

Radiation Hardened Electronics Technology  
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# Component & System Analysis in a Harsh Radiation Environment

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Sandia National Laboratories

# Sandia National Laboratories

## Electrical Sciences

Our primary mission is to anticipate and advance the science, engineering, and technology needed to understand the control of electrical energy in complex systems for national security applications.

- ❑ Create and steward major electromagnetic and radiation environment simulators (test capabilities)
- ❑ **Advance simulation and modeling capabilities for design and predictive performance assessments**

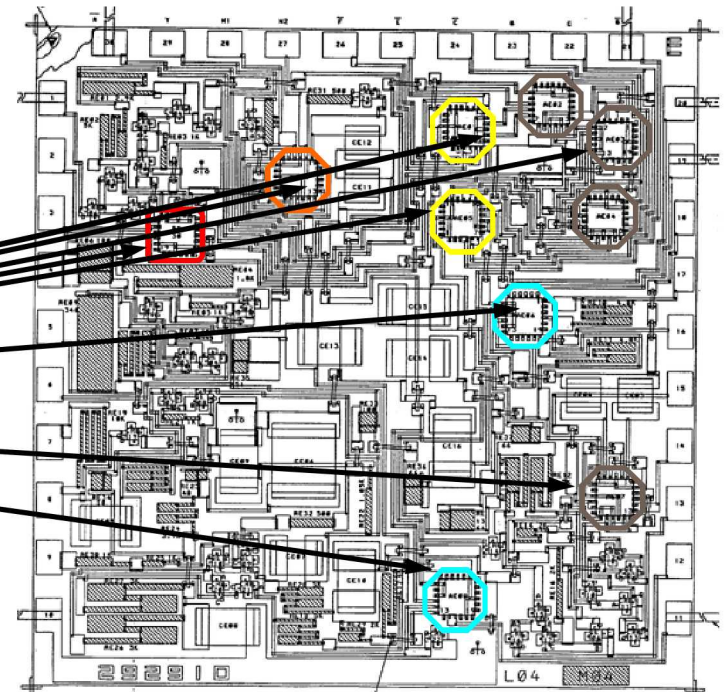
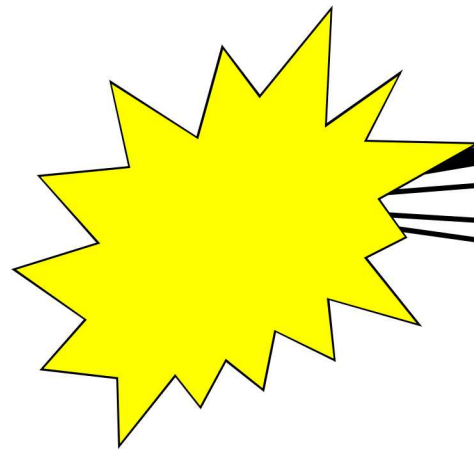


# Overview

- Radiation Effects in Electronics
- Computational Toolsets
- Analysis

# Radiation Effects in Electronics

## Some radiation event



### ***Radiation Effects***

- Dose Rate Transient Photocurrent
- Neutron Damage
- Total Dose**
- Single Event**
- Combined Environments

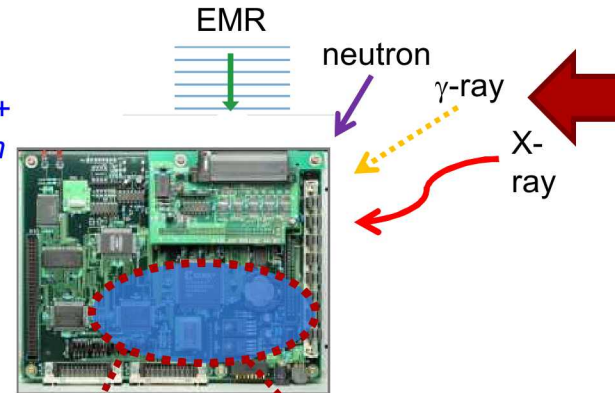
### ***Circuit level response***

- Device Response
- Circuit effects
- Signal Integrity/PCB effects

# Modeling Radiation Effects in Electronics

Sandia Developed Radiation Transport Tools

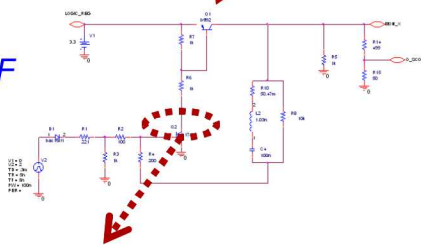
Digital + Analog + Software System



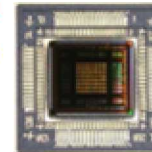
Sandia Developed Electrical Analysis Tools



Analog/RF Circuit



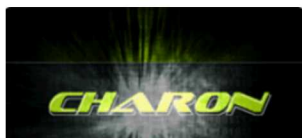
Digital IC



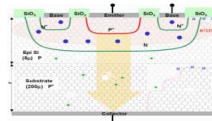
Processor

```

229 /*g
230 requires valid_state(next_state);
231 ensures valid_state(next_state);
232 assign next_state, cur_state, input;
233
234 behavior StateA {
235   assume next_state == SA;
236   ensure (input == 'b' && next_state == SB) ||
237         (input == 'c' && next_state == SC) ||
238         (input == 'd' && next_state == SD);
239
240   behavior StateB {
241     assume next_state == SB;
242     ensure (input == 'a' && next_state == SA) ||
243           (input == 'c' && next_state == SC);
244   }
245 }
    
```

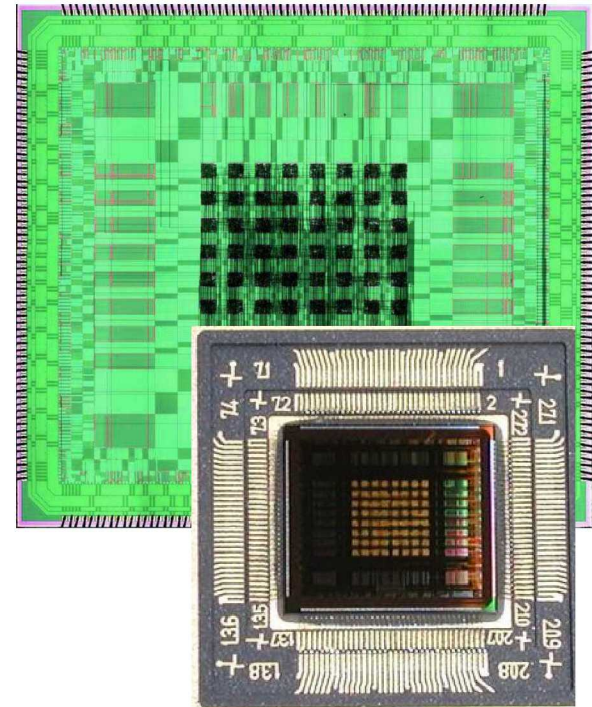


Device





- Xyce: Massively Parallel circuit simulator:
  - Distributed Memory Parallel (MPI-based)
  - Unique solver algorithms
  - SPICE “Compatible”
  - Industry standard models (BSIM, PSP, EKV, VBIC, etc)
  - ADMS model compiler
- Analysis types
  - DC, TRAN, AC
  - Harmonic Balance (HB)
  - Multi-time PDE (MPDE)
  - Model order reduction (MOR)
  - Direct and Adjoint sensitivity analysis
- Sandia-specific models
  - Prompt Photocurrent
  - Prompt Neutron
  - Thermal
- Other, non-traditional models
  - Neuron/synapse
  - Reaction network
  - TCAD (PDE-based)
- Xyce Release 6.10 pending
  - Open Source!
  - GPL v3 license



<http://xyce.sandia.gov>

**Open Source Releases (starting in 2013):**

**Versions 6.0 - 6.10**

**>1000 unique external downloads since 6.0.**

**Next release (v6.10) ~November 2018**

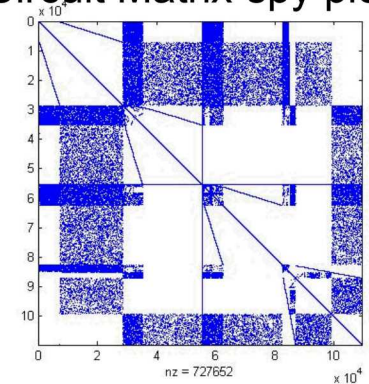
# What Xyce Is, and Is Not

- **Xyce is: “True Spice”**

- Large, monolithic, single Jacobian matrix.
- Accurate.
- Known parallel linear solvers don't scale perfectly.



