Session 6: Solid State Physics **Diode**

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- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
 - G
- H
- J



Homojunction: the junction is between two regions of the same material Heterojunction: the junction is between two different semiconductors

Approximations used in the step-junction model

1. The doping profile is a step function. On the n-type side, $N'_D = N_D - N_A$ and is constant.

On the p side, $N'_A = N_A - N_D$ and is constant. 2. All impurities are ionized. Thus the equilibrium electron concentration on the n side is $n_{n0} = N'_D$. The equilibrium hole concentration on the p side is $p_{p0} = N'_A$.

3. Impurity-induced band-gap narrowing effects are neglected.



(a) The physical picture of a planar pn junction; (b) cross section through A–A'; (c) schematic representation of the pn junction; (d) typical doping profile showing a p-type substrate with implanted donors (the junction occurs where $N_D - N_A$); (e) the net doping concentration $N_D - N_A$ for this junction, and the step approximation (dashed line). (x_0 = metallurgical junction)

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2. Crystal

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pn Junction

Introduction
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PN junctions (Qualitative) Reverse Biased





PN junctions (Qualitative) Forward Biased









PN junctions - Assumptions

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The Depletion Approximation : Obtaining closed-form solutions for the electrostatic variables



Note that
(1)
$$-x_p \le x \le x_n$$
: p & n are negligible (:: \mathcal{E} exist).
(2) $x \le -x_p$ or $x \ge x_n$: $\rho = 0$



How to Find $\rho(x), \mathcal{E}(x), V(x)$



5. For $\mathcal{E}(x)$ to be continuous at x = 0, $N_A x_p = N_D x_n \rightarrow \text{solve for } x_p, x_n$

Built-In Potential V _{bi}	 Introduction Crystal Cubic Lattices Other Miller Indices 	
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 E_{C}

 E_i

 E_V

 $q\varphi_{S_n}$

$$qV_{bi} = q\varphi_{S_p} + q\varphi_{S_n}$$
$$= (E_i - E_F)_p + (E_F - E_i)_n$$

For non-degenerately doped material:

$$(E_i - E_F)_p = kT \ln\left(\frac{p}{n_i}\right) = kT \ln\left(\frac{N_A}{n_i}\right) \\ (E_F - E_i)_n = kT \ln\left(\frac{n}{n_i}\right) = kT \ln\left(\frac{N_D}{n_i}\right) \end{cases} \rightarrow V_{bi} = \frac{kT}{q} \ln\left(\frac{N_A N_D}{n_i^2}\right)$$

What shall we do for $p^+ - n$ (or $n^+ - p$) junction?!?!?

$$p^+$$
: n^+ :
 $(E_i - E_F)_p = \frac{E_G}{2}$ $(E_F - E_i)_n = \frac{E_G}{2}$

 qV_{bi}

The Depletion Approximation





The electric field is continuous at x = 0

$$x_p N_A = x_n N_D$$

Charge neutrality condition as well!

Electrostatic Potential in the Depletion Layer





 $0 < x < x_n:$ $\mathcal{E}(x) = -\frac{qN_D}{\epsilon}(x_n - x)$ $V(x) = -\frac{qN_D}{2\epsilon}(x_n - x)^2 + C' = V_{bi} - \frac{qN_D}{2\epsilon}(x_n - x)^2$

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Depletion Layer Width

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Summing, we have:

$$W = x_p + x_n = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_s V_{bi}}{q} \left(\frac{1}{N_D} + \frac{1}{N_A}\right)}$$

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Depletion Layer Width

If $N_A \gg N_D$ as in a $p^+ - n$ junction:

$$W = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_s V_{bi}}{q} \left(\frac{1}{N_D} + \frac{1}{N_A}\right)} \qquad \rightarrow W = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_s V_{bi}}{qN_D}} \approx x_n$$

$$x_p N_A = x_n N_D \quad \rightarrow \quad x_p \ll x_n \quad \rightarrow x_p \approx 0$$

