

ESE370: Circuit-Level Modeling, Design, and Optimization for Digital Systems

Lec 5: February 1, 2023
MOS Model and Transistor Operating Regions, Part I



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You are Here: Transistor Edition

- Previously: simple models (0th and 1st order)
 - Comfortable with basic functions and circuits
- This lecture and the next one
 - Detailed semiconductor discussion
 - MOSFET phenomenology
- Rest of term
 - Implications of the MOS device

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Today

- MOS Structure
- Basic Fabrication
- Threshold
- Operating Regions
 - Resistive
 - Saturation
 - Subthreshold
 - Velocity Saturation (next lecture)

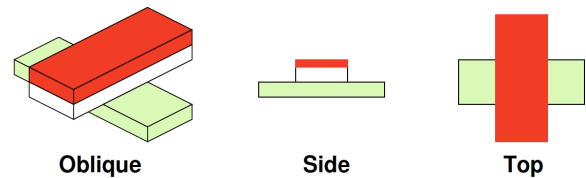
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MOS

- Metal Oxide Semiconductor



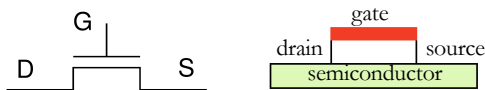
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MOS

- Metal – gate
- Oxide – insulator separating gate from semiconductor
 - Ideally: no conduction from gate to semiconductor
- Semiconductor – between source and drain
- See why gate input is capacitive?



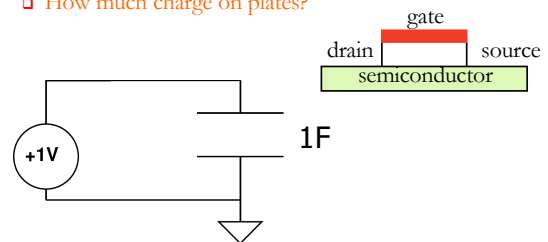
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(MOS) Capacitor (preclass 1)

- Charge distribution and field?
- How much charge on plates?



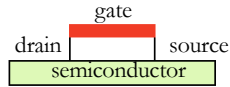
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Idea

- Semiconductor – can behave as metal or insulator
- Voltage on gate induces an electrical field
- Induced field attracts (repels) charge in semiconductor to form a channel
 - Semiconductor can be switched between conducting and not conducting
 - Hence “Field-Effect” Transistor



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Source/Drain Contacts



- Contacts: Conductors → metallic
 - Connect to metal wires that connect transistors



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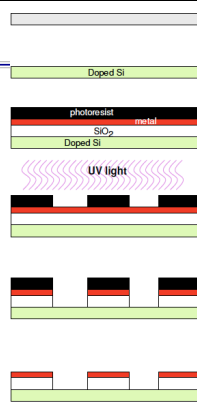
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Fabrication

- Start with Silicon wafer
- Dope silicon
- Grow Oxide (SiO_2)
- Deposit Metal
- Photoresist mask and etch to define where features go

<https://youtu.be/35jWSQXku74?t=119>
Time Code: 2:00-4:30



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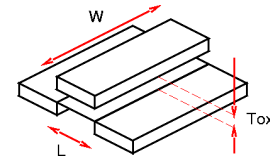
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Dimensions

- Channel Length (L)
- Channel Width (W)
- Oxide Thickness (T_{ox})

- Process named by minimum length
 - $22\text{nm} \rightarrow L=22\text{nm}$



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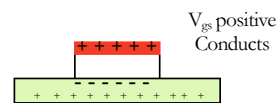
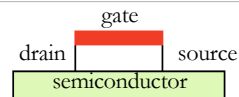
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MOS Transistor Operation

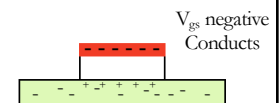


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So far– MOS model



NMOS



PMOS

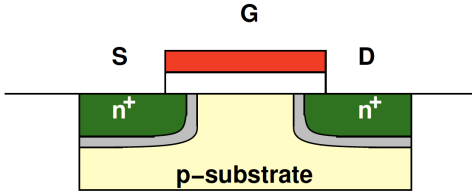
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Refinement

- Depletion region around D/S → excess carriers depleted



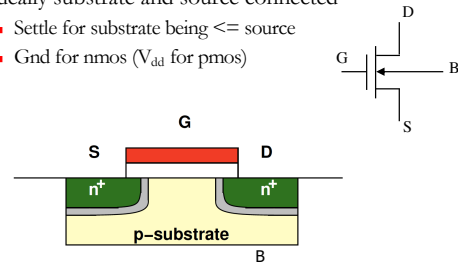
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Bulk/Body Contact

- MOS actually has four contacts
- Also effects fields
- Ideally substrate and source connected
 - Settle for substrate being \leq source
 - Gnd for nmos (V_{dd} for pmos)



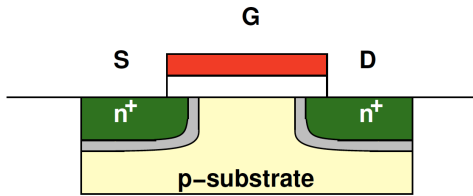
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No Field

- $V_{GS}=0, V_{DS}=0$



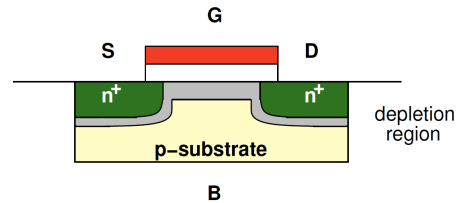
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Apply $V_{GS} > 0$

- Deplete excess positive charge under oxide
- Left with negative charge
 - Repel holes

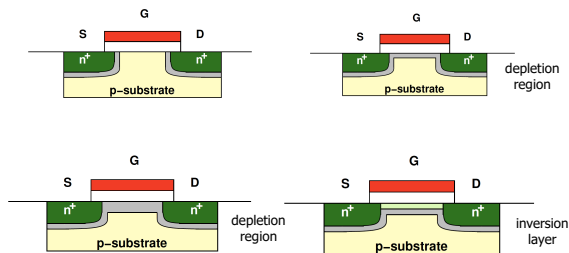


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Channel Evolution -- Increasing V_{GS}



