

Silicon based radiation detectors at FBK-SD An Overview.

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Webinar overview Contributors

About us	Giancarlo Pepponi	pepponi@fbk.eu
• FBK		
FBK-SD		
 Research units working of 	n Si radiation sensors	
• MNF		
IRIS		
 Infrastructure 		
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 edgeless pixels 		C



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FBK Fondazione Bruno Kessler

RUNO KESSI FE



FBK Fondazione Bruno Kessler



Mission: Future built on knowledge

Our mission is excellence of science to extend our innovation capability and involve the community and the economy in the circulation of knowledge and derived technologies (impact) FBK at a glance

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centres

400+ researchers

100+ PhD national and international PhD students

20 Joint labs and co-located companies

27 start-ups



FBK-SD Centre for Sensors and Devices



Mission. Impact through scientific excellence and open innovation

Our mission is to pursue scientific excellence and bring our results to market and fruition through an open innovation model. The main value of FBK-SD rests on the combination of a wide base of diverse know-how and competences, supported by state of-the-art research infrastructures, to attain outstanding results in both research and innovation.

FBK-SD at a glance

- ~ 90 researchers
- ~ 30 technicians
- ~ 20 PhD students
- ~ 2000 sq metres labs
- ~9Meuro total budget ~50% from
 - local government ~30% from
 - competitive funds
- ~20% from directly commissioned activities



FBK-SD Units – units involved in current presentation



R&D focused on surface engineering and advanced materials to create novel functionalities or to improve existing ones in the fields of advanced materials and integrated photonic circuits.



Design and development of advanced solid state sensors, based on custom inhouse technology or state-of-the-art, deep submicron CMOS. It responds to the needs of the applications implementing special and fully customizable features.



Design, fabrication, characterization and packaging of innovative devices based on silicon compatible technology, like microfluidcs and lab on chip, electrochemical and tactile sensors, MEMS Gas and Flow sensor, MEMS for RF, microwave applications.



The MNF groups the major micro-fabrication and materials analysis laboratories of the centre. It performs and supports R&D activities and provides expertise and assistance to get access or service activities. MNF is certified ISO 9001:2015 as a key element of its business model bridging the gap between research and small scale production.



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Research unit: IRIS Integrated Radiation Image and Sensors

Competence

- areas
- Single-photon detectors (full-custom and standard CMOS tech.)
- Silicon Drift Detectors
 - Custom Radiation detectors ٠
 - Multispectral Imaging Camera (Visible, IR and THz)
 - Ultra-low power imagers for Wireless Camera ٠
 - Low-level light detectors for UV light ٠
- Skills Detector design, modelling and technology development
 - Analog and Digital IC Design of state of art CMOS technology
 - Functional, Parametric Testing, and prototyping ٠

Application areas

Science

- Nuclear and particle physics
 - Astronomy
 - Space science
 - Quantum Science

Industry

- Automotive
- Security and environmental monitoring
- Industrial Quality Control
- Analytical instrumentation
- **Applied Quantum Technologies**









Infrastructure: MNF **Micro Nano characterization and fabrication Facility**

Competence areas

- Design, production and packaging of innovative devices based on silicon compatible technology, in particular:
- ✓ Radiation Sensors
- ✓ MEMS-devices
- Development and application of analytical techniques for the characterization of materials at the micro and nano scale
- Skills Silicon Microtechnologies (Flow sensors, Optical sensors, Radiation sensors, Bolometers, CMUT, RF switches, Pressure sensors)
 - State of art analytical infrastructure (for semiconductors, thin films, dopant distributions, materials for energy, optoelectronics, coatings)
 - Instrumentation development
 - Data mining
 - Silicon compatible material science

Application Science

- areas
 - Radiation sensors for Science (Particle, nuclear physics, space) applications)
 - Bio-sensors
 - Quantum Science and Technology Industry
 - Detectors for X-ray analysis
 - Gas sensors
 - Environmental monitoring
 - Applied Quantum Technologies







MNF infrastructure

Over 1200 square metres of laboratories:

- 2 microfabrication cleanrooms (1 specifically dedicated to radiation detectors)
- 1 integration/packaging cleanroom
- parametric testing equipment
- materials characterization labs





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Main partners – radiation sensors





FBK-SD – radiation detectors 2021 – Proprietary and Confidential

Radiation detectors – examples



PhotoTransistor



Silicon Photomultiplier



Silicon Drift



Single and Double Side Microstrip



Pixel



MEMS devices – examples



RF-MEMS



Capacitive Microphones



Flow sensors



Microheaters (for gas sensing)



Microresonators



The Near Future 3D integration

IPCEI-ME-1 - FBK 3D integration for SiPMs



The "Important Project of Common European Interest" (IPCEI) programme allows EU Member States to promote innovation up to the first industrial deployment. At the end of 2018, the European Commission approved the "Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on Microelectronics" under state aid law.

