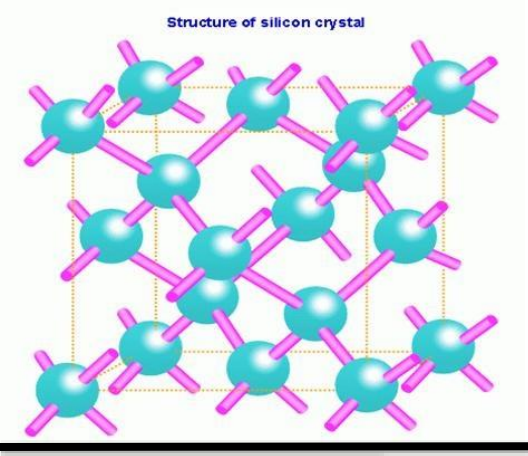

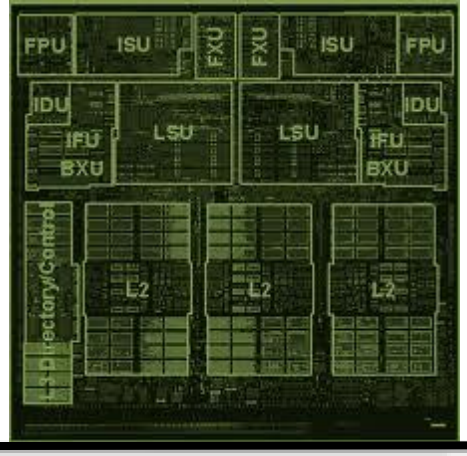

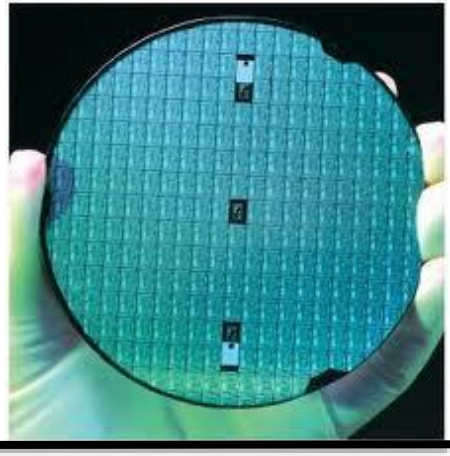

ECE 122A

VLSI Principles

Lecture 6

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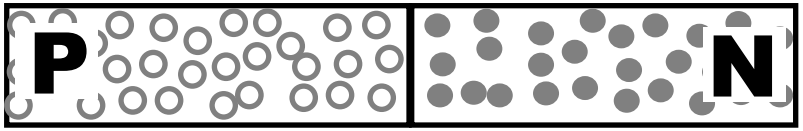
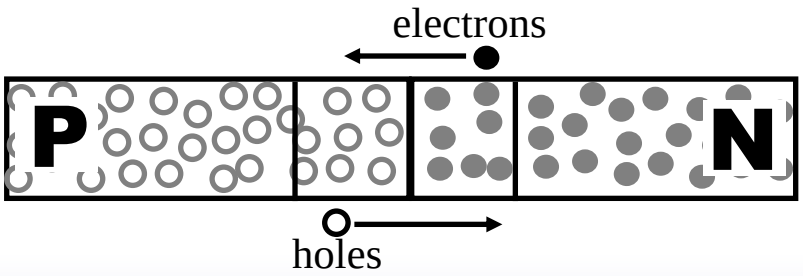
P/N Junctions

- What happens when you put two types of semiconductors together?

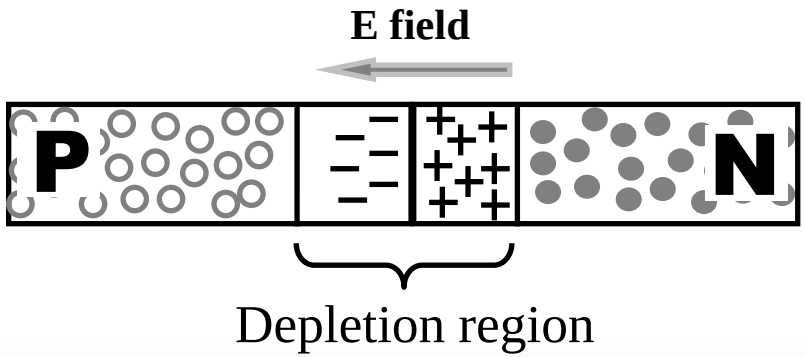


- Large concentration gradient at junction
  - Electrons diffuse from N to P side
  - Holes diffuse from P to N side

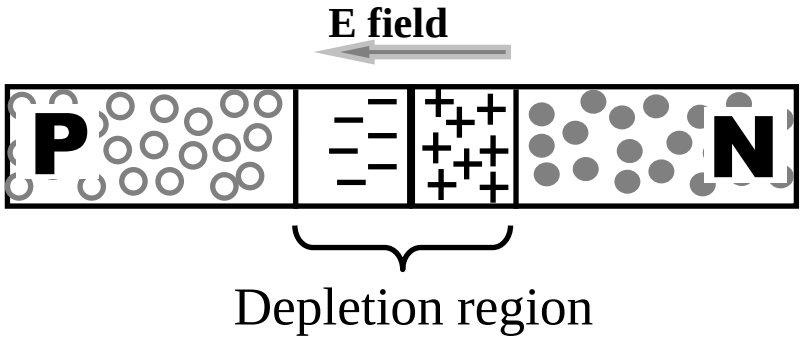


P/N Junctions (2)

- Immobile ions are left behind
  - Electrons leave +ve charged ions on N side
  - Holes leave –ve charged ions on P side
  - Electric field forms, from N to P
  - E-field causes drift in opposite direction as diffusion
  - Equilibrium! No current flows

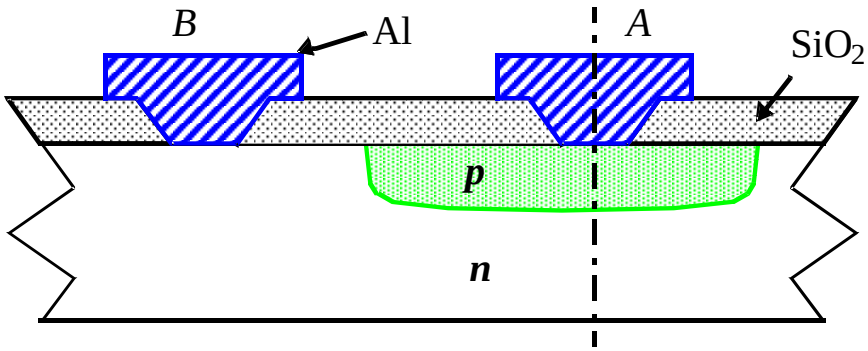


Depletion Region

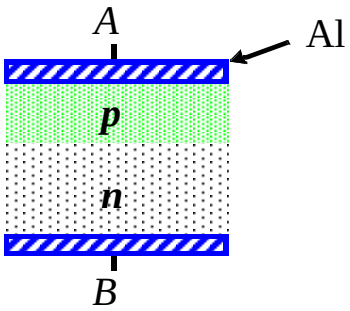


- Depletion region forms around junction
  - "Depleted" of any mobile charges (holes or electrons)
  - Charge in depletion region due to fixed ions
  - Electric field causes a potential difference across junction: known as built-in voltage V_0

