ECE 510, Lecture 11 Plastic Package Reliability, and Qualification Methodology

Glenn Shirley Scott Johnson

Outline

- Plastic Packages
- Stress and Test Flows
- Thermal Mechanisms
- Moisture Mechanisms
- Thermo-mechanical Mechanisms
- Moisture-mechanical Mechanisms
- Technology Update

Focus Topic: Acceleration

- Acceleration between two stresses is the <u>ratio of</u> <u>times</u> (or cycles) to achieve the <u>same effect</u>.
- The "same effect" could be the same fraction failing.
 - eg. The ratio of median (not mean!) times to failure in different stresses is the Acceleration Factor (AF).
 - AF is proportional to 1/MTTF

$$AF(2|1) = \frac{MTTF_1}{MTTF_2} = \exp\left\{\frac{Q}{k_B}\left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2}\right)\right\}$$
 Thermal ("Arrhenius")

$$AF(2|1) = \frac{MTTF_1}{MTTF_2} = \exp\left\{\frac{Q}{k_B}\left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2}\right)\right\} \exp\left\{C\left(V_2 - V_1\right)\right\}$$
 Thermal and Voltage

$$AF(2|1) = \frac{MTTF_1}{MTTF_2} = \left\{\frac{a + bV_2}{a + bV_1}\right\} \left\{\frac{RH_2}{RH_1}\right\}^m \exp\left\{\frac{Q}{k_B}\left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2}\right)\right\}$$
 Moisture ("Peck")

$$AF(2|1) = \frac{MCTF_1}{MCTF_2} = \left\{\frac{\Delta T_2}{\Delta T_1}\right\}^m$$
 Thermal Cycle ("Coffin-Manson")
"cycles"

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- Test chip failure data is at conditions different from external stress.
- Product predictions require 1) AF model, 2) Transformation model.
- Many "what-if" calculations involve only the Transformation model.

Thermal Mechanisms



Gold-Aluminum Bond Failure

- Gold and Aluminum interdiffuse.
 - Intermetallic phases such as AuAl₂ ("Purple Plague") form.
 - Imbalance in atomic flux causes Kirkendall voiding.
 - Bromine flame retardant is a catalyst.
- Kirkendall voids lead to
 - Bond weakening detected by wire pull test.
 - Resistance changes in bond detected by Kelvin measurement of bond resistance.

Thermal (Ordinary) Purple Plague



Cross-section of gold ball bond on aluminum pad after 200 hours at 160°C

Gold-Aluminum Bond Failure



Gold-Aluminum Bond Failure

- Kelvin resistance measurements.
- Resistance increase of Au bonds to Al pads vs bake time.
- Bake at 200 °C.
- Various levels of Br flame-retardant in molding compound.
- Br catalyzes Au-Al intermetallic growth.
- Br flame retardants are being phased out today.



Thermal Degradation of Lead Finish

- Only an issue for copper lead frames (not Alloy 42).
- Cu₃Sn or Cu₆Sn₅ inter-metallic phases grow at the interface between solder or tin plating.
- Activation energy (Q) for inter-metallic phase growth is 0.74 eV.
- If inter-metallic phase grows to surface of solder or tin plate, solder wetting will not occur.
- Main effect is to limit the number of dry-out bakes of surface mount plastic components.

Thermal Degradation of Lead Finish



Post-plating solder plate

Post burn-in solder plate showing copper-tin intermetallic

Thermal Degradation of Lead Finish



X-section of solder-*plated* lead

X-section of solder-*coated* lead

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Example Stress Flow



H₂O Diffusion/Absorption in MC



H₂O Diffusion/Absorption in MC

Diffusion Coefficient:

 $D = D_0 \exp\left(-\frac{Q_d}{kT}\right)$

Saturation Coefficient:

$$S = S_0 \exp\left(\frac{Q_s}{kT}\right)$$

 $D_0 = 4.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 / \text{sec} \quad Q_d = 0.50 \text{ eV} \quad S_0 = 2.76 \times 10^4 \text{ mole/m}^3 \text{Pa} \quad Q_s = 0.40 \text{ eV}$

Source: Kitano, et al IRPS 1988

$$M_{\text{sat}} = PS = HP_{\text{sat}}S$$

H₂O vapor pressure.