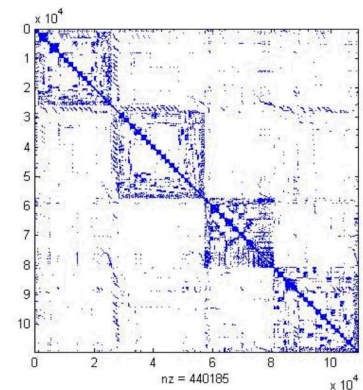
Circuit Matrix spy plot



- **Xyce is not (currently): “Fast Spice”**

- Loosely coupled separate blocks
  - Implicit solver methods within blocks
  - Explicit methods used to couple blocks
- Table models
- Model order reduction
- Exploits circuit hierarchy
- Effective primarily for digital circuits
- less accurate than “true spice”

BTF+Hypergraph



4 processors

# Xyce Simulation Flow

- Parsing

- Convert netlist file syntax to equivalent devices and network/circuit connectivity
- Distribute devices over multiple processors
- Determine global ordering and communication

- Device Evaluation

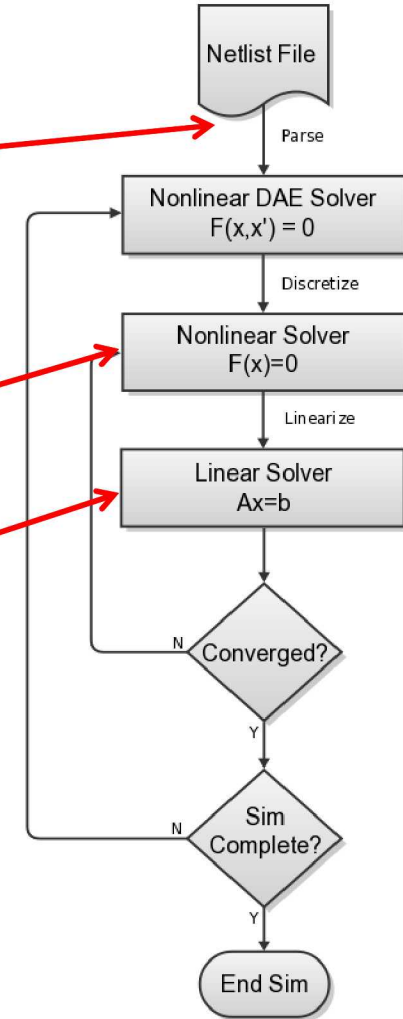
- Loop through all devices for state evaluation and matrix loading

- Linear Solve

- Sparse linear algebra and solvers used to solve linearized system

- Advanced Analysis Methods

- Sampling: Monte Carlo, LHS (DAKOTA)





# What is Charon?



- Semiconductor parallel *TCAD* code with support for modeling displacement damage due to neutron radiation as well as effects from other sources of radiation (e.g. ionization)
- Finite-volume and finite-element discretizations of governing PDEs
  - Drift-Diffusion
  - Drift-Diffusion + Energy (Lattice Heating)

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Electric} \\ \text{Potential} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla \cdot (\epsilon \vec{E}) = q(p - n + C) \\ \vec{E} = -\nabla V \end{array} \right. \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \vec{J}_n = q(n\mu_n \vec{E} + D_n \nabla n) \\ \vec{J}_p = q(p\mu_p \vec{E} - D_p \nabla p) \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Constitutive} \\ \text{Relations} \end{array}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_n - qR = q \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} \\ -\nabla \cdot \vec{J}_p - qR = q \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \end{array} \right\} \text{Conservation} \quad \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T_L) + H = \rho c \frac{\partial T_L}{\partial T} \left. \vphantom{\frac{\partial T_L}{\partial T}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Lattice} \\ \text{Heating} \end{array}$$

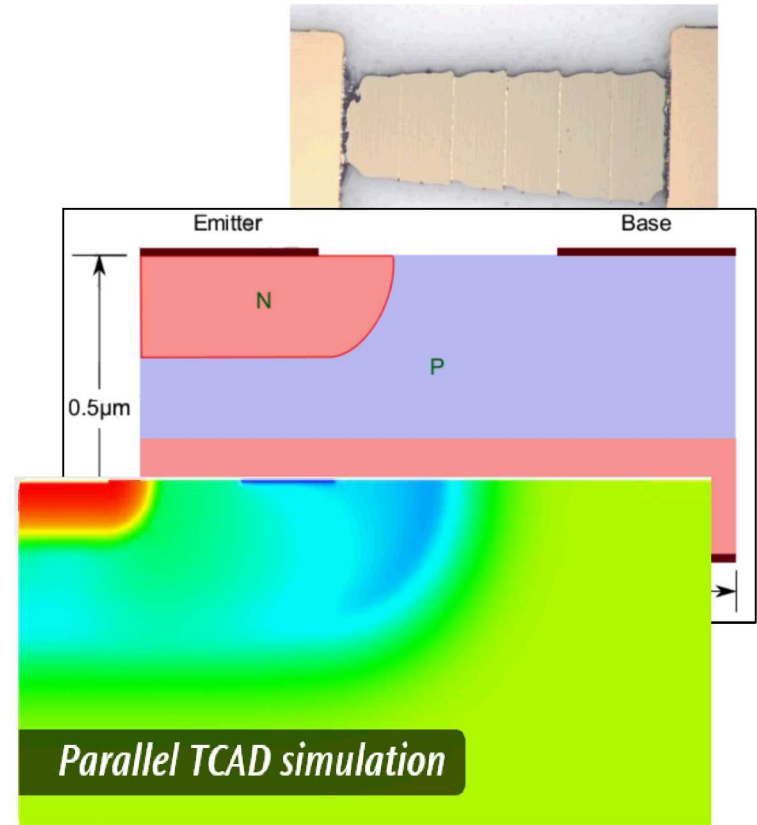
# Charon Environments & Device Modeling Capability

## ■ Environments

- Normal
- Dose Rate – reactor environments
- *SEE* – Active Research Area
- Total Dose – future

## ■ Devices

- Diodes
- BJT (Si)
- HBT (III-V)
- FETs
- Memristor
- Ultra-Wide Band Gap Diodes (new models)



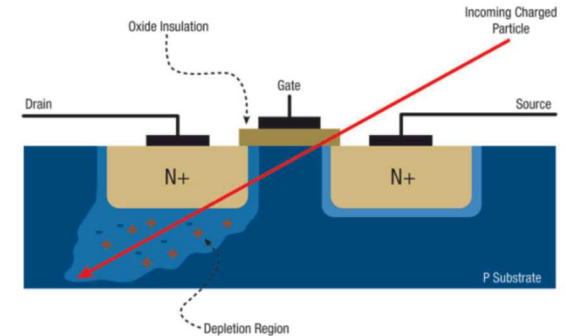
# Ongoing/Future Charon Development

## ■ Expanding Physics Capability

- SEE/SEU
- Si HVD Analysis
- GaN development
  - High Voltage Diodes
  - HEMTs
- Frequency Domain Modeling (HB)
- Improved coupled electrical & thermal
- Dose Rate/Total Dose model development

