

ECE606: Solid State Devices

Lecture 15

p-n diode characteristics

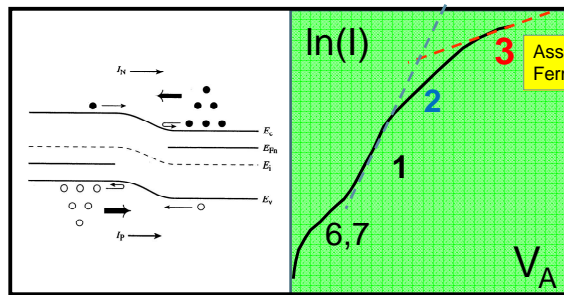
Gerhard Klimeck
gekco@purdue.edu



- 1) **Solution in the nonlinear regime**
- 2) I-V in the ambipolar regime
- 3) Tunneling and I-V characteristics
- 4) Non-ideal effects: Impact ionization
- 5) Non-ideal effects: Junction recombination
- 6) Conclusion

$$J_T = -q \left[\frac{D_n}{W_p} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} + \frac{D_p}{W_n} \frac{n_i^2}{N_D} \right] \left(e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} - 1 \right) = I_0 \left(e^{q(V_A - aJ_n - bJ_p)\beta} - 1 \right)$$

Today's lecture: Nonlinear Regime (2,3)



Assumption of flat Quasi-Fermi levels invalid here

$$J_N = qn\mu_n \mathcal{E} + qD_N \frac{dn}{dx}$$

$$J_n = n\mu_n \frac{dF_n}{dx} \Rightarrow \Delta F_n = \frac{J_n W_n}{\mu_n N_D}$$

Rewrite n into non-equilibrium form, re-arrange J_n equation

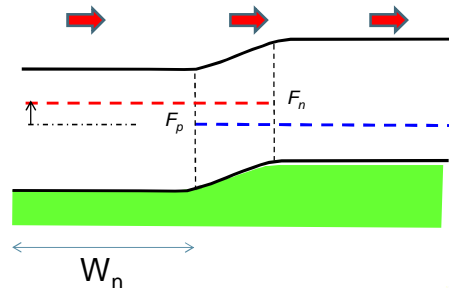
$$n = n_i e^{\beta(F_n - E_i)} \quad qD_N \frac{dn}{dx} = qD_N \beta \left[\frac{dF_n}{dx} - \mathcal{E} \right] \left[n_i e^{\beta(F_n - E_i)} \right]$$

Drop of Quasi-Fermi level across the junction proportional to current!

New diffusion component: Plug this into original J_n equation

$$qD_N \frac{dn}{dx} = qD_N n \beta \left[\frac{dF_n}{dx} - \mathcal{E} \right]$$

$$= q\mu_n n \left[\frac{dF_n}{dx} - \mathcal{E} \right] \quad \therefore \frac{D_N}{\mu_n} = \frac{k_B T}{q}$$

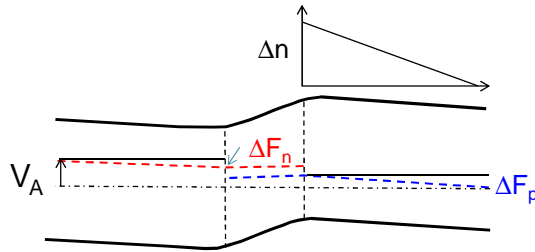


$$n(0^+) = \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{(F_n - F_p)\beta} \Big|_{\text{junction}} = \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} \Rightarrow \Delta n(0^+) = \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} \left(e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} - 1 \right)$$

$$J_T = -q \left[\frac{D_n}{W_p} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} + \frac{D_p}{W_n} \frac{n_i^2}{N_D} \right] \left(e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} - 1 \right)$$

$$\Delta F_n = \frac{J_n W_n}{\mu_n N_D}$$

$$\Delta F_p = \frac{J_p W_p}{\mu_n N_D}$$



Still diffusion dominated transport? Since Quasi-Fermi levels are not flat in nonlinear regime (drift), this approximation becomes worse.

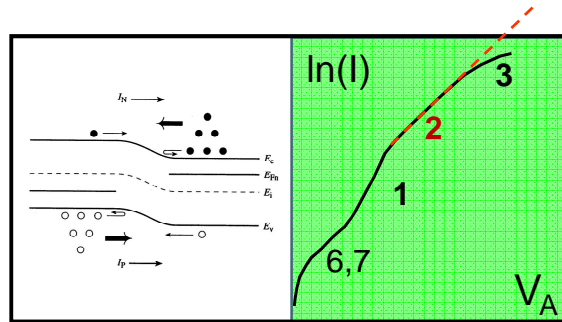
- 1) Solution in the nonlinear regime
- 2) **I-V in the ambipolar regime**
- 3) Tunneling and I-V characteristics
- 4) Non-ideal effects: Impact ionization
- 5) Non-ideal effects: Junction recombination
- 6) Conclusion

$$J_T \approx -q \left[\frac{D_n}{W_p} + \frac{D_p}{W_n} \right] n_i e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta/2}$$

$$\ln(J_T) \approx \frac{qV_A}{2k_B T}$$

Today's lecture: **Ambipolar** Transport regime (2)

Question: Where does the 2 come from?



$$np = n_i^2 e^{(F_n - F_p)\beta}$$

Here not negligibly small. Ambipolar transport !

$$\left(\frac{n_i^2}{N_A} + \Delta n \right) (N_A + \Delta p) = n_i^2 \left(e^{q(V_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} - 1 \right)$$

Excess carrier concentrations $\gg N_A$ Thus...

