# N85-32396 SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-EFFICIENCY CRYSTALLINE SOLAR CELL RESEARCH FORUM

#### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### M. Wolf

#### Session I: OVERVIEW

Marine Million Marine and

- P. Landsberg Some Aspects of the Minority Carrier Lifetime in Silicon.
- C.T. Sah Review of Recombination Phenomena in High-Efficiency Solar Cells.

### Session II: HIGH EFFICIENCY CONCEPTS

- M. Wolf Silicon Solar Cell Efficiency Improvement: Status and Outlook.
- A. Lesk Some Practical Considerations for Economical Back Contact Formation on High-Efficiency Solar Cells.
- R. Bell High-Efficiency Cell Concepts on Low-Cost Silicon Sheet.
- R. Swanson Bigh Lifetime Silicon Processing.
- L. Olsen Silicon MINP Solar Cells.

Session III: SURFACE/INTERFACE EFFECTS

- D. Chadi Atomic Structure of the Annealed Si (111) Surface.
- L. Kazmerski Surface and Interface Characteristics.
- S. Lai Nitridation of SiO<sub>2</sub> for Surface Passivation.
- S. Fonash Surface Passivation and Junction Formation Using Low-Energy Hydrogen Implants.
- **P. Grunthaner** Chemical Structure of Interfaces.

### PLENARY SESSIONS Session IV: BULK BFFBCTS E. Sirtl Structural Defects in Crystalline Silicon. C. Pierce Oxygen and Carbon Impurities and Related Defects in Silicon. Current Understanding of Point Defects and T. Tan Diffusion Processes in Silicon. G. Schwuttke Defects in Web Dendrite Silicon Ribbon Crystals and Their Influences on Minority Carrier Lifetime. J. Hanoka EBIC Characterization and Hydrogen Passivation in Silicon Sheet. Measurement of Electrical Parameters and Current A. Neugroschel Components in the Bulk of Silicon Solar Cells. Session V: MODELING R. Schwartz Current Status of One and Two Dimensional Numerical Models: Successes and Limitations. Application of Closed-Form Solution Using Re-M. Lamorte cursion Relationship in Silicon Solar Cells. F. Lindholm P. enomena Simulation for Heavy Doping and Surface Recombination Velocity. Session VI: HIGH EFFICIENCY DEVICE PROCESSING High-Efficiency Large-Area Polysilicon Solar S. Johnson Cells. High-Efficiency Solar Cell Processing. P. Iles Process and Design Considerations for High-A. Rohatgi Efficiency Silicon Solar Cells. M. Spitzer Processing Technology for High-Efficiency Silicon Solar Cells. Texture Etching of (100) Silicon for Solar Cells. L. Dyer

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Questions Relating to the Attainment of Higher-Efficiency Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells

- 1. WHAT ARE THE BEST EFFICIENCIES ATTAINED SO FAR?
- 2. HOW WERE THESE CELLS DESIGNED AND FABRICATED?
- 3. WHAT IS THE NEXT IMPROVEMENT STEP?
- 4. HOW CAN IT BE ACHIEVED?

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- 5. WHAT IS THE REALISTICALLY EXPECTABLE "ULTIMATE" BFFICIENCY?
- 6. WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET BEYOND THE NEXT STEP?
  - A. Reduced recombination
  - B. Other design parameters
  - C. Is heavy doping needed?
  - D. Auger recombination as limiter.
- 7. HOW CAN RECOMBINATION BE REDUCED?
  - A. Bulk recombination
  - B. Surface recombination.
- 8. DO WE UNDERSTAND THE DEVICE PHYSICS ADEQUATELY?
  - A. Band-Gap narrowing
  - B. Auger recombination
  - C. High level injection
  - D. 2- and 3- dimensional interactions.
- 9. DO WE UNDERSTAND THE ORIGINS OF RECOMBINATION CENTERS?
- 10. HOW CAN ONE PROCESS TO ACHIEVE REDUCED RECOMBINATION?
- 11. ARE OTHER NEEDED TOOLS ADEQUATE?
  - A. Modeling B. Analysis
- 12. WHAT ARE THE INHERENT PERFORMANCE LIMITATIONS IN "LOW COST" CRYSTALLINE SI?

