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# EEE6212 Lecture 19

## “p-n junctions and diodes”

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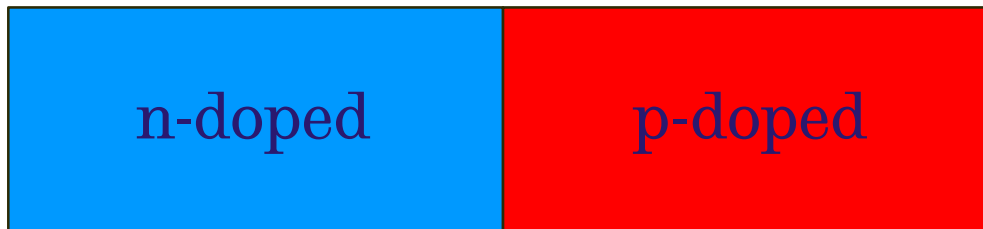
- Formation of a p-n junction
- Solution of Poisson's equation for a p-n junction
- Built in electric field and bias
- Electrical operation under forward/reverse bias
- Diode characteristics
- Types of diode: rectifiers, LEDs, Zener diodes, APDs
- Principle of bipolar junction transistors (BJTs)

# Formation of a p-n junction

Take two isolated blocks of n and p type semiconductor  
Each block has a constant doping level throughout



Bring them together – there is now a non-uniform carrier concentration at the junction between the two...



What happens?

# Carrier Diffusion

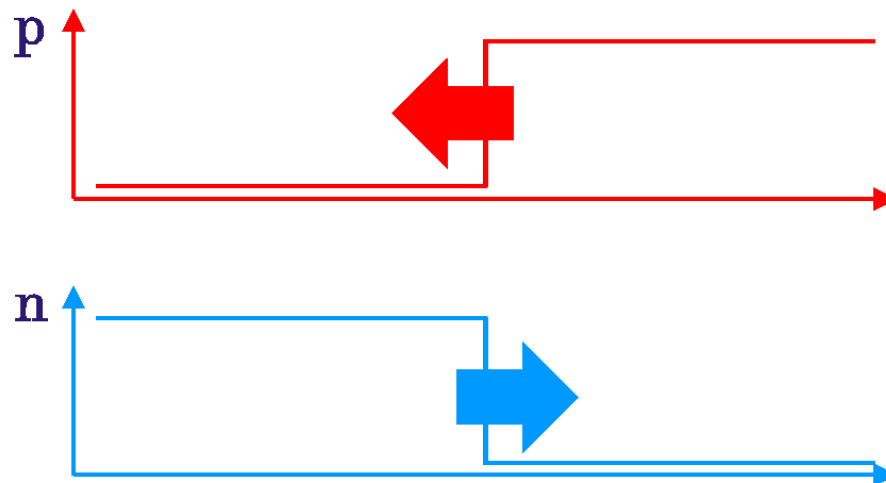
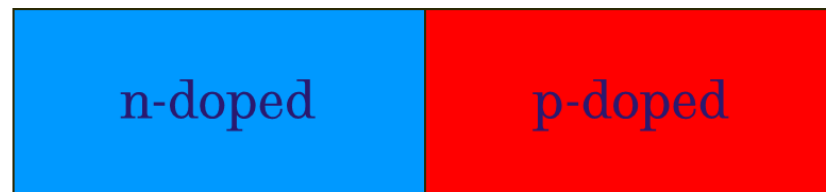
( $t=0$  at connection)

Holes diffuse from the p-type material into the n-type material where they are minority carriers and recombine with electrons

The holes leave behind ionised (-ve) acceptors in the p-region

Electrons from the n-type region diffuse in the opposite direction recombining with holes

→ **Depletion** of free carriers at the junction

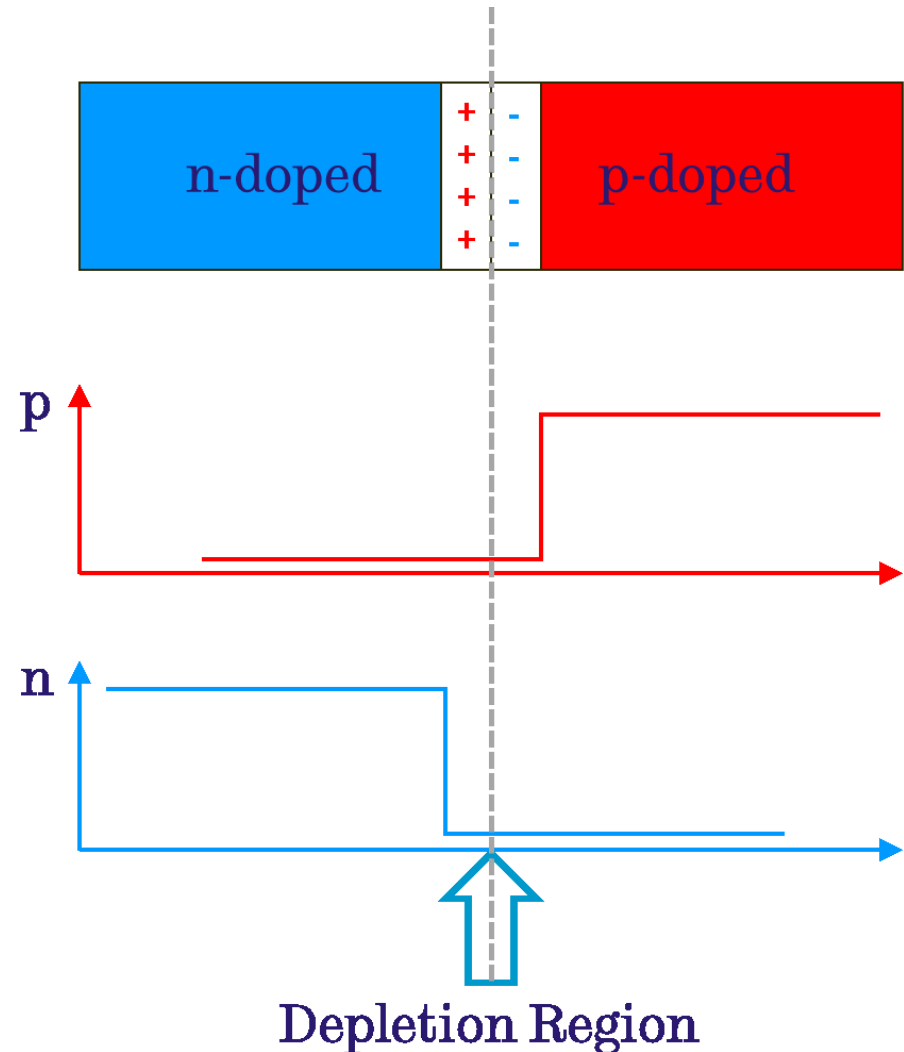


Have electron diffusion current from left to right (conventional current flow from right to left)

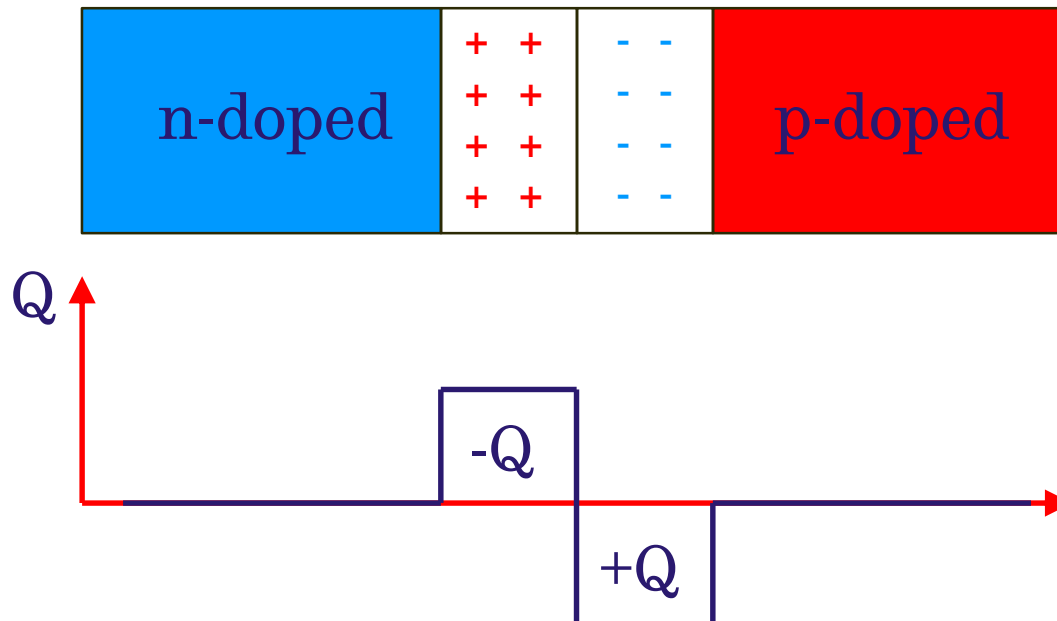
Have hole diffusion current from right to left (conventional current flow from right to left)

At equilibrium there must be no net current so an E-field is generated

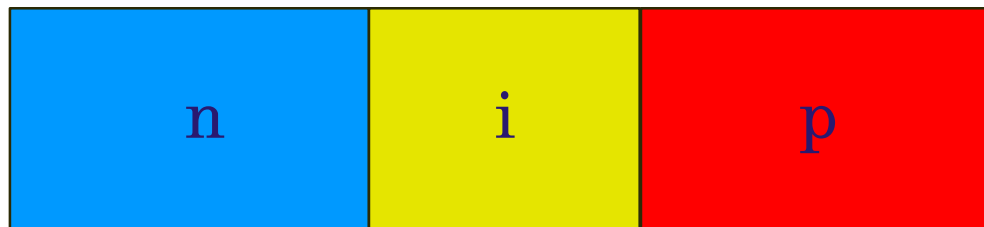
Gives a potential difference  $V_0$  between the n and p regions



Ionised dopants create a local charge density (space charge)

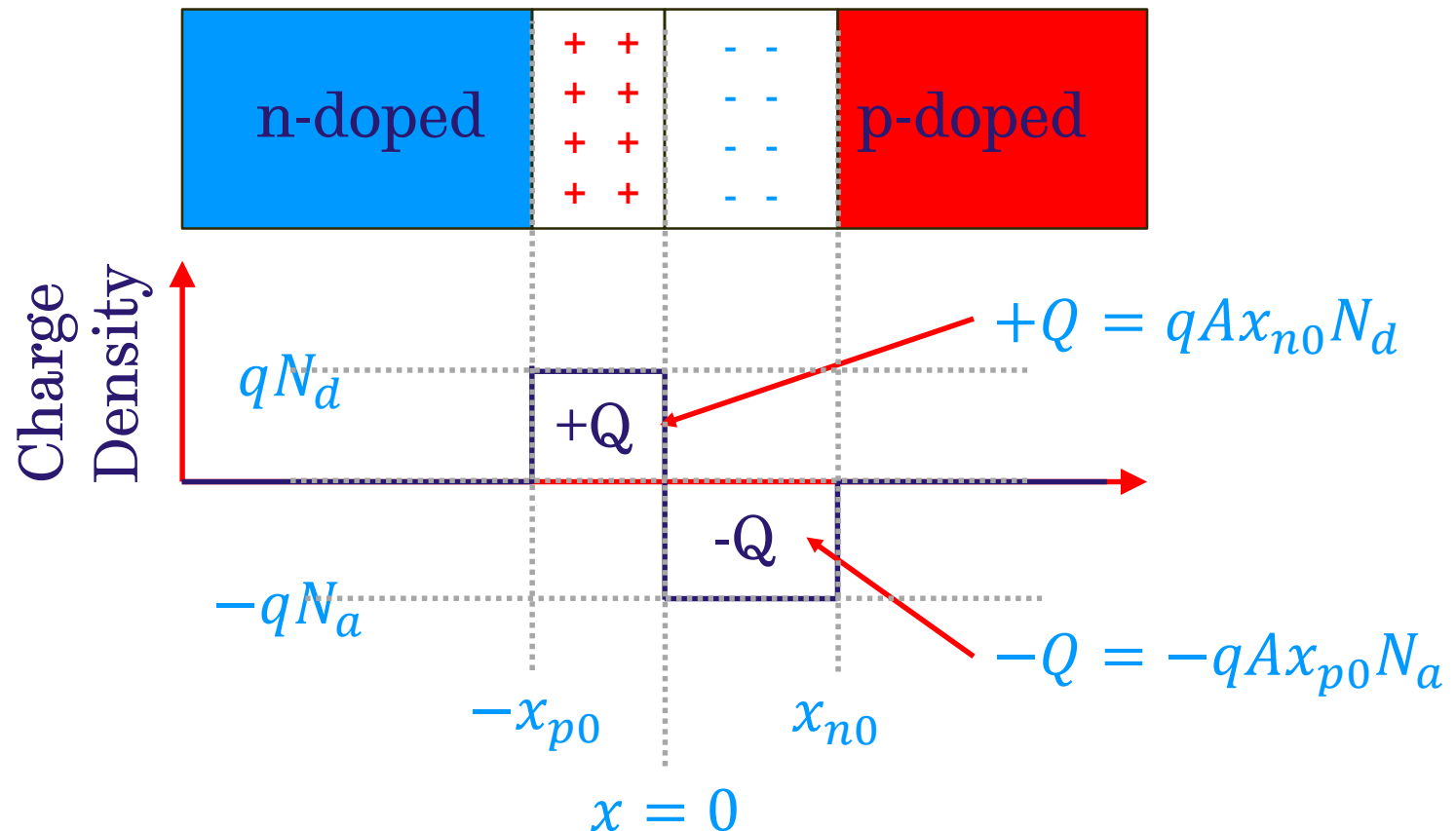


Within the depletion region there are no free carriers any more  
Therefore the depletion region is intrinsic and does not conduct

