3D IC Pixel Electronics – *the next challenge*

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Outline

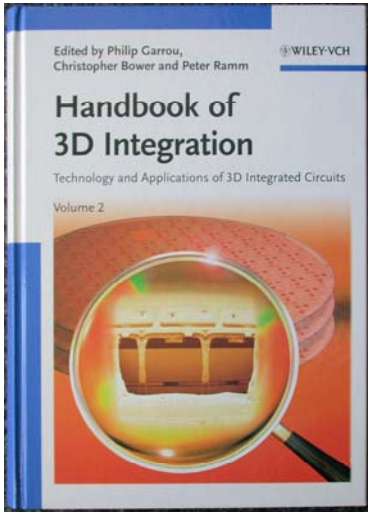
- The Reasons for 3D Integration
- Principles of 3D
- 3D Activities in HEP
- Lessons and a Path Forward

The Challenge

- There is no question that 3D integrated circuit design will play an important role in the continuing development of high performance integrated circuits. Will HEP be prepared to take advantage of these new technological developments? - *that is the challenge that lies before us*

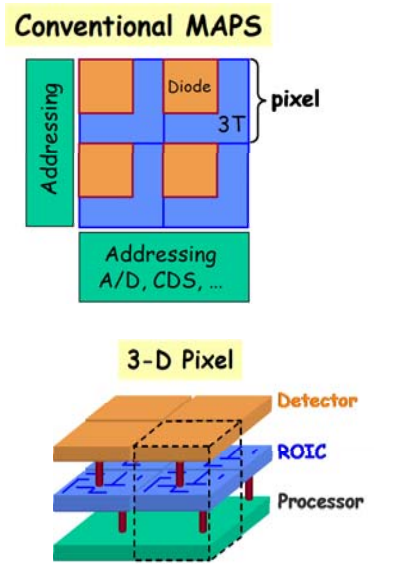
Definition of 3D Integration and Driving Factors for 3D

- The just released Handbook of 3D Integration defines 3D integration as "the vertical integration of thinned and bonded silicon integrated circuits with vertical interconnects between the IC layers."[1]
- 3D is now positioned to make significant improvements to major drivers for that are critical for the semiconductor industry
  - Better electrical performance
  - Lower power consumption
  - Form factor improvement
  - Lower cost
  - More functionality
  - Mixed technologies

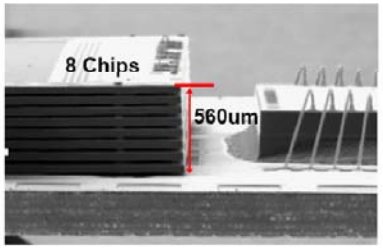


Major Markets being Pursued by Industry for 3D integration[1]

- Pixel arrays for imaging
  - Pixel arrays with sensors and readout are well suited to 3D integration since signal processing can be placed close to the sensor. Current 2D approaches cannot handle the data rate needed for high speed imaging.
- Memory
  - All major memory manufactures are working on 3D memory stacks. Significant cost reductions can be expected for large memory devices. The cost of 3D can be significantly less than going to a deeper technology node.[2]



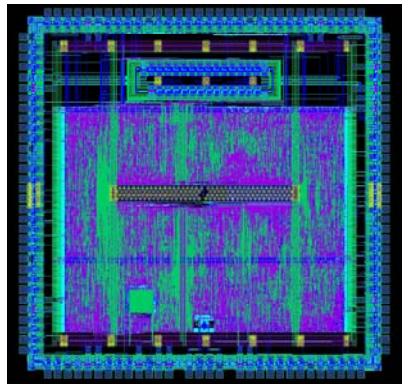
< NAND 8 Stacked Memory Card >



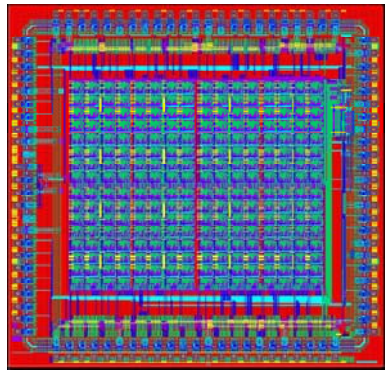
(Samsung)

Major Markets being Pursued for 3D

- Microprocessors
  - A major bottleneck is access time between CPU and the memory. Memory caches are used as an interface but the area required is significant. Initial applications for 3D will use Logic to Memory, and Logic to Logic stacking. Intel is claiming terabyte transfer rates between stacked memory and multicore processors is possible.
- FPGAs
  - Wire delays are an inherent problem is 2D FPGAs. 3D integration can improve performance by removing the programmable interconnect from the logic block layer and moving it to another tier.



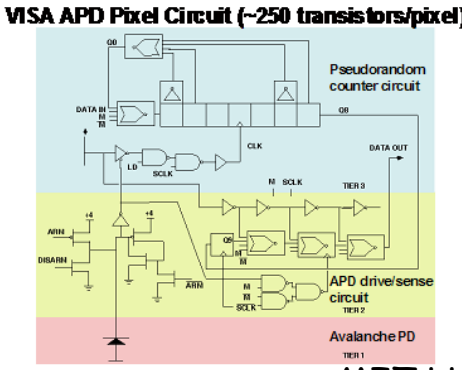
CPU and 220 MHz memory Stack (Tezzaron)

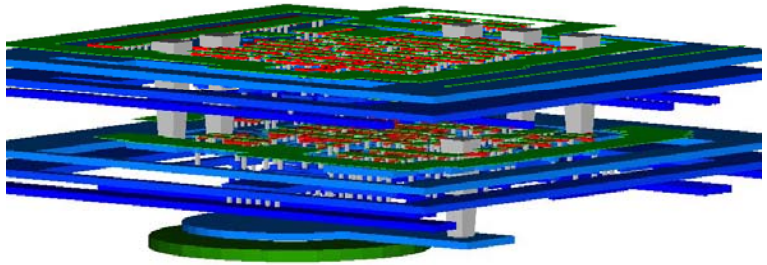


FPGA – 12 vertical interconnects per logic block (Tezzaron)

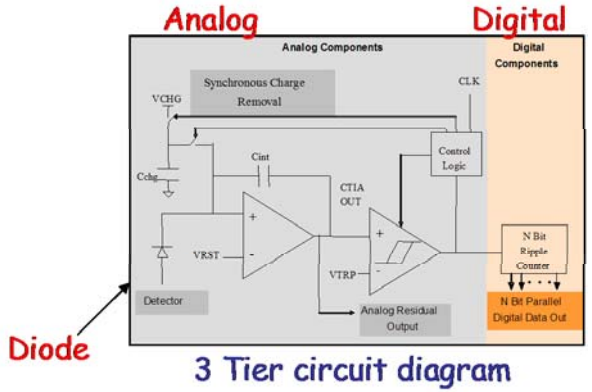
Areas of Interest to HEP

- 3D Pixel arrays with high functionality and smaller form factor for particle tracking

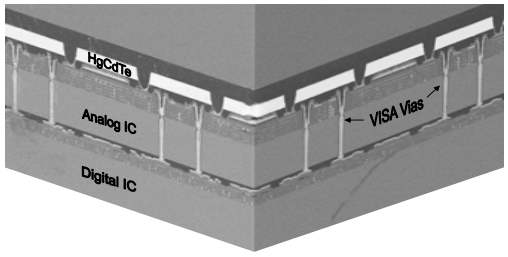




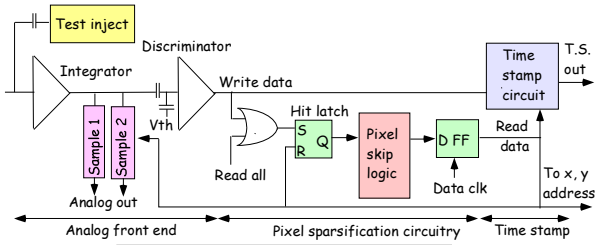
MIT LL 3D Laser Radar imager[3]

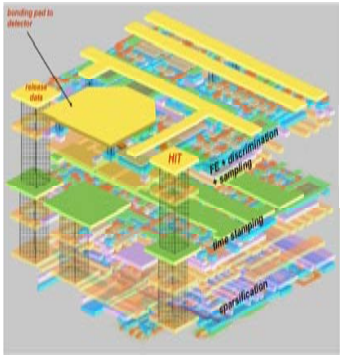


3 Tier circuit diagram



256 x 256 Infrared Pixel Array[4]



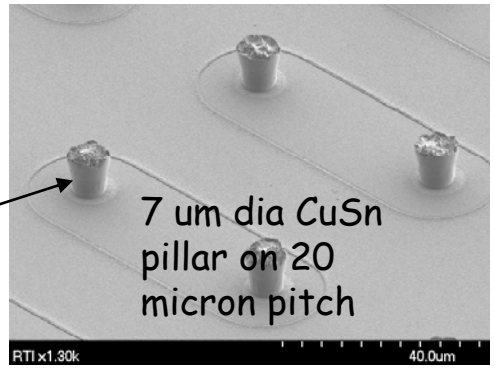


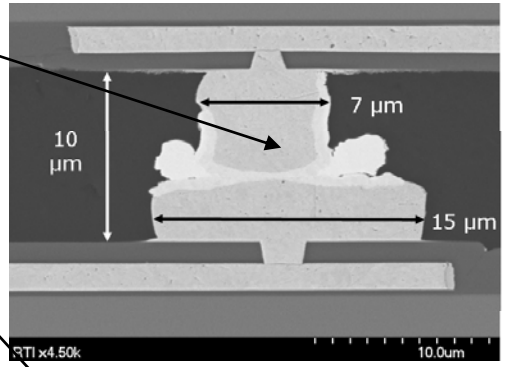
Fermilab ILC Pixel Chip – VIP1[5]

3.3 Mpixel CMOS camera.
To be described at Pixel 2008 (Tezzaron)

Areas of Interest to HEP

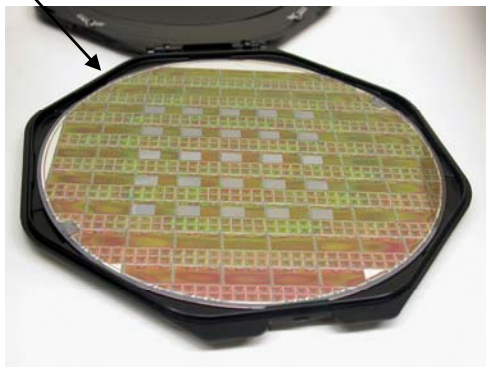
- 3D bonding technology to replace bump bonds in hybrid pixel assemblies.
- Bonding options being explored by Fermilab
  - CuSn eutectic with RTI[6]
  - Direct bond interconnect (DBI) using "magic metal" with Ziptronix. 3um pitch possible
  - CuCu fusion with Tezzaron
- Excellent strength and yield obtained with 7 um CuSn pillar on a 20 micron pitch. However 10 um of CuSn covering 75% of bond area would represents Xo=0.075. Too high for some HEP applications.
- CuCu fusion and DBI offer the lowest mass bond required by many HEP experiments.





