





Advances in Solid State Photon Detectors

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Outline

- Introduction
- SiPM progress
- SiPM radiation damage
- Exotic SSPMs
- Summary and SiPM/SSPM perspectives

Introduction

Progress in understanding of physics of SiPM operation was achieved during last 3-5 years.

As a result \rightarrow significant progress in SiPM understanding/development. SiPMs with **reduced correlated noise (X-talk, afterpulsing)**, improved PDE, **reduced dark noise** were developed and produced.

Here I will review current (March 2017) status of SiPM/SSPM development. A special attention is paid to new developments in the field of radiation-hard SiPMs. Possible perspectives of SiPM/SSPM development will be also discussed.

I would like to thank all whose slides (shown at PD-2012, NDIP-14, PD-15, VCI-16, Elba-15, 2nd SiPM Advanced workshop-Geneva-2014, CPAD-2016 and RICH-2016, IEEE-NS/MIC-2016 conferences etc.) are used in this presentation.

Silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs)

Structure and principles of operation (briefly)



- SiPM is an array of small cells (SPADs) connected in parallel on a common substrate and operated in Geiger mode
- Each cell has its own quenching resistor (from $100k\Omega$ to several $M\Omega$)
- Common bias is applied to all cells (~10-20% over breakdown voltage)
- Cells fire independently
- The output signal is a sum of signals produced by individual cells

For small light pulses ($N_{\gamma} << N_{pixels}$) SiPM works as an analog photon detector

The very first metall-resitor-smiconductor APD (MRS APD) were proposed in 1989 by A. Gasanov, V. Golovin, Z. Sadygov, N. Yusipov (Russian patent #1702831, from 10/11/1989). APDs up to 5x5 mm2 were produced by MELZ factory (Moscow).

SiPM equivalent circuit (small signal model) and pulse shape



Cq → fast current supply path in the beginning of avalanche



(slide taken from presentation of G. Collazuol at PD-2012)

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Pulse shape vs. T



(H. Otono et. al, PD-07)

Fast and slow components behave differently with temperature:

- Fast doesn't depend
- Slow time constant increases with T due to R_α increase

For HPK SiPM with polysilicon quenching resistor the slow time constant increases

~8 times when temperature drops from 300 K to 77 K

SiPMs: PDE&Geometric factor



(Yu.Musienko, CTA SiPM Workshop, Geneva, 2014)

PDE (λ , U,T) = QE(λ)*G_f*P_b(λ ,V,T)

Cells should be electrically independent \rightarrow "dead" space between SiPM cells reduces its PDE. It is especially important for the small cell pitch SiPMs

SiPMs: Optical cross-talk between cells (direct cross-talk)





(R. Mirzoyan, NDIP08, Aix-les-Bains)

CellIs are not optically independent!

Hot-carrier luminescence process:

 10^5 carriers produces ~3 photons with an wavelength less than 1 μ m.

Optical cross-talk causes adjacent pixels to be fired \rightarrow increases gain fluctuations \rightarrow increases noise and excess noise factor !

Avalanche luminescence



N.Otte, SNIC-2006

A. Lacaita et al, IEEE TED (1993)

SiPMs: Optical cross-talk - II

Other effects of cell luminescence:

- External cross-talk
- Delayed pulses from light absorbed in non-depleted region (look like afterpulses)



Fabio ACERBI - PhotoDet 2015

SiPMs: After-pulses

Carriers trapped during the avalanche discharging and then released trigger a new avalanche during a period of several 100 ns after the breakdown



Events with after-pulse measured on a single cell.

After-pulse probability vs bias

X-talk reduction



Afterpulsing and delayed X-talk reduction



SiPMs: PDE increase



Small X-talk and after-pulsing allow SiPM operation at high over-voltages. As a result maximum PDE increased from 20 \div 30% to 50 \div 60 % (SiPMs with 43 \div 50 μ m cell pitch).

PDE increase: SiPMs with very thin trenches



Dark noise reduction



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Dark noise at low temperature

A low-electric field NUV-HD version has been developed by FBK to reduce the tunnelling component of the DCR.



A 10x10 cm² SiPM array would have a total DCR < 100 Hz!

Further GF increase: Metal Film Quenching Resistor

Quenching resistors occupy some of the cell's sensitive area. They are non-transparent for UV/blue/green light. The loss of sensitivity can be significant (especially for small cells).

