

# MODELING OF IDEALITY FACTOR VALUE IN $n^+p-p^+$ -Si STRUCTURE

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(Received 25 August 2020; in final form 19 October 2020; accepted 22 October 2020; published online 01 December 2020)

This paper presents the results of computer simulation of the ideality factor of silicon  $n^+p-p^+$  structure with iron contamination. The Solar Cells Capacitance Simulator (SCAPS) was the tool used for numerical simulation of these devices. The iron concentration range of  $10^{10} - 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , the acceptor doping level range of  $10^{15} - 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , the temperature range of 290 – 340 K, and the base thickness range of 150 – 240  $\mu\text{m}$  were used in the investigation. The double diode model was used to extract the ideality factor. The following cases were considered: (i) uniformly distributed lone interstitial iron atoms; (ii) coexistence of non-uniformly distributed  $\text{Fe}_i$  and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$ . It has been shown that the ideality factor value is determined by a hole occurring on the  $\text{Fe}_i$  level, a trap location, and an intrinsic recombination contribution. The increase in the base thickness leads to a decrease in  $n$  value. The sign of change in the ideality factor after  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  dissociation depends on temperature, doping level, and iron concentration.

**Key words:** ideality factor, silicon,  $n^+p-p^+$  structure, SCAPS, iron concentration.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30970/jps.24.4701>

## I. INTRODUCTION

In literature, there are several models that describe the current–voltage ( $I - V$ ) characteristics of the solar cells (SCs). These models contain some parameters which reflect the processes within the structures and are related to the main characteristics of the photovoltaic conversion. So the single diode model with three parameters has been used to represent the SC static characteristic because of simplicity:

$$I = I_0 \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{qV}{nkT} \right) - 1 \right] - I_{\text{ph}}, \quad (1)$$

where  $I_0$  is the saturation current,  $n$  is the diode ideality factor,  $I_{\text{ph}}$  is the total current generated by a solar cell. The ideality factor value indicates a defect related recombination and directly determines open-circuit magnitude:

$$V_{\text{oc}} = \frac{nkT}{q} \ln \left( \frac{I_{\text{ph}}}{I_0} + 1 \right). \quad (2)$$

Equation (1) does not take into account a leakage current and a series of losses of load current. Besides, the widely used double diode model is developed by considering the effect of the recombination current loss in the depletion region [1–3]:

$$I = I_{01} \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{q(V - R_s I)}{kT} \right) - 1 \right] + I_{02} \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{q(V - R_s I)}{nkT} \right) - 1 \right] + \frac{V - R_s I}{R_{\text{sh}}} - I_{\text{ph}}, \quad (3)$$

where the first term is closely related to the recombination in the quasi-neutral region, the second term describes the overall space charge region (SCR) recombination,  $R_s$  and  $R_{\text{sh}}$  are the series and shunt resistance,

respectively. In this case the relationship between the ideality factor and SC characteristics is more complicated. Some examples of the relationship between  $n$  and open-circuit voltage and the fill factor in the two-diode model can be found in [4]. Typically, the value of the ideality factor ranges from 1 to 2 for real devices and depends on ambient conditions and recombination center parameters, including the concentration of traps [5–9]. This makes the ideality factor an important parameter that can be used to describe the electrical behavior of photovoltaic devices and characterize the recombination in SCs [10].

A major obstacle to the development of such a convenient and express method is the multiparameter relationship between the  $n$  value and the concentration of recombination centers. This paper attempts to resolve these difficulties by the simulation of  $I - V$  characteristic of silicon solar cells, the determination of ideality factor, and the study of  $n$  value depending on simulation parameters. In contrast to the previous paper [11], in this case the  $n^+p-p^+$ -structure, which is closer to the real SC, is under consideration. Additionally, the base thickness is known [12, 13] to affect SC efficiency; therefore, the paper considers the influence of this parameter on the ideality factor value.

The paper focuses on the case when the main recombination centers are the iron related defects. On the one hand, iron atoms are among the most common as well as the most harmful impurities in a silicon solar cell. On the other hand, the  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  pairs can be readily dissociated by illumination [13]; the association reaction can take place when exposed in darkness for ten minutes [14]. Such a change in the recombination center state should lead to a change in an ideality factor value, which is easy to obtain experimentally and to use for the SC characterization. Therefore, the paper also pays attention to dependencies of  $n$  value change.



## II. SIMULATION DETAILS

The calculation presented here uses  $n^+ - p - p^+$  structure shown in inset in Fig. 1. Its main parts are the emitter layer with thickness  $d_n$ , the base with the hole conductivity and thickness  $d_p$  and the  $p^+$  layer with thickness  $d_{BSF}$  intended for the back surface field (BSF) creation. BSF-layer is designed to increase the photovoltaic converter efficiency by reducing the losses concerned with the surface recombination and such structure is widely used for both manufacturing of real solar cells and modeling [15–17].

The material of all layers was assumed to be monocrystalline silicon. The temperature dependencies of the bandgap were calculated using the Pässler equations [18]. The bandgap narrowing, thermal carrier velocities, and free carrier effective mass were taken from Yan and Cuevas [19], Green [20], and O'Mara *et al.* [21], respectively. Data from Couderc *et al.* [22] were used to evaluate intrinsic carrier density and density of states effective masses. The temperature dependencies carrier mobilities were described by Klaassen's theory [23, 24].

