# X-ray absorption spectroscopy and detectors

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DA@NE-Light Facility INFN - Frascati National Laboratory

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# Outline

- Light
- X-rays and Synchrotron radiation sources
  - X-rays and atoms
  - X-ray sources
- Detectors Basic Principles
  - Interactions of x-rays with matter
  - XAFS: EXAFS and XANES
- Gas Detectors
  - Ionization chambers
- Solid State Detectors
  - Silicon Drift detectors
  - Some applications of XRF to Cultural Heritage
- Conclusions



Light

Progress in science goes in parallel with the technical progress in producing and using light at different wavelengths to explore the physical world.



Visible light is only a tiny slice of the electromagnetic spectrum. The entire electromagnetic spectrum of light is huge, spanning from gamma rays on one end to radio waves.



*Physiologically we see these frequencies because the photoreceptors in our retinas are sensitive to them.* When photons of light hit the photoreceptors this creates an electrochemical signal which is the first step in a fascinating process which ultimately results in us seeing colors.

# Light and waves



### Electromagnetic Spectrum



The wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) and frequency ( $\nu$ ) of light are strictly related: the higher the frequency the shorter the wavelength! This is because all light waves more through vacuum at the same speed (c = speed of light) and the equation that relates wavelength and frequency for electromagnetic waves is:  $\lambda \nu = c$ 



Electromagnetic Spectrum and X-rays



X-rays discovery



While *Wilhelm Roentgen* was working on the effects of *cathode rays* during *1895*, he discovered X-rays. His experiments involved the passing of electric current through gases at extremely low pressure. On November 8, 1895 he observed that certain rays were emitted during the passing of the current through discharge tube. His experiment that involved working in a totally dark room with a well covered discharge tube resulted in the emission of rays which illuminated a barium platinocyanide screen. The screen became fluorescent even though it was placed two meters away from discharge tube.



Gas tube: electrons are freed from a cold cathode by positive ion bombardment, thus necessitating a certain gas pressure.

He continued his experiments using photographic plates and generated the very first "roentgenogram" by developing the image of his wife's hand and analyzed the variable transparency as showed by her bones, flesh and her wedding ring.



Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen



#### Contribution of Physics : X-ray diffraction



Max von Laue theorized and proved in 1912 that x-rays could be diffracted by crystalline materials.





This discovery was extended by *William Lawrence Bragg* and his father *William Henry Bragg*:they showed that *diffraction could be treated as reflection from evenly spaced planes if monochromatic x-radiation was used.* 

Bragg's Law:  $n\lambda = 2d \sin\theta$ 

 $\lambda$  is the *wavelength* of the X-radiation *d* is the *inter-planar spacing* in the crystalline material and  $\theta$  is the *diffraction angle*.

X-rays and atoms



With X-rays we can study atoms because wavelengths are of the order of 10<sup>-10</sup> m or 0.1 nm or 1Å Matter is composed of atoms!

Using X-rays we can study the atomic structure of materials! The atomic structure primarily affects the chemical, physical, thermal, electrical, magnetic, and optical properties.



X-rays and Atoms



Graphite is opaque and metallic- to earthy-looking, while diamonds are transparent and brilliant.

The different properties of graphite and diamond arise from their distinct crystal structures.

# X-rays application fields



X-ray sources

### X-ray conventional sources and synchrotron radiation

# X-ray conventional sources

## X-rays: conventional sources

#### From gas tubes (cold cathode) to high vacuum tubes (hot cathode)



Crookes tube



Coolidge tube



The *Coolidge tube* (1913), also called *hot cathode tube*, is the most widely used. Electrons are produced by thermionic effect from a tungsten filament heated by an electric current. The filament is the cathode of the tube. The high voltage potential is between the cathode and the anode, the electrons are accelerated, and hit the anode.

The rotating anode tube is an *improvement of the Coolidge tube* anode surface (water cooled) is always moving, so heat is spread over a much larger surface area giving a 10-fold increase in the operating power.





