TCAD simulations for rad-hard sensors



A. Morozzi

on behalf of INFN and University of Perugia (Italy), CNR-IOM, and INFN and University of Torino (Italy) groups

This work has been supported by the Italian PRIN MIUR 2017 "4DInSiDe" under GA No 2017L2XKTJ, by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under GA No 101004761 "eXFlu-innova" and it has been conducted in collaboration with the INFN CSN5 "eXFlu" research project.





Outline

Motivations and Challenges

- > Radiation damage effects in silicon sensors
- > TCAD modeling of rad-hard sensors
- > TCAD radiation damage modeling approaches
 - LGAD
 - Compensated LGAD
 - DC-RSD
- Conclusions



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Motivations and Challenges

- □ Semiconductor detectors will face increasing radiation levels
 - >1x10¹⁶ 1MeV n_{eq}/cm² (HL-LHC);
 - >5x10¹⁷ 1MeV n_{eq}/cm² (FCC-hh);
 - detectors used at LHC cannot be operated after such irradiation.
- New requirements lead to new detector technologies
 - Need to be optimized for radiation hardness and/or 4D tracking capabilities.
- □ Modern TCAD simulation tools can have a crucial role in radiation-hard device design
 - □ Reducing costly and time-consuming physical testing.
 - Deep understanding of physical device behavior.
 - Combined Bulk and surface radiation damage can be considered.
 - □ deep-level radiation-induced traps whose parameters are physically meaningful and whose experimental characterization is feasible.
 - □ Within a hierarchical approach, increasingly complex models can be considered, by balancing complexity and comprehensiveness.



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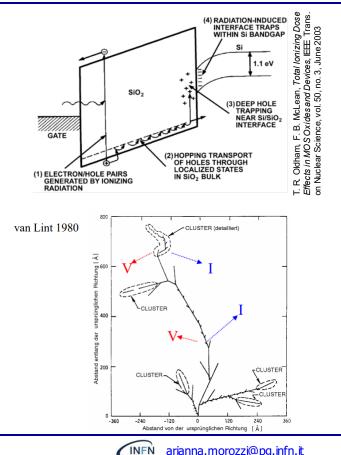


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Radiation damage effects

Two main types of radiation damage in detector materials:

- ✓ SURFACE damage ← Ionizing Energy Loss (IEL)
 - build-up of trapped charge within the oxide;
 - bulk oxide traps increase;
 - interface traps increase;
 - Q_{OX}, N_{IT}.
- ✓ BULK damage ← Non-Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL)
 - silicon lattice defect generations;
 - point and cluster defects;
 - deep-level trap states increase;
 - change of effective doping concentration;
 - N_T.



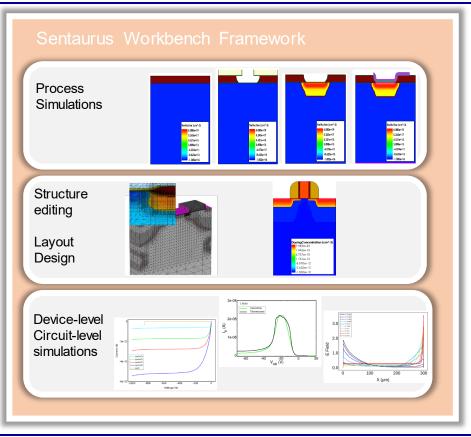
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The Technology-CAD modeling approach



- TCAD simulation tools solve fundamental, physical \mathbf{v} partial differential equations, such as diffusion and transport equations for discretized geometries (finite element meshing).
- This deep physical approach gives TCAD simulation \mathbf{v} predictive accuracy.
- Synopsys[©] Sentaurus TCAD & Silvaco

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \left(-\varepsilon_s \nabla \varphi\right) &= q \left(N_D^+ - N_A^- + p - n\right) & \text{Poisson} \\ \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{q} \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_n &= G - R & \text{Electron continuity} \\ \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{q} \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_p &= G - R & \text{Hole continuity} \\ \vec{J}_n &= -q \mu_n n \nabla \varphi + q D_n \nabla n \\ \vec{J}_p &= -q \mu_p p \nabla \varphi - q D_p \nabla p \end{aligned}$$



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TCAD models - an overview

Different approaches to TCAD radiation damage modeling:

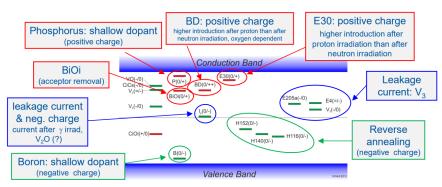
\checkmark	EVL Model	(2 levels)
\checkmark	<u>Delhi-2014</u>	(2 levels)
\checkmark	<u>KIT (Eber)</u>	(2 levels)
\checkmark	New Univ. Of Perugia Bulk+Surface	(3 levels)
\checkmark	Folkestad (CERN model)/LHCb	(3 levels)

✓ <u>Hamburg Penta Trap Model (HPTM)</u> (5 levels)

Different modeling approaches (traps, energy levels and related parameters), often tailored to specific datasets and devices.