$$\Delta n \approx \Delta p = n_i \sqrt{e^{q(V_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta} - 1}$$

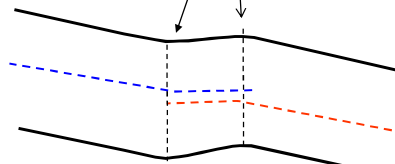
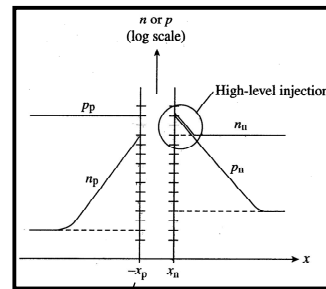
$$\approx n_i e^{q(V_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta/2}$$

Currents

$$J_n = -qD_n \frac{\Delta n}{W_p} = \frac{qD_n n_i}{W_p} e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta/2}$$

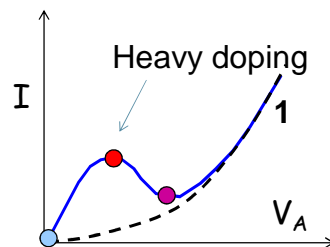
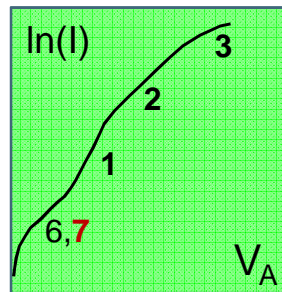
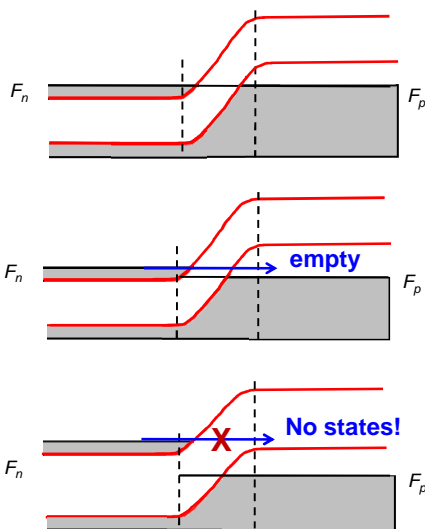
$$J_p = -qD_p \frac{\Delta p}{W_n} = \frac{qD_p n_i}{W_n} e^{(qV_A - \Delta F_n - \Delta F_p)\beta/2}$$

Note: junction never disappears, even for large forward bias!

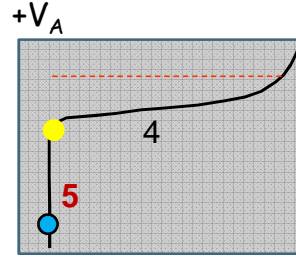
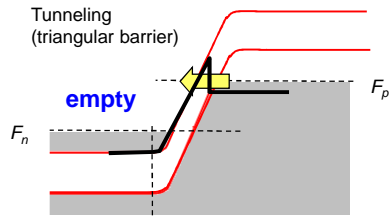


- 1) Solution in the nonlinear regime
- 2) I-V in the ambipolar regime
- 3) Tunneling and I-V characteristics**
- 4) Non-ideal effects: Impact ionization
- 5) Non-ideal effects: Junction recombination
- 6) Conclusion

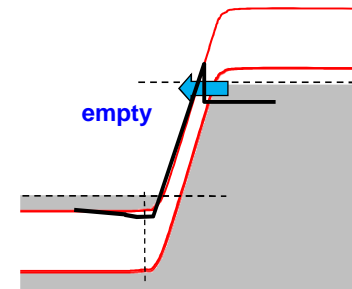
Esaki-Diode: **Heavily** doped diode



Tunneling in diodes.
Nobel Prize
(Esaki)



Zener tunneling occurs in every diode. (reverse bias)

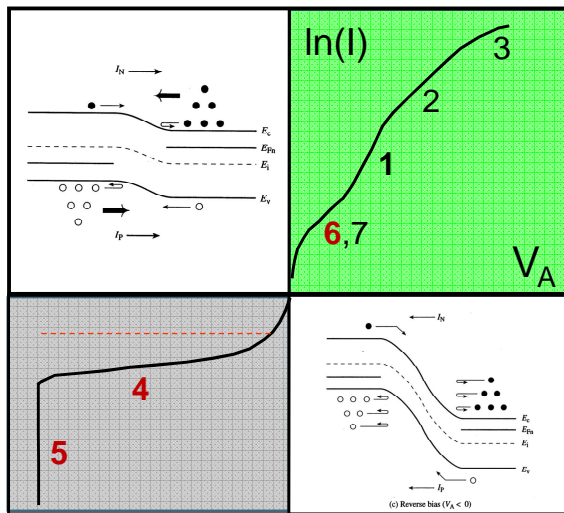


Remember: Tunneling through a triangular barrier

$$I = qT\psi$$

$$T = \frac{4}{4 \cosh^2 \alpha d + \left(\frac{\alpha}{k} - \frac{k}{\alpha}\right) \sinh^2 \alpha d}$$

(p.49 ADF)

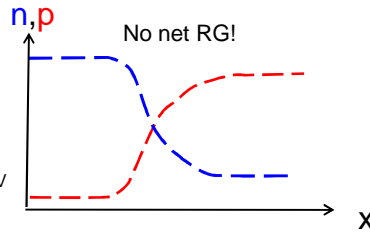
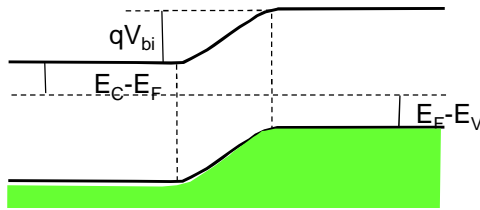


