# Comprehensive Investigation of the Side-gate Effect on the RF Small-signal Equivalent Elements of AlGaN/GaN High-Electron-Mobility Transistor on a Silicon Substrate

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*Abstract*—The side-gate effect on the radio frequency (RF) small-signal equivalent elements of an AlGaN/GaN HEMT on a high-resistivity silicon substrate was comprehensively studied. The side-gate bias was found to have a significant impact on the direct-current (DC) and small-signal performance of the device through the buffer layer. Gate and drain bias dependent small-signal equivalent circuit parameters were extracted at different side-gate biases, and the physical mechanism was investigated and analyzed. These findings suggest that the side-gate effects should be taken into account when monolithic microwave integrated circuits are designed based on GaN-on-Si HEMTs.

Index Terms— Gallium nitride (GaN), high electron mobility transistor (HEMT), side-gate effect, small signal equivalent-circuit

### **INTRODUCTION**

Great progress has been made for Galliumnitride GaN-based high electron mobility transistor (HEMT), a promising candidate for radio-frequency (RF) and microwave applications, including high power amplifiers (HPA), low noise amplifies (LNA) and monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs) [1]-[6]. Although GaN-on-SiC RF devices have already achieved great success due to their advantages of high epitaxial material quality and high heat dissipation capability, GaN-on-Si RF devices are also very attractive because of their potential of being low-cost products. Owing to GaN's wide band-gap (~3.4 eV), GaN HEMTs usually have a high breakdown voltage, which allows a high drain bias ( $V_{DS}$ ), for example, 29-59 V, to be used to achieve high output power density [7]. However, in an MMIC, the performance of the GaN device

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may be influenced by its adjacent devices biased at high  $V_{DS}$ , which amounts to what is called the side-gate effect. Consequently, the side-gate effect could make the circuit design more complicated since the side-gate bias ( $V_{SG}$ ) will affect the performance of the whole circuit, whose optimal performance is weakened [8] -[11]. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the side-gate effect on the performances of the GaN HEMTs.

Some research groups have already studied the side-gate effect on gallium arsenide (GaAs) related applications. In GaAs MESFETs and HEMTs, the kink caused by the  $V_{SG}$  has been observed in direct-current (DC) I-V curve, which degrades the device performance [12] [13]. The side-gate effect was also used to modulate the 2dimensional electron gas (2DEG) so as to study the 2DEG transport property by applying positive and negative biases to the device side gate [14]. For GaN-related applications, some research groups have investigated the side-gate influence on the GaN filter and GaN MESFET [15] [16]. In a GaN HEMT, the influence of DC and RF performance by the side-gate effect has been reported in [17]. Buffer depletion caused by the negative  $V_{SG}$  is attributed to performance degradation. In this paper. we have comprehensively analyzed the side gate influence on the RF small signal equivalent circuit components for a GaN HEMT on a highresistivity silicon substrate.

**Device Fabrication and Measurement** 



Fig. 1: Schematic diagram of the AlGaN/GaN HEMT with side gate on a high resistivity silicon substrate

Figure 1 shows the structure of the AlGaN/GaN HEMT, which was grown on a high-resistivity silicon substrate by metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD). The epitaxial layers of the HEMT consist of a 2 nm GaN cap layer, a 17.5 nm Al<sub>0.26</sub>Ga<sub>0.74</sub>N barrier layer, a 1.5 µm undoped GaN buffer, and a transition layer. The AlGaN/GaN HEMT fabrication was started with mesa isolation by inductively coupled plasma etching using Cl<sub>2</sub>/BCl<sub>3</sub> gases with a depth of around 120 nm. Ti/Al/Ni/Au (20/140/40/50 nm) metal layers were deposited followed by rapid thermal annealing at 875 °C for 30 sec in N<sub>2</sub> ambient to form the source and drain Ohmic contacts. A T-shape gate with a 300 nm foot length was formed by electron beam lithography patterning, followed by Ni/Au (50/300nm) evaporation and lift-off process. Finally, a 120 nm SiN was deposited by a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) system for surface passivation. An electrode with an Ohmic contact was fabricated 30 um away from the source contact to work as the side gate.