Note:

$$V_{bi} = \frac{E_G}{2q} + \frac{kT}{q} \ln \frac{N_D}{n_i}$$

Example

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A $p^{+} - n$ junction has $N_{A} = 10^{20} cm^{-3}$ and $N_{D} = 10^{17} cm^{-3}$. What is

a) its built in potential,
$$V_{bi} = \frac{E_G}{2q} + \frac{kT}{q} \ln \frac{N_D}{n_i} \approx 1V$$

b)
$$W$$
, $W \approx \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_s V_{bi}}{qN_D}} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 12 \times 8.85 \times 10^{-14} \times 1}{1.6 \times 10^{19} \times 10^{17}}} = 0.12 \mu m$

c)
$$x_n$$
 , and $x_n \approx W = 0.12 \mu m$

d)
$$x_p = x_n \frac{N_D}{N_A} = 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \ \mu m = 1.2 \ \text{\AA} \sim 0$$

Biases pn Junction (assumptions)





Note: V_A should be significantly smaller than V_{bi} (Otherwise, we cannot assume low-level injection)

Effect of Bias on Electrostatics





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Now as we assumed all voltage drop is in the depletion region (Note that $VA \leq Vbi$)

$$x_n + x_p = W = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_s(V_{bi} - V_A)}{q}} \left(\frac{1}{N_D} + \frac{1}{N_A}\right)$$

 $x_p N_A = x_n N_D$

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The junction width for one-sided step junctions in silicon as a function of junction voltage with the doping on the lightly doped side as a parameter.



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Junction width for a one-sided junction is plotted as a function of doping on the lightly doped side for three different operating voltages.



pn Junction: I-V Characteristic (assumptions)



Assumption :

1) low-level injection: $n_p \ll p_p \sim N_A$ (or $\Delta n \ll p_0$, $p \sim p_0$ in p-type)

 $p_n \ll n_n {\sim} N_D$ (or $\Delta p \ll n_0$, $n {\sim} n_0$ in n-type)

2) In the bulk, $n_n{\sim}n_{n0}=N_D$, $p_p{\sim}p_{p0}=N_A$

3) For minority carriers $J_{drift} \ll J_{diff}$ in quasi-neutral region

4) Nondegenerately doped step junction

5) Long-base diode in 1-D (both sides of quasi-neutral regions are much longer than their minority carrier diffusion lengths, L_n or L_p)

6) No Generation/Recombination in depletion region

7) Steady state d/dt = 0

8) $G_{opt} = 0$



Game plan:

i) continuity equations for minority carriers



ii) minority carrier current densities in the quasi-neutral region

$$J_{p} = J_{p_{drift}} + J_{p_{diff}} = qp\mu_{p} - qD_{p}\frac{dp}{dx} \sim - qD_{p}\frac{dp}{dx}$$
$$J_{n} = J_{n_{drift}} + J_{n_{diff}} = qn\mu + qD_{n}\frac{dn}{dx} \sim qD_{n}\frac{dn}{dx}$$





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1. Introduction



pn Junction: I-V Characteristic

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$$J = J_n(0'') + J_p(0') = \frac{qD_n}{L_n} \Delta n_p(-x_p) + \frac{qD_p}{L_p} \Delta p_n(x_n)$$

$$n(-x_p) = n_{p0} e^{qV/kT}$$
; $\Delta n_p(-x_p) = n - n_{p0} = n_{p0}(e^{qV/kT} - 1)$; $n_{p0} = n_i^2/N_A$

$$p(x_n) = p_{n0} e^{qV/kT}$$
; $\Delta p_n(x_n) = p - p_{n0} = p_{n0}(e^{qV/kT} - 1)$; $p_{n0} = n_i^2/N_D$

$$J = q \left(\frac{D_n}{L_n} n_{p0} + \frac{D_p}{L_p} p_{n0}\right) \left(e^{qV/kT} - 1\right) \qquad I = AJ$$

$$I = qA\left(\frac{D_n}{L_n}\frac{n_i^2}{N_A} + \frac{D_p}{L_p}\frac{n_i^2}{N_D}\right) \left(e^{qV/kT} - 1\right) = I_0\left(e^{qV/kT} - 1\right)$$

