Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory

Technical Publication Announcements

Covering Laboratory Programs, April to June 1991, with 1992 EEEL Events Calendar

December 1991

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Technical Publication Announcements

Covering Laboratory Programs, April to June 1991, with 1992 EEEL Events Calendar

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INTRODUCTION TO THE EEEL TECHNICAL PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the twenty-ninth issue of a quarterly publication providing information on the technical work of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory (EEEL) (until February 1991, the Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering). This issue of the EEEL Technical Publication Announcements covers the second quarter of calendar year 1991.

Organization of Bulletin: This issue contains citations and abstracts for Laboratory publications published in the quarter. Entries are arranged by technical topic as identified in the Table of Contents and alphabetically by first author within each topic. Following each abstract is the name and telephone number of the individual to contact for more information on the topic (usually the first author). This issue also includes a calendar of Laboratory conferences and workshops planned for calendar year 1992 and a list of sponsors of the work.

Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory: EEEL programs provide national reference standards, measurement methods, supporting theory and data, and traceability to national standards. The metrological products of these programs aid economic growth by promoting equity and efficiency in the marketplace, by removing metrological barriers to improved productivity and innovation, by increasing U.S. competitiveness in international markets through facilitation of compliance with international agreements, and by providing technical bases for the development of voluntary standards for domestic and international trade. These metrological products also aid in the development of rational regulatory policy and promote efficient functioning of technical programs of the Government.

The work of the Laboratory is conducted by four technical research Divisions: the Semiconductor Electronics and the Electricity Divisions in Gaithersburg, Md., and the Electromagnetic Fields and Electromagnetic Technology Divisions in Boulder, Colo. In 1991, the Office of Law Enforcement Standards, formerly the Law Enforcement Standards Laboratory, was transferred to EEEL. This Office conducts research and provides technical services to the U.S. Department of Justice, State and local governments, and other agencies in support of law enforcement activities. In addition, the Office of Microelectronics Programs (OMP) was established in EEEL to coordinate the growing number of semiconductor-related research activities at NIST. Reports of work funded through the OMP are included under the heading "Semiconductor Microelectronics."

Key contacts in the Laboratory are given on the back cover; readers are encouraged to contact any of these individuals for further information. To request a subscription or for more information on the Bulletin, write to EEEL Technical Progress Bulletin, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Metrology Building, Room B-358, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 or call (301) 975-2220.

Laboratory Sponsors: The Laboratory Programs are sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a number of other organizations, in both the Federal and private sectors; these are identified on page 18.

Note on Publication Lists: Publication lists covering the work of each division are guides to earlier as well as recent work. These lists are revised and reissued on an approximately annual basis and are available from the originating division. The current set is identified in the Additional Information section, page 16.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................................................... inside title page

FUNDAMENTAL ELECTRICAL MEASUREMENTS ................................................................. 2

SEMICONDUCTOR MICROELECTRONICS .................................................................................. 2
- Silicon Materials ..................................................................................................................... 2
- Compound Materials ............................................................................................................. 2
- Analysis Techniques .............................................................................................................. 3
- Device Physics and Modeling ................................................................................................. 3
- Insulators and Interfaces ......................................................................................................... 4
- Dimensional Metrology .......................................................................................................... 6
- Integrated Circuit Test Structures ......................................................................................... 6
- Microfabrication Technology ................................................................................................. 7
- Plasma Processing .................................................................................................................. 8
- Power Devices ....................................................................................................................... 8
- Photodetectors ....................................................................................................................... 9
- Reliability .............................................................................................................................. 9

SIGNAL ACQUISITION, PROCESSING, & TRANSMISSION .................................................. 9
- DC & Low Frequency Metrology ............................................................................................ 9
- Waveform Metrology ............................................................................................................ 11
- Noise Metrology ................................................................................................................... 11
- Microwave & Millimeter-Wave Metrology ........................................................................... 12
- Electromagnetic Properties ................................................................................................. 13
- Other Signal Metrology Topics ............................................................................................. 14

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS .......................................................................................................... 14
- Power Systems Metrology ...................................................................................................... 14
- Magnetic Materials & Measurements ..................................................................................... 16

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ..................................................................................................... 16

1992 EEEL CALENDAR ............................................................................................................... 17

EEEL SPONSORS ....................................................................................................................... 18

KEY CONTACTS IN LABORATORY, LABORATORY ORGANIZATION .................................. back cover
FUNDAMENTAL ELECTRICAL MEASUREMENTS


A new generation of digital multimeters was used to directly compare the ratios of the resistances of wire-wound reference resistors and quantized Hall resistances. The accuracies are better than 0.1 part per million for ratios as large as 4:1 if the multimeters are calibrated with a Josephson array.

[Contact: Marvin E. Cage, (301) 975-4249]


The quantized Hall resistance $R_H(4)$ for Si-MOSFETs and a GaAs heterostructure device has been measured in terms of $\Omega_{ETL}$ by use of a newly constructed measurement system at the Electrotechnical Laboratory (ETL), Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305 Japan. The result is $R_H(4) = 6453.1992 \pm 0.0002 \Omega_{ETL} = 6543.20175(1 - 0.40 \times 10^{-6} \pm 0.03 \times 10^{-6}) \Omega_{ETL}$ on January 1, 1990.

[Contact: Craig T. Van Degrift, (301) 975-4249]

SEMICONDUCTOR MICROELECTRONICS


Within the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory at NIST is the Semiconductor Electronics Division. For more than 30 years, the Division has maintained a tradition of improving manufacturing productivity and aiding in the development, transfer, and application of semiconductor technology. Activities of the Division include basic investigation of the theory and behavior of materials and structures, improvement of measurement methods to characterize materials and devices, development of metrology and artifacts for the manufacture of integrated circuit, and the creation of special circuits used in characterizing the performance of transistors. Two specific projects, X-ray lithography and electromigration, are described in detail.