## ■ Next Generation Development

- In preparation of next gen computational hardware



Single-Event Effects

# Selecting a Nominal Device: Zener Diode Example

## Zener Diode

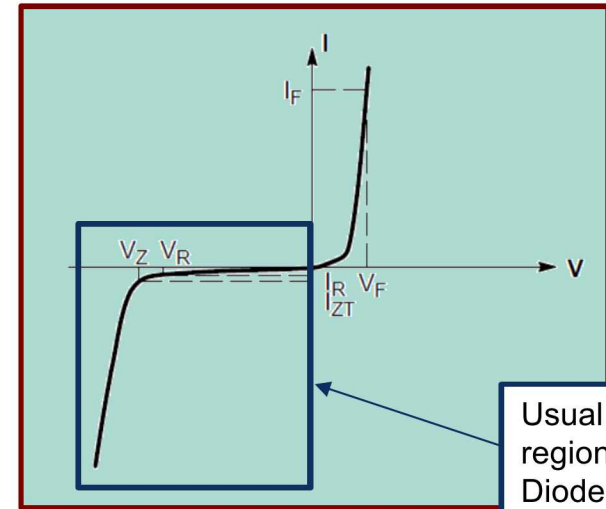


**MMSZ5239BT1G**

Zener Diode  
9.1V 500 mW,  
SOD123,  
Cu wire bond

- A diode is an electronic component that only allows current to flow in one direction.
- A Zener diode is a special diode which is used to supply a constant voltage.

## Current Voltage Characteristic of a Zener Diode



Usual operational region of a Zener Diode in an electrical circuit

## Electrical parameters defining the diode electrical behavior

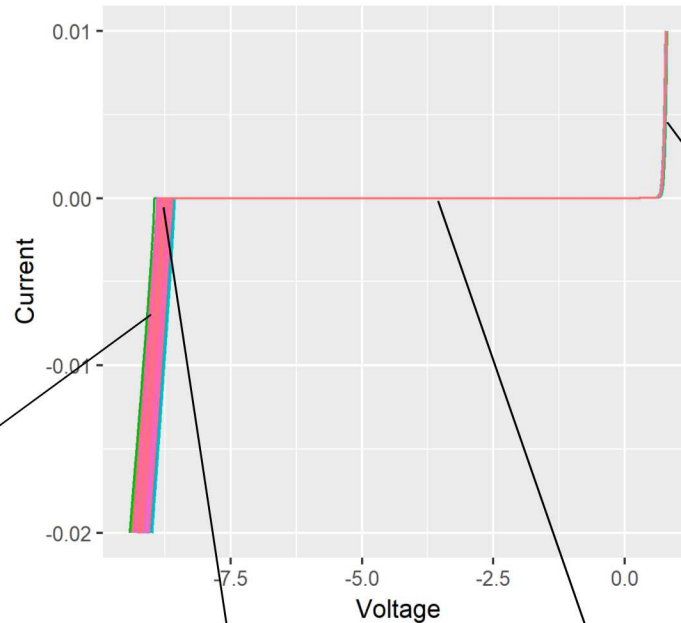
Symbol	Parameter
$V_Z$	Reverse Zener Voltage @ $I_{ZT}$
$I_{ZT}$	Reverse Current
$Z_{ZT}$	Maximum Zener Impedance @ $I_{ZT}$
$I_{ZK}$	Reverse Current
$Z_{ZK}$	Maximum Zener Impedance @ $I_{ZK}$
$I_R$	Reverse Leakage Current @ $V_R$
$V_R$	Reverse Voltage
$I_F$	Forward Current
$V_F$	Forward Voltage @ $I_F$

Voltage at which diode allows current to pass

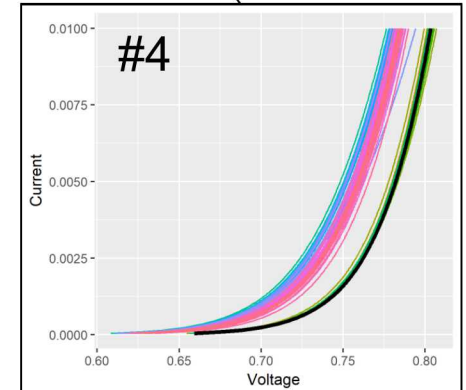
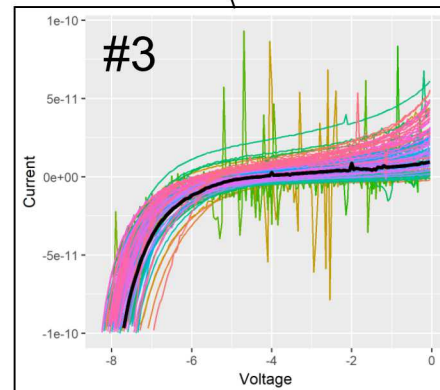
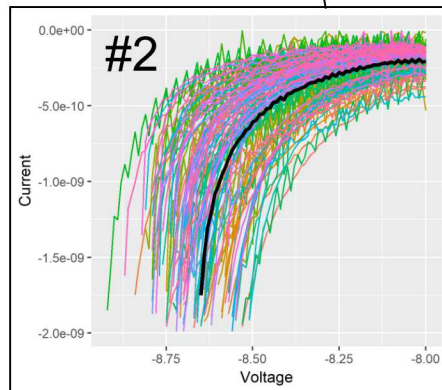
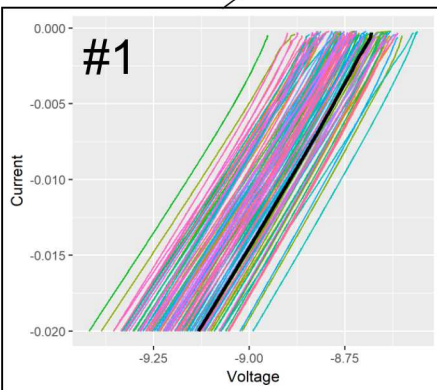


# Zener Diode Characterization Data

- Data taken in four different measurement sweeps on 120 diodes
- Relevant measured behavior spans eight orders of magnitude
- Electrical behavior of a single diode shifts within a distribution

