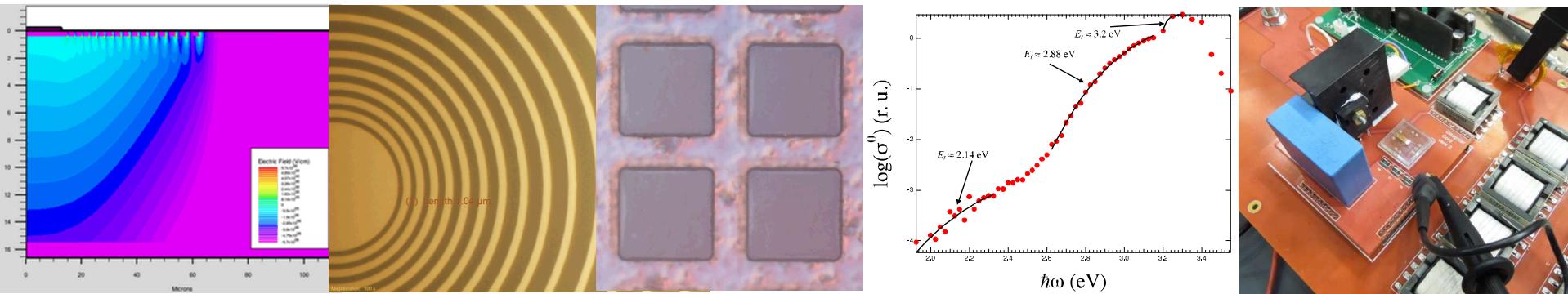


# Wide- and Ultra-Wide-Bandgap III-N Semiconductors for Power Electronics



Presented by:  
**Bob Kaplar**  
**Principal Member of the Technical Staff**  
**Sandia National Laboratories**

Presented to:  
**The Ohio State University**  
**Department of Electrical Engineering**

**June 26, 2015**

# Acknowledgements

I'd like to acknowledge Sandia's entire Ultra-Wide-Bandgap Grand Challenge team (~50 people). Unfortunately not everyone can be listed here; key contributors include:

- **Epitaxy thrust: Andy Allerman**
- **Defect physics thrust: Andy Armstrong**
- **Vertical devices thrust: Jon Wierer**
- **Lateral devices thrust: Albert Baca**
- **Device test thrust: Jason Neely**
- **Management: Jerry Simmons, Rick Schneider, Olga Spahn, Carol Adkins, Vipin Gupta**

I'd also like to thank Prof. Siddharth Rajan for inviting me to give the talk

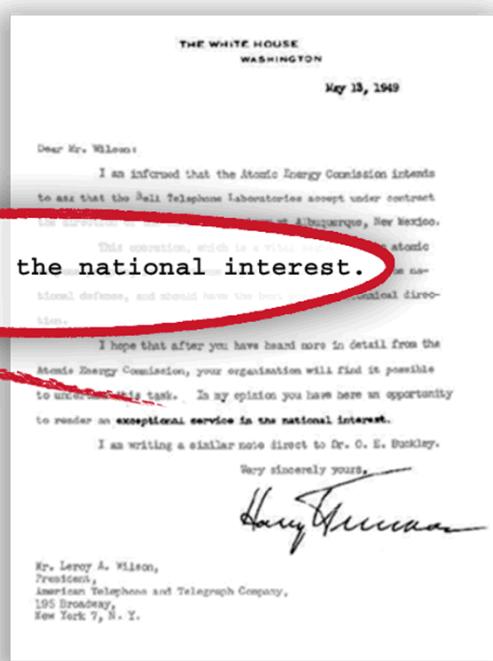
# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Sandia's History



# Sandia's Sites

Albuquerque,  
New Mexico



Livermore,  
California



Tonopah, Nevada



Waste Isolation Pilot Plant,  
Carlsbad, New Mexico



Pantex, Texas

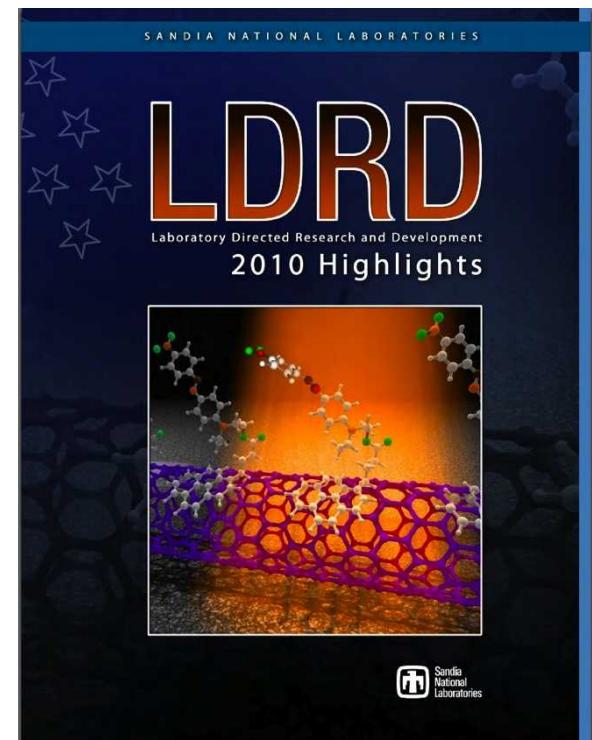


Kauai, Hawaii



# Sandia's LDRD Program

- **LDRD: Laboratory Directed Research and Development**
- Sandia's sole source of discretionary R&D funds
- Purpose is “to create...the development of a technical expertise within programs deemed by Sandia Management as important to the future of the Laboratories, DOE, and the nation”
- “Grand Challenge” is a special class of LDRD; typically two new starts per year, ~15 full-time equivalent staff



# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Power Electronics are Ubiquitous

**Satellites**



**Electric ships**



**UAVs**



**Transmission**



**Photovoltaics**



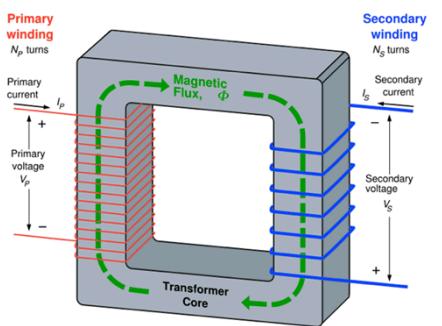
**Electric vehicles**



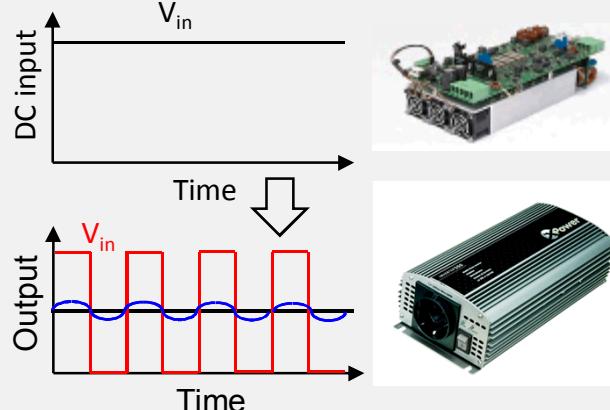
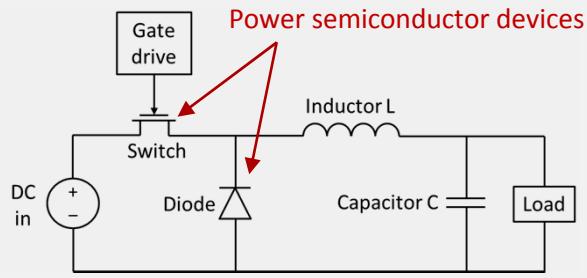
# What Are Power Electronics?

- **Power electronics:** Application of solid-state electronics for routing, control, and conversion of electrical power

## Passive transformers (dumb)



## Power Electronics – Active switching (smart)



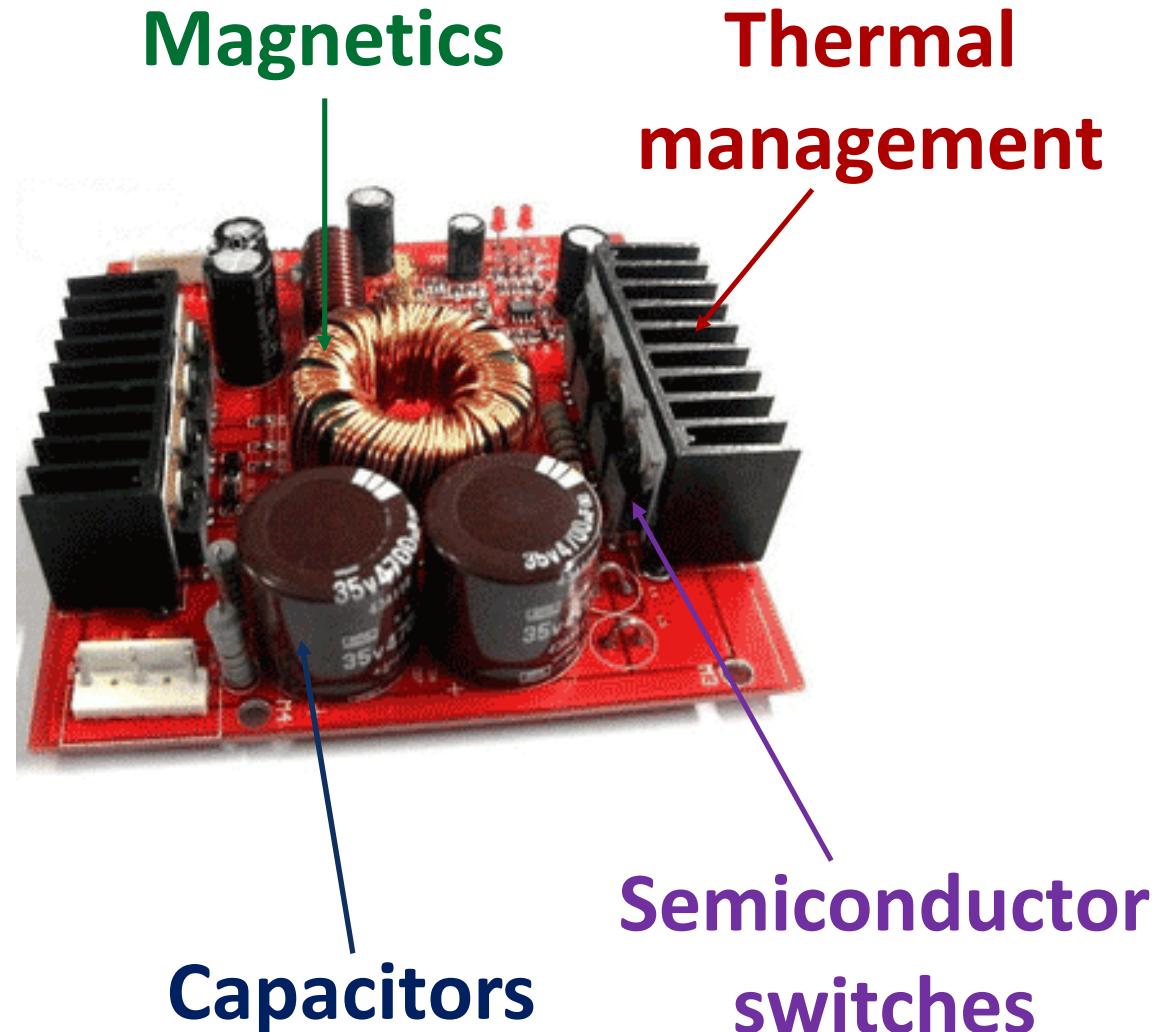
- Current power electronics are limited by the properties of silicon semiconductor devices
- New system capabilities are enabled by:
  - Higher switching frequency (enables better SWaP)
  - Lower power loss
  - Higher temperature operation

➤ **Motivation for  
WBG/UWBG  
semiconductors**

# Semiconductor Devices Dictate System Volume and Weight

Passive elements and thermal management comprise the bulk of the volume and mass of a power converter

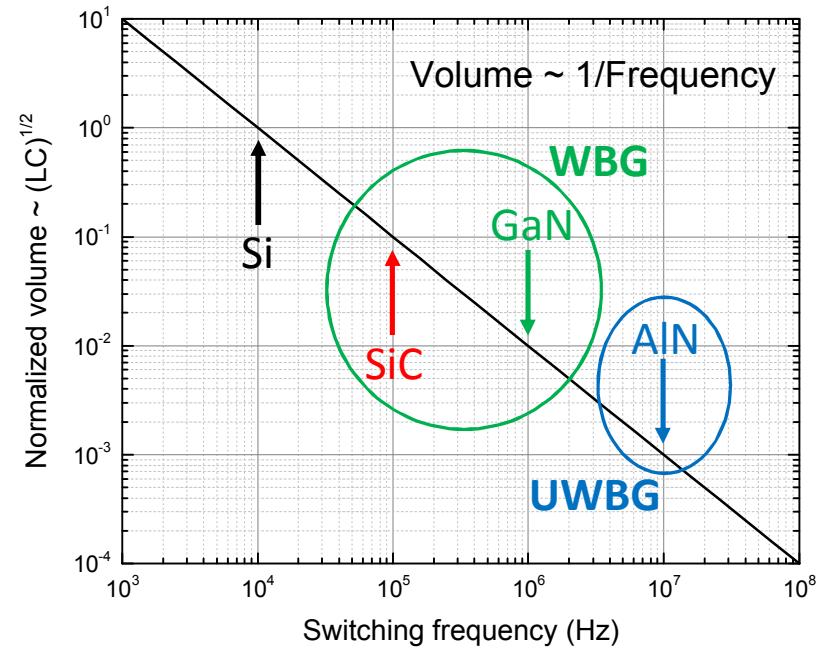
*WBG/UWBG materials enable higher switching frequency and better thermal management*



# Dramatic Reduction in Power Converter Volume with Increasing Bandgap



**SiC is 10% the volume and weight of Si for equivalent capability (10 kV, 100 A)**



***New materials and device architectures are needed to continue the trend towards higher performance PE***

# III-Nitride Semiconductors Are Ideal WBG and UWBG Materials

## Fundamental Materials Capabilities

Property	Conventional	WBG		UWBG	
	Si	GaAs	4H-SiC	GaN	AlN
Bandgap (eV)	1.1	1.4	3.3	3.4	6.2
Critical Electric Field (MV/cm)	0.3	0.4	2	3.3	15.9
Saturated electron velocity ( $10^7$ cm/s)	1	1	2	2.5	2
Thermal conductivity (W/cm·K)	1.5	0.5	4.5	4	3.4

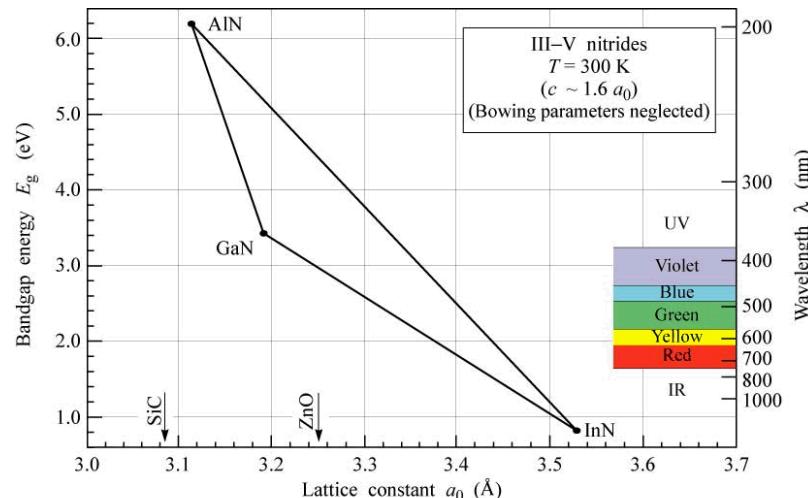
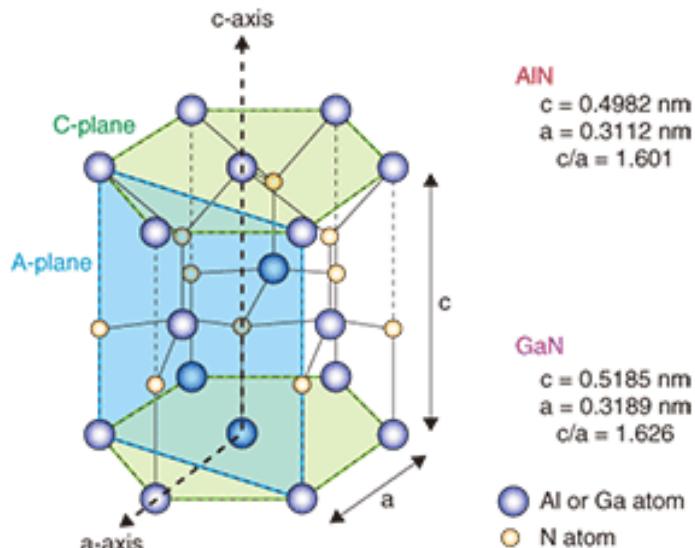
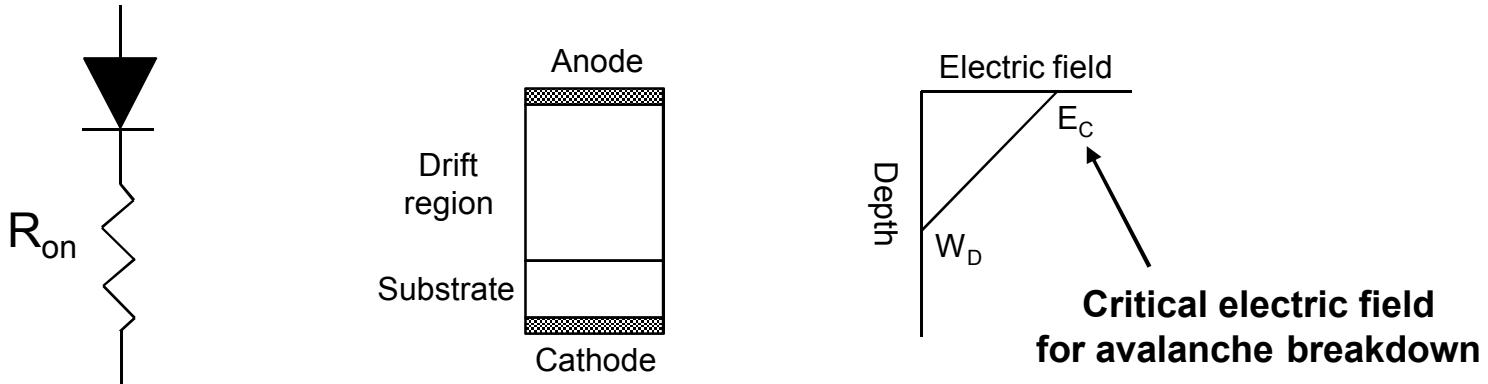


Fig. 12.12. Bandgap energy versus lattice constant of III-V nitride semiconductors at room temperature.

