

**ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
MICROELECTRONIC ENGINEERING**

# Micro Bolometer

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Electrical and Microelectronic Engineering

Rochester Institute of Technology

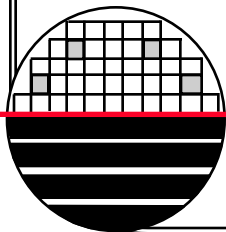
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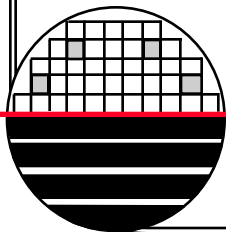
Email: [Lynn.Fuller@rit.edu](mailto:Lynn.Fuller@rit.edu)

Department webpage: <http://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/eme/MicroEoverview>



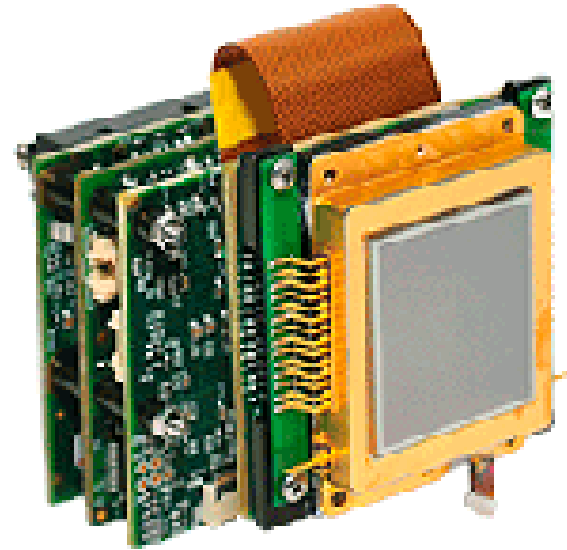
*ADOBE PRESENTER*

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*OUTLINE*

Introduction  
Manufactures & Applications  
Theory – Black Body Radiation  
Adsorption vs Wavelength  
Resistors  
Readout Amplifier  
Pixel Array  
Fabrication Process  
Test Results  
Packaging  
Commercial Devices  
Applications  
References  
Homework



## INTRODUCTION

A Bolometer is an infrared detector that works on a change in resistance resulting from the absorption of radiant infrared energy with wavelengths between 5 and 15 $\mu\text{m}$ . These sensors operate at room temperature and do not require cooling. At these wavelengths electron-hole pair generation is not the mechanism for resistance change since the photon energy is not higher than the material band gap. The infrared photons can be absorbed by the free carriers (electrons or holes) increasing their energy which upon relaxation increases the temperature of the material slightly. The sensor should be low mass, able to absorb infrared energy and be thermally isolated from surrounding materials. Materials such as amorphous silicon and vanadium oxide have been used for the sensor material. The resistors themselves should have a large temperature coefficient of resistance (TCR) and low sheet resistance (for low noise).

*INTRODUCTION*



*Rochester Institute of Technology  
Microelectronic I*

**MANUFACTURERS**

Fluke Corporation  
BAE Systems  
Raytheon  
L-3 Communications Infrared  
Products  
DRS Technologies  
GUIDR  
FLIR Systems  
Opal Optronics Ltd  
Vumii Imaging  
InfraredVision Technology Corp.  
NEC  
Institut National d'Optique  
Honeywell  
ULIS-IR



The FLIR Systems ThermoVision SENTRY Infrared Imaging System utilizes a 320x240 microbolometer array.

## APPLICATIONS

### Infrared Imaging Applications

Locate hotspots, perform non-contact temperature measurement, enhance drivers' night vision, improve building security, and help soldiers locate targets faster and more accurately.



visible image



infrared image

### Thermography

Enhance predictive maintenance programs, energy audits and process monitoring. Our infrared detectors are ideal to create thermography solutions that meet the requirements for hot spot detection, non-contact temperature measurement, electromechanical maintenance, building insulation assessment and moisture detection.



visible image



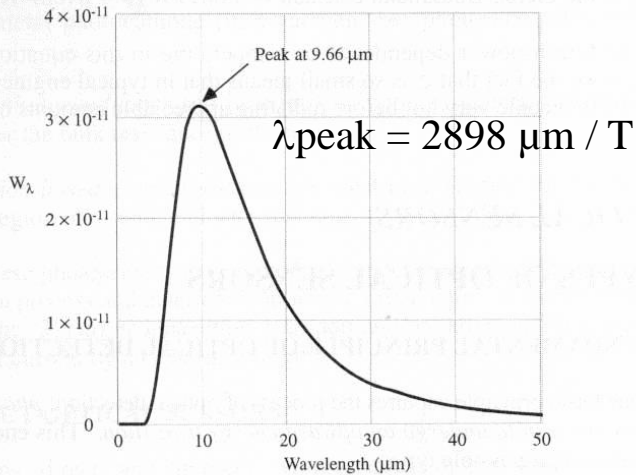
infrared image

### Firefighting

Firefighters often find themselves in situations where smoke obscures a clear view of the surroundings. Thermal imaging cameras allow firefighters to see through the smoke, permitting them to locate trapped victims or downed firefighters, to navigate through smoke-filled buildings, as well as to detect hot spots even after a fire has been extinguished.

## BLACK BODY RADIATION

From: Micromachined Transducers, Gregory T.A. Kovacs



Plot of  $W_\lambda$  versus  $\lambda$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) for a 300 K (room temperature) object assuming  $\epsilon = 1$  (human body temperature corresponds to a peak at  $\approx 9.4 \mu\text{m}$ ).

$$W_\lambda = \frac{\epsilon(\lambda) 2\pi hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\left( e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda kT}} - 1 \right)} \quad \text{in W/m}^2$$

Wien's Displacement Law  
 $\lambda_{\text{peak}} = 2898/T \quad (\mu\text{m})$

From: Solar Cells, Martin A. Green, Prentice Hall

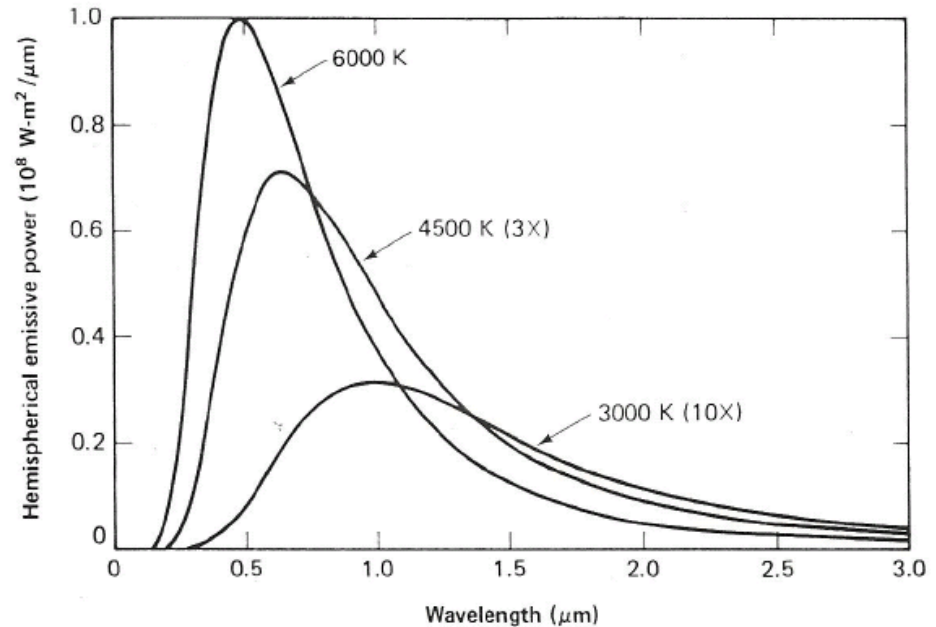


Figure 1.1. Planckian black-body radiation distributions for different black-body temperatures.

$$h = 6.6262\text{E-}34 \text{ J s} = 4.1361\text{E-}15 \text{ eV s}$$

$$\lambda = c/v$$

$$k = 1.38\text{e-}23 \text{ J/K}$$

$W_\lambda$  = radiant flux

$\epsilon(1)$  = emissivity (dimensionless,  $\epsilon=1$  for black body)



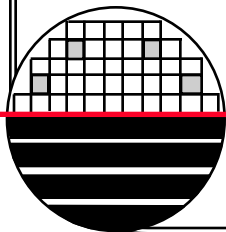
*THEORY*

Resistance Change (Responsivity, TCR)

