

# Contents

<b>List of Figures .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2 Fundamentals and overview of resistive switching mechanisms ...</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1    Fundamentals of TiO <sub>2</sub> , defects and electrical conduction.....	7
2.1.1    TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	7
2.1.2    Defects and non-stoichiometric TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	8
2.1.3    Basic electrical conduction in MIM structures .....	10
2.2    Resistive switching memories: mechanisms and integration structures .....	11
2.2.1    Mechanisms of resistive switching.....	12
2.2.2    Study of the resistive switching in TiO <sub>2</sub> thin films .....	19
2.2.3    Integration of the resistive switching memory.....	20
<b>Chapter 3 Experimental .....</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1    Fabrication methods .....	23
3.1.1    DC magnetron reactive sputtering .....	23
3.1.2    Atomic layer deposition .....	24
3.1.3    Evaporation .....	26
3.1.4    Microstructuring.....	27
3.2    Characterisation methods.....	29
3.2.1    Conductive atomic force microscopy (CAFM).....	29
<b>Chapter 4 Material characterizations .....</b>	<b>31</b>
4.1    Characterisation of the sputtered TiO <sub>2</sub> thin films .....	31
4.2    Characterisation of the ALD TiO <sub>2</sub> thin films.....	33
<b>Chapter 5 Resistive switching in Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>/Pt structures .....</b>	<b>37</b>
5.1    Electro-forming of Pt/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Pt MIM structures.....	37
5.1.1    Electro-forming theory.....	37
5.1.2    Current-controlled electro-forming of Pt/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Pt .....	39
5.2    Switching behaviour and structure change.....	40
5.2.1    Unipolar and bipolar resistive switching .....	40
5.2.2    Structural change .....	44
5.3    CAFM study on Pt/TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	47
5.3.1    Forming procedure studied with CAFM .....	48
5.3.2    Resistive switching with CAFM .....	50
<b>Chapter 6 Resistive switching in TiO<sub>2</sub> with Cu or Ag electrodes .....</b>	<b>55</b>

6.1	Electro-forming.....	55
6.2	Resistive switching of Cu/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Pt structures .....	61
6.2.1	Typical bipolar resistive switching .....	61
6.2.2	Compliance current-dependent resistive switching.....	62
6.2.3	Negative voltage dependence of resistive switching .....	66
6.2.4	Delay time dependence .....	68
6.2.5	Scalability .....	69
6.2.6	Endurance and retention of HRS and LRS .....	70
6.3	Temperature-dependence of resistance states .....	71
6.3.1	Initial state .....	76
6.3.2	OFF state .....	80
6.3.3	Three ON states.....	84
6.3.4	Discussion .....	93
6.4	Resistive switching in Ag/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Pt structures .....	95
6.5	Conductive AFM study of resistive switching in a Cu/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Pt cell .....	98
6.5.1	CAFM on pristine ALD TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	98
6.5.2	CAFM on TiO <sub>2</sub> after removing Cu electrode.....	100
6.5.3	Characterization of a single conductive spot .....	102
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Summary and outlook .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>		<b>111</b>