$$I_0 = qAn_i^2 \left(\sqrt{\frac{D_n}{\tau_n}} \frac{1}{N_A} + \sqrt{\frac{D_p}{\tau_p}} \frac{1}{N_D} \right)$$

pn Junction: I-V Characteristic

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$$I = qA\left(\frac{D_n}{L_n}\frac{n_i^2}{N_A} + \frac{D_p}{L_p}\frac{n_i^2}{N_D}\right)\left(e^{qV/kT} - 1\right) = I_0\left(e^{qV/kT} - 1\right)$$

asymmetrically doped junction

If
$$p^+ - n$$
 diode ($N_A \gg N_D$), then $I_0 \approx qA \frac{D_p}{L_p} \frac{n_i^2}{N_D}$

If
$$n^+ - p$$
 diode ($N_D \gg N_A$), then $I_0 \approx qA \frac{D_n}{L_n} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A}$

That is, one has to consider only the lightly doped side of such junction in working out the diode I-V characteristics.





The minority carrier concentrations on either side of the junction under forward bias





Charge Control Model

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$$p(x_n) = p_{n0} e^{qV/kT}$$
In general: $\Delta p_n(x,t)$

$$\Delta p_n(x') = \Delta p_n(x_n)e^{-xt/L_p}$$

$$\frac{\partial \Delta p_n}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{q}\frac{\partial J_p}{\partial x} - \frac{\Delta p_n}{\tau_p}$$

$$\frac{\partial (qA\Delta p_n)}{\partial t} = -A\frac{\partial J_p}{\partial x} - \frac{qA\Delta p_n}{\tau_p}$$

$$\frac{\partial (qA\Delta p_n)}{\partial t} = -A\int_{J(x_n)}^{J(\infty)} dJ_p - \frac{1}{\tau_p} \left[qA\int_{x_n}^{\infty} \Delta p_n dx \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}Q_P = AJ_p(x_n) - \frac{Q_P}{\tau_p}$$
Steady state: $\frac{d}{dt} = 0$

$$I_p(x_n) = \frac{Q_P}{\tau_p}$$
 similarly $I_n(-x_p) = \frac{Q_P}{\tau_n}$

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Deviations from Ideal I-V





Avalanche Breakdown





occurs when the minority carriers that cross the depletion region under the influence of the electric field gain sufficient kinetic energy to be able to break covalent bands in atoms with which they collide.

multiplication factor :

$$M = \frac{I_{out}}{I_{in}} = \frac{1}{1 - \left(\frac{V_A}{V_{BR}}\right)^m} \quad (3 < m < 6)$$
$$|\mathcal{E}_{max}| = \sqrt{\frac{2 q(V_{bi} - V_A)}{\epsilon_s} \left(\frac{1}{N_D} + \frac{1}{N_A}\right)}$$
$$|\mathcal{E}_{max}| = cte \rightarrow V_{BR} \propto \frac{N_A + N_D}{N_B}$$

 $N_A N_D$

Zener Breakdown





$$T \sim \exp\left[-\frac{2W}{\hbar}\sqrt{2m(U-E)}\right]$$
 For $U \gg E$



For non-degenerately doped material:

$$N_A , N_D \nearrow \implies W \searrow \implies T \nearrow$$

Generation in Depletion Region

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High Level Injection





All of the relations was based on the low level injection condition as:

 $n_p + \delta n_p \ll p_p$ $p_n + \delta p_n \ll n_n$

Minority << Majority

In High level injection condition we should add recombination current to the continuity equations for the minority carriers, result will be as: $I \propto e^{qV/2kT}$





We assumed that the electric field outside the depletion region is zero; which means as semiconductor is treated as a perfect(ideal) conductor.

