Application of Taguchi-based Grey Fuzzy Logic for Simultaneous Optimization in TiO₂/WSi_x-based Vertical Double-gate MOSFET

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Abstract— This present study focuses on finding the optimal process parameters, considering multiple electrical properties of titanium dioxide/tungsten silicide (TiO2/WSix)-based vertical double-gate MOSFET via L9 orthogonal array (OA) Taguchibased grey fuzzy logic. Four process parameters that are VTH implant energy, halo implant dose, source/drain (S/D) implant dose and S/D implant tilt angle, are optimized to obtain the most desired value of on-current (ION), off-current (IOFF) and subthreshold slope (SS). The design of experiment (DoE) is based on the L₉ OA of Taguchi method and the experimental value for multiple electrical characteristics are represented by a grey fuzzy reasoning grade (GFRG). The most optimal level of four process parameters towards ION, IOFF and SS are chosen based on the highest GFRG. The results of analysis of variance (ANOVA) show that the most dominant process parameter is S/D implant tilt angle with 96.76% factor effect on GFRG. The most optimal value for ION, IOFF and SS after the optimization are 1589.2 µA/µm, 8.483E-10 A/µm and 68.21 mV/dec respectively with 0.564 of GFRG.

Index Terms—ANOVA; GFRG; Off-Current; On-Current.

I. INTRODUCTION

Process parameter variations are one of the main factors to have a significant influence on the electrical properties of the Metal-oxide-semiconductor Field Effect Transistor (MOSFET). As stated in the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductor (ITRS) [1], the key problems that circuit designers face due to further shrinking of feature sizes is the increasing variability of design-related parameters, resulting from process parameter variations, e.g., channel doping [2]. The channel region of a MOSFET is doped with impurity atoms. These atoms are randomly distributed into the channel via dopant implantation processes that leads to statistical variations of the implanted impurities [3].

The process parameter variations can be categories into global and local variations. For global variations, such as doping concentration, energy and tilt angle do change equally for all MOSFETs [4]. In contrast, local variations are recognized as random uncorrelated variations in which each MOSFET is affected differently. In other words, variations are distinguished by their spatial correlation distance where local variations have no correlation, whereas global variations has a very large correlation distance [3]. Channel doping is regarded as global variations since they can be intentionally biased to attain extremely slow and fast switching operation of the MOSFET.

Several previous reports have utilized various of statistical methods to reduce the process parameter variations in order to obtain the desired electrical properties of MOSFETs. For instance, a technical report by Ramakrishnan applied response surface methodology (RSM) to model the variability for 65nm technology of MOSFET [3]. The results indicated that the RSM did succeed to model the threshold voltage (V_{TH}), I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS of the 65nm MOSFET simultaneously. However, this approach was quite time consuming because it requires a lot of data for design of experiment (DoE). Alternatively, Taguchi method can be applied to solve the optimization problems related to process parameter variations in MOSFETs [5]. Salehuddin et al. and Afifah Maheran et al. have utilized Taguchi method for solving various of optimization problems in MOSFETs [6]-[9]. Although, Taguchi method does require a least of experimental data, it is however, only restricted to a single electrical characteristic's optimization.

To overcome this particular drawback, grey fuzzy logic approach is introduced to compensate the weakness of Taguchi method. Several previous works on the application Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic have been reported in many engineering areas [10]–[13]. The Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic approach is basically based on DoE consists of a special orthogonal array (OA) that is assigned to every involved factor (process parameter) with their corresponding levels. To solve multiple optimization problems, the experimental data retrieved from the DoE are converted into grey relational coefficients (GRCs). These GRCs are then converted into grey fuzzy reasoning grade (GFRG) to represent multiple electrical properties. This case study emphasizes on the simultaneous optimization of ION, IOFF and SS in TiO₂/WSi_x-based vertical double-gate MOSFET using L₉ OA of Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic approach.

II. TCAD SIMULATION

This section will provide a brief description on the simulation of the TiO_2/WSi_x -based vertical double-gate MOSFET using Silvaco TCAD Tools.

A. Process Simulation

The 2-D simulation for 10-nm gate length (L_g) TiO₂/WSi_xbased vertical double-gate n-channel MOSFET is studied using ATHENA module of Silvaco TCAD tools. The geometric design is built based on the previous report in [14], [15]. Table 1 lists the physical parameters used in the simulated device. The 2-D cross-section of the device which define the geometry like gate length (L_g) , channel length (L_c) , silicon pillar's height (H_{sp}) and etc. are shown in Figure 1.

