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Memory device, semiconductor device and manufacturing method of the memory device

Abstract

A memory device, a semiconductor device and a manufacturing method of the memory device are provided. The memory device includes first, second and third stacking structures, first and second channel structures, a gate dielectric layer, a switching layer, and first and second gate structures. The first, second and third stacking structures are laterally spaced apart from one another, and respectively comprise a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer. The third stacking structure is located between the first and second stacking structures. The first channel structure extends between the channel layers in the first and third stacking structures. The second channel structure extends between the channel layers in the second and third stacking structures. The gate dielectric layer and the first gate structure wrap around the first channel structure. The switching layer and the second gate structure wrap around the second channel structure.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a continuation application of and claims the priority benefit of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/159,180, filed on Jan. 27, 2021, now allowed, which claims the priority benefit of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 63/040,540, filed on Jun. 18, 2020. The entirety of each of the above-mentioned patent applications is hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part of this specification.

BACKGROUND

(1) Non-volatile memory is featured in keeping stored data even when power supply is cut off, and

is comprehensively used in various electronic devices. Embedded non-volatile memory refers to a type of non-volatile memory integrated with logic circuits in the same chip, and is different from discrete non-volatile memory technology (e.g., NAND flash and NOR flash) due to its specific requirements including complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) process compatibility, performance, cost and reliability. For instance, embedded non-volatile memory can be integrated in a microcontroller (MCU) chip, a system-on-chip (SoC) device or the like.

(2) Although feature size of the embedded non-volatile memory has been continuously decreased over the years, structure the embedded non-volatile memory is still limited by the confines of two-dimensional design. This ultimately limits the capacity that the embedded non-volatile memory could offer.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) Aspects of the present disclosure are best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying figures. It is noted that, in accordance with the standard practice in the industry, various features are not drawn to scale. In fact, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily increased or reduced for clarity of discussion.

(2) FIG. 1A is a schematic three-dimensional view illustrating a memory device according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 1B is a schematic cross-sectional view cut along laterally adjacent and connected channel structures shown in FIG. 1A.

(4) FIG. 1C is a schematic plan view illustrating laterally adjacent memory cells in the memory device as shown in FIG. 1A.

(5) FIG. 1D is a circuit diagram of one of the memory cells in the memory device shown in FIG. 1A.

(6) FIG. 2 is a flow diagram of a manufacturing method for forming the memory device shown in FIG. 1A.

(7) FIG. 3A through FIG. 3K are schematic three-dimensional views illustrating structures at various stages during the manufacturing process of the memory device shown in FIG. 2.

(8) FIG. 4 is an enlarged schematic cross-sectional view along a line A-A' shown in FIG. 3C according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 5 is a schematic three-dimensional view illustrating a memory device with staircase structures according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(10) FIG. 6 is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to some embodiments in the present disclosure.

(11) FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating a semiconductor die according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(12) FIG. 8 is a schematic plan view illustrating laterally adjacent memory cells of a memory device according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(13) FIG. 9 is a schematic plan view illustrating a memory device according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(14) FIG. 10 is a schematic plan view illustrating a memory device according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(15) The following disclosure provides many different embodiments or examples, for implementing different features of the provided subject matter. Specific examples of components and arrangements are described below to simplify the present disclosure. These are, of course, merely examples and are not intended to be limiting. For example, the formation of a first feature

over or on a second feature in the description that follows may include embodiments in which the first and second features are formed in direct contact, and may also include embodiments in which additional features may be formed between the first and second features, such that the first and second features may not be in direct contact. In addition, the present disclosure may repeat reference numerals and/or letters in the various examples. This repetition is for the purpose of simplicity and clarity and does not in itself dictate a relationship between the various embodiments and/or configurations discussed.

(16) Further, spatially relative terms, such as “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. The spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. The apparatus may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein may likewise be interpreted accordingly.

(17) FIG. 1A is a schematic three-dimensional view illustrating a memory device **10** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. FIG. 1B is a schematic cross-sectional view cut along a channel structure CH1 and a channel structure CH2 shown in FIG. 1A. FIG. 1C is a schematic plan view illustrating laterally adjacent memory cells MC in the memory device **10** as shown in FIG. 1A. FIG. 1D is a circuit diagram of one of the memory cells MC in the memory device **10** shown in FIG. 1A.

(18) Referring to FIG. 1A, the memory device **10** is a three-dimensional memory device, and includes stacks of memory cells MC. As will be further described, each memory cell MC includes an access transistor AT and a storage transistor ST connected with each other via a common node. The stacks of memory cells MC are formed in laterally separated stacking structures ST as well as components located between the stacking structures ST. The stacking structures ST and the components located in between are formed on a substrate **100**. In some embodiments, the substrate **100** is an etching stop layer over a semiconductor substrate (not shown), such as a semiconductor wafer or a semiconductor-on-insulator (all) wafer. In these embodiments, active devices (e.g., transistors) and interconnections of these active devices (both not shown) may be formed between the substrate **100** and the semiconductor wafer (or the SOI wafer). In alternative embodiments, the substrate **100** is the semiconductor wafer or the SOI wafer. In addition, in some embodiments, the stacking structures ST may include a stacking structure ST1, a stacking structure ST2 and a stacking structure ST3. The stacking structures ST1, ST2, ST3 extend along a direction Y, and are separated from one another along a direction X. The stacking structure ST3 extends between the stacking structures ST1, ST2, and may have a length (i.e., the dimension in the direction X) shorter than a length of the stacking structure ST1 or the stacking structure ST2. However, those skilled in the art may adjust dimensions of the stacking structures ST according to design requirements, the present disclosure is not limited thereto.

