Quantum Mechanical Carrier Transport and Nano-scale MOS Modeling

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Introduction

Manifestation of quantum mechanical effects on MOS characteristics:

- Increasing effective gate oxide thickness with consequence of
 - Smaller gate capacitance
 - Larger threshold voltage
- Tunneling current
 - through gate oxide
 - through barrier between S/D along the channel
- \bullet Ballistic transport
- \bullet Subthreshold slope





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Modeling approaches:

- Macroscopic: particle (solve Shockley semiconductor eqs.)
 - Quantum hydrodynamic model (QHD)
 - Density gradient drift-diffusion (QDD)
 - Effective potential approach (EP)
- Microscopic: wavefunction (solve Schrödinger eq.)
 - Quantum transmitting boundary method (QTBM)
 - Modified QTBM QDAME
 - Green's function approach NEGF
- Compact circuit model

• Wigner-Boltzmann Equation

- Changing threshold voltage
- Model ballistic transport (transmission theory)

Schrödinger Equation and Wigner Function

• Schrödinger Equation

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*}\nabla^2 + U(\mathbf{r})\right]\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\Psi(\mathbf{r}) \tag{1}$$

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• Wigner Function

$$f_W(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{(\pi\hbar)^3} \int \Psi^*(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}') \Psi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') e^{2i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}'/\hbar} d\mathbf{r}' \qquad (2)$$

Momentum-shifted Wigner fuction

$$f_W^{(2)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{A} \frac{e^{-\beta E}}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \left\{ 1 + \hbar^2 \left[-\frac{\beta^2}{8m^*} \nabla^2 U + \frac{\beta^3}{24m^*} (\nabla U \cdot \nabla U) + \frac{\beta^3}{24m^*} (\mathbf{p}' \cdot \nabla)^2 U \right] \right\}$$
(3)

where $\mathbf{p}' = \mathbf{p} - m^* \mathbf{u}$ with \mathbf{u} , the macroscopic fluid (or drift) velocity, and $E = p^2/2m^* + U$.

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$$\frac{\partial f_W}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla f_W}{m^*} - \frac{2}{\hbar} \sin\left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \nabla^U \cdot \nabla_\mathbf{p}\right) U(\mathbf{r}) f_W(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Or use the integral form by defining the nonlocal potential energy

$$\hat{U}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = 2 \int \sin\left(\frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{y}}{\hbar}\right) \left[U(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{y}/2) - U(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{y}/2)\right] d\mathbf{y} \quad (5)$$

The Wigner-Boltzmann eq. then takes form of

$$\frac{\partial f_W}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla f_W}{m^*} - \frac{2}{\hbar} \int \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \hat{U}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}') f_W(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}') d\mathbf{p}' = 0 \quad (6)$$

Moment Approach – QHD
Action 19 the serious expansion of Eq. (4) and take first three moments in p-space: 1, p, p · p/2m^{*}.
Quantum Hydrodynamic Equations
$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{m^*} \nabla \cdot \Pi = 0 \qquad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Pi_i + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \Pi_i) - \sum_{j=1}^3 \frac{\partial P_{ji}}{\partial x_j} = -n \frac{\partial U}{\partial x_i} - \frac{1}{\tau_p} \Pi_i, \ i = 1, 2, 3(8)$$

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} W - \hat{P} \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{q}) = -\frac{1}{m^*} \Pi \cdot \nabla U - \frac{W - W_0}{\tau_w} (9)$$
If variables n, **u**, and energy density W, where **Π** = nm***u** is the momentum density and P̂ the stress tensor.
Quantum corrections
The gradient of carrier density is a manifestation of non-locality, which is the essence of quantum mechanics.

