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DYNAMIC AND LOCALIZED TEMPERATURE CONTROL FOR EPITAXIAL DEPOSITION REACTORS

Abstract

An apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing is provided. The apparatus includes a chamber body, and a substrate support disposed within the chamber body. A plurality of upper lamps are disposed above the substrate support, and a plurality of lower lamps are disposed below the substrate support. One or more spot heaters are disposed above the substrate support, and are configured to direct a radiation beam towards the substrate support. The apparatus further includes a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters. The controller is programmed to determine an angular position of the substrate and adjust a power output of one or more spot heaters using a set of temperature correction factors, such that the power output of the one or more spot heaters varies as the one or more spot heaters heat a plurality of angular portions of the substrate.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a divisional application of United States Patent Nonprovisional application Ser. No. 17/573,228, filed Jan. 11, 2022, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Field

[0002] Embodiments of the present disclosure generally relates to apparatus and methods for semiconductor processing, more particularly, to a thermal process chamber and spot heater utilization.

[0003] Description of the Related Art

[0004] Semiconductor substrates are processed for a wide variety of applications, including the fabrication of integrated devices and microdevices. During processing, the substrate is positioned on a substrate support within a process chamber. The substrate support is supported by a support shaft, which is rotatable about a central axis. Precise control over a heating source, such as a plurality of heating lamps disposed below and above the substrate, allows the substrate to be heated within very strict tolerances. The strict control of temperature of the substrate assists in the deposition of uniform layers on the substrate.

[0005] Even with control of heating lamps within the process chamber, it is often difficult to obtain uniform film deposition on the substrate. Non-uniformities include areas of greater or less deposition on the substrate. Non-uniformities may be caused by one or more factors, such as non-uniform thermal distribution within the substrate support and the substrate as well as non-uniform precursor flow rates. Therefore, a need exists for improved heating apparatus and methods in semiconductor processing.

SUMMARY

[0006] The present disclosure generally relates to an apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing. The apparatus includes a chamber body, and a substrate support disposed within the chamber body. A plurality of upper lamps are disposed above the substrate support, and a plurality of lower lamps are disposed below the substrate support. One or more spot heaters are disposed above the substrate support, and are configured to direct a radiation beam towards the substrate support. The apparatus further includes a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters. The controller is programmed to determine an angular position of the substrate and adjust a power output of one or more spot heaters using a set of temperature correction factors, such that the power output of the one or more spot heaters varies as the one or more spot heaters heat a plurality of angular portions of the substrate.

[0007] In another embodiment, an apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing, is described. The apparatus includes a chamber body, and a substrate support disposed within the chamber body. A plurality of upper lamps are disposed above the substrate support, and a plurality of lower lamps are disposed below the substrate support. One or more spot heaters are disposed above the substrate support, and are configured to direct a radiation beam towards the substrate support. The apparatus further includes a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters. The controller is programmed to determine an angular

position of the substrate, and expose a first angular section of the substrate to a first radiation beam with a first power using the one or more spot heaters, the first power determined using a first temperature correction factor of a plurality of temperature correction factors. The controller is further programmed to rotate the substrate about a central axis, and expose a second angular section of the substrate to a second radiation beam with a second power using the one or more spot heaters, the second power determined using a second temperature correction factor of the plurality of temperature correction factors.

[0008] In yet another embodiment, an apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing, is described. The apparatus includes a chamber lid and a chamber floor. A chamber body is between the chamber lid and the chamber floor. A substrate support is disposed within the chamber body. An upper window is disposed between the chamber lid and the substrate support, and a lower window is disposed between the substrate support and the chamber floor. The apparatus includes a plurality of upper lamps disposed between the upper window and the chamber lid, and a plurality of lower lamps disposed between the lower window and the chamber floor. One or more spot heaters are disposed on the chamber lid. A controller is configured to control the one or more spot heaters. The controller is programmed to determine an angular position of the substrate, and receive a temperature correction curve, the temperature correction curve formed using a plurality of temperature correction factors, the plurality of temperature correction factors determined by measuring a film thickness or a material composition on a test substrate during a calibration operation, inverting the film thickness or the material composition, and normalizing the film thickness or the material composition. The controller is further programmed to adjust a power output of a radiation beam of one or more spot heaters using the temperature correction curve, such that the power output of the one or more spot heaters varies as the one or more spot heaters heat a plurality of angular portions of the substrate along a first radial position of the substrate.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] So that the manner in which the above recited features of the present disclosure can be understood in detail, a more particular description of the disclosure, briefly summarized above, may be had by reference to embodiments, some of which are illustrated in the appended drawings. It is to be noted, however, that the appended drawings illustrate only exemplary embodiments and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope, may admit to other equally effective embodiments.

[0010] FIG. 1A is a schematic illustration of a deposition chamber, according to one embodiment of the disclosure.

[0011] FIG. 1B is a schematic illustration of a deposition chamber, according to another embodiment of the disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of a spot heater disposed on the deposition chamber of either of FIG. 1A or FIG. 1B, according to one embodiment of the disclosure.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a schematic plan view of spot heating exposure paths, according to one embodiment of the disclosure.

[0014] FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method of determining adjusted spot heater strength to improve film uniformity on a substrate.

[0015] FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a method of processing a substrate while adjusting strength of a spot heater exposure.

[0016] FIG. 6 is a graph illustrating film growth thickness measured on a substrate during a calibration operation.

