# Experience in RF and Digital Design and Test

Amimul Ihsan MSEE, Stanford University RF and Electrical Engineer October 2024

### **SUMMARY**

Experience in RFIC design and Testing RF modules

RF Link Budget Analysis on millimeter wave SoC, MtM

Experience with design, test, integration and manufacturing

Digital design: Shifter, SRAM and Other CPU Blocks

Familiarity with: JJ, SQUID, Quant\_Entangl and RQL



#### RFIC Design and Testing of RF Modules in RF-Lab

Digital Design: Successfully designed, tested and delivered different blocks of modern CPU

Conducted Research on: GaN (WBW) for Space Application Novel Process beyond 10nm Nano Technology



Design Overview of Boeing Solid State Power Amplifier (SSPA) for Multiport Transceiver Systems for SLS.

Design Overview of Solid State Power Amplifier (SSPA) and Multiport Transceiver Systems for Boeing Space. Proposed techniques to mitigate challenges such as Linearity, Gain, SSPA CLASSES, Power Consumption, AM-PM Conversion. superconducting electronics.

# Challenging Projects and how they were successfully delivered

Main Challenging Project: RFIC and System Design for Space Application and Testing of RF modules

Another Challenging Project: Successfully delivered Digital Design using Nano-Scale CMOS & SOI Technologies for leading edge Microprocessors

Note: There is NO company confidential or otherwise any propriety information on any of these slides

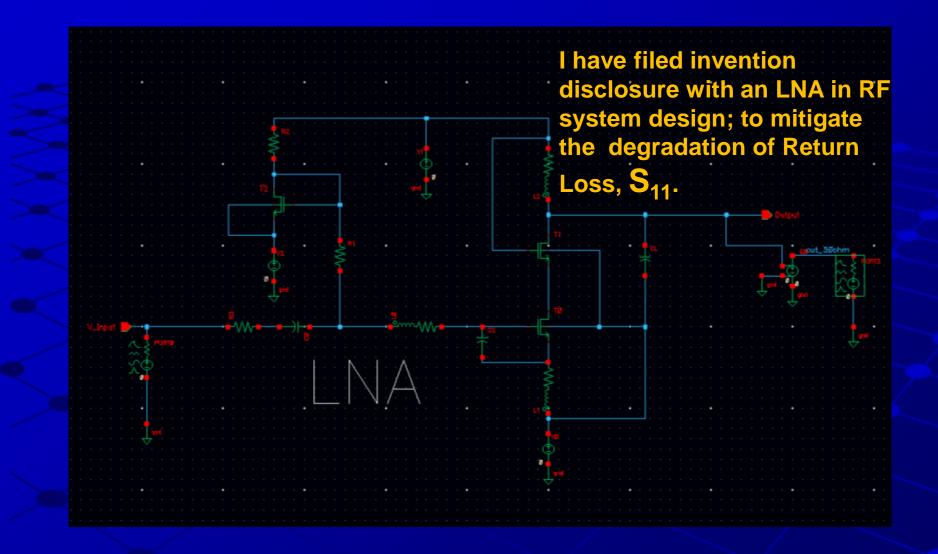
## **RFIC Design/Testing for Space Application**

SITUATION/TASKS: No PDK was installed so using my EDA tool experience installed the PDK for RF design

ACTIONS: I had to learn two tools ADS (from Keysight) and RF-Spectra (from Cadence) rather quickly

RESULTS: Successfully Completed the RFIC Project: Designed LNA, PA (next page).

## **Circuit of Low Noise Amplifier**



# Cascaded PA: Better Stability, Higher Linearity & Lowering the miller effects



## **Leadership Skills and Experience**

 A) As a Lead engineer, trained and guided Electronic Engineers in the high tech at IBM, AMD and Northrop Grumman

B) Coordinated and led RF Engineers for the RF Lab and wrote Test Procedures for the RF Team

C) Experience with leading a team of engineers

### **Robust and Reliable Design**

 Solved complex technical issues on Design/Testing for Robustness on:
 EM, IR drop and Noise

Designed and tested both Digital and RF Modules with the Safety, Robustness and Longevity

Mitigating the following issues for a Robust Design:
 Noise, Electromigration, Low Power Supply
 Electromagnetic Interference
 Failures in a harsh environment

superconducting electronics.

# Challenging RF Lab Efforts: during the pandemic

We followed the Lab procedure that two of us had written the previous day

Then took the measurements and analyzed the data in the Lab After some debugging efforts, went to the RF-Lab with better procedures

RF System Design: Measured P1dB/IP3 for BB. Programmed Digital boards with LabView Software

Coordinated manufacturing efforts at the lab

I presented the Lab report to the management

# IBM CPU Redesign from 130nm to 45nm CMOS SOI Technology.

SITUATION: Challenges of Design in SOI Technology from CMOS

When a technology gets shrunk two things increase:
1. Variations and
2. Leakage Current

Furthermore, it is almost impossible to achieve radiation hardness on modern process nodes

# Redesigned IBM CPU from CMOS 130nm to 45nm SOI Technology

#### **TASKS/ACTIONS:**

Leveraging my design, verification and Device Physics experience completed the complex design

Gained precious experience in Silicon Debugging from the hardware failure analysis; this is a desired skill for a successful final product

#### **RESULTS:**

Designed, Tested, Debugged and Successfully Delivered Microelectronics Chips to our customers

### **Summary of Low Power Design**

Knobs for Low Power Design	CHANGE	Threshold V <sub>th</sub>	Leakage Current, I <sub>Leak</sub>
<b>Device Length I</b>	IF DECREASES	DECREASES	INCREASES
<b>Device Width W</b>	IF DECREASES	INCREASES	DECREASES
V <sub>bulk</sub>	IF DECREASES	INCREASES	DECREASES
Doping-Cont N <sub>A</sub>	IF INCREASES	INCREASES	DECREASES
Gate Thickn T <sub>si</sub>	IF DECREASES	DECREASES	INCREASES
Temperature	IF INCREASES	DECREASES	INCREASES

# R&D: Motivation for Low Power Device beyond < 10nm Tech

The scaling of conventional Si-based MOSFETs is currently running into fundamental problems.

Hot electron effects, Velocity Saturation, Short Channel Effects, Punchthrough and Tunneling effects are some of challenging factors of CMOS Technology beyond 10nm gate length.

Hole Mobilities of Primary Semiconductors [cm<sup>2</sup>/V·s]

Si	Ge	AlGaAs	InGaAs	InP	GaN
450	1900	140 - 400	300 - 400	200	350

# R&D: Next generation Nano-Scale novel Device

Alternate High-mobility channel materials is vital for the next generation of high-performance MOSFETs

Germanium (Ge) has been considered as an attractive channel material because of its higher carrier mobility and process compatibility with Si-based devices

Sentaurus Device Simulator was used. Output (I<sub>D</sub>-V<sub>DS</sub>) characteristics at various V<sub>GS</sub> biases. Also, TCAD is used for Device Simulations. And Monte Carlo could be used

### **R&D Projects for GaN Technology**

**Research on RF-GaN Process for Space:** 

 The main advantage of GaN is: It can have a Power Amplifier (PA) whose Drain Voltage can swing up to 40 volts

The GaN device inherently poses the quality of Wide Band (WB) quality

### **Software skills and experience**

#### **MATLAB:**

 Simulated different complex equations and their graphs. GPS III Satellite project
 Goal was to determine the Gravity of the Moon

Extensively worked in Unix (also in Linux) env

- Written Assembly, Scripting
- Courses taken at college: C++/C# and Python

Thank you!