

**ON Semiconductor**<sup>®</sup>

## **General Overview of GaN Power Devices**

#### **Peter Moens**



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# Why are you here today?

- Power semiconductors are a hot topic
- Power devices=solid state physics
  - 1D limit for a vertical transistor
  - Resurf effect (2D)
- **Break**  $Ron = \frac{2.V_{bd}}{E_c^2.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$ • Non-polar and polar materials
  - Concept of polarization charge
  - Simple band structure

### HEMT "High Electron Mobility Transistor"

- Sheet resistance
- HEMT versus vertical power device
- Cost versus performance



 $Ron = \frac{1}{a n_c \mu_N} \cdot \frac{V_{bd}^2}{E^2}$ 

 $Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_c^3} \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \mu_N$ 



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## **Power Semiconductor Market Forecast**

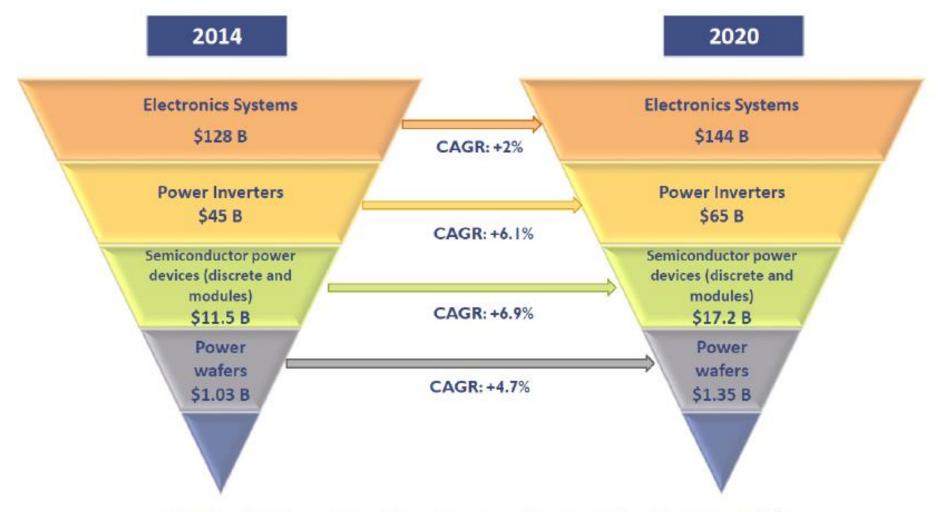


Figure 1 Power electronics CAGR along the typical value chain<sup>3</sup>







## What drives the market?

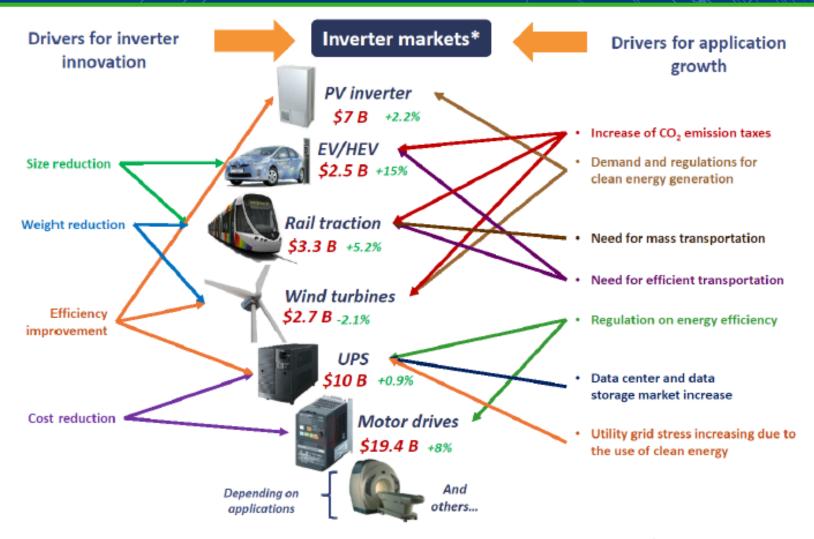


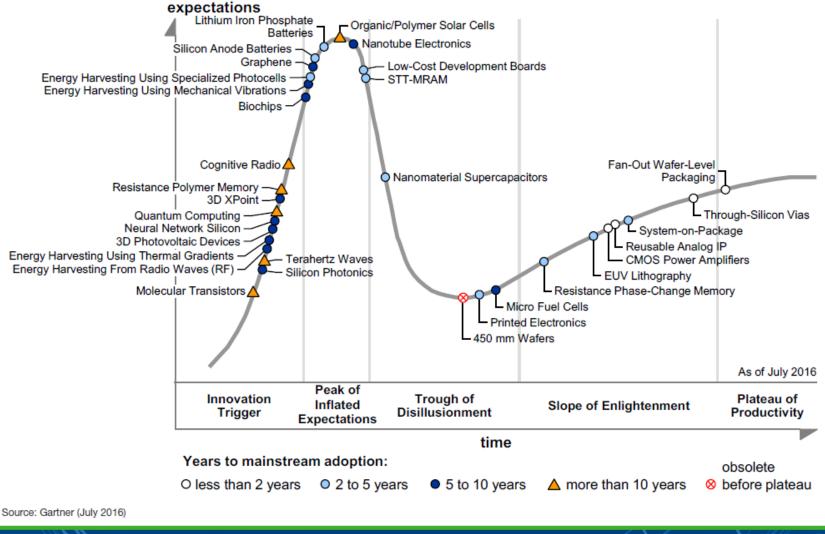
Figure 2 Growth chances and market drivers for inverters<sup>4</sup>





## The Hype Cycle for Electronic Technologies

Figure 1. Hype Cycle for Semiconductors and Electronics Technologies, 2016







## **2015—??** Power Technology



## **WBG Market Segmentation by 2020**

#### WBG MARKET SEGMENTATION AS A FUNCTION OF VOLTAGE RANGE

Current status and Yole's vision for 2020\*

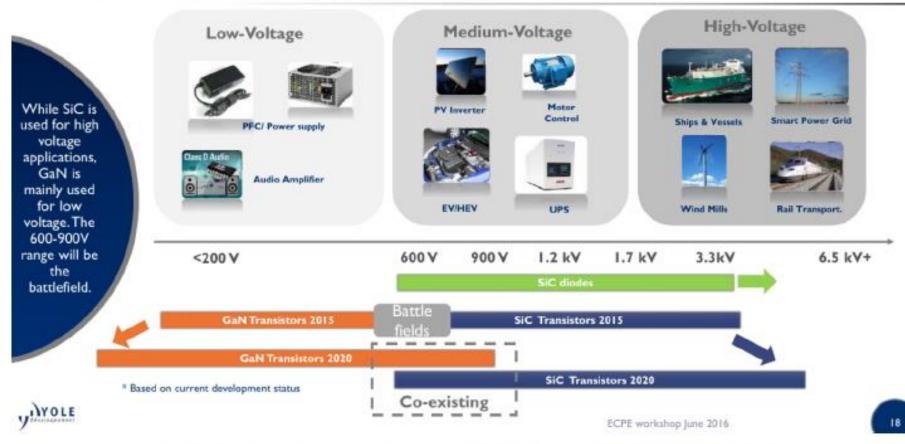


Figure 11 Yole's vision of WBG-applications for 2020 (Source: Yole)



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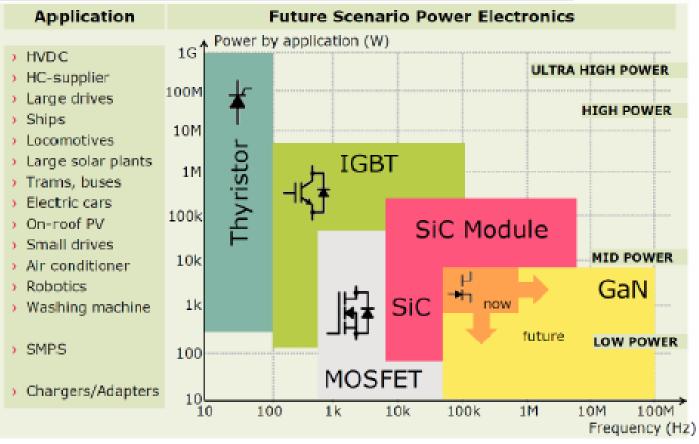
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# **WBG Segmentation by Power Rating**

#### **Relevant applications**

Infineon

Where does GaN play a role?

