

Influence of Surface Layers on the RF-Performance of AlInAs-GaInAs HFET's

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The influence of thickness and doping level of the GaInAs cap layer in AlInAs-GaInAs-InP HFET structures on the dc- and RF-performance is systematically investigated. We compare three different approaches, the undoped cap layer, the highly doped thick cap layer, and as a new approach, the thin doped and therefore surface depleted cap layer. HFET devices with 0.3 μm gates have been processed. While all devices demonstrate $f_{\text{sub T/}}$ -values around 80GHz distinct differences are observed for the $f_{\text{sub max}}/f_{\text{sub T/}}$ ratios between 1 (highly doped cap) over 1.3 (undoped cap) to 2.7 (surface depleted cap). The best $f_{\text{sub max/}}$ of 240 GHz is achieved for the new cap layer approach. A systematic investigation of the influence of the $g_{\text{sub m}}/g_{\text{d}}$ and $C_{\text{sub gs}}/C_{\text{sub ds/}}$ ratios demonstrates the strong influence of a proper layout of the cap layer at the drain side of the gate region.

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