(19) Each stacking structure ST includes multiple film sets stacked on the substrate **100** along a vertical direction Z. In some embodiments, each film set includes an isolation layer **102**, a channel layer **104** and a conductive layer **106** sequentially stacked along the vertical direction Z. In this way, the isolation layer **102** of an upper film set may be in contact with the conductive layer **106** of a lower film set. The isolation layer **102** may be formed of an insulating material, the channel layer **104** may be formed of a semiconductor material, and the conductive layer **106** may be made of a conductive material. For instance, the insulating material may include silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, the like or combinations thereof. The semiconductor material may be a metal oxide material, such as an indium-based oxide material (e.g., indium gallium zinc oxide (IGZO)). The conductive material may be a metallic material, such as Al, Ti, TiN, TaN, Co, Ag, Au, Cu, Ni, Cr, Hf, Ru, W, WN, Pt or the like. In some embodiments, the substrate **100** has sufficient etching selectivity with respect to the isolation layer **102**, the channel layer **104** and the conductive layer

106, such that the substrate **100** may substantially remain intact during patterning of the stacking structure **300**. For instance, the substrate **100** may be formed of silicon carbide. Furthermore, although not shown, end portions of some of the stacking structures ST (e.g., the stacking structures ST1, ST2) may be shaped into staircase structures, of which an end portion of each film set may be protruded with respect to an overlying film set. In addition, although each stacking structure ST is depicted as having three film sets, those skilled in the art may adjust the amount of the film sets in each stacking structure ST according to design and process requirements, the present disclosure is not limited thereto as well.

(20) Stacks of channel structures CH1 are disposed between the stacking structures ST1, ST3, and are laterally separated apart from one another along the direction Y. In addition, the channel structures CH1 in each stack are vertically spaced apart from one another. Each channel structure CH1 laterally extends from one of the channel layers **104** in the stacking structure ST1 to a corresponding one of the channel layers **104** in the stacking structure ST3 along the direction X, and connects these channel layers **104**. Similarly, stacks of channel structures CH2 are disposed between the stacking structures ST2, ST3, and are similar to or identical with the channel structures CH1 in terms of arrangement, structure, and dimension. In this way, the channel structures CH2 respectively connect one of the channel layers **104** in the stacking structure ST3 to a corresponding one of the channel layers **104** in the stacking structure ST2. In some embodiments, the channel structures CH1, CH2 are respectively formed in a rod shape. In addition, in some embodiments, the channel structures CH2 respectively extend along an extending line (virtual) of one of the channel structures CH1, and vice versa. The channel structures CH1, CH2 are formed of the semiconductor material of the channel layers **104**. It should be noted that, although the channel structures CH1, CH2 and the channel layers **104** are described as individual components, the channel structures CH1, CH2 and the channel layers **104** at the same height may be actually formed from the same material layer. As will be further described, this material layer is patterned to form the channel structures CH1, CH2 and the channel layers **104** at the same height.

(21) Referring to FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B, a gate dielectric layer **108** conformally covers surfaces of the channel structures CH1 and opposing sidewalls of the stacking structures ST1, ST3. The gate dielectric layer **108** is functioned to realize capacitive coupling between a gate structure (i.e., the gate structure GS1 as will be further described) and the channel structures CH1 of some transistors (i.e., the access transistor AT as will be further described). As shown in FIG. 1A, in some embodiments, topmost surfaces of the gate dielectric layer **108** are substantially coplanar with top surfaces of the stacking structures ST. On the other hand, in some embodiments, portions of the substrate **100** between the stacking structures ST1, ST3 are also covered by the gate dielectric layer **108**. The gate dielectric layer **108** is formed of a dielectric material, and alternatives of the dielectric material may include a high-k dielectric material (e.g., a dielectric material having dielectric constant (k) greater than 3.9, or greater than 7 or more) and silicon oxide. For instance, the high-k dielectric material may include hafnium oxide, hafnium aluminum oxide, hafnium silicate, tantalum oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, the like or combinations thereof.

(22) Similarly, a switching layer **110** conformally covers surfaces of the channel structures CH2 and opposing sidewalls of the stacking structures ST2, ST3. The switching layer **110** may be similar to or identical with the gate dielectric layer **108** in terms of structure, but different from the gate dielectric layer **108** in terms of function and material. In other words, in some embodiments, topmost surfaces of the switching layer **110** are substantially coplanar with the top surfaces of the stacking structures ST. In addition, in some embodiments, portions of the substrate **100** between the stacking structures ST2, ST3 are also covered by the switching layer **110**. On the other hand, in addition to realize capacitive coupling between a gate structure (i.e., the gate structure GS2 as will be further described) and the channel structures CH2 of some transistors (i.e., the storage transistor ST as will be further described), the switching layer **110** is further functioned to switch a threshold voltage of each transistor from a lower value to a higher value (or vice versa). In some

embodiments, the switching layer **110** is formed of a ferroelectric material, and the switching of the threshold voltage is realized by changing the direction of the dipole moment stored in the switching layer **110**. For instance, the ferroelectric material may include a hafnium-oxide-based material, such as hafnium zirconium oxide (HZO). In alternative embodiments, the switching of the threshold voltage is determined by whether charges are trapped in the switching layer **110**. In these alternative embodiments, the switching layer **110** may be a multilayer structure, such as an oxide-nitride-oxide (ONO) multilayer structure.

(23) The gate structure **GS1** fills up the trench between the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST3**, and the gate structure **GS2** fills up the trench between the stacking structures **ST2**, **ST3**. Accordingly, the channel structures **CH1** are covered by the gate dielectric layer **108**, and are wrapped by the gate structure **GS1**. Similarly, the channel structures **CH2** are covered by the switching layer **110**, and are wrapped by the gate structure **GS2**. The gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** are respectively formed of a metallic material. For instance, the metallic materials for forming the gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** may respectively include tungsten, Al, Ti, TiN, TaN, Co, Ag, Au, Cu, Ni, Cr, Hf, Ru, WN, Pt or the like. In some embodiments, the gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** are formed of the same metallic material. In alternative embodiments, the gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** are formed of different metallic materials.

(24) Referring to FIG. **1A**, in some embodiments, an isolation wall **112** standing on the substrate **100** cuts each of the gate structure **GS1**, the gate dielectric layer **108**, the stacking structure **ST3**, the gate structure **GS2** and the switching layer **110** into separated portions. As shown in FIG. **1A**, the isolation wall **112** may be intersected with the stacking structure **ST3**, and extend between adjacent stacks of the channel structures **CH1** as well as adjacent stacks of the channel structures **CH2**. In this way, adjacent stacks of the channel structures **CH1** are wrapped by different portions of the gate structure **GS1**, and adjacent stacks of the channel structures **CH2** are wrapped by different portions of the gate structure **GS2**. Moreover, in some embodiments, the isolation wall **112** may be in lateral contact with the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**. In these embodiments, the gate dielectric layer **108** may be cut into separated portions by the isolation wall **112**, and the switching layer **110** may be cut into separated portions by the isolation wall **112** as well. The isolation wall **112** is formed of an insulating material, such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride or the like.