[Contact: Frank F. Oettinger, (301) 975-2054]

Silicon Materials


Scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM) has been combined with surface extended X-ray adsorption fine structure (SEXAFS) to determine both the local and long-range bonding properties of the Si(001) $2 \times 1$-Sb surface. Phase and amplitude analysis of the Sb $L_2$ edge SEXAFS shows that the Sb atoms occupy a modified bridge site and form dimers on the Si(001) surface with a Sb-Sb near-neighbor distance of $2.88 \pm 0.03$ Å. Each Sb atom of the dimer is bonded to two Si atoms with a Sb-Si bond length of $2.63 \pm 0.04$ Å. STM resolves the dimer structure and provides the long-range periodicity of the surface. Low-energy electron diffraction of vicinal Si(001) shows that the Sb dimer chains run perpendicular to the Si dimer chains.

[Contact: David G. Seiler, (301) 975-2081]


A round-robin study of implants of C, Na, Al, Cr, Fe, and Cu into Si and SiO$_2$ has been conducted. The results are reported.

[Contact: Peter Roitman, (301) 975-2077]

Compound Materials

XANES (X-ray absorption near-edge structure) is known to be sensitive to both the arrangement of atoms around, as well as the atomic states of, the absorbing atom. Therefore, it is not surprising that XANES data, collected on compounds having different arrangements of atoms around the absorbing atom, can have very different features. In this study, XANES data were gathered for three transition metals: Fe and Cu in chalcopyrite (CuFeS₂), and Zn in sphalerite (ZnS), where all three cations are in nearly identical atomic environments (similar to the zinc-blende type structures in III-V semiconductors). Since the environments are similar, any change in the XANES should, to first approximation, be due entirely to atomic effects of the absorbing atom. The rationale behind this study is to see if any changes in the near-edge data can be assigned to electronic transitions of the absorbing atom; this may be useful for interpreting XANES for III-V semiconductors. Previously, Zn, Cu, and Fe edges were presented separately, but no comparisons or calculations have been made for all three edges.

[Contact: David A. McKeown, (301) 975-3095]


Intrinsic carrier concentrations of narrow-gap Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe alloys (0.17 ≤ x ≤ 0.30) have been calculated as a function of temperature between 0 and 300 K by using the new nonlinear temperature dependence of the energy gap obtained previously by two-photon magneto-absorption measurements for samples with 0.24 ≤ x ≤ 0.26. We report here experimental values for E_g(x,T) for samples with x = 0.20 and 0.23 obtained by one-photon magneto-absorption measurements. These data confirm the validity of the new E_g(x,T) relationship for these x values. In this range of composition and temperature, the energy gap of mercury cadmium telluride is small, and very accurate values are needed for the gap to obtain reliable values for the intrinsic carrier density. Large percentage differences exist between new calculations and previous values for n_i at low temperatures. Even at 77 K, differences approaching 10% exist, confirming the importance of using the new n_i results for materials and device characterization and a proper understanding of device operation in long-wavelength materials.

[Contact: David G. Seiler, (301) 975-2081]

Analysis Techniques


A new approach to the resistivity mapping of semiconductors uses an array of lithographically defined contacts (at a density of 60,000 sites per cm²) and an automated probe station for data acquisition. Resistivity growth striations in silicon as narrow as 45 μm in width and with ±5% variation from the background resistivity have been resolved. Solution of the Laplace equation for the measurement geometry and measurements on ion-implanted test structures are described. Anticipated applications include resistivity mapping of liquid-encapsulated Czochralski GaAs, Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe, and fine-scale resistivity variations in processed silicon.

[Contact: Joseph J. Kopanski, (301) 975-2089]

Device Physics and Modeling


The implementation of the recently developed IGBT device model into a circuit simulation program is described. It is shown that the circuit simulation program rapidly and robustly simulates the dynamic behavior of the IGBT for general external drive, load, and feedback circuit configurations. The algorithms used to extract the IGBT device parameters from computer-controlled measurements are also described, and it is shown that the model gives accurate results when the extracted parameters are used.

[Contact: Allen R. Hefner, Jr., (301) 975-2071]

The drive circuit requirements of the IGBT are explained with the aid of an analytical model. It is shown that non-quasi-static effects limit the influence of the drive circuit on the time rate-of-change of anode voltage. Model results are compared with measured turn-on and turn-off waveforms for different drive circuits, load circuits, and different IGBT base lifetimes. [Contact: Allen R. Hefner, Jr., (301) 975-2071]


The majority electron and minority hole mobilities have been calculated in GaAs for donor densities between $5 \times 10^{16}$ and $1 \times 10^{19}$ cm$^{-3}$. Similarly, the majority hole and minority electron mobilities have been calculated for acceptor densities between $5 \times 10^{16}$ and $1 \times 10^{20}$ cm$^{-3}$. All the important scattering mechanisms have been included. The ionized impurity and carrier-carrier scattering processes have been treated with a phase-shift analysis. These calculations are the first to use a phase-shift analysis for minority carriers scattering from majority carriers. The results are in good agreement with experiment, but predict that at high dopant densities, minority mobilities should increase with increasing dopant density for a short range of densities. This effect occurs because of the reduction of plasmon scattering and the removal of carriers from carrier-carrier scattering because of the Pauli exclusion principle. Some recent experiments support this finding. These results are important for device modeling because of the need to have values for the minority mobilities and the difficulty in measuring them. [Contact: Jeremiah R. Lowney, (301) 975-2048]


We calculate the magnitude of band-gap narrowing for GaAs-based alloys, and have included these results into one-dimensional heterojunction device models for strained In$_{0.15}$Ga$_{0.85}$As quantum-well MODulation-doped Field-Effect Transistors (MODFETs). Equivalent rigid shifts of as much as 102 meV are obtained for the valence band of depleted p-type Al$_{0.15}$Ga$_{0.85}$As doped at $5 \times 10^{19}$/cm$^3$. Our simulations suggest that band-gap narrowing is most significant for p-channel MODFETs.

