Surface effects in segmented silicon sensors

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Table of Content

1.Introduction: Some experimental observations

2. Simulation of surface effects and relevant parameters

3.Surface resistivity

4.Oxide charges, interface states and border traps

4.1 Measurement of effective oxide charges

4.2 Interface traps and surface recombination velocity

5. Comparison of simulations to some experimental results 6. Summary and conclusions



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Introduction: Some experimental observations



F.G.Hartjes, NIM-A552(2005)168

R.Klanner et al., NIM-A732(2013)117

Breakdown voltage of a CiS p⁺n strip sensor depends on humidity

Breakdown voltage of a SINTEF p⁺n strip sensor decreases with X-ray dose



Introduction: Some experimental observations

S.Jaster-Merz, Characterization of SiPMs a function of humidity, BSC-thesis, Hamburg University 2014



SiPM at RT depends on humidity

Charge collection of a HPK n⁺p strip sensor is sensitive to doses of a few tens of Gy from a ⁹⁰Sr β-source

Can we understand this ?

R.Klanner et al., POS(TIPP2014)040





Simulations and relevant parameters



Q_{os}: outer surface charge distribution → o.s. resistivity R_□ → time depend.
 Q_{ox}: "oxide" charge density → technology + surf.damage + time dependence
 Q_{border}: border trap density → technology + surf.damage + E-field + time
 Q_{it}: interface trap density → technology + surf.damage + E_{Fermi}@interface

Program of determining the relevant parameters

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Outer surface charges and resistivity R - Q_{os} : bias detector $\rightarrow E_L$ -field on o.s. \rightarrow rearrangement of o.s. charges surface resistivity $R_{-} \rightarrow$ time-dependent surface charge distribution: **Biasing scheme for GCD (Gate Controlled Diode)** Measurement of R G1 \neg open at t = 120 s 5 eate rines diode aluminimian oxide over 5 μ m SiO₂ by -12 V Si-SiO₂ interface - 100 V n bulk current in GCD 14.702 50 50 50 50 cross-section l(t) $\tau = 16 \ s \ RH = 46\%$ 2250-1<u>GGy-V(t)</u> CE2250-1GGy-I(V)-scan 0.0 le-9 CE2250-1GGy-I(t)-scan 0.0^{1e-9} inversion accumulation -0.5 -0. (electrons) -1.0 -1.0Voltage [V] I - V_{Gate} Current [A] Current [A] I - t V_{Gate} - t -50 = 820 s-2.0 -5 -2.0 RH=30% H→ RH = 46%, RC = 16 s + → RH = 46% + → RH = 46% RH = 40%. RC = 120 sBH = 40% ■ ■ RH = 40% -2.5 -60 -2.5 RH = 35%, RC = 150 s depletion RH = 35% ▲ A RH = 35% RH = 46% -- 30% ▼ -▼ RH = 30%, RC = 820 s ▼ -▼ RH = 30% ▼ ▼ RH = 30% -65 200 400 1000 1200 400 600 1000 -10 0 600 800 200 800 1200 -80 -70 -60 -50 -40 -30 -20 Voltage [V] Time [s] Time [s]

Time constants change by factor 50 for RH 46% \rightarrow 30%



Outer surface charges and resistivity R ...

Measurement of R with MOSFET FGT (Floating Gate Technique) :





Outer surface charges and resistivity $\mathsf{R}_{\scriptscriptstyle -}$

Time-dependent charge collection close to Si-SiO₂ in p⁺n strip sensor





E-field + charge layers @ Si-SiO₂ interface depend on biasing history + RH $\rightarrow \tau \sim$ many days for low RH !





