



Application Note

SiC MOSFET Simulation

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Abstract--A technology template for the device simulation of a 3.3 kV Silicon Carbide (SiC) MOS power transistor using the Crosslight NOVATCAD suite of simulation tools is provided. The example illustrates the use of the process simulation tool CSUPREM to generate the basic mesh, epitaxial layer, and gate structure. This structure is imported into the device simulator APSYS in which the doped layers are added using analytic approximations. A methodology to simulate the SiC MOS electrical characteristics including the drain transfer curves, gate transfer curves, on-state resistance, and breakdown voltage is demonstrated. Simulation results are displayed and analyzed using the CrosslightView plotting tool.

I. INTRODUCTION

Silicon carbide has become a leading candidate to replace silicon in high voltage power switching applications based on its superior material properties including high breakdown field, high thermal conductivity and high electron saturation velocity. In order to properly understand and optimize these devices fast and accurate TCAD modeling is essential. This application note presents template files useful for the analysis, design and optimization of SiC MOSFET devices using the Crosslight NOVATCAD framework. CSUPREM is used to generate the simulation grid, epitaxial layer and gate structure. This is imported into the APSYS device simulator where the doped regions are introduced analytically. Template files for simulating device I_d - V_g , I_d - V_d , and drain breakdown characteristics (BV_{dss}) are provided.

Fig. 1. shows schematic cross-section of the unit cell of a typical 3.3 kV SiC MOSFET [1]. The device is formed on a 30 μm thick n-type epitaxial drift layer with a doping concentration of $3 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The channel length is assumed to be 1.0 μm and the width of the JFET region is 1.5 μm . The total cell pitch is 5.5 μm . The gate oxide is 50 nm thick while the gate contact is formed from n+ doped polysilicon.

The simulation structure is shown in Fig. 2. Because of symmetry only the half-cell is simulated to minimize node count and run time.

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The p-well region is approximated as a two-step Gaussian profile. The shallower profile sets the surface dopant concentration of approximately $2 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and thus determines the threshold voltage. The deeper profile is more highly doped and serves to prevent punch-through from the drain-to-source under high-voltage operation. The total well depth is 1.0 μm . Shallower, higher concentration profiles form the n+ source and p+ body tie regions.

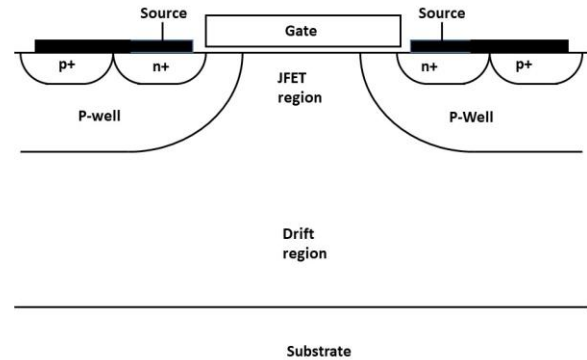


Fig. 1 Schematic Cross Section of SiC MOSFET

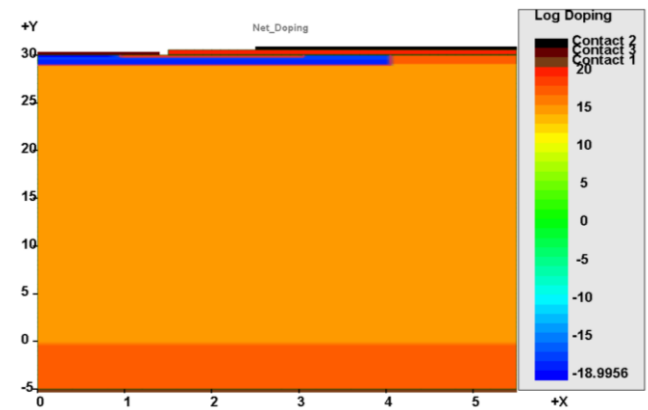


Fig. 2 Simulation Cross Section

II. STRUCTURE GENERATION

A. Initial set-up

CSUPREM is used as a convenient method to define the material regions, generate the simulation grid and specify the epitaxial layer doping. Minimal process simulation is actually performed since the well and source regions are defined analytically in the APSYS tool. The

meshing strategy implements a coarse mesh deep in the structure with much finer spacings near the surface and at the edge of the p-well where the highest electric fields occur. This is easily accomplished using the `RATIO` command in the initial mesh setup. This example employs approximately 5000 mesh points which provides a good compromise between required accuracy and sufficiently fast run time. The CSUPREM input file is provided in Appendix A.

B. Physical model selection

The most important physical models necessary for accurate simulation of SiC MOSFET devices are bulk mobility, inversion layer mobility, and impact ionization. These models have been discussed in detail in the literature [2-3].