E. F. Schubert  
Light-Emitting Diodes (Cambridge Univ. Press)  
www.LightEmittingDiodes.org

# Breakdown Voltage and Figure-of-Merit Are Strong Functions of Critical Electric Field

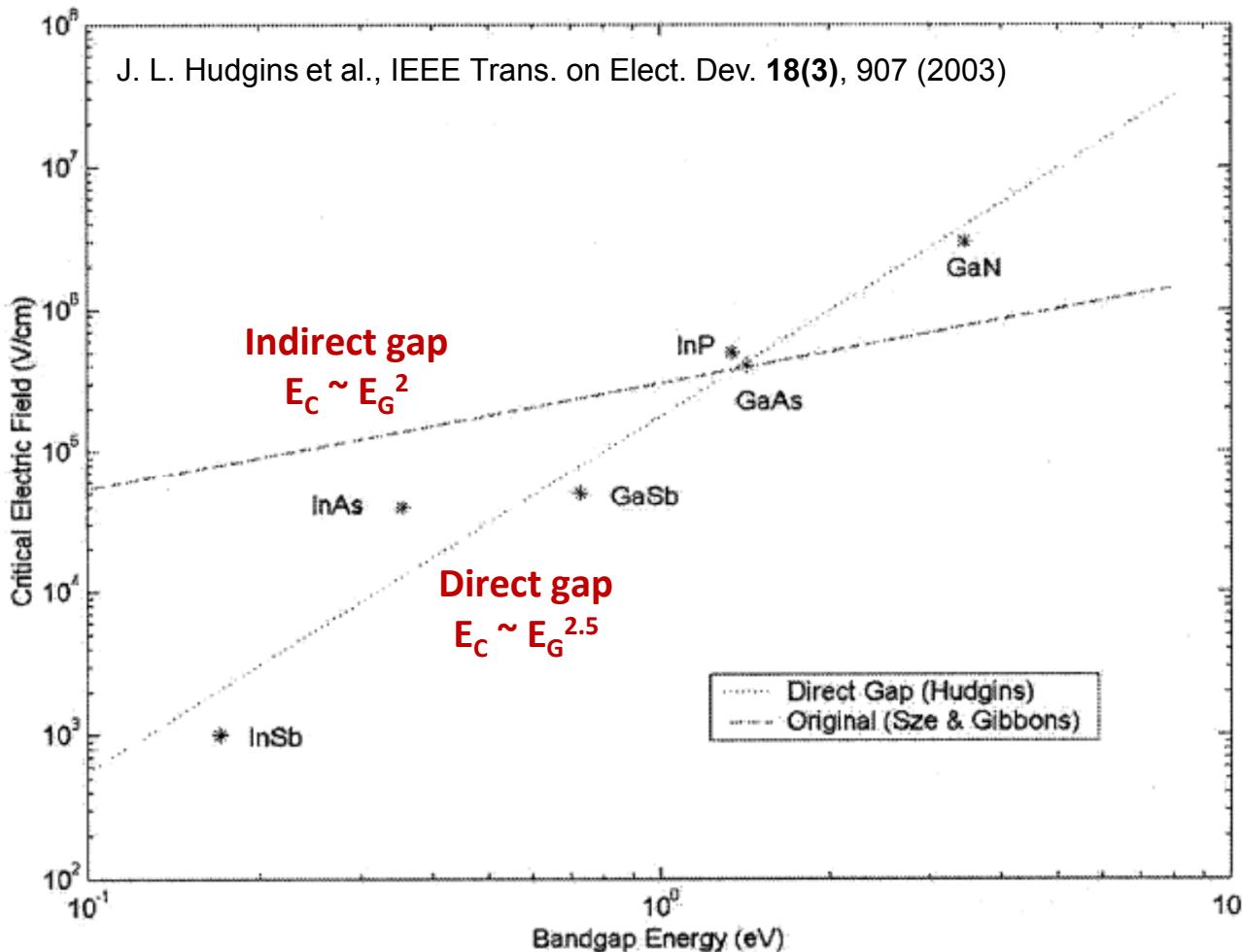


- Off-state: Integrate electric field to get breakdown voltage:  $V_B = W_D E_c / 2$  (1)
- Gauss' law:  $\epsilon E_c = q N_D W_D$  (2)
- On-state: Current transport due to carrier drift, resistance  $R_{on} = W_D / \sigma A$   
Conductivity  $\sigma = q \mu_n n = q \mu_n N_D$  assuming complete dopant ionization  
Specific on-resistance  $R_{on,sp} = R_{on} A = W_D / \sigma \rightarrow R_{on} A = W_D / q \mu_n N_D$  (3)
- Combining (1) and (2) gives dependence of  $V_B$  on  $N_D$  and  $E_c$ :  $V_B = \epsilon E_c^2 / 2 q N_D$
- Combining (1), (2), and (3) one obtains the unipolar “figure-of-merit”:  
 $R_{on,sp} = 4 V_B^2 / \epsilon \mu_n E_c^3 \rightarrow V_B^2 / R_{on,sp} = \epsilon \mu_n E_c^3 / 4$ 

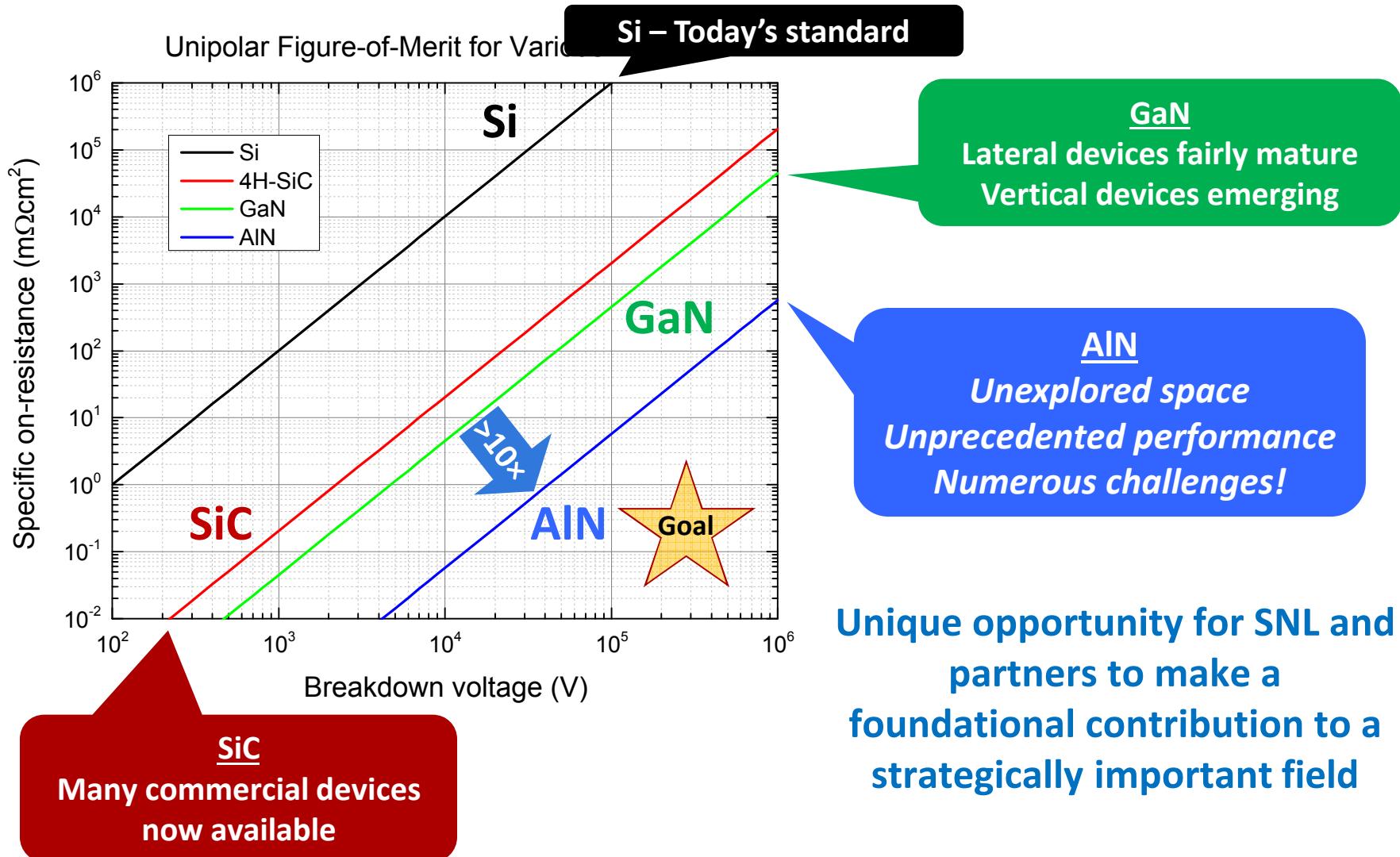
Depends on cube of  $E_c$

Depends on square of  $E_c$

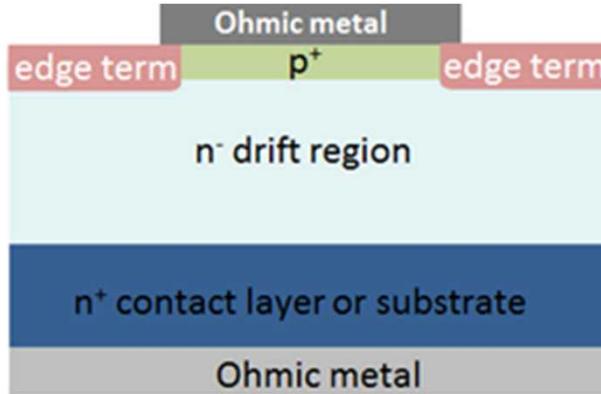
# Strong Dependence of Critical Field on Bandgap



# This Grand Challenge Is Developing the Next Generation of Materials for Power Electronics

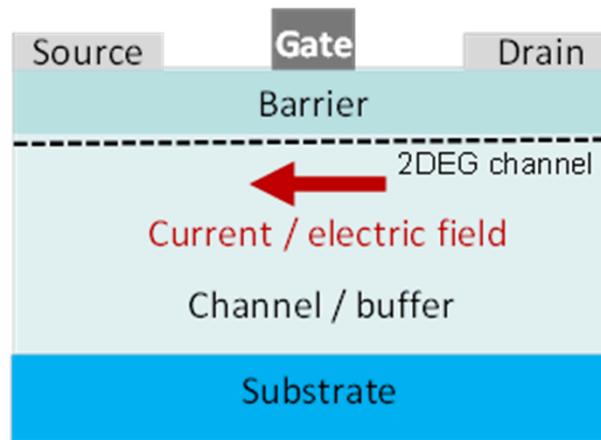


# Two Target Classes of Power Devices



## Vertical device (15 kV target)

- Current flow and voltage drop perpendicular to surface
- Architecture is better-suited to high voltage devices
- But native substrates and low doping are challenges



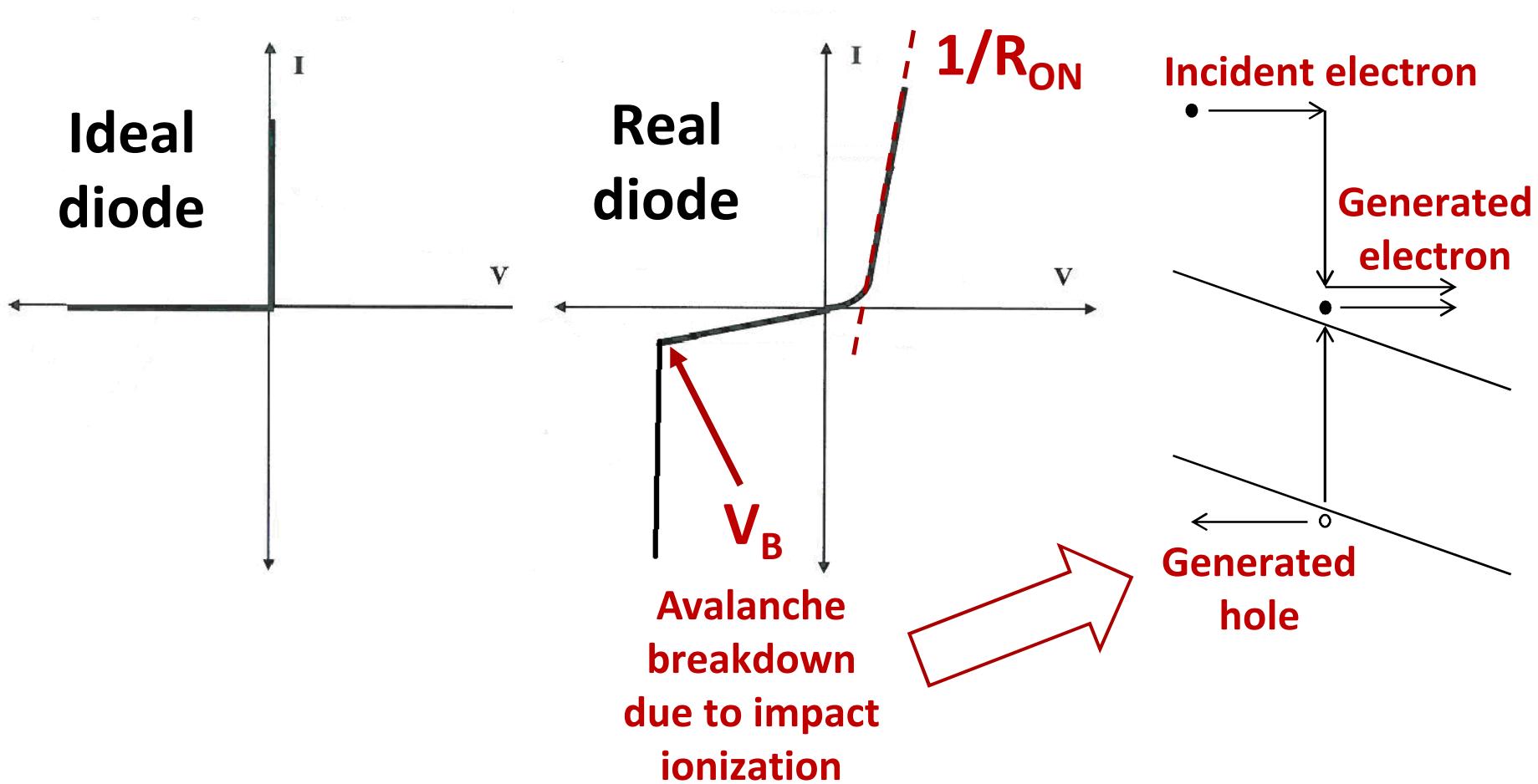
## Lateral device (5 kV target)

- Current flow and voltage drop parallel to surface
- Availability of heterostructures and 2DEG is an advantage
- Electric field management is challenging

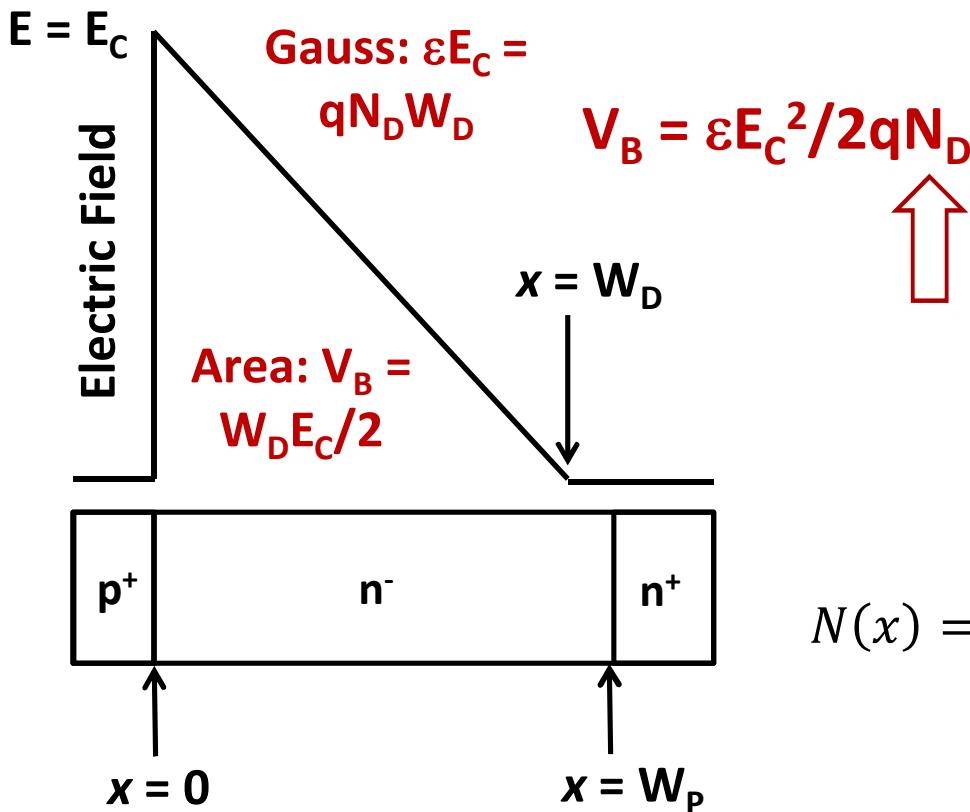
# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Basics of Power Diodes



# Critical Electric Field



Number N(x) of generated electron-hole pairs obeys

$$\frac{dN}{dx} = (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)N(x)$$

$$\alpha_{n,p} = a_{n,p} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{b_{n,p}}{E}\right)\right]$$

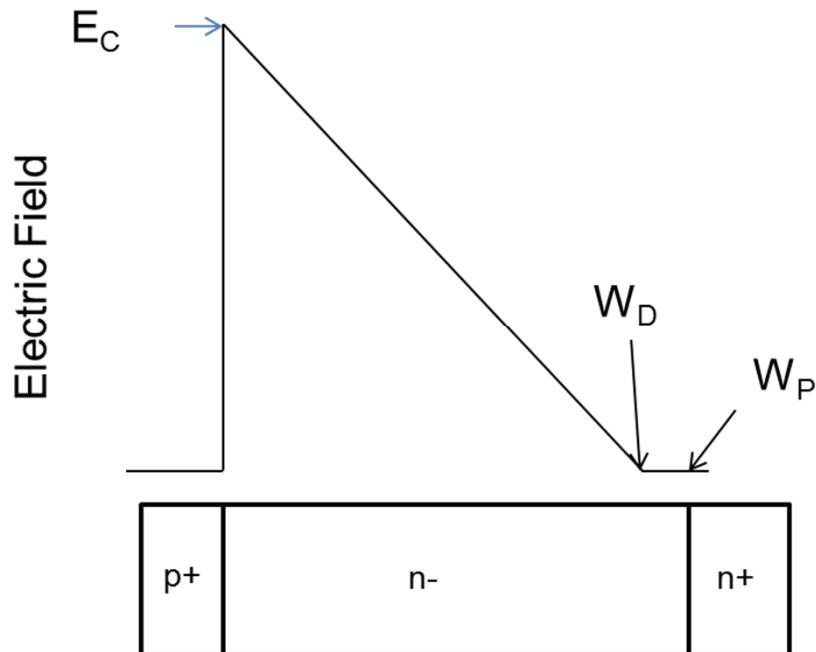
$$N(x) = \frac{\exp\left[\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)dx'\right]}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_n \exp\left[\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)dx'\right]dx}$$

Avalanche occurs when denominator approaches infinity

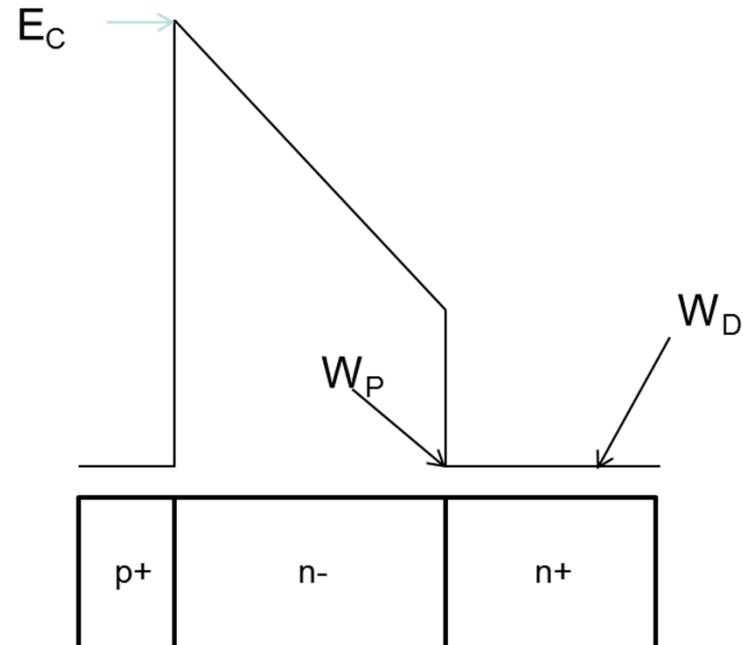
*The critical field is defined as the maximum electric field that leads to avalanche breakdown in a 1D analytical model*

