

# **UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

## CARRIER TRANSPORT AND I-V CHARACTERIZATION OF SI, AN/SI AND AG/SI SILICIDES USING PHOTOACOUSTIC AND FOUR POINT PROBE TECHNIQUES

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By

**YAP SIEW HONG** 

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduated Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in fulfilment of Requirement for the Degree of Master Science





#### DECICATION

To my beloved parents Yap Yong Kim and Ng Yoon Kiow For their endless love and concern.....

To my beloved Goh Bee Kui For his romantic love, support, understanding and care.....

To my supervisor Prof. Dr. Wan Mahmood Mat Yunus For his guidance, advice, understanding and endless support.....

To my co-supervisors Prof. Dr. Mohd. Maarof Moksin and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib For their kindly advice and indispensable support.....

To my friends and seniors (too many) For their wonderful encouragement and support.....



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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By

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#### **JUNE 2005**

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Faculty : Science

The Au/Si and Ag/Si systems have been studied extensively due to the importance of carrier transport and I-V characterization of metal silicide compounds in microelectronic applications. In this study, the metal thin film was deposited on the polished Si substrate and annealed in air environment. Open photoacoustic cell and four point probe techniques were applied for carrier transport and I-V characterization respectively of Si substrate, Au/Si, Ag/Si interface system at room temperature. X-ray Diffraction (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis were used to confirm the silicide formation and sample surface microstructure respectively.

The thermal diffusivity and diffusion coefficient of Si substrate were found independent of the surface condition. The surface recombination velocity values for the polished surface were in the range of 392.3 cm/s to 458.0 cm/s and the band to band recombination lifetime for polished surface ranged from 11.57  $\mu$ s to 17.28  $\mu$ s. For the annealed Au(150 nm)/n-Si sample, gold silicide clusters were agglomerated out to the sample surface while gold clusters were shrunk. The silicide clusters have



caused the surface and bulk recombination process to dominate. Au<sub>8.1</sub>Si<sub>1.9</sub> and Au<sub>7</sub>Si (622) silicides were formed on Au/p-Si sample after annealing at temperatures of 363  $^{\circ}$ C and 800  $^{\circ}$ C respectively. The surface recombination velocity increased from 408.0 cm/s to 596.8 cm/s as the annealing temperature increased. The surface and bulk recombination process increased with the formation of Au<sub>7</sub>Si silicide, which indicates that Au<sub>7</sub>Si (622) silicide was present as n-conducting that in contact with the p-Si substrate to form p-n junction characterization (Schottky curve) at the annealing temperature of 800  $^{\circ}$ C.

In this investigation, we found a new approach for the Ag miscible with Si to form the silver silicide compounds for the Ag/p-Si system. In the approach, the suitable type of the Si substrate, deposited thin film thickness, annealing temperature and time were the main factors for the chemical reaction within Ag and Si. We also found a transition from 2-D to 3-D growth (Stranski-Krastanov mode) of silver and silver silicide clusters. For Ag/p-Si system, the thermal diffusivity was in the range of 0.800 cm<sup>2</sup>/s to 0.850 cm<sup>2</sup>/s. The increased surface and bulk recombination process was due to the formation of silver silicide on the sample surface. The I-V characteristic illustrated an ideal diode junction and Schottky curve for annealed Ag(100 nm)/p-Si and annealed Ag(150 nm)/p-Si respectively. We suggested that Ag<sub>3</sub>Si silicide became n-conducting on the p-type Si which responsible in forming Schottky diode junction. The surface recombination velocity and band to band recombination lifetime of annealed Ag(150 nm)/n-Si sample was 428.7 cm/s and 8.86  $\mu$ s respectively. Both annealed Ag/n-Si samples exhibited linear I-V relation in the range of -40 mV to 90 mV.



