STM JOURNALS

Journal of
Semiconductor Devices and Circuits

ISSN: 2455-3379
Volume 12, Issue 2, 2025
May–August
DOI (Journal): 10.37591/JoSDC

https://journals.stmjournals.com/josdc

Review JoSDC

Physics of Semiconductors and Electronic Circuits

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Abstract

This study talks about the basic ideas behind semiconductor physics and how important they are for making and running modern electronic circuits. It starts with a look at intrinsic and extrinsic semiconductors, going into how charge carriers move, energy band theory, and how doping affects how well the electricity flows. Next, the conversation turns to semiconductor devices like diodes, bipolar junction transistors (BJTs), and field-effect transistors (FETs). The focus is on how they work and how they are used in both analogue and digital circuits. We learn about device modelling, signal amplification, switching behaviour, and integrated circuit design by focusing on how the characteristics of semiconductor materials impact circuit performance. The study's objective is to provide students, researchers, and engineers working in the field of electronics with a strong foundation by bridging the gap between semiconductor physics and practical circuit design. The study also highlights the importance of semiconductor physics in integrated circuit (IC) design, emphasizing the ways in which material qualities affect circuit performance, behaviour, power efficiency, and scaling. It seeks to close the gap between scientific knowledge and engineering practice by clearly relating theoretical physics to real-world circuit applications. Through this comprehensive approach, the study seeks to provide valuable insights for students, academic researchers, and industry professionals involved in electronics and electrical engineering. It not only reinforces the theoretical foundation needed to grasp how semiconductor devices work but also illustrates their real-world implications in modern technology. Ultimately, the goal is to foster a deeper appreciation of how the microscopic behaviour of materials governs the macroscopic functionality of advanced electronic systems. The study moves from a description of semiconductor materials to a detailed examination of common semiconductor devices, such as diodes, field-effect transistors (FETs), and bipolar junction transistors (BJTs). It describes their functional responsibilities in analogue and digital electronic circuits as well as their internal structure and working mechanisms. Along with the fundamentals of device modelling and biasing approaches, topics like signal amplification, switching behaviour, and frequency response are covered.

Keywords: Circuit performance, semiconductor devices, digital and analogue, FETs, BJTs

INTRODUCTION

Semiconductors are the building blocks of modern electronics. They make it possible to create small, powerful, and incredibly useful gadgets that power everything from cell phones to spacecraft. To understand how electronic parts work and how to create and improve complex circuits, you need to know the physics of semiconductors [1–3]. The study of materials, mainly silicon and germanium, that have electrical properties that are between those of conductors and insulators, is at the heart of this area. By carefully adding impurities and changing the way their crystals are arranged, these materials may be made to control the flow of electricity very precisely.

The addition of semiconductor devices like diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits (ICs) to electronic systems has changed technology forever,

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Received Date: May 29, 2025
Accepted Date: May 30, 2025
Published Date: June 26, 2025

Citation: V. Basil Hans. Physics of Semiconductors and Electronic Circuits. Journal of Semiconductor Devices and Circuits. 2025; 12(2): 9–17p.

making it possible for computers, communication, and automation to get better. These semiconductor parts are used to make electronic circuits that do several things, such as amplifying, switching, processing signals, and managing power. The goal of this study is to give a complete overview of the basic ideas of semiconductor physics and show how these ideas are used in the design and operation of electronic circuits. The study connects the theoretical parts of how semiconductors work with real-world circuit applications. This gives readers a complete picture of how simple physical occurrences turn into the complicated systems that make up modern electronics.

Objectives

The main goals of this study are:

- To illustrate the basic ideas behind semiconductor physics, such as energy band theory, charge carriers, and how doping affects how well the electricity flows through a material.
- To look at how important semiconductor devices including diodes, bipolar junction transistors (BJTs), and field-effect transistors (FETs) are built and how they work.
- To investigate how semiconductor parts are used in electronic circuits, with a focus on their roles in amplification, switching, and controlling signals.
- To connect the dots between theoretical semiconductor physics and real-world circuit design, giving us a single view of how physical laws affect how electronics work.
- To show how important semiconductor technology is to modern electronics; we will talk about advances in miniaturisation, integration, and how these affect both digital and analogue circuit systems.

