

Advances in compact semiconductor device modelling and circuit macromodelling with the Qucs GPL circuit simulator

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- **Background**
- **Circuit Simulation**
- **Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling**
- **Summary and future work**



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Background

- Qucs is an open source circuit simulator
- Developed using GNU/Linux under the General Public License (GPL)
- Available for most of the popular computer operating systems, including GNU/Linux, Windows®, Solaris®, NetBSD, FreeBSD and MacOS®
- Qucs is one of the GPL circuit simulators taking part in the MOS-AK Verilog-A standardization initiative

Previously reported details of the simulator capabilities can be found at MOS-AK links

http://www.mos-ak.org/premstaetten/papers/MOS-AK_QUCS_ngspice_ADMS.pdf

http://www.mos-ak.org/munich/posters/P04_MOS-AK_Brinson.pdf

http://www.mos-ak.org/eindhoven/papers/06_Qucs_MOS-AK_Eindhoven.pdf

Or in the following publications

S. Jahn and M. E. Brinson, **Interactive compact device modelling using Qucs equation-defined devices**, International Journal of Numerical Modelling (IJNM): Electronic Networks, Devices and Fields, vol. 21, no. 5, May 2008, pages 335-349.

M. E. Brinson and S. Jahn, **Qucs: A GPL software package for circuit simulation, compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling from DC to RF and beyond**, International Journal of Numerical Modelling (IJNM): Electronic Networks, Devices and Fields, in press, published online 5 Sep. 2008.



Circuit Simulation

Qucs current versions: production 0.0.14; development 0.0.15

Recent enhancements:

- Implemented 3 and more argument versions of PlotVs() in the equation solver.
- Support for sub- and super-scripts in graphical text paintings
- Implementation of multi-port equation defined RF device (RFEDD). S, Y and Z parameters available
- Implemented 2-port equation defined RF device including S, Y, Z, H, G, T and A-parameters
- Added noise figure property to amplifier model
- Existing HICUM models can now be converted from SPICE by the QucsConv tool into model library entries
- Simulation time for digital files (Verilog and VHDL) now stored in additional configuration file
- Implementation of ddx() operator in equations
- Added coplanar lines (with and without back plane metalisation) to the Qucs Transcalc tool
- Support of US letter formats for schematic frame
- Allowing parameter sweep and other variables in constant parameter simulation boxes
- Added post install script for MacOSX as well as appropriate icons



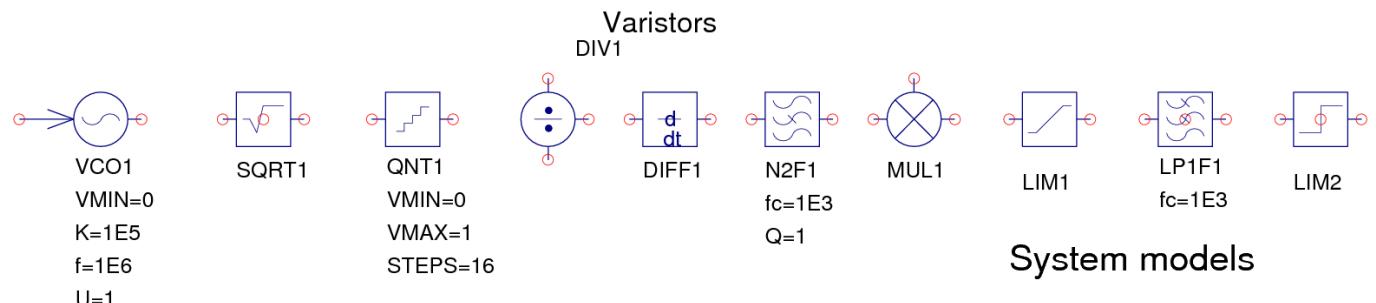
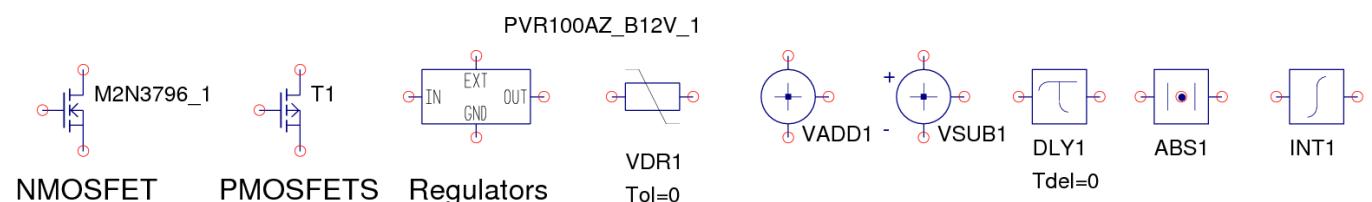
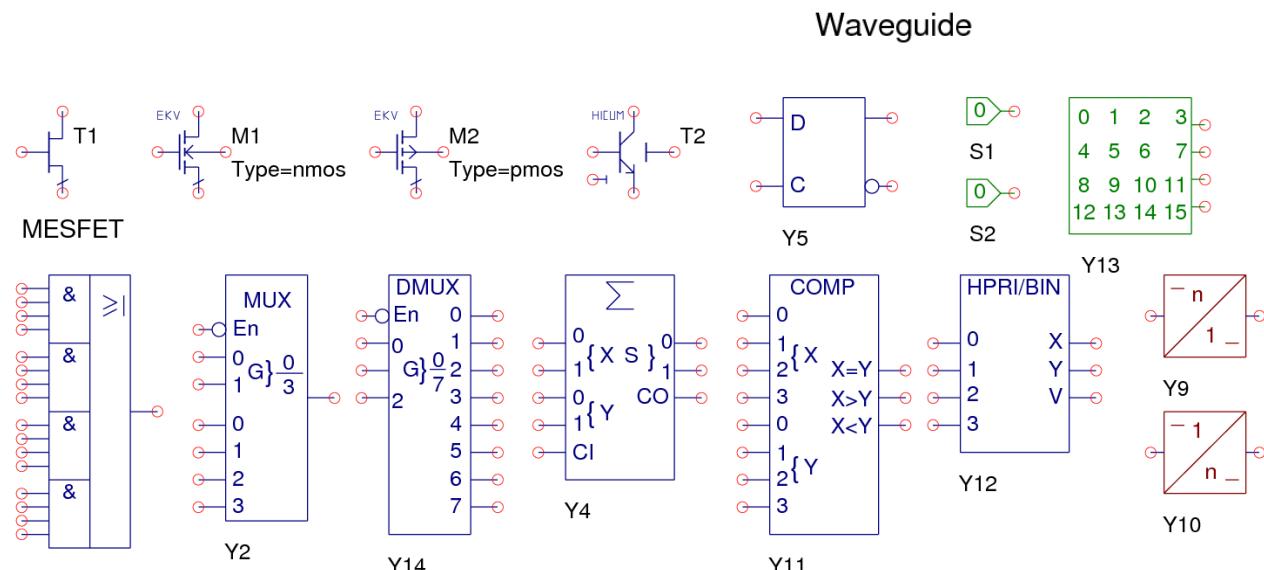
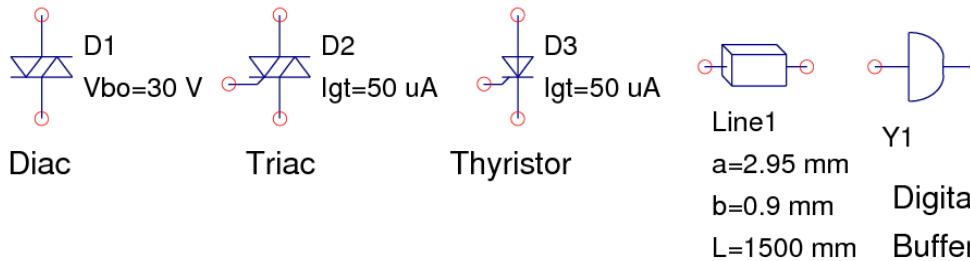
Circuit Simulation

Hand crafted
C++ models

Verilog-A device
models and circuit
macromodels

Model libraries

Additional models and libraries



System models

Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

The Qucs circuit simulator provides a mature mix of simulation and analysis routines which are launched from a graphical environment specifically designed for schematic drawing, netlist entry, and simulation control



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling tools



A convenient, interactive and powerful modelling system for building and testing multi-domain simulation models in the following categories