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#### CIRI-CIRI PEMBAWA AND I-V BAGI Si, SILICIDE Au/Si DAN Ag/Si DENGAN MENGGUNAKAN TEKNIK FOTOAKUSTIK DAN PENDUGA EMPAT TITIK

Oleh

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Sistem Au/Si dan Ag/Si telah banyak dikaji disebabkan kepentingan pencirian angkutan pembawa dan I-V bagi kompoun silicide logam dalam appikasi mikroelectronik. Dalam kajian ini, filem nipis logam telah dimendapkan di atas permukaan gilap substrat Si dan disepuh lindap dalam keadaan berudara. Teknik sel fotoakustik terbuka dan penduga empat titik telah diaplikasikan dalam pencirian angkutan pembawa dan I-V bagi substrat Si, sistem antara muka Au/Si dan Ag/Si dalam suhu bilik. Belauan Sinar–X (XRD) dan Mikroskop Pengimabasan Elektron (SEM) masing-masing digunakan untuk memastikan pembentukan silicide dan mikrostruktur permukaan sampel.

Resapan terma dan kecekapan resapan bagi substrat Si didapati tidak bergantung pada keadaan permukaannya. Nilai halaju pergabungan semula permukaan bagi permukaan gilap adalah dalam lingkungan 392.3 cm/s ke 458.0 cm/s dan masa hayat pergabungan semula jalur ke jalur melingkungi 11.57 µs ke 17.28 µs. Untuk sampel Au(150 nm)/n-Si tersepuh lindap, kelompok silicide emas telah aglomerasi keluar ke atas permukaan sampel manakala kelompok emas telah mengecut. Kelompok



silicide telah menyebabkan proses halaju pergabungan semula permukaan dan pukal menjadi dominan. Silicide Au<sub>8.1</sub>Si<sub>1.9</sub> and Au<sub>7</sub>Si (622) terbentuk di atas sampel Au/p-Si yang telah disepuh lindap pada kedua-dua suhu 363 °C and 800 °C. Halaju pergabungan semula permukaan telah bertambah dari 408.0 cm/s ke 596.8 cm/s akibat penningkatan suhu sepuh lindap. Proses pergabungan semula permukaan dan pukal meningkat dengan pembentukan Au<sub>7</sub>Si silicide di mana ia menunjukan bahawa Au<sub>7</sub>Si (622) silicide muncul sebagai pengkonduksian –n yang sentuh pada substrat p-Si untuk membentuk pencirian simpang p-n (lengkung Schottky) pada suhu sepuh lindap 800 °C.

Dalam kajian ini, kami telah menjumpai satu penemuan baru iaitu Ag boleh bercampur dengan Si untuk membentuk kompoun silicide perak bagi sistem Ag/p-Si. Dalam penemuan baru ini, kesesuaian jenis substrat Si, ketebalan filem tipis mendapan, suhu dan masa tersepuh lindap adalah faktor-faktor utama bagi tindak balas kimia antara Ag dengan Si. Kami juga mendapati satu peralihan pertumbuhan dari 2-D ke 3-D (mod Stranski-Krastanov) bagi kelompok perak dan silicide perak. Bagi sistem Ag/p-Si, resapan termanya adalah sekitar 0.800 cm<sup>2</sup>/s ke 0.850 cm<sup>2</sup>/s. Peningkatan proses pergabungan semula permukaan dan pukal akibat pembetukan silicide perak di atas permukaan sampel. Pencirian I-V menjadi simpang diod ideal dan lengkung Schottky bagi Ag(100 nm)/p-Si tersepuh lindap and Ag(150 nm)/p-Si tersepuh lindap masing-masing. Kami mencadangkan bahawa silicide Ag<sub>3</sub>Si silicide menjadi pengkonduksian -n atas Si jenis -p di mana ia bertanggungjawab untuk membentuk simpang diod Schottky. Halaju pergabungan semula permukaan dan masa hayat pergabungan semula jalur ke jalur bagi sampel Ag(150 nm)/n-Si tersepuh lindap masing-masing ialah 428.7 cm/s and 8.86 µs. Kedua-dua sampel Ag/n-Si tersepuh lindap menunjukkan hubungan linear dalam lingkungan -40 mV to 90 mV.