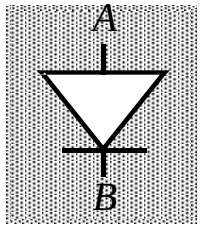
The Diode



Cross-section of *pn*-junction in an IC process



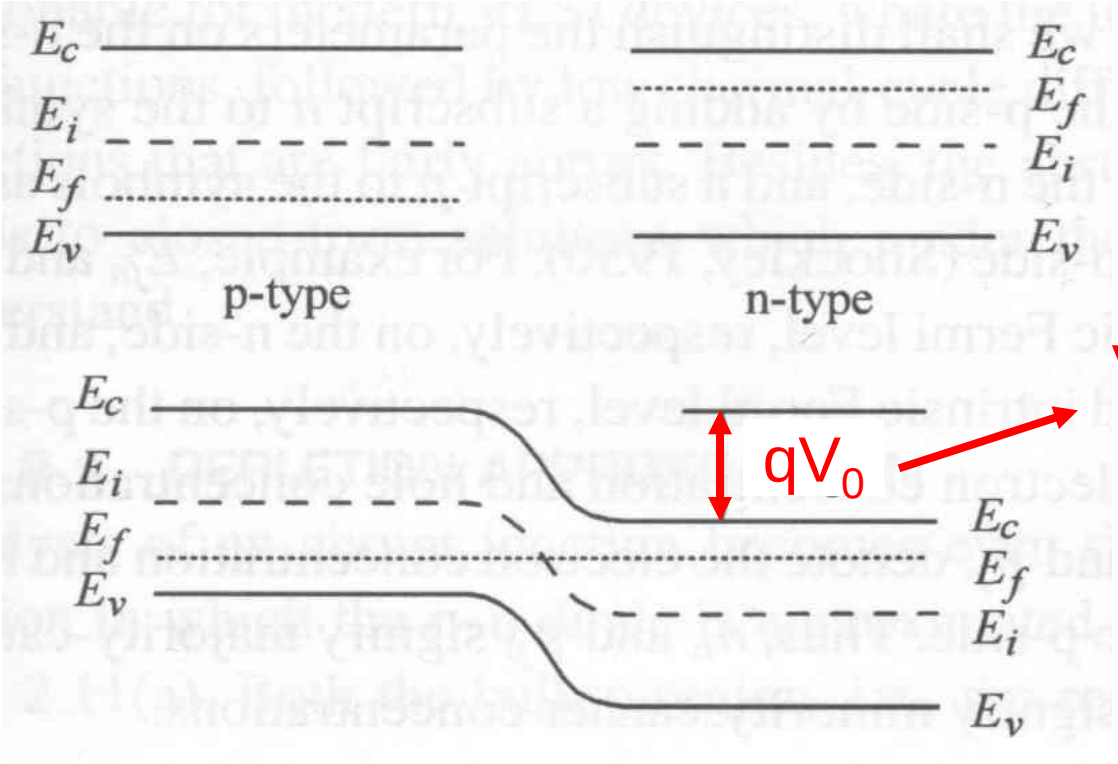
One-dimensional representation



diode symbol

Mostly occurring as parasitic element in Digital ICs

P/N Junction Band Diagram



- At thermal equilibrium, no net current flow
  - When drift+diffusion currents=0, $\frac{dE_f}{dx} = 0$
- Bands must bend so that Fermi level is constant

PN Junction Equations

$$E_{Fn} - E_{in} = kT \ln\left(\frac{N_D}{n_i}\right) \qquad E_{ip} - E_{Fp} = -kT \ln\left(\frac{n_i}{N_A}\right)$$

- Built-in potential or contact potential
  - difference between energy bands on p and n side of the junction)

$$qV_0 = E_{ip} - E_{in}$$

$$V_0 = \frac{kT}{q} \ln\left(\frac{N_A N_D}{n_i^2}\right)$$

Hint: add the two equations above….

Strongly-doped junction

P/N Junction Example

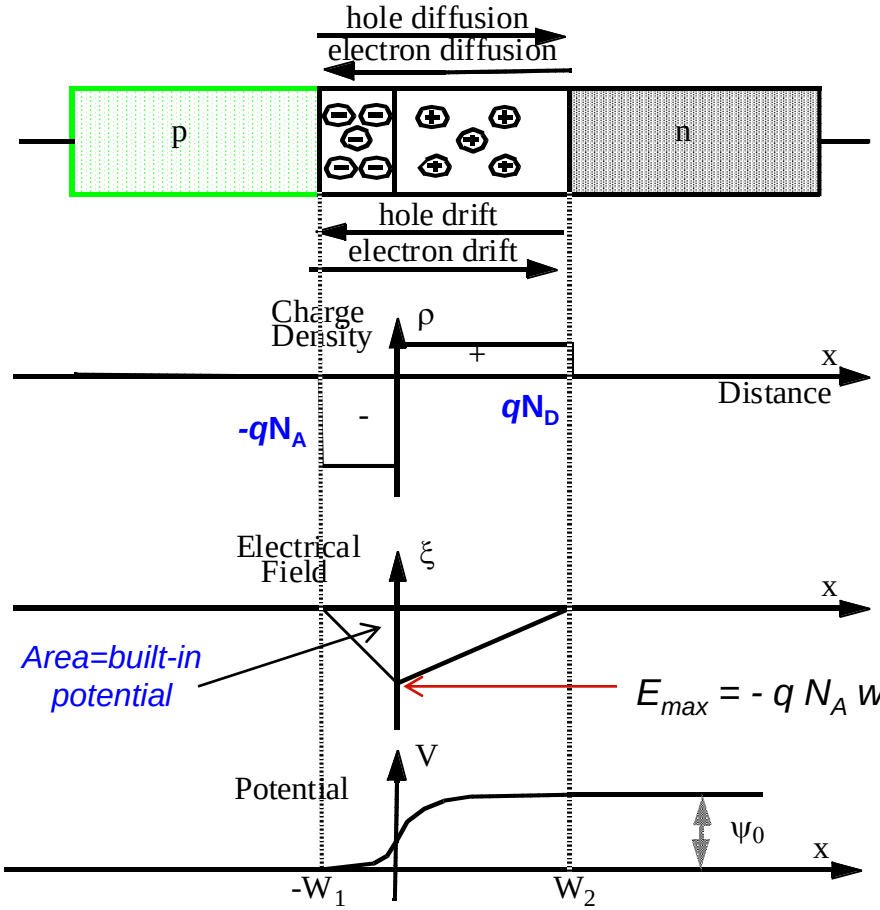
A diode is created from two materials:

- Si doped with 10^{16} cm^{-3} Boron
- Si doped with 10^{17} cm^{-3} Arsenic

1. Find electron and hole concentration on each side of the junction
2. Find position of each Fermi level
3. Find built-in voltage V_0

Depletion Region

which side is more heavily doped?



(a) Current flow.

Drift current equals diffusion current under equilibrium: zero net current

(b) Charge density.

Charge density higher on p side than n side since $N_A > N_D$

Sum of all charges = 0

(c) Electric field.

