

# An Improved Analytical Model for Carrier Multiplication Near Breakdown in Diodes

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**Abstract**—The charge carrier contributions to impact ionization and avalanche multiplication are analyzed in detail. A closed-form analytical model is derived for the ionization current before the onset of breakdown induced by both injection current components. This model shows that the ratio of both injection current components affects the multiplication factor at relatively low fields before breakdown, but does not affect the reverse breakdown voltage. Furthermore, the model indicates that in case the ionization coefficients of electrons and holes are quite different in value, which depends upon the semiconductor material, the ionization coefficient of the charge carrier with the highest value can be extracted at those low fields. The one with the lowest value can be obtained by fitting the current close to breakdown. The model is compared and verified with TCAD simulations, and to some extent with experimental data, for silicon p-i-n diodes.

**Index Terms**—Avalanche breakdown, avalanche diodes, impact ionization, multiplication.

## I. INTRODUCTION

IN HIGH-VOLTAGE and power applications, p-n junction diodes or Schottky diodes are utilized as rectifiers, and MOSFETs as switches or synchronous rectifiers [1], [2]. For these devices, the reverse (OFF-state) breakdown voltage (BV) is a key figure of merit. Impact ionization near or at breakdown also plays a crucial role for the functionality of other types of devices, such as avalanche photodiodes [3]–[5], avalanche light-emitting devices [6], and steep-subthreshold switches (e.g., I-MOS [7] and positive feedback FET [8]). For modeling

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of degradation in CMOS and power devices caused by hot carrier and parasitic bipolar effects, impact ionization is important as well [9], [10]. In particular, the (shape of the) impact ionization current density-voltage characteristics near or at breakdown is important for these types of devices. The effect of tunneling and avalanche breakdown in a p-n junction was derived earlier [11]. However, Hurkx *et al.* [11] mainly focused on the tunneling behavior of the total diode current, and did not investigate the impact of the charge carrier contributions on the impact ionization.

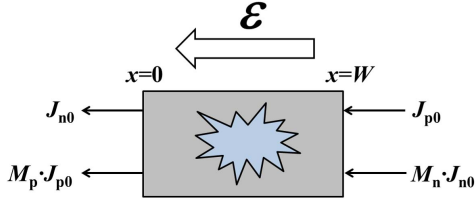
This paper presents a detailed analysis of impact ionization current leading to a comprehensive closed-form model that can be used to accurately describe impact ionization, (weak) avalanche effects, and breakdown effects. This model includes the effects of the so-called impact ionization coefficients and the injection currents of both charge carriers. To the best of our knowledge, the impact of both to the multiplication factor and consequently to the current has not been considered elsewhere [1], [2], [12].

In many semiconducting materials, such as silicon (Si) [13], silicon-carbide (SiC) [2], [14], and gallium-nitride (GaN) [14], [15], particularly one of the carriers (Si: electrons; SiC, GaN: holes) has a much higher impact ionization coefficient than the other. We show that weak avalanche effects can properly be modeled by solely including the charge carrier with the highest ionization coefficient, but that breakdown effects require the ionization of both types of charge carriers.

This paper, which only focuses on a local avalanche model (for more details or background information on non-local avalanche we refer to [16] and [17]), is outlined as follows. Section II presents a brief overview of the traditional theory of impact ionization [1], [2] needed for this paper. In Section III, we present the closed-form model. Then, in Section IV, we compare the results with TCAD simulations and experimental data applied to p-i-n diodes, followed by Section V in which we discuss the implications of the charge carrier contributions in weak avalanche and breakdown. Finally, Section VI summarizes the conclusions of this paper.