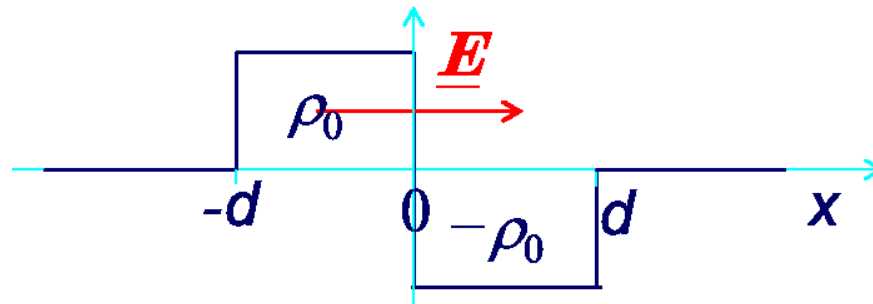
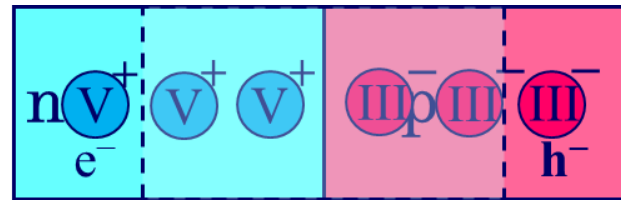


# Space charge at a Junction

Assume a rod with cross sectional area  $A$  and doping densities of  $N_d$  and  $N_a$  for the donors and acceptors respectively. The depletion widths for the n and p type regions are  $x_{n0}$  and  $x_{p0}$



# Poisson equation for p-n junction



Consider step function of charge density

$$\rho = \begin{cases} +\rho_0, & -d < x < 0 \\ -\rho_0, & 0 < x < d \end{cases}$$

Solve Poisson Equation

$$\nabla^2 V = \text{div} (\text{grad } V) = -\text{div } E = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$

In 1D this becomes

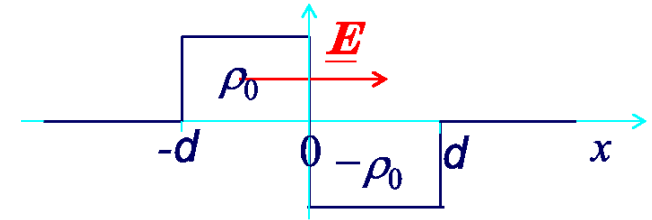
$$\frac{d^2 V}{dx^2} = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon}$$



# Left hand side

Solving for the left hand side (n-type material)

$$\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = -\rho/\epsilon$$



Double integration yields an equation with three constants

$$V(x) = c_1x^2 + c_2x + c_3$$

Then

$$-E(x) = \frac{dV}{dX} = 2c_1x + c_2$$

and

$$\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = 2c_1 \Rightarrow c_1 = -\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}$$

Boundary conditions

$$V(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_3 = 0$$

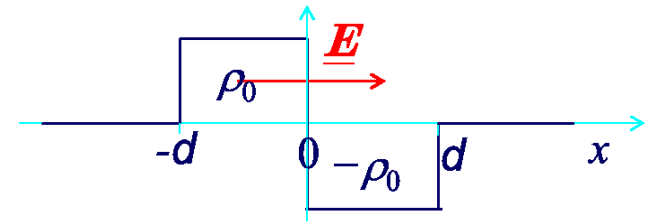
$$E(-d) = 0 \Rightarrow -2c_1(-d) - c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = -\frac{\rho_0 d}{\epsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow V(x < 0) = -\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}(x^2 + 2dx)$$

# Right hand side

Solving for the **right hand side (p-type material)**

$$\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = +\rho/\epsilon$$



Double integration yields an equation with three constants

$$V(x) = c_1x^2 + c_2x + c_3$$

Then

$$-E(x) = \frac{dV}{dX} = 2c_1x + c_2$$

and

$$\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = 2c_1 \Rightarrow c_1 = +\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}$$

Boundary conditions

$$V(0) = 0 \Rightarrow c_3 = 0$$

$$E(+d) = 0 \Rightarrow -2c_1(+d) - c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = -\frac{\rho_0 d}{\epsilon}$$

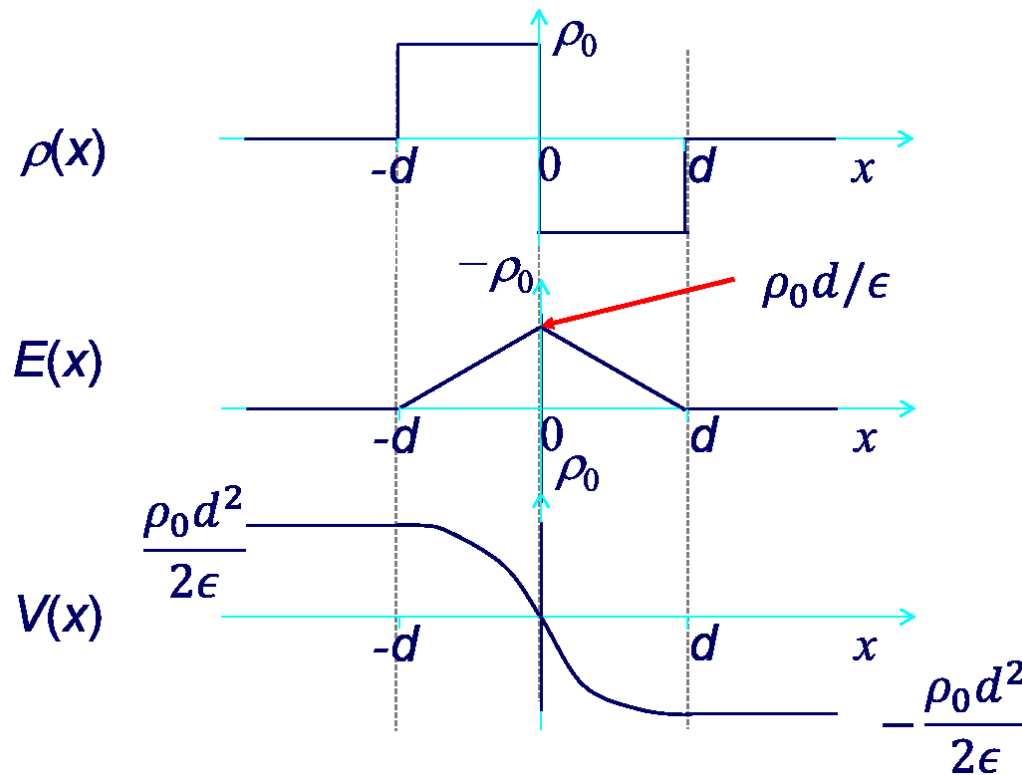
$$\Rightarrow V(x > 0) = +\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}(x^2 - 2dx)$$

# Combine solutions

$$V(x < 0) = -\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}(x^2 + 2dx), \quad V(-d) = \frac{\rho_0 d^2}{2\epsilon}$$

$$V(x > 0) = +\frac{\rho_0}{2\epsilon}(x^2 - 2dx), \quad V(+d) = -\frac{\rho_0 d^2}{2\epsilon}$$

Plot functions vs x direction



# Built-in potential and electric field

## Some typical numbers

Silicon:  $\epsilon_r = 11$ , doping of 1ppm, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of dopants activated,  $d = 90nm$

$$\rho_0 = \frac{2}{3} \times 10^{-6} \times ne = \frac{2}{3} \times 10^{-6} \times \frac{8}{a^3} = 5335 \frac{C}{m^3}$$

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r = 8.8542 \times 10^{-12} \frac{As}{Vm} \times 11$$

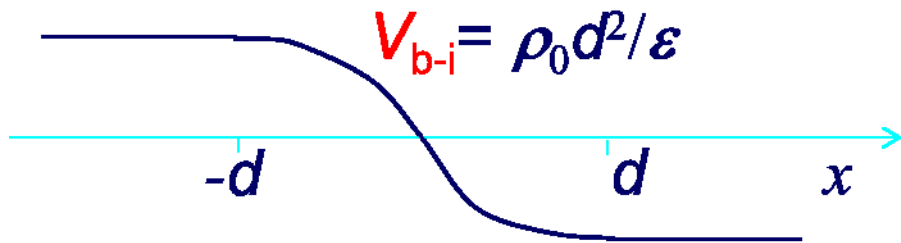
$$E_{max} = \frac{\rho_0 d}{\epsilon} = 5.5 \times 10^6 V/m \quad \leftarrow \text{This is quite large}$$

$$V_{b-i} = V(-d) - V(d) = \frac{\rho_0 d^2}{\epsilon} = 0.55V$$

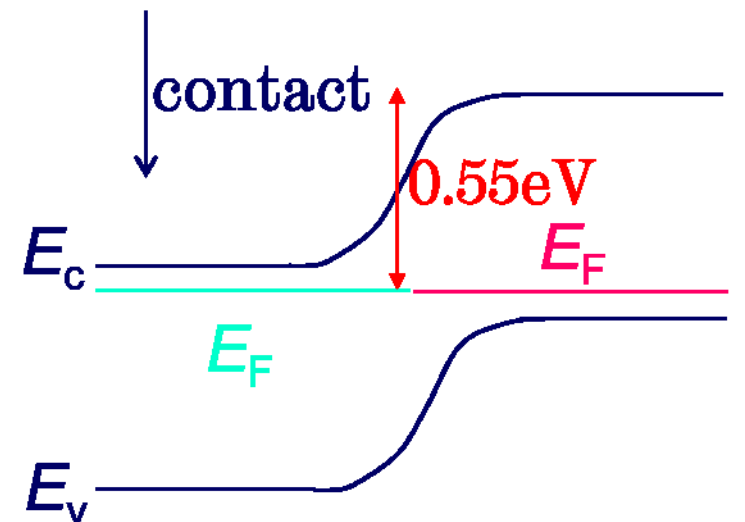
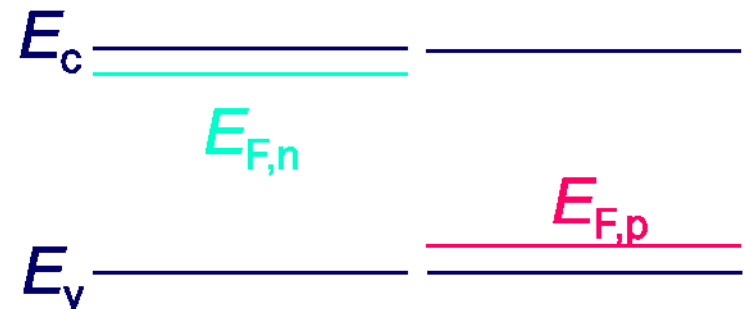
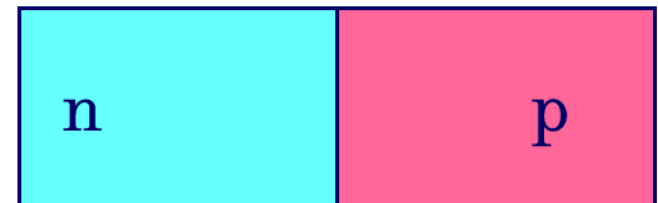
This is the **built in potential across the p-n junction**

For the diode to conduct the applied voltage (**bias**) **needs to at least compensate this built in potential**

