UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

DESIGN OF PIN DIODE DETECTOR

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By

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DEDICATION

TO MY FAMILY
A good light detector is when it could convert all the photon to the electrical signal in high speed. The junction photodetector is the most common photodetection device. Nowadays, the known photodetectors are the PN diode, the PIN diode and the APD diode. At one time PN diodes were the most common detection device used in lightwave system. Now the PIN diodes become the most prevalent devices used in photodetector. The PIN diode is an acronym for positive-intrinsic-negative diode. It is a photodiode with a large neutrally doped intrinsic region sandwiched between p-doped and n-doped semiconducting regions. PIN diode is a unique device. It is a semiconductor device that operates as a variable resistor at RF and microwave frequencies and as a good detector in optical communication.

In this project, the homojunction PIN device, has been selected, which consists of GaAs material. GaAs is a good material in designing the optoelectronic infrared
photodetector devices. To design an optimal PIN diode detector, a study of the variation intrinsic region widths, doping concentrations, reverse biasing voltages and the photon flux is carried out. By studying these variations, it has lead to the determination of the best possible design of the photodetector, to produce the maximum photocurrent at the output. To observe the optimization, the Medici Avant! is used as a device simulation software. This software is preferred because it is cheaper and faster technique to discover the properties and characteristic of PIN diode detector.

In Medici, a model of two-dimensional (2D) PIN diode for the electrical (without illumination) and optical (with illumination) was performed. In the simulation, the total thickness of the diode is originally set to be 3.0 μm length with the intrinsic region is 1.5 μm thick. In evaluating the PIN photodiode performance, a uniform optical generation is made to take place in a 1.5 μm thick region located in the middle of the intrinsic region. A light pulse with 1 ps duration was focused on the depletion region of the diode. Subsequently, details simulations were performed to find the I-V characteristics, the photocurrent response and the output pulse width of the GaAs PIN detector.

The results from the simulation qualitatively demonstrate that the PIN diode could be used as the photodetector. This is because it could produce high current at minimum intrinsic region width, optimally to 0.5 μm, with low-doped intrinsic region, which is 5E15 cm⁻³ and simultaneously at high reverse biasing voltage best to be 35 V and at large number of photon flux density, 5E21 photon/sec/cm².
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan ijazah Master Sains.

REKABENTUK PENGESAN DIOD PIN

Oleh

NURUL AMZIAH BINTI MD YUNUS

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Pengerusi: En. Rahman Wagiran

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Pengesan cahaya yang baik ialah detektor yang dapat menukar semua foton kepada isyarat elektrik dengan pantas. Diod simpangan ialah peranti yang paling biasa digunakan sebagai pengesan cahaya. Pengesan yang dikenali ialah diod PN, diod PIN dan diod APD. Diod PN ialah diod yang paling biasa digunakan di dalam system gelombang cahaya suatu ketika dahulu. Kini diod PIN telah menjadi peranti yang paling popular yang digunakan di dalam pengesan diod. Diod PIN adalah ringkasan bagi diod positif-intrinsik-negatif. Suatu diodfoto PIN mempunyai kawasan intrinsik terdop neutral yang besar terletak di tengah-tengah kawasan semikonduktor terdop-p dan terdop-n. Diod PIN adalah peranti yang unik. Ia merupakan peranti yang boleh berooperasi pada frekuensi RF dan gelombang mikro, dan ia juga adalah pengesan yang baik di dalam komunikasi optik.
Di dalam projek ini, peranti diod PIN homosimpangan dipilih, dan ia terdiri dari bahan GaAs. GaAs adalah bahan yang amat sesuai dalam merekabentuk peranti diodfoto inframerah optoelektronik. Untuk merekabentuk detektor diod PIN yang optimum, kajian ke atas pelbagai lebar lapisan intrinsik, kepadatan pendopan, voltan pincang dan fluk foton dijalankan. Dengan kajian ini, ia membawa kepada penetapan yang terbaik dalam merekabentuk fotodetektor untuk menghasilkan arus foto yang maksimum pada output. Medici Avant! adalah perisian peranti yang digunakan bagi memperlihatkan pengoptimuman tersebut. Perisian ini digunakan kerana ia murah dan merupakan teknik yang cepat untuk melihat sifat-sifat dan ciri-ciri pengesan diod PIN.

