

Geometry scaling improvement of ASM-HEMT model for GaN

Last year presentations on GaN



- G. U'Ren: "Heterogeneous GaN on RFSOI"
- <u>F. Zaki, L. Iogna-Prat, H. Saleh and G. U'Ren: "GaN ASM-HEMT DC Geometry Scaling Development"</u>

Both presentations are available here: https://www.iee.et.tu-dresden.de/iee/eb/forsch/AK-Bipo/ak_bipo_bei.html

Outline



- 1 Context and motivation
- 2 ASM-HEMT: model overview and previous results
- 3 New test chip using a different GaN technology
- 4 Results on reference DUT (fixed geometry): DC linear/saturation conditions; Capacitances; S-parameters;
- 5 Width Scaling improvement: scaling rules development and final results (DC)
- 6 On-going work: current model weaknesses; width Scaling development for the capacitances
- 7 Conclusions and next steps

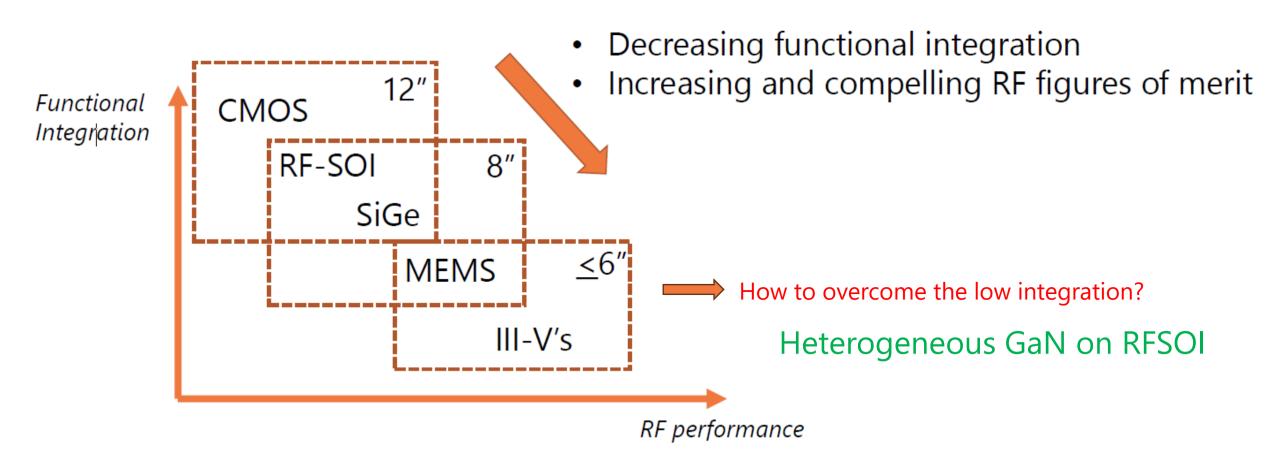


Context and motivation

Why GaN?

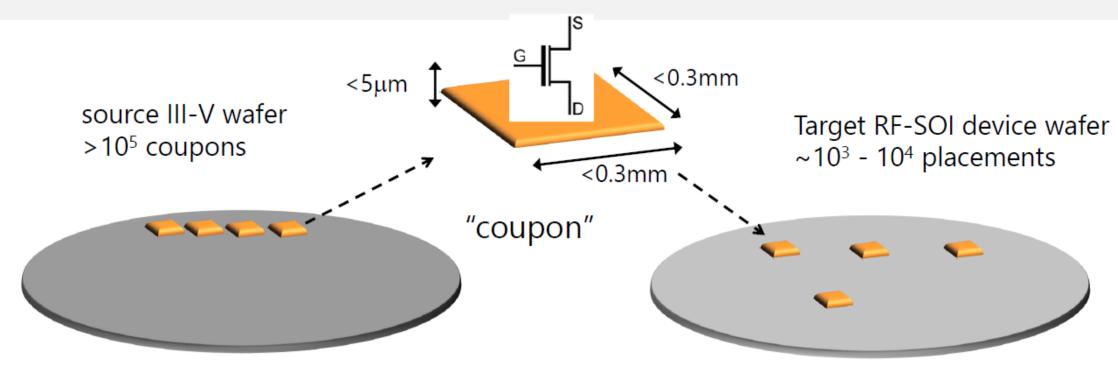


XFAB does not have any RF GaN technology in its portfolio, but...



Wafer level integration of III-V's

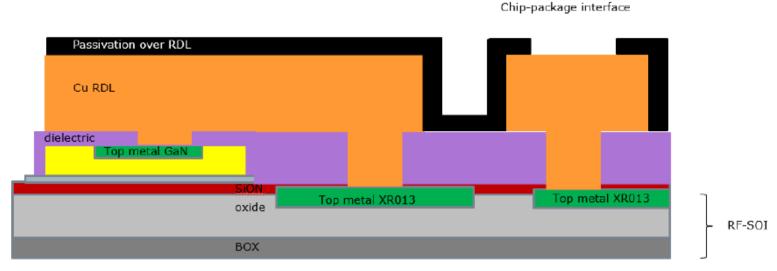




- > Efficient area utilization of a high value source material
- Coupon contains 1 or more components

RF-GaN – a wafer level heterogeneous integration approach





Cartoon of the co-integration method in cross-section (not to scale)

- > GaN coupon placed face-up
- Cu RDL connects GaN to RF-SOI.
- > RDL / RF-SOI serves as the chip-package interface
- > Interconnect density on the order of micrometers

F. Drillet et al., "RF SPST Switch Based on Innovative Heterogeneous GaN/SOI Integration Technique," 2020 15th European Microwave Integrated Circuits Conference (EuMIC), 2021, pp. 117-120.

J. Loraine, H. Saleh, F. Drillet, O. Sow, I. Lahbib and G. U'Ren, "5.9-7.1GHz High-Linearity LNA Using Innovative 3D Device Level Co-Integration of GaN HEMT and RF-SOI," 2021 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS), 2021, pp. 20-22, doi: 10.1109/IMS19712.2021.9574971.

LNA results: small signal

xfab

- > C4/bump and Flip chip mounting on PCB
- > De-embedding through line on top

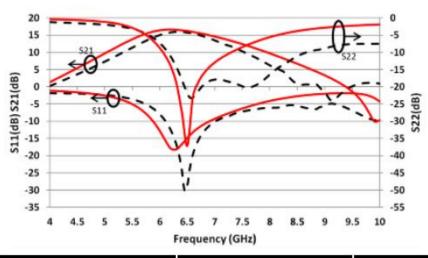




PCB

Die

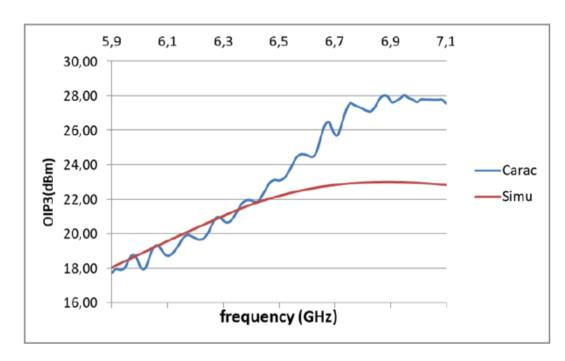
S-parameter results

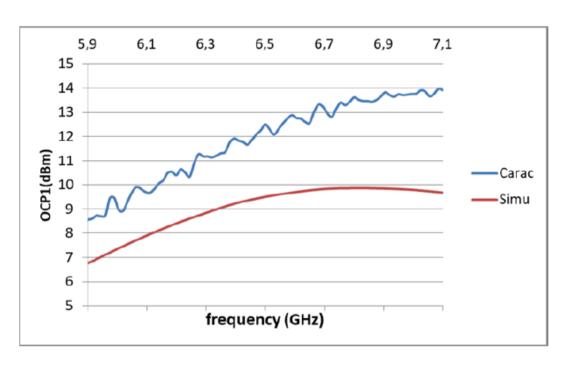


	Measurement	Simulatio n		
Frequency (GHz)	5.9 – 7.1 (ba	7.1 (band n96)		
S11 (dB)	-6.6 / -9.3	-10.5 / -8.6		
S22 (dB)	-6/-19.9	-6.9 / -11.8		
S21 (dB)	15.7*	16.2*		
DC consumption (mW)	72.6	72.6		

