

Method for bonding two substrates

Field of the invention

The invention relates to a method for bonding a first substrate and a second
5 substrate.

Prior art

Bonding methods, in particular bonding by molecular adhesion, are widely used in
the production of semiconductor substrates.

10 In particular, to produce semiconductor-on-insulator substrates, especially silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrates, it is known practice to bond a first semiconductor substrate to a second substrate, which might or might not be a semiconductor substrate, with the surface of at least one of said substrates being covered with an oxide layer so as to produce oxide/semiconductor or oxide/oxide bonding.

15 Bonding by molecular adhesion does not require the application of any adhesive; with the surfaces to be bonded being perfectly smooth, bonding is generally initiated by locally applying a slight pressure to the substrates, generating a bonding wave which then propagates across the entire extent of the bonding interface.

However, it has been identified that the bonding process could be the cause of
20 "edge-void" defects in semiconductor-on-insulator substrates. These defects appear when, after bonding, a thin layer is transferred from the first substrate (also called the donor substrate) to the second substrate (also called the receiver substrate), for example by detaching the first substrate along a weakened zone previously formed in said substrate. This layer transfer method is known as the Smart Cut™ method.

25 Edge voids are holes that extend through the transferred thin layer and through the oxide layer located at the bonding interface. These holes typically have a diameter of 50 μm to 2 mm and are generally located at the periphery of the semiconductor-on-insulator substrate.

As illustrated in figure 1, which illustrates a view from above of the surface of the
30 transferred thin layer 1 of an SOI substrate, when bonding is initiated at one edge of the substrates to be bonded (zone A), edge voids are generally generated at the opposite edge, in zone B, where the propagation of the bonding wave 11 ends.

Edge voids are therefore serious and often crippling defects, insofar as an electronic
component formed in or on a region of the transferred thin layer comprising such an edge
35 void will be defective.

Document WO 2008/107029 describes a method for bonding a first substrate and a second substrate in which, to limit the formation of such edge voids, at least one of the substrates is heated before and while said substrates are brought into contact, so as to control the speed of propagation of the bonding wave.

5 This heating is localized to the peripheral zone in which the edge voids are concentrated, and is implemented by means of a halogen lamp arranged in a quartz housing facing said zone.

 However, the heating tends to degrade the carrier (or "chuck") which holds the substrates during bonding. Specifically, this carrier is formed of a metal base covered with a
10 polymer coating, which separates from the base and deforms, forming blisters under the effect of overly intense heating. However, this damage to the carrier is liable to generate other defects, in particular non-bonded zones, in the final substrate.

 If it is sought to reduce the damage to the carrier by decreasing the duration or the intensity of the heating, the speed of propagation of the bonding wave risks being
15 insufficiently controlled, leading to the formation of edge voids.

 Furthermore, this method suffers from a lack of stability over time and is therefore not very reproducible.

Brief description of the invention

20 Embodiments of the invention seek to to define a method for bonding substrates that can make it possible to minimize the formation of edge voids while being more stable and more reproducible than the existing method, and which may not cause damage to the substrate carrier.

 An aspect of the invention provides a method for bonding a first substrate and a second
25 substrate, comprising bringing said first and second substrates into contact and implementing heating of a peripheral zone of at least one of said first and second substrates, said heating being initiated before the substrates are brought into contact and continued at least until the substrates are brought into contact in said zone, said method being characterized in that the first and second substrates are held by a carrier having a peripheral region running around
30 the edge of said substrates, the heating is implemented by means of an infrared lamp shaped to conform to an edge of said substrates within the peripheral zone and configured to emit radiation having an outer boundary corresponding to the edge of said substrates, and arranged so as to heat the peripheral zone of the first and/or of the second substrate while excluding the peripheral region of said carrier.

35 Due to the type of radiation and the arrangement of the lamp with respect to the substrates, it is possible to more effectively heat the water present at the bonding interface, which strongly influences the bonding kinetics, with lower power, while reducing the heating of the substrates and in particular of the substrate carrier.

