



Analytical Modeling of AlGaAs/GaAs and Si/SiGe HBTs Including the Effect of Temperature

Sukla Basu*, Parijat Sarkar**

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Abstract: A semi-empirical analytical model of $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ and $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ heterojunction bipolar transistor is presented in this paper. Current gain (β) and forward transit time (τ_F) are two important factors for determining the performance of a transistor. Variations of current gain and forward transit time with temperature and other device parameters are predicted with the help of this model. Comparison of performance characteristics of these two devices are made for different composition and doping concentration in the emitter and base regions and for a wide range of temperature. Performance characteristics of these devices are also compared with Si homojunction bipolar transistor.

Keywords: Heterojunction Bipolar Transistor, AlGaAs/ GaAs heterojunction, Si/SiGe heterojunction, current gain, transit time

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in communication, digital signal processing and computational systems demand very high performance electronic circuits. Heterojunction Bipolar Transistors (HBTs) have the potential of providing a more efficient solution to many key system requirements through intrinsic device advantages [1]. In a HBT the emitter region has wider band gap than base and this feature is primarily responsible for better performance of HBTs. Most of the developments of HBT technology has been made for $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ material system. The lattice constants of these materials are very close and this leads to excellent heterointerface quality with very few dislocations and interface states [2].

Another important HBT structure is made of Si emitter and $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ base.

*Professor Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Kalyani Government Engineering College, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, Pin 741235

** Assistant Professor , Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Hi Tech College Of Engineering And Technology, Hyderabad, Andhrapradesh, Pin-500075

This structure has similar advantages like $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ HBT. Moreover compatibility with standard Si technology makes it much attractive for HBT fabrication. Both of these devices have widely been studied in literature [3,4,5,6,7,8,9]. A semiempirical analytical model is developed in the present paper to compare the performance of these two competing structures. Current gain and forward transit time are two important factors for determining the performance of HBTs. This model is used to study the variation of current gain and forward transit time different parameters like temperature, composition and doping concentration. The performance characteristics of these HBTs are also compared with Si Bipolar Junction Transistors.

II. THEORY

The current gain of an npn HBT having uniform doping concentration in the base and emitter region is given by [10]

$$\beta = \frac{N_{DE}W_E D_n(T) \exp(\Delta E_g / kT)}{[N_{AB}W_B D_p(T)]} \quad (1)$$

where, N_{DE} and N_{AB} are emitter and base doping concentrations, W_E and W_B are emitter and base widths, D_n and D_p are diffusion constants of minority carriers in the base and the emitter regions respectively, ΔE_g is the band gap difference between emitter and base regions, k is Boltzmann constant and T absolute temperature in degree Kelvin. Assuming Einstein's relation holds good D_n and D_p are given by

$$D_n = (kT/q) \mu_n$$

$$D_p = (kT/q) \mu_p$$

Forward transit time (τ_F) which is an important factor for determining switching speed of a transistor is the sum of emitter and base transit times (τ_E and τ_B) and is given by [11]

$$\tau_F = \tau_E + \tau_B$$

where,

$$\tau_E = W_E^2 / [2D_p(T)\beta] \text{ and}$$

$$\tau_B = W_B^2 / [2D_n(T)] \quad (2)$$

A. $Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs$ HBT:

From (1) the current gain of $Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs$ HBT having uniform doping concentration in the base and emitter region is given by

$$\beta = \frac{N_{DE}W_E D_{n, GaAs}(T) \exp(\Delta E_g / kT)}{[N_{AB}W_B D_{p, AlGaAs}(T)]} \quad (3)$$

Temperature dependence of mobility is given by [12]

$$\mu_{n, GaAs} \propto T^{-2.1} \text{ or } \mu_{n, GaAs} = K_1 T^{-2.1} \quad (4)$$

where K_1 is proportionality constant. K_1 is determined considering $\mu_{n, GaAs} = 8500 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$ at 300k. For $Al_xGa_{1-x}As$ [2] at $T=300\text{k}$

$$\mu_{p, AlGaAs} = 370 - 970x + 740x^2 \quad (5)$$

where, x is the mole fraction of Al in the compound. Temperature dependence of hole mobility in GaAs is $\mu_{p, GaAs} \propto T^{-1}$ [12]. Assuming the same dependence in AlGaAs for low value of mole fraction x one can write

$$\mu_{p, AlGaAs} \propto T^{-1} \text{ or } \mu_{p, AlGaAs} = K_2 T^{-1} \quad (6)$$

For a given value of x , $\mu_{p, AlGaAs}$ is calculated from (4) at 300k and constant K_2 can easily be determined. Again band gap difference between $Al_xGa_{1-x}As$ emitter and GaAs base is given by [2],

$$\Delta E_g = 1.25x \quad \text{for } x < 0.4 \quad (7)$$

Using (1)-(7) variation of current gain and forward transit time is determined for $Al_xGa_{1-x}As/GaAs$ npn HBTs with different parameters like temperature, mole fraction of composition of emitter and doping concentration of base region.