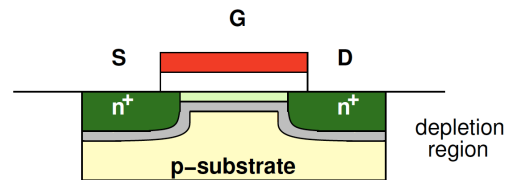
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Inversion

- Surface builds electrons
 - Inverts to n-type
 - Draws electrons from n^+ source terminal



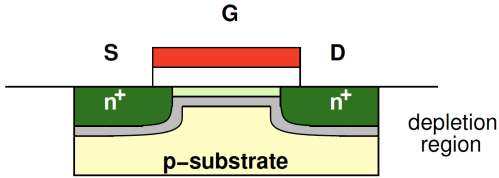
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Threshold

- Voltage where strong inversion occurs → threshold voltage
 - $V_{th} \sim 2\phi_F$



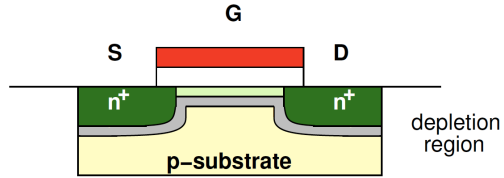
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Threshold

- Voltage where strong inversion occurs → threshold voltage
 - $V_{th} \sim 2\phi_F$
 - Engineer by controlling doping (N_A) $\phi_F = \frac{kT}{q} \ln\left(\frac{N_A}{n_i}\right)$

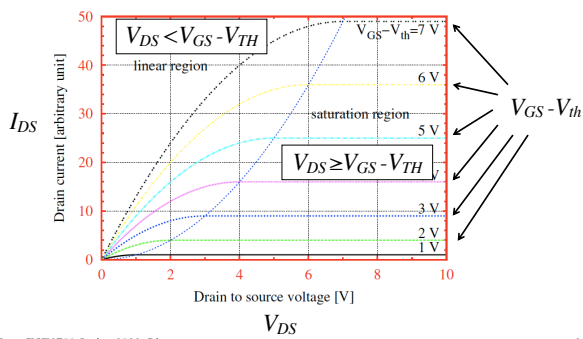


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MOSFET – IV Characteristics



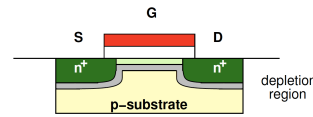
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Linear Region

- $V_{GS} > V_{th}$ and V_{DS} small



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

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

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Linear Region

- $V_{GS} > V_{th}$ and V_{DS} small
- V_{GS} fixed → looks like resistor
 - Current linear in V_{DS}

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

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Linear Region

- $V_{GS} > V_{th}$ and V_{DS} small
- V_{GS} fixed → looks like resistor
 - Current linear in V_{DS}

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

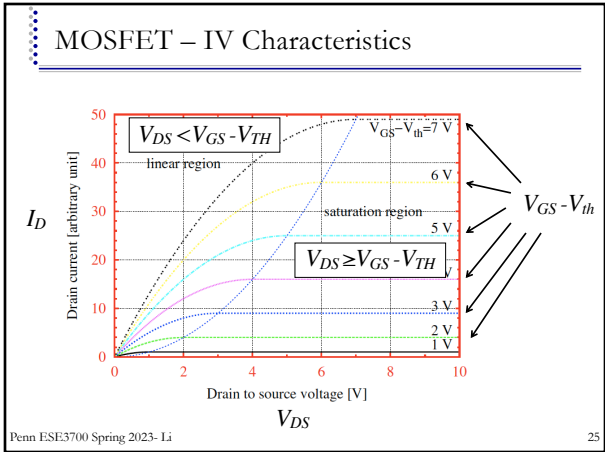
$$I_{DS} \approx \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L}\right) (V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS}$$

$$I_{DS} \propto V_{DS}$$

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Preclass 2

- Reference: I_{ds} for single transistor with V_{gs} and V_{ds} bias

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Preclass 2

- I_{ds} for identical transistors in parallel?

Reference:

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Preclass 2

- I_{ds} for identical transistors in series?
 - (V_{ds} small)

Reference:

(V_{ds} small; $V_{ds} \ll V_{gs}$)

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Dimensions

- Channel Length (L)
- Channel Width (W)
- Oxide Thickness (T_{ox})

contact contact

Channel

Oblique Side Top

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L_{drawn} vs. $L_{effective}$

- Doping not perfectly straight
- Spreads under gate
- Effective L smaller than draw gate width

L_{drawn}

G

S D

n^+ n^+

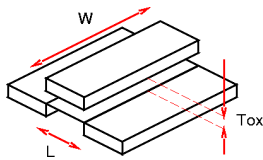
$L_{effective}$

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Transistor Strength (W/L)

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



$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

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Transistor Strength (W/L)

- Shape dependence match Resistance intuition
 - Wider = parallel resistors → decrease R
 - Longer = series resistors → increase R

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A}$$

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

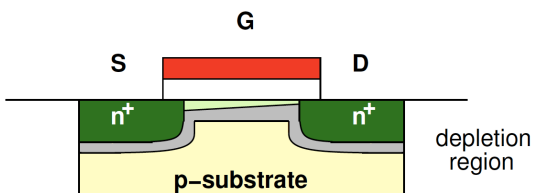
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Channel Voltage

- Think of channel as resistor
- Voltage varies along channel



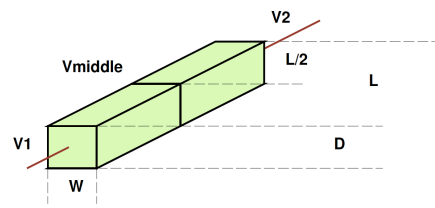
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Preclass 3

- What is voltage in the middle of a resistive medium?
 - Relative to V1 and V2
 - halfway between terminals



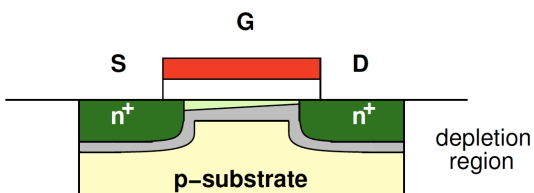
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Channel Voltage

- Think of channel as resistor
- Voltage varies along channel
 - Serves as a voltage divider between V_S and V_D



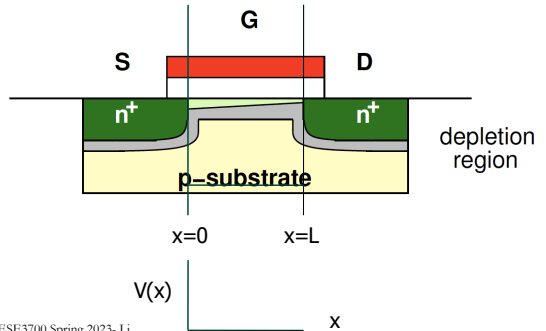
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Voltage along Channel

- What does voltage along the channel look like?