Metal Film Transmittance



(HPK: Koei Yamamoto, 2nd SiPM Advanced Workshop, March 2014)

Good Uniformity of resistance (full 6-inch wafer)

Width	Poly-Si	Metal
2 μm	19%	9%
1 µm	37%	11%

Low Temperature coefficient of resistance

Poly-Si	Metal	
-2.37 kΩ	-0.43 kΩ	

Microcell Pitch, Geometrical Fill Factor



Another advantages of MFQ resistors are better uniformity and relatively small temperature coefficient \rightarrow smaller cell recovery time change with temperature

HAMAMATSU

SiPMs with Metal Quenching Resistor: PDE increase

MPPCs developed by HPK for the CMS HCAL Upgrade project



Atype-15 Micron

B/Ctype-15 Micron







PDE(515 nm)>30% for 15 μ m cell pitch MQR MPPCs. It was improved by a factor of >3 in comparison to the 15 μ m cell pitch MPPCs with polysilicon quenching resistors.

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The future of SiPMs: UHD SiPMs

During last 3 years very high geometric factors (up to 80%) were achieved with small cell pitch SiPMs or (Ultra High Density SiPMs). Small cells have many advantages: low gain \rightarrow smaller X-talk, after-pulsing, recovery time; larger dynamic range, possibility to operate SiPMs at high over-voltages, better resistance to radiation: smaller dark currents of irradiated SiPMs, smaller power dissipation, reduced blocking effects. Small cells potentially should provide better timing resolution (smaller avalanche development time)

Previous development: linear array of MAPDs (18x1 mm², 15 000 cells/mm²) produced by Zecotek for the CMS HCAL Upgrade project.

Linearity of SiPM is determined by its total number of cells. In case of uniform illumination response of "ideal" SiPM (no X-talk, no-afterpulsing) to very fast light pulse:



$$N_{firedcells} = N_{total} \cdot (1 - e^{\frac{N_{photon} \cdot PDE}{N_{total}}})$$

Large dynamic range SiPMs for the CMS HE HCAL Upgrade SiPM, T=23.2 C



1400 SiPM arrays have been delivered to CERN during this year



8-ch. SiPM array for the CMS HE HCAL Upgrade project: Ø2.8 mm SiPMs, 15 μm cell pitch



Glass widow with special filter was designed by HPK to cut off UV light which can be produced by muons and hadrons in plastic fibers

SiPM laser response



Recovery time 7-8 ns

FBK UHD2 SiPMs





Cell sensitive area vs. trench width

Finished 10 µm cell pitch SiPM

Fill Factor vs. trench width





L (um)	Fill Factor
0.75	57.1%
1	48.8%
1.25	40.3%
1.5	32.6%

UHD2 SiPM parameters





(Alberto Gola - PhotoDet-2015, Troitsk)



Recovery time



SiPM timing

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Single-photon time resolution for 3 SiPM area, measured at different biases for 425 nm light. Larger area SiPMs have slower signal risetime. Factors limiting SPTR are signal rise-time, signal electron resolution and correlated noise (X-talk and delayed pulses). The latest is especially important for multi-photon events. The result which is shown here is among the best measured so far.

Vacuum ultra violet (VUV) SiPMs

SiPMs sensitive to VUV light (<150 nm) were recently developed by HPK for detection LAr (T=-186 °C) scintillation light (λ = 128 nm).



Radiation induced damage in Silicon





Bulk damage:

- Incoming particle transfers a certain amount of energy to atom
- If the energy transferred to the atom is large than the binding energy of a silicon atom (~190 eV) then the atom can be displaced, moving it to an interstitial site and leaving a vacancy → single point or cluster defects
- Number of defects is proportional to the Non Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL)

Surface damage:

- Low energy X-rays can produce surface damage affecting the SiO₂/Si₃N₄ layer
- Ionizing particles can produce charging up effects affecting the internal fields inside the device

SiPM: radiation hardness

Radiation may cause:

- Fatal SiPMs damage (SiPMs can't be used after certain absorbed dose)
- Dark current and dark count increase (silicon ...)
- Change of the gain and PDE vs. voltage dependence (SiPM cell "blocking" effects due to high induced dark carriers generation-recombination rate)
 Breakdown voltage, PDE, Gain change due to donor/acceptor concentration change

Relative response to LED pulse vs. exposure to neutrons (E_{eq} ~1 MeV) for different SiPMs



SiPMs with high cell density and fast recovery time can operate up to 3*10¹² neutrons/cm² (gain change is< 25%).