GOAL: General purpose TCAD model

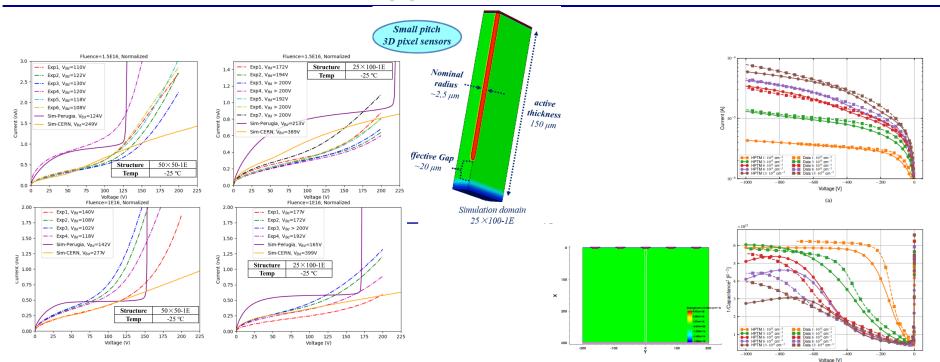
- Not over specific
 - \rightarrow set of "effective" defects within the semiconductor bandgap.
- Accounts for different irradiation levels and particle types.



RD50 map of most relevant defects for device performance near RT



TCAD models - some applications



Simulation based on the **CERN Bulk Damage Model.** Univ. of Trento Group.

Ye, J.; Sensors 2023, 23, 4732, doi: 10.3390/s23104732

Hamburg Penta Trap Model (**HPTM**). Univ. of Hamburg group.

J. Schwandt et al., 2018 IEEE NSS/MIC, doi: 10.1109/NSSMIC.2018.8824412.

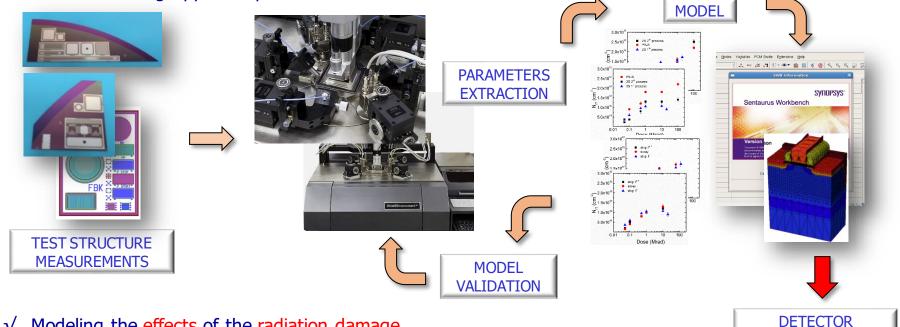
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New University of Perugia model

The overall modelling approach pursued



- Modeling the effects of the radiation damage. \mathbf{v}
- Predictive insight into the behavior of detectors, aiming at their performance $\sqrt{}$ optimization.

A. Morozzi et al., VERTEX 2023 – October 19, 2023



OPTIMIZATION

CCE, I-V, C-V, ...

TCAD simulation of LGAD devices

Physical models

- Generation/Recombination rate
 - Shockley-Read-Hall, Band-To-Band Tunneling, Auger
 - Avalanche Generation => impact ionization models. van Overstraeten-de Man, Okuto-Crowell, Massev^[1], UniBo
- Fermi-Dirac statistics
- Carriers mobility variation doping and field-dependent
- Physical parameters
 - e-/h+ recombination lifetime

Radiation damage models: "PerugiaModDoping"

- New University of Perugia model"
 - Combined surface and bulk

TCAD damage modeling scheme^[2]

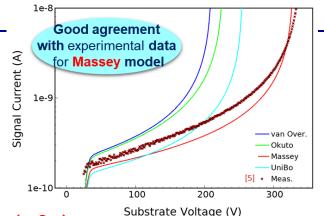
- Traps generation mechanism
- Acceptor removal mechanism $= N_{GL}(\phi) = N_A(0)e^{-c\phi}$
 - where
 - Gain Layer (GL), c removal rate (Torino parameterization^[3])
- Acceptor creation

 $N_{A,bulk} = \begin{cases} N_{A,bulk}(0) + g_c \phi, & 0 < \phi < 3E15 \ n_{eq}/cm^2 \\ 4.17E13 \cdot \ln(\phi) - 1.41E15, & \phi > 3E15 \ n_{eq}/cm^2 \end{cases}$

where $g_c = 0.0237 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Torino acceptor creation)

[1] M. Mandurrino et al., https://doi.org/10.1109/NSSMIC.2017.8532702. [2] D. Passeri, AIDA2020 report, CERN Document Server.