### X-rays: conventional sources



Approximate A-ray beam brimance for the main types of m-house sources with opt	oproximate X-ray	v beam brilliance	for the main type	s of in-house sou	irces with opti
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	Power	Actual spot on anode	Apparent spot on anode	Brilliance (photons s <sup>-1</sup> mm <sup>-2</sup>
System	(W)	(µm)	(µm)	mrad <sup>-1</sup> )
Standard sealed tube	2000	$10000 \times 1000$	$1000 \times 1000$	$0.1 \times 10^9$
Standard rotating-anode generator	3000	3000 × 300	300 × 300	$0.6 \times 10^9$
Microfocus sealed tube	50	150 × 30	30 × 30	$2.0 \times 10^{9}$
Microfocus rotating-anode generator	1200	700 × 70	70 × 70	$6.0 \times 10^9$
State-of-the-art microfocus rotating-anode	2500	800 × 80	80 × 80	$12 \times 10^{9}$
generator				
Excillum JXS-D1-200	200	$20 \times 20$	20 × 20	$26 \times 10^9$

T. Skarzynski, Collecting data in the home laboratory: evolution of X-ray sources, detectors and working practices, Acta Cryst. D69 (2013) 1283-1288

# Synchrotron radiation sources

Light sources and brightness

When interested in nm scale details: brightness becomes fundamental.

A bright source is the one very effective in illuminating a specific target. If the specific target is small a bright source is a small size source with emission concentrated within a narrow angular spread.







## Synchrotron radiation and light sources



Synchrotron radiation opened a new era of accelerator-based light sources that have evolved rapidly over four generations:

- the first three-generations based on storage rings

-the forth and fifth generation light sources based on FELs.

A dramatic improvement of brightness and coherence over about 70 years.

# Synchrotron light is present in nature!



Synchrotron radiation is a very important emission process in astrophysics!

Crab Nebula: remnant of a supernova explosion seen on earth by Chinese astronomers in 1054, at about 6500 light years from Earth in the constellation Taurus !

SR emission is produced by high energy electrons whirling around the magnetic fields lines originating from a Pulsar

NASA Hubble Space Telescope image of the Crab Nebula (NASA, ESA and Allison Loll/Jeff Hester (Arizona State University)).





NASA's Great Observatories' View of the Crab Nebula X-Rayblue: NASA/CXC/J.Hester (ASU); Optical-red and yellow: NASA/ESA/J.Hester & A.Loll (ASU); Infrared-purple: NASA/ JPL-Caltech/R.Gehrz (Univ. Minn.)

The heart of the nebula is a rapidly-spinning neutron star, a pulsar, that powers the strongly polarised bluish 'synchrotron' nebula.

The Crab pulsar is slowing at the rate of about 10<sup>-8</sup> sec per day, and the corresponding energy loss agrees well with the energy needed to keep the nebula luminous. Some of this luminosity takes the form of synchrotron radiation, requiring a source of energy for accelerating charged particles.

Composite image data from three of NASA's Great Observatories. The Chandra X-ray Observatory image is shown in blue, the Hubble Space Telescope optical image is in red and yellow, and the Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared image is in purple. The X-ray image is smaller than the others because extremely energetic electrons emitting X-rays radiate away their energy more quickly than the lower-energy electrons emitting optical and infrared light. The Crab Nebula is one of the most studied objects in the sky, truly making it a cosmic icon.

# Synchrotron light is artificially produced by relativistic particles accelerated in circular orbits.



... and synchrotron radiation is also the coherent radiation emitted by the undulators of Free Electron Lasers.

# Synchrotron radiation: history



1947 General Electric Res. Lab. - 70 MeV Electron Synchrotron - N.Y. USA

# Starting point: Proof of concepts, tests of theories!

- In the 50s and 60s machines built for High Energy Physics: synchrotrons (*1947 First 'visual observation of synchrotron radiation*).
- Synchrotron radiation was considered a nuisance by particle physicists: unwanted but unavoidable loss of energy!
- 1961 US National Bureau of Standards (now NIST) modified their electron synchrotron : access to the synchrotron radiation users.
- Synchrotron radiation scientists became parasites of nuclear physics experiments. (1961 Frascati – CNEN Electrosynchrotron – (0.4–1.1) GeV)
- 1968 *First storage ring dedicated* to synchrotron radiation research: *Tantalus* (University of Wisconsin) only *bending magnets*.