Uniform doping with phosphorus (the emitter layer, concentration  $N_D$ ) and boron (base and BSF-layer, concentrations  $N_A$  and  $N_{BSF}$ , respectively) was assumed.

The following recombination processes were taken into account: i) the outside surface recombination with electron and hole velocities  $10^3$  cm/s; ii) the intrinsic recombination (radiative band-to-band and Auger with coefficients, which depend on temperature and doping level according to Nguyen *et al.* [25] and Altermatt *et al.* [26]); iii) the Shockley–Read–Hall (SRH) recombination.

In the last case, as the base and BSF-layer uniform contaminant, iron is assumed to be in concentration  $N_{Fe}$ . It is well known that an iron atom is located in the lone interstitial lattice position in silicon ( $Fe_i$ ) or interacts with ionized acceptors and combines into a  $Fe_iB_s$  pair. The two cases were under consideration. In the first one, uniformly distributed  $Fe_i$  with concentration  $N_{Fe}$  was assumed. This happens under constant illumination or immediately after its termination. The temperature independent donor level  $E_{Fe_i} = E_V + 0.394$  eV [27–29] and electron  $\sigma_{n,Fe} = 3.47 \times 10^{-15} T^{-1.48}$  m<sup>2</sup> and hole  $\sigma_{p,Fe} = 4.54 \times 10^{-20} \exp(-\frac{0.05}{kT})$  m<sup>2</sup> capture cross-sections [30, 31] are associated with  $Fe_i$ . In the second one,  $Fe_i$  and  $Fe_iB_s$  coexisted. They were non-uniformly distributed through the base and BSF-layer. More details are presented elsewhere [11] and representative examples of the calculation are shown in Fig. 2. This happens under dark equilibrium condition. The  $Fe_iB_s$  is amphoteric defect and donor level  $E_{Fe_iB_s}^D = E_V + 0.10$  eV,  $\sigma_{n,Fe_iB_s}^D = 4 \times 10^{-17}$  m<sup>2</sup>,  $\sigma_{p,Fe_iB_s}^D = 2 \times 10^{-18}$  m<sup>2</sup> and acceptor level  $E_{Fe_iB_s}^A = E_C - 0.26$  eV,  $\sigma_{n,Fe_iB_s}^A = 5.1 \times 10^{-13} T^{-2.5}$  m<sup>2</sup>,  $\sigma_{p,Fe_iB_s}^A = 3.32 \times 10^{-14} \exp(-\frac{0.262}{kT})$  m<sup>2</sup> [14, 27, 28, 30–32] are used in the simulation.

The dark forward dark  $I - V$  characteristics were generated by one-dimensional code SCAPS 3.3.08 [33, 34] over a voltage range up to 0.45 V with step 0.01 V. This software is widely applied in modeling various

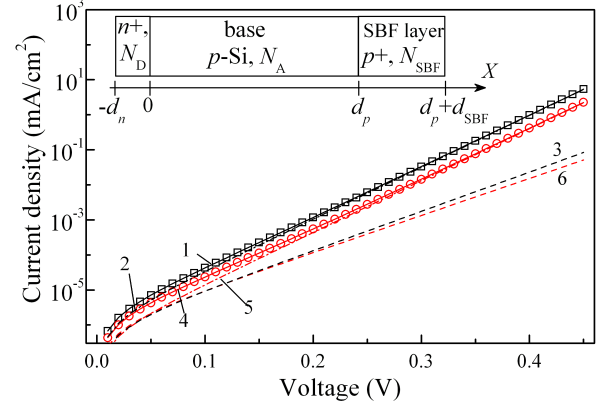


Fig. 1. Simulated  $I - V$  characteristic (marks) and its fitting by Eq. (4) (solid lines 1 and 4). The dashed (3, 6) and dotted-dashed (2, 5) lines represent the diffusion and recombination currents, respectively.  $N_A = 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $N_{Fe} = 10^{13}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $T = 340$  K,  $d_p = 180$   $\mu$ m. The results for lone unpaired  $Fe_i$  (circles, curves 4–6, red) as well as for  $Fe_iB_s$  and  $Fe_i$  coexistence (squares, curves 1–3, black) are presented.

Inset: Structures, which are used in the simulation

solar cells [15, 16, 35–39], silicon based devices including [15, 16, 39]. The used parameters are listed in Table 1. Thus, the varied parameters were the boron concentrations in the base, iron concentration, base thickness and temperature. Taking into account two defect configuration, 15048 structures were simulated. The examples of  $I - V$  curve are shown in Fig. 1.

