



### Wide band-gap material sensors for applications in high energy physics experiments

V1.2

### Alexander Oh University of Manchester for WG6 of the DRD3 collaboration

**Acknowledgements** 

Inputs and material from the RD42 & RD50 collaborations





### Introduction



5	6	7
<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>N</b>
Boron	Carbon	Nitrogen
10.81	12.011	14.007
13	14	15
<b>Al</b>	<b>Si</b>	<b>P</b>
Aluminium	Silicon	Phosphorus
26.982	28.085	30.974
31	32	33
<b>Ga</b>	<b>Ge</b>	<b>As</b>
Gallium	Germanium	Arsenic
69.723	72.630	74.922

#### **Materials under investigation in WG6:**





### Gallium Nitride





- Wide direct bandgap semiconductor, E<sub>g</sub> = 3.4 eV wurtzite crystalline structure
- High electron mobility (up to 2000 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs)
- High breakdown voltage (600-1200 V/μm)
- High atomic bond energy (~9 eV/atom)
- Higher power density and faster switching speed compared to silicon, use in power electronics



### Gallium Nitride





#### However,

less mature technology, typically, with high dislocation density >1E6 cm<sup>2</sup>

# Better GaN growth methods holds the key to the future

 Improvements in photoelectric performance and high temperature operation will also improve radiation hardness



### Gallium Nitride: $\alpha$ detection

DRD3

- Sandwich structure grown on HVPE\* freestanding bulk GaN
- Schottky contact on Ga side by depositing circular Ni/Au pads





### GaN High Electron Mobility Transistor

Drain

GaN cap

2DEG

Lg



- GaN HEMT epitaxial structures fabricated at National Research Council Canada: Channel
  - AlGaN/AIN barrier on GaN
- **High-mobility 2D-electron** gas (2DEG)
  - Between AlGaN/AIN GaN interface
- "Engine" for high-electron mobility transistors  $\rightarrow$  2DEG
  - Mobility ~2000 cm<sup>2</sup>/V-s  $\rightarrow$  potential for high-speed devices
  - Density ~10<sup>13</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>  $\rightarrow$  potential for high-current devices
- Pre-/post irradiation (10<sup>16</sup>neg) transfer curves and gate currents

Nucleation

Source

GaN buffer

SiC substrate

AIN spacer

AlGaN

GaN\_

- Drain leakage current reduce, i.e. improved
- $V_{th}$  shifted by +0.4V acceptable within IC design limits
- Output current decreased by 19%
- Fabrication process already rad-hard to HL-LHC fluences starting point for development



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See: GaN-AlGaN high electron mobility transistor characteristics 40th RD50 Workshop, 21-24 June 2022



# GaN Schottky device

# DRD3

Fabricating GaN Schottky devices using 8 µm GaN epi-layer on GaN native substrate

- At the Canadian National Research Council (NRC) and CNM-Barcelona
- Initial processing plan on 2" Kyma wafer:
- Deposit rear-side Ohmic metal with high temperature anneal
- Deposit front-side Schottky metal to test rectification
  - Ni/Au Schottky metal with ~0.8 eV barrier after rapid thermal anneal
  - Variable area devices with & without guard rings to suppress surface leakage
  - Ring devices for charge collection









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# GaN Schottky device

# DRD3

0.8 Barrier height [eV] 90 Significant impact of rapid thermal anneal on dark no RTA RTA1:High res bias A RTA1:Low res bias current and barrier height RTA2 RTA3 Provides additional knob in • improving device fabrication 0.5 for rad-hard applications 200 400 600 800 1000 0



- Current density vs perimeter/area
  - Reveals bulk and surface contributions
- Shows a clear decrease in perimeter contributions for increasing RTA
- Bulk contributions are in agreement (within uncertainty)

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Radius [µm]



## Response to UV Laser Light

material from T. Koffas, Carleton

Single Photon Absorption with UV laser Charge collection efficiency test at RAL.

#### Laser characteristics:

#### Type: Nd:YAG

Wavelength: 1064, 532, **355** nm (~3.492 eV)

Beam size : 5x5 mm, <E> = 32.5, 62.5 pJ Average photon number @ 355 nm:

5.82e7 (32.5 pJ) and 1.12e8 (62.5 pJ).