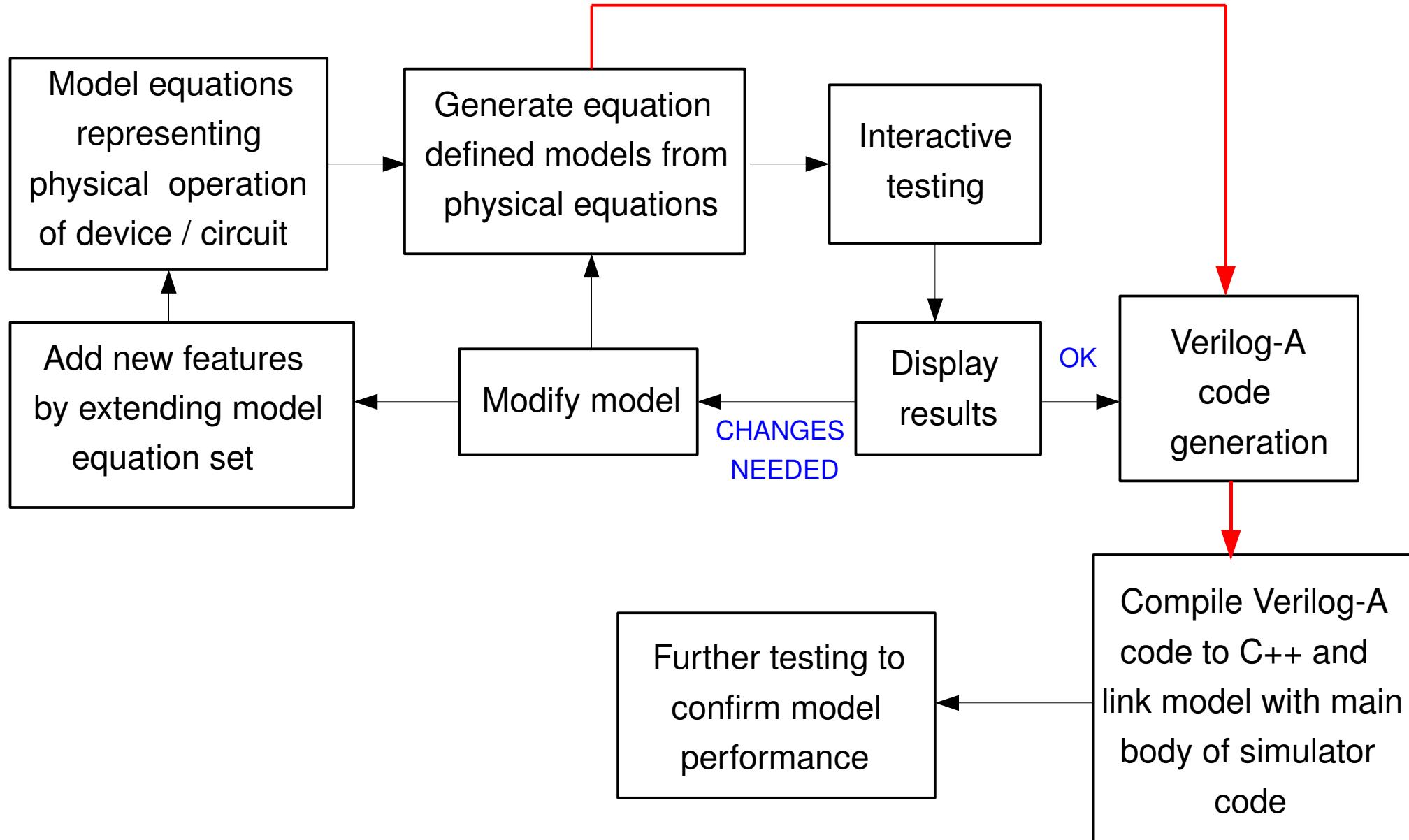


Hand crafted C++ models	Component based subcircuit models	Component based circuit macromodels	Non-linear equation defined device (EDD) models
Verilog-A compact device models	Radio frequency equation defined device (RFEDD) models	Verilog-A circuit macromodels	



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Equation based compact model and circuit macromodel construction



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Building a Qucs equation based model: part 2- intrinsic charge characteristics

EPFL-EKV v2.6 long channel nMOS equations

$$nq = 1 + \frac{GAMMA}{2 \cdot \sqrt{VP + PHI + 1e-6}}$$

$$Xf = \sqrt{0.25 + If}, \quad Xr = \sqrt{0.25 + Ir}$$

$$qI = -nq \cdot \left[\frac{\frac{4}{3} \cdot (Xf^2 + Xf \cdot Xr + Xr^2)}{Xf + Xr} - 1 \right]$$

$$qB = \frac{-GAMMA \cdot \sqrt{VP + PHI + 1e-6} \cdot 1}{vt} - \left[\frac{nq - 1}{nq} \right], \text{when } VGprime > 0$$

$$qB = \frac{-VGprime}{vt}, \text{when } VGprime \leq 0$$

$$qG = -qI - qB, \quad Cox = COX \cdot W \cdot L, \quad Q(I, B, D, S, G) = Cox \cdot vt \cdot q(I, B, D, S, G)$$

Symbol

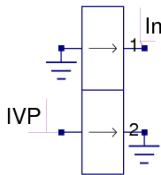


EKVLC1
L=10e-6
W=10e-6
VTO=0.5
GAMMA=0.7
PHI=0.5
KP=50e-6
THETA=50e-3
Temp=26.85
COX=3.45e-3
Xpart=0.6

Model

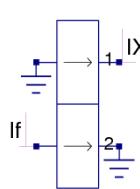
D11

$$I1=1+GAMMA/(2*sqrt(V2+PHI+1e-6)) \\ I2=0$$



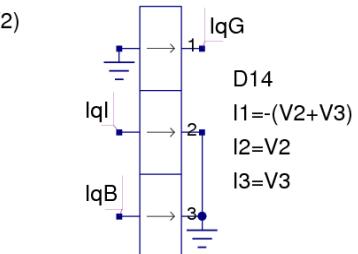
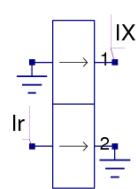
D12

$$I1=sqrt(0.25+V2) \\ I2=0$$



D13

$$I1=sqrt(0.25+V2) \\ I2=0$$



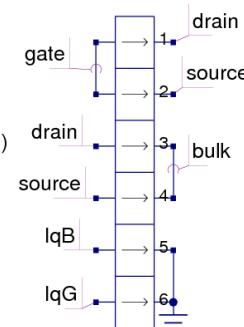
Equation

$$\text{Eqn1} \\ Spart=1-Xpart \\ Qox=COX*W*L*vt(T2)$$

Model

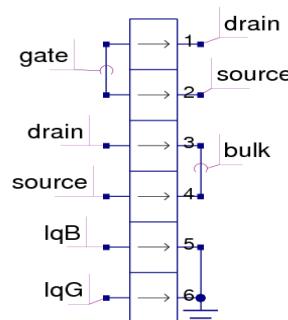
D17

$$I1=0 \\ Q1=Xpart*V6*Qox \\ Q2=Spart*V6*Qox \\ Q3=Xpart*V5*Qox \\ Q4=Spart*V5*Qox \\ I5=0 \\ I6=V6$$