Importance

To really comprehend how current technology works, you need to study semiconductor physics and electrical circuits. Semiconductors are the most important parts that make almost all modern electronic devices work, from simple household items to complex computers and communication networks [4]. Engineers and scientists can make electrical systems that are more efficient, powerful, and trustworthy when they have a good understanding of how semiconductors work at the atomic level. This study gives useful information about how theoretical knowledge leads to practical improvements by connecting the physical behaviour of semiconductor materials to their use in electronic circuits. Students, researchers, and professionals working in electrical engineering, computer science, materials science, and related fields need to understand these ideas. Also, as the need for smaller, faster, and more energy-efficient devices grows, it becomes more and more important to know about this field to push forward technological progress, new ideas in integrated circuits, and the creation of next-generation electronics like quantum computing, flexible electronics, and renewable energy systems.

Questions for Research

- What are the basic physical rules that control how semiconductor materials act?
- What are the differences between intrinsic and extrinsic semiconductors when it comes to their electrical properties and uses?
- What do diodes, BJTs, and FETs do in the design and operation of electrical circuits?
- How does the tiny structure of semiconductor materials affect how circuits work on a larger scale?
- How may semiconductor device theories be used to make analogue and digital electronic circuits work better and use less power?
- What are the problems that semiconductor technology is facing right now and what do you think will happen in the future?
- What do these things mean for the design of electronic circuits?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Researchers in both academia and industry have spent a lot of time studying the growth of semiconductor physics and how it can be used in electronic circuits over the past few decades. Important research in the middle of the 20th century that laid the groundwork for semiconductor theory and led to the creation of the transistor, which is probably the most important electronic part in history. Their research helped us grasp how charge carriers behave, band theory, and how doping affects semiconductors [4].

Later studies have built on these early findings. They explained how junctions work, how carriers move, and how devices may be made smaller. In the same way connected semiconductor physics and circuit theory show how diodes, transistors, and operational amplifiers work in bigger systems. Recent research has concentrated on making semiconductor devices smaller and on creating new materials like gallium nitride (GaN) and silicon carbide (SiC) that work better in high-power and high-frequency situations. IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices and Solid-State Electronics are two publications that publish research that continues to deal with problems with nanoscale devices, such as heat dissipation, leakage current, and quantum effects [5].

In terms of circuits, the literature has changed to include both analogue and digital points of view. 'Microelectronic Circuits' gives a thorough explanation of how semiconductor devices are employed in real-world circuit design, showing how the features of a device and the way, a circuit works are linked. Over the years, semiconductor physics and electronic circuits have changed a lot. Modern technology is built on the basic theories and advances that have been made in these fields. Reading about this topic gives you a full understanding of the rules that govern how semiconductors work and how electronic gadgets are made, talk about the emission theory and how the thickness of the transition area affects the mean free path of electrons. This important study shows how the diffusion potential and applied voltage work together to change the transition area capacitance. It gives us important information about how metal-semiconductor junctions work. It is important to know the many types of junctions, like ohmic and rectifying, to comprehend how semiconductor devices work [6].

Adding to the conversation by focussing on one-dimensional nanostructured systems, especially silicon nanowires (SiNWs), the study talks about how SiNWs could improve the density and performance of electronic circuits, which is in line with Moore's law. SiNWs provide you better control over electrical properties than carbon nanotubes do. This makes it easier to make devices smaller and combine them. The vapor-liquid-solid growth approach is highlighted to get the right electrical properties, which is a big step forward for semiconductor technology. It helps us comprehend resistive measurements in semiconductors by giving us ways to get important electrical information like carrier concentration and mobility. The study talks about how thin film geometries affect the space-charge area and how these factors affect how electrical measurements are understood. This investigation shows how important it is to be exact when looking at semiconductors [7].

The earlier study gives an educational point of view by explaining important ideas in electronics for engineering students. The focus is on combining semiconductor science with real-world uses, like how diodes and transistors work. The teaching method, which blends theory with hands-on problem-solving, is meant to help students better comprehend semiconductor devices and how they are used in circuits. The study goes into further detail on polarons in molecular semiconductors and suggests a new model of energy levels that takes Coulomb interactions into account. This research is very important for improving the design of optoelectronic devices since it goes against what we thought we knew and shows how important it is to understand how charge carriers behave in molecular systems [8].

Another study investigates the optical and electrical properties of two-dimensional (2D) layered materials, paying attention to how they could change the way semiconductors work. The study talks about how to make monolayer and few-layer semiconductors, focussing on their special qualities that could make electronic systems more flexible. This study combines with other work that is going on to find ways to use 2D materials in different ways. It looks on carrier dynamics in quantum dot (QD) optoelectronic devices, dealing with problems including mobility and efficiency. The work shows how charge transport pathways have changed over time and how important it is to understand the differences amongst QD films. This study's goal is to help make better optoelectronic devices by measuring important factors [9].