F.R. Elder, A.M. Gurewitsch, R.V. Langmuir, and H.C. Pollock, Radiation from Electrons in a Synchrotron, Phys. Rev. 71,829 (1947) G. C. Baldwin and D.W. Kerst, Origin of Synchrotron Radiation, Physics Today, 28,9 (1975)

Synchrotrons and Storage Rings



E= particle energy >>  $m_0c^2$   $E_{CM}=$  center-of-mass energy

# Comparing synchrotrons and storage rings

#### **Synchrotrons**

- *Cyclic* the guiding magnetic field used to bend the particles into a closed path, is time-dependent, being *synchronized* to a particle beam of increasing kinetic energy.
- *Emitted photon spectrum varies* as e<sup>-</sup> energy changes during each cycle.
- Photon intensity varies as e<sup>-</sup> energy changes during each cycle (also cycle to cycle variations).
- *Source position varies* during the acceleration cycle.
- High Energy Radiation Background (Bremsstrahlung + e<sup>-</sup>): high, due to loss of all particles on each cycle.

#### Storage rings

- **Constant**: as special type of synchrotron in which the kinetic energy of the particles is kept constant.
- Emitted photon spectrum constant.
- Photon intensity decays slowly over many hours.
- Source position constant submicron source stability.
- High Energy Radiation Background: low because same particles are stored for many hours.

H. Winick, From Röntgen to X-ray Free-electron Lasers, http://indico.cern.ch/event/145296/contribution/47/material/slides/1.pdf, 2012

#### Synchrotron radiation: in the early history

#### Frascati: ElettroSynchrotron, ADA and ADONE

Frascati - CNEN (Comitato Nazionale Energia Nucleare) Laboratory ElettroSincrotrone - (0.4-1.1) GeV, C= 28 m (1959-1975)





LNF ADA (Anello Di Accumulazione) – first electron-positron storage ring (proposed by B. Touschek) 0.25 GeV, C= 5 m (1961-1964)

LNF ADONE (big ADA) electron-positron storage ring 1.5 GeV per beam, C = 105 m (1969-1993)

1976-1993 LNF ADONE 1.5 GeV parasitic/dedicated use for SR experiments after its use for HE experiments.



# **Increasing brightness**

Brightness is the main figure of merit of synchrotron radiation sources and its huge increase, was obtained designing low emittance machines, minimizing the source size and the beam divergence.



Increase of a factor 1000 every 10 years!!!

# Synchrotron radiation: optimized sources Third generation sources

# Synchrotron light is now a unique tool for science!



ESRF, Grenoble - France 6 GeV, C = 844 m opened to users in 1994

- Sources designed specifically for high brightness or low emittance.
- Emphasis on research with insertion devices like undulators!
- High-energy machines able to generate hard x-rays
- Larger facilities to support rapidly growing user community, many beamlines high number of users.

# Synchrotron radiation facilities

18 in America 25 in Asia 25 in Europe 1 in Oceania including facilities under design and FELS







Info on European Synchrotron Radiation Facilities: <a href="http://www.wayforlight.eu">www.wayforlight.eu</a> About 67 operational Synchrotron Radiation Facilities Around the World information on: <a href="http://www.lightsources.org">www.lightsources.org</a>

#### Schematic view of a Synchrotron Radiation facility



As a function of the energy range to be used each beamline must be optimized for a particular field of research.

Beamline schematic composition:

Front end

•

- Optical hutch
- Experimental hutch
- Control and computing

The *front end* isolates the beamline vacuum from the storage ring vacuum; *defines the angular acceptance of the synchrotron radiation* via an aperture; blocks(beam shutter) when required, the x-ray and Bremsstrahlung radiation during access to the other hutches.

# Synchrotron radiation @ INFN-Frascati National Laboratory







#### INFN-LNF Synchrotron Radiation Facility





### Available techniques

- FTIR spectroscopy, IR microscopy and IR imaging
- UV-Vis absorption spectroscopy
- Photochemistry: UV irradiation and FTIR microspectroscopy and imaging.
- Soft x-ray spectroscopy: XANES (X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure) light elements from Na to S
- SEY (secondary electron yield) and XPS (X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy) - by electron and photon bombardment

# From accelerators to applications


E. Malamud Ed., Accelerators and Beams tools of discovery and innovation (http://www.aps.org/units/dpb/news/edition4th.cfm) 2013

# Interactions of x-rays with matter

## Interaction of X-rays with matter

Attenuation mechanisms for X-rays





Fluorescence XRF & Imaging, XAFS

## Some X-ray techniques



# X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

XAS local sensitive and chemical selective probe that can provide structural, electronic and magnetic information.

