

Research Report

3D Monolithic Integration of III-V and Si(Ge) FETs for hybrid CMOS and Beyond

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3D Monolithic Integration of III-V and Si(Ge) FETs for hybrid CMOS and Beyond

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3D Monolithic integration can enable higher density and has the potential to stack independently optimized layers at transistor level. Owing to high mobility and lower processing temperatures, InGaAs is well-suited to be used as the top layer channel material in 3D monolithic integration along with Si/Si(Ge) FETs. A review of recent progress to develop InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D Monolithic technology is presented here.

1. Introduction

The conventional CMOS technology or 2D CMOS technology is facing significant challenges for downscaling the area of circuits in advanced nodes owing to high densities required. Exploiting the third dimension through vertical stacking of device layers presents an interesting opportunity to achieve higher device density without scaling down the dimensions. In this context monolithic 3D (3DM) integration has the potential to achieve very high interconnect densities,¹⁾²⁾ due to very high granularity provided by transistor level stacking. Besides conventional digital circuits,³⁾ it offers the opportunity to stack independently optimized multi-functional layers at transistor level for *More-than-Moore* technologies.⁴⁾ Recently, there has been significant effort in developing scalable monolithic 3D integration with group IV semiconductor channels involving Si or Ge FET layer on top of Si/SiGe FET layer.⁵⁾ However, due to the inherently high thermal budget of Si MOSFET process, monolithic 3D integration of Si(Ge)-on-Si faces a major challenge in terms of degradation of bottom layer FET performance due to the top layer FET thermal budget. This mandates the development of low temperature process for top layer Si or Si(Ge) FETs while maintaining the device performance. Recent efforts in this direction³⁾⁶⁾ demonstrate the significance of this technological challenge.

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In this purview, III-V channel FETs (specifically InGaAs based) present an exciting opportunity. As InGaAs based FET process is inherently a lower thermal budget process (typically $<650\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$), it brings a native advantage for utilization as top layer FET. Moreover, InGaAs material system is well-known to higher electron mobility compared to Silicon⁷⁾ and is being considered as potential n-channel material for scaled CMOS nodes to replace Silicon. Considerable progress has also been made recently in InGaAs based MOSFETs demonstrating high performance at low supply voltages, both on InP substrate,⁸⁾⁹⁾ and on silicon platform¹⁰⁾¹¹⁾.¹²⁾ Besides the recent consideration as n-channel material for CMOS technology, InGaAs based material system has traditionally been utilized as channel in high-electron mobility transistors (HEMTs) for high-frequency applications. Benefiting from the developments made in InGaAs based FETs, impressive cut-off frequencies have been demonstrated in MOS-HEMT and MOSFET architectures,¹³⁾¹⁴⁾ Thus, a III-V channel material such as InGaAs, has potential to enable both high-performance digital logic as well as high-frequency circuits tightly cointegrated, down to transistor level, in 3D monolithic integration. Therefore one can envisage a truly multi-functional 3D monolithic integration scheme where InGaAs nFETs on top of Si/SiGe FETs can allow higher performance hybrid CMOS¹⁵⁾ and high frequency InGaAs RF-FETs can benefit from closely integrated CMOS circuits.¹⁶⁾

The recent developments towards such a multi-functional hybrid 3D monolithic integration involving III-V (mainly InGaAs based materials) and group IV materials (mainly Si/SiGe) are reviewed here. First of all, efforts involving III-V material integration on Silicon substrate, specifically those that can enable a scalable 3D monolithic platform are also reviewed. Then the-state-of-the-art of device integration in such a hybrid 3D monolithic integration is reviewed. Then various works demonstrating both DC and RF performance in a III-V and Si 3D monolithic integration scheme are detailed. Finally, conclusions and future perspectives are discussed.

2. III-V material Integration Through Direct Wafer Bonding

One of the very important modules in 3D monolithic integration of III-V materials with Si/Si(Ge) is the process of forming III-V channel layer on top of Si/Si(Ge) device layer. For a robust and scalable 3D monolithic integration scheme, it would be advantageous to have continuous high-quality film of the channel material. As in the case of Si(Ge)-on-Si 3D monolithic integration, direct wafer bonding (DWB) (of III-V materials in this case) through oxide-oxide molecular bond provides a scalable and manufacturable approach.