B. $Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x$ HBT:

In order to compare the performance of similar $Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x$ HBTs following equations are used.

$$\beta = \frac{N_{DE}W_E D_{n, SiGe}(T) \exp(\Delta E_g / kT)}{[N_{AB}W_B D_{p, Si}(T)]} \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta E_g = .43x - .0206x^2 \quad [2]$$

$$\mu_{n, Si} \propto T^{-2.42} \text{ or } \mu_{n, Si} = K_3 T^{-2.42} \quad (9)$$

$$\mu_{n, Ge} \propto T^{-1.66} \text{ or } \mu_{n, Ge} = K_4 T^{-1.66}$$

Proportionality constants K_3 and K_4 are determined considering $\mu_{n, Si} = 1350 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$ and $\mu_{n, Ge} = 3900 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$ at $T=300\text{k}$.

$$\mu_{n, SiGe} = \mu_{n, Si} (1-x) + \mu_{n, Ge} x \quad (10)$$

Temperature dependence of $\mu_{p, Si}$ is given by $\mu_{p, Si} = K_5 T^{-2.2}$ where K_5 is determined considering $\mu_{p, Si} = 500 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$ at $T=300\text{k}$. Using (8) to (10) and (2) current gain

and forward transit time of Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBTs are determined.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Variations of current gain β with temperature as obtained from (3) and (8) considering temperature dependences of different parameters used in these equations are shown in Fig.1 and 2. It is seen that only with $x=0.1$ in the Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT high current gain of the order of a few thousand is possible even with equal doping concentration and equal width of the emitter and base regions. However, for Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBTs gain is only of the order of few tens for $x=0.1$ and a few hundreds for $x=0.2$. Better performance is obtained at lower temperature range for both of these HBT structures. Current gain less than 10 is obtained for comparable Si BJT [Fig.2]. Fig.3 shows forward transit time less than one tenth of pico second is possible for Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT for $x=.05$ only and as x is increased forward transit time reduces further. However, not much improvement is obtained for x greater than 0.1. For Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBTs forward transit time is at least one order of magnitude less than that for comparable Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT with identical values of x [Fig.4]. For both of these structures forward transit time reduces with decrease in temperature. Fig. 5 shows at room temperature in order to get a gain of 100, x value less than .08 is required for Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT, whereas, to get same value of gain, x equals to about 0.2 is required for Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT. Fig.6 shows current gain with doping concentration in the base region for Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT and Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT for constant value of N_{DE} and equal base and emitter widths. Even for N_{DE} less than N_{AB} current gain of a few hundred is obtained for Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT for $x=0.1$. For Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT for $x=0.3$ and under similar conditions current gain is much less than that for Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT. Fig.1 to Fig.6 suggest that performance of Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT in terms of current gain and forward transit time is much better than that of Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT and Si BJT specially when doping

concentration in emitter and base region is moderate and almost equal.

III. CONCLUSIONS

Results obtained from the analytical modeling of the Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT and Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT structures shows that good performance characteristics like high gain and low forward transit time are possible with the introduction of only a very small amount of Al in the emitter region of Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT structure. It shows better performance characteristics than that of comparable Si/Si_{1-x}Ge_x HBT and of Si BJT over a wide temperature range and with moderate doping concentration in both emitter and base regions. High gain and low forward transit time are possible even with higher doping concentration in the base region than in the emitter region for both of these structures.

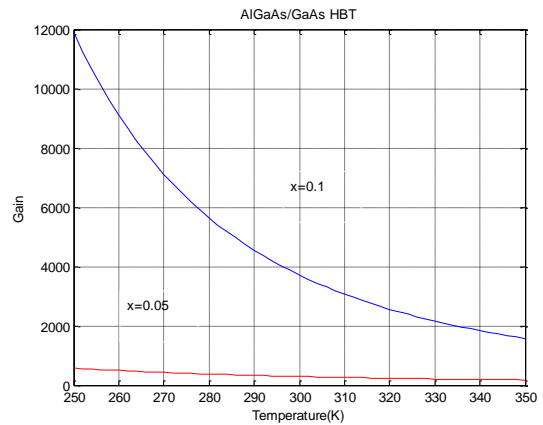


Fig.1 Variation of current gain with temperature for an Al_xGaAs_{1-x}/GaAs HBT. $N_{DE}=N_{AB}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3, W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