Another study gives a numerical study, which is a group of equations that are very important to semiconductor theory. This paper explains the mathematical and physical rules that regulate the flow of electrons and holes, which strengthens the theoretical framework needed for analysing semiconductor devices. The study evaluates improvements in gate stack patterning for semiconductor devices, focussing on the problems that come with making things smaller. The paper talks about modelling methods that can forecast changes in topology and why it is important to know how chemical processes work when making devices. This review is very important for improving the design of contemporary transistors and making them work better [10].

The literature gives a historical overview of power electronic switches, showing how semiconductor devices have changed over time, from early transistors to modern uses. The talk about material qualities and how to make things shows how the semiconductor business is always coming up with new ideas. In short, the literature gives us a lot of information about semiconductor physics and electronic circuits, from basic ideas to the latest developments in materials and device design. Each article adds to our knowledge of the rules that control how semiconductors work and how new electronic technologies will be made.

The literature review on semiconductor physics and electronic circuits covers a wide range of research that has changed a lot over the years and includes both basic ideas and real-world uses. It sets the stage by talking about the basic rules that govern semiconductor junctions, focussing on the diffusion potential and transition-region capacitance, which are important for understanding how devices work. This knowledge of the rectifying and ohmic properties of metal-semiconductor junctions is the basis for a basic understanding that is necessary for making a wide range of semiconductor devices.

The literature talked more about nanostructured systems, focussing on silicon nanowires (SiNWs) as a possible replacement for carbon nanotubes. This earlier work shows that SiNWs could increase the performance of electronic circuits by giving more control over their electrical properties and making them smaller. This is in line with the current advancements in semiconductor technology. In 2011, new ways to measure resistance that let us describe the features of semiconductors. The analysis stressed how important geometry is for understanding resistive measurements, especially in thin films where space-charge zones can have a big effect on electrical properties. This work gives us important methods for accurately measuring how well semiconductors work in modern applications.

An engineering point of view on electronics and talked about a lot of different semiconductor ideas, such as carrier transport, junction physics, and how devices work. Thorough introduction to electronics for engineering students connects what they learn in theory with what they do in practice, getting them ready to work with complicated electronic systems in the future. The people grasp polarons in molecular semiconductors, which went against the usual ideas about charge carriers. The results show that we need to look at the energy levels in these materials in a new way, which is important for getting the most out of (opto-) electrical devices.

The focus to two-dimensional layered materials, stressing how these materials could change the game in semiconductor technology. Their research into the unique optical and electrical properties of 2D materials shows how semiconductor fabrication techniques are changing and what that means for future device applications. How carriers move in semiconductor optoelectronic devices and found that charge transport in quantum dot films is quite difficult. Author findings stress the need for more research to improve the performance of new optoelectronic devices, especially when it comes to figuring out how charges flow.

A numerical analysis of the van Roosbroeck system, explaining the basic equations that control how semiconductors work [8]. This study strengthens the theoretical foundation needed to explain how charge moves in semiconductor devices, which is important for both research and real-world use. How to describe gate stack patterning and talked about the problems that come up when semiconductor sizes go smaller. Their knowledge of sophisticated fabrication methods and how they affect MOSFET performance shows how important it is for semiconductor manufacturing to come up with new ideas [5].

How power electronic switches have changed over time, focussing on how transistors have changed and how they have affected semiconductor technology [9]. The retrospective analysis shows how theoretical advances in quantum mechanics and practical uses in electronic devices work together. This shows how semiconductor research is still important for defining modern technologies. This literature review covers the wide range of progress that has been made in semiconductor physics and electronic circuits, showing both the historical roots and the new ideas that are still pushing the subject ahead. In general, the literature shows that there is a significant and changing connection between semiconductor theory and circuit invention. As technology moves towards systems that are more interconnected and use less energy, it becomes more and more important to have understanding in both domains.

Findings of Literature Search

Even though a lot of study has been done in both semiconductor physics and electronic circuit design, there are still some gaps that make it hard to fully combine theoretical knowledge with real-world use:

Limited Integration Between Material-Level Physics and Circuit-Level Design

Although we have a good theoretical understanding of semiconductor physics, it is not always easy to connect how materials behave on a small scale to how circuits work on a large one. We need more models that connect atomic-scale events with circuit behaviours at the system level.

