Numerical Evaluation of Junction Temperature Effect on Negative Resistivity at Different Current Densities of Si DDR IMPATT Device at Sub-millimeterwave Region

Arpan Deyasi, Swapan Bhattacharyya

Abstract*— Negative resistivity profile for Si DDR IMPATT device is numerically computed by double-iterative method with incorporation of modified Runge-Kutta method at different junction temperatures and bias current densities for different operating frequency bands in sub-millimeterwave region. Profiles are obtained throughout the depletion layer width for 1-D model consideration and assuming independence of carrier velocities over electric field in avalanche and drift regions; whereas both conduction and displacement current densities are taken into account. Analysis is helpful for comparative study of device performance with different heat sink materials.

Index Terms*— Current density, Junction temperature, Negative resistance, Small-signal analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

The generation of microwave power at sub-millimeterwave region is a major problem in microwave electronics, and design of efficient transit-time devices based on different semiconductor materials has now become a field of research in the last decade. IMPATT diode is now one of the premier solid state sources of r.f power compared to other transit-time devices at millimeter and sub-millimeterwave frequency regions. It provides a lot of advantages due to its smaller size, higher accuracy, lighter weight and lower cost, and an improved propagation characteristic at window frequencies. It can effectively be used in RADAR systems and guided missiles, as gigahertz and terahertz domain is now enriched with the immense application possibilities in the fields of Remote Sensing, Imaging and Spectroscopy.

Generation of microwave oscillation is possible due to negative resistance characteristics of the device, as proposed first by Read [1] which can be obtained on the basis of the phase difference being produced between r.f voltage and r.f current due to delay in the avalanche build-up process and the transit time of charge carriers. Works are carried out by several researchers to analyze the negative resistance [2]-[4], and later this work is extended in terahertz regime due to need of the day [5]-[10]. Several different materials are also tried to improve the conversion efficiency and device negative resistance by optimizing bias current density [5], [7]-[12] for DDR structure, but till now, Si is the first choice due to its availability of other important features for fabrication of DDR IMPATT device, and researchers are engaged into exploring its applicability in higher frequency region [13]. Effect of elevated junction temperature plays a big role for analysis of device performance [14]-[16] by calculating high-frequency integrated parameters where mobile space-charge effect is also considered [8] along with contributions of drift and diffusion [17] for near accurate performance evaluation.

In the present paper, double iterative method involving simultaneous solution of Poisson's equation with continuity equation satisfying appropriate boundary conditions is used for simulation of negative resistivity profile of DDR IMPATT structures considering the effect of both drift and diffusion currents, and modified Runge-Kutta method is incorporated for analyzing the effect of elevated junction temperature at optimized bias current densities at different operating frequency regions. Mobile space charge effect is also incorporated with the consideration of 1-D model where saturated carrier velocities are assumed to be independent of electric field throughout the space-charge layer. Si is considered as the material for simulation purpose, but the technique may be adopted for different materials also.

II. PROCEDURE FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Small signal analysis of an IMPATT diode provides insight into the microwave performance of the device. If the ac field in the depletion region is very small compared to the dc breakdown field, the variation of ionization rate with electronic field can be assumed as linear and small-signal solution of the fundamental equations namely, time-varying Poisson equation and continuity equation can be carried out by linearization, which represents the low amplitude limit of large-signal analysis. The present paper contains the method based on Gummel-Blue [18] approach to study the distribution of negative resistivity.

The fundamental equation that governs the avalanche multiplication and the carrier current flow across p-n junction is the well-known Poisson's equation-

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}E(x)=\frac{q}{\varepsilon}[N_D-N_A+\rho(x)] \quad (1)$$

where ρ(x) is the net density of mobile charge carriers. Continuity equations for electron current is given by

Manuscript received November 29, 2011.