In this study, three different V<sub>SG</sub> values were separately applied to the side-gate to investigate their influences on the RF small signal characteristics for the GaN-on-Si HEMT. For each V<sub>SG</sub> value, the DC and RF characteristics were measured and the small signal equivalent were extracted. circuit elements DC measurements were carried out with a Keithley 4200 Semiconductor Characterization System and the RF measurements were performed using an HP4142 parametric analyzer and a HP8510 network analyzer with Cascade probes. **Results and Discussion** 

DC and Microwave Measurement Results

C	annerent V <sub>SG</sub> values							
	V <sub>SG</sub> (V)	I <sub>DMAX</sub> (mA/mm)	$R_{ON}$ ( $\Omega$ ·mm)	g <sub>max</sub> (mS/mm)	V <sub>T</sub> (V)	I <sub>SG</sub> (A)		
	100	720	4.9	224	- 2.53	1.2×10 <sup>-</sup> 6		
	0	693	5.2	226	- 2.48	0		
	- 100	578	5.9	214	- 2.04	- 4.4×10 <sup>-</sup> 6		

Table I: Comparison of DC characteristics at different  $V_{SG}$  values

DC parameters including maximum drain current density  $(I_{DMAX})$  (at  $V_{GS} = 1$  V), onresistance (R<sub>ON</sub>), maximum transconductance  $(g_{max})$ , and threshold voltage  $(V_T)$  were listed in Table I. The V<sub>SG</sub> dependent output and transfer characteristics are very similar to those in reference [17]. I<sub>DMAX</sub>, g<sub>mmax</sub> and V<sub>T</sub> are measured at different  $V_{SG}$  while at the same drain bias ( $V_{DS}$ ) of 10 V. I<sub>DMAX</sub> was found to decrease when V<sub>SG</sub> = -100 V and increase when V<sub>SG</sub>=100 V compared with the  $I_{DMAX}$  value at  $V_{SG}=0$  V. The  $R_{ON}$  is reduced when biased at  $V_{SG}=100$  V and increased at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V. The  $V_T$  is slightly negatively shifted when VsG=100 V and positively shifted when the device is biased at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V. It is believed that the electrical field effect induced by the side-gate bias is attributed to those changes [18]. The positive  $V_{SG}$ will serve as the positive back-gate to attract electrons in the 2DEG channel and thus increase the 2DEG density which results in an increased I<sub>DMAX</sub>, reduced R<sub>ON</sub>, and negatively shifted V<sub>T</sub>. For a similar reason, the negative V<sub>SG</sub> will deplete the 2DEG in the channel and thus decrease I<sub>DMAX</sub>, increases R<sub>ON</sub>, and positively shift  $V_T$ . There is a slight decrease of the  $g_{mmax}$ when  $V_{SG}$ =100 V, however when  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V g<sub>mmax</sub> is significantly decreased due to the buffer depletion and deep level donor trap ionization which enhances the scattering of the 2DEG carriers. Because of the enhanced scattering, the electron mobility in the channel is reduced so that the  $g_{mmax}$  at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is reduced.

Figure 2(a) shows the measured cut-off frequency (f<sub>t</sub>) and maximum oscillation frequency (f<sub>max</sub>) of the GaN HEMT on Si as a function of  $V_{GS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$  and fixed  $V_{DS} = 10 \text{ V}$ . It can be noticed that at  $V_{SG}=100 \text{ V}$ and  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V both the f<sub>max</sub> and f<sub>t</sub> are reduced compared to that at  $V_{SG}=0$  V. The f<sub>t</sub> value when the side gate is biased at V<sub>SG</sub>=0 V is 23 GHz while it is decreased by 4% and 17% when the side gate is biased at  $V_{SG}$ =100 V and  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V, respectively. The decrease of the  $f_{max}$  and  $f_t$  for  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is caused by the decrease of the electron mobility due to the electrical field effect as above mentioned [16]-[18]. As to the slight decrease of the  $f_{max}$  and  $f_t$  at  $V_{SG}=100$  V when compared with that at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V it is attributed to the electron shielding effect which reduces the scattering.

