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**Modelling of self-heating effect in FDSOI and bulk MOSFETs  
operated in deep cryogenic conditions**

G. Ghibaudo<sup>1</sup>, M. Cassé<sup>2</sup>, F. Serra di Santa Maria<sup>1</sup>, C. Theodorou<sup>1</sup>, F. Balestra<sup>1</sup>,

1) IMEP-LAHC, Université Grenoble Alpes, MINATEC/INPG, 38016, Grenoble (France)

2) Université Grenoble Alpes, MINATEC/CEA, LETI, 38000 Grenoble (France)

Email: gerard.ghibaudo@grenoble-inp.fr

**Abstract**

A detailed analysis of the self-heating effect measured by gate thermometry in FDSOI MOSFETs is conducted in deep cryogenic conditions, showing the linear temperature dependence of the differential thermal conductance over a wide range. Then, an analytical formulation of the self-heating temperature rise as a function of power and ambient temperature in FDSOI and bulk MOSFETs valid down to very low temperatures is proposed for the first time. This self-heating temperature rise model is then used to develop an original compact model for the self-heated drain current in FDSOI MOSFETs operated down to very low temperatures.

**Keywords:** Self-heating effect, MOSFET, modelling, cryogenic temperature.

## 1. Introduction

In FDSOI devices or multi-gate field effect transistors like FinFETs and nanowire FETs, low thermally conductive materials such as the buried oxide (BOX) or the thin Si layer constituting the channel impede the dissipation of the heat generated in the channel. Consequently, the channel temperature can significantly rise when the device is in operation condition. This self-heating effect (SHE) can in turn severely affect the device performance, by reducing the carrier mobility, shifting the threshold voltage [1] or degrading the device reliability [2, 3], with implications in circuits operation [4]. The thermal effects play a more fundamental role in cryogenic electronics as the temperature increase due to SHE can be of the same order or even higher than the ambient temperature in FDSOI [5] and even in bulk MOSFETs [6]. Furthermore, at very low temperature (well below 1K), the cooling power drops down drastically (typically, 1W at 1K, 1mW at 100mK), such that the thermal management becomes more drastic. In this context, the study of self-heating effects at cryogenic temperatures provides valuable information for performance optimization. Moreover, to be accurate at cryogenic temperatures, models should take into account these thermal effects, as the device temperature can deviate significantly from the ambient one.

Therefore, in this work, we first perform a detailed analysis of the self-heating effect measured by gate thermometry in FDSOI MOSFETs in deep cryogenic conditions, showing the linear temperature dependence of the differential thermal conductance over a wide range. Then, we propose for the first time an analytical formulation of the self-heating temperature rise  $\Delta T$  as a function of power and ambient temperature in FDSOI and bulk MOSFETs valid down to very low temperatures. This self-heating  $\Delta T$ -model is then used to develop an original compact model for the self-heated drain current in FDSOI MOSFETs operated down to deep cryogenic temperatures, and which could easily be generalized to any other device compact model efficient in such conditions.

## 2. Self-heating temperature rise modelling

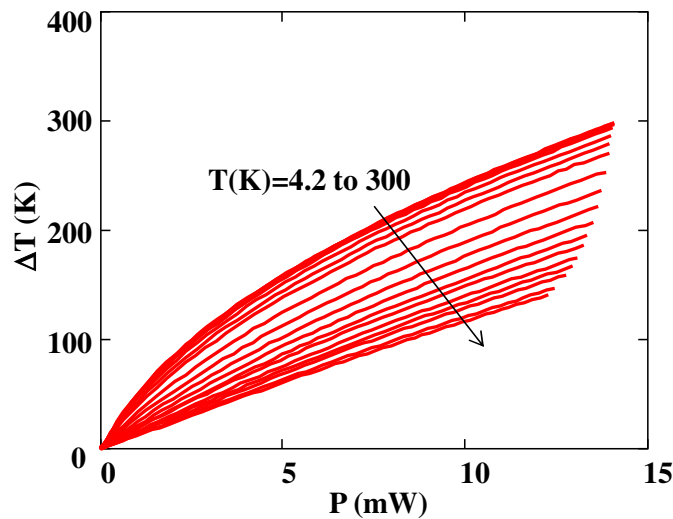
The experimental evaluation of self-heating was performed previously by using the conventional DC technique based on gate resistance thermometry in FDSOI MOSFETs [5]. A 2-terminal gate structure was used to measure the gate resistance  $R_g$  vs ambient temperature. By varying the ambient temperature  $T$  from 4.2 K up to 300 K, the change in the electrical gate resistance was measured as a function of the input power  $P=I_d \times V_d$ . The temperature rise  $\Delta T$  in the device was deduced from the temperature dependence of  $R_g$  measured at zero power i.e. without self-heating effect [5]. Details of the experimental conditions and procedures can be found elsewhere [5].

