

Nonlinear Capacitance Modeling for Large-Signal GaN HEMT Model

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Outline

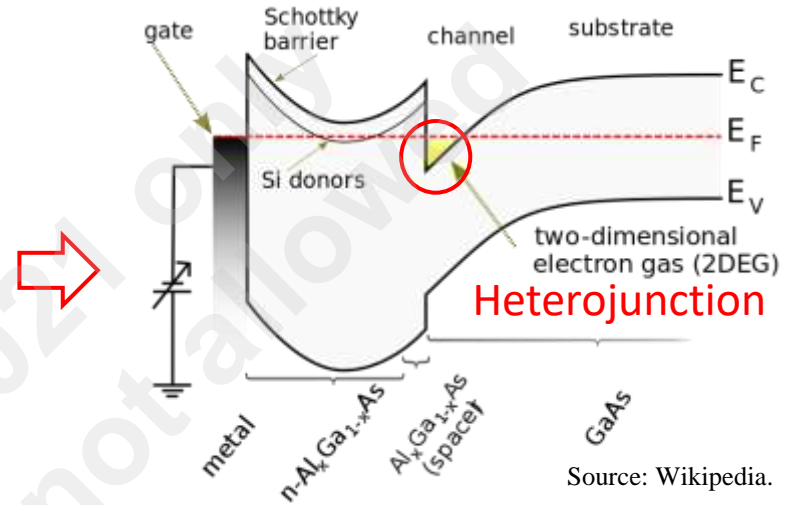
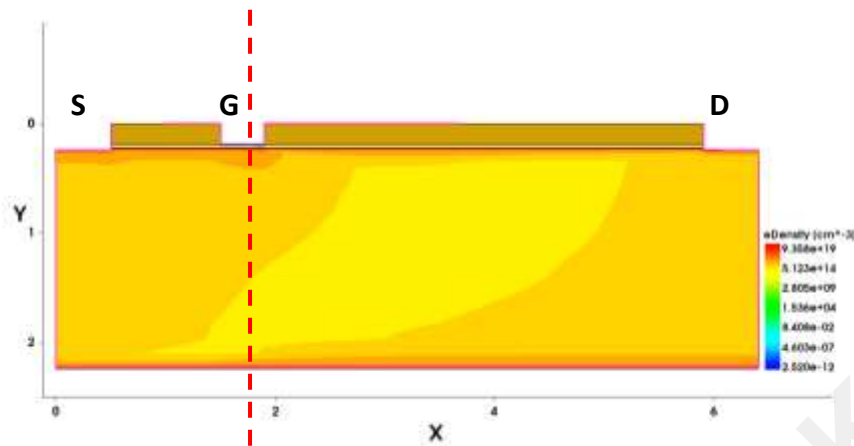
- **Background and Motivation**
 - GaN HEMTs and Modelling Challenges
 - Nonlinear Capacitances in GaN HEMTs
 - Current Modelling Methods
- **Measurement Facilities**
 - DCIV/PIV Measurement Setup
 - Continuous-Wave/Pulsed S-Parameters Measurement Setup
 - Continuous-Wave/Pulsed Load-Pull Measurement Setup
 - Specifications at A Glance
- **Outlier Detection of Capacitance Extractions**
- **Simplification of Nonlinear Capacitance**
- **Temperature Dependence of Nonlinear Capacitances**
- **ANN-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model**
- **Conclusion**

Background and Motivation

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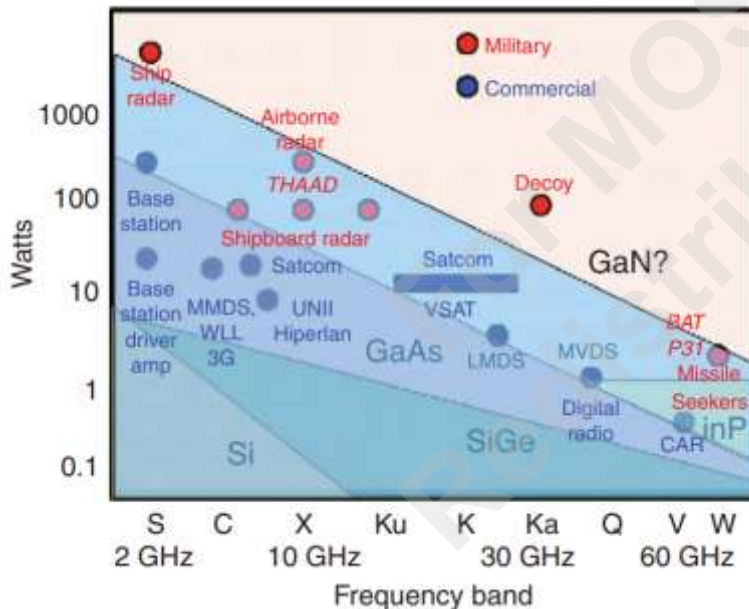
1

High Electron Mobility Transistors:



Source: Wikipedia.

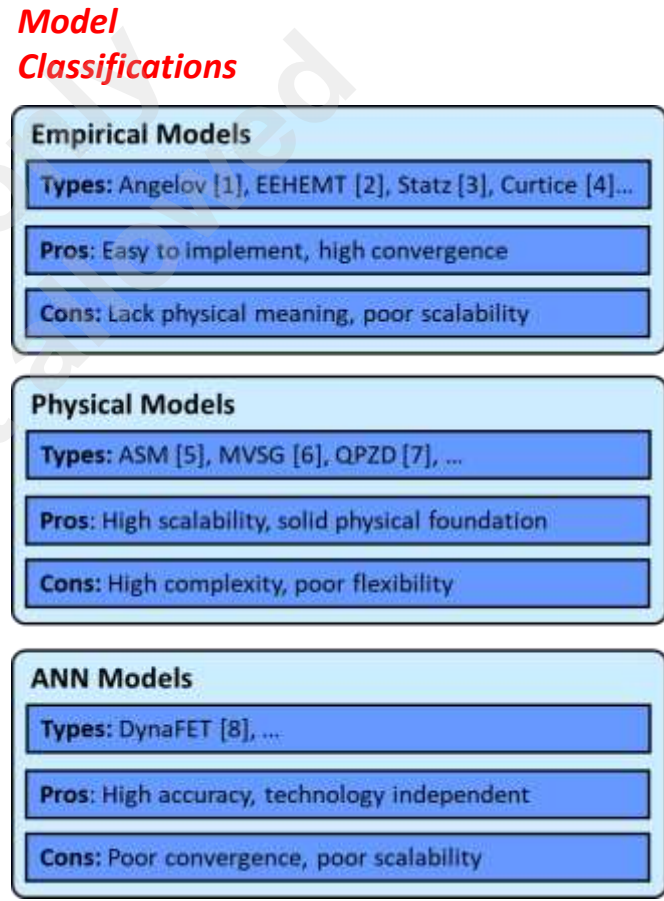
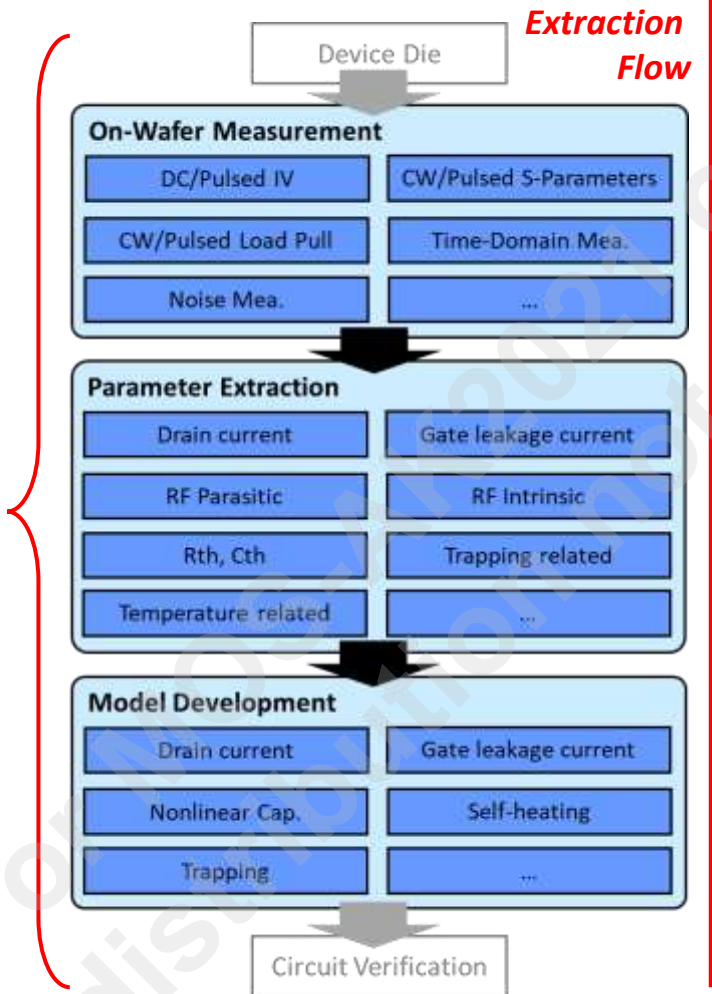
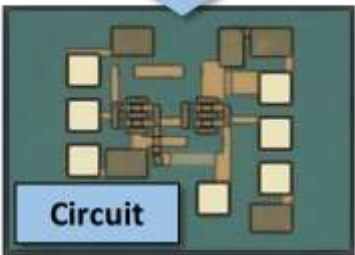
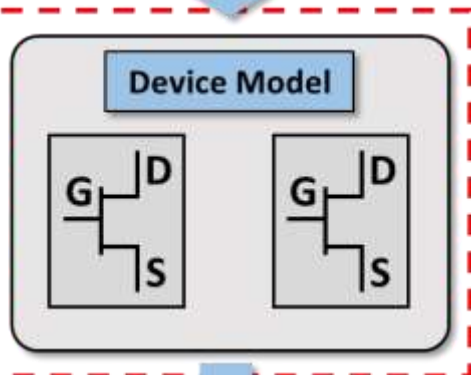
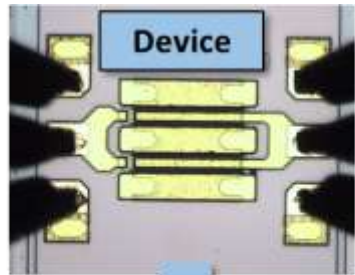
GaN High Electron Mobility Transistors:



Advantages of GaN HEMT:

- Good linearity
- High power density
- High gain
- Good thermal conductivity
- Low parasitic capacitances and inter-terminal capacitances
- High cutoff frequency
- ...

Covers a wide range of applications.



[1] I. Angelov, H. Zirath, and N. Rosman, "A new empirical nonlinear model for hemt and mesfet devices," IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, vol. 40, no. 12, pp. 2258–2266, 1992.

[2] William Clausen. Small and large signal modeling of mm-wave mhemt devices. 2003.

[3] Hermann Statz, Paul Newman, Irl W Smith, Robert A Pucel, and Hermann A Haus. Gaas fet device and circuit simulation in spice, IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, 34(2):160–169, 1987.

[4] Walter R Curtice and M Ettenberg. A nonlinear gaas fet model for use in the design of output circuits for power amplifiers. IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory Techniques, 33:1383–1394, 1985.

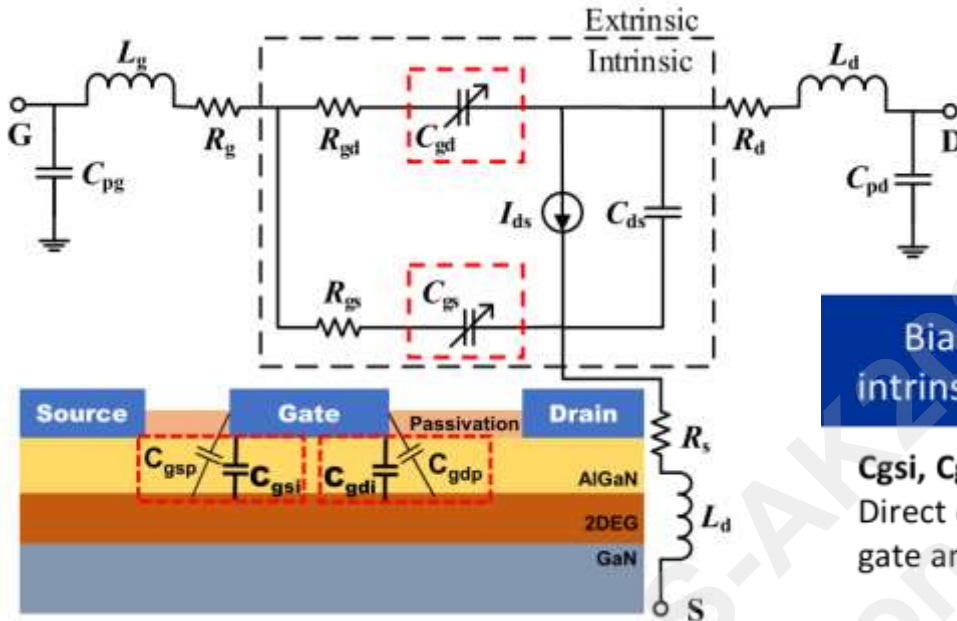
[5] S. Khandelwal, C. Yadav, S. Agnihotri, Y. S. Chauhan, A. Curutchet, T. Zimmer, J.-C. De Jaeger, N. Defrance, and T. A. Fjeldly, "Robust surface-potential-based compact model for gan hemt ic design," IEEE Trans. Electron Devices, vol. 60, no. 10, pp. 3216–3222, 2013.

[6] U. Radhakrishna, "Modeling gallium-nitride based high electron Mobility transistors: linking device physics to high voltage and high frequency circuit design," PhD Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016.

[7] Z. Wen et al., "A quasi-physical compact large-signal model for AlGaN/GaN HEMTs," IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Techn., vol. 65, no. 12, pp. 5113–5122, Dec. 2017.

[8] J. Xu, R. Jones, S. A. Harris, T. Nielsen, and D. E. Root, "Dynamic FET model-DynaFET-for GaN transistors from NVNA active source injection measurements," in IEEE MTT-S Int. Microw. Symp. Dig., Jun. 2014, pp. 1–3.

Nonlinear Gate Capacitances in GaN HEMTs



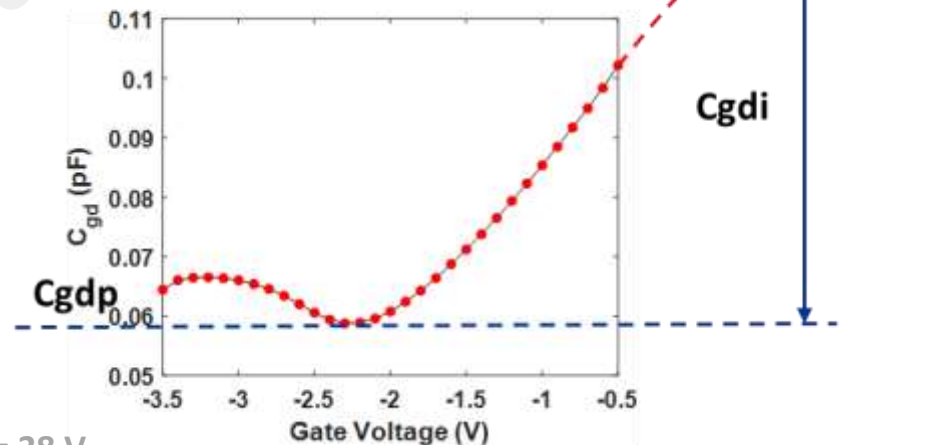
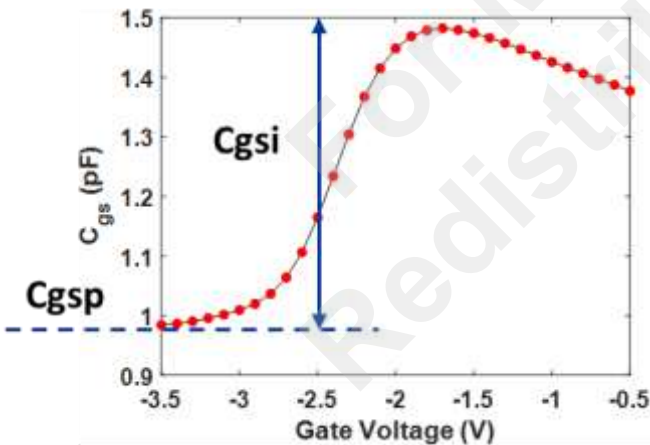
Nonlinear gate capacitance

Bias-dependent intrinsic capacitances

Bias-independent parasitic capacitances

C_{gsi} , C_{gdi}
Direct coupling between gate and 2DEG

C_{gsp} , C_{gdp}
Sum of indirect coupling between gate and 2DEG (e.g., fringing capacitance)



$V_{ds} = 38\text{ V}$

- Empirical model
 - The C_{gs} and C_{gd} are independent of I_{ds} .
 - Flexible and easy to use. But lack physical meaning.