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## ORIGINAL PARE IS OF POOR QUALITY

PRIMARY CAUSES OF LOBSES	SYMBOL.	DESIGN	1970 COML	VIOLET	BLACK	1978 SPACE CFL	1984	EXPER'I.	CELLS		GOALS
		BASE- WIDTH True	34.	300/11	300 µm		380 µm ~40 µm	375 µm -25 µm (01 µs)	280 Hm ~25 Hm (01 Hs)	N O	
		FRONT: WIDTH Tp.n S	0.4 µm	-0.15 µm	~ 0.2µп ?	~0.2 µm		-0.3 µm -10 <sup>4</sup> cm s <sup>-1</sup>	-0.3 µm Ins -15µm 10 <sup>8</sup> cm s <sup>-1</sup>		2 µm 10 µ •
I. LIGHT GENERATED CURRENT.	E	TREATM	<b>9</b>	TerOrt GLASS	TEXTD+Tero. + GLASS	TEX T'D+ Te206	TEXT'D + SiO <sub>E</sub> +TIO	TIO <sub>2</sub> /SiO2	ZnS/ Mg F <sub>2</sub>	DUAL AR	DUAL AN
EUROPAKENTAL, LIMIT (AMI)	4.10					E T	4 m A cm <sup>-8</sup>				
A. OPTICAL SURFACE PROPERTIES (REFLECTION) B. CONTACT COVERAGE C. INCOMPLETE ARSOMPTION (THICKUREAE)	(I-R) S		0.905	0.90	0.95	0.96	0.975	0.966 0.97 (A)	0.954	0.97	0.97
RECOMBINATION ON BULK AND SURFA ("DEAD LAYERS")	1-4)		-0.72	0.1		<b>6</b> .0		516.0	0.93	0.92	56.0 0 -
OVERALL COLLECTION EFFICIENCY. LIGHT GENERATED CURRENT (AMI)	Y  - Y:	γ Ι ε	0.63 28.1	0.77	0.84	0.84	36.2	0.82		1	0.69
2. OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE.			Ī							7	
FUNDAMENTAL LIMIT.	(VF)fund= 0.76	2				0.836V	( ]0+4.2+10-16A cm-2)	0-16 cm-1	( <b>1</b>		
	(VF) - {V <sup>F</sup> } <sub>1echn</sub> - <sup>(VF)</sup> fund	Flund	0.522	0.528	0.533	0.555	0.565	0.57	0.59	0.60	0.65
C. "CURRENT LEAXAGE" OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE.	(R <sub>eh</sub> ) V(VF) E	_	-   -	0	<u>•</u> ]	212	<u> </u>	0	-	-	0.1
3 FILL FACTOR:	5			100-2		0.00	0.022	0.627	0.653	0.661	0.715
EUNDAMENTAL LIMIT.	(CF) fund					0.66	165 				
A. SAME AS OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE	CF)• (CF)• (CF)•	F)fund	0.82	0.823	0.823	0.624	0.83	0.833	0.639	0.64	0.85
D. RECOMBINATION IN DEPLETION REGION E. SERIES RESISTANCE	(CF) edd'l (CF) edd'l		(V) 0.90 0.90	1.0 0.97 0.985	0.97	1.0 0.97 0.98 (A)	0.985	0.0 0.0 0.0	0 0.982 0.984	0.97 0.97 0.98	0.9 76:0 86:0
FILL FACTOR	(FF) .		0.716	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.801	0.800	0.81	0.60	180
RESULTING CONVERSION EFFICIENCY	4		9.11	4.81	0.71	17.6	1.0.1	16.1	1.61	0.200	0 2 2 6
				A)	(A) • ASSUMED					1	]

### The Recent Approach

- a. THOUROUGH DEVICE ANALYSIS COUPLED WITH MODELING:
  - TO DETERMINE ALL LOSS CONTRIBUTIONS
  - TO IDENTIFY POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVED DEVICE DESIGN.

b. GLOBAL DESIGN VIEW OF DEVICE:

- OPTIMIZED CONTRACT DESIGN
- DUAL AR OR TEXTURED FRONT SURFACE
- FRONT SURFACE PASSIVATION (AT LEAST PARTIAL)
- BSF AND/OR BSR DESIGN (LIMITED EFFECT)
- SELECTION OF LOW RESISTIVITY FZ Si
- PROCESSING TO MAINTAIN HIGHER FRACTION OF ORIGINAL Lb
- OPTIMIZATION OF EMITTER IMPURITY CONCENTRATION FOR PRESENT DESIGN