[0017] FIG. 7 is a graph illustrating correction factors to reduce the film growth non-uniformities of FIG. 6.

[0018] FIG. 8A is a graph illustrating a corrected signal output of a spot heater angularly offset from an angular position sensor by 90 degrees.

[0019] FIG. 8B is a graph illustrating a corrected signal output of a spot heater angularly offset from an angular position sensor by 180 degrees.

[0020] To facilitate understanding, identical reference numerals have been used, where possible, to designate identical elements that are common to the figures. It is contemplated that elements and features of one embodiment may be beneficially incorporated in other embodiments without further recitation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0021] The present disclosure generally relates to apparatus and methods for semiconductor processing, more particularly, to a thermal process chamber and spot heater utilization. More specifically, the present disclosure is directed towards spot heaters utilized in an epitaxial deposition chamber and methods of utilizing spot heaters to improve film growth uniformity on a substrate. In some instances, non-uniformities in precursor flow rate and the structure of substrate supports cause non-uniform film growth on the substrate within the process chamber. Non-uniformities in the radial direction from a center of the substrate may be corrected by utilizing a spot heater to deliver concentrated radiation beam exposure to annular rings on the substrate. In some embodiments, the spot heaters include actuating bases and expose the substrate to radiation in a pattern other than an annular ring. However, it has been found there is also non-uniform film grown at different angular positions on the same radial position on the substrate.

[0022] Embodiments described herein enable the amount of radiation delivered by one or more spot heaters to the substrate to be continuously adjusted as the angular position of the substrate relative to the radiation beam changes. Therefore, the spot heaters may be used to correct non-uniform film growth at different angular positions on the substrate by delivering larger amounts of radiation to cool spots and smaller amounts of radiation to hot spots on the substrate. In some embodiments, local thickness variations on the substrate are corrected by etching excess material following deposition. During the etch operation, spot heating localized portions of the substrate may increase material removal rates and assist in improving overall profile uniformity.

[0023] In some embodiments, localized and variable spot heating is used to improve uniformity of selective growth operations. Selective growth is utilized to grow a single material only over desired exposed semiconductor areas, but not over adjacent areas, such as dielectric areas. Subsequent the selective growth operations, any film growth on undesired areas, such as dielectric areas, is removed in an etch back operation.

[0024] The selective heating of different angular positions on the substrate may therefore account for thermal non-uniformities introduced by the substrate support or for non-uniformities in precursor flow. The methods described herein may further reduce the amount of substrate support components rejected due to manufacturing variation. Substrate outputs of different process chambers, such as the deposition chambers described herein, may also be more closely matched while in the field. Therefore, thickness and material composition differences between substrates processed in different process chambers are reduced while using several process chambers in the same high volume manufacturing process.

[0025] Adjusting the amount of radiation delivered to different portions is performed using a plurality of temperature correction factors. The temperature correction factors are determined by measuring a layer deposition thickness deposited on a test substrate during maintenance operations of the process chamber. The layer deposition thickness measurements are then used to determine the temperature correction factors. The temperature correction factors are applied during subsequent substrate processing operations within the process chamber and determine the amount of power delivered to the spot heaters and the subsequent spot heater signal (radiation delivery) to

the substrate, such that the spot heater signal is continuously varied as the relative angular position of the substrate from the radiation beam and the spot heater changes.

[0026] FIG. 1A is a schematic illustration of a type of process chamber **100** according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. The process chamber **100** is a deposition chamber, such as an epitaxial deposition chamber. The process chamber **100** is utilized to grow an epitaxial film on a substrate, such as the substrate **102**. The process chamber **100** creates a cross-flow of precursors across the top surface **150** of the substrate **102**.

[0027] The process chamber **100** includes an upper body **156**, a lower body **148** disposed below the upper body **156**, a flow module **112** disposed between the upper body **156** and the lower body **148**. The upper body **156**, the flow module **112**, and the lower body **148** form a chamber body. Disposed within the chamber body is a substrate support **106**, an upper dome **108**, a lower dome **110**, a plurality of upper lamps **141**, and a plurality of lower lamps **143**. As shown, a controller **120** is in communication with the process chamber **100** and is used to control processes, such as those described herein. The substrate support **106** is disposed between the upper dome **108** and the lower dome **110**. The plurality of upper lamps **141** are disposed between the upper dome **108** and a lid **154**. The lid **154** includes a plurality of sensors **153** disposed therein for measuring the temperature within the process chamber **100**. The plurality of lower lamps **143** are disposed between the lower dome **110** and a floor **152**. The plurality of lower lamps **143** form a lower lamp assembly **145**.

[0028] A processing volume **136** is formed between the upper dome **108** and the lower dome **110**. The processing volume **136** has the substrate support **106** disposed therein. The substrate support **106** includes a top surface on which the substrate **102** is disposed. The substrate support **106** is attached to a shaft **118**. The shaft **118** is connected to a motion assembly **121**. The motion assembly **121** includes one or more actuators and/or adjustment devices that provide movement and/or adjustment of the shaft **118** and/or the substrate support **106** within the processing volume **136**. The motion assembly **121** includes a rotary actuator **122** that rotates the shaft **118** and/or the substrate support **106** about a longitudinal axis A of the process chamber **100**. The motion assembly **121** further includes a vertical actuator **124** to lift and lower the substrate support **106** in the z-direction. The motion assembly includes a tilt adjustment device **126** that is used to adjust the planar orientation of the substrate support **106** and a lateral adjustment device **128** that is used to adjust the position of the shaft **118** and the substrate support **106** side to side within the processing volume **136**.

