

Simulation Studies of Single-Event Effects in β -Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs

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Abstract—In this article, we investigate the single-event effects (SEEs) leading to single-event burnout (SEB) in β -Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs. Using Silvaco TCAD, 2-D simulations were performed to understand the mechanism behind the SEB mechanism in lateral Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs. The high electric fields in the channel played a critical role leading to high impact generation rates and eventual SEB. To reduce the electric field in the channel, radiation-hardened designs are then proposed with rounded gates and the use of a combination of high-permittivity (k) dielectric with SiO₂. With HfO₂–SiO₂ dielectric combination, the SEB threshold of 550 V at LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm² is seen. However, to operate under extreme radiation conditions, a combination of very high- k dielectric material BaTiO₃ with SiO₂ is proposed. Using the radiation-hardened design, SEB thresholds up to 1000 V for LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm² could be achieved which is higher than the state-of-the-art technology. The energy dissipated during the ion strike event is also calculated and it is observed that it is lower than that of SiC MOSFETs. However the energy dissipation value is not directly correlated with an SEB threshold condition.

Index Terms—Electric field, Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs, radiation, single-event burnout (SEB), single-event effects (SEEs).

I. INTRODUCTION

RADIATION damages are a common reliability issue for power electronic devices used for space applications. Harsh radiation conditions in space can cause reliability problems such as temporary loss of data, circuit degradation, and loss of functional operation to destruction of the semiconductor device [1], [2], [3]. Radiation effects are typically classified into cumulative effects such as total ionizing dose (TID) effects, or single-event effects (SEEs) leading to single-event burnout (SEB). These effects lead to defect generation, device degradation, and device failures. Previous studies have suggested that SEEs are more dominant than cumulative effects in wide bandgap materials [4], [5], [6], [7]. There have been significant experimental and simulation studies of radiation effects especially SEEs in SiC [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13],

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[14], [15] and GaN [16], [17], [18], [19] devices. Recent reports have also explored SEE in ultrawide bandgap AlGaN HEMTs [20] and MISFETs [21] to design radiation-hardened devices.

β -Ga₂O₃ with its large band gap of 4.8–4.9 eV and high critical electric field strength of 8 MV/cm [22], [23] has promising potential for power electronics and RF applications. Another advantage of β -Ga₂O₃ is the availability of large-diameter wafers. Common growth techniques such as Czochralski (CZ), float-zone (FZ), edge-defined film fed (EFG), or Bridgman can be used to grow bulk crystals [24], [25], [26]. Recent experimental reports have shown high breakdown voltages (multi-kVs) and high figure of merit in β -Ga₂O₃ lateral MOSFETs [27], [28], [29], [30], [31], [32], [33] and Schottky diodes [34], [35], [36], [37], [38]. Previously there have been studies of neutron damage, X-ray damage, and gamma-ray damage in β -Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs [4], [39], [40], [41], [42] but there has been no extensive study on SEEs in these devices despite it being a favorable ultrawide bandgap semiconductor.

In this work, we investigate the SEEs in β -Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs using 2-D TCAD simulations. Initially, a baseline design of lateral β -Ga₂O₃ MOSFET with SiO₂ dielectric is simulated under various radiation conditions. The SEB threshold of 200 V for LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm² for this device is lower than the simulated SEB of AlGaN/GaN channel MISFETs which has a threshold of 430 V at LET = 21 MeV/mg/cm² [21]. The physics behind the SEB mechanism is investigated which helps us in proposing radiation-hardened designs. The simulations suggest that the use of a combination of high- k dielectric with SiO₂ is crucial for full device recovery under extreme radiation conditions. Using a conventional HfO₂ dielectric increases the SEB threshold voltage from 220 to 550 V at LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm² which is higher than that of GaN channel HEMTs

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[20]. But this design is still susceptible to SEB at higher linear energy transfers (LETs) and operating biases. Recent reports have suggested the use of a BaTiO₃ on β -Ga₂O₃ to achieve high breakdown voltage devices [43]. There have also been reports

of using BaTiO₃ on AlGaN to design state-of-the-art breakdown voltage diodes [44] and HEMTs [45]. BaTiO₃ has a reported dielectric constant of >100 for thin films. Thus, a design with an extreme high- k dielectric (BaTiO₃) in combination with SiO₂ is proposed which shows full recovery for all the radiation conditions. With this design, SEB thresholds of 1000 V at LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm² can be achieved which is higher than the state-of-the-art technology.

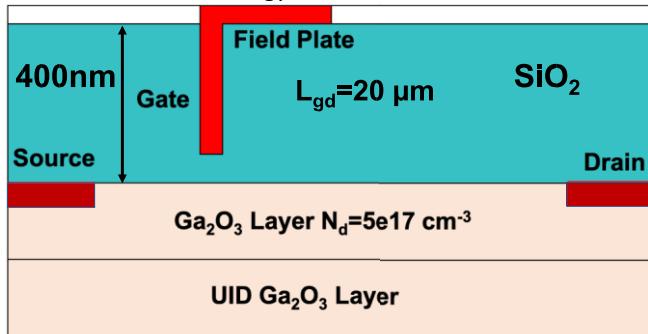


Fig. 1. Device schematic of the simulated baseline lateral MOSFET.

