Double-Gate FinFET Innovation: From 3-Terminal to Flexible Threshold Voltage 4-Terminal

Y. X. Liu, M. Masahara, K. Ishii, and E. Suzuki

Nanoelectronics Research Institute (NeRI)
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba Central 2, 1-1-1 Umezono, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-8568, Japan.
Tel: +81-29-861-3417, Fax: +81-29-861-5170, E-mail: yx-liu@aist.go.jp

The high-performance of double-gate FinFETs has already been confirmed both by theoretically and experimentally [1-4]. However, the double gates of the conventional FinFETs are connected together, i.e., the FinFETs are operated as a 3-terminal device. Thus, the threshold voltage (V_th) in the FinFETs can not be controlled by gate biasing. To overcome this drawback, the 4-terminal FinFETs with independent double gates have been developed [5-7]. In this paper, the research and development of our FinFETs technology including 4T-FinFETs are reviewed.

The fabrication processes are as follows. The starting material was the p-type (110) SOI wafer. First, the wafers were thermally oxidized and fin patterns were formed in parallel with <112> direction by EB-lithography and RIE. Then, the SOI was etched with a 2.38% TMAH solution to form upright Si-fins. Since the sidewall of the Si-fin is the (111) plane with an extremely low etch rate, very narrow and straight Si-fins can be fabricated. After the gate oxide formation, the n+ poly-Si gate was made by EB-lithography and RIE. The n+ doping for source-drain extension regions was performed by rapid thermal annealing (RTA), and finally aluminum electrodes were formed and sintered in a pure H2 ambient at 400 C.

Figure 1 shows the cross-sectional STEM image of the fabricated FinFET with 13-nm thick Si-fin channel. It is clear that the Si-fin shows the ideal rectangular channel shape. The measured I_d-V_g characteristic of the 13-nm thick Si-fin channel FinFET is shown in Figs. 2. The measured on-current (I_on) normalized by 2H_fin (H_fin is fin height) is as high as 720 µA/µm at V_g = V_d = 1 V, which might be attributed to crystallographic flatness of sidewalls causing less surface roughness scattering.

In summary, we have been succeeded in fabricating the FinFETs including V_th controllable 4T-FinFETs by using newly developed orientation-dependent wet etching. The high drive current and flexible V_th controllability have experimentally been confirmed. The 4T-FinFETs are promising for future high-performance and flexible power managing ULSI circuits.