



iWoRiD 2022

## 23rd International Workshop on Radiation Imaging Detectors

26 – 30 June 2022

Riva del Garda, Italy

Contribution ID: 7

Type: **Poster**

### Characterisation of heavily irradiated dielectrics for AC-coupled pixel detectors

*Wednesday 29 June 2022 17:21 (1 minute)*

An increase in the radiation levels during high-luminosity operation of the LHC and future colliders calls for the development of silicon based pixel detectors used for particle tracking and vertex reconstruction. Capacitively coupled (AC-coupled) detectors are anticipated to be in operation in future collider experiments as they provide an enhanced isolation between pixel areas due to radiation-induced leakage currents. The motivation of this study is the development of next generation capacitively coupled (AC-coupled) pixel sensors with coupling insulators having a good dielectric strength and radiation hardness simultaneously. The AC-coupling insulator thin films were aluminum oxide and hafnium oxide grown by Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) method.

Our work focuses on a comparison study based on the dielectric material used in MOS, MOSFET and AC-pixel sensors processed on high resistivity p-type Magnetic Czochralski silicon (MCz-Si) substrates. These prototypes were irradiated with 10 MeV protons upto a fluence of  $5 \times 10^{15}$  protons/cm<sup>2</sup> as well as with Co-60 source upto 1 MGy. Capacitance-voltage measurements of MOS and MOSFET test structures indicate negative oxide charge accumulation induced by irradiation. These studies are coherent to numerical simulations. Furthermore, electrical characterization using current-voltage and edge-TCT methods indicate very good dielectric strength performance in both materials as well as show the impact of the dielectric-silicon interfaces on the functionality of the sensors, even after irradiation. The negative oxide charge during the irradiation is an essential pre-requisite of radiation hardness resiliency of  $n^+/p^-/p^+$  (n on p) particle detectors widely intended to be used in future high-luminosity experiments.

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**Session Classification:** Poster