## II. BASIC BACKGROUND

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates the space charge (or multiplication) region (SCR) of a semiconductor device in reverse bias operation. At a relatively low reverse bias voltage, the total current density  $J$  equals the sum of the injected electron current density  $J_{n0}$  and hole current density  $J_{p0}$ . Depending upon the type of device, each of these components can be



**Fig. 1.** Schematic of the SCR in a p(-i)-n or Schottky diode with the initial injection components of the current density,  $J_{n0}$  and  $J_{p0}$ , and the final components obtained through impact ionization,  $M_p \cdot J_{p0}$ , respectively  $M_n \cdot J_{n0}$ . Such a diode is present in most active devices.  $W$  represents the width of the SCR. The total current density  $J = M_n(W) \cdot J_{n0} + J_{p0} = M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0} + J_{n0}$ ;  $\mathcal{E}$  represents the electric field.

separately tuned changing the doping, contacts, or materials. When we increase the reverse bias voltage, the charge carriers in the SCR are accelerated by the electric field  $\mathcal{E}$ . For a high  $\mathcal{E}$ , the charge carriers are accelerated, such that they excite, due to scattering in the semiconductor lattice, electron-hole pairs. This electron-hole pair generation is called impact ionization, and it causes an increase in both current components and each of these components is separated due to the electric field (see Fig. 1). This increase can be described by the so-called multiplication factors  $M_n$  and  $M_p$ , which in turn depend on the impact ionization coefficients of both electrons and holes, respectively,  $\alpha_n$  and  $\alpha_p$ . These  $\mathcal{E}$ -dependent coefficients represent the number of generated electron-hole pairs per unit length caused by an electron and hole current, respectively.

Considering only generation of charge carriers through impact ionization within an infinitesimal small distance  $dx$  in the SCR, the change in electron current density can be written as [1]

$$\frac{dJ_n}{dx} = \alpha_n \cdot J_n + \alpha_p \cdot J_p. \quad (1)$$

For the electron and hole current density,  $J_n = -q \cdot n \cdot v_n$ , respectively,  $J_p = q \cdot p \cdot v_p$ , where  $q$  is the elementary charge and  $v_n$  and  $v_p$  are the electron and hole drift velocities, respectively. In this paper for simplicity reasons, it is assumed that  $-v_n = v_p = v_{\text{sat}}$ , where  $v_{\text{sat}}$  is the saturation velocity for electrons (in Si this is  $\sim 10^7$  cm/s). The carriers reach  $v_{\text{sat}}$  at relatively high fields [typically  $\mathcal{E}(x) \gtrsim 10^4$  V/cm].

Similarly

$$\frac{dJ_p}{dx} = -\alpha_n \cdot J_n - \alpha_p \cdot J_p. \quad (2)$$

Hence, in the whole device, the total current density  $J$  is constant. As the next step, we derive relations for the carrier multiplication factors  $M_n$  and  $M_p$ .

### III. CLOSED-FORM MODEL

Taking the ionization of both carriers into account results in relatively complicated relations. Earlier [1], some relations for the multiplication factor had been derived for this case using one injection current component only. In other work, several relations for the ‘‘average’’ multiplication factor were derived [2], [12]. In the closed-form model presented in this paper, we solve (1) and (2) including both  $J_{n0}$  and  $J_{p0}$

as described in the Appendix. The relations shown herein could also be obtained following [1] assuming the boundary conditions presented in Fig. 1.

The main relations derived in the Appendix, needed for this paper, describe the electron current density as

$$J_n(x) = - \int_0^x c_p \cdot \exp\left(- \int_{x'}^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx''\right) dx' + J_{n0} \quad (3)$$

with

$$c_p = -\alpha_n \cdot M_n(W) \cdot J_{n0} - \alpha_p \cdot J_{p0} \quad (4)$$

and describe the electron multiplication factor at the edge of the SCR as

$$M_n(W) = \frac{1 + k \cdot \int_0^W \alpha_p \cdot \exp\left(- \int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_n \cdot \exp\left(- \int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx} \quad (5)$$

with  $k = J_{p0}/J_{n0}$  is the injection current ratio.