\leq	

See slide 33.

Key Observation: Saturated moisture content of molding compound is nearly independent of temperature, and is proportional to RH.

$$M_{sat} = HP_0 S_0 \exp\left[\frac{(Q_s - Q_p)}{kT}\right] \qquad Q_s - Q_p = -0.02 \text{ eV}$$

Nearly zero!

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H₂O Diffusion/Absorption in MC



Response to Step-Function Stress

Typical Use Saturation Times



Cyclical Stress



Moisture concentration at the die is constant if Period << t(sat)

Peck's Acceleration Model

• Fundamental environmental parameters are *T*, *H* and *V*, *at the site* of the failure mechanism.

- If the die is the site, this is denoted by "j".

• A frequently used acceleration model is due to Peck

 $AF = (a + b \times V) \times H_i^m \times \exp(-Q/kT_i)$

- Find *a*, *b*, *m*, *Q* from experiments with steady-state stress and negligible power dissipation.
- Typically *a* is small or zero: Bias is required.
- Requires *H* > 0 for acceleration: Moisture is required.

Moisture and Temperature Fails



• Water and metal also diffuse through the substrate

- Humidity gives a layer of water on most surfaces
 Water also diffuses into the substrate
- Water + voltage \rightarrow metal ions in water
- Metal can deposit in other locations or *migrate*

Moisture: MM Tape Leakage



Moisture: MM Tape Leakage



Moisture: Internal Metal Migration

- TAB Inter-lead Leakage/Shorts
 - Accelerated by voltage, temperature and humidity
 - Seen as early as 20 hrs 156/85 HAST
 - Highly dependent on materials & process



Copper dendrites after 40 hours of biased 156/85 HAST

TAB #:









Lead-Stabilizing Tape Leakage

- A vendor process excursion.
- Leakage observed after 336 hours of steam.
- Re-activated by 48 hours at 70C/100% RH
- No leakage seen between leads not crossed by tape
- Rapid decay for leads crossing end of tape
 - Tape dries from exterior inwards



Tape provides mechanical stability to long leads during wirebond.

Lead-Stabilizing Tape Leakage



Source: S. Maston, Intel

Aluminum Bond Pad Corrosion



Passivation in Plastic Packages

- Passivation is the final layer on the die.
- Passivation has two main functions:
 - Moisture Barrier
 - Molding compound is not a moisture barrier.
 - Silicon oxides are not good moisture barriers.
 - PECVD silicon nitride or silicon oxynitride film is a good barrier.
 - Film must be thick enough to avoid pinholes, coverage defects.
 - Mechanical Protection
 - Silicon nitride films are brittle.
 - Polyimide compliant film protects silicon nitride.
 - Polyimide can react with moisture (depending on formulation).

Polyimide/Au Bond Failure

- Bonds overlapping passivation don't necessarily violate design rules.
- But can activate polyimide-related "purple plague" failure mechanisms in combination with moisture.
- Acceleration modeling showed no field jeopardy.



Wire Bond Pull Test





Moisture-Related Gold Bond Degrad'n

Effect of 80 hours of 156/85 HAST vs 156/0 Bake and Centered vs Off-Centered Bonds on Wire Pull Test Data



Source: G. Shirley and M. Shell, IRPS, 1993

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Moisture-Related Gold Bond Degrad'n

Wire Pull Strength of Polyimide vs No Polyimide and Centered vs Off-Centered Bonds after 40 hours of 156/85 HAST



Moisture-Related Purple Plague



Cross-section of gold ball bond on aluminum pad after 80 hours at 156C/85%RH

Moisture-Related Gold Bond Degrad'n



Source: G. Shirley and M. Shell-DeGuzman, IRPS, 1993

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Circuit Failure Due to Passiv'n Defects



Site of failing bit. SRAM after HAST stress. Courtesy M. Shew, Intel
Circuit Failure Due to Passiv'n Defects



Etch-decorated cross-section of passivation. Note growth seams.