# DAFNE-L DXR1 beam line absorption spectroscopy



 $I_0$ ,  $I_1$ ,  $I_2$  Gas ionization chambers -  $I_F$  SDD solid state detector

# Photons as Ionizing Radiation

#### • Photoelectric effect - Causes ejection of an inner orbital electron and thus also characteristic radiation (energy of fluorescence lines $E_F \approx Z^2$ ) as orbital hole is filled

- Energy of ejected photoelectron:  $E_e = hv - E_B$ 



### **Photoelectric** absorption

The probability of a photoelectric interaction is a function of the photon energy and the atomic number of the target atom.

A photoelectric interaction cannot occur unless the incident x-ray has energy equal to or greater than the electron binding energy.



Absorption and decay effects XRF (X Ray Fluorescence) and AES (Auger Electron).

XRF - X Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy





## XAFS in transmission or fluorescence geometries

spectra.



XAFS can be measured either in transmission or fluorescence geometries. The energy dependence of the absorption coefficient µ(E):





Transmission geometry

Fluorescence geometry







XAFS spectroscopy



Element specific, angular momentum selective which probes density of unoccupied states. Selection rules: Dipole transition  $\Delta I = \pm 1$ K edge:  $1s \rightarrow p$ L edge:  $2s \rightarrow p$ ,  $2p \rightarrow s$ , d Quadrupole transition (Much weaker)  $\Delta I = \pm 2$ K edge:  $s \rightarrow d$ ,  $p \rightarrow f$ Absorption edges: 1s - K edge

2s, **2**p - **L** edges 3s, 3p, **3**d - **M** edges 4s, 4p, **4**d, 4f - **N** edges

XAFS = XANES + EXAFS



# XAFS and Carbon K edge





#### Extended X ray Absorption Fine Structure

### **EXAFS** phenomenological interpretation



Auto -interference phenomenon of the outgoing photoelectron with its parts that are backscattered by the neighbouring atoms

# **EXAFS** phenomenological interpretation



wave with wave number proportional  $(E-E_0)^{-1/2}$ 



The photo-electron scattered by a neighboring atom can return to the absorbing atom, modulating the amplitude of the photo-electron wave-function at the absorbing atom. This in turn modulates the absorption coefficient  $\mu(E)$ , causing EXAFS.



**EXAFS** 



### **EXAFS and structural information**



EXAFS data analysis



# Cu foil and temperature effects







# EXAFS data analysis





DXR1 XAFS beamline



### DAPNE Soft X-ray DXR1 Beamline

- Wiggler soft x-ray beam line
- Critical energy  $E_c = 284 \text{ eV}$
- Working range 0.9 3.0 keV
- TOYAMA double crystal monochromator with KTP (011), Ge (111), Si (111), InSb (111) and Beryl (10-10) crystals
- Soft X-ray absorption spectroscopy and tests of Soft x-ray optics and detectors.

## DXR1 Beamline

As a function of the energy range to be used each beamline must be optimized for a particular field of research. The front end isolates the beamline vacuum from the storage ring vacuum; defines the angular acceptance of the synchrotron radiation via an aperture; blocks (beam shutter) when required, the x-ray and Bremsstrahlung radiation during access to the other hutches.





Monochromator



# Monochromator



Prism and visible light



#### X-rays and crystals



Crystal type	2d spacing (Å)	Energy range (eV)	Absorption edges				
Beryl (10-10)	15.954	1000 - 1560	Na K, Mg K, Cu L				
KTP (011)	10.950	1200 - 2200	Mg K, Al K				
InSb (111)	7.481	1800 - 3100	Si K, P K, S K, Cl K				
Ge (111)	6.532	2100 - 3100	P K, S K, Cl K				



