# PARAMETER VARIATIONS OF 20 NM GAAS JUNCTIONLESS-GATE-ALL-AROUND FIELD-EFFECT TRANSISTOR WITH QUANTUM MECHANICAL EFFECTS

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#### ABSTRACT

The scaling down of nanoelectronic device dimension beyond the Moore's Law era has introduced the use of new material and device architecture of Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect-Transistor (MOSFET). The use of nanomaterial and advanced device architecture allows the mitigation of the short channel effect at narrow MOSFET gate length. The purpose of this research is to study the performance of 20nm GaAs Junctionless-Gate-All-Around (JGAA) transistor incorporating the quantum mechanical effect. This device performance is then compared with conventional silicon material for comparative study. The device is designed, simulated and characterized using Technology Computer Aided Design (TCAD) from Sentaurus. The electrical parameter extracted from the current-voltage (I-V) characteristic includes the threshold voltage (V<sub>th</sub>), drive current (I<sub>on</sub>) and leakage current (Ioff). For JGAA MOSFET, the geometry scaling in radial direction includes the thickness of the channel radius and oxide layer, which can contribute to quantum effect. The charge distribution along the mid-region of the device is extracted to observe the carrier movement profile. Through simulation, it is proven that at shorter gate length, GaAs channel JGAA transistor exhibit better performance in terms of the on current and threshold voltage. Further evaluation shows that the classical model, the drift-diffusion model (DDM), which is the default carrier transport model, failed to incorporate the quantum effect, which is found to be non-negligible, particularly when the channel radius and oxide thickness is made less than 10nm and 14nm respectively. The inclusion of the quantum effect is based on the Density Gradient Model (DGM). It is found that the quantum effect significantly affects the drive current and leakage current by 28% for GaAs when the channel radius is scaled down less than 5nm, while minimal effect can be seen on the threshold voltage. Due to the considerable quantum effect, the carrier distribution around the channel moves further away from the semiconductor/oxide interface to the centre of the channel. This work highlight 90% increment on the on-current for GaAs JGAA MOSFET compared to silicon JGAA MOSFET and further shows the flexibility of III-V compound materials as potential materials to replace the conventional silicon. The results also indicate the necessity of considering the quantum model to generate accurate data for the projection of future nanoelectronics devices. It can be seen that this work is in agreement with other results obtained using silicon as channel for junctionless MOSFET and close with International Roadmap for Devices and Systems (IRDS) target for low power application.

