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(54) **FINFET DEVICE AND METHOD OF FORMING SAME**

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H01L 21/28 (2006.01)

H01L 29/423 (2006.01)

(71) Applicant: **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.**, Hsinchu (TW)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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29/1054 (2013.01); *H01L 21/26513* (2013.01);

H01L 29/4966 (2013.01); *H01L 21/28185*

(2013.01); *H01L 21/28238* (2013.01); *H01L*

29/42392 (2013.01)

(72) Inventors: **Shahaji B. More**, Hsinchu (TW);
Shih-Chieh Chang, Taipei (TW)

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(22) Filed: **Jul. 25, 2023**

(57)

ABSTRACT

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 17/402,815, filed on Aug. 16, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,764,301, which is a continuation of application No. 16/245,519, filed on Jan. 11, 2019, now Pat. No. 11,094,826.

(60) Provisional application No. 62/737,218, filed on Sep. 27, 2018.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01L 29/78 (2006.01)

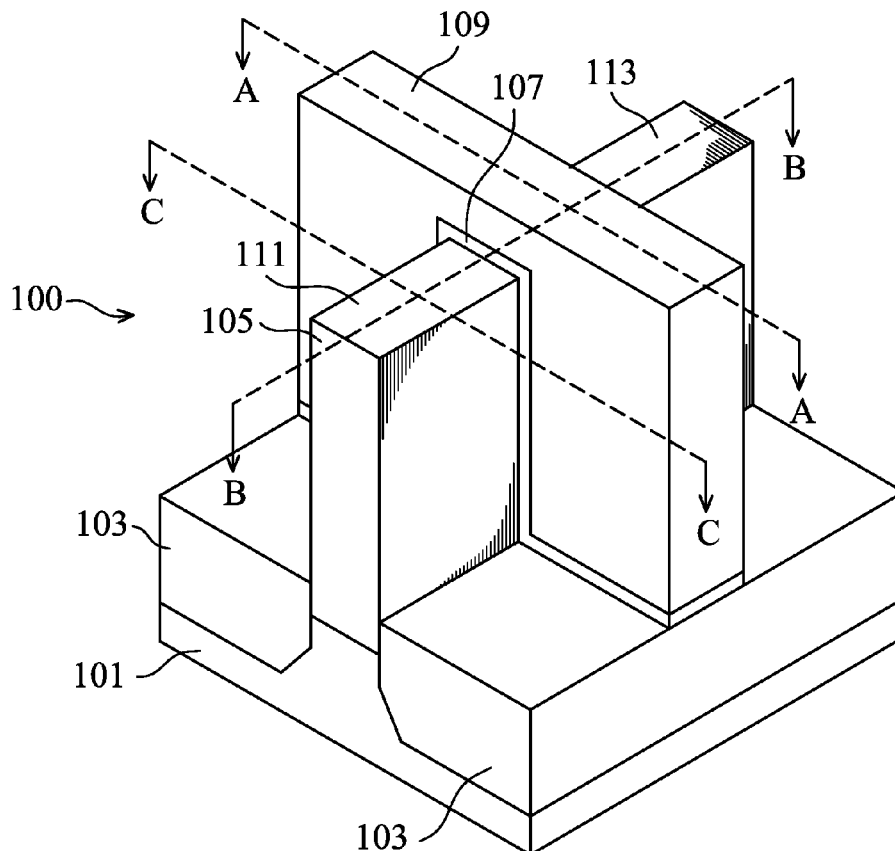
H01L 29/06 (2006.01)

H01L 29/08 (2006.01)

H01L 29/10 (2006.01)

H01L 21/265 (2006.01)

A FinFET device and a method of forming the same are provided. The method includes forming semiconductor strips over a substrate. Isolation regions are formed over the substrate and between adjacent semiconductor strips. A first recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose first portions of the semiconductor strips. The first portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips. A second recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose second portions of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips. The second portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips. The reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips and the reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips form fins. The fins extend away from topmost surfaces of the isolation regions.



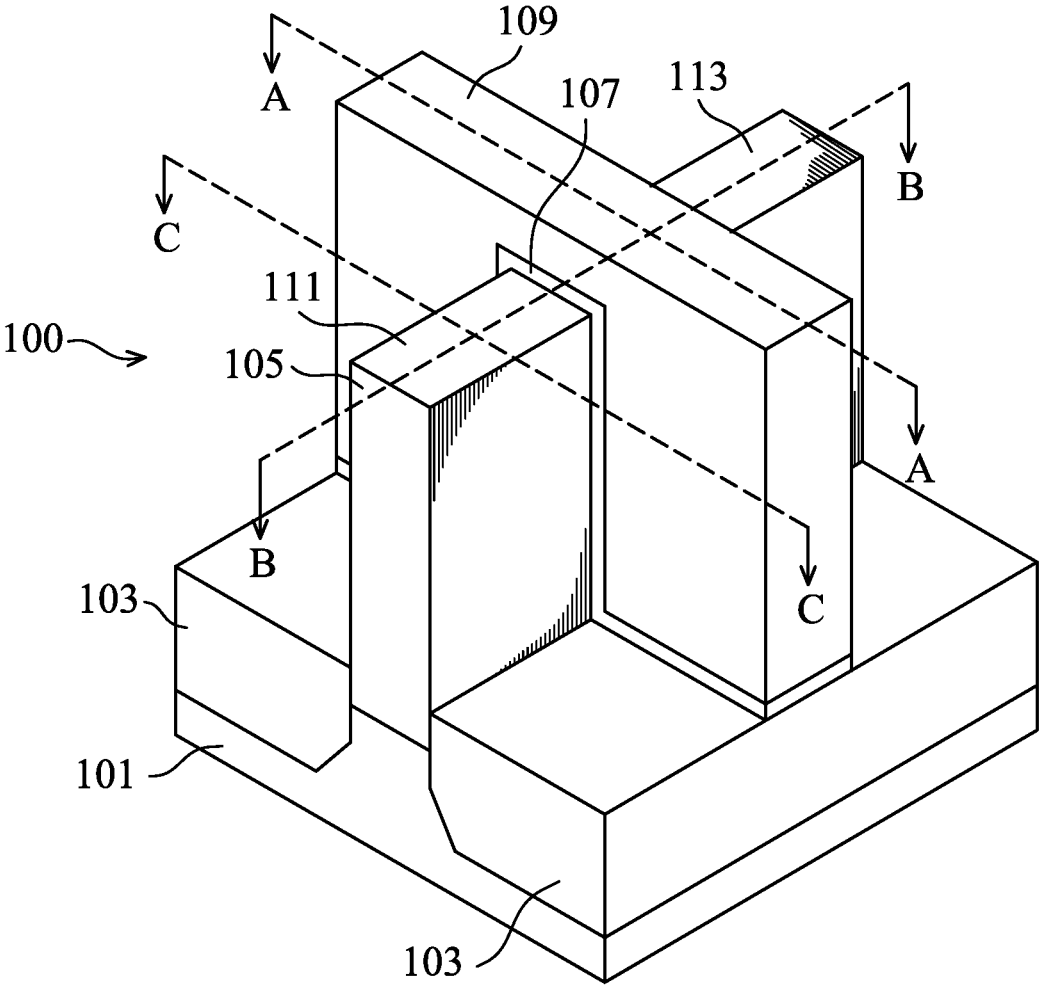


Figure 1

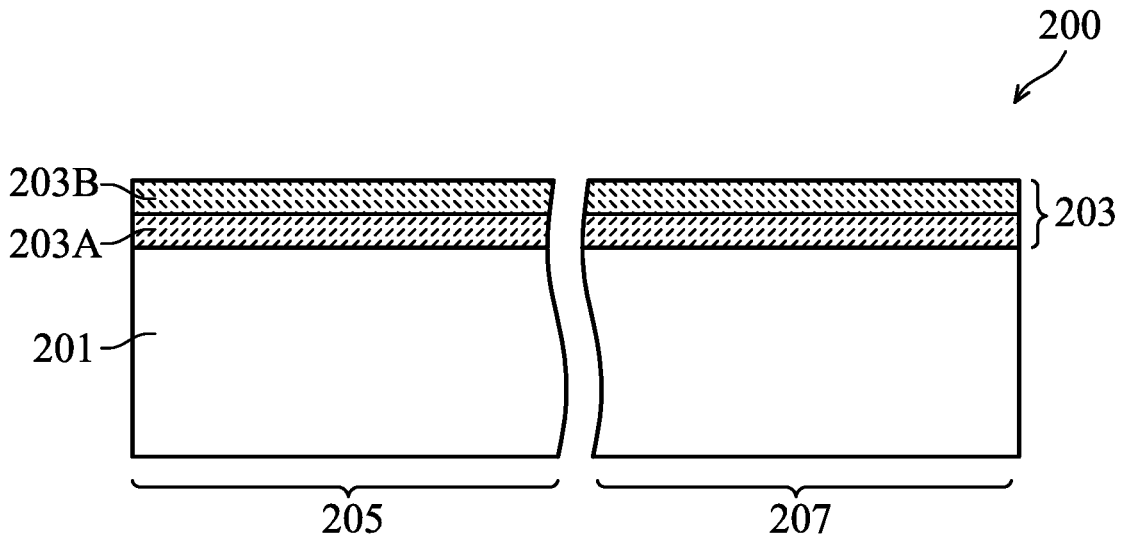


Figure 2A

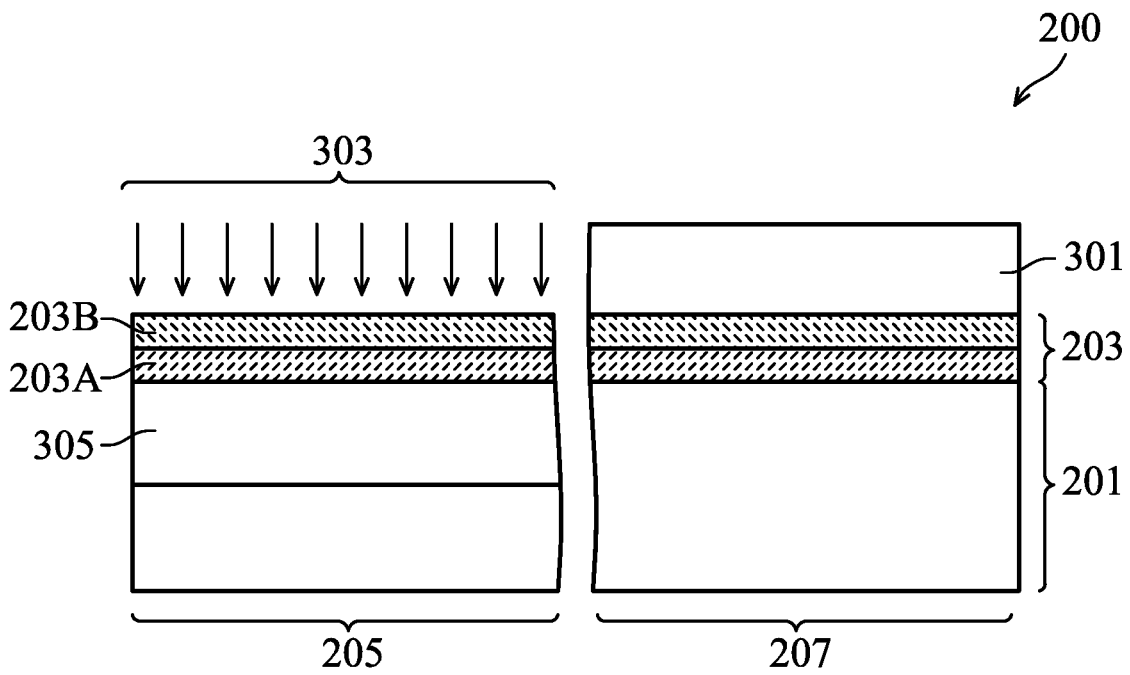


Figure 3A

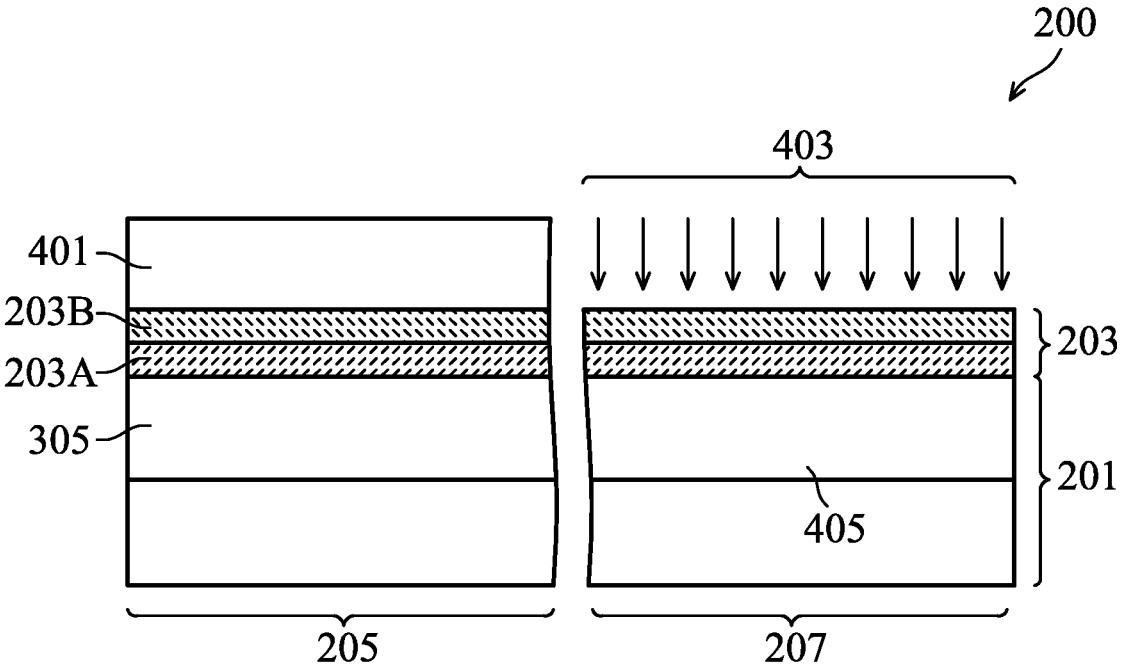


Figure 4A

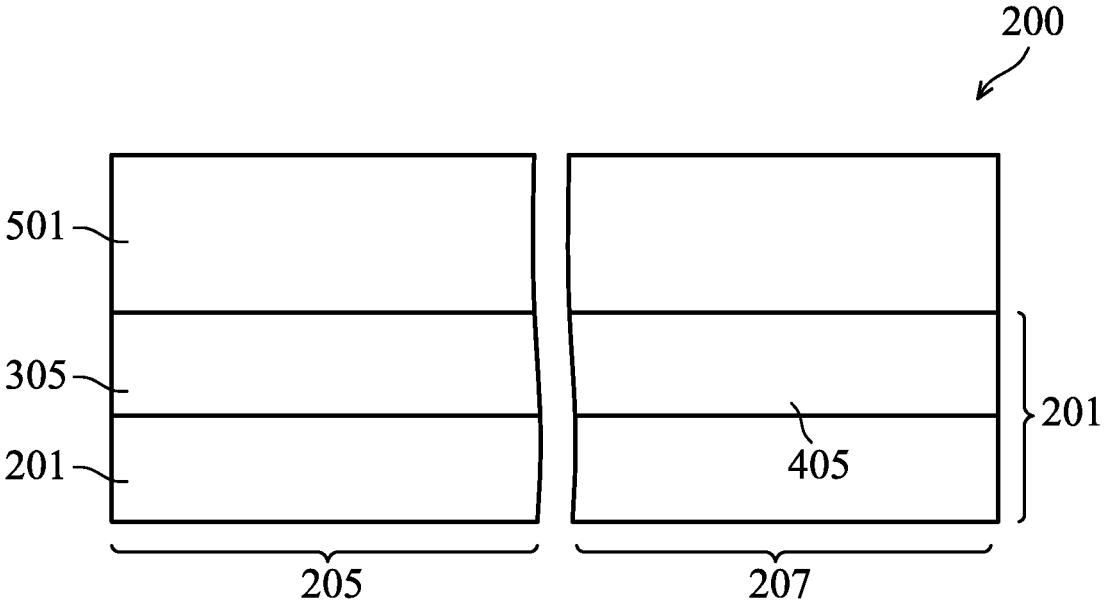


Figure 5A

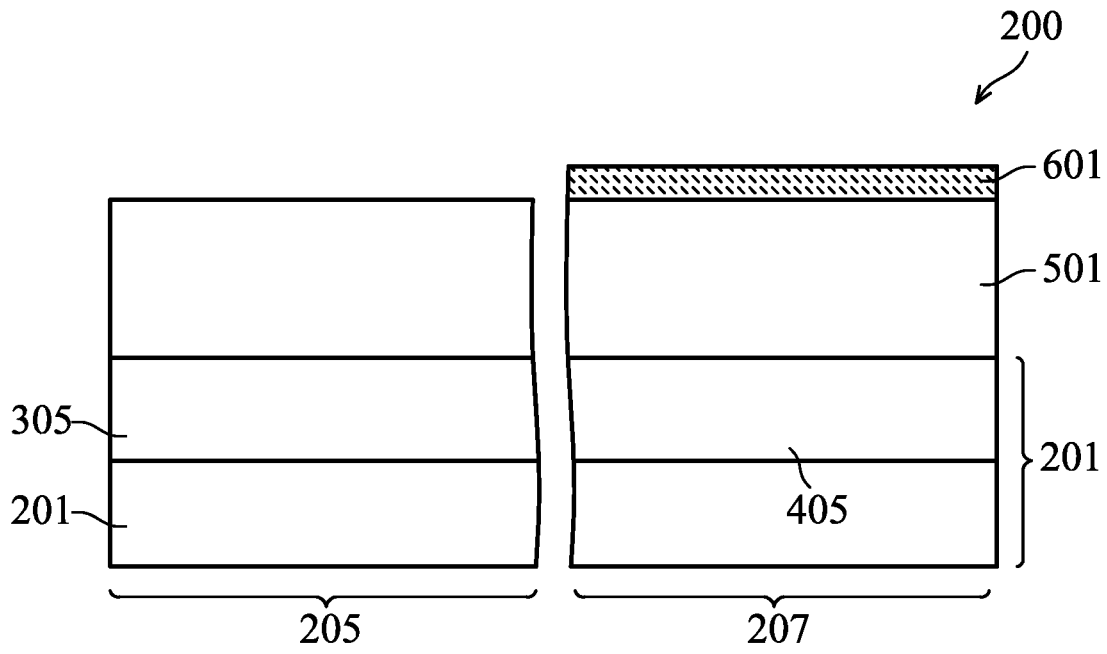


Figure 6A

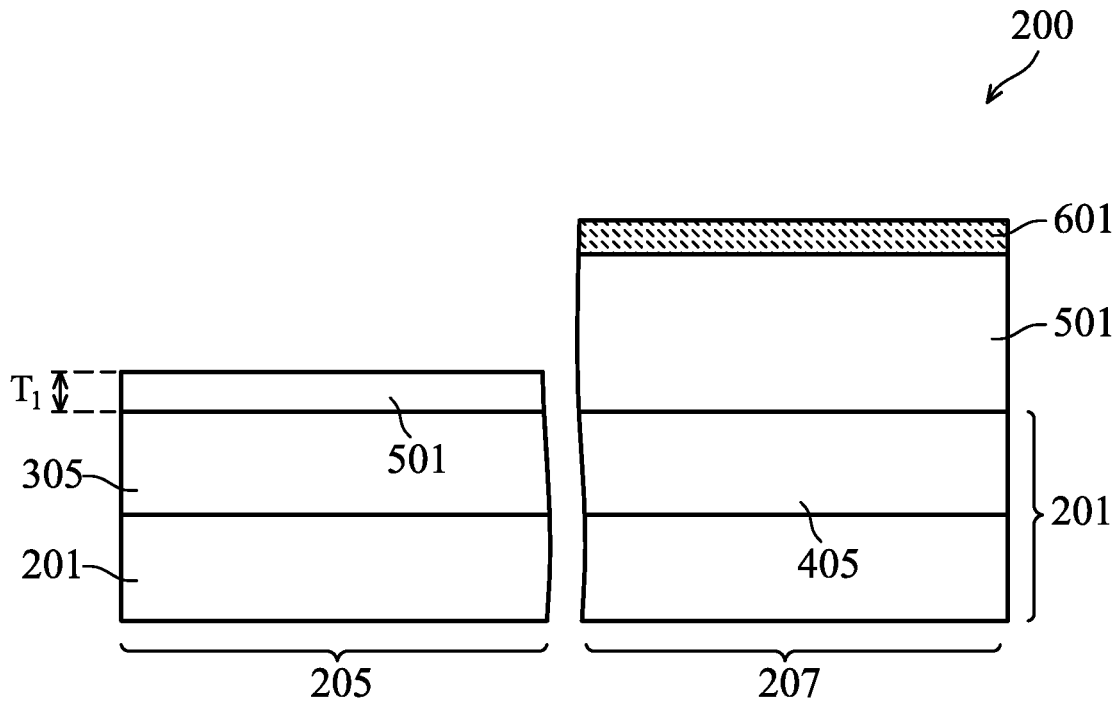


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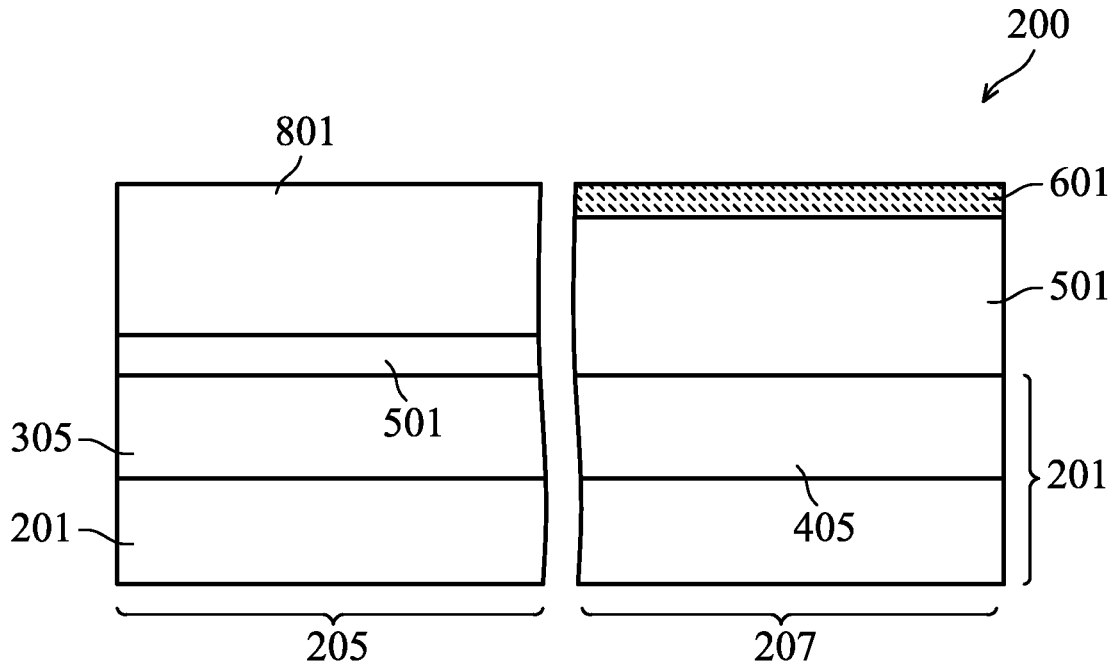


Figure 8A

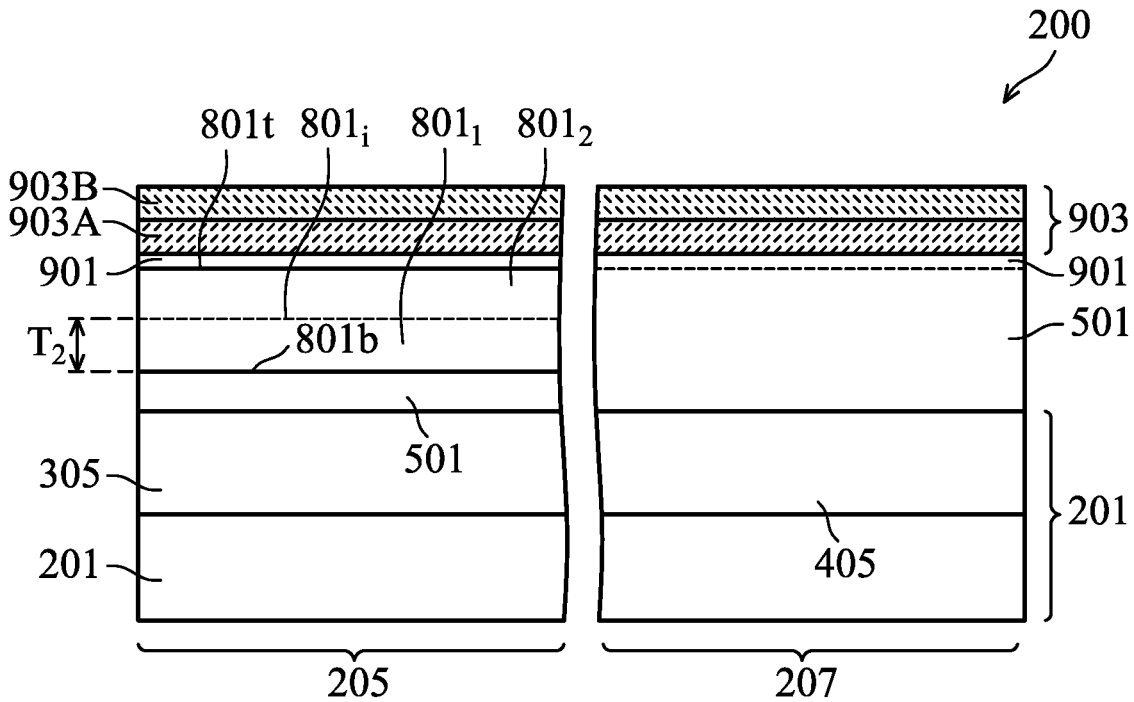


Figure 9A

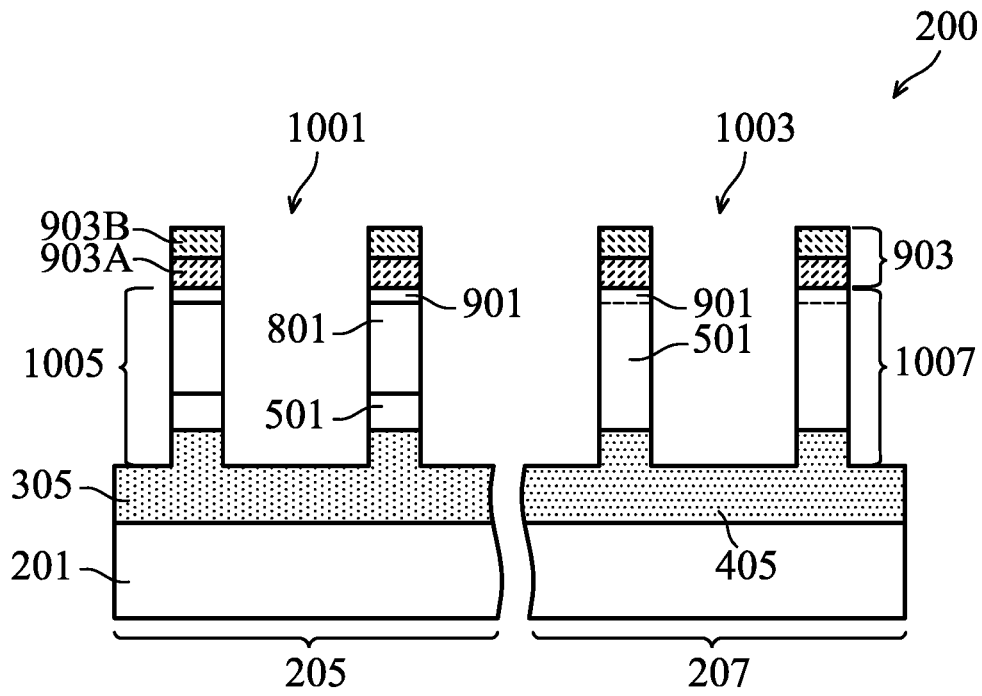


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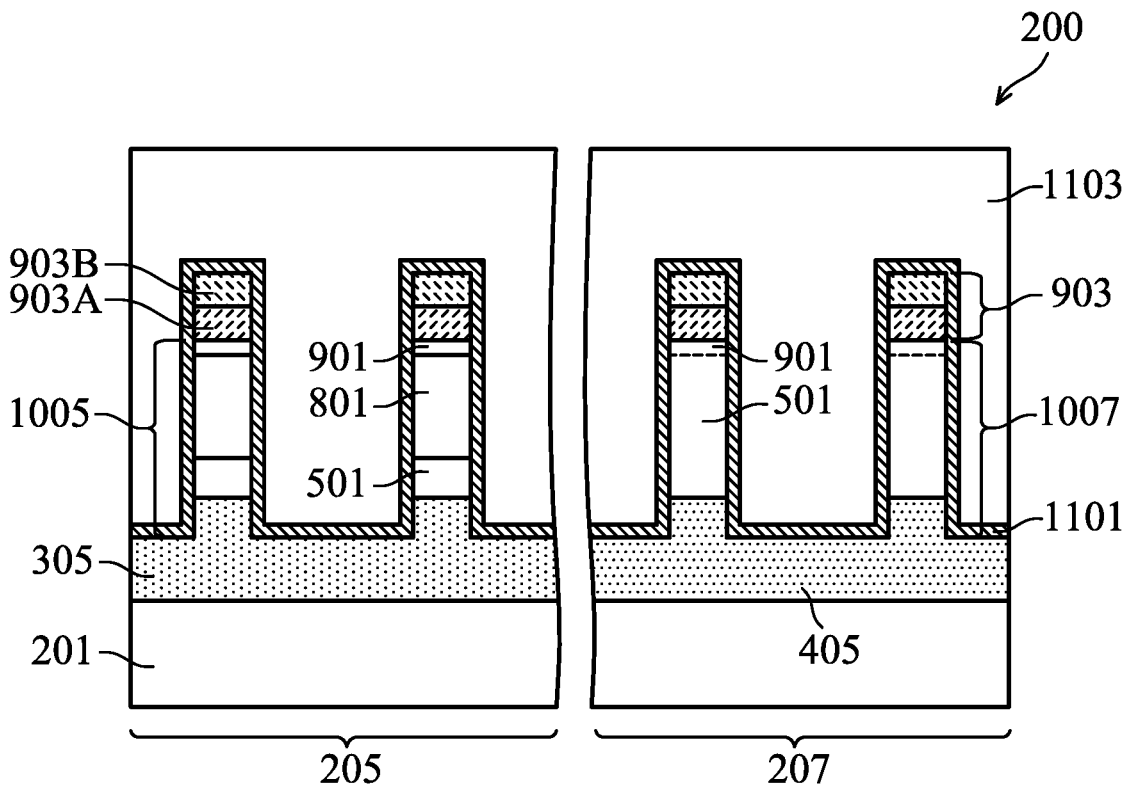


Figure 11A

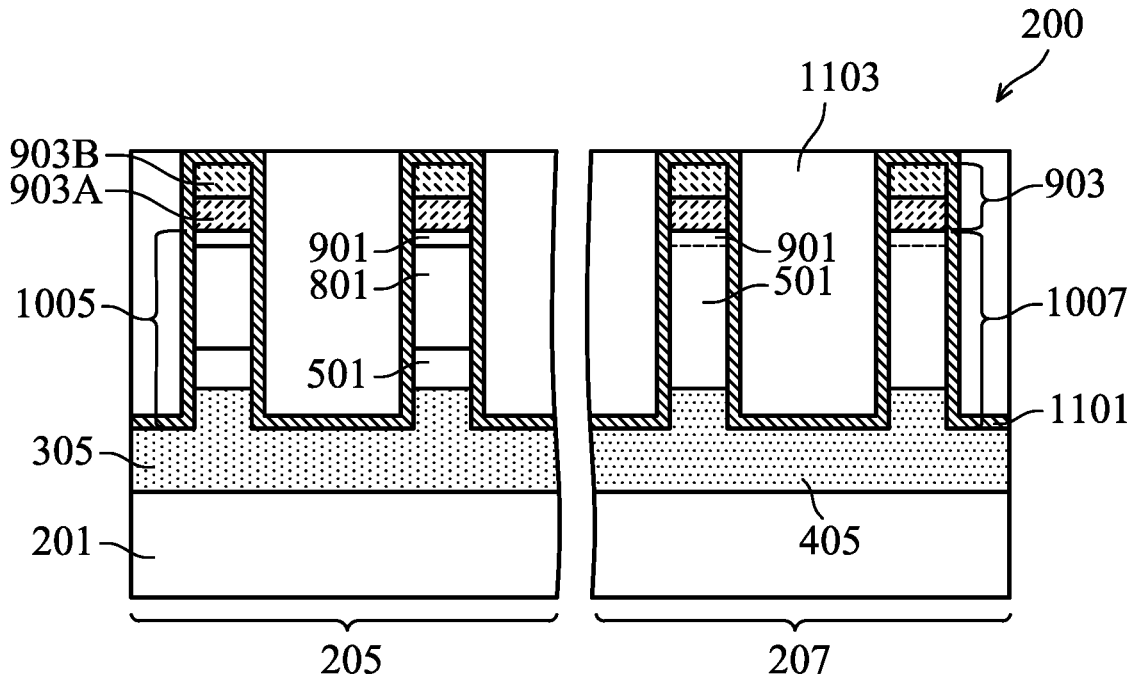


Figure 12A

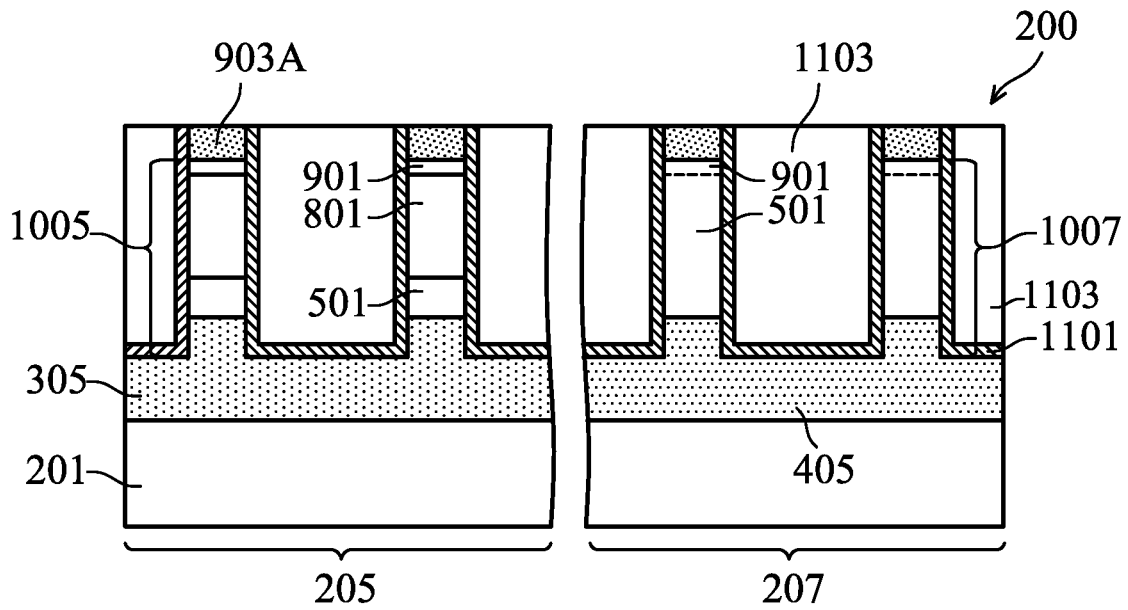


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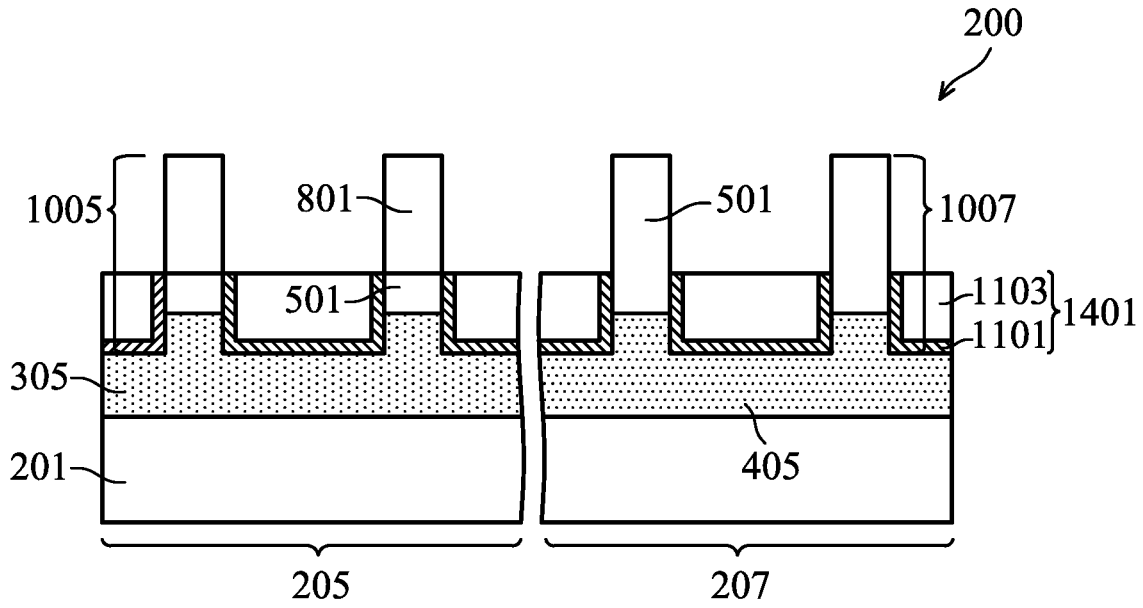


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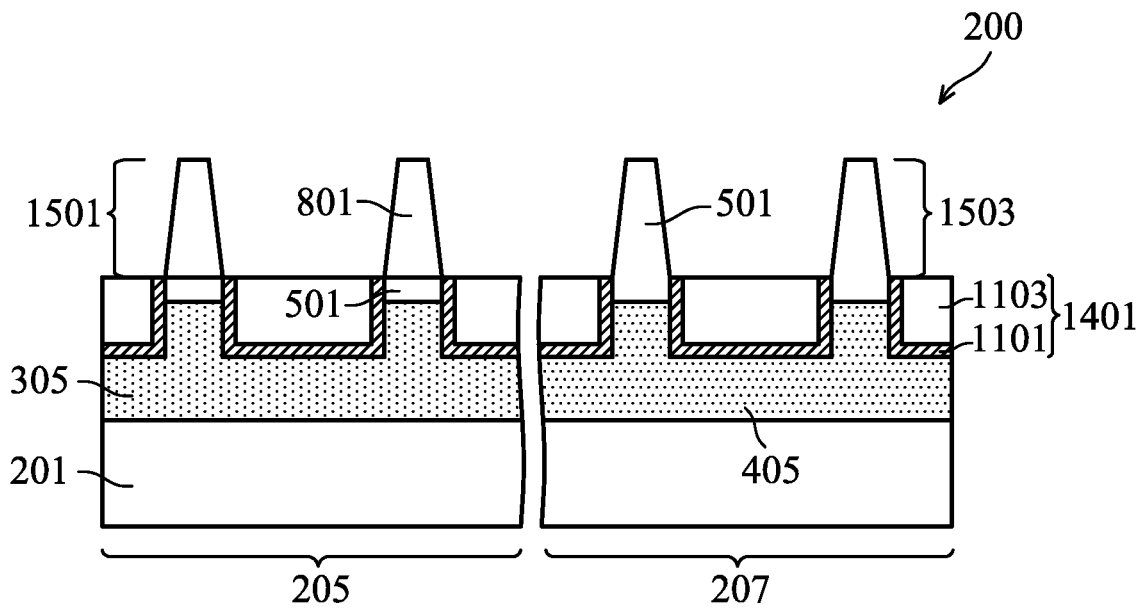


