

# Semiconductors

## Reference: Chapter 4 Jaeger or Chapter 3 Ruska

- Recall what determines conductor, insulator and semiconductor
- Plot the electron energy states of a material
- In some materials get the creation of a "band gap:  $E_g$
- The lower band level is called the "Valance Band"
- The upper band level is called the "Conduction Band"
- At  $T = 0$  K here are some types of structures
- Good conductors: Copper, Sodium: many empty states below  $E_g$
- Modest conductors: No bandgap (Conductance & valence overlap)
- Insulators: Full Valance band: large  $E_g$
- Semiconductors: Valance filled but  $E_g$  small
- Small band gap: relatively easy to move electrons
- Move from the valance to the conduction band.
- Get conduction when empty states at adjacent energy levels
- Conduction create by adding carriers: electrons in conduction
- Holes in valance band

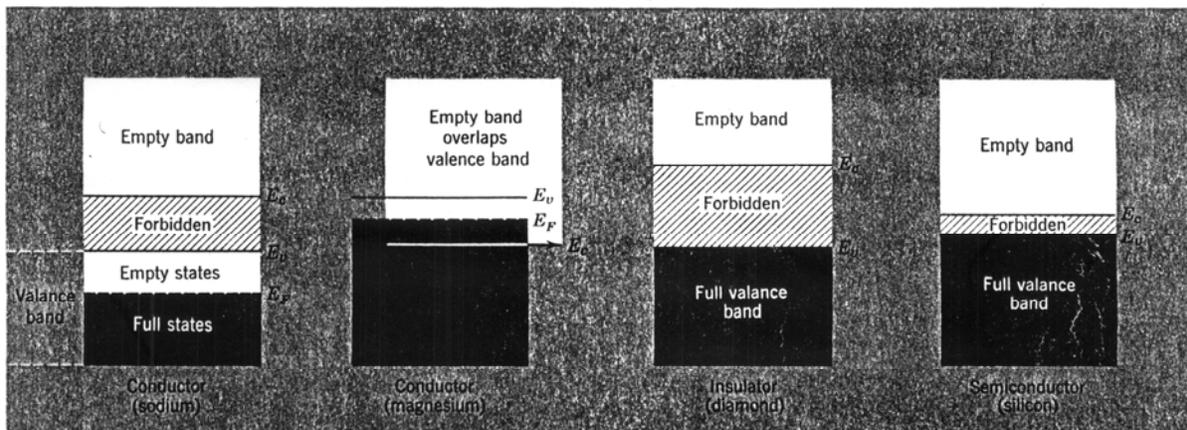


Figure 4.3 Simplified energy band diagrams for conductors, insulators, and semiconductors.

Conductor  
Copper

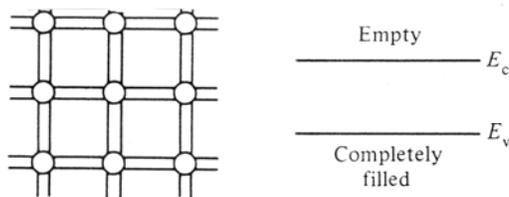
Conductor  
(Magnesium)

Insulator

Semiconductor

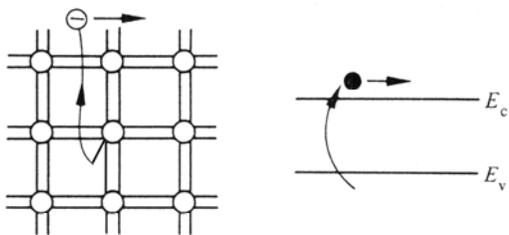
## Creating Carriers in Semiconductors

- Width of the Band Gap in terms of electron volts,
  - Energy electron gains accelerated through a one volt E field.
  - $1 \text{ eV} = 1.609 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules}$
  - Measure energies in eV because most useful for calculations.
  - Typical Semiconductor band gaps
- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Germanium | 0.67 eV |
| Silicon   | 1.11 eV |
| GaAs      | 1.40 eV |
| Diamond   | 5.60 eV |
- Usually use relative position in band diagrams, setting:
    - The Valance Band Edge  $E_v = 0$
    - The Conduction Band Edge  $E_c = E_g$
  - At room T semiconductors -few electrons in conduction band
  - But can add a donor dopand (another material) that adds electrons
  - Or an acceptor that creates holes in the valence band



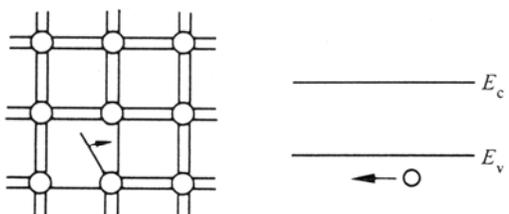
(a) No carriers

Undoped



(b) The electron

Donor atoms  
Adds e to conduction  
(e = electrons)

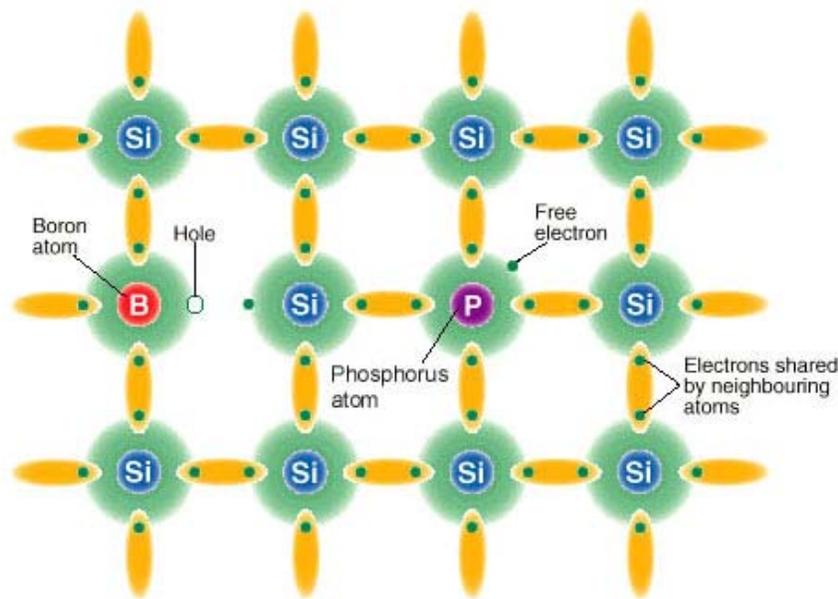


(c) The hole

Acceptor atoms  
Add n to valence  
(n = holes)

## Doping and Silicon

- Dopants in silicon set from being a column IV element
- Column V extra electrons N type dopant  $N_D$
- P Phosphorus, As Arsenic & Sb Antimony most common
- Column III holes (missing e's) Acceptors P type dopant  $N_A$
- B Boron, Al Aluminum most common
- For Diodes and transistors need to make P and N junctions
- Doping is inserting the impurities into the substrate



IIIA	IVA	VA
5 10.811 <b>B</b> Boron	6 12.01115 <b>C</b> Carbon	7 14.0067 <b>N</b> Nitrogen
13 26.9815 <b>Al</b> Aluminum	14 28.086 <b>Si</b> Silicon	15 30.9738 <b>P</b> Phosphorus
31 69.72 <b>Ga</b> Gallium	32 72.64 <b>Ge</b> Germanium	33 74.922 <b>As</b> Arsenic
49 114.82 <b>In</b> Indium	50 118.69 <b>Sn</b> Tin	51 121.75 <b>Sb</b> Antimony
81 204.37 <b>Tl</b> Thallium	82 207.19 <b>Pb</b> Lead	83 208.980 <b>Bi</b> Bismuth

P type | N type  
Elemental  
Semiconductors

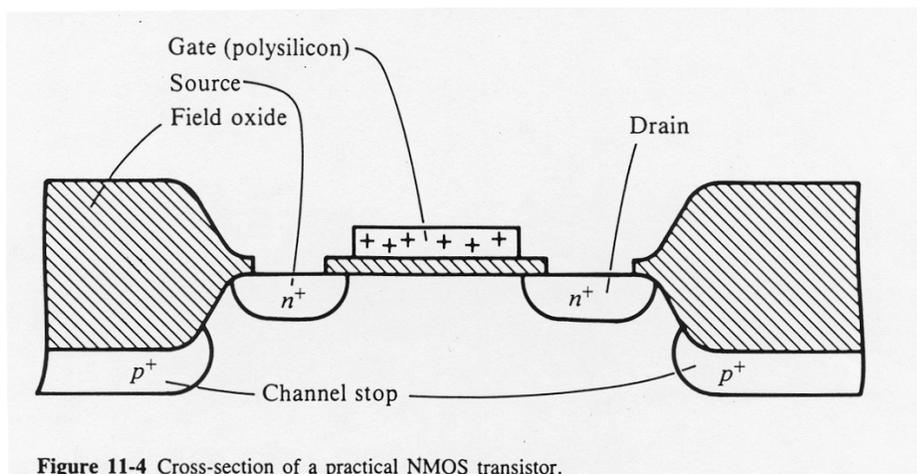
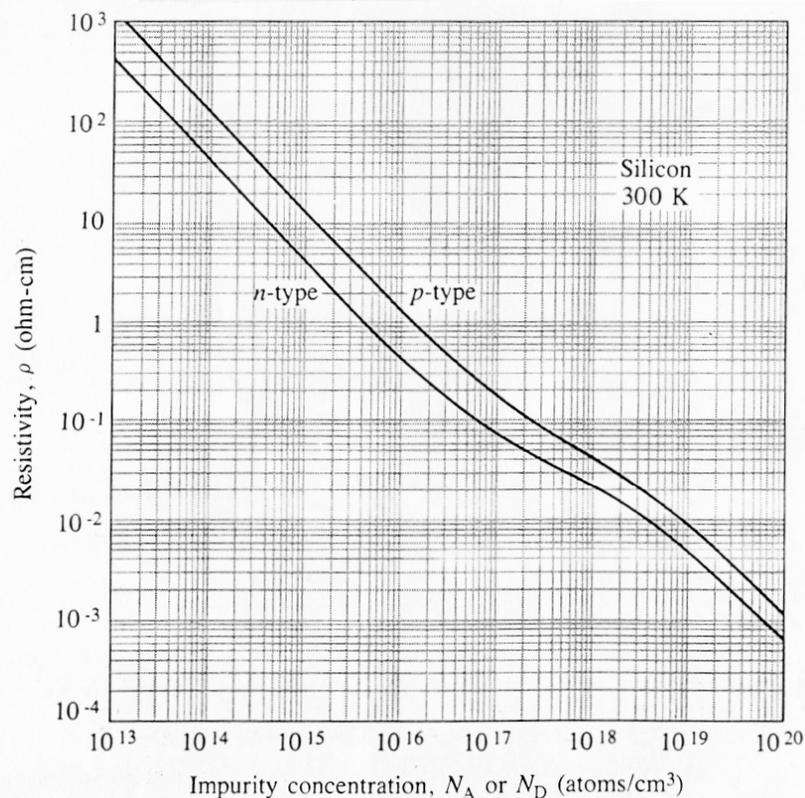


Figure 11-4 Cross-section of a practical NMOS transistor.

## Diffusion and Ion implantation

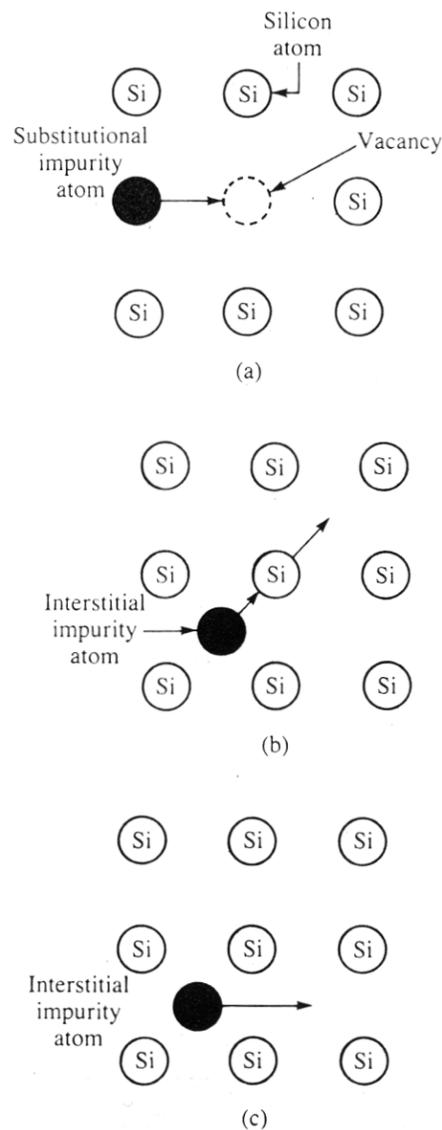
- N & P Dopants determine the resistivity of material
- Very low levels for change 1 cm<sup>3</sup> Silicon has 5.5x10<sup>22</sup> atoms
- Significant resistivity changes at even 10<sup>10</sup> dopant atoms/cc
- Typical doping begins at 10<sup>13</sup> atoms/cc N<sub>A</sub> or N<sub>D</sub>
- Note N lower resistivity than p: due to higher carrier mobility
- Near linear relationship below 0.2 ohm-cm (~10<sup>16</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>)
- Above that high doping effects
- At 10<sup>19</sup> get significant degeneracy effects
- There quantum effects become important
- Typical Si wafer substrate is about 1-10 ohm-cm or 10<sup>15</sup>-10<sup>16</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>



**Fig. 4.8** Room-temperature resistivity in *n*- and *p*-type silicon as a function of impurity concentration. (Note that these curves are valid for either donor or acceptor impurities but not for compensated material containing both types of impurities.) Copyright 1987 Addison-Wesley Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission from ref. [3].

