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PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

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Patrick P. Naulleau
Kurt G. Ronse
Editors

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Contents

vii	<i>Authors</i>
ix	<i>Conference Committee</i>
xi	<i>Introduction</i>

EUV SCANNER, SOURCE, AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

11147 03	Progress on 0.33 NA EUV systems for high-volume manufacturing (Invited Paper) [11147-1]
11147 05	Challenge of high power LPP-EUV source with long collector mirror lifetime for semiconductor HVM [11147-3]
11147 06	EBL2 an EUV (Extreme Ultra-Violet) lithography beam line irradiation facility [11147-4]

EUV STOCHASTIC I

11147 0A	Metrics for stochastic scaling in EUV lithography [11147-8]
----------	--

EUV MASK AND LITHOGRAPHY INTEGRATION: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCES 11147 AND 11148

11147 0D	Alternative reticles for low-k1 EUV imaging (Invited Paper) [11147-11]
11147 0E	Improving exposure latitudes and aligning best focus through pitch by curing M3D phase effects with controlled aberrations [11147-12]

EUV RESIST I

11147 0J	Development of main chain scission type photoresists for EUV lithography [11147-17]
----------	--

EUV BLANK AND FILMS: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCE 11147 AND 11148

11147 0N	Interfacial quality of high-reflectivity Mo-Si multilayers for EUV mask blanks [11147-21]
----------	--

11147 00 **EUV mask polarization effects** [11147-22]

EUV DEFECTS, INSPECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCES 11147 AND 11148

11147 OR **EUV reticle inspection using phase retrieval algorithms: a performance comparison** [11147-25]

EUV PELLICLE: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCES 11147 AND 11148

11147 OS **Particle on EUV pellicles, impact on LWR** [11147-26]

11147 OU **Extreme-ultraviolet pellicle durability comparison for better lifetime** [11147-28]

HIGH-NA AND EUV IMAGING

11147 11 **Progress overview of EUV resists status towards high-NA EUV lithography** [11147-35]

11147 13 **Characterization of EUV image fading induced by overlay corrections using pattern shift response metrology** [11147-37]

11147 14 **OPC model building for EUV lithography** [11147-38]

EUV STOCHASTIC II AND FUTURE

11147 16 **Stochastic defect generation in EUV lithography analyzed by spatially correlated probability model, reaction-limited and scattering-limited?** [11147-40]

11147 17 **An analysis of EUV resist stochastic printing failures** [11147-41]

11147 19 **The future of the electronics industry beyond 2D/3D scaling** [11147-43]

POSTER SESSION

11147 1B **Impact of EUV multilayer mask defects on imaging performance and its correction methods** [11147-51]

11147 1D **Resolution enhancement for lensless mask metrology with RESCAN** [11147-65]

11147 1G **SEM AutoAnalysis for reduced turnaround time and to ensure repair quality of EUV photomasks** [11147-71]

11147 1I	Industrial photoresist development with the EUV laboratory exposure tool: mask fabrication, sensitivity and contrast [11147-55]
11147 1J	Precision fabrication of EUVL programmed defects with helium ion beam lithography [11147-60]
11147 1K	Study of RLS trade-off mitigation utilizing a novel negative chemically amplified resist for high resolution patterning [11147-63]
11147 1L	Alkyltin Keggin clusters as EUVL photoresist technology [11147-72]
11147 1M	Update of the development progress of the high power LPP-EUV light source using a magnetic field [11147-45]
11147 1N	New coater/developer technologies for CD control and defectivity reduction towards 5 nm and smaller nodes [11147-47]
11147 1P	Validation of optical constants in the EUV spectral range [11147-49]
11147 1R	Pattern dependent distortion and temperature variation in EUV mask [11147-52]
11147 1U	A method for compensating lithographic influence of EUV mask blank defects by an advanced genetic algorithm [11147-57]
11147 1V	Impact of mask topography and flare on process window of EUV lithography [11147-59]
11147 1X	Laboratory-based EUV spectroscopy for the characterization of thin films, membranes and nanostructured surfaces [11147-62]

Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the seven-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first five digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Abe, Tamotsu, 05, 1M	Hermanns, Christian F., 1G
Ausschnitt, Christopher, 13	Hinsberg, W. D., 17
Bahrenberg, Lukas, 1X	Ho, Benjamin C. P., 14
Ban, Chung-Hyun, 1R	Hoefnagels, Rik, 11
Bekaert, Joost, 0E	Hori, Tsukasa, 05, 1M
Bekman, Herman, 06	Hoshino, M., 0J
Blanco, Victor, 0E	Hutchison, Danielle C., 1L
Bottiglieri, Gerardo, 0S	Ip, Vincent, 0N
Broman, Par, 0S	Janssen, Jochem, 06
Brose, Sascha, 11, 1X	Kamei, Yuya, 1N
Cai, Jia-Syun, 1J	Kawakami, Shinichiro, 1N
Cerio, Frank, 0N	Kazakis, Dimitrios, 0R, 1D
Chen, Rui, 1B, 1U, 1V	Kersteen, Grizelda, 1G
Chen, Xi, 1B	Kling, Michael, 13
Chien, Sheng-Wei, 1J	Kohli, Sandeep, 0N
Cornell, Roger, 13	Koster, Norbert, 06
Custers, Rolf, 11	Kozawa, Takahiro, 1K
Danylyuk, Serhiy, 11, 1X	Kupers, Michiel, 0S
Dauendorffer, Arnaud, 1N	Lee, Chien-Lin, 1J
Dejkameh, Atoosa, 0R, 1D	Lee, Meng H., 0N
Dekker, Michael, 06	Lim, Chae-Yun, 1R
De Simone, D., 0J	Locans, Uldis, 0R, 1D
Devahasayam, Adrian J., 0N	Loosen, Peter, 11, 1X
Devaraj, Lokesh, 0S	Lyakhova, Kateryna, 0E
de Zanger, Rory, 06	Machida, Kohei, 1K
Doebler, Jonathan, 14	Mack, Chris A., 0A
Dong, Lisong, 1B, 1U, 1V	Maslow, Mark John, 0E
Donnelly, Devlin, 0N	Mastenbroek, Marcel, 03
Ebeling, Rob, 06	Matsumoto, H., 0J
Egodage, Kokila, 1G	Megiddo, N., 17
Ekinci, Yasin, 0R, 11, 1D	Meijlink, Joop, 06
Enomoto, Satoshi, 1K	Miyao, Kenichi, 1M
Erdmann, Andreas, 0S	Mizoguchi, Hakaru, 05, 1M
Fan, Taian, 1B	Mochi, Iacopo, 0R, 11, 1D
Finders, Jo, 0D	Molkenboer, Freek, 06
Foubert, Philippe, 1N	Momonoi, Yoshinori, 1A
Franke, Joern-Holger, 0E	Muramatsu, Makoto, 1N
Fukuda, Hiroshi, 16, 1A	Nafus, Kathleen, 1N
Gabor, Allen, 13	Nagai, Shinji, 1M
Gargini, Paolo A., 19	Naito, Michiya, 1K
Gerngroß, Maik, 11	Nakarai, Hiroaki, 05, 1M
Ghafoori, Moein, 1X	Naujok, P., 1P
Glabisch, Sven, 1X	Nebling, Ricarda, 0R, 1D
Grüneberger, Franziska, 11	Neim, Lilian, 0O
Ha, Ui-Jeong, 1R	Nguyen, Thu Van, 0N
Hao, Yunyun, 1B	Nicolai, Kyri, 06
Hayashi, Hideyuki, 1M	Niroomand, Ardavan, 14
Hendrickx, Eric, 0E	Nyman, May, 1L
Henry, Tania, 0N	Oh, Hye-Keun, 0U, 1R

Olsen, Morgan R., 1L	Zakharov, Lev N., 1L
Park, Eun-Sang, 1R	Zhao, Rongbo, 1V
Persson, Kristin A., 1L	
Rathore, A., 0J	
Rijnsent, Corn��, 06	
Rispens, Gijbert, 0S, 11	
Rook, Katrina, 0N	
Saadeh, Q., 1P	
Saito, Takashi, 1M	
Saitou, Takashi, 05	
Sakai, Kei, 1A	
Sanchez, M. I., 17	
Schiffelers, Guido, 0E	
Schirmer, Matthias, 1I	
Schmidt, Daniel, 13	
Schneider, Horst, 1G	
Scholze, F., 1P	
Schulz, Kristian, 1G	
Shin, Hyo-Gyeong, 0U	
Shiraishi, Yutaka, 05, 1M	
Shirotori, A., 0J	
Smith, Bruce W., 0O	
Soltwisch, V., 1P	
Sonoda, Akihiro, 1N	
Soumagne, Georg, 05, 1M	
Srinivasan, Narasimhan, 0N	
Stern, Rebecca D., 1L	
Stollenwerk, Jochen, 1I, 1X	
Storm, Arnold, 06	
Stortelder, Jetske, 06	
Szafranek, Bartholom��us, 1G	
Takashima, Yuta, 1M	
Tanaka, Hiroshi, 05	
Timmermans, Frank J., 0D	
Tsai, Kuen-Yu, 1J	
Tseng, Li-Ting, 1I, 1D	
Tu, Fan, 1G	
Turner, Paul, 0N	
Ueno, Yoshifumi, 1M	
van Adrichem, Paul, 0E	
Vandenberghe, G., 0J	
van den Hoogenhoff, Twan, 0S	
van Lare, M.-Claire, 0D	
van Lent-Protasova, Lidia, 1I	
Van Look, Lieve, 0E	
van Putten, Michel, 06	
Vesters, Y., 0J	
Vockenhuber, Michaela, 1I	
Wahlisch, Felix, 0E, 0S	
Wallraff, G. M., 17	
Wang, Xiaolong, 1I	
Watanabe, Yukio, 05, 1M	
Wei, Yayi, 1B, 1U, 1V	
Wu, Chien-Ching, 06	
Wu, Ruixuan, 1U	
Yabu, Takayuki, 1M	
Yamada, Tsuyoshi, 05	
Yamamoto, Kenji, 0N	
Yanagida, Tatsuya, 05, 1M	
Ye, Tianchun, 1B, 1U	