In some embodiments, the first and second substrates take a circular shape and the infrared lamp takes the shape of an arc of a circle whose diameter is smaller than or equal to the diameter of said substrates.

In some embodiments, the first and second substrates are held by a carrier having a peripheral region running around the edge of said substrates, the infrared lamp being arranged so as to heat the peripheral zone of the first and/or of the second substrate while excluding the peripheral region of said carrier.

Particularly advantageously, the heating ends at the latest at the end of propagation of the bonding wave between the substrates.

According to one preferred embodiment, the infrared lamp emits radiation in a wavelength range suitable for absorption of said radiation by water present between the substrates.

There is also disclosed a method for producing a semiconductor-on-insulator substrate, by transferring a semiconductor layer from a first semiconductor substrate, called a donor substrate, to a second substrate, called a receiver substrate, comprising:

- forming a weakened zone in the donor substrate, so as to delimit a semiconductor layer to be transferred,
- providing the receiver substrate, at least one of the donor substrate and the receiver substrate being covered with an electrically insulating layer,
- bonding the donor substrate and the receiver substrate using the method as described above, the electrically insulating layer being at a bonding interface,
- detaching the donor substrate along the weakened zone so as to transfer the semiconductor layer to the receiver substrate.

Another aspect of the invention relates to an installation for bonding a first substrate and a second substrate.

Said installation comprises a carrier configured to hold the first and second substrates as they are brought into contact, said carrier having a peripheral region running around an edge of said substrates, and a lamp arranged facing a peripheral zone of at least one of said first and second substrates, and is characterized in that the lamp is an infrared lamp shaped to conform to the edge of said substrates within the peripheral zone and configured to emit radiation having an outer boundary corresponding to the edge of said substrates, so as not to expose the peripheral region of the carrier to said radiation.

According to one embodiment, the infrared lamp is designed to emit a fast medium wave. This means that the wavelength of the emitted radiation is longer than 1 μm .

In some embodiments, the infrared lamp comprises a filament designed to be brought to a temperature of approximately 1600°C during operation of the lamp.

Advantageously, the infrared lamp has a power peak for a wavelength of between 1.5 and 2 μm . Thus, the lamp promotes the absorption of the radiation by water more than
 5 by the semiconductor material, which makes it possible to reduce the heating of the carrier and prevents the formation of defects liable to result therefrom.

Brief description of the drawings

Further features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the
 10 following detailed description, with reference to the appended drawings, in which:

- figure 1 is a view of the surface of an SOI substrate, schematically showing the propagation of the bonding wave and the formation of edge voids;
- figure 2 is a view of the surface of an SOI substrate, in which the halogen lamp as described in document WO 2008/107029 is shown schematically;
- 15 - figure 3 is a view of the surface of an SOI substrate, in which an infrared lamp according to the invention is shown schematically;
- figure 4 is a graph showing the emission spectra of a halogen lamp and of an infrared lamp, and the absorption spectrum of water as a function of wavelength;
- figure 5 schematically illustrates a substrate held on a carrier for the bonding step;
- 20 - figure 6 shows images of a map of the temperature of the substrate carrier during heating by an infrared lamp according to the invention (left-hand image) and by a halogen lamp (right-hand image);
- figure 7 is a view of the surface of an SOI substrate with edge voids formed in a zone insufficiently heated by the halogen lamp in the known bonding method;
- 25 - figure 8A is a cross-sectional view of the formation of a weakened zone within a donor substrate;
- figure 8B is a cross-sectional view of the bonding of the donor substrate of figure 8A to a receiver substrate;
- figure 8C is a cross-sectional view of the detachment of the donor substrate along
 30 the weakened zone so as to transfer a semiconductor layer from the donor substrate to the receiver substrate.

For the sake of legibility of the figures, the various layers of the substrates and/or the components of the installation are not necessarily shown to scale.

Detailed description of embodiments

The invention proposes modifying not only the heat source but also the shape of said source.