1. Diffusion limited
2. Ambipolar transport
3. High injection
4. R-G in depletion
5. Breakdown
6. Trap-assisted R-G
7. Esaki Tunneling

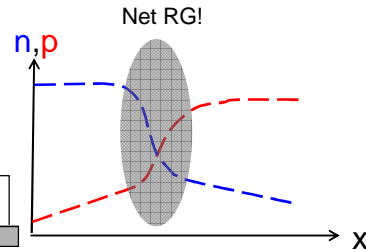
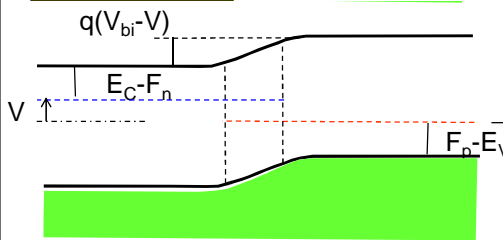
Slide 12

MAA2 Asad: We should redraw the figure ...
Muhammad Ashrafal Alam, 1/30/2009

Equilibrium



Non-Equilibrium



What is the recombination current?

$$I_R = -qA \int_0^w \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} dx$$

Shockley-Reed Hall

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{[n(x)p(x) - n_i^2]}{\tau_p[n(x) + n_1] + \tau_n[p(x) + p_1]}$$

Assume

$$\tau_n = \tau_p$$

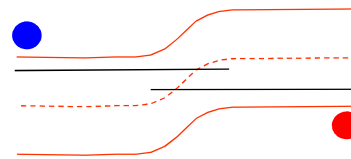
$$E_i = E_T$$

$$n_1 = p_1 = n_i$$

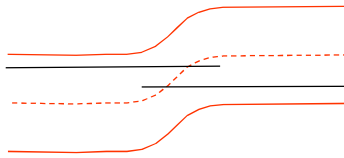
Follows from assuming midgap traps

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i^2 (e^{qV_A/kT} - 1)}{\tau[n(x) + p(x) + 2n_i]}$$

Note: Do you remember this HW ?



Mass action in non-equilibrium



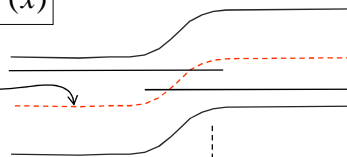
$$n(x)p(x) = n_i^2 e^{(F_N - F_P)/kT}$$

$$= n_i^2 e^{qV_A/kT}$$

For non-equilibrium at low current values.



$$E_i(x) = E_{iL} - qV(x)$$

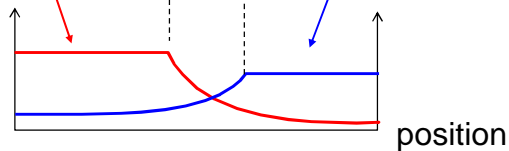


$$n(x) = n_i e^{(F_N - E_i(x))/kT}$$

$$= n_i e^{[F_N - E_{iL} + qV(x)]/kT}$$

$$p(x) = \frac{n_i^2 e^{qV_A/kT}}{n_i e^{[F_N - E_{iL} + qV(x)]/kT}}$$

$$= n_i e^{-[F_N - E_{iL} + qV(x)]/kT + qV_A/kT}$$



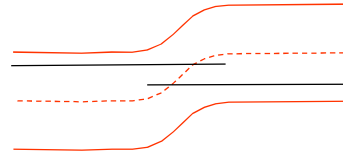
$$U_{FN} = \frac{F_N - E_{iL}}{kT} \quad U_A = \frac{V_A}{kT/q}$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i (e^{U_A} - 1)}{\tau [e^{U_{FN}+U} + e^{-U_{FN}-U+U_A}]}$$

$$I_R = -qA \left(\frac{n_i}{\tau} \right) \times \sinh\left(\frac{U_A}{2}\right) \times \int_0^W \frac{dx}{\cosh[U_{FN}+U-U_A/2]}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i}{\tau} \frac{e^{U_A/2} (e^{U_A/2} - e^{-U_A/2})}{e^{U_{FN}+U-U_A/2} + e^{-U_{FN}-U+U_A/2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i}{\tau} \frac{\sinh(U_A/2)}{\cosh[U_{FN}+U-U_A/2]}$$



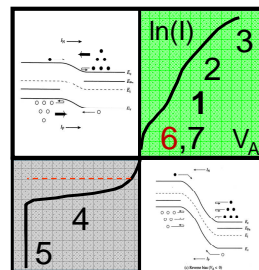
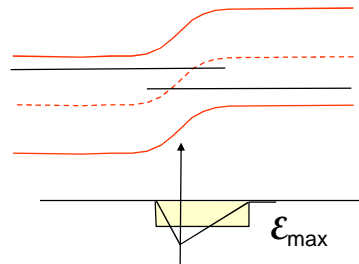
$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i}{\tau} \frac{\sinh(U_A/2)}{\cosh[U_{FN}+U-U_A/2]}$$