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + C_{gs0} (1 + \tanh(P_{g11}V_{gs} + P_{g10})) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{g21}V_{ds} + P_{g20}))$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + C_{gd0} (1 + \tanh(P_{d11}V_{ds} + P_{d10}) - P_{d111}) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{d21}V_{gd} + P_{d20}) + 2P_{d111})$$

- Physical Model
 - The C_{gs} and C_{gd} are dependent on I_{ds} .
 - Able to well reflect the physical nature of the device.

But not flexible and difficult to tune.

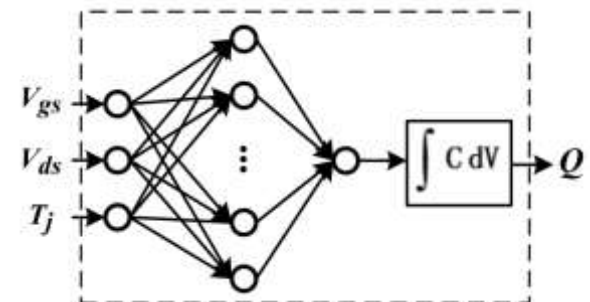
$$C_{gs} = -\frac{\partial Q_S}{\partial V_G}$$

$$C_{gd} = -\frac{\partial Q_D}{\partial V_G}$$

$$Q_S = \frac{2WL}{(Q_{is}^2 - Q_{id}^2)^2} \left(-Q_{id}^2 \frac{Q_{id}^3 - Q_{is}^3}{3} + \frac{Q_{is}^5 - Q_{id}^5}{5} \right)$$

$$Q_D = \frac{2WL}{(Q_{is}^2 - Q_{id}^2)^2} \left(Q_{is}^2 \frac{Q_{id}^3 - Q_{is}^3}{3} - \frac{Q_{is}^5 - Q_{id}^5}{5} \right)$$

- ANN based model
 - The C_{gs} and C_{gd} are built based on artificial neural networks. Independent of I_{ds} .
 - Highly accurate. But difficult to tune (too many parameters).



For the nonlinear gate capacitances:

- The abnormal results in extractions
⇒ **Outlier detection method [1].**
- The complexity in building up nonlinear capacitance models
⇒ **Simplification method at large V_{ds} [2].**
- The temperature dependence of nonlinear capacitances
⇒ **Improved temperature dependence [3].**
- The charge inconsistency of ANN-based gate charge model
⇒ **Novel ANN-based consistent gate charge model [1].**

Ref:

[1] W. Hu, H. Luo, X. Yan and Y. -X. Guo, "An Accurate Neural Network-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model for GaN HEMTs by Refining Intrinsic Capacitances," *IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Techn.*, vol. 69, no.7, pp. 3208-3218, July 2021.

[2] H. Luo, H. Zhang, W. Hu, and Y. Guo, "A simplification method for capacitance models in AlGaIn / GaN high electron mobility transistors under large drain voltage using channel analysis," *Int. J. RF Microw. Comput-Aid. Eng.*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2021.

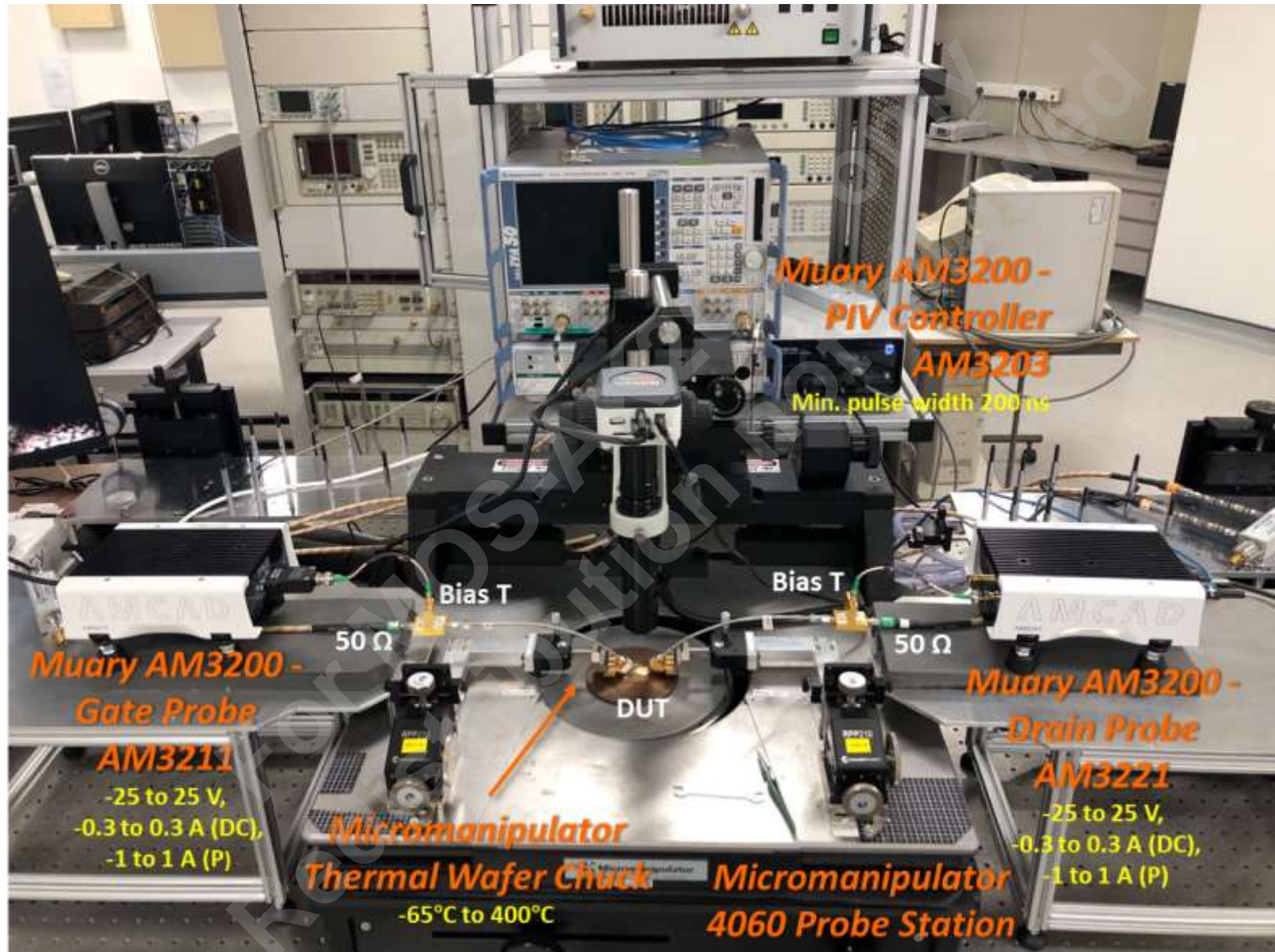
[3] H. Luo, Z. Zhong, W. Hu, and Y. Guo, "Analysis and Modeling of the Temperature Dependent Nonlinearity of Intrinsic Capacitances in AlGaIn/GaN HEMTs", *IEEE Microw. Wirel. Compon. Lett.*, vol. 31, no. 4, pp. 373-376, April 2021.

