

# 2.008 Design & Manufacturing II

Spring 2004

## MEMS I

## March 10th

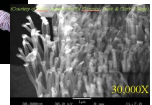
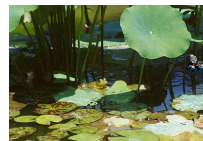
- Ask "Dave" and "Pat"
  - Petty money up to \$200, Goggles
  - Plant tour, April 21, 22, sign up! By 4/2
- Quiz 1 on March 17<sup>th</sup>
  - HW#4 due by Monday's lecture
  - 75 minutes (45 min)
- MEMS 1 today

## Elephant vs. Ant

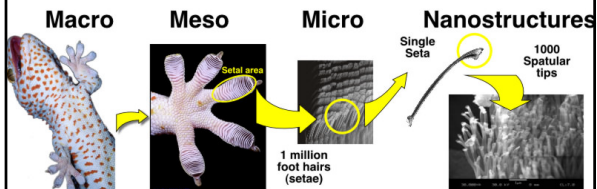


- Shock and impact
- Scale and form factor
- Load carrying capability
  - Spider silk v.s. steel

## Frog, Water Strider, Gecko



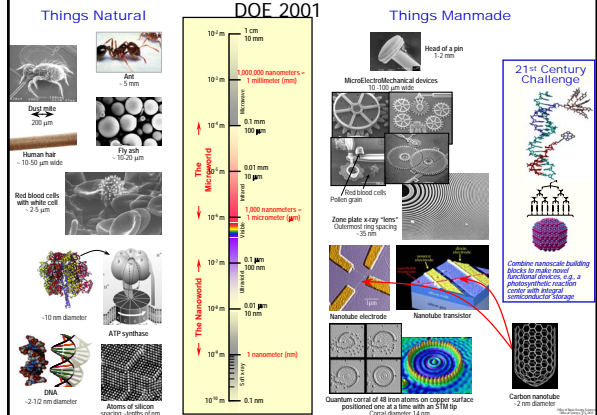
## Gecko adhesive system



Never try to mimic the nature.

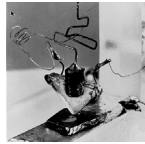
e.g. Biomimetic researches.

## The Scale of Things -- Nanometers and More



## Transition: Micro to Nano

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century - Microelectronics and Information Technology
  - Semiconductors, computers, and telecommunication
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Limits of Microsystems Technology
  - Nanotechnology
    - Moore's law
    - Hard disc drive

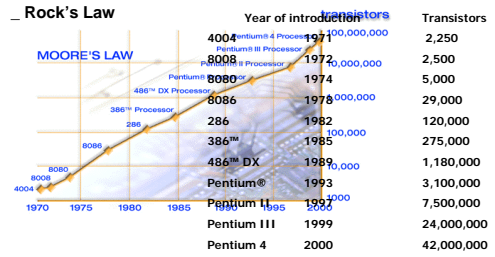


John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley at Bell Laboratories, "First Transistor"

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## Moore's Law

The number of transistors per chip doubles every 18 months.  
- Moore's Law



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## Microelectronics Technology

To meet the Moore's Law,

line width(1/2 pitch) requirement

100 nm 2005  
70 nm 2008  
50 nm 2011  
35 nm 2014

↓  
No solution yet, nanolithography?

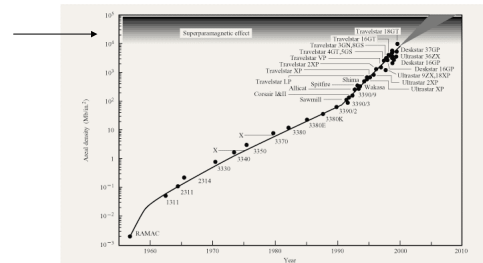
G-line: 436nm  
I-line: 365nm  
DUV: 248 nm  
EUV

The International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors, 1999

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## Aerial density, hard disk

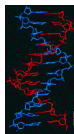


- Superparamagnetic Effect

"a point where the data bearing particles are so small that random atomic level vibrations present in all materials at room temperature can cause the bits to spontaneously flip their magnetic orientation, effectively erasing the recorded data."

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## What is Nanotechnology?



A DNA molecule is 2.5 nm wide.

Nanomanufacturing?

