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## Measurement of the charge collection for the irradiated $n^+pp^+$ pad diode in the region of the $n^+p$ interface

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The charge collection of two  $n^+pp^+$  pad diodes for light with a wavelength of 660 nm from a sub-nanosecond laser and  $\alpha$ -particles with energies,  $E_\alpha$ , between 1.5 and 2.8 MeV injected from the  $n^+p$  side, has been measured. The diodes had an area of 25 mm<sup>2</sup>, a thickness of 150  $\mu\text{m}$  and a doping concentration of  $4.5 \times 10^{12} \text{cm}^{-3}$  in the bulk region. The measurements were performed at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for bias voltages up to  $V_{bias} = 800 \text{V}$ . One diode had been irradiated by 23 MeV protons to a 1 MeV equivalent fluence of  $\Phi_{eq} = 2 \times 10^{15} \text{cm}^{-2}$ , the other one had not been irradiated. As expected, above the depletion voltage the charge measured for the non-irradiated diode,  $Q_0$ , is independent of the bias voltage. The Charge Collection Efficiency (CCE) for the irradiated diode is obtained from  $\text{CCE}_\Phi(V_{bias}) = Q_\Phi(V_{bias})/Q_0$ , where  $Q_\Phi(V_{bias})$  is the charge measured for the irradiated diode. As expected,  $\text{CCE}_\Phi(V_{bias})$  increases with bias voltage because the higher electric field increases the drift velocity of the holes, which dominate the signal. In addition, it is observed that  $\text{CCE}_\Phi(V_{bias})$  for  $\alpha$ -particles increases with increasing  $E_\alpha$ , and at  $E_\alpha \approx 1.5 \text{MeV}$  the  $\text{CCE}_\Phi(V_{bias})$  for  $\alpha$ -particles (with  $\approx 5 \mu\text{m}$  range in silicon) is the same as for the laser light of 660 nm (with 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  attenuation length at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ ).

The data can be described assuming a  $V_{bias}$ -independent layer with zero charge collection of thickness  $d_0$ , followed by an active region with the  $V_{bias}$ -dependent mean charge collection  $\text{CCE}_\Phi(V_{bias})$  for the remaining range of the  $\alpha$ -particles. It is found that  $d_0 = 1.15 \pm 0.10 \mu\text{m}$  and  $\text{CCE}_\Phi = 55 \pm 1\%$  at  $V_{bias} = 300 \text{V}$  increasing to  $78 \pm 1\%$  at  $V_{bias} = 800 \text{V}$ . The presence of an inactive layer is relevant for the determination of charge-carrier lifetimes using light with a short attenuation length or low energy  $\alpha$ -particles: Not taking into account  $d_0$  underestimates the values for the lifetime.

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