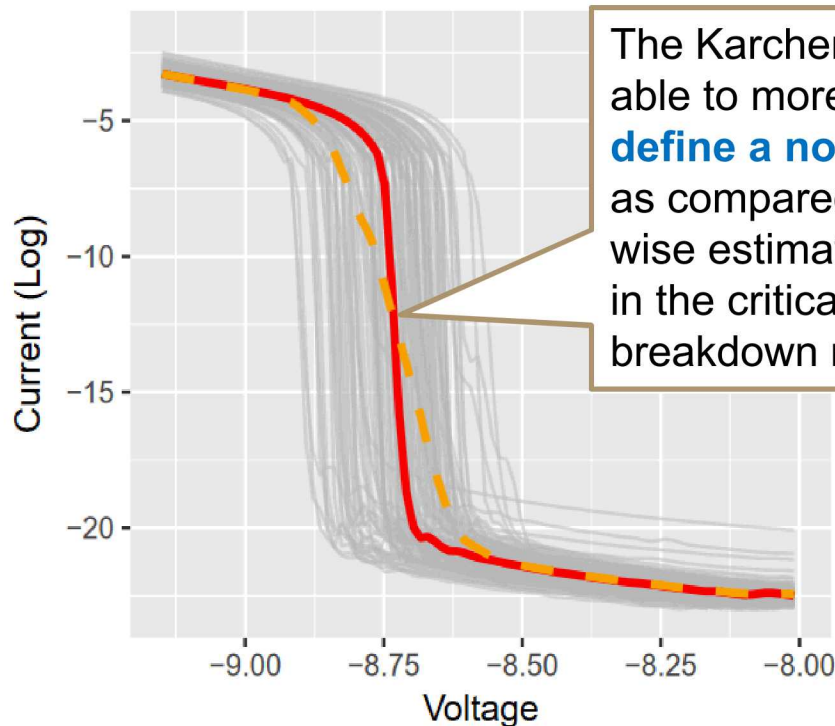


*How does one define a representative diode from this dataset?*



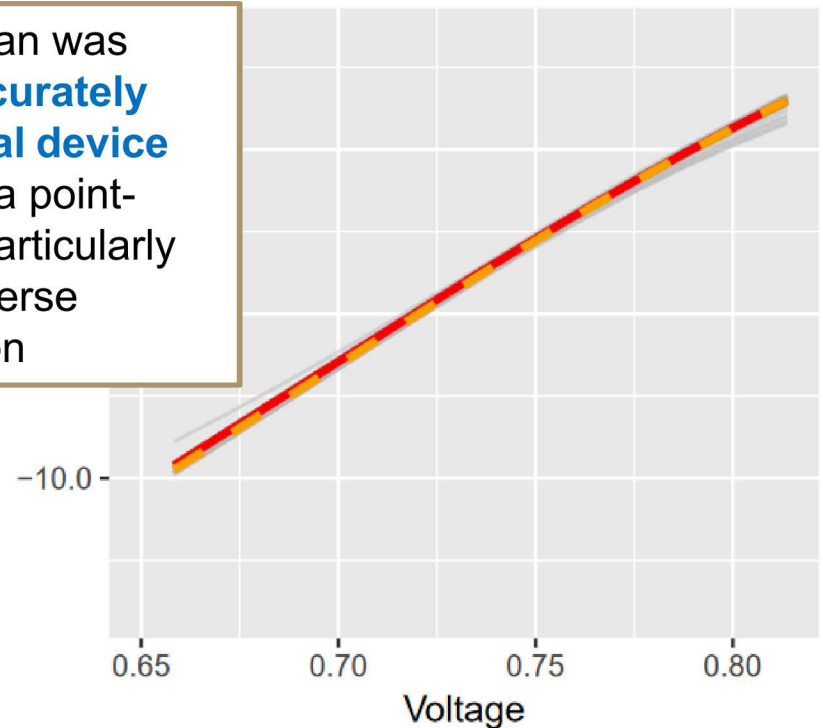
# Karcher/Pointwise Mean Comparison

Reverse Breakdown



— Devices — Karcher Mean — Pointwise Mean

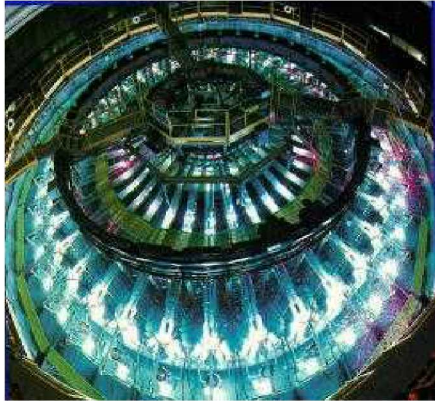
Forward



— Devices — Karcher Mean — Pointwise Mean

From N. Martin, T. Buchheit, S. Reza, *Selection of a Nominal Device Using Functional Data Analysis*, IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics, 2018.

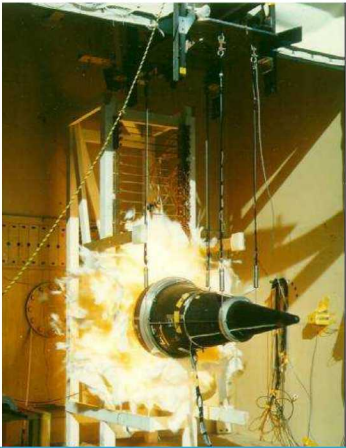
# Sandia facilities provide an essential set of environments to support radiation qualification