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Figure 2(b) shows the measured  $f_t$  and  $f_{max}$  as a function of  $V_{DS}$  for three  $V_{SG}$ . Over the whole  $V_{DS}$  range, the change of the  $f_t$  and  $f_{max}$  values with  $V_{SG}$  stays the same. There is a slight decrease of the  $f_t$  and  $f_{max}$  when  $V_{DS}$  increases. It is assumed that the hot electrons should be attributed to this decrease. When  $V_{DS}$  increases, the hot electrons are generated and then captured by the traps and defects which reduce the electron mobility and velocity in the 2DEG channel by producing enhanced scattering. Therefore, the electron mobility and velocity in a reduced  $f_t$  and  $f_{max}$ .



Fig. 2: Measured  $f_t$  and  $f_{max}$  values versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .

## B. Extracted Small Signal Equivalent Circuit Parameters



Fig. 3: Schematic of a small-signal equivalent circuit [15].

A small-signal equivalent circuit of the GaN HEMT on high-resistivity silicon is shown in Fig. 3. The detailed definitions and the extraction procedures of those small-signal equivalent circuit parameters (ECPs) are the same as in reference [19].

Table II: Comparison of access resistance at three side gate voltages

	$V_{SG}$ =-100 V ( $\Omega$ ·mm)	V <sub>SG</sub> =0 V (Ω·mm)	$V_{SG}=100 V$ ( $\Omega \cdot mm$ )
RD	1.8	1.5	1.5
Rs	0.9	0.8	0.8

Table II lists the extracted drain ( $R_D$ ) and source ( $R_S$ ) access resistance at different  $V_{SG}$ . There is almost no  $R_S$  and  $R_D$  difference between the  $V_{SG}=0$  V and  $V_{SG}=100$  V. At  $V_{SG}=-100$  V, both the  $R_S$  and  $R_D$  are increased due to the reduced 2DEG density and mobility resulted from the electrical field effect as aforementioned.

Figure 4 shows the extracted  $g_m$  as a function of  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ . The trend of  $g_m$  varying with the change of the  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$ is consistent with the measured  $f_t$ , which stays the same for the three  $V_{SG}$ . The change of the  $g_m$ versus  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$  reflects the electrons mobility and velocity change in the 2DEG channel. The decrease of the  $g_m$  when  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is mainly due to the decrease in the electron mobility and effective velocity caused by the enhanced Coulomb scattering. The decrease of the  $g_m$  with the increase of the  $V_{DS}$  is attributed to the hot electron effect as aforementioned.



Fig. 4: Extracted intrinsic  $g_m$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ 

Figure 5 shows the V<sub>GS</sub> and V<sub>DS</sub> dependent gate to source capacitance ( $C_{GS}$ ) at three different  $V_{SG}$ . As shown in Fig. 5(a),  $C_{GS}$  first increases with the increase of the V<sub>GS</sub> and then slightly decreases with the increase of the  $V_{GS}$ . The same phenomenon has been observed for GaN HEMT by other groups [20]-[22]. The decrease of  $C_{GS}$ with the increase of  $V_{GS}$  is believed to be caused by the nonlinear source resistance. When  $V_{GS}$  is high, some of the electrons in the 2DEG channel will spill into the barrier layer to form parallel MESFET conduction. The spilled electrons will be captured by the traps and defects in the barrier and AlGaN/GaN interface. As a result, the electrons in the 2DEG channel will be depleted which leads to the reduction of the C<sub>GS</sub> at high V<sub>GS</sub> especially when the frequency is above GHz. This phenomenon is also observed in GaAs HEMTs [23]. When  $V_{GS} < -2 V$ ,  $C_{GS}$  at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V decreases much faster with the  $V_{GS}$  decrease compared with that at  $V_{SG} = 0$  V and 100 V. The channel depletion induced more positive V<sub>T</sub> at V<sub>SG</sub>=-100 V is attributed to this more rapid decrease. When  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the negative  $V_{SG}$ will deplete the channel and result in a reduced 2DEG density, and thus at the same negative  $V_{SG}$ (< -2 V) the device is operating closer to the V<sub>T</sub> region so that the channel is more depleted compared with that at  $V_{SG}=0$  V and 100 V, leading to a lower C<sub>GS</sub>.

When  $V_{GS}$  is larger than -1.7 V and the device is working at on-state, the  $C_{GS}$  value at  $V_{SG} = -100$ V is obviously larger than the  $C_{GS}$  value at  $V_{SG}=100$  V and 0 V, while the similar  $C_{GS}$  value is exhibited between  $V_{SG}=100$  V and 0 V for the same  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$ . When  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the depletion depth in the channel layer at the source side of the gate was reduced and the nominal gate to 2DEG distance is reduced, resulting in an increased  $C_{GS}$ . This can be explained when  $V_{SG}$ = -100 V, the substrate was applied with a negative bias forming a back-gate, the electrons in the channel layer were pushed forward to the gate and entered into the channel depletion layer.

