



Macroscopic effects of radiation on silicon detectors

School on Radiation Effects on Detectors and Electronics for High Energy Physics, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Medical Physics

Erik Butz

Institute of Experimental Particle Physics (ETP)



Brief recap – Silicon-based detectors



The basic principle is always similar:

Take a piece of (let's say n-)doped silicon



- We add some p-doped implants → we now have a (or actually several) semi-conductor diodes!
- Let's add some metal pads on top
- Now we can bias our sensor and connect it to the readout

Silicon Detectors – the actual particle detection



Charged particle crosses detector and creates electron-hole pairs along its path



■ Electrons and holes start to drift towards respective electrodes → induce measurable signal on readout electronics

Finely segmented diode \rightarrow precise position resolution



Radiation damage in silicon detectors

Setting the stage – CERN LHC

The most prominent example of a place where we have large silicon-based detector getting irradiated





Particle Collisions at the LHC



Not just one pp collision happening at a time, but MANY

LHC initial: 10³² cm² s⁻¹



LHC nominal: 10^{34} cm⁻² s⁻¹



LHC initial: 1033 cm² s⁻¹





Radiation environment



The way we present the radiation field at the LHC typically looks like this:



After 3000 fb-1 of HL-LHC running (factor 10 less for LHC)

- Doses of 10⁷ Gray (recall: you are surely dead from about 6 Gy)
 - 10¹⁶ particles passing through the innermost layers

(about the same as neutrinos from the sun pass through your hand every day)



Source: xkcd.com

A bit more in detail





Inner part of the detector is dominated by proton(pion) irradiation
 Outer part is dominated by neutron irradiation

NIEL Hypothesis





- Non-ionizing energy loss
- Covered already in yesterday's lecture
- Bottom line: it doesn't matter if you do proton or neutron irradiation, everything can be scaled to the same reference (damage measured in "1 MeV neutron equivalent")
- Damage from proton and neutrons can simply be added

What are the microscopic effects of radiation?



- Point-like defects
- Cluster defects
- A mixture of the two

10 MeV protons

24 GeV protons

1 MeV neutrons



23 4/2/19

Brief recap on doped silicon



Acceptors and donors enable "creation" of electrons(holes) in the conduction(valence) band



Acceptor level close to valence band \rightarrow at room temperature electrons from valence band will be lifted into acceptor level leaving free holes in the valence band



Donor level close to conduction band \rightarrow at room temperature electrons from donor atoms will be lifted into conduction band

 \rightarrow free electrons in conduction band

How do defects manifest in our crystal?





Point and clusterdefects introduce damage to our silicon lattice



Note: not just silicon creates defects, also various doping atoms





- \rightarrow Defects can create new energy levels at basically any point in the bandgap
- \rightarrow What do these do to our silicon detector?

What do they do to our detector?







Finally going to the macroscopic world...

Silicon detectors in real life





...back then... (1983)

Surface 24 cm² (2" wafer) 1200 strip, 20 µm pitch

x8

Silicon detectors in real life*)



...back then... (1983)

Surface 24 cm² (2" wafer) 1200 strip, 20 µm pitch

X8

...and today ...



ATLAS SCT





CMS Strip Tracker



LHCb Velo

*) you will notice that while I am trying to show several examples, I will be somewhat biased towards CMS as it is my ``home"

Silicon Detectors at the LHC

CMS Strips:

200 m² of p-in-n planar silicon sensors(320/500 μ m)

CMS Pixels



- ATLAS Strips:
 - **6**0 m² p-in-n planar silicon sensors(320/500 μ m)
- ATLAS Pixels
 - 1.9 m² n-in-in planar sensors (mostly 285 μm) IBL: 200 μm planar and 3D sensors
- LHCb IT and TT
 - **12.4** m² p-in-n planar silicon (320 μm)

LHCb Velo

0.1 m² n-in-in planar silicon (300 μ m)