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### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## Page

DEDICATION	11
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	х
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	XV
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxi
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xxiii

## CHAPTER

### 1 INTRODUCTION

### 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Review of Carrier Transport and Thermal Properties using	
	Photoacoustic Technique	2.1
2.2	Review of Electrical Properties and I-V Characteristic	
	Using Four Point Probe Measurement	2.3
2.3	Au/Si System	2.5
2.4	Ag/Si System	2.9

## 3 **THEORY**

4

3.1	Theory of Photoacoustic Technique	3.1
	3.1.1 One Dimensional Rosencwaig and Gersho	
	Theory	3.1
	3.1.2 Photoacoustic Signal Production	3.5
	3.1.3 Six Special Cases	3.7
	3.1.4 Optically Transparent Solids	3.8
	3.1.5 Optically Opaque Solids	3.9
3.2	Theory of Photoacoustic Effect in Semiconductor	3.10
3.3	Theory of Four Point Probe Technique	3.16
MET	HODOLOGY	
4.1	Open Photoacoustic Technique	4.1
	4.1.1 Open Photoacoustic Cell	4.2
	4.1.2 Signal Processing	4.3
4.2	Experiment Procedure	4.5
	4.2.1 Thermal and Carrier Transport Properties	
	Measurement using OPC Technique	4.5
	4.2.2 Four Point Probe System	4.7
	4.2.3 Experiment Procedure for Four Point Probe	



	4.2.4	Technique The Analysis X-Ray Diffraction, Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersion	4.8
		X-Ray	4.8
4.3	Sampl	e Preparation	4.9
	4.3.1	Si Substrate Cleaning Process	4.10
	4.3.2	Metal Deposition Process	4.10
	4.3.3	Annealing Process	4.10
4.4	Data A	Analysis	4.11
	4.4.1	The PA Signal and Phase Signal Analysis for Si	
		Substrate	4.11
	4.4.2	Photoacoustic Phase Fitting Technique for Thermal and Carrier Transport Properties	
		Measurements	4.12

## 5 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

5.1	Introd	uction	5.1
5.2	Thern	al and Carrier Transport Properties of p-Si Substrate	•
	using	OPC and Four Point Probe Techniques	5.1
	5.2.1	Effect of Si Thickness and Surface Quality on	
		PA Signal Amplitude	5.1
	5.2.2	Effect of Si Thickness on Phase Signal	5.4
	5.2.3	Phase Fitting Analysis	5.5
	5.2.4	Thermal Diffusivity and Diffusion Coefficient	
		of p-Si Substrate	5.8
	5.2.5	Effect of Thickness and Surface Quality on	
		Surface Recombination Velocity and Band to Band	l
		Lifetime of Si Substrate	5.10
	5.2.6	Surface Recombination Process for p-Si	
		Polished Surface	5.12
	5.2.7	Effect of Different Resistivity on Thermal	
		Properties for p-Si Polished Surface	5.13
	5.2.8	Effect of Different Resistivity on Surface	
		Recombination Process for p-Si Polished Surface	5.15
5.3	Annea	aling Effect on Au/p-Si System	5.15
5.4	Effect	of Annealing on Carrier Transport and Electrical	
	Prope	rties of Au/p-Si system	5.18
5.5	Effect	t of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Formation of	
	Gold	Silicide and Surface Microstructure of Au/p-Si	
	Syster	m	5.22
5.6	Effect	t of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Carrier Transport	
	and E	lectrical Properties for Annealed Au/p-Si System	5.28
5.7	Effect	t of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Gold Silicide	
	Forma	ation and Surface Microstructure for Annealed	
	Au/p-	Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> System	5.30
5.8	Effect	t of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Carrier Transport	
	and E	lectrical Properties for Annealed Au/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub>	
	Samp	le	5.35
5.9	Effect	t of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Gold silicide	



5.10	Formation and Surface Microstructure of Annealed Au/n-Si System The Influence of Gold Thin Film Thickness on Carrier	5.37
	Transport and Electrical Properties for Annealed Au/n-Si Sample	5.44
5.11	Influence of Annealing Temperature on Carrier	
	Transport and I-V Characteristic for Au/p-Si System	5.47
5.12	Formation of Silver Silicide and Surface Microstructure	
	of Ag/p-Si System	5.59
5.13	Carrier Transport and I-V Characteristic of Annealed	
	Ag/p-Si System	5.70
5.14	Formation of Silver Silicide and Surface Microstructure	
	of Annealed Ag/n-Si System	5.74
5.15	Carrier Transport and I-V Characteristic of Annealed	
	Ag/n-Si System	5.80

