

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

Alexander Oh University of Manchester for WG6 of the DRD3 collaboration

Acknowledgements Inputs and material from the RD42 & RD50 collaborations

Introduction

Materials under investigation in WG6:

Gallium Nitride

- Wide direct bandgap semiconductor, $E_q = 3.4$ eV wurtzite crystalline structure
- High electron mobility (up to 2000 cm^2/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 cm2

Better GaN growth methods holds the key to the future

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

detection DRD3 Gallium Nitride: a detection The charge collision efficiency reached about G plateau of virtualize dependence. θ that the H5 hole transformation θ is the main centers responsible for θ the scape of the SCR (the 19 eV traping time for the 19 eV trapping time for the 0.2 eV trapping time for the

gies. The space charge region (SCR) can be extended to the

- Sandwich structure grown on HVPE* freestanding bulk GaN B. Alpha-particles detector measurements on the
- Schottky contact on Ga side by depositing circular Ni/Au pads $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ using the school term is $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ is seen as $\frac{1}{2}$ is seen as $\frac{1}{2}$ is seen as $\frac{1}{2}$ is a set of $\frac{1}{2}$ is paus

squares, black line).

the 239Pu a-particles measured by the high resistivity HVPE detector at different applied reverse biases on the detector.

of undoped GaN with carrier concentrations of α

The initial radiation sensitivity of the detectors was tested

 1486 d (closed squares, red line) a-particle sources. $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L})$

FIG. 1. Structures of a-particle GaN

charge integration time of our preamplifier, 1 ls; other elec-

tector on applied reverse bias for the 239 ± 239

using 5.48 MeV alpha particles from an 241Am source. The GaN Detector for the GaN particles from an 241Am sourc
1980 - Canada de Can $\mathsf{r} \mathsf{O} \mathsf{h}$ and $\mathsf{S} \mathsf{S}$ grown by MOCVD, 3-lm GaN grown by $\mathsf{S} \mathsf{S}$ by molecular-beam epita $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M})$ (MBE), and 12-lm GaN grown $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{M})$ detectors, mounted in a DIP, were placed 1.5 cm below a 0.8 km below a cylindrical vacuum chamber evacuum cham
Am disk source in a cylindrical vacuum chamber evacuum chamber evacuum chamber evacuum chamber evacuum chamber 80 V (solid circles, green line), 100 V (open squares, red line), 120 V (solid circles, red line), 120 V (solid circles, α

GaN High Electron Mobility Transistor **Pre- and post-neutron irradiation transfer curves and gate currents**

Effects of 1016 neq neutrons:

GaN buffer

Vth shifted + 0.4V

Drain leakage current reduced (i.e.

Lg

 $\epsilon_{\rm{an}}$ is to the top the top difference $\epsilon_{\rm{on}}$

GaN 2DEG

er acceptable with the contract of the contrac

• lower than expected for standard

Output current decreased 19%

- GaN HEMT epitaxial structures fabricated at National Research Council Canada: $\frac{1}{2}$ su uctures ra Channel
- AlGaN/AIN barrier on GaN \overline{Q} div
- High-mobility 2D-electron gas (2DEG) $\overline{\text{H}}$ in grid in current current
	- Between AlGaN/AlN **GaN** interface **NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CANADA 4 FOR EXAMPLE 2009 1 FOR EXAMPLE 2009 1**
	- "Engine" for high-electron mobility transistors \rightarrow 2DEG
		- Mobility ~2000 cm²/V-s \rightarrow potential for high-speed devices
		- Density $\sim 10^{13}$ cm⁻² \rightarrow potential for high-current devices
	- Pre-/post irradiation (10^{16} neq) transfer curves and gate currents

improved)

- 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 characteristi](https://indico.cern.ch/event/1157463/contributions/4922811/attachments/2466890/4230740/J-P%20Noel%20et%20al,%20GaN-AlGaN%20high%20electron%20mobility%20transistor%20characteristics%20after%2010%5E16%20neq%20neutron%20irradiation,%20V5%20final.pdf)cs **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

GaN Schottky device

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- $RTA0$ RTA1 0.8 10^{-5} RTA₂ Dark Current \bigcirc -1 \vee -1 \circ -6 \circ -1 \circ -6 \circ -1 \circ -Barrier height [eV]

e

e

e

e • Significant impact of rapid thermal anneal on dark no RTA \blacksquare RTA1: High res bias ▲ RTA1:Low res bias current and barrier height \blacktriangledown RTA2 \leftarrow RTA3 • Provides additional knob in improving device fabrication 10^{-10} 0.5 for rad-hard applications 10^{-1} 200 400 600 800 1000 10 \mathbf{C} Radius [µm]
- 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)

 $10⁻$

Response to UV Laser Light

DRD3 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).