## Diffusion and Dopant Location

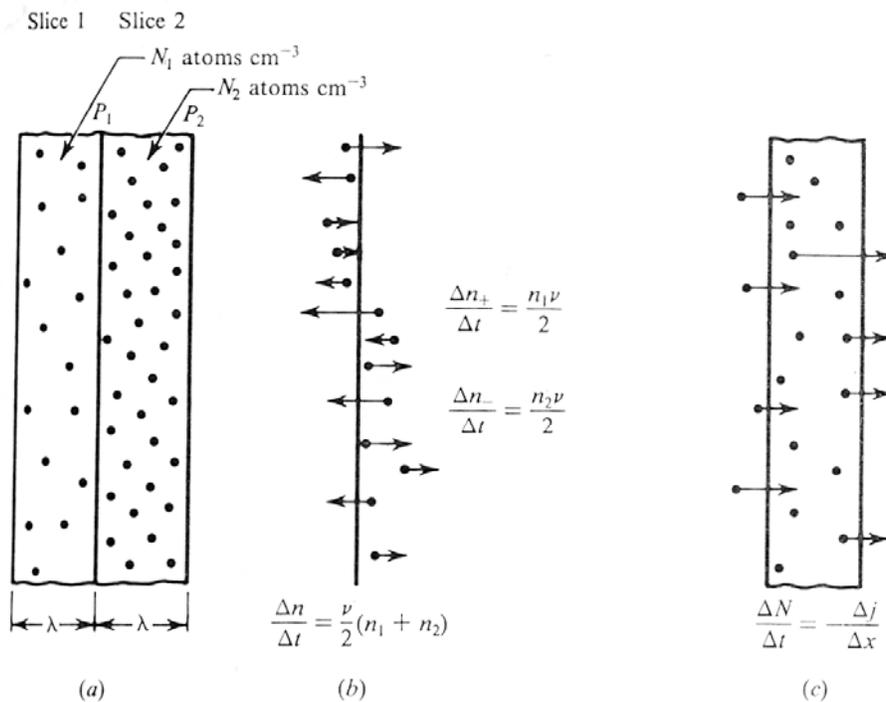
- Dopping is adding impurities to Silicon
- Thermal diffusion process easiest
- Directly implanting (injecting) more expensive
- Dopant Atoms Substitutional – replaces Si:
- Called activated dopants – ie n and p carriers created
- Interstitial dopant: pushes out Si
- True Interstitial dopant atoms: not activated – no carriers
- Implanting produces mostly interstitial – needs to be activated



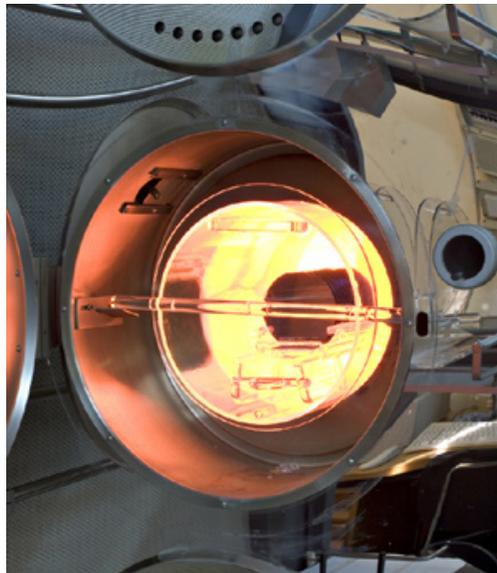
**Fig. 4.1** Atomic diffusion in a two-dimensional lattice. (a) Substitutional diffusion, in which the impurity moves among vacancies in the lattice; (b) interstitialcy mechanism, in which the impurity atom replaces a silicon atom in the lattice, and the silicon atom is displaced to an interstitial site; (c) interstitial diffusion, in which impurity atoms do not replace atoms in the crystal lattice.

## Diffusion under Concentration Gradient

- Dopant moves from heavy concentration area to lower concentration area
- Reason: simple statistics of motion: More dopant in heavy area
- Hence more heading in lower dopant direction
- Higher the temperature the faster dopants move
- Hence for doping done in a furnace



**Figure 3-4** Diffusion under a concentration gradient: (a) two slices with different concentrations. (b) Focus on plane  $P_1$  showing change in concentration. (c) Focus on slice 2 showing flux.



## Diffusion Theory

**Reference: Chapter 4 Jaeger or Chapter 3 Ruska**

- Diffusion equations for the flux of dopants into the substrate
- Diffusion flow follows **Fick's First Law**

$$J = -D \frac{\partial N(x,t)}{\partial x} = -D \nabla N(x,t)$$

Where:

N = Impurity concentration: atoms/cc

J = particle flux (atoms/cc/sec)

D = diffusion coefficient (cm<sup>2</sup>/sec)

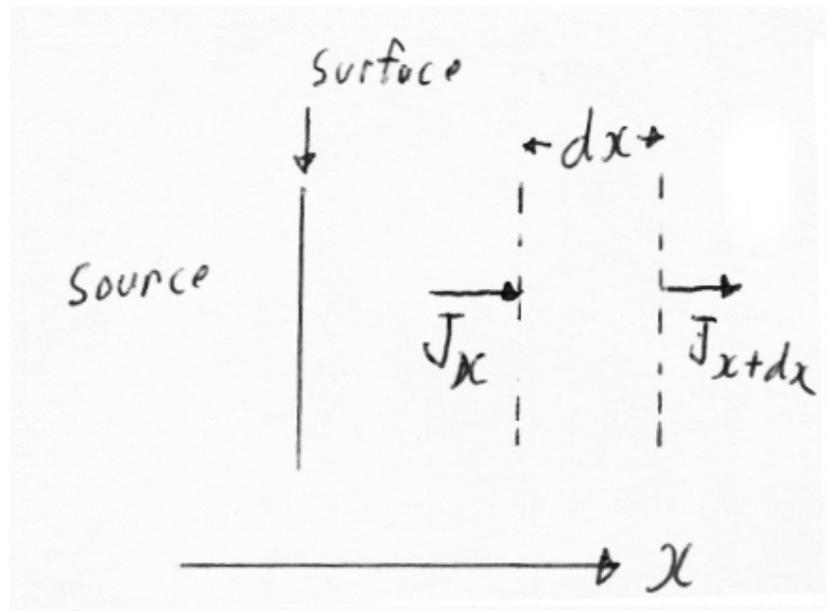
- **Continuity Equation**

- Now relate the flux to the changes in time and position of dopant
- Continuity Equation: **Fick's Second Law**

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial J}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} D \frac{\partial N(x,t)}{\partial x} = D \frac{\partial^2 N(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = D \nabla^2 N$$

Where: t = time

- This is the Diffusion differential equation in 1 dimension
- Assumption is that D is constant with x



## Diffusion Solutions

- Solutions depend on Boundary Conditions
- Solutions in terms of  $Dt$  (Diffusion coef x time)
- Two typical cases depending on the source conditions

### Constant Source Diffusion

- Constant source one common condition: ie unlimited dopant

$$N(x,t) = N_0 \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right)$$

- Total impurity concentration

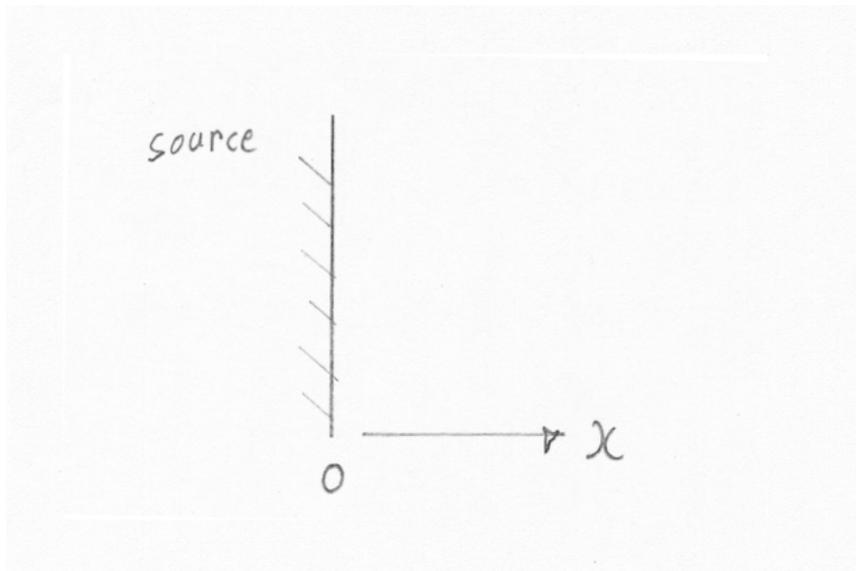
$$Q = \int_0^{\infty} N(x,t) dx = 2N_0 \sqrt{\frac{Dt}{\pi}}$$

### Limited Source Diffusion

- Total Dopant is fixed

$$N(x,t) = \left[ \frac{Q}{\sqrt{\pi Dt}} \right] \exp\left(-\left[ \frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right]^2\right)$$

- Thermal diffusion of starts with Constant source step
- Then uses dopant from that in a Limited Source drive in



## Constant Source Diffusion Solutions

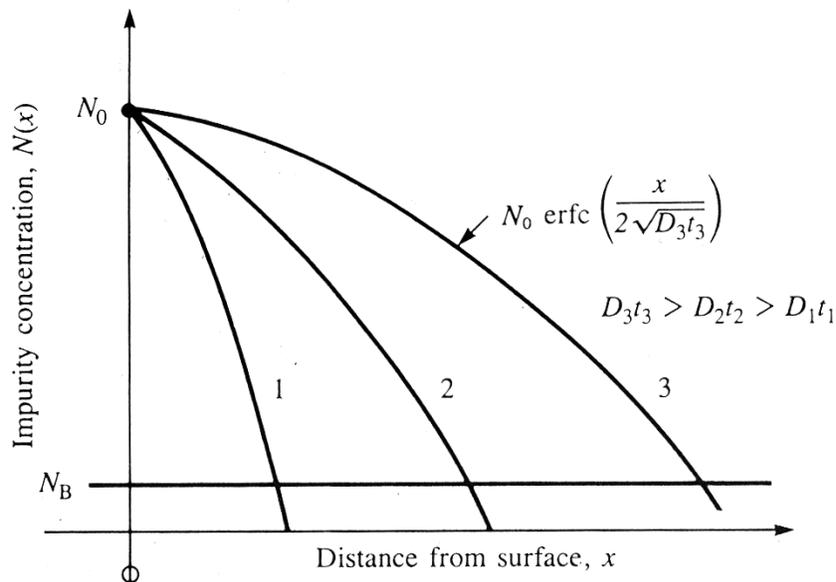
- Constant source one common condition: ie unlimited dopant
- Surface concentration is fixed for all diffusion time

$$N(x,t) = N_0 \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right)$$

- Note this involves the Complementary Error Function
- Total impurity concentration

$$Q = \int_0^{\infty} N(x,t) dx = 2N_0 \sqrt{\frac{Dt}{\pi}}$$

- Constant source often puts initial dopant only on surface (in Lab)
- Called a predeposition
- Spin on dopants create constant source type doping



**Fig. 4.2** A constant-source diffusion results in a complementary error function impurity distribution. The surface concentration  $N_0$  remains constant and the diffusion moves deeper into the silicon wafer as the  $Dt$  product increases.  $Dt$  can change as a result of increasing diffusion time, increasing diffusion temperature, or a combination of both.

## Useful Error Function $\text{erfc}(x)$ Approximations

- Error function  $\text{erf}(x)$ , Complementary Error Function  $\text{erfc}(x)$  are

$$\text{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-s^2} ds$$

$$\text{erfc}(x) = 1 - \text{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_x^\infty e^{-s^2} ds$$

- $\text{erf}(x)$  hard to find but easy to approximate with

$$\text{erf}(x) = 1 - (a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3) e^{-x^2}$$

$$t = \frac{1}{1 + px} \quad \text{where } p = 0.47047$$

$$a_1 = 0.3480242, a_2 = -0.0958798, a_3 = 0.7478556$$

- See Abramowitz & Segun (Handbook of Mathematical Functions)
- Error on this is  $< 2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  for all  $x$  ( $< 2\%$  error for  $x \ll 5.5$ )
- We are using complementary error function

$$\text{erfc}(x) = 1 - \text{erf}(x) \quad \text{erfc}(0) = 1 \quad \text{erfc}(\infty) = 0$$

- Asymptotic approximation

$$\text{erfc}(x) \rightarrow \frac{e^{-x^2}}{x\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2x^2} \right] \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \infty$$

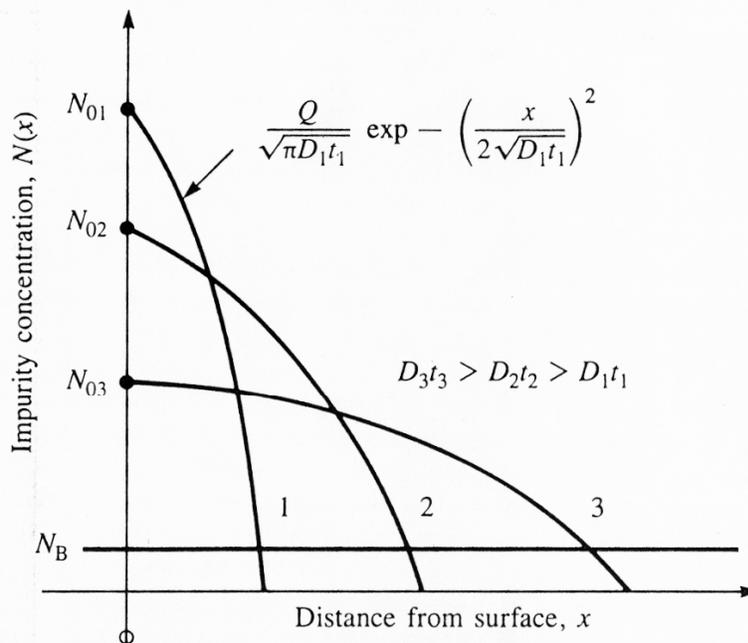
- For  $x > 3.5$  this has  $< 1\%$  error (use plot page following for  $x < 3.5$ )
- Excel & Quattropro spreadsheet have  $\text{erf}$  and  $\text{erfc}$  built in.  
Must activate analysis toolpack & solver first  
but become inaccurate for  $x > 5.4$  – then use asymptotic
- Matlab & maple OK for higher  $x$ 's

