

# Small-signal, high-frequency equivalent circuit for the metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor

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## Abstract

The differential equations describing the small-signal sinusoidal operation of the 'intrinsic' m.o.s.f.e.t. structure are solved using modified Bessel functions of the first kind. Expressions for the small-signal short-circuit admittance parameters are obtained in series form. By retaining appropriate terms in the series, the elements of a convenient equivalent circuit are computed for both the nonpinchoff and the pinchoff cases. Results are compared with those presented by other authors, to show that previous calculations for the nonpinchoff case are incorrect.

## 1 Introduction

The m.o.s.f.e.t. is rapidly gaining popularity as a small-signal, high-frequency amplifier because of its high input resistance, low input capacitance and large transconductance. The design of high-frequency circuits using the m.o.s.f.e.t. requires an appropriate equivalent circuit for the device. In this work, the differential equations describing the small-signal sinusoidal operation of the device are solved, yielding an equivalent circuit for the f.e.t. in both the nonpinchoff mode and the pinchoff mode of operation.

The transistor can be divided into an 'intrinsic' or active portion and an 'extrinsic' or passive portion, as shown in Fig. 1. The analysis presented here yields an equivalent circuit for the intrinsic portion of the device only. Extrinsic components may be added in a manner indicated by Reddy and Trofimenkoff,<sup>9</sup> in order to obtain a complete equivalent circuit for the actual transistor.

A number of equivalent circuits have been proposed for the m.o.s.f.e.t.<sup>1-6</sup> In general, short-circuit admittance parameters are used to obtain the form shown in Fig. 2. Hofstein and Heiman<sup>1</sup> proposed the most simple model for the device in 1963. Later Sah<sup>2</sup> and Das<sup>3</sup> carried out charge-control analyses, in order to obtain the gate-source and gate-drain capacitances for the f.e.t. Candler and Jordan<sup>4</sup> presented a small-signal high-frequency analysis, treating the channel as a nonuniform transmission line in the nonpinchoff mode. The  $y$  parameters were evaluated numerically using a digital computer. Treleaven and Trofimenkoff<sup>5</sup> have derived a small-signal equivalent circuit that is valid for the pinchoff mode. Hauser<sup>6</sup> carried out a general analysis for both the bulk and insulated gate types of devices, and obtained expressions for the elements of a more sophisticated equivalent circuit. However, a comparison of the results of this work with Hauser's equivalent circuit shows that Hauser's expressions for the real parts of the gate-source and gate-drain admittances, as well as the time constant associated with the transconductance, are incorrect for the nonpinchoff case. The results presented here are found to be in agreement with those of Treleaven and Trofimenkoff,<sup>5</sup> for the pinchoff case.

For nonpinchoff operation, the circuit with

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_1 &= j\omega c_1 \\ y_2 &= j\omega c_2 \\ y_m &= \frac{g_{m0}}{1 + j\omega\tau_0} \\ y_0 &= \frac{1}{r_0 + j\omega l_0} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  = gate-source and gate-drain capacitances of the intrinsic f.e.t., respectively

$g_{m0}$  = low-frequency transconductance for the intrinsic device

$\tau_0$  = a time constant defined by eqn. 1

$r_0$  = resistance between drain and source of the intrinsic f.e.t.

$l_0$  = inductance between drain and source for the intrinsic portion of the f.e.t.

is called the first-order approximation. The small-signal channel current is described in terms of modified Bessel functions of the first kind. The first-order approximation corresponds to the retention of terms not involving  $\omega$ , and those involving the first power of  $\omega$ , only. A second-order approximation then implies the retention of terms in  $\omega^2$  as well. In this work, a second-order approximation is used to obtain  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  in the forms

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_1 &= \frac{j\omega c_1}{1 + j\omega c_1 r_1} \\ y_2 &= \frac{j\omega c_2}{1 + j\omega c_2 r_2} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

where  $r_1, r_2$  = gate-source and gate-drain resistances for the intrinsic f.e.t. for nonpinchoff operation, while a first-order approximation is used to obtain  $y_0$  and  $y_m$  as indicated in eqns. 1.

