

Mitsubishi Electric and the University of Tokyo Quantify Factors for Reducing SiC Power Semiconductor Resistance by Two-Thirds

TOKYO, December 5, 2017 – [Mitsubishi Electric Corporation](#) (TOKYO: 6503) and the University of Tokyo announced today that they believe they are the first to quantify the impacts of three electron-scattering mechanisms for determining the resistance of silicon carbide (SiC) power semiconductor devices in power semiconductor modules. They have found that resistance under the SiC interface can be reduced by two-thirds by suppressing electron scattering by the charges, a discovery that is expected to help reduce energy consumption in power equipment by lowering the resistance of SiC power semiconductors.

Going forward, Mitsubishi Electric will continue refining the design and specifications of its SiC metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (SiC MOSFET) to further lower the resistance of SiC power semiconductor devices. This research achievement was initially announced at The International Electron Devices Meeting (IEDM2017) in San Francisco, California on December 4 (PST).

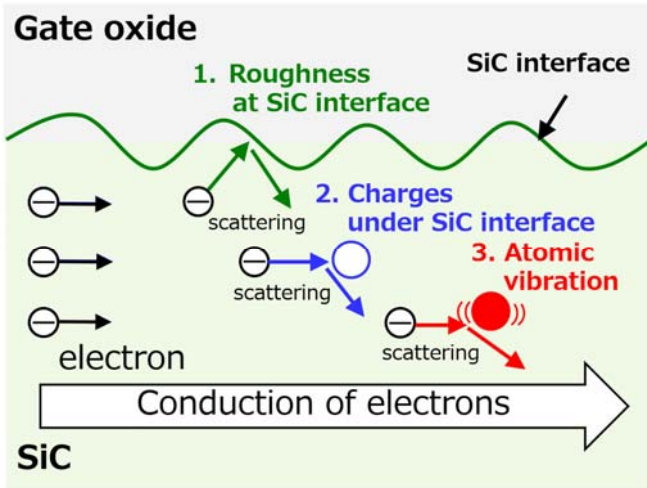


Fig.1 Factors limiting resistance under SiC interface

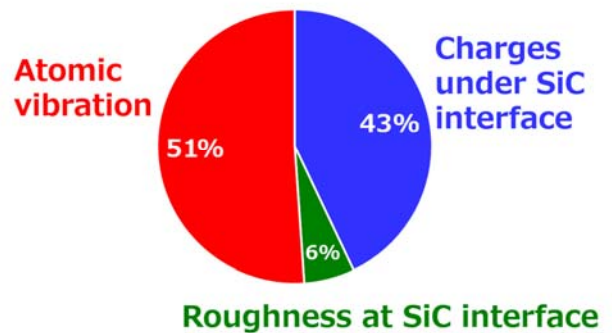


Fig.2 Impacts of resistance-limiting factors

The impact that charges and atomic vibration have on electron scattering under the SiC interface was revealed to be dominant in Mitsubishi Electric's analyses of fabricated devices. Electron scattering focusing on atomic vibration was measured using technology from the University of Tokyo. Although it has been recognized that electron scattering under the SiC interface is limited by three factors, namely, the roughness of the SiC interface, the charges under the SiC interface and the atomic vibration (see Fig. 1), the contribution of each factor had been unclear. A planar-type SiC-MOSFET in which electrons conduct away from the SiC interface to around several nano meters was fabricated to confirm the impact of the charges. As a result, Mitsubishi Electric and the University of Tokyo achieved an unprecedented confirmation that the roughness of the SiC interface has little effect while charges under the SiC interface and atomic vibration are dominant factors (see Fig. 2).

Compared with a previous planar-type SiC-MOSFET device, resistance was reduced by two thirds owing to suppression of electron scattering, which was achieved by making the electrons conduct away from the charges under the SiC interface. The previous planar-type device used for comparison has the same interface structure as that of the SiC-MOSFET fabricated by Mitsubishi Electric.

For the test, Mitsubishi Electric handled the design, fabrication and analysis of the resistance-limiting factors and the University of Tokyo handled the measurement of electron-scattering factors.

Background

Power equipment used in home electronics, industrial machinery, trains, etc. requires a combination of maximized efficiency and minimized size. Mitsubishi Electric is accelerating use of SiC power semiconductor devices for power semiconductor modules, which are key components in power equipment. SiC power semiconductor devices offer lower resistance than conventional Si power semiconductor devices, so to further lower their resistance it is important to understand the characteristics of the resistance under the SiC interface correctly. Until now, however, it had been difficult to separately measure resistance-limiting factors that determine electron scattering.

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About Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

With over 90 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Embracing the spirit of its corporate statement, Changes for the Better, and its environmental statement, Eco Changes, Mitsubishi Electric endeavors to be a global, leading green company, enriching society with technology. The company recorded consolidated group sales of 4,238.6 billion yen (US\$ 37.8 billion*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. For more information visit:

<http://www.MitsubishiElectric.com>

*At an exchange rate of 112 yen to the US dollar, the rate given by the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2017