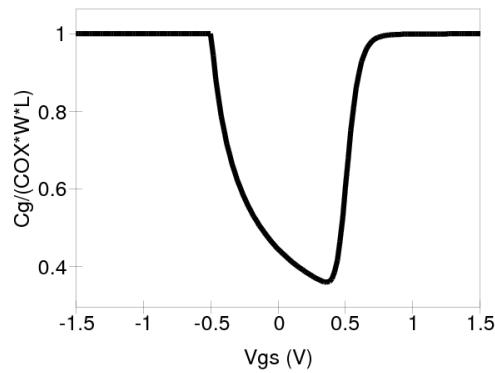
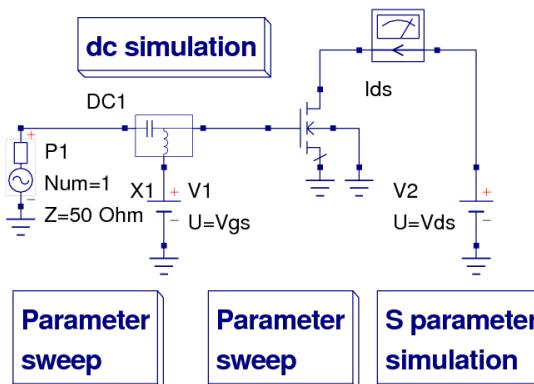
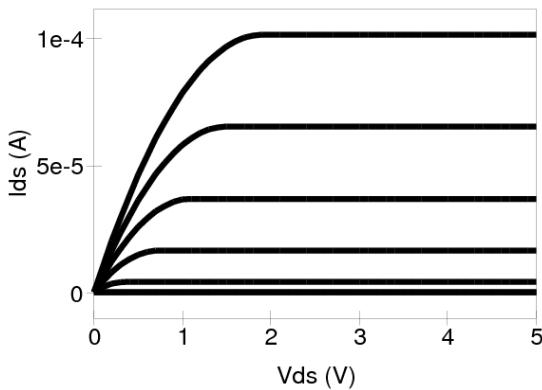
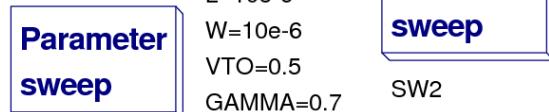
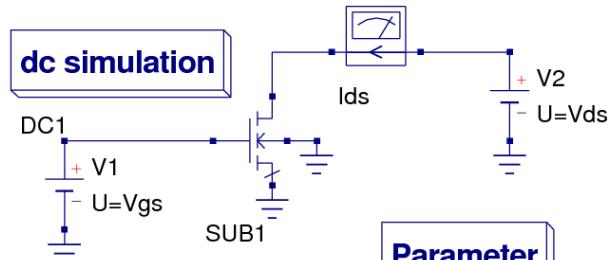
D17

$$I1=0 \\ Q1=Xpart*V6*Qox \\ Q2=Spart*V6*Qox \\ Q3=Xpart*V5*Qox \\ Q4=Spart*V5*Qox \\ I5=0 \\ I6=V6$$

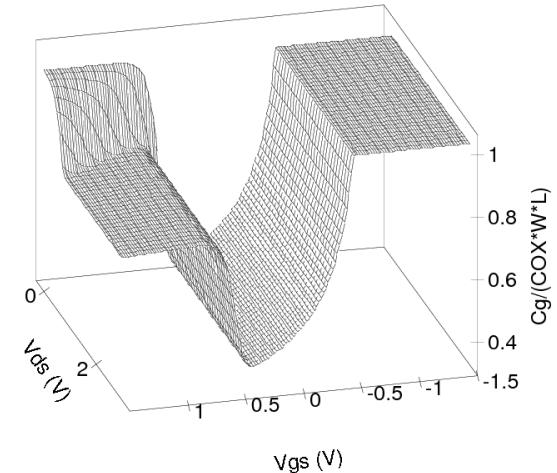


Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Interactive testing and parameter extraction



EKVL	Equation
C1	$Eqn1$
L1	$L=10e-6$
W1	$W=10e-6$
VTO1	$VTO=0.5$
GAMMA1	$GAMMA=0.7$
PHI1	$PHI=0.5$
KP1	$KP=50e-6$
THETA1	$THETA=50e-3$
Temp1	$Temp=26.85$
COX1	$COX=3.45e-3$
Xpart1	$Xpart=0.6$
Equation	
Eqn1	$L=10e-6$
L1	$W=10e-6$
W1	$W=10e-6$
VTO1	$COX=3.45e-3$
GAMMA1	$Cg_norm=COX*W*L$
PHI1	$\Omega=\omega/\sqrt{L*C}$
KP1	$\Omega=2\pi f$
THETA1	$Y=stoy(S)$
Temp1	$Cg=imag(Y[1,1]/\Omega)$
COX1	$Cg_2D_plot=PlotVs(Cg/Cg_norm,Vgs)$
Xpart1	$Cg_3D_plot=PlotVs(Cg/Cg_norm,Vds, Vgs)$
Eqn1	$Cg_a=PlotVs(Cg,Vgs)$



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

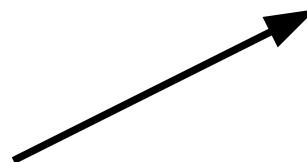
Verilog-A code generation

```
`include "disciplines.vams"
`include "constants.vams"

module EK VLC(drain, gate, source, bulk);
inout drain, gate, source, bulk;
electrical drain, gate, source, bulk;
`define attr(txt) (*txt*)
parameter real L=1e-6 from [1e-20 :inf] `attr(info="Channel length");

..
..

real VGprime, VP, n, BETA, X1, If, X2, Ir, Ispecific, Ids;
real nq, XF, Xr, ql, qB, qG;
analog begin
@(initial_model) begin
  Spart=1-Xpart; Qox=COX*W*L; T2=Temp+273.15; vt=`P_K*T2/^P_Q;
end
Vg=V(gate)-V(bulk); Vs=V(source)-V(bulk); Vd=V(drain)-V(bulk);
VGprime=Vg-VTO+PHI+GAMMA*sqrt(PHI);
VP=VGprime-PHI-GAMMA*(sqrt(VGprime+(GAMMA/2)^2)-GAMMA/2);
n=1+GAMMA/(2*sqrt(VP+PHI+4*vt));
BETA=KP*(W/L)^1/(1+THETA*VP);
X1=(VP-Vd)/vt; If=ln(1+limexp(X1/2))^2;
X2=(VP-Vs)/vt; Ir=ln(1+limexp(X2/2))^2;
Ispecific=2*n*BETA*vt*vt;
Ids=Ispecific*(If-Ir);
I(drain,source) <+ Ids;
```



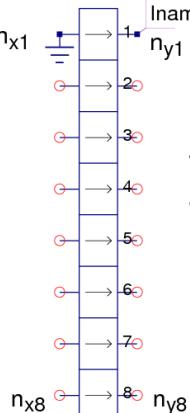
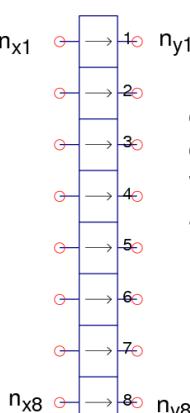
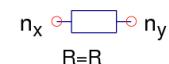
```
nq=1+GAMMA/(2*sqrt(VP+PHI+1e-6));
XF=sqrt(0.25+If); Xr=sqrt(0.25+Ir)
ql=nq*( (4/3)*(XF^2+Xr*XF+Xr^2)/(XF+Xr)^2 -1);
if (VGprime > 0)
  qB=-GAMMA*sqrt(VP+PHI+1e-6);
else qB=-VGprime/vt;
qG=-ql-qB;
I(gate, drain)<+ddt(Xpart*qG*Qox);
I(gate, source)<+ddt(Spart*qG*Qox);
I(drain, bulk)<+ddt(Xpart*qB*Qox);
I(source, bulk)<+ddt(Spart*qB*Qox);
end
endmodule
```