Typical variations of the self-heating temperature rise  $\Delta T$  with power  $P$  are shown in Fig. 1 for various ambient temperatures. Note the strong sub linearity of  $\Delta T(P)$  characteristics as the ambient temperature is lowered, which is a specific feature of cryogenic operation. As explained in [5], the

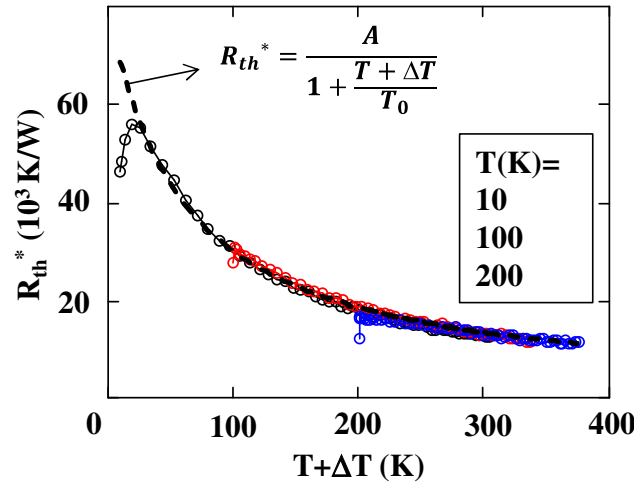
temperature rise characteristics  $\Delta T(P)$  can then be used to evaluate the so-called differential thermal resistance  $R_{th}^*$  from the local slope as  $R_{th}^* = \delta\Delta T / \delta P$ . Typical evolutions of  $R_{th}^*$  with device temperature ( $T + \Delta T$ ) are shown in Fig. 2 as obtained for various ambient temperatures. These variations can be well fitted by a single expression of the form [5],

$$R_{th}^* = \frac{A}{1 + \frac{T + \Delta T}{T_0}}, \quad (1)$$

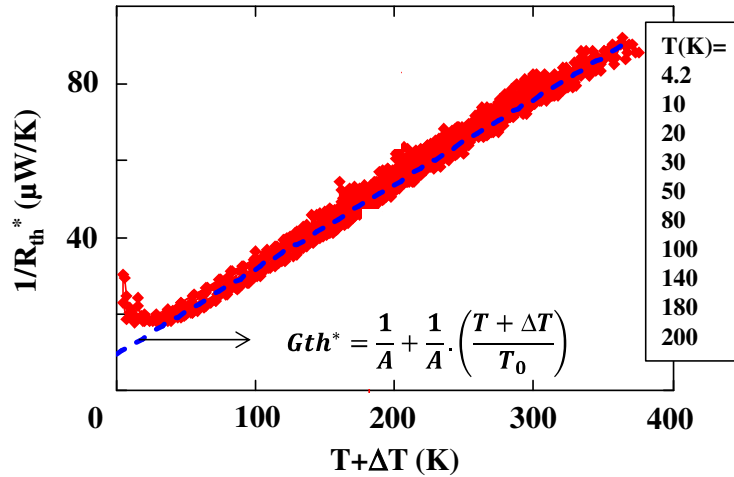
where  $A \approx 8 \times 10^4$  K/W is an amplitude factor and  $T_0 \approx 60$  K a characteristic temperature, in this case. The validity of Eq. (1) can be directly confirmed by plotting the reciprocal differential thermal resistance  $1/R_{th}^*$  i.e. the differential thermal conductance  $G_{th}^* = \delta P / \delta \Delta T$  versus device temperature ( $T + \Delta T$ ) as shown in Fig. 3 for several ambient temperatures varying from  $T = 4.2$  K up to 200 K. Actually, it appears clearly that  $G_{th}^*$  varies linearly with the device temperature ( $T + \Delta T$ ) over a wide range, whatever the ambient temperature used for the measurements, except maybe at temperature below 20 K where the fit becomes less accurate.



