

# Lombardi Surface Mobility

This example demonstrates how to use the Lombardi surface scattering model for the electron mobility in a simple MOSFET. The additional nonlinearity introduced by the field dependence of the mobility is readily overcome by the autogenerated solver sequence upon detection of such mobility models by the Semiconductor physics interface. The current density profile and total current flowing into the terminal is compared with the constant mobility case.

# Introduction

Surface acoustic phonons and surface roughness have an important effect on the carrier mobility, especially in the thin inversion layer under the gate in MOSFETs. The Lombardi surface mobility model adds surface scattering resulting from these effects to an existing mobility model using Matthiessen's rule. The mobility model is based on the equations presented in Ref. 1.

The electron  $(\mu_{n,lo})$  and hole  $(\mu_{p,lo})$  mobilities are determined by the following equations:

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{\mu_{n,lo}} &= \frac{1}{\mu_{in,n}} + \frac{1}{\mu_{ac,n}} + \frac{1}{\mu_{sr,n}} & \frac{1}{\mu_{p,lo}} &= \frac{1}{\mu_{in,p}} + \frac{1}{\mu_{ac,p}} + \frac{1}{\mu_{sr,p}} \\ \mu_{ac,n} &= \frac{\mu_{1,n}}{\left(\frac{E_{\perp,n}}{E_{ref}}\right)} + \frac{\mu_{2,n} \left(\frac{N}{N_{ref}}\right)^{\beta_n}}{\left(\frac{E_{\perp,n}}{E_{ref}}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{T}{T_{ref}}\right)} & \mu_{ac,p} &= \frac{\mu_{1,p}}{\left(\frac{E_{\perp,p}}{E_{ref}}\right)} + \frac{\mu_{2,p} \left(\frac{N}{N_{ref}}\right)^{\beta_p}}{\left(\frac{E_{\perp,p}}{E_{ref}}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{T}{T_{ref}}\right)} \\ \mu_{sr,n} &= \frac{\delta_n}{E_{\perp,n}^2} & \mu_{sr,p} &= \frac{\delta_p}{E_{\perp,p}^2} \\ N &= N_a^- + N_d^+ \end{split}$$

where *T* is the lattice temperature,  $\mu_{in,n}$  and  $\mu_{in,p}$  are the electron and hole input mobilities,  $N_a^-$  is the ionized acceptor concentration,  $N_d^+$  is the ionized donor concentration,  $E_{\perp,n}$  is the component of the electric field perpendicular to the electron current and  $E_{\perp,p}$  is the component of the electric field perpendicular to the hole current. All other parameters in the model are material properties (note that  $\delta_n$  and  $\delta_p$  have units of V/s). The material properties for silicon are also obtained from Ref. 1.

#### 2 | LOMBARDI SURFACE MOBILITY

# Model Definition

The model represents a 2D MOSFET where the n-doped drain and source contacts are located at the top right and top left of the geometry, respectively; see Figure 1. The gate is positioned above the p-doped silicon section which is located at the center of the device.

The model sweeps the drain voltage form 0 V to 1 V with an applied gate voltage of 1 V. We expect a significant perpendicular (to the currents) electric field underneath the gate contact. In order to ensure convergence of the nonlinear model, the Semiconductor physics interface creates a Segregated solver to first solve the main dependent variables with the electron and hole perpendicular components of the field  $(E_{\perp,n} \text{ and } E_{\perp,p})$  fixed, and then update the electric field variables separately.



Figure 1: Schematic of the modeled device.

# Results and Discussion

Figure 2 shows the effect of the Lombardi surface mobility model on the solution. The comparison of the constant mobility (the perpendicular fields are multiplied by 0) and the Lombardi surface mobility ( $E_{\perp,n}$  and  $E_{\perp,p}$  multiplied by 1) models shows a more pronounced saturation effect for the Lombardi surface mobility model than for the constant mobility model (without field dependent parameters).



Figure 2: Plot of terminal current for the constant mobility and surface mobility cases. The current is reduced when the surface mobility model is active.

Figure 3 shows that the electron current density varies substantially in the inversion layer depending on the used mobility model. The Lombardi surface mobility model (top) shows a lower current density in comparison to the one observed with the constant mobility model (bottom).

Figure 4 shows that the electron mobility also varies along the device. As a consequence of the surface scattering effect, the electron mobility is smaller in the vicinity of the gate contact.



Figure 3: Plot of the electron current density on the same scale with the Lombardi surface mobility model active (top) and without (bottom).



Figure 4: Plot of the electron mobility for a drain-source voltage of 1 volt with the Lombardi surface mobility model active.