Outer surface charges and resistivity R

Explanation of long-term changes (w.o. radiation damage)^{*};
Biasing → longitudinal E-field component on o.s. → rearrangement of Q_{os} until E_{long} = 0 and V_{os} = const → time constant depends R_□, which changes by many orders of magnitude with humidity (+T)

*) already discussed by A.Longoni et al., NIM-A288(1990)35

Simulation: Outer surface layer with high resistivity for t dependence



Summary outer surface resistivity R

Outer surface charge distribution influences E-field in Si close to the Si-SiO₂ interface

- \rightarrow influences the presence/size of inversion/accumulation layers
- \rightarrow can cause high-field regions \rightarrow possible breakdowns
- \rightarrow can cause changes in charge collection

After biasing, the o.s. charge distribution is not in equilibrium

→ Time constants to reach equilibrium are related to o.s. surface resistivity and can be many days → high initial currents + longterm instabilities

Proper boundary conditions and mesh sizes in simulations are essential

Default TCAD boundary conditions are typically not the ones to use; make simulations with different boundary conditions

Avoid instabilities by high-resistivity layer on top of passivation ? (General rule: make sure that the potential is defined everywhere)



Oxide charges, interface traps and border traps





Oxide charges, interface traps and border traps

Complex many parameter problem \rightarrow simplifications are needed:

For simulations frequently used:

- Position-independent effective oxide charge density N_{ox}^{eff} [cm⁻²]
- Position-independent surface recombination velocity s[cm/s] (or J_{surf} [A/cm²] where Si-SiO₂ interface is depleted)

Experimental determination of parameters (which depend on technology,

crystal orientation, radiation damage, etc.) using test structures is a major effort !

Strategy followed (an infinite loop ? - needs excellent + dedicated students !):

- Measure parameter using test structures
- Simulate impact on sensors
- Verify simulations with measurements on sensors
- Use simulations to optimize the sensor design

Can such an approach converge? I have been warned by experienced colleagues ! and now understand why !





C/G-V+TDRC for MOS-C (from 4 vendors, <100> and <111>, surface damage by X-rays (0 → 1 GGY), E-field during irradiation, annealing)



^{*)} Temperature T \rightarrow E_c - E_{it} (T dependence of Fermi level)

J.Zhang et al., JSR 19(2013)340 J.Zhang DESY-THESIS-2013-018



300

250

200

150

Parameterize by 4 states - not unambiguous !

100

 $[\]mathcal{L}_{c} = \mathcal{L}_{it} \left(\mathcal{L}_{it} \right)$

C/G-V curves vs dose for MOS-C (10 kHz and 100 kHz only)





Analysis of TDRC + C/G-V/f data:

J.Zhang, DESY-THESIS-2013-018





Oxide charges N_{ox} + interface traps N_{it}

Results of analysis of TDRC + C/G-V data



- X-ray radiation damage of N_{ox}, N_{it} saturates at high dose !
- O Gy: N_{ox}, N_{it} for <111> » than for <100> higher dose values: difference is getting smaller
- For different "technologies" the values are within a factor ~2



Problems of N_{it} analysis: (→ J.Schwandt DESY THESIS-2014-029)

- We are not sure if all border traps have been filled in accumulation
- In mid-gap region current due to empty interface traps contributes
- For the given T range only sensitive to traps above mid-gap
- Dominant electron emission assumed ($e_n \gg e_p$)
- $I_{TDRC}\left(T\right) \rightarrow D_{it}$ (E) transformation assumes $\sigma_{capture} ~ 1/T^2$ + linearized formula
- Acceptor states only have been assumed
- → Unable to explain J_{surface} measured with GCD (Gate-Controlled-Diode) (However: method used typically gives higher values for N_{ox})

 \rightarrow <u>Give up</u>, and use N_{ox}^{eff} from C/V(1 kHz) and measured J_{surface}^{*)}

More work + different techniques required for reliable separation of N_{ox} and N_{it}!





Surface recombination velocity and current density for const. D_{it} : $s_0 = \frac{\pi}{2} \sigma_s v_{th} D_{it} k_B T$ $J_{surf} = q n_i s_0$.







Surface-generation current density: J_{surf}

Examples of measurement results (2 out of $\sim \infty \rightarrow J$. Zhang DESY THESIS-2013-018):





Summary: Dose Dependence of Nox^{eff} and J_{surf}

Vendors: CiS, Hamamatsu, Canberra, Sintef; Crystal orientations: <111>,<100> Insulator: SiO₂ (335-700 nm), with and without additional 50 nm Si₃N₄



More on N_{ox}^{eff} and J_{surf}

So far: Irradiation without bias + measurements after some annealing Needed for understanding of sensor performance:

- Irradiation under bias (i.e. different E-fields at Si-SiO₂ inteface)
- Parameters during and shortly after irradiations under bias
- Annealing

Relevant E-field from simulation of p^+n and n^+p strip sensors 3 nm from SiO₂

 \rightarrow local transverse fields up to ~300 kV/cm with both directions



N_{ox}^{eff} with E-field during irradiation

Irradiation MOS-C and GCD with bias applied

- CiS <100> with ~350 nm SiO₂ + 50 nm Si₃N₄





Field-enhanced oxide charges N_{ox}^{eff} before/after irr.

