Resistive read-out and built-in amplification

New trends in silicon sensors design



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Silicon life in 2010



Very mature silicon systems, very large silicon trackers

Millions of channels, very reliable, very radiation hard

Two simple facts in 2010:

- 1. Silicon sensors are not suitable timing detectors
- 2. Silicon sensors cannot be used efficiently to detect 1-5 keV XRay

One nagging problem: radiation damage causes charge trapping, reducing the signal in heavily irradiated sensors.



Solution: add moderate gain, just enough to compensate for charge trapping "to control and optimize the charge multiplication effect, in order to fully recover the collection efficiency of heavily irradiated silicon detectors" [1]

[1] G.Pellegrini,et al., **Technology developments and first measurements of Low Gain Avalanche Detectors (LGAD) for high energy physics applications**, Nucl. Inst. Meth. A 765 (2014) 12.



- In LGAD, a moderately p-doped implant creates a volume of high field, where charge multiplication happens.
- It turned out that the LGAD design does not solve the charge-trapping problem as the LGAD mechanism does not work well in high radiation environments (above 2-3E15 1-MeV n_{eq}/cm²)

However, the LGAD design did help solving a few other problems.

field

LGADs Pads, Pixels and Strips

The LGAD approach can be used in any silicon structure,

This is an example of LGAD strips



LGAD strips are considered in space application, as they allow to have longer strips while keeping constant the ratio Charge/Capacitance

What does "Low Gain" mean?

"Low gain" needs to be understood in connection with the noise of the electronics, and how silicon sensors are segmented.

Signal multiplication decreases the sensor signal-to-noise ratio:

==> The noise increases faster than the signal

However, until the system noise is determined by the electronics, having gain improves the signal-to-noise ratio.

Low gain also allows segmenting the sensors.



A time-tagging detector: sensor and ASIC





Sensors and read-out are two parts of a single object, sometimes even

on the same substrate

Sensors and electronics succeed (or eventually fail) together

Presently, the design of the electronics is the hardest part, the sensors have been under development for longer

Sensor and ASIC Temporal resolution





"**Jitter**" term

Small noise ==> choice of electronic technology

LGADs, having a larger signal, decrease the jitter component

Amplitude variation ==> corrected offline
(time walk)

Non-homogeneous energy deposition

Gain =

==> signal change variation. Cannot be corrected, =minimized by design



Signal shape is determined by Ramo's Theorem

iµqvE_w



Saturated drift velocity v Well-designed LGAD sensors (sometimes called UFSD) optimize the temporal resolution

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Key tool to design sensors: sensor simulation



The design of innovative sensors needs a lot of simulation

For this reason, we designed a fast simulator able to accurately simulate the current

pulse generated by silicon sensors

It includes:

- Charge particles and X-ray
- Custom Geometry
- Calculation of drift field and weighting field
- Currents signal via Ramo's Theorem
- Gain
- Diffusion
- Temperature effect
- Non-uniform deposition
- Electronics

WeightField2, Available at http://personalpages.to.infn.it/~cartigli/weightfield2



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Poster: P2.52: Advances in the TCAD modeling of non-irradiated and irradiated Low-Gain Avalanche Diode sensors

How gain shapes the signal

To fully exploit UFSDs, dedicated electronics needs to be designed.

The signal from UFSDs is different from that of traditional sensors



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Comparator

Input signals for the ASIC design

WF2 simulation shows how the current signal changes.

Two effects:

- . Amplitude variations
- 2. Shape distortions



To efficiently design the front-end, it is necessary to have detailed knowledge of the input signals

WF2 simulation of signals generated by a MIP crossing a 50 micron thick UFSD, gain ~ 20

Why is timing needed in the HL-LHC upgrade?





LHC situation: the collisions are separated in space and time







HL-LHC situation:

the collisions are so dense that they overlap in space and time. This leads to error in the reconstruction of the event

Tracking in 4Dimension





The introduction of timing allows separating collisions that happen in the same location

UFSD temporal resolution vs sensor thickness



Note: UFSD have an intrinsic resolution that depends on the thickness

Comparison WF2 Simulation - Data Band bars show variation with temperature (T = -20C - 20C), and gain (G = 20 -30)



Development of low-energy X-ray detectors using LGAD sensors

Internal gain allows boosting the sensor signal by about 10-30 times, opening up the possibility of detecting soft X-rays without changing the electronic design.

The combination of the iLGAD design with a thin entrance window lowers the minimum detectable energy to about 500 eV.