Silicon Detectors at the LHC

CMS Strips: 200 m² of p-in-n planar silicon sensors(320/500 μm) CMS Pixels **1**.75 m² of n-in-in planar sensors (285 μm) ATLAS 60 m² To summarize: Large volume sensors at LHC are p-in-n planar sensors ATLAS 1.9 m IBL: 2
 Innermost layers are made from n-in-n First usage also of 3D sensors LHCb I1 📕 12.4 m² p-in-n planar silicon (320 μm) LHCb Velo 📕 0.1 m² n-in-in planar silicon (300 μm)







Very few words about

Surface Damage

Surface damage



- Unfortunately the surface of our detectors needs to be segmented
- Surface damage occurs in the SiO₂ layer and SiO2-Si interface
- Build up of charge due to ionization because of charged hadrons, γ, or electrons
- Problems caused by this:
 - Increase of inter-strip capacitance → increasing noise
 - decrease of inter-strip resistance → increasing cross-talk
 - decrease in breakdown voltage
 - $\rightarrow\,$ all effects that deteriorate our detector



Surface damage



At the Si-SiO₂ interface we have lattice mismatch → dangling bonds

One technique to avoid/reduce surface damage choose <100> crystal orientation instead of <111>

 $\rightarrow\,$ Fewer dangling bonds at the interface

About 1 order of magnitude between <111> and <100>



Surface damage



At the Si-SiO₂ interface we have lattice mismatch → dangling bonds

One technique to avoid/reduce surface damage choose <100> crystal orientation instead of <111>

 $\rightarrow\,$ Fewer dangling bonds at the interface

About 1 order of magnitude between <111> and <100>

Interstrip capacitance stays constant up to 4×10^{14} particle fluence with <100>



Back to our three main effects on our detectors



Three main effects:

Increased dark or leakage current

Change in depletion voltage

Reduced charge collection





Leakage Current

Radiation effects in silicon detectors in real life



Leakage current



Initially our detector has a dark current of only a few µA





Radiation effects in silicon detectors in real life



Leakage current



CMS Strip Tracker Modules and fluences

48

Radiation effects in silicon detectors in real life



Leakage current



Leakage Current



current related damage rate α relates current increase ΔI and fluence



In real life





In real life



Fluence in real life gets accumulated over time with interruptions, increasing performance (fluence per time),....



In real life



Sensor temperature has a strong influence (on several things as we will see)



Leakage current scaling with temperature



Leakage current scale with temperature



Factor of 2 reduction for every ~7°C of temperature

- \rightarrow running our detectors cold is good
 - \rightarrow less power on sensor (V_{bias} x I_{leak})
 - \rightarrow less cooling power required to get rid of it!



Other uses of temperature scaling



In case temperature is not uniform in your detector you can scale everything to a common reference temperature

Better to compare different parts of your detector
Easier to compare to other detectors (e.g. around LHC)



CMS Silicon Strip Tracker: some regions have degraded cooling \rightarrow high temperatures

Scaling everything to a common reference



Still bumps in the distribution (will see about those in a second)
 But scaling with luminosity and temperature works



Example: CMS Pixel detector



- Leakage current in the CMS Pixel detector
- Scaling works, but our slope (and hence α) changes??



CMS *Preliminary*

57
Diffusion of Defects



- Defects can migrate, break-up, reconfigure given time and (sufficiently high) temperature
- Mostly summarized as "annealing"
- Annealing can "heal" part of our radiation damage

We will see later that there is more than one type of annealing and we don't like all of them...



Annealing of leakage current



- Leakage current only anneals beneficially
 - \rightarrow leakage current goes down the longer we anneal
- Anneal also happens while we operate/irradiate if the temperature is high enough



Example: CMS Pixel detector



- At lower temperature we have less annealing while running
 - \rightarrow increase of leakage current per fluence is *higher*

CMS *Preliminary*



Note: the step downwards is annealing, not the temperature change, this plot is already scaled for temperature

How to model the leakage current evolution?