Border traps charged/discharged by h/e in E_T -field at Si-SiO₂ interface

 \rightarrow position-dependent N_{ox}^{eff}

 \rightarrow time dependence + saturation values

Circular MOS-C from CIS (350 nm SiO₂ + 50 nm Si₃N₄) on <100> and <111> n-Si for 0 and 1 GGy X-ray dose







3.: $\Delta N_{ox} > 0 \rightarrow$ Field-enhanced injection (charging of border traps by h-inv. layer) 4.: $\Delta N_{ox} < 0 \rightarrow$ Discharging of border traps by e-accumulation layer



Field-enhanced oxide charges N_{ox}^{eff} before/after irr.





- Field-enhanced charge injection (FeCI) + discharge in accumulation observed
- Saturation reached after ~ 2 h
- <mark>0 Gy: FeCI < 20% N_{ox}º</mark>
- 1 GGy: FeCI up to 50% N_{ox}⁰ FeCI(<111>) > FiCI(<100>)
- →Simulation for irradiated sensors to be done to see if relevant for surface-damaged sensors



Biasing time [min]







Field-enhanced N_{ox}^{eff} before/during/after irradiation

X-ray irradiations: $-\Delta Dose = 10, 100, 500 Gy, 1, 5, 10 kGy$ 1500 µm Drain - MOSFET Canberra 250 nm SiO₂, <111>, n-type $6 \cdot 10^{11}$ cm⁻³ -> 45 un Gate Example: $\Delta Dose=10 \text{ kGy irradiation for E} \approx 500 \text{ kV/cm}$ Source 2.10^{-5} 10 kGv 1.75.10 2.0^{1e12} 10 Gv $1.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ 100 Gv 1.8 ds [A] 500 Gv 1.25.10 1 kGy 1.6 5 kGy 1.10^{-5} 10 kGy $[1/cm^2]$ $7.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ irradiation 1.2 **Discharge border traps** 5.10^{-6} Z 10 12 13 14 15 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 $7.75 \cdot 10^{-6}$ 10 kGy 0.8 $7.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$ 0.6 7.65.10 ds [A] 0.4<u>⊢</u> 7.6·10⁶ 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Time [h] 7.55.10 Significant reduction of 7.5.10 Photocurren Q_{border traps} in accumulation 7.45.10 12 12.5 13 13.5 14 14.5 15 Time [h] E-field does not cause anomalous short-term effects

during or after X-ray irradiation





Annealing of Nox^{eff}

MOS-C and GCD irradiated to 5 MGy and annealed at 60 and 80°C

- CiS <111> with ~350 nm SiO₂ + 50 nm Si₃N₄

J.Zhang et al., arXiv:1210.0427(2012)



- Described by modified "tunnel anneal model" [T.R. Oldham et al., 1988]

$$N_{ox}(t) = N_{ox}^0 \cdot \left(1 + t/t_0\right)^{-\frac{\lambda}{2\beta}} \quad \text{with} \quad t_0(T) = t_0^* \cdot \exp\left(\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T}\right)$$

 $\begin{array}{l} 1/\lambda \ ... \ width \ of \ hole \ trap \ distr. \ in \ SiO_2 \\ t_0(T) \ ... \ tunneling \ time \ constant \\ \beta \ ... \ related \ to \ tunnel-barrier \ height \\ \Delta E \ ... \ E_{trap} \ - \ E_{Fermi} \end{array}$

Slow N_{ox} annealing: at 20°C <50% annealing in 3 years (assuming model correct!)



Model for annealing of N_{ox}^{eff}

"Tunnel anneal" model: How to obtain a non-exponential t-dependence?