# Punch-Through vs. Non-Punch-Through Design

Non-Punch-Through  
 $W_P \geq W_D$



Punch-Through  
 $W_P < W_D$

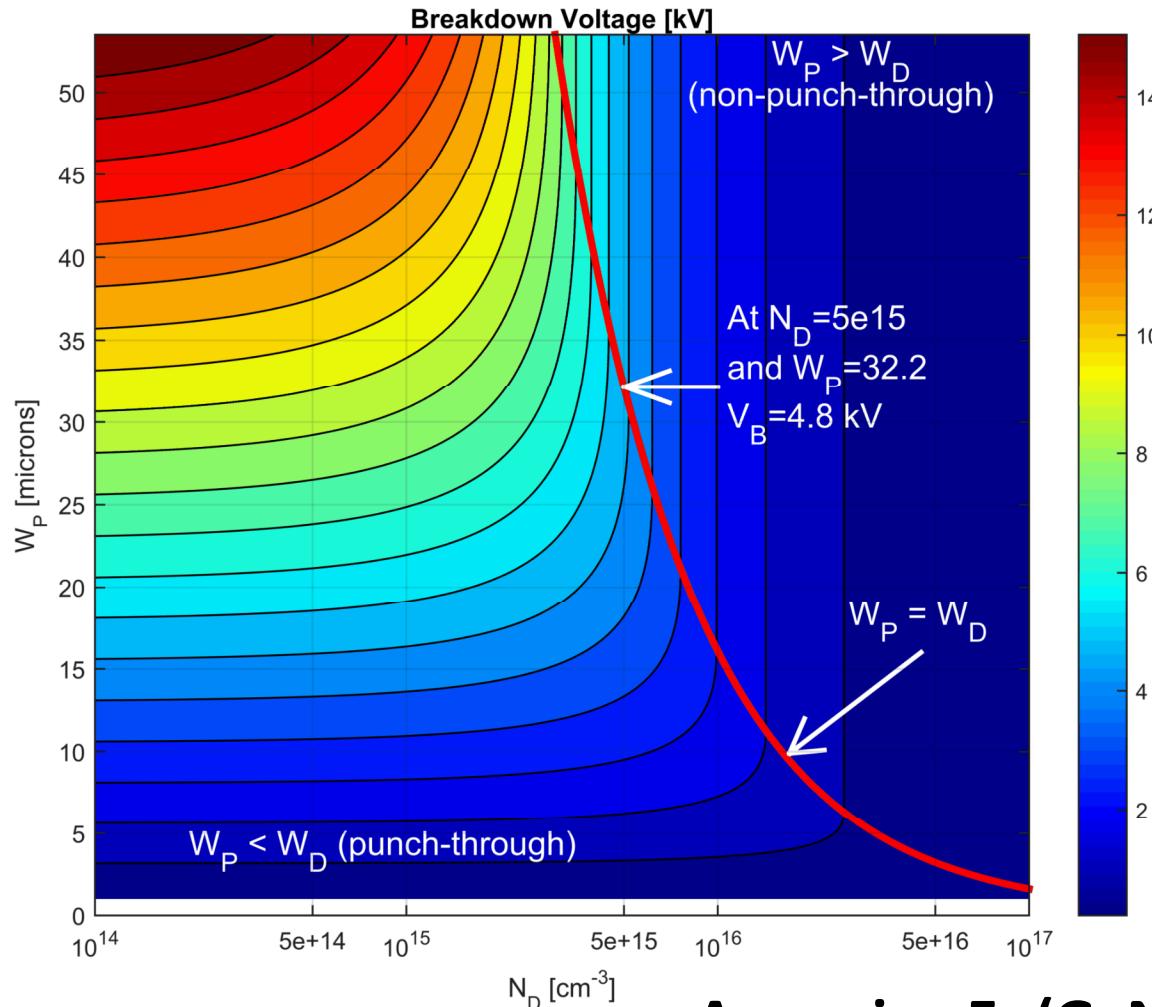


$$V_{br} = \frac{\epsilon E_C^2}{2qN_D}$$

$$V_{br} = E_C W_P - \frac{qN_D W_P^2}{2\epsilon}$$

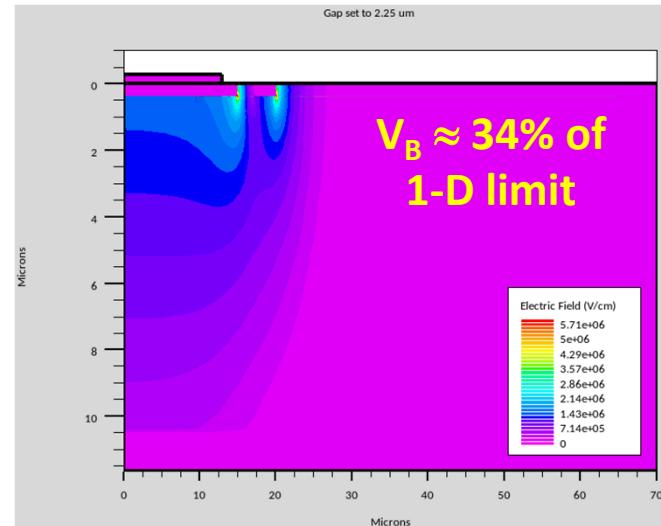
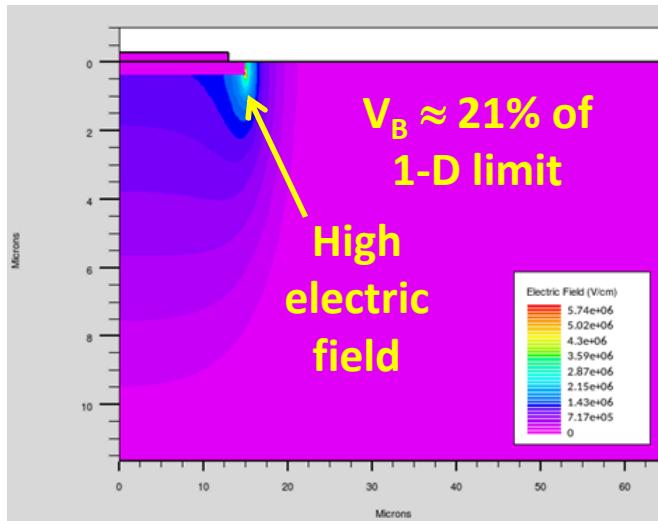
***In both cases, low doping is required for high breakdown voltage***

# Dependence of $V_B$ on Doping and Layer Thickness



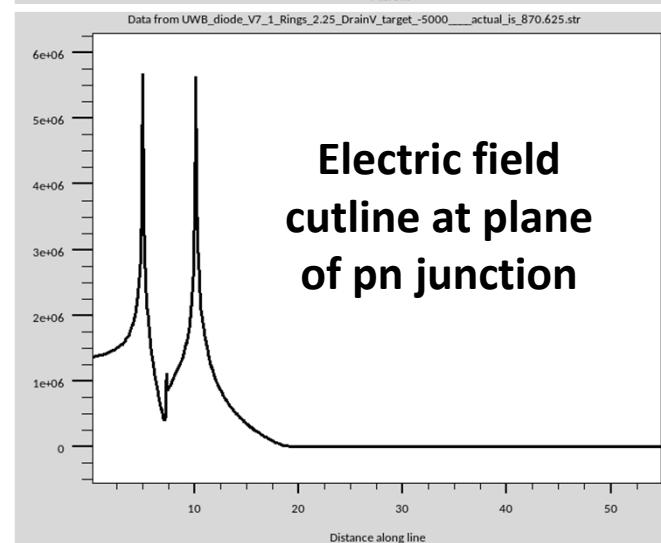
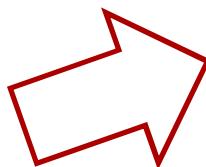
J. Dickerson et al., EMC 2015

# Finite Lateral Extent of the Junction Reduces $V_B$ in a Real Device



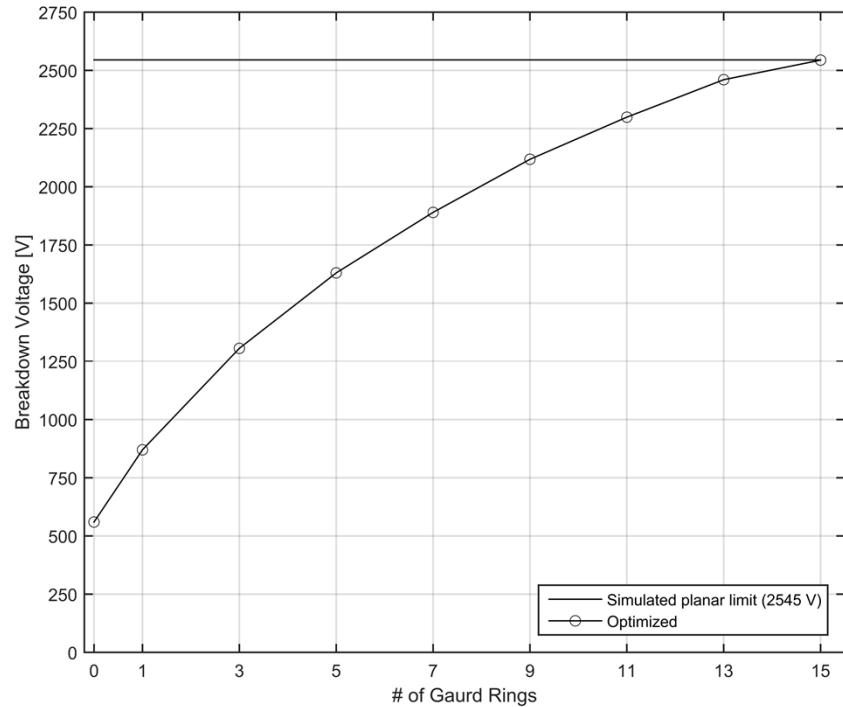
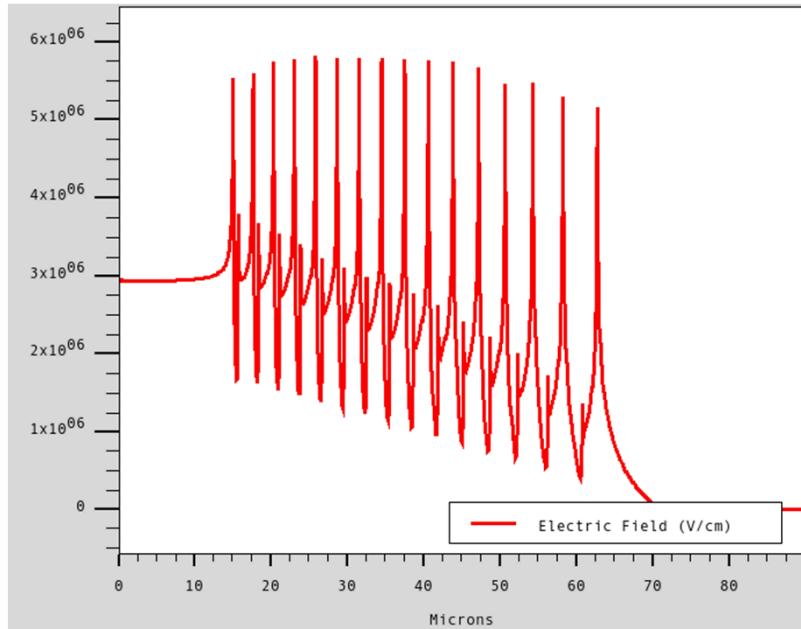
## Solution: Implanted guard rings

- N implantation to “deaden” portions of the p<sup>+</sup> epilayer
- Large design space: # of rings, width and spacing of rings, implant dose and depth



J. Dickerson et al., EMC 2015

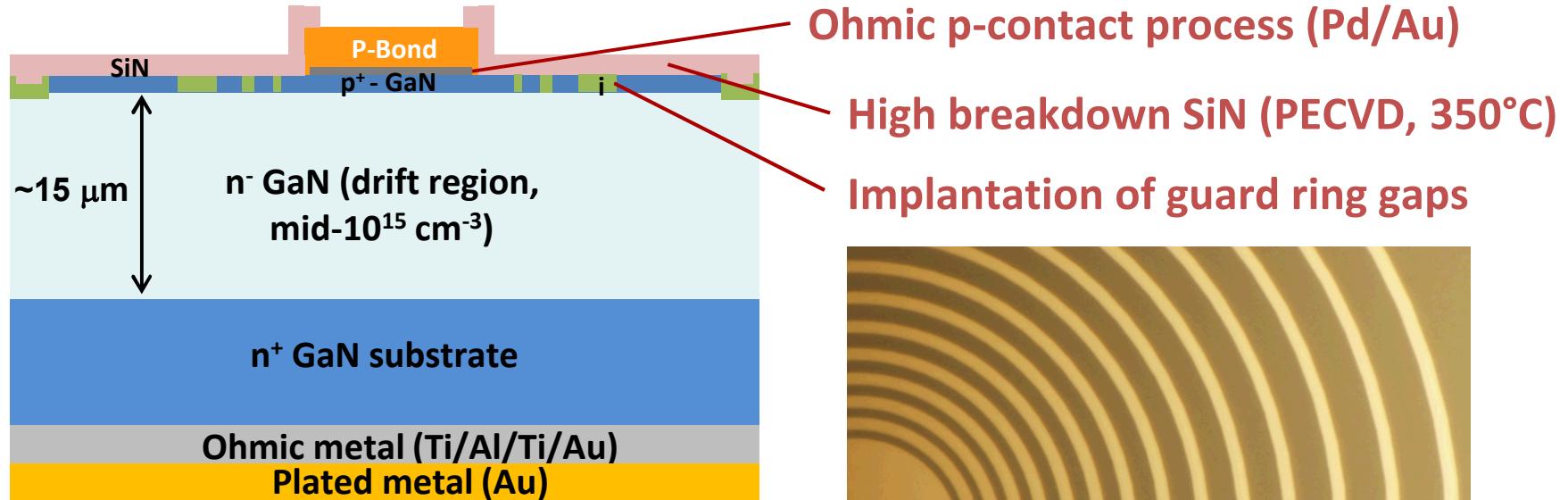
# Optimized Guard Ring Designs



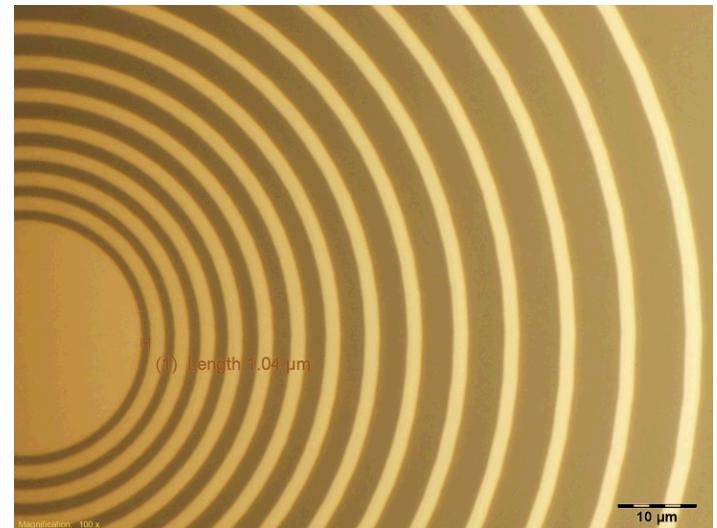
***$V_B$  saturates at 1-D limit for 15 optimized guard rings***

J. Dickerson et al., EMC 2015

# GaN PiN Diode Fabrication

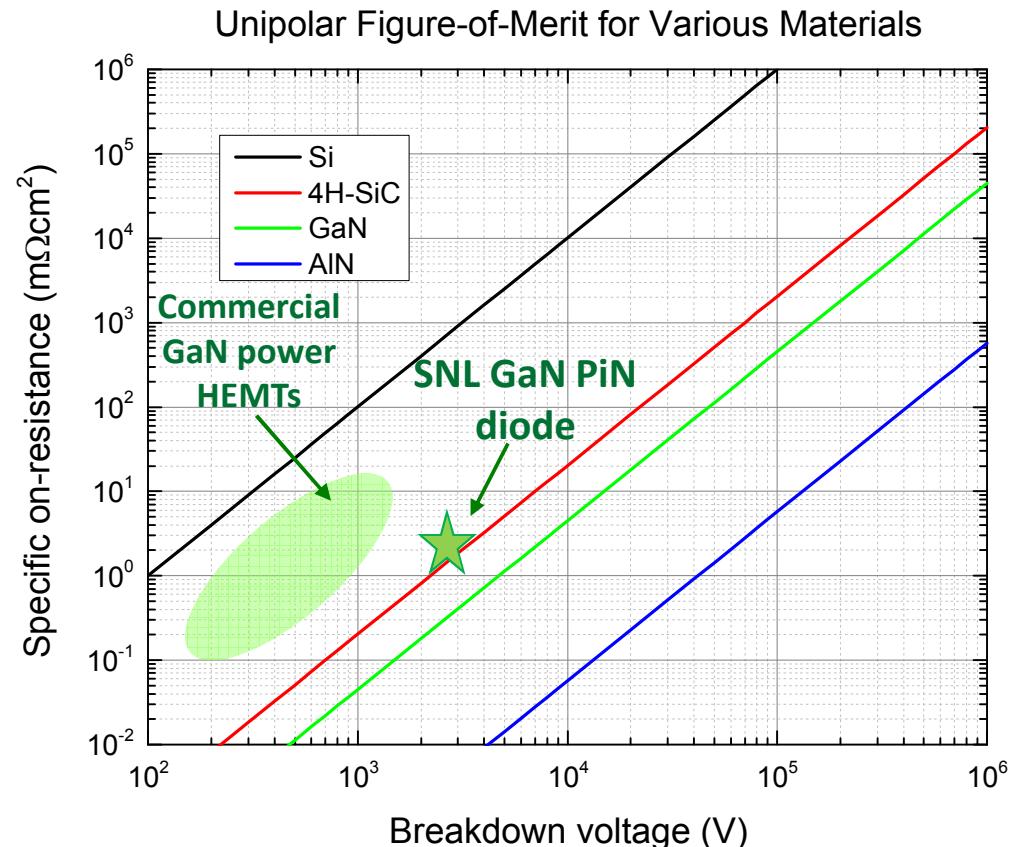
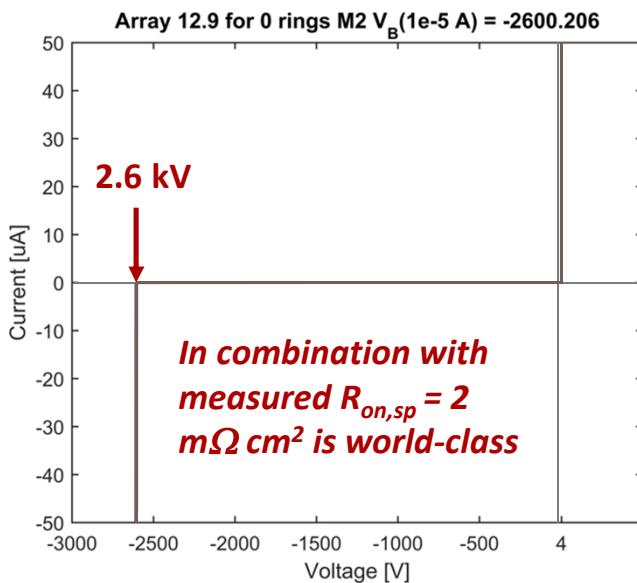
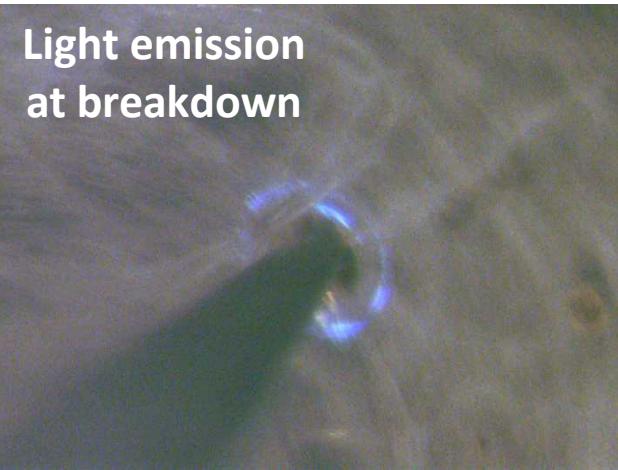


*Homoepitaxial GaN growth  
on GaN substrates!*



# GaN PiN Diode Performance

Light emission  
at breakdown

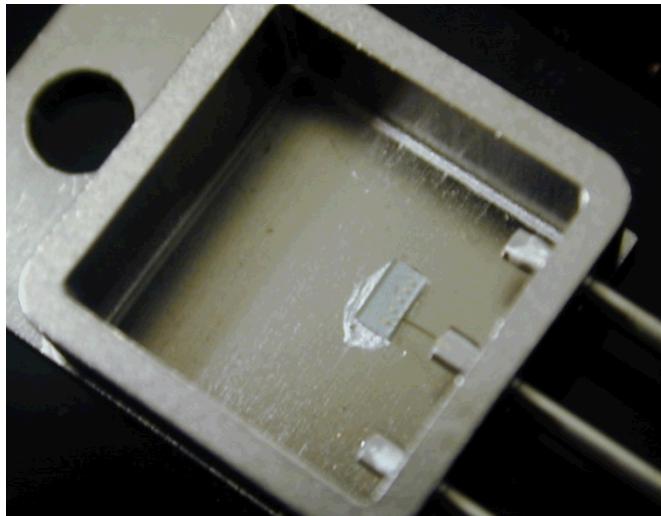


Outstanding results, but dependence of  $V_B$  on # of guard rings does not follow theory!

