

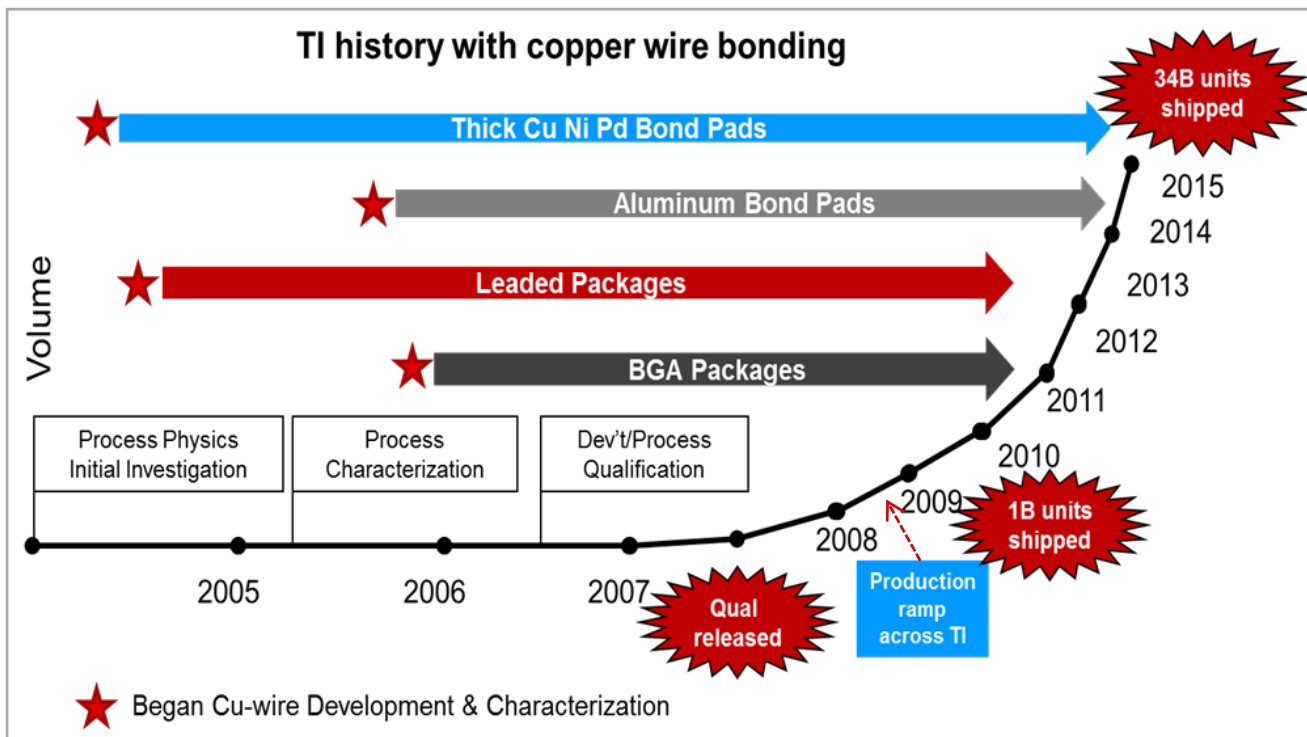
Manufacturing of Copper Bond Wire PEMs – Challenges and Mitigation

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**NASA Electronic Parts and Packaging (NEPP) Program
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TI Update upto 2015



Applications:

- Commercial
- Telecom
- Industrial
- Automotive (safety, powertrain, Infotainment etc)

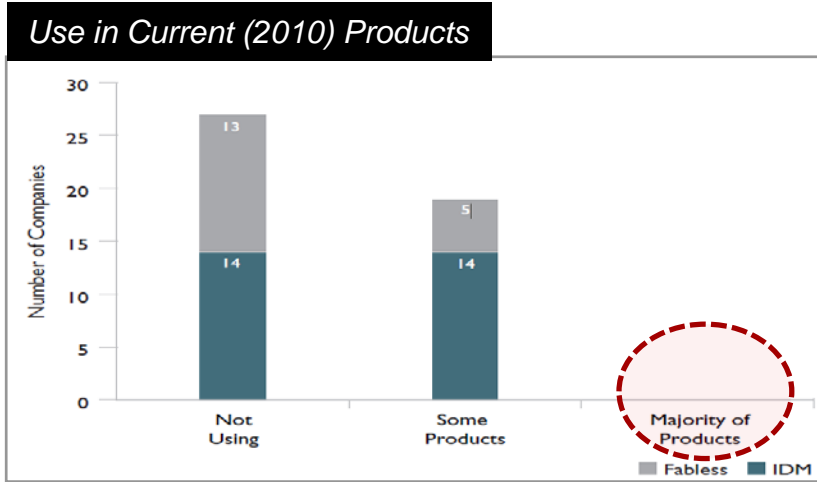
Packages:

All (QFN, QFP, PDIP, SOIC, TSSOP, BGA & others)

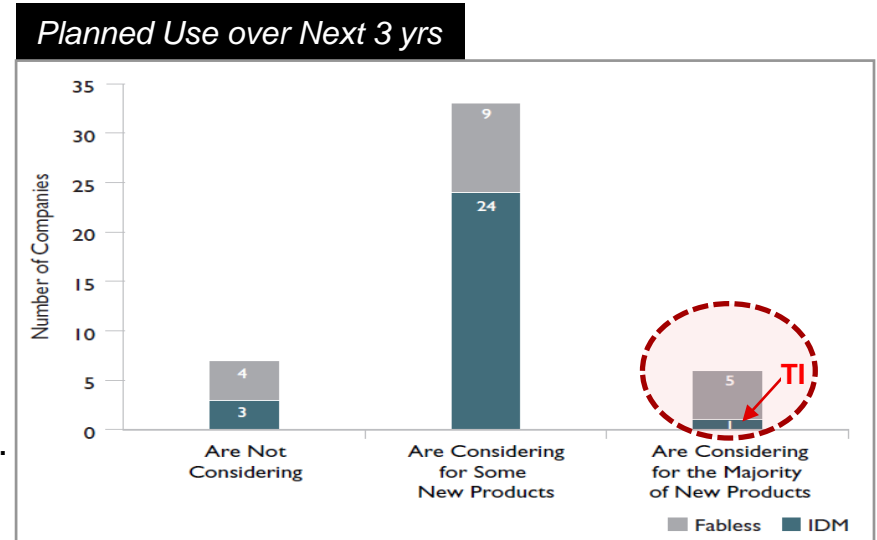
AT sites: > 14
(internal & external)

Process Technologies:
50+ from 10+ wafer fabs

Rewind to 2010 - Industry Trends Then



- Limited use in the global SC Industry, but growing.
- **TI was leading the charge in conversion to Cu w/b.**



Outline

Cu-vs-Au Material Properties:

Implications for Manufacturing

Common Challenges in Manufacturing:

- Challenges at First Bond
- Challenges at Second Bond
- Challenges in Failure Analysis
- Key Reliability Challenges

Lessons To Take Forward:



Cu-vs-Au Material Properties: Implications for Manufacturing

What Can We Expect from Cu-Wire-1

Cost

Lower cost than Gold

- Cost can remain competitive despite need to mitigate unfavorable attributes (hardness, reactivity)

Electrical:

Lower resistivity

- Allows use of thinner wires.
- Favorably affects self-inductance.

Source: Heraeus bonding-wire brochure

Thermal:

* **Similar melting point as Au**

- Use of existing bond processes.
- Similar fusing currents in circuits

* **26% higher thermal conductivity**

- May help manage heat in package

* **~ 16% higher CTE.**

- No specific issues

Bulk Properties of Pure Metals				
Properties	Units	Gold	Copper	Aluminum
Melting Point	°C	1063	1083	658
Density	g/cm ³	19.3	8.9	2.7
Lattice Constant (@20 °C)	10 ⁻¹⁰ m (Å)	4.079	3.615	4.049
Lattice Structure	-	FCC	FCC	FCC
Specific Heat (@20 °C)	J/g K	0.126	0.386	0.900
Thermal Conductance	kW/m ² K	31.1	39.4	22.2
Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion	ppm/K	14.2	16.5	23.1
Electrical Resistivity (@20 °C)	10 ⁻⁸ Ω m	2.2	1.7	2.7
Electrical Conductivity (@20 °C)	10 ⁷ / Ω m	4.55	5.88	3.65
Vickers Hardness	MN/m ²	216	369	167

What Can We Expect from Cu-Wire - 2

Source: Heraeus bonding-wire brochure

Bulk Properties of Pure Metals				
Properties	Units	Gold	Copper	Aluminum
Vickers Hardness	MN/m ²	216	369	167
Youngs Modulus	GPa	78	130	70
Modulus of Elasticity	GPa	79	123	71
Tensile Strength	N/mm ²	120 - 220	210 - 370	100 - 200

Mechanical:

56% higher stiffness; wire-sweep

68-75% higher tensile strength

- Improve wire-sweep & loop-profiles

70% harder than Au:

- Increased susceptibility to bond-pad damage.

Lower fatigue resistance

- Stitch cracks in package, when delaminated.

Chemical:

Not a noble metal – oxidation

- Requires inert atmosphere during bonding

Chemically active - reacts with halides, sulphur etc

- Susceptible to electro-chemical corrosion

Cu does not diffuse into Al lattice

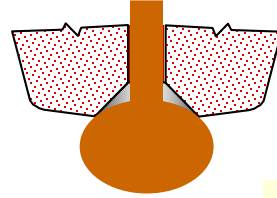
- Very Little IMC is formed in wirebond
- Resistant to Kirkendall voiding



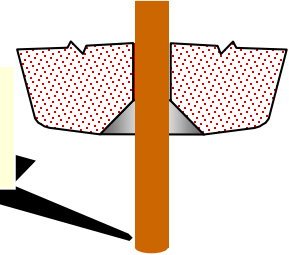
Common Challenges in Manufacturing

Gold Wire Bond Process

3. Free Ball Formation



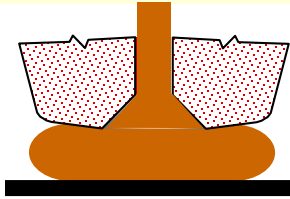
1. Wire feeds into capillary from spool



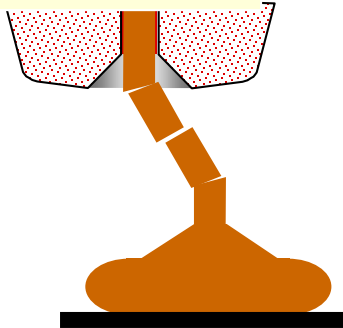
2. EFO (Electronic Flame Off) Spark



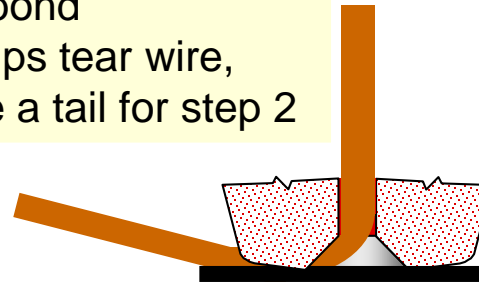
4. 1st Bond:
Force, USG, Heat, Time



5. Wire looping to lead finger

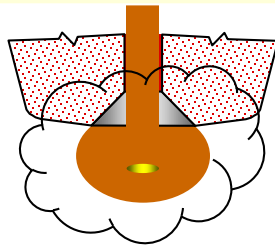


6. 2nd bond
7. Clamps tear wire,
leave a tail for step 2

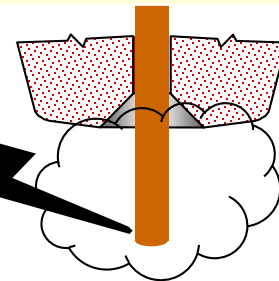


Copper Wire Bond Process

3. Free Ball Formation



1. Wire feeds into capillary from spool

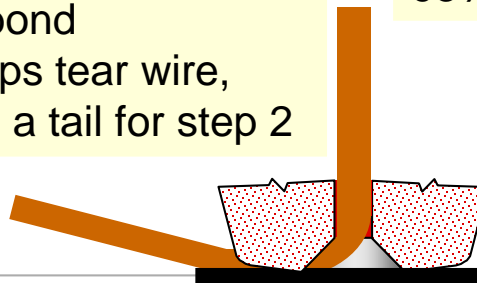


2. EFO Spark

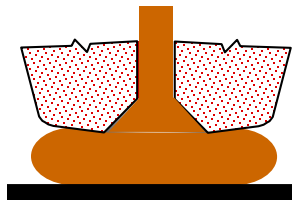


Forming Gas
95% N₂/5% H₂

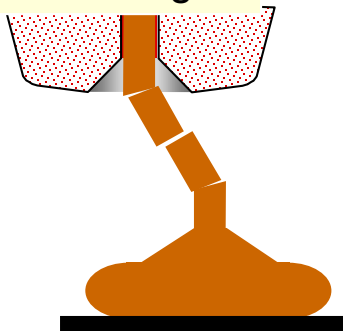
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4. 1st Bond:
Force, USG, Heat, Time

