

MICRO-461

Low-power Radio Design for the IoT

Summary of the EKV MOS Transistor Model

Christian Enz

Integrated Circuits Lab (ICLAB), Institute of Microengineering (IMT), School of Engineering (STI)

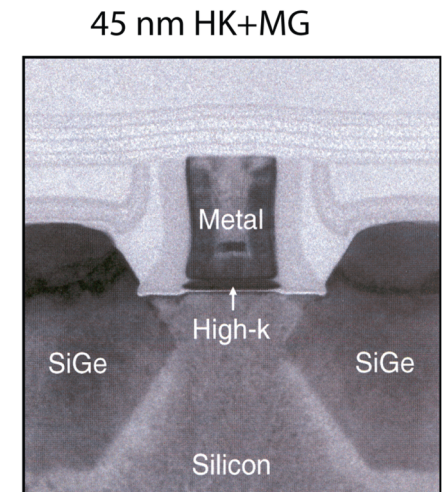
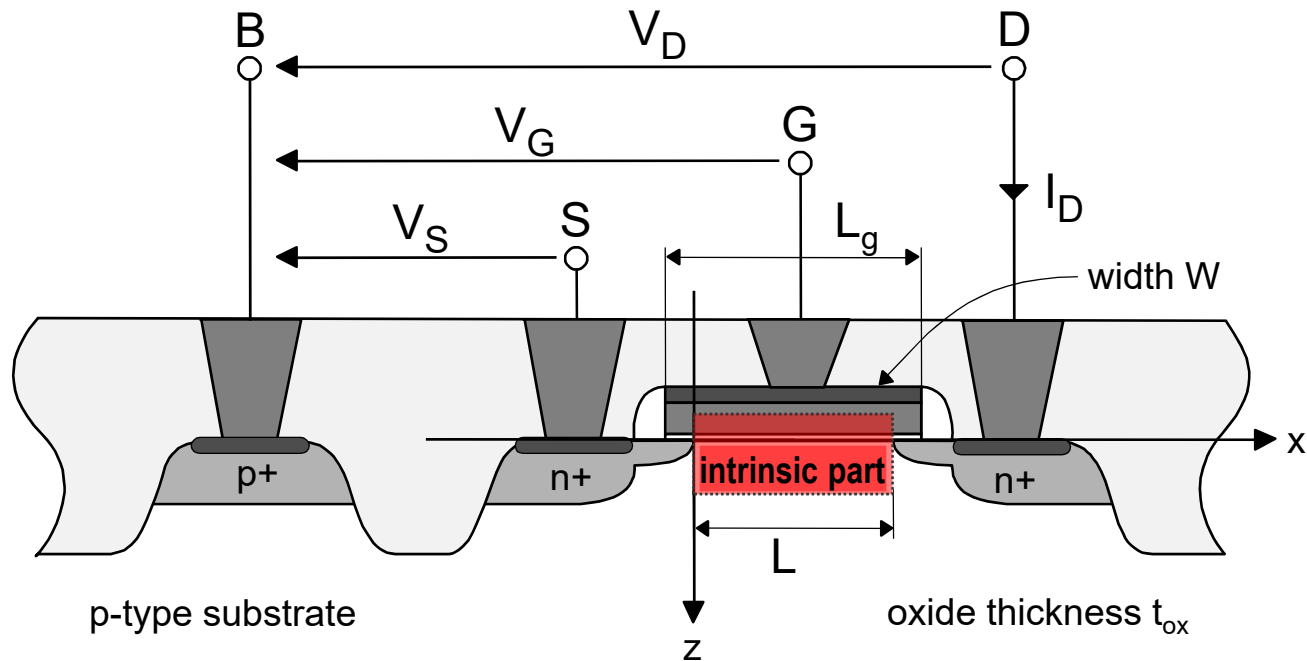
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The logo of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL), consisting of the letters 'EPFL' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Outline

- **The long-channel static model**
- The long-channel small-signal model
- The long-channel noise model
- The extended model
- The simplified EKV model

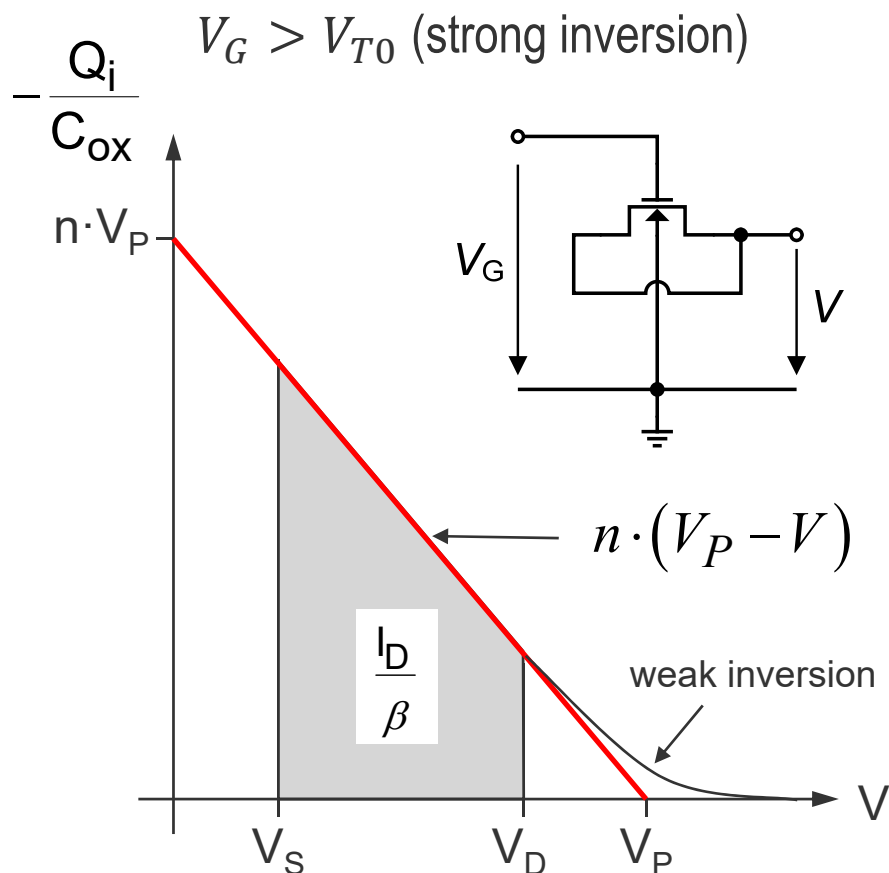
Device Symmetry



- **Symmetrical** with respect to source (S) and drain (D)
- Terminal voltages are **referred to the local substrate**
- Leads to symmetrical model

Drain Current

$$I_D = \mu \cdot W \cdot (-Q_i) \cdot \frac{dV}{dx} \Rightarrow I_D = \beta \cdot \int_{V_S}^{V_D} \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \cdot dV \text{ with } \beta \triangleq \mu \cdot C_{ox} \cdot \frac{W}{L}$$



- Q_i is the **inversion mobile charge density** (electrons for n-channel)
- V is the **channel voltage** (electrons quasi-Fermi potential), equal to V_S at the source and V_D at the drain
- V_P is the **pinch-off voltage** given by

$$V_P \cong \frac{V_G - V_{T0}}{n}$$
- V_{T0} is the **threshold voltage** (at $V = 0$)
- n is the **slope factor**
- μ is the electron mobility (at low field)

Pinch-off Voltage Definition

- The value of V for which Q_i becomes zero in a non-equilibrium situation is defined as the **pinch-off voltage** V_P

$$V_P = V_G - V_{T0} - \Gamma_b \cdot \left[\sqrt{V_G - V_{T0} + \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right)^2} - \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right) \right]$$

- Γ_b is the **body effect factor** defined as

$$\Gamma_b \triangleq \frac{\sqrt{2q\epsilon_{si}N_b}}{C_{ox}} \text{ with } C_{ox} \triangleq \frac{\epsilon_{ox}}{t_{ox}}$$

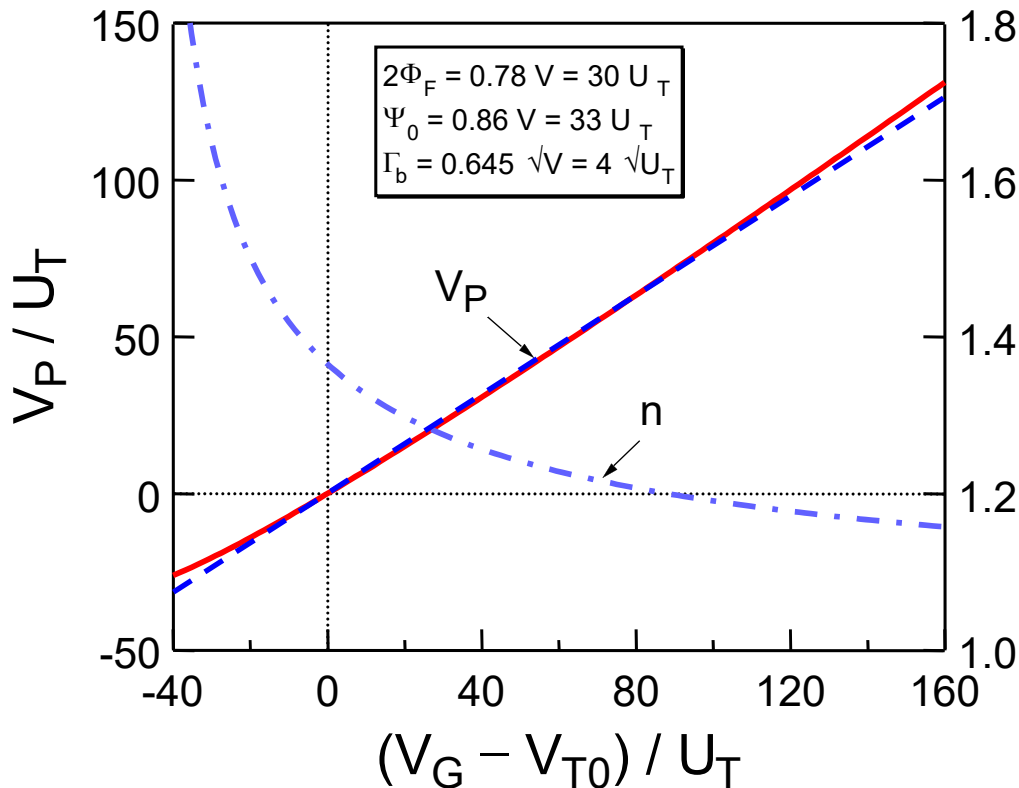
- V_{T0} is the **threshold voltage** defined as V_G such as $Q_i = 0$ when the channel is at equilibrium ($V = 0$)

$$V_{T0} \triangleq V_{FB} + \Psi_0 + \Gamma_b \cdot \sqrt{\Psi_0}$$

- V_{FB} is the **flat-band voltage** and $\Psi_0 = 2\Phi_F + m \cdot U_T$ is the approximation of the surface potential in strong inversion at equilibrium with $m \cong 3$ to $5U_T$

Pinch-off Voltage

$$V_P = V_G - V_{T0} - \Gamma_b \cdot \left[\sqrt{V_G - V_{T0} + \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right)^2} - \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right) \right]$$



- Note that $V_P = 0$ for $V_G = V_{T0}$

- The pinch-off voltage can be approximated by

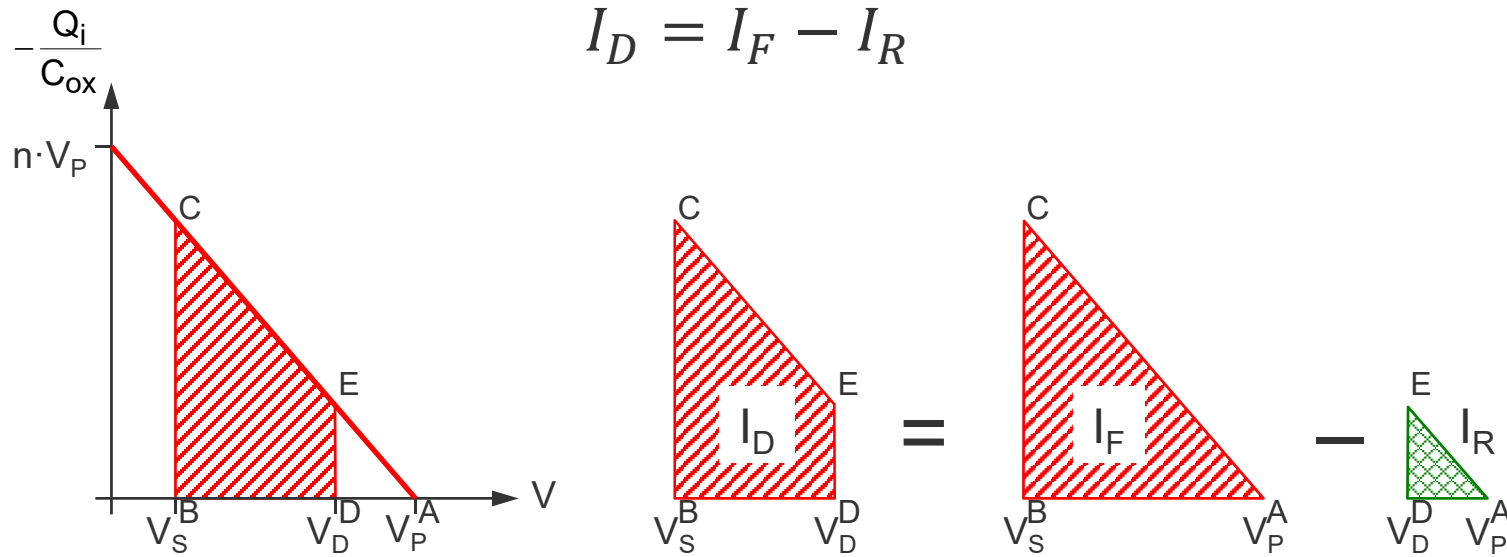
$$\Rightarrow V_P \cong \frac{V_G - V_{T0}}{n_0}$$

- where

$$n_0 \cong 1 + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2\sqrt{\Psi_0}} \cong 1 + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2\sqrt{2\Phi_F}}$$

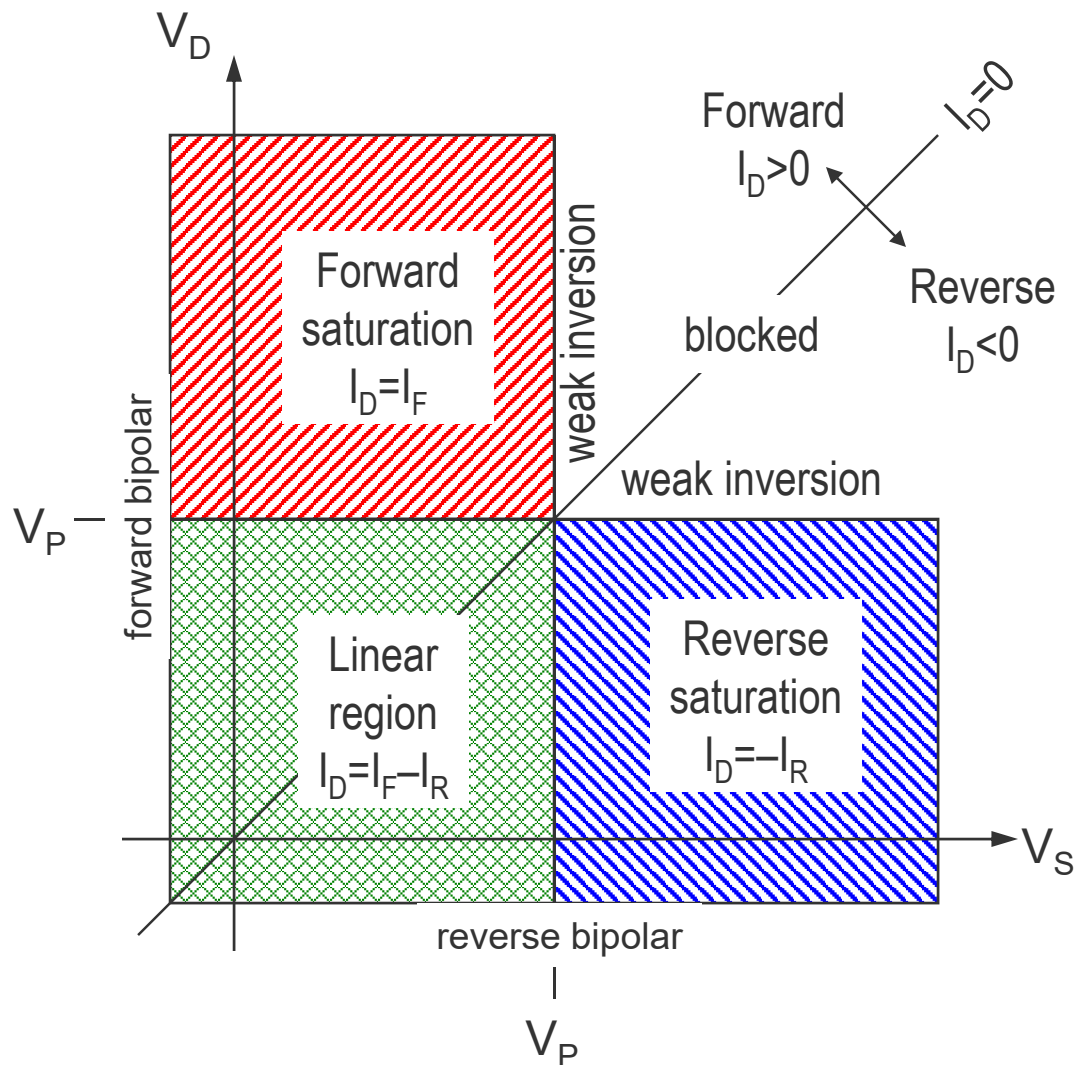
- with $\Psi_0 = 2\Phi_F + m \cdot U_T$

Forward and Reverse Currents

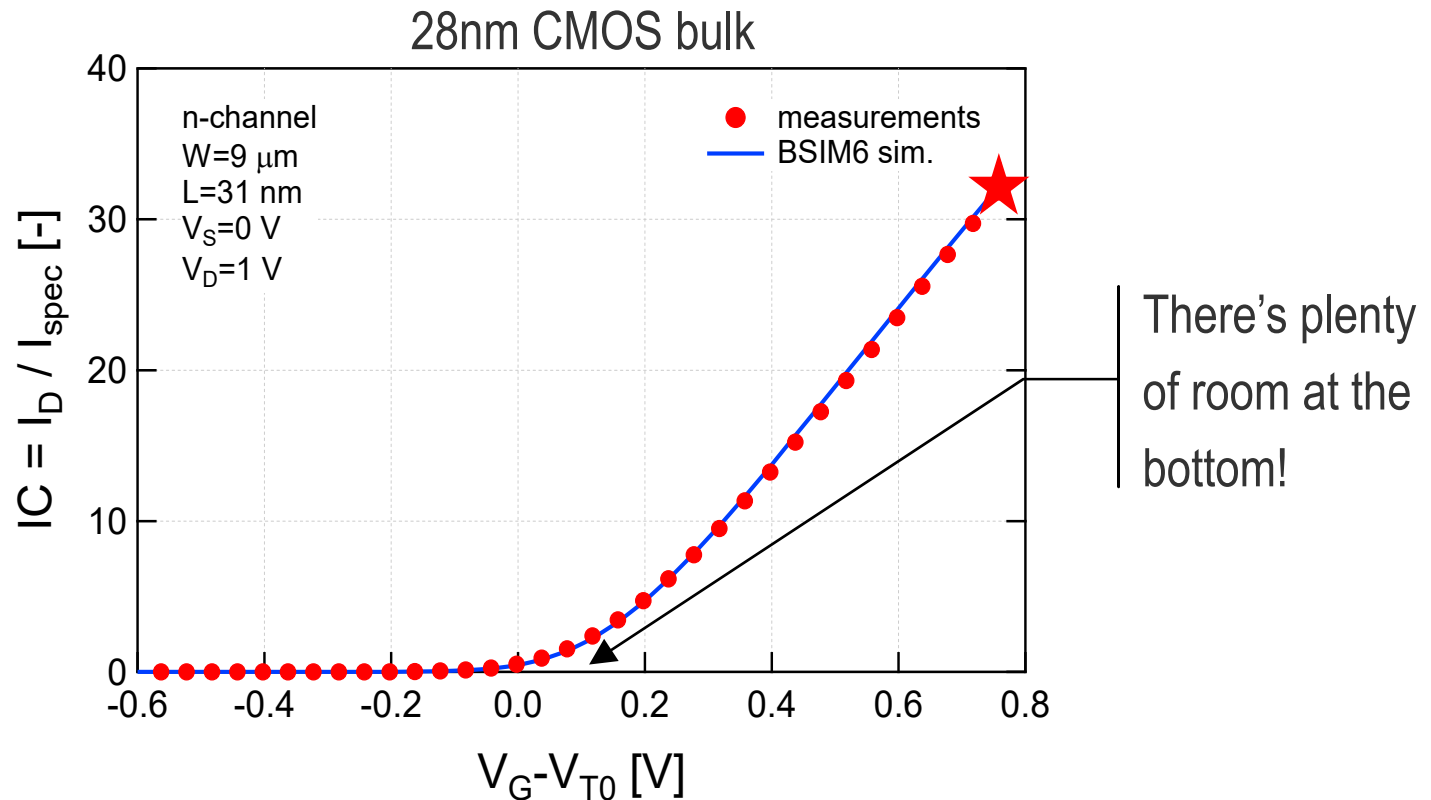


$$I_D = \beta \cdot \int_{V_S}^{V_D} \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \cdot dV = \underbrace{\beta \cdot \int_{V_S}^{+\infty} \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \cdot dV}_{\text{forward current } I_F \text{ controlled by } V_P - V_S} - \underbrace{\beta \cdot \int_{V_D}^{+\infty} \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \cdot dV}_{\text{reverse current } I_R \text{ controlled by } V_P - V_D}$$

Modes of Operation

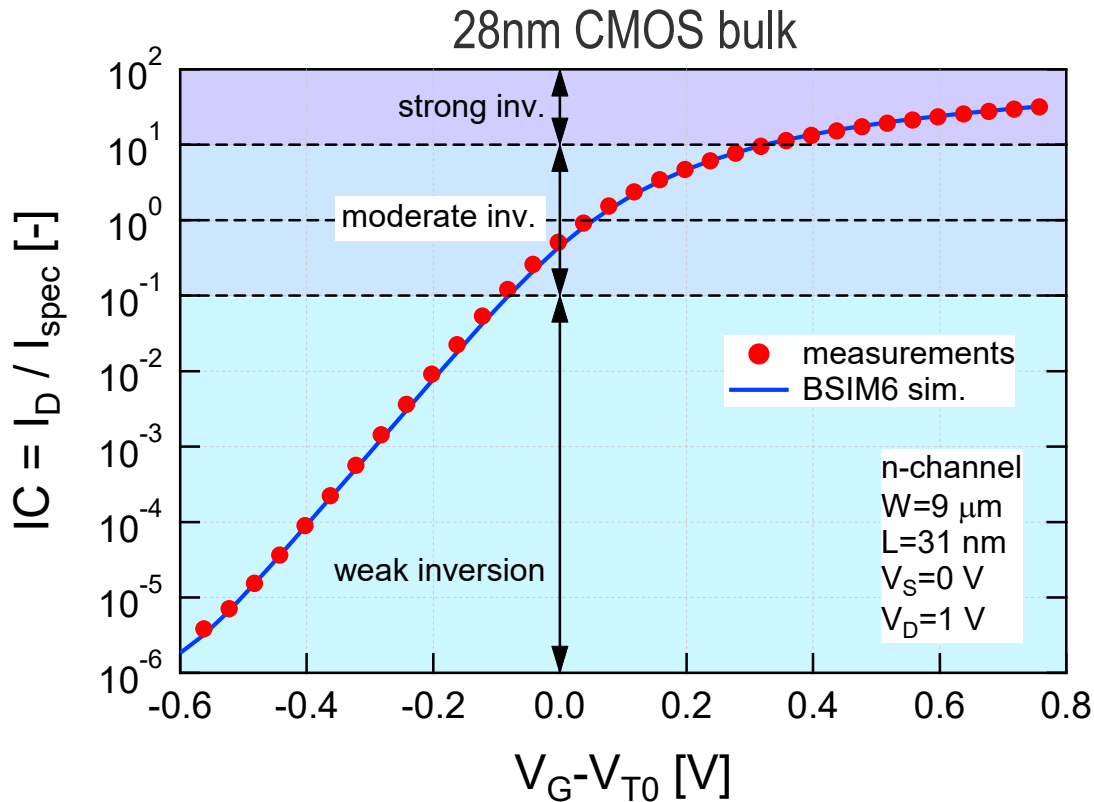


Moderate and Weak Inversion in 28nm Bulk CMOS



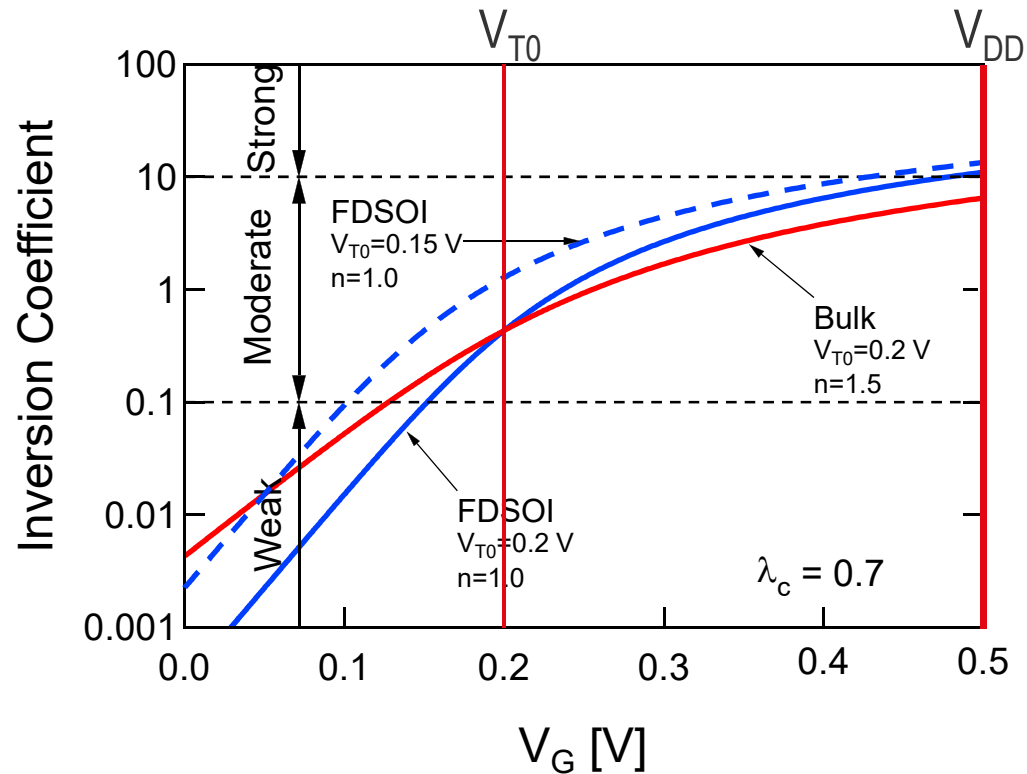
- Strong inversion spans over wide range of voltage, but...