In order to obtain low defectivity channel material, it is essential to grow it on a lattice

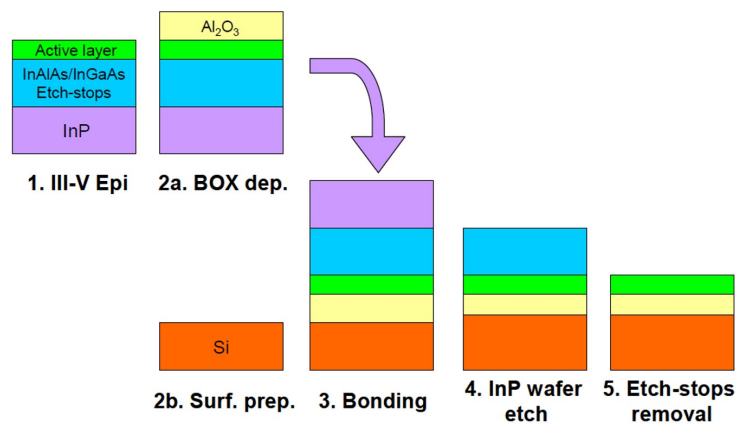


Fig. 1. Schematic showing process steps for direct wafer bonding of III-V layers on Si substrate starting from InP donor wafer.

matched donor substrate. InP is lattice matched InGaAs with 53% In content. Therefore, InP substrates are ideal to be used as donor substrates to transfer InGaAs layer on to Si/Si(Ge) device layer. It is essential choose a bonding oxide that can enable relatively low temperature bonding with high bonding strength. Early work from various groups¹⁷⁾¹⁸⁾ has shown Al_2O_3 to be excellent material for this purpose. Figure 1. shows the schematic of bonding process with InP donor wafer.

The process starts with growing etch stop layers and final InGaAs channel layer on an InP wafer. Typically this is done on 2 inch InP wafers due to their relative ease of availability and reasonable cost (wafers of higher diameter can be extremely expensive). After growing the channel layer with all the etch stops, a bonding oxide is deposited on top. Next a silicon receiver wafer is deposited with bonding oxide. Thereafter the two wafers are bonded together by bringing oxide surfaces to contact and forming oxide-oxide molecular bond. Afterwards, the InP wafer can either be etched away or cleaved out and recycled if pre-implanted with hydrogen ions as described in reference¹⁸⁾. In the case of 3D monolithic integration of III-V and Si/Si(Ge) layers, the receiver wafer has Si/Si(Ge) FET layer processed and a interlayer dielectric deposited, planarized and bonding oxide deposited on top (if different from interlayer dielectric).

As mentioned before, due to lack of availability of large diameter InP wafers, the method of transferring top layer from InP donor wafer gets limited to 2 inch diameters. This makes it non-viable for manufacturing. Therefore, it is essential to have method that provides scalability to large area substrates. Recently significant progress has been made in this direc-

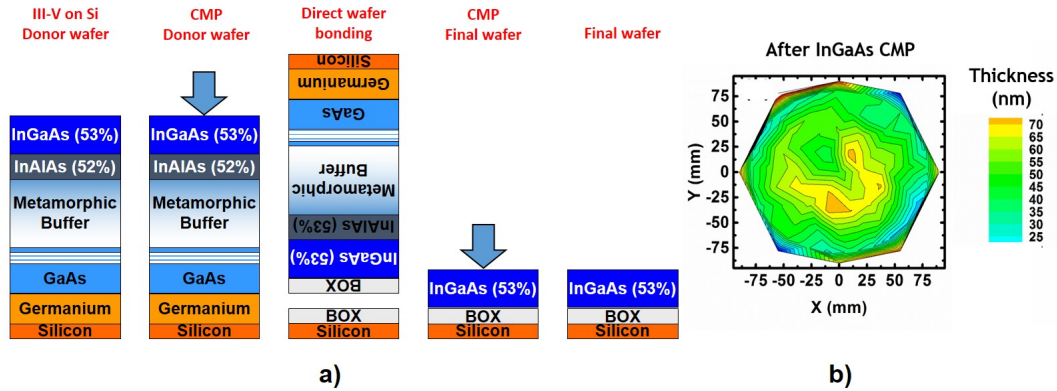


Fig. 2. a) Schematic showing process steps for direct wafer bonding of III-V layers on Si substrate starting from Si donor wafer. b) Spectroscopic ellipsometry map of the 200 mm InGaAs-OI wafer showing InGaAs layer thickness of 50 nm. Adapted from²⁰⁾.

tion¹⁹⁾²⁰⁾²¹⁾ and InGaAs-on-insulator wafer up to 300 mm diameter have been demonstrated²¹⁾. The method consists of first growing strain relaxing metamorphic buffer layers on large area silicon substrates and finally growing the channel material. This process allows to obtain low-defectivity top channel material. The fabrication process of the InGaAs-OI substrate starting from Silicon donor substrate as described in reference²⁰⁾ is shown in figure 2.