LNA results: linearity







- ➤ Bias conditions: Id = 12.5mA with Vcas = 1.2V
- Simulations done using the available GaN HEMT model (external PDK)

➤ Many GaN foundries are not yet using standard CMC compact models -> opportunity for improvement with ASM-HEMT



ASM-HEMT

model overview

CMC GaN model



Available models:

	Empirical	Physics-based (new)	ANN-based
Models	Angelov-GaN, EEHEMT	ASM-HEMT MVSG	DynaFET
CMC Standard		✓	
Scalable, W/L/NF	✓ *	✓	✓ *
Does not require process info	✓	*	✓
Simple extraction flow	✓		
Good DC/S-par fit	✓	✓	✓
Large signal across different bias		✓	✓
Simulation robustness		✓	✓

Table from Keysight presentation comparing the existing model for GaN.
Slides presented on 2021.04.08

ASM-HEMT model overview



ASM-HEMT model composition:



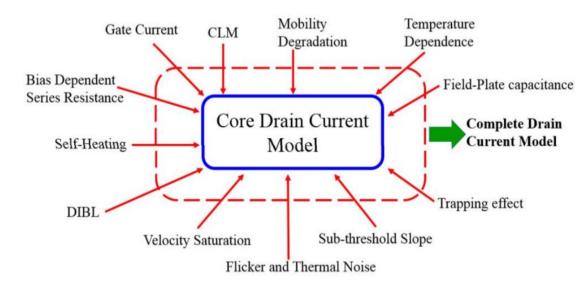


Figure from 32nd AK-Bipolar Workshop, slides presented on Nov. 14/15, 2019

Model features:

- Gate current.
- Mobility field dependence.
- Drain-induced barrier lowering.
- Subthreshold-slope degradation.
- Non-linear series resistance.
- Channel-length modulation.
- Velocity saturation effect.
- Self-heating effect.
- Temperature dependence.
- Trapping (by RC network sub-circuits).
- Flicker and thermal noise.

ASM-HEMT model overview



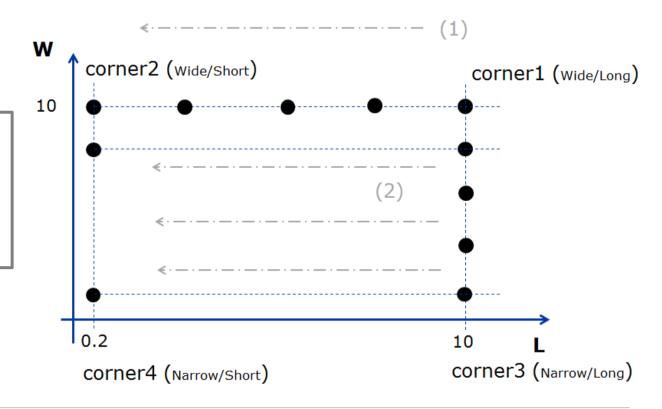
The model seems to be good ... is there something missing?



Yes, an accurate scaling modeling

At the industrial level, geometrical scaling is a highly significant step in modeling:

It is crucial for the model to accurately predict the behavior of the device when subjected to <u>length</u> and <u>width</u> scaling.



ASM-HEMT Geometry Scaling Development



W scaling results:

Sim Vs measurements for DC characterisitics- before scaling

Before DC Geometry Scaling implementation

By scaling rules implementation

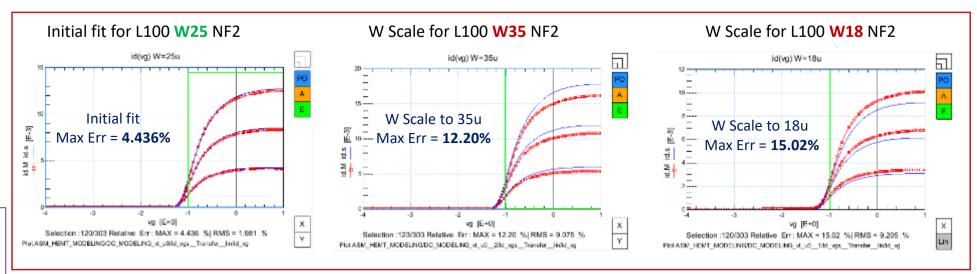
Example:

$$\mu_{eff} = \frac{\mathbf{U_{0s}}(T)}{1 + \mathbf{UAs}.E_{y,eff} + \mathbf{UBs}.E_{y,eff}^{2}}$$

• U_{0s} Scaling rule example:

$$\mathbf{U}_{0s} = \mathbf{U}_0(T) \cdot \left[\frac{\mathbf{W}_{EN}}{\mathbf{W}_{E}} \right]^{\text{UOVALEXP}}$$

After DC Geometry Scaling implementation



Sim Vs measurements for DC characterisitics- after scaling

Initial fit for L100 W25 NF2 W Scale for L100 W35 NF2 W Scale for L100 W18 NF2 Initial fit W Scale to 35u W Scale to 18u Max Err = **4.436%** Max Err = **5.03%** Max Err = **7.28**% M.D vg [E+0] va [E+0] Selection: 120/303 Relative Err: MAX = 4.436 % RMS = 1.981 Selection :123/303 Relative Err : MAX = 5.030 % RMS = 2.118 Selection: 120/303 Relative Err: MAX = 7.283 % RMS = 1.599 PlotASM HEMT MODELING/DC MODELING at utilid yes. Transfer. Invid.yo PlotASM HEMT MODELING/DC MODELING vt u0 1/id vgs Transfer linfid vg

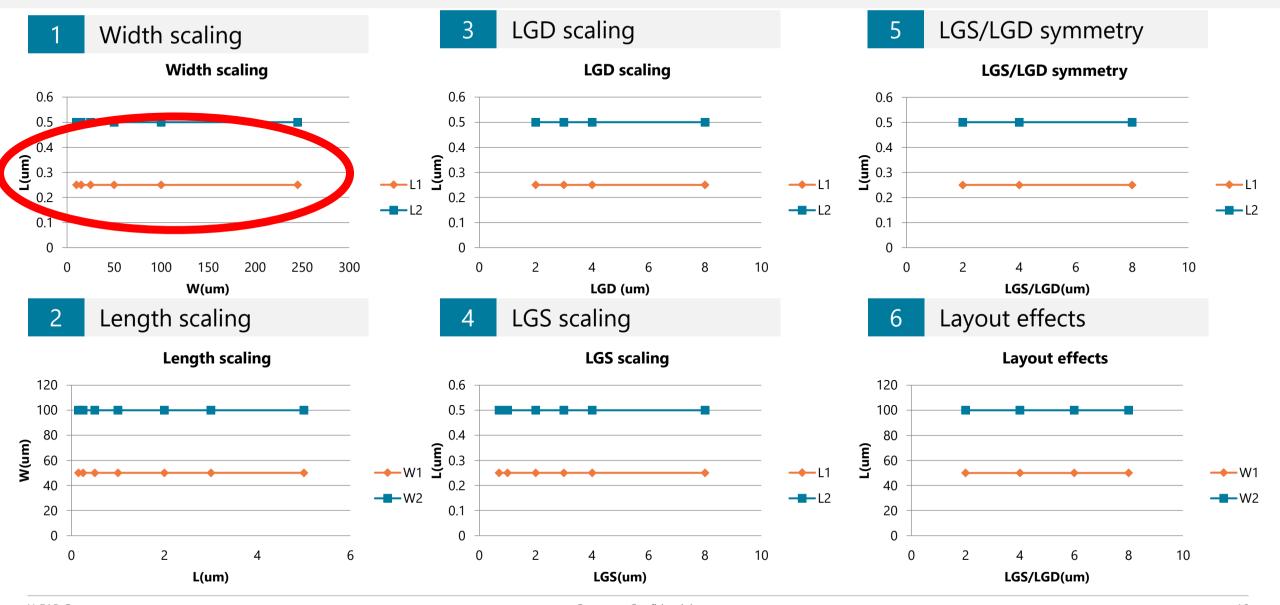


New test chip

(different GaN technology, different foundry)

New test chip (different GaN tech, different foundry)







Reference DUT extraction

Device geometry: L = 250nm; $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

17

DC extraction - linear conditions



1. Fitting the linear VD condition parameters:

Device geometry: $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

> Extract the parameters such: Cut-off Voltage, Sub-VOFF Slope parameters, low-field mobility and mobility vertical field dependence parameters.