[0029] The substrate support **106** may include lift pin holes **107** disposed therein. The lift pin holes **107** are sized to accommodate a lift pin **132** for lifting of the substrate **102** from the substrate support **106** either before or after a deposition process is performed. The lift pins **132** may rest on lift pin stops **134** when the substrate support **106** is lowered from a processing position to a transfer position.

[0030] The flow module **112** includes a plurality of process gas inlets **114**, a plurality of purge gas inlets **164**, and one or more exhaust gas outlets **116**. The plurality of process gas inlets **114** and the plurality of purge gas inlets **164** are disposed on the opposite side of the flow module **112** from the one or more exhaust gas outlets **116**. One or more flow guides **146** are disposed below the plurality of process gas inlets **114** and the one or more exhaust gas outlets **116**. The flow guide **146** is disposed above the purge gas inlets **164**. A liner **163** is disposed on the inner surface of the flow module **112** and protects the flow module **112** from reactive gases used during deposition processes. The process gas inlets **114** and the purge gas inlets **164** are positioned to flow a gas parallel to the top surface **150** of a substrate **102** disposed within the processing volume **136**. The process gas inlets **114** are fluidly connected to a process gas source **151**. The purge gas inlets **164** are fluidly connected to a purge gas source **162**. The one or more exhaust gas outlets **116** are fluidly connected to an exhaust pump **157**. Each of the process gas source **151** and the purge gas source **162** may be configured to supply one or more precursors or process gases into the processing volume **136**.

[0031] One or more spot heaters **170** are disposed on top of the lid **154**. In some embodiments, there are a plurality of spot heaters **170** disposed on top of the lid **154**, such as two spot heaters **170**, such as three spot heaters **170**, or such as four spot heaters **170**. Each of the spot heaters **170** include a focused radiation delivery unit **172** and a holder **174**. The focused radiation delivery unit **172** is mechanically coupled to the holder **174**, such that the holder **174** is used to attach the radiation delivery unit **172** to the lid **154**. The holder **174** is configured to adjust the orientation of the focused radiation delivery unit **172**. In some embodiments, the holder **174** is configured to re-orient the radiation delivery unit **172** between process operations or periodically during a single process operation.

[0032] The focused radiation delivery unit **172** includes one of a laser or a focused lamp. In some embodiments, the laser is an end of an optical fiber and the laser source is disposed separate from the one or more spot heaters **170**, such as within a spot heater control box **176**. The focused radiation delivery unit **172** may include one or more optical elements, such as a mirror, a lens, or a metasurface device. The optical elements may assist in increasing or decreasing the concentration of radiation of a radiation beam emitted from the one or more spot heaters **170** towards the substrate **102**.

[0033] The one or more spot heaters **170** are configured to emit radiation beams with a diameter of less than about 25 mm, such as less than about 20 mm, such as less than about 10 mm, such as less than about 5 mm, such as less than about 3 mm, such as less than about 2 mm. Each spot on the substrate **102** which is exposed at once is exposed to a power range of about 0.5 W to about 100 W, such as about 1 W to about 100 W, such as about 2 W to about 100 W. Adjusting the size of the spot on the substrate **102** which is exposed also adjusts the power density of the exposure. Therefore, the power density of each of the radiation beams as the radiation beam intersects the top surface **150** of the substrate **102** is configured to be greater than about 2 W/cm.², such as greater than about 3 W/cm.², such as greater than about 5 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 1500 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 500 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 300 W/cm.². The power density is high enough to influence the growth rate and composition of the film being grown, while small enough to prevent the wafer and susceptor from being damaged.

[0034] Each of the one or more spot heaters **170** are directed towards different portions of the substrate **102**, such that a first spot heater **170** is directed at a first radial position of the substrate **102**, while a second spot heater **170** is directed at a second radial position of the substrate **102**.

[0035] The spot heater control box **176** is configured to provide power to each of the spot heaters **170**, such that the spot heater control box **176** provides power and/or radiation to the spot heaters **170** through one or more wires or fiber optics. The spot heater control box **176** may include a variable voltage or ampere source to control the strength of the radiation beam of each of the one or more spot heaters **170**. The spot heater control box **176** further includes one or more laser sources. The laser sources are configured to emit a laser with a wavelength of about 700 nm to about 2000 nm, such as about 750 nm to about 1800 nm, such as about 760 nm to about 1700 nm.

[0036] An angular position sensor **178** is disposed within the process chamber **100** and is configured to determine an angular position of one or both of the substrate **102** and the substrate support **106**. In the embodiments of FIGS. 1A and 1B, the angular position sensor **178** is disposed adjacent to the shaft **118** and is configured to measure the angular position of the shaft **118** relative to the longitudinal axis A. The angular position sensor **178** may be configured to measure when one or more signalers on the shaft **118** pass by a sensing path of the angular position sensor **178**. In some embodiments, the one or more signalers include a notch, a bar code, a reflector, or a bump on the side of the shaft **118**. The angular position sensor **178** may be an optical position sensor or a resistive position sensor.

[0037] In some embodiments, the angular position sensor **178** is located within the flow module **112** or above the substrate support **106**, such as disposed through the lid **154** as one of the sensors

153. The angular position sensor **178** may then be configured to measure a notch location within the edge of the substrate **102** or a notch in the substrate support **106**. The angular position sensor **178** is coupled to one of the controller **120** or a microcontroller, such as the microcontroller **180** of FIG. **1B**.

