

IMPACT OF THE SENSOR TEMPERATURE ON LOW ACETONE CONCENTRATION DETECTION USING AlGaN/GaN HEMTs

**Georgia
Tech**
CREATING THE NEXT

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**Georgia
Tech**

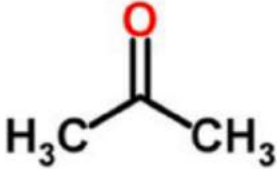


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- I. Context and Introduction
- II. Experimental results
- III. Discussion
- IV. Conclusion

I. Context and Introduction: Why Acetone?

Biomarker Compounds ¹	Chemical Structure	Associated Diseases/ Disorders/Conditions ²	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acetone a biomarker• VOCs• Sensing at low level		ARDS	[48,49]
		Lung cancer	[50]
		CIP	[48]
		CPD	[51]
		Cystic fibrosis	[52]
		Diabetes mellitus	[41,53]
		Hepatic cirrhosis	[54]
Ketosis, starvation	[55]		
PLC	[43]		

Need of highly sensitive sensors
for this VOC detection

metabolites

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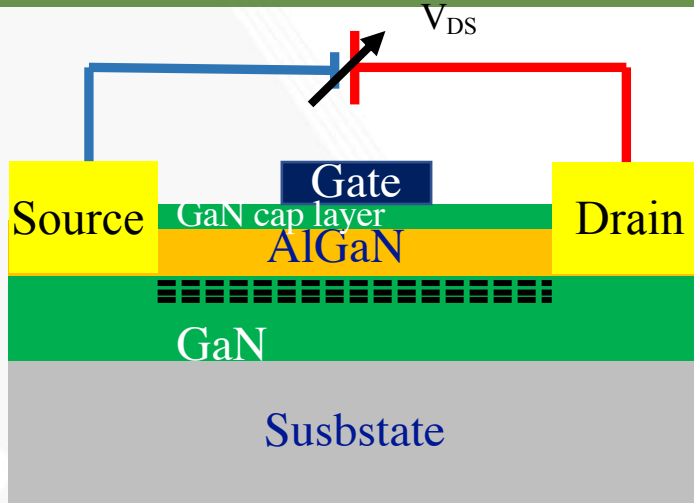
Review

Advances in Electronic-Nose Technologies for the Detection of Volatile Biomarker Metabolites in the Human Breath

Alphus D. Wilson

Southern Hardwoods Laboratory, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 227, Stoneville, MS 38776, USA; E-Mail: dwilson02@fs.fed.us;

I. Context and Introduction: which sensor?



- **2D gas:** du to the AlGaIn/GaN barrier
- **High stability:** Chemical, and high temperature operating
- **High drain current:** May be modulated by the applied voltage easily
- **High electrons mobility:**

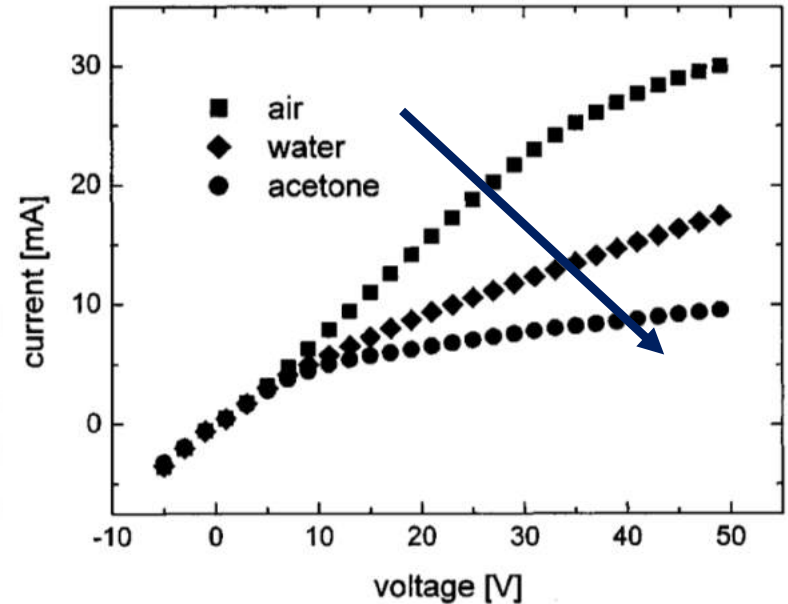
phys. stat. sol. (a) **185**, No. 1, 85–89 (2001)

High-Electron-Mobility AlGaIn/GaN Transistors (H-EMT) for Fluid Monitoring Applications