When the electrons enter into the source to gate channel depletion region, the depletion height was reduced and the 2DEG locates closer to the gate electrode, leading to the increase of the  $C_{GS}$ at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V compared with the C<sub>GS</sub> value at two other bias conditions. As to the similar C<sub>GS</sub> value observed between the  $V_{SG} = 0$  V and 100 V, the buffer electrons shielding effect should be attributed to this phenomenon. When  $V_{SG}=100 \text{ V}$ , part of the electrons in the channel will enter the buffer layer, serving as the shielding electron layer and preventing more electrons from entering the buffer layer which indicates as the shielding effect similar to the MESFET conduction formation in the Al<sub>0.26</sub>Ga<sub>0.74</sub>N layer when the gate was applied with positive bias. Therefore, the depletion between the gate and source is less influenced by the positive  $V_{SG}$ . Consequently, the extracted C<sub>gs</sub> values are less influenced by the positive V<sub>SG</sub> while it is significantly influenced by the negative  $V_{SG}$ .

Figure 6 (b) shows the extracted  $C_{GS}$  versus  $V_{DS}$ at a fixed  $V_{GS} = -1.5$  V for a frequency range of 1-20 GHz. The CGS first increases with the increase of the V<sub>DS</sub> and after reaching its peak value, it almost stays constant over the whole V<sub>DS</sub> range. This trend remains the same for three  $V_{SG}$  conditions. The increase of the  $C_{GS}$  along with the increase of the low  $V_{DS}$  is due to the fact that the device operates at the liner region before it reaches the saturation region. When it works in the saturation region at a higher  $V_{DS}$ , the gate-tosource depletion almost remains the same and will not vary obviously with the increase of the  $V_{DS}$ . At the saturation region, the  $C_{GS}$  values at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is larger than  $C_{GS}$  at  $V_{SG}$  = 0 V and  $V_{SG} = 100 V$  which shows the same trend as in Figure 6 (a).



Fig. 5: Extracted  $C_{GS}$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .

The extracted gate-drain capacitance  $(C_{GD})$ versus V<sub>GS</sub> for the GaN HEMT with different  $V_{SG}$  conditions is shown in Fig. 6(a). At low  $V_{GS}$ (< -2 V), the C<sub>GD</sub> decreases with the increase of the  $V_{GS}$ , after reaching its minimal value  $C_{GD}$ increases with the increase of the  $V_{GS}$  for all  $V_{SG}$ conditions. When the  $V_{GS}$  is less than -2 V,  $C_{GD}$ at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V increases faster with the  $V_{GS}$ decrease than those at  $V_{SG} = 0$  V and  $V_{SG} = 100$ V, which is shown in Fig. 6(a) as the crossing of the three curves at a low  $V_{GS}$ . It is related to the fact that at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V the device is biased closer to the pinch-off condition when  $V_{GS}$  is smaller than -2 V, similar to the case of C<sub>GS</sub> versus  $V_{GS}$  as shown in Fig. 6(a). Fig. 6(b) shows the C<sub>GD</sub> versus V<sub>DS</sub> at different V<sub>SG</sub> values. C<sub>GD</sub> decreases with the increase of the whole  $V_{DS}$ , and this trend remains the same for three  $V_{SG}$ conditions. Both in Fig. 6(a) and Fig. 6(b), the  $C_{GD}$  value at the  $V_{SG} = 0$  V is only slightly larger than that at  $V_{SG} = 100$  V, while it is much larger than that at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V for the same  $V_{DS}$  and  $V_{GS} (> -2 V).$ 

