

Enabling Circuits and Technologies for Addressing Some of the 21st Century's Hard Energy Challenges with Wide Bandgap Semiconductors and Devices

Dong Ji, Burcu Ecran, Mohammad Malakoutin, Siwei Li, Chenhao Ren, Maliha Noshin, Rafael P. Martinez, Jaeyi Chun, Rohith Soman, Yingying Li, Shreyas Muralidharan & <u>Srabanti Chowdhury</u>

Acknowledgement: DOD (ONR, DARPA, SRC, ARL) and DOE (ARPA-E), Industry (Keysight@SYSTEMX-Stanford, Form factor, Bits and Watts @Stanford,



Alumni : Shirong Zhao, Saptarshi Mandal, Maitreya Dutta, Wenwen Li,, Jiyani Gao, Zheng Xu, Saba Rajabi, Matthew Laurent, Joseph Brown, Dong Ji, Mahadeva Bhat

*Intel, Alpha-Omega, Apple, Skyworks, Global Communication SC, GigaDevice, Northorp Grumman

A vertically integrated approach to understand the potential of WBG materials



Power conversion is ubiquitous

21st century electronics: Enable Electrification

More Electricity is Supplied by Electronic Sources

Most of Electricity is Consumed by Electronic Loads



Residential/Commercial





Energy Storage

-Lab@Stanford





Adapted from Prof. Dushan Boroyevich's talk (Virginia Tech.)



- Efficiency
- Weight & Size
- Reliability & Lifetime
- Thermal Management
- Power Management
- Subsystem Interactions
- Power Quality
- EMI
- Cost
- Maximize Power Density

The role of a semiconductor device

The integral part of a power converter is a "Switch"





Transportation

BG-Lab@Stanford



Device platforms to support 100's W to 100's MW efficiently







\$40B economic cost318 coal power plant-equivalent>300TWh annual consumption of entireWest coast

Zooming into one of the current application : EV

Efficiency, Weight & Size, Reliability & Lifetime, Thermal Management, Power Management, Cost



Identifying technology voids : High frequency power switching





How can power density increase?



BG-Lab@Stanford

Exhausting all circuit-based innovations -with topologies and tactics

Adding new material Adding new device platform

Power Devices: Dynamic Loss Argument





Today, repeatable bulk mobility over 1200cm²/V.s is achieved in Univ. research lab and industry

/BG-Lab@Stanford

D. Ji and S. Chowdhury, "Design of 1.2 kV Power Switches With Low RON Using GaN-Based Vertical JFET," IEEE Trans. Electron Devices , vol. 62, no. 8, pp. 2571–2578, 2015

WBG lab activities : Creating a GaN platform



BG-Lab@Stanford

Vertical GaN FETs for >10KW /1kV applications





Stanford ENGINEERING

GaN CAVET

Higher drift layer mobility (>1200cm²/Vs) + Higher Channel mobility (>185cm²/Vs) distinguishes GaN from SiC

Avalanche based devices



Polarization doped high mobility channel in HEMT





- Unlike inversion channel in MOSFET, HEMTs rely on the polarization difference at the AlGaN-GaN interface to induce 2DEG
- No scattering from the positive charge due to the periodic nature
- Electron mobility of 2200cm²/Vs in channel

Power HEMTs: Field plates increase breakdown voltage

	FP2 FP1					
S	G		D			
	AlGaN					
	2DEG GaN	- 44 4				
SiC, Sapphire						

	GaN	InN	AIN
Bandgap (eV)	3.4 eV	0.6 eV	6.4 eV
Mobility (cm ² V ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	2200	>3000	300
Breakdown Field (MV/cm)	3	Low	11
Effective Mass	0.21 m _e	0.09 m _e	0.4 m _e
Velocity (cm/s)	2 x 10 ⁷	2 x 10 ⁸	-
Polarization	High charge, carrier confinement		







Three big innovations made possible by GaN transistors

Low switching loss allows constant efficiency over all loads (hard-switched topologies)



Highest delivered efficiency: 99.2% record demonstrated

Bidirectional nature allows diode free bridges



Diode-free operation

High frequency devices enables compact magnetics Measured performance vs. frequency (a) 300V & 430W Hot 25 IGBT+Si diode 20 IGBT+SiC (M) 15 10 diode 🔮 GaN diode-less 300k Cool 150k 200k 250k 50k 100k

Frequency (Hz)

High efficiency compact power conversion units

transphorm
Stanford ENGINEERING



Vertical GaN FETs: Selected few (key) device results



Trench MOSFETs: 1.4kV/2.2mΩ.cm²

Drift layer doping <1E15/cm³

V_{DS} (V)