Di dalam Medici, model peranti dua-dimensi (2D) bagi kajian ciri-ciri elektrik (tanpa penggemerlapan) dan optik (dengan penggemerlapan) dilaksanakan. Dalam simulasi ini, jumlah ketebalan diod ditetapkan kepada 3.0 μm panjang dan kawasan terdop-rendah ialah setebal 1.5 μm. Untuk menilai pekerjaan diodfoto PIN, penjanaan optik yang seragam dipancarkan pada kawasan yang mempunyai ketebalan 1.5μm yang terletak di tengah-tengah lapisan intrinsik. Denyutan cahaya yang mempunyai tempoh 1ps difokuskan pada lapisan susutan diod. Kemudian, simulasi terperinci dihasilkan untuk mencari ciri-ciri I-V, sambutan arus foto dan lebar denyutan pada output bagi pengesan PIN GaAs.
Hasil dari simulasi menunjukkan bahawa diod PIN dapat diwakili sebagai pengesan foto. Ini adalah kerana ia dapat menghasilkan arus yang tinggi pada lapisan susutan yang minimum, 0.5 \( \mu \)m, dan terdop-rendah, \( 5 \times 10^{15} \) cm\(^{-3} \), dan disamping itu ia dikenakan voltan pincang yang tinggi, 35 V dan kepadatan fluk foton yang tinggi, \( 5 \times 10^{21} \) photon/sec/cm\(^2\).
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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 1st November 2001 to conduct the final examination of Nurul Amziah Binti Md Yunus on her Master Science thesis entitled “Design of PIN Diode Detector” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

NURUL AMZIAH BINTI MD YUNUS

Date: 24/11/2001
TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION                                             ii
ABSTRACT                                              iii
ABSTRAK                                               v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS                                      viii
APPROVAL                                              ix
DECLARATION                                           xi
LIST OF TABLES                                        xv
LIST OF FIGURES                                       xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS                                 xxiv

CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION                                       1
  1.1 Objectives                                      3
  1.2 Thesis Structure                                4

2 LITERATURE REVIEW                                  5
  2.1 Introduction                                    5
  2.2 The Physics of Semiconductors                   6
    2.2.1 Elements and Compounds Semiconductors        7
    2.2.2 The Bonding Model                           7
    2.2.3 The Energy Band Model                       10
  2.3 Semiconductor Material Systems                 12
  2.4 PN Junction                                      16
    2.4.1 Junction                                    17
    2.4.2 Forward Biasing                             27
    2.4.3 Reverse Biasing                             28
    2.4.4 Current-Voltage Characteristics: Ideal Effects 29
    2.4.5 Current-Voltage Characteristics: Non-ideal Effects 31
  2.5 Light Absorption In Semiconductors              36
    2.5.1 Energy Band Diagram of Photodiode           41
    2.5.2 Photodiode Structure                        42
    2.5.3 PIN Photodiode                               46
  2.6 Light Detector Characteristics                  51
  2.7 Other Light Detectors                           53
    2.7.1 Phototransistor                             53
    2.7.2 Avalanche Photodiode                        54
    2.7.3 Photo Multiplier Tube                       55
    2.7.4 Optical Heterodyning                        56
  2.8 Medici Avant!                                    57
    2.8.1 Analyzing Devices And Effects                58
3 METHODOLOGY
3.1 Introduction 72
3.2 Simulation Programming of a GaAs PIN Diode 76
3.2.1 Creation of Device Structure 76
3.2.2 Potential and Electric Field Strength 82
3.2.3 Transient Solutions 83
3.3 Potential and Electric Field Strength at Forward Bias 84
3.4 Potential and Electric Field Strength at Reverse Bias 84
3.5 I-V Characteristic 85
3.6 One-Dimensional Plots Electrons and Holes Concentration 87
3.7 Energy Band Diagrams 87
3.8 Different Intrinsic Region Widths and Different Doping Concentrations 88
3.9 Illumination 93
3.9.1 Structure Generation 93
3.9.2 Steady State Solutions and Photogeneration 96
3.9.3 Transient 97
3.9.4 Small Signal AC Analysis 98
3.10 Simulation Using Different Parameters 98
3.10.1 Intrinsic Layer Dimension 99
3.10.2 Doping Concentrations in Intrinsic Region 101
3.10.3 Doping Concentrations in Bulk Regions 102
3.10.4 Voltage Biasing 103
3.10.5 Photon Flux 104
4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Introduction 105
4.2 Extraction of Parameters From the PIN diode 106
4.3 Electrons and Holes Concentration 118
4.4 Energy Band Diagram 120
4.4.1 Zero Bias 121
4.4.2 Reverse Bias 122
4.4.3 Forward Bias 123
4.5 I-V Characteristic For Different Intrinsic Layer Dimensions 125
4.6 I-V Characteristic For Different Doping Concentrations 130
4.7 Illumination on the PIN diode 135
4.7.1 Electrons and Holes Concentration at the Junction 137
### LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1: Abbreviated periodic table. Silicon is a column IV element that displays semiconductor properties; Ga and As lie on opposite sides of and one column away from column IV form a semiconductor compound; Cd and Te lie on opposite sides of and two columns away from column IV to form a semiconductor compound [3]</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2: Physical Properties of GaAs and other materials at 300K [6]</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3: (N_C) and (N_V) of GaAs, Si and Ge at room temperature [6]</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4: Diffusion coefficient and mobility of electrons and holes for intrinsic semiconductors at 300K [7]</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5: Semiconductor and its Dielectric Constant [6]</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6: Basic commands used in Medici [18]</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7: Models in Medici [18]</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1: Dimension of the PIN diode is varied</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2: Doping concentrations increases in the intrinsic region</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3: Doping concentrations for bulk regions are varied</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4: Various intrinsic region thicknesses with unaffected doping concentrations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5: Various doping concentration in intrinsic region for device dimension of 3.0um length