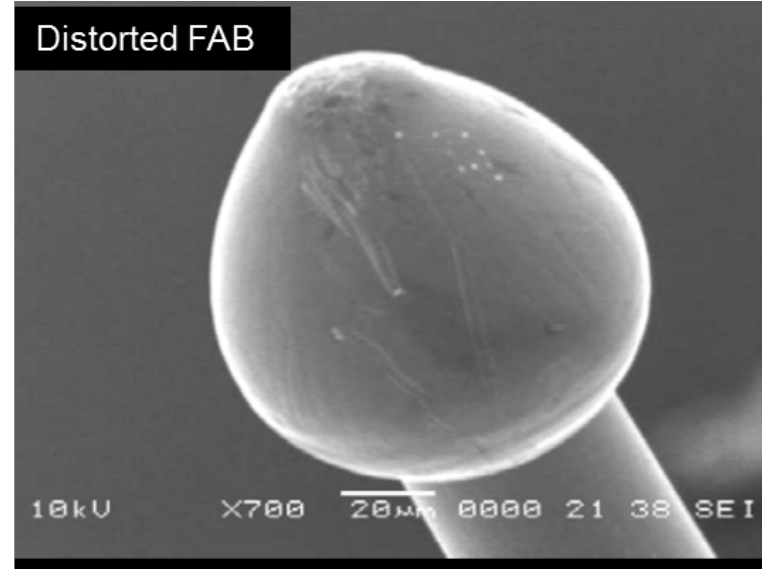
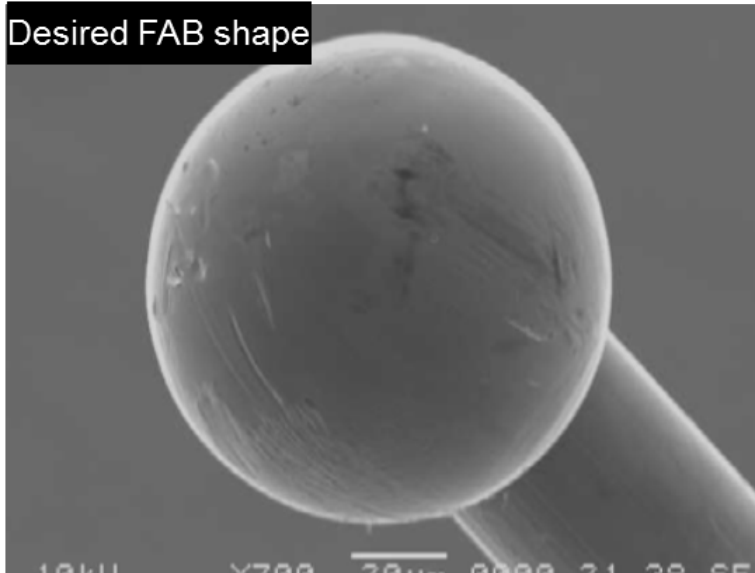


5. Wire looping to lead finger



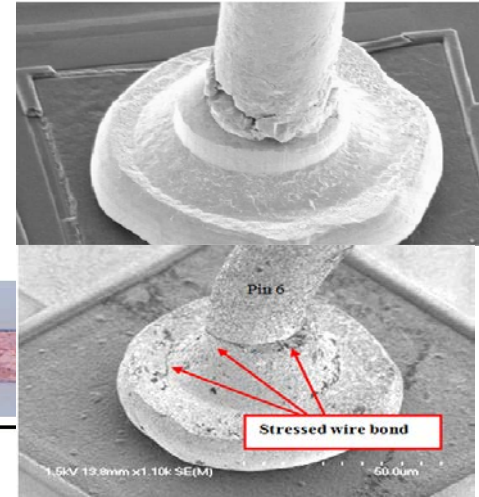
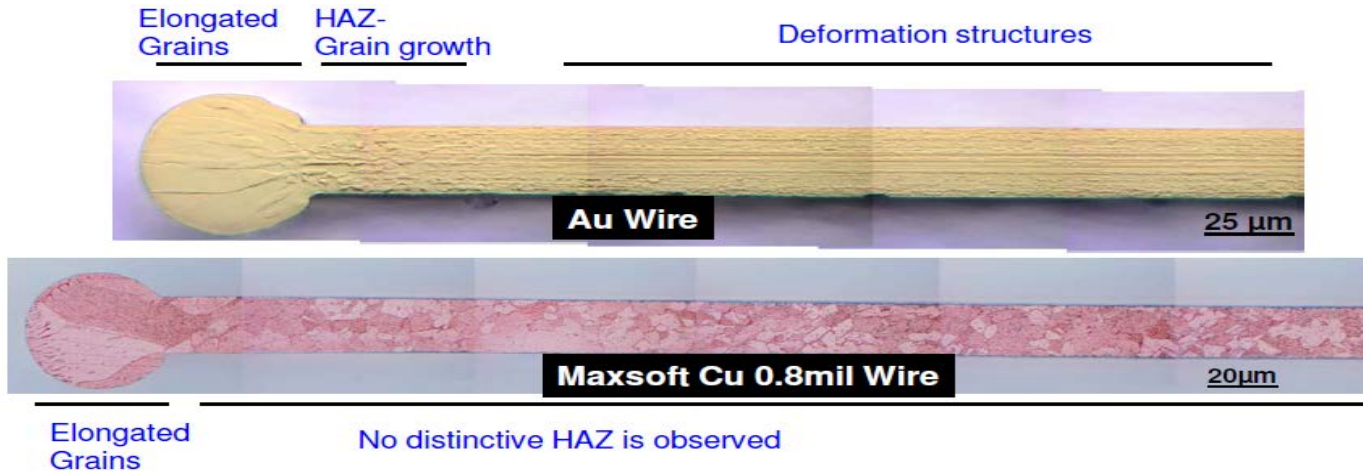
Cu Free-Air Ball Formation

- Cu-oxidation during EFO distorts the ball during cool-down.



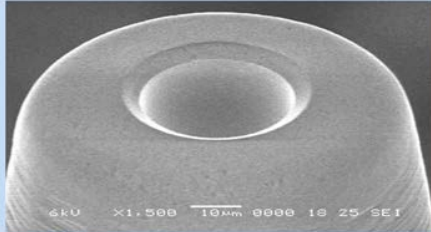
- Oxidized ball presents bonding risks – NSOP or pad-damage.

Free-Air Ball Microstructure

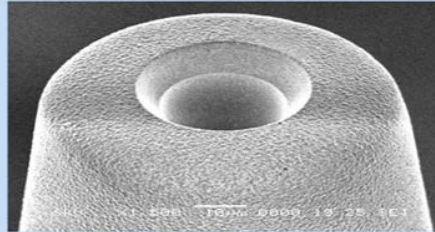


- Elongated grain growth in FAB, similar to Au-wire
- Unlike Au, no transitional heat-affected zone (HAZ) characterized by grain-growth in Cu-wire beyond the FAB.
 - Cu wirebond shows more frequent bond-break during wirepull, as a result.
 - Bond fracture can also happen after encapsulation, showing intermittent opens.
 - Handling during assembly and/or jams on Bonder Transport and Mold loaders can also cause this defect.

Capillary Selection

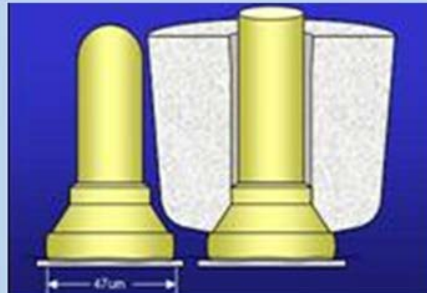
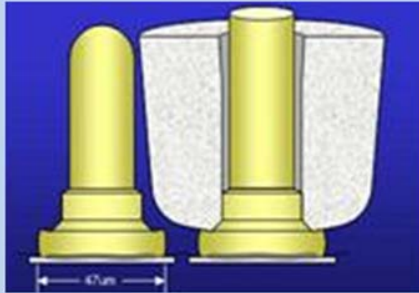


Gold Capillary



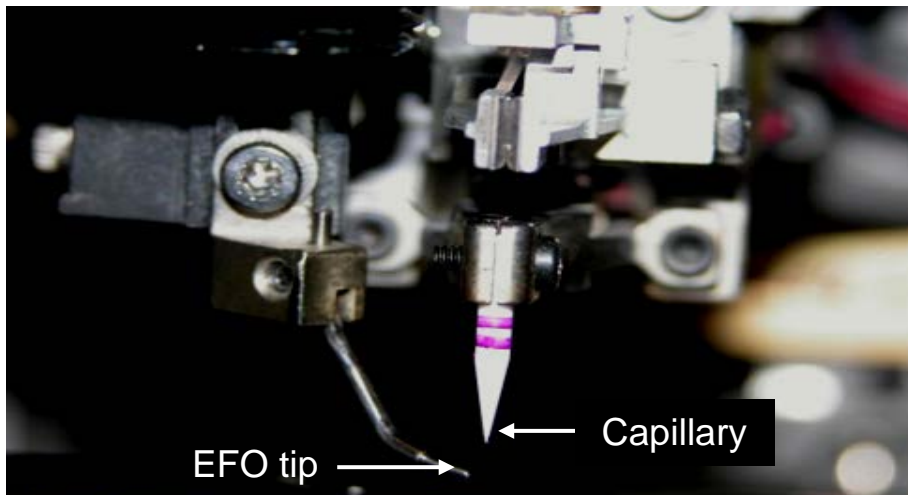
Copper Capillary

- Capillary is generally engineered to optimize second-bond process
 - Chamfer diameter, Chamfer Angle, Material Texture are different
 - Rough texture improves gripping between wire & capillary
 - Minimizes wire-slippage during bonding.
- New Capillary must be re-characterized on first-bond process.
- Capillary life is generally reduced relative to Au-wirebond due to wire-hardness and due to use of rough finishes on leadframes.



Preparing For Cu-Wirebond

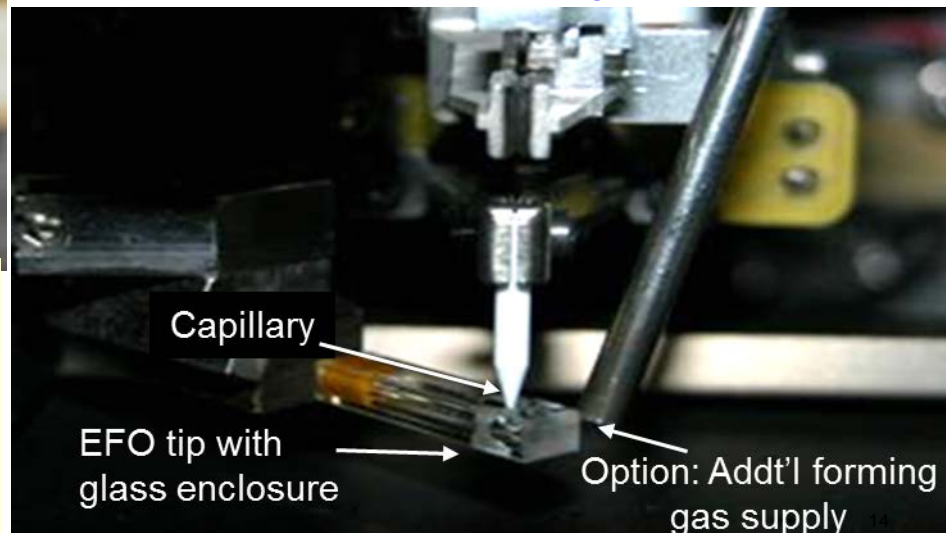
Au Ball Bonding



- Equipment calibrations, maintenance frequencies must be established for Cu-wire
- Consumables (wire, capillaries) storage/use protocols and lifetimes must be established
- Factory personnel must be re-trained for Cu-related protocols and procedures.

- **A Cu-conversion kit is required for each bonder**
- Factories must add forming gas supply to each bonder location

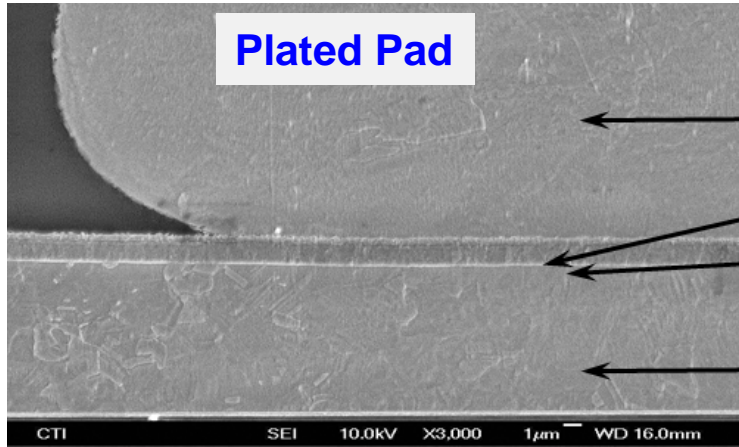
Cu Ball Bonding





Challenges at First Bond

Types of B/Pad Finishes



Cu ball

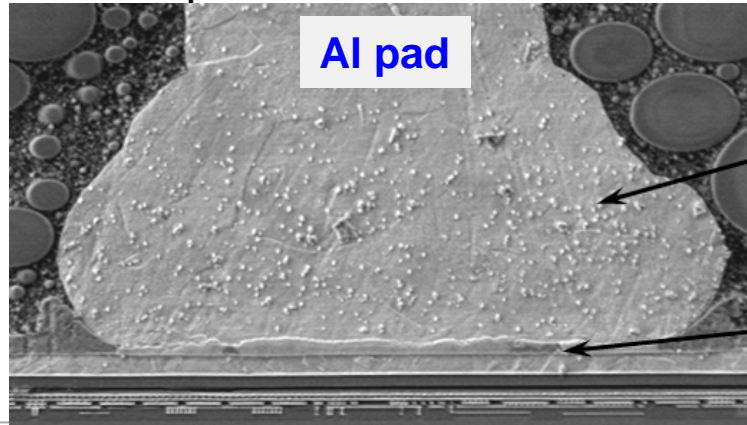
Copper-to-Aluminum, and, Copper-to-Palladium bond-interfaces are very thin compared to Gold on Aluminum.