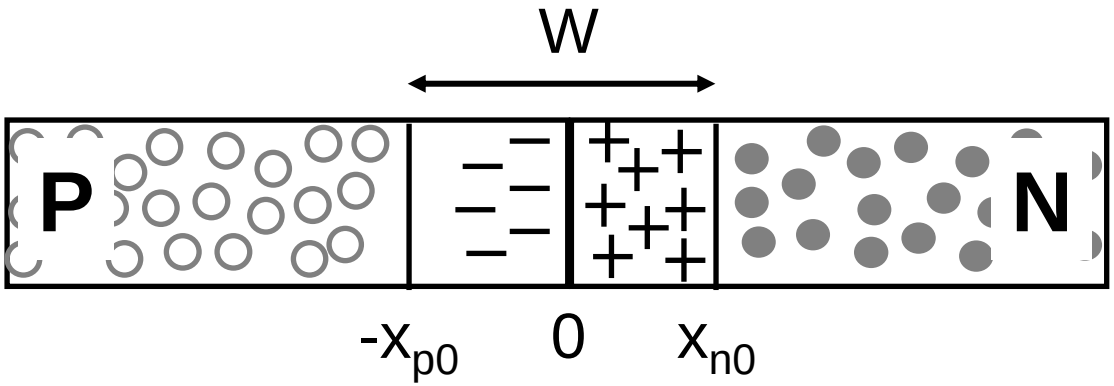
(d) Electrostatic potential.

Note:

$d\xi/dx = \rho/\varepsilon$

$\xi = - dV/dx$

Abrupt PN Junctions



Width of depletion region:

Built-in potential

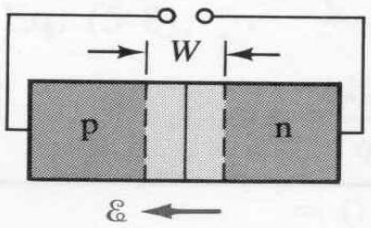
$$W_d = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon}{q}\frac{(N_a + N_d)}{N_a N_d}V_0}$$

Try to derive this equation…..

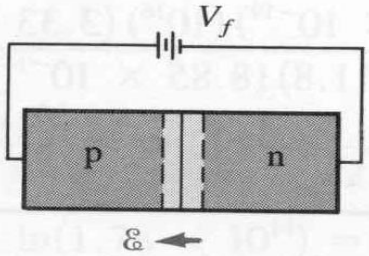
Hint: Start with Gauss's Law…and get to the Poisson's equation ($dE/dx = \rho/\varepsilon$), then apply that to each of the two layers in the depletion region.

Bias Effects on PN Junction

Equilibrium

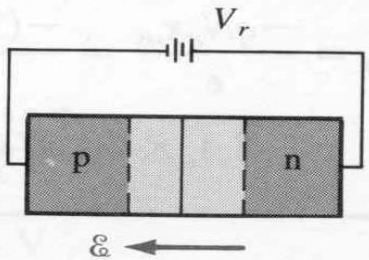


Forward bias

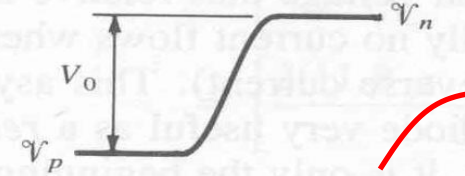


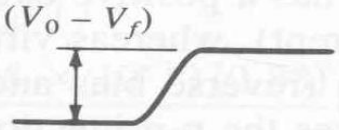
- smaller E field
- smaller depletion W

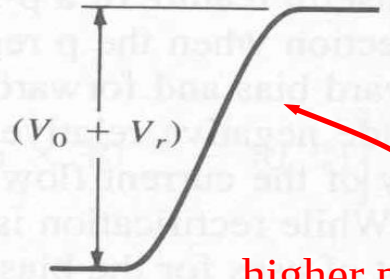
Reverse bias



- larger E field
- larger depletion W

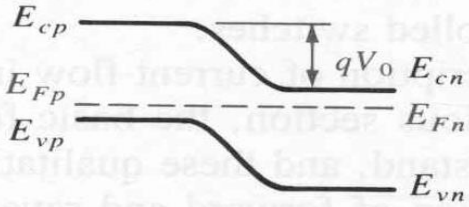


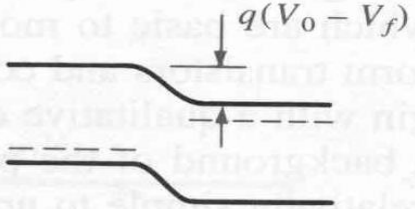


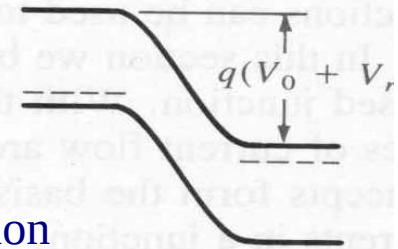


lower potential barrier

higher potential barrier







h^+ diffusion

e^- diffusion

Bias Effect on Depletion Width

- When biased, electric field in depletion region changes
  - Forward bias: reduces electric field
  - Reverse bias: increases electric field
- Electric field is a result of uncovered charges. Therefore depletion width must change
  - Forward bias: less charges needed. Depletion width reduces
  - Reverse bias: more charges needed. Depletion region increases.

Bias Effect on Depletion Width

Width of depletion region w/o bias:

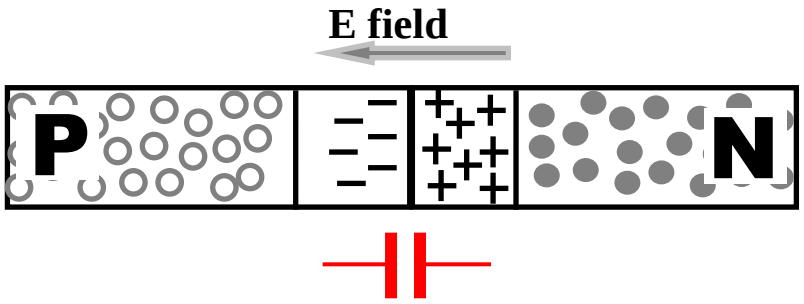
$$W_d = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon}{q}\frac{(N_a + N_d)}{N_a N_d}V_0}$$

Width of depletion region with bias V:

$$W_d = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon}{q}\frac{(N_a + N_d)}{N_a N_d}(V_0 - V)}$$

Note:
If V is +ve (FB), W_d reduces
If V is –ve (RB), W_d increases

Capacitance of P/N Junction



- Separated charges result in depletion region capacitance
- Similar to parallel-plate capacitor

