Passivation and segmentation developments at LNL

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Ge-based devices





Photodetectors







γ -Ray detectors



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Detector Developments New Encapsulation, R&D on Ge detector

ENSAR2 JRA2 – PSeGe R&D on Position-Sensitive Germanium Detectors for Nuclear Structure and Applications

- •Task 1: New technologies on passivation and segmentation (INFN, IKP-Cologne)
- •Task 3: R&D on segmented p-type coaxial detectors (IFIC, INFN, Univ. Padova)



INFN-LNL, Univ. Padova, IFIC, IKP-Köln



slide from A.Gadea "Status of AGATA", this meeting

Main topics of our current activity at LNL and Unipd

- To develop new passivation/protection techniques
- To develop new thinner contacts, which could replace the present ones (especially Li)
- To improve the method of construction and the robustness of the surfaces for costs reduction in both fabrication and maintenance (needed also for applications).



First step: our first High Purity Ge detector



R&D on HPGe production technologies

First step: we acquired the basic know-how for the **inhouse** production of commercial-like planar HPGe detectors.



- Mechanical treatment and chemical preparation of the surfaces
- \cdot n⁺-contact made with Li diffusion doped method (600 900 μ m thick)
- · p^+ -contact with B implantation (about 0.3 μ thick) + Au film deposition...
- Surface passivation & mounting



Roughness after lapping: 150 - 250 nm



Roughness after etching: 50 - 100 nm

n+ *-contact made with Li diffusion method*



Evaporation apparatus



Li-coated surface

p+ -contact made with B implantation



NRA technique

Ion implantation apparatus



PASSIVATION





Ge is not like Si and natural Ge oxides are not stable

Some known passivations: SiO₂ or amorphous Ge(H)



Passivation techniques

Hydride termination - three types:



Low hydride (low concentration HF)High hydride (high concentration HF)Hyper hydride (same like High hydride but

with after a different surface preparation)

• Sulfide termination ((NH₄)₂S) $G_{G_{e}}^{H}$ G_{G_{e}



• Methanol Passivation (3:1 etching followed by methanol quenching)

n-type HPGe crystal
planar detector with
B and Li contacts
NO Guard Ring
\$40 mm, h 20 mm

The **same detector** was used for **all** the different passivation treatments to avoid bulk effects of the crystal and highlight surface effects.

Measurement setup for determining the detector bulk properties



"Bulk" properties:

- Depletion voltage
- Efficiency
- Resolution
- Peak-to-Compton ratio (P/C)



Depletion voltage



Depletion voltage: the voltage at which the depletion depth is equal to the detector thickness

If surface effects can be neglected

$$V_d = N q d^2 / 2 \varepsilon$$

N = impurity density in the bulk

- q = electronic charge
- d = detector thickness

 ϵ = dielectric constant of germanium





Plateau value of counting rate for sulfide is lower \rightarrow lower active volume (90-95%)

Detector resolution (FWHM) vs Bias voltage



(from G. Maggioni et al., EPJA 2015)

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Detector efficiency

$$\epsilon_{exp} = \frac{R}{A \times I \times \exp(\sum_{i=1}^{3} -(\mu_i \times d_i) \times (\Omega/4\pi))}$$

 $\label{eq:relation} \begin{array}{l} \mathsf{R} = \mbox{counting rate} \\ \mathsf{A} = \mbox{source activity} \\ \mathsf{I} = \mbox{emission probability of the line of interest} \\ \mathsf{d}_i \mbox{ and } \mu_i = \mbox{thickness and total absorption coefficient of the} \\ \mbox{absorbing layers, respectively} \\ \Omega = \mbox{solid angle subtended by the detector} \end{array}$

(from A. Elanique et al., Appl. Rad. Isot. 2012)



Detector properties and surface passivation: current results

Passivations: Low H, High H and Hyper H





(from S. Riccetto et al., to be submitted to EPJA)

Passivations: Low H, High H and Hyper H

Depletion Voltage

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro **Energy Resolution**



(from S. Riccetto et al., to be submitted to EPJA)

Lateral scan with 60eV Y-rays

Lateral scans with a Collimated ²⁴¹Am Source to study the passivated surface.