Pd

Ni

Cu Bump on Al

The presentation focuses on wire-bonding of Copper on Aluminum bond-pad

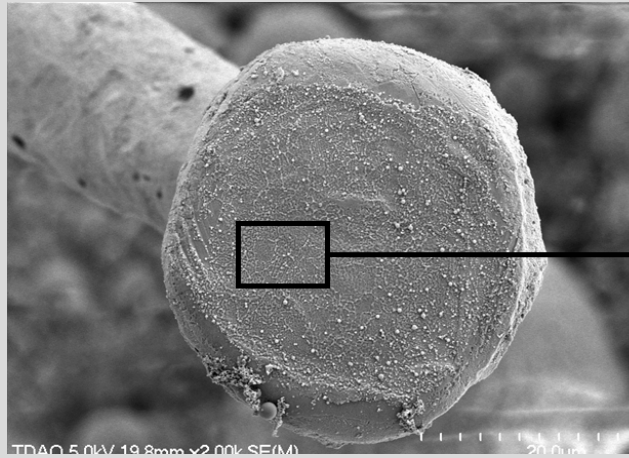


Cu ball

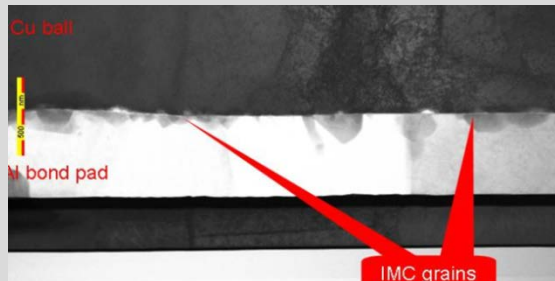
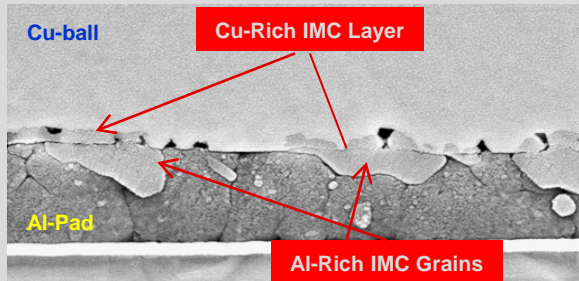
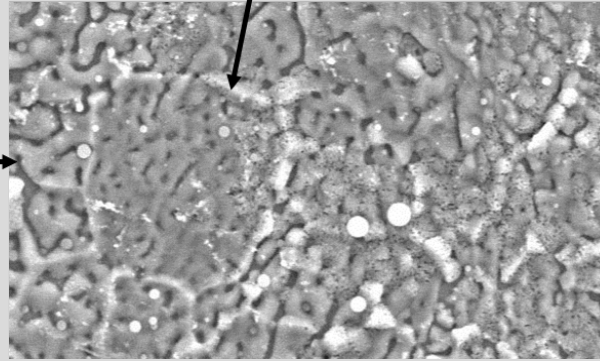
Cu/Al IMC

IMC Imaging & Measurement:

Ref: Copeland & Saran, Proc 36th Intern Symp for Test and Fail Analysis, 2010



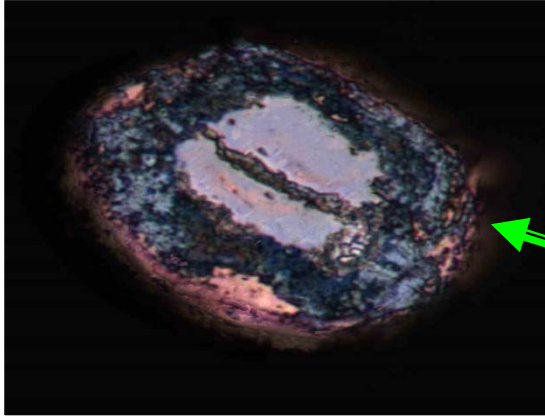
IMC ring at Al grain-boundary



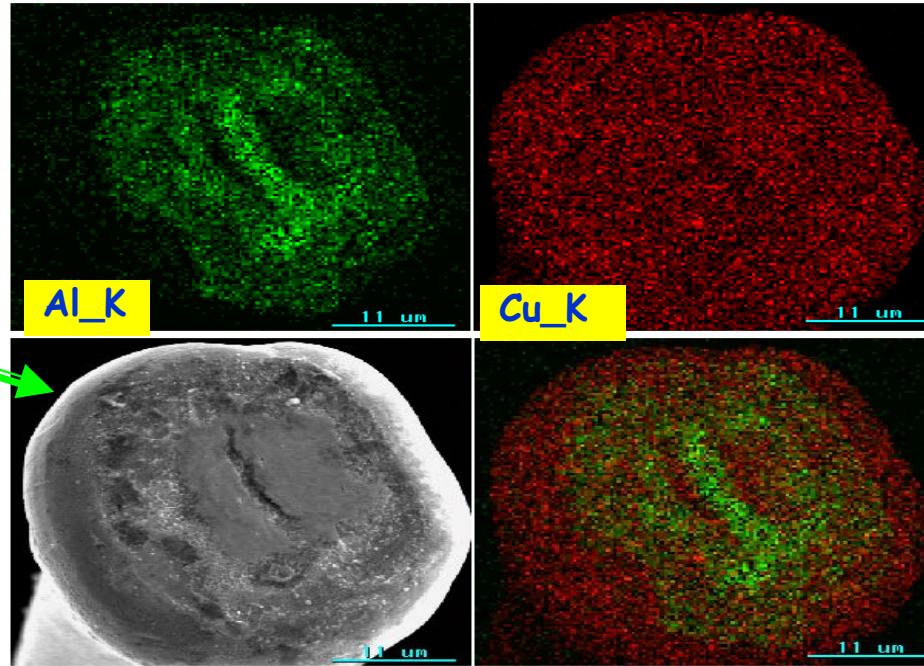
Intermetallic is so thin at wire-bond that monitoring through SEM cross-section imaging is not possible without use of special chemical methods for sample preparation and prior anneal to promote IMC growth.

IMC Imaging: Optical Measurement of Coverage

Post-bake Optical IMC Map

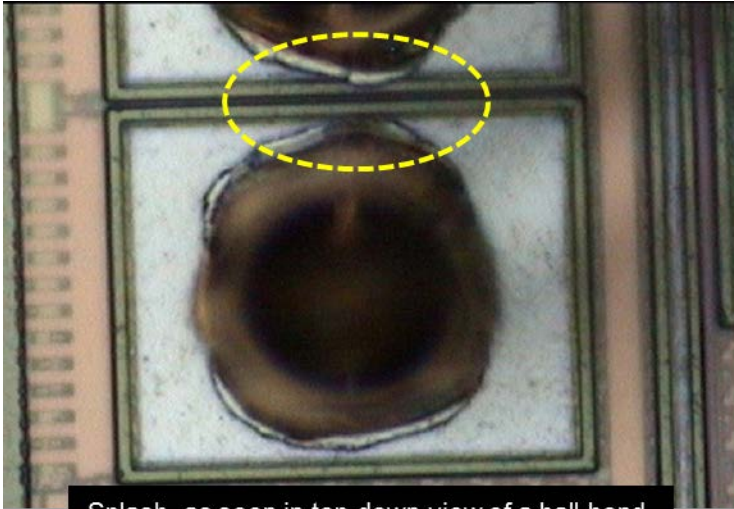


With EDS mapping correlation, the IMC coverage rate tolerance is around 5~10%.

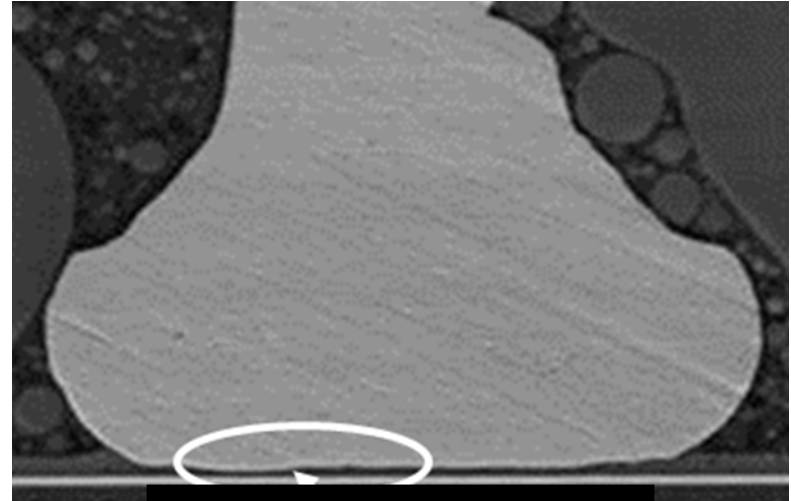


- An optical method to estimate IMC coverage was developed; calibrated to SEM measurement.
- Others have published similar methods more recently.

Al-Splash and Al-Thinning



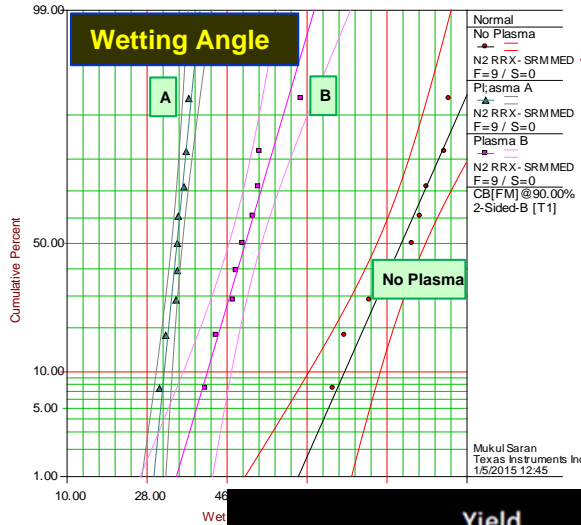
Splash, as seen in top-down view of a ball-bond



Aluminum thinning similar to the above

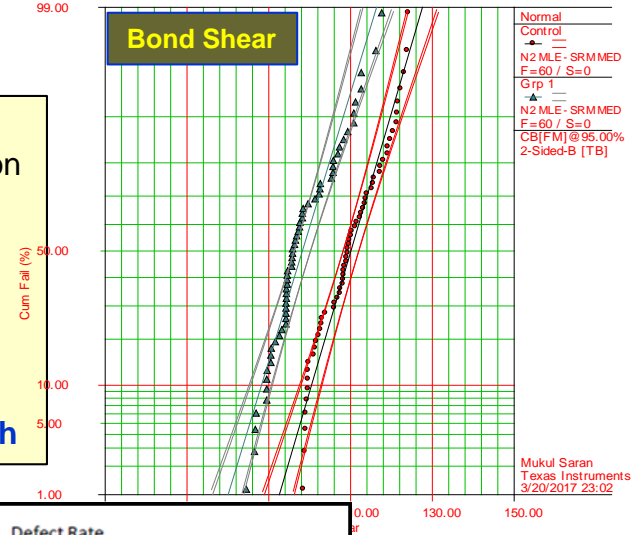
- Occurs at the edge of ball-bonds on Aluminum pads with Cu-wirebond
- May cause pad-to-pad shorts and Al-thinning under the bond.
- Could potentially lead to de-bonded areas under the ball, if it breaks through the Al-layers (e.g. IMC-to-Barrier debond).
- Mitigated with use of pre-bleed and low-u/s energy during bond and

Bonding Yield: Dependence on Surface Cleanliness

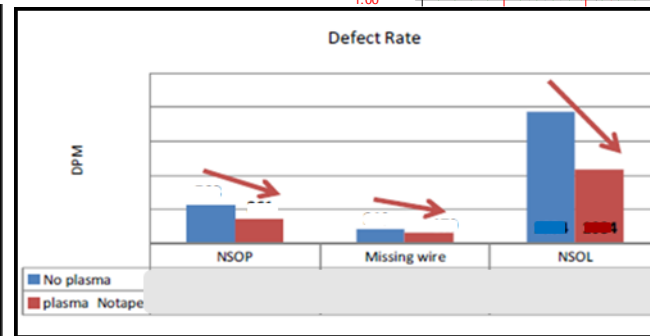
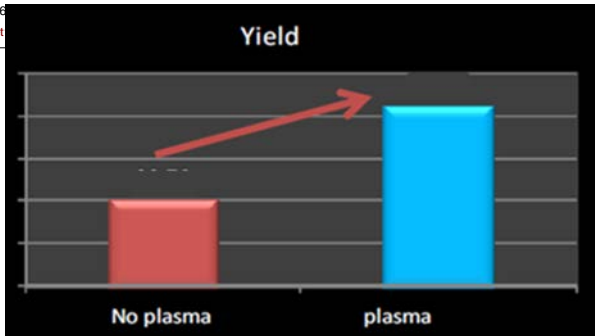


Conclusions:

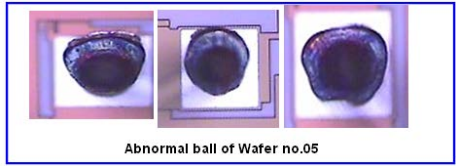
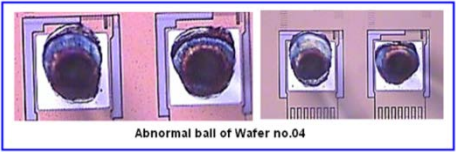
- Plasma reduces the wetting angle on bonding surface
- Longer Power/exposure (A vs B) improves wetting angle
- Benefits yield, NSOL and NSOP
- Bond-shear strength increases
- **Surface cleanliness more critical than Au due to limited IMC growth**



$\mu1=85.2222$, $\sigma1=9.9673$, $\rho=0.9568$
 $\mu2=34.7333$, $\sigma2=2.2314$, $\rho=0.9606$
 $\mu3=50.1111$, $\sigma3=6.6684$, $\rho=0.9688$



Bond Quality: Dependence on Pad Metallization

	Al-0.5%Cu	Al-2%Cu
<p>Low-K Dielec Sandwich + Pad Reinforcement</p>	<p>Abnormal</p>	 <p>Abnormal</p>
<p>Oxide/SOG Sandwich + No Pad Reinforcement</p>	 <p>Abnormal</p>	<p>** Bond Parameters Optimized For This Stack up ** High Bond-Parameters (force/power) were used Used the same set on all other stack-ups</p> <p>Normal</p>

➤ Changing underlying bond-pad structure impacts Wirebond outcomes.