## Limited Source Diffusion Solutions

- Where total dopant is fixed
- Surface dopant falls with time while dopant goes deeper

$$N(x,t) = \left[ \frac{Q}{\sqrt{\pi Dt}} \right] \exp\left( - \left[ \frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right]^2 \right)$$

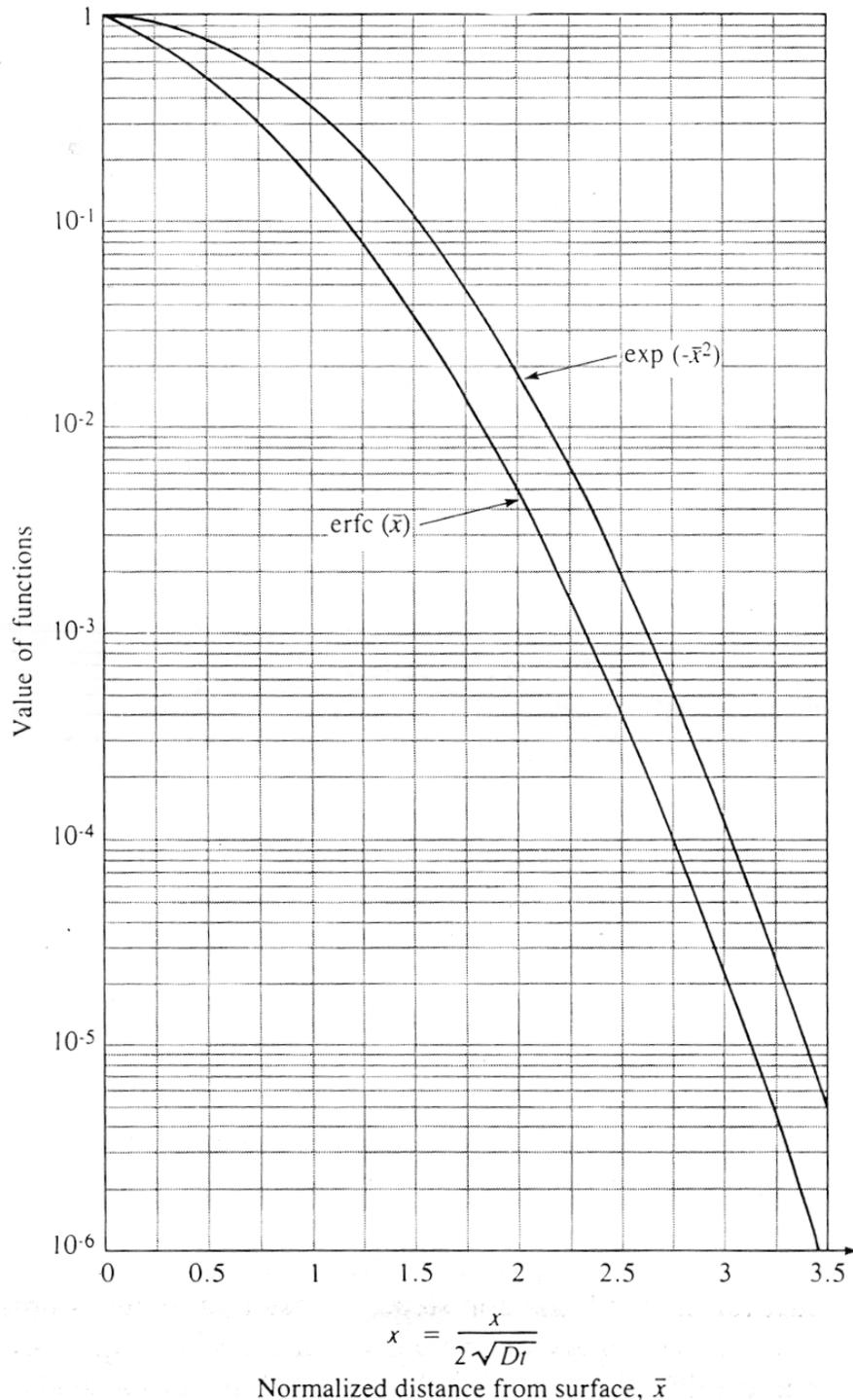
- Often do constant source first (high concentration very shallow)
- Then drive in deeper using limited source
- With an oxidation drive in



**Fig. 4.3** A Gaussian distribution results from a limited-source diffusion. As the  $Dt$  product increases, the diffusion front moves more deeply into the wafer and the surface concentration decreases. The area under each of the three curves is the same.

## Comparison of Normalized Gaussian & ERFC

- $\text{erfc}(x)$  much steeper than Gaussian: thus sharper boundary
- For  $\text{erfc}$  use plot for  $x < 3.5$ , asymptotic formula for  $> 3.5$
- Use for getting inverse of  $\text{erfc}$
- Use asymptotic eqn for inverse values of  $\text{erfc}(x) < 10^{-6}$



**Fig. 4.4** A graph comparing the Gaussian and complementary error function ( $\text{erfc}$ ) profiles. We will use this curve to evaluate the  $\text{erfc}$  and its inverse.

## Diffusion Constants in Si

- For common dopants: Change with temperature
- Follows Arrhenius Formula ( $E_A$  = activation energy of diffusion)

$$D = D_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E_A}{KT}\right)$$

$E_A$  = activation energy of diffusion

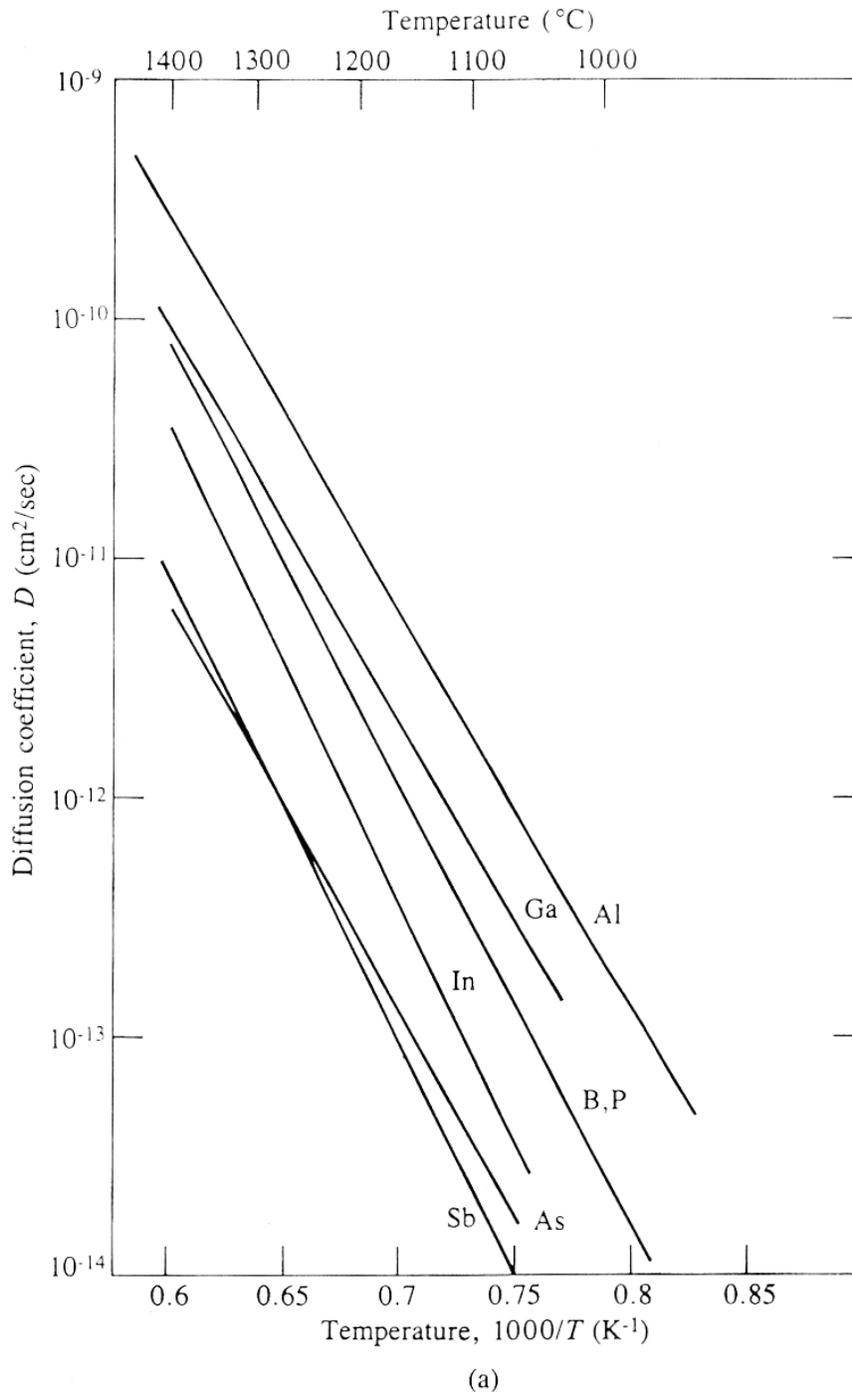


Fig. 4.5 Diffusion constants in silicon for (a) substitutional diffusers (above) and (b) interstitial diffusers (next page)

## Diffusion Constants in Si

- High diffusion coef D for poisons: Cu, Au, Fe & Li

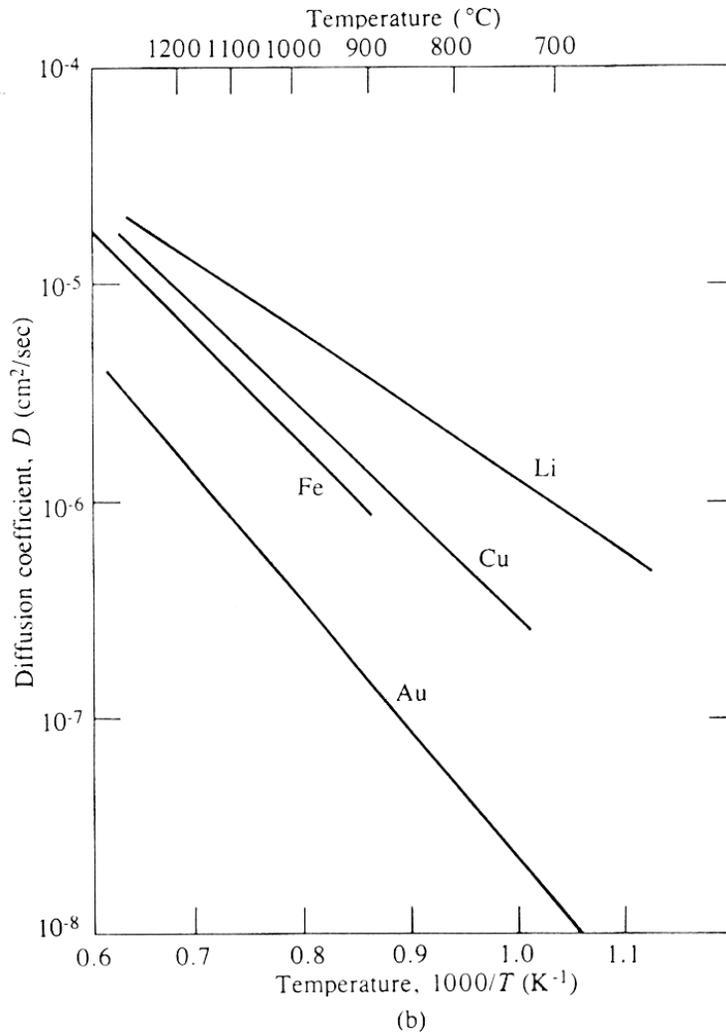


Fig. 4.5 (continued)

