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(54) **SYSTEM, APPARATUS AND METHOD OF SELECTIVE LASER REPAIR FOR METAL BUMPS OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE STACK**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Exemplary embodiments of the selective laser repair apparatus and method may allow the repair of metal bumps in a semiconductor device stack by applying a laser beam to a damaged and/or defective bump. Metal bumps may be repaired and individual chips and/or packages forming a device stack need not be separated. The operation of a control unit and a driving unit may position a laser unit such that a laser beam may be irradiated at the damaged and/or defective metal bump. An X-ray inspection unit may obtain information about the damaged and/or defective metal bump.

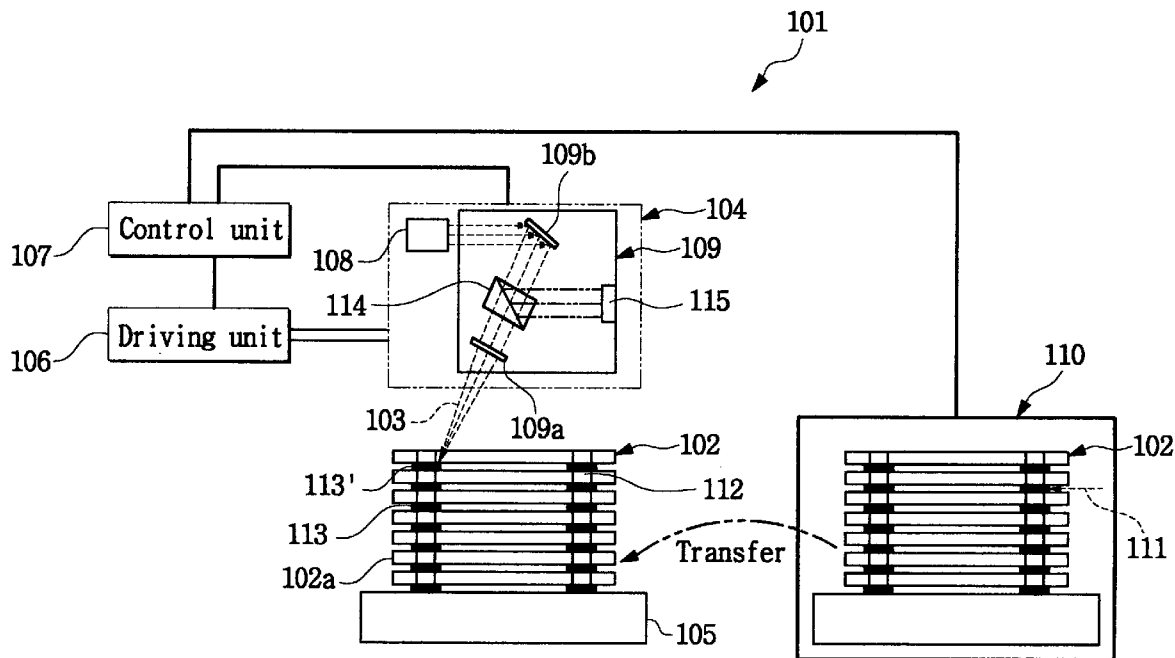


FIG. 1

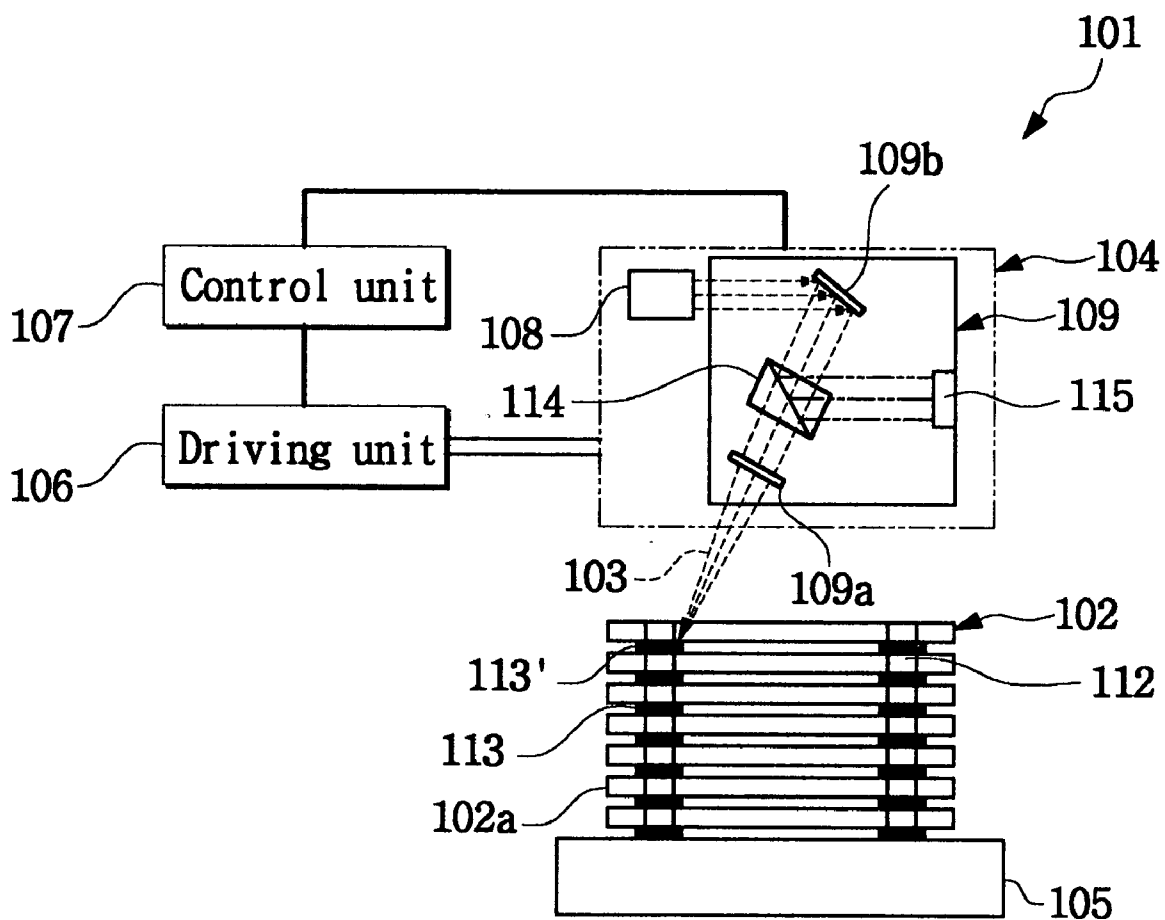


FIG. 2

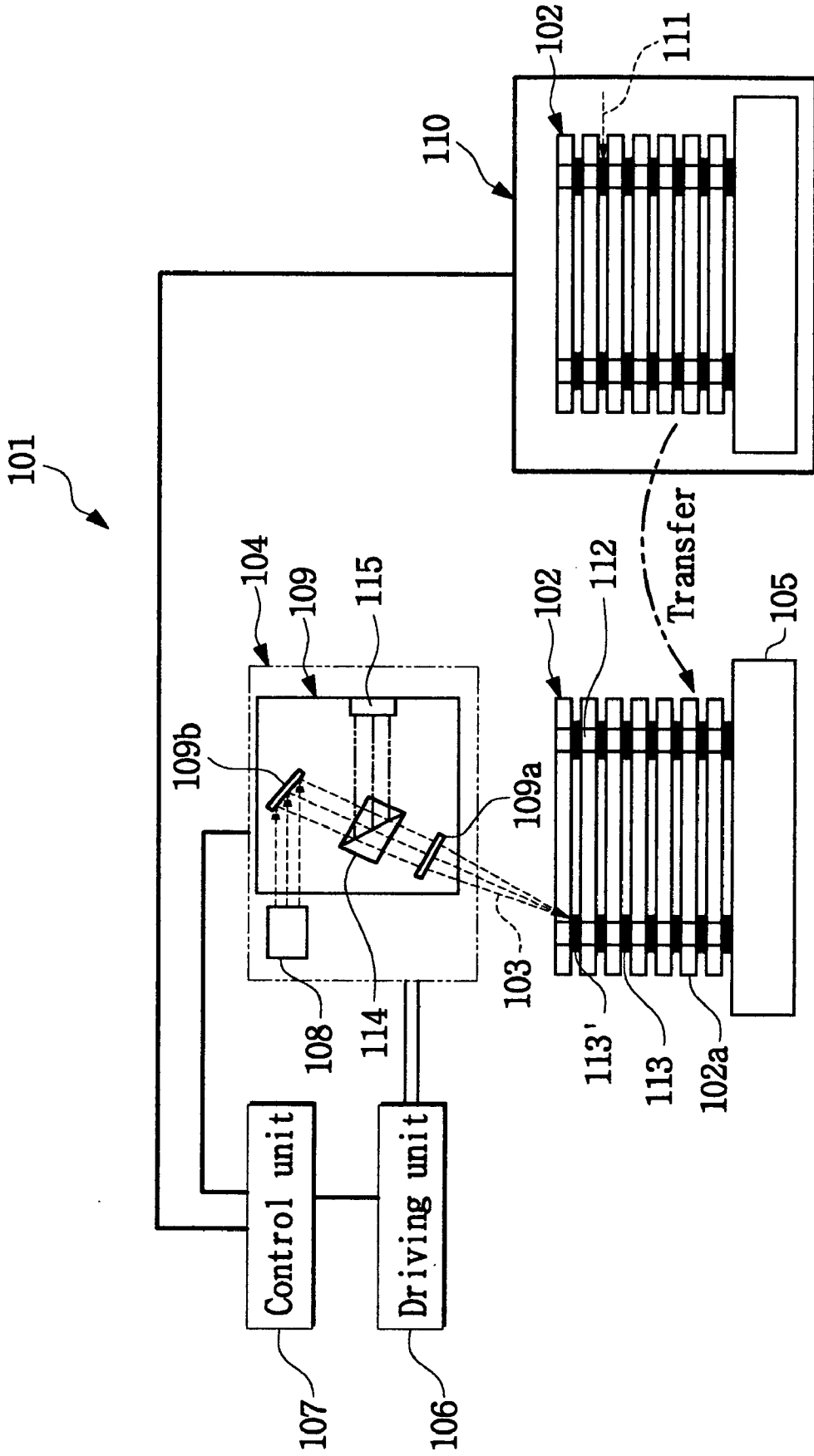
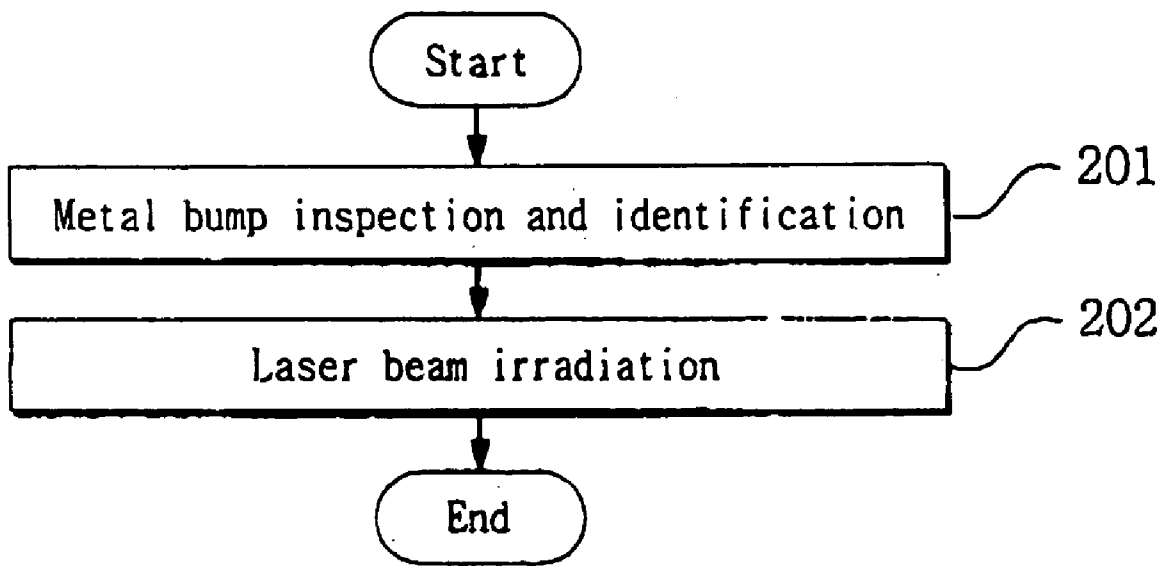