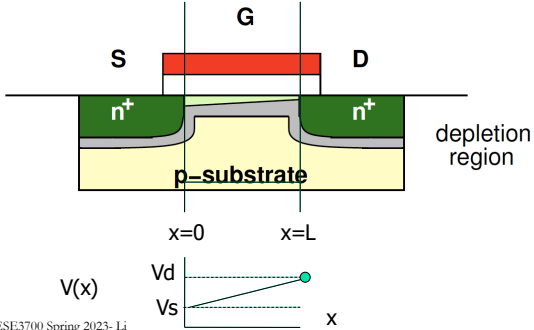
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Voltage along Channel

- What does voltage along the channel look like?



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Device Operation (Current – Voltage Relation):

However: $\mathcal{E}(x) = \frac{dV}{dx}$ So: $\mathcal{I}' = \mu_n \frac{dV}{dx}$

Therefore: $I_D dx = \mu_n C_{OX} W (V_{GS} - V - V_T) dV$

$$\int_0^L I_D dx = \int_0^{V_{DS}} \mu_n C_{OX} W (V_{GS} - V - V_T) dV$$

Which yields:

$$I_D = \mu_n C_{OX} \frac{W}{L} \left[(V_{GS} - V_T) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

Which is valid for values of $V_{DS} < V_{GS} - V_T$ (i.e. Linear Region)

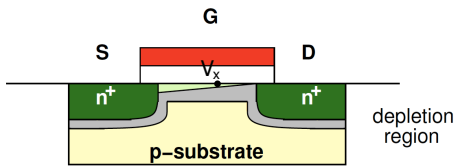
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Channel Field

- When voltage gap $V_G - V_x$ drops below V_{th} , drops out of inversion

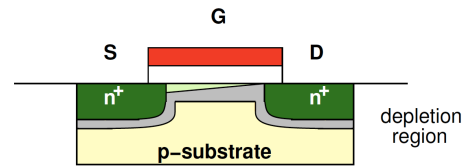


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Channel Field

- When voltage gap $V_G - V_x$ drops below V_{th} , drops out of inversion

- Saturation Edge: $V_{DS} = V_{GS} - V_{th} \rightarrow V_G - V_x(@D) = ?$

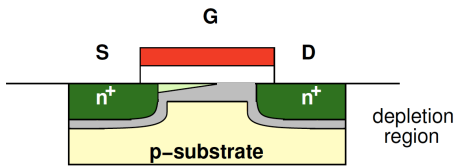


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Channel Field

- When voltage gap $V_G - V_x$ drops below V_{th} , drops out of inversion

- Deep Saturation: $V_{DS} > V_{GS} - V_{th} \rightarrow V_G - V_x(@D) = ?$

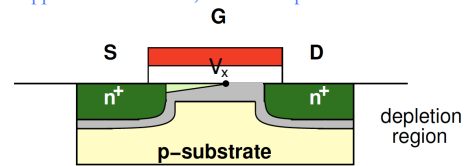


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Channel Field

- When voltage gap $V_G - V_x$ drops below V_{th} , drops out of inversion

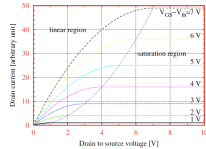
- Deep Saturation: $V_{DS} > V_{GS} - V_{th} \rightarrow V_G - V_x(@D) < V_{th}$
Upper limit on current, channel is "pinched off"



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Pinch Off

- When voltage along the channel drops below V_{th} , the channel drops out of inversion
 - Occurs when: $V_G - V_X(@D) < V_{th} \rightarrow V_{DS} > V_{GS} - V_{th}$
- Conclusion:**
 - current cannot increase with V_{DS} once $V_{DS} > V_{GS} - V_T$
 - Not true! More later...



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Saturation

- At edge of saturation, $V_{DS} = V_{GS} - V_T$

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_T) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

- Becomes:

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_T)^2 - \frac{(V_{GS} - V_T)^2}{2} \right]$$

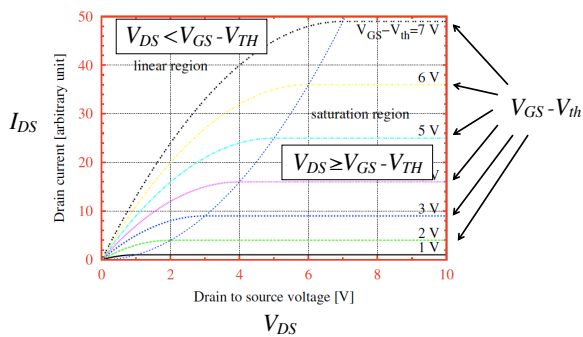
$$I_{DS} = \frac{\mu_n C_{OX}}{2} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) (V_{GS} - V_T)^2$$

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MOSFET – IV Characteristics



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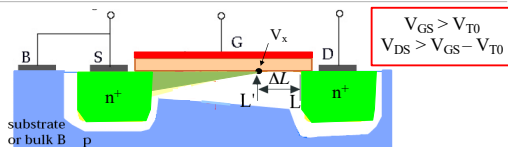
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Channel Length Modulation



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MOSFET IV Characteristics - Saturation



