0
25:1 HF Wet Slick Room Temperature	Silicon oxides	-	0	0	97	95	150	W	1500	6	1	W	0	-	-	0	0	0
5:1 BHF Wet Slick Room Temperature	Silicon oxides	-	9	2	1000 900 1080	1000	1200	6800	4400 3500 4400	9	4	1400	<20 6.25 20	F	1000	0	0	0
Phosphoric Acid (85%) Heated Bath with Reflux 160°C	Silicon nitrides	-	7	-	0.7	0.8	<1	37	34 9 24	28 19 42	19 19 42	9800	-	-	-	550	390	0
Silicon Etchant (124 HNO ₃ : 60 H ₂ O : 5 NH ₄ F) Wet Slick Room Temperature	Silicon	1500	3100 1200 6000	1000	87	W	110	4000	1700	2	3	4000	130	3000	-	0	0	0
KOH (1 KOH : 2 H ₂ O by weight) Heated Stirred Bath 80°C	<100> Silicon	14k	>10k	F	77 41 79	-	94	W	380	0	0	F	0	-	-	F	F	0
Aluminum Etchant Type A (16 H ₃ PO ₄ : 1 HNO ₃ : 2 H ₂ O) Heated Bath 50°C	Aluminum	-	<10	<9	0	0	0	-	<10	0	2	6600 2600 6600	-	0	-	0	0	0
Titanium Etchant (20 H ₂ O : 1 H ₂ O ₂ : 1 HF) Wet Slick Room Temperature	Titanium	-	12	-	120	W	W	W	2100	8	4	W	0 0 110	8000	-	0	0	0
H ₂ O ₂ (30%) Wet Slick Room Temperature	Tungsten	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<20	190 190 1000	0	60 60 150	<2	0
Piranha (-50 H ₂ SO ₄ : 1 H ₂ O ₂) Heated Bath 120°C	Cleaning off metals and organics	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	1800	-	2400	-	F	F
Acetone Wet Slick Room Temperature	Photoresist	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	>4k	>39k	0

Notation: -=not performed, W=not performed, but known to work (> 100 Å/min); F=not performed, but known to be flat (> 10 Å/min); P=some of film pitted during etch or when rinsed; A=film was visibly attacked and roughened.
 Each area are all of a 4-inch wafer for the measurement films and half of the wafer for single-crystal silicon and the metals.
 Etch rates will vary with temperature and prior use of solution, area of exposure of film, other materials present (e.g., photoresist), film impurities and microstructure, etc. Some variation should be expected.

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Film Etch Chemistries

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- For some popular films:


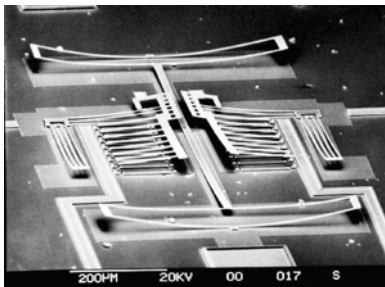
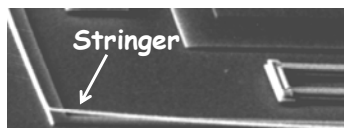
Material	Wet etchant	Etch rate [nm/min]	Dry etchant	Etch rate [nm/min]
Polysilicon	HNO ₃ :H ₂ O: NH ₄ F	120-600	SF ₆ + He	170-920
Silicon nitride	H ₃ PO ₄	5	SF ₆	150-250
Silicon dioxide	HF	20-2000	CHF ₃ + O ₂	50-150
Aluminum	H ₃ PO ₄ :HNO ₃ : CH ₃ COOH	660	Cl ₂ + SiCl ₄	100-150
Photoresist	Acetone	>4000	O ₂	35-3500
Gold	KI	40	n/a	n/a

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Issues in Surface Micromachining

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- Stiction:** sticking of released devices to the substrate or to other on-chip structures
 - Difficult to tell if a structure is stuck to substrate by just looking through a microscope
- Residual Stress in Thin Films**
 - Causes bending or warping of microstructures
 - Limits the sizes (and sometimes geometries) of structures
- Topography**
 - Stringers can limit the number of structural levels

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Microstructure Stiction

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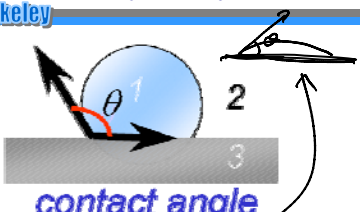
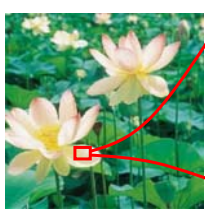

Microstructure Stiction

- **Stiction:** the unintended sticking of MEMS surfaces
- **Release stiction:**
 - ↳ Occurs during drying after a wet release etch
 - ↳ Capillary forces of droplets pull surfaces into contact
 - ↳ Very strong sticking forces, e.g., like two microscope slides w/ a droplet between
- **In-use stiction:** when device surfaces adhere during use due to:
 - ↳ Capillary condensation
 - ↳ Electrostatic forces
 - ↳ Hydrogen bonding
 - ↳ Van der Waals forces

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Hydrophilic Versus Hydrophobic

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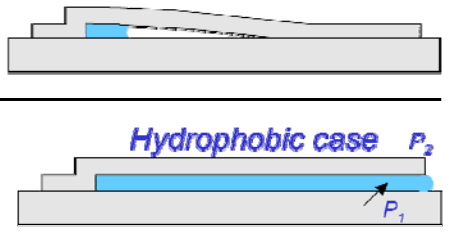




Lotus Surface
[Univ. Mainz]

- **Hydrophilic:**
 - ↪ A surface that invites wetting by water
 - ↪ Get stiction
 - ↪ Occurs when the contact angle $\theta_{\text{water}} < 90^\circ$
- **Hydrophobic:**
 - ↪ A surface that repels wetting by water
 - ↪ Avoids stiction
 - ↪ Occurs when the contact angle $\theta_{\text{water}} > 90^\circ$