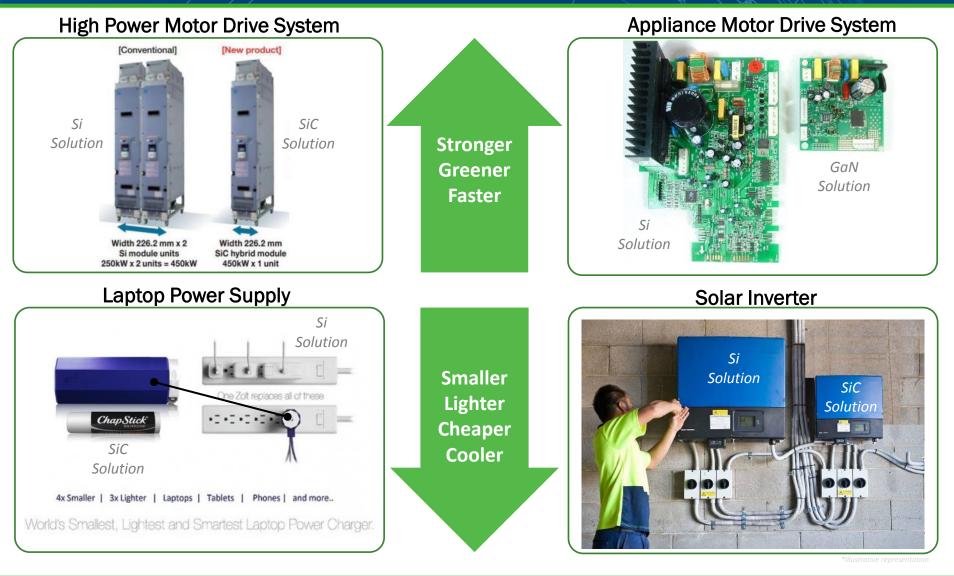


#### Figure 15 Relevant applications (Source: Infineon)





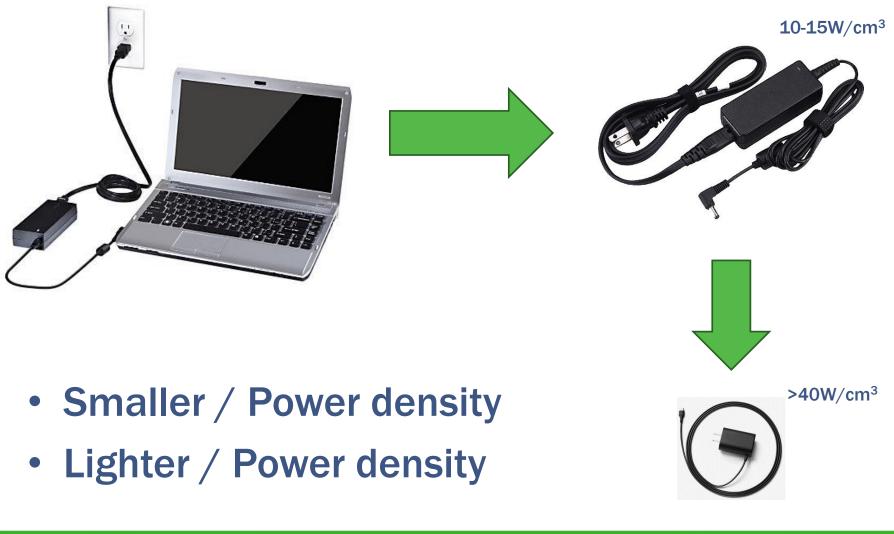
## **WBG: High Potential for Market Disruption**







## What does it mean to me...







## **Zolt Charger**

https://www.gozolt.com/













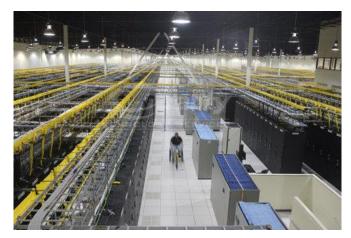
## What does it mean to me...



- 300M photos uploaded each day
- 300 hours uploaded every minute
- 10B hours watched per month



360,000 servers!



Annual maintenance cost ~200\$/ft 150MW power usage/datacenter





- Lower electricity bill / Higher efficiency
- Fit it into the same space / Power density





## Google Little Box Challenge $\rightarrow$ GaN

https://www.littleboxchallenge.com/

Power Density

Downscale a 2kW inverter down to the size of a tablet.

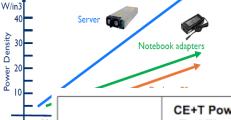
And the winner of the \$1 Million Little Box Challenge is...CE+T Power's Red Electrical Devils

Monday, February 29, 2016

Posted by Ross Koningstein, Engineering Director Emeritus, Google Research

In July 2014, Google and the IEEE launched the \$1 Million Little Box Challenge, an open competition to design and build a small kW-scale inverter with a power density greater than 50 Watts per cubic inch while meeting a number of other specifications related to efficiency, electrical noise and thermal performance. Over 2,000 teams from across the world registered for the competition and more than 80 proposals gualified for review by IEEE Power Electronics Society and Google. In October 2015, 18 finalists were selected to bring their inverters to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for testing.

## LITTLE BOX CHALLENCE Google



20(		CE+T Power's Red Electric Devils	Schneider Electric	Virginia Tech's Future Energy Electronics Center	Little Box Challenge requirements		
	Power Density (W/in <sup>3</sup> )	142.9	96.2	68.7	>50		
	Volume (in³)	14.0	20.8	29.1	<40		









## **Google's Little Box Challenge**

<u>https://littleboxchallenge.com/</u>



- <u>http://googleresearch.blogspot.be/2016/02/and-winner-of-1-million-little-box.html?m=1</u>
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSrHXpK338k</u>





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## The ideal power semiconductor switch

#### Off-state

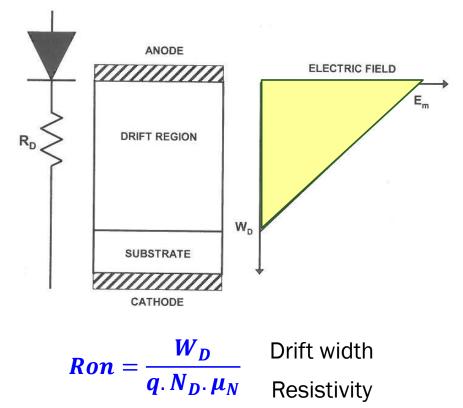
- Should block a high voltage, with no leakage current
- On-state
  - Should have no resistance (ideal conductor)
- During switching from off to on (and vice versa)
  - Should happen immediately
  - No hysteresis
  - No charge storage
- Enabled by new material properties and novel device concepts which enable new system solutions





### **Basic Equation for Power Semiconductors**

#### • Assume an abrupt junction, parallel plane



$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{-q.N_D}{\varepsilon}$$

$$E(x) = \frac{-q.N_D}{\varepsilon}.(W_D - x)$$

$$V(x) = \frac{q.N_D}{\varepsilon} (W_D. x - \frac{x^2}{2})$$

$$V(W_D) = V_{bd} \qquad V_{bd} = \frac{E_C \cdot W_D}{2}$$

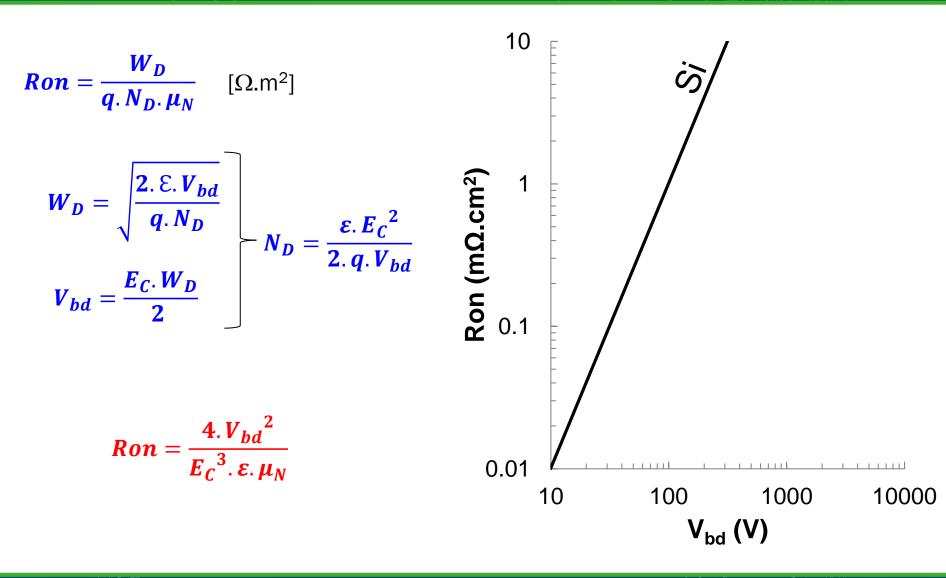
$$W_D = \sqrt{\frac{2.\,\mathcal{E}.\,V_{bd}}{q.\,N_D}}$$

18 04/07/2017





## **Figure-of-merit : Ron versus Vbd**



19 04/07/2017





## The Baliga Figure of Merit-1D

Ron  $[\Omega. cm^2]$ 

- $E_c$  : critical electric field : the field one has to
  - apply to free electrons from bonds
- ε : (relative) permittivity or "dielectric constant "; a measure for how fast the electric field changes between charges
- μ : carrier mobility ; a measure for how fast charges move along



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 $4. V_{hd}^2$ 



## **Material Properties**

- Baliga Figure-of-Merit is a metric for how good a material is for uni-polar power device technology. It contains the drift electron mobility and the critical electric field.
- [note : mobility reduction due to doping is <u>not</u> taken into account !]