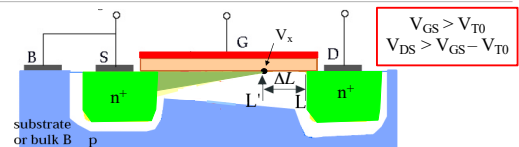
$$I_{DS} = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L - \Delta L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2$$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics - Saturation



$$\begin{aligned} I_{DS} &= \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L - \Delta L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 \\ &= \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L \left(1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L} \right)} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 \\ &= \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L} \right)} \end{aligned}$$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics - Saturation

$$I_{DS} = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot W}{2L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)}$$

$$\Delta L \propto \sqrt{V_{DS} - (V_{GS} - V_{T0})} \xrightarrow{\text{empirically}} 1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L} \approx 1 - \lambda \cdot V_{DS}$$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics - Saturation

$$I_{DS} = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot W}{2L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)}$$

$$\Delta L \propto \sqrt{V_{DS} - (V_{GS} - V_{T0})} \xrightarrow{\text{empirically}} 1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L} \approx 1 - \lambda \cdot V_{DS}$$

If $\lambda V_{DS} < 1$, $\left(1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^{-1} \approx 1 + \lambda \cdot V_{DS}$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics

Linear Region: $I_D = \mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left((V_{GS} - V_{T0})V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right)$

Saturation Region: $I_D = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot W}{2L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 (1 + \lambda \cdot V_{DS})$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics

Linear Region: $I_D = \mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left((V_{GS} - V_{T0})V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right)$

Saturation Region: $I_D = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot W}{2L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 (1 + \lambda \cdot V_{DS})$

DISCONTINUOUS!
@ $V_{DS} = V_{GS} - V_T$

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MOSFET IV Characteristics

Linear Region: $I_D = \mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \frac{W}{L} \left((V_{GS} - V_{T0})V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right) (1 + \lambda \cdot V_{DS})$

Saturation Region: $I_D = \frac{\mu_n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot W}{2L} (V_{GS} - V_{T0})^2 (1 + \lambda \cdot V_{DS})$

DISCONTINUOUS!
@ $V_{DS} = V_{GS} - V_T$

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pMOS Device

- Analogous phenomena to NMOS
- Opposite polarity
 - Negative V_{th}, λ
- Reason based on oppositely charged carriers

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To summarize

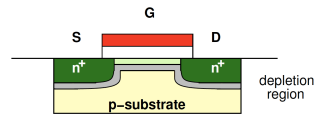
Above Threshold



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Linear Region

- $V_{GS} > V_{th}$ and V_{DS} small



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

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_{th}) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

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Saturation

- In saturation, $V_{DS-effective} = V_x = V_{GS} - V_T$

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_T) V_{DS} - \frac{V_{DS}^2}{2} \right]$$

- Becomes:

$$I_{DS} = \mu_n C_{OX} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_T)^2 - \frac{(V_{GS} - V_T)^2}{2} \right]$$

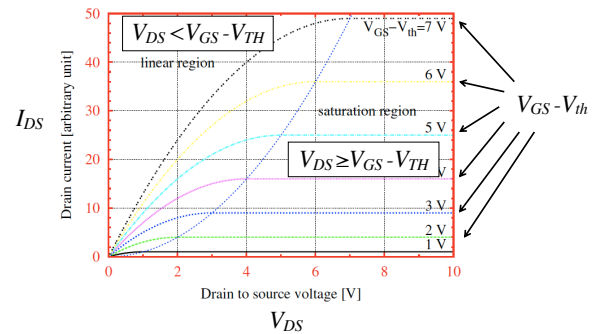
$$I_{DS} = \frac{\mu_n C_{OX}}{2} \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) \left[(V_{GS} - V_T)^2 \right]$$

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MOSFET – IV Characteristics



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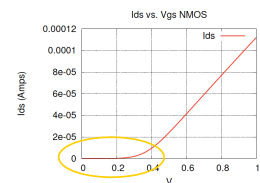
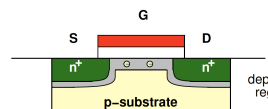
Subthreshold



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Below Threshold

- Transition from insulating to conducting is non-linear, but not abrupt
- Current does flow
 - But exponentially dependent on V_{GS}



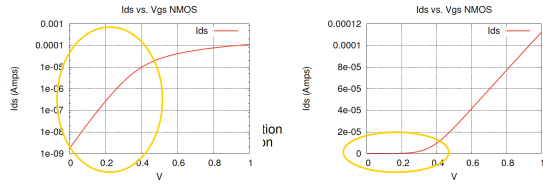
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Below Threshold

- Transition from insulating to conducting is non-linear, but not abrupt
- Current does flow
 - But exponentially dependent on V_{GS}



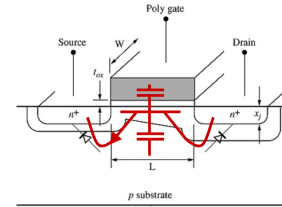
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Parasitic NPN BJT

- We have an NPN sandwich, mobile minority carriers in the P region
- This is a BJT!
 - Except that the base potential is here controlled through a capacitive divider, and not directly an electrode



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Subthreshold

If $V_{GS} < V_{th}$,

$$I_{DS} = I_S \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) e^{\left(\frac{V_{GS} - V_{th}}{n k T / q} \right)}$$

- Current is from the parasitic NPN BJT transistor when gate is below threshold and there is no conducting channel
 - n is the capacitive divider between parasitic capacitances
 - Typically $1 < n < 1.5$

$$n = \frac{C_{js} + C_{ox}}{C_{ox}}$$

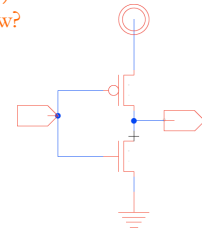
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Steady State (Preclass 4)

- What current flows in steady state?
- What causes (and determines) the magnitude of current flow?
- Which device?