Ingredients needed

- What is the temperature of our sensor?
- How much fluence does it get?
- How well is it cooled?
- Then for each day (or several days) we take the irradiation and calculate the increase in leakage current
- For the next day we do the same taking into account how much the damage from the last day annealed
- This is needed for a running experiment where you acquire doses over long periods of time
 - In irradiation campaigns you get the full dose in very(!) short time (hours or days)
 - \rightarrow otherwise these campaigns would never finish





How to model the leakage current evolution?



What we measure in our detector is the combination of irradiation and annealing (an effective α)



In addition: need to account for self-heating

Main uncertainties:

Sensor temperature, Particle fluence

Self heating in real life



Self heating visible as slight increase in temperature as irradiation increases



Institute of Experimental Particle Physics (ETP)

Self-heating and Thermal Runaway

- If our cooling is insufficient, the increased leakage current heats our sensor which increases the current...
- Worst case: thermal runaway



 $I \propto T^2 \exp \left| \frac{-E_{g,\text{eff}}}{2k_B T} \right|$



Self-heating and Thermal Runaway What to do against thermal runaway $I \propto T^2 \exp\left|\frac{-E_{g,\text{eff}}}{2k_B T}\right|$ Lower coolant temperature (if we can) Lower bias voltage (if we can) Switch off part of our detector (which we want to avoid) Modules connected to HV channel 1 Modules connected to HV channel 1 Modules connected to HV channel 1 Modules connected to HV channel 2 Modules connected to HV channel 2 Modules connected to HV channel 2 "upper" Power/supply current [mA] CMS 12 Preliminary 2017 modules off Closely spaced modules 10 heat each other One channel hits current both sets of limit and "trips" (switches off) TIB plus 1.5.1.1 modules on HV channel 1 HV channel 2 09h20 09h30 09h40 09h50 10h00 10h10 10h20 Time (about 1h)

Summarizing considerations on leakage current



Leakage current scales with temperature

- \rightarrow running at low temperature is good
- Leakage current anneals at high temperature
 - \rightarrow staying warm is good

Other considerations:

- Our power system is limited (we cannot provide arbitrary power to sensors)
- Out cooling system is limited
 - Self-heating is an amplifying effect which gets worse at high current (recall: doubling every ~7°C)
 - Worst case: thermal runaway
- Leakage current contributes to noise
 - \rightarrow higher leakage current means lower S/N



Depletion Voltage

How to measure full depletion voltage?



In the lab:

Measure IV or CV curve of the sensor

Not possible after it has been installed

- For a detector in operation: Bias scan
 - vary bias voltage during a physics fill from very low to (very) high voltages

check evolution of quantities



Evolution of depletion voltage

Effective doping concentration of our n-type bulk material changes with irradiation

Donors get removed, acceptor levels get created

 \rightarrow N_{eff} changes and eventually we have space charge sign inversion (SCSI) for n-type bulk

 $U_{dep} [V] (d = 300 \mu m)$

$$N_{\rm eff} = |N_D - N_A|$$

$$U_{\rm FD} = \frac{e}{2\epsilon_r} \left| N_D - N_A \right| D^2$$

At LHC ~everything has n-type bulk, so follows ~this behavior





Depletion voltage

Evolution in real life (but with results from before installation)



Two groups of sensors that start at ~same V_{dep} but evolve differently

Why?



Evolution in real life (but with results from before installation)





Different sensors and different locations



Different slope for V_{FD} evolution for thin and thick sensors also after installing our detector



Depletion Voltage also has annealing



Beneficial Annealing + Stable Damage + Reverse Annealing



Depletion Voltage also has annealing



Beneficial Annealing + Stable Damage + Reverse Annealing $\Delta N_{\text{eff}}(\Phi_{\text{eq}}) = N_A(\Phi_{\text{eq}}, t, T) + N_C(\Phi_{\text{eq}}) + N_Y(\Phi_{\text{eq}}, t, T)$ 10 8 $\Delta N_{eff} [10^{11} cm^{-3}]$ Ny 6 4 N_C $g_C \Phi eq$ 2 N_{C0} THE AND THE 0 10100001001000annealing time at 60°C [min]