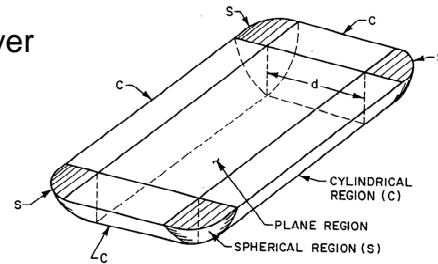
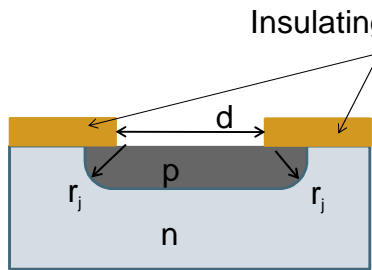
$$\Rightarrow I_R \approx -qA \left(\frac{n_i}{\tau} \right) \sinh\left(\frac{U_A}{2}\right) \int_0^W \frac{dx}{e^{(U_{FN}+U-U_A/2)}}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_R \approx -qA \left(\frac{n_i}{\tau} \right) \times \sinh\left(\frac{U_A}{2}\right) \int_0^W \frac{dx}{e^{-(\epsilon_{max} \cdot x)/(kT/2q)}}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_{Dep} = -qA \left[\frac{kT}{2q\epsilon_{max}} \right] \left[\frac{n_i}{\tau} e^{qV_A/2kT} \right]$$

Effective width Excess Carrier at mid-junction





Junction Design Considerations
Electric field stronger at corners, sharp edges. → increased recombination!

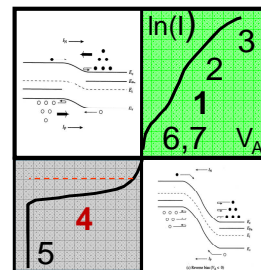
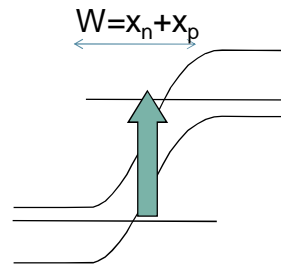
$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{n_i}{2\tau}$$

(Recombination in depletion region)

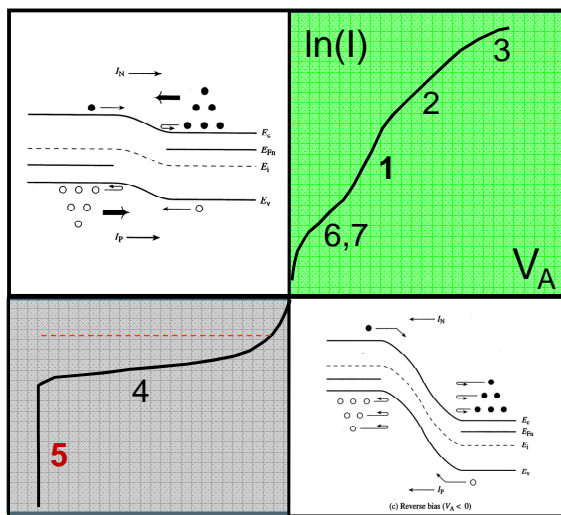
Integrate...

$$I_R \approx -qA \int_0^W \left(\frac{n_i}{2\tau} \right) dx$$

$$= -qA \frac{n_i W}{2\tau} \propto \sqrt{V_{bi} - V_A}$$



- 1) Solution in the nonlinear regime
- 2) I-V in the ambipolar regime
- 3) Tunneling and I-V characteristics
- 4) Non-ideal effects: Impact ionization**
- 5) Non-ideal effects: Junction recombination
- 6) Conclusion

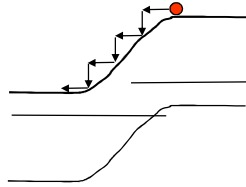


1. Diffusion limited
2. Ambipolar transport
3. High injection
4. R-G in depletion
- 5. Breakdown**
6. Trap-assisted R-G
7. Esaki Tunneling

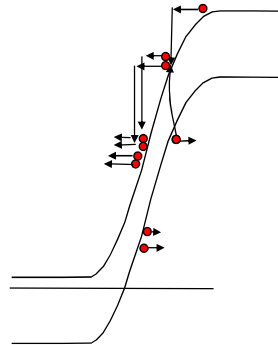
Slide 22

MAA3 Asad: We should redraw the figure ...
Muhammad Ashrafal Alam, 1/30/2009

Reverse Bias

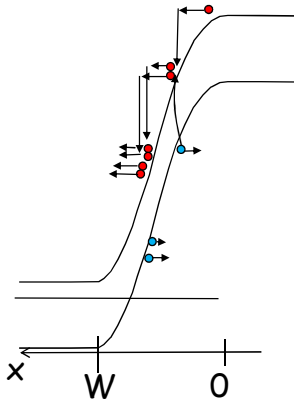


High Reverse Bias



Exponential current growth
(Impact Ionization or Inverse Auger process)

- 1) Solution in the nonlinear regime
- 2) I-V in the ambipolar regime
- 3) Tunneling and I-V characteristics
- 4) Non-ideal effects: Impact ionization
- 5) **Non-ideal effects: Junction recombination**
- 6) Conclusion



$$I_n(x+dx) = I_n(x) + \alpha_n I_n(x) dx + \alpha_p I_p(x) dx$$

Impact Ionization probabilities

$$\frac{I_n(x+dx) - I_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha_n I_n(x) + \alpha_p I_p(x)$$

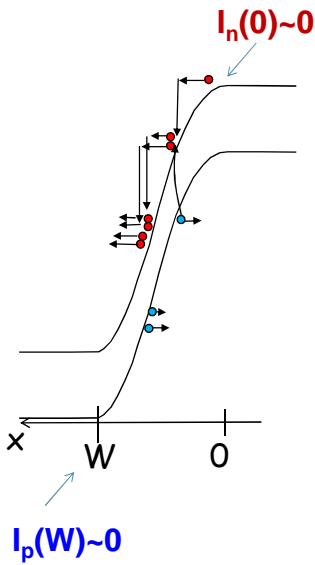
$$\Rightarrow \frac{dI_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha_n I_n(x) + \alpha_p I_p(x)$$