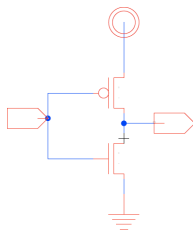
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Leakage

- Call this steady-state current flow leakage
 - $I_{ds,leakage}$



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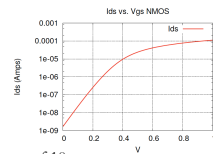
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Subthreshold Slope Factor

- Exponent in V_{GS} determines how steep the turnon is

$$S = n \left(\frac{kT}{q} \right) \ln(10)$$



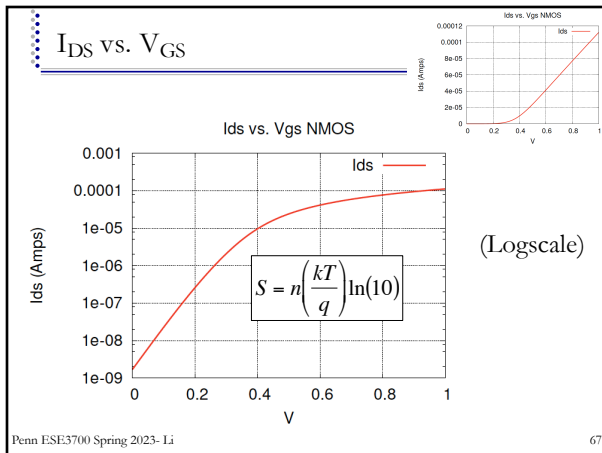
- Units: V/decade
 - Every 5 Volts, I_{DS} is scaled by factor of 10

$$I_{DS} = I_S \left(\frac{W}{L} \right) e^{\left(\frac{V_{GS} - V_{th}}{n k T / q} \right)}$$

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Subthreshold Slope Factor

- Exponent in V_{GS} determines how steep the turnon is

$$S = n \left(\frac{kT}{q} \right) \ln(10)$$

- Units: V/dec
- Every S Volts, I_{DS} is scaled by factor of 10
- n – depends on parasitic capacitance divider $n = \frac{C_{gs} + C_{ox}}{C_{ox}}$
 - $n=1 \rightarrow S=60\text{mV}$ at Room Temp. (ideal)
 - $n=1.5 \rightarrow S=90\text{mV}$
 - Single gate structure showing $S=90\text{-}110\text{mV}$

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Subthreshold Slope Factor (Preclass 5)

- If $S=100\text{mV}$ and $V_{th}=300\text{mV}$, what is $I_{DS}(V_{GS}=300\text{mV})/I_{DS}(V_{GS}=0\text{V})$?
- What if $S=60\text{mV}$?

$$S = n \left(\frac{kT}{q} \right) \ln(10)$$

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Approach

- Identify Region
- Understand governing equations
- Use region and equations to understand operation

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Big Idea

- Semiconductor can act like metal or insulator
- Use electric field to modulate conduction state of semiconductor
- 3 Regions of operation for MOSFET
 - Linear
 - Saturation
 - With channel length modulation
 - Subthreshold

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Admin

- HW 2 due 2/3 (Friday)
- More Fabrication Videos:
 - From sand to silicon (intel) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5paWn7bFg4>
 - How microchips are made - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2KcZGwntgg>

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Acknowledgement

- Prof. André DeHon (University of Pennsylvania)
- Prof. Tania Khanna (University of Pennsylvania)

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Background Reading (Optional)



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Semiconductor Physics



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Conduction

- Metal – conducts
- Insulator – does not conduct
- Semiconductor – can act as either

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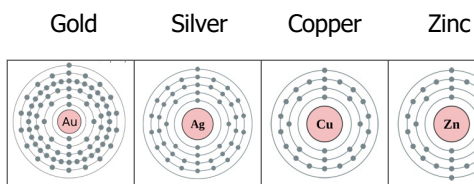
Why does metal conduct? (preclass 2)

The image shows a periodic table with a blue circle highlighting the transition metals in the fourth period, specifically groups 8, 9, and 10, which correspond to the elements Ni, Cu, and Zn.

<http://chemistry.about.com/od/imagesclipartstructures/ig/Science-Pictures/Periodic-Table-of-the-Elements.htm>

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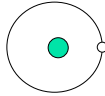
Why does metal conduct? (preclass 2)



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Conduction

- Electrons move
- Must be able to “remove” electron from atom or molecule



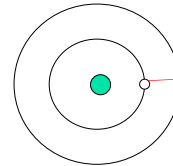
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Atomic States

- Quantized Energy Levels (bands)
 - Valence and Conduction Bands
- Must have enough energy to change level (state)



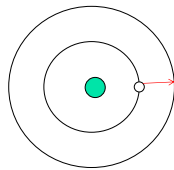
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Thermal Energy

- Except at absolute 0
 - There is always free energy
 - Causes electrons to hop around
 -when there is enough energy to change states
 - Energy gap between states determines energy required



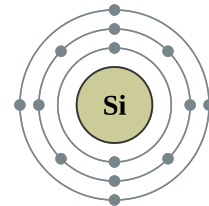
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Silicon Atom (preclass 3)

- How many valence electrons?



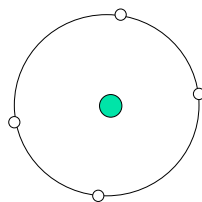
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Silicon

- 4 valence electrons
 - Inner shells filled
 - Only outer shells contribute to chemical interactions



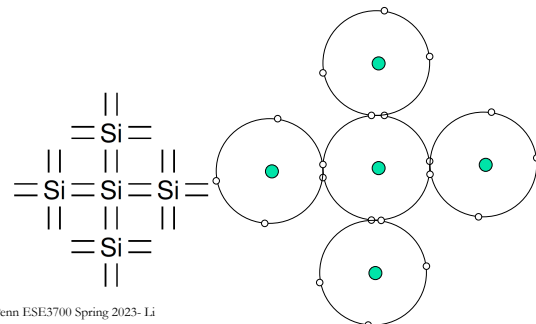
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Silicon-Silicon Bonding

- Can form covalent bonds with 4 other silicon atoms



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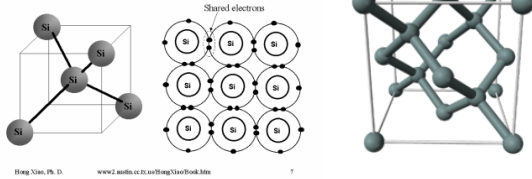
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Silicon Lattice

- Forms into crystal lattice

Crystal Structure of Single Crystal Silicon



Hong Shen, Ph. D. www2.electr.cmu.edu/hongshen/book.htm

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Silicon Ingot

1 impurity atom
per 10 billion
silicon atoms



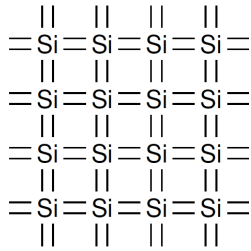
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Silicon Lattice

- Cartoon two-dimensional view



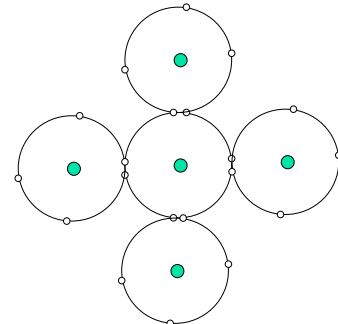
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Outer Orbital?