**SATURN: Hot X-rays**



**HERMES III:  
pulsed  $\gamma$**



**LIHE:  
Impulse Surrogate**



**GIF: Steady-  
state  $\gamma$**



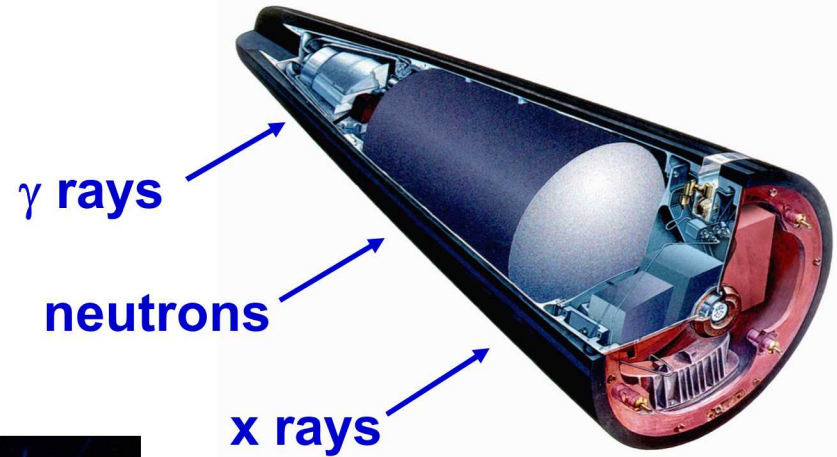
**ACRR: n- $\gamma$**



**Z: Cold X-rays**

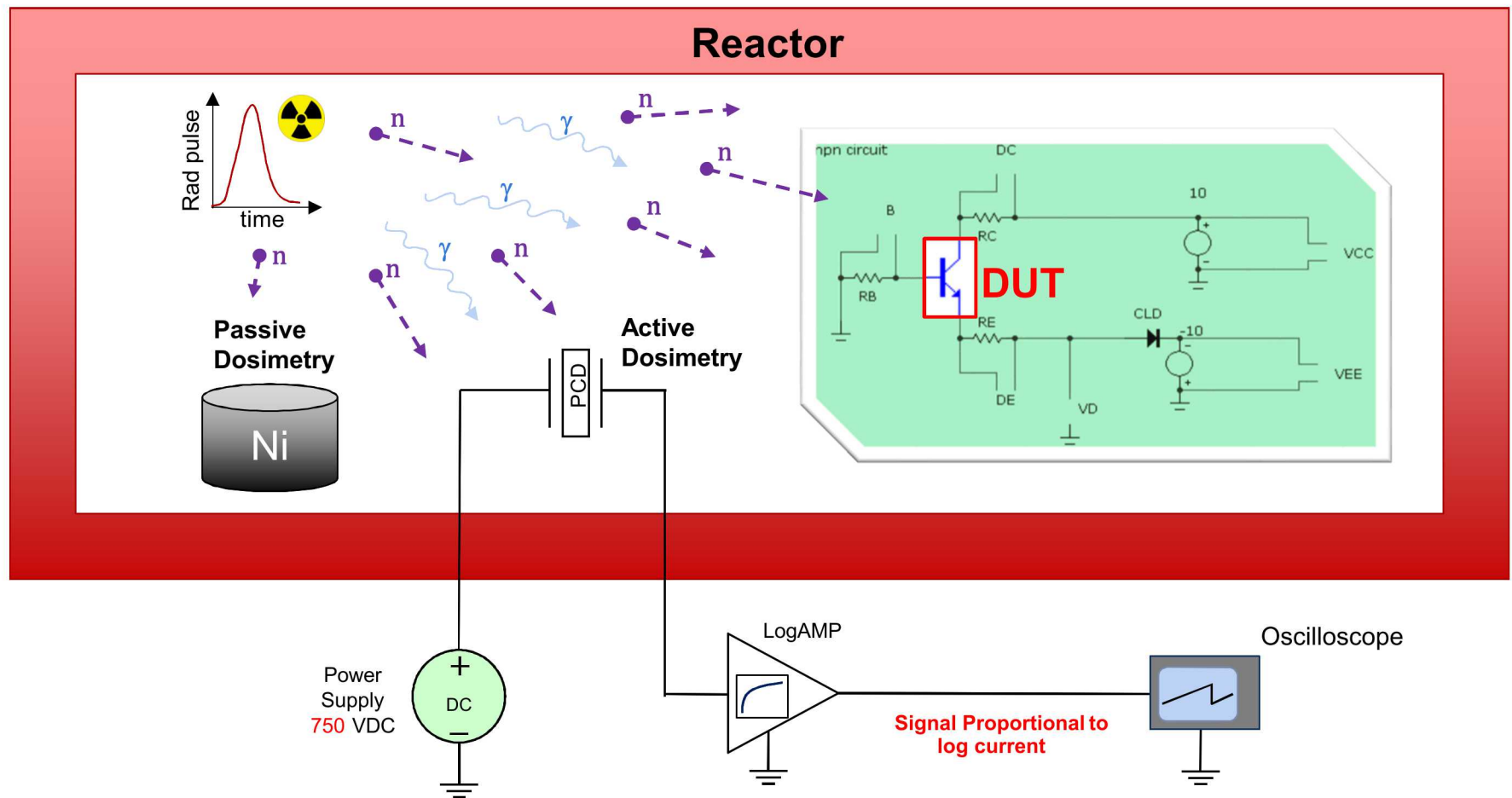


**IBL: Neutron  
Surrogate**





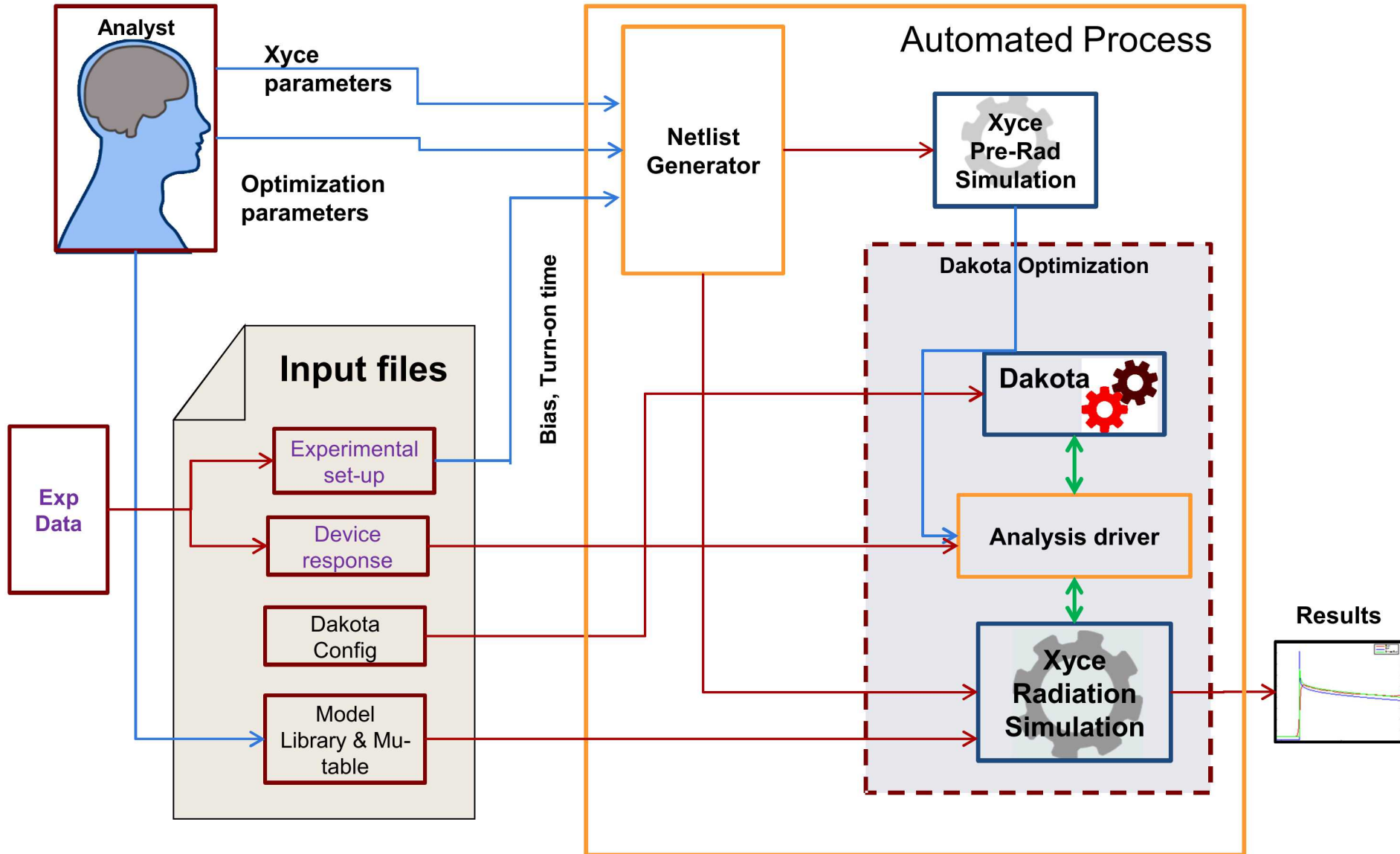
# Radiation Testing



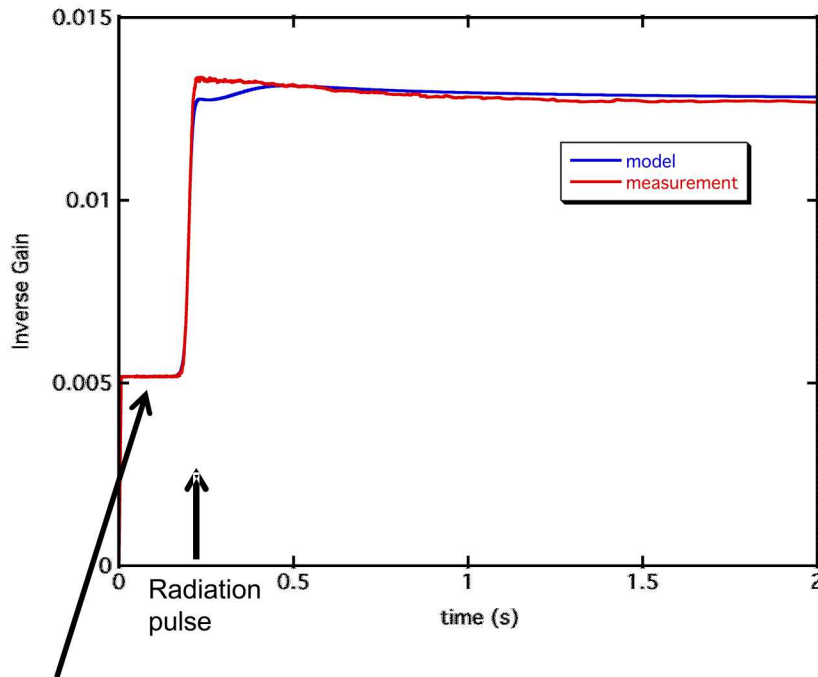
The device (DUT) can be biased (active, delayed-on) or unbiased (candy-bag)