Hydrophilic case P_2
 P_1 d

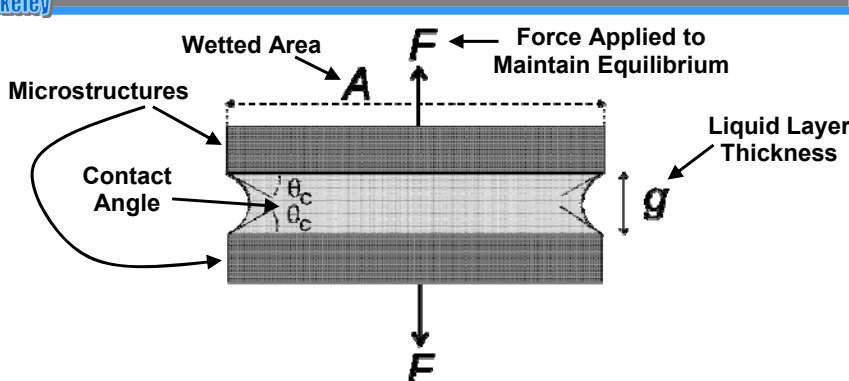


Hydrophobic case P_2
 P_1

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Microstructure Stiction

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- Thin liquid layer between two solid plates \Rightarrow adhesive
- If the contact angle between liquid and solid $\theta_c < 90^\circ$:
 - ↪ Pressure inside the liquid is lower than outside
 - ↪ Net attractive force between the plates
- The pressure difference (i.e., force) is given by the Laplace equation

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Microstructure Stiction Modeling

Laplace Equation: Surface Tension @ the Liq-Air Interface

$$\Delta p_{la} = \frac{\gamma_{la}}{r}$$

Δp_{la} ← Pressure Difference @ the Liquid-Air Interface
 r ← Radius of Curvature of the Meniscus (-) if concave

$$[r = -\frac{(g/2)}{\cos\theta_c}] \Rightarrow F = -\Delta p_{la} A = \frac{2A\gamma_{la}\cos\theta_c}{g}$$

Force needed to keep the plates apart
 ⇒ (+) force means a
 (-) Laplace pressure

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Avoiding Stiction

- Reduce droplet area via mechanical design approaches

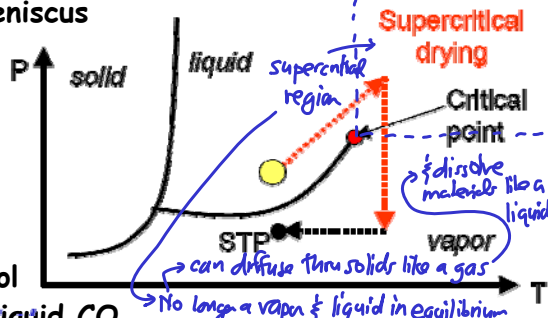
- Avoid liquid-vapor meniscus formation
 - ↪ Use solvents that sublime
 - ↪ Use vapor-phase sacrificial layer etch
- Modify surfaces to change the meniscus shape from concave (small contact angle) to convex (large contact angle)
 - ↪ Use teflon-like films
 - ↪ Use hydrophobic self-assembled monolayers (SAMs)

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Supercritical CO₂ Drying




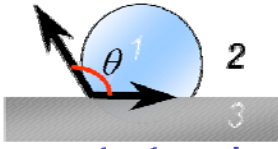
- A method for stictionless drying of released microstructures by immersing them in CO₂ at its supercritical point
- **Basic Strategy:** Eliminate surface tension-derived sticking by avoiding a liquid-vapor meniscus
- **Procedure:**
 - ↪ Etch oxide in solution of HF
 - ↪ Rinse thoroughly in DI water, but do not dry
 - ↪ Transfer the wafer from water to methanol
 - ↪ Displace methanol w/ liquid CO₂
 - ↪ Apply heat & pressure to take the CO₂ past its critical pt.
 - ↪ Vent to lower pressure and allow the supercritical CO₂ to revert to gas → liquid-to-gas Xsition in supercritical region means no capillary forces to cause stiction

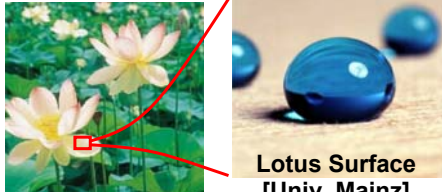


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Hydrophilic Versus Hydrophobic

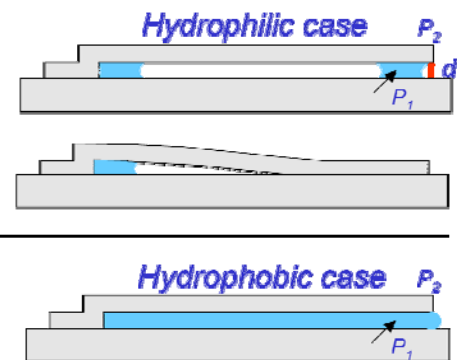






Lotus Surface [Univ. Mainz]

- **Hydrophilic:**
 - ↪ A surface that invites wetting by water
 - ↪ Get stiction
 - ↪ Occurs when the contact angle $\theta_{\text{water}} < 90^\circ$
- **Hydrophobic:**
 - ↪ A surface that repels wetting by water
 - ↪ Avoids stiction
 - ↪ Occurs when the contact angle $\theta_{\text{water}} > 90^\circ$



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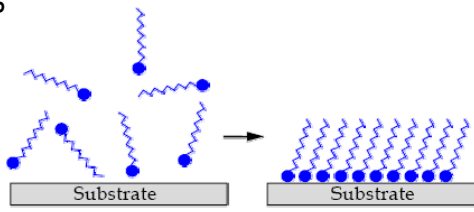
Tailoring Contact Angle Via SAM's

