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## HIGH-VOLTAGE PICOSECOND-RANGE AVALANCHE SWITCHING OF SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURES WITHOUT PN-JUNCTIONS

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The well-known effect of delayed impact-ionization breakdown manifests itself in 100-ps avalanche switching of Si or GaAs diode p+-n-n+ structure that is triggered by a steep voltage ramp [1-3]. Here we report first experimental observations of delayed impact ionization breakdown in Si and ZnSe semiconductor structures that do not contain any p-n junctions.

Si n+-n-n+ structures with the n-base length from 80 to 180  $\mu\text{m}$ , the n+-layers length from 7 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , the n-base doping level  $1.7 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and the cross-section area  $\sim 1 \text{ mm}^2$  were fabricated. Experimental setup consists of pulse generator, resistive coupler and two 50- $\Omega$  high-quality matched measuring lines connected to 20 GHz oscilloscope and allows measuring device voltage and current with accuracy better than 50 ps. 4 kV pulse with 15-25 kV/ns ramp was applied to n+-n-n+ structure and in-series load.

We observe avalanche switching with risetime about 200 ps, residual voltage 300..700 V and current amplitude  $\sim 70 \text{ A}$ . These values are comparable to those obtained for p+-n-n+ structures with similar parameters, although the voltage ramp applied to n+-n-n+ structure is much steeper. Numerical simulations indicate quasi-uniform impact ionization in the whole structure volume, whereas switching of diode structures is believed to occur via ionizing front propagation [1]. Successful subnanosecond switching, although to higher residual voltage, has been also observed on ZnSe samples with Ohmic contacts.

Our discovery opens a possibility for ultrafast generation of large volumes of dense electron-hole plasma in semiconductor samples without p-n junctions, which is particularly important for such promising wideband semiconductors as ZnSe and CdS.

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**Primary authors:** Dr BRULEVSKIY, Viktor (Ioffe Institute); Prof. GREKHOV, Igor (Ioffe Institute); Dr PODOLSKA, Natalia (Ioffe Institute); RODIN, Pavel (Ioffe Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences); Mrs SMIRNOVA, Irina (Ioffe Institute); Dr ZHAROVA, Yulia (Ioffe Institute)

**Presenter:** RODIN, Pavel (Ioffe Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences)

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