II. DEVICE STRUCTURE AND MODELS

Fig. 1 shows the device structure of the baseline Ga₂O₃ MOSFET. The channel layer is 200-nm thick with a doping concentration of $5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The ohmic layers, used for the drain and source contacts, are 50-nm thick and heavily doped with a concentration of $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The gate electrode has a work function of 4.8 eV. Field plate edge termination technique [29], [30] is used to maximize the breakdown voltage of the device. The device was simulated using the 2-D simulator of SILVACO ATLAS. The models used in the simulation include the SRH recombination model, Auger recombination model, impact ionization model, and field-dependent mobility model. According to previous studies from first principle calculations [46], [47] the low field mobility of Ga₂O₃ is taken to be $150 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$ for a doping concentration of $5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The hole mobility in the channel is taken to be $0.1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$ which is quite low due to the weakly interacting O 2p states which create deep acceptors. The impact ionization parameters for θ -Ga₂O₃ have been taken from a detailed first principle theoretical study [48]. Fig. 2 shows the output and transfer characteristics of the device. The threshold voltage of the device from Fig. 2 is -20 V.

The breakdown voltage of the device is determined by analyzing the electric field contour plots at specified operating bias. Fig. 3 shows the electric field profile at the breakdown voltage of the device. The device breakdown is determined when the electric field in the channel exceeds the critical breakdown field of SiO₂ and Ga₂O₃. As shown in Fig. 3 at 1500 V, the field in the channel is close to 7 MV/cm and that of SiO₂ is 25 MV/cm which is close to their critical breakdown fields [49]. Thus, the breakdown voltage

of the device is estimated to be 1500 V, which is close to the experimentally reported breakdown voltage [29], [30] at comparable gate-drain spacing.

III. SINGLE-EVENT EFFECTS

SEEs occur when individual energetic particle induces errors or failures in the device or the overall circuit [50], [51]. The incident ionization particle loses energy in the semiconductor through Coulomb interaction with the lattice structure. The energy is transferred to the lattice as an ionization tail of free electron-hole pairs (ehps) leading to transient current. Under heavy ion radiation conditions, a second breakdown

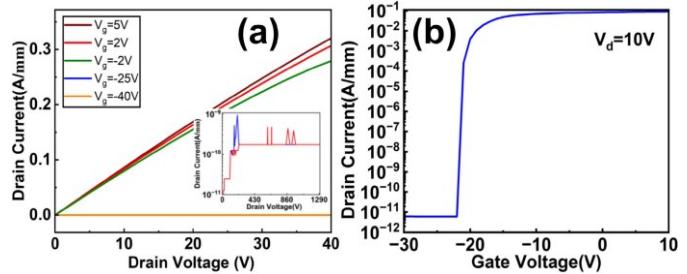


Fig. 2. Simulated (a) output characteristics and (b) transfer characteristics of the MOSFET.

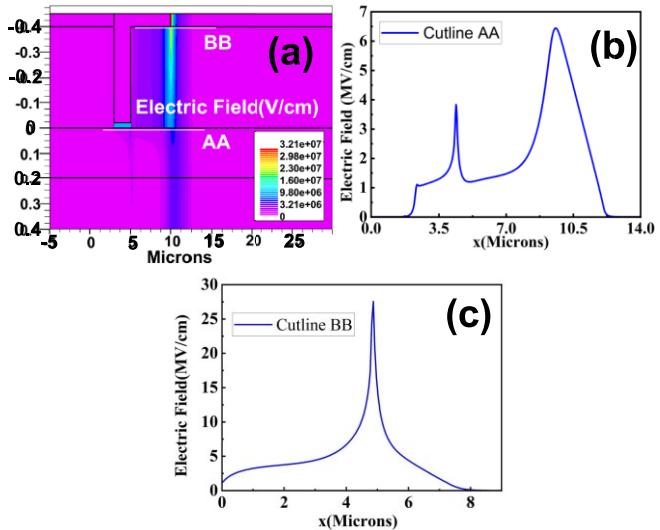


Fig. 3. (a) Silvaco ATLAS simulation of electric field profile at $V_{ds} = 1500 \text{ V}$ and $V_{gs} = -40 \text{ V}$. (b) Field in the Ga₂O₃ channel along cutline AA'. (c) Field in the field plate oxide along cutline BB'.

mechanism might occur leading to a catastrophic failure of the device known as SEB.