The predicted effect of band-gap narrowing in p-channel MODFETs is the formation of parasitic conduction in the low-mobility parent dopant region. The parasitic conduction would reduce the intrinsic gain. [Contact: Jeremiah R. Lowney, (301) 975-2048]

**Insulators and Interfaces**


Spectroscopic ellipsometry is a nondestructive probe which can be highly sensitive to the multilayer structure of materials such as SIMOX. Recent TEM micrographs of high-flux single-implant SIMOX annealed at 1300 °C for 6 h show "islands" of silicon precipitates near the bottom of the buried oxide layer. Spectroscopic ellipsometric measurements were performed on these samples at various implant doses and beam current densities to observe how the measured data fit the data theoretically predicted for various models of SIMOX that lead to the presence of these "islands." [Contact: Deane Chandler-Horowitz, (301) 975-2084]


A Standard Reference Material (SRM) consisting of a film of silicon dioxide on a silicon substrate has been designed, fabricated, measured, and certified at the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the ellipsometric angles, $\Delta$ and $\psi$, and for the derived film thickness and refractive index. This SRM can be used as an aid in the evaluation of the performance of optical and mechanical thickness-monitoring instruments as well as ellipsometers. The optical instruments are based on the theory describing reflection of light from a sample. The film thickness is determined by using a model having one or two uniform isotropic films atop a substrate. The calculated thicknesses rely on accurate values of the indices of refraction of the substrate and/or film at the necessary wavelengths. The measurement procedure used here to certify the ellipsometric angles utilizes an accurate rotating-analyzer ellipsometer and HeNe laser source operating near the principal angle of
incidence. The measurement data from several samples are analyzed collectively to determine the certified film thicknesses and refractive index. At the present time, three different film thicknesses, 50, 100, and 200 nm, are being certified. Future work may involve certifying thinner layers of oxides.

[Contact: Deane Chandler-Horowitz, (301) 975-2084]


Silicon films produced by the SIMOX process (separation by implanted oxygen) must be annealed at high temperature to remove the crystal damage introduced during implantation of the high oxygen dose. Different annealing gases, temperatures, and times have been investigated. In such processes, various impurities present in the high-temperature ceramic furnace tube, as well as annealing gas species, may be incorporated into the samples. Secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) is used as a quantitative tool to analyze the diffusion of tube components and gases into annealed SIMOX samples. Samples prepared for this investigation were annealed in nitrogen and argon at temperatures ranging from 1250 to 1350 °C. It was found that most impurities are present at low levels and are generally trapped in the surface oxide that is grown during the anneal. SIMS analyses of SIMOX samples annealed in nitrogen showed that nitrogen tends to collect in both the surface oxide and buried oxide layers, piling up at the oxide/silicon interfaces.

[Contact: Peter Roitman, (301) 975-2077]


A new approach to the resistivity mapping of semiconductors uses an array of lithographically defined contacts (at a density of 60,000 sites per cm²) and an automated probe station for data acquisition. Resistivity growth striations in silicon as narrow as 45 μm in width and with ±5% variation from the background resistivity have been resolved. Solution of the Laplace equation for the measurement geometry and measurements on ion-implanted test structures are described. Anticipated applications include resistivity mapping of liquid-encapsulated Czochralski GaAs, Hg₁₋ₓCdₓTe, and fine-scale resistivity variations in processed silicon.

[Contact: Joseph J. Kopanski, (301) 975-2089]


Photoinduced transient spectroscopy (PITS) was used to measure the persistent photoconductive (PPC) response in film resistors fabricated on two different commercial n-type SIMOX (separation by implanted oxygen) wafers. A broadband, single-shot, flashlamp-pumped dye laser pulse was used to photoexcite interband electrons in the film, and the decay in the induced excess carrier population was measured at temperatures in the 60- to 220-K range. The post-illumination conductivity transients observed show PPC signals exhibiting nonexponential character. They were recorded for periods of time up to 30 s at constant temperature. The photoconductive data from these film resistors are analyzed by using the Queisser and Theodorou potential barrier model, and a logarithmic time decay dependence is confirmed for the first time in SIMOX material. The sensitivity of PITS is demonstrated to be appropriate for characterization of the SIMOX interface structure and for material qualification.

[Contact: Santos Mayo, (301) 975-2045]


In the past few years, due to improved control of the ion implantation process and improved annealing sequences, a qualitative improvement has been realized in the structural quality of SIMOX films. The dense network of oxide precipitates and threading dislocations in the top silicon can be annealed out, reducing the dislocation density from $\approx 10^{10}$/cm² to $\approx 10^5$/cm² or less. CMOS transistors and circuits have been successfully fabricated in this material. However, bipolar devices are sensitive to defect densities in this range, as is VLSI yield. Therefore, the defect density must be monitored and reduced. We discuss below some techniques for monitoring dislocations and stacking faults in SIMOX films. Also, a different type of defect, a silicon "pipe" running through the buried oxide, has been observed. The origin of these defects and a technique for detecting
them are described.

[Contact: Peter Roitman, (301) 975-2077]

**Dimensional Metrology**


Masks used for the manufacture of integrated circuits by X-ray lithography can be calibrated and inspected in a scanning electron microscope by using the transmitted electron detection mode. By their nature, these masks present a measurement subject unique from most (if not all) other objects used in semiconductor processing because the support membrane is, by design, X-ray transparent. This characteristic can be used as an advantage in electron beam-based mask metrology since, depending upon the incident electron beam voltages, substrate composition and substrate thickness, the membrane can also be essentially electron transparent. The areas of the mask where the absorber structures are located are essentially X-ray opaque as well as electron opaque. Viewing the sample from a perspective below an X-ray mask can provide excellent electron signal contrast (depending upon the instrument conditions) between the absorber structure and the membrane. Thus, the mask can be viewed in the transmitted electron detection mode of the scanning electron microscope, and precise and potentially accurate dimensional measurements can be made. One unique advantage to this is that in the transmitted electron detection mode, the modeling of the electron beam/specimen interaction becomes far less difficult than in the modeling of typical secondary electron images of opaque objects. The inelastically scattered beam electrons and the low-energy secondary electrons can be excluded from the detector and, therefore, need not be accurately modeled. Therefore, absorber structure width (linewidth) measurement standards can be potentially calibrated with less difficulty and higher accuracy than standards calibrated by more conventional means. The transmitted electron detection mode is also useful, because of the high contrast of the image, for the determination of mask defects and high-density particle detection as well as for registration measurements.