- What happens to outer shell in Silicon lattice?



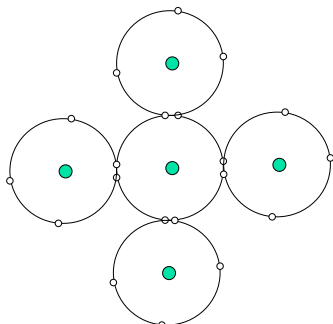
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Energy?

- What does this say about energy to move electron?



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Energy State View

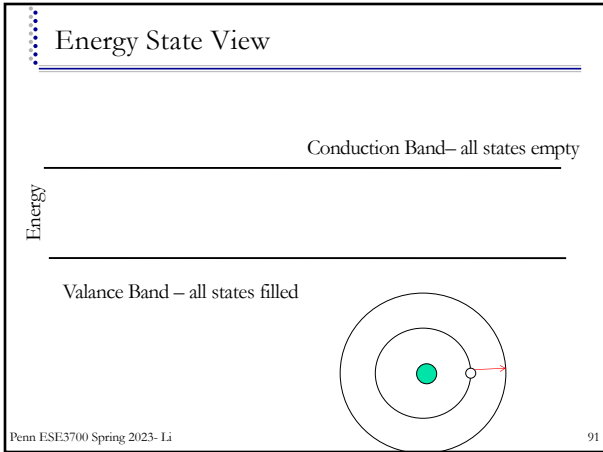
Energy

Valance Band – all states filled

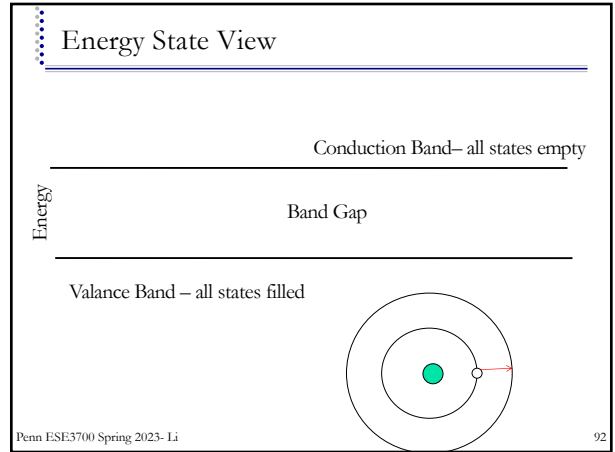
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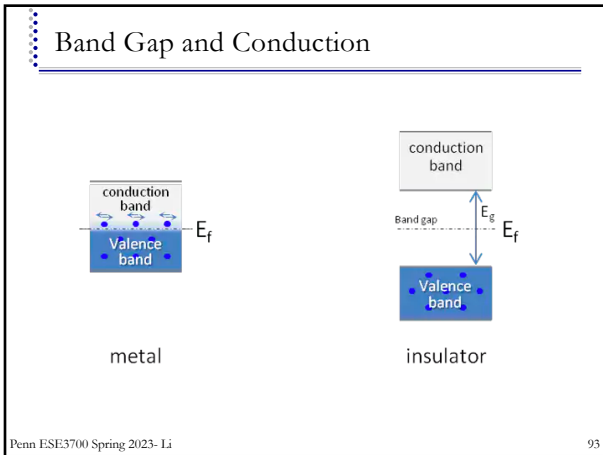
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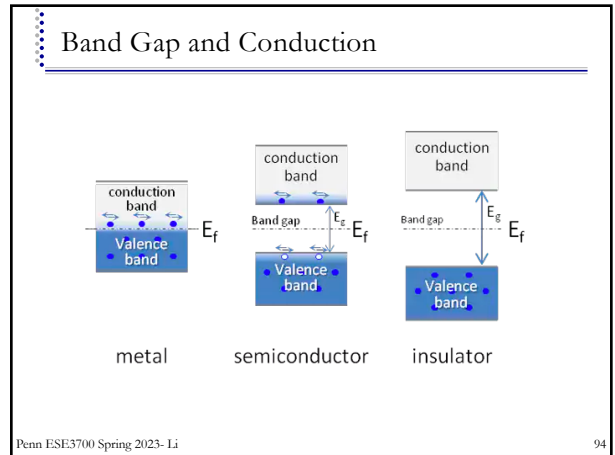
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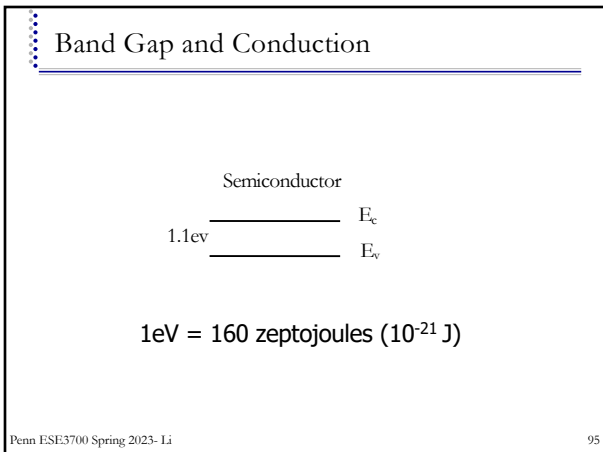
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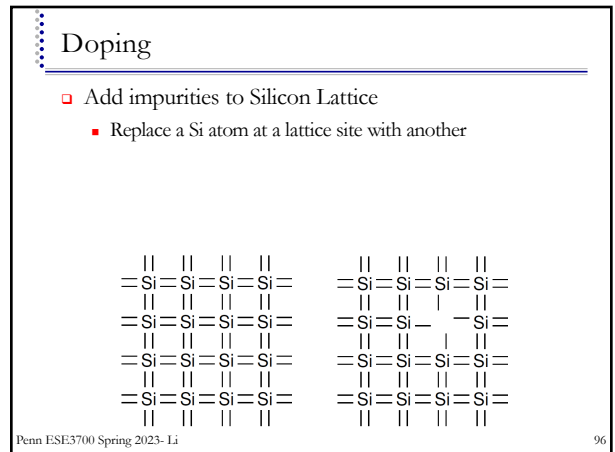
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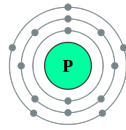
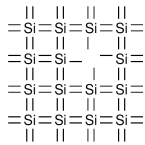
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Doping

- Add impurities to Silicon Lattice
 - Replace a Si atom at a lattice site with another
- Add a Group 15 element
 - E.g P (Phosphorus)
 - How many valence electrons?