31.90	lqC	Statistics Min 22.50pJ Std.Dev. 3.398pJ Frequency	Max 44.90pJ Overrange 0	Average 32.50pJ Total Pulses 3696	Time Frame 00:05:00 Merge Split Res
A: PD10-pJ-v2 [pJ]				Bins: 100 🔻	v III v
700 -					
600 -					
500 -					
400 -		L .			
300 -					
200 -					
100 -					
0.000	20.00	40.00	60.00	80.0	100.0





### Response to UV Laser Light

material from T. Koffas, Carleton







Focusing on the middle point of cathode stepping the bias voltage [25,250]V, two different injected charges

- Signal increases linearly vs. bias
- Further studies needed due:
- 1. Lateral collection of carriers along surface
- 2. Unknown contribution of surface fields/charges,

critical due to short absorption length of UV light in GaN (~100 nm)

3. Possible charge amplification, but not sufficiently strong E-fields





### GaN future work

# DRD3

- Perform RF measurements on neutron-irradiated HEMTs
  - Pre-irradiation ( $L_g$ =500nm),  $f_t$ =18 GHz,  $f_{max}$ =36 GHz
  - Assess GaN devices as potentially high-rate, high timing precision devices
- Continue with Schottky device fabrication at NRC and CNM
  - More irradiations, material defects measurements, CCE
  - Many GaN radiation damage issues still not understood
    - Poor understanding of interaction of radiation defects with dislocations
    - Effect of defect transformation upon annealing not understood
- Improve radiation-hardness to >10<sup>17</sup> n<sub>eq</sub>/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - Incorporate fab process modifications with demonstrated robustness during 500<sup>o</sup>C aging
  - Neutron irradiation to 10<sup>18</sup> neq/cm<sup>2</sup> in August 2024 at JSI
    - Note: GaN FETs still functional after >10<sup>17</sup> neq/cm<sup>2</sup> protons irradiation
      - See: <u>https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/15/05/C05003</u>

- New fabrication run at NRC for GaN HEMTs
  - Probably ICs, e.g. TIA for hybridizing with Si LGADs
  - First step towards monolithically integrating transistor+sensor
- Identify industrial partners industry far ahead with GaN applications
  - Allow for material development will certainly require several iterations
  - Investigate possibility of large-scale production, e.g. ≥6" wafers
    - <u>Main issue: particle physics a low-priority</u> <u>customer due to small size</u>

material from T. Koffas, Carleton



### Silicon Carbide





See also: **"First generation 4H-SiC LGAD production and its performance evaluation**" by Radek Novotný (CVUT) Nov 20, 2024, 9:30 AM

from H. Matsunami, Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Part 1 43(10), 6835-6847 (2004). Copyright 2004 The Japan Society of Applied Physics



# Silicon Carbide

# DRD3

- Wide bandgap semiconductor (3.26 eV) Low leakage currents, insensitivity to visible light
- Renewed interest:
   High quality wafers for power electronics industry
- + High breakdown field and saturation velocity : Timing applications
- + **Potentially higher radiation hardness** (displacement energy), no cooling needed after irradiation
- Higher ionization energy (~30% less signal per μm) [9]
- Limitations in wafer thickness and resistivity







Dosimetry: µDOS, FLASH [1]

Space, harsh environments (fusion) [3]







- RD50, now DRD3 project started about a year ago
- Aiming to produce planar diodes and LGADs on 6-inch wafers at CNM
- First results from planar run
- Update on LGAD progress

A stivity Instituto			Year 1										Year 2										Year 3								
Activity	Institute		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		<b>)</b> 4		Q1		Q2			Q3		Q4			Q1		Q2		Q3			Q4	
TCAD simulations	HEPHY, CNM	Pla	ana	r						LG	٩D	run	1				LC	GAE	D ru	ın2											
Wafer layout	HEPHY, CNM																														
Production	CNM																														
IV, CV characterization	HEPHY, CNM, Perugia, NIKHEF																														
UV-TCT Measurements	HEPHY, CNM																														
TPA-TCT Measurements	Santander										1																				
Alibava	CERN																														
Neutron Irradiations	НЕРНҮ																														
X-Ray irradiations	Perugia																														
																														ma	ate