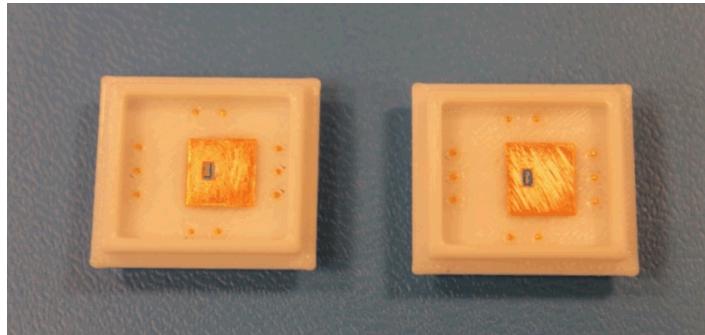
- We have an explanation, is now being verified

J. Dickerson et al., EMC 2015

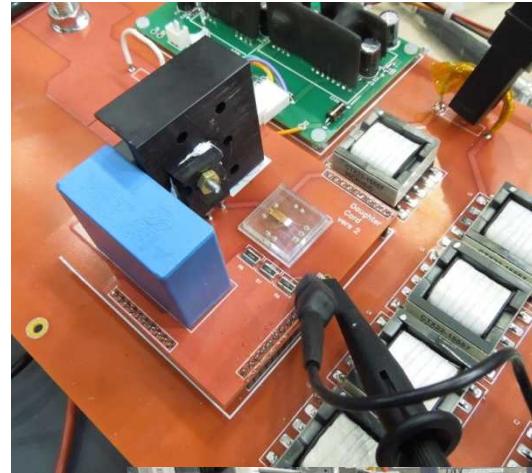
# Packaging and Switching Characterization of GaN PiN Diodes



Commercial and custom in-house device packaging



J. Neely



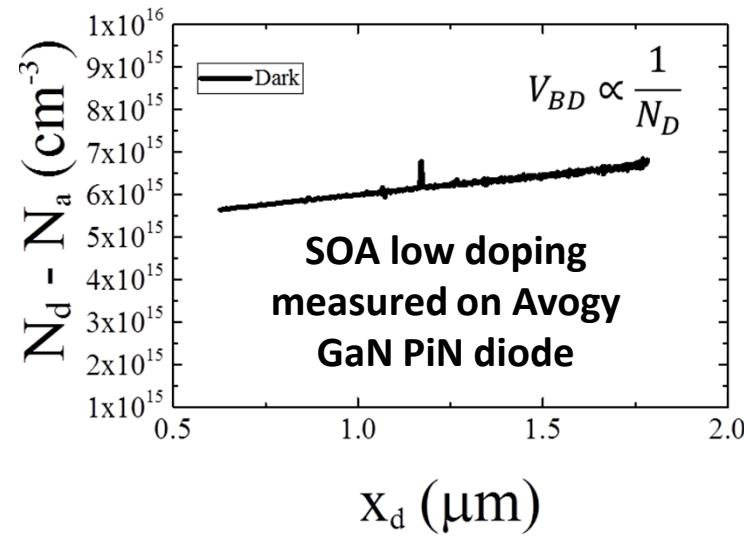
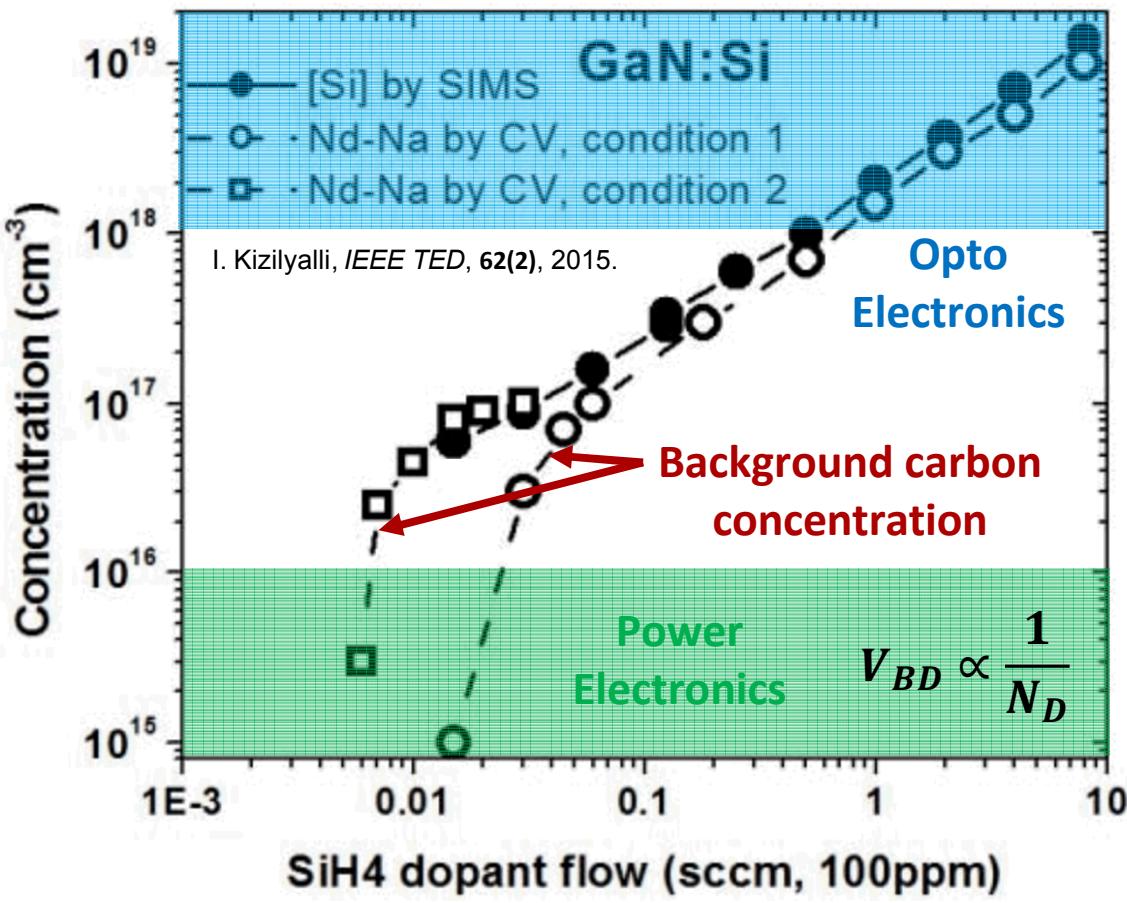
Switching test characterization



# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

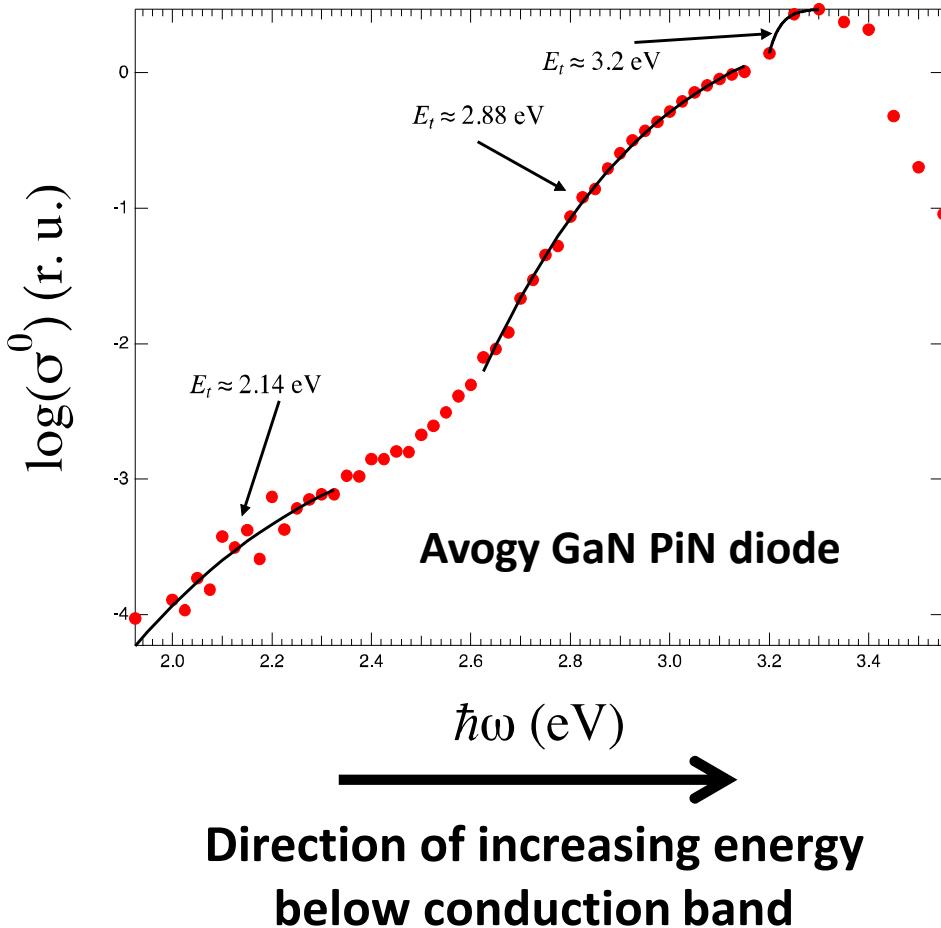
# Low Doping in GaN Drift Regions



*For GaN drift regions, the background acceptor concentration may be the same order of magnitude as the intentional dopant concentration!*

M. P. King et al., EMC 2015

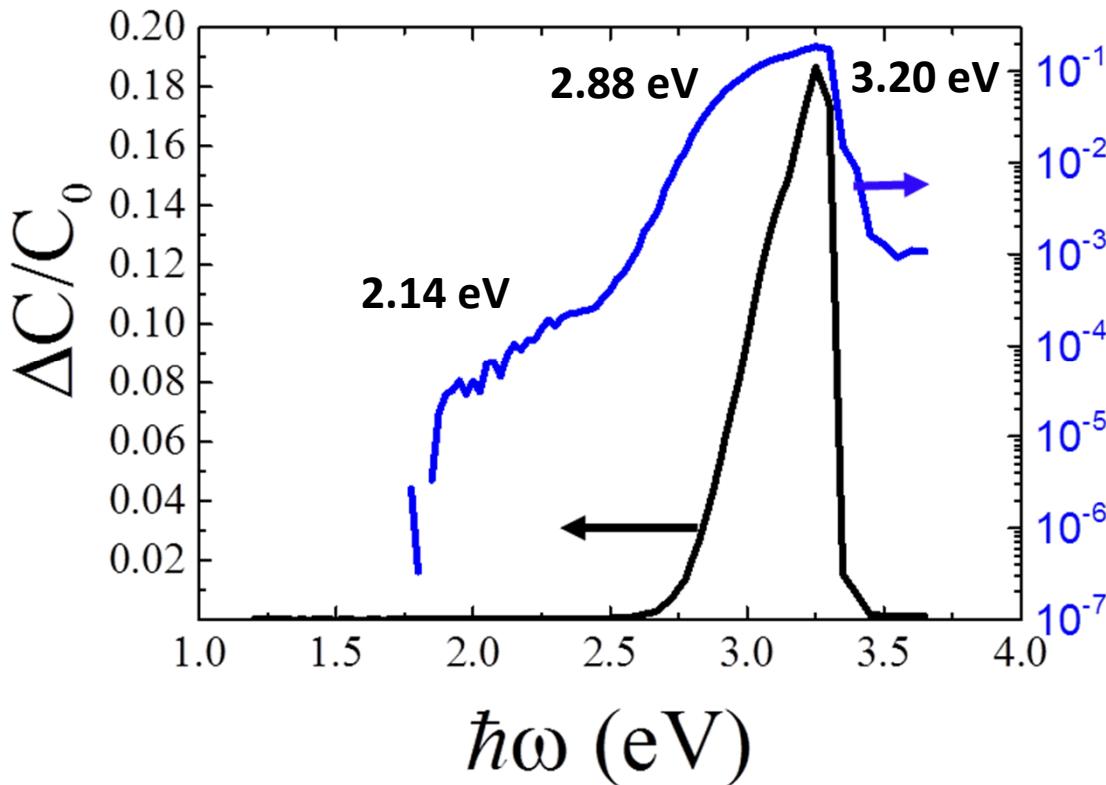
# DLOS Spectrum of Homoepitaxial GaN Drift Region



- DLOS studies show three prominent defect levels at:
  - $E_C - 2.14$  eV
  - $E_C - 2.88$  eV
  - $E_C - 3.20$  eV
- States at  $E_C - 2.14$  eV and  $E_C - 2.88$  eV are broad, indicating strong lattice relaxation following carrier emission

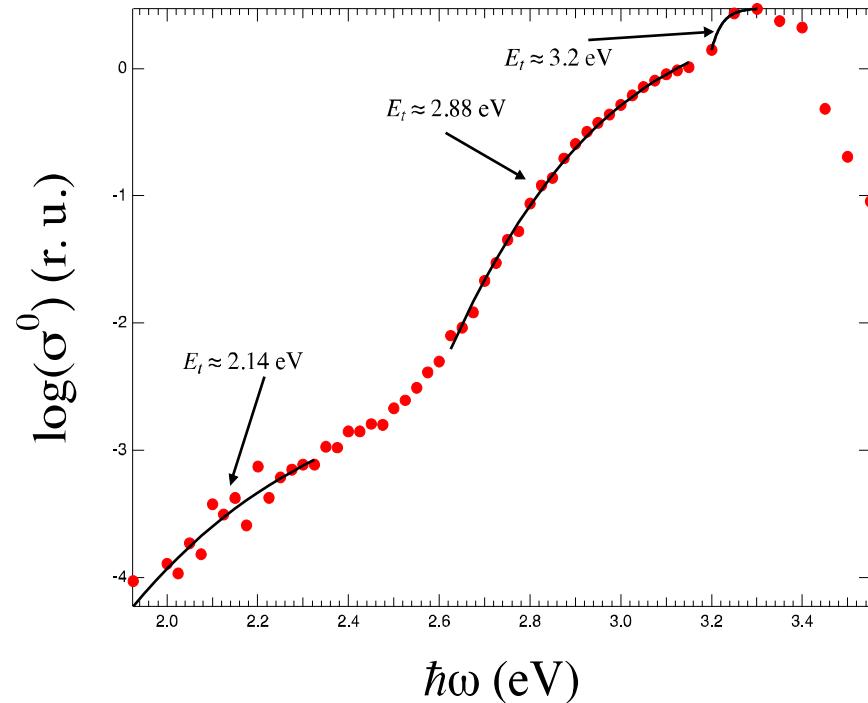
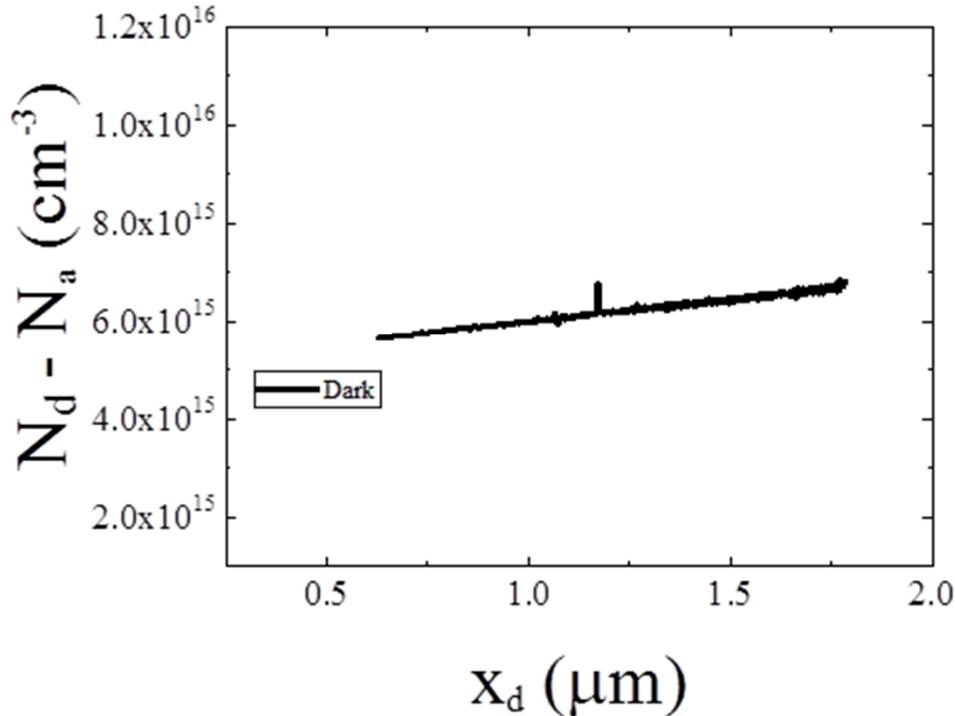
# Steady-State Photocapacitance

Provides defect density information

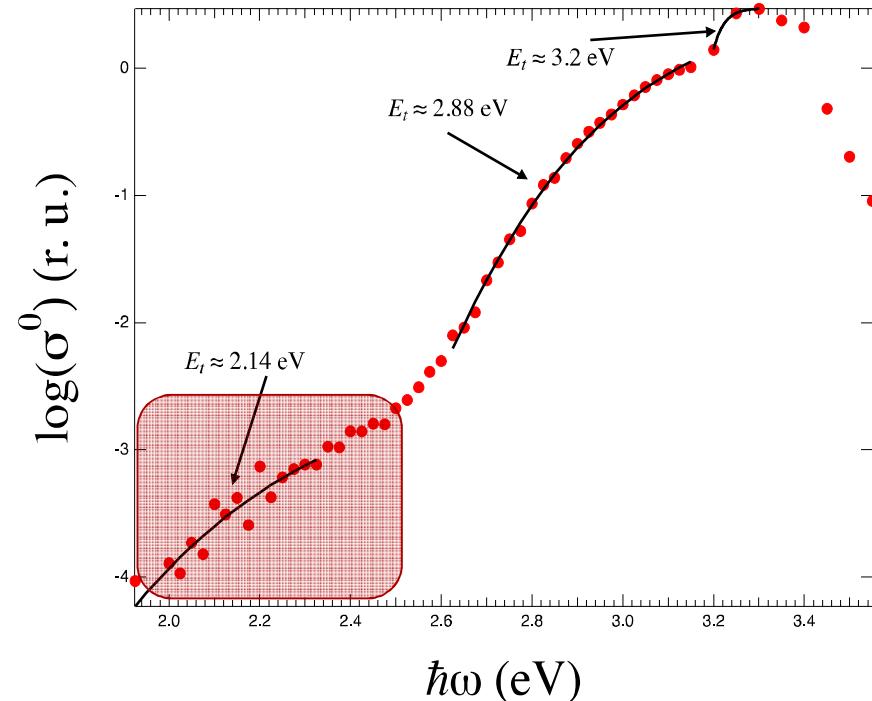
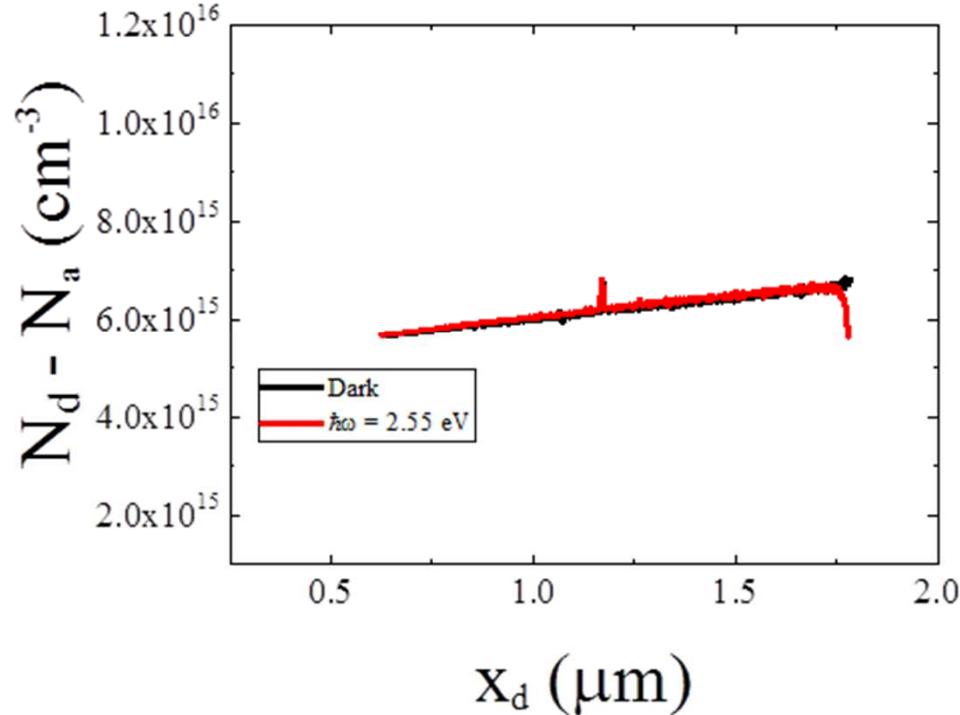