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## Nano in ME

- Fluidics, heat transfer and energy conversion at the micro- and nanoscale
- Bio-micro-electromechanical systems (bio-MEMS)
- Optical-micro-electromechanical systems (optical-MEMS)
- Engineered nanomaterials
- Nano manufacturing
- Course 2A (Nanotrack)

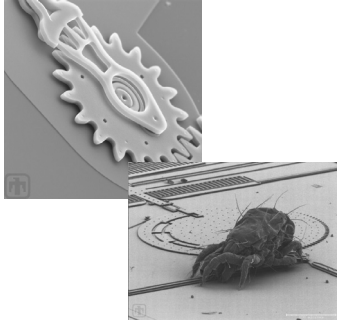
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<http://www.memsnet.org/mems/what-is.html>

## MEMS

- ◆ Optical MEMS
- ◆ RF MEMS
- ◆ Data Storage
- ◆ Bio. MEMS
- ◆ Power MEMS
- ◆ MEMS for Consumer Electronics
- ◆ MEMS In Space
- ◆ MEMS for Nano.
- Materials
- Processes
- Systems



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Courtesy: Sandia national laboratory

## MEMS (Microelectromechanical Systems)

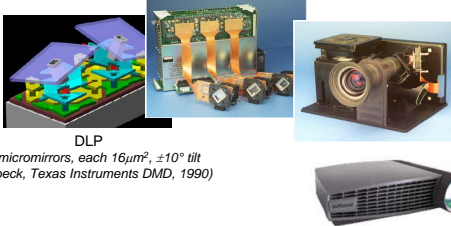
- Intergrated systems of sensing, actuation, communication, control, power, and computing
- Tiny,
- Cheaper,
- Less power
- **New functions!!!** (chemical, bio,  $\mu$ -fluidic, optical, ...)

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## Tiny Products

- DLP (Digital Micromirror Array)



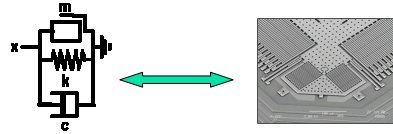
DLP  
10<sup>6</sup> micromirrors, each 16 $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>,  $\pm$ 10° tilt  
(Hombeck, Texas Instruments DMD, 1990)

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## Tiny Products

- Airbag sensors: Mechanical vs. MEMS



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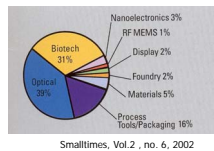
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Analog Devices

## Tiny Products

- Airbag sensors: Mechanical vs. MEMS
- DLP (Digital Micromirror Array)
- DNA chip
- Optical MEMS

Tiny Tech venture funding, 2002



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(Courtesy of Segway (r) Human Transporter (HT).  
Used with permission.)

## Segway

- Tilt
- Rotation



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D. Kamen

## Vibrating Gyroscope

Coriolis Acceleration

Structural anchor to substrate  
 Input Rotation  
 Sense Mode  
 Drive Mode  
 Comb drives to sustain oscillation  
 Interdigitated comb finger deflection sense capacitors  
 By Charles Stark Draper Laboratory

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## Electrostatic Comb Drive/sensing

- Paralle Plate Capacitor
  - Capacitance =  $Q/V = \epsilon A/d$   
 $\epsilon$  Dielectric permittivity of air
  - Electrostatic Force =  $\frac{1}{2} \epsilon (A/d^2) \cdot V^2$
  - Pull-in point:  $2/3 d$

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## Comb Drive

- $C = \epsilon A/d = 2n \epsilon l h/d$
- $\Delta C = 2n \epsilon \Delta l h/d$
- Electrostatic force  
 $F_{el} = \frac{1}{2} dC/dx V^2 = n \epsilon h/d V^2$

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## Suspension mode failures

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## Comb Drive Designs

linear

rotational

Legend:  
█ Grating beams  
█ Flexures  
█ Electrostatic comb-drives

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## Capacitive Accelerometer

capacitive sensor  
 plate mass  
 meander spring

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### Microfabrication process flow

- Single-mask process
- IC compatible
- Negligible residual stress
- Thermal budget
- Not yet packaged

Legend:

- Device silicon layer (green)
- Buried oxide layer (white)
- Metal layer (cyan)
- Bulk silicon layer (orange)

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### SOI (Silicon on insulator)

- Begin with a bonded SOI wafer. Grow and etch a thin thermal oxide layer to act as a mask for the silicon etch.
  - oxide mask layer
  - Si device layer, 20  $\mu\text{m}$  thick
  - buried oxide layer
  - Si handle wafer
- Etch the silicon device layer to expose the buried oxide layer.
  - silicon
  - Thermal oxide
- Etch the buried oxide layer in buffered HF to release free-standing structures.