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

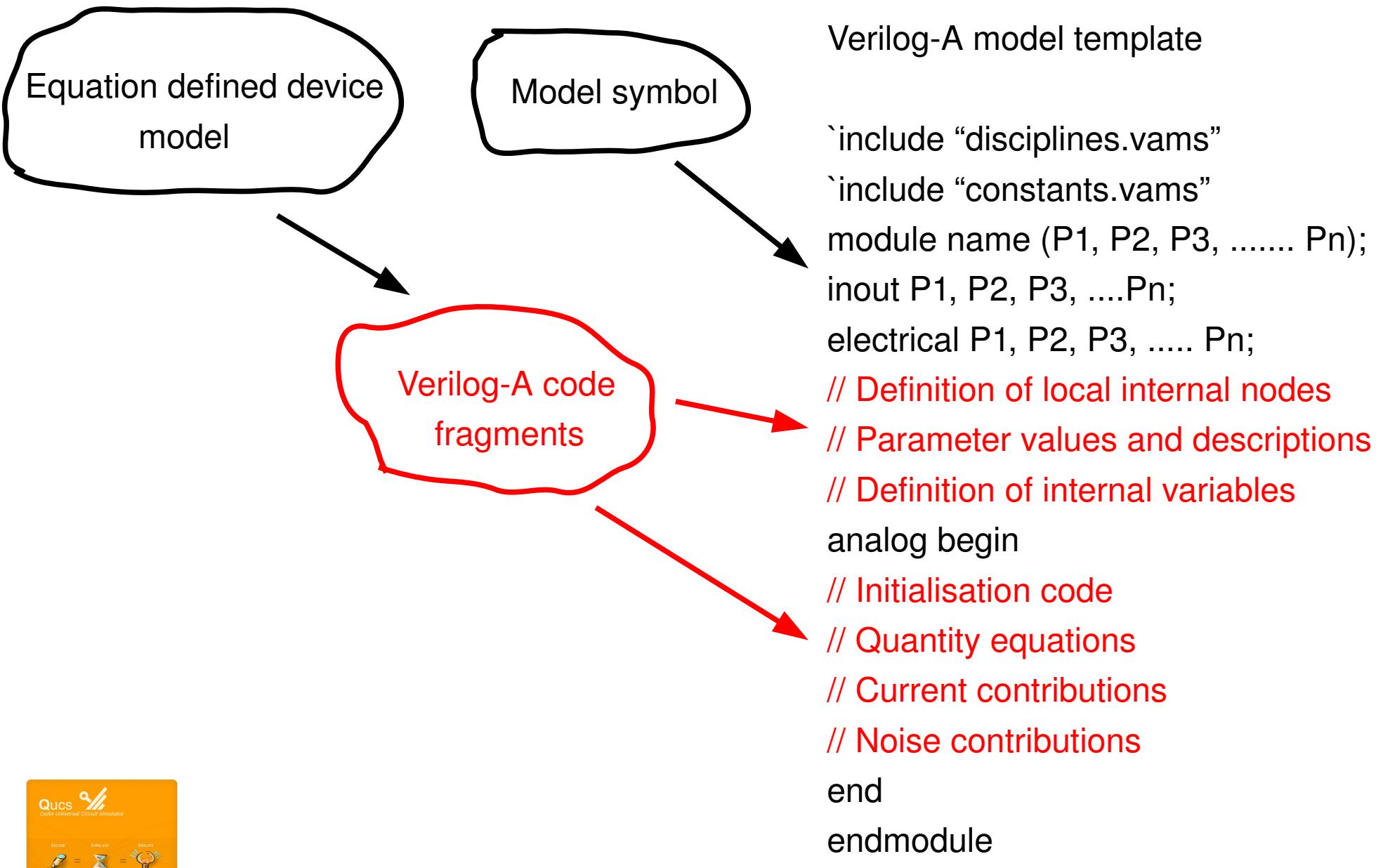
Relationship between Qucs schematic symbols and Verilog-A code fragments

Fundamental EDD blocks

Qucs symbol	Quantity equations	Verilog-A code fragment	Quantity equations	Verilog-A code fragment
	$Iname = I1 = f(V2, V3, \dots, V8)$ $I2, I3, \dots, I8 = 0$ and $Q1, Q2, \dots, Q8 = 0$. Where $Vm = V(n_{xm}, n_{ym})$ or $Vm = V(n_{xm})$, and $2 \leq m \leq 8$.	$Iname = f(V2, V3, \dots, V8);$ Or $Iname <+ f(V2, V3, \dots, V8);$	(a) Model initialisation block	Equation Eqn1 con1=; con2=; con3=;
	$Q1 = f(V1, V2, \dots, V8, I1, I2, \dots, I8)$ $Q2, \dots, Q8 = 0$. Where $Vm = V(n_{xm}, n_{ym})$ or $Vm = V(n_{xm})$, and $1 \leq m \leq 8$.	$I(n_{x1}, n_{y1}) <+ ddt(Q1);$ Or $I(n_{x1}, n_{y1}) = ddt(Q1);$	(b) Standard resistors	 $n_x \text{ } \square \text{ } n_y$ $R=R$

Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Generating Verilog-A code: Qucs equation defined devices via Verilog-A code fragments to a Verilog-A standardised template



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Improvements/compatibility between Qucs equation defined devices and ADMS Verilog-A code

- From Qucs 0.0.15, version 2.3.0 of the ADMS Verilog-A compiler is required to compile new Verilog-A models
- Qucs XML interface significantly improved with many bug fixes
- Reduction in the number of steps required to link ADMS compiled C++ code to the Qucs simulator and graphical user interface
- First stage in the implementation of a modular Verilog-A to linked C++ model interface implemented – eventual target a fully operating “turn-key” system
- Improved coverage of Verilog-A language, including for example implementation of model code initialisation using the @(initial_model) begin end block
- For compatibility with Verilog-A the function ddx has been added to Qucs equation defined devices



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

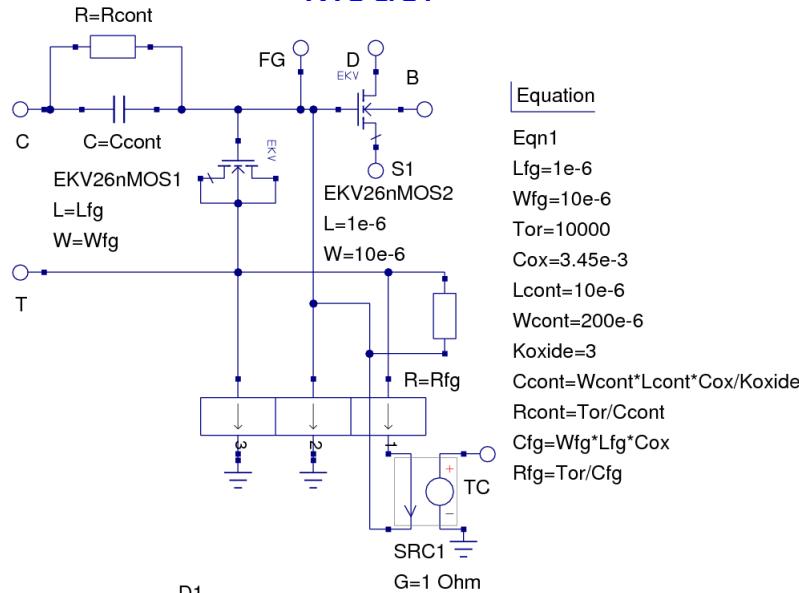
Adding physical effects to equation defined device models: Synapse floating gate MOS tunnelling current example

Tunnelling equation

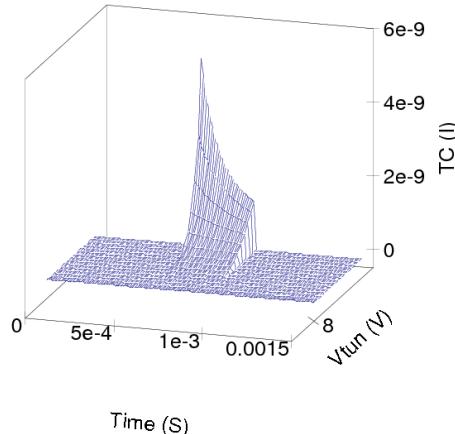
$$TC = \alpha \cdot \exp\left(\frac{\beta}{V_{ox}}\right) A$$

$\alpha = 9.35e9 \text{ A}$, $\beta = -368.04 \text{ V}$, $V_{ox} = V_{tun} - FG \text{ V}$.

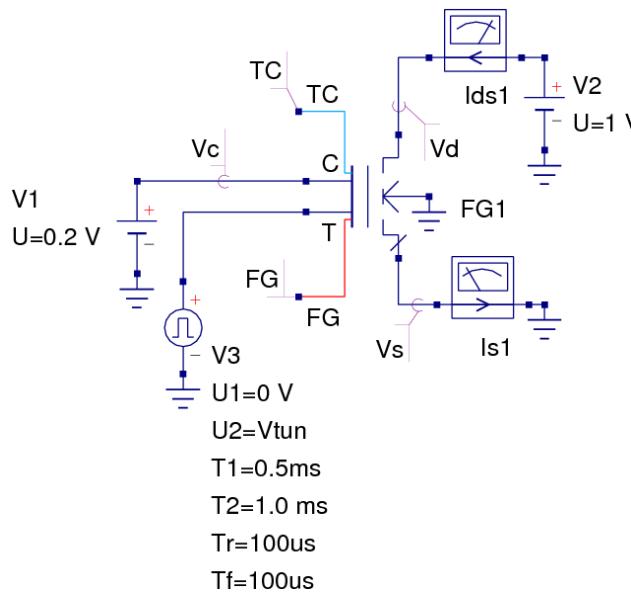
Model



Tunnel current



Symbol and test circuit



transient simulation

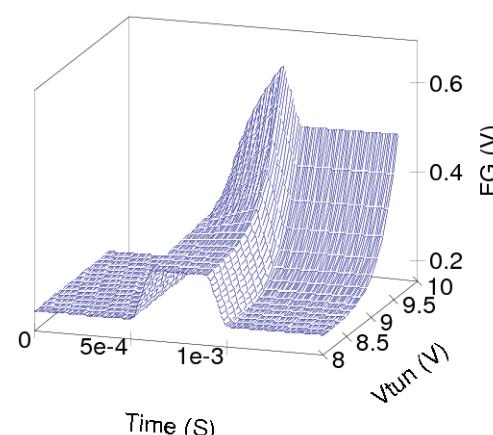
TR1
Type=lin
Start=0
Stop=1.5 ms
Points=151
InitialStep=0.1 ns
MinStep=1e-18
reltol=0.001
abstol=1 pA
vntol=1 uV
Points=15