Parameter	Range	Number of values
$d_n$ , $\mu$ m	0.5	1
$d_p$ , $\mu$ m	150 – 240	4
$d_{BSF}$ , $\mu$ m	1	1
$N_D$ , cm <sup>-3</sup>	$10^{19}$	1
$N_A$ , cm <sup>-3</sup>	$10^{15} - 10^{17}$	9
$N_{BSF}$ , cm <sup>-3</sup>	$5 \cdot 10^{18}$	1
$N_{Fe}$ , cm <sup>-3</sup>	$10^{10} - 10^{13}$	19
$T$ , K	290 – 340	11

Table 1

The simulated  $I - V$  characteristics were fitted by the following equation:

$$I = I_{01} \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{qV}{kT} \right) - 1 \right] + I_{02} \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{qV}{nkT} \right) - 1 \right]. \quad (4)$$

Equation (4) corresponds to the dark double diode model with both series and shunt resistances neglected. The first diode represents the “ideal” diode, describing the so-called diffusion current characterized by the saturation current  $I_{01}$ , and the second diode is the so-called

recombination current, characterized by the saturation current  $I_{02}$  and ideality factor  $n$  [3].  $n$ ,  $I_{01}$ , and  $I_{02}$  were taken as fitting parameters and the meta-heuristic method IJAVA [40] was used. The representative results of the fitting are shown in Fig. 1 as well.

In the case of lone unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  the following values were calculated:  $n_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{srh}}$  is the ideality factor if the SRH recombination is taken into account only;  $n_{\text{Fe}}$  is the

ideality factor if both the SRH recombination and the intrinsic recombination are allowed;  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{srh}} = n_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{srh}} - n_{\text{Fe}}$  characterizes the influence of the intrinsic recombination on the ideality factor value. In the case of  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence, the  $n_{\text{FeB}}^{\text{srh}}$ ,  $n_{\text{FeB}}$ ,  $\delta n_{\text{FeB}}^{\text{srh}} = n_{\text{FeB}}^{\text{srh}} - n_{\text{FeB}}$  were calculated (indices had the same meaning). Besides, the change of the ideality factor after  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  association  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}} = n_{\text{Fe}} - n_{\text{FeB}}$  was calculated as well.

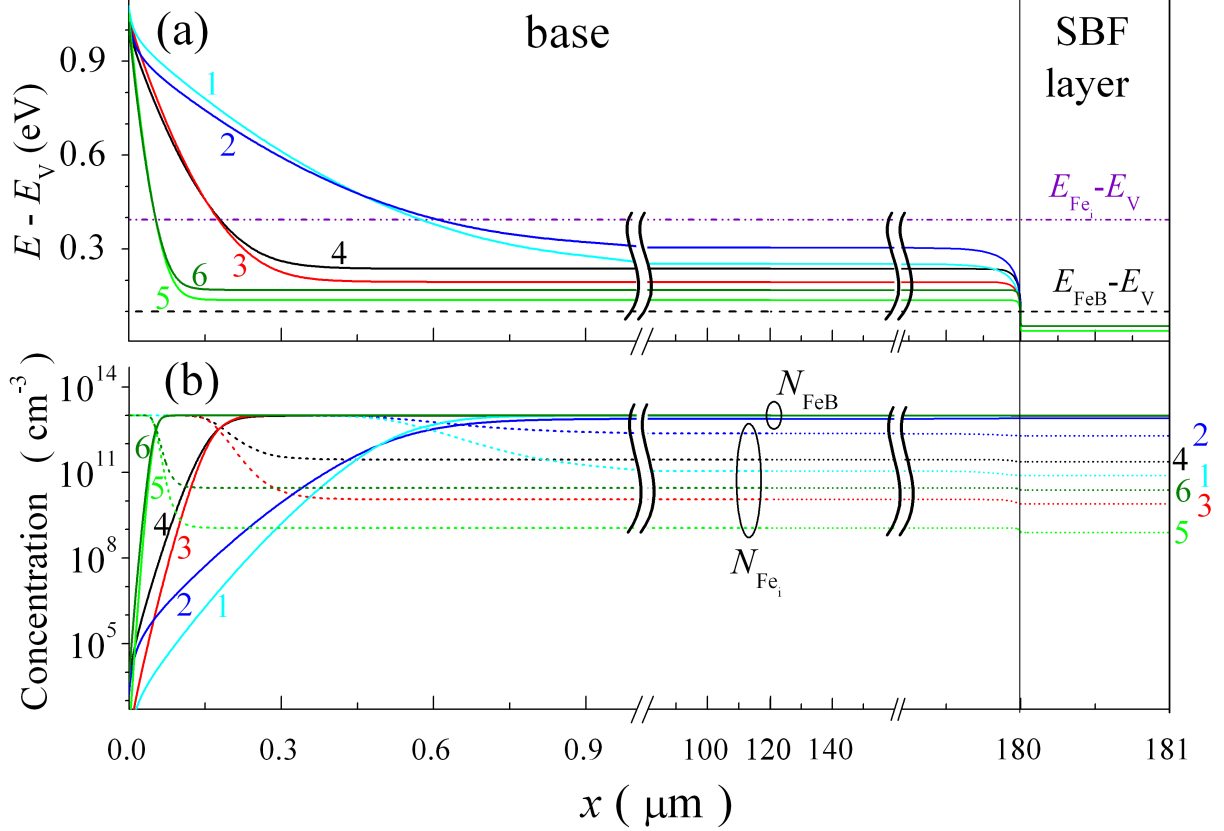


Fig. 2. (Color online). The calculated base and SBF-layer distribution of the Fermi level position (a, solid lines), unpaired interstitial iron concentration (b, dotted lines), and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  pair concentration (b, solid lines) at  $V = 0$ .  $N_A$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{15}$  (curves 1, 2),  $10^{16}$  (3, 4),  $10^{17}$  (5, 6);  $T$ , K: 290 (1, 3, 5), 340 (2, 4, 6);  $N_{\text{Fe}} = 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ;  $d_p = 180 \mu\text{m}$ . The positions of  $\text{Fe}_i$  donor level (dotted-dashed line) and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  donor level (dashed line) are shown in the panel (a) as well

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures. 3–5 show the typical simulated dependencies of the ideality factor value on temperature and both iron and boron concentrations. Note that the  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{srh}}$  surfaces (number 5, orange) are not shown if they practically coincide with the  $\delta n_{\text{FeB}}^{\text{srh}}$  surfaces (4, yellow).