Dark current vs. exposure to neutrons (E_{eq}~1 MeV) for different SiPMs



High energy neutrons/protons produce silicon defects which cause an increase in dark count and leakage current in SiPMs:

 $I_d \sim \alpha^* \Phi^* V^* M^* k$,

- α dark current damage constant [A/cm];
- Φ particle flux [1/cm²];
- V silicon active volume [cm³]
- M SiPM gain
- k NIEL coefficient

 $\alpha_{si} \sim 4*10^{-17}$ A*cm after 80 min annealing at T=60 °C (measured at T=20 °C) Damage produced by 40 neutrons (1 MeV) in 1 μ m thick Si \rightarrow 1 dark count/sec at 20 °C

Thickness of the epi-layer for most of SiPMs is in the range of 1-2 μ m, however d_{eff} ~ 4 ÷ 50 μ m for different SiPMs. High electric field effects (such as phonon assisted tunneling and field enhanced generation (Pool-Frenkel effect) play significant role in the origin of SiPM's dark noise.

- V~S*G_f*d_{eff},
- S area
- G_f geometric factor
- d_{eff} effective thickness

Dependence of the SiPM dark current on the temperature (after irradiation)







It was observed a rather weak dependence of the SiPM's dark current decrease with temperature on the dVB value. SiPM dark currents at low voltage (5V) behave similar with temperature to that of the PIN diode. However we observed significant difference of this dependence for differenet SiPM types when they operate over breakdown! General trend is that SiPMs with high VB value have faster dark current reduction with the temperature.

Dependence of the SiPM dark current on the temperature (before/after irradiation)

Dark current at V-VB=3 V vs. temperature (SiPM was irradiated with 4E11 n/cm²) Normalized dark current at V-VB=3 V vs. temperature (for new and irradiated SiPM)



Irradiated HE MPPC, Id reduction: ~1.88 times/10 °C Non-irradiated HE MPPC, Id reduction: ~2.4 times/10 °C (like it should be for silicon diodes!)

SiPM irradiated up to $2.2*10^{14}$ n /cm²

Can SiPM survive very high neutron fluences expected at high luminosity LHC? FBK SiPM (1 mm², 12 μ m cell pitch was irradiated with 62 MeV protons up to 2.2*10¹⁴ n /cm² (1 MeV equivalent).



(A.Heering et al., NIM A824 (2016) 111)



We found:

- Increase of VB: ~0.5 V
- Drop of the amplitude (~2 times)
- Reduction of PDE (from 10% to 7.5 %)
- Increase of the current (up to ~1mA at dVB=1.5 V
- ENC(50 ns gate, dVB=1.5V)~80 e, rms The main result is that SiPM survived this dose of irradiation and can be used as photon detector!

X-ray damage



KETEK PM1125 (1.2 x 1.2 mm, 25 μm pixels)

Left: KETEK PM1125 I-V curves before irradiation (in red), compared with 3 kGy irradiation (blue) and 20MGy irradiation (green); measurements have been performed at 20 °C. Right: inter-pixel cross-talk measurements for the sensors before irradiation (in red), compared with 3 kGy irradiation (blue) and 20 MGy irradiation (green); no relevant changes in cross talk probability are measured.

- No significant change in breakdown voltage
- Increased dark current below as well as above breakdown voltage
- Slight decrease in gain

(E.Garutti et.al., 2014 JINST 9 C03021)

SiC SSPM

Why SiC?

Dark count rate in Si-PM increases rapidly with temperature, resulting in a maximum operating temperature below 50°C

Dark current vs. temperature

200°C

270

265

Bias, V

20°C

275

SiC has larger bandgap (3.26 eV)

- Lower leakage current

10-3

1x10⁴

1x10⁻⁵

10⁻⁶ -

10-7

10-8

10⁻⁹

10⁻¹⁰

255

Current, A

- Higher operating Temperature
- Higher sensitivity in UV spectra

260

Packaged SiC SSPM



Active area: 4x4 mm² Pixel size: 60 um 16 sub arrays Area of sub-array: 1x1 mm²



Photodetection efficiency and dark count rate as functions of voltage bias



Potentially can be more radiation hard than silicon

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(S.Dolinsky, GE, NDIP-2014)