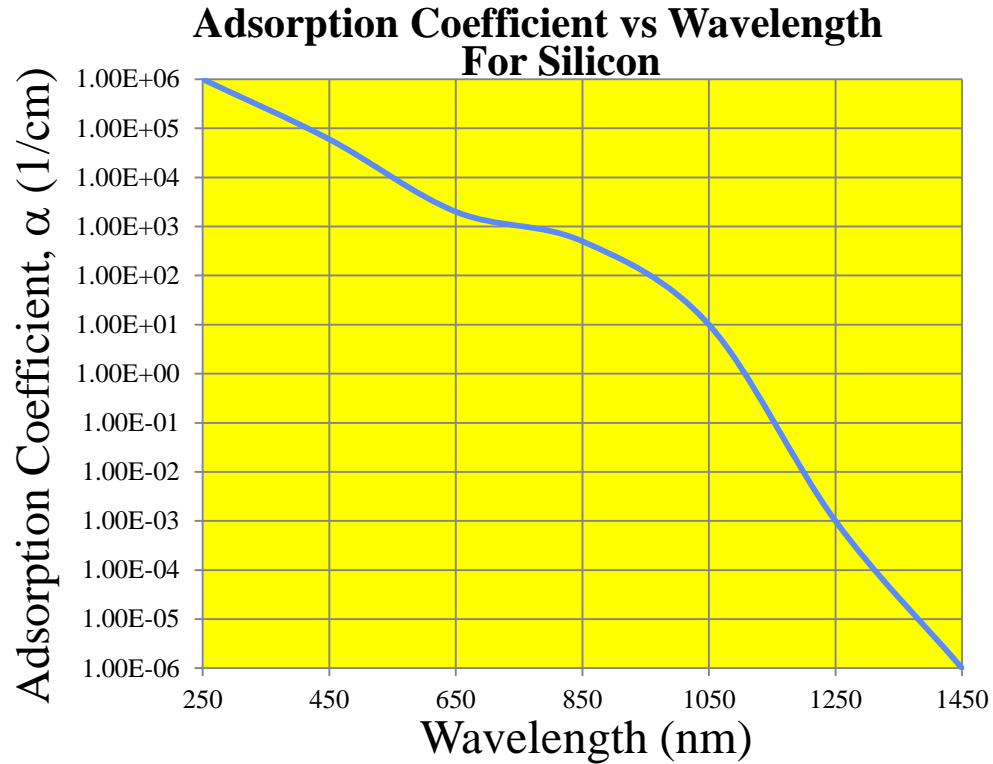
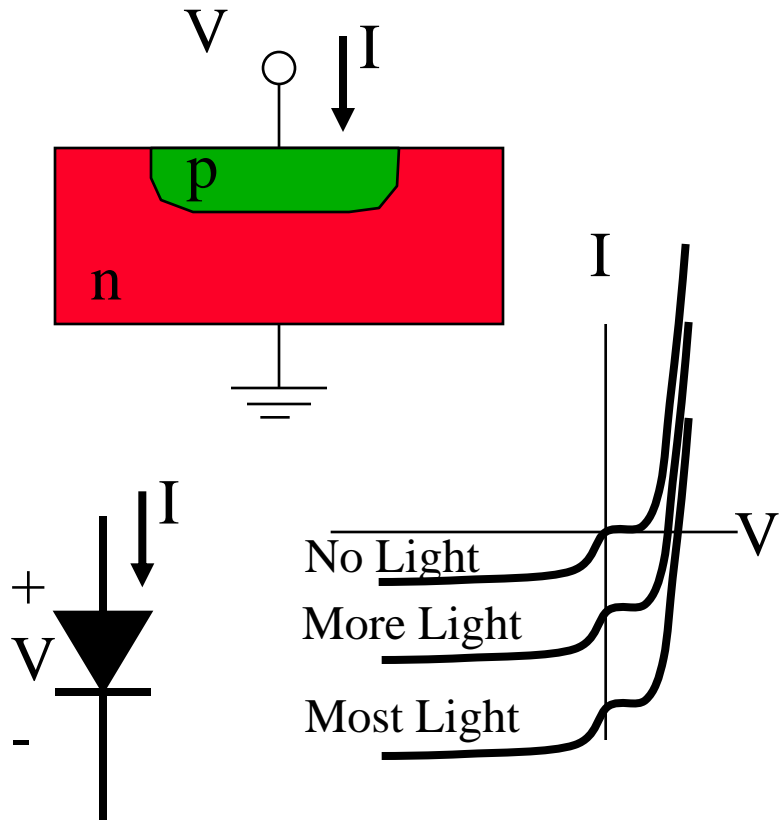
Materials

Noise

Active vs Passive



# ADSORPTION VERSUS DISTANCE



$$\phi(x) = \phi(0) \exp^{-\alpha x}$$

Find % adsorbed for Green light at  $x=5 \mu\text{m}$  and Red light at  $5 \mu\text{m}$

## *SILICON AND POLYSILICON MATERIALS*

### Single Crystal Silicon

Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 0.5\mu\text{m}$  is  $1\text{E}4 / \text{cm}$

Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 1.4\mu\text{m}$  is  $3.2\text{E}-8 / \text{cm}$

### Polysilicon

Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 0.5\mu\text{m}$  is  $5.074\text{E}4 / \text{cm}$

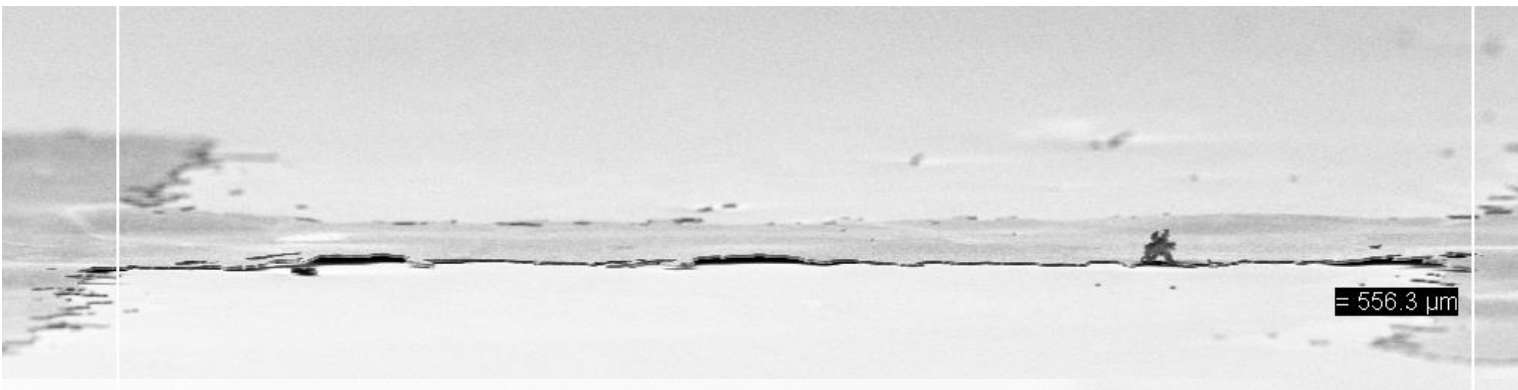
Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 1.2\mu\text{m}$  is  $1.0\text{E}-2 / \text{cm}$

### Amorphous Silicon

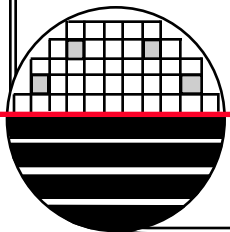
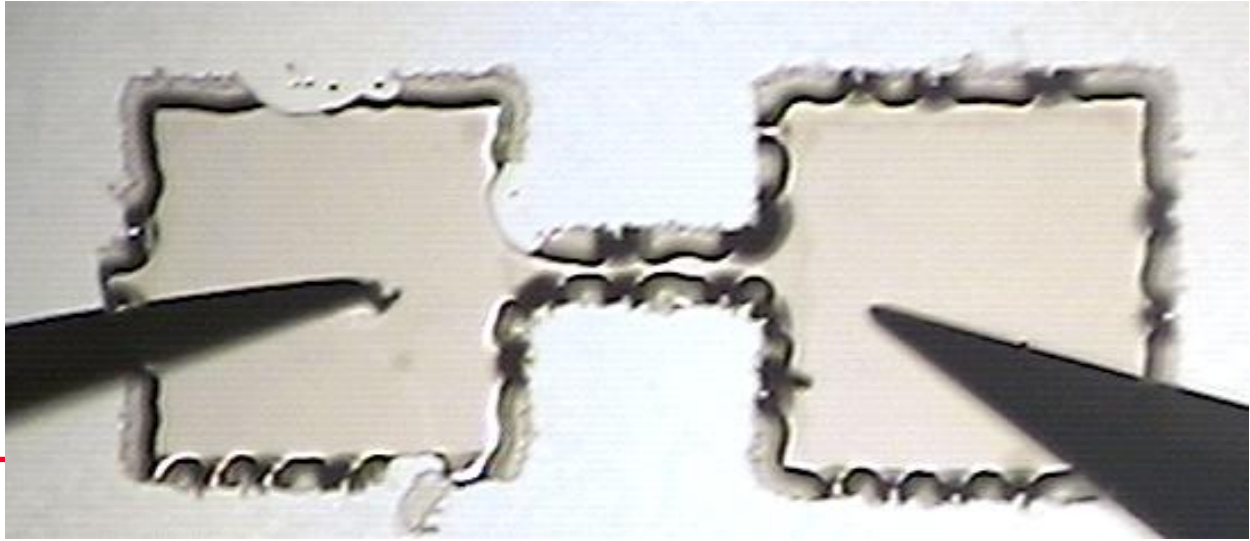
Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 0.5\mu\text{m}$  is  $???\text{E}? / \text{cm}$

