



Role of Artificial Intelligence in Nanomanufacturing Photolithography and Plasma Etch

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4/22/2022

Acknowledgment

- Amit Lal and SonicMEMS team, ECE, Cornell
- Peter Doerschuk and Yunye Gong, ECE, Cornell
- MEng student group, ECE/BME, Cornell
- Chris Ober, CNF technical staff members (Garry Bordonaro, Vince Genova, Jeremy Clark and John Treichler)
- Hitachi HTA (Marco Hauser, Steve Ayres)

Supporting programs:

- DARPA PAI program
- SEMI-FlexTech/ARL
- DARPA NZERO program

CNF facility:

This work was performed in part at the Cornell NanoScale Facility, an NNCI member supported by NSF Grant NNCI-2025233.

You can build *anything* at NanofabCNF!



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Which image is a real SEM?

Process: (HBr+Ar) ICP-etched Si nanostructures, with UV210 resist mask.





These are all AI predictions!

SEM images shows a 2 x 2 um.

[SEMI master class #6, 2021]

Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- ML and AI have made a lot of progress in recent years due to algorithmic advances and large datasets all enabled by computational resources (e.g., HPC, GPUs, TPUs ...)
- Example areas where AI already has impact includes: E-commerce, face recognition and autonomous vehicles
- AI and ML is being used in **material science**
- All is being used to enhance the **computation** and **pattern recognition** efficiency on the data collected by micro and nanosystems (e.g, **IoT**, **edge devices**)
- But application of AI to micro and nanofabrication and device design is in its infancy

Can AI/ML solve nanofabrication challenges?

Nanodevices design and manufacturing challenges:

- Excessive effort and time for new device development
- Lack of standard/generic processes
- Novel materials and process development challenges
- Lack of process connection with CAD tools
- Growing demand for integration
- Multiple foundry implementation challenges





Example: Si NEMS switch fabrication



NEMS radio switch

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Learning outcome of nanofabrication



Machine learning = Learning from examples Three Phases: Data **Optimization** Learning algorithm structure 1. Train: Algorithm and parameter values **True Labels Predicted Labels** Learning Data 2. Test: Algorithm Comparison Performance Metrics True Labels Learning 3. Use: **Predicted Labels** Data Algorithm

- The Learning Algorithm approximates the unknown function that maps **Data** to **Labels**.
- Accurate True Labels are important! Otherwise, the Learning Algorithm is trying to find a mapping of "one" to "many".
- Example data must match eventual Use data! ("transfer learning")

Training dataset motivated by NEMS switch

Compliant Contac

NEMS RF switch layout:





Wafer layout:



Fragments of mask layout:

ETE



TETE

Structures on the PAI Wafer: 115 x 8 x 4 x 2 x 6 x 6 x 18 = 4,769,280 [cell] x [L] x [P] x [Po] x [W] x [G] x [rep.]

Measured CD-SEMs for PAI program: 115 x 8 x 1 x 1 x 6 x 6 x 1 = 33,120 [L]: layout pattern (8 patterns)
[P]: pitch (line/space ratio: 1,1.25,1.5&2)
[Po]:polarity of patterns (positive and inverted)
[W]: width of lines (150-400 nm)
[G]: gap size (150 - 400 nm)
[rep.]: number of repeated structures (3x9)

[SEMI master class #6, 2021]

Nanofabrication Tools Used for NEMS Switch

SUSS – Gamma Cluster



SussTec Gamma Photoresist Cluster Automated Spin-coater Automated Develop (Spray/Stream) Multiple Proximity Hot Plates and Chill Plate Genmark Robotic Wafer Handling Alta Spray Coating Module 200mm – 100mm Wafer Capability **ASML – DUV Stepper**



ASML PAS 5500/300C 248nm DUV 0.63-0.40 Variable NA AERIAL Illuminator 3D-Align Back Side Alignment 200mm - 3" Capability **Oxford-ICP Etcher**



Oxford ICP Cobra Etcher Automatic Process Log Transfer Multiple viewports for spatial variability (RP Camera Installed) Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES) for plasma species variability 100 mm Capability

CD-SEM Images and Preprocessing

Photoresist pattern on wafer (CD-SEM)



