

Proximity Effect in E-Beam Lithography

Overview and Agenda

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LAB

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Part	Subject	Date
1	Electron Scattering and Proximity Effect	07-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
2	Dose PEC Algorithm and Parameter	14-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
3	Optimization of Dose PEC Parameter	21-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
4	Process Effect, Calibration and Correction	28-Oct-2020, 5:00pm CET, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
5	Shape PEC – “ODUS” Contrast Enhancement	04-Nov-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST
	Break	11-Nov-2020 -- No Session
6	3D Surface PEC for Grayscale Lithography	18-Nov-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST
	Thanksgiving Week	25-Nov-2020 -- No Session
7	3D T-Gate and Edge PEC for multilayer resist	02-Dec-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST

- The webinar series will explain one of the most important techniques in advanced e-beam lithography. Modern E-beam systems are able to form small spot sizes in nm range. In principle this enables to achieve feature sizes in nm-range. In practice this is limited by physics, chemistry and tool limitations...

Proximity Effect in E-Beam Lithography

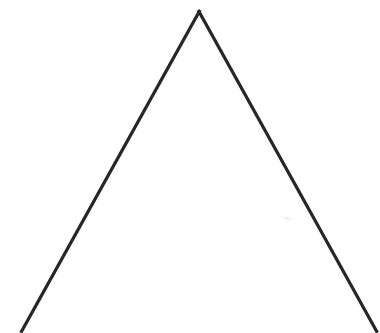
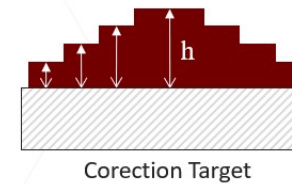
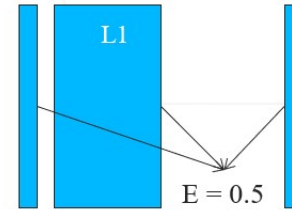
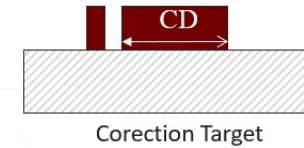
Part 7: 3D T-Gate and Edge PEC
for multilayer resist



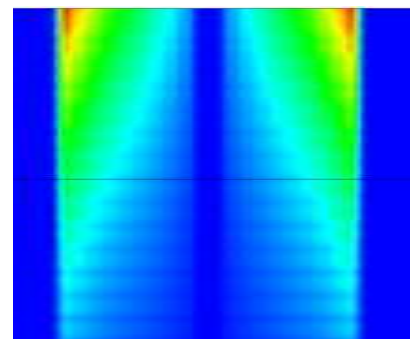
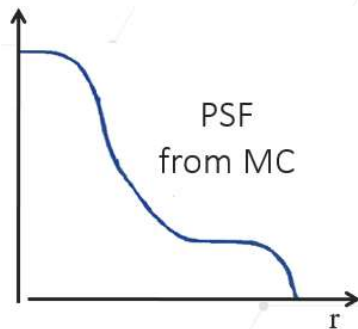
- Part 6 Summary: 3D Surface PEC for greyscale lithography
- T-Gate Introduction
- Multi-Layer Resist PEC
- Resist Profile with ODUS
- Application Example
- Summary
- Q&A

- Grayscale lithography requires
 - Adjust absorbed energy at all location
 - Consider contrast curve (development rate) for target
 - Consider proximity effect, also over z (resist thickness)
 - Consider 3D development front

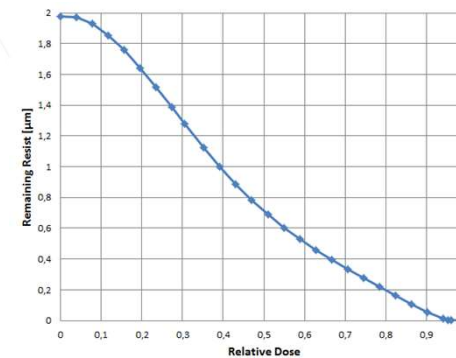
3D Grayscale - Summary



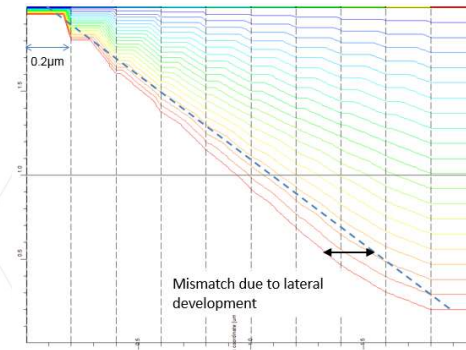
Target Shape



x - z Absorbed Energy



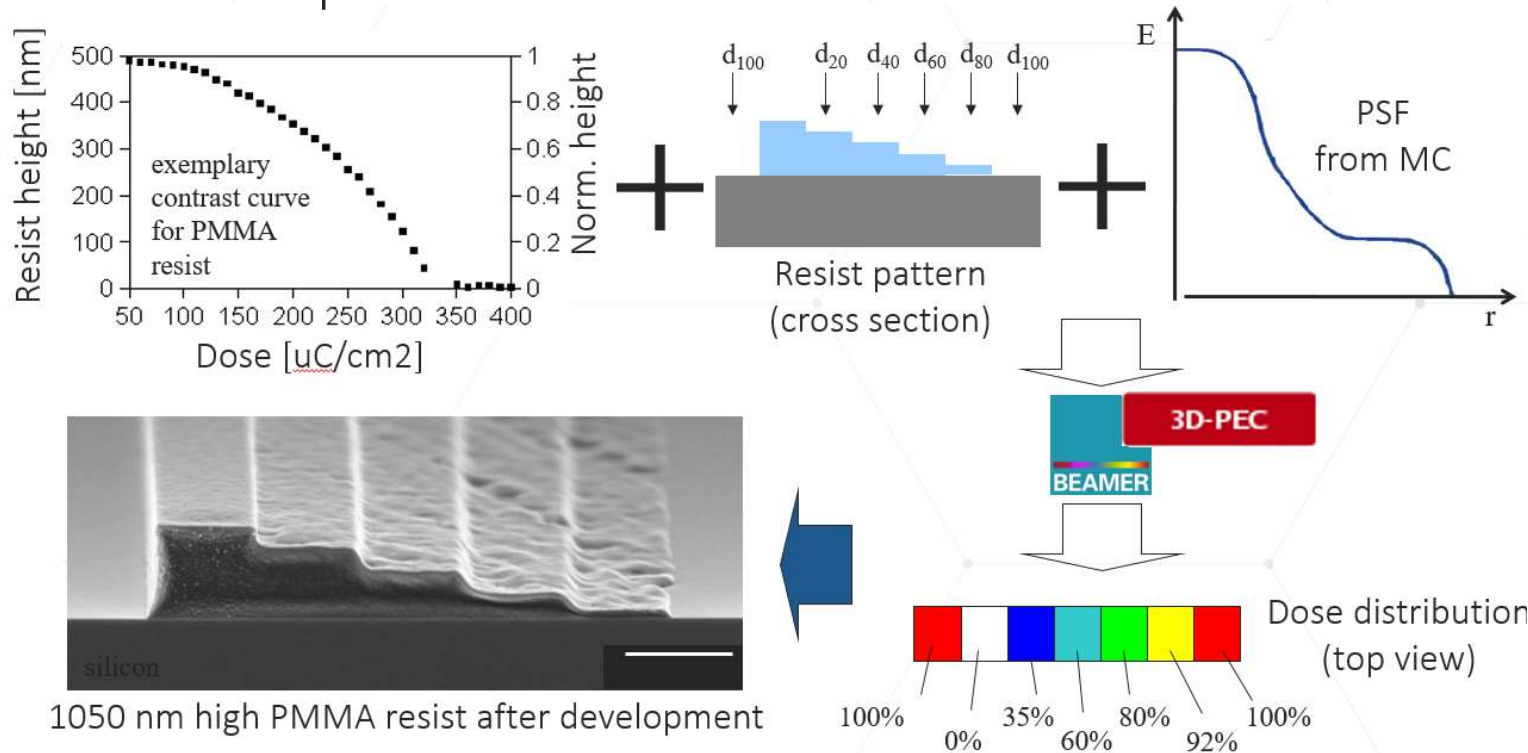
Contrast Curve



Lateral Development

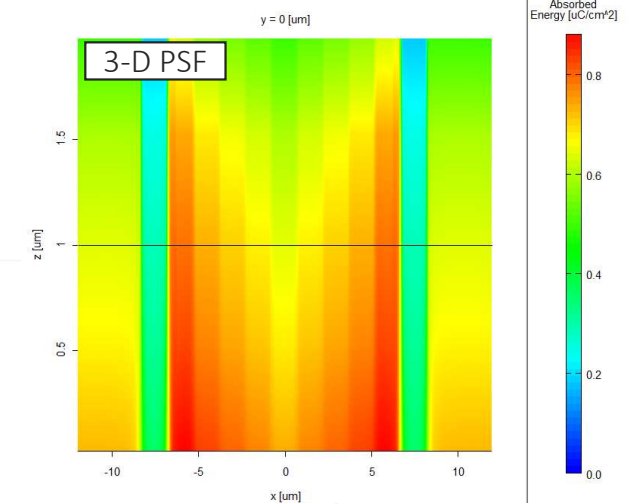
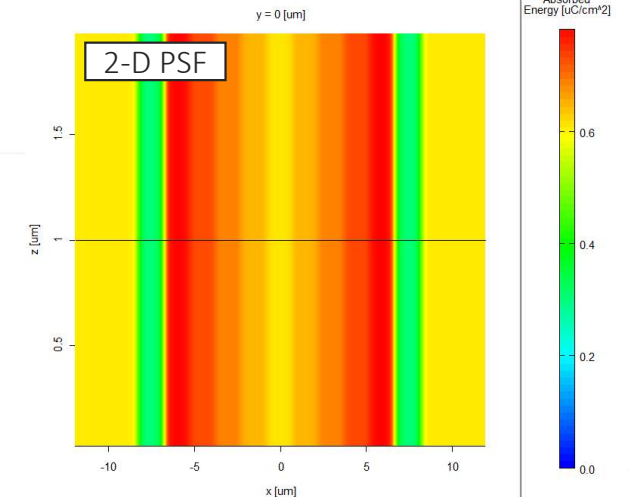
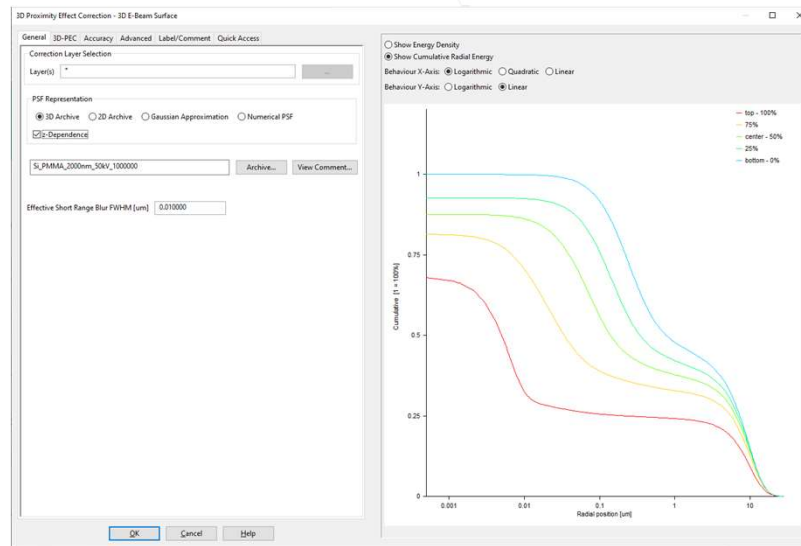
E-Beam Grayscale Correction

- Input: Target layout (png, stl, gds, ...), resist contrast curve, MC-PSF
- Surface equalization algorithm considering the development front
- Creates dose modulated exposure file



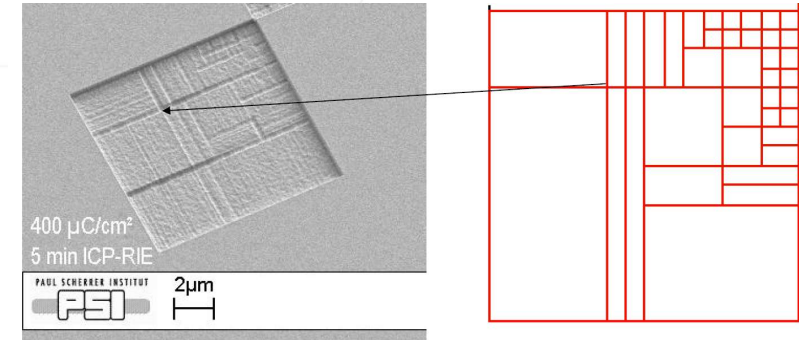
New Improvement: 3-D PSF

- So far, we have used a 2-D PSF for PEC
- But absorbed energy will vary with Z position within the resist layer, especially in thicker layers
- A new extension to 3D-PEC is the ability use a 3D-PSF



E-Beam Grayscale Exposure Issues

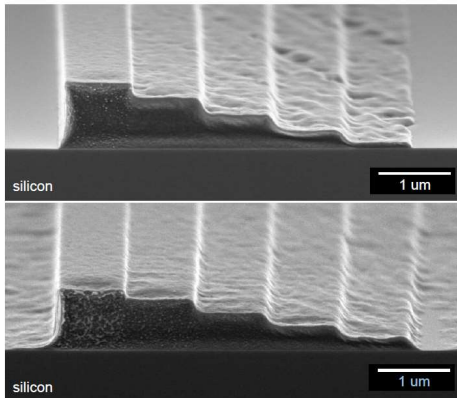
- Resist surfaces show roughness, holes, or bumps, often at regular spacing, indicating dosing issues at shape or sub-field borders may need:
 - Low contrast development
 - Amplified gain - allow small gaps between shots
 - Larger spots – blurs the dose
 - (dose selective) multi-pass



PSI Example, showing clear effects at fracture borders

Dose dependence of layer (surface) roughness

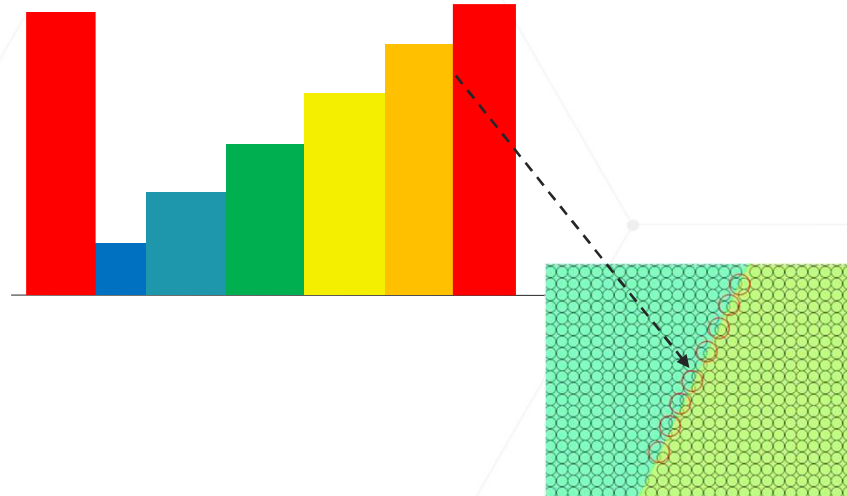
Exposure of standard test pattern using different contrast curve



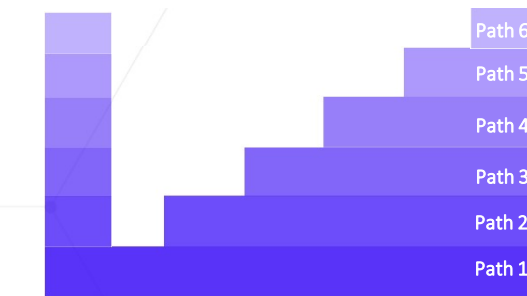
1050 nm 950k PMMA
679.04 developed
using 30 sec MIBK +
30 sec IPA @ RT
base dose = 200 $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$

1050 nm 950k PMMA
679.04 developed
using 300 sec MIBK +
30 sec IPA @ 20 °C
base dose = 40 $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$

Desired Dose Profile

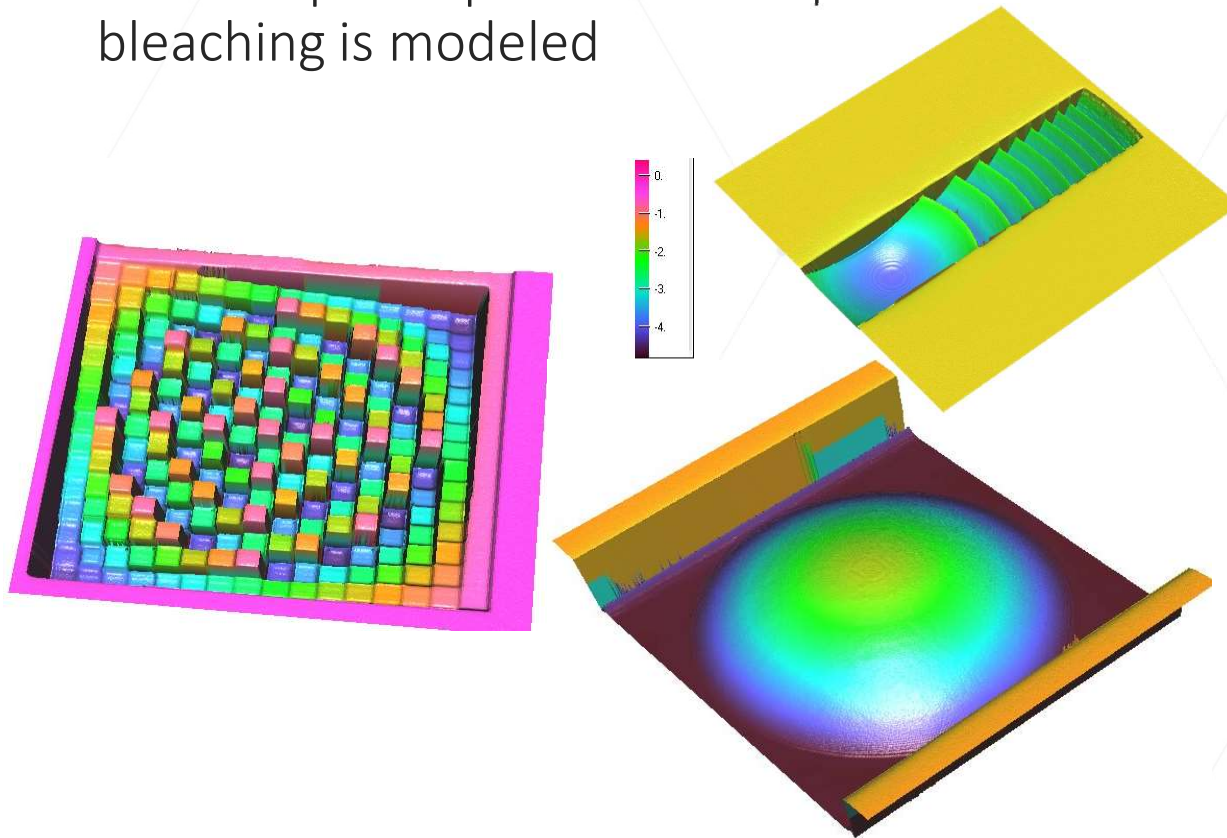


Overlap Mode Exposure Strategy

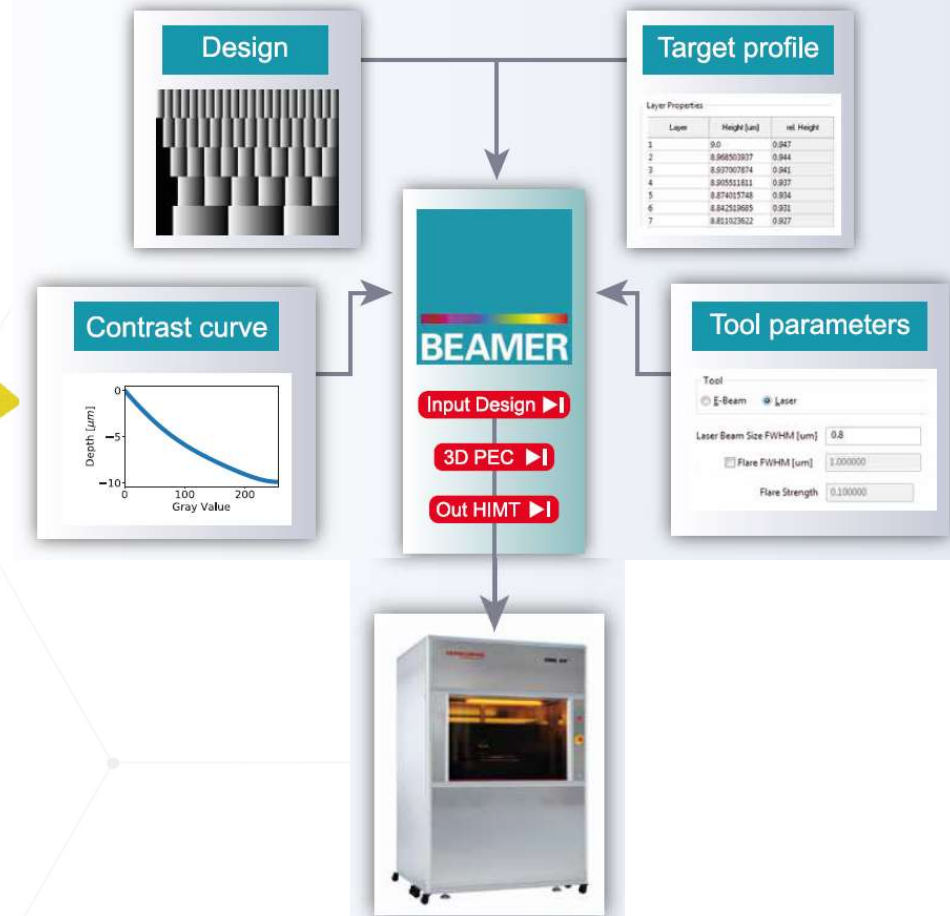


New in BEAMER v6.1

- Optical laser model is used for intensity calculation
- Resist depth dependent absorption and bleaching is modeled