=> Bonding recipes could require optimization for different bond-pad metallizations

Bond-Pad Damage: Cratering

Ref: Wulff et al, Semicon Singapore 2005

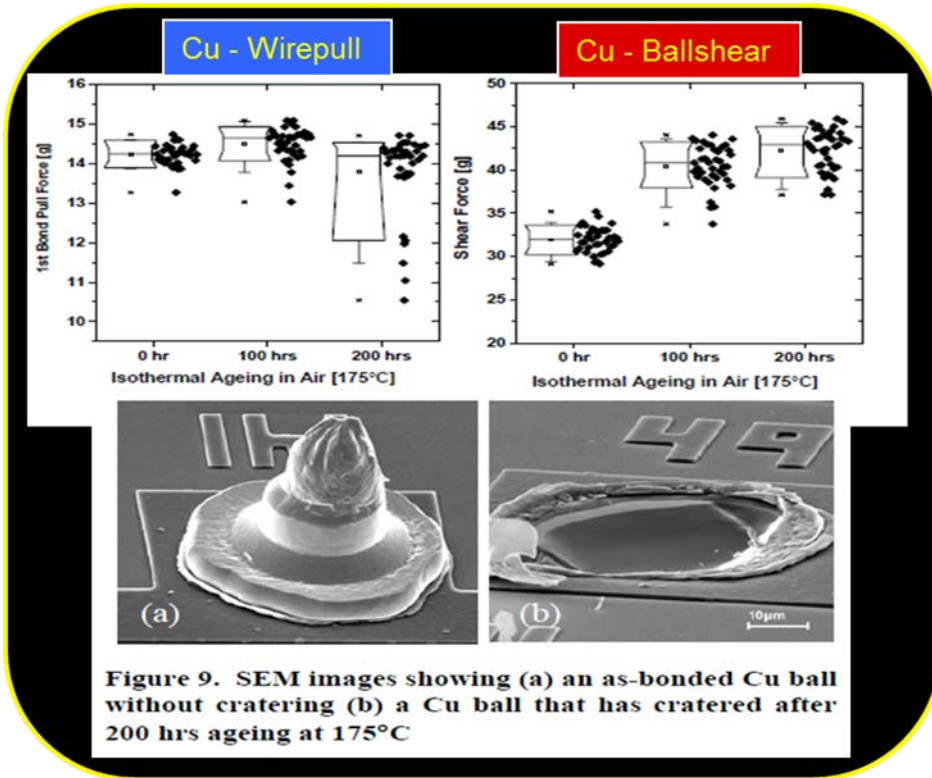
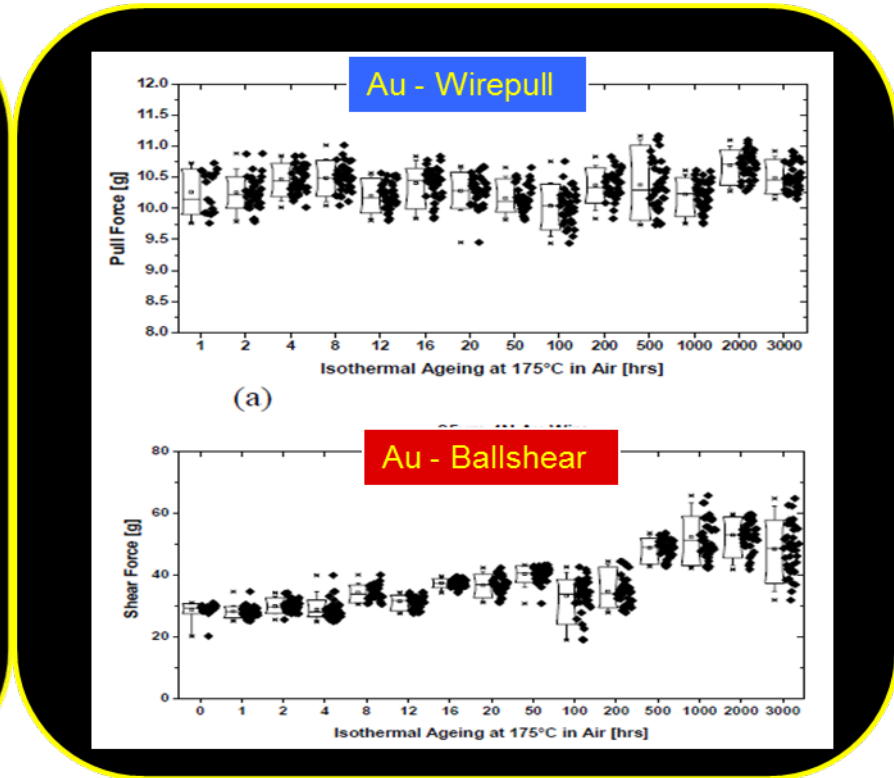


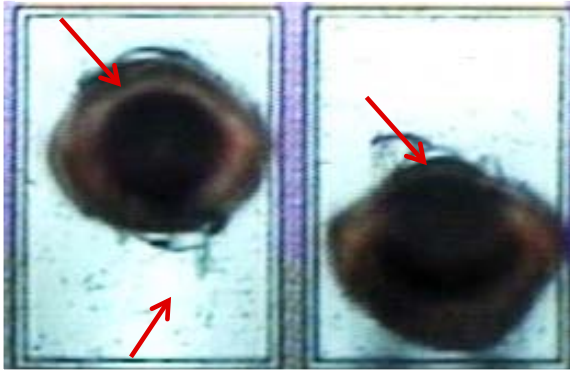
Figure 9. SEM images showing (a) an as-bonded Cu ball without cratering (b) a Cu ball that has cratered after 200 hrs ageing at 175°C



➤ Baking Cu-wirebond at 175C can highlight b/pad cratering damage

Pad-Damage/Lifted Metal (LFML)

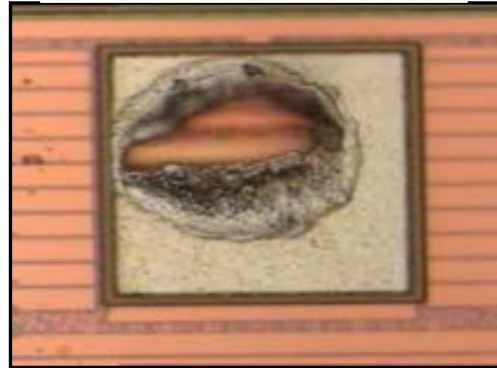
Overbonded pads – Optical Images



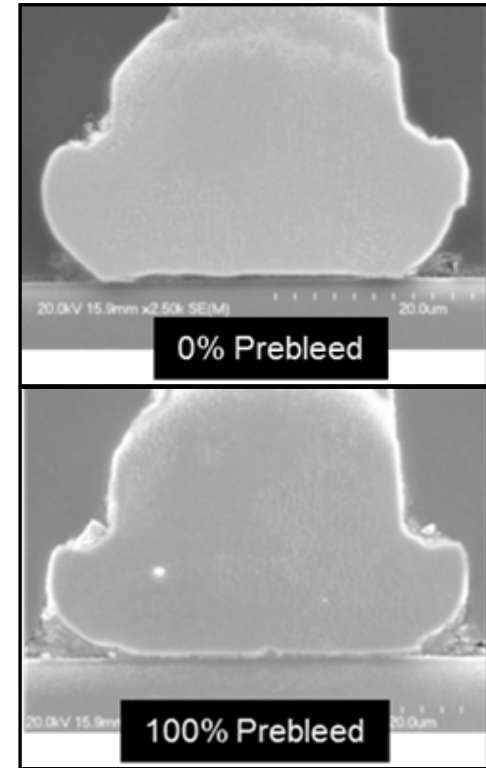
Before Removing Ball-Bond

Arrows point to visible damage around the ball-edges

Lifted Metal Fail in Wirepull



Interconnect layers below the b/pad are visible after LFML fail.



- Pad damage is not unique to Cu, but susceptibility is higher than Au
- Cu-ball does not absorb the impact force on the pad as well as Au-ball.
- Pre-bleed (u/s at ball-impact) flatten the ball-interface profile, reduce pad-damage and Al-splash

Pad-Damage/Lifted Metal (LFML)

Ref: Qin et al, K&S/Univ of Waterloo, EPTC 2009, pp 573-578,

Table 2: Au wire bonding responses using same parameters

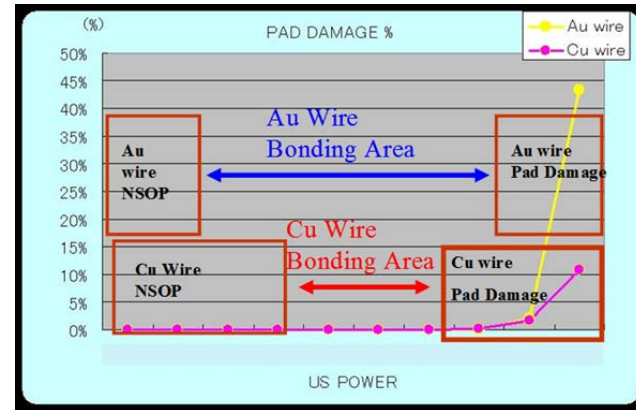
Au	Ball Diameter (μm)	Ball Height (μm)	Shear Strength (g)	Pull Strength (g)	Pull Test Break Mode
Average	44.3	6.8	16.0	9.5	All neck break
Std. dev.	0.35	0.60	0.48	0.20	

Table 3: Cu wire bonding responses using same parameters

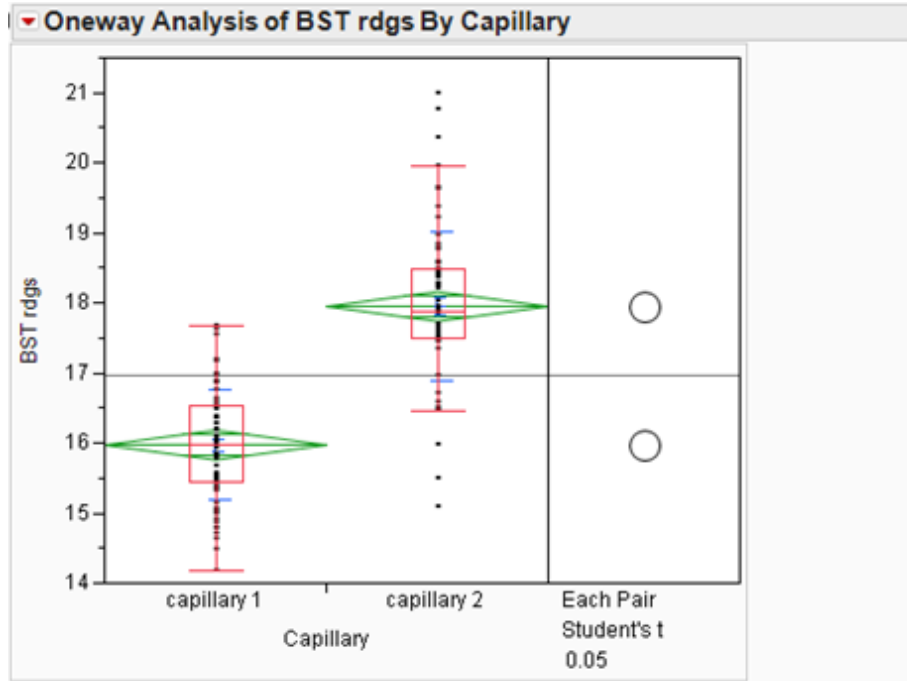
Cu	Ball Diameter (μm)	Ball Height (μm)	Shear Strength (g)	Pull Strength (g)	Pull Test Break Mode
Average	42.4	12.2	13.8	10.9	8 pad lift
Std. dev.	0.57	0.65	0.50	3.11	

Underbonded Pad lifts cause high std dev., Pull strength higher due to higher break-load for Cu wire

- Cu: Pad-damage hidden by normal shear strength
- Bond-shear alone is not a good indicator of bond-quality. Bond-pad damage is seen with high shear values. Optimization must consider both.
- Cu Ball-pull is sensitive to pad damage.
- Au-bond is more forgiving for pad-damage