[3] M. Ferrero et al., https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima [4] V. Sola et al., https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.20



Surface damage $(+ Q_{0x})$

Туре	Energy (eV)	Band widt (eV)	h	Conc. (cm ⁻²)				
Acceptor	$E_C \le E_T \le E_C$ -0.56	0.56		$D_{IT} = D_{IT}(\Phi)$				
Donor	$E_V \le E_T \le E_V + 0.6$	0.60		$D_{IT} = D_{IT}(\Phi)$			Bulk damage	
		Туре		nergy (eV)	η (cm ⁻	¹)	σ _n (cm²)	σ _h (cm²)
		Donor	Ec	- 0.23	0.00	6	2.3×10 ⁻¹⁴	2.3×10 ⁻¹⁵
		Acceptor	Ec	- 0.42	1.6		1×10 ⁻¹⁵	1×10 ⁻¹⁴
<u>1016/j.nima.2018.11.121</u> . 5/j.nima.2018.07.060		Acceptor	Ec	- 0.46	0.9		7×10 ⁻¹⁴	7×10 ⁻¹³





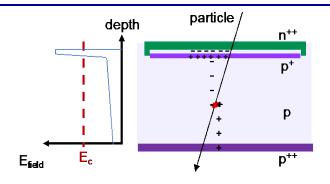
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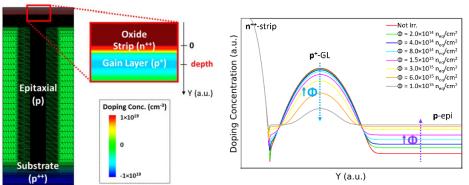


Low Gain Avalanche Diodes

- Low-Gain Avalanche Diode (LGAD)
 - **n-in-p silicon** sensors
 - Operated in low-gain regime (20 30)
 - Critical electric field $\sim 20-30~V/\mu m$
 - Good candidates for 4D tracking
 - Mitigation of the radiation damage effects by exploiting the controlled charge multiplication mechanism.
- Advanced TCAD modeling
 - Radiation damage effects model implementation
 - Accounts for the acceptor removal mechanism^[5] which deactivates the p⁺-doping of the gain layer with irradiation.
 - Electrical behavior prediction/ performance optimization up to the highest fluences.









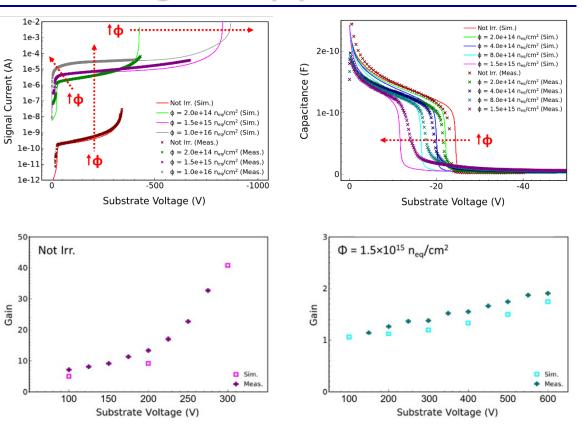
[5] [M. Ferrero et al., doi:10.1016/j.nima.2018.11.121]

LGAD: Electrical behavior investigation (1)

□ FBK LGADs (UFSD2, W1)

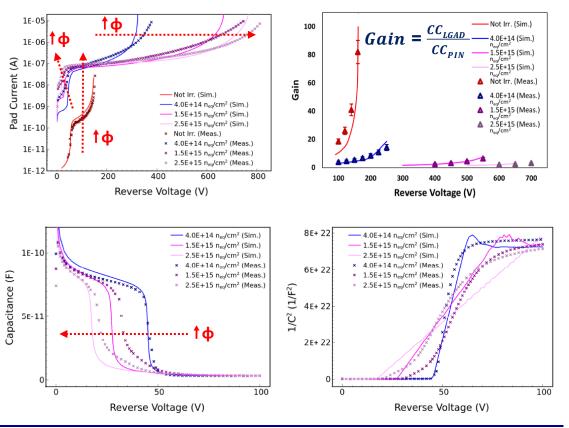
 \Box 55 μ m thick

- □ Simulations-Measurements comparison for not irradiated and irradiated devices.
- □ TCAD settings:
 - □ "PerugiaModDoping"
 - □ Massey avalanche model.
 - Temperature sets as per experimental measurements (RT not irrad, 248 K irrad).
 - $\hfill\square$ Electrical contact area 1mm².
 - □ Frequency 1 kHz for C-Vs.