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$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{q}\frac{\partial J_n}{\partial x} + g - U_n \quad (2)$$

Considering the diffusion current as a perturbation term over the major drift current in the avalanche region, the expressions for hole and electron concentration in the space charge layer can be written as using perturbation technique,-

$$n(x) = \left(\frac{J_n}{qv_n}\right) - \left(\frac{D_n}{qv_n^2}\right)\left(\frac{\partial J_n}{\partial x}\right) + \left(\frac{D_n^2}{qv_n^3}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^2 J_n}{\partial x^2}\right) - \left(\frac{D_n^3}{qv_n^4}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^3 J_n}{\partial x^3}\right) + .. \quad (3.1)$$

$$p(x) = \left(\frac{J_p}{qv_p}\right) - \left(\frac{D_p}{qv_p^2}\right)\left(\frac{\partial J_p}{\partial x}\right) + \left(\frac{D_p^2}{qv_p^3}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^2 J_p}{\partial x^2}\right) - \left(\frac{D_{pn}^3}{qv_p^4}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^3 J_p}{\partial x^3}\right) + .. \quad (3.2)$$

Hence the mobile space charge density due to both drift and diffusion component is obtained fro the equation-

$$\rho(x) = \left[\left(\frac{J_p}{v_p}\right) - \left(\frac{J_n}{v_n}\right) + \left\{\left(\frac{D_p}{v_p^2}\right)\left(\frac{\partial J_p}{\partial x}\right) + \left(\frac{D_n}{v_n^2}\right)\left(\frac{\partial J_n}{\partial x}\right)\right\} + \left\{\left(\frac{D_p^2}{v_p^3}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^2 J_p}{\partial x^2}\right) - \left(\frac{D_n^2}{v_n^3}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^2 J_n}{\partial x^2}\right)\right\} + \left\{\left(\frac{D_p^3}{v_p^4}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^3 J_p}{\partial x^3}\right) + \left(\frac{D_n^3}{v_n^4}\right)\left(\frac{\partial^3 J_n}{\partial x^3}\right)\right\} + ..\right] \quad (4)$$

Computation starts from the position of field maximum (x_0) near metallurgical junction and then proceeds towards edges of depletion layer. Double iterations are then carried out over field magnitude (E_0) and position of field maximum (x_0) in depletion region to satisfy boundary conditions for field and current densities. Simultaneous satisfaction of boundary conditions at depletion layer edges gives appropriate solution and d.c field and current profiles are obtained.

Extension of avalanche zone has been defined as the distance between two points (x_1, x_2) on either side of avalanche center. Once the values of maximum electric field(E_m) and it's position (x_0) for which both the boundary conditions are simultaneously satisfied are computed at a given current density, this computer program provides more accurate profiles of electric field and carrier current.

From the DC-field and current profiles, the spatially dependent ionization rates that appear in the Gummel-Blue equations are evaluated, and fed as input data for the small-signal analysis. The edges of the depletion layer of the diode, which are fixed by the dc analysis, are taken as the starting and end points for the small-signal analysis.

Assuming 1-D model and carrier velocities are independent of electric field in avalanche and drift regions, total surface current density J0 at any space point is the sum of conduction current density and displacement density. Thus J_0 is given by

$$J_0 = J_{cond} + J_{disp} = q(v_{sn}n + v_{sp}p) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varepsilon E) \quad ....(5)$$

where v_{sn} and v_{sp} are the saturated drift velocities of electron and holes respectively. Thus surface current density may be re-written as-

$$J_0 = q(v_{sn}n + v_{sp}p) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varepsilon E) \quad .... (6)$$

So our fundamental dynamical equation can be obtained as

$$[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{v_m^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + (\beta_n - \alpha_p + 2r_k)D + 2\bar{\alpha}k]E_{sc} = \frac{1}{v_m\varepsilon}[(2\bar{\alpha} - k)J_0] \quad .... (7)$$

where v_m, $\bar{\alpha}$, $r_$ are functions of material parameters, and we neglect the effect of stochastic generation rate.