Laser Greyscale



For more information look here:

www.genisys-gmbh.com

Flexibility






LAB supports SUSS optics





LAB enables OPC






3D PEC

Base Dose Factor




Laser Grayscale Lithography

PEC for Exposure on Thin Membranes



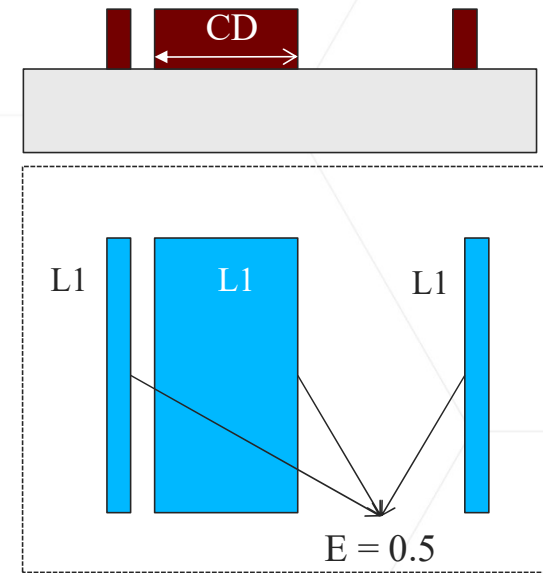
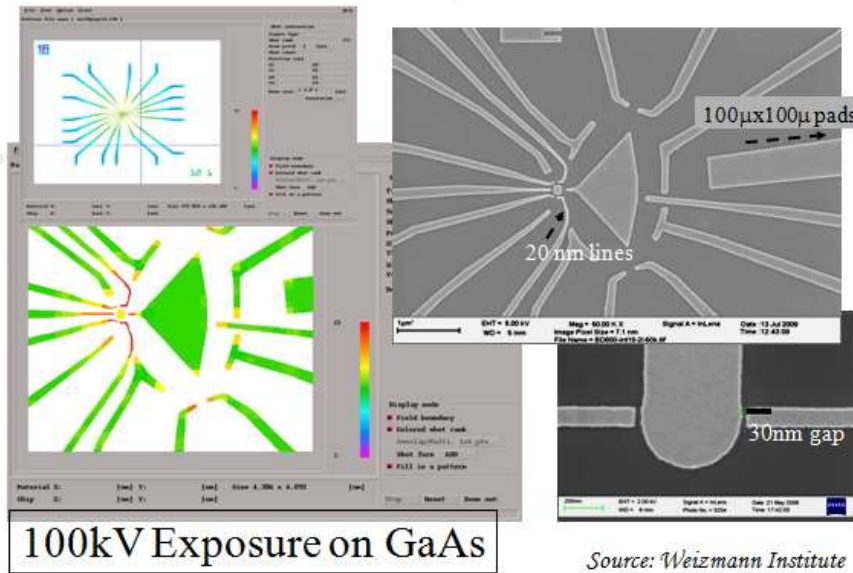
Mixed Exposure Strategies



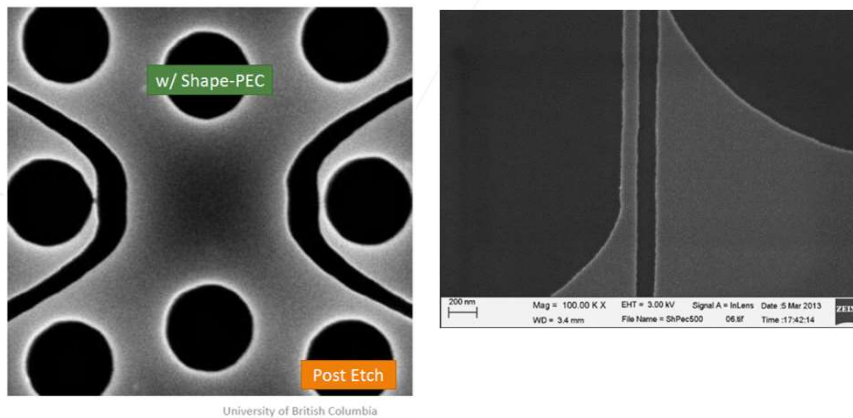
- Part 6 Summary: 3D Surface PEC for greyscale lithography
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Single Layer 2D Lithography

Dose PEC



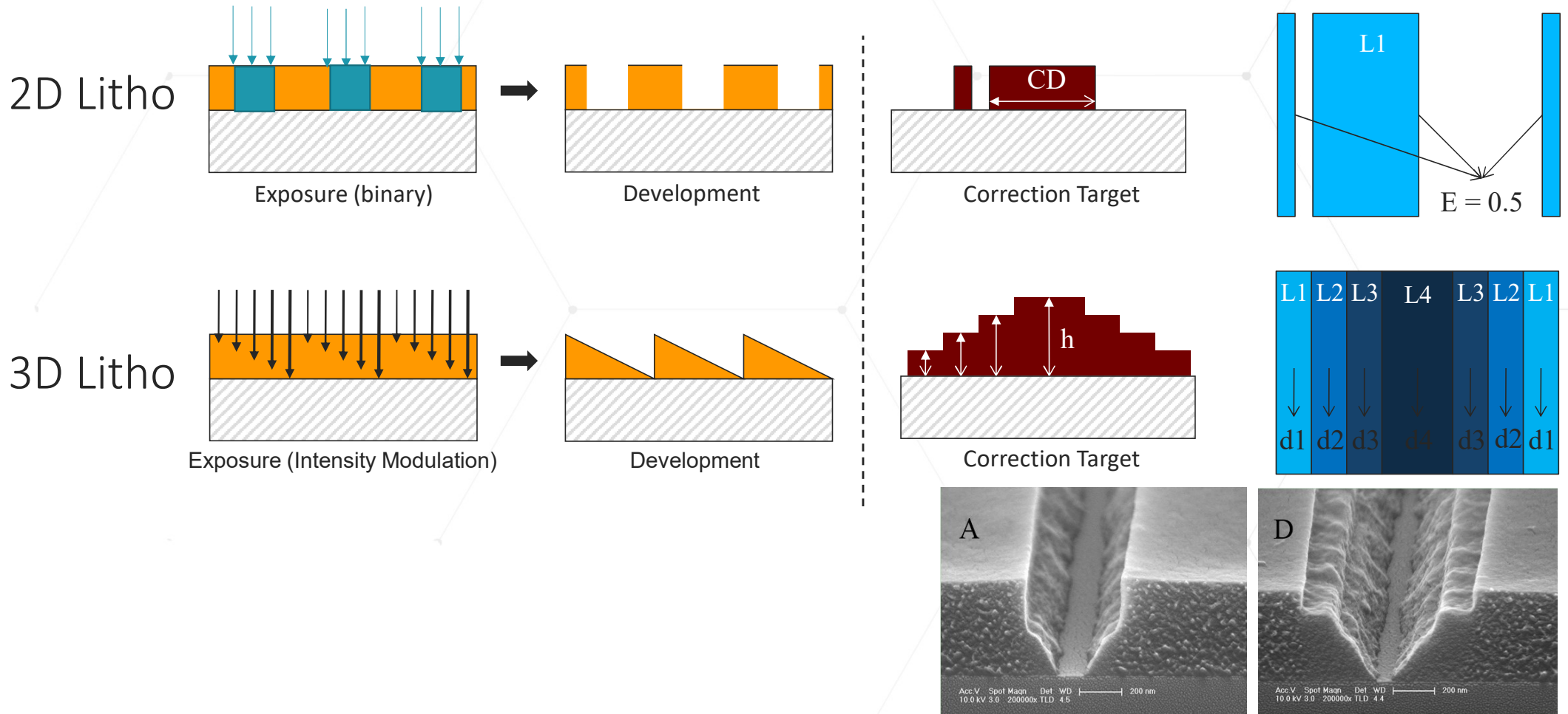
Shape PEC
ODUS



2D Correction Target:

- Require absorbed energy at all feature edges to have same value (Dose to Clear)
- Consequence
 - Absorbed Energy inside features > Dose to Clear
 - Absorbed Energy outside features < Dose to Clear

Single Layer 2D Litho vs. 3D Litho

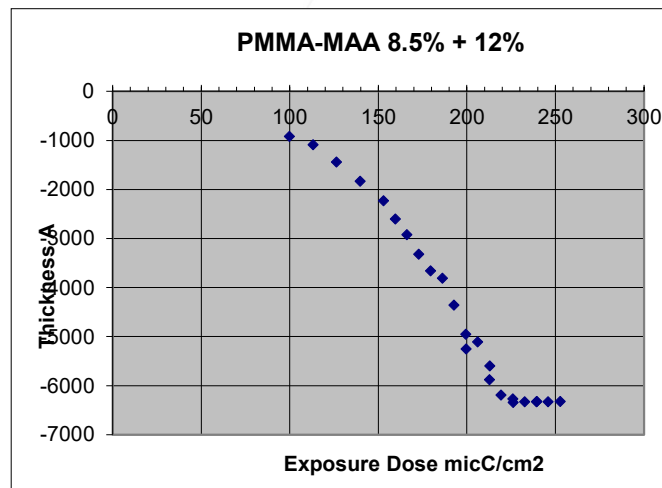


Multi Layer Resist Process

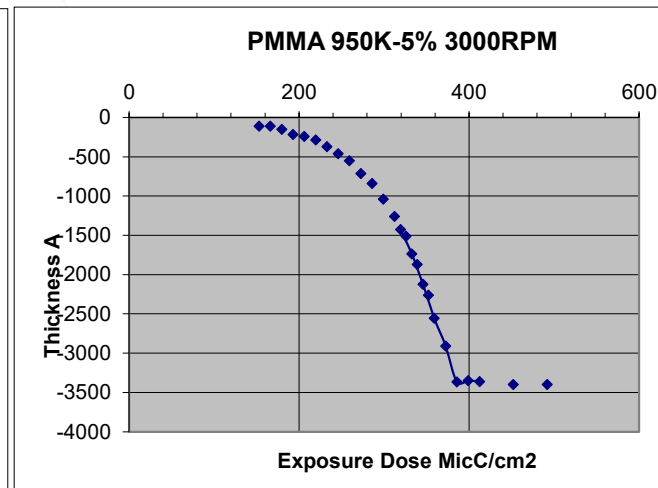
- Multiple (e.g. two) resist layer with different sensitivity are coated and exposed



High Sensitivity

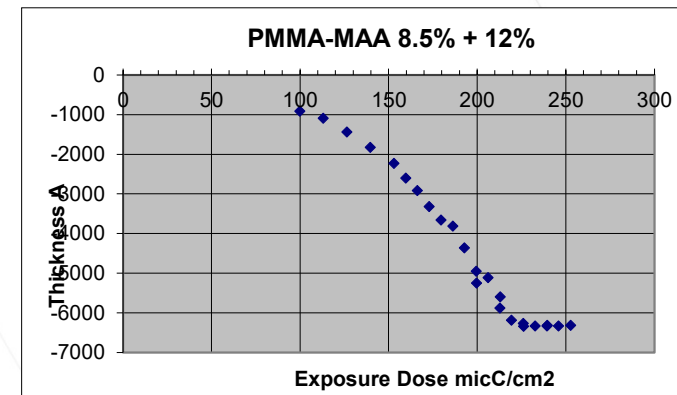
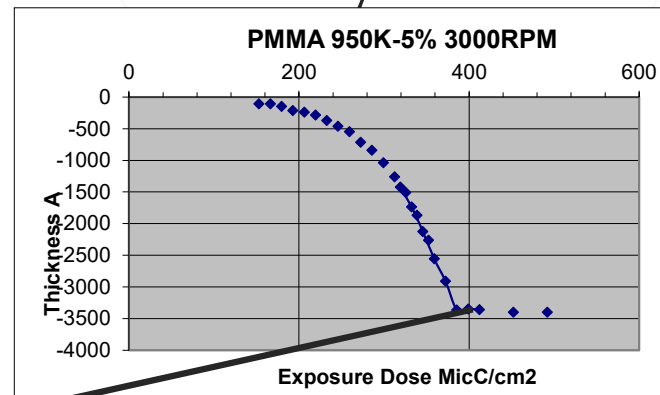


Low Sensitivity

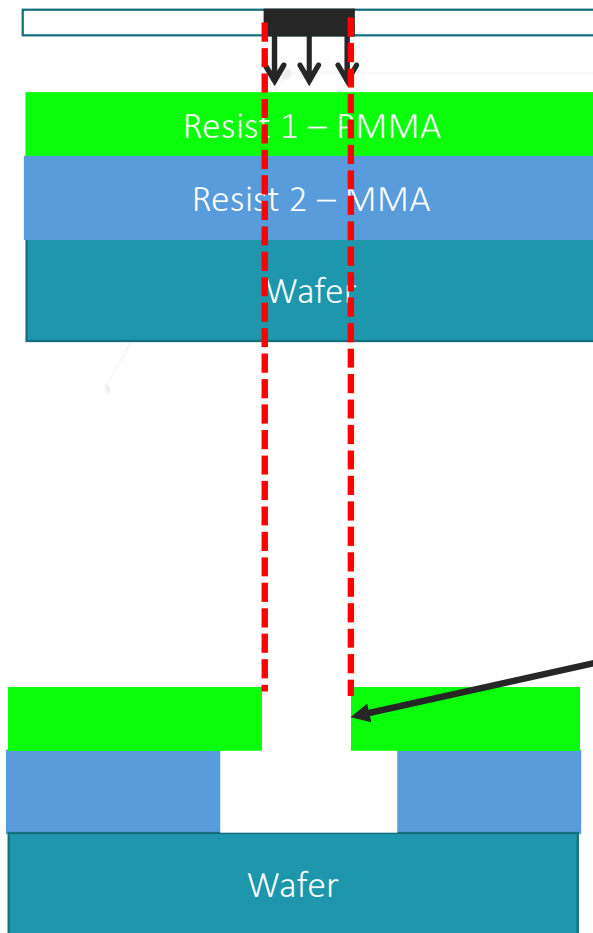


Multi Layer Resist Process

- Exposure may consist of multiple „target“ layers
- PEC adjusted to target of low sensitivity / high resolution layer

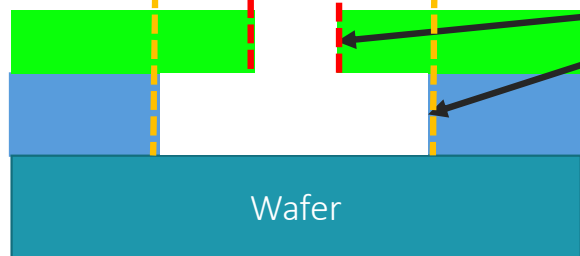
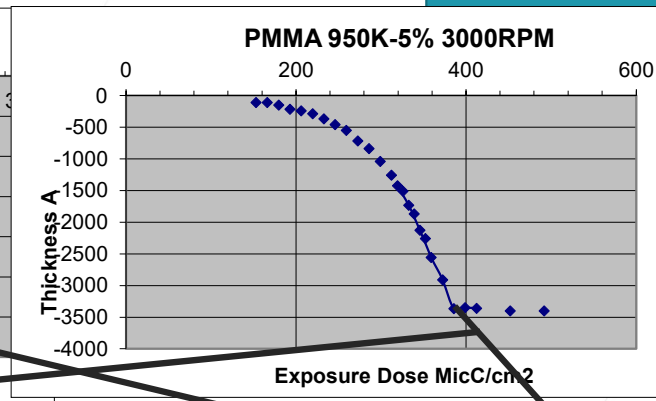
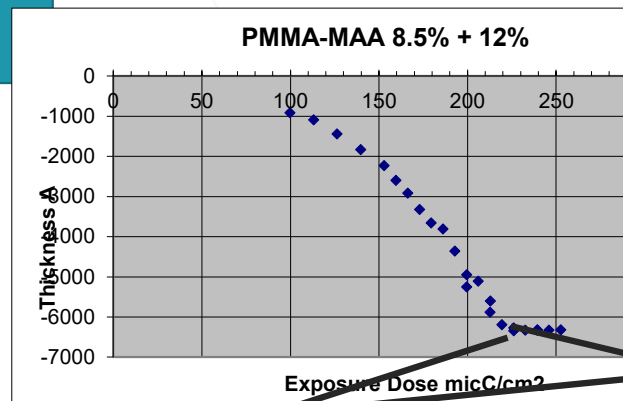
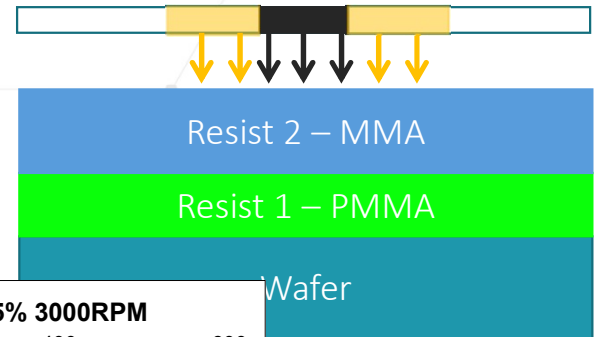
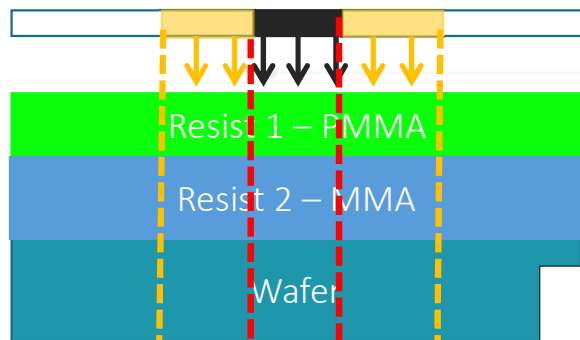


- The 2nd (high sensitivity / low resolution) layer is not controlled
 - Undercut is density dependent

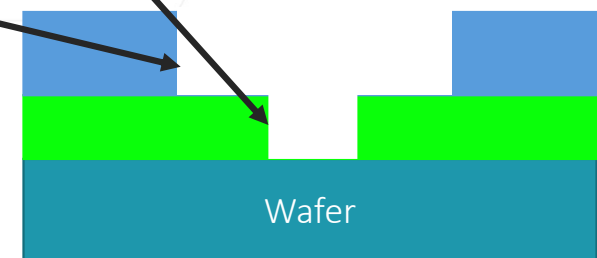


Multi Layer Resist Process

- Exposure may consist of multiple (e.g. two) „target“ layers
- PEC needs to adjust to two targets



- D2C of resist 1 at one exposure layer
- D2C of resist 2 at other exposure layer



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- GenISys was 1st to offer a correction for multi-layer resist processes
 - Paper at MNE 2009!
 - Grey-Tone, Bridges, T-Gate

Base Modules | Flow Libraries

Layout Operation

Import | Edit

Export | visual-Job

Extract | Filter | Transform

Grid | Mapping | Fracture

Heal | NOT | Bias

Size | P-XOR | Merge

OR | AND | MINUS

XOR | Replace | GenJobdeck

Process Correction

PEC | Shape-PEC | **3D-PEC**

Corner-PEC | FDA | Rule-OPC

Verification

E-Beam | Metrology

Control

Split | Exit | Loop

If | Select | Script

3D Proximity Effect Correction

General | **3D-PEC** | Accuracy | Advanced | Label/Comment

Mode

3D-Surface T-Gate

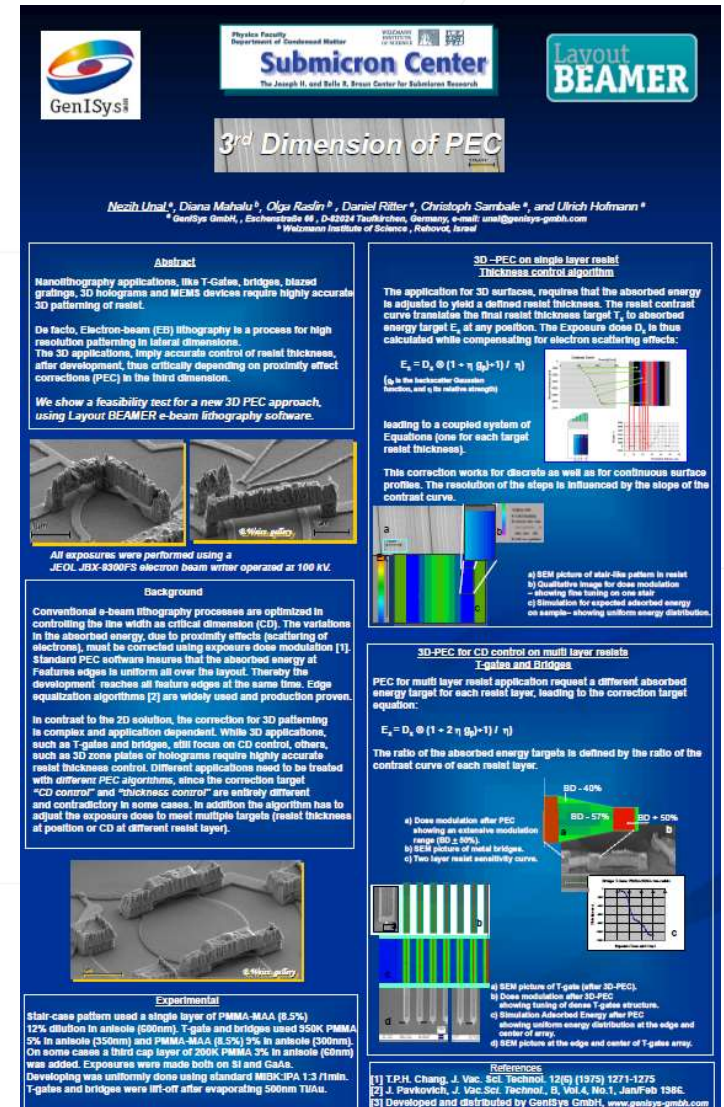
3D-Edge Topographic Substrate

Surface Definition Type

Include Short Range Correction

Layer Properties

Layer	rel. Dose	Height [um]	rel. Dose	Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]



3rd Dimension of PEC

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Abstract

Nanolithography applications, like T-Gates, bridges, biased gratings, 3D holograms and 3DMS devices require highly accurate 3D patterning of resist.

De facto, Electron-beam (EB) lithography is a process for high resolution patterning in later dimensions. The 3D applications, imply accurate control of resist thickness, after development, thus critically depending on proximity effect corrections (PEC) in the third dimension.

We show a feasibility test for a new 3D PEC approach, using Layout BEAMER e-beam lithography software.

3D-PEC on single layer resist Thickness control algorithm

The application for 3D surfaces, requires that the absorbed energy is adjusted to yield a defined resist thickness. The resist contrast curve translates the final resist thickness target T_r to absorbed energy target E_r at any position. The Exposure dose D_0 is thus calculated while compensating for electron scattering effects:

$$E_r = D_0 \cdot \Phi \cdot (1 + \eta \cdot \rho \cdot j \cdot l) / \eta$$

(Φ is the backscatter Coefficient function, and η is relative energy)

leading to a coupled system of Equations (one for each target resist thickness).

This correction works for discrete as well as for continuous surface profiles. The resolution of the steps is influenced by the slope of the contrast curve.