LGAD: Electrical behavior investigation (2)

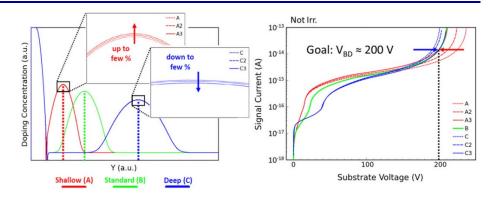
- □ HPK LGADs (HPK2, split 1-2)
 - **Δ** 50 μm thick
- □ Simulations-Measurements comparison for not irradiated and irradiated devices.
- TCAD settings:
 - "PerugiaModDoping"
 - □ vOv avalanche model.
 - Temperature sets as per experimental measurements (RT not irrad, 248 K irrad).
 - $\square Electrical contact area 1.3 \times 1.3 \text{ mm}^2.$
 - □ Frequency 2 kHz for C-Vs.

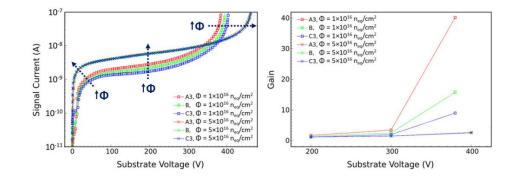




Gain layer sensitivity analysis

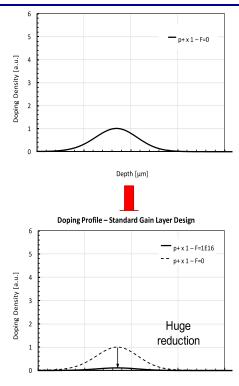
- □ Three different doping profiles considered
 - □ Shallow, Standard, Deep.
 - □ Gain layer peak: a variation of a few percentages affects the breakdown voltage (V_{BD}).
 - □ Effect on the gain layer depletion voltage.
 - □ **Predictive** analysis on sensor performance considering the **radiation damage effects**.





Compensated LGAD: innovation for extreme fluences

- $\hfill\square$ Difficult to operate silicon sensors above $10^{16} \, n_{eq}/cm^2$ due to:
 - defects in the silicon lattice structure \rightarrow dark current increase
 - trapping of the charge carriers \rightarrow charge collection efficiency decrease
 - change in the bulk effective doping → impossible to fully deplete the sensors
- In standard LGAD
 - acceptor removal mechanism $\rightarrow \Phi > 1-2 \cdot 10^{15} n_{eq} / cm^2$ lose the multiplication power and behave as standard n-in-p sensors .
- □ Overcome the present limits above extreme fluences^[6]:
- saturation of the radiation damage effects above 5.10¹⁵ n_{eq}/cm²
- the use of thin active substrates (20 40 mm)
- extension of the charge carrier multiplication up to $5 \cdot 10^{17} n_{eq}/cm^2$



Depth [µm]

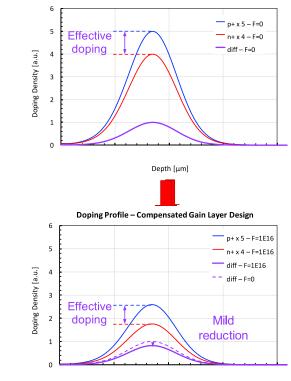
Standard LGAD design



[6] V. Sola et al, "A compensated design of the LGAD gain layer", NIMA 1040 (2022) 167232

Compensated LGAD: innovation for extreme fluences

- **Goal:** extreme fluences $\Phi = 5 \cdot 10^{17} n_{eq}/cm^2$
- Impossible to reach the design target with the present design of the gain layer.
- Use the interplay between acceptor and donor removal to keep a constant gain layer active doping density.
 Compensated LGAD: Technology under development (FBK EXFLU1 R&D)
- Many unknowns:
 - □ donor removal coefficient,
 - \Box interplay between donor and acceptor removal (c_D vs c_A)
 - □ effects of substrate impurities on the removal coefficients