Channel mobility : highest reported to date 185cm²/Vs ٠



BG-Lab@Stanford

Stanford ENGINEERING

Source

n-GaN

Why go for vertical when we have HEMTs

: resistivity argument



INFLUENCES OF MOBILITY ON $\mathrm{V}_{\mathtt{BR}}$ And $\mathrm{R}_{\mathtt{ew}}$

	Mobility (cm²/vs)	V _{BR} of VC- VJFET (V)	R _{en} of VC- VJFET (mΩ•cm²)	V _{BR} of LC- VJFET (V)	R _{en} of LC-VJFET (mΩ•cm²)
<	1100	1240	4.1	1200	1.4
	900	1260	5.2	1310	1.7
	700	1280	7.0	1400	2.2
ł	500	1300	10.3	1400	3.1



With R_{on} ~ 1mΩ.cm² air cooling can be used if GaN replaces today's Si device in Toyota Prius

D. Ji and Electron WBG-Lab@Stanford

D. Ji and S. Chowdhury, "Design of 1.2 kV Power Switches With Low RON Using GaN-Based Vertical JFET," IEEE Trans. Electron Devices , vol. 62, no. 8, pp. 2571–2578, 2015

Why go for vertical when we have lateral (HEMTs)





BG-Lab@Stanford



Picture from "Fu et al., CRC press"

GaN provides lowest total loss at all frequencies compared to Si and SiC. GaN enables higher frequency operation to reduce size, weight and overall cost.

Is there an avalanche capability in today's GaN HEMTs?

Lateral GaN devices based on Si substrates \rightarrow No Avalanche



BG-Lab@Stanford



First demonstration of avalanche preakdown voltage in GaN **Stanford** ENGINEERING

Demonstration of Avalanche Capability in GaN: Temp. dependent BV



Demonstration of Avalanche Capability in GaN (2):

Electroluminescence

electrons

n+

BG-Lab@Stanford

Avalanche Electroluminescence in GaAs

p-

holes



Measured electroluminescence in GaAs, Lahbabi et al., JAP, 2004.

The avalanche multiplication of electrons and holes \rightarrow recombination of extra carriers

 \rightarrow Light emission in direct bandgap materials, like GaAs and GaN. No reports on avalanche electroluminescence other than Stanford WBG Lab.

p+

Avalanche Electroluminescence in GaN



Demonstrated our lab for the first time (S.Mandal, D.Ji et al.)

S. Mandal, M. Kanathila, C. Pynn, W. Li, J. Gao, T. Margalith, M. Laurent, S. Chowdhury, "<u>Observation and discussion of avalanche electroluminescence in GaN p-n diodes offering a breakdown electric field of 3 MV cm-1</u>," Semicond. Sci. Technol., vol. 33, no. 6, p. 065013, 2018.

Measurement of impact ionization coefficients in GaN



E_m (V/cm)

Step 1: By illuminating the anode region, UV-generated electrons are drifted into the high field region.

- Step 2: Measuring the multiplication factor of the photocurrent induced by electrons.
- Step 3: Repeat steps 1&2 for hole injection by illuminating the cathode region.
- Step 4: Combine both Mn and Mp to extract the impact ionization coefficients.

D. Ji, B. Ercan, and S. Chowdhury, Appl. Phys. Lett., 115, 2019. BG-Lab@Stanford



GaN has the lowest impact ionization coefficients among SiC, Si, and GaN
 GaN has the highest critical electric field for breakdown.

WBG-Lab@Stanford

Applications of Avalanche: Power Switches







Power Transistor

WBG-Lab@Stanford



If (1) *L* is high; or (2) **di/dt** is high

- \rightarrow Overvoltage transient
- → Avalanche occurs to absorb the energy stored in the parasitic inductances.

Avalanche Ruggedness is an important parameter for power semiconductor devices.

Applications of Avalanche : Power Switches

Field plate

In current GaN-on-Silicon technology, the avalanche capability has not been demonstrated yet, therefore, device has to be overdesigned to survive in unexpected conditions.

Stanford ENGINEERING



If there's robust avalanche capability, the $R_{ds}(on)$ of GaN-based devices can be further reduced by 50%. Full potential of GaN on power electronics can be reached by avalanche.



Experimental determination of Impact ionization coefficients in GaN



(d) Experimentally determined impact ionization coefficients in GaN: (1) hole impact ionization coefficient in GaN; (b) electron impact ionization coefficient;

3G-Lab@Stanford

Highly impactful for predictive modeling Basis of Avalanche-based devices : High power IMPATT didoes, Avalanche Photodiodes

Improved dynamic R_{on} on OGFETs using dry/wet hybrid etch

Commercial GaN HEMT dynamic Ron data are from: B. Lu et al., IEEE CSICS, pp. 1-4, 2011.



vertical trench MOSFETs Using TMAH Wet Etch," *IEEE Electron Device Letters*, vol. 39, no. 7, July 2018



*Dynamic Ron of OGFET was measured at Transphorm, Inc.

