In this work, GaInAs/InP membrane $p$-$i$-$n$ photodiodes integrated with a back-end distributed Bragg reflector were numerically investigated for a backreflection of $-30$ dB. The results showed that a 3-dB bandwidth of 17 GHz and reverse bias of 1 V can be obtained for an absorption section length of 12 $\mu$m. The 3-dB bandwidth is approximately twice faster and the absorption length is $1/3$ times smaller compared to those of a similar photodiode without the back-end DBR.

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to discussing the design of the membrane PDs. The required power received at the PD, $P_{\text{in}}$, was determined as a function of the load resistance, $R_l$, for a data rate of 10 Gb/s. Here, we use a large value of $R_l$ instead of TIA to reduce the thermal noise, which will be beneficial for our MPIC. The noise generated by the circuit needs to be determined before the laser power requirement is calculated. For a receiverless PD circuit [Fig. 2(b)], the thermal noise, shot noise, and BER for the intensity modulation-direct detection method are determined using the following equations [25]:

$$\text{BER} = \frac{1}{2} \text{erfc} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\text{SNR}_{\text{thermal}}}}{2\sqrt{2}} \right),$$

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{thermal}} = \frac{Q R_L R_{\text{exp}} P_{\text{in}}^2}{4k_b T_{\text{emp}} f} \geq 4Q^2,$$

where $Q$ is a factor of $I_1$, $I_1$ is the current signal when the corresponding bit is 1, $I_0$ is the current signal when the corresponding bit is 0, $\sigma_1$ is the noise current of $I_1$, and $\sigma_0$ is the noise current of $I_0$. In this case, the $Q$ factor is assumed to be 7, which means that the BER is approximately $10^{-12}$. Without an increase in the amplifier noise, the equation for the thermal noise limited power and shot noise limited power can be expressed as

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{thermal}} = \frac{R_L R_{\text{exp}} P_{\text{in}}^2}{4k_b T_{\text{emp}} f} \geq 4Q^2,$$

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{shot}} = \frac{R_{\text{exp}} P_{\text{in}}}{2qf} \geq Q^2,$$

where $R_{\text{exp}}$ is the responsivity ($= \eta \times \lambda$ [µm]/1.24 [A/W] and $\eta$ is the quantum efficiency) of the PD, $k_b$ is the Boltzmann constant, $T_{\text{emp}}$ is the operation temperature, $f$ is the bandwidth, $q$ is the electron charge, and $P_{\text{in}}$ is the minimum received power for the thermal noise and shot noise. The thermal noise limited power and shot noise limited power are strongly restricted by the $Q$ factor and therefore, they are related to the BER. The blue line in Fig. 3(c) indicates the sum of the limited minimum received power for the thermal noise and shot noise whereas the red line indicates the incident power required for a voltage output of 200 mV. It can be seen from Eq. (4) that the increase in the load resistance will reduce the thermal noise limitation and power demand of the voltage output. In other words, the received power at the PD, $P_{\text{in}}$, is inversely proportional to the square root of the load resistance, $R_l$. For a case where the BER is $10^{-12}$ ($Q = 7$), $f = 10$ GHz, and $R_l = 10$ kΩ at room temperature, the minimum input power considering the thermal noise is equal to $-27.5$ dBm, assuming that the responsivity is 1 A/W. The green line indicates the shot noise limited power, which is a constant value ($-38.0$ dBm). With the demand for noise limited power, we need to consider the value of the received power for the PD, $P_{\text{in}}$, which can be determined from the following equation:

Fig. 1. Conceptual diagram of an MPIC bonded on Si-based CMOS LSI circuit.

