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Vertical InAs-Si Gate-All-Around Tunnel FETs Integrated on Si Using Selective Epitaxy in Nanotube Templates

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ABSTRACT In this paper, we introduce *p*-channel InAs-Si tunnel field-effect transistors (TFETs) fabricated using selective epitaxy in nanotube templates. We demonstrate the versatility of this approach, which enables III–V nanowire integration on Si substrates of any crystalline orientation. Electrical characterization of diodes and of TFETs fabricated using this method is presented; the TFETs exhibit a good overall performance with on-currents, I_{on} of $6 \mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ ($|V_{GS}| = |V_{DS}| = 1 \text{ V}$) and a room-temperature subthreshold swing (SS) of $\sim 160 \text{ mV/dec}$ over at least three orders of magnitude in current. Temperature-dependent measurements indicate that SS is limited by traps. We demonstrate improved TFET I_{on} performance by 1–2 orders of magnitude by scaling the equivalent oxide thickness from 2.7 to 1.5 nm. Furthermore, a novel benchmarking scheme is proposed to allow the comparison of different TFET data found in literature despite the different measurement conditions used.

INDEX TERMS Heterojunctions, III–V semiconductor materials, nanowires, tunnel diode, tunnel transistor, low-power electronics.

I. INTRODUCTION

The tunnel field-effect transistor (TFET) is considered the most promising electrical switch for ultra low-power electronics, because it should enable sub- $k_B T/q$ switching and low-voltage operation. In general, TFETs are based on a gated *p-i-n* structure and can benefit from the immense technological development already done for MOSFET devices based on *n-i-n* or *p-i-p* structures for *n*- or *p*-type devices [1], [2]. Therefore, Si-based TFET technologies are the most mature and most scaled, and simple circuits have been demonstrated based on strained Si nanowires (NWs) [3]. Although the steepest subthreshold swings (SS) have been obtained in Si [4], [5], it likely will be difficult to achieve sufficiently high on-currents in pure Si devices because of the large bandgap (E_G) of Si. Thus, boosters such as heterostructures are needed to lower the effective tunnel barrier and enable high on-currents.

III-V TFETs based on different material systems have already been demonstrated and exhibit good performance metrics [6], [7]. However, integration of different material sets for both *n*- and *p*-channel TFETs on/with Si is a major challenge for III-V-based technologies. Here we explore the integration and performance of the InAs-Si material system as a *p*-channel TFET device. This heterojunction provides a small effective tunneling bandgap, which should result in high I_{on} , whereas the larger bandgap of Si in the channel and drain region gives a low I_{off} and lower interface trap density (D_{it}) than a low-bandgap III-V channel. Moreover, working on a Si platform allows us to benefit from all the established standard CMOS processes.

In this paper, we present a new approach to integrate individual InAs-Si heterostructure NW TFETs onto Si using selective epitaxy in nanotube templates (templ.NW). This approach allows the integration of NW TFETs on

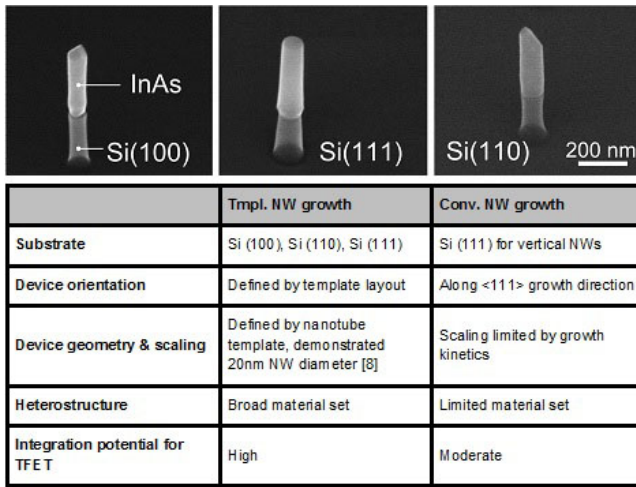


FIGURE 1. Top: example of InAs NWs grown vertically, independent of Si substrate orientation. Bottom: evaluation of the integration potential for template-assisted NW epitaxy compared with conventional NW epitaxy on Si.