## Elements that can be investigated

						K- e0	laes										
1		A cuyes													2		
H														H	He		
1.00/94	4	1				$I = \rho d$	noc					5	6	7	•	1.00/94	4.002002
Ĺ	Be					L - Eu	yes					Ř	ċ	Ń	ů	Ť	Ne
6.941	9.012182	10.811 12.0107 14.00674 15.9994												18,9984032	20.1797		
11	12				, I							13	14	15	16	17	18
Na	Mg	Mg IVI - eages Al Si P S											Cl	Ar			
22.989770	24.3050											26.981538	28.0855	30.973761	32.066	35.4527	39.948
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
39.0983	40.078	44.955910	47.867	50.9415	51.9961	54.938049	55.845	58.933200	58.6934	63.546	65.39	69.723	72.61	74.92160	78.96	79.904	83.80
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	ln	Sn	Sb	Te		Xe
85.4678	87.62	88.90585	91.224	92.90638	95.94	(98)	101.07	102.90550	106.42	107.8682	112.411	114.818	118.710	121.760	127.60	126.90447	131.29
22	30	3/	72	75	/4	75	70	77	78	/9	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	T1	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
132.90545	137.327	138.9055	178.49	180 9479	183.84	186.207	190.23	192 217	195.078	196,96655	200.59	204.383	207.2	208.98038	(209)	(210)	(222)
87	88	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112		114	[	116		118
Fr	Ra	Ac	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt					(200)				
(223)	(226)	(227)	(261)	(262)	(263)	(262)	(265)	(266)	(269)	(272)	(277)		(289) (287)		(289)		(293)

58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
140.116	140.90765	144.24	(145)	150.36	151.964	157.25	158.92534	162.50	164.93032	167.26	168.93421	173.04	174.967
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103
Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr
232.0381	231.03588	238.0289	(237)	(244)	(243)	(247)	(247)	(251)	(252)	(257)	(258)	(259)	(262)

DXR1 EXAFS examples





#### X-ray absorption studies of adducts of gold and ruthenium anticancer metallo-drugs with a serum protein

Due to the *clinical success of platinum-based anticancer drugs*, much attention has been focused on similar metal complexes of potential use in cancer treatment.

Specifically, a great attention has been given to ruthenium and gold complexes that seem to be very promising. The mechanisms through which the metal complexes produce their biological and pharmacological effects are still largely unexplored and it seems that gold and ruthenium complexes act on different targets, most likely on protein targets.



Measurements have been performed at the Sulfur K- edge on Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) proteins which have interacted with ruthenium(III) and gold(III) metallo-drugs.

I. Ascone et al., Exploiting Soft and Hard X-Ray Absorption Spectroscopy to Characterize Metallodrug/Protein Interaction. Inorg. Chem. 47, 8629 (2008)

# X-ray detectors Ionization chambers and SDD

## X-ray detectors and basic principles

An X-ray detector is used to convert the energy released by an X-ray photon in the detector material into an electric signal.

The readout and processing of this electric signal by means of a suitable electronics chain can be used to achieve different information including for specific detectors the energy released by the photon and the arrival time of the event.


#### Signal generation and transfer of energy

- Detection principles mostly used in SR detectors can be direct or not. Direct detection mode using gas or semiconductors
- Using gases: electron ion pairs are produced
- Using semiconductors: electron hole pairs are produced
- Pair creation energy in semiconductors is much lower than ionization energy in gases (Si 3.6 eV; Argon gas 26 eV)
- High density of solids implies high interaction probability
- The detector to choose depends on the information needed and provided by the detection system

#### X ray detectors taken into account



#### Detector chosen as a function of the required information.

#### General properties:

- Quantum detection efficiency: fraction of photons emitted by the source that interact with the detector and are completely absorbed.
- Count rate
- Noise
- Energy resolution

## Gas ionization chambers



## X-ray Ion Chamber



Inside the detector, an electric field is applied across two parallel plates. Some of the x-rays in the beam interact with the chamber gas to produce fast photoelectrons, Auger electrons, and/or fluorescence photons. The energetic electrons produce additional electron-ion pairs by inelastic collisions, and the photons either escape or are photo-electrically absorbed. The electrons and ions are collected at the plates, and the current is measured with a low-noise current amplifier. The efficiency of the detector can be calculated from the active length of the chamber, the properties of the gas, and the x-ray absorption cross section at the appropriate photon energy.

## X-ray Ion chamber



#### Guard ring

In the parallel plate chamber the charge-collecting electrode is surrounded by an annular ring. The annular ring represents the guard ring (or guard electrode) and is separated from the collecting electrode by a narrow insulating gap, and the applied voltage to the guard ring is the same as that to the collecting electrode. Ion chamber with parallel plates.

#### Direct detection: charge conversion scheme and intensity measurement



The measured intensity is usually integrated during a well defined time interval and is proportional to the number of incident X-ray photons  $(N_{ph})$ .