[Contact: Michael T. Postek, (301) 975-2299]

**Integrated Circuit Test Structures**


This paper presents a modified voltage-dividing potentiometer test structure which overcomes a problem typical in scaling electrical test structures; it provides a correction for electrical length shortening of a resistor strip caused by the attachment of voltage taps of non-negligible width. The test structure was implemented in chrome on quartz, and measurements of displacements between 10 and 500 nm with ±12-nm random error were made using available test equipment. The enhanced precision of the measurement derives from reducing the size of the structure from previous design methods. The enhanced accuracy of the displacement measurement derives from scaling the length of the potentiometer bridge while simultaneously providing for non-scaled widths of the voltage taps. Measurements using these corrections demonstrate an improvement of up to 20% in measurement accuracy, and further improvements can be expected with optimized designs. Applications for this test structure may include: monitoring the self-registration accuracy and precision of primary pattern generator systems and monitoring level-to-level overlay in advanced wafer fabrication.

[Contact: Michael W. Cresswell, (301) 975-2072]


A test chip has been designed and fabricated to enable the evaluation of surface diffusion phenomena in sputtered aluminum planarization processes. New and unique features provide for cross-sectioning bevel angle validation for SEM inspection, multiple design rules for planarization parameter optimization, and positive feature identification for step coverage evaluation. The results presented here demonstrate how the test chip is used to customize the deposition process variables for particular IC fabrication applications.
A few comments are given about the measurement, use, and interpretation of the temperature coefficient of resistance (TCR). TCR is important when the determination of the temperature of a metallization line in an electromigration stress test is needed.

[Contact: Harry A. Schafft, (301) 975-2234]

Microfabrication Technology


Recent results employing scanning tunneling microscope-based techniques for the generation of nanometer-scale patterns on passivated semiconductor surfaces are presented. Preparation and characterization of hydrogen-passivated silicon and sulfur-passivated gallium arsenide surfaces are described, and the determination of the chemical and morphological properties of the patterned regions by scanning electron microscopy and time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry are discussed. Our recent demonstration that ultra-shallow, oxide features written by an STM can serve as an effective mask for selective-area GaAs heteroepitaxy on silicon is used to illustrate key requirements necessary for the realization of a unique, STM-based nanotechnology.

[Contact: Wen F. Tseng, (301) 975-5291]


Selective-area epitaxial growth of gallium arsenide on n-Si(100) substrates is reported, where the oxide (SiOₓ) mask consists of 1 to 2 monolayer-thick features patterned onto a silicon substrate using a scanning tunneling microscope (STM) operating in air. The technique for generating the STM patterns on hydrogen-passivated silicon was reported recently. The GaAs epilayer was grown by migration-enhanced epitaxy at 580 °C, and its morphology was investigated by scanning electron microscopy. The chemical selectivity of the
STM-patterned regions was verified by imaging time-of-flight secondary-ion mass spectrometry. The implications of these results for the development of a unique, STM-based nanostructure fabrication technology are discussed.

[Contact: Wen F. Tseng, (301) 975-5291]


We have characterized unintentional indium incorporation into GaAs grown by molecular-beam epitaxy in a variety of commercial molecular-beam epitaxy systems. We find that the unintentional indium-doping level in the epitaxial GaAs during growth is more a function of mounting technique and prior machine history than of the manufacturer's design. The indium doping detected in the epitaxial GaAs for substrates that only partially obscure an indium-bearing mount is equal to levels reported to result in minimum defect densities and narrowest photoluminescence linewidths in In-doped GaAs.

[Contact: Joseph G. Pellegrino, (301) 975-2123]


The redistribution of implanted atoms within GaAs/AlAs multilayer structures due to post-implantation furnace annealing is reported. The structures were grown using molecular-beam epitaxy on GaAs substrates and implanted with either hydrogen or beryllium ions. After furnace annealing at temperatures up to 700 °C, these samples were examined using secondary ion mass spectrometry. The measurements show that the hydrogen and the beryllium atoms redistribute with post-implantation annealing and that both species accumulate at the buffer layer-substrate interface. The concentration of atoms at this interface can exceed $1 \times 10^{19}$ cm$^{-3}$ and may be related to the crystal imperfections created during the initial stages of epitaxy. The significant redistribution of implanted ions may also alter the optoelectronics properties of multilayer semiconductor structures processed in this manner.

[Contact: James Comas, (301) 975-2061]

**Plasma Processing**


Measurements performed on the NIST GEC Reference Cell are described. The Reference Cell concept grew out of a workshop held at the 1988 Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC) (October 18-22, 1988, Minneapolis, Minnesota). The design was refined by the GEC community, reviewed at a workshop hosted by SEMATECH (March 9, 1989), and the final design was engineered at Sandia National Laboratory. The purpose of the discharge cell is to provide an affordable experimental platform for researchers that is physically identical from laboratory to laboratory, so that reference data can be generated and various experimental techniques and models can be cross correlated. Four laboratories (Sandia, AT&T Bell Labs, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and NIST) agreed to conduct identical initial measurements on four cells manufactured at the same time. This would ensure the greatest possible uniformity and allow direct comparison of results. The experimental conditions for the present measurements are those specified for intercomparison and include 1-in. interelectrode spacing, grounded lower electrode, capacitively coupled RF power, cooled electrodes (20 °C), electrode ground shields and 99.999% argon. The specific measurements to be made were: 1) the waveforms of the fundamental through the fifth harmonic of the rf voltage and current, including their magnitude and phase; 2) the gas flow rate and pressure; and 3) the dc self-bias voltage.

[Contact: James K. Olthoff, (301) 975-2431]

**Power Devices**


An automated instrument is described for nondestructively generating curves for the reverse-bias, safe-operating area of transistors. A new technique for
detecting second breakdown that makes automation possible is highlighted. Methods to reduce stress to the device under test are discussed, as are several other innovations that enhance automation. Measurements using the tester are described, and limitations on nondestructive testability are discussed.