When a HEMT is biased at its saturation region,  $C_{GD}$  can be roughly expressed as the following equation [20]:

$$C_{GD} = \frac{\varepsilon W_G(d + \Delta d)}{L_{GD,eff}}$$

where d is the distance from gate to the barrier/channel hetero-junction interface, and  $\Delta d$ is the effective distance from the hetero-junction interface to the 2DEG cloud, and L<sub>GD,eff</sub> is the effective distance of the gate-drain spacing. The symbol  $\varepsilon$  denotes the dielectric constant of the Al<sub>0.26</sub>Ga<sub>0.74</sub>N and W<sub>G</sub> is the gate width. For a relatively high V<sub>GS</sub>, when V<sub>GS</sub> increases, the effective depletion length Lgdeff at the drain side of the gate is reduced. In addition,  $\Delta d$  becomes less sensitive to the  $V_{GS}$  because at a high  $V_{GS}$ ,  $\Delta d$  is closer to 0 nm which becomes neglected compared with d, thus C<sub>GD</sub> increases when V<sub>GS</sub> increases at a high  $V_{GS}$ . On the contrary, when  $V_{DS}$  increases the  $L_{GD,eff}$  increases and thus  $C_{GD}$ decreases.

In addition, when  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the negative back gate voltage induced by the large negative V<sub>SG</sub> reduces the 2DEG density and thus increases the effective depletion length from gate to drain electrodes ( $L_{GD, eff}$ ). So the  $C_{GD}$  values at  $V_{SG}$  = -100 V are much smaller than those at  $V_{SG} = 0$  V. While at  $V_{SG} = 100$  V, the induced positive back gate voltage weakens the 2DEG pinch-off at the gate edge close to the drain, so that the pinch-off point in the channel moves to the drain, resulting in the L<sub>GD,eff</sub> increase and C<sub>GD</sub> decrease. While on the other side, the positive back gate voltage would also make the 2DEG cloud center move a bit towards the substrate and increase the  $\Delta d$ . Those two effects counteract each other so that the  $C_{GD}$  value at  $V_{SG}=100$  V is slightly smaller than that at V<sub>SG</sub>=0 V.

Figure 7 depicts the drain-to-source capacitance ( $C_{DS}$ ) as a function of  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$ . In Fig. 7(a), it was found that  $C_{DS}$  increases with the increase of  $V_{GS}$  (near pinch-off) to its peak value and then decreases when  $V_{GS}$  keeps increasing. In Fig. 7(b), the C<sub>GD</sub> decreases with the increase of V<sub>DS</sub>. The trend remains the same for the three V<sub>SG</sub> conditions. For both figures, the values of C<sub>DS</sub> for V<sub>SG</sub> = -100 V are larger than the C<sub>DS</sub> value for V<sub>SG</sub> = 0 V, which is also larger than that value at V<sub>SG</sub> = 100 V at the same V<sub>DS</sub> and V<sub>GS</sub> (V<sub>GS</sub> > -2 V).



Fig. 6: Extracted  $C_{GD}$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .

The C<sub>DS</sub> values can be roughly estimated as [25]

$$C_{\rm DS} = \frac{\epsilon 2\pi h (V_{\rm gs}, V_{\rm ds})}{L}$$

Where  $h(V_{GS}, V_{DS})$  represents the depletion height in the channel and L represents the channel depletion length.

At low  $V_{GS} < -2$  V, the channel is severely depleted and thus the h is almost constant, the L value increases when the  $V_{GS}$  value was further decreased and thus reduces  $C_{DS}$ . When  $V_{GS}$  is larger than -2 V and keeps increasing, the channel depletion is reduced and L is almost equal to the gate length. In this case, the channel depletion height h is reduced which results in a decreased  $C_{DS}$ . Therefore,  $C_{DS}$  first increases with the increase of  $V_{GS}$  and then decreases with the increase of  $V_{GS}$ . As a comparison, the L increases along with the increase of  $V_{DS}$  at a fixed  $V_{GS}$ =-1.5, resulting in a decreased  $C_{DS}$  as  $V_{DS}$  is increased.

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When the side gate is biased with a large negative voltage  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the induced negative back gate enhances the channel and buffer depletion, so that  $h(V_{GS}, V_{DS})$  becomes higher and  $C_{DS}$  becomes lower. Similarly, when  $V_{SG} = 100$  V the channel depletion height h is smaller and  $C_{DS}$  becomes lower. At low  $V_{DS}$  i. e. in the linear operation region, the  $C_{DS}$  value at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is lower than that at  $V_{SG}$ = 0 V, which is because that at the linear region, the 2DEG at the gate edge close to the drain is not depleted so  $C_{DS}$  is related to the 2DEG density. At  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V, the 2DEG is depleted by the negative back gate voltage so  $C_{DS}$  becomes smaller.