Data Format & Dimensionality

Multi-dimensional Data: Device/Performance Data Wafer-Level Die-Level Device-Level Umage: Strategy of the strat

Multi-format Data:



(1) Feature-based ML approaches

Linear Models



Decision Trees X=[G,W,...] G>200nm Ves No G>250nm Ves No Ves No Accepted

CD confidence

Support Vector Machines



Naïve Bayesian Classification



K-nearest Neighbor



Neural Networks



[SEMI master class #6, 2021]

ML based regression applied to design



[SEMI master class #6, 2021]

ML for design: width & gap interpolation





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(2) Deep learning for image-to-image translation **Overall Plan:** $I_{\text{Mask Layout}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mask Layout}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mage-based}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Dinary or gray scale}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Virtual Mage-based}} \bigoplus I_{\text{NN}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Dinary or gray scale}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Matrix}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Matrix}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mask Layout}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mage-based}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mage-babased}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mage-based}} \bigoplus I_{\text{Mage-babased}}$

One approach: Pix2Pix method for image-to-image translation:



Ref: [arXiv, 1611.07004]

Summary of Pix2Pix method:

- Conditional Generative Adversarial Network (cGAN)
- Two main parts:
 - **Discriminator:** measures the similarity of the input image with an unknown image (either comes from the real target image or the output image from the generator) and guess if this unknown image is produced by the generator
 - Generator: predict the output image from the input image
 - In **use mode** we only use the generator.

[SEMI master class #6, 2021]

Pix2Pix Training: Generator and Discriminator

Generator Training



Discriminator Training



Ref: [arXiv, 1611.07004]

Input

[MEMS 2022]

Pix2Pix Method: Training & Testing versus Using



[MEMS 2022[]]

Learning process outcomes and prediction by Pix2Pix



What AI can do for ...

- Quantification and Metrology
- Learning process parameters
- Reverse direction
- Al-powered autonomous nanostructure design tool
- Al-powered autonomous device design tool



Virtual Metrology: Resist CD-SEM

Virtual Metrology Verification

Goal: ProSEM will serve as a gold standard to compare the accuracy of measurements



Scripting interface (Python) for automation

ProSEM measurement results

gl Edge Mod∢	Fine Mode	Cd Pos	Auto Cont	Filter Type	Gauss X	Gauss Y	Line Scan A	LL X[um]	LL Y[um]	UR X[um]	UR Y[um]
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.1154	1.6436	1.431
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.241	1.6436	1.5567
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.0525	1.6436	1.3682
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.2882	1.6436	1.6038
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9897	1.1625	1.6907	1.4782
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.0682	1.6436	1.3839
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.1154	1.6436	1.431
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.974	1.3196	1.675	1.6353
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9269	1.0997	1.6278	1.4153
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.2568	1.6436	1.5724
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.1311	1.6436	1.4467
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9426	1.1625	1.6436	1.4782
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.9269	1.1782	1.6278	1.4939
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.974	1.1154	1.675	1.431
Automatic	Sigmoidal	Mid	On	Gaussian	1	3	0	0.974	1.1154	1.675	1.431

Automatic measurement on large batch of data is possible.

DNN1: cartoonGAN + Thresholding



Binarization

Median Filter + **Adaptive Thresholding** + Remove Small Connected Components +Erosion Dilation

Process

Median Filter + (Sobel Edge Detection + Absolute Thresholding) + Remove Small Connected Components + Erosion dilation

Deep Learning Training Dataset

Training Dataset Part 1:

Raw SEM images and Binary image from DNN1 are paired to form a **train & test dataset** for Pix2Pix and BasNet

Only Well-connected results are included



A- The final trainset has **5572** image pairs including all eight structures from **wafer 1 to wafer 8** B- The testset has **908** image pairs including all eight structures from **wafer 9**

Training Dataset Part 2:

Data Augmentation Reduced contrast of selected areas of sidewalls



Note: Augmented SEM with reduced contrasted is paired with well-connected binary image in the training dataset.