- States at  $E_C - 2.14$  eV and  $E_C - 2.88$  eV are again broad
- Defect level at  $E_C - 2.14$  eV shows small impact on response
- Levels at  $E_C - 2.88$  eV and  $E_C - 3.20$  eV are observed to be large in magnitude and are likely primary compensating centers

# Lighted CV Correlates with DLOS to Determine Compensating Defect Density

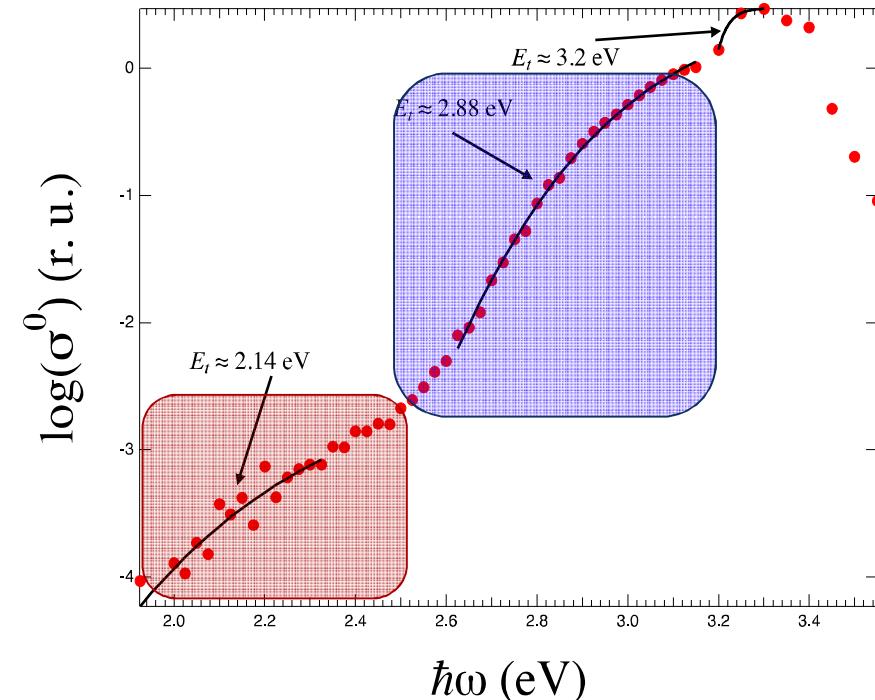
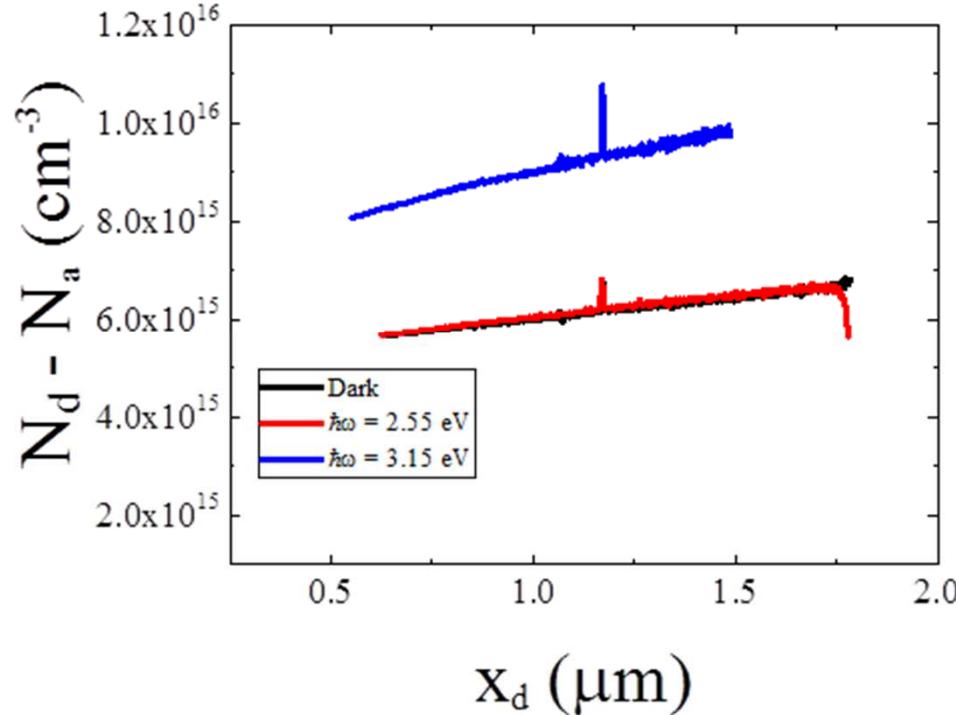


# Lighted CV Correlates with DLOS to Determine Compensating Defect Density



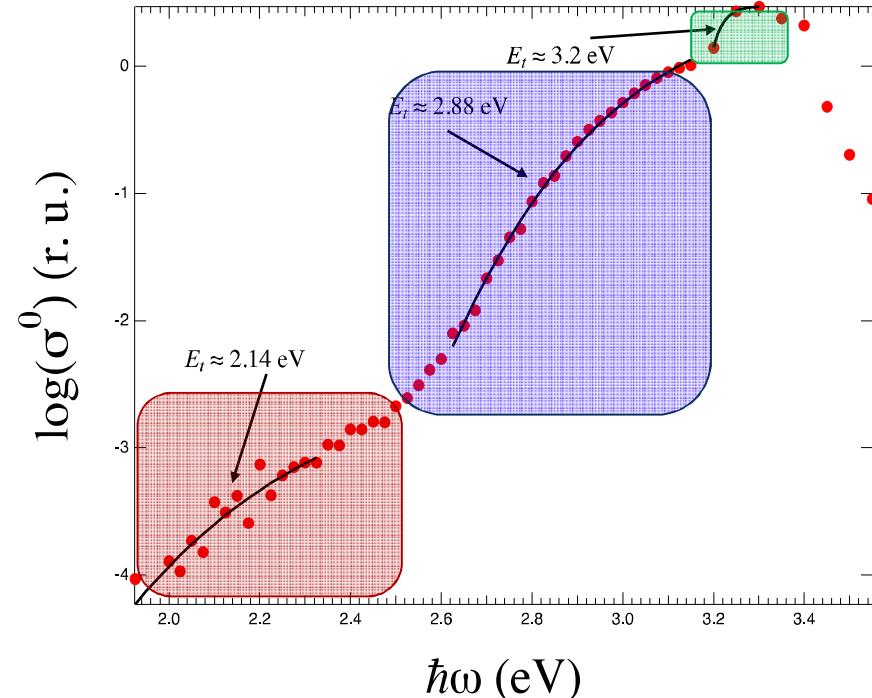
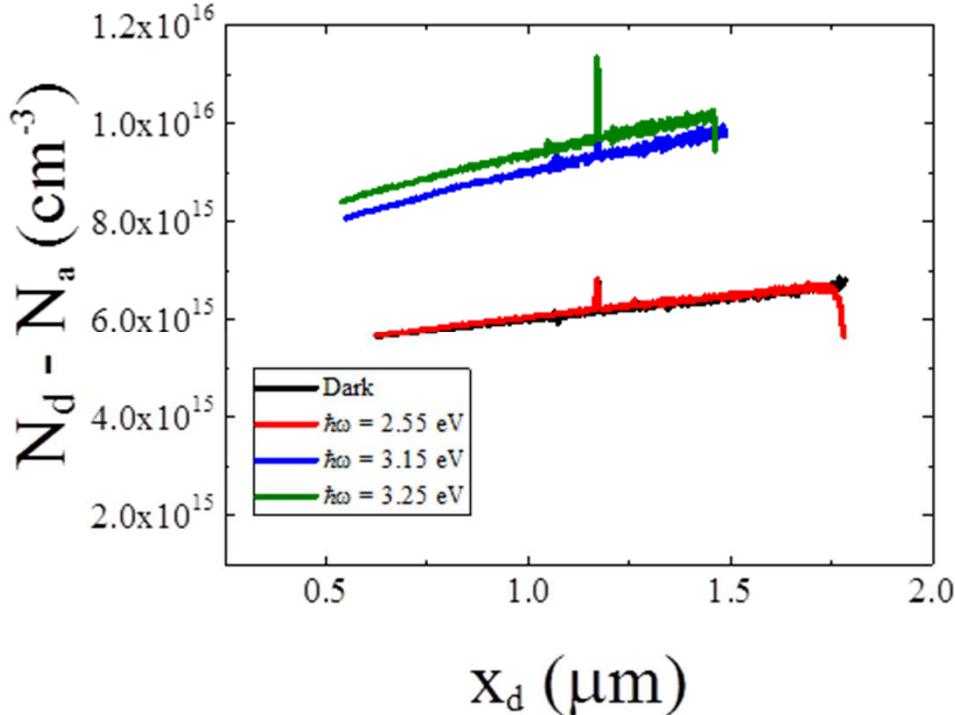
- Small response from  $E_C - 2.14 \text{ eV}$  level,  $N_T \approx 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

# Lighted CV Correlates with DLOS to Determine Compensating Defect Density



- Small response from  $E_C - 2.14 \text{ eV}$  level,  $N_T \approx 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- $E_C - 2.88 \text{ eV}$  level is the primary compensating defect,  $N_T \approx 2 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

# Lighted CV Correlates with DLOS to Determine Compensating Defect Density



- Small response from  $E_C - 2.14 \text{ eV}$  level,  $N_T \approx 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- $E_C - 2.88 \text{ eV}$  level is the primary compensating defect,  $N_T \approx 2 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- $E_C - 3.20 \text{ eV}$  level is on order of free carrier concentration,  $N_T \approx 2.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

M. P. King et al., EMC 2015

# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Problem: No Lattice-Matched Conducting Substrate!

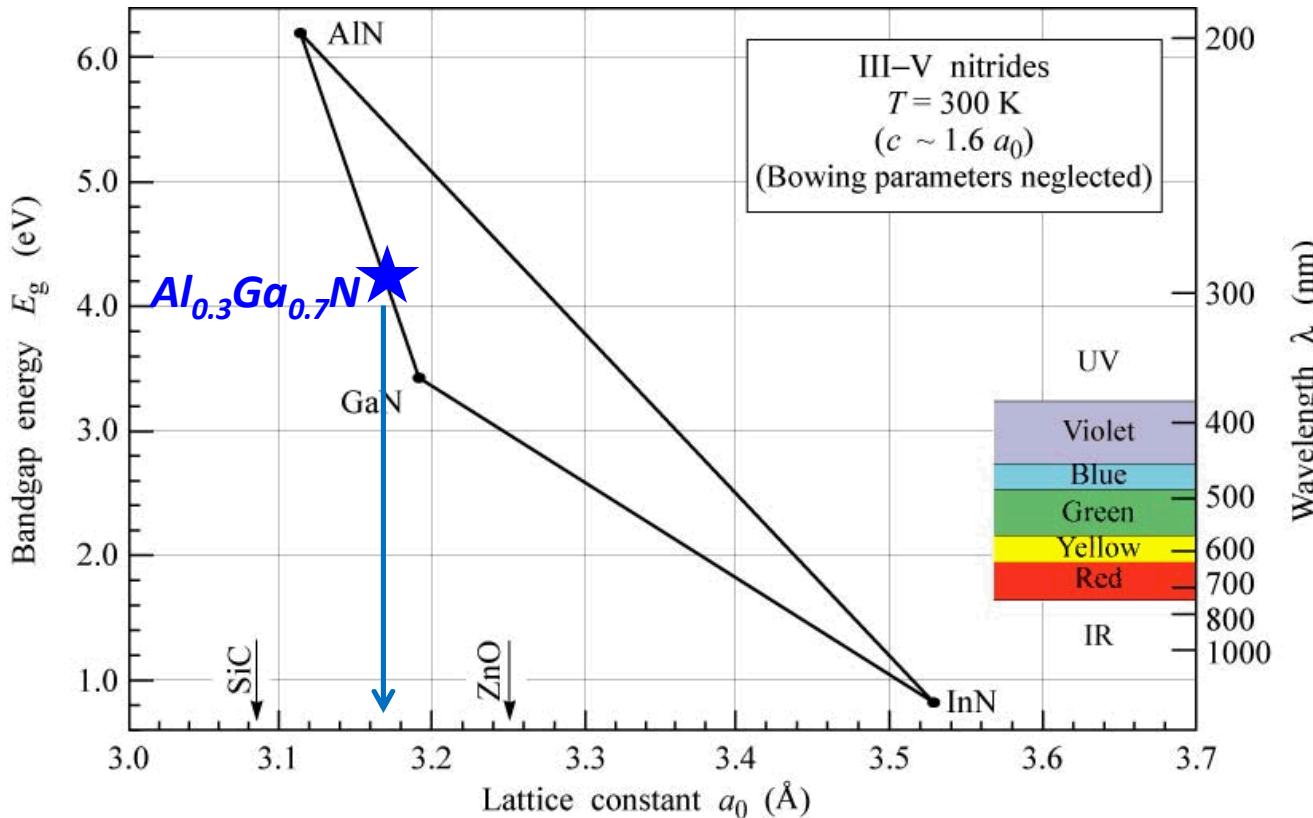
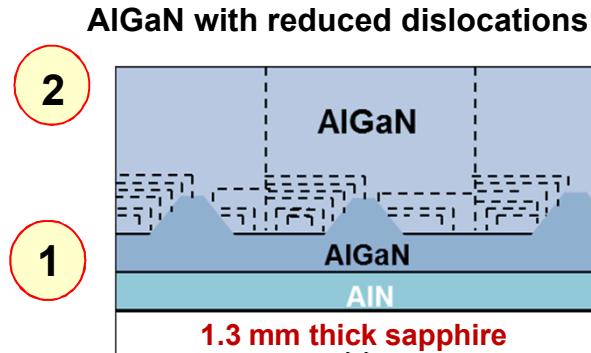


Fig. 12.12. Bandgap energy versus lattice constant of III-V nitride semiconductors at room temperature.

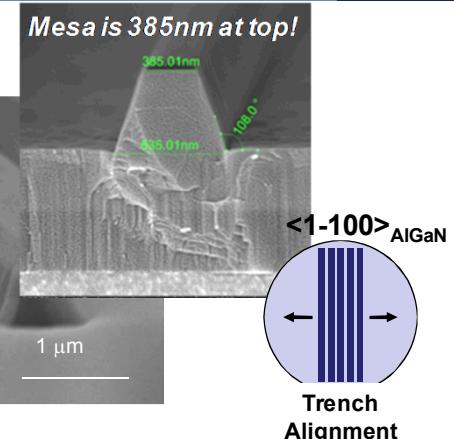
E. F. Schubert  
*Light-Emitting Diodes* (Cambridge Univ. Press)  
[www.LightEmittingDiodes.org](http://www.LightEmittingDiodes.org)

# AlGaN Overgrowth of Patterned Templates on Thick Sapphire

## AlGaN Growth on Patterned Templates



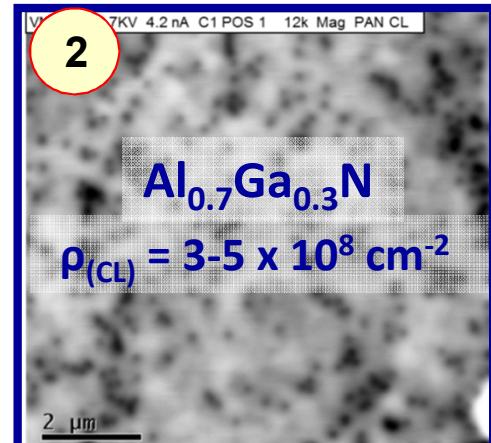
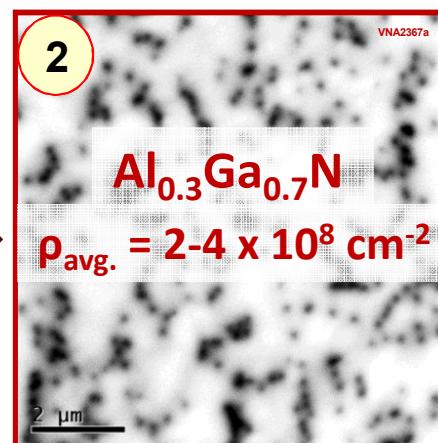
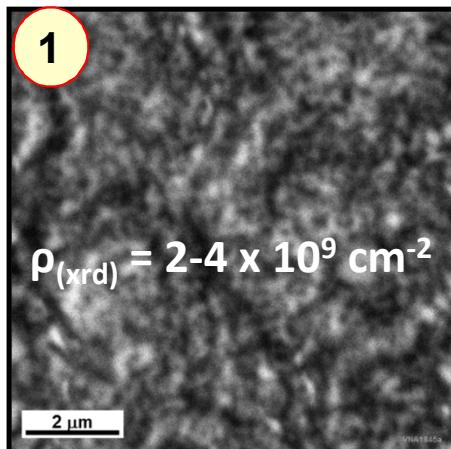
(K. Cross)  
Trenches formed by etching



→ *Sub-micron features are key innovation for uniform reduction of dislocations*

## Cathodoluminescence

(L. Alessi)