3.6: Doping profiles varied in the bulk regions

4.1: Current varies with different intrinsic width

4.2: Doping concentrations on intrinsic region are varied

4.3: V(ANODE) and I(ANODE) as the doping concentrations in the intrinsic region are increased

4.4: Doping concentrations in bulk regions are varied

4.5: The variation of the anode current as the doping concentrations in the bulks region is increased

4.6: Ray Tracing

4.7: Dimension of the intrinsic region, the Photocurrent and the Pulse Width

4.8: Doping concentrations of the i-layer, the Photocurrent and the Pulse Width

4.9: Doping concentrations in bulk regions, the Photocurrent and the Pulse Width

4.10: The voltage applied and the photocurrent measured in the simulation

4.11: Photocurrents and pulse durations at different density of photon flux
## LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1:</td>
<td>Basic Fiber Optic Receiver [2]</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1:</td>
<td>The nuclei of the silicon, each have four valence electrons. The atomic structure is stable [3]</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2:</td>
<td>Addition of group V atom to Si. When a donor dopant is added, extra electrons, e, are added, thus extra electrons are introduced to the crystal. These electrons act as negative charge carriers [3]</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3:</td>
<td>Addition of group III atom to Si. When an acceptor dopant, B, is added, holes, h, become positive charge carrier [3]</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5:</td>
<td>Common optical device materials. Compositions of the tertiary and quarternary III-V materials may be changed in order to change their detection range [4]</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6:</td>
<td>Gallium arsenide lattice structure: zincblende [6]</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7:</td>
<td>Separate pieces of PN junction and its equilibrium energy band diagram [6]</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8:</td>
<td>Junction under forward bias [9]</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9:</td>
<td>Junction under reverse bias [9]</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10:</td>
<td>I-V curve for real PN diode [10]</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

xvii
2.11: Structure of typical PN junction [12] 37

2.12: Movement of photogenerated electron-hole pairs at PN junction [9] 38


2.14a: The structure of PIN photodiode with the depletion region enlarged by an intrinsic region in the middle [2] 45

2.14b: Corresponding energy versus position [2] 45

2.15: Geometry of a typical PIN photodiode [12] 47

2.16: Schematic diagram of PIN photodiode with an applied reverse bias [14] 48

2.17: Simple energy band diagram for a PIN photodiode. Photons with energy greater than or equal to the bandgap energy $E_g$ can generate free electron-hole pairs that act as photocurrent carriers [2] 50

2.18: I-V characteristic of PIN photodiode [12] 50

2.19: Building Block of Design Flow 60

2.20: Measured carrier velocity versus electric field for high purity GaAs [13] 64

2.21: DC analysis [17] 68

xviii
2.22: Transient analysis [17] 68
2.23: Example (i) of the continuation method [17] 69
2.24: Example (ii) of the continuation method [17] 70
3.1: Design flow (including related Medici files) for developing and analyzing PIN diode detector using Medici Avant! 73
3.2: GaAs PIN diode structure [19] 74
3.3: Input file mdl a shows the Mesh Structure 76
3.4: Input file mdl a shows the Electrode and Profiles 78
3.5: Medici program mdl a shows the Regrid statement 79
3.6: Model use before obtaining the solution in mdl a 80
3.7: Medici program mdl a shows the potential and electric field intensity at zero bias were plotted 82
3.8: Medici program mdl a shows the transient simulation 83
3.9: Medici input file mdl c shows the potential and the electric field at forward bias 84
3.10: Medici input file mdl d shows the potential and the electric field at reverse bias 85
3.11a: Medici program mdl 2 a shows the I-V characteristic in forward bias 86