(25) One of the channel structures **CH1**, a portion of the gate dielectric layer **108** covering this channel structure **CH1**, the gate structure **GS1** wrapping up this channel structure **CH1**, the channel layers **104** connected with this channel structure **CH1** and the conductive layers **106** lying on these channel layers **104** collectively form a field effect transistor, and is referred as the access transistor **AT**. The gate structure **GS1** is functioned as a gate terminal of the access transistor **AT**, and the conductive layers **106** are functioned as source and drain terminals of the access transistor **AT**. A conductive path may be formed in the channel structure **CH1** when the access transistor **AT** is turned on, and such conductive path may be cut off or absent when the access transistor **AT** is in an off state. As shown in FIG. **1A**, multiple stacks of the access transistors **AT** are formed by the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST3**, the gate dielectric layer **108**, the channel structures **CH1** and the gate structure **GS1**, and these stacks of the access transistors **AT** are operationally separated from each other because of the isolation wall **112**. In some embodiments, the isolation wall **112** cuts each of the gate structure **GS1**, the gate dielectric layer **108** and the stacking structure **ST3** into separated portions. In these embodiments, gate terminals of different stacks of the access transistors **AT** are separated, and can be independently controlled. In addition, drain terminals (or source terminals) of different stacks of the access transistors **AT** are located in separated portions of the stacking structure **ST3**, and are electrically isolated from each other. On the other hand, the access transistors **AT** in the same stack share the same gate terminal, and can be controlled by different pairs of source and drain terminals (i.e., different pairs of conductive layers **106**). Further, vertically adjacent pairs of source and drain terminals in the same stack of the access transistors **AT** are

isolated from each other by one of the isolation layers **102**. In this way, the access transistors AT in the same stack can be independently controlled as well.

(26) Similarly, one of the channel structures CH2, a portion of the switching layer **110** covering this channel structure CH2, the gate structure GS2 wrapping up this channel structure CH2, the channel layer **104** connected with this channel structure CH2 and the conductive layers **106** on these channel layers **106** collectively form a field effect transistor, which is referred as the storage transistor ST. The gate structure GS2 is functioned as a gate terminal of the storage transistor ST, and the conductive layers **106** are functioned as source and drain terminals of the storage transistor ST. In those embodiments where the switching layer **110** is a ferroelectric layer, a voltage bias is set across the portion of the switching layer **110** covering the channel structure CH2 during a programming operation, and a dipole moment is stored in the switching layer **110** due to ferroelectric polarization. On the other hand, a reverse voltage bias is set across the portion of the switching layer **110** during an erase operation, and a dipole moment reversal can be observed in the switching layer **110**. By storing the dipole moments with opposite directions, the storage transistor ST may have a relatively high threshold voltage and a relatively low threshold voltage, thus a high logic state and a low logic state can be stored in the storage transistor ST. In those alternative embodiments where the switching layer **110** includes a charge trapping layer, charges may be inserted into the switching layer **110** by a tunneling effect during a programming operation, and the charges may be depleted from the switching layer **110** during an erase operation. Accordingly, the threshold voltage of the storage transistor ST may be altered due to the insertion/removal of these charges, and a high logic state and a low logic state can be stored in the storage transistor ST as well. As shown in FIG. 1A, multiple stacks of the storage transistors ST are formed by the stacking structures ST2, ST3, the switching layer **110**, the channel structures CH2 and the gate structure GS2. As similar to stacks of the access transistors AT, the stacks of the storage transistors ST are operationally separated from each other because of the isolation wall **112**. In addition, the storage transistors ST in the same stack can be independently controlled as well. Further, the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structure ST3 are respectively functioned as a common source or drain terminal of the laterally adjacent access transistor AT and storage transistor ST.

(27) Referring to FIG. 1A, FIG. 1C and FIG. 1D, one of the access transistors AT and one of the storage transistors ST connected to this access transistor AT collectively form a memory cell MC. As shown in FIG. 1A, stacks of the memory cells MC are formed in the memory device **10**. As shown in FIG. 1A and FIG. 1C, laterally adjacent memory cells MC share the same pair of conductive layers **106** in the stacking structures ST1, ST2, and other portions of these laterally adjacent memory cells MC are separated from each other by the isolation wall **112**. As shown in FIG. 1D, the access transistor AT and the storage transistor ST in the same memory cell MC are connected with each other via a common source/drain terminal N, which is one of the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structure ST3 as shown in FIG. 1C. Other source/drain terminals of the memory cell MC including a source/drain terminal S/D of the access transistor AT and a source/drain terminal S/D of the storage transistor ST are the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structures ST1, ST2 as shown in FIG. 1C. The common source/drain terminal N may be electrically floated if the access transistor AT is in an off state, and the storage transistor ST may not be turned on. Thus, the storage transistor ST may not be subjected to a programming operation, an erase operation nor a reading operation. On the other hand, if the access transistor AT is turned on, the storage transistor ST is accessible by controlling the voltages supplied to the gate structure GS2 and the source/drain terminals S/D. Accordingly, the storage transistor ST is allowed to be programmed/erased or subjected to a read operation. In some embodiments, the common source/drain terminals N (i.e., the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structure ST3) are not subjected to further routing, and the stacking structure ST3 may have a shorter length (i.e., a dimension along the direction X) as compared to the stacking structures ST1, ST2. In a programming operation, the access transistor AT and the storage transistor ST of a selected memory

cell MC are turned on, and the storage transistor ST of the selected memory cell MC may be written by ferroelectric polarization or tunneling effect. In a read operation, the access transistor AT of a selected memory cell MC is turned on, and a read voltage is applied to the gate structure GS2 of the storage transistor ST. A threshold voltage of the storage transistor ST, which could be altered during a programming operation, can determine whether the read voltage is sufficient to turn on the storage transistor ST. If the read voltage is greater than the threshold voltage, the storage transistor ST could be turned on, and current can flow across the source/drain terminals S/D. On the other hand, if the read voltage is less than the threshold voltage, the storage transistor ST may be in an off state, and there would not be current flowing across the source/drain terminals S/D. Therefore, by sensing the current across the source/drain terminals S/D, a storage state of the storage transistor ST can be read out. Moreover, in an erase operation, the access transistor AT of a selected memory cell MC is turned on, and an erase voltage is set across the gate structure GS2 of the storage transistor ST in the selected memory cell MC, and the stored data can be erased by a ferroelectric polarization or tunneling effect.