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- 1 Plenary Session: Joint session with conferences 11147 and 11148
Jed H. Rankin, GLOBALFOUNDRIES Inc. (United States)
Takahiro Kozawa, Osaka University (Japan)
- 2 EUV Scanner, Source, and Industrialization
Winfried M. Kaiser, Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH (Germany)
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- 3 EUV Stochastic I
Gregory M. Wallraff, IBM Research - Almaden (United States)
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Selected Poster Speed Talks: Joint Session with conference 11147 and 11148
Shalini Sharma, JSR Micro, Inc. (United States)
Julius Joseph S. Santillan, Osaka University (Japan)

- 4 EUV Mask and Lithography Integration: Joint Session with conferences 11147 and 11148
Frank E. Abboud, Intel Corporation (United States)
Rik Jonckheere, IMEC (Belgium)
- 5 EUV Resist I
Huixiong Dai, Applied Materials, Inc. (United States)
Toru Fujimori, FUJIFILM Corporation (Japan)
- 6 EUV Blank and Films: Joint Session with conference 11147 and 11148
Onoue Takahiro, HOYA Corporation (Japan)
Ted Liang, Intel Corporation (United States)
- 7 EUV Defects, Inspection and Characterization: Joint Session with conferences 11147 and 11148
Thomas Scherübl, Carl Zeiss SMS Ltd. (Israel)
Abbas Rastegar, Applied Materials, Inc. (United States)
- 8 EUV Pellicle: Joint Session with conferences 11147 and 11148
Emily E. Gallagher, IMEC (Belgium)
Naoya Hayashi, Dai Nippon Printing Company, Ltd. (Japan)
- 9 EUV Resist and Material
Takahiro Kozawa, Osaka University (Japan)
Heiko Feldmann, Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH (Germany)
- 10 High-NA and EUV Imaging
Kars Troost, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands)
Harry J. Levinson, HJL Lithography (United States)
- 11 EUV Stochastic II and Future
Kurt G. Ronse, IMEC (Belgium)
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Introduction

The International Conference on Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography (EUVL) was organized this year by JSAP (the Japan Society of Applied Physics), Eureka / LBNL (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), imec, and SPIE and held 15–19 September 2019, in Monterey, California (United States).

For the third year, this conference was co-organized with the Photomask conference (PM) and was well attended. More than 587 attendees participated in the sessions which were divided into joint sessions and individual sessions for EUVL and PM.

At the end of the conference, the EUVL Symposium Steering Committee jointly discussed the community's progress in the focus areas identified in 2018 and formulated focus areas for EUVL extendibility with high numerical aperture (NA), towards 2020.

This year, semiconductor device manufacturers announced the application of EUVL to their 7-nm process technologies indicating the long-awaited insertion of EUVL into high volume manufacturing. This was made possible through the steady progress in EUV scanner power and stability, advances in patterning materials, improvements in cleaner EUV scanner environments, and availability of first-generation pellicles. Also of note, the full suite of actinic EUV mask tools is now available: defect review, blank inspection, and pattern inspection.

For EUVL extendibility into future nodes with high numerical aperture (NA), attention to various focus areas was identified. Focus area one is the availability of high-resolution patterning materials and mitigation of stochastics (which lead to roughness and failures or defects). To achieve this, it was agreed that new materials and inventions are necessary. Focus area two is how to keep EUV masks defect free. Pellicles are being considered as a solution, but improvements in pellicle material lifetime and transmittance need to be pursued. Focus area three is the extension of EUV mask infrastructure for application in high NA. It was emphasized that alternative mask absorber materials will be a significant key for extendibility. Finally, focus area four is on EUV scanner systems and power efficiency. Evidence of higher EUV source power has been demonstrated so it is now a question of how to deliver this with maximum efficiency when applied to high NA.

In summary, 2019 marked a tremendous milestone for EUVL. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done to ensure the long-term extendibility of the technology. The next International Conference on EUVL is planned 20–24 September 2020 in Monterey, California (United States) and will again be co-organized with the PM conference.

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