R. NEUBERGER¹⁾ (a), G. MÜLLER (a), O. AMBACHER (b), and M. STUTZM

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(b) Walter Schottky Institute, TU Munich, Am Coulombwall, D-85748 Garching Germany



I. Context and Introduction: which sensor?

AlGa_N/Ga_N HEMT based liquid sensors

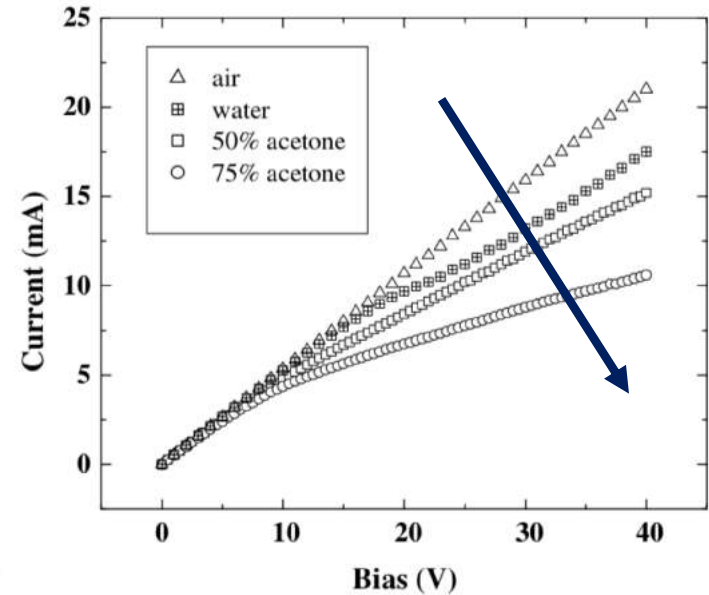
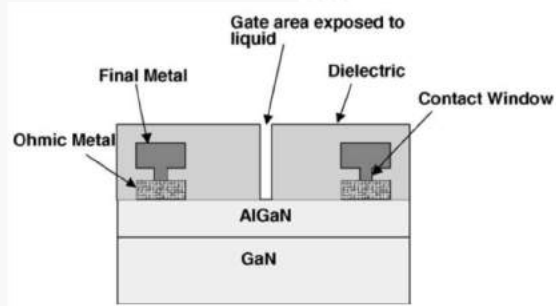
R. Mehandru ^a, B. Luo ^a, B.S. Kang ^a, Jihyun Kim ^a, F. Ren ^{a,*}, S.J. Pearton ^b,
C.-C. Pan ^c, G.-T. Chen ^c, J.-I. Chyi ^c

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Liquid
solutions



I. Context and Introduction: which sensor?



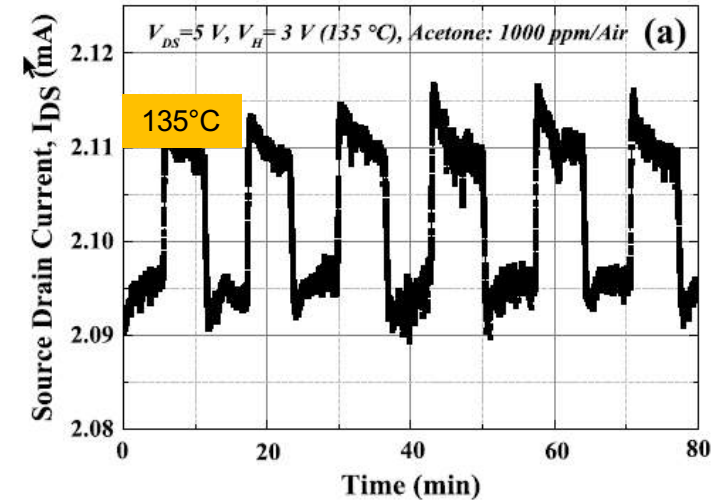
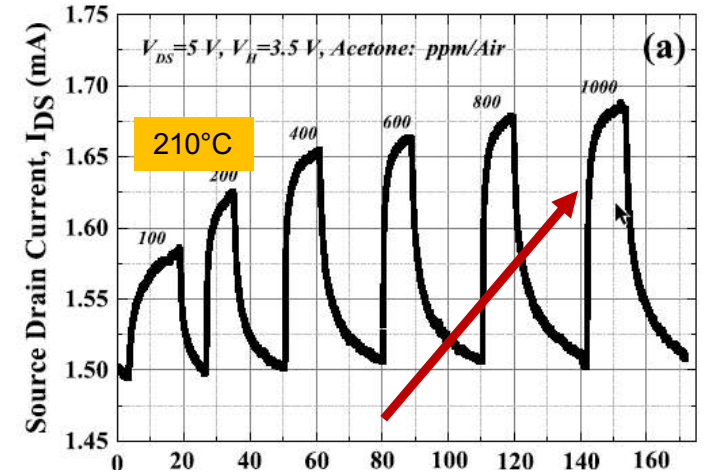
Characterization of an Acetone Detector Based on a Suspended WO_3 -Gate AlGaN/GaN HEMT Integrated With Microheater