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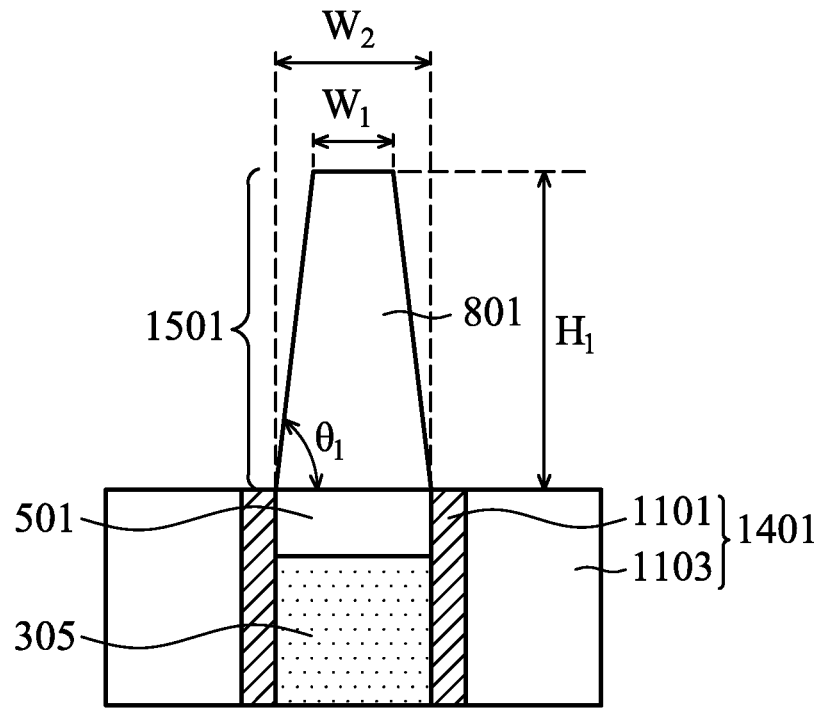


Figure 16A

200

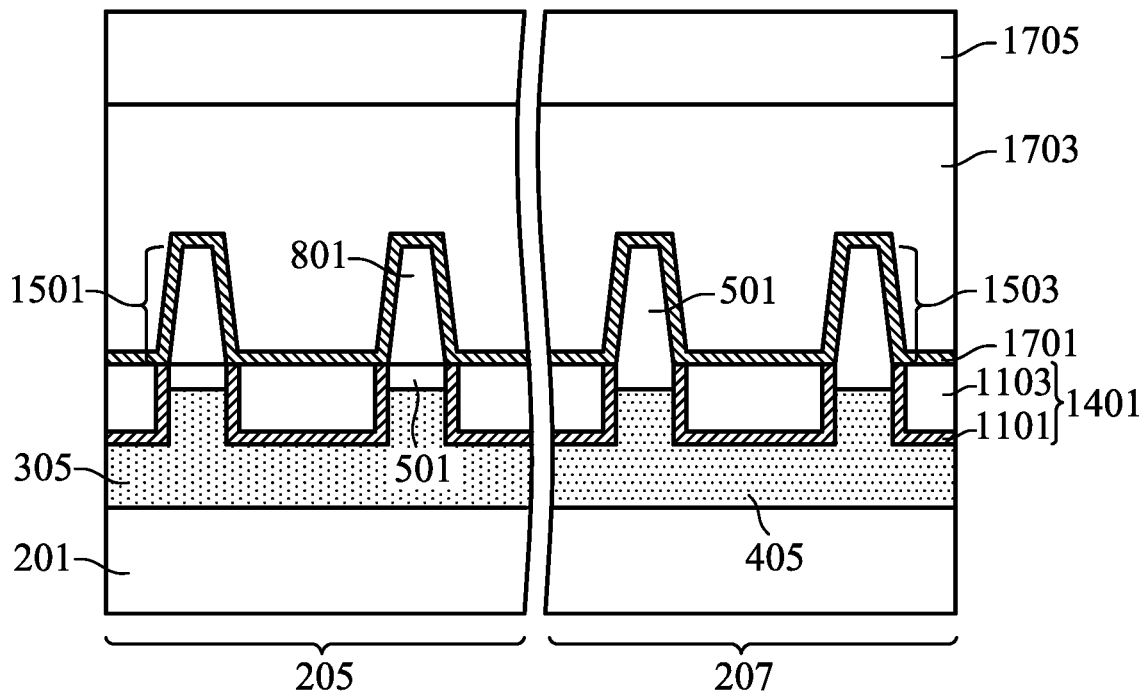


Figure 17A

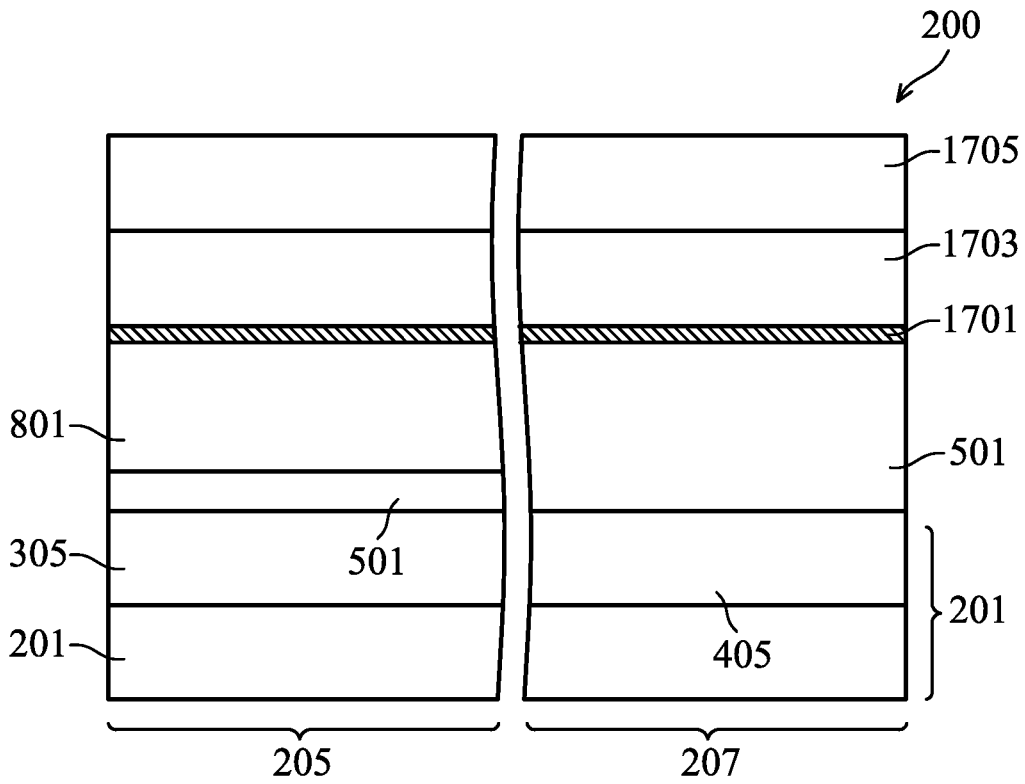


Figure 17B

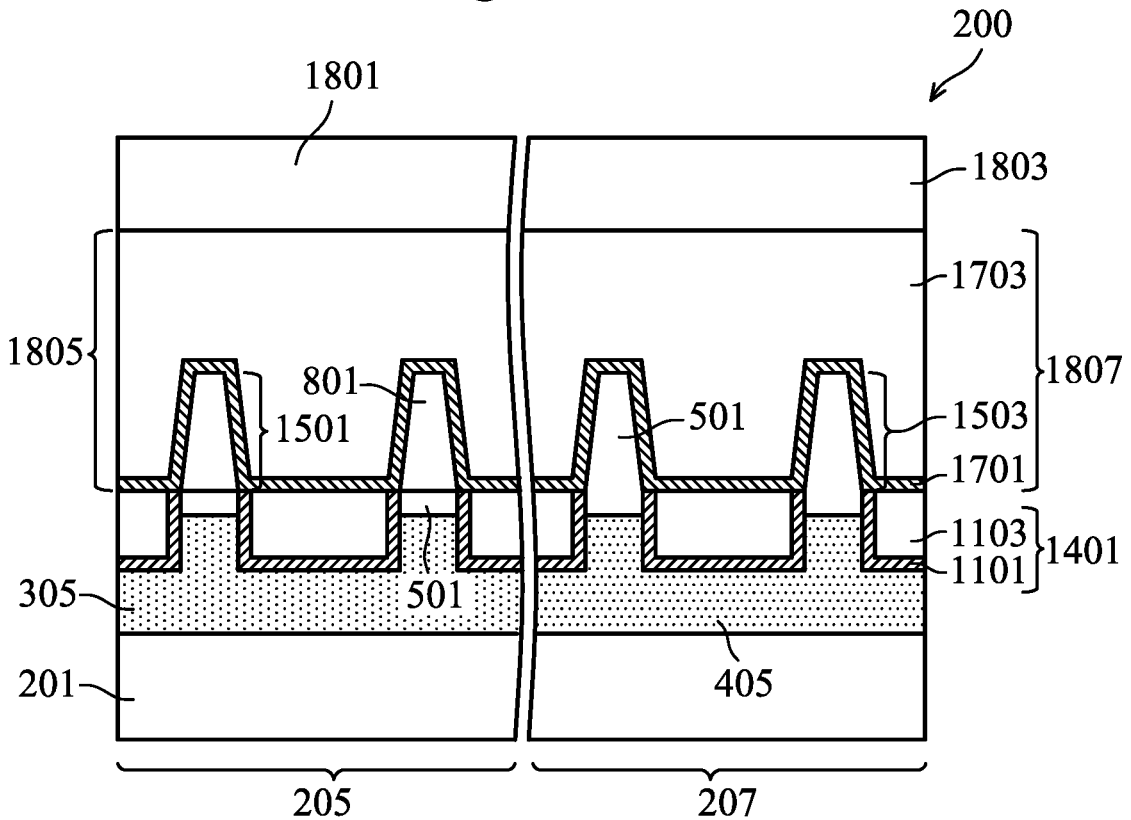


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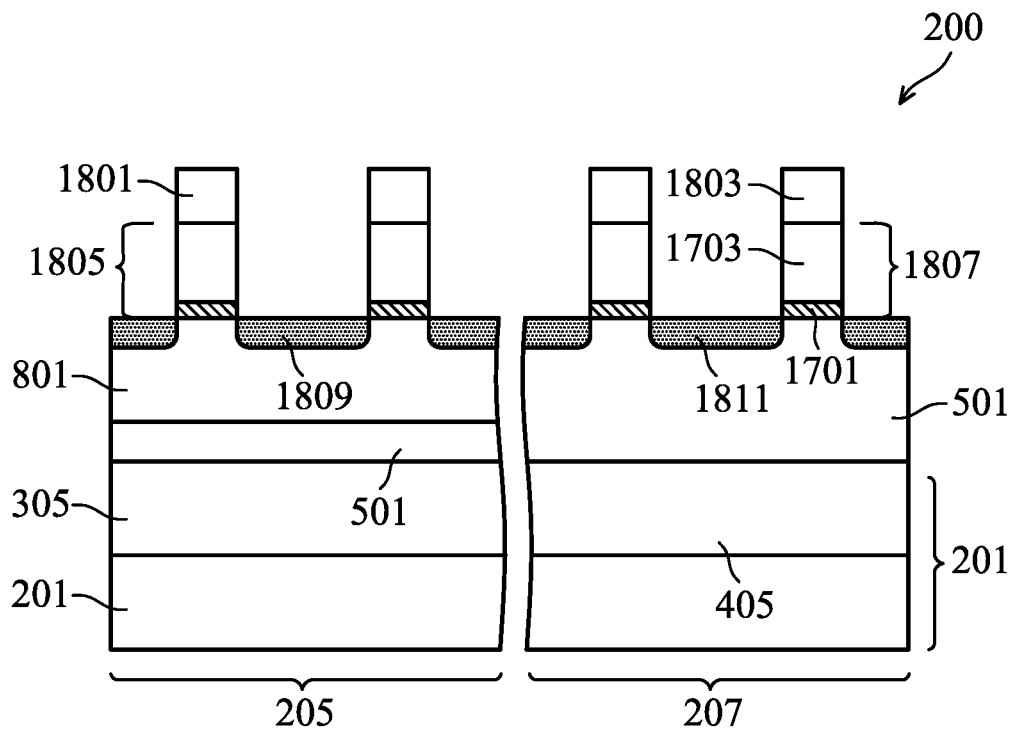


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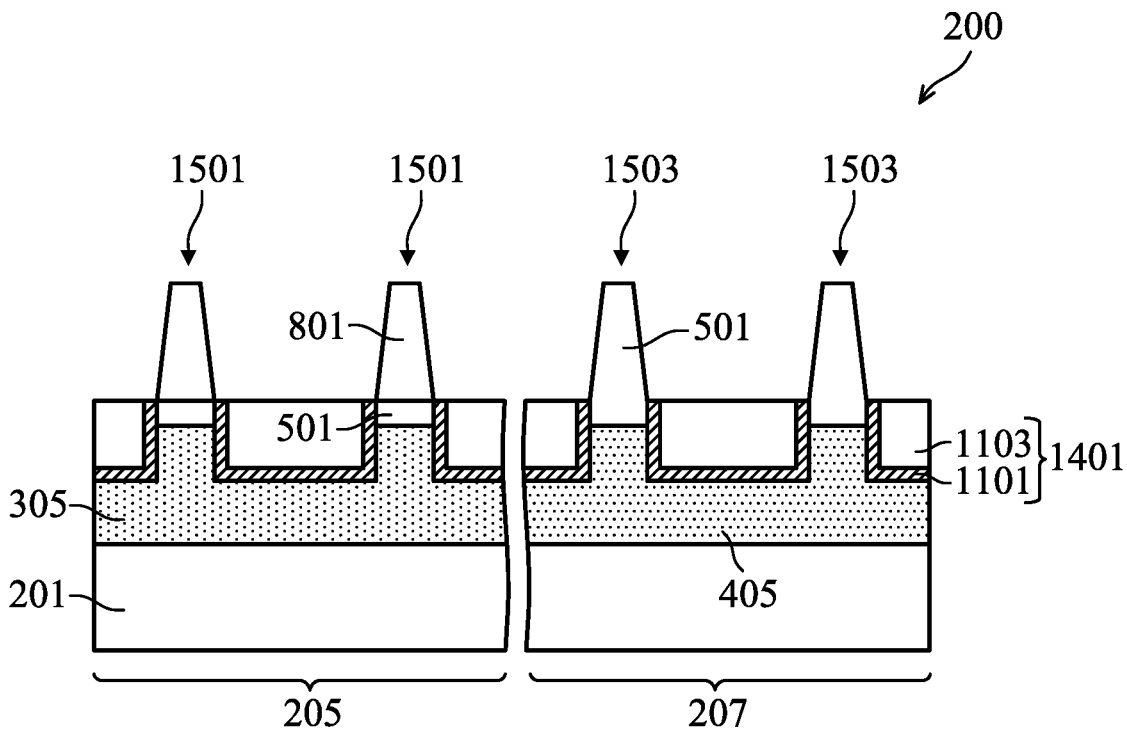


Figure 18C

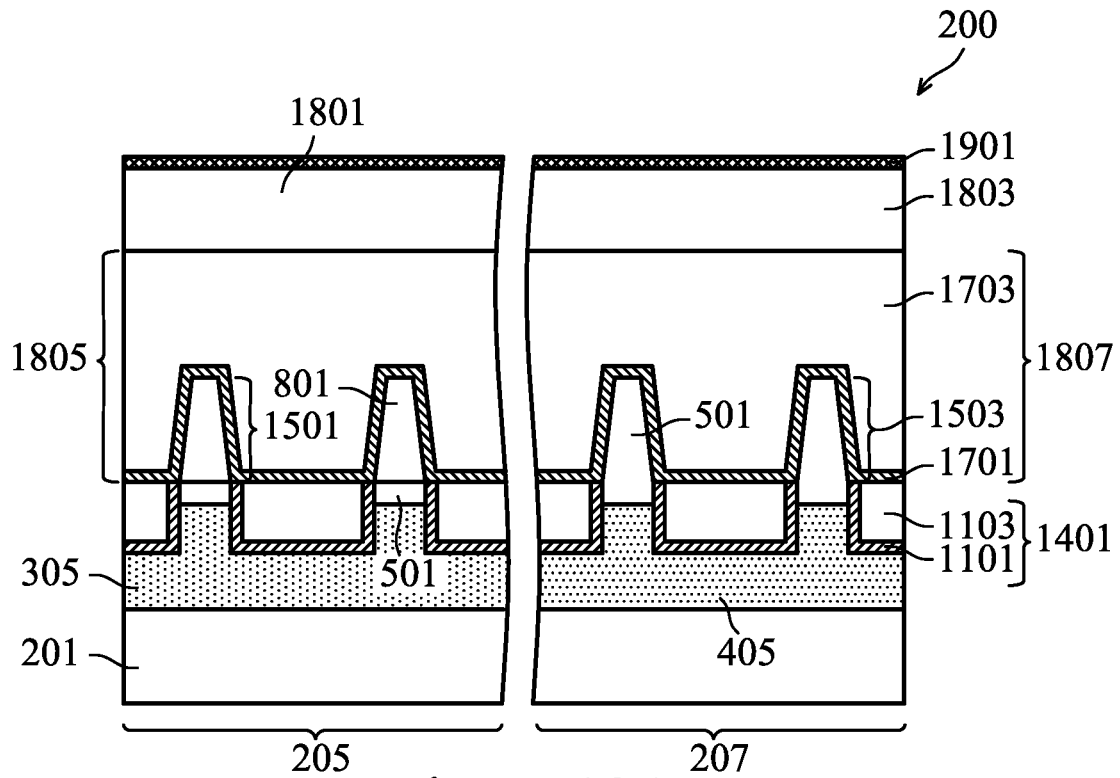


Figure 19A

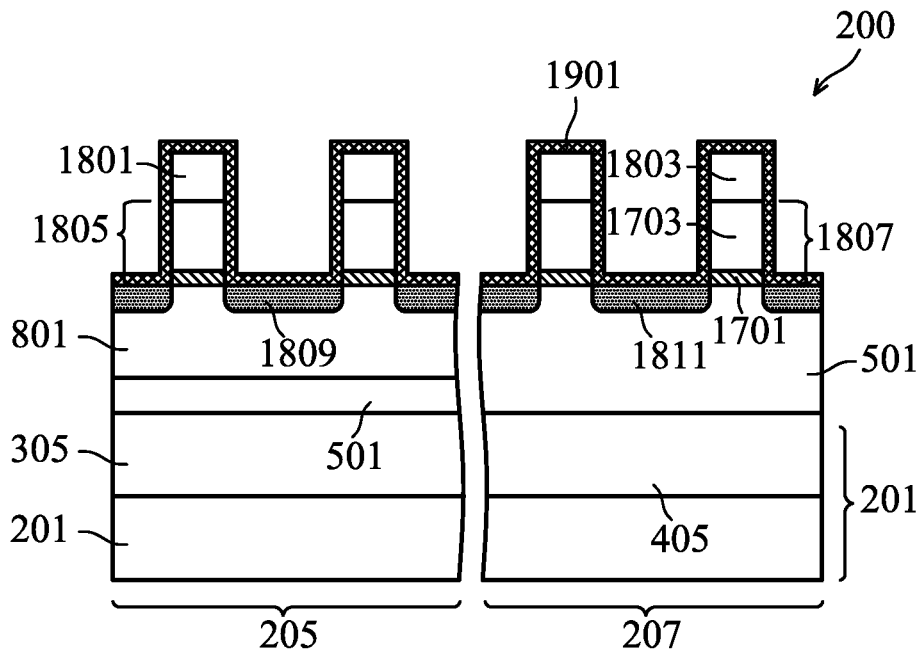


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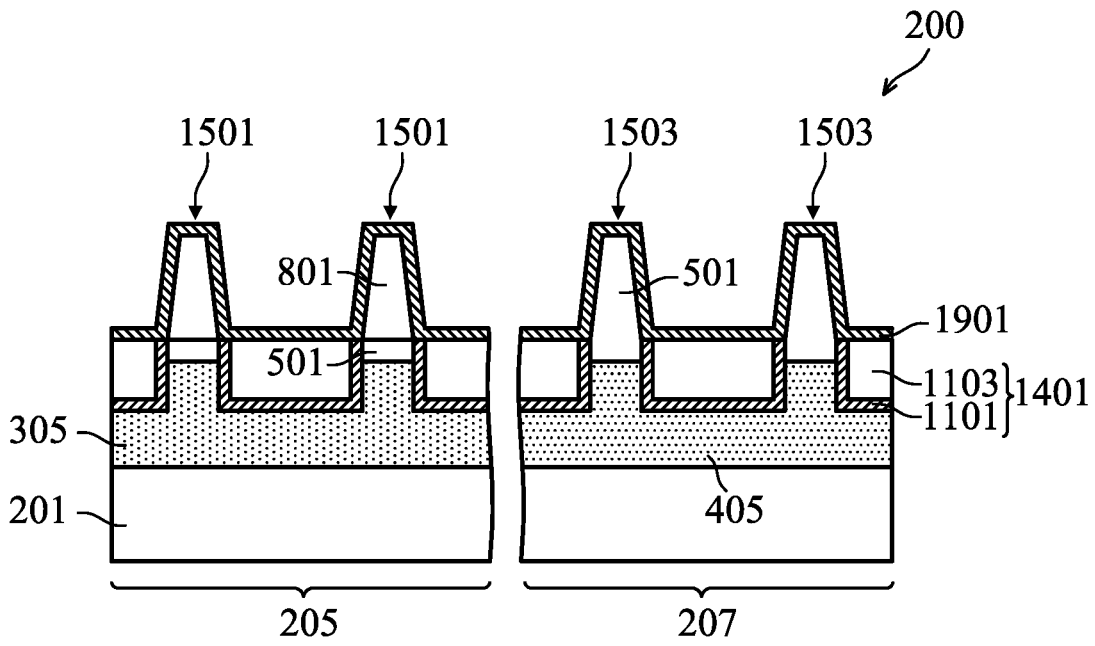


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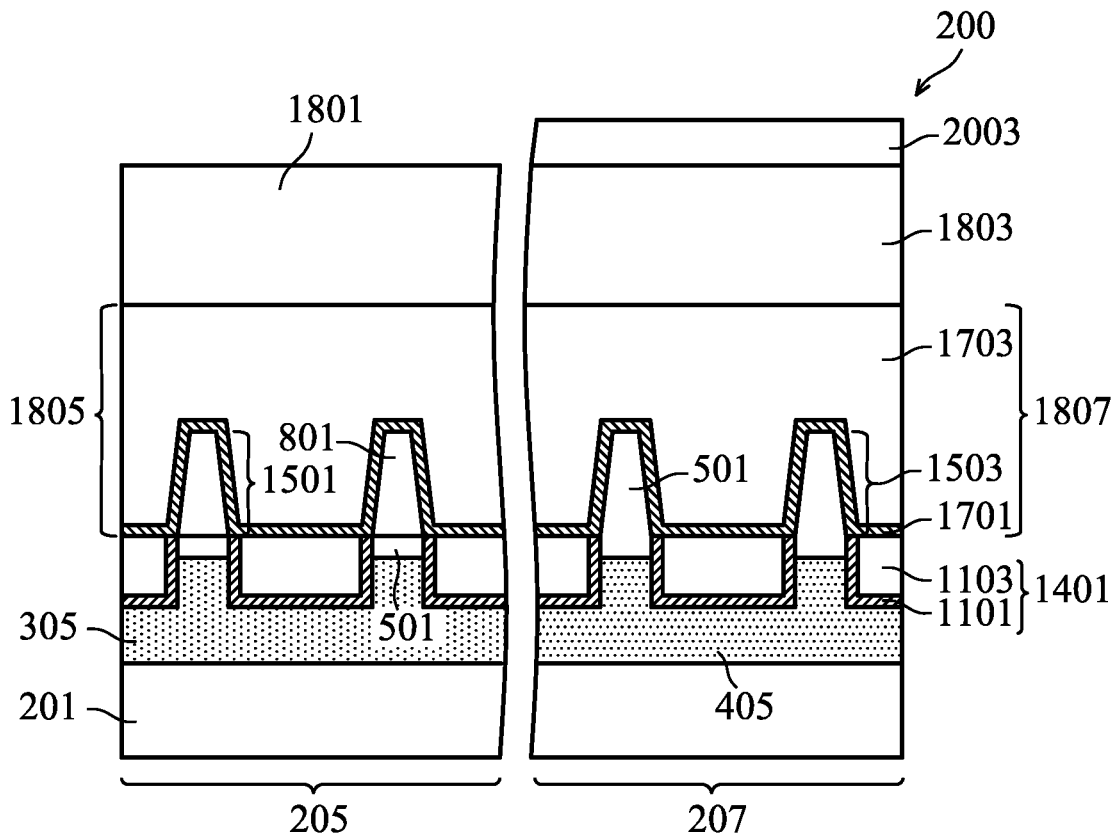


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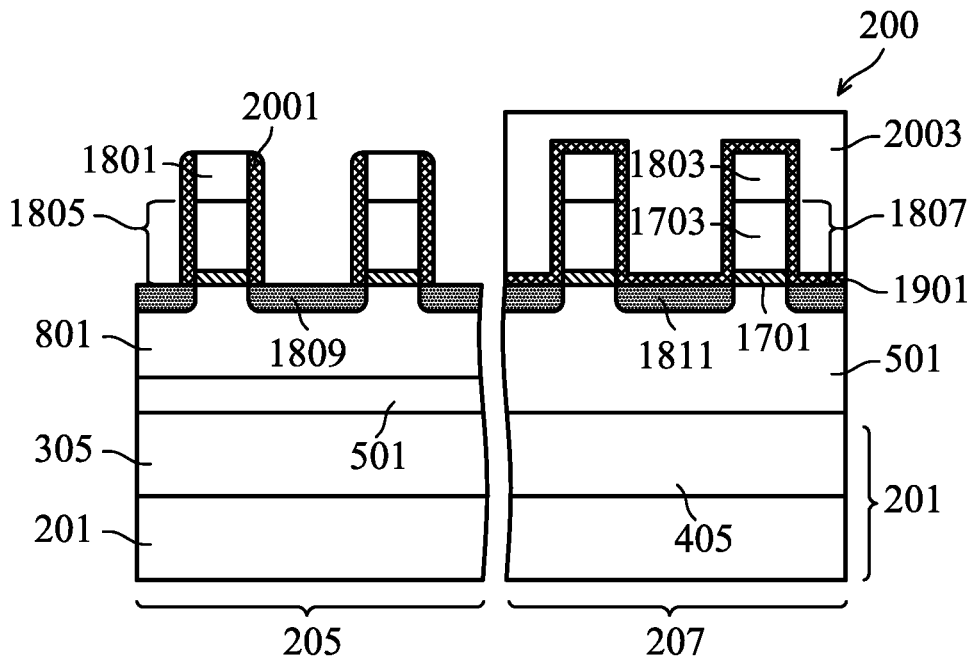


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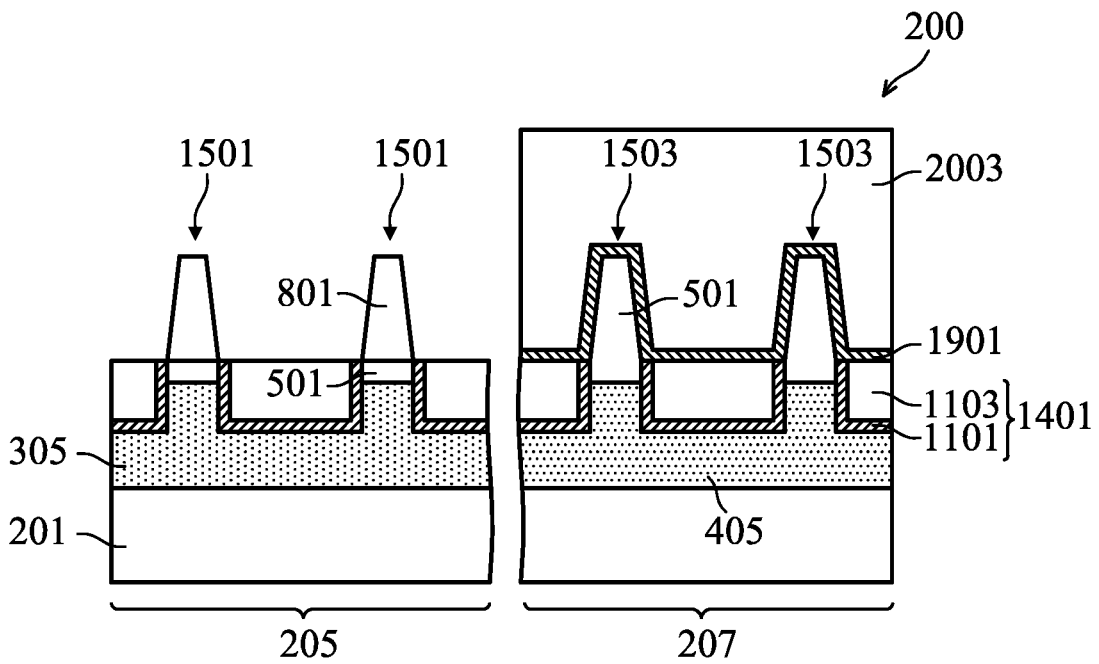


Figure 20C

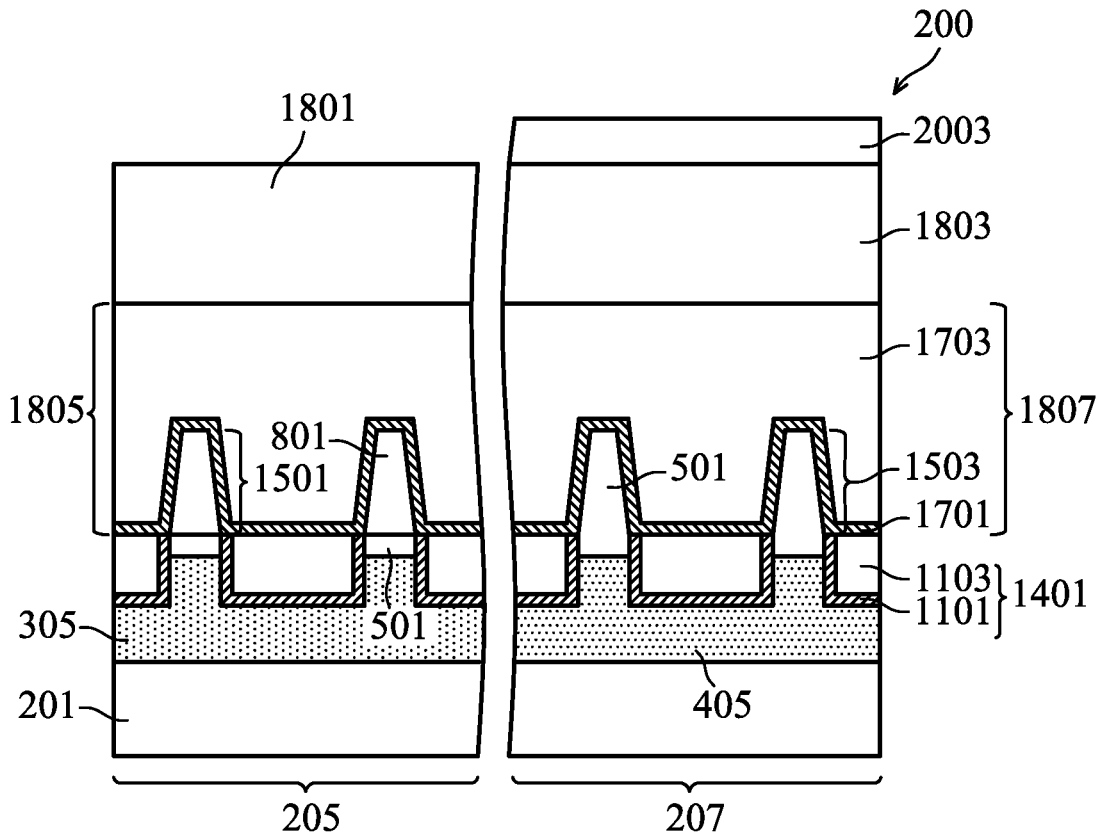


Figure 21A

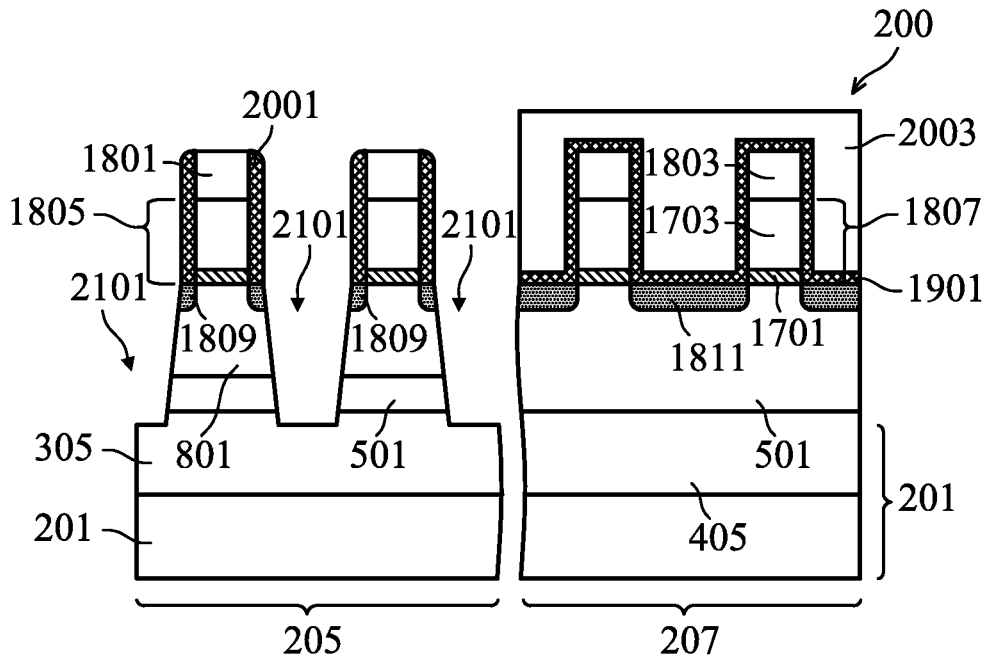


Figure 21B

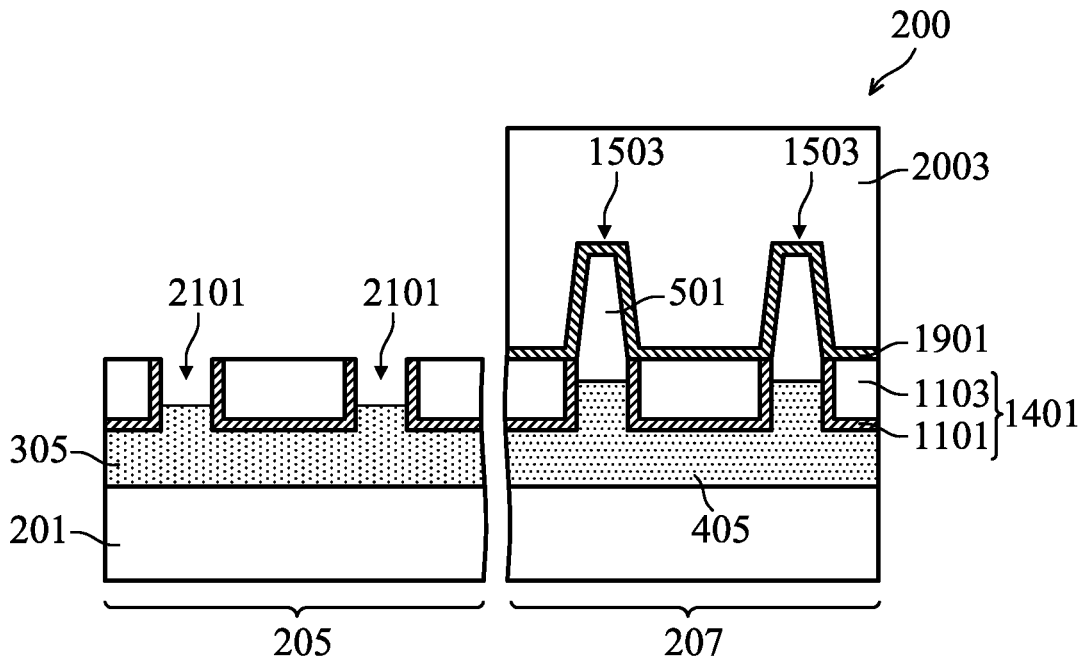


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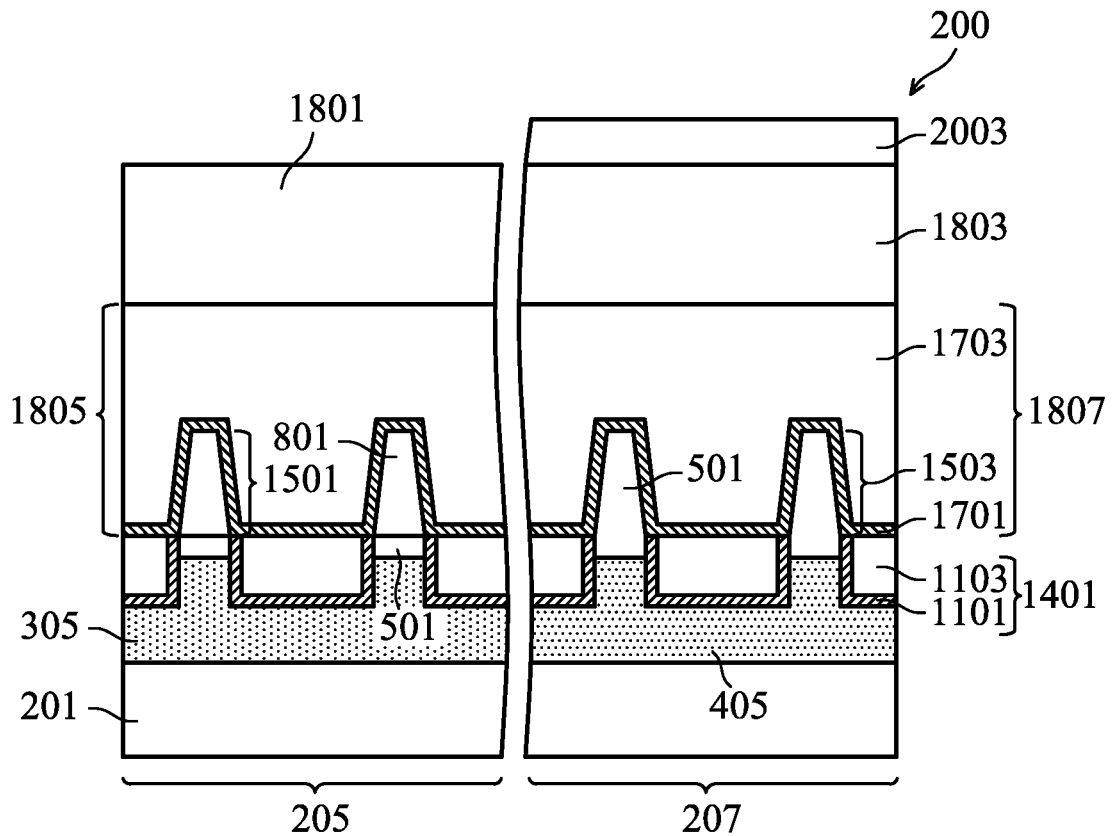


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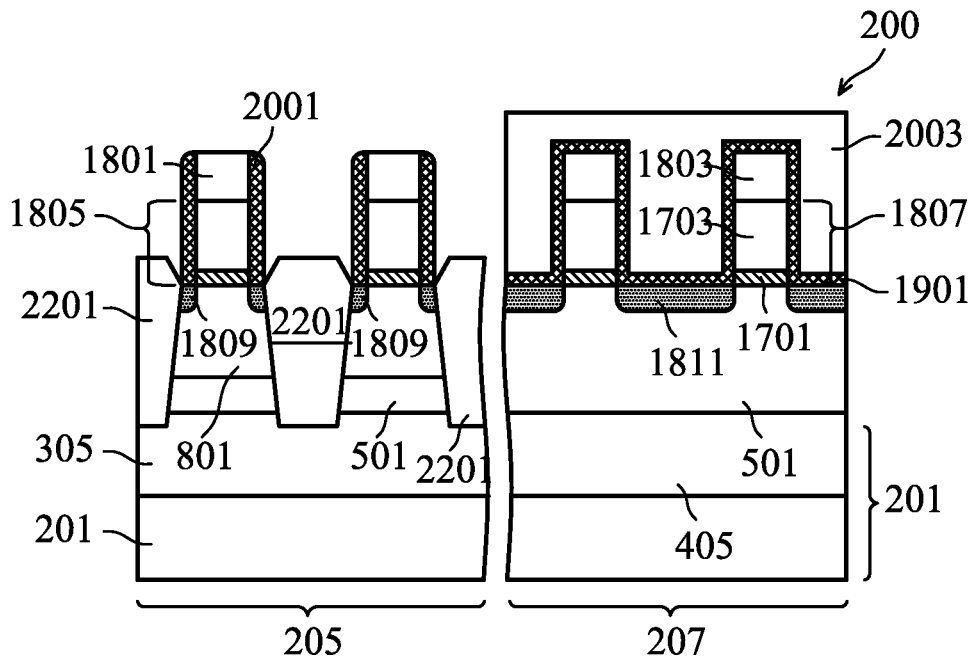