Depth [µm]



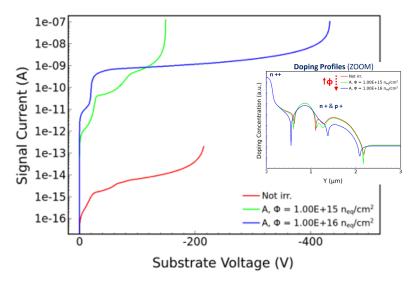


Compensation – doping evolution with fluence

Three scenarios of net doping evolution are possible, according to the acceptor and donor removal interplay:

1. $c_A \sim c_D$

p+-n+ effective doping remains almost constant \rightarrow unchanged gain with irradiation.



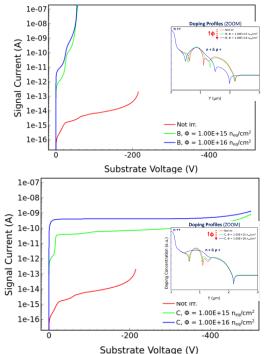
2. c_A < c_D

rapid increase of the net p+-doping → the gain increases with irradiation. Co-implantation of oxygen might mitigate the donor deactivation rate.

3. $c_A > c_D$

effective doping disappearance is slower than in the standard design.

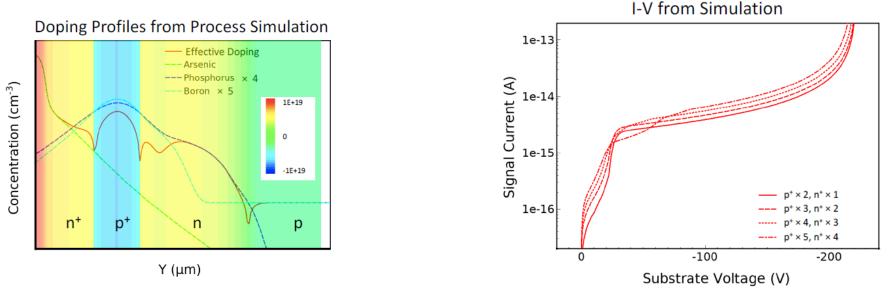
Co-implantation of carbon atoms can mitigate the p+doping removal.





Compensation - simulation

Process simulations of Boron (p+) and Phosphorus (n+) implantation and activation reveal the different shapes of the two profiles (TCAD Silvaco).

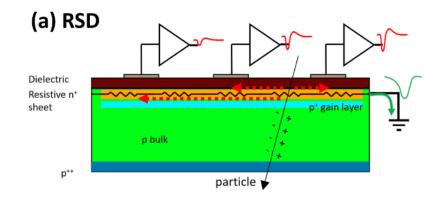


The simulation of electrostatic behavior illustrates that attaining similar multiplication is achievable with diverse initial compensation values (TCAD Synopsys).

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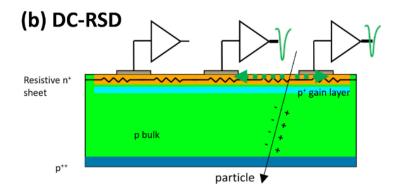
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Resistive Silicon Detector: AC-RSD and DC-RSD



✓ This design has been manufactured in several productions by FBK, BNL, and HPK.





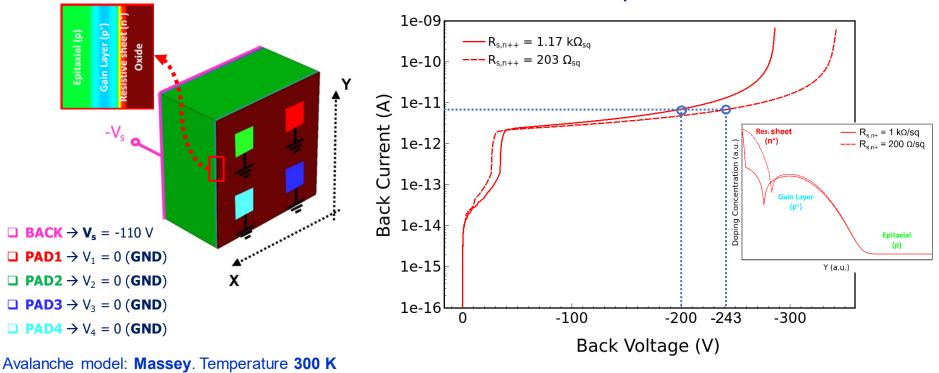
- \checkmark This design is presently under development by FBK.
- ✓ The main advantage of the DC-RSD design is to limit the signal spread;
- ✓ A promising solution to simultaneously meet all the specifications required for the next generation of colliders;
- Evaluation of different layouts and technologies for future DC-RSD production using TCAD tools;



Different n⁺⁺ layer resistance

✓ 3D structure, 2x2 PADs => LGAD

I-V, not irr.