# Built-in potential and Fermi Level



pot. energy of  
electrons:  $-eV_{b-i}$

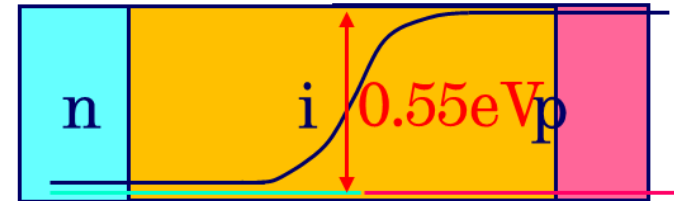


# Qualitative Diode Behaviour

**reverse  
bias:  
diode  
blocks**

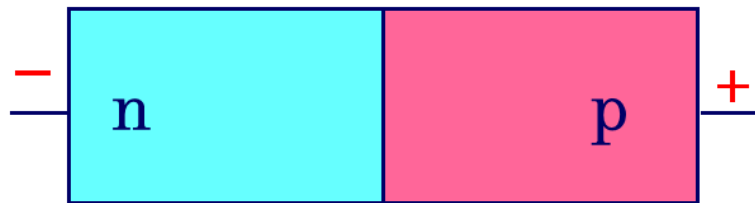


depletion region expands

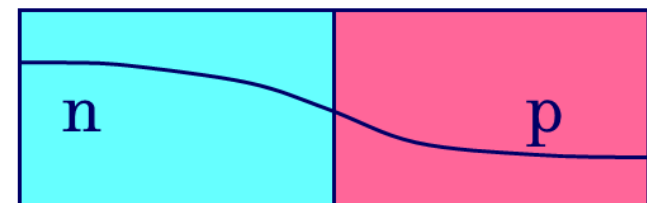


$V_{\text{bias}} < V_{\text{b-I}}$  or even  
enhances  $V_{\text{b-i}}$

**forward  
bias:  
diode  
conducts**



depletion region shrinks  
and finally vanishes



$V_{\text{bias}} > V_{\text{b-I}}$  counter-  
acts  $V_{\text{b-i}}$

# Quantitative Diode Behaviour

thermodynamic calculation of built-in potential: consider current densities due to both drift and diffusion on both sides:

$$J_n^{total}(x) = J_n^{drift} + J_n^{diffusion} = q\mu_e E_x n + qD_n \frac{dn}{dx}$$

$$J_p^{total}(x) = J_p^{drift} + J_p^{diffusion} = q\mu_h E_x p - qD_p \frac{dp}{dx}$$

in equilibrium, there is no charge motion any more:  $J_h^{total} = J_e^{total} = 0$

$$E_x = -\frac{D_n}{\mu_e n} \frac{dn}{dx}, \quad E_x = +\frac{D_p}{\mu_h p} \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$V_{b-i} = -\int E_x dx = -\int -\frac{D_n}{\mu_e n} \frac{dn}{dx} dx = \frac{D_n}{\mu_e} \int \frac{1}{n} dn$$

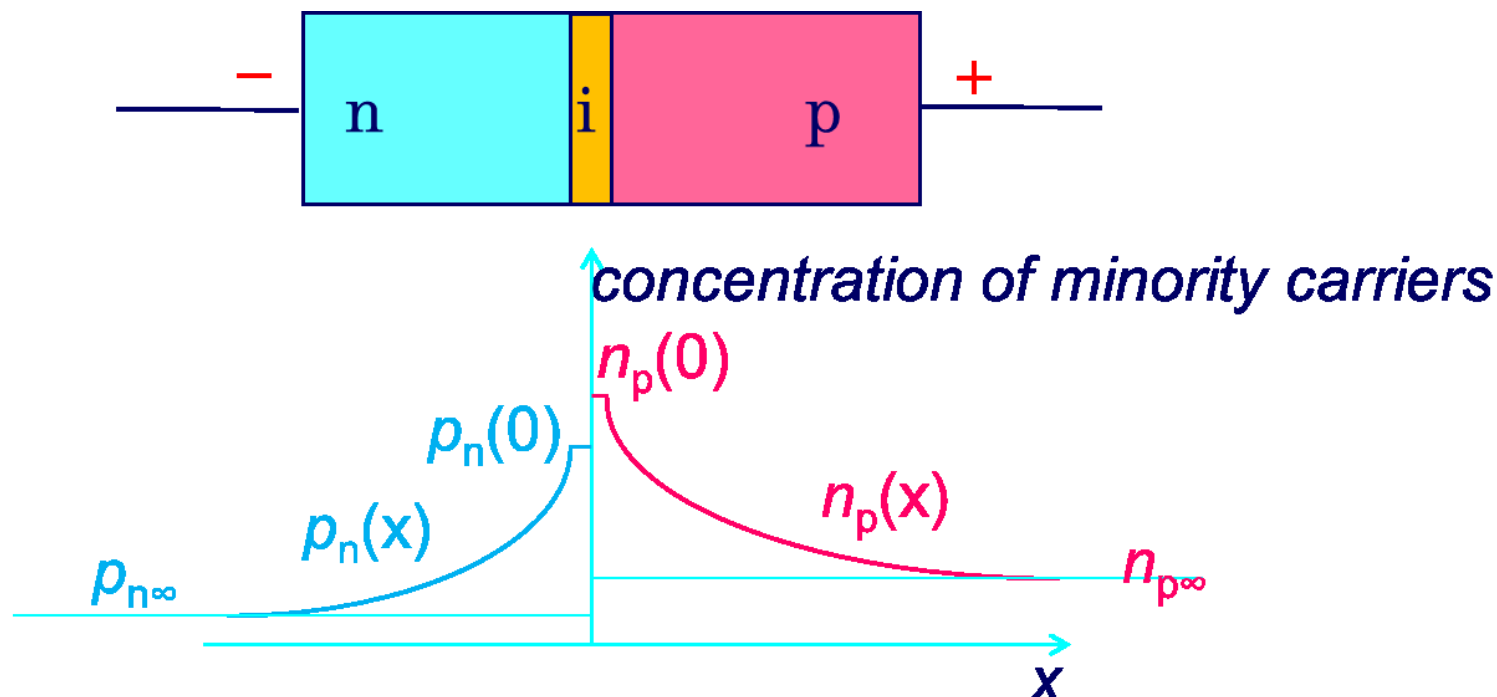
$$= (D_n/\mu_e) \ln(n_n/n_p), \quad (n_n = N_d, n_p = n_i^2/N_a)$$

$$\approx (kT/e) \ln(N_d N_a / n_i^2)$$

For silicon with  $N_A = N_D = 5 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $n_i = p_i \approx 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , room temp.:

$$V_{b-i} \approx 0.026V \ln(25 \times 10^{10}) \approx \mathbf{0.68V}$$

# Diode Characteristics



*exponential decay in p-region:  $n_p(x) = n_{p\infty} + [n_p(0) - n_{p\infty}] \exp(-x/L)$*

*exponential decay in n-region:  $p_n(x) = p_{n\infty} + [p_n(0) - p_{n\infty}] \exp(x/L)$*

approximations: applied voltage (bias) drops almost exclusively across depletion region and Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution

$n_n/n_p = p_p/p_n = \exp [eV_{b-i}/(kT)]$  is valid



# Diode Characteristics

*exponential decay in p-region:  $n_p(x) = n_{p\infty} + [n_p(0) - n_{p\infty}] \exp(-x/L_n)$*

*exponential decay in n-region:  $p_n(x) = p_{n\infty} + [p_n(0) - p_{n\infty}] \exp(x/L_p)$*

approximations: applied voltage (bias) drops almost exclusively across depletion region and Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution

$n_n/n_p = p_p/p_n = \exp[eV_{b-i}/(kT)]$  is valid

->  $n_n = n_p \exp[eV_{b-i}/(kT)] \approx n_p(0) \exp(-x/L) \exp[eV_{b-i}/(kT)]$

$\approx n_p(0) \exp[e(V_{b-i} - V_d)/(kT)]$  where  $V_d$  is the applied bias

-> diffusion currents in depletion region:

$$j_n|_{x=0} = eD_n \partial n_p / \partial x|_{x=0} = eD_n n_p(0)/L_n [\exp(eV_d/(kT)) - 1]$$

$$j_p|_{x=0} = -eD_p \partial p_n / \partial x|_{x=0} = eD_p p_n(0)/L_p [\exp(eV_d/(kT)) - 1]$$

-> total diode current through area  $A$  is  $I_d = A(j_n + j_p)$ , hence

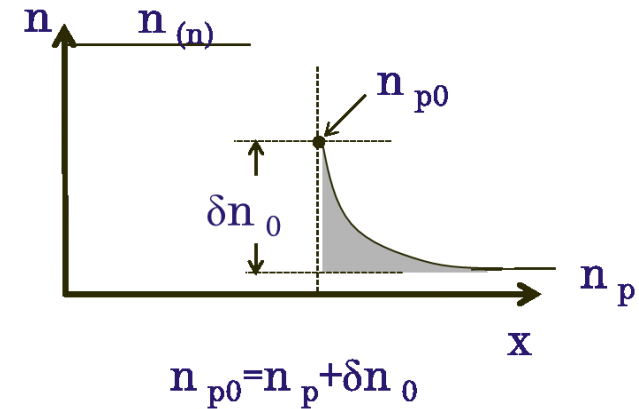
$$I_d = I_s [\exp(eV_d/(kT)) - 1] \text{ where } I_s = eA[D_p p_n(0)/L_p + D_n n_p(0)/L_n]$$

# Diode Characteristics

$$V_{b-i} = (kT/e) \ln(n_n/n_p)$$

$$n_{p0} = n_p + \delta n_0$$

$$n_n = n_p \exp\left(\frac{eV_{b-i}}{kT}\right) \quad *$$



Modify to include applied potential, we get this in terms of  $n_{p0}$

$$n_n = n_{p0} \exp\left(\frac{e(V_{b-i} - V_d)}{kT}\right)$$

$$\delta n_0 = n_{p0} - n_p$$

$$\delta n_0 = \frac{n_n}{\exp\left(\frac{e(V_{b-i} - V_d)}{kT}\right)} - \frac{n_n}{\exp\left(\frac{eV_{b-i}}{kT}\right)} = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) n_n}{\exp\left(\frac{eV_{b-i}}{kT}\right)} - \frac{n_n}{\exp\left(\frac{eV_{b-i}}{kT}\right)}$$

But from \*

$$\delta n_0 = n_p \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right), \quad \text{similarly for holes} \quad \delta p_0 = p_n \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right)$$

# Diode Characteristics

Diffusion currents in the depletion region

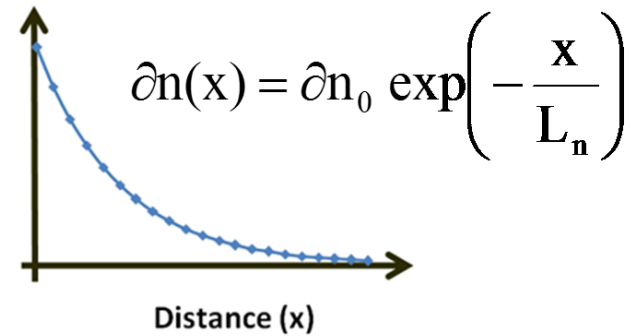
$$j_n(x=0) = eD_n \frac{\partial n_p}{\partial x}(x=0)$$

$$j_p(x=0) = -eD_p \frac{\partial p_n}{\partial x}(x=0)$$

$$\delta n_0 = n_p \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right)$$

$$j_n = eD_n \frac{n_p(0)}{L_n} \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right)$$

$$j_p = eD_p \frac{p_n(0)}{L_p} \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right)$$