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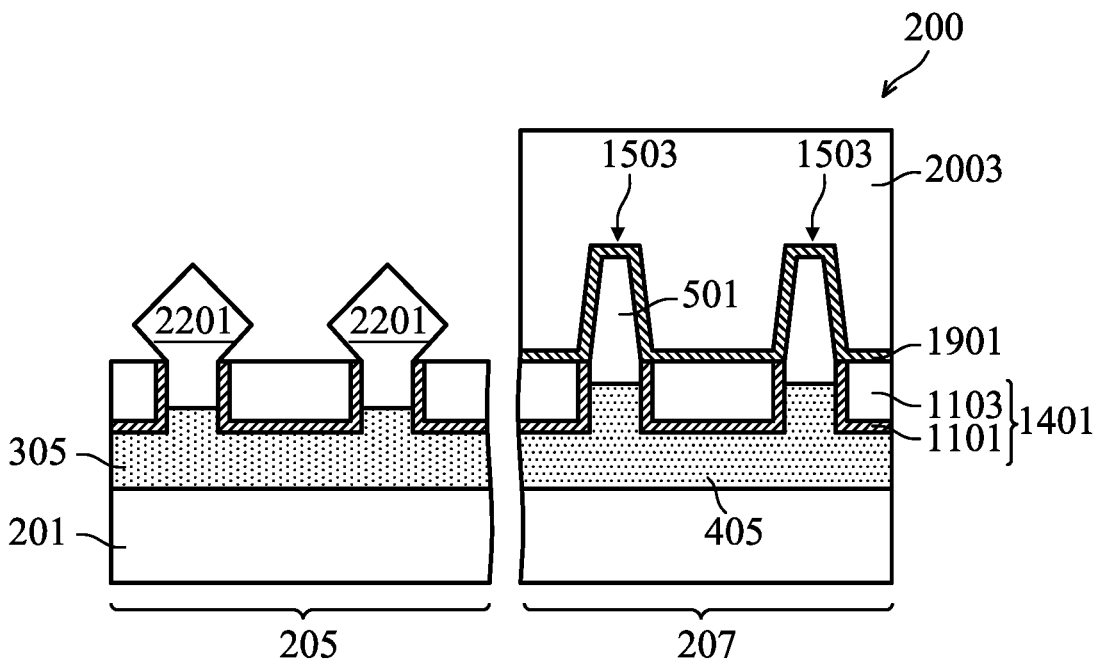


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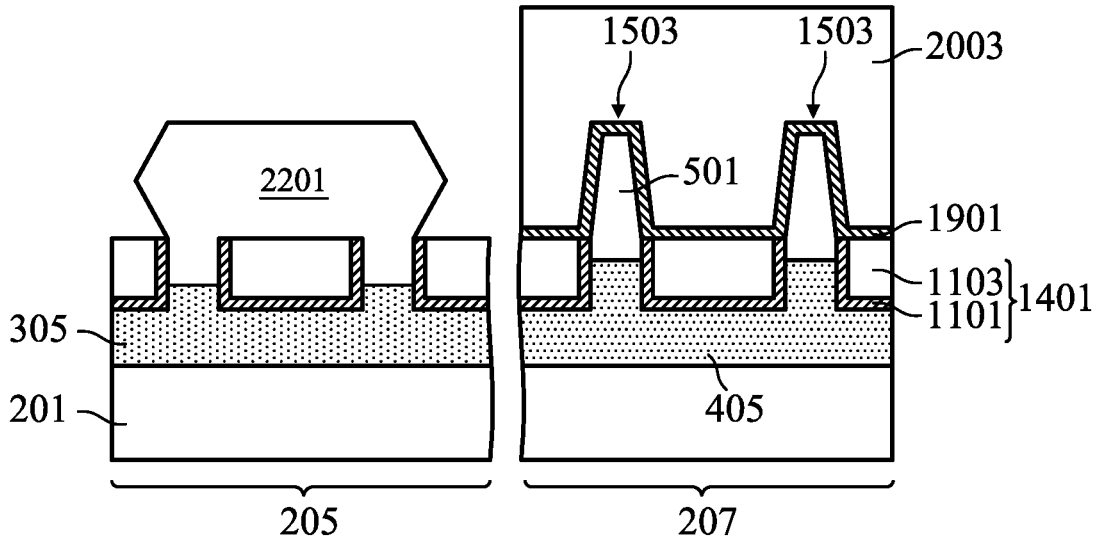


Figure 23C

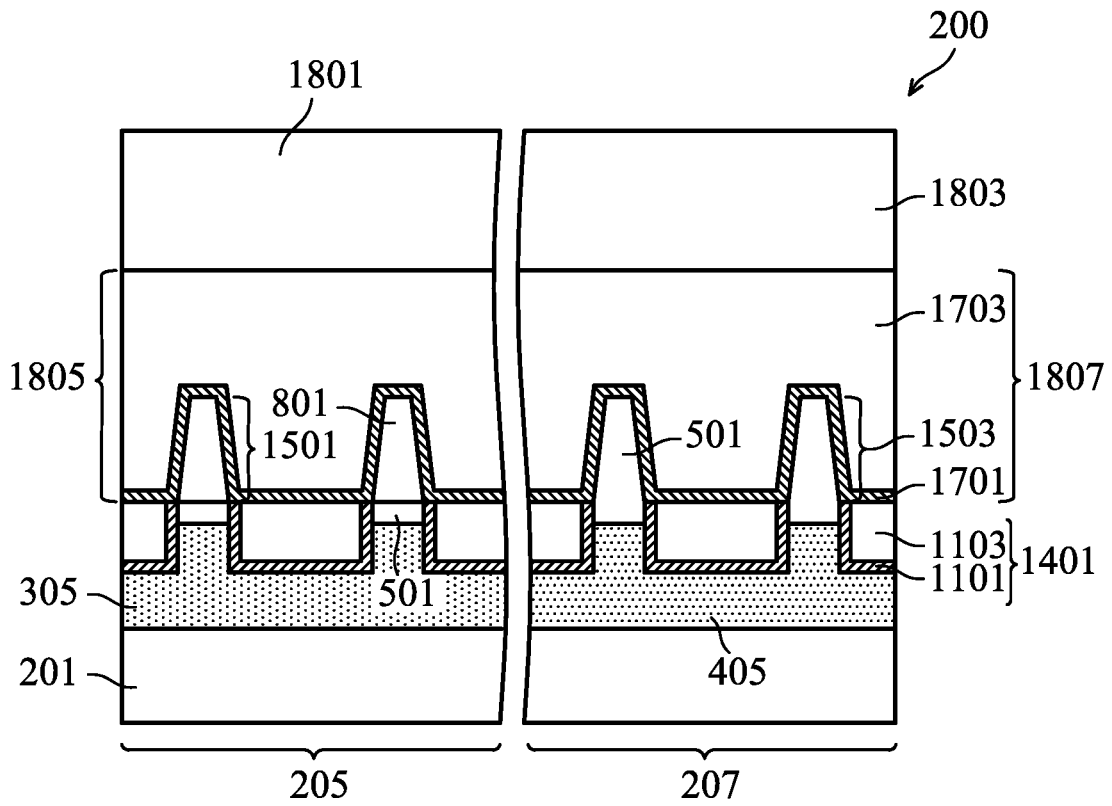


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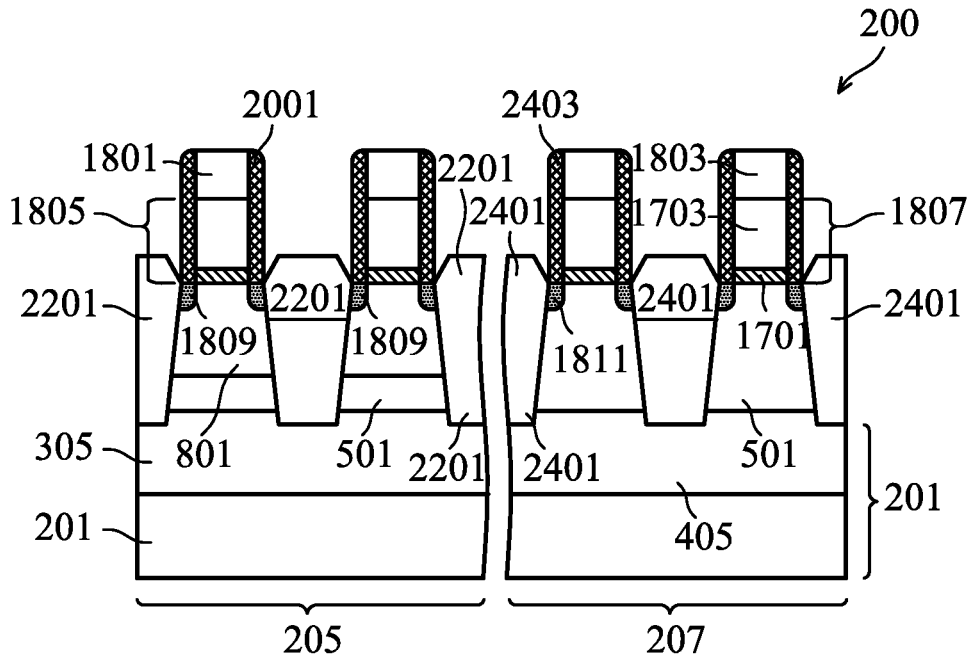


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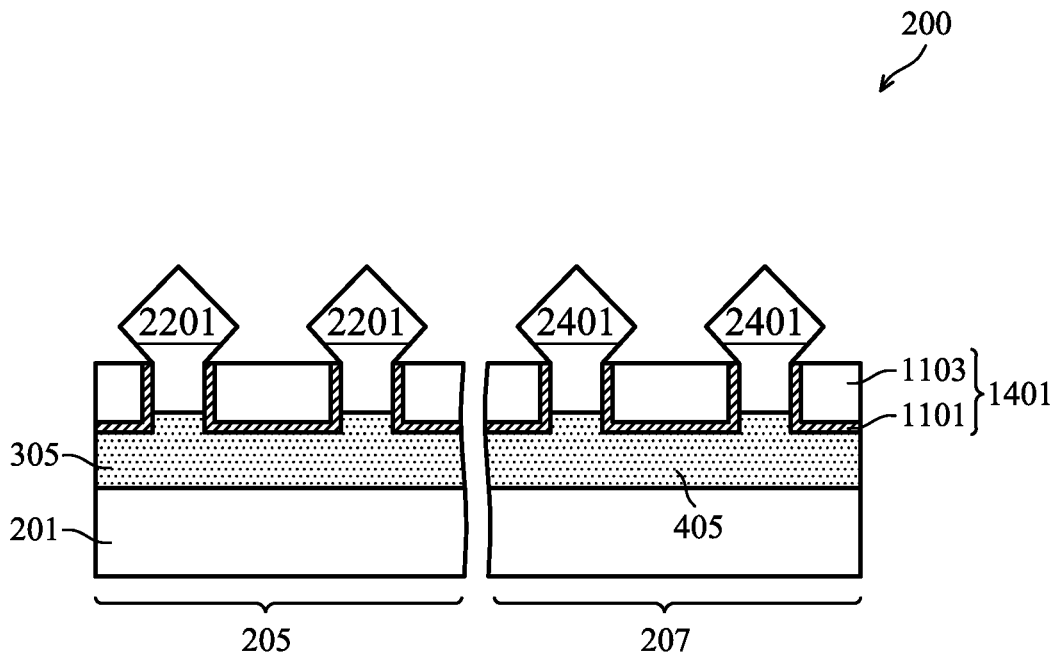


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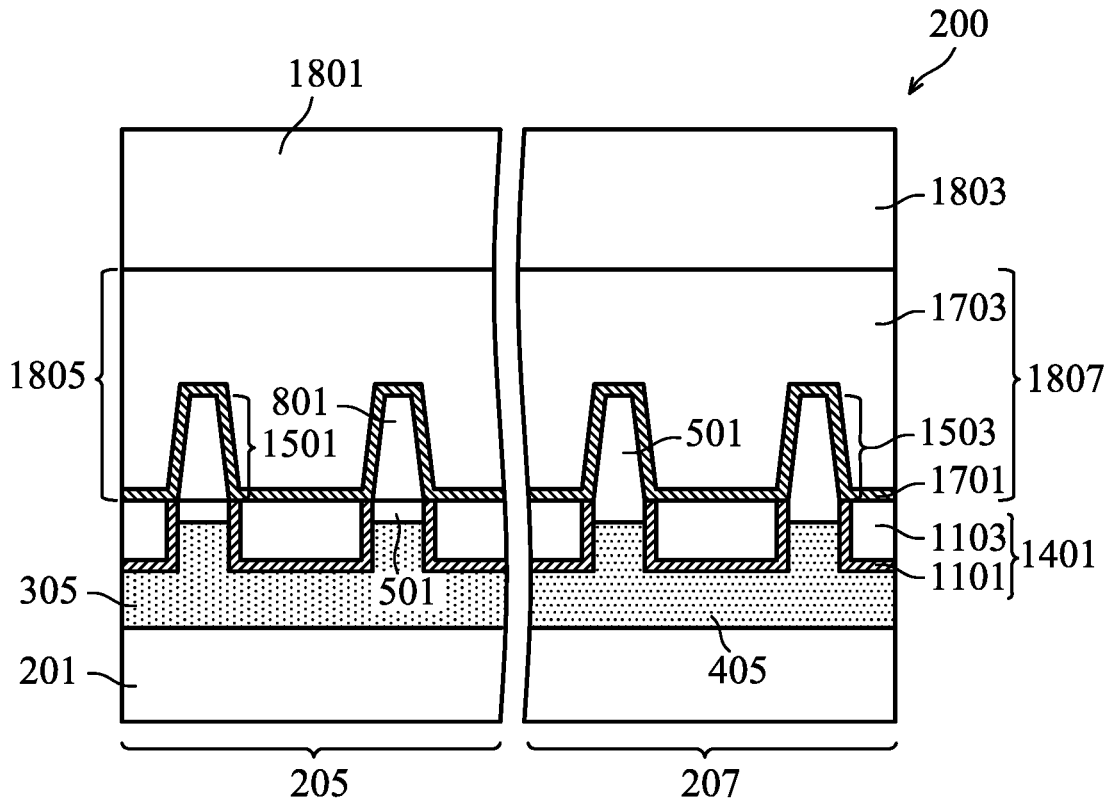


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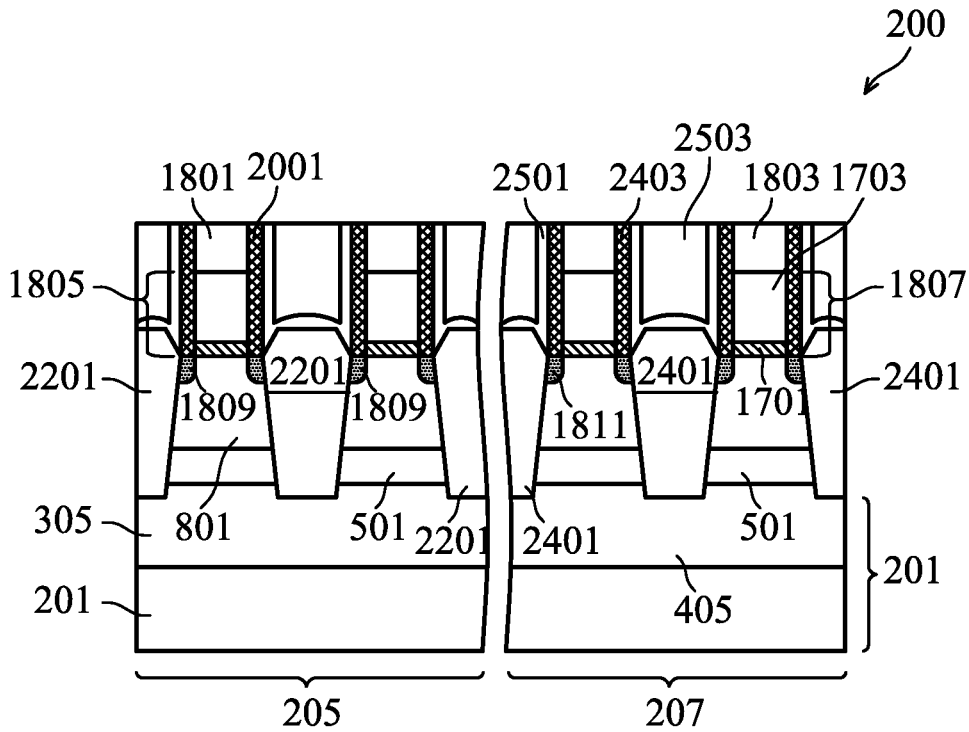


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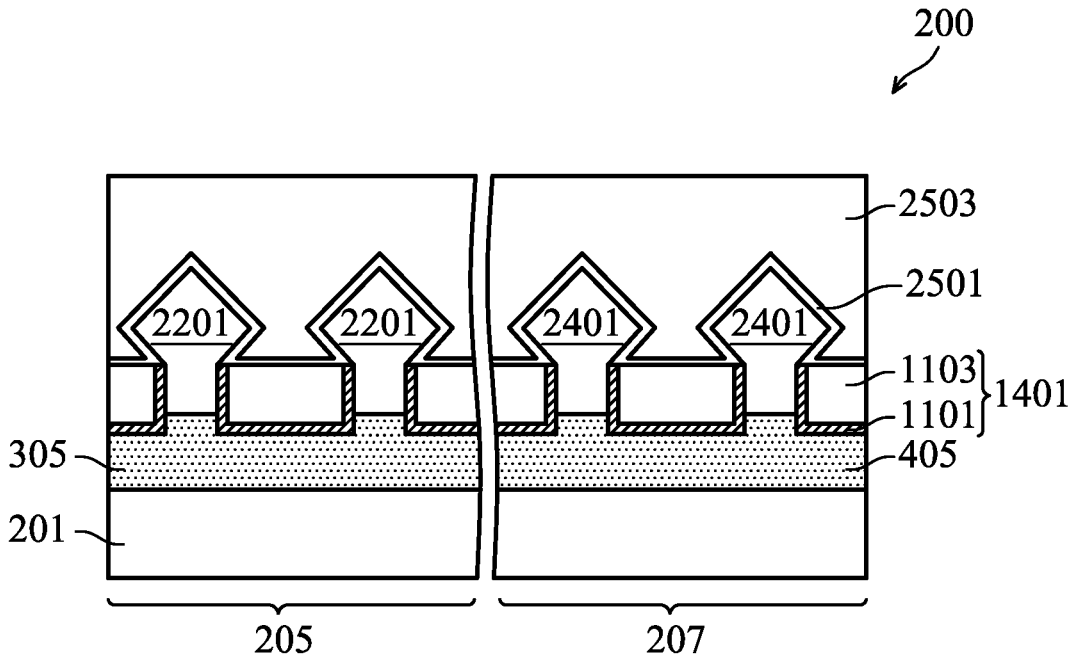


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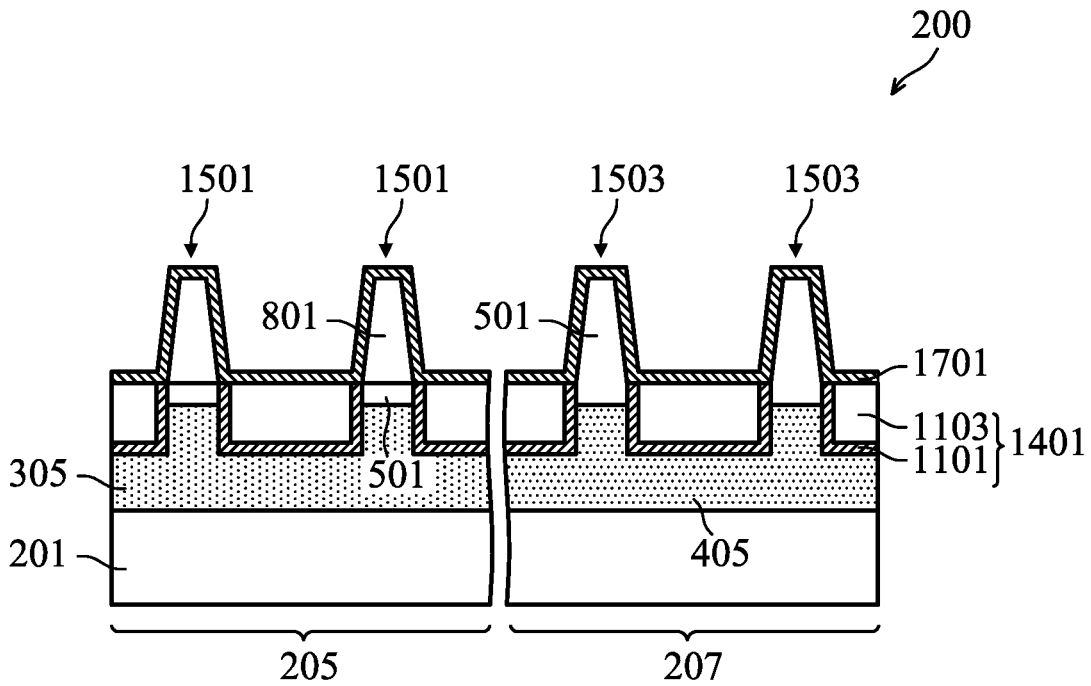


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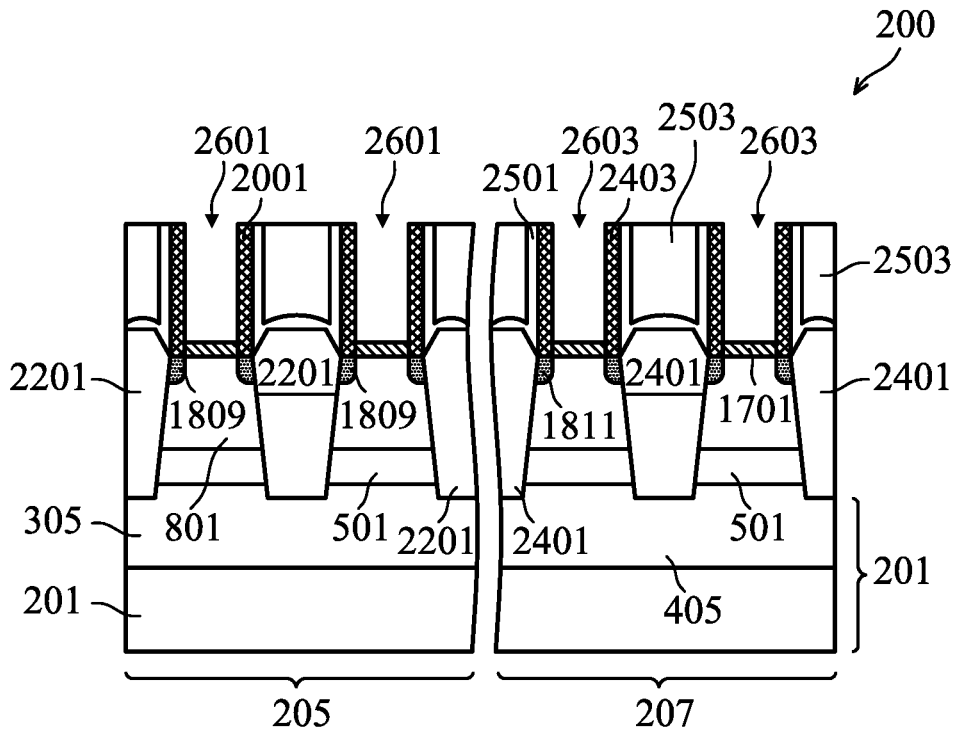


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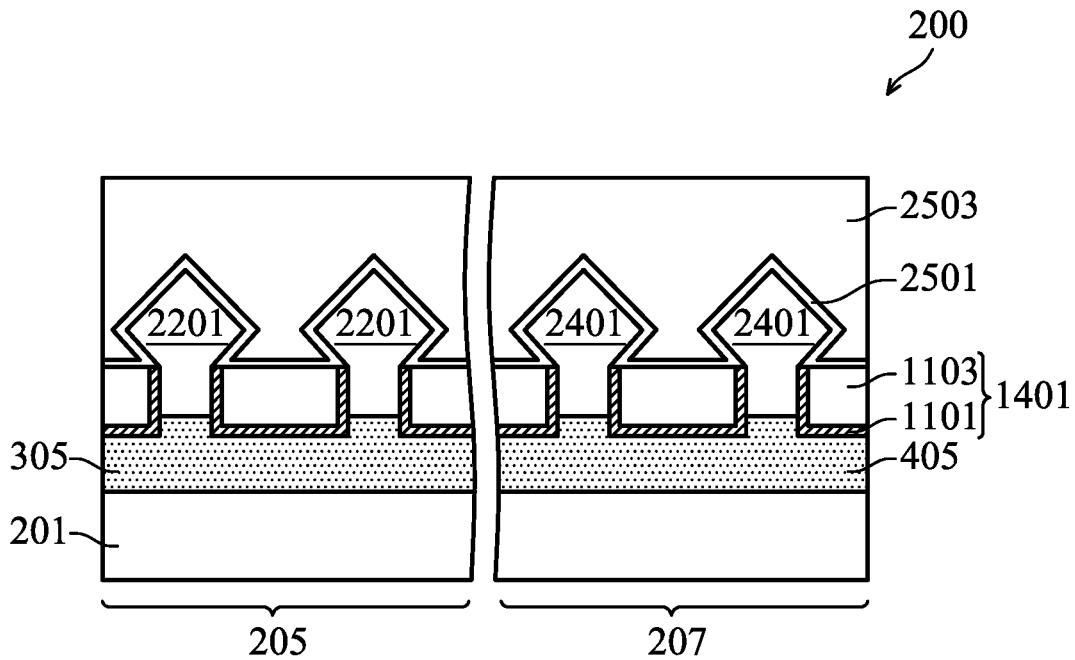


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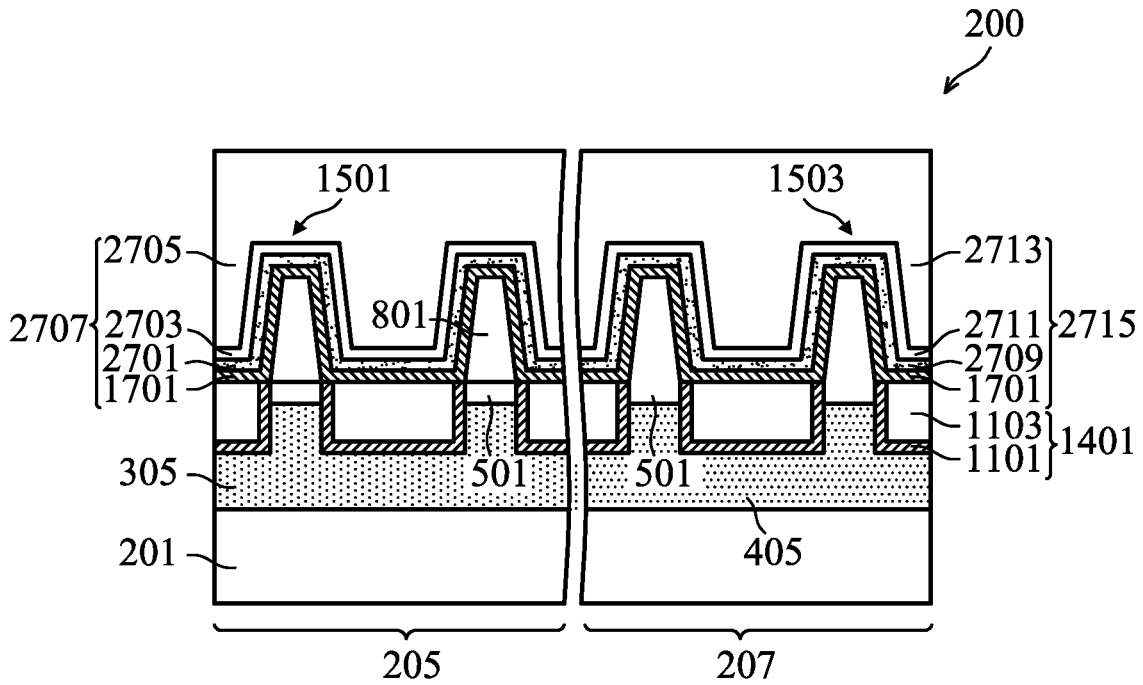


Figure 27A

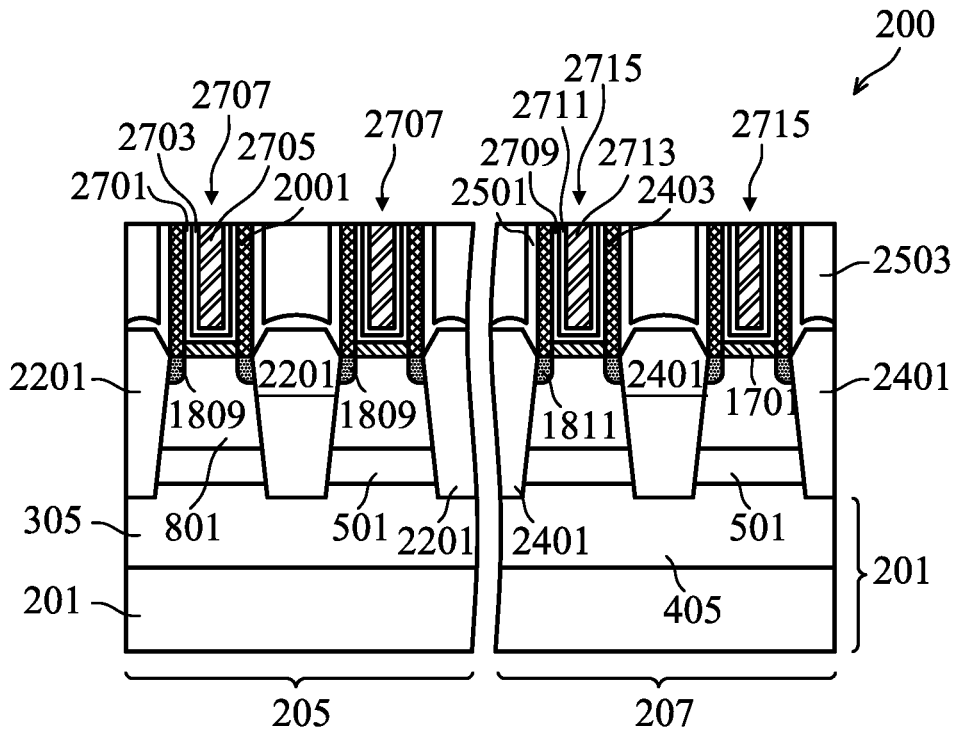


Figure 27B

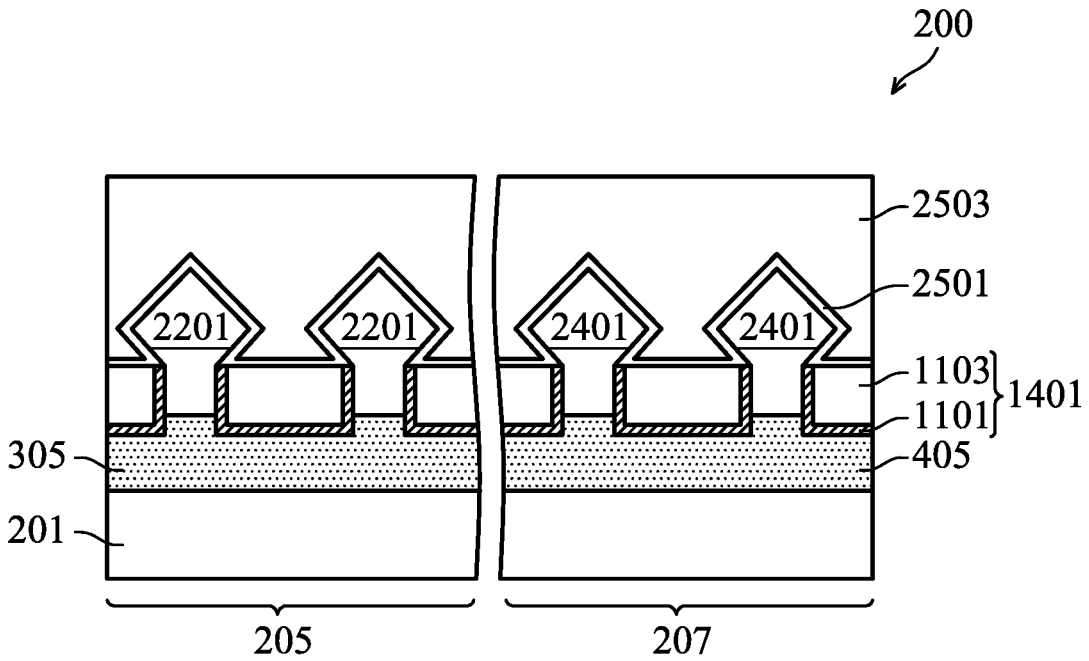


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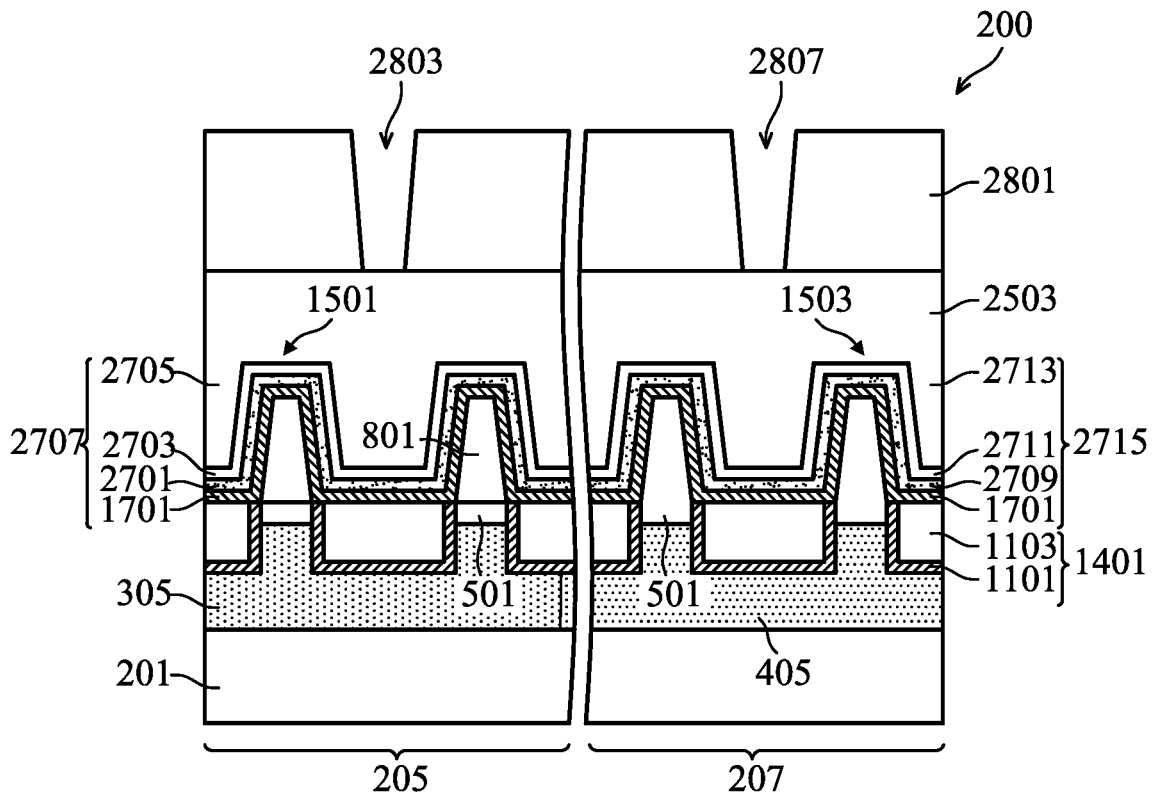


Figure 28A

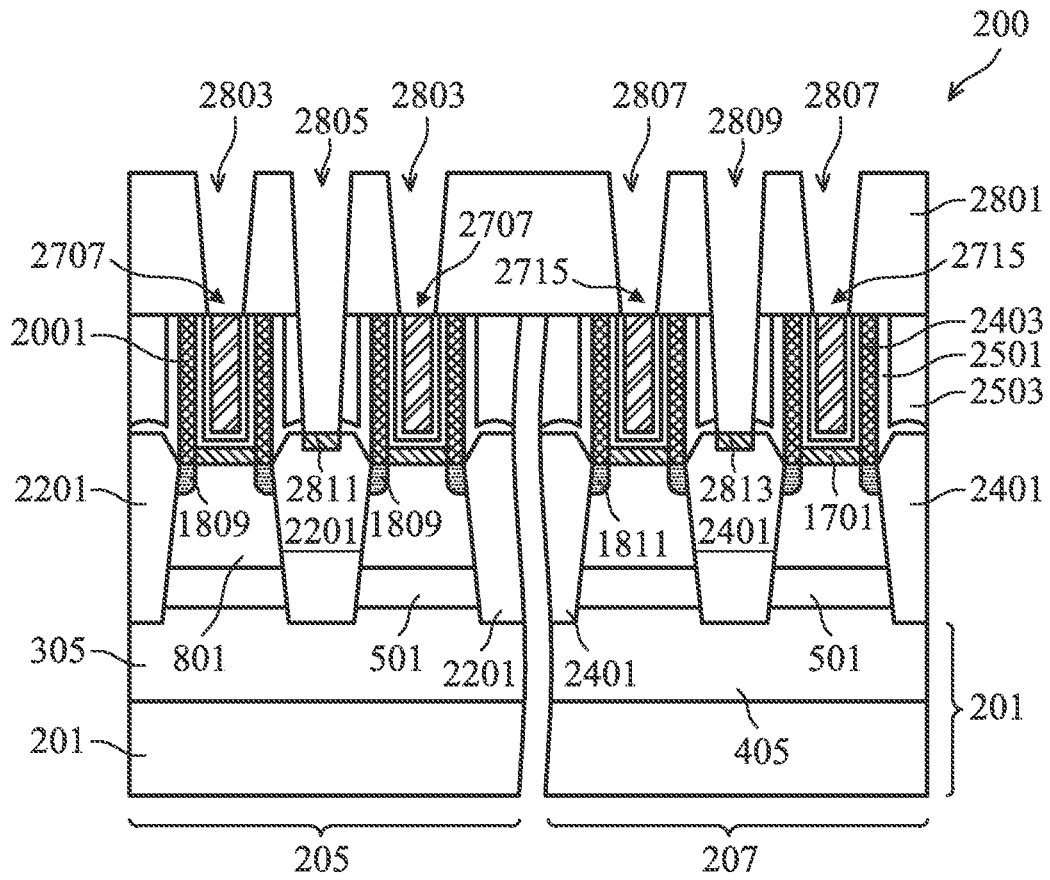


Figure 28B

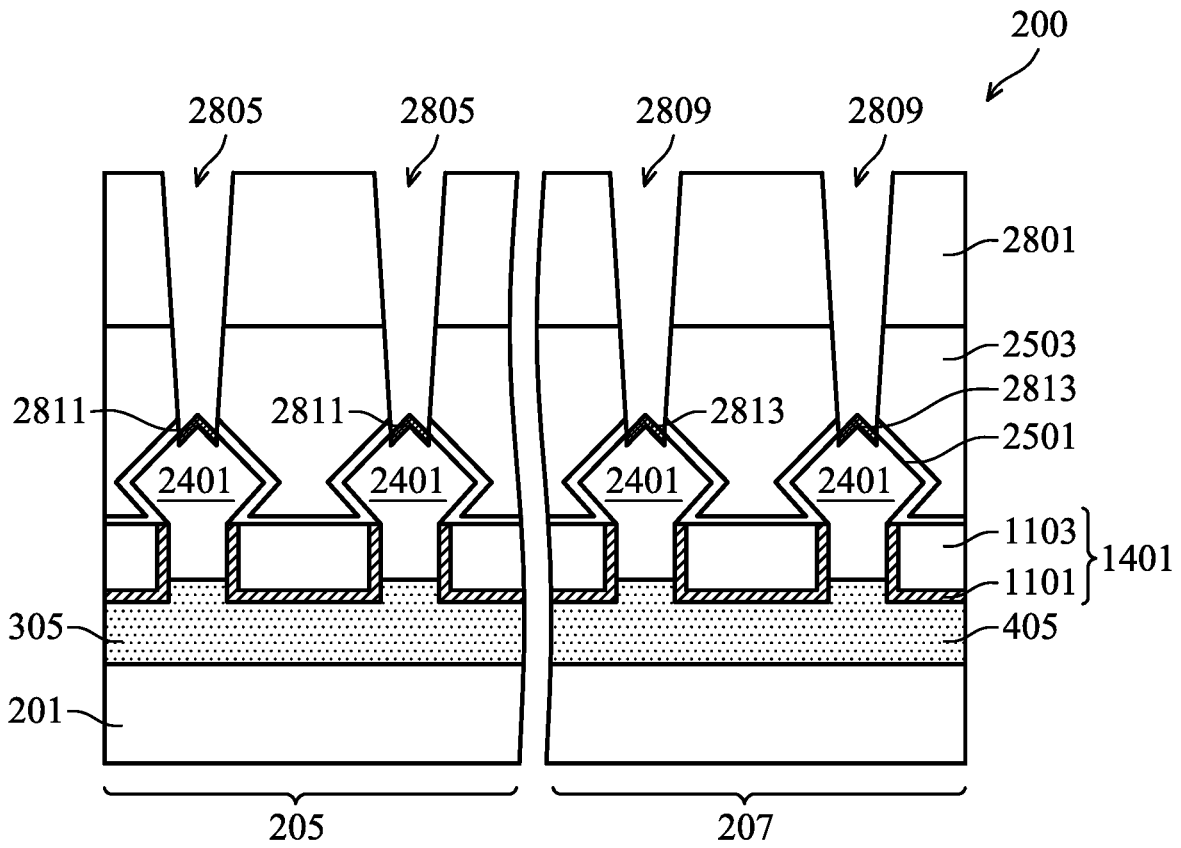


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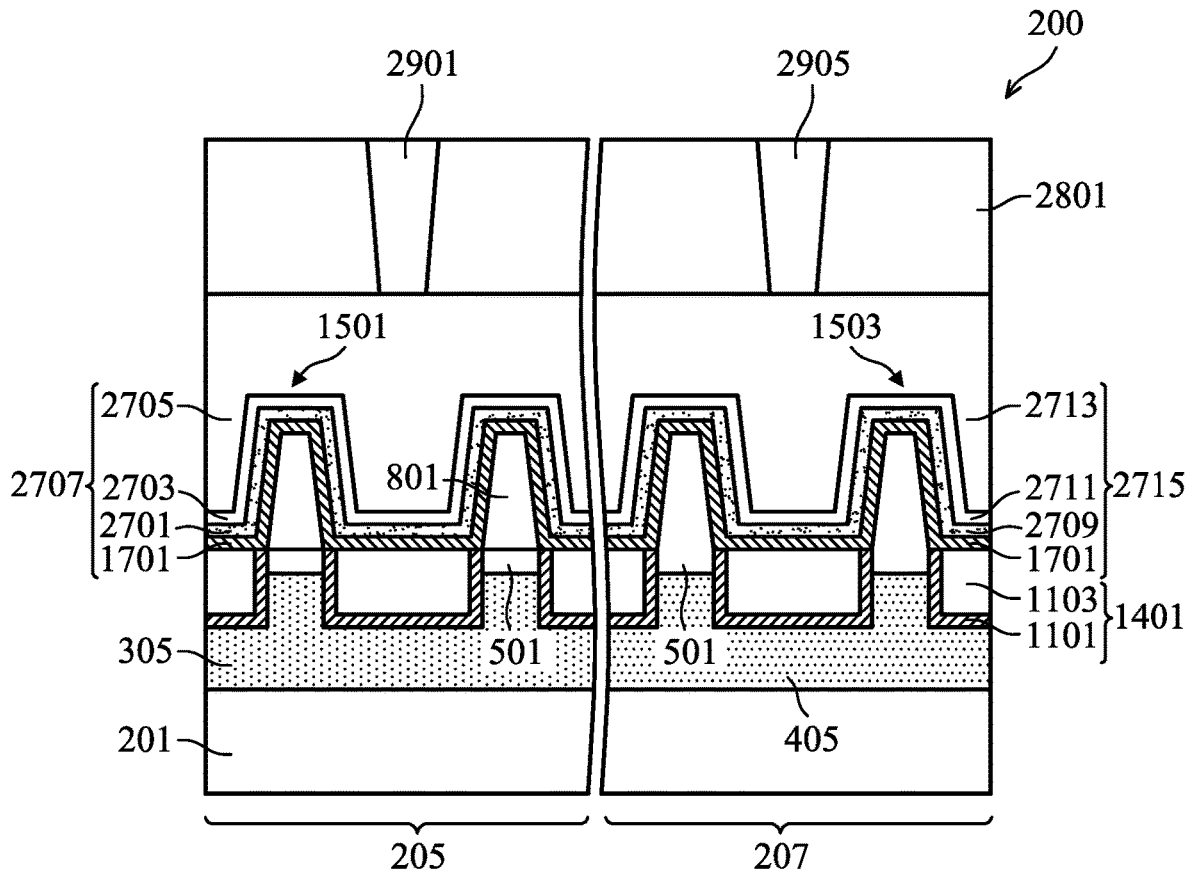