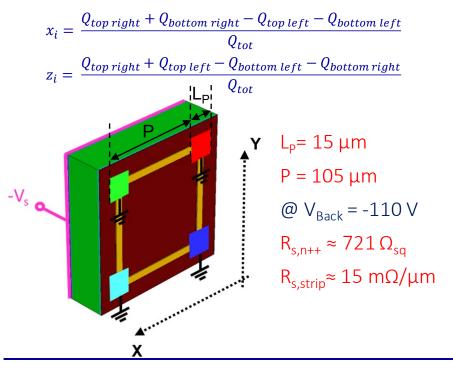




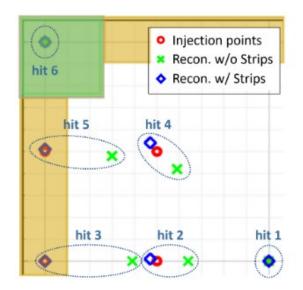
Reconstruction

✓ Stimulus MIP

✓ The position is reconstructed using the charge imbalance



Results from TCAD simulations



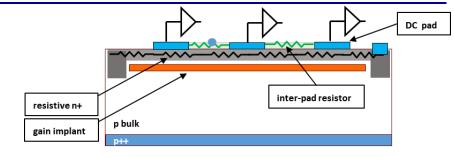
Avalanche model: Massey. Temperature 300 K

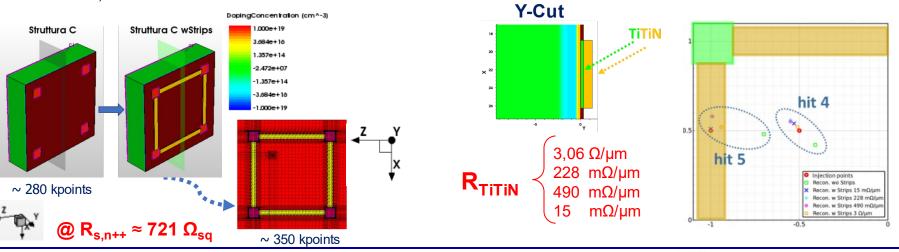


DC-RSD with strips

□ The DC-RSD design can consider resistors between the read-out electrodes.

 \rightarrow these resistors could improve the position resolution of the sensors

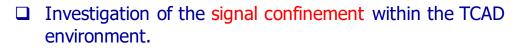




3D structure, 2x2 PADs => LGAD

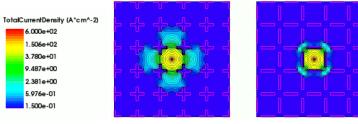


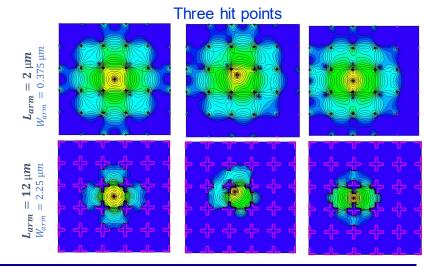
Charge sharing and signal confinement



- □ Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP): various hit points considered.
- Different pad geometries
 - Cross or bar-shaped;
 - Better confinements in larger pads;
 - Error in reconstruction by associating any point covered by metal with the center of the pad;
 - Need small, circular-shaped electrodes and strategy to confine the signal (e.g., trenches);

Cross- vs bar-shaped pads





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Conclusions

- ✓ Strategy for TCAD numerical simulation of rad-hard devices
 - Bulk + Surface radiation damage effects need to be considered in the modeling scheme.
 - "New University of Perugia Model" + Acc removal/creation mechanism → "PerugiaModDoping"
 - LGAD, compensated and RSD LGAD \rightarrow optimization for their use in the future HEP experiments
- ✓ TCAD plays a pivotal role in the design/optimization of rad-hard devices
 - Modelling radiation damage effects is a tough task!
 - New guidelines for future production of radiation-resistant options.
 - Modeling dopant removals, impact ionization, carriers' mobility, traps dynamics
- ✓ A General-purpose TCAD modeling scheme for extreme fluences doesn't exist yet
 - Predictive capabilities to be extended $\Phi > 10^{16} n_{eq}/cm^2$.
 - Application to the optimization of advanced (pixel) detectors (3D detectors, LGADs, ...)