Ball-Shear: Effect of Capillary

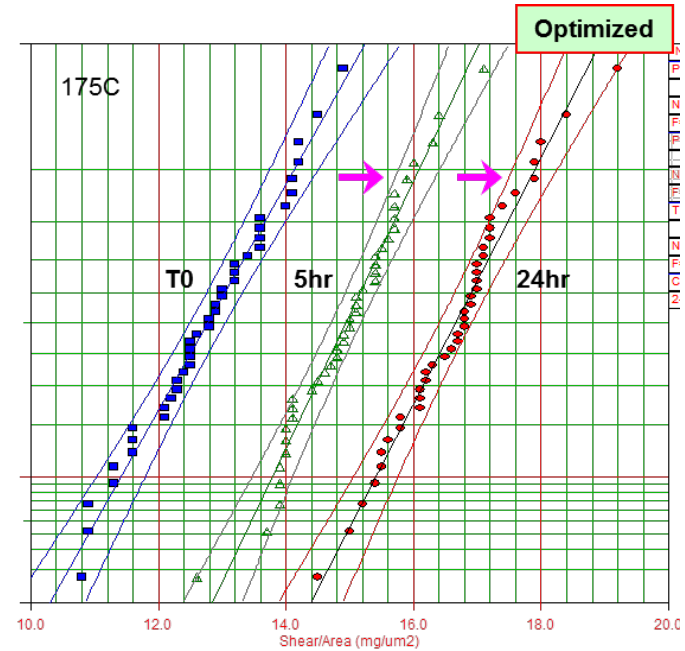
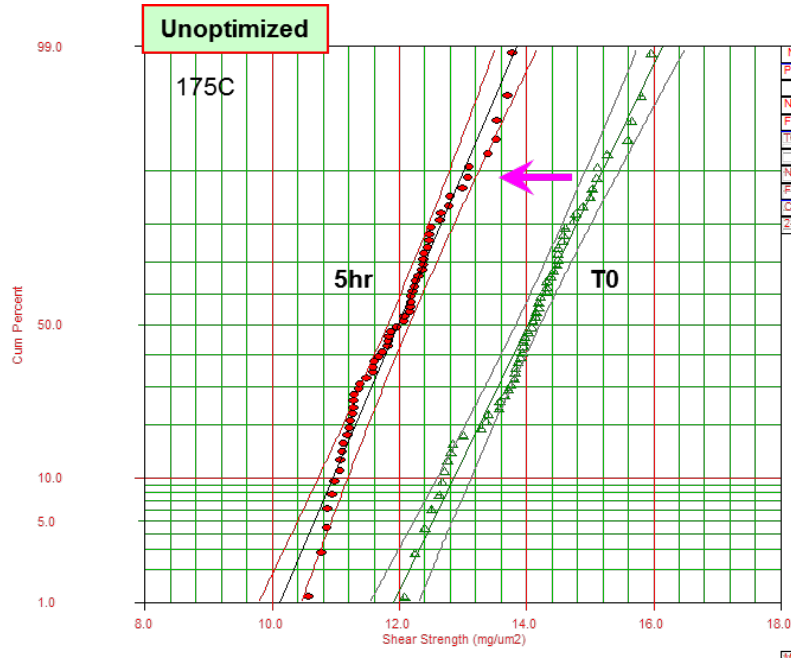


- Capillary 2 has a larger chamfer diameter than Capillary 1.
- Use of this capillary improves ball-shear and also eliminated lifted-metal (LFML) failures at wirepull.
- LFML is sensitive to process technology and/or bond-pad stackup.

▲ Quantiles

Level	Minimum	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Maximum
capillary 1	14.186	14.8971	15.4413	15.966	16.5315	16.9703	17.663
capillary 2	15.093	16.503	17.48525	17.8725	18.4925	19.2686	20.99

Ball-Shear: Effect of Mold-Cure

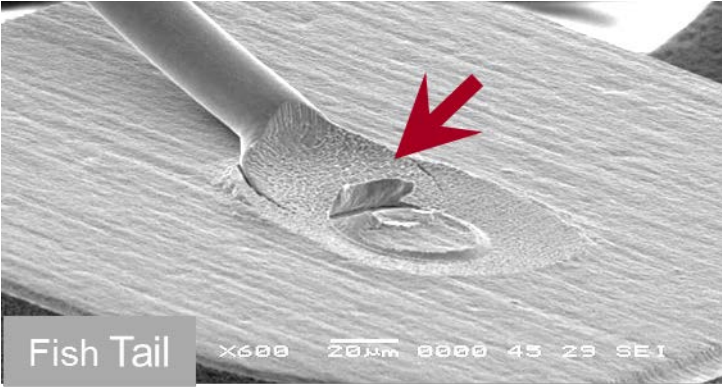
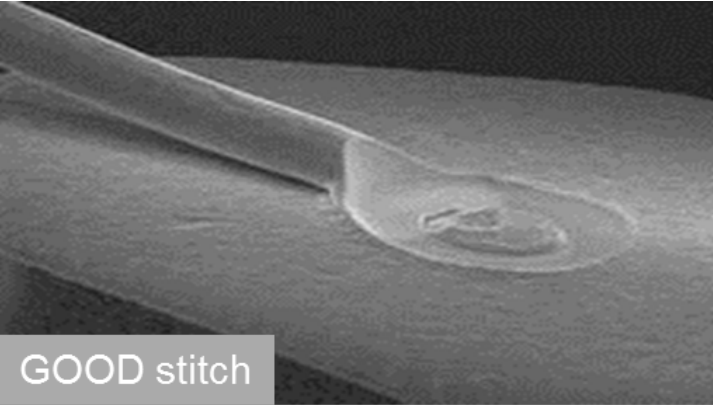


- Initial bond-strength is not necessarily a good predictor of “bond robustness”.
- This observation has been used to establish a robustness check.

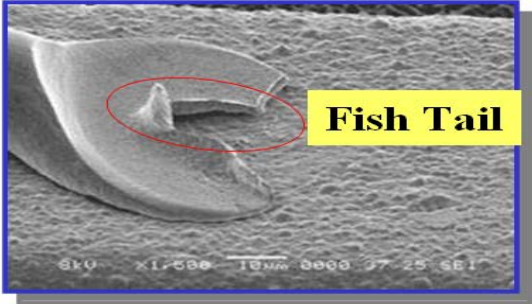


Challenges at Second Bond

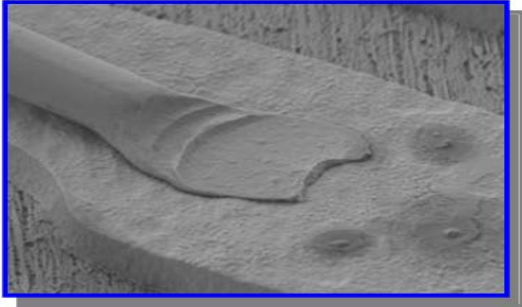
Fish-Tail



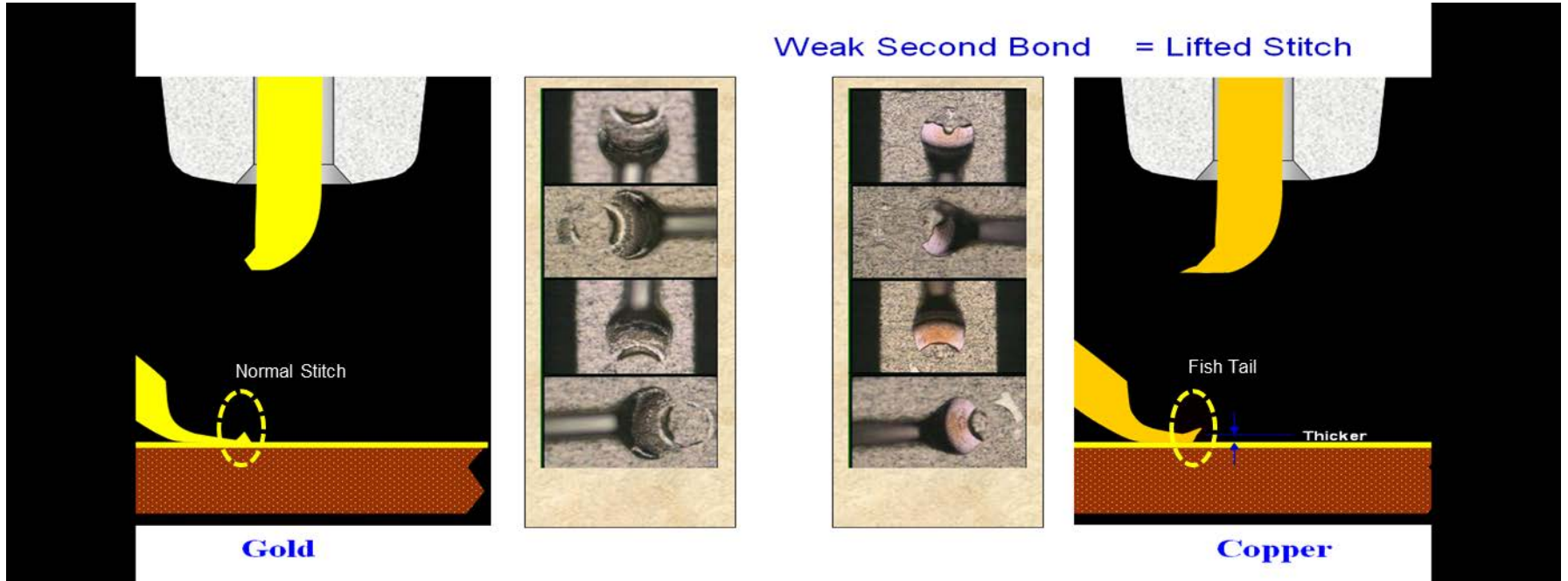
- ❖ **Lifted Stitch/Fish Tail and No tail e**



- ❖ **3-step/segmented second bond**

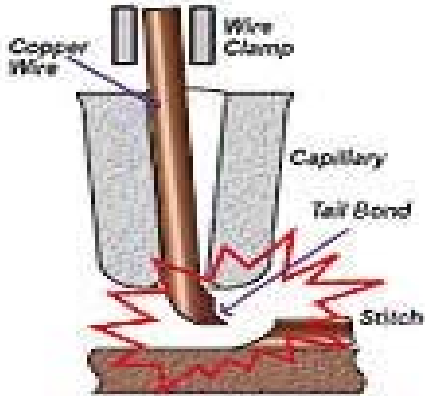


Fish Tail

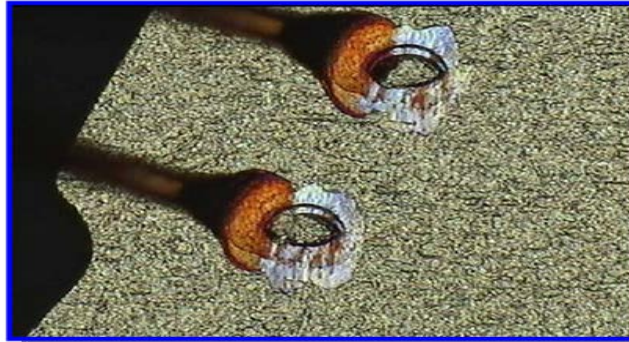


➤ Fish-tail occurs due to difficulty in cleanly cutting off the wire after stitchbond

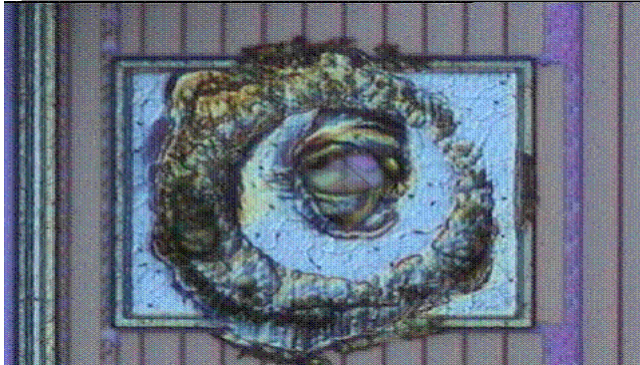
Short-Tail Error



Short Tail



Can result in a cut-stitch bond



Capillary with an inadequate Cu-ball can hit the next bond-pad to leave an imprint without bonding.

- Short-Tail results when the Cu-wire is pulled only partially out of a retreating capillary after stitch bond, due to a premature cut stitch..

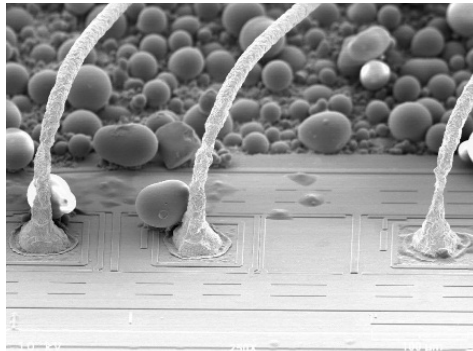


Challenges in Failure Analysis

Wet-Decapsulation of Devices with Cu-wires

Au-wirebond devices used Jet-etch techniques using hot fuming nitric acid, or fuming sulphuric acid. Device is held under light vacuum above the area to be decapped. A jet of hot acid is directed at the surface to remove the encapsulation. Hot fuming nitric acid does not attack the Aluminum on the bond-pads or the Au-wire. Hence decapsulation results were generally consistent.