# Reference

1. C.C. Lombardi, S. Manzini, A. Saporito, and M. Vanzi, "A physically based mobility model for numerical simulation of nonplanar devices," *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design*, vol. 7, no. 11, pp. 1164–117, 1988.

**Application Library path:** Semiconductor\_Module/Transistors/ lombardi\_surface\_mobility

# Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

#### NEW

In the New window, click 🙆 Model Wizard.

# MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **2D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Semiconductor>Semiconductor (semi).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔿 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 6 Click 🗹 Done.

Enter model parameters.

# GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
Vds	0[V]	0 V	Drain-source voltage

Name	Expression	Value	Description
Vgs	1[V]	IV	Gate-source voltage
ср	0	0	Continuation parameter

Create model geometry representing a simplified MOSFET.

# GEOMETRY I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Geometry I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Geometry, locate the Units section.
- **3** From the **Length unit** list, choose **µm**.

Rectangle 1 (r1)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- **3** In the **Height** text field, type **0.5**.
- 4 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type -0.5.
- **5** In the **y** text field, type -0.5.
- 6 Click to expand the Layers section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer name	Thickness (µm)
Layer 1	0.01

- 7 Clear the Layers on bottom check box.
- 8 Select the Layers on top check box.
- 9 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.

Line Segment 1 (Is1)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🚧 More Primitives and choose Line Segment.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Segment, locate the Starting Point section.
- 3 From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- 4 Locate the Endpoint section. From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- **5** Locate the **Starting Point** section. In the **x** text field, type -0.12.
- 6 Locate the **Endpoint** section. In the **x** text field, type 0.12.

Line Segment 2 (Is2)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🚧 More Primitives and choose Line Segment.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Segment, locate the Starting Point section.

- 3 From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- 4 Locate the Endpoint section. From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- **5** Locate the **Starting Point** section. In the **x** text field, type -0.18.
- 6 Locate the **Endpoint** section. In the **x** text field, type -0.5.

Line Segment 3 (Is3)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🚧 More Primitives and choose Line Segment.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Segment, locate the Starting Point section.
- **3** From the **Specify** list, choose **Coordinates**.
- 4 Locate the Endpoint section. From the Specify list, choose Coordinates.
- 5 Locate the Starting Point section. In the x text field, type 0.18.
- 6 Locate the **Endpoint** section. In the **x** text field, type 0.5.
- 7 Click 📗 Build All Objects.

Mesh Control Edges 1 (mcel)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🏠 Virtual Operations and choose Mesh Control Edges.
- 2 On the object fin, select Boundary 4 only.

It might be easier to select the correct boundary by using the **Selection List** window. To open this window, in the **Home** toolbar click **Windows** and choose **Selection List**. (If you are running the cross-platform desktop, you find **Windows** in the main menu.)



Add the built-in silicon material properties.

# ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Semiconductors>Si Silicon.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

Enter physics settings.

# SEMICONDUCTOR (SEMI)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Semiconductor (semi).
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Semiconductor**, click to expand the **Continuation Settings** section.
- **3** In the  $C_p$  text field, type cp.

## Metal Contact 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Metal Contact.
- 2 Select Boundaries 2 and 3 only.

#### Metal Contact 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Metal Contact.
- 2 Select Boundary 7 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Metal Contact, locate the Terminal section.
- **4** In the  $V_0$  text field, type Vds.

## Thin Insulator Gate 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Thin Insulator Gate.
- **2** Select Boundary 5 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Thin Insulator Gate, locate the Terminal section.
- **4** In the  $V_0$  text field, type Vgs.
- **5** Locate the **Gate Contact** section. In the  $\varepsilon_{ins}$  text field, type **4.2**.
- 6 In the  $d_{ins}$  text field, type 5[nm].
- 7 In the  $\Phi$  text field, type 4.5[V].

Analytic Doping Model I

I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Analytic Doping Model.

- **2** Select Domain 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Analytic Doping Model, locate the Impurity section.
- 4 In the  $N_{A0}$  text field, type 5e17[1/cm^3].

Analytic Doping Model 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Analytic Doping Model.
- **2** Select Domain 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Analytic Doping Model, locate the Distribution section.
- 4 From the list, choose **Box**.
- **5** Locate the **Uniform Region** section. Specify the  $r_0$  vector as

0.2[um]	Х
0[um]	Y

- 6 Locate the Impurity section. From the Impurity type list, choose Donor doping (n-type).
- 7 Locate the **Uniform Region** section. In the *W* text field, type 0.3[um].
- 8 In the D text field, type 0.2[um].
- 9 Locate the Impurity section. In the  $N_{D0}$  text field, type 1e19[1/cm^3].