Fig. 2. (a) Simplified schematic of the membrane interconnection system. (b) Equivalent circuit of the receiverless PD.
\[ V_{\text{out}} = P_{\text{in}} \times R_{\text{opt}} \times R_{L}. \]  

The theoretical responsivity of the PD is assumed to be 1 A/W (\( \eta = 0.80 \)). The minimum input power of the PD, \( P_{\text{in}} \), for an output voltage, \( V_{\text{out}} \), of 200 mV is found to be -17.7 dBm when the load resistance is 10 k\( \Omega \), and the required laser output power can be obtained by considering the link loss. Here, the link loss is assumed to be 3 dB, which is obtained from the coupling loss between the laser and waveguide and the coupling loss between the waveguide and PD (0.5 dB) and propagation loss (2 dB). Hence, the required output power of the laser, \( P_{\text{out}} \), is -14.7 dBm (34 \( \mu \)W) for \( R_{L} = 10 \) k\( \Omega \) and a data rate of 10 Gbps.

**B. Two Types of Membrane PDs Integrated with Back-End DBR**

Figure 4(a) shows the schematic of a membrane GaInAs \( p-i-n \) PD with the back-end DBR bonded on a Si substrate through 1-\( \mu \)m-thick SiO\(_2\) using benzocyclobutene adhesive bonding. A 120-nm-thick GaInAs absorption section is sandwiched laterally between the \( n \)-InP and \( p \)-InP side clads, which also forms a lateral \( p-i-n \) junction. The GaInAs absorption section is sandwiched vertically between a 100-nm-thick InP clad (top) and 50-nm-thick InP clad (bottom). The absorption section is connected to a back-end DBR in order to suppress backward radiation of light. The absorption section length, \( L_{\text{abs}} \), can be reduced owing to the high-reflectivity back-end DBR and therefore, the 3-dB bandwidth can be increased while maintaining the same responsivity compared with a device without the back-end DBR [19,20].

In this study, we analyze and investigate two types of membrane PDs: (1) membrane PD with a back-end DBR in the GaInAs absorption region [Fig. 4(b)], and (2) membrane PD with a back-end DBR in the 155-nm-thick GaInAsP passive region [Fig. 4(c)]. In the former device, the GaInAs DBR region functions simultaneously as an absorption layer and reflection layer.

We also determine the required absorption section length for both types of membrane PDs [Figs. 4(b) and 4(c)] using the transfer matrix method (TMM). Following this, we estimate the 3-dB bandwidth of these membrane PDs, which will be described in the following sections.

**3. REQUIRED LENGTH OF THE MEMBRANE PDs FOR EFFICIENT ABSORPTION**

In this section, we determine the optimum device length for two types of membrane PDs based on the following criteria: (1) efficient absorption and (2) low reflection power to the laser side. Figure 5 shows the numerical model used for the TMM simulations. The reflectivity (\( = E_{r}(0) \)) and transmittivity (\( = E_{t}(L) \)) of the membrane PD can be expressed as

\[
\begin{bmatrix} E_{t}(L) \\ E_{r}(L) \end{bmatrix} = M_{\text{ms}} \cdot (M_{\text{m}} \cdot M_{\text{i}} \cdot M_{\text{ms}} \cdot M_{\text{m}})^{N} \cdot M_{\text{l}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} E_{0}(0) \\ E_{r}(0) \end{bmatrix},
\]

where
where $N$ is the number of grating periods, $E_i(0)$ and $E_i(0)$ denote the input and output power at the left side of the device, respectively, and $E_i(L)$ and $E_i(L)$ denote the input and output power at the right side of the device, respectively. Assuming that the input light enters from the left side of the device, $E_i(0)$ and $E_i(L)$ are set as 1 and 0, respectively. The matrices $M_{(m)(s)}$ and $M_{m(s)(m)}$ for the grating region are given by

$$M_{m(s)} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\beta_{m(s)(m)}L_{m(s)}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\beta_{m(s)(m)}L_{m(s)}} \end{bmatrix},$$

(8)

$$M_{m(s)(m)} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n_{m(s)}n_{m(s)}}} \begin{bmatrix} n_{m(s)} + n_{m(s)} & n_{m(s)} - n_{m(s)} \\ n_{m(s)} - n_{m(s)} & n_{m(s)} + n_{m(s)} \end{bmatrix},$$