Total diode current through area  $A$  is  $I_d = A(j_n + j_p)$

Hence

$$I_d = I_s \left( \exp\left(\frac{eV_d}{kT}\right) - 1 \right)$$

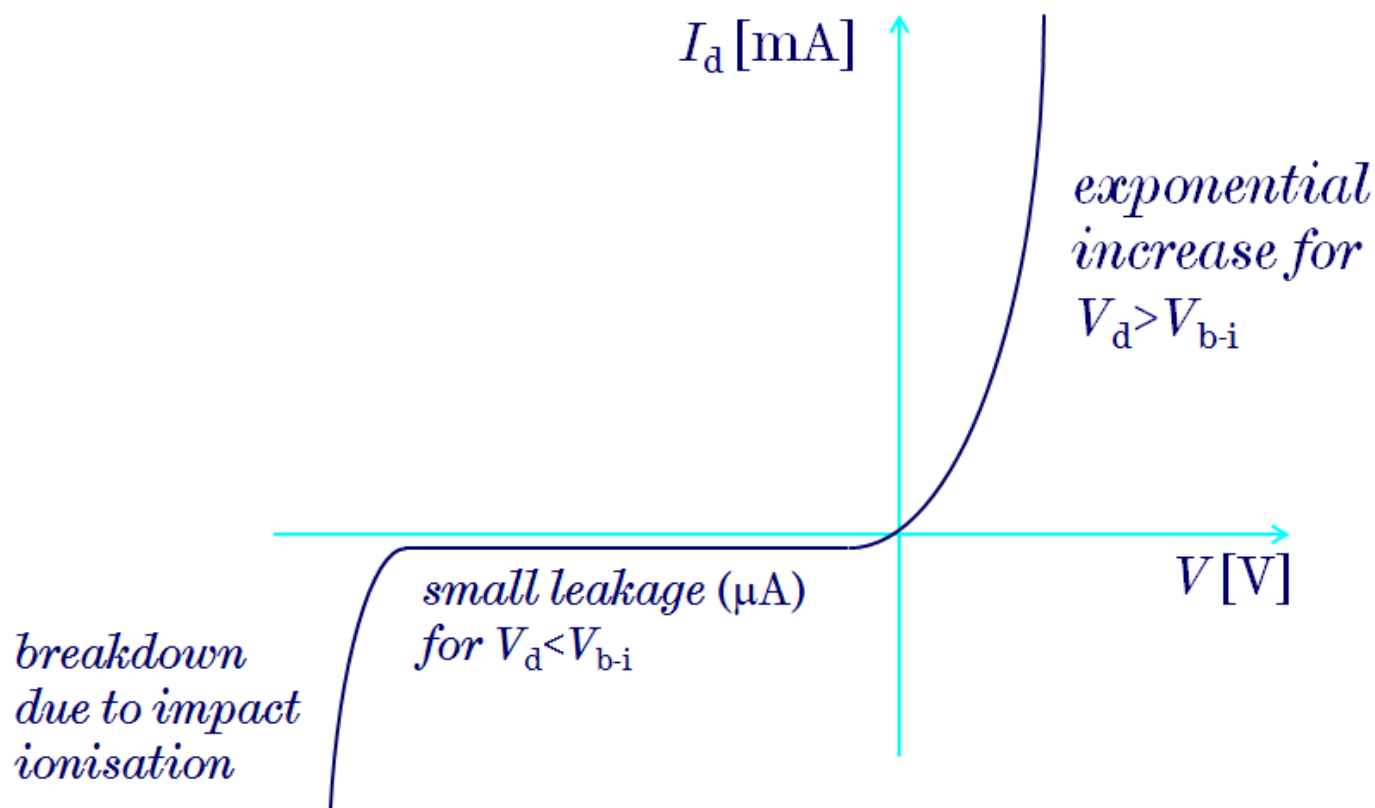
Where

$$I_s = eA \left[ \frac{D_p p_n(0)}{L_p} + \frac{D_n n_p(0)}{L_n} \right]$$

# Diode Characteristics

$$I_d = I_s \left( \exp \left( \frac{eV_d}{kT} \right) - 1 \right)$$

Is known as Shockley's diode equation



# Types of diode and applications

**rectifying** diode: blocks for  $V < V_{b-i}$  and conducts for  $V > V_{b-i}$

**biasing** diode: yields voltage drop of  $V_{b-i}$  ( $\sim 0.6V$  for silicon)

**LEDs**: light-emitting diodes when a direct band-gap semiconductor pn-junction is **forward biased with  $eV > E_g$**  so electrons and holes are injected from opposite ends and recombine near the contact area, creating photons (light)

**Zener** diodes: **reverse biased**, yield constant voltage drop independent of current flow

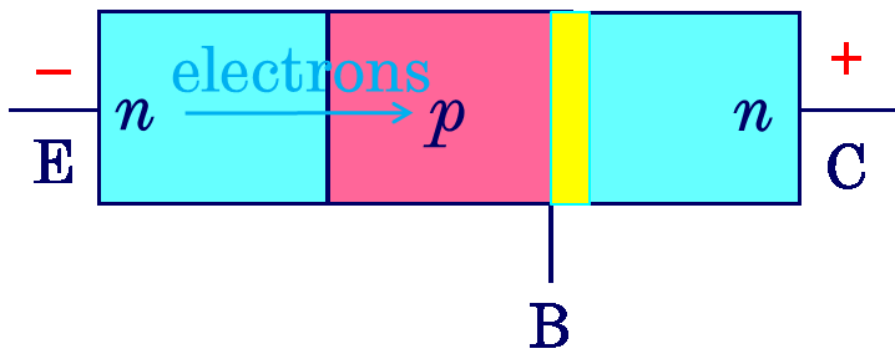
**APDs**: avalanche photodiodes are operated under **very strong reverse bias** (so normally only leakage current); if a high-energy photon or X-ray strikes, it produces e-h pairs that can be separated in the field and due to their high energy produce an avalanche of further charge carriers ( $\rightarrow$  high current pulse)

And of course **Solar Cells**, **Lasers** etc. rely on diode behaviour too!

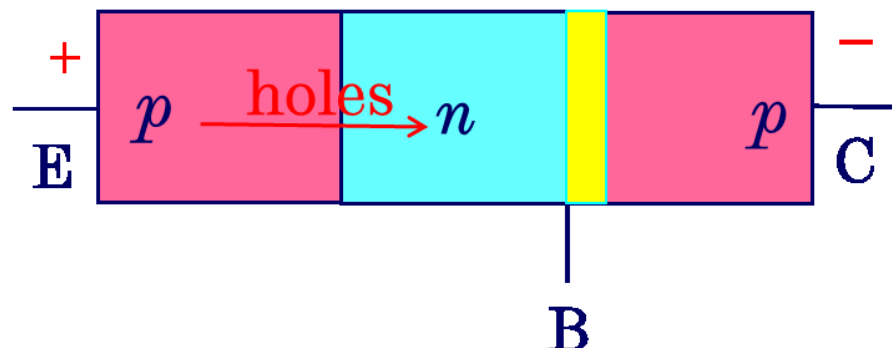
# Principle of Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT)

principle: connect 2 diodes with same doping back-to-back so you get a 3-terminal device and operate **one diode just under forward bias (base-emitter, BE)** and **the other under reverse bias (base-collector, BC)**

npn:  $V_{BE} \sim 0.7V$ ,  $V_{CB} \gg 1V$



pnp:  $V_{BE} \sim -0.7V$ ,  $V_{CB} \ll -1V$





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# EEE6212 Lecture 20

## “Transistors”

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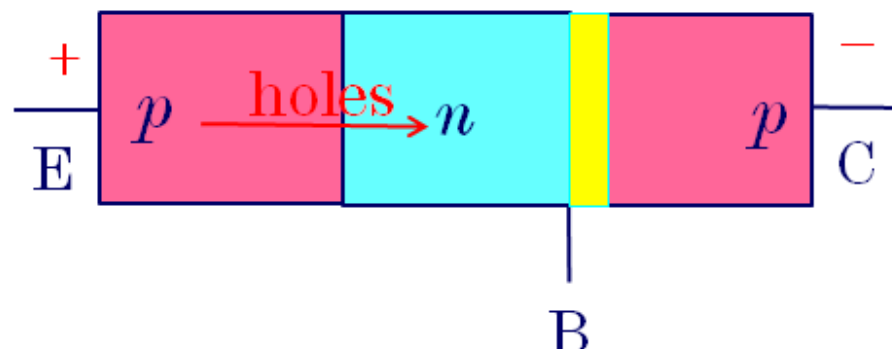
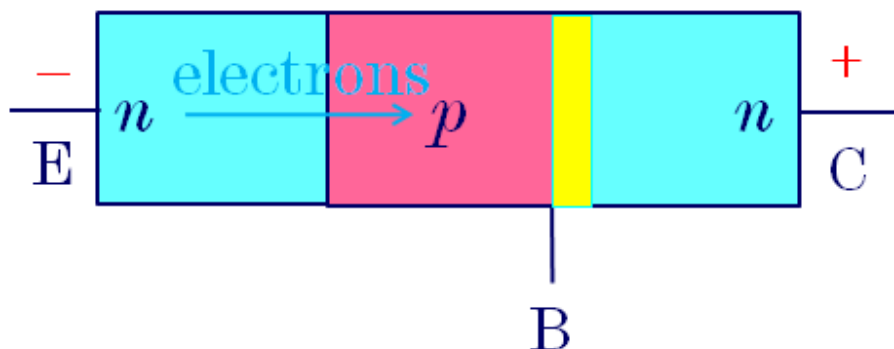
- principle of bipolar junction transistors (BJTs)
- transconductance
- transistor families
- BJT properties
- MOSFET design and properties
- multigate MOSFET devices

# Principle of Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT)

principle: connect 2 diodes with same doping back-to-back so you get a 3-terminal device and operate **one diode (just) under forward bias (base-emitter, BE)** and **the other under reverse bias (base-collector, BC)**

npn:  $V_{BE} \sim 0.7V$ ,  $V_{CB} \gg 1V$

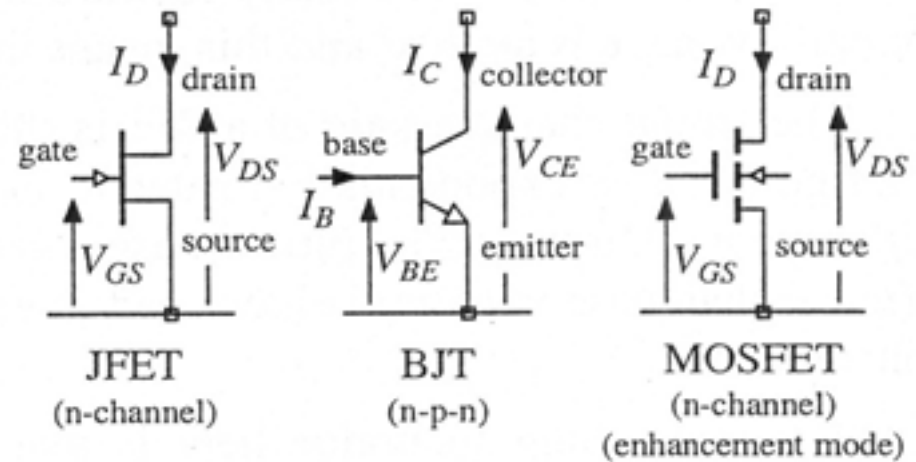
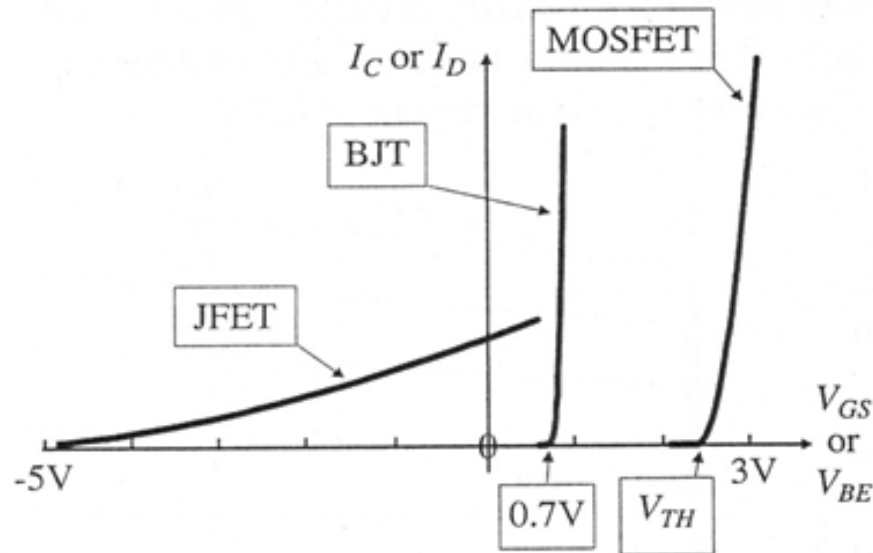
pnp:  $V_{BE} \sim -0.7V$ ,  $V_{CB} \ll -1V$



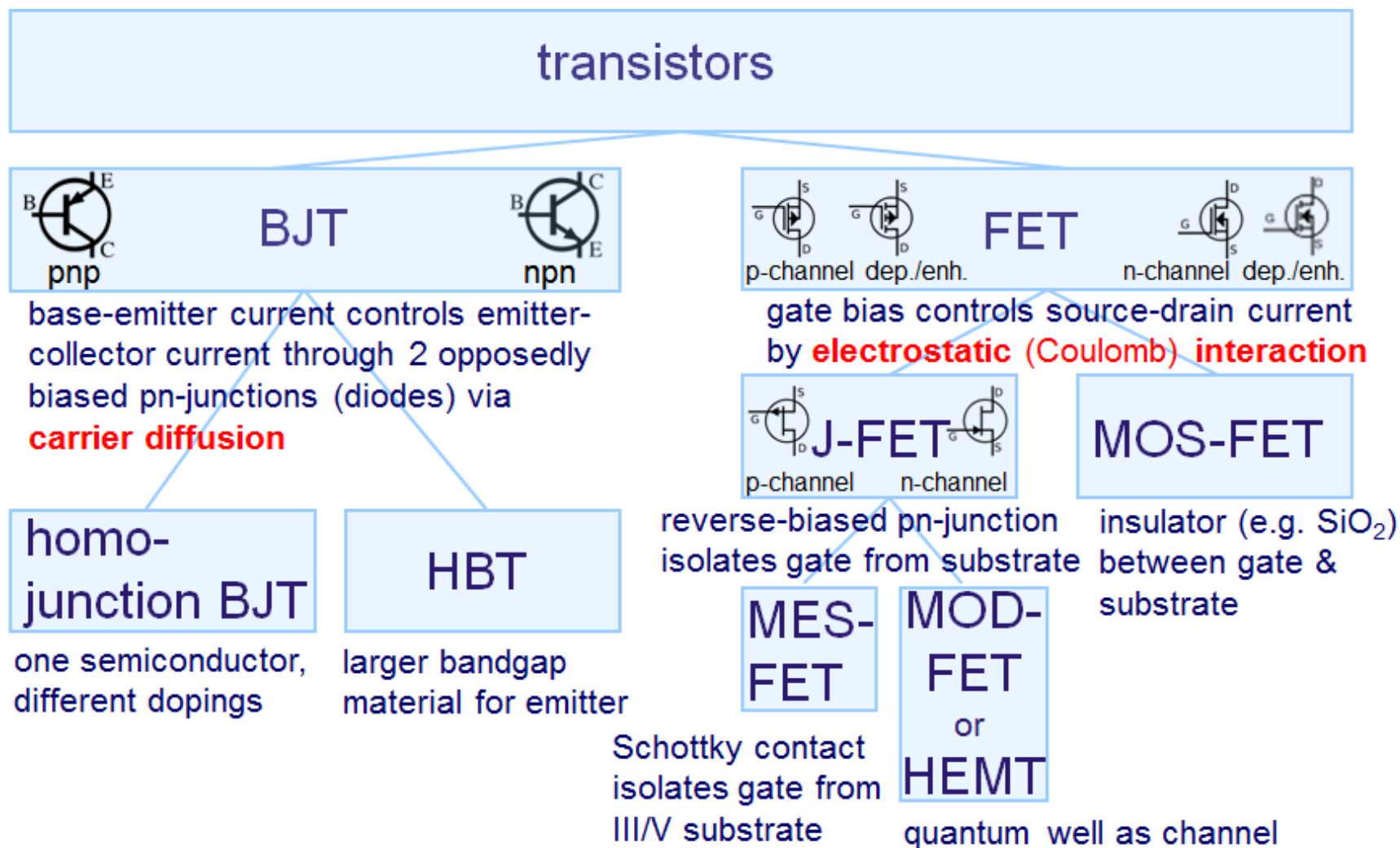
# General Transistor Behaviour

Transconductance is the relationship between :  
input control voltage ( $V_{BE}$  for a BJT;  $V_{GS}$  for a FET) and  
output (controlled) current ( $I_C$  for BJT,  $I_D$  for FET).

