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# Simulation of Radiation Effects on Semiconductors

Design of Low Gain Avalanche Detectors

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### Outline



- Background  $\checkmark$
- **Basic principles**  $\checkmark$
- **Ionization Damage Simulation** 
  - Silicon  $\checkmark$
  - ✓ Silicon oxide
- **Displacement Damage Simulation** 
  - Semiconductor  $\checkmark$

**Case Study: Design of Low Gain Avalanche Photodetectors** 

- LGAD structure and application  $\checkmark$
- Gain simulation  $\checkmark$
- Design of active region  $\checkmark$
- Design of periphery and edge termination region  $\checkmark$
- **Fabrication and Experimental results**  $\checkmark$







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### Integrated Micro and Nano **Fabrication Clean Room**

### Main CR

- **1,500** m<sup>2</sup>
- **Class 100-10,000**
- **CMOS integrated circuits**
- **Microsystems processes**
- Nanolithography and nanofabrication

### **Back-end CR**

- **40** m<sup>2</sup>
- Class 1000-10,000
- Chip packaging
- Hybrid circuit assembly









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# **General Considerations**

### **TCAD Software for (Power) semiconductors**

- Silvaco  $\checkmark$
- $\checkmark$ Sentaurus
- SRIM (TRIM Monte Carlo simulation)  $\checkmark$

### **Previous knowledge:**

- Power semiconductor devices: Design, optimisation and fabrication  $\checkmark$
- $\checkmark$ Silvaco tools for process technology simulation and Clean Room control
- ✓ Sentaurus tools for structure optimisation (selection of optimum geometrical and technological parameters)
- Advanced simulation of device degradation (hot carriers, hot spots, etc.)  $\checkmark$
- Performance degradation after irradiation of commercial power lateral  $\checkmark$ **MOSFETs**
- Design and application of <u>Silicon tracking detectors</u> (ATLAS)  $\checkmark$





### What do we need to simulate / emulate?

- **Radiation hardness of (power) semiconductor devices**  $\checkmark$ 
  - **Post-irradiation damage**
  - Technological modifications to enhance robustness
- Single Event Effects (logic circuits and memories)  $\checkmark$ 
  - Generated charge profiles
  - **Transient simulations of complex 3D structures**
- Charge generation and evolution in Silicon detectors  $\checkmark$ 
  - Transient or quasi-static simulation?
  - **Strategies**
- Gain simulation in Silicon detectors  $\checkmark$





- The interaction between radiation and materials (of a semiconductor device) is based on the moment and energy transfer
  - **Ionisation damage**  $\checkmark$
  - **Displacement damage**  $\checkmark$

Tipo	Energía	Interacción	Secundarios	Daño Primario	Daño Secundario
e-	< 150  keV > 150 keV	cortical	e <sup>-</sup>	ionización	ionización
		nuclear	iones	desplazamiento	
$\mathbf{p}^+, \alpha,$	> MeV	cortical	$e^-$ , iones	ionización	ionización
Iones		nuclear	iones	desplazamiento	
n	$< 100 \ {\rm keV}$	nuclear	iones		ionización
	térmicos	captura inelástica	$\alpha$ , productos de fision y $\gamma$	desplazamiento	y desplazamiento
	< 50  keV	fotoeléctrico	e-		ionización
$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma \end{pmatrix}$	$> 50 { m ~keV}$ $< 20 { m ~MeV}$	MeV Compton		ionización	ionización y
7	> 20  MeV prod. pares		$e^-, e^+ y \gamma$		desplazamiento





Relation between absorbed dose and energy transfer

- Number of incident particles (cm<sup>-2</sup>·s<sup>-1</sup>) Flux (Φ):  $\checkmark$
- <u>Integrated Flux or Fluence ( $\Phi$ )</u>: Total number of incident particles (cm<sup>-2</sup>)

 $D = S\Phi$ 

**Dose (D):** Absorbed energy per unit mass  $\checkmark$ 

(Gray: 1 Gy =  $100 \text{ J} \cdot \text{Kg}^{-1}$ )

 $(rad; 1 rad = 100 erg \cdot s^{-1})$ 

Stopping Power (S): Energy transfer, normalised to the material density (MeV·cm<sup>2</sup>·Kg<sup>-1</sup>)  $\checkmark$ 