(28) As described above, the memory device **10** includes stacks of the memory cells MC. Since the memory cells MC are stackable, the memory device **10** is no longer limited by two-dimensional design, and a storage density of the memory device **10** may be significantly increased. Further, in those embodiments where the gate structures GS1, GS2 are formed of metallic material(s), the memory device **10** can be more compatible with back-end-of-line (BEOL) process due to lower process temperature. A method for forming a polysilicon gate structure may include an activation step at a temperature higher than 1000° C. As compared to the polysilicon gate structure, the metallic gate structures GS1, GS2 according to some embodiments of the present disclosure may be formed at a process temperature below 400° C. Therefore, if the memory device **10** is integrated in a BEOL structure, thermal damages on other portions of the BEOL structure as well as an underlying front-end-of-line (FEOL) structure can be significantly reduced. Moreover, as compared to programming a storage transistor by using hot carrier injection effect, a much lower voltage is required for programming the storage transistor ST including the ferroelectric switching layer **110** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(29) FIG. 2 is a flow diagram of a manufacturing method for forming the memory device **10** shown in FIG. 1A. FIG. 3A through FIG. 3K are schematic three-dimensional views illustrating structures at various stages during the manufacturing process of the memory device **10** shown in FIG. 2.

(30) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3A, step S100 is performed, and a stacking structure **300** is formed on the substrate **100**. The stacking structure **300** includes multiple film sets stacked along the vertical direction Z. Each film set includes an isolation layer **302**, a channel layer **304** and a conductive layer **306**. The channel layers **304** are respectively sandwiched between one of the isolation layers **302** and one of the conductive layers **306**. In some embodiments, the isolation layers **302** are respectively the bottommost layer in one of the film sets, and the conductive layers **306** are respectively the topmost layer in one of the film sets. The isolation layers **302** will be patterned to form the isolation layers **102** as shown in FIG. 1A. The channel layers **304** will be patterned to form the channel layers **104** and the channel structures CH1, CH2 as shown in FIG. 1A. The conductive layers **306** will be patterned to form the conductive layers **106** as shown in FIG. 1A. In some embodiments, the isolation layers **302** and the channel layers **304** are respectively formed by a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process. In addition, the conductive layers **306** may be respectively formed by a CVD process or a physical vapor deposition (PVD) process.

(31) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3B, step S102 is performed, and openings P1 are formed in the stacking structure **300**. The openings P1 penetrate through the stacking structure **300** along the vertical direction Z, and may expose portions of the substrate **100**. In addition, the openings P1 are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along the direction Y. The openings P1 will be communicated with one another to form the trench for accommodating the channel

structures CH1, the gate dielectric layer 108 and the gate structure GS1 as shown in FIG. 1A in the following step. The channel structures CH1 shown in FIG. 1A are currently embedded in portions of the remained stacking structure 300 between the openings P1, and will be released in subsequent steps. In some embodiments, the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 embedded with the channel structures CH1 are narrow enough that other portions of the remained stacking structure 300 may only be slightly consumed during the subsequent channel release step. For instance, a width W of these portions of the remained stacking structure 300 may range from 1 nm to 100 nm. A method for forming the openings P1 may include a lithography process and an etching process (e.g., an anisotropic etching process).

(32) In some embodiments, as will be further described with reference to FIG. 5, one or more sides of the stacking structure 300 is/are shaped into staircase structure(s) before forming the openings P1. In these embodiments, the staircase structure(s) is/are formed by a staircase-first process. The conductive layers 306 may respectively be exposed at steps of the staircase structure(s). A method for shaping the stacking structure 300 to form the staircase structure(s) may include a trim-and-etch process. Furthermore, a dielectric layer (not shown) may be subsequently formed on the staircase structure(s). A top surface of this dielectric layer may be leveled with a top surface of the stacking structure 300.

(33) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3C, step S104 is performed, and the channel structures CH1 are released. The conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302 in the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 between the openings P1 are removed. As a result, the openings P1 are currently communicated with one another to form a trench TR1. In addition, the channel layers 304 in these portions of the stacking structure 300 are released, to form the channel structures CH1. The channel structures CH1 extend across the trench TR1, and bridge portions of the channel layers 304 at opposite sides of the trench TR1. One of the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 at opposite sides of the trench TR1 forms the stacking structure ST1 as described with reference to FIG. 1A. In some embodiments, a method for releasing the channel structures CH1 includes at least one isotropic etching process. Since the channel layers 304 have sufficient etching selectivity with respect to the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302, the channel layers 304 may substantially remain intact during the isotropic etching process. Further, as described with reference to FIG. 3B, the width W of the portions of the stacking structure 300 between the openings P1 may be short enough that the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302 in other portions of the stacking structure 300 may only be slightly consumed (not shown in FIG. 3C) during the isotropic etching process.

(34) FIG. 4 is an enlarged schematic cross-sectional view along a line A-A' shown in FIG. 3C according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(35) Referring to FIG. 3C and FIG. 4, in some embodiments, the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302 in the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 at opposite sides of the trench TR1 are laterally recessed with respect to the channel layers 304 during the release of the channel structures CH1. Further, although the lateral recess of the conductive layers 306 is depicted as identical with the lateral recess of the isolation layers 302, the lateral recess of the conductive layers 306 may alternatively be greater or less than the lateral recess of the isolation layers 302. The lateral recesses of the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302 may respectively vary according to the materials of these layers and/or other process conditions.