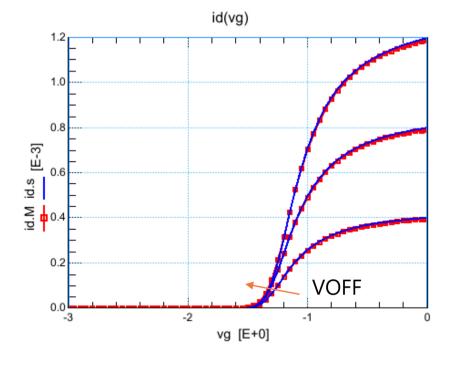
Transfer characteristics:

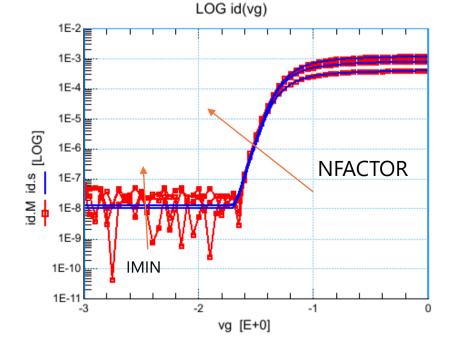
Measurement conditions:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150)mV

Observation:

 A very good agreement was obtained with id(vg) in linear and log scale.





DC extraction – linear conditions



2. Checking gm and gm2:

Transfer characteristics:

Device geometry: $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

Measurement conditions:

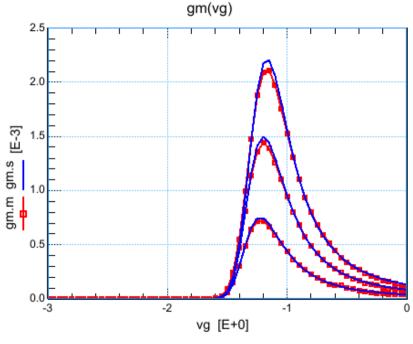
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150) mV

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\mathbf{U_0}(T)}{1 + \mathbf{UA}.E_{y,eff} + \mathbf{UB}.E_{y,eff}^2}$$

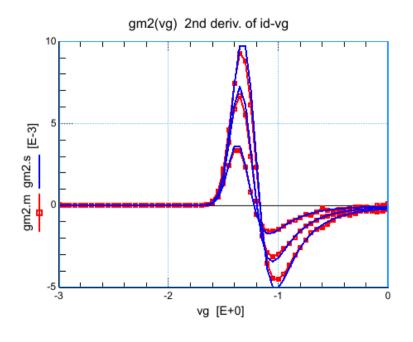


Observation:

A very good agreement was obtained with qm and qm2.



$$gm = \frac{\partial I_{DS}}{\partial V_{GS}}$$



$$gm_2 = \frac{\partial^2 I_{DS}}{\partial V_{GS}^2}$$

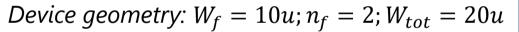
DC extraction – Saturation conditions

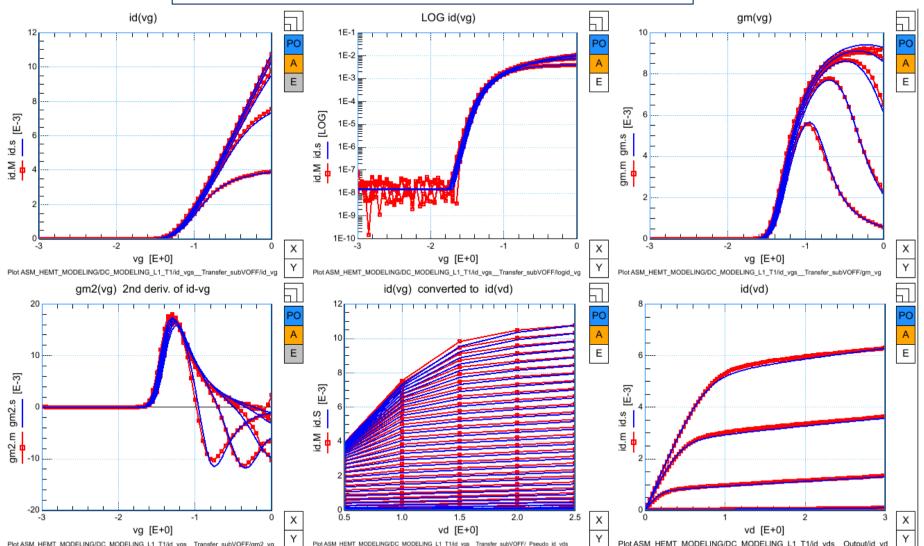


Transfer/Output characteristics:

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V
- \Box IDS VDS
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- VGS values = $-2 < V_{GS} < -0.5$







Reference DUT extraction

Capacitances results

CV extraction - VGoff



CGS/CGD/CDS:

Device geometry: $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

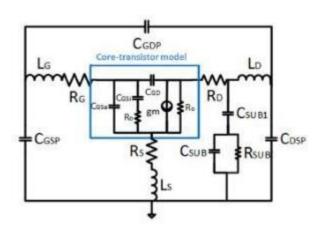
• The model already predicts the intrinsic region device capacitances via its core formulation

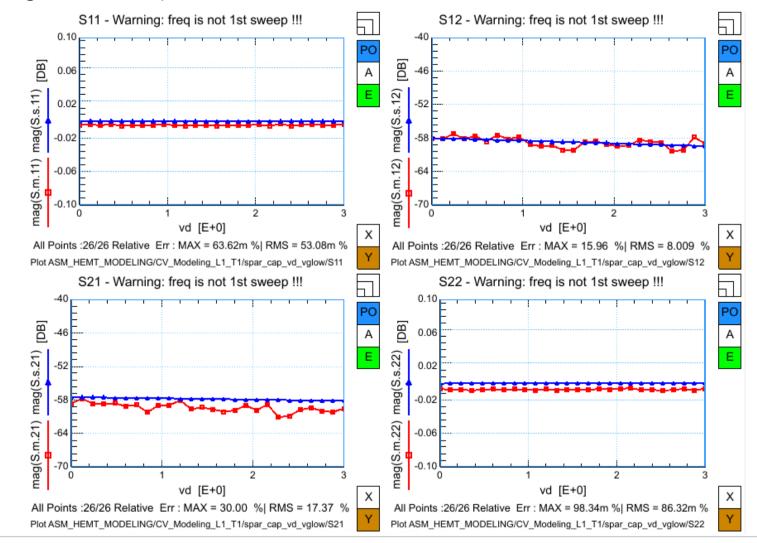
Measurement conditions:

- \Box S param measurements:
- VGS value = -2.4 V
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- Frequency = 100M

Observation:

 Very good agreement was obtained up to 3V of VDS.