200-300 μm

LGAD Trench Isolated: enabling small UFSD pixels



Silicon life in 2020: spatial resolution





 Need B field (or floating electrodes) to spread the signal



In single-pixel architecture, **the position resolution determines:**

- The pixel size
- The space available for the electronics

Good timing resolution requires a sizable amount of power per amplifier.

A large number of small pixels requires too much power





Second design innovation: resistive read-out



Silicon detector with standard read-out

Silicon detector with resistive read-out

- In resistive read-out, instead of many p-n diodes, there is a single diode.
- The n-doped implant is resistive and acts as a signal divider
- Very uniform electric and weighing fields, perfect geometry for timing

Signal sharing is the key ingredient to excellent spatial resolution using large pixels

Resistive Silicon Detector (RSD)





Resistive Silicon Detectors combine low-gain and resistive read-out

Charge sharing in RSD



The signal sees several impedances in parallel, and it is split according to Ohm's law.



RSD principle of operation in motion







Example of signal sharing





RSD: an almost "ideal" silicon sensor





RSD2 sensors with cross-shaped electrodes

Sensor production at Fondazione Bruno Kessler Several geometries are exploded in RSD2, for example cross with different pitch and arm length: 200, 340, 450, and 1300 μ m



Pitch = 0.45 mm







Pitch = 450 μ m

FBK-INFN-UNITH

(A) 200 x 340 μm²

FBK-RSD2 performance summary





Reduced material budget

The active thickness of RSD sensor is rather small \sim 50 um.

There is a clear path leading to < 100 μ m material:



Present design: no material budget optimization

Thinned active area:
 50 um → 25 um
 50 ps → 25 ps

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Standard Tracker

RSD-based tracker

The design of a tracker based on RSD is truly innovative:

- It delivers ~ 20 30 ps temporal resolution
- For the same spatial resolution, the number of pixels is reduced by 50-100
- The electronic circuitry can be easily accommodated
- The power consumption is much lower; it might even be air-cooled (~ 0.1-0.2 W/cm²)
- The sensors can be really thin

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Tracking in 4-dimensions: a very rich field



The present R&Ds in position-sensitive timing detectors is very diverse



Future R&D paths in RSD

We have been too successful in signal sharing:

the signal is seen on electrodes that are "far" from the hit point.

Sharing the signal on too many electrodes has several disadvantages:

- The signal-to-noise ratio degrades, part of the signal is wasted on electrodes that are not used.
- The area used by a single hit becomes very large, impacting the use of such sensors in high-occupancy environments.









We are exploring various solutions to contain the signal only within the closest electrodes.

One interesting proposal is to **implant resistors** between the electrodes.

The resistors offer a lower impedance path with respect to the n++ resistive layer so that they will guide the signal to the electrodes



Summary: gaining and sharing



JTE + p-stop design

JTE/p-stop UFSD

- CMS && ATLAS choice
- Signal in a single pixel
- Not 100% fill factor
- Very well tested
- High Occupancy OK
- Rate ~ 50-100 MHz
- Rad hardness ~ 2-3E15 n/cm2







UFSD evolution: use trenches

- Signal in a single pixel
- Almost 100% fill factor
- Temporal resolution (50 μm) : 35-40 ps
- High Occupancy OK
- Rate ~ 50-100 MHz
- Rad hardness: to be studied







RSD evolution: resistive readout

- Signal in many pixels
- 100% fill factor
- Excellent position resolution:
 - $\sim 5~\mu m$ with large pixels
- Temporal resolution (50 μ m) : 35-40 ps
- Rate ~ 10-50 MHz
- Rad hardness: to be studied



Conclusions



The combination of internal multiplication and built-in charge sharing leads to the design of a new type of silicon tracker.

Resistive read-out && LGAD can be used both in hybrid and monolithic sensors

The pixel size can be quite large given the very good spatial resolution. Limitations might be introduced by occupancy.

Spatial resolution depends upon ~ 1/gain, ~ 1/pitch, and ~noise

The temporal resolution is weakly dependent on the pixel size

Our laboratory measurements yield to (at gain = 30)

- a spatial resolution of about 3% of the pixel size
- a temporal resolution similar (but marginally worse) than that of standard LGADs

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- ➢ INFN Gruppo V 4DShare project
- > INFN FBK agreement on sensor production (convenzione INFN-FBK)
- ➢ Horizon 2020, grant UFSD669529

Backup



RSD as a Discretized Positioning Circuit





RSD is a hybrid resistors/capacitors DPC circuit

The reconstruction method uses only the signals in the 4 pads to reconstruct the hit position

- \rightarrow no need for a analytical sharing law.
- \rightarrow k_{x,y} = imbalance parameter along x or y
 - Maximum value of the charge imbalance within the pixel
 - Needs to be determined experimentally for each geometry

How gain shapes the signal

To fully exploit UFSDs, dedicated electronics needs to be designed.