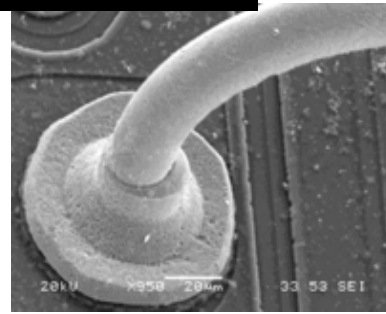
Cu-wire dissolves easily in hot fuming nitric acid. To preserve wire-integrity a mixture of HNO₃ & H₂SO₄ is required. The sulphuric acid forms a protective sheath on the wire-surface and resists attack against the HNO₃. A right mixture of the acids, precise timing and temperature are critical to achieve the right outcome.



Improved Wet Chemical Decapsulation



Old etchant



New etchant

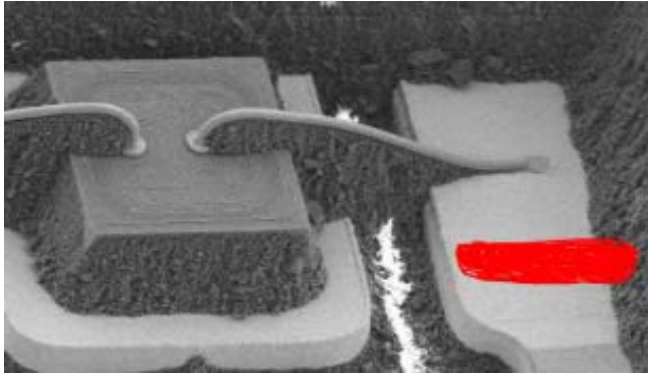
One method that may be used for determining if a wire is over etched is to first perform wire pull. If the pull value is significantly less than the typical value for wire pull of unencapsulated product, then it is very likely that the ball bond has also been damaged due to the etching process. If this does occur then this 'over etched' sample should not be used for shear test.

NO visual criteria in JEDEC std to determine 'good' or 'bad'.

Reference - Annex D: <https://www.jedec.org/system/files/docs/22B116B.pdf>

Alternative Decapsulation Methods

Laser Ablation (with or w/o wet-etch):



Ref: Annex D: <https://www.jedec.org/system/files/docs/22B116B.pdf>

- Does not require use of acids
- Mold-compounds are difficult to clear from under the wires.
- Can cause damage to die-surface, as well as Cu-wire
- Unsuitable for bond-shear testing, as is
- Suited to thermally-aged mold-compounds; wet etch is difficult.

Used effectively **in combination** with wet-chemistries:
Most of the mold-compound is removed by laser ablation leaving a few mils above the die; short wet-etches are used to clear the residual mold-compound.

Ref: Failure Analysis of Integrated Circuits: Tools and Techniques; Edited by Larry Wagner, Springer 1999



<http://public.hofstragroup.com/3835.pdf>

Alternative Decapsulation Methods

Plasma Decapsulation

Does not require use of acids

Uses Microwave plasmas with Oxygen & CF₄

Generally requires switching gas-ratios during decapsulation

Conventional RF plasma etch can also be used, but decap times are ~10x longer;

Die-damage due to RF plasma-induced charging, as well as F attack of passivation layers are significant issues.

Can also be used in conjunction with laser ablation.

Thermomechanical Decapsulation

Refers to a variety of techniques used to decapsulate packages without use of acids

Generally include one or more of three elements:

- (a) Grinding to reduce mechanical size of the package/mold-compound
- (b) Heating the mold-compound to soften
- (c) Exerting mechanical force to crack the package or separate materials

Useful to examine corrosion by-products and pathways on leadframe-based packages

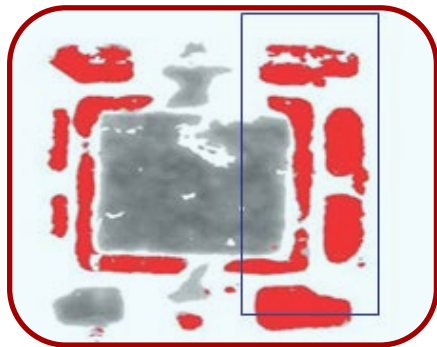
Not suitable for electrical isolation of fail sites, since it damages electrical integrity.

Ref: Failure Analysis of Integrated Circuits: Tools and Techniques; Edited by Larry Wagner, Springer 1999



Key Reliability Challenges

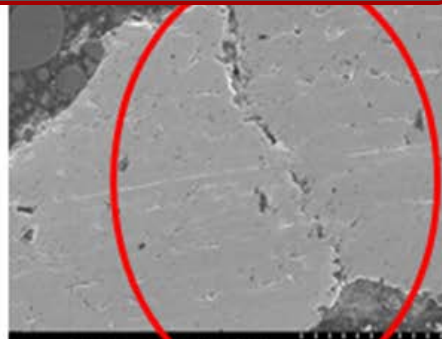
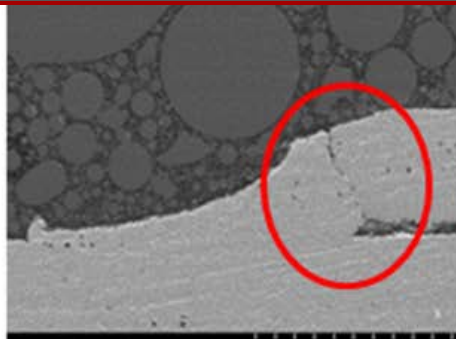
Package Integrity: Mold-Delamination and Post-TC Stitch-Crack



CSAM images show delamination after pre-conditioning in the die attach-pad areas, as well as on leadfinger areas

Post-Reflow package integrity is important for bond-reliability

Mold-compound delamination can result in stitch-fracture during Temperature Cycling due to thermo-mechanical fatigue. Copper undergoes work hardening during stitch formation process.



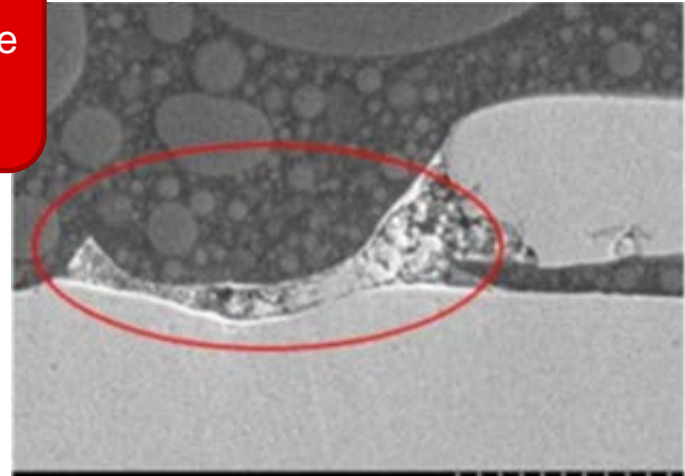
Package Integrity: Chemical Stitch Corrosion



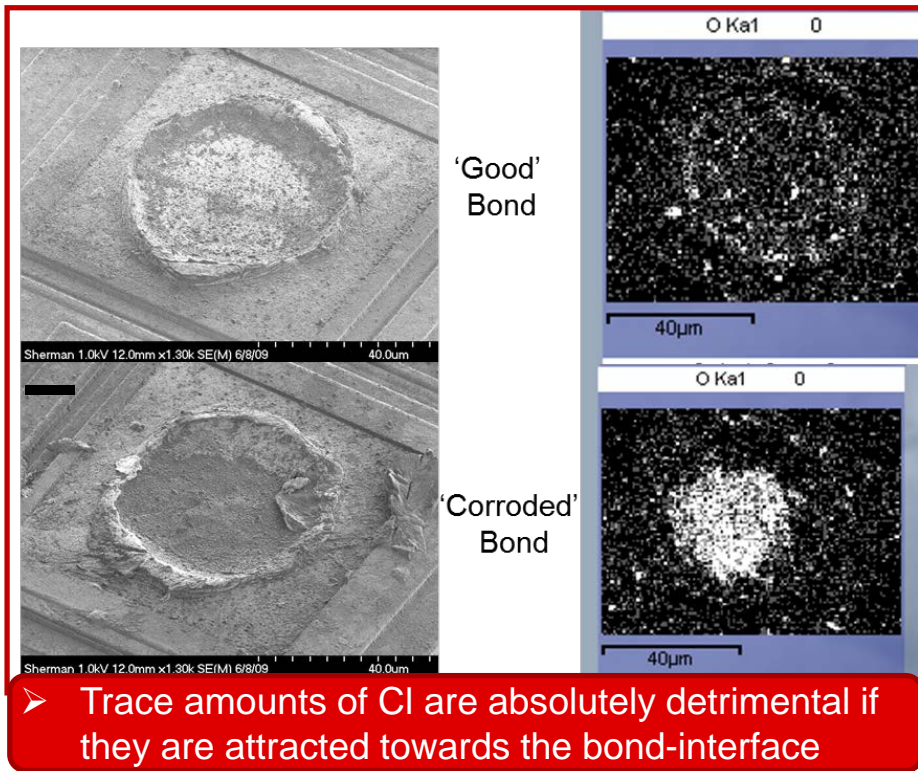
Package integrity throughout package life is important for bond-reliability

- *How did the corrosion happen inside?*
 - Time-zero delamination reduces product robustness
 - Post-mold clean chemistry corroded Cu-stitch
 - Au-wire does not corrode

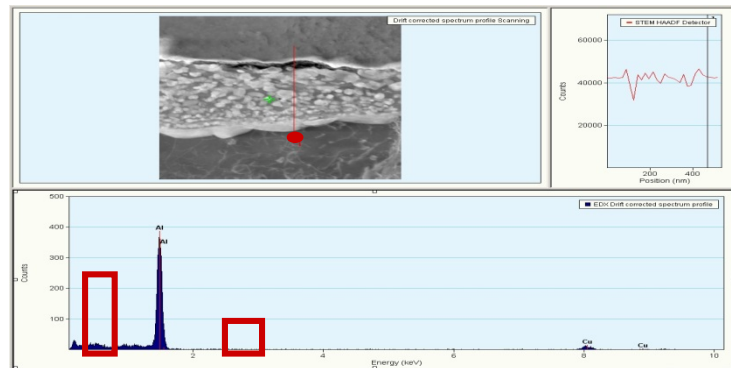
- Initially strong bonds can fail this way
- *Robustness demands package integrity* at 'Time-zero' and under stress



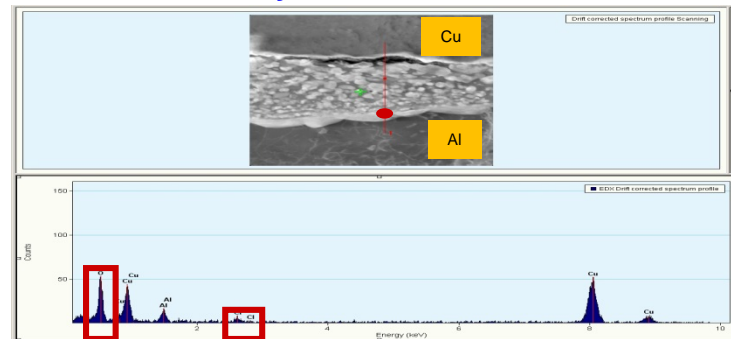
Humidity: Chlorine-Enhanced Corrosion



No O or Cl in Aluminum just below the interface.



Cl & O in layer between Al & Cu.



Materials: Mold-Compounds & Chlorine

Supplier	Mold-Compd	Autoclave (121C, 100%RH, 2atm)	ub_HAST (110C / 85% RH)	ub_HAST (130C / 85% RH)	Biased HAST (130C/85% RH)	THB (85C/85% RH)
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	-	-	-	Passed
-	-	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed
Passed	-	-	-	-	In Qual	-
Passed	-	Passed	-	-	-	In Qual
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
No Plan	No Plan	No Plan	No Plan	No Plan	No Plan	No Plan
Passed	-	-	-	-	No Plan	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
Planned	-	-	-	-	Planned	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Failed	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
Passed	-	-	-	-	Passed	-
Failed	-	-	Passed	Failed	Failed	-

1st Bond Fails confirmed

Certain mold-compound formulations can contribute to random and/or systematic occurrences of corrosion.

Other assembly processes & materials can also contribute. These are difficult to identify.

TI has made significant advances in this area; it remains an active focus.

- Biased-HAST corrosion is prominent for certain mold-compounds, even if they are 'green'
- Autoclave can also show corrosion without bias.
- Failures do not correlate with residual Cl specs for the mold-compd
- Other sources of Chlorine – Plasma Clean – are also reported (e.g. *Tai et al, Int Elec Mfg Tech Conf, 2012*),
- Mold-compounds with low pH values protect encapsulated materials against corrosion per Pourbaix diagram.



