Focused ion beam fabrication of photonic structures in silicon-on-insulator

Jonathan Schrauwen

Department of Information Technology
UGent - IMEC

Focused ion beam is a direct-write technique to make sub-micrometer structures in various materials. A finely focused beam (spot size <10nm) of gallium ions is accelerated onto the target material, in this work silicon or silicon oxide, where it removes atoms. In this way we can make waveguides, gratings, facets, photonic crystals, and much more.

One of the problems however, is that there is not only removal of silicon atoms, but also implantation of gallium atoms and displacement of silicon atoms in the crystal. These effects generate optical losses through various physical phenomena. A first phenomenon is amorphization: by implanting the silicon with a high dose of gallium atoms, the crystalline state is not stable and an amorphous phase appears with a depth of typically 60nm. This phase can have higher losses than the crystalline state.
A second phenomenon is optical losses by carrier absorption. Gallium acts as p-dopant in silicon and the free holes induce considerable optical loss.

The goal of my work is to understand these various phenomena and to explore techniques to reduce the optical losses. A first alternative is the use of an etch catalyst, like iodine. This gas eases the extraction of silicon atoms and reduces optical losses. Another possibility is to do annealing at temperatures up to 800 degrees, to restore the crystal damage and to let the gallium atoms diffuse out of the silicon, into the silicon oxide.
Focused ion beam for Photonics: A new versatile fabrication method

Jonathan Schrauwen, Dries Van Thourhout, Roel Baets
mailto:Jonathan.Schrauwen@intec.ugent.be

Idea

Nanophotonics:
- Difficult to design (3D simulation)
- Nanometer fabrication precision required

Focused ion beam:
- < 20nm resolution
- Fast and cheap prototyping
- 3D fabrication

Problem

- Crystal damage
- Ion implantation
- Amorphization
  = Optical losses

Solution

- Protective mask
- Etch enhancement gasses

Chemical reaction with iodine increases etch rate and causes less ion implantation en crystal damage

Successful fabrication of grating couplers for light coupling between optical chip and fiber

Outlook

- Recrystallization of Si and out-diffusion of Ga ions by annealing at high temperatures (> 800°C)
- Application of similar processes to III-V semiconductors
Applications of Photonic Integration

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2. Yohan Barbarin: High Power Electrically Pumped Modelocked VECSEL
4. Robert Bellini: Soft-matter photonics on anisotropically etched silicon
5. Krister Bergene: Enhanced Light Extraction from AlGaInP LEDs with a Shallow 2D Photonic Crystal
6. Audrey Berrier: Impact of the feature size on the optical properties of photonic crystal devices
7. Pietro Binetti: Membrane couplers and photodetectors for optical interconnections on CMOS ICs
8. Jonathan Bradley: Al2O3 and Y2O3 Waveguides as Building Blocks for Active Integrated Photonic Devices
9. Mike Bütters: A Vertical Electroabsorption Transceiver Consisting of Multiple Heterostructures
10. Marek Chacinski: Evaluation of low cost mounting techniques for high speed multi-electrode lasers
11. Shahina Mumthaz Chakkalakkal Abdulla: Tuning of Photonic Band Gap Crystals by NOEMS Actuators
12. Wout De Cort: A silicon laser with gain in doped liquid crystal
13. Peter Debackere: Surface Plasmon Interferometer: Fabrication and Measurement
14. Boudewijn Docter: Deep etched DBR mirrors for compact integrated lasers
15. Jose David Domenech Gomez: Analysis of non-uniform integrated optics Bragg gratings using GNU/GPL MEEP FDTD
16. Rafał Dylewicz: Inductively coupled plasma etching of GaN using SiCl4/Ci2/Ar for submicron-sized features fabrication
17. Stephen Elsmere: Fiber Amplification of VECSEL seed pulses
18. Dimitri Gekas: Fabrication of optical active devices in KYW/Yb
19. Oliver Hadeler: Liquid Crystals for Photonics Applications
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22. Olena Ivanova: Variational effective index mode solver
23. Roman Kappeler: Simulations on Contacting Schemes for Active Photonic Crystals (PhC)
24. Peter Kaspar: Passive Contacts on Active Photonic Crystal Structures
25. Edwin Klein: Reconfigurable Optical Router based on vertically coupled thermally tunable Si3N4/SiO2 microring resonators
26. Abigaël Kok: Modeling of efficient coupling structures for integration of pillar photonic crystal waveguides with ridge waveguides
27. Christian Koos: Ideal Contour Trajectories for Low-Loss Waveguide Bends
28. Antonio La Porta: Design of an integrated multichannel laser with RF optical modulator for burst-mode transmitters in packet-switching based metropolitan area networks
29. Maria Latorre: Bathymetry Analysis by Lidar Signal
30. Tomas Lauerman: Modeling of nonlinear propagation in a microring resonator
31. Szymon Lis: SiO2 – TiO2 Thin Film for Integrated Optics Fabricated by theSol-Gel Technique
32. Ping Ma: Design, Fabrication and Characterization of Photonic Crystal Slab Waveguides for TM-Polarized Light
33. Deran Maas: First Demonstration of a Modelocked Integrated External-Cavity Surface Emitting Laser (MIXSEL)
34. Antonio Malacarne: An optical Flip-Flop Based on Erbium-Ytterbium Doped Fibre
35. Fabien Mandorlo: Integration of a CMOS compatible electrically pumped InP based micro laser
36. Milan Marell: Non-linear behavior in quantum-well polarization converters
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53. Yaocheng Shi: Carrier lifetimes in dry-etched InP-based photonic crystals
54. Joanna Skiba-Szymanska: Record high nuclear magnetic field in a 40 nm InP quantum dot
55. Nut Sritrjawisarn: Surface morphology induced InAs quantum dash-dot shape transition on InGaAsP/InP (100)
56. Tiziana Stomeo: Integrated Photonic Crystal devices in InP-membrane for metropolitan optical networks
57. Patric Strasser: Photonic crystal etching process characterization: Losses, carrier lifetime and surface roughness
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61. Ruth Thompson: Ultra-Compact Integrated Interferometric Devices for Pulse Regeneration
62. Mark Thompson: Pulse Generation in Quantum Dot Laser Diodes
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64. Wouter Van Parys: Transparent amplifying waveguide optical isolator
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66. Yongqiang Wei: 10 Gb/s modulation of 1.3 um GaINAs lasers up to 110 °C
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68. Georg Winzer: Low birefringence Mach-Zehnder-Delay Interferometer on Silicon-on-Insulator (SOI) substrates
69. Ling Xu: A reflective transceiver at 1.55 μm for the access network
70. Jing Yang: Judd-Ofelt Analysis of Nd(TTA)3Phen-doped 6-FDA/Epoxy Planar Waveguides
71. Hua Zhang: Fabrication, Electrical and Optical Characterisation of Terahertz Microdisk Quantum Cascade Lasers
72. D Zhou: Position and Number Control of InAs Quantum Dots Grown on Truncated InP Pyramids by SA MOVPE