**IO** Locate the **Profile** section. In the  $d_i$  text field, type 0.1[um].

II From the  $N_b$  list, choose Acceptor concentration (semi/adml).

Analytic Doping Model 3

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Analytic Doping Model.
- **2** Select Domain 1 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Analytic Doping Model, locate the Distribution section.
- 4 From the list, choose **Box**.
- **5** Locate the **Uniform Region** section. Specify the  $r_0$  vector as

-0.5[um] X 0[um] Y

- 6 In the *W* text field, type 0.3[um].
- 7 In the D text field, type 0.2[um].

8 Locate the Impurity section. From the Impurity type list, choose Donor doping (n-type).

**9** In the  $N_{D0}$  text field, type 1e19[1/cm^3].

**IO** Locate the **Profile** section. In the  $d_i$  text field, type **0.1**[um].

II From the  $N_b$  list, choose Acceptor concentration (semi/adml).

Trap-Assisted Recombination I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Trap-Assisted Recombination.
- **2** Select Domain 1 only.

Semiconductor Material Model I

In the Model Builder window, click Semiconductor Material Model I.

Lombardi Surface Mobility Model (S) I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Attributes and choose Lombardi Surface Mobility Model (S).
- 2 In the Settings window for Lombardi Surface Mobility Model (S), click to expand the Continuation Settings section.
- **3** From the Continuation type list, choose Use interface continuation parameter.

Do not forget to select the mobility model in the Semiconductor Material Model node, otherwise the mobility model subnode has no effect.

#### Semiconductor Material Model I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Semiconductor Material Model I.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Semiconductor Material Model**, locate the **Mobility Model** section.
- 3 From the  $\mu_n$  list, choose Electron mobility, Lombardi (semi/smm1/mmls1).

Set up a user-defined mesh.

#### MESH I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Mesh I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Sequence Type section.
- **3** From the list, choose **User-controlled mesh**.

#### Size

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 3 Click the **Custom** button.

- 4 Locate the **Element Size Parameters** section. In the **Maximum element size** text field, type 0.04.
- 5 In the Maximum element growth rate text field, type 1.04.

Size 1

In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I right-click Size I and choose Delete.

Size 2

In the Model Builder window, right-click Size 2 and choose Delete.

Free Triangular 1

In the Model Builder window, right-click Free Triangular I and choose Delete.

Edge 1

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Edge.
- 2 Select Boundaries 3–7 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Edge, click to expand the Control Entities section.
- 4 Clear the Smooth across removed control entities check box.

Size I

- I Right-click Edge I and choose Size.
- **2** Select Boundaries 4–6 only.



- 3 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 4 From the Calibrate for list, choose Semiconductor.
- **5** Click the **Custom** button.
- 6 Locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 7 Select the Maximum element size check box. In the associated text field, type 0.005.

#### Copy Edge 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Copying Operations> Copy Edge.
- 2 In the Settings window for Copy Edge, locate the Source Boundaries section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 3-7 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Copy Edge, locate the Destination Boundaries section.
- 7 Click to select the **EXACTIVATE Selection** toggle button.
- **8** Select Boundary 11 only.
- 9 Click to expand the Control Entities section. Clear the Smooth across removed control entities check box.

#### Mapped I

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click Mapped.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mapped, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- **4** Select Domain 2 only.
- 5 Click to expand the Control Entities section. Clear the Smooth across removed control entities check box.
- **6** Click to expand the **Reduce Element Skewness** section. Select the **Adjust edge mesh** check box.

#### Distribution I

- I Right-click Mapped I and choose Distribution.
- **2** Select Boundary 9 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- **4** From the **Distribution type** list, choose **Predefined**.
- 5 In the Number of elements text field, type 6.

- 6 In the Element ratio text field, type 7.
- 7 From the Growth rate list, choose Exponential.
- 8 Select the Reverse direction check box.

## Free Triangular 1

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click Kree Triangular.
- 2 In the Settings window for Free Triangular, click to expand the Control Entities section.
- 3 Clear the Smooth across removed control entities check box.
- 4 Click 📗 Build All.
- **5** Click the **F Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

The user-defined mesh is shown in the image below. The mapped mesh with the specific distribution helps create layers of thin elements underneath the gate, where the large gradient of the carrier concentration should be resolved by the mesh.