 $Table \ 1 \\ Physical Parameters for Simulated TiO_2/WSi_x\mbox{-based Vertical Double-gate} \\ MOSFET$

Parameters	Value
Gate Length (Lg)	10 nm
Gate Thickness (Tg)	9 nm
Silicon Pillar Heigth (H _{sp})	14 nm
Silicon Pillar Thickness (T _{sp})	15 nm
TiO ₂ Thickness	3 nm
Spacer Nitride Thickness (T _{Si3Ni4})	15 nm
Channel Length (L _c)	20 nm
Metal-gate Workfunction (WF)	4.5 eV



Figure 1: Cross section of 10nm Lg of WSix/TiO₂-based Vertical Doublegate NMOS

B. Device Simulation

The device simulation of the TiO₂/WSi_x-based vertical double-gate MOSFET was conducted by using an ATLAS module of Silvaco TCAD tools. Figure 2 illustrates the contour mode of the device, showing the tabulation of silicon, WSi_x, TiO₂, silicon nitride (Si₃Ni₄) and aluminum. Figure 3 depicts the subthreshold I_D vs. V_G curve at V_D = 0.05 V and V_D = 1.0 V for the device. The value of I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS was extracted from the curve. The initial value of I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS were observed to be 1588.3 μ A/ μ m, 8.477E-10 A/ μ m and 68.24 mV/dec respectively. The subthreshold swing (SS) was extracted from the inverse slope of log₁₀ I_D vs V_{GS} characteristic shown in (1) [16]:

$$SS = \left[\frac{d(\log_{10} I_{DS})}{dV_{GS}}\right]^{-1}$$
(1)



Figure 2: Contour Mode of 10nm Lg of WSix/TiO₂-based Vertical Double-gate NMOS



Figure 3: Graph of subthreshold drain current (I_D)-gate voltage (V_G)

III. SIMULTANEOUS OPTIMIZATION OF ION, IOFF AND SS

In this study, the L_9 OA of Taguchi method was combined with a grey fuzzy logic approach to optimize multiple electrical characteristics of the device. The steps for conducting a simultaneous optimization by using L_9 OA of Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic approach is shown in Figure 4.

A. L₉ Orthogonal Array (OA) of Taguchi Method

There are four process parameters studied in this study, which are known as V_{TH} implant energy, halo implant dose, S/D implant dose and S/D implant tilt angle. Since four process parameters are involved, the L₉ OA of Taguchi method has been applied in this current study. Table 2 shows the list of process parameters and their levels. Table 3 shows the combination of levels of process parameters with their corresponding electrical characteristics. The information in Table 3 is used to study the effects of process parameters on I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS characteristics.



Figure 4: Optimization using L9 OA of Taguchi-based Grey Fuzzy Logic

 Table 2

 Process Parameters of TiO₂/WSi_x-based Vertical double gate n-channel MOSFET

Sym.	Process	Units	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Parameter				
A	V _{TH} Implant	kev	20	22	24
	Energy				
В	Halo Implant	atom/cm ⁻³	2.87E13	2.89E13	2.91E13
	Dose				
С	S/D Implant	atom/cm ⁻³	2.21E18	2.23E18	2.25E18
	Dose				
D	S/D Implant	degree	76	77	78
	Tilt Angle				

Table 3L9 Orthogonal Array Table for Responses

Exp	Pa	ramet	er Le	vel	I _{ON}	$I_{OFF}(10^{-10})$	SS
no.	Α	В	С	D	(V)	(A/µm)	(mV/dec)
1	1	1	1	1	1588.3	8.477	68.24
2	1	2	2	2	1577.4	8.354	68.45
3	1	3	3	3	1567.5	8.203	68.67
4	2	1	2	3	1581.6	8.446	68.37
5	2	2	3	1	1589.3	8.483	68.21
6	2	3	1	2	1576.9	8.351	68.46
7	3	1	3	2	1592.8	8.610	68.14
8	3	2	1	3	1581.3	8.447	68.37
9	3	3	2	1	1589	8.484	68.23