# Radiation Model Calibration Workflow



# Device Responses from Calibration

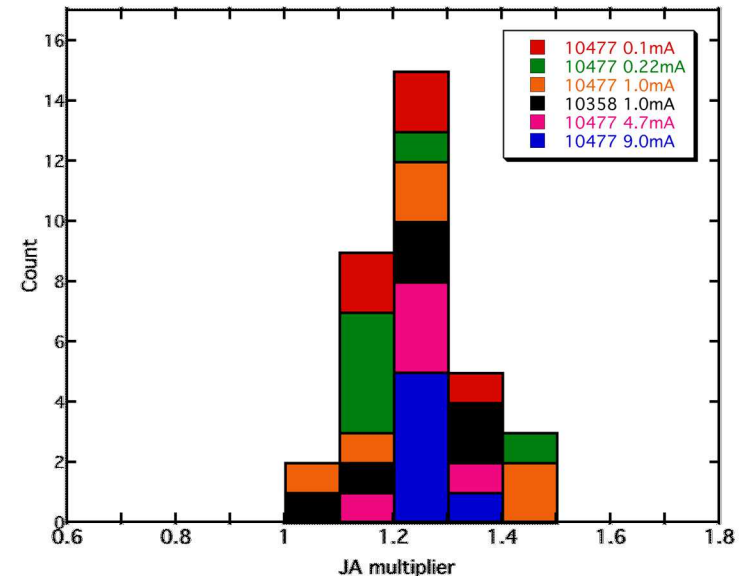


JA calibration parameter optimized to calibrate InvG change

Pre-rad is matched through the VBIC model

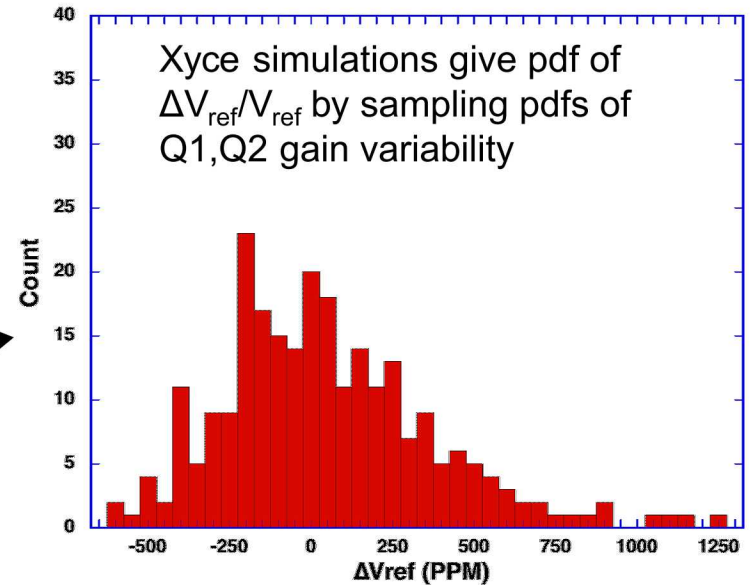
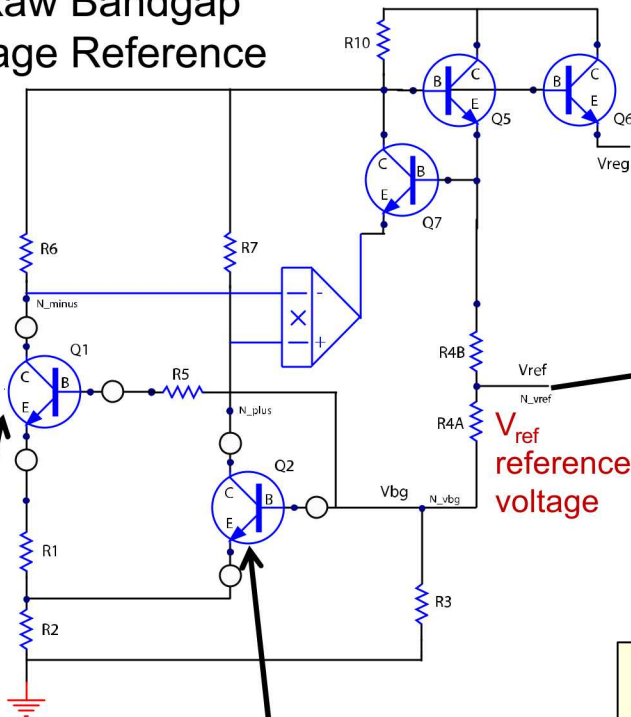
MatLAB used to plot all individual experimental vs. simulated device response waveforms (IG vs. time)

JA distribution captures device-to-device variability in the radiation response

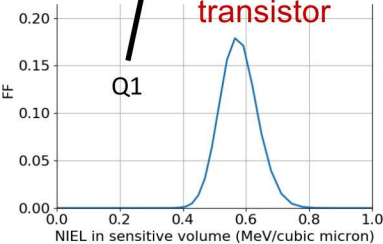


# Precision Voltage Reference (PVR) Variability Analysis

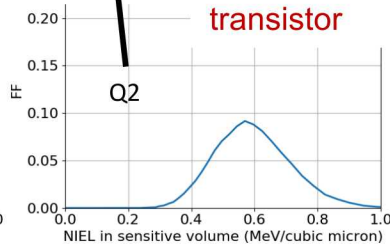
## Brokaw Bandgap Voltage Reference



Large area transistor



Small area transistor



Gain variability of Q1, Q2

- Gain variability in transistors (Q1, Q2) causes offsetting shifts in Voltage Regulator output  $V_{ref}$ .
- Circuit response is simulated using Xyce and DAKOTA to sample experimentally calibrated gain variabilities in Q1 and Q2.
- Resulting variability distributions in circuit response used for PVR UQ / QMU analyses

# Acknowledgements

- The Simulation Tool development teams
  - Eric Keiter, Jason Verley and the rest of the Xyce Team
  - Larry Musson, Gary Hennigan and the rest of the Charon team
- The Physical Simulation team for all the dosimetry processing and radiation testing:
  - Billy Martin, Charles Morrow, Don King, and the rest of the DRT
- The analyst team for their contributions to calibration, simulation and validation :
  - Biliانا Paskaleva, Alan Mar, Perry Robertson, Brian Fox, Chuck Hembree, Rachelle Thompson and Shahed Reza
- Special thanks to Cheryl Lam and Joe Castro for their contributions



# Questions?

- Steven Wix
- Sandia National Laboratories
- [sdwix@sandia.gov](mailto:sdwix@sandia.gov)

# Backup Slides

# Integrated Multi-Scale Electrical Simulation

## Model Abstraction Layers

Vertical Integration across Model Layers  
(Levels of Abstraction/  
Fidelity)

Environment

Functional

Digital

Analog Circuit

Geometry

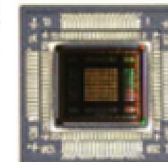
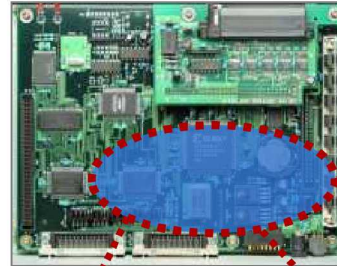
Digital + Analog + Software System

EMR

neutron

γ-ray

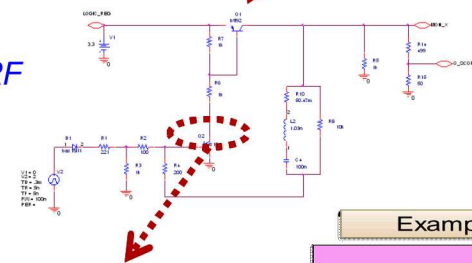
X-ray



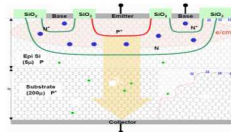
Processor

Digital IC

Analog/RF Circuit



Device



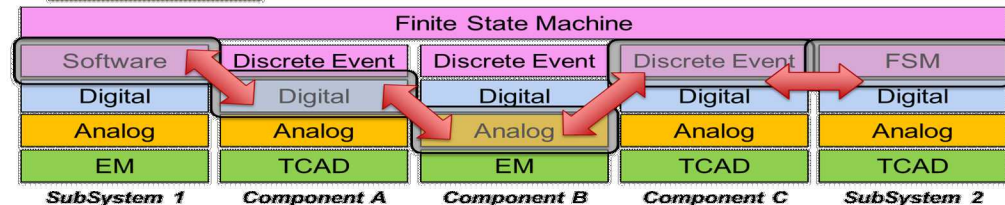
```

229 //rg
230 requires valid_state(next_state);
231 ensures valid_state(next_state);
232 assigns next_state, curr_state, input;
233
234
235
236 behavior StateA:
237   assumes next_state == SA;
238   ensures (input == 'b' && next_state == SB) ||
239   (input == 'c' && next_state == SC) ||
240   (input == 'd' && next_state == SD);
241
242 behavior StateB:
243   assumes next_state == SB;
244   ensures (input == 'a' && next_state == SA) ||
245   (input == 'd' && next_state == SD);
246