First Report on GaN Hole Velocity Measurement



Standards

BG-Lab@Stanford

Device Letters > Early Access

Experimental Determination of Velocity-Field Characteristic of Holes in GaN Publisher: IEEE

Dong Ji ; Burcu Ercan ; Srabanti Chowdhury View All Authors

RF market with GaN









RF GaN market: past, present, and future

- \$65M in 2010 → \$300M in 2015
- Commercial > Defense



Finished Amplifier

CREE

High Power

50 Ω IN

.......

50 Ω OUT

RF amplifier key performance metrics



X-band radar: One of many DoD applications enabled by Gallium Nitride



Raytheon



10GHz or less



Slide credit: Dr. Matthew Guidry (UCSB), Prof. Umesh Mishra (UCSB) Stanford ENGINEERING

5G MIMO architectures: Enhanced range & data rate enabled by

GaN power amplifiers



BG-Lab@Stanford

Slide credit: Dr. Matthew Guidry (UCSB), Prof. Umesh Mishra (UCSB)<mark>Stanford</mark> ENGINEERING

Dispersion was managed with field plates and passivation





Field plate technology has limits and compromises maximum possible voltage per micron

WBG-Lab@Stanford

Low power density above 90 GHz (W-band)



Dispersion limits Power density drastically at high frequencies



Dispersion or current collapse limits efficiency



Dispersion affects both drain efficiency represented by P_{RF}/P_{DC} and also gain(G). This can ruin PAE – A fundamental problem of lateral HEMTs

/BG-Lab@Stanford

Vertical device topology alleviates dispersion, naturally



Buried peak electric field is a big positive in vertical device – Dispersion free characteristics

VBG-Lab@Stanford

Consequences of low device level power density

Raytheon at 95 GHz Band

May 2016: 7,000 Watt Amplifier Demonstrated by 0 0

> > 8,100 ICs Power Combined 0 0 Size = 25.6" x 25.6"







Brown, K. et al. IEEE IMS (2016) **Stanford** ENGINEERING

Maximize the RF power density with GaN vertical devices

N-Polar CAVET

- High electric field regions buried in the bulk of the material : Dispersion less I-V
- Channel within 2-5 nm from gate \rightarrow high aspect ratio



S. Rajabi, S. Mandal, M.A Laurent, H.Li, S.Keller and S. Chowdhury et al., "<u>A Demonstration of Nitrogen Polar Gallium</u> <u>Nitride Current Aperture Vertical Electron Transistor</u>," IEEE Electron Device Letters, vol. 40, no. 6, pp. 885–888, 2019

WBG-Lab@Stanford

Static Induction Transistor

- Vertical current controlled by the electrostatics in channel
- No requirement of p-type GaN and dielectric layer





J. Chun, W. Li, A. Agarwal, and S. Chowdhury, "<u>Schottky Junction Vertical</u> <u>Channel GaN Static Induction Transistor with a Sub-Micrometer Fin Width</u>," Advanced Electronic Materials, vol. 5, no. 1, p. 1800689, 201 <u>Stanford</u> ENGINEERING

Ultra wide-bandgap semiconductors: Diamond



Exploring WBG and UWBG for current and future power requirements

Our efforts on GaN



Develop novel approaches for particle detection. PIN diamond diode (reverse bias)

with high purity i-layer "A 4.5-µm PIN Diamond Diode for Detecting Slow **Boron Nitride** Neutrons," Jason Holmes, Maitreva Dutta, et. al, Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research

Intrinsic Diamond

Transport properties

Demonstration of Diamond-Based Schottkyp-i-n Diode With Blocking Voltage > 500 V," Maitreya Dutta, Franz A. M. Koeck, Raghuraj Hathwar, Stephen M. Goodnick, Robert J. Nemanich, and Srabanti Chowdhury, IEEE Electron Device Letters 37, 1170-

Determination of Minority Carrier Lifetime of Holes in Diamond p-i-n Diodes Using Reverse Recovery Method," Maitreya Dutta, Saptarshi Mandal, Raghuraj Hathwar, Alec M. Fischer, Franz A. M. Koeck, Robert J. Nemanich, Stephen M. Goodnick, and Srabanti Chowdhury, IEEE Electron Device Letters, 39, 552-555

Integration for thermal management



Poly-Crystalline Diamon AND AND N-Polar GaN

Sapphire



Adding more new WBG to compare performance and understand their full potential

BG-Lab@Stanford

https://wbgdl.sites.stanford.edu/





Selected publication on Vertical GaN (Chowdhury group)