B. Grey Relational Analysis (GRA)

Multiple electrical characteristics of the device have been investigated using GRA. Using GRA approach, the multiple electrical characteristics of the device like I_{ON} , I_{OFF} and SS are converted into grey relational coefficient (GRC). Initially, all the electrical characteristics obtained from L₉ OA of Taguchi method are normalized in the range of 0 to 1. These electrical characteristics are categorized into different performance characteristics where I_{ON} is classified into

higher-the-better performance characteristics, while I_{OFF} and SS are classified into lower-the-better performance characteristics. The following equations are used to normalize the electrical characteristics, respectively [17]:

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{x_i(k) - \min x_i(k)}{\max x_i(k) - \min x_i(k)}, \text{ higher-the-better} \quad (2)$$

$$x_{i}^{*}(k) = \frac{\max x_{i}(k) - x_{i}(k)}{\max x_{i}(k) - \min x_{i}(k)}, \text{ lower-the-better}$$
(3)

where $x_i^*(k)$ and $x_i(k)$ are the sequence after data preprocessing and comparability sequence. Table 4 shows the normalized sequence of all the responses based on their corresponding performance characteristics.

Table 4 Normalized Response Values for Conducted Experiments

Exp. no	I _{ON}	I _{OFF}	SS
Reference Sequence	1	1	1
1	0.8221	0.3268	0.8113
2	0.3913	0.6290	0.4151
3	0	1	0
4	0.5573	0.4029	0.5660
5	0.8617	0.3120	0.8679
6	0.3715	0.6364	0.3962
7	1	0	1
8	0.5455	0.4005	0.5660
9	0.8498	0.3096	0.8302

 $\Delta_{oi}(k)$ is the deviation sequence of the reference sequence $x_o^*(k)$ and the comparability sequence $x_i^*(k)$ as shown in (4) [17]:

$$\Delta_{ai}(k) = |x_{a}^{*}(k) - x_{i}^{*}(k)|$$
(4)

The deviation sequences were calculated and summarized in Table 5.

Table 5 Deviation Sequences

Deviation sequences	$\Delta_{0i}(1)$	$\Delta_{0i}(2)$	$\Delta_{0i}(3)$
Exp no. 1	0.1779	0.6732	0.1887
Exp no. 2	0.6087	0.3710	0.5849
Exp no. 3	1	0	1
Exp no. 4	0.4427	0.5971	0.4340
Exp no. 5	0.1383	0.6880	0.1321
Exp no. 6	0.6285	0.3636	0.6038
Exp no. 7	0	1	0
Exp no. 8	0.4545	0.5995	0.4340
Exp no. 9	0.1502	0.6904	0.1698

After data normalization is done, a grey relational coefficient (GRC) is measured with the pre-processed sequence. The GRC is defined as follows [17]:

$$\xi_{i}(k) = \frac{\Delta_{\min} + \xi \Delta_{\max}}{\Delta_{oi}(k) + \xi \Delta_{\max}}$$
(5)

where ξ is a *n* identification coefficient. Since all the process parameters are given and equal preference, ξ is taken as 0.5, while Δ_{max} and Δ_{min} are the maximum and minimum absolute difference. Table 6 shows the GRCs of I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS for each of the experiments.

Table 6 Grey Relational Coeffecients (GRCs)

Exp.		GRC	
no.	$I_{ON} \xi_i(1)$	$I_{OFF} \xi_i(2)$	SS $\xi_i(3)$
1	0.7376	0.4262	0.7260
2	0.4510	0.5741	0.4609
3	0.3333	1	0.3333
4	0.5304	0.4557	0.5353
5	0.7833	0.4209	0.7910
6	0.4431	0.5790	0.4530
7	1	0.3333	1
8	0.5238	0.4548	0.5353
9	0.7690	0.4200	0.7465

C. Grey Fuzzy Logic Analysis

Grey fuzzy logic is introduced to deal with the uncertainty using membership values that varies from 0 to 1. This approach involves fuzzification of input and output parameters, application of fuzzy rule and defuzzification of the output responses. The grey fuzzy logic analysis is performed by using the Matlab toolbox. The GRC of each electrical characteristic was utilized as an input variable to the defuzzification process. The input variables were then processed in the fuzzy rules to generate an output. Mamdani type system is able to give the fuzzy output that can be converted into a non-fuzzy value called a grey fuzzy reasoning grade (GFRG) via defuzzification method.