Scan of the passivated surface: counting rate vs distance

- Strong decrease of counting rate close to the electrodes
- S-terminated detector: n-type surface behavior, which can be related to a negative charge accumulation
- For the other passivations the n-type/p-type behavior is less pronounced

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(from G. Maggioni et al., EPJA 2015)



Scan of the passivated surface: dead layer vs passivation

- The average dead layer is below 1 mm, except for S-terminated detector
- The difference in dead layer thickness involves a difference in the active volume, which can reach 10% in the case of the S-terminated detector



from D.Weisshaar (private comm.) in Eberth & Simpson, Progr.Part.Nucl.Phys.2008

Incomplete charge collection near the passivated surface



and Nuclear Physics 60(2008)283



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High H-passivated detector: ²⁴¹Am spectra



Sulfide passivated detector: ²⁴¹Am spectra



(from G. Maggioni et al., EPJA 2015)

Scan of the passivated surface: counting rate







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Problem: all these passivations are not stable

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Solution: New protective coating



HPGe detector





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Preliminary tests of coated detectors

✓ Methanol passivation followed by the protective coating application

- > 19 months at room temperature under static vacuum
- > 10 minutes at room temperature on the desk
- ➢ 40 hours at 103°C under vacuum

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The properties of the coated detector do not change after these tests



Summary

- Several passivation routes have been applied to a planar HPGe detector and their effects on the detector characteristics have been investigated.
- Lateral scan measurements highlighted the electrical nature of the passivated surface (either n-type or p-type) and its influence with bulk propertis of Ge dets.
- Hydride-based passivations are the bests to reduce dead layers in HPGe dets.
- A detector coating has been developed to substitute the mechanical incapsulation for protecting and stabilizing the passivated surfaces (also in between segments!)



NOVEL CONTACTS



Development of novel contacts

Thermally-induced dopant diffusion

Thermally-induced contamination

(Impurity diffusion inside semiconductors is a thermally activated process)

Which one of them is predominating?

"Thermal process window"?



List of studied processes

P diffusion by Spin-On-Doping [V. Boldrini et al., Appl. Surf. Sci. 392 (2017)]

* Sb diffusion from a remote sputtered source [G. Maggioni et al., MSSP (2018)]

 \star High-T annealing treatments on as cut samples

 \succ Temperature range: from 600 to 810°C

Time range: from 2 to 30 minutes

- Reference samples:

n-type HPGep-type HPGeSupplied by Umicore

B ion implanted (23 keV, 1e15 cm⁻²)

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Contamination of HPGe in thermal processes



Four-wire resistance and Hall measurement Contamination after laser treatment



[From V. Boldrini et al., Mater. Sci. Semicond. Proc. (2018), submitted]

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n⁺ contact on HPGe – LTA technology



Advantages:

- Melting temperature is reached and maintained for a short time (<100 ns)
- Only the surface (< 200 nm) is melted, the bulk is at room temperature
- High dopant concentrations \rightarrow
 - \rightarrow near-ideal p-n- junctions
- Doping with heavy elements without crystal damage
- Very clean process suitable for preserving the Ge hyperpurity
- Suitable for complex contact geometries (segmentation)



Pulsed Laser @ LNL-INFN <u>Nd:YAG</u>

 λ =355 nm (third harmonic generator) τ =7 ns; Ø=6,5 mm; Rate = 10Hz Radiant power ~1500 mW Fluence ~300-400 mJ/cm²

The small detector prototype

Laser geometry was favoured at the expense of detector performance




Sources: ²⁴¹Am, ¹⁵²Eu and ¹³³Ba

Good energy resolution all the energy range up to 400KeV



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The small detector prototype

Laser geometry was favoured at the expense of detector performance



Test of small HPGe prototype: I-V diode configuration



from G. Maggioni at al. Eur. Phys. J. A (2018)



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Prototype HPGe by LTA technology @LNL-INFN

Laser thermal annealing



from W. Raniero (LNL - INFN) - PSeGe 2019



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Photolithography segmentation detector (LNL-INFN)





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from W. Raniero (LNL - INFN) PSeGe 2019



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from W. Raniero (LNL - INFN) PSeGe 2019



gap 0.4mm

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Good energy resolution in all the energy range up to 400KeV



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Good energy resolution in all the energy range up to 400KeV



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Good energy resolution in all the energy range up to 400KeV



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SUMMARY



Conclusions

- The combination of Sb deposition and PLM provides an extremely efficient doping technique.
- Carrier concentration up to 3x10²⁰cm⁻³ with record low resistivity and excellent mobility
- No bulk contamination as consequence of PLM



Conclusions

- The combination of Sb deposition and PLM provides an extremely efficient doping technique.
- Carrier concentration up to 3x10²⁰cm⁻³ with record low resistivity and excellent mobility
- No bulk contamination as consequence of PLM
- Pseudomorphic layers Ge:Sb layers with no extended defects
- FTIR reports plasma wavelengths below 3 μm in the MIR range useful for gas sensing applications
- Inactive Sb is nearly substitutional with small displacement, compatible with very small Sb_nV clusters.



from C. Carraro (Unipd, INFN-LNL) PSeGe 2019

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- Hydride-based passivations are the bests to reduce dead layers in HPGe dets.
- A detector coating has been developed to substitute the mechanical incapsulation for protecting and stabilizing the passivated surfaces (also in between segments!)
- A new method to produce contacts based in laser annealing techniques is very promising. A novel Sb contact has been developed.