dc simulation

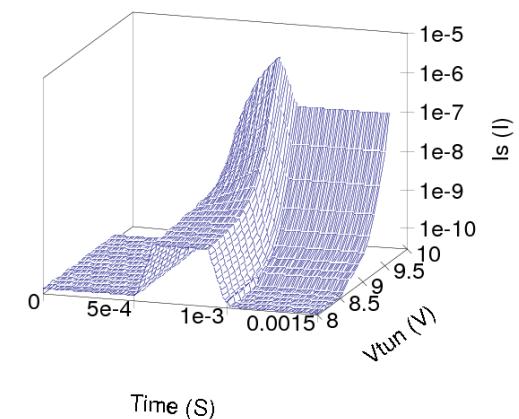
DC1
Parameter sweep

SW1
Sim=TR1
Type=lin
Param=Vtun
MinStep=1e-18
reltol=0.001
abstol=1 pA
vntol=1 uV
Points=15

Floating gate voltage



Source current



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Adding non-linear equation defined devices to small signal simulation: introduction to the Qucs radio frequency equation defined device (RFEDD)

- Qucs RFEDD is a frequency dependent equation defined device based on two-port and multi-port electrical network structures
- Two-port RFEDD are similar in structure to the well-known two-port networks commonly employed in the linear analysis of amplifiers and filters
- Multi-port RFEDD allow, for example, modelling of directional couplers, isolators and other multi-port high frequency devices
- Admittance (Y), impedance (Z), scattering (S), hybrid (H), inverse hybrid (G), transmission (A) and scattering transmission (T) two-port devices are implemented
- In contrast to the two-port device, the multi-port RFEDD can only be defined for Y, Z or S networks
- Qucs RFEDD parameters are numerical or algebraic complex numbers. The latter can be functions of numerical constants, variables from Qucs equation blocks, subcircuit parameters, mathematical operators and functions defined in the Verilog-A HDL and the Qucs function library
- The real and imaginary parts of RFEDD parameters may also be functions of small signal simulation frequency (F) or operator S ($S = j \cdot \omega = j \cdot 2 \cdot \pi \cdot F$)



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

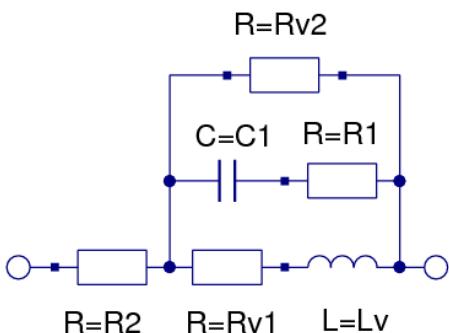
Modelling high frequency components with RFEDD: high-frequency inductance example*

Equations and model

$$Rv1 = K1 \cdot \sqrt{F}, \quad Rv2 = K2 \cdot \sqrt{F}$$

$$Lv = [K3 - K4 \cdot \ln(K5 \cdot F)] \cdot 1e-6$$

Where K1, K2, K3, K4 and K5 are constants



RF1



$$[A] = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} \\ P_{21} & P_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & Z(\text{real}) + j \cdot Z(\text{imag}) \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

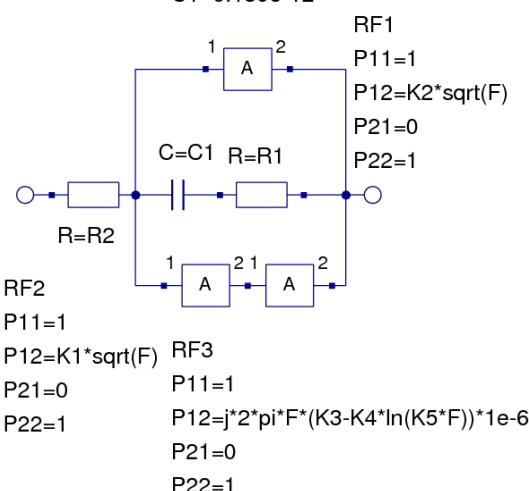
Qucs RFEDD model



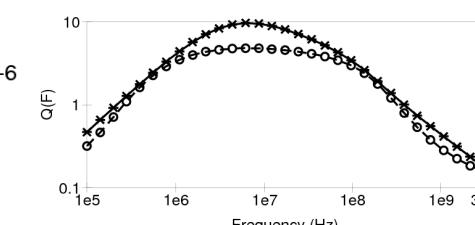
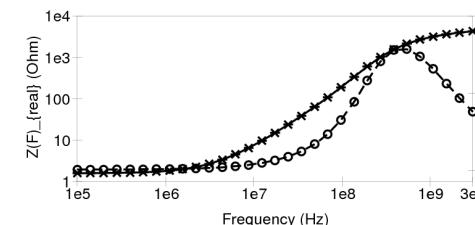
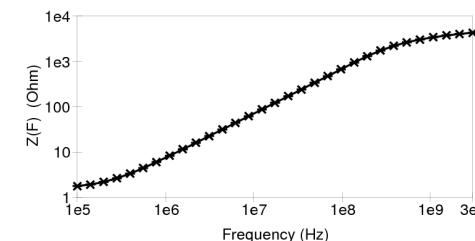
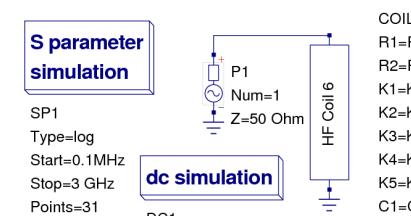
```

COIL1
R1=6200
R2=1.59
K1=1.49e-5
K2=0.268
K3=1.19
K4=1.4e-2
K5=6.9e-6
C1=0.139e-

```



Simulation results



```

Equation frequency

Eqn2

Freq=logspace(100e3, 3e9,31)
Omega=2*pi*Freq
P1=Omega*C1
P2=Omega*Lv
P3=Rv1+Rv2
P4=Rv1*Rv2
P5=R1*Rv1
P6=Lv/C1
P7=Rv2*(P5+P6)
P8=R1*p3
P9=P8+P4+P6
P10=P2/(1/P1)
P11=(P2*R1)-(Rv1/P1)
P12=(P9*R9)+(Rv2*P10+P11)*(Rv2*P10+P11)
ZRcalc=R2+((P7*P9)+(Rv2*P11)*(Rv2*P10+P11))/P12
PLZRcalc=PlotVs(ZRcalc, Freq)
Zcalc=((P9*Rv2*P11)-P7*(Rv2*P10+P11))/P12
PLZcalc=PlotVs(Zcalc, Freq)
Zcalcd=sqrt(ZRcalc^2ZRcalc+Zlcalc^2Zlcalc)
PLZcalcd=PlotVs(Zcalcd, Freq)
Qcalc=abs(Zlcalc)/ZRcalc
PLQcalc=PlotVs(Qcalc, Freq)
PHASEcalc=arctan(Zlcalc/ZRcalc)
PLPHASEcalc=arctan((Zlcalc/ZRcalc)/(1, Freq))