Si of any crystalline orientation. The basis for it is the template-assisted growth of vertical III-V NWs on Si substrates with (111), (110) and (100) orientations which we recently demonstrated (see Fig. 1) [8]. Former InAs-Si NW *p*-type TFETs we have demonstrated [9] are based on selective area growth (SAG) of InAs NWs within patterned thin oxide films. This conventional NW (conv.NW) process allows the growth of only (111) InAs NWs and thus requires Si (111) substrates. Compared with conv.NW growth, the template-assisted approach provides a much greater processing window as the dimensions and orientations are pre-determined by the template and parasitic radial growth is eliminated [10]. This provides a higher potential for NW diameter scaling than the conv.NW approach. The advantages of the tmpl.NW integration approach with respect to conv.NW growth are summarized in Fig. 1.

Here, we show the first *p*-type InAs-Si TFETs based on this new template-assisted epitaxial growth. These TFETs are initially benchmarked against InAs-Si TFETs fabricated using conv.NW growth [9]. Furthermore, by scaling the equivalent oxide thickness (EOT) from 2.7 to 1.5 nm, the I_{on} performance of tmpl.NW devices is improved by about two orders of magnitude. Based on the template-assisted method, we demonstrate in addition the possibility of a source replacement approach which could simplify co-integration of *p*-type and *n*-type III-V TFETs onto the same Si substrate. Finally, we also propose an alternative benchmarking of TFETs, allowing a better comparison of devices measured at different biasing conditions.

II. DEVICE FABRICATION

The main device processing steps are illustrated in Fig. 2. The process flow for the conv.NW device is described in more detail elsewhere [9]. In both cases, the intrinsic Si channel (*i*-Si, $N_A \sim 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) is first grown by molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) at 750°C on heavily doped *p*-type Si

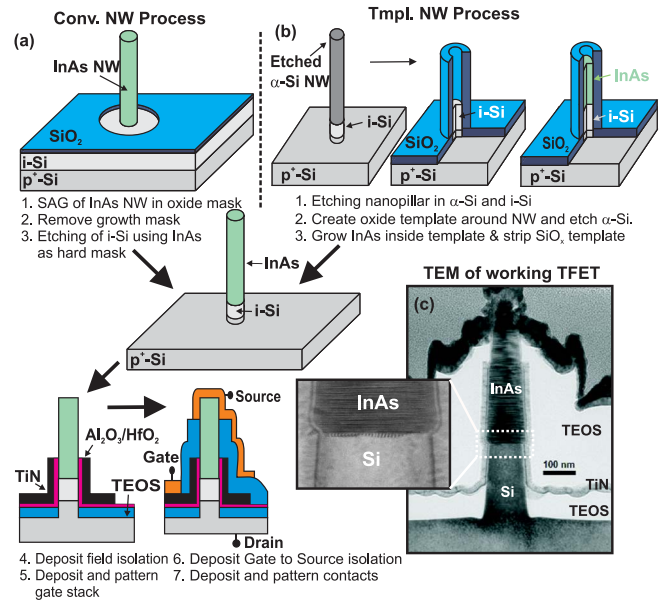


FIGURE 2. Schematic illustrating the two different integration methods. In conv.NW growth (a), InAs NWs are grown by selective area epitaxy in oxide openings and subsequently used as a hard mask for dry-etching into the Si. In the template-assisted method (b), InAs is grown selectively within an oxide tube. After NW growth, the two processes merge: a bottom field oxide is deposited as isolation and a gate stack is deposited and patterned, followed by isolation between gate and source and metal contacts. (c) Cross-sectional transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of a finished (tmpl.NW) device is shown including a magnification of the InAs/Si interface in the inset.