CuSn bond cross section

25 Pixel sensors bonded to BTEV ROIC wafer



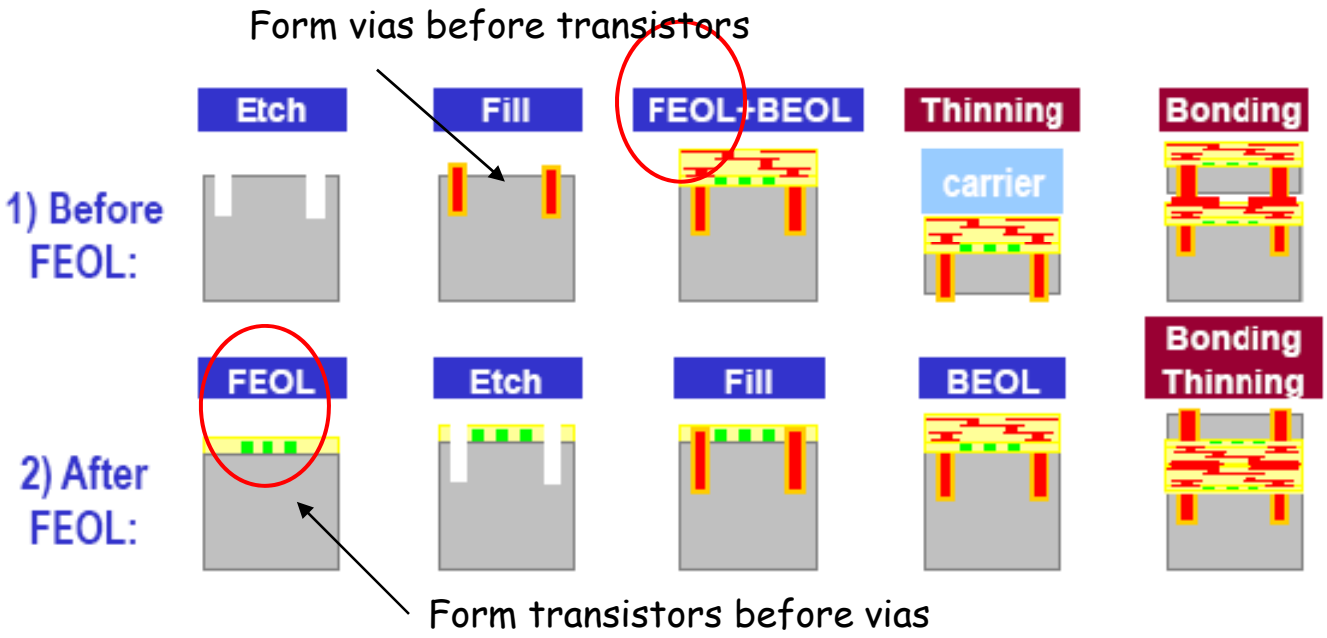
Sensors thinned to 100 um after chip to wafer bonding

Understanding the Basic Principles of 3D Integration

- Vias
  - Via First – done at foundry, lowest cost
  - Via last – after wafers are made, often done by third party vendors.
  - General movement in industry toward via first approach
- Bonding options
  - Mechanical bond only, electrical connections later
    - Oxide to oxide bonding
    - Adhesive such as BCB
  - Mechanical and electrical connection formed together
    - CuSn Eutectic
    - CuCu Fusion
    - Direct Bond Interconnect – combination of oxide bonding and metal fusion
- Thinning
- Alignment

Via First Approach

- Through silicon Via formation is done either before or after CMOS devices (Front End of Line) processing [7]

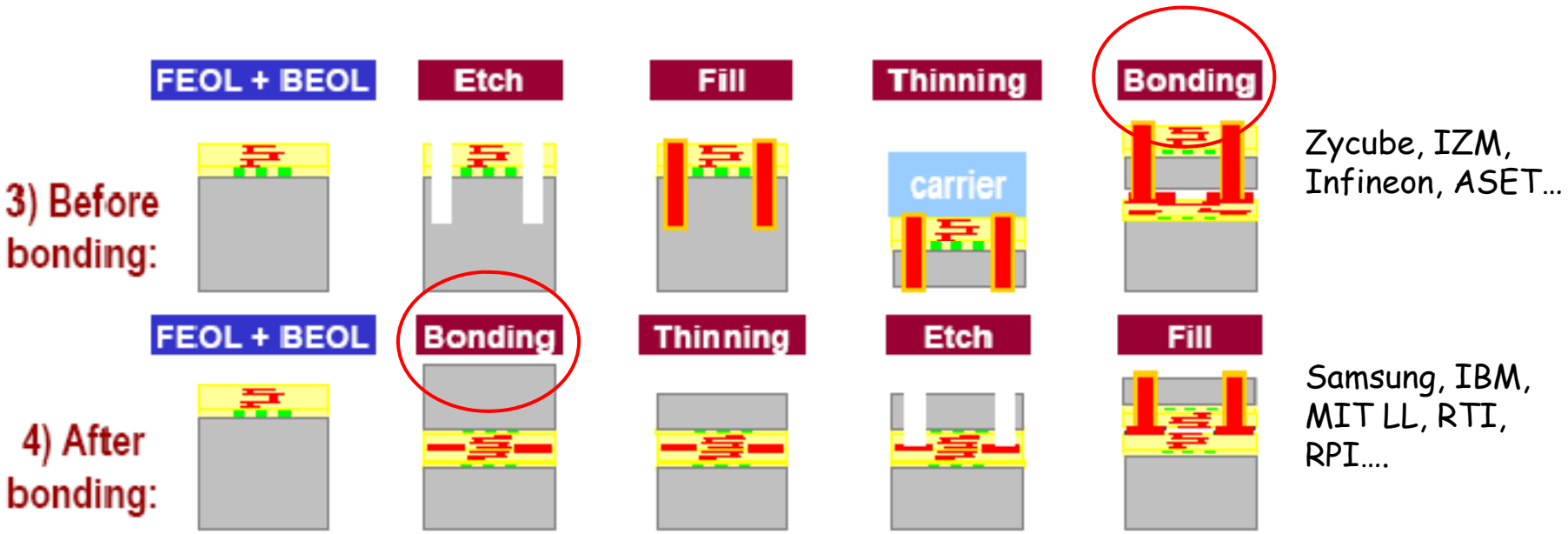


IBM, NEC, Elpida, OKI, Tohoku, DALSA….

Tezzaron, Ziptronix Chartered, TSMC, RPI, IMEC……..

Via Last Approach

- Via last approach occurs after wafer fabrication and either before or after wafer bonding [7]



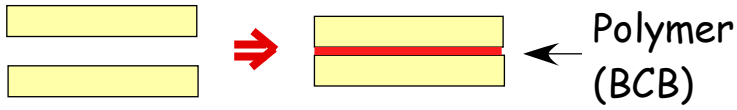
Notes: Vias take space away from all metal layers. The assembly process is streamlined if you don't use a carrier wafer.

Bonding Choices

Electrical and Mechanical Bonds

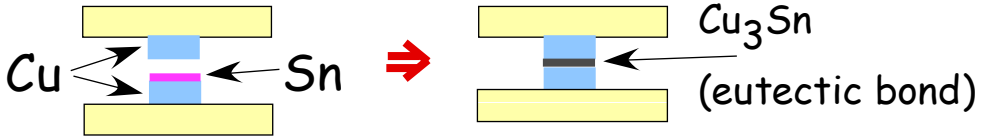
Fermilab experience

a) Adhesive bond

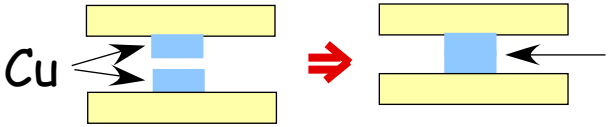


b) Oxide bond (SiO2 to SiO2) (MIT LL)

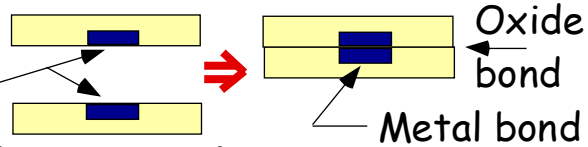
c) CuSn Eutectic (RTI)



d) Cu thermocompression (Tezzaron)



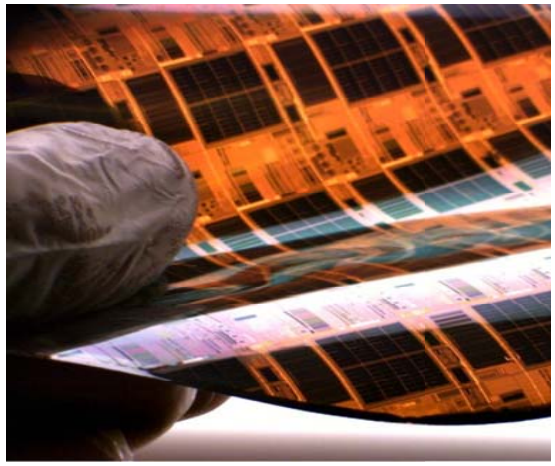
e) DBI (Direct Bond Interconnect) (Ziptronix)



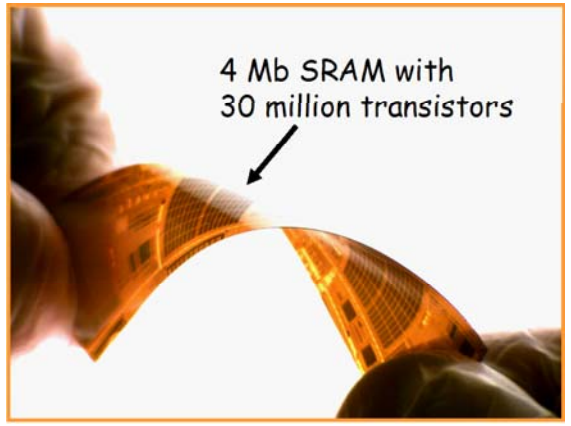
For (a) and (b), electrical connections between layers are formed after bonding. For (c), (d), and (e), the electrical and mechanical bonds are formed at the same time.

Thinning and Alignment

- Thinning –
  - Thinning is done by a combination of grinding, CMP and etching.
  - Through wafer vias typically have an 8 to 1 aspect ratio for etched vias. Thus, in order to keep the area associated with the vias as small as possible, the wafers should be as thin as possible.
- Alignment
  - Alignment of better than 1 um (3 sigma) is now possible on wafer to wafer bonding.



6 inch wafer thinned to 6 um and mounted to 3 mil kapton



Photos from MIT LL

Growing Activity for HEP

- First 3D integrated circuit for HEP submitted by Fermilab to MIT Lincoln Labs October, 2006.
- 3D Integration Technology Perspectives – First Workshop on LHC – ILC Prospects, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France. November 29-30, 2007, sponsored by CNRS/IN2P3.[8]
- Vertical Integration Technologies for HEP and Imaging Sensors Meeting held at Ringberg Castle, Tegernsee, Germany, April 6-9, 2008, sponsored by the Max Planck Insitiute. [9]
- DEVDET FP7 proposal did not receive funding but 3D portion of proposal effort received positive comments from reviewers.