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- Can reduce stiction by tailoring surfaces so that they induce a water contact angle $> 90^\circ$

Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAM's):

- Monolayers of "stringy" molecules covalently bonded to the surface that then raise the contact angle
- Beneficial characteristics:
 - ↪ Conformal, ultrathin
 - ↪ Low surface energy
 - ↪ Covalent bonding makes them wear resistant
 - ↪ Thermally stable (to a point)



Substrate

Substrate

OTS

$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{17}\text{SiCl}_3$

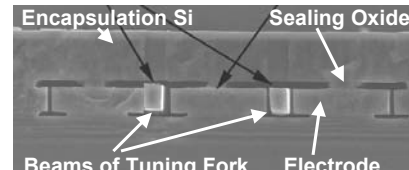
	θ_{water}
ODT SAM	$112 \pm 0.7^\circ$
SiO_2	$< 10^\circ$

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Dry Release

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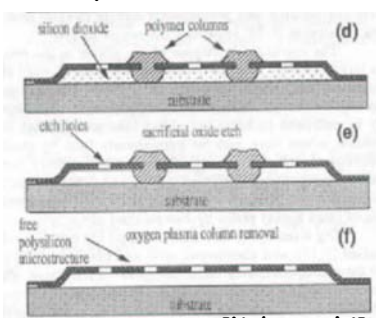
- Another way to avoid stiction is to use a dry sacrificial layer etch
- For an oxide sacrificial layer
 - ↪ use HF vapor phase etching
 - ↪ **Additional advantage:** gas can more easily get into tiny gaps
 - ↪ **Issue:** not always completely dry → moisture can still condense → stiction → **soln:** add alcohol
- For a polymer sacrificial layer
 - ↪ Use an O_2 plasma etch (isotropic, so it can undercut well)
 - ↪ **Issues:**
 - Cannot be used when structural material requires high temperature for deposition
 - If all the polymer is not removed, polymer under the suspended structure can still promote stiction



Encapsulation Si Sealing Oxide

Beams of Tuning Fork Electrode

Released via vapor phase HF
 [Kenny, et al., Stanford]



(d) silicon dioxide polymer columns

(e) etch holes sacrificial oxide etch

(f) free polysilicon microstructure oxygen plasma column removal

[Kobayashi]

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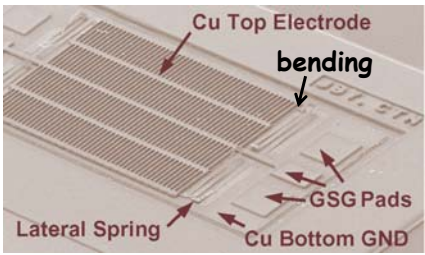
Residual Stress

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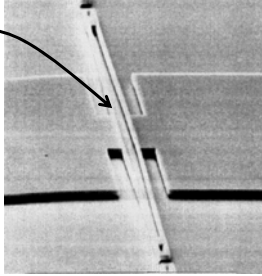
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Residual Stress in Thin Films

- After release, poorly designed microstructures might buckle, bend, or warp → often caused by residual film stress
- Origins of residual stress, σ
 - ↳ Growth processes
 - Non-equilibrium deposition
 - Grain morphology change
 - Gas entrapment
 - Doping
 - ↳ Thermal stresses
 - Thermal expansion mismatch of materials → introduce stress during cool-down after deposition
 - Annealing



Tunable Dielectric Capacitor [Yoon, et al., U. Michigan]



Buckled Double-Ended Tuning Fork

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Need to Control Film Stress

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- Resonance frequency expression for a lateral resonator:

$$f_0 \approx \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{4E_y t W^3}{12ML^3} + \frac{24\sigma_r t W}{5ML}}$$

↑ Basic term ↑ Stress term

Since $W \ll L$, the stress term will dominate if $\sigma_r \sim E_y$

E_y = Young's modulus
 σ_r = stress
 t = thickness
 W = beam width
 L = beam length
 M = mass

Labels: Folded-beam suspension, Shuttle, Anchor, Folding truss.

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Tensile Versus Compressive Stress

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- Under tensile stress, a film wants to shrink w/r to its substrate
 - Caused, e.g., by differences in film vs. substrate thermal expansion coefficients
 - If suspended above a substrate and anchored to it at two points, the film will be "stretched" by the substrate
- Under compressive stress, a film wants to expand w/r to its substrate
 - If suspended above a substrate and anchored to it at two points, the film will buckle over the substrate

tensile film


compressive film buckled

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Vertical Stress Gradients

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- Variation of residual stress in the direction of film growth
- Can warp released structures in z-direction



200µM 20KV 00 017 S

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The image is a scanning electron micrograph (SEM) showing a complex MEMS structure. The structure consists of several interconnected rectangular and linear components. The top horizontal bars are noticeably curved upwards, illustrating the warping of released structures due to vertical stress gradients. The bottom horizontal bars are relatively flat. The image includes technical data at the bottom: '200µM 20KV 00 017 S'. The slide title is 'Vertical Stress Gradients' and it includes the UC Berkeley logo and a list of two bullet points.