In radiation studies, a common measure of the loss of energy of the SEU particle, as it suffers collisions in a material, is the LET value, which is given in units of MeV/mg/cm². LET is the linear energy transfer of the incident ion which determines the number of ehps created in the material depending on the band structure and the density of the material. The creation energy of an ehp in the semiconductor (ϵ_1) is approximately calculated to be three times the band gap of the material [52]. The number of free carriers released is calculated as [53]

LET($\text{ehp}/\mu\text{m}$)

$$\text{mg 1} \quad 3 \\ = \text{LET MeV} \quad \times \times \text{density}(\text{gm/cm}^3) \cdot (1) \text{ cm}^2 \quad \epsilon_1$$

The amount of ehps created by the ionizing particle can be converted in terms of the linear charge deposited inside the semiconductor in units of $\text{pC}/\mu\text{m}$. Since Ga_2O_3 is a wide bandgap semiconductor, the conversion factor for material comes to be $0.007 \text{ pC}/\mu\text{m}$ corresponding to $\text{LET} = 1 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$. This is quite low compared with $0.1 \text{ pC}/\mu\text{m}$ for Si and is comparable to other wide bandgap materials such as GaN and SiC. Thus, the lower charge deposition by the ionizing particle and the highly promising properties Ga_2O_3 -based devices might provide better radiation tolerance than other wide bandgap materials.

The SEEs can be simulated using the ATLAS 2-D simulator using the SINGLEEVENTUPSET statement. The radius, length, and time dependence of the charge generation track can be specified. The coordinates of the entry and exit points of the track can also be specified within the device. In 2-D simulations, the track is assumed to be a cylinder with a specified radius. The ehps generated at any point are a function of the radial distance r , from the center of the track to the point, the distance l along the track, and the time, t . ATLAS implements the generation rate as the number of ehps per cm^3 along the track according to the equation

$$G(r, l, t) = x(\text{DENSITY} * L1(l)) \\ + S * B.\text{DENSITY} * L2(l) * R(r) * T(t)$$

where DENSITY and B.DENSITY are defined as the number of generated ehps per cm^{-3} . By setting a PCUNITS parameter, we can specify the charge generated in terms of $\text{pC}/\mu\text{m}$ depending on the LET value of the ionizing radiation and the concerned semiconductor as discussed above. The factors $L1$ and $L2$ define the variation in charger or carrier generation along the SEU track. The factor $R(r)$ is the radial parameter and is defined as

$$R(r) = \exp - \frac{r^2}{\text{RADIUS}^2}. \quad (2)$$

The factor $T(t)$ is the time dependency of the charge generation governed by two user-defined parameters, namely, the temporal Gaussian function width and the initial time of charge generation.

IV. SEE SIMULATIONS

The SEEs in Ga_2O_3 MOSFETs are investigated using the single-event upset model in SILVACO TCAD. In accordance with the previous radiation research studies [15], [21], the spatial Gaussian function width is set to 50 nm, the temporal Gaussian function width is set to 2 ps, and the initial time of charge generation is set to 100 ps. The strike location is chosen by

studying the electric field profile of the device before radiation. All the simulations for understanding the SEEs are performed in the OFF-state of the MOSFET at a gate bias of $V_{\text{gs}} = -25 \text{ V}$. As shown in Fig. 3(b), the location in the channel vertically under the edge of the field plate has a very high peak electric field and thus is the most sensitive region for SEEs following an ion strike. Thus, the ion strike path has been chosen as $(x, y) = (10, 0)$ to $(x, y) = (10, 0.4)$. Thermal simulation models are also included in our simulation for all the cases. The simulation parameters along with the device parameters are shown in Table I.

The MOSFET structure shown in Fig. 1 was simulated under two operating biases and $\text{LET} = 10 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ to understand the SEEs. From Fig. 4, it can be seen that there is a peak transient current for both the conditions just after the ion strike, but with time it slowly recovers. However, at $V_{\text{ds}} = 500 \text{ V}$, a second breakdown mechanism occurs which is discussed below, the current starts to increase and goes beyond the safety limits. Thus, the device recovers under $V_{\text{ds}} = 220 \text{ V}$ but suffers from SEB at $V_{\text{ds}} = 500 \text{ V}$ at

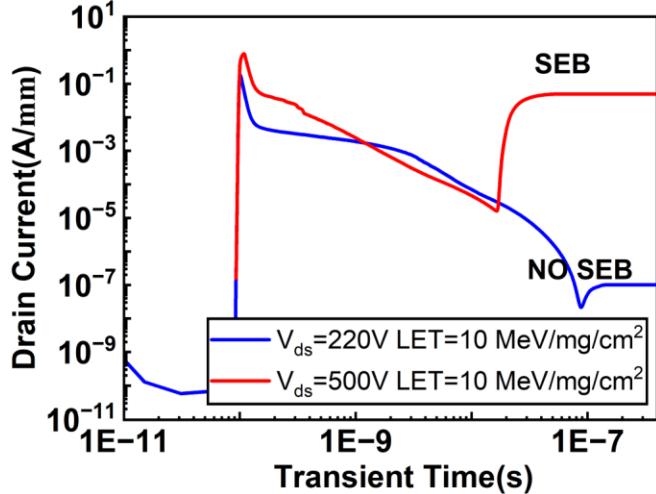


Fig. 4. Transient drain current for the MOSFET at $V_{\text{ds}} = 220$ and 500 V for $\text{LET} = 10 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$.