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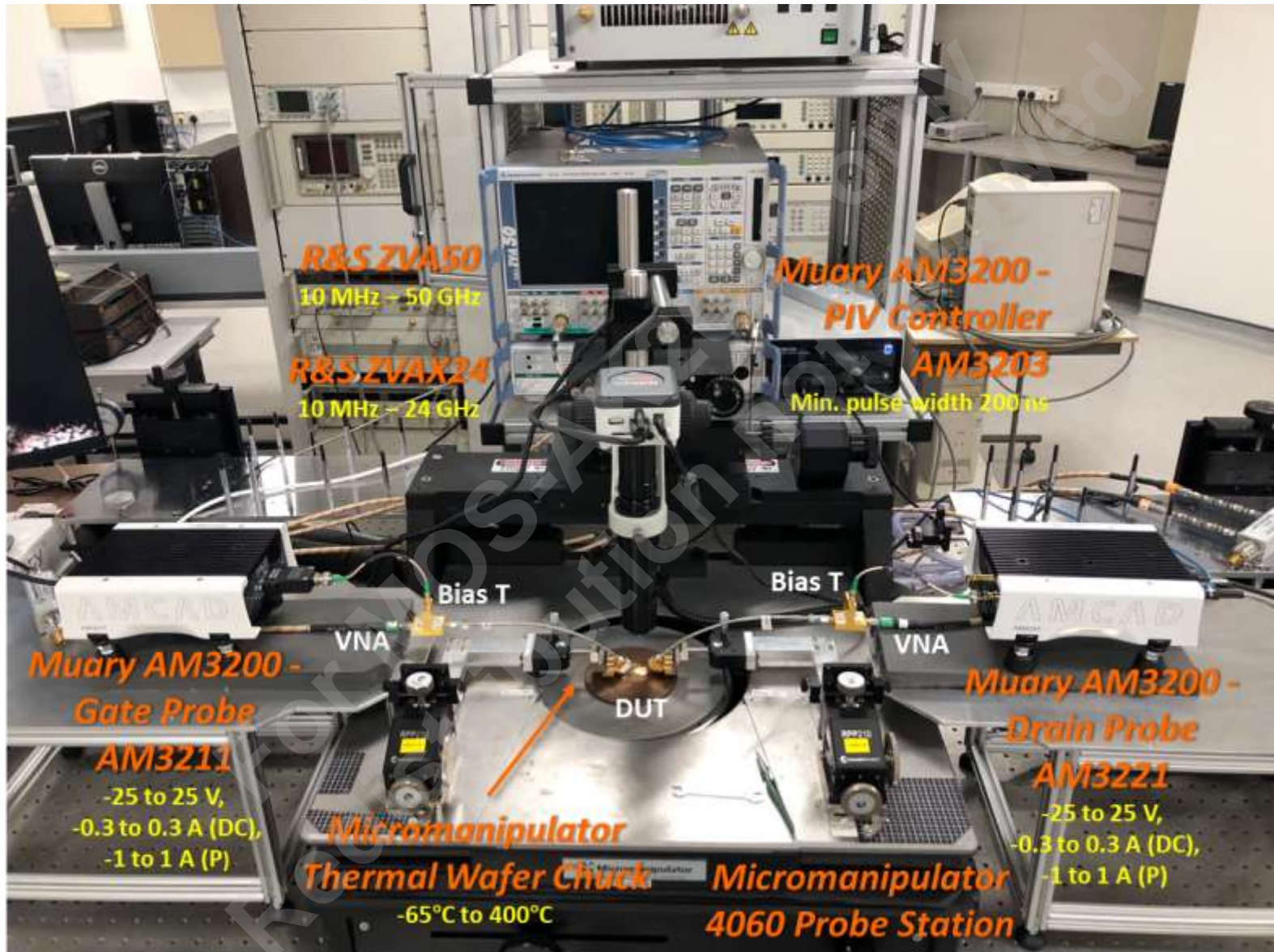
Measurement Facilities

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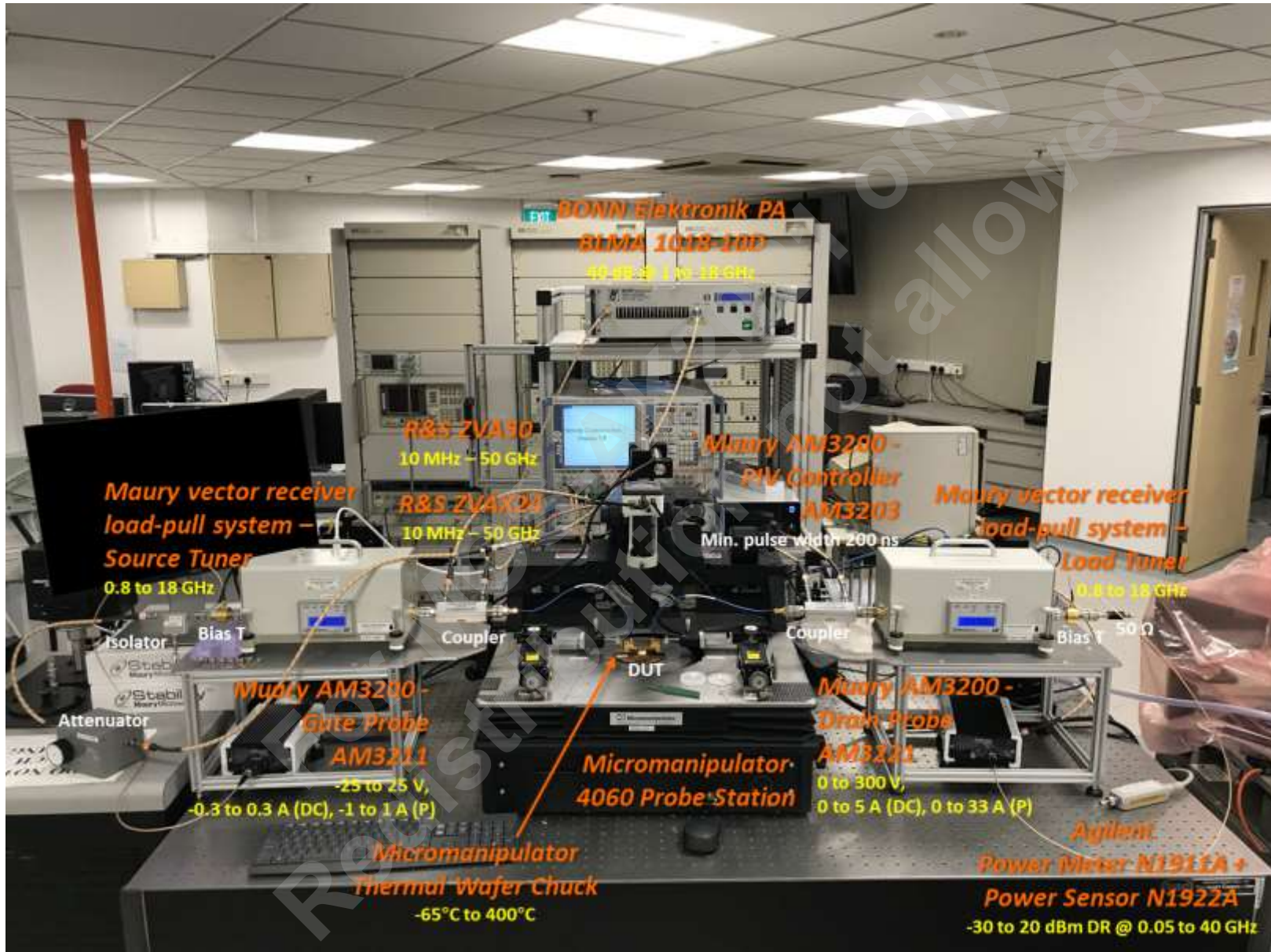
DCIV/PIV Measurement Setup