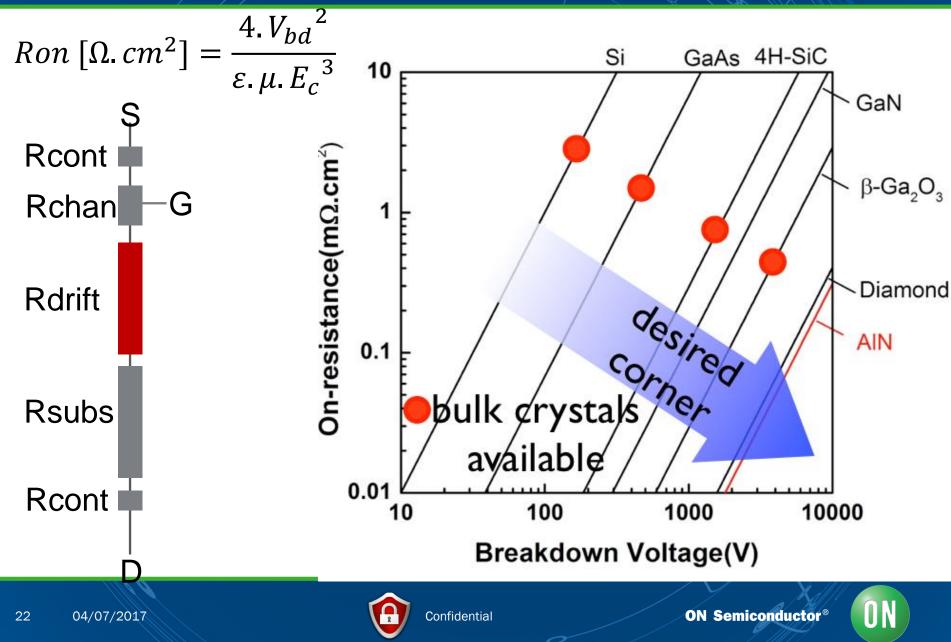
$$Ron \left[\Omega. \, cm^2\right] = \frac{4. \, V_{bd}^2}{\varepsilon. \, \mu. \, E_c^3}$$

	Si	GaAs	4H-SiC	GaN	Diamond	β-Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	AlN
Bandgap Eg (eV) Electron mobility μ (cm <sup>2</sup> /Vs)	1.1 1400	1.4 8000	3.3	3.4 1200	5.5	4.8-4.9 300	6 500
Breakdown field $E_b$ (MV/cm)	0.3	0.4	2.5	3.3	10	8	15
Relative dielectric constant $\varepsilon$	11.8	12.9	9.7	9.0	5.5	10	8.5
Baliga's FOM $\epsilon \mu E_b^3$	1	15	340	870	24664	3444	32158
			WE	SG		U-WBG	





# Baliga FOM—only for drift region (1D)



# How to go beyond the Baliga FOM ?

- Can we do better than the 1D approximation ?
  - 1. <u>RESURF</u> is a way of shaping the electrical fields in a device in such a way that the breakdown voltage is increased in comparison with the 1D planar junction
  - 2. <u>RESURF</u> is a way of increasing the drift doping in a device (lowering the Ron) without the BVds going down, by shaping the electrical field





## **Junction Resurf Diode**

#### The RESURF diode

A good way to explain why the 1D theory does not apply is to consider that the the effecting doping charge in the n- epi layer is reduced by the presence of the electric field set by the epi-substrate junction.

HIGH VOLTAGE THIN LAYER DEVICES (RESURF DEVICES)

J.A. Appels and H.M.J. Vaes

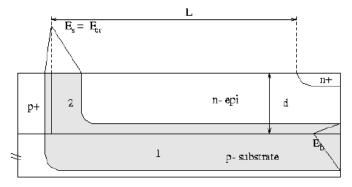
Philips Research Laboratories Eindhoven - The Netherlands

#### CONCLUSION

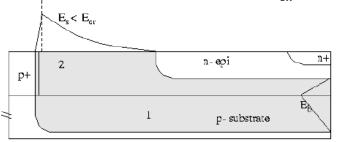
The use of high-ohmic substrates with relatively thin epitaxial layers on them, which meet the requirements mentioned in this paper (i.e. Nepi x depi  $\cong$ 10<sup>12</sup> at/cm<sup>2</sup>) opens the possibility of making high-voltage devices whose structure and operation, in particular the electric field distribution, differ essentially from those of conventional devices.

#### Ref.

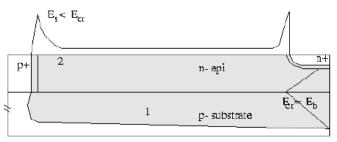
1) Late News Paper, ESSDERC '79 München.









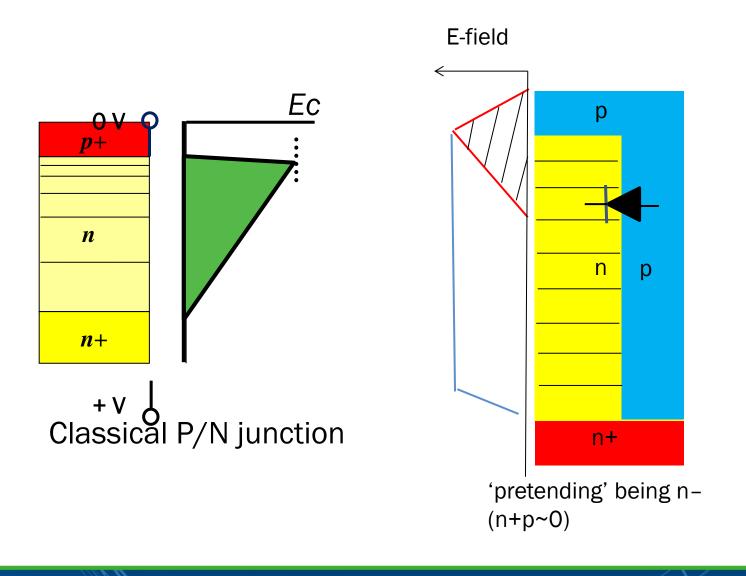


c)  $V_{BR} = 1150 V$ 

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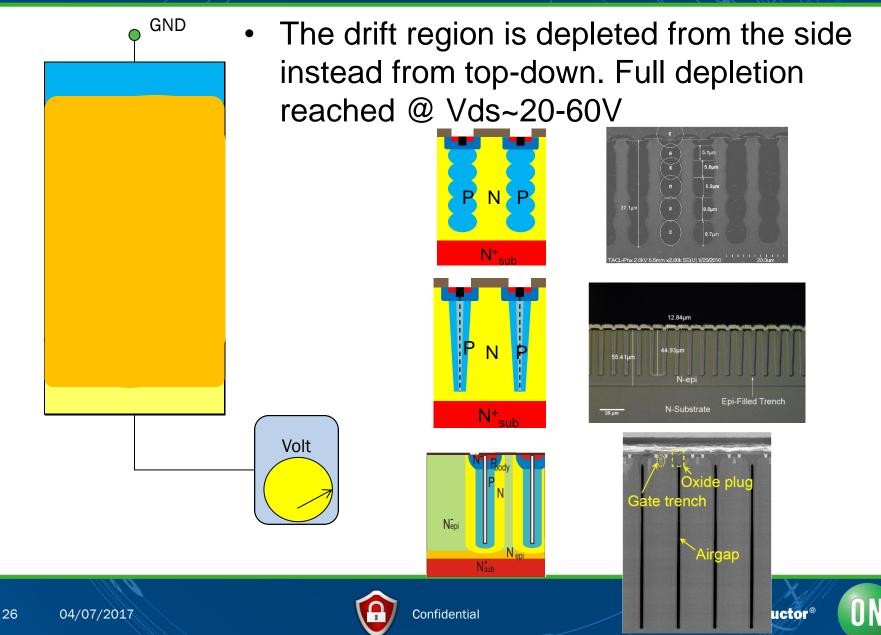
## Field plate Resurf concept