**Fig. 1.** Variations of temperature rise  $\Delta T$  with device power  $P$  as measured by gate thermometry in FDSOI MOS devices for various ambient temperatures  $T = 4.2, 6.5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200, 220, 240, 280$  and  $300$  K ( $W = 10 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $L = 50 \text{ nm}$ ,  $t_{si} = 11 \text{ nm}$  and  $t_{box} = 145 \text{ nm}$ ). After [5].



**Fig. 2.** Variation of differential thermal resistance  $R_{th}^*$  with device temperature  $T+\Delta T$  as extracted from  $\Delta T(P)$  data of Fig. 1 for various ambient temperatures  $T=10, 100$  and  $200$  K ( $W=10\mu\text{m}$ ,  $L=50\text{nm}$ ,  $t_{\text{si}}=11\text{nm}$  and  $t_{\text{box}}=145\text{nm}$ ). After [5].



**Fig. 3.** Variation of differential thermal conductance  $G_{th}^*(=1/R_{th}^*)$  with device temperature  $T+\Delta T$  for various ambient temperatures ( $W=10\mu\text{m}$ ,  $L=50\text{nm}$ ,  $t_{\text{si}}=11\text{nm}$  and  $t_{\text{box}}=145\text{nm}$ ). Data after [5]. The blue dashed line shows the linear trend of the differential thermal conductance  $G_{th}^*$  versus  $(T+\Delta T)$  with  $A=8\times 10^4\text{K/W}$  and  $T_0=60\text{K}$ .

As proposed in [5], an implicit relation between power  $P$  and temperature rise  $\Delta T$  can be obtained by integration of the reciprocal differential thermal resistance as,

$$P = \int_0^{\Delta T} \frac{dx}{R_{th}^*(T+x)} = \int_0^{\Delta T} G_{th}^*(T+x) dx. \quad (2)$$

This formulation has been used to properly fit the  $\Delta T(P)$  characteristics of Fig. 1 as in [5, Fig. 6b]. However, this relation is not useful for compact modelling purpose as providing  $P$  as a function of  $\Delta T$

and  $T$ . Therefore, here we go one step further and assume that  $G_{th}^*$  varies linearly with  $(T+\Delta T)$ , such that Eq. (2) can be integrated analytically, yielding the relation,

$$P = \frac{A.T_0}{2} \cdot \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{A} + \frac{T+\Delta T}{A.T_0} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{1}{A} + \frac{T}{A.T_0} \right)^2 \right\}. \quad (3)$$

Then, after solving Eq. (3) for the variable  $\Delta T$ , we obtain an explicit dependence of the self-heating temperature rise  $\Delta T$  as a function of power  $P$  and ambient temperature  $T$  given by,

$$\Delta T(P, T) = \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{2A.P}{T_0} + \left( \frac{T}{T_0} + 1 \right)^2} - 1 \right\} \cdot T_0 - T. \quad (4)$$

This model of the self-heating temperature rise can be used to fit the  $\Delta T(P, T)$  data of Fig. 1 as displayed in Fig. 4. As a result, a good agreement between experiment and modelling is found over a wide range of ambient temperature and dissipated power, thus validating the self-heating temperature rise model of Eq. (4) for FDSOI MOSFETs operated down to deep cryogenic temperatures. Note that, in the low power regime, the self-heating temperature rise takes the usual form  $\Delta T(P, T) \approx A.P / (1 + T/T_0) \approx R_{th}^*(T).P$ , previously used in device modelling.