## 2 Differential equations describing the small-signal sinusoidal operation of the m.o.s.f.e.t.

With reference to Fig. 1, the channel current can be written as

$$I = \mu c_{ox} U \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

where  $I$  = total channel current, defined flowing out of the drain terminal

$c_{ox}$  = oxide capacitance per unit length of channel

$U$  = total gate-channel potential at the point  $x$

and  $x$  = distance co-ordinate defined in Fig. 1

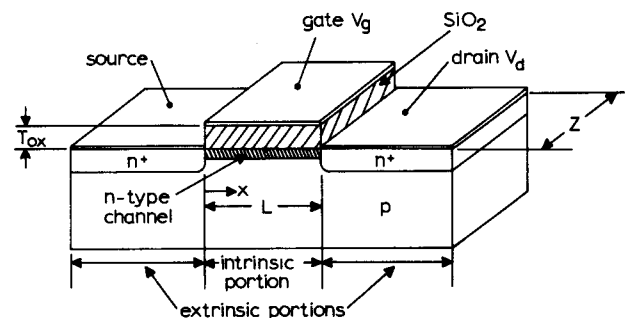


Fig. 1 Schematic of m.o.s.f.e.t.

It should be noted that

$$c_{ox} = \frac{\epsilon_{ox} Z}{T_{ox}} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

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where  $\epsilon_{ox}$  = permittivity of the oxide  
 $Z$  = device breadth  
 $T_{ox}$  = oxide thickness

The charge-conservation statement can be written as

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(c_{ox}U) \quad \dots \quad (5)$$

where  $t$  = time.

If the total gate-channel potential  $U$  and the total current  $I$  are expressed as the sum of a.c. and d.c. components,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} U &= v + ue^{j\omega t} \\ I &= I_0 + ie^{j\omega t} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (6)$$

eqn. 3 can be separated into time-dependent and time-independent components, to yield

$$I_0 = \mu c_{ox} v \frac{dv}{dx} \quad \dots \quad (7)$$

and  $i = \mu c_{ox} \frac{\partial(vu)}{\partial x} \quad \dots \quad (8)$

The small-signal approximation, in which only first-order terms in the a.c. components are retained, has been used to obtain eqn. 8. Use of eqn. 5 results in

$$\frac{di}{dx} = j\omega c_{ox} u \quad \dots \quad (9)$$

If it is noted that

$$\frac{d}{dx} = \frac{I_0}{\mu c_{ox} v} \frac{d}{dv} \quad \dots \quad (10)$$

it is easy to show that

$$\frac{d^2 i}{dv^2} - jDvi = 0 \quad \dots \quad (11)$$

where  $D = \omega \mu \left( \frac{c_{ox}}{I_0} \right)^2 \quad \dots \quad (12)$

Eqn. 7 can be integrated between  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$ , to yield

$$I_0 = - \frac{\mu c_{ox}}{2L} (v_s^2 - v_d^2) \quad \dots \quad (13)$$

where  $v_d$  = value of  $v$  at  $x = L$

$v_s$  = value of  $v$  at  $x = 0$

In terms of the d.c. gate-source and drain-source voltages  $V_{gs}$  and  $V_{ds}$ ,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v_s &= V_{gs} - V_T \\ v_d &= V_{gs} - V_{ds} - V_T \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (14)$$

where  $V_T$  = threshold voltage, positive for an  $n$ -channel enhancement m.o.s.f.e.t.

Eqn. 11 is a standard Bessel form with solution<sup>7,8</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} i &= v^{1/2} [k_1' \{ \text{ber}_{1/3}(\frac{2}{3} v^{3/2} \sqrt{D}) + j \text{bei}_{1/3}(\frac{2}{3} v^{3/2} \sqrt{D}) \} \\ &+ k_2' \{ \text{ber}_{-1/3}(\frac{2}{3} v^{3/2} \sqrt{D}) + j \text{bei}_{-1/3}(\frac{2}{3} v^{3/2} \sqrt{D}) \} ] \end{aligned} \quad \dots \quad (15)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \text{where } \text{ber}_\nu \phi &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r (\frac{1}{2} \phi)^{\nu+2r}}{r! \Gamma(\nu+r+1)} \cos \frac{3}{4}(\nu+2r) \\ \text{bei}_\nu \phi &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r (\frac{1}{2} \phi)^{\nu+2r}}{r! \Gamma(\nu+r+1)} \sin \frac{3}{4}(\nu+2r) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (16)$$

and  $k_1', k_2'$  are arbitrary constants.

It can then be shown that

$$i = k_1 g_1 + k_2 g_2 \quad \dots \quad (17)$$

where  $g_1 = v(1+j) \left( 1 + j \frac{Dv^3}{12} - \frac{D^2 v^6}{504} + \dots \right)$

$$g_2 = (1-j) \left( 1 + j \frac{Dv^3}{6} - \frac{D^2 v^6}{180} + \dots \right)$$

$k_1, k_2$  = arbitrary constants

Terms in  $\omega^2$  are retained, in order to obtain a second-order approximation for the equivalent circuit.