One should pay attention to Fig. 2 before a discussion of the obtained dependencies. Firstly, the presented data testify to the primary role of unpaired interstitial iron in recombination even in the case of  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence. In fact, the donor  $E_{\text{FeB}}^D$  level is below the Fermi level and, therefore, the probability of capturing of a non-equilibrium electron is small. Additionally, the ideality factor value above all associated with a SCR recombination and the  $\text{Fe}_i$  concentration exceeds the  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  concentration in the 2/3 thickness of the space

charge region. And it is confirmed by the similarity between the dependencies of  $n_{\text{FeB}}$  (surfaces 1, red) and  $n_{\text{Fe}}$  (surfaces 2, cyan) in Figs. 3–5. Secondly, the unpaired iron atom concentration can be big enough in the case of  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence as well and it increases with the temperature rise and a decrease in the doping level. For example, the  $\text{Fe}_i$  concentration in the quasi-neutral region of the base reaches 23 (or 3) percent of  $N_{\text{Fe}}$  at  $T = 340 \text{ K}$  and  $N_A = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (or  $10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ). That is, under these conditions, the concentration of unpaired iron atoms in the dark and  $N_{\text{Fe}} = 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  is larger than the one under illumination and  $N_{\text{Fe}} = 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . Finally, as only ionized iron  $\text{Fe}_i^+$  (unlike to neutral iron  $\text{Fe}_i^0$ ) actively takes part in the SRH recombination, these processes efficiently occur at  $x \geq 0.6W_p$  (where  $W_p$  is the SCR depth). And the area of processes, which determines the ideality factor value, shifts away from the  $p - n$  junction with an increase in the doping level.

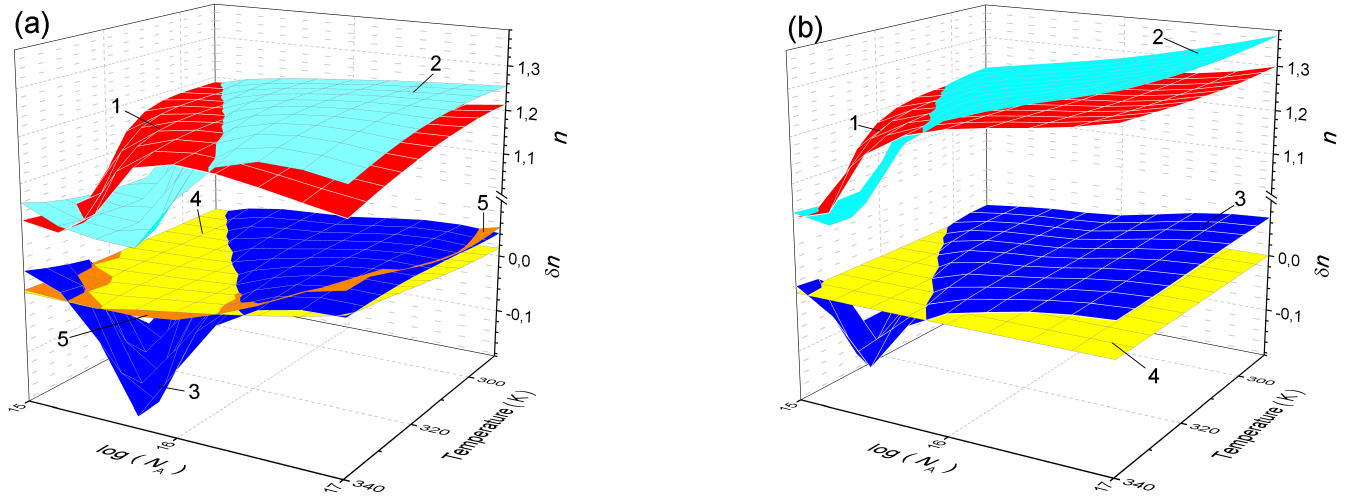


Fig. 3. (Color online). Ideality factor and its change as a function of the temperature and acceptor (boron) concentration.  $N_{Fe}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{10}$  (a),  $10^{13}$  (b);  $d_p = 240 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . Surface 1 (red) reflects the  $n_{FeB}$  dependence, 2 (cyan) —  $n_{Fe}$ , 3 (blue) —  $\delta n_{Fe-FeB}$ , 4 (yellow) —  $\delta n_{FeB}^{srh}$ , 5 (orange) —  $\delta n_{Fe}^{srh}$