CV extraction – VG Sweep – VD low



 $C_{GS}/C_{GD}/C_{DS}$ vs VG (for different VD values)

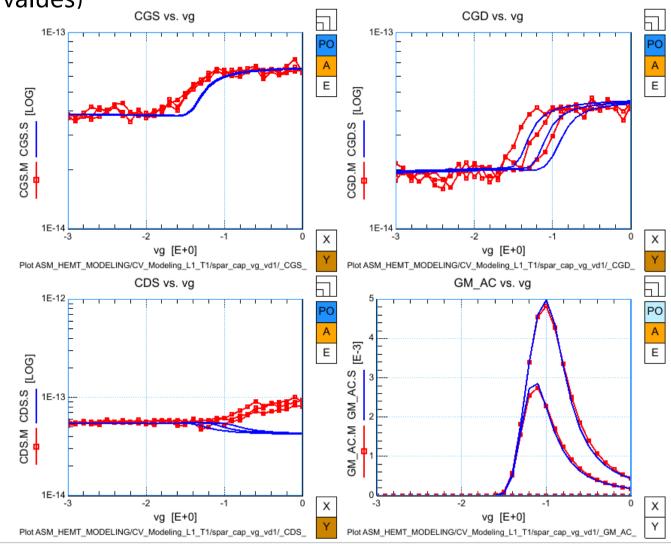
Device geometry: $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

Measurement conditions:

- \Box S param measurements:
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 400m$
- Frequency = 100M

Observation:

- Good agreement was obtained.
- Shift in V_{TH} between Cap/DC
- Incorrect C_{DS} behavior @ Onstate





Reference DUT extraction

S-parameters

SP extraction - Freq/VG/VD Sweep



$S_{11}/S_{12}/S_{21}/S_{22}$

Measurement conditions:

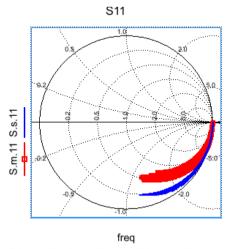
 \Box S – param measurements:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- Frequency = 100M < F < 25.1G

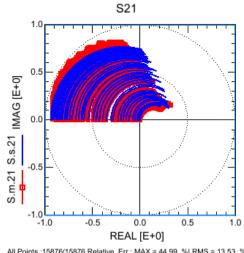
Observation:

- Very good agreement was obtained for \$12/\$22.
- Fairly agreement for S21.
- Poor fit for S22

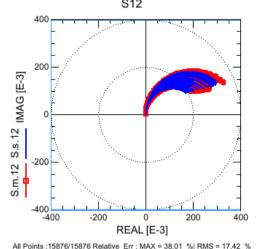
measurements performed up to 67 GHz



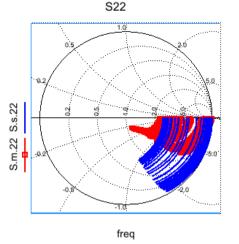
All Points :15876/15876 Relative Err : MAX = 27.77 % RMS = 11.10
PlotASM HEMT MODELING/SPAR MODELING L1 T1/Soar all free biases/S11



All Points:15876/15876 Relative Err: MAX = 44.99 % RMS = 13.53 % Piot ASM_HEMT_MODELING/SPAR_MODELING_L1_T1/Spar_all_freq_biases/S21



All Points:15876/15876 Relative Err: MAX = 38.01 % RMS = 17.42 % Plot ASM_HEMT_MODELING/SPAR_MODELING_L1_T1/Spar_all_freq_biases/S12



All Points :15876/15876 Relative Err : MAX = 74.93 % | RMS = 32.97 % |
PlotASM HEMT MODELING/SPAR MODELING L1 T1/Spar all freq biases/522

Device geometry: $W_f =$

10u; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

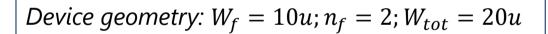
SP extraction – RF characteristics

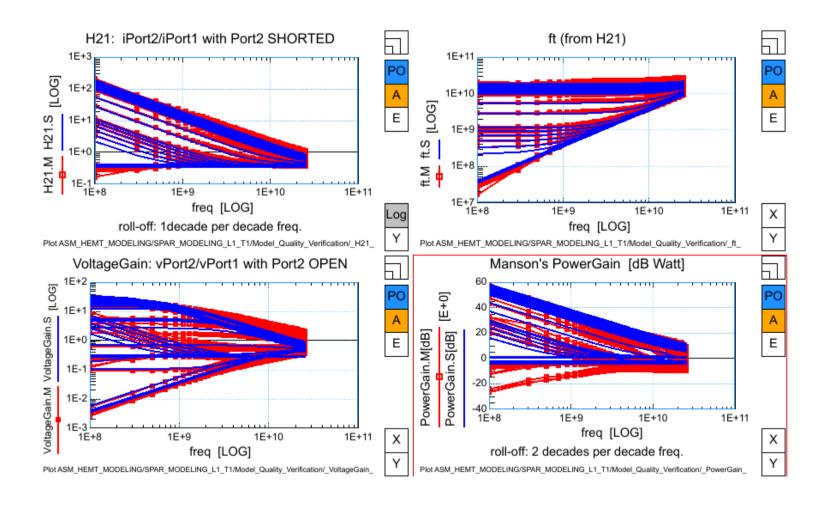


Measurement conditions:

- \Box S param measurements:
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- Frequency = 100M < F < 25.1G

$$Voltage\ Gain = \frac{v_{port_2}}{v_{port_1}} @i_{port_2} = 0$$
$$= G_{21} = \frac{1}{H_{21}} = \frac{g_m}{g_{ds}}$$







Width Scaling

DC Initial model



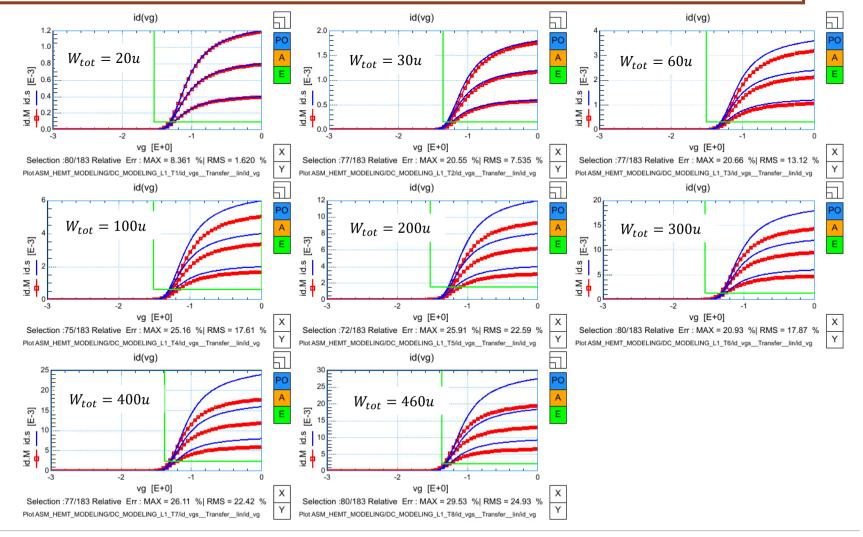
Transfer characteristics: Linear conditions

Measurement conditions:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150)mV

Observation:

 A discrepancy between measurements and simulations begins with an increase in the gate width.





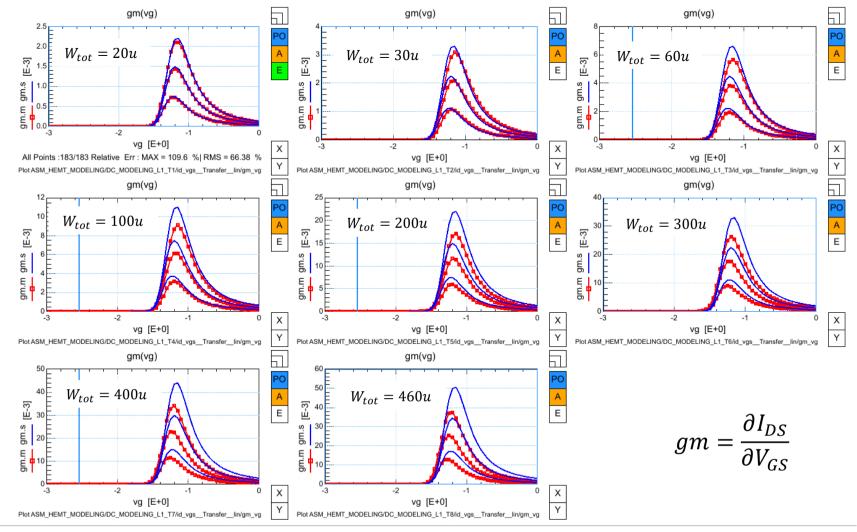
Transfer characteristics: Linear conditions

Measurement conditions:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150)mV

Observation:

 A discrepancy between measurements and simulations begins with an increase in the gate width.