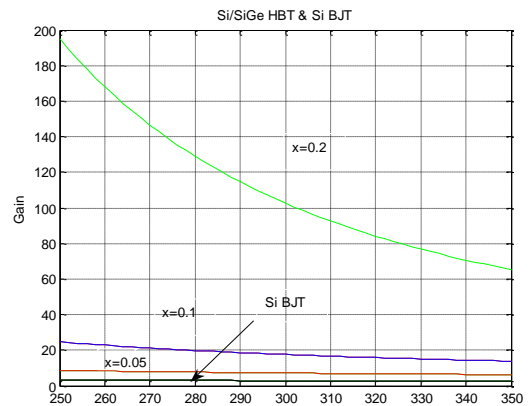


Fig.2 Variation of current gain with temperature for a $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ HBT. $N_{DE}=N_{AB}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, $W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

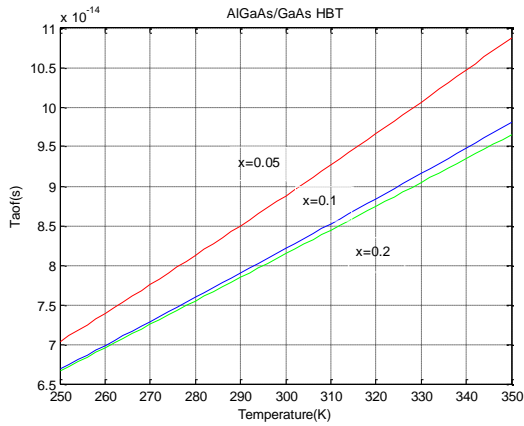


Fig.3 Variation of forward transit time with temperature for an $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ HBT. $N_{DE}=N_{AB}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, $W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

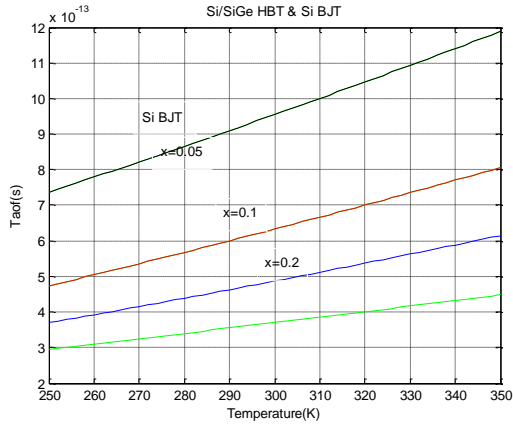


Fig.4 Variation of forward transit time with temperature for a $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ HBT and Si BJT. $N_{DE}=N_{AB}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, $W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

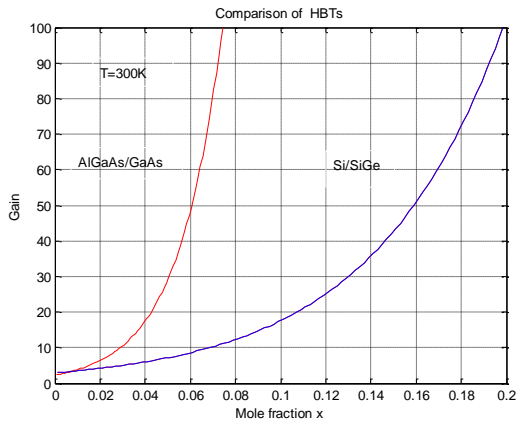


Fig.5 Variation of current gain with mole fraction x for an $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ HBT and $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ HBT. $N_{DE}=N_{AB}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, $W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

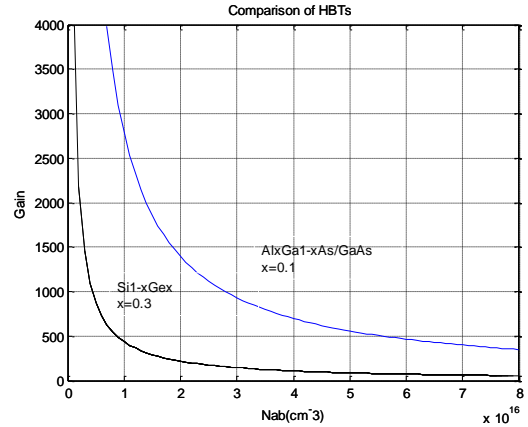


Fig.6 Variation of current gain with doping concentration in the base region for an $\text{Al}_x\text{GaAs}_{1-x}/\text{GaAs}$ HBT and $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ HBT. $N_{DE}=7.5 \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$, $W_E=W_B=60\text{nm}$.

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