Intrinsic statistical noise (Poisson statistics): 
$$\sigma_{N_{ph}} = \sqrt{N_{ph}} \quad \text{Effective:} \quad \sigma_{N_{ph}} = \sqrt{FN_{ph}}$$

Fano factor F accounts empirically for deviation from Poisson statistics  $F \approx 0.2$  for gasses,  $\approx 0.1$  for semiconductors



#### Setup: XAFS in transmission mode





H. Abe - A Brief Introduction to XAFS - SESAME JSPS School - 2011

Voltage to frequency converter and counter

## Ion chamber characteristics



Once the efficiency is known, the photon flux can be estimated from chamber current and the average energy required to produce an electron-ion pair

Efficiency of a 10-cm-long gas ionization chamber as a function of energy, for different gases at normal pressure. The efficiency of the detector can be calculated from the active length of the chamber, the properties of the chamber gas, and the x-ray absorption cross section at the appropriate photon energy

Element	Energy (eV)
Helium	41
Nitrogen	36
Air	34.4
Neon	36.3
Argon	26
Krypton	24
Xenon	22

## Photon flux evaluation

$$I = Ne = I_0 T\gamma e$$

*I*<sub>0</sub> = *Incoming photon flux (ph/s)* 

T = Ion chamber window transmission

γ = gas efficiency (electrons/ph)

L = length of the ion chamber plate

N $\sim$ 

N = Number of electron-ion pairs produced

E = X ray energy

 $\langle V_i \rangle$  = Average energy required to produce an electron-ion pair

$$I_{0}(ph/s) = \frac{I(A)}{\gamma e(C)} \frac{\langle V_{i} \rangle(eV)}{E(eV)} \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\mu L(cm)}}$$

$$\mu(cm^{-1}) = \left[\frac{\mu}{\rho}(E)\right] \rho$$

 $\left[\frac{\mu}{\rho}\right]$  = gas mass attenuation coefficient

 $\rho$  = gas density function of pressure ( $\gamma$ )

γ = I<sub>0</sub> 10%; I<sub>1</sub> 90%



X-ray ion chambers ad windows





Unmounted and mounted MOXTEK ultrathin windows







## SDD Silicon Drift Detectors or Energy dispersive detectors

XRF and energy dispersive SDD



## **Energy Dispersive detectors**

*Silicon and germanium detectors can make excellent energy-resolving detectors*. When a photon interacts in the intrinsic region, tracks of electron-hole pairs are produced (analogous to electron-positive ion pairs in a counting gas). In the presence of the electric field, these pairs separate and rapidly drift to the detector contacts. The average energy required to generate an electron-hole pair is **3.6 eV for silicon** and **2.98 eV for germanium**.





Electrons move to the conduction band of the silicon semiconductor and leave behind holes that behave like free positive charges within the sensor.

Lower band gap materials can offer better resolution due to better  $(\Delta E \sim \varepsilon_i)$  but must be cooled to limit noise from thermal generation of carriers.

Absorbed radiation energy E is shared between crystal lattice excitations ( $\sim 2/3$ ) and generation of charge carriers( $\sim 1/3$ ) this ratio is  $\sim$  same for many semiconductor materials

The ED detector converts the energy of each individual X-ray into a voltage signal of proportional size. This is achieved through a three stage process:

• *First* - the X-ray is converted into a charge by the ionization of atoms in the semiconductor crystal.

• *Second* - this charge is converted into the voltage signal by the FET preamplifier.

•*Finally* - the voltage signal enters the pulse processor for measurement.

The output from the preamplifier is a voltage 'ramp' where each X-ray appears as a voltage step on the ramp. At the same time electronic noise must be minimized to allow detection of the lowest X-ray energies.

# SDD working principle

U<0 (a) Ū depletion zones X 1 U<< 0 \_ (b) Ũ X Symmetric bias U₁< 0 (c) Ū V///// X  $0^{\circ} U_{2} << U_{1} < 0^{\circ}$ Asymmetric bias N. Wermes - Semiconductor Detectors- EDIT15

Sideward depletion

With respect to a conventional p-n diode detector, where the ohmic n+ contact extends over the full area on one wafer side, the *depletion* of the bulk can be also achieved by positively biasing a small n+ electrode with respect to p+ electrodes covering both sides of the wafer. When the n+ voltage is high enough, the two space charge regions separated by the undepleted bulk touch each other, leading to a small undepleted bulk region only close to the n+ electrode.