Charge in depletion region:

$$Q_j = A\sqrt{2q\varepsilon \frac{N_d N_a}{N_d + N_a}(V_0 - V)}$$

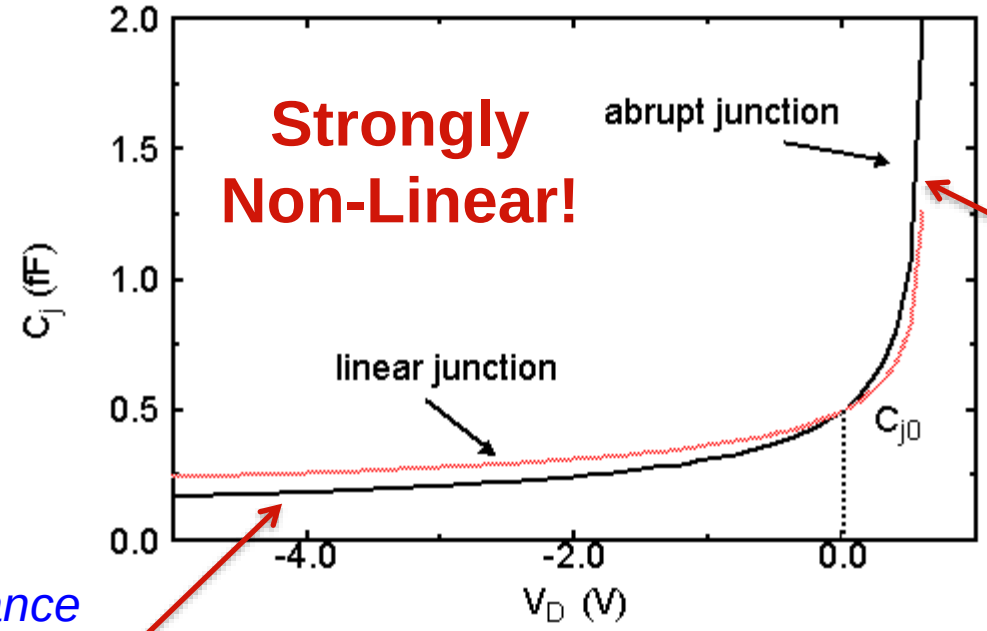
Capacitance:

$$C_j = \frac{A}{2}\sqrt{\frac{2q\varepsilon}{V_0 - V}\frac{N_d N_a}{N_d + N_a}}$$

Junction Capacitance

A small change in voltage (dV_D) applied to the junction causes a change in the space charge (dQ_j): $C_j = dQ_j/dV_D$

C_j is voltage dependent



Capacitance increases with forward bias (since depletion width decreases)

Capacitance reduces with reverse bias (since depletion width increases)

$$C_j = \frac{C_{j0}}{(1 - V_D/\phi_0)^m}$$

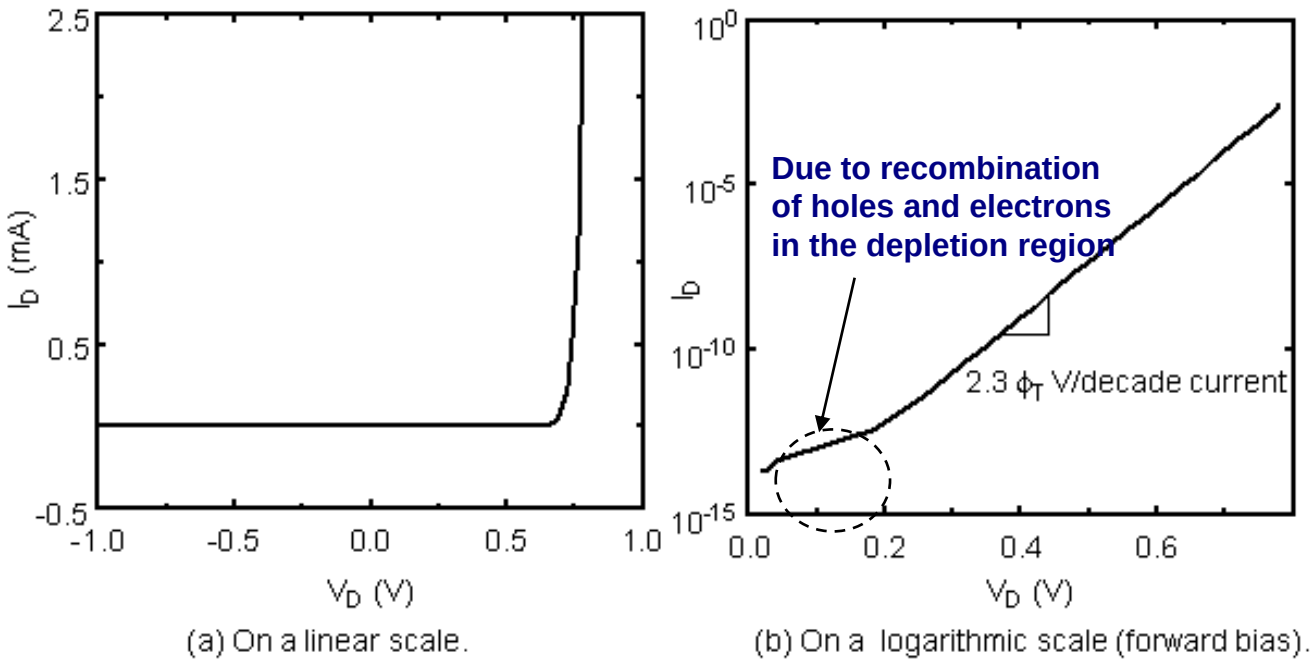
m = 0.5: abrupt junction
m = 0.33: linear junction

C_{j0} = cap. under zero bias , m is the grading co-efficient

Diode Equation

- Forward bias: barrier lowered, diffusion current dominates
- Reverse bias: barrier raised, only current is small drift current of minority carriers
- Diode only lets current flow in one direction
- Diode equation: $I = I_S(e^{qV/kT} - 1)$

Diode Current



(a) On a linear scale.

(b) On a logarithmic scale (forward bias).

Current increases by a factor of 10 every 60 mV

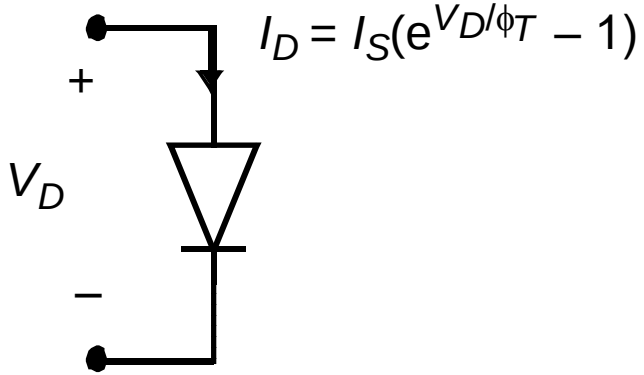
Ideal diode equation: $$I_D = I_S\left(e^{V_D/\phi_T} - 1\right)$$

I_D= diode current, V_D=diode bias voltage

I_S= saturation current of diode (constant) proportional to diode area, and function of the doping levels and width of neutral regions….determined empirically (saturates at large RB)

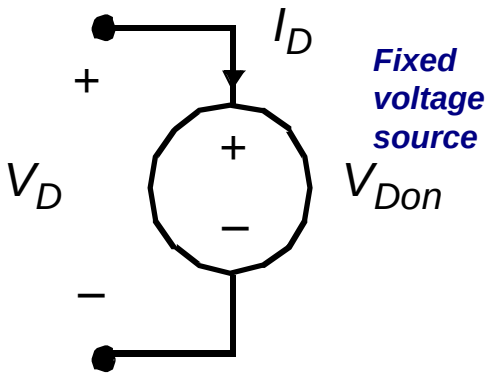
Φ_T=thermal voltage =kT/q=26 mV at 300 K