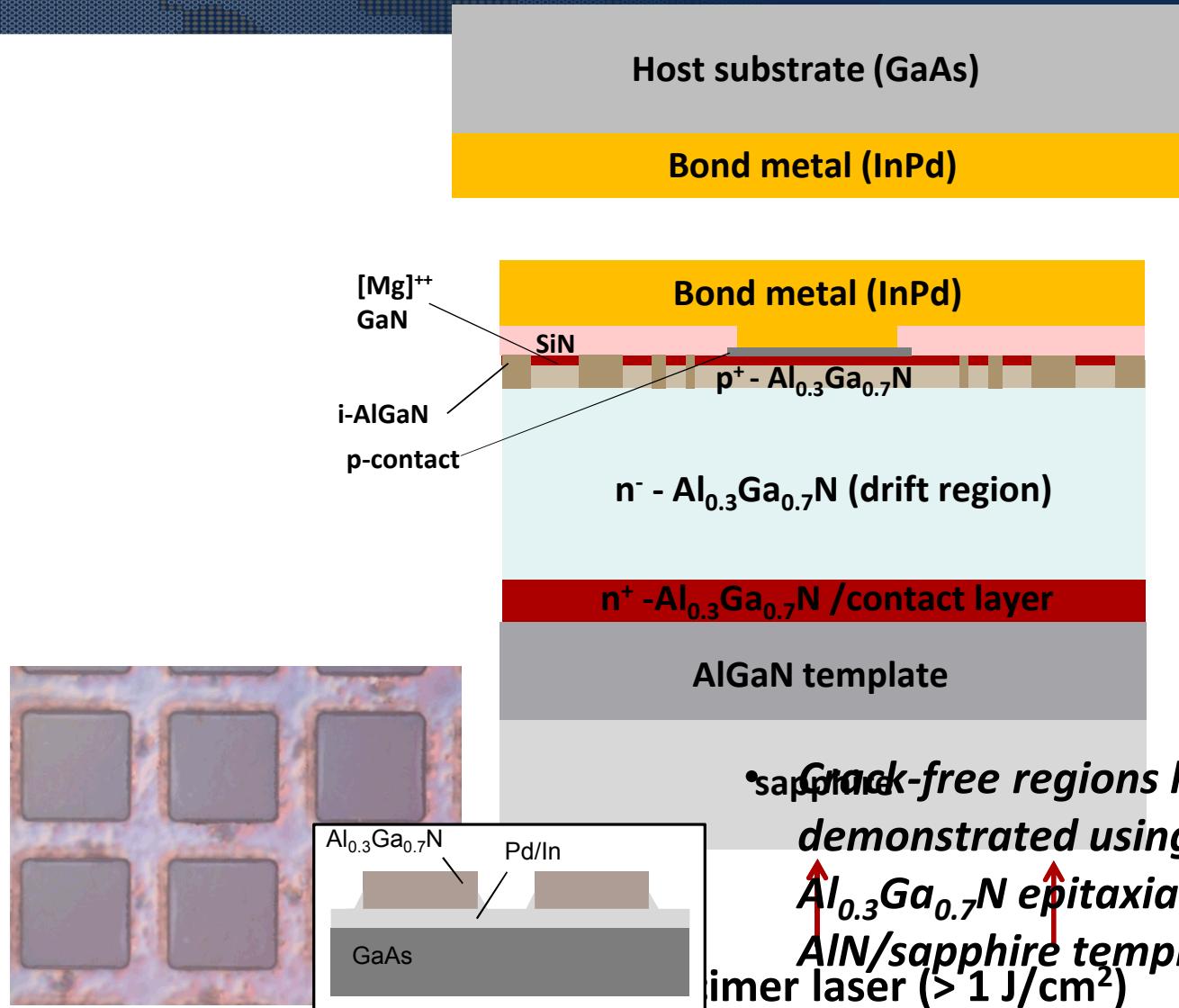


10-20x reduction

10-15x reduction

A. Allerman et. al., JCG 2014

# $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$ PiN Diode Processing



J. Wierer

# Outline

- **Introduction and motivation**
  - Introduction to Sandia
  - Motivation for WBG/UWBGs in power electronics
- **Vertical devices**
  - GaN PiN diode design and fabrication
  - Doping and defect physics in GaN drift regions
  - $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$  PiN diodes
- **Lateral devices**
  - Al-Rich  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{Al}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$  heterostructures

# Target Metrics for 5 kV UWBG HEMT

$$R_{on,sp} = \frac{1}{q\mu n_s} (L_{sd} + 2\sqrt{q\mu n_s \rho_c})^2$$

$$R_{sh} = 1/q\mu n_s$$

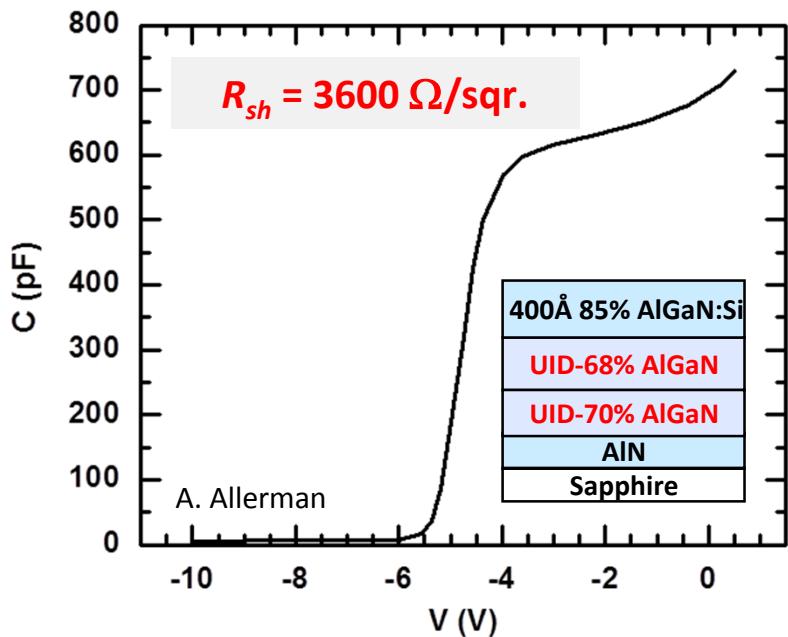
$$V_B = E_{crit} L_{gd}$$

$$V_{th} = \frac{\phi_B}{q} - \frac{\Delta E_c}{q} - \frac{n_s d}{\epsilon}$$

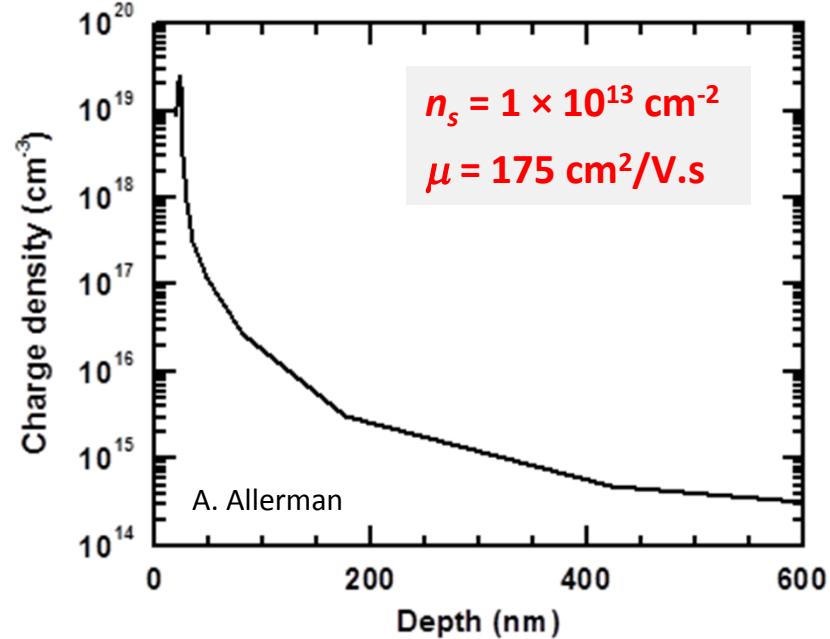
- AlN/Al<sub>0.85</sub>Ga<sub>0.15</sub>N HEMT with  $L_{gd} = 12.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $L_g = 1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $L_{sg} = 1 \mu\text{m}$
- $R_{on,sp} = 5 \text{ m}\Omega\text{.cm}^2$ 
  - $\mu = 250 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$
  - $n_s = 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
  - $\rho_c = 10^{-5} \Omega\text{.cm}^2$
- $V_B = 5000 \text{ V}$ 
  - $E_{crit} = 4 \text{ MV/cm}$  (effective value)
- $V_T > +3 \text{ V}$ 
  - $\phi_B = 4 \text{ eV}$

# $\text{Al}_{0.85}\text{Ga}_{0.15}\text{N} / \text{Al}_{0.70}\text{Ga}_{0.30}\text{N}$ Heterostructures

## $\text{Al}_{0.85}\text{Ga}_{0.15}\text{N}/\text{Al}_{0.7}\text{Ga}_{0.3}\text{N}$ MODFET

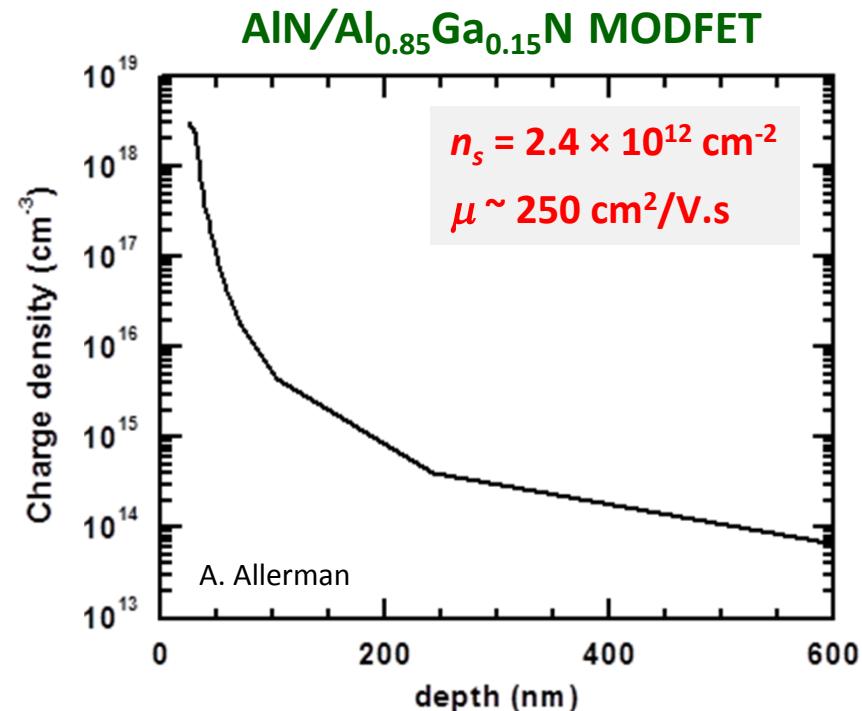
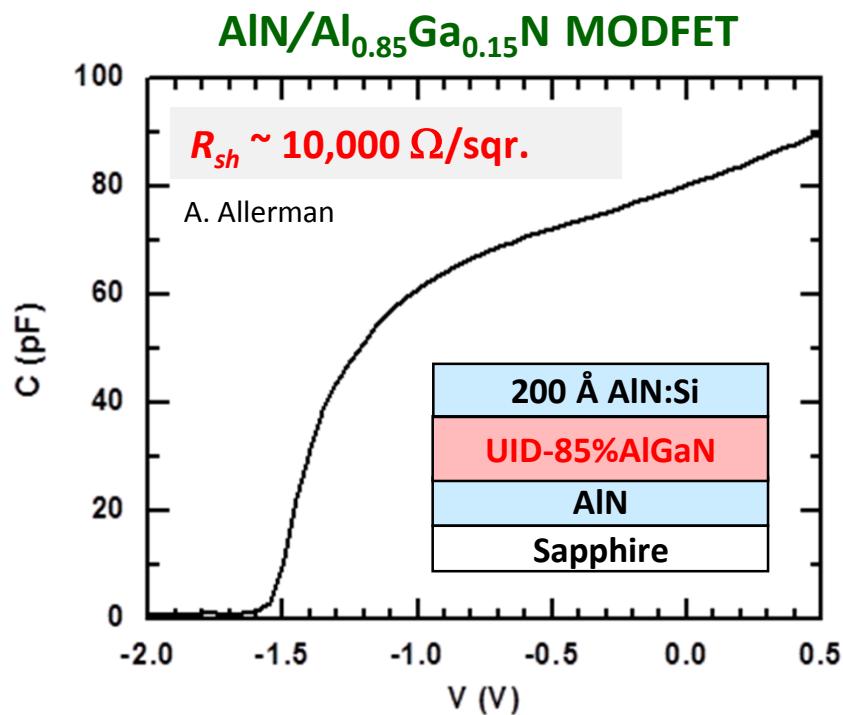


## $\text{Al}_{0.85}\text{Ga}_{0.15}\text{N}/\text{Al}_{0.7}\text{Ga}_{0.3}\text{N}$ MODFET



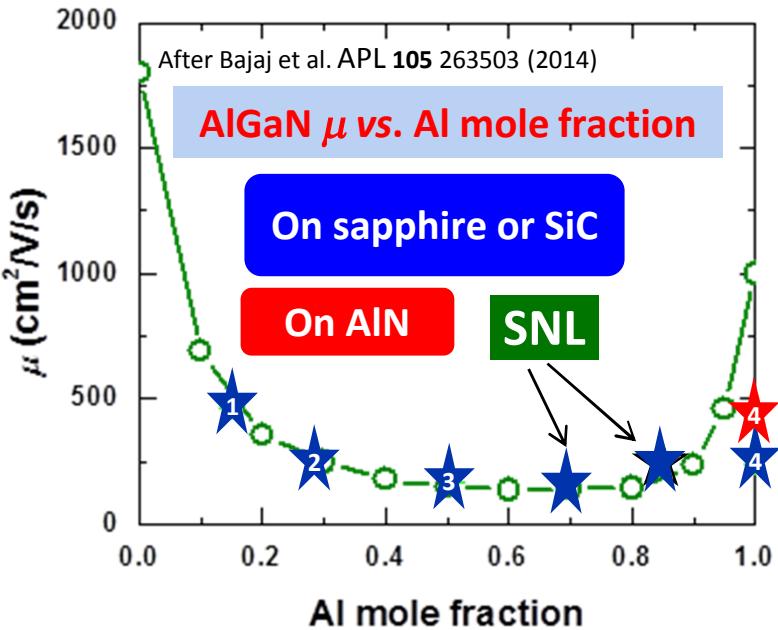
- First demonstration of 2DEG in  $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$  channel for  $x > 0.6$
- Achieved  $n_s = 1 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu = 175 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V.s}$  in  $\text{Al}_{0.7}\text{Ga}_{0.3}\text{N}$  channel

# AlN / Al<sub>0.85</sub>Ga<sub>0.15</sub>N Heterostructures

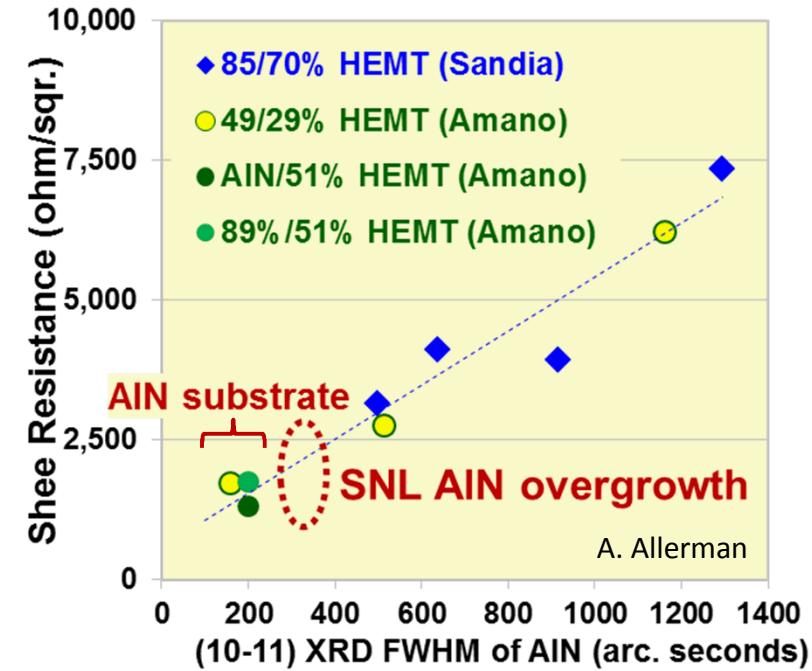


- Achieved  $n_s = 2.4 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ,  $\mu \sim 250 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V.s}$  in Al<sub>0.85</sub>Ga<sub>0.15</sub>N channel
- Largest Al mole fraction exhibiting 2DEG

# Challenge: Channel Mobility and Sheet Resistance



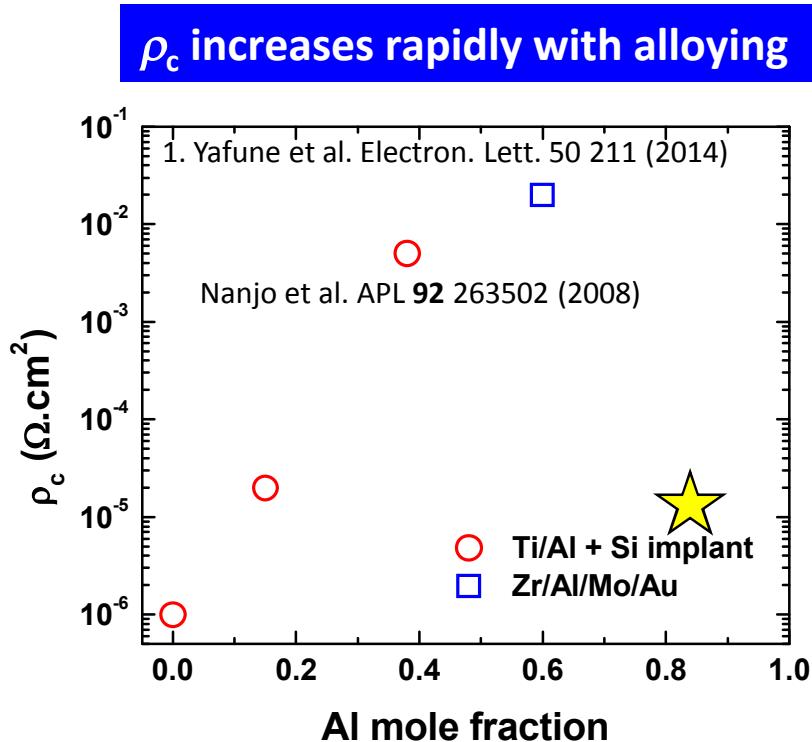
1. Nanjo et al. IEEE TED **60** 1046 (2013)
2. Hashimoto et al. SEI Tech. Rev. **71** 83 (2010)
3. Hashimoto et al. PSSA **209** 501 (2012)
4. Taniyusa et al. APL **89** 182112 (2006)



Hashimoto et al. SEI Tech. Rev. 71 83 (2010)  
Hashimoto et al. PSSA **209** 501 (2012)

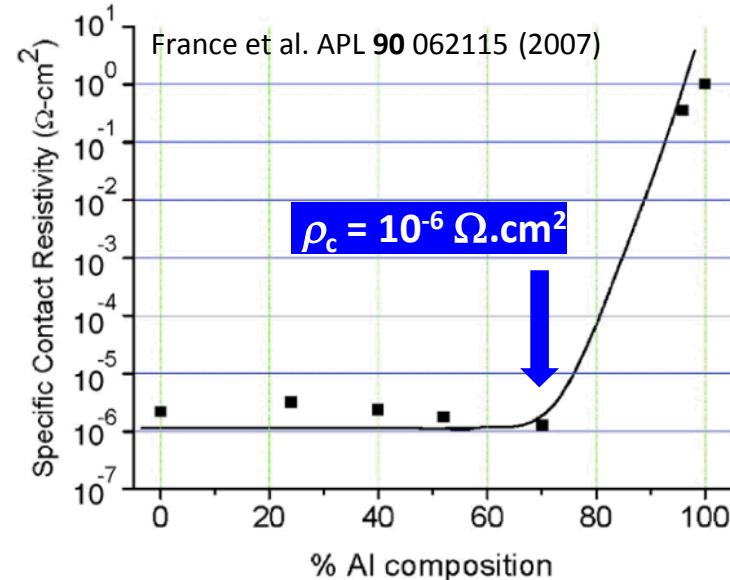
- Sandia AlGaN channel quality tracks with SOA
- $R_{sh} < 2500 \Omega/\text{sq}.$  achievable with threading dislocation reduction

# Challenge: Ohmic Contacts



- Planar/surface Ohmic contacts are a significant challenge
- Re-grown AlGaN contacts are likely required

A. Armstrong et al., ICMAT 2015

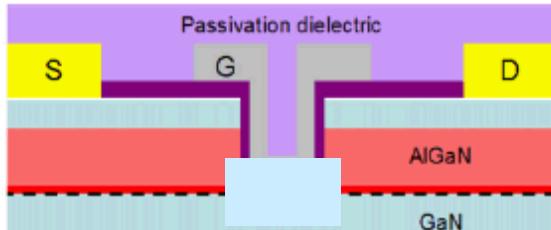


A. Allerman / E. Douglas

# Challenge: Normally-Off Devices

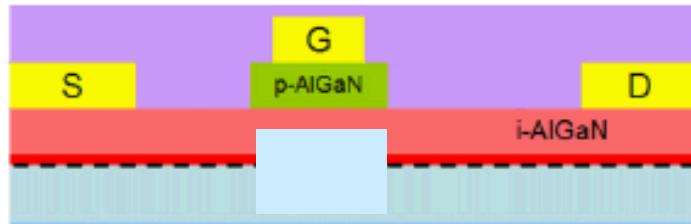
Su et al., SST 28  
074012 (2013)