Work in progress

- Development of planar detectors with laser-annealed Sb contacts (scaling up)
- Development of detector samples with novel contacts using different deposition methods (vacuum evaporation, spin coating, etc.) and different doping elements (P, As for n contacts and B, Ga for p contacts).

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SIMULATED AND MEASURED SIGNALS FROM SEGMENTED DETECTORS

GOALS

- Laser annealed junctions
- Segmentation of junctions with good passivation
- Accurate simulation of the detector behavior
- Simulated signals from segments



from S. Bertoldo, IFIC-CSIC and INFN-LNL) PSeGe 2019



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SUMMARY

- Goals of this simulation tool
- Models used
- 2D simulation of a fictional detector
 - Depletion process
 - Weighting potentials
 - Simulated trajectories
 - Simulated signals
 - Gap study
- 3D simulation of a real detector
 - Model outline
 - Depletion process
 - Weighting potentials
 - Passivation study
 - Simulated signals





Comparison with experimental signals



from S. Bertoldo, IFIC-CSIC and INFN-LNL) PSeGe 2019



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DRIFT WITHOUT DIFFUSION

Approximations:

Electric field not influenced by charges movement

 $q \mathbf{V}(\vec{x})$

• Point charge

$$\vec{x}_e(t) = -\mu_e \vec{E}(\vec{x}_e(t))$$
$$\dot{\vec{x}_h(t)} = \mu_h \vec{E}(\vec{x}_h(t))$$

$$i_n(t) = q[\mu_e \vec{E}(\vec{x}_e(t)) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}_e(t)) + \mu_h \vec{E}(\vec{x}_h(t)) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}_h(t))]$$
$$Q_n(t) = \int_0^t i_n(\tau) d\tau$$

DRIFT WITH DIFFUSION

Approximations:

- Einstein relation (diffusion proportional to mobility)
- Isotropic diffusion

POISSON EQUATION $\nabla^2 V(\vec{x}) = Nb[1 - e^{-\frac{qV(\vec{x})}{k_BT}}]$

POISSON EQUATION

 $\nabla^2 V(\vec{x}) = N_h [1 - e]$

 $\dot{c_e}(\vec{x},t) - \nabla [D_e \nabla c_e(\vec{x},t) - \mu_e c_e(\vec{x},t) \nabla V(\vec{x})] = 0$

 $\dot{c_h}(\vec{x},t) - \nabla [D_h \nabla c_h(\vec{x},t) + \mu_h c_h(\vec{x},t) \nabla V(\vec{x})] = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} i_n(t) &= \int_{\Omega} \left[\mu_e c_e(\vec{x}, t) \vec{E}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}) + \mu_h c_h(\vec{x}, t) \vec{E}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}) \right] d\vec{x} \\ Q_n(t) &= \int_{\Omega}^t i_n(\tau) d\tau \end{aligned}$$

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SEGMENTED p-TYPE DETECTOR



GEOMETRY AND MESH



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FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Interpolating algorithm
- Electronic filtering
- Model refinement: recombination and generation processes
- C-V,I-V characteristics simulation and surface states dependency
- Leakage current model simulation
- New segmentation geometries

Rescaling (strip number, sizes) for the design of better detectors.



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 $qV(\vec{x})$

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POISSON EQUATION

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 $\dot{c}_e(\vec{x},t) \cdot \nabla [D_e \ \nabla c_e(\vec{x},t) - \mu_e c_e(\vec{x},t) \nabla V(\vec{x})] = 0$

 $\dot{c_h}(\vec{x},t) - \nabla [D_h \nabla c_h(\vec{x},t) + \mu_h c_h(\vec{x},t) \nabla V(\vec{x})] = 0$

$$i_n(t) = \int_{\Omega} \left[\mu_e c_e(\vec{x}, t) \vec{E}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}) + \mu_h c_h(\vec{x}, t) \vec{E}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{E_n}(\vec{x}) \right] d\vec{x}$$
$$Q_n(t) = \int_{\Omega}^t i_n(\tau) d\tau$$



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SIMULATED AND MEASURED SIGNALS FROM SEGMENTED DETECTORS

Residual charge in passivated surfaces



VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION







VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION





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FIELDLINES

VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION







VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION





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Thank you for the attention!