
Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: The Digital Revolution	xv
Chapter 1. Silicon and Germanium: From Ore to Element	1
1.1 Extraction and purification of silicon/discovery and extraction of germanium	1
1.1.1. Silicon: from quartz to silicon metallurgy	1
1.1.2. Germanium	7
1.2. Silicon and germanium semiconductors: electrical characteristics	8
1.2.1. History: the resistivity of the “metals” silicon and germanium	8
1.2.2. Energy bands	12
1.2.3. Intrinsic semiconductor: the electron–hole pair	14
1.2.4. Extrinsic semiconductor	16
1.2.5. Mechanism of generation/recombination of electron–hole pairs and “lifetime” of minority carriers	19
1.2.6. Influence of temperature on the concentration of majority carriers	21
1.2.7. Conduction current in a semiconductor	22
1.2.8. Mobility of majority carriers: electrons and holes	24
1.2.9. Resistivity of silicon and germanium	26
1.3. References	28

Chapter 2. The Point-Contact Diode	31
2.1. Features and functions	32
2.1.1. Characteristic curve, rectifier effect	32
2.1.2. Rectifier contact and ohmic contact	33
2.1.3. Point contact diode functions	36
2.1.4. Physical basis for the operation of a point contact diode	39
2.2. History	42
2.2.1. Discovery of the “rectifier effect”	42
2.2.2. Discovery of AM radio wave “detection” by the point-contact diode	42
2.2.3. Discovery of the silicon point-contact diode	43
2.2.4. The germanium point-contact diode	45
2.2.5. Reception of radar waves	46
2.3. Research during the Second World War	48
2.3.1. Research on silicon	48
2.3.2. Research on germanium	58
2.4. The industrial development of germanium diodes after the Second World War	61
2.5. Appendix: currents in a metal–semiconductor diode	64
2.6. References	66
 Chapter 3. The Point-Contact Transistor	71
3.1. The field effect	72
3.1.1. “Direct” field effect, “inverse” field effect	72
3.1.2. Bell Labs studies	74
3.2. The germanium-based point-contact transistor	79
3.2.1. The discovery of the germanium N point-contact transistor	79
3.2.2. Operation of the germanium-based N-tip transistor	81
3.2.3. The point-contact transistor by Herbert Mataré and Heinrich Welker	84
3.3. The industrial development of the germanium N point-contact transistor	85
3.4. References	87
 Chapter 4. The PN Diode	91
4.1. PN diode operation and functions	92
4.1.1. The discovery of the rectifier effect of the silicon-based PN diode	92
4.1.2. PN diode operation	93
4.1.3. PN diode functions	99

4.1.4. Action of dopants and impurities on the “lifetime” of minority carriers	102
4.1.5. The development of PN diodes.	106
4.2. Electronic germanium and silicon production	108
4.2.1. Electronic germanium production	108
4.2.2. Electronic silicon production	111
4.2.3. Single crystal production	118
4.2.4. Manufacture of a silicon diode using the CZ process.	121
4.2.5. Industrial developments in single-crystal pulling processes	122
4.3. Appendix: physical basis of PN diode operation	124
4.3.1. Energy band diagram and potential barrier.	124
4.3.2. Electron and hole currents: “lifetime” and “diffusion length” of “minority carriers”	127
4.3.3. Current in the diode	129
4.4. References	130
 Chapter 5. The Bipolar Transistor	133
5.1. Transistor operation and functions	134
5.1.1. History	134
5.1.2. Bipolar transistor operation	137
5.1.3. Basic functions	141
5.2. Transistor technologies	146
5.2.1. Single-crystal pulling: CZ process and mixed CZ-diffusion processes	147
5.2.2. Philco process	149
5.2.3. “Alloying” process	149
5.2.4. CVD diffusion process.	152
5.2.5. “Ion implantation” process	156
5.3. “Mesa” and “planar” bipolar silicon transistors	157
5.3.1. Oxide masking	157
5.3.2. Mesa structure.	158
5.3.3. Planar structure	159
5.3.4. Silicon epitaxial layer	162
5.4. Industrial developments	163
5.4.1. Germanium bipolar transistors	165
5.4.2. Silicon bipolar transistors	168
5.4.3. Vanguard 1, Explorer 1 and 3 satellites	169
5.5. References	170

Chapter 6. The MOSFET Transistor	175
6.1. Features and functions	176
6.1.1. Introduction	176
6.1.2. MOSFET transistor operation	176
6.1.3. Basic functions	181
6.1.4. The CMOS component	184
6.1.5. MOSFET transistor development history	185
6.1.6. The effect of impurities on the dispersion and instability of the electrical characteristics of transistors	189
6.2. MOSFET miniaturization and materials	191
6.2.1. Miniaturization: Moore's law	191
6.2.2. Gate materials	192
6.2.3. New HKMG gate and new manufacturing process	197
6.2.4. Source and drain materials (strained silicon)	200
6.2.5. New architectures	201
6.3. Appendix	203
6.4. References	204
Index of Names	207
Index of Terms	209
Summary of Volume 2	213