Contents

		page
Abstract		I
Acknowledgements		iii
Contents		v
List of Figures		vii
List of Tables		xi
List of Symbols		xii
List of Abbreviations		xiii
Chapter 1: Introduction		
1.1	Wide Band-Gap Semiconductors: Alternative to Silicon in Power Applications	1
1.2	Possibility of GaN to Replace Silicon in Power/RF Segment	3-4
	1.2.1 GaN: Enabling New Application Areas	3
	1.2.2 Ease of Use	4
	1.2.3 Cost Effective Technology	4
	1.2.4 Reliability	4
1.3	Applications of GaN	5
1.4	GaN Based High Electron Mobility Transistors	6
1.5	Outline of the Thesis	6
Chapter 2: AlGaN/GaN HEMT devices		
2.1	Source of 2-DEG in AlGaN/GaN HEMT System	9-12
	2.1.1 Polarization in Group III-Nitride Compounds	9
	2.1.2 Surface States	11
	2.1.3 Relevance in Computational Modeling	12
2.2	GaN HEMT Design – Substrate and Different Epitaxial Layers	12-17
	2.2.1 Substrate	12
	2.2.2 Back Barrier	13
	2.2.3 The GaN Channel	14
	2.2.4 Spacer Layer	15
	2.2.5 Barrier Layer	15
	2.2.6 Cap Layer	16
2.3	Device Design for High Breakdown Voltages	17-18
	2.3.1 Lateral Field Relaxation: Employing Field Plates	17
	2.3.2 Vertical Field Relaxation: Buffer Designing	18
2.4	GaN Reliability	18-21
	2.4.1 Traps	18
	2.4.2 Impact of Physical and Electrical Stress:	20
	2.4.3 Punch Through Effect in GaN Buffer	21
2.5	Computational Analysis and Optimization of AlGaN/GaN HEMT Devices: Challenges and Opportunities	21
Chapter 3: Computational framework for AlGaN/GaN HEMT system		
3.1	Introduction	23
3.2	HEMT Device Structure and Experimental Results	25
3.3	Computational Modeling Challenges: Electrostatics	26-33
	3.3.1 Polarization And 2-DEG	26
	3.3.2 Quantum Effects	28
	3.3.3 Surface Traps	29
	3.3.4 Traps	31
	3.3.5 S/D Contacts	32
3.4	Computational Challenges & Modeling: Carrier Dynamics and Transport	33-34
	3.4.1 Carrier Transport	33
	3.4.2 Gate Stack Modeling	35
	3.4.3 Lattice and Carrier Heating: Impact on Carrier Transport	38
3.5	Conclusion	39

page

Chapter 4: Impact of Carbon Doping on Avalanche Breakdown in AlGaN/GaN HEMTs

4.1 Introduction 41
4.2 Computational Framework 42
4.3 C-Doping Vs. Avalanche Breakdown: Nature of Traps 43-47
4.3.1 Possibility 1: C-Doping as Acceptor Trap 43
4.3.2 Possibility 2: C-Doping as Self-Compensating Acceptor and Donor Traps 46
4.4 Impact of Traps on Avalanche Breakdown: Physical Insight 47-52
4.4.1 Donor Traps: Impact on Free Charge Carriers & Vertical Electric Field in GaN Buffer 47
4.4.2 Acceptor Traps: Impact on Avalanche Generation 50
4.4.3 Combined Impact of Acceptor and Donor Traps 52
4.5 Design Parameters for C-Doped GaN Buffer 52-55
4.5.1 Channel Thickness 52
4.5.2 C-Doping: Optimizing Relative Trap Concentration 54
4.6 Conclusion 55

Chapter 5: Proposals to Optimize C-Doping Profile in GaN Buffer

5.1 Introduction 57
5.2 Simulation Framework 59
5.3 Silicon Doping to Independently Engineer Donor Trap Concentration 59-63
5.3.1 Impact on Breakdown Voltage 60
5.3.2 Physical Insights: Impact of Si-C Co-Doping on Avalanche Breakdown 60
5.3.3 A comparison to donor traps in GaN buffer 62
5.4 Si-C Co-Doping: Buffer Design Guidelines 63-66
5.4.1 Acceptor trap concentration and Si doping 63
5.4.2 Channel thickness 65
5.5 Si-C Co-Doping: Trap Profile Engineering 66-69
5.5.1 Impact on Vertical Electric Field 66
5.5.2 Design of Si-Doped Region 67
5.5.3 Comparison with Standard / Uniformly Doped Buffer 68
5.5.4 Optimizing C-Doping requirement in channel proximity with use of engineered profile 68
5.6 Conclusion 69

Chapter 6: Conclusions and Future Scope

6.1 Summary 71
6.2 Conclusion 72
6.3 Future Scope 73

References 75