## Recessed Gate HEMT



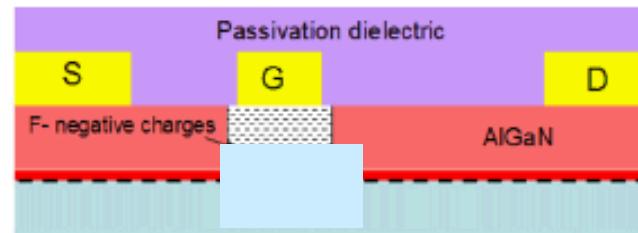
- Gate etch damages channel quality
- Gate leakage concerns
- Low yield across wafer

## p-type Gate HEMT



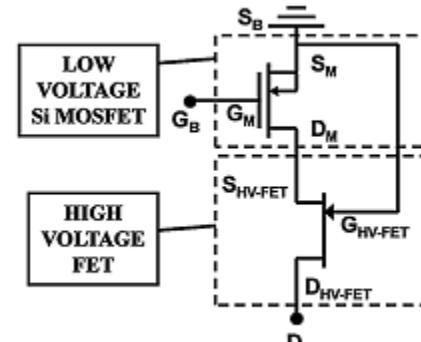
- Highly defective p-AlGaN produces dynamic  $R_{on}$
- Mg is undesirable in MOCVD HEMT epi
- Unclear if p-type UWBG AlGaN possible

## F-implant HEMT



- F- implant damages channel quality
- Long-term stability of F- ions uncertain

## Cascode



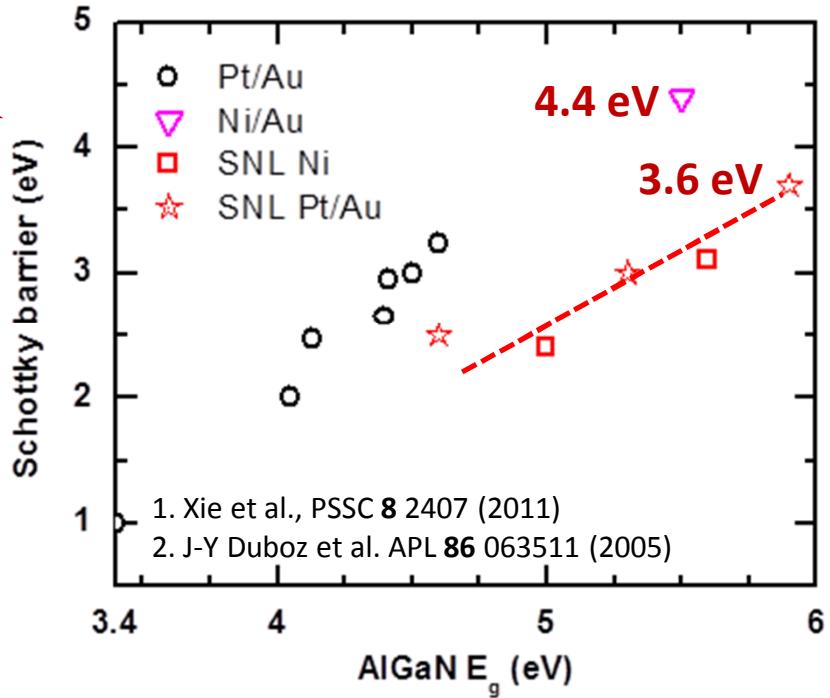
Baliga, SST 28 074011 (2013)

- Lose thermal margin gains
- Lose switching speeds gains

**Strategies for E-mode GaN increase cost and degrade reliability/performance**

# High Schottky Barriers for E-Mode Operation

More positive  $V_T$



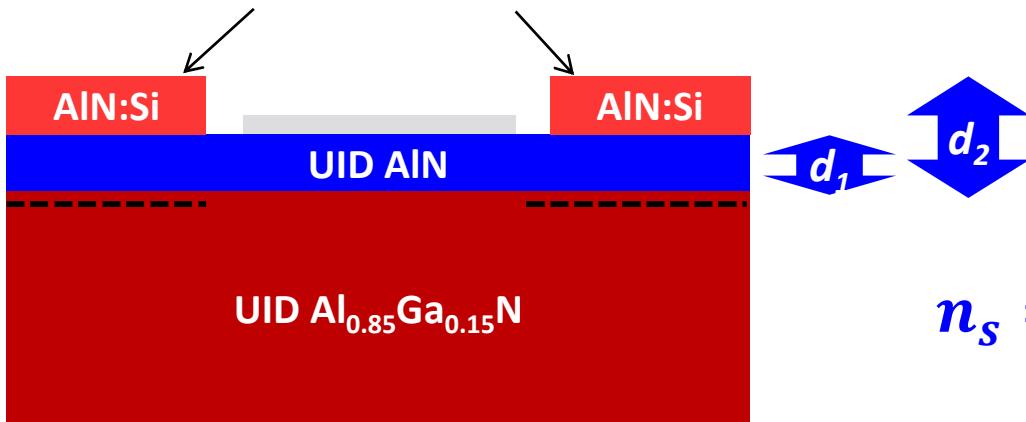
*AlGaN Schottky barrier vs. alloying*

$$V_{th} = \boxed{\frac{\phi_B}{q}} - \frac{\Delta E_c}{q} - \frac{qN^+d^2}{2\epsilon}$$

- $\phi_B > 4$  eV for  $\text{Al}_{0.8}\text{Ga}_{0.2}\text{N}$
- Sandia achieved  $\phi_B = 3.6$  eV for  $\text{Al}_{0.9}\text{Ga}_{0.1}\text{N}$
- > +3 V gain in  $V_T$  for  $\text{AlN}/\text{Al}_{0.85}\text{Ga}_{0.15}\text{N}$  compared to GaN HEMTs

# Combine High Schottky Barrier with Regrown Access Region

Re-grown barrier



$$V_T = \frac{\phi_B}{q} - \frac{\Delta E_c}{q} - \frac{qN^+d_1^2}{2\epsilon}$$

$$n_s = \frac{N^+(d_2^2 - d_1^2)}{2d_2} + \frac{\Delta E_c \epsilon}{d_2} - \frac{\phi_s \epsilon}{d_2}$$

- Non-planar device decouples  $V_T$  and  $R_{on,sp}$
- Re-grown barrier instead of recess etch to preserve channel quality
- Large AlGaN  $\phi_B$  is critical to preserve sufficient barrier thickness

# Questions?

## Contact information:

**Bob Kaplar**

**Sandia National Labs**

**505-844-8285**

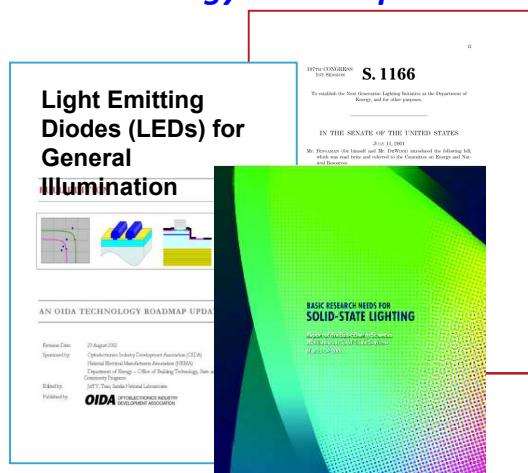
**[rjkapla@sandia.gov](mailto:rjkapla@sandia.gov)**

# Backups

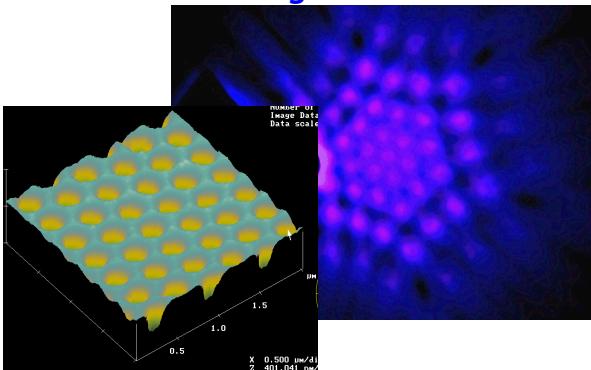
# This Project Builds on 15 Years of Forefront Wide-Bandgap Research at Sandia

**1999-2006:**

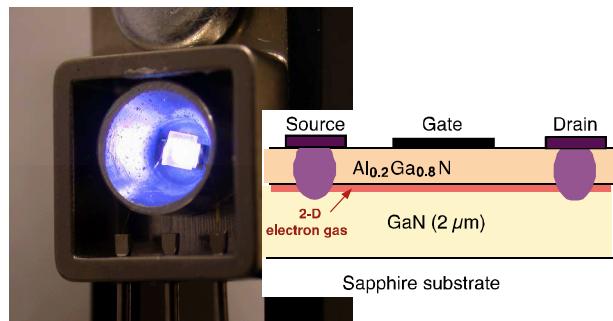
*Comprehensive US  
Technology Roadmaps*



**2000-2004: Grand  
Challenge LRD**



**2003-2007: high power  
amplifiers, UV emitters**



**2006-2008: DOE /EERE  
National Center for SSL**



**2009-2014: DOE EFRC for  
SSL Science**



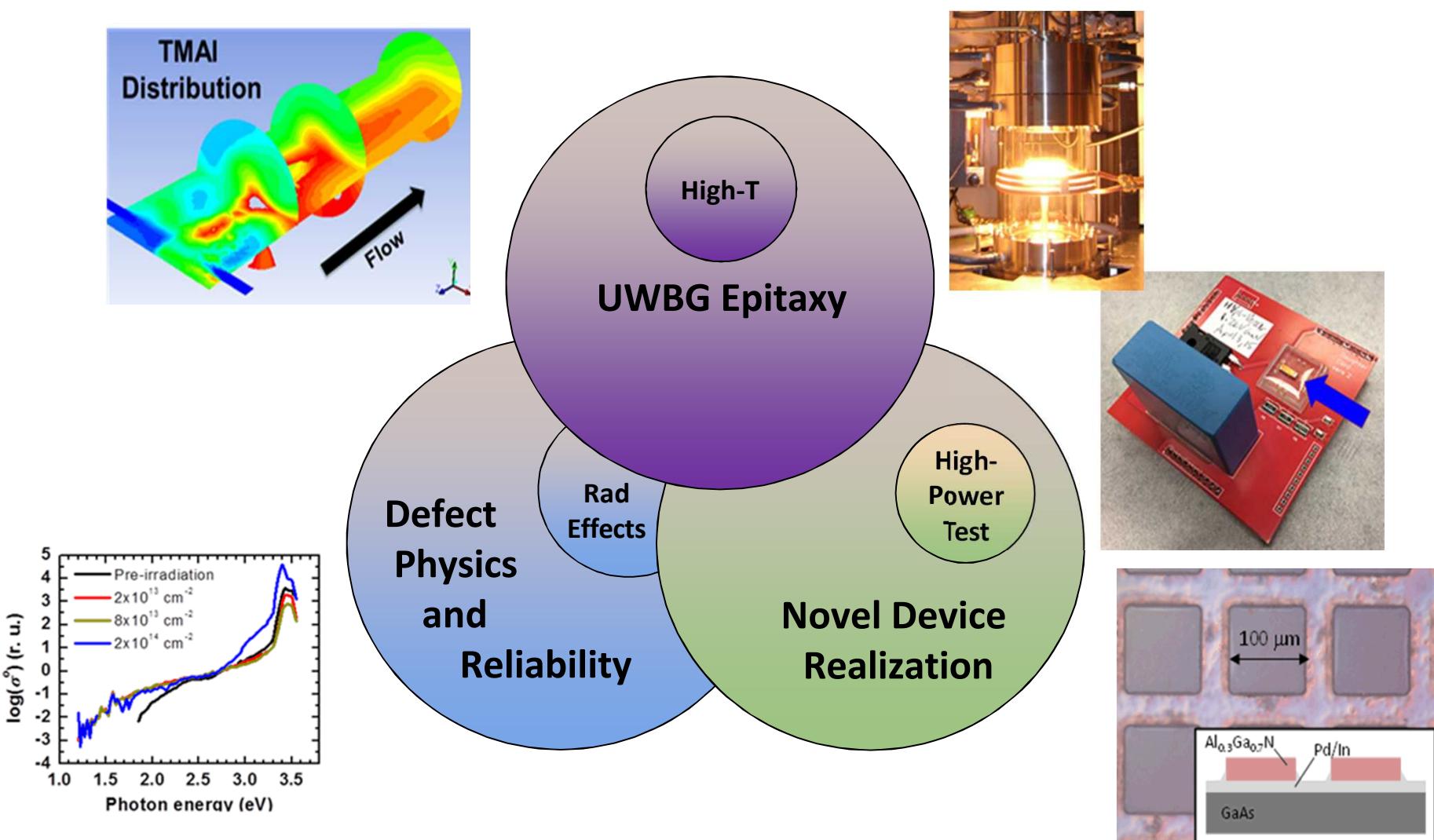
**2003-2012: DOE-Funded  
Collaborations with industry**



**GeneSiC SiC Thyristors**

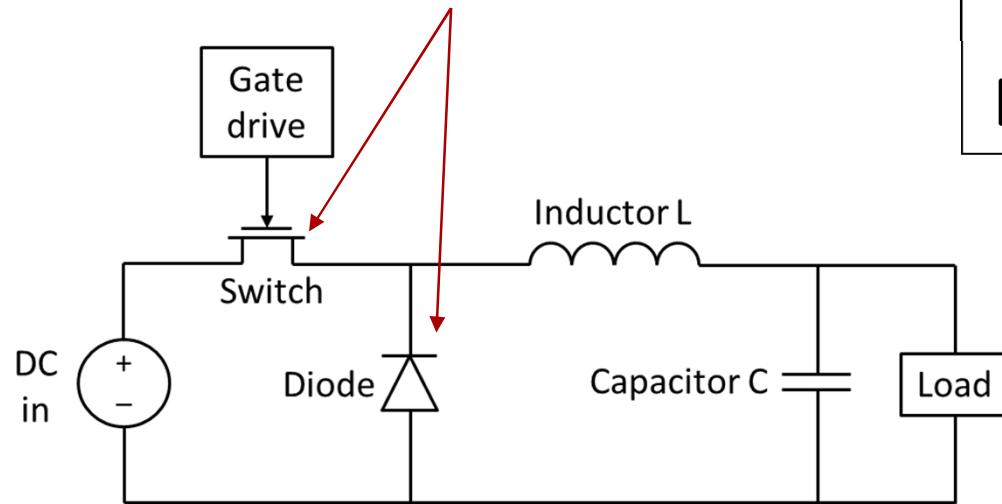


# UWBG Project Team Structure

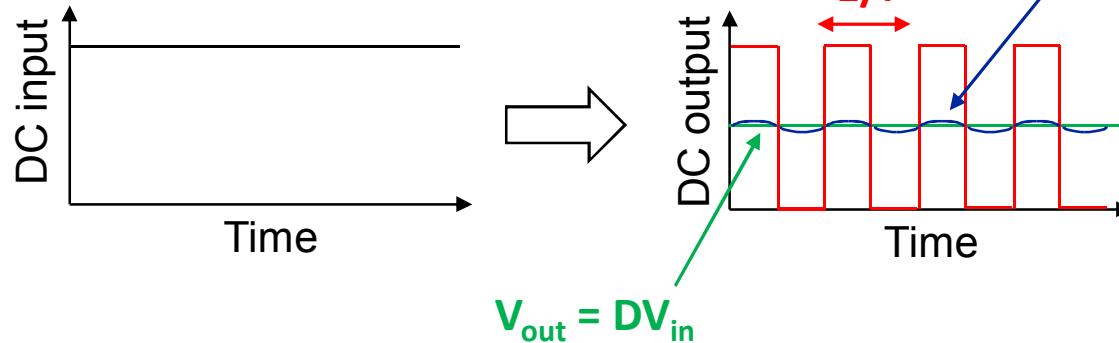


# Higher Switching Frequency Enables Reduction in Passive Element Volume and Weight

## Power semiconductor devices



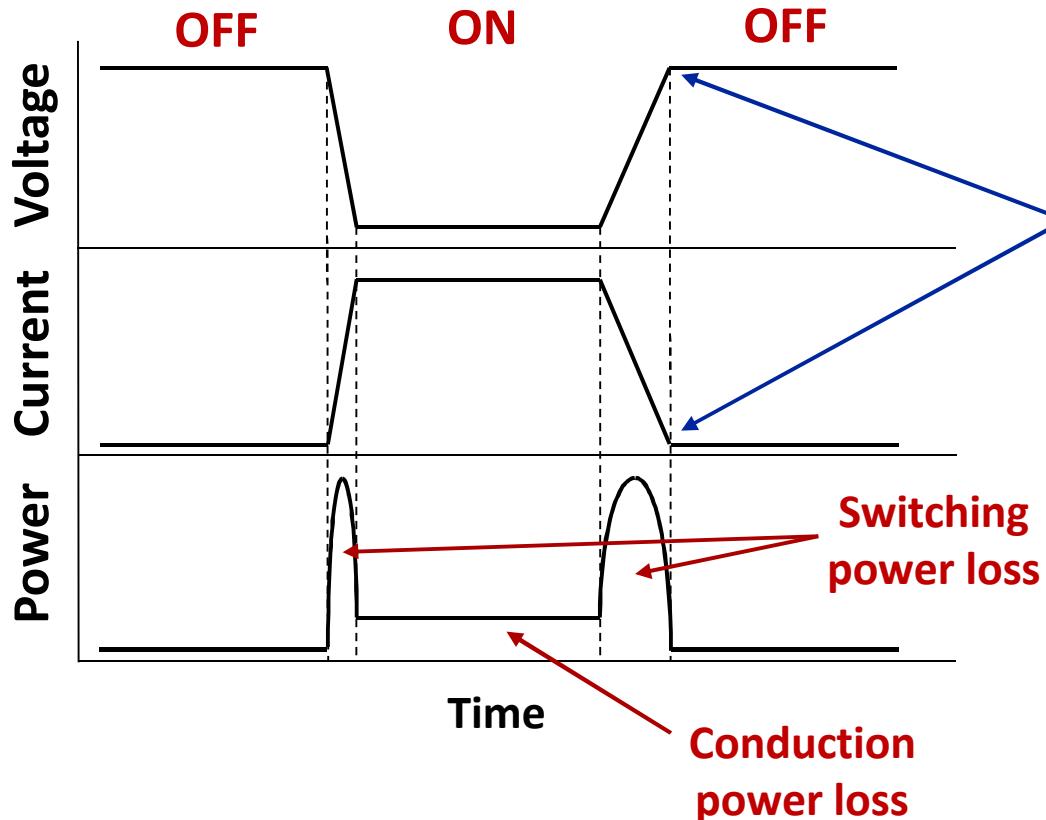
## Step-Down (Buck) DC-to-DC Converter



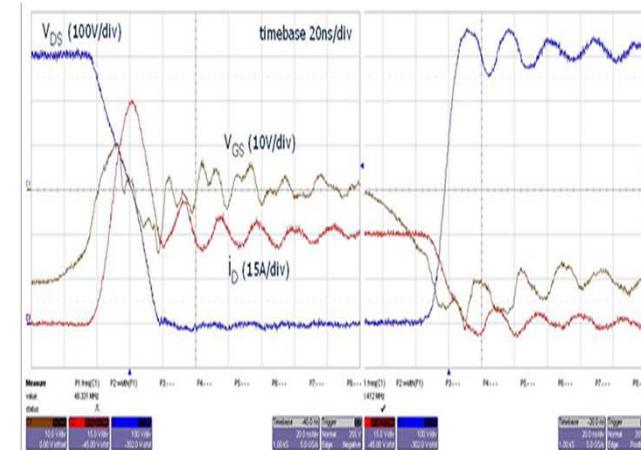
$$\frac{V_{ripple}}{V_{out}} = \frac{1 - D}{8LCf^2}$$