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

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- Perform RF measurements on neutron-irradiated HEMTs
	- Pre-irradiation ($L_e=500$ nm), $f_t=18$ 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 $>10^{17}$ n_{eq}/cm²
	- Incorporate fab process modifications with demonstrated robustness during 500⁰C aging
	- Neutron irradiation to 10^{18} neg/cm² in August 2024 at JSI
		- Note: GaN FETs still functional after $>10^{17}$ neg/cm² protons irradiation
			- Se[e: https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/15/05/C05003) [0221/15/05/C0500](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/15/05/C05003)3
- 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
		- Main issue: particle physics a low-priority customer due to small size

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

- ^l **Wide bandgap semiconductor (3.26 eV)** Low leakage currents, insensitivity to visible light
- ^l **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**

µDOS, FLASH [1]

- **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

Silicon Carbide

- 4H-SiC p-n planar diodes from Run 13575 of CNM [5]
- \cdot 3 x 3 mm² active area, 50 µm epi
- Full depletion voltage : 400 V, $C_{\text{det}} = 18 \text{ pF}$

4H-SiC pad diode on readout board

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Silicon Carbide: Neutron Irradiation studies

- Neutron irradiated $(5 \cdot 10^{14} 1 \cdot 10^{16} \text{ neq/cm}^2)$ at ATI Vienna [6] (previous studies [7,8])
- Deep level defects ($Z_{1/2}$ and EH $_{6/7}$) introduced by radiation damage [9]
- **Electrical Characterization (I-V, C-V)**
- **.** Particle detection $(α, p⁺, UV-TCT)$
- **.** Simulation Results

TRIGA Mark II reactor at ATI Vienna

material from HEPHY

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- **.** 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

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- Full depletion at 400V for unirradiated sample
- \bullet **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

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

Tri-Alpha in Vacuum (239 Pu, 241 Am, 244 Cm) 62.4 MeV p⁺ 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⁺ at MedAustron

- Signals obtained for fluences up to $1 \cdot 10^{15}$ n_{eq}/cm² (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 (\sim 10 MeV) and waveform averaging \rightarrow very good SNR
- \cdot 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

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CCE vs irradiation fluence

- CCE follows a power law (\propto Φ^{-0.56}), even for different bias voltages
- $CCE > 10\%$ for $1 \cdot 10^{16}$ neq/cm²
- ^l More work needed to increase radiation hardness of SiC:
	- Annealing [12]
	- Defect engineering

Silicon Carbide: LGAD

20.0

17.5

 $0.2 \mu m$ Gain Implant at 1 μm depth

Gain Laver Doping \lceil cm⁻³ \rceil

 -6.0×10^{16}

- ^l 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

Entries
30

20

10

PIN Data

• LGAD Data

PIN Fitting LGAD Fitting

PIN mean=24.5

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 , 20th Nov [https://indico.phy.ornl.gov/event/510/contributions/226](https://indico.phy.ornl.gov/event/510/contributions/2261/)1/

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

Silicon Carbide: Summary

- 4H-SiC features extremely low leakage currents even after irradiation up to $1 \cdot 10^{16}$ n_{eg}/cm²
- CCE scales with fluence \propto Φ_{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

- 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 (DoI) (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 \sim 50 μ m
	- 2000: δ \sim 180 µm
	- 2020: δ ~ 320 µm

• Summary of RD42 irradiation results:

"Back-of-an-envelope calculation, expect Schubweg of: $\lambda \sim 16 \mu$ m at 10^{17} cm⁻² protons_24 GeV_eq

*normalized to 24GeV protons

 λ_0

particle fluence

Carrier lifetime challenge – 3D diamond detectors

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

3D Diamond prototypes

• CMS and ATLAS pixel prototypes tested:

3D Diamond prototypes

DRD3

• CMS and ATLAS pixel prototypes tested:

- **Optimise graphitisation process for 3D diamond production in terms of:**
	- **Resistivity**: currently at $(1 0.1\Omega \text{cm})$ aim for <0.1 Ω 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.

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

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- 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.

DRD₃

Sensors **2022**, *22*(22), 87[22; https://doi.org/10.3390/s222287](https://doi.org/10.3390/s22228722)22

• 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 x10¹⁵
- **Planar sensors see 45±5 % reduction** for 3.5 x1015

- 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 \langle (25 μ m)²
	- Simulation Prototyping Characterization.

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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.

Diamond Summary

- 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 μ m² cell sizes and characterise rad hardness
	- Investigate scaling of column production
	- Investigate gain structures

Summary & Outlook

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!

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