The donor is InGaAs (53% In content) grown by MBE on 200 mm Si (100) substrate. Starting from Si substrate, first a 2.5 μm Ge buffer was directly grown on Si followed by 0.5 μm Ga(Al)As and 1.5-2 μm $In_xAl_{1-x}As$ metamorphic buffer (MB) and finally 500 nm InGaAs channel (53% In content) material. The wafer was planarized using CMP and a post CMP roughness below 0.4 nm was obtained. After CMP, Al_2O_3 bonding oxide (BOX) layer was deposited. The donor wafer was subsequently removed by wet-etching and a 200 mm InGaAs-OI substrate was obtained. At this step InGaAs thickness of about 250 nm was obtained. A second CMP step on the InGaAs-OI wafer was used to reduce the active layer thickness to about 50 nm. The reported spectroscopic ellipsometry map of the 200 mm wafer after second CMP step is shown in figure 2.

A similar process but improved to allow donor wafer recycling through SmartCut™ was developed in reference²²⁾. InGaAs-on-insulator wafers of 300 mm diameter were demonstrated in this work. The process flow described in the reference²²⁾ is shown in figure 3. Here, the buffer layer consist of GaAs and InP. Prior to oxide-oxide bonding with receiver wafer, H^+ implantation is carried out to create defects in InP layer that enable splitting of wafer after bonding. Post-splitting, the donor wafer can be recycled to perform bonding again. 300 mm InGaAs-on-insulator wafer so obtained is shown in figure 3.

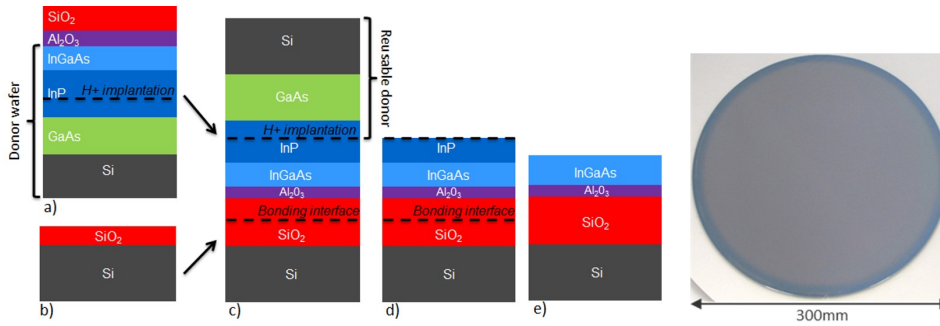


Fig. 3. Schematic showing process steps for direct wafer bonding of III-V layers on Si substrate with SmartCut™ process. Also shown is photograph of 300 mm InGaAs-on-insulator wafer obtained. Adapted from ref.²²⁾

Reference	[23]		[24]		[15]	
Device	Bottom pFET	Top nFET	Bottom pFET	Top nFET	Bottom pFET	Top nFET
Material	Ge-bulk	InGaAs-OI	SiGe-OI	InGaAs-OI	SiGe-OI	InGaAs-OI
Device Architecture	Planar GF	Planar GF	Fin (30 nm) GF	Fin (30 nm) GF	Fin (~8-20 nm) GF	Planar & Fin (35-80 nm) RMG
Source/Drain	NiGe	Ni-InGaAs	Ni-SiGe	Ni-InGaAs	SiGe-RSD/NiPt	InGaAs-RSD
CET	1.5 nm	4.2 nm	1.5 nm	4.2 nm	1.4-1.5 nm	1.6 nm
Min Gate Length	200 μm	200 μm	300 nm	300 nm	Sub-20 nm	~30 nm

Fig. 4. Table showing various reports on InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D monolithic integration. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

These methods can be utilized to develop 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs on large area Si/Si(Ge) FET processed wafers. In that case, the Si/Si(Ge) FET layer with interlayer dielectric deposited and planarized will become the receiver wafer.

3. InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D Monolithic Integration

All the works demonstrating InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D monolithic integration have been summarized in a table in Figure 4.

The first demonstration of InGaAs-on-Ge 3D monolithic integration was carried out by Irisawa et al as reported in.²³⁾ The work demonstrated, for the first time, 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs nFETs on Ge pFETs. Ge pFETs were fabricated on bulk Ge substrate with a gate-first flow. Ge pFET source/drain regions were formed by NiGe alloy formation. No implantation or epitaxially grown doped source/drain was used. InGaAs layer (53% In content) was transferred on top of the pFET layer through DWB from 2 inch InP wafer similar to process described in previous section. InGaAs nFETs were also fabricated with gate-first flow and low temperature (<350°C) Ni-InGaAs alloy formed the source/drain. No impact on Ge

pFET performance was observed after nFET fabrication. 3D inverters with top InGaAs nFET and bottom Ge pFET were reported with VTC measured down to $V_{dd} = 0.2$ V. Both pFET and nFET had limited drive currents. Although relatively simpler integration scheme was used for pFET and nFETs, it was the first demonstration of 3D monolithic circuits involving InGaAs and Ge devices.

Another important 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs-on-SiGe was demonstrated by the same group (Irisawa et. al.²⁴). The 3D monolithic integration reported was relatively more complex featuring independent back-gates for both top InGaAs nFETs and bottom SiGe-OI pFETs. The integration scheme involved fabrication of bottom SiGe-OI p-finFETs through Ge condensation, followed by gate-first flow with Ni-SiGe source/drain. No implantation or RSD was used to form source/drain regions. After bottom SiGe-OI pFET fabrication, back gate for top layer was formed through TaN deposition. Oxide was then deposited on top and InGaAs layer was transferred through DWB. InGaAs nFETs featured fins down to 30 nm. Source/drain regions were formed through Ni-InGaAs alloy. 3D CMOS inverters with symmetric characteristics (down to $V_{dd} = 0.2$ V) and 21 stage ring-oscillators were reported with individual back gate tunability. Thus the work demonstrated relatively large circuits with complex 3D monolithic integration. Although, individual FET performances were limited by access resistance, the work demonstrated potential of InGaAs-on-SiGe 3D monolithic integration and advantages of independent back-gate.

Recently, advanced 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs-on-SiGe was demonstrated by Deshpande et. al.¹⁵) The work featured InGaAs planar and wide-fin nFETs on top of SiGe-on-insulator (SiGe-OI) pFETs. Both layers featured state-of-the-art device integration with top InGaAs nFETs processed with Replacement-Metal-Gate (RMG) flow and bottom SiGe-OI pFETs were processed with Gate-First (GF) process. The bottom pFETs featured self-aligned raised source/drain (RSD) and salicide process and the top InGaAs nFETs also featured self-aligned RSD. Since salicide on the bottom pFET sets the thermal budget limitation for the top nFET process, having an epitaxially grown RSD process for top nFETs (highest thermal budget of all process steps for top nFET) demonstrated the complete hybrid CMOS process without compromises on either layers. An optimized RSD process for top nFET layer enabled negligible impact on the performance of bottom pFET layer. Figure 5 shows the process flow for the 3D monolithic integration scheme as described in reference.¹⁵)

Firstly, bottom layer SiGe-OI fin pFETs were fabricated with GF process similar to the one described in²⁵).²⁶) The process involved thinning of silicon layer of an 8 inch SOI wafer followed by Ge condensation to obtain SiGe-OI layer (with 25% Ge content). Then active