Stress in Polysilicon Films

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- Stress depends on crystal structure, which in turn depends upon the deposition temperature
- Temperature $\leq 600^\circ\text{C}$
 - ↪ Films are initially amorphous, then crystallize
 - ↪ Get equiaxed crystals, largely isotropic
 - ↪ Crystals have higher density \rightarrow tensile stress
 - ↪ Small stress gradient
- Temperature $\geq 600^\circ\text{C}$
 - ↪ Columnar crystals grow during deposition
 - ↪ As crystals grow vertically and in-plane they push on neighbors \rightarrow compressive stress
 - ↪ Positive stress gradient

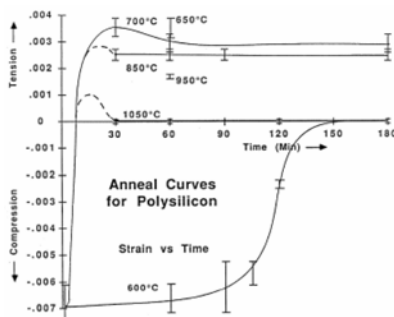
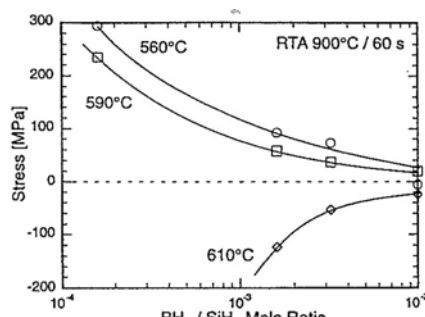
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The slide title is 'Stress in Polysilicon Films' and it includes the UC Berkeley logo. It contains a list of three main bullet points, with the second and third points having sub-bullets. The slide number is 32.

Annealing Out Polysilicon Stress

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- Control polySi stress by annealing at high temperatures
 - Typical anneal temperatures: 900-1150°C
 - Grain boundaries move, relax
 - Can dope while annealing by sandwiching the polysilicon between similarly doped oxides (symmetric dopant drive-in), e.g. using 10-15 wt. % PSG

- Rapid thermal anneal (RTA) also effective (surprisingly)


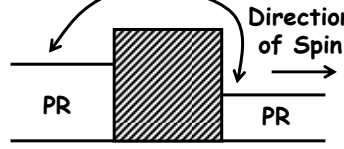
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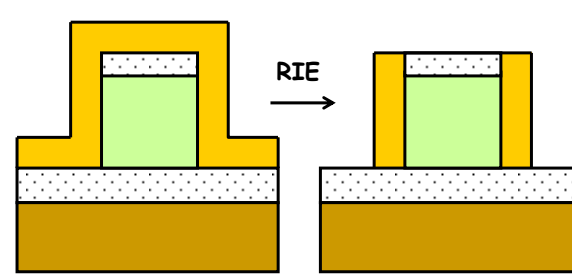
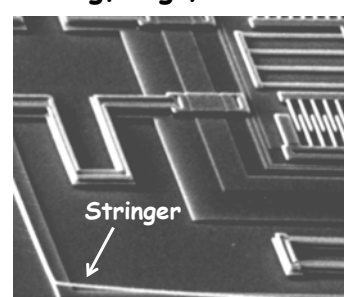
Topography Issues

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- Degradation of lithographic resolution
 - PR step coverage, streaking
- Stringers
 - Problematic when using anisotropic etching, e.g., RIE

Thickness differences pose problems for reduction steppers

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Nickel Surface-Micromachining Process Flow

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Electroplating: Metal MEMS

- Use electroplating to obtain metal μ structures
- When thick: call it "LIGA"
- Pros: fast low temp deposition, very conductive
- Cons: drift, low mech. Q but may be solvable?

RF Switch

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Nickel Metal Surface-Micromachining

- Deposit isolation LTO:
 - ↳ Target = $2\mu\text{m}$
 - ↳ 1 hr. 40 min. LPCVD @ 450°C
- Densify the LTO
 - ↳ Anneal @ 950°C for 30 min.
- Define metal interconnect via lift-off
 - ↳ Spin photoresist and pattern lithographically to open areas where interconnect will stay
 - ↳ Evaporate a Ti/Au layer
 - Target = 30nm Ti
 - Target = 270nm Au
 - ↳ Remove photoresist in PRS2000 → Ti/Au atop the photoresist also removed

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Nickel Metal Surface-Micromachining

- Evaporate Al to serve as a sacrificial layer
 - ↳ Target = $1\mu\text{m}$
- Lithography to define anchor openings
- Wet etch the aluminum to form anchor vias
 - ↳ Use solution of $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4/\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Remove photoresist in PRS2000
- Electroplate nickel to fill the anchor vias
 - ↳ Use solution of nickel sulfamate @ 50°C
 - ↳ Time the electroplating to planarize the surface

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Nickel Metal Surface-Micromachining


- Evaporate a thin film of nickel to serve as a seed layer for subsequent Ni electroplating
 - ↳ Target = 20nm
- Form a photoresist mold for subsequent electroplating
 - ↳ Spin 6 um-thick AZ 9260 photoresist
 - ↳ Lithographically pattern the photoresist to delineate areas where nickel structures are to be formed
- Electroplate nickel structural material through the PR mold
 - ↳ Use a solution of nickel sulfamate @ 50°C
 - ↳ Cathode-to-anode current density ~ 2.5 mA/cm²

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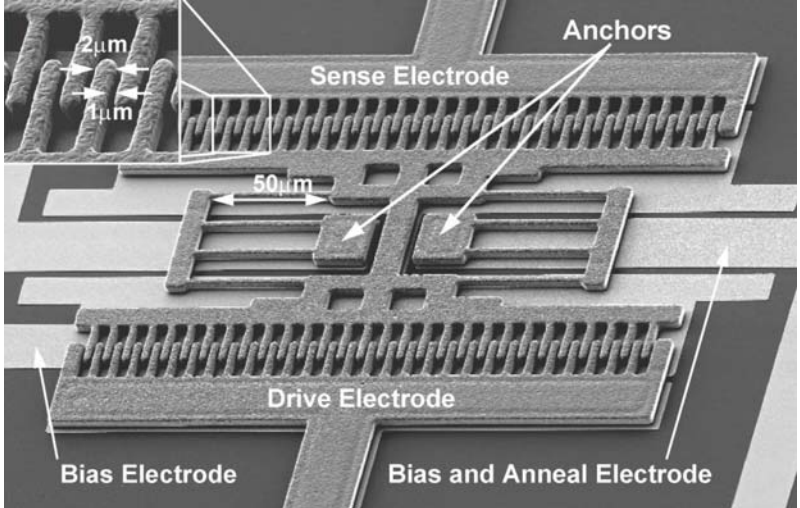
Nickel Metal Surface-Micromachining