[0038] The controller **120** includes a central processing unit (CPU) **159**, a memory device **135**, and support circuits **158**. The controller **120** may control the process chamber **100** directly, or via other computers or controllers, such as the spot heater control box **176** or a microcontroller **180** (FIG. **1B**), associated with particular support system components. The controller **120** may be one of any form of general-purpose computer processor that can be used in an industrial setting for controlling various chambers and sub-processors. The support circuits **158** include cache, power supplies, clock circuits, input/output circuitry and subsystems, and the like. Processing steps may be stored in the memory device **135** as a software routine that may be executed or invoked to turn the controller **120** into a specific purpose controller to control the operations of the process chamber **100**. The controller **120** may be configured to perform any methods described herein.

[0039] To facilitate control of the spot heaters **170** and associated radiation delivery to the substrate **102**, the CPU **159** may be one of any form of general purpose computer processor that can be used in an industrial setting, such as a programmable logic controller (PLC), for controlling various chambers and sub-processors. The memory device **135** is coupled to the CPU **159** and the memory device **135** is non-transitory and may be one or more of readily available memory such as random access memory (RAM), read only memory (ROM), floppy disk drive, hard disk, or any other form of digital storage, local or remote. Support circuits **158** are coupled to the CPU **159** for supporting the processor in a conventional manner. The process gas flow and heating instructions are generally stored in the memory device **135**, typically as a software routine. The software routine may also be stored and/or executed by a second CPU that is remotely located from the hardware being controlled by the CPU.

[0040] The memory device **135** is in the form of computer-readable storage media that contains instructions, that when executed by the CPU **159**, facilitates the operation of the spot heaters **170**. The instructions in the memory device **135** are in the form of a program product such as a program that implements the methods of the present disclosure. The program code may conform to any one of a number of different programming languages. In one example, the disclosure may be implemented as a program product stored on computer-readable storage media for use with a computer system. The program(s) of the program product define functions of the embodiments (including the methods described herein).

[0041] In certain embodiments, the program(s) embody machine learning capabilities. Various data features include process parameters such as processing times, temperatures, pressures, voltages, polarities, powers, gas species, precursor flow rates, and the like. Relationships between the features are identified and defined to enable analysis by a machine learning algorithm to ingest data and adapt processes being performed by the process chamber **100** and the spot heaters **170**. The machine learning algorithms may employ supervised learning or unsupervised learning techniques. Examples of machine learning algorithms embodied by the program include, but are not limited to, linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, state vector machine, neural network, naïve Bayes, k-nearest neighbors, K-Means, random forest, dimensionality reduction algorithms, and gradient boosting algorithms, among others.

[0042] Illustrative computer-readable storage media include, but are not limited to: (i) non-writable storage media (e.g., read-only memory devices within a computer such as CD-ROM disks readable by a CD-ROM drive, flash memory, ROM chips or any type of solid-state non-volatile semiconductor memory) on which information is permanently stored; and (ii) writable storage media (e.g., floppy disks within a diskette drive or hard-disk drive or any type of solid-state random-access semiconductor memory) on which alterable information is stored. Such computer-readable storage media, when carrying computer-readable instructions that direct the functions of

the methods described herein, are embodiments of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the controller **120** is an etherCAT controller.

[0043] FIG. **1B** is a schematic illustration of another embodiment of the process chamber **100**. In the embodiment of FIG. **1B**, a microcontroller **180** is utilized to control the spot heaters **170**, such that the microcontroller is coupled to both the spot heater control box **176** and the angular position sensor **178**. The microcontroller **180** is further coupled to the controller **120**, such that the microcontroller **180** separates control of the spot heaters **170** from the controller **120**, but still received input or power from the primary controller **120**. The microcontroller **180** may be similar to the controller **120** and include a CPU, memory, and support circuits.

[0044] A dedicated microcontroller, such as the microcontroller **180** provides more rapid response times and avoids signal latency over a large controller network, such as the controller **120**. The controller **120** sends control signals to many different components and devices on a network while receiving signals from many sensors within the process chamber **100**. It is estimated cycle times using a simple microcontroller reduces possible cycle times to less than 1 microsecond. Cycle times when utilizing the microcontroller **180** are therefore up to at least 1000 times faster.

[0045] Faster cycle times enables more precise control of spot heating over the substrate **102**. With shorter times between successive signals to the lasers, the power can be modulated faster, such that very small angular position changes of the substrate **102** may receive different exposure power levels. Even at high wafer/susceptor rotation speeds, precise exposure level control is possible when a control time is reduced with a microcontroller.

[0046] FIG. **2** is a schematic illustration of a spot heater **170** disposed on the process chamber **100** of either of FIG. **1A** or FIG. **1B**. The spot heater **170** is further illustrated with a radiation beam **202** directed from the spot heater **170** to the top surface **150** of the substrate **102**. As described herein, the diameter of the radiation beam **202** is less than about 10 mm, such as less than about 5 mm, such as less than about 3 mm, such as less than about 2 mm at the point of contact with the substrate **102** and/or the substrate support **106**.