### 3 The short-circuit admittance parameters

Differentiating eqn. 17 with respect to  $v$  and equating it with eqn. 9 yields

$$\frac{u}{B} = k_1 F_1 + k_2 F_2 \quad \dots \quad (18)$$

where  $B = \frac{1}{jDI_0}$

$$F_1 = \frac{dg_1}{dv} v$$

$$F_2 = \frac{dg_2}{dv} v$$

The constants  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  can then be evaluated from the boundary conditions, which occur with either the input or output a.c. short-circuited.

The short-circuit admittance parameters are defined as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_{11} &= \left. \frac{i_g}{u_{gs}} \right|_{u_{ds}=0} \\ y_{12} &= \left. \frac{i_g}{u_{ds}} \right|_{u_{gs}=0} \\ y_{21} &= \left. \frac{i_d}{u_{gs}} \right|_{u_{ds}=0} \\ y_{22} &= \left. \frac{i_d}{u_{ds}} \right|_{u_{gs}=0} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (19)$$

where  $i_g + i_s + i_d = 0$ .

The voltages and currents are defined in Fig. 2.

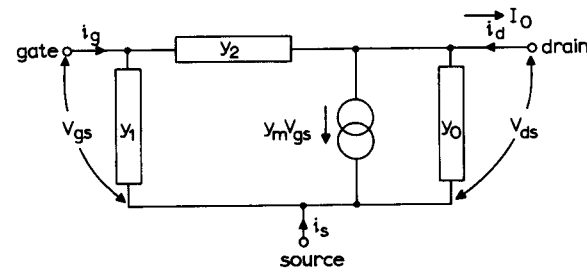


Fig. 2

General form of equivalent circuit

#### 3.1 Calculation of the input admittance $y_{11}$ and the forward transadmittance $y_{21}$

If the drain is a.c. short-circuited to the source, and a small-signal sinusoidal voltage  $u_{gs}$  is applied between gate and source, then

at the source

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= u_{gs} \\ v &= v_s \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (20)$$

and at the drain

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= u_{gs} \\ v &= v_d \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \dots \quad (21)$$

Substitution of eqns. 20 and 21 into eqn. 18, and solving for  $k_1, k_2, i_g$  and  $i_d$ , yield

$$y_{11} = \frac{i_g}{u_{gs}} = \frac{-1}{B(F_{1s}F_{2d} - F_{2s}F_{1d}) \{ (F_{2d} - F_{2s})(g_{1s} - g_{1d}) - (F_{1s} - F_{1d})(g_{2s} - g_{2d}) \}} \quad (22)$$

and

$$y_{21} = \frac{i_d}{u_{gs}} = \frac{1}{B(F_{1s}F_{2d} - F_{2s}F_{1d}) \{ (F_{2d} - F_{2s})g_{1d} + (F_{1s} - F_{1d})g_{2d} \}} \quad (23)$$

where

- $F_{1s}, F_{1d}$  = values of  $F_1$  for  $v = v_s$  and  $v = v_d$ , respectively
- $F_{2s}, F_{2d}$  = values of  $F_2$  for  $v = v_s$  and  $v = v_d$ , respectively
- $g_{1s}, g_{1d}$  = values of  $g_1$  for  $v = v_s$  and  $v = v_d$ , respectively
- $g_{2s}, g_{2d}$  = values of  $g_2$  for  $v = v_s$  and  $v = v_d$ , respectively

### 3.2 Calculation of the output admittance $y_{22}$ and the reverse transfer admittance $y_{12}$

If the gate is a.c. short-circuited to the source and a small-signal sinusoidal voltage  $u_{ds}$  is applied between the drain and source, then

at the source

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= u_{gs} = 0 \\ v &= v_s \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (24)$$

and at the drain

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= -u_{ds} \\ v &= v_d \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (25)$$

since  $u$  is defined as the a.c. gate-channel voltage. Substitution of eqns. 24 and 25 into eqn. 18, and solving for  $i_g$  and  $i_d$ , yield

$$y_{12} = \frac{i_g}{u_{ds}} = \frac{1}{B(F_{1s}F_{2d} - F_{2s}F_{1d})} \{ F_{1s}(g_{2s} - g_{2d}) - F_{2s}(g_{1s} - g_{1d}) \} \quad (26)$$

and

$$y_{22} = \frac{i_d}{u_{ds}} = \frac{-1}{B(F_{1s}F_{2d} - F_{2s}F_{1d})} (F_{1s}g_{2d} - F_{2s}g_{1d}) \quad (27)$$

### 3.3 Zero-order approximation ( $\omega = 0$ )

For the d.c. case

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_{11} &= 0 \\ y_{12} &= 0 \\ y_{21} &= g_{mo} = \frac{-2I_0}{(v_s + v_d)} \\ y_{22} &= g_{mo}\delta = \frac{1}{r_0} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (28)$$

where  $\delta = v_d/(v_s - v_d)$ .