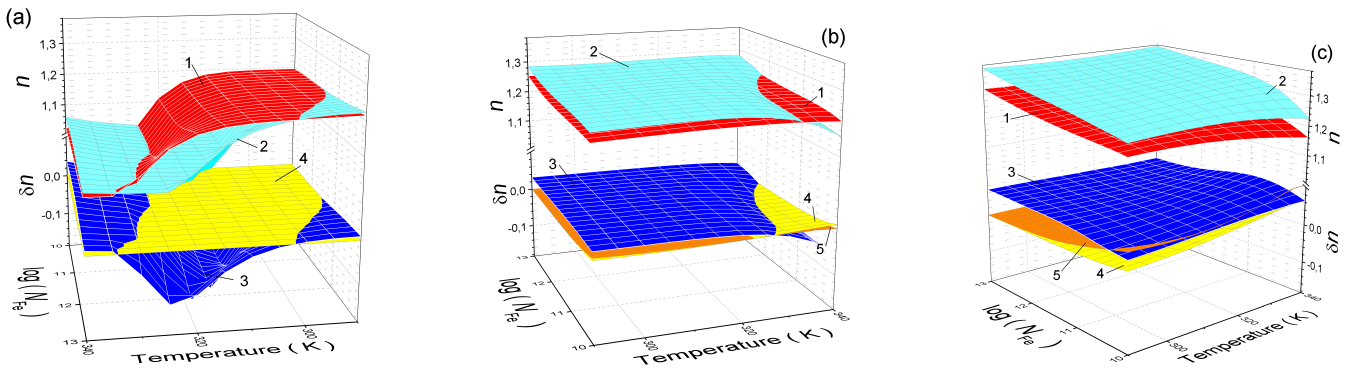


Fig. 4. (Color online). Ideality factor and its change as a function of the temperature and iron concentration.  $N_A$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{15}$  (a),  $10^{16}$  (b),  $10^{17}$  (c);  $d_p = 150 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . Surface numbers are the same as in Fig. 3

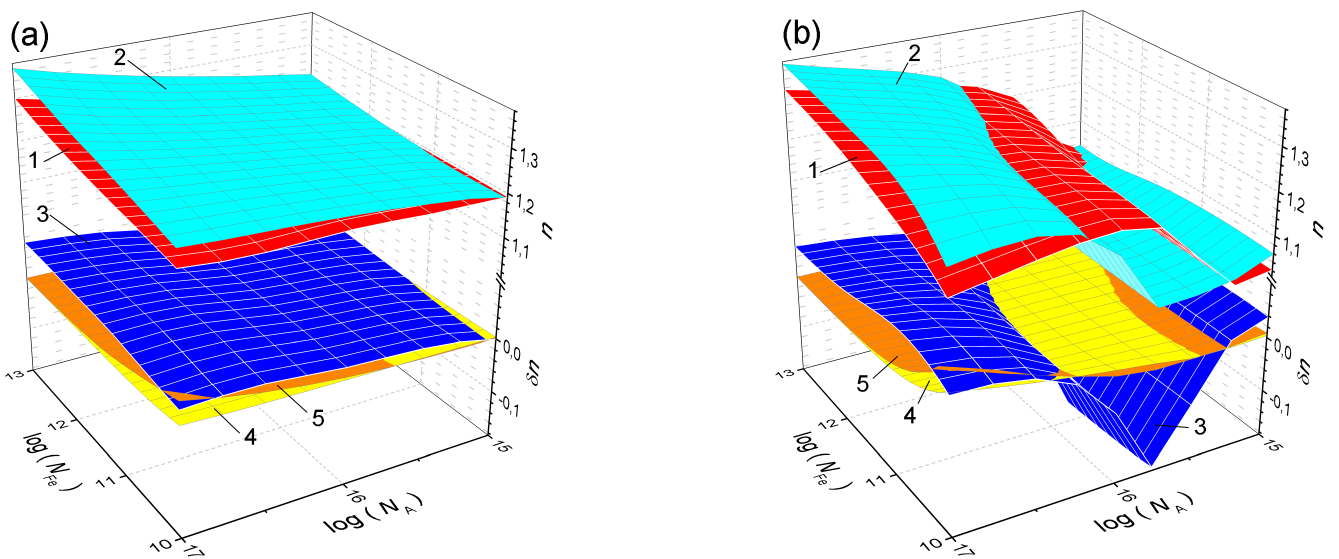


Fig. 5. (Color online). Ideality factor and its change as a function of the acceptor (boron) concentration and iron concentration.  $T$ , K: 290 (a), 340 (b);  $d_p = 180 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . Surface numbers are the same to Fig. 3

Several determinants must be taken into account when analyzing the dependencies of the ideality factor on temperature and the concentration of boron. Namely:

i) the occurrence of a hole on the  $\text{Fe}_i$  level, which determines the recombination efficiency. Accordingly to the Fermi–Dirac statistics, the probability of a hole occupation in a non-degenerate  $p$ -type semiconductor with full acceptor depletion can be expressed as

$$f_p = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N_V(T)}{N_A} \exp\left(\frac{E_V - E_{\text{Fe}_i}}{kT}\right)}. \quad (5)$$

It has been shown earlier [4] that the  $f_p(T, N_A)$  dependence is generally similar to the observed dependence of the ideality factor dependence. In particular, if  $f_p$  is close to one (high  $N_A$  value and low temperature), this dependence changes slowly,  $n$  does not depend on temperature and slowly rises with an increase in the doping level — see Figs. 4(b),(c); 5.(a). If  $N_A$  decreases or (and)  $T$  increases, the level is filled with an electron in a sufficiently narrow range of arguments, the SRH recombination ceases, and the ideality factor value sharply reduces — Figs. 3, 4(a); 5(b).