(36) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3D, step S106 is performed, and a gate dielectric layer 308 is formed on the current structure. The gate dielectric layer 308 will be patterned to form the gate dielectric layer 108 as shown in FIG. 1A. In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 308 globally and conformally covers the structure shown in FIG. 3C. Accordingly, exposed surfaces of the channel structures CH1, the remained stacking structure 300 and the substrate 100 may be conformally covered by the gate dielectric layer 308. In some embodiments, a method for forming the gate dielectric layer 308 may include a deposition process, such as an atomic layer deposition

(ALD) process or a CVD process.

(37) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3E, step S108 is performed, and a gate material GM1 is formed on the current structure. The gate material GM1 will be patterned to form the gate structure GS1 as shown in FIG. 1A. The gate material GM1 fills up the trench TR1, and may extend onto the remained stacking structure 300. In this way, the channel structures CH1 in the trench TR1 are wrapped by the gate dielectric layer 308 and the gate material GM1, and portions of the gate dielectric layer 308 above the remained stacking structure 300 may also be covered by the gate material GM1. In some embodiments, a method for forming the gate material GM1 includes a deposition process (e.g., a CVD process or a PVD process), a plating process or a combination thereof.

(38) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3F, step S110 is performed, and portions of the gate material GM1 and the gate dielectric layer 308 above the remained stacking structure 300 are removed. The remained gate material GM1 forms the gate structure GS1 as shown in FIG. 1A, and the remained gate dielectric layer 308 forms the gate dielectric layer 108 as shown in FIG. 1A. In addition, a top surface of the remained stacking structure 300 is currently exposed. In some embodiments, a method for removing the portions of the gate material GM1 and the gate dielectric layer 308 above the stacking structure 300 includes a planarization process. For instance, the planarization process may include a polishing process (e.g., a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process), an etching process or a combination thereof.

(39) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3G, step S112 is performed, and openings P2 are formed aside the currently filled trench TR1. As similar to the openings P1 described with reference to FIG. 3B, the openings P2 penetrate through the stacking structure 300, and may expose portions of the substrate 100. In addition, the openings P2 are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along the direction Y. The openings P2 will be communicated with one another to form the trench for accommodating the channel structures CH2, the switching layer 110 and the gate structure GS2 as shown in FIG. 1A in the following step. The channel structures CH2 shown in FIG. 1A are currently embedded in portions of the remained stacking structure 300 between the openings P2, and will be released in subsequent steps. In some embodiments, the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 embedded with the channel structures CH2 are narrow enough that other portions of the remained stacking structure 300 may only be slightly consumed during the subsequent channel release step. For instance, these portions of the remained stacking structure 300 may have a width substantially identical with the width W as described with reference to FIG. 3B. A method for forming the openings P2 may include a lithography process and an etching process (e.g., an anisotropic etching process).

(40) Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3H, step S114 is performed, and the channel structures CH2 are released. As similar to the step described with reference to FIG. 3C, the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302 in the portions of the remained stacking structure 300 between the openings P2 are currently removed. As a result, the openings P2 are currently communicated with one another to form a trench TR2, and the channel layers 304 in these portions of the stacking structure 300 are released to form the channel structures CH2. The channel structures CH2 extend across the trench TR2, and bridge portions of the channel layers 304 at opposite sides of the trench TR1. Moreover, after forming the trench TR2, the stacking structures ST1, ST2, ST3 separated by the trenches TR1, TR2 are defined, and the remained isolation layers 302, channel layers 304 and conductive layers 306 become the isolation layers 102, the channel layers 104 and the conductive layers 106 as shown in FIG. 1A. In some embodiments, a method for releasing the channel structures CH2 includes at least one isotropic etching process. Since the channel layers 304 have sufficient etching selectivity with respect to the conductive layers 306 and the isolation layers 302, the channel layers 304 may substantially remain intact during the isotropic etching process. Further, as described with reference to FIG. 3F, the width of the portions of the stacking structure 300 between the openings P2 may be short enough that the conductive layers 306 and the isolation

layers **302** in other portions of the stacking structure **300** may only be slightly consumed (as similar to the structure shown in FIG. **4**) during the isotropic etching process, and the lateral recesses of the conductive layers **306** and the isolation layers **302** may be identical or different.

(41) Referring to FIG. **2** and FIG. **3I**, step **S116** is performed, and a switching layer **310** is formed on the current structure. The switching layer **310** will be patterned to form the switching layer **110** as shown in FIG. **1A**. In some embodiments, the switching layer **310** globally and conformally covers the structure shown in FIG. **3H**. Accordingly, exposed surfaces of the channel structures **CH2**, the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** and the substrate **100** may be conformally covered by the switching layer **310**. In some embodiments, a method for forming the switching layer **310** may include a deposition process, such as an ALD process or a CVD process.

(42) Referring to FIG. **2** and FIG. **3J**, step **S118** is performed, and a gate material **GM2** is formed on the current structure. The gate material **GM2** will be patterned to form the gate structure **GS2** as shown in FIG. **1A**. The gate material **GM2** may fill up the trench **TR2**, and may extend onto the topmost surface of the switching layer **310**. In this way, the channel structures **CH2** in the trench **TR2** are wrapped by the switching layer **310** and the gate material **GM2**, and portions of the switching layer **310** above the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** may also be covered by the gate material **GM2**. In some embodiments, a method for forming the gate material **GM2** includes a deposition process (e.g., a CVD process or a PVD process), a plating process or a combination thereof.

(43) Referring to FIG. **2** and FIG. **3K**, step **S120** is performed, and portions of the gate material **GM2** and the switching layer **310** above the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** are removed. The remained gate material **GM2** forms the gate structure **GS2** as shown in FIG. **1A**, and the remained switching layer **310** forms the switching layer **110** as shown in FIG. **1A**. In addition, top surfaces of the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** are currently exposed. In some embodiments, a method for removing the portions of the gate material **GM2** and the switching layer **310** includes a planarization process. For instance, the planarization process may include a polishing process (e.g., a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process), an etching process or a combination thereof.