Moderate and Weak Inversion in 28nm Bulk CMOS



- Strong inversion spans over wide range of voltage, but...
- **Moderate** and **weak inversion** span over **6 decades of current**, whereas strong inversion is limited to less than 1 decade
- How to derive an I-V expression valid in all regions of operations?

Strong Inversion will Disappear at Low-Voltage!



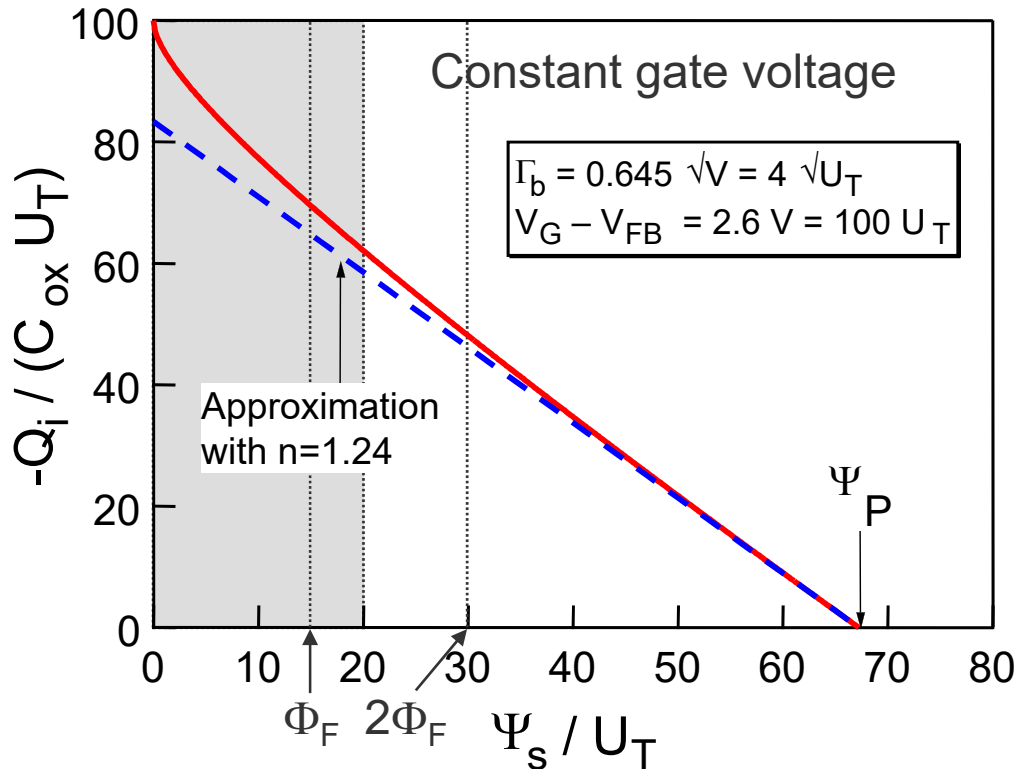
- The above plot clearly illustrates that the strong inversion region is reducing dramatically because of voltage scaling and ultimately is disappearing

Inversion Charge Linearization

- The inversion (mobile) charge is given by

$$-Q_i = C_{ox} (V_G - V_{FB} - \Psi_s - \Gamma_b \sqrt{\Psi_s})$$

- where Ψ_s is the surface potential and V_{FB} the flat-band voltage



- Q_i can be approximated by
- $$-Q_i \cong -nC_{ox}(\Psi_s - \Psi_P)$$

- where n is the slope factor

$$n \cong 1 + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2\sqrt{\Psi_P}}$$

- where Ψ_P is the pinch-off surface potential which depends on the gate voltage according to

$$\Psi_P \triangleq \Psi_s(Q_i = 0)$$

$$= V_G - V_{FB} - \Gamma_b^2 \left(\sqrt{\frac{V_G - V_{FB}}{\Gamma_b^2} + \frac{1}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

Charge-based Drain Current Expression

- The drain current can also be written in terms of drift and diffusion components as

$$I_D = \mu \cdot W \cdot \left(\underbrace{-Q_i \cdot \frac{d\Psi_s}{dx}}_{\text{drift}} + \underbrace{U_T \cdot \frac{dQ_i}{dx}}_{\text{diffusion}} \right)$$

- From the mobile charge linearization we get

$$\Psi_s \cong \frac{Q_i}{nC_{ox}} + \Psi_P$$

- which can be used to express the gradient of the surface potential in terms of the inversion charge according to

$$\frac{d\Psi_s}{dx} = \frac{1}{nC_{ox}} \cdot \frac{dQ_i}{dx}$$

- Replacing in the above equation leads to charge-based expression of the drain current valid from weak to strong inversion

$$I_D = \mu \cdot W \cdot \left(\frac{-Q_i}{nC_{ox}} + U_T \right) \cdot \frac{dQ_i}{dx}$$

Normalization

- It is convenient to normalize the drain current expression according to

$$i_d \triangleq \frac{I_D}{I_{spec}} = -(2q_i + 1) \cdot \frac{dq_i}{d\xi}$$

- where the drain current is normalized as

$$i_d \triangleq \frac{I_D}{I_{spec}}$$

- where $I_{spec} \triangleq 2n\beta U_T^2$ is the **specific current** with $\beta \triangleq \mu C_{ox} W/L$
- the inversion charge is normalized as

$$q_i \triangleq \frac{Q_i}{Q_{spec}}$$

- where $Q_{spec} \triangleq -2nC_{ox}U_T$ (note that since both Q_i and Q_{spec} are negative, the normalized inversion charge is positive)
- and finally the distance is normalized to the channel length

$$\xi \triangleq \frac{x}{L}$$

Charge-based Forward and Reverse Currents

- Drain current can be integrated in **charge domain** from source to drain, leading to

$$i_d = - \int_{q_s}^{q_d} (2q_i + 1) dq_i = |q_i^2 + q_i|_{q_d}^{q_s} = \underbrace{(q_s^2 + q_s)}_{=i_f} - \underbrace{(q_d^2 + q_d)}_{=i_r} = i_f - i_r$$

- Drain current depends only on **charge densities** at the **source** q_s and at the **drain** q_d defined as

$$q_s \triangleq q_i(\xi = 0) = \frac{Q_i(x=0)}{Q_{spec}} \text{ and } q_d \triangleq q_i(\xi = 1) = \frac{Q_i(x=L)}{Q_{spec}}$$

- The normalized **forward current** i_f and **reverse current** i_r can be written as

$$i_f \triangleq \frac{I_F}{I_{spec}} = q_s^2 + q_s \text{ and } i_r \triangleq \frac{I_R}{I_{spec}} = q_d^2 + q_d$$

Charges versus Currents

- The source and drain charges q_s and q_d can be expressed as a function of the forward and reverse currents i_f and i_r by solving

$$i_f = q_s^2 + q_s \text{ and } i_r = q_d^2 + q_d$$

- for q_s and q_d resulting in

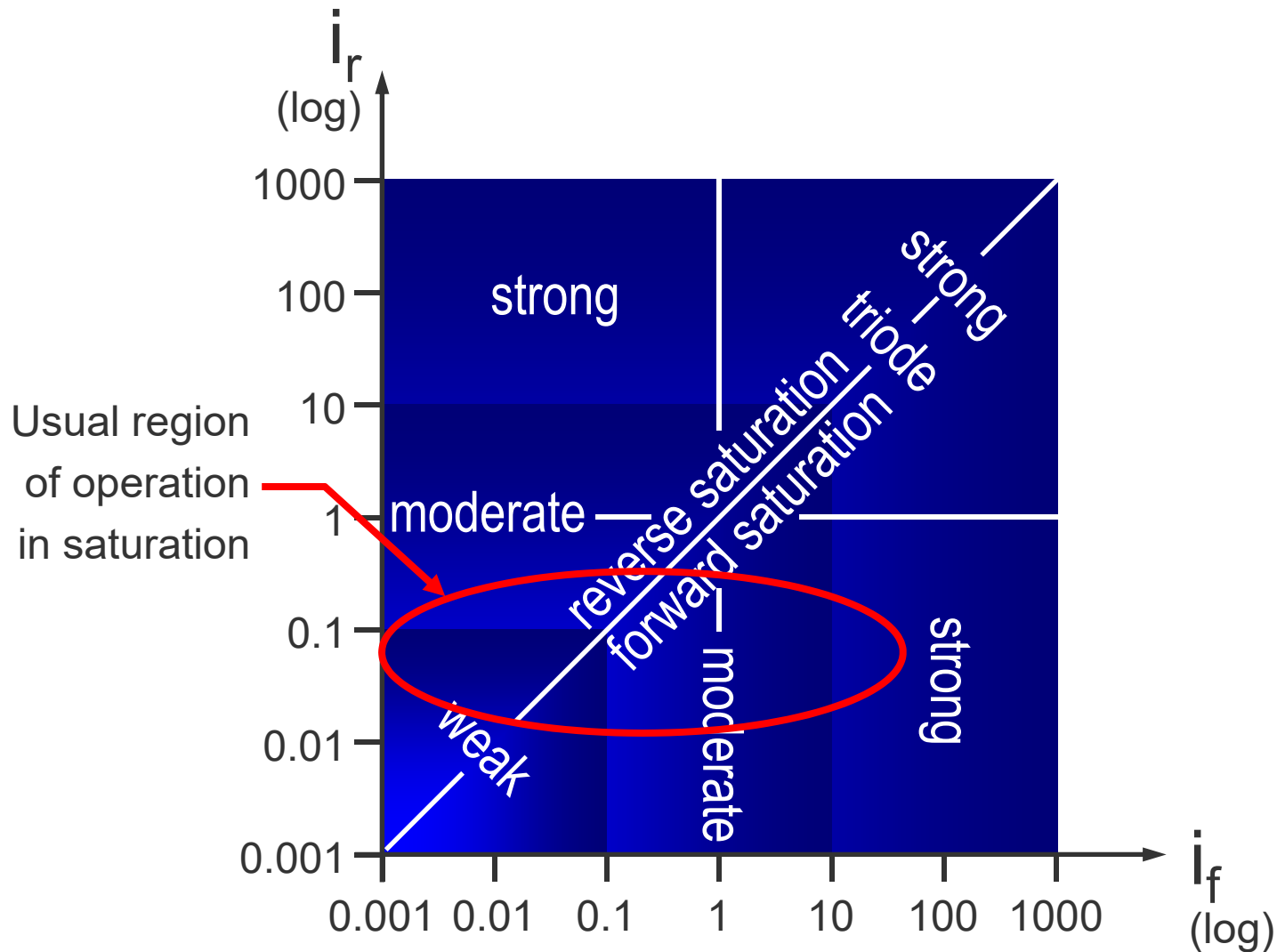
$$q_s = \frac{2i_f}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_f + 1} - 1 \right)$$

$$q_d = \frac{2i_r}{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} + 1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_r + 1} - 1 \right)$$

- which can be approximated in weak inversion (WI) and strong inversion (SI) by

$$i_{f(r)} = \begin{cases} q_{s(d)} & \text{for } q_{s(d)} \ll 1 \text{ (WI)} \\ q_{s(d)}^2 & \text{for } q_{s(d)} \gg 1 \text{ (SI)} \end{cases} \text{ and } q_{s(d)} = \begin{cases} i_{f(r)} & \text{for } i_{f(r)} \ll 1 \text{ (WI)} \\ \sqrt{i_{f(r)}} & \text{for } i_{f(r)} \gg 1 \text{ (SI)} \end{cases}$$

Modes of Operation (versus i_f and i_r)



Usual region
of operation
in saturation

Voltages versus Charges and Currents

- The inversion charge Q_i is linked to the normalized pinch-off voltage $v_p \triangleq V_P/U_T$ and the normalized channel voltage $v \triangleq V/U_T$ by the following relation which is **valid all along the channel**

$$v_p - v(\xi) = \ln(q_i(\xi)) + 2q_i(\xi) \text{ for } 0 \leq \xi \leq 1$$

- in particular at the **source** ($\xi = 0$) where $q_i(\xi = 0) = q_s$ and **drain** ($\xi = 1$) where $q_i(\xi = 1) = q_d$ leading to

$$v_p - v_s = \ln(q_s) + 2q_s \text{ and } v_p - v_d = \ln(q_d) + 2q_d$$

- Replacing the charges with the expression in terms of currents leads to

$$v_p - v_{s(d)} \triangleq \frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{U_T} = \ln\left(\sqrt{4i_{f(r)} + 1} - 1\right) + \sqrt{4i_{f(r)} + 1} - 1 - \ln 2$$

- Relation **cannot be inverted analytically** to give an explicit expression of the drain versus voltages valid in all regions of operation
- But can **easily be inverted numerically**

Drain Current in Strong Inversion (1/3)

- In SI, $q_s \gg 1$ and $q_d \gg 1$ and similarly $i_f \gg 1$ and $i_r \gg 1$ and the voltage-charge relation simplifies to

$$v_p - v_{s(d)} \cong 2q_{s(d)} \cong 2\sqrt{i_f(r)}$$

- Which can now be inverted to express the current in terms of voltages

$$i_f(r) \triangleq \frac{I_{F(R)}}{I_{spec}} \cong \left(\frac{v_p - v_{s(d)}}{2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{2U_T}\right)^2$$

- Or in denormalized form

$$I_{F(R)} = \begin{cases} \frac{n\beta}{2} (V_P - V_{S(D)})^2 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} \leq V_P \\ 0 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} > V_P \end{cases}$$

- Using the **approximation** of the pinch-off voltage $V_P \cong (V_G - V_{T0})/n$ leads to

$$I_{F(R)} = \begin{cases} \frac{n\beta}{2} (V_G - V_{T0} - nV_{S(D)})^2 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} \leq (V_G - V_{T0})/n \\ 0 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} > (V_G - V_{T0})/n \end{cases}$$

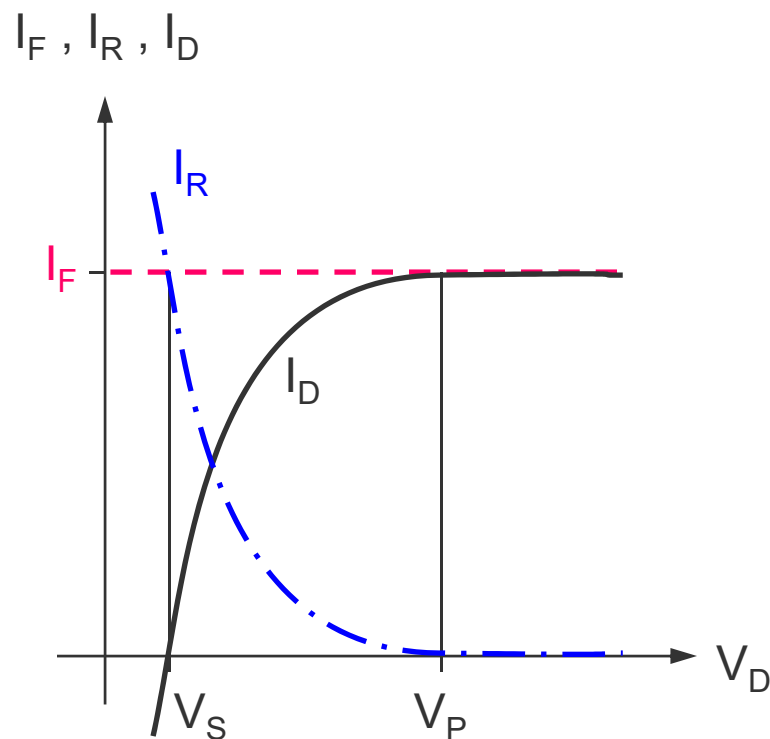
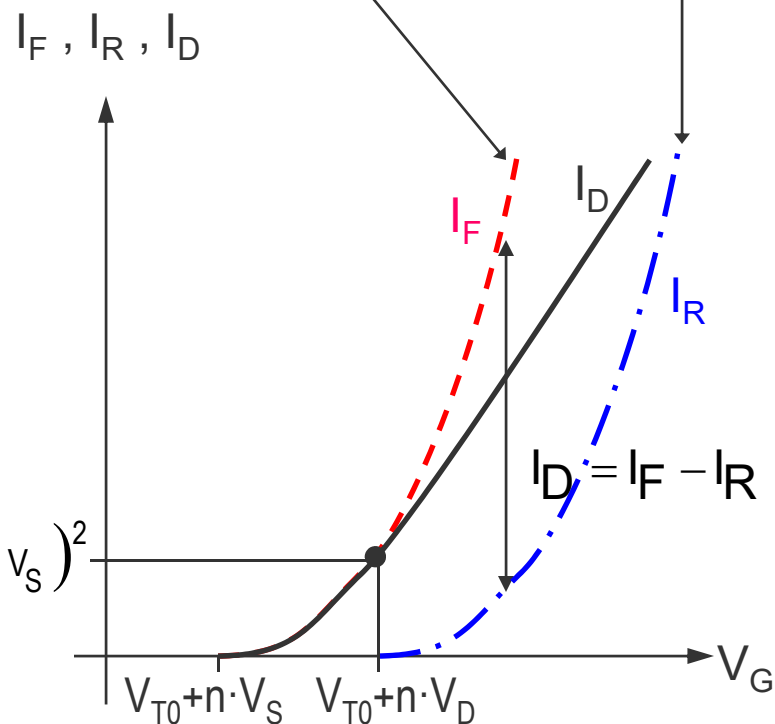
Drain Current in Strong Inversion (2/3)

MODE	$I_D = I_F - I_R$	CONDITION
Linear Region	$n \cdot \beta \cdot \left(V_P - \frac{V_D + V_S}{2} \right) \cdot (V_D - V_S)$ $\cong \beta \cdot \left(V_G - V_{T0} - \frac{n}{2} \cdot (V_D + V_S) \right) \cdot (V_D - V_S)$	$V_S < V_P$ $V_D < V_P$
Forward Saturation	$\frac{n \cdot \beta}{2} \cdot (V_P - V_S)^2 \cong \frac{\beta}{2n} \cdot (V_G - V_{T0} - n \cdot V_S)^2$	$V_S < V_P$ $V_D \geq V_P$
Reverse Saturation	$-\frac{n \cdot \beta}{2} \cdot (V_P - V_D)^2 \cong -\frac{\beta}{2n} \cdot (V_G - V_{T0} - n \cdot V_D)^2$	$V_S \geq V_P$ $V_D < V_P$
Blocked	$I_F = I_R = I_D = 0$	$V_S \geq V_P$ $V_D \geq V_P$

Drain Current in Strong Inversion (3/3)

$$I_F = \frac{\beta}{2n} \cdot (V_G - V_{T0} - n \cdot V_S)^2$$

$$I_R = \frac{\beta}{2n} \cdot (V_G - V_{T0} - n \cdot V_D)^2$$



Drain Current in Weak Inversion (1/2)

- In WI, $q_s \ll 1$ and $q_d \ll 1$ and similarly $i_f \ll 1$ and $i_r \ll 1$ and the voltage versus charge relation can be approximated by

$$v_p - v_{s(d)} \cong \ln \left(\sqrt{i_f(r) + \frac{1}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \cong \ln(i_f(r))$$

- Which can now be inverted to express the current in terms of voltages

$$i_f(r) \triangleq \frac{I_{F(R)}}{I_{spec}} \cong e^{(v_p - v_{s(d)})} = e^{\frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{U_T}}$$

- Or in denormalized form

$$I_{F(R)} = I_{spec} e^{\frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{U_T}} = I_{spec} e^{\frac{V_G - V_{T0} - nV_{S(D)}}{nU_T}} = I_{D0} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G - n \cdot V_S}{n \cdot U_T}}$$

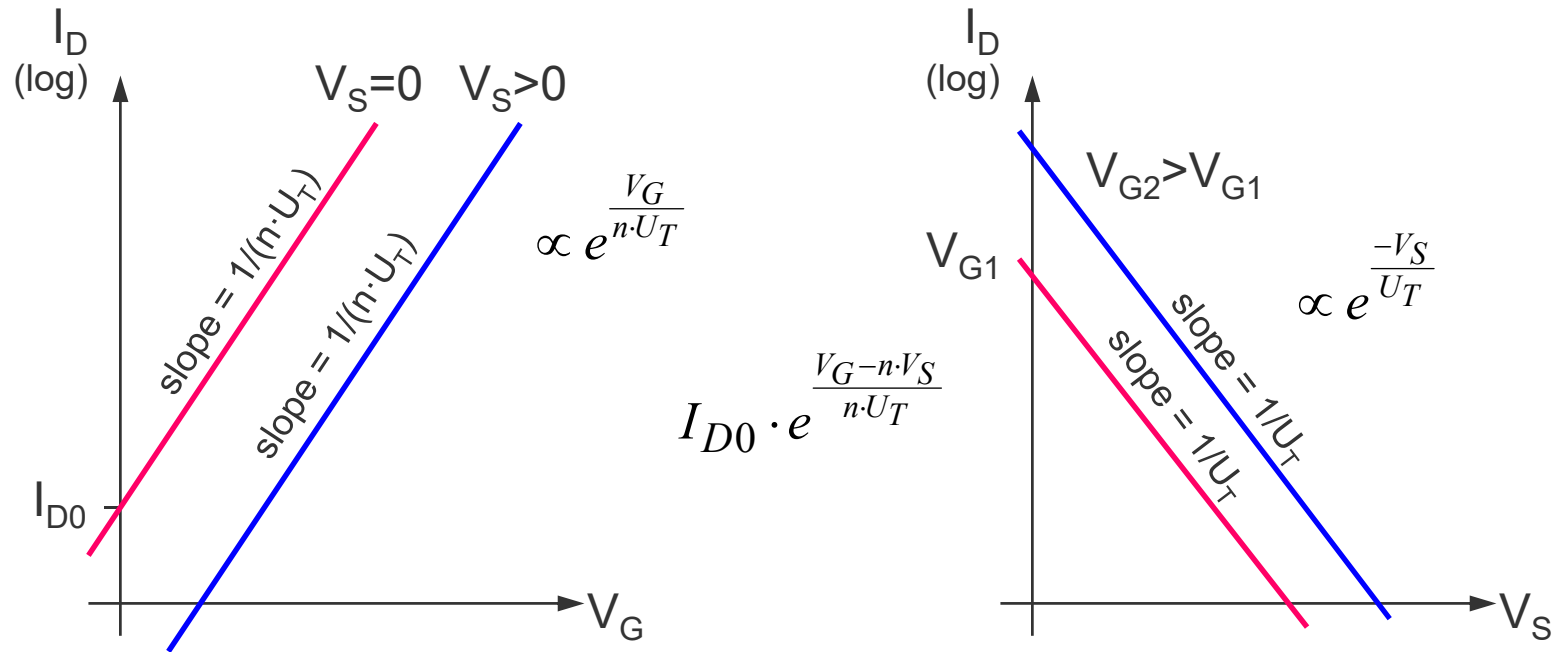
- Where I_{D0} is the **leakage current** (drain current that flows in saturation when gate voltage is set to zero)

$$I_{D0} \triangleq I_D \Big|_{V_G=0} = I_{spec} e^{\frac{-V_{T0}}{nU_T}}$$

Drain Current in Weak Inversion (2/2)