Single Photoelectron spectrum recorded for SiC-PM with 256 pixels (1 mm²)



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GaAs SSPM

LightSpin Photomultiplier Chip™





Wide bandgap (1.42 eV): potentially can be more radiation hard than silicon. Timing with GaAs SSPM can be also better (high mobility of electrons and holes, fast avalanche development – direct semiconductor)







Summary

Significant progress in development of SiPMs/SSPMs over last 3 years by several developers:

- High PDE: ~50-60% for blue-green light
- SiPMs with good sensitivity (PDE>10%) for VUV light have been developed
- Dark count at room temperature was reduced: ~30 kHz/mm²
- Low optical cross-talk: <1-5% for high OV
- Fast timing: SPTR~75 ps (FWHM)
- Large dynamic range: >10 000 pixels/mm² (with high PDE>30%)
- Very fast cell recovery time: ~4 ns
- Large area: 6x6 mm² and more
- TSV technology was introduced to build very compact SiPM arrays
- Position-sensitive SiPMs with good position resolution: <100 μm
- SiPMs demonstrated their rad. tolerance up to 2.2*10¹⁴ n/cm²
- SiC, GaAs, InGaP SSPMs were successfully developed

• . . .

SiPM/SSPM perspectives (3-5 years)

My point of view:

- Further work to reduce correlated noise (this is one of the limiting factors for many applications)
- Small cell pitch (5 μm), large dynamic range SIPMs
- DUV SiPMs with good sensitivity (PDE>30%) for VUV light
- Dark count at room temperature can be reduced: <10 kHz/mm²
- Development of SiPMs for fast timing: SPTR<50 ps (FWHM)
- Fast cell recovery time: 2-3 ns
- Large area: 10x10 mm² and more
- PS SiPMs with position resolution: <50 μm for single photons
- SiPMs with rad. tolerance up to 5*10¹⁴ n/cm²
- Further development of SiC, GaAs, InGaP SSPMs.
- Price will go down (for large quantities) <10 CHF/cm^{2.}...

Thank you for your attention!

Back-up

Studies of SiPMs irradiated with 2E13 n/cm²

HE MPPC arrays (Ø2.8(3.3) mm SiPMs) and 3x3 mm² MPPCs (SMD package)



S10943-4732 and S10943-4733		
MPPCs		
(developed by Hamamatsu and CMS		
SiPM group for the CMS HE HCAL):		
• Area: 6.15(8.55) mm ²		
 Cell pitch: 15 μm 		
• V _{op} : ~69 V		
• Gain (V _{op}): ~300*10 ³		
• PDE(515nm): 30%		



S10943-4732 S10943-4733

S12572-010P S12572-015P



Photon detection efficiency vs. wavelength





Irradiation performed at Ljubljana reactor

VB determination before after 2E13 n/cm²



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HPK SiPM after 2E13 n/cm²



LED (515 nm, 15 ns) pulse amplitude ~ 12 000 photons/pulse high enough to see signals from all SiPMs

Self-heating effects? SMD package!

HPK S10943-4732 2.8 mm SiPM after 2E13 n/cm² at reduced temperature

Average LED pulse amplitude ~2400 photons/pulse



- At T=-9.4 °C SiPM LED pulse response recovers to that of non-irradiated SiPM
- From 24.9 °C to -23.5 °C: ~21 times Id reduction (~1.88 times/10 °C)
- Maximum S/N improves >7 times due to dVB increase

(IEEE-NSS/MIC 2016, N27-19)

Irradiation with cold neutrons

Thermal neutron study (T=23 °C) at FMR II reactor at Julich (E_n = 3.27 meV, up to 6E12 n/cm²)

Thermal neutron capture can cause nuclear transmutations ${}^{30}\text{Si} + n \rightarrow {}^{31}\text{Si} \rightarrow {}^{31}\text{P} + \beta^{-}$ Produces isolated defects with ~ 2-5 defects per absorbed neutron



Neutron dose dependent average dark currents measured respectively on 10 SiPM detectors from the SensL 12x12 SiPM Series-C detector board, and on 12 MPPC detectors from the Hamamatsu 8x8 MPPC array S12642–0808PB-50 detector board.