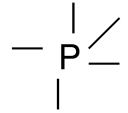
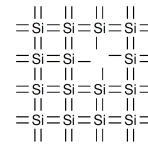
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Doping

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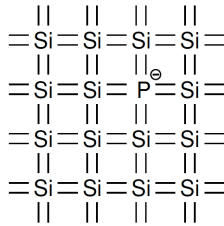
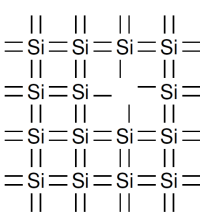


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Doping with P



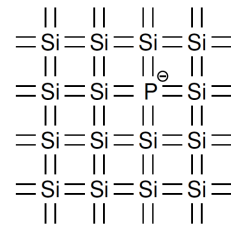
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Doping with P

- End up with extra electrons
 - Donor electrons
- Not tightly bound to atom
 - Low energy to displace
 - Easy for these electrons to move



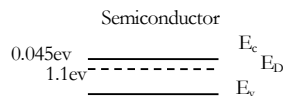
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Doped Band Gaps

- Addition of donor electrons makes more metallic
 - Easier to conduct



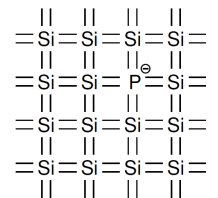
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Localized

- Donor electron is localized
 - Won't go far if no low energy states nearby
- Increasing doping concentration
 - Ratio of P atoms to Si atoms
 - Decreases energy to conduct



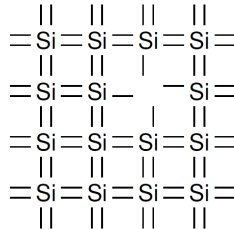
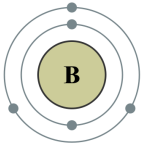
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Doping

- What happens if we replace Si atoms with group 13 atom instead?
 - E.g. B (Boron)
 - Valence band electrons?



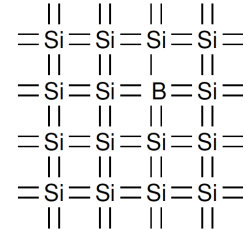
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Doping

- What happens if we replace Si atoms with group 13 atom instead?
 - E.g. B (Boron)
 - Valence band electrons?



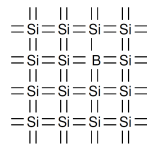
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Doping with B

- End up with electron vacancies -- Holes
 - Acceptor electron sites
- Easy for electrons to shift into these sites
 - Low energy to displace
 - Easy for the electrons to move
 - Movement of an electron best viewed as movement of hole



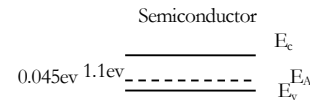
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Doped Band Gaps

- Addition of acceptor sites makes more metallic
 - Easier to conduct



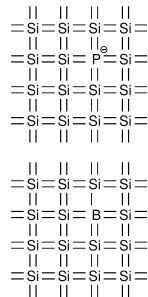
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MOSFETs

- Donor doping
 - Excess electrons
 - Negative or N-type material
 - NFET
- Acceptor doping
 - Excess holes
 - Positive or P-type material
 - PFET



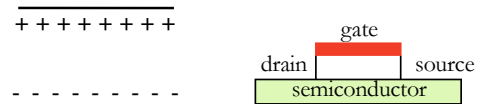
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Capacitor Charge

- Remember capacitor charge



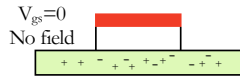
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MOS Field?

- What does “capacitor” field do to the doped semiconductor channel?



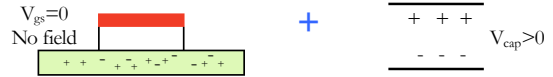
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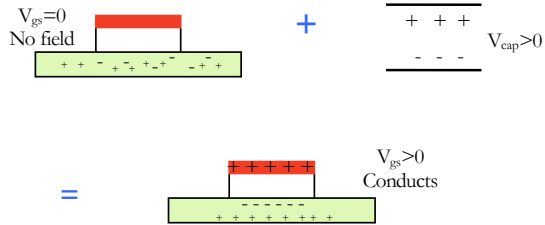
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MOS Field?

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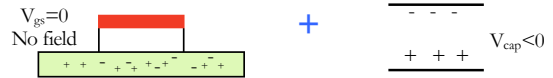
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MOS Field?

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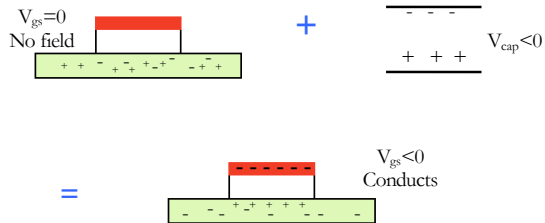
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MOS Field?

- What does “capacitor” field do to the doped semiconductor channel?