Growing Activity for HEP

- Italian programs
  - Italian Ministry of Research program on 2D MAPS and Vertically Integrated Sensors (Pisa, Pavia, Bergamo, Bologna)
    - Focus on device and technology investigations rather than experiments
    - 2 year program starting in September 2008
    - P.I. - M. Giorgi (Pisa)
  - Proposal for INFN research program "Pixel systems for thin charged particle trackers based on vertical integration technologies" - VIPIX (INFN Pisa, Pavia, bologna, Trieste, Trento, Perugia, Roma3, Torino)
    - 3 year program starting in September 2008
    - For ILC and Super B
    - P.I. – Valerio Re (Pavia)
    - 800K Euros

Growing Activity for HEP

- French Activities
  - Meeting at Palaiseau, France 2007 resulted in collaboration for development of vertically integrated circuits.
    - 5 HEP related labs in France expected to participate
      - CPPM
      - IPHC
      - IRFU
      - LAL
      - Paris
    - Funding from IN2P3, 200K Euros initially
    - Coordinated by Jean-Claude Clemens
  - Expected applications
    - ILC smart CMOS pixels and ministrips
    - SLHC with hybrid pixels
    - Spin off to imaging applications

Growing Activity for HEP

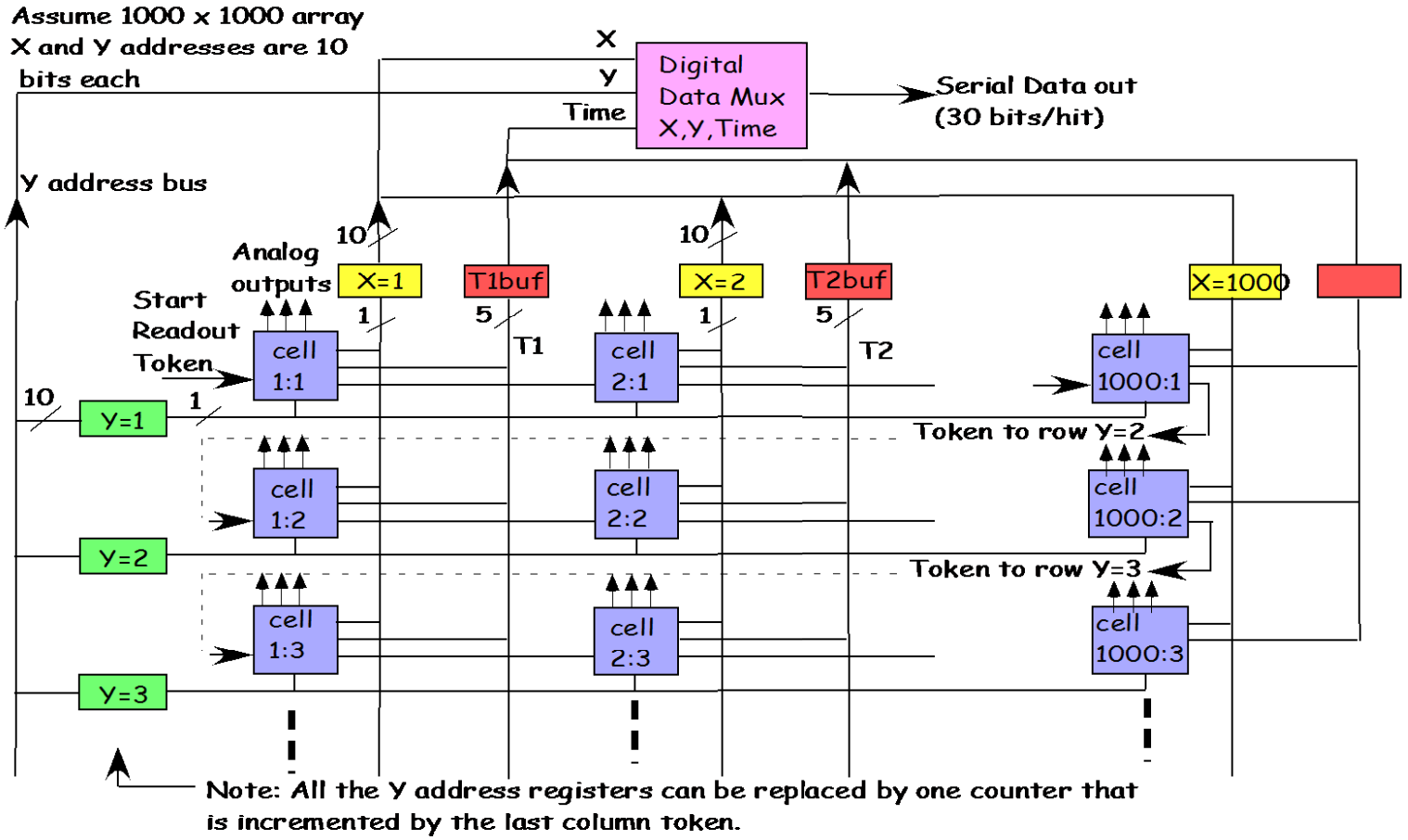
- Second 3D integrated circuit for HEP submitted by Fermilab to MIT Lincoln Labs, September 2008.
- 3D collaboration coordinated by Fermilab for vertically integrated circuits through Tezzaron, Naperville, Illinois.
  - Multi-project wafer run using commercial vendors
  - Two stacked circuits with deep N-well capability.
  - Up to 10 fully integrated 3D wafers in 0.13 um process
  - Submission targeted for early 2009
  - Tezzaron MPW run to be discussed in greater detail later in this talk.
- Monolithic And Vertically Integrated Silicon Pixel Detectors proposal by Chris Damerell for an international collaboration.

VIP1 Demonstrator Chip for ILC Vertex Detector

- 3D Pixel ROIC fabricated in the MIT LL 0.18 um SOI process with 3 tiers (first 3D chip for HEP).
  - Chip designed in 10 weeks using 4 designers
  - Forced to work with poor SOI models and had to develop design kit at same time. (extremely ambitious project)
- Details of VIP1 chip design and operation presented at 12th LHC electronics workshop[11]
  - Readout between ILC bunch trains
  - High speed data sparsification included
  - Analog output available for improved resolution
  - Digital and analog time stamping options explored
    - Designed for 5-10 bit resolution (30-1 usec resolution)
  - Test input for every pixel
  - 4096 pixel array with 20 um pixels, scaleable to 1 Mpix

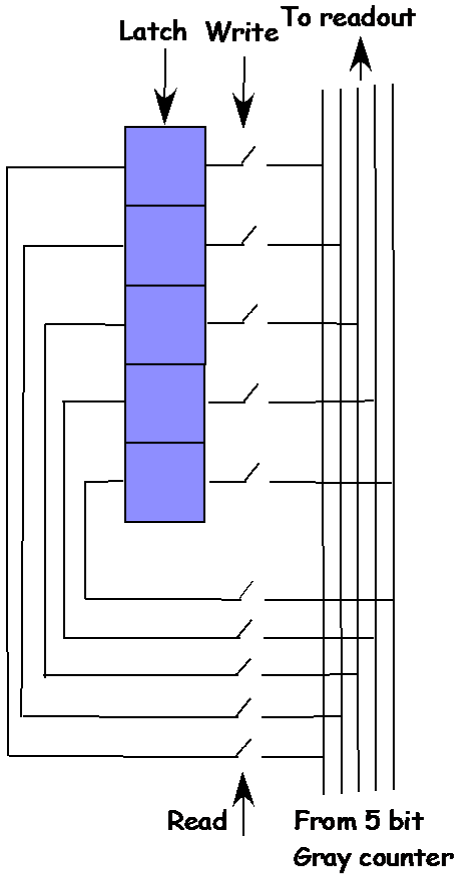
VIP1 Block Diagram

- Pixel being read points to the x address and y address stored on the perimeter.
- At same time, time stamp information and analog pulse height is read out.
- During pixel readout, token scans ahead for the next hit pixel



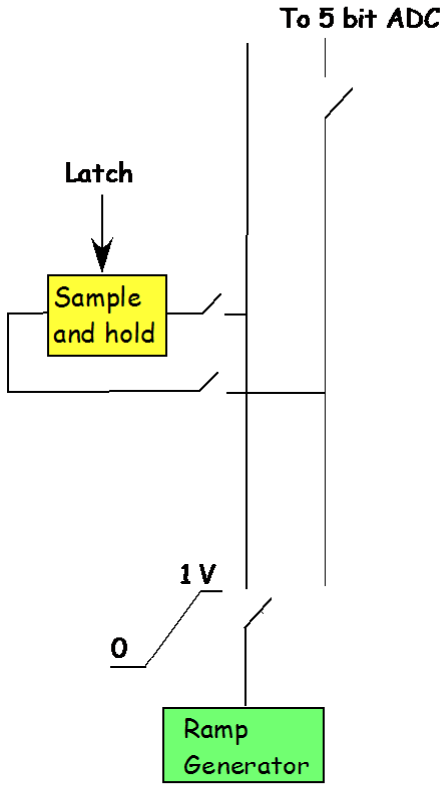
VIP1 Time Stamping

- Various schemes have suggested 20 time stamps/msec for ILC vertex detector.
- VIP1 is built to evaluate both digital and analog time stamping, each with 5 bit resolution (32 time stamps/msec).
- Combined analog and digital time stamping could provide 10 bit resolution (1024 time stamps/msec)



Counter operates at a slow speed, 32 KHz, (30 usec/step)

