



Crystalline Hafnia and Zirconia based Dielectrics for Memory Applications

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Cuvillier Verlag Mai 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - This work investigates the crystallography and dielectric properties of Zirconium- and Hafnium-oxide based nano-scale thin film insulators for memory. Hafnium- and Zirconium-oxide are industry leading candidates for high-k dielectrics. Most application research has focused on the application of amorphous high-k due to formation of defects associated with the crystalline phase. However the application of crystalline dielectrics offers two advantages: Potentially high thermal stability, since no measures have to be taken to avoid crystallization, and the ability to manipulate crystalline phase composition to maximize dielectric constants. Pure ZrO_2 crystallized at a lower temperature than HfO_2 and always formed a metastable t' higher-k phase. ZrO_2 crystallized already during deposition, leading to leakage current degradation. It was shown that this problem could be solved by SiO_2 addition to raise the crystallization temperature, allowing fabrication of low leakage, low effective oxide thickness (EOT) metal-insulator-metal (MIM) capacitors suitable for stack based DRAM down to the 4X nm node. HfO_2 , in contrast, formed a mixture of monoclinic and tetragonal phase which led to the formation of mechanical defects (microcracks). Addition of SiO_2 allowed manipulating the phase composition of HfO_2 . When up to 7 mol% SiO_2 was added, increased stabilization...



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