### Silicon Carbide



- 4H-SiC p-n planar diodes from Run 13575 of CNM [5]
- 3 x 3 mm<sup>2</sup> active area, 50 μm epi
- Full depletion voltage : 400 V, C<sub>det</sub> = 18 pF





4H-SiC pad diode on readout board

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### Silicon Carbide: Neutron Irradiation studies



- Neutron irradiated (5 ·10<sup>14</sup> 1 ·10<sup>16</sup> n<sub>eq</sub>/cm<sup>2</sup>) at ATI Vienna [6] (previous studies [7,8])
- Deep level defects (Z<sub>1/2</sub> and EH<sub>6/7</sub>) introduced by radiation damage [9]
- Electrical Characterization (I-V, C-V)
- Particle detection (α, p<sup>+</sup>, UV-TCT)
- Simulation Results



TRIGA Mark II reactor at ATI Vienna

material from HEPHY





- Leakage currents < 10 pA after irradiation (up to 1 kV) at room temperature
- Forward Bias: increased resistivity
  - Indicative of n-doped epi layer becoming intrinsic due to deep-level defects [11, 12]
- Reverse bias limited by sparking on surface around 1.6 kV







- Full depletion at 400V for unirradiated sample
- Diode-like depletion lost after irradiation, fixed capacitance regardless of forward / reverse bias
  - Fixed capacitance compatible with 50 μm thickness
- Intrinsic epi layer after irradiation



material from HEPHY





- Room temperature measurements
- Signals collected in forward and reverse bias



Tri-Alpha in Vacuum (<sup>239</sup>Pu, <sup>241</sup>Am, <sup>244</sup>Cm)





62.4 MeV p<sup>+</sup> at MedAustron (AT)

UV-LASER (370nm) < 100 ps pulse length





#### **Alpha measurements**

- Signals obtained even at highest fluences, in forward and reverse bias
- Bias voltage limited by readout
- At highest fluences, forward and reverse bias identical



material from HEPHY





#### 62.4 MeV p<sup>+</sup> at MedAustron

- Signals obtained for fluences up to  $1 \cdot 10^{15} n_{eq}/cm^2$  (limited by noise and thin detectors)
- Unirradiated sensors signal consistent with depletion width
- Slightly higher signal in forward bias than in reverse
  - Trap filling by forward current







#### UV Laser

- 370nm LASER, < 100 ps pulse length
- High charge deposition (~ 10 MeV) and waveform averaging → very good SNR
- Results in reverse bias agree well with p+
- Charge gain observed in forward bias
- Also observed in TPA-TCT [13], likely related to the very high charge deposition



material from HEPHY





#### **CCE vs irradiation fluence**

- CCE follows a power law (∝ Φ<sup>-0.56</sup>), even for different bias voltages
- CCE > 10% for  $1 \cdot 10^{16} n_{eq}/cm^2$
- More work needed to increase radiation hardness of SiC:
  - Annealing [12]
  - Defect engineering





### Silicon Carbide: LGAD

20.0

17.5

Gain Layer Doping [cm<sup>-3</sup>]

- 6.0 x 10<sup>16</sup>



0.2 µm Gain Implant at 1 µm depth

- LGAD : Low Gain Avalanche Diode [16], wide-spread usage for Si
- Attractive for SiC (large signal from thin detectors, timing)
- RD50 common project [17], ongoing work at IHEP / NJU [18-20]





### Silicon Carbide: LGAD

(a) 60

50

40

20

10

Entries 05 PIN Data

LGAD Data

**PIN** Fitting

PIN mean=24.5

LGAD Fitting



LGAD mean=70.6

- First LGAD realised in the SICAR project [23].
- Low leakage current 2.4nA at 400V.
- Gain observed with alpha particles of about 3 at 350V.
- Next steps improve design to reach gains of factor 10.