IN SUMMARY:

# SQUEEZE A LITTLE MORE PERFORMANCE OUT, WHEREVER CURRENT TECHNOLOGY PERMITS.

Martin Martin

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### Status of Solar-Cell Technology

- TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE TO REDUCE THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH SECONDARY LOSS MECHANISM (REFLECTION, CONTACT SHADING, SERIES PESISTANCE, ETC.) TO THE MAXIMALLY 2-3% LEVEL.
- INTERNAL COLLECTION EFFICIENCY IS GENERALLY >90%; "SATURATES" WITH FURTHER REDUCED RECOMBINATION.
- OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE CONTINUES TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE WITH DECREASING MINORITY CARRIER RECOMBINATION. UP TO BASIC RECOMBINATION LIMIT (RADIATIVE AND AUGER).
- CURVE FACTOR (FUNDAMENTAL PART OF FILL FACTOR) CAN INCREASE (WITH Voc) BY A FEW PERCENT.

HIGH EFFICIENCY REQUIRES

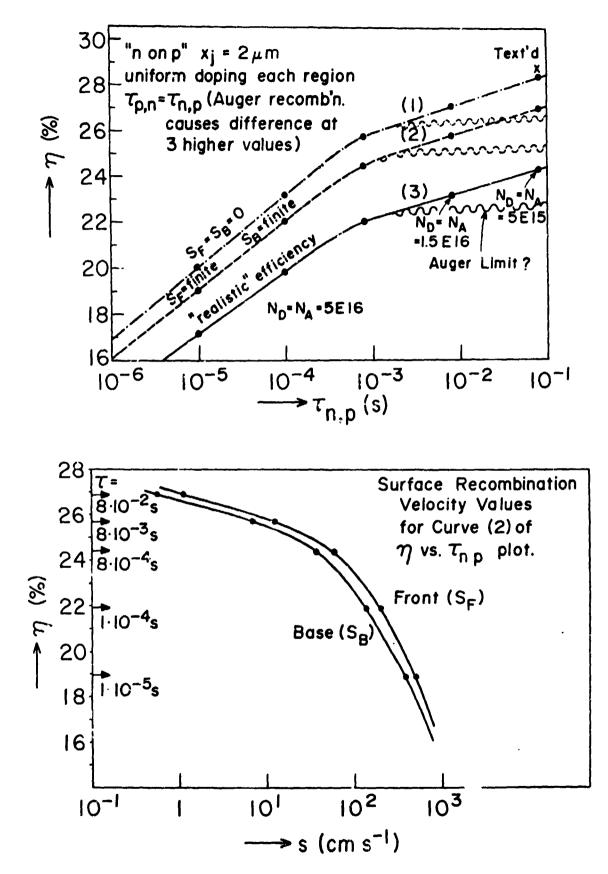
A GLOBAL VIEW OF THE DEVICE, SO THAT ALL TECHNOLOGY-DETERMINED LOSSES WILL BECOME LOW.

IF ONE LOSS MECHANISM DOMINATES ----> NOT OPTIMIZED ----> REDUCE IT

### The Next Step

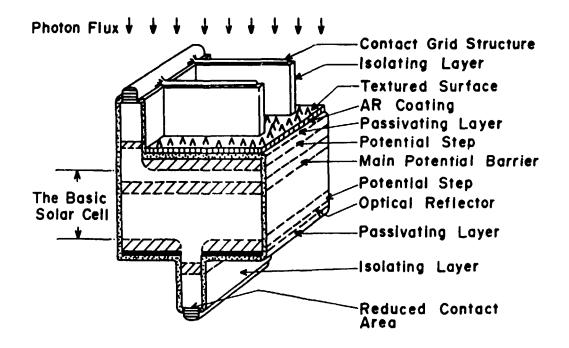
BACH OF THE GROUPS ACTIVE IN EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT FEELS THAT THEY HAVE:

- a. NOT EXHAUSTED THE PRESENT APPROACH
- b. IDENTIFIED POSSIBILITIES FOR <u>FURTHER OPTIMISATION</u> IN THEIR PARTICULAR DESIGNS.
- C. REASON TO BE CONFIDET OF REACHING 20% (AM 1.5) EFFICIENCY SOON.