The GRCs for I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS are fuzzified into three sets which are small (S), medium (M) and large (L) as depicted in Figure 5. The output of GFRGs were fuzzified into nine sets which were ultra-small (US), very-small (VS), small (S), low-medium (LM), medium (M), high-medium (HM), large (L), very-large (VL) and ultra-large (UL) as shown in Figure 6. Figure 7 shows a set of fuzzy rule that have been applied in this study. The GFRG are capable of handling the complicated optimization of multiple electrical properties. Utilizing the value of GFRG, the relational degree between main factor and the others was computed for each electrical property.



Figure 5: Membership Function for GRC of I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS (input)



Figure 6: Membership Function for GFRG (output)



Figure 7: Nine sets of Fuzzy Rule

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS AND VERIFICATION TEST

The GFRG value for each set of experiments were predicted based on the grey fuzzy rule. For instance, the GRCs of the experiment no. 1 were selected (refer to Table 6) which resulted in 0.555 of GFRG as shown in Figure 8. The same procedure was repeated for all the remaining experiments. Table 7 shows the obtained GFRGs from the predicted values of fuzzy inference system (FIS) and its rank.



Figure 8: Rule Box in Matlab (input1=0.738, input2=0.426, input3=0.726)

 Table 7

 Grey Fuzzy Reasoning Grade (GFRG) and their Ranks

Exp.	Grey relational coefficient			GFRG	Rank
no.	I _{ON}	I _{OFF}	SS		
	ξ _i (1)	ξ _i (2)	ξ _i (3)		
1	0.7376	0.4262	0.7260	0.555	3
2	0.4510	0.5741	0.4609	0.5	4
3	0.3333	1	0.3333	0.5	4
4	0.5304	0.4557	0.5353	0.5	4
5	0.7833	0.4209	0.7910	0.564	1
6	0.4431	0.5790	0.4530	0.5	4
7	1	0.3333	1	0.5	4
8	0.5238	0.4548	0.5353	0.5	4
9	0.7690	0.4200	0.7465	0.562	2

According to Table 7, experiment row no. 5 has the highest GFRG compared to the others. The higher value of GFRG implies that the results are close to ideal normalized value.

A. Factor Effect on GFRG Analysis

The optimal level of process parameters can be obtained by conducting factor effect on GFRG analysis. Since the DoE is orthogonal, the GFRG at different levels can be separate out. For instance, the mean of the GFRG for factor A (V_{TH} implant energy) at level 1 can be computed by averaging the GFRG at the experiment row 1 to 3 as the level 1 has been specifically allocated for column factor A as listed in Table 3. All the calculated GFRG for all the process parameters are listed in Table 8.

 Table 8

 Grey Fuzzy Reasoning Grade (GFRG) for Process Parameters

Sym.	Process Parameters	Grey Fuzzy Reasoning Grade		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
А	V _{TH} Implant Energy	0.5183	0.5213	0.5207
В	Halo Implant Dose	0.5183	0.5213	0.5207
С	S/D Implant Dose	0.5183	0.5207	0.5213
D	S/D Implant Tilt Angle	0.5603	0.5	0.5

The GFRGs for each process parameters were then translated into factor effect graph to identify the optimal value for each of the process parameters as depicted in Figure 9. It is clearly shown that the most optimal value of process parameters based on the highest GFRG are $A_2B_2C_3D_1$.



Figure 9: Factor effect plot of GFRGs for $I_{\text{ON}},\,I_{\text{OFF}}$ and SS

B. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for GFRG

To investigate the significance of the process parameters towards GFRG, the ANOVA is carried out. The ANOVA table consists of parameters such as the sum of squares (SSQ), degree of freedom (DF), variance or mean square (MS), F-value and percentage of the effect of each process parameter upon GFRG. The results of ANOVA show that factor D (S/D implant tilt angle) is the most dominant process parameter with 96.76% factor effect on GFRG. The completed ANOVA table for GFRG is shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Results of ANOVA for GFRG