These curves are similar in shape for all transistor types, with a rapid current increase after some threshold is reached. The slope of these curves is called mutual conductance,  $g_m$ , or transconductance.



# Transistor Families



Can keep subdividing the transistor family based on differences....

# Important BJT relationships

## Parameter

## Relationship

$\beta$

small signal current gain through  $r_{be}$

$$\beta = \frac{dI_c}{dI_b}$$

$g_m$

transconductance, defined as  $g_m = \frac{dI_c}{dV_{be}}$  (with  $V_{ce} = \text{const}$ )

From  $I_c = I_{c0} \exp \left[ \left( \frac{qV_{be}}{kT} \right) - 1 \right] \approx I_{c0} \exp \left[ \frac{qV_{be}}{kT} \right]$  then in forward bias

$$g_m = \frac{q}{kT} I_c \exp \left[ \frac{qV_{be}}{kT} \right] \approx \frac{qI_{c0}}{kT}, \text{ if } h_{FE} \gg 1$$

$r_{be}$

small signal input impedance, defined as

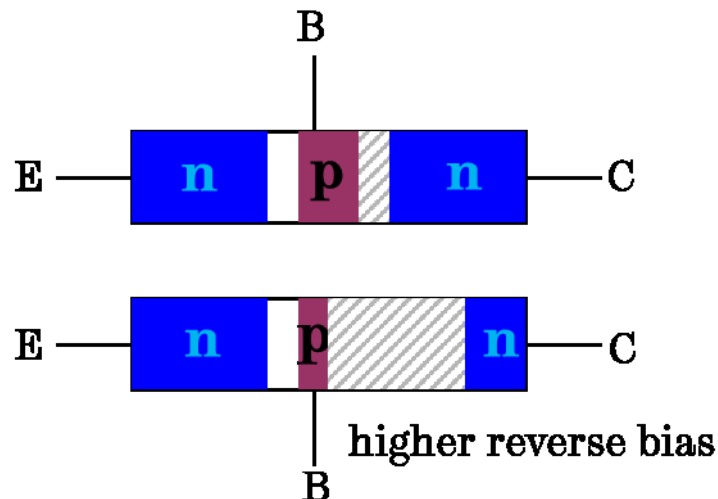
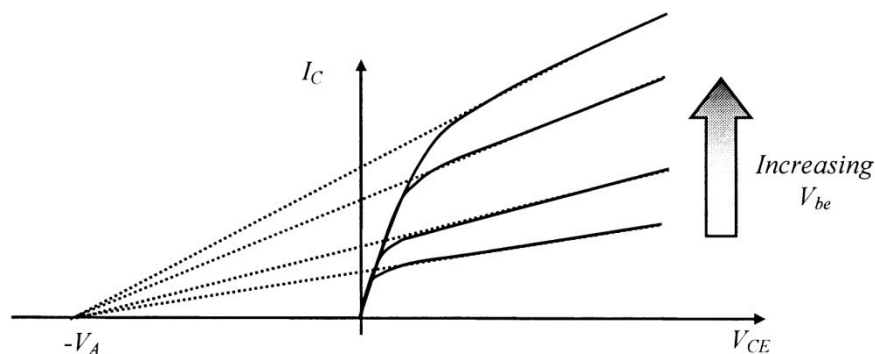
$$r_{be} = \frac{dV_{be}}{dI_{be}} \text{ (with } V_{ce} = \text{const})$$

$$\text{From } g_m = \frac{dI_c}{dV_{be}} = \frac{dI_c}{dI_b} \times \frac{dI_b}{dV_{be}} = \frac{\beta}{r_{be}} \text{ we directly get } r_{be} = \frac{\beta}{g_m}$$

Note that in small signal terms  $r_{be} = v_{be}/i_b$  hence also  $\beta i_b = g_m v_{be}$

This means that the BJT can be considered as a current or voltage amplifier

# The Early Effect

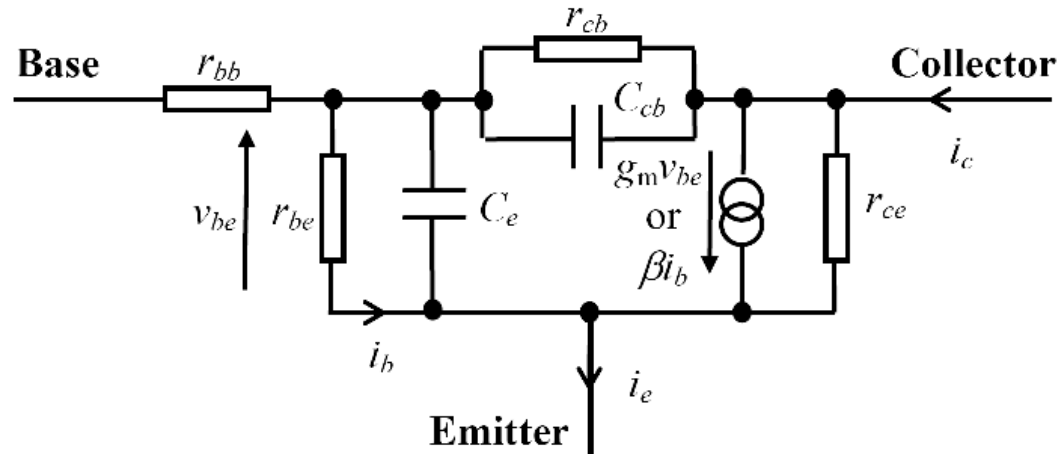


The base-collector depletion region (hatched area) increases with increasing base-collector voltage  $V_{cb}$ . The **base width shrinks** correspondingly. Then more carriers ( $e^-$  in the case on an npn-BJT) transit the base because

- 1) The time for crossing the narrower base decreases and more charge carriers can transit the base without undergoing recombination (hence  $I_c$  increases)
- 2) The charge gradient across the base increases, hence also  $I_e$  increases

The result of a larger net current gain  $\alpha$  is a **finite slope on the output characteristic**, corresponding to a smaller output impedance,  $r_0$ . This is bad if one wants to construct a current source which ideally would have  $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$  so that any voltage change across the BJT would not cause any change in the output current (all ideal curves would be horizontal). So, if the transistor has a high impedance load, such as a current source, then we need to **model the Early effect of reduced base width by including serial resistors  $r_{ce}$  (and sometimes also  $r_{cb}$ )**.

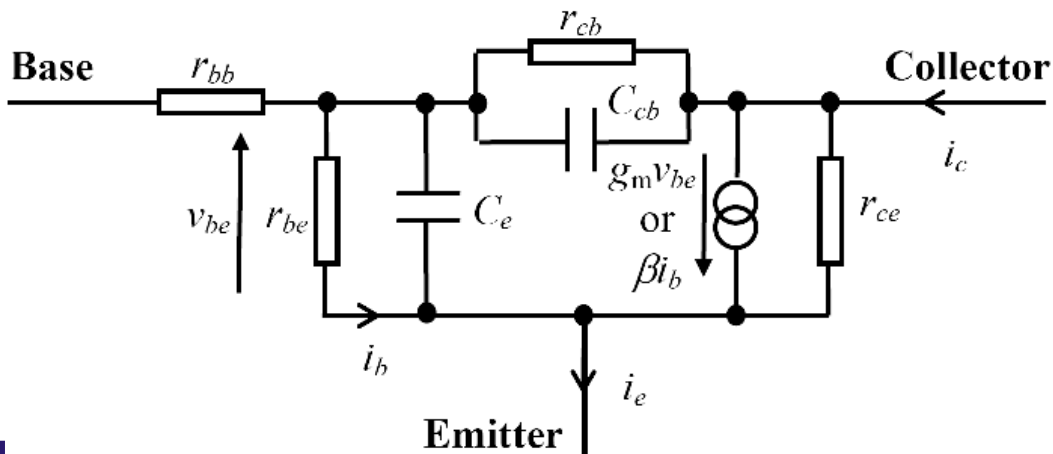
# Small signal circuit model of a BJT



## Symbol Meaning

$r_{bb}$	base spreading resistance = series resistance between package wire and active part of semiconductor; can be ignored in many cases; typically $0.5\Omega < r_{bb} < 50\Omega$
$r_{be}$	base incremental resistance of base-emitter junction ( $\propto 1/I_b$ ); inverse gradient of $I_b(V_{be})$
$r_{bc}$	feedback resistance modelling the Early effect ( $\propto 1/I_c$ ); may be ignored for analytical purposes <b>unless the transistor has a high impedance load</b>
$r_{ce}$	models the small slope of output characteristic, mostly due to the Early effect ( $\propto 1/I_c$ ); may also be ignored <b>unless transistor has a high impedance load</b>
$C_{cb}$	base-collector depletion capacitance ( $\propto V_{cb}$ )
$C_e$	emitter diffusion capacitance that models the transient behaviour of charge crossing the pn-junction
$\beta$	small signal current gain for the current through $r_{be}$
$g_m$	transconductance which operates on the voltage across $r_{be}$

# BJT cut-off frequency



## Param. Meaning

$C_e$  emitter diffusion capacitance can be determined from measurements of the transition frequency  $f_t$  which is the intrinsic, no-load, figure of merit of the speed for a BJT

$$f_t = \frac{g_m}{2\pi(C_e + C_{cb})} \approx \frac{g_m}{2\pi C_e}, \quad \text{if } C_e \gg C_{cb}$$

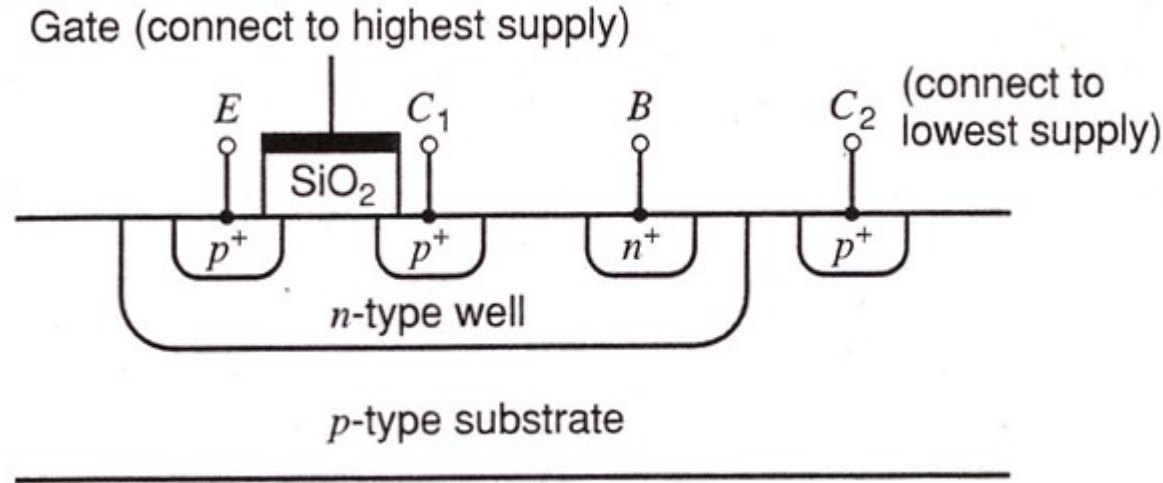
Deduction: Consider frequency  $f = \omega/2\pi$  of a resonant circuit with  $R_{eff}, C_{eff}$  when all the energy is alternately stored in  $R_{eff}$  and in  $C_{eff}$  so that  $R_{eff} = 1/\omega C_{eff}$ .

