

EECS 42 Introduction to Electronics for Computer Science

Lecture # 24 Current Flow in Silicon and N-MOS Devices

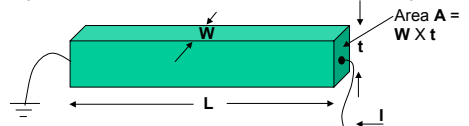
Handout of Wednesday Lecture.

- A) Physics of current flow, resistance, resistivity
- B) Charge transport in a sheet and velocity saturation
- C) N-MOS Device Structure and Voltage Control
- D) N-MOS I vs. V at low and high drain voltage

Reading: Schwarz and Oldham, pp. 518-526

<http://inst.EECS.Berkeley.EDU/~ee42/>

Physics of Current Flow, Resistance, Resistivity



$$E = V/L$$

$$I = V/R$$

$$R = \rho L/A = (1/q \mu N) L/W t = (L/W) / \mu(qNt)$$

But $q N t$ has the dimensions of charge per unit area and represents the charge per unit area in a film of thickness t when the film has N carriers/cm³ and is t units thick. Thus we call $q N t$ the "Q" and

$$R = (L/W) / \mu Q = L/W R_{\square}$$

Where R_{\square} is the resistance of a "square" of the film. Clearly if L is four times W , then $R = 4 R_{\square}$.

Game Plan 04/28/03

Last Week: Latches

Monday 4/28/03:

- Semiconductor Properties
- Diode Operation, Equation and Circuits

Wednesday 04/30/03:

- MOS Device Structure
- MOS Operation
- MOS I vs. V models and device trends

Next (15th) Week: Microfabrication Process and Review

Problem set #10 for 4/30: Logic Delay; Cascade; Latches and Clock frequency

Problem set #11 for 5/7: Semiconductor resistance, Diode equation, diode circuit, MOS operation

Resistance of Silicon Films (at low E fields)

at low fields $\sigma = q n \mu$ where $N = n$ or p and $\mu = \mu_n$ or μ_p

So $\sigma = q n \mu_n$ for electrons in n-type Si

and $\sigma = q p \mu_p$ for holes in p-type Si

In other words $R_{\square} = 1 / \mu_n (q N_D t) = 1 / \mu_n (Q_D)$ in N-type Silicon

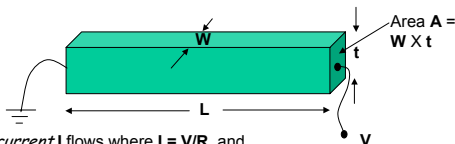
Where ($N_D t$) is the number of donors implanted per unit area, and multiplying by q , we have the donor charge implanted per unit area. (μ_n is the mobility of the electrons).

Similarly $R_{\square} = 1 / \mu_p (q N_A t) = 1 / \mu_p (Q_A)$ in P-type Silicon

Where ($N_A t$) is the number of acceptors implanted per unit area, and multiplying by q , we have the acceptor charge implanted per unit area.

Physics of Current Flow, Resistance, Resistivity

A voltage V applied across the length L of a homogeneous material produces an electric field E where $E = V/L$.



A current I flows where $I = V/R$ and

The resistance R is given by the resistor formula $R = \rho L/A$ in which the resistivity, ρ , is inversely proportional to the concentration of free carriers, N , and the mobility of those carriers, μ . (μ is often defined by: |drift velocity| = $\mu E = \mu V/L$)

In fact $\rho = 1 / \sigma$, where the conductivity, σ , is defined by $q \mu N$, in which q is the electronic charge ($q = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ Coulomb).