# 6 CONCLUSION

6.1	Concl	usion	6.1
	6.1.1	The Thermal and Carrier Transport Prope	erties of p-Si
		Substrate	6.1
	6.1.2	The Annealed Au/p-Si System	6.1
	6.1.3	The Influence of Annealing Temperature	on Carrier
		Transport and I-V Characteristic for Au/p	)-Si
		System	6.2
	6.1.4	The Annealed Ag/p-Si System	6.3
	6.1.5	The Potential of Au/Si and Ag/Si in Fund	lamental
		and Industry Field	6.4
6.2	Sugge	stions	6.5
REFERENC	CES		R.1
APPENDIC	ES		A.1
<b>BIODATA</b>	OF THE	E AUTHOR	B.1





5.1	Parameters of carrier transport and electrical properties of p-Si, as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si and Au/p-Si annealed at 330 °C for 1 hour.	5.19
5.2	Parameters of carrier transport and electrical properties of p-Si, as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si and Au/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.29
5.3	Carrier transport and electrical properties of as deposited Au(90 nm)/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> and Au/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour (refer Appendix C-4 for the example of two best phase fitting sample).	5.35
5.4	Parameters of carrier transport and electrical properties of as deposited Au/n-Si and Au/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.45
5.5	The parameters of carrier transport and electrical properties of $Ag/p$ -Si samples measured using photoacoustic phase fitting and four point probe techniques.	5.71
5.6	The parameters of carrier transport and electrical properties of n-Si, as deposited and Ag/p-Si samples annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour.	5.80

## LIST OF TABLES

Table

Page



### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Creation of excess electron and hole densities by photons.	<b>Page</b> 1.4
1.2	Recombination of excess carrier reestablishing thermal equilibrium.	1.4
1.3	Photothermal phenomena caused by illumination of surface by a modulated light beam.	1.7
1.4	Schematic view of the luminous to thermal energy conservation in semiconductor. This is two step processes. The photon energy hv, greater than the band gap is absorbed (1); the energy in excess of the band gap is released as heat as the free carriers relax to the minimum of its respective band (2); the free carrier diffuse in the sample (3); and it is recombine releasing more heat, after a lifetime $\tau$ (4).	1.11
3.1	Cross-section view of a simple cylindrical photoacoustic cell (Rosencwaig and Gersho, 1976).	3.2
3.2	Schematic representation of special cases for the photoacoustic effect in solids (Rosencwaig and Gersho, 1976).	3.7
3.3	Model for four point probe resistivity measurements.	3.17
4.1	Cross section of the open photoacoustic cell.	4.3
4.2	Experimental setup for OPC detection technique.	4.6
4.3	Schematic diagram for the four point probe system.	4.7
4.4	The temperature profile for annealing process performed in the present experiment.	4.11
5.1	Photoacoustic signal versus chopping frequency for polished surface of a silicon wafer at different substrate thickness.	5.2
5.2	Photoacoustic signal versus chopping frequency for roughened surface of a silicon wafer at different substrate thickness.	5.2
5.3	Photoacoustic signal versus chopping frequency for both polished and roughened surfaces ( $l_{si} = 0.678 \text{ mm}$ ).	5,3
5.4	Phase versus chopping frequency for polished surfaces silicon wafer at different thickness.	5.4