### Silicon Carbide: LGAD



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory / North Carolina State Univ/ Brookhaven National Laboratory have a



The latest progress at CPAD 2024 , 20<sup>th</sup> Nov https://indico.phy.ornl.gov/event/510/contributions/2261/

#### Status

- Have developed models and simulations which give us design insight.
- Have fabricated devices which demonstrate charge gain and good time resolution.
- Have fabricated AC coupled multisegment devices which show good position resolution.

material from LBNL/NCSU/BNL

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### Silicon Carbide: Summary



- 4H-SiC features extremely low leakage currents even after irradiation up to  $1\cdot 10^{16}$   $n_{eq}/cm^2$
- CCE scales with fluence  $\propto \! \Phi_{eq}^{-0.56}$
- Unirradiated devices can be accurately simulated using TCAD
- Ongoing work on SiC LGAD, promising for timing applications
- New wafer production in the pipeline.

This work was supported by the Austrian research promotion agency FFG, project number 883652.

Production and development of the 4H-SiC samples was supported by the European Union's ERDF program "A way of making

Europe", grant references: PID2021-124660OB-C22

material from HEPHY





Property	Diamond	Silicon		Tenizetien	
band gap	5.47	1.12		Energy [eV]	4H-SiC
mass density [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	3.5	2.33	Displacement	13.0	Diamond
dielectric constant	5.7	11.9	Energy [eV]		GaN
resistivity [Ωcm]	>1011	2.3e5	43		
breakdown [kV/cm]	1e320e3	300	3.6		
e mobility [cm²/Vs]	2150	1350	13		
h mobility [cm²/Vs]	1700	480		3.4 5 5	Band Gap [eV]
therm. conductivity [W / cm K]	1020	1.5	4.0 0.8		
radiation length [cm]	12	9.4	100 2.0		
Energy to create an eh-pair [eV]	13	3.6	Breakdown	2	
ionisation density MIP [eh/mm]	36	89	Field [MV/cm]	$\mathbb{P}$	
ion. dens. of a MIP [eh/ 0.1 $\%$ X <sub>0</sub> ]	450	840		3.0 Electron Saturation	n
				Velocity [10 <sup>7</sup> cm/s	]
<ul> <li>Low dielectric constant          Iow capa     </li> </ul>	acitance				
– Low leakage current → low noise					
<ul> <li>Room temperature operation</li> </ul>	–MIP signal	~2 smaller a	t same $X_0$		

Fast signal collection time —

-MIP signal  $\sim$ 2 smaller at same  $X_0$ 

-Efficiency < 100% (pCVD)





- Today two main manufacturers of detector grade diamond
  - ElementSix Ltd
    - large polycrystalline wafers
    - single crystal diamonds
  - II-VI Semiconductors
    - large polycrystalline wafers
    - relatively recent entry
- Alternative sources
  - Diamond on Iridium (Dol) (Audiatec, Germany)
  - Hetero-epitaxially grown -> large area
  - Highly oriented crystallites.











- Impressive progress over the last 25 years.
- Current state of the art for polycrystalline CVD diamond  $\delta \sim 320 \ \mu m$  in 500um thickness
  - (~11500 e/MIP)
  - commercially available.
  - 1995: δ~ 50 μm
  - 2000: δ~ 180 μm
  - 2020: δ~ 320 μm







• Summary of RD42 irradiation results:

Irradiation Species	<b>k</b> i
200 MeV pions	$3.2 \pm 0.8$
Fast neutrons	4.27 ± 0.33
70 MeV protons	$2.60 \pm 0.27$
800 MeV protons	1.67 <u>+</u> 0.09
24 GeV protons	1

"Back-of-an-envelope calculation, expect Schubweg of:  $\lambda \sim 16 \mu m$  at  $10^{17} \mbox{ cm}^{-2} \mbox{ protons} \mbox{24 GeV} \mbox{eq}$ 

\*normalized to 24GeV protons



$$rac{1}{\lambda} = rac{1}{\lambda_0} + k_\lambda^{arepsilon} \Phi_{arepsilon}$$
 particle fluence



### Carrier lifetime challenge – 3D diamond detectors



- After large radiation fluence all detectors are trap limited
- Mean free paths (schubweg)  $\lambda$ < 50 $\mu$ m
- Need to keep drift length (L) smaller than  $mfp(\lambda)$
- Build **3D detectors** to reduce transit time.
- Huge progress made in fabrication of 3D diamond detectors in the last 10 years.