#### ABSTRAK

Pengecilan dimensi peranti nanoelektronik yang melangkaui era Hukum Moore telah memperkenalkan penggunaan bahan baru dan seni bina peranti semikonduktor oksida logam transistor kesan medan (MOSFET). Penggunaan bahan nano dan seni bina peranti termaju membolehkan pengurangan kesan saluran pendek (SCEs) pada panjang pintu MOSFET yang sempit. Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengkaji prestasi transistor 20nm GaAs Junctionless-Gate-All-Around (JGAA) yang menggabungkan kesan mekanikal kuantum. Prestasi peranti ini kemudian dibandingkan dengan bahan silikon konvensional untuk kajian perbandingan. Peranti ini direka, disimulasikan dan dicirikan menggunakan Technology Computer Aided Design (TCAD) dari Sentaurus. Parameter elektrik yang diekstrak dari ciri arus-voltan (I-V) meliputi voltan ambang (V<sub>th</sub>), arus salir (I<sub>on</sub>) dan arus bocor (I<sub>off</sub>). Untuk JGAA MOSFET, penskalaan geometri dalam arah radial merangkumi ketebalan jejari saluran dan lapisan oksida yang boleh menyumbang kepada kesan kuantum. Taburan cas di sepanjang kawasan tengah peranti diekstrak untuk memerhatikan profil pergerakan pembawa. Melalui simulasi, terbukti bahawa pada panjang pintu yang lebih pendek, transistor GaAs Junctionless-Gate-All-Around (JGAA) menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik dari segi arus salir dan voltan ambang. Penilaian lebih lanjut menunjukkan bahawa model klasik, model drift-diffusion (DDM) yang merupakan model pengangkutan pembawa gagal menunjukkan kesan kuantum yang didapati tidak dapat diabaikan terutamanya apabila ketebalan jejari saluran dan lapisan oksida masingmasing kurang dari 10nm dan 14nm. Rangkuman kesan kuantum adalah didasarkan pada model kecerunan ketumpatan (DGM). Ia mendapati bahawa kesan kuantum mempengaruhi arus salir dan arus bocor secara signifikan sebanyak 28% untuk GaAs ketika jejari saluran dikecilkan kurang dari 5nm, sementara kesan minimum dapat dilihat pada voltan ambang. Oleh kerana kesan kuantum yang besar, taburan pembawa di sekitar saluran bergerak lebih jauh dari antara muka semikonduktor/oksida ke pusat saluran. Kajian ini menonjolkan kenaikan 90% pada arus salir untuk GaAs JGAA MOSFET berbanding dengan Silicon JGAA MOSFET dan seterusnya menunjukkan kelenturan bahan kompaun III-V sebagai bahan berpotensi untuk menggantikan silikon konvensional. Hasilnya juga menunjukkan perlunya mempertimbangkan model kuantum untuk menghasilkan data yang tepat untuk unjuran peranti nanoelektronik masa depan. Ini dapat dilihat bahawa kajian ini sesuai dengan hasil lain yang diperoleh menggunakan silikon untuk junctionless MOSFET dan hampir dengan sasaran panduan antrabangsa untuk peranti dan sistem (IRDS) untuk aplikasi kuasa rendah.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CMOS	-	Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor
MOSFET	-	Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect-Transistor
GAA	-	Gate-All-Around
JGAA	-	Junctionless-Gate-All-Around
IRDS	-	International Roadmap of Devices and Systems
NTRS	-	National Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors
ITRS	-	International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors
I-V	-	Current Versus Voltage
MATLAB	-	Matrix Laboratory
3D	-	Three Dimension
2D	-	Two Dimension
1D	-	One Dimension
SCEs	-	Short Channel Effects
DIBL	-	Drain Induced Barrier Lowering
TCAD	-	Technology Computer Aided Design
QME	-	Quantum Mechanical Effect
SiO <sub>2</sub>	-	Silicon Oxide
GaAs	-	Gallium Arsenide
GaN	-	Gallium Nitride
InAs	-	Indium Arsenide
CNT	-	Carbon Nanotube
IoT	-	Internet of Things
GUI	-	Graphical User Interface
BTBT	-	Band To Band Tunnelling

# LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{off}}$	-	Leakage Current @ Off-state Current
Ion	-	Drive Current @ On-state Current
$V_{th}$	-	Threshold Voltage
SS	-	Subthreshold Slope
λ	-	Natural Length
χ	-	Electron Affinity
Ø	-	Electrostatic Potential
$\mu_n$	-	Electron Mobility
h	-	Plank Constant
q	-	Electronic Charge
n	-	Electron Densities
p	-	Hole Densities
$N_D$	-	Ionised Donors Concentration
N <sub>A</sub>	-	Ionised Acceptor Concentration
$ ho_{Trap}$	-	Concentration of Surface Trap
J <sub>n</sub>	-	Electron Current Density
E <sub>C</sub>	-	Conduction Band Energy
$T_n$	-	Electron Temperature
$m_n$	-	Electron Effective Mass
Κ	-	Boltzmann Constant
N <sub>C</sub>	-	Conduction Band Density of States
$E_{F_n}$	-	Fermi Level Energy
V <sub>d</sub>	-	Drain Voltage
$V_{gs}$	-	Gate-Source Voltage
Ids	-	Drain-Source Current
R <sub>channel</sub>	-	Radius of Channel
T <sub>ox</sub>	-	Oxide Thickness
N <sub>d</sub>	-	Doping Concentration
$E_g$	-	Energy Bandgap

Ls	Length of Source
L <sub>d</sub>	Length of Drain
ε	Permittivity

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APPENDIX

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#### **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Research Background