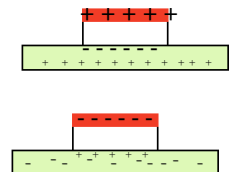
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MOS Field Effect

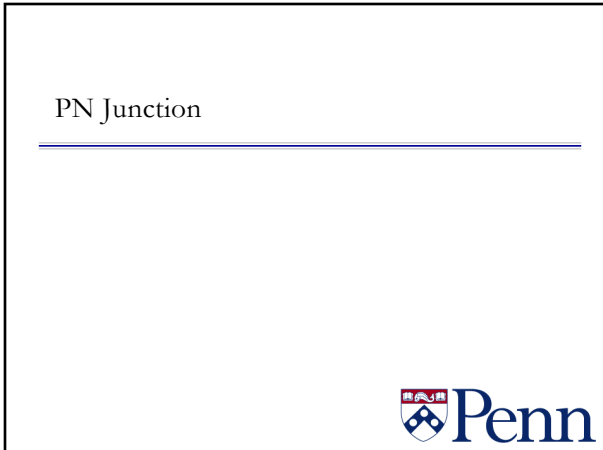
- Charge on capacitor
 - Attract or repel charges to form channel
 - NMOS: Positive field on p-type substrate
 - Attracts electrons to surface to form conducting channel
 - PMOS: Negative field on n-type substrate
 - Attracts holes to surface to form conducting channel



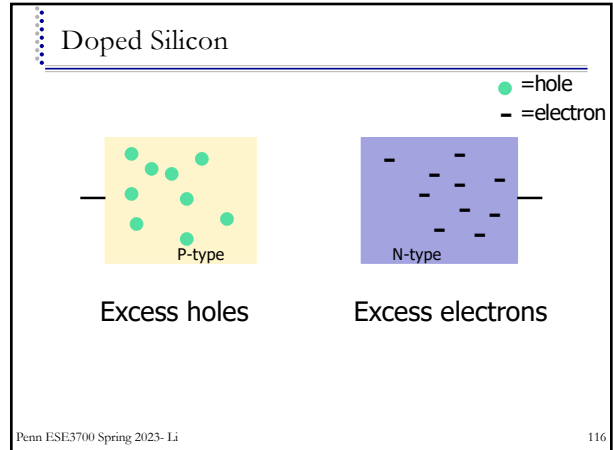
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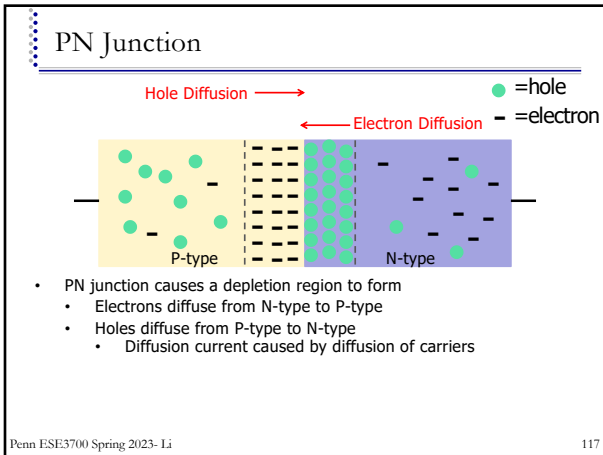
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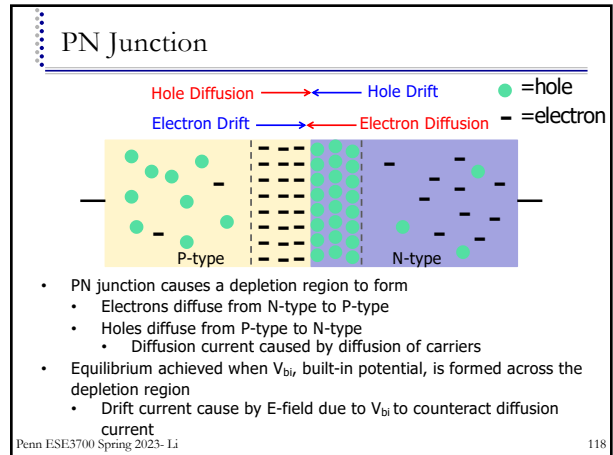
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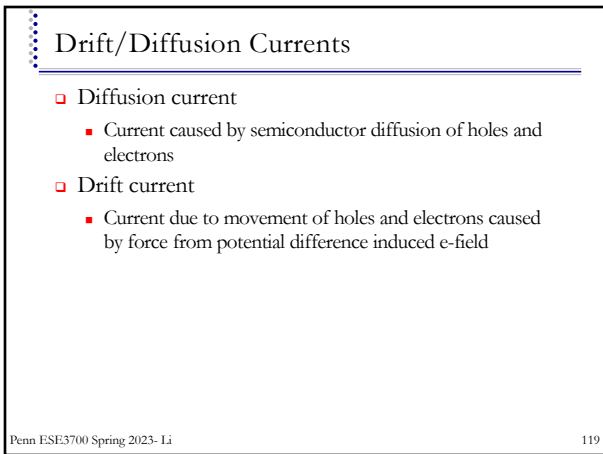
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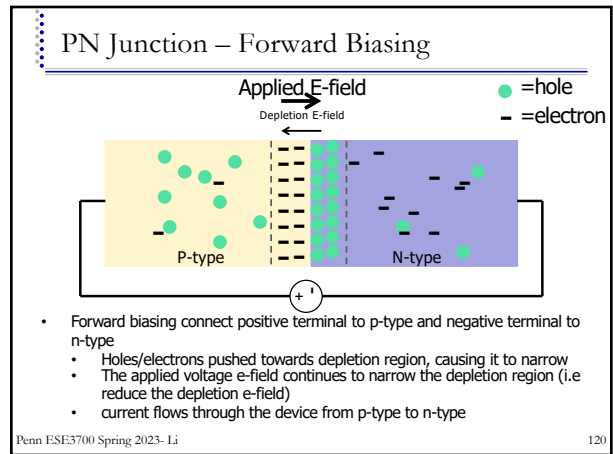
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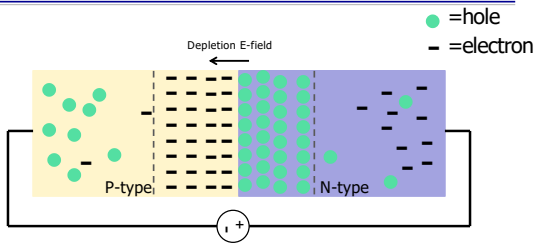


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PN Junction – Reverse Biasing



- Reverse biasing connect positive terminal to n-type and negative terminal to p-type
- Holes/electrons attracted away from depletion region, causing it to widen
 - No current flows through the device
- If reverse bias increases past breakdown voltage, the depletion e-field increases until breakdown occurs and reverse biased current flows causing thermal damage to junction

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