Background

Conventional e-beam lithography processes are optimized in controlling the line width as critical dimension (CD). The variations in the absorbed energy, due to proximity effects (scattering of electrons), must be corrected using exposure dose modulation [1]. Standard PEC software insures that the absorbed energy at features edges is uniform all over the layout. Thereby the development reaches all feature edges at the same time. Edge equalization algorithms [2] are widely used and production proven.

In contrast to the 2D solution, the correction for 3D patterning is complex and application dependent. While 3D applications, such as 3D zone plates or holograms require highly accurate resist thickness control. Different applications need to be treated with different PEC algorithms, since the correction target "CD control" and "thickness control" are entirely different and contradictory in some cases. In addition the algorithm has to adjust the exposure dose to meet multiple targets (resist thickness at position or CD at different resist layer).

Experimental

Stair-case pattern used a single layer of PMMA-MAA (8.5%) 12% dilution in anisole (500nm). T-gates and bridges used 550K PMMA 5% in anisole (500nm) and PMMA-MAA (8.5%) 5% in anisole (500nm). On some cases a third cap layer of 200K PMMA, 3% in anisole (50nm) was added. Exposures were made both on Si and GaAs.

Developing was uniformly done using standard MIBK:IPA 1:3 (1min). T-gates and bridges were lift-off after evaporating 500nm Ti/Au.

References

[1] T.P.H. Chang, J. Vac. Sci. Technol., 12(6) (1975) 1271-1275
 [2] J. Pavlovich, J. Vac. Sci. Technol., B, 10(4), No.1, Jan/Feb 1992.
 [3] Developed and distributed by GenISys GmbH, www.genisys-gmbh.com

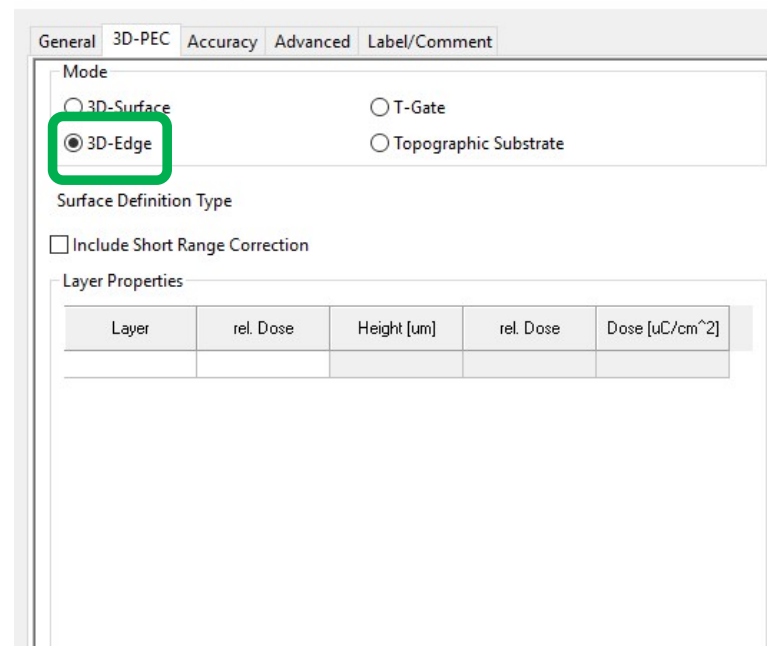
Edge PEC with multiple Target

3D Edge PEC:

This mode is for multi layer resist with different sensitivity. The layer with highest dose is regarded as target layer. The PEC adjusts the exposure dose to adjust the edge of the highest dose layer to target! Useful for controlled undercut, bridges and simple T-Gate. The sensitivity ratio between resist layers defines target.

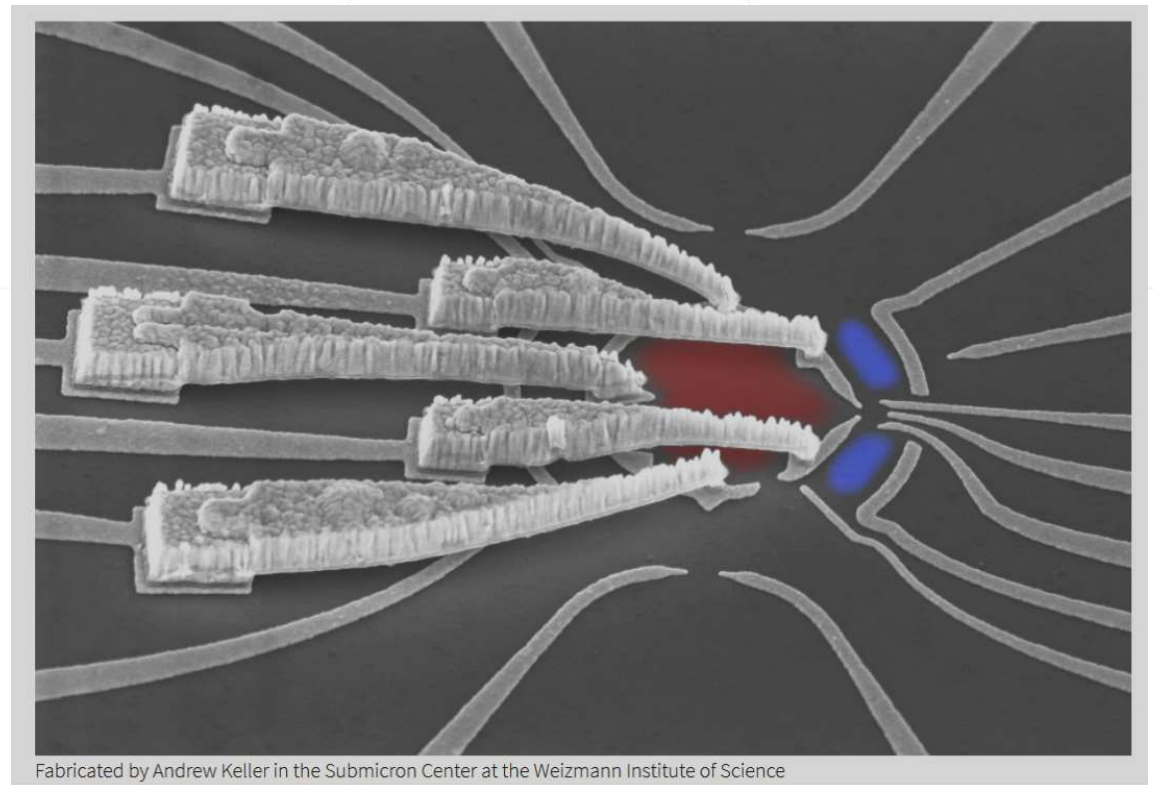
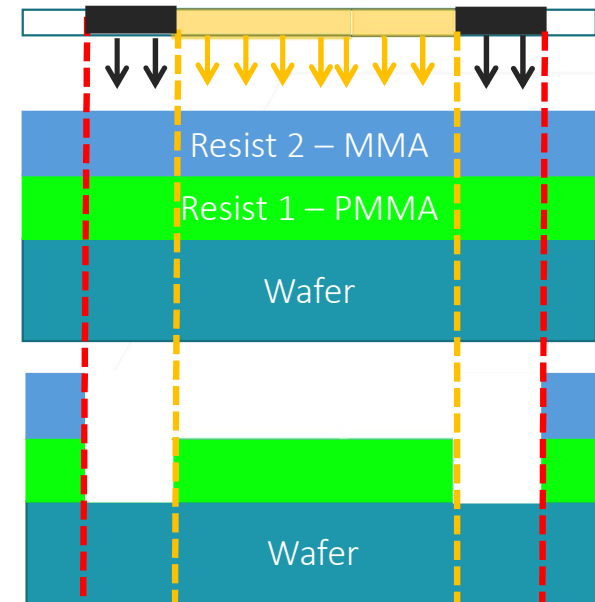


3D Proximity Effect Correction



3D Edge PEC for Bridges

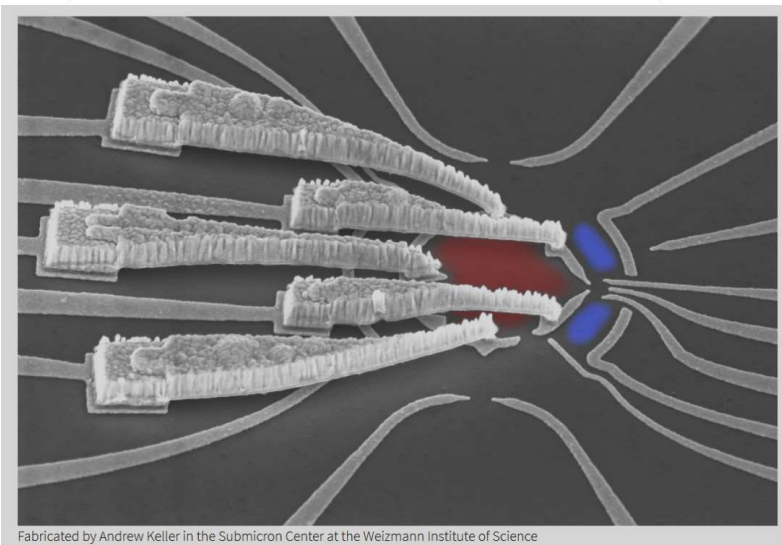
- The top is building a metal bridge after metalization
- The bottom layer creates the foots for interconnection



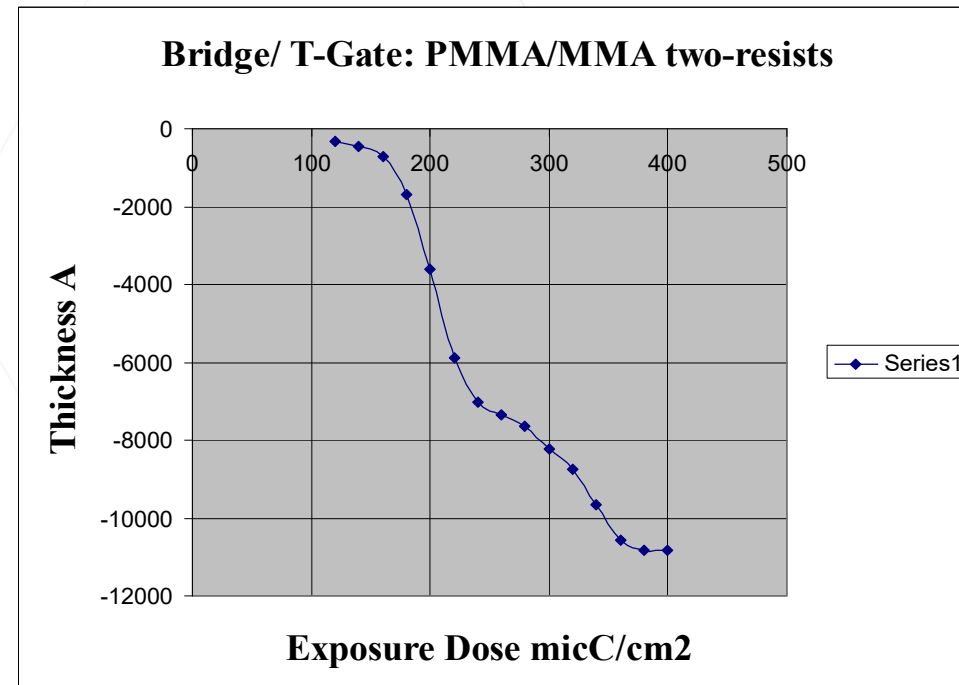
A. J. Keller, L. Peeters, C. P. Moca, I. Weymann, D. Mahalu, V. Umansky, G. Zaránd & D. Goldhaber-Gordon, "[Universal Fermi liquid crossover and quantum criticality in a mesoscopic system](#)," *Nature* **526**, 237–240 (2015).

3D Edge PEC for Bridges

- 3D Edge PEC is needed for
 - Compensating the electron proximity effect (using the PSF) to
 - Clear both layer at the foots
 - Clear ONLY top preserve the bottom layer at the bridge



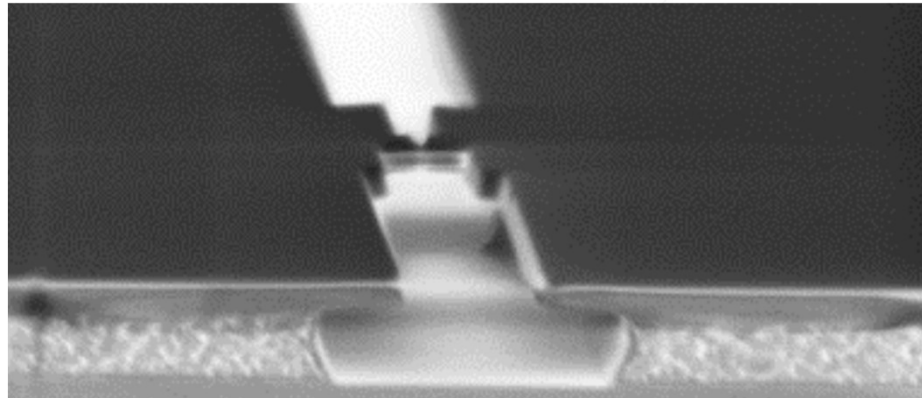
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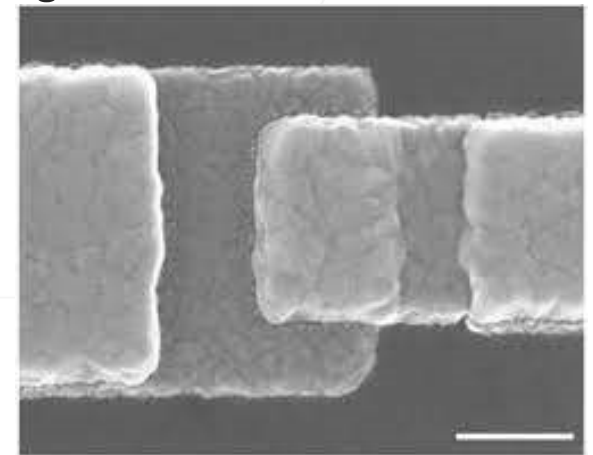
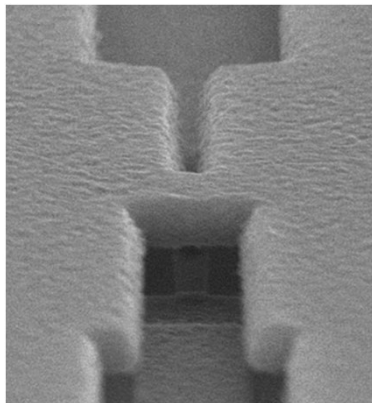
The ratio of the absorbed energy targets (for **3DEdge**) is defined by the ratio of the contrast curve of each resist layer.

Application Case: Dolan Bridge

- Common task in Quantum technology is generating Josephson Junction
- This is done using multi-layer process
 - generating a „resist bridge“ (Dolan Bridge)
 - Forming the Josephson junction by shadow evaporation under an angle



After resist development

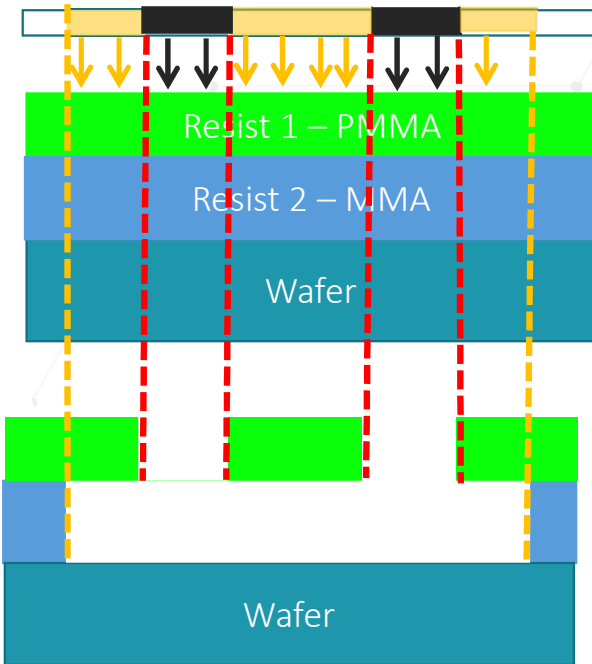


Yu-Lin Wu *et al* 2013 *Chinese Phys. B* **22** 060309

N Foroozani *et al* 2019 *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **4** 025012

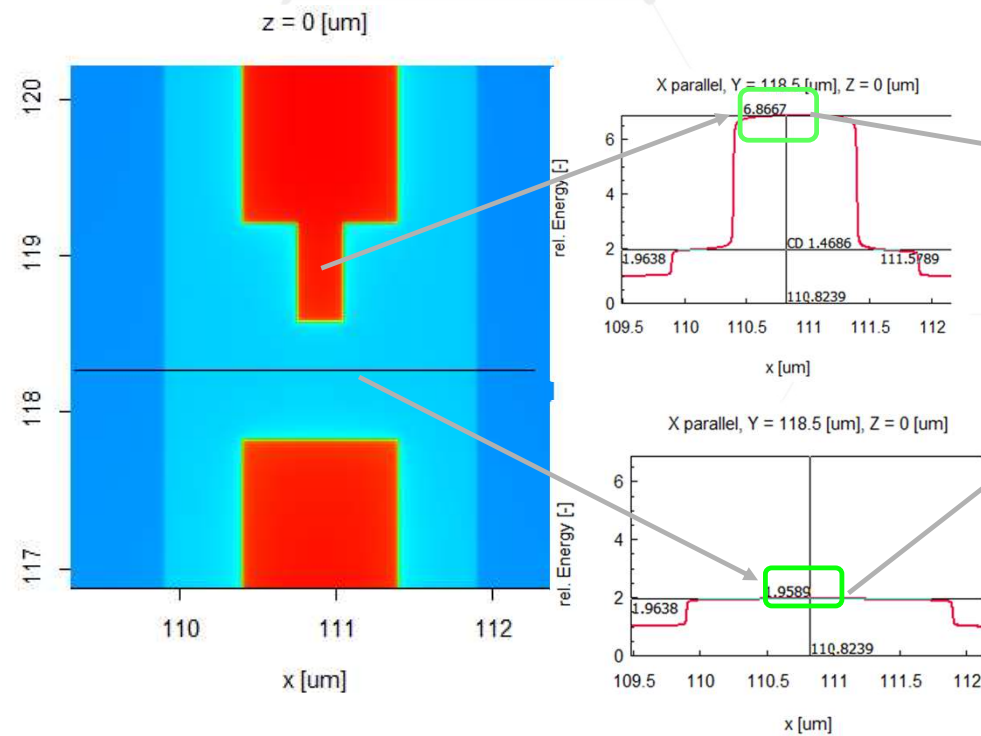
In this work the Dolan bridge is generated using optical (stepper) lithography

3D Edge PEC for Undercut-Control

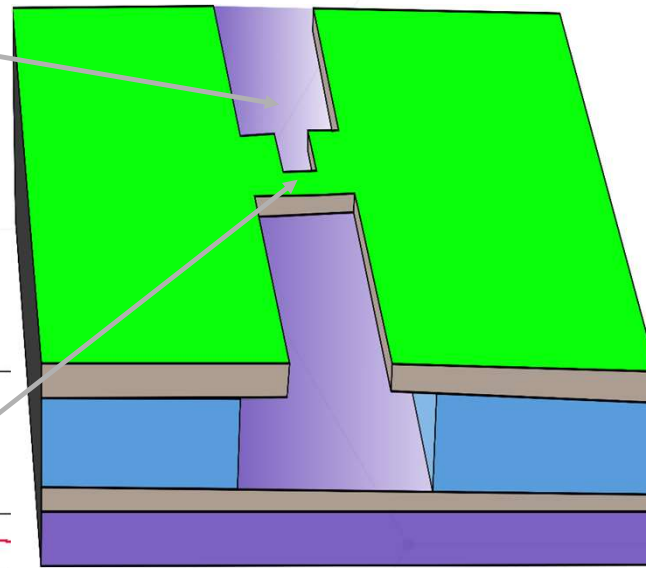


- The top layer is defining the feature dimension
- The bottom layer is defining the undercut
 - Optimized lift-off process
 - May also generate a „resist bridge“ (Dolan Bridge)

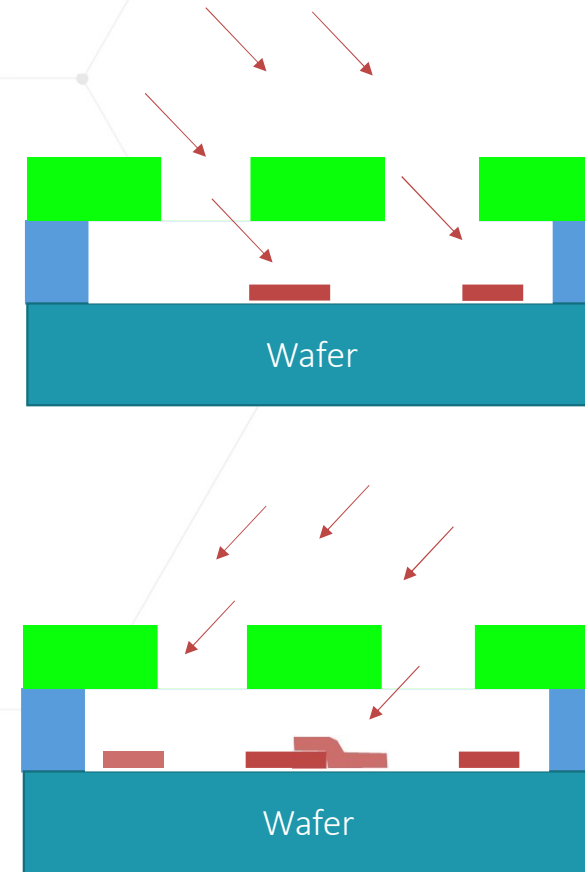
Application Case: Dolan Bridge



E-beam Simulation



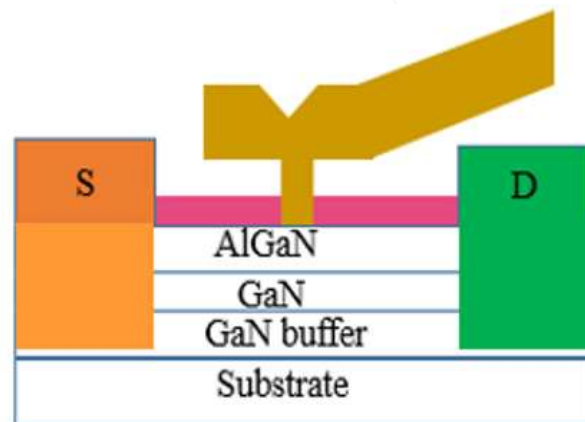
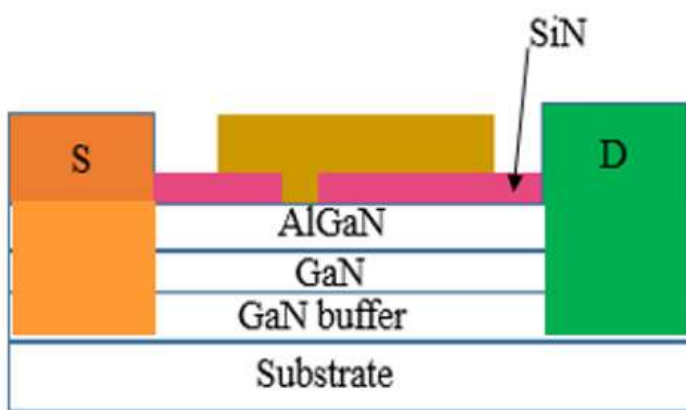
After Development



Evaporation with 2 angle

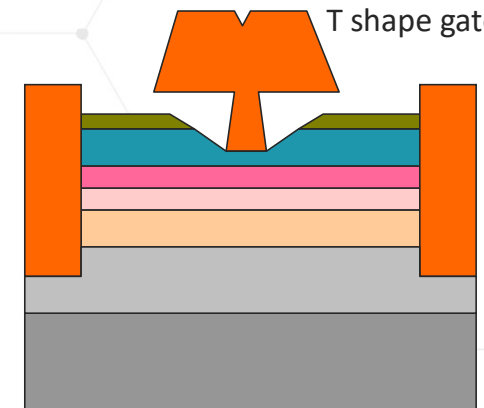
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- T-Gate is important application for e-beam
 - High speed / frequency
 - Most 3-5 sites are working on t-gates
 - Popular 3-5 are GaAs, AlGaIn, InGaAs, InP (high density!)
 - Most critical is CD control of foot
 - Wing dimension less critical, but also important for device performance
 - Not standardized (like CMOS), many types (e.g. Asymmetric, stepped,...)