Models for Manual Analysis



(a) Ideal diode model

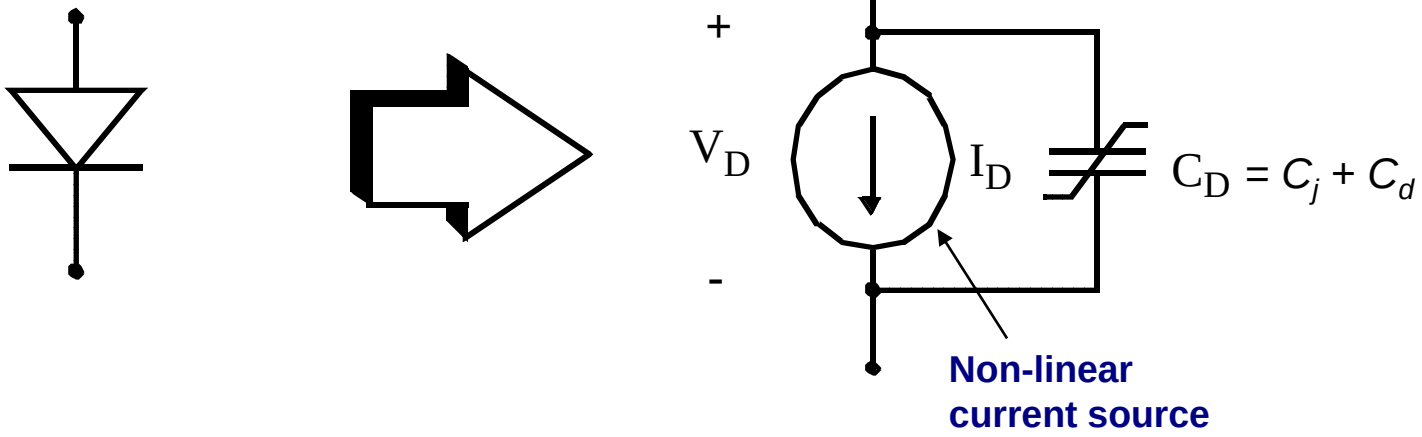
Strongly non-linear: prohibits rapid first-order analysis



(b) First-order diode model

A fully conducting diode has a small range of voltage drop (between 0.6 – 0.8 V), hence V_{Don} can be assumed to be fixed

SPICE Diode Model



series resistance due to the neutral regions on both sides of the junction

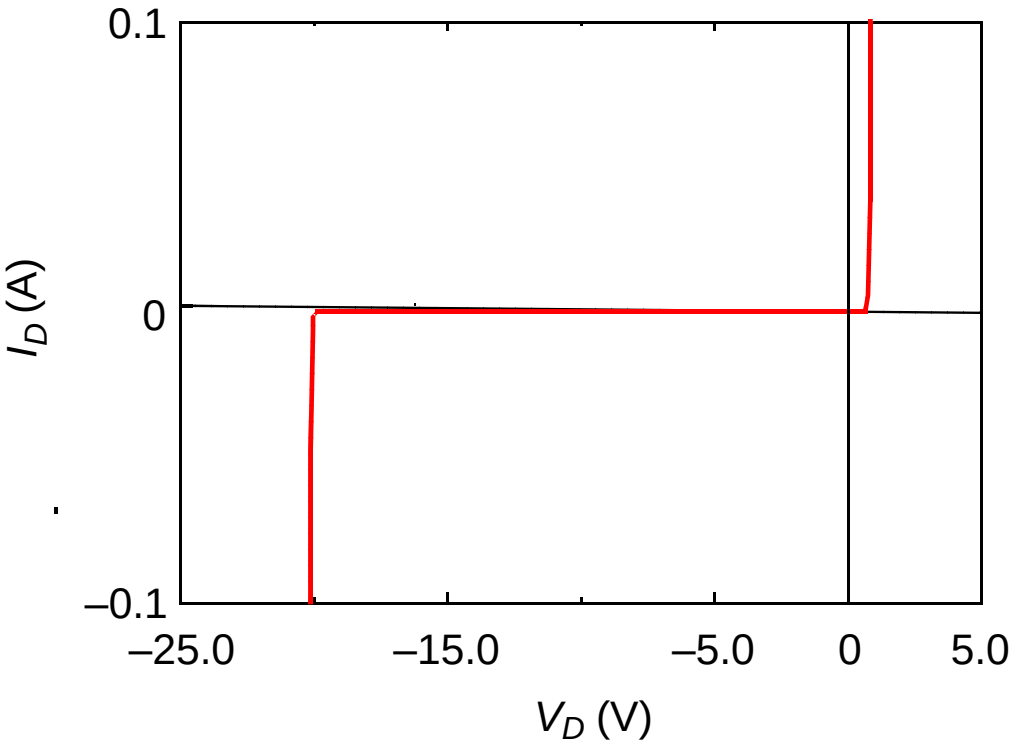
For high current levels, R_s causes a smaller (internal) voltage drop across diode than the applied voltage

$$I_D = I_S \{\exp[V_D/n\phi_T] - 1\}$$

See, *The Spice Book* by Vladimirescu, Wiley 1993, for more details…

n is called the emission co-efficient = 1 for most common diodes but can be greater than 1 for others

Secondary Effects



Avalanche Breakdown

Reverse bias increases electric field across the junction and carriers crossing the junction get accelerated and attain high velocity.

At $E=E_{crit} = 2 \times 10^5$ V/cm, carriers create e-h pairs on collision with immobile Si atoms.

These carriers in turn create more carriers….

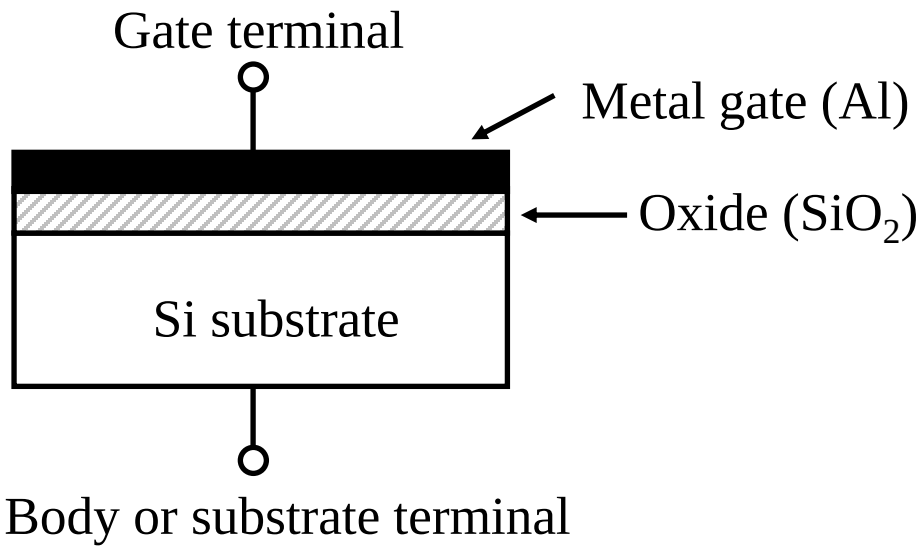
SPICE Parameters

Parameter Name	Symbol	SPICE Name	Units	Default Value
Saturation current	I_S	IS	A	1.0 E-14
Emission coefficient	n	N	-	1
Series resistance	R_S	RS	Ω	0
Transit time	τ_T	TT	sec	0
Zero-bias junction capacitance	C_{j0}	CJ0	F	0
Grading coefficient	m	M	-	0.5
Junction potential	ϕ_0	VJ	V	1

