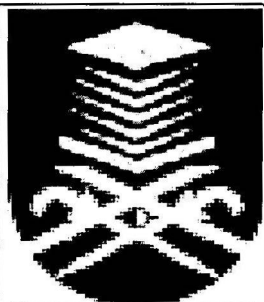


**MEASUREMENT OF DIELECTRIC CONSTANT OF SILICON WAFER USING
MICROWAVE NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING AND DIRECT CURRENT
TECHNIQUE**

**This is presented in partial fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Hons)
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamualaikum,

In this valuable opportunity, I would like to thank Allah the Almighty because of his love for giving me chance to complete this thesis. I wish to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to my project supervisor, Miss Nani Fadzlina Naim for giving consistent guidance and opinion as well as prevision of his valuable time, encourage and patient for my research paper to ensure this project is successfully completed. Thanks to Mrs. Kamariah and Mrs. Suhaila for their willingness to evaluate my project presentation.

I wish to expressed gratitude to the management of Microwave Technology Center, where this work was carried out, for their assistance and for allowing me to used the equipment. Especially for my lecturer, Prof. Zaiki Awang and research officer, Mr Mohd Khairil Adzhar. I also would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Miss Raudhah for guidenace and allowing me to used the direct current equipment.

Most of all, this project is especially dedicated to my beloved family who have always pray for my success, assisted me, giving me courage most, morale support as well as materially, love and understanding during the course of my study in UiTM. Not forgotten, a lots of thankful for those who involved in directly for their support, understanding, help and advice. Lastly, hope this report will satisfy all people and may Allah let you in his sight and bless you always.

Thank you.

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents comparison between measurement of dielectric constant of silicon wafer by using MNDT which is at high frequency and by using HIOKI 3532-50 LCR HiTESTER which at low frequency. Measurement of dielectric properties of silicon wafer at microwave frequencies is performed in free space using a pair of spot-focusing horn lens antennas, mode transitions, coaxial cable and vector network analyser (VNA). A contactless and non-destructive microwave method has been developed to characterize silicon semiconductor wafer from reflection and transmission measurement made in free space at normal incident. In this method, the free-space reflection and transmission coefficients, S_{11} and S_{21} are measured for silicon wafer sandwiched between two teflon plates which are quarter-wavelength at mid-band. The actual reflection and transmission coefficient, S_{11} and S_{21} of the silicon wafers are calculated from the measured S_{11} and S_{21} of the teflon plate-silicon wafer-teflon plate assembly in which the complex permittivity and thickness of the teflon plates are known. Result for p-type and n-type doped silicon wafer are reported in frequency range of 10GHz to 12GHz. As a comparison, a measurement at low frequency using DC method has been conducted. The frequency range is reported from 0.2 kHz to 50 kHz.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

In the construction of semiconductor devices, the control and measurement of the electrical properties of the material is very crucial. Permittivity and thickness must be evaluated since at microwave frequencies these properties may change significantly due to dielectric loss. The SiO₂ dielectric layer has been used for many decades due its physical and chemical properties. In addition, SiO₂ is also an excellent insulator because of its large 8-9 eV energy bandgap. The large barrier height of 3.1 eV and 4.5 eV for hole and electrons, respectively, keeps carriers in the channel. The dielectric properties are important for design of integrated circuits.

The semiconductor transport properties such as permittivity, resistivity must be evaluated. At microwave frequencies these properties may change significantly due to dielectric loss or other undesired spurious effects such as electromagnetic coupling thus posing problems for high frequency IC designers. At microwave frequencies, the dielectric loss is associated with formation of electric dipoles due to electronic and ionic polarizations. These dielectric losses have contributions to the permittivity and conductivity of semiconductor material.

The choice of substrate material is important for high frequency integrated circuit design. The substrate must be a semiconductor material to accommodate the fabrication of active