MODE	$I_D = I_F - I_R$	CONDITION
Linear Region	$I_{spec} \cdot e^{\frac{V_P}{U_T}} \cdot \left[e^{-\frac{V_S}{U_T}} - e^{-\frac{V_D}{U_T}} \right]$ $\cong I_{D0} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G}{n \cdot U_T}} \cdot \left[e^{-\frac{V_S}{U_T}} - e^{-\frac{V_D}{U_T}} \right]$	$V_S > V_P$ $V_D > V_P$
Forward Saturation	$I_{spec} \cdot e^{\frac{V_P - V_S}{U_T}} \cong I_{D0} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G - n \cdot V_S}{n \cdot U_T}}$	$V_D - V_S \gg U_T$
Reverse Saturation	$-I_{spec} \cdot e^{\frac{V_P - V_D}{U_T}} \cong -I_{D0} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G - n \cdot V_D}{n \cdot U_T}}$	$V_S - V_D \gg U_T$
Blocked	$I_F = I_R \Rightarrow I_D = 0$	$V_S \gg U_T \text{ and } V_D \gg U_T$ $\text{or } V_D = V_S$

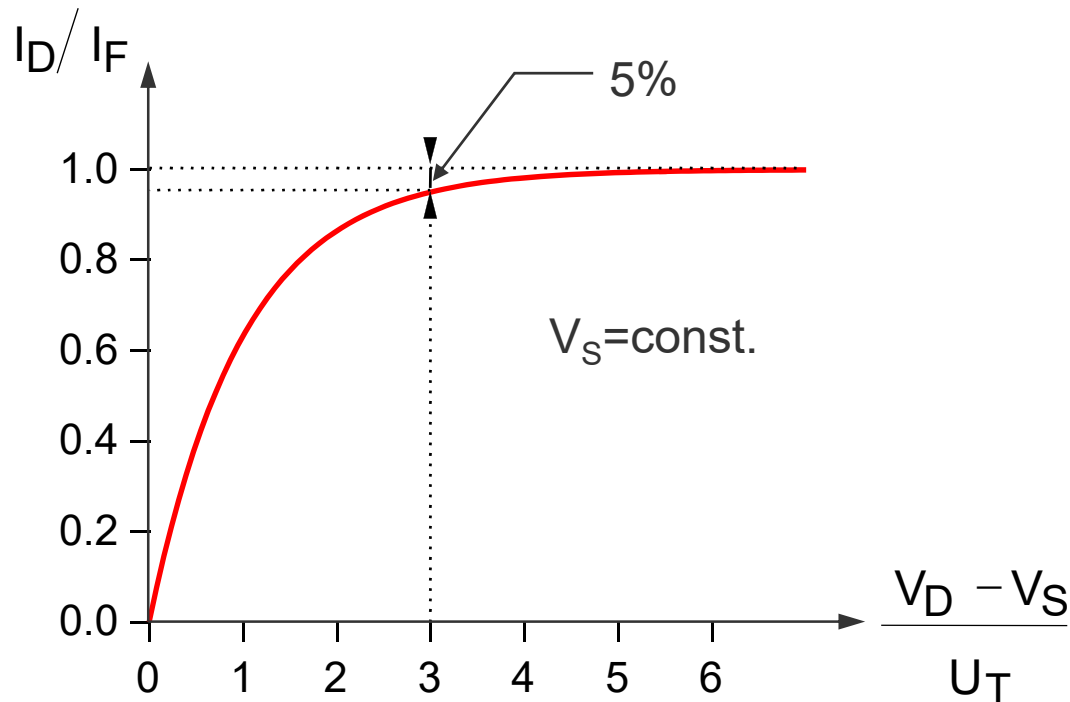
Transfer Characteristic in WI and Saturation



- Leakage current I_{D0} depends exponentially on the threshold voltage V_{T0} and is therefore not well controlled

$$I_{D0} = I_{spec} e^{\frac{-V_{T0}}{nU_T}}$$

Output Characteristics in Weak Inversion



$$I_D = I_F - I_R = I_F \left(1 - \frac{I_R}{I_F} \right) = I_F \left(1 - e^{-\frac{V_D - V_S}{U_T}} \right)$$

- Saturation reached for only a few U_T (typically 3 to $5U_T \cong 78$ to 120 mV)

The Subthreshold Slope

- The **subthreshold slope** or **gate swing** is defined as the increase of gate voltage (in mV) required for the drain current to increase by one order of magnitude (x10)

$$\Delta V_G = nU_T \ln 10 = 2.3 nU_T = 2.3 n \frac{kT}{q} \left[\frac{\text{mV}}{\text{decade}} \right]$$

- with U_T expressed in mV
- At room temperature it is typically equal to **90 mV/dec**
- It can be compared to the 60 mV/dec obtained for a bipolar transistor or a fully depleted SOI MOS device for which $n \cong 1$
- Scales with temperature

Summary

- Take advantage of the **symmetry** of the device by referring the terminal voltages to the local substrate resulting in symmetrical model
- Drain current can be split into a **forward** I_F and a **reverse** component I_R as $I_D = I_F - I_R$
- Normalized forward (reverse) current $i_f \triangleq I_F/I_{spec}$ ($i_r \triangleq I_R/I_{spec}$) can be expressed in terms of the normalized source (drain) charge q_s (q_d) as $i_f = q_s^2 + q_s$ ($i_r = q_d^2 + q_d$)
- The **specific current** is defined as $I_{spec} = I_{spec\Box} \cdot W/L$ where $I_{spec\Box} \triangleq 2n\mu C_{ox} U_T^2$ is the most fundamental parameter for a given type of transistor in a given process
- The normalized charge are related to the saturation voltage by $v_p - v_s = \ln(q_s) + 2q_s$ where $v_p \triangleq V_P/U_T$, $v_s \triangleq V_S/U_T$ where the **pinch-off voltage** is given by $V_P = (V_G - V_{T0})/n$

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Transconductances

- Since there are **3 control voltages**, there are also **3 transconductances**

- For the bulk-referenced model they are defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta I_D &= \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_G} \Delta V_G - \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_S} \Delta V_S + \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_D} \Delta V_D \\ &= G_m \Delta V_G - (G_{ms} + G_{ds}) \Delta V_S + (G_{md} + G_{ds}) \Delta V_D\end{aligned}$$

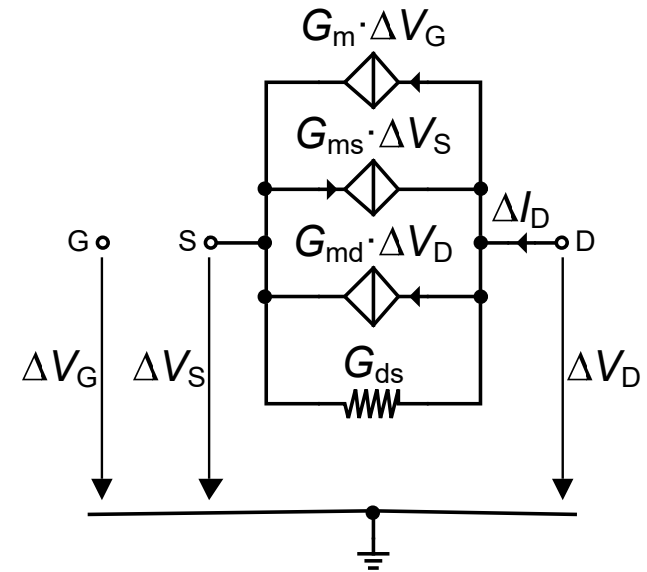
- In **forward saturation**, $G_{md} = 0$ and hence

$$\Delta I_D = G_m \Delta V_G - G_{ms} \Delta V_S + G_{ds} \Delta V_{DS}$$

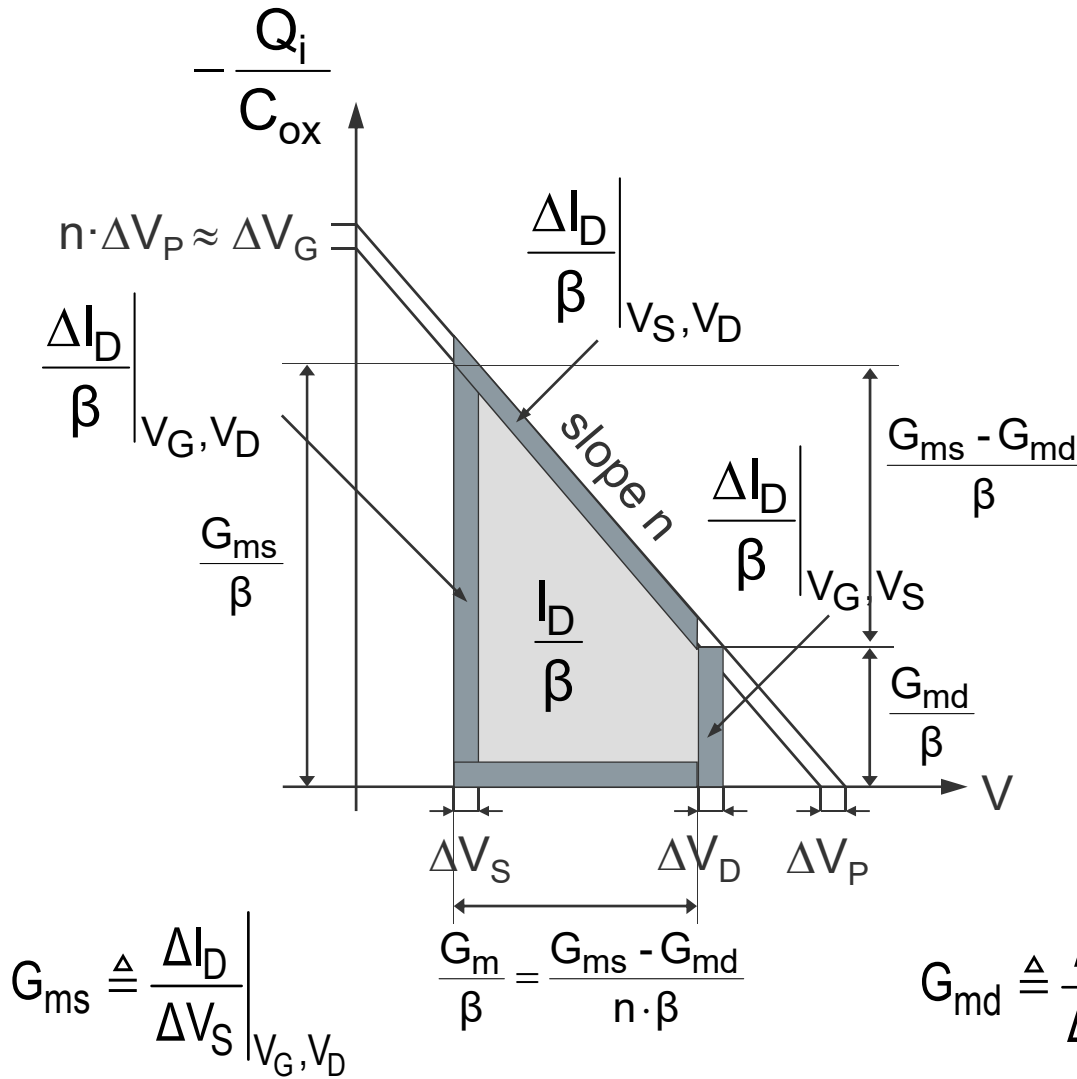
- Note that G_{md} is **not** the output conductance G_{ds}

- In forward saturation, the **source-referenced** transconductances are related to the **bulk-referenced** transconductances by

$$\begin{aligned}G_m \Big|_{source} &= G_m \Big|_{bulk} = G_m \\ G_{mb} \Big|_{source} &= G_{ms} \Big|_{bulk} - G_m \Big|_{bulk} = (n - 1) G_m \\ G_{ds} \Big|_{source} &= G_{ds} \Big|_{bulk} = G_{ds}\end{aligned}$$



Transconductances versus Charges



$$G_{ms} = \beta \left. \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \right|_{V=V_S} = G_{spec} \cdot q_s$$

$$G_{md} = \beta \left. \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \right|_{V=V_D} = G_{spec} \cdot q_d$$

$$G_{spec} \triangleq \frac{I_{spec}}{U_T}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n} = G_{spec} \frac{q_s - q_d}{n}$$

Transconductances versus Charges

- The **source** and **drain transconductances** G_{ms} and G_{md} are directly related to the charges at source and drain according to

$$I_D = \beta \int_{V_S}^{V_D} \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} dV \Rightarrow \begin{cases} G_{ms} \triangleq -\frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_S} = \beta \left. \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \right|_{V=V_S} = \beta \frac{-Q_i(x=0)}{C_{ox}} = G_{spec} \cdot q_s \\ G_{md} \triangleq \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_D} = \beta \left. \frac{-Q_i}{C_{ox}} \right|_{V=V_D} = \beta \frac{-Q_i(x=L)}{C_{ox}} = G_{spec} \cdot q_d \end{cases}$$

- with $G_{spec} \triangleq I_{spec}/U_T = 2n\beta U_T$
- The **gate transconductance** G_m depends on G_{ms} and G_{md} according to

$$G_m \triangleq \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_G} = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n} = G_{spec} \frac{q_s - q_d}{n}$$

- In **forward saturation** $G_{md} = 0$ and hence

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms}}{n}$$

Charges and Transconductances versus Currents

- The **source** and **drain charges** q_s and q_d can be expressed as a function of the forward and reverse currents i_f and i_r by solving $i_f = q_s^2 + q_d$ and $i_r = q_d^2 + q_s$ for i_f and i_r resulting in

$$q_s = \frac{2i_f}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_f + 1} - 1 \right)$$

$$q_d = \frac{2i_r}{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} + 1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_r + 1} - 1 \right)$$

- The **source** and **drain transconductances** can then also be expressed in terms of the forward and reverse currents i_f and i_r according to

$$G_{ms} = G_{spec} \cdot q_s = G_{spec} \frac{2i_f}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} = \frac{G_{spec}}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_f + 1} - 1 \right)$$

$$G_{md} = G_{spec} \cdot q_d = G_{spec} \frac{2i_r}{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} + 1} = \frac{G_{spec}}{2} \left(\sqrt{4i_r + 1} - 1 \right)$$

- Note that these expressions are **valid in all regions of inversion**

Transconductances in Strong inversion

- In **strong inversion**, the transconductances are related to the forward and reverse currents according to

$$G_{ms} = n\beta(V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{2n\beta I_F} = \frac{2I_F}{V_P - V_S}$$

$$G_{md} = n\beta(V_P - V_D) = \sqrt{2n\beta I_R} = \frac{2I_R}{V_P - V_D}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n} = \beta V_{DS} = \sqrt{2\beta/n} (\sqrt{I_F} - \sqrt{I_R})$$

- In **saturation** $I_R \cong 0$, $I_D \cong I_F$ and therefore

$$G_{ms} = n\beta(V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{2n\beta I_D} = \frac{2I_D}{V_P - V_S}$$

$$G_{md} \cong 0$$

$$G_m = \beta(V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{2\beta I_D/n} = \frac{2I_D}{n(V_P - V_S)}$$

- In strong inversion, G_m depends on two design parameters (either β and $V_P - V_S$ or β and I_D or I_D and $V_P - V_S$)

Transconductances in Weak Inversion

- In **weak inversion**, the transconductances are related to the forward and reverse currents according to

$$G_{ms} = \frac{I_F}{U_T}$$

$$G_{md} = \frac{I_R}{U_T}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n} = \frac{I_F - I_R}{nU_T} = \frac{I_D}{nU_T}$$

- In **saturation** $I_R \cong 0$, $I_D \cong I_F$ and therefore

$$G_{ms} = \frac{I_D}{U_T}$$

$$G_{md} \cong 0$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms}}{n} = \frac{I_D}{nU_T}$$

- In weak inversion, G_m depends only on the drain current I_D

Inversion Coefficient Definition

- Overdrive voltage $V_G - V_{T0}$ or $V_{GS} - V_T$ **not convenient for weak inversion**
- Replaced by the **inversion coefficient IC** characterizing the global level of inversion of the transistor and formerly defined as $IC \triangleq \max(i_f, i_r)$

- In (forward) **saturation** $i_f \gg i_r$ and therefore

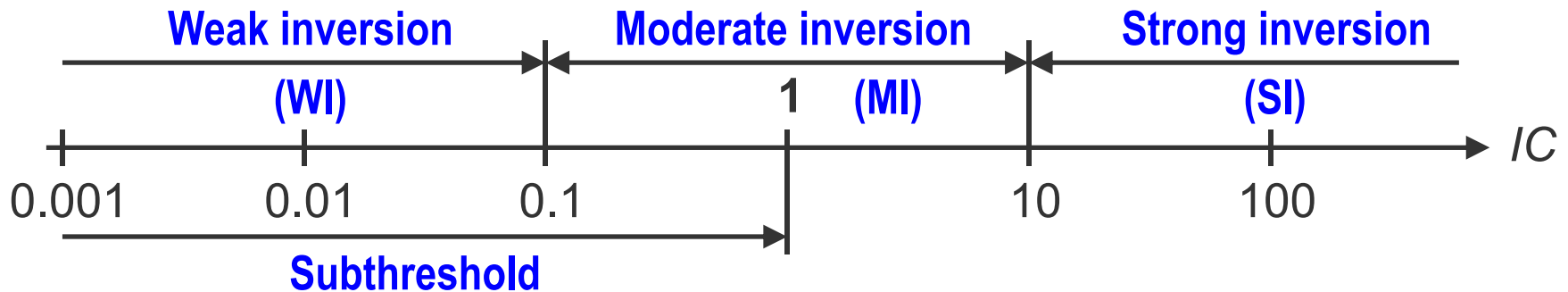
$$IC \triangleq \frac{I_{D|saturation}}{I_{spec}}$$

Typical values of $I_{spec\Box}$ for 28-nm:
 750 nA for NMOS
 200 nA for PMOS

- Where the specific current I_{spec} is defined as

$$I_{spec} \triangleq I_{spec\Box} \cdot \frac{W}{L} \text{ with } I_{spec\Box} \triangleq 2n\mu C_{ox} U_T^2 \text{ and } U_T \triangleq \frac{kT}{q}$$

- The different regions of operation in **saturation** can then be defined as



Current Efficiency or G_m/I_D Ratio (long-channel)

- The **current efficiency** or **transconductance efficiency** is a figure-of-merit that evaluates how much transconductance you get for a given current
- The transconductance in saturation is related to the inversion coefficient (or normalized current) according to

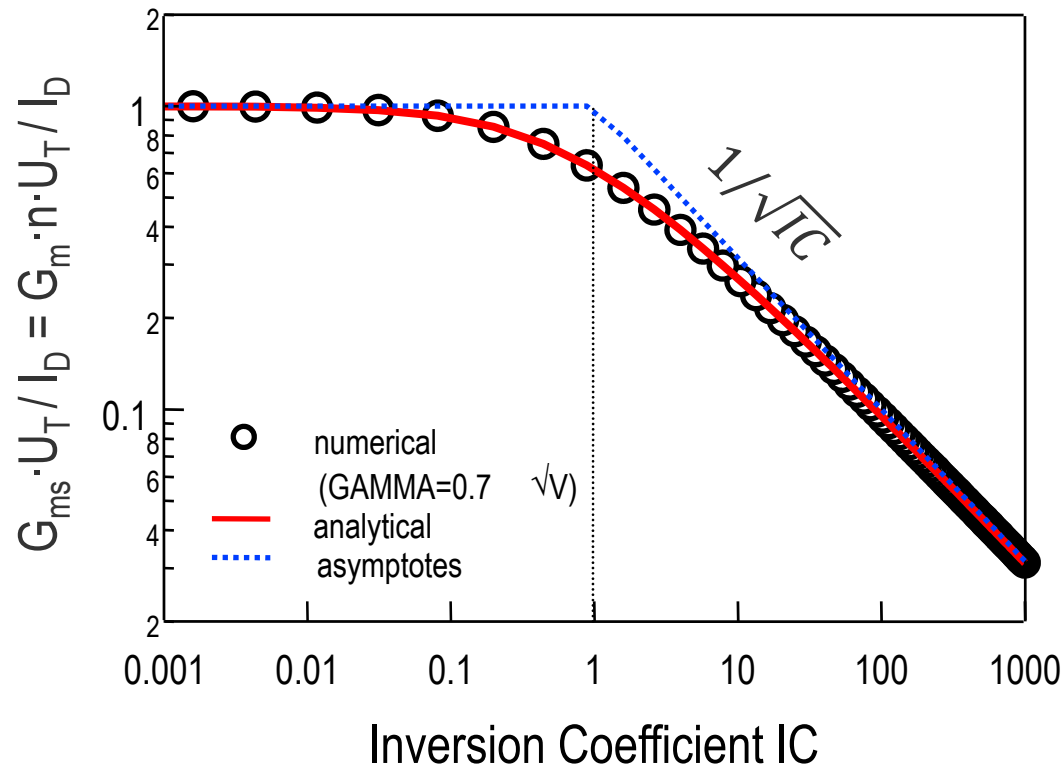
$$G_{ms} = nG_m = G_{spec} \cdot g_{ms}(IC) \text{ with } g_{ms}(IC) \triangleq \frac{G_{ms}}{G_{spec}} = \frac{2IC}{\sqrt{4IC+1}+1}$$

- The normalized current efficiency is then given by dividing the transconductance by the transconductance in weak inversion $G_{ms} = I_D/U_T$ resulting in

$$\frac{G_{ms} \cdot U_T}{I_D} = \frac{G_m \cdot nU_T}{I_D} = \frac{g_{ms}(IC)}{IC} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4IC+1}+1} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{in WI and saturation} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{IC}} & \text{in SI and saturation} \end{cases}$$

- The current efficiency is therefore **maximum in WI** which means that for a given current budget it is better to bias the transistor in WI to get the maximum transconductance (careful, it does not mean that the maximum transconductance is reached in WI)
- Or alternatively, to achieve a given transconductance biasing the transistor in WI saves current

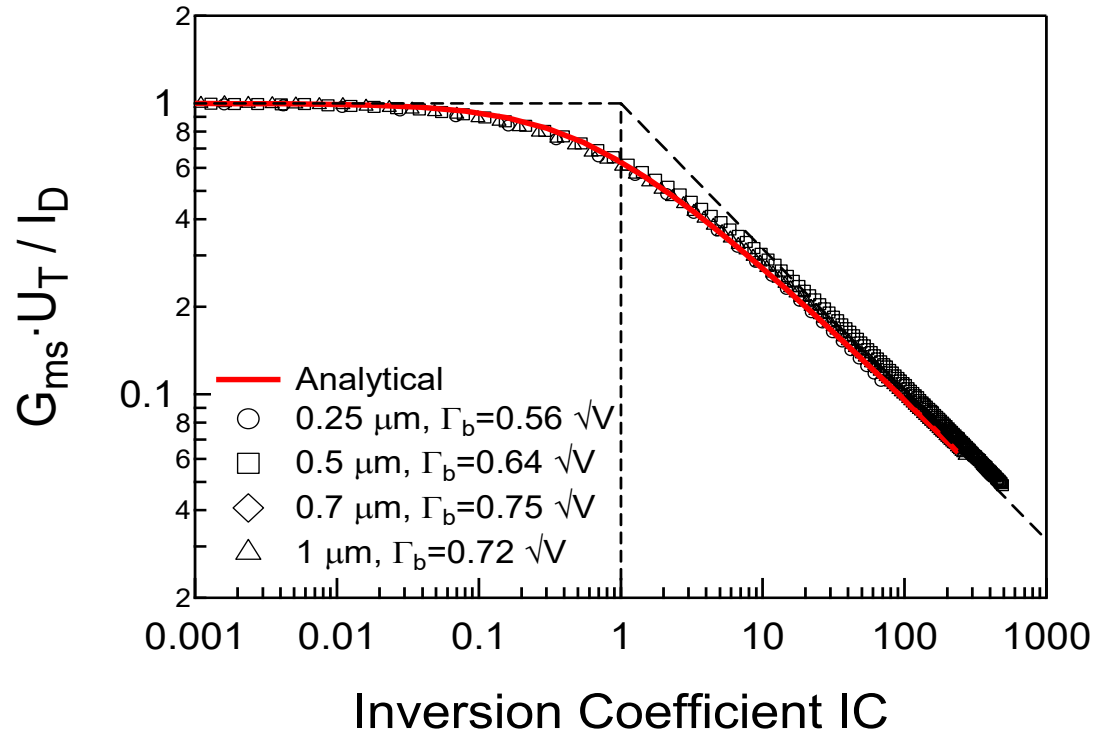
Current Efficiency or G_m/I_D Ratio (long-channel)