In the prior art, the halogen lamp takes the shape of a rectilinear bar. However, since substrates are usually circular in shape, the halogen lamp irradiates only part of the periphery of the substrates.

As illustrated in figure 2, the lamp 2' is arranged tangentially to the edge of the substrates, on the side opposite zone A in which the bonding wave is initiated. Due to its width, the lamp 2' illuminates a strip of the substrates running from the edge toward the center of the substrates. This strip corresponds to a portion of a chord of a circle which intersects the edge of the substrates at two zones, said zones of intersection being spaced apart by an angle of approximately 60°.

However, edge voids typically extend over an angular sector of 120° opposite the zone of initiation of the bonding wave.

As a result, as shown schematically in figure 2, edge voids remain on either side of the peripheral zone illuminated by the lamp 2'.

These remaining edge voids are highlighted in figure 7.

With reference to figure 3, what is proposed is a lamp 2 configured to emit radiation with an outer boundary corresponding to the edge of said substrates.

In other words, in the case of circular substrates, the lamp 2 takes the shape of an arc of a circle whose diameter is smaller than or equal to the diameter of said substrates. The length of the lamp is chosen so as to occupy an angular sector of the order of 120° with respect to the periphery of the substrates.

Thus, the lamp 2 illuminates all or at least the most of the zone in which edge voids are liable to occur. In addition, the lamp illuminates only the zone to be treated, while excluding other zones of the substrates and the carrier holding the substrates, thereby avoiding or minimizing damage to the latter by the heat generated.

Furthermore, the lamp 2 is not a halogen lamp, but an infrared lamp.

In a manner known per se, the infrared lamp comprises an electrically conductive filament, generally made of tungsten, arranged in a tube that is transparent to infrared radiation, for example a quartz tube. When an electric current flows therethrough, the filament is brought to a high temperature and emits infrared radiation. Advantageously, the lamp comprises a reflector arranged along the filament in order to direct the radiation in a preferred direction.

Preferably, the infrared lamp is chosen from lamps that emit fast medium waves. In such a lamp, the filament is brought to a temperature of about 1600°C.

In comparison with a halogen lamp, the infrared lamp has two significant advantages.

On the one hand, it allows greater stability of heating over time, which affords greater repeatability and better reliability of the bonding process.

5 On the other hand, it emits radiation in a wider wavelength range than the halogen lamp, which is more favorable for controlling the speed of the bonding wave while being less aggressive for the substrates and the underlying carrier.

Figure 4 is a graph showing the emission spectra of a halogen lamp used in the known bonding method (curve a) and of an infrared lamp used in the bonding method
10 according to the invention (curve b), and the absorption spectrum of water (curve c) as a function of wavelength λ . The left-hand ordinate axis represents the power P of the radiation (in relative units u.r) emitted by the two lamps and the right-hand ordinate axis represents the coefficient of absorption A (in %) of water.

The absorption of said radiation in water is of interest because water is strongly
15 involved in the bonding kinetics of the substrates. Specifically, a small amount of water (of the order of a few monolayers) adsorbed on the surface of the substrates is necessary to ensure the adhesion of the substrates by van der Waals forces. However, too much water decreases the bonding energy. The heating provided by the lamp must therefore be intense enough to remove excess water while keeping enough water adsorbed on the
20 surface of the substrates.

It is observed that the power peak of the infrared lamp is at a higher wavelength (between 1.5 and 2 μm) than the power peak of the halogen lamp (which is of the order of 1 μm), such that water absorbs the radiation emitted by the infrared lamp to a greater extent than that emitted by the halogen lamp (water exhibiting significant absorption in a
25 range between 2.5 and 3.7 μm).

Conversely, the radiation from the halogen lamp is absorbed more by the silicon of the substrates, which on the one hand is less useful in controlling the bonding energy and on the other hand contributes to heating through conduction of the carrier holding the substrates.

