

Advancing Probe Card Parallelism for SOC Devices



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- Automotive Semiconductor Market Overview
- Project Motivation and Incentives
- Touchdown Analysis and Comparison
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- True Scale Matrix Test and Qualification Results
- Summary



Automotive Semiconductor Market Overview

- Automotive electronics is a fast-growing market
 - Semiconductor-built electronics is expected to approach nearly half the cost of a new car early next decade.
 - In 2021 Automotive IC Market size increased to ~\$41B
 - Expanding at a CAGR of **6.2%** from 2021 to 2028.







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Project Motivation

- World-wide demand of semiconductor is driving significant growth, specifically due to decarbonization and digitalization
 - Semiconductor suppliers shipped **30% more automotive IC units** in 2021 compared to 2020, compared to overall IC unit shipment increase of 22%
- Key project goals:
 - Increase throughput in wafer test with limited tester
 - Decrease test costs per die
- Challenges:
 - Hourly rate for test cost is increasing
 - Allocation of further test capacity blocked by global supply chain issues
- Consequence for wafer test:
 - Increase the parallelism at wafer test without increase of tester resources by:
 - Optimizing test strategy (modular test insertions)
 - Optimizing the usage of available tester resources (DPS, channels)



Parallelism vs Touchdown

- Increased tester resources introduces the opportunity to raise the parallelism.
- Raising the parallelism would help to reduce the number of required TDs in order to test an entire wafer.
- Number of required TDs for each wafer directly impacts the test time/cost.



Parallelism

As number of sites tested on each TD increases, the test time per wafer significantly decreases P. Dastmalchi/ J. Heitzer/C. Harker SWTest | June 5 - 8, 2022

Touchdown-Efficiency Analysis

- Increase of parallelism is the preferred method to reduce test costs and increase the throughput by decreased TD per wafer and saving time.
- Touchdown-Efficiency (TDE) is a value for the efficiency usage of the full tester resources, for which the probe card is responsible.
 - TDE: Touchdown-efficiency
 - N Sites Max : Number of maximum available sites, based on tester resources
 - N_{TD}: Number of Touchdowns per wafer
 - N _{Dies} : Number of Dies to test on the wafer

	N _{Dies}
TDE =	<u> </u>
	N TD * N Sites Max

• For example, if there are 3000 Dies on a wafer and your tester can support resources for max 500 sites:



TD Count and Efficiency Gains with Full Wafer Contactor

- TDE depends on different parameters:
 - Wafer → Number of Dies to be tested on wafer
 - Tester → Number of maximum available sites, based on tester resources
 - Probe card → Number of required TD to cover the wafer



Full wafer contactors enable best TDE with highest parallelism

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Cost of Test Model

- Major motivation was to maximize throughput with limited tester availability
 - Evaluated throughput increase
 - x64 solid array \rightarrow 24 TD
 - x192 FWC → 7 TD

Model assumptions

- 1184 die per wafer
- 180 sec TD for each PC option
- 2500 wafer starts per month
- Only 2 test cells available not able to increase
- Wafer and Package yield, maintenance and other parameters are assumed similar on both scenarios for model simplicity
- Conclusion:
 - Model confirms the FWC supports project goals to increase test cell throughput without additional capital expenditures and reduce overall cost of tested die







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FWC Array – Optimized Site Arrangement

- Benefits of full contact site arrangement:
 - Allows the placement of a very high number of site
 - The array can be optimized based on priorities
 - Keeps stable thermal condition, because of low rate of stepping out of wafer
 - No chuck deflection at high pin count probecards, because of well distributed contact force



Rainbow vs Football

(Both are experts in TDs)

✓ No overlapping of TDs

Larger tip boundary, less space for cleaning TDs



- ✓ Smaller tip boundary, more space for cleaning TDs
- ✓ Better contact force distribution
- Less stepping outside of the wafer
- Overlapping TDs is required in most cases

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Thermal Condition Improvement During TDs

- The thermal behavior of a probe card with any array is very critical for **TDs at the wafer edge**
- The partial touchdowns on edge can impact the performance of the card depending on:
 - Temperature of the test
 - Test time for each TD
 - Number of consecutive partial TD
- Full wafer array has improved stable thermal condition due to lower rate of stepping out of wafer compared to a compact array
 - Rainbow: Up to 90% of the needle are touching the wafer
 - Football: Up to 98% of the needle are touching the wafer



FFI TrueScaleMatrix for Full Wafer Contactor Probing

- FormFactor has developed a full wafer contactor solution for direct dock tester configurations
 - Based on FFI production proven Matrix full wafer contactor platform
- Initial development for Advantest 93k DD tester
 - Design modifications to both inner TSS and outer TSS
 - Prober SACC tray modifications to accommodate the full-size WSS
 - Depopulated pogo bank configuration in the test head
- High parallelism full wafer contactor
 - Utilizing production proven Matrix architecture
 - 50K+ probe count capability
 - Increased parallelism to ~200
 - Very wide temperature range capability
 - Meets -40°C to 150°C testing requirements

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FFI T11.2 3D MEMS Springs

- Low force springs
- Small scrub marks

----- FFI T11.2

25

---- Alternative Probe

50

10

8

6

4

2

0

0

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Spring K-Force

Minimized pad impact



FEA Results Comparing Full Wafer vs Rectangular

Probe Force

- Rectangular: 18.5k probes → 572 N
- Full Wafer: 25k probes \rightarrow 772 N
 - This corresponds to a 35% force increase vs. TSM Rect.