The evolution of transistor application in recent years have caught researcher attention in a field of nanoelectronics devices. The demand for higher processing speed, reduced cost and area has led to downsizing the size of the transistor. Transistor is a basic building for many aspects of electronic system and the technology associated with its architecture have dramatically changed since a past few years. It has many possible uses in amplification and Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) integrated circuit (IC). The sizing of transistor dimension follows the Moore's Law where the scaling has reached its end and alternative approach is necessary to sustain the miniaturization of the transistor besides preserve its electrical performance. For the past few decades, the number of transistor in a single chip have been following the Moore's Law [1]. Moore's law stated that the number of transistor will be double for every two years. Figure 1.1 shows that the transistor scaling using Moore's law prediction. The scaling factor is reduced by 70% size reduction of the technology nodes every two years has been adapted for linear scaling device.



Figure 1.1Transistor scaling according to Moore's Law [2]

Thus, the advantages of such scaling can be seen through introduction of several processors in the market now. This is because its functionality has grown with transistors increment which much better in speed with small area at low cost. However, there are several issues as we downscale the size in traditional MOSFET such as threshold voltage roll-off, DIBL effect, velocity saturation decreases, leakage current increases, enhance surface scattering and mobility degradation [3]. All these effect might degrade the device performance.

However, International Roadmap for Devices and Systems (IRDS) is the organisation who provide a standard semiconductor roadmapping has generally outlined several potential devices and possible issue occurred in future development and research [4 -5]. IRDS be responsible for a guideline in research direction which helps appointed to set roadmap of the transistor and IRDS is the evolution from National Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors (NTRS) and International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductor (ITRS) previously. NTRS and ITRS were more focusing on the alternative methods to improve the performance of transistor but less attention on the application. Therefore, additional information and guidelines features in emerging architecture and systems for big data and cloud storage (IoT) was added while remaining the guideline from ITRS. The evolution of IRDS as shown in Figure 1.2.



Figure 1.2 Evolution of IRDS

In general, the evolution of many aspects of transistor architecture aimed to mitigate the short channel effect (SCEs) which becomes pronounced at smaller device dimension. One way to overcome the SCEs is to use transistor with architecture with an ability to withstand the scaling limit. There has been an extensive research on the use of transistor architecture like FinFET, Multigate structure, Junctionless transistor and GAA transistor [6-8]. These kind of device configuration has found to have positive impact on the device performance as the channel dimension shrinked down. For example, Sachdeva et al., (2016) [9] showed GAA MOSFET is promising solution to reduce SCEs and improvement in device reliability. In another work by Jena et al., (2015) [10] reported a cylindrical architecture which the gate is surrounded by the body of the channel have shown to have better gate controlled. Furthermore, the GAA architecture have also proven to have excellent short channel immunity. In IRDS also shows that the GAA transistor will become a new transition of architecture since FinFET now is likely to sustain in the industry until the end of 2023 as shown in Table 1.1. Beyond 2019, a new transition from FinFET to GAA will be a hot topic in research area. In the same table shows that the technology node is keep decreasing by the year. It is to make sure that more transistor can be fit in a single chip. Recent research on nanoelectronic devices has also been focusing on the junctionless transistor [11]. This is due to less process involve in the fabrication as well as the simple architecture. Junctionless transistor used heavily doped with same doping level and have proven to improve the on current and large early voltage [12]. It has many advantages such as no P-N junction which make the structure simple, eliminates the doping concentration gradient and produce better short channel effect. Therefore, scaling down into 20 nm length is feasible.