# **Ionisation Damage** Simulation



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# **Ionisation Damage Simulation**

The incident particle transfer its energy to a cortical electron, creating an electron-hole pair

The minimum energy to create an electron-hole pair (Shockley theory) is:

 $E_{ion} = E_G + rE_R + 2E_f$ 

 $E_{G}$  (gap),  $E_{R}$  (Raman),  $E_{f}$ (Fonons)

The <u>generation rate</u> accounts for the electron-hole pairs created by a TID<sub>0</sub> = 1 Rad in 1 cm<sup>3</sup>

$$g_0 = \rho \frac{\text{TID}_0}{E_{ion}}$$

Material	$E_{ion} [eV]$	$g_0 \ [ehp/cm^3 \cdot rad]$
Si	3.6	$4{,}0\times10^{13}$
${ m SiO}_2$	17.0	$8,1 \times 10^{12}$
GaAs	$\sim 4.8$	$\sim 7{,}0\times 10^{13}$
Ge	2.8	$1,2 \times 10^{14}$





### **Ionisation Damage Simulation**

- □ The damage introduced by the generation of a great amount of electron-hole pairs depends on the <u>transient evolution</u> of the charge and also on the <u>bias</u> and <u>ambient conditions</u>
  - ✓ <u>Semiconductors</u>:
    - If no bias is applied, charge disappears due to recombination. The process is ruled by the carrier lifetimes and does not degrade the material. No simulation interest
    - If bias is applied, mobile charge is accelerated by the electric field in the depletion region and a transient current is observed. Single Event Effects
    - Transient simulation.
  - ✓ <u>Dielectrics</u>:
    - The number of generated electron-hole pairs is much lower than in semiconductors
    - The charge mobility is also much lower than in semiconductors
    - As a consequence, carrier are trapped and a certain density of fixed charge is created. Critical in active devices
    - Quasi stationary simulation



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# **Ionisation Damage in** Semiconductors





### **Ionisation Damage Simulation in Semiconductors**

- The simulation of ionising particles is only relevant when the density of generated electronhole pairs is really high (electron-hole plasma)
  - Heavy ions typically create an electron-hole plasma  $\checkmark$
  - Transport equation in a non-linear regime have to be solved  $\checkmark$
  - Strong injection conditions are easily reached  $\checkmark$
  - The Sentaurus Heavy Ion model works properly to emulate the transient evolution of  $\checkmark$ the generated charge (Single Event Effects)
    - Simulation of particles with Minimum Ionizing Energy is of great interest since the number of generated electron-hole pairs is perfectly known.
    - Transient simulations are time costly if accuracy is expected.
    - The distribution of the generated electron-hole pairs in the semiconductor has to be previously determined by using a SRIM/TRIM simulator (Stopping and Range of Ions in Matter)





## Single Event Effects: Experimental Study and Simulation

### Single Event Effects (SEE):

- Produced by high energy particle hits on sensitive circuit regions
- Main topic in reliability and device performance in space applications

### Study and prediction of SEE require test in particle accelerator facilities

- Heavy Ion accelerator provide high energy capabilities
- High cost and limited availability impose alternative methodologies  $\checkmark$
- Numerical simulation techniques are able to predict device and circuit behaviour after an ion hit





## Single Event Effects: Experimental Study and Simulation

- Simulation Techniques: Different Approaches.
  - Physics of the incident particle and its interaction with matter (SRIM- $\checkmark$ Stopping and Rang of Ions in Matter):
    - Calculations on the energy deposition of ions passing through matter
    - Linear Energy Transfer (LET) profile along the particle track can be obtained
  - Electric performance of the circuit after the perturbation (CADENCE- $\checkmark$ **SPECTRE**):
    - Perturbation is replaced by a pulsed current in the affected node
    - Single Event evolution can be followed
  - Semiconductor solid state physics (Synopsys Sentaurus TCAD):  $\checkmark$ 
    - Exact reproduction of the charge collection phenomenology
    - Accurate consequences over the electrical characteristics can be evaluated





# **Ionisation Damage in Oxides**

# **Case Study: Power LDMOS Transistor**



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#### Two approaches can be contemplated:

- Simulation of the defect evolution 1.
  - Transport, anneal and recombination models
  - Transient simulation (time costly)
  - Continuity equations are not solved in oxides
    - "Oxide as semiconductor" option has to be selected and a correct set of parameters have to be introduced (good knowledge of the dielectric)
- Simulation of the permanent damage using Sentaurus Fixed Charge and Traps models 2.
  - **Quasi-static simulation**
  - Average final values necessary
- A relation between defects and Dose (TID) is needed  $\checkmark$ 
  - Generation of <u>fixed charge</u>  $(N_{ot})$  and <u>interface traps</u>  $(N_{it})$
  - Energy distribution of traps (D<sub>it</sub>)
  - Strong electric field dependence (irradiation bias conditions to be emulated)





#### Calculation of the recombination efficiency $(f_v)$

- Efficiency of the recombination process  $(f_v)$  is the ratio between surviving holes and ✓ total generated holes
- Recombination strongly depends on the ionising particle  $\checkmark$



The efficiency of the recombination also depends on the electric field  $\checkmark$ 

$$f_Y(E_{ox}) = \left(\frac{|E_{ox}|}{|E_{ox}| + E_1}\right)^m$$
 For <sup>60</sup>Co: m=0.7 and E<sub>1</sub>=0.55 MV/cm





#### Charge generation and evolution in a MOS structure

- Electron-hole pairs suffer an initial recombination (low electric field)  $\checkmark$
- Under high electric field electrons are immediately removed through the gate electrode  $\checkmark$
- Holes are also drift by the high electric field, but their mobility is low and take time to  $\checkmark$ reach the Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface (hopping transport)
- Some holes are trapped in the deep levels at the region close to the Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface  $\checkmark$ creating fixed charges and interface traps







#### Calculation of the trapping efficiency $(f_{ot})$ and fixed charges $(N_{ot})$

- Survivor holes (to the eventual initial recombination) travel through the oxide  $\checkmark$
- Holes can be trapped in their way to the oxide interface  $\checkmark$
- The efficiency of the trapping process  $(f_{ot})$  is the ratio between trapped holes and  $\checkmark$ surviving holes
  - The trapping efficiency depends on the electric field and on the oxide quality
  - If the oxide thickness is lower than 15 nm, holes are completely removed by tunneling effect (f<sub>ot</sub>=0)
- **Finally:**  $\checkmark$ 
  - The fixed charges are described by







#### **Calculation of the Interface traps**

- Traps in the Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface are related with the H<sup>+</sup> density in the oxide (depends on  $\checkmark$ the growth process) and are identified as  $P_{h}$ 
  - Incident particles release H<sup>+</sup> which are drift to the Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface where they create dangling bonds (traps)
- **Finally:**  $\checkmark$ 
  - The <u>interface traps</u> (N<sub>it</sub>) are described by  $N_{it} = a_{it}[p]$

(where a<sub>it</sub> is the kinetic constant and p is the H<sup>+</sup> concentration)

N<sub>it</sub> can also be expressed as a function of the ionising dose (TID) as  $N_{it} = a_{it} \mathrm{TID}^{b_{it}}$ 

> (where b<sub>it</sub> depends on the process technology and is determined by performing tests on capacitors. Typically  $b_{it} \sim 1$ )

 $\checkmark$  Only two energy levels are considered: E<sub>v</sub>+0.3 eV (acceptor) and E<sub>v</sub>+0.8 eV (donor)





### **Ionisation Damage Simulation Procedure in Oxides**



Fixed charge (N<sub>ot</sub>) is introduced in Sentaurus by setting the charge parameter

Traps in the Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface are set by:

- The two energy levels ( $E_v$ +0.3 eV and  $E_v$ +0.8 eV)
- The superficial trap concentration  $(N_{it})$
- Capture cross-section of electrons and holes





### LDMOS transistors will be used in DC-DC converters for the HL-LHC upgrade



- Transistors from IHP Microelectronics (DE) (0.25 µm SGB25V GOD SiGe BiCMOS)  $\checkmark$
- Submitted to neutron irradiation (0.5, 5 and 10 Mrad)  $\checkmark$
- **<u>First step</u>**: Technological and electrical simulation of basic cell and fitting with experimental data
- Second step: Electric field distribution (oxides and semiconductors)