The signal from UFSDs is different from that of traditional sensors



Comparator

Limiting the signal spread to a single cell

p++



Problem:

we have been too successfull in charge sharing.

In our measurements, the signal is shared on too many electrodes.

If the signal is shared on too many electrodes, the signal-to-noise ratio is degraded



Position Reconstruction: DC-RSD

Position distortion is typical of resistive devices and well documented in the literature.

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This is an extreme case, chosen to illustrate the problem

L. Menzio – 16th Vienna Conference on

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The distortion in the reconstruction can be strongly reduced by adding resistive strips connecting the electrodes.

Proposed in: On the dynamic two-dimensional charge diffusion of the interpolating readout structure employed in the MicroCAT detector, Wagner et al., NIM A, (2002). (In Vienna Conference on

27/06/23



Variable resistive strips have the potential to almost totally eliminate the distortion in the position reconstruction

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DC-RSD research paths



Empty circles: original points Filled Circles: reconstructed points



Spatial resolution in resistive readout



$$\sigma_x^2 = \sigma_{Jitter}^2 + \sigma_{Sensor}^2 + \sigma_{Reconstruction}^2$$

$$\sigma_{Jitter} = \frac{\sigma_{El_noise}}{\frac{dV}{dx}}$$

Electronic noise

Assume a geometry with only 2 pads:

- 100 μm and 300 μm apart
- 100mV signal
- 3 mV electronic noise

100 μ m: the signal changes by 1 mV/ μ m

 $\rightarrow \sigma_{Jitter} = 3 \ \mu m$

300 μ **m**: the signal changes by 3 mV/ μ m





Sensor non-uniformity



For equal resistivity, 50%-50% sharing indicates the hit is in the middle



If the resistivity is not uniform, the reconstruction shifts the point closer to the smaller resistivity

$\sigma_{Recontruction}$

Algorithm

$$S_i(\alpha_i, r_i) = \frac{\frac{\alpha_i}{\ln(r_i)}}{\sum_{1}^{n} \frac{\alpha_j}{\ln(r_j)}}$$

If the predicted sharing is incorrect, the reconstructed position is shifted.

DPC: RSD might not be a perfect DPC, yielding to systematic errors.

Spatial resolution: the role of jitter

The main component of the position resolution is the position jitter, defined as:

Imagine a system with a single read-out pad where a hit generates:

- A signal of 100 mV when shot near a pad
- A signal of 0 mV when shot at the opposite corner
- Noise ~1 mV (as in our lab)

In this simplified system, the signal decreases by:

- Pitch 1300 μm: 0.05 mV/μm
- Pitch 450 μm: 0.15 mV/μm

So, the jitter is:

- Pitch 1300 μ m: 1 mV/(0.05 mV/ μ m) = 20 μ m
- Pitch 450 μ m: 2 mV/(0.15 mV/ μ m) = 7 μ m





Irradiation effects

Irradiation causes 3 main effects:

- Decrease of charge collection efficiency due to trapping
- Doping creation/removal
- Increased leakage current, shot noise

The main effect in LGAD is "acceptor removal", i.e., the reduction of the gain implant doping

The electric field due to the gain implant decreases → Compensated with higher bias

Main technique to decrease acceptor removal: carbon

implantation in the gain layer

Carbon spoils the properties of silicon sensors. However, in the right amount and only on the gain implant, it increases the sensor rad. resistance by a factor of 3 carbon implantation





Acceptor removal

Unfortunate fact: irradiation de-activate pdoping removing Boron from the reticle

 $N(\emptyset) = N(\mathbf{0}) * e^{-c\emptyset}$







Two possible solutions: 1) use Gallium, 2) Add Carbon



Gallium is substitutional From literature, Gallium has a lower possibility to become interstitial

Carbon is substitutional Interstitial Si interact with Carbon instead of with Boron and Gallium



To some extent, the gain layer disappearance might be compensated by increasing the bias voltage

Impurity engineering of radiation resistance





- 1) Carbon addition works really well, increasing by a factor of 2-3 the radiation hardness
- 2) Gallium is actually is not more rad-hard than Boron