Fig. 7: Extracted  $C_{DS}$  as a function of the (a)  $V_{GS}$  and,

(b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ 

Figure 8 shows the extracted effective electron velocity ( $v_{eff}$ ) under the gate region as a function of the  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$  at various  $V_{SG}$ . The  $v_{eff}$  was calculated from:

$$V_{eff} = f_{t,int} \times 2\pi L_g$$

Where  $f_{t,int}$  and  $L_g$  are the extracted intrinsic cutoff frequency and gate length, respectively. The change of  $v_{eff}$  versus  $V_{DS}$  and  $V_{GS}$  is consistent with the change of the  $f_t$  versus  $V_{DS}$  and  $V_{GS}$ which reflects the electron velocity change at different  $V_{SG}$ . It can be directly seen that the 2DEG channel velocity was reduced by the enhanced scattering at large side-gate biases, especially at large negative side-gate bias.



Fig. 8: Calculated  $v_{eff}$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .

The extracted drain to source resistance ( $R_{DS}$ ) versus  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$  are plotted in Figure 9.  $R_{DS}$  decreases with the increase of the  $V_{GS}$ , due to the increase of the 2DEG density. In Fig. 9(b),  $R_{DS}$  increases with the increase of  $V_{DS}$ , because of the enhanced gate to drain depletion when  $V_{DS}$  increases. Similar to the influence of the side gate bias on the DC access resistances  $R_S$  and  $R_D$ ,  $R_{DS}$ 

increases obviously over the whole gate bias range and drain bias range at V<sub>SG</sub>=-100 V, while it slightly decreases at  $V_{SG}$ =100 V. At low  $V_{GS}$  < -2 V and V<sub>SG</sub> = -100 V, the R<sub>DS</sub> drops faster when  $V_{GS}$  increases, compared with the cases at  $V_{SG}$  = 100 V and  $V_{SG} = 0$  V. This is because at low  $V_{GS}$ and  $V_{SG} = -100$  V the device is operating close to pinch off or subthreshold region. Thus, a little increase in the V<sub>GS</sub> will lead to a significant decrease in R<sub>DS</sub>. Different R<sub>DS</sub> values at different V<sub>SG</sub> are also attributed to the different 2DEG density and electron velocity. When  $V_{SG} = 100$ V, on one hand, the positive  $V_{SG}$  attracts electrons and thus increases the 2DEG density in the channel; on the other hand, the electrons enter the buffer layer which forms the buffer shielding electrons to stop the electrons from keeping attracted in the 2DEG channel. Thus, the I<sub>D</sub> is slightly increased and the  $R_{SH}$  and  $R_{DS}$  are slightly decreased. Compared to the condition at  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the buffer depletion was enhanced with positive charges left behind and thus the Coulomb scattering was enhanced. The mobility and velocity of the electron in the channel are reduced due to the enhanced scattering. Additionally, the electrical field effect of  $V_{SG} = -$ 100 V depletes the channel with reduced 2DEG density which also increases the R<sub>DS</sub>. Thus, R<sub>DS</sub> value at  $V_{SG}$ =-100 V is much larger than the  $R_{DS}$ value at V<sub>SG</sub>=0 V, which is slightly larger than the  $R_{DS}$  value at  $V_{SG}$ =100 V for the whole  $V_{GS}$ and V<sub>DS</sub>.

Figure 10 describes the gate to source resistance ( $R_{GS}$ ) and gate to drain resistances ( $R_{GD}$ ) as a function of  $V_{DS}$  and  $V_{GS}$ . The accurate extractions for the two parameters are difficult and their physical source is still unclear yet, however, it is necessary to include those two parameters so as to improve the agreement between the measured and simulated S parameters [26]. The influence of the side gate bias on the values of  $R_{GD}$  and  $R_{GS}$  follows the same trend as that on  $R_{DS}$ . It is believed that

similar physical mechanisms contribute to the side-gate influence.



Fig. 9: Extracted  $R_{DS}$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .

Figure 11 plots the bias-dependent time constant  $\tau$  versus  $V_{GS}$  and  $V_{DS}$  at three  $V_{SG}$  conditions. The accurate extraction of  $\tau$  is also challenging as the extraction of the R<sub>GD</sub> and R<sub>GS</sub>. In Fig. 11(a),  $\tau$  first decreases with the increase of the V<sub>GS</sub> and then increases with V<sub>GS</sub>. In Fig. 11(b),  $\tau$  increases with the increase of V<sub>DS</sub> over the whole V<sub>DS</sub> range. For two figures,  $\tau$  at V<sub>SG</sub> = -100 V is larger than  $\tau$  at V<sub>SG</sub> = 0 V and V<sub>SG</sub> = 100 V. It is presumably believed that different buffer depletions were attributed to the increase of  $\tau$ .





Fig. 10: Extracted  $R_{GD}$  and  $R_{GS}$  versus (a)  $V_{GS}$  and (b)  $V_{DS}$  at three different  $V_{SG}$ .



Fig. 11: Extracted intrinsic time constant  $\tau$  versus (a) V<sub>GS</sub> and (b) V<sub>DS</sub> at three different V<sub>SG</sub>.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the side gate bias was found to have an obvious influence on the RF small signal performance over a wide gate and drain bias range in an AlGaN/GaN HEMT on a silicon substrate. It changes almost all the equivalent circuit parameters. At a large negative side gate bias, e.g.  $V_{SG} = -100$  V, the buffer depletion was induced, and hence, the channel electron depletion and Coulomb scattering were enhanced, leading to the decrease of the 2DEG density, mobility, and velocity, and hence RDS, RGS, RGD are increased and  $I_{DMAX}$ ,  $g_m$ ,  $v_{eff}$ , ,  $f_{max}$  and  $f_t$  are decreased. At a large positive side gate bias, e.g.  $V_{SG} = 100$  V, the influence on the equivalent circuit parameters is much smaller due to the buffer electrons shielding effect. The electrical field distribution in the channel at different V<sub>DS</sub> and  $V_{GS}$  values was also changed by  $V_{SG}$ . The combination different of factors as

aforementioned arouses the difference of the small-signal parameters. The side-gate effect on the small signal ECPs need to be taken into consideration during the design of highperformance GaN MMICs.

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[26] **M. M. Ahmed,** An improved method to estimate intrinsic small signal parameters of a GaAs MESFET from measured DC characteristics, *IEEE Trans. Electron Devices*, **50**(11), pp. 2196–2201, (**2003**). دراسة تفصيلية لتأثير حث البوابات الجانبية على العناصر المكافئة لنموذج الإشارات الصغيرة في ترانزستورات الالكترونيات عالية الحركية المصنوعة من نيتريد الألومنيوم ونيتريد الجاليوم على ركيزة من السيليكون

## سامى الغامدى

قسم الهندسة الكهربائية وهندسة الحاسبات، كلية الهندسة، جامعة الملك عبدالعزيز، جدة 21589، المملكة العربية السعودية

مستخلص. تم دراسة تأثير الحث الكهربي لبوابات (Gate) الترانزستورات المجاورة (الجانبية) على العناصر المكافئة لنموذج الإشارات الصغيرة (Small-signal model) لترانزستور HEMT المصنوع من مادة (AlGaN/GaN) وتأثير ذلك على الركائز العازلة من السيليكون بشكل شامل. وجد أن تأثير البوابات المجاورة يؤثر بشكل كبير ومباشر على الأداء في التيار المستمر (DC) والإشارات الصغيرة للجهاز من خلال الطبقة الناقلة (Buffer Layer). كما تم الأداء في التيار المستمر (DC) والإشارات الصغيرة للجهاز من خلال الطبقة الناقلة (Buffer Layer). كما تم استخراج معاملات الدائرة المعادلة للإشارات الصغيرة المعتمدة على جهد المرتبط بالبوابة والمصرف أثناء توصيل بوابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج إلى وابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج الى وابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج الى وابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج الى وابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج الى وابات جانبية مختلفة. في هذه الورقة كذلك، تم دراسة الأداء من النواجي الفيزيائية وتحليلها. تشير هذه النتائج الى وابات واباحم وابات الأجهزة المجاورة عند تصميم أجهزة الدوائر الميكروويفية المتكاملة والمجمعة والمصنوعة من عنصر نيترات الجاليوم (GaN) بشكل عام والمبنية على أي ركيزة السيليكية.

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