5.5	Phase versus chopping frequency for roughened surfaces silicon wafer at different thickness.	5.5
5.6	PA Signal as a function of frequency for Si p-type substrate. (Sample thickness = 0.678 mm)	5.7
5.7	Phase as a function of frequency for Si p-type at sample thickness 0.678 mm. The solid line representing the best phase fitting using theoretical model base on R-G for semiconductor sample.	5.7
5.8	Thermally thin and thermally thick region for p-Si sample. The solid line presents the linear fit for thermally thick and thermally thin regions.	5.8
5.9	Thermal diffusivity versus p-Si sample thickness for polished and roughened surface, where solid line represents the thermal diffusivity value of Si reported by Neto et al., 1989.	5.9
5.10	Comparison of diffusion coefficient versus thickness for both sample surfaces.	5.9
5.11	Comparison of surface recombination velocity versus thickness for both sample surfaces.	5.10
5.12	Comparison of band to band recombination lifetime versus thickness for two surfaces quality.	5.11
5.13	Surface recombination velocity and band to band recombination lifetime versus various Silicon wafer thickness (Appendix B-2 shows the parameters values).	5.13
5.14	Thermal diffusivity and diffusion coefficient versus resistivity for p-Si sample (refer Appendix B-4 for the parameters values).	5.14
5.15	Surface recombination velocity and band to band recombination lifetime versus resistivity for p-Si sample.	5.15
5.16	XRD spectra of p-Si substrate and as deposited Au(45 nm)/Si, Au/p-Si annealed at 330 °C, 340 °C, 350 °C, 360 °C and 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.16
5.17	EDX Spectrum for as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si sample scanned at magnification x 2000.	5.17
5.18	EDX spectrum for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 330 °C for 1 hour.	5.18
5.19	The comparison of the XRD spectra for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 330 $^{\circ}$ C and 380 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour.	5.19



xvi

5.20	SEM image for as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si.	5.21
5.21	SEM images for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 330 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000 and (b) x 9000. The black area is p-Si substrate. The white area is gold clusters and the dark shadow area is gold silicide clusters	5 21
5 00	VDD an extended for Autor Ci demonited with three different could thin	5.21
5.22	film thickness which annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.23
5.23	SEM image of Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.24
5.24	SEM 3-D images of Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour. (a) x 2000 and (b) x 9000.	5.25
5.25	EDX spectrum for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour to confirm the gold silicide formation area.	5.25
5.26	EDX spectrum for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour to confirm the Si substrate area.	5.26
5.27	Two different focus area of SEM images for Au(90 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.27
5.28	SEM images for of Au(150 nm)/p-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1	5.28
5.29	hour. Surface recombination velocity and lifetime versus different thickness of deposited gold thin films.	5.30
5.30	XRD spectra for Au/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> deposited with three different gold thin film thickness which annealed at 380 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour.	5.30
5.31	SEM images for Au(45 nm)/p-Si/SiO2 annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000 and (b) x 9000.	5.31
5.32	EDX spectrum for Au(45 nm)/p-Si/SiO2 annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour.	5.32
5.33	SEM images for Au(90 nm)/p-Si/SiO2 annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000; at the other focus area (b) x 2000 and (c) x 9000.	5.33
5.34	SEM images for Au(150 nm)/p-Si/SiO2 annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 2000 and (c) x 9000.	5.34
5.35	SEM images viewed at 45 ° for Au(150 nm)/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour. The viewing angle is 45 °.	5.35
5.36	Surface recombination velocity and band to band recombination lifetime versus gold thin film thickness for annealed Au/p-	

xvii



* * *	
XV111	

	Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> samples.	5.36
5.37	XRD spectra of Au/p-Si/SiO <sub>2</sub> system with three different gold thin film thickness annealed at 380 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour.	5.37
5.38	SEM image for as deposited Au(90 nm)/n-Si sample.	5.38
5.39	SEM images of Au(45 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000.	5.38
5.40	SEM images of Au(90 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000.	5.39
5.41	SEM images of Au(150 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.40
5.42	SEM images of Au(45 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour viewing at 45 °; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000.	5.41
5.43	SEM images of Au(90 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380 °C for 1 hour viewing at 45 °; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000.	5.41
5.44	SEM images viewed at 45 ° for Au(150 nm)/n-Si annealed at 380°C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000.	5.43
5.45	Schematic representation of the model of silicide formation. (a) Smooth Au thin film deposited on n-Si substrate, (b) Au clusters and silicide clusters are formed after annealing at 380 °C 1 hour. (c) gold silicide clusters were agglomerated, and connected to each others, and (d) gold silicide clusters agglomerated and gold clusters were consumed, shrunk and disappeared from the sample surface.	5.44
5.46	Surface recombination velocity and band to band recombination lifetime for annealed Au/n-Si samples.	5.46
5.47	XRD spectra for Si substrate and Au/p-Si annealed at three different temperatures. The deposited gold thin film thickness is 45 nm.	5.47
5.48	The best phase fitting for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 363 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour.	5.49
5.49	Diffusion Coefficient and thermal diffusivity versus annealing temperature for annealed Au(45 nm)/p-Si.	5.49
5.50	Band to band recombination lifetime and surface recombination velocity as a function of annealing temperature for annealed Au(45 nm)/p-Si.	5.50