```

Horizontal Integration across subsystems & components

Example



# Xyce Model Support with ADMS

**ADMS = Automatic Device Model Synthesizer**

**Verilog-A: industry standard format for new models: e.g. VBIC, Mextram, EKV, HiCUM, etc**

**ADMS translates Verilog-A to Xyce-compliant C/C++ code;**

**API automatically handles data structures, matrices, tedious details.**

```

1 // Series RLC
2 // Version 1a, 1 June 04
3 // Ken Kundert
4 //
5 // Downloaded from The Designer's Guide Community
6 // (www.designers-guide.org).
7 // Taken from "The Designer's Guide to Verilog-AMS"
8 // by Kundert & Zinke. Chapter 3, Listing 14.
9
10 `include "disciplines.vams"
11
12 module series_rlc2 (p, n);
13     parameter real r=1000; // resistance
14     parameter real l=1e-9; // inductance
15     parameter real c=1e-6; // capacitance
16     inout p, n;
17     electrical p, n, i;
18     branch (p, i) rl, (i, n) cap;
19
20     analog begin
21         V(rl) <+ r*I(rl);
22         V(rl) <+ ddt(l*I(rl));
23         I(cap) <+ ddt(c*V(cap));
24     end
25 endmodule
    
```

Verilog-A

Run admsXyce

activities via Sacado automatic differentiation  
and to include Stochastic Expansions via Stokhos.

```

// -- code converted from analog/code block// I(
((V(p,internal1)/R))staticContributions[admsNodeID
((probeVars[admsProbeID_V_p_internal1])/instanceP
deID_internal1] -=
((probeVars[admsProbeID_V_p_internal1])/instanceP
((probeVars[admsProbeID_V_internal1_internal2])*i
internal1,internal2) <+
((CapacitorCharge))dynamicContributions[admsNo
(CapacitorCharge);dynamicContributions[admsNodeID
(CapacitorCharge);InductorCurrent = (probeVars[ad
V(internal2,n) <+
((L*ddt(InductorCurrent)))dynamicContributions[ad
(instancePar_L*(InductorCurrent));
    
```

C++ code snippet  
(actual Xyce file is 1500 lines)



# SEE High Altitude View

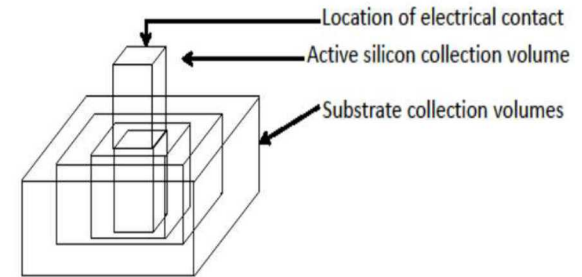
## ➤ We anticipate a union of tools & activities

### ➤ Charon

- Device physics
  - Drift-Diffusion Model
  - Finite Element / Finite Volume
  - Recombination / Charge generation
- \*How to inform secondary effects due to parasitic bipolar enhancement

### ➤ Monte-Carlo Radiative Energy Deposition (MRED)

- Particle physics (Geant 4)
- Nested Sensitive Volumes
  - Provides approximation for device physics at reduced cost
- \*How are nested sensitive volumes defined for silicon-on-insulator (SOI) devices



### ➤ Xyce

- Circuit simulation
  - Charon/ MRED SEE informed netlists
- \*Explain current anomalies in existing data