xix
3.11b: Medici program md2b shows the I-V characteristic in reverse bias

3.12a: Intrinsic layer width decreases

3.12b: Intrinsic layer width increases

3.12c: Doping concentrations in intrinsic region increases

3.12d: Doping concentration in the bulk regions increases

3.13: Part of Medici input file, md10

3.14: Part of Medici input statement, md10 shows the extracted IPHOT

3.15: Part of Medici program md15a

3.16: Part of Medici program md16a

4.1a: Simulated mesh showing the 2-D doping regrid of PIN diode

4.1b: 1-D doping plots of the electrons and holes concentrations when no bias

4.2a: The potential of the PIN diode with zero bias

4.2b: The potential of the PIN diode with forward bias

4.2c: The potential of the PIN diode with reverse bias

4.3a: The electric field strength of the PIN diode with zero bias
4.3b: The electric field strength of the PIN diode with forward bias

4.3c: The electric field strength of the PIN diode with reverse bias

4.4a: I-V Characteristic of the PIN diode in forward bias

4.4b: I-V Characteristic of the PIN diode in reverse bias

4.5a: Electrons Concentration

4.5b: Holes Concentration

4.6a: Energy Band Diagram of PIN diode when V(ANODE) = 0.0V

4.6b: Energy Band Diagram when V(ANODE) = -0.5V

4.6c: Energy Band Diagram when V(ANODE) = 1.0V

4.7a: I-V linear plot for PIN diode and with intrinsic width W = 0.1μm, 0.3μm, 0.5μm, 0.7μm, 0.9μm, 1.1μm, 1.3μm and 1.5μm

4.7b: I-V semi-log scales plot for PIN diode and with intrinsic width W = 0.1μm, 0.3μm, 0.5μm, 0.7μm, 0.9μm, 1.1μm, 1.3μm and 1.5μm

4.8a: I-V linear plot for PIN diode and the intrinsic width W=0.5um, 1.5um, 2.5um, 3.5um, 4.5um, 5.5um and 6.5um

4.8b: I-V semi-logarithmic plot for PIN diode and the intrinsic width W=0.5um, 1.5um, 2.5um, 3.5um, 4.5um, 5.5um and 6.5um
4.9a: I-V linear plot when doping concentrations in the intrinsic region is decreased

4.9b: I-V linear plot for PIN diode with different doping concentrations in bulk regions

4.10: Rayplot showing the top illumination of the structure

4.11a: Electrons and Holes concentration at 0.3V

4.11b: Electrons and Holes concentration at 0.5V

4.11c: Electrons and Holes concentration at 1.0V

4.11d: Electrons and Holes concentration at 2.0V

4.11e: Electrons and Holes concentration at 5.0V

4.12a: Electric field intensity at 0.3V

4.12b: Electric field intensity at 0.5V

4.12c: Electric field intensity at 1.0V

4.12d: Electric field intensity at 2.0V

4.12e: Electric field intensity at 5.0V

4.13a: Photocurrent vs. time with intrinsic region length, W = 0.9µm, 1.0µm, 1.3µm and 1.5µm
4.13b: Photocurrent vs. time. Intrinsic region length, W is 0.5\(\mu\)m

4.13c: Photocurrent vs. time when intrinsic region length, W is 1.5\(\mu\)m

4.13d: Photocurrent vs. time with depletion region length
\(W = 2.5\text{\(\mu\)m, 3.5\(\mu\)m, 4.5\(\mu\)m, 5.5\(\mu\)m and 6.5\(\mu\)m}

4.14: Transient with illumination: Photocurrent vs. time

4.15: Photocurrent vs. time: Doping concentrations changes in bulk regions

4.16a: Photocurrent vs. time: Reverse Bias Applied;
\(V = 5\text{ V, 10 V, 15 V, 20 V, 25 V, and 30 V}

4.16b: I-V characteristic for PIN photodiode

4.17a: Transient response for photon density of 5E10 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17b: Transient response for photon density of 5E12 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17c: Transient response for photon density of 5E14 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17d: Transient response for photon density of 5E16 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17e: Transient response for photon density of 5E18 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17f: Transient response for photon density of 5E20 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)

4.17g: Transient response for photon density of 5E21 photons/sec/cm\(^2\)