Figure 29A

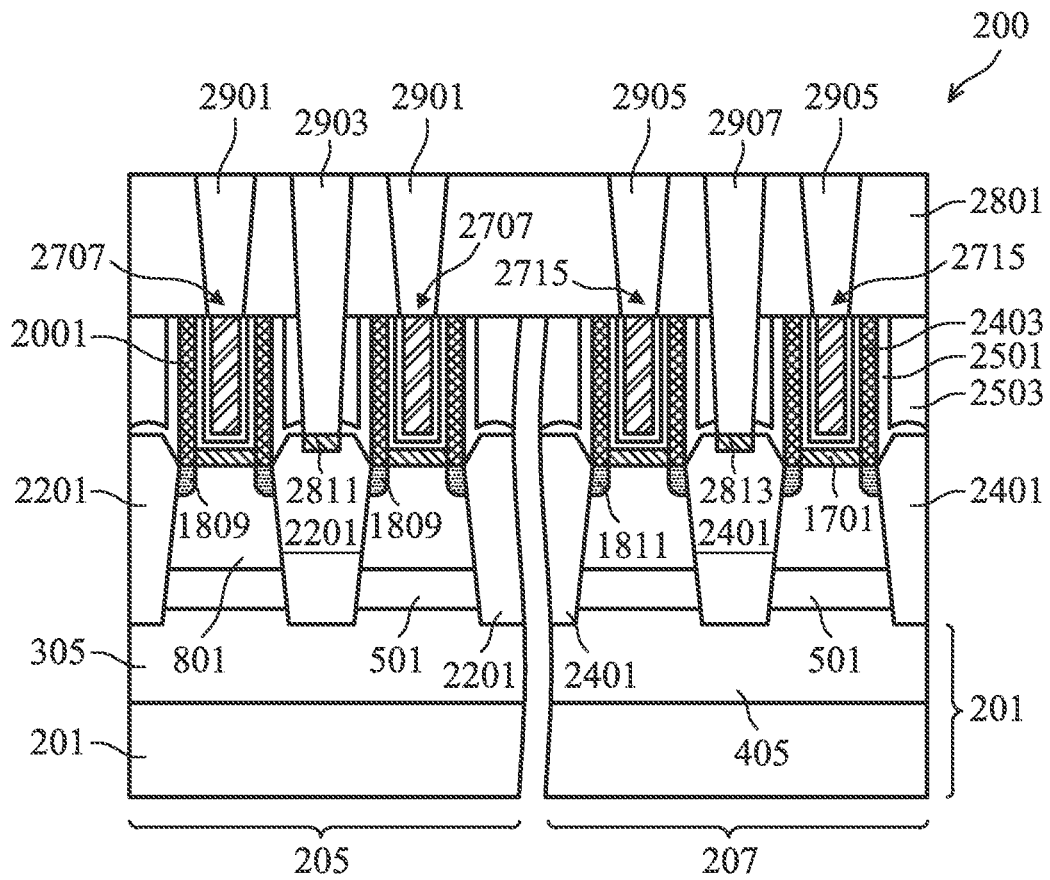


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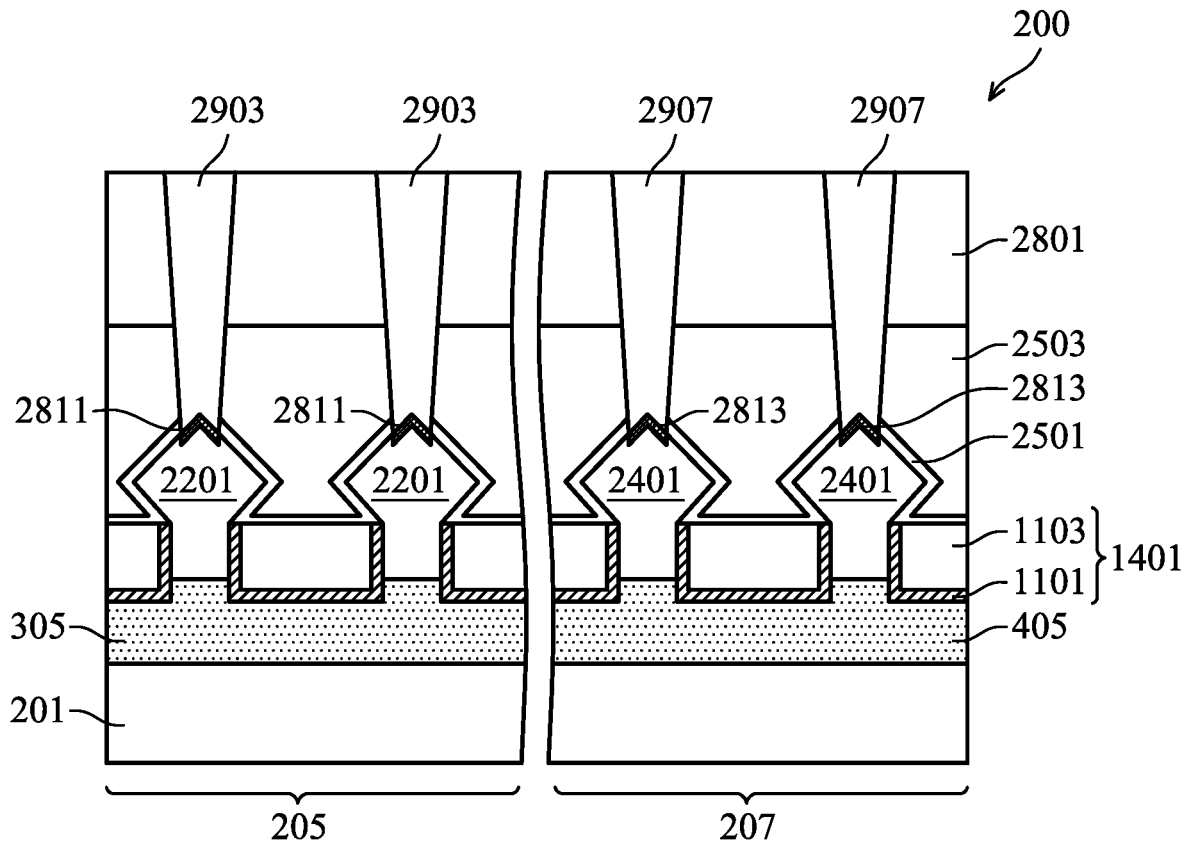


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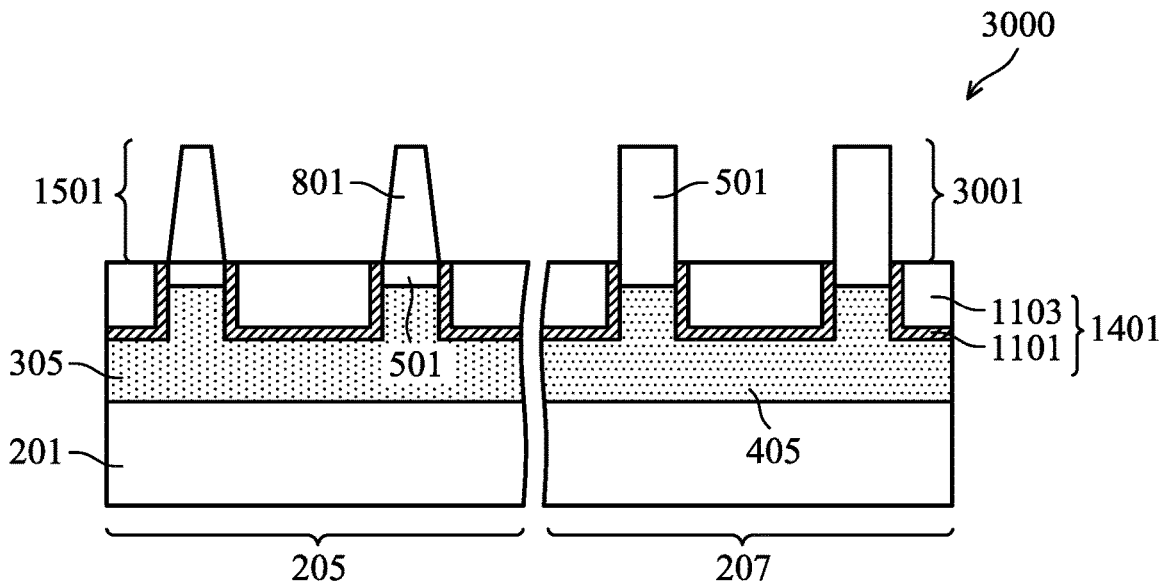


Figure 30A

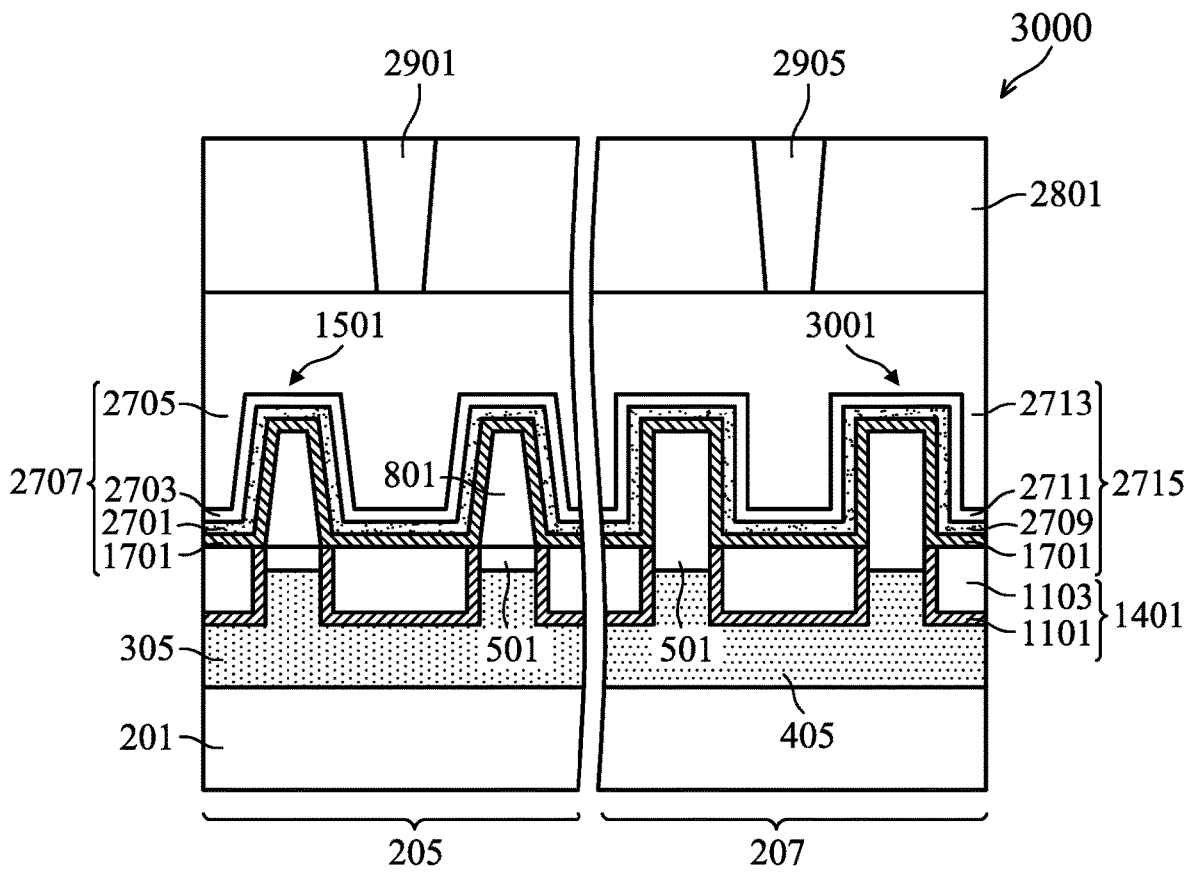


Figure 31A

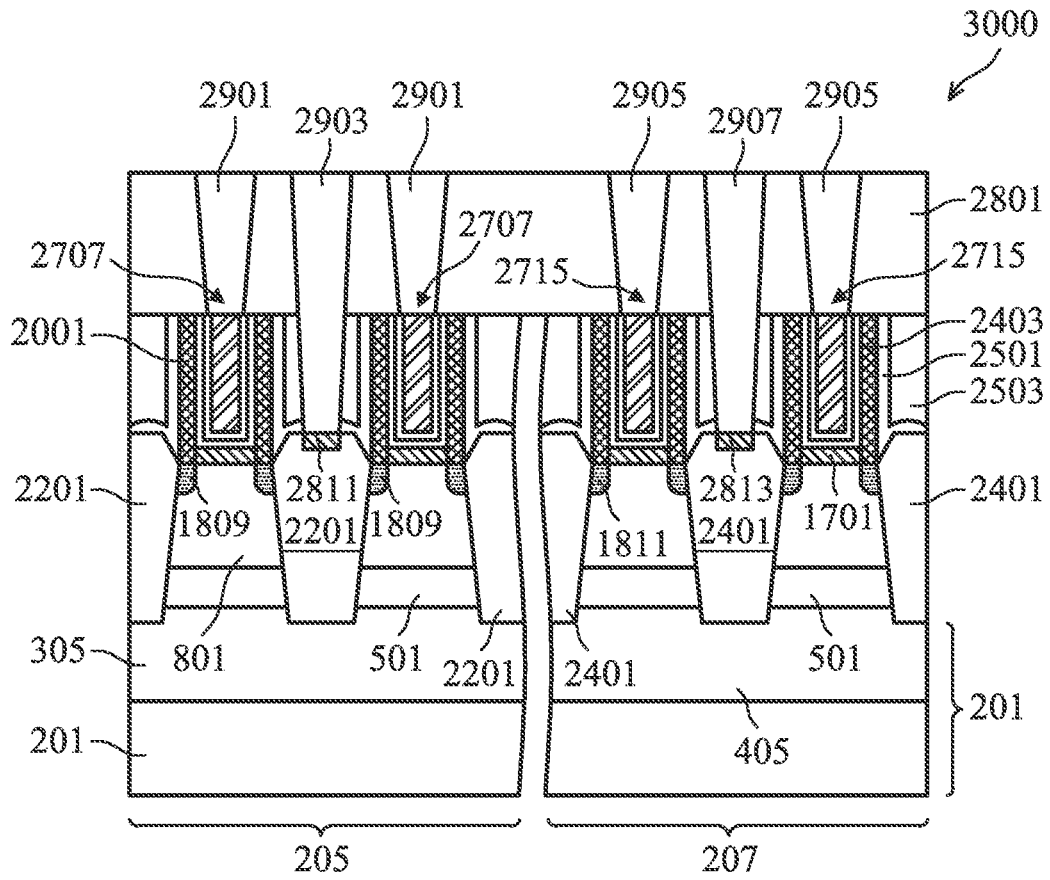


Figure 31B

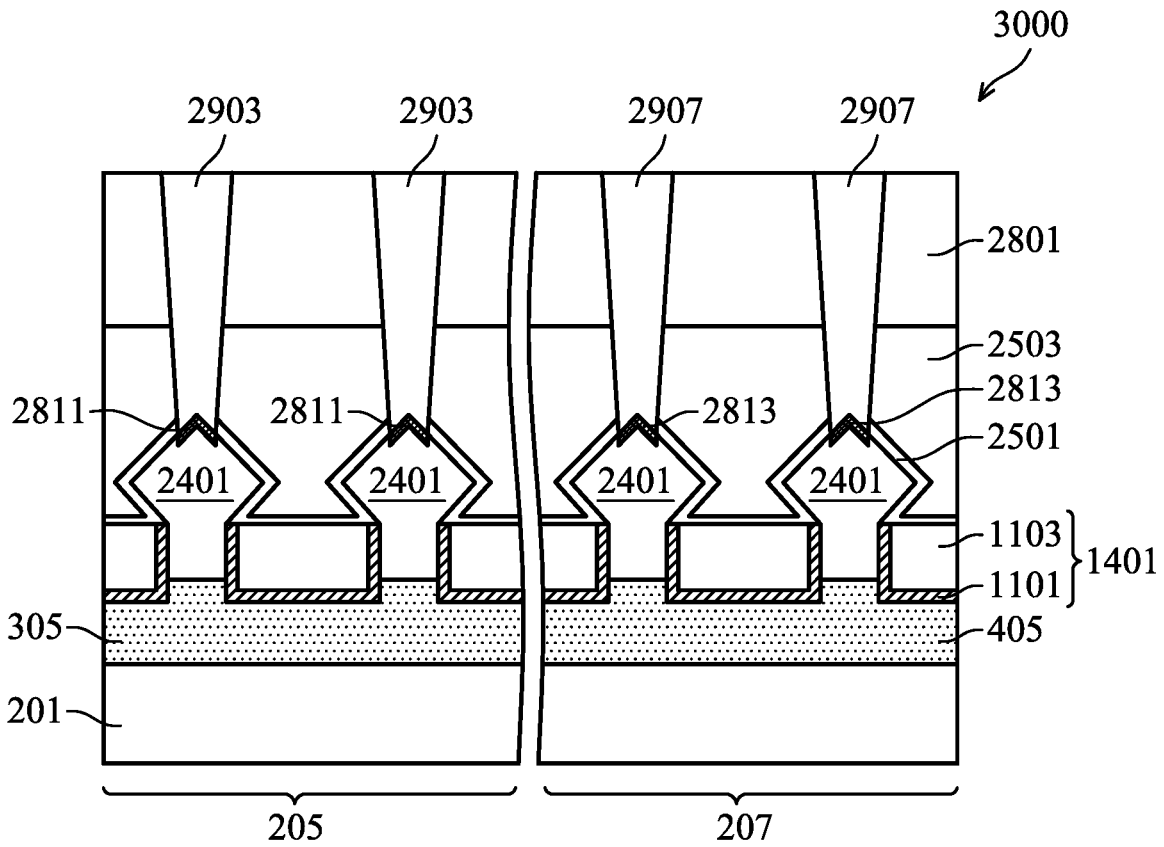


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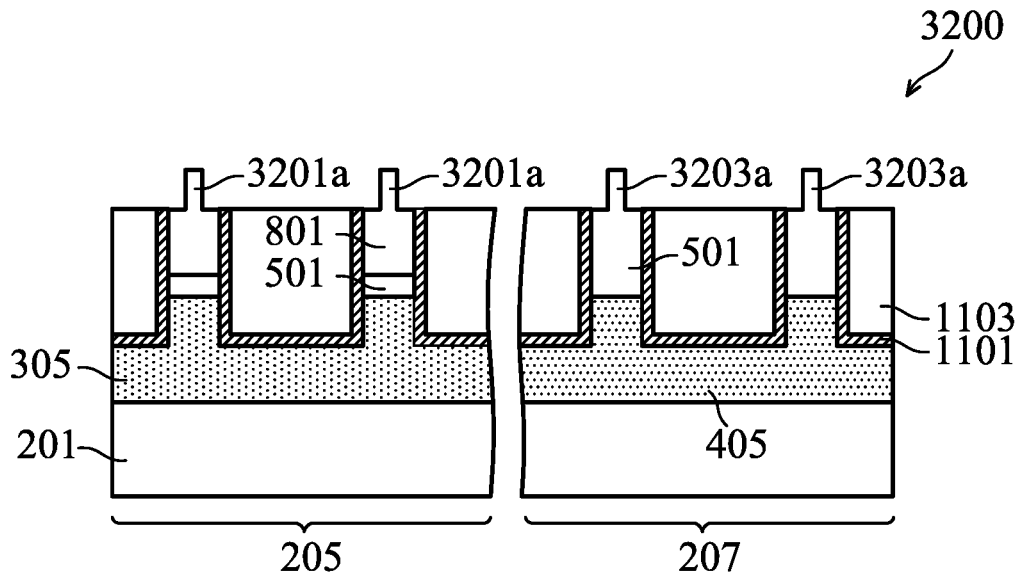


Figure 32A

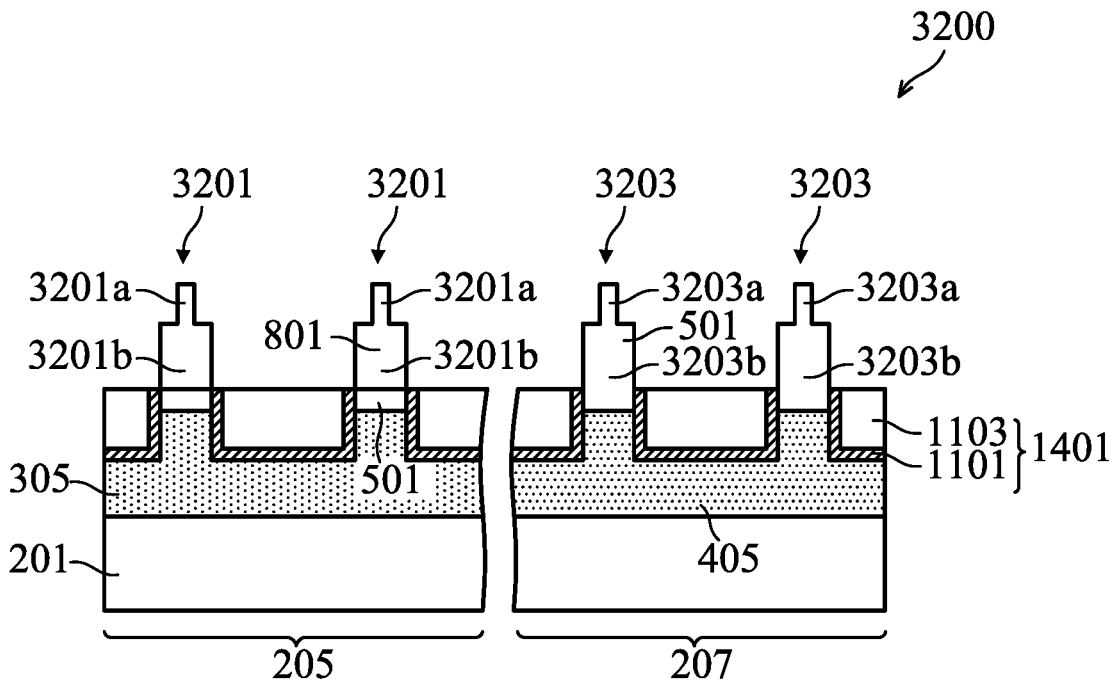


Figure 33A

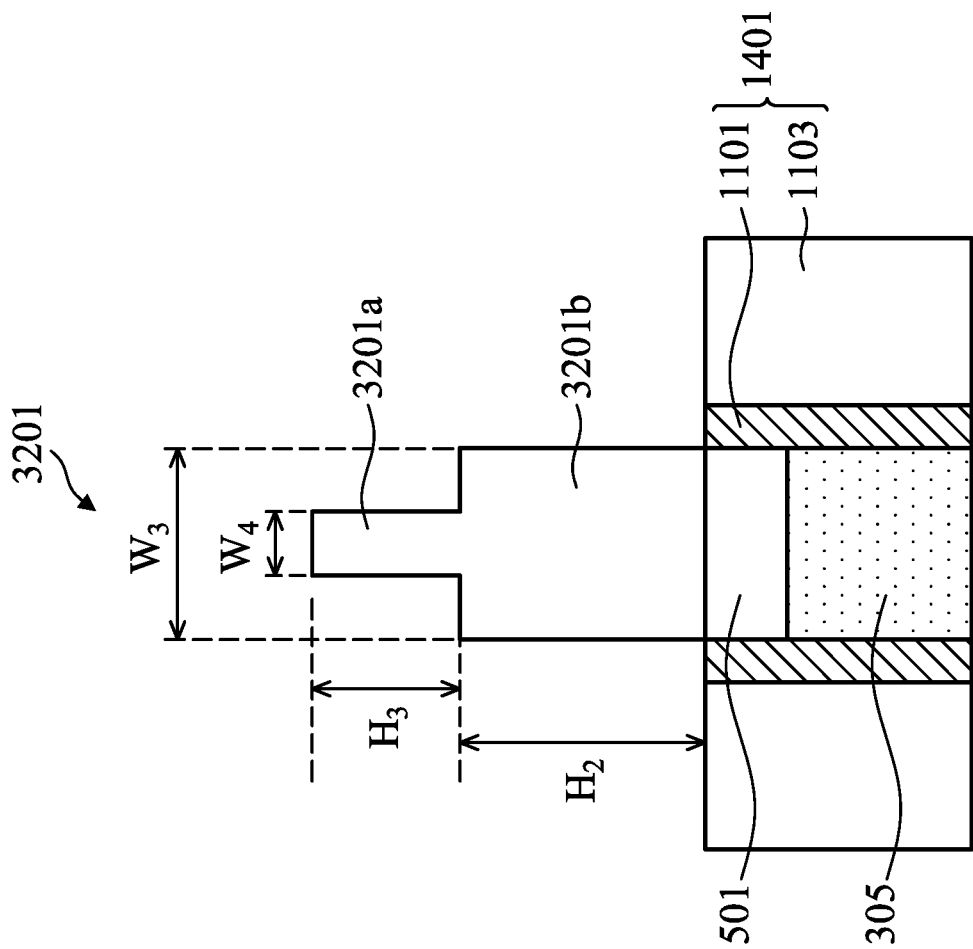


Figure 34A

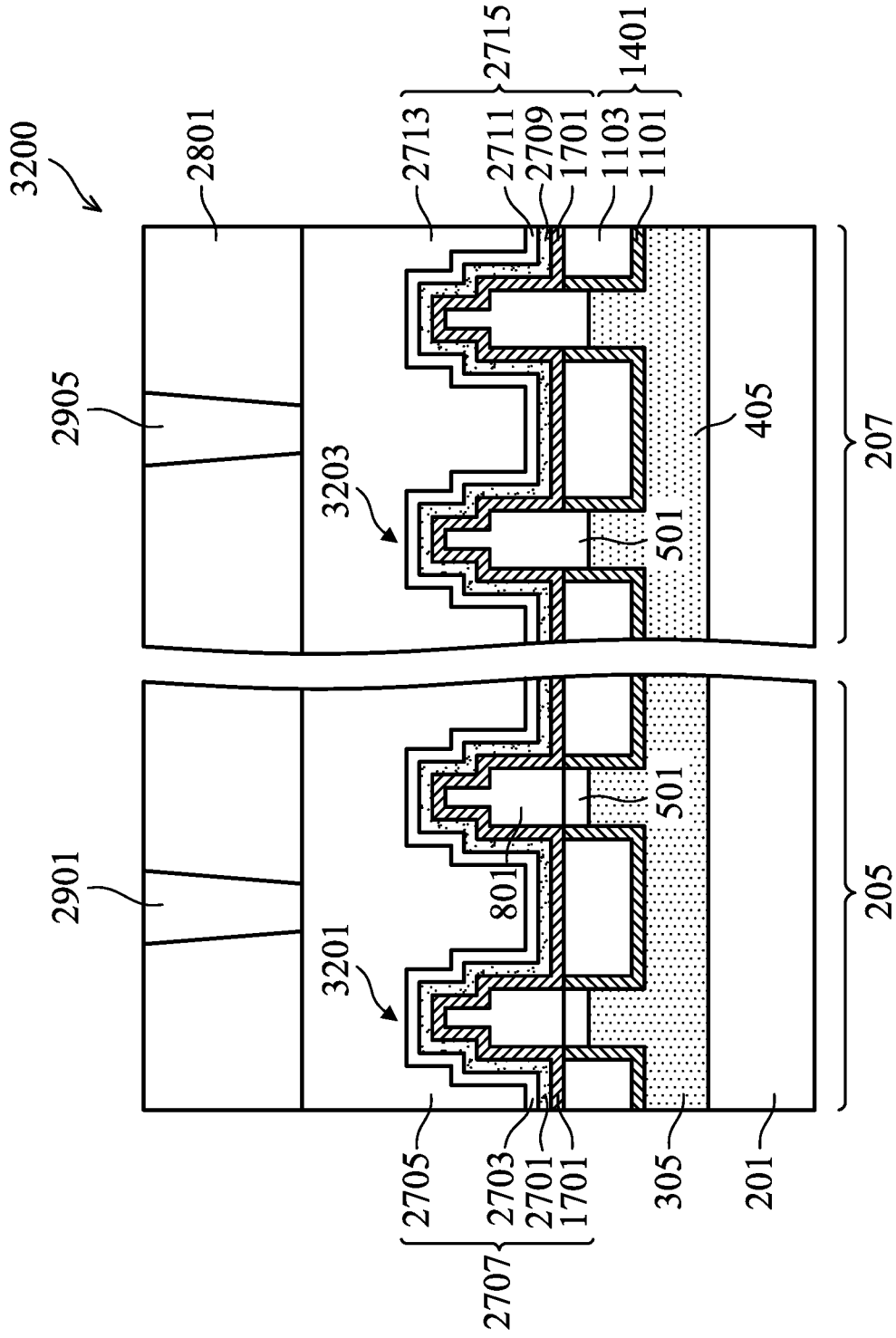


Figure 35A

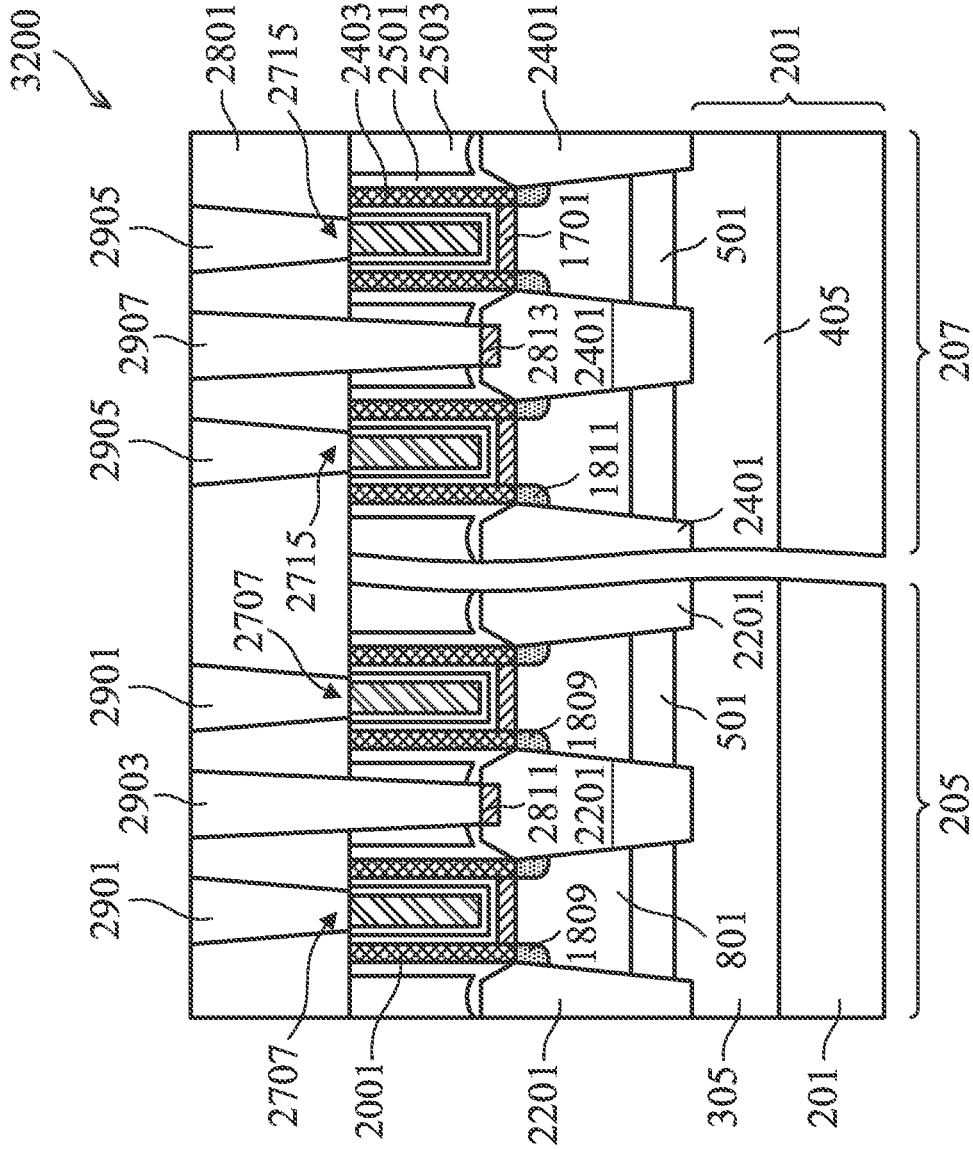


Figure 35B

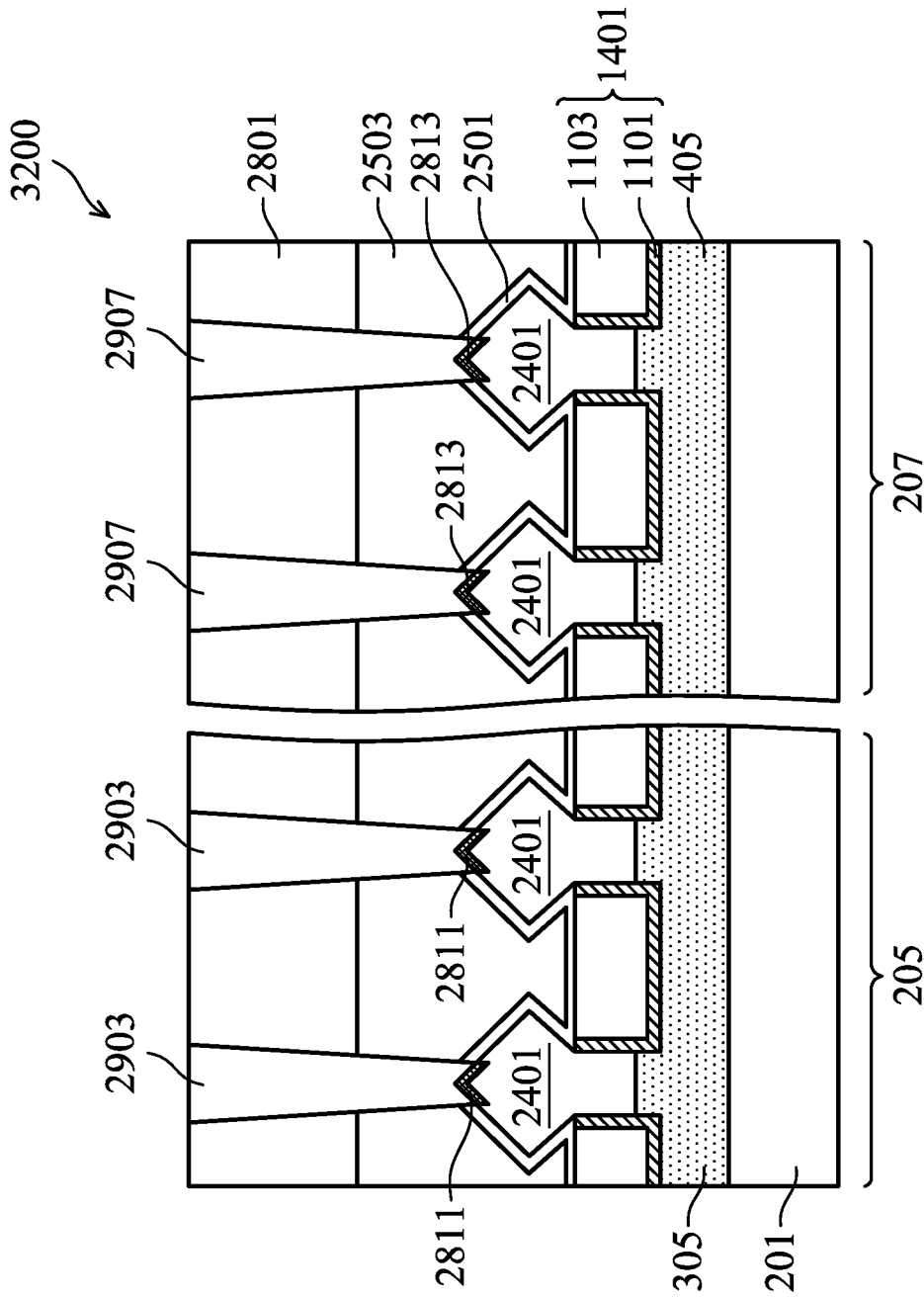


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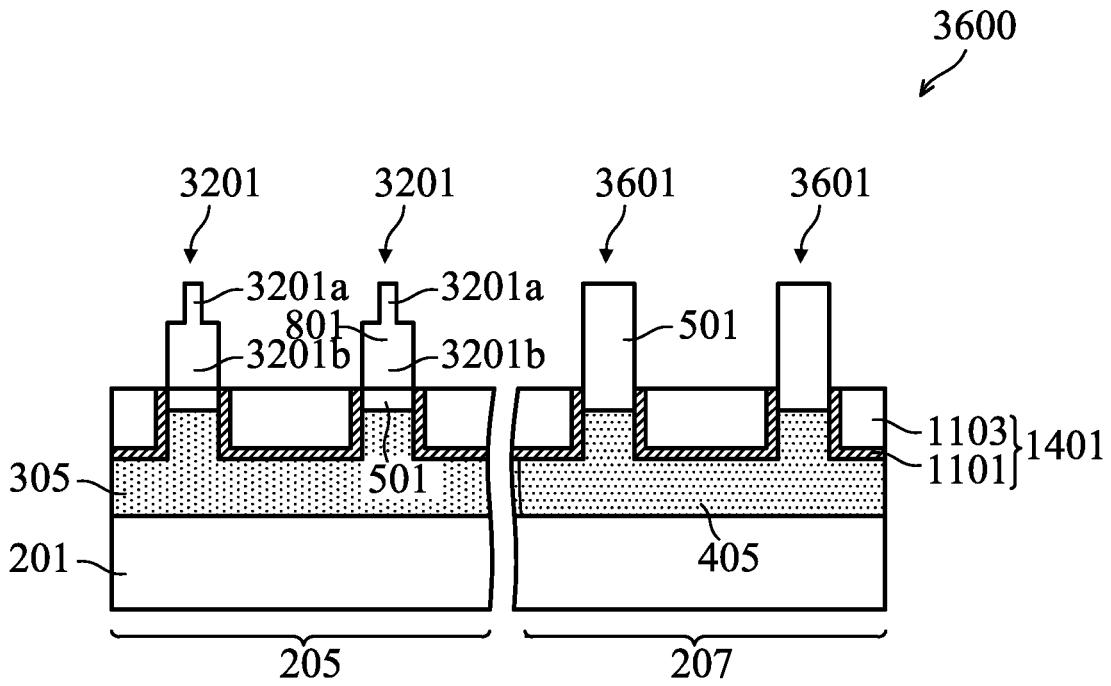