[Contact: David W. Berning, (301) 975-2069]

Photodetectors


We have derived the photodiode self-calibration formula for calculating the internal quantum efficiency of silicon photodiodes from the results of up to three independent self-calibration experiments, and from the results of the oxide-bias and reverse-bias experiments in conjunction with a calculation of the effect of Auger recombination. We show that the formula published elsewhere for these three effects is not correct.

[Contact: Jon Geist, (301) 975-2066]

Reliability


Factors that may affect the long-term (30 yrs ≈ 10⁶ h) reliability of electronic systems that can withstand temperature extremes (-150 to +300 °C) are discussed. There is ample evidence that a straightforward application of the Arrhenius equation, with activation energies determined from high-temperature accelerated stress testing, is not strictly valid for predicting real device lifetime. The relevance and validity of this traditional reliability assurance methodology, especially near the high-temperature operating limit, is critiqued. Some of the barriers to long-term reliable operation of devices and circuits subject to extreme temperatures are identified in the broad areas of: (1) semiconductor materials, (2) components and circuit design, and (3) packaging and assembly. Finally, alternative approaches to reliability assurance, not dependent on elevated temperature testing, which may be applicable to high-temperature electronics, are discussed.

[Contact: Joseph J. Kopanski, (301) 975-2089]


Aggressive reliability and market-entry demands will require the use of a building-in approach to reliability. To adopt this approach and make it work require that very significant breaks be made from the traditional ways of improving and appraising reliability. The nature of these breaks are discussed in the context of describing the basic elements of the approach of building-in reliability and the obstacles that hinder its adoption. To help visualize how the approach can be implemented, initial steps to make the transition and some specific examples of its use are described.

[Contact: Harry A. Schafft, (301) 975-2234]

**SIGNAL ACQUISITION, PROCESSING, & TRANSMISSION**

DC & Low Frequency Metrology


A new generation of digital multimeters was used to directly compare the ratios of the resistances of wire-wound reference resistors and quantized Hall resistances. The accuracies are better than 0.1 part per million for ratios as large as 4:1 if the multimeters are calibrated with a Josephson array.

[Contact: Marvin E. Cage, (301) 975-4249]

Electromagnetic Measurements, Ottawa, Canada, June 11-14, 1990, pp. 158-159 (1990).]

The results of an intercomparison of low-audio-frequency power meter calibrations conducted in 1989 between the National Research Council (NRC), Canada, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), United Kingdom, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), USA, are described. A time-division watt-converter, developed at NRC, was used as the transfer standard. The measurements were made at 120 V, 5 A, power factors of 1, 0 lead, and 0 lag and at frequencies up to 5 kHz. Agreement between the NPL and NRC laboratories was better than 63 parts per million in the 60- to 1600-Hz range, 74 parts per million between NIST and NRC in the 50- to 4800-Hz range.
[Contact: Nile M. Oldham, (301) 975-2408]


The rf-dc differences of thermal voltage converters (TVCs) caused by skin effect and transmission-line effects of different length input structures have been studied. Some discrepancies do exist between simple mathematical models and measured results for commonly used input connectors. This paper reports a study of these discrepancies and some worst-case results of changes in rf-dc difference due to connection and disconnection of TVCs.
[Contact: Joseph R. Kinard, (301) 975-4250]


This paper describes the relationship between the overall ac-dc difference of a thermal converter and current shunt combination and the characteristics of the separate thermal converter and current shunt. As a consequence of the analysis, an expression predicting the ac-dc difference of a thermal converter/shunt combination when thermoelements are interchanged is presented, and data illustrating the agreement between values of ac-dc difference and values predicted by the analysis are given.
[Contact: Joseph R. Kinard, (301) 975-4250]


Several new techniques for measuring the rms value of 1- to 200-mV signals have been developed and compared to existing techniques using thermal transfer standards. Differences between the various measurement methods at 100 mV are typically within ±100 parts per million from dc to 1 MHz.
[Contact: Nile M. Oldham, (301) 975-2408]


The operating principles of various voltmeters, ammeters, and phasemeters are described. The results of tests of these instruments at different levels of distortion indicate that phasemeters are subject to large, often unpredictable errors while most voltmeters and ammeters respond to the rms value, independent of waveshape.
[Contact: Nile M. Oldham, (301) 975-2408]


A voltage standard system based on a 10-V Josephson array has been completely automated with three novel developments. First, a unique way of connecting zener voltage standards, a digital voltmeter, and the array to a commercial standard cell scanner has provided necessary
switching flexibility. Second, using a programmable millimeter-wave attenuator has greatly simplified the selection of voltage steps. Third and last, programmed error checking, which verifies array steps by comparing measurement scatter to previously characterized system noise levels, has proven more reliable than visual observation. The operation of this new system is simplified enough for an expert user while the calibration uncertainty (1σ) is still a few parts in 10^8.

[Contact: Richard L. Steiner, (301) 975-4226]


Several techniques for measuring active and reactive power in the 50-Hz to 20-kHz frequency range are described. The approaches include: (1) the development of a high-precision sampling wattmeter using a resistive attenuator, a shunt, and two commercially available sampling voltimeters configured as a dual-channel equivalent-time sampler; (2) the development of another high-precision sampling wattmeter using the same shunt and attenuator, a high-impedance, wideband differential amplifier, and a commercially available, dual-channel, direct-sampling waveform analyzer; (3) for zero power factor measurements, the use of a digital generator to produce precise phase shifts from +π/2 to -π/2; and (4) the use of simultaneous thermal voltage and current measurements for unity power factor measurements. These approaches were developed to evaluate a new high-accuracy, audio-frequency power bridge that is based on ac voltage and impedance measurements.

[Contact: Bryan C. Waltrip, (301) 975-2438]

Waveform Metrology


The operating principles of various voltmeters, ammeters, and phasemeters are described. The results of tests of these instruments at different levels of distortion indicate that phasemeters are subject to large, often unpredictable errors, while most voltmeters and ammeters respond to the rms value, independent of waveshape.