FIG. 3



**SYSTEM, APPARATUS AND METHOD OF  
SELECTIVE LASER REPAIR FOR METAL BUMPS  
OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE STACK**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED  
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This U.S. non-provisional application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Korean Patent Application No. 2004-34166 filed May 14, 2004, the contents of which are incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] Exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to a system, apparatus and method for repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump in a semiconductor device stack.

[0004] 2. Description of the Conventional Art

[0005] Semiconductor devices employed in various electronic devices may be driven by, for example, demands for increased functionality, increased capacity, and/or smaller form factor. Three-dimensional stack technology may satisfy these demands. A three-dimensional device stack may include individual chips and/or packages which may be stacked in layers and may use, for example, a metal bump bonding technique.

[0006] Metal bumps may be electrical connections within the device stack and/or between the stack and a board. The metal bumps may require, for example, a flux coating layer which may reduce oxidation of the surface. The flux layer on the metal bumps may be often damaged and/or defective by heat and/or pressure during fabrication of the device stack. An oxide layer on the metal bumps, which may result in one or more damaged and/or defective electrical connections. The metal bumps may also be damaged and/or defective by, for example, thermal-induced stress.

[0007] Damaged and/or defective metal bumps may be repaired and/or changed. In a conventional method heat may be applied to the stack such that the individual chips and/or packages may be separated from each other. Damaged and/or defective bumps may be repaired and/or changed, and a new device stack may be created. This conventional method may create problems such as device failure which may result from heat applied to the device, and/or the existence of non-removed residue of the damaged and/or defective bump. The wafer level chip stack packages may be simultaneously fabricated at the wafer level and a particular chip stack package may be difficult to repair after stacking.

[0008] A conventional device stack which may include damaged and/or defective bumps may be rejected without being repaired and/or changed. This may result in a lower yield and/or a higher cost of fabrication of final products.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0009] Exemplary embodiments of the present invention may provide a system, apparatus and a method for selectively repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump of a semiconductor device stack which may include a plurality

of individual chips and/or packages connected by metal bumps, without separating the individual chips or packages in the device stack.

[0010] In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus may comprise a stage unit, on which the semiconductor device stack may be loaded and/or temporarily fixed to, a laser unit which may generate a laser beam and may selectively irradiating the laser beam at a damaged and/or defective metal bump in the semiconductor device stack, a driving unit which may be connected to the laser unit and may supply a force to the laser unit, and a control unit which may be connected to the laser unit and the driving unit and may control the laser unit and the driving unit according to a programmed procedure. The laser unit may be positioned such that the laser beam may be focused and irradiated at the damaged and/or defective metal bump.