### Third step: Definition of oxide blocks for fixed charge and interface traps



### NLDMOS

PLDMOS

- <u>Fourth step</u>: Calculation of recombination efficiency  $f_v(E_{ox})$  and fixed charges  $N_{ot}$ (f<sub>ot</sub> has to be tuned with available irradiation data)
  - N<sub>ot</sub> values are introduced in Sentaurus as fixed charges in each oxide block  $\checkmark$
- <u>Fifth step</u>: Calculation of interface traps N<sub>it</sub> according to:  $N_{it} = a_{it} \text{TID}^{\prime}$ (a<sub>it</sub> has to be tuned with available irradiation data)

Parámetro	NLDMOS	PLDMOS
$f_{ot}$ [1] (gate oxide)	0.01	0.01
$f_{ot}$ [1] (drift oxide)	0.2	0.2
$a_{it} \; [\mathrm{cm}^{-2} \mathrm{rad}^{-1}]$	$1,7 imes 10^4$	$2,5 imes10^4$

fot and ait values according to available irradiation data











Accurate fitting between simulated and measured I<sub>DS</sub> versus V<sub>DS</sub> curves





# **Displacement Damage**



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### **Displacement Damage Simulation**



- **Minority carrier lifetime reduction**  $\checkmark$
- Reduction of carriers (n or p)  $\checkmark$
- **Mobility degradation** ✓





# **Displacement Damage Simulation Procedure**

Sentaurus includes a model for Semiconductor Traps

Typical traps in Float Zone substrates for Silicon detectors are perfectly determined

Type	$\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{eV})$	Trap	$\sigma_e({ m cm}^{-2})$	$\sigma_h({ m cm}^{-2})$	$\eta({ m cm}^{-1})$	
Aceptor	$E_C$ -0.42	VV	$9.5 \times 10^{-15}$	$9.5 \times 10^{-14}$	1.613	University of Peruggia model,
Aceptor	$E_{C}$ -0.46	VVV	$5.0 \times 10^{-15}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-14}$	0.9	including Pennicard
Donador	$E_V + 0.36$	CiOi	$3.23{ imes}10^{-13}$	$3.23{ imes}10^{-14}$	0.9	contections

 $\checkmark$  The total <u>trap concentration</u> (N<sub>t</sub>) is the added contribution of filled (n<sub>t</sub>) and empty (p<sub>t</sub>)

$$N_t = n_t + p_t \qquad \qquad N_t = \eta \cdot \Phi$$

(where  $\eta$  is the introduction rate, determined by DLTS measures)

The <u>effective doping concentration</u> in the P-type substrate is finally given by:

$$N_{eff} = N_D - N_A + \sum_{donadores} p_t - \sum_{aceptores} n_t$$



## **Displacement Damage in MOS Capacitors**

- Simulation of displacement damage in MOS capacitors under 24 GeV proton irradiation conditions
  - $\checkmark$  The introduction rate ( $\eta$ ) is calculated for the equivalent 1 MeV neutrons. Hence, the fluence has to be corrected according to the 24 GeV protons





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# Case Study: Design of Low Gain Avalanche **Photodetectors**



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### Silicon Detectors with Internal Gain and Proportional Response

### **Tracking Detectors**

### **PiN Diodes**

- **Proportional response**  $\checkmark$
- **Good efficiency**  $\checkmark$
- Good spectral range  $\checkmark$
- Segmentation is technologically available  $\checkmark$ (strip and pixel detectors).

### After Irradiation

- X Worse signal to noise ratio (lower quality signal + noise increment)
- X Increment of the power consumption (leakage current increase)
- X Ionisation damage (relevant on n-on-p structures)

#### Low Gain Avalanche Detectors (LGAD)

- Proportional response (linear mode operation)
  - **Good efficiency**
  - Good spectral range
- **Better sensibility (Gain)**
- Thin detector integration with the same signal and higher collection efficiency
- Better signal/noise ratio

### **After Irradiation**

- Similar pre & post irradiation signal  $\checkmark$ (higher quality signal + lower noise increase)
- Power consumption slightly increased  $\checkmark$
- x Ionisation damage in oxides (relevant on n-on-p structures)