[0047] FIG. **3** is a schematic plan view of spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** on the top surface **150** of the substrate **102**. The spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** are formed using one or more spot heaters **170**, such as one of a first spot heater **170a**, a second spot heater **170b**, or a third spot heater **170c**. Each of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** are disposed at different radial positions on the substrate **102** from the axis A. The spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** include a first spot heater exposure path **302**, a second spot heater exposure path **304**, a third spot heater exposure path **306**, and a fourth spot heater exposure path **308**. Each of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** include a centerline which is the center of the annular portion of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308**.

[0048] Each of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** are disposed at different radial positions, such that the first spot heater exposure path **302** is disposed a first radial distance R.sub.1 from the axis A of the substrate **102**, the second spot heater exposure path **304** is disposed a second radial distance R.sub.2 from the axis A of the substrate **102**, the third spot heater exposure path **306** is disposed a third radial distance R.sub.3 from the axis A of the substrate **102**, and the fourth spot heater exposure path **308** is disposed a fourth radial distance R.sub.4 from the axis A of the substrate **102**. The fourth radial distance R.sub.4 is greater than the third radial distance R.sub.3. The third radial distance R.sub.3 is greater than the second radial distance R.sub.2. The second radial distance R.sub.2 is greater than the first radial distance R.sub.1.

[0049] The angular position sensor **178** is shown at a first angular position around the axis A of the substrate **102**. In some embodiments, the angular position sensor **178** is disposed at a zero angular position around the axis A. Although the angular position sensor **178** is disposed radially outward of the substrate **102** for clarity, it is understood the angular position sensor **178** may be disposed below the substrate **102** or above the substrate **102** and radially inward of the outer circumference of the substrate **102**.

[0050] The first spot heater **170a** is disposed at a first angle $\theta.\text{sub}.1$ with respect to the angular position sensor **178** around the axis A. The second spot heater **170b** is disposed at a second angle $\theta.\text{sub}.2$ with respect to the angular position sensor **178** around the axis A. The third spot heater **170c** is disposed at a third angle $\theta.\text{sub}.3$ with respect to the angular position sensor **178** around the axis A. The first angle $\theta.\text{sub}.1$, the second angle $\theta.\text{sub}.2$, and the third angle $\theta.\text{sub}.3$ are exemplary and may be different angles than those illustrated. The first angle $\theta.\text{sub}.1$ is at an angle of about 90 degrees ($^{\circ}$). The second angle $\theta.\text{sub}.2$ is at an angle of about 180 $^{\circ}$. The third angle $\theta.\text{sub}.3$ is at an angle of about 210 $^{\circ}$.

[0051] Each of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** are split into a plurality of sectors **310a**, **310b**, and **310c**. The plurality of sectors **310a**, **310b**, and **310c** are portions of the spot heater exposure paths **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** at different angular positions. Therefore, a first angular position of the second spot heater exposure path **304** is a first sector **310a**. A second angular position of the second spot heater exposure path **304** is a second sector **310b**. A third angular position of the second spot heater exposure path **304** is a third sector **310c**. A plurality of additional sectors are disposed at other angular positions on the second spot heater exposure path **304**. Each of the first spot heater exposure path **302**, the third spot heater exposure path **306**, and the fourth spot heater exposure path **308** are split into similar sectors at different angular positions.

[0052] In embodiments in which the holder **174** of the spot heaters **170** includes a motorized base, the radial position of the spot heating exposure paths may be continuously varied during each 360-degree rotation of the substrate **102**. The range of the radial position variation is limited to about 5 to about 10 mm depending on wafer rotation speed and the motorized base motor speed. The motorized base therefore enables non-spherical spot heating exposure path on the substrate **102**. In some embodiments, the spot heating exposure paths are therefore ovoid or parabolic in shape. The non-spherical spot heating exposure paths enable greater versatility in spot heating application.

[0053] In some embodiments, one of the spot heating exposure paths, such as the first spot heating exposure path **302**, could even be at a radial position outside of the substrate **102**, but close to the edge of the substrate **102**. Due to thermal diffusion, spot heating a region outside of the circumference of the substrate **102** still provides heating to the edge of the substrate **102**. Spot heating the region outside of the circumference of the substrate **102** may therefore be utilized to target thickness and composition variations of a film at primarily the edge of the substrate **102**, while having limited to no effect on an interior of the substrate **102**. In some embodiments, the spot heating exposure path is within 10 mm of the outer circumference of the substrate, such as less than 10 mm from the outer circumference of the substrate, such as less than 5 mm from the outer circumference of the substrate.

[0054] FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method **400** of determining adjusted spot heater strength to improve film uniformity on a substrate, such as the substrate **102**. The method **400** is stored in one of the controller **120** in the embodiment of FIG. 1A or a microcontroller **180** in the embodiments of FIG. 1B. The controller **120** and/or the microcontroller **180** are configured to execute the method **400** as stored therein. The method **400** includes controlling the spot heaters **170** and the spot heater control box **176**.

[0055] The method **400** first determines the amount of correction desired at a plurality of points on the substrate before applying the correction to the spot heaters **170**. A process, such as depositing a layer, is performed on a test substrate during an operation **402**. The process is one of a layer deposition process, an etch process, or a thermal treatment process. The substrate is a test substrate, but is similar in size, shape, and composition to other substrates which are to be processed within the process chamber. Depositing or etching a layer on the test substrate is temperature dependent and temperature non-uniformities within the substrate will cause non-uniform film thicknesses on the test substrate. Temperature non-uniformities further cause differences in material and elemental composition of the layer across the profile of a substrate.

