Special Issue

Flash Memory Devices

Message from the Guest Editors

Flash memory devices represented a breakthrough in storage since their inception in the mid ‘80s, and innovation is still ongoing after more than 35 years. The peculiarity of such technology is an inherent flexibility in terms of performance and integration density according to the architecture devised for cells integration. The NOR Flash technology is still the workhorse of many code storage applications in the embedded world, ranging from microcontrollers for automotive environment to IoT smart devices. Their usage is also forecasted to be fundamental in emerging AI edge scenario. Their density ranges from a few Kbytes up to the Gigabit size. On the contrary, when massive data storage is required, NAND Flash memories are necessary to have in a system. You can find NAND Flash in USB, Flash Cards (SD, eMMC), but most of all in Solid-State Drives (SSDs). Since SSDs are extremely demanding in terms of storage capacity, they fueled a new wave of innovation for Flash memories, namely the 3D architecture.

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