T-Gate Intro

T shape gate:
big width head, short gate length



Head: increases the cross-sectional area of the gate, reducing gate resistance

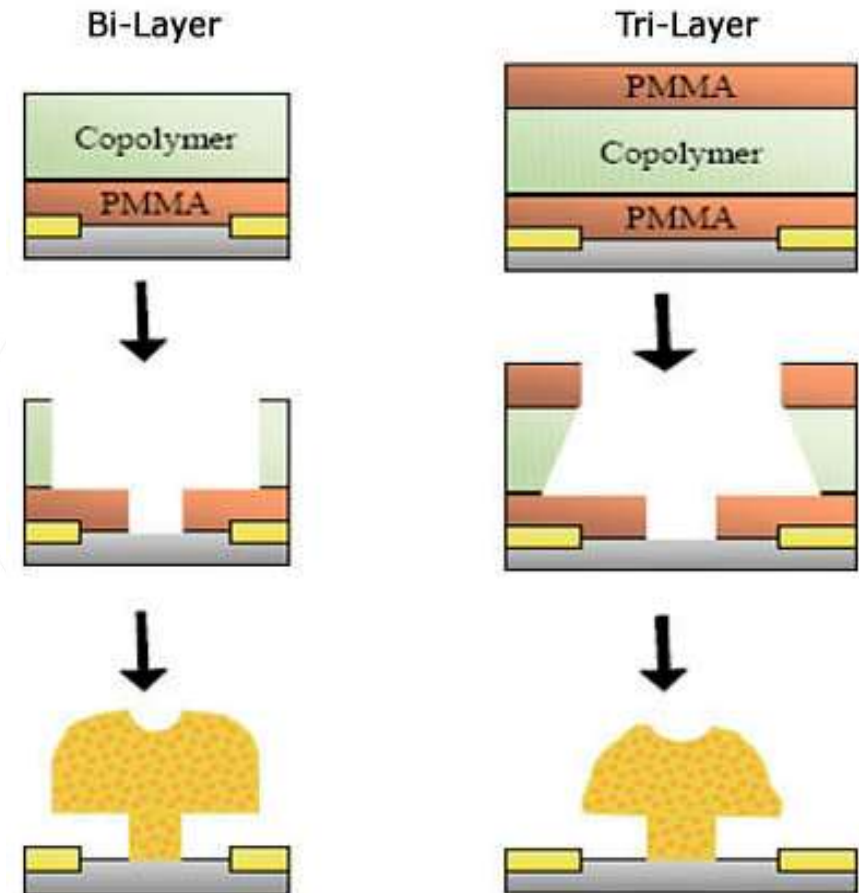
Foot : reduces the gate capacitance

Device frequency increase!



- Fabrication methods:
 - E-beam lithography
 - Optical (stepper) lithography
 - E-beam / optical lithography
- Multi Layer Process
 - Mostly based on Bi-Layer or Triple layer resist
 - PMMA / PMMA-MAA
 - PMMA / PMMA-MAA/PMMA
 - PMMA / Al / UVIII
 - PMMA / LOR / UVIII
 - ZEP / PMGI / ZEP
 - ZEP / LOR / UVIII
 -
- One exposure / multi-exposure

T-Gate Process



Source: Microchem

„Traditional“ Optimization

- Run DOE varying foot and wing design size, dose modulation foot, ...
 - Lot of experiments limited to one design and process



Foot Design in nm: 18,24,30

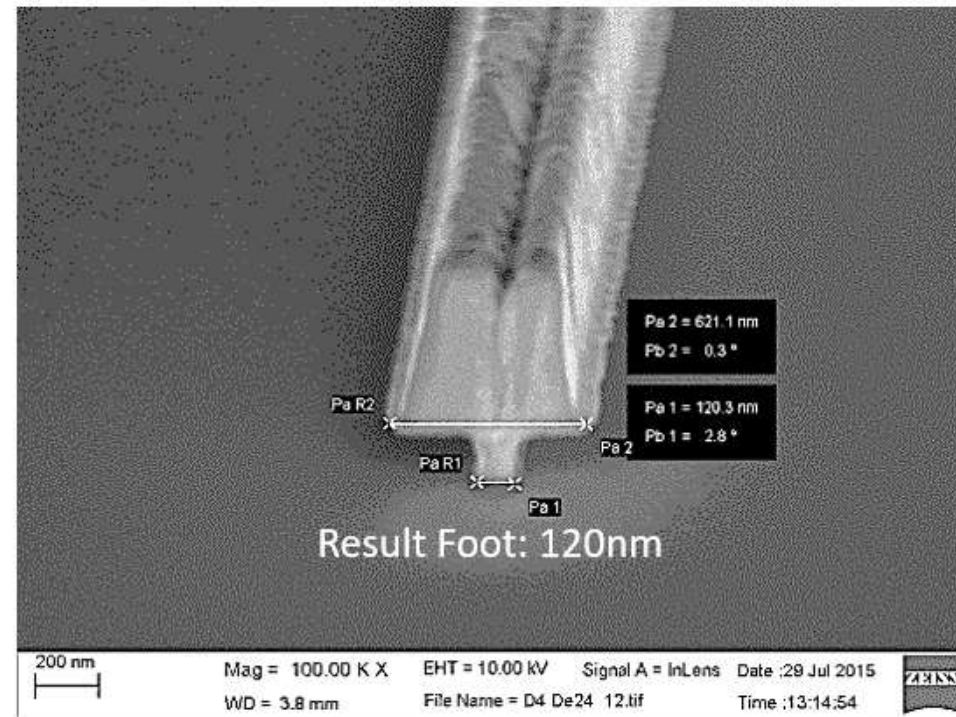
Wings Total in nm: 456; 504; 552

BD arbitrary chosen at 800micC/cm²

Dose modulations FOOT:

BD+ 115%; BD+130%; BD+145%;BD+160%

Wings dose: BD-50%

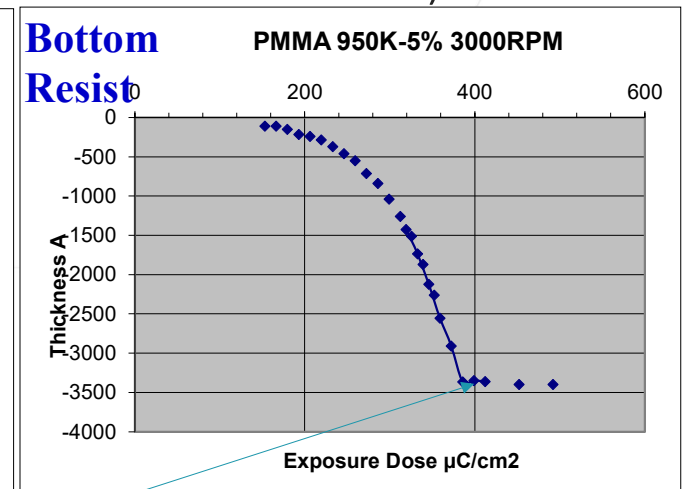
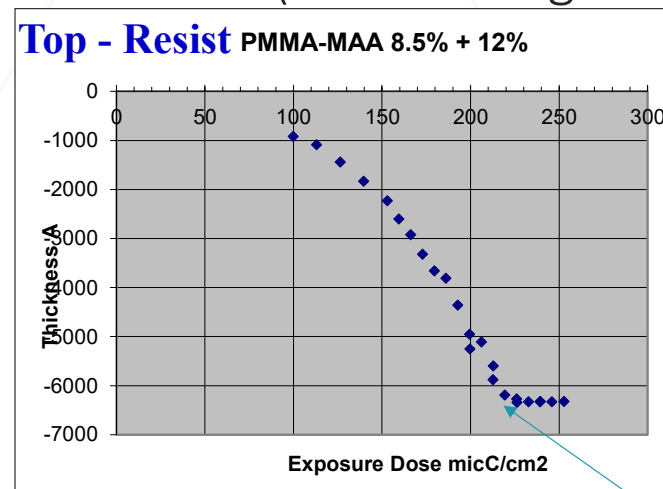
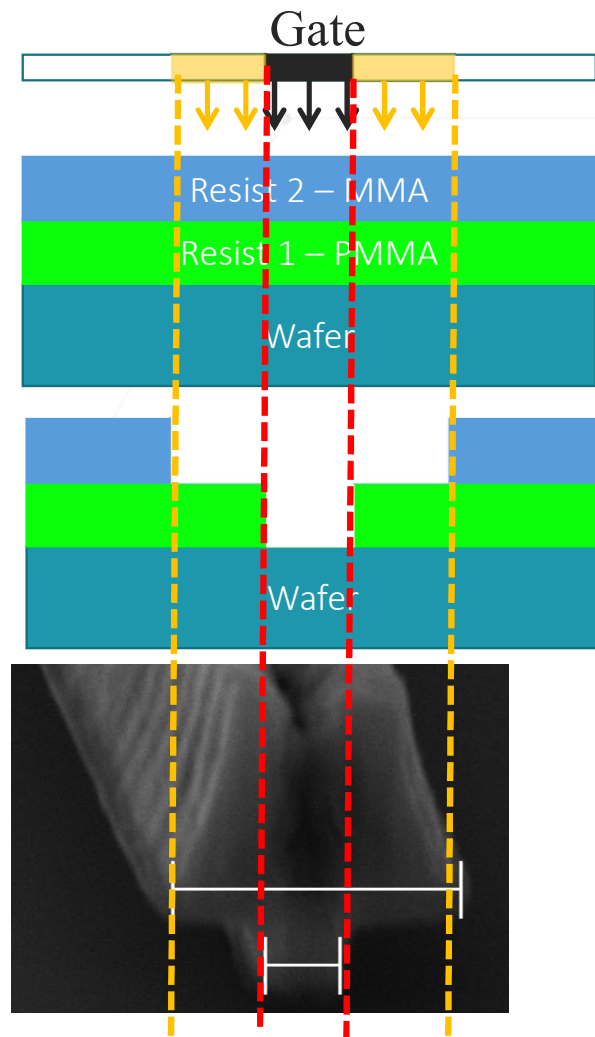


Designed CD foot = 24nm

Result for D4/ CD foot = 120nm

Multi Layer T-Gate Process

- Multiple (e.g. two) resist layer with different sensitivity are coated and exposed
- Gate is exposed at high dose to clear both layers, wing is exposed to clear only top layer, but not bottom layer
- Need to adjust not only one CD, but both CDs (where the gate is more critical CD)



Dose to Clear

T-Gate using 3D Edge PEC

3D Proximity Effect Correction

General 3D-PEC Accuracy Advanced Label/Comment Quick Access

Mode

3D-Surface T-Gate

3D-Edge Topographic Substrate

3D-Bridge

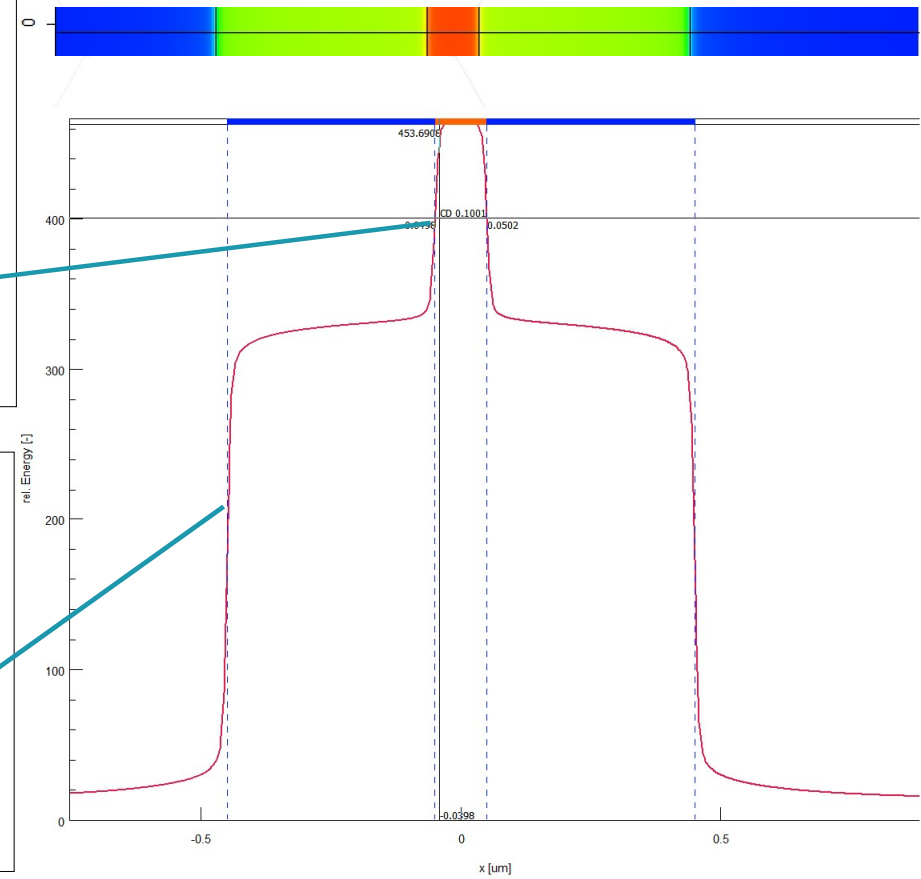
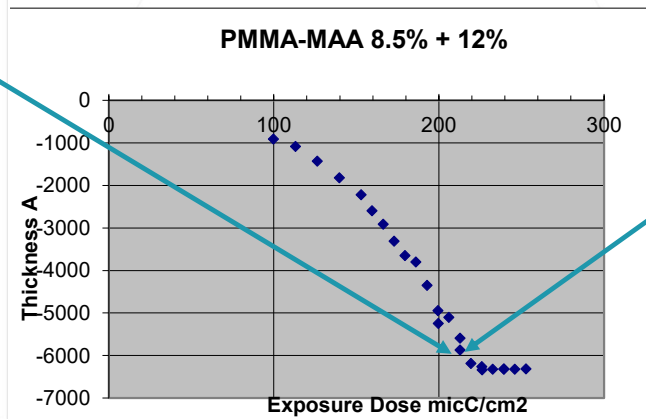
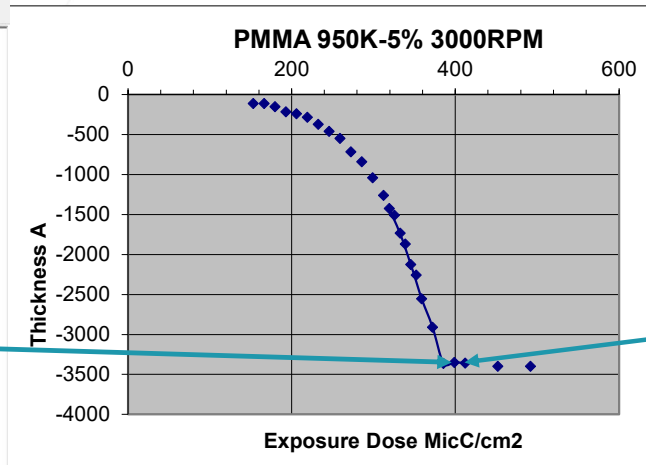
Surface Definition Type

Include Short Range Correction

Layer Properties

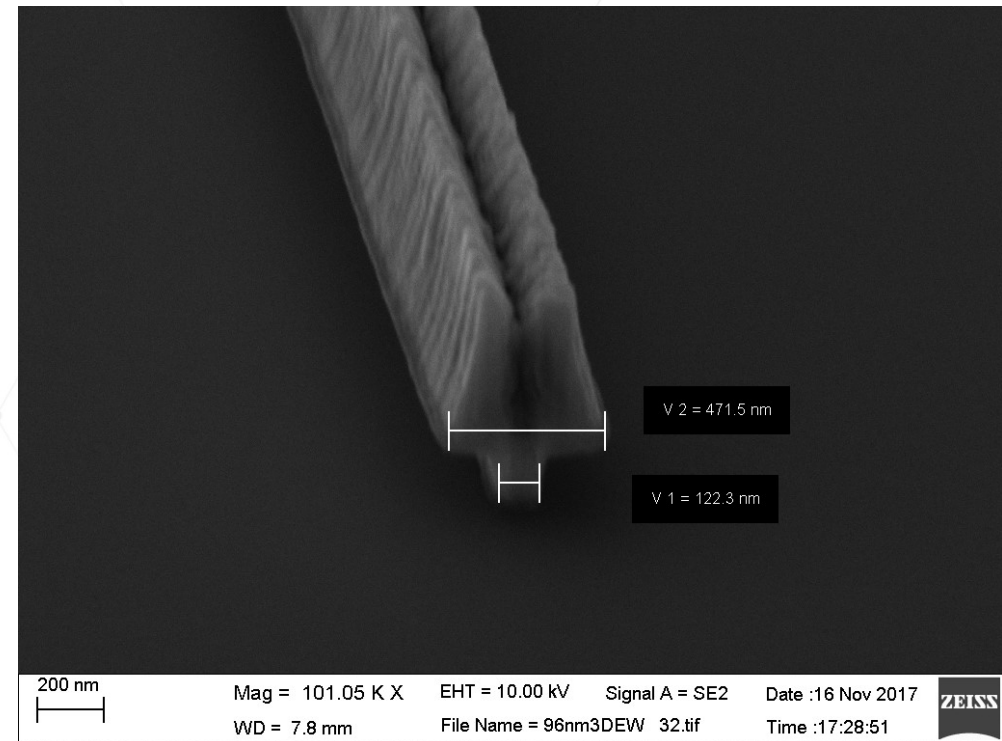
Layer	rel. Dose	Height [um]	rel. Dose	Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]
1(0)	1.000000	--	--	--
2(0)	0.6	--	--	--

Import... Export... Insert Row Delete Row



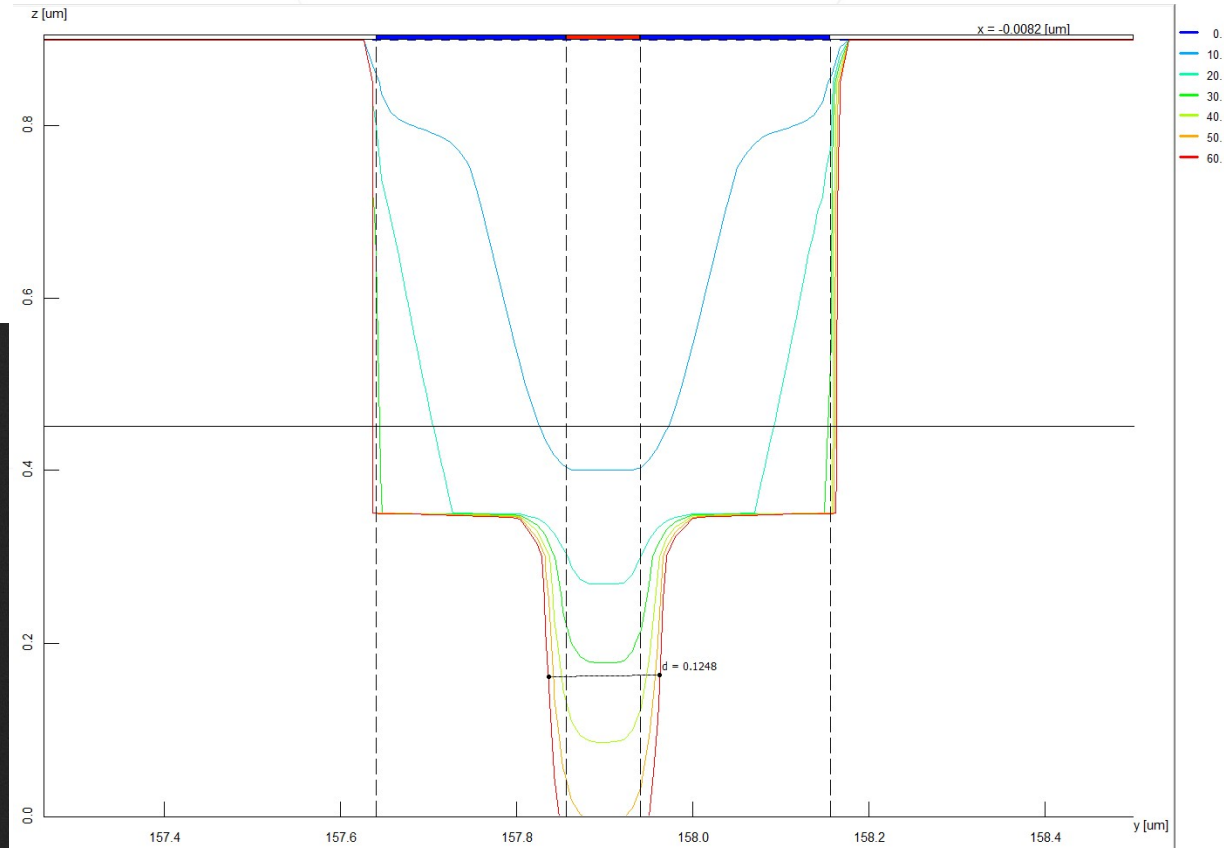
- Design 84 nm results in >> 100nm
- Lower base dose gives residues
- Gate already too large when cleared!

