



















Overview of photolithography (ctnd.)

- <u>Lithography</u> consists of patterning substrate by employing the interaction of beams of photons or particles with materials.
- <u>Photolithography</u> is widely used in the integrated circuits (ICs) manufacturing.
- The process of IC manufacturing consists of a series of 10-20 steps or more, called <u>mask layers</u> where layers of materials coated with resists are patterned then transferred onto the material layer.

Overview of photolithography (ctnd.)

- A photolithography system consists of a light source, a mask, and a optical projection system.
- <u>Photoresists</u> are radiation sensitive materials that usually consist of a photo-sensitive compound, a polymeric backbone, and a solvent.
- Resists can be classified upon their solubility after exposure into: <u>positive resists</u> (solubility of exposed area increases) and <u>negative resists</u> (solubility of exposed area decreases).













Resolution of photolithography: example

Question:

An x-ray contact lithography system uses photons of energy of 1 keV. If the separation between the mask and the wafer is 20 μm , estimate the diffraction-limited resolution that is achievable by this system

Answer:

The energy E_{p} of photons is related to their wavelength λ through:

$$E_p = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

where h = 6.626× 10 $^{-34}$ m² kg/s is Planck's constant, and c = 3 x 10 8 m/s is the speed of light.

Thus, the wavelength of the photons employed is:

$$\lambda = \frac{6.626x10^{-34} \cdot 3x10^3}{1000 \cdot 1.6x10^{-19}}$$

$$\lambda = 1.24 \text{ nm}$$

The minimum feature size that can be resolved is:
$$W_{min} = \sqrt{\lambda g}$$

$$W_{\rm min} = \sqrt{1.24 \times 10^{-9} \cdot 20 \times 10^{-6}}$$
$$W_{\rm min} = 157 \text{ nm}$$















