wafers (drain). For the nanotube template process, sacrificial NWs are defined by electron-beam lithography and HBr:O₂ etching of a 500-nm-thick deposited amorphous Si (α -Si) layer, 120 nm *i*-Si channel and 80 nm of *p*-Si substrate (see Fig. 2). SiO_x nanotubes with an inner diameter of 100 nm are created by coating the Si NWs using plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) of Tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) at 400°C and opening the top part of the oxide by dry etching. Subsequently, the α -Si is etched selectively with respect to the Si (111) using 25% Tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH) at 80°C. The Si (111) substrate is chosen based on greater etch selectivity in the TMAH etching step, which allows us to define the channel length accurately; but the process is compatible with standard Si (100) substrates as shown in Fig. 1, making our approach CMOS compatible.

Si-doped (*n*-type) InAs NWs (source) are then selectively and epitaxially grown inside the nanotubes at 520°C. From earlier calibrations [11], we estimate an InAs doping concentration of around $4 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The oxide template is removed around the InAs NWs, and a gate-all-around (GAA) gate stack of Al₂O₃ (5.5 nm) or Al₂O₃/HfO₂ (2.2 nm, 2.4 nm) for the scaled EOT devices and TiN/SiO₂ (20 nm, 20 nm) is deposited by atomic layer deposition (ALD) at 250°C and 300°C, respectively. Then, photoresist is spin-coated and etched back by RIE to define the gate length. The SiO₂ cap is dry etched and the resist is stripped in acetone to reveal the top part of TiN, which is wet

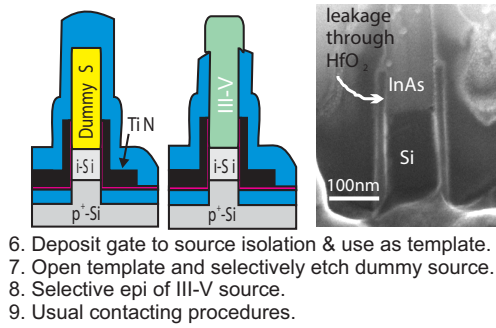


FIGURE 3. Replacement source process: schematic image illustrating the additional process steps for a replacement source process. The numbering refers to the initial steps listed in Fig. 2. Scanning electron micrograph showing the cross section of the finalized device.

etched using an ammonium peroxide mixture (APM) solution of $\text{NH}_3(29\%):\text{H}_2\text{O}_2:\text{DI}$ (1:2:5) at 60°C . The remaining SiO_2 layer protects the TiN etching on the sidewall. Subsequently, the gate is isolated from the source using PECVD of TEOS at 350°C . Then, resist is spin-coated and etched back by RIE, followed by wet etching of TEOS in BHF (7:1) solution to open the top part of the InAs NW. Metal evaporation of Ni/Au contacts and lift-off finalize the device.

Alternatively, we explored the fabrication of a source-replacement TFET, using a dummy source that was replaced by InAs after full gate stack formation, see illustration in Fig. 3. In this case, a dielectric gate stack consisting of $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{HfO}_2$ (2 nm, 3 nm, 2 nm) was deposited on the Si dummy source. After etching of the Si dummy source in TMAH and a HF clean, the InAs source was selectively grown in place. Although the full process flow could be finalized, electrical measurements on current devices revealed a large leakage path through the remaining HfO_2 dielectric in the top part of the InAs segment so that proper TFET functionality could not yet be established.

III. ELECTRICAL CHARACTERIZATION

Traditionally the presence of a region of negative differential resistance (NDR) in the output characteristics of a TFET device has served as means for verifying whether the measured current in fact originates from the tunnel junction. Such a characteristic is shown for a Si-InAs p^+-n^+ diode in Fig. 4 (solid red line). However, the TFETs reported here are all based on $p-i-n$ structures with a lower doping in the InAs part than the p^+-n^+ diode [12], which will therefore not exhibit an NDR unless biased at very large negative gate potential. $I(V)$ characteristic for the fabricated $p-i-n$ TFET is reported in Fig. 4.