Year of	2017	2019	2021	2024	2027	2030	2033
Production							
Logic Industry	"10"	"7"	"5"	"3"	"2.1"	"1.5"	"1.0"
"Node Range"							
Labelling (nm)							
Logic device	FinFET	FinFET	LGAA	LGAA	LGAA	VGAA	VGAA
structure	FDSOI	LGAA	FinFET	VGAA	VGAA	LGAA	LGAA
options						3DVLSI	3DVLSI

Table 1.1Device architecture roadmap for logic device technologies [4]

Now, in the beyond Moore era have emerge the new device architecture such as, multiple gate transistor, gate all around (GAA) transistor and junctionless transistor. This is followed by the use of advance material such as carbon nanotube, graphene, strained silicon and the III-V materials [13-16]. IRDS have outlined several long-term challenges from 2021 - 2028. One of the important parameters delineated is on the device structure and materials. In IRDS under emerging research material has highlighted potential device which apart of high mobility material as shown in Table 1.2. Hence, there is a needs to further study the capability and benefits for such materials. In general, the evolution of many aspect of transistor architecture using advance architecture and non - silicon material aimed to mitigate the short channel effect (SCEs) problem which become pronounce at smaller device dimension particularly at sub -10 nm gate length. The use of new device architecture and materials are to mitigate the short channel effect (SCE) often happen as the transistor is scaled down particularly to nanoscale where it involves the modification of the transistors channel. However, the smaller device dimension seems to be traded off with its performance as the SCEs become pronounce [17].

Application	Emerging Material	Potential Advantage
High mobility semiconductors	InGaAs, InSb, strained III–V on silicon for p- channel	High hole mobilities for complementary MOSFETs
High mobility and steep subthreshold transistors	III–V (GaAs and GaN) nanowires, carbon nanotubes	High electron mobility with high gate control of leakage current
Ultra – high K gate dielectric with EOT	Extremely high – k dielectric such as TiO <sub>2</sub> or SrTiO <sub>2</sub>	Improved transistor performance with low gate leakage and improved energy efficiency

Table 1.2 Material for transistor scaling from IRDS under Emerging Research Material

Although the effect of using this kind of transistor architecture in terms of its electrical properties have been demonstrated, more work need to be done on

investigating the feasibility of using Junctionless-Gate-All-Around (JGAA) MOSFET using III - V channel material. III-V materials are predicted to be a good candidate to replace silicon for next generation. III-V material are under consideration for use in nanowire FET because of their high mobility compared to silicon which advantages to increase the drive current [12]. The semiconductor material used for transistor has traditionally been silicon, but there are more options available materials nowadays. These include GaAs (Gallium arsenide) and GaN (Gallium nitride). Notably, studies have reported excellent performance for GaAs and GaN materials. These materials are rapidly becoming the preferred semiconductor material for many transistor applications. The interest in III-V CMOS comes from outstanding electron transport in these materials which leads to higher electron mobility, excellent thermal properties and suitable for higher frequencies. Due to its benefit, the work done among researchers related to application of III-V material on the multigate structure were highlighted in the literature. Since JGAA MOSFET have showing a good performance among the other multigate structure due to its better good electrostatic control, III-V materials will help to boost the electrical performance specifically on the on current  $(I_{on})$ , threshold voltage  $(V_{th})$  and current ratio  $(I_{on}/I_{off})$ .

Thus, this research proposes a transistor utilizing a JGAA MOSFET based III– V material channel which remains surrounded by a cylindrical structure using Sentaurus TCAD. To improve the accuracy and effectiveness of the device, suitable model taking into account in TCAD tools which are drift-diffusion and the quantum mechanical model. The outcome of this study is expected to produce high performance transistor using innovative device architecture at shorter gate length and improved power management in multibillion transistor circuit employed in microprocessor. This is in line with 11th Malaysia Plan for creation of new knowledge and identifying long term solution using advance material for electronic devices.