But actually the conductivity is limited to

 $\sigma = q(\mu_n n + \mu_p p)$

Hence the "ohmic voltage drop" outside depletion region becomes considerable



Forward Bias

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Small Signal





A small ac signal (v_A) is superimposed on the DC bias. This results in ac current (*i*). Then, admittance Y is given by

$$Y = G + j\omega C = \frac{i}{v_A}$$

Reverse Bias Admittance





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C-V data from a pn junction is routinely used to determine the doping profile on the lightly doped side of the junction.



If the doping on the lightly doped side is uniform, a plot of $1/C_j^2$ versus V_A should be a straight line with a slope inversely proportional to N_B and an extrapolated $1/C_i^2 = 0$ intercept equal to V_{bi} .

Reverse Bias Admittance

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$$G_{0} \qquad Y = G_{0} + j\omega C_{j}$$

 C_j : Junction (depletion layer) capacitance

 G_0 : Reverse bias conductance

$$G_0 = \frac{i}{v_A} = \frac{dI}{dV} = I_0 \frac{q}{kT} e^{qV/kT} \quad \rightarrow \quad r = \frac{1}{G_0} = \frac{kT/q}{I - I_0}$$

Hence, in reverse bias, ideally

$$I \sim I_0 \rightarrow G_0 \sim 0$$

Forward Bias Admittance





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Forward Bias Admittance

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$$\frac{\partial \widetilde{p_n}}{\partial t} = D_p \ \frac{\partial^2 \widetilde{p_n}}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\widetilde{p_n}}{\tau_p} \qquad \text{Phasor representation} \qquad \widetilde{p_n}(x,t) = \widehat{p_n} e^{j\omega t}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \widehat{p_n}}{dx^2} = \frac{\widehat{p_n} \left(1 + j\omega\tau_p\right)}{D_p \tau_p} = \frac{\widehat{p_n}}{L_p^{*2}} \quad \text{where} \quad L_p^{*2} = \frac{L_p^2}{1 + j\omega\tau_p}$$

$$\widehat{p_n}(x) = \mathbf{K} e^{x/L_p^*} + B_2 e^{-x/L_p^*}$$

$$p_n(0,t) = p_{n0} e^{q(V+v)/kT} \approx p_{n0} e^{qV/kT} (1 + \frac{qv(t)}{kT})$$

$$\rightarrow B_2 = p_{n0} e^{qV/kT} \frac{qv}{kT}$$

one-sided diode

$$i = -qAD_{p} \frac{d\widehat{p_{n}}}{dx} \bigg|_{x=0} = qA \frac{D_{p}}{L_{p}^{*}} p_{n0} e^{qV/kT} \frac{qv}{kT}$$

$$Y = \frac{i}{v} = \frac{q}{kT} A(q \frac{D_{p}}{L_{p}^{*}} p_{n0}) e^{qV/kT} = \frac{q}{kT} A(q \frac{D_{p}}{L_{p}} \sqrt{1 + j\omega\tau_{p}} p_{n0}) e^{qV/kT}$$

$$Re\{ \} = G Im\{ \} = \omega C$$

Forward Bias Admittance

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pn Junction Transient Response

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charge control for p+n diode

$$\frac{dQ_p(t)}{dt} = i(t) - \frac{Q_p(t)}{\tau_p}$$

for $0 < t < t_s$: $i(t) = -I_R$

$$\frac{dQ_p(t)}{dt} = -I_R - \frac{Q_p(t)}{\tau_p} \to \int_{Q_p(0^+)}^{Q_p(t_s)=0} \frac{dQ_p(t)}{I_R + \frac{Q_p(t)}{\tau_p}} = -\int_{0}^{t_s} dt = -t_s = -\tau_p \ln\left(1 + \frac{Q_p(0^+)}{I_R \tau_p}\right)$$

But for $t = 0^-$:

$$\frac{dQ_p}{dt} = 0 = I_F - \frac{Q_p(0^-)}{\tau_p} \quad \rightarrow \quad Q_p(0^-) = Q_p(0^-) = I_F \tau_p$$
$$t_s = \tau_p \ln\left(1 + \frac{I_F}{I_R}\right)$$
$$I_F \searrow, I_R \nearrow \Rightarrow \quad t_s \searrow$$

pn Junction Transient Response