Absorption coefficient  $\alpha$  at  $\lambda = 3\mu\text{m}$  is  $???\text{E}? / \text{cm}$

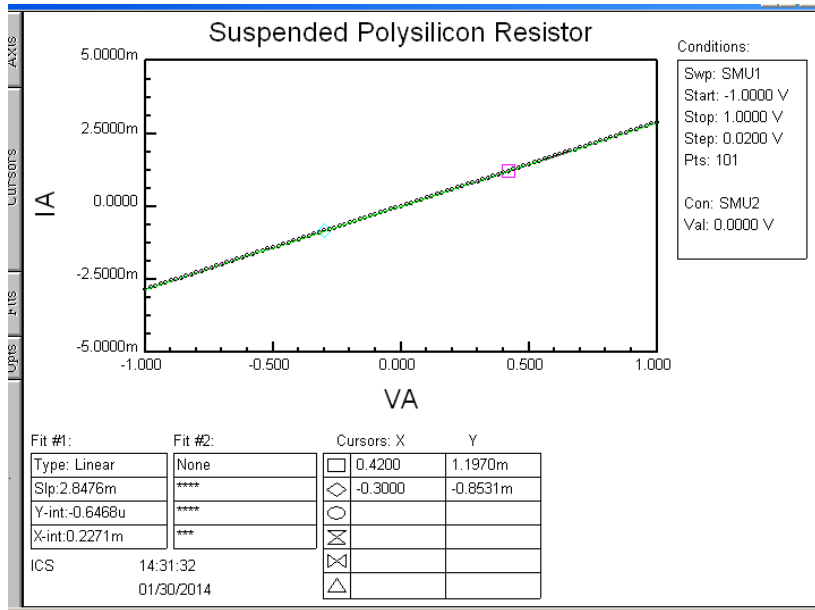
**SUSPENDED POLYSILICON RESISTOR**



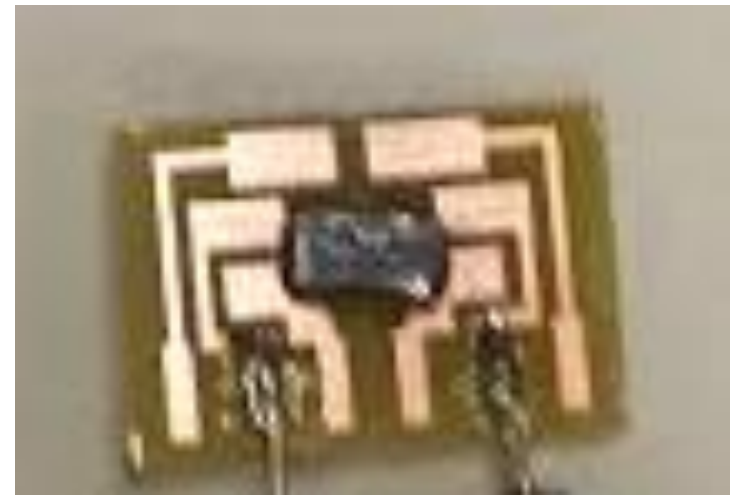
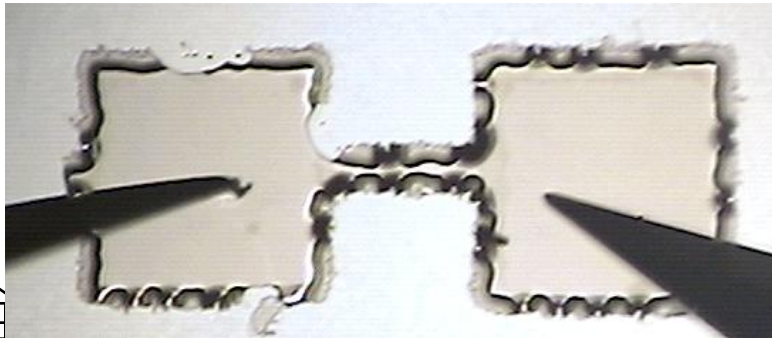
20μm | EHT = 20.00 kV | Probe = 50 pA | Mag = 183 X | Date : 8 May 2014 | Time : 14:35:21  
WD = 15 mm | Stage at T = 84.0 ° | File Name = 84deg\_05.tif



## SUSPENDED POLYSILICON RESISTOR

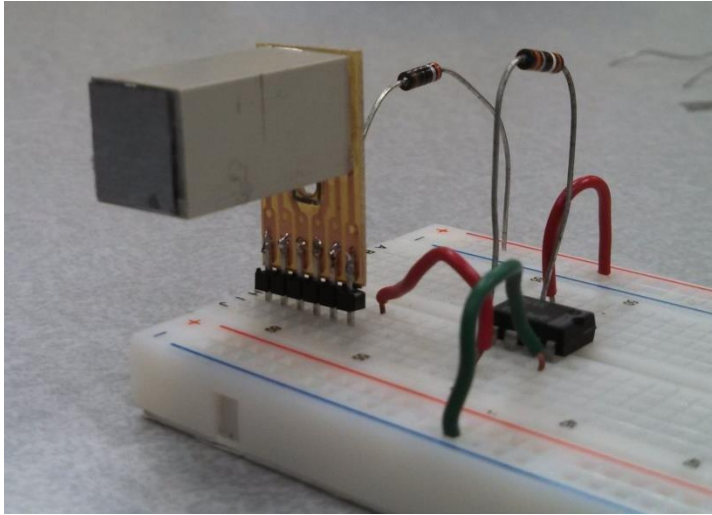


Resistor	Resistance
No Heat	267.41 $\Omega$
Heat (No Light)	267.42 $\Omega$
Heat (Uncovered)	267.47 $\Omega$



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*SUSPENDED POLYSILICON RESISTOR*

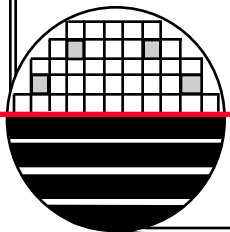
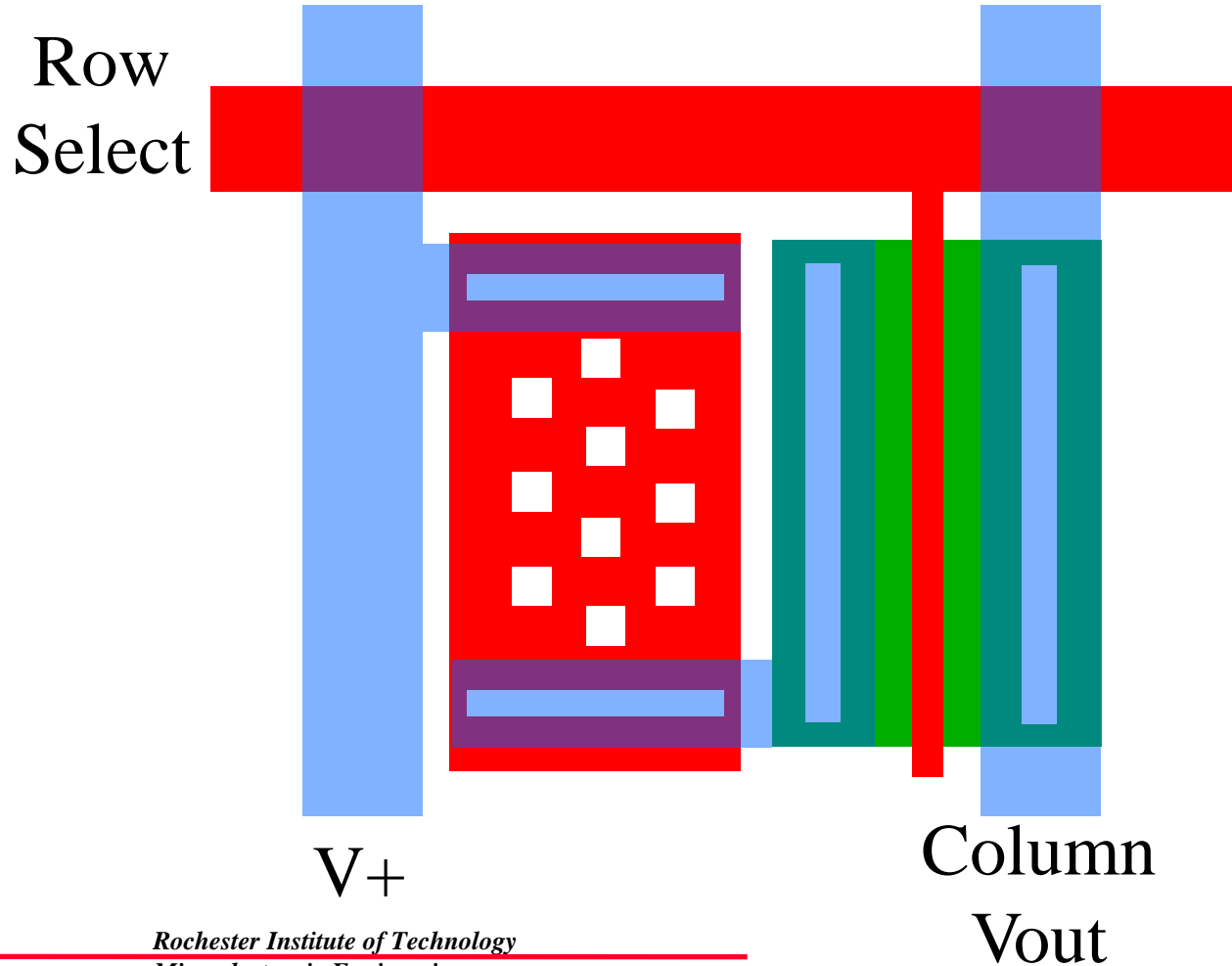