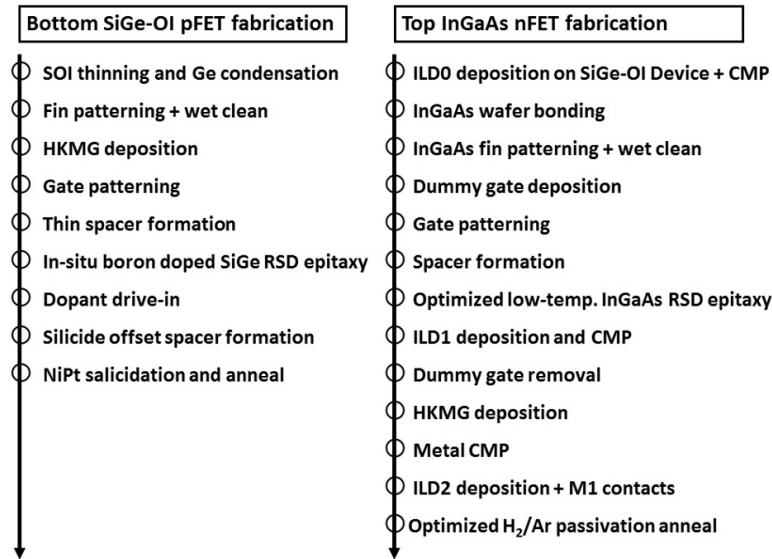


Fig. 5. Process flow for 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs-on-SiGe. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

pFET areas were formed and gate-stack featuring high-k dielectric and metal gate was deposited. After gate patterning and spacer formation, in-situ doped SiGe epitaxy was carried out to form self-aligned raised source drain (RSD) regions. Then NiPt salicidation (self-aligned silicidation) was performed for low contact resistivity on the pFETs. The thermal budget limit for the top nFET processing is set by the stability of this silicide. The top layer nFET fabrication was carried out after the silicidation step of SiGe-OI finFET process. Firstly, an inter-layer oxide was deposited and chemical-mechanical-polish (CMP) planarization was carried out. The InGaAs layer was transferred on to this oxide with direct wafer bonding from 2 inch InP donor wafers with the process described in previous section. InGaAs nFET fabrication was then performed with a RMG process described in reference.²⁰⁾ This involved patterning the active transistor regions followed by a dummy gate stack deposition. Then the dummy gate was patterned and spacers were formed. Thereafter an optimized self-aligned RSD process was carried out. As this step has the highest thermal budget of all the processes involved in top nFET fabrication, it determines the impact on the performance of the bottom pFET. However, this is also a crucial step to obtain high-performance InGaAs nFET as it provides low contact resistivity. Gate replacement process steps were carried out thereafter. An oxide layer was deposited and planarized to expose the top of dummy gate. Then the dummy gate stack was selectively etched out. An optimized high-k/metal gate stack²⁷⁾ was deposited and metal CMP was carried out. Finally, oxide encapsulation was performed and contact holes were opened to both top and bottom layers. Metallization was completed to create contact

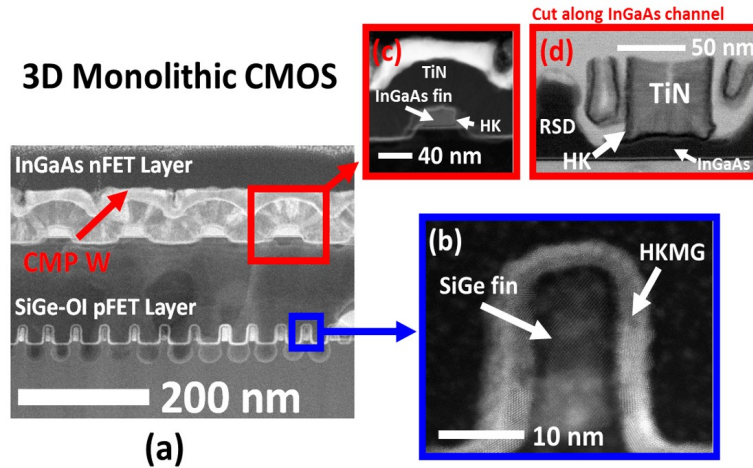


Fig. 6. Cross-section TEM images of InGaAs-on-SiGe 3D monolithic stack. (a) InGaAs nFET layer on SiGe-OI pFET layer along gate, (b) zoom-in on an 8 nm wide SiGe pFET fin (c) a 35 nm wide InGaAs nFET fin, and (d) cross section along nFET InGaAs channel showing RMG. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

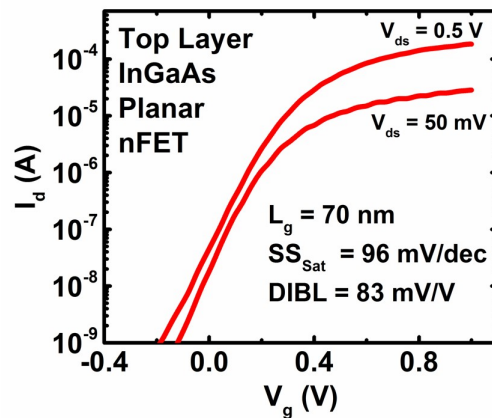


Fig. 7. Top layer InGaAs nFET $I_d - V_g$ characteristics. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

pads for both layers.