TABLE I

DESIGN PARAMETERS IN SIMULATION

Design Parameters	Value
Lgd(Gate to Drain Length)	$20 \mu\text{m}$
Thickness of dielectric	400 nm
Channel Layer doping	$5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
Dielectric constant of SiO_2	3.9
Dielectric constant of HfO_2	25
Dielectric constant of BaTiO_3	100
Spatial Gaussian function width	50 nm [15], [21]
Temporal Gaussian function width	$2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}$ [15], [21]
Initial Time of charge generation	$100 \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}$ [15], [21]
Length of ion track	$10.0 - 10.0.4$
Hole recombination time	$4 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}$
Models used	auger, srh, fldmob, impact, lat, temp
Impact Ionization Parameters.	$a = 0.79 \times 10^6$, $b = 2.92 \times 10^7$ [48]

LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm². The physics behind the SEB failure can be understood by analyzing the electron–hole concentration profiles and electric field contour at various time instants. Figs. 5 and 6 show the electron and hole concentrations, respectively, in the device at various time instants after the ion strike. At $t = 1.04 \times 10^{-10}$ s, which is just after the ion strike, ehtps are generated along the ion strike path as shown in Figs. 5(a) and 6(a). Gradually with time, the electrons start to migrate toward the drain and the holes start to migrate toward the gate which is shown in Figs. 5(b) and 6(b). Now as shown in Fig. 7(a), the electric field in the channel is high with peaks under the gate and at the ion strike path. With time as more and more carriers start to accumulate near the gate, the impact generation rate starts to increase gradually. As shown in Fig. 7, initially the impact generation rate was present only under the ion strike path. But with time as more and more holes and electrons started accumulating under the gate, the impact generation rate increased which leads to high electron and hole concentrations in the channel at $t = 8 \times 10^{-9}$ onward. At $t = 15 \times 10^{-9}$, the impact generation rate is very high generating a huge concentration of electrons and holes as shown in Figs. 6(d) and 7(d) which are present throughout the channel. This leads to SEB failure with current exceeding the safety limits of 1 mA/mm, [20] as shown in Fig. 4.

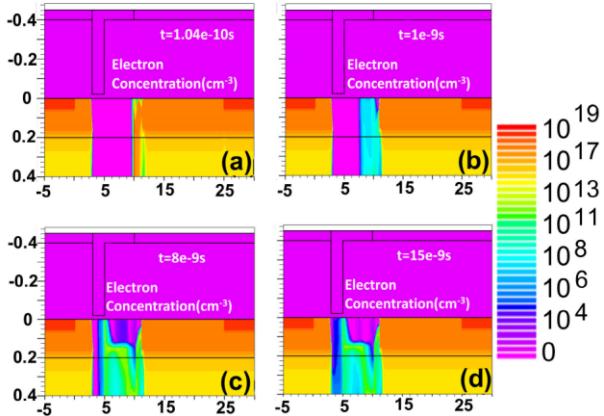


Fig. 5. Electron concentration at various time instants (a) $t = 1.04e - 10s$, (b) $t = 1e - 9s$, (c) $8e - 9s$, and (d) $t = 15e - 9s$ after the ion strike at $V_{ds} = 500$ V and LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm².

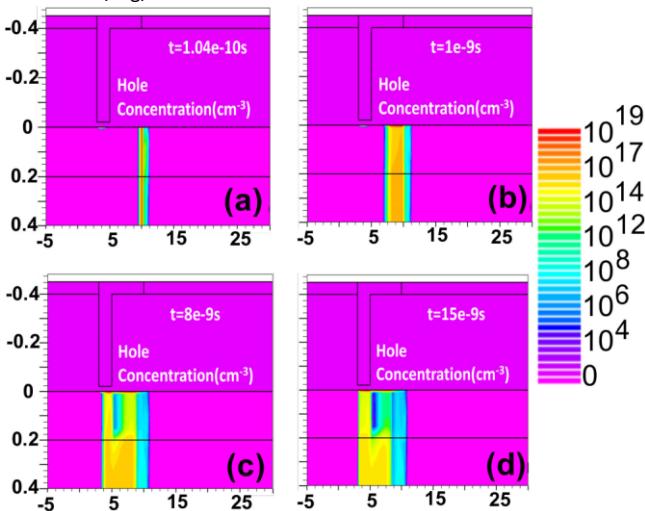


Fig. 6. Hole concentration at various time instants (a) $t = 1.04e - 10s$, (b) $t = 1e - 9s$, (c) $t = 8e - 9s$, and (d) $t = 15e - 9s$ at $V_{ds} = 500$ V and LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm².