Steady state: Define
 $I_T = I_n + I_p$ (total current)

$$\frac{dI_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha_p [I_T - I_n(x)] + \alpha_n I_n(x)$$

$$\frac{dI_n(x)}{dx} - (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) I_n(x) = \alpha_p I_T$$

Differential equation



Solution form of differential equation

$$\frac{I_n(W)}{I_T} = \frac{\int_0^W \alpha_p e^{-\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'} dx + \frac{I_n(0)}{I_T}}{1 + \int_0^W (\alpha_p - \alpha_n) e^{-\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'} dx}$$

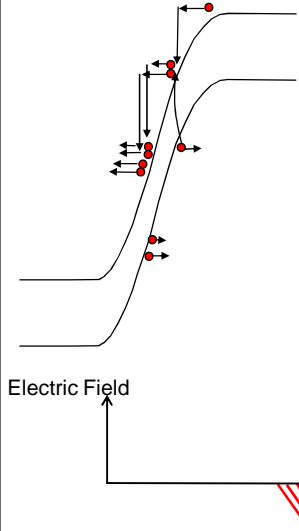
Reverse diffusion current

$$I_p(W) + I_n(W) = I_T \Rightarrow I_n(W) \approx I_T$$

$$\frac{I_n(0)}{I_T} \equiv \frac{1}{M_p} \text{ Multiplication Factor}$$

At $x=W$, I_n has grown exponentially, and I_p is now negligible.

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{M_p}\right) \approx 1 = \int_0^W \alpha_p e^{-\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n) dx'} dx$$



Simplify further...

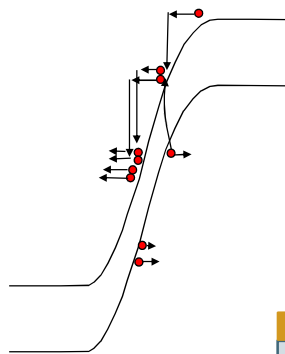
$$\int_0^W \alpha_p e^{-\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n) dx'} dx \approx 1$$

$\alpha_p = \alpha_n \Rightarrow \alpha_p W = 1$ Assume: Significant impact ionization

$\alpha_p = A_0 e^{-B/\mathcal{E}}$ from experiment and theory

Breakdown-Field

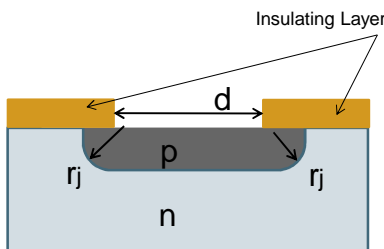
$$\mathcal{E}(0^-) = \frac{qN_D x_n}{k_s \epsilon_0} = \left[\frac{2q}{k_s \epsilon_0} \frac{N_D N_A}{N_D + N_A} (V_{bi} - V_A) \right]^{1/2}$$