Figure 36A

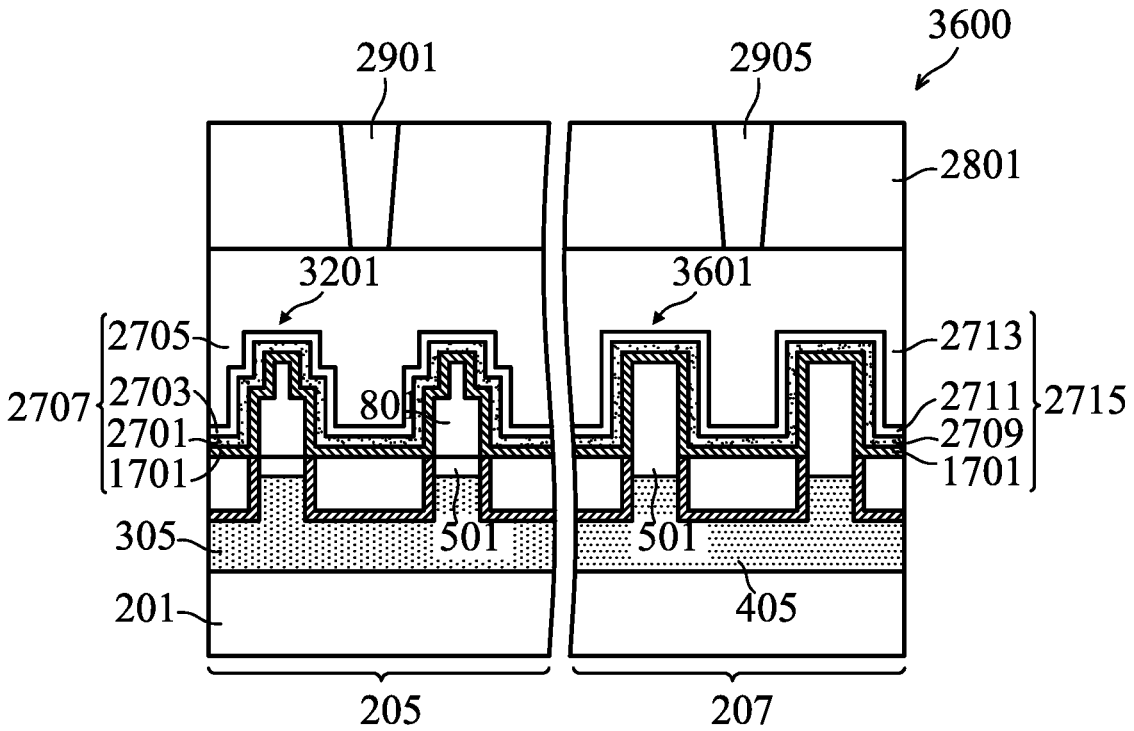


Figure 37A

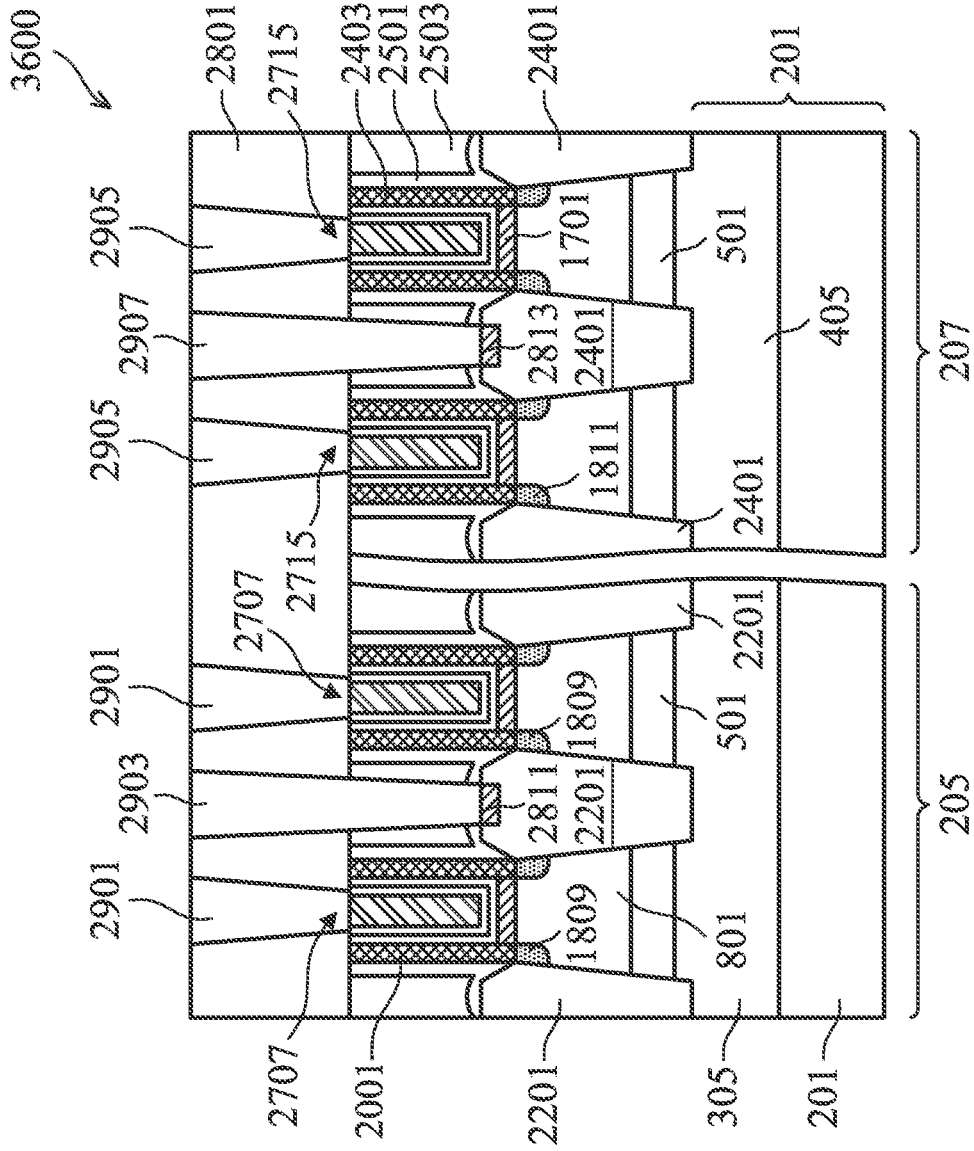


Figure 37B

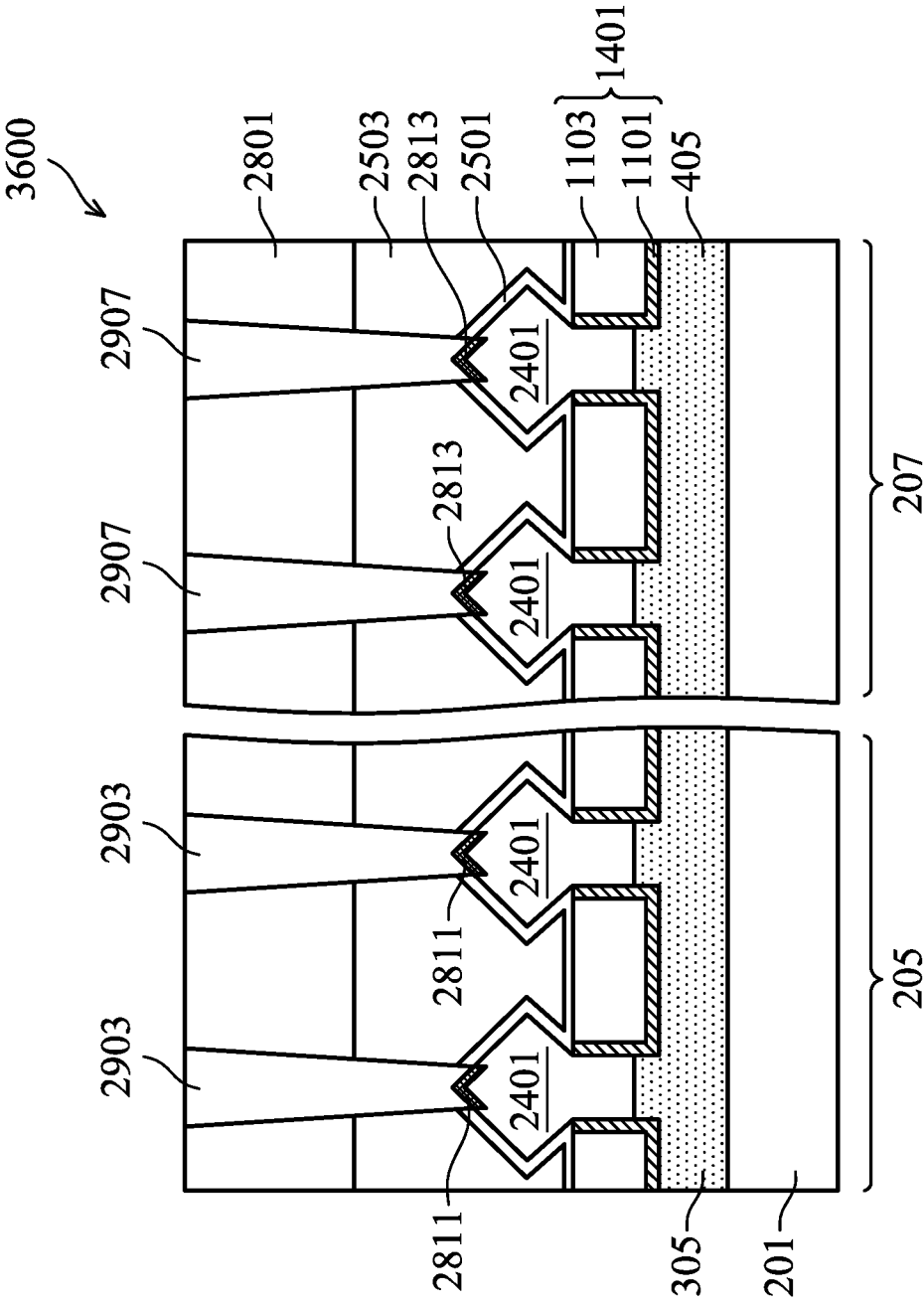


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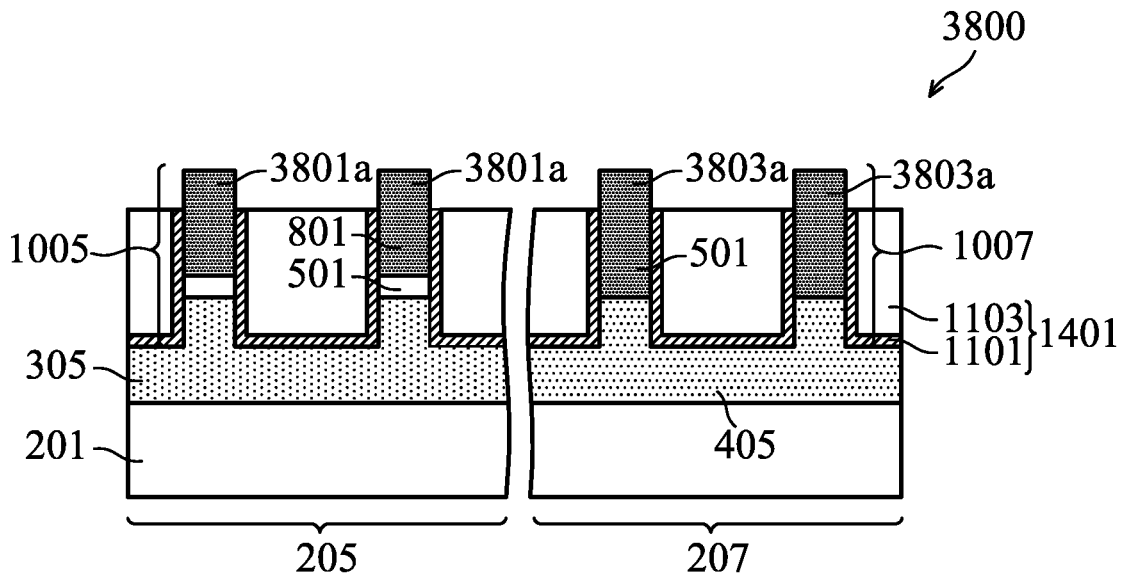