Lessons To Take Forward

Cu-Wirebonding is not just a material change; it is a mindset change

Development and Qualification:

- √ *Development Process –*
 - √ *engaging the supply chain (engineering/fab/AT/suppliers)*
 - √ *Corner DOE's – making the bonds fail*

- √ *Reliability/Robustness by Design*
 - √ *Selecting Bill of Materials – mold-compounds, Chlorine, Au/Pd-Coated Cu, Roughened leadframes, capillaries*
 - √ *Bonding-Recipe Development – Process Technology, Device layout, bond-window*
 - √ *Reliability- Relationship to initial bond-strength*
 - √ *Package integrity – delamination in packages – bond-breaks, corrosion*

- √ *Enabling Techniques –*
 - √ *SEM x-sections of IMCs,*
 - √ *laser decapsulation,*
 - √ *Bond-pad IMC mapping,*
 - √ *Rapid in-line bond-inspection for over-bonding checks*
 - √ *Au- vs Cu-identification in encapsulated devices*
 - √ *TEM analysis techniques*

Tight Manufacturing Controls are Essential for Cu-bond Reliability

Maintaining Quality & Reliability

- ✓ *Assembly process compatibility and integration (die-attach, plasma, trim-n-form, etc)*
- ✓ *Manufacturing Discipline - Bonder set-ups, bonder-to-bonder matching, handling & cleanliness, across-the-board assembly process controls, preventive maintenance*
- ✓ *Automation in assembly lines – recipe locks, change control*
- ✓ *Monitoring:*

SITE	PULLOUT DATE	LOT	COMPLIANCE PERIOD	RELCODE	RELOB STATUS	FINISH DATE	REVIEW DATE
MLA	2017-01-02	1201200	1	MLAREL-17-8N14WCT3-01001	Completed	2017-02-17	2017-02-17
MLA	2017-01-10	700385	1	MLAREL-17-8N14VC2-01001	Completed	2017-02-22	2017-02-22
MLA	2017-01-10	7019179	1	MLAREL-17-LCC27201-01001	Completed	2017-03-02	2017-03-02
MLA	2017-01-10	912533	1	MLAREL-17-LM234002-01001	Completed	2017-03-06	2017-03-06
MLA	2017-01-02	9119674	1	MLAREL-17-276000R-01001	Completed	2017-02-24	2017-02-24
MLA	2017-01-10	7020207	1	MLAREL-17-TFS64620-01001	Completed	2017-03-06	2017-03-06
MLA	2017-01-04	9232145	1	MLAREL-17-CD40518M-01001	Completed	2017-02-17	2017-02-17
MLA	2017-01-05	9187681	1	MLAREL-17-CD749C20-01002	Completed	2017-02-17	2017-02-17
MLA	2017-01-08	9229643	1	MLAREL-17-A05154E-01001	Completed	2017-02-22	2017-02-22
MLA	2017-01-10	7011729	1	MLAREL-17-8N14VC2-01002	Completed	2017-02-22	2017-02-22
MLA	2017-01-02	9171994	1	MLAREL-17-78220ATR-01001	Completed	2017-02-27	2017-02-27
MLA	2017-01-03	9171684	1	MLAREL-17-TLC7528C-01001	Completed	2017-02-22	2017-02-22

Hunting out the pesky Cu-killers':
Manufacturing materials/environments (consumables, facilities, storage conditions, transportation, floor life, personnel etc)

Navigating to a better place

- *Get a handle on Chlorine*
- *Control Delamination in packages*
- *Identify better material solutions*
- *Decapsulation for wirepull analysis.*

HiRel-Specific Considerations - 1

- **Cu-wirebond is currently restricted in SMDs and VIDs by DLA .**
 - No standard HiRel-focused, Cu-wirebond component qualifications available today
- **Unique stresses in Military & Space applications**
 - Standard component qualification-plans target commercial applications.
 - *Users must assure suitability for HiRel application.*
 - Long, inactive storage for mission-critical components
 - High-temperature environments
 - Vibration and mechanical shock
 - High radiation environments
 - Sequential-stress qualifications required for space-flows
 - Mission-critical applications demand 100% assurance methodologies
- **Other considerations for HiRel components**
 - Burn-in screening is not a part of the commercial qualification flow
 - 100% Delamination screening by SAM is not a part of the production flows
 - Off-the-shelf commercial parts do not require unique identification for Cu-wirebond; Au and Cu-wirebonded parts may be sold under the same part number.

Points to Remember – Quality & Reliability

- Cu is reliable under standard stress conditions, and can even exceed the minimum if process development is optimized, manufacturing processes/materials/environments are scrupulously and deliberately screened for contaminants, and manufacturing discipline is maintained.
- Cu-wirebond is less forgiving than Au-wirebond in manufacturing. Process optimization, equipment matching, manufacturing discipline, and change control are critical for quality and reliability. Necessary die-level info is not generally available to third-party assembly houses.
- Fabs, technologies, bonder platform & model, bond-process, capillary type, bond-wire material & shelf-life are all important factors.
- Maximizing bond-shear does not assure the best wire-bond quality. An optimization may be necessary
- Bond-Pull can be useful to highlight some b/pad failure mechanisms
- Stitch formation is more difficult than Au-wire and leadfinger surface roughness matters – smoother is better.
- The package must maintain integrity throughout the useful life of the product.
- Random chlorine sources that cause Cu bond corrosion remain an area of focus. The knowledge about potential sources of Chlorine is often privileged and learned by experience.
- Decapsulation of Cu-wirebonds remains challenging despite advances. New ones are on the horizon



END of Presentation



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2018 NEPP Electronics Technology Workshop Preliminary Schedule

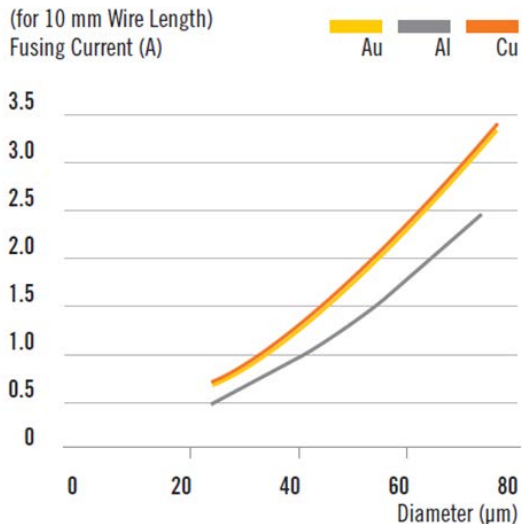
Monday, 18-June

Time	Title	Presenter(s)
7:30AM	Registration	
8:30 AM	NEPP Overview	Ken LaBel NASA/NEPP
9:00 AM	NASA Parts Standard & Plans Moving Forward	Pete Majewicz NASA/NEPP
9:30 AM	NASA EEE Parts Manager Overview	Jonny Pellish NASA/GSFC
10:00 AM	BREAK (30 Minutes)	
10:30 AM	EEE-INST Unification and Update	Pete Majewicz; Noman Siddiqi NASA/NEPP; AS&D/GSFC
11:00 AM	Government Working Group & Hybrids Working Group	Kathy Laird; Pete Majewicz NASA/MSFC; NASA/NEPP
11:45 AM	Lunch (On Your Own) 11:45AM - 1:15PM	
1:15 PM	PEMS/PEDS/Cu Topics (speaker order TBD)	Mike Sampson NASA/NEPP Sultan Lilani Integra Technologies Mukul Saran Texas Instruments
3:00 PM	BREAK (30 Minutes)	
3:00 PM	PEMS/PEDS/Cu Topics (cont.)	Jeff Jarvis U.S. Army Robert Varner MDA Aaron Pedigo

Choosing Cu over Au – Fusing Current

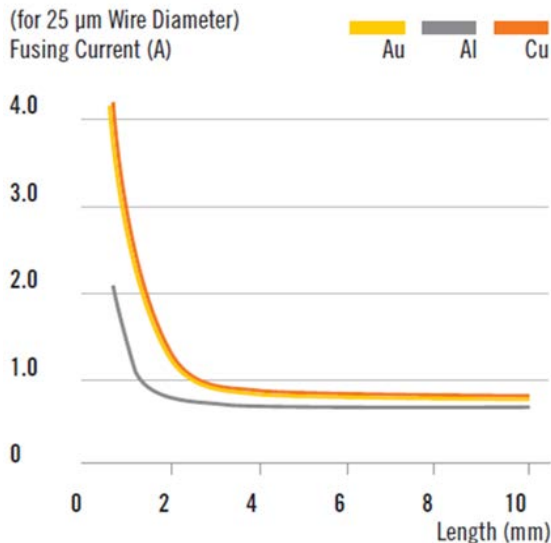
Source: Heraeus bonding-wire brochure

Fusing Current-vs-Wire Diameter



Preece Equation: $I_{fuse} = C * D^{3/2}$
C is a material-dependent constant.

Fusing Current-vs-Wire Length



Short (<3mm) Cu or Au wires can take larger currents before fusing.

Fusing Current –vs- Wire Material

$$I_{Fuse} = \left(\frac{\pi D^2}{4}\right) \cdot \sqrt{\ln\left(\frac{T_{melt}-T_{amb}}{234-T_{amb}}\right) + 1} / t * 33$$

T_{melt} -melting temp of wire in deg C

$T_{ambient}$ -ambient temp in deg C

Time -melting time in seconds

I_{fuse} -fusing current in amps

Area -wire area in circular mils

*Circular Mils = the diameter of the wire in thousandths of an inch (mils) squared. That is, it is the area of a circle 0.001" in diameter. (1 cmil = 0.507E-3 sq mm)

*This equation isn't as valid for non-circular cross sections, or where there isn't free flow of air around the wire.

Source: HM Wire International: ([Fusing_Currents_Melting_Temperature_Copper_Aluminum_Magnet_Wire_R2.011609.pdf](#))

Cu and Au wires are similar in their fusing current capability due to similar melting points.

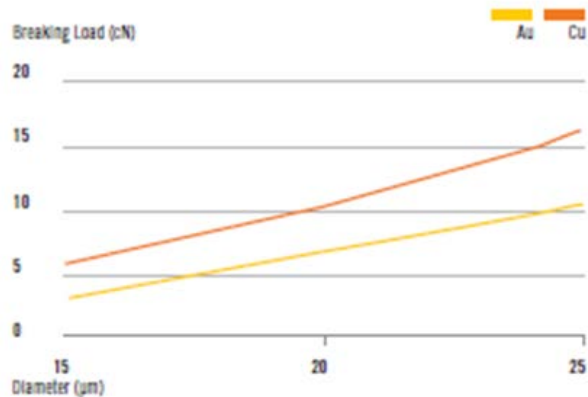
Al fuses at much lower currents for the same wire diameter.

Choosing Cu over Au

Resistivity-vs-Wire Diameter

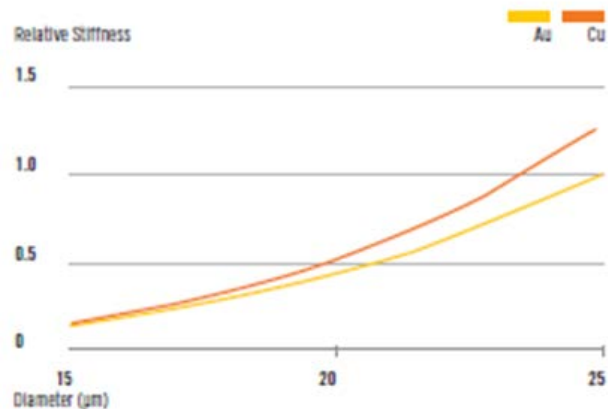
Copper exhibits significantly better conductivity than gold or aluminum. Therefore better heat dissipation and increased power ratings are attainable with thinner wire diameters

Relative Breaking Load-vs-Wire Diameter



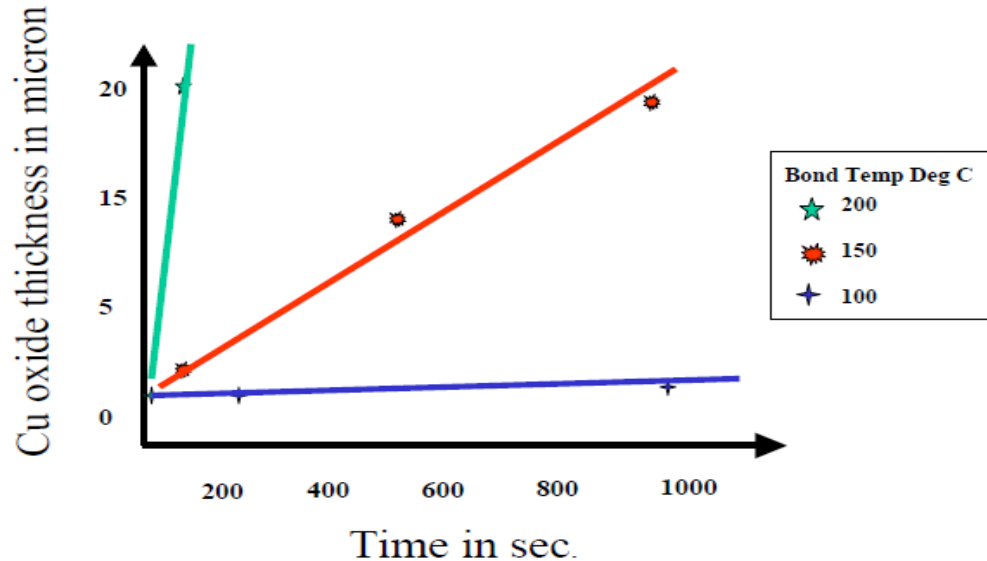
Source: Heraeus bonding-wire brochure

Relative Stiffness-vs-Wire Diameter



Copper possesses higher mechanical properties compared to gold. Therefore it displays excellent ball neck strength and high loop-stability during molding or encapsulation.

Copper Oxidation



Analysis method : FTIR

Sumitomo Metal Mining (SMM) Cu-wire presentation 2007

- EFO temperatures are near the melting point of Cu.
- At high temperatures Cu oxidizes rapidly.
- At very high temperatures, even a short duration in air can oxidize Cu.
- Therefore, Cu requires use of Forming Gas during wirebond.

