

Supporting Information

for *Adv. Sci.*, DOI 10.1002/adv.202201806

Controlling the Formation of Conductive Pathways in Memristive Devices

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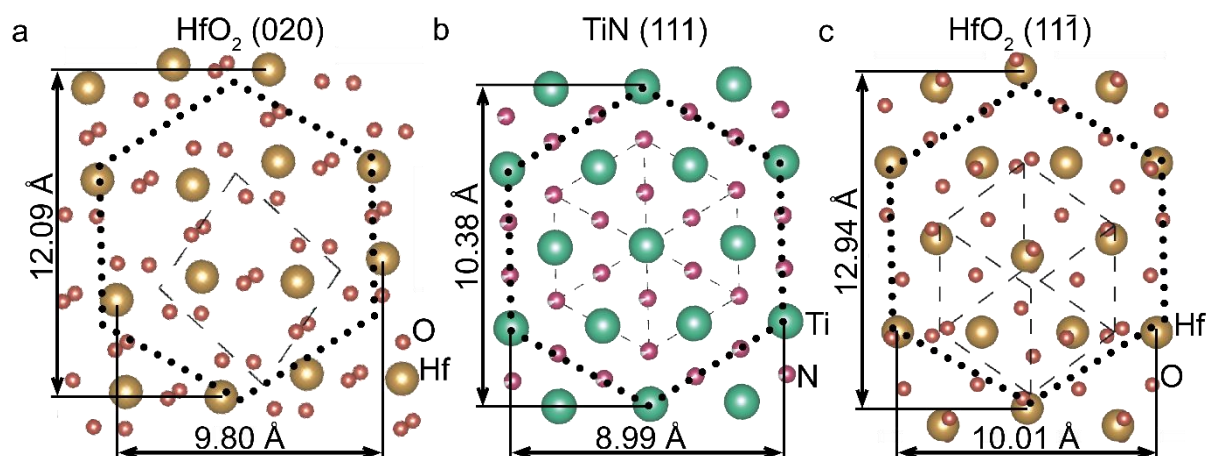


Figure S1. a)-c) To visualize the texture transfer for HfO₂ films grown on TiN, crystal structures of one atomic plane are shown along growth directions for (020), a) and (11 $\bar{1}$), c) HfO₂ and (111) TiN, b). The common structure (dotted lines) highlights that the lattice mismatch is smallest between (020) textured HfO₂ and (111) TiN. Unit cells are represented by hatched lines. The structures for TiN and HfO₂ are taken from Christensen & An¹ and Ruh & Corfield², respectively and are visualized with VESTA³.