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Thanks for your kind attention

BACKUP SLIDES



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Low-Gain Avalanche Diodes (LGADs)

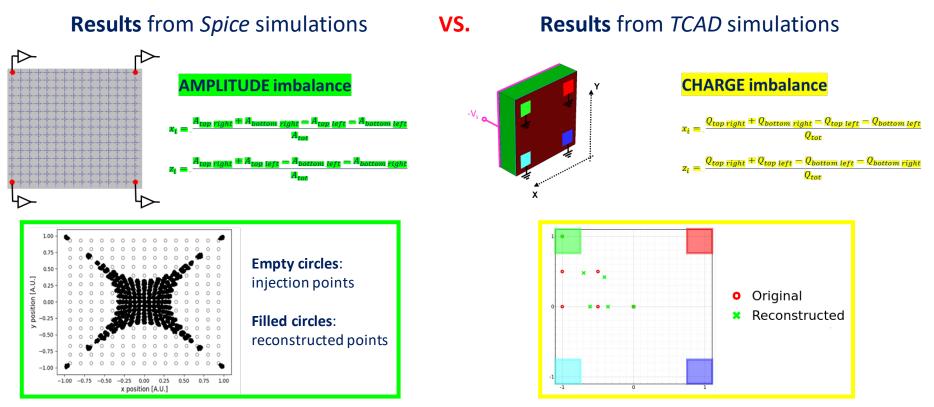
- Most promising devices to cope with the high spatial density of particles hits due to the increasing radiation fluence expected in the HL-LHC at CERN.
- LGAD structure: pin diode with the additional inclusion of a p+-type layer just below the n-contact, which is commonly called *multiplication layer*.
- > By applying a reverse-bias, this layer is responsible for a **multiplication of carriers**.

$$G_{\text{aval}} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{n} n \boldsymbol{v}_{n} + \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{p} p \boldsymbol{v}_{p}$$
 $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \frac{E}{E_{th}} e^{-\frac{E_{i}}{E_{th}}}$

- By accurately chosing the peak and shape of the implanted p+ profile, it is possible to control the avalanche mechanism in order to obtain the required internal gain with a sufficiently high breakdown voltage.
- One of the best tools for predicting the behaviour of the avalanche process is device-level simulation



Reconstruction (3/3)



From L. Menzio et al., 17th "TREDI" Workshop 03/03/22.



The "New Perugia" model

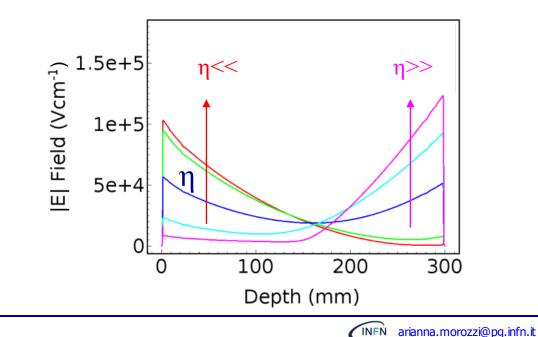
Туре	Energy (eV)	Band width (eV)	Conc. (cm ⁻²)	
Acceptor	$E_C \le E_T \le E_C$ -0.56	0.56	$D_{IT} = D_{IT}(\Phi)$	
Donor	$E_V \le E_T \le E_V + 0.6$	0.60	$D_{IT} = D_{IT}(\Phi)$	

Surface damage $(+ O_{O_{X}})$

- Traps concentrations dependence upon fluences ~ η × φ.
- \checkmark Strong sensitivity to the introduction rate (defects concentration).

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✓ @ $1.0 \times 10^{16} n_{eq}/cm^2$.



\checkmark Bulk damage

Туре	Energy (eV)	η (cm ⁻¹)	σ _n (cm²)	$\sigma_{\rm h}$ (cm ²)
Donor	E _c - 0.23	0.006	2.3×10 ⁻¹⁴	2.3×10 ⁻¹⁵
Acceptor	E _c - 0.42	1.6	1×10 ⁻¹⁵	1×10 ⁻¹⁴
Acceptor	E _C - 0.46	0.9	7×10 ⁻¹⁴	7×10 ⁻¹³