This approach can also be applied to the  $\Delta T(P, T)$  data obtained by gate thermometry on bulk 40nm CMOS devices recently reported by Hart et al [6] and shown in Fig 5 (red solid lines). They found that the differential thermal resistance deduced from  $\Delta T(P, T)$  data can also be fitted by an equation of the form,

$$R_{th}^* = \frac{A}{1 + \left( \frac{T+\Delta T}{T_0} \right)^n}, \quad (5)$$

where  $A \approx 3.7 \times 10^6$  W/K,  $T_0 = 4.2$ K and  $n = 2.8$ . Hart et al [6] also used the model of Eq. (2) with Eq. (5) to fit their  $\Delta T(P, T)$  characteristics from 300K down to 4.2K (see Fig. 15 in [6]).

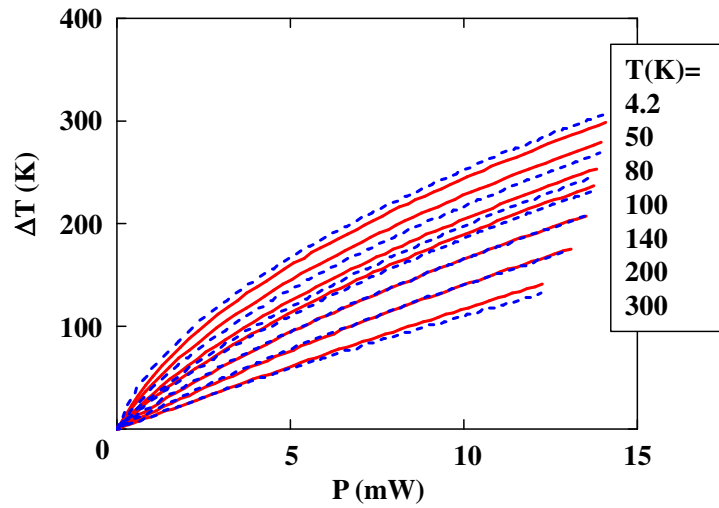
Following the above-mentioned approach, we can integrate Eq. (2) using Eq. (5) and obtain for the power the dependence on  $\Delta T$  as,

$$P = \Delta T + \frac{T_0 \cdot \left( \frac{T+\Delta T}{T_0} \right)^{n+1}}{A \cdot (n+1)} - \frac{T_0 \cdot \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^{n+1}}{A \cdot (n+1)}. \quad (6)$$

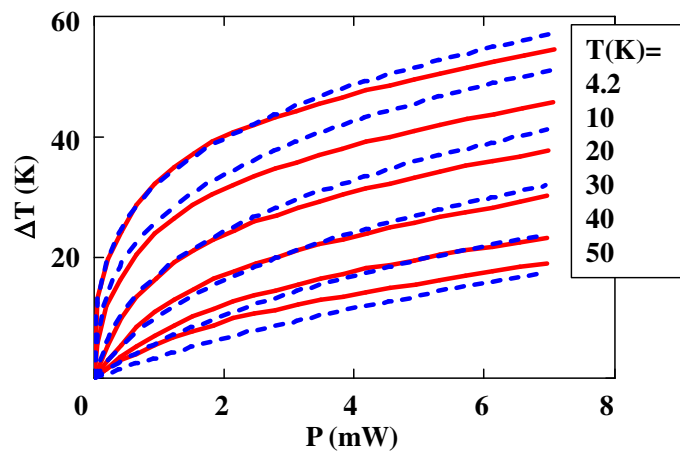
Contrary to Eq. (3), Eq (6) cannot be solved analytically for the variable  $\Delta T$ . Therefore, we make the approximation that the “1” in the denominator of Eq. (5) can be neglected, which is equivalent to suppress the first term “ $\Delta T$ ” in the right-hand side of Eq. (6). This assumption is true for  $T+\Delta T \gg T_0$ , i.e. here for  $T+\Delta T \gg 4.2$ K. By this way, the variable  $\Delta T$  can be solved and obtained analytically as a function of power  $P$  and ambient temperature  $T$  as,

$$\Delta T(P, T) = T_0 \cdot \left\{ \frac{(n+1).A}{T_0} \cdot P + \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^{n+1} \right\}^{\frac{1}{n+1}} - T. \quad (7)$$

Fig. 5 shows that the self-heating temperature rise model of Eq. (7) reproduces reasonably well the  $\Delta T(P, T)$  data of [6] for 40nm bulk MOSFETs operated at deep cryogenic temperatures.