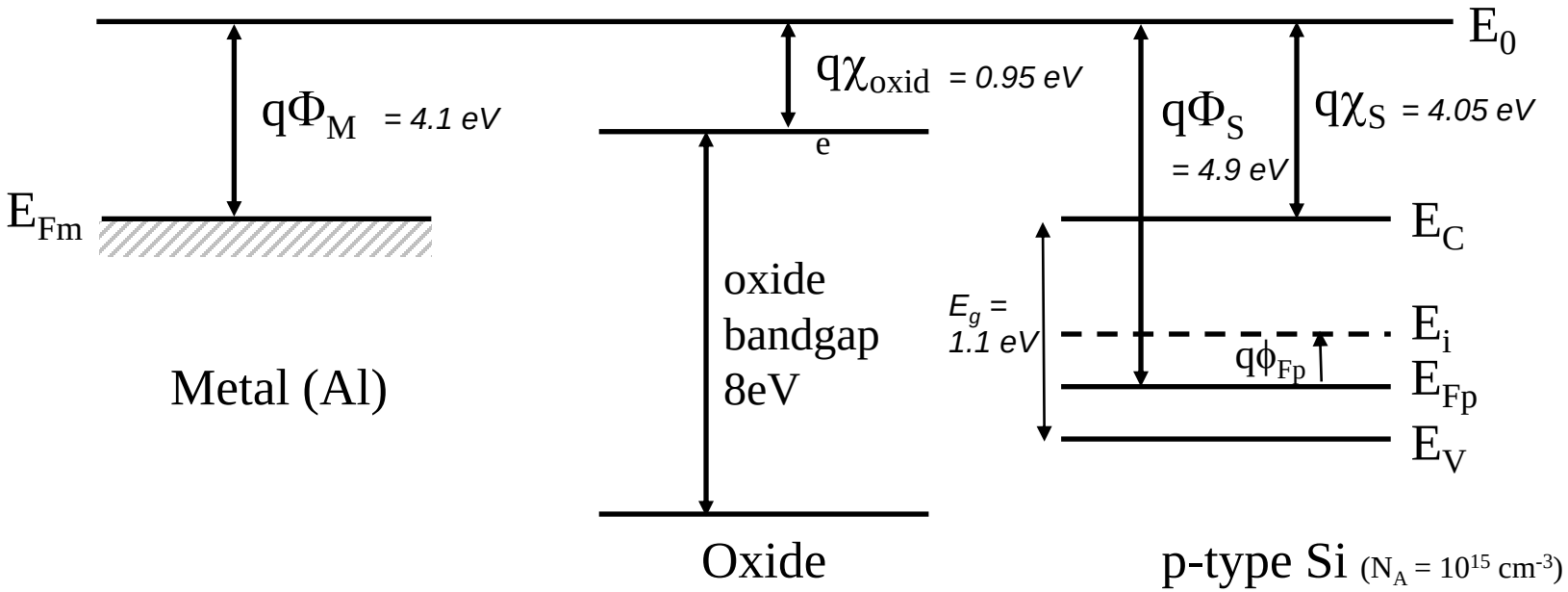
First Order SPICE diode model parameters.

MOS Structure

- MOS: Metal-oxide-semiconductor
  - Gate: metal (or polysilicon)
  - Oxide: silicon dioxide, grown on substrate
- MOS capacitor: two-terminal MOS structure



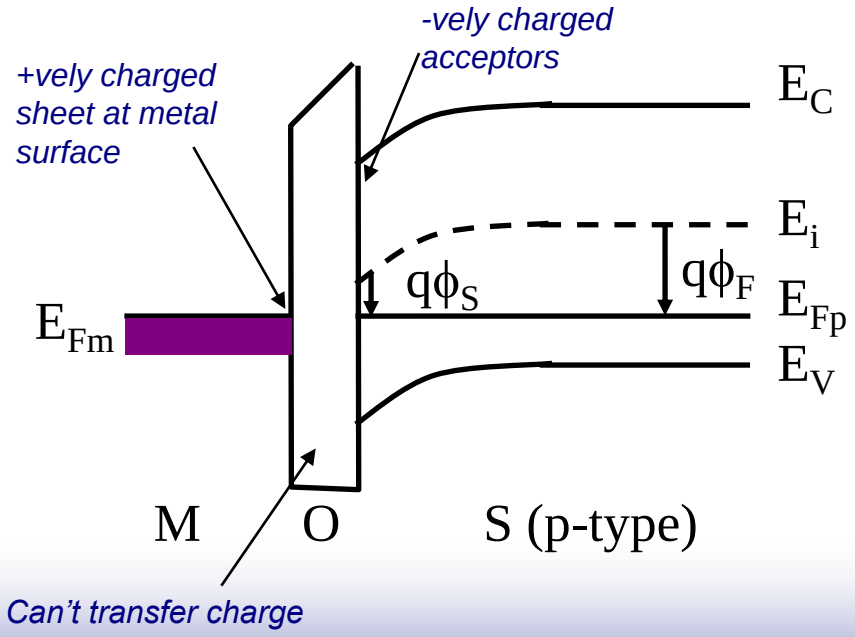
MOS Energy Band Diagram



- Work function ($q\Phi_M$, $q\Phi_S$): energy required to take electron from Fermi level to free space
- Electron affinity is the potential difference between the conduction band level and vacuum (free-space) level = qX_s
- Work function difference between Al and Si = 0.8eV
- **At equilibrium, Fermi levels must line up!!**

MOS Energy Band Diagram

- Bands must bend for Fermi levels to line up
- Amount of bending is equal to work function difference: $q\Phi_M - q\Phi_S$
- Fermi levels equalized by transfer of –ve charge from materials with higher E_F (smaller work functions) across interfaces to materials with lower E_F
- **Part of voltage drop occurs across oxide, rest occurs next to O-S interface**



ϕ_F = Fermi potential (difference between E_F and E_i in bulk)

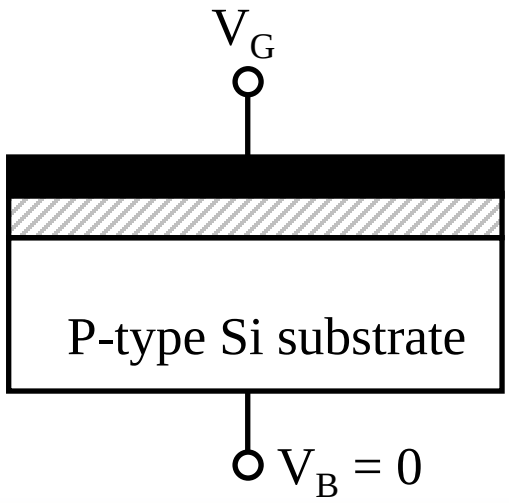
ϕ_S = surface potential

Flat-Band Voltage

- Flat-band voltage
  - Built-in potential of MOS system
  - Flat Band Voltage: $V_{FB} = \Phi_m - \Phi_S$
  - Apply this voltage to "flatten" energy bands
  - For the MOS system considered on the previous slide, a –ve voltage applied to the metal w.r.t the Si opposes the built-in voltage on the capacitor and tends to reduce the charge stored on the capacitor plates below its equilibrium value
- Example
  - P-type substrate: $q\phi_{Fp} = 0.2$ eV, $q\chi_S = 4.05$ eV
  - Aluminum gate ($q\Phi_m = 4.1$ eV)
  - What is flatband voltage?