Gate is often oversized

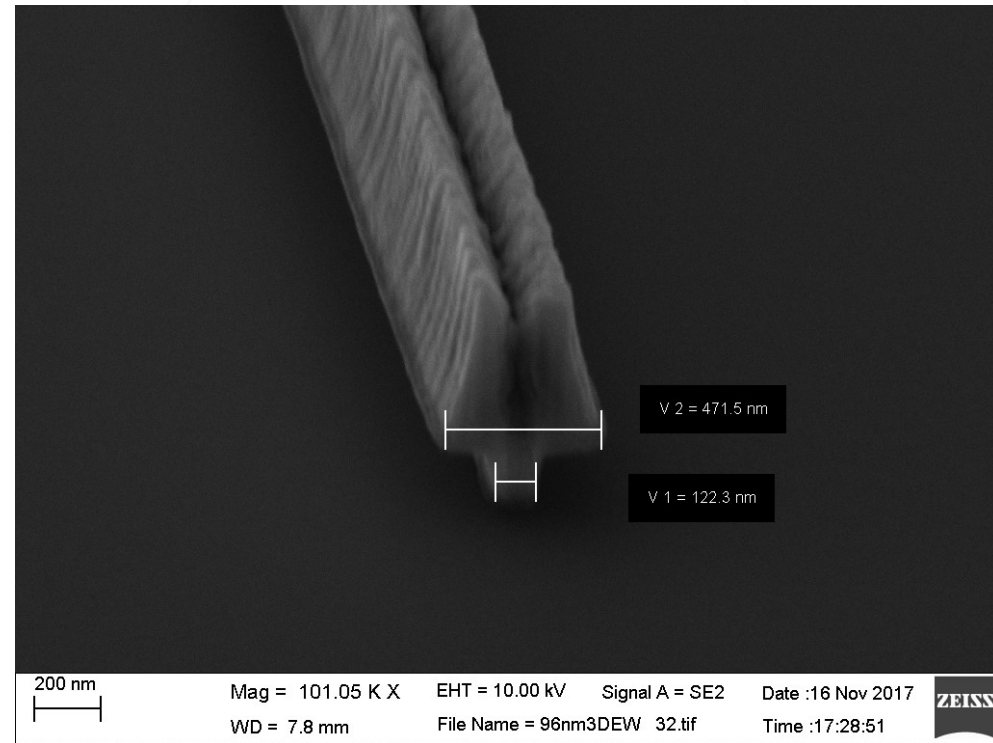


Oversize > 30nm

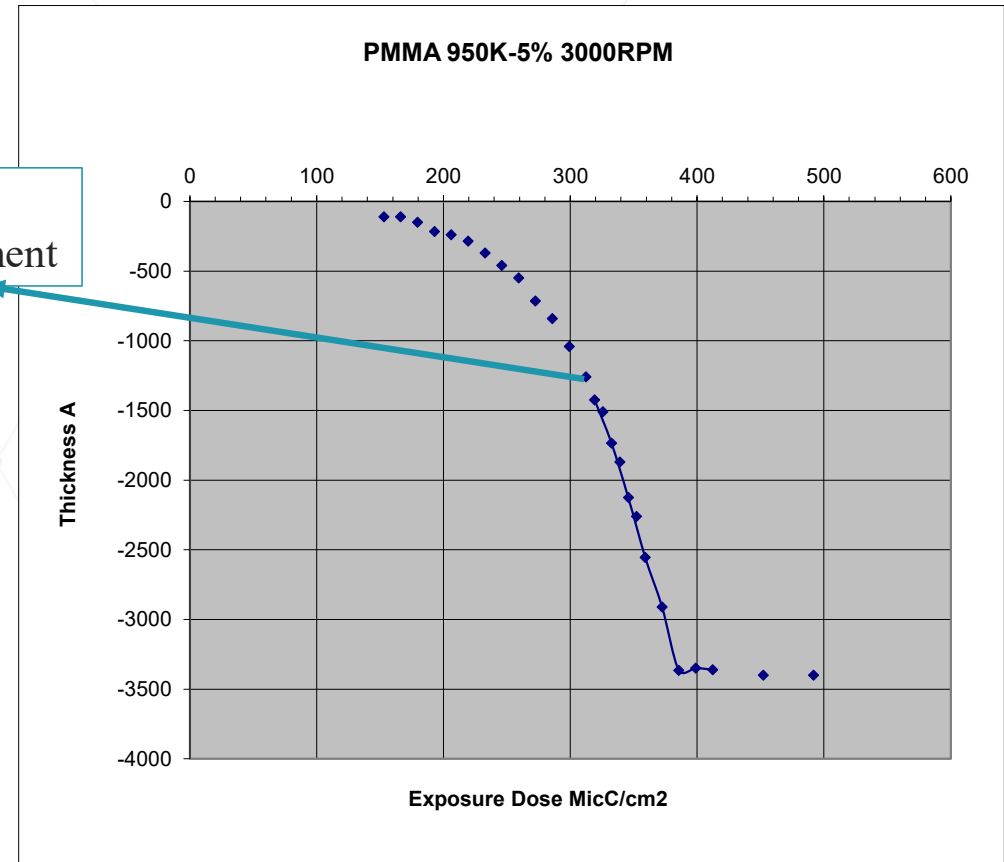
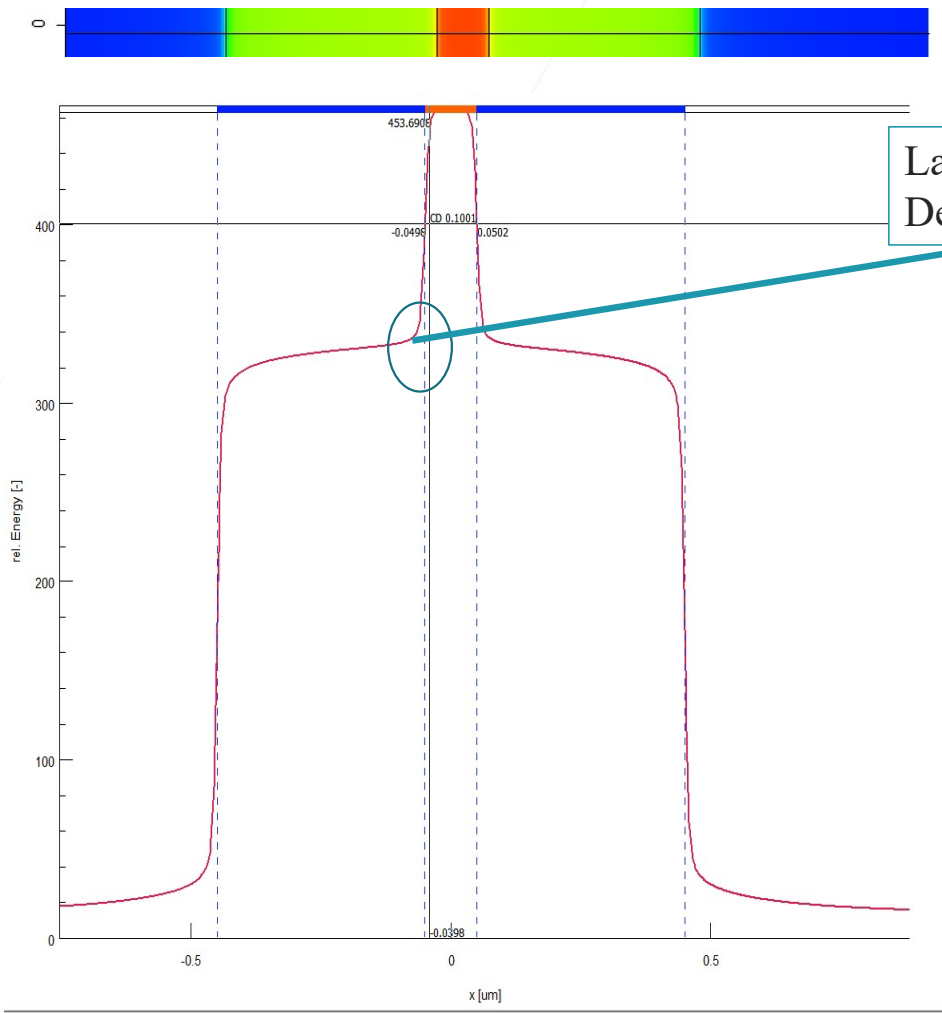
Root Cause of Oversize



Oversize > 30 nm due to lateral development

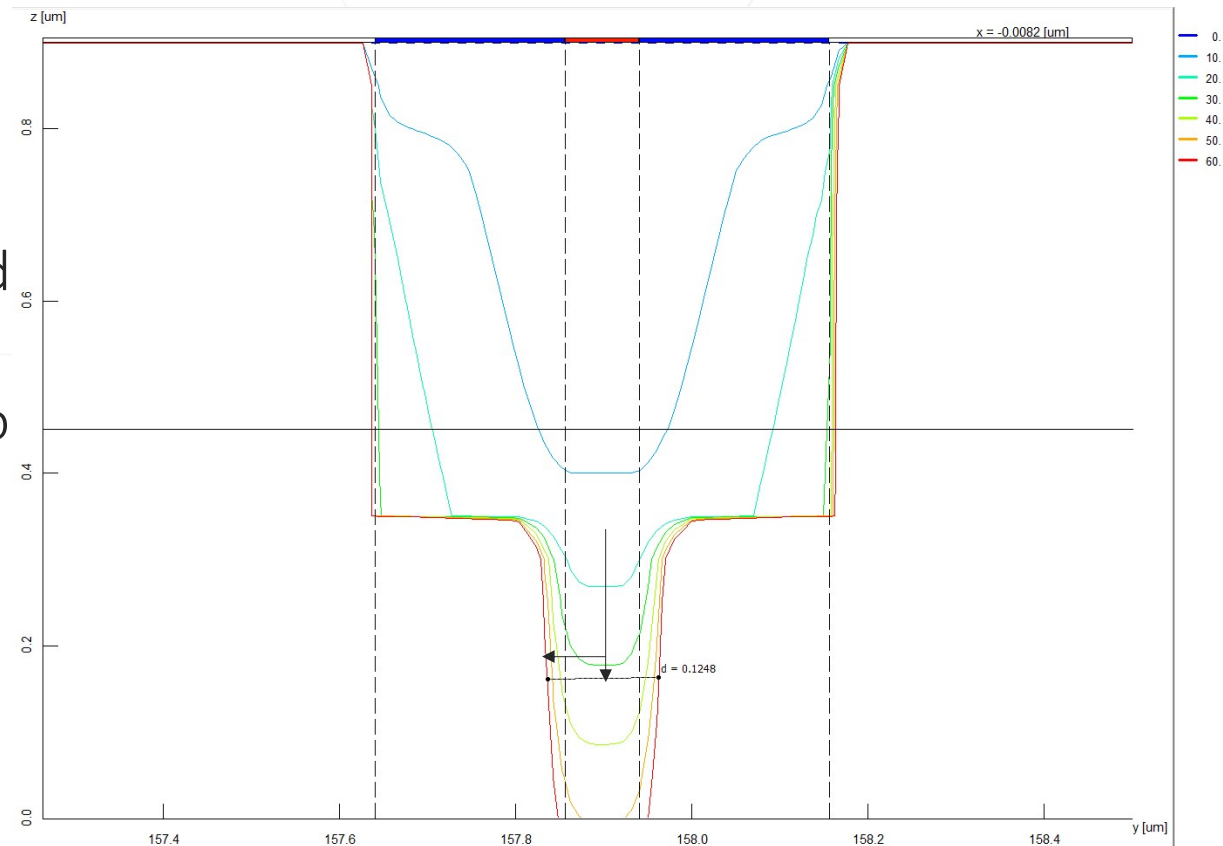


Root Cause of Oversize

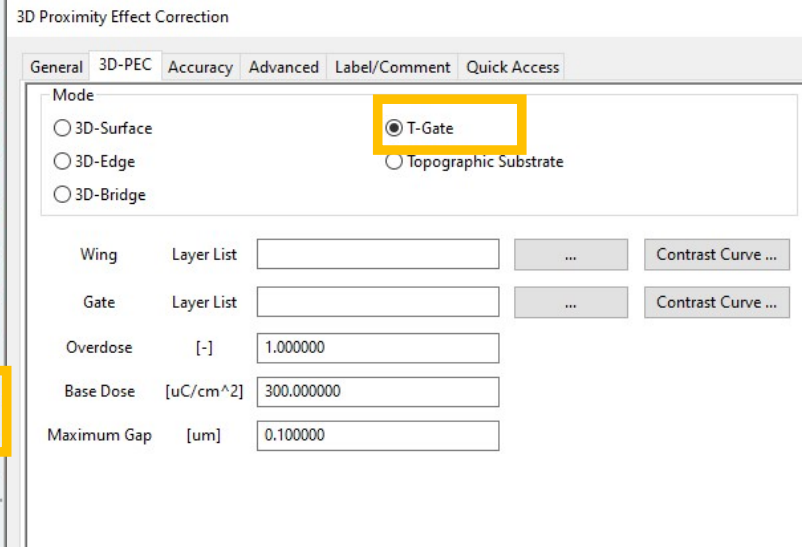
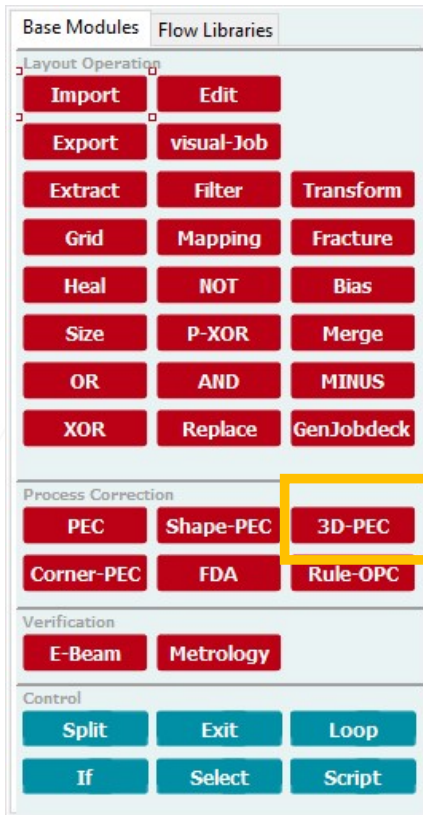


- Development front moves not only down, but also to the side
- The development to the side is dependent on background energy and blur
- The lateral development bias needs to be considered

➤ Dedicated T-Gate - PEC



T-Gate PEC with gate & wing layer



3D T-Gate PEC:

This mode is optimized for double-layer T-Gate process. It considers the full resist contrast curves of both resists, models and corrects lateral development bias, and enables contrast enhancement by ODUS of gate.

T-Gate PEC with resist development

The correct edge placement is assured in a complementary step by simulating the lateral development. For this purpose the T-Gate mode now requires contrast curves in order to enable the simulation.

3D Proximity Effect Correction

General 3D-PEC Accuracy Advanced Label/Comment

Mode

3D-Surface T-Gate

3D-Edge Topographic Substrate

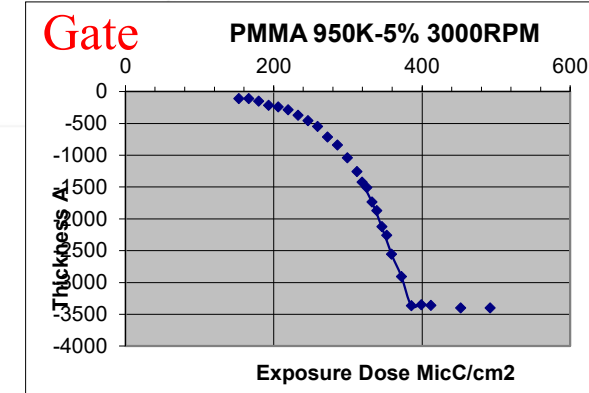
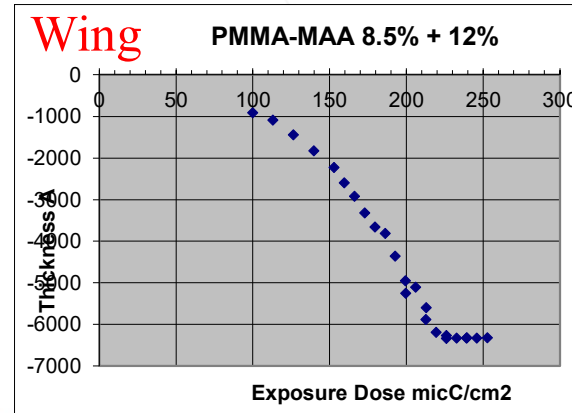
3D-Bridge

Wing Layer List 35(0) ... Contrast Curve ...

Gate Layer List 34(0) ... Contrast Curve ...

Overdose [-] 1

Base Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$] 400.000000



Contrast Curve

Original Thickness [μm] 0.562

Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]	Remaining Resist [μm]
160	0.549
173	0.542
186	0.536
199	0.5305
213	0.524
226	0.517
239	0.503
253	0.494
266	0.484
279	0.4675
292	0.451
306	0.4265
312	0.414

OK Cancel Help

Contrast Curve

Original Thickness [μm] 0.633

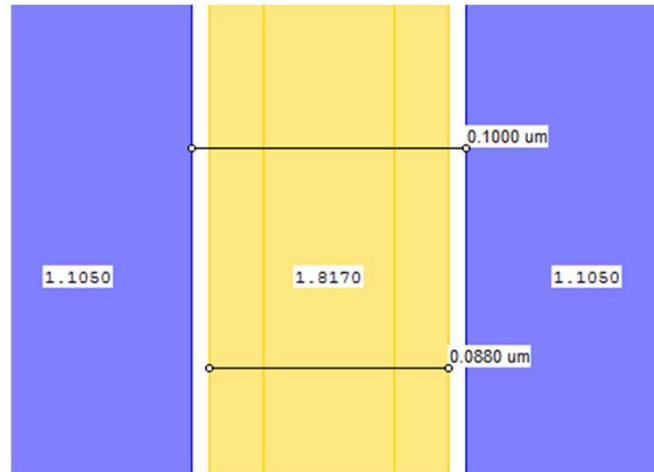
Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]	Remaining Resist [μm]
69.8544	0.5415
79.1532	0.524
88.452	0.489
97.7508	0.45
107.049	0.41
111.699	0.373
116.348	0.341
120.997	0.301
125.647	0.267
130.296	0.24
134.946	0.197
139.595	0.138
144.244	0.1

Import... Export... Insert Row Delete Row

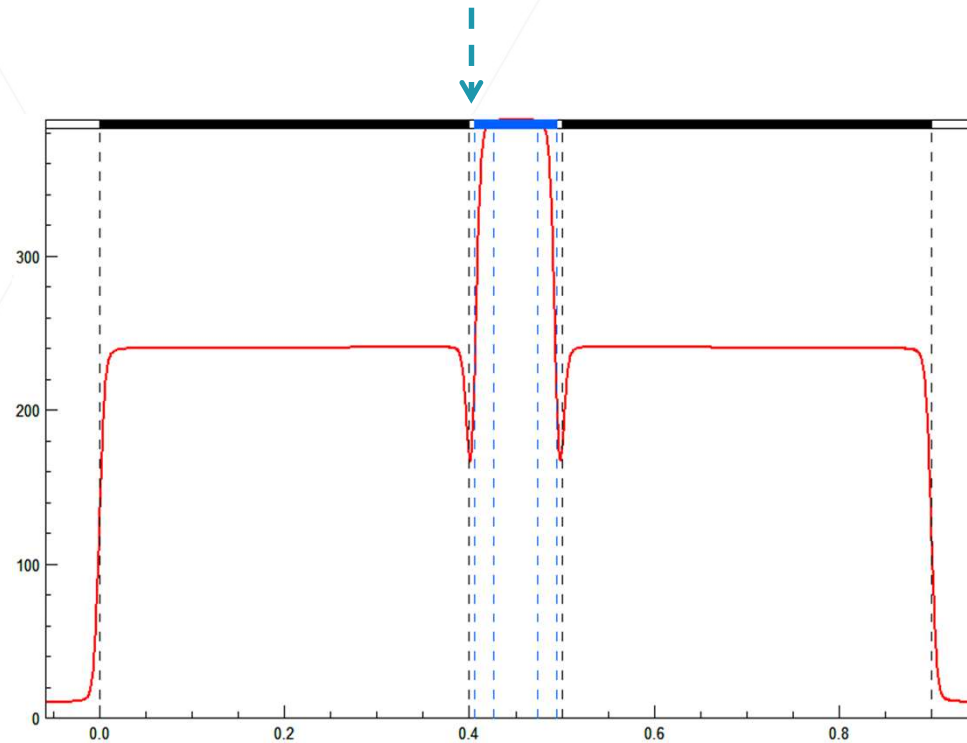
OK Cancel Help

Compensation of lateral development

The introduced gap significantly reduces the dev. rate at the gate edge.

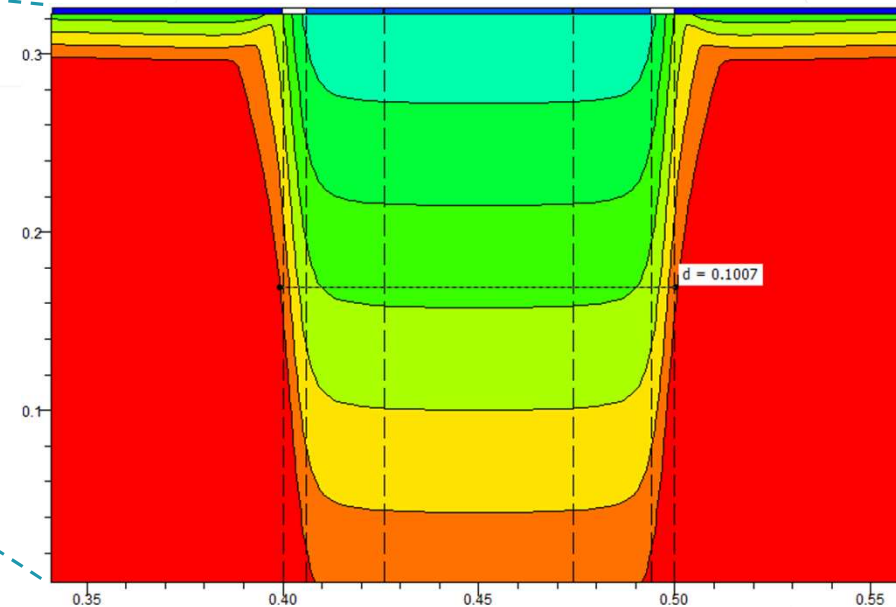
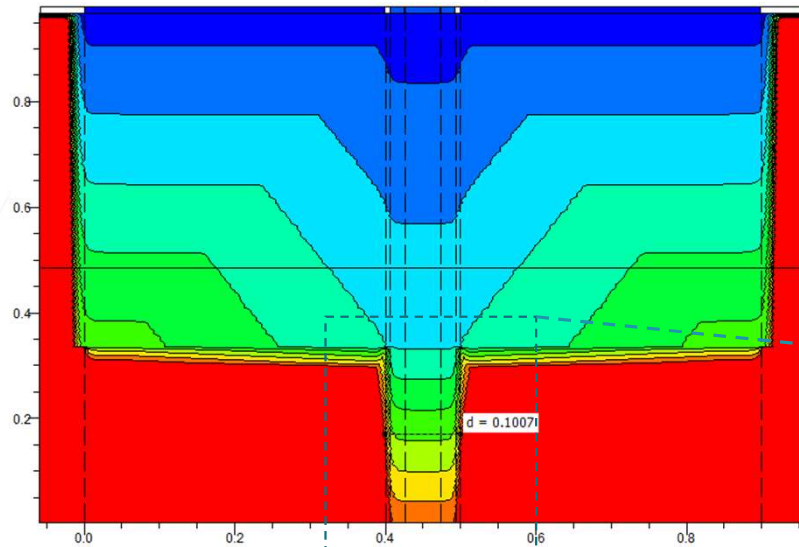


Bias applied to gate level in order to compensate for lateral development.