UFSD temporal resolution in thinner sensors





Position reconstruction using charge imbalance

The position is reconstructed using the charge imbalance among the electrodes positioned at the 4 corners

$$x_{i} = x_{center} + k_{x} \frac{pitch}{2} * \frac{Q_{3} + Q_{4} - (Q_{1} + Q_{2})}{Q_{tot}}$$
$$y_{i} = y_{center} + k_{y} \frac{pitch}{2} * \frac{Q_{1} + Q_{3} - (Q_{2} + Q_{4})}{Q_{tot}}$$
$$k_{x} = \frac{Q_{tot}}{Q_{3} + Q_{4} - (Q_{1} + Q_{2})}|_{x@edge}$$
$$k_{y} = \frac{Q_{tot}}{Q_{1} + Q_{3} - (Q_{2} + Q_{4})}|_{y@edge}$$



RSD2 spatial resolution

RSDs at gain = 30 achieve a spatial resolution of about 2-3% of the pitch size:

- 1300 x 1300 mm²: σ_x ~ 40 μm
- **450 x 450 mm²:** σ_x ~ 15 μm

Traditional standard pixel

- 1300 x 1300 mm²: σ_x ~ 920 μm
- 450 x 450 mm²: σ_x ~ 320 μm



RSD2 crosses: spatial resolution for 4 different pitch sizes



RSD2 temporal resolution

The resolution depends mostly upon the signal size and **weakly on the pixel size** RSDs at gain = 30 achieve a temporal jitter of about 20 ps



RSD2 Crosses: time jitter for 3 different pixel sizes



The UFSD project: brief history

Aim: develop sensors with excellent temporal and spatial resolutions via a series of productions and design refinements Long term R&D, Not for a specific experiments

- 1. 2016: UFSD1 First 300 μm thick LGAD (FBK 6" wafer)
- 2. 2017: UFSD2 First 50 µm thick LGAD (FBK 6" wafer) Gain layer doping: Boron, Gallium, Boron + Carbon,
- **3. Fall 2018:** UFSD3 50 µm LGAD (FBK 6" wafer), produced with the stepper (many Carbon levels, studies of interpad design)
- 4. June 2019: UFSD3.1 50 µm LGAD (internal FBK) interpad design.
- 5. June 2019 RSD1 Resistive AC-LGAD (FBK 6" wafer)
- **6. June 2020:** UFSD3.2 25, 35, 45, and 55 μm LGAD, carbon studies, deep, shallow gain implant (FBK 6" wafer
- 7. Q1/2021: UFSD3.3 (FBK 6" wafer)
- 8. Q1/2021: Trench-Isolated (FBK 6" wafer)
- 9. Q2/2021: RSD2 (FBK 6" wafer)
- 10. Q2/2021: ExFlux -> optimized for extreme fluence

Project fully funded for 3 more years



Charge screening – Gain reduction

The External Efield in the gain layer is due to Bias+Doping

When there are charges in the gain layer, on average, the electrons are one side while the holes are on the opposite side. **This imbalance creates a local Efield that is opposite to the external Efield.**

 $E_{local} = \frac{\sigma}{s}$

In WF2:

Assume charges in the gain layer form a parallel plate capacitor

- Count the charges in the gain layer
- Compute the local field ==> To do this; you need to assume the area of the capacitor
 - I assumed an area 1 x 1 um²
- Subtract the local field from the external field

Charge screening – Gain reduction





$MIP = \sim 70 e/h pairs per micron$



Electronics: What is the best pre-amp choice?





The players: signal, noise and slope



There are 3 quantities determining the rise time after the amplifier:

- 1. The signal rise time (t_{Cur})
- 2. The RC circuit formed by the detector capacitance and the amplifier input impedance ($t_{\rm RC}$)
- 3. The amplifier rise time (t_{Amp})





A key to good timing is the uniformity of signals:

Drift velocity and Weighting field need to be as uniform as possible

Good signals for Timing





How gain shapes the signal





0.8

Time [ns]

0.6

0.2

0.4

Gain electron:

absorbed immediately Gain holes:

long drift home

An example of LGAD Hamamatsu's time resolution

UFSD from Hamamatsu: 30 ps time resolution,

Value of gain ~ 20



Intrinsic LGAD time resolution

Why LGAD have an "intrinsic" time resolution?

It is a combinatorial problem: how many different ways are there to produce a given amplitude summing up individual ionization clusters (imagine there is 1 cluster every 1 micron)?



50 microns thick ==> 50! Permutations...

10 microns thick ==> 10! Permutation

The thinner the sensor, the smaller the intrinsic time resolution



Present RSD research paths





This design has been manufactured in several productions by FBK, BNL, and HPK

This design is presently under development by FBK The main advantage of the DC-RSD design is the ability to control the signal spread