Photon Detector

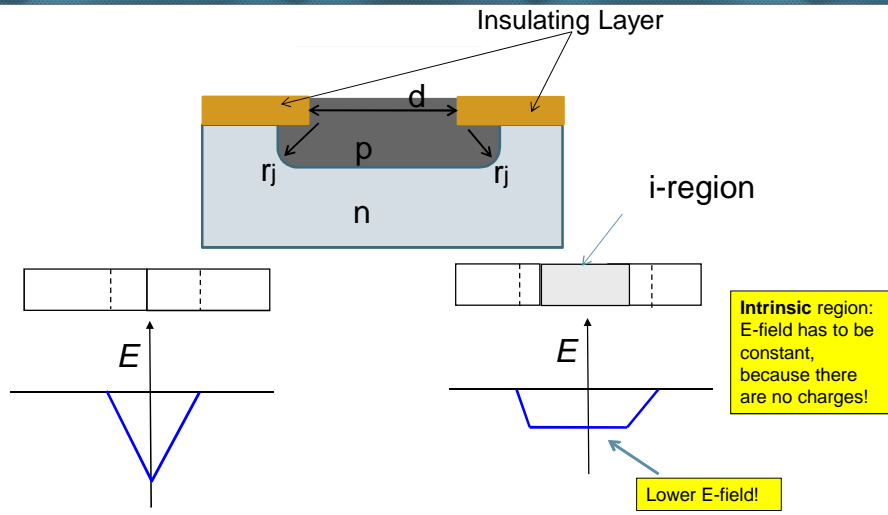


Good

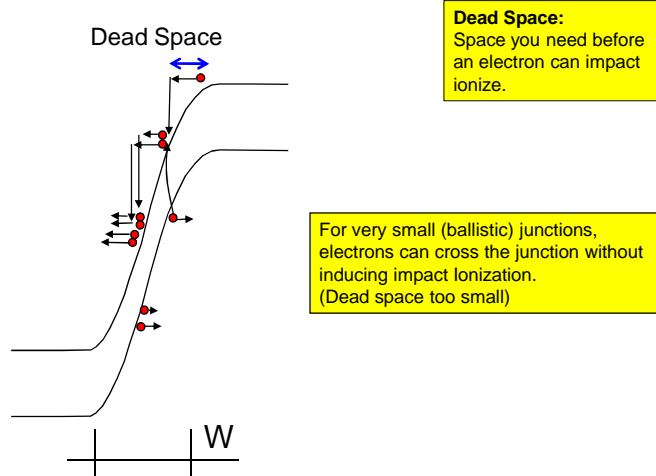


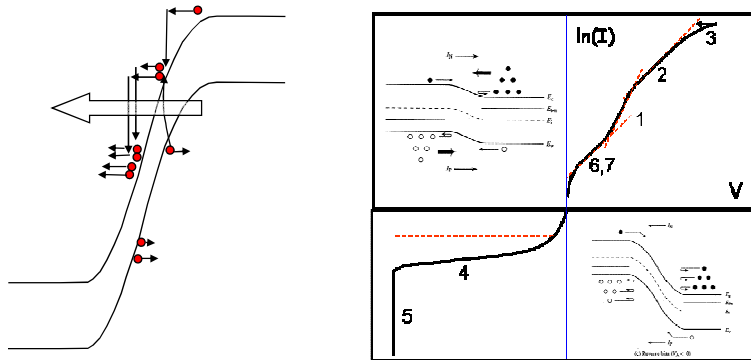
High E-fields at junction corners → Breakdown

Bad....



Reduced field for p-i-n junction, because V_{bi} (area under the curve) must be the same.





How do you differentiate between Zener tunneling and impact-ionization?


- 1) Junction recombination is often used as a diagnostic tool for process maturity. Defects in junction arises from misplaced donor impurities, not necessary from deep-trap impurities.
- 2) Impact ionization plays an important role in wide variety of devices (e.g. avalanche photo-diodes).
- 3) In the next class, we will discuss AC response of p-n junction diodes.

ECE606: Solid State Devices

p-n diode AC Response

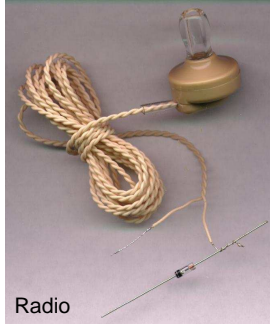
Gerhard Klimeck
gekco@purdue.edu



	Equilibrium	DC	Small signal	Large Signal	Circuits
Diode					
Schottky			Diode in Non-Equilibrium (External DC+AC voltage applied)		
BJT/HBT					
MOSFET					

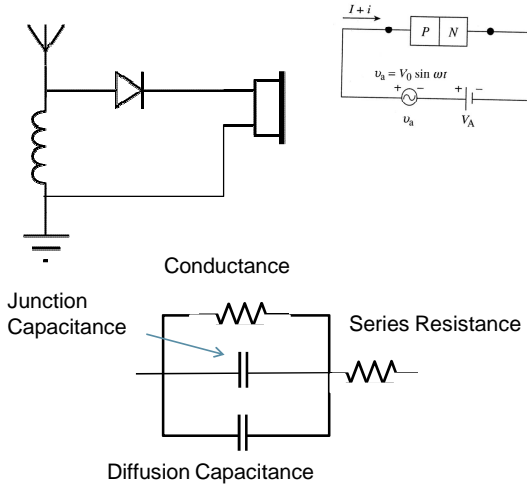


Motivation



Radio

www.sci-toy.com



- 1) **Conductance and series resistance**
- 2) Majority carrier junction capacitance
- 3) Minority carrier diffusion capacitance
- 4) Conclusion

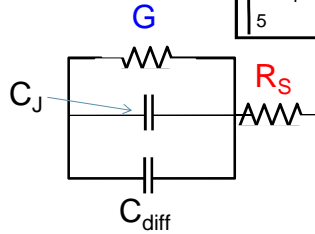
Ref. SDF, Chapter 7

$$I = I_o \left(e^{q(V_A - R_S I) \beta / m} - 1 \right)$$

$m = \text{RG (2), diff (1), Ambipolar (2)}$

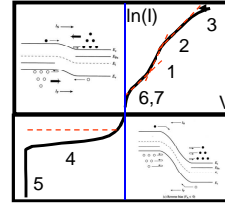
$$\ln \frac{I + I_o}{I_o} = q(V_A - R_S I) \frac{\beta}{m}$$

$$\frac{m}{q\beta(I + I_o)} = \frac{dV_A}{dI} - R_S$$



$$\frac{1}{g_{FB}} = R_S + \frac{m}{q\beta(I + I_o)}$$

Forward Bias Conductance

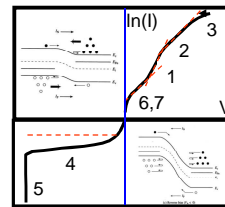
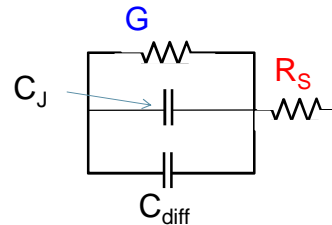


$$I = I_o \left(e^{q(V_A - R_S I) \beta / m} - 1 \right) - \frac{qn_i}{2\tau} B_0 \sqrt{V_{bi} - V_A}$$

$$\approx -I_o - \frac{qn_i}{2\tau} B_0 \sqrt{V_{bi} - V_A}$$

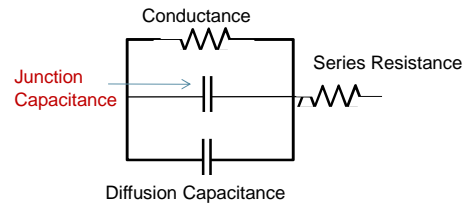
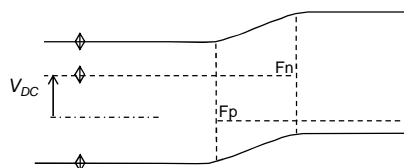
$$\frac{1}{g_{RB}} = \frac{qn_i B_0}{2\tau \sqrt{V_{bi} - V_A}}$$