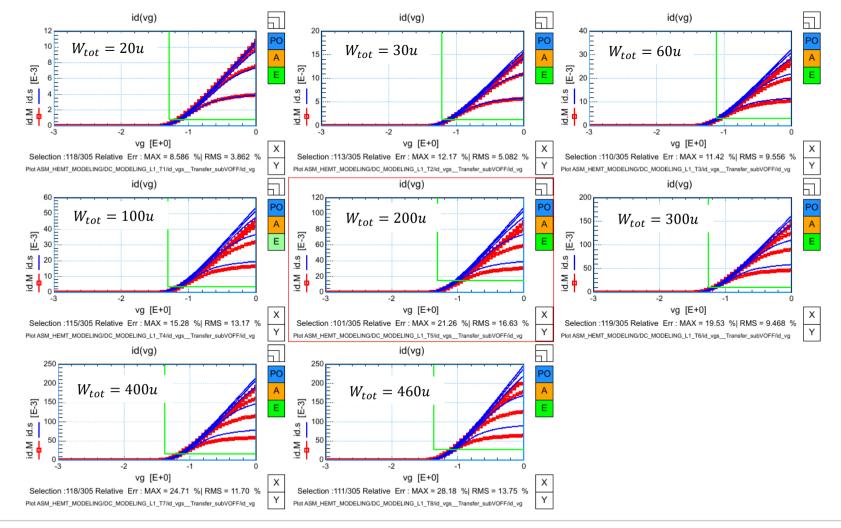
Transfer characteristics: Saturation conditions

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V

Observation:

 A discrepancy between measurements and simulations begins with an increase in the gate width.





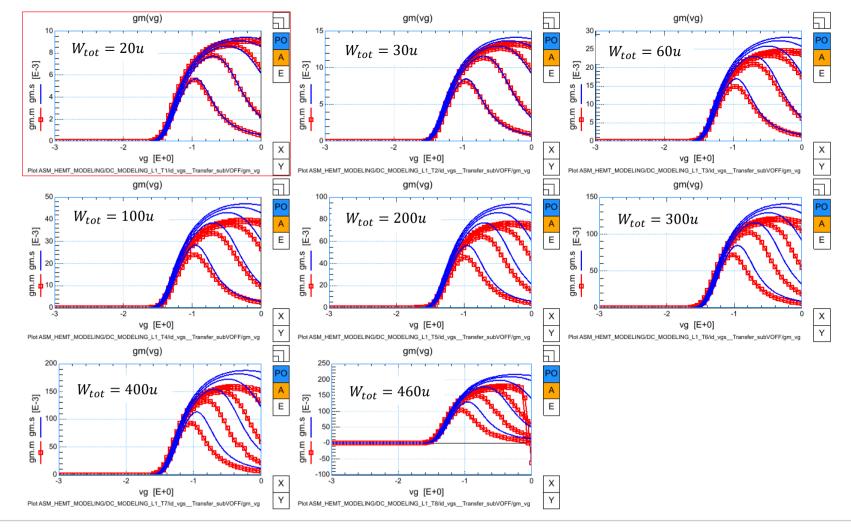
Transfer characteristics: Saturation conditions

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V

Observation:

 A discrepancy between measurements and simulations begins with an increase in the gate width.



Width Scaling - Output characteristics - Before Implementation



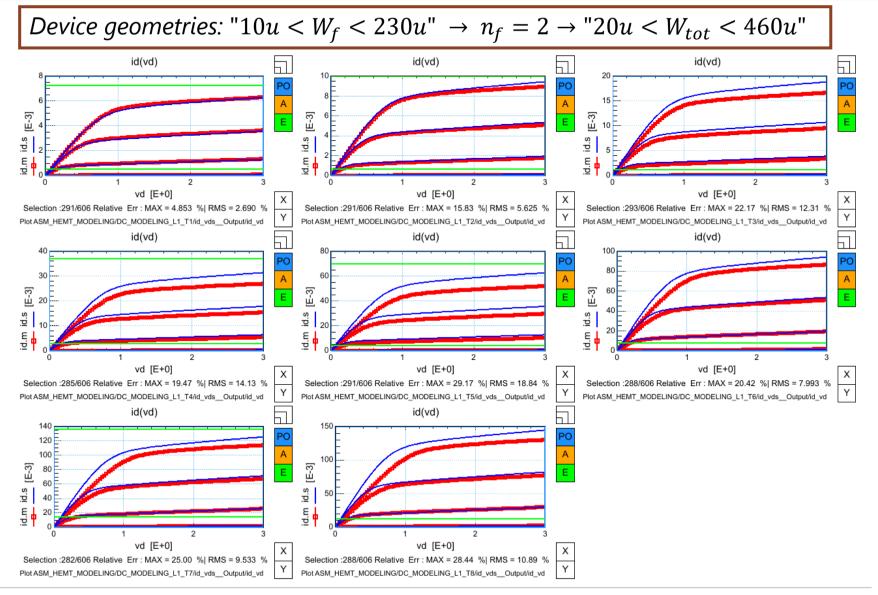
Output characteristics:

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V
- \Box IDS VDS
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- VGS values = $-2 < V_{GS} < -0.5$

Observation:

 A discrepancy between measurements and simulations begins with an increase in the gate width.





Scaling rules

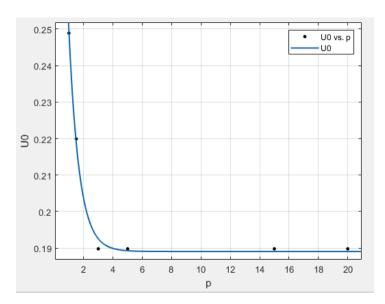
Development

Scaling rules development

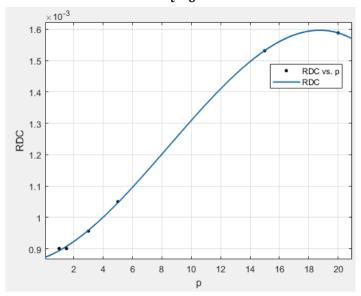


Scaling rules that depend on the form of variation of the model parameter:

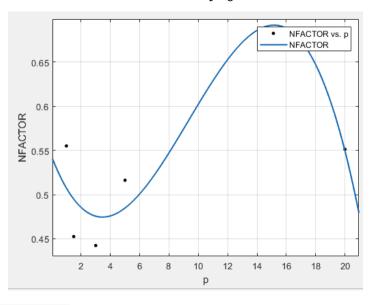
$$U_{O_S} = A. \exp\left(-B * \frac{w}{w_N}\right)^{\alpha}$$



$$R_{DC} = \sum_{i=0}^{3} a_i \left(\frac{w}{w_N}\right)^i$$



$$N_{factor} = \sum_{i=0}^{3} a_i \left(\frac{w}{w_N}\right)^i$$



Trying to reach high R^2

Table of Fits								
Fit na ▲	Data	Fit type	SSE	R-square	DFE	Adj R-sq	RMSE	# Coeff
NFACT	NFACTOR	poly3	0.0062	0.8428	2	0.6070	0.0556	4
RDC	RDC vs. p	poly3	1.1303e-10	0.9998	2	0.9994	7.5178e-06	4
■ U0	U0 vs. p	a*exp(-b*	1.0754e-05	0.9965	3	0.9942	0.0019	3
■ UA	UA vs. p	power2	2.0510e-17	0.4820	3	0.1367	2.6147e-09	3
■ UB	UB vs. p	poly3	4.3690e-33	0.8929	2	0.7321	4.6739e-17	4
■ VOFF	VOFF vs. p	poly2	1.9036e-04	0.7975	3	0.6625	0.0080	3