DNN2: DNN1 + Pix2Pix



DNN3: DNN1 + BasNET



Virtual Metrology: Post-Etch CD-SEM



Active contour



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Virtual metrology challenges with complexities of post-Etch CD-SEMs



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U-net for image segmentation

Goal: automatic and robust segmentation of sidewalls in post-etch CD-SEM images

Progress: training U-net with successful results of simple segmentation algorithms

Differential Interference Contrast (DIC) Image-HeLa Cells







U-net Architecture

https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-319-24574-4_28.pdf

Post-Etch binarization process

Goal: automatic labeling to train a U-net for image segmentation



U-net: one structure type (TGAP/DTGAP)



Using RGB channels to merge process parameters with CD-SEM data



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Training dataset: pseudo-colored layouts

• Layout + Process Parameters



Augmentation to enhance the learning (rotation example)



Results: with augmentation (16X)

Best result parameters for pix2pix: with augmentation

Crop_size = 256 batch_size = 16 N_epoch = 400 Epoch_decay = 100 Learning_rate = 0.0001 Augmentation: Rotated 90° 180° 270°, randomly cropped (4 times each)





BS15_M0190-02MS

<u>Test results for other layout (Not included in the training set)</u>

Toward assessment of learning outcomes

Experimental Image S15 M2740-02MS.tif



Process-aware AI Predicted Image



Pseudo-colored layout with process parameters



Process Parameters: E=21 J/cm², F=-0.5 μ m SEM images show 2x2 μ m area (3.9 nm/pixel)

Reverse direction: process diagnostics



CycleGAN and Cycle Consistency



Can AI make nanodevice fabrication Ubiquitous?

- We developed ML models to learn the DUV lithography process and we demonstrated interpolation beyond training dataset
- We trained deep learning models to learn and predict the outcomes of DUV lithography and Plasma Etch Processes
- Al models can be used as a design tool (mask, process parameters,....) for micro and nanofabrication
- Al potentially simplifies integration of multiple foundries working on one device, which potentially provides privacy gains at hardware level
- Al driven design improvement are not limited to MEMS and can be applied to IC industries, printed electronics, optics, and so forth

What do you think?







Mask Layout



Experimental DUV Lithography

> Pix2Pix Prediction



Real



Resist Pattern





Experimental Plasma Etch



Back UP Charts: TA1-AI

This section contains the supporting data and charts to support extended discussions and the Q&A section.

- Pix2Pix details
- Augmentation
- Quantification and virtual metrology
- Process parameters

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DUV lithography prediction by trained Pix2Pix





Pix2Pix Results for Plasma Etch

DTGAP Pix2Pix Prediction TCL **Pre-Etch Post-Etch** Prediction **Resist Profile** Si Profile Synthesized SEM [SEMI master class #6, 2021] SEM images shows a 2 x 2 um area.

Summary

- ML feature-based model for DUV lithography process
- Pix2Pix model to learn to predict the outcomes of the DUV Lithography and Plasma Etch

Future Directions:

End-to-End implementation: adjusting layout to achieve target performance metric

OES feature-based plasma etch improvement

Design tool to improve the electrical and mechanical performance



Summary

- Al can improve design (mask, process parameters,....) for micro and nanofabrication
- Al driven design improvements can be used for microcalorimeter and Ultrasound microdevices that are also important applications
- Al potentially simplifies integration of multiple foundries working on one device, which potentially provides privacy gains at hardware level
- Al driven design improvement are not limited to MEMS and can be applied to IC industries, printed electronics, optics, and so forth

Beyond Training Database: Augmentation Training Data # Use Data



Augmented Data and Pix2Pix Results



[this work, unpublished preliminary results]

Virtual Metrology





Test vehicle: NEMS switch for RF wakeup



- NEMS switch can trigger at near zero power at the receipt of a specific very low RF signal
- Low power wakeup enables longbattery lifetime devices
- NEMS switch critical to ultralow signal wakeup radio – both for DOD and civilian IoT applications
- NEMS switch uses both lithography and etching for testing AI framework

Device Operation



1. Pre-bias until the contact gap is within a few times the thermal noise displacement (z_n)



2. Use RF to close the gap completely

$$F_{\rm RF} = \frac{Q}{4} \frac{\epsilon_0 A_{\rm RF}}{(g_{\rm RF} - z_{\rm DC})^2} V_{\rm RF}^2 = k \alpha \sqrt{\frac{4k_B T Q}{k}}$$