CW/Pulsed S-Parameters Measurement Setup



CW/Pulsed Load-Pull Measurement Setup



Specifications at A Glance

Equipment	Specification			
Maury AM 3200 PIV System (AM3203 Pulse IV Controller) (AM3211 Gate/Input Probe) (AM3221 Drain/Output Probe)	Min. pulse width 200ns from the generator.			
		DC & Pulsed Voltage	DC Current	Pulsed Current
	Input	-25 - 25 V	-0.3 - 0.3 A	-1 - 1 A
	Output	0 - 250 V	0 - 5 A	0 - 33 A
Maury Vector Receiver Load-Pull System (7mm Automated Tuners)	Frequency Range	Power Capacity		Insertion Loss
	0.8 GHz - 18.0 GHz	50 W (CW)	0.5 kW (PEP)	0.5 dB
ROHDE & SCHWARZ ZVA 50	Frequency Range		10 MHz - 50 GHz	
R&S ZVAX 24 Extension Unit	Frequency Range		10 MHz - 24 GHz	
BONN Elektronik Power Amplifier (BLMA 1018-10D)	Frequency Range	Output Power PN min / typ	Gain min / typ	Harmonics 2nd / 3rd
	1-18 GHz	10 / 12 W	40 / 43 ± 3 dB	15 / 20 dBc
Agilent P-Series Single Channel Power Meter (N1911A)	Power requirement		≤30W	
Agilent wideband power Sensor (N1922A)	Frequency Range		Dynamic range	
	0.05 - 40 GHz		-35 - 20 dBm (≥0.5 GHz) -30 - 20 dBm (0.05 - 0.5 GHz)	
Micromanipulator 4060 High Performance Manual Probe Station with Computer Controlled Thermal Chuck	X and Y Axis Range		Temperature	
	8" × 8" (200mm × 200mm)		-65 - 400 °C	

Outlier Detection of Capacitance Extractions

- Background and Motivation
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3

- The extracted capacitances data may have abnormal results (outliers), which may not be conducive to parameter extraction and fitting

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + C_{gs0}(1 + \tanh(P_{g11}V_{gs} + P_{g10})) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{g21}V_{ds} + P_{g20}))$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + C_{gd0}(1 + \tanh(P_{d11}V_{ds} + P_{d10}) - P_{d111}) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{d21}V_{gd} + P_{d20}) + 2P_{d111})$$

- We use the iForest algorithm to detect and remove the outliers [1]

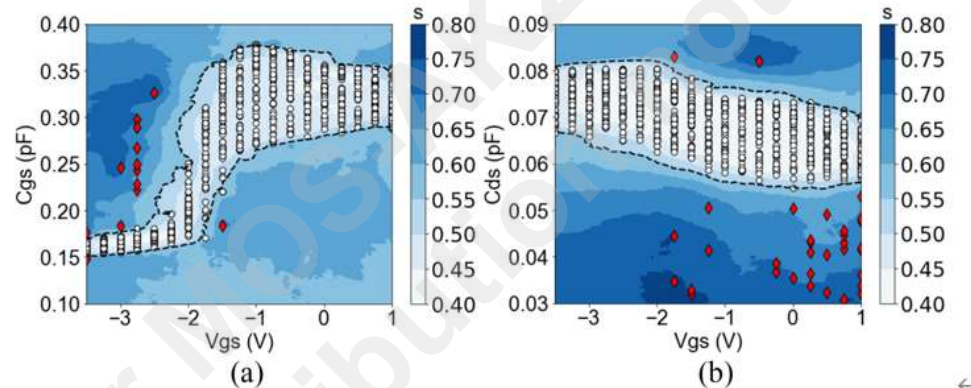


Figure 2. Outlier detection results of the extracted (a) C_{gs} and (b) C_{ds} , including the normal points (circle symbols), outliers (diamond symbols), and decision boundary (dashed lines).

- The outliers (red diamonds) can be successfully detected and removed

Ref:

[1] W. Hu, H. Luo, X. Yan and Y. -X. Guo, "An Accurate Neural Network-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model for GaN HEMTs by Refining Intrinsic Capacitances," *IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Techn.*, vol. 69, no.7, pp. 3208-3218, July 2021.

Simplification of Nonlinear Capacitances

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4

- The original Angelov C_{gs} and C_{gd} model has 13 parameters to fit at both V_{gs} and V_{ds} direction.

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + C_{gs0} (1 + \tanh(P_{g11}V_{gs} + P_{g10})) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{g21}V_{ds} + P_{g20}))$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + C_{gd0} (1 + \tanh(P_{d11}V_{ds} + P_{d10}) - P_{d111}) \times (1 + \tanh(P_{d21}V_{gd} + P_{d20}) + 2P_{d111})$$

- Difficult to fit. Complex expression is also easier to lead to convergence issue.
- It is common for GaN HEMT to work at high V_{ds} to provide a high output power.
- Solution: We cancel the V_{ds} dependence of C_{gs} and C_{gd} at high V_{ds} . Parameter number is reduced from 13 to 8 [1].

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + C_{gs0} (1 + \tanh(P_{g11}V_{gs} + P_{g10}))$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + C_{gd0} (1 + \tanh(P_{d11}V_{gs} + P_{d10}))$$

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[1] H. Luo, H. Zhang, W. Hu, and Y. Guo, "A simplification method for capacitance models in AlGaN / GaN high electron mobility transistors under large drain voltage using channel analysis," *Int. J. RF Microw. Comput-Aid. Eng.*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2021.

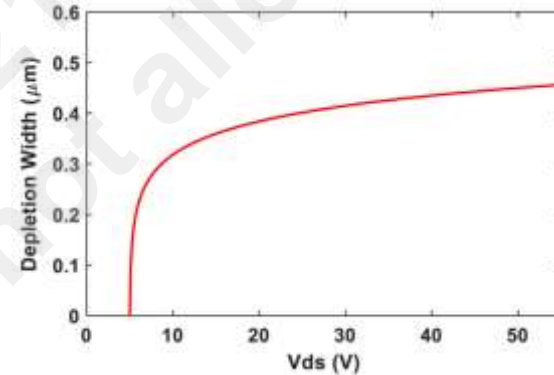
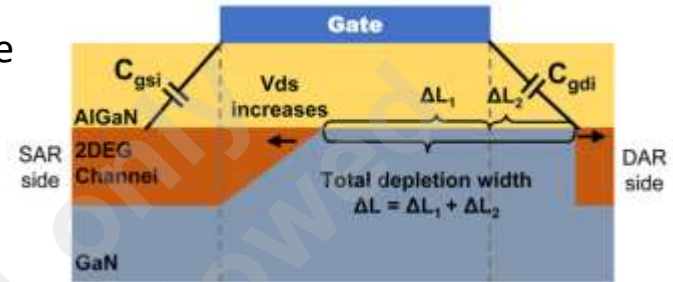
The V_{ds} dependence of C_{gs} and C_{gd} can be attributed to the V_{ds} dependence of channel.

It is formulated and plotted as follows.

$$\Delta L = \Delta L_1 + \Delta L_2 \quad (1)$$

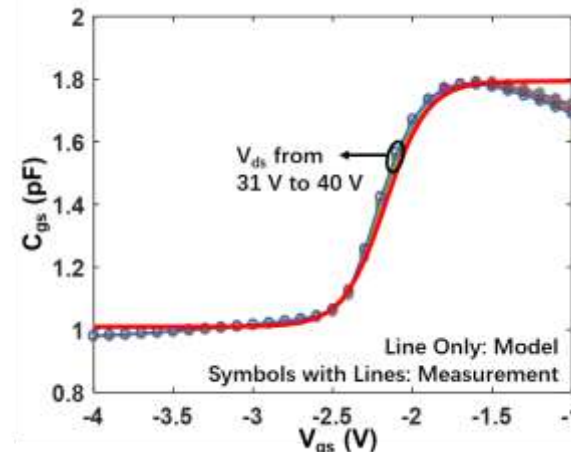
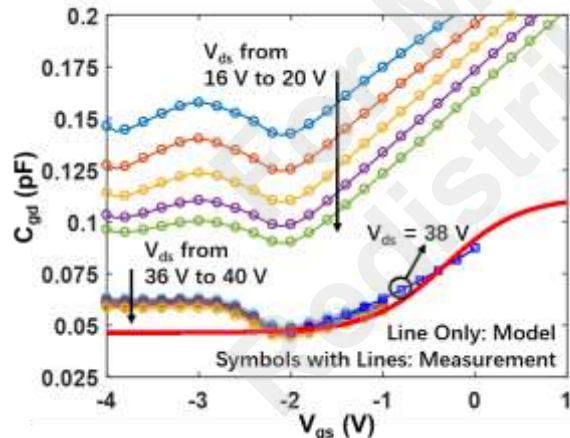
$$\Delta L_1 = \gamma \ln \left(\left(\frac{V_{ds} - F_{sat} V_{ds(sat)}}{E_{sat} \gamma} \right) + \sqrt{\left(\frac{V_{ds} - F_{sat} V_{ds(sat)}}{E_{sat} \gamma} \right)^2 + 1} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta L_2 = k \cdot \Delta L_1 \quad (3)$$



The increase of depletion width becomes slow when V_{ds} is high.