(44) Referring to FIG. **2** and FIG. **1A**, step **S122** is performed, and the isolation wall **112** is formed. As described with reference to FIG. **1A**, the isolation wall **112** vertically penetrates through the current structure on the substrate **100**, and cuts each of the gate structure **GS1**, the gate dielectric layer **108**, the stacking structure **ST3**, the gate structure **GS2** and the switching layer **110** into separated portions. The separated portions of the gate structure **GS1** respectively wrap a stack of the channel structures **CH1**, and the separated portions of the gate structure **GS2** respectively wrap a stack of the channel structures **CH2**. In some embodiments, a method for forming the isolation wall **112** includes forming a trench in the structure shown in FIG. **3J** by a lithography process and an etching process, and filling an insulating material into the trench by a deposition process (e.g., a CVD process). Subsequently, portions of the insulating material above the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** may be removed by a planarization process, and the remained insulating material forms the isolation wall **112**. For instance, the planarization process may include a polishing process (e.g., a CMP process), an etching process or a combination thereof.

(45) Up to here, the memory device **10** as shown in FIG. **1A** is formed. The memory device **10** may be subjected to further process for out-routing the gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** as well as the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**. Moreover, in alternative embodiments, the staircase structure(s) for exposing the conductive layers **106** of the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2** may be formed after formation of the trenches **TR1**, **TR2**. In these alternative embodiments, the staircase structure(s) is/are formed by a staircase-last process.

(46) FIG. **5** is a schematic three-dimensional view illustrating the memory device **10** with staircase structures **SC** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(47) Referring to FIG. **5**, end portions of the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2** are shaped into staircase structures **SC** by the staircase-first process or the staircase-last process. In some embodiments, each

of the conductive layers **106** (except for the topmost conductive layers **106**) in the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2** as well as the underlying channel layer **104** and isolation layer **102** are laterally protruded from overlying isolation layer **102**, channel layer **104** and conductive layer **106**, thus each conductive layer **106** could be exposed at a step of one of the staircase structures **SC**. By forming the staircase structures **SC**, the conductive layers **106** can be independently out-routed, for example, to a driving circuit (as will be further described with reference to FIG. **6**). In some embodiments, an end portion of the stacking structure **ST3** is also shaped into a staircase structure **SC**. Nevertheless, the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structure **ST3** may not be out routed. Moreover, in some embodiments, at least the gate structures **GS1**, **GS2** filled between the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** may not extend to the end portions of the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3** (i.e., the staircase structures **SC**). In these embodiments, isolation structures (not shown) may be filled between the staircase structures **SC**. In addition, in some embodiments, the staircase structures **SC** are covered by a dielectric layer (also not shown).

(48) FIG. **6** is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device **20** according to some embodiments in the present disclosure.

(49) Referring to FIG. **1A** and FIG. **6**, in some embodiments, the memory device **10** as described with reference to FIG. **1A** is embedded in a back-end-of-line (BEOL) structure **20B** of the semiconductor device **20** shown in FIG. **6**. The BEOL structure **20B** is formed on a front-end-of-line (FEOL) structure **20F**, and includes conductive elements electrically connected to active devices in the FEOL structure **20F**. In some embodiments, the FEOL structure **20F** is formed on a surface region of a semiconductor substrate **200**. For instance, the semiconductor substrate **200** may be a semiconductor wafer or a SOI wafer. The FEOL structure **20F** may include active devices **AD**. For conciseness, only two of the active devices **AD** is depicted. The active devices **AD**, such as a transistor, may respectively include a gate structure **202** and source/drain structures **204** at opposite sides of the gate structure **202**. In some embodiments, the gate structure **202** is disposed on a substantially flat surface of the semiconductor substrate **200**, and the source/drain structures **204** at opposite sides of the gate structure **202** are formed in shallow regions of the semiconductor substrate **200**. In these embodiments, the active device **AD** may be referred as a planar-type field effect transistor (FET), and a skin portion of the semiconductor substrate **200** covered by the gate structure **202** and extending between the source/drain structures **204** is functioned as a conductive channel of the FET. In alternative embodiments, the active device **AD** is formed as a fin-type FET (or referred as finFET) or a gate-all-around (GAA) FET. In these alternative embodiments, three-dimensional structures intersected with and covered by a gate structure are functioned as conductive channels of these FETs. Further, the FEOL structure **20F** may include contact plugs **206** standing on the gate structures **202** and the source/drain structures **204**, as well as a dielectric layer **208** laterally surrounding the gate structure **202** and the contact plugs **206**.

(50) The BEOL structure **20B** may include a stack of dielectric layers **210**, and include conductive elements **212** formed in the stack of dielectric layers **210**. The conductive elements **212** may include conductive traces and conductive vias. The conductive traces respectively extend on one of the dielectric layers **210**. The conductive vias respectively penetrate through one or more of the dielectric layers **210**, and establish electrical contact with one or more of the conductive traces. The conductive elements **212** are electrically connected to the active devices **AD** in the FEOL structure **20F**. In addition, the memory device **10** on the substrate **100** may be formed in another dielectric layer **214**, and routed to the underlying conductive elements **212** through conductive vias (not shown) penetrating through the substrate **100**. In some embodiments, some of the active devices **AD** and the conductive elements **212** interconnecting these active devices **AD** are electrically connected to the memory device **10**, and collectively form a logic circuit for driving the memory device **10**.

(51) FIG. **7** is a schematic diagram illustrating a semiconductor die **30** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(52) Referring to FIG. 7, in some embodiments, a logic circuit LC and a static random access memory (SRAM) circuit SC are integrated in the semiconductor die **30**. The logic circuit LC and the SRAM circuit SC may be formed in a FEOL structure and a portion of a BEOL structure of the semiconductor die **30**, and may be laterally adjacent to each other. The FEOL structure and the BEOL structure described herein are structurally similar to the FEOL structure **20F** and the BEOL structure **20B** as described with reference to FIG. 6. Further, the memory device **10** shown in FIG. 1A is embedded in the BEOL structure of the semiconductor die **30**, and is disposed over the logic circuit LC and the SRAM circuit SC. At least a portion of the logic circuit SC may be electrically connected to the overlying memory device **10**, for driving the memory device **10**. By stacking the memory device **10** over the logic circuit LC and the SRAM circuit SC, a footprint area of the semiconductor die **30** can be further reduced.