- The **current efficiency** (in saturation) is maximum in weak inversion

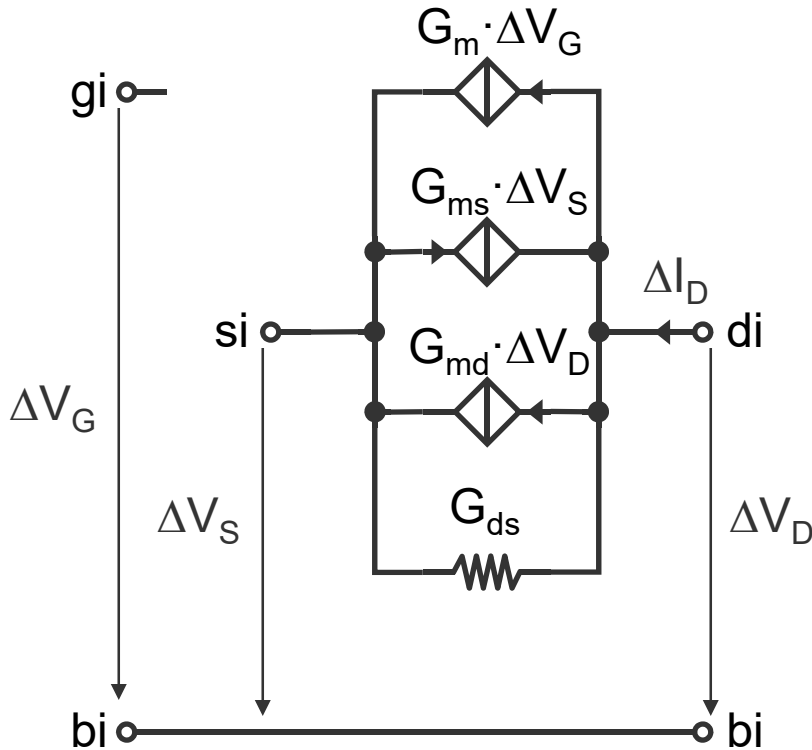
$$\frac{G_{ms} \cdot U_T}{I_D} = \frac{G_m \cdot n U_T}{I_D} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4IC + 1} + 1} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{in WI and saturation} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{IC}} & \text{in SI and saturation} \end{cases}$$

G_m/I_D Characteristics – Invariant to CMOS Scaling



- The normalized G_m/I_D characteristic is almost **invariant** to CMOS technology scaling

Low-frequency (dc) Small-signal Model



$$G_{ms} = \begin{cases} \frac{I_F}{U_T} & WI \\ n \cdot \beta \cdot (V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{2n \cdot \beta \cdot I_F} = \frac{2I_F}{V_P - V_S} & SI \end{cases}$$

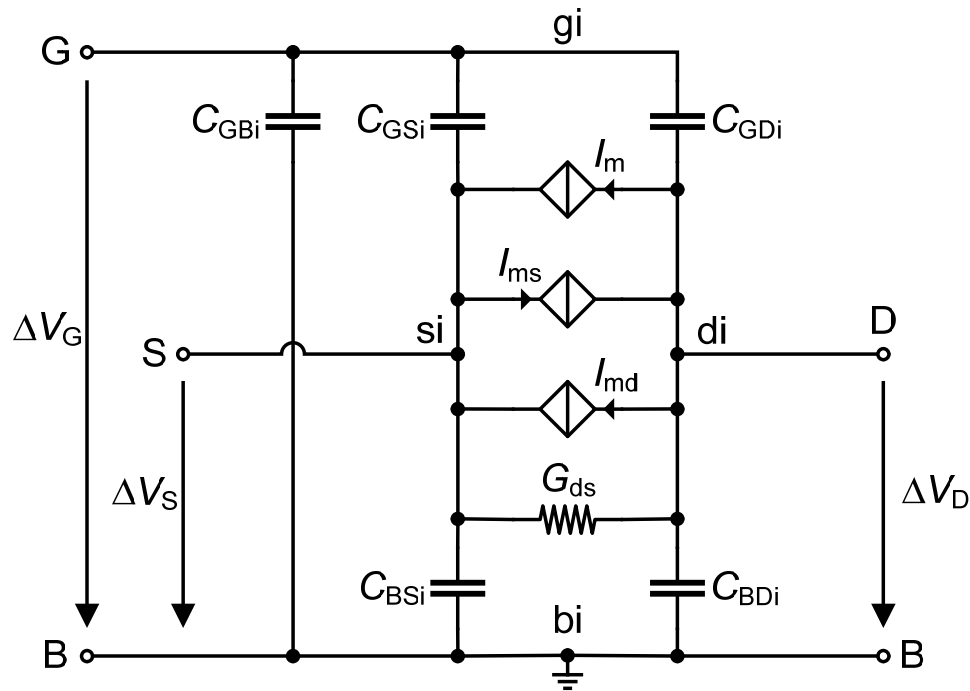
$$G_{md} = \begin{cases} \frac{I_R}{U_T} & WI \\ n \cdot \beta \cdot (V_P - V_D) = \sqrt{2n \cdot \beta \cdot I_R} = \frac{2I_R}{V_P - V_D} & SI \end{cases}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n}$$

$$G_{ms} = G_{spec} \cdot q_s = G_{spec} \cdot \frac{2i_f}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} = \frac{G_{spec}}{2} \cdot \sqrt{4i_f + 1} - 1$$

$$G_{md} = G_{spec} \cdot q_d = G_{spec} \cdot \frac{2i_r}{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} + 1} = \frac{G_{spec}}{2} \cdot \sqrt{4i_r + 1} - 1$$

Intrinsic Quasi-static Small-signal Model



$$I_m = Y_m \cdot \Delta V_G$$

$$I_{ms} = Y_{ms} \cdot \Delta V_S$$

$$I_{md} = Y_{md} \cdot \Delta V_D$$

$$Y_m = G_m \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_m - j\omega \cdot C_m$$

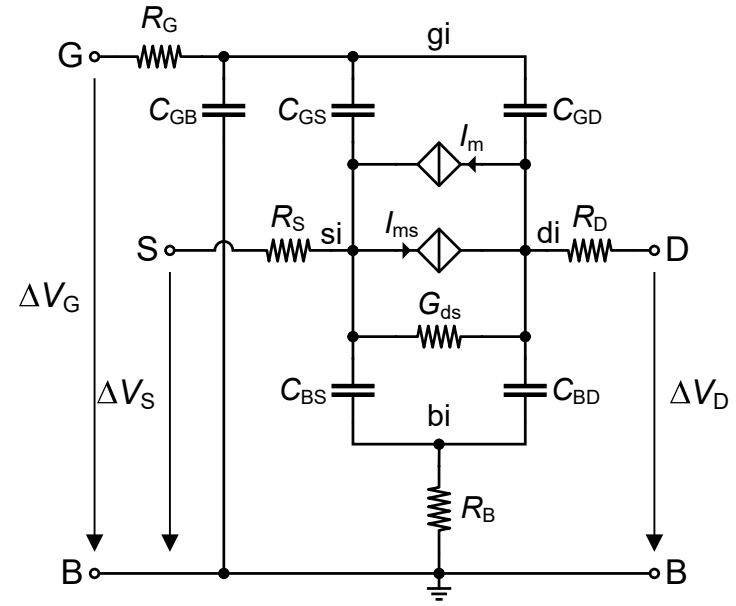
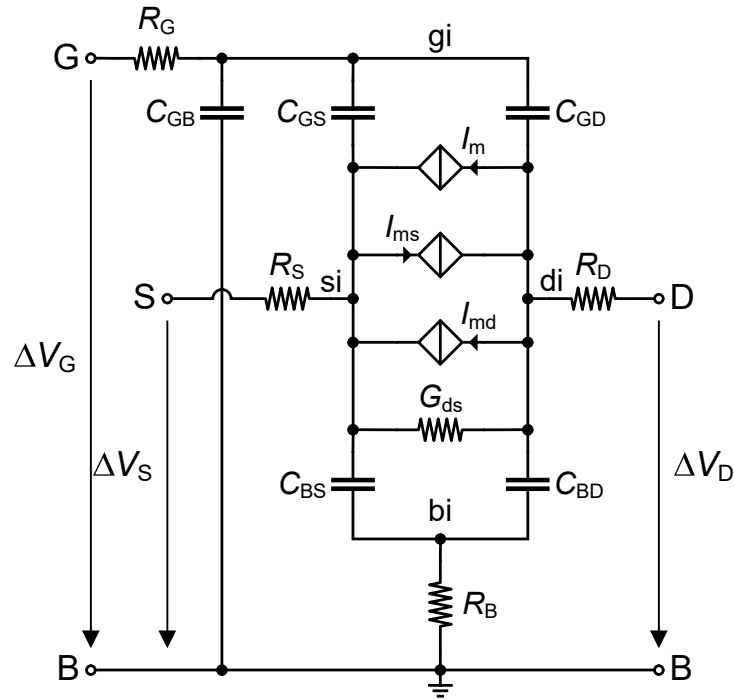
$$Y_{ms} = G_{ms} \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_{ms} - j\omega \cdot C_{ms}$$

$$Y_{md} = G_{md} \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_{md} - j\omega \cdot C_{md}$$

Complete Quasi-static Small-signal Model

Linear region

Saturation



$$C_{GS} = C_{GSi} + C_{GSe}$$

$$I_m = Y_m \cdot (V(gi) - V(bi))$$

$$Y_m = G_m \cdot (1 - j\omega\tau_{qs}) = G_m - j\omega C_m$$

$$Y_m = \frac{Y_{ms} - Y_{md}}{n}$$

$$C_{GD} = C_{GD_i} + C_{GD_e}$$

$$I_{ms} = Y_{ms} \cdot (V(si) - V(bi))$$

$$Y_{ms} = G_{ms} \cdot (1 - j\omega\tau_{qs}) = G_{ms} - j\omega C_{ms}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n}$$

$$C_{GB} = C_{GB_i} + C_{GB_e}$$

$$I_{md} = Y_{md} \cdot (V(di) - V(bi))$$

$$Y_{md} = G_{md} \cdot (1 - j\omega\tau_{qs}) = G_{md} - j\omega C_{md}$$

$$C_m = \frac{C_{ms} - C_{md}}{n}$$

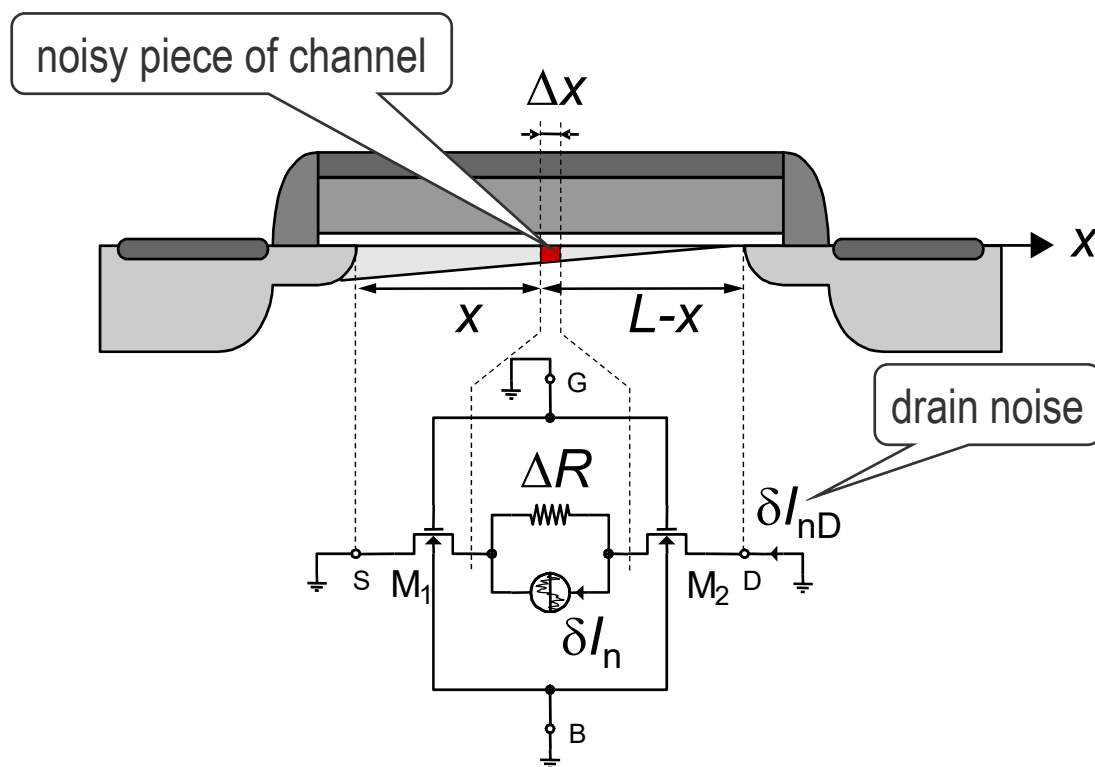
$$C_{BS} = C_{BS_i} + C_{BS_j}$$

$$C_{BD} = C_{BD_i} + C_{BD_j}$$

Outline

- The long-channel static model
- The long-channel small-signal model
- **The long-channel noise model**
- The extended model
- The simplified EKV model

General MOST Noise Calculation

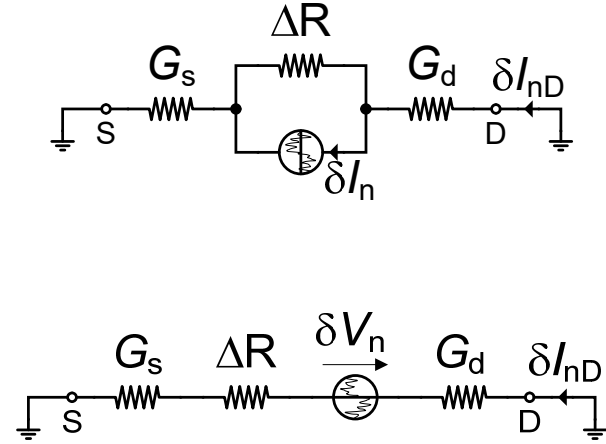
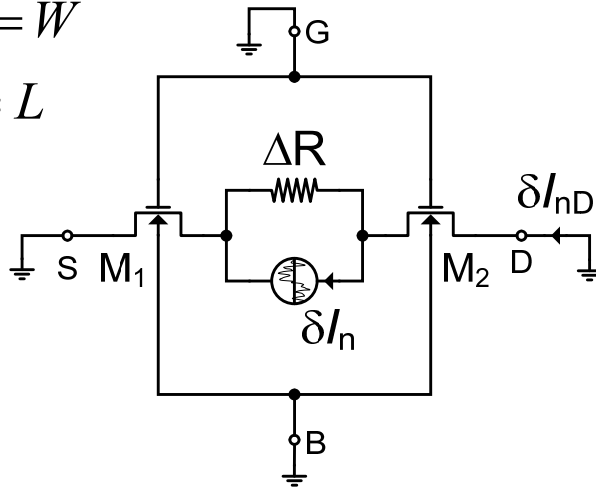


- Noiseless channel except for a slice of channel comprised between x and $x + \Delta x$ and having a resistance ΔR
- Local noise (including both thermal and flicker noise) modeled by current source δI_n which induces a fluctuation of the drain current δI_{nD} through the (trans)conductance

Two-Transistors Approach

$$W_1 = W_2 = W$$

$$L_1 + L_2 = L$$



- Drain current fluctuation due to local noise source (assuming $1/\Delta R \gg G_{ch}$)

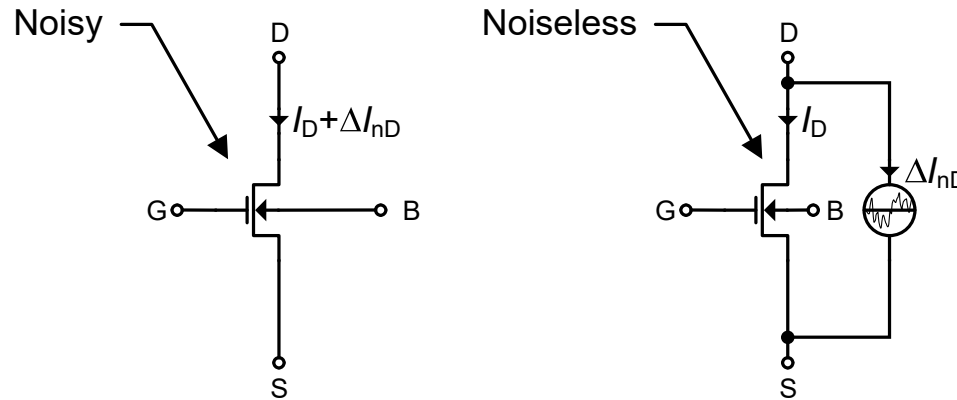
$$\delta I_{nD} = G_{ch} \cdot \Delta R \cdot \delta I_n = G_{ch} \cdot \delta V_n$$

where G_{ch} is the channel conductance seen from point x

$$\frac{1}{G_{ch}} = \frac{1}{G_s} + \frac{1}{G_d} \quad \text{with: } G_s = G_{md1} \quad \text{and} \quad G_d = G_{ms2}$$

- Note that local fluctuation of quantity x is noted δx whereas global fluctuation due to the whole channel is noted Δx

Long-Channel Thermal Noise



- The **thermal noise** at low-frequency can be modeled as a current source between source and drain having a PSD given by

$$S_{\Delta I_{nD}^2} = 4kT \cdot G_{nD} \text{ where } G_{nD} = \frac{\mu}{L^2} \cdot |Q_I| = G_{spec} \cdot q_I$$

- with $G_{spec} \triangleq \frac{I_{spec}}{U_T} = 2n\beta U_T$
- $|Q_I|$ is the total mobile charge in the channel and q_I its normalized form given by

$$q_I \triangleq \frac{|Q_I|}{Q_{spec}} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{4q_s^2 + 3q_s + 4q_s q_d + 3q_d + 4q_d^2}{q_s + q_d + 1} = \begin{cases} q_s & \text{for } q_s = q_d \text{ (linear)} \\ q_s \frac{2q_s + \frac{3}{4}}{3q_s + 1} & \text{for } q_s \gg q_d \text{ (saturation)} \end{cases}$$

Channel Thermal Noise in Weak Inversion

- The total normalized inversion charge in weak inversion is given by

$$q_I \cong \frac{q_s + q_d}{2} = \frac{i_f + i_r}{2}$$

- The noise PSD can be rewritten as

$$G_{nD} = G_{spec} q_I = \frac{I_{spec}}{U_T} \frac{i_f + i_r}{2} = \frac{I_F + I_R}{2U_T}$$

- and therefore

$$S_{\Delta I_D^2} = 4kT G_{nD} = 4kT \frac{I_F + I_R}{2U_T} = 2q(I_F + I_R)$$

- which corresponds to **full shot noise** of **both forward and reverse** components
- This result is consistent with the fact that the current in weak inversion is dominated by the **diffusion current**

Thermal Noise Excess Factor

- The **thermal noise excess factor** γ_{nD} is defined as

$$\gamma_{nD} \triangleq \frac{G_{nD}}{G_m}$$

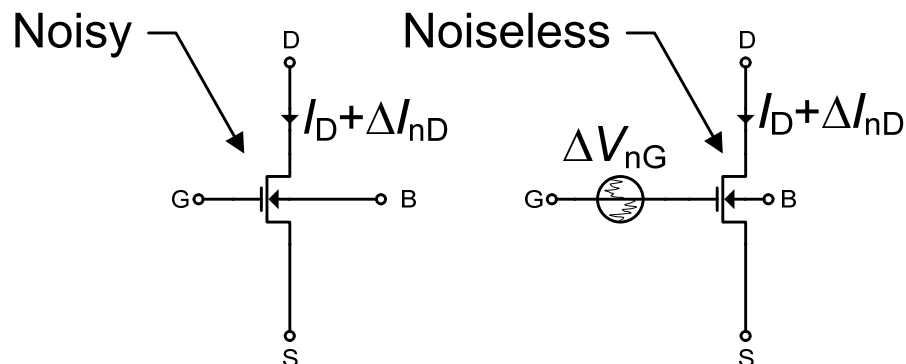
- where G_m is the gate transconductance
- γ_{nD} is actually a figure-of-merit (FoM) showing how much noise is generated at the drain for a given G_m

$$\gamma_{nD} \triangleq n \frac{q_I|_{saturation}}{q_s} = n \frac{2 q_s + \frac{3}{4}}{3 q_s + 1} = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{2} & \text{WI and sat.} \\ \frac{2n}{3} \cong 1 & \text{SI and sat.} \end{cases}$$

- Since $G_m \rightarrow 0$ for $V_{DS} \rightarrow 0$, γ_{nD} is becoming large for small V_{DS}
- The thermal noise conductance (in saturation) is then given by

$$G_{nD} = \gamma_{nD} \cdot G_m = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{2} G_m & \text{WI and sat.} \\ \frac{2n}{3} G_m \cong G_m & \text{SI and sat.} \end{cases}$$

Gate-referred Thermal Noise



- For $G_m \neq 0$ and in particular in saturation, the thermal noise can also be referred to the gate as a voltage source having a PSD given by

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2} = \frac{S_{\Delta I_{nD}^2}}{G_m^2} = 4kT R_{nG}$$

- where the input (or gate) referred thermal noise resistance R_{nG} is given by

$$R_{nG} = \frac{G_{nD}}{G_m^2} = \frac{\gamma_{nD}}{G_m} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{G_m} & \text{WI and sat.} \\ \frac{2}{3} \frac{n}{G_m} \cong \frac{1}{G_m} & \text{SI and sat.} \end{cases}$$

Flicker Noise – Origin and Gate-referred PSD

- Basically two main causes to this 1/f noise:
 - ▶ **Carrier number fluctuation** ΔN (Mc Worther model): trapping of mobile charge in traps located in the oxide close to the Si-SiO₂ interface resulting in fluctuations of the inversion charge
 - ▶ **Carrier mobility fluctuation** $\Delta\mu$ (Hooge model)
- The PSD of the **input referred gate voltage fluctuations** is given by

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f) = S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f)\Big|_{\Delta N} + S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f)\Big|_{\Delta\mu}$$

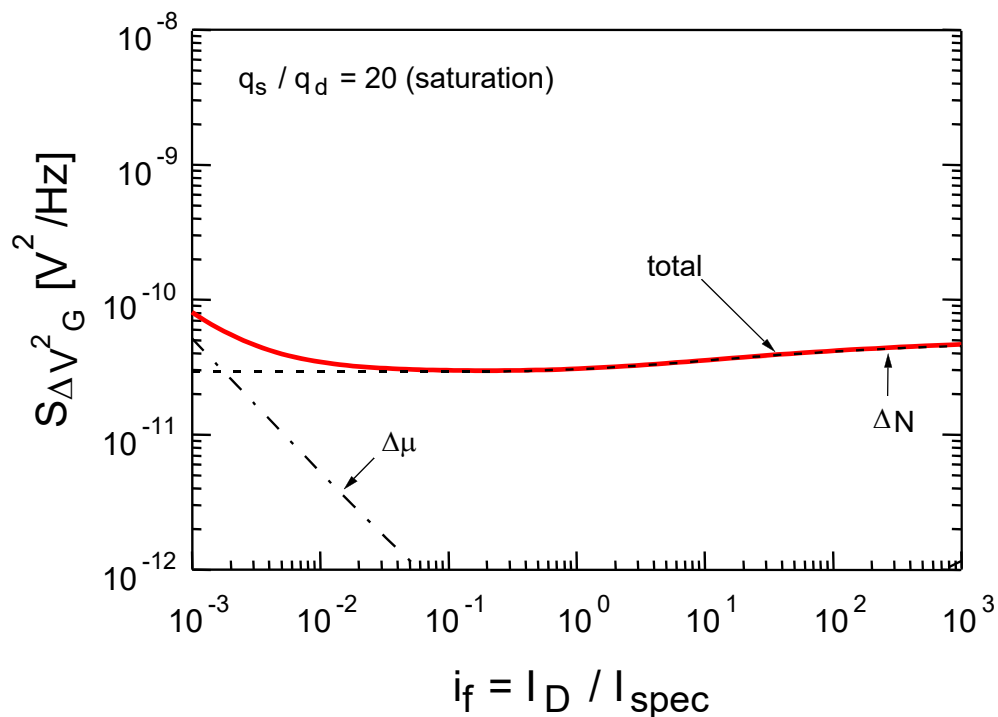
- where

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f)\Big|_{\Delta N} = \frac{K_{\Delta N}}{W \cdot L \cdot C_{ox}^2 \cdot f} \text{ and } S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f)\Big|_{\Delta\mu} = \frac{K_{\Delta\mu}}{W \cdot L \cdot C_{ox} \cdot f}$$

- Inversely proportional to **frequency** and to **gate area**
- Note that $K_{\Delta N}$ and $K_{\Delta\mu}$ are slightly bias dependent