Circuit Failure Due to Passiv'n Defects

SRAM VOLTAGE THRESHOLD MAP FOR CELL PULLUP TRANSISTOR (Baseline threshold is 0.89 V. Passivation is 0.6 μ nitride, no polyimide.)



After 120 h 156/85. 4 failed bits with Vt > 2.5 V

2 bits recover after further 2 hr bake at 150 C

Source: C. Hong, Intel

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Row

Acceleration Model Fit of HAST Data SRAM HAST and 85/85 Bit Failures (No Polyimide)



Peck Model Parameters

					Hours of	
				Q/m <	130/85 ≡	
Mechanism	Q(eV)	m	Q/m	0.42eV?	1kh 85/85	Reference
MM Tape A	0.74	12	0.06	Yes	69	2
ММ Таре В	0.77	5	0.15	Yes	62	2
Single Bit SRAM	0.79	4.6	0.17	Yes	57	3
Corrosion, THB (early Peck)	0.79	2.66	0.30	Yes	57	4
Corrosion, THB (later Peck)	0.90	3	0.30	Yes	39	5
Bond Shear	1.15	0.98	1.17	No	16	6

Yes/No: Increasing power dissipation at die, slows/accelerates the moisture mechanism.

- 1. <u>Kitano, A. Nishimura, S. Kawai, K. Nishi, "Analysis of Package Cracking During Reflow Soldering Process," Proc.</u> 26th Ann. Int'l Reliability Physics Symposium, pp90-95 (1988)
- 2. S. J. Huber, J. T. McCullen, C. G. Shirley. ECTC Package Rel. Course, May 1993. Package tape leakage acceleration data courtesy C. Hong.
- 3. <u>G. Shirley and C. Hong, "Optimal Acceleration of Cyclic THB Tests for Plastic-Packaged Devices," in Proc. 29th</u> Ann. Int'l Reliability Physics Symposium, pp12-21 (1991)
- 4. <u>S. Peck, "Comprehensive Model for Humidity Testing Correlation," in Proc. 24th Ann. Int'l Reliability Physics</u> Symposium, pp44-50 (1986).
- 5. <u>Hallberg and D. S. Peck, "Recent Humidity Accelerations, A Base for Testing Standards," Quality and Reliability</u> Engineering International, Vol. 7 pp169-180 (1991)
- 6. <u>G. Shirley and M. Shell-DeGuzman, "Moisture-Induced Gold Ball Bond Degradation of Polyimide-Passivated</u> Devices in Plastic Packages," in 31st Ann. Int'l Reliability Physics Symposium, pp217-226 (1993).

Homework 11

- Show that, for the 6 moisture mechanisms on slide 40, 100 h of 130/85 stress is equivalent to 1000 h or more of 85/85 stress.
- 2. A product operates in an ambient of 25 °C and 85% RH. When in standby mode, the product dissipates negligible power. When in "active" mode the product dissipates sufficient power that the die temperature is 5 °C hotter than ambient. For each mechanism on slide 40, calculate the acceleration of the active mode relative to the standby mode.

Suggestion: Make a new sheet in the "Rel Calculator" tool. Useful functions (Psat and Arrhenius) are available there. AltF11 will allow you to see the code if you want to see documentation of the functions.

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Thermomechanical Mechanisms



Key Material Properties

• Material properties which drive temperature cyclinginduced failure mechanisms.

Material	Thermal Coeffic't of Expansion (ppm/°C) " TCE"	Young's Modulus (GPa)	Thermal Conductivity (W/m °C)	
Copper	17	119	398	
Alloy 42	5 Match!	145	15 ^{Low!}	
Silicon	3	131	157	
Molding Compound	21	18	0.6	
Alumina	6.5	25	25	
PC Board	15-17	11	25	

Cracking Due to Temperature Cycle



Crack Propagation in Test Conditions

- Tensile Test of Notched Samples
 - Measure crack growth rate for sinusoidal load:



- Sample geometry and load determine stress intensity factor, *K*.
- Plot crack growth rate da/dN versus K on log-log plot to determine Coffin-Manson exponent, m:

Crack Propagation in Test Conditions

1E-1 **Encapsulant A** 1E-2 **Crack Growth Rate** 25C 1E-3 da/dN mm/cycle 1E-4 150C -55C 1E-5 1E-6 0.5 2 3 1 Stress Intensity Factor Amplitude $K (MPa\sqrt{m})$

Slope of lines on log-log plot

$$\frac{da}{dN} = Const \times (\Delta K)^m$$
$$m \approx 20$$

Source: <u>A. Nishimura, et. al. "Life Estimation for IC</u> <u>Packages Under Temperature Cycling Based on</u> <u>Fracture Mechanics," IEEE Trans. CHMT, Vol. 10,</u> <u>p637 (1987).</u>

Crack Propagation in Package

• The rate of crack propagation is also given by

$$\frac{da}{dN} = Const \times (\Delta K)^m$$

 But in plastic packages under temperature cycling, the stress concentration factor is

$$\Delta K = Const \times (\alpha_{molding compound} - \alpha_{silicon}) \times (T_{min} - T_{neutral})$$

• α is the TCE of MC.

 ΔT in temperature cycling-driven models is the temperature difference between the neutral (usually cure) temperature, and the minimum temperature of the cycle. T_{max} is less important.



Bond Damage: Wires and Ball Bonds

- Cracks can intersect wires, TAB leads.
- Bonds can be sheared at the bond/pad interface
- Shear and tensile normal stress can break wires at their necks.
- Substrate cracks induced during bonding can propagate and cause "cratering" or "chip-out".

Wire Damage



Wires sheared by wire crack



 $\frac{20 \,\mu}{\text{Die Corner}}$

Ball bonds in plastic package after temperature cycle.

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Necking Damage



Necking fracture



Delamination induced down bond fail after temperature cycle



Cratering damage on bond pads



Bond shear at die corners after temperature cycle

Bond Damage and Delamination



Pulse-echo acoustic image of mold compound/ die interface in four devices. Delamination is shown in black. White boxes added to show locations of low bond wire pull strength results.



Intermetallic fracture at bond due to shear displacement.

44 PLCC devices that failed after solder reflow and 1000 cycles (-40 to 125C)

Source: T.M.Moore, R.G. McKenna and S.J. Kelsall, IRPS 1991, 160-166.

Bond Damage (TAB)



TAB cratering and diffusion barrier damage revealed by wet etch.

Bond Damage (TAB)



TAB bonds Au/Al intermetallic formed at cracks in Ti barrier

Bond Damage (TAB)



Crater under TAB bonds



TFC - Plastic Conforms to Die Surface





Replica in Plastic



TFC – Effect on Thin Films



Thin-Film Cracking (TFC)



Source: K. Hayes, Intel

Passivation delamination crack propagates into substrate.

Test Chip

- Thin film cracking can be detected electrically by test structures in the corner of the die.
 - Sensitive to opens and to shorts.
- Buss width is varied to determine design rule.



TFC – Effect of Buss Width Factors Affecting TFC: Buss Width Effect

Polysilicon meanders under buss edge are vulnerable to crack-induced opens.



Source: Shirley & Blish, "Thin Film Cracking and Wire Ball Shear...," IRPS 1987.

TFC – Effect of Buss Width, ct'd

Factors Affecting TFC: Buss Width Effect



Narrow buss, or contacts, stabilizes buss, reduces incidence of TFC. Leads to buss width design rules, and buss slotting in die corners.

TFC – Effect of Temperature Cycle

- Drivers: T/C conditions, and number of cycles.
- <u>Mimimum</u> T/C temperature, not amplitude, is key aspect of stress.
 - Stress depends on difference between cure temperature (<u>neutral stress</u>) and minimum stress temperature.



Same amplitude!

Source: C. F. Dunn and J. W. McPherson, "Temperature-Cycling Acceleration Factors for Aluminum Metallization Failure in VLSI Applications," IRPS, 1990.

TFC – Effect of Passivation Thickness

- Fraction of PDIPpackaged SRAM failing.
- Post 1K cycle of T/C C.
- No Polyimide die coat.
- Thicker passivation is more robust.