Similarly, for holes, it was derived that

$$J_p(x) = \int_x^W c_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^{x'} (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx''\right) dx' + J_{p0} \quad (6)$$

with

$$c_n = \alpha_n \cdot J_{n0} + \alpha_p \cdot M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0} \quad (7)$$

and with the hole multiplication factor described as

$$M_p(0) = \frac{1 + \frac{1}{k} \cdot \int_0^W \alpha_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_p \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}. \quad (8)$$

Hence, for the total current density, it follows that  $J = M_n(W) \cdot J_{n0} + J_{p0} = M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0} + J_{n0}$  (see also Fig. 1). Depending on  $k$  for a wide bias range, the impact ionization current density can be described as  $J_{\text{ii}} = M_n(W) \cdot J_{n0}$  ( $k \geq 1$ ), or  $J_{\text{ii}} = M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0}$  ( $k \leq 1$ ), as is discussed in Section V.

The denominators in (5) and (8) are the familiar relations needed to obtain the relation for avalanche, i.e.,  $M_n(W) \rightarrow \infty$  or  $M_p(0) \rightarrow \infty$  [1], [5], [13], [16], [18], [19]. These basically induce the positive feedback needed for a sharp rise in current during avalanche. However, the numerators in both equations are different from what has been reported earlier. Here, each separate component,  $J_{n0}$  and  $J_{p0}$ , has been included and plays a role in the multiplication factor as well.

For the special case,  $\alpha_n = \alpha_p = \alpha$ , such as in gallium phosphide (GaP) [1], (5) and (8) simplify to

$$M_n(W) = \frac{1 + k \cdot \int_0^W \alpha dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha dx} \quad (9)$$

and

$$M_p(0) = \frac{1 + \frac{1}{k} \cdot \int_0^W \alpha dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha dx} \quad (10)$$

respectively.

In Section IV, we also consider the situation where  $\alpha_p = 0$ , a simplification that implies that extra holes are solely generated by electron collisions and a hole current  $J_p > J_{p0}$  is formed. This case is interesting since in semiconducting

materials such as Si [13], [20],  $\alpha_p$  is typically one order of magnitude lower than  $\alpha_n$  (depending on the applied field). For materials such as SiC or GaN  $\alpha_p \gg \alpha_n$  [2], [14], [15], and for such materials, one could be tempted to neglect  $\alpha_n$ .

When  $\alpha_p$  is set to zero, (8) reduces to

$$M_p(0) = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \int_0^W \alpha_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x \alpha_n dx'\right) dx + 1. \quad (11)$$

However, obtaining a simple relation for  $M_n(W)$  from (5) considering  $\alpha_p = 0$  is more difficult. Considering  $\alpha_p = 0$  for a constant field distribution, *i.e.*, p-i-n diode, (5) reduces to [21]

$$M_n(W) = \exp(\alpha_n \cdot W). \quad (12)$$

#### IV. APPLICATION TO p-i-n DIODES

In this paper, we apply the results to p-i-n diodes. This is because in reverse biased p-i-n diodes  $\mathcal{E}(x) = \mathcal{E}$ , and therefore,  $\alpha_{p,n}$  is spatially constant. This constant field results in more simple and closed form analytical relations compared with the ones for a conventional p-n junction diode. Moreover, the assumption of the constant  $v_{\text{sat}}$  is physically more sound in a p-i-n diode because of the constant (high) field, which obviously does not hold in the SCR of a conventional p-n junction diode. In addition, such a constant field can also be obtained when adopting the RESURF, *i.e.*, REDUCED SURFACE field, effect [22]–[25] commonly used in power devices.

##### A. Ionization Models

For analyzing the impact ionization and avalanche breakdown, we incorporate the traditional Chynoweth relation [26] for the impact ionization coefficients

$$\alpha_{p,n} = A_{p,n} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{B_{p,n}}{|\mathcal{E}|}\right) \quad (13)$$

with Si parameter values reported in [16] and [27] obtained from experimental data, which are widely used in both industry and academia:  $A_n = 7.03 \times 10^5$  1/cm,  $B_n = 1.236 \times 10^6$  V/cm,  $A_p = 6.71 \times 10^5$  1/cm, and  $B_p = 1.396 \times 10^6$  V/cm.