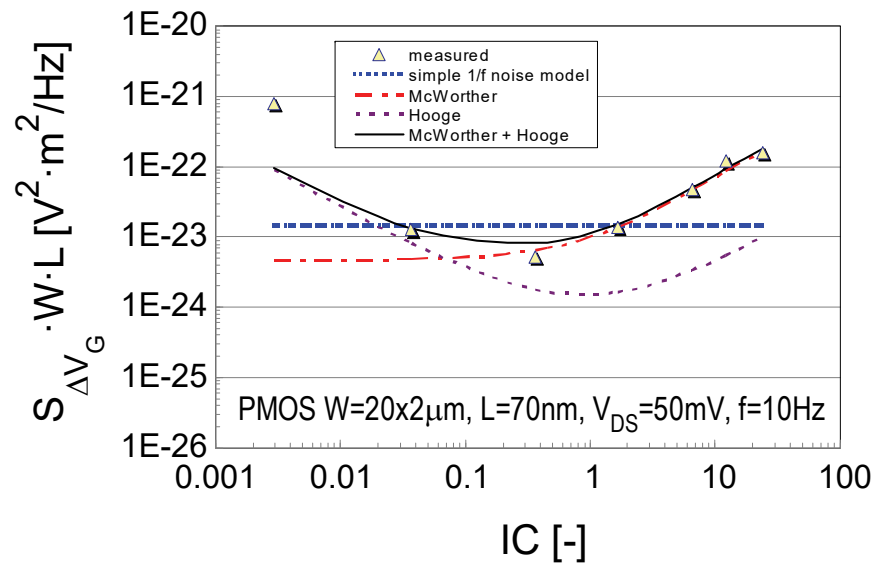
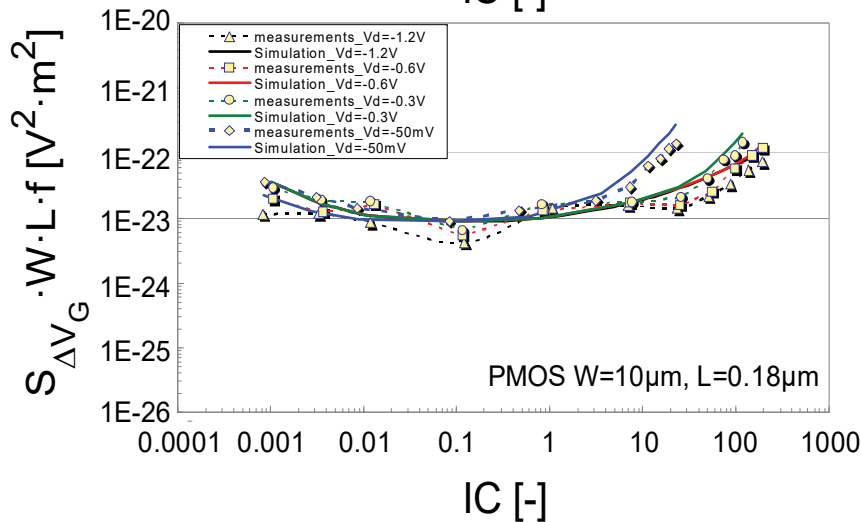
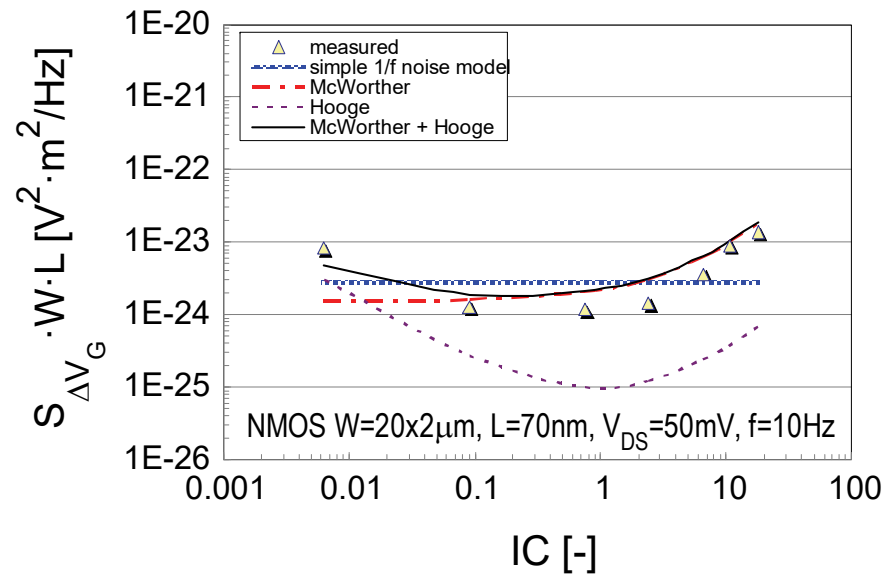
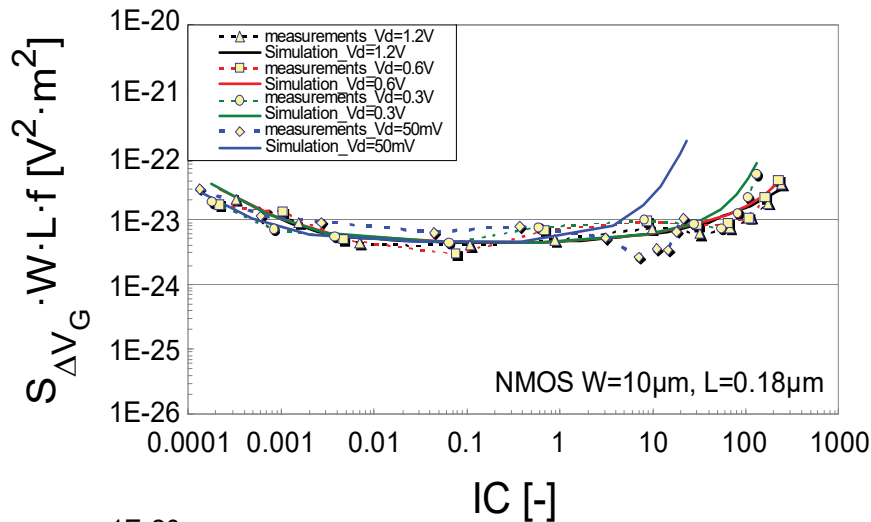
Flicker Noise – Bias Dependence

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2} = S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2} \Big|_{\Delta N} + S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2} \Big|_{\Delta \mu}$$



- Usually number fluctuation dominates over mobility fluctuation
- For design purpose, the gate referred noise PSD can be considered at first order as **bias independent**

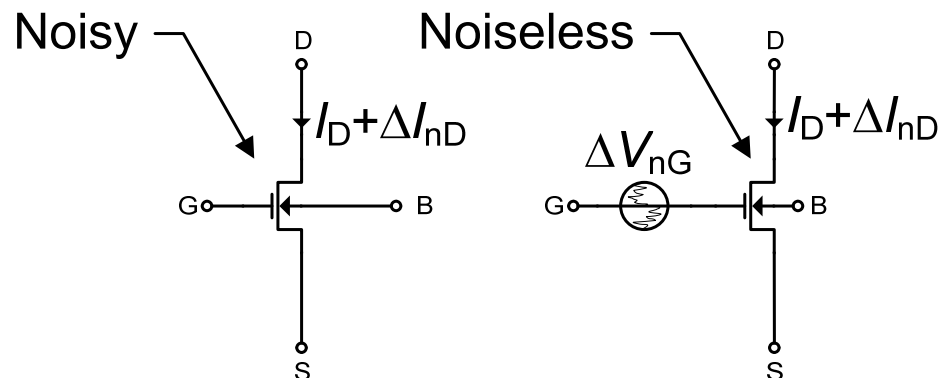
Flicker Noise – Measurements



N. Mavredakis, A. Antonopoulos and M. Bucher, Nanotech-WCM, 2010.

N. Mavredakis, A. Antonopoulos and M. Bucher, ECCSC 2010.

Flicker Noise – Gate-referred Flicker Noise Resistance



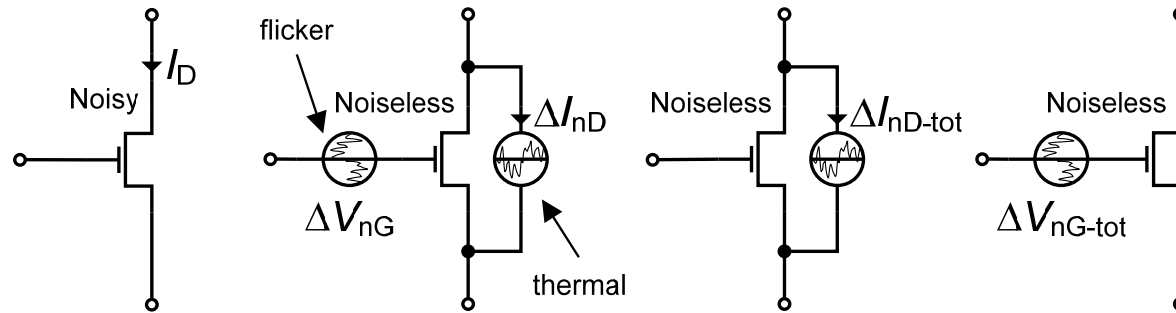
- Similarly to the thermal noise, the gate-referred flicker noise can be expressed in terms of a noise resistance (but frequency dependent)

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f) = 4kT \cdot R_{nG}(f) \text{ with } R_{nG}(f) = \frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f}$$

- If number fluctuation dominates mobility fluctuation, ρ is related to the previous flicker noise parameters by

$$\rho = \frac{K_{\Delta N}}{4kT \cdot C_{ox}^2}$$

Total Noise in Saturation



- The total output noise is given by

$$S_{\Delta I_{nD,tot}^2} = S_{\Delta I_{nD}^2} + G_m^2 \cdot S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f) = 4kT \cdot \gamma_{nD} G_m + G_m^2 \cdot S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f)$$

- which for a given current and a given gate area is **minimum in SI**
- The total gate-referred noise is given by

$$S_{\Delta V_{nG,tot}^2}(f) = \frac{S_{\Delta I_{nD,tot}^2}}{G_m^2} = 4kT \cdot \frac{\gamma_{nD}}{G_m} + S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2}(f) = 4kT \cdot R_{nG,tot}(f)$$

- Where the total gate-referred noise resistance $R_{nG,tot}(f)$ is given by

$$R_{nG,tot}(f) = \frac{\gamma_{nD}}{G_m} + \frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f}$$

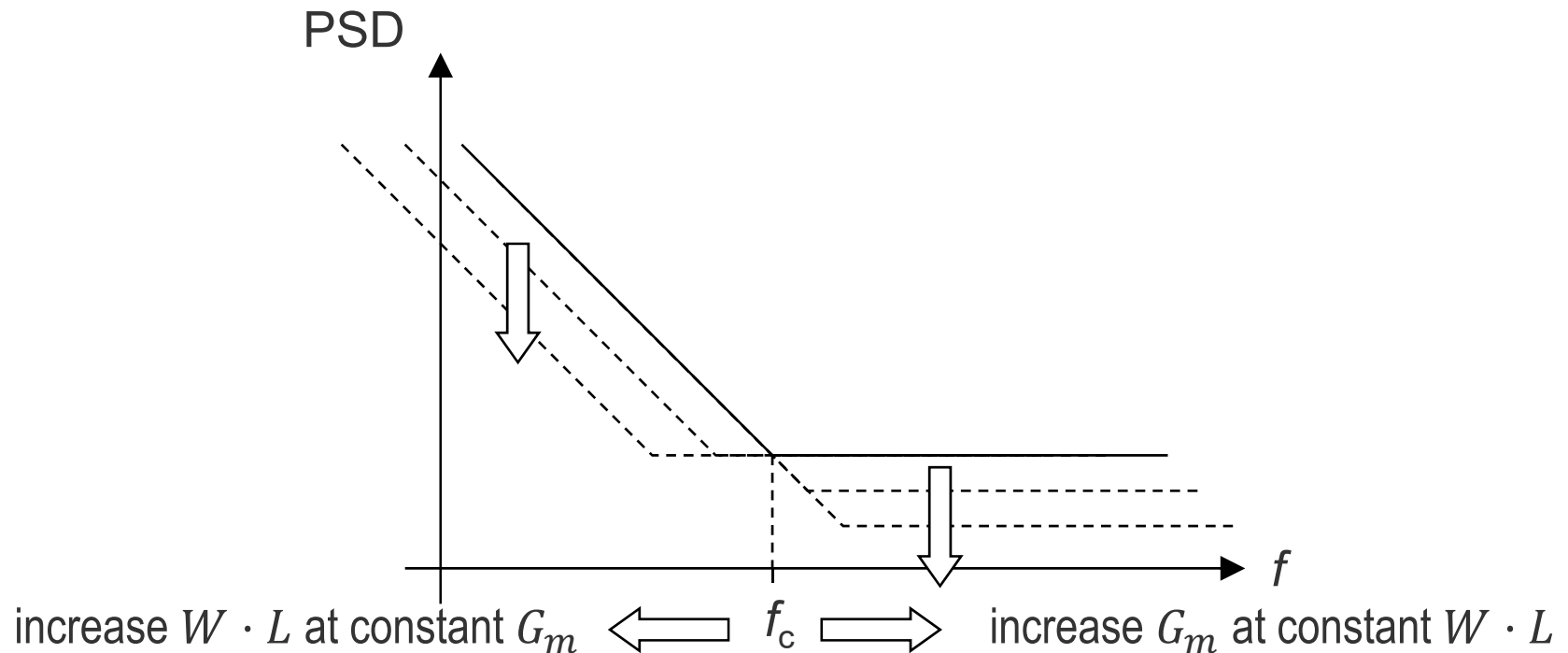
- For a given current and gate area, the total gate-referred noise is **minimum in WI**

Corner Frequency

- The **corner frequency** is defined as the frequency for which the $1/f$ noise PSD is equal to the thermal noise PSD

$$\frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f_c} = \frac{\gamma_{nD}}{G_m} \Rightarrow f_c = \frac{G_m \rho}{\gamma_{nD} W L} = \frac{K_{\Delta N} \mu}{2q \gamma_{nD} C_{ox}} \frac{g_{ms}(IC)}{L^2}$$

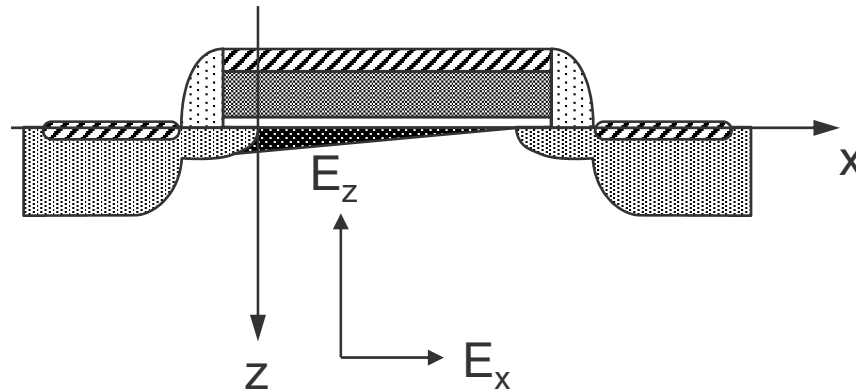
- The corner frequency scales approximately as $1/(C_{ox} L^2)$



Outline

- The long-channel static model
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- The long-channel noise model
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Mobility Reduction Mechanisms



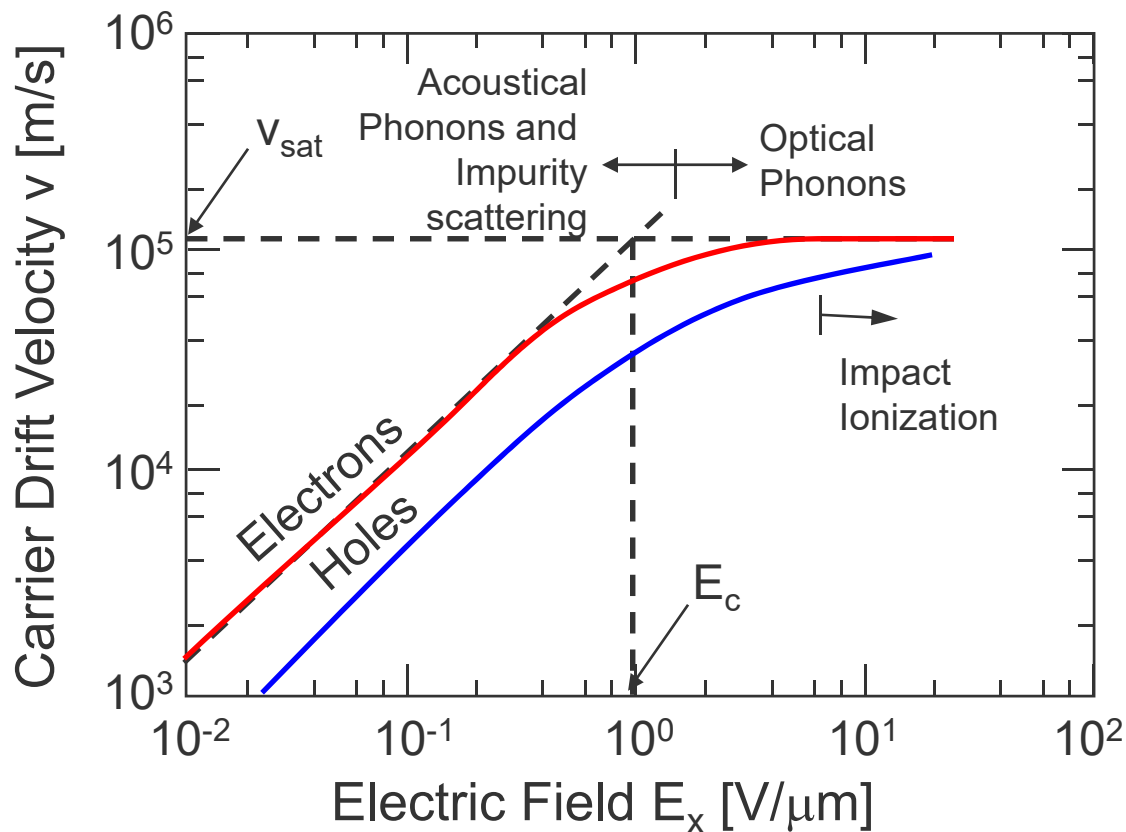
- Mainly two different mobility reduction mechanisms:
 - ▶ due to **vertical field** E_z
 - ▶ due to **longitudinal field** E_x
- Mobility reduction due to the vertical field E_z is caused by several **scattering mechanisms**, namely:
 - ▶ **Coulomb scattering**: interaction with ionized impurity atoms (at low field)
 - ▶ **Phonon scattering**: interaction with lattice vibrations (at medium field)
 - ▶ **Surface roughness**: roughness of the Si-SiO₂ interface (at high field)
- Mobility reduction due to longitudinal field E_x is caused by the **saturation of carrier velocity**

Small Geometry Effects

- Short channel length
 - ▶ **Velocity saturation (VS)**
 - ▶ **Channel length modulation (CLM)**
 - ▶ Charge sharing
 - ▶ **Drain induced barrier lowering (DIBL)**
 - ▶ Reverse short-channel effect
- Narrow gate width
- Thin gate oxide
 - ▶ Polysilicon depletion
 - ▶ Gate leakage current
- **Effects on thermal noise**

Velocity Saturation

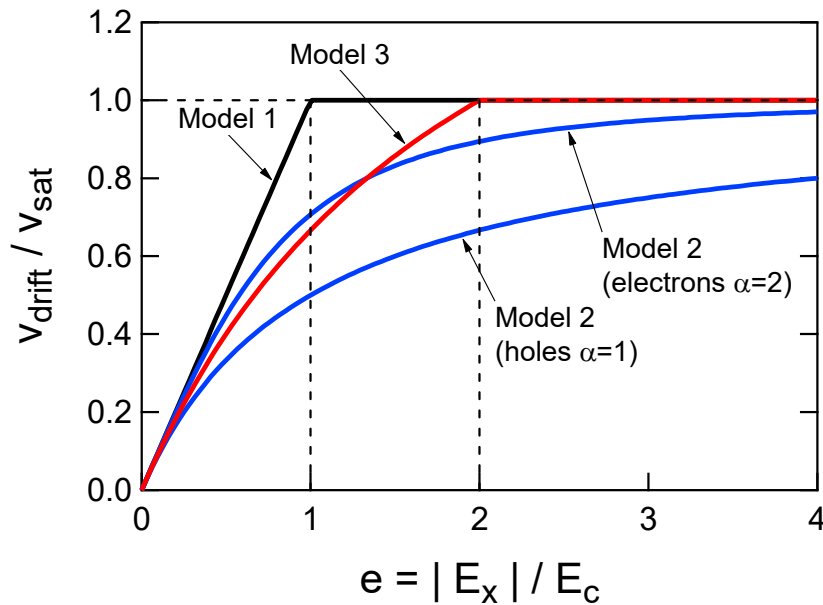
- A high longitudinal electric field E_x causes the carrier velocity v_{drift} to saturate to v_{sat}



For Si
Electrons:
 $v_{sat} \cong 10^5$ m/s
 $E_c \cong 1$ V/ μ m

Holes:
 $v_{sat} \cong 8 \times 10^4$ m/s
 $E_c \cong 3$ V/ μ m

Velocity-Field Models



- Model 1

$$\frac{v_{drift}}{v_{sat}} = \begin{cases} e & \text{for } e \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } e > 1 \end{cases}$$

with $e \triangleq |E_x|/E_c$ and $E_c \triangleq 2v_{sat}/\mu$

- Model 2

$$\frac{v_{drift}}{v_{sat}} = \frac{e}{(1 + e^\alpha)^{1/\alpha}}$$

where $\alpha = 2$ for electrons and $\alpha = 1$ for holes

- Model 3 (BSIM Model)

$$\frac{v_{drift}}{v_{sat}} = \begin{cases} \frac{e}{1 + e/2} & \text{for } e < 2 \\ 1 & \text{for } e \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Effect of V_S on the Drain Current in SI

- Assuming Model 1 for the velocity-field function, the current in SI and saturation, neglecting the effect of mobility reduction due to the vertical field, is given by

$$i_d = \frac{2q_s^2}{1 + \sqrt{1 + (\lambda_c q_s)^2}} \text{ where } \lambda_c \triangleq \frac{L_{sat}}{L} \text{ with } L_{sat} \triangleq \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{sat}} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c}$$

- L_{sat} represents the **portion of the channel that is under full VS**
- For very short channel and/or high overdrive voltage

$$\lambda_c q_s = \frac{\mu_0}{v_{sat}} \cdot \frac{V_P - V_S}{L} \gg 1 \implies i_d \cong \frac{2q_s}{\lambda_c}$$

- Remembering that in SI $q_s \cong (V_P - V_S)/(2U_T)$ leads to the denormalized drain current given by

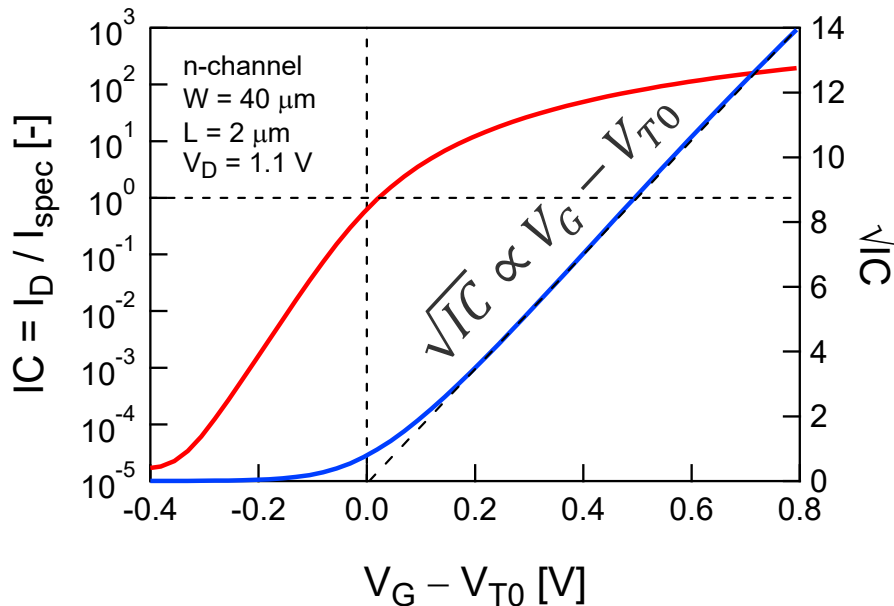
$$I_D \cong WnC_{ox}v_{sat}(V_P - V_S) = WC_{ox}v_{sat}(V_G - V_{T0} - nV_S)$$

- The current becomes a **linear function** of the charge and therefore of the overdrive voltage and also **independent of the length**

Effect of VS on the Drain Current (40nm Process)