(9)

where $\beta_{m(s)}$, $n_{m(s)}$, and $L_{m(s)}$ represent the effective complex propagation constant, effective complex refractive index, and length for each part of the grating region, respectively. The matrix $M_L$ for the absorption region is in the same form as $M_{m(s)}$ and it can be written as

$$M_L = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\beta_{abs}L_{abs}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\beta_{abs}L_{abs}} \end{bmatrix},$$

(10)

where $\beta_{abs}$ and $L_{abs}$ represent the effective complex propagation constant and length of the absorption region, respectively. The matrix $M_{ma}$ for the interface between the membrane PD and air is given by

$$M_{ma} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-R}} \left\{ R = \left( \frac{n_s-1}{n_s+1} \right)^2 \right\}.$$

(11)

Based on Eq. (7), the reflectivity, $R$, and transmittivity, $T$, are given by

$$R = \left| \frac{E_i(0)}{E_i(0)} \right|^2 = \left| M_{21} \right|^2 \left| M_{22} \right|^2,$$

(12)

$$T = \left| \frac{E_i(L)}{E_i(0)} \right|^2 = \frac{\left| M_{11}M_{22} - M_{12}M_{21} \right|^2}{\left| M_{22} \right|^2} = \frac{1}{\left| M_{22} \right|^2}.$$

(13)

First, we calculate the reflectivity, $R$, and transmittivity, $T$, as a function of the absorption section length, $L_{abs}$, and the DBR section length, $L_{DBR}$. In the simulations, the wavelength of the incident light is assumed to be 1.55 $\mu$m, and the grating period $A$, grating depth $d_g$, and duty ratio are set as 288 nm, 50 nm, and 50%, respectively. The refractive indices for InP, GaInAsP, and GaInAs are set as 3.17, 3.34, and 3.62, respectively. The absorption coefficient of the GaInAs is set as 5000 cm$^{-1}$.

Figure 6 shows an example of the simulation results for the device with a stripe width $W_s$ of 0.8 $\mu$m (grating coupling coefficient $\kappa = 1650$ cm$^{-1}$). Figures 6(a) and 6(b) show the reflectivity, $R$, and transmittivity, $T$, respectively, of the membrane PD with the back-end DBR in the GaInAs absorption section (Type A device). The thick black solid lines indicate the conditions $R = -30$ dB and $T = -30$ dB in Figs. 6(a) and 6(b), respectively. These conditions are chosen to achieve efficient absorption of the input optical power and prevent instability of the laser transmitter due to the reflected light. Figures 7(a) and 7(b) represent the reflectivity, $R$, and transmittivity, $T$, respectively, of the membrane PD with the back-end DBR in the 155-nm-thick GaInAsP passive section (Type B device).

By overlaying the simulation results obtained for the reflectivity and transmittivity, we can identify the region where both $R$ and $T$ are less than $-30$ dB. Figure 8 shows the results for the two types of membrane PDs. The total length, $L$, for the Type A device is given by

$$L = L_{abs} + L_{DBR}.$$

(14)
In contrast, the total length, \( L \), for the Type B device is given by

\[
L = L_{\text{abs}} - L_{\text{DBR}}
\]  

(15)

Hence, the required device length for each membrane PD can be estimated by drawing a line given by Eq. (14) in Fig. 8(a) and a line given by Eq. (15) in Fig. 8(b) such that the line passes through the red dot. For the Type A configuration, the required length related to the capacitance, \( C_j \), of the membrane PD is 20.8 \( \mu m \) (\( L_{\text{abs}} = 14.2 \mu m \), \( L_{\text{DBR}} = 6.6 \mu m \)) whereas the required length for the Type B configuration is \( L_{\text{abs}} = 11.8 \mu m \). Even though the total length (\( L_{\text{abs}} + L_{\text{DBR}} = 26.6 \mu m \)) for the Type B configuration is slightly longer than that for the Type A configuration, the capacitance, \( C_j \), of the Type B device can be significantly reduced and this approach will be effective to increase the RC-limited bandwidth, which will be discussed in the next section.