Methodology



DC / AC analysis	Transient analysis	Gain calculation				
 DC biasing (static) n cathode: 0 V p anode: sweep ✓ start = 0 V ✓ step = -25 V (from 100 V) ✓ stop = -1000 V Temperature ✓ 300 K for not irr., 253 K for irr. [7] 	 For each DC bias step, one Time-Variant (TV) simulation of impinging particle (MIP), following the "Heavylon" model instant of penetration 1 ns through the whole device Linear Energy Transfer (LET) 	 Leakage current calculation instant = 0,9 ns Leakage current offset subtracted from the simulated I(t) curve Calculation of Collected Charge (CC) as the integral of the current 				
 AC biasing (small-signal) For each DC bias step, superimposition of a 1 V_{pp}, 1 kHz sinusoid Impedance matrix for each node of the discretized grid Temperature 300 K for not irr. / irr. 	$LET_{f} = \frac{E_{LOSS}}{E} \frac{pC}{\mu m}$ where $E = 3,68 \ eV$ [5] $E_{LOSS} = 0,027 \log(y) + 0,126 \ \frac{keV}{\mu m}$	$Gain = \frac{CC_{LGAD}}{CC_{PIN}}$ [6]				
[5] S. Meroli et al., Energy loss measurement for charged particles in very thin silicon layers, JINST 6 P06013, 2011 [7] A. Chilingarov, Temperature dependence of the [6] V. Sola et al., First FBK production of 50 μm ultra-fast silicon detectors, Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. A, 2019 current generated in si bulk, JINST 8 P10003, 2013.						

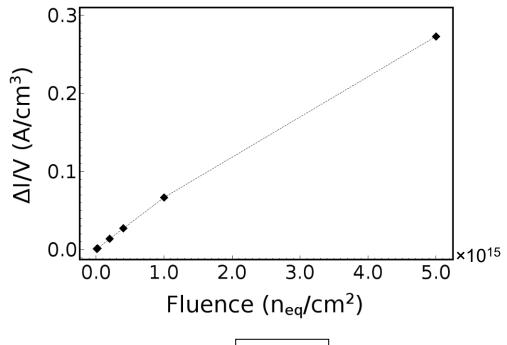


Leakage current vs fluence

- ✓ Leakage current measured/simulated at -20°C and scaled to +20°C [3].
- p-type susbstrate devices.
- Leakage current over a detector volume is proportional to the fluence with a proportionality factor α :
 - MEASUREMENTS:
 α ~ 4÷7x10⁻¹⁷A/cm³
 depending on the annealing time/temperature [4].
 - ✓ SIMULATIONS: α = 5.4x10⁻¹⁷A/cm³.

[3] A. Chilingarov, Generation current temperature scaling, RD50 technical note.

[4] A. Dierlamm, KIT Status, CMS Outer tracker Meeting, March 2019.

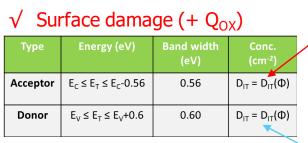


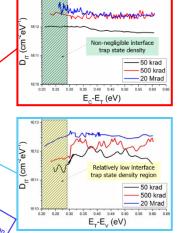




The "New Perugia" model

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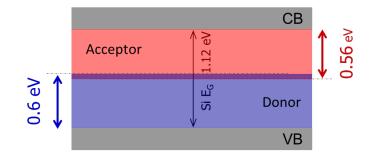


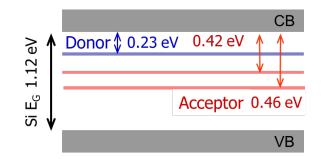




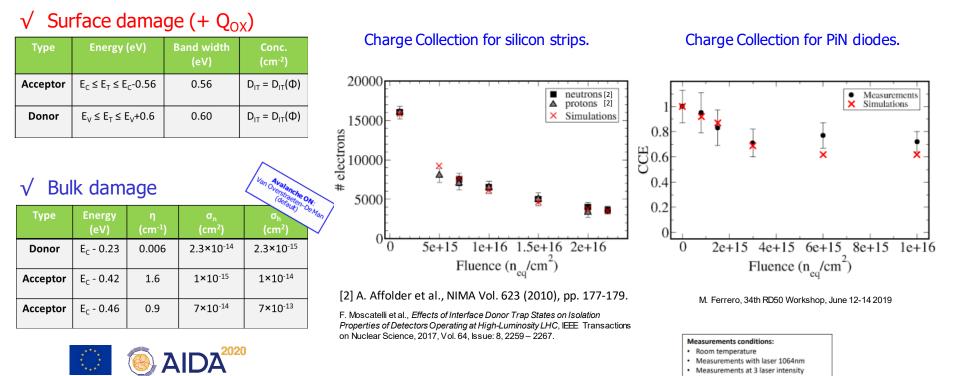
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Reference diode to check laser stability

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Transient responce: "HeavyIon" model