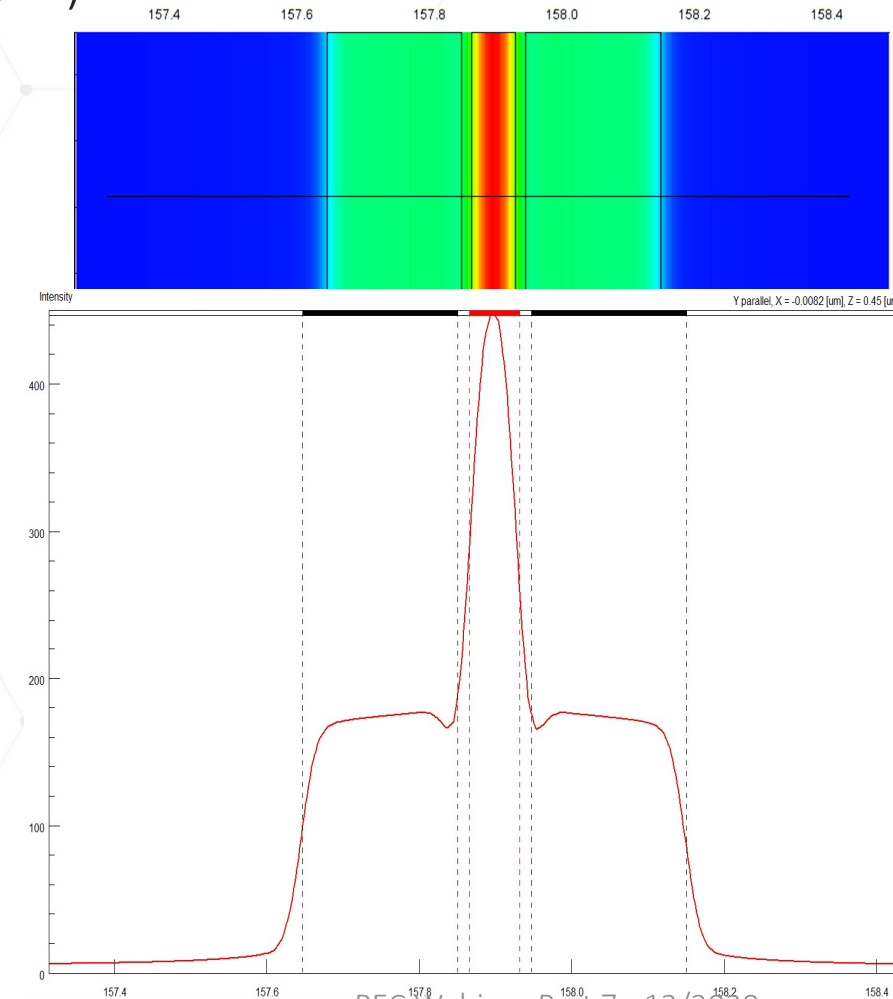
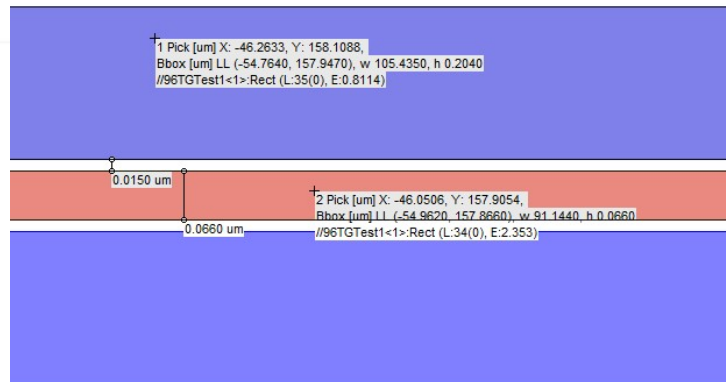
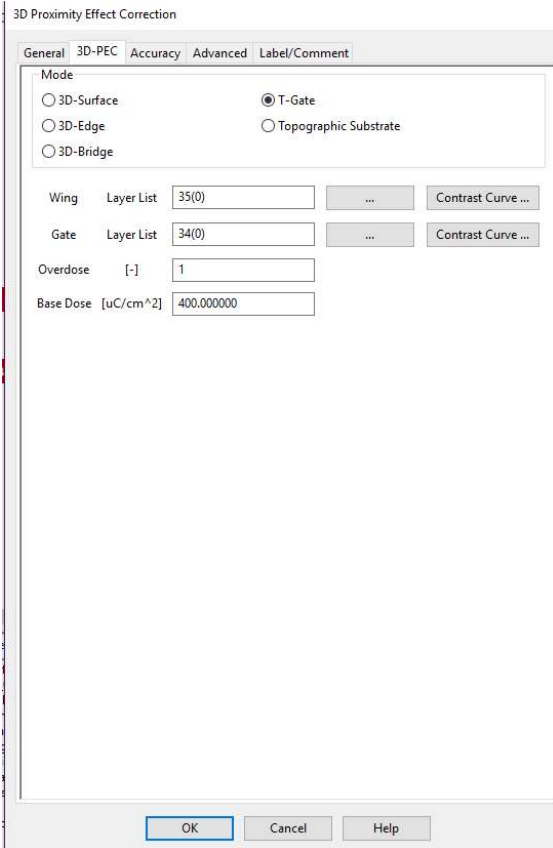
Simulation PEC incl. Lat. dev.

The size of the gap has been computed to realize a development front stop at the original target.
At the same time dose-to-clear inside the gate is assured.

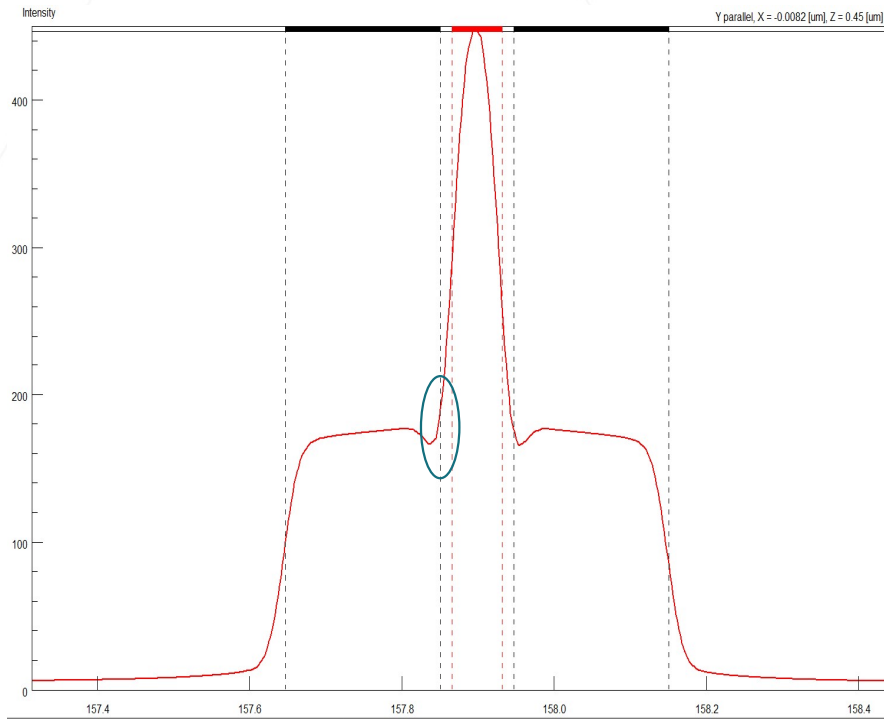


T-Gate Correction

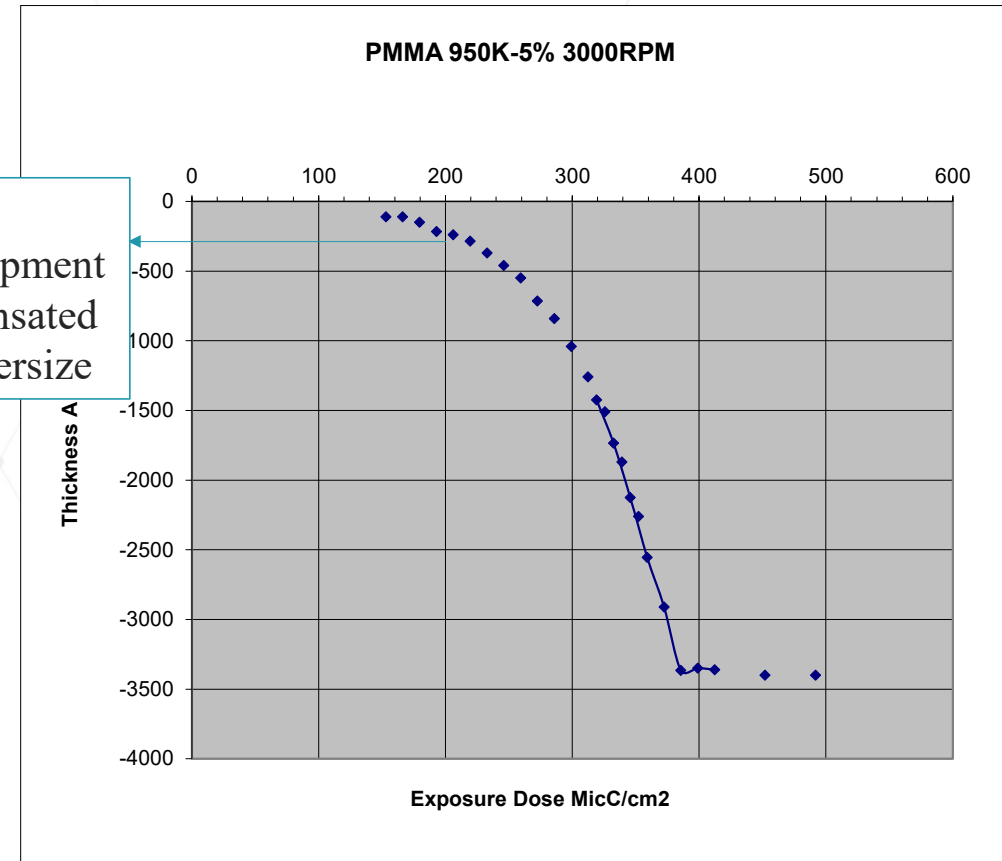
- Without Overdose, 36nm blur (from Tracer calibration!)



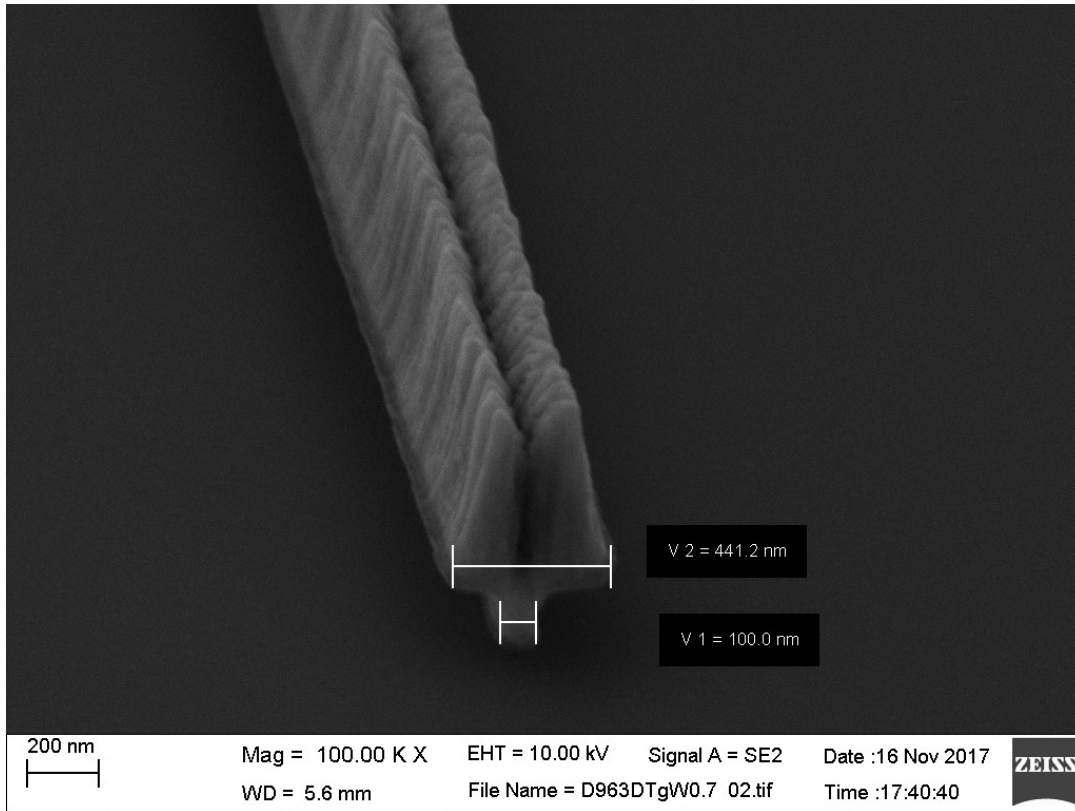
T-Gate Correction



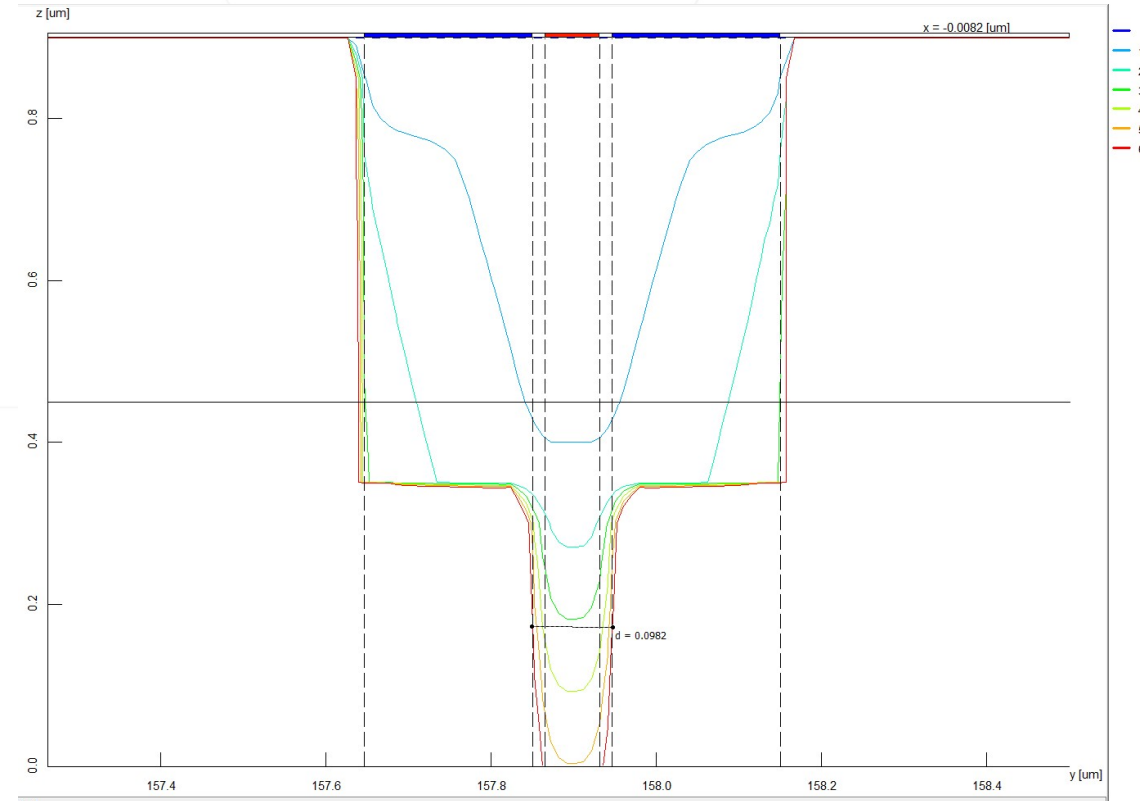
Lateral Development compensated by undersize



- No Overdose!

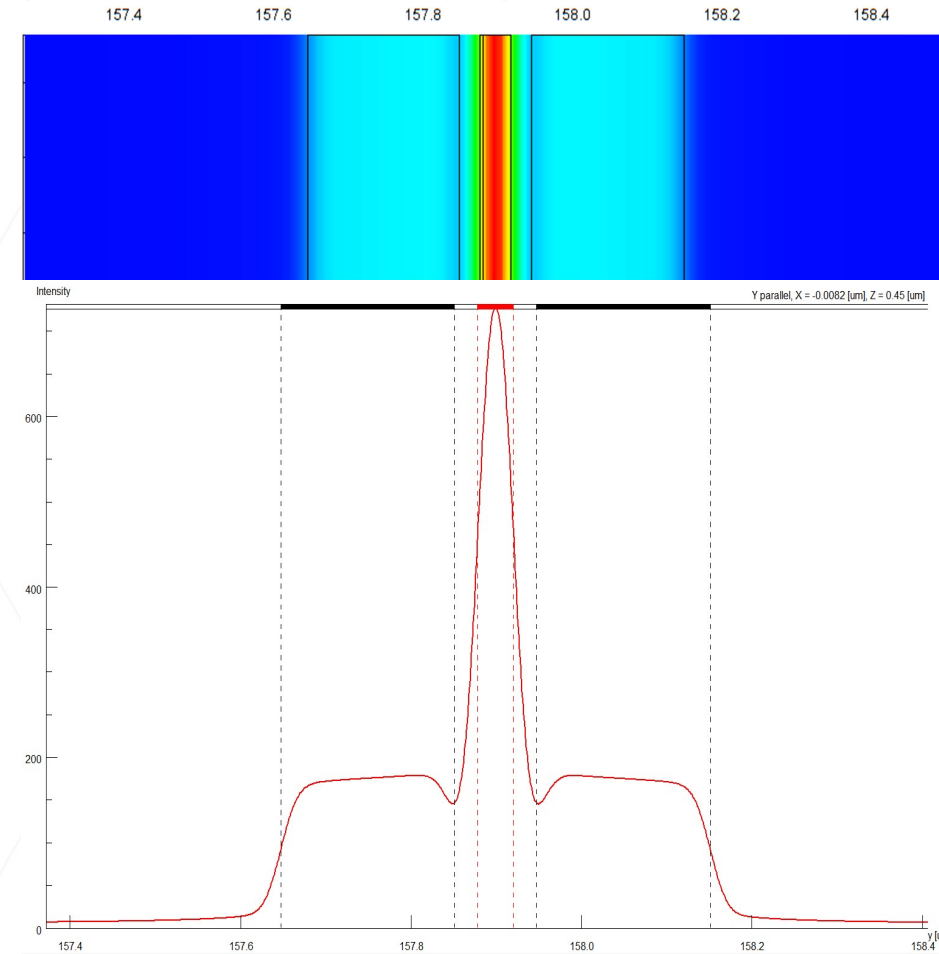
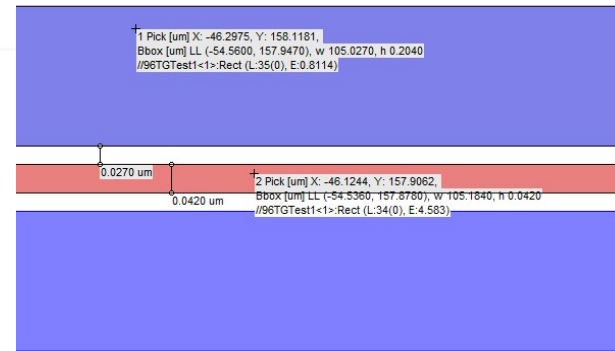
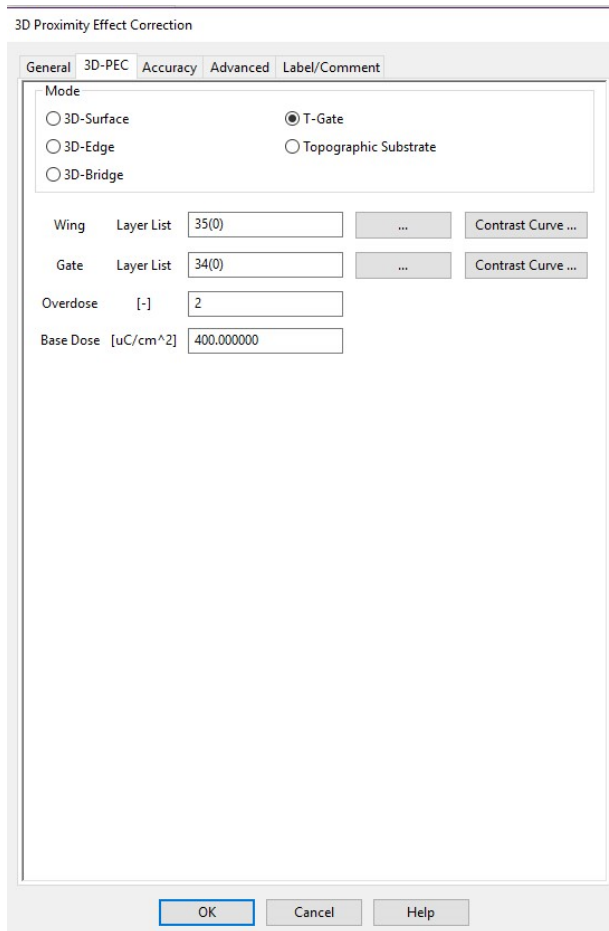