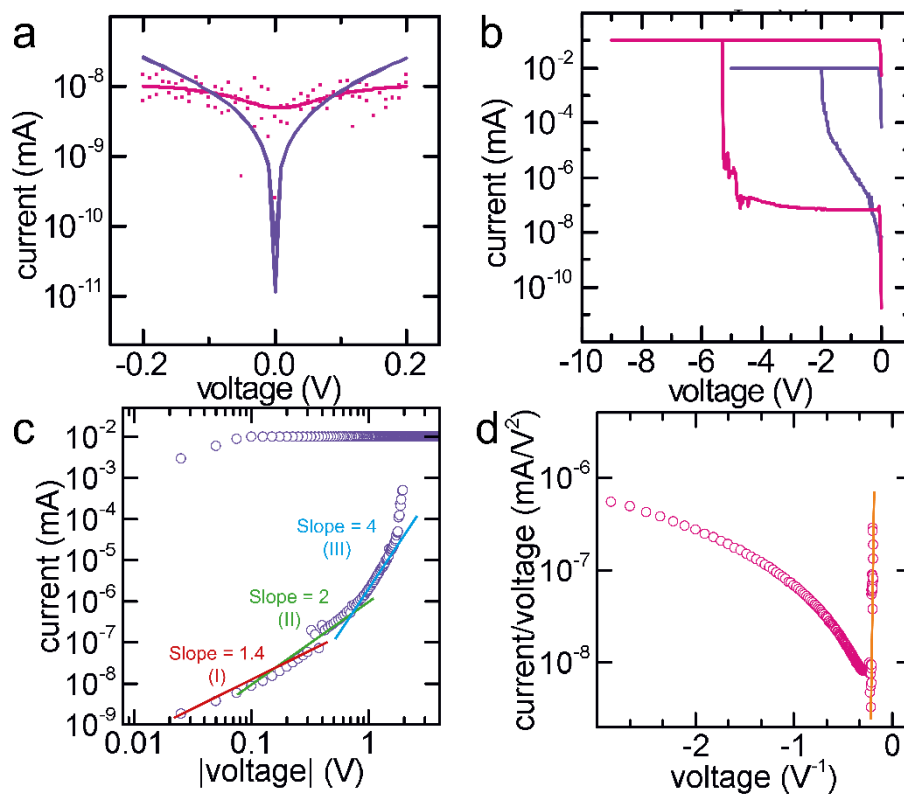


Figure S2. a) Leakage currents of 30x30 μm² TiN/HfO₂/Pt/Au devices are lower for (111), (purple) textured HfO₂ compared to a device with (020) HfO₂, (pink). Experimental data of the leakage current for the device with (020) HfO₂ were fitted by a Lorentzian function. b) The required forming voltage is greatly reduced for a device with (111) HfO₂ (purple). (c) The initial forming process for the device with (111) hafnia is refined to a space-charge-limited conduction (SCLC) mechanism with a trap-filled limit voltage around 1 V. (d) For the device with (020) textured hafnia the conduction mechanism is consistent with Fowler-Nordheim tunneling ($\ln I/V^2 \sim 1/V$).