<u>SensL</u>: 12x12 detector array ArrayC-30035-144P-PCB, 3x3 mm², 35 μm cell pitch, VB+2.5 V <u>Hamamatsu</u>: 8x8 MPPC array 12642–0808PB-50, 3x3 mm², 50 μm cell pitch, VB+2.4 V

(D.Durini et. all, NIM A835 (2016) 99-109)

Radiation hardness study of the Philips Digital Photon Counter with proton beam

Irradiation by protons with P=800MeV/c (T=295MeV). Beam size: $\sigma_{e} \approx \sigma_{e} \approx 1$ cm.

DPC3200-22-44



Array of 4x4 die. Die = 128x100 cells (Geiger-mode APDs) + + TDC (LSB=20ps) + 4 photon counters.

Active cell quenching. Full digital data output. Noisy cells can be disabled



With the dose accumulation the number of noisy cells increases rather than DCR of each cell. \Rightarrow Cell damage caused by single interaction of p⁺ with Si lattice.

Signal from each pixel is is digitized and the information is processed on chip:

time of first fired pixel is measured
number of fired pixels is counted

 active control is used to recharge fired cells

- 4 x 2047 micro cells
- 50% fill factor including electronics
- integrated TDC with 8ps resolution





Optimal efficiency of *single photons* detection as a function of proton fluence.

(M.Barnyakov et al., Elba-2015)

Position-Sensitive SiPMs: PS-SiPM RMD

Anger logic:

 $X = \frac{(A+B) - (C+D)}{\Sigma}$

 $Y = \frac{(A+D) - (B+C)}{\Sigma}$

RMD had designed a 5x5 mm² position-sensitive solid-state photomultiplier (PS-SSPM) using a CMOS process that provides imaging capability on the micro-pixel level. The PS-SSPM has 11,664 micro-pixels total, with each having a micro-pixel pitch of 44.3 micron.



A basic schematics showing the design layout and pattern for PS-SSPM resistive network. Each square represents a micro-pixel. The network resistors are 246.5 Ohm each.

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PS-SSPM parameters		
Number of micro-pixels	11,664 (108 × 108	
Micro-pixel area	$30 \times 30 \ \mu m^2$	
Micro-pixel pitch	$44.3 \times 44.3 \ \mu m^2$	
Geometrical fill factor	46%	
Quench resistors	143.8 kΩ	
Network resistors	246.5 Ω	
Detection efficiency @ 400 nm	\sim 10%	
Dark current (µA/mm ²)	10	
Dark count rate (kHz/pixel)	~117	
Operating bias	\sim 32 V	
Operating gain	$\sim 10^{6}$	
Excess noise factor	~ 1	
Capacitance (fF/pixel)	150	



A plot of the X–Y spatial resolution (FWHM) as a function of the incident beam spot light intensity. Spot size was ~30 micron.

An image of a 66 LYSO array having 0.5 mm pixels uniformly irradiated with ²²Na.

M. McClish et al. / Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 652 (2011) 264-267

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PS SiPM - NDL

The device takes advantages of the sheet N+ layer as the intrinsic continuous cap resistor for charge division, the same way adopted in PIN or APD PSD





Schematic cross-section of the PS-SiPM with bulk quenching resistor

x = -

Top view of tetra-lateral type electrodes of the PS-SiPM with 4 anodes

PS-SiPM – NDL (II)



The device, with an active area of 2.2 mm × 2.2 mm, demonstrated spatial resolution of 78–97 μ m, gain of 1.4 × 10⁵ and 46-ps time jitter of transmission delay for 210–230 photons.

Reconstruction of nine positions of light spots from optical fiber tested in the central part of the device

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ELECTRON DEVICES, VOL. 61, NO. 9, SEPTEMBER 2014

SiPMs with Bandpass Dichroic Filters





Optical microscope picture of the STMicro SiPM (548 cells, 67.4% geometrical factor)

Green bandpath filter with 5x5 mm area and 1.1 mm thickness

Such a photo-sensor can be very used in applications where protection of the detector from unwanted light background (ambient light for example) is required.

(M.Mazillo et al., to be published in Sensors)



PDE spectral shape measured at 24 °C and dVB=3 V on n-on-p SiPM with and without BP filter



TSV technology (no bonding wire)



(Troitsk))

(HPK: Koei Yamamoto, 2nd SiPM Advanced Workshop, March 2014)

Displacement damage function (NIEL) for protons, neutrons, pions and electrons vs. their energy



Fluence dependence of leakage current for silicon detectors



Current related damage rate α as function of cumulated annealing time



(M.Moll, PhD thesis)