The extracted C_{gs} and C_{gd} also indicate a slow increase when V_{ds} is high.



Therefore, we cancel the V_{ds} dependence of C_{gs} and C_{gd} for simplification

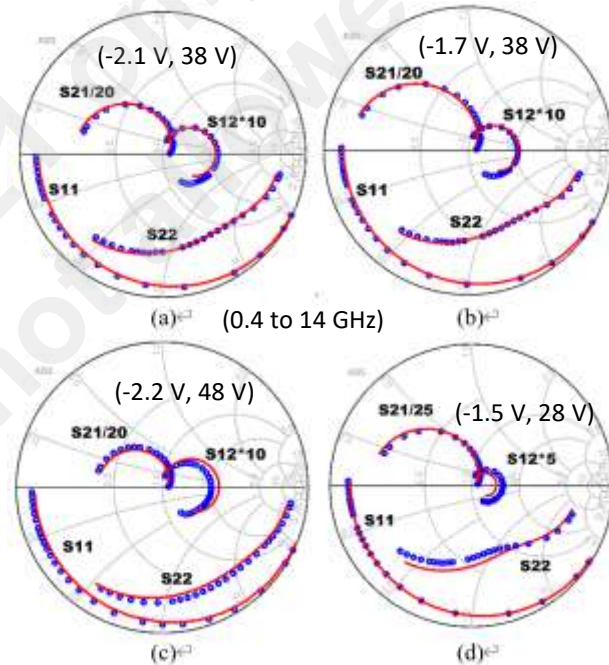
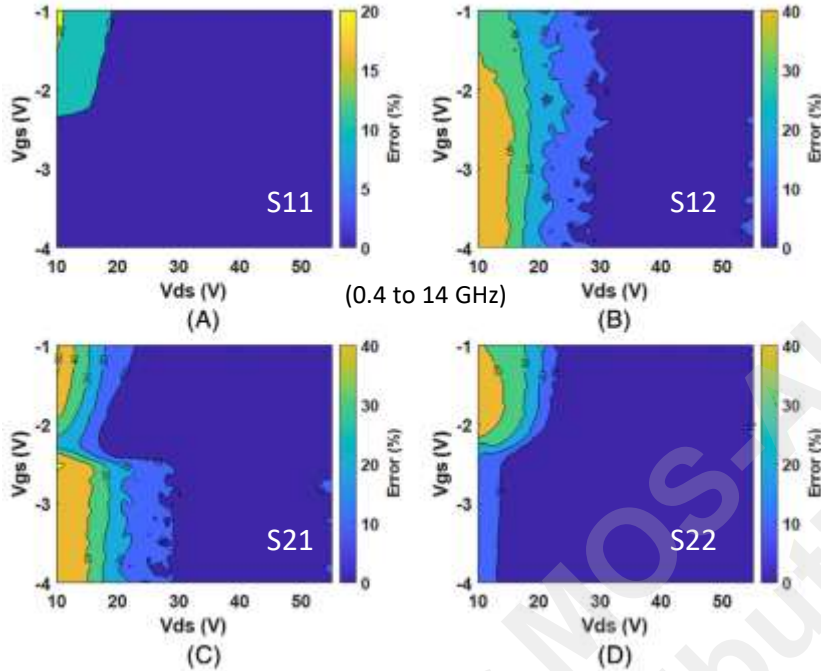
With the simplified equations and parameters extracted at 38V

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + C_{gs0} (1 + \tan h(P_{g11} V_{gs} + P_{g10}))$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + C_{gd0} (1 + \tan h(P_{d11} V_{gs} + P_{d10}))$$

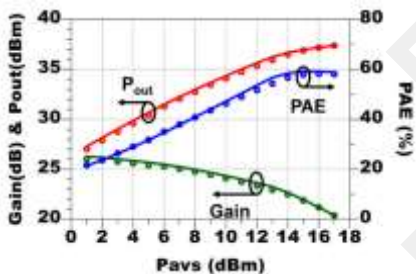
The RMS error of recovered small signal S-parameters

S-Parameters



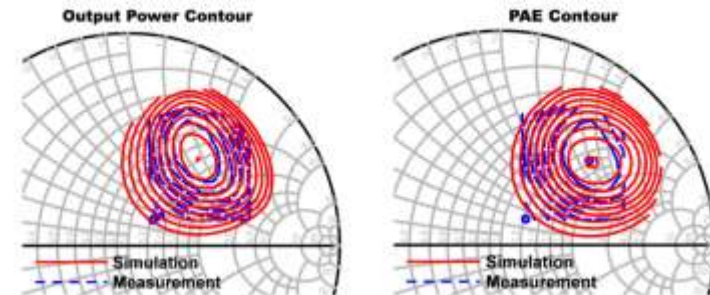
Power sweeps

Load pull



Vdsq = 38 V, Vgsq = -2.1 V, f = 2.7 GHz

Vdsq = 38 V, Vgsq = -2.5 V, f = 2.7 GHz



(Vdsq = 38 V, Vgsq = -2.1 V, f = 2.7 GHz, Pin = 17 dBm)

Temperature Dependence of Nonlinear Capacitances

- Background and Motivation
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5

- The original temperature dependence of C_{gs} and C_{gd} : linear scaling

$$C_X = C_{Xp} + \alpha_{TX} C_{Xi} \quad (1)$$

- This may not be accurate as the evidence of this relationship in many literatures came from the single bias C_{gs} and C_{gd} .
- Previous extractions on EDL (H.-H. Hu, 08) also showed that the C_{gs} and C_{gd} has a more complex temperature dependence at V_{gs} direction.
- We analyzed and characterized the previously unconsidered temperature dependent nonlinearity based on device physics [1]

$$k_{TX} = k_{TX0} \cdot (1 + \gamma_{kX1}/(\gamma_{kX2} + (T - T_0))) \quad (2)$$

$$V_{sTX} = V_{sTX0} + \gamma_{VX}(T - T_0) \quad (3)$$

$$C_{gs} = C_{gsp} + \alpha_{Tgs} C_{gs0} \cdot \left(\tanh(k'_{gs}(V_{ds} + V'_{sgs})) + 1 \right) \cdot \left(\tanh(k_{gs}(V_{gs} + V_{sgs})) + P_{222} V_{ds} + 1 \right) \quad (4)$$

$$C_{gd} = C_{gdp} + \alpha_{Tgd} C_{gd0} \cdot \left(\tanh(k'_{gd}(V_{ds} + V'_{sgd})) + 1 - P_{111} \right) \cdot \left(\tanh(k_{gd}(V_{gs} + V_{sgd})) - P_{111} V_{ds} \right) + 1 + 2P_{111} \quad (5)$$

$$\alpha_{TX} = 1 + \alpha_{TX0}(T - T_0) \quad (6)$$

- A higher accuracy of device model is achieved.

Ref:

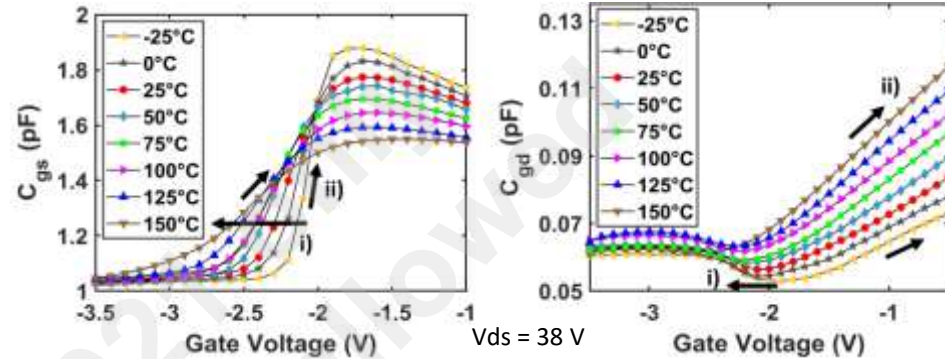
[1] H. Luo, Z. Zhong, W. Hu, and Y. Guo, "Analysis and Modeling of the Temperature Dependent Nonlinearity of Intrinsic Capacitances in AlGaIn/GaN HEMTs", *IEEE Microw. Wirel. Compon. Lett.*, vol. 31, no. 4, pp. 373-376, April 2021.