These results are in agreement with those derived by Hofstein and Heiman.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.4 First-order approximation

If second-order and higher terms in  $\omega$  are neglected in eqns. 22, 23, 26 and 27, the admittance parameters are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_{11} &= j\omega g_{mo}\tau_4 \\ y_{12} &= -j\omega g_{mo}\tau_3\delta \\ y_{21} &= \frac{g_{mo}(1 - j\omega\tau_2)}{(1 + j\omega\tau_1)} \\ y_{22} &= g_{mo}\delta \frac{(1 + j\omega\tau_3)}{(1 + j\omega\tau_1)} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (29)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &= \frac{D'}{15} \frac{(v_s - v_d)^2(v_s^2 + 3v_s v_d + v_d^2)}{(v_s + v_d)} \\ \tau_2 &= \frac{D'v_d}{6} (2v_s^2 - v_s v_d + v_d^2) \\ \tau_3 &= \frac{D'}{6} (v_s - v_d)^2(2v_s + v_d) \\ \tau_4 &= \frac{D'}{6} (v_s - v_d)(v_s^2 + 4v_s v_d + v_d^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$D' = D/\omega$$

### 3.5 Second-order approximation

Retaining terms involving the second power of  $\omega$  in eqns. 22 and 23 yields

$$y_{11} = j\omega g_{mo}\tau_4 \frac{(1 + j\omega\tau_5)}{(1 + j\omega\tau_1)} \dots \dots \dots (30)$$

and

$$y_{12} = -j\omega g_{mo}\tau_3\delta \frac{(1 + j\omega\tau_6)}{(1 + j\omega\tau_1)} \dots \dots \dots (31)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_5 &= \frac{D'}{60} \frac{\{(v_s - v_d)^2(v_s + v_d)(2v_s^2 + 11v_s v_d + 2v_d^2)\}}{(v_s^2 + 4v_s v_d + v_d^2)} \\ \tau_6 &= \frac{D'}{60} \frac{(5v_s^6 - 12v_s^5 v_d + 20v_s^3 v_d^3 - 15v_s^2 v_d^4 + 2v_d^6)}{(v_s - v_d)^2(2v_s + v_d)} \end{aligned}$$

## 4 Elements of the equivalent circuit

Expressions for the elements of the equivalent circuit shown in Fig. 2 can be obtained by noting that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_1 &= y_{11} + y_{12} \\ y_2 &= -y_{12} \\ y_m &= y_{21} - y_{12} \\ y_0 &= y_{22} + y_{12} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (32)$$

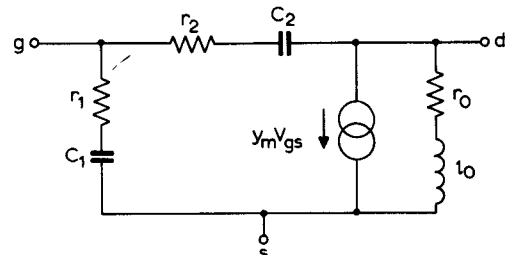


Fig. 3 Equivalent circuit of intrinsic portion of f.e.t.

### 4.1 First-order approximation

$$\left. \begin{aligned} y_1 &= j\omega c_1 = j\omega g_{mo}(\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta) \\ y_2 &= j\omega c_2 = j\omega g_{mo}\tau_3\delta \\ y_m &= g_{mo} \frac{\{1 - j\omega(\tau_2 - \tau_3\delta)\}}{(1 + j\omega\tau_1)} \approx \frac{g_{mo}}{1 + j\omega\tau_0} \\ y_0 &= \frac{g_{mo}\delta}{1 + j\omega\tau_1} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (33)$$

where  $\tau_0 = \tau_1 + \tau_2 - \tau_3\delta$

Using the above equations, it can be shown that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} c_1 &= \frac{2}{3} c_{ox} L \frac{v_s(v_s + 2v_d)}{(v_s + v_d)^2} \\ c_2 &= \frac{2}{3} c_{ox} L \frac{v_d(2v_s + v_d)}{(v_s + v_d)^2} \\ g_0 &= \frac{1}{r_0} = \frac{\mu c_{ox} v_d}{L} \\ l_0 &= \tau_1 r_0 \\ g_{mo} &= \frac{\mu c_{ox}}{L} (v_s - v_d) \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (34)$$