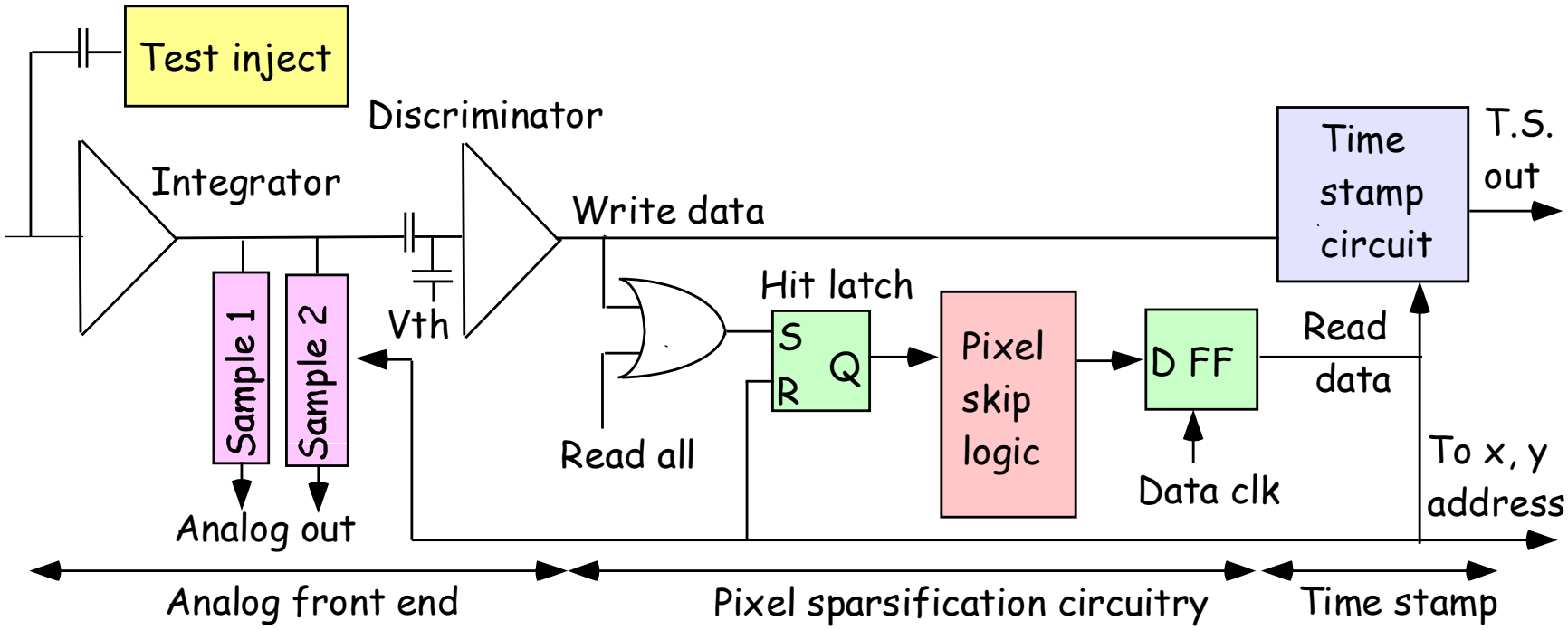
All digital - 10 transistors/bit



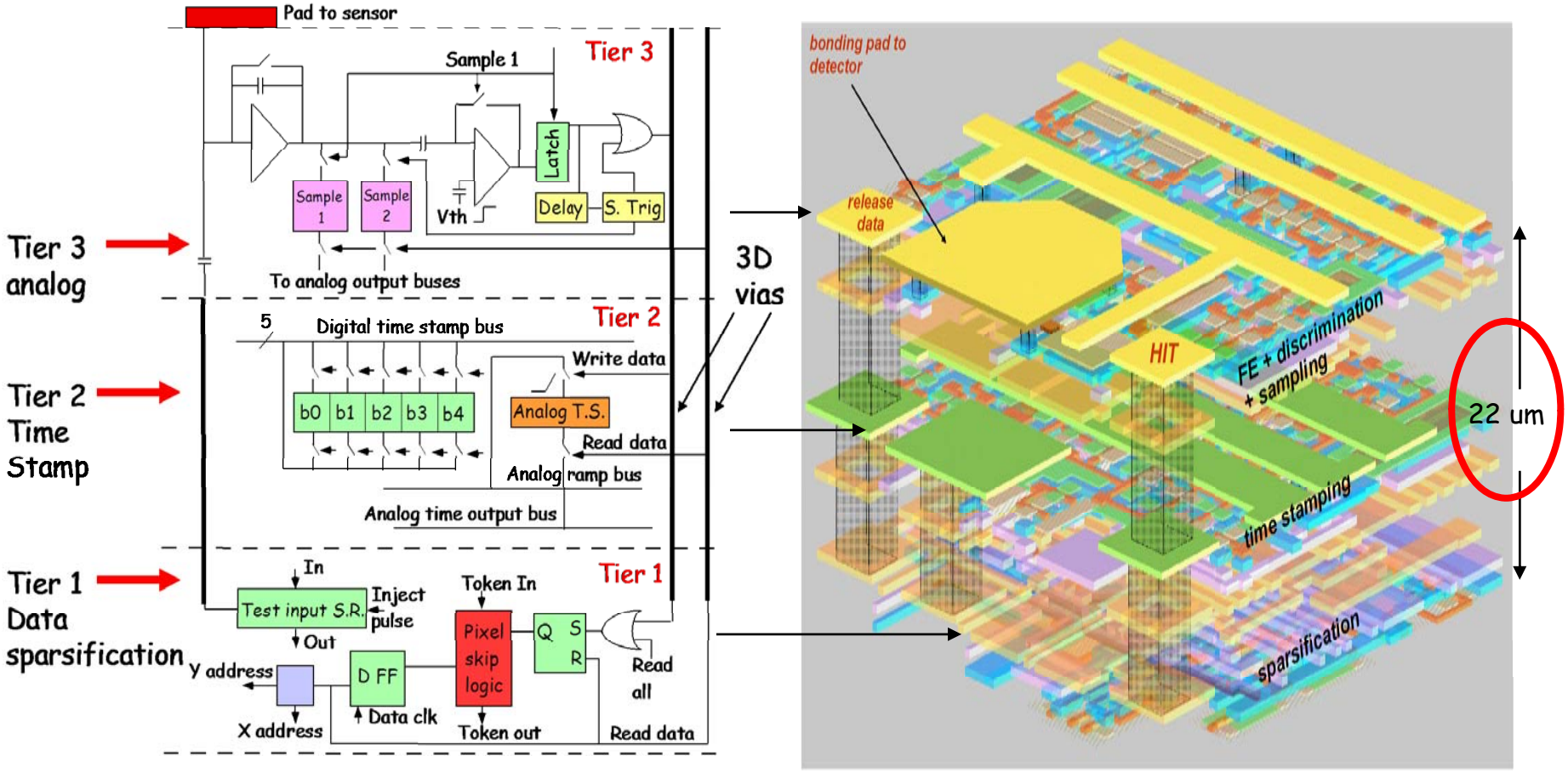
Ramp operates at low speed for low power.

Analog approach - fewer transistors

Simplified VIP1 Pixel cell Block Diagram



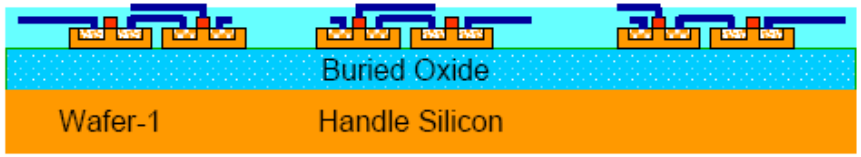
Three Tier Arrangement for VIP1 Pixel



MIT LL 3DM2 Vertical Integration Process Flow

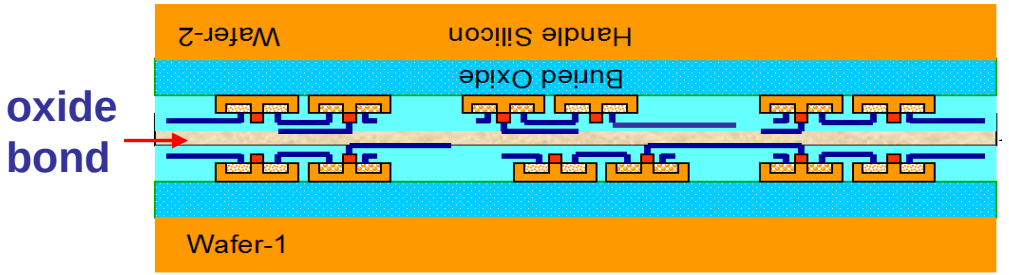
"Via last" process – vias are formed after FEOL and BEOL processing is completed

Step 1: Fabricate individual tiers

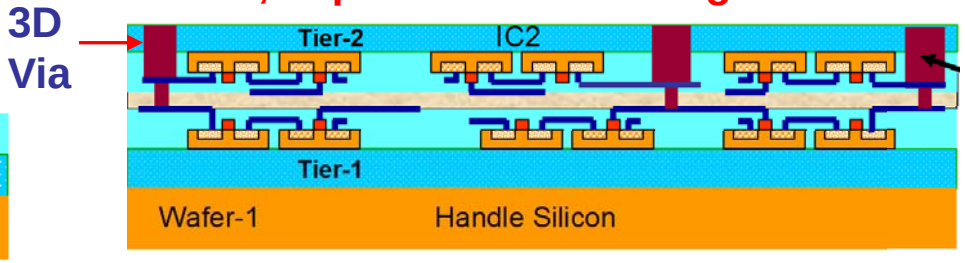


In principle wafer 1 could also be bulk

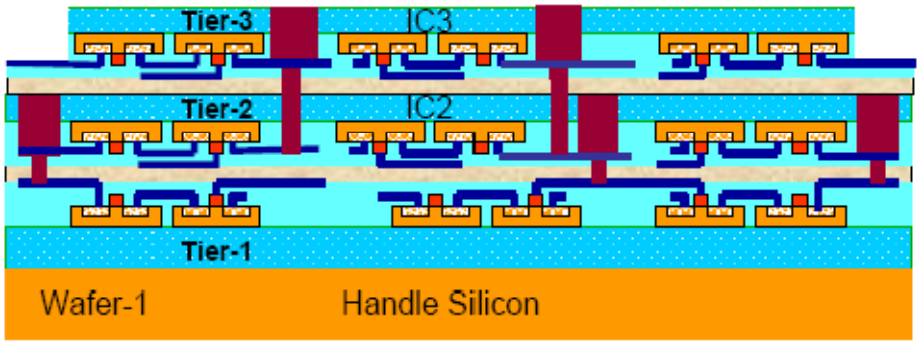
Step2: Invert, align, and bond wafer 2 to wafer 1



Step 3: Remove handle silicon from wafer 2, etch 3D Vias, deposit and CMP tungsten



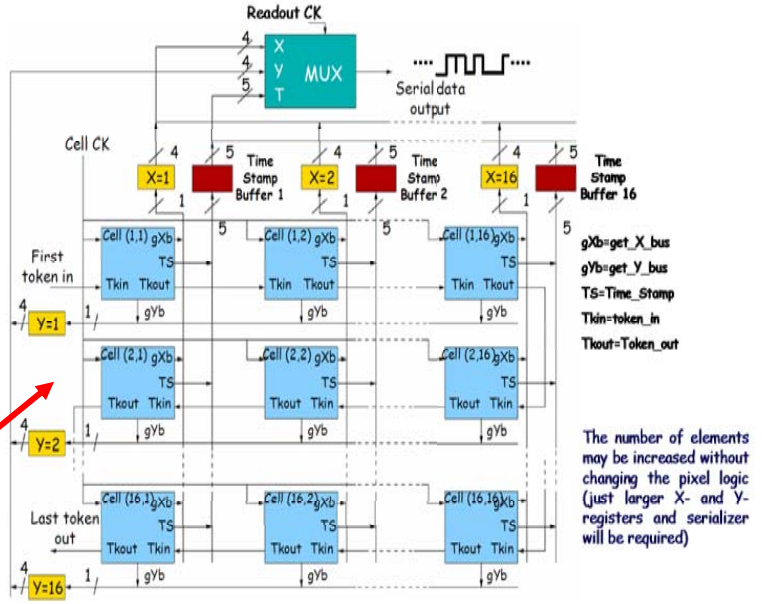
Step 4: Invert, align and bond wafer 3 to wafer 2/1, remove wafer 3 handle wafer, form 3D vias from tier 2 to tier 3, etch bond pads



TWE

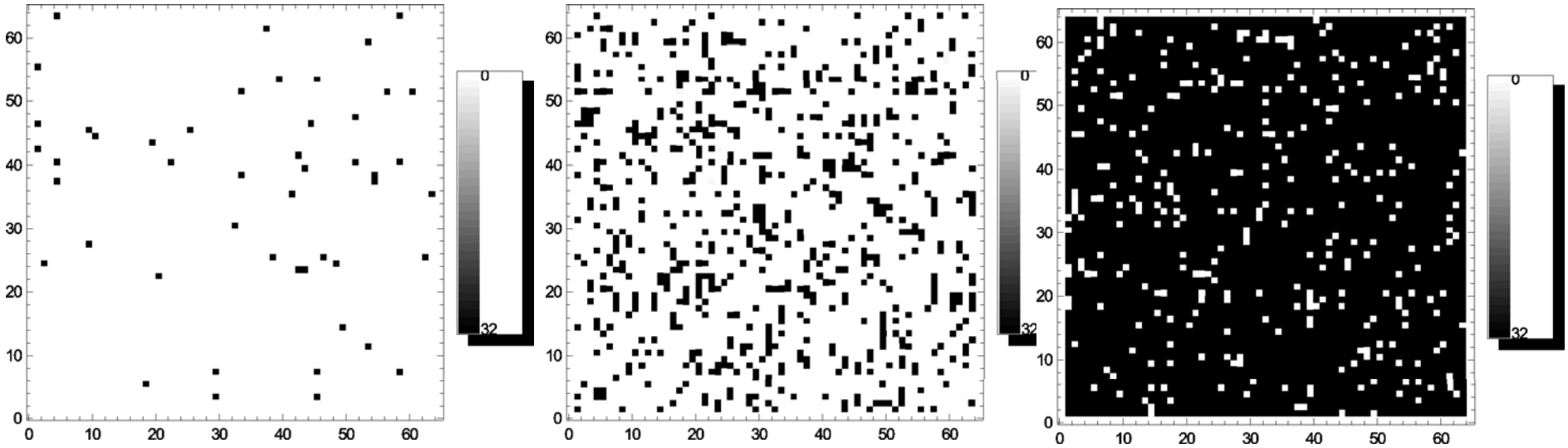
VIP1 Test Results[12]

- Basic functionality of chip has been demonstrated
  - Propagation of readout token
  - Threshold scan
  - Input test charge scan
  - Digital and analog time stamping
  - Full sparsified data readout
  - Fixed pattern and temporal noise measurements
- No problems could be found associated with the 3D vias between tiers.
- Chip performance compromised by poor transistor models and low yield.
- Same readout architecture (without analog time stamping and analog output information) has been demonstrated to work by Valerio Re in a ST Microelectronics 0.13 um, 2D MAPS design. [13]



Hit Pixels in Full Array as a Function of Threshold

Data readout out using data sparsification scheme.