$$D = D_0 \exp \frac{-E_A}{KT}$$

**Table 4.1** Typical Diffusion Coefficient Values for a Number of Impurities.

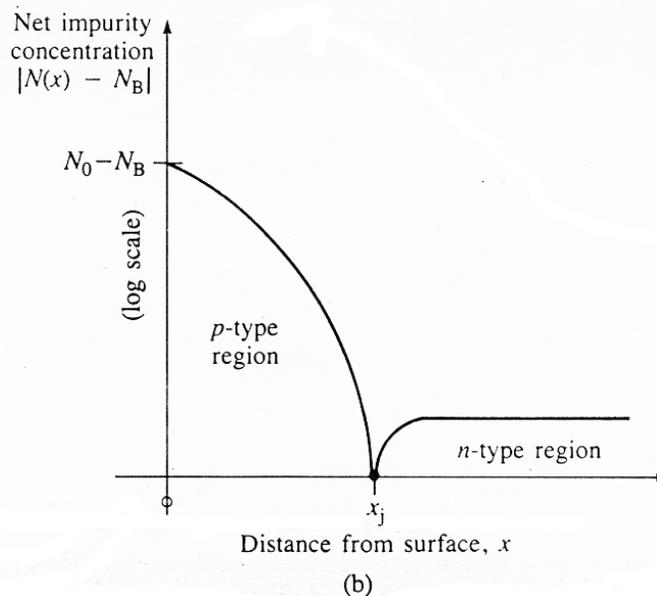
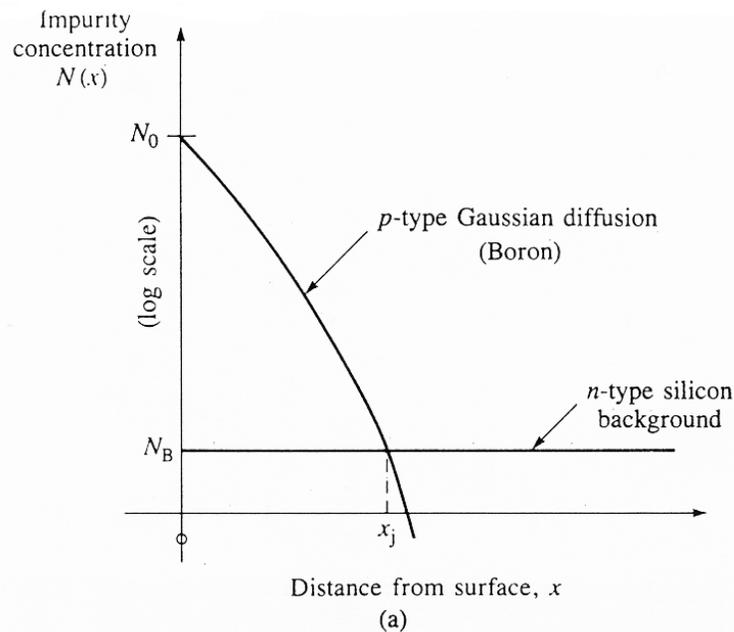
Element	$D_0(\text{cm}^2/\text{sec})$	$E_A(\text{eV})$
B	10.5	3.69
Al	8.00	3.47
Ga	3.60	3.51
In	16.5	3.90
P	10.5	3.69
As	0.32	3.56
Sb	5.60	3.95

## Formation of PN Junction

- For diodes and transistors want to create a PN junction (interface)
- When diffusion falls below background dopant
- May be substrate level (diode) or previous diffusion
- Carrier level becomes

$$p-n = N_A - N_D$$

- This is diode junction depth  $x_j$  – note this is not an abrupt junction



**Fig. 4.7** Formation of a  $pn$  junction by diffusion. (a) An example of a  $p$ -type Gaussian diffusion into a uniformly doped  $n$ -type wafer; (b) net impurity concentration in the wafer. The metallurgical junction occurs at the point  $x = x_j$ , where the net concentration is zero. The material is converted to  $p$ -type to the left of  $x_j$  and remains  $n$ -type to the right of  $x_j$ .

## Limits to Diffusion: Solid Solubility

- Sets upper limit to diffusion
- Silicon participates out the dopant at higher levels
- Limit is set the solid solubility of particular dopant in Si
- Complicated function of Temperature at diffusion

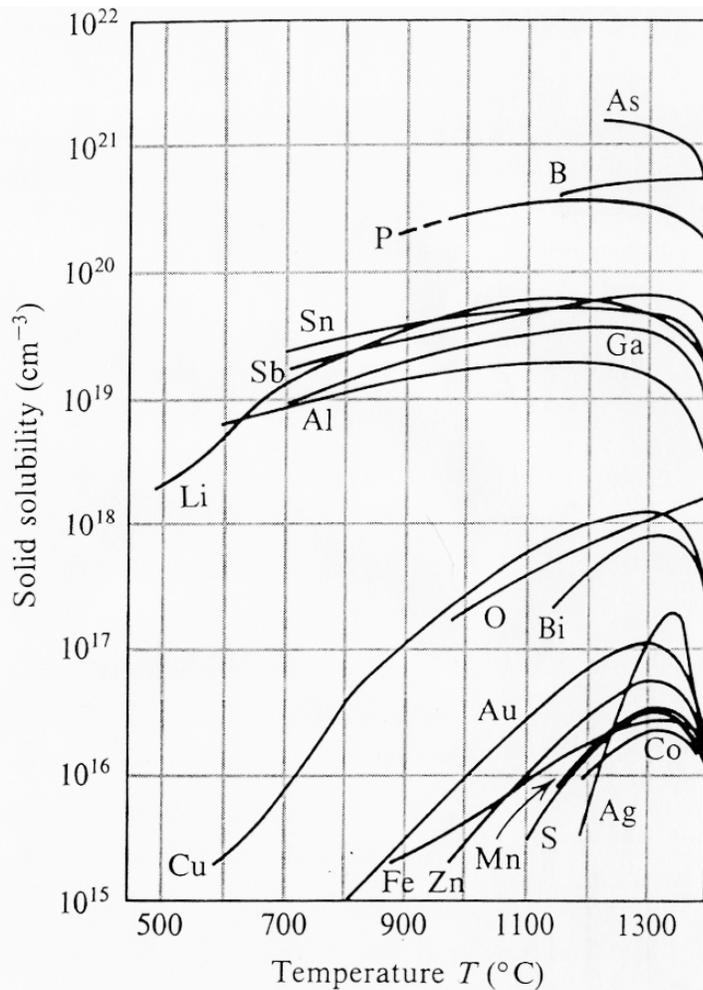
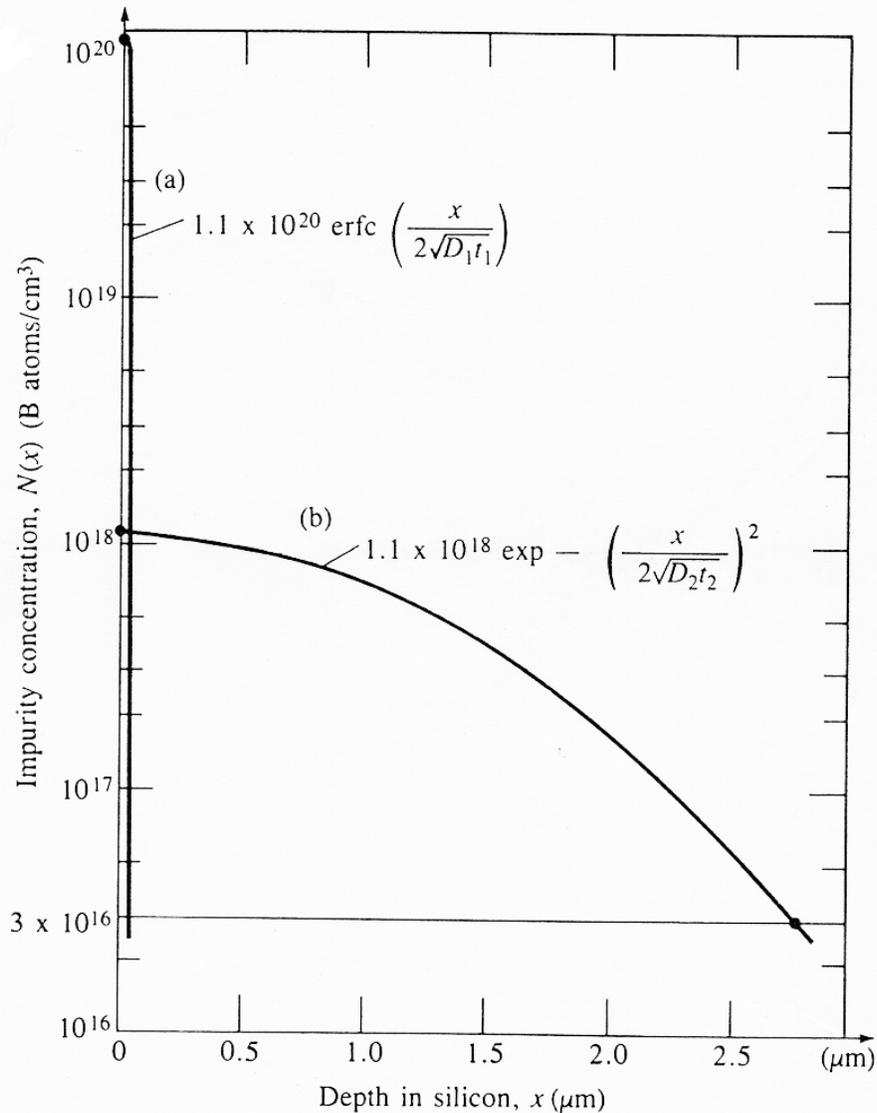


Figure 3-6 Solid solubilities of various impurities in silicon. (Reference 7. Reprinted with permission from the Bell System Technical Journal. Copyright 1960, AT&T.)

## Common Process: Predeposition & Drive in

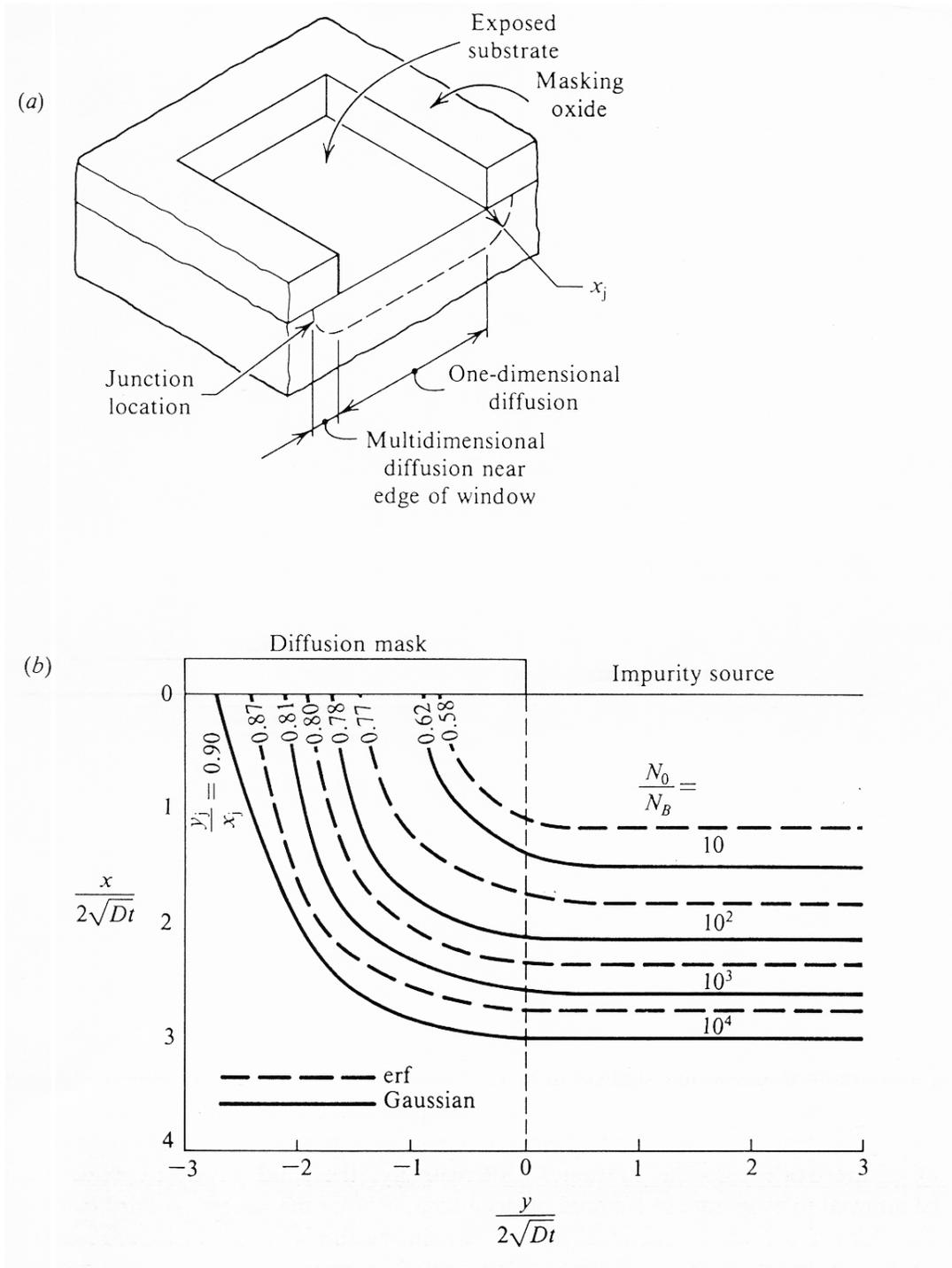
- Use diffusion to create thin layer of highly doped material
- Then drive in dopant from this layer as limited source at surface



**Fig. 4.9** Calculated boron impurity profiles for Example 4.2. (a) Following the predeposition step at 900 °C for 15 min; (b) following a subsequent 5-hr drive-in step at 1100 °C. The final junction depth is 2.77  $\mu\text{m}$  with a surface concentration of  $1.1 \times 10^{18}/\text{cm}^3$ . The initial profile approximates an impulse.