For the pinchoff case,  $V_{gs} - V_{ds} = V_T$  so that  $v_d = 0$ . Then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} c_1 &= \frac{2}{3} c_{ox} L \\ c_2 &= 0 \\ r_0 &= \infty \\ l_0 &= \infty \\ g_{mo} &= \frac{\mu c_{ox}}{L} v_s \\ \tau_0 &= \frac{4}{15} \frac{L^2}{\mu v_s} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (35)$$

#### 4.2 Second-order approximation to $y_1$ and $y_2$

Referring to eqns. 30 and 31, it can be shown that second-order terms in the numerator result in additional first-order terms in the denominator, so that

$$y_1 = \frac{j\omega g_{m0}(\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta)}{1 + j\omega\left(\tau_1 + \frac{\tau_4\tau_6 - \tau_3\tau_5\delta}{\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta} - \tau_5 - \tau_6\right)} \quad (36)$$

and  $y_2 = \frac{j\omega g_{m0}\tau_3\delta}{1 + j\omega(\tau_1 - \tau_6)} \dots \dots \dots (37)$

retaining only first-order terms in the demoninator. These expressions are in the form indicated by eqns. 2, and solving for  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  yields

$$r_1 = \frac{\tau_1 + \frac{\tau_4\tau_6 - \tau_3\tau_5\delta}{\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta} - \tau_5 - \tau_6}{g_{m0}(\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta)} \dots \dots \dots (38)$$

and  $r_2 = \frac{\tau_1 - \tau_6}{g_{m0}\tau_3\delta} \dots \dots \dots (39)$

For the pinchoff case,

$$r_1 = \frac{1}{5g_{m0}} = \frac{L}{5\mu c_{ox} v_s} \dots \dots \dots (40)$$

$$r_2 = \infty \dots \dots \dots (41)$$

A comparison of eqns. 38 and 39 with Hauser's<sup>6</sup> expressions shows that he has derived  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  in the form

$$r_1 = \frac{\tau_1}{g_{m0}(\tau_4 - \tau_3\delta)}$$

$$r_2 = \frac{\tau_1}{g_{m0}\tau_3\delta}$$

neglecting the other time constants, which result from second-order terms in the numerators of the  $y$  parameters. Also, his expression for  $y_m$  neglects the term  $(\tau_2 - \tau_3\delta)$ , as given in eqns. 33, so that the time constant for  $y_m$  corresponds to  $\tau_1$ , instead of to  $\tau_0$ .

These results yield an equivalent circuit in which the gate-source and gate-drain admittances are simple RC networks, and the current generator  $y_m v_{gs}$  is frequency dependent. The important point to note is that the time constant associated with  $y_m$  is not the same as the product of  $r_1 c_1$ . Indeed, for pinchoff,  $\tau_0/r_1 c_1 = 2$ . There is no need to introduce a second RC network in parallel with the  $r_1 - c_1$  combination, to account for the difference between the imaginary parts of the forward- and reverse-transfer admittances, as has been suggested in the literature.<sup>11</sup>

#### 5 Some typical values for the intrinsic device

Numerical values for the time constants may be obtained by substitution of typical device parameters. The following have been obtained for a commercially available p-channel enhancement m.o.s.f.e.t.:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} L &= 0.004 \text{ cm} \\ Z &= 0.1 \text{ cm} \\ c_{ox} &= 2500 \text{ pF/cm} \\ \mu &= 480 \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs} \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (42)$$

From eqn. 12,

$$D' = \frac{D}{\omega} = \mu \left( \frac{c_{ox}}{I_0} \right)^2$$

and substitution for  $I_0$  from eqn. 13 yields

$$D' = \frac{4L^2}{\mu v_s^4} \dots \dots \dots (43)$$

for the pinchoff case ( $v_d = 0$ ).

Define

$$\gamma = D' v_s^3 \dots \dots \dots (44)$$

For  $|v_s| = 2 \text{ V}$ , substitution of eqn. 42 into eqn. 44 yields

$$\gamma \simeq 7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s} \dots \dots \dots (45)$$

Then, at pinchoff,

$$\tau_0 = \tau_1 = \frac{\gamma}{15}$$

$$\tau_2 = 0$$

$$\tau_3 = \frac{\gamma}{3}$$

$$\tau_4 = \frac{\gamma}{6}$$

$$\tau_5 = \frac{\gamma}{30}$$

$$\tau_6 = \frac{\gamma}{24}$$

The transconductance cutoff frequency is given by

$$f_t = \frac{1}{2\pi\tau_0} \simeq 34 \text{ MHz}$$

For an n-channel device with comparable dimensions, the free-carrier mobility is higher, and  $f_t$  will be of the order of 100 MHz.

#### 6 Acknowledgment

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