[0056] A thickness or material composition profile of the test substrate is measured during another

operation **404** after depositing or etching the layer on the substrate. Due to temperature discrepancies causing the non-uniform film thickness formation and non-uniform material composition, the thickness profile and/or the material composition profile are utilized to determine estimated temperature profiles on the substrate. Therefore, where there is less layer deposition, the temperature at that location is less than the temperature at a location where there is more layer deposition. The material composition may additionally be utilized to determine a processing temperature at various locations on the substrate, such that higher or lower material concentrations indicate a higher or lower processing temperature at a specific location.

[0057] The thickness or material composition profile may be measured by moving the test substrate into a separate process chamber. The separate process chamber is configured to measure one or both of the thickness profile and the material composition profile of the test substrate. The thickness profile is measured using one of a non-contact or a contact thickness measurement device. Non-contact thickness measurement devices include a camera, an ellipsometer, or an x-ray diffraction device. Contact thickness measurement devices include a line scanning tool. The ellipsometer measures changes in optical properties of one or more light beams reflected off of the surface of the test substrate to measure material thickness. The thickness measurement device obtains a thickness profile of the test substrate. In some embodiments, the thickness measurement device is disposed inside of a transfer chamber, a load-lock chamber, or a factory interface (not shown) mechanically coupled to the process chamber. In some embodiments, the thickness measurement device is located in an in-line tool which is not coupled to the process chamber.

[0058] The material composition of the film across the surface of the test substrate is measured with non-contact methods that include ellipsometry and x-ray diffraction. For layers containing some dopants, such as Boron, Phosphorus, etc., that have a large effect on electrical properties, either resistivity or carrier concentration measurements (e.g. Hall effect measurements) are used to determine composition of the film. Such composition data (composition vs. position) is then utilized to form a concentration plot or graph similar to the example thickness profile shown in FIG. 6.

[0059] In some embodiments, thickness and/or material composition profiles are only obtained for specific radial locations on the substrate. In one example, the thickness and/or material composition profile is obtained for a radial location greater than 20 mm from the center of the substrate. The thickness profile and/or material composition includes a plurality of thickness and/or material composition measurements at a single radial position, such as greater than 5 thickness and/or material composition measurements, such as greater than 10 thickness and/or material composition measurements, such as greater than 15 thickness and/or material composition measurements, such as greater than 20 thickness and/or material composition measurements. FIG. 6 illustrates a graph **600** with a plurality of thickness measurement values. The graph **600** includes 26 thickness measurements along a single radial location on the substrate. The thickness is measured in Angstroms (A) and varies between about 875 A to about 950 A. In the embodiment of FIG. 6, the zero (0) measurement is the same point on the substrate as the 26 measurement and each measurement therebetween is a measurement of a different angular position on the substrate at the same radial location.

[0060] Once the thickness and/or material composition profile of the substrate is obtained during the operation **404**, a temperature correction factor is determined from the thickness and/or material composition profile during an operation **406**. The temperature correction factor is dependent on the amount of correction desired, the growth rate of the films on the substrate at different temperatures, the temperature of the process chamber, and the power of the spot heaters. The temperature correction factor is obtained by inverting the thickness profile and/or material composition profile measurement values and normalizing the thickness profile and/or material composition profile measurement values. Inverting the thickness profile and/or material composition profile measurement values includes subtracting each thickness value and/or material composition value

from a first thickness value or a first material composition value. In some embodiments, the first thickness value and/or first material composition value is the maximum thickness value and/or maximum material composition value of the thickness profile measurement values and/or material composition measurement values. Normalizing the thickness profile measurement values and/or material composition measurement values includes dividing the inverted thickness profile measurement values and/or material composition measurement values by the maximum of the inverted thickness profile measurement values and/or material composition measurement values. Interpolation is then performed on the normalized thickness profile measurement values or material composition profile measurement values to obtain a normalized correction factor curve.

[0061] The interpolation of the normalized thickness profile measurement values and/or material composition profile measurement values may be one of a linear, quadratic, or a cubic interpolation. The normalized correction factor curve is then multiplied by a correction multiplier value to obtain a temperature correction curve. The correction multiplier value is at least partially dependent on the other process conditions within the process chamber during deposition and/or etching within the substrate. In one example, the correction multiplier value is **4095** for a 12 bit correction value. The graph **700** of FIG. **7** illustrates one example of a temperature correction curve obtained as described in operation **406**. In some examples, the correction factor values are equivalent to a difference in power applied to a spot heater, such as a difference in wattage or joules emitted by the spot heater or by a laser coupled to the spot heater.

[0062] After determining the temperature correction factor curve and the temperature correction values, a signal output from one or more spot heaters is adjusted as determined by the temperature correction factor values during an operation **408**. Adjusting the signal output of the one or more spot heaters is further described in a method **500** of FIG. **5**. Determining the thickness profile, the material composition profile, and/or the temperature correction curve is performed during a maintenance procedure before processing of substrates within the process chamber **100**.

[0063] FIG. **5** illustrates the method **500** of processing a substrate while adjusting strength of a spot heater exposure. The method **500** includes an operation **502** of detecting a position of the substrate. The position of the substrate which is detected during the operation **502** is the angular position of the substrate. The angular position is determined using a position sensor, such as the angular position sensor **178** of FIG. **1A** and **1B**. The angular position is further determined by knowing the speed of rotation of the substrate support about the axis A. Detecting the position of the substrate assists in ensuring the temperature correction signal output by the spot heaters during later operations is delivered to the correct angular position of the substrate. In some embodiments, the position of the substrate is known by registering when a notch or signaler on the substrate or the substrate support passes the angular position sensor.