ii) the balance of the defect related recombination and the intrinsic recombination. SRH recombination generally causes an increase in the ideality factor value; if the defect related recombination is dominant, the value often reported in publications is  $n = 2$ . The radiative band-to-band and Auger recombinations are enhanced by the increase in both free charge carrier concentration (doping level) and temperature [25, 26]). In this case, the ideality factor reduces and the values  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}}^{\text{srh}}$  and  $\delta n_{\text{FeB}}^{\text{srh}}$  become nonzero. This effect is observed in the corners of surfaces in Figs. 3(a); 4(b),(c); 5.

The change in the impurity iron concentration has almost no effect on the nature of the  $n$  dependence on other parameters. However, the  $N_{\text{Fe}}$  rise is expectedly accompanied by an increase in the ideality factor value (see Figs. 4, 5), which is almost linear with respect to  $\ln(N_{\text{Fe}})$ . An exception is observed only when the level  $\text{Fe}_i$  is filled with an electron ( $n < 1.06$ ). At the same time, the intrinsic recombination has a greater contribution at a low iron concentration and same other parameters; and a sharp decrease in the ideality factor value is observed in the wake of the low impurity concentration. The striking examples are shown in Figs. 4(b),(c).

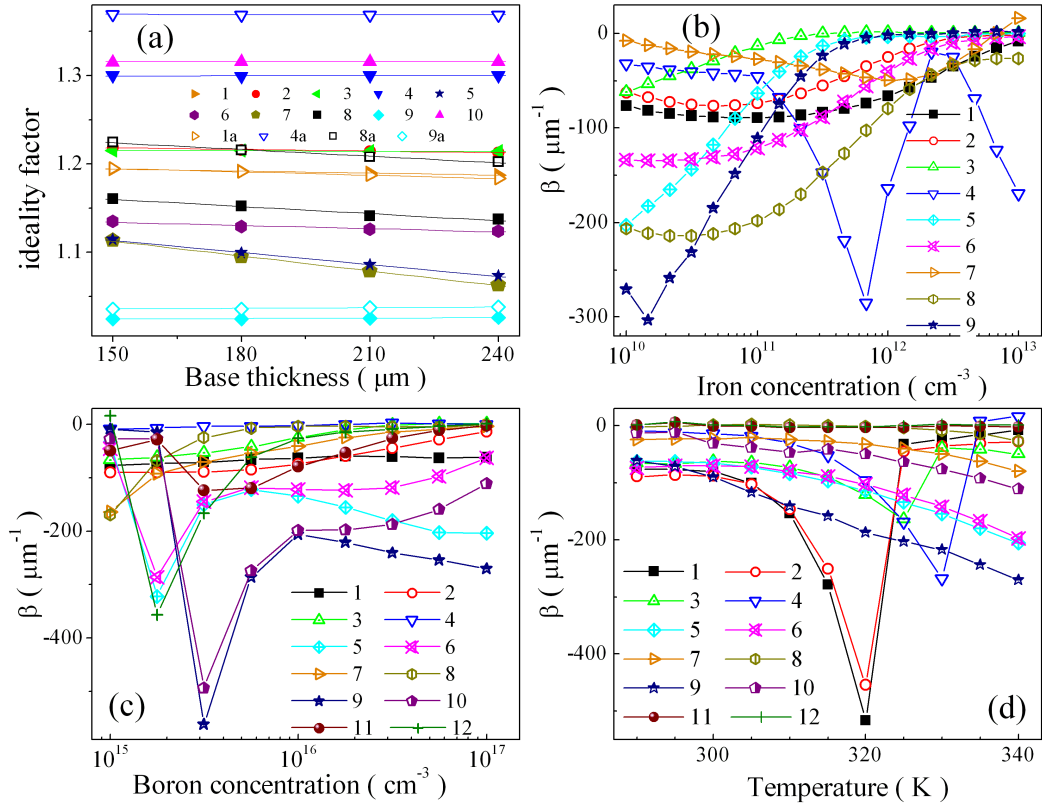


Fig. 6. (a) Typical dependencies of the ideality factor on the base thickness. The results for  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence (curves 1–6, filled marks) as well as for unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  sole (2a, 5a, 6a, empty marks) are presented.  $T$ , K: 290 (1, 2, 2a), 320 (3), 340 (4–6, 5a, 6a);  $N_{\text{Fe}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{10}$  (4, 5, 5a),  $10^{12}$  (3),  $10^{13}$  (1, 2, 2a, 6, 6a);  $N_A$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{15}$  (1, 3, 6, 6a),  $3.162 \cdot 10^{15}$  (4),  $10^{17}$  (2, 2a, 5, 5a). The marks are the simulation result, the lines are fitted curves using Eq. (6). (b) Ideality factor thickness coefficient vs iron concentration.  $T$ , K: 290 (1, 2), 325 (3), 340 (4–6);  $N_A$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{15}$  (4),  $10^{16}$  (1, 5),  $10^{17}$  (2, 3, 6). (c) Ideality factor thickness coefficient vs boron concentration.  $T$ , K: 290 (1, 2), 325 (2–5), 340 (6);  $N_{\text{Fe}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{10}$  (3, 6),  $10^{11}$  (1, 4),  $10^{12}$  (5),  $10^{13}$  (2). (d) Ideality factor thickness coefficient vs temperature.  $N_A$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{15}$  (1, 2),  $10^{16}$  (3, 4),  $10^{17}$  (5, 6).  $N_{\text{Fe}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ :  $10^{10}$  (3, 5),  $10^{12}$  (2, 4, 6). Panels (b)–(d) present results in the case of  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence

Taking into account Eq. (3), one can see that the ideality factor appears in the item connected to the SCR recombination. Therefore, seemingly,  $n$  should not depend on the thickness of the  $n^+-p-p^+$  structure base. However, such a dependence is observed (see Fig. 6(a)) and the ideality factor decreases with an increase in thickness. This is evidence that the  $n$  value is influenced by processes in the quasi-neutral region as well. The ideality factor changes in a similar way in both lone unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence cases and described well by a linear dependence

$$n = n_0 - \beta d_p. \quad (6)$$

where  $\beta$  is the ideality factor thickness coefficient. The maximum effect of thickness is observed at the middle  $1.05 < n < 1.25$  value. Figures. 6(b)–(d) show the dependencies of  $\beta$  on the other simulation parameters. One can see that the  $d_p$  influence on  $n$  generally intensifies with an increase in temperature as well as a decreasing of the concentrations of both boron and iron. The decrease in the relative contribution of SRH recombination due to the electron filling of  $\text{Fe}_i$  level as well as due to the intensification of the intrinsic recombination causes a decrease in the  $\beta$  module. In addition, Fig. 7 shows the dependencies of the electron diffusion length ( $L_n$ ) in the base on the concentration of lone unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$ , calculated by using SCAPS. Apparently, the influence of the base thickness is observed in the  $L_n > d_p$  case only, and this is the reason why  $\beta \approx 0$  at  $n > 1.3$ .

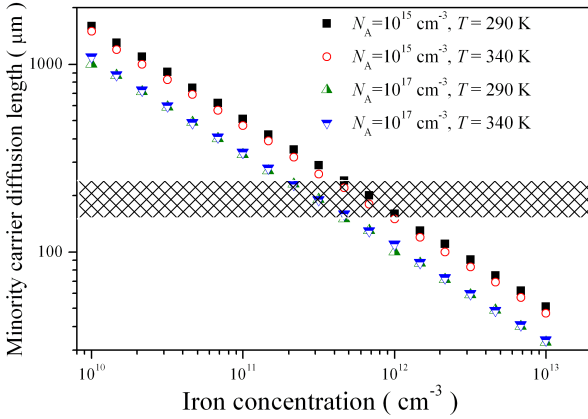


Fig. 7. The calculated dependencies of the electron diffusion length in the structure base in the case of unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  sole. The shaded area represents values of base thickness, were used in the simulation

Also Figs. 3–5 show dependencies of the ideality factor change after the pairing of interstitial iron  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$  — see surfaces 3, blue. Since the association reaction leads to the depression of SRH recombination, it was expected that  $n_{\text{FeB}} < n_{\text{Fe}}$  and  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}} > 0$  at all the parameters values. The examples of such anticipated dependencies are shown in Figs. 4(b),(c) and 5(a). In this case,  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$  increases with an increase in the boron concentration and does not practically depend on temperature and the iron concentration. Exceptions are only observed if the contribution of intrinsic recombination increases and the  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$  decreases: see Fig. 4(b),(c)

at high temperature and low iron concentration or Fig. 5(a) at high doping level and slight concentration of trap.

However, it turned out that the case of  $n_{\text{FeB}} > n_{\text{Fe}}$  is also possible — see Figs. 3, 4(a), 5(b). The regions of negative  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$  value are observed in the vicinity of the ideality factor decrease, which is induced by the occupation of  $\text{Fe}_i$  level. The reason for  $n_{\text{FeB}} > n_{\text{Fe}}$  could be the difference in the Fermi level location in the cases of lone unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence. However, calculations have shown that such difference does not exceed  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  eV and cannot be the cause of the detected effect.

Figure 8 presents the spatial distributions of recombinantly active interstitial iron atoms before and after the pairs formation and transition to the dark equilibrium state. It is evident that the degree of decrease in the  $\text{Fe}_i^+$  concentration depends on the distance to the  $pn$ -junction. In our opinion, the change in the  $N_{\text{Fe}_i^+}$  profile is the reason for the rise of the ideality factor resistance to temperature and doping level in the case of  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence. Note that the effect depends on the total iron concentration: the increase in  $N_{\text{Fe}}$  value leads to the  $n$  decay at a higher temperature (Fig. 4(a)) as well as at a lower boron concentration (Fig. 5(b)).

In turn, the  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$  the value also depends on the iron concentration in the vicinity of  $n_{\text{FeB}} > n_{\text{Fe}}$ . As a result,  $\delta n_{\text{Fe}-\text{FeB}}$ , along with  $n_{\text{Fe}}$  and  $n_{\text{FeB}}$ , can be used to estimate the impurity concentration by the parameters of  $I - V$  characteristic.