In Fig. 5 the performance of the tmpl.NW TFETs (red solid circles) is compared with the conv.NW TFETs (blue open squares). Both types of TFETs having the same parameters such as diameter, gate stack, etc achieve the same performance. The results manifest that the same quality of heterojunction is obtained by the templated approach as has been also seen in InAs-Si tunnel diodes before [8]. The green

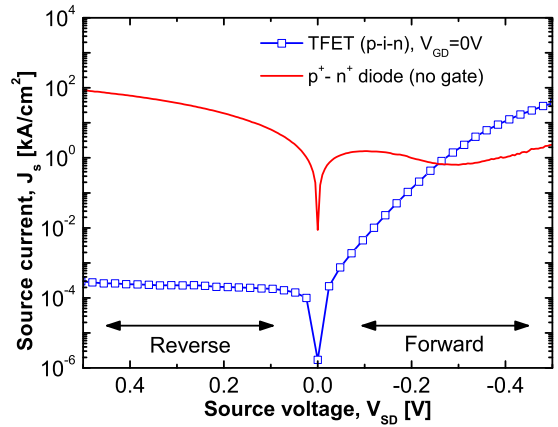


FIGURE 4. Diode characteristics measured on TFET ($p-i-n$) structure at $V_{\text{GD}} = 0 \text{ V}$ (blue squares). A fabricated p^+-n^+ NW diode (without gate) with NDR is shown for reference.

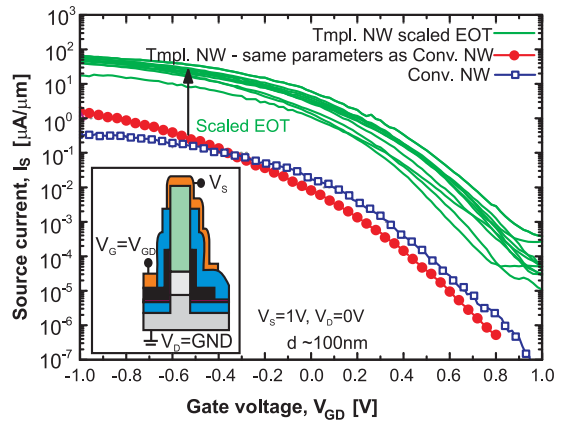
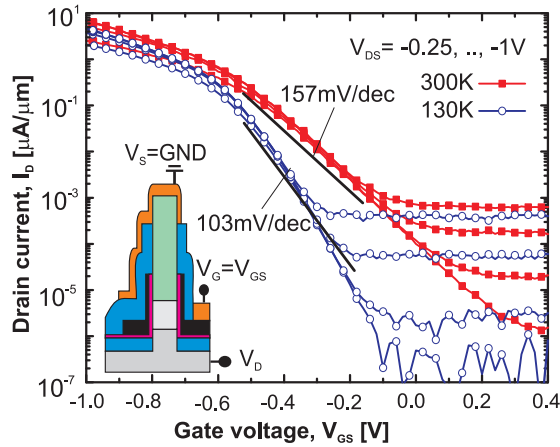