Reverse Bias Conductance

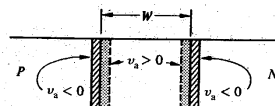


- 1) Conductance and series resistance
- 2) Majority carrier junction capacitance**
- 3) Minority carrier diffusion capacitance
- 4) Conclusion

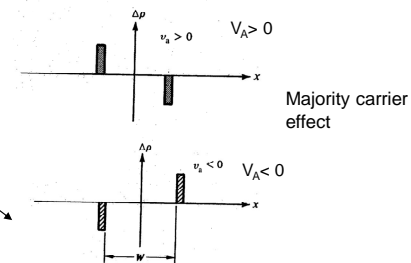
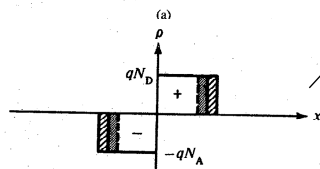
Forward biased diode + AC signal

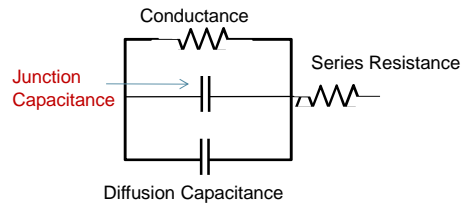
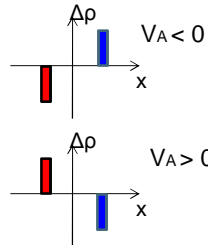


Depletion width modulation



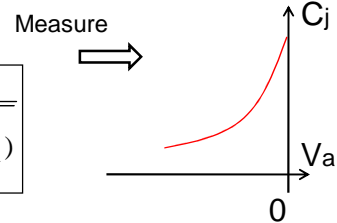
Charge modulation





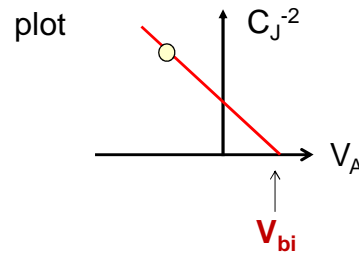
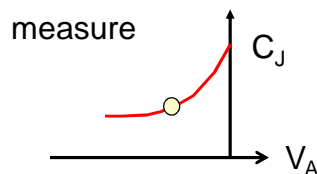
Majority Carrier Junction Capacitance

$$C_J = \frac{K_s \epsilon_0 A}{W_n + W_p} = \frac{K_s \epsilon_0 A}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{2K_s \epsilon_0}{qN_D} + \frac{2K_s \epsilon_0}{qN_A}\right)(V_{bi} - V_A)}}$$



$$\frac{1}{C_J^2} \approx \frac{2}{qN_D(x)K_s \epsilon_0 A^2} (V_{bi} - V_A)$$

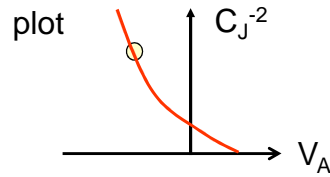
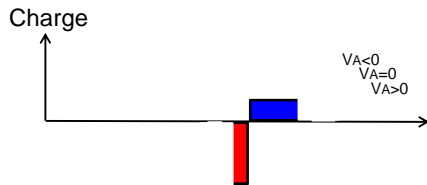
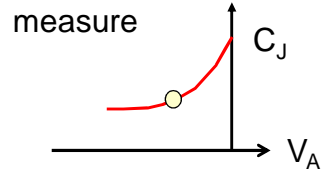
(Assume single sided p⁺-n junction)



$$\frac{1}{C_J^2} \approx \frac{2}{qN_D(x)K_s\epsilon_0A^2}(V_{bi} - V_A)$$

$$N_D(x) = \frac{2}{qK_s\epsilon_0A^2} \frac{1}{d(1/C_J^2)/dV_A}$$

Measure doping concentration as a function of position

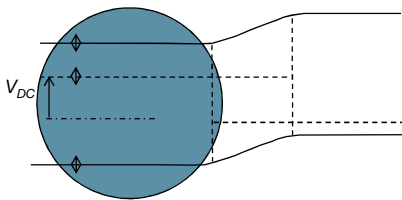


Majority side

$$J_n = qn\mu_N E + qD_N \nabla n$$

Neglect

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{1}{q} \frac{dJ_n}{dx} - \cancel{R_n} + \cancel{G_n}$$



$$\frac{d(\Delta n)}{dt} = \frac{1}{q} \frac{d(qn\mu_N \mathcal{E})}{dx} = N_D \mu_N \frac{d\mathcal{E}}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{E}}{dx} = \frac{q}{k_s \epsilon_0} (\cancel{N} - n_0 - \Delta n + N_D - \cancel{N_A})$$

How long does it take for the signal to cross the junction?

$$\tau_d = \frac{K_s \epsilon_0}{\sigma} \approx 0.1 \text{ ps}$$

Very fast

$$\frac{d(\Delta n)}{dt} = -\frac{qN_D \mu_N}{k_s \epsilon_0} \Delta n = -\frac{\sigma_0 \Delta n}{k_s \epsilon_0}$$

$$\Delta n(t) = n_0 e^{-\frac{\sigma_0 t}{k_s \epsilon_0}} = n_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_d}}$$