T.R.Oldham et al., IEEE Trans.NS-33/6(1986)1203 - (with some modification by J.Zhang/R.Klanner)





Annealing of N_{it} and J_{surf}

MOS-C + GCD irradiated to 5 MGy and annealed $80^{\circ}C$

- CiS <111> with ~350 nm SiO₂ + 50 nm Si₃N₄

J.Zhang, DESY-THESIS-2012-018

TDRC spectrum from MOS-C vs annealing time at 80°C

I_{surf} from GCD vs. annealing time at 80°C





Annealing of J_{surf}

MOS-C and GCD irradiated to 5 MGy and annealed at 60 and 80°C



 \rightarrow Fast annealing: At 20°C ~50% annealing in 5 days (assuming model is correct!)

Fast J_{surf} annealing (D_{it})



Summary on N_{ox} and D_{it} vs ionizing dose

- N_{ox} and D_{it} influences E-field in Si close to Si-SiO_2 interface
 - \rightarrow influences the presence/size of inversion/accumulation layers
 - \rightarrow can cause high-field regions \rightarrow possible breakdowns
 - \rightarrow can cause changes in charge collection
- Separate determination of N_{ox} and D_{it} not achieved $\rightarrow N_{ox}^{eff}$, J_{surf}
 - \rightarrow values of N_{ox}^{eff} and J_{surf} for 0 to 1 GGy for <100>,<111> determined
 - saturation at ~ (2-4) \cdot 10¹² cm⁻² and (3-6) \cdot $\mu A/cm^2$
 - increase in the presence of E-field
 - parameters for annealing (T,t) determined

Observe field-enhanced charging and discharging of border traps

- \rightarrow for E-field + holes @ Si-SiO₂ interface (inversion for nMOS-C):
 - charging of border traps saturates in \sim 120 min
 - for <111> and high X-ray doses increase in $N_{\rm ox}{}^{\rm eff}$ by up to 50 %
 - no bad surprises during and shortly after X-ray irradiation
- \rightarrow for electrons @ Si-SiO₂ interface (accumulation for nMOS-C)
 - prompt discharging of a fraction of the border traps

Dependence of hole mobility at the $Si-SiO_2$ interface determined

Measurement and analysis methods + parameters for simulations



Comparisons of simulations and measurements

- AGIPD pixel sensor optimization for X-ray hardness: Pixel sensor for X-ray doses 0 - 1 GGy and V_{bd} > 900 V → J. Schwandt, PhD thesis
- 2. Breakdown in p^+n strip sensors after irradiation with ionizing radiation
 - \rightarrow J. Schwandt, PhD thesis
- 3. Observation of low dose effects in an HPK n⁺p strip sensor
 → next (detailed paper under discussion in CMS Tracker Group)

Sensors + irradiation

"Baby add. from HPKCampaign"

- FZ p-doping: $3.7 \cdot 10^{12}$ cm⁻³
- [O]: $\sim 5 \cdot 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- >p-spray: ~5 · 10¹⁰ cm⁻²
- >p-stop: ~2 · 10¹¹ cm⁻²
- 64 AC-coupled strips
- Strip length: 25 mm
- Pitch: 80 μm
- Implant width: 19 μ m
- Al overhang: 5 μm
- d_{si}: 200 µm
- d_{SiO2} : 650 nm + 130 nm
- d_{si3N4}: 50 nm

Measurement+irradiations:

- ⁹⁰Sr electrons 50 Gy/day, 2mm Ø
- Trigger: 2 scintillators
- Readout: ALiBaVa 40 MHz
- Vbias=600 V; T = -20°C

Details of sensor layout (p-stop):



Strip pulse heights for single event



Analysis: 4-cluster = $\Sigma PH(L-1,L,R,R+1)$ $\eta = R/(R + L)$





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Synopsys TCAD simulation of p-spray sensor vs. N_{ox}

Results of simulations depend also on boundary conditions:

- 1. "Dirichlet": SiO₂ surface on potential of readout strips (0 V)
- 2. "Air": 500 μ m above strips Dirichlet with potential of readout strips





Relevance for sensor design

Impact depends on S/N, readout scheme, track angle, dose, etc. Here only qualitative discussion – needs quantitative estimation for a specific design



- analog readout: Charge Sharing improves the position resolution ($\delta \sim 1/(dx/d\eta)$)
- binary readout: CS improves the resolution and worsens the track separation