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Is Heavy Doping Needed?

ITS PERFORMANCE-INCREASING APPLICATIONS:

- REDUCE SHEET RESISTANCE
- OBTAIN LARGER HIGH/LOW JUNCTION POTENTIAL STEP, OR HIGHER DRIFT FIELD.

ITS PERFORMANCE DECREASING ATTRIBUTES:

- AUGER RECOMBINATION
- BAND-GAP NARROWING.

### The Three Principal Paths to Reduced Recombination

#### DECREASE

#### 1. DENSITY OF RECOMBINATION CENTERS

۲	1 N	BULK	Nt	(cm <sup>-</sup> )	>	HIGHER T	
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• AT SURFACES N<sub>s,t</sub>  $[cm^{-2}] \longrightarrow LOWER s$ 

#### 2. VOLUME OR AREA CONTAINING RECOMBINATION CENTERS:

- "THIN" LAYERS
- "DOT CONTACTS"
- 3. DENSITY OF EXCESS MINORITY CARRIERS
  - FAST REMOVAL TO OUTSIDE

• "SHIELDING" WITH POTENTIAL STEPS

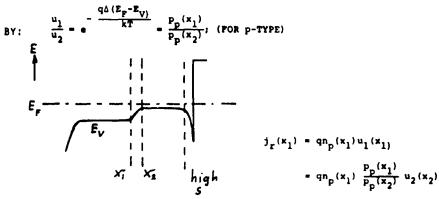
- "ISOLATING" FROM HIGHER RECOMBINATION RATE
- HIGH DOPANT CONCENTRATION

### **Shielding With Potential Steps**

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GENERALLY REDUCES TRANSPORT VELOCITIES (FOR RECOMBINATION CURRENTS)



EORMS OF POTENTIAL "STEPS":

- DRIFT FIELD REGIONS
- HIGH/LOW JUNCTIONS
- ACCUMULATION LAYERS (USUALLY UNDER INSULATORS, INCLUDING "TUNNEL CONTACTS").
- "FLOATING" ph JUNCTIONS (OR INVERSION LAYERS).
- BANDGAP CHANGES (USUALLY △ BG WITH HIGH/LOW JUNCTION, "WINDOW LAYER").

LIMITS

- INCREASED DOPING AT "LOW" SIDE REDUCES AVAILABLE STEP HEIGHT.
- "HEAVY DOPING" EFFECTS ON "HIGH SIDE" LIMIT USEFUL STEP HEIGHT.
- ABSORPTION W/O COLLECTION IN "WINDOW LAYERS."
- INTERFACE STATES AT TRANSITION TO "WINDOW LAYER."

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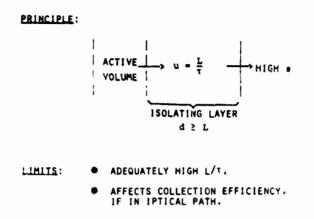
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**Isolating With Thick Layers** 



Effective Bulk Recombination Mechanisms

INTRINSIC (INTERBAND) RECOMBINATION:

RADIATIVE	DETIMATELY
	LINITS
AUGER?	BPFICIENCY

EXTRINSIC (BAND-TO-BOUND STATE) RECOMBINATION:

THERMAL (PHONON ASSISTED) SEE (AUGER?)

EXTRIBUIC RECOMBINATION CAN BE DECREASED BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BOUND STATES (RECOMBINATION CENTERS, "DEFECTS").

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#### PLENARY SESSIONS

## ORIGINAL FAGE IST OF POOR QUALITY Knowledge of Defects

4. ARE SOME DEFECTS "INTRINSIC"?

(NEUTRAL DEFECT WITH ACTIVATION ENERGY  $E_A$  at process temperature "proten in." Ionized fraction at device operation temperature forms recombination center, particularly in n-type).