Once more things are dependent on temperature

Stable Damage

Most important factor at LHC
Incomplete donor removal
Introduction of stable acceptors



THE

 $N_C = N_{C_0} \left(1 - \exp\left(-c\Phi_{eq}\right) \right) + g_c \Phi_{eq}$

...but there is nothing we can do about it

76 4/2/19 Dr. Erik Butz



Beneficial Annealing



Actually a sum over many contributions, but consider only the one (with longest decay time) Things which anneal in minutes or hours are not relevant anyway, we won't see them



Reverse Annealing



Long-term process which activates electrically inactive defects



How do we use all of these things in operating?

- We cannot do anything about stable damage
- Get all of the beneficial annealing
- Get no reverse annealing







What to do in practice:

- Stay cold as much as possible
- Warm up for ~two weeks per year

Side note:

we always have 60°C on these plots speed-up needed to be able to qualify sensors and on reasonable timescale!!



The 2-dimensional view of the change of V_{dan}





How do we use all of these things in operating?

- We cannot do anything about stable damage
- Get all of the beneficial annealing
- Get no reverse annealing







What to do in practice:

- Stay cold as much as possible
- Warm up for ~two weeks per year

Side note:

we always have 60°C on these plots speed-up needed to be able to qualify sensors and on reasonable timescale!!



A practical example



The full irradidation history of the CMS Phase-1 pixel



Side Note: CO₂ cooling is great to cool things down but less good to warm things up....

Reverse annealing in real life



Two examples



Crucial to stay cold as much as possible even during the couple of weeks at the end of the year!

Also: plan the maintenance of your cooling system properly!

Electric field and depletion zone





p-in-n sensors before type inversion

Hole collection

At under-depletion: depletion region grows from strip side

Electric field and depletion zone



The situation after type inversion

- pn junction is now at the back of the sensor
- Depletion zone grows from the back towards the strips



If we do not manage to fully deplete the sensor we "go blind"

No problem for n-in-n or n-in-p detectors where the depletion zone grows from the segmented side → underdepleted operation possible



A Look into the future HL-LHC

Radiation environment at the HL-LHC



- Radiation environment at HL-LHC will be a factor of 10 more hostile than for the current detectors
- Put differently: what is a problem for the innermost layers will be a problem also for the outer layers



The innermost layers will be exposed to unprecedented fluencesNew problems that are not (or not too) relevant at LHC



Charge Trapping

Charge Trapping



- Radiation regimes/main problem:
 - At 1014 1 MeV neq: leakage current
 - At 10¹⁵ 1 MeV neq: increase in depletion voltage

At 10¹⁶ 1 MeV neq: degrading charge collection efficiency

The main problem of charge trapping is that generated charge "disappears" (is trapped) before it can reach/get close to the electrodes and contribute to the readout

Charge Trapping

Charge trapping is characterized by inverse trapping time which increases with the fluence

Signal charge gets reduced as:

$$I = I_0 \exp\left[-t/\tau_{\rm eff}\right]$$

Characteristic trapping times:

- **2 ns @ 10**15
 - \rightarrow charges travel ~200 μ m
- 0.2 ns @ 1016
 - \rightarrow charges travel ~20 μ m!
- \rightarrow onset of trapping visble at LHC (CMS Pixel: 285 µm sensors)
- \rightarrow trapping very important at HL-LHC





Inverse Trapping Time [ns

Also trapping anneals



- Trapping anneals differently for electrons and holes
- Annealing for holes increases inverse trapping time
 - \rightarrow shorter trapping times
 - → more signal lost!
- Annealing for electron decreases inverse trapping time
 - \rightarrow larger trapping times
 - \rightarrow charge collection efficiency increases





(C)

How to "beat" trapping

- 10¹⁶ 1 MeV n_{eq} are doses expected for innermost pixel layers at HL-LHC → trapping is our dominant problem
- With trapping times of 0.2 ns bulk volumes beyond few 10s of µm do not really contribute to our signal → not worth investing in thick sensors as they won't give us more charge anyway
- Indeed: plans are for 100-150 μm thick sensors or 3D sensors for CMS and ATLAS pixel detectors
- Minimize the time needed to collect the charge → read out electrons (higher mobility)
 - → n-in-p or n-in-n sensor configurations
 - Additional advantages:
 - They both can run under-depleted
 - Annealing of electron trapping is beneficial



(C) Trapping, CCE Shallow levels trap e trap h ⇒ lower CCE electrons holes

What are other reasons to want thin sensors?



