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# Enlarged memory margins for resistive switching devices based on polyurethane film due to embedded Ag nanoparticles

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**ABSTRACT:** Current-voltage (*I-V*) properties of indium-tin-oxide/Ag nanoparticles embedded in polyurethane film/Al devices exhibited a current bistability with ON/OFF ratio within the range of  $10^5 \sim 10^3$  with the variation of voltage from -0.85 to 3.95 V, which was nearly  $10^2$  larger than that for the device without Ag nanoparticles. The memory margin was obviously enlarged due to the existence of the Ag nanoparticles embedded in the polyurethane layer. *I-V* properties and write-read-erase-read voltage cycles test indicated the flash resistive switching properties. The data retention time reach up to  $1.8 \times 10^4$  s, which manifested the stability of the memory devices. *I-V* property at ON state was attributed to the drift mechanism, and the property at OFF state was related to the space-charge-limited-current behaviors.

**KEYWORDS:** polyurethane, Ag nanoparticles, resistive switching, flash

## 1. Introduction

Nonvolatile memory devices fabricated used hybrid inorganic/organic composites containing inorganic nanoparticles are currently attracting a great deal of interest on account of their potential applications in nonvolatile memory devices because of their excellent advantages of low-power consumption, high-density storage, favourable-mechanical flexibility, low cost, and simple fabrication [1-4]. Especially there have been significant efforts centered on developing flash resistive switching memory [5-6], which could surmount and surpass the advantages of hard-disk drives. To this day, different kinds of active materials, like small molecules, polymers, and hybrid organic/inorganic nanocomposites, have been widely studied in electrically bistable devices [7-13]. In the kind of memory devices based on organic/inorganic nanocomposites, the electrical bistability is mainly due to the inorganic nanoparticles[14-15]. One of high-profile composites was the polymer-metal nanoparticle system [16-18], which electrical bistability was detected. Such polymer-metal nanoparticle system have draw attention and have been widely applied in a great many fields, owing to their electrical properties could be tailored by changing the compositions. Ouyang et al. [19] researched the resistive switching characteristics by using Au nanoparticles

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