- b. TRUELY EXTRINSIC (PROCESS-INDUCED) DEFECTS
  - IMPURITIES (O, C, Au, Ti, Mo, Fe, ...)
    - BIG PROGRESS MADE IN DETECTING PRESENCE, DETERMINING CONCENTRATION.
      OPEN QUESTION OFTEN IS: INTERSTITIAL, SUBSTITUTIONAL, COMPLEXED, OR
      PRECIPATED?
    - O: PRIMARY SOURCE: CRUCIBLE IN CZ PROCESS. TECHNIQUES KNOWN TO REDUCE O-CONTENT TO O.1 OF STANDARD LARGE-CRUCIBLE CZ PROCESS. O-CONTENT INCREASES WITH C- OR B-CONTENT.
  - CRYSTAL GROWTH DEPECTS.
    - BIG PROGRESS MADE IN DETECTION, IDENTIFYING CRYSTAL GROWTH DEFECTS.
    - STRONGLY CONNECTED WITH THE CRYSTAL GROWTH TECHNOLOGY APPLIED; TECHNOLOGY APPLIED SEEMS PRIMARILY DETERMINED BY THROUGTHPUT, PRICE, AND WHAT THE MAJORITY OF USERS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT.

### **Reduce Volume Recombination Center Density**

#### • ORIGINAL MATERIAL PROCESSING:

- FEWER IMPURITIES
- ROLES OF OXYGEN, CARBON?
- FEWER CRYSTAL DEFECTS (THERMAL ENVIRONMENT IN X-TAL GROWTH?)
- ROLES OF DEFECT COMPLEXES

DEVICE PROCESSING:

- NO NEW IMPURITY INTRODUCTION
- REMOVE EXISTING DEFECTS (GETTERING)
- AVOID TRANSFORMATION OF DEFECTS TO RECOMBINATION CENTERS (EFFECTS OF THERM: PROCESSES?)
- FOSTER TRANSFORMATION OF RECOMBINATION CENTERS TO HARMLESS DEFECTS (PASSIVATION; CHANGES OF COMPLEXES?; ROLE OF HYDROGEN?)

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### **Steps toward Reduced Number of Recombination Centers**

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1.	IDENTIFY "DEFECT(S)" WHICH	-	BROAD RANGE OF DEFECTS AND OF ENERGY
	FORM RECONDIDATION CENTER(5)		LEVELS IDENTIFIED
		-	INTERCONNECTION AND RELATIONSHIP TO
			REMONBINATION CENTERS HADE IN ONLY
			A FEN CASES.
2.	IDENTIFI SOURCE(S) OF DEFECT(S)	-	DSUALLY NOT KNOWN.
3.	PIND WAYS FOR ELIMINATING SOURCE(S) OF DEFECT(S)	-	STILL MOSTLY "BLACK ART."
	SURCE(S) OF DEFECT(S)		
4.	PASSIVATE EXISTING DEFECTS	-	LITTLE KNOWN. IS H <sup>4</sup> THE BROAD
			SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTIC"?

## Swanson's Prescription for Processing for Reduced Recombination

- a. NEVER USE NETAL TWEELERS ON WAFERS
- b. ALMAYS PERFORM ECA CLEANING BEFORE HIGH TEMPERATURE PROCESS STEPS.
- C. PROCESS IN & CLASS 100 CLEAN AREA
- d. PERIODICALLY CLEAN FURNACE TUBES WITH HC1.

### Passivation With Hydrogen

- IT CAN NEUTRALIZE RECONFINATION CENTERS, APPARENTLY EVEN Deep in the bulk, particularly at grain boundaries.
- HYDROGEN IMPLANT'S PASSIVATE DANGLING BONDS, WHREEVER HYDROGEN IONS REACH THEM.
- HYDROGEN IMPLANTS MAY POSSIBLY ALSO PASSIVATE DEEP LEVELS (IMPURITIES) in S1.
- THE "? " "LANTATION" OF HYDROGEN IONS, EVEN AT LOW EMERGIES CAUSES SPUTTRE ETCHING, LATVICE DANAGE (200 & DEEP AT 400eV).
- NYDROGEN CAUSES NORE LATTICE DANAGE THAN ARGON, EVEN ANORPHISES SURFACE LAYER, BUT PEWER DANGLING BONDS ("PASSIVATES ITS OWN DANAGE")
- WHETREE PASSIVATION DONINATES OVER INTRODUCED DANAGE DEPENDS ON INPLANTATION EXEMPT, PRIOR PROCESS RISTORY.
- BYDROGEN IS ALSO KNOWN TO NEUTRALIER B AS AN ACCEPTOR.