Al-Splash – Strain Hardening

Wulff et al, Semicon 2005, Singapore, pp1-10

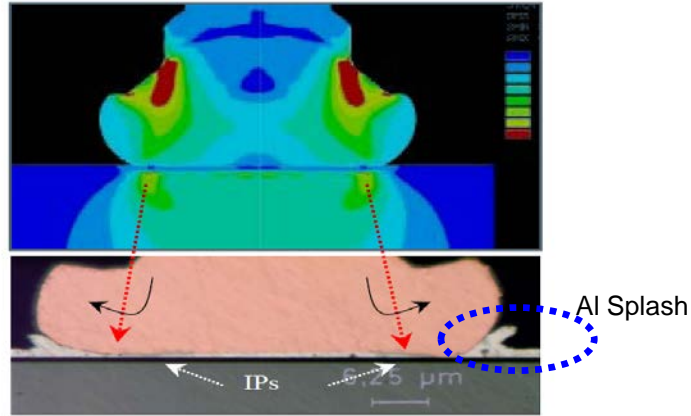


Figure 5. Top image: FEM simulation [20] showing stresses in a bonded ball. Bottom: cross-section of a copper ballbond (4hrs at 250°C) showing deformed Al bondpad and thin Cu-Al phases.

- Bonding causes strain-hardening of the ball due to dislocations
- Edges harden more due to higher strain rates under the capillary. Al-splash occurs from under the edges.

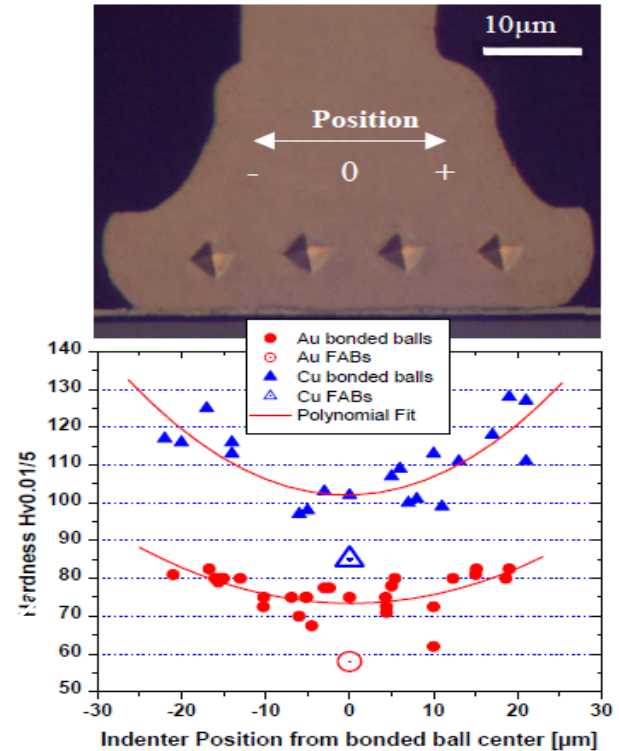
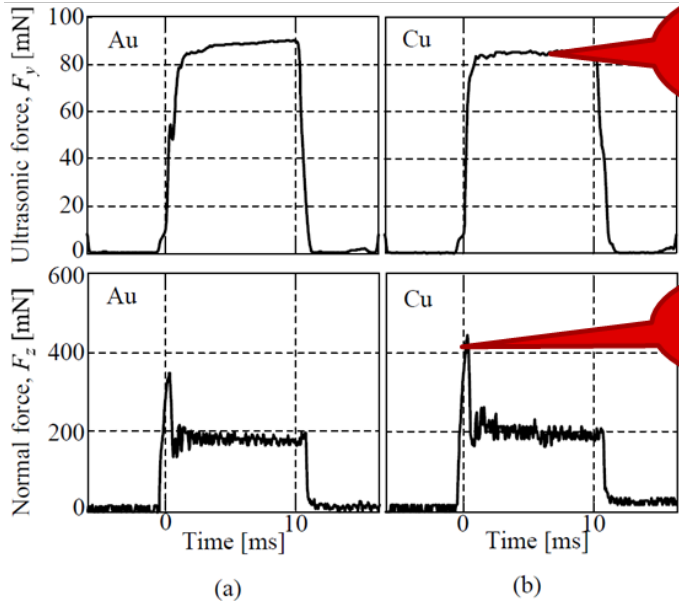


Figure 4. Top: example of a bonded ball with indentations along a centreline across the ball. Bottom: Hardness of Cu and Au ball-bonds as function of position compared with FAB hardness.

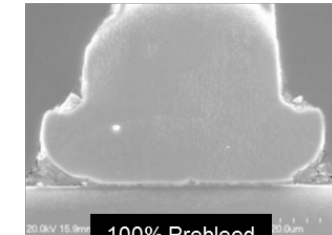
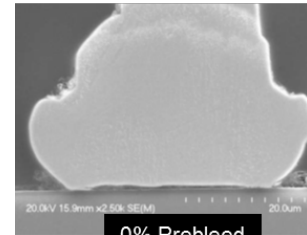
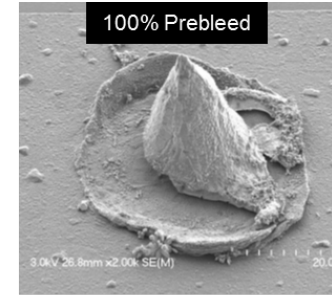
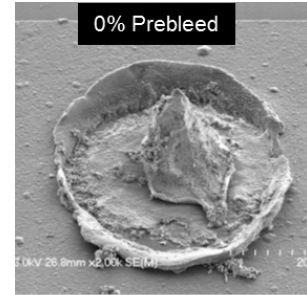
Pad-Damage/Lifted Metal (LFML)

Ref: Qin et al, K&S/Univ of Waterloo, EPTC 2009, pp 573-578



Similar or lower u/s force measured for Cu than for Au

30% Higher Peak Force than Au.



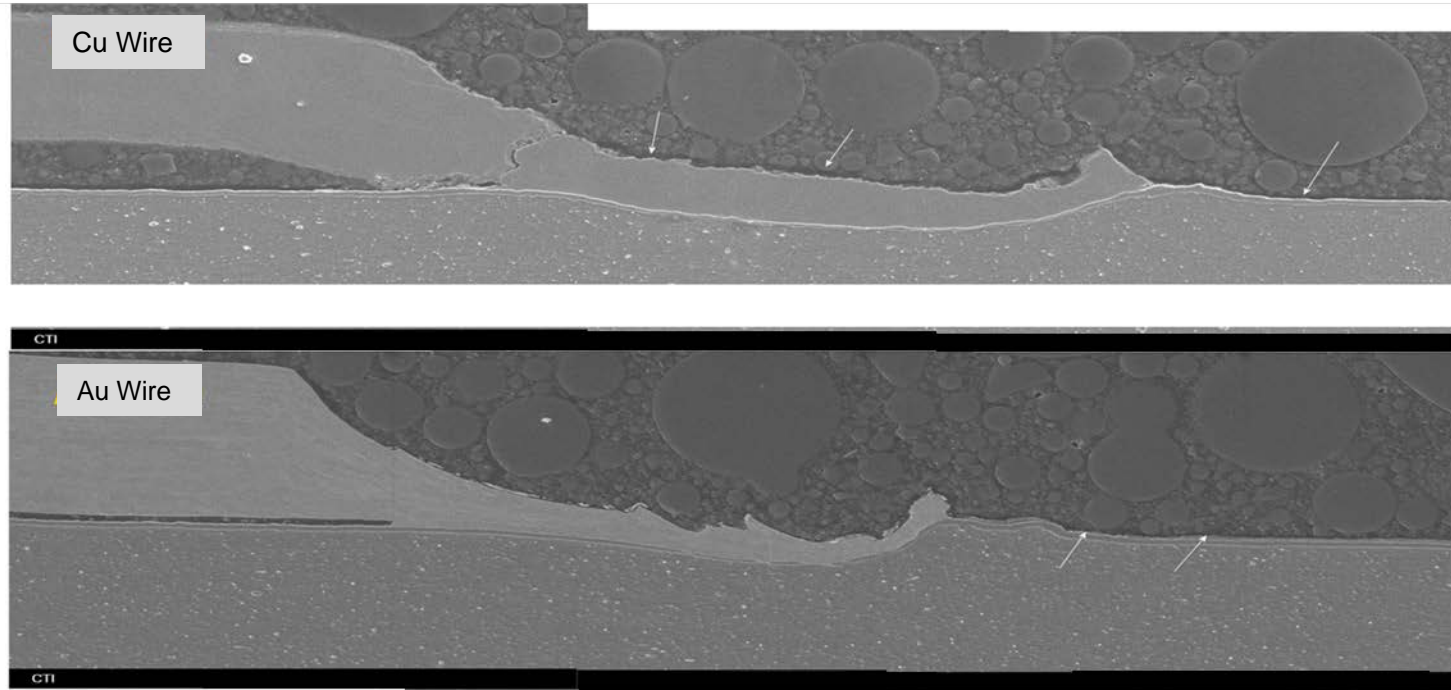
For Cu, U/S force is similar or lower than Au. Also, the Peak normal force during bond is 30% higher, but steady state values are similar.

➤ **Cu-ball does not absorb impact as well as Au**

➤ **Use of pre-bleed* reduces, both, b/pad damage at ball-edges & Al-splash. It also flattens the profile**

* Pre-bleed refers to application of u/s during ball impact on pad.

Temperature Cycling: Mold-Delamination and Stitch-Crack



Cu Wire –vs- Au Wire Stitch After **1000 T/C**; Au Wire Had No Damage. Both have delamination t0 and after 1000 T/C. Arrows indicate mold-compound delamination

Voltage: Bias-Enhanced Corrosion

PRODUCT A			Failed Pin-Cour		
BIAS	PIN_NAME	PIN NO	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3
5.25V	1B	1	Pass		
GND	2B	2	Pass		1
5.25V	3B	3	Pass	1	1
GND	4B	4	Pass		
5.25V	5B	5	Pass	2	3
GND	6B	6	Pass		
5.25V	7B	7	Pass		2
GND	E	8	Pass		
GND	COM	9	Pass		
OPEN	7C	10	Pass		
OPEN	6C	11	Pass		
OPEN	5C	12	Pass		
OPEN	4C	13	Pass		
OPEN	3C	14	Pass		
OPEN	2C	15	Pass		
OPEN	1C	16	Pass		

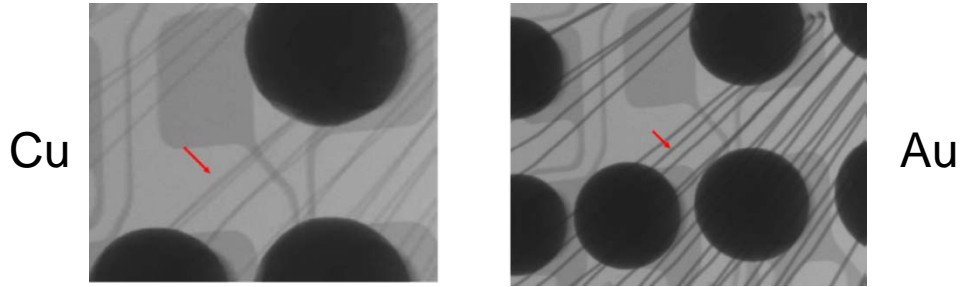
5.25V

PRODUCT B			Failed Pi	
BIAS	PIN_NAME	PIN NO	Run 1	Run 2
OPEN	1OUT	1		
OPEN	2OUT	2		
VCC	VCC	3		
-15V	2IN-	4		
GND	2IN+	5	4	5
-15V	1IN-	6		
GND	1IN+	7	4	7
-15V	3IN-	8		
GND	3IN+	9	2	2
-15V	4IN-	10		
GND	4IN+	11	2	8
GND	GND	12		
OPEN	OUT4	13		
OPEN	OUT3	14		

15V

- Failures concentrated on biased pins.
- Corrosion signatures identified: oxidation of Cu-Al interface, traces of Cl from mold-compd
- Not all products may show this correlation. It is design-dependent.

HiRel-Specific Qualification Considerations - 2



X-ray contrast against a Au control unit can quickly help identify Cu-wire parts.
The X-ray imprint for Cu is weaker than for Au.

- **Mil-standards are currently being reviewed & updated for Cu-wirebonds.**

Ball-Bond Fail Mitigation Examples

Failure Mechanism	Failure Mode	Risk Mitigation
Bond Pad Cracking	Shorts, leakage, open	Smaller wire-diameter, New advanced bonder
	Shorts, leakage, open	Parameter Optimization. Cratering is caused by High USG with low force
	Opens	Use appropriate barrier metal & Al bond-pad-thickness
	Shorts	Align with bond-pad stack-up design rules (slotting)
Dielectric Cracking	Opens, leakage	Parameter optimization. Align with bond-pad stack-up design rules (vias)
	Opens, Leakage	Ensure minimum remaining Al under ball
	Leakage, Shorts	Use appropriate barrier metal & Al bond-pad-thickness
Bond Pad Corrosion	Opens	Use PCC wire, Improve saw process
Metal Peeling	Opens	Parameter optimization. Ensure minimum remaining Al thickness,
	Opens	Low Frequency USG, Segmented bonding

Stitch-Bond Fail Mitigation Examples

Common Stitch Failure Modes	Usual Corrective Actions/Risk Mitigation
NSOP	Optimize bond parameters:
	NSOP caused by Low force/Low ultrasonic power
	NSOP caused by High force/Low ultrasonic power
Broken Stitch	Mitigate delamination - Roughened LF, Ag-Spot (Matte Sn finish)
	Decouple down-bonds (Wings on pad)
Lifted Stich	Improve LF clamping, Optimize parameters for robust stitch flare
Stitch Corrosion	Identify & remove Cl contamination sources