IPCEI-ME-1 Developing new SiPM technologies for high-density 3d-integration with CMOS electronics or photonics components (including BSI technology) Improving the FBK-SiPM technology integrating Through Silicon Vias (TSV)



IPCEI-ME-1 - FBK Facility upgrade 1





IPCEI-ME-1 - FBK Facility upgrade 2



The new lab will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for both 6" and 8" wafer processing

Wafer Bonding	Wafer Thinning and Grinding	Through Silicon Vias and interconnections
 Temporary Bonding/Debonding Permanent Bonding 	 Wafer grinding Chemical Mechanical Polishing 	Via formationVia metal filling
 Bond Alignment Fusion Bonding Metal Bonding 	 Pre-grinding dicing 	



SDDS Silicon drift detectors

LGADS Low Gain Avalanche detectors

SiPMs Silicon photomultipliers

FBK Custom SiPM technology Roadmap





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NUV-HD SiPM technology Photon Detection Efficiency

NUV-HD SiPMs provide state-of-the-art performance for NUV light detection.



Gola, A et al. (2019). "NUV-Sensitive Silicon Photomultiplier Technologies Developed at Fondazione Bruno Kessler." *Sensors*, *19*(2), 308.

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NUV-HD SiPM technology Nuisance parameters

Nuisance parameters are plotted as a function of the PDE, in order to compare effectively different cell sizes of the same SiPM technology or also different SiPM technologies.





NUV-HD-LowCT SiPM technologies Increased PDE with decreased Optical Crosstalk

Low optical crosstalk technologies can be obtained by inserting material that absorbs or reflects secondary photons, emitted by the avalanches in the microcells.

Electric field engineering increases PDE compared to standard NUV-HD technology.

Light absorbing material is placed inside trenches, between adjacent microcells



SEM image of trenches, separating adjacent microcells.



Measurements on 40 µm cell size SiPMs, with silicone resin coating



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NUV-HD SiPM technology Single Photon Time resolution and timing performance with scintillators





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Big Physics experiments DarkSide-20k

NUV-HD-Cryo SiPMs, developed at FBK as a partner of the DarkSide-20k collaboration, are an *enabling technology for the experiment*.



Big Physics experiments DarkSide-20k



24x 12x8 mm² SiPMs (~ 1 cm²)

Front-end cryogenic pre-amplifier with differential output







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Big Physics experiments nEXO

R&D carried out for nEXO to develop SiPMs capable of *direct detection of photons at 178 nm and operation at -100°C*.

TPC Filled with LXe. 4-5 m² SiPM: production carried out in FBK



Best result reported in literature: arXiv:1904.05977





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RGB-HD SiPMs Low-energy X-ray spectroscopy with scintillator

RGB-HD technology has a sensitivity spectrum that is *better suited for the readout of yellow-green emitting scintillators*, such as GAGG:Ce or CsI:TI.



PDE of RGB-HD SiPMs with different cell sizes, compared to the CsI:TI emission



Low-energy x-ray spectroscopy, obtained with $3x3x5 \text{ mm}^3 \text{ CsI(TI)}$ crystal, coupled to a $4x4 \text{ mm}^2 \text{ SiPM}$ with 25 µm cell size.



R&D on radiation hardness of SiPMs Activities at FBK and partners

Improving radiation hardness of SiPMs is the *next frontier of development at FBK* for very important applications, both in big science experiments and in space.

Calorimeters for collider experiments: from 10^{10} n/cm² to > 10^{14} n/cm²



ID DEVICES

FAR Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe GmbH

Geostationary orbit space experiments: ~5·10¹⁰ n/cm²



FBK is carrying out / planning several irradiation campaigns with *several research partners* to allow improvement of radiation-hard SiPM technologies.



Proton therapy facility in Trento.





Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana INFN – LNS, Catania

Ongoing collaborations also with:









NUV-HD-RH R&D for the Barrel Timing Layer of CMS

CMS

SiPMs with extreme radiation tolerance are required: 1.9×10^{14} 1 MeV n_{eq}/cm².

Custom SiPM technology was developed, combining *electric field engineering with small-pitch SiPM technology*, for enhanced radiation hardness.



ND DEVICES





The advantage of using small cells for radiation hardness is relevant *only if they can still provide very high PDE*

NUV-HD-RH SiPMs

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Next-generation developments BSI SiPM approach

Motivation: challenging development that will provide <u>truly next-generation upgrade of SiPM</u> <u>performance</u>.