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## **Reducing Surface Defects**

1. OXIDATION

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- NOST HIGH EFFICIENCY CELLS NOW USE SOME PORK OF OXYDE PASSIVATION.
- BENAINING SUBJACE RECONDINATION VELOCITY IS FUNCTION OF PREPARATION PROCEDURE FOR FORMING OXIDE LAYER.
- DRY TREEMAL OXIDE FOLLOWED BY LOW TREPRATURE HYDROGENATION CAN YIELD MID-GAP STATE DENSITIES NEAR  $1.10^{10}/(CN^2 eV)$ , but Judation Pollowed by AN INERT ATMOSPHERE ANNEAL CAN YIELD  $1.10^9/(CN^2 eV)$ , 1.e = 2 = 5 cm/s in High Level injection.
- NITRIDING OXIDE LAYERS MAY IMPORVE STABILITY, RADIATION RESISTANCE OF PASSIVATION LAYERS.

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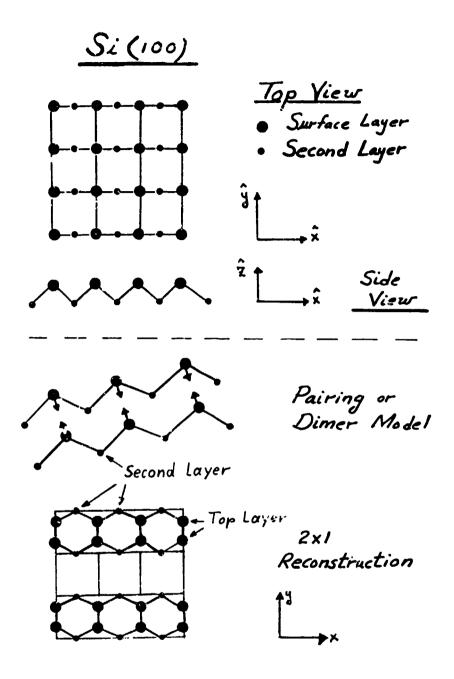
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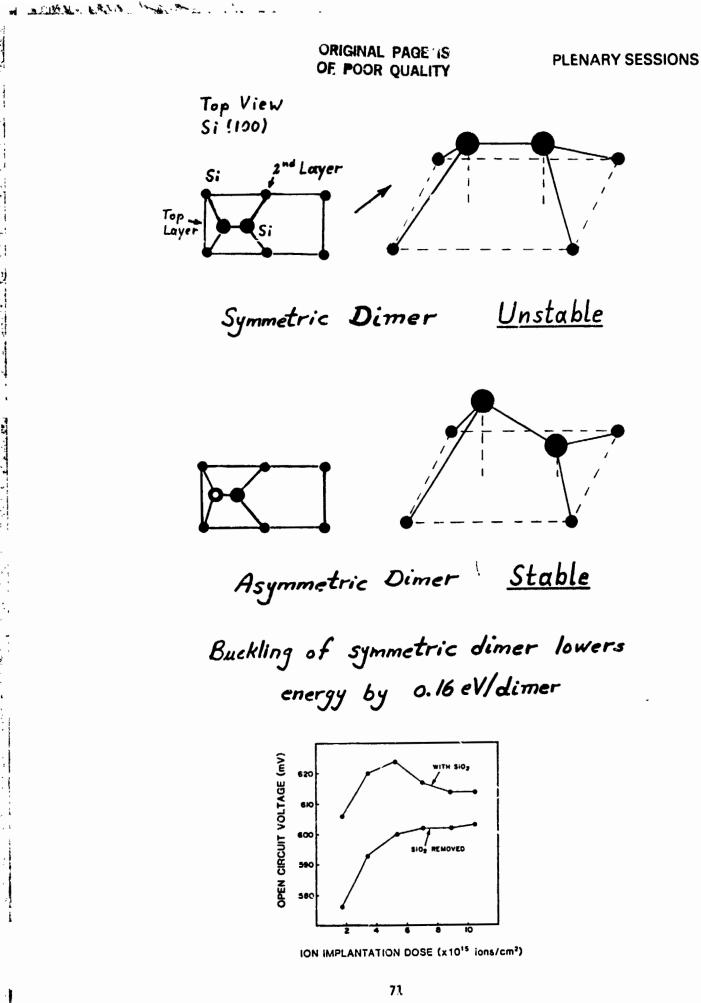
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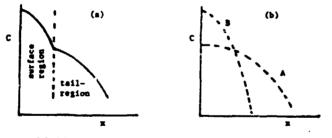
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## Modeling