[Contact: Nile M. Oldham, (301) 975-2408]


Several techniques for measuring active and reactive power in the 50-Hz to 20-kHz frequency range are described. The approaches include: (1) the development of a high-precision sampling wattmeter using a resistive attenuator, a shunt, and two commercially available sampling voltimeters configured as a dual-channel equivalent-time sampler; (2) the development of another high-precision sampling wattmeter using the same shunt and attenuator, a high-impedance, wideband differential amplifier, and a commercially available, dual-channel, direct-sampling waveform analyzer; (3) for zero power factor measurements, the use of a digital generator to produce precise phase shifts from +π/2 to -π/2; and (4) the use of simultaneous thermal voltage and current measurements for unity power factor measurements. These approaches were developed to evaluate a new high-accuracy, audio-frequency power bridge that is based on ac voltage and impedance measurements.

[Contact: Bryan C. Waltrip, (301) 975-2438]

Noise Metrology


The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has a goal of offering an on-wafer noise parameter special test service in 1992. This paper describes two phases of this project. This includes a discussion of the equipment and techniques recently used at NIST to measure the noise parameters of low-noise 8- to 12-GHz amplifiers, and some simple measurements to demonstrate deembedding a wafer probe for a measurement of amplifier noise on-wafer.

[Contact: David F. Wait, (303) 497-3610]

The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have compared microwave noise power in coaxial transmission lines. This intercomparison is of particular metrological interest as both laboratories have independently developed coaxial primary thermal noise standards using different technologies: a hot standard at PTB and cold standards at NIST.

Different types of comparison radiometers are operating at each laboratory: a total power radiometer at NIST and an RF-switched radiometer with IF-attenuator at PTB. Each laboratory measured two solid-state noise sources at 2.0, 4.0, and 8.0 GHz relative to their primary thermal noise standards. The agreement between laboratories is better than 0.05 dB.

[Contact: David F. Wait, (303) 497-3610]


In response to the requirements of the microwave community which it serves, a calibration service for amplifier noise is under development at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This paper includes a review and makes certain extensions to the associated theory from the scattering matrix context. Following this, the application of the (highly developed) NIST radiometers to the measurement problem is outlined, and a preliminary assessment of the probable accuracy is given.

[Contact: David F. Wait, (303) 497-3610]

**Microwave & Millimeter-Wave Metrology**


A modification of the through-reflect-line (TRL) calibration method provides enhanced network analyzer calibration for purposes of MMIC measurement. The method utilizes multiple, redundant transmission line standards and relies on a statistical procedure to reduce the effects of random contact error. The covariance matrices necessary for the application of the procedure are developed as a result of a linearized error analysis of the basic TRL method. Simulated and measured calibrations demonstrate that the method is fast and accurate and increases the bandwidth of TRL calibrations.

[Contact: Roger B. Marks, (303) 497-3037]


A method is demonstrated whereby the characteristic impedance of transmission lines may be easily determined from a measurement of the propagation constant. The method is based on a rigorous analysis using realistic approximations to account for the effects of imperfect conductors. Numerical studies indicate that high accuracy is possible, and experiments using coplanar waveguide demonstrate the advantage of the method in the interpretation of S-parameters.

[Contact: Roger B. Marks, (303) 497-3037]


A technique for characterizing microwave packages based on active PIN diode standards is discussed. The technique allows packages to be accurately characterized from external reflection coefficient measurements when a single bias-dependent active standard is embedded within it. The frequency characteristics, stability, and linearity of active PIN diode standards are investigated.

[Contact: Kurt A. Phillips, (303) 497-5383]

A nonlinear regression procedure is used to fit S-parameter resonance data to a full-circuit model that includes coupling factors and self-impedances. Such a model should provide an adequate mathematical representation of cavity resonator data. Our analysis shows that this model fits the data better than the simpler Q-circle model that can be derived from it, but that a systematic pattern in the residuals persists. This pattern indicates a discrepancy between the full-circuit model and the observed data. By looking at parameter estimates calculated from subsets of the original data, we demonstrate that the cause of this discrepancy could also be introducing significant errors in the model's estimated parameter values.

[Contact: Eric J. Vanzura, (303) 497-5752]


Although a fundamental parameter of transmission lines, the characteristic impedance is difficult to measure accurately. We suggest a method by which it may be easily determined from a measurement of the propagation constant. The method is based on a rigorous analysis from first principles using explicit and realistic approximations which include the effects of imperfect conductors. Results of numerical studies of lossy coaxial lines and of experiments with coplanar waveguide indicate that high accuracy is possible.

[Contact: Dylan F. Williams, (303) 497-3138]


A prototype standard set in coplanar waveguide suitable for the calibration of wafer probe stations has been developed through a cooperative effort between the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a MIMIC Phase 3 team. The coplanar standard set is intended primarily for in-process testing, although the characterization of coplanar waveguide circuits is also possible. In this paper, two sources of systematic errors associated with the prototype standard set, the propagation of undesirable modes, and the influence of adjacent structures on the electrical connection to the elements of the standard set are discussed.

[Contact: Dylan F. Williams, (303) 497-3138]

Electromagnetic Properties


This paper describes a technique for using the power of an automatic network analyzer to determine to very high accuracy the resonant frequency and intrinsic quality factor of a microwave resonant cavity. With this technique, measurement of complex permittivity of samples of dielectric material can be determined to new low levels of uncertainty.

[Contact: Michael D. Janezic, (303) 497-3656]


A new technique for measuring the permittivity of thin, low-loss dielectric materials in a cylindrical resonant cavity has been developed. A thin dielectric sample is placed upon a thicker dielectric sample whose permittivity is well characterized. Both samples are then placed on the endplate in the cylindrical resonant cavity. In this way, the thin sample is placed in a region of the cavity where interaction with the electromagnetic fields is greater. From knowledge of the cavity's resonant frequency, dimensions of the cavity and both dielectric samples, and the permittivity of the thicker sample, one is able to use iterative techniques to accurately determine the permittivity of the thin dielectric sample.