(53) FIG. 8 is a schematic plan view illustrating laterally adjacent memory cells MC of a memory device **10a** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. The memory device **10a** is similar to the memory device **10** described with reference to FIG. 1A through FIG. 1D, only differences therebetween will be described, the like or the same parts will not be repeated again.

(54) Referring to FIG. 8, in some embodiments, an isolation wall **112a** for operationally separating laterally adjacent memory cells MC does not laterally penetrate through the stacking structure ST3. Instead, the isolation wall **112** may have separated portions standing at opposite sides of the stacking structure ST3. One of the portions of the isolation wall **112a** extends through the gate structure GS1 and the gate dielectric layer **108** along the direction X. Similarly, another one of the portions of the isolation wall **112a** extends through the gate structure GS2 and the switching layer **110** along the direction X. In these embodiments, the conductive layers **106** in the stacking structure ST3 respectively extend through laterally adjacent memory cells MC, and are respectively shared by the laterally adjacent memory cells MC.

(55) FIG. 9 is a schematic plan view illustrating a memory device **10b** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. The memory device **10b** is similar to the memory device **10** described with reference to FIG. 1A through FIG. 1D, only differences therebetween will be described, the like or the same parts will not be repeated again.

(56) Referring to FIG. 9, the memory device **10b** includes multiple repetitive units U arranged along the direction X. Each of the repetitive units U may be the structure shown in FIG. 1A. Although only two of the repetitive units U are depicted in FIG. 9, the memory device **10b** may include more of the repetitive units U. In some embodiments, laterally adjacent repetitive units U are separated from each other by an insulating wall **114**. The insulating wall **114** stands on the substrate **100** (shown in FIG. 1A), and may extend along the direction Y. The insulating wall **114** may be formed of an insulating material, such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride or the like. In addition, a method for forming the insulating wall **114** may include forming a trench by a lithography process and an etching process (e.g., an anisotropic etching process), and include filling the insulating material into the trench by a deposition process (e.g., a CVD process). Subsequently, portions of the insulating material outside the trench are removed by a planarization process, and the remained portion of the insulating material forms the insulating wall **114**. For instance, the planarization process may include a polishing process, an etching process or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the insulating wall **114** and the isolation wall **112** may be formed in the same step. In alternative embodiments, the insulating wall **114** is formed before or after formation of the isolation wall **112**.

(57) FIG. 10 is a schematic plan view illustrating a memory device **10c** according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. The memory device **10c** is similar to the memory device **10b** described with reference to FIG. 9, only differences therebetween will be described, the like or the same parts will not be repeated again.

(58) Referring to FIG. 10, in some embodiments, the insulating walls **114** are alternately disposed between the repetitive units U. Those adjacent repetitive units U without one of the insulating walls

114 in between may share the same stacking structure **ST1** or the same stacking structure **ST2**, and may be in mirror symmetry with respect to the common stacking structure **ST1/ST2**. On the other hand, those adjacent repetitive units **U** with one of the insulating walls **114** in between may not share any of the stacking structures **ST1**, **ST2**, **ST3**, and may or may not be in mirror symmetry with respect to the insulating wall **114**.

(59) As above, the memory device according to embodiments of the present disclosure includes stacks of memory cells. Since the memory cells are stackable, the memory device is no longer limited by two-dimensional design, and a storage density of the memory device may be significantly increased. Further, in those embodiments where the gate structures of the memory cells are formed of metallic material(s), the memory device can be more compatible with back-end-of-line (BEOL) process due to lower process temperature. Moreover, as compared to programming a storage transistor by using hot carrier injection effect, a much lower voltage is required for programming the storage transistors in the memory cells according to some embodiments of the present disclosure by ferroelectric polarization effect.

(60) In an aspect of the present disclosure, a memory device is provided. The memory device comprises: first, second and third stacking structures, laterally spaced apart from one another, and respectively comprising a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer sandwiched between the conductive layer and the isolation layer, wherein the third stacking structures is located between the first and second stacking structures; a first channel structure, located between the first and third stacking structures, and connecting to the channel layers in the first and third stacking structures; a second channel structure, located between the second and the third stacking structures, and connecting to the channel layers in the second and third stacking structures; a gate dielectric layer, covering opposing sidewalls of the first and third stacking structures and wrapping around the first channel structure; a switching layer, covering opposing sidewalls of the second and third stacking structures and wrapping around the second channel structure; a first gate structure, filled in a space between the first and third stacking structures and covering the gate dielectric layer; and a second gate structure, filled in a space between the second and third stacking structures and covering the switching layer.

(61) In another aspect of the present disclosure, a semiconductor device is provided. The semiconductor device comprises a front-end-of-line (FEOL) structure and a back-end-of-line (BEOL) structure. The FEOL structure has active devices therein. The BEOL structure is disposed on the FEOL structure, and comprises conductive elements, an etching stop layer and a memory device. The conductive elements are electrically connected to the active devices in the FEOL structure. The etching stop layer lies over the conductive elements. The memory device is formed on the etching stop layer, and comprises: first, second and third stacking structures, laterally spaced apart from one another, and respectively comprising a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer sandwiched between the conductive layer and the isolation layer, wherein the third stacking structure is located between the first and second stacking structures; a first channel, extending between the channel layers in the first and third stacking structures; a second channel, extending between the channel layers in the second and third stacking structures; a gate dielectric layer, covering opposing sidewalls of the first and third stacking structures and wrapping around the first channel; a switching layer, covering opposing sidewalls of the second and third stacking structures and wrapping around the second channel; a first gate structure, filled in a space between the first and third stacking structures and covering the gate dielectric layer; and a second gate structure, filled in a space between the second and third stacking structures and covering the switching layer.