Maximum threshold

Intermediate Threshold

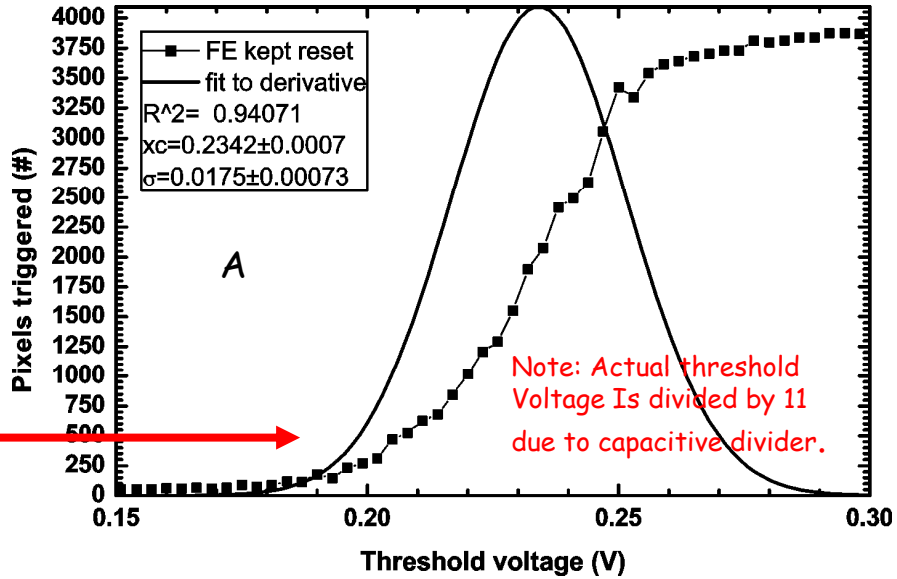
Minimum Threshold

Decreasing Threshold

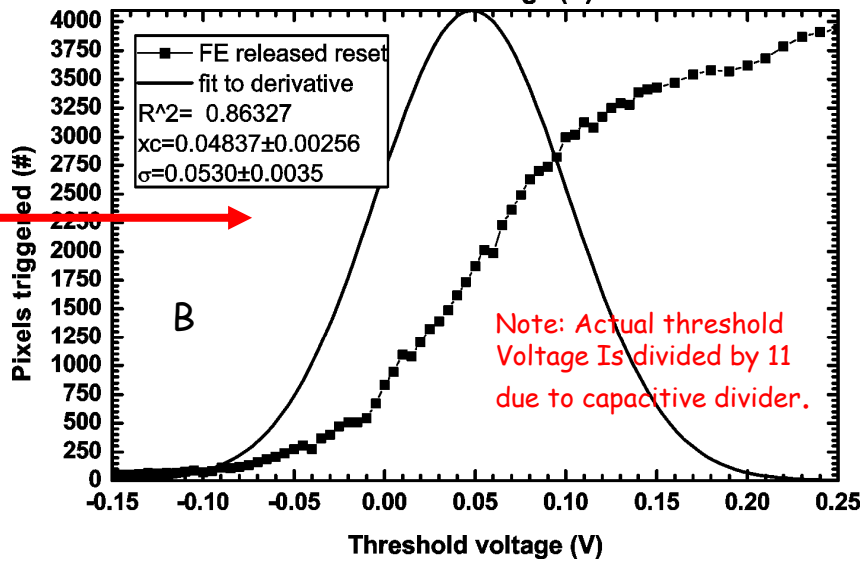
Pixel to Pixel Threshold Dispersion Scan

Threshold set at increasing levels and all pixels over threshold read out using data sparsification scheme.

A) With integrator held reset, threshold dispersion has a sigma of 1.6 mv or about 25e-.

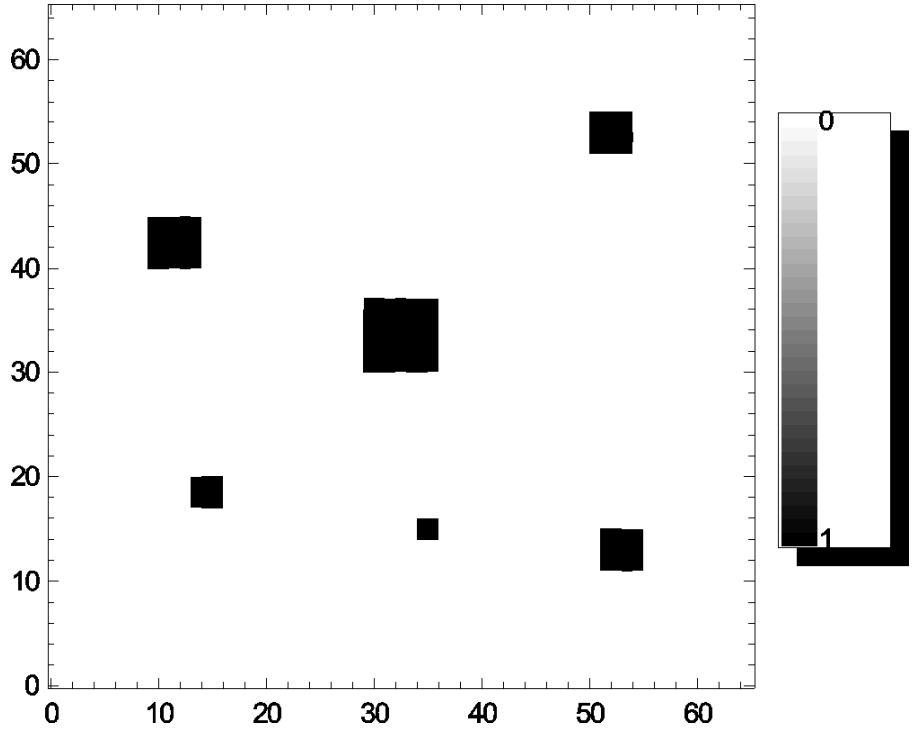


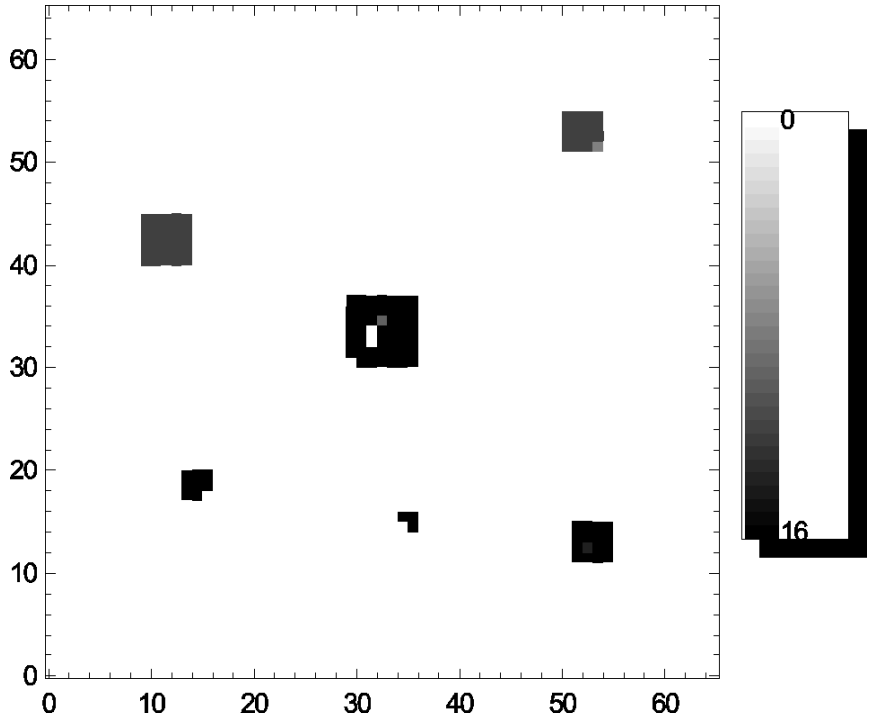
B) With integrator reset and released, discriminator reset (autozeroed), threshold dispersion has a sigma of 4.9 mv or about 75 e-.



The threshold shift between A and B and the increase in dispersion is thought to be due to internal coupling problems.

Injection of Test Charge into 119 Integrator Inputs of 64 x 64 Array





Preselected pattern of pixels for the injection of signal to the front-end amplifiers; pattern shifted into the matrix, than positive voltage step applied accross the injection capacitance; threshold levels for the discriminator adjusted according to the amplitude of the injected signal

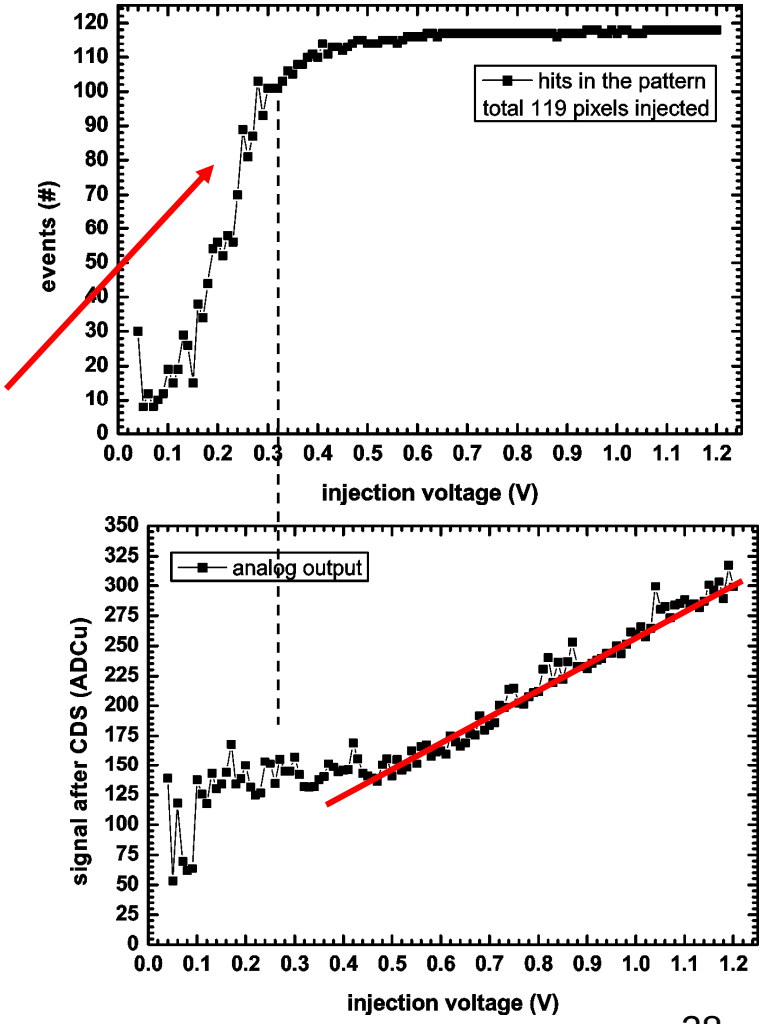
Pattern of pixels from the preselected injection pattern that after injection of tests charge reported as hit (grey level represents number of repetition – 8 times injection)

Analog Signal Response from Pixels in Test Pattern

Examine analog response for 119 pixels in preselected pattern using sparsified readout.