The extracted C_{gs} and C_{gd} are given on the right.

In addition to the traditional relationship

$$C_X = C_{Xp} + \alpha_{TX} C_{Xi} \quad (1)$$

The horizontal shift (i) and slope flattening (ii) can be observed.



The horizontal shift (i) is caused by the temperature dependence of threshold voltage (V_{th}).

The slope flattening (ii) is caused by the temperature dependence of subthreshold swing (SS).

The **constant** k_{gs} , k_{gd} , V_{sgs} and V_{sgd} in the Angelov capacitance model is modified to be **temperature dependent**.

Modification

$$k_{TX} = k_{TX0} \cdot (1 + \gamma_{kX1} / (\gamma_{kX2} + (T - T_0))) \quad (2)$$

$$V_{sTX} = V_{sTX0} + \gamma_{VX}(T - T_0) \quad (3)$$

where X can be either gs or gd

⇒ In accordance with the temperature dependence of V_{th}

⇒ In accordance with the temperature dependence of SS

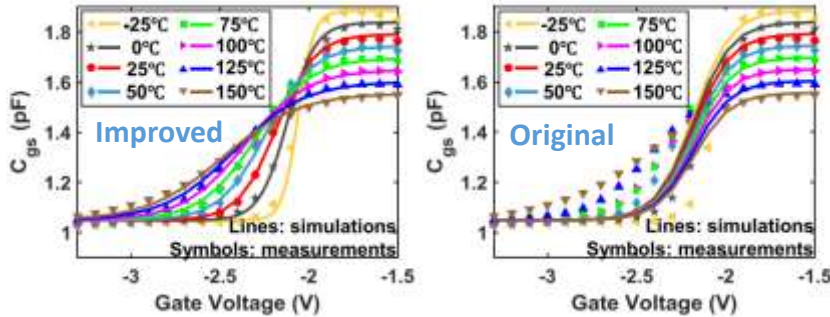
Angelov capacitance model

$$C_{gs} = C_{gs0} + \alpha_{Tgs} C_{gs0} \cdot \left(\tanh\left(k'_{gs} (V_{ds} + V'_{sgs})\right) + 1 \right) \cdot \left(\tanh(k_{gs} (V_{gs} + V_{sgs})) + P_{222} V_{ds} + 1 \right) \quad (4)$$

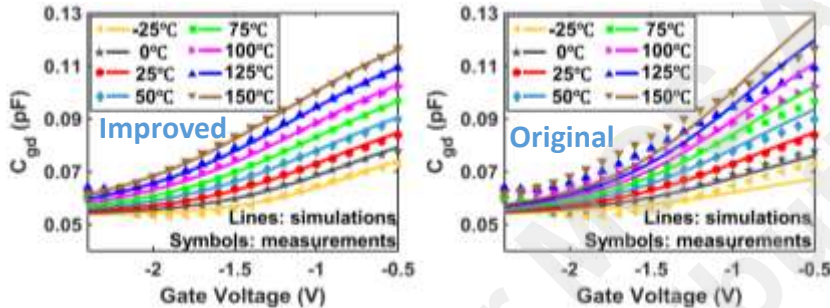
$$C_{gd} = C_{gd0} + \alpha_{Tgd} C_{gd0} \cdot \left(\tanh\left(k'_{gd} (V_{ds} + V'_{sgd})\right) + 1 - P_{111} \right) \cdot \left(\tanh(k_{gd} (V_{gs} + V_{sgd})) - P_{111} V_{ds} \right) + 1 + 2P_{111} \quad (5)$$

$$\alpha_{TX} = 1 + \alpha_{TX0}(T - T_0) \quad (6)$$

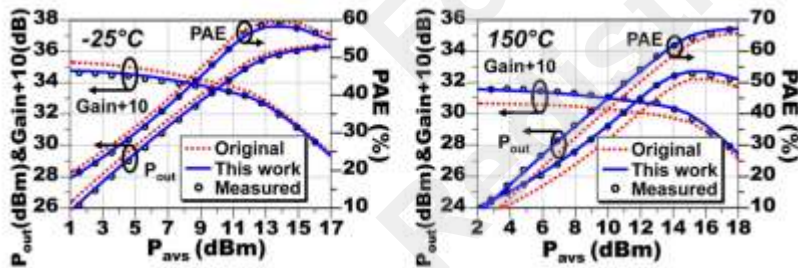
Comparison of the original Cgs and improved Cgs



Comparison of the original Cgd and improved Cgd

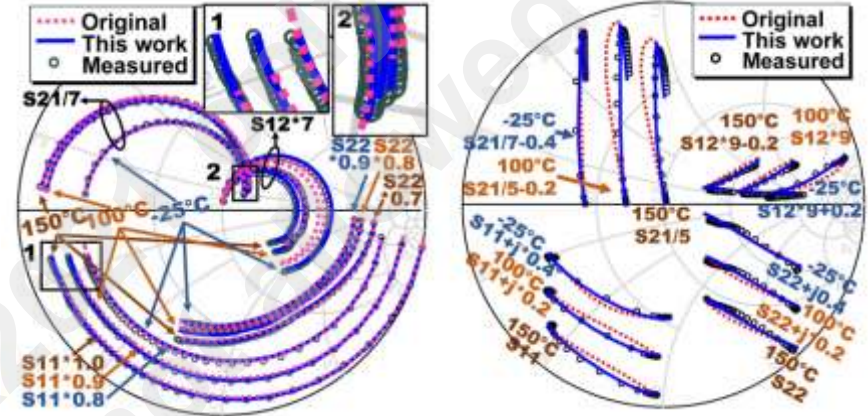


Power sweeps



Vgsq = -2.1 V, Vdsq = 38 V, f = 3.5 GHz

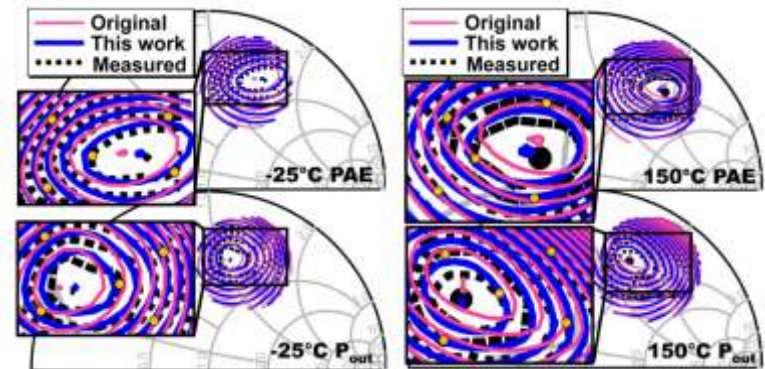
S-Parameters



Vgs = -2.3 V, Vds = 38 V,
f = 0.2 to 10 GHz

f = 3.4 GHz, Vds = 38 V,
Vgs = -3.5 to -0.5 V

Load pulls



Vgsq = -2.1 V, Vdsq = 38 V, f = 3.5 GHz

6

ANN-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model

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Problem and Method

- The ANN capacitance model is not charge-conservative, which may have convergence issue
- The gate charge can be used to avoid charge-conservation issue, i.e.,

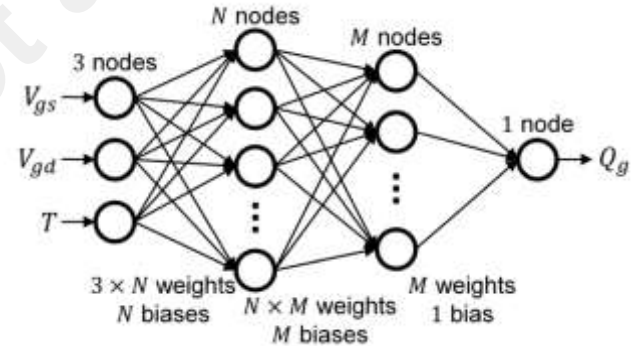
$$\frac{\partial C_{gs}}{\partial V_{gd}} = \frac{\partial^2 Q_g}{\partial V_{gd} \partial V_{gs}} = \frac{\partial^2 Q_g}{\partial V_{gs} \partial V_{gd}} = \frac{\partial C_{gd}}{\partial V_{gs}}$$

