

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR17 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Large Area CVD MoS₂ RF transistors with GHz performance

MARUTHI NAGAVALLI YOGEEESH, ATRESH SANNE, SAUNGEUN PARK, DEJI AKINWADE, SANJAY BANERJEE, Microelectronics Research Center, University of Texas at Austin — Molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂) is a 2D semiconductor in the family of transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs). Its single layer direct bandgap of ~ 1.8 eV allows for high $I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$ metal-oxide semiconducting field-effect transistors (FETs). More relevant for radio frequency (RF) wireless applications, theoretical studies predict MoS₂ to have saturation velocities, $v_{\text{sat}} > 3 \times 10^6$ cm/s. Facilitated by cm-scale CVD MoS₂, here we design and fabricate both top-gated and embedded gate short channel MoS₂ RF transistors, and provide a systematic comparison of channel length scaling, extrinsic doping from oxygen-deficient dielectrics, and a gate-first gate-last process flow. The intrinsic f_T (f_{max}) obtained from the embedded gate transistors shows 3X (2X) improvement over top-gated CVD MoS₂ RF FETs, and the largest high-field saturation velocity, $v_{\text{sat}} = 1.88 \times 10^6$ cm/s, in MoS₂ reported so far. The gate-first approach, offers enhancement mode operation, $I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$ ratio of 10^8 , and the highest reported transconductance (g_m) of $70 \mu\text{S}/\mu\text{m}$. By manipulating the interfacial oxygen vacancies in atomic layer deposited (ALD) HfO_{2-x} we are able to achieve 2X current density over stoichiometric Al₂O₃. We demonstrate a common-source (CS) amplifier with voltage gain of 14 dB and an active frequency mixer with conversion gain of -15 dB. Our results of gigahertz frequency performance as well as analog circuit operation show that large area CVD MoS₂ may be suitable for industrial-scale electronic applications.

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Date submitted: 22 Nov 2016

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