- Strip the PR in PRS2000
- Remove the Ni seed layer in Ni wet etchant
- Release the structures
 - ↳ Use a $K_4Fe(CN)_6/NaOH$ etchant that attacks Al while leaving Ni and Au intact
 - ↳ Etch selectivity > 100:1 for Al:Ni and Al:Au


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 **Nickel Surface-Micromachining Example**

- **Below:** Surface-micromachined in nickel using the described process flow



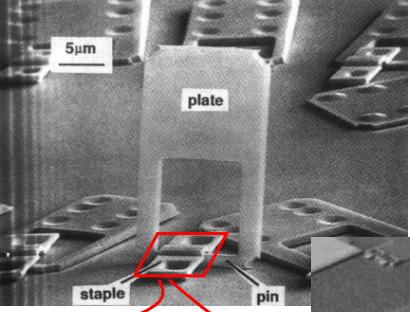
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 **3D "Pop-up" MEMS**

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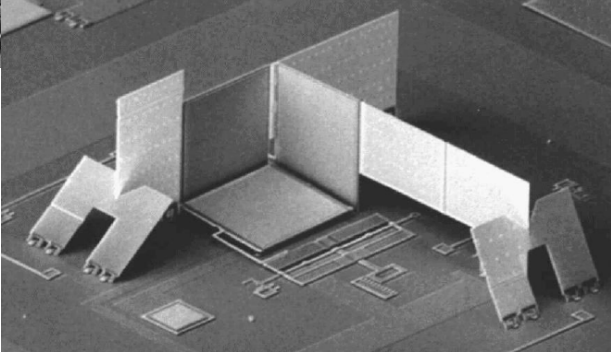
Pop-Up MEMS

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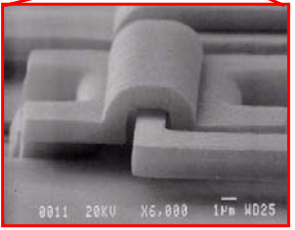


5µm
plate
staple
pin

First MEMS hinge
[K. Pister, et al., 1992]



Corner Cube Reflector
[v. Hsu, 1999]



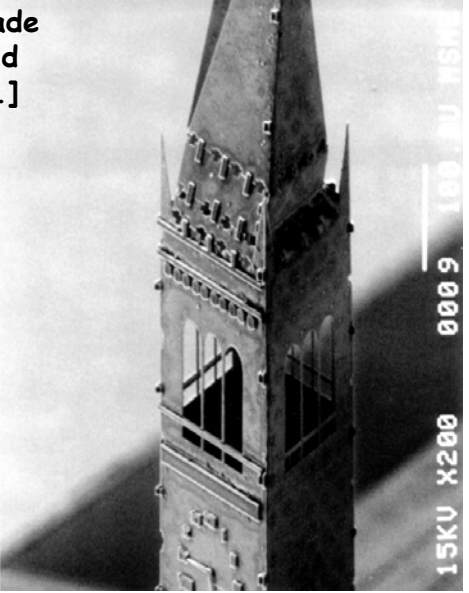
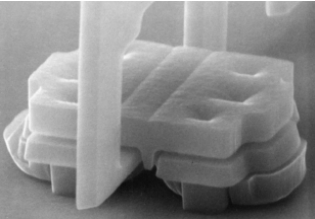
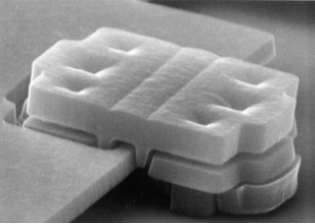
0011 20KV X6,000 1µm WD25

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Pop-Up MEMS

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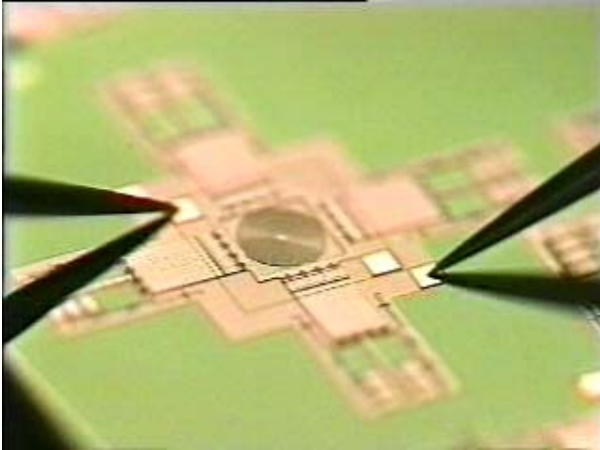
- **Pictured:** hinged Campanile made in SUMMiT process, assembled using probes [Elliot Hui, et al.]



15KV X200 0009 100µm MSME

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3D Direct-Assembled Tunable L