## Dopant And Masks

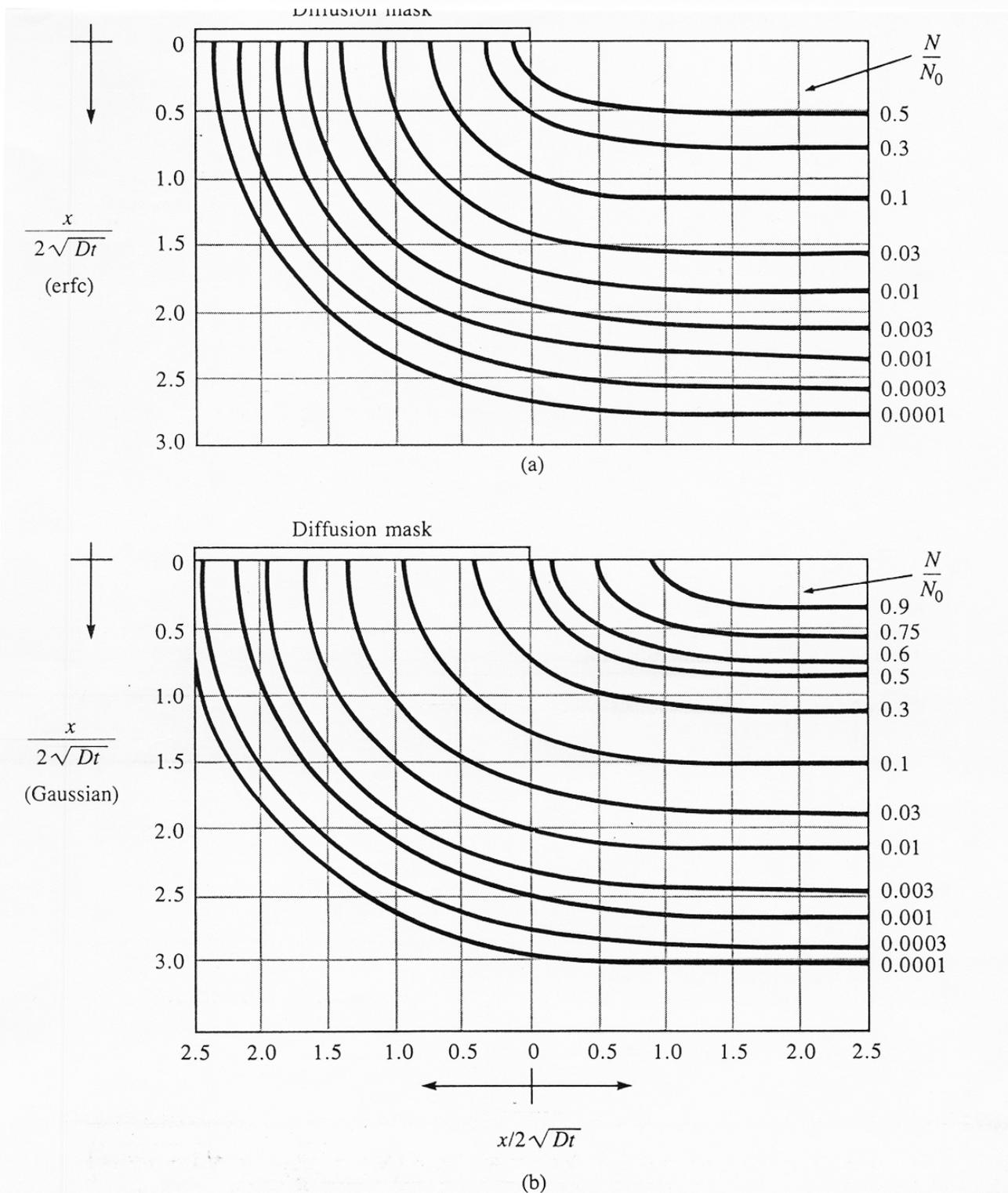
- Commonly use patterned layer (oxide mostly) as mask
- Hence grow oxide, pattern with resist, etch oxide, strip for mask
- Then diffuse dopant at high temp (too high for resist)
- Dopant diffuses under mask



**Figure 3-8** Pattern of diffusion near a masking window. (a) View of the window, showing one- and multidimensional diffusion zones. (b) Calculated two-dimensional diffusion profiles near a window. (Figure

## Dopant Diffusion Under Mask

- Under mask diffusion depends on type: Constant or limited source



**Fig. 4.10** Normalized two-dimensional Gaussian and complementary error function diffusions near the edge of a window in the barrier layer. Copyright 1965 by International Business Machines Corporation; reprinted with permission from ref. [4].

## Common Dopant Sources

- Often have solid, liquid and gaseous sources
- Different materials for each source type

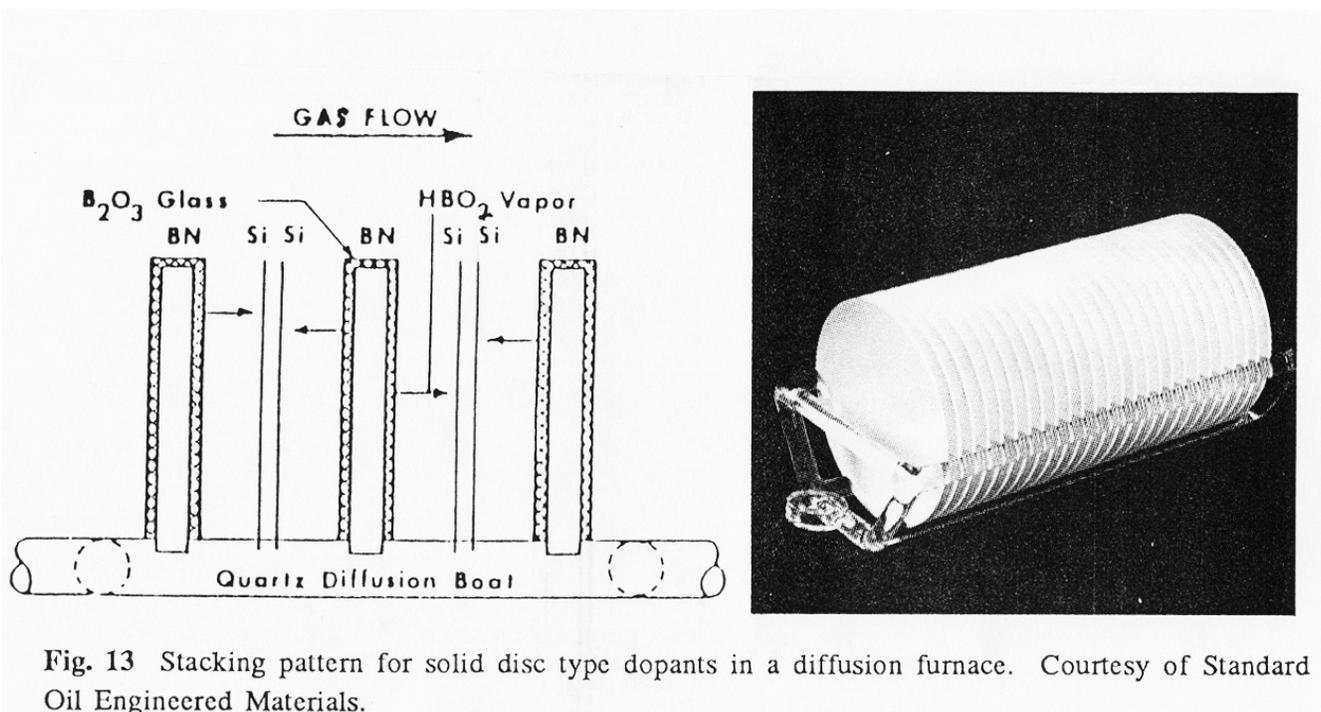
Type	Element	Compound Name	Formula	State	Diffusion Reactions*
N	Antimony	Antimony Trioxide	Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Solid	
	Arsenic	Arsenic Trioxide	As <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Solid	2AsH <sub>3</sub> + 3O <sub>2</sub> → As <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O
		Arsine	AsH <sub>3</sub>	Gas	
	Phosphorus	Phosphorus Oxychloride	POCl <sub>3</sub>	Liquid	4POCl <sub>3</sub> + 3O <sub>2</sub> → 2P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> + 6Cl <sub>2</sub>
		Phosphorus Pentoxide	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Solid	2PH <sub>3</sub> + 4O <sub>2</sub> → P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O
		Phosphine	PH <sub>3</sub>	Gas	
P	Boron	Boron Tribromide	BBr <sub>3</sub>	Liquid	4BBr <sub>3</sub> + 3O <sub>2</sub> → 2B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> + 6Br <sub>2</sub>
		Boron Trioxide	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Solid	B <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> + 3O <sub>2</sub> → B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> + 3H <sub>2</sub> O
		Diborane	B <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Gas	
		Boron Trichloride	BCl <sub>3</sub>	Gas	BCl <sub>3</sub> + 3H <sub>2</sub> → 2B + 6HCl
	Boron Nitride	BN	Solid		
Gold	Gold	Au	Solid (Evap.)		
	Iron	Fe			
	Copper	Cu			
	Lithium	Li		Undesirable impurities from contamination	
	Zinc	Zn			
	Manganese	Mn			
	Nickel	Ni			
	Sodium	Na			

\*Note: Only selected diffusion reactions are listed

Figure 11.18 Deposition source table.

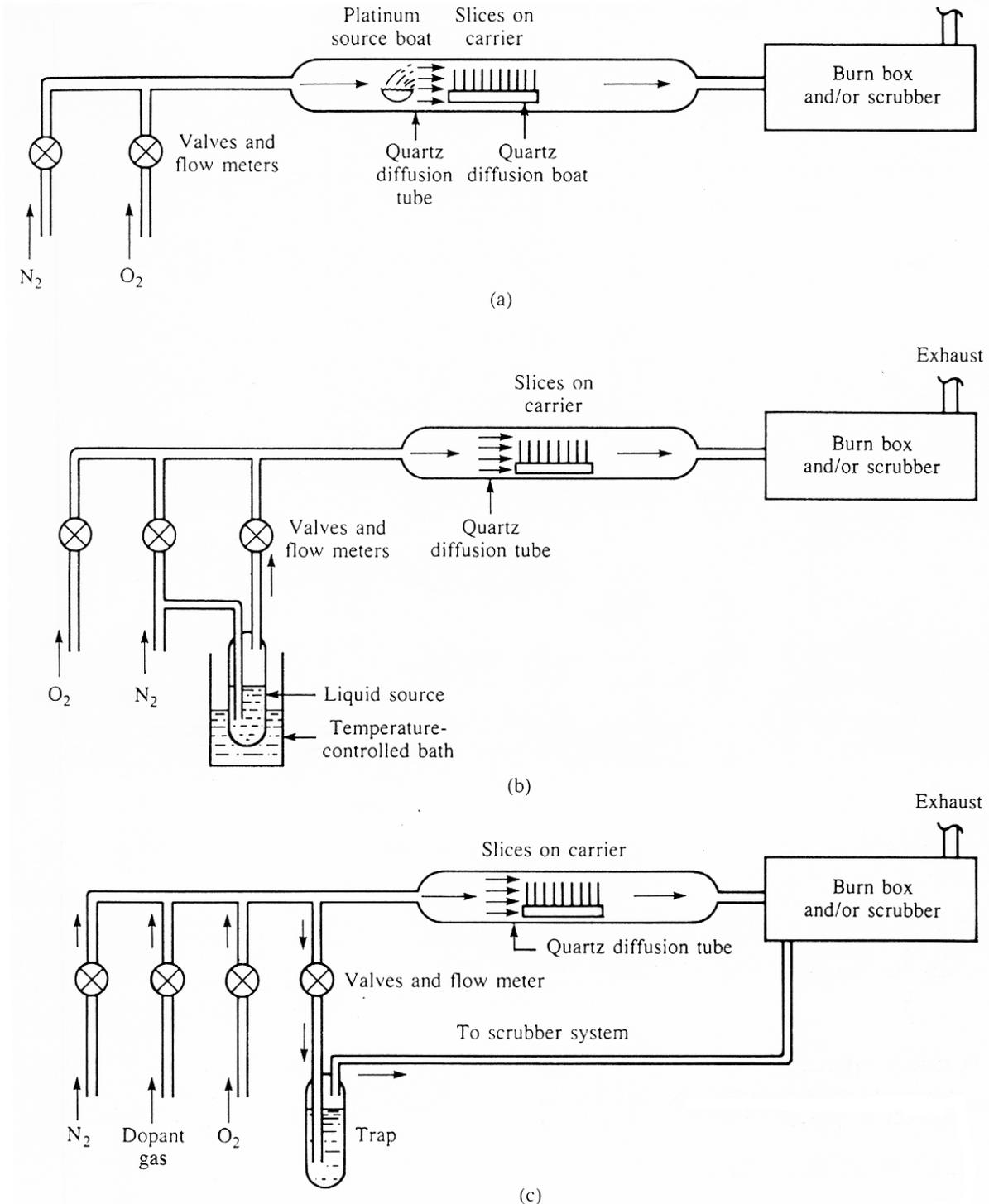
## Furnace Susceptor Sources

- Boron Nitride wafer P solid sources susceptors, between wafers
- Grow layer of Boron oxide on surface (soft)
- In furnace oxide releases Boron to wafers
- Boron dopant on surface of wafers
- Note wafers front faces solid source
- Easy to do but disks change over time
- Phosphorous similar but is Phosphorous in Silicon Carbide matrix
- Note these sources must be kept at moderate temperature
- React with water if at room temp too long