By performing the above analysis for devices with various stripe widths, the required length related to the capacitance, \( C_j \) (denoted by the device length in Fig. 9), can be determined as a function of \( W_s \), as shown in Fig. 9. For the Type A configuration, the required length is almost constant, where the value is 20–21 \( \mu m \) for \( W_s > 0.8 \mu m \), which is \( \sim 30\% \) shorter than that of the membrane PD without the DBR section. For the Type B configuration, the absorption length is 11–12 \( \mu m \) for \( W_s > 0.8 \mu m \), which is \( \sim 60\% \) shorter than that of the membrane PD without the DBR section. Therefore, it can be deduced that the Type B configuration is more desirable as a membrane PD because it is more effective to decrease the absorption section length and increase the RC-limited bandwidth.

4. ESTIMATION OF THE JUNCTION CAPACITANCE AND 3-DB BANDWIDTH

The junction capacitance, \( C_j \), can be roughly estimated by applying the calculated device length and stripe width into the parallel-plate model such as \( C_j = \varepsilon_{\text{GaInAs}} h L / W_s \), where \( \varepsilon_{\text{GaInAs}} = 13.5 \), \( \varepsilon_0 \) is the permittivity of the GaInAs, and \( h \) is the thickness of the absorption layer, which is 0.27 \( \mu m \). The stripe width, \( W_s \), can be considered as the width of the depletion layer because of the full depletion of the absorption layer upon application of the reverse bias voltage.

![Fig. 7.](image1.png) (a) Reflectivity and (b) transmittivity as a function of the absorption section length and DBR section length for the membrane PD with the back-end DBR in the GaInAsP passive section (Type B device).

![Fig. 8.](image2.png) Optimum device length as a function of the absorption section length and DBR section length for the (a) Type A and (b) Type B devices.

![Fig. 9.](image3.png) Required device length as a function of the stripe width.
Figure 10 shows the junction capacitance, $C_j$, determined as a function of the stripe width, $W_s$. It can be seen that the junction capacitance for each membrane PD can be significantly reduced with the back-end DBR compared with the conventional membrane PD without a DBR. In order to obtain $C_j < 1 \text{ fF}$, the stripe width must fulfill the following criteria: (1) $W_s > 0.7 \text{ µm}$ (for Type A device) and (2) $W_s > 0.5 \text{ µm}$ (for Type B device).

Based on the simulation results obtained for the junction capacitance, $C_j$, the 3-dB bandwidth, $f_{3\text{dB}}$, for two types of membrane PDs is calculated by using a simple circuit model, as shown in Fig. 11. The 3-dB bandwidth can match the load resistor in order to provide sufficient output voltage. In terms of the high-frequency response, the 3-dB bandwidth of the lateral $p-i-n$ junction PD is limited by the resistance-capacitance delay and the carrier drift time within the intrinsic region. The 3-dB bandwidth $f_{3\text{dB}}$ can be expressed as [26]

$$
\frac{1}{f_{3\text{dB}}} = \frac{1}{f_{\text{RC}}} + \frac{1}{f_{\text{TT}}},
$$

(16)

where $f_{\text{RC}}$ is the RC bandwidth, and $f_{\text{TT}}$ is the transit frequency.

The RC bandwidth, $f_{\text{RC}}$, can be simply estimated using the first-order RC circuit:

$$
f_{\text{RC}} = \frac{1}{2\pi R \tau},
$$

(17)

where $R_1$ and $R_2$ represent the load resistance and sheet resistance of the PD, respectively (see Fig. 11). Here, $R_1$ is assumed to be 10 kΩ in order to provide sufficient output voltage to the CMOS circuit.

The transit frequency, $f_{\text{TT}}$, is given by [27]

$$
f_{\text{TT}} = \frac{2\nu_{\text{sat}}}{\pi} \tanh \left( \frac{\mu_b \cdot \frac{V_i}{W_s} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu_0}}{W_s} \right),
$$

(18)

where $\nu_{\text{sat}}$ is the hole saturation drift velocity (assuming that the absorption layer is fully depleted), $\mu_b$ is the mobility, and $V_i$ is the bias voltage, which is applied in the intrinsic region of the PD.