### Linear Mode Operation. Gain Definition

**Diodes with multiplication** can operate in Linear or Geiger mode

- Linear mode: Moderate gain: Proportional response to the deposited energy ✓
- **<u>Geiger mode</u>**: Very high gain: Digital response (detection or not detection)



[1] A.G. Stewart et al. in Proc. of SPIE, Vol. 6119, 2006





## **PiN Diode (No Gain)**



Abrupt N<sup>+</sup>P junction with trapezoidal electric field profile (linearly decreasing in the P substrate)

- Electrons are accelerated towards the N<sup>+</sup> region until they reach the saturation velocity  $\checkmark$
- Since the electric field is much lower than E<sub>crit</sub>, electrons can not generate new carriers  $\checkmark$ (no impact ionisation and no gain)





### Pad Diode with internal Gain



Gaussian N+P junction where the P-multiplication layer becomes completely depleted at a very low reverse voltage

- ✓ Electrons are accelerated towards the N<sup>+</sup> region until they reach the saturation velocity
- $\checkmark$  The electric field in the P layer is close to the  $E_{crit}$ , value (impact ionisation and gain)



## **Conditions for Gain**

Impact ionisation requires a minimum electric field of 1e5 V/cm in the P layer

- Full depletion of the P-type substrate is needed to avoid recombination  $\checkmark$
- The  $E_{crit}$  value (~3e5 V/cm) can not be reached in the N+P junction (reverse breakdown)  $\checkmark$







## Gain Definition and Usage

### The Gain can be defined in two equivalent ways and is identical whatever the incident particle is



- A known radiation source has to be used to calibrate the gain  $\checkmark$ 
  - Collected charge is determined by integrating the current waveform
  - The total number of generated electron-hole pairs in Silicon is determined by the type of radiation source
- Once the Gain is calibrated, the detector can be used to identify the incident radiation by simply measuring the collected charge





### **Gain Simulation**

- Gain simulation considering generated and collected charge
  - An initial charge distribution has to be introduced in the Sentaurus Heavy Ion model  $\checkmark$
  - The evolution of the generated charge is calculated by transient simulations  $\checkmark$
  - We have not been able to observe any transient current increase X
    - Impact ionisation is an statistic concept while transient simulation considers the evolution of each single electron...

Gain simulation considering multiplied and non-multiplied current (alternative method)

- Ionisation coefficients are modified in a very small volume of the P-type substrate (3  $\checkmark$ orders of magnitude greater) to create a know number of electron-hole pairs (3000)
- Quasi static simulations are performed with and without the generated charge  $\checkmark$ 
  - The PiN diode is simulated to determine current increase due to the generated charge (no impact ionisation is present)
  - Then, the LGAD counterpart is simulated with and without charge (impact ionisation is present)
  - Finally, the simulated Gain corresponds to the ratio between PiN and LGAD currents when charge is generated

$$M(V) = \frac{I_{APD}|_{Charge}(V) - I_{APD}|_{NoCharge}(V)}{I_{PiN}|_{Charge}(V) - I_{PiN}|_{NoCharge}(V)}$$





### **Gain Simulation**







### **Gain Simulation**

- Local charge generation equivalent to the absorption of a 30 KeV X-ray  $\checkmark$
- The doping of the sample B P-multiplication layer is higher than the A sample (high Gain)  $\checkmark$







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### **Design of the P-Multiplication Region**





# **Design of the Edge Termination**

The optimisation of the edge termination is ruled by the electric field at the multiplication layer (not by the maximum voltage capability, as in the case of power devices)







# Edge Termination: Why is needed?

- The N<sup>+</sup> shallow contact and the P-multiplication layers have to be locally created with a lithography mask
  - The electric field at the curvature of the  $N^+/P$  junction is much higher than that of the  $\checkmark$ plane junction (where Gain is needed)
  - Avalanche at the  $N^+/P$  curvature at a very low reverse voltage (premature breakdown)







## **Compatible Edge Termination Techniques**



# **Edge Termination with Guard Ring**

The N<sup>+</sup> shallow diffusion is used to implement a floating guard ring

- ✓ The lateral electric field distribution is smoothed leading to two peaks (main junction and floating guard ring)
- ✓ The electric field peak and the risk of avalanche breakdown at the curvature of the main junction is reduced. Optimisation of the guard ring location is needed