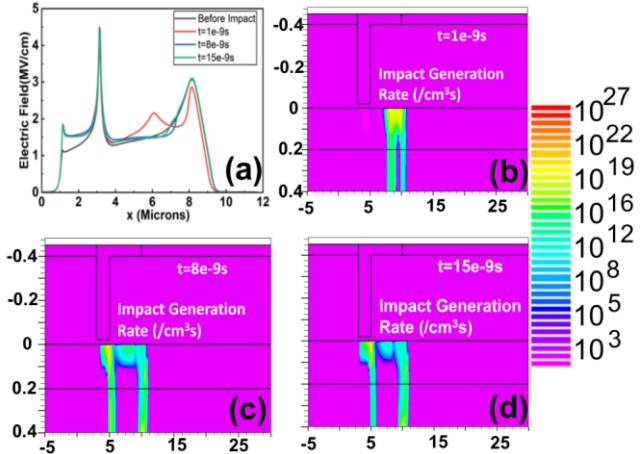
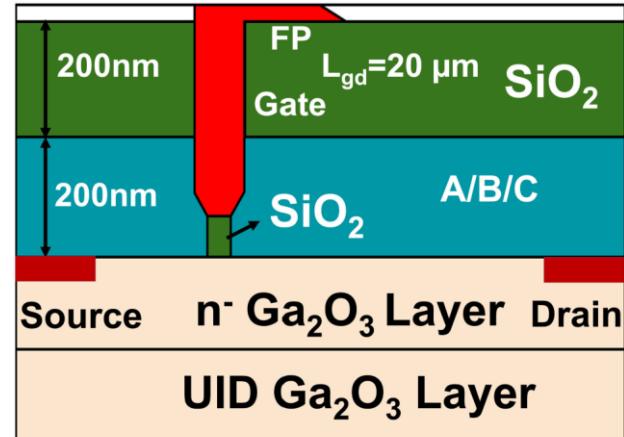


Fig. 7. (a) Electric field profile and impact generation at various time instants, (b) $t = 1e - 9s$ (c) $t = 8e - 9s$, and (d) $t = 15e - 9s$ at $V_{ds} = 500$ V and LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm².

Thus, with the baseline design the SEB threshold of 220 V at LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm² for the Ga₂O₃ MOSFET is lower than the simulated SEB in radiation-hardened GaN HEMTs [20] and AlGaN/GaN-based MISFET [21].



A/B/C = SiO₂/HfO₂/BaTiO₃

Fig. 8. Schematic of the radiation-hardened MOSFET design.

The mechanism discussed above clearly indicates that the electric field in the channel should be reduced to design radiation-hardened MOSFETs. Thus, a modified design with a high- k dielectric combination is proposed here.

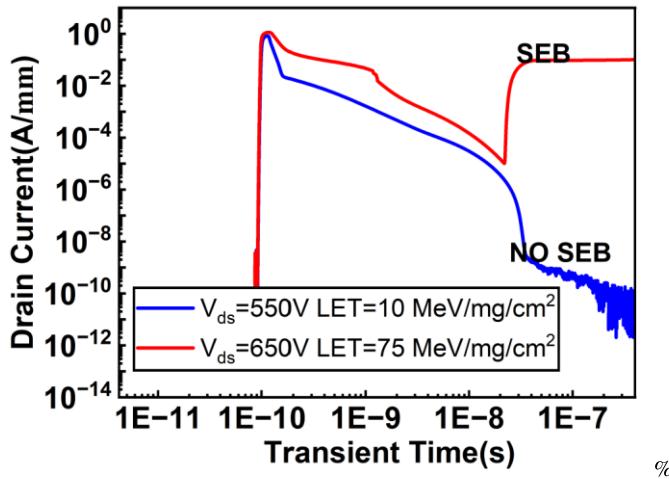
V. RADIATION-HARDENED DESIGN

As discussed in the earlier section, to reduce the overall electric field in the channel, a MOSFET design with a combination of high- k dielectric and SiO₂ as shown in Fig. 8 is proposed. The first design is proposed with the combination of conventional dielectrics which is HfO₂ and SiO₂. However, due to possible band alignment issues with Ga₂O₃ and HfO₂, the gate dielectric has been kept SiO₂. Gate rounding techniques

have also been implemented to reduce the electric field crowding at the edges and also mimic the simulation as closely as possible to a fabricated structure.

The structure was simulated under two radiation conditions of $V_{ds} = 550$ V and $LET = 10$ MeV/mg/cm 2 and $V_{ds} = 650$ V and $LET = 75$ MeV/mg/cm 2 . At $V_{ds} = 550$ V and $LET = 10$ MeV/mg/cm 2 , the current recovers, and the leakage current is still within the safe limits indicating that the device has not suffered SEB. To understand how the proposed design helps in increasing the SEB threshold at $LET = 10$ MeV/mg/cm 2 , it is important to look at the electron and hole concentrations and the impact generation rate at various time instants. During the initial period of ion strike, the electrons and holes behave similar to that discussed in the earlier section. There is a peak transient current just after the ion strike as shown in Fig. 9, and then for both the cases, the current starts to recover slowly. However, as shown in Fig. 10(a), the electric field in the channel is lower especially under the gate when compared with the conventional structure though the device is operating at a higher bias. Thus, at $t = 10 \times 10^{-9}$ s, the impact generation rate is significantly lower leading to lower levels of electron and hole concentrations as shown in Fig. 11. As a result, the drain current does increase again. The current stays below the safety limits and SEB is not triggered.