This gives  $\omega = 1/(R_{eff} C_{eff})$ . Here  $i_e = 0$  if the voltage  $v_{be} = i_b r_{be}$  corresponds to the voltage drop across  $C_{eff} = C_e + C_{cb}$  (as they are in parallel) where a larger current  $\beta i_b$  flows.

Setting  $r_{be} i_b = \beta i_b / (\omega C_{eff})$  with  $r_{be} = \beta / g_m$  gives the above



# BJT design in CMOS technology




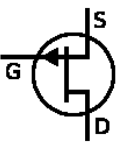
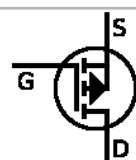
If collector  $C_1$  is incorporated into the well, then a **lateral pnp-BJT** is formed by  $E - B - C_1$  where the additional MOSFET gate ensures reverse biasing (i.e. corresponding source drain contacts operate in the cut-off region)

**BUT**

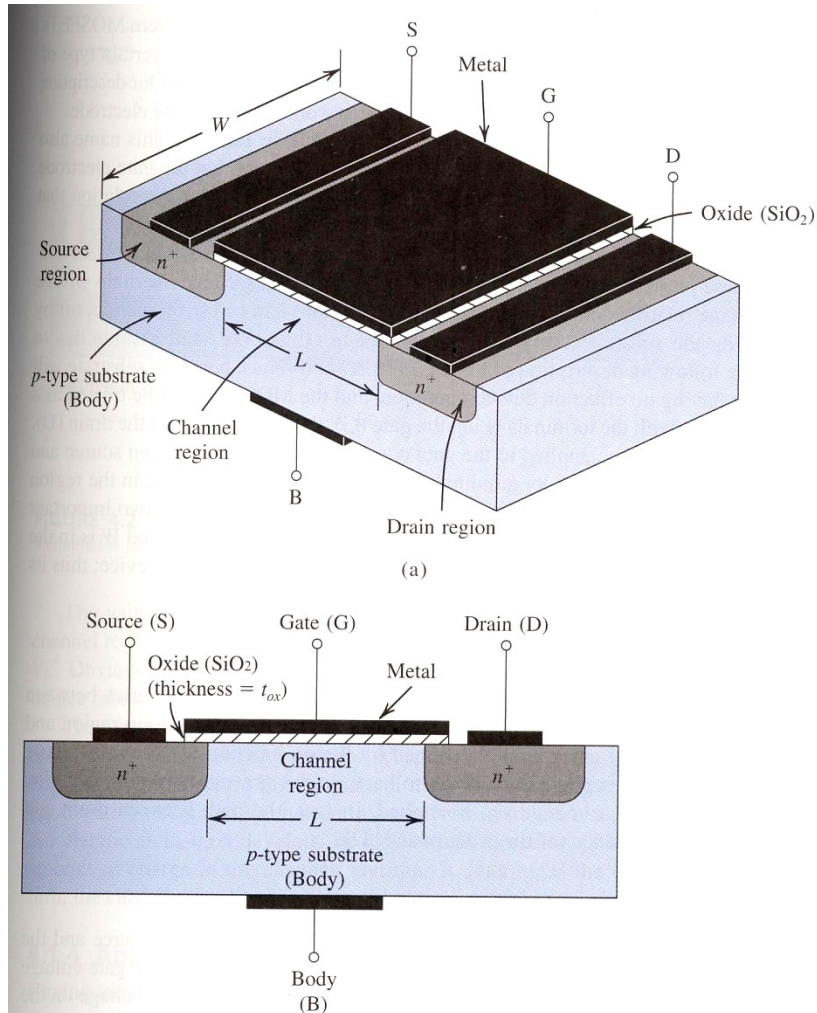
A biased substrate forms the collector of a **parasitic vertical pnp-BJT** formed by  $E - B - C_2$  for some electrons diffusing out of the *n*-well

# Comparison of transistor types

## BJT vs. JFET vs. MOSFET

Criterion	BJT 	JFET 	MOSFET 
Principle	<b>Diffusion</b> through one forward and one reverse biased diode (depletion region)	Reverse-biased pn-junction isolates gate from substrate	Gate bias controls source-drain current by <b>electrostatic</b> interaction across insulating gate
Input current	$i_B = i_C / \beta$ ( $\mu A$ )	Small	$i_G \approx 0$ ( $pA$ )
Input impedance	Low	High	Very high
I/V transfer character.	Exponential (exact)	Modified square law	Square law (approx.)
Transconductance	High	Medium	Low
Carrier type	Minority	Minority (depletion mode)	Majority
Radiation resistance	Low	?	High
Zero-offset of $I_C(V_{ce})$ or $I_{DS}(V_{DS})$	Yes	?	None
Gate-channel breakdown	-	Partly reversible	Irreversible = Destructive
Applications	Audio amplifiers Phototransistors	High power radio transmitters, low noise differential amplifiers	Switches Charge measurement devices

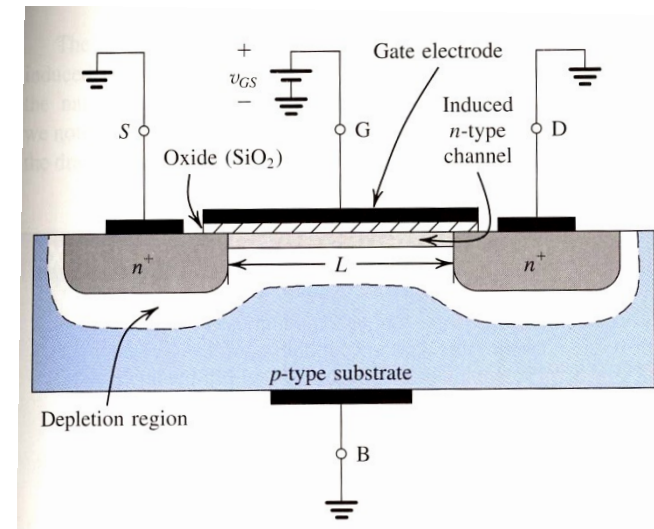
# MOSFET design in CMOS technology



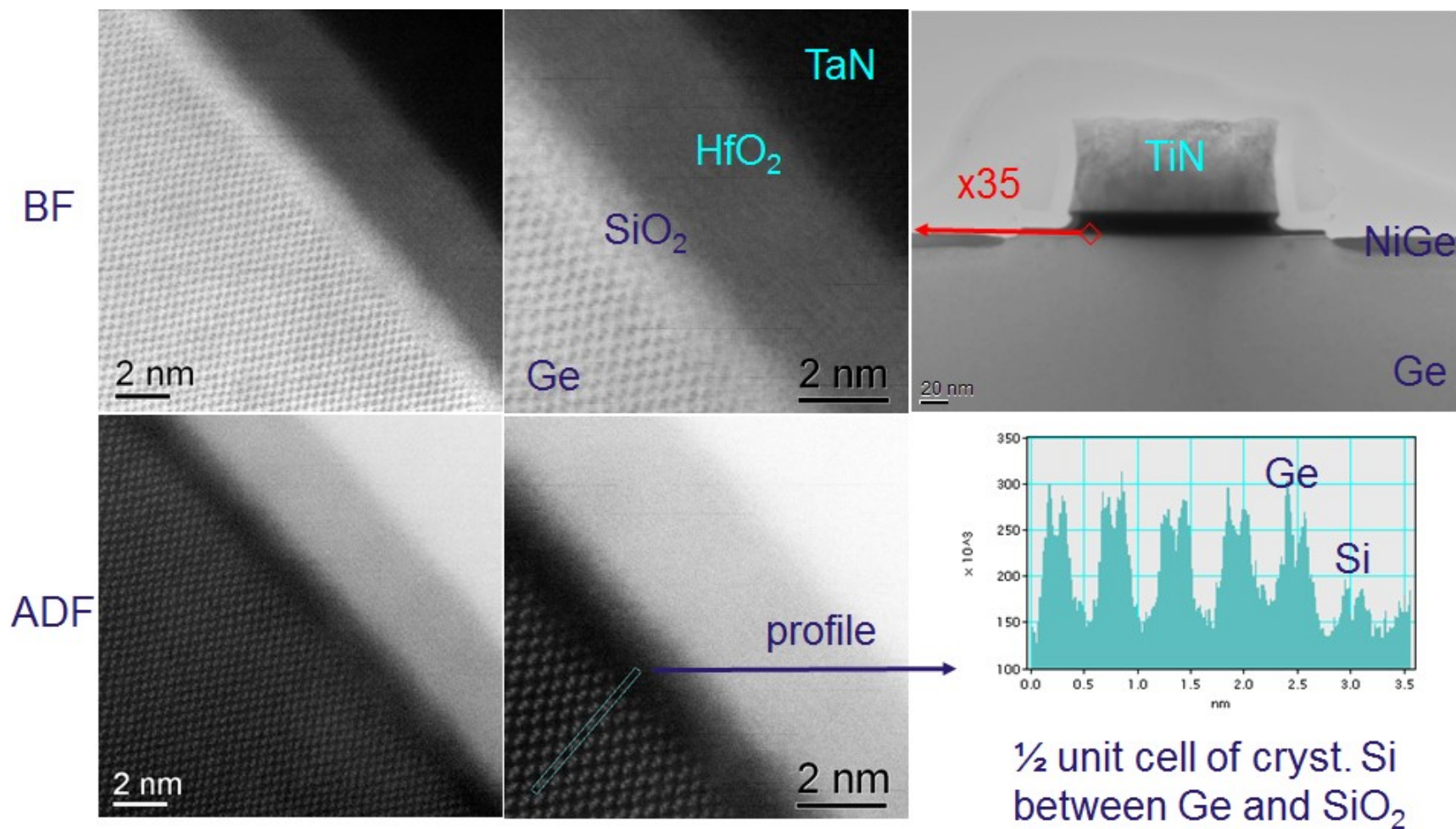
Left: Enhancement type n-MOSFET

Bottom Left: cross section

Bottom Right: n-channel for positive gate biases



# MOSFETs at atomic resolution



Annular Dark Field (ADF) and Bright Field (BF) images in a Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope



# MOSFET output characteristic

Capacitance of gate oxide per unit area

$$C_{ox} = \epsilon_{SiO_2} \epsilon_0 / t_{ox}$$

Capacitance of an infinitesimal strip of gate at a distance  $x$  from source contact  $C_{ox} W dx$

Effective voltage here

$$V = V_{GS} - V_{to} - v(x)$$

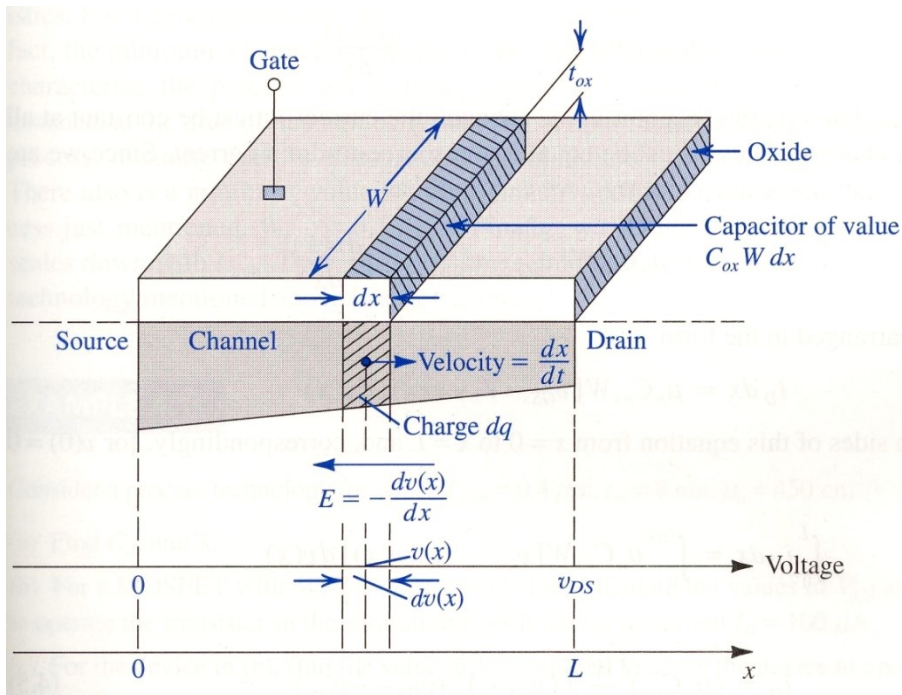
Charge in infinitesimal strip of n-channel:

$$dq = -C_{ox} W dx [V_{GS} - V_{to} - v(x)]$$

Electric field at this point

$$E(x) = -\frac{dv(x)}{dx}$$

This causes the charge  $dq$  to drift towards the drain ...