A derivation and discussion of the theory used in this layered-dielectric permittivity measurement technique is provided. Also, measurement results, at frequencies between 9 and 10 GHz, of thin cross-linked polystyrene, alumina, and magnesium titanate samples confirm that this measurement technique is able to accurately measure the dielectric constant of thin low-loss materials. A preliminary error analysis is also given to show the worst-case uncertainties associated with this new method.

[Contact: Michael D. Janezic, (303) 497-3656]


A nonlinear regression procedure is used to fit S-parameter resonance data to a full-circuit model that includes coupling factors and self-impedances. Such a model should provide an adequate mathematical representation of cavity resonator data. Our analysis shows that this model fits the data better than the simpler Q-circle model that can be derived from it, but that a systematic pattern in the residuals persists. This pattern indicates a discrepancy between the full-circuit model and the observed data. By looking at parameter estimates calculated from subsets of the original data, we demonstrate that the cause of this discrepancy could also be introducing significant errors in the model’s estimated parameter values.

[Contact: Eric J. Vanzura, (303) 497-5752]


The Electromagnetic Properties of Materials program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is described, including an outline of the current goals of the project. Some details of measurement techniques being used at NIST for characterizing dielectric and magnetic materials at microwave frequencies are given.

[Contact: Claude M. Weil, (303) 497-5305]

Other Signal Metrology Topics


Spherical near-field scanning is well known in electromagnetics. The acoustical analog is outlined here. Data are taken with an arbitrary probe, on a spherical surface surrounding an unknown transducer. The algorithm uses these data to characterize the fields of the transducer everywhere outside the measurement sphere. The results can be corrected for probe effects if the probe’s receiving pattern is known.

[Contact: Ronald C. Wittmann, (303) 497-3326]

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Power Systems Metrology


The results of an intercomparison of low-audio-frequency power meter calibrations conducted in 1989 between the National Research Council (NRC), Canada, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), United Kingdom, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), USA, are described. A time-division watt-converter, developed at NRC, was used as the transfer standard. The measurements were made at 120 V, 5 A, power factors of 1, 0 lead, and 0 lag and at frequencies up to 5 kHz. Agreement between the NPL and NRC laboratories was better than 63 parts per million in the 60- to 1600-Hz range, 74 parts per million between NIST and NRC in the 50- to 4800-Hz range.

[Contact: Nile M. Oldham, (301) 975-2408]


The quality of the power supplied to sensitive electronic equipment is an important issue. Quantifying this quality, however, is difficult under the present state of nonexistent or uncoordinated standards. Improvements in the situation described as “poor power quality” can be achieved by reducing the sensitivity of equipment to power line disturbances, or by limiting the injection of disturbances. While these remedies might seem obvious in principle, their implementation appears more difficult. Voluntary standards provide a guide for such an implementation. The formation by IEEE of a Standards Coordinating Committee on Power Quality responds to this need.

[Contact: Francois D. Martzloff, (301) 975-2409]

Misakian, M., Silva, J.M., and Baishiki, R.S., Measurements of Power Frequency Magnetic Fields (a
Recent epidemiological studies have focused attention on the measurement of ambient level power frequency magnetic fields in residential and industrial settings. These fields can be as much as two orders of magnitude smaller than power line magnetic fields and can also contain significant levels of harmonic content. Because the existing IEEE standard for characterizing power frequency magnetic fields is intended for measurements near power lines, it has a number of inadequacies if used alone for guidance during the measurement of residential fields. This paper describes the instrumentation, calibration procedures, and outlines measurement strategies which can overcome some of the shortcomings of the existing standard. Examples of ambient level magnetic field measurements are also provided.

[Contact: Martin Misakian, (301) 975-2426]


A new method is described for detection of $S_2F_{10}$ in $SF_6$ down to the parts-per-billion (parts in $10^9$) level. The method utilizes a gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer (GC/MS) equipped with a jet separator and a heated gas inlet tube connected to the electron-impact ionizer of the MS. The $S_2F_{10}$ is converted to $SOF_2$ in the heated stainless-steel inlet tube at temperatures above 150 °C by a surface catalyzed reaction involving $H_2O$. As a consequence of this conversion, peaks corresponding to $S_2F_{10}$ appear on single-ion chromatograms at ion masses characteristic of $SOF_2$ (m/z = 48, 67, and 86) where there is little or no interference from $SF_6$ features. By this method, a direct analysis of $SF_6$ for $S_2F_{10}$ content can be performed in a relatively short time since the enrichment procedure previously required for GC/MS methods can be eliminated. Problems associated with the preparation and maintenance of reliable, stable $S_2F_{10}$ reference samples are discussed.

[Contact: James K. Olthoff, (301) 975-2431]


One of the NIST Measurement Assurance Programs transfers the unit of the watthour using transport meters. For this application the response of these meters to variations in environmental conditions must be well-characterized. A statistically planned experiment is employed to determine corrections for the response of each meter to varying conditions of voltage, current, temperature, and power factor. This qualification procedure is designed to be efficient with the number of test points and to yield optimal estimates of the model parameters describing the corrections.

[Contact: John D. Ramboz, (301) 975-2434]


A calibration service at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for laboratory-quality current transformers is described. The service provides measurements of the current ratio and the phase angle between the secondary and primary current phasors. In the Report of Calibration or Test, the measured ratio is reported as the product of the marked (nominal) ratio and the ratio correction factor. The measured phase angle is reported directly in milliradians (mrad) and is positive if the secondary current leads the primary. The range of primary-to-secondary current ratios that can be measured with the equipment at NIST extends from 0.25 A/5 A to 12,000 A/5 A. The maximum current at the present time is about 20,000 A. Estimates of calibration uncertainties, including their sources, are given, and quality control procedures are described. For routine calibrations, uncertainties of ±0.01% for the ratio and ±0.1 mrad for the phase angle are quoted. However, lower uncertainties, to ±0.005% or 5 parts per million for ratio and ±0.005 mrad or 5 μrads for phase angle, are possible under the provisions of Special Tests.