Jianwen Sun¹, Robert Sokolovskij, Elina Iervolino, Fabio Santagata, Zewen Liu,
Pasqualina M. Sarro, *Fellow, IEEE*, and Guoqi Zhang, *Fellow, IEEE*



1. Should we use High or Room Temperature?
2. How to annihilate temperature effect?
3. What is the industrially more appropriated method for measurements?

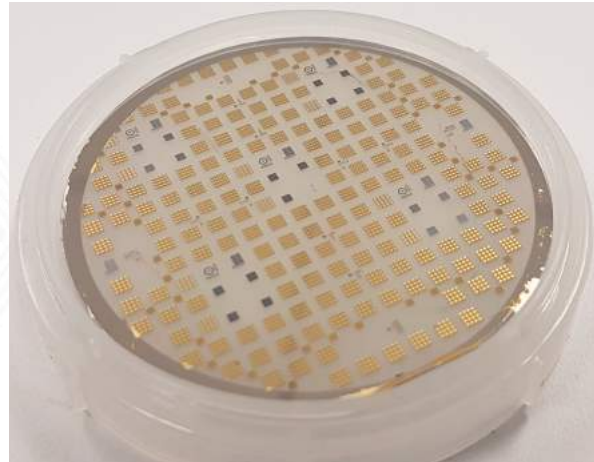
Acetone in air



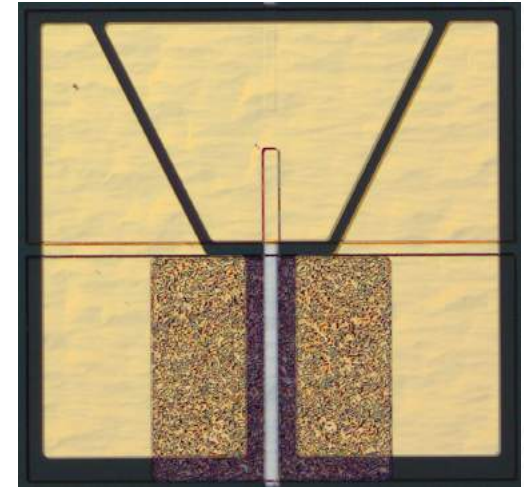
II. Experimental results: Our HEMT



MOVPE

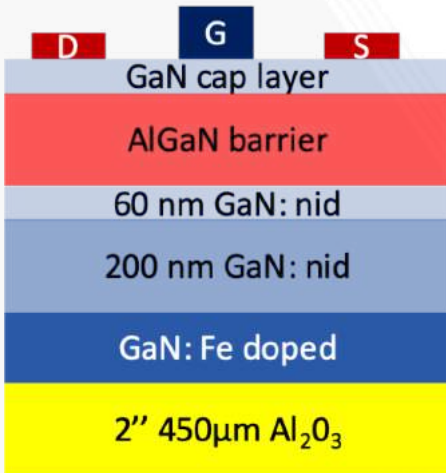


Wafer of manufactured HEMTs



Microscopic view of one HEMT

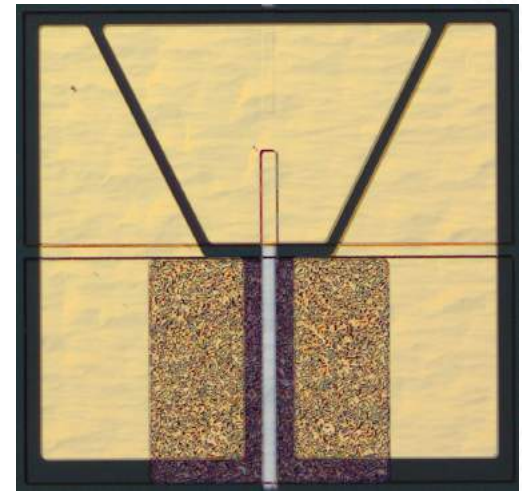
II. Experimental results: Our HEMT



MOVPE

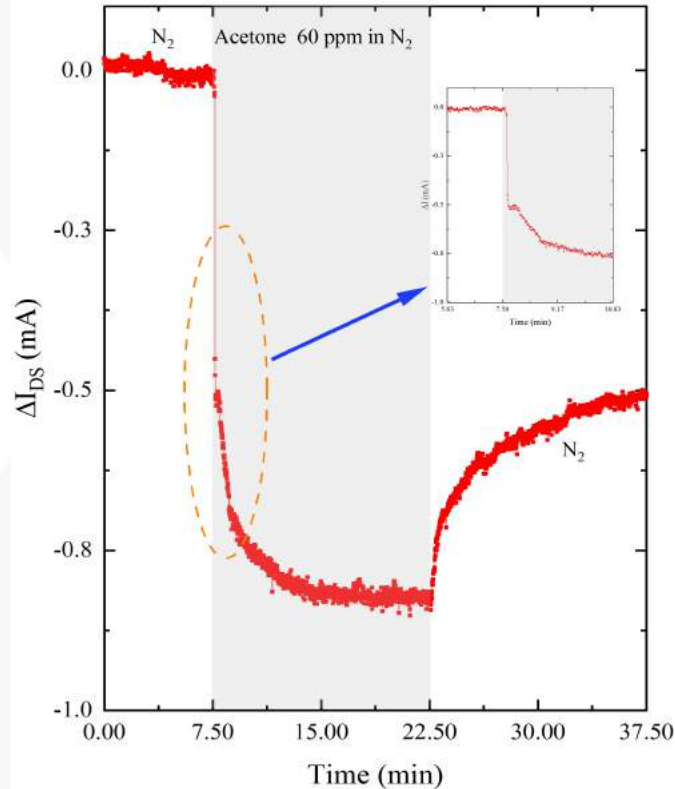
- **Ohmic contact**: multilayer 12/200/40/100 nm of Ti/Al/Ni/Au
- **Followed by a RTA** 870°C
- **Gate contact**: Pt (15nm)