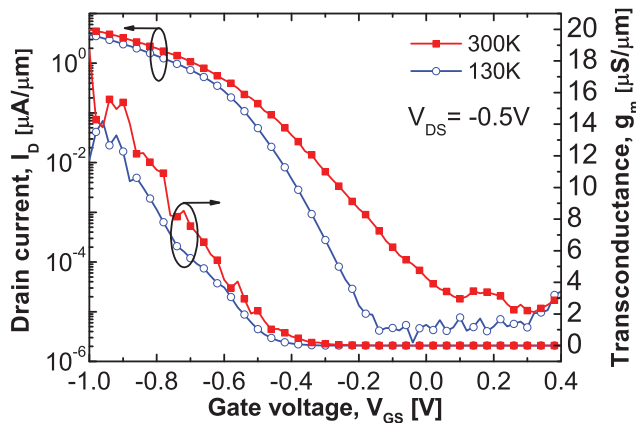
FIGURE 5. Comparison of p -type TFETs made by the tmpl.NW and the conv.NW integration approach. For tmpl.NW TFETs, the performances match that of the conv.NW devices—as expected, because no other parameters were changed. The green lines without symbols correspond to a batch of tmpl.NW TFETs with scaled EOT = 1.5 nm versus EOT = 2.7 nm for the other devices. To comply with previous measurements, the Si (drain) is grounded, whereas a bias is applied to the InAs (source). Inset shows biasing scheme.

solid lines correspond to tmpl.NW TFETs with the EOT scaled to 1.5 nm. The EOT scaling boosts the current of the tmpl.NW devices by about one to two orders of magnitude to $50 \mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ at $V_{\text{GS}} = V_{\text{DS}} = 1 \text{ V}$. Since InAs is a direct bandgap material with its lowest E_{G} at the Γ -valley, the ON state can be described in a first approximation by the Wentzel–Kramers–Brillouin (WKB) method. Scaling the EOT from 2.7 nm to 1.5 nm should increase the tunneling probability by a factor of 40X, which qualitatively fits well to our experimental data. However, also the OFF state current increases due to large leakage at this high voltage bias ($|V_{\text{DS}}| = 1 \text{ V}$).

The biasing scheme in Fig. 5 used a positive V_{S} bias to the InAs source (negative bias region for the $p-i-n$ diode), while grounding the substrate (drain). In this configuration, the barrier at the tunnel junction is highly dependent on V_{S} as a change in V_{SD} also results in a direct change in V_{GS} ,



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 6. (a) $I_D(V_{GS})$ at 300 K and 130 K of 100-nm-diameter GAA NW p -type TFET with EOT ~ 1.5 nm. The source (n -InAs) is grounded, while the drain (p -Si) is swept with -0.25 V bias step, see inset for biasing. I_{on} maximum of $6 \mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ at $V_{GS} = V_{DS} = -1$ V is measured at 300 K. (b) Normalized transconductance at 300 K and 130 K for $|V_{DS}| = 0.5$ V and the respective transfer characteristic.

causing a threshold voltage shift (V_t). This increases the I_{on} measured compared to normal TFET operation. For real device operation, a more appropriate biasing scheme (used in the subsequent figures) is based on the use of a negative V_D combined with a grounded source potential. In this case, the V_{GS} value determining the position of the bandgap in the channel is no longer directly influenced by the value of V_{DS} , thus the shift in the transfer characteristics disappears [Fig. 6(a)].

The transfer characteristics, $I_D(V_{GS})$, and normalized transconductance, g_m , are shown in Fig. 6(b) for two different temperatures. We measured an I_{on} of $\sim 0.2 \mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ at $|V_{GS}| = |V_{DS}| = 0.5$ V and I_{on} of $\sim 6 \mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ at $|V_{GS}| = |V_{DS}| = 1$ V and an I_{on}/I_{off} ratio of $\sim 10^6$. The steeper SS obtained at 130 K is evidence of the presence of traps, both at the InAs-Si junction [13] and at the gate dielectric-semiconductor interface, which limits sub-60mV/decade operation. As the temperature is reduced, the traps are gradually frozen out