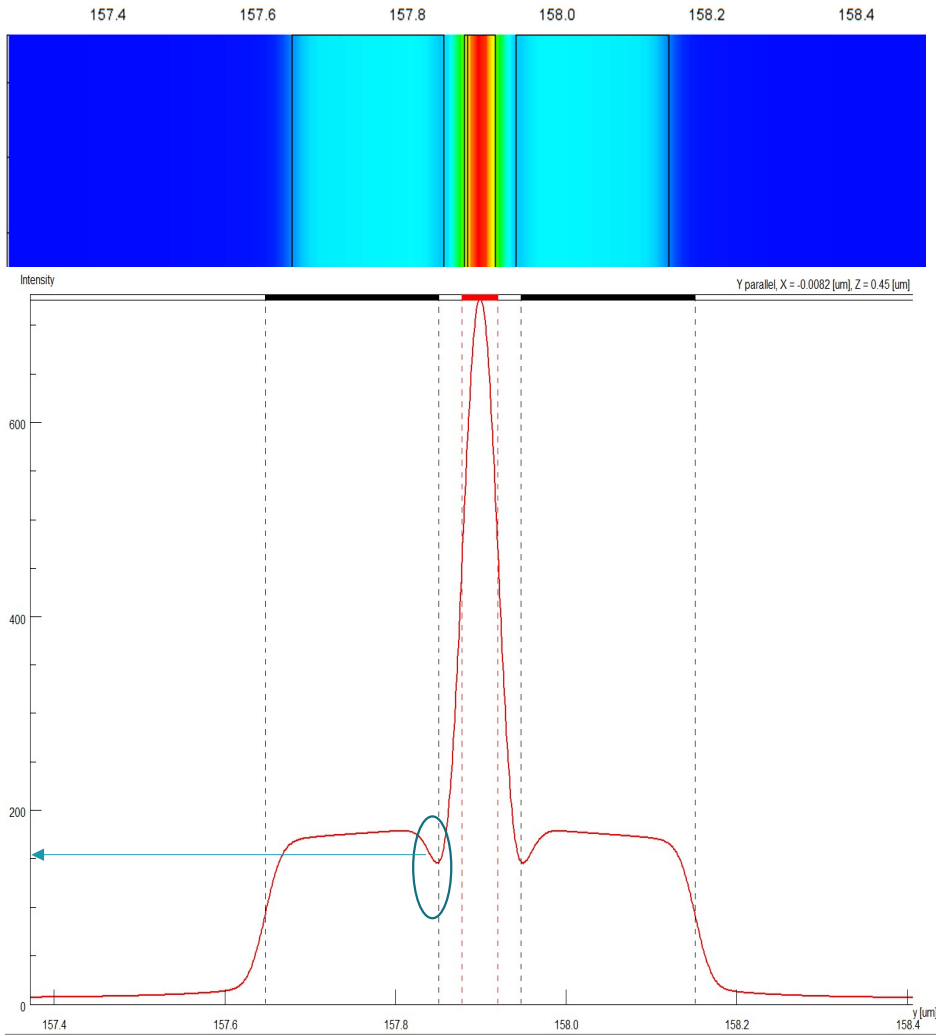
T-Gate Correction



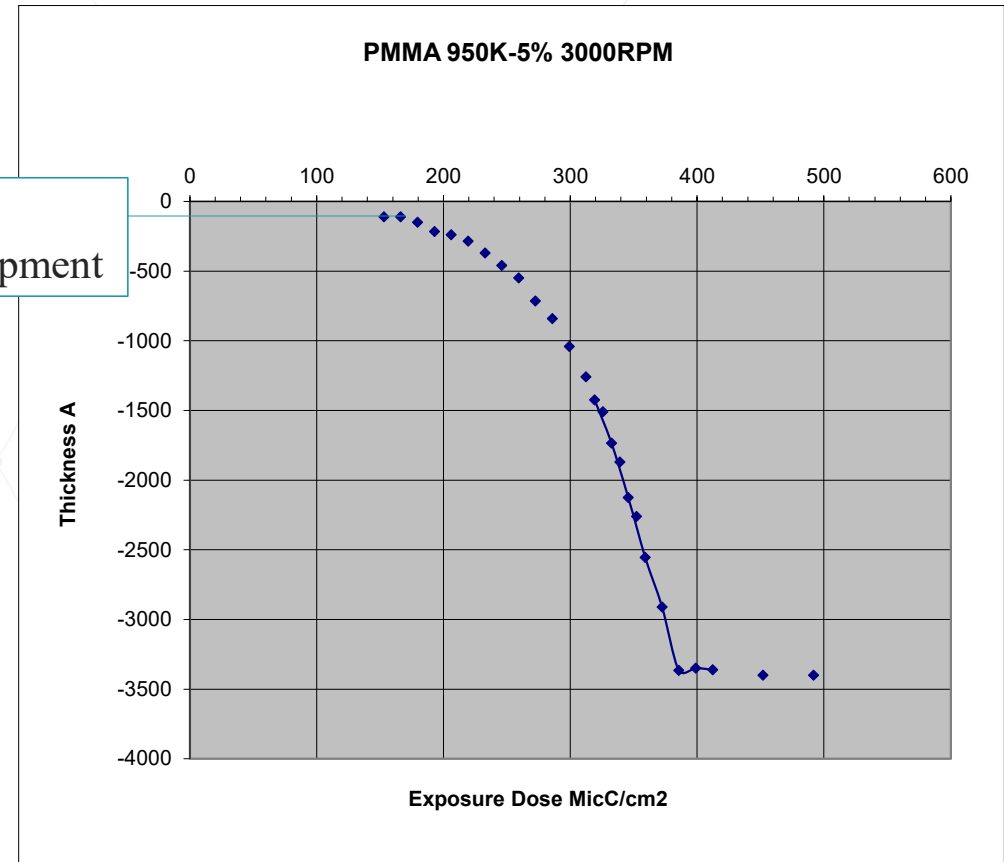
T-Gate Correction with ODUS

- With OverDose x 2, 36nm blur (from Tracer calibration!)



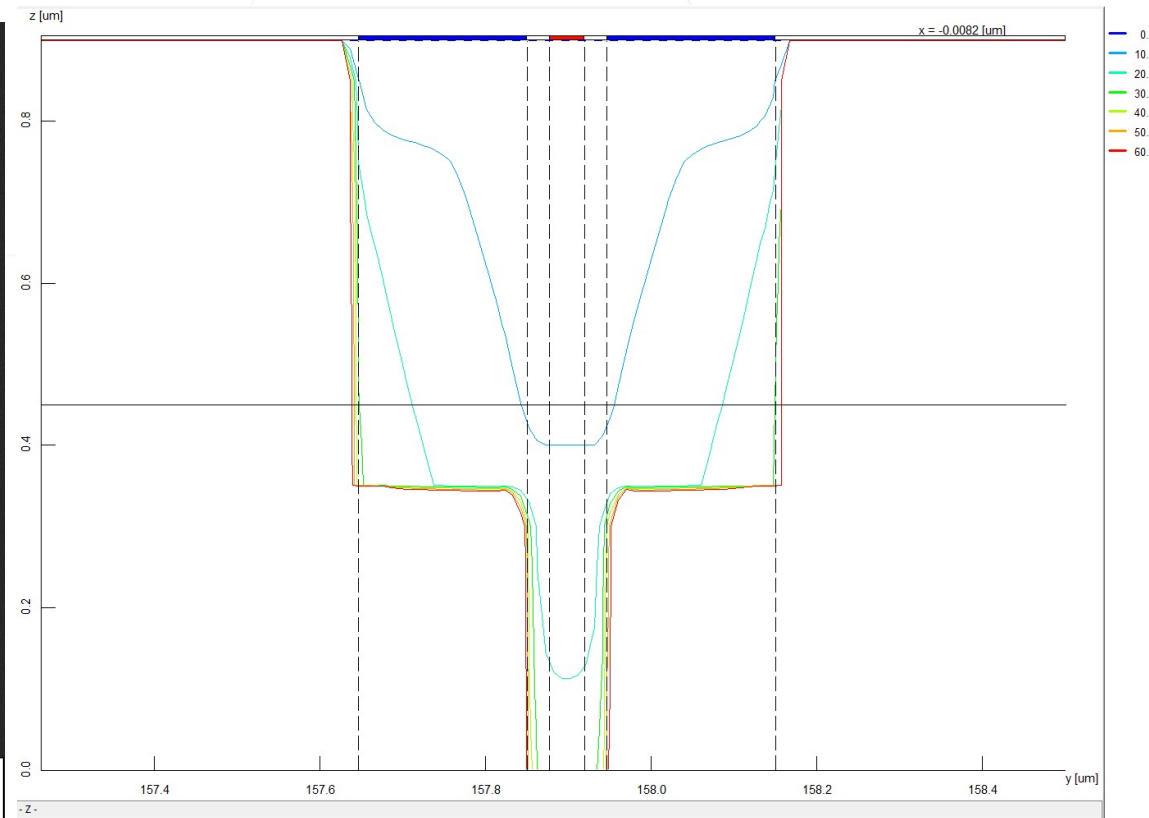
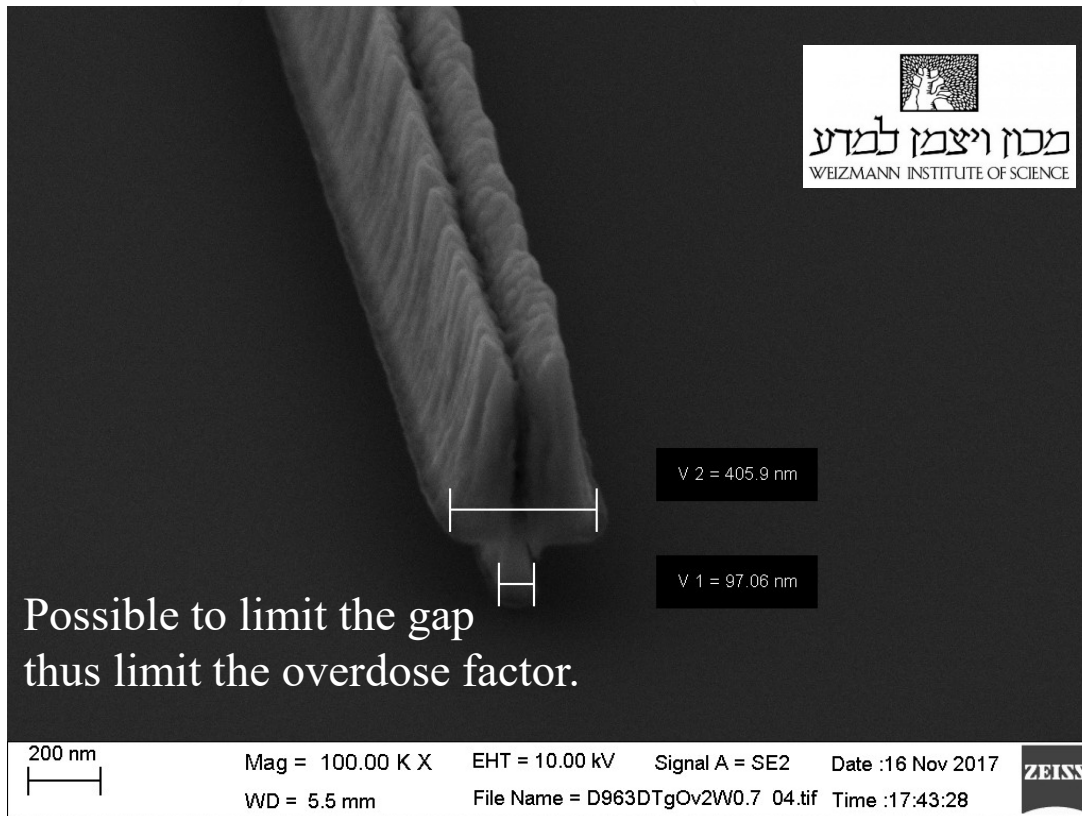


Lateral
Development



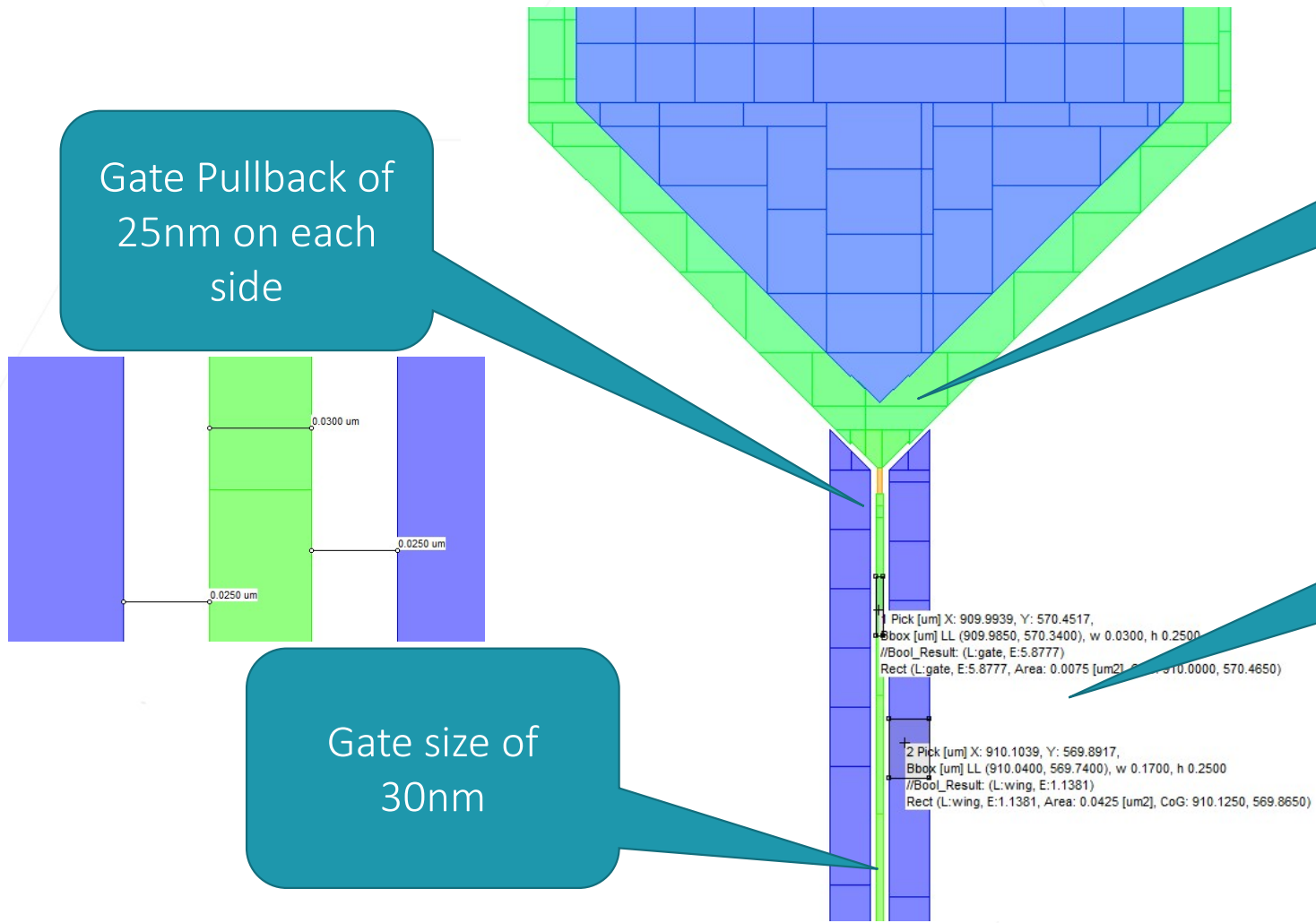
T-Gate Mode, 1min development

- **Overdose 2!** -> Higher contrast, more process window
- Develops gate fast by overdose
- More blocking of lateral development by larger gap

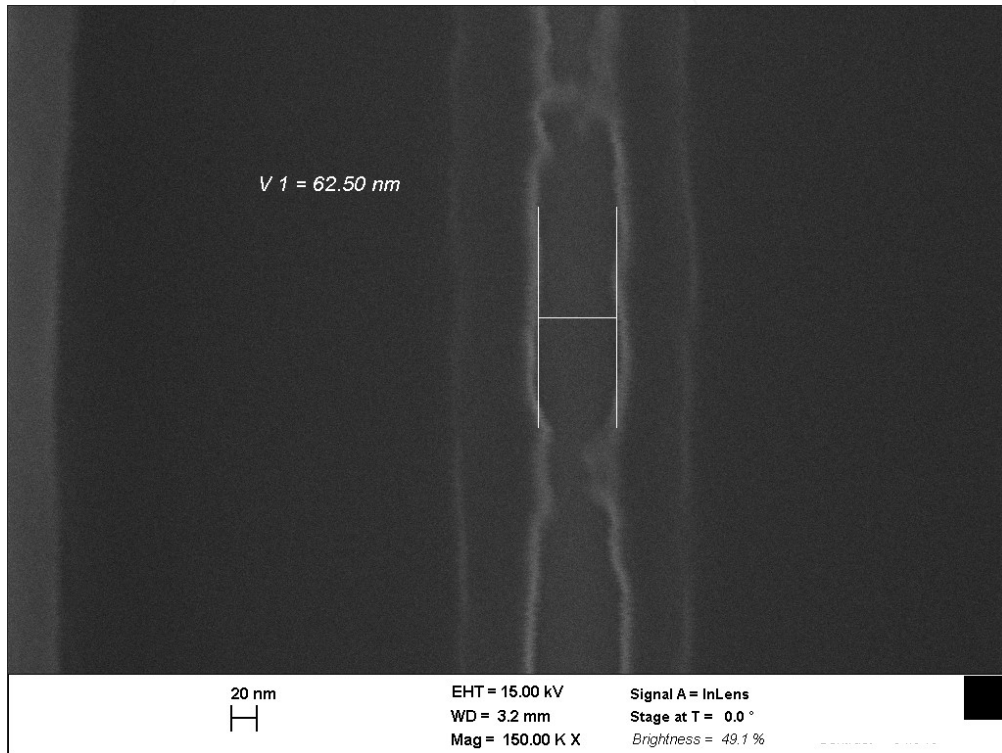
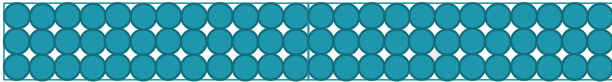


- Part 6 Summary: 3D Surface PEC for greyscale lithography
- T-Gate Introduction
- Multi-Layer Edge PEC
- T-Gate Correction
- Optimization of T-Gate
- Summary
- Q&A

80nm Correction

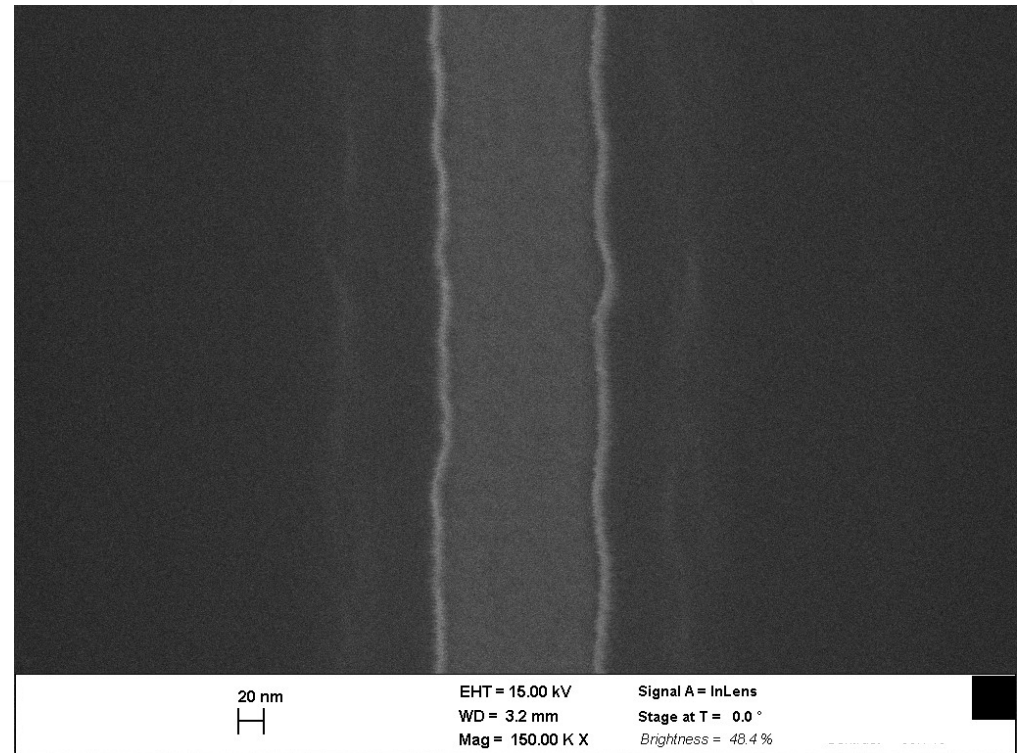
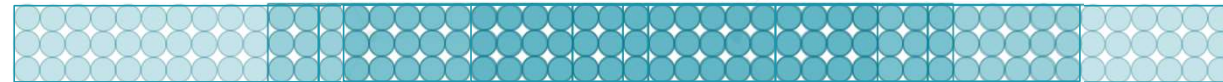