**Fig. 4.** Experimental (red solid lines) and modeled (blue dashed lines) variations of temperature rise  $\Delta T$  with device power  $P$  in 28nm FDSOI nMOS devices for various ambient temperatures  $T$  (Fitting parameters:  $A=8 \times 10^4 \text{K/W}$  and  $T_0=60\text{K}$ ). Data after [5].



**Fig. 5.** Experimental (red solid lines) and modeled (blue dashed lines) variations of temperature rise  $\Delta T$  with device power  $P$  in 40nm bulk nMOS devices for various ambient temperatures  $T$  (Fitting parameters:  $A=3 \times 10^6 \text{K/W}$ ,  $T_0=4.7\text{K}$  and  $n=2.8$ ). Data after [6, Fig. 7].

### 3. Self-heating MOSFET characteristic modelling

In section 2, an analytical model of SHE temperature rise  $\Delta T(P, T)$  has been developed and has to be implemented in a drain current MOS device model to build up a self-heated drain current model.

Therefore, for the modelling of self-heating effect on the MOS device operation, we employ the Lambert-W (LW) function FDSOI MOSFET model first developed at room temperature [7] and recently validated from 300K down to  $T=4.2\text{K}$  for 28nm FDSOI MOSFETs in linear region [8]. In this model, the output conductance  $g_d$  is first calculated as a function of drain voltage  $V_d$  as [7,8]:

$$g_d(V_g, V_d, T) = \frac{W}{L} \cdot \mu_{eff}(Q_i) \cdot Q_i(V_g, V_d, T), \quad (8)$$

where the inversion charge  $Q_i$  is described by the LW function as,

$$Q_i(V_g, V_d, T) = \frac{C_{ox}nkT}{q} \cdot LW\left(e^{\frac{V_g - V_t - V_d}{nkT/q}}\right), \quad (9a)$$

$$Q_i(V_g, V_d, T) \approx \frac{C_{ox}nkT}{q} \cdot \text{Ln}\left(1 + e^{\frac{V_g - V_t - V_d}{nkT/q}}\right) \cdot \left[1 - \frac{\text{Ln}\left[1 + \text{Ln}\left(1 + e^{\frac{V_g - V_t - V_d}{nkT/q}}\right)\right]}{1 + \text{Ln}\left(1 + e^{\frac{V_g - V_t - V_d}{nkT/q}}\right)}\right] \quad (9b)$$

and the effective mobility  $\mu_{eff}(Q_i)$  takes the classical form,

$$\mu_{eff}(Q_i) = \frac{\mu_0}{1 + \theta_1(Q_i/C_{ox}) + \theta_2(Q_i/C_{ox})^2} \quad (10)$$

where  $kT/q$  is the thermal voltage,  $C_{ox}$  the gate oxide capacitance,  $n$  the subthreshold slope ideality factor,  $V_t$  the threshold voltage,  $\mu_0$  the low field mobility,  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are first order and second order mobility attenuation coefficients.

Then, the drain current in common source configuration is evaluated within the gradual channel approximation by integration of the output conductance versus quasi-Fermi level varying from zero to  $V_d$  as:

$$I_d(V_g, V_d, T) = \int_0^{V_d} g_d(V_g, u, T) du. \quad (11)$$

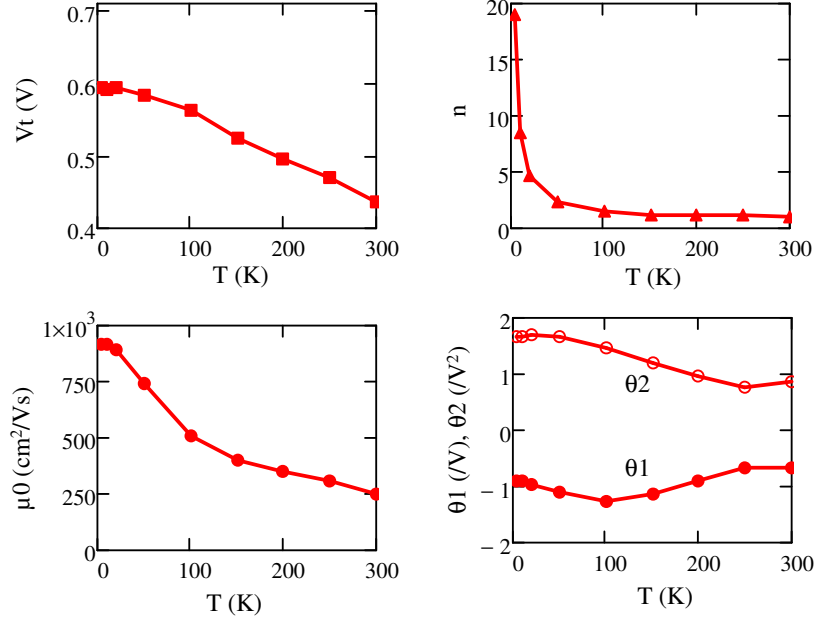
Noting that, for the LW-function model of Eq. (9), we have  $dQ_i/dV_d = q \cdot n \cdot C_{ox} \cdot Q_i / kT / (C_{ox} + q \cdot Q_i / kT)$ , yields, after changing the variable of integration  $V_d$  by  $Q_i$  in Eq. (11), the analytical expression for the drain current:

$$I_d(V_g, V_d, T) = \frac{W}{L} \cdot \mu_0 \cdot \frac{kT}{q} \cdot n \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{C_{ox}}{\theta_2 n kT/q} \cdot \ln\left(\frac{1 + \frac{\theta_1}{C_{ox}} \cdot Q_{iS} + \frac{\theta_2}{C_{ox}^2} \cdot Q_{iS}^2}{1 + \frac{\theta_1}{C_{ox}} \cdot Q_{iD} + \frac{\theta_2}{C_{ox}^2} \cdot Q_{iD}^2}\right) + \left(\frac{\theta_1}{\theta_2 n kT/q} - 2\right) \times \dots \right. \\ \left. \dots \times \frac{C_{ox}^2}{\sqrt{\theta_1^2 - 4\theta_2}} \cdot \left( \text{atanh}\left(\frac{\theta_1 + 2 \cdot \frac{\theta_2}{C_{ox}} \cdot Q_{iS}}{\sqrt{\theta_1^2 - 4\theta_2}}\right) - \text{atanh}\left(\frac{\theta_1 + 2 \cdot \frac{\theta_2}{C_{ox}} \cdot Q_{iD}}{\sqrt{\theta_1^2 - 4\theta_2}}\right) \right) \right] \quad (12)$$

where  $Q_{iS}$  (resp.  $Q_{iD}$ ) refers to the source (resp. drain) inversion charge.

Since in [8], all the MOSFET parameters have been extracted as a function temperature from 4.2K up to 300K for 28nm FDSOI MOS devices (as recalled in Fig. 6), the drain current model of Eq. (12) provides the drain current for any ambient temperature  $T$  using the interpolated values of  $V_t$ ,  $n$ ,  $\mu_0$ ,  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  as a function of temperature  $T$ .





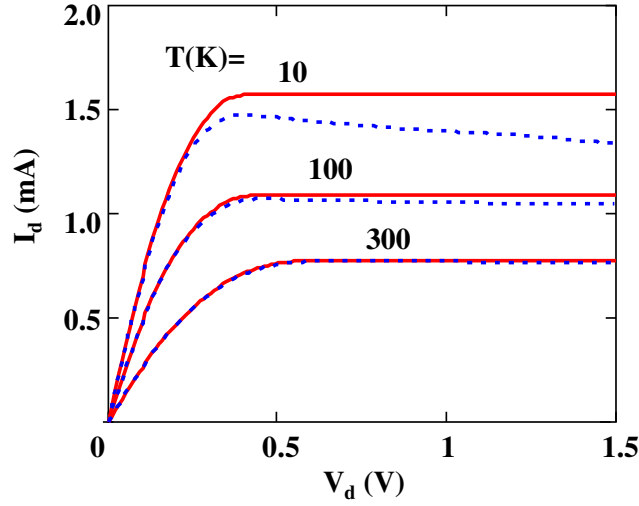
**Fig. 6.** Temperature dependence of the MOSFET parameters extracted for 28nm FDSOI devices used for drain current modelling (after [8]).