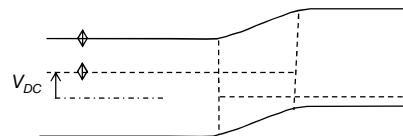
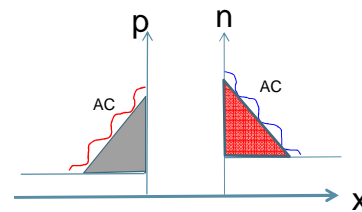
- 1) Conductance and series resistance
- 2) Majority carrier junction capacitance
- 3) Minority carrier diffusion capacitance**
- 4) Conclusion

Minority Carrier side

$$\mathbf{J_N = qn\mu_N\mathcal{E} + qD_N \frac{dn}{dx}}$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{q} \frac{dJ_n}{dx} - r_N + g_N$$

$$\frac{\partial (n_0 + \Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t})}{\partial t} = D_N \frac{d^2 (n_0 + \Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t})}{dx^2} - \frac{\Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t}}{\tau_n}$$



$$\frac{\partial(n_0 + \Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t})}{\partial t} = D_N \frac{d^2(n_0 + \Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t})}{dx^2} - \frac{\Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t}}{\tau_n}$$

$$j\omega \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t} = D_N \frac{d^2 \Delta n_{dc}}{dx^2} + e^{j\omega t} \frac{d^2 \Delta n_{ac}}{dx^2} - \frac{\Delta n_{dc}}{\tau_n} - e^{j\omega t} \frac{\Delta n_{ac}}{\tau_n}$$

$$\text{DC: } 0 = D_N \frac{d^2 \Delta n_{dc}}{dx^2} - \frac{\Delta n_{dc}}{\tau_n} \Rightarrow \Delta n_{dc} = A e^{-\frac{x}{L_n}} + B e^{+\frac{x}{L_n}}$$

$$\text{AC: } 0 = D_N \frac{d^2 \Delta n_{ac}}{dx^2} - (j\omega \tau_n + 1) \frac{\Delta n_{ac}}{\tau_n} \Rightarrow \Delta n_{ac} = C e^{-\frac{x}{L_n^*}} + D e^{+\frac{x}{L_n^*}} \rightarrow C e^{-\frac{x}{L_n^*}}$$

$$L_n^* = \sqrt{D_n \tau_n / (1 + j\omega \tau_n)} \quad \tau_n^* = \tau_n / (1 + j\omega \tau_n)$$

$$\Delta n_{dc}(x=0) = \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} \left(e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} - 1 \right)$$

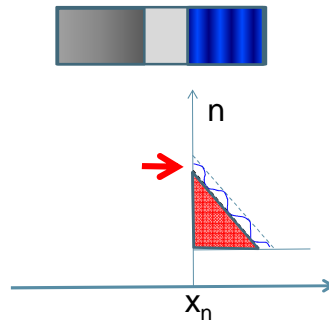
$$(\Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t}) = \frac{n_i^2}{N_A + \Delta p_{ac} e^{j\omega t}} \left(e^{\frac{qV_{dc} + V_{ac} e^{j\omega t}}{kT}} - 1 \right)$$

$$(\Delta n_{dc} + \Delta n_{ac} e^{j\omega t}) \approx \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} \left(e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} e^{\frac{qV_{ac} e^{j\omega t}}{kT}} - 1 \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} \left\{ e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} \left(1 + \frac{qV_{ac} e^{j\omega t}}{kT} \right) - 1 \right\}$$

Taylor expansion

$$\Delta n_{ac}(x=0) = \frac{qV_{ac}}{kT} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} = C$$



$$\Delta n_{ac}(x=0) = \frac{qV_{ac}}{kT} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} = C$$

$$\Delta n_{ac}(x) = C e^{-\frac{x}{L_n^*}} + D e^{+\frac{x}{L_n^*}} \rightarrow C e^{-\frac{x}{L_n^*}}$$

Finally...

$$J_{ac} = -qD_n \left. \frac{d\Delta n_{ac}}{dx} \right|_{x=0} = \frac{qD_n}{L_n^*} \frac{qV_{ac}}{kT} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}}$$

AC Current

$$Y_{ac} = \frac{J_{ac}}{V_{ac}} = \frac{q^2 D_n}{L_n^* kT} \frac{n_i^2}{N_A} e^{\frac{qV_{dc}}{kT}} \equiv G_0 \sqrt{1 + j\omega\tau_n}$$

AC Impedance

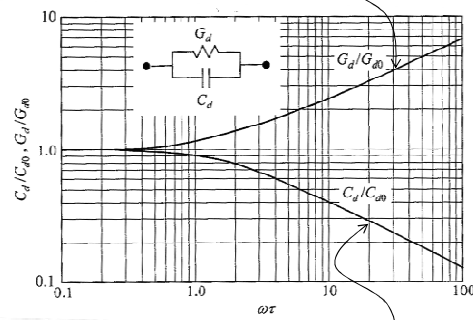
$$G_D \propto \sqrt{\omega}$$

$$Y_{ac} = G_D + j\omega C_D \equiv G_0 \sqrt{1 + j\omega\tau_n}$$

Separate in real & imaginary parts ...

$$G_D = \frac{G_0}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 \tau_n^2} + 1 \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\omega C_D = \frac{G_0}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 \tau_n^2} - 1 \right]^{1/2}$$



Product of G_D and C_D frequency-independent

$$C_D \propto 1/\sqrt{\omega}$$

- 1) Small signal response relevant for many analog applications.
- 2) Small signal parameters always refer to the DC operating conditions, as such the parameter changes with bias condition.
- 3) Important to distinguish between majority and minority carrier capacitance. Their relative importance depends on specific applications.