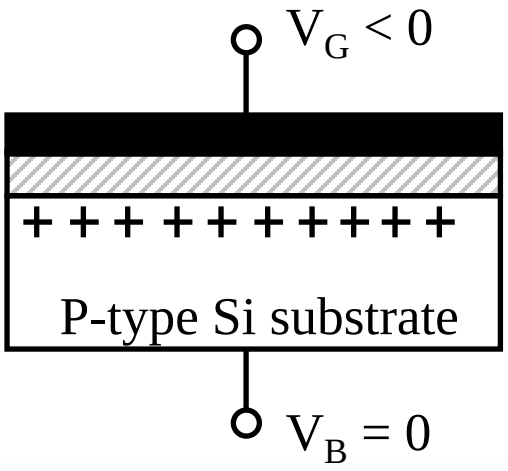
MOS Capacitor Operation

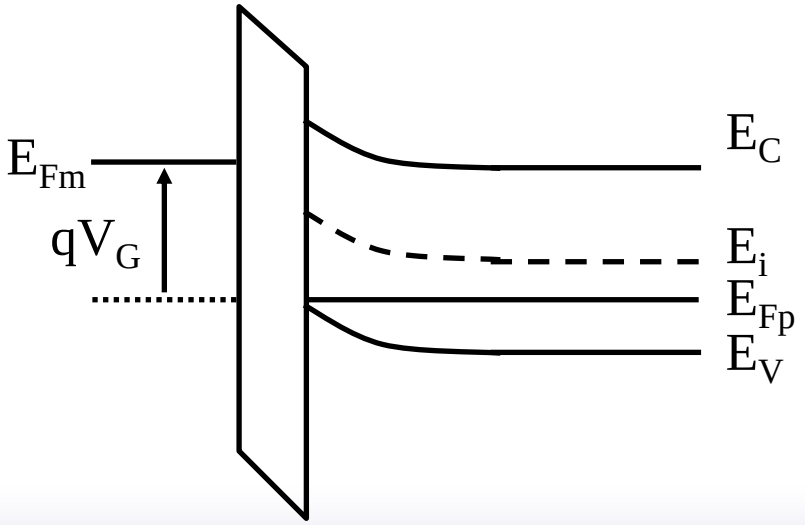
- Assume p-type substrate
- Three regions of operation
  - Accumulation ($V_G < 0$)
  - Depletion ($V_G > 0$ but small)
  - Inversion ($V_G >> 0$)



Accumulation

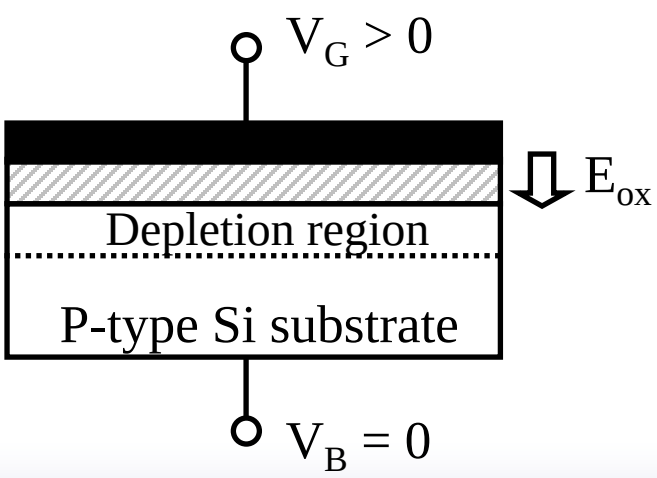
- Negative voltage on gate: attracts holes in substrate towards oxide
- Holes "accumulate" on Si surface (surface is more strongly p-type)
- Electrons pushed deeper into substrate

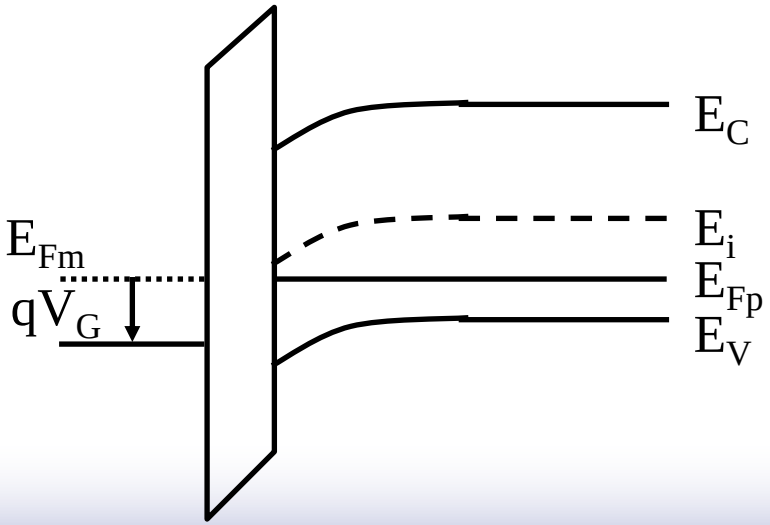




Depletion

- Positive voltage on gate: repels holes in substrate
  - Holes leave behind negatively charged acceptor ions
- Depletion region forms: devoid of carriers
  - Electric field directed from gate to substrate
- Bands bend downwards near surface
  - Surface becomes less strongly p-type (E_F close to E_i)

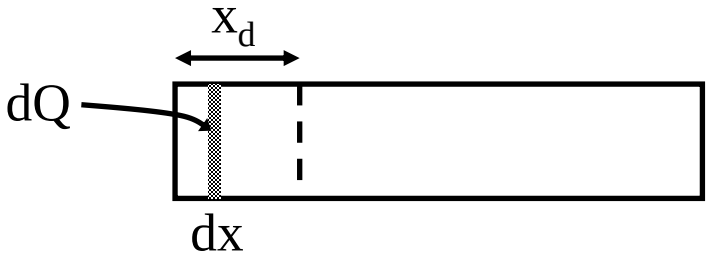




Depletion Region Depth

- Calculate thickness x_d of depletion region
  - Find charge dQ in small slice of depletion area

$$dQ = -qN_A dx$$



  - Find change in surface potential to displace dQ by distance x_d from the surface (Poisson equation):

$$d\phi = -x\frac{dQ}{\varepsilon_{Si}} \qquad d\phi = xqN_A\frac{dx}{\varepsilon_{Si}}$$

Depletion Region Depth (cont.)