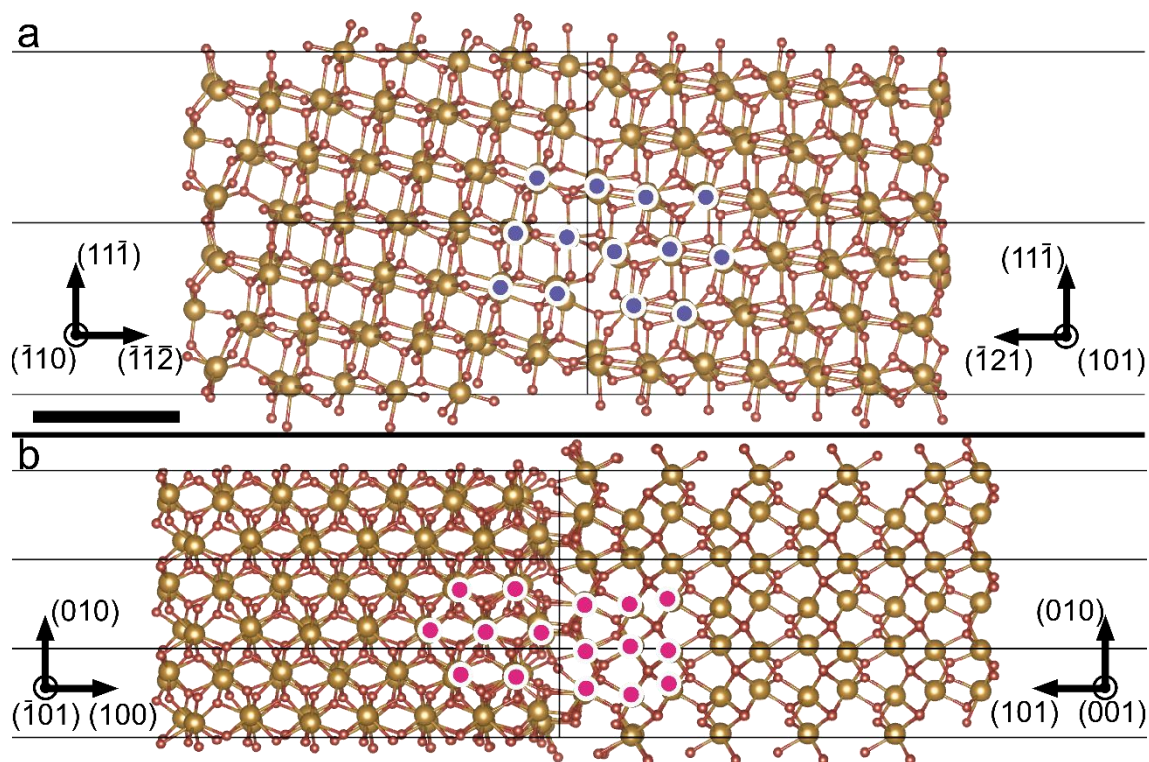


Figure S3. DFT relaxed atomic structures were retrieved from the HAADF-STEM images of grain boundaries (Fig. 2) for a) (111) and b) (020) textured HfO₂. The same periodically occurring structural units are marked in purple and pink. Scale bar is 1 nm. The DFT structures are based on a model from Ruh & Corfield² and are visualized with VESTA³.

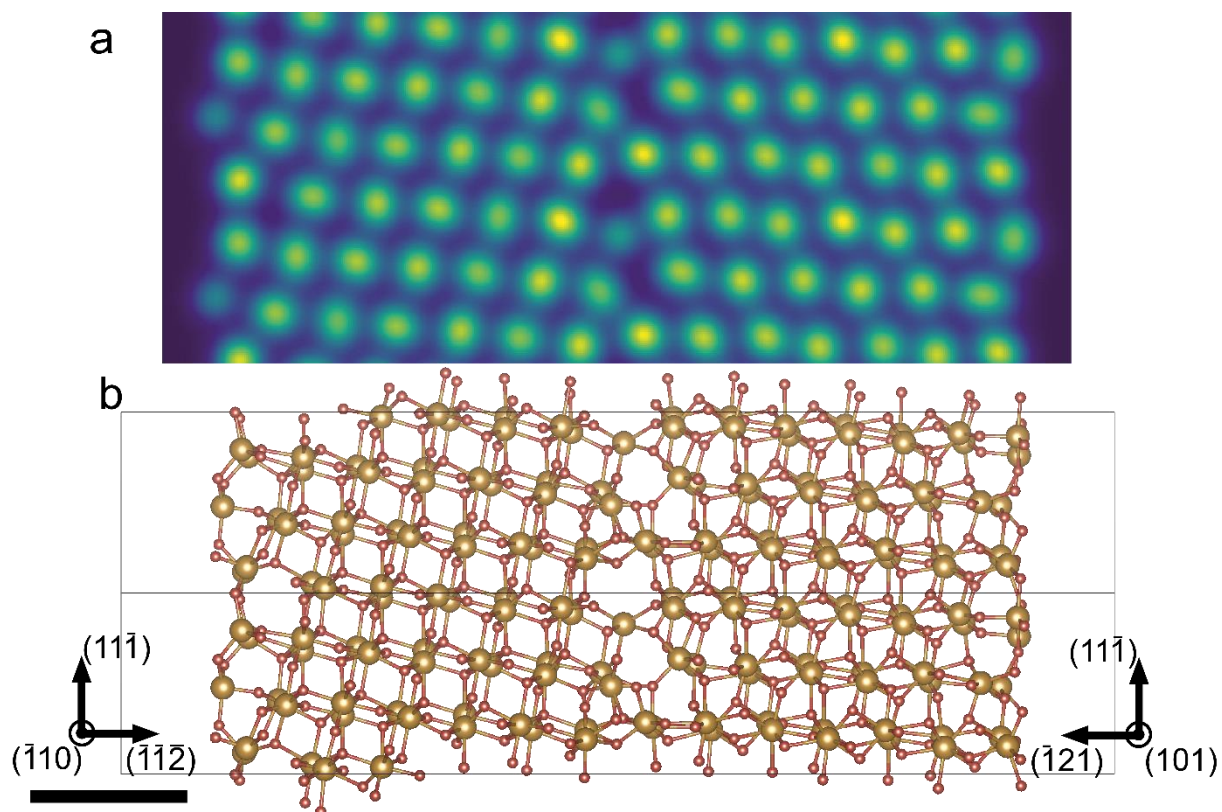


Figure S4. a) The simulated HADDF-STEM images retrieved from b) the second stable DFT structure of $(11\bar{1})$ textured HfO_2 . Scale bar is 1 nm. The DFT structures are based on a model from Ruh & Corfield² and are visualized with VESTA³.