However, for extreme radiation conditions of $V_{ds} = 650$ V and $LET = 75$ MeV/mg/cm 2 , the device suffers from SEB



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Fig. 9. Transient drain current for HfO_2 - SiO_2 dielectric combination MOSFET for two different radiation conditions.

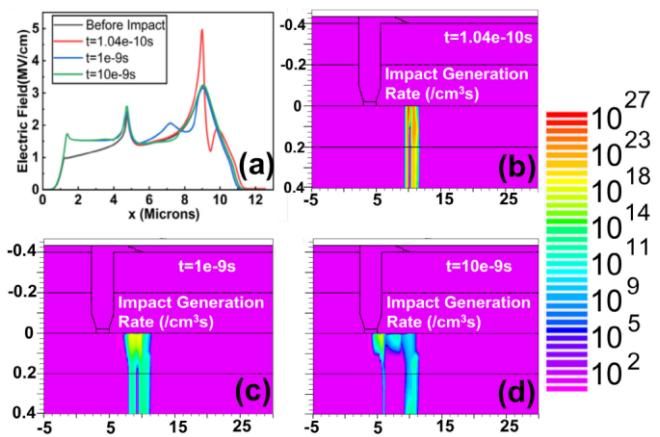


Fig. 10. Electric field and impact generation rate at different time instants for HfO_2 - SiO_2 dielectric combination at $V_{ds} = 550$ V and $LET = 10$ MeV/mg/cm 2 .

because the impact generation rate becomes higher due to higher electric fields in the channel. Thus, to get further radiation hardness, a very high- k dielectric material has to be used.

Here, we have proposed a combination of $BaTiO_3$ and SiO_2 as shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 12 and shows the transient drain current plots under radiation conditions of $V_{ds} = 650$ V $LET = 75$ MeV/mg/cm 2 and $V_{ds} = 1000$ V $LET = 75$ MeV/mg/cm 2 , respectively.

The device shows full current recovery which can be further understood by analyzing the electron, hole, and impact generation rate contour plots at various time instants. As shown in Fig. 13, the electric field is significantly lowered even at a high operating bias of 1000 V, which leads to low impact generation rates in the channel. The electron and hole concentrations are shown from $t = 8 \times 10^{-9}$ s onward since before that the behavior of electrons and holes is similar to the earlier cases. Thus, even though carriers are present in the channel at 8×10^{-9} s, they start to recombine with each other instead of undergoing impact ionization. The result is clearly seen in Fig. 14 where the electron and hole concentrations are very low as time progresses. Therefore, the drain current does

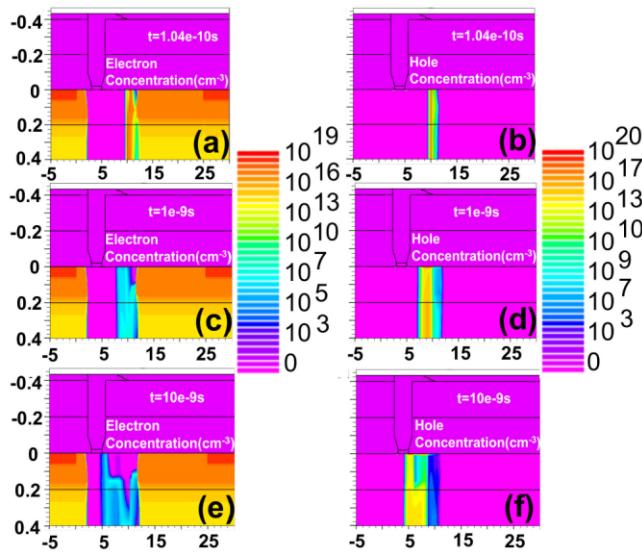


Fig. 11. Electron and hole concentrations at different time instants for HfO₂-

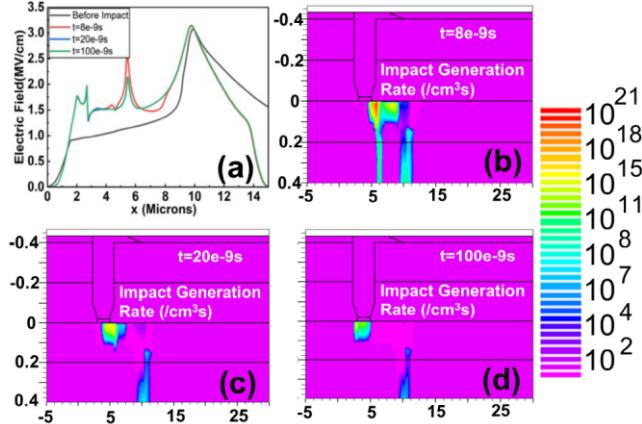


Fig. 13. Electric field profile and impact generation rate for BaTiO₃-SiO₂ dielectric combination at various time instants after the ion strike at $V_{ds} = 1000$ V and LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm².
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SiO₂ dielectric combination at $V_{ds} = 550$ V and LET = 10 MeV/mg/cm².