We analyze the 3-dB bandwidth of the membrane PD as a function of stripe width, $W_s$, by using Eqs. (16)–(18).

Figures 12(a)–12(c) show the results obtained from the simulations, where the $I_{pd}$ values are 5, 20, and 80 µA, respectively. The applied bias voltage $V_b$ and load resistor $R_L$ are fixed at $-1$ V and 10 kΩ, respectively, for the simulations. The theoretical curves indicate that for a small stripe width, the transit frequency surpasses the RC bandwidth because the carrier drift time is short and there is a sufficiently strong electric field in the depletion region. However, for a large stripe width, the junction capacitance decreases, which in turn, increases the RC bandwidth. In addition, the electric field applied to the absorber becomes weak while the bias voltage is fixed and the drift distance increases, which explains why the 3-dB bandwidth is more dependent on the RC bandwidth in this case.

It can be observed from Fig. 12 that the 3-dB bandwidth is greater than 10 GHz for both devices at an appropriate value of $W_s$. Assuming that the required output voltage is 200 mV ($I_{pd} = 20$ µA) for the device with the DBR in the GaInAsP passive region (Type B), the maximum 3-dB bandwidth obtained is 17.3 GHz (which is 27% higher than that of the device without the DBR) for $W_s = 0.7 \text{ µm}$. Even in the situation where an output voltage of 800 mV ($I_{pd} = 80$ µA) is required, the maximum 3-dB bandwidth remains at 10.7 GHz for $W_s = 0.5 \text{ µm}$.

Figures 13(a)–13(c) show the 3-dB bandwidth, $f_{3\text{dB}}$, and the output voltage, $V_{\text{out}} (= R_2 I_{pd})$, as a function of the photocurrent, $I_{pd}$, for each membrane PD: (a) PD with the DBR in the GaInAsP absorption region (Type A device), (b) PD with the DBR in the passive region (Type B device), and (c) PD without the DBR. The increase of photocurrent $I_{pd}$ leads to a higher output voltage $V_{\text{out}} (= R_2 I_{pd})$. However, at the same time, the 3-dB bandwidth is limited due to the reduction of the bias voltage $V_i$ applied in the intrinsic region of the PD according to the following equation:

$$
V_i = V_b - (R_L + R_2) \cdot I_{pd}.
$$

(19)

In addition, the variation of the photocurrent or the bias voltage applied to the depletion region does not significantly reduce the 3-dB bandwidth for $W_s = 0.3 \text{ µm}$ because the strong electric field can be maintained. In contrast, the 3-dB bandwidth can be significantly reduced at higher values of $I_{pd}$ for $W_s > 0.8 \text{ µm}$ because of the lower transit frequency. For the membrane PD with the DBR in the GaInAsP passive region (Type B device), it is estimated that the 3-dB bandwidth is higher than 15 GHz at lower $I_{pd}$ (30 µA). The 3-dB is also higher than 10 GHz at higher $I_{pd}$ (60 µA).
5. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we proposed and investigated two types of GaInAs/InP membrane $p$-$i$-$n$ PDs with back-end DBR in which the round-trip light absorption can reduce the area and capacitance of the detecting region.

Based on the analysis using TMM, we obtained the required device length to achieve a reflectivity and transmittivity of less than $-30$ dB. For a stripe width of 0.8 $\mu$m, the required length was estimated to be 20.8 and 11.8 $\mu$m for the device with the DBR in the GaInAs absorption region (Type A) and the device with the DBR in the GaInAsP passive region (Type B), respectively.

Next, we analyzed the junction capacitance and 3-dB bandwidth for various stripe widths. We obtained a 3-dB bandwidth greater than 10 GHz for the appropriate value of $W_s$, which is a sufficient speed for intra-chip optical interconnection. Finally, we obtained a maximum 3-dB bandwidth of 17.3 GHz with sufficient output voltage for the device with the DBR in the GaInAsP passive region.

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