[0064] After the angular position of the substrate is determined during the operation **502**, a temperature correction factor value and/or the temperature correction curve is provided to a spot heater controller. The spot heater controller may be one of the controller **120**, the microcontroller **180**, or the spot heater control box **176**. The temperature correction factor value associated with a specific angular position of the substrate detected by the angular position sensor is provided to the spot heater controller.

[0065] In some embodiments, the spot heater controller already includes the temperature correction factor values and/or the temperature correction curve stored therein.

[0066] However, the temperature correction factor value associated with the angular position of the substrate is recalled from the temperature correction factor value set of the temperature correction curve.

[0067] After the temperature correction factor value is recalled by the spot heater controller, either from internal spot heater controller memory or an external memory source, a signal output of one or more of the spot heaters is adjusted based off of the temperature correction factor value during an operation **506**. Adjusting the signal output of the one or more spot heaters includes adjusting one

or more of a power output, a wavelength output, a beam size, or a beam angle. In embodiments wherein the signal output is a power output, the power output is higher for larger temperature correction factor values and less for smaller temperature correction values. The amount of power delivered to the substrate is varied within a range, such as about 0% of total power of the spot heaters to 100% of the total power of the spot heaters, such as about 10% to about 95%, such as about 20% to about 95%. In some embodiments, the minimum power output by the spot heater during the operation **506** is about 2 W/cm.², such that the power output delivered to a first angular section of the substrate is greater than about 2 W/cm.², such as greater than about 5 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 1500 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 500 W/cm.², such as about 5 W/cm.² to about 300 W/cm.². The range of power output by the spot heaters and delivered to the substrate is dependent on both the thickness variation range on the substrate to be corrected and the sensitivity of film growth thickness to power delivered to the substrate. In addition to correcting the thickness variation of the substrate, the material composition of the substrate is also able to be adjusted using the same processes.

[0068] The one or more spot heaters emit radiation beams with a diameter of less than about 25 mm, such as less than about 20 mm, such as less than about 10 mm, such as less than about 5 mm, such as less than about 3 mm, such as less than about 2 mm. Each spot on the substrate **102** which is exposed at once is exposed to a power range of about 0.5 W to about 100 W, such as about 1 W to about 100 W, such as about 2 W to about 100 W. Adjusting the size of the spot on the substrate **102** which is exposed also adjusts the power density of the exposure.

[0069] The wavelength of the radiation delivered to the substrate is about 700 nm to about 2000 nm, such as about 750 nm to about 1800 nm, such as about 760 nm to about 1700 nm

[0070] As the spot heater is scanned over the substrate to expose different portions of the substrate, different temperature correction factors are applied. While the substrate is disposed at a first angular position as determined by the angular position sensor, a first temperature correction factor is provided to the spot heater controller. The first temperature correction factor is utilized to adjust a first output signal of a spot heater, such that a first angular section of the substrate is exposed to a first radiation beam with a first power. The first power is determined using the first temperature correction factor value. The first angular position may be a first sector, such as the first sector **310a**, of an annulus, such as the second spot heater exposure path **304**, of the substrate.

[0071] The substrate is then rotated to a second angular position of the same radial position. While at the second angular position, a second temperature correction factor value is provided to the spot heater controller. The second temperature correction factor is utilized to adjust a second output signal of the spot heater, such that a second angular section of the substrate is exposed to the second radiation beam with a second power. The second power is determined using the second temperature correction factor value. The second power is different from the first power when the second temperature correction factor is different from the first temperature correction factor. The second angular position may be a second sector, such as the second sector **310b**, of the annulus, such as the second spot heater exposure path **304**, of the substrate.

[0072] The substrate is then rotated to a third angular position of the same radial position. While at the third angular position, a third temperature correction factor value is provided to the spot heater controller. The third temperature correction factor value is utilized to adjust a third output signal of the spot heater, such that a third angular section of the substrate is exposed to the third radiation beam with a third power. The third power is determined using the third temperature correction factor value. The third power is different from the first power and the second power when the third temperature correction factor value is different from either of the first temperature correction factor value or the third temperature correction factor value. The third angular position may be a third sector, such as the third sector **310c**, of an annulus, such as the second spot heater exposure path **304**, of the substrate.

[0073] Additional angular positions are heated by the spot heater at different power values which

correlate to additional temperature correction factor values. There may be greater than 10 angular positions with greater than 10 different power values, such as greater than 15 angular positions and greater than 15 different power values, such as greater than 20 angular positions and greater than 20 different power values. In some embodiments, over 100 temperature corrector factor values are determined from the temperature corrector curve. In some embodiments, there are over 200 temperature correction factor values, such as over 300 temperature correction factor values. In some embodiments, each angular position is a portion of an annulus, such that the annulus is broken into sectors with regions of less than 60 degrees, such as less than about 45 degrees, such as less than about 30 degrees, such as less than about 15 degrees, such as less than about 10 degrees, such as less than about 5 degrees, such as less than about 3 degrees, such as less than about 2 degrees, such as less than about 1 degree.