Figure 38A

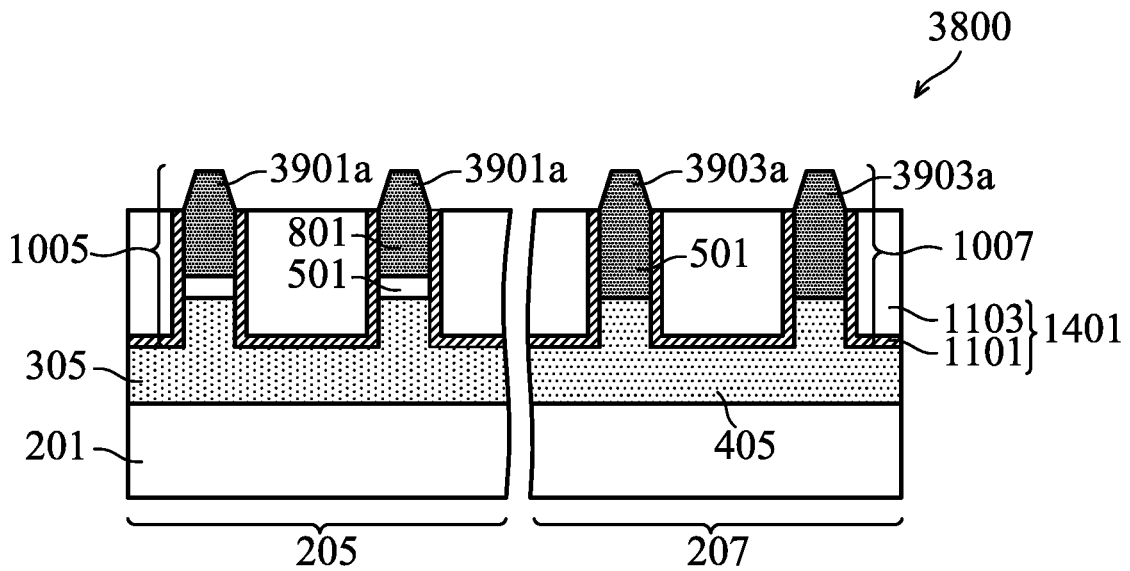


Figure 39A

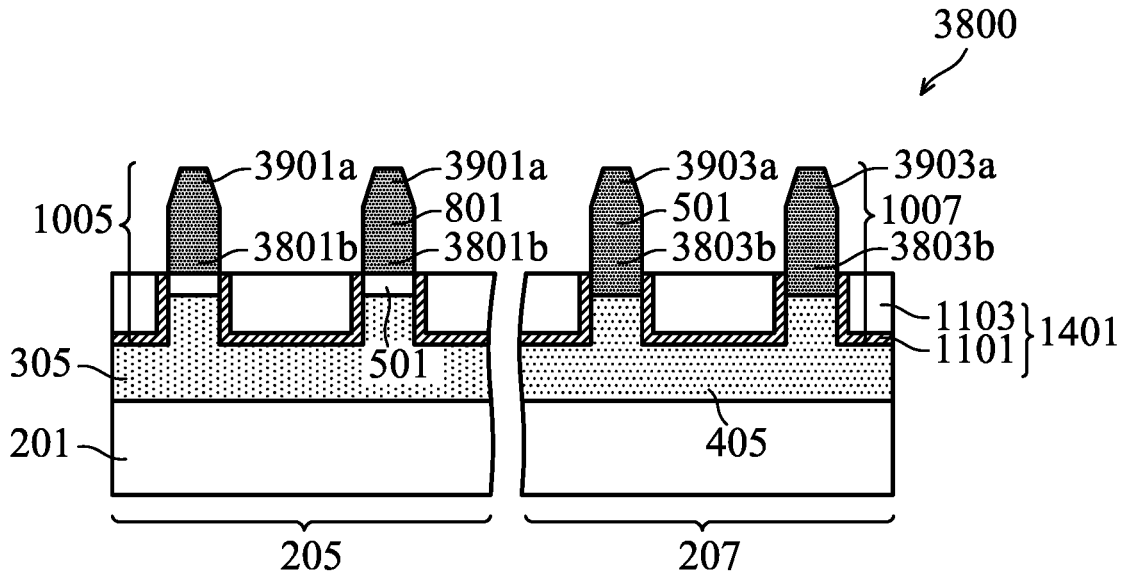


Figure 40A

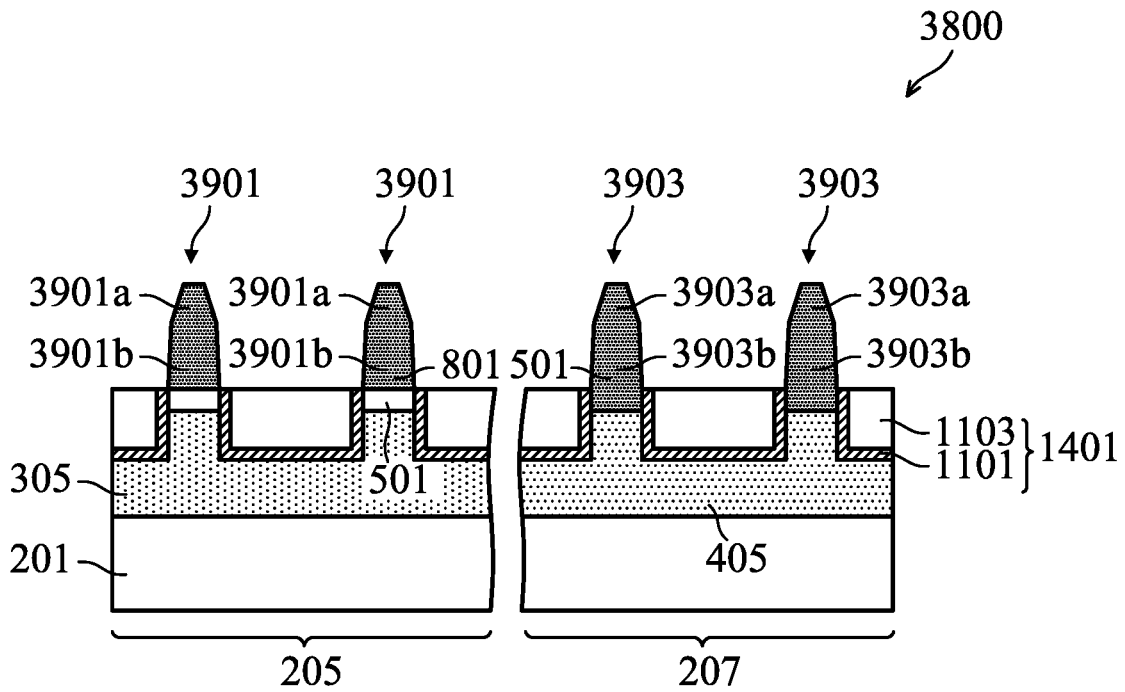


Figure 41A

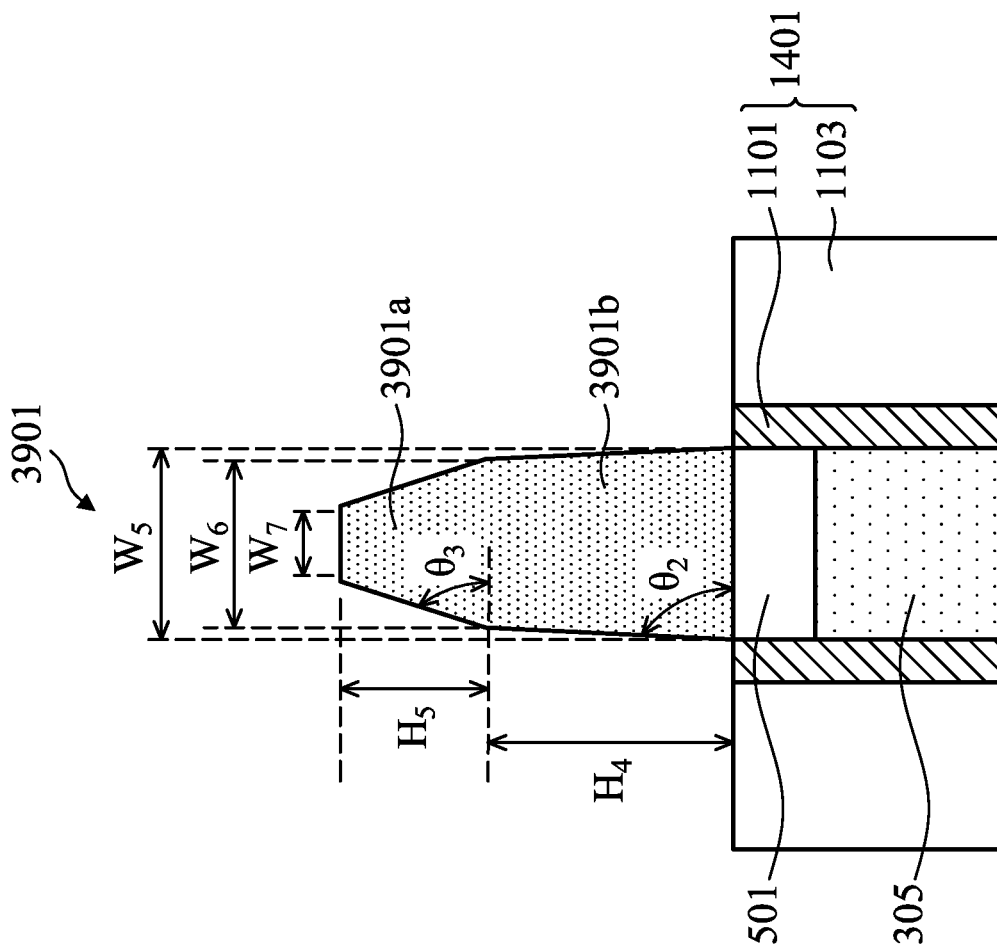


Figure 42A

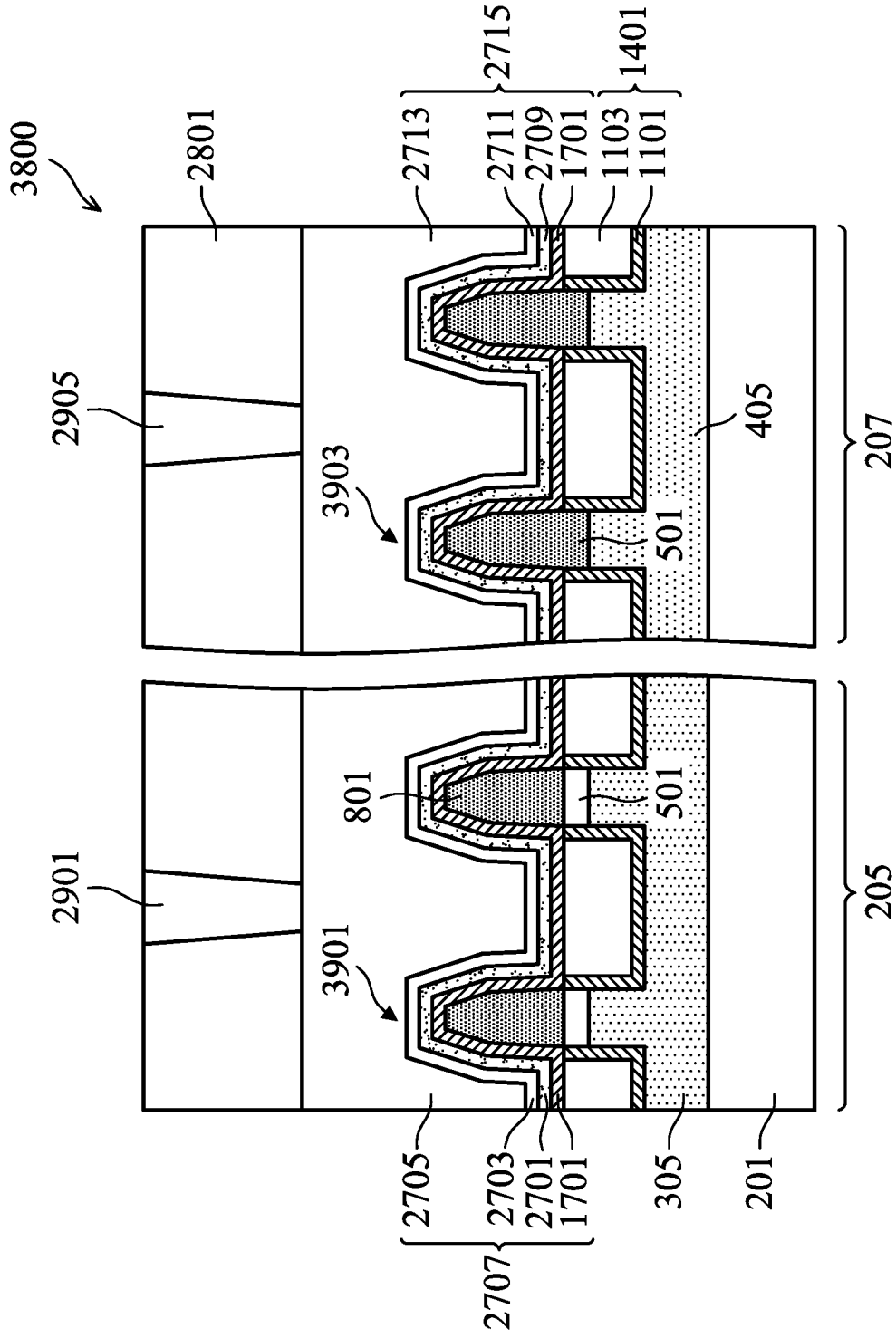


Figure 43A

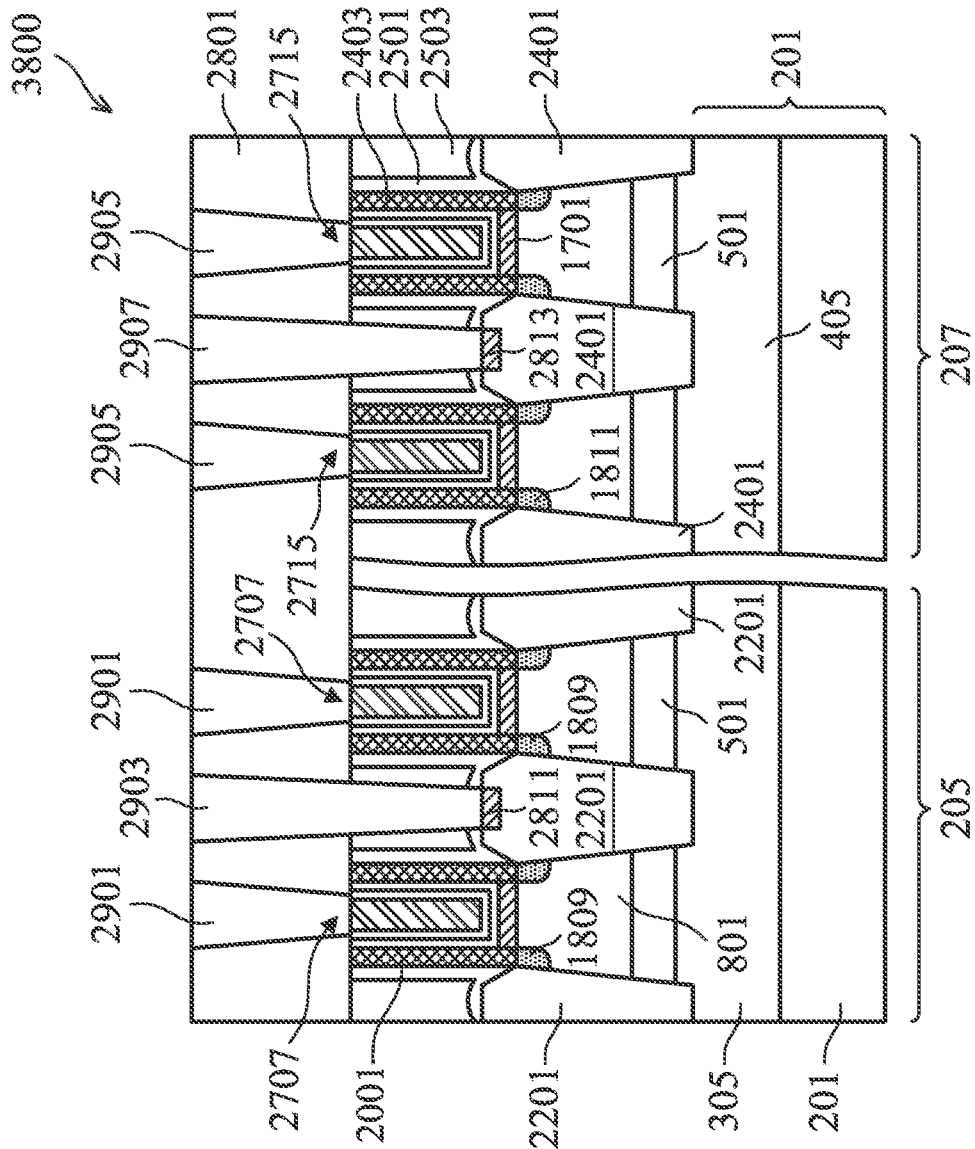


Figure 43B

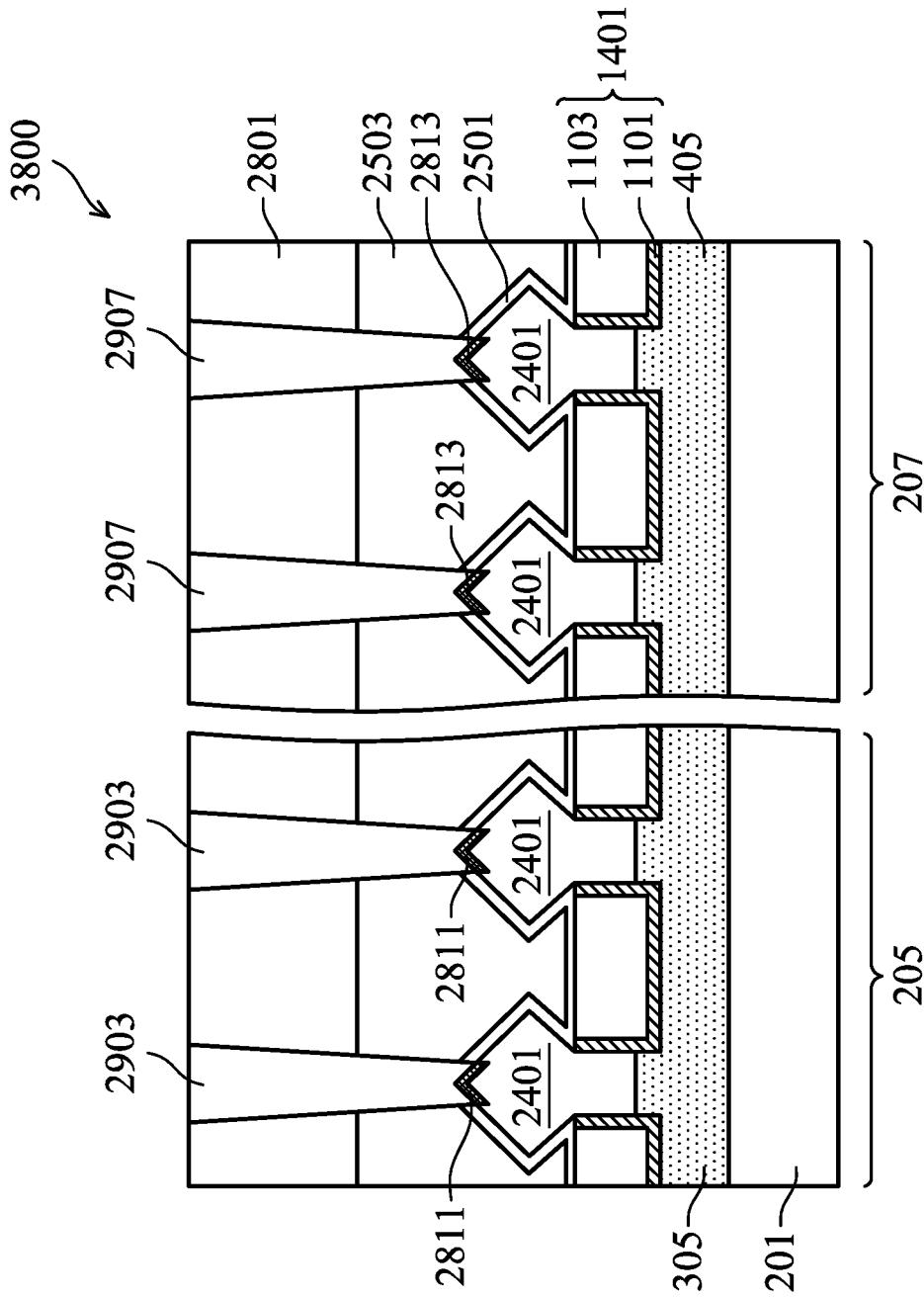


Figure 43C

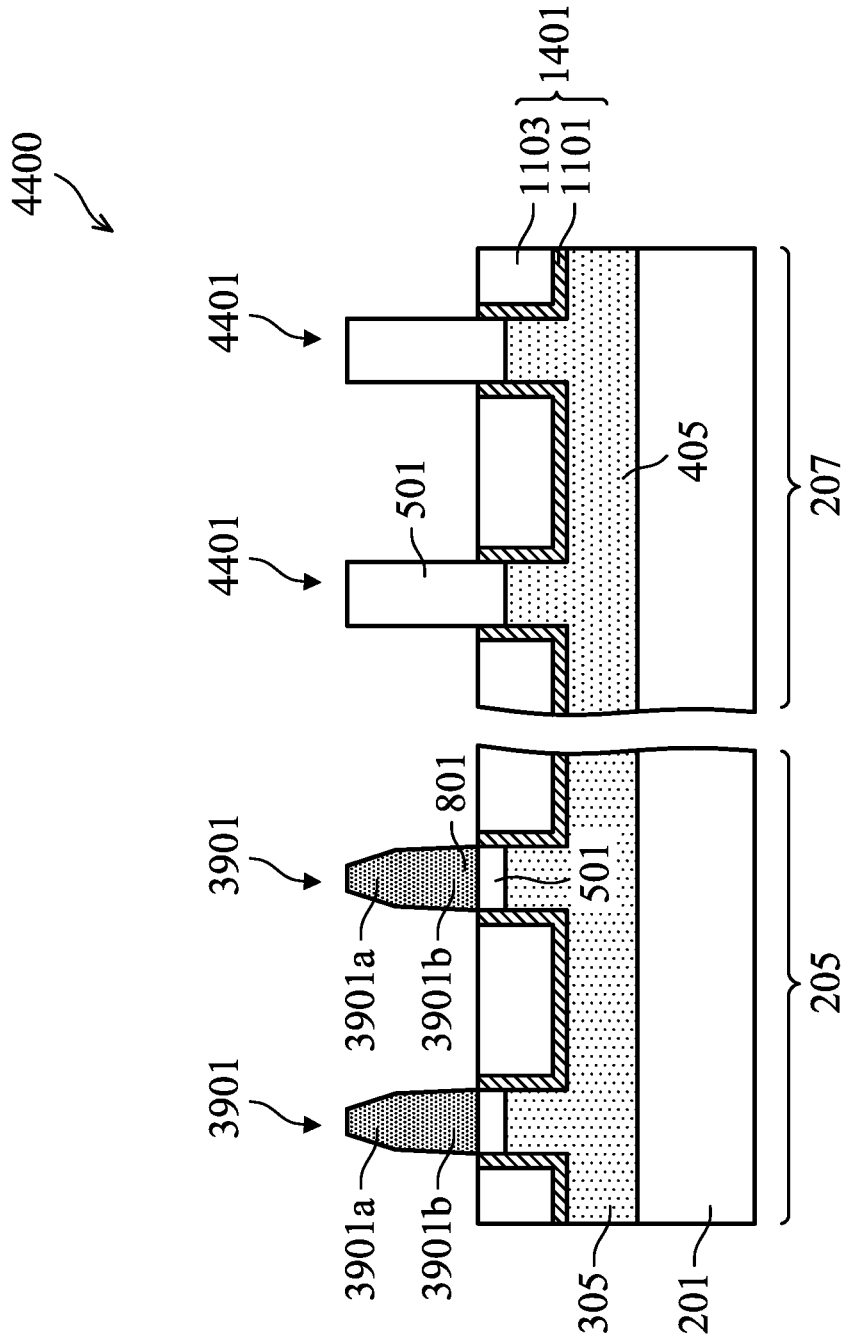


Figure 44A

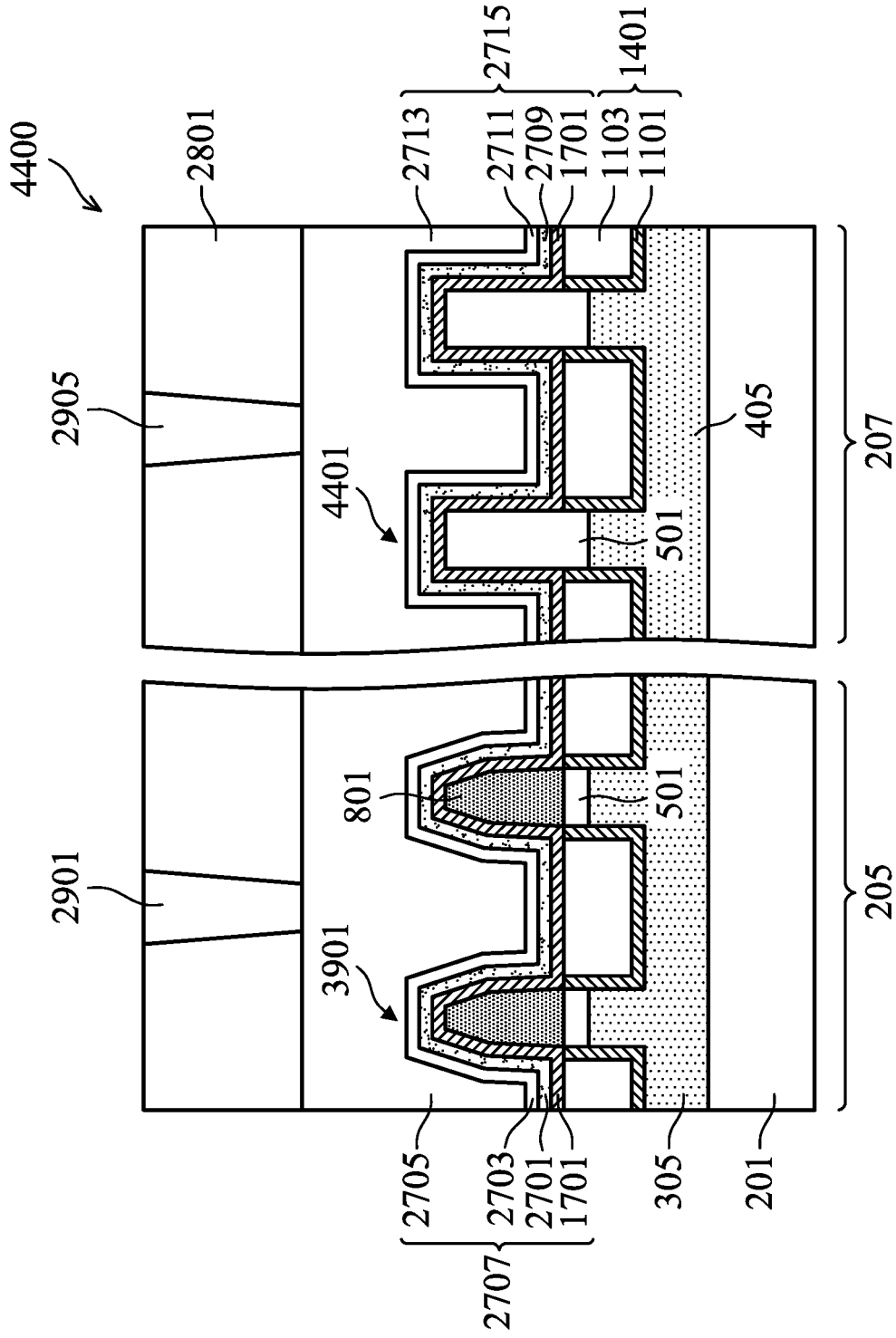


Figure 45A

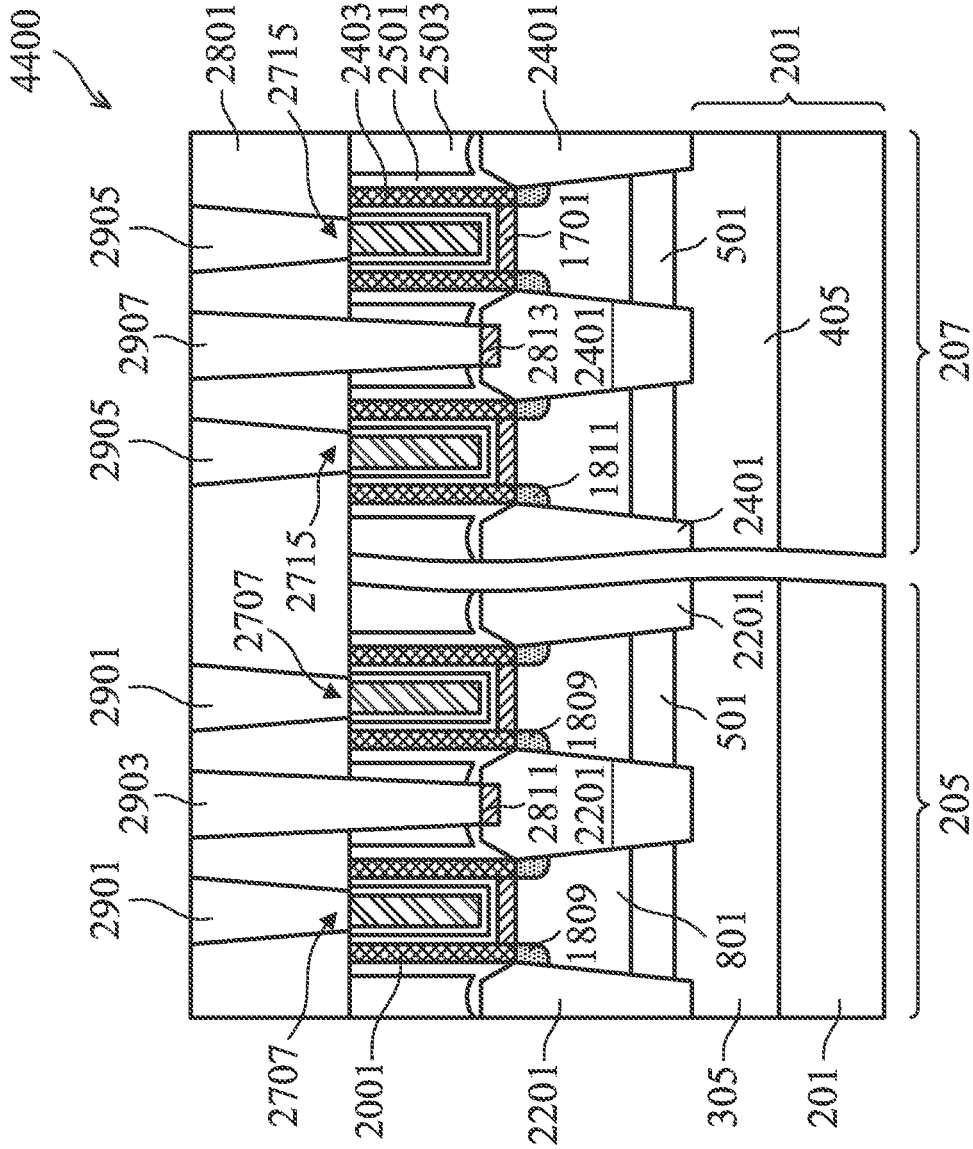


Figure 45B

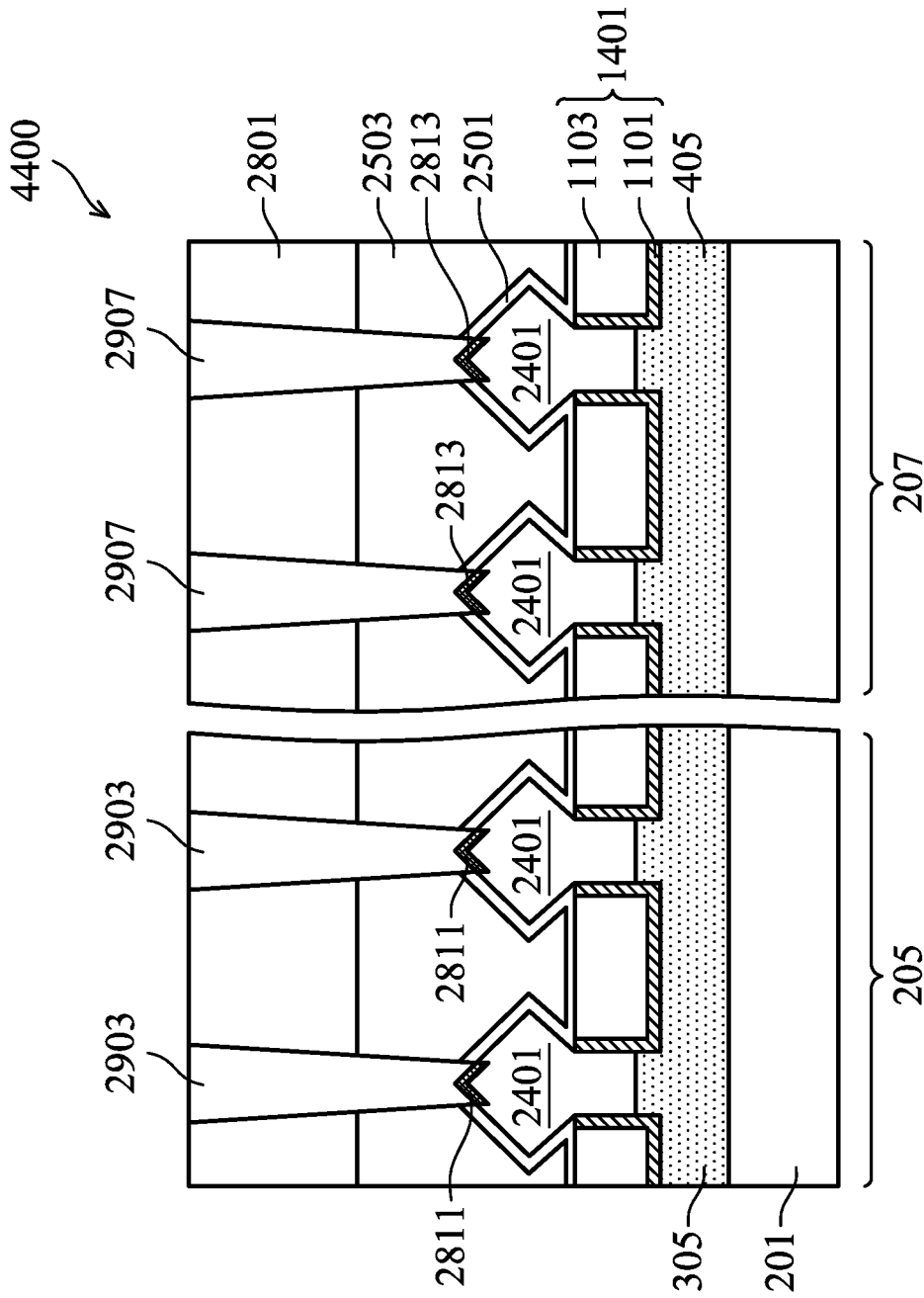


Figure 45C

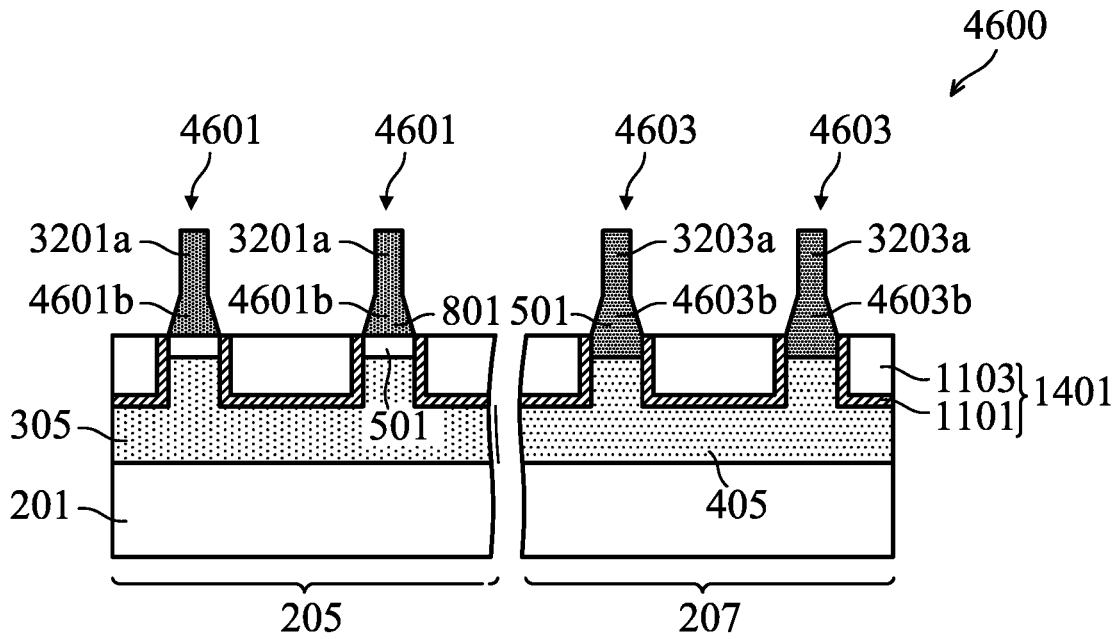


Figure 46A

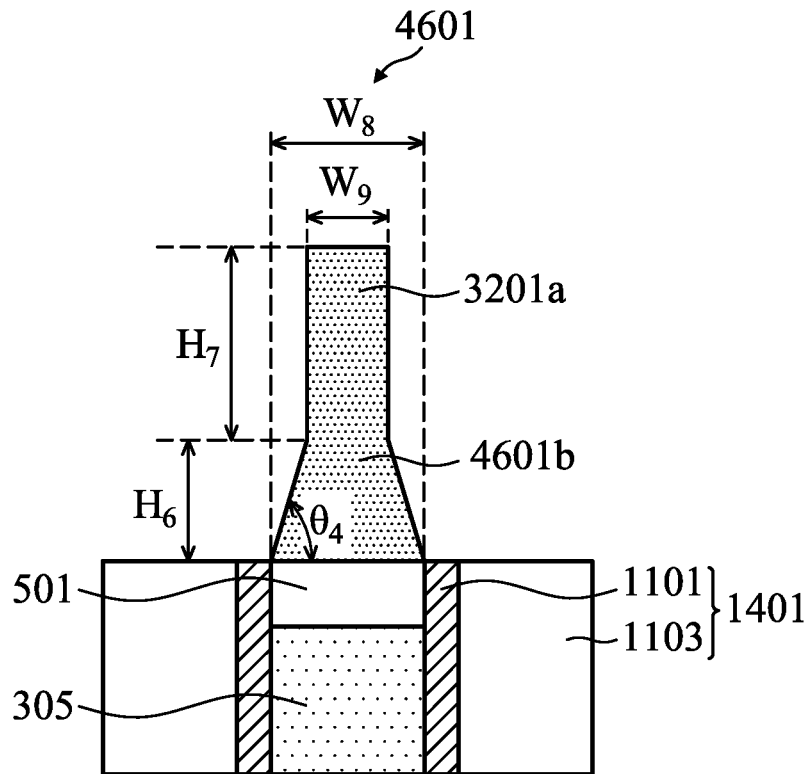


Figure 47A

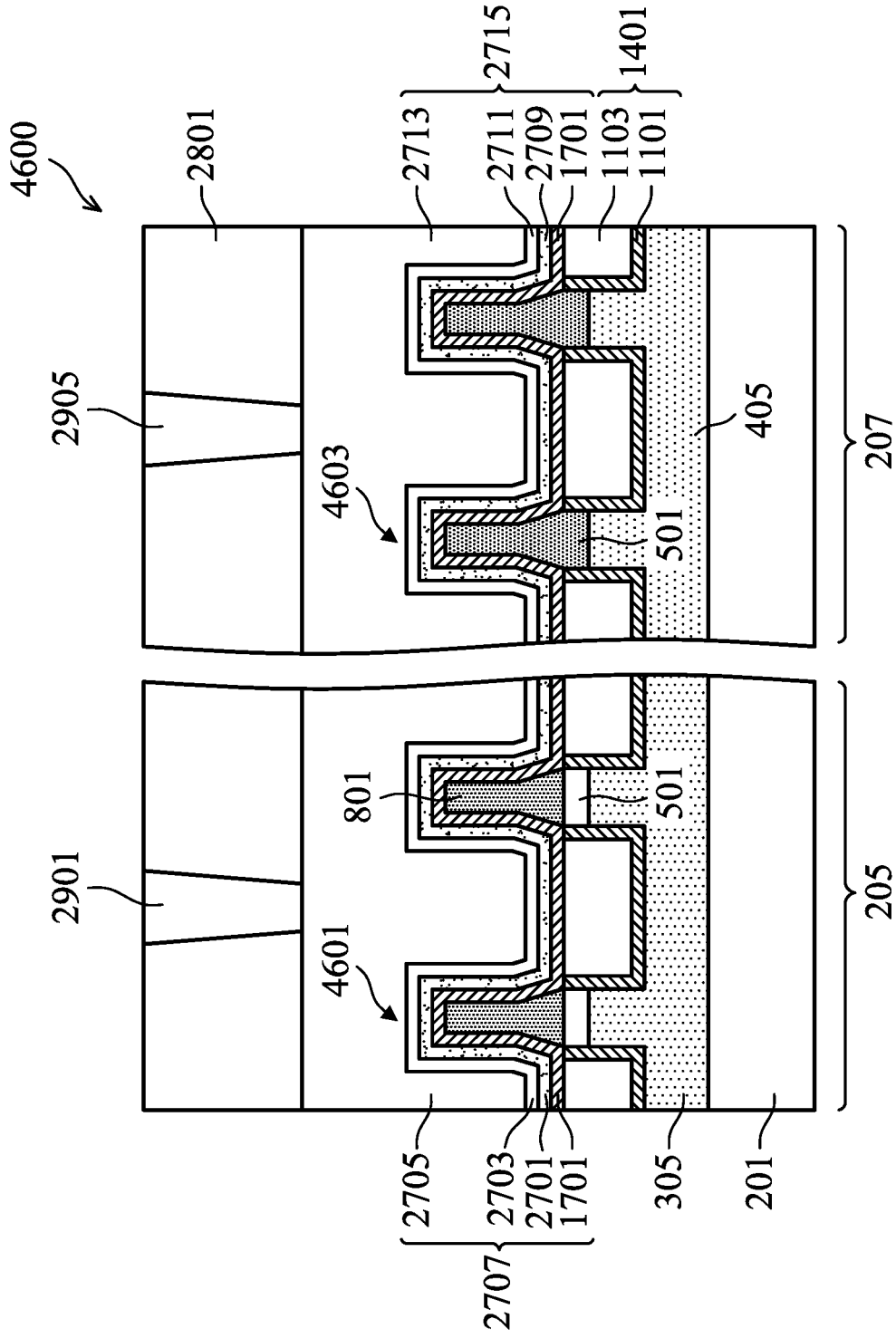


Figure 48A

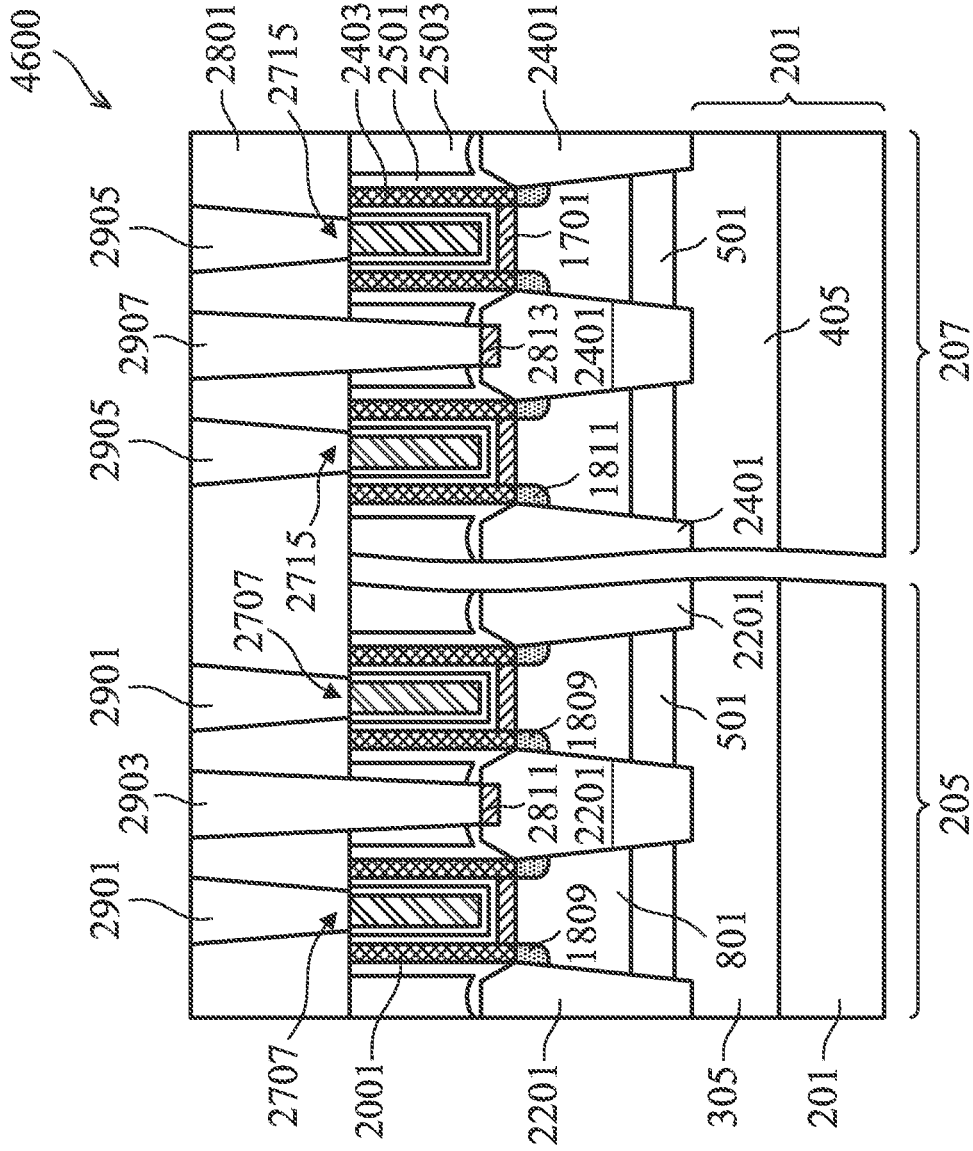


Figure 48B

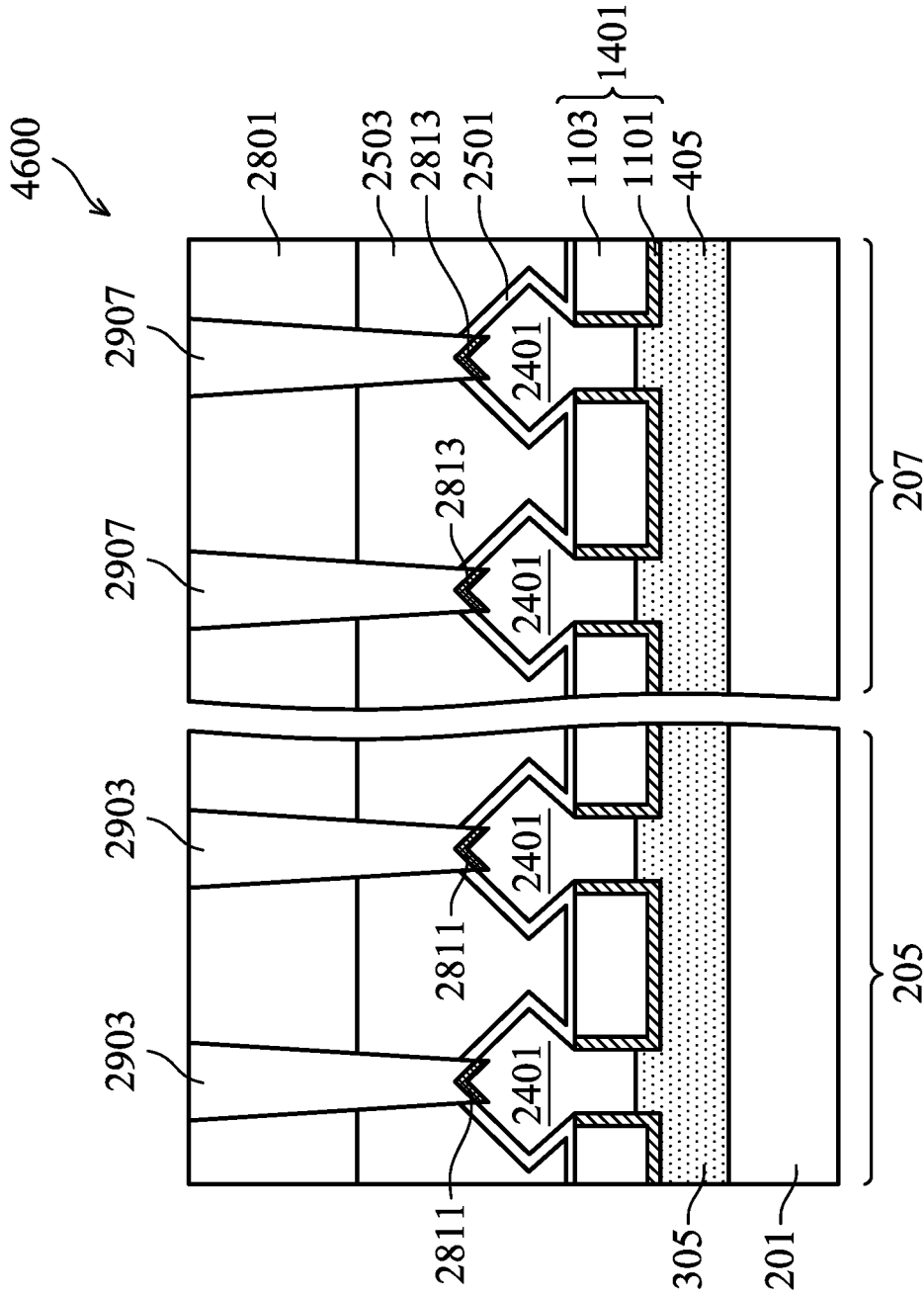


Figure 48C

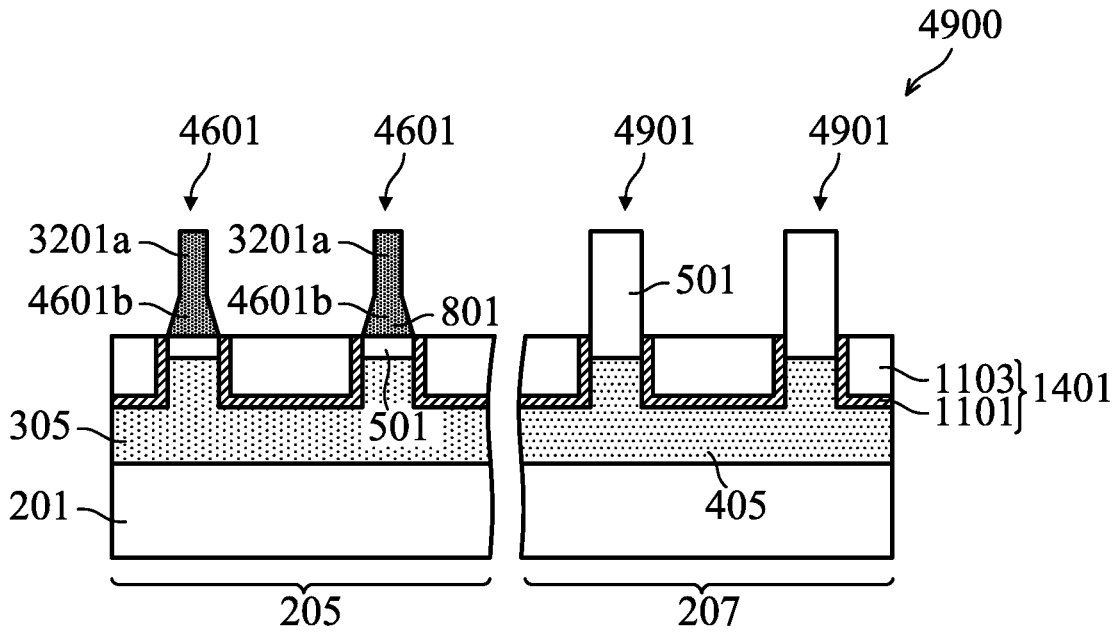


Figure 49A

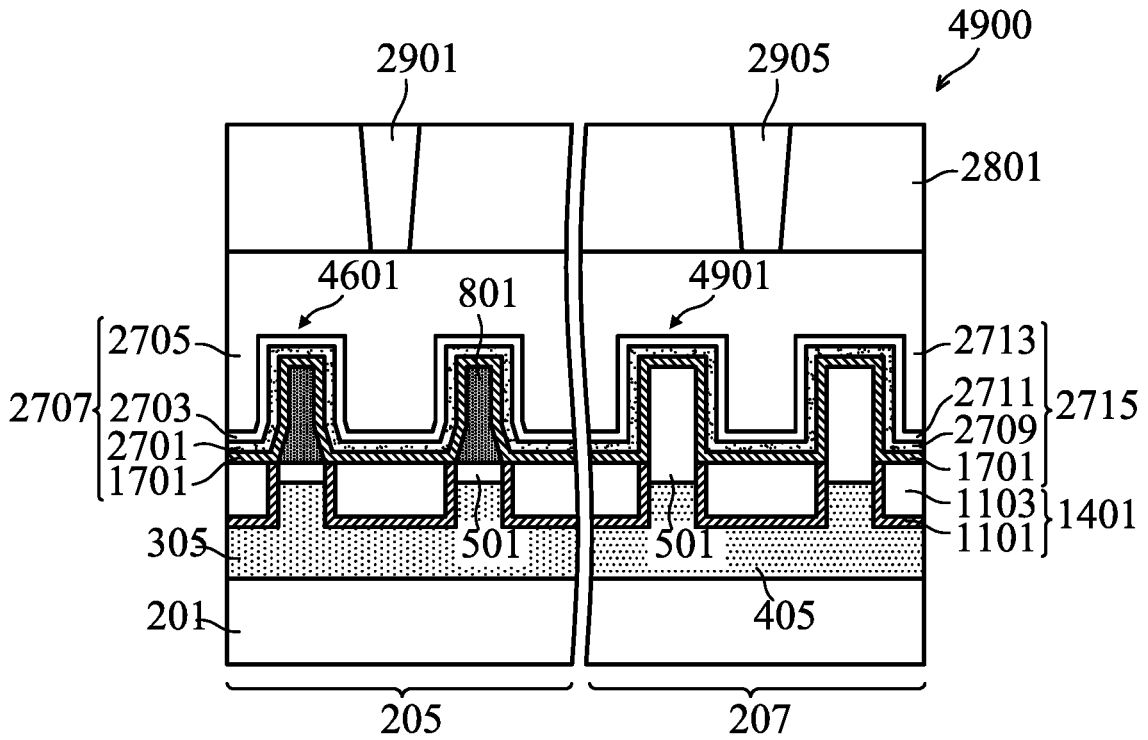


Figure 50A

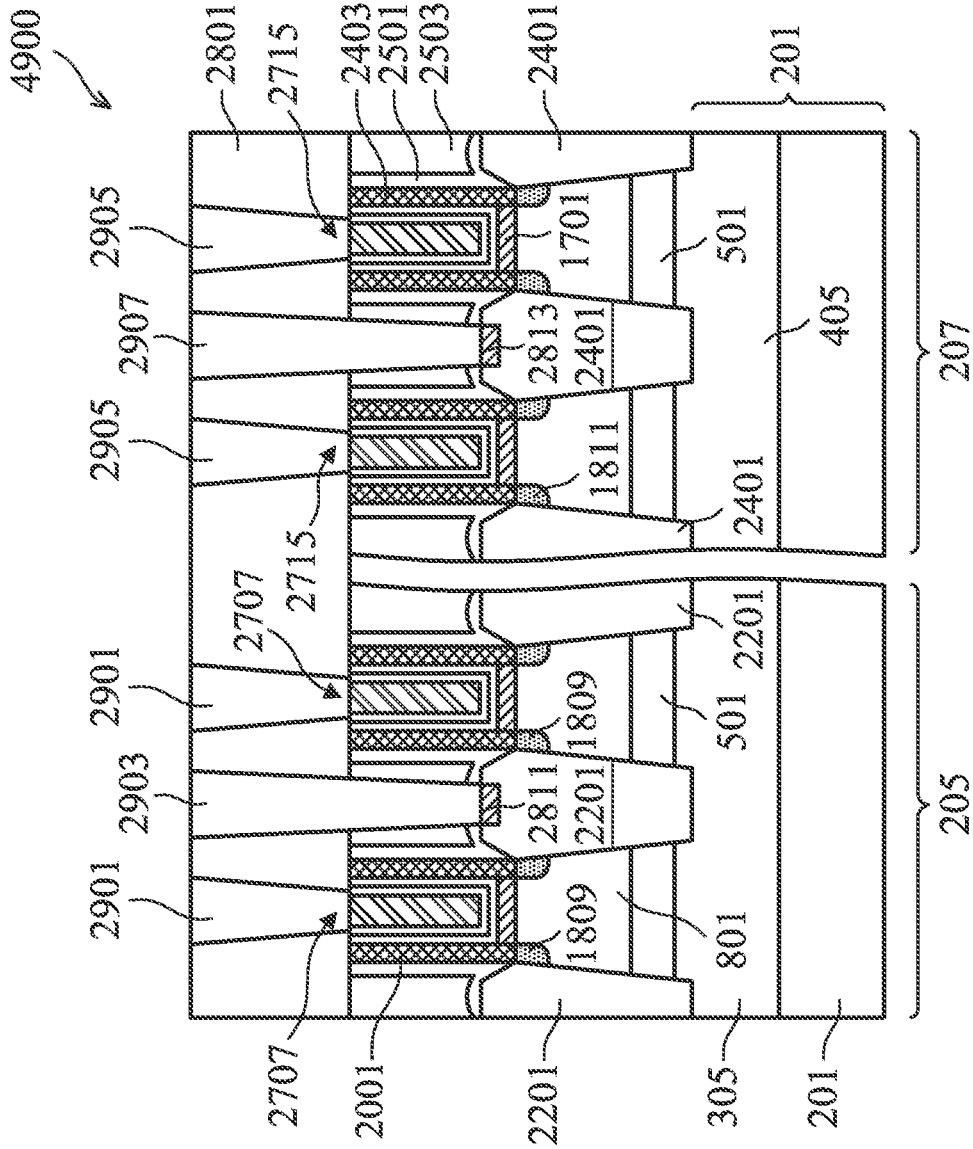


Figure 50B

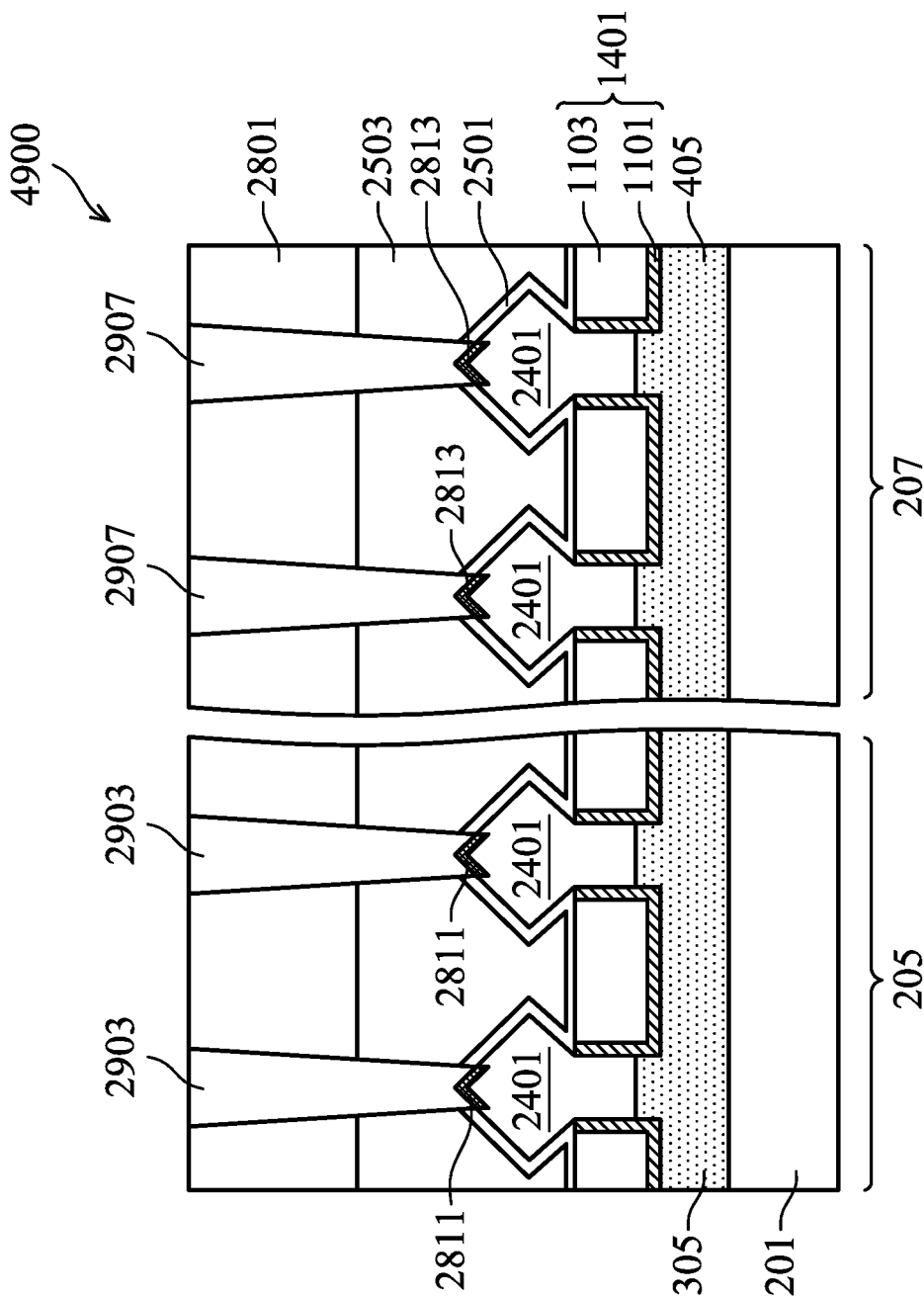


Figure 50C

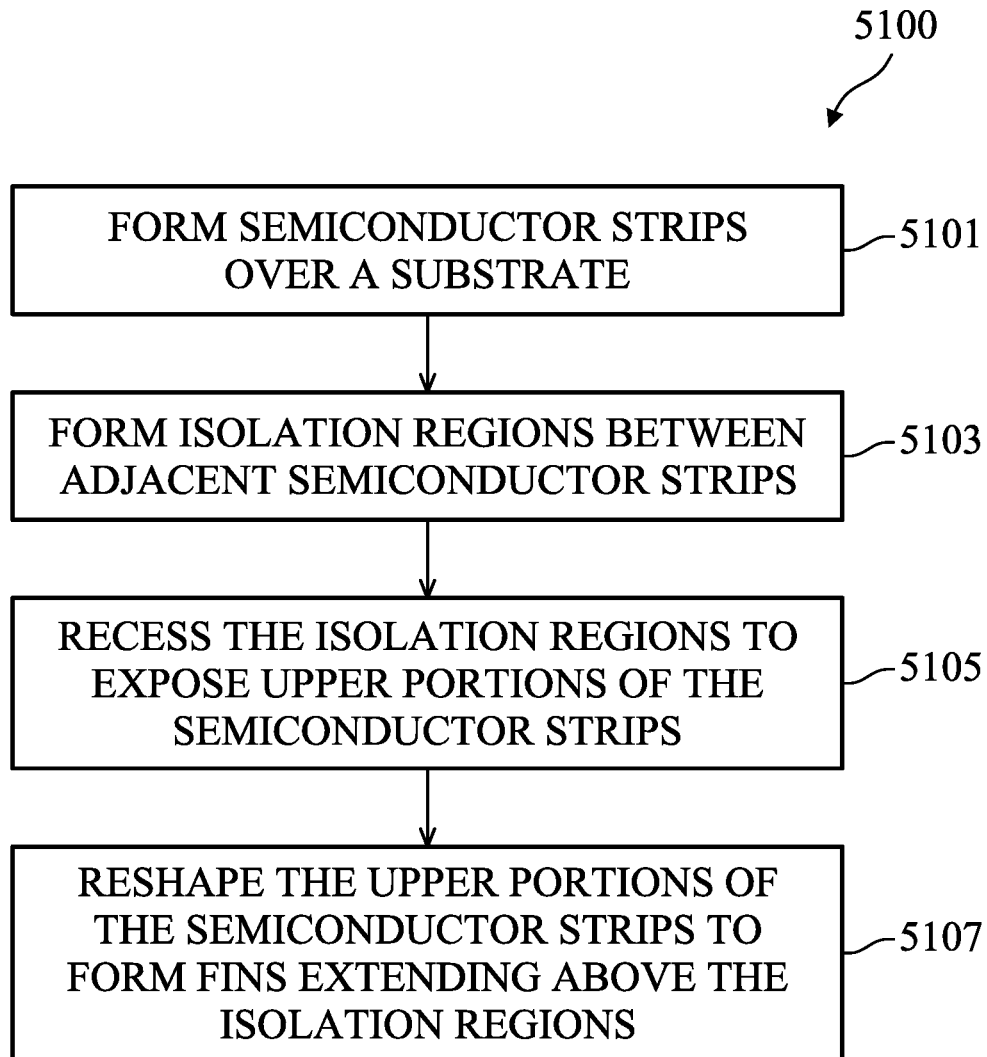


Figure 51

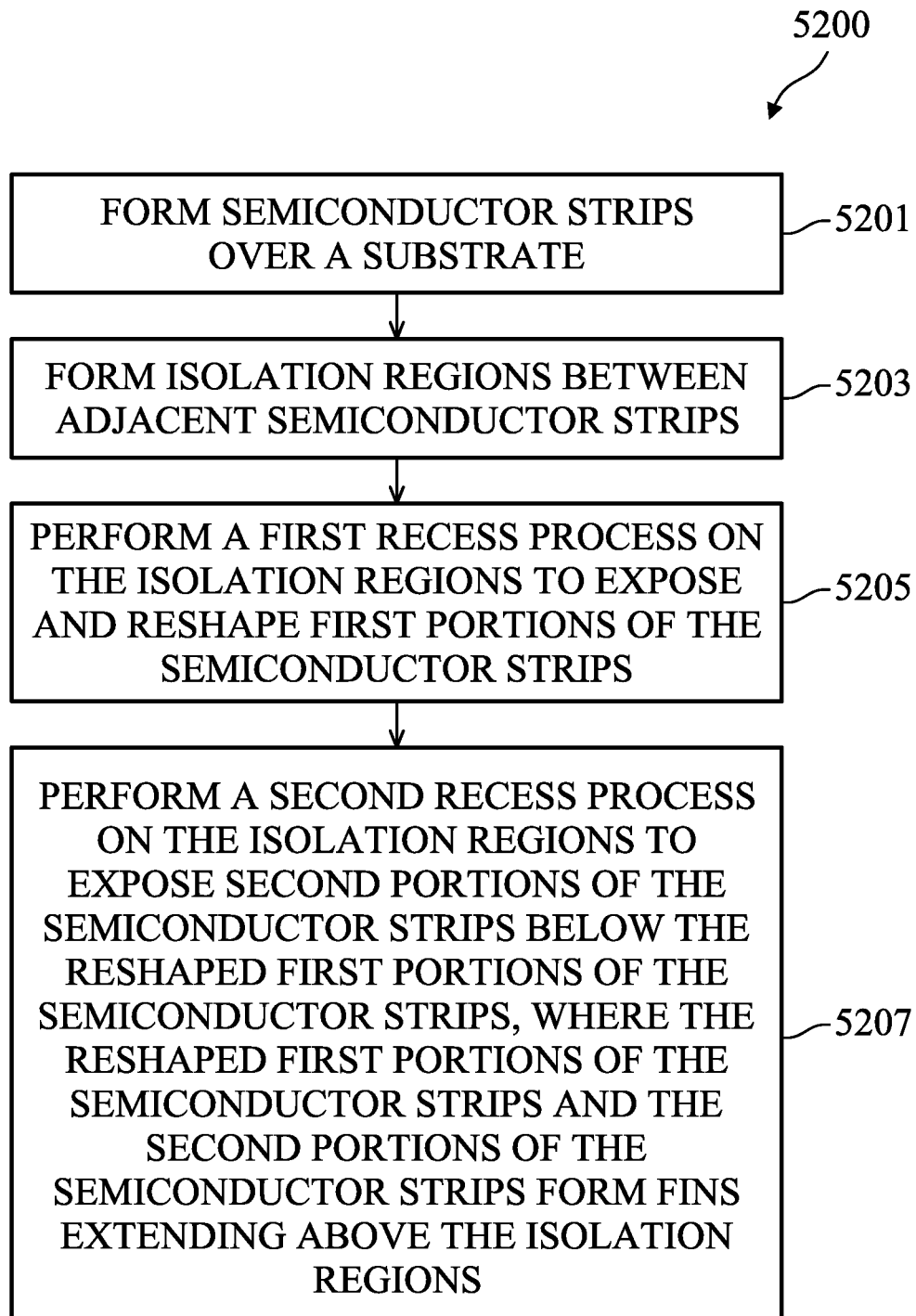


Figure 52

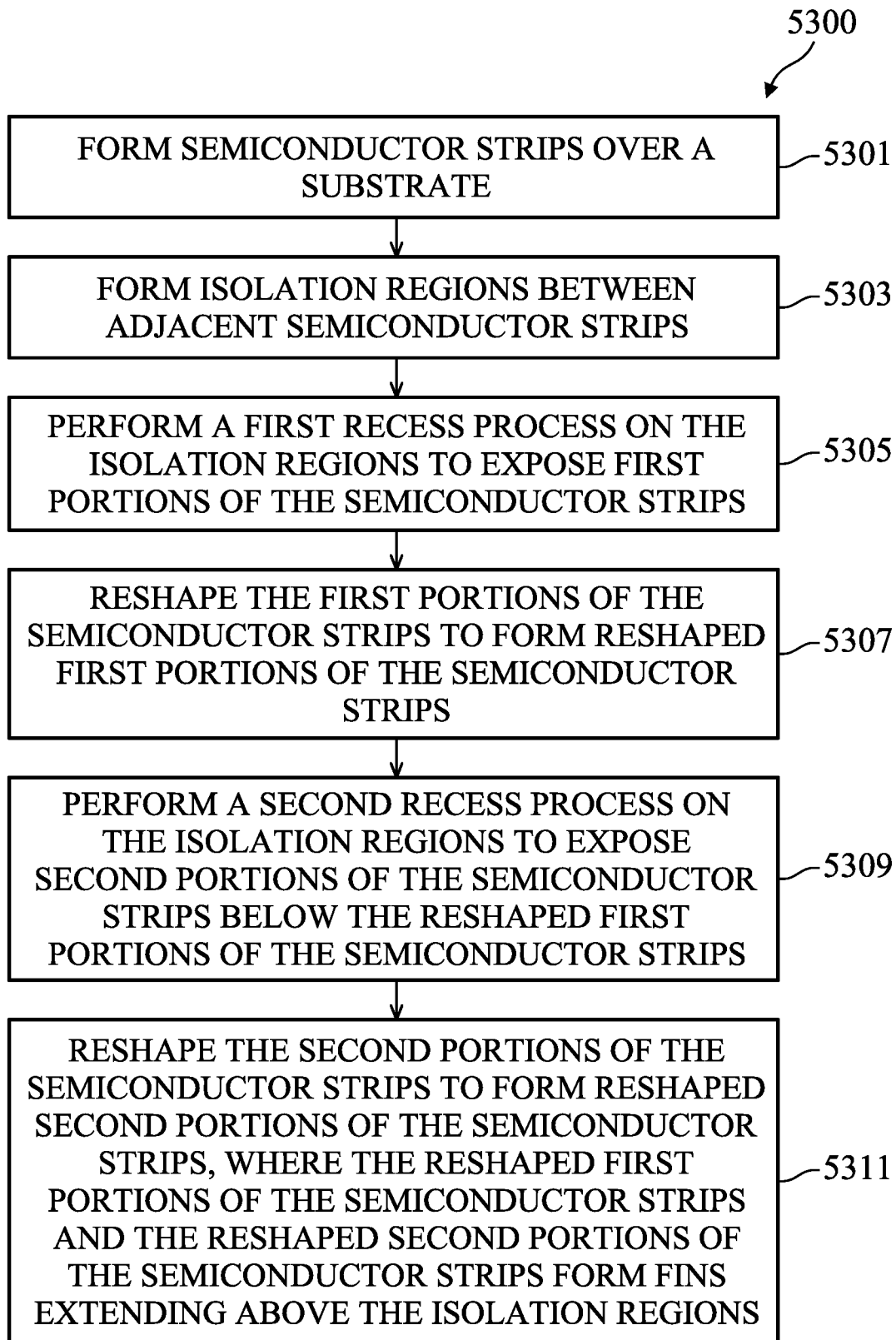


Figure 53

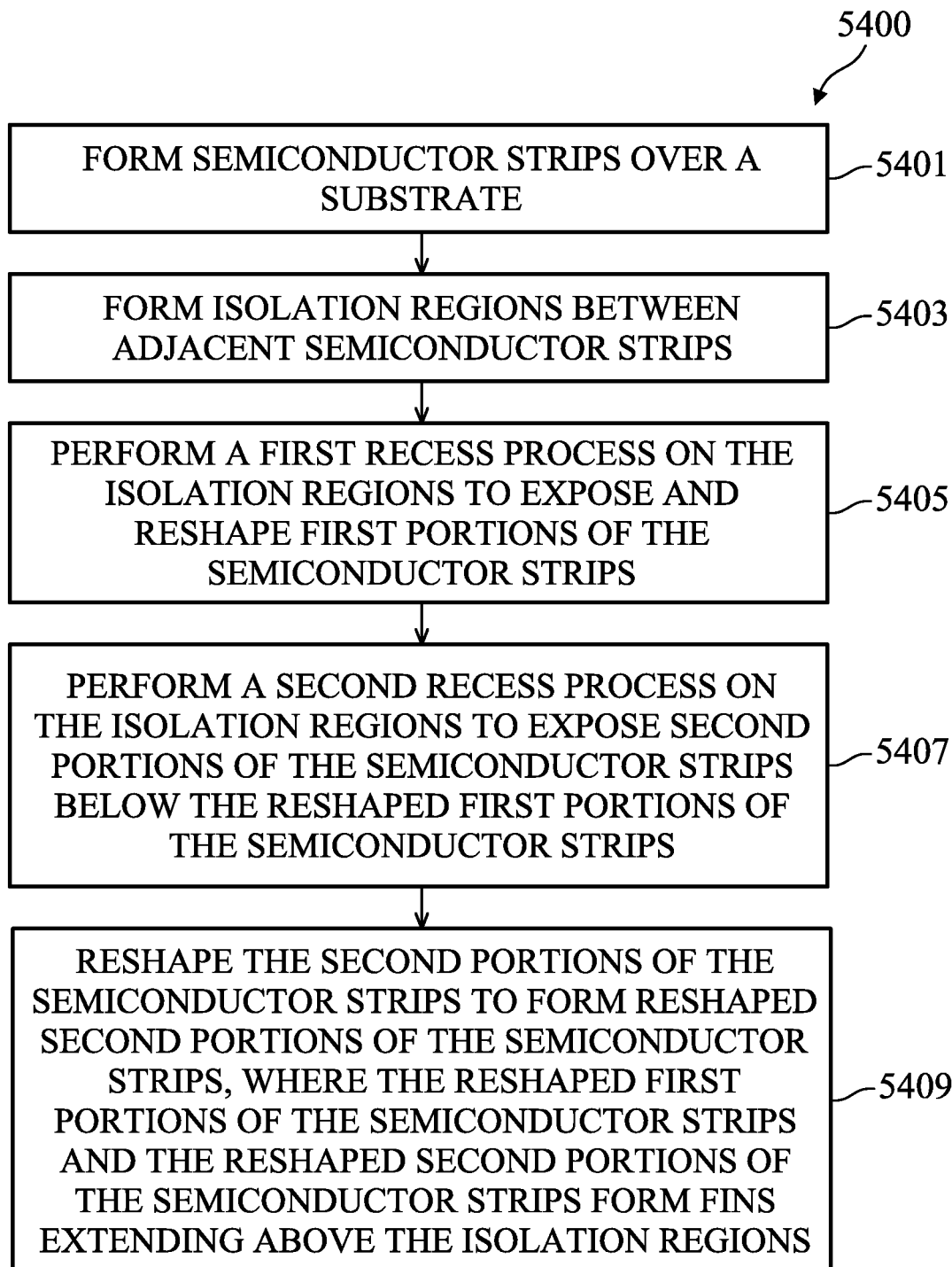


Figure 54

FINFET DEVICE AND METHOD OF FORMING SAME

PRIORITY CLAIM AND CROSS-REFERENCE

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/402,815 filed on Aug. 16, 2021, and entitled “FinFET Device and Method of Forming Same,” which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/245,519 filed on Jan. 11, 2019, and entitled “FinFET Device and Method of Forming Same,” now U.S. Pat. No. 11,094,826 issued Aug. 17, 2021, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/737,218, filed on Sep. 27, 2018, and entitled “FinFET Device and Method of Forming Same,” which applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Semiconductor devices are used in a variety of electronic applications, such as personal computers, cell phones, digital cameras, and other electronic equipment, as examples. Semiconductor devices are typically fabricated by sequentially depositing insulating or dielectric layers, conductive layers, and semiconductive layers of material over a semiconductor substrate, and patterning the various material layers using lithography to form circuit components and elements thereon.

[0003] A transistor is an element that is used often in semiconductor devices. There may be a large number of transistors (e.g. hundreds of, thousands of, or millions of transistors) on a single integrated circuit (IC), for example. A common type of transistor used in semiconductor device fabrication is a metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (MOSFET), as an example. A planar transistor (e.g. planar MOSFET) typically includes a gate dielectric disposed over a channel region in a substrate, and a gate electrode formed over the gate dielectric. A source region and a drain region of the transistor are formed on either side of the channel region.

[0004] Multiple gate field-effect transistors (MuGFETs) are a recent development in semiconductor technology. One type of MuGFET is referred to as a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET), which is a transistor structure that includes a fin-shaped semiconductor material that is raised vertically out of the semiconductor surface of an integrated circuit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] 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.

[0006] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a fin field-effect transistor (“FinFET”) device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0007] FIGS. 2A-16A are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0008] FIGS. 17A and 17B are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0009] FIGS. 18A, 18B and 18C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0010] FIGS. 19A, 19B and 19C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0011] FIGS. 20A, 20B and 20C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0012] FIGS. 21A, 21B and 21C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0013] FIGS. 22A, 22B and 22C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0014] FIG. 23C is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0015] FIGS. 24A, 24B and 24C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0016] FIGS. 25A, 25B and 25C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0017] FIGS. 26A, 26B and 26C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0018] FIGS. 27A, 27B and 27C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0019] FIGS. 28A, 28B and 28C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0020] FIGS. 29A, 29B and 29C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0021] FIG. 30A is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0022] FIGS. 31A, 31B and 31C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0023] FIGS. 32A-34A are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0024] FIGS. 35A, 35B and 35C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0025] FIG. 36A is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0026] FIGS. 37A, 37B and 37C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0027] FIGS. 38A-42A are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0028] FIGS. 43A, 43B and 43C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0029] FIG. 44A is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0030] FIGS. 45A, 45B and 45C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0031] FIG. 46A is cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0032] FIG. 47A is cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0033] FIGS. 48A, 48B and 48C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0034] FIG. 49A is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0035] FIGS. 50A, 50B and 50C are cross-sectional views of an intermediate stage in the manufacture of a FinFET device in accordance with some embodiments.

[0036] FIG. 51 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments.

[0037] FIG. 52 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments.

[0038] FIG. 53 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments.

[0039] FIG. 54 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0040] The following disclosure provides many different embodiments, or examples, for implementing different features of the invention. 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.

[0041] 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.

[0042] Embodiments will be described with respect to a specific context, namely, a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) device and a method of forming the same. Various embodiments presented herein are discussed in the context

of a FinFET device formed using a gate-last process. In other embodiments, a gate-first process may be used. Various embodiments discussed herein allow for controlling strain in a channel of a FinFET device at a fin bottom and reducing or eliminating fin wiggle/bend effect, and allow for a FinFET device having a uniform threshold voltage (V_t) along a fin height. Various embodiments discussed herein further allow for improving device performance such as, for example, a drive current of a FinFET device.

[0043] FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a fin field-effect transistor (FinFET) 100 in a three-dimensional view. The FinFET 100 comprises a fin 105 on a substrate 101. The substrate 101 includes isolation regions 103, and the fin 105 protrudes above and from between neighboring isolation regions 103. A gate dielectric 107 is along sidewalls and over a top surface of the fin 105, and a gate electrode 109 is over the gate dielectric 107. Source/drain regions 111 and 113 are disposed in opposite sides of the fin 105 with respect to the gate dielectric 107 and gate electrode 109. The FinFET 100 illustrated in FIG. 1 is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not meant to limit the scope of the present disclosure. As such, many variations are possible, such as epitaxial source/drain regions, multiple fins, multi-layer fins, etc. FIG. 1 further illustrates reference cross-sections that are used in subsequent figures. Cross-section A-A is across a channel, the gate dielectric 107, and the gate electrode 109 of the FinFET 100. Cross-section C-C is in a plane that is parallel to the cross-section A-A and is across fin 105 outside of the channel. Cross-section B-B is perpendicular to the cross-sections A-A and C-C, and is along a longitudinal axis of the fin 105 and in a direction of, for example, a current flow between the source/drain regions 111 and 113. Subsequent figures refer to these reference cross-sections for clarity.

[0044] FIGS. 2A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device 200 in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. 2A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C, figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. 1, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. 1; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0045] Referring to FIG. 2A, in some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device 200 starts with forming a mask 203 over a substrate 201. The substrate 201 may be a semiconductor substrate, such as a bulk semiconductor, a semiconductor-on-insulator (SOI) substrate, or the like, which may be doped (e.g., with a p-type or an n-type dopant) or undoped. The substrate 201 may be a wafer, such as a silicon wafer. Generally, an SOI substrate comprises a layer of a semiconductor material formed on an insulator layer. The insulator layer may be, for example, a buried oxide (BOX) layer, a silicon oxide layer, or the like. The insulator layer is provided on a substrate, typically a silicon or glass substrate. Other substrates, such as a multi-layered or gradient substrate may also be used. In some embodiments, the semiconductor material of the substrate 201 may include silicon; germanium; a compound semiconductor including silicon carbide, gallium arsenic, gallium phosphide, indium phosphide, indium arsenide, and/or indium

antimonide; an alloy semiconductor including SiGe, GaAsP, AlInAs, AlGaAs, GaInAs, GaInP, and/or GaInAsP; or combinations thereof.

[0046] The substrate **201** may further include integrated circuit devices (not shown). As one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize, a wide variety of integrated circuit devices such as transistors, diodes, capacitors, resistors, the like, or combinations thereof may be formed in and/or on the substrate **201** to generate the structural and functional requirements of the design for the FinFET device **200**. The integrated circuit devices may be formed using any suitable methods.

[0047] In some embodiments, the substrate **201** may comprise a first region **205** and a second region **207**. As described below in greater detail, p-type devices are formed in the first region **205** and n-type devices are formed in the second region **207**. The n-type devices may be NMOS devices, such as n-type FinFET devices. The p-type devices may be PMOS devices, such as p-type FinFET devices. Accordingly, the first region **205** may be also referred to as a PMOS region **205**, and the second region **207** may be also referred to as an NMOS region **207**.

[0048] Referring further to FIG. 2A, a mask **203** is formed over the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the mask **203** may be used in subsequent doping steps (see FIGS. 3A and 4A) to protect the substrate **201** during the doping process. In some embodiments, the mask **203** may comprise one or more mask layers. As shown in FIG. 2A, in some embodiments, the mask **203** may include a first mask layer **203A** and a second mask layer **203B** over the first mask layer **203A**. The first mask layer **203A** may comprise an oxide such as silicon oxide, or the like, and may be formed using any suitable process, such as thermal oxidation, atomic layer deposition (ALD), chemical vapor deposition (CVD), a combination thereof, or the like. The second mask layer **203B** may comprise a nitride such as silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using any suitable process, such as thermal nitridation, ALD, CVD, a combination thereof, or the like.

[0049] Referring to FIG. 3A, a mask **301** is formed over the mask **203**. The mask **301** is patterned to expose portions of the mask **203** disposed over the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the mask **301** comprises a photoresist and may be formed using a spin-on technique. In some embodiments, the mask **301** may be patterned using acceptable photolithography techniques. Subsequently, a doping process **303** is performed on the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201** to form a well **305** in the substrate **201**, while protecting the NMOS region **207** of the substrate **201** with the mask **301**. In some embodiments, the doping process **303** may comprise an ion implantation process, or the like. In some embodiments, n-type impurities are implanted into the substrate **201** to form the well **305**, which is an n-well. The n-type impurities may be phosphorus, arsenic, or the like. After implanting the impurities, an annealing process may be performed on the substrate **201** to activate the impurities that were implanted.

[0050] Referring to FIG. 4A, after performing the doping process **303**, the mask **301** (see FIG. 3A) is removed. In some embodiments where the mask **301** comprises the photoresist, the mask **301** may be removed using an ashing process followed by a wet clean process, or other suitable photoresist removal processes. Subsequently, a mask **401** is formed over the mask **203**. The mask **401** is patterned to

expose portions of the mask **203** disposed over the NMOS region **207** of the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the mask **401** comprises a photoresist and may be formed using a spin-on technique. In some embodiments, the mask **401** may be patterned using acceptable photolithography techniques. Subsequently, a doping process **403** is performed on the NMOS region **207** of the substrate **201** to form a well **405** in the substrate **201**, while protecting the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201** with the mask **401**. In some embodiments, the doping process **403** may comprise an ion implantation process, or the like. In some embodiments, p-type impurities are implanted into the substrate **201** to form the well **405**, which is a p-well. The p-type impurities may be boron, BF_2 , or the like. After implanting the impurities, an annealing process may be performed on the substrate **201** to activate the impurities that were implanted.

[0051] Referring to FIG. 5A, after performing the doping process **403**, the mask **401** (FIG. 4A) is removed. In some embodiments where the mask **401** comprises the photoresist, the mask **401** may be removed using an ashing process followed by a wet clean process, or other suitable photoresist removal processes. After removing the mask **401**, the mask **203** is removed to expose the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the mask **203** may be removed using a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process, an etching process, a grinding process, a combination thereof, or the like. After removing the mask **203**, a semiconductor layer **501** is formed over the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **501** may comprise similar materials as the substrate **201** described above with reference to FIG. 2A and the description is not repeated herein. In an embodiment, the semiconductor layer **501** is a silicon layer. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **501** may be epitaxially grown over the substrate **201**. Accordingly, the semiconductor layer **501** may also be referred to as an epitaxial semiconductor layer **501**.

[0052] Referring to FIG. 6A, the mask **601** is formed over the semiconductor layer **501** and is patterned to expose a portion of the mask **601** disposed over the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201**. The mask **601** may comprise an oxide such as silicon oxide, or the like, and may be formed using any suitable process, such as thermal oxidation, ALD, CVD, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, the mask **601** may be patterned using suitable photolithography and etching methods.

[0053] Referring to FIG. 7A, an exposed portion of the semiconductor layer **501** is recessed without completely removing the semiconductor layer **501** over the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the remaining portion of the semiconductor layer **501** over the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201** may have a thickness T_1 between about 1 nm and about 10 nm. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **501** may be recessed using a suitable etching process while using the mask **601** as an etch mask.

[0054] Referring to FIG. 8A, a semiconductor layer **801** is formed over the PMOS region **205** of the substrate **201**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **801** comprises SiGe and is epitaxially grown over the remaining portion of the semiconductor layer **501** in the PMOS region **205**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **801** comprising SiGe may be formed by low-pressure CVD (LPCVD) using suitable Ge and Si precursors. The Ge precursors may comprise GeH_4 , GeH_3CH_3 , $(\text{GeH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2$, a combination

thereof, or the like. The Si precursors may comprise SiH_2Cl_2 , SiH_4 , a combination thereof, or the like.

[0055] Referring to FIG. 9A, after forming the semiconductor layer **801**, the mask **601** is removed. In some embodiments, the mask **601** (see FIG. 8A) may be removed using a CMP process, an etching process, a grinding process, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments where the mask **601** comprises silicon oxide, the mask **601** is removed by an etching process using dilute HF. In some embodiments, after removing the mask **601**, a polishing process is performed on the semiconductor layers **501** and **801**. The polishing process may comprise a CMP process, an etching process, a grinding process, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, after performing the polishing process, a semiconductor layer **901** is formed over the semiconductor layers **501** and **801**. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **901** has a thickness between about 1 nm and about 10 nm. In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **901** may be formed using similar materials and methods as the semiconductor layer **501** described above with reference to FIG. 5A, and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments where the semiconductor layers **501** and **901** are silicon layers and the semiconductor layer **801** is a SiGe layer, an interface between the semiconductor layers **501** and **901** may not be detectable (as illustrated in FIG. 9A by a dashed line), while an interface between the semiconductor layers **801** and **901** is detectable (as illustrated in FIG. 9A by a solid line). In some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **901** may prevent Ge out diffusion from the semiconductor layer **801** during a subsequent patterning process for forming semiconductor strips (see FIG. 10A). Accordingly, the semiconductor layer **901** may also be referred to as a buffer layer.

[0056] Referring further to FIG. 9A, after forming the semiconductor layer **901**, a mask **903** is formed over the semiconductor layer **901**. In some embodiments, the mask **903** comprises a first mask layer **903A** and a second mask layer **903B** over the first mask layer **903A**. In some embodiments, the first mask layer **903A** may be formed using similar materials and methods as the first mask layer **203A** described above with reference to FIG. 2A, and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments, the second mask layer **903B** may be formed using similar materials and methods as the second mask layer **203B** described above with reference to FIG. 2A, and the description is not repeated herein.

[0057] Referring further to FIGS. 8A and 9A, in some embodiments, the semiconductor layer **801** comprising SiGe has a uniform Ge concentration throughout. In such embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In other embodiments, the semiconductor layer **801** comprising SiGe has a non-uniform Ge concentration, with the Ge concentration increasing from a lowest Ge concentration at a bottom surface **801b** of the semiconductor layer **801** to a highest Ge concentration at a top surface **801t** of the semiconductor layer **801**. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration at the bottom surface **801b** of the semiconductor layer **801** is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration at the top surface **801t** of the semiconductor layer **801** is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In yet other embodiments, the semiconductor layer **801** comprising SiGe has a non-uniform Ge concentration, with a lower portion **801₁** of the semiconductor layer