TFC – Effect of Compliant Overcoat

- SRAM in PDIP
- Temperature Cycle Condition C
- Polyimide Overcoat

	200 cycles	500 cycles	1000 cycles
No Polyimide	0/450	13/450	101/437
Polyimide	0/450	0/450	0/450

Theory of TFC

- Shear stress applied to die surface by MC
 - Is maximum at die corners
 - Zero at die center.


Theory of TFC, ct'd

- Buss width effect: Okikawa et. al.
- Passivation thickness effect: Edwards et al.
- TFC occurs when and where

 $\sigma(\text{Passivation Surface}) > K \times E \times \left(\frac{t}{r}\right)^2$

- *K* = dimensionless constant
- *E* = Young's modulus of passivation
- *t* = Passivation thickness
- *L* = Buss width

Thicker passivation, and/or narrower busses implies less TFC.

Sources: Okikawa, et al. ISTFA, Oct. 1983. Edwards, et al. IEEE-CHMT-12, p 618, 1987

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Thin Film Delamination

• Saw cut exposes thin film edges to moisture..



Test Chip

- "Edge rings" are lateral moisture barrier.
- Effectiveness of edge rings can be tested electrically by a TFD sensor on a test chip.



Thin-Film Delamination



Source: C. Hong Intel

Delamination at die edge after 168 hours of steam.

Thin-Film Delamination



Delamination at die edge after 168 hours of steam.

Popcorn Mechanism



Popcorn Mechanism



Plastic package cracking due to "popcorn" effect during solder reflow

Popcorn Damage



Plastic package cracking due to "popcorn" effect during solder reflow

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Popcorn Damage



back of 68PLCC that developed popcorn cracks during solder reflow

Source: T.M.Moore, R.G. McKenna and S.J. Kelsall, in "Characterization of Integrated Circuit Packaging Materials", Butterworth-Heinemann, 79-96, 1993.



Popcorn Damage







Pulse-echo acoustic image through top (delamination in black) Acoustic time-of-flight image indicating package crack Real-time x-ray image showing deformation in wires where they intersect the crack

132 lead PQFP which was damaged during solder reflow.

Source: T.M.Moore, R.G. McKenna and S.J. Kelsall, in "Characterization of Integrated Circuit Packaging Materials", Butterwoth-Heinemann, 79-96, 1993.

Factors Affecting Popcorning

- Peak temperature reached during soldering.
- Moisture content of molding compound.
- Dimensions of die paddle.
- Thickness of molding compound under paddle.
- Adhesion of molding compound to die and/or lead frame.
- Mold compound formulation.

<u>Not</u> on this list: Pre-existing voids in the plastic package.

Popcorn Model, Internal Pressure



Popcorn Model, Internal Pressure $S(T_{i})$

$$P_{\text{cav}} \xrightarrow{(1 \to 0; w \to \infty \text{ (or } t \to 0))} H_0 \times P_{\text{sat}}(T_0) \times \frac{S(T_0)}{S(T_1)}$$

Delamination pressure exists even with no physical void.

Example:

- Unit preconditioned in 85/85 for a long time, then subjected to 215 C solder shock.
- Saturation coefficient has activation energy of 0.4 eV. (eg. Kitano et. al.)

• Steam table pressure at 85 C is 0.57 atm.

$$P_{\text{cav}} = 0.85 \times 0.57 \times \exp\left\{\frac{0.40 \text{ eV}}{8.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV/}^{\circ} \text{ K}} \left(\frac{1}{273 + 85} - \frac{1}{273 + 215}\right)\right\}$$

= 15.3 Atmospheres Wow!!

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Package Anatomy



• This is an example of a packaged part as it might be used in a product

Slide: Scott C. Johnson

Package Anatomy Silicon chip C4 bumps Conductive traces and vias (yellow) Polymer insulating layers (green) Substrate core A "land" **OEM** socket pin

 This is a close-up of the package substrate showing the many layers of conductors and insulators

Slide: Scott C. Johnson

Location: Silicon (vs. Package)



Slide: Scott C. Johnson