Equation (5) is nonlinear in E as the ionization coefficients are the functions of electric field. Llinearizing the equation for small signal condition, differential equation for resistive impedance may be written in the following form:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}\tilde{X} - (\beta_n - \alpha_p)\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\tilde{X} - 2\frac{r_\omega}{v_m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\tilde{R} + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{v_m^2} - H\right)\tilde{X} + 2\bar{\alpha}\frac{\omega}{v_m}\tilde{R} + \frac{\omega}{v_m^2\varepsilon} = 0 \quad .... (8)$$

where the operator H contains derivatives of ionization coefficients w.r.t electric field. From the d.c field and current profiles, the space-dependent quantities for a given doping profile and d.c current are evaluated and fed in as input data for small signal analysis. The boundary conditions for R is given by

$$D\tilde{X} + \left(\frac{\omega}{v_{sp}}\right)\tilde{R} = 0 \quad .... (9.1)$$

and

$$D\tilde{X} - \left(\frac{\omega}{v_{sn}}\right)\tilde{R} = 0 \quad .... (9.2)$$

at the boundaries of n-side & of p-side respectively.

Equation (8) can be numerically solved subject to the boundary conditions given by equations (9.1) and (9.2) using double-iterative simulation scheme incorporating modified Runge-Kutta method. The solution provides spatial distribution of the small-signal integrated parameter high-frequency negative resistivity per unit length in the depletion layer of the device. The negative resistance of IMPATT diode can be obtained from numerical integration of R profile over the entire depletion layer of the device.

Thus

$$\tilde{R} = \int_{-X_1}^{X_2} R(x)dx \quad ....(10)$$

The devices can be subjected to fine structure optimization through variation of diode structural parameters in order to optimize the value of RF negative resistance which can be achieved when the values of avalanche phase delay and transit phase delay are close to π/2 each and the peaks of the R(x) profile in the drift zones are located to the close to the centre of the drift zone in both 'n' and 'p' regions.

Published By:
Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering
& Sciences Publication
International Journal of Soft Computing and Engineering
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III. NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

From the small-signal analysis, it is observed that in negative resistivity profile, two peaks are occurred at either side of junction correspond for both the type of carriers, when simulated at 34 GHz for specified junction current density. It can be concluded that negative resistance increases with lowering of temperature. Fig 1 shows negative resistivity profile at three different junction temperatures, where peak for both the carriers are originated almost at the same position of the metallurgical junction. From the profile, it can be observed that negative resistance increases with lowering of junction temperature. This is important as far design of suitable heat sink is concerned when the device is biased in proper region at a particular window frequency.

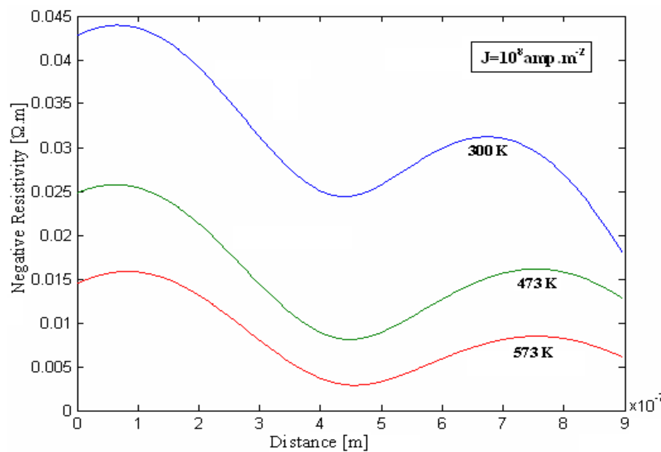

Fig1: Negative resistivity profile of DDR IMPATT at specified current density at different junction temperatures at 34 GHz

By increasing current density and operating frequency also, a shift of peak is observed away from the junction as temperature is lowered. Another interesting feature may be noted down in this context that though negative resistance is higher for lower junction temperature, but far away from the junction, the trend is going to reverse. This effect is profiled in fig 2, simulated at 94 GHz. Here current density is considered higher which is due to the higher operating frequency region.