In the literature, the denominator of (9) and (10) is often used for calculating the BV (*i.e.*, for  $\int_0^W \alpha dx = 1$ ) when considering Fulop's approximation [2], [28]

$$\alpha = A_F \cdot |\mathcal{E}|^7 \quad (14)$$

with  $A_F = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-35}$  cm<sup>6</sup> · V<sup>-7</sup> as a fit parameter for Si.

Fig. 2 shows  $W$  versus calculated BV values obtained from the model in which Chynoweth's relation, *i.e.*, (5) and (8) with (13), has been incorporated. For comparison, the values from the model in which Fulop's approximation (*i.e.*, (9), (10), and (14)) has been incorporated are shown as well. For convenience sake for the remainder of this paper, we just refer to "Chynoweth" and "Fulop's approximation" when using the model in which Chynoweth's relation, respectively, Fulop's approximation has been incorporated. In Si p-i-n diodes, for  $BV < 100$  V, the results obtained from Fulop's approximation are comparable with those obtained with Chynoweth's relation. For  $BV \gtrsim 100$  V, Fulop's approximation shows somewhat lower BV values ( $\sim 15\%$ ) for the same  $W$ . Note

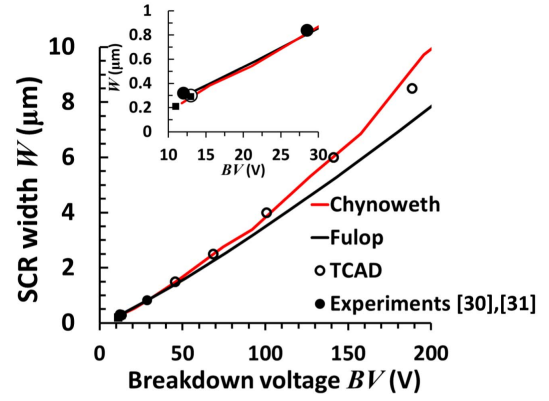


Fig. 2. Calculated BV values in Si p-i-n diodes obtained by using Fulop's approximation (14) in our analytical model (see (9) and (10)), *i.e.*,  $\alpha_n = \alpha_p = \alpha$ , and by using Chynoweth's relation (13) with  $A_n = 7.03 \times 10^5$  1/cm,  $B_n = 1.236 \times 10^6$  V/cm,  $A_p = 6.71 \times 10^5$  1/cm, and  $B_p = 1.396 \times 10^6$  V/cm. TCAD simulations [32] with parameter Si values from [16] and [27] are shown for comparison. The experimental data have been obtained from [30] and [31]. Inset: zoomed-in view of the data for lower BV values.

that van Dalen *et al.* [29] found that for high voltage Si devices with dominating electron multiplication, the parameter  $A_F$  should be increased to  $10^{-34}$  cm<sup>6</sup> × V<sup>-7</sup> so that Fulop's model is in good agreement with their experimental  $M_n$  data. For comparison in Fig. 2, we also included experimental data obtained from [30] and [31] and TCAD simulations [32], showing good agreement.

##### B. Results

As an example, we further focus on two Si p-i-n diodes in reverse bias, with  $W = 0.3$  and  $6$  μm, respectively.

Using the models, *i.e.*, Chynoweth and Fulop's approximation, we provide a further insight of the devices. Fig. 3 shows  $J_p(x)$  and  $J_n(x)$  near breakdown, in this case 12 V ( $BV \approx 13$  V), in the SCR for the 0.3-μm device. For the calculations, we considered Chynoweth with  $\alpha_p = 0$  and  $\alpha_p \neq 0$  (see (3)–(8) and (13)), where  $J_{n0} = 200$  nA/cm<sup>2</sup>: 1) a low  $J_{p0} = 200$  nA/cm<sup>2</sup> (*i.e.*,  $k = J_{p0}/J_{n0} = 1$ ) and 2) a relatively high  $J_{p0} = 20$  μA/cm<sup>2</sup> (*i.e.*,  $k = 100$ ) are assumed. The results show that for case 1), the current density levels are comparable irrespective the value of  $\alpha_p$ , whereas for a higher  $J_{p0}$ , these levels start increasing for the case when  $\alpha_p \neq 0$ . As is discussed further in this section, this appears to indicate that the hole contribution should be included despite the relatively low  $\alpha_p$  [5].