801 having a uniform Ge concentration and an upper portion **801₂** of the semiconductor layer **801** having a non-uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the Ge concentration increases from a low Ge concentration at an interface **801i** between the lower portion **801₁** and the upper portion **801₂** of the semiconductor layer **801** to a high Ge concentration at the top surface **801t** of the semiconductor layer **801**. In some embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration of the lower portion **801₁** of the semiconductor layer **801** is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration at the interface **801i** is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration at the top surface **801t** of the semiconductor layer **801** is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %.

[0058] FIG. 10A illustrates the formation of semiconductor strips **1005** in the PMOS region **205** and semiconductor strips **1007** in the NMOS region **207**. First, the mask layers **903A** and **903B** are patterned, where openings in mask layers **903A** and **903B** expose areas of the semiconductor layers **501**, **801** and **901**, where trenches **1001** and **1003**, respectively, are to be formed. Next, a patterning process may be performed, where the patterning process creates the trenches **1001** in the PMOS region **205** and the trenches **1003** in the NMOS region **207** through the openings in the mask **903**. The remaining portions of the substrate **201** and the semiconductor layers **501**, **801** and **901** underlying the patterned mask **903** form the semiconductor strips **1005** in the PMOS region **205**. The remaining portions of the substrate **201** and the semiconductor layers **501** and **901** underlying the patterned mask **903** form the semiconductor strips **1007** in the NMOS region **207**. The patterning process may be one or more acceptable etch processes, such as a reactive ion etch (RIE), neutral beam etch (NBE), a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, the patterning process comprises a first etch process performed on the PMOS region **205** while the NMOS region **207** is protected by a mask (not shown), followed by a second etch process performed on the NMOS region **207** while the PMOS region **205** is protected by a mask (not shown), with the first etch process being different from the second etch process. In other embodiments, the second etch process may be performed before the first etch process.

[0059] Referring to FIG. 11A, a conformal liner **1101** is formed on sidewalls and bottom surfaces of the trenches **1001** and **1003** (see FIG. 10A), which are subsequently filled with an insulation material **1103**. In some embodiments, the liner **1101** may comprise a semiconductor (e.g., silicon) nitride, a semiconductor (e.g., silicon) oxide, a thermal semiconductor (e.g., silicon) oxide, a semiconductor (e.g., silicon) oxynitride, a polymer, combinations thereof, or the like. The formation of the liner **1101** may include any suitable method, such as ALD, CVD, high density plasma CVD (HDP-CVD), physical vapor deposition (PVD), a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, the insulation material **1103** may be an oxide, such as silicon oxide, a nitride, such as silicon nitride, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed by HDP-CVD, flowable CVD (FCVD) (e.g., a CVD-based material deposition in a remote plasma system and post curing to make it convert to another material, such as an oxide), a combination thereof, or the like. Other insulation materials formed by any acceptable processes may be also used. In some embodiments, after the insulation material **1103** is deposited, an

annealing process may be performed on the insulation material **1103**. In such embodiments, the liner **1101** may prevent (or at least reduce) the diffusion of the semiconductor material from the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** (e.g., Si or Ge) into the insulation material **1103** during the annealing process.

[0060] Referring FIG. **12A**, a first planarization process, such as a CMP process, is performed to remove excess insulation material **1103**, such that top surfaces of remaining portions of the insulation material **1103** are coplanar with top surfaces of the liner **1101**.

[0061] Referring FIG. **13A**, a second planarization process, such as a CMP process, is performed to remove excess insulation material **1103**, such that top surfaces of remaining portions of the insulation material **1103** are coplanar with a top surface of the mask layer **903A**. The second planarization process further removes the mask layer **903B** and portions of the liner **1101**. In some embodiments, the second planarization process is different from the first planarization process.

[0062] FIG. **14A** illustrates the recessing of the insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101**. The remaining portions of the insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101** form shallow trench isolation (STI) regions **1401**. The insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101** are recessed such that upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** protrude from between neighboring STI regions **1401**. Further, the top surfaces of the STI regions **1401** may have a flat surface as illustrated, a convex surface, a concave surface (such as dishing), or a combination thereof. The top surfaces of the STI regions **1401** may be formed flat, convex, and/or concave by an appropriate etch. The insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101** may be recessed using an acceptable etching process, such as one that is selective to the material of the insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101**. In some embodiments, an oxide removal using a CERTAS® etch, an Applied Materials SICONI tool, or dilute hydrofluoric (dHF) acid may be used. In some embodiments, the recessing process further removes portions of the patterned semiconductor layer **901** (see FIG. **13A**) from the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**.

[0063] Referring to FIG. **15A**, one or more etch processes are performed on exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** (see FIG. **14A**) to form fins **1501** and **1503**, respectively. In some embodiments, a same etch process is performed on the exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**. In such embodiments, an oxide layer such as, for example, a silicon oxide layer (not shown) may be formed over the exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** to compensated the etch rate difference between the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**. In other embodiments, two different etch processes are performed on the exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**. In some embodiments, one or more etch processes may comprise an anisotropic etch process, such as a reactive ion etch (RIE), or the like. In some embodiments, etch chemistry and other parameters of the RIE process may be tuned to tune etch rates of the RIE process. In some embodiments, an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 100 \rangle$, R_{100} , is greater than an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 110 \rangle$, R_{110} , which is greater than an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 111 \rangle$, R_{111} . In some embodiments, $R_{100} : R_{110} : R_{111}$ is equal to 600:400:1. In some embodiments where top surfaces of

the semiconductor layers **501** and **801** are crystallographic planes (**100**), the RIE process changes slopes of sidewalls of the exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**, such that widths of the fins **1501** and **1503** decrease as the fins **1501** and **1503** extend away from the respective adjacent STI regions **1401**. Reshaping the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** into fins **1501** and **1503**, respectively, as described above with reference to FIGS. **14A** and **15A** allows for controlling strain in channels of the FinFET device **200** at fin bottoms and reducing or eliminating fin wiggle/bend effect, and allows for the FinFET device **200** having a uniform threshold voltage (V_t) along fin heights.

[0064] FIG. **16A** illustrates a magnified view of a fin **1501** shown in FIG. **15A**. In some embodiments, the fin **1501** has a height H_1 between about 30 nm and about 60 nm. In some embodiments, a width of the fin **1501** decreases as the fin **1501** extends away from the adjacent STI regions **1401**. In some embodiments, a portion of the fin **1501** farthest away from the adjacent STI regions **1401** has a width W_1 between about 2 nm and about 10 nm. In some embodiments, a portion of the fin **1501** nearest the adjacent STI regions **1401** has a width W_2 between about 4 nm and about 14 nm. In some embodiments, the width W_2 is greater than the width W_1 . In some embodiments where the fin **1501** comprises SiGe, the fin **1501** has a uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin **1501** comprises SiGe, the fin **1501** has a non-uniform Ge concentration, with the Ge concentration increasing as the fin **1501** extends away from the adjacent STI regions **1401**. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin **1501** nearest the adjacent STI regions **1401** is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin **1501** farthest from the adjacent STI regions **1401** is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In some embodiments, sidewalls of the fin **1501** form an angle θ_1 with topmost surfaces of adjacent STI regions **1401**. In some embodiments, the angle θ_1 is between about 80 degrees and about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the fins **1503** (see FIG. **15A**) may have similar shapes and sizes as the fins **1501** and the description is not repeated herein.

[0065] Referring to FIGS. **17A** and **17B**, a dielectric layer **1701** is formed on sidewalls and top surfaces of the fins **1501** and **1503**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **1701** may be also formed over the STI regions **1401**. In other embodiments, top surfaces of the STI regions **1401** may be free from the dielectric layer **1701**. The dielectric layer **1701** may comprise an oxide, such as silicon oxide, or the like, and may be deposited (using, for example, ALD, CVD, PVD, a combination thereof, or the like) or thermally grown (for example, using thermal oxidation, or the like) according to acceptable techniques. A gate electrode layer **1703** is formed over the dielectric layer **1701**, and a mask **1705** is formed over the gate electrode layer **1703**. In some embodiments, the gate electrode layer **1703** may be deposited over the dielectric layer **1701** and then planarized using, for example, a CMP process. Subsequently, the mask **1705** may be deposited over the gate electrode layer **1703**. The gate electrode layer **1703** may be made of, for example, polysilicon, although other materials that have a high etching selectivity with respect to the material of the STI regions **1401** may also be used. The mask **1705** may include one or

more layers of, for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, silicon carbide, silicon carbonitride, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using any suitable process, such as thermal oxidation, thermal nitridation, ALD, PVD, CVD, a combination thereof, or the like. In the illustrated embodiment, a single dielectric layer 1701, a single gate electrode layer 1703, and a single mask 1705 are formed across the PMOS region 205 and the NMOS region 207. In other embodiments, different dielectric layers, different gate electrode layers, and different masks may be separately formed in the PMOS region 205 and the NMOS region 207.

[0066] Referring to FIGS. 18A, 18B, and 18C, the mask 1705 (see FIGS. 17A and 17B) may be patterned using acceptable photolithography and etching techniques to form a patterned mask 1801 in the PMOS region 205 and a patterned mask 1803 in the NMOS region 207. The pattern of the masks 1801 and 1803 then are transferred to the gate electrode layer 1703 and the dielectric layer 1701 by an acceptable etching technique to form gates 1805 in the PMOS region 205 and gates 1807 in the NMOS region 207. The pattern of the gates 1805 and 1807 cover channel regions of the fins 1501 and 1503 while exposing source/drain regions of the fins 1501 and 1503, respectively. The gates 1805 and 1807 may also have a lengthwise direction substantially perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of fins 1501 and 1503, respectively. A size of the gates 1805 and 1807, and a pitch between gates 1805 and 1807, may depend on a region of a die in which the gates 1805 and 1807 are formed. In some embodiments, the gates 1805 and 1807 may have a larger size and a larger pitch when located in an input/output region of a die (e.g., where input/output circuitry is disposed) than when located in a logic region of a die (e.g., where logic circuitry is disposed). As described below in greater detail, in some embodiments, the gates 1805 and 1807 are sacrificial gates and are subsequently replaced by replacement gates. In such embodiments, the gates 1805 and 1807 may also be referred to as sacrificial gates. In other embodiments, the gates 1805 and 1807 are not replaced and are present in the final FinFET device 200.

[0067] Referring further to FIGS. 18A, 18B, and 18C, lightly doped source/drain (LDD) regions 1809 are formed in the fins 1501 in the PMOS region 205 and LDD regions 1811 are formed in the fins 1503 in the NMOS region 207. Similar to the implantation processes discussed above with reference to FIGS. 3A and 4A, a mask (not shown), such as a photoresist, is formed over the NMOS region 207, while exposing the PMOS region 205, and p-type impurities are implanted into the exposed fins 1501 to form the LDD regions 1809 in the PMOS region 205. The p-type impurities may be any of the p-type impurities discussed above with reference to FIG. 4A. During the implantation of the LDD regions 1809, the gates 1805 and the patterned mask 1801 act as a combined mask to prevent (or at least reduce) dopants from implanting into channel regions of the exposed fins 1501. Thus, the LDD regions 1809 may be formed substantially in source/drain regions of the exposed fins 1501. The mask then is removed using a suitable removal method. In some embodiments when the mask comprises a photoresist, the mask may be removed using, for example, an ashing process followed by a wet clean process. After the implantation process, an annealing process may be performed to activate the implanted impurities. Subsequently, a second mask (not shown), such as a photoresist, is formed

over the PMOS region 205, while exposing the NMOS region 207, and n-type impurities are implanted into the exposed fins 1503 to form the LDD regions 1811 in the NMOS region 207. During the implantation of the LDD regions 1811, the gates 1807 and the patterned mask 1803 act as a combined mask to prevent (or at least reduce) dopants from implanting into channel regions of the exposed fins 1503. Thus, the LDD regions 1811 are formed substantially in source/drain regions of the exposed fins 1503. The second mask then is removed using a suitable removal method. In some embodiments when the second mask comprises a photoresist, the second mask may be removed using, for example, an ashing process followed by a wet clean process. The n-type impurities may be any of the n-type impurities discussed above with reference to FIG. 3A. After the implantation process, an annealing process may be performed to activate the implanted impurities.

[0068] FIGS. 19A-19C and 20A-20C illustrate the formation of spacers 2001 on sidewalls of the gates 1805 in accordance with some embodiments. Referring first to FIGS. 19A-19C, a dielectric layer 1901 is blanket formed on exposed surfaces of the gates 1805 and 1807, the patterned masks 1801 and 1803, the fins 1501 and 1503, and the STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer 1901 may comprise silicon nitride (SiN), silicon oxynitride (SiON), silicon oxycarbide (SiOC), silicon carbonitride (SiCN), silicon carboxynitride (SiOCN), a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using CVD, ALD, a combination thereof, or the like.

[0069] Referring to FIGS. 20A-20C, a patterning process is performed to remove excess portions of the dielectric layer 1901 in the PMOS region 205 to form the spacers 2001 on the sidewalls of the gates 1805. In some embodiments, a mask 2003 is formed over the dielectric layer 1901 in the NMOS region 207 while exposing the PMOS region 205. In some embodiments, the mask 2003 may comprise, for example, a photoresist, or the like, and may be formed using spin-on coating, or the like. Subsequently, an etch process is performed on the dielectric layer 1901 using the mask 2003 as an etch mask. The etch process may be anisotropic. The etch process removes lateral portions of the dielectric layer 1901, such that remaining vertical portions of the dielectric layer 1901 form the spacers 2001 on the sidewalls of the gates 1805. In the illustrated embodiment, the etch process completely removes the dielectric layer 1901 from the fins 1501. In other embodiments, portions of the dielectric layer 1901 remain on the sidewalls of the fins 1501 and form spacers (not shown) on the sidewalls of the fins 1501.

[0070] FIGS. 21A-21C and 22A-22C illustrate the formation of epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 in the PMOS region 205. Referring to FIGS. 21A-21C, after forming the spacers 2001, a patterning process is performed on the fins 1501 in the PMOS region 205 to form recesses 2101 in the source/drain regions of the fins 1501, while the NMOS region 207 is protected by the mask 2003. In some embodiments, the patterning process may include a suitable anisotropic dry etch process, while using the patterned mask 1801, the gates 1805, the spacers 2001, the mask 2003, and/or the STI regions 1401 as a combined mask. The suitable anisotropic dry etch process may include a reactive ion etch (RIE), a neutral beam etch (NBE), a combination thereof, or the like.

[0071] Referring to FIGS. 22A, 22B, and 22C, epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 are formed in the recesses 2101

(see FIGS. 21A, 21B, and 21C). In some embodiments, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 are epitaxially grown in the recesses 2101 using metal-organic CVD (MOCVD), molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), liquid phase epitaxy (LPE), vapor phase epitaxy (VPE), selective epitaxial growth (SEG), a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiment where the fins 1501 comprise SiGe, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may include SiGe:B, or the like. The epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may have surfaces raised from respective surfaces of the fins 1501 and may have facets. In some embodiments, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may extend below the fins 1501. In some embodiments, the material of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may be implanted with suitable dopants, such as p-type dopants. In some embodiments, the implantation process is similar to the process used for forming the well 405 as described above with reference to FIG. 4A and the description is not repeated herein. In other embodiments, the material of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may be in situ doped during growth. After forming the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201, the mask 2003 is removed using a suitable mask removal process. In some embodiments where the mask 2003 comprises the photoresist, the mask 2003 may be removed using an ashing process followed by a wet clean process, or other suitable photoresist removal processes.

[0072] Referring further to FIGS. 22A, 22B, and 22C, in the illustrated embodiment, each of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 are physically separated from other epitaxial source/drain regions 2201. In other embodiments, adjacent epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 may be merged. Such embodiment is depicted in FIG. 23C, where adjacent epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 are merged to form a common epitaxial source/drain region 2201.