```

```

Lv=(K3-K4*ln(K5*Freq))*1e-6
C1=0.139e-12
R1=6200.0
R2=1.59
K1=1.49e-5
K2=0.268
K3=1.19
K4=1.4e-2
K5=6.9e-6
Rv1=K1*sqrt(Freq)
Rv2=K2*sqrt(Freq)

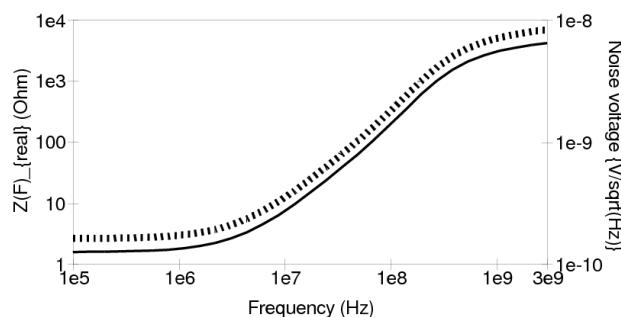
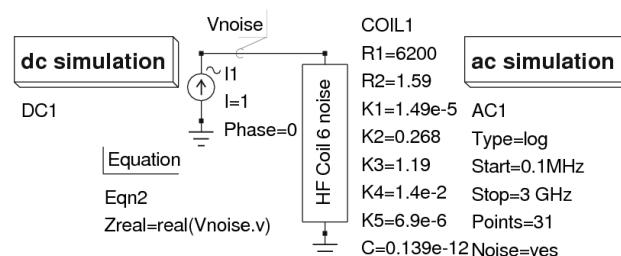
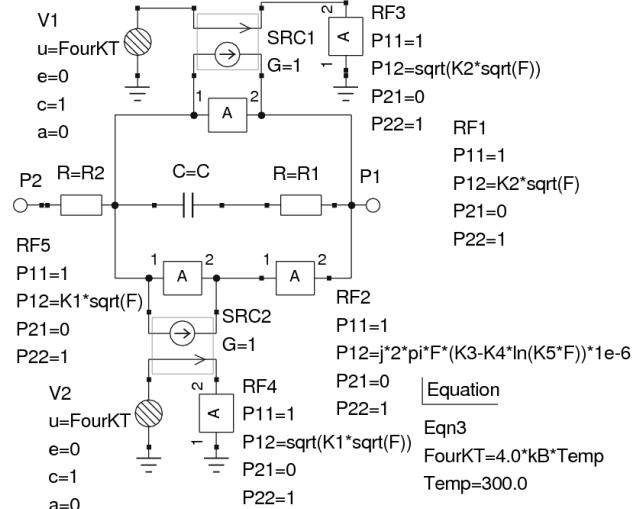
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* M.E. Brinson and S. Jahn, **Modelling of high-frequency inductance with Qucs non-linear radio frequency defined devices**, International Journal of Electronics, Vol. 96, No. 3, March 2009, pp. 307-321.

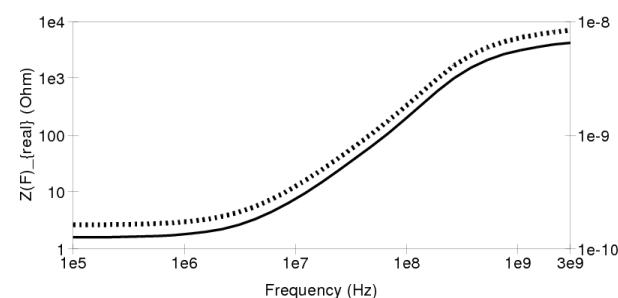
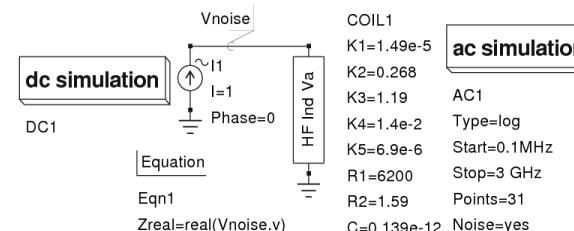
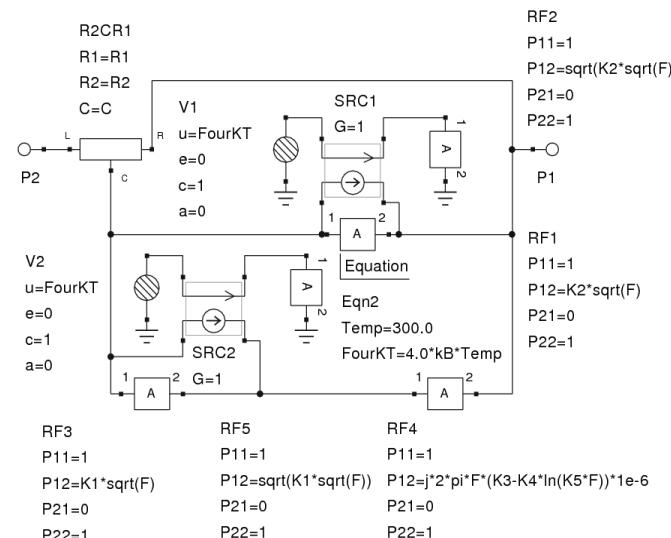
Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Modelling high frequency components with RFEDD: high-frequency skin effect noise

Noise model: standard
plus RFEDD non-linear components



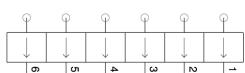
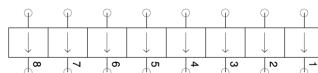
Noise model: Verilog-A block
plus RFEDD non-linear components



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Parameters for a general purpose compact operational amplifier macromodel with typical UA741 values as default

Name	Symbol	Description	Unit	Default
IB	I _B	Input bias current	A	80e-9
IB_TC	I _{BTC}	Input bias temp. coeff.	A °C ⁻¹	-1e-9
VOFF	V _{OFF}	Input offset voltage	V	7e-4
VOFF_TC	V _{OFFTC}	Input offset voltage temp. coeff.	V °C ⁻¹	1e-5
IOFF	I _{OFF}	Input offset current	A	1e-8
IOFF_T	I _{OFFTC}	Input offset current temp. coeff.	A °C ⁻¹	-2e-10
RD	R _D	Differential input resistance	Ω	2e6
RD_TC	R _{DTC}	Differential input res. temp. coeff.	°C ⁻¹	1.82e4
CD	C _D	Differential input capacitance	F	1.4e-12
AOL_0	A _{OLO}	Differential gain at DC	dB	105
GBP	G _{BP}	Differential unity gain frequency	Hz	1e6
FP2	F _{P2}	Differential gain second pole freq.	Hz	3e6
CMRR_0	C _{MRR0}	DC common-mode rejection ratio	dB	90
FCM	F _{CM}	Common-mode gain zero frequency	Hz	200
CMR	C _{MR}	Common-mode range voltage	V	12
PSRT	P _{SRT}	Positive signal slew rate	Vs ⁻¹	5e5
NSRT	N _{SRT}	Negative signal slew rate	Vs ⁻¹	5e5
RO	R _O	Output resistance	Ω	75
ILMAX	I _{LMAX}	Maximum DC output current	A	3.4e-2
ILMAX_TC	I _{LMAXTC}	Max. DC output current temp. coeff.	A °C ⁻¹	-7.1e-5
VLIMP	V _{LIMP}	Maximum positive output voltage	V	14
VLIMN	V _{LIMN}	Maximum negative output voltage	V	-14
Tnom	T _{nom}	Circuit parameter measurement temp.	°C	26.85
Temp	T _{temp}	Circuit temperature	°C	26.85
SFACT1	S _{FACT1}	Current limit scale factor	V	0.85
SFACT2	S _{FACT2}	Common-mode range scale factor	V	10
SFACT3	S _{FACT3}	Differential voltage gain scale factor	V	-100
PWD	P _{WD}	Power consumption	W	50e-3



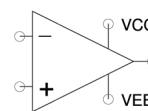
```

D1
Type=explicit
I1=(V1>0) ? 5e-16*(limexp(V1/VT)-1) : -5e-16*(limexp(-V1/VT)-1)
Q1=0
I2=0
Q2=0
I3=V3
Q3=CP2*V3
I4=(V4 > (VLIMP)) ? V4/(AOL_0*limexp(SFACT3*((V4/VLIMP)-1)) + 500) : (V4 < VLIMN) ? V4/(AOL_0*limexp(SFACT3*((V4/VLIMN) - 1)) + 500) : V4/AOL_0
Q4=CP1*V4
I5=(V5 > SLRTN) ? SLRTN : (V5 < -SLRTN) ? -SLRTN : V5
Q5=0
I6=0
Q6=0
I7=CMR*tanh(V7/SFACT2)
I7=0
I8=(V3 >= VLIMP) ? VLIMP : (V3 <= VLIMN) ? VLIMN : V3
I8=0
  
```

* M.E. Brinson and S. Jahn, Compact macromodelling of operational amplifiers with equation defined devices, International Journal of Electronics, Vol 96 (2), February 2009. pp. 109-122.

Equation based compact Macromodels:

operational amplifier example*



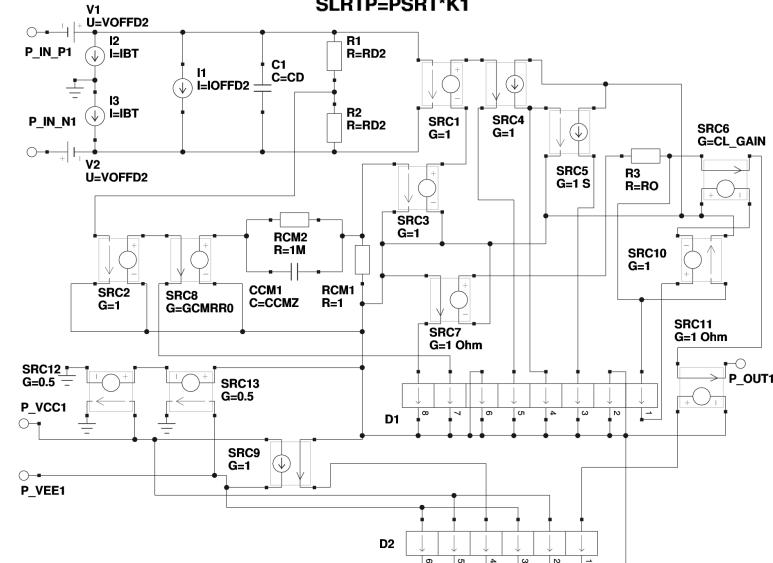
Symbol+parameters

Equations

Equation