Fig. 4 shows  $J_p(x)$  and  $J_n(x)$  near the breakdown condition for both devices obtained from the model (with Chynoweth) compared with TCAD simulations [32]. In the TCAD simulations, we adopt the same  $\alpha_{p,n}$  parameters as used in our analytical model. The discrepancy between the TCAD simulations and the model in Fig. 4 could be attributed to differences in saturation velocity between electrons and holes, not taken into account in the model.

For power devices, BV is a key figure of merit. For some types of devices, not only the actual BV value but also the (shape of the)  $J_{ii}$  or  $J$  as a function of the voltage near or at breakdown is important, as stated in Section I.

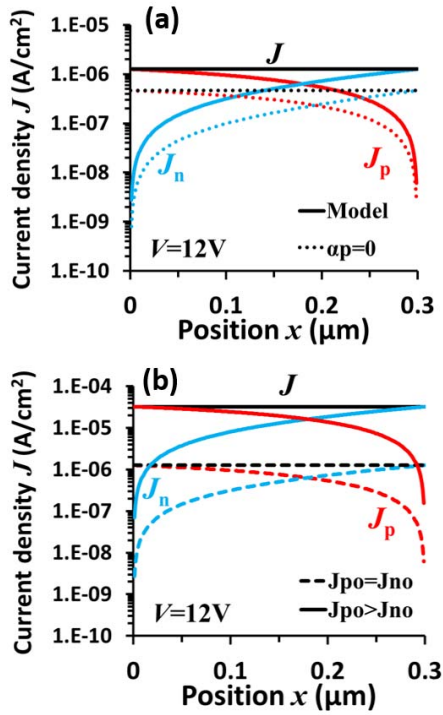


Fig. 3. Calculated current density distributions inside the 0.3- $\mu\text{m}$ -wide SCR of a Si p-i-n diode obtained from the model with (a)  $\alpha_p = 0$  and the Chynoweth relations ( $\alpha_{p,n} \neq 0$ ) for  $J_{n0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$  and (b) model for  $J_{n0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$ , and varying  $J_{p0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$  ( $k = 1$ ) and  $J_{p0} = 20 \mu\text{A/cm}^2$  ( $k = 100$ ).

In Fig. 5,  $J$  is plotted against the applied bias for both p-i-n diodes when  $J_{n0} = J_{p0}$ . Here, we employed the model for  $\alpha_p = 0$ , Chynoweth ( $\alpha_{p,n} \neq 0$ ), and Fulop's approximation for comparison. Prior to breakdown, similar results are obtained for  $J$  irrespective the value of  $\alpha_p$  indicating that  $\alpha_p$  is less important for low fields when  $\alpha_n \cdot W \gg 1$  and  $\alpha_p \cdot W \ll 1$  [21]. However, at the onset of breakdown, the model shows a clear and dramatic increase in current when adopting Chynoweth, as in the TCAD simulations. When  $\alpha_p = 0$ , the model shows a weaker slope ("weak avalanche") where the BV is not well defined. It is clear that closer to the breakdown condition,  $J$  is to a great extent also determined by  $\alpha_p$ , while at lower voltages  $J \approx J_n$ . This indicates that in case of Si,  $\alpha_n$  can be obtained at low reverse fields (by fitting e.g., the backgate or substrate current of an nMOS). After extracting  $\alpha_n$  at those low fields,  $\alpha_p$  can be obtained only by fitting the current near breakdown condition. As stated earlier, Fulop's approximation shows a discrepancy in the BV.