- Integrate perpendicular to surface

$$\int_{\varphi_F}^{\varphi_S} d\varphi_S = \int_0^{x_d} \frac{qN_A x}{\varepsilon_{Si}} dx$$

$$\varphi_S - \varphi_F = \frac{qN_A x_d^2}{2\varepsilon_{Si}}$$

- Result:

$$x_d = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon_{Si}\left|\phi_S - \phi_F\right|}{qN_A}}$$

Depletion Region Charge

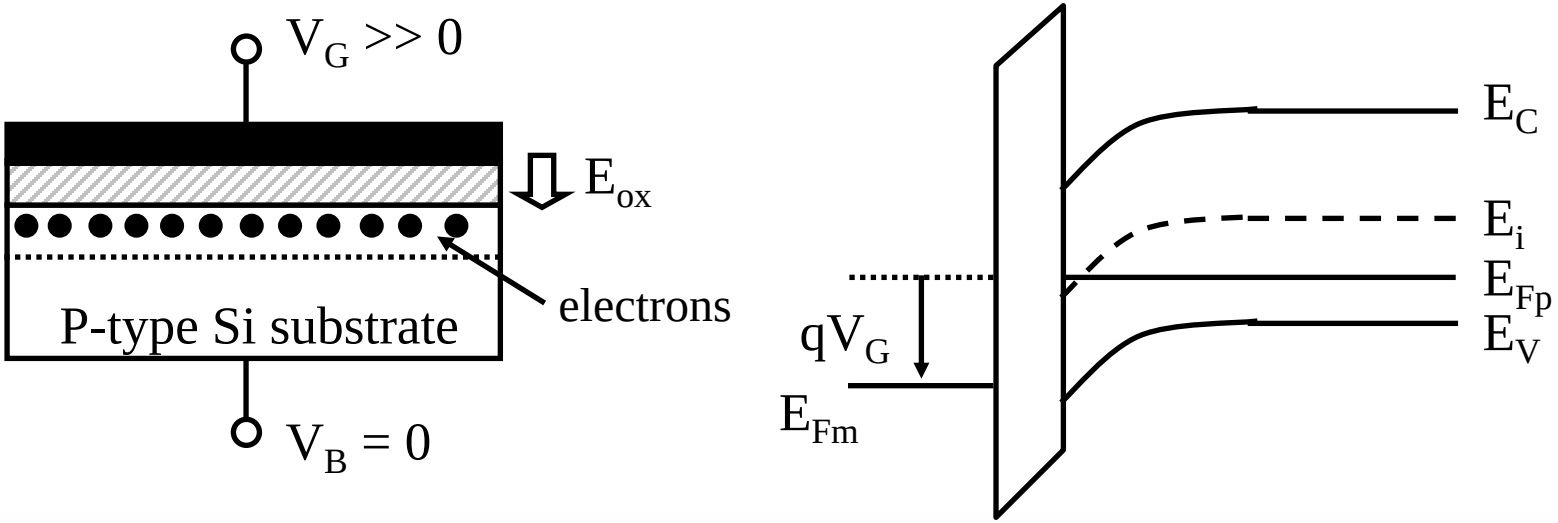
- Depletion region charge density
  - Due only to fixed acceptor ions
  - Charge per unit area

$$Q = -qN_A x_d$$

$$Q = -\sqrt{2qN_A \varepsilon_{Si} \left| \phi_S - \phi_F \right|}$$

Inversion

- Increase voltage on gate, bands bend more
- Additional minority carriers (electrons) attracted from substrate to surface
  - Forms “inversion layer” of electrons
- Surface becomes n-type

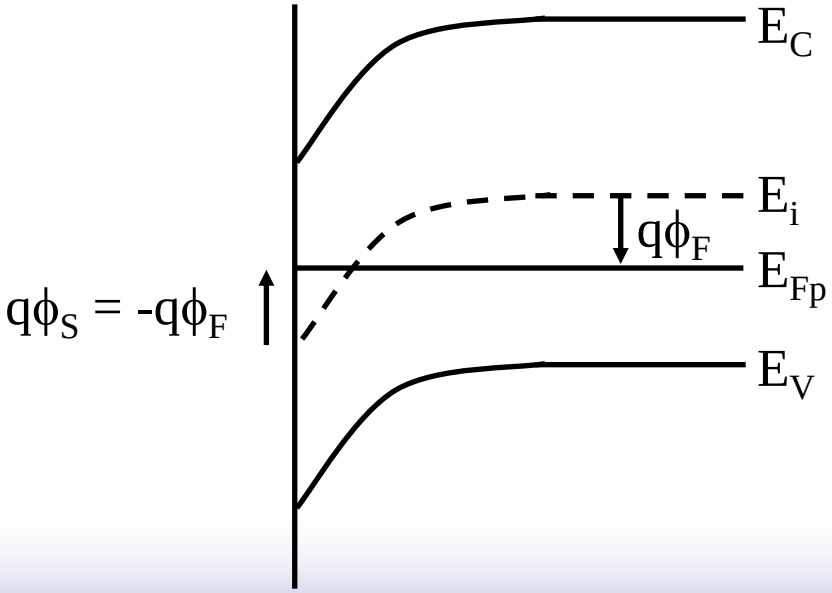


Inversion

- Definition of inversion
  - Point at which density of electrons on surface = density of holes in bulk
  - Surface potential (ϕ_S) is same as ϕ_F, but different sign

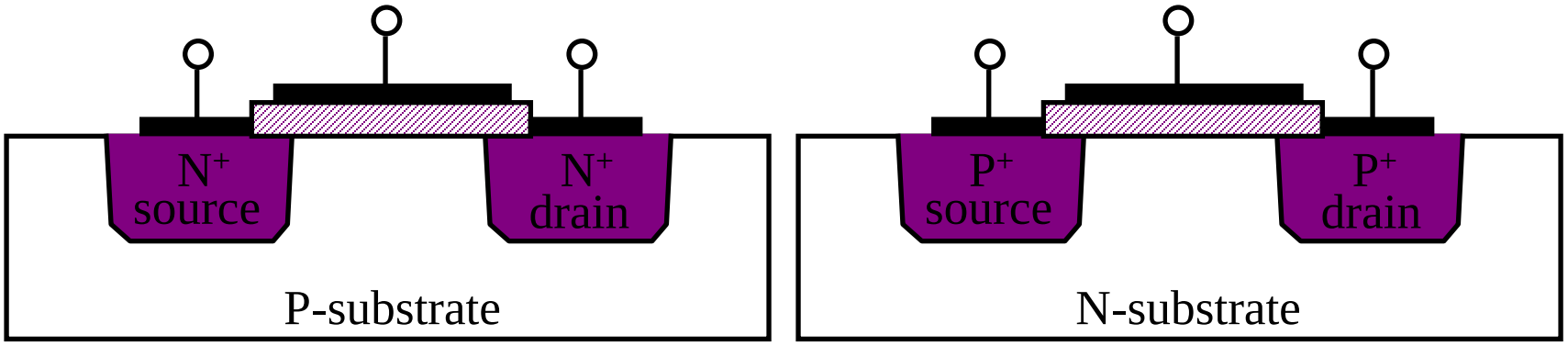
Remember:

$q\phi_F = E_F - E_i$



MOS Transistor

- Add “source” and “drain” terminals to MOS capacitor
- Transistor types
  - NMOS: p-type substrate, n^+ source/drain
  - PMOS: n-type substrate, p^+ source/drain



What is a Transistor?

A Switch! ⟷ An MOS Transistor