# The CMOS Process

- Planar CMOS process is used up to the 28 nm technology node.
- For later technology nodes, 3D CMOS MOSFETs (FinFETs) are used.
- Planar CMOS processes are still extensively used for analog and mixed-signal ICs.

Classification of planar CMOS processes: example



# Simplified designer's view of a CMOS Process



- We are considering a simple n-well (twin-Tub) 1P2M process
- The starting substrate is p-type: all p-wells are shorted together since there are no insulation junctions with the substrate.
- N-wells are insulated from the substrate if the latter is biased at the lowest voltage in the circuit.
- A very lightly doped epitaxial layer is often present on top of a strongly doped wafer. P-wells are necessary to obtain the optimal doping for n-MOSFETS.

#### The active areas



Polysilicon and gate oxide



- The gate (thin) oxide is grown on **all** active areas.
- After that, it is covered by the polysilicon layer
- When the poly is patterned, the gate oxide remains only where polysilicon remains, forming the gate.
- Only one layer (poly) is required to control the final result of this step.



BEOL (Back End Of the Line) - Contacts

- All devices created in the FEOL are covered by an insulating layer and holes are opened only where we want to contact them. These opening are the **CONTACTS**
- Contacts can reach active areas (p+ or n+ doped portions of the substrate) or polysilicon (over the FOX).
- Direct contact of polysilicon over the gates is not allowed









### The Triple Well



#### Triple Well: Multiple PWells and NWells at independent voltages



#### Bipolar processes

Technology	Available Devices	Notes
Bipolar	Vertical NPN, Lateral PNP	Used for precision and/or fast amplifier. <b>Si-Ge</b> versions for RE applications
Complementary Bipolar	Vertical NPN, Vertical PNP	<u>or oc</u> versions for fer appreadons
BiFet	BJTs and JFETs	Used for precision / low bias current amplifiers

## BiCMOS, BCD, SOI

Technology	Available Devices	Notes
BiCMOS	CMOS + BJTs	Mixed Signal ICs High speed digital line drivers
BCD	Bipolar, CMOS, DMOS	Smart Power
SOI Silicon on Insulator.	As CMOS, BiCMOS or BCD	High Voltage and Rad Hard (e.g. space applications)

Resistances in planar ICs



#### Vertical and lateral capacitances



#### Lateral and Junction Capacitances