# MOSFET output characteristic

This causes the charge  $dq$  to drift towards the drain with a velocity given by the mobility of the electrons  $\mu_n$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -\mu_n E(x) = \frac{\mu_n dv(x)}{dx}$$

Resulting drift current

$$i = \frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{dq}{dx} \times \frac{dx}{dt} \\ = -\mu_n C_{ox} W [V_{GS} - V_{to} - v(x)] \frac{dv(x)}{dx}$$

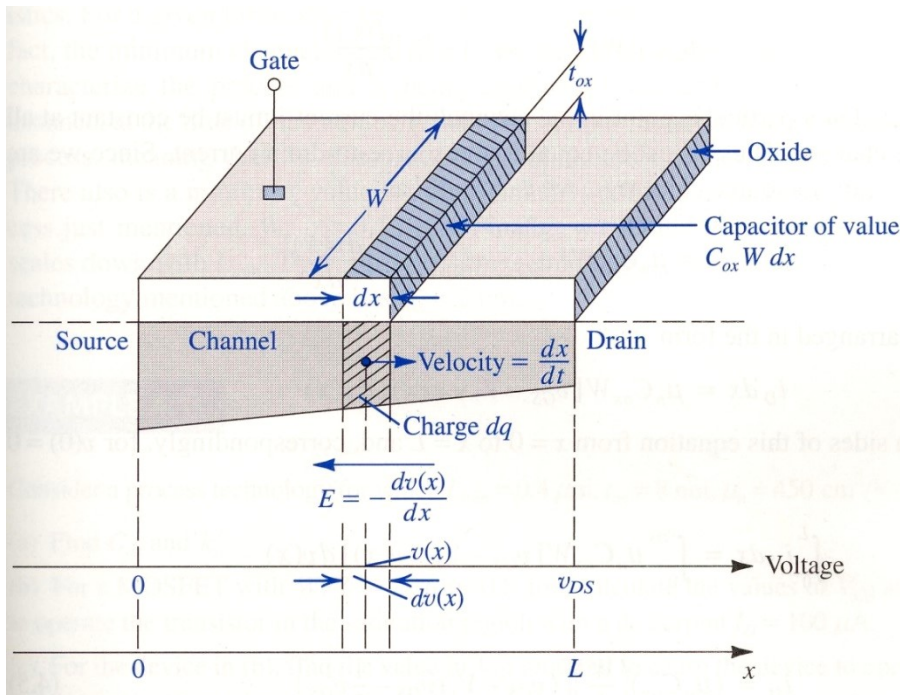
Drain-source current

$$i_D = -i = \int_0^L i_D dx$$

Where  $v(0) = 0$  at  $x = 0$

and  $v(L) = V_{DS}$  at  $x = L$

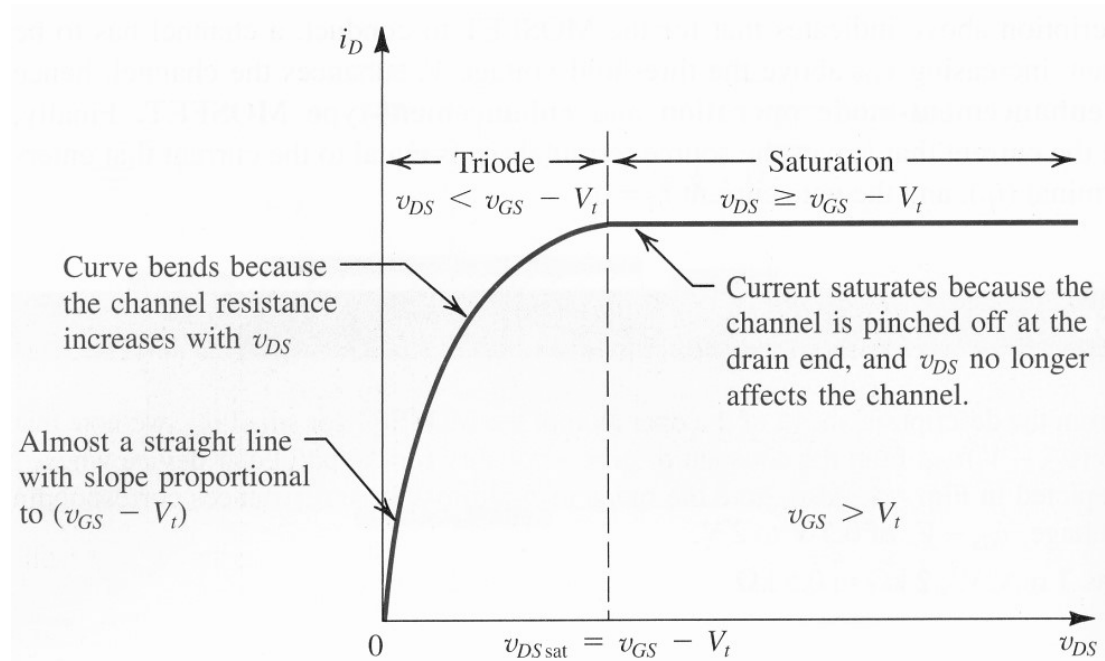
$$i_D = \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) \left[ (V_{GS} - V_{to}) V_{DS} - \frac{1}{2} V_{DS}^2 \right]$$



# MOSFET output characteristic (modes)

General form

$$i_D = \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) \left[ (V_{GS} - V_{to}) V_{DS} - \frac{1}{2} V_{DS}^2 \right]$$



Triode Region:  $V_{DS} < V_{OV}$

$$i_D \approx \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) (V_{GS} - V_{to}) V_{DS}$$

Saturation Region:  $V_{DS} \geq V_{OV}$

$$i_D \approx \frac{1}{2} \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) (V_{GS} - V_{to})^2$$

Overdrive Voltage  $V_{OV}$

# Derivation of MOSFET transconductance

In the saturation region

$$i_D \approx \frac{1}{2} \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) (V_{GS} - V_{to})^2$$

Differentiating yields transconductance

$$g_m = \frac{di_D}{dV_{GS}} = \mu_n C_{ox} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) (V_{GS} - V_{to}) = \frac{2i_D}{V_{OV}}$$

Is lower than for BJTs, as  $i_D$  is usually up to a few Amps,

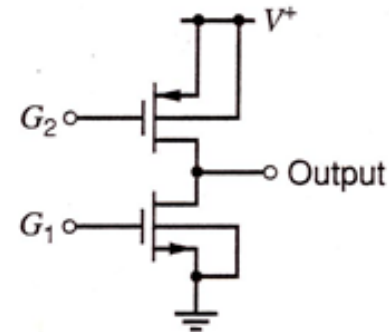
whilst  $V_{OV} = V_{GS} - V_{to} = 0.2 - 0.5V$

Hence use the ratio  $\frac{i_D}{V_{OV}}$  as an operation design parameter

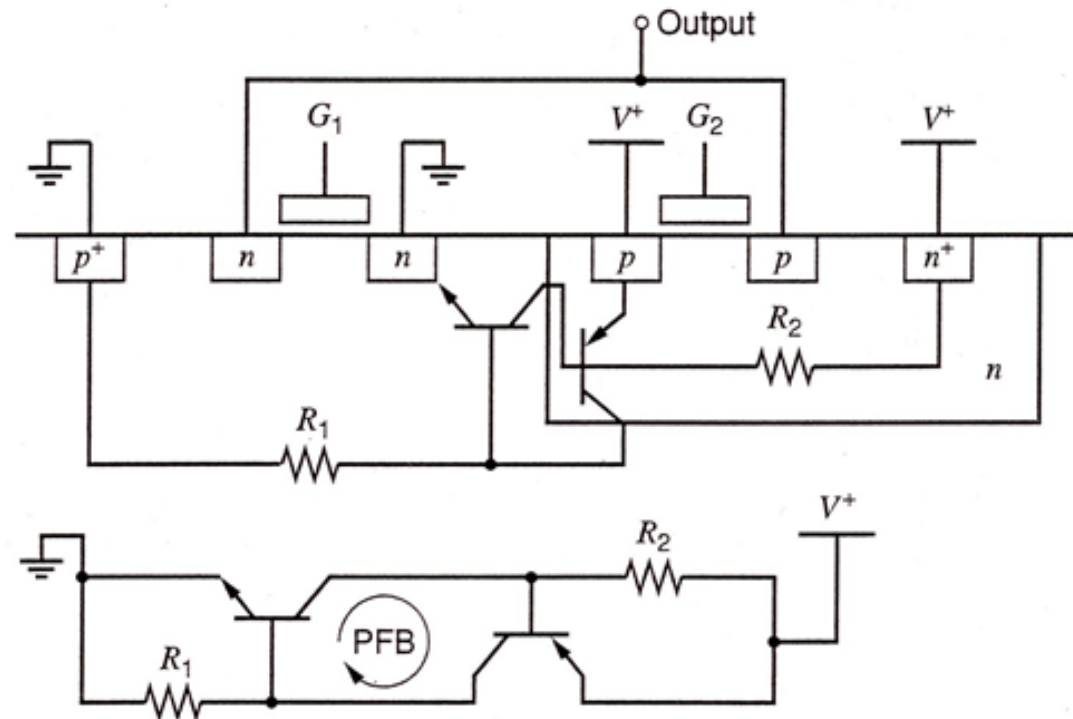


# Latchup in CMOS technology

typical n-channel and p-channel MOSFET device pair involves several pn-junctions to implement (e.g. as inverter)



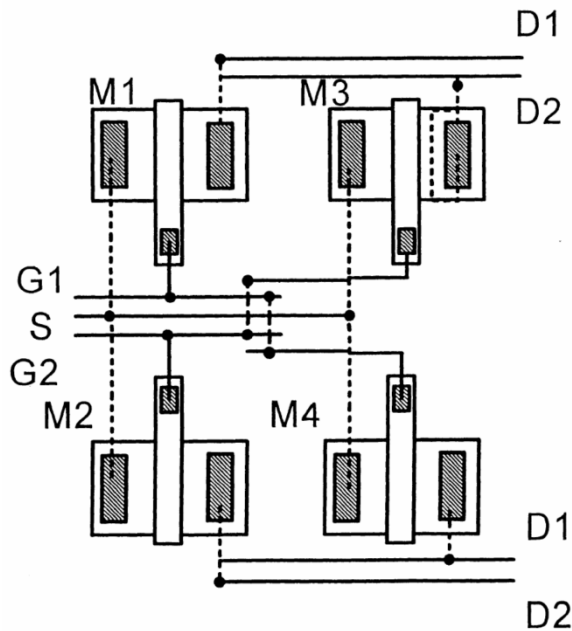
formation of two parasitic BJTs by the n-well MOSFETs, a lateral npn and a vertical pnp BJT



**positive feedback** occurs if the BJTs enter the active region, have  $\beta > 1$  and start to conduct. This can destroy the circuit.

# Example of a typical MOSFET circuit: centroid layout

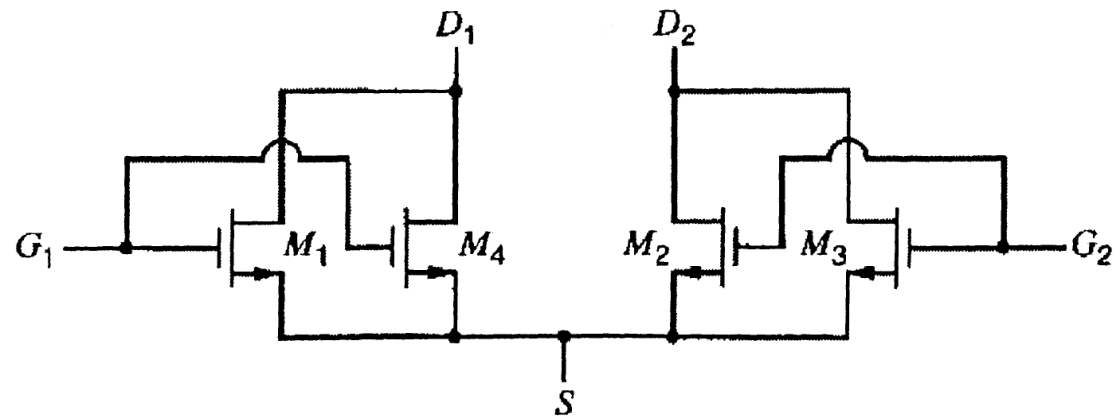
The circuit is a differential amplifier, as the source electrodes are connected to a common current source and the diff. signals are fed into opposite base electrodes.



**Problem:** diff. amplifiers are very sensitive to any mismatch between the two signal paths, which would increase the common-mode and decrease the diff. mode signal

**Solution:** replace single transistors by pairs of transistors at opposite positions on the substrate to eliminate linear process gradients, such as variations of  $t_{ox}$ , that can be decomposed into x- and y- components.