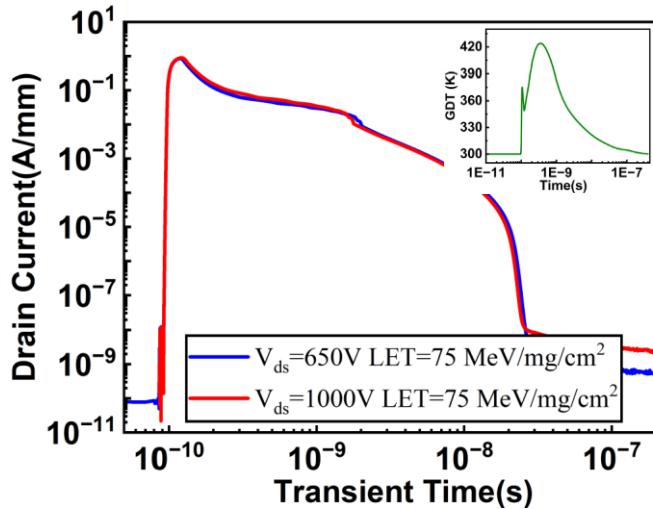


Fig. 12. Transient drain current for BaTiO₃-SiO₂ dielectric combination under $V_{ds} = 650, 1000$ V and LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm². The inset shows the variation in GDT with time for $V_{ds} = 1000$ V and LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm².

not increase with time, and the device is immune to extreme radiation conditions.

Ideally, if a high-k dielectric such as HfO₂ or BaTiO₃ of higher thickness could be used as a fully dielectric layer for the MOSFET, the radiation hardness could be increased further. However, high leakage currents and challenges of depositing thick dielectrics limit us in using that design.

To further verify our simulations, we have also varied the hole mobility to $2 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ [54] and have obtained similar results which shows that the hole mobility is not an important factor for determining the SEB threshold condition.

It is noted that thermal simulations were carried out with the ionizing current as heat source for all the conditions described above. The global device temperature (GDT) which is the highest temperature in the device at a time instant did not go beyond 420k (shown in Fig. 12 inset) which is far below

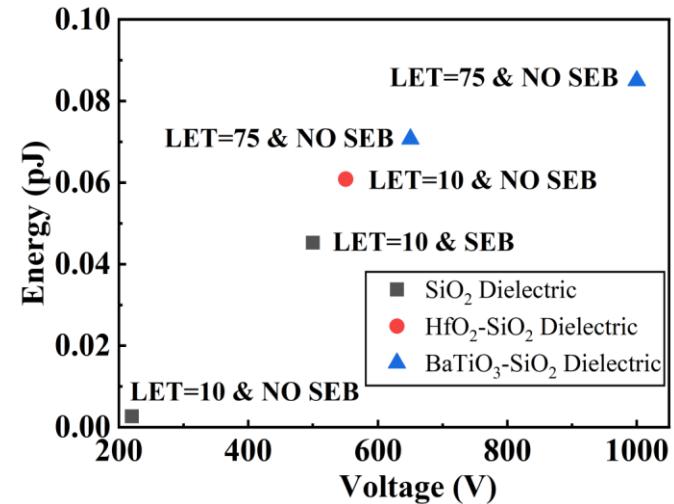


Fig. 14. Electron and hole concentrations for BaTiO₃-SiO₂ dielectric combination at various time instants after the ion strike at $V_{ds} = 1000$ V and LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm².

the melting point of Ga_2O_3 and the dielectrics used, ruling out catastrophic thermal failure.

Moreover, we have not investigated the TID effects which could also lead to device reliability issues in harsh radiation environment. The TID effect depends on the dielectric/channel interface. There are reports on TID effects and mitigation techniques in other semiconductor technologies [55], [56]. Similar studies of TID effect needs to be explored in Ga_2O_3 MOSFETs before they can be used in real applications.

VI. ENERGY DISSIPATION CALCULATION

The amount of energy dissipated during the ionizing radiation event in the MOSFET is an important factor in analyzing the radiation hardness of the semiconductor material. The energy dissipated during each event can be calculated by integrating the current density times area of ion track and the electric field along the entire ion track and then integrating temporally. The area of the ion track is taken to be πr^2 , where r is the radius of the ion track. The energy dissipated [Fig. 15]. Energy dissipated during the ion strike event in $\delta\text{-Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ MOSFET for various radiation conditions. LET values are measured in $\text{MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$. is calculated using the following equation [15]:

$$\text{Energy} \approx \int J * A_{\text{ion}} * E_{\text{field}} dx dt. \quad (3)$$

Fig. 15 shows the energy dissipated for the first 336 ps of the ion strike event in $\delta\text{-Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ MOSFETs under different radiation conditions. It is observed that the power dissipated for ion strike event in Ga_2O_3 MOSFET irrespective of the radiation condition is significantly less than that energy dissipated in SiC MOSFETs [15]. In SiC MOSFETs, as reported an ion strike of $\text{LET} = 2 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ at a bias of 1300 V results in energy dissipation of 2.5 nJ, and for $\text{LET} = 10 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ at a bias of 500 V, 2.6 nJ of energy is dissipated. This results from the lower ionization rate in Ga_2O_3 due to its large bandgap. The energy dissipated increases with increasing LET and increasing operating bias which is in accordance with our discussion in the earlier sections that with increasing bias and LET, the electric fields could be higher and the transient drain current peaks are higher. However, the energy dissipation factor is not correlated with specific SEB effect as seen in the figure.

