Anomalous capacitance effects in GaN/Al$_{0.026}$Ga$_{0.974}$N structures$^1$

G. ROTHMEIER, L. BYRUM, N. DIETZ, A.G.U. PERERA, S. MATSIK, Georgia State University, I. FERGUSON, Georgia Institute of Technology, A. BEZINGER, H.C. LIU, National Research Council Canada — The effects of interface defect states on the capacitance characteristics of an $n^+$GaN/Al$_{0.026}$Ga$_{0.974}$N/iGaN/$n^+$-GaN structure are reported. An anomalous high-frequency capacitance peak was observed in the capacitance-frequency (C-f) profiles. Using IR spectroscopy, the defect related absorption centers with activation energies of $125 \pm 1$ and $139 \pm 2$ meV were attributed to C-donor/N-vacancy and Si-donor states pinned to the $n^+$GaN layer, respectively. Si defect states at the iGaN/$n^+$GaN interface were found to produce the high-frequency capacitance peak. The peak can result from resonance scattering due to the hybridization of localized Si-donor states in the band gap (with electronic levels above the conduction band minimum) and continuous conduction band states at the iGaN/$n^+$GaN interface.

$^1$Work supported in part by the US Air Force, US National Science Foundation and GSU MDBAF.