[0011] In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the system may comprise an x-ray inspection unit, which may inspect the semiconductor device stack, a stage unit, on which the semiconductor device stack may be loaded and/or temporarily fixed to, a laser unit which may generate a laser beam and may selectively irradiating the laser beam at a damaged and/or defective metal bump in the semiconductor device stack, a driving unit which may be connected to the laser unit and may supply a force to the laser unit, and a control unit which may be connected to the laser unit and the driving unit and may control the laser unit and the driving unit according to a programmed procedure. The laser unit may be positioned such that the laser beam may be focused and irradiated at the damaged and/or defective metal bump.

[0012] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the laser unit may include a laser beam source which may generate the laser beam, and an optical system which may control a path of the laser beam and may convert the laser beam into the focused beam.

[0013] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the optical system may include at least one mirror which may reflect the laser beam and may control the path of the laser beam.

[0014] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the optical system may include at least one condensing lens which may convert the laser beam into the focused beam and may reduce a spot diameter of the focused beam. The optical system may also include a wavemeter which may receive the laser beam, measure the wavelength, and determine the depth of a focus (DOF) of the laser beam. The spot diameter of the focused beam may be in the range of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

[0015] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the x-ray inspection unit may be adapted to apply x-rays to the semiconductor device stack, detect the angle of diffraction of the x-rays, determine information about the damaged and/or defective metal bump, and send the information to the control unit.

[0016] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the driving unit may be mechanically connected to the laser unit, and/or the control unit may be electrically connected to the laser unit and the driving unit.

[0017] In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the method may comprise loading a semiconduc-

tor device stack on a stage unit, generating a laser beam, selectively irradiating the laser beam at a metal bump in the semiconductor device stack when the laser beam may be focused on the metal bump, supplying a force to a laser unit, and controlling the laser unit and a driving unit according to a programmed procedure.

[0018] In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the method may comprise inspecting a semiconductor device stack, loading the semiconductor device stack on a stage unit, generating a laser beam, selectively irradiating the laser beam at a metal bump in the semiconductor device stack when the laser beam may be focused on the metal bump, supplying a force to a laser unit, and controlling the laser unit and a driving unit according to a programmed procedure.

[0019] In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the method may comprise inspecting the device stack, identifying a damaged and/or defective metal bump, and repairing the damaged and/or defective metal bump by selectively irradiating a laser beam at the damaged and/or defective metal bump.

[0020] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the inspecting of the device stack may include applying X-rays to the device stack, detecting the diffraction angle of the X-rays, and obtaining information in connection with the damaged and/or defective metal bump.

[0021] In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the laser beam may be a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) laser beam or a neodymium: yttrium aluminum garnet (Nd: YAG) laser beam, may have near-infrared wavelengths (for example, in the range of 0.7 μm to 1.2 μm), and may have a power in the range of 20 W to 70 W.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] It should be noted that these Figures are intended to illustrate the general characteristics of methods and devices of exemplary embodiments of this invention, for the purpose of the description of such exemplary embodiments herein. These drawings are not, however, to scale and may not precisely reflect the characteristics of any given embodiment, and should not be interpreted as defining or limiting the range of values or properties of exemplary embodiments

[0023] FIG. 1 is a schematic view showing an exemplary embodiment of an apparatus for selectively repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump in a semiconductor device stack.

[0024] FIG. 2 is a schematic view showing an exemplary embodiment of a selective laser repair system which may include an X-ray inspection unit.

[0025] FIG. 3 is a flow chart showing an exemplary embodiment of a method for selectively repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump of a semiconductor device stack.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0026] FIG. 1 is a schematic view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of an apparatus for selectively repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump in a semiconductor device stack.

[0027] Referring to FIG. 1, the selective repair apparatus 101 may include a stage unit 105, a laser unit 104, a driving unit 106, and a control unit 107. A semiconductor device stack 102 may be loaded on and/or temporarily fixed to the stage unit 105. Loading and/or temporarily fixing of the device stack 102 may be well known in the conventional art and therefore a detailed description of the same may be omitted.