• Constraints

- 20x latch rollers fixed Held by test head latches
- Bridge Beam center coupon with contact
- Deflections from test cell components that are external to the probe card (ie. prober head plate, bridge beam, etc.) have been intentionally filtered out in order to isolate probe card performance.

• FEA Results:

- Optimized stiffener design showed a low max deflection and no red flags.
- Deflection of the Full Wafer configuration was found to be slightly higher
 - Due to the fact that the probe force is 35% higher





Thermal FEA to Control Deflection Due to Temperature

• Thermal gradients in probe card produce differential expansion across probe card components and can produce probe card bow



- Different thermal FEA simulations were needed to characterize and improve the PC performance by optimizing both:
 - Temperature Profile
 - Deflection due to temperature change on a full stack up PC

Temperature Profile

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Utilizing thermal FEA probecard deflection is minimized.

Validation Device Parameters

Test and Probe Card Parameters

Total Probe Counts	> 20k	
Minimum Wafer Pad Pitch	< 100um	
Minimum Pad size	75um x 70um	
Test Temperature Range	LT:-40°C & HT:150°C	
Tester	Advantest V93K DD	
Probe Technology	T11.2P	
Max Sites available on tester	136	
Parallelism	136	
TD achieved	6	
TDE	93%	



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TrueScaleMatrix Scrub Mark Capability

- Scrub mark results across full wafer array
 - Pad size: 70um x 75um
 - Scrub mark data collected on 300mm wafer at 150°C and -40°C
 - Ave. scrub mark size: 18um x 10um



Location of scrub marks at the edge of wafer demonstrates the excellent thermal mechanical performance

Super Bond Pad Capability at Full Temp Range

• Super Bond Pad (SBP):

- Consolidation of scrub marks superimposed on top of each other to establish a single virtual pad representing all scrub marks
- SBP calculation removes systematic errors not associated with the probe card capability
 - Parallelism: x136
 - Array size : Full Wafer
 - Pad size: 70um x 75um
 - Keep out: 5um
 - 100% of scrubs in pad area meeting the keep out spec





Demonstrated SBP performance <37um per side through entire temperature range

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TrueScaleMatrix Thermal Characterization

• Experiment for Room to 150°C :

- Measuring the change of height over time:
 - Full Wafer TSM with 20k probes
 - Prober preheated overnight before loading PC
 - Non-contact soak at -500um
 - 50 minutes
 - Contact soak to achieve final soak condition
 - 15 minutes and achieves thermal stability
- Results:
 - ✓ Only 58um Z-height movement after complete soak
 - ✓ 2 um Z movement after chuck away from card for 1 min.

• Experiment for Room to -40°C :

- Measuring the change of height over time:
 - Full Wafer TSM with 20k probes
 - Non-contact soak at -500um for
 - 80 minutes
 - Contact soak to achieve final soak condition
 - 20 minutes and achieves thermal stability
- Results:
 - ✓ Only 31um Z-height movement after complete soak
 - ✓ 1 um Z movement after chuck away from card for 1 min.





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AOT/POT Experiment

• Objective:

- Measuring the actual overtravel based on the applied programmed overtravel
- Typically see AOP/POT deviate from 1 as pin count and parallelism increase

• Experiment:

- Field Size: Full Wafer
- Probe Count: ~20K
- Tester: Advantest V93K DD
- Prober: TSK Accretech UF3000 EX-e

• Results:

- At recommended AOT of 70um the POT was measured 160um.
- AOT/POT of around 44%

Demonstrated linear AOT/POT ratio around recommended actual overtravel.



TrueScaleMatrix Planarity Performance

- Measured outgoing Optical Planarity at FFI:
 - Less than 20um on entire array

Planarity	Min.	Max.
17.8 um	-7.7um	10.1um



TSM provides excellent planarity of <20um across the full 300mm array

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Summary

- Strong automotive IC market growth requiring not only lower test cost but also higher wafer throughput.
- Full wafer contactor solutions enables increased throughput and lowers cost of test compared to compact PH option
 - Increase parallelism to reduce TD count
 - Improve TD efficiency to optimize utilization of tester resources
- FormFactor has a full wafer contact solution for wafer test on V93K Direct-Dock tester
- The TrueScale Matrix 300mm full wafer contactor has been fully qualified at Infineon for high parallelism automotive device probing





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