5.51	I-V characteristic for Si, as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si and Au(45 nm)/p-Si system annealed at three annealing temperatures.	5.50
5.52	SEM plane view for the deposited of 45 nm gold thin film on p- Si substrate (as deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si) (a) low magnification (b) high magnification.	5.51
5.53	SEM observation on Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 100 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour in low magnification (a) x 100 and high magnification (b) x 2000 shows the bubble like island is in sphere shape; (c) the 45 $^{\circ}$ side viewing of the sample.	5.52
5.54	SEM micrograph of Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at eutectic temperature, 363 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.53
5.55	45 ° side view of SEM images on Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at temperature 363 °C for 1 hour with magnification (a) x 9000 and (b) x 15000.	5.54
5.56	The plane view of SEM microstructure for Au(45 nm)/p-Si at annealing temperature of 800 °C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000 and (b) x 9000.	5.55
5.57	The high magnification and plane view of SEM micrograph for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 800 °C for 1 hour showing the various shape of gold silicides islands formed.	5.56
5.58	The 45 ° plane view of SEM images for Au(45 nm)/p-Si annealed at 800 °C for 1 hour showing the thicker Au <sub>7</sub> Si (622) silicide clusters has formed; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.57
5.59	XRD spectra for Ag/p-Si system; a) Si substrate, b) as deposited Ag(100 nm)/p-Si, c) Ag(100 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour, d) as deposited Ag(150 nm)/p-Si and e) Ag(150 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour.	5.59
5.60	SEM morphology for as deposited Ag(100 nm)/p-Si sample, (a)x 100, (b)x 2000 and (c) 3-D SEM image (45 ° viewing).	5.62
5.61	SEM morphology of Ag(100 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.63
5.62	3-D SEM image (45 ° viewing) of Ag(100 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.64
5.63	SEM morphology for as deposited $Ag(150 \text{ nm})/p$ -Si sample, (a) plane viewing and (b) 3-D SEM image (45 ° viewing).	5.65



5.64	3-D SEM image for as deposited $Ag(150 \text{ nm})/p$ -Si sample that shown the cracked gas globule.	5.66
5.65	EDX spectrum for $Ag(150 \text{ nm})/p$ -Si as deposited sample that shown the gas globule contained the oxygen element.	5.67
5.66	SEM morphology of Ag(150 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.68
5.67	3-D SEM images (45 ° viewing) of Ag(150 nm)/p-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.69
5.68	Voltage versus applied current for as deposited Ag(150 nm)/p-Si.	5.72
5.69	I-V characteristic of Ag/p-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour. The data were measured for silver thin film thickness of 100 nm and 150 nm respectively.	5.73
5.70	XRD spectra for Ag/n-Si system a) Si substrate, b) as deposited Ag(100 nm)/n-Si, c) Ag(100 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour, d) as deposited Ag(150 nm)/n-Si and e) Ag(150 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour.	5.74
5.71	SEM image of as deposited Ag(100 nm)/n-Si sample.	5.75
5.72	SEM images for Ag(100 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.76
5.73	3-D SEM images for Ag(100 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour; (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.77
5.74	3-D SEM image for as deposited Ag(150 nm)/p-Si sample.	5.78
5.75	SEM morphology of Ag(150 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, and (b) x 15000.	5.78
5.76	3-D SEM images (45 ° viewing) of Ag(150 nm)/n-Si annealed at 350 °C for 1 hour, (a) x 2000, (b) x 9000 and (c) x 15000.	5.79
5.77	I-V characteristic for annealed Ag/n-Si samples.	5.81