Advantages:

- It is the only way to achieve high FF and PDE with the <u>smallest cell sizes</u>.
- Target cell pitch: <= 10 um pitch.
- Allows <u>additional optimizations of the high</u> <u>electric field regions</u>, not possible in FSI.
- Minimal topology on light entrance window: well-suited for advanced <u>entrance window</u> <u>processing to improve NUV sensitivity (e.g.</u> <u>355 nm)</u>.
- Very successful approach in CIS industry.

3D Integrated SiPM:

 When ultra-high performance or local processing is needed, <u>BSI approach allows 3D interconnection of</u> readout electronics, combining the benefits of scaled CMOS ASIC layer with <u>higher performance of</u> <u>custom sensor layer</u>.





BSI SiPMs Improved Radiation Hardness

FBK is currently researching a family of BSI-illuminated technologies, featuring:

- Clear separation between charge generation / collection and charge multiplication.
- Charge multiplication region is much smaller than charge collection region, thanks to a *charge focusing mechanism*.
- First implementation is for a NIR-sensitive SPAD.

A very important advantage of this approach is that the area of the device sensitive to radiation damage is much smaller than the area of the device sensitive to light.

- Decouples PDE from radiation hardness, *generational improvement* over previous SiPM technologies.
- Effective under the assumption that most of the radiation damage contributing to DCR happens in the high-field region. Supported by preliminary indications, to be verified during the proposed project.





Enoch, S., Gola, A., Lecoq, P., & Rivetti, A. "Design considerations for a new generation of SiPMs with unprecedented timing resolution". 2021 JINST **16** P02019

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CMOS Imagers Smart imaging solutions: outline

- THz Imaging
- Low-Power Vision Sensors
- SPAD Image Sensors
- 3D Imaging



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Terahertz Imaging What you see is NOT what you get



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CMOS Imagers: THz What is terahertz radiation?



Frequency from ≈ 100GHz to 10THz Few, weak, complex sources and detectors Some interesting properties



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CMOS Imagers: THz Multispectral terahertz and visible image sensor

One THz pixel

- Prototype in 150nm CMOS
 - 10x10 THz pixels
 - 50x50 VIS pixels
- ≈5x5sqmm



Visible pixels

- P_{diss}=2.84mW
 - 28µW/pixel (16µA)
 - Scalable!





CMOS Imagers: THz First example of real-time multispectral THz+VIS imaging





Low power VISION SENSORS Do more with less



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CMOS Imagers: Vision Sensors QVGA with intelligent event detection

Features

- Array format: 640H x 480V;
- Rolling shutter, Monochrome;
- ADC: 8-bit column parallel;
- Motion detection through double-threshold dynamic background subtraction;
- Event detection on motion;
- Window Size: VGA, QVGA;
- Data output:
 - alert on motion
 - 160H x 120V motion bitmap
 - 640H x 480V 8-b image
 - local binary pattern coding

Applications

ENSORS

Security surveillance systems, Smart vision, Machine vision, Robotics





M. Gottardi et al, IEEE JSSC 2020

PARAMETER	VALUE
Technology	110 nm CMOS 1P4M
Optical format	1/6-inch
Active pixels	640H x 480V
Pixel size	4.0μm x 4.0μm
Fill Factor	49%
Output format	Monochrome
Shutter type	Rolling shutter
Frame Rate	8 – 30 fps
ADC resolution	8-bit column parallel
Supply voltage	3.3V analog / 1.2V digital
Power consumption	350 μW alert detection 1.35 mW full operation (8fps)
Packaging	Ceramic 84-pin JLCC

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CMOS Imagers: Vision Sensors QVGA with intelligent event detection

Sensor operation





Sensor prototype





CMOS Imagers: Vision Sensors Miniaturized StarTracker for Nanosatellites

- Miniaturization via on-chip processing
 - Image processing
 - Stars centroid identification
- System level
 - FPGA pattern matching





Main characteristics

- Resolution: 500 x 500 pixels
- Pixel pitch: 8um
- Die area: 5.3 mm x 5.8 mm
- Frame rate: 30 fps rolling shutter
- Max ROI size (128 x 128 pixels)
- Max no. of 32 x 32 pixels ROIs: 225
- Operating Modes:
 - Imaging Mode (IM): full resolution gray-scale
 - ROI Mode (ROI): arbitrary numbers of ROIs
 - Center of Mass (CoM) estimation for each ROI

SPAD Image Sensors Exploiting Single Photons



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CMOS Imagers: SPAD Imagers Applications of SPAD image sensors



Biophotonics (FLIM)



Quantum Imaging







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CMOS Imagers: SPAD Imagers Biophotonics: FLIM