30 In addition, the power of the infrared lamp is lower than that of the halogen lamp.

It will be noted that, although the halogen lamp emits in the near infrared in addition to the visible range, it should not be considered akin to an infrared lamp according to the invention. Indeed, the radiation from an infrared lamp in the visible range is negligible; in other words, the infrared lamp emits primarily thermal radiation.

The temperature of the filament of the halogen lamp (of the order of 2600°C) is higher than that of the filament of the infrared lamp which, as mentioned above, is of the order of 1600°C.

5 The shape of the lamp may be matched to the shape of the substrates by using an elongated curved tube containing a filament whose radius of curvature is identical to that of the substrates, or by juxtaposing multiple tubes along a curve whose radius of curvature is identical to that of the substrates.

The change in technology and in the shape of the lamp therefore makes it possible to reduce thermal damage to the carrier.

10 The carrier is shown schematically in a view from above in figure 5, holding the substrates to be bonded. The carrier 3 comprises a central portion covered by the substrates and a peripheral portion 30 running around the substrates and optionally comprising means for securing the substrates (not shown). It is understood that with the rectilinear halogen lamp of the prior art, this peripheral portion was directly heated by the radiation from the lamp. Conversely, the infrared lamp according to the invention does not
15 extend over this peripheral portion 30, and so the infrared radiation does not directly heat said portion 30.

The more favorable effect on the carrier is visible in figure 6 which shows images of a map of the temperature of the substrate carrier during heating of said substrates by an infrared lamp according to the invention (left-hand image) and by a halogen lamp
20 according to the prior art (right-hand image). This map was obtained using thermocouples (schematically represented by the black dots) arranged in the central portion of the carrier, beneath the substrates.

With the halogen lamp, the temperature reached on the carrier is higher (around 50 to 55°C) than with the infrared lamp (around 35 to 40°C). This temperature difference is
25 enough to improve the longevity of the carrier.

Figure 7 is an image of the surface of an SOI substrate with edge voids formed in zones insufficiently heated by the halogen lamp in the known bonding method. The temperature map displayed under this image is that of the right-hand part of figure 6. It is
30 observed that region B1, which has been effectively heated by the halogen lamp and is the hottest portion, is free of edge voids. However, in the surrounded regions B2 and B3 extending on either side of region B1, which were not arranged directly under the halogen lamp, edge voids remain.

In practice, an industrial installation for bonding substrates may comprise a structure
35 supporting the substrate carrier and the infrared lamp.

Advantageously, the carrier is arranged in a horizontal plane and the infrared lamp extends in a plane parallel to that of the carrier, above the latter.

The distance between the lamp and the carrier is great enough to allow the substrates to be handled and not to interfere with the laminar flow applied within the equipment to prevent the presence of contaminants. In practice, the distance between the lamp and the carrier may be of the order of 20 cm.

The shape of the lamp is matched to that of the substrates to be bonded. For example, when the substrates to be bonded have a diameter of 300 mm, the lamp has a radius of curvature of 150 mm at most, preferably of the order of 145 mm or less.

The lamp's reflector is arranged to direct the infrared radiation toward the substrates.

Because of the shape and arrangement of the lamp, the infrared radiation has an outer boundary which corresponds to the edge of the substrates, such that the peripheral region of the carrier, which extends radially beyond the edge of the substrates, is not exposed to said radiation.

Figures 8A to 8C illustrate steps of a Smart Cut™ layer transfer method implementing the bonding method described above.

With reference to figure 8A, a donor substrate 100 comprising at least one semiconductor layer is provided. Said substrate may be a bulk substrate or take the form of a stack of layers of different materials.

The substrate 100 may be covered with a dielectric layer 102, for example a layer of silicon oxide.

Atomic species, such as hydrogen and/or helium, are implanted into the donor substrate 100 through the dielectric layer 102. A weakened zone 101 delimiting a semiconductor layer 1 to be transferred is thus formed in the donor substrate.

With reference to figure 8B, the donor substrate 100 thus weakened is bonded to a receiver substrate 200. Bonding is performed via the dielectric layer 102, with the receiver substrate potentially also being covered with a dielectric layer (for oxide-oxide bonding) or otherwise (for an oxide-semiconductor bonding). Alternatively, the dielectric layer may be present on the receiver substrate only (for semiconductor-oxide bonding).