In the Silicon Drift Detector, based on the principle of the sideward depletion, an additional electric field parallel to the surface of the wafer is added in order to force the electrons in the energy potential minimum to drift towards to the n+ anode.



AMPTEK - Application Note AN-SDD-003: Amptek Silicon Drift Detectors





The silicon drift detector (SDD) sensor is produced using high purity silicon with a large contact area on the side facing the incoming X-rays. On the opposite side there is a central, small anode contact, which is surrounded by a number of concentric drift electrodes.

The major distinguishing feature of an SDD is the transversal field generated by a series of ring electrodes that causes charge carriers to 'drift' to a small collection electrode. (Anode)

The 'drift' concept of the SDD allows for significantly higher count rates.



### SDD



KETEK - High Throughput Large Area Silicon Drift Detectors



The electrons are 'drifted' down a field gradient applied between the drift rings to be collected at the anode.

The charge that accumulates at the anode is converted to a voltage signal by the FET preamplifier.

During operation, charge is built up on the feedback capacitor. There are two sources of this charge, current leakage from the sensor material and the X-ray induced charge from the photons that are absorbed in the detector.

The output from the preamplifier caused by this charge build-up is a steadily increasing voltage 'ramp' due to leakage current, onto which are superimposed sharp steps due to the charge created by each X-ray event. The accumulating charge has to be periodically restored to prevent saturation of the preamplifier. Therefore at a pre-determined charge level the capacitor is discharged, a process called restoration, or 'reset'.

The fundamental job of the pulse processor is to accurately measure the energy of the incoming X-ray, and give it a digital count in the corresponding channel in the computer. It must optimize the removal of noise present on the original X-ray signal and it needs to recognize quickly and accurately a wide range of energies of X-ray events from below 100 eV up to 40 keV. It also needs to differentiate between events arriving in the detector very close together in time to prevent pulse pile-up effects.

#### Direct detection: charge conversion scheme and measurement



Photon by photon processing and evaluation of the photon energy by measuring the charge generated in the sensor



### SDD energy resolution

The number of generated charge carriers by a single X ray photon,  $N_Q$ , can be estimated as:



where the ionization energy,  $\varepsilon_i$ , is the average energy required to produce an electron/ hole pair. In silicon:  $\varepsilon_i = 3.6 \text{ eV} \text{ a } 10 \text{ keV photon} \text{ produces } 2800 \text{ e/h pairs}$ .

$$\sigma_{_{N_Q}} = \sqrt{FN_Q}$$

*Standard deviation* that takes into account *deviations from Poisson statistics*. F= 0.11 for Si and 0.08 for Ge.

The RMS fluctuation,  $\sigma_{E'}$  associated to X ray  $\rightarrow$  charge conversion can be estimated by :

 $\sigma_{E} = \varepsilon_{i}\sigma_{N_{Q}} = \sqrt{FE\varepsilon_{i}}$ 

Usually known as *Fano noise* 

The *energy resolution* of the detector at a certain energy is usually defined as the *full width at half-maximum (FWHM)* of recorded spectra.

$$FWHM = 2.35\sigma_{E}$$

The measured spectral resolution is the quadratic-sum of various noise sources present in the detector:

Resolution = 
$$\sqrt{(Fano)^2 + (sensor - noise)^2 + (readout - noise)^2}$$



### Front-end for SDD



• JFET integrated on the SDD

- lowest total anode capacitance
- easier interconnection in SDD arrays
- limited JFET performances (gm, 1/f)
- sophisticated SDD+JFET technology



- external FET (JFET, MOSFET)
  - better FET performances
  - standard SDD technology
  - larger total anode capacitance
  - interconnection issues in SDD arrays

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# Achievable energy resolution





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#### Setup: XAFS in fluorescence mode





J. Knobloch et al. - KETEK: High Throughput Large Area Silicon Drift Detectors





#### Examples of some available multielement SDD systems



PN-DETECTORS SDD-600 Field Active area 6 × 100 mm<sup>2</sup> typ. 138 eV @ Mn K, -20 °C P/B up to 15,000 Input count rate up to 6 Mcps



SGX - SENSORTECH - Active area  $6 \times 100 \text{ mm}^2$ 



Hitachi Vortex- ME 4 SDD/ASIC e Xpress 3 processor

# Thank you for your attention