Cross section TEM images of the so completed 3D monolithic integration is shown in figure 6.

The reported DC transfer characteristics of the top layer InGaAs nFET featuring a gate length of 70 nm and a bottom layer SiGe-OI pFET featuring a gate length of 25 nm are shown in figures 7 and 8 respectively. SiGe-OI pFET shows excellent electrostatic integrity ($SS_{sat} = 81$ mV/dec, DIBL = 48 mV/V) at $L_g = 25$ nm owing to the optimized process(pouya13, pouya14). InGaAs nFET reported is a planar FET and demonstrates competitive electrostatic integrity ($SS_{sat} = 96$ mV/dec, DIBL = 83 mV/V) at $L_g = 70$ nm.

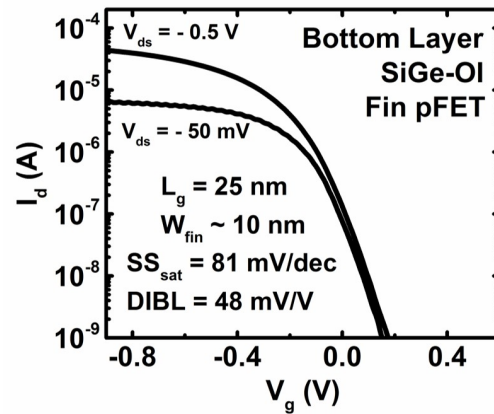


Fig. 8. Bottom layer SiGe-OI pFET $I_d - V_g$ characteristics Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

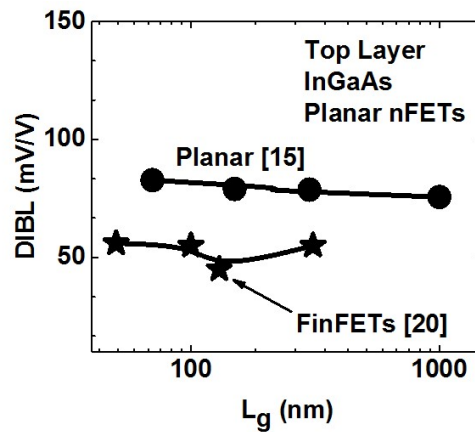


Fig. 9. DIBL vs. L_g characteristics for top layer InGaAs nFETs. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

The DIBL and SS_{sat} roll-off characteristics of the nFET were also reported and are shown in figures 9 and 10. Well-controlled nFET scaling behavior was demonstrated and the performance was close to previously reported InGaAs-OI RMG FinFETs by the same group.²⁷⁾ Thus, independent optimized process for both layers developed separately, were brought together in one 3D monolithic integration scheme without adverse performance impact.

The impact on pFET characteristics post top nFET fabrication is the ultimate test for the feasibility of 3D monolithic integration scheme. The reported comparison of bottom pFET $I_d - V_g$ before and after top nFET fabrication is shown in figure 11. Almost comparable I_{dsat} was obtained postnFET indicating very minimal impact on pFET silicide. DIBL and SS_{sat} roll-offs for pFETs were also compared pre and post nFET fabrication. Very minimal change was observed post nFET process as shown in figure 12.

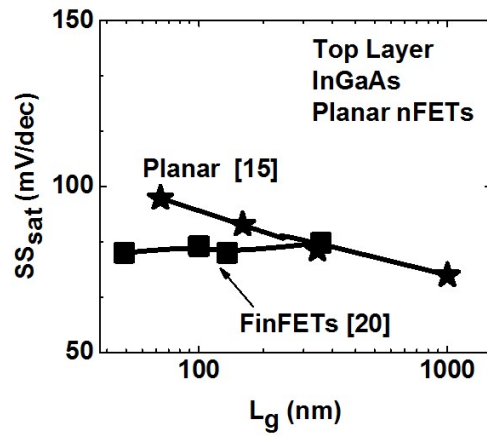


Fig. 10. SS_{sat} vs. L_g characteristics for top layer InGaAs nFETs. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