[Contact: John D. Ramboz, (301) 975-2434]

Ramboz, J.D., and West, J.L., Watt Transfer Standard, IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement (Special Issue of selected papers, CPEM
The use of a time-division multiplier power meter as a watt transfer standard between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and an industry standards laboratory is described. Measurements of power at 120 and 240 V, 5 A, 50 and 62 Hz, and power factors of 1 and 0 lagging are described. After the unit of power was transferred to the industrial laboratory, a comparison of the laboratory and NIST calibrations indicated an agreement to within 14 parts per million.

[Contact: John D. Ramboz, (301) 975-2434]


It is shown for the first time from measurements of phase-restricted conditional partial-discharge pulse phase and amplitude distributions that the stochastic properties of a dielectric-barrier type of partial discharge generated by an ac voltage are significantly influenced by memory associated with charge deposited on the dielectric surface by preceding discharge events. This memory effect must be considered in any attempt to interpret results of phase-resolved partial-discharge measurements.

[Contact: Richard J. Van Brunt, (301) 975-2425]

Magnetic Materials & Measurements


Recent epidemiological studies have focused attention on the measurement of ambient level power frequency magnetic fields in residential and industrial settings. These fields can be as much as two orders of magnitude smaller than power line magnetic fields and can also contain significant levels of harmonic content. Because the existing IEEE standard for characterizing power frequency magnetic fields is intended for measurements near power lines, it has a number of inadequacies if used alone for guidance during the measurement of residential fields. This paper describes the instrumentation, calibration procedures, and outlines measurement strategies which can overcome some of the shortcomings of the existing standard. Examples of ambient level magnetic field measurements are also provided.

[Contact: Martin Misakian, (301) 975-2426]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lists of Publications


This bibliography lists the publications of the personnel of the Electromagnetic Technology Division of NIST in the period from January 1970 through publication of this report. A few earlier references that are directly related to the present work of the Division are included.

[Contact: Sarabeth Moynihan, (303) 497-3678]


This bibliography lists publications by the staff of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Electromagnetic Fields Division for the period from January 1970 through August 1991. Selected earlier publications from the Division's predecessor organizations are included.

[Contact: Kathryn A. Gibson, (303) 497-3132]


This bibliography covers publications of the Electricity Division, Center for Electronics and Electrical Engineering, NIST, and of its predecessor sections for the period January 1968 to December 1990. A brief description of the Division's technical program is given in the introduction.

[Contact: Jenny C. Palla, (301) 975-2220]

Walters, E.J., Semiconductor Measurement Technology, NIST List of Publications 72 [a bibliography of NIST publications concerning semiconductor measurement

The bibliography contains reports of work performed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the field of Semiconductor Measurement Technology in the period from 1962 through December 1990. An index by topic area and a list of authors are provided. The supplement provides information on technology transfer at NIST for calendar year 1990, not only from those groups specializing in semiconductor electronics, but also including NIST-wide research now coordinated by the NIST Office of Microelectronics Programs.

[Contact: E. Jane Walters, (301) 975-2050]

New NIST Research Material

NIST has announced the availability of Research Material 8458, a well-characterized artificial flaw used as an artifact standard in eddy current nondestructive evaluation (NDE). The new Research Material (RM) is the outcome of work carried out by the Electromagnetic Technology Division to address the need for calibration standards for eddy-current NDE, for example, as used to detect fatigue cracks in aircraft structures. The RM flaw is produced in an annealed aluminum alloy block by first indenting the block and then compressively deforming the resulting notch until it is tightly closed. The next operation is to restore a flat finish to the block face, after which the block is heat treated to the original temper. The controlled flaw has been named the "CDF notch," after its inventors (listed on patent application) Thomas E. Capobianco (Electromagnetic Technology Division), William P. Dube (Division 832), and Ken Fizer (Naval Aviation Depot, NAS Norfolk, Virginia).

In the past, the challenge has been to manufacture artificial flaws that closely simulate the mechanical properties of fatigue cracks. Currently used artifacts include electrical-discharge-machined and saw-cut notches, both of which are relatively poor representations of fatigue cracks as their widths are too great. The Division-developed method provides notches that can be made controllably in a variety of geometries, have known dimensions, with widths that are narrow enough to provide an acceptable representation of fatigue cracks.

An NIST Research Material is not certified by NIST, but meets the International Standards Organization definition of "a material or substance one or more properties of which are sufficiently well established to be used in the calibration of an apparatus, the assessment of a measurement method, or for assigning values to materials." The documentation issued with RM 8458 is a "Report of Investigation." Contact: technical information — Fred Fickett, (303) 497-3785; order information — Standard Reference Materials Program, (301) 975-6776.

Emerging Technologies in Electronics ... and Their Measurement Needs, Second Edition

This report assesses the principal measurement needs that must be met to improve U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies within several fields of electronics: semiconductors, superconductors, magnetics, optical fiber communications, optical fiber sensors, lasers, microwaves, video, and electromagnetic compatibility. The report seeks feedback from industry and Government agencies on the assessment. The feedback will guide the development of NIST programs that provide U.S. industry with new documented measurement methods, new national reference standards to assure the accuracy of those measurement methods, and new reference data for electronic materials. Copies may be obtained by ordering Report No. PB90-188087/AS ($23.00 hard copy, $11.00 microfiche) from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, (703) 487-4650.

1992 EEEL CALENDAR

January 23, 1992 (Norristown, Pennsylvania)

The Sixth Ion Implant Users Group Meeting, sponsored by NIST and the Commodore Semiconductor Group, will be held at the Commodore facility in Norristown. The main topic is Particles (effects, detection, elimination). A panel-type discussion will focus on Uptime Calculations.

[Contact: John Albers, (301) 975-2075]

February 3-5, 1992 (Austin, Texas)

Eighth Annual IEEE Semiconductor Temperature and Thermal Management Symposium (SEMI-THERM). The symposium will feature current work on electronic devices, components, and systems in the following areas: thermal characterization; analytical and computational modeling; measurement techniques including temperature, flow, and thermal-mechanical properties; and thermal reliability screening and testing.

[Contact: David L. Blackburn, (301) 975-2068]
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