#### **1.2 Problem Statement**

For many applications using transistor, it is desirable to achieve high on current, low leakage current and lower threshold voltage. However, a major challenge for transistor in nanoelectronics application is on the downsizing of the channel area to accommodate more transistors in an integrated circuit. In the IRDS also highlighted that the technology node used is predicted to be smaller as the gate length keeps on shrinking over the years. There are several issues when the size of conventional MOSFET been scaled down into a smaller size where short channel effects (SCEs) and quantum mechanical effects (QME) become pronounce. The issues such as threshold voltage roll-off, DIBL effect, leakage current increases etc. As a result, maintaining a low leakage current and as the same time preserve the high on current has become difficult. This will consequently affect the threshold voltage. High on current and lower leakage current is necessary for high speed in any transistor technology and low static power dissipation. Previous studies have demonstrated a variety of advance transistor architecture including FinFET [18], multigate transistor [19], carbon based devices [20-21], junctionless type of MOSFET [11] and High-K dielectric materials [22]. Although these kind of architecture improves performance, the process parameter involves is far from optimal. This make it falls short of those predicted from IRDS. It also necessary to include the right model to be incorporate with the classical model in TCAD tools to improve the accuracy of device performance. Considering high mobility channel, this study will investigate the used III – V material as a channel to be replaced on silicon material as suggested by the IRDS under Emerging Research Material. There are many transistor options at the market today combine various technologies with different semiconductor materials. As a result, it can be confusing to narrow down which one is the most suitable for transistor applications. GaAs and GaN are the most suitable materials for high speed transistor application. This research aimed to develop a device that suits for transistor application such as memory. Therefore, in this work, GaAs and GaN which are the III-V compound material is proposed as a substitute for silicon integrated with JGAA MOSFET to investigate the electrical significant of this material to sustain higher drive current while keeping the leakage current low which is hardly achieve using conventional silicon transistor. The technology node use in this research is 20 nm following the technology node predicted by IRDS. We predict smaller gate length is used for the future development of device as they keep moving to smaller dimensions. The development of device considering the quantum mechanical effect which is paramount important at thinner radius and gate oxide to improve the accuracy of the device model. The literature reviews highlighted in Chapter 2 can be a guideline in

finding the strength and weakness from the published works in order to find the research gap for this work.

The research problems are summarized as follows:

- (a) The SCE and QME become pronounce when downscale the transistor size in conventional MOSFET.
- (b) Numerical model that effect the device performance specifically quantum and short channel model.
- (c) Alternative solutions to improve device performance which apart of high mobility material on channel such as III-V materials compared to silicon.

### **1.3** Research Objectives

From the research gaps and shortcomings that has been identified, the objectives of the research are summarized as follow:

- (a) To design the 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET using Sentaurus Synopsys TCAD.
- (b) To study the effect of quantum mechanical effects on the 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET.
- (c) To evaluate and benchmark the performance of 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET in this work with published work using conventional silicon on junctionless MOSFET and IRDS targeted.

### 1.4 Research Scopes

The scopes of the research are addressed as below:

- Simulation of 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET: The work is performed using Sentaurus Technology Computer Aided Design (TCAD) tools. GaAs and GaN are used as channel materials and silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) as gate oxide material. The condition for quantum effect is considered when the radius and oxide thickness of GAA structure less than 10nm.
- Computational simulation: In the simulation, from the existing model from TCAD tools, Density Gradient model, high field degradation (mobility model) and hydrodynamic model are included to study the QME for short channel device. Drift diffusion model is the default carrier transport model in Sentaurus TCAD.
- 3. Simulation work: The channel radius ( $R_{channel}$ ), oxide thickness ( $T_{ox}$ ) and doping concentration ( $N_d$ ) were varied to see how it significantly influenced the quantum effect. The electrical performance evaluation was carried out by extracting the current-voltage (I - V) characteristic to evaluate the electrical properties such as  $V_{th}$ ,  $I_{on}$ , current ratio ( $I_{on}/I_{off}$ ) and the charge distribution along the channel radius.

#### **1.5** Research Contributions

The research contributions are summarised as below:

 Design device structure for 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET: The silicon JGAA MOSFET has performed using Sentaurus TCAD. Then, III-V materials such as GaN and GaAs were tested on the JGAA MOSFET replacing the conventional silicon as channel material. The effect of gate length, radius of channel, oxide thickness and doping concentration on the device structure were studied through the Current-Voltage ( $I_{ds}$ - $V_{gs}$ ) characteristics curve. Both materials were compared to each other and with the published work to see the electrical performance for both devices.