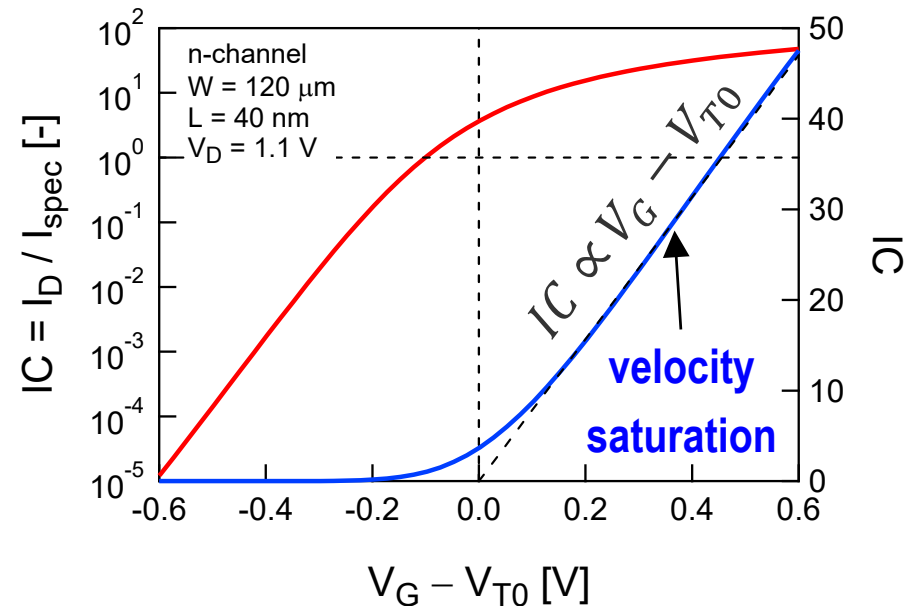
Long-channel

$$I_D \cong \frac{\beta}{2n} (V_G - V_{T0})^2$$



Short-channel

$$I_D \cong W C_{ox} v_{sat} (V_G - V_{T0})$$



- Velocity saturation has a **strong impact** on the drain current in **strong inversion**
- The current becomes proportional to $V_G - V_{T0}$
- Hence the gate and source transconductances become **independent of the current** (and **independent of the length**)

Effect of VS on the Transconductance in SI

- The effect of VS on the **source transconductance** in SI is given by

$$g_{ms} \triangleq \frac{G_{ms}}{G_{spec}} = \frac{q_s}{\sqrt{1 + (\lambda_c q_s)^2}}$$

- For $\lambda_c \cdot q_s \gg 1$, g_{ms} saturates to $1/\lambda_c$

$$g_{ms} \cong \frac{1}{\lambda_c} = \frac{L}{L_{sat}} \text{ in SI and saturation}$$

- or in denormalized form

$$G_{ms} \cong \frac{G_{spec}}{\lambda_c} = nWC_{ox}v_{sat}$$

- G_{ms} becomes **independent of the length and of the current**
- It only depends on v_{sat} and increases with W

Effect of VS on the Drain Current in WI

- Velocity saturation also affects the current in weak inversion (in saturation)

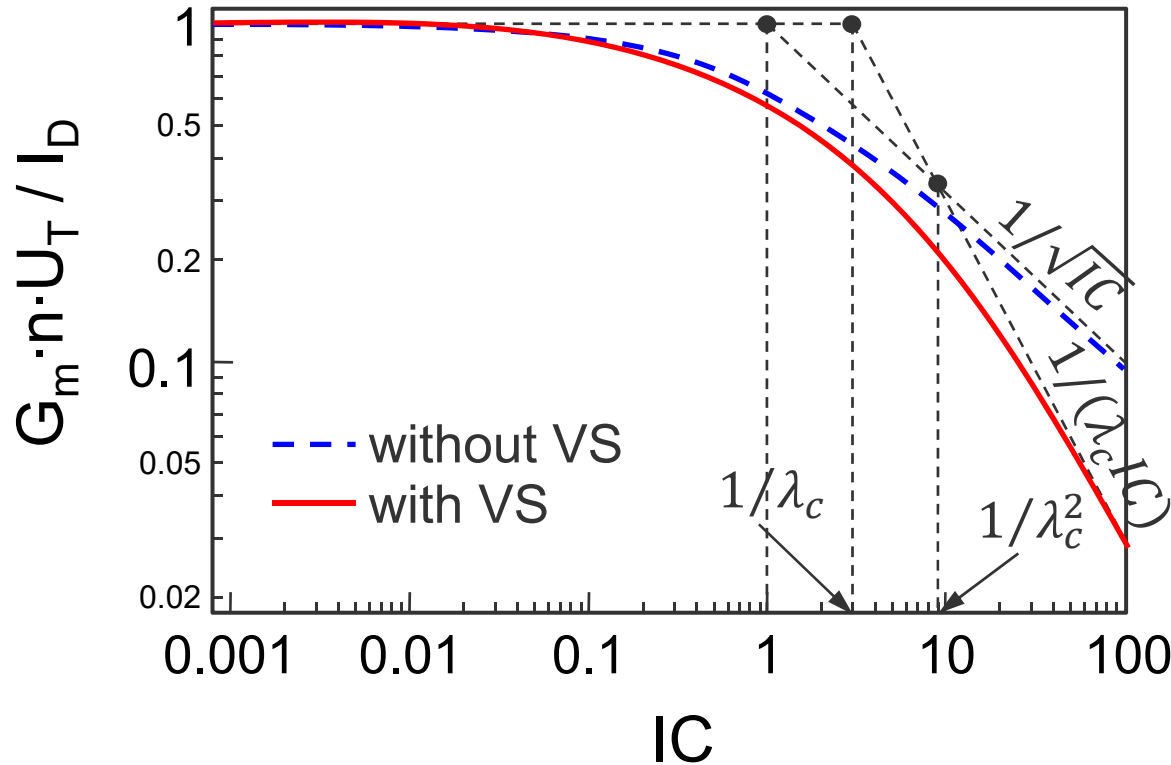
$$i_d = \frac{q_s}{1 + \frac{\lambda_c}{2}}$$

- The source transconductance is then given by

$$g_{ms} = \frac{q_s}{1 + \frac{\lambda_c}{2}} = i_d$$

- The source (gate) transconductances **remain proportional to the current**
- The G_{ms}/I_D ratio **remains equal to unity** as for the long channel case

Effect of Velocity Saturation (VS) on G_m/I_D

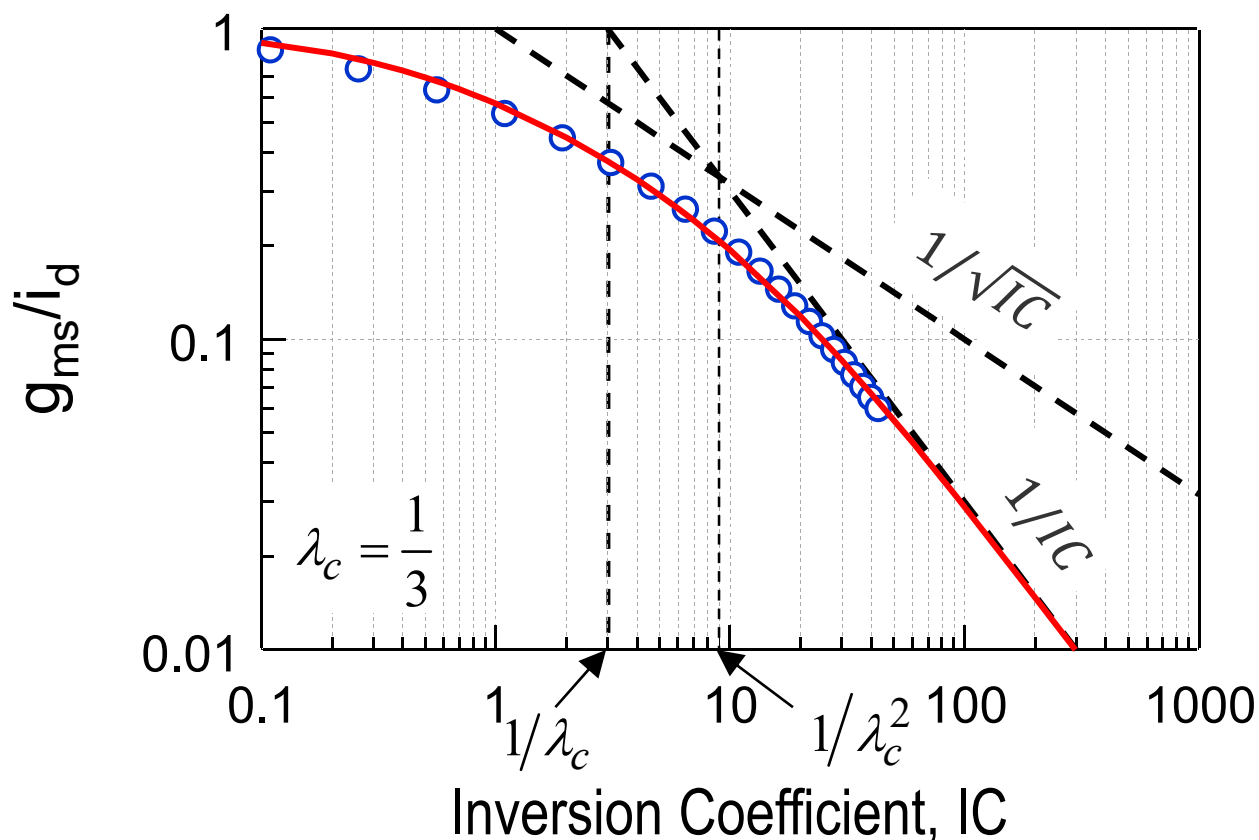


$$\lambda_c \triangleq \frac{L_{sat}}{L}$$

$$L_{sat} \triangleq \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{sat}} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c}$$

$$\frac{g_{ms}}{i_d} = \frac{G_{ms} U_T}{I_D} = \frac{G_m n U_T}{I_D} = \frac{\sqrt{(\lambda_c IC + 1)^2 + 4IC} - 1}{IC(\lambda_c(\lambda_c IC + 1) + 2)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{WI and sat.} \\ \frac{1}{\lambda_c IC} & \text{SI and sat.} \end{cases}$$

Effect of VS on the Current Efficiency (130 nm Process)



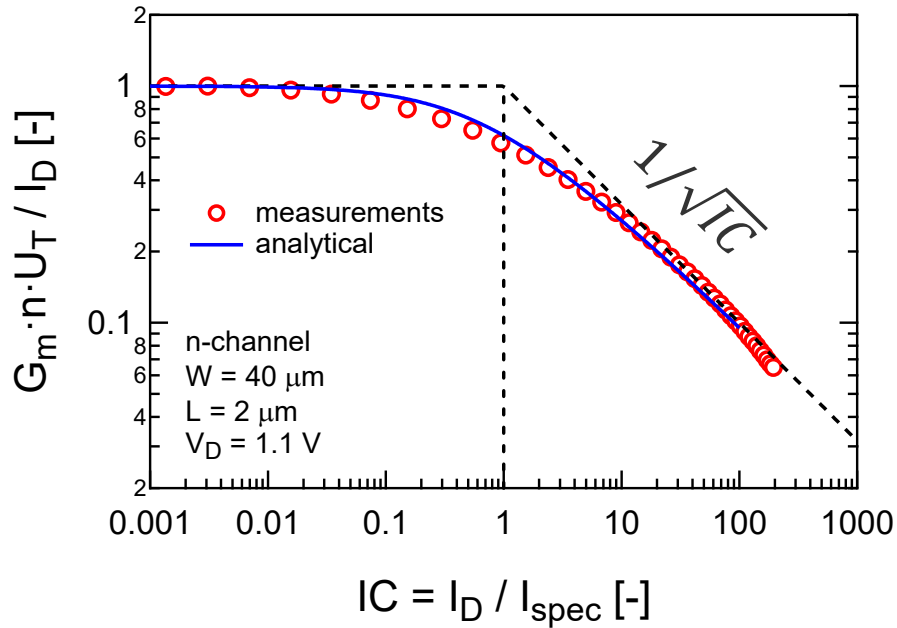
$$\lambda_c \triangleq \frac{L_{sat}}{L}$$

$$L_{sat} \triangleq \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{sat}} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c}$$

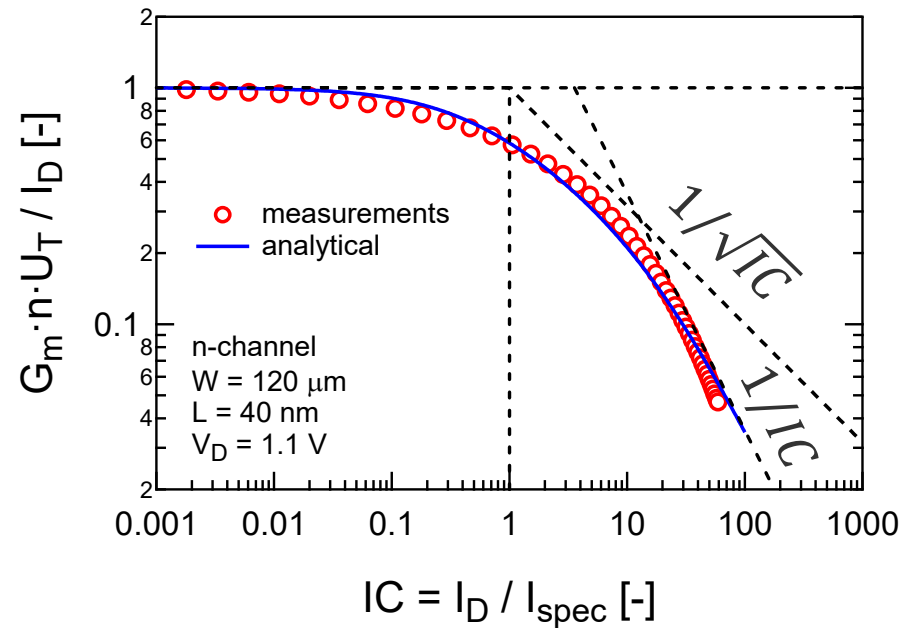
- **Current efficiency is maximum** in weak inversion
- Strongly degrades in strong inversion due to high field effects such as **velocity saturation** and **mobility reduction** due to the vertical field

Effect of VS on the Current Efficiency (40 nm Process)

Long-channel

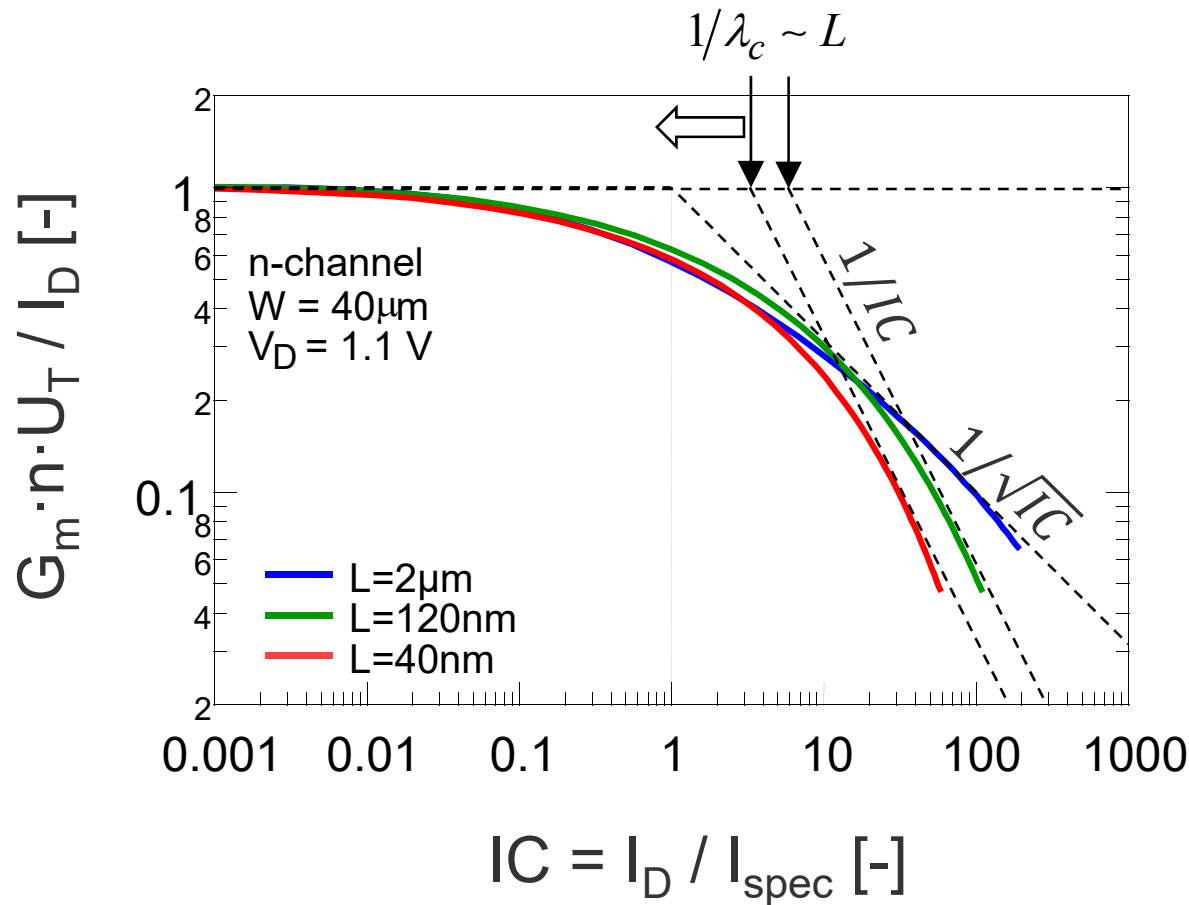


Short-channel



- Velocity saturation (VS) further degrades the current efficiency in strong inversion
- VS has little impact on the current efficiency in weak and moderate inversion

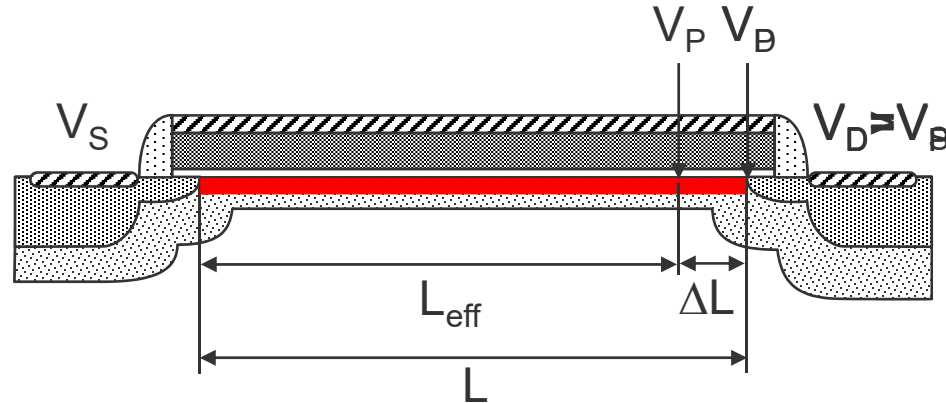
Effect of VS on the Current Efficiency



$$\lambda_c \triangleq \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{sat} L} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c L}$$

- The VS intersection point is moving to the left with shorter channel length removing the region where G_m/I_D scales like $1/\sqrt{IC}$

Channel Length Modulation (CLM)



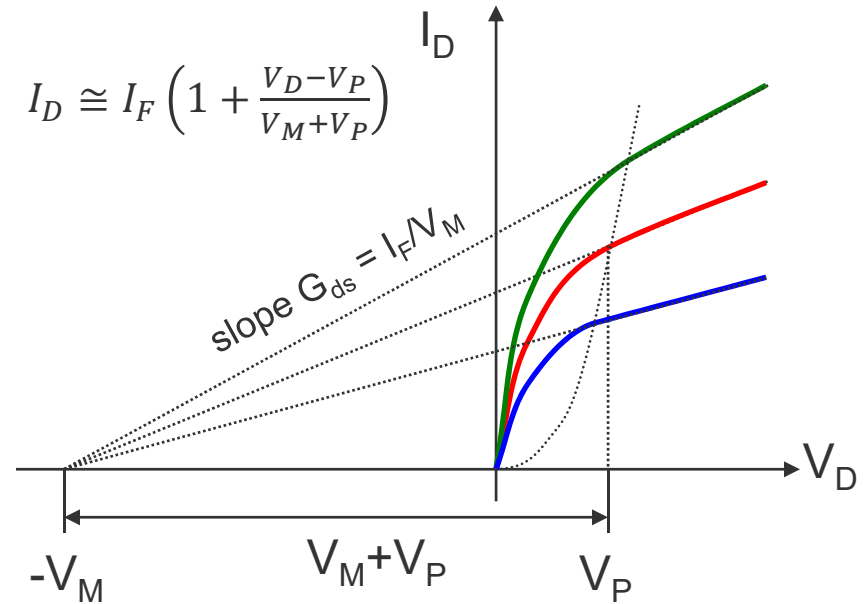
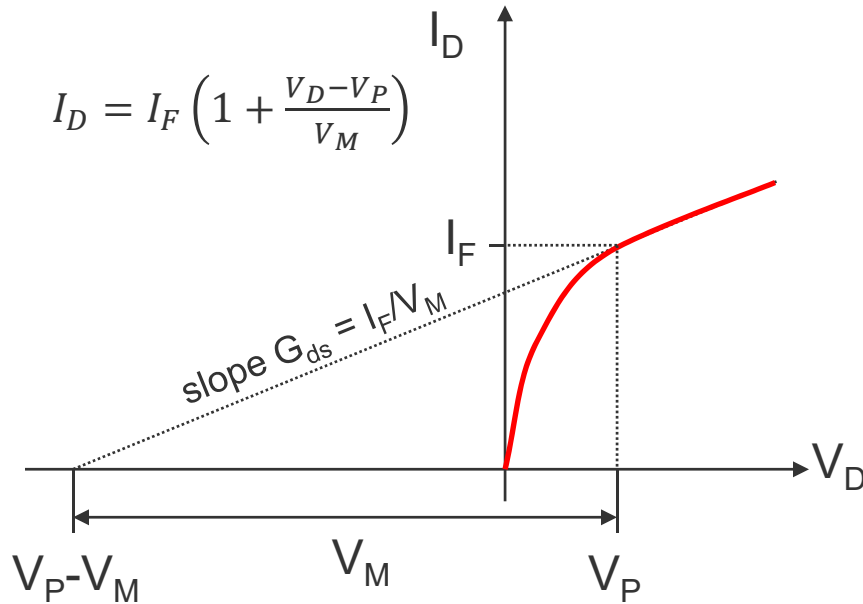
- Increasing the drain voltage above V_P moves the pinch-off point toward the source and creates a depletion region of length ΔL

$$\frac{\Delta L}{L} \cong \frac{\zeta}{L} \left[\sqrt{\Phi_D + V_D - V_P} - \sqrt{\Phi_D} \right] \cong \frac{\zeta}{L} \frac{V_D - V_P}{\Phi_D} = \frac{V_D - V_P}{V_M} \text{ with } \zeta \triangleq \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon_{si}}{qN_b}}$$

- where V_M is the **channel length modulation voltage** (corresponding to the Early voltage in a bipolar) and defined as

$$V_M \triangleq \lambda L \text{ with } \lambda = \frac{2\sqrt{\Phi_D}}{\zeta}$$

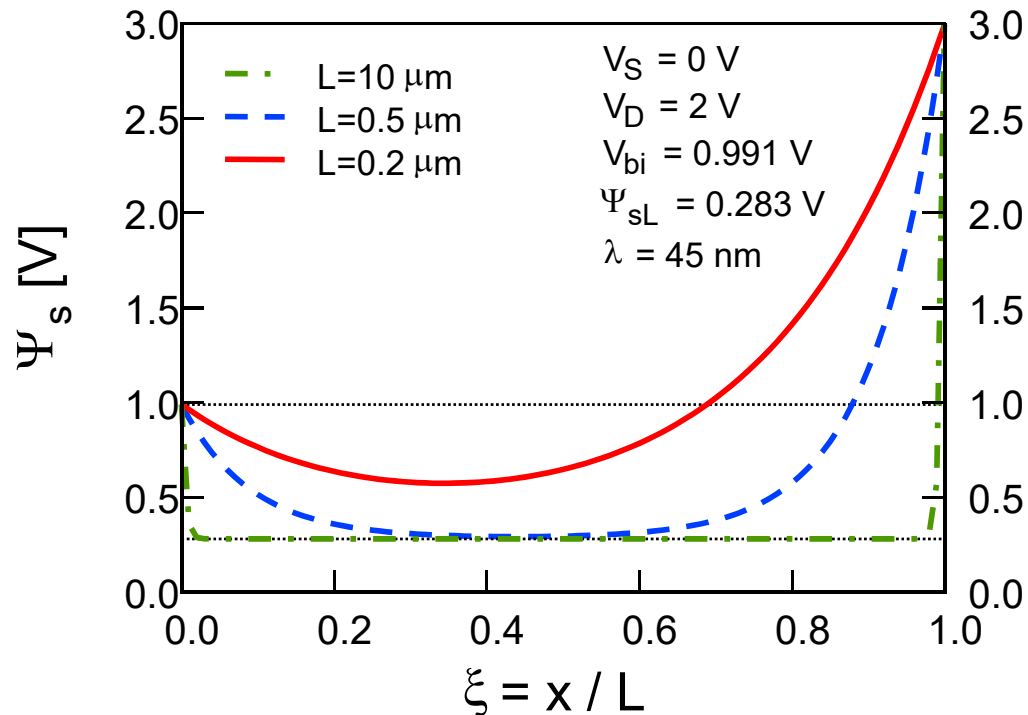
Output Characteristics



- Assuming $\Delta L / L \ll 1$, the drain current in saturation including channel modulation effect can be written as