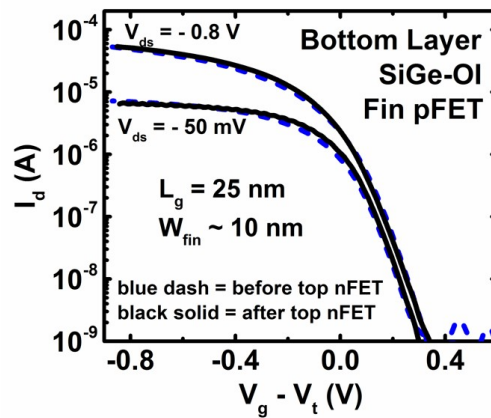


Fig. 11. Comparison of bottom layer SiGe-OI pFET $I_d - V_g$ characteristics before and after top layer nFET fabrication as reported in ref.¹⁵⁾

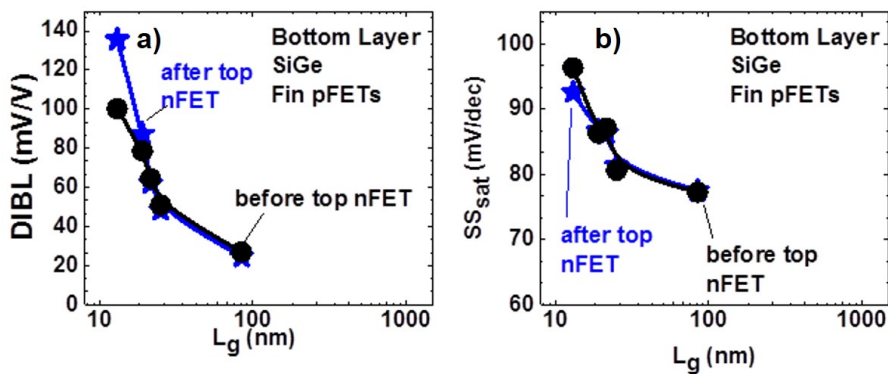


Fig. 12. Comparison of bottom layer SiGe-OI pFET DIBL and SS_{sat} vs. L_g characteristics before and after top layer nFET fabrication as reported in ref.¹⁵⁾

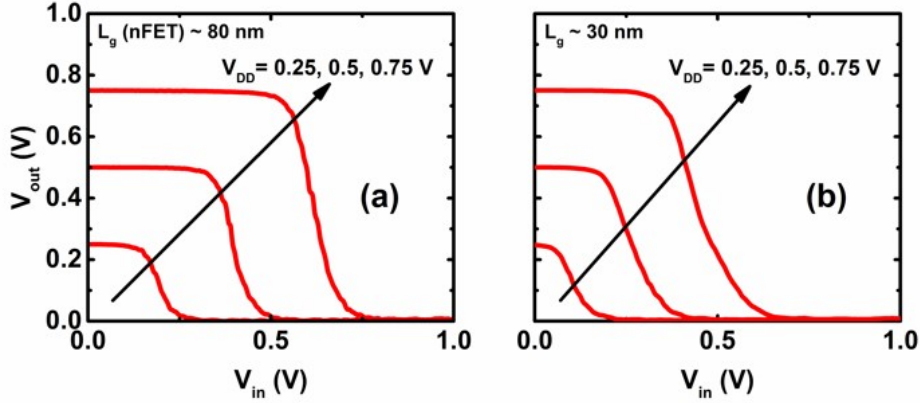


Fig. 13. Reported voltage transfer characteristics of 3D inverters. Adapted from ref.¹⁵⁾

Thus the feasibility of InGaAs-on-SiGe 3D monolithic integration was demonstrated. Voltage transfer characteristics (VTC) of scaled 3D inverters with nFET $L_g = 80$ nm and $L_g = 30$ nm (for both nFET and pFET) were also reported shown in Fig 13(a) and (b) respectively. Well-behaved transitions were obtained down to $V_{DD} = 0.25$ V. The VTC were not symmetric owing to mis-match in pFET and nFET device performances.