- 1. Dong Ji, Wenwen Li, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "A Study on the Impact of Channel Mobility on Switching Performance of Vertical GaN MOSFETs," *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 64, no. 9, pp. 4271-4275, Sept. 2018
- 2. Dong Ji, Wenwen Li, Anchal Agarwal, Silvia H. Chan, Jeffrey Haller, Davide Bisi, Michelle Labrecque, Chirag Gupta, Bill Cruse, Rakesh Lal, Stacia Keller, Umesh K. Mishra, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Improved Dynamic Ron of GaN vertical trench MOSFETs Using TMAH Wet Etch," *IEEE Electron Device Letters*, vol. 39, no. 7, July 2018
- 3. Dong Ji, Anchal Agarwal, Haoran Li, Wenwen Li, Stacia Keller, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "<u>880V/2.7 mΩ· cm² MIS Gate Trench CAVET on Bulk GaN Substrates</u>," *IEEE Electron Device Letters*, vol. 39, no. 6, pp. 863-865, June, 2018
- 4. Dong Ji, Chirag Gupta, Anchal Agarwal, Silvia H. Chan, Cory Lund, Wenwen Li, Stacia Keller, Umesh K. Mishra, and S. Chowdhury, "Large Area Normally Off In-Situ Oxide, GaN Interlayer Based Vertical Trench MOSFET (OG-FET)," IEEE Electron Device Letters, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 711-715, May 2018
- 5. Dong Ji, Anchal Agarwal, Wenwen Li, Stacia Keller, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Demonstration of GaN current aperture vertical electron transistor with aperture region formed using ion implantation," *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 64, no. 2, pp. 483-487, Feb. 2018
- 6. Dong Ji, Matthew A. Laurent, Anchal Agarwal, Wenwen Li, Saptarshi Mandal, Stacia Keller and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Normally Off Trench CAVET With Active Mg-Doped GaN as Current Blocking Layer," *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 64, no. 3, pp. 805-808, March, 2017
- 7. Wenwen Li, Dong Ji, Ryo Tanaka, Saptarshi Mandal, Matthew Laurent, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Demonstration of GaN Static Induction Transistor (SIT) Using Self-Aligned Process," *IEEE Journal of the Electron Devices Society*, vol. 5, no. 6, pp. 485-490, Nov. 2017
- 8. Chirag Gupta, Dong Ji, Silvia H. Chan, Anchal Agarwal, William Leach, Stacia Keller, Srabanti Chowdhury, and Umesh K. Mishra, "Impact of Trench Dimensions on the Device Performance of GaN Vertical Trench MOSFETs," *IEEE Electron Device Letters*, vol. 38, no. 11, pp. 1559-1562, Nov. 2017
- 9. Saptarshi Mandal, Anchal Agarwal, Elaheh Ahmadi, Kanathila Mahadeva Bhat, Dong Ji, Matthew A. Laurent, Stacia Keller, and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Dispersion free 450V pGaN-gated CAVETs with Mg-ion implanted blocking layer," *IEEE Electron Device Letters*, vol. 38, no. 7, pp. 933-936, May 2017
- 10. Dong Ji, Jianyi Gao, Yuanzheng Yue, Srabanti Chowdhury, "Dynamic Modeling and Power Loss Analysis of High Frequency Power Switches Based on GaN CAVET," IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, vol. 63, no. 10, pp. 4011-4017, Oct.2016
- 11. Dong Ji and Srabanti Chowdhury, "Design of 1.2kV Power Switches with Low Ron Using GaN-based Vertical JFET," *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, vol. 62, no. 8, pp. 2571-2578, Aug. 2016
- 12. W. Li and S. Chowdhury, "Design and fabrication of a 1.2 kV GaN-based MOS vertical transistor for single chip normally off operation", Phys. Status Solidi Appl. Mater. Sci., vol. 213, no. 10, pp. 2714-2720, 2016.
- 13. [Invited] S. Chowdhury and U. K. Mishra, "Lateral and vertical transistors using the Algan/GAN Heterostructure", IEEE Trans. Electron Devices, vol. 60, no. 10, pp.3060-3066, 2013.
- 14. [Invited] S. Chowdhury, B. L. Swenson, M. H. Wong, and U. K. Mishra, "Current status and scope of gallium nitride-based vertical transistors for high-power electronics application", Semicond. Sci. Technol., vol. 28, no. 7, pp. 074014, 2013,
- 15. S. Chowdhury, M. H. Wong, B. L. Swenson, and U. K. Mishra, "<u>CAVET on bulk GaN substrates achieved with MBE-regrown AlGaN/GaN layers to suppress</u> <u>dispersion</u>", *IEEE Electron Device Lett.*, vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 41-43, 2012.
- 16. S. Chowdhury, B. L. Swenson, and U. K. Mishra, "Enhancement and depletion mode AIGaN/GaN CAVET with Mg-ion-implanted GaN as current blocking layer", IEEE Electron Device Lett., vol. 29, no. 6, pp. 543-545, 2008