Full depletion voltage goes with square of sensor thickness

$$U_{\rm FD} = \frac{e}{2\epsilon_r} \left| N_D - N_A \right| D^2$$

 \rightarrow Can use smaller bias voltage or for same bias voltage we have higher fields

 \rightarrow Faster, i.e. more signal from induction, more charge collected before trapping

- Also leakage current scales with the sensor volume
 - \rightarrow reduces power dissipation
 - \rightarrow important because of increased power density

Same volume (6m x 25 cm)

CMS Phase-1 pixel: 6 kW






3D sensors



p- and n-type columns are etched into the bulk material



Consider the same as for planar sensors \mathbf{C} Short drift path: less time for trapping \rightarrow more signal (or better: less reduction)

Distance between electrodes is small \rightarrow Low depletion voltage required

From high-ish irradiation: Double Junction



- "Normal" case for underdepletion in n-in-n sensors after type inversion:
 - pn junction is between n+ pixelated structures and (type inverted) p-type bulk
 - \rightarrow depletion zone grows from there



From high-ish irradiation: Double Junction



- "Normal" case for underdepletion in n-in-n sensors after type inversion:
 - pn junction is between n+ pixelated structures and (type inverted) p-type bulk
 - \rightarrow depletion zone grows from there
 - Actually: undepleted zone in the center of bulk
 - \rightarrow onset of charge trapping





One way to measure a double junction: gracing angle tracks

98

A more realistic picture



- At very high fluences concept of V_{dep} becomes less relevant
- Because of trapping: holes and electrons drift towards the electrodes and get trapped \rightarrow Asymmetric change of N_{eff}
- Electric field inside the sensor becomes parabolic and is non-zero everywhere with different signs at the two electrodes
- Below depletion voltage the undepleted zone is in the middle of the sensor
- Field strength and collected charge matter more than V_{dep}





A few more words on NIEL



NIEL is a very useful concept for radiation in silicon detectors

But: NIEL is violated in various ways (just few examples)





Different space charge sign defects introduced by p and n

Different material composition (doping) can change susceptibility to irradiation (Oxygen seems good, best to avoid carbon..)

- Still useful for
 - Leakage current after hadron irradiation
 - Trapping of electrons and holes (within 20%)

A few more words on NIEL



NIEL is a very useful concept for radiation in silicon detectors

But: NIEL is violated in various ways (just few examples)





Different space charge sign defects introduced by p and n

Not all materials exhibit SCSI

Still useful for

- Leakage current after hadron irradiation
- Trapping of electrons and holes (within 20%)

Institute of Experimental Particle Physics (ETP)

A word on leakage current at the HL-LHC

- Scaling with fluence still holds
 - \rightarrow Factor 10 more leakage current
- Need to counteract with lower temperatures
- For LHC detectors:
 - Coolant at -10°C
- For HL-LHC detectors
 - Coolant at -35°C
- In both cases: $\Delta T \sim 10^{\circ} C$
 - \rightarrow Leakage current "dialed down" by factor of 8-10





Some kind of summary?

- Radiation damage in silicon detectors is a complex and still evolving subject
- Different effects dominant depend on the total irradiation level you are exposed to
 - Leakage current
 - Depletion voltage change
 - Charge trapping
- Radiation types do not all behave the same for all material → NIEL violation



- When you choose the material for your next detector, be sure to subject it to realistic radiation mix
- Pay attention to the plumbing
 - Cooling seems like an afterthought to your beautiful detector, but you need it limit leakage current prevent reverse annealing,...