Silicon Resistor

Example: 1 μm thick n-type silicon layer which was implanted with 10^{12} donors cm^{-2} . (Thus $N_D = 10^{12} / 10^{-4} = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$)

$$\sigma = q n \mu_n = (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}) (10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}) (1000 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{Vsec}) = 1.6 \text{ S/cm}$$

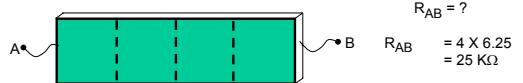
$$\rho = 1 / \sigma = 0.625 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}$$

Sheet resistivity, R_{\square} given by:

$$R_{\square} = [1/(\sigma t)] = 6.25 \text{ K } \Omega / \text{square}$$

But this can be obtained directly from the implant "Q" of $1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 10^{12} = 1.6 \times 10^{-7}$ thus

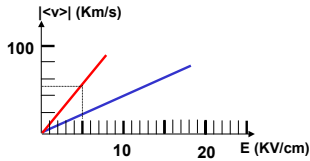
$$R_{\square} = [1/(Q \mu)] = 6.25 \text{ K } \Omega / \text{square}$$



Charge Transport in Silicon

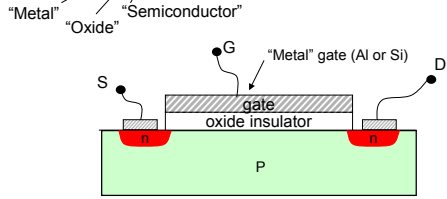
At low electric fields, the average speed of carriers is proportional to the field with proportionality constant μ ; In fact drift velocity = $\mu_p E$ for holes = $-\mu_n E$ for electrons :

Example: $\mu_n = 1000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{sec}$, (or $10 \text{ Km}^2/\text{KV}\cdot\text{sec}$)
 $\mu_p = 500 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{sec}$



MOS TRANSISTOR STRUCTURE

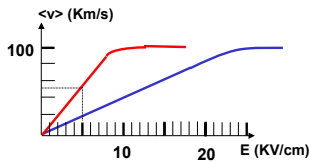
DEVICE IN CROSS-SECTION



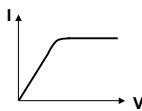
- In the absence of gate voltage, no current can flow between S and D.
- Above a certain gate to source voltage V_t (the "threshold"), electrons are induced at the surface beneath the oxide. (Think of it as a capacitor.)
- These electrons can carry current between S and D if a voltage is applied.

Charge Transport in Silicon

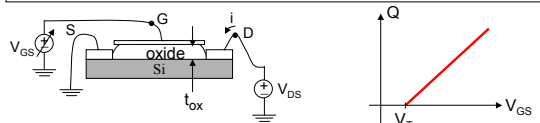
But at high electric fields, the average speed of carriers is NOT proportional to the field; that is the mobility concept fails. In fact velocity saturates at $10^7 \text{ cm/sec} = 100 \text{ km/sec}$ for both electrons and holes:



This saturation is observable directly in the "resistance" of a silicon resistor at high fields ($10 \text{ KV/cm} = 1 \text{ V}/\mu\text{m}$)



CHARGE-CONTROL EXPERIMENT - "THE FIELD EFFECT"



Above some "threshold" voltage V_T , the number of electrons per square cm under the gate is proportional to $V_{GS} - V_T$, i.e., the charge Q_N is proportional to $V_{GS} - V_T$.

$$Q_N = C_{ox}(V_{GS} - V_T)$$

charge for unit area
 capacitance for unit area
 onset of charge formation by field effect

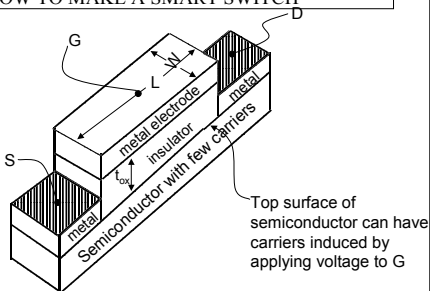
$$C_{ox} = \frac{\epsilon_{ox}}{t_{ox}}$$

These charge carriers can carry current from D to S, so we can make low resistance (R_{DS}) by making $V_{GS} - V_T$ very large

THE "CHARGE CONTROL DEVICE" OR HOW TO MAKE A SMART SWITCH

Concept:

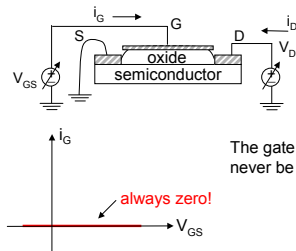
Apply positive voltage to gate with respect to semiconductor. This will induce +Q on gate, -Q on surface of semiconductor. Resistance between D and S will drop.