Stress tensor

$$\hat{P} = -nTI + \frac{\hbar^2 n}{12m^*} (\nabla \nabla) \ln n \tag{10}$$

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$$W = \frac{3}{2}nT + \frac{1}{2}m^*nu^2 - \frac{\hbar^2 n}{24m^*}\nabla^2 \ln n$$
(11)

– A compact form

Energy density

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \ln n) = -\frac{1}{n^2} \nabla n \cdot \nabla n + \frac{1}{n} \nabla^2 n \qquad (12)$$
$$2\frac{\nabla^2 \sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n}} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{n^2} \nabla n \cdot \nabla n + \frac{1}{n} \nabla^2 n \qquad (13)$$

 $V_n = V + Q_n$ (14) $V_p = V - Q_p$ (15)

where quantum potential

$$Q_n = 2b_n \frac{\nabla^2 \sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad b_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{12qm_n^*} \tag{16}$$

$$Q_p = 2b_p \frac{\nabla^2 \sqrt{p}}{\sqrt{p}}, \quad b_p = \frac{\hbar^2}{12qm_p^*} \tag{17}$$

 V_n and V_p are used in the place of V for conventional DD formulation, e.g.,

$$n = n_i e^{(V_n - \phi_n)/V_T}$$
(18)

$$p = n_i e^{(\phi_p - V_p)/V_T}$$
(19)

The carrier fluxes are expressed as

$$\mathbf{F}_{n} = -D_{n}\nabla n + \mu_{n}n\nabla V_{n}$$
(20)
$$\mathbf{F}_{p} = -D_{p}\nabla p - \mu_{p}p\nabla V_{p}$$
(21)

Solving Shockley semiconductor equations for n, p, and V

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot (\epsilon \nabla V) &= -q(p-n+N_D^+-N_A^-) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}_n + r &= 0 \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}_p + r &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solution approaches

(main challenge: the robustness of the method)

• Trade number of variables to the order of derivative

• Five variables:
$$V, S_n = \sqrt{n}, S_p = \sqrt{p}, \phi_n$$
, and ϕ_p .

Equation set:

$$\nabla \cdot (\epsilon \nabla V) + q(p - n + N_D^{-} - N_A^{-}) = 0 \quad (25)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (b_n \nabla S_n) + \frac{S_n}{2} \left(V - \frac{k_B T}{q} \ln \frac{n}{n_i} - \phi_n \right) = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (b_p \nabla S_p) - \frac{S_p}{2} \left(V + \frac{k_B T}{q} \ln \frac{p}{n_i} - \phi_p \right) = 0 \quad (27)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mu_n n \nabla \phi_n) + \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + r = 0 \quad (28)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mu_p p \nabla \phi_p) - \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} - r = 0 \quad (29)$$

The disadvantage of this scheme is when $b \rightarrow 0$, the Helmhotz equations, Eqs. (26-27) becomes singular. The convergence behavior is poor, often needs to keep the bias step small to prevent negative $S_n(\sqrt{n})$ and $S_p(\sqrt{p})$.

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 \bullet Use variables $V, u_n, u_p, \phi_n,$ and ϕ_p (Prof. Shinji Odanaka of Osaka Uni.) where

$$u_n = \frac{V_n - \phi_n}{2}, \quad u_p = \frac{\phi_p - V_p}{2}$$
 (30)

The advantage with variable *u*'s is that the carrier concentration is guaranteed to be positive, e.g.,

$$S_n = \sqrt{n} = \sqrt{n_i} e^{u_n/V_T} \tag{31}$$

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The eq. for u_n is

$$-b_n \nabla \cdot (S_n \nabla u_n) + S_n u_n = \frac{S_n}{2} (V - \phi_n)$$
(32)

This eq. is of Sturm-Liouville type of problem for u_n given S_n, V , and ϕ_n .





The advantage: robustness – The drain bias can jump to $0.5\,\mathrm{V}$ in one step.



• Similarity with DG

$$V_{\text{eff}}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}a_0} \int V(x+\xi)e^{-\xi^2/2a_0^2}d\xi$$

$$\approx V(x) - \frac{2a_0^2}{\beta}\frac{\partial^2\ln\sqrt{n/n_0}}{\partial x^2} + \cdots \qquad (34)$$

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Poor accuracy of EP may be due to the missing of another term with the same order as \hbar^2 .