To implement this bonding, the substrates are held on a carrier (not shown) and an infrared lamp is arranged opposite the carrier with respect to the substrates, facing the peripheral zone in which the propagation of the bonding wave should end. A bonding wave is initiated between the substrates by locally applying a slight pressure to the substrates, at the edge opposite the location of the lamp.

The infrared lamp is turned on at the latest when the substrates are brought into contact, and is turned off at the latest when the interface between the substrates has completely closed. Advantageously, the turning-on of the lamp is feedback-controlled by the movement of the device that applies the pressure required to initiate bonding to the substrates. The turning-off of the lamp may be controlled so as to take place at the end of a predetermined period after turning on. This duration is calibrated beforehand, for each set of substrates to be bonded, by measuring the speed of the bonding wave between said substrates.

10 Lastly, with reference to figure 8C, the donor substrate 100 is detached along the weakened zone 101, resulting in the layer 1 being transferred to the receiver substrate. By virtue of the bonding method implemented, the transferred layer 1 is substantially free of edge voids. Furthermore, since the carrier has not been damaged by the heating, the transferred layer 1 is also free of defects linked to the carrier, such as non-bonded zones.

Claims

1. A method for bonding a first substrate and a second substrate, comprising bringing said first and second substrates into contact and implementing heating of a peripheral zone of at least one of said first and second substrates, said heating being initiated before the substrates are brought into contact and continued at least until the substrates are brought into contact in said zone, said method being characterized in that the first and second substrates are held by a carrier having a peripheral region running around the edge of said substrates, the heating is implemented by means of an infrared lamp shaped to conform to an edge of said substrates within the peripheral zone and configured to emit radiation having an outer boundary corresponding to the edge of said substrates, and arranged so as to heat the peripheral zone of the first and/or of the second substrate while excluding the peripheral region of said carrier.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the first and second substrates take a circular shape and the infrared lamp takes the shape of an arc of a circle whose diameter is smaller than or equal to the diameter of said substrates.
3. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 and 2, in which the carrier is formed of a metal base covered with a polymer coating.
4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, in which the heating ends at the latest at the end of propagation of the bonding wave between the substrates.
5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, in which the infrared lamp emits radiation in a wavelength range suitable for absorption of said radiation by water present between the substrates.
6. A method for transferring a semiconductor layer from a first semiconductor substrate, called a donor substrate, to a second substrate, called a receiver substrate, comprising:
- forming a weakened zone in the donor substrate, so as to delimit a semiconductor layer to be transferred,
 - providing the receiver substrate, at least one of the donor substrate and the receiver substrate being covered with an electrically insulating layer,

- bonding the donor substrate and the receiver substrate using the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, the electrically insulating layer being at a bonding interface,
- detaching the donor substrate along the weakened zone so as to transfer the semiconductor layer to the receiver substrate.

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7. An installation for bonding a first substrate and a second substrate, comprising a carrier configured to hold said first and second substrates as they are brought into contact, said carrier having a peripheral region running around an edge of said substrates, and a lamp arranged facing a peripheral zone of at least one of said first and second
10 substrates, said installation being characterized in that the lamp is an infrared lamp shaped to conform to the edge of said substrates within the peripheral zone and configured to emit radiation having an outer boundary corresponding to the edge of said substrates, so as not to expose the peripheral region of the carrier to said radiation.

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8. The installation as claimed in claim 7, in which the infrared lamp is configured to emit a fast medium wave.

9. The installation as claimed in one of claims 7 and 8, in which the infrared lamp comprises a filament configured to be brought to a temperature of approximately 1600°C
20 during operation of the lamp.

10. The installation as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, in which the infrared lamp has a power peak for a wavelength of between 1.5 and 2 μm .

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11. The installation as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, in which the carrier is formed of a metal base covered with a polymer coating.