# Edge Termination with N<sup>+</sup> Extension

The N<sup>+</sup> shallow diffusion is used to extend the N<sup>+</sup> beyond the edge of the multiplication layer

- Phosphorous diffuses more in the very low doped substrate (higher curvature radius and  $\checkmark$ voltage capability)
- The electric field rapidly increases at the plain junction (multiplication)  $\checkmark$
- At high reverse voltage the electric peak at the extended N<sup>+</sup> diffusion leads to avalanche  $\checkmark$ breakdown **Avalanche**







### **Edge Termination with Junction Termination Extension**

### Junction Termination Extension (JTE) with an additional deep N diffusion

- Additional photolithographic step with high energy Phosphorous implantation
- A field plate can also be implemented for additional electric field smoothing





# **Edge Termination with Junction Termination Extension**

- ✓ Deep N diffusion with high curvature radius (long anneal process)
- Reduced electric field peak at the JTE diffusion
- ✓ Highest electric field at the plane junction (gain control)  $V_{BD plane} < V_{BD JTE}$  (Gain control)





# **Edge Termination with Junction Termination Extension**







# **Design of the Device Periphery**

- Full depletion below 100 V reverse bias  $\checkmark$
- Fast lateral depletion of the low doped substrate (A deep P<sup>+</sup> diffusion –P stop- is needed in  $\checkmark$ the die periphery to avoid the depletion region reaching the unprotected edge







## What about the Inherent Positive Oxide Charges?

- ✓ Field oxides grown in wet conditions  $(H_2+O_2)$  typically have a positive charge density in the range of 5e10 cm<sup>-2</sup>
- x Surface inversion and modification of the depletion region, reaching the deep P-Stop peripheral diffusion





## How to Protect the Surface, Limiting the Current Leakage?

- Oxide positive charges create a surface inversion layer (electron path towards the cathode electrode, masking the charge collection when used as a detector)
  - A shallow P-type diffusion (P-Spray) can be used to compensate the surface inversion  $\checkmark$
  - A deep P<sup>+</sup> diffusion can be placed close to the JTE to eliminate the electron surface current  $\checkmark$







### How to Protect the Surface, Limiting the Current Leakage?

#### An additional N-type ring is implemented by using the deep JTE diffusion

- The N ring has to be placed close to the JTE to avoid a premature breakdown at the JTE  $\checkmark$
- The P-spray diffusion has to be efficient (to avoid short circuit through the inversion layer)  $\checkmark$
- The voltage capability is not degraded since the junction to be protected is now the right  $\checkmark$ edge of the added ring (identical than the JTE)







### **Simulation of the Irradiated Devices**



- **PiN**: electric field strength at the junction ٠ increases after irradiation
- **LGAD**: electric field strength at the junction is almost equal after irradiation

### Irradiation Trap Model (Perugia Model)

- Acceptor;  $E = E_c + 0.46 \text{ eV}; \eta = 0.9$ Acceptor;  $E = E_c + 0.42 \text{ eV}$ ;  $\eta = 1.613$ Acceptor;  $E = E_c + 0.10 \text{ eV}; \eta = 100$ E= E<sub>v</sub> - 0.36 eV; η=0.9 Donor;
- $\sigma_{o} = 5 \times 10^{-15}$  $\sigma_{\rm h} = 5 \times 10^{-14}$  $\sigma_{o} = 2 \times 10^{-15}$  $\sigma_{\rm h} = 2 \times 10^{-14}$  $\sigma_{o} = 2 \times 10^{-15}$  $\sigma_{\rm h}$  = 2.5 x 10<sup>-15</sup>  $\sigma_{\rm p} = 2.5 \times 10^{-14}$   $\sigma_{\rm h} = 2.5 \times 10^{-15}$

### Impact Ionization Model (Univ. of Bolonia)





### **Experimental Results**

### **Static Performance**

- $\rightarrow$ Current levels below 1 µA thorough the whole voltage range
- $\rightarrow$  Junction breakdown above 1100 V







### **Experimental Results**

**Multiplication factor has been tested with tri-alpha** (<sup>239</sup>Pu/<sup>241</sup>Am/<sup>244</sup>Cm) source.

 $\checkmark$  Irradiation through the anode (back side, 1 µm Aluminum):











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