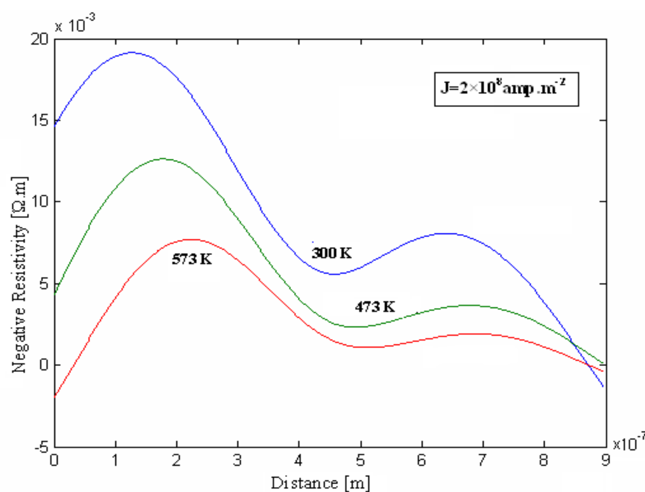

Fig2: Negative resistivity profile of DDR IMPATT at specified current density at different junction temperatures at 94 GHz

When negative resistance is plotted against bias current density for different junction temperature, a constant profile is observed when current density is in the range of 0.8-1.0 amp.m^{-2} for lower values of junction temperature. This effect is absent as the device is heated up, and sharp peak can be observed for sufficiently high temperature, shown in fig 3.

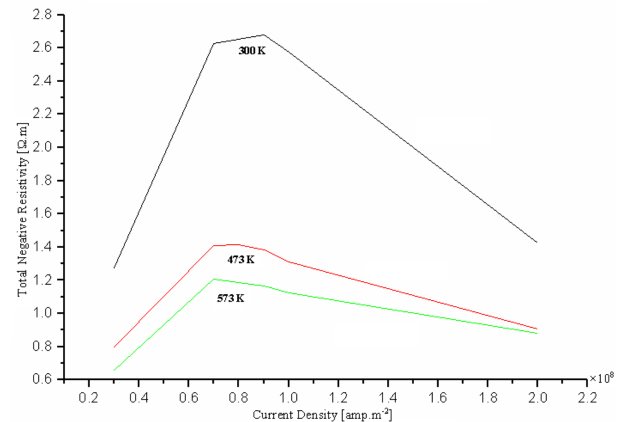

Fig 3: Total negative resistivity profile with bias current density for different junction temperatures

When frequency of operation is varied in sub-millimeterwave region at different junction temperatures, higher peak is obtained at lower frequency regions for higher temperature, and this combined effect is less when junction temperature is reduced. It may also be concluded that peak of negative resistance profile occurred at particular value of junction temperature depending on the operating frequency region. This is depicted in fig 4.

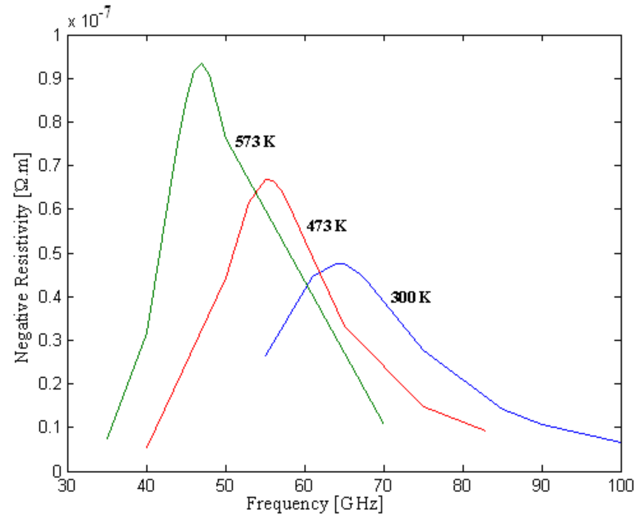

Fig 4: Negative resistivity profile with operating frequency in sub-millimeterwave region for different junction temperatures

IV. CONCLUSION

The analysis provides overall information about the variation of negative resistance with junction temperature and current density for different range of operating frequency. Obtained profiles are important for design of proper heat sink materials to nullify the effect of elevated junction temperature.

Effect of mobile space charge is considered to make the analysis more realistic. The model adopted for simulation purpose can be fit for different semiconductor materials also, which speaks in favor of experimental processes with novel materials; thus make a wider possibility of applications.

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