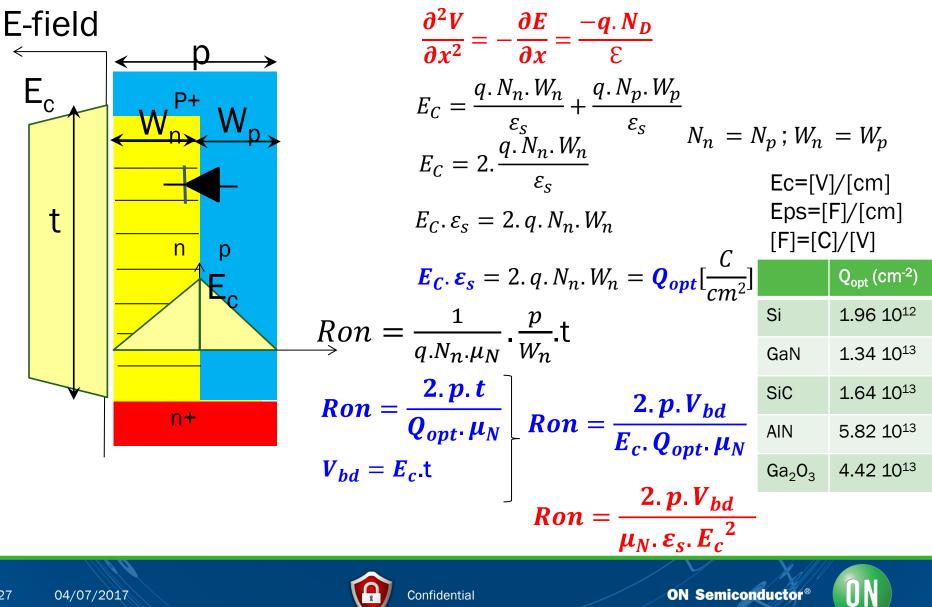




## **Super Junction Basics**

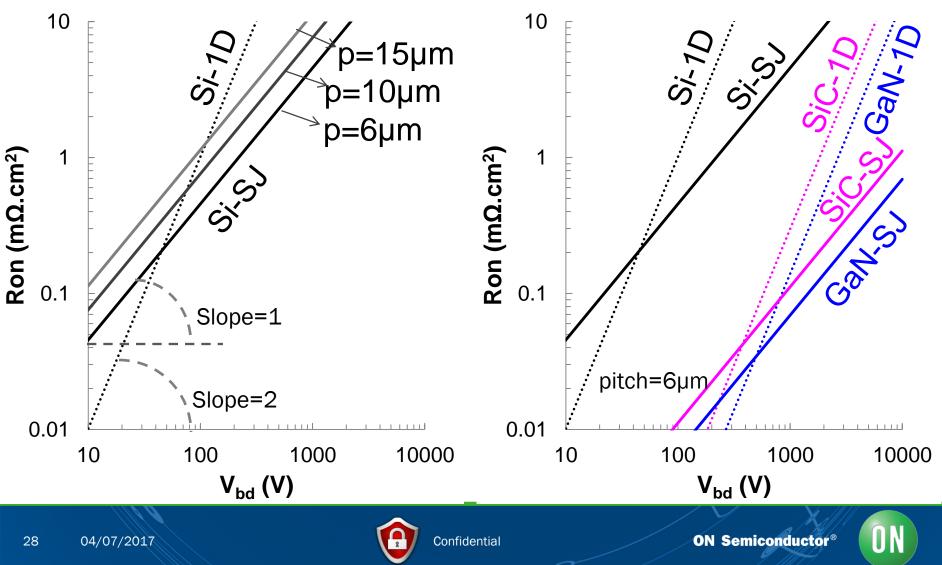


# **Resurf Limit (2D)–Optimal Charge**



## **Resurf limit--2D**

Depends on device pitch (p) : process capability



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## **Periodic Table & Electro Negativity**

H 2.1										_	_	Ш	IV	V			He
Li 1.0	Ве 1.5											В 2.0	C 2.5	N 3.0	0 3.5	F 4.0	Ne
Na <mark>0.9</mark>	Mg 1.2											AI 1.5	Si 1.8	Р 2.1	S 2.5	CI 3.0	Ar
K 0.8	Ca 1.0	Sc 1.3	Ti 1.5	V 1.6	Cr 1.6	Mn 1.5	Fe 1.8	Co 1.8	Ni 1.8	Cu 1.9	Zn 1.6	Ga 1.6	Ge 1.8	As 2.0	Se 2.4	Br 2.8	Kr 3.0
Rb 0.8	Sr 1.0	Y 1.2	Zr 1.4	Nb 1.6	Мо 1.8	Тс 1.9	Ru 2.2	Rh 2.2	Pd 2.2	Ag 1.9	Cd 1.7	In 1.7	Sn 1.8	Sb 1.9	Те 2.1	І 2.5	Xe 2.6
Cs <mark>0.7</mark>	Ва <mark>0.9</mark>	La 1.1	Hf 1.3	Та 1.5	W 1.7	Re 1.9	0s 2.2	lr 2.2	Pt 2.2	Au 2.4	Hg 1.9	Ti 1.8	Pb 1.8	Bi 1.9	Po 2.0	At 2.2	Rn 2.4
Fr 0.7	Ra <mark>0.7</mark>	Ас <mark>1.1</mark>	Unq	Unp	Unh	Uns	Uno	Une									
Ce	Pr 11	Nd 1 1	Pm	Sm 1 1	Eu 11	Gd 1 1	Tb 1 1	Dy 11	Ho 11	Er 11	Tm	Yb	Lu 12				

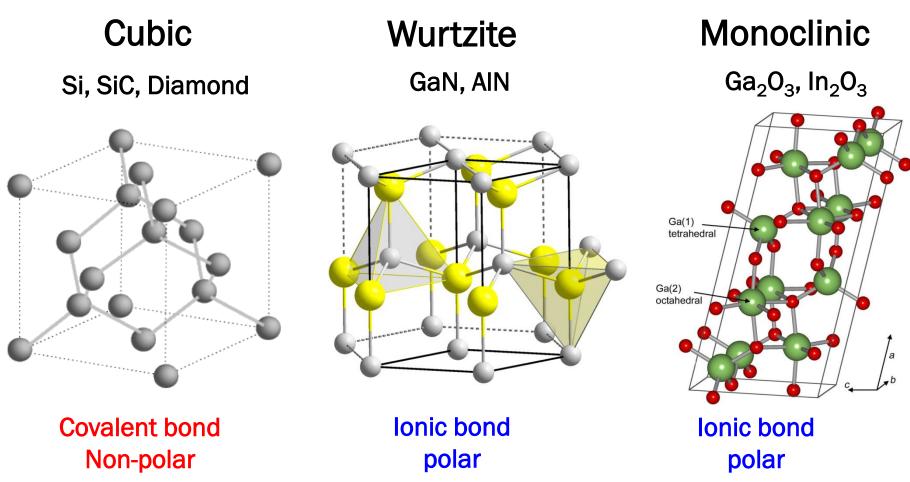
Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	dl	Dy	Ho	Er	Im	Yb	Lu
1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Th	Ра	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr
1.3	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	







## **Crystal Structures**

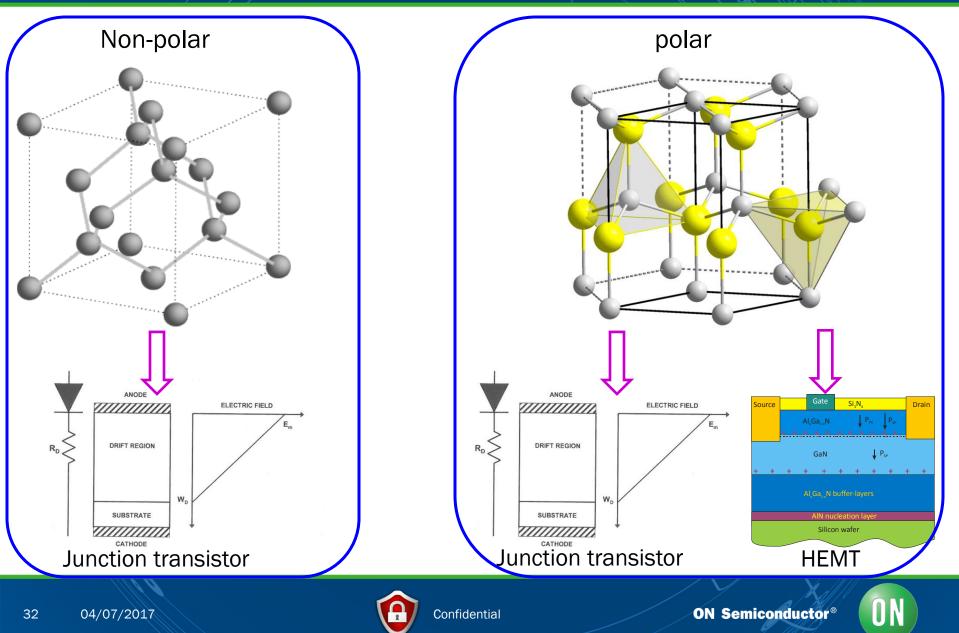


<u>Note</u> : the number of atoms per unit cell, the symmetry of the cell and the mass of the elements determines the thermal conductivity of the material.