[0028] The device stack 102 may include a plurality of semiconductor chips 102a arranged in a stack. Each chip 102a may include internal conductive via 112. A plurality of metal bumps 113 may be interposed between adjacent lower and upper chips 102, and may provide mechanical and/or electrical connections between the via 112 of the adjacent chips 102a. The metal bumps 113 may include a damaged and/or defective bump 113'. The device stack 102 may be mounted on a board and may be encapsulated with a suitable material.

[0029] The laser unit 104 may selectively irradiate a laser beam 103 at the damaged and/or defective bump 113' of the device stack 102. The laser unit 104 may include a laser beam source 108 and an optical system 109.

[0030] The laser beam source 108 may generate the laser beam 103 (for example, a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) laser beam, a neodymium yttrium aluminum garnet (Nd: YAG) laser beam, or the like). The laser beam source 108 may include a collimator lens (not shown) which may allow the laser beam 103 to be parallel.

[0031] The optical system 109 may control a path of and/or convert the laser beam 103 into a focused beam. The optical system 109 may include a mirror 109b, a beam splitter 114, and a condensing lens 109a. The mirror 109b may reflect the incident laser beam and may control the path of the laser beam 103. The beam splitter 114 may transmit at least a portion of the laser beam 103 and may reflect another portion (for example, the remaining portion) of the laser beam 103. The condensing lens 109a may convert the laser beam 103, which may pass through the beam splitter 114, to a focused beam 103, and may reduce a spot diameter of the focused beam 103. The spot diameter of the focused beam 103 may vary from 20 μm to 150 μm.

[0032] The condensing lens 109a may move along the path of the laser beam 103 and may alter the focal distance of the laser beam 103.

[0033] The optical system 109 may include a wavemeter 115 which may determine the depth of focus (DOF) of the laser beam 103. The wavemeter 115 may receive a laser beam, reflected by beam splitter 114, and may measure the wavelength of the reflected laser beam.

[0034] The DOF of the laser beam 103 may be obtained from a formula,  $DOF = \lambda / (NA)^2$ , where  $\lambda$  may represent the wavelength of the laser beam, and NA may represent the numerical aperture. The number of apertures of the condensing lens 109a may be determined and the DOF of the laser beam 103 may be calculated by inserting the measured wavelength of the laser beam into the formula  $DOF = \lambda / (NA)^2$ .

[0035] The driving unit 106 may be connected (for example, mechanically) to the laser unit 104 and may supply a force to the laser unit 104 and/or internal elements such as

the mirror **109b**, the beam splitter **114**, and/or the condensing lens **109a**. The driving unit **106** may position the laser unit **104** such that the laser beam **103** may be irradiated, and the focus of the laser beam **103** directed, at a target, for example, a damaged and/or defective bump **113'**.

[0036] The control unit **107** may be connected (for example, electrically connected) to the driving unit **106** and/or the laser unit **104** and may control one or both to perform a programmed procedure. The operation of the control unit **107** may cause the driving unit **106** to position the laser unit **104** such that the laser beam **103** may irradiate at the damaged and/or defective bump **113'**. The control unit **107** may cause the driving unit **106** to adjust the focus of the laser beam **103** using the internal elements, for example, the mirror **109b**, the beam splitter **114**, and/or the condensing lens **109a**. The control unit **107** may regulate the wavelength and/or power of the laser unit **104**. The control unit **107** may cause the driving unit **106** to rotate the mirror **109b**, such that an angle of reflection of the laser beam **103** may be altered, which may result in a modification of the path of the laser beam **103**. The control unit **107** may cause the driving unit **106** to move the condensing lens **109a** along the path of the laser beam **103**, such that the spot diameter of the focused beam **103** may vary from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

[0037] The control unit **107** may be connected (for example, electrically connected) to an X-ray inspection unit. FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the selective laser repair apparatus **101** which may include the X-ray inspection unit **110**.

[0038] Referring to FIG. 2, the X-ray inspection unit **110** may transmit information about the location of the damaged and/or defective bumps **113'** to the control unit **107** and may establish process conditions and/or procedure.