Therefore, this drain current model can be used to evaluate the impact of self-heating effect in such FDSOI devices thanks to the temperature rise model of Eq.(4). To this end, one should solve self consistently the equation relating the self-heated drain current  $I_{dSH}$ , with the drain current given by Eq. (12) in which the temperature is accounting for the power  $I_{dSH} \times V_d$  through Eq. (4) such as,

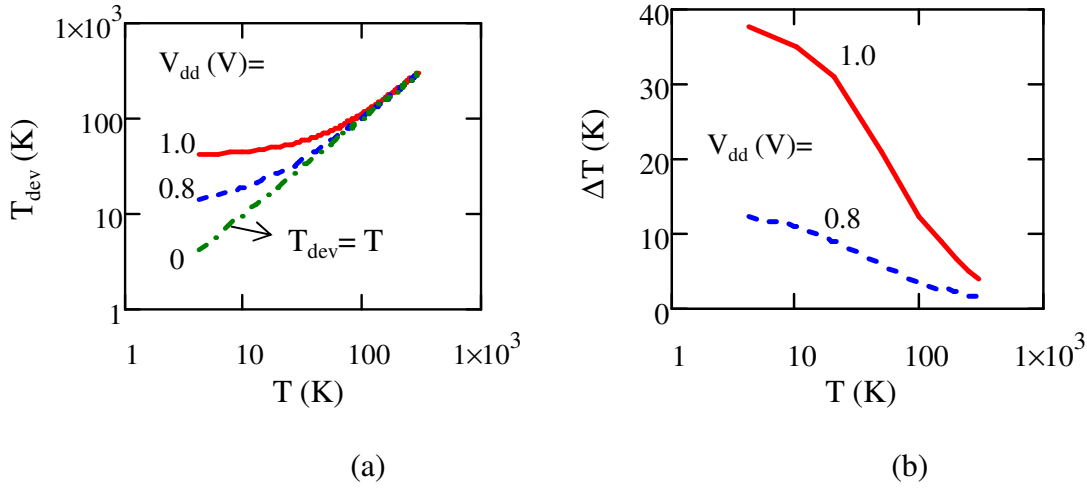
$$I_{dSH} = I_d[V_g, V_d, T + \Delta T(I_{dSH} \times V_d, T)], \quad (13)$$

where the power P in  $\Delta T(P, T)$  has been replaced by  $I_{dSH} \times V_d$ .

Typical results numerically obtained using Eqs (4), (12) and (13) and illustrating the impact of self-heating on the  $I_d(V_d)$  output characteristics are shown in Fig. 7 for various ambient temperatures. It is worth mentioning that the parameters A and  $T_0$  of the differential thermal resistance used in Eq. (4) are those of the 28nm FDSOI technology with 25nm BOX thickness [5]. It should be noted that the larger impact of self-heating effect on the  $I_d(V_d)$  curves with the onset of negative conductance, at lower ambient temperature, is mainly due to the increasing thermal resistance at very low temperature. Indeed, as can be seen in Fig. 8, the device temperature  $T_{dev} (= \Delta T + T)$  and temperature rise  $\Delta T$  are significantly enhanced as the ambient temperature is reduced. Note also that this increase strongly depends on the supply voltage used for the simulation.



**Fig. 7.**  $I_d(V_d)$  output characteristics as obtained from LW-function model without (solid lines) and with (dashed lines) self-heating effect for various ambient temperatures ( $T=10, 100$  and  $300\text{K}$ ,  $V_g=1\text{V}$ ,  $W=10\mu\text{m}$ ,  $L=1\mu\text{m}$ ,  $A=3.2\times 10^4\text{K/W}$ ,  $T_0=60\text{K}$ , parameters of  $28\text{nm}$  FDSOI MOSFETs with  $25\text{nm}$  BOX thickness from [8]).