- THE "MODBLERS" CAN ONLY INCORPORATE THE PHYSICS AS PRESENTLY UNDERSTOOD.
- DIPPUSION PROFILES CAN BE "ANOMALOUS," DEPEND ON MATERIAL PERFECTION.
- THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ULTIMATE EFFICIENCIES WILL REQUIRE THE DPAILED SIMULATION OF ALL EFFECTS. THIS NEEDS 2- AND 3-"IMENSIONAL CAPABILITIES.
- JUCH SIMULATION CANNOT BE ANALYTICAL, BUT MAY, FOR SPEED AND C T-SAVINGS, BE QUASI-NUMERICAL.

#### ANALYSIS

- MATERIAL ANALYSIS HAS REACHED IMPRESSIVE CAPABILITIES.
- IN DEVICE ANALYSIS, THE SEPARATION OF BASE AND EMITTER CONTRIBUTIONS TO SATURATION CURRENT IS STILL TENUOUS, OFTEN LEADING TO CONFLICTING RESULTS.
- PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN DEVELOPING METHODS TO PERMIT DETERMINATION OF RECOMBINATION RATES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE DEVICE, BUT FURTHER ADVANCES ARE NEEDED.



(a) Schematic drawing of the kink-tail structure of P profile, which, hypothetically, may be obtained by adding (b) profiles of physically distinguishable A and B atoms diffusing independently.

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## Low-Cost Crystalline Si Is Primarily:

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- "CAST" INGOT MATERIAL (SEMIX, SILSO, HEM, etc.)
- NOT-SINGLE CRYSTALLINE RIBBON (EPG, LASS, etc.)

EFFORTS TO INCREASE GRAIN SIZE, REDUCE DEPECTS, PASSIVATE REMAINING ONES, ALL SHOW PROGRESS.

- BUT: IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY [ SSIVATE ALL THE DEFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH GRAIN BOUNDARIES
- ALSO: PASTER, LESS CONTROLLED GROWTH MAY ALWAYS RESULT IN INCREASED NUMBERS OF IMPURITIES, CRYSTAL DEPECTS.
- CONSEQUENTLY: THE ULTIMATELY ACHIEVABLE PERFORMANCE MARGIN PELATIVE TO THAT OF SINGLE CRYSTAL DEVICES IS NOT KNOWN.
- WEB-DENDRITE RIBBON IS IN A CLASS BY ITSELP.
  MAY HAVE POSSIBILITY, WITH INTERNAL GETTERING AT TWIN PLANES, TO SURPASS THE QUALITY OF SINGLE CRYSTAL WAPERS.

IN ALL METHODS, THE CONTROL OF THE THERMAL ENVIRONMENT DURING AND SHORTLY AFTER GROWTH APPEARS IMPORTANT.

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## **Final Discussion**

- FOR HIGHER EFFICIENCIES (AT LEAST > 20%), BETTER SINGLE CRYSTAL SI IS NEEDED.
- IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRING C7 SI TO THE SAME LOW-RECOMBINATION LEVEL AS PX SI.
- HOW CAN DEVICES BE FABRICATED FROM THIS S1 WITHOUT GREATLY INCREASING THE RECOMBINATION CENTER DENSITY?
- ARE SPECIAL SI QUALITIES NEEDED TO PERMIT SUCH PROCESSING?
- HOW CAN THE PROGRESS MADE IN MATERIAL SCIENCE BE TRANSLATED INTO BETTER PROCESSING METHODS?
- IF SOLAR CELL FABRICATORS WOULD SPECIFY THE QUALITY OF S1 THEY NEED, WOULD S1 MANUFACTURERS DELIVER TO THESE SPECIFI-CATIONS?
- DO SOLAR CELL FABRICATORS KNOW WHAT SPECIFICATIONS TO WRITE?