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### Problems of fabrication

Surface micromachined Structure 2  $\mu\text{m}$

Vertical stiction

DRIE micromachined Structure 10  $\mu\text{m}$

Lateral stiction

300  $\mu\text{m}$

DRIE micromachined Structure 10  $\mu\text{m}$

No stiction

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### ADXL 50 accelerometer

Capacitive sensing  
Comb drive

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### Process Flow

```

    graph TD
      Wafers --> Deposition
      subgraph Deposition
        Oxidation
        Sputtering
        Evaporation
        CVD
        Sol-gel
        Epitaxy
      end
      Deposition --> Lithography
      subgraph Lithography
        Photo resist coating
        Pattern transfer
        Photo resist removal
      end
      Lithography --> Etch
      subgraph Etch
        Wet isotropic
        Wet anisotropic
        Plasma
        RIE
        DRIE
      end
      Etch --> Devices
  
```

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### Micromachining processes

- Bulk micromachining
- Surface micromachining
- Bonding
- LIGA
  - x-ray lithography, electrodeposition and molding

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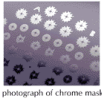
## LIGA process

- X-rays from a synchrotron are incident on a mask patterned with high Z absorbers. X-rays are used to expose a pattern in PMMA, normally supported on a metallized substrate.

- The PMMA is chemically developed to create a high aspect ratio, parallel wall mold.

- A metal or alloy is electroplated in the PMMA mold to create a metal micropart.

- The PMMA is dissolved leaving a three dimensional metal micropart. Individual microparts can be separated from the base plate if desired.

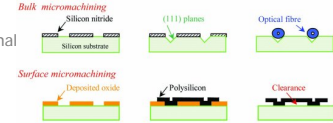


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## Bulk, Surface, DRIE

- Bulk micromachining involves removal of the silicon wafer itself
  - Typically wet etched
  - Inexpensive equipments
  - IC compatibility is not good.
- Surface micromachining leaves the wafer untouched, but adds/removes additional thin film layers above the wafer surface.
  - Typically dry etched
  - Expensive equipments
  - IC compatibility, conditional



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## Materials

- Metals
  - Al, Au, ITO, W, Ni, Ti, TiNi,...
- Insulators
  - SiO<sub>2</sub> - thermally grown above 800°C or vapor deposited (CVD), sputtered. Large intrinsic stress
  - Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> - insulator, barrier for ion diffusion, high E, stress controllable
- Polymers: PR, SU-8, PDMS
- Glass, quartz
- Silicon
  - stronger than steel, lighter than aluminum
  - single crystal, polycrystalline, or amorphous

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## Silicon

- Atomic mass average: 28.0855
- Boiling point: 2628K
- Coefficient of linear thermal expansion:  $4.2 \cdot 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Density: 2.33g/cc
- Young's modulus: 47 GPa
- Hardness scale: Mohs' 6.5
- Melting point: 1683K
- Specific heat: 0.71 J/gK

Electronic grade silicon  
99.9999999% purity

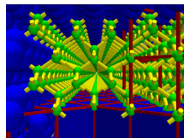


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## Materials

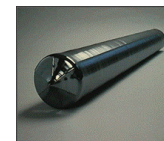
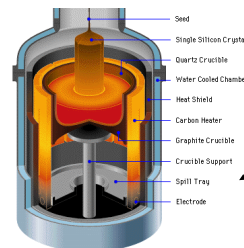
- Single crystal silicon
  - Anisotropic crystal
  - Semiconductor, great heat conductor
- Polycrystalline silicon – polysilicon
  - Mostly isotropic material
  - Semiconductor
- Semiconductor
  - Electrical conductivity varies over ~8 orders of magnitude depending on impurity concentration (from ppb to ~1%)
  - N-type and P-type dopants both give linear conduction.
- Two different types of doping
  - Electrons (negative, N-type) --phosphorus
  - Holes (positive, P-type) --boron



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## Silicon Ingot



Czochralski (CZ) method

Float Zone (FZ) method.

1" to 12" diameter

<http://www.msil.ab.psiweb.com/english/msilhist4-e.html>

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### Silicon Crystal Structure

After S. M. Sze, Semiconductor Devices, Wiley, 1985.