[0074] FIG. **8A** is a graph **800** illustrating a corrected signal output of a spot heater angularly offset from an angular position sensor by 90 degrees. Therefore, the angle of the section of the spot heater exposure is offset from the angular position sensor by 90 degrees, similarly to the first spot heater **170a** of FIG. **3**. When the exposed region is disposed at an angle offset from the angle of the position sensor measurement, the correction signal output to the spot heater controller is similarly offset. As shown in FIG. **8B**, the correction signal output and adjusted power output of the spot heater is adjusted by 90 degrees relative to the correction signal output if the location of the spot heater exposure was at the same angular position as the angular position sensor measurement.

[0075] FIG. **8B** is a graph **850** illustrating a corrected signal output of a spot heater angularly offset from an angular position sensor by 180 degrees. Therefore, the angle of the section of the spot heater exposure is offset from the angular position sensor by 180 degrees, similarly to the second spot heater **170b** of FIG. **3**. As shown in FIG. **8B**, the correction signal output and adjusted power output of the spot heater is adjusted by 180 degrees relative to the correction signal output if the location of the spot heater exposure was at the same angular position as the angular position sensor measurement.

[0076] The embodiments described herein enable the power applied to the substrate by one or more spot heaters to be varied as the spot heaters expose different angular regions of the substrate during processing. Adjusting the amount of radiation provided to the substrate for different angular regions enables non-uniformities at different angular regions to be reduced or eliminated. The change in power applied by the spot heaters is determined by a calibration operation where the thickness of a grown or etched film is measured. The thickness is correlated to temperature correction factor values which are graphed and used to interpolate a temperature correction factor curve. The temperature correction factor curve provides a curve which may be followed to adjust power and radiation quantities provided to the substrate at different angular positions.

[0077] While the foregoing is directed to embodiments of the present disclosure, other and further embodiments of the disclosure may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims that follow.

Claims

1. An apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing, comprising: a chamber body; a substrate support disposed within the chamber body; a plurality of upper lamps disposed above the substrate support; a plurality of lower lamps disposed below the substrate support; one or more spot heaters disposed above the substrate support and configured to direct a radiation beam towards the substrate support; and a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters and programmed to: determine an angular position of the substrate; and adjust a power output of one or more spot heaters using a set of temperature correction factors, such that the power output of the one or more spot heaters varies as the one or more spot heaters heat a plurality of angular portions of the substrate.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the radiation beam of the one or more spot heaters has a diameter of less than about 10 mm.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a position sensor configured to determine the angular position of the substrate or the substrate support on which the substrate is disposed.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the one or more spot heaters are at a different angular position around the substrate support than the position sensor.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is a spot heating microcontroller and is separate from a process chamber controller.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more spot heaters are positioned to direct the radiation beam to different radial positions of the substrate support.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the set of temperature correction factors are determined using a thickness or a composition of a film on a test substrate during a calibration operation.
8. An apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing, comprising: a chamber body; a substrate support disposed within the chamber body; a plurality of upper lamps disposed above the substrate support; a plurality of lower lamps disposed below the substrate support; one or more spot heaters disposed above the substrate support; and a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters and programmed to: determine an angular position of the substrate; expose a first angular section of the substrate to a first radiation beam with a first power using the one or more spot heaters, the first power determined using a first temperature correction factor of a plurality of temperature correction factors; rotate the substrate about a central axis; and expose a second angular section of the substrate to a second radiation beam with a second power using the one or more spot heaters, the second power determined using a second temperature correction factor of the plurality of temperature correction factors.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first radiation beam or the second radiation beam of the one or more spot heaters has a diameter of less than about 10 mm.
10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a position sensor configured to determine the angular position of the substrate or the substrate support on which the substrate is disposed.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more spot heaters are at a different angular position around the substrate support than the position sensor.
12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller is a spot heating microcontroller and is separate from a process chamber controller.
13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of the one or more spot heaters are positioned to direct the first radiation beam or the second radiation beam to different radial positions of the substrate support.
14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the plurality of temperature correction factors are determined by measuring a film thickness or a material composition on a test substrate during a calibration operation, inverting the film thickness or the material composition, and normalizing the film thickness or the material composition
15. An apparatus for processing a substrate, suitable for use during semiconductor manufacturing, comprising: a chamber lid; a chamber floor; a chamber body between the chamber lid and the chamber floor; a substrate support disposed within the chamber body; an upper window disposed between the chamber lid and the substrate support; a lower window disposed between the substrate support and the chamber floor; a plurality of upper lamps disposed between the upper window and the chamber lid; a plurality of lower lamps disposed between the lower window and the chamber floor; one or more spot heaters disposed on the chamber lid; and a controller configured to control the one or more spot heaters and programmed to: determine an angular position of the substrate; receive a temperature correction curve, the temperature correction curve formed using a plurality of temperature correction factors, the plurality of temperature correction factors determined by measuring a film thickness or a material composition on a test substrate during a calibration operation, inverting the film thickness or the material composition, and normalizing the film

thickness or the material composition; and adjust a power output of a radiation beam of one or more spot heaters using the temperature correction curve, such that the power output of the one or more spot heaters varies as the one or more spot heaters heat a plurality of angular portions of the substrate along a first radial position of the substrate.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the radiation beam of the one or more spot heaters has a diameter of less than about 10 mm.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a position sensor configured to determine the angular position of the substrate or the substrate support on which the substrate is disposed.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the one or more spot heaters are at a different angular position around the substrate support than the position sensor.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the controller is a spot heating microcontroller and is separate from a process chamber controller.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein each of the one or more spot heaters are positioned to direct the radiation beam to different radial positions of the substrate support.