```

Eqn1
GCMRR0=1e6/CMRR_0
AOL_0=10^(AOLDC/20)
CMRR_0=10^(CMRRDC/20)
ILMAXT=ILMAX+ILMAX_TC*(T-TN)
VOFF=VOFF+VOFF_TC*(T-TN)
RDT=RDT+RD_TC*(T-TN)
IBT=IB+IB_TC*(T-TN)
IOFFT=IOFF+IOFF_TC*(T-TN)
T=Temp+273.15
TN=Tnom+273.15
CL_GAIN=SFACT1/ILMAXT
K1=1/(2*pi*GBP)
VT=vt(300)
CP1=K1
CP2=1/(2*pi*FP2)
CCMZ=1/(2*pi*1e6*FCM)
VOFFD2=VOFF/2
IOFFD2=IOFF/2
RD2=RDT/2
SLRTN=NSRT*K1
SLRTP=PSRT*K1
  
```

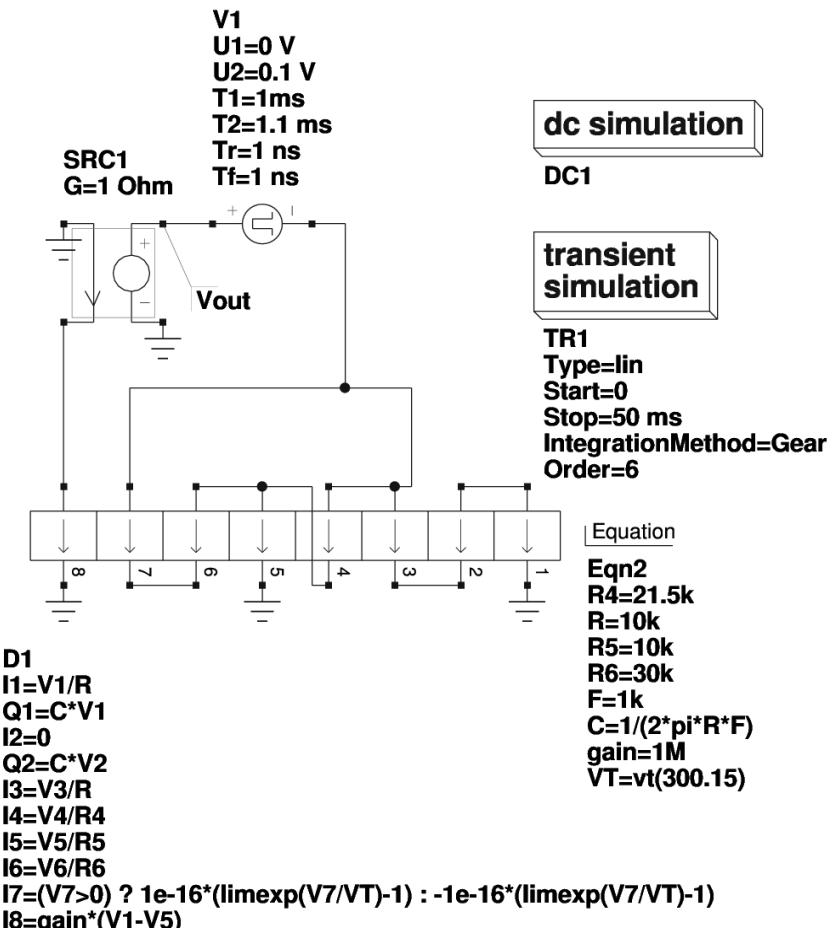


EDD quantity equations

Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

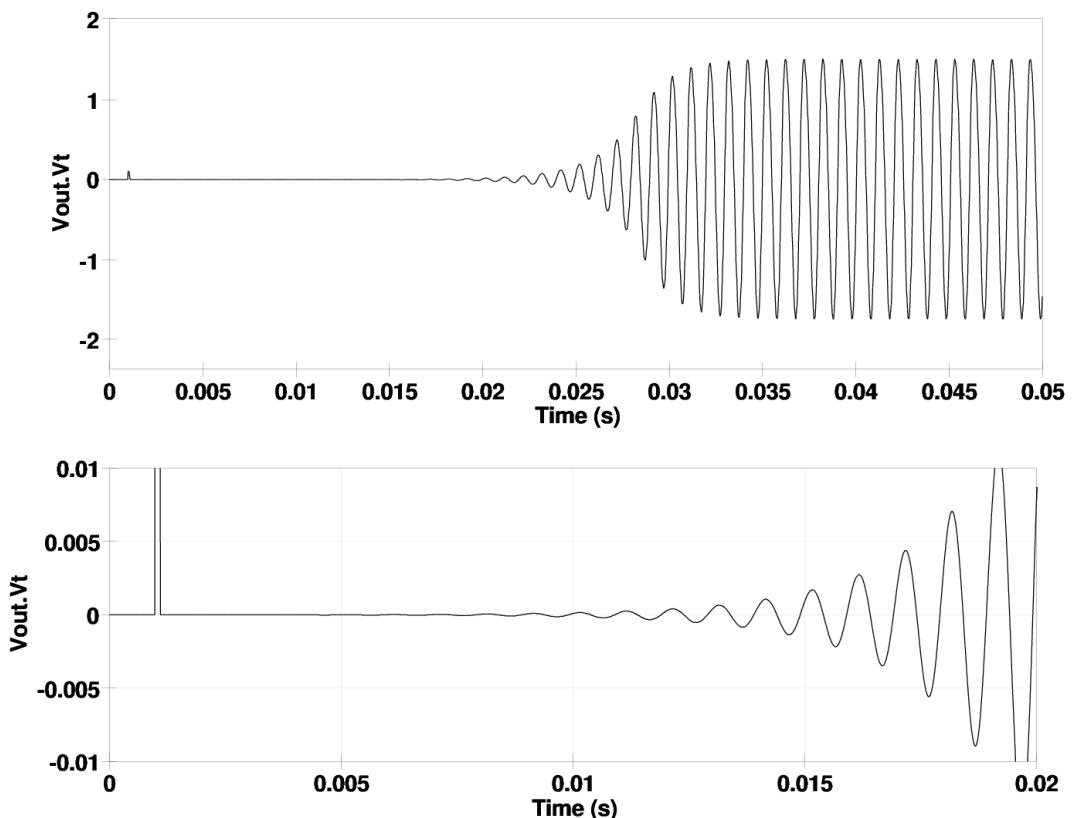
Equation defined device modelling of circuit blocks

Oscillator Circuit



Circuit equations

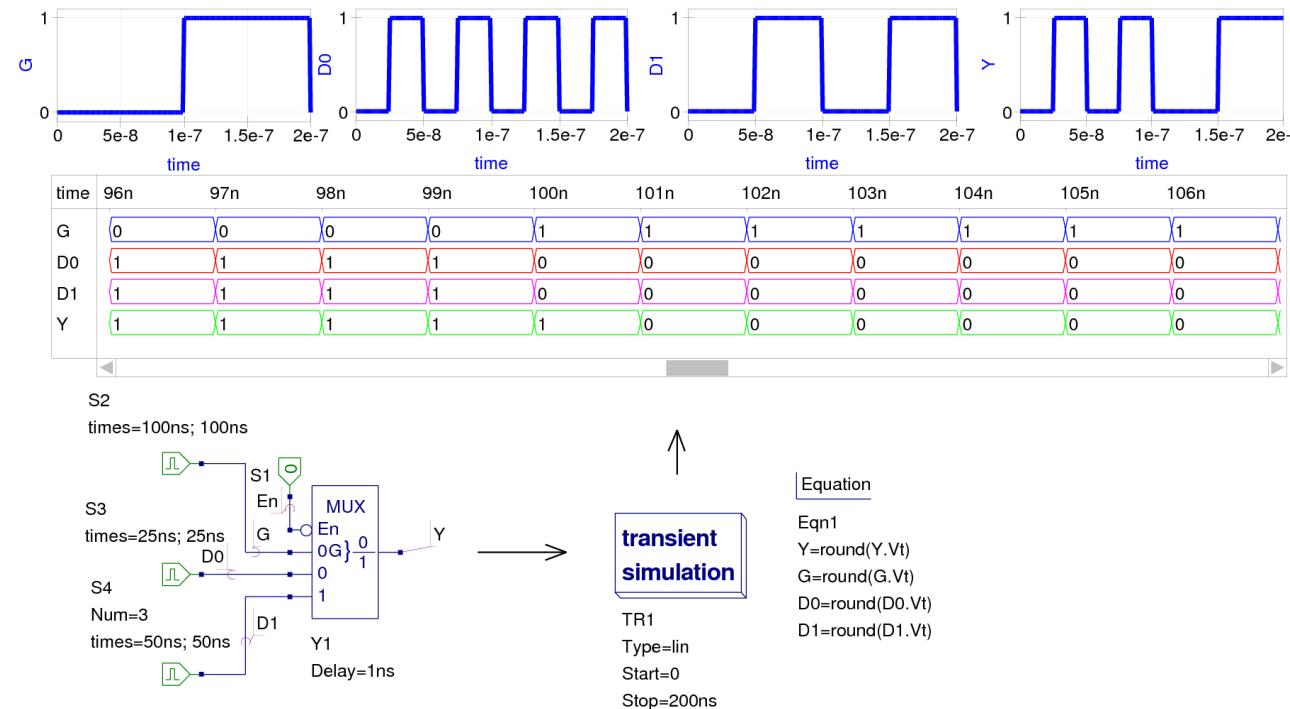
Output voltage plotted against time



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Digital simulation: one symbol -> multi-hardware description language code generation

An unusual application of Verilog-A

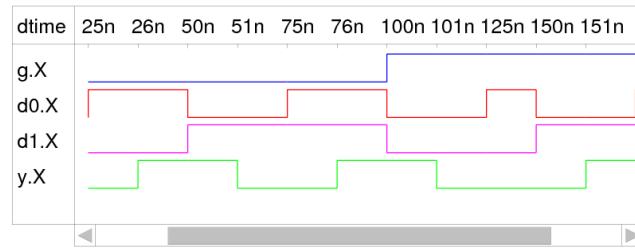


VHDL

Verilog

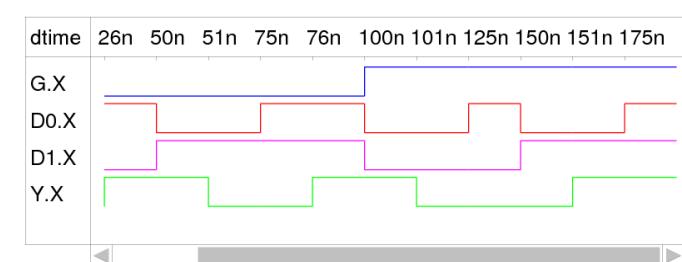
digital simulation

Digi1
Type=TimeList
time=200 ns
Model=VHDL



digital simulation

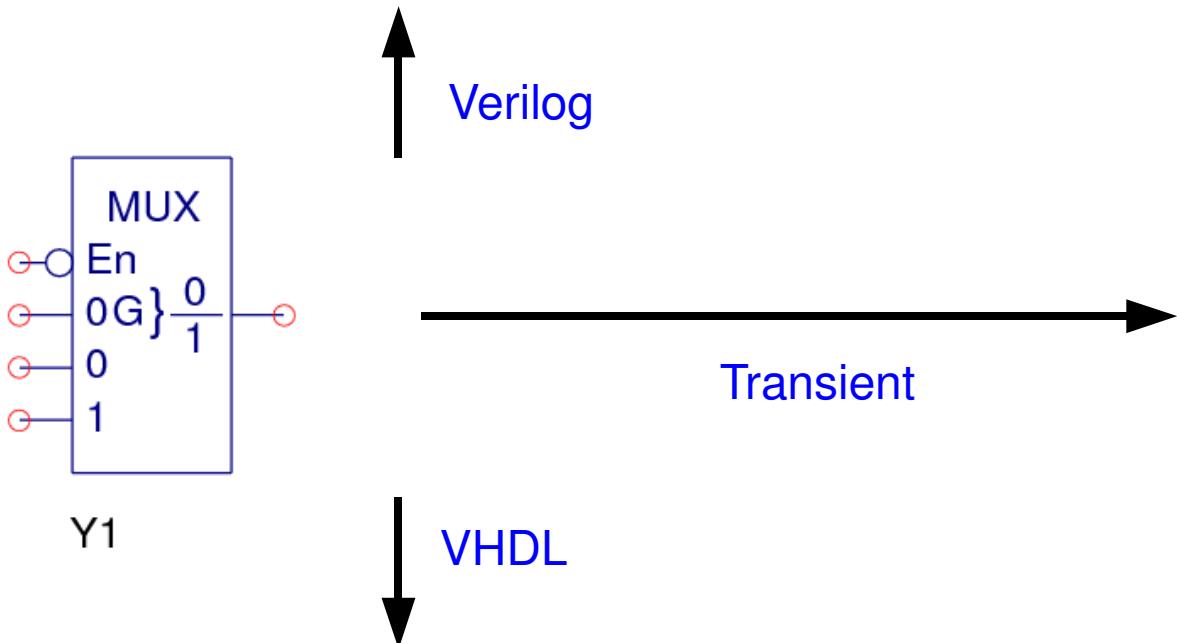
Digi1
Type=TimeList
time=200 ns
Model=Verilog



Compact device modelling and circuit macromodelling

Qucs HDL code generation