- Time-gated analog photon counting
 - In-pixel analog counter
 - Self-referenced column A/D
 - 160x120 array
 - 15um pitch, 21% FF
 - 486fps, 8bit/pixel





M. Perenzoni et al, IEEE JSSC 2016

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3ns gating windows, delayed intensity image of Lily of the Valley: fluorescence decay





CMOS Imagers: SPAD Imagers Quantum imaging: super-resolution

- Detection of non-local photon correlations
 - Simultaneous photons
 - → TDC
 - Efficient readout
 - \rightarrow Global threshold
 - 200ps resolution
 - Framerate 250kfps





L. Gasparini et al, IEEE ISSCC 2018





Heisenberg limit
$$\mathbf{R} \propto \frac{\lambda}{2 \text{ NA}}$$





CMOS Imagers: SPAD Imagers Biomedical imaging: proton therapy monitor

- Digital SiPM pixel
 - 30 SPADs
 - Photon counting
 - Time-to-digital converter
 - Local discriminator

- Architecture
 - Event combiner
 - Global discriminator
 - Multi-chip coordination



E. Manuzzato et al, IEEE SSCL 2019

300

200

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600

500

400

300

200

100

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3D Imaging Add one dimension



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CMOS Imagers: 3D Imaging Indirect and direct Time-of-Flight Imaging: our history



FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER page 050

CMOS Imagers: 3D Imaging Indirect Time-of-Flight Imaging

- Special CMOS-based photodemodulating device
 - 14µm pixel size
 - 320x240-pixels
 - High-dynamic range









L. Pancheri et al., IEEE ISSCC 2012





CMOS Imagers: 3D Imaging Direct Time-of-Flight Imaging

- Lidar Image Sensor
 - 64x64 pixels with TDC/CNT
 - 60-µm 26.5% FF
 - 16-bit 250-ps TDC
 - ESA project for space
 - TRL4 Breadboard





M. Perenzoni, et al., IEEE JSSC 2017











Current research

Imaging and more



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CMOS Imagers

Some of the currently ongoing research

- Quantum Ghost Imaging
 - Measuring objects with a light that actually did not interact with them
- 4D Imaging for Physics
 - Measuring xyzt using HVCMOS technologies and pixelated sensors
- Quantum Random Number Generation
 - True randomicity exploiting in-silicon generation and detection of light
- High-Resolution 3D Imaging
 - Small & smart pixels for high-pixel count 3d direct ToF imaging

















Si-3D detectors Technology - overview

S. Parker et. al. NIMA 395 (1997) 328



ADVANTAGES:

- Low depletion voltage (low power diss.)
- Short charge collection distance:
 - Fast response rise
 - Less trapping probability after irradiation
- Lateral drift → cell "shielding" effect:
 - Lower charge sharing
 - Low sensitivity to magnetic field
- Active edges

Electrode distance (L) and active substrate thickness (Δ) are decoupled \rightarrow L<< Δ by layout





DISADVANTAGES:

- Non uniform spatial response (electrodes and low field regions)
- Higher capacitance with respect
- to planar (~3-5x for ~ 200 μm thickness)
- Complicated technology (cost, yield)



Si-3D detectors Technology at FBK

Double-side 3D, produced by FBK for IBL

 Δ =230 µm, L~ 67 µm, column diam. ~12 µm Excellent performance up to 5x10¹⁵ n_{eq} cm⁻², also pushed to ~1.4x10¹⁶ n_{eq} cm⁻² in AFP tests

FBK involved in the production of detectors for ATLAS IBL Da Via et al, NIMA 694(2012) 321- 330

New single-side 3D technology/design for $\operatorname{HL-LHC}$

- thinner sensors (100-150 μm),
- narrower electrodes 5 µm
- reduced inter-electrode spacing (~30 μm)

<u>FBK will be one of the lab involved in the realization of 3D Si for HL</u> <u>LHC ATLAS ITK</u>

Lapertosa @ TREDI2021

https://indico.cern.ch/event/983068/timetable/#20210218.detailed







Si-3D detectors Technology at FBK



Ohmic columns

Junction columns



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edgeless technology

Edge-less pixel detectors R&D at FBK

Goal: reduction of the lateral dead area Idea: replace large guard ring structures with doped trenches



PIXFEL INFN Project

Development of high-performance X-ray imaging instrumentation for experiments at the next generation FELs

- Thick wafers (450 -600)
- dead area: as small as possible, 2% seems feasible
- Slim Edge approach: 150um dead area 4GR VBK about 400V

Application in pixel for HEP G. Calderini *et al* 2019 *JINST* **14** C07001



M.A. Benkechkache et al, IEEE TNS vol. 64, no. 4, pp.1062-1070, 2017



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Thank you for your attention

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