

Introduction to silicon

- Semiconductor material
 - Used for radiation detection/imaging in
 - Particle and nuclear physics experiments
 - Space and ground-based telescopes
 - Medical applications
 - Industrial applications
 - ...
- Interacts with radiation
 - Radiation creates charge carriers
 - Electric field drifts carriers toward readout electronics
 - Signal integrated in frond-end electronics
 - Digitize integrated signal
 - Readout and store digital signal

Particle reconstruction in time

1970s

1990s

2010s

time

Why detectors change Interested in rare events in very high energies with very small uncertainties with very high background Need high precision Very high granularity low material budget High particle collision rates High speed electronics Good background tolerance Long term reliability Radiation hardness

Pre-silicon era





Gaseous vs silicon detectors

- In silicon detector
 - No multiplication \rightarrow signal amplification needed
 - Optimum thickness to minimize multiple scattering

Property	Gas	Silicon	Importance
Density	Low	2.33 g/cm ³	Denser -> better spatial resolution
Charge	electrons and ions	electrons and holes	
Ionization energy	30eV per e- ion pair	3.6 eV per e- hole pair	Lower -> better energy resolution
Mobility	10 ns to 10 μs	few ns to 20 ns	Faster -> no dead time
Signal-to-noise	Low	High	Reliable signal

Vertex reconstruction



CMS pixel detector



Silicon detectors in HEP

- In HEP experiment
 - Vertex reconstruction
 - Fast detection and position resolution



Experiments with silicon detector

Why silicon?

- 2nd most abundant element in Earth (28% by mass)
- Easy to process and purify to 0.001 ppb
- Natural SiO₂ as insulation during fabrication
- Found in form of silicate minerals and SO₂ (silica sand)
- Discovered in 1824 by Swedish chemist J.J. Berzelius
- Commercially utilized since 1824



Silicon powder

Silicon crystal

Spectral lines of Silicon

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Silicon - ₁₄Si²⁸

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5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	Ι	Xe	P
	RUBIDIUM	STRONTIUM	YTTRIUM	ZIRCONIUM	NIOBIUM	MOLYBDENUM	TECHNETIUM	RUTHENIUM	RHODIUM	PALLADIUM	SILVER	CADMIUM	INDIUM	TIN	ANTIMONY	TELLURIUM	IODINE	XENON	
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6	Cs	Ba	La-Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn	
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Basic properties – Band gap

Insulator

Semiconductor

Conductor



Basic properties

- Very pure material
- Charge carriers are created by

- thermal, optical, and other excitations or ionization

- Four valance electrons (covalent bonds)
- Silicon (Si) and Germanium (Ge) are common
- Doped with extrinsic semiconductors
 - N-type: excess electrons (e- donor), i.e. P, As etc.
 - P-type: excess holes (e- acceptor), i.e. Al, B, Ga, etc.

Silicon PN-junction

• Silicon detector are in basic form of PN-junction



Silicon pn-junction formation



N_A: # of acceptor impurities N_D: # of donor impurities

PN-junction bias schemes



A real life case

• Larger active area provided by n(p)-type subtstrate



PN-junction current



Leakage current

Current $\alpha T^{3/2} \exp[-E_g/2k_BT]$



Breakdown voltage

Extracted from capacitance measurements



Charge collection

- Carriers are drifted under the electric field $v_{e,h}(x) = \mu_{e,h} E(x) \qquad \mu_{e^{\text{-}}} = 1500 \text{ cm}^2 \text{/Vs} \quad \mu_{h} = 450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{/Vs}$
- Total drift time for a carrier created at depth x

$$t(x) = \frac{d^2}{2\mu V_{FD}} ln \left(\frac{V_B - V_{FD}}{V_B - V_{FD} + 2V_{FD}(1 - x/d)} \right)$$

$$V_{B}$$
 = applied voltage
 V_{FD} = full depletion voltage

Maximum drift time (V_B >> V_{FD})

$$t_{\rm max} = t(x=0) = \frac{d^2}{2\mu V_{\rm B}}$$

For d = 300 μm **→**



Radiation detection

Ionization energy loss:



Signal-to-Noise (S/N)

Signal is Landau, noise is Gaussian



Charge vs applied bias

Collected charge increases until full depletion is reached



Silicon wafer fabrication

- Hyper-pure polysilicon chunks
- Melt and add impurity to make n-type (P) or p-type (B)
- Pour into a mold to make a polysilicon cylinder
- Melt onto a mono-crystal silicon seed by means of RF power
- Seed and melted polysilicon rotations are opposite to grow a round shape mono-crystal ingot
- Employ a grindwheel to form the ingot into a desirable diameters
- Cut ingot into wafers by means multi-wire-sawing
- Lapping to flatten wafers
- Chemical etching to smoothen wafers
- Edge rounding for wafer robustness



Device processing



Principle of operation



- 1. Preamplifier: amplifying small sensor signal
- 2. Pulse shaper: improving signal-to-noise ratio by filtering signal and attenuating electronic noise
- 3. Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC)
- 4. Buffer: Store data

Front-end electronics add noise to signal (smearing). Low noise readout is essential

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A silicon strip detector



Position resolution



Position resolution



Microstrip detectors (1D)



Silicon drift detector (SSD)





Double-side strip detector



Pixel detector

CMS BPIX module





CMS barrel pixel detector





Detector topology



2D segmented Si

2D segmented Si attached to 2D segmented Si

2D segmented Si attached to 1D segmented Si or other electronics

Marco Battaglia, EDIT 2012, Silicon Track, February 2012

Radiation damage

nuclear particle (i.e. p,n etc.) collides with a lattice atom,
 the lattice atom is kicked out from it position leaving behind a vacancy
 the displaced atom can collide others creating more interstitial positions (clusters)



an energetic nuclear particles knocks out an atom resulting Frenkel pairs (defects)
above 150 K 90 % of pairs recombined (thermal vibrations in lattice)

Radiation damage



Recoil after 1 MeV neutron collision



Radiation induced damages

 cause severe signal losses across sensor thickness

Signal loss can be covered partially

- by increasing high voltage
 But high voltage
- degrades the position resolution 35

Radiation damage effects

- Leakage current increases $\Delta I = \alpha \Phi V$
 - $-\Delta I$ change in current in volume V
 - $-\alpha$ is damage constant
 - $-\Phi$ is time-integrated radiation flux
- Depletion voltage increases

$$V_{FD} = q | N_{eff} | d^2 / 2\epsilon\epsilon_0$$

$$- N_{eff} = |N_{donor} - N_{acceptor}|$$

- $-\epsilon\epsilon_0$ permittivity
- d is sensor thickness
- Charge collection degrades
- Position resolution degrades

Radiation damage – leakage current



$$\alpha = \frac{\Delta I}{V \cdot \Phi}$$

- $lpha\,$ damage rate
- Φ fluence
- $\Delta \mathrm{I}$ leakage current
- V volume (0.018 cm³)





Radiation damage – charge collection



Radiation damage – S/N

signal (S) is the MP value of the Landau fit

noise (N) is from the noise test



Radiation damage – spatial resolution

overall resolution (RMS) decreases with irradiation



Radiation harder approaches – 3D

- p+ and n+ electrodes are arrays of columns that penetrate into the bulk
- Lateral depletion
- Charge collection is sideways
- Superior radiation hardness due to smaller electrode spacing:
 - smaller carrier drift distance
 - faster charge collection
 - less carrier trapping
 - lower depletion voltage
- Higher noise
- Complex, non-standard processing







Radiation harder approaches – 3D



COMPLEXITY – CMS Tracker



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