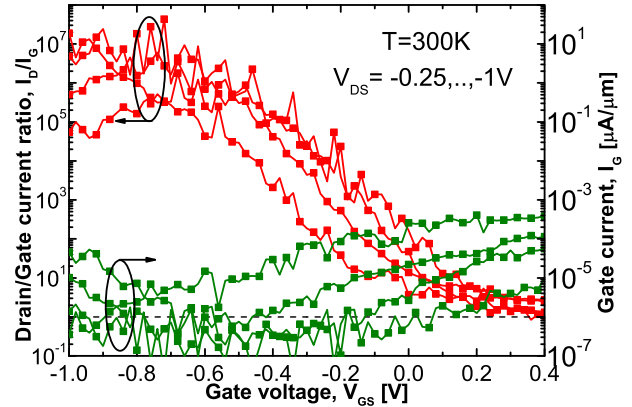


FIGURE 7. Ratio of drain and gate currents (red) and gate leakage I_G (green) of the device shown in Fig. 6(a) at 300 K. Gate leakage does not dominate device performance. The dotted line indicates $I_D/I_G = 1$.

which explains the improvement of the SS at lower temperatures. Concerning the traps stemming from dislocations at the InAs-Si junction, these may be reduced by scaling the nanowire diameter below a critical dimension, as have been shown in [14]. Traps at the high- k /semiconductor interface are responsible for the large value of extracted D_{it} , around $10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{eV}^{-1}$ for single Si NWs, which is about an order of magnitude larger than for planar references with the same gate stack, and $\sim 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{eV}^{-1}$ for InAs NWs [15]. To some extent these traps could explain the rather large value of SS. Thus, diameter scaling and gate stack optimization could be both beneficial to obtain a sub-60 mV/dec slope.

Fig. 7 shows I_D/I_G vs. V_{GS} , indicating that gate leakage is not a limiting factor in the region of interest for these devices, although the gate leakage limits the minimum I_{off} for large V_{DS} . The increase of I_{off} seen in Fig. 6(a) is not due to the intrinsic device performance but it is a result of gate leakage in this region. The TEM image in Fig. 2 shows that the gate has a substantial overlap on the InAs segment (source), hence it “collects” leakage from a greater region than the “active” region around the tunnel junction. Moreover, this overlap, and hence gate leakage, may vary among devices. However it only plays a role in the OFF state and does not influence the subthreshold swing outside of this region.

In Fig. 8 SS is displayed as a function of I_D at $V_{DS} = -0.25$ V; about a value of 160 mV/dec for more than three decades of current at 300 K is reached. The TFET output characteristic exhibits excellent current saturation and is not limited by series resistance in the linear region (Fig. 9). The I_{on} is almost independent of the temperature as expected for a band-to-band tunneling (BTBT) regime, which is consistent for both conv.NW and tmpl.NW devices (Fig. 10).

IV. TUNNEL FET BENCHMARKING

TFET benchmarking is extremely challenging because the biasing conditions and hence the cited values of SS, I_{on} etc. differ. Thus, references often cite only selected figures of merit, such as a small SS or a large I_{on} , which do not

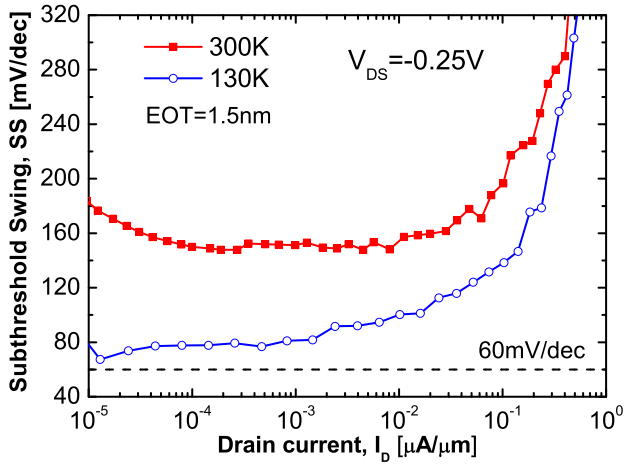


FIGURE 8. SS versus I_D for the device shown in Fig. 6(a), at 300 K and 130 K. At 130 K, the average SS is reduced to 75 mV/dec over the exponential tail.