As level of test charge through test capacitor (located between tier 2 and 3) is increased, more pixels exceed the threshold up to the maximum of 119 pixels

Lower plot shows mean analog signal level of pixels exceeding the threshold voltage. The red line is an indication of the linearity of the analog output signal (100 ADC units = 35 mv). Note charge injection capacitor = 0.2 fF

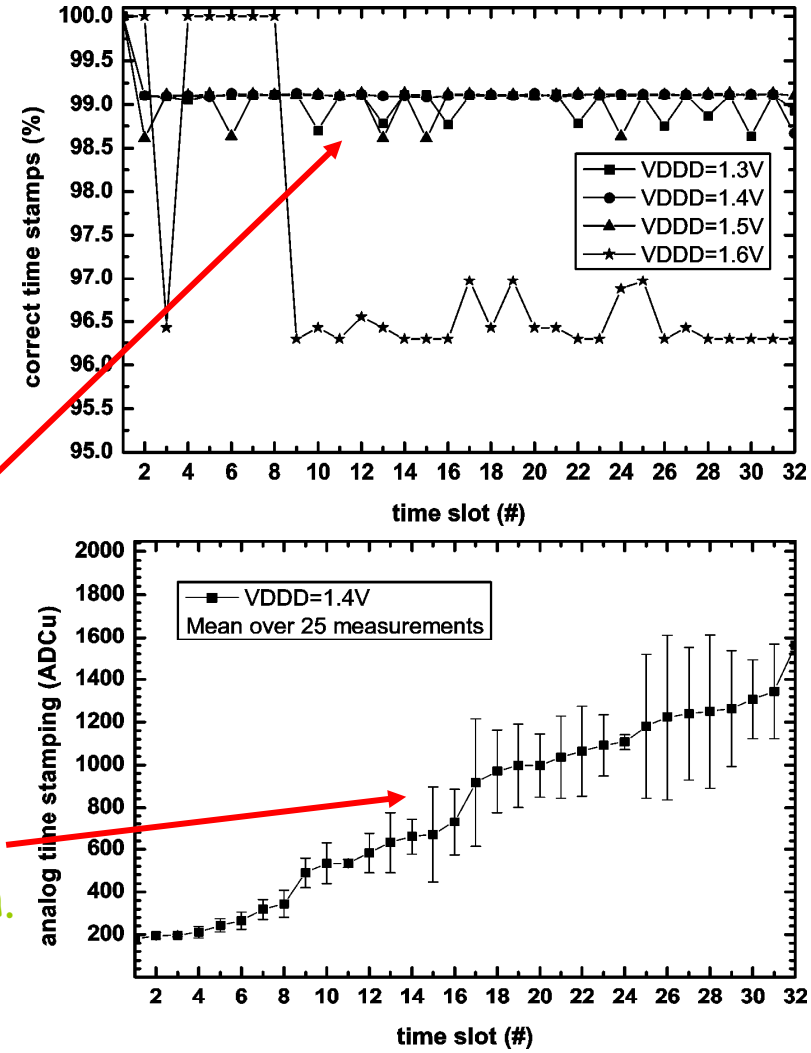


Time Stamping Performance

Time stamping studied for 119 pixels in preselected pattern using sparsified readout. Digital time stamping uses inverted Gray code. External ADC used for analog time stamp

Charge is injected at a specific time, and time is compared to the digital time stamp. The readout shows a dependence on VDDD. Data shows that 118 of 119 pixels have correct time stamp for VDDD = 1.4V.

Analog time stamping suffers from high leakage current in sample and hold circuit. Problem to be corrected in next submission.



New Submission to MIT LL

- Work is proceeding on an improved version of VIP1 to be submitted to MIT LL at the end of September 2008. The new chip is called VIP2a
  - Different power and grounding layout
  - Redundant vias and larger traces in critical paths
  - Added diagnostics
  - More bits in digital time stamp (7 bits)
  - Redesign of current mirrors
  - Removal of dynamic logic due to leakage problems
  - Other
- VIP2 has a larger pixel size. However, the goal is for improved yield and better performance.

Lessons Learned

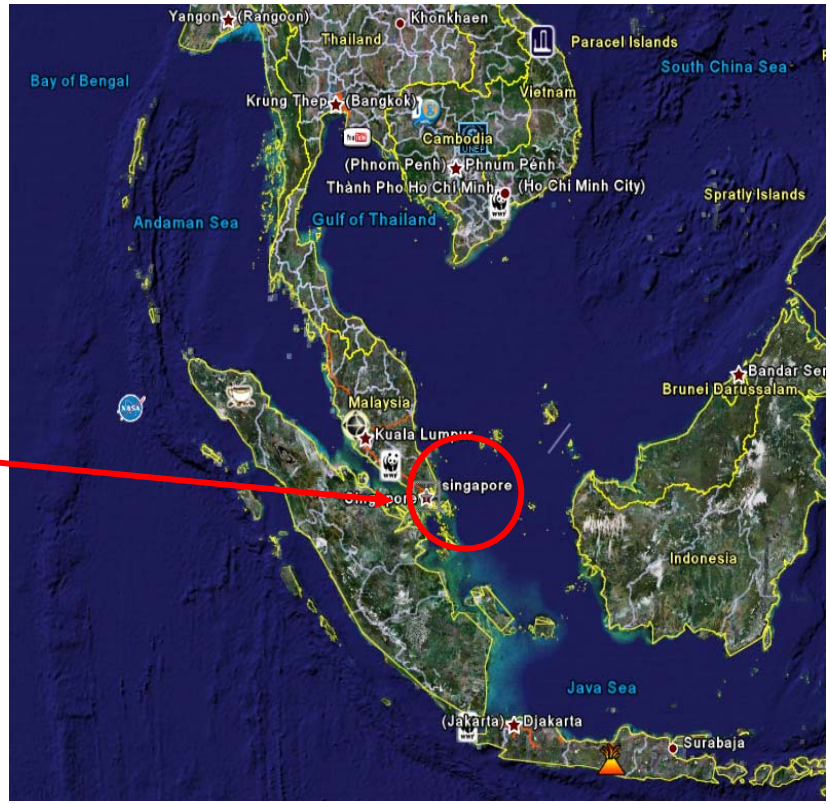
- If possible work with an organization that can provide all steps of 3D fabrication (wafer fab, via formation, thinning, bonding)
  - Eliminates multi vendors, and reduces contamination, and breakage problems
  - Generally provides for established via and bonding layout rules
- If possible, work with commercial vendors
  - Unfortunately, there are not very many yet
  - Take advantage of industrial developments
  - Sources such as MIT LL have their limitations
    - Foundry process is not well characterized
    - Delivery takes one year
  - Chose a vendor that has access to an established reliable foundry process.
  - If you can find a vendor, you can get lower cost and faster overall turn around.
- For better analog performance circuits chose CMOS instead of SOI
  - Precision circuits such as current mirrors are hard to design in SOI due to possible trapped charge effects and local heating
  - CMOS will most likely be more radiation hard for those applications that require it.

Lessons Learned

- Understand that small scale fabrication is an issue since most 3D assembly require full wafer processing at some point.
  - Full wafer processing of sensors wafers should not be a problem for HEP
  - Access to wafers of ROICs can be expensive especially in deep submicron processes
  - If parts are limited, die to wafer assembly is possible
- Use of a via first process can eliminate wasted space for vias
- Cost of development can be a limiting factor depending on the avenue taken
  - Cost of MIT LL 3D MPW run is well in excess of $1M
  - Using a commercial vendor, 8 inch wafer to wafer assemblies in a 0.13 um process can be fabricated for under $300K
    - This cost can be easily shared among HEP organizations.
- Availability of MPW runs for HEP is important for development of 3D for HEP
  - One vendor Tezzaron has agreed to accept MPW runs from Fermilab
  - Tezzaron will fabricate wafers in a well established, high yield process

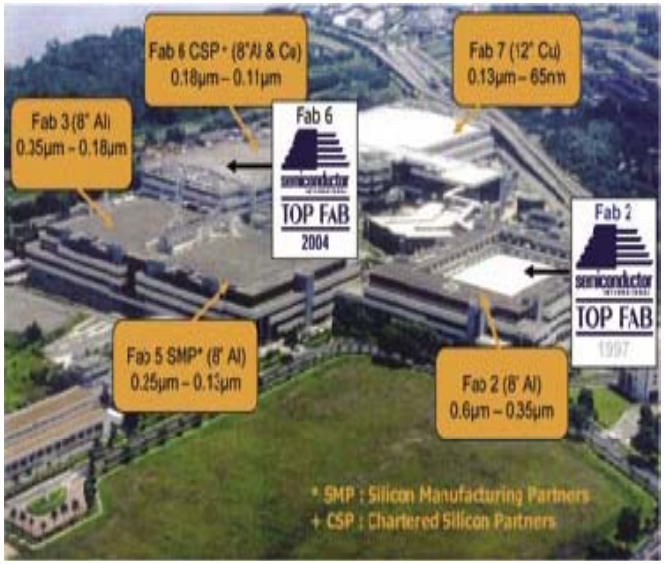
Why Tezzaron?

- Tezzaron is one of the leaders in developing 3D technology
- Tezzaron has built 3D devices for imaging, memory stacking, FPGAs, and microprocessors.
- Gearing up for 10,000w/mo in 18 months
  - Chips will include 2, 3 and 5 layer stacks of memories from 512 Mb to 4 Gb.
  - Customers are in the top 20 memory manufactures.
- Wafers are fabricated by Chartered in Singapore.
- 3D assembly is completed by Tezzaron also in Singapore
- Tezzaron expects announce their process being used by 1 to 3 more foundries by the end of the year
- Advantages
  - Existing rules for vias and bonding
  - Low cost
  - Relatively fast turn around
  - One stop shopping for wafer fabrication, via formation, thinning, bonding.



Why Chartered Semiconductor?