Focused Ion Beam (FIB) for Gap Control







Lithography Results: Data Preparation



Limitations of Pix2Pix



Gap Prediction Performance Quantification

- For TGAP predicted CD SEM from masks, 58.32% out of 2915 images for which Hitachi gave a CD value have a percentage error smaller than 10%, and MAPE is 4.44%.
- For TGAP experimental CD SEM from wafers, 86.65% out of 2915 images for which Hitachi gave a CD value have a percentage error smaller than 10%, and MAPE is 1.23%.
- Algorithm parameters (number of epochs and batch size) lead to +/- 5% change in performance.





MAPE : Mean Absolute Percentage Error



Conditioning schemes for guiding image-2-image translation Input Output Input Output Input Transpose FT PG conv conv Output Input Output Guide Guide Guide Guide (a) Input Concatenation (c) Uni-directional FT (d) Ours: Bi-directional FT (b) Feature Concatenation

[B. Albahar, ICCV 2019]

Data & AI Projected impact on Semiconductor

Exhibit 3 Growth for semiconductors related to artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to be five times greater than growth in the remainder of the market.



¹ Total available market includes processors, memory, and storage; excludes discretes, optical, and micro-electricalmechanical systems.

² Compound annual growth rate.

 3 E = estimated.

Source: Bernstein; Cisco Systems; Gartner; IC Insights; IHS Markit; Machina Research; McKinsey analysis Source: Sour

KNN Performance per Feature Size



KNN Model for width & gap Interpolation



OES







GAN Evaluation Metrics

- <u>Goal</u>: for each input/output image pair (x,y), quantitatively evaluate "how good" the fake output G(x) is – difficult in general.
- Several approaches taken in previous work:
 - Segmentation-Based: if x is a segmentation of y, compute segmentation of G(x) using FCN. Then, segmentation metrics indirectly evaluate generator performance (pix2pix, mAP).
 - Frechet Inception Distance: using pretrained CNN, retrieve output layer vectors for each y (placing in set Y) and for each G(x) (in set X). Compute Frechet distance between the resulting sets Y, X (FID).
 - Human Perceptual Study: allow individuals to select which of y, G(x) looks more natural in controlled study (pix2pixHD)
 - Analyze L1 Loss: take average (over all images) of the L1 distance between y, G(x). Already able to do this, but distance is different from quality of fake.

G(x

Real/Fak

Segmentation-Based

- Let s be the segmentation of G(x) the fully connected network (FCN) gives.
- Compare **ground truth** (x) and **prediction** (s) using segmentation metrics, taking results as a pseudo-metric for quality of the generator.
- <u>Idea:</u> our x is not a segmentation of y, but binary segmentation of postetch images (y) is relatively easy via heuristic. Segment & compare y, G(x).



Heuristic (Otsu Thresholding & 3x3 Median Filter)

G()

Real/Fake

G

Segmentation Metrics

- Compare set of predicted foreground to ground truth for single image.
- Average Precision (AP):
 - Assume that the final step of the segmentation algorithm is a simple threshold.
 - For a set of n thresholds between min and max graylevels, evaluate the precision and recall we get for each (cf. precision-recall curves).
 - $AP = \sum_{k=1}^{n} (Recall_k Recall_{k-1}) \cdot Precision_k$
- Take the mean over all images for a score with any of these metrics (mAP, mIoU, ...)



- Precision = $\frac{TP}{TP+FP}$
- Recall = $\frac{TP}{TP+FN}$

Frechet Inception Distance

- Load InceptionV3 classification network, pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset (or possibly another CNN).
- Form sets X = {set of Inception v3 output activation vectors for each G(x)}, Y = {set of Inception v3 output activation vectors for each y}.
- Compute Frechet Distance between X and Y:

$$d^{2} = ||\mu_{X} - \mu_{Y}||^{2} + tr(C_{X} + C_{Y} - 2(C_{X}C_{Y})^{1/2})|$$

- Where μ_S , C_S are the sample mean and covariance of a set S.
- Lower FID indicates that sets X,Y are more similar, and thus that our generator produces better fakes.

G(x

Real/Fake