Sensitivity =  $10\text{mohms}/267\text{ohms}/100/^{\circ}\text{C}$   
=  $0.004\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$

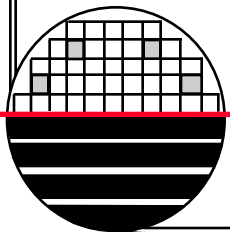
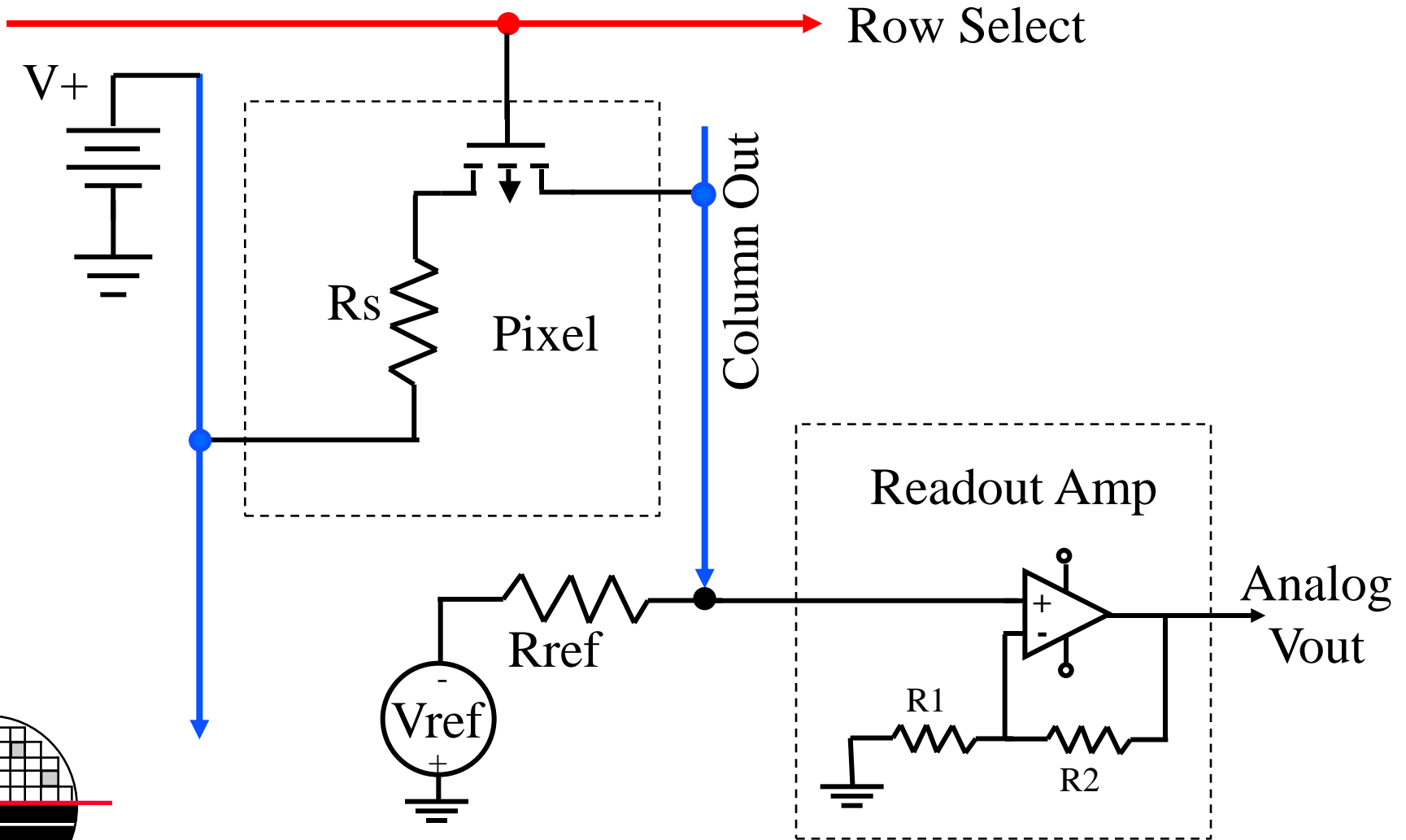
Compared to industry TCR's of  $2.0\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$



*PIXEL LAYOUT*

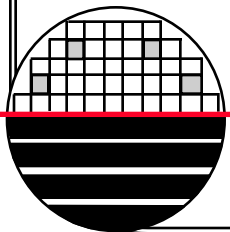
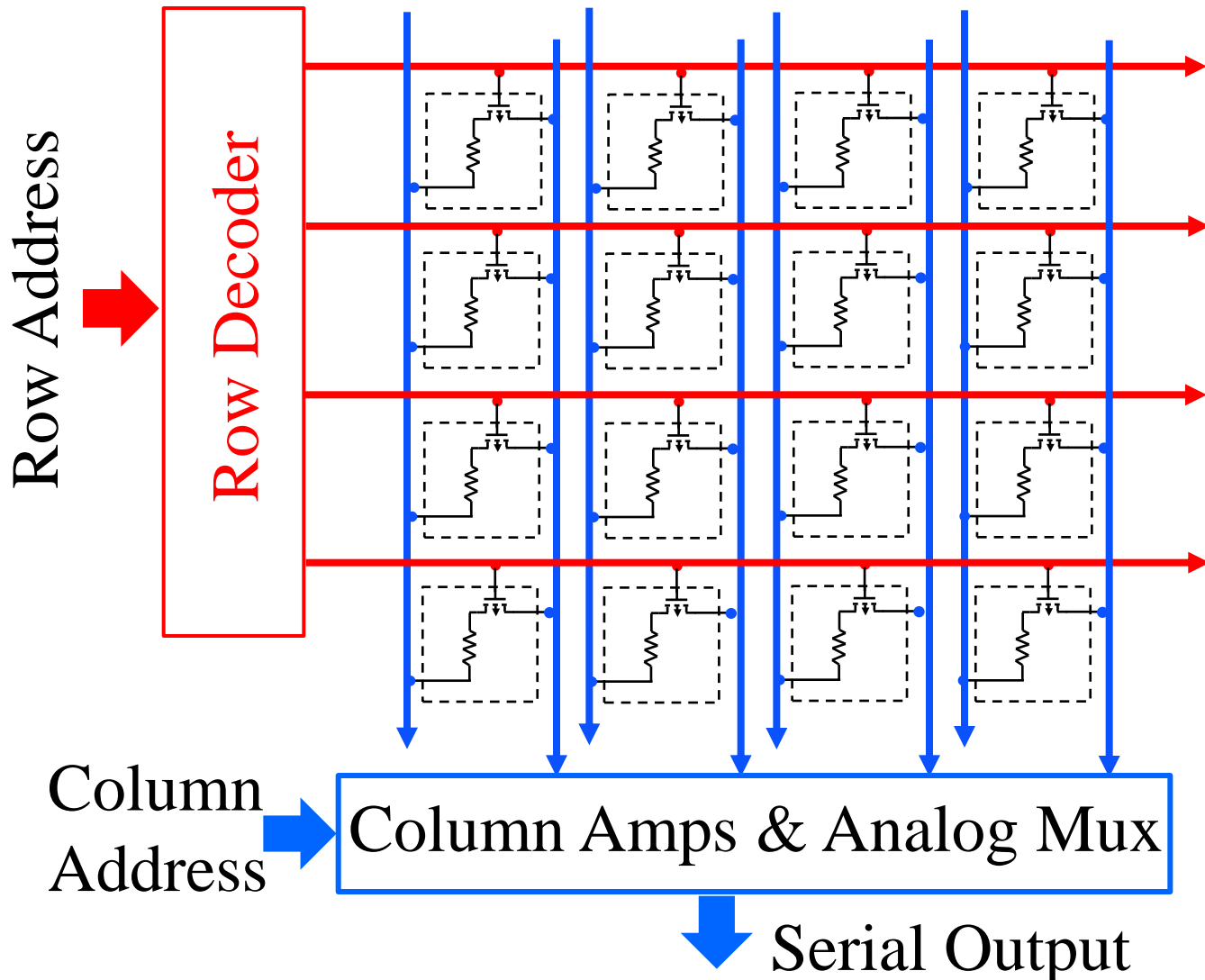