#### STUDY I

# Step 1: Stationary

Set up an auxiliary continuation sweep for the continuation parameter cp, with the value 0 for constant mobility and 1 for mobility model.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, click to expand the Study Extensions section.
- **3** Select the **Auxiliary sweep** check box.
- 4 Click + Add.
- 5 Click + Add.
- 6 In the table, enter the following settings:

Parameter name	Parameter value list	Parameter unit
Vds (Drain-source voltage)	range(0,0.2,1)	V
cp (Continuation parameter)	0 1	

7 From the Sweep type list, choose All combinations.

# 8 From the Reuse solution from previous step list, choose Auto.

The field-dependent mobility models are very nonlinear and difficult to solve in a fully coupled manner. The Semiconductor physics interface automatically creates a suggested solver sequence when the built-in field-dependent mobility models are used. This suggested solver sequence alternately solves the main dependent variables with the electric field variables fixed and then updates the electric field variables afterward, using the Segregated solver. By default 3 iterations are used, however depending on the model, more iterations may be needed. For this model the default is sufficient. Take a look at the autogenerated solver sequence.

Solution 1 (soll)

- I In the Study toolbar, click **here** Show Default Solver.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll)>Stationary Solver I node.

Observe that the default number of iterations for the Segregated solver is 3.

- In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations>
  Solution I (soll)>Stationary Solver I>Segregated I node, then click Segregated Step I.
- **5** In the **Settings** window for **Segregated Step**, click to expand the **Method and Termination** section.

Observe that the main variables are solved in the first Segregated Step with the Automatic Newton solver.

Click on **Segregated Step 2**, and observe that the electric field variables are updated in the second Segregated Step with the Constant Newton solver.

6 In the Study toolbar, click **=** Compute.

# RESULTS

Electron Concentration (semi)

Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Add a 1D plot to compare the I-V curves with and without the mobility model.

ID Plot Group 4

In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.

Global I

- I Right-click ID Plot Group 4 and choose Global.
- 2 In the Settings window for Global, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Semiconductor> Terminals>semi.l0\_2 - Terminal current - A.
- 3 Locate the x-Axis Data section. From the Axis source data list, choose Vds.
- 4 In the ID Plot Group 4 toolbar, click **ID** Plot.
- 5 Click to expand the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- 6 In the table, enter the following settings:

# Legends

Constant mobility

Lombardi surface mobility

ID Plot Group 4

- I In the Model Builder window, click ID Plot Group 4.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Legend section.
- 3 From the **Position** list, choose **Lower right**.

Add a 2D plot to compare the current density profiles with and without the mobility model.

Electron current density comparison

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🔎 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Electron current density comparison in the Label text field.

3 Locate the Data section. From the Parameter value (cp) list, choose 0.

For this plot group, we will zoom in to a region underneath the gate to look at the current density profile. In order not to interfere with the zoom settings of other plot groups, we use a different view setting for this plot group by selecting "New".

- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section. From the View list, choose New view.
- 5 Clear the **Plot dataset edges** check box.

#### Surface 1

- I Right-click Electron current density comparison and choose Surface.
- In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Semiconductor> Currents and charge>Electron current>Electron current density A/m<sup>2</sup>>semi.JnX Electron current density, X component.

## Filter 1

- I Right-click Surface I and choose Filter.
- 2 In the Settings window for Filter, locate the Element Selection section.
- 3 In the Logical expression for inclusion text field, type (y>-0.05[um])&&(x>-0.1[um])&&(x<0.1[um]).</p>
- **4** In the **Electron current density comparison** toolbar, click **OM Plot**.

#### Surface 2

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>Electron current density comparison rightclick Surface I and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Data section.
- **3** From the **Dataset** list, choose **Study I/Solution I** (sol1).
- 4 Click to expand the Inherit Style section. From the Plot list, choose Surface I.

#### Deformation I

- I Right-click Surface 2 and choose Deformation.
- 2 In the Settings window for Deformation, locate the Expression section.
- **3** In the **X** component text field, type **0**.
- 4 In the **Y** component text field, type 0.06.
- 5 Locate the Scale section.
- 6 Select the Scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 1.
- 7 In the Electron current density comparison toolbar, click 💽 Plot.

8 Click the 🕂 Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.

Add a 2D plot to show the electron mobility.

2D Plot Group 6

In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.

Surface 1

- I Right-click 2D Plot Group 6 and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Semiconductor> Mobility>semi.mun\_ls Electron mobility, Lombardi m<sup>2</sup>/(V·s).
- 3 In the 2D Plot Group 6 toolbar, click 💽 Plot.
- **4** Click the 4 **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.