## Gas Dopant Sources

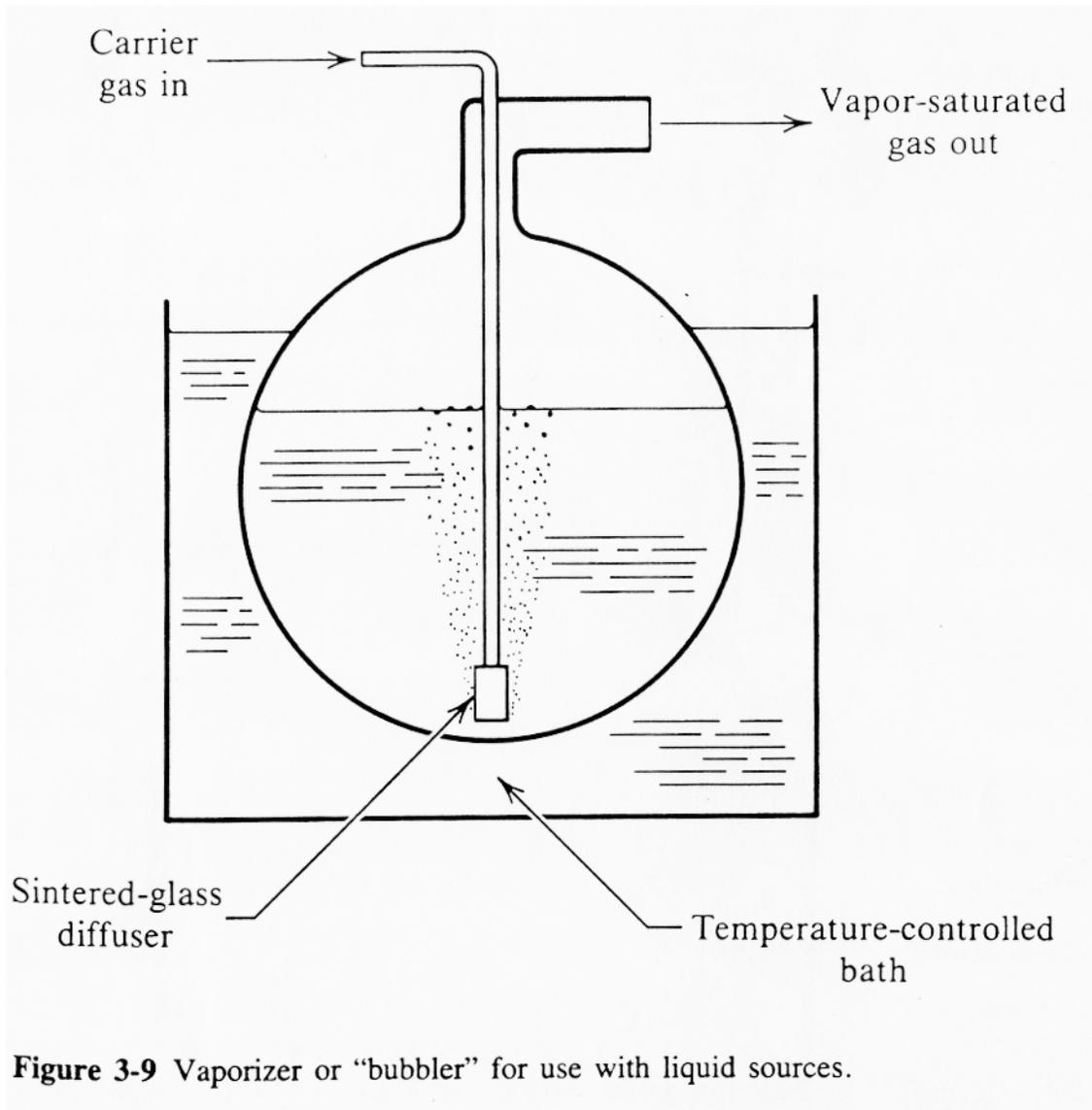
- Dopant containing gas flows over wafer
- Usually has a carrier gas (nitrogen)
- Dangerous gas product output



**Fig. 4.22** Open-furnace-tube diffusion systems. (a) Solid source in a platinum source boat in the rear of diffusion tube; (b) liquid-source system with carrier gas passing through a bubbler; (c) diffusion system using gaseous impurity sources.

## Bubbler Dopant Source

- Use gas or liquid dopant in bubbler to furnace



## Safety and Dopant Sources

- Common sources very deadly
- Measure exposure limit for 8 hours  
in parts per million (ppm)

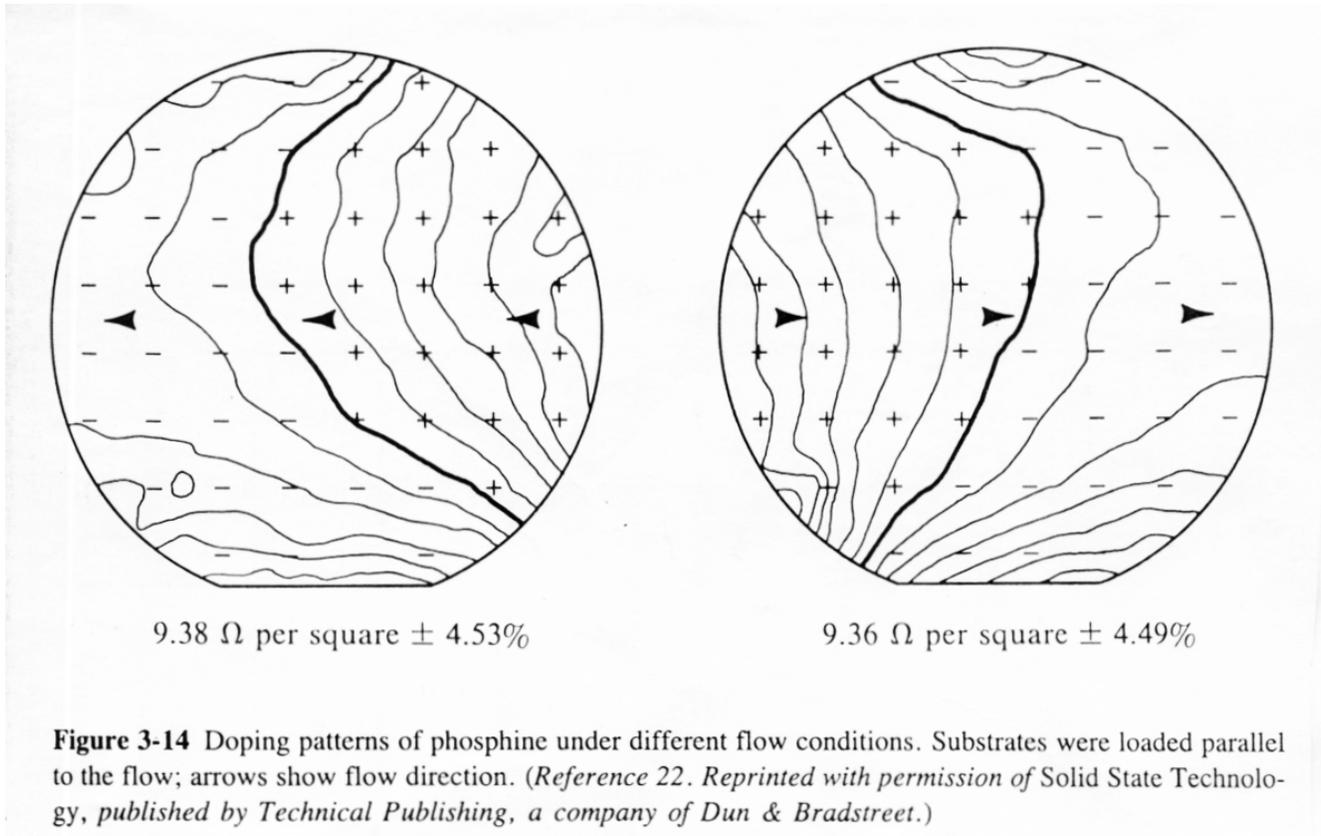
**Table 4.3** Threshold Limit Recommendations for Common Gaseous Sources.\*<sup>[21]</sup>

Source	8-hour exposure level (ppm)	Life- threatening exposure	Comments
Diborane ( $B_2H_6$ )	0.10	160 ppm for 15 min	Colorless, sickly sweet, extremely toxic, flammable.
Phosphine ( $PH_3$ )	0.30	400 ppm for 30 min	Colorless, decaying fish odor, extremely toxic, flammable. A few minutes' exposure to 2000 ppm can be lethal.
Arsine ( $AsH_3$ )	0.05	6–15 ppm for 30 min	Colorless, garlic odor, extremely toxic. A few minutes' exposure to 500 ppm can be lethal.
Silane ( $SiH_4$ )	0.50	Unknown	Repulsive odor, burns in air, explosive, poorly understood.
Dichlorosilane ( $SiH_2Cl_2$ )	5.00	...	Colorless, flammable, toxic. Irritating odor provides adequate warning for voluntary with- drawal from contaminated areas.

\*Data from the 1979 American Conference of Governmental Hygienists (ACGIH).

## Uniformity of Dopant Distribution

- Variation with Vapour source Dopants
- Doping level varies with gas flow
- Note variation with flow direction



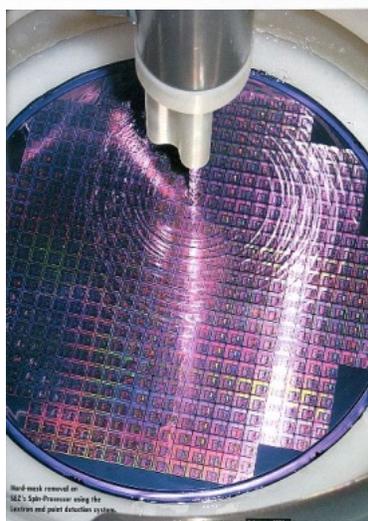
## Spin-on Glass Dopants

- Glasses with dopant dissolved in solvent
- Called so-gel: typically Silicon-tetra-acetate  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_2\text{COOH})_4$
- Spin on like photoresist
- Viscosity and spin speed control thickness
- Usually diluted with ethanol
- Types available:
  - As (arsenosilica)
  - B (Borosilica)
  - P (phosphorosilica)
  - Sb (antimoysilica)
- After spin on bake: 200-250°C, 15 min.
- Baking densifies film, removes water
- Diffusion proceeds as with constant source diffusion
- Soft glass but does allow leveling in processes

Table 5. SELECTED SOURCES FOR CHEMICAL DIFFUSION IN SILICON

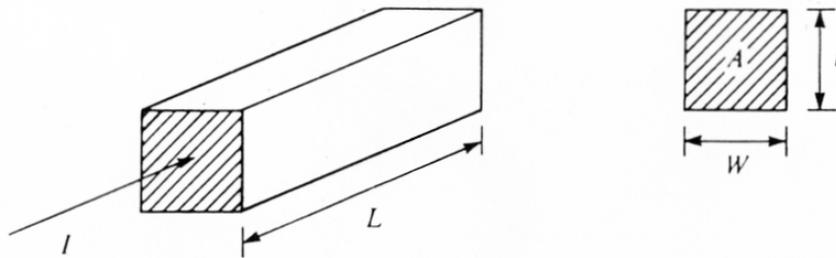
Dopant	Gaseous Source	Liquid Source	Solid Source
As	$\text{AsH}_3$ , $\text{AsF}_3$	arsenosilica <sup>S</sup>	$\text{AlAsO}_4^{\text{d}}$
P	$\text{PH}_3$ , $\text{PF}_3$	$\text{POCl}_3$ , phosphosilica <sup>S</sup>	$\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^{\text{d}}$ , $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^{\text{d}}$
B	$\text{B}_2\text{H}_6$ , $\text{BF}_3$ , $\text{BCl}_3$	$\text{BBr}_3$ , $(\text{CH}_3\text{O})_3\text{B}$ borosilica <sup>S</sup>	$\text{BN}^{\text{d}}$
Sb	$\text{SbH}_3^{\text{I}}$	$\text{Sb}_3\text{Cl}_5$ , antimonysilica <sup>S</sup>	$\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3$ , $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_4$

d = disc source    s = spin on source    I = ion implantation source only



## Sheet Resistance Definition

- First measure of doped region is the change in resistivity
- Sheet resistance used for thin films or layers
- Measure resistance in Ohms per square
- Typically put in a test (unprocessed) wafer at that doping process
- Use these monitor wafers for sheet resistance during processing



$$R = \rho \frac{L}{A} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{\sigma} \quad \sigma = q (\mu_n n + \mu_p p)$$

**Fig. 4.13** Resistance of a block of material having uniform resistivity. A uniform current distribution is entering the material perpendicular to the end of the block. The ratio of resistivity to thickness is called the *sheet resistance* of the material.

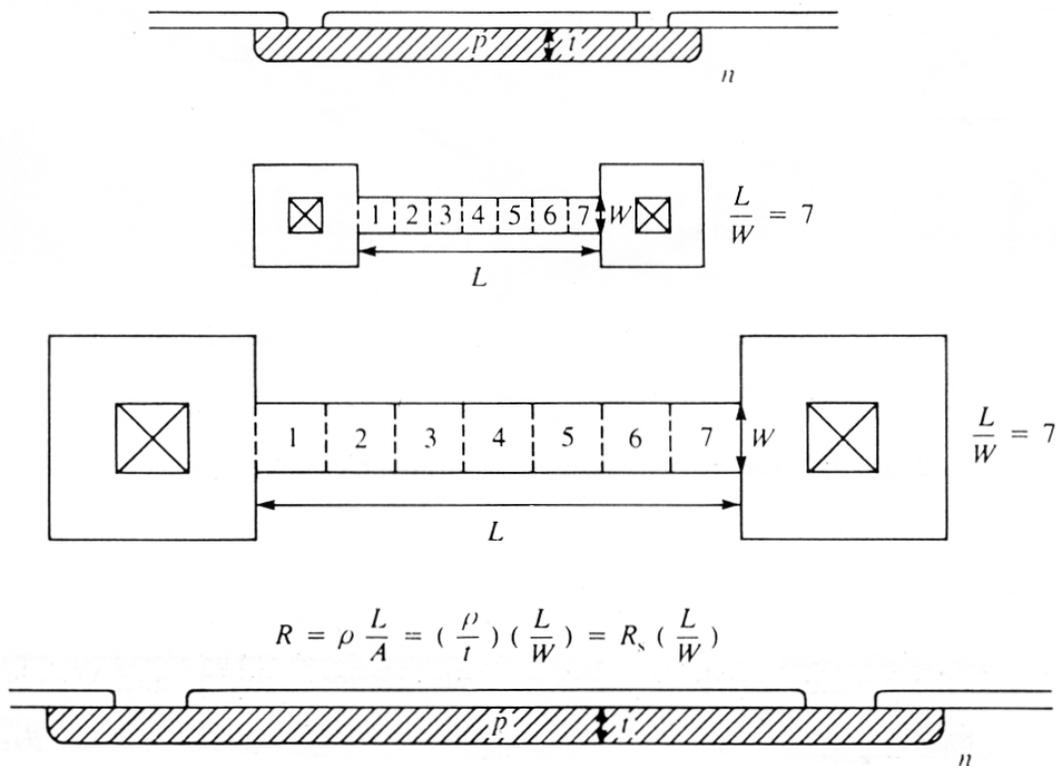
$$R = (\rho/t)(L/W) = R_s(L/W) \quad (4.14)$$

where  $R_s = (\rho/t)$  is called the *sheet resistance* of the layer of material.