 $@w_N = 20 \mu m$

Verilog-A implementation



A new macros section has been introduced in the vacode.

```
////// List Of Geometry Scaling Parameters ////////
 MPRco( wN
 MPRoo( U0 C1
 MPRoo (
                                                      -inf
                                                                   .inf
                                                                                  Low field mobility C2 - Width Scaling" )
 MPRoo (
                                                      ,-inf
       rdc C2
                                                      -inf
                                                      -inf
                                                      -inf
        voff C1
                                                      -inf
                                                      ,-inf
                                                      .-inf
                                                      .-inf
                                                      inf
                                                      ,-inf
                                                      -inf
                                                      .-inf
                                                                   ,inf
 MPRoo( NFA C3
 MPRoof NEA C4
```

Updated model equations:

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\mathbf{U_0}(T)}{1 + \mathbf{UA}.E_{y,eff} + \mathbf{UB}.E_{y,eff}^2} \longrightarrow \mu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\mathbf{U_{0s}}(T)}{1 + \mathbf{UAs}.E_{y,eff} + \mathbf{UBs}.E_{y,eff}^2}$$

```
//////// Function for PSID Calculation - Width Scaling ////////
171 `define PSID S(Tdev,Tnom,epsilon,delta,beta,ALPHAN,ALPHAD,Vtv,Cch,U0val,ute,VSATval,at,Cq,psis,Vq0,ua,ub,l,Vds,GAMMA0Ival, GAMMA1Ival
172 mulf tdev,Vdeff,psid,w,wN,U0 C1,U0 C2,U0 C3,UA C1,UA C2,UA C3,UB C1,UB C2,UB C3,UB C4) \
173 U0val s = U0 C1*exp(-U0 C2*(w/wN))+U0 C3; \
174 mulf tdev = U0val s*pow((Tdev/Tnom), ute); \
175 vsat tdev = VSATval*pow((Tdev/Tnom),at); \
             = (Cg/epsilon)*abs(Vg0 - psis); \
176 t0
             = UA C1*pow((w/wN),UA C2)+UA C3; \
177 ua s
             = UB C1*pow((w/wN),3) + UB C2*pow((w/wN),2) + UB C3*(w/wN) + UB C4; \
178 ub s
179 mu eff
             = mulf tdev/(1.0 + ua s*(t0) + ub s*t0*t0); \
180 to
             = 2.0*vsat tdev/mu eff; \
             = 0.5*Vg0 + 0.5*sqrt(Vg0*Vg0 + 4.0*`ep psi*`ep psi); \
181 t1
             = t0*l*t1/(t0*l + t1); \
L82 Vdsat
```



Width Scaling

Results/DC

Width Scaling - Transfer characteristics - After Implementation

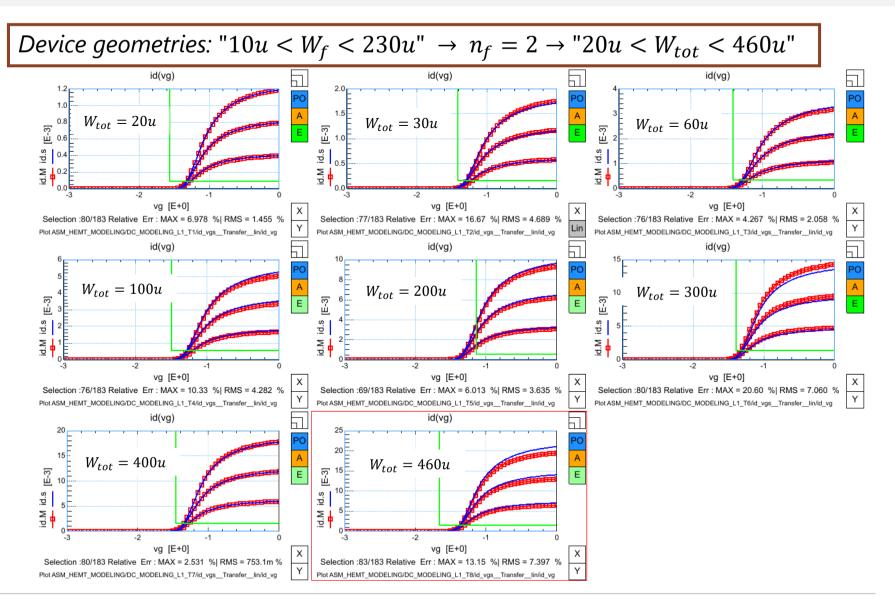


Transfer characteristics: Linear conditions

Measurement conditions:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150)mV

Observation:



Width Scaling – Transfer characteristics – After Implementation

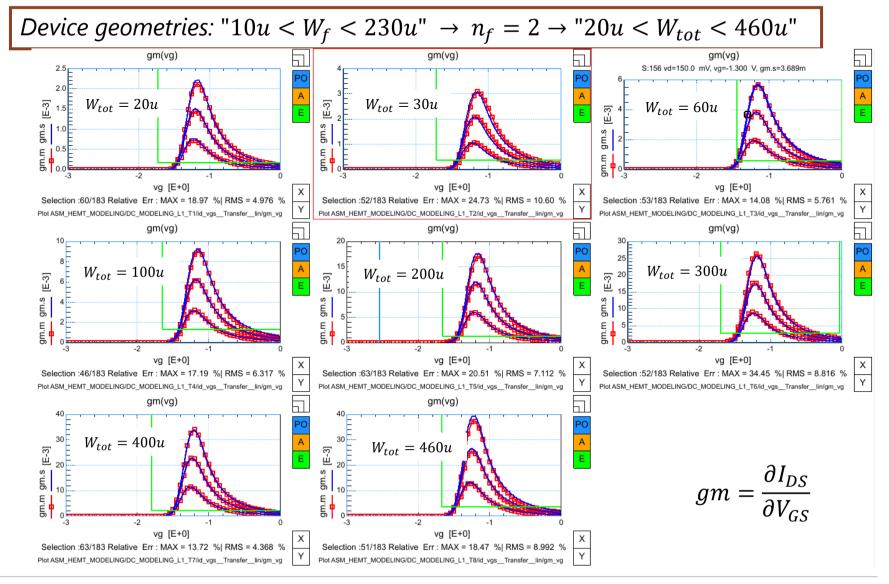


Transfer characteristics: Linear conditions

Measurement conditions:

- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (50,100,150)mV

Observation:



Width Scaling - Transfer characteristics - After Implementation

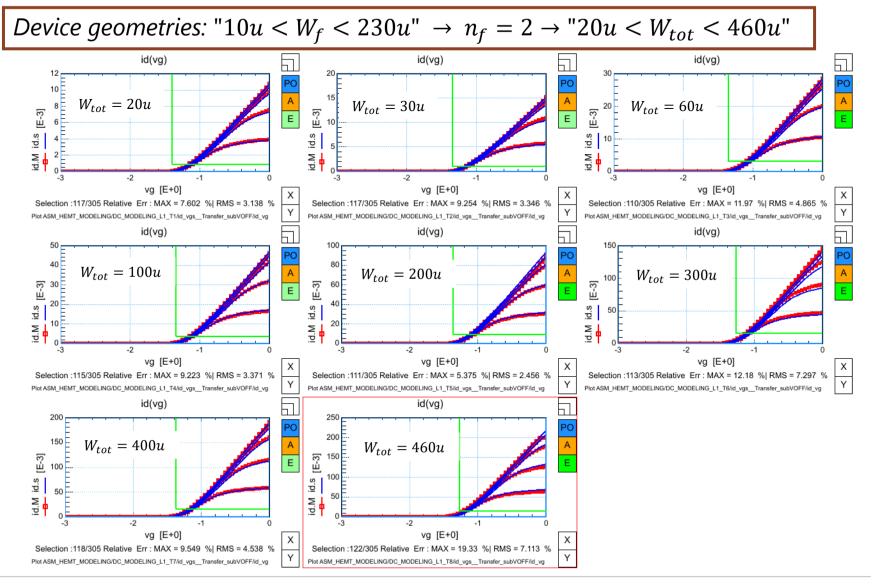


Transfer characteristics: Saturation conditions

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V

Observation:



Width Scaling - Transfer characteristics - After Implementation

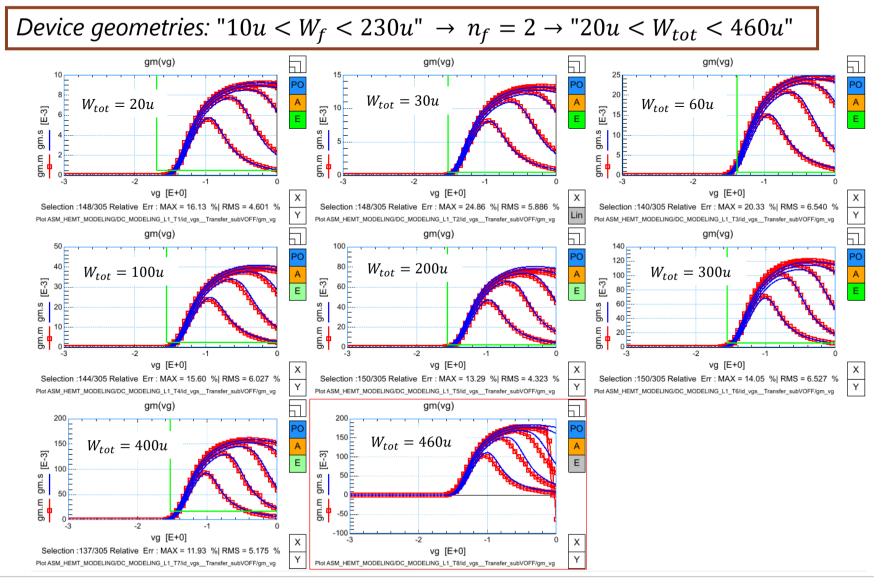


Transfer characteristics: Saturation conditions

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V

Observation:



Width Scaling - Output characteristics - After Implementation

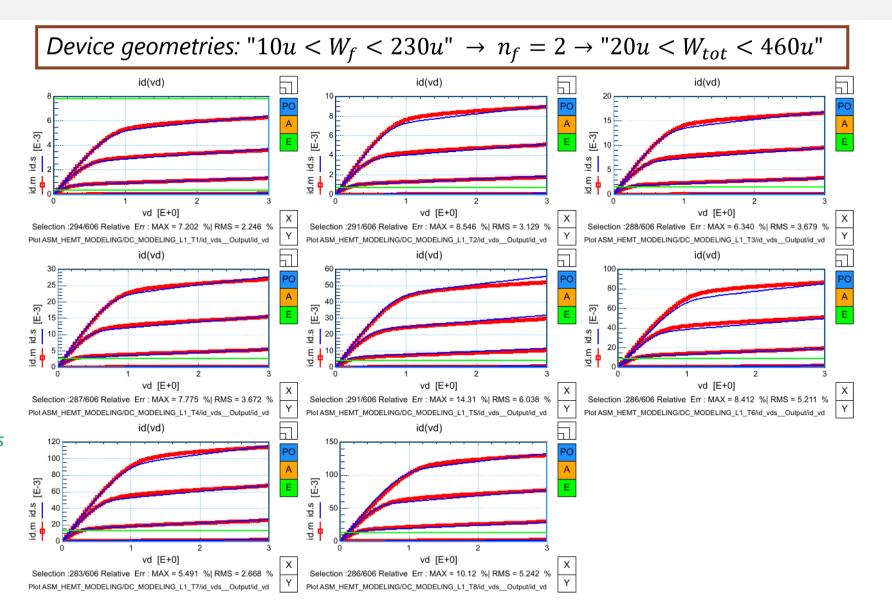


Output characteristics:

Measurement conditions:

- \Box ID VGS
- VGS range = $-3 < V_{GS} < 0$
- VDS values = (0.5,1,1.5,2,2.5)V
- \Box IDS VDS
- VDS range = $0 < V_{DS} < 3$
- VGS values = $-2 < V_{GS} < -0.5$

Observation:





on-going work

current model weaknesses; width Scaling development for the capacitances

Company Confidential 42

Model weaknesses: reference model vs W-scalable model

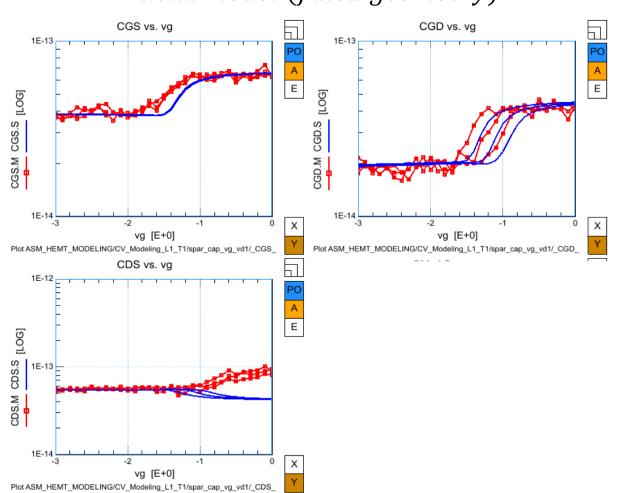


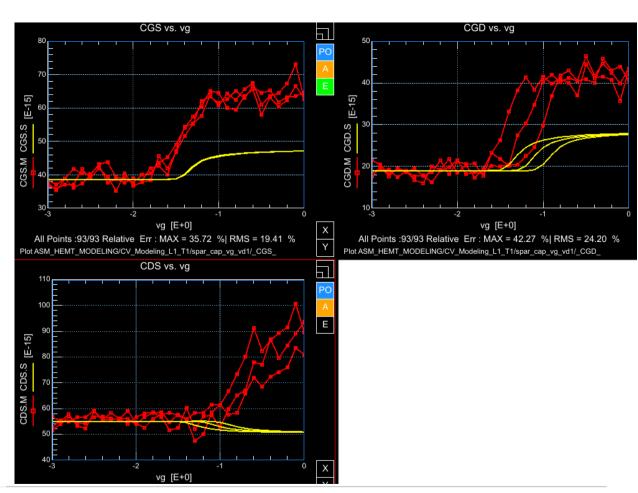
 $C_{GS}/C_{GD}/C_{DS}$ vs VG (for different VD values)

Device geometry: $W_f = 10u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 20u$

Initial model (fixed geometry)

DC W - scalable model





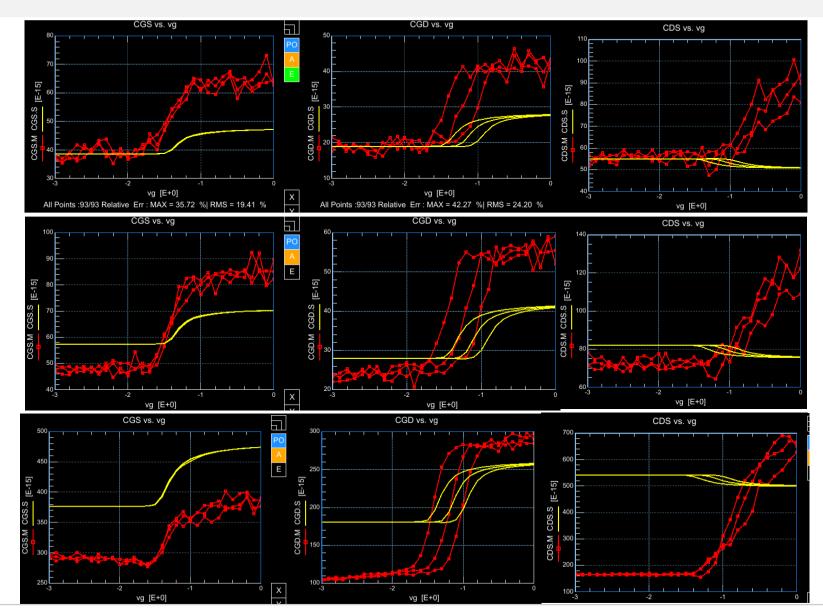
Model weaknesses: W-scaling of the capacitances