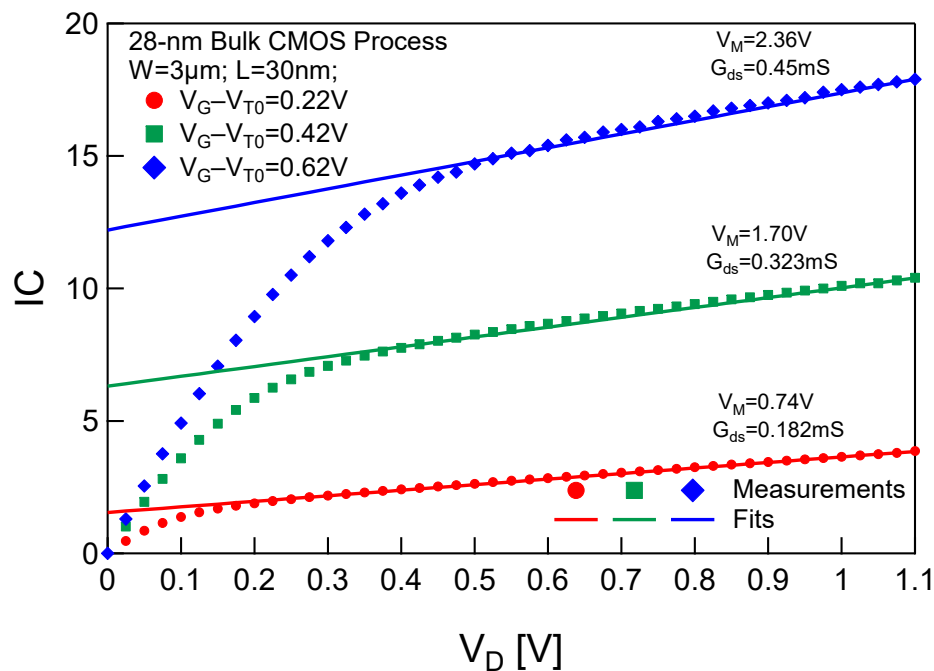
$$I_D = \frac{I_F}{1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L}} \cong I_F \left(1 + \frac{\Delta L}{L} \right) = I_F \left(1 + \frac{V_D - V_P}{V_M} \right) \cong I_F \left(1 + \frac{V_D - V_P}{V_M + V_P} \right)$$

Drain Induced Barrier Lowering (DIBL)



- For short channel devices, the voltages at the source and drain influence the channel surface potential and tend to make it larger than what would be obtained from the long-channel approximation
- This results in an increase of the drain current, particularly in weak and moderate inversion

Output Characteristic in SI of 28nm Bulk CMOS Process



- The output characteristics in SI is can be modelled by

$$I_D \cong G_{ds}(V_D + V_M)$$

- Where G_{ds} is the output conductance in saturation and V_M is the Early voltage that actually accounts for both CLM and DIBL

Output Conductance due to DIBL

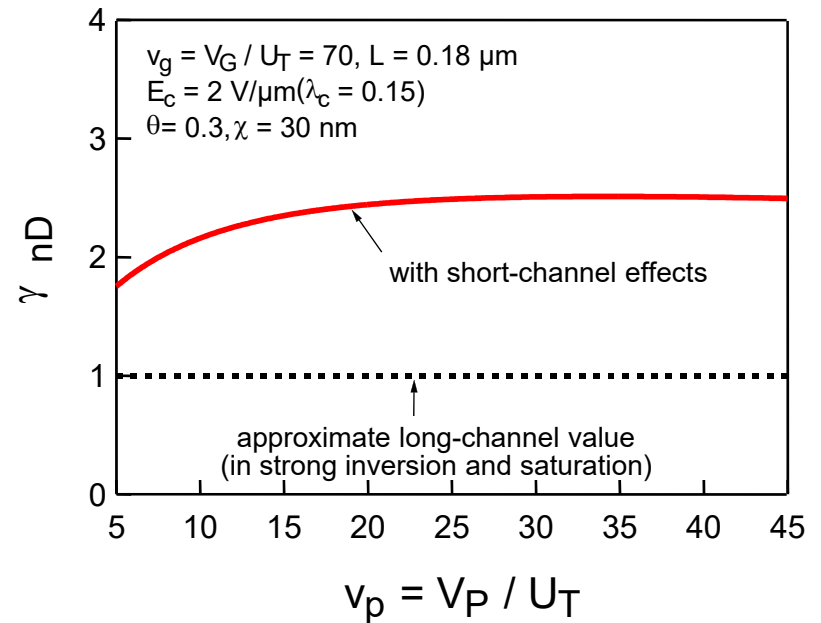
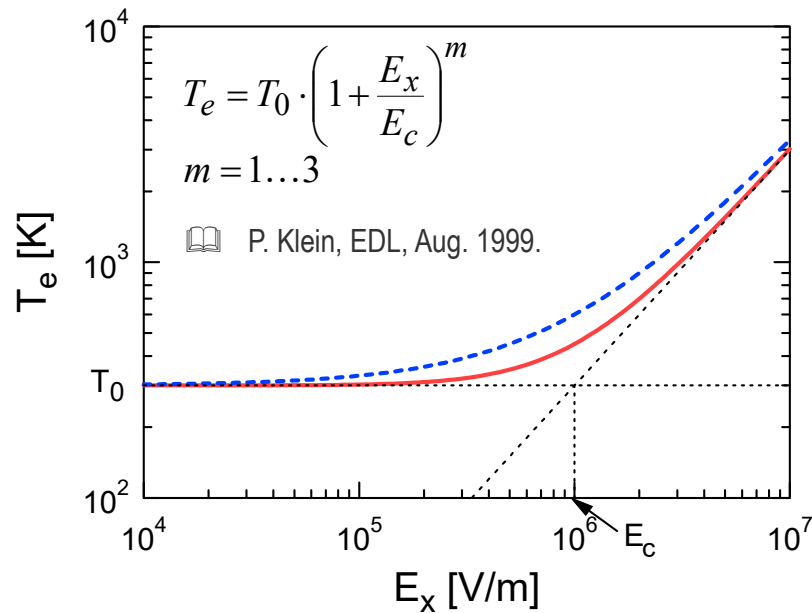
- In advanced short-channel devices biased in MI or WI, the output conductance is dominated by DIBL
- DIBL is defined as the variation of the threshold voltage with respect to the drain-to-source voltage

$$V_T \cong V_{T0}(1 - \sigma_d V_{DS}) \text{ where } \sigma_d \triangleq \frac{\partial V_T}{\partial V_{DS}}$$

- The output conductance can then be written as

$$G_{ds} \triangleq \left. \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_{DS}} \right|_{V_G, V_S} \cong \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_T} \frac{\partial V_T}{\partial V_{DS}} = \sigma_d \cdot G_m$$

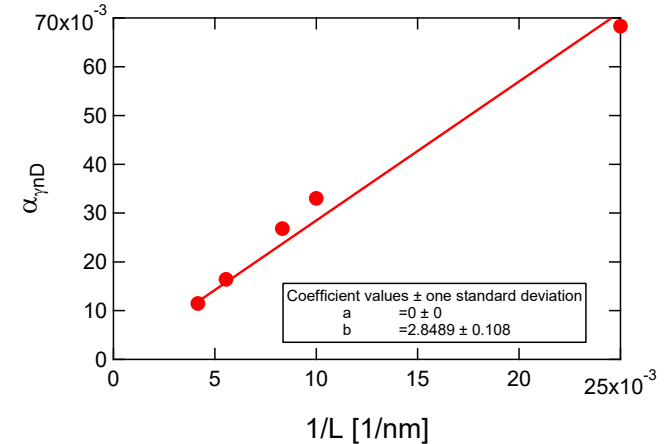
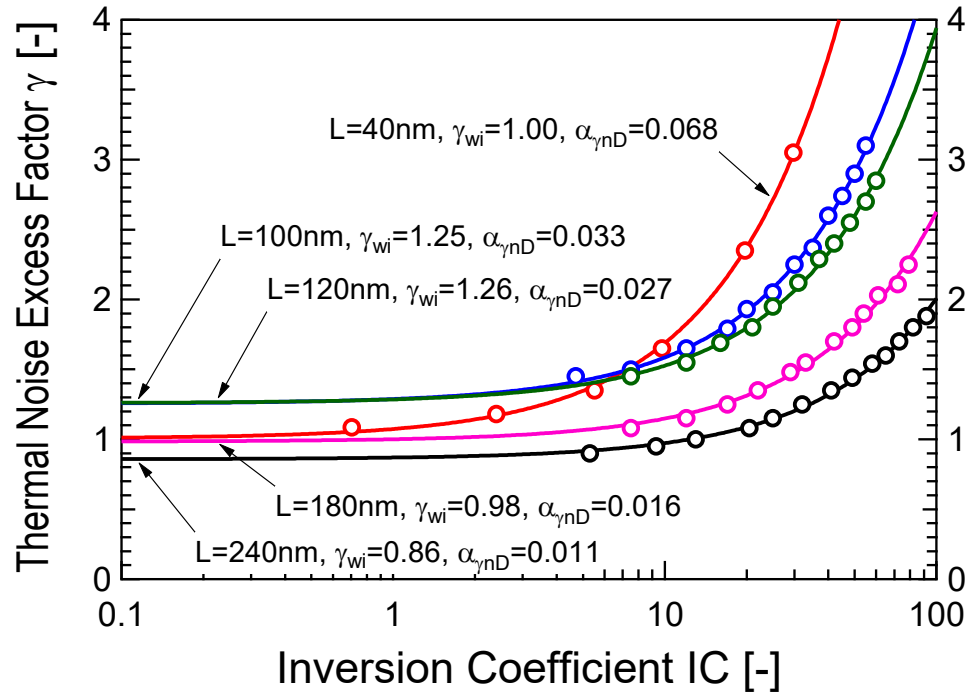
Short-channel Effects on Thermal Noise



- Thermal noise is affected by following effects:
 - ▶ **Velocity saturation** (VS)
 - ▶ **Carrier heating** (CH)
 - ▶ **Mobility reduction due to the vertical field** (MRV)
 - ▶ **Channel length modulation** (CLM)

- Due to the opposite effects of **VS** and **CH** as well as opposite effects of **MRV** and **CLM**, the degradation in γ_{nD} is not as dramatic as expected initially

Short-channel Effects on γ_{nD} (in saturation)



- The noise excess factor γ_{nD} can be modelled versus IC as

$$\gamma_{nD} \cong \gamma_{wi} + \alpha_{\gamma_{nD}} \cdot IC$$
- Where γ_{wi} and $\alpha_{\gamma_{nD}}$ are empirical factors
- $\alpha_{\gamma_{nD}}$ scales approximatively as $\alpha_{\gamma_{nD}} \cong 2.85/L$ where L is in nm

A. Antonopoulos et al., "CMOS Small-Signal and Thermal Noise Modeling at High Frequencies," TED, vol. 60, No. 11, Nov. 2013.

M. Chalkiadaki, PhD Thesis 2016.

Outline

- The long-channel static model
- The long-channel small-signal model
- The long-channel noise model
- The extended model
- **The simplified EKV model**

Simplified EKV Charge-based Model (in saturation)

- The **normalized drain current** in saturation or **inversion coefficient** is given by

$$IC = \frac{I_D|_{\text{saturation}}}{I_{\text{spec}}} = \frac{4(q_s^2 + q_s)}{2 + \lambda_c + \sqrt{\lambda_c^2(2q_s + 1)^2 + 4(1 + \lambda_c)}}$$

- $q_s \triangleq Q_i(x=0)/Q_{\text{spec}}$ is the **normalized inversion charge** at the source where $Q_{\text{spec}} = -2nC_{ox}U_T$
- λ_c is the **velocity saturation** (VS) parameter corresponding to the fraction of the channel under full VS

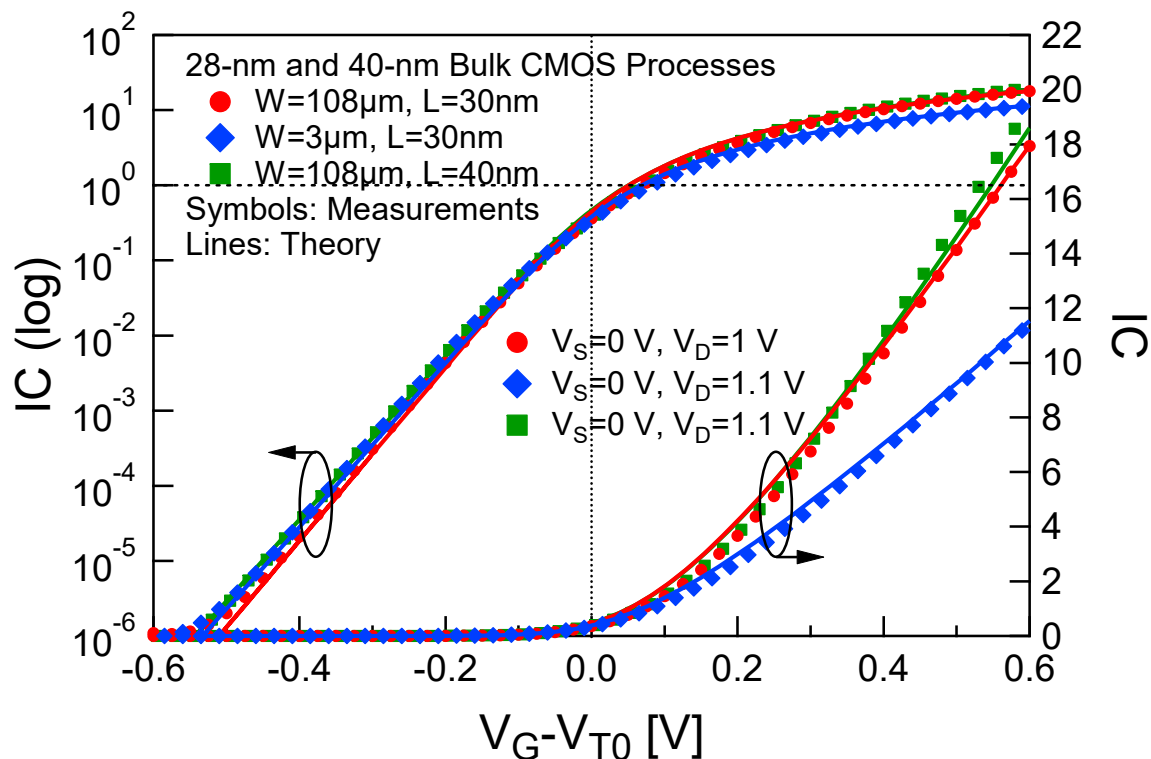
$$\lambda_c = \frac{L_{\text{sat}}}{L} \text{ with } L_{\text{sat}} = \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{\text{sat}}} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c}$$

- q_s is related to the gate and source voltage according to

$$v_p - v_s = \ln(q_s) + 2q_s \text{ with } v_p = \frac{V_P}{U_T} = \frac{V_G - V_{T0}}{nU_T}, v_s = \frac{V_S}{U_T}, U_T = \frac{kT}{q}$$

- Only **requires the following 4 parameters**: $n, I_{\text{spec}}, V_{T0}, L_{\text{sat}}$

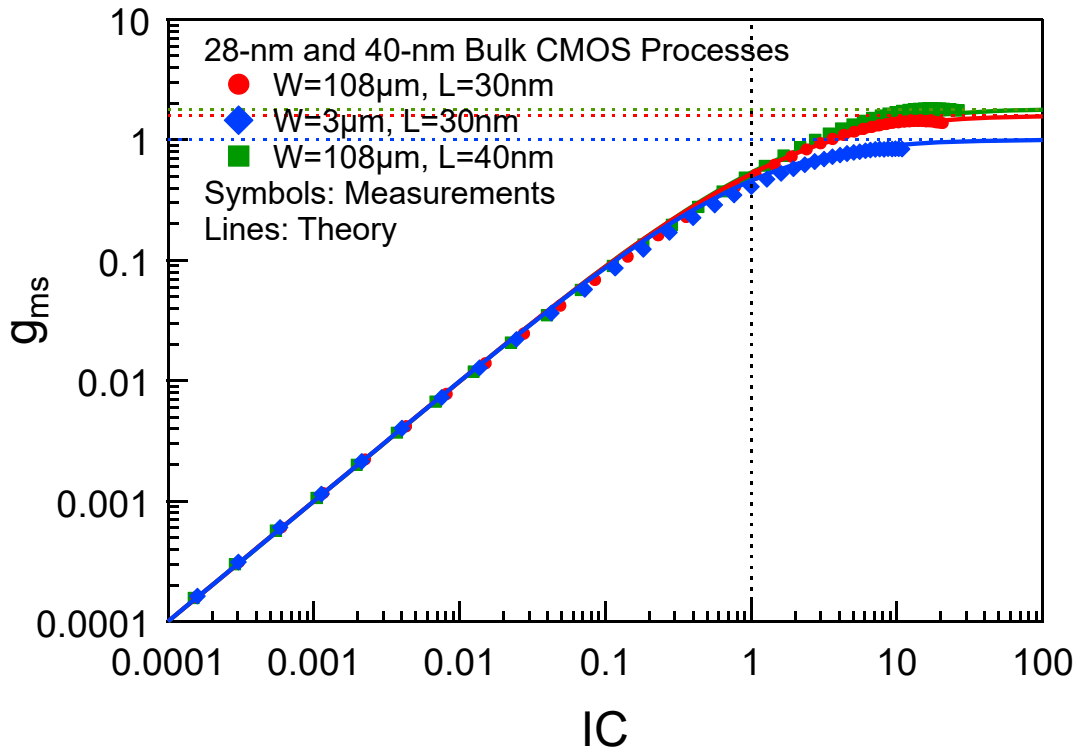
Drain Current for 28 and 40-nm Bulk CMOS Processes



- Simple model validated on **28-nm and 40-nm bulk CMOS processes** over **more than 6 decades of current** despite only requiring **few parameters, namely:**

$$n, I_{spec\Box}, V_{T0}, L_{sat}$$

G_m vs. IC for 28 and 40-nm Bulk CMOS Process



$$g_{ms}(IC) \triangleq \frac{G_{ms}}{G_{spec}} = \frac{nG_m}{G_{spec}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{(\lambda_c IC + 1)^2 + 4IC} - 1}{\lambda_c(\lambda_c IC + 1) + 2}$$

$$\cong \frac{1}{\lambda_c} \text{ for } IC \gg 1$$

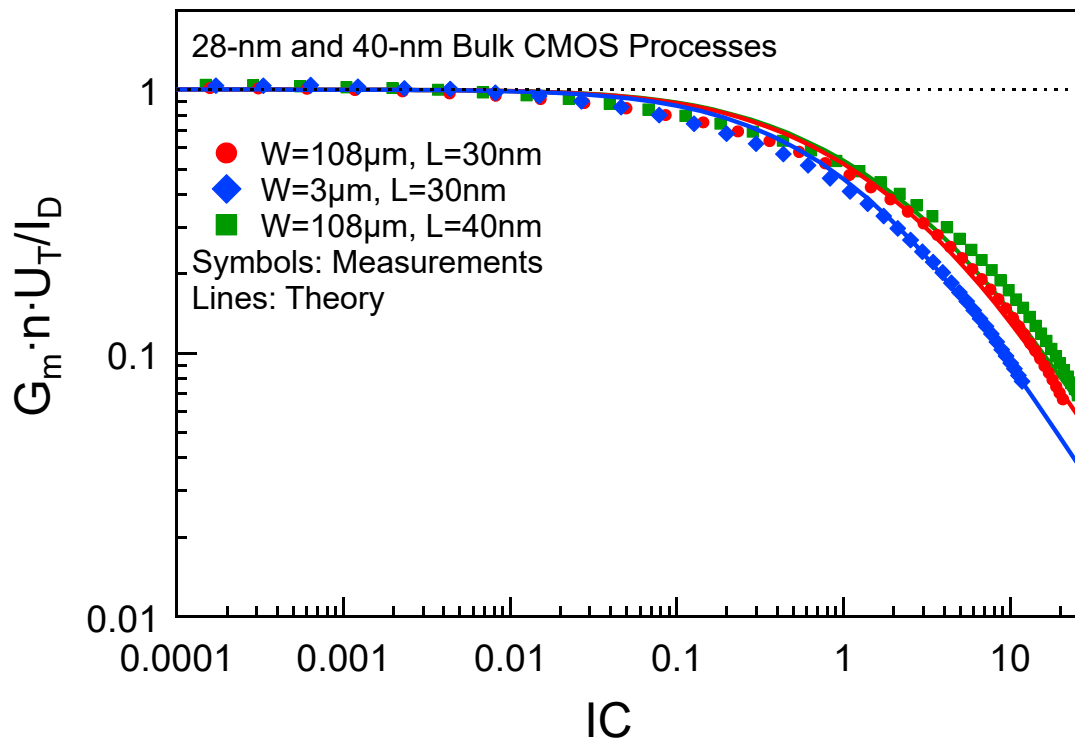
with $\lambda_c = \frac{L_{sat}}{L}$

and $L_{sat} = \frac{2\mu_0 U_T}{v_{sat}} = \frac{2U_T}{E_c}$

- Simple model of **transconductance** validated on 28-nm and 40-nm bulk CMOS processes over more 5 decades of current despite only requiring few parameters, namely:

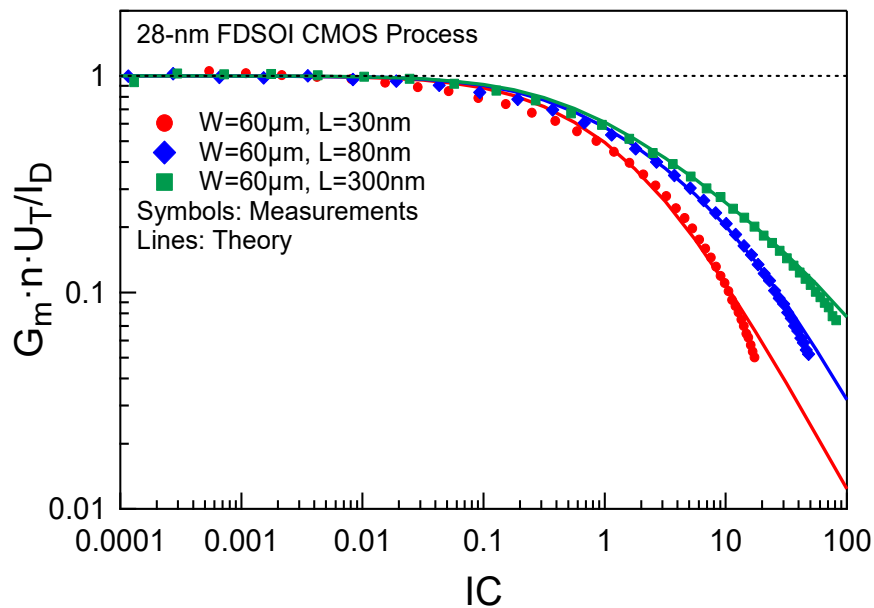
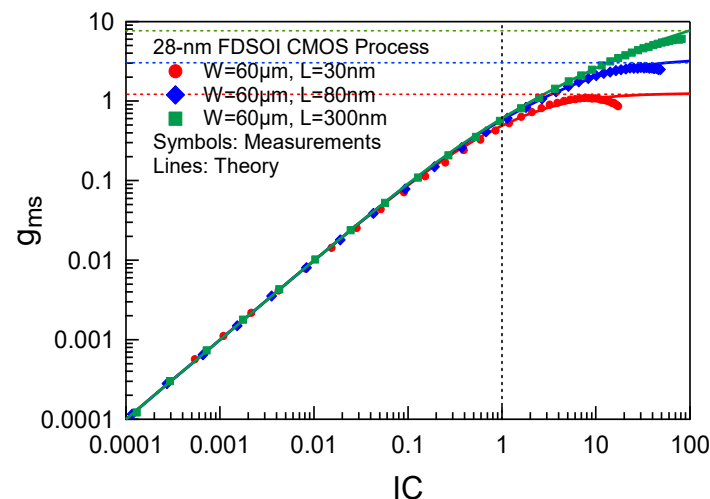
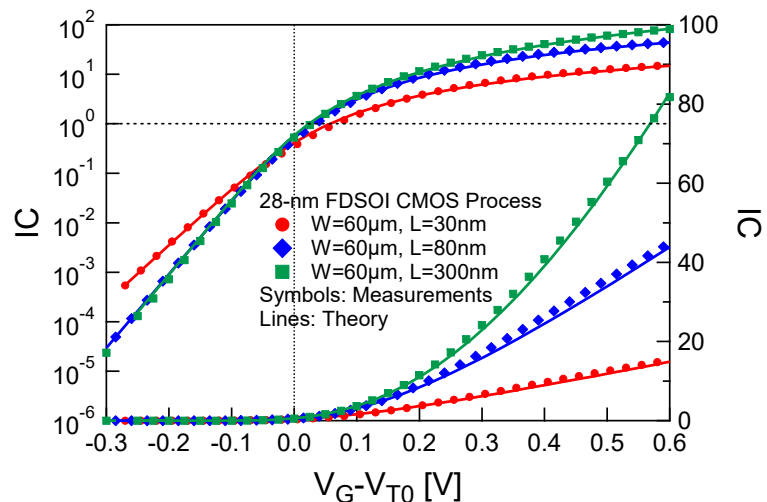
$$n, I_{spec}, V_{T0}, L_{sat}$$