The bulk mobility model is based on a modified Arora formulation to capture both impurity and temperature dependence.

$$\mu_n = \mu_{min} + \frac{\mu_d}{1 + (\frac{N_t}{N_0})^a} \quad (1)$$

The electron mobility temperature dependence is modeled as

$$\mu(T) = \mu_{300} \left(\frac{T}{300} \right)^{-2.4} \quad (2)$$

In (1) $\mu_d = 791 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{sec}$, $\mu_{min} = 33 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{sec}$, $N_0 = 1.94 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $a = 0.61$ and T is the Kelvin temperature. The mobility coefficients are defined for the x-direction, which is parallel to the wafer surface. These are defined using the `low_field_mobility` statement in APSYS as illustrated below.

```
low_field_mobility_model
el_doping_dependence_model=arora
&&
el_ar_d=0.0791 el_ar_umin=0.0033
el_ar_n=1.94E+23 el_ar_a=0.61
```

The anisotropy in the low field mobility is captured as

$$\mu_y = 1.2\mu_x \quad (3)$$

The inversion layer mobility in SiC is determined

by a number of scattering mechanisms the most important of which are the surface phonon scattering and the surface roughness scattering due to structural disorder at the SiC/SiO₂ interface. These effects are captured in APSYS using the Lombardi mobility model as illustrated below.

```
mobility_xy
elec_field_model=lombardi
hole_field_model=lombardi &&
elec_lombardi_b=1.00E+06
elec_lombardi_alpha=1.746E+05 &&
elec_lombardi_beta=0.043
elec_lombardi_delta=3.0E+14 &&
dir=y factor_elec=1.2 mater=1
```

The model coefficients are calibrated to the measured data but are similar to those presented by Kimoto and Cooper [4].

Impact ionization calculations use Selberher's formulation of the Chynoweth model [5]

$$\alpha_{n,p} = \alpha_{n,p}^{\infty} e^{-\left(\frac{F_n}{F}\right)^{\kappa}} \quad (4)$$

The ionization coefficients are taken from Loh et. al. [6]

III. SiC SIMULATION IN NOVATCAD

A. Forward I-V simulation

The SiC MOSFET device structure generated with the CSUPREM export statement is the input structure for the device simulations. The `load_mesh` statement is used to enter the device structure into APSYS while the doping statements generate the P-well, source, body tie and JFET regions. The subsequent `suprem_to_apsys_material` command maps the CSUPREM materials into the APSYS materials. `suprem_mater` is the original material number in the CSUPREM file, which by default defines 4H-SiC as material 26. `apsys_mater` is the corresponding material number in APSYS. The `load_macro` statements are used to describe the properties of the various materials used in the structure as defined in the materials database. The `suprem_contact` statements are used to

define the electrodes on the mesh imported from CSUPREM.

The `interface` statement is used to specify the oxide charge, in units of $1/\text{m}^2$. The location of the interface must correspond to the physical interface between the gate oxide and the SiC active layer. The carrier mobilities are set by the `low_field_mobility` and `mobility_xy` statements described previously.

Fig. 3 illustrates the simulated forward Id-Vd characteristics for the SiC MOSFET of Fig. 2. The Id-Vg characteristics are shown in Fig. 4. The data show a threshold voltage of 6.3 V. The simulated on-state resistance at $V_g=15$ V is 14.5 mohm-cm^2 which is typical of commercial 3.3 kV rated SiC MOSFETs [1]. The simulation data include the effect of a lumped resistance equal to the actual substrate resistance.

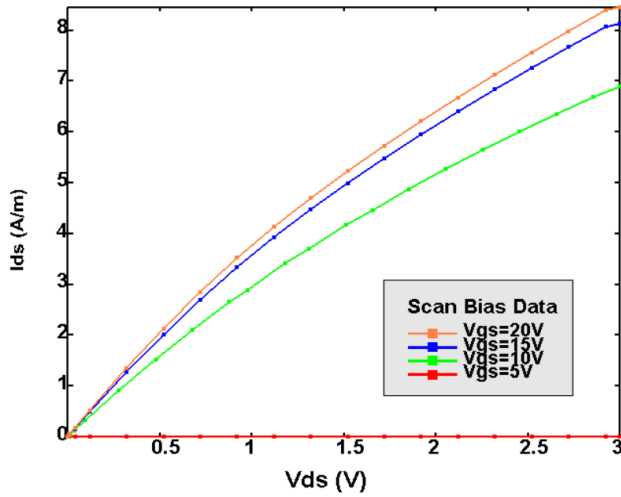


Fig. 3 Id-Vd Simulation Vgsmax=20V, 5V increments

A complete listing of the APSYS input file for the Id-Vd simulations is given in appendix B. Appendix C presents the Id-Vg input file.