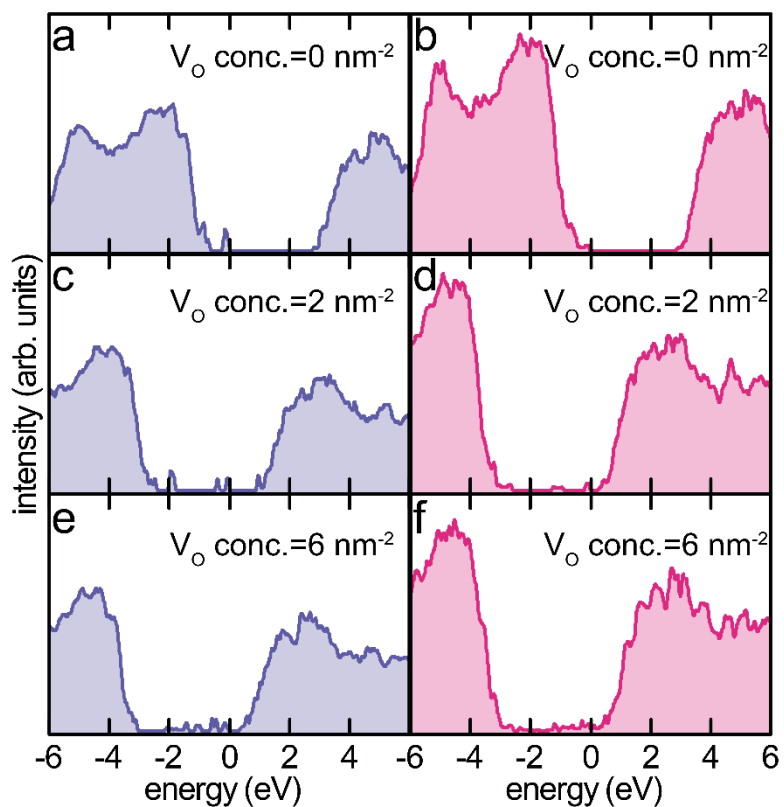


Figure S5. a), b) The density of states (DOS) show no intermediate gap states at an oxygen vacancy (V_O) concentration (conc.) equal to zero. c), d) Multiple intermediate states for a V_O conc. = 2 nm^{-2} and e), f) a conducting sub band at V_O conc. = 6 nm^{-2} for the $(11\bar{1})$, (purple) and (020) , (pink) HfO_2 grain boundaries. The DOS were calculated using the projector augmented wave (PAW) method.