*SINGLE PIXEL AND READOUT AMPLIFIER*

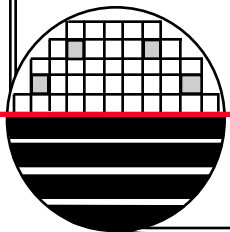
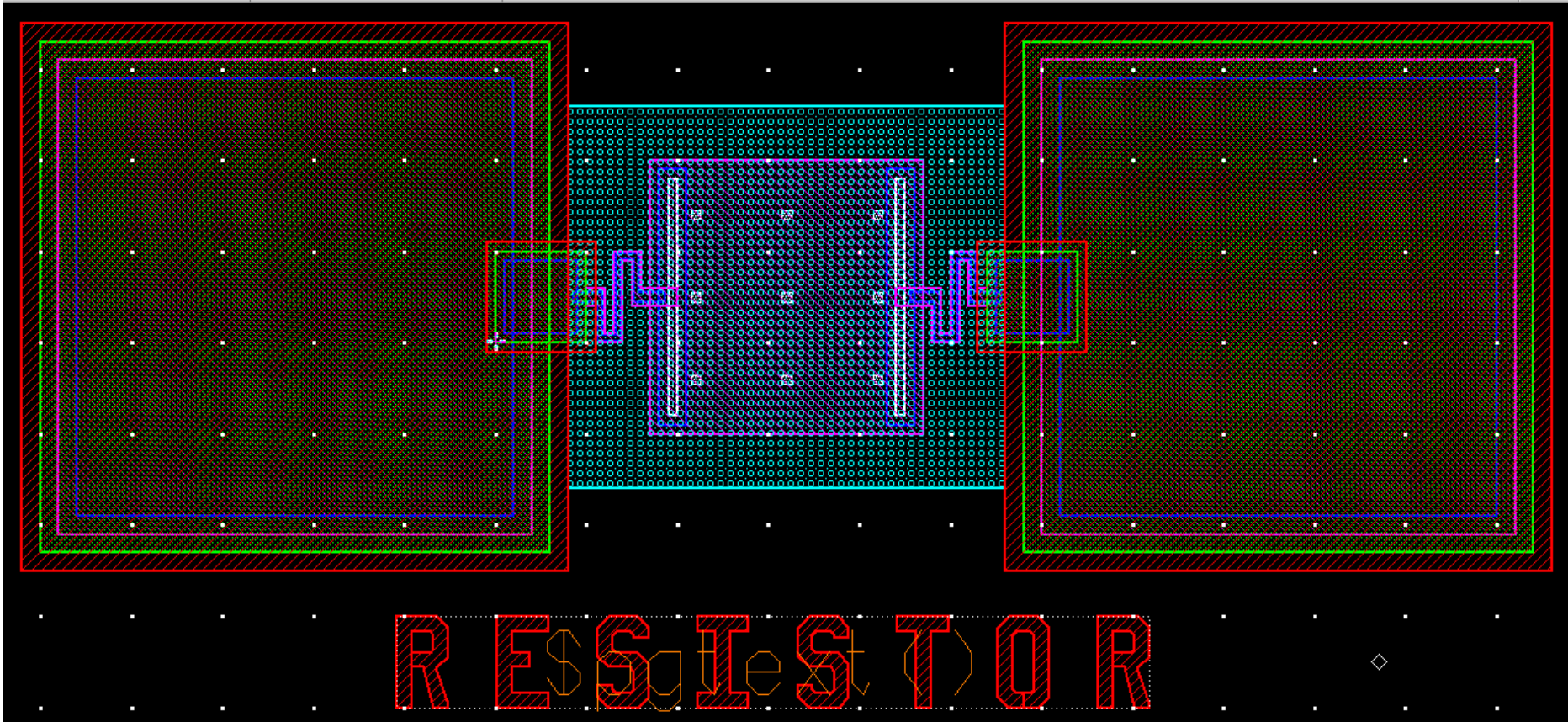