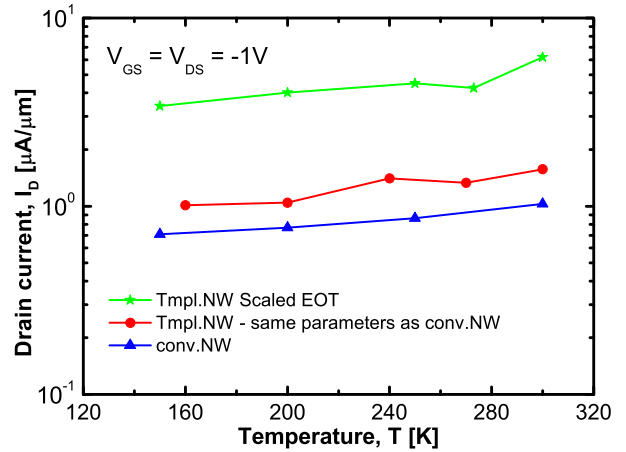


FIGURE 10. I_{on} dependence on temperature for conv.NW and tmpl.NW TFET batches. As expected for a TFET, all devices exhibit no significant change in I_{on} with temperature since BTBT dominates in this region.

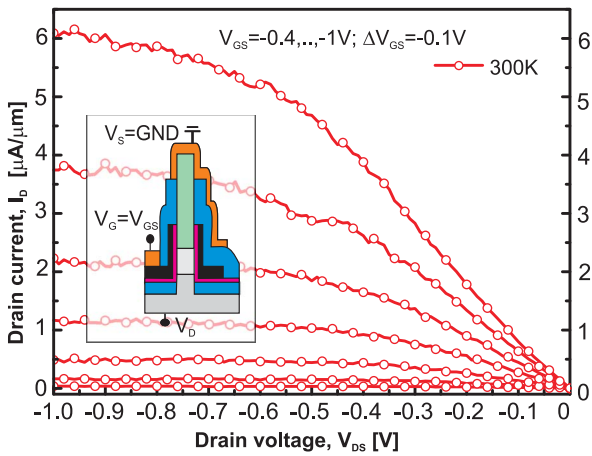


FIGURE 9. Output characteristics of 100-nm-diameter GAA NW TFET. The source (n -InAs) is fixed to ground, and a voltage bias is applied on the drain (p -Si) side. Current saturation demonstrates good electrostatic control of the Si:InAs junction. Inset shows biasing scheme.

give the full picture. This aggravates a fair benchmarking. In addition, usually only the minimum SS, which is not a useful figure of merit for actual device operation, is reported. Here, we attempt a fair benchmarking approach by plotting SS as

$$SS = \left(\frac{V_{GS} - V_{GSmin}}{\log\left(\frac{I_D}{I_{Dmin}}\right)} \times 1000 \right) \quad (1)$$

where I_{Dmin} is the minimum chosen I_D value, and V_{GSmin} is the corresponding V_{GS} value (see Fig. 11). SS is then plotted vs. I_D/V_{DS} , as shown in Fig. 12. As most values of I_D of interest lie within the linear region, this should reduce the effect of choosing a different V_{DS} value. For this particular figure, we used the average SS ($SS_{avg.}$) extracted over the entire part of the exponential slope of I_D until the latter starts to flatten out (I_{Dtop}) and measured it from I_{Dmin} vs. I_D/V_{DS} for a large number of references. The results are

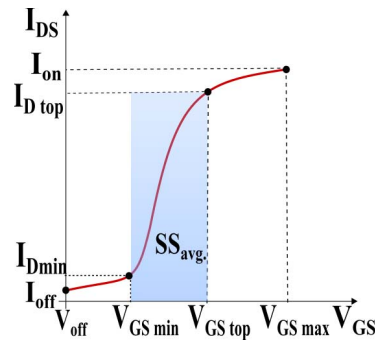


FIGURE 11. Schematic illustrating the corresponding parameters used for the calculation of SS in Eq. 1.

displayed using an exponential scale for SS, as this highlights the differences in the low SS regime better.