*Increasing  $f$  allows one to reduce  $L$  and  $C$  while keeping the ripple constant*

# Heat Generation from Semiconductor Conduction and Switching Losses



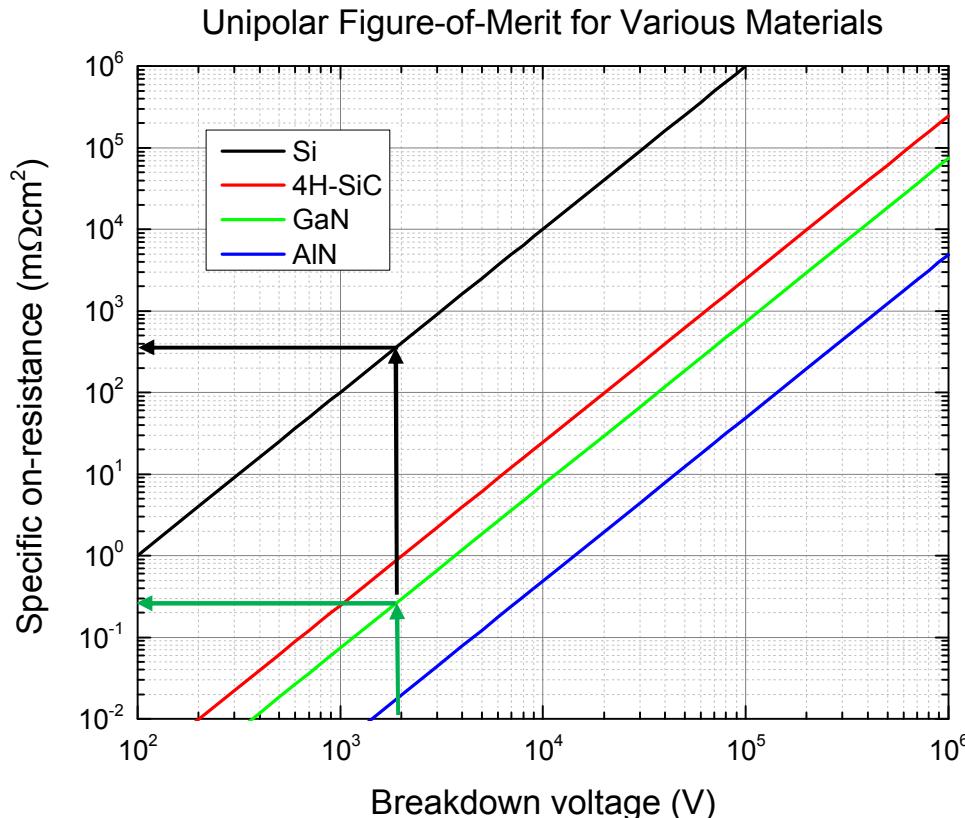
A real circuit will have voltage and current overshoot and oscillations that must be minimized



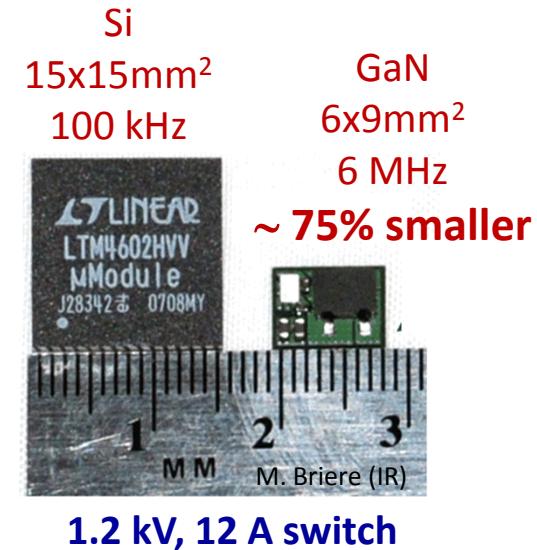
Minimum ON-state loss: *Need low  $R_{on}$*

Minimum switching loss: *Need fast switching transients*

# How Do WBGs and UWBGs Lead to Higher Switching Frequency and Lower Loss?

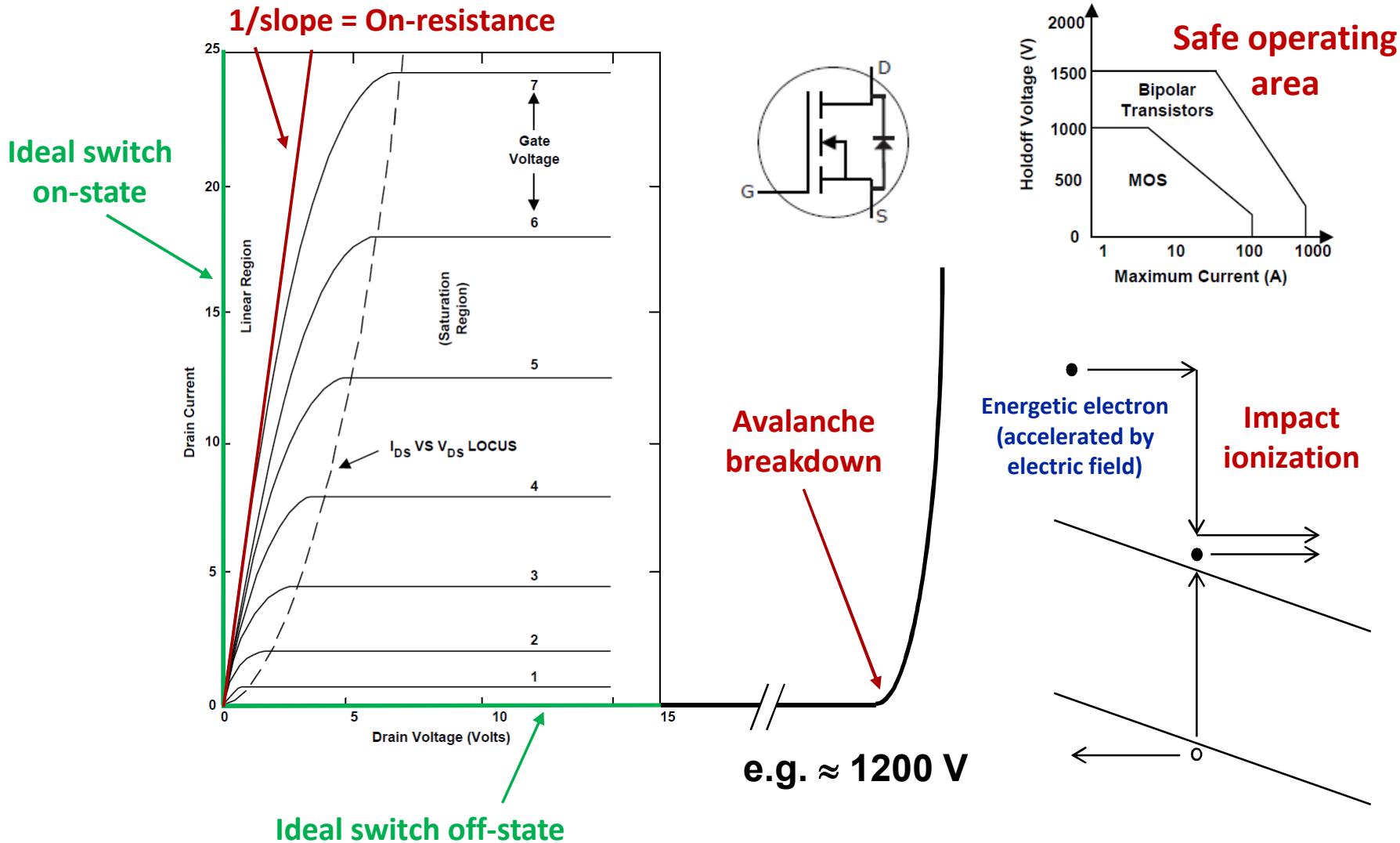


- For equivalent breakdown voltage, get lower  $R_{\text{on}}A$  for WBG device
  - For same  $R_{\text{on}}$ , WBG device can have *smaller area*
  - Smaller area results in *less capacitance*
  - Gives a *faster switching transient* and *lower loss per switching cycle*

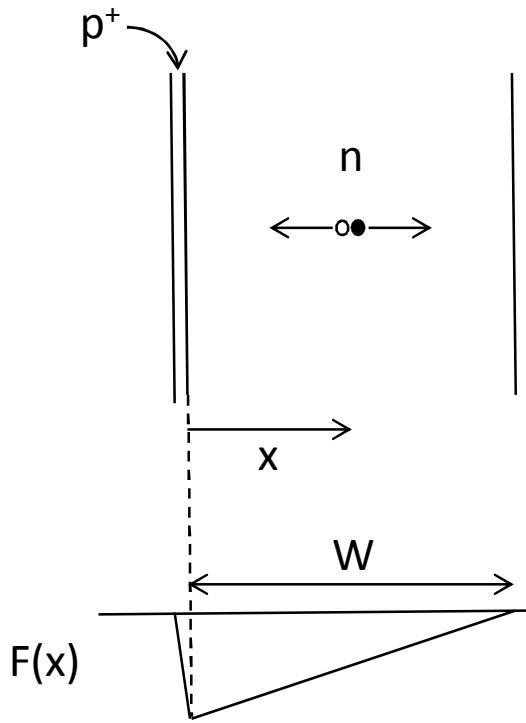


*The scaling that results from the properties of WBG and UWBG materials can be utilized to optimize for switching frequency, conduction loss, and switching loss*

# Semiconductor Devices Are *NOT* Ideal Switches



# Impact Ionization in a Depletion Region



Impact ionization coefficient for electrons, holes =  $\alpha_n$ ,  $\alpha_p$  = # of ehtps generated per cm by an incident hot electron, hole; may be defined in terms of generation rate:

$$G_{ii} = \alpha_n J_n + \alpha_p J_p$$

Suppose that an electron-hole pair is generated at position  $x$ . Then the number of ehtps  $N(x)$  generated at position  $x$  is (1):

$$N(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \alpha_p N(x') dx' + \int_x^W \alpha_n N(x') dx'$$

This can be differentiated to give:

$$\frac{dN}{dx} = (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)N(x)$$

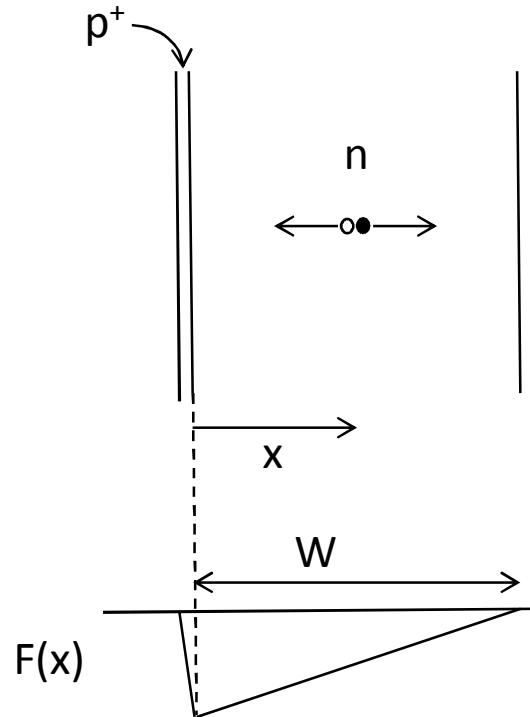
The solution of the differential equation is:

$$N(x) = N(0) \exp \left[ \int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n) dx' \right]$$

(1) R. J. McIntyre, "Multiplication Noise in Uniform Avalanche Diodes," IEEE Trans. Elec. Dev. **13**(1), 164 (1966).

# Criterion for Avalanche Breakdown

The equations may be combined to give (after some algebra):



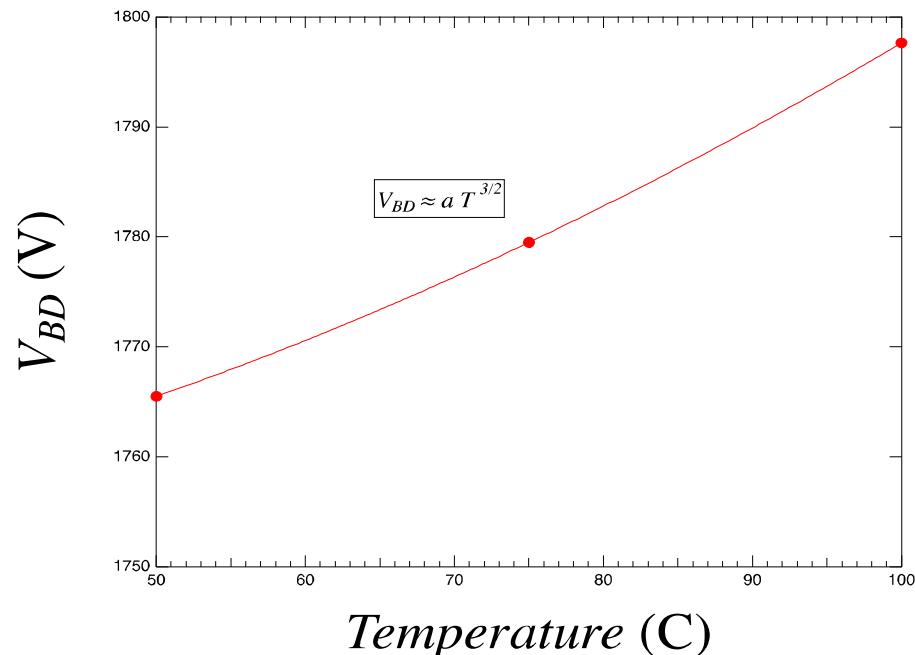
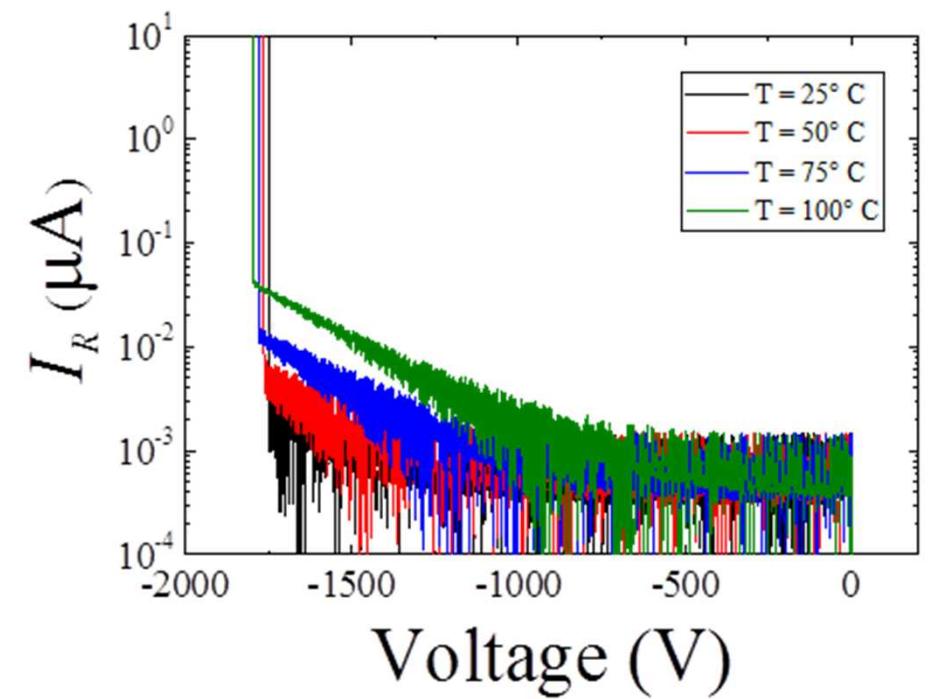
$$N(x) = \frac{\exp\left[\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)dx'\right]}{1 - \int_0^W \alpha_n \exp\left[\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)dx'\right]dx}$$

Avalanche breakdown occurs when the number of generated ehp's tends to infinity, i.e. when the denominator goes to zero:

$$\int_0^W \alpha_n \exp\left[\int_0^x (\alpha_p - \alpha_n)dx'\right]dx = 1$$

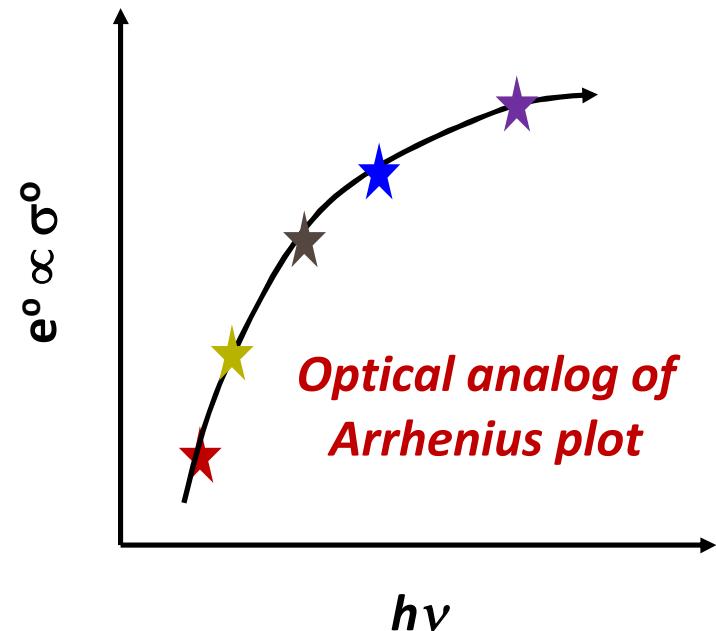
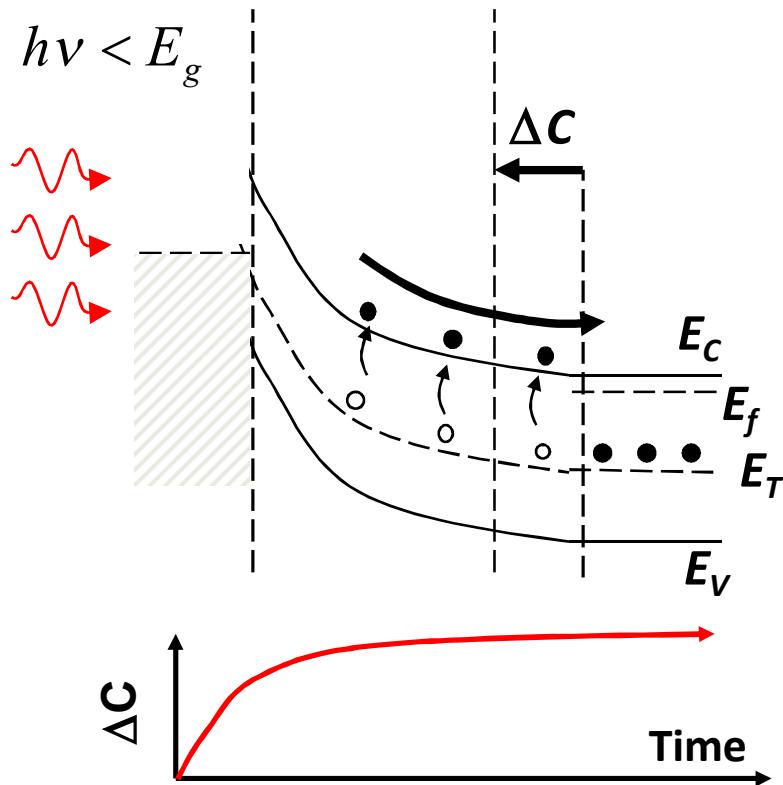
Since  $\alpha_n$  and  $\alpha_p$  are such strong functions of electric field, in practice this always occurs near the location of peak field, and the majority of the contribution to the integral is from a small volume near this point (i.e. at the junction).

# Reverse Breakdown vs. Temperature



- Increasing temperature leads to increased leakage current (possibly generation current)
- $V_B$  vs  $T$  exhibits  $T^{3/2}$  dependence, consistent with avalanche processes impeded by phonon scattering

# Deep Level Optical Spectroscopy



*DLOS is able to probe the entire bandgap of GaN*

*Electrical measurement of optical absorption by deep level defects*

- Photocapacitance technique
- Sub-bandgap optical stimulation to photoionize defect levels
- Determine deep level energy  $E_o$  from lineshape of  $\sigma^o(h\nu)$