b.) Reverse Simulations

The APSYS input file for the reverse simulations is provided in Appendix D. A key issue in the reverse simulation of wide-bandgap devices is the potential problem of convergence due to

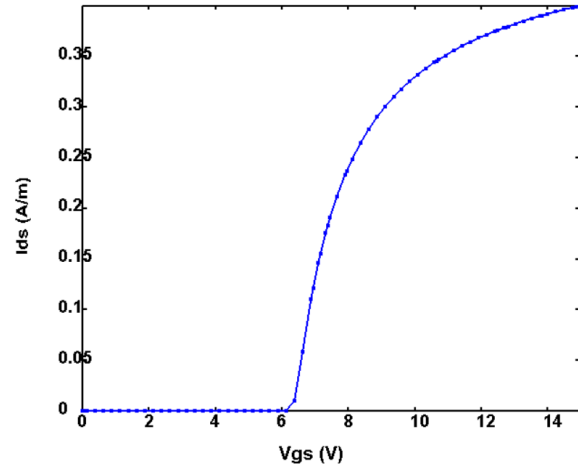


Fig. 4 Id-Vg Simulation Vds=0.1V,

the very low equilibrium carrier densities. The `set_minority_carrier` statement is used to artificially increase the minority carrier density thus alleviating this problem. The I-V characteristics are computed using the scan statements. Initially the drain voltage is swept until a specified avalanche current is reached as defined by the `auto_finish` and `auto_until` statements. After this the simulation switches to a current boundary condition to allow the rest of the I-V curve computed.

Accurate simulation of breakdown voltage requires proper choice of the impact ionization model and its associated parameters. NOVATCAD provides a number of different models commonly found in the literature to allow the user flexibility to choose the most appropriate model for a given simulation and to provide properly calibrated input parameters. The well-known Chynoweth model with the appropriate input parameters described previously is specified by the `impact_chynoweth` statement. The simulated reverse I-V characteristics are shown in Fig. 5. The simulated breakdown voltage is 4.0 kV in good agreement with the measured value from [1].

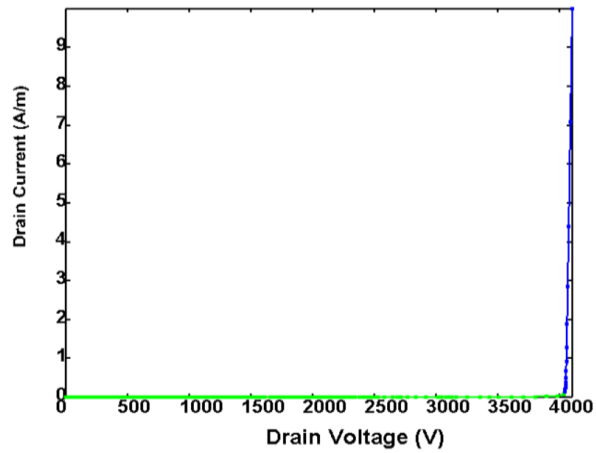


Fig. 5 BVdss Simulation

References

- [1] K. Hamada, S. Hino, and T. Kitani, "Low On-Resistance SiC MOSFET with a 3.3 kV Blocking Voltage", *Mitsubishi Electric Advance*, Vol 149, pp 14-17, March 2015.
- [2] T. Hatakeyama, K. Fukuda, and H. Okumura, "Physical Models for SiC and Their Application to Device Simulations of SiC Insulated-Gate Bipolar Transistors", *IEEE Trans Electron Devices*, vol. 60, no. 2, pp. 613-621, Feb. 2013.
- [3] N. D. Arora, J. R. Hauser, and D. J. Roulston, "Electron and hole mobilities in silicon as a function of concentration and temperature", *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 29, no. 2, pp. 292-295, February 1982.
- [4] T. Kimoto and J. Cooper, "Fundamentals of Silicon Carbide Technology, Growth Characterization, Devices and Applications", *Wiley-IEEE Press*, pp. 329-350, 2014.
- [5] S. Selberher, *Analysis and Simulation of Semiconductor Devices* Springer-Verlag, 1984.
- [6] W.K. Loh et.al., "Ionization coefficients in 4H-SiC", *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 55, no 8, pp. 1984-1989, August 2008.