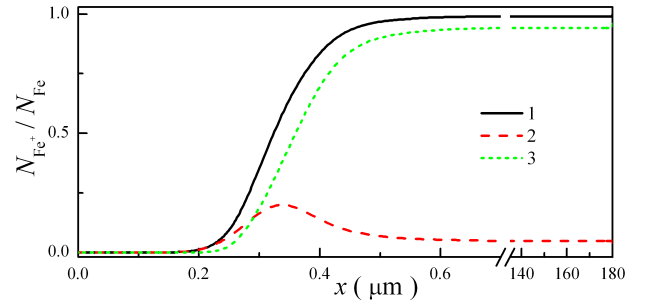


Fig. 8. The distribution of the fraction of positively charged interstitial iron  $N_{\text{Fe}_i^+}$  to the total impurity number  $N_{\text{Fe}}$  in the structure base. Curves 1 and 2 correspond to the cases of lone unpaired  $\text{Fe}_i$  and  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  and  $\text{Fe}_i$  coexistence, respectively. Curve 3 is the difference between 1 and 2.  $T = 330$  K,  $N_A = 3.162 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $d_p = 180 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The diode ideality factor of silicon  $n^+-p-p^+$  structure with iron contamination has been studied via computer simulation. The data used in the simulations were the following. The iron concentration ranged from  $10^{10}$  to  $10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , the acceptor doping level — from  $10^{15}$  to  $10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , the temperature — from 290 to 340 K, and the base thickness — from 150 to 240  $\mu\text{m}$ . It has been shown that the temperature and doping level dependencies of



the ideality factor value are mainly determined by a hole occurring on the  $Fe_i$  level. The  $n$  dependence on iron concentration is a monotonic function. Additionally, not only the concentration of the defect but also its location influences the ideality factor value. The intrinsic recombination causes a decrease in the ideality factor value at a high temperature and doping level as well as at a low iron concentration. It has also been found that the base thickness influences the ideality factor if it exceeds the minority carrier diffusion length. An increase in the base thickness leads to a decrease in  $n$  value. The investigation has revealed that the ideality factor in the  $Fe_iB_s$  and  $Fe_i$  coexistence case can exceed the one in the lone unpaired

red  $Fe_i$  case. The ideality factor change after  $Fe_iB_s$  dissociation can be used for the contaminant concentration evaluation.

## V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was supported by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine by the state budget finance (project 2020.02/0036 "Development of physical base of both acoustically controlled modification and machine learning-oriented characterization for silicon solar cells").

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## МОДЕЛЮВАННЯ ФАКТОРА НЕІДЕАЛЬНОСТІ В $n^+ - p - p^+$ -Si-СТРУКТУРАХ

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У цій роботі подано результати моделювання величини фактора неідеальності кремнієвих  $n^+ - p - p^+$ -структур. При цьому вважалося, що основні рекомбінаційні центри в базі структури пов'язані з домішковими атомами заліза. Для моделювання вольт-амперних характеристик таких структур використано Solar Cells Capacitance Simulator (SCAPS). При цьому додатково враховували температурні залежності параметрів як матеріалу, так і дефектів. Під час розрахунків варіювалися величини рівня легування ( $10^{15} \div 10^{17} \text{ см}^{-3}$  атомів бору) та товщини ( $150 \div 240 \text{ мкм}$ ) бази, температура ( $290 \div 340 \text{ K}$ ) та концентрації домішки заліза ( $10^{10} \div 10^{13} \text{ см}^{-3}$ ). Окремо розглядали випадки, коли всі атоми заліза перебували в міжвузольному положенні  $\text{Fe}_i$  та коли переважна частина з них утворювала пари з легуючою домішкою  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$ . Останній випадок відповідає стану рівноваги за відсутності освітлення і при цьому співвідношення між концентраціями  $\text{Fe}_i$  та  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  визначалося положенням рівня Фермі та температурою. Визначення величини фактора неідеальності ( $n$ ) відбувалося апроксимацією (з використанням метаевристичного методу IJAVA) отриманих вольт-амперних характеристик.

Показано, що навіть за наявності  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  основну роль у формуванні величини  $n$  відіграють процеси рекомбінації за участю рівнів, пов'язаних з  $\text{Fe}_i$ . Залежності  $n$  від температури та рівня легування визначають, насамперед, заселеність рівня  $\text{Fe}_i$ . Коли підсилюється відносний внесок процесів власної рекомбінації (високі температури та рівень легування, низькі концентрації домішки), відбувається зменшення фактора неідеальності. На величину  $n$ , окрім концентрації дефектів, впливає також їх просторове розташування щодо  $p - n$ -переходу. Зі збільшенням товщини бази структури (коли вона перевищує довжину дифузії неосновних носіїв та коли переважає рекомбінація Шоклі-Ріда-Голла) відбувається незначне зменшення фактора неідеальності. Показано, що можуть реалізуватися випадки, коли  $n$  після розпаду  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$  зменшується. Запропоновано, що зміна фактора неідеальності після розпаду  $\text{Fe}_i\text{B}_s$ , поряд з абсолютним значенням  $n$ , може бути використана для оцінки концентрації домішок.

**Ключові слова:** фактор неідеальності, кремній,  $n^+ - p - p^+$ -структура, SCAPS, концентрація заліза.