We also investigate the effect of  $J_{p0}$  on the  $J_{ii}$ - $V$  curves for both devices utilizing the model (including Chynoweth's relation, see Fig. 6). In case of  $J_{p0} \gg J_{n0}$  ( $1/k \rightarrow 0$ , (8)) in both devices initially,  $J_p$  is determined by  $J_{p0}$  but near breakdown by  $J_n$  as well. In this case when using the traditional  $M_p$  [1], the  $J_n$ - $V$  curve would not have been obtained. Rather, the shape of the  $J_n$ - $V$  curve, which is actually describing  $J_{ii}$ , can be obtained with the model. Likewise, when using the traditional  $M_n$  [1], hence  $k \rightarrow 0$  (or  $J_{p0} \ll J_{n0}$ ) in (5) of the model, the  $J_n$ - $V$  curve would have been obtained only, and not the  $J_p$ - $V$  curve. In other words, before and near

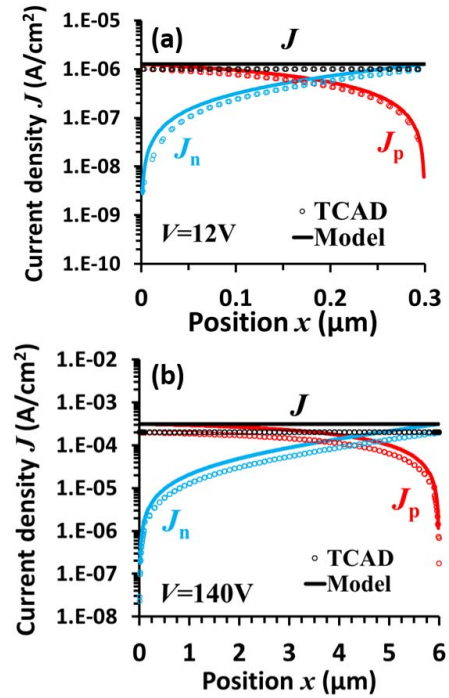


Fig. 4. Current density distributions inside an Si p-i-n diode with (a) 0.3- $\mu\text{m}$ -wide SCR ( $J_{n0} = J_{p0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$ ) and (b) 6- $\mu\text{m}$ -wide SCR ( $J_{n0} = J_{p0} = 4.8 \mu\text{A/cm}^2$ ) obtained from the model including Chynoweth's relation, compared with TCAD simulations.

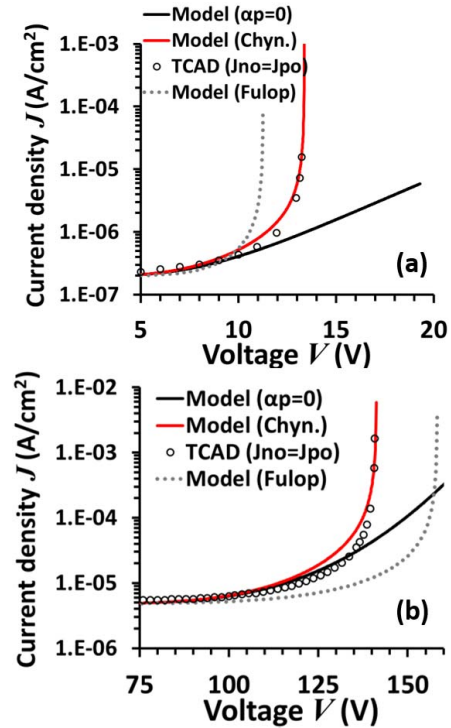


Fig. 5. Total current density  $J$  against the voltage for two Si p-i-n diodes. (a) 0.3- $\mu\text{m}$  diode ( $J_{n0} = J_{p0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$ ) and (b) 6- $\mu\text{m}$  diode ( $J_{n0} = J_{p0} = 4.8 \mu\text{A/cm}^2$ ) obtained from the model for  $\alpha_p = 0$ , Chynoweth relations, Fulop's approximation, and TCAD simulations.

breakdown, the model adequately describes  $J_{ii}$  because of the incorporation of the injection current densities for both charge carriers.