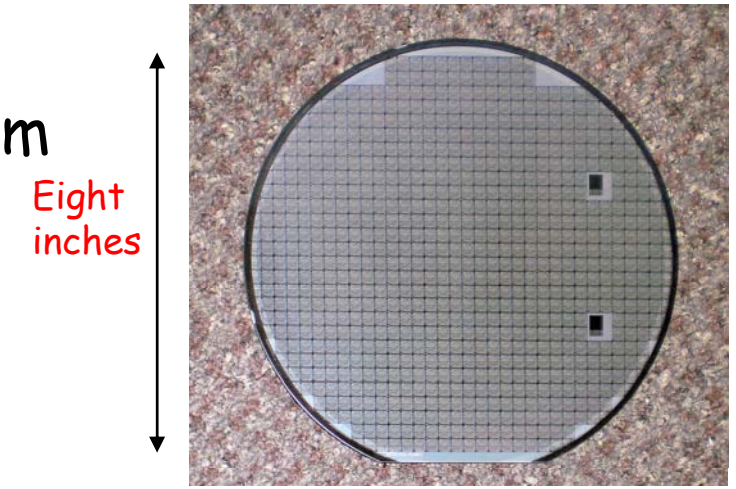
- Chartered is one of the world's top dedicated semiconductor foundries, located in Singapore, offering an extensive line of CMOS and SOI processes from 0.5 um down to 45 nm.
- Offers Common Chartered-IBM platform for processes at 90 nm and below.
- Chartered 0.13 um mixed signal CMOS process was chosen by Tezzaron for 3D integration
  - Chartered has made nearly 1,000,000 eight inch wafers in the 0.13um process
  - Data shows consistent high yield
- Extension of TSV process to 300mm wafers and 45nm technology
- Commercial tool support for Chartered Semiconductor is extensive
  - DRC – Calibre, Hercules, Diva, Assura
  - LVS - Calibre, Hercules, Diva, Assura
  - Simulation – HSPICE. Spectre, ELDO, ADS
  - Libraries – Synopys, ARM, Virage Logic



Chartered Campus

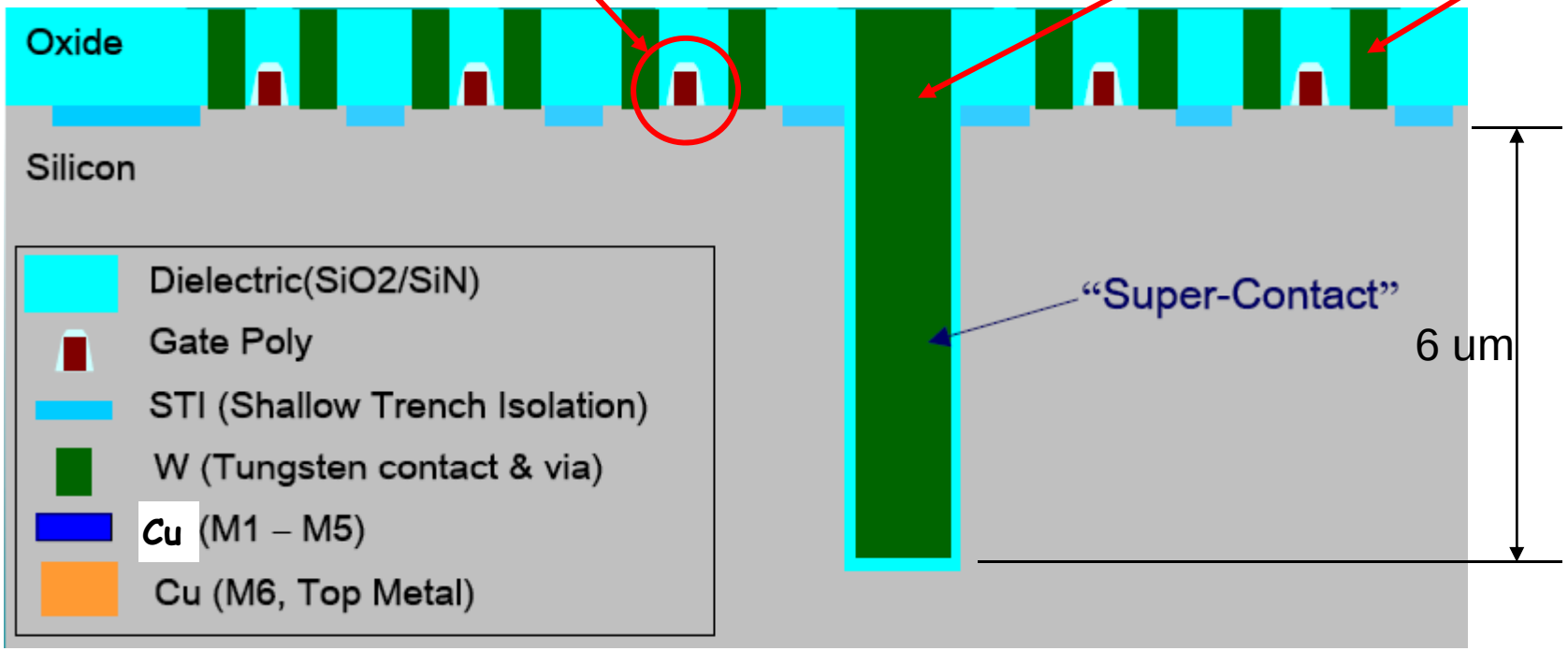
Chartered 0.13 um Process

- 8 inch wafers
- Large reticule – 24 mm x 32 mm
- Features
  - Deep N-well
  - MiM capacitors – 1 fF/um^2
  - Single poly
  - 8 levels of metal available
  - Zero Vt (Native NMOS) available
  - A variety of transistor options with multiple threshold voltages can be used simultaneously
    - Nominal
    - Low voltage
    - High performance
    - Low power



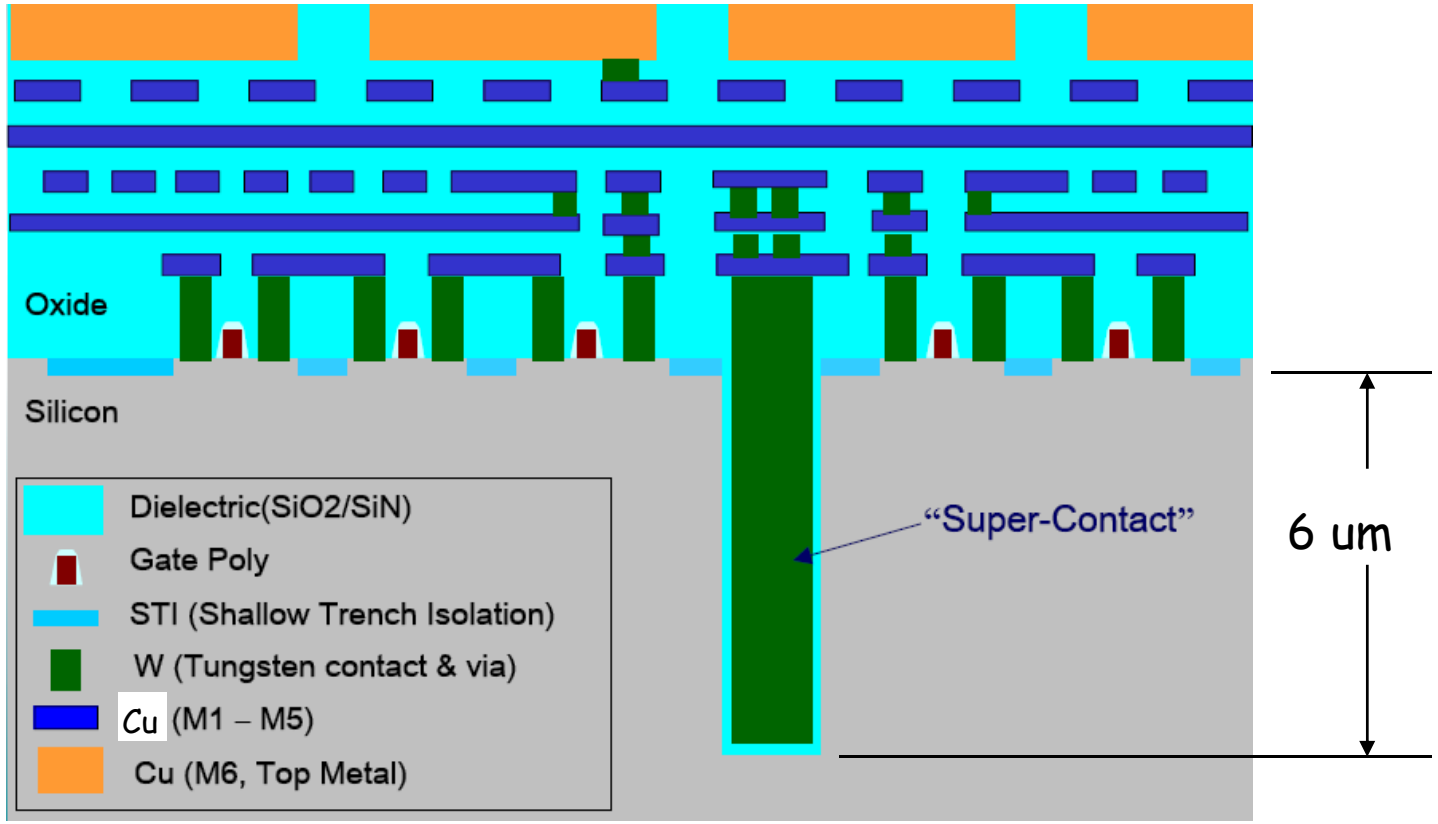
Tezzaron 3D Process[14]

- Through silicon vias are fabricated as a part of the foundry process. "Via first" approach.
- Complete FEOL (transistor fabrication) on all wafers to be stacked
- Form and passivate super via on all wafers to be stacked
- Fill super via at same time connections are made to transistors



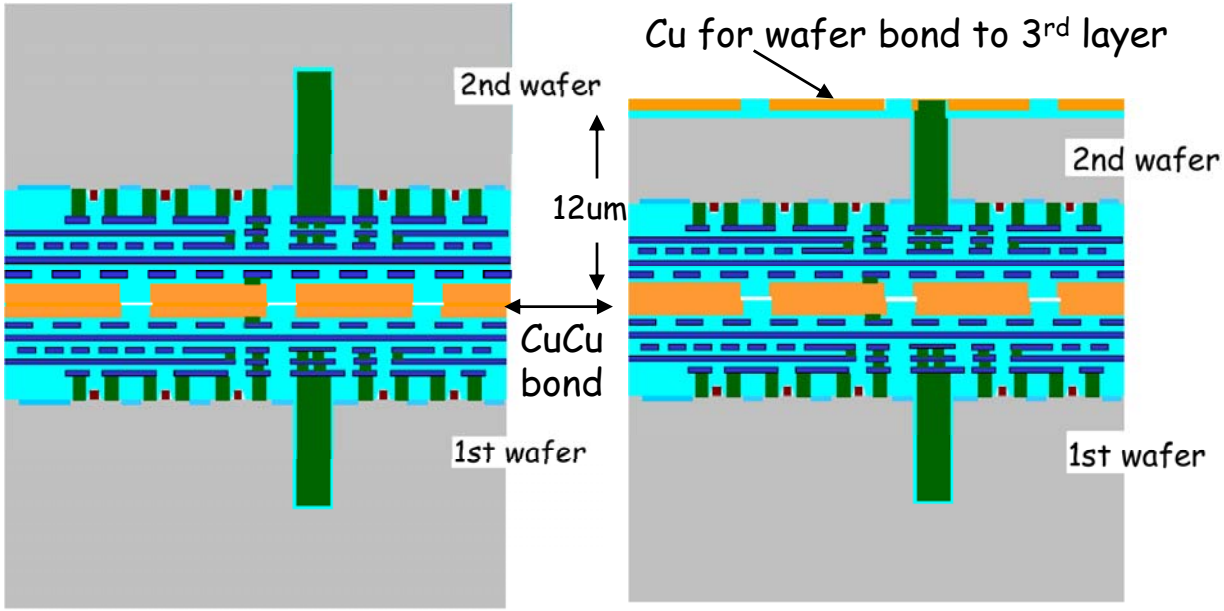
Tezzaron 3D Process

- Complete back end of line (BEOL) processing by adding Cu metal layers and top Cu metal (0.8 um)



Tezzaron 3D Process

Example: bonding identical wafers



Flip 2nd wafer on top of first wafer.