[0073] Referring to FIGS. 24A, 24B, and 24C, after forming the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 in the PMOS region 205, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 are formed in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 are formed in the NMOS region 207 using similar methods as the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 described above with reference to FIGS. 21A, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22B, and 22C and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments, during the formation of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 in the NMOS region 207, the PMOS region 205 is protected by a mask (not shown). In some embodiments, the dielectric layer 1901 in the NMOS region 207 is patterned to form spacers 2403 along sidewalls of the gates 1807. The dielectric layer 1901 in the NMOS region 207 may be patterned using similar methods as the dielectric layer 1901 in the PMOS region 205 described above with reference to FIGS. 20A, 20B, and 20C, and the description is not repeated herein. Subsequently, the source/drain regions of the fins 1503 in the NMOS region 207 are etched to form recesses (shown as filled with the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 in FIGS. 24B and 24C) similar to the recesses 2101 (see FIGS. 21B and 21C). The recesses in the source/drain regions of the fins 1503 may be formed using similar method as the recesses 2101 described above with reference to FIGS. 21A, 21B, and 21C, and the description is not repeated herein.

[0074] Referring further to FIGS. 24A, 24B, and 24C, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 are epitaxially grown in the recesses in the NMOS region 207 using MOCVD, MBE,

LPE, VPE, SEG, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments where the fins 1503 are formed of silicon, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 may include silicon, SiC, SiC:P, Si:P, SiAs:P, or the like. In some embodiments, the material of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 may be implanted with suitable dopants, such as n-type dopants. In some embodiments, the implantation process is similar to the process used for forming the well 305 as described above with reference to FIG. 3A and the description is not repeated herein. In other embodiments, the material of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 may be in situ doped during growth. After forming the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401, the mask protecting the PMOS region 205 is removed using a suitable mask removal process. In some embodiments where the mask comprises the photoresist, the mask may be removed using an ashing process followed by a wet clean process, or other suitable photoresist removal processes. In some embodiments, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 in the PMOS region 205 are formed before forming the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 in the NMOS region 207. In other embodiments, the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 in the NMOS region 207 are formed before forming the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 in the PMOS region 205. In the illustrated embodiment, each of the epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 are physically separated from other epitaxial source/drain regions 2401. In other embodiments, adjacent epitaxial source/drain regions 2401 may be merged similar to the common epitaxial source/drain region 2201 illustrated in FIG. 23C.

[0075] Referring to FIGS. 25A, 25B, and 25C, an etch stop layer (ESL) 2501 and an interlayer dielectric (ILD) 2503 are deposited over the gates 1805 and 1807, and over the epitaxial source/drain regions 2201 and 2401. In some embodiments, the ILD 2503 is a flowable film formed by a flowable CVD. In some embodiments, the ILD 2503 is formed of a dielectric material such as silicon oxide, SiOC, ZrO₂, HfO₂, Phospho-Silicate Glass (PSG), Boro-Silicate Glass (BSG), Boron-Doped Phospho-Silicate Glass (BPSG), undoped Silicate Glass (USG), low-k dielectric materials, extremely low-k dielectric materials, high-k dielectric materials, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be deposited by any suitable method, such as CVD, PECVD, a spin-on-glass process, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, the ESL 2501 is used as a stop layer while patterning the ILD 2503 to form openings for subsequently formed contact plugs. Accordingly, a material for the ESL 2501 may be chosen such that the material of the ESL 2501 has a lower etch rate than the material of the ILD 2503. In some embodiments, the ESL 2501 may comprise silicon nitride (SiN), silicon oxynitride (SiON), silicon oxycarbide (SiOC), silicon carbonitride (SiCN), silicon carbonynitride (SiOCN), a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using CVD, ALD, a combination thereof, or the like. In some embodiments, a planarization process, such as a CMP process, may be performed to level the top surface of ILD 2503 with the top surfaces of the patterned masks 1801 and 1803. In other embodiments, the planarization may also remove the masks 1801 and 1803, or portions thereof, from the gates 1805 and 1807, respectively.

[0076] Referring to FIGS. 26A, 26B, and 26C, in some embodiments, the patterned masks 1801 and 1803, and the gate electrode layers 1703 of the gates 1805 and 1807 are removed using one or more suitable etching processes to

form recesses 2601 in the PMOS region 205 and recesses 2603 in the NMOS region 207. Each of the recesses 2601 exposes a channel region of a respective fin 1501 in the PMOS region 205. Each of the recesses 2603 exposes a channel region of a respective fin 1503 in the NMOS region 207. In the illustrated embodiment, the dielectric layers 1701 remain over the channel regions of the fins 1501 and 1503. In other embodiments, the dielectric layers 1701 may also be removed during the formation of the recesses 2601 and 2603.

[0077] Referring further to FIGS. 27A, 27B, and 27C, a gate dielectric layer 2701, a work function layer 2703, and a gate electrode layer 2705 are formed in the recesses 2601 (see FIG. 26B) in the PMOS region 205 while the NMOS region is protected by a mask (not shown). In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2701 is conformally deposited in the recesses 2601. In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2701 comprises silicon oxide, silicon nitride, or multilayers thereof. In other embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2701 includes a high-k dielectric material, and in these embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2701 may have a k value greater than about 7.0, and may include a metal oxide or a silicate of Hf, Al, Zr, La, Mg, Ba, Ti, Pb, and combinations thereof. The formation methods of the gate dielectric layer 2701 may include Molecular-Beam Deposition (MBD), ALD, PECVD, a combination thereof, or the like.

[0078] In some embodiments where the dielectric layers 1701 are not removed over the channel regions of the fins 1501 while forming the recesses 2601, the dielectric layers 1701 may act as interfacial layers between the gate dielectric layer 2701 and the channel regions of the fins 1501. In some embodiments where the dielectric layers 1701 are removed over the channel regions of the fins 1501 while forming the recesses 2601, one or more interfacial layers may be formed over the channel regions of the fins 1501 prior to forming the gate dielectric layer 2701, and the gate dielectric layer 2701 is formed over the one or more interfacial layers. The interfacial layers help to buffer the subsequently formed high-k dielectric layer from the underlying semiconductor material. In some embodiments, the interfacial layers comprise a chemical silicon oxide, which may be formed of chemical reactions. For example, a chemical oxide may be formed using deionized water+ozone (O_3), $NH_4OH+H_2O_2+H_2O$ (APM), or other methods. Other embodiments may utilize a different material or processes (e.g., a thermal oxidation or a deposition process) for forming the interfacial layers.

[0079] After forming the gate dielectric layer 2701, the work function layer 2703 is formed over the gate dielectric layer. In some embodiments, the work function layer 2703 comprises TiN, WN, TaN, Ru, Co, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using ALD, CVD, PVD, combinations thereof, or the like. After forming the work function layer 2703, remaining portions of the recesses 2601 (see FIG. 26B) are filled with a gate electrode layer 2705. In some embodiments, the gate electrode layer 2705 comprises Co, Ru, Al, Ag, Au, W, Ni, Ti, Cu, Mn, Pd, Re, Ir, Pt, Zr, alloys thereof, combinations thereof, or the like, and may be formed using ALD, CVD, PVD, plating, combinations thereof, or the like. After filling the recesses 2601 with the gate electrode layer 2705, a planarization process, such as a CMP process, may be performed to remove the excess portions of the gate dielectric layer 2701, the work function

layer 2703, and the gate electrode layer 2705, which excess portions are over the top surface of the ILD 2503. The portions of the gate dielectric layer 2701, the work function layer 2703, and the gate electrode layer 2705 remaining in the recesses 2601 in combination with respective dielectric layers 1701 form gates 2707 in the PMOS region 205. The gates 2707 may also be referred to as replacement gates.

[0080] Referring further to FIGS. 27A, 27B, and 27C, a gate dielectric layer 2709, a work function layer 2711, and a gate electrode layer 2713 are formed in the recesses 2603 (see FIG. 26B) in the NMOS region 207 while the PMOS region 205 is protected by a mask (not shown). In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2709 is conformally deposited in the recesses 2603. In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer 2709 may be formed using similar material and methods as the gate dielectric layer 2701 and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments where the dielectric layers 1701 are not removed over the channel regions of the fins 1503 while forming the recesses 2603, the dielectric layers 1701 may act as interfacial layers between the gate dielectric layer 2709 and the channel regions of the fins 1503. In some embodiments where the dielectric layers 1701 are removed over the channel regions of the fins 1503 while forming the recesses 2603, one or more interfacial layers may be formed over the channel regions of the fins 1503 prior to forming the gate dielectric layer 2709, and the gate dielectric layer 2709 is formed over the one or more interfacial layers.

[0081] After forming the gate dielectric layer 2709, the work function layer 2711 is formed over the gate dielectric layer. In some embodiments, the work function layer 2711 comprises Ti, Ag, Al, TiAl, TiAlN, TiAlC, TaC, TaCN, TaSiN, TaAlC, Mn, Zr, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using ALD, CVD, PVD, combinations thereof, or the like. After forming the work function layer 2711, remaining portions of the recesses 2603 (see FIG. 26B) are filled with a gate electrode layer 2713. In some embodiments, the gate electrode layer 2713 may be formed using similar materials and methods as the gate electrode layer 2705 and the description is not repeated herein. After filling the recesses 2603 with the gate electrode layer 2713, a planarization process, such as a CMP process, may be performed to remove the excess portions of the gate dielectric layer 2709, the work function layer 2711, and the gate electrode layer 2713, which excess portions are over the top surface of the ILD 2503. The portions of the gate dielectric layer 2709, the work function layer 2711, and the gate electrode layer 2713 remaining in the recesses 2603 in combination with respective dielectric layers 1701 form gates 2715 in the NMOS region 207. The gates 2715 may also be referred to as replacement gates.

[0082] Referring further to FIGS. 27A, 27B, and 27C, in the illustrated embodiment, the gates 2707 are formed in the PMOS region 205 before forming the gates 2715 in the NMOS region 207. In other embodiments, the gates 2715 are formed in the NMOS region 207 before forming the gates 2707 in the PMOS region 205.

[0083] Referring to FIGS. 28A, 28B, and 28C, an ILD 2801 is deposited over the ILD 2503. In some embodiments, the ILD 2801 may be formed using similar materials and methods as the ILD 2503 described above with reference to FIGS. 25A, 25B and 25C, and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments, the ILD 2801 and the ILD 2503 are formed of a same material. In other embodiments,

the ILD **2801** and the ILD **2503** are formed of different materials. The ESL **2501** and the ILDs **2503** and **2801** are patterned to form openings **2803** and **2805** in the PMOS region **205**, and openings **2807** and **2809** in the NMOS region **207**. In some embodiments, the ESL **2501** and the ILDs **2503** and **2801** may be patterned using acceptable photolithography and etching techniques. The openings **2803** expose the respective gates **2707** in the PMOS region **205**. The openings **2805** expose the respective epitaxial source/drain regions **2201** in the PMOS region **205**. The openings **2807** expose the respective gates **2715** in the NMOS region **207**. The openings **2809** expose the respective epitaxial source/drain regions **2401** in the NMOS region **207**. As described below in greater detail, the openings **2803**, **2805**, **2807**, and **2809** are filled with one or more conductive materials to form contact plugs that provide electrical connections to the epitaxial source/drain regions **2201** and **2401**, and the gates **2707** and **2715**.

[0084] Referring further to FIGS. **28A**, **28B**, and **28C**, self-aligned layers **2811** and **2813** are formed through the openings **2805** and **2809**, respectively. In some embodiments, a metallic material is deposited in the openings **2805** and **2809**. The metallic material may comprise Ti, Co, Ni, NiCo, Pt, NiPt, Ir, PtIr, Er, Yb, Pd, Rh, Nb, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using PVD, sputtering, or the like. Subsequently, an annealing process is performed to form the self-aligned layers **2811** and **2813**. In some embodiments, the annealing process causes the metallic material to react with semiconductor materials of the epitaxial source/drain regions **2201** and **2401** to form the self-aligned layers **2811** and **2813**, respectively.

[0085] Referring to FIGS. **29A**, **29B**, and **29C**, the openings **2803**, **2805**, **2807**, and **2809** (see FIGS. **28A**, **28B**, and **28C**) are filled with one or more conductive materials to form contact plugs **2901**, **2903**, **2905**, and **2907**, respectively. In some embodiments, a liner (not shown), such as a diffusion barrier layer, an adhesion layer, or the like, and a conductive material are formed in the openings **2803**, **2805**, **2807**, and **2809**. The liner may include titanium, titanium nitride, tantalum, tantalum nitride, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using CVD, PVD, ALD, a combination thereof, or the like. The conductive material may be copper, a copper alloy, silver, gold, tungsten, aluminum, nickel, a combination thereof, or the like, and may be formed using CVD, PVD, ALD, an electrochemical plating process, an electroless plating process, a combination thereof, or the like. A planarization process, such as a CMP process, may be performed to remove excess portions of the liner and the conductive material from a top surface of the ILD **2801**. The remaining portions of the liner and the conductive material form contact plugs **2901**, **2903**, **2905**, and **2907** in the openings **2803**, **2805**, **2807**, and **2809**, respectively. The contact plugs **2901** and **2905** are physically and electrically coupled to the gates **2707** and **2715**, respectively. The contact plugs **2903** and **2907** are physically coupled to the self-aligned layers **2811** and **2813**, respectively. The contact plugs **2903** and **2907** are electrically coupled to the epitaxial source/drain regions **2201** and **2401** through the self-aligned layers **2811** and **2813**, respectively.

[0086] FIGS. **30A**, **31A**, **31B**, and **31C** are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device **3000** in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. **30A**, **31A**, **31B**, and **31C**, figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-

section A-A illustrated in FIG. **1**, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. **1**; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. **1**. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device **3000** may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device **200** described above with reference to FIGS. **2A-22A**, **24A-29A**, **17B-22B**, **24B-29B**, and **18C-29C**, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0087] Referring to FIG. **30A**, the process of forming the FinFET device **3000** starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. **14A**. In some embodiments, one or more etch processes described above with reference to FIG. **15A** is performed on exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** (see FIG. **14A**) in the PMOS region **205** to form fins **1501**, while protecting exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** (see FIG. **14A**) in the NMOS region **207** with a mask (not shown). In such embodiments, the exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** form fins **3001** in the NMOS region **207**. Referring to FIGS. **31A**, **31B**, and **31C**, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. **17A-22A**, **24A-29A**, **17B-22B**, **24B-29B**, and **18C-29C** are performed on the structure of FIG. **30A** to form the FinFET device **3000** and the description is not repeated herein.

[0088] FIGS. **32A-35A**, **35B**, and **35C** are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device **3200** in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. **32A-35A**, **35B**, and **35C**, figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. **1**, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. **1**; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. **1**. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device **3200** may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device **200** described above with reference to FIGS. **2A-22A**, **24A-29A**, **17B-22B**, **24B-29B**, and **18C-29C**, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0089] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device **3200** starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. **13A**. Referring to FIGS. **32A** and **33A**, after forming the structure of FIG. **13A**, the insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101** are recessed to expose upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** in the PMOS region **205** and upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** in the NMOS region **207** to form fins **3201** in the PMOS region **205** and fins **3203** in the NMOS region **207**, respectively. The remaining portions of the insulation material **1103** and the liner **1101** form STI regions **1401**.

[0090] Referring first to FIG. **32A**, the recess process comprises a first recess process that exposes upper portions **3201a** of the fins **3201** and upper portions **3203a** of the fins **3203**. In some embodiments, the first recess process may comprise an etch process, such as a CERTAS® etch, an Applied Materials SICONI etch, a dilute hydrofluoric (dHF) acid etch, or the like. In some embodiments, the etch process of the first recess process is chosen such that the etch process

also etches the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** (see FIG. **13A**) and narrows widths of the upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**. In such embodiments, widths of the upper portions **3201a** of the fins **3201** are less than widths of the upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1005**, and widths of the upper portions **3203a** of the fins **3203** are less than widths of the upper portions of the semiconductor strips **1007**. In some embodiments, the upper portions **3203a** of the fins **3203** have uniform widths.

[0091] Referring to FIG. **33A**, the recess process further comprises a second recess process that exposes lower portions **3201b** of the fins **3201** and lower portions **3203b** of the fins **3203**. In some embodiments, the second recess process may comprise an etch process, such as a CERTAS® etch, an Applied Materials SICONI etch, a dilute hydrofluoric (dHF) acid etch, or the like. In some embodiments, the second recess process is different from the first recess process. In some embodiments, the etch process of the second recess process is different from the etch process of the first recess process. In some embodiments, the etch process of the second recess process is chosen such that the etch process does not substantially etch the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007**. In such embodiments, widths of the lower portions **3201b** of the fins **3201** are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips **1005**, and widths of the lower portions **3203b** of the fins **3203** are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips **1007**. In some embodiments, the lower portions **3203b** of the fins **3203** have uniform widths. Reshaping the semiconductor strips **1005** and **1007** into fins **3201** and **3203**, respectively, as described above with reference to FIGS. **32A** and **33A** allows for controlling strain in channels of the FinFET device **3200** at fin bottoms and reducing or eliminating fin wiggle/bend effect, and allows for the FinFET device **3200** having a uniform threshold voltage (V_t) along fin heights.

[0092] FIG. **34A** illustrates a magnified view of a fin **3201** shown in FIG. **33A**. In some embodiments, a width W_3 of the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201** is greater than a width W_4 of the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201**. In some embodiments, the width W_3 is between about 4 nm and about 15 nm. In some embodiments, the width W_4 is between about 2 nm and about 10 nm. In some embodiments, the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201** has a height H_2 between about 20 nm and about 40 nm. In some embodiments, the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201** has a height H_3 between about 20 nm and about 40 nm. In some embodiments where the fin **3201** comprises SiGe, the fin **3201** has a uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the height H_2 is greater than the height H_3 . In some embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration in the fin **3201** is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin **3201** comprises SiGe, the fin **3201** has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the height H_2 is less than the height H_3 . In some embodiments where the fin **3201** has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the Ge concentration increases as the fin **3201** extends away from the adjacent STI regions **1401**. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin **3201** nearest the adjacent STI regions **1401** is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin **3201** farthest from the adjacent STI regions **1401** is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin **3201** has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the lower portion

3201b of the fin **3201** has a uniform Ge concentration and the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201** has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In some embodiments, the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201** has the uniform Ge concentration between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration increases as the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201** extends away from the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201**. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201** nearest the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201** is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion **3201a** of the fin **3201** farthest away from the lower portion **3201b** of the fin **3201** is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In some embodiments, the fins **3203** (see FIG. **33A**) may have similar shapes and sizes as the fins **3201** and the description is not repeated herein.

[0093] Referring to FIGS. **35A**, **35B**, and **35C**, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. **17A-22A**, **24A-29A**, **17B-22B**, **24B-29B**, and **18C-29C** are performed on the structure of FIG. **33A** to form the FinFET device **3200** and the description is not repeated herein.

[0094] FIGS. **36A**, **37A**, **37B**, and **37C** are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device **3600** in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. **36A**, **37A**, **37B**, and **37C**, figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. **1**, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. **1**; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. **1**. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device **3600** may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device **3200** described above with reference to FIGS. **32A-35A**, **35B**, and **35C**, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0095] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device **3600** starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. **13A**. Referring to FIG. **36A**, the recessing process described above with reference to FIGS. **32A** and **33A** are performed on the PMOS region **205** of the structure of FIG. **13A** to form the fins **3201**, while protecting the NMOS region **207** of the structure of FIG. **13A** with a mask (not shown). Furthermore, the recess process described above with reference to FIG. **14A** is performed on the NMOS region **207** of the structure of FIG. **13A** to expose portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** in the NMOS region **207**, while protecting the PMOS region **205** of the structure of FIG. **13A** with a mask (not shown). The exposed portions of the semiconductor strips **1007** form fins **3601** in the NMOS region **207**. Referring to FIGS. **37A**, **37B**, and **37C**, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. **17A-22A**, **24A-29A**, **17B-22B**, **24B-29B**, and **18C-29C** are performed on the structure of FIG. **36A** to form the FinFET device **3600** and the description is not repeated herein.

[0096] FIGS. **38A-43A**, **43B**, and **43C** are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device **3800** in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. **38A-43A**, **43B**, and **43C**, figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. **1**, except for multiple Fin-

FETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. 1; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. 1. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device 3800 may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device 200 described above with reference to FIGS. 2A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0097] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device 3800 starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. 13A. Referring to FIGS. 38A-41A, after forming the structure of FIG. 13A, various process steps are performed on the structure of FIG. 13A to form fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207. Referring to FIG. 38A, a first recess process is performed on the insulation material 1103 and the liner 1101 to expose first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 in the PMOS region 205 and first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the first recess process may comprise a first etch process, such as a CERTAS® etch, an Applied Materials SICONI etch, a dilute hydrofluoric (dHF) acid etch, or the like. In some embodiments, the first etch process of the first recess process is chosen such that the first etch process does not substantially etch the semiconductor strips 1005 and 1007. In such embodiments, widths of the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips 1005, and widths of the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007 are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips 1007.

[0098] Referring to FIG. 39A, the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 are reshaped to form upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205, and the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007 are reshaped to form upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 and the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007 are reshaped using one or more etch processes. In some embodiments, a same etch process is performed on the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 and the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007. In such embodiments, an oxide layer such as, for example, a silicon oxide layer (not shown) may be formed over the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007 to compensated the etch rate difference between the semiconductor strips 1005 and 1007. In other embodiments, two different etch processes are performed on the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 and the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007. In some embodiments, the one or more etch processes may comprise an anisotropic etch process, such as a reactive ion etch (RIE), or the like. In some embodiments, etch chemistry and other parameters of the RIE process may be tuned to tune etch rates of the RIE process. In some embodiments, an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 100 \rangle$, R_{100} , is greater than an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 110 \rangle$, R_{110} , which is greater than an etch rate along a crystallographic direction $\langle 111 \rangle$, R_{111} . In some embodiments, $R_{100} : R_{110} : R_{111}$ is equal to 600:400:1. In some embodiments where top surfaces of

the semiconductor layers 501 and 801 are crystallographic planes (100), the RIE process changes slopes of sidewalls of the first portions 3801a of the semiconductor strips 1005 and slopes of sidewalls of the first portions 3803a of the semiconductor strips 1007, such that widths of the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 decrease as the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 extend away from a top surface of the insulation material 1103 and widths of the upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 decrease as the upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 extend away from a top surface of the insulation material 1103.

[0099] Referring to FIG. 40A, after forming the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and the upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207, a second recess process is performed on the insulation material 1103 and the liner 1101 to expose second portions 3801b of the semiconductor strips 1005 in the PMOS region 205 and second portions 3803b of the semiconductor strips 1007 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the second recess process is similar to the first recess process described above with reference to FIG. 38A and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments, an etch process of the second recess process is chosen such that the etch process does not substantially etch the semiconductor strips 1005 and 1007. In such embodiments, widths of the second portions 3801b of the semiconductor strips 1005 are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips 1005, and widths of the second portions 3803b of the semiconductor strips 1007 are substantially equal to widths of the semiconductor strips 1007. In some embodiments, the etch process of the second recess process is same as the etch process of the first recess process. After performing the first recess process and the second recess process, remaining portions of the insulation material 1103 and the liner 1101 form STI regions 1401.

[0100] Referring to FIG. 41A, after performing the second recess process, the second portions 3801b of the semiconductor strips 1005 are reshaped to form lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205, and the second portions 3803b of the semiconductor strips 1007 are reshaped to form lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the second portions 3801b of the semiconductor strips 1005 and the second portions 3803b of the semiconductor strips 1007 are reshaped using one or more etch processes. In some embodiments, the reshaping process for forming the lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and the lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207 may be similar to the reshaping process for forming the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and the upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207 described above with reference to FIG. 39A and the description is not repeated herein. In some embodiments, the one or more etch processes of the reshaping process for forming the lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and the lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207 are different from the one or more etch processes of the reshaping process for forming the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 in the PMOS region 205 and the upper portions 3903a of the fins 3903 in the NMOS region 207. In such embodiments, sidewalls of the upper portions 3901a of the fins 3901 and sidewalls of the lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 have different slopes, and sidewalls of the upper portions 3903a

of the fins 3903 and sidewalls of the lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 have different slopes. After the reshaping process, widths of the lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 decrease as the lower portions 3901b of the fins 3901 extend away from top surfaces of the adjacent STI regions 1401 and widths of the lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 decrease as the lower portions 3903b of the fins 3903 extend away from top surfaces of the adjacent STI regions. Reshaping the semiconductor strips 1005 and 1007 into fins 3901 and 3903, respectively, as described above with reference to FIGS. 38A-41A allows for controlling strain in channels of the FinFET device 3800 at fin bottoms and reducing or eliminating fin wiggle/bend effect, and allows for the FinFET device 3800 having a uniform threshold voltage (Vt) along fin heights.

[0101] FIG. 42A illustrates a magnified view of a fin 3901 shown in FIG. 41A. In some embodiments, the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 has a height H_4 between about 20 nm and about 50 nm. In some embodiments, the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 has a height H_5 between about 5 nm and about 30 nm. A portion of the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 nearest the adjacent STI regions 1401 has a width W_5 and a portion of the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 farthest away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 has a width W_6 . In some embodiments, the width W_5 is greater than the width W_6 . In some embodiments, the width W_5 is between about 4 nm and about 15 nm. In some embodiments, the width W_6 is between about 3 nm and about 12 nm. The sidewalls of the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 form an angle θ_2 with the topmost surfaces of adjacent STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, the angle θ_2 is between about 85 degrees and about 90 degrees. A portion of the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 nearest the adjacent STI regions 1401 has the width W_6 and a portion of the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 farthest away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 has a width W_7 . In some embodiments, the width W_6 is greater than the width W_7 . In some embodiments, the width W_7 is between about 2 nm and about 10 nm. The sidewalls of the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 form an angle θ_3 with a plane parallel to the topmost surfaces of adjacent STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, the angle θ_3 is between about 70 degrees and about 85 degrees. In some embodiments, the angle θ_2 is different from the angle θ_3 .

[0102] Referring further to FIG. 42A, in some embodiments where the fin 3901 comprises SiGe, the fin 3901 has a uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the height H_4 is greater than the height H_5 . In some embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration in the fin 3901 is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin 3901 comprises SiGe, the fin 3901 has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In such embodiments, the height H_4 is less than the height H_5 . In some embodiments where the fin 3901 has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the Ge concentration increases as the fin 3901 extends away from the adjacent STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin 3901 nearest the adjacent STI regions 1401 is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin 3901 farthest away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin 3901 has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 has a uniform Ge

concentration and the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In some embodiments, the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 has the uniform Ge concentration between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration increases as the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 extends away from the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 nearest the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion 3901a of the fin 3901 farthest away from the lower portion 3901b of the fin 3901 is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In some embodiments, the fins 3903 (see FIG. 41A) may have similar shapes and sizes as the fins 3901 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0103] Referring to FIGS. 43A, 43B, and 43C, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 17A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C are performed on the structure of FIG. 41A to form the FinFET device 3800 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0104] FIGS. 44A, 45A, 45B, and 45C are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device 4400 in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. 44A, 45A, 45B, and 45C, figures ending with an "A" designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. 1, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a "B" designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. 1; and figures ending with a "C" designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. 1. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device 4400 may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device 3800 described above with reference to FIGS. 38A-43A, 43B, and 43C, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0105] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device 4400 starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. 13A. Referring to FIG. 44A, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 38A-41A are performed on the PMOS region 205 of the structure of FIG. 13A to form the fins 3901, while protecting the NMOS region 207 of the structure of FIG. 13A with a mask (not shown). Furthermore, the recess process described above with reference to FIG. 14A is performed on the NMOS region 207 of the structure of FIG. 13A to expose portions of the semiconductor strips 1007 in the NMOS region 207, while protecting the PMOS region 205 of the structure of FIG. 13A with a mask (not shown). The exposed portions of the semiconductor strips 1007 form fins 4401 in the NMOS region 207. Referring to FIGS. 45A, 45B, and 45C, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 17A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C are performed on the structure of FIG. 44A to form the FinFET device 4400 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0106] FIGS. 46A-48A, 48B, and 48C are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device 4600 in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. 46A-48A, 48B, and 48C, figures ending with an "A" designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. 1, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a

“B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. 1; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0107] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device 4400 starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. 33A. Referring to FIG. 46A, various process steps are performed on the structure of FIG. 33A to form fins 4601 in the PMOS region 205 and fins 4603 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the lower portions 3201b of the fins 3201 are reshaped to form lower portions 4601b of the fins 4601 in the PMOS region 205, and the lower portions 3203b of the fins 3203 are reshaped to form lower portions 4603b of the fins 4603 in the NMOS region 207. In some embodiments, the reshaping process for forming the lower portions 4601b of the fins 4601 in the PMOS region 205 and the lower portions 4603b of the fins 4603 in the NMOS region 207 may be similar to the reshaping process for forming the fins 1501 in the PMOS region 205 and the fins 1503 in the NMOS region 207 described above with reference to FIG. 15A and the description is not repeated herein. After performing the reshaping process, widths of the lower portions 4601b of the fins 4601 decrease as the lower portions 4601b of the fins 4601 extend away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 and widths of the lower portions 4603b of the fins 4603 decrease as the lower portions 4603b of the fins 4603 extend away from the adjacent STI regions 1401. Reshaping the semiconductor strips 1005 and 1007 into fins 4601 and 4603, respectively, as described above with reference to FIG. 46A allows for controlling strain in channels of the FinFET device 4600 at fin bottoms and reducing or eliminating fin wiggle/bend effect, and allows for the FinFET device 4600 having a uniform threshold voltage (V_t) along fin heights.

[0108] FIG. 47A illustrates a magnified view of a fin 4601 shown in FIG. 46A. In some embodiments, the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 has a height H_6 between about 10 nm and about 30 nm. In some embodiments, the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 has a height H_7 between about 20 nm and about 50 nm. In some embodiments, the height H_6 is less than a height H_7 . A portion of the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 nearest the adjacent STI regions 1401 has a width W_8 and a portion of the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 farthest away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 has a width W_9 . In some embodiments, the width W_8 is greater than the width W_9 . In some embodiments, the width W_8 is between about 4 nm and about 15 nm. In some embodiments, the width W_9 is between about 3 nm and about 10 nm. The sidewalls of the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 form an angle θ_4 with the topmost surfaces of adjacent STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, the angle θ_4 is between about 80 degrees and about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 has the width W_9 .

[0109] Referring further to FIG. 47A, in some embodiments where the fin 4601 comprises SiGe, the fin 4601 has a uniform Ge concentration. In some embodiments, the uniform Ge concentration in the fin 4601 is between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin 4601 comprises SiGe, the fin 4601 has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In some embodiments where the fin 4601 has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the Ge concentration increases as the fin 4601 extends away from the adjacent STI regions 1401. In some embodiments, a Ge

concentration of a portion of the fin 4601 nearest the adjacent STI regions 1401 is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the fin 4601 farthest away from the adjacent STI regions 1401 is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In other embodiments where the fin 4601 has a non-uniform Ge concentration, the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 has a uniform Ge concentration and the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 has a non-uniform Ge concentration. In some embodiments, the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 has the uniform Ge concentration between about 15 atomic % and about 40 atomic %. In some embodiments, the Ge concentration increases as the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 extends away from the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 nearest the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 is between about 10 atomic % and about 20 atomic %. In some embodiments, a Ge concentration of a portion of the upper portion 3201a of the fin 4601 farthest away from the lower portion 4601b of the fin 4601 is between about 25 atomic % and about 35 atomic %. In some embodiments, the fins 4603 (see FIG. 46A) may have similar shapes and sizes as the fins 4601 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0110] Referring to FIGS. 48A, 48B, and 48C, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 17A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B, and 18C-29C are performed on the structure of FIG. 46A to form the FinFET device 4600 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0111] FIGS. 49A, 50A, 50B, and 50C are cross-sectional views of intermediate stages in the manufacturing of a FinFET device 4900 in accordance with some embodiments. In FIGS. 49A, 50A, 50B, and 50C figures ending with an “A” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section A-A illustrated in FIG. 1, except for multiple FinFETs and multiple fins per FinFET; figures ending with a “B” designation are illustrated along the reference cross-section B-B illustrated in FIG. 1; and figures ending with a “C” designation are illustrated along the cross-section C-C illustrated in FIG. 1. In some embodiments, process steps for forming the FinFET device 4900 may be similar to the process steps for forming the FinFET device 4600 described above with reference to FIGS. 46A-48A, 48B, and 48C, with like features labeled by like numerical references, and their description is not repeated herein.

[0112] In some embodiments, the process of forming the FinFET device 4900 starts with forming a structure illustrated in FIG. 13A. Referring to FIG. 49A, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 32A, 33A, and 46A are performed on the PMOS region 205 of the structure of FIG. 13A to form the fins 4601 in the PMOS region 205, while protecting the NMOS region 207 of the structure of FIG. 13A with a mask (not shown). Furthermore, the recess process described above with reference to FIG. 14A is performed on the NMOS region 207 of the structure of FIG. 13A to expose portions of the semiconductor strips 1007 in the NMOS region 207, while protecting the PMOS region 205 of the structure of FIG. 13A with a mask (not shown). The exposed portions of the semiconductor strips 1007 form fins 4901 in the NMOS region 207. Referring to FIGS. 50A, 50B, and 50C, the process steps described above with reference to FIGS. 17A-22A, 24A-29A, 17B-22B, 24B-29B,

and 18C-29C are performed on the structure of FIG. 49A to form the FinFET device 4900 and the description is not repeated herein.

[0113] FIG. 51 is a flow diagram illustrating a method 5100 of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments. The method 5100 starts with step S101, where semiconductor strips (such as the semiconductor strips 1005 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed over a substrate (such as the substrate 201 illustrated in FIG. 10A) as described above with reference to FIGS. 2A-10A. In step S103, isolation regions (such as the liner 1101 and the insulation material 1103 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed between adjacent semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIGS. 11A-13A. In step S105, the isolation regions are recessed to expose upper portions of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 14A. In step S107, the upper portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form fins (such as the fins 1501 illustrated in FIG. 15A) extending above the isolation regions as described above with reference to FIG. 15A.

[0114] FIG. 52 is a flow diagram illustrating a method 5200 of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments. The method 5200 starts with step S201, where semiconductor strips (such as the semiconductor strips 1005 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed over a substrate (such as the substrate 201 illustrated in FIG. 10A) as described above with reference to FIGS. 2A-10A. In step S203, isolation regions (such as the liner 1101 and the insulation material 1103 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed between adjacent semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIGS. 11A-13A. In step S205, a first recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose and reshape first portions (such as the upper portions 3201a illustrated in FIG. 32A) of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 32A. In step S207, a second recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose second portions (such as the lower portions 3201b illustrated in FIG. 33A) of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips, where the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips and the second portions of the semiconductor strips form fins (such as the fins 3201 illustrated in FIG. 33A) extending above the isolation regions as described above with reference to FIG. 33A.

[0115] FIG. 53 is a flow diagram illustrating a method 5300 of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments. The method 5300 starts with step S301, where semiconductor strips (such as the semiconductor strips 1005 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed over a substrate (such as the substrate 201 illustrated in FIG. 10A) as described above with reference to FIGS. 2A-10A. In step S303, isolation regions (such as the liner 1101 and the insulation material 1103 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed between adjacent semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIGS. 11A-13A. In step S305, a first recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose first portions (such as the first portions 3801a illustrated in FIG. 38A) of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 38A. In step S307, the first portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form reshaped first portions (such as the upper portions 3901a illustrated in FIG. 39A) of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 39A. In step S309, a second recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose second

portions (such as the second portions 3801b illustrated in FIG. 40A) of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 40A. In step S311, the second portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form reshaped second portions (such as the lower portions 3901b illustrated in FIG. 41A) of the semiconductor strips, where the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips and the reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips form fins (such as the fins 3901 illustrated in FIG. 41A) extending above the isolation regions as described above with reference to FIG. 41A.

[0116] FIG. 54 is a flow diagram illustrating a method 5400 of forming a fin structure in accordance with some embodiments. The method 5400 starts with step S401, where semiconductor strips (such as the semiconductor strips 1005 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed over a substrate (such as the substrate 201 illustrated in FIG. 10A) as described above with reference to FIGS. 2A-10A. In step S403, isolation regions (such as the liner 1101 and the insulation material 1103 illustrated in FIG. 10A) are formed between adjacent semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIGS. 11A-13A. In step S405, a first recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose and reshape first portions (such as the upper portions 3201a illustrated in FIG. 32A) of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 32A. In step S407, a second recess process is performed on the isolation regions to expose second portions (such as the lower portions 3201b illustrated in FIG. 33A) of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips as described above with reference to FIG. 33A. In step S409, the second portions of the semiconductor strips are reshaped to form reshaped second portions (such as the lower portions 4601b illustrated in FIG. 46A) of the semiconductor strips, where the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips and the reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips form fins (such as the fins 4601 illustrated in FIG. 46A) extending above the isolation regions as described above with reference to FIG. 46A.

[0117] In accordance with an embodiment, a method includes: forming semiconductor strips over a substrate; forming isolation regions over the substrate and between adjacent semiconductor strips; performing a first recess process on the isolation regions to expose first portions of the semiconductor strips; reshaping the first portions of the semiconductor strips to form reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips; performing a second recess process on the isolation regions to expose second portions of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips; and reshaping the second portions of the semiconductor strips to form reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips, where the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips and the reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips form fins, and where the fins extend away from topmost surfaces of the isolation regions. In an embodiment, the first recess process and the second recess process include a same etch process. In an embodiment, reshaping the first portions of the semiconductor strips includes a first etch process. In an embodiment, reshaping the second portions of the semiconductor strips includes a second etch process different from the first etch process. In an embodiment, reshaping the first portions of the semiconductor strips includes altering slopes of side-

- a semiconductor strip over the substrate and extending through the isolation region, a top surface of the semiconductor strip being above a top surface of the isolation region, wherein the semiconductor strip comprises:
- a first portion, the first portion having first sloped sidewalls, the first sloped sidewalls having a first slope; and
 - a second portion between the first portion and the substrate, the second portion having second sloped sidewalls, the second sloped sidewalls having a second slope, the first slope being less than the second slope, the first portion and the second portion being above the top surface of the isolation region.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the first slope is between 70 degrees and 85 degrees.
 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the second slope is between 85 degrees and 90 degrees.
 4. The device of claim 1, wherein a width of the semiconductor strip at a base of the semiconductor strip is in a range between 4 nm and 15 nm.
 5. The device of claim 4, wherein a width of the semiconductor strip at an intersection of the first sloped sidewalls and the second sloped sidewalls is in a range between 3 nm and about 12 nm.
 6. The device of claim 5, wherein a width of the semiconductor strip at a top of the semiconductor strip is in a range between 2 nm and 10 nm.
 7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a gate structure extending along the first sloped sidewalls and the second sloped sidewalls.
 8. A device comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a semiconductor strip over the substrate, wherein the semiconductor strip comprises:
 - a first portion, a width of the first portion decreasing as the first portion extends away from the substrate toward a top of the semiconductor strip; and
 - a second portion between the first portion and the substrate, a width of the second portion decreasing as the second portion extends away from the substrate toward the first portion, wherein the width of the first portion decreases at a different rate than the width of the second portion decreases; and
 - an isolation region over the substrate and adjacent the semiconductor strip, a top surface of the first portion of the semiconductor strip being above a top surface of the isolation region.
 9. The device of claim 8, wherein a first height of the first portion is in a range between 5 nm and 30 nm.
 10. The device of claim 9, wherein a second height of the second portion is in a range between 20 nm and 50 nm.
 11. The device of claim 10, wherein the semiconductor strip comprises silicon germanium.
 12. The device of claim 11, wherein the first portion has a higher germanium concentration than the second portion.
 13. The device of claim 8, wherein the second portion extends above the top surface of the isolation region.
 14. The device of claim 8, wherein the semiconductor strip comprises a third portion between the second portion and the substrate, wherein a slope of the third portion is different than a slope of sidewalls of the first portion and a slope of sidewalls of the second portion.
 15. A method comprising:
 - forming semiconductor strips over a substrate;
 - forming isolation regions between adjacent semiconductor strips;
 - performing a first etch process on the isolation regions and the semiconductor strips, the first etch process exposing and reshaping first portions of the semiconductor strips to form reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips, the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips having first sloped sidewalls having a first slope;
 - performing a second etch process on the isolation regions to expose second portions of the semiconductor strips below the reshaped first portions of the semiconductor strips; and
 - performing a third etch process on the second portions of the semiconductor strips to form reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips, wherein the reshaped second portions of the semiconductor strips have second sloped sidewalls having a second slope, the first slope being different than the second slope.
 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the first etch process is different from the second etch process.
 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the third etch process is different from the first etch process and the second etch process.
 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising forming a gate structure along sidewalls of the first sloped sidewalls.
 19. The method of claim 15, wherein the semiconductor strips comprise SiGe, and wherein the semiconductor strips have non-uniform Ge concentrations.
 20. The method of claim 15, further comprising forming a gate structure along sidewalls of the first sloped sidewalls and sidewalls of the second sloped sidewalls.

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