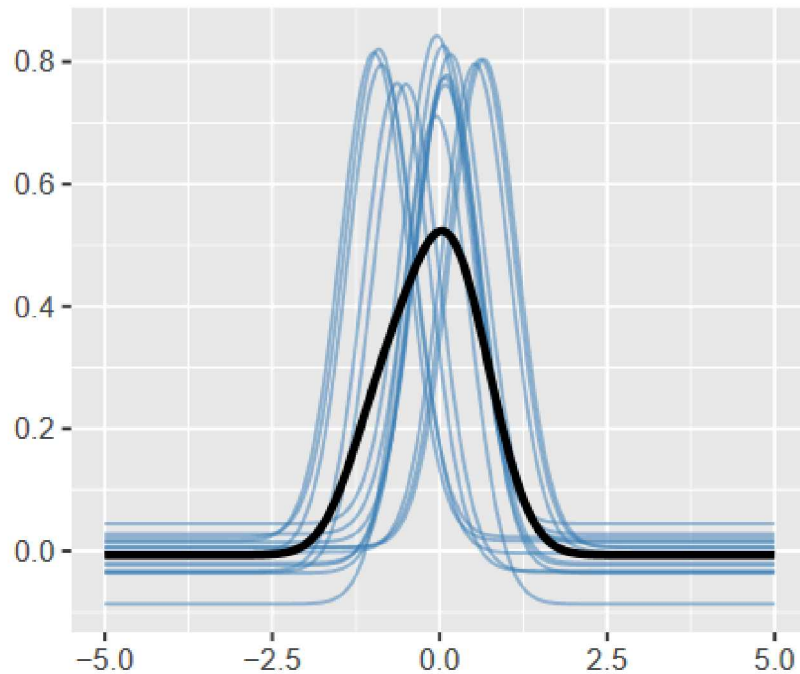
### ➤ Experiments

- Design of experiments
- \*Validation data for research and publication

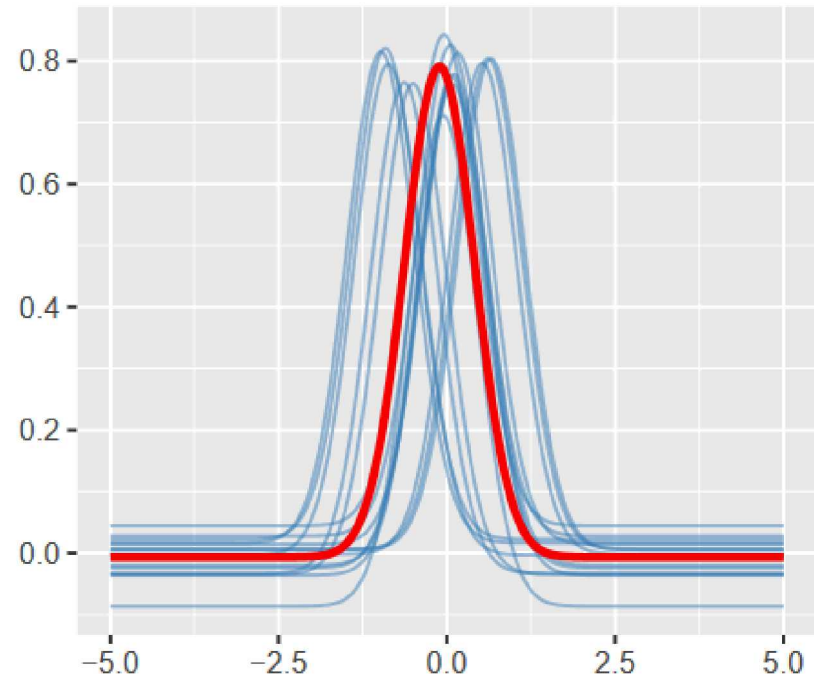
\*Research Aspects

\*Overall integrated, validated workflow from TCAD to IC evaluation

# Mean Estimation Using Karcher Mean



— Original Data — Pointwise Mean



— Karcher Mean — Original Data

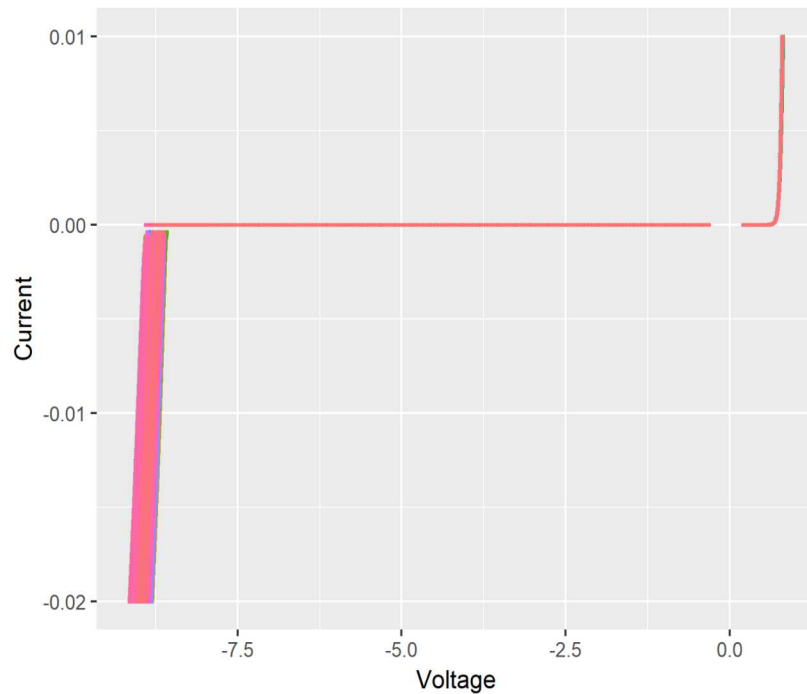
$$\mu_q = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in F} \sum_{i=1}^n d_a(f, f_i)^2$$

$d_a$  is a distance metric

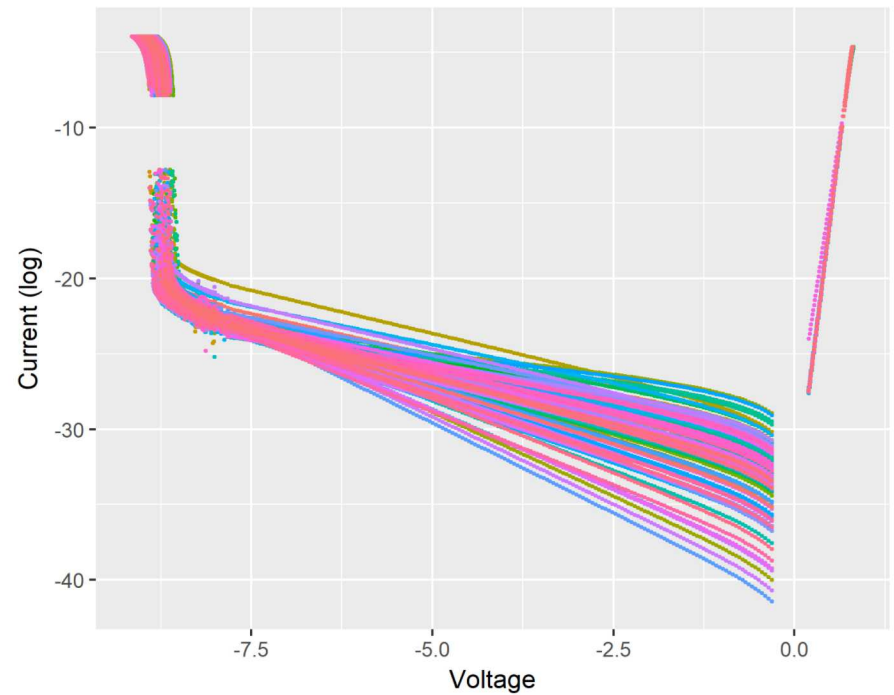
# Applying FDA to Zener Diode Data

## Experimental Data 120 Zener Diodes

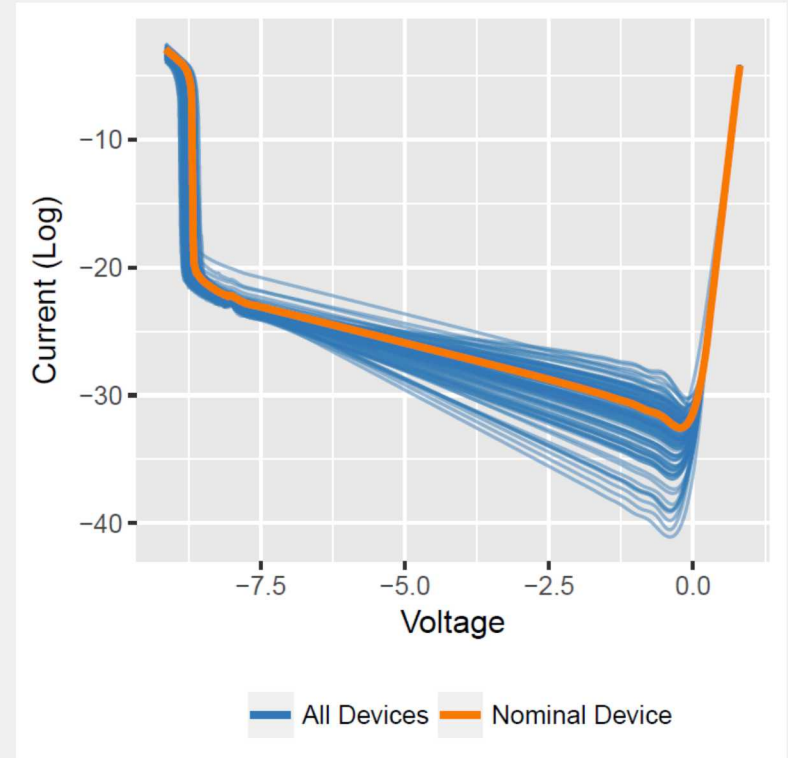
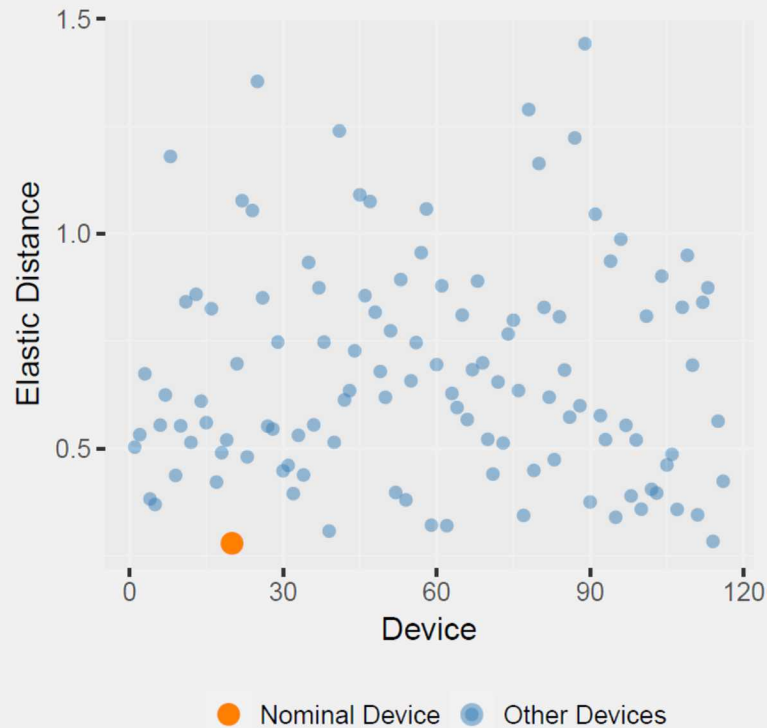
Original Scale



Log Scale



# Characterization of Variability & Selection of Nominal Device



# Summary & Future Work

- **FDA approach** was used to warp data, calculate a Karcher mean, and assess elastic distances to identify a nominal device.
- This approach was able to more **accurately define a mean function** compared to a point-wise estimate, particularly in the critical reverse breakdown region.
- This provides an **objective method** to choose a representative device from a sample of devices, which is extremely useful in the first phase of parameter calibration for compact models in electronic circuit design.

Next steps include:

- Incorporating tolerance bounds for functional data.
- Propagating uncertainty in the devices to the calibration parameters.