(62) In yet another aspect of the present disclosure, a manufacturing method of a memory device is provided. The method comprises: forming an initial stacking structure on a substrate, where the initial stacking structure comprises a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer sandwiched between the conductive layer and the isolation layer; forming first openings

penetrating through the initial stacking structure, wherein the first openings are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along a first direction; removing portions of the conductive layer and portions of the isolation layer between the first openings, such that the first openings are communicated with one another to form a first trench, and portions of the channel layer remained in the first trench forms first channel structures extending along a second direction intersected with the first direction; forming a gate dielectric layer and a first gate structure in the first trench, wherein the gate dielectric layer conformally covers the first channel structures and sidewalls of the first trench, and the first gate structure covers the gate dielectric layer and fills up the first trench; forming second openings aside the filled first trench, wherein the second openings are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along the first direction; removing portions of the conductive layer and portions of the isolation layer between the second openings, such that the second openings are communicated with one another to form a second trench, and portions of the channel layer remained in the second trench forms second channel structures extending along the second direction; and forming a switching layer and a second gate structure in the second trench, wherein the switching layer conformally covers the second channel structures and sidewalls of the second trench, and the second gate structure covers the switching layer and fills up the second trench.

(63) The foregoing outlines features of several embodiments so that those skilled in the art may better understand the aspects of the present disclosure. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that they may readily use the present disclosure as a basis for designing or modifying other processes and structures for carrying out the same purposes and/or achieving the same advantages of the embodiments introduced herein. Those skilled in the art should also realize that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, and that they may make various changes, substitutions, and alterations herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

Claims

1. A manufacturing method of a memory device, comprising: providing first, second and third stacking structures as well as first and second channel structures on a substrate, wherein the third stacking structure is located between the first and second stacking structures, the first, second and third stacking structures respectively comprise a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer lying between the conductive layer and the isolation layer, the first channel structure laterally extends from the channel layer in the first stacking structure to the channel layer in the third stacking structure, and the second channel structure laterally extends from the channel layer in the third stacking structure to the channel layer in the second stacking structure; forming a gate dielectric layer to wrap the first channel structure and to cover sidewalls of the first and third stacking structures facing each other; forming a switching layer to wrap the second channel structure and to cover sidewalls of the second and third stacking structures facing each other; and forming a first gate structure in between the first and third stacking structures and covering the gate dielectric layer; and forming a second gate structure in between the second and third stacking structures and covering the switching layer.
2. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second channel structures are elevated from the substrate, the first channel structure is wrapped all around by the gate dielectric layer and the first gate structure, and the second channel structure is wrapped all around by the switching layer and the second gate structure.
3. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second channel structures are respectively formed with a length-to-width ratio different from a length-to-width ratio of each channel layer in the first and second stacking structures.
4. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the channel

layers in the first, second and third stacking structures as well as the first and second channel structures are formed by patterning a channel layer.

5. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the second channel structure is substantially aligned with the first channel structure.

6. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the third stacking structure is lined with the gate dielectric layer and the switching layer by opposite sides.

7. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the third stacking structure is shorter in terms of width than each of the first and second stacking structures.

8. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the switching layer is formed of a ferroelectric material.

9. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 1, wherein the switching layer is a charge trapping layer.

10. A manufacturing method of a memory device, comprising: forming an initial stacking structure on a substrate, where the initial stacking structure comprises a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer sandwiched between the conductive layer and the isolation layer; forming a first trench into the initial stacking structure, wherein portions of the conductive layer and the isolation layer along the first trench are completely removed, and a portion of the channel layer along the first trench is shaped into a rod structure crossing the first trench; forming a second trench into the initial stacking structure, wherein the second trench is laterally spaced apart from the first trench, portions of the conductive layer and the isolation layer along the second trench are completely removed, and a portion of the channel layer along the second trench is shaped into a rod structure crossing the second trench; forming a gate dielectric layer to conformally cover surfaces exposed in the first trench; forming a switching layer to conformally cover surfaces exposed in the second trench; filling up the first trench with a first gate structure; and filling up the second trench with a second gate structure.

11. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 10, wherein forming each of the first and second trenches comprises an anisotropic etching process and a following isotropic etching process.

12. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 11, wherein the portion of the channel layer along the first trench is shaped to form the rod structure in the first trench during the anisotropic etching process for forming the first trench, and the portion of the channel layer along the second trench is shaped to form the rod structure in the second trench during the anisotropic etching process for forming the second trench.

13. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 11, wherein the rod structure in the first trench is released during the isotropic etching process for forming the first trench, and the rod structure in the second trench is released during the isotropic etching process for forming the second trench.

14. A manufacturing method of a memory device, comprising: forming an initial stacking structure on a substrate, where the initial stacking structure comprises a conductive layer, an isolation layer and a channel layer sandwiched between the conductive layer and the isolation layer; forming first openings penetrating through the initial stacking structure, wherein the first openings are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along a first direction; removing portions of the conductive layer and portions of the isolation layer between the first openings, such that the first openings are communicated with one another to form a first trench, and portions of the channel layer remained in the first trench forms first channel structures extending along a second direction intersected with the first direction; forming a gate dielectric layer and a first gate structure in the first trench, wherein the gate dielectric layer conformally covers the first channel structures and sidewalls of the first trench, and the first gate structure covers the gate dielectric layer and fills up the first trench; forming second openings aside the filled first trench, wherein the second openings are laterally spaced apart from one another, and are arranged along the first direction; removing

portions of the conductive layer and portions of the isolation layer between the second openings, such that the second openings are communicated with one another to form a second trench, and portions of the channel layer remained in the second trench forms second channel structures extending along the second direction; and forming a switching layer and a second gate structure in the second trench, wherein the switching layer conformally covers the second channel structures and sidewalls of the second trench, and the second gate structure covers the switching layer and fills up the second trench.

15. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 14, wherein the first and second channel structures are elevated from the substrate, the first channel structures are separately arranged along the first direction, and the second channel structures are separately arranged along the first direction as well.

16. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 15, further comprising: forming an isolation wall into the first and second gate structures, wherein the isolation wall extends between adjacent ones of the first channel structures, and between adjacent ones of the second channel structures.

17. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 16, wherein the isolation wall cuts through portions of the initial stacking structure between the first and second gate structures.

18. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 16, wherein the isolation wall has separate sections crossing the first and second gate structures, respectively.

19. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 14, wherein formation of the second openings, the second trench, the switching layer and the second gate structure is performed before or after formation of the first openings, the first trench, the gate dielectric layer and the first gate structure.

20. The manufacturing method of the memory device according to claim 14, further comprising: shaping a peripheral region of the initial stacking structure into a staircase structure.