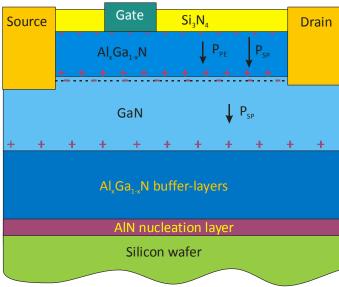


## **Polar versus Non-Polar Materials**

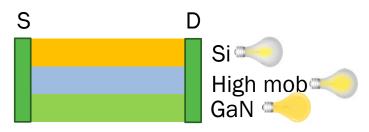


# **AIGaN/GaN Lateral HEMT Devices**

- AIGaN/GaN <u>High Electron Mobility Transistors feature :</u>
  - Low Ron due to high 2DEG density with n<sub>s</sub>~9x10<sup>12</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> and high mobility (~2000 cm<sup>2</sup>/V.s)
  - High breakdown because of high bandgap (3.4 eV)
  - Low capacitance : no junctions to deplete (un-doped)



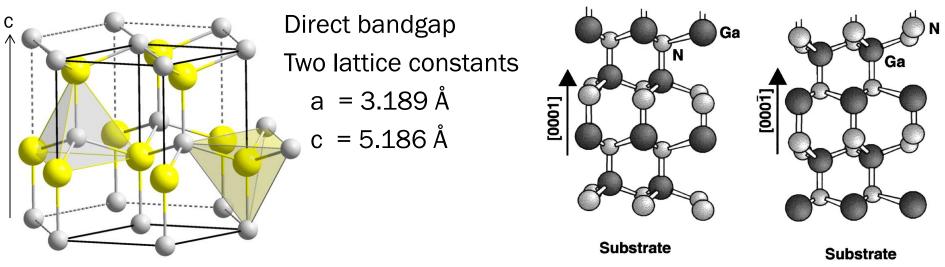
#### Device Property Material Property





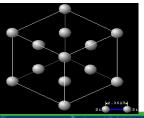
## GaN Crystal Structure—Wurtzite

- GaN has a <u>Wurtzite</u> structure, thermodynamically stable.
- Growth is along the c-axis, can be <u>Ga-face</u> or N-face. Two interpenetrating hexagonal close-packed sublattices.



View in <111> direction

• Can be grown on (111) Si (hexagonal)





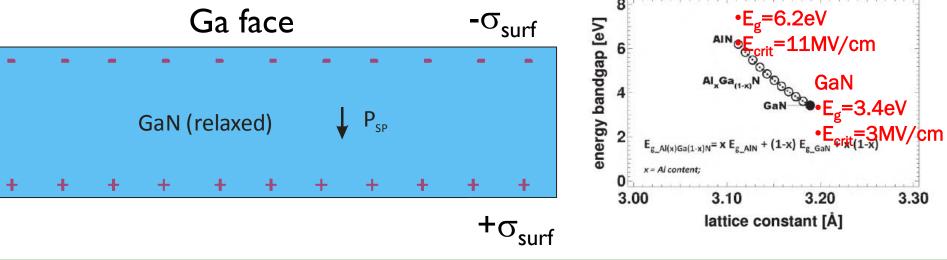
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N-face

## **Spontaneous polarization**

- <u>Spontaneous Polarization</u> due to electronegativity difference between N-atoms and Gaatoms (binary crystal).
  - Pauling's electronegativity : N=3.4, Ga=1.8, Al=1.6
- Poisson's equation yields  $\sigma_{\text{surf}}$
- Results in a polarization field P

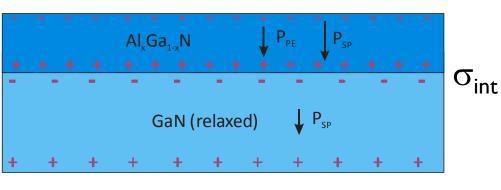


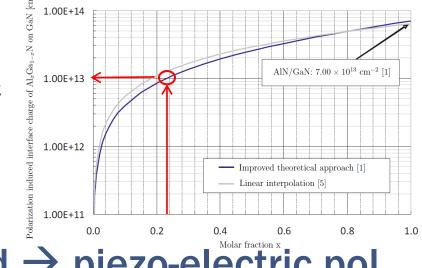




## Spontaneous and piezo-electric polarization

• Al(Ga)N has larger polarization field than GaN (due to larger Electro-negativity difference)





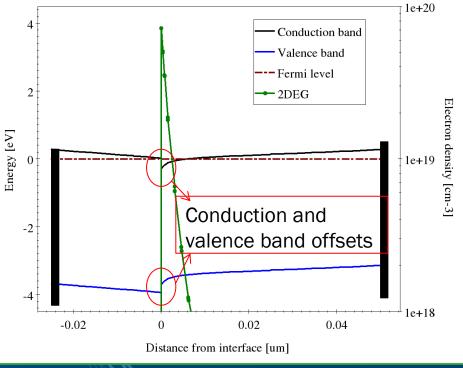
- Thin AlGaN layer strained  $\rightarrow$  <u>piezo-electric</u> pol.
- Induced net <u>positive</u> charge at the AIGaN/GaN interface (but inside the AIGaN !) is very large !
  - HEMT ns~ 10<sup>13</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>  $\leftrightarrow$  Typical MOSFET ns ~10<sup>12</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>

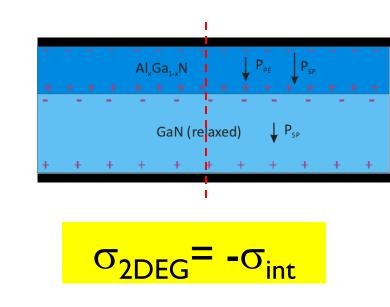




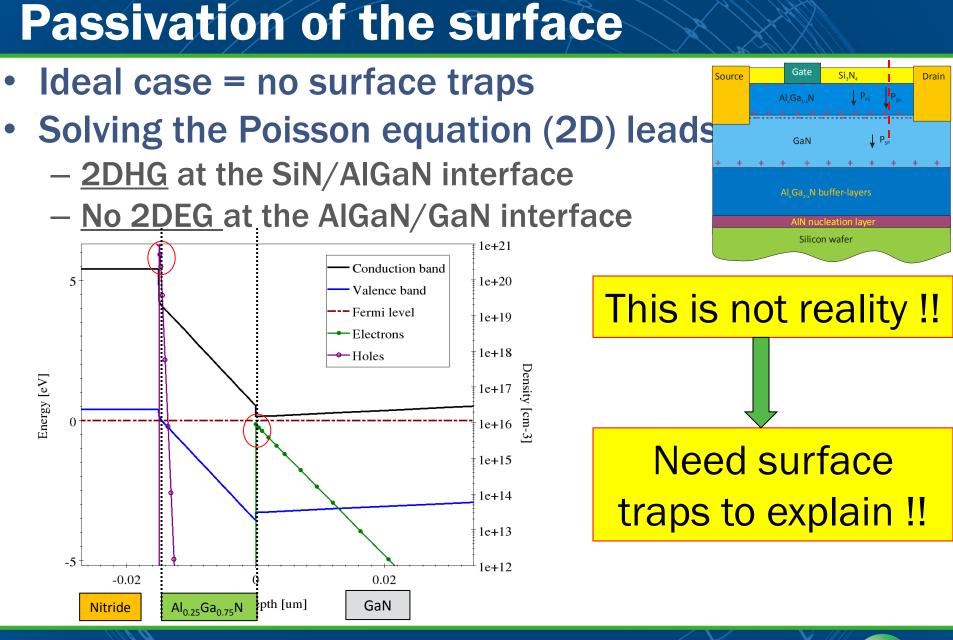
## Solving the Poisson equation-1D

- Ohmic contacts at bottom and top of the structure
- Charge neutrality : Electrons compensate the net positive polarization charge, i.e. creation of a <u>2DEG</u>
- Leads to the creation of a quantum well at the AIGaN/GaN interface (but in the GaN layer !)