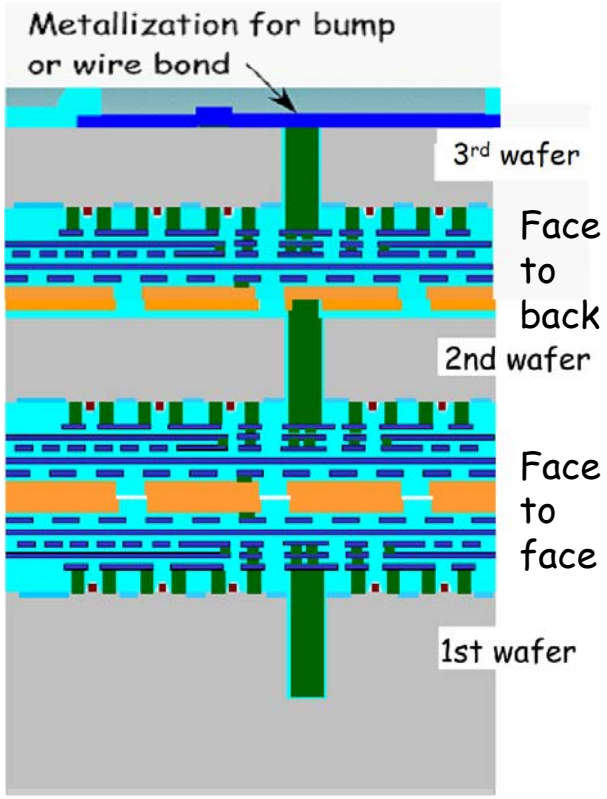
Bond second wafer to first wafer using Cu-Cu thermo-compression bond.

Thin second wafer to about 12um to expose super via.

Add metallization to back of 2nd wafer for bump bond or wire bond.

OR

Add Cu to back of 2nd wafer to bond 2nd wafer to 3rd wafer



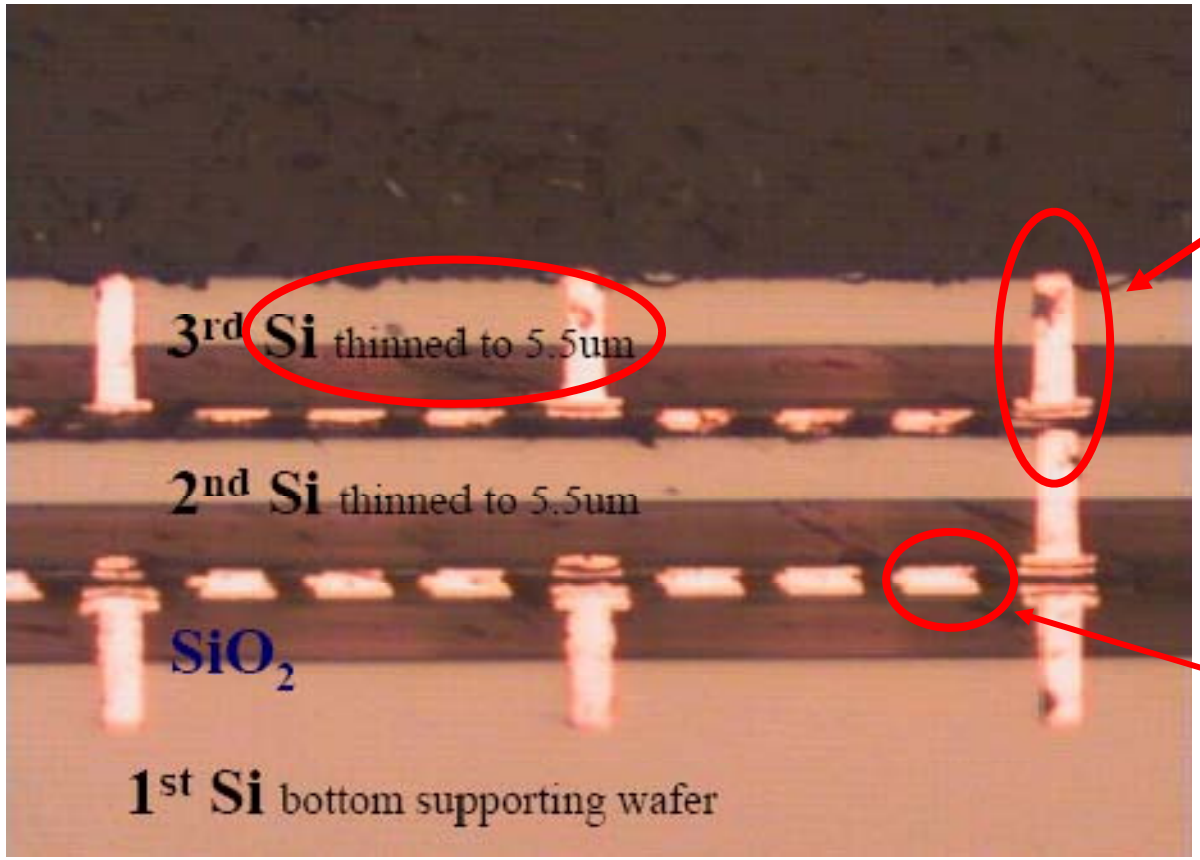
Flip 3rd wafer

Bond 3nd wafer to 2rd wafer.

Thin 3rd wafer to expose super via.

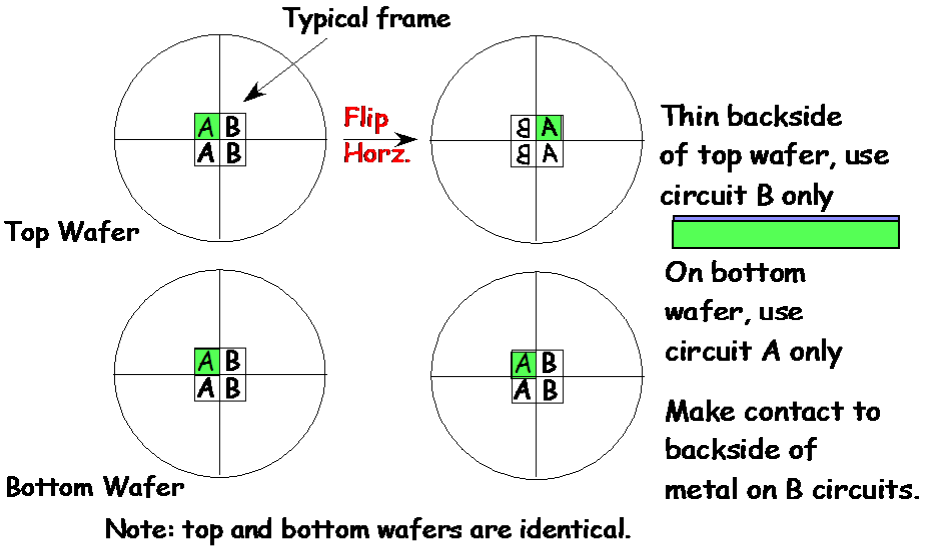
Add final passivation and metal for pads

Cross section of Tezzaron 3 Layer Stack[14]



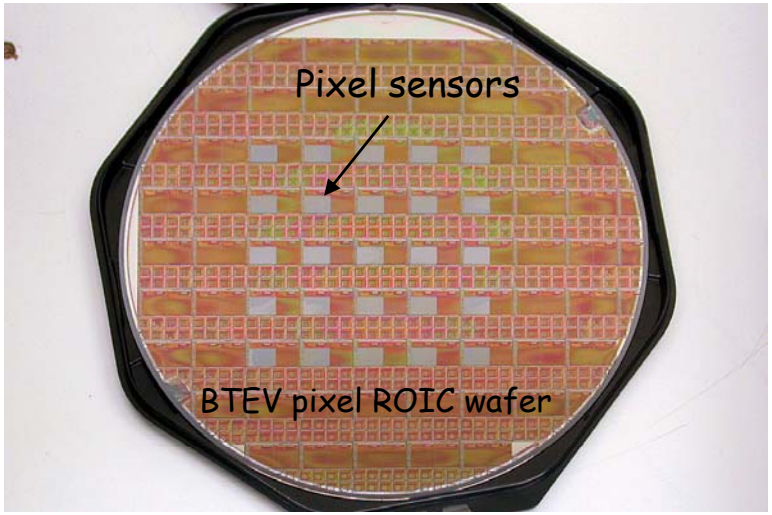
Fermilab 3D Multi-Project Run

- Fermilab is planning a dedicated 3D multi project run using Tezzaron for HEP.
- There will be 2 layers of electronics fabricated in the Chartered 0.13 um process, using only one set of masks. (Useful reticule size 15.5 x 26 mm)
- The wafers will be bonded face to face.



Face to Face Bonding

For devices without integrated sensors, bond pads will be fabricated for bump bonding to sensors to be done later at Ziptronix as shown below.



Contributors to the MPW Run

- Received LOI from CNRS/In2P3 to join first Fermilab MPW run
  - Several French laboratories have received funding to perform 3D electronics development
- Received LOI from Universita di Bergamo to join first Fermilab MPW run
  - INFN has received funding for study of MAPS, including 3D circuit design
- Fermilab – coordinator for MPW run
  - Submission expected at the beginning of 2009 with delivery of 3D parts about 12 weeks later.
  - Cost – fabricate 25 eight inch wafers in 130 nm process and provide completed wafer to wafer 3D assemblies for under $300K.

Labs with Tezzaron NDAs for MPW Run

- Fermilab, Batavia
- University at Bergamo
- University at Pavia
- University at Perugia
- INFN Bologna
- INFN at Pisa
- INFN at Rome
- CPPM, Marseilles
- IPHC, Strasbourg
- IRFU Saclay
- LAL, Orsay
- LPNHE, Paris
- CMP, Grenoble

Total = 13

ILC Projects in Tezzaron MPW

- Convert MIT LL VIP2a design to the Tezzaron/Chartered process (VIP2b) - Fermilab
  - CMOS design should be easier.
  - Going from 3 layers in 0.18 um technology to 2 layers in 0.13 um technology could reduce pixel size below 20 um.
  - Using the "via first" process at Chartered eliminates the wasted area needed for vias in the "via last" MIT LL process.
  - Fabrication in the Chartered fully characterized process and models, along with standard cell libraries should lend itself to high yield.
  - Because VIP2b is in a CMOS deep sub micron process, the design should be inherently more radiation hard.
    - Radiation tolerance of Chartered 0.13 um process is currently being studied by another group.
- Convert 2D MAPS device design for ILC to 3D design where PMOS devices are placed on the tier without sensing diodes – Italy
- CMOS pixels with one tier used as a sensitive volume and the second containing electronics. - France

SLHC Projects in Tezzaron MPW Run

- Convert the current 0.25 um ATLAS pixel electronics to a 3D structure with separate analog and digital tiers in the Chartered 0.13 um process. – France [15]
- Develop a 3D chip with 2 tiers of electronics to explore the advantages of 3D for the Super CMS pixel detector. - Fermilab
  - Going from 1 layer of circuitry in a 0.25um process to 2 layers in a 0.13 um process can increase circuit density by a factor of 7.
  - Circuit density can by traded for smaller pixel size.
  - Features to consider for parallel processing
    - In pixel digitization
    - Large digital storage
    - Triggering capability
    - Sparsification
    - Reduction of peripheral circuitry

Conclusion

- New technologies have always presented challenges to HEP.
- Success with new technologies in HEP has often led to dramatic advances.
- Industry is making rapid progress in developing 3D integrated circuits.
- HEP is beginning to respond with new initiatives to explore this technology.
- Fermilab has 2 years of experience working in 3D. Others are welcome to join our program
- Working together we can meet the challenge.

"Ten years from now we won't be asking 'Why 3-D?', we'll be asking 'Why 2-D?'"

– Jochen Reisinger, Infineon Technologies, IMEC annual review meeting, Oct. 15-16, 2007

Where will we be?

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