4x4 PIXEL ARRAY

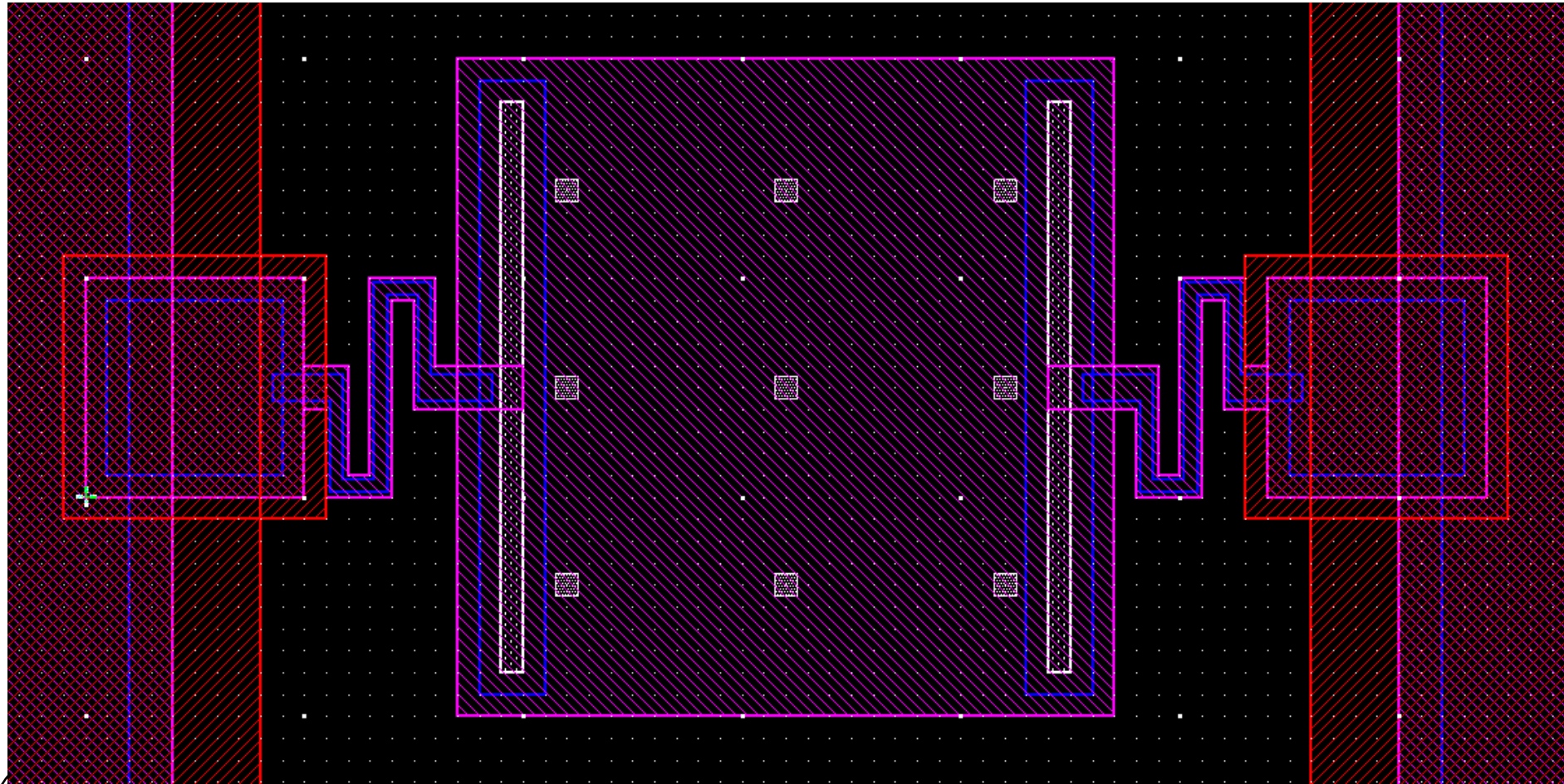


**RESISTOR - BOLOMETER**

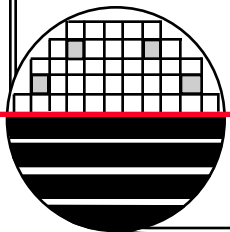
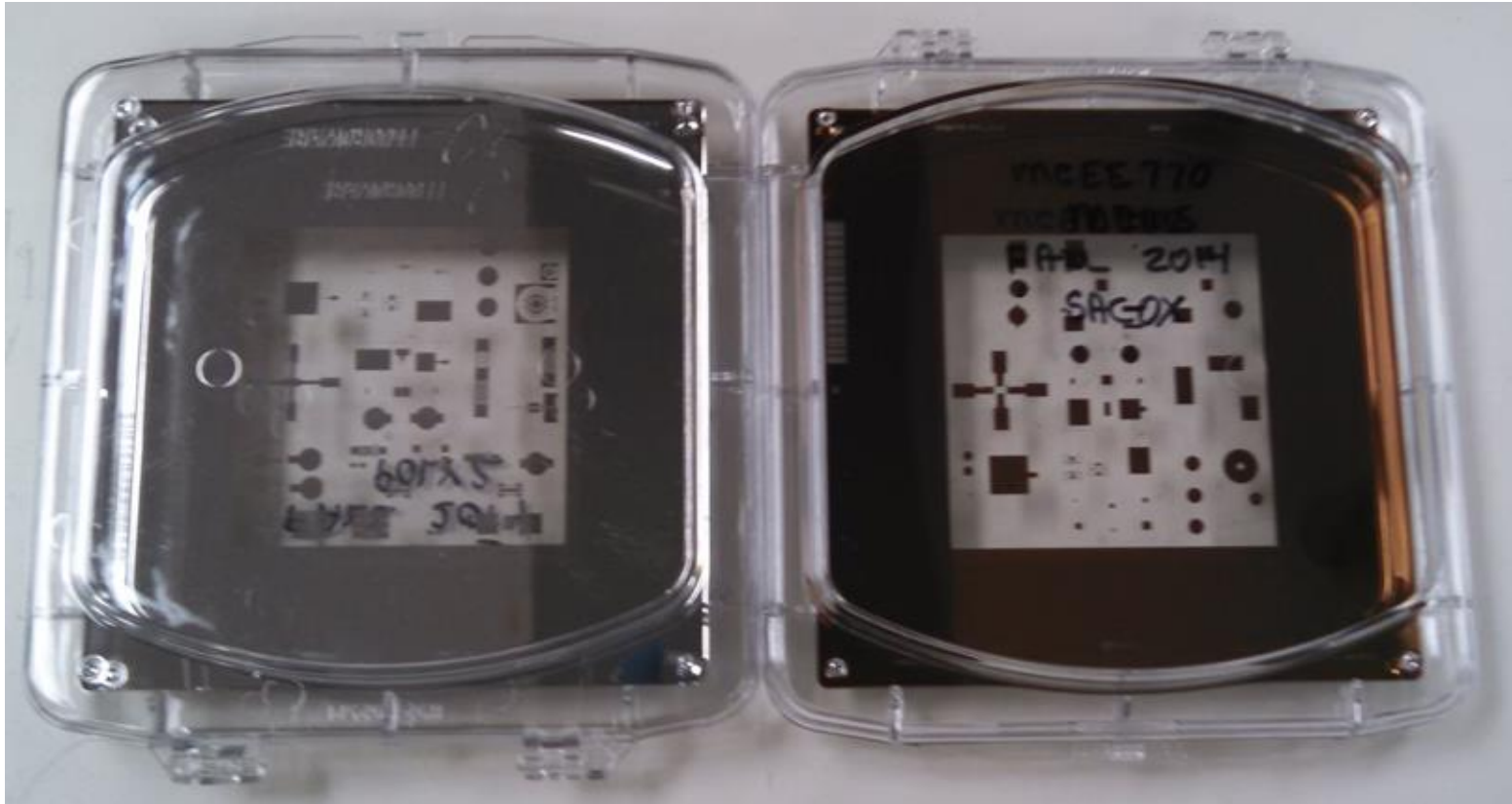


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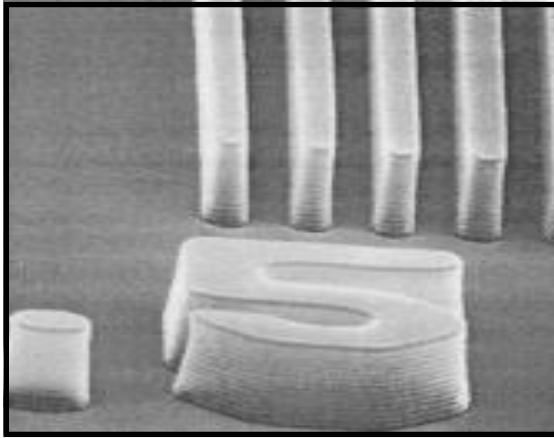
*RESISTOR - BOLOMETER*



*PICTURE OF PHOTOMASKS*



*ASML 5500/200*



NA = 0.48 to 0.60 variable  
 $\sigma = 0.35$  to 0.85 variable  
With Variable Kohler, or  
Variable Annular illumination  
Resolution =  $K_1 \lambda / NA$   
 $\approx 0.35 \mu\text{m}$   
for NA=0.6,  $\sigma = 0.85$   
Depth of Focus =  $k_2 \lambda / (NA)^2$   
 $\Rightarrow 1.0 \mu\text{m}$  for NA = 0.6



i-Line Stepper  $\lambda = 365 \text{ nm}$   
22 x 27 mm Field Size

***MICRO BOLOMETER MASK AND STEPPER JOB***

Mask Barcode:

Stepper Job: Gottschalk

Level 0 (combi reticle)

Level Clearout (no reticle needed)

Level Poly

Level Alum

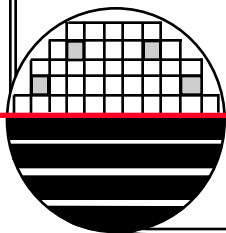
Level Via

Level 0            Coat, Develop

Level Poly        Coat, Develop

Level Alum       Coatmtl, Devmtl

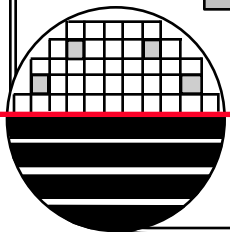
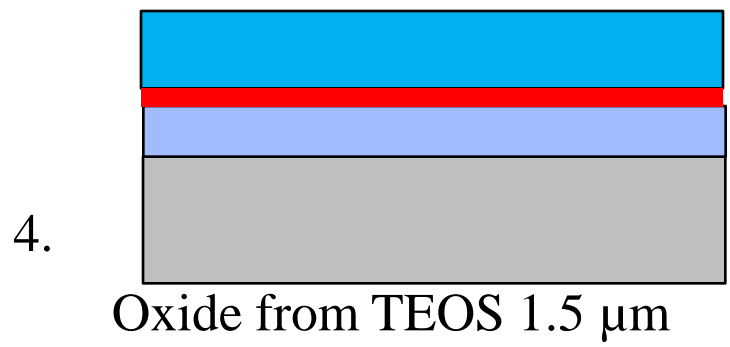
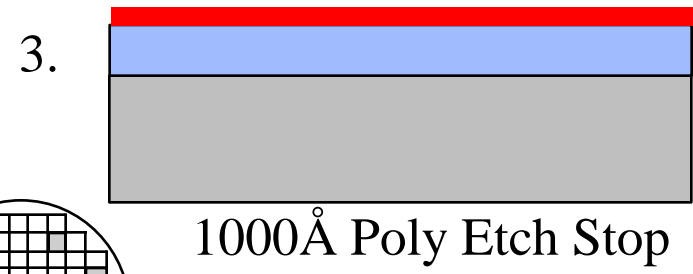
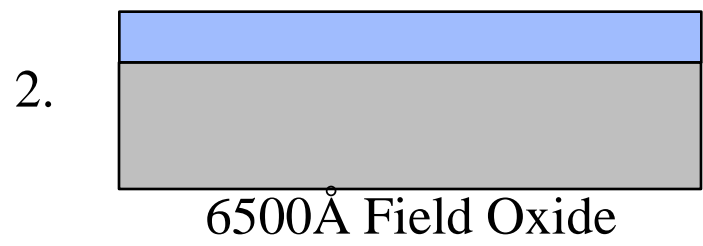
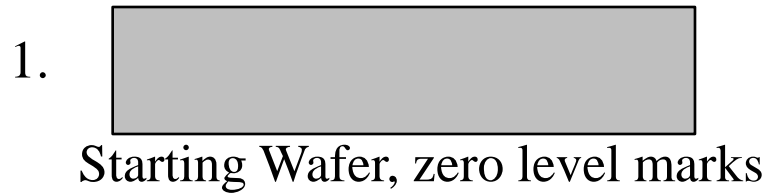
Level Via         Coatmtl, Devmtl