Thus, we can control current from D to S.

I-V CHARACTERISTICS IN THE LOW V_{DS} REGIME

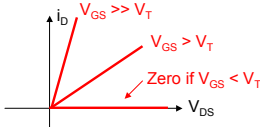
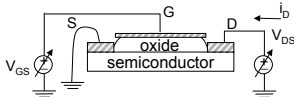
Consider first gate current and drain current versus GATE voltage



The gate is insulated, so there can never be any gate current.

I-V CHARACTERISTICS IN THE LOW V_{DS} REGIME

Consider I_{DS} , the current from D to S :



Below "threshold" no charge, so no conduction. ($V_{GS} < V_T$)
Above threshold ($V_{GS} > V_T$), Q appears so drain to source conduction is possible
Very low resistance (R_{DS}) for increasing gate voltage ($V_{GS} >> V_T$)

We have a controlled switch !

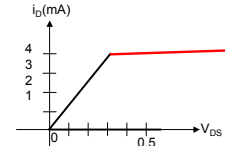
What about Larger Drain-Source Voltages -- What Happens?

In digital circuits we always use the "shortest" gate length devices possible for reasons of speed. Fortunately this makes the answer to the question above very simple:

For such short-channel devices the drain current saturates because the carriers can only move at a limited speed

We can approximate the I-V characteristics as two straight lines:

- a) the linear "resistance" region at low V_{DS} and
- b) the velocity saturation region (almost horizontal) at larger V_{DS} .

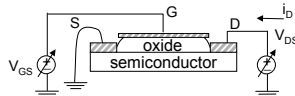
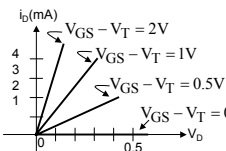


I-V CHARACTERISTICS IN LOW V_{DS} REGIME (cont.)

The drain current is a linear function of drain voltage at low drain voltages

MOS is just a (linear) controlled resistor in the low V_{DS} regime with the drain-to-source resistance depending on how much voltage is applied to the gate (compared to threshold).

Example of a device characteristic for low V_{DS}



CLEARLY A "CONTROLLED SWITCH"

Saturation Current NMOS Model

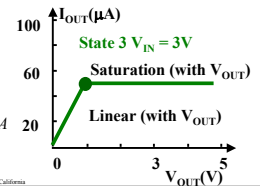
Current I_{OUT} only flows when V_{IN} is larger than the threshold value V_{TD} and the current is proportional to V_{OUT} up to $V_{OUT-SAT-D}$ where it reaches the saturation current

$$I_{OUT-SAT-D} = k_D (V_{IN} - V_{TD}) V_{OUT-SAT-D}$$

Note that we have added an extra parameter to distinguish between threshold (V_{TD}) and saturation ($V_{OUT-SAT-D}$).

Example:

- $k_D = 25 \mu A/V^2$
 - $V_{TD} = 1V$
 - $V_{OUT-SAT-D} = 1V$
- Use these values in the homework.

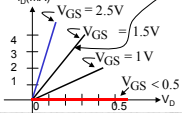


$$I_{OUT-SAT-PD} = 25 \frac{\mu A}{V^2} (3V - 1V) 1V = 50 \mu A$$

N-MOS I-V Characteristics

At low V_{DS} we have:

$$I_D \text{ vs } V_D \text{ at low } V_{DS} \quad I_D = \frac{W}{L} \frac{V_{DS}}{R_{\square}} = \frac{W}{L} \mu_n C_{ox} (V_{GS} - V_T) \cdot V_{DS}$$



[Note that this also follows from our previous analysis where we had :

$$I = q W t \mu_n n / V L = Q_n \mu_n W / L V \text{ because } Q = C_{OX} (V_{GS} - V_T)]$$

And of course already know what happens to the I-V characteristics of short-channel MOS devices at higher values of V_{DS} : We know that the curves "bend over" because of velocity saturation.