### LIST OF ABBREVIATION

2-D	Two Dimensional
3-D	Three Dimensional
AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
Ag	Silver
Ag/Si	Silver Silicon
Ar <sup>+</sup>	Argon ion
ARPES	Angle Resolved Spectroscopy
As deposited Au(45 nm)/p-Si	45 nm Thickness of Gold Thin Film Deposited on p-type Si Substrate without Annealing Process
Au	Gold
Au/Si	Gold Silicon
B-GaSe	Gallium Arsenate doped with Boron
Br-Si	Bromine Silicon
d.c.	Direct Current
EDX	Energy Dispersion X-ray
EHP	Electron-hole pair
Eq.	Equation
Eqs.	Equations
EPMA	Electron Probe Microanalyser
He-Ne	Helium Neon
FM	Frank-Van der Merve
FTIR	Fourier Transformation Infra-red Spectroscopy
I-V	Current Voltage
InSb	Indium Antimony





non-UHV	Non Ultra High Voltage
n-Si	n-type Silicon Substrate
O <sub>2</sub>	Gas Oxygen
OPC	Open Photoacoustic Cell
PA	Photoacoustic
РЬТе	Lead Telluride
p-Si	p-type Silicon Substrate
R-G	Rosencwaig and Gersho
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
Si-B	Silicon Boron Bonding
Si-Si	Silicon Silicon Bonding
Si/SiO <sub>2</sub>	Silicon Substrate deposited with Silicon Dioxide layer at the roughened surface
SK	Stranski-Krastanov
UHV	Ultra High Voltage
ULSI	Ultra Large-Scale Integration
VLSI	Very Large-Scale Integration
VW	Volmer-Weber
XRD	X-ray Diffraction Analysis



### LIST OF SYMBOLS

20	Scanning angle (two teta)
$a_s$	Thermal diffusion coefficient of the sample
$a_g$	Thermal diffusion coefficient in the gas
$\alpha_{g}$	Thermal diffusivity in the gas
$\alpha_n$	Thermal diffusivity of layer n
$\alpha_s$	Thermal diffusivity of the sample
β	Optical absorption coefficient of the solid sample (in cm <sup>-1</sup> ) for the wavelength $\lambda$
C <sub>n</sub>	Specific heat capacity of layer n
D	Carrier diffusion coefficient
D'	Excess carrier
d	Sample diameter
$D_c$	Diameter of photoacoustic cell
дn	Excess electron concentration
∂p	Excess hole concentration
$\partial P$	Pressure fluctuation in the gas region
$\partial V$	Incremental volume
Ε	Photon energy
E <sub>c</sub>	Energy of bottom of conduction band in semiconductor
E <sub>g</sub>	Bandgap energy
$E_f$	Energy of top valance band in semiconductor
f	Modulation frequency
$\phi$	Phase



$\phi_o$	Initial phase angle
γ	Ratio of the specific heats
γ'	Carrier diffusion coefficient
' <i>G</i> "	Generation rate of excess electrons
' <i>G</i> <sub>p</sub>	Generation rate of excess holes
Н	Heat density produced at any point $x$ , owing to light absorbed in this point in the solid
h	Planck constant
hv	Incident photons
I	Current
Io	Incident monochromatic light flux (W/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Ι	Intensity
λ	Wavelength
L <sub>c</sub>	Length of photoacoustic cell
l <sub>b</sub>	The thickness of thermal conductor back surface
l <sub>β</sub>	Optical length
lg	Length of gas column/gas chamber
ls	Sample thickness
K <sub>n</sub>	Thermal conductivity of layer n
ĸ	Thermal conductivity of the sample
$\mu_s$	Thermal diffusion length
η	Efficiency at which the absorbed light at wavelength $\lambda$ is converted to heat by the non-radiative deexcitation process
n	Layer of medium. <b>n</b> can take the subscripts of $s$ for solid, $g$ for gas and $b$ for backing material