## *SURFACE MEMS 2014 PROCESS*

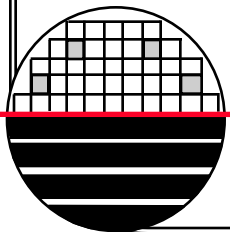
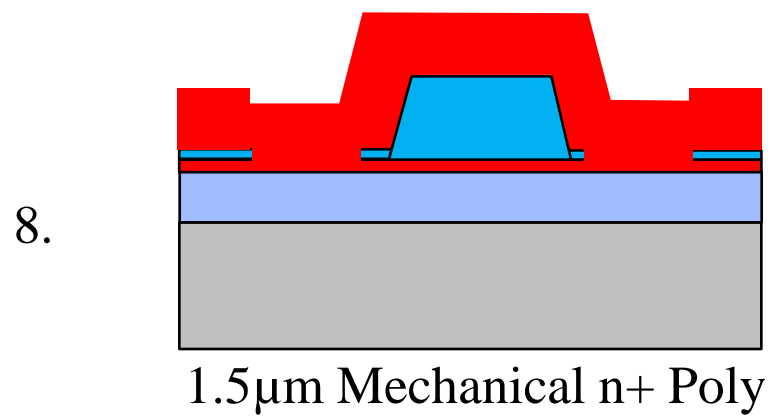
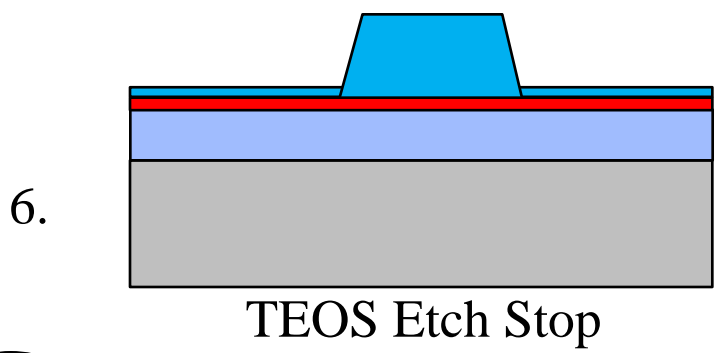
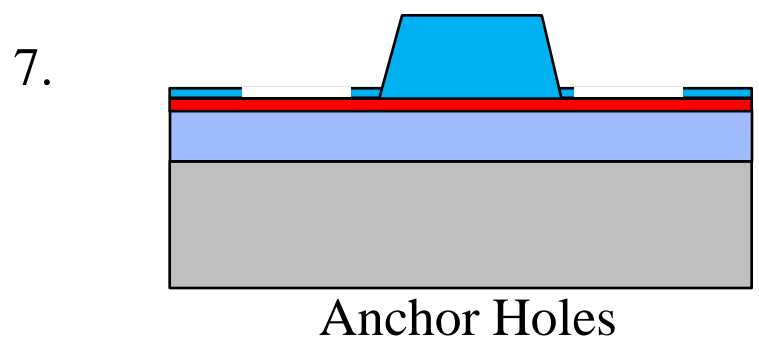
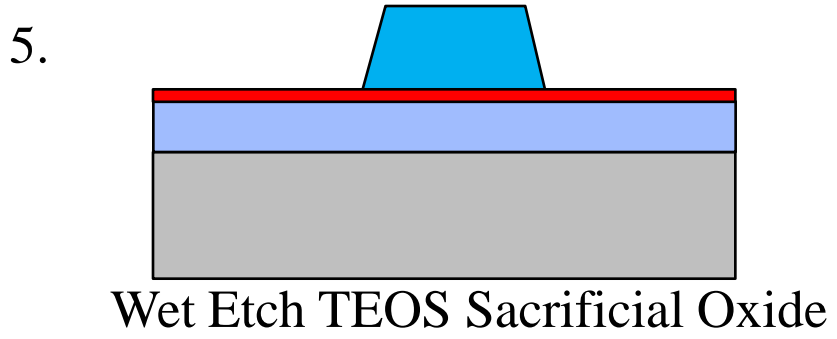
1. Starting wafer
2. PH03 – level 0, Marks
3. ET29 – Zero Etch
4. ID01-Scribe Wafer ID, D1...
5. ET07 – Resist Strip, Recipe FF
6. CL01 – RCA clean
7. OX04 – 6500Å Oxide Tube 4
8. CV01 – LPCVD Poly 5000Å
9. PH03 – level 1 Poly-1
10. ET08 – Poly Etch
11. ET07 – Resist Strip, Recipe FF
12. CL01- RCA clean 2 HF dips
13. CV01- LPCVD Poly 1000Å
14. IM01-P31 2E16 100KeV
15. OX04 – Anneal Recipe 119
16. CV03-TEOS SacOx Dep 1.5um
17. PH03-level 2 SacOx
18. ET06-wet etch SacOx
19. ET07- Resist Strip, Recipe FF
20. CV03-TEOS Etch Stop
21. PH03-Level 3 Anchor-Thick Resist
22. ET06-Wet Etch Oxide
23. ET07-Resist Strip Recipe FF
24. CV01-LPCVD Poly 1.5um
25. PH03-Level 4 No Implant
26. IM01-P31 2E16 100KeV
- 27; ET07 Resist Strip, Recipe FFF
28. OX04-Anneal Recipe 119
29. DE01 Four Point Probe
30. PH03-Level 5 Poly2
31. ET68-STs Etch
32. ET07 Resist Strip, Recipe FFF
33. ET66-SacOx Etch
34. OX05-Consume Etch Stop Poly
35. PH03-Level 6 CC
36. ET06- wet etch BOE
37. ET07 Resist Strip, Recipe FFF
38. CL01-Special
39. ME01 – Sputter Aluminum
40. PH03-Level 7, Metal
41. ET15 – plasma Al Etch
42. ET07 – Resist Strip, Recipe FFF
43. SI01 – sinter Tube 2, Recipe ???
44. SEM1 – SEM Pictures
45. TE01 - Testing

*FABRICATION PROCESS*



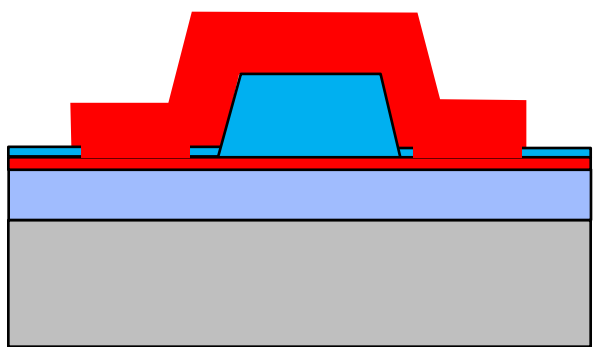


*FABRICATION PROCESS*



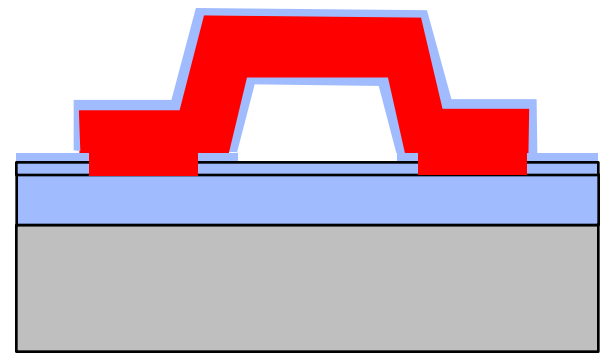
*FABRICATION PROCESS*

9.