- We construct the gate charge ANN model directly

$$Q_g(V_{gs}, V_{gd}, T) = b_3 + \sum_{i=1}^M w_{3i} \tanh(\varphi_{2i})$$

$$\varphi_{2i} = b_{2i} + \sum_{j=1}^N w_{2ij} \tanh(\varphi_{1j})$$

$$\varphi_{1j} = b_{1j} + w_{1j1}V_{gs} + w_{1j2}V_{gd} + w_{1j3}T$$



- Then the Cgs and Cgd is naturally charge conservative

$$C_{gs} = \sum_{i=1}^M \left[w_{3i} \operatorname{sech}^2(\varphi_{2i}) \left(\sum_{j=1}^N w_{2ij} w_{1j1} \operatorname{sech}^2(\varphi_{1j}) \right) \right]$$

$$C_{gd} = \sum_{i=1}^M \left[w_{3i} \operatorname{sech}^2(\varphi_{2i}) \left(\sum_{j=1}^N w_{2ij} w_{1j2} \operatorname{sech}^2(\varphi_{1j}) \right) \right]$$

Ref:

[1] W. Hu, H. Luo, X. Yan and Y. -X. Guo, "An Accurate Neural Network-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model for GaN HEMTs by Refining Intrinsic Capacitances," *IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Techn.*, vol. 69, no.7, pp. 3208-3218, July 2021.

Extracted and modelled Q_g , C_{gs} and C_{gd}

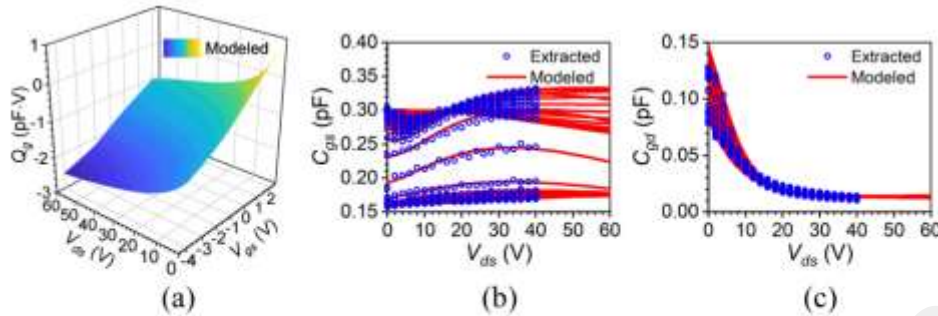


Figure 5. The Extracted results with V_{gs} from -3.5 V to 1 V and V_{ds} from 0 V to 40 V and modeled results with V_{gs} from -4 V to 2 V and V_{ds} from 0 V to 60 V at 125 °C. (a) Q_g . (b) C_{gs} . (c) C_{gd} .

S-Parameters

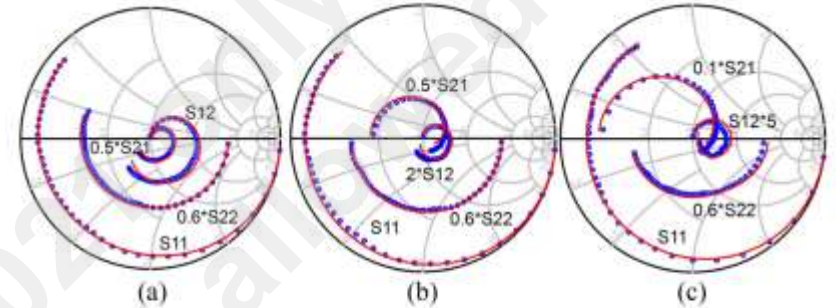


Fig. 17. Measured (symbols) and simulated (lines) CW S-parameters from 0.5 to 40 GHz at 25 °C with the reference plane at the probe tips. (a) $V_{gs} = -3$ V and $V_{ds} = 0$ V. (b) $V_{gs} = -2$ V and $V_{ds} = 20$ V. (c) $V_{gs} = -1$ V and $V_{ds} = 20$ V.

Load pulls:

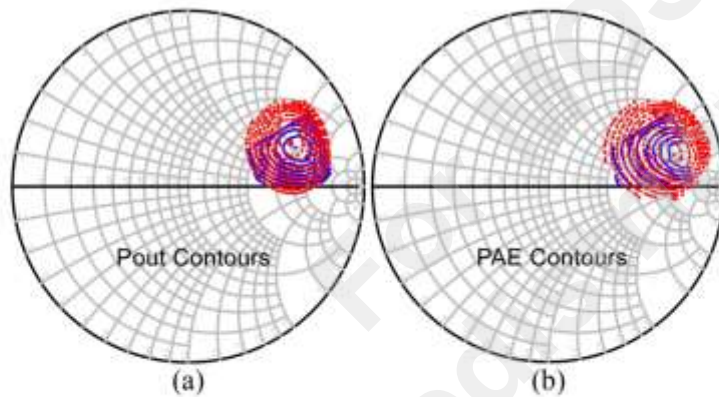


Fig. 19. Measured (solid lines) and simulated (dashed lines) CW load-pull results at a Class-AB operating point ($V_{gsq} = -1.68$ V, $V_{dsq} = 20$ V, and $I_{dsq} = 10$ mA) with the operating frequency $f_0 = 2.8$ GHz, the input power $P_{in} = 6.8$ dBm, and the source impedance $Z_S = 56.768 + j129.46$ Ω . (a) P_{out} contours in steps of 0.25 dBm. (b) PAE contours in steps of 4% .

Power sweeps:

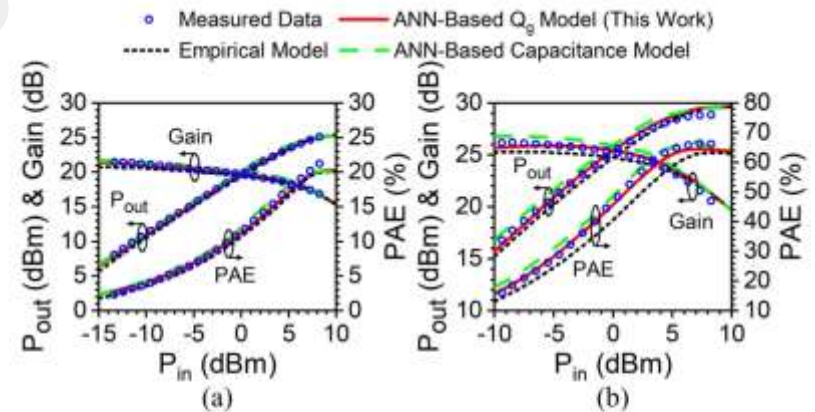


Fig. 20. Measured (symbols) and simulated (lines) P_{out} , Gain, and PAE at a Class-AB operating point with $V_{dsq} = 20$ V, $I_{dsq} = 10$ mA, and $f_0 = 2.8$ GHz. (a) $Z_S = 61.03 + j134$ Ω and $Z_L = 50.02 + j0.418$ Ω . (b) $Z_S = 56.77 + j129.5$ Ω and $Z_L = 146 + j110.7$ Ω (optimum source and load impedances).

Conclusion

- Background and Motivation
- Measurement Facilities
- Outlier Detection of Capacitance Extractions
- Simplification of Nonlinear Capacitance
- Temperature Dependence of Nonlinear Capacitances
- ANN-Based Consistent Gate Charge Model
- **Conclusion**

7

This presentation includes:

- **A quick review of GaN HEMT and its nonlinear capacitance modelling methods**
- **Introduction of our on-wafer measurement facilities**
- **The latest progress of our group on GaN HEMT nonlinear capacitance modeling. Including**
 - A method to detect capacitance extraction outliers
 - A simplification method of nonlinear capacitances
 - An improvement method of temperature dependence of nonlinear capacitances
 - An ANN-based consistent gate charge model