General solution procedure:

- The solution in the lead i has the form of

$$\psi_{i}(\xi_{i},\eta_{i}) = \sum_{m=1}^{N_{i}} \left[a_{m}^{i} \chi_{m}^{i}(\xi_{i}) e^{-jk_{m}^{i}\eta_{i}} + b_{m}^{i} \chi_{m}^{i}(\xi_{i}) e^{jk_{m}^{i}\eta_{i}} \right] \\ + \sum_{m=N_{i}+1}^{\infty} b_{m}^{i} \chi_{m}^{i}(\xi_{i}) e^{-jk_{m}^{i}\eta_{i}}$$
(38)

- Eliminating the explicit dependence on Ψ_i , a mixed BC for Ψ_0 on Γ_i is obtained as

$$\nabla \Psi_{0} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\Gamma_{i}}|_{\xi_{i}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N^{i}} i k_{m}^{i} \chi_{m}^{i}(\xi_{i}) \left(-2a_{m}^{i} + \int_{\Gamma_{i}} \chi_{m}^{i}(\Gamma_{i}) \Psi_{0}(\Gamma_{i}) d\Gamma_{i}\right)$$

$$-\sum_{m=N^{i}+1}^{\infty} k_{m}^{i} \chi_{m}^{i}(\xi_{i}) \int_{\Gamma_{i}} \chi_{m}^{i}(\Gamma_{i}) \Psi_{0}(\Gamma_{i}) d\Gamma_{i} \quad (39)$$

• Quantum Device Analysis by Mode Evaluation (QDAME) Based on QTBM and has the following features: 20/48 - Able of evaluating I-V characteristics - Discretely sample a device' s density of states using standing wave boundary conditions, decomposing the standing waves

into traveling waves injected from the contacts to assign occupancies.

Solution procedure:

1. Find standing wavefunctions by imposing (at Γ_i)

sine :
$$\Psi_n^{(s)} = 0 \implies E_n^{(s)}$$

cosine : $\nabla \Psi_n^{(c)} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\Gamma_i} = 0 \implies E_n^{(c)}$

2. Decompose the normal mode into traveling components

$$\Psi_n^{(s,c)}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \Phi_{n,i}^{(s,c)}(\mathbf{r})$$
(40)

- 3. Given the normal mode energy and the injection coefficients, the traveling components are computed using a modified version of the QTBM.
- 4. The electron density $n(\mathbf{r})$ is the sum of electron densities from the sine sampling $n^{(s)}(\mathbf{r})$ and cosine sampling $n^{(c)}(\mathbf{r})$, found by summing over all traveling eigen-component densities multiplied by a thermal occupation factor

$$n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{s,c} n^{s,c}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{s,c} \left\{ \sum_{n,i} |\Phi_{n,i}^{s,c}(\mathbf{r})|^2 \sum_p c_{p,n,i}^{s,c} \rho(k_D^i, T, E_n^{s,c}) \right\}$$
(41)

where the thermal occupancy factor is the sum of occupancy factor $\rho(k_D^i, T, E_n^{s,c})$ and coefficients $c_{p,n,i}^{s,c}$ representing the frac-

tional weight of each mode p in lead i making up the traveling eigen-component.

Drifted Fermi-Dirac occupancy factor

$$\rho(k_{Di}, T, E) = \left(\frac{8m_z^i k_B T}{h^2}\right)^{1/2} \times F_{-1/2} \left(\frac{E_{Fi} - E - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_\eta^i} k_D^i \left(k_D^i - 2k_\eta^{p,i}\right)}{k_B T}\right) \quad (42)$$

where the drift momentum $\hbar k_D^i$ in lead *i* is found from the current continuity requirement between lead and device.

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• Non-equilibrium Green's Function (NEGF)

NEGF provides a microscopic theory for quantum transport including dissipative interaction.

Green's function, $G^R(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$, is obtained from solving Schrödinger equation with boundary conditions

$$[E - H_d]G^R(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') - \int \Sigma^R(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_1)G^R(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}')d\mathbf{r}_1 = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \quad (43)$$

which can be viewed as the wavefunction at the point ${\bf r}$ due to a unit excitation at ${\bf r}'.$

Without the source term, the above Green's function becomes the Schrödinger-like equation with boundary condition built-in it:

$$E\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = H_d\Psi(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma^R(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_1)\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1)d\mathbf{r}_1$$
(44)

which describes the dynamics of an electron inside the device region.