![](_page_32_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

# 3D Diamond prototypes

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### • CMS and ATLAS pixel prototypes tested:

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

# 3D Diamond prototypes

DRD3

• CMS and ATLAS pixel prototypes tested:

![](_page_35_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Optimise graphitisation process for 3D diamond production in terms of:
  - **Resistivity**: currently at  $(1 0.1\Omega \text{cm})$  aim for  $<0.1\Omega \text{cm}$ .
  - **Processing speed**: currently O(10um/s), aim to speed up and/or parallel processing of wires.
  - Wire thickness / uniformity: Little data available, needs more research effort.
- Optimization of internal electric field
  - Geometry: Recently internal cage structure optimise E field.
  - Will explore the full potential (see later slides).
  - Characterise timing performance.
- Radiation hardness:
  - Need to check predictions with latest devices.
  - 25um cells in 3D.

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Laser wave front shaping helps to decrease resistivity.
- Dependence on processing parameters being studied [34].
- More research needed to lower resistivity.

![](_page_37_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

# DRD3

- Low field regions might effect transit time.
- Preliminary simulations show not a concern due to diffusion.
- More work needed to quantify impact of radiation damage.

![](_page_38_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

# DRD3

#### Sensors 2022, 22(22), 8722; https://doi.org/10.3390/s22228722

![](_page_39_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

Irradiation of pCVD diamond with 800 MeV protons: 3D vs Planar

#### • Few radiation hardness data available, but promising:

- Compare signal loss in 3D pixels to published results from planar
- 3D sensors collect twice as much charge when unirradiated
- 3D sensors see 5±10 % reduction in signal at 3.5 x10<sup>15</sup>
- Planar sensors see 45±5 % reduction for 3.5 x10<sup>15</sup>

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Laser processing allows any geometry, including horizontal wires.
  - Exiting possibility to optimise the electric and weighting field.
  - Small cell sizes realizable, wire diameter at abut 1μm.
  - Simulation studies currently ongoing.
- Future research in this area:
  - Optimise geometry
  - Wire processing
  - cell sizes <(25µm)<sup>2</sup>
  - Simulation Prototyping Characterization.

![](_page_40_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Laser processing allows any geometry, including horizontal wires.
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  - Small cell sizes realizable, wire diameter at abut 1μm.
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- Future research in this area:
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  - Wire processing
  - cell sizes <(25µm)<sup>2</sup>
  - Simulation Prototyping Characterization.

![](_page_41_Figure_12.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

### 3D Diamond for future experiements

DRD3

- The BCM' phase-2 project of ATLAS will feature small area 3D diamond detectors.
  - Prove technology readiness for small cells.
  - Stepping stone for larger area application.

![](_page_42_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **Diamond Summary**

![](_page_43_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Diamond is established in HEP as a radiation tolerant detector.
  - Primarily Beam monitor at experiments and LHC.
- Synthetic diamond has improved in quality.
  - Profit from interest in other fields, e.g. quantum computing.
- 3D Diamonds promising to master the FCC-hh radiation challenge.
- Next steps for 3D diamond
  - Production of final planar and 3D sensors for ITk BCM' (ATLAS)
  - Move to 25x25  $\mu m^2$  cell sizes and characterise rad hardness
  - Investigate scaling of column production
  - Investigate gain structures

![](_page_43_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Summary & Outlook

![](_page_44_Picture_2.jpeg)

Wide bandgap materials are promising to address the challenges of future particle physics experiments.

Common properties are superior displacement energy and charge carrier velocities, translating to radiation hardness and speed.

Synergy with industry trends allows particle physics to profit from exciting new developments in this field.

Exciting time to explore the possibilities of wide-bandgap materials!

![](_page_44_Figure_7.jpeg)

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