Research on new semiconductor materials like gallium nitride (GaN), silicon carbide (SiC), and organic semiconductors is growing, but current circuit models often do not fully show how they behave when they are nonlinear, at high frequencies, or when they are hot, especially when they are under extreme conditions.

There are Not Any Real-time Adaptive Circuit Design Frameworks

Most current circuit design methods use static parameters, even though semiconductor devices are known to be sensitive to changes in the environment (like temperature and voltage). There is not enough research being done on how to make adaptable, real-time circuit design methods that can handle these kinds of changes.

Quantum and Nanoscale Effects That have not been Studied Enough

As devices get smaller, classical semiconductor theories become less accurate. We need new physics-based models that are not fully created or integrated into popular circuit design tools yet. These models are needed because of quantum tunnelling, leakage currents, and variability caused by fabrication constraints.

There is a Disconnect between Education and Practice

A lot of textbooks and classes approach semiconductor physics and electronic circuit design as two different subjects. There is not enough research and programs that combine profound material-level understanding with circuit engineering approaches.

To move semiconductor technology forward and make modern electronic systems work better, be more reliable, and be able to handle more users, these gaps need to be filled.

One way to look at the connection between semiconductor physics and electronic circuits is to see how the natural features of semiconductor materials affect how electronic devices and systems work and behave. This study uses basic ideas like energy band theory, charge carrier dynamics, and junction behaviour to describe how circuits work.

The conductivity of semiconductors depends on the number and mobility of charge carriers (electrons and holes), which are affected by temperature, doping concentration, and crystal clarity. For instance, in an n-type semiconductor, the mobility of electrons controls how well current flows, which in turn impacts how fast and how much power transistors used in digital circuits require. The p-n junction is the basis of many semiconductor devices. The forward and reverse bias characteristics of the junction are very important for rectification and signal modulation in diodes. In bipolar junction transistors (BJTs) and field-effect transistors (FETs), the way the junction works influences how much current is amplified and how it switches. We can learn about their operating ranges and circuit restrictions.

Device Modelling and Circuit Performance

Circuit simulations depend on correct models of semiconductor devices. These models help us guess how circuits will act in certain situations. The study reveals that even slight changes in the material properties can cause big changes in how the circuit works, especially when it comes to high-frequency and high-power uses.

As device sizes become closer to the nanoscale, short-channel effects, quantum confinement, and higher leakage currents make it harder to construct circuits in the usual way. Looking at these effects shows that we need new architectures, such FinFETs and tunnel FETs, that use different physics to provide us better control and efficiency [10].

System-Level Implications

The overall effect of semiconductor qualities on electronic systems can be seen in things like power use, switching speed, signal quality, and thermal management. For instance, low-power CMOS circuits can benefit from being able to lower leakage and threshold voltages. The choice of semiconductor materials and how they are made have a direct effect on these values.

This study shows how important semiconductor physics is for making electrical circuits work better and more efficiently. To move forward in both device engineering and system-level electronic design, we need to have a comprehensive grasp of how these two things work together.

PRINCIPLES OF SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND CIRCUITRY

The study shows that how semiconductor physics and electronic circuit design depend on each other has led to several important conclusions, which are listed below: The type and level of doping in semiconductor materials have a direct effect on carrier concentration, which in turn influences the threshold voltage, switching speed, and leakage current in devices like MOSFETs and BJTs. For example, larger doping concentrations lower resistivity but may raise junction capacitance, which changes how circuits respond to different frequencies.

Simulations of p-n junction diodes and transistors using SPICE-based models matched closely with theoretical I-V characteristics. The Shockley equation predicted that diodes would display exponential current growth when they were forward-biased. On the other hand, BJTs showed clear active, cutoff, and saturation areas, which was what Ebers-Moll modelling predicted. The performance of the circuit showed that changes in semiconductor properties including mobility, dielectric constant, and bandgap had a big effect on signal gain, response time, and power use. For instance, amplifier circuits were very sensitive to the transistor's transconductance, which is determined by the size of the channel and the mobility of the carriers.

Emerging Materials Offer Better Performance

Early modelling of new semiconductors like GaN and SiC showed that they have better thermal stability and greater breakdown voltages than standard silicon-based devices. These materials worked well in high-power and high-frequency circuits, which shows that they are becoming more important in RF and power electronics.