Matrix form of Green's function

$$G^{R} = [EI - H_{d} - \Sigma^{R}]^{-1} \quad (45)$$
The use of Green's functions
- DOS: G^{R} and its conjugate transpose $G^{A} = [G^{R}]^{\dagger}$ represent the density of states in the energy space.

$$N(E) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{Tr} \{i[G^{R}(E) - G^{A}(E)]\} \quad (46)$$
Or the position-dependent density of states

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}, E) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} [G^{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}; E)] \quad (47)$$

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Figure 3: DOS on the cross-section $(3 \text{ nm} \times 3 \text{ nm})$ of a FinFET

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– Carrier concentration: can be expressed using the so-called correlation function G^n :

$$G^{n}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}') = \int \int G^{R}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_{1})\Sigma^{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{1},\mathbf{r}_{1}')[G^{R}(\mathbf{r}',\mathbf{r}_{1}')]^{*}d\mathbf{r}_{1}d\mathbf{r}_{1}' \quad (48)$$

where Σ^{in} is the inscattering function related to Σ^R and the quasi-Fermi level on the contact as in

$$\Sigma_p^{\rm in}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; E) = f_p(E, \mu_p) \Gamma_p(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; E)$$
(49)

where p represents the contact (or the lead) and μ_p is the quasi-Fermi level for that contact and $\Gamma = i \left[\Sigma^R - \{\Sigma^R\}^{\dagger} \right]$.

$$\Sigma^R = \Sigma^R_{\varphi} + \sum_p \Sigma^R_p \tag{50}$$

$$\Sigma_{p}^{R}(i,j;E) = -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m^{*}a^{2}} \sum_{m \in p} \chi_{m}(p_{i})e^{ik_{m}a}\chi_{m}(p_{j})$$
(51)

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2D MOS Simulation using NEGF

 NASA's simulation of 2D MOSFET with NEGF, including a self-consistent treatment of 2D gate oxide tunneling.





The carrier concentration is

$$n(\mathbf{r}) = 2 \int \frac{1}{2\pi} G^n(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}; E) dE$$
(52)

where the pre-factor 2 is for the spin degeneration.

- Current density: The current density inside the device is

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}; E) = -\frac{iq\hbar}{2m^*} \left[(\nabla - \nabla') G^m(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; E) \right]_{\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{r}'}$$
(53)

where the gradient operator ∇' means that it only acts on $\mathbf{r}'.$ The terminal current per unit energy is

 $i(E) = \int \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, E) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$

Comparison with DG:

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Figure 4: Electron distribution in the poly-gate region using DG and NEGF for MIT wtm 25 ($L_{ch} = 25 \text{ nm}$).



- Schrödinger eq. solver on 2D cross-section
- NEGF along the channel
- 3D Poisson's solver
- Device structure



Figure 5: FinFET structure and layout



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Figure 6: Simulation region and mesh

- Simulation details
- Separation of variables and WKB theory on x-direction

$$\Psi(x, y, z) = X(x)\varphi(y, z) = e^{ik_x x}\varphi(y, z)$$
(55)



$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_y^*}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_z^*}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \end{pmatrix} \Psi_x^i(y,z) - qV_x(y,z)\Psi_x^i(y,z) = E_{t,x}^i\Psi_x^i(y,z)$$
(56)

- Bounded states affected by different effective mass





where the self-energy matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{\text{source}} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_s(1) & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \Sigma_s(n) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \Sigma_{\text{drain}} \end{bmatrix}$$
(59)
For ballistic transport (neglecting scattering), $\Sigma_s(i) = 0, i = 1, \cdots, n$, and

$$\Sigma_{\text{contact}}(E) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_x^*} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} e^{ik_l x}$$
(60)
where k_l can be solved from

$$E = E_{t,\text{contact}} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_x^*} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (1 - \cos k_l x)$$
(61)
 $E_{t,\text{contact}}$ is the eigen-energy determined by the lead (contact).