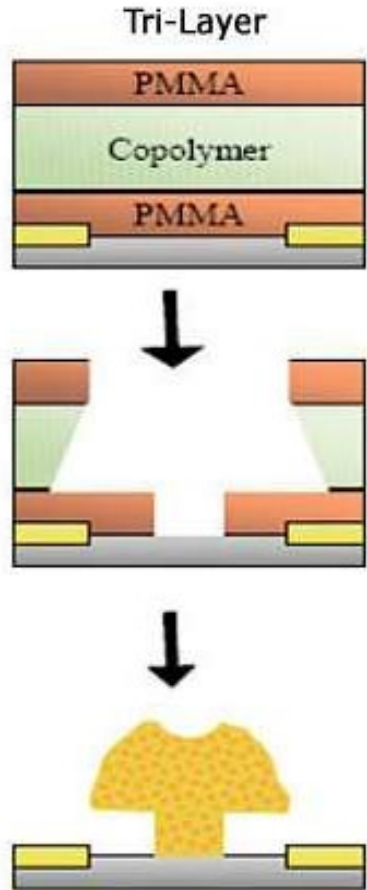
1x at 100% exposure of foot



Writing optimizations

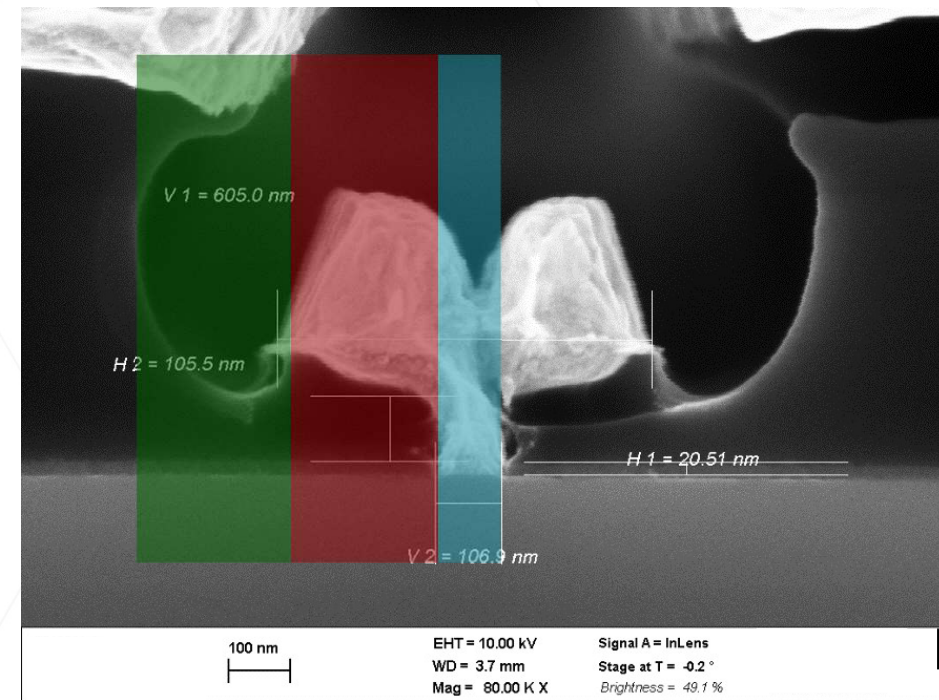
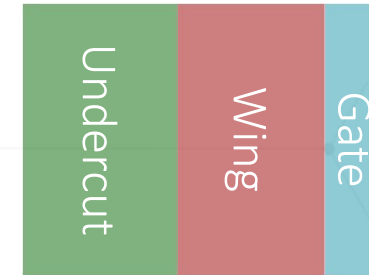
4x at 25% exposure of foot





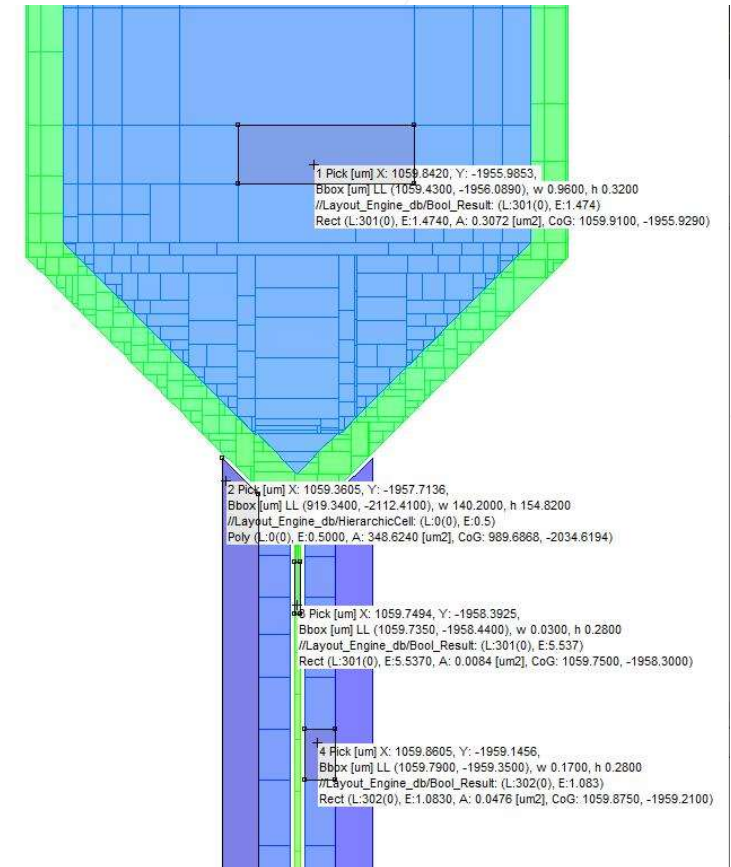
- Most processes use triple layer.
 - Top: Control wing size
 - Bottom: Control foot size
 - Middle: Create Undercut
- Advanced process need control of the undercut size and shape
 - using a 3rd exposure layer

Undercut optimization



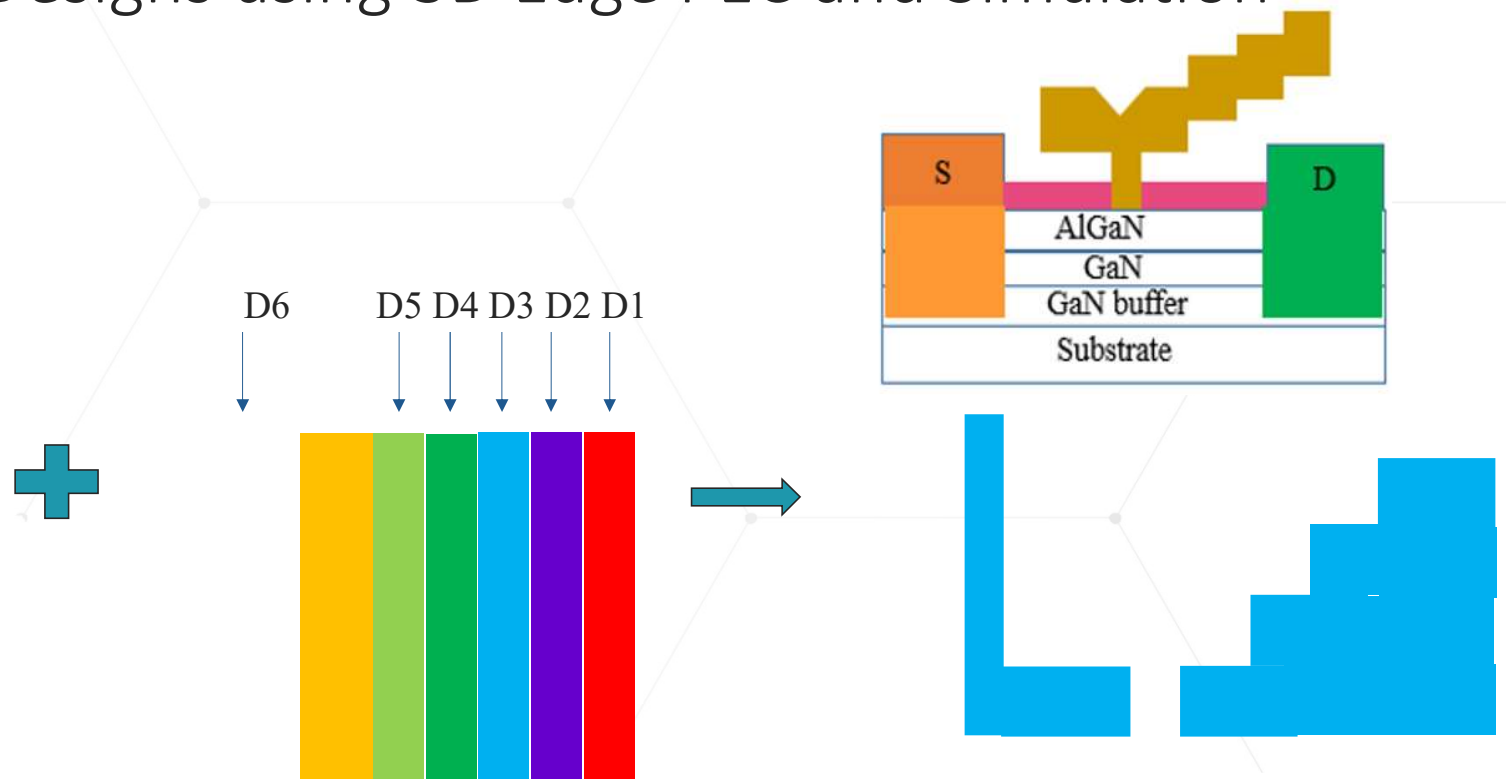
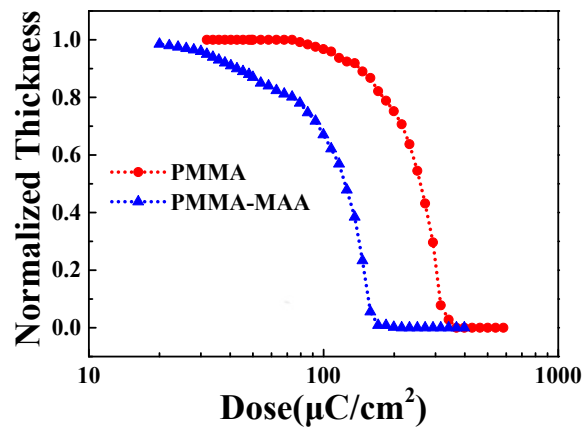
Adding 3rd layer for Undercut-Control

- Current solution
 - Adjust the dose of 3rd layer (undercut-control) using FDA
- Future BEAMER version
 - Allow to define 3rd layer also by contrast curve
 - Energies and development front will be considered at correction



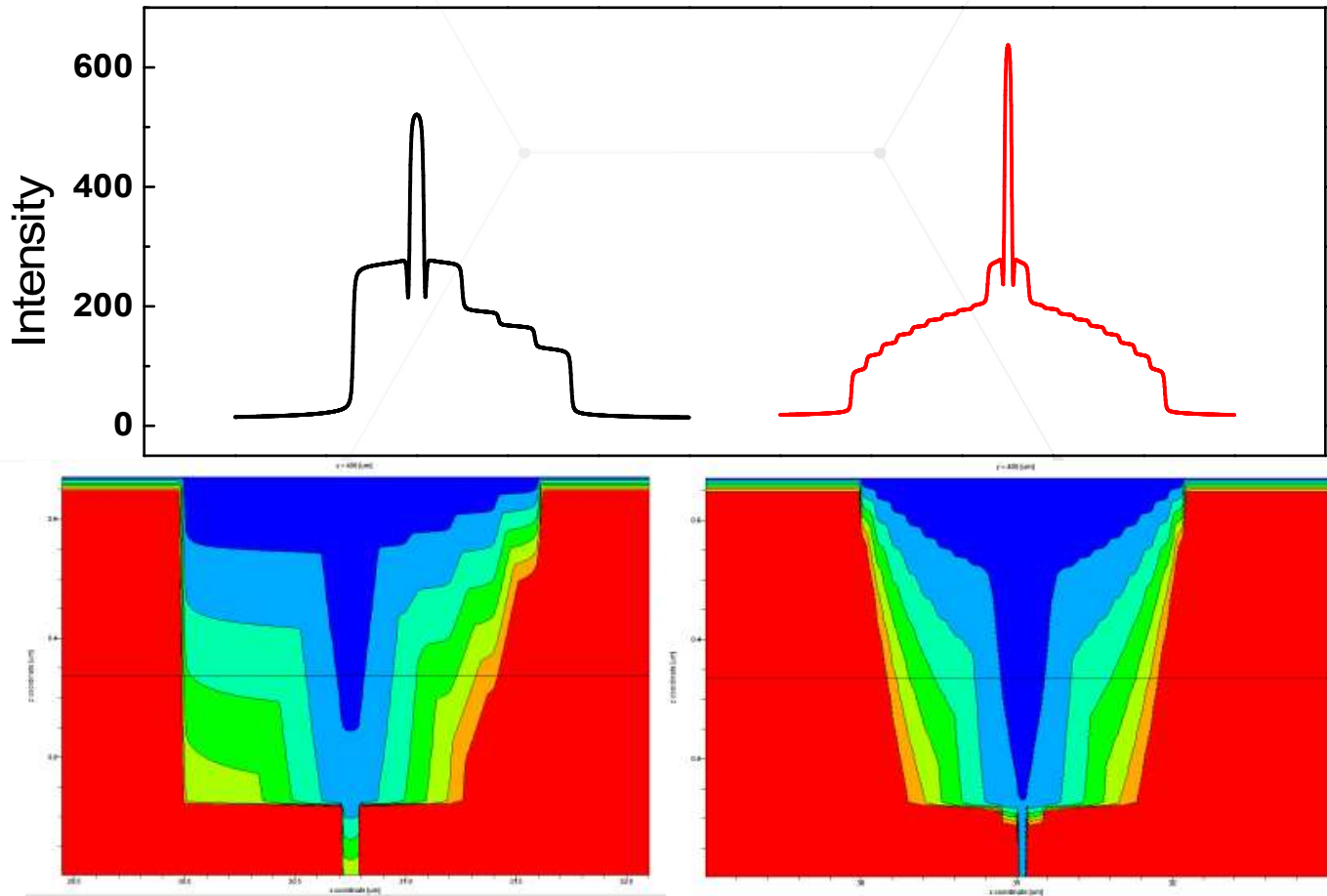
Assymmetric T-Gate Example

- Advanced wing (head) design for higher device performance
- Current correction supports assymmetric designs (Gamma Gates)
- More complex Designs using 3D Edge PEC and Simulation

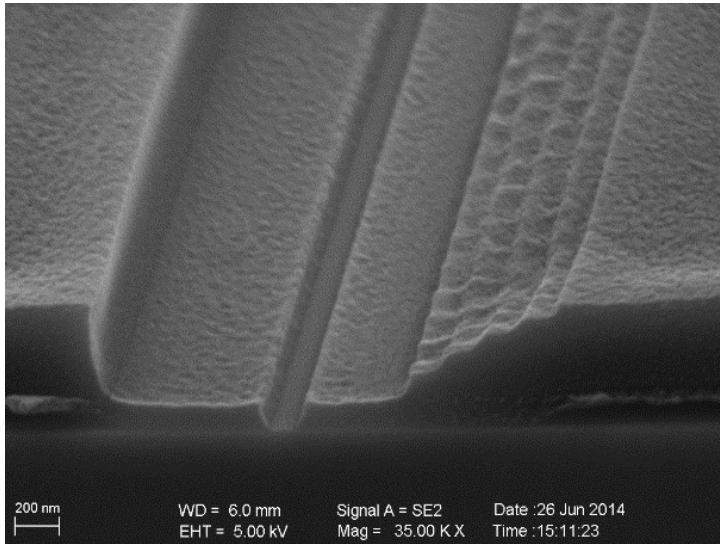


- Energy and resist development front after BEAMER correction

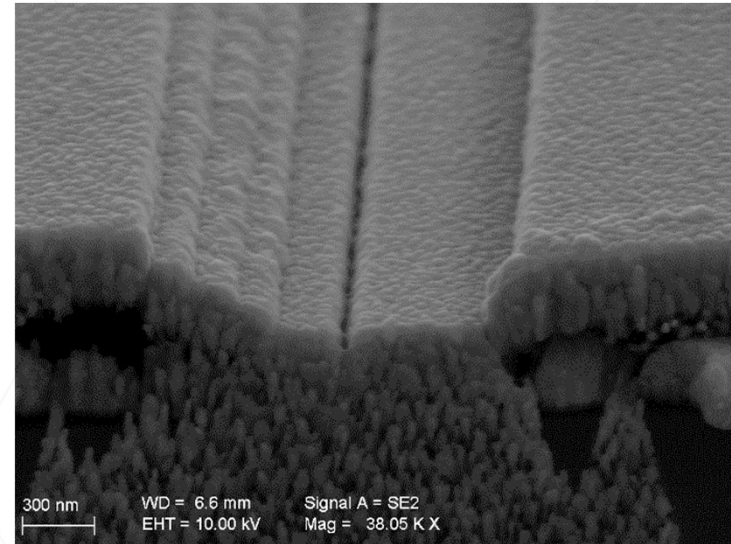
Optimization using LAB simulation



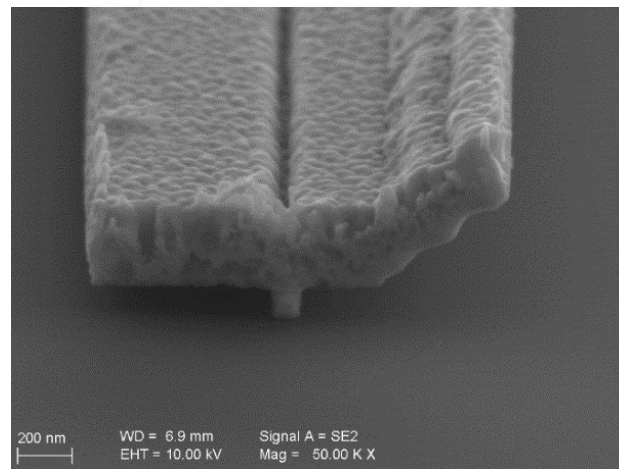
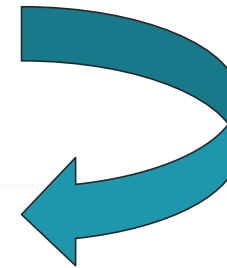
Lift-Off Process



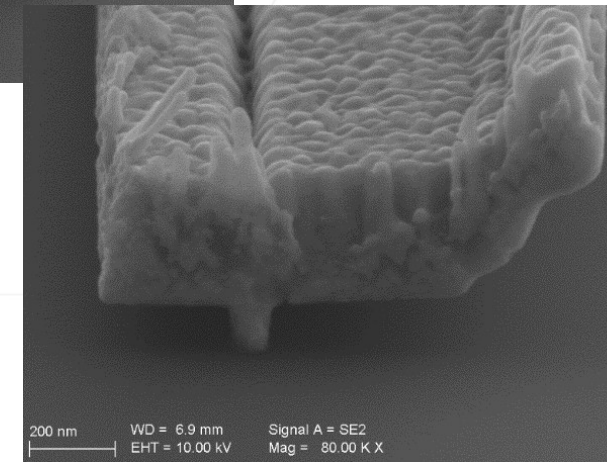
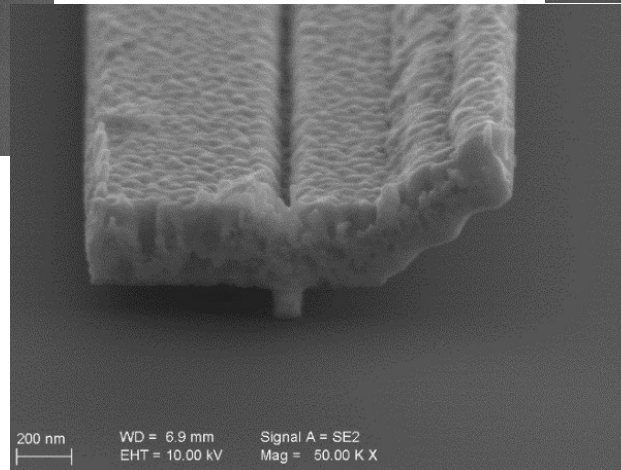
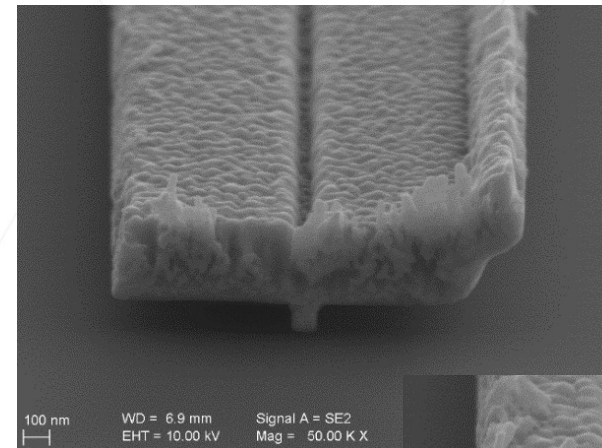
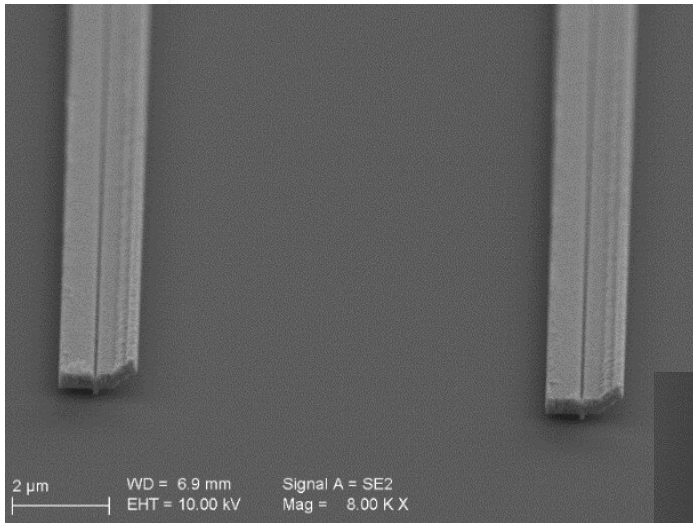
Evaporate
→
Cr/Au



Lift-off



- SEM images for asymmetric T-shape gates with sub-100 nm foot-widths. The head length is 1.6 μm .



Results after lift-off

- Part 6 Summary: 3D Surface PEC for greyscale lithography
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Summary of Part 7

- 3D Edge PEC correction for multi-layer resist process
 - 3D Edge PEC offers correction with multiple (more than 2!) layer
 - Bridges for interconnect and “Undercut-Control” are multilayer application
 - Works for T-Gate, but leads to oversize by lateral development
- T-Gate correction includes resist development, compensates lateral development by under-sizing the gate (leaving a gap between gate and wing)
 - ODUS (OverDose-UnderSize) enables contrast (process window) enhancement for the gate
 - Multi-layer resist process, where gate and wing size/shape need control
 - High density material with strong proximity effect
- Application example
 - Application example for asymmetric T-Gate design

Summary of Webinar Series

Part	Subject	Date
1	Electron Scattering and Proximity Effect	07-Oct-2020
2	Dose PEC Algorithm and Parameter	14-Oct-2020
3	Optimization of Dose PEC Parameter	21-Oct-2020
4	Process Effect, Calibration and Correction	28-Oct-2020
5	Shape PEC – “ODUS” Contrast Enhancement	04-Nov-2020
6	3D Surface PEC for Grayscale Lithography	18-Nov-2020
7	3D T-Gate and Edge PEC for multilayer resist	02-Dec-2020

- 7 hours on Proximity

- Proximity effect
- Correction Algorithm
- Major parameter
- Process calibration
- Shape PEC with ODUS
- 3D-Greyscale corection
- T-Gate correction

- All presentation and videos are available on GenISys Web-Site
- We can issue participation certificate on request
- Any comments & suggestion for additional technical webinars are welcome

Thank You!

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