## Test Structures for Sheet Resistance

- Always create test structures to monitor process
- Typically place at edge of chip or special patterns in wafer
- Measure resistance sheet resistance Ohms/sq.
- Linear test structures

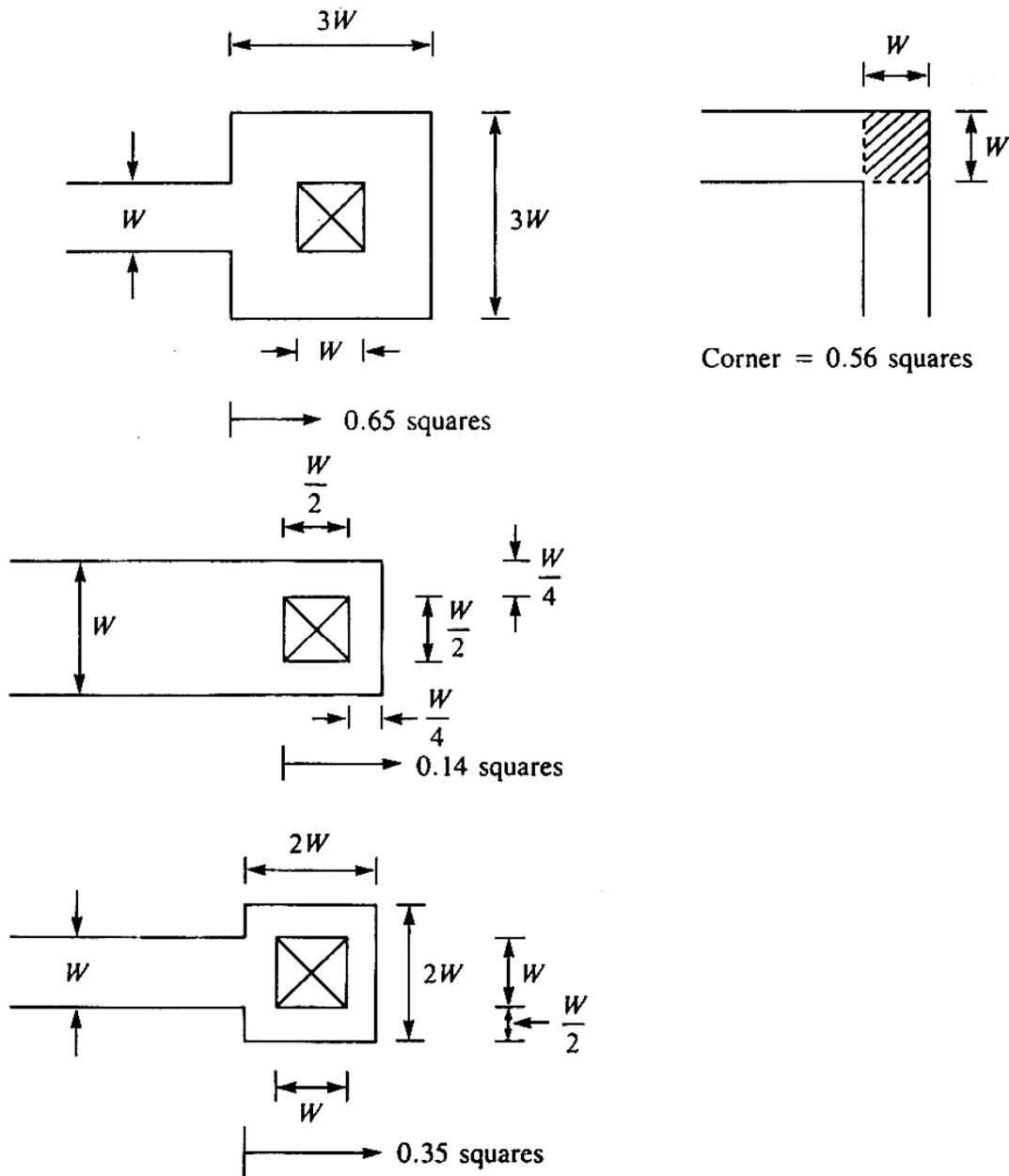
$$R_s = \bar{\rho} / x_j = \left[ \int_0^{x_j} \sigma(x) dx \right]^{-1}$$



**Fig. 4.14** Top and side views of two diffused resistors of different physical size having equal values of resistance. Each resistor has a ratio  $L/W$  equal to 7 squares. Each end of the resistor contributes approximately 0.65 additional squares.

## Estimating Resistance

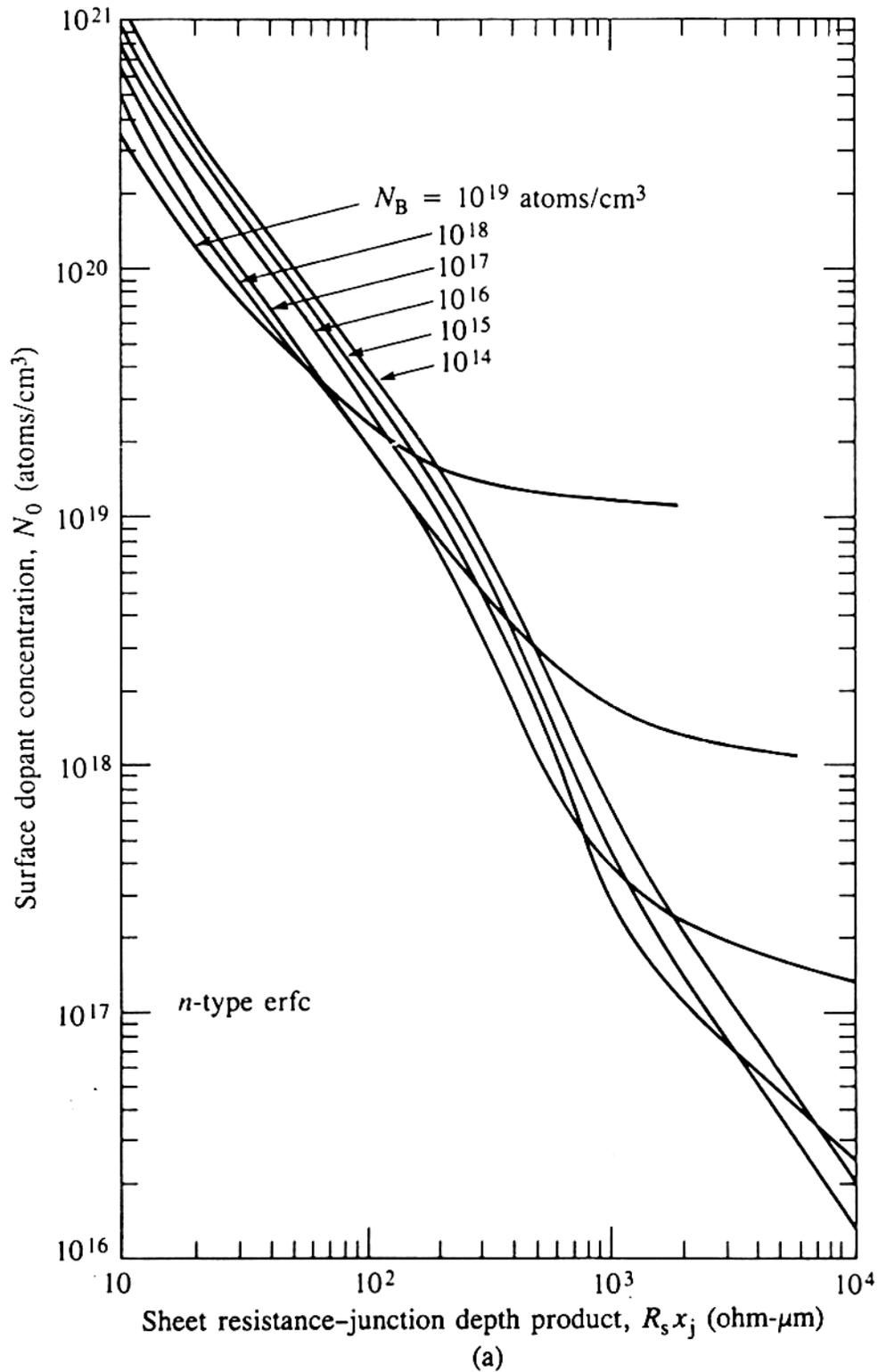
- Often state size of structure in terms of squares
- Thus for metal contact to diffusion pads get



**Fig. 4.15** Effective square contributions of various resistor end and corner configurations.

## Surface Dopant Density vs Junction Depth

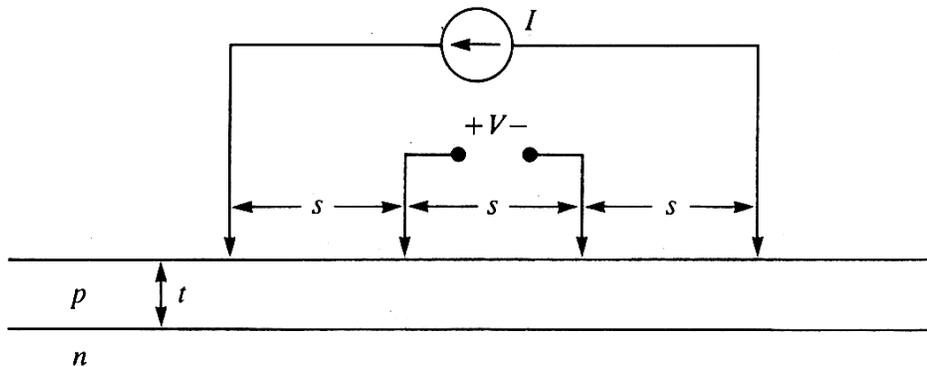
- Relationship between junction depth, Background  $N_B$  and surface dopant concentration  $N_0$
- Different charts for Constant and Limited source, n & p type



## 4 Point Probe Sheet Resistance Measurement

- Test structures often not measurable during processing
- Instead use 4 point probe stations
- Use 2 current sources, separate from V measurement
- Thus do not get resistive loss in V measurement
- Use on test wafers
- Convert 4 point resistance  $R$  to sheet resistance  $R_s$  ( $\Omega/\square$ )

$$R_s = R \frac{\pi}{\ln(2)} = R * 4.53$$

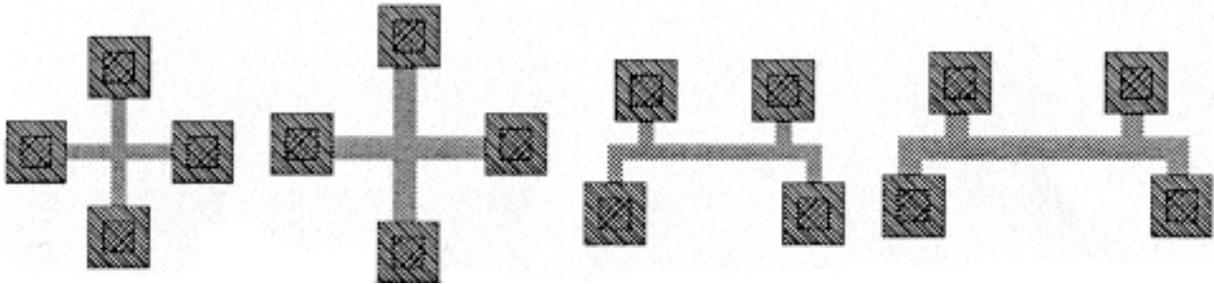


**Fig. 4.17** Four-point probe with probe spacing  $s$  used for direct measurement of bulk wafer resistivity and the sheet resistance of thin diffused layers. A known current is forced through the outer probes, and the voltage developed is measured across the inner probes. (See eqs. (4.16) through (4.18).)

