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 Techniques 2.6 A Universal Transducer Interface; 2.6.1 Description of  
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 Nonsilicon Technologies; 3.4.3 Silicon; 3.5 Examples of Silicon Sensors;  
 3.5.1 Radiation Domain; 3.5.2 Mechanical Domain; 3.5.3 Thermal  
 Domain; 3.5.4 Magnetic Domain; 3.5.5 Chemical Domain; 3.6 Summary  
 and Future Trends; 3.6.1 Summary; 3.6.2 Future Trends; References; 4  
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 Photoconductors in Silicon: Operation and Static Performance  
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 4.7.2 The Avalanche Photodiode

## Sommario/riassunto

Information processing systems need sensors to acquire the physical, mechanical and chemical information to be able to function. For extended use of sensors in industrial production tools and consumer components, such as smart cars and smart homes, the reliability of the sensors should be improved and the cost dramatically reduced. The improvement of reliability, together with a reduction of cost, can only be achieved with smart sensor systems. These systems combine the functions of sensors and interfaces, including sensors, signal conditioning A-D (analog to digital) conversion, and bus int