VII. PEAK ELECTRIC FIELD AND SEB THRESHOLD CONDITION

As discussed in the earlier section, though the energy dissipation in Ga_2O_3 MOSFET is lower than that of SiC MOSFETs, it is not a helpful parameter in determining a specific SEB threshold condition for voltage or LET. The main factor responsible for triggering the SEB mechanism was found to be the electric field. Though our simulations suggest that decreasing the electric field in the channel increases the SEB threshold conditions, it is difficult to identify a specific

threshold condition that is applicable for Ga_2O_3 MOSFETs across all the design modifications. Fig. 16 shows the variation in peak electric field in the channel at the location of ion strike at $t = 8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ s}$ for all the designs. It can be clearly seen that using a high- k dielectric reduces the peak electric fields in the channel but it also changes the overall electric field distribution

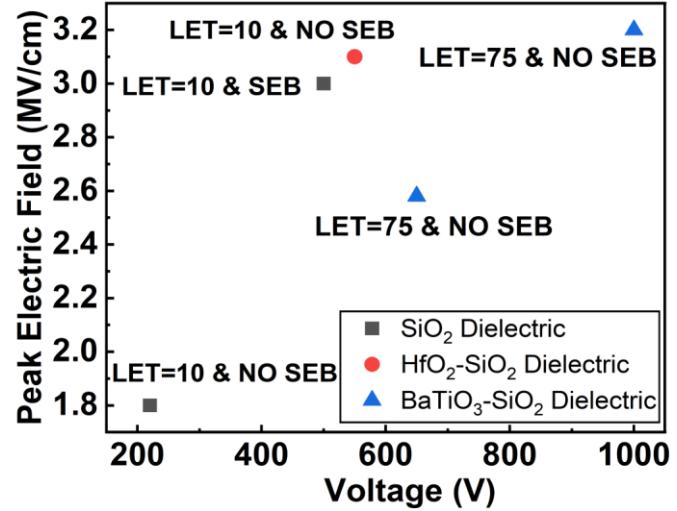


Fig. 16. Peak electric fields in the channel at $t = 8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ s}$ in the ion strike location for all the designs.

in the device. But the peak electric field value is not the decisive factor for determining the SEB triggering mechanism. The overall electric field distribution affects the total impact generation rate in the device which is responsible for the generation of carriers. For example, if we take radiation condition of $V_{\text{ds}} = 500 \text{ V}$ and $\text{LET} = 10 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ for the conventional design shown in Fig. 1 and a radiation condition of $V_{\text{ds}} = 1000 \text{ V}$ and $\text{LET} = 75 \text{ MeV}/\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ for the modified design shown in Fig. 8 with the BaTiO₃ dielectric, the peak electric fields in the channel for the BaTiO₃-SiO₂ design are higher as shown in Fig. 16. However, the field distributions are different for the two designs, which leads to different impact generation rates and different levels of electron and hole concentrations as discussed earlier. Thus, even though the peak electric field value is higher the BaTiO₃-SiO₂ design combination does not suffer from SEB, whereas in the SiO₂ design, SEB is triggered.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In this article, detailed 2-D TCAD simulations were performed to investigate the SEEs in $\delta\text{-Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ MOSFETs. The physics behind the SEB mechanism is understood and the electric field distribution in the channel is one of the main factors behind the SEB triggering mechanism. Our initial simulations suggest that the SEB threshold voltage of the baseline lateral Ga_2O_3 MOSFET is lower than the simulated SEB threshold in the state-of-the-art AlGaN/GaN HEMTs and MISFETs. Thus keeping in mind the physics behind the SEB

mechanism, radiation hardening techniques are proposed which show improved radiation-hardened performance. To reduce the high electric fields in the channel responsible for the high impact generation rates, a radiation-hardened device with rounded gates and high- k dielectric was proposed. The high- k dielectric is used in combination with SiO₂ to reduce the fabrication challenges associated with depositing a thick layer of high- k dielectric. First, with HfO₂–SiO₂ dielectric combination, an SEB threshold voltage of 550 V is obtained which is higher than that of GaN HEMTs. However, this design also fails under extreme radiation conditions. Therefore, it is proposed that to operate under extreme radiation conditions, a very high- k dielectric material such as BaTiO₃ could be used which reduces the overall electric field distribution in the channel significantly. With this design, the device can achieve SEB thresholds going up to 1000 V at LET = 75 MeV/mg/cm². Another technique that could be explored to design radiation-hardened θ -Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs is using a p-type material such as p-NiO, which is also helpful in reducing the electric field in the channel. Though the energy dissipation is not correlated with the SEB threshold, our calculations show that energy dissipation during SEB strike in Ga₂O₃ MOSFETs is lower than that in SiC MOSFETs.

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