3.1 Top layer InGaAs RFFETs

As mentioned earlier, III-V channel materials are well-suited for high-frequency devices. Integrating them in a 3D monolithic scheme on top of Si/Si(Ge) provides opportunity to realize mixed signal circuits. Recent simulation work has shown benefits of III-V high frequency devices co-integrated with Si CMOS.¹⁶⁾ First efforts to characterize the RF performance of InGaAs FETs integrated on top of SiGe pFETs have recently been reported.²⁸⁾ The InGaAs RFFETs were fabricated along with the DC FETs detailed in the previous section. In order to enable RF characterization of top layer InGaAs nFETs, their layout consisted of multi-finger gates with a ground-signal-ground (GSG) pad configuration. A device reported in reference²⁸⁾ featured 10 parallel finger gates, each with a width of $2 \mu\text{m}$ (= total device width of $20 \mu\text{m}$). DC $I_d - V_g$ characteristics reported are shown in figure 14.

The current gain $|h_{21}|$ (dB) vs. frequency reported is shown in Fig. 15, for a device with $L_g = 120$ nm. A cut-off frequency (F_t) of 16.4 GHz was obtained for $V_{ds} = 1$ V. Although this relative lower value than typical InGaAs HEMTs or MOS-HEMTs, it should be noted that the device structure was not optimized for RF performance and hence further optimization could enable higher cut-off frequencies. This is very encouraging result towards diversification of InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D monolithic integration platform towards ‘More-than-Moore’ applications.

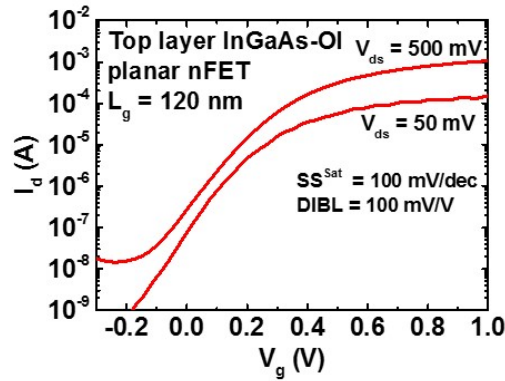


Fig. 14. Reported DC $I_d - V_g$ characteristics top layer InGaAs RFFET. Adapted from ref.²⁸⁾

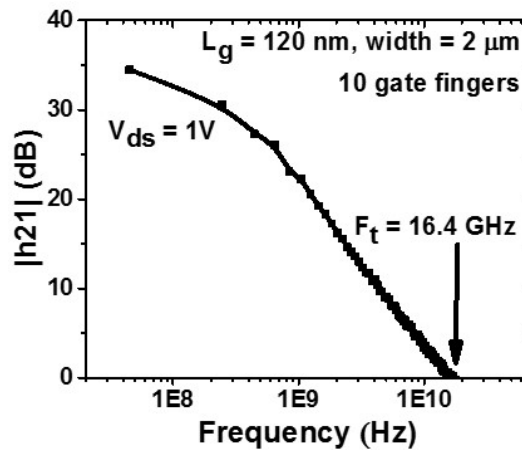


Fig. 15. Reported current gain ($|h_{21}|$) and cut-off frequency of top layer InGaAs RFFET with $L_g = 120$ nm. Adapted from ref.²⁸⁾

4. Conclusions

3D monolithic integration of III-V MOSFETs on top of Si/Si(Ge) provides opportunity achieving both high performance, dense CMOS as well as mixed-signal applications. It can become a truly multi-functional platform bringing best of III-V world and conventional Si/Si(Ge) CMOS world. Recently progress in this context were reviewed, starting from III-V material integration to 3D monolithic integration with state-of-the-art process flows and 3D circuits. Significant progress has been made in upscaling the III-V wafer bonding to 300 mm wafer sizes. This will become key enabler for a feasible InGaAs-on-Si(Ge) 3D monolithic technology. Progress made in advanced device integration in 3D monolithic scheme demonstrates that no major hurdles are present to realize a high-performance 3D hybrid CMOS. As a step further, improving performance of III-V devices (in 3D monolithic scheme) to the level

shown on InP substrates needs to be achieved. Also, demonstration of 3D monolithic integration of InGaAs-on-Si/Si(Ge) through layer transfer on 300 mm wafer size will be significant step forward towards a manufacturable platform. Thus, exciting prospects exist for realizing a hetero-integrated 3D monolithic platform with high-mobility III-V materials.

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