Device geometry: $W_f = 10u;$ $n_f = 2;$ $W_{tot} = 20u$

Device geometry: $W_f = 15u$; $n_f = 2$; $W_{tot} = 30u$

Device geometry: $W_f = 100u;$ $n_f = 2;$ $W_{tot} = 200u$





Width Scaling improvement - CV

Company Confidential 45

Summary of parameters used for W-scaling



- > Parameters used for DC W-scaling:
 - u0 : " Low field mobility"
 - ua: " Mobility Degradation coefficient first order"
 - ub : " Mobility Degradation coefficient second order"
 - rdc: " Drain Contact Resistance"
 - voff: "Cut-off voltage"
 - nfactor: "Sub-voff Slope parameters"
- > Parameters used for CV W-scaling:
 - cgso: "Gate-source overlap capacitance"
 - cgdo: "Gate-drain overlap capacitance"
 - cdso: "Cds capacitance parameter"
- > Examples:

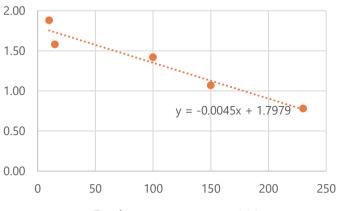
$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\mathbf{U_{0s}}(T)}{1 + \mathbf{UAs.} E_{y,eff} + \mathbf{UBs.} E_{y,eff}^2}$$

$$U_{O_S} = A. \exp\left(-B * \frac{w}{w_N}\right)^{\alpha}$$

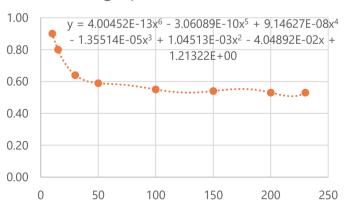
$$C_{gs} = C_{gs0} * C_{gs} * \frac{w}{w_N}$$

$$C_{gs0} = A * \left(\frac{w}{w_N}\right) + B$$



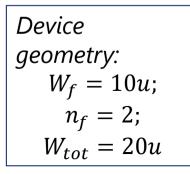


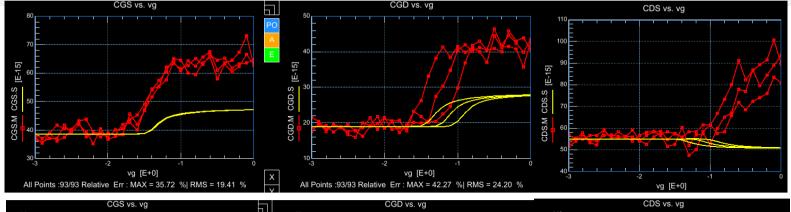
Cgd parameter vs W



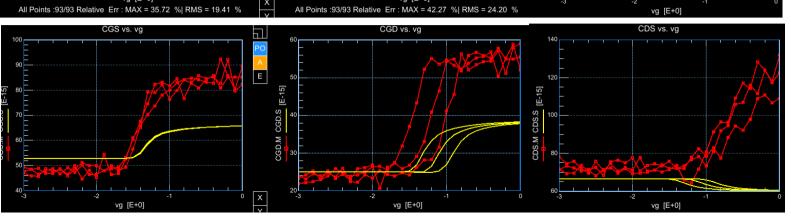
CV - VG Sweep - VD low --- Proposed CV scalable model - v1



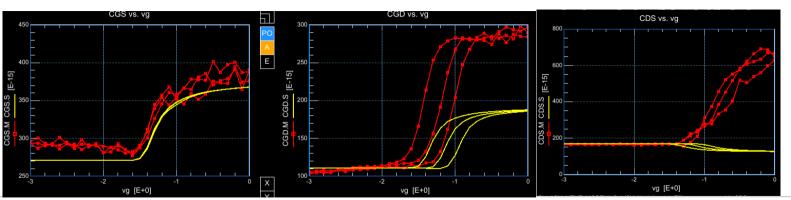




Device geometry: $W_f = 15u;$ $n_f = 2;$ $W_{tot} = 30u$

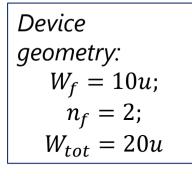


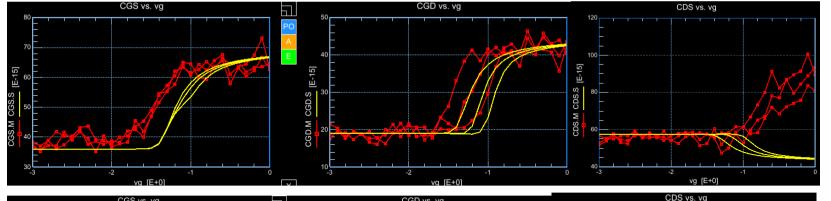
Device geometry: $W_f = 100u;$ $n_f = 2;$ $W_{tot} = 200u$



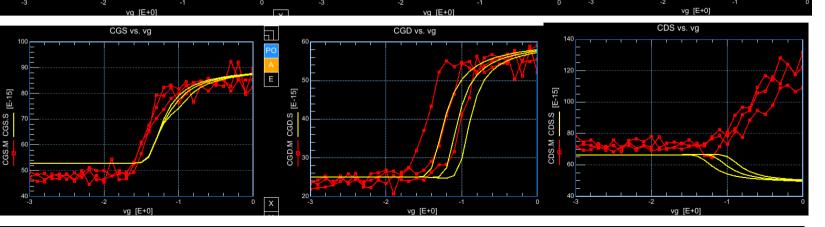
CV – VG Sweep – VD low --- Proposed CV scalable model - v2



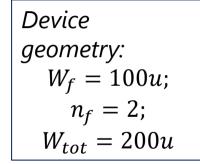


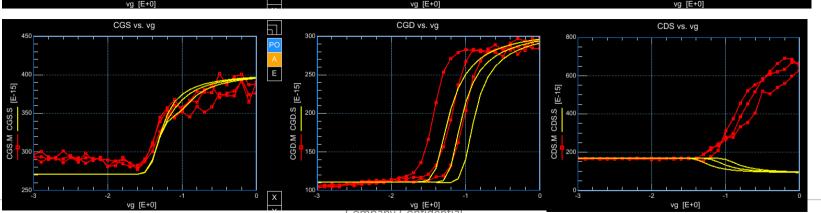


Device geometry: $W_f = 15u;$ $n_f = 2;$ $W_{tot} = 30u$



Process parameters needed to be corrected. (TBAR, EPSILON) Therefore, the DC curves are not longer fitting with this version of the model





X-FAB Group Getol Group Getol Group Getol Group Group

Conclusion



- > Physics-based models are necessary for mmW applications and plays a crucial role in industrial deployment.
- ASM-HEMT was tested on 2 different GaN technologies from 2 different foundries, and it proved to be a good candidate for RF-GaN (single geometry). There are many publications available showing a good fitting for a single geometry (but not for a set of geometries!)
- > The DC scaling rules have been effectively integrated at the Verilog-A level of the ASM-HEMT CMC model.
- > Initial validation of width scaling has been successfully conducted using DC measurements.
- > Some weaknesses were identified in the CV/RF characteristics in on-state.
 - > Reason: a few process parameters were set incorrectly at the beginning of this work due to lack of information about the technology.

Next steps



- It is necessary to restart from scratch, following the steps below:
 - Setting the correct process parameters from the beginning.
 - The reference geometry for the initial ASM model parameter extraction should be one of the biggest geometries (narrow channel effects)
 - The scaling parameters should be extracted while looking simultaneously at the DC and CV/RF characteristics.

- Other axes for improvement:
 - Self-heating effect (the DC characterization was done up to Vd=3V and Vg=0)
 - Trapping effect
 - Large signal measurement/simulations
 - Noise

xfab

Thank you.











www.xfab.com