Appendix A: CSUPREM Input File

```
#####
#
#   Grid structure
#
#####

line x loc=    0.0      spacing=  0.1      tag=lft
line x loc=    5.5      spacing=  0.1      tag=rht

line y loc=    0.0      spacing=  0.5      tag=top
line y loc=    5.0      spacing=  0.5      tag=bot

eliminate y.direction xlo=0 xhi=10 ylo=1 yhi=5 ntimes=2
option  auto.mesh.implant=f

#####
#
#   Define structure as SiC
#
#####

region  4H-SiC xlo=lft xhi=rht ylo=top yhi=bot
bound exposed xlo=lft xhi=rht ylo=top yhi=top
bound backside xlo=lft xhi=rht ylo=bot yhi=bot

#####
#
#   Initialize substrate
#
#####

init phosphorus conc=1.e18

#####
#
#   SiC epi layer
#
#####

deposit 4H-SiC thick=20 meshlayer=40 phosphorus conc=3e15
deposit 4H-SiC thick=9.5 meshlayer=25 phosphorus conc=3e15
ratio.layer=0.8
```

```
deposit 4H-SiC thick=0.5 meshlayer=10 phosphorus conc=3e15
diffuse time=1 temp=900 nitrogen
```

```
#####
#
#   Deposit gate oxide
#
#####
```

```
deposit oxide thick=0.05 divisions=5
```

```
#####
#
#   Deposit and pattern gate
#
#####
```

```
deposit poly thick=0.5 divisions=5 phosphorus conc=1E20
etch poly left p1.x=1.5
```

```
#####
#
#   Etch source region contacts
#
#####
```

```
etch oxide left p1.x=1.5
```

```
#####
#
#   Set activation and save final structure
#
#####
```

```
activation.mode phosphorus fraction=1 force.activation=t
activation.mode boron fraction=0.65 force.activation=t
```

```
struct outf=Suprem_SiC_MOS.str
```

```
export outf=SiC_MOS.aps xpsize=0.001
```

```
quit
```

Appendix B: SiC MOSFET Id-Vd Simulation Input File

[illegible]


```
$  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
low_field_mobility_model el_doping_dependence_model=arora &&  
el_ar_d=0.0791 el_ar_umin=0.0033 el_ar_n=1.94E+23 el_ar_a=0.61  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
$ Set the channel mobility parameters  
$ Use optimized Lombardi coefficients based on Kimoto and Cooper  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
mobility_xy elec_field_model=lombardi hole_field_model=lombardi &&  
elec_lombardi_b=1.00E+06 elec_lombardi_alpha=2.2E+05 &&  
elec_lombardi_beta=0.043 elec_lombardi_delta=8.0E+14 &&  
dir=y factor_elec=1.2 mater=1  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
$ Define the oxide fixed charge  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$  
  
interface model=charge within_y=(29.9, 30.1) within_x=(1.5, 5.5) &&  
fix_charge=1e14  
  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$$  
$  
$ Equilibrium solution  
$  
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$  
$$$  
  
newton_par damping_step=5. max_iter=150 print_flag=3 &&  
var_tol=0.1 res_tol=0.1  
equilibrium
```


[illegible]

Appendix D: SiC MOSFET BVdss Simulation Input File

[illegible]


```
$ Old Silvaco defaults
$impact_chynoweth mater = 1 hole_setnum = 1 &&
$   hole_set1 = [5.18e+08,1.4e+09,1.] &&
$   elec_setnum = 1 elec_set1 = [1.660e+08,1.27e+09,1.]

$ Loh/GE Coefficinets
impact_chynoweth mater = 1 hole_setnum = 1 &&
    hole_set1 = [3.51e+08,1.03e+09,1.09] &&
    elec_setnum = 1 elec_set1 = [2.78e+08,1.05e+09,1.37]

$ From Hatakeyama's paper a axis coefficients
$impact_chynoweth mater = 1 hole_setnum = 1 &&
$   hole_set1 = [2.96E+09,1.6E+09,1.] &&
$   elec_setnum = 1 elec_set1 = [2.1e9,1.7E+09,1.]

$ From Hatakeyama's paper C axis coefficients
$impact_chynoweth mater = 1 hole_setnum = 1 &&
$   hole_set1 = [3.41e+10,2.5E+09,1.] &&
$   elec_setnum = 1 elec_set1 = [1.76e+10,3.3E+09,1.]

$impact_lackner elec_a_coef=2.10E+09 elec_critical_field=1.7E+09 &&
$               hole_a_coef=2.96e+09 hole_critical_field=1.6E+09

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
$
$ Equilibrium solution
$
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

newton_par damping_step=5. max_iter=150 &&
var_tol=0.1 res_tol=0.1
$
equilibrium
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
$
$ Reverse Simulation
$
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

newton_par damping_step=5. &&
    var_tol=0.01 res_tol=0.01 change_variable=no

scan var=voltage_1 value_to=5000 &&
    init_step=0.01 max_step=100 min_step=1e-8 &&
    auto_finish=current 1 auto until=0.1 auto condition=above
```

```
scan var=current_1 value_to=10  &&  
  init_step=1e-1 min_step=1.e-10 max_step=1.e4
```

```
end
```