[0039] The X-ray inspection unit **110** may apply X-rays **111** to the device stack **102** and may detect the angle of diffraction of the X-rays. The diffraction angle of the X-rays **111** may indicate the internal structures and/or characteristics of the device stack **102**. Detection of the angle of the diffracted X-rays may provide information for the repairing the damaged and/or defective and/or defective bumps **113'**.

[0040] The X-ray inspection unit **110** may include a generator (not shown) which may produce the X-rays **111**, a goniometer (not shown) which may regulate an incident angle of the X-rays **111**, and a detector (not shown) which may detect the diffracted X-rays. The generator, goniometer, and detector are well known in the art, and thus a detailed discussion may be omitted.

[0041] FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a method for selectively repairing a damaged and/or defective metal bump of a semiconductor device stack. Referring to FIG. 3, an exemplary embodiment of the selective laser repair method may be composed of steps **201** and **202**. The device stack may inspected using the X-rays **111** and the damaged and/or defective metal bump **113** may be identified at **201**. The damaged and/or defective bump **113'** may be repaired **202** by selectively irradiating the laser beam **103**.

[0042] The X-ray inspection unit **110** may apply X-rays **111** to the device stack **102**. The X-rays **111** may be diffracted, depending upon the internal structures of the device stack **102**. The diffracted X-rays may arrive at the

detector of the X-ray inspection unit **110**. The detector may detect the diffraction angle of the X-rays and may obtain information, such as locations, in connection with the damaged and/or defective bumps **113'**.

[0043] The information, (for example, location information) may be transmitted to the control unit **107**. The information may be transmitted through a direct line between the detector and the control unit **107** or may be displayed for human operator's review through the X-ray inspection unit **110**, and the human operator may provide the information to the control unit **107**.

[0044] In accordance with the information regarding the damaged and/or defective bumps **113'**, the control unit **107** may establish conditions, such as the wavelength, the power, the path, and/or the spot diameter of the laser beam **103**, and/or processes and/or procedures, such as a course of the laser unit **104**. The device stack **102** may be transferred to the stage unit **105** of the repairing apparatus **101** from the X-ray inspection unit **110**.

[0045] The operation of the control unit **107** may cause the driving unit **106** to move the laser unit **104** to a position for irradiating the laser beam **103** at the damaged and/or defective bumps **113'**. The laser beam source **108** may generate the laser beam **103**, which may be irradiated at the damaged and/or defective bump **113'** and may be controlled by the optical system **109**.

[0046] The damaged and/or defective bump **113'** may be melted and/or re-bonded to the conductive via **112** of the chip **102'**. More specifically, the focus of the laser beam **103** may be placed on the damaged and/or defective bump **113'**, such that the laser beam **103** may penetrate the chip **102'** and/or increase the temperature of the damaged and/or defective bump **113'**. The oxide layer on the surface of the damaged and/or defective bump **113'** may rapidly dissolve into the damaged and/or defective bump **113'** and may be removed from the surface.

[0047] To reduce the probability of re-oxidation of the surface of the metal bumps **113**, exemplary embodiments of the present invention may be performed in an atmosphere of inert gas such as argon, nitrogen gas, or the like. The laser beam **103** may have near-infrared wavelengths, for example, in the range of 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , allowing penetration into the chip **102a**. The laser beam **103** may have a power in the range of 20W to 70W.

[0048] After repairing the damaged and/or defective bump **113'**, the laser unit **104** may move along a course (for example, a programmed course) and may repair another damaged and/or defective bump **113'**.

[0049] As discussed above, exemplary embodiments of the selective laser repair system, apparatus and method may allow local repairs of the metal bumps by applying the laser beam to a damaged and/or defective bump. Thus, individual chips and/or packages which may form the device stack need not be separated.

[0050] Exemplary embodiments of the laser repairing apparatus and method may be useful at the wafer level chip stack package. Exemplary embodiments of the present invention may improve the yield of the semiconductor device stack, and/or reduce the cost of fabrication.