– The density matrix at energy E is

$$\rho(E) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dx} [F(\mu_s - E)A_s + F(\mu_d - E)A_D]$$
(62)

$$A_s = G[i(\Sigma_s - \Sigma_s^+)]G^+, \quad A_D = G[i(\Sigma_d - \Sigma_d^+)]G^+$$
(63)

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Image: A transformed and transfor

-2D electron density for each subband





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Ballistic MOS Model (BMM) with 2D QM Corrections

Features:

• Ballistic carrier transport along the channel

$$\frac{I_D}{W} = Q(0) \frac{1-r}{1+r} \left[v_T \frac{\mathcal{F}_{1/2}(\eta)}{\mathcal{F}_0(\eta)} \right] \frac{1 - \frac{\mathcal{F}_{1/2}(\eta-U_D)}{\mathcal{F}_{1/2}(\eta)}}{1 + \frac{1-r}{1+r} \frac{\mathcal{F}_0(\eta-U_D)}{\mathcal{F}_0(\eta)}}$$
(65)

where v_T is the thermal velocity, $U_D = V_{DS}/V_T$, $\eta = (E_{FS} - E_{\max})/k_BT$, and back scattering coefficient

$$r = \frac{l}{l+\lambda}, \ l = L \left(V_T \frac{\beta}{V_{DS}} \right)^{\alpha}, \ \lambda = V_T \frac{2\mu}{v_T} \frac{\mathcal{F}_0^2(\eta)}{\mathcal{F}_{-1}(\eta) \mathcal{F}_{1/2}(\eta)}$$

• QM corrected threshold voltage

$$Q(0) = C_{ox} V_{g,\text{eff}}$$

where $C_{ox} = \epsilon_{ox}/t_{ox}$ is the gate-oxide capacitance per unit surface area and $V_{g,\text{eff}}$ is the effective gate voltage,

$$V_{g,\text{eff}} = \frac{2sV_T \ln\left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{V_{od}}{2sV_T}\right)\right]}{1 + 2sC_{ox}\sqrt{\frac{2\psi_S}{q\epsilon_{0}\epsilon_{si}N_{sub}}}\exp\left[\frac{V_{od} - 2(V_{GS} - V_{th} - V_{off})}{2sV_T}\right]}$$
(67)

where $V_{od} = V_{GS} - V_{FB} - \phi_S - Q_{dep}/C_{ox}$, s swing factor, and V_{off} a parameter. The key of the modeling is to find right expression for the threshold voltage

$$V_{th} = V_{th,cl} + \Delta V_{1D_qm} + \Delta V_{pg_qm} + \Delta V_{2D_qm}$$
(68)

According to Natori,

$$Q(0) \approx 2.5 \frac{qkT}{2\pi\hbar^2} \sqrt{m_t m_l} \left[\ln \left(1 + e^{\eta} \right) + \ln \left(1 + e^{\eta - U_D} \right) \right]$$
(69)

from which one can find η , given bias.



be expressed as

$$\Delta V_{\rm 2D-QM} = \frac{E_d - E_{\rm peak}}{q} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2C_{\rm ox}} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_{\rm Si} q^2 N_{\rm sub}}{k_B T \ln(N_{\rm sub}/n_0)}} \right)$$
(75)

The results by applying the 2D QM correction to the simulation of transfer characteristics.

Analytical approach: approximate $E_{n_s}(x)$ with a parabola.

$$E_{n_z}(x) \approx E_{\text{peak}} - \sigma (x - x_{\text{max}})^2$$
 (76)

And obtain

$$E_d - E_{\text{peak}} = \frac{8\hbar}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{2m_x}} \tag{77}$$

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The fitting parameter σ is less sensitive to $t_{\rm ox}$ and $N_{\rm sub}$, but strongly depends on the channel length L. An empirical formula is T (1.0 (78)

$$\sigma = 4.73 \times 10^{-3} e^{-L/16}$$



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Simulation Examples using BMM



Figure 9: Modeling of 14 nm MOSFET (A. Hokazono et al., 2002) with BMM, $V_{gs} = 0.25 - 0.65$ V of step 0.1 V.

Conclusions

- QM effects become first-order ones in nano-scale MOS-**FETs**
- Robust macroscopic model(s) now exists for device simulation
- Wavefunction based approach may find broad application in nanoelectronic devices
- The built-in of QM effects in compact model likely will take the similar path to the "surface potential" approach.