```
// Y1 mux2to1
assign netY = net.regY1netY;
reg net.regY1netY=0;
always @ (netEn or netG or netD0 or netD1 )
net.regY1netY <= #1000 ( netD1 && netG ) || ( netD0 && ( ~netG ) ) ;
```



```
Y1 : process (netEn , netG , netD0 , netD1)
begin
    netY <= ( not netEn) and ( ( netD1 and netG ) or ( netD0 and ( not netG ) ) ) after 1 ns;
end process ;
```

```
`include "disciplines.vams"
`include "constants.vams"
module mux2to1 (EN, A, D0, D1, Y);
inout EN, A, D0, D1, Y;
electrical EN, A, D0, D1, Y;
electrical n1, n2;
//
`define attr(txt) (*txt*)
parameter real TR=6 from [1.0:20.0]
`attr(info="tranfer function high scaling factor");
parameter real Delay = 1e-9 from [0: inf]
`attr(info="output delay" unit="s");
//
real Rd, Ccc, In1;
//
analog begin
@(initial.model)
begin
Rd = 1e3;
Ccc= Delay*1.43/Rd;
end
In1 = (1-V(EN))*(V(D1)*V(A)+V(D0)*(1-V(A)));
I(n1) <+ -0.5*(1+tanh(TR*(In1-0.5)));
I(n1) <+ V(n1);
I(n1, n2) <+ V(n1,n2)/Rd;
I(n2) <+ ddt(Ccc*V(n2));
I(Y) <+ -V(n2);
I(Y) <+ V(Y);
end
endmodule
```



Summary and future work

Summary

The hierarchical approach to compact semiconductor device modelling and circuit macromodelling outlined in this presentation stresses the role equation defined device modelling techniques will take on as GPL simulator technology evolves in the future.

Future work

- Add more MOSFET models – for example BSIM3, BSIM4 and PSP
- Extend the range of optoelectronic device models
- Improve the Verilog-A and Qucs interface documentation
- Further develop the Verilog-A modular “turn key” capabilities
- Cooperate with other “modellers” to add emerging technology device models to Qucs
- General development to reduce bugs and add facilities listed in the package to-do lists