Eectrical contact



Microscopic view of one HEMTS

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ RT



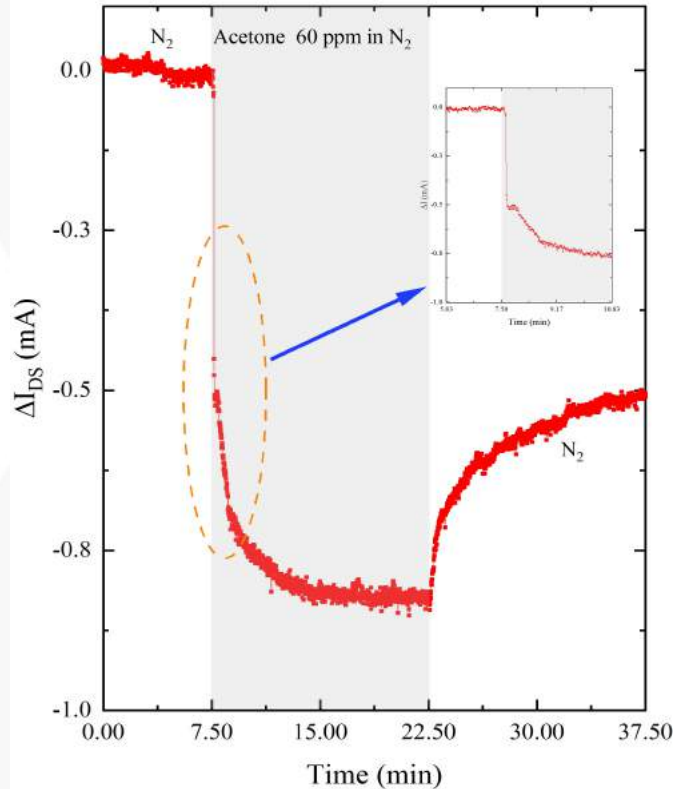
Under acetone:

1. **Sharp** decrease of the current is observed just after the acetone switching
2. **Current stabilizes** for a few seconds and starts again to decrease with a smaller slope
3. **Finally saturates** to reach a constant value

Going back under Nitrogen:

1. **Slow increase** of the current followed by a saturation without recovering the initial state
2. **Initial state** Recovered after several hours

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ RT



1. Sensitivity: $15\mu A/ppm$
2. Relative variation: 2.4%
3. Time response: 131s

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ RT

N ₂ flow (cm ³ /s)	