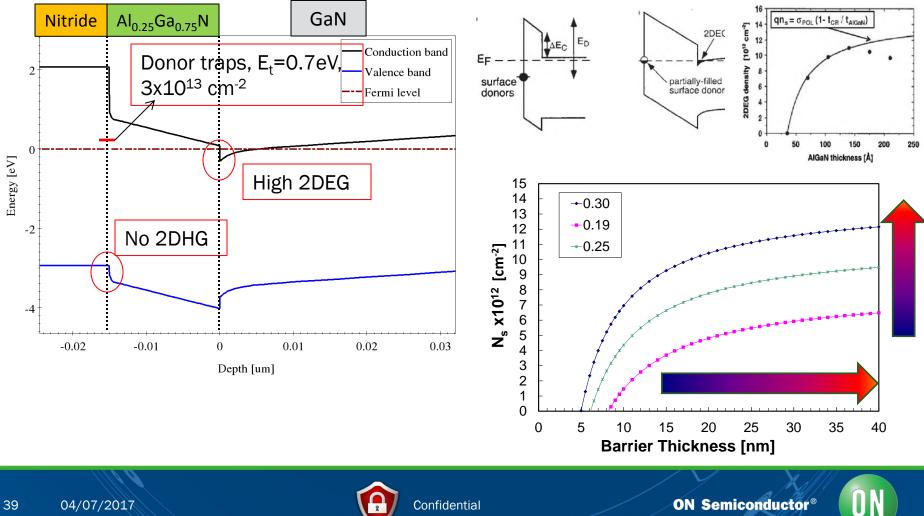
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## **Surface : The Donor State Model**

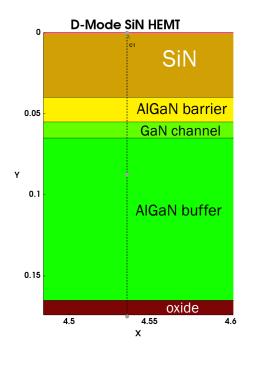
- Only model that can explain the observed features.
- It is only a "model". Direct experimental evidence is rather weak



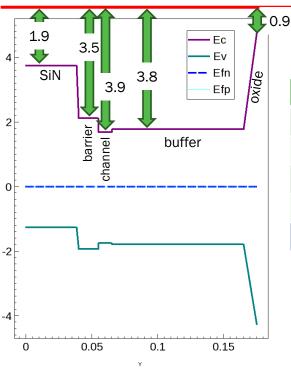


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#### D-Mode: without Piezo charges without traps



VACUUM @5.646eV



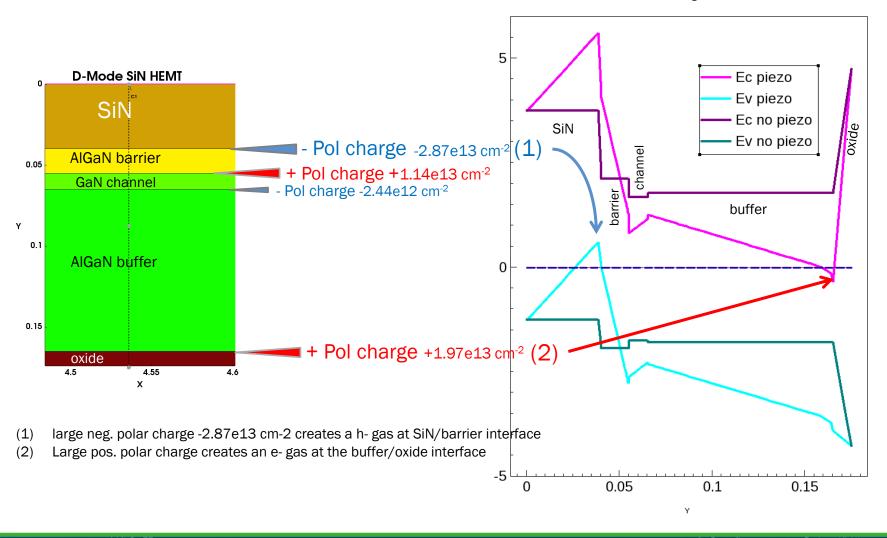
	SiN	Barrier	GaN	Buffer	Ox
E <sub>c</sub>	3.746	2.129	1.689	1.784	4.736
$E_{v}$	-1.254	-1.928	-1.747	-1.786	-4.264
$E_{bg}$	5	4.057	3.436	3.57	9
$e_{\text{aff}}~\chi$	1.9	3.518	3.958	3.862	0.910
$\chi$ +E <sub>c</sub>	5.646	5.647	5.647	5.646	5.646





#### D-Mode: with/without Piezo charges without traps

Band Diagram



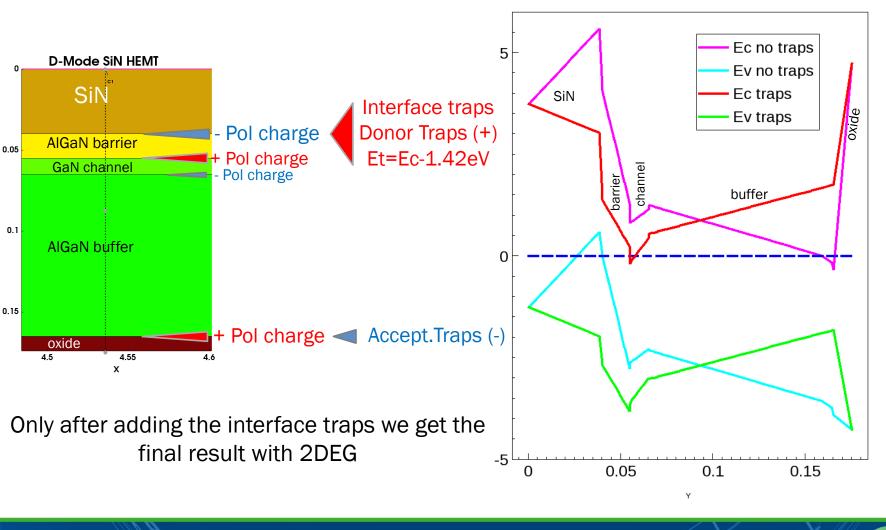


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#### D-Mode: with Piezo charges with/without traps

Band Diagram



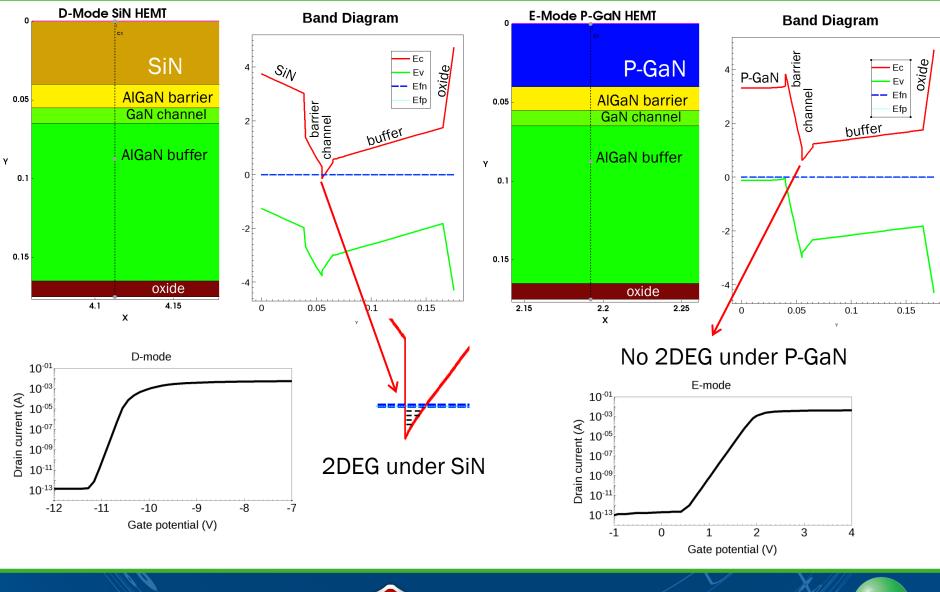


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## **D-Mode vs E-Mode : pGaN**



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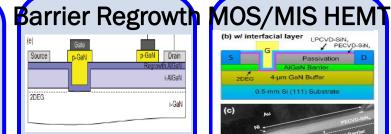
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## GaN-on-Si Lateral Technologies for E-mode



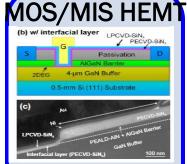
Blanket pGaN with etch back except under gate Need tight control etch back (nm res) [Mg] diffusion in access region Surface passivation High Vth↔low Ron

EPC, TSMC (GaNSys, Navitas,...) IMEC, FerdBraun B.



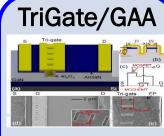
Thick AlGaN (>50 nm) Etch back AlGaN in gate region Barrier regrowth + blanket pGaN No [Mg] in access Surface passivation Vth decoupled from Ron

Panasonic/IFX



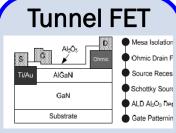
Full/partial barrier ALE recess under gate Gate dielectric eng. for low Dit and Hysteresis. Also F implant IEDM2016 : full barrier recess with SiN gate Vth >2.3V;  $\mu_{chan}$ =160 cm<sup>2</sup>/V.s ; Vth stable during NBTI and PBTI; no hysteresis.