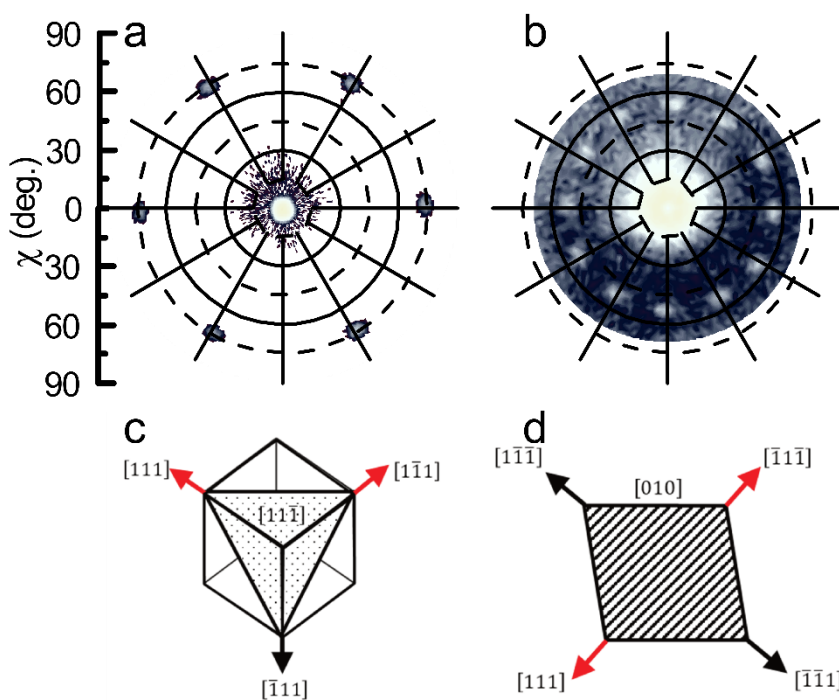


Figure S6. The $(11\bar{1})$ pole figures (PFs) for a) $(11\bar{1})$ and b) (020) textured HfO_2 reveal six and 12 clustered poles, respectively. Due to the monoclinic structure, one defined in-plane orientation should result in one pole for the c) $(11\bar{1})$ and two poles for the d) (020) textured HfO_2 when measuring the $(11\bar{1})$ PF indicated by the black (measurable poles) and red (not measurable poles) arrows. Hence, six defined in-plane orientations are expected rotated in-plane by 60° and 30° for $(11\bar{1})$ and (020) textured HfO_2 , respectively.

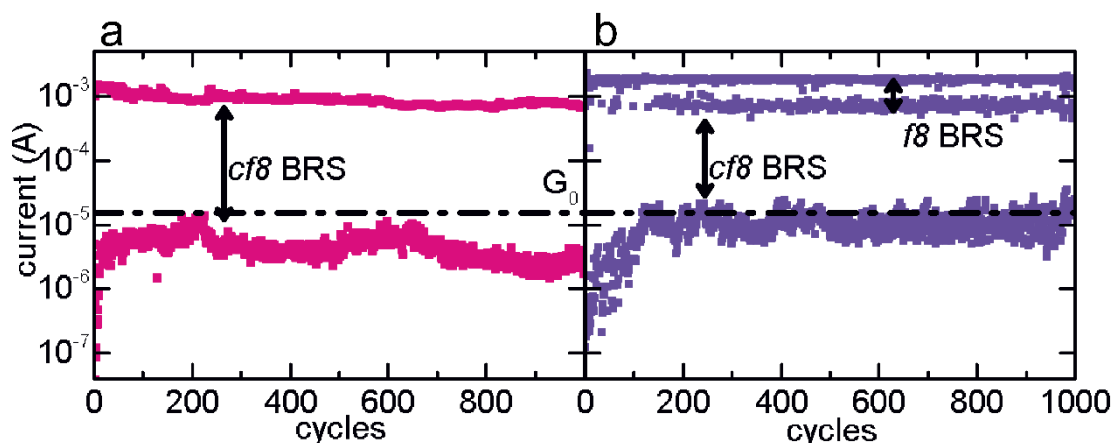


Figure S7. DC endurance behavior trends of devices with (a) (020) and (b) ($11\bar{1}$) textured hafnia for current readout at 200 mV. The device based on (020) textured HfO_2 shows bipolar resistive switching in the so-called counter figure eight (*cf8*) mode. In the device based on ($11\bar{1}$) textured HfO_2 the high resistance value locks to the conductance quantum G_0 at $(12.9 \text{ k}\Omega)^{-1}$ (dashed line) after several cycles. The low resistive state shows two well-defined values attributed to *cf8* and figure 8 (*f8*) switching. These two states occur when switching takes place at both electrodes (see S. U. Sharath *et al.*, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2017**, *27*, 1700432).

References

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- [2] R. Ruh, P. W. R. Corfield, *Journal of the American Ceramic Society* **1970**, *53*, 126.
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