G_m/I_D vs. IC for 28 and 40-nm Bulk CMOS

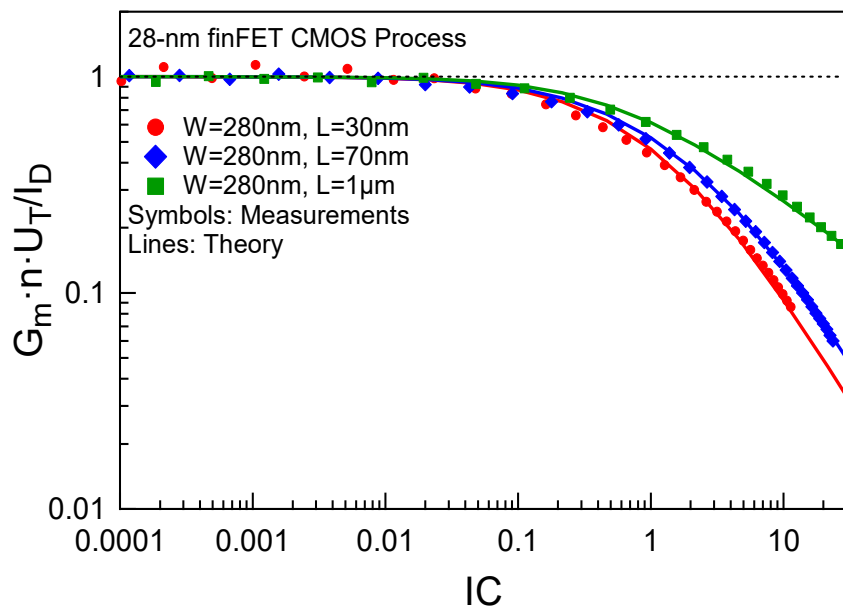
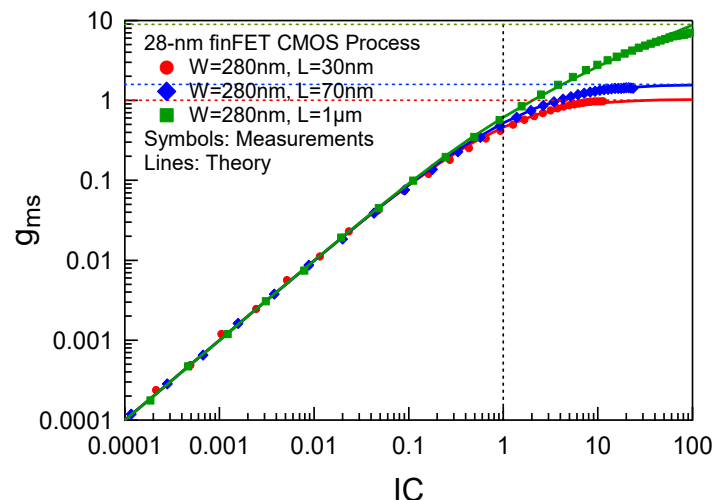
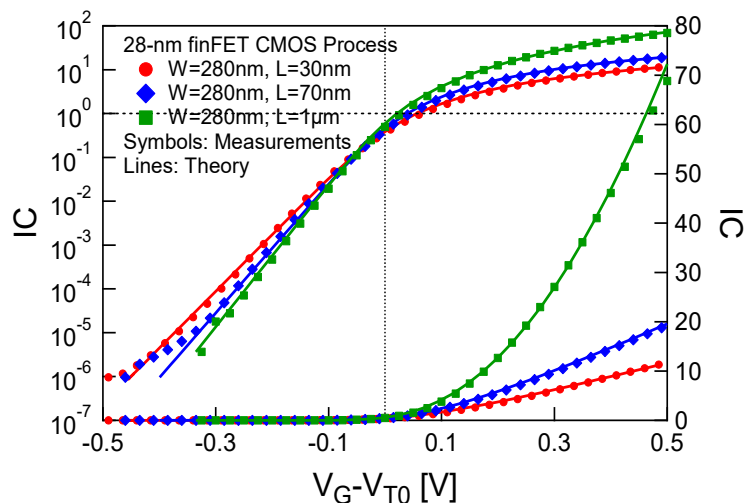


$$\frac{g_{ms}}{i_d} = \frac{G_{ms} U_T}{I_D} = \frac{G_{ms} n U_T}{I_D} = \frac{\sqrt{(\lambda_c IC + 1)^2 + 4IC} - 1}{IC(\lambda_c(\lambda_c IC + 1) + 2)}$$

IC, G_m and G_m/I_D for 28-nm FDSOI Process



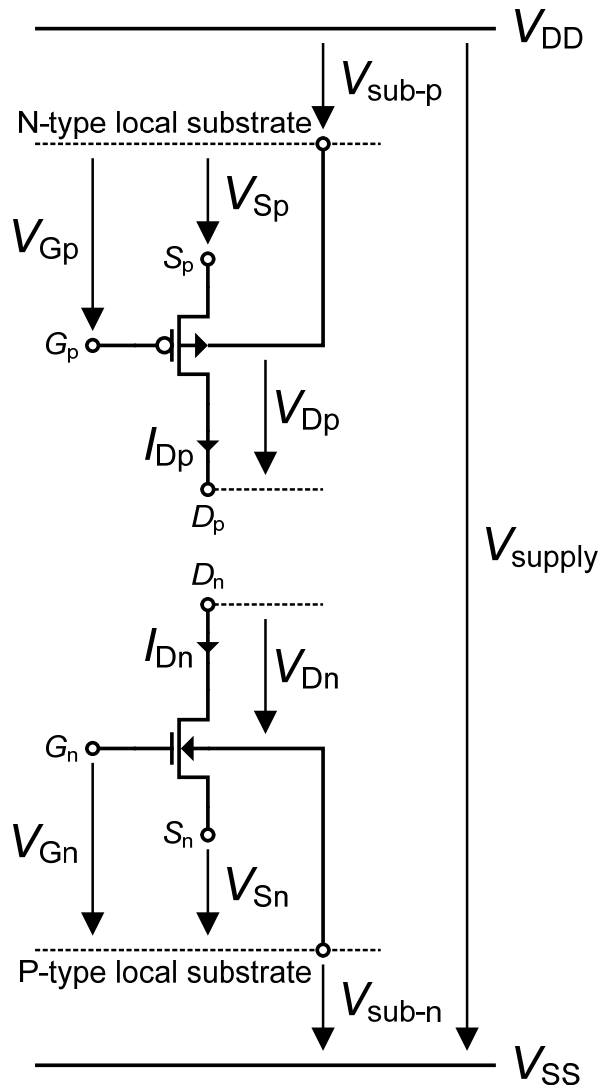
IC, G_m and G_m/I_D for 28-nm FinFET Process



Summary

- The drain current in saturation of the BSIM6-EKV compact model can be simplified in the region of interest for designers to a model requiring only **4 parameters** n , I_{spec} , V_{T0} , L_{sat}
- The transconductance G_m and transconductance efficiency or **current efficiency** G_m/I_D can easily be expressed in terms of IC using very simple expressions accounting for velocity saturation
- The simplified model holds for advanced bulk CMOS processes and has been successfully validated down to 28-nm
- It can also be used for FD-SOI and FinFET processes!

Symbol, Voltages and Currents Definition



- Definitions of currents and voltages result in identical equations for N- and P-channel transistors
- Local substrates are defined as follows:
 - ▶ For n-well processes, the substrate is P-type and hence $V_{sub-n}=0$
 - ▶ For p-well processes, the substrate is P-type and hence $V_{sub-p}=0$
 - ▶ Some processes offer twin-wells. Then V_{sub-n} and V_{sub-p} can be both non-zero.
- When the substrate connection is not shown it means that the substrate is connected to V_{SS} ($V_{sub-n}=0$) for N-channel transistors and to V_{DD} ($V_{sub-p}=0$) for P-channel transistors

Normalization Factors

Quantity	Normalization factor	Unit
Voltage	$U_T \triangleq kT/q$	V
Current	$I_{spec} \triangleq 2n \cdot \beta \cdot U_T^2$	A
Charge density	$Q_{spec} \triangleq 2n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot U_T$	A·s / m ²
Capacitance	$C_{OX} \triangleq W \cdot L \cdot C_{ox}$	F
Position	L	m
Frequency	$\omega_{spec} \triangleq \mu \cdot U_T / L^2$	Hz
Admittance	$G_{spec} \triangleq I_{spec} / U_T = 2n \cdot \beta \cdot U_T$	A / V

Main Process Parameters

- Numerical values corresponding to a typical 0.18 μm CMOS process

Parameter		NMOS			PMOS		Units
Definition	Symbol	1.8V	3.3V	Native	1.8V	3.3V	
Oxide thickness	t_{ox}	4.08E-09	6.8E-09	4.08E-09	4.08E-09	6.77E-09	m
Oxide capacitances per unit area	C_{ox}	8.46E-03	5.08E-03	8.46E-03	8.46E-03	5.10E-03	F/m ²
Threshold voltage	V_{T0}	0.455	0.62	-0.0177	0.4572	0.66	V
Body effect factor	Γ_{b}	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.609	0.609	$\sqrt{\text{V}}$
Approximation of surface potential in SI	Ψ_0	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	V
Transconductance parameter	β_{\square}	4.20E-04	1.85E-04	4.60E-04	9.90E-05	6.18E-05	A/V ²
Slope factor (for $V_{\text{p}}=0$)	n_0	1.27136	1.27136	1.27136	1.306034	1.306034	-
Specific current for $W/L=1$	$I_{\text{spec}\square}$	0.7139	0.314463	0.782577	0.172866	0.107827	μA
Output conductance parameter	λ	10	10	10	10	10	V/ μm
Threshold voltage mismatch parameter	A_{VT}	5	8.97	5	5.49	6.39	mV· μm
Beta factor mismatch parameter	A_{β}	1	0.72	0.18	1.13	0.64	%· μm
Flicker noise frequency exponent	AF	0.8265	1	1	1.3358	1	-
Flicker noise parameter	KF	8.10E-24	3.56E-24	2.66E-24	6.75E-23	2.93E-23	J
Flicker noise parameter	ρ	0.057766	0.042314	0.01897	0.481385	0.346725	V·m ² /(A·s)

Large-signal Model

Pinch-off voltage: $V_P = V_G - V_{T0} - \Gamma_b \cdot \left[\sqrt{V_G - V_{T0} + \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right)^2} - \left(\sqrt{\Psi_0} + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2} \right) \right] \cong \frac{V_G - V_{T0}}{n}$ Slope factor: $n = 1 + \frac{\Gamma_b}{2\sqrt{\Psi_0 + V_P}}$

Transconductance parameter: $\beta = \mu \cdot C_{ox} \cdot \frac{W}{L}$ Specific current: $I_{spec} = 2n \cdot \beta \cdot U_T^2$ Drain current: $I_D = I_F - I_R = I_{spec} \cdot (i_f - i_r)$

Normalized forward and reverse current: $i_{f(r)} = \left(\frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{2U_T} \right)^2 \cong \left(\frac{V_G - V_{T0} - nV_{S(D)}}{2nU_T} \right)^2$ in SI $i_{f(r)} = \exp\left[\frac{V_P - V_{S(D)}}{U_T} \right]$ in WI

Current in weak inversion: $I_D = I_{spec} \cdot e^{\frac{V_P}{U_T}} \cdot \left[e^{-\frac{V_S}{U_T}} - e^{-\frac{V_D}{U_T}} \right] = I_{spec} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G - V_{T0}}{nU_T}} \cdot \left[e^{-\frac{V_S}{U_T}} - e^{-\frac{V_D}{U_T}} \right] = I_{D0} \cdot e^{\frac{V_G}{nU_T}} \cdot \left[e^{-\frac{V_S}{U_T}} - e^{-\frac{V_D}{U_T}} \right]$

Current in strong inversion: $I_{F(R)} = \begin{cases} \frac{n \cdot \beta}{2} \cdot (V_P - V_{S(D)})^2 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} \leq V_P \\ 0 & \text{for } V_{S(D)} > V_P \end{cases}$

Saturation ($V_D > V_P$): $I_D = I_F = \frac{n \cdot \beta}{2} \cdot (V_P - V_S)^2 = \frac{\beta}{2n} \cdot (V_G - V_{T0} - n \cdot V_S)^2$

Linear ($V_D \leq V_P$): $I_D = I_F - I_R = n \cdot \beta \cdot \left(V_P - \frac{V_D + V_S}{2} \right) \cdot (V_D - V_S) = \beta \cdot \left(V_G - V_{T0} - \frac{n}{2} \cdot (V_D + V_S) \right) \cdot (V_D - V_S)$

Continuous expressions valid from weak to strong inversion

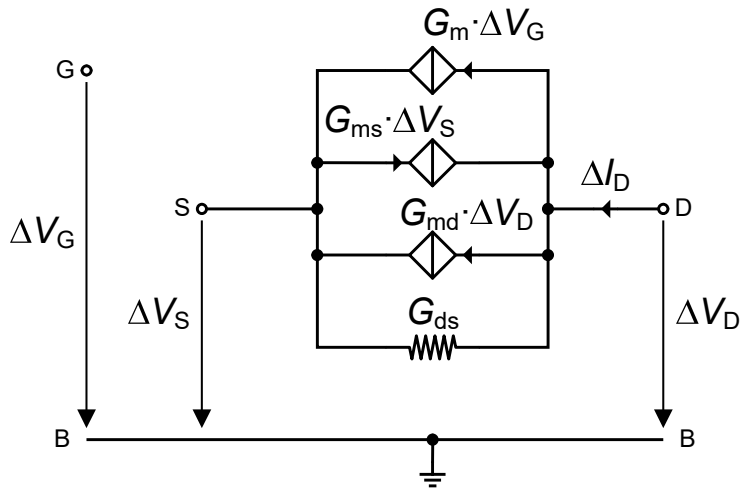
Normalized currents: $i_f = F\left(\frac{V_P - V_S}{U_T}\right)$ $i_r = F\left(\frac{V_P - V_D}{U_T}\right)$

Inverse relations: $\frac{V_P - V_S}{U_T} = F^{-1}(i_f) = 2g(i_f) + \ln[g(i_f)]$ $\frac{V_P - V_D}{U_T} = F^{-1}(i_r) = 2g(i_r) + \ln[g(i_r)]$ $g(i) = \frac{\sqrt{4i+1}-1}{2} = \frac{2i}{\sqrt{4i+1}+1}$

Approximate invertible function: $i_f = F\left(\frac{V_P - V_S}{U_T}\right) = \ln^2\left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{V_P - V_S}{2U_T}\right)\right]$ $i_r = F\left(\frac{V_P - V_D}{U_T}\right) = \ln^2\left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{V_P - V_D}{2U_T}\right)\right]$

Approximate inverse function: $\frac{V_P - V_S}{U_T} = F^{-1}(i_f) = 2 \ln[\exp(\sqrt{i_f}) - 1]$ $\frac{V_P - V_D}{U_T} = F^{-1}(i_r) = 2 \ln[\exp(\sqrt{i_r}) - 1]$

DC Small-signal Model



In saturation G_{md} can be neglected

General relation between transconductances:

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n} \quad \text{in saturation: } G_{md} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad G_m = \frac{G_{ms}}{n}$$

Transconductances in weak inversion:

$$G_{ms} = \frac{I_D}{U_T} \quad G_m = \frac{I_D}{n \cdot U_T}$$

Transconductances in strong inversion:

$$G_{ms} = n \cdot \beta \cdot (V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{2n \cdot \beta \cdot I_D} = \frac{2I_D}{V_P - V_S} \cong \frac{2nI_D}{V_G - V_{T0} - nV_S}$$

$$G_m = \beta \cdot (V_P - V_S) = \sqrt{\frac{2\beta \cdot I_D}{n}} = \frac{2I_D}{n \cdot (V_P - V_S)} \cong \frac{2I_D}{V_G - V_{T0} - nV_S}$$

Output conductance (very approximative!):

$$G_{ds} \cong \frac{I_D}{V_M} \quad \text{where } V_M \cong \lambda \cdot L \quad \text{with } \lambda \text{ in } \frac{V}{\mu\text{m}}$$

Continuous expressions valid from weak to strong inversion

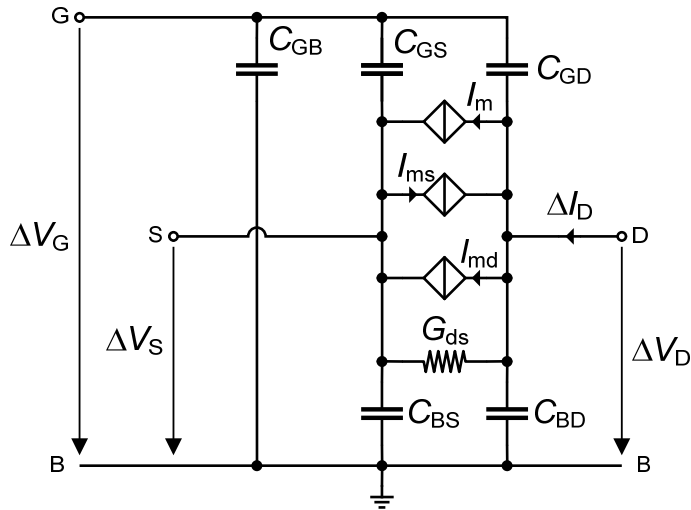
Transconductance-to-current ratio (in saturation $I_D = I_F$):

$$\frac{G_{ms} \cdot U_T}{I_F} = \frac{G_m \cdot nU_T}{I_F} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} = \begin{cases} 1 & WI \\ 1/\sqrt{i_f} & SI \end{cases} \quad \text{or inverse function: } i_f = \frac{I_F}{G_{ms} \cdot U_T} \cdot \left(\frac{I_F}{G_{ms} \cdot U_T} - 1 \right)$$

Transconductances:

$$g_{ms} = \frac{G_{ms}}{G_{spec}} = g(i_f) = \frac{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} - 1}{2} = \frac{2i_f}{\sqrt{4i_f + 1} + 1} \quad g_{md} = \frac{G_{md}}{G_{spec}} = g(i_r) = \frac{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} - 1}{2} = \frac{2i_r}{\sqrt{4i_r + 1} + 1} \quad G_{spec} = \frac{I_{spec}}{U_T} = 2n\beta U_T$$

Quasi-static Small-signal Equivalent Circuit



$$I_m = Y_m \cdot \Delta V_G$$

$$I_{ms} = Y_{ms} \cdot \Delta V_S$$

$$I_{md} = Y_{md} \cdot \Delta V_D \quad (Y_{md} = 0 \text{ in saturation})$$

$$Y_m = G_m \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_m - j\omega \cdot C_m$$

$$Y_{ms} = G_{ms} \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_{ms} - j\omega \cdot C_{ms}$$

$$Y_{md} = G_{md} \cdot (1 - j\omega \cdot \tau_{qs}) = G_{md} - j\omega \cdot C_{md}$$

$$Y_m = \frac{Y_{ms} - Y_{md}}{n}$$

$$G_m = \frac{G_{ms} - G_{md}}{n}$$

$$C_m = \frac{C_{ms} - C_{md}}{n}$$

Total capacitances:

$$C_{GS} = C_{GSi} + C_{GS0}$$

$$C_{GD} = C_{GDi} + C_{GD0}$$

$$C_{GB} = C_{GBi} + C_{GB0}$$

$$C_{BS} = C_{BSi} + C_{BSj}$$

$$C_{BD} = C_{BDi} + C_{BDj}$$

Overlap capacitances:

$$C_{GS0} = W \cdot L_{ov} \cdot C_{ox}$$

$$C_{GD0} = W \cdot L_{ov} \cdot C_{ox}$$

$$C_{GB0} = CGBO \cdot L$$

Junction capacitances:

$$C_{BSj} = A_S \cdot C_{jbw} + (P_S - W) \cdot C_{jsw} + W \cdot C_{jswg}$$

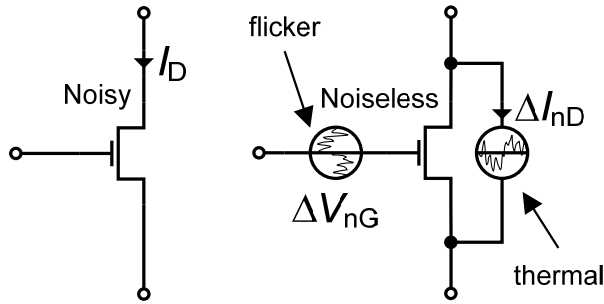
$$C_{BDj} = A_D \cdot C_{jbw} + (P_D - W) \cdot C_{jsw} + W \cdot C_{jswg}$$

$$C_j = \frac{C_{j0}}{\sqrt{1 + V_{S(D)B} / \Phi_B}}$$

Intrinsic capacitances normalized to $C_{OX} = W \cdot L \cdot C_{OX}$

	WI ($IC \ll 1$)	SI	
		$V_D = V_S$	$V_D > V_P$
C_{GSi}	$\ll 1$	1/2	2/3
C_{GDi}	$\ll 1$	1/2	$\ll 1$
C_{GBi}	$1 - 1/n$	0	$(n-1)/(3n)$
C_{BSi}	$(n-1)C_{GSi}$		
C_{BDi}	$(n-1)C_{GDi}$		
C_m	$\ll 1$	0	4/15
C_{ms}	$\ll 1$	n/6	4n/15
C_{md}	$\ll 1$	n/6	$\ll 1$

Noise Model

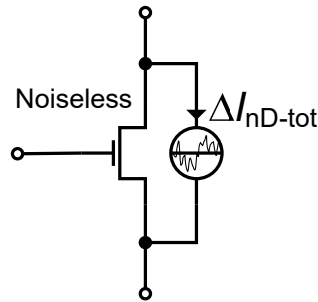


PSD of the thermal noise at the drain: $S_{\Delta I_{nD}^2} = 4kT \cdot G_{nD}$ $G_{nD} = \delta_{nD} \cdot G_{ms} = \gamma_{nD} \cdot G_m$

Noise parameter and noise excess factor: $\delta_{nD} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{WI} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \text{SI} \end{cases}$ $\gamma_{nD} = n \cdot \delta_{nD}$

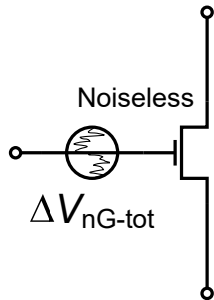
PSD of the flicker noise at the gate: $S_{\Delta V_{nG}^2} = \frac{KF}{C_{ox}^2 \cdot W \cdot L \cdot f} = 4kT \cdot R_{nG}(f)$

$$R_{nG}(f) = \frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f} \quad \rho = \frac{KF}{4kT \cdot C_{ox}^2}$$



PSD of the total noise referred at the drain:

$$S_{\Delta I_{nD-tot}^2} = 4kT \cdot G_{nD-tot} \quad G_{nD-tot} = \gamma_{nD} G_m + G_m^2 \frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f}$$



PSD of the total noise referred at the gate:

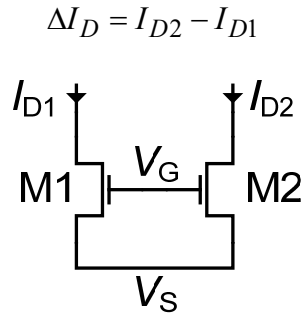
$$S_{\Delta V_{nG-tot}^2} = 4kT \cdot R_{nG-tot} \quad R_{nG-tot} = \frac{\gamma_{nD}}{G_m} + \frac{\rho}{W \cdot L \cdot f}$$

Transistor Mismatch

Drain current relative mismatch (same gate and source voltages)

Standard deviation of relative current difference:

$$\sigma_{\frac{\Delta I_D}{I_D}} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2 + \left(\frac{G_m}{I_D}\right)^2 \sigma_{\Delta V_T}^2} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{4IC+1}+1} \frac{\sigma_{\Delta V_T}}{nU_T}\right)^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2 = \frac{A_{\beta}^2}{W \cdot L} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{\Delta V_T}^2 = \frac{A_{V_T}^2}{W \cdot L}$$



A_{β} in $\% \cdot \mu\text{m}$ (typically 0.2% to 20%) and A_{V_T} in $\text{mV} \cdot \mu\text{m}$ (typically 1 to 10 mV)

Minimum in strong inversion:

$$\sigma_{\frac{\Delta I_D}{I_D}} \cong \sqrt{\sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2 + \left(\frac{2\sigma_{\Delta V_T}}{V_G - V_{T0} - nV_S}\right)^2} \cong \sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}$$

Gate voltage absolute mismatch (same drain current and source voltage)

Standard deviation of gate voltage difference:

$$\sigma_{\Delta V_G} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\Delta V_T}^2 + \left(\frac{I_D}{G_m}\right)^2 \sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\Delta V_T}^2 + \left(\frac{nU_T(\sqrt{4IC+1}+1)}{2}\right)^2 \sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2}$$

Minimum in weak inversion:

$$\sigma_{\Delta V_G} \cong nU_T \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{\Delta V_T}}{nU_T}\right)^2 + \sigma_{\frac{\Delta \beta}{\beta}}^2} \cong \sigma_{\Delta V_T}$$