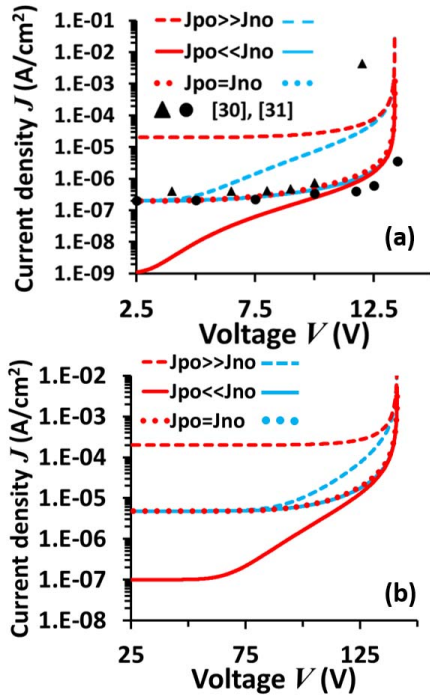


Fig. 6.  $J_n$  and  $J_p$  against the voltage for two Si p-i-n diodes using the model with Chynoweth's relations. (a) 0.3- $\mu\text{m}$  diode ( $J_{n0} = 200 \text{ nA/cm}^2$ ) and (b) 6- $\mu\text{m}$  diode ( $J_{n0} = 4.8 \text{ }\mu\text{A/cm}^2$ ), and varying  $J_{p0}$ :  $J_{p0} = J_{n0}$ ,  $J_{p0} \gg J_{n0}$ , and  $J_{p0} \ll J_{n0}$ . The experimental data have been obtained from [30] and [31].

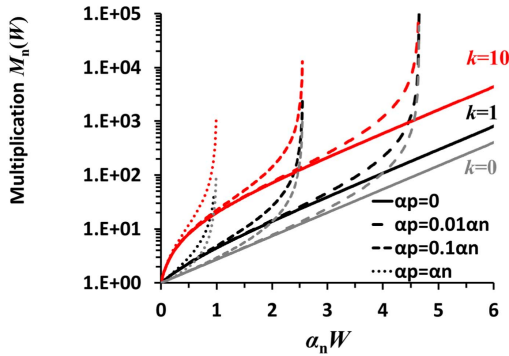


Fig. 7. Multiplication factor as a function of  $\alpha_n \cdot W$  for a constant field for various ratios  $\gamma = \alpha_p/\alpha_n = 0, 0.01, 0.1, \text{ and } 1$ , and injection current ratios  $J_{p0}/J_{n0} = k = 0, 1, \text{ and } 10$ .

## V. DISCUSSION

Fig. 7 shows for a reverse biased p-i-n diode  $M_n$ , given by (5), as a function of  $\alpha_n \cdot W$  for some  $\alpha_p$  values ( $0, 0.01 \cdot \alpha_n, 0.1 \cdot \alpha_n$ , and  $\alpha_n$ ). As stated at the end of Section II,  $M_n$  never reaches infinity when  $\alpha_p = 0$ , so no avalanche breakdown occurs in this case. Furthermore, at low  $M_n$ , all the curves coincide (all have the same  $\alpha_n$ ), as observed in our previous results. In particular, the  $k = J_{p0}/J_{n0}$  value variation shows the impact of the injection on  $M_n$ , in comparison with more traditional relations [1] ( $k = 0$ ). Therefore, for low fields,  $\alpha_p$  is not important in Si. The injection current ratio  $k$  shifts the curves vertically, and hence, BV is not changed, only  $M_n$ . When one fits the BV only with  $\alpha_n$ , the slope of the curves is modified. The strong curvature for cases with  $\alpha_p \neq 0$  occurs at  $M_n \approx (k + 1) \cdot \alpha_n/\alpha_p$ .

In summary, despite the large difference between  $\alpha_p$  and  $\alpha_n$ , the model is needed to have a good description for  $J_{ii}$  at the price of the complexity. As reported earlier [27], care has to be taken when fitting  $\alpha_n$  and  $\alpha_p$  from BV measurements only, since these will not be suited for calculating the multiplication factor not taking into account properly  $k = J_{p0}/J_{n0}$  and the ratio  $\alpha_p/\alpha_n$ .