All TFETs in the benchmarking plot are biased at $|V_{DS}| \geq 0.25V$. The choice of a lower V_{DS} could impact SS since lower V_{DS} provides in principle lower I_{Dmin} , thus also the average slope would be reduced. However, this is only true when I_{Dmin} has not reached a saturation value, I_{off} , which is determined by intrinsic device physics and/or gate leakage. Hence, if a device at low V_{DS} exhibits a small I_{off} , steeper SS and high I_{on} , then it will show the best performance tradeoff. Thus, the criteria to achieve a small I_{off} is already taken into account in this benchmarking method. Moreover, we consider it as a fair benchmarking plot for TFETs since a low V_{DS} operation is desirable for low-power applications, while still the devices being able to achieve high currents in the ON state. Determining the point of I_D at the top of the slope is somewhat subjective, but should have been counteracted by the measures discussed before. If one chooses a larger I_D value (higher V_{GS} and/or V_{DS}), this will be offset by a deteriorated SS. As a result, individual values will change, but when comparing devices, the general picture does not change significantly, i.e., it is still

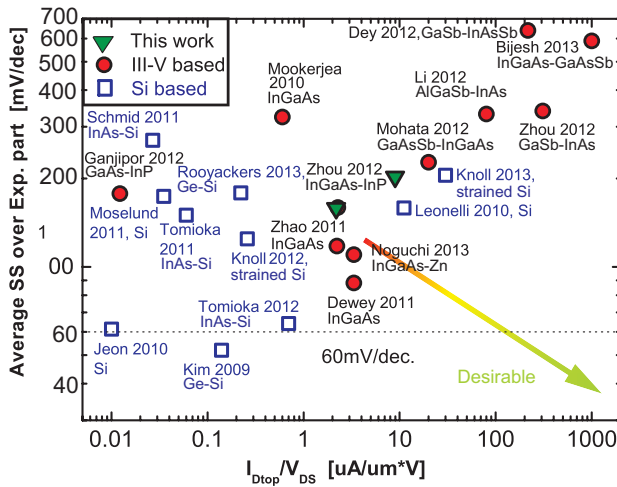


FIGURE 12. Average SS measured over the entire exponential rise of current from I_{Dmin} (chosen to give the steepest slope) versus I_D/V_{DS} plotted for a number of published TFET data; SS shown on log scale. If a larger value of I_{Dtop} is chosen, this will be penalized by a correspondingly higher SS. All data points are measured at room temperature and DC biased. The green triangles denote two different tmpl.NW devices with scaled EOT.

clear which devices are better since here the new performance metric is the trade-off between high I_{on} and small SS. Therefore, we believe this new benchmarking to be a fair comparison. In a similar fashion, one may choose to plot the values obtained over three decades of current or measured to the maximum value of I_D . We must stress though that it is important to evaluate devices on the same basis, i.e., choosing an appropriate number of decades of current. Moreover, different technologies provide a varying degree of potential for further scaling and device optimization, which is not taken into account here. Data points are estimated from published graphics, based on our best efforts, thus this can provide a source of variability. Also, values may deviate from cited data if the biasing conditions used were not the same, for example different V_{DS} or V_{GS} . All data points are measured at room temperature, DC-biased and taken from the “best device.”

V. CONCLUSION

We have reported p -channel InAs-Si TFETs based on NWs fabricated inside nanotube templates and integrated on Si. First we demonstrated that the performance of the devices fabricated using nanotube templates match that of devices based on conventional nanowire growth process. Secondly, we boosted the I_{on} current to $6 \mu A/\mu m$ by scaling the EOT. Furthermore, we have introduced a “fair” benchmarking of TFET devices, and found that the performance of our devices are comparable with that of other state-of-the-art TFETs, however their real merit lies in their integration potential. The new template approach provides a unique integration capability for GAA III-V heterostructure TFETs on Si of any crystalline orientation.

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