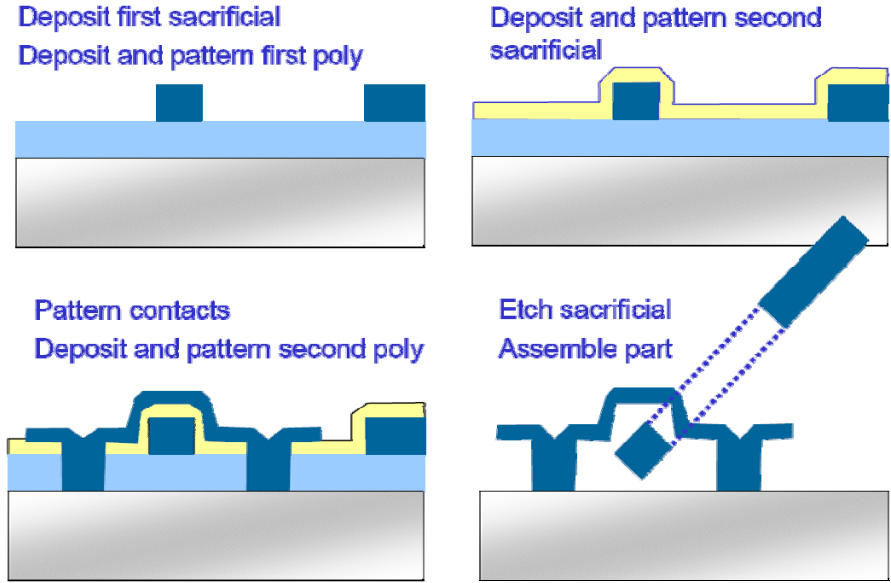


[Ming Wu, UCLA]

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The image shows a close-up of a micro-fabricated device, specifically a tunable L-shaped resonator. The device is a reddish-brown color and is mounted on a green substrate. It has a central circular feature and several rectangular pads extending outwards. Two pairs of tweezers are shown holding the device from opposite sides, indicating its small size and delicate nature.

Hinge Process Flow



Deposit first sacrificial
Deposit and pattern first poly

Deposit and pattern second sacrificial

Pattern contacts
Deposit and pattern second poly

Etch sacrificial
Assemble part

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The diagram illustrates the four stages of the hinge process flow in cross-section. Stage 1: A grey substrate is covered with a blue sacrificial layer. Stage 2: A yellow poly layer is deposited and patterned on top of the blue layer. Stage 3: Blue contact pads are patterned, and a second yellow poly layer is deposited and patterned. Stage 4: The blue sacrificial layer is etched away, and a blue diamond-shaped part is assembled onto the structure.

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"Foundry" MEMS: The MUMPS Process


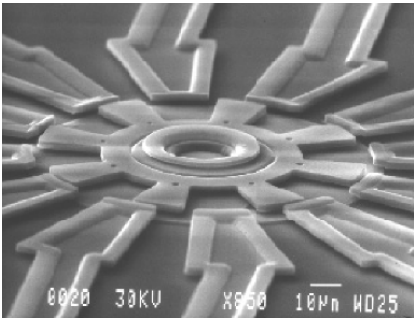
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MUMPS: MultiUser MEMS Process

- Originally created by the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC) → now owned by MEMSCAP in France
- Three-level polysilicon surface micromachining process for prototyping and "foundry" services
- Designed to service as many users as possible; basically an attempt to provide a universal MEMS process
- 8 photomasks
- \$4,900 for 1 cm² dies

Micromotor fabricated via MUMPS



The diagram shows a cross-section of the MUMPS process layers on a Silicon Substrate. From bottom to top, the layers are: Silicon Substrate, Nitride, POLY 1, POLY 2, POLY 1, and METAL. The SEM image shows a micromotor with a central circular component and radial arms, with technical data at the bottom: 0020 30KV X850 10µm WD25.

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MUMPS: MultiUser MEMS Process

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Micromotor Example

Material Layer	Thickness (μm)	Lithography Level Name
Nitride	0.6	--
Poly 0	0.5	POLY0 (HOLE0)
First Oxide	2.0	DIMPLE ANCHOR1
Poly 1	2.0	POLY1 (HOLE1)
Second Oxide	0.75	POLY1_POLY2_VIA ANCHOR2
Poly 2	1.5	POLY2 (HOLE2)
Metal	0.5	METAL (HOLEM)

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Masks in polyMUMPS

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Minimum set of masks that must be used in MUMPS

Mnemonic level name	Field type	Purpose
POLY0	light	pattern ground plane
ANCHOR1	dark	open holes for Poly 1 to Nitride or Poly 0 connection
DIMPLE	dark	create dimples/bushings for Poly 1
POLY1	light	pattern Poly 1
POLY1_POLY2_VIA	dark	open holes for Poly 1 to Poly 2 connection
ANCHOR2	dark	open holes for Poly 2 to Nitride or Poly 0 connection
POLY2	light	pattern Poly 2
METAL	light	pattern Metal
HOLE0	dark	provide holes for POLY0
HOLE1	dark	provide release holes for POLY1
HOLE2	dark	provide release holes for POLY2
HOLEM	dark	provide release holes in METAL

Extra masks for more flexibility & ease of release

- Field type:
 - ↪ **Light (or clear) field (cf):** in layout, boxes represent features that will stay through fabrication
 - ↪ **Dark field (df):** in layout, boxes represent holes to be cut out

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MUMPS Process Flow

The diagrams illustrate the initial steps of the MUMPS process flow on a Silicon Substrate:

- Poly 0 Etch:** The starting n-type (100) wafer is prepared.
- Nitride:** Deposit PSG on the starting n-type (100) wafers.
- Anneal:** Anneal to heavily dope the wafers.
- Remove the PSG:** Remove the PSG.
- 1st Oxide and Poly 0:** LPCVD 600 nm of low stress nitride, followed by LPCVD 500 nm of polysilicon.
- Poly 0 Etch:** Lithography using the POLY0(cf) mask and RIE etching to pattern the poly0 ground plane layer.
- Dimples:** LPCVD 2 μm of PSG as the 1st sacrificial layer.
- Anchor 1 Etch:** Lithography using the DIMPLE(df) mask (align to poly0), followed by RIE 750 nm deep to form dimple vias.
- Anchor 1 Etch:** Lithography using the ANCHOR1(df) mask (align to poly0), followed by RIE anchor vias down to the nitride surface.

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MUMPS Process Flow (cont.)

