

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Development of Semiconductor Technology	1
1.2	Interconnect Development	3
1.3	The Rise of Electromigration	5
1.4	Advances in Electromigration Modeling	7
1.5	Motivation and Structure of This Book	9
	References	11
2	Fundamentals of Electromigration	13
2.1	Introduction	13
2.2	Electromigration Quantification Options	18
2.2.1	Current-Density Limits	18
2.2.2	Steady-State Stress: Immortality Checks	19
2.2.3	Stress Evolution: Lifetime Modeling	21
2.3	Design Parameters	23
2.3.1	Technology	23
2.3.2	Environment	25
2.3.3	Design	26
2.4	Electromigration Mechanisms	27
2.4.1	Crystal Structures and Diffusion Mechanisms	27
2.4.2	Barriers of Copper Metallization	30
2.4.3	Frequency Dependency of Electromigration	33
2.4.4	Mechanical Stress	38
2.5	Interaction of Electromigration With Thermal and Stress Migration	39
2.5.1	Thermal Migration	40
2.5.2	Stress Migration	41
2.5.3	Mutual Interaction of Electromigration, Thermal, and Stress Migration	44

2.5.4	Differentiation of Electromigration, Thermal, and Stress Migration	47
2.6	Migration Analysis Through Simulation	50
2.6.1	Simulation Techniques	50
2.6.2	Atomic-Flux Simulation	52
2.6.3	Simulation of Mechanical Stress	55
2.6.4	Void-Growth Simulation	55
	References	58
3	Integrated Circuit Design and Electromigration	63
3.1	Design Flow of Integrated Circuits	64
3.2	Electromigration-Aware Design Flows	66
3.2.1	Analog Design	68
3.2.2	Digital Design	70
3.3	Determination of Currents	73
3.3.1	Current Types	73
3.3.2	Terminal Currents	74
3.3.3	Segment Currents	78
3.4	Determination of Current-Density Limits	81
3.4.1	Mission Profile	82
3.4.2	Application-Robust Current-Density Limits	84
3.5	Current-Density Verification	89
3.5.1	Methodology	90
3.5.2	Current-Required Wire and Via Sizes	91
3.5.3	Net Terminal Connections	93
3.5.4	Simulation Methods for Electromigration Processes	93
3.5.5	Current-Density Simulation	94
3.6	Stress Verification	95
3.6.1	Basic Requirements for Stress Verification	96
3.6.2	FEM Stress Simulation	97
3.6.3	Equivalent Circuits for EM Simulation	98
3.6.4	EM Verification Flow Using Physics-Based Modeling	99
3.7	Post-Verification Layout Adjustment	100
3.8	Design Options for Electromigration Avoidance	102
	References	103
4	Mitigating Electromigration in Physical Design	107
4.1	Overview of Presented Measures and Effects	107
4.2	Bamboo Effect	109
4.2.1	Fundamentals	109
4.2.2	Applications	111
4.3	Critical-Length Effects	112
4.3.1	Fundamentals	112
4.3.2	Applications	119
4.3.3	Linked Segments	122

Contents	xv	
4.4	Via-Below and Via-Above Configurations	122
4.4.1	Fundamentals	122
4.4.2	Parameters	124
4.4.3	Applications	124
4.5	Reservoirs	125
4.5.1	Fundamentals	125
4.5.2	Sources and Sinks	126
4.5.3	Reservoir Types	126
4.5.4	Applications	127
4.6	Multiple Vias	129
4.6.1	Fundamentals	129
4.6.2	Current Distribution	131
4.6.3	Vias With Reservoirs	131
4.6.4	Geometrical Configuration	132
4.6.5	Applications	134
4.7	Frequency-Dependent Effects	135
4.7.1	Self-Healing and Rising Frequencies	135
4.7.2	Applications	136
4.8	Materials for Classical Metal Routing	137
4.8.1	Interconnect	138
4.8.2	Dielectric	140
4.8.3	Barrier	141
4.9	New Materials and Technologies	143
4.9.1	Carbon-Based Solutions	143
4.9.2	CNT Properties	145
4.9.3	Applications	147
4.10	Summary	149
	References	150
5	Summary and Outlook	157
5.1	Summary of Electromigration-Inhibiting Measures	157
5.2	Outlook: Physics-Based Modeling	160
5.3	Outlook: Electromigration-Robust Routing Elements	161
5.4	Outlook: New Technologies	162
5.5	Electromigration-Aware Design: Driven by Constraints	163
	Reference	164
	Index	165