Process	DF	SSQ	MS	F-	Percentage
Parameter				ratio	contribution
					(ρ)
(A) V _{TH}	2	0.0015m	0.00075m	6.52m	0.02
Implant Energy					
(B) Halo	2	0.0015m	0.00075m	6.52m	0.02
Implant Dose					
(C) S/D	2	0.0015m	0.00075m	6.52m	0.02
Implant Dose					
(D) S/D	2	0.007	0.00035	30.43	96.76
Implant Tilt					
Error	2	0.00023	0.115m	-	3.18
Total	10	0.00723		-	100

C. Verification Test

The verification test was conducted to verify the optimal combination level of process parameters predicted by L_9 OA of Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic with the actual results. The optimal combination of process parameter levels resulted in the highest GFRG was found to be $A_2B_2C_3D_1$. Table 10 shows the best combinational levels of the process parameters of the device. The device was then re-simulated using the optimized level of process parameters ($A_2B_2C_3D_1$). The predicted GFRG, using the optimal level of process parameters can be measured using (7) [17]:

$$\hat{\gamma} = \gamma_m + \sum_{i=1}^{q} \left(\gamma_i - \gamma_m \right) \tag{7}$$

where are the total means of GFRG, γ is the mean of GFRG at optimal level and q is the number of process parameters. The predicted GFRG of the optimal level of process parameters for the device can be calculated as follows:

$$\hat{\gamma} = \gamma_m + \sum_{i=1}^{4} (\gamma_i - \gamma_m)$$

$$\hat{\gamma} = 0.5201 + (0.5213 - 0.5201) + (0.5213 - 0.5201) + (0.5213 - 0.5201) + (0.5603 - 0.5201)$$

$$\hat{\gamma} = 0.564$$

The improvements in GFRG with optimized process parameters for multiple electrical characteristics are summarized in Table 11. The GFRG of process parameters after optimization was slightly improved by 1.6%. The highest GFRG indicates the closeness of the I_{ON}, I_{OFF} and SS to their desired value.

Table 10 Optimal Level of Process Parameters

Symbol	Process Parameter	Units	Optimal Value
А	V _{TH} Implant Energy	kev	22
В	Halo Implant Dose	atom/cm-3	2.89E13
С	S/D Implant Dose	atom/cm-3	2.25E18
D	S/D Implant Tilt Angle	degree	76

Based on Table 11, I_{ON} is slightly improved by 0.06% after the optimization. Besides that, the I_{ON} is increased by 6.87% compared to ITRS 2013 prediction. The I_{OFF} is observed to be slightly increased by 0.07% from the value before optimization. However, the I_{OFF} is still under 100 A/µm as predicted by ITRS 2013 [1]. The SS value after the optimization is slightly decreased by 0.04% from the value before the optimization. Hence, it is concluded that the I_{ON} , I_{OFF} and SS of the device can be simultaneously optimized using a L₉ OA of Taguchi-based grey fuzzy logic method.

Table 11 Improvements in GRG and Responses with Optimized Process Parameters

Condition	Before	After	ITDS
Description	Ontimination	Ontiniation	2012
Description	Optimization	Optimization	2015
	(First set of	using L ₉ OA of	Prediction
	experiment row)	Taguchi-based	[1]
		grey fuzzy logic	
Level	$A_1B_1C_1D_1$	$A_2B_2C_3D_1$	N/A
$I_{ON} (\mu A/\mu m)$	1588.3	1589.3	≥ 1480
$I_{OFF} (A/\mu m)$	8.477E-10	8.483E-10	$\leq 100n$
SS (mV/dec)	68.24	68.21	N/A
GFRG	0.555	0.564	N/A
	Improvement in	GRG = 1.6 %	

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the ANOVA for GFRG, the S/D implant tilt angle gives the highest contribution for reducing the total variation of multiple electrical characteristics. The combination of process parameter for a high ION, a low IOFF and a low SS in TiO₂/WSi_x-based vertical double-gate nchannel MOSFET are V_{TH} implant energy of 22 kev, halo implant dose of 2.89E13 atom/cm⁻³, S/D implant dose of 2.25E18 atom/cm⁻³ and S/D implant tilt angle of 76°. The highest I_{ON} obtained from the analysis is 1589.3 μ A/ μ m with a slight improvement of 0.06% compared to the I_{ON} before the optimization. The IOFF, and SS characteristic are within the acceptable range. The final results have shown that the L₉ OA of Taguchi method is capable of optimizing multiple electrical characteristics simultaneously in the TiO₂/WSi_xbased vertical double-gate MOSFET.

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