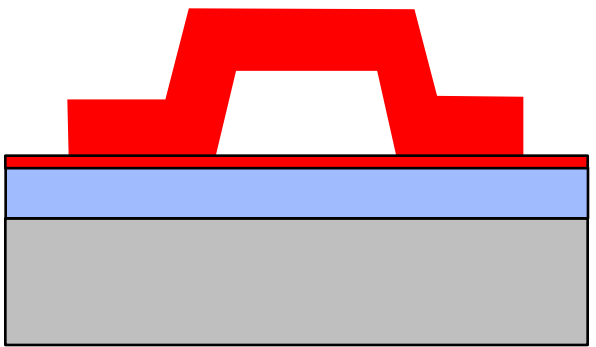
Etch Poly STS Etcher

11.



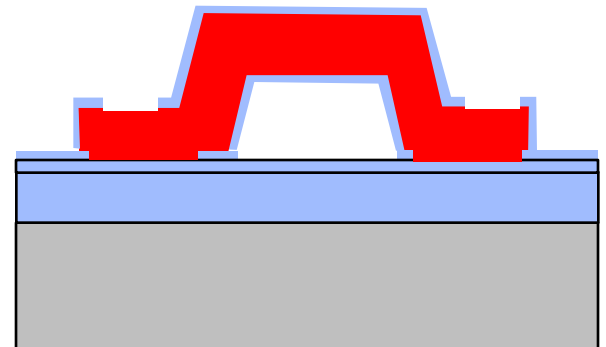
Oxidize Poly

10.

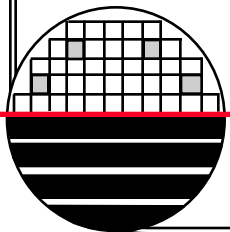


Wet Etch Sacrificial Oxide

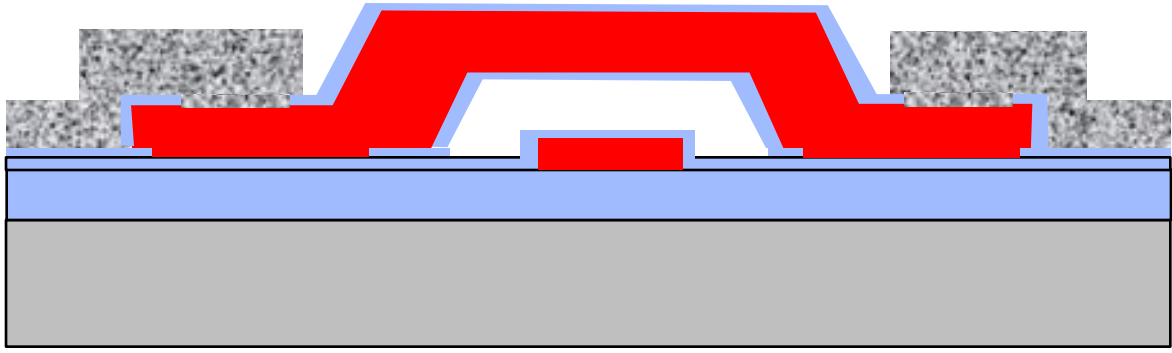
12.



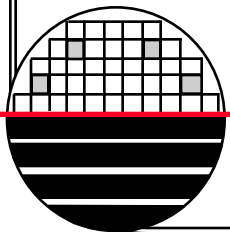
Etch Contact Cuts



*FABRICATION PROCESS*

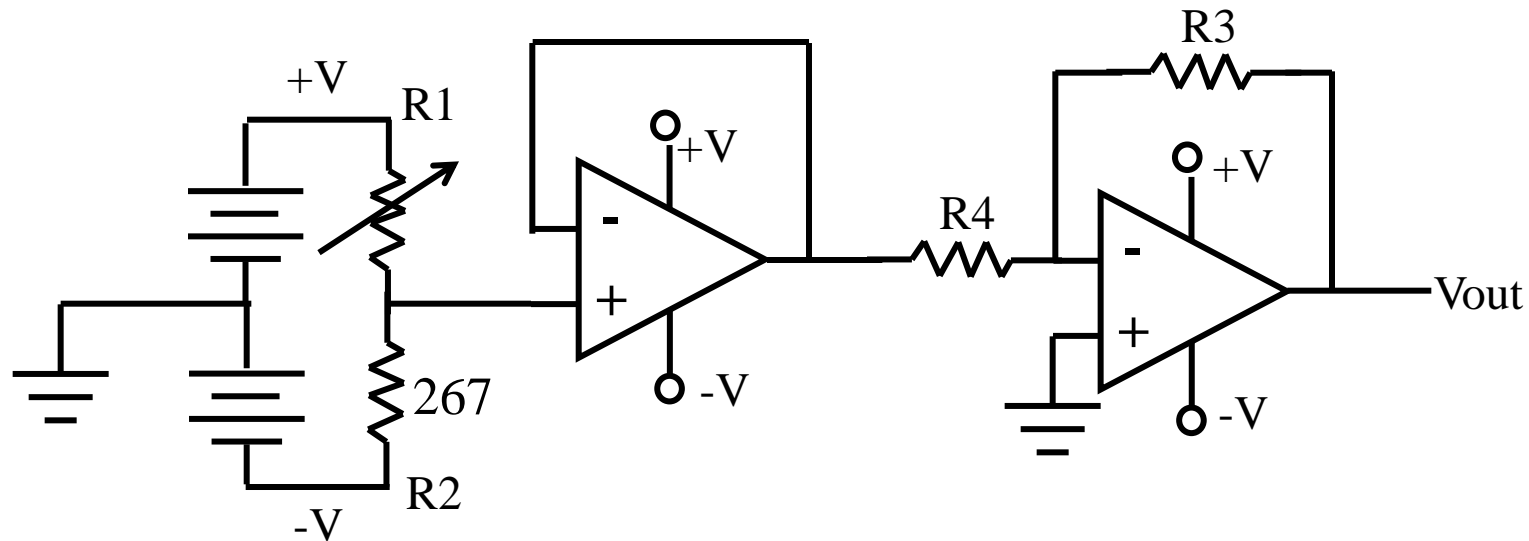


Final Cross Section



**SINGLE RESISTOR TESTING**

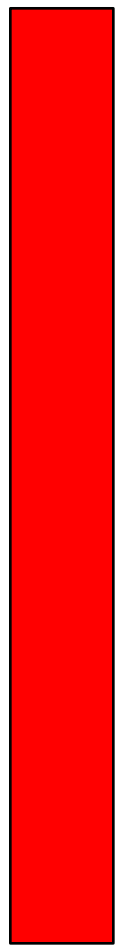
If R1 is the temperature sensing resistor and R2 is equal value then Vout is zero.



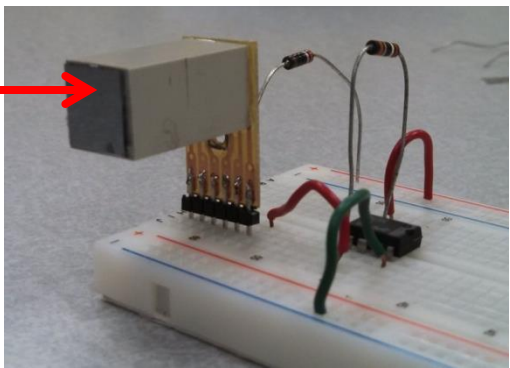
0.004%/°C with gain of 1000 and 100C we get  
 $V_{out}$  of  $V((1.004)/(2.004)-1/2) = V \times 0.000998$   
 if  $V=3$  volts then  $V_{out} = \sim 3mV$

*PACKING AND TESTING*

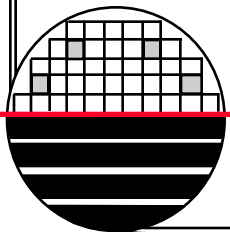
Hot Plate



Rosewell  
Infrared  
Thermometer



RIT Sensor

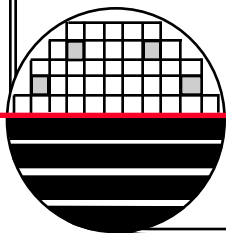


### *SUMMARY*

Much more work is needed to finish this study.

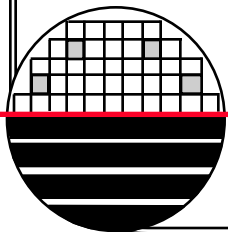
TCR of resistors needs to be increased by 1000 over what we measured in the proof of concept study.

New materials such as Ni Oxide has been proposed for the sensor resistors.



## REFERENCES

1. “Micro Bolometer.” *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. *Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.*, 3 May 2013. Web.
2. Device Electronics for Integrated Circuits, Richard S. Muller, Theodore I. Kamins, Mansun Chan, John Wiley & Sons., 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 2003.
3. Micromachined Transducers, Gregory T. A. Kovacs, McGraw Hill, 1998.



***HOMWORK – MICRO BOLOMETER***

1. none