U Hong Kong, ST, IMEC, many other R&D

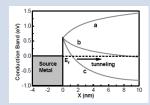


Deplete 2DEG from top and sidewall Fins need to be <80nm Atomic Layer Etch Gate dielectric(ALD) Vth ~ 2V Good channel mob due to HEMT

MIT, EPFL



Modulation of Schottky barrier at Source by Gate Low Ron Vth low (1.35V) Process control (alignment)



U Hong Kong (ISPSD2011)



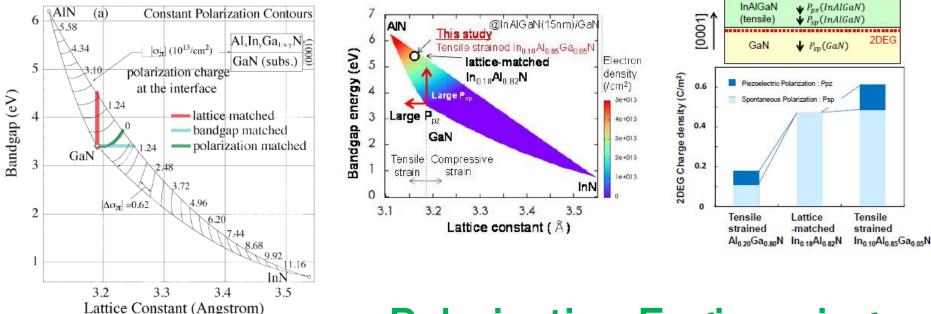
R&C

**Production** 

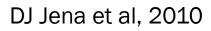


## **Polarization Engineering : Quarternary alloys**

- Al<sub>x</sub>In<sub>y</sub>Ga<sub>1-x-y</sub>N quarternary alloys coherently grown on GaN
  - Lattice matched (reliability?), Polarization matching (E-mode)
  - Higher sheet density (lower Ron) & larger bandgap



## **Polarization Engineering**







## **Polarization Engineering : Quarternary alloys**

#### Polarization-Engineering in III-V Nitride Heterostructures: New Opportunities For Device Design

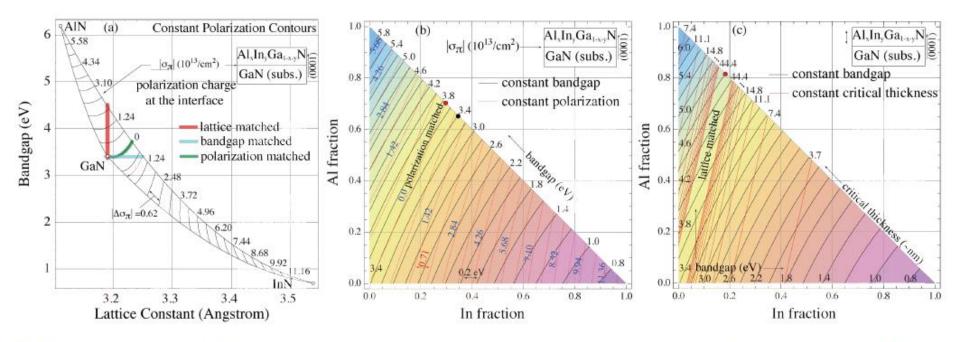


FIG. 1: (a) Constant polarization (spontaneous + piezoelectric) contours on the energy bandgap-lattice constant plot for nitrides grown lattice matched to GaN along the (0001) orientation. The lattice-matched, bandgap-matched, and polarization-matched compositions are highlighted. (b) Contours of constant polarization (red dashed lines) and constant bandgap (black solid lines) as a function of the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on (0001) oriented GaN. (c) Contours of constant critical thickness (red solid lines) and constant bandgap (black solid lines) as a function of the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN layers grown strained on the In and Al mole fractions in AlInGaN.

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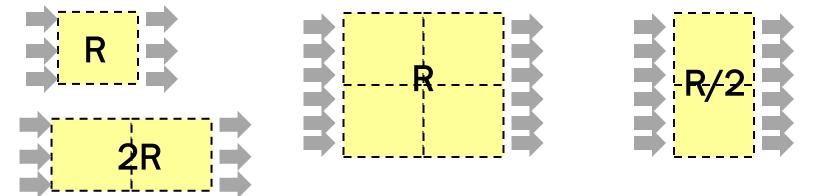




## **Sheet Resistance**

- The resistance of a thin sheet with uniform doping (e.g. 2DEG). Conveniently expressed in  $\Omega$ /square, or  $\Omega$ /
  - Just count #squares parallel to the current flow
  - Depends on carrier density (n<sub>s</sub>) and mobility

$$Rsheet = \frac{1}{q.n_s.\mu_N} \left[\Omega/\Box\right]$$





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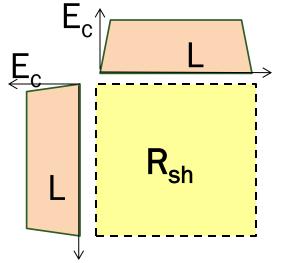
Ron/Vbd of a HEMT (drift region only !)

Ron

Ron

Ron = Rsheet. Area

 Semiconductor is un-doped i.e. behaves like a dielectric→Electric field is rectangular





$$Ron = \frac{4}{q.n_s.\mu_N} \cdot \frac{V_{bd}^2}{E_c^2}$$



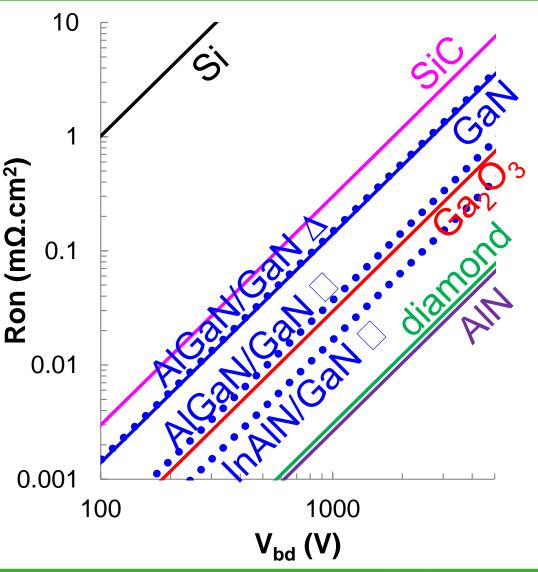
$$= \frac{1}{q.n_{s}.\mu_{N}} \cdot \frac{L^{2}}{E_{c}^{2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{q.n_{s}.\mu_{N}} \cdot \frac{V_{bd}^{2}}{E_{c}^{2}}$$

$$\int_{0}^{0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-1}} \int_{0}^{0} \frac{1}{$$

## Ron/Vbd of a HEMT (drift region only !)

- AIGaN/GaN HEMT with rectangular field will go beyond the 1D GaN limit.
- By introducing polarization engineering (InAIN), even the Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 1D limit is broken.







## The Baliga FOM revisited

- Baliga FOM (and its derivatives) only refer to the drift region.
   Rcont
  - Drift region blocks the voltage (V<sub>bd</sub>)
  - Ron also includes other contributions
- A transistor has
  - Contacts to the outside world
  - A channel to switch the transistor on and off Rsubs
  - A substrate





Rcont

Rchan

Rdrift

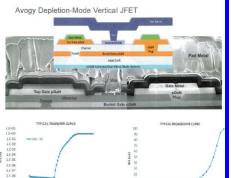
## **GaN-on-GaN : vertical transistors**

#### Homo-epitaxy yields low DD (<10<sup>6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>)

#### Avogy

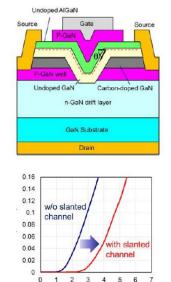
GaN bulk substrates from Furukawa, Mitshubishi, Sumitomo : \$700 (2"), transitioning to 4" at \$1500 in 2017 (?). Add ~\$250 for epi. Schottky and PIN diodes with V<sub>bd</sub>~900-2000V in

2013. UIS~900 mJ. JFET (Dmode) : 3x through HVPE/MOCVD ?



#### Panasonic

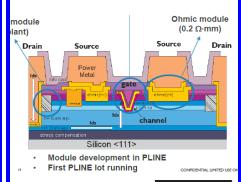
Normally-off JFET on bulk GaN substrates . Regrowth of [C]-GaN, AlGaN and pGaN on semi-polar surface. Pitch=20 $\mu$ m. V<sub>th</sub>>2.5V, Ron=1m\Omega.cm<sup>2</sup>, V<sub>bd</sub>~1.7kV (IEDM2016)