The diagrams illustrate the continuation of the MUMPS process flow:

- Poly 1, 1st Oxide, and Poly 0:** LPCVD 2 μm undoped polysilicon, followed by LPCVD 200 nm of PSG.
- Anneal:** Anneal for 1 hr. @ 1050°C. This both dopes the polysilicon and reduces its residual stress.
- Poly 1 Etch:** Lithography using the POLY1(cf) mask to define structures (align to anchor1).
- PSG Mask:** RIE the PSG to create a hard mask first, then ...
- Poly 1 Etch:** RIE the polysilicon.
- P1_P2_Via Etch:** LPCVD 750 nm of PSG.
- P1_P2_Via Etch:** Lithography using the P1_P2_VIA(df) mask to define contacts to the poly1 layer (align to poly1).

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MUMPS Process Flow (cont.)

- Recoat with photoresist and do lithography using the ANCHOR2(df) mask to define openings where poly2 contacts nitride or poly0 (align to poly0)
- RIE the PSG at ANCHOR2 openings
- LPCVD 1.5 μm undoped polysilicon
- LPCVD 200 nm PSG as a hard mask and doping source
- Anneal for 1 hr @ 1050°C to dope the polysilicon and reduce residual stress
- Lithography using the POLY2(cf) mask (align to anchor2)
- RIE PSG hard mask
- RIE poly2 film
- Remove PR and hard mask

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MUMPS Process Flow (cont.)

- Lithography using the METAL (df) mask (align to poly2)
- Evaporate titanium (Ti) (as an adhesion layer for gold)
- Evaporate gold (Au)
- Liftoff to remove PR and define metal interconnects
- Coat wafers with protective PR
- Dice wafers
- Ship to customer
- Customer releases structures by dipping and agitating dies in a 48.8 wt. % HF solution or via vapor phase HF
- Anti-stiction dry, if needed

Final Structure: Micromotor

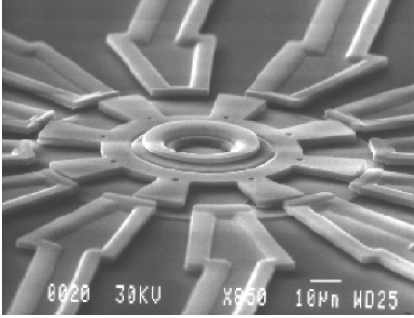

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MUMPS: MultiUser MEMS Process

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- Originally created by the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC) → now owned by MEMSCAP in France
- Three-level polysilicon surface micromachining process for prototyping and “foundry” services
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- 8 photomasks
- \$4,900 for 1 cm² dies

Micromotor fabricated via MUMPS

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polyMUMPS Minimum Feature Constraints

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- Minimum feature size
 - ↳ Determined by MUMPS' photolithographic resolution and alignment precision
 - ↳ Violations result in missing (unanchored), under/oversized, or fused features
 - ↳ Use minimum feature only when absolutely necessary

	Nominal [μm]	Min Feature [μm]	Min Spacing [μm]
POLY0, POLY1, POLY2	3	2	2
POLY1_POLY2_VIA	3	2	2
ANCHOR1, ANCHOR2	3	3	2
DIMPLE	3	2	3
METAL	3	3	3
HOLE1, HOLE2	4	3	3
HOLEM	5	4	4

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MUMPS Design Rules (cont.)

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Rule	Rule Letter	Figure #	Min. Value (μm)
POLY0 space to ANCHOR1	A	2.5	4.0
POLY0 enclose ANCHOR1	B	2.5	4.0
POLY0 enclose POLY1	C	2.6	4.0
POLY0 enclose POLY2	D	2.7	5.0
POLY0 enclose ANCHOR2	E	2.8	5.0
POLY0 space to ANCHOR2	F	2.8	5.0

Cross Sections

Mask Levels

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MUMPS Design Rules (cont.)

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Rule	Min. Value (μm)
POLY1 enclose ANCHOR1	G 4.0
POLY1 enclose DIMPLE	N 4.0
POLY1 enclose POLY1_POLY2_VIA	H 4.0
POLY1 enclose POLY2	O 4.0
POLY1 space to ANCHOR2	K 3.0
*Lateral etch holes space in POLY1	R ≤ 30 (max. value)

Cross Sections

Mask Levels

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MUMPS Design Rules (cont.)




Rule	Rule Letter	Figure #	Min. Value (μm)
POLY0 space to ANCHOR1	A	2.5	4.0
POLY0 enclose ANCHOR1	B	2.5	4.0
POLY0 enclose POLY1	C	2.6	4.0
POLY0 enclose POLY2	D	2.7	5.0
POLY0 enclose ANCHOR2	E	2.8	5.0
POLY0 space to ANCHOR2	F	2.8	5.0

Rule	Rule Letter	Figure #	Min. Value (μm)
POLY1 enclose ANCHOR1	G	2.6	4.0
POLY1 enclose DIMPLE	N	2.13	4.0
POLY1 enclose POLY1_POLY2_VIA	H	2.9, 2.11	4.0
POLY1 enclose POLY2	O	2.14	4.0
POLY1 space to ANCHOR2	K	2.11	3.0
*Lateral etch holes space in POLY1	R	2.15	≤30 (max. value)

Rule	Rule Letter	Figure #	Min. Value (μm)
POLY2 enclose ANCHOR2	J	2.7, 2.10	5.0
POLY2 enclose POLY1_POLY2_VIA	L	2.9	4.0
POLY2 cut-in POLY1	P	2.14	5.0
POLY2 cut-out POLY1	Q	2.14	4.0
POLY2 enclose METAL	M	2.12	3.0
POLY2 space to POLY1	I	2.10	3.0
HOLE2 enclose HOLE1	T	2.16	2.0
HOLEM enclose HOLE2	U	2.16	2.0
*Lateral etch holes space in POLY2	S	2.15	≤30 (max. value)

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MUMPS Design Rules (cont.)