[0051] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described as including a device stack **102** it will be understood that any other suitable type and/or number of stacked chips and/or stacked packages, may be employed, as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0052] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described including an optical system **109** which may include a single mirror **109b** and a single lens **109a**, it will be understood that two or more mirrors and/or two or more lenses may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0053] Although exemplary embodiments of the laser beam have been discussed with regard to a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) laser beam, and a neodymium yttrium aluminum garnet (Nd: YAG) laser beam, it will be apparent that any suitable laser may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0054] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been discussed as having a spot diameter of the focused beam **103** which may vary from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , it will be apparent that any suitable spot diameter (either within or outside of the range of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ ) may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0055] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described including the control unit **107** which may utilize the information regarding the damaged and/or defective bumps **113**, and may establish conditions, such as the wavelength, the power, the path, and/or the spot diameter of the laser beam **103**, and/or processes and/or procedures, such as a course of the laser unit **104**, it will be apparent that any conditions, processes, and/or procedures, for configuring a laser beam may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0056] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention may be performed in an atmosphere of inert gas such as argon, nitrogen gas, it will be apparent that the exemplary embodiments of the present invention may be performed in any atmosphere as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0057] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described as including a laser beam, it will be understood that any other suitable focused source or focused heat source may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0058] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention may fix damaged and/or defective metal bumps, it will be understood that exemplary embodiments of the present invention may fix damaged and/or defective solder balls, bonding wires, electrode pads, etc., and/or any other irregularity, defect, and/or damage to components within a device stack.

[0059] Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described as utilizing x-rays in the x-ray unit, it will be understood that any other suitable detector, which may include one or more suitable wavelengths of light, may be utilized as desired by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0060] While this invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to some exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the

art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for selectively repairing metal bumps of a semiconductor device stack having a plurality of chips or packages connected by the metal bumps, the apparatus comprising:

a stage unit, on which the semiconductor device stack is loaded;

a laser unit adapted to generate a laser beam and selectively irradiate the laser beam at a metal bump of the semiconductor device stack;

a driving unit connected to the laser unit and adapted to supply a force to the laser unit; and

a control unit connected to the laser unit and the driving unit and adapted to control the laser unit and the driving unit,

wherein the laser unit is located at a position suitable for irradiating the laser beam at a metal bump, and wherein the laser beam is irradiated at the metal bump while the laser beam is focused on the metal bump.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the laser unit includes a laser beam source adapted to generate the laser beam and an optical system adapted to control a path of the laser beam and convert the laser beam into a focused beam.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the optical system includes at least one mirror reflecting the laser beam and regulating the path of the laser beam.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the optical system includes at least one condensing lens converting the laser beam into the focused beam and reducing a spot diameter of the focused beam.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the optical system includes a wavemeter receiving the laser beam and measuring the wavelength of the laser beam to determine the depth of a focus of the laser beam.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the spot diameter of the focused beam is in the range of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an X-ray inspection unit connected to the control unit and adapted to send information about the metal bumps to the control unit.

8. A method for selectively repairing metal bumps of a semiconductor device stack having a plurality of chips or packages connected by the metal bumps, the method comprising:

inspecting the semiconductor device stack;

identifying a damaged metal bump; and

repairing the damaged metal bump by selectively irradiating a laser beam at the damaged metal bump.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the inspecting of the semiconductor device stack includes,

applying X-rays to the device stack, and

detecting the diffraction angle of the X-rays;



obtaining information in connection with the damaged metal bump.

**10.** The method of claim 8, wherein the laser beam is a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) laser beam or a neodymium: yttrium aluminum garnet (Nd: YAG) laser beam.

**11.** The method of claim 8, wherein the laser beam has near-infrared wavelengths.

**12.** The method of claim 8, wherein the laser beam has a power in the range of 20 W to 70 W.

**13.** The method of claim 11, wherein the wavelength of the laser beam is in the range of 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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