Poor S/N (e.g.<10)

- analog readout: as long as low signal pulses are red out, CS improves the position resolution
- binary readout: unless low threshold, loss in efficiency; threshold < 0.4 · mpv
 → for 3σ noise cut S(cluster)/N > 7.5 required

Charge Sharing important for design of efficient sensor of similar importance as Charge Collection Efficiency



Summary and conclusions

Surface effects influence stability and performance of sensors

Methods established to measure relevant parameters R_{\Box} , N_{ox} , J_{surf} (D_{it}), charging/discharging of border traps on test structures

Parameter values have been determined (technology dependence !!!), which are available for simulations

Special care with respect to boundary conditions and mesh has to be taken when implementing surface effects in TCAD simulations

Several puzzling observations could be explained

Your comments and suggestions are welcome



Can we understand these observations + avoid them ?

Yes we can - if we work hard !



References to work from UHH-Group



If you did not like this talk, you will also not like the following publications (free translation from V. von Bülow "Loriot")

Wenn Sie das vorliegende Buch ungern gelesen haben, werden Ihnen diese auch nicht so recht gefallen.

V. von Bülow "Loriot"

Low-dose effects in segmented Si sensors:

C. Henkel, Impact of low dose-rate electron irradiation on the charge collection of n⁺p silicon strip sensors, BSC thesis, University of Hamburg, March 2014, unpublished

J. Erfle, Irradiation study of different silicon materials for the CMS tracker upgrade, PhD thesis, University of Hamburg, DESY-THESIS-2014-010

R. Klanner et al., Impact of low-dose electron irradiation on n+p silicon strip sensors, POS (TIPP 2014), detailed paper in preparation

Surface resistivity and border traps:

J. Schwandt et al., Investigation of the insulator layers for segmented silicon sensors before and after X-ray irradiation, Talk presented at the IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium, Seattle 8-15. Nov, 2014

D. Brueske, Investigation of the field dependence of the injection of positive charges into the SiO2 at the Si-SiO2 interface, BSC thesis, University of Hamburg, 2014, unpublished

Charge trapping at the Si-SiO₂ interface - humidity:

- T. Poehlsen et al., Study of the accumulation layer and charge losses at the Si–SiO2 interface in p+n-silicon strip sensors, NIM-A 721 (2013) 26; doi: 10.1016/j.nima.2013.04.026
- **T. Poehlsen et al.,** Time dependence of charge losses at the Si-SiO2 interface in p+n-silicon strip sensors, NIM-A 731 (2013) 172; doi: 10.1016/j.nima.2013.03.035
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X-ray radiation damage:

- **J. Zhang et al.**, Study of radiation damage induced by 12 keV X-rays in MOS structures built on high-resistivity n-type silicon, J. Synchrotron Rad. 19 (2012) 340; doi: 10.1107/S0909049512002384
- **R. Klanner et al.**, Study of high-dose X-ray radiation damage of silicon sensors, NIM-A; 732 (2013) 117, doi: 10.1016/j.numa.2013.05.131
- J. Zhang et al., X-ray induced radiation damage in segmented p+n silicon sensors, PoS (Vertex 2012) 019
- J. Zhang, X-ray Radiation Damage Studies and Design of a Silicon Pixel Sensor for Science at the XFEL, PhD thesis, University of Hamburg, DESY-THESIS-2013-018 (2013)

Sensor optimization for high X-ray doses:

- **J. Schwandt et al.**, Optimization of the radiation hardness of silicon pixel sensors for high x-ray doses using TCAD simulations, 2012 JINST 7 C01006; doi: 10.1088/1748-0221/7/01/C01006
- **J. Schwandt et al.**, Design of the AGIPD sensor for the European XFEL, 2013 JINST 8 C01015; doi: 10.1088/1748-0221/8/01/C01015

J. Schwandt et al., Design and First Tests of a Radiation-Hard Pixel Sensor for the European X-Ray Free-Electron Laser, IEEE TNS, doi: 10.1109/RADECS.2013.6937446 and arXiv-140213

J. Schwandt, Design of a radiation hard pixels sensor for X-ray science, PhD thesis, University of Hamburg, DESY-THESIS-2014-029