## VI. CONCLUSION

Relations for the multiplication factor have been presented considering both charge carriers. It is shown that when considering the ionization coefficient of solely one charge carrier, only weak avalanche is obtained. On the other hand, avalanche breakdown is obtained when considering the ionization coefficients for both charge carriers, irrespective the differences in the magnitude of those. When focusing on the impact ionization current near or at breakdown, the ionization coefficients and injection currents of both charge carriers should be incorporated.

## APPENDIX

In prior literature [1], [2], the injection current contributions for only one type of charge carrier are used for determining the multiplication factors. Generally,  $J_{n0}$  ( $J_{p0}$ ) is ignored for determining the hole (electron) multiplication factor (so,  $J_{p0} = 0$  in (5) and (9), and  $J_{n0} = 0$  in (8) and (10)).

In this section, we come up with a new approach for determining the multiplication factors when both  $J_{p0}$  and  $J_{n0}$  are included. Since  $J$  is constant, (1) can be written as

$$\frac{d^2 J_n}{dx^2} = (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) \cdot \frac{dJ_n}{dx}.$$

Similarly, we obtain from (2)

$$\frac{d^2 J_p}{dx^2} = (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) \cdot \frac{dJ_p}{dx}.$$

Hence

$$\ln\left(\frac{dJ_n}{dx}\right) + c = \int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'$$

where the boundary value  $c = -\ln(c_n) = -\ln((dJ_n)/(dx)|_{x=0})$ . Then

$$\frac{dJ_n(x)}{dx} = c_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) \quad (15)$$

and

$$J_n(x) = \int_0^x c_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^{x'} (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx''\right) dx' + c \quad (16)$$

with  $c = J_n(0)$ .

Similarly

$$\frac{dJ_p(x)}{dx} = c_p \cdot \exp\left(-\int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) \quad (17)$$

which results in

$$J_p(x) = \int_W^x c_p \cdot \exp\left(-\int_{x'}^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx''\right) dx' + c'. \quad (18)$$

Now, we need all integration constants of (15)–(18). Substituting (15) and (17) and knowing that  $J$  is spatially constant gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c_n}{c_p} &= \frac{\exp\left(-\int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right)}{\exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right)} \\ &= \exp\left(-\int_0^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

which hence is also spatially constant.

Further with (1) and (2), we can also write (see Fig. 1)

$$\frac{dJ_n}{dx} \Big|_{x=0} = c_n = \alpha_n \cdot J_{n0} + \alpha_p \cdot M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0} \quad (20)$$

and similarly

$$\frac{dJ_p}{dx} \Big|_{x=W} = c_p = -\alpha_n \cdot M_n(W) \cdot J_{n0} - \alpha_p \cdot J_{p0}. \quad (21)$$

Therefore, it can be derived that

$$\begin{aligned} J_n(W) &= J_{n0} \cdot M_n(W) \\ &= -\int_0^W c_p \cdot \exp\left(-\int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx + c \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

and

$$J_n(0) = J_{n0} = c. \quad (23)$$

Substituting the values of  $c_p$  and  $c$  from (21) and (23) into (22), and after some rearranging, we obtain for the electron multiplication factor

$$M_n(W) = \frac{1 + \frac{J_{p0}}{J_{n0}} \cdot \int_0^W \alpha_p \cdot \exp\left(-\int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_n \cdot \exp\left(-\int_x^W (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}$$

as stated in (5). Similarly, for the hole contribution, we can state

$$\begin{aligned} J_p(0) &= M_p(0) \cdot J_{p0} \\ &= \int_0^W c_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx + c' \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

and

$$J_p(W) = J_{p0} = c'. \quad (25)$$

Therefore, for the hole multiplication factor, we obtain

$$M_p(0) = \frac{1 + \frac{J_{n0}}{J_{p0}} \cdot \int_0^W \alpha_n \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_p \cdot \exp\left(\int_0^x (\alpha_n - \alpha_p) dx'\right) dx}$$

as stated in (8). Equations (3) and (6) are obtained from (21) and (22), respectively, (20) and (24).

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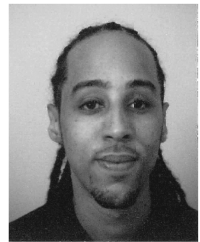
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