Level 1	Level 2	Min. Feature	Min. Spacing	Enclose	Spacing	Cut-In	Cut-Out
POLY0	-	2	2				
	ANCHOR1			4/B/2.5	4/A/2.5		
	POLY1			4/C/2.6			
	ANCHOR2			5/E/2.8	5/F/2.8		
POLY1	POLY2	2	2 / 2.5 ^d	5/D/2.7			
	-						
	POLY0			4/G/2.6			
	ANCHOR1				3/K/2.11		
	ANCHOR2						
	POLY2			4/O/2.14			
POLY2	DIMPLE			4/N/2.13			
	POLY1_POLY2_VIA			4/H/2.9			
	-	2	2 / 2.5 ^d				
	POLY0				3/I/2.10	5/P/2.14	4/Q/2.14
	POLY1						
	VIA			4/L/2.9			
	ANCHOR2			5/J/2.7			
HOLEM	METAL			3/M/2.12			
HOLE2	HOLE2			2/U/2.16			
	HOLE1			2/T/2.16			

TABLE 2.7. PolyMUMPS design rule reference sheet. Table shows minimum dimensions (μm), rule name, and figure number, respectively.

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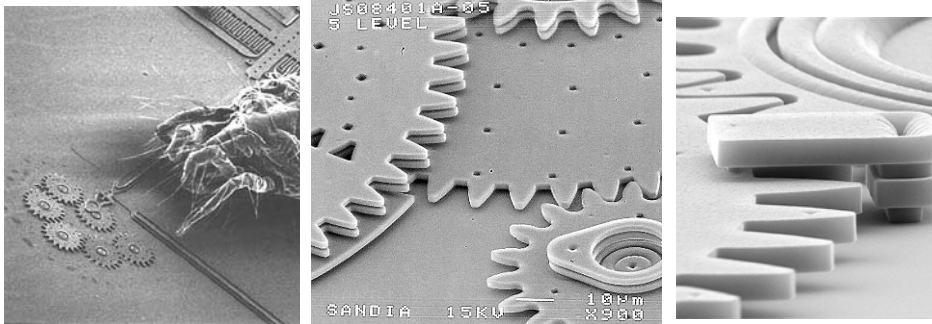
The Sandia SUMMIT Process

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Sandia's SUMMIT V

- **SUMMIT V**: "Sandia Ultra-planar Multi-level MEMS Technology 5" fabrication process
 - ↪ Five-layer polysilicon surface micromachining process
 - ↪ One electrical interconnect layer & 4 mechanical layers
 - ↪ Uses chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) to maintain planarity as more structural layers are realized
 - ↪ 14 masks



J508481A-05
5 LEVEL
SANDIA 15KV 10µm X900

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SUMMIT V Layer Stack

- Uses chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) to maintain planarity as more structural layers are realized

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Chemical Mechanical Polishing (CMP)

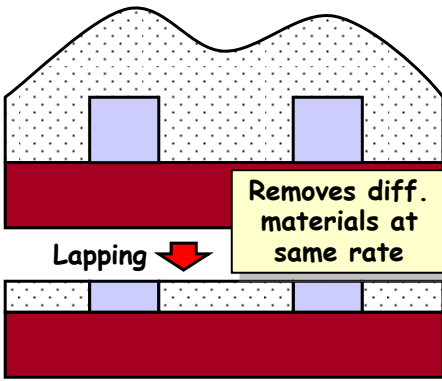
- Used to planarize the top surface of a semiconductor wafer or other substrate
- Uses an abrasive and corrosive chemical slurry (i.e., a colloid) in conjunction with a polishing pad
 - ↪ Wafer and pad are pressed together
 - ↪ Polishing head is rotated with different axes of rotation (i.e., non-concentric) to randomize the polishing

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CMP: Not the Same as Lapping

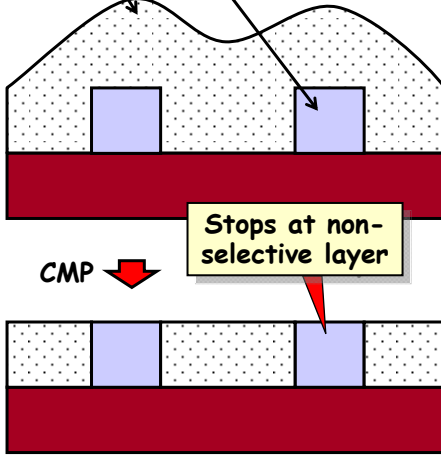
Lapping

- Lapping is merely the removal of material to flatten a surface without selectivity
- Everything is removed at approximately the same rate



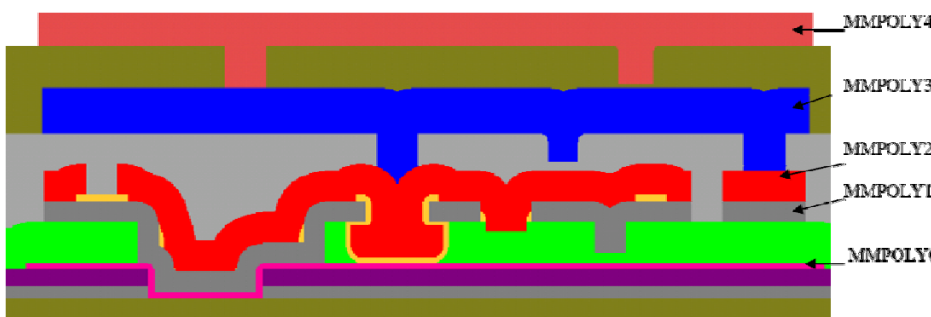
Chemical Mechanical Polishing

- CMP is selective to certain films, and not selective to others



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Actual SUMMiT Cross-Section



- No CMP until after the first three polySi layers
- 1 μm mmpoly1 and 1.5 μm mmpoly2 can be combined to form a 2.5 μm polysilicon film
- Refer to the SUMMiT V manual (one of your handouts) for more detailed information on masks and layout instructions

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