- 2. To study the quantum effect: To avoid mismatch and to extend the accuracy of the analysis, quantum mechanical and short channel effect are crucial to be considered. Conventional model is not able to capture the behaviour of device correctly. An appropriate model is chosen to accommodate for smaller radius and oxide thickness of the device. We used the simplified model to replace Schrodinger equation namely density gradient model to define quantum effect. The inclusion of High Field Degradation model and hydrodynamic model are necessary to include the short channel effects. The electrical performance evaluation was carried out by extracting the current-voltage characteristic and the normalised charge distribution (eDensity) along the channel radius. The GaAs JGAA MOSFET was first applied with classical model allowing the study of quantum effect.
- 3. Device benchmarking: To further evaluate the results, the final device of 20 nm GaAs JGAA MOSFET presented is compared with 20 nm silicon JGAA MOSFET. The performance is compare between V<sub>th</sub>, I<sub>on</sub>, and I<sub>off</sub>. In addition, the final device also is compared with the published work that using silicon channel on junctionless MOSFET and IRDS targeted for low power application.

### **1.6** Thesis Organization

Chapter 1 explained the fundamental knowledge regarding this research focus. The challenges and potential solutions is highlighted based on the roadmapping in the semiconductor field provided by the International Roadmap Device Semiconductor (IRDS) to give a landmark for research directions. The problem statements are summarized in details after identifying the strength and weaknesses of previous works also following the IRDS projections for future nanoscale devices. The research objectives and research scopes are identified and discussed further through literature and tools available. Finally, the research covered and contributions are explained in chapter 1.

Chapter 2 is the part where literature reviews is covered related to high mobility channel specifically III-V materials on advanced transistor. The evolutions from planar MOSFETs to the advanced MOSFETs are also covered to give an exposure and understanding on the concept to develop a device structure. Then, the review on the fundamental knowledge on quantum and short channel effect were highlighted to identify the appropriate model in describing the carrier transport in the GaAs JGAA structure.

Chapter 3 elaborates the research flow using the general flowchart and then more specific on the development of device. Systematic research was executed related to the scope of works mentioned in Chapter 1. The model used in TCAD tools also emphasized. The important parameters used for TCAD simulations also highlighted in this section.

Chapter 4 present the numerical simulation for short channel GaAs JGAA MOSFET. The simulation works has included the quantum and short channel effects to accommodate the analysis for short channel device. The analysis is conducted by variation of channel radius, oxide thickness and doping concentration since those parameters is vital to account the quantum effect. Besides, the study of III-V materials on channel replacing the conventional silicon is investigated before GaAs is chosen for final benchmarking due to better electrical performance. The benchmarking is compared between the published works and IRDS projection at gate length of 20nm. The electrical performance is carried out by investigating on the current-voltage (I<sub>ds</sub>- $V_{gs}$ ) characteristics curve and normalized charge distribution along the channel radius.

Chapter 5 summarized the finding and contributions reflected to the objectives in Chapter 1. The future work recommendation to improve the proposed device is mentioned which very beneficial for upcoming research and may be used for many applications.

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### LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

#### Journal with Impact Factor

 A Study of 20nm GaAs Junctionless-Gate-All-Around Field Effect Transistor Including Quantum Mechanical Effects. IOP Semiconductor Science and Technology (IF: Q2, Submitted)

### Journal with Scopus

1. A Performance Study of Long Channel GaAs Junctionless-Gate-All-Around Field Effect Transistor (In-Press)

### **Indexed Conference Proceedings**

- Rasol, M. F. M., et al. "Performance Analysis of Silicon and III-V Channel Material for Junctionless-Gate-All-Around Field Effect Transistor." 2020 IEEE Student Conference on Research and Development (SCOReD). IEEE, 2020.
- Rasol, M. F. M., et al. "Stacking SiO 2/High-\$ K \$ Dielectric Material in 30nm Junction-less Nanowire Transistor Optimized Using Taguchi Method for Lower Leakage Current." 2019 IEEE Regional Symposium on Micro and Nanoelectronics (RSM). IEEE, 2019.

### **Competition / Exhibition**

1. 22<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Art and Technology Exhibition (INATEX) 2020