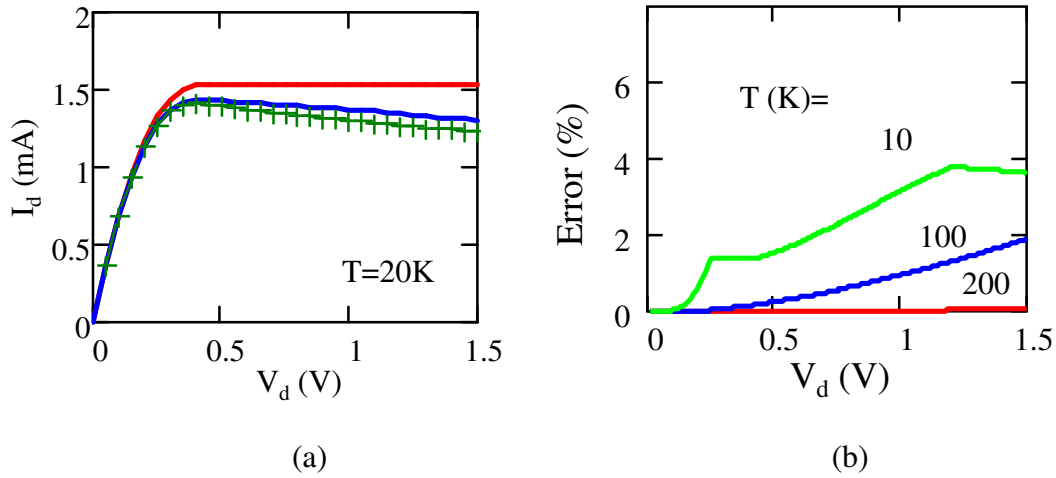


**Fig. 8.** Variations of device temperature  $T_{\text{dev}}$  (a) and self-heating temperature rise  $\Delta T$  (b) with ambient temperature  $T$  for various supply voltage  $V_{\text{dd}}$ . ( $W=10\mu\text{m}$ ,  $L=1\mu\text{m}$ ,  $A=3.2\times 10^4\text{W/K}$ ,  $T_0=60\text{K}$ , parameters of  $28\text{nm}$  FDSOI MOSFETs from [8]).

Though very simple, the self-heating drain current model of Eq. (13) is not analytical and cannot be used as a compact model. Therefore, following the first order approach of [9, Eq. (9)], the self-heated drain current  $I_{\text{dSH}}$  can be approximated as,

$$I_{\text{dSH}}(V_g, V_d, T) = \frac{I_d(V_g, V_d, T)}{1 - \frac{\partial \ln[I_d(V_g, V_d, T)]}{\partial T} \cdot \Delta T [I_d(V_g, V_d, T) \times V_d, T]} \quad (14)$$

Fig. 9(a) shows that this first order model does provide a good approximation for the self-heated drain current with an error found always smaller than  $\approx 5\%$  for ambient temperatures ranging from 4.2K to 300K, as illustrated in Fig. 9(b).



**Fig. 9.** a)  $I_d(V_d)$  output characteristics as obtained from numerical (blue solid line) and first order analytical (symbols) model with and without (red solid line) self-heating effect. b) Variations of percentage error vs  $V_d$  between numerical and first order analytical self-heating  $I_d(V_d)$  models for various temperatures ( $V_g=1V$ ,  $W=10\mu m$ ,  $L=1\mu m$ ,  $A=3.2 \times 10^4 W/K$ ,  $T_0=60K$ , parameters of 28nm FDSOI MOSFETs from [8]).

#### 4. Conclusion

We have performed a detailed analysis of the self-heating effect measured by gate thermometry in FDSOI MOSFETs operated at deep cryogenic conditions. We showed that the differential thermal conductance varies linearly with temperature over a wide range. Then we have provided for the first time an analytical formulation of the self-heating temperature rise  $\Delta T$  as a function of power and ambient temperature in FDSOI and bulk MOSFETs valid down to very low temperatures. This self-heating temperature rise model has then been used to develop an original compact model for the self-heated drain current in FDSOI MOSFETs operated down to deep cryogenic temperatures. Finally, it is worth mentioning that this methodology could easily be extended to other kinds of device and technology.

#### Acknowledgments:

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