Face Centered Cubic

Miller indices identify crystal planes from the unit cell:

(FCC cells)

(100) Dense

(110) More Dense

(111) Most Dense

Tetrahedral bonding of silicon atoms

Cubic unit cell of silicon

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### Miller indices, plane

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### Crystallographic planes

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### Miller indices

- $[abc]$  in a cubic crystal is just a directional vector
- $(abc)$  is any plane perpendicular to the  $[abc]$  vector
- $(...)[...]$  indicate a specific plane/direction
- $\{...\} \langle...\rangle$  indicate equivalent set of planes/directions

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### Wafers of different cuts

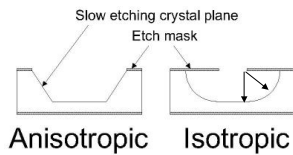
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### Crystallographic planes

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# Etching

Wet  
Dry



- Isotropic silicon etchants
  - HNA ("poly-etch") -wet
    - Mix of HF, nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>), and acetic acids (CH<sub>3</sub>COOH)
    - Difficult to control etch depth and surface uniformity
  - XeF<sub>2</sub> -dry
    - gas phase, etches silicon, polysilicon
    - Does not attack SiO<sub>2</sub>, SiNx, metals, PR

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# Anisotropic wet etching

Many liquid etchants demonstrate dramatic etch rate differences in different crystal directions

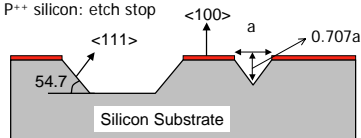
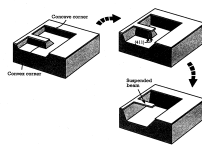
- <111> etch rate is slowest, <100> fastest
- Fastest: slowest can be more than 100:1
- KOH, EDP, TMAH most common anisotropic silicon etchants
- Potassium Hydroxide (KOH), Tetramethyl Ammonium Hydroxide (TMAH), and Ethylene Diamine Pyrochatecol (EDP)

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# KOH Etching

- Etches PR and Aluminum instantly
- (100) to (111) → 100 to 1 etch rate
  - V-grooves, trenches
  - Concave stop, convex undercut
  - CMOS incompatible
- Masks:
  - SiO<sub>2</sub>: for short period
  - Si<sub>x</sub>N<sub>y</sub>: Excellent
  - heavily doped P<sup>++</sup> silicon: etch stop

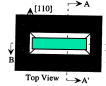


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# Anisotropic wet etching

When a (100) wafer with mask features Oriented to <110> direction is placed in an anisotropic etchant.

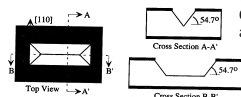


A square <110> oriented mask feature results in a pyramidal pit.

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# Anisotropic wet etching



When a (100) wafer with mask features Oriented to <110> direction is placed in an anisotropic etchant.

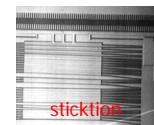


A square <110> oriented mask feature results in a pyramidal pit.

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# Dry etching



- RIE (reactive ion etching)
  - Chemical & physical etching by RF excited reactive ions
  - Bombardment of accelerated ions, anisotropic
  - SF<sub>6</sub> → Si, CHF<sub>3</sub> → oxide and polymers
  - Anisotropy, selectivity, etch rate, surface roughness by gas concentration, pressure, RF power, temperature control
- Plasma etching
  - Purely chemical etching by reactive ions, isotropic
- Vapor phase etching
  - Use of reactive gases, XeF<sub>2</sub>
  - No drying needed

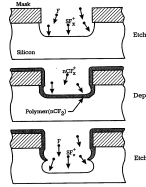
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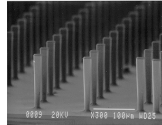


## DRIE (Deep RIE)

- Alternating RIE and polymer deposition process for side wall protection and removal
- Etching phase: SF<sub>6</sub> / Ar
- Polymerization process: CHF<sub>3</sub>/Ar forms Teflon-like layer
- Invented by Bosch, process patent, 1994



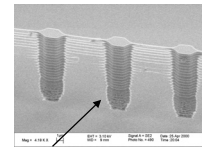
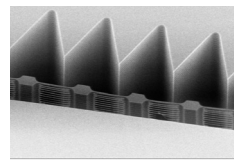
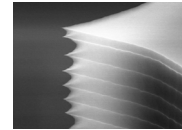
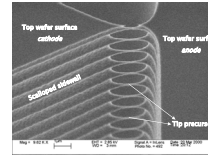
-1.5 to 4 μm/min  
-selectivity to PR 100 to 1



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## Scalloping and Footing issues of DRIE



Footing at the bottom of device layer

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Milanovic et al. *IEEE TED*, Jan. 2001.

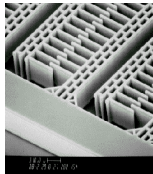
## Deep Reactive Ion Etch

STS, Alcatel, Trion, Oxford Instruments ...

Most wanted by many MEMS students

High aspect ratio 1:30

Easily masked (PR, SiO<sub>2</sub>)



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