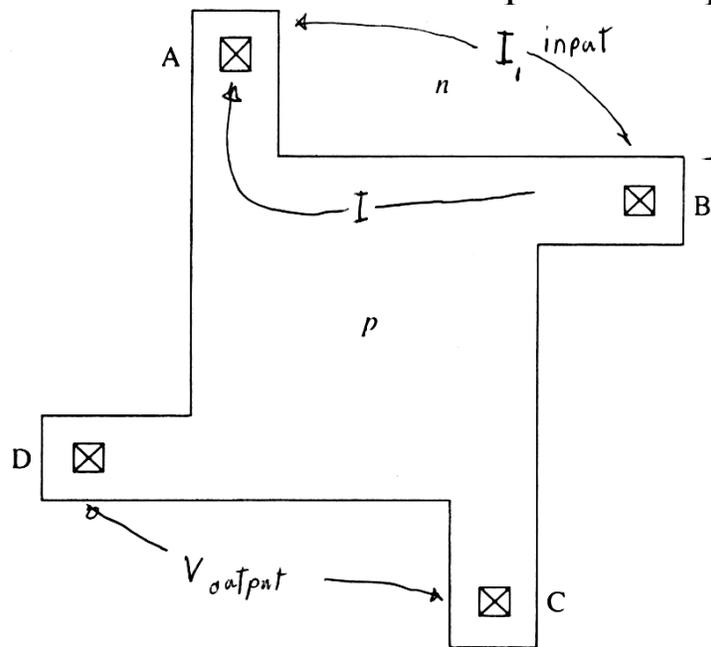


## Common Resistance Test Structure: Van der Pauw

- 4 point probe type test structure for post fabrication tests
- Need to add metallization contacts first
- Measures sheet resistance



4 point structures on lab wafers – two for p and n dopants



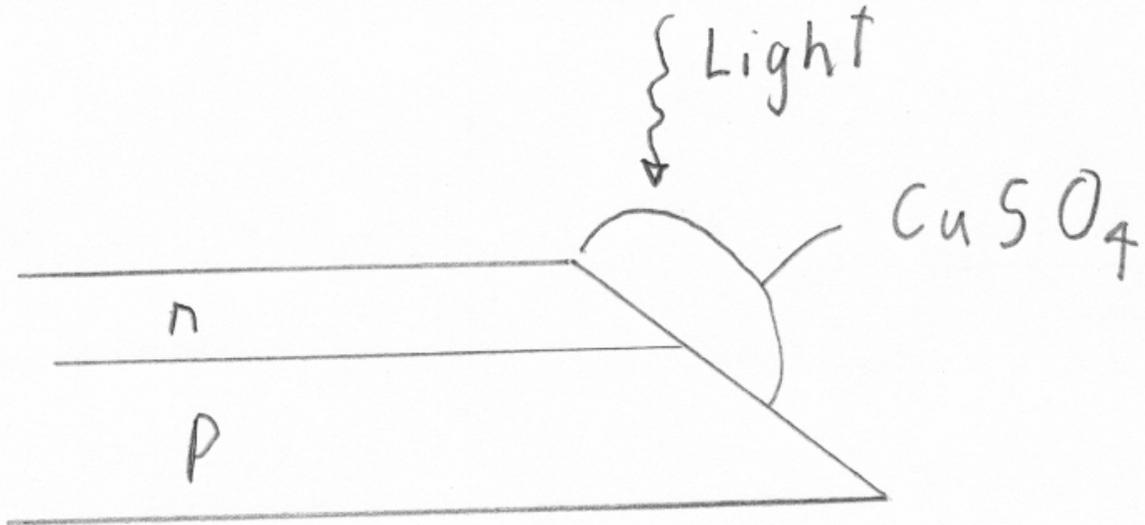
**Fig. 4.19** A simple van der Pauw test structure used to measure the sheet resistance of a diffused layer. Sheet resistance is calculated using eq. (4.20).

## Angle Lapping: Stain Measurement of Junction thickness

- For all doping need to determine dopant depth/profile
- For diodes/transistors junction depth important process
- Typically put in a test (unprocessed) wafer at that doping process
- Lap (grind away) test wafer at shallow angle ( $< 2^\circ$ )
- After lapping stain the wafer to identify dopant

### Staining N type Junction

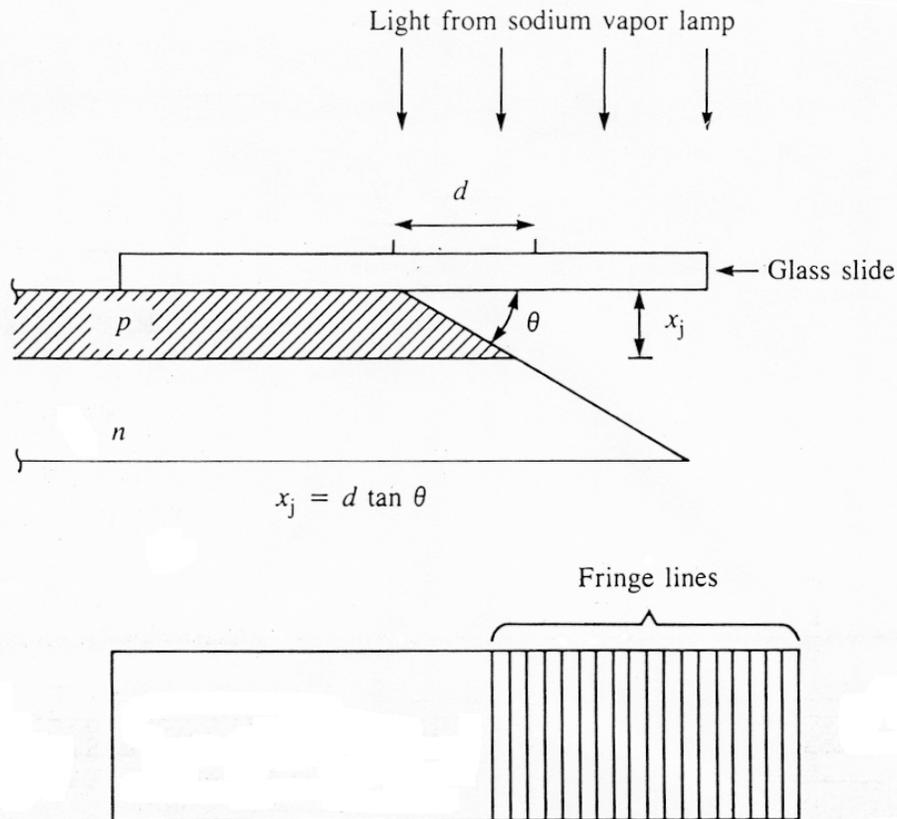
- Place drop of copper sulphate ( $\text{CuSO}_4$ ) junction
- Illuminate junction with intense light (UV best)  
causes junction to forward bias
- Voltage causes  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  to plate on n side



## Interference Technique for Grove

- Angle lap & stain wafers
- Place Glass slide over wafer
- Illuminate with single wavelength light  
laser or sodium vapour light
- Get optical interference creating lines  
at half wavelength
- Junction depth by counting lines

$$x_j = d \tan(\theta) = N \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

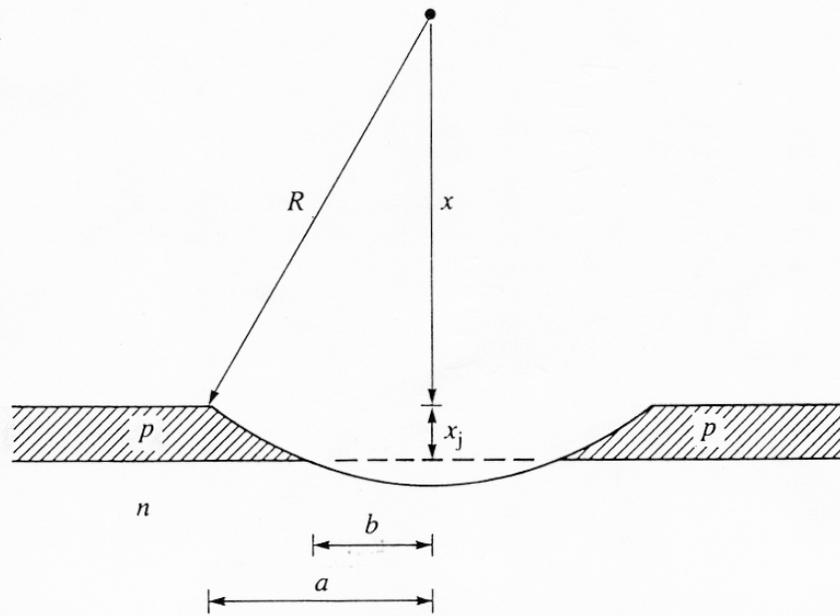


**Fig. 4.12** Junction depth measurement by the angle-lap and stain method. Interference fringe lines are used to measure the distance  $d$ , which is related to the junction depth using eq. (4.12).

## Cylinder Grove of Junctions

- To get shallow angle use a rotating cylinder
- Grove & stain, then measure linear distance
- Depth calculated as below

$$x_j = \sqrt{(R^2 - b^2)} - \sqrt{(R^2 - a^2)} \quad (4.10)$$



$$\begin{aligned} (x + x_j) - x &= \sqrt{R^2 - b^2} - \sqrt{R^2 - a^2} = R \left( \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{b}{R}\right)^2} - \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{a}{R}\right)^2} \right) \\ &\doteq R \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{b^2}{R^2}\right) - \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{a^2}{R^2}\right) \right\} \quad \begin{matrix} R \gg a \\ R \gg b \end{matrix} \\ x_j &\doteq \frac{a^2 - b^2}{2R} = \frac{(a+b)(a-b)}{2R} \end{aligned}$$

**Fig. 4.11** Junction-depth measurement by the groove-and-stain technique. The distances  $a$  and  $b$  are measured through a microscope, and the junction depth is calculated using eq. (4.11).

## Advanced Techniques for Dopant Measurement

**TABLE 4**  
**Commonly used diffusion profile measurement techniques**

Profile techniques	Characteristics	Ref.
Capacitance-Voltage	Carrier concentration at the edge of the depletion layer of a pn junction. Maximum total dopants $2 \times 10^{12}$ atoms/cm <sup>2</sup> .	33
Differential conductance	Resistivity and Hall effect mobility of net electrically active species. Requires thin-layer removal, concentration range from $10^{20}$ to $10^{18}$ atoms/cm <sup>3</sup> .	34
Spreading resistance	Resistance on angle-beveled sample. Good for comparison with known profiles and quick semi quantitative evaluation. $x_j \geq 1\mu\text{m}$ .	35
SIMS	High sensitivity on many elements; for B and As detection limit is $5 \times 10^{15}\text{cm}^{-3}$ . Capable of measuring total dopant profiles in 1000Å range. Needs standards.	36
Radioactive tracer analysis	Total concentration. Lower limit is $10^{15}\text{cm}^{-3}$ . Limited to radioactive elements with suitable half-life times: P, As, Sb, Na Cu, Au, etc.	37
Rutherford backscattering	Applicable only for elements heavier than Si.	38
Nuclear reaction	Measures total boron through $^{10}\text{B}(n, ^4\text{He})^7\text{Li}$ , or $^{11}\text{B}(p, \alpha)$ . Needs Van de Graaff generator.	39 40



## Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS)

- Bombard surface in vacuum with ions (1-20 KeV)
- Nocks atoms off surface (sputtering)
- Sputtered atoms collect in Mass Spectrometer
- Count the number of atoms with specific charge/mass ratio  
Si different than dopants
- Can sputter down depth of sample measuring ratios
- Get a depth versus dopant profile
- Can map the dopants vs position
- Expensive: about \$500/\$1000 per profile

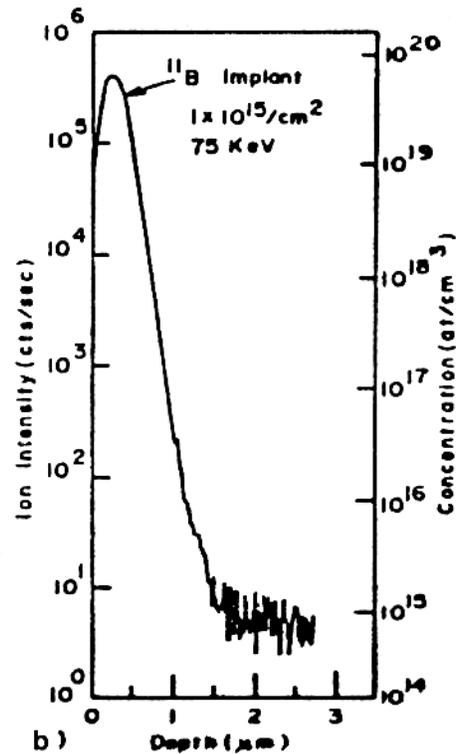
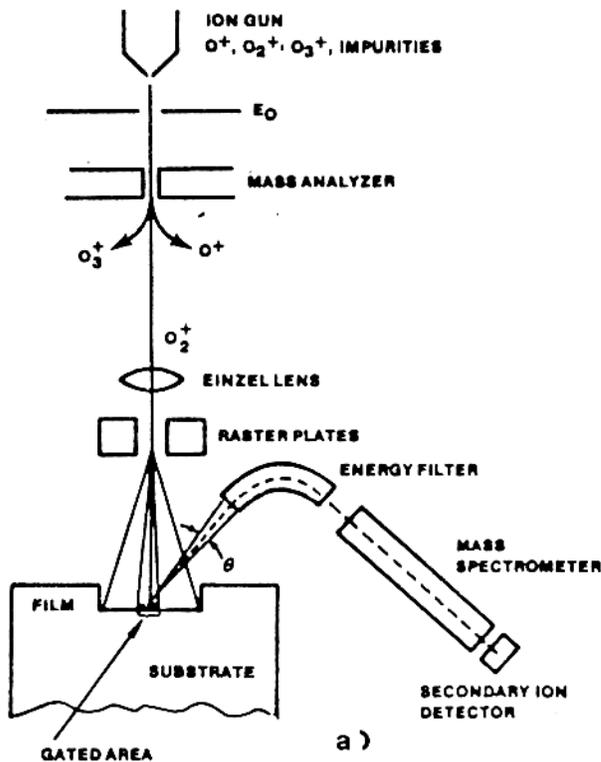


Fig. 18 (a) Schematic diagram of a secondary ion mass spectrometer. (b) Typical SIMS depth profile for boron into boron-doped silicon.

## Scanning Ion Microscopy (SMIS)

- Get 2D map of dopant profile
- Expensive: about \$1000 per profile
- Great for complex 2D structures