Limitations of Classical Models at the Nanoscale

At scales below 10 nm, quantum processes like tunnelling and carrier scattering became important. Classical semiconductor models did not always act as predicted, especially when it came to predicting leakage current and controlling threshold voltage. This shows that next-generation circuit design must include quantum-aware simulation methods. These studies show how important semiconductor physics is for figuring out how electronic circuits work and how well they work. They also show how important it is to keep combining material science and circuit engineering, especially as technology nodes get smaller and performance needs grow.

INTEGRATING SEMICONDUCTOR PHYSICS WITH ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT DESIGN: IMPACTS, INNOVATIONS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The results of this study have several crucial effects on both the design of electrical circuits and the creation of semiconductor devices.

- *Improved Device Optimisation:* Engineers can increase device performance metrics like switching speed, power efficiency, and thermal stability by understanding the basic physics of semiconductors and adjusting doping levels, material choices, and device designs. To make electronic parts that are faster, more dependable, and use less energy, you need to know this.
- *Better Circuit Design Methods:* Using semiconductor physics knowledge in circuit design can make predictive models more accurate, which means fewer design iterations and faster time-to-market. Circuit designers may make their designs work better and last longer by considering the limits of the materials they use and using the sophisticated features of the devices they work with.
- *Adoption of Emerging Semiconductor Material:* The benefits of materials like GaN and SiC in certain applications suggest that power electronics and RF circuits will start to use these materials more often. This change could mean that circuits can handle more power, make less heat, and last longer.
- *Need for Advanced Modelling at Nanoscale:* Because classical models cannot accurately anticipate how nanoscale devices will behave, there is a strong need for circuit modelling tools to use quantum-mechanical models. This is very important to make sure that semiconductor technology keeps getting smaller and that future integrated circuits keep getting faster.
- *Educational and Interdisciplinary Impact:* Showing how semiconductor physics and circuit design are related shows how important it is to have research and education that crosses disciplines. Bringing these professions together can lead to new ideas and train engineers who can handle the difficult problems that next-generation electronics will bring.

Overall, these consequences show how important it is to have a complete grasp of semiconductor physics in the larger context of electronic circuit design. This will help both academic research and industrial applications go forward.

Future Direction

Based on what we know now about semiconductor physics and how it works in electronic circuits, future research should look at the following areas: Research should focus on creating integrated models that link atomic-scale semiconductor physics with circuit-level performance. This is known as the development of multiscale modelling frameworks. This multiscale method would make it more accurate to guess how a device will act in different situations.

Exploration of New Semiconductor Materials

More research is needed on new materials like two-dimensional semiconductors (like graphene and transition metal dichalcogenides) and organic semiconductors, especially their electronic properties and how well they work in flexible and wearable electronics.

Quantum Effects in Nanoscale Devices

As devices get smaller, it will be important to research quantum effects including tunnelling, coherence, and spintronics. To make designs more accurate, research should focus on adding quantum mechanics to device and circuit simulations.

Adaptive and Intelligent Circuit Design

In the future, researchers could look into circuits that can change their settings on the fly based on changes in the environment and how they are used. This would be made possible by improvements in machine learning and adaptive control systems.

Thermal Management and Reliability in High-Power Applications

As devices manage more power, it will be important to learn more about how heat is released at the material and circuit levels. This is especially true for power electronics and RF circuits, where enhancing device reliability and lifespan is important.

Combining Semiconductor Physics Education with Circuit Design

Research exploring ways to better combine semiconductor physics and electronic circuit design in the classroom could improve understanding across disciplines and get engineers ready for the technological challenges of the future.

Following these paths will be necessary for making progress in semiconductor technology and opening new possibilities in the design of electronic circuits.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown how semiconductor physics and electronic circuit design are closely related, by showing how the basic features of materials affect how devices work and, in the end, how circuits work. We have built a complete framework that connects theory and practice by looking at important semiconductor ideas like doping, charge carrier dynamics, and junction behaviour, as well as the real-world uses of devices like diodes and transistors. The results show how important it is to model devices correctly and use new materials to keep up with the needs of current electronics. Also, the problems caused by nanoscale effects and quantum events show how important it is to keep doing research and coming up with new ideas. Understanding how semiconductor physics and circuit design work together not only helps technology move forward, but it also helps teachers and students work together across disciplines. This integrated view will be very important for making the next generation aware of high-performance, energy-efficient, and dependable electronic systems as electronics continue to change quickly.

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