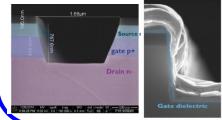


Vgs (V)

#### imec

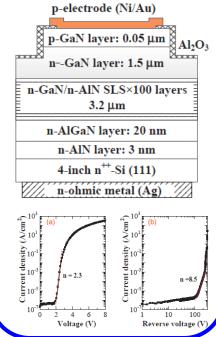
Process module dvlpmt. No regrowth in MOCVD. Ohmic contact to n+ & pbody Trench gate/V-gate, ALD Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> First lot running in Pline





#### Nagoya (Egawa)

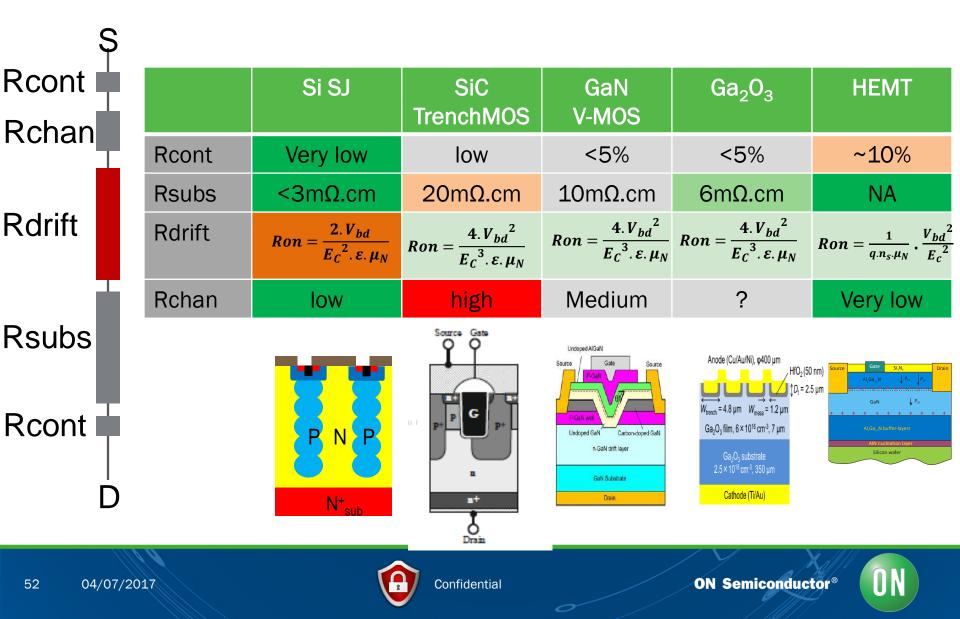
GaN-on-Si vertical transistors (APL 2016). N++ Si substrate. No regrowth in MOCVD. Ron high, V<sub>bd</sub> still low First attempt.



UN



## The Baliga FOM revisited



## Why are you here today?

- Power semiconductors are a hot topic
- Power devices=solid state physics
  - 1D limit for a vertical transistor
  - Resurf effect (2D)
- Non-polar and polar materials
  - Concept of polarization charge
  - Simple band structure
- HEMT "High Electron Mobility Transistor"
  - Sheet resistance
  - HEMT versus vertical power device
- Cost versus performance





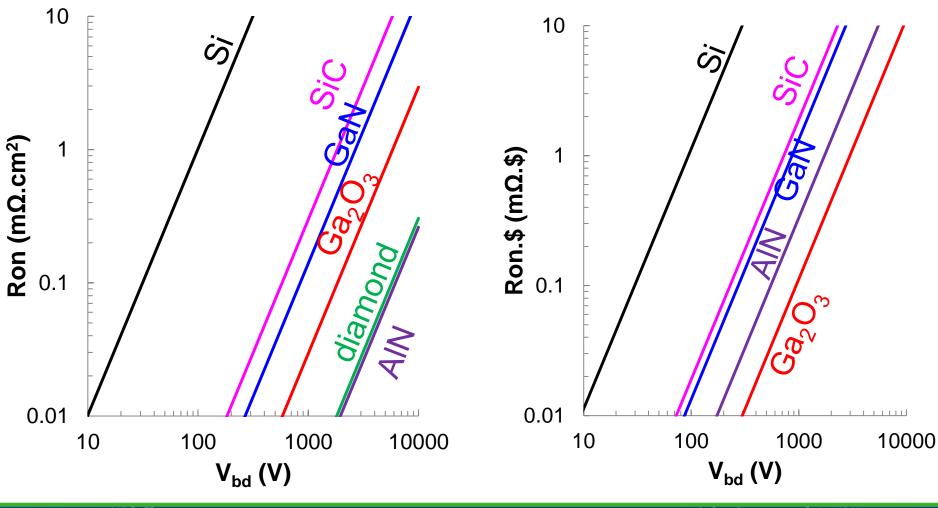
## The Baliga FOM revisited

	Si SJ	SiC TrenchMOS	GaN V-MOS	Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	HEMT
Rcont	Very low	low	<5%	<5%	~10%
Rsubs	<3mΩ.cm	20mΩ.cm	10mΩ.cm	6mΩ.cm	NA
Rdrift	$Ron = \frac{2.V_{bd}}{E_c^2.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_c^3.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_c^3.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_c^3.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{1}{q.n_s.\mu_N} \cdot \frac{V_{bd}^2}{E_c^2}$
Rchannel	low	high	Medium	?	Very low
Wafer (mm)	200-300	100-150	75-100	50-100	150-200
Cost/wfr (\$)	low	high	Very high	medium	low
	P N P	Source Gats	Undoped AlSaN Source Gate Source P-GaN P-GaN weet Carbon-doped GaN n-GaN drift layer GaN Substrate Drain	Anode (Cu/Au/Ni), $\varphi$ 400 µm HfO <sub>2</sub> (50 n $\psi_{\text{tench}} = 4.8 \ \mu\text{m}$ $\psi_{\text{mesa}} = 1.2 \ \mu\text{m}$ Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> film, 6 × 10 <sup>16</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> , 7 µm Ga <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> substrate 2.5 × 10 <sup>16</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> , 350 µm Cathode (Ti/Au)	Al <sub>s</sub> Ga <sub>sa</sub> N P <sub>ec</sub> P <sub>se</sub>
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## The Baliga FOM revisited—Cost

#### • Multiply Ron (m $\Omega$ .cm<sup>2</sup>) by cost/cm<sup>2</sup>



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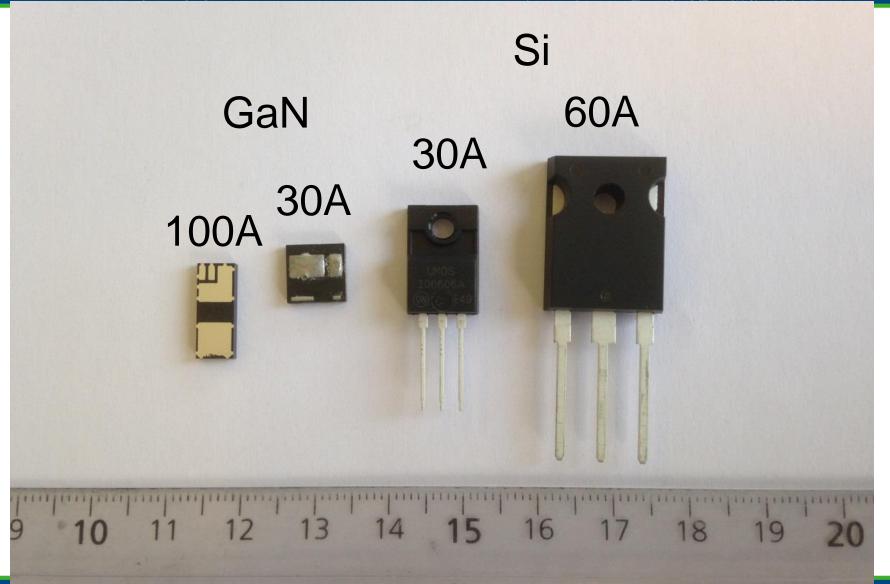
## Main Take-Aways

- Novel device concepts allow to go beyond the simple 1D FOM (resurf, superjunction)
- III-V materials are Polar (vs Si, which is non-polar).
- Most important (popular) III-V materials are :
  - GaN, AIN, Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- Polar materials allow both junction transistors as well as High Electron Mobility Transistors.
- HEMTs have lower Ron and lower Capacitance than standard junction transistors in the same material.
- Don't forget about cost ! Efficiency is key, but cost is king !





## 650V GaN products



## The end of the road for Silicon....

# END OF THE ROAD

EXIT 9Z

# Is the start of the journey for WBG





### **The Hype Cycle for Electronic Technologies**

Figure 1. Hype Cycle for Semiconductors and Electronics Technologies, 2016