**Disadvantage:** longer lines for cross-connection



# Body or Substrate effect in MOSFETs

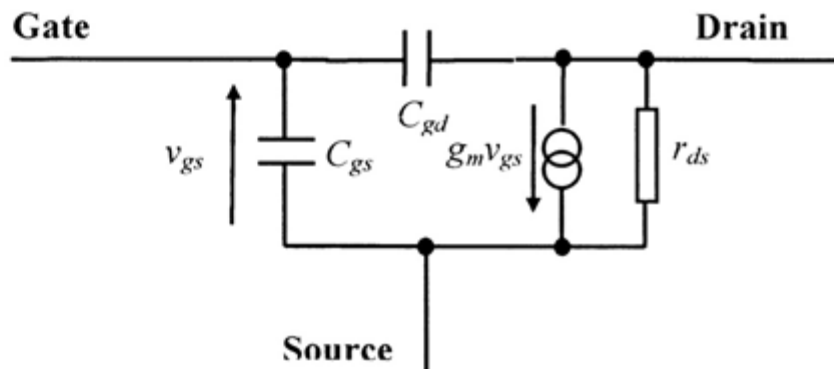
problem: substrate acts as 4<sup>th</sup> terminal (called body) which results in another pn-junction between the induced channel and the substrate

substrate is usually common to many MOSFETs within a device and connected to most negative [positive] supply voltage in NMOS [PMOS], hence resulting reverse bias  $V_{SB}$  between source and body (in NMOS)

This will affect device operation by widening the depletion region and reducing the channel depth, so that  $V_{GS}$  has to be increased to maintain constant operation conditions and keep  $i_D$  constant.



# Small signal circuit model of a MOSFET



NB: Occasionally, you may also see a substrate on a MOSFET small signal circuit diagram as the substrate can act like an extra gate. Usually the substrate is connected to  $-V_{dd}$ . This needs to be taken into account only if there is ripple on  $V_{dd}$ .

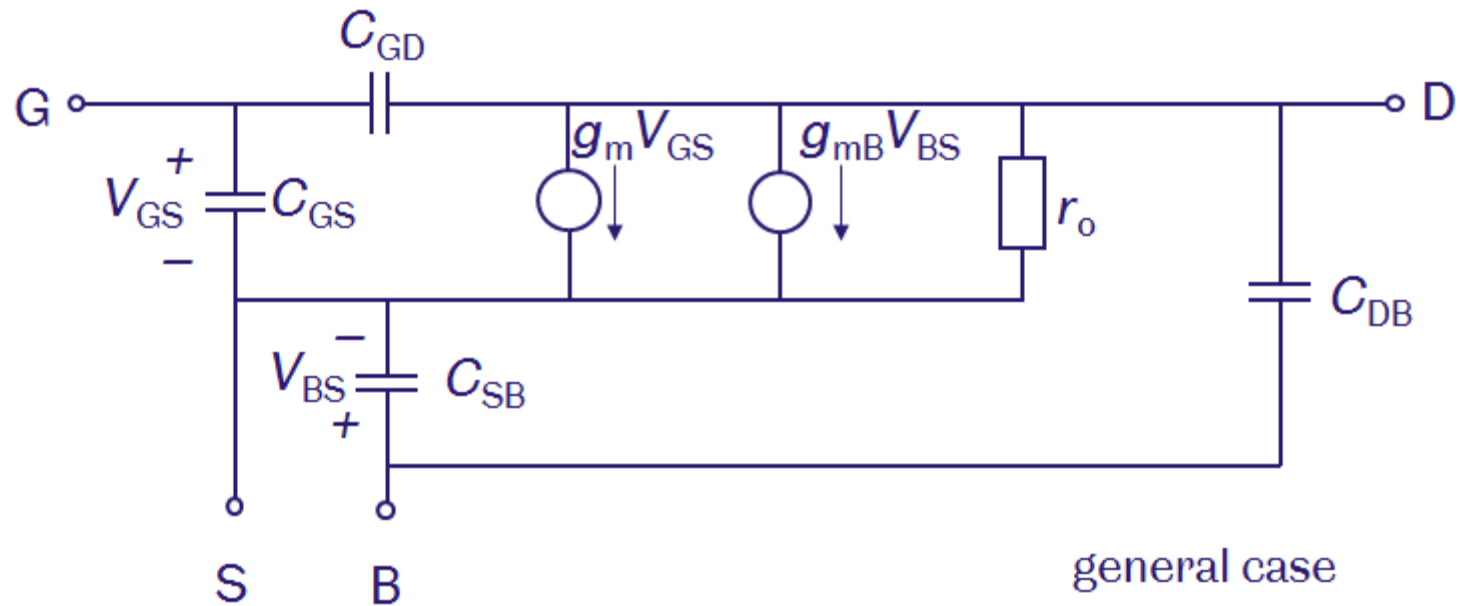
## symbol

## meaning

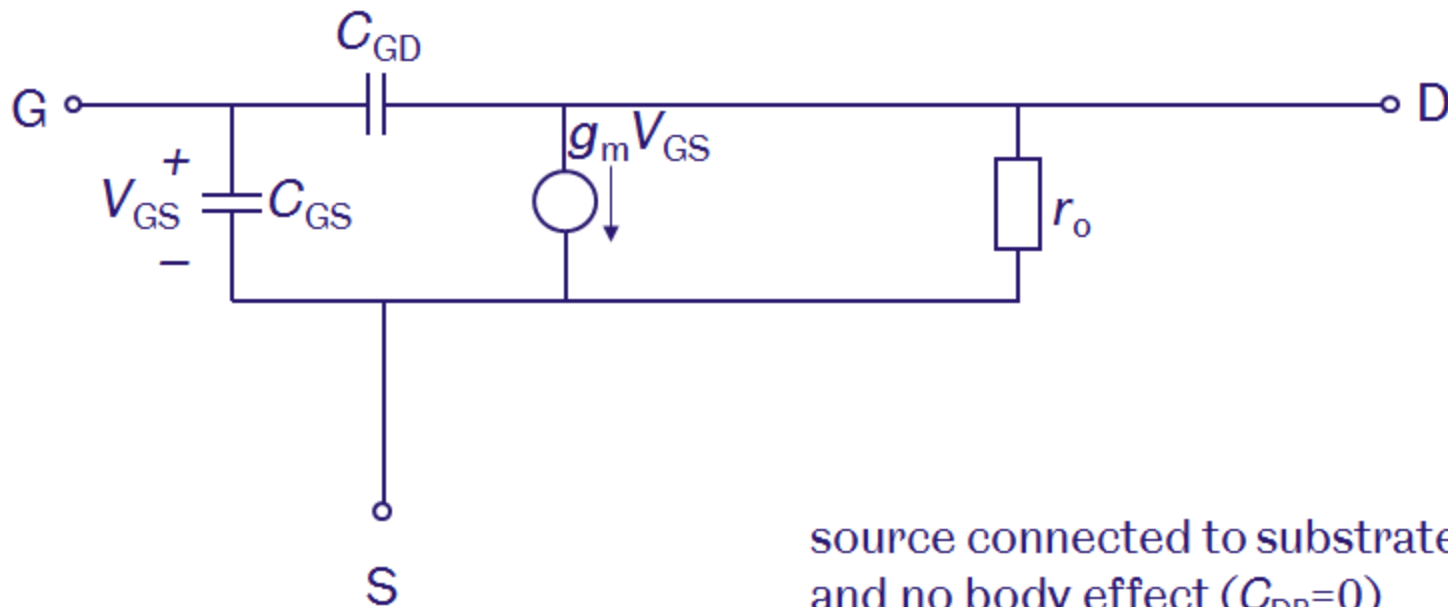
$C_{gs}$	capacitance between gate and source contact
$C_{gd}$	capacitance between gate and drain contact
$V_{gs}$	voltage between gate and source
$V_{thresh}$	threshold voltage that must be applied to the gate-source connection to create a conducting channel (enhancement mode MOSFET), typically a few volts
$r_{ds}$	apparent resistance of the conducting channel between source and drain. As $V_{ds}$ is increased above $V_{thresh}$ the conducting channel changes shape (shortens) and $I_d$ then depends on $V_{ds}$ in the saturation region ( $V_{ds} > V_{gs} - V_{thresh}$ = 'overdrive voltage').
$I_d$	<b>drain current:</b> $I_d = \frac{1}{2} \mu C_{ox} W/L (V_{gs} - V_{thresh})^2 (1 + \lambda V_{ds})$ , if $V_{ds} > V_{gs} - V_{thresh} > 0$ where $\mu$ is charge-carrier mobility, $C_{ox}$ the gate oxide capacitance per unit area, $W$ the gate width, $L$ the gate length and $\lambda$ the channel-length modulation parameter
$g_m$	<b>transconductance</b> of the MOSFET device: $g_m = 2 I_d / (V_{gs} - V_{thresh})$
$f_t$	<b>transition frequency:</b> $f_t \approx g_m / (2\pi C_{gs})$

# Gate capacitance and high frequency behaviour

Hybrid- $\pi$  model for small high-frequency signals of MOSFET



## Hybrid- $\pi$ model for small high-frequency signals of MOSFET



inject test current at gate:  $i_i = j\omega(C_{GS} + C_{GD})V_{GS}$

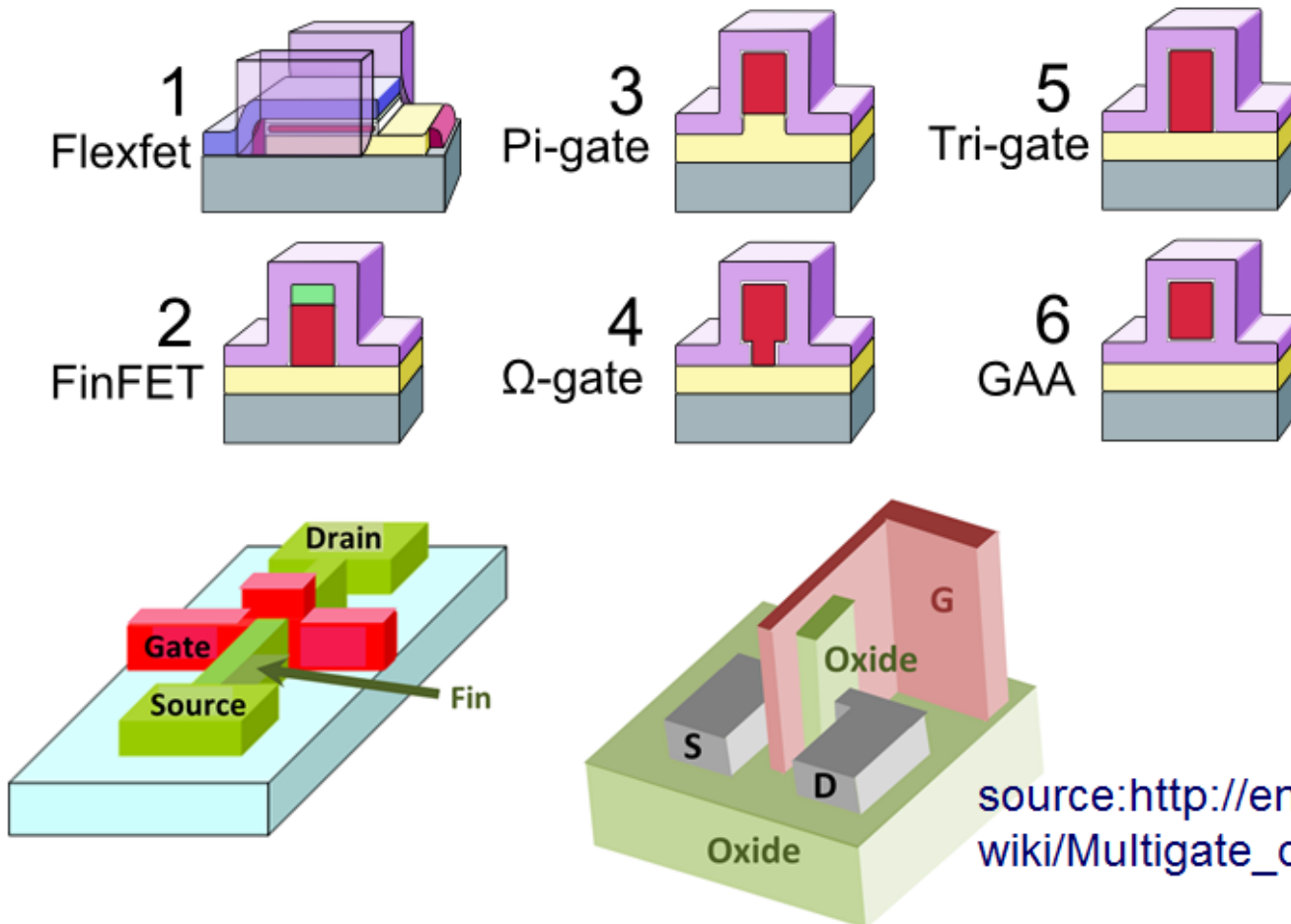
output current at drain:  $i_o = g_m V_{GS} - j\omega C_{GD} V_{GS} \approx g_m V_{GS}$

short-circuit current gain:  $i_o/i_i \approx g_m/[j\omega(C_{GS} + C_{GD})]$

unity gain at frequency  $f_T = g_m/[2\pi(C_{GS} + C_{GD})] = i_D/[\pi V_{ov}(C_{GS} + C_{GD})]$

# Multigate MOSFET devices

basic idea: wrap channel by gate extension in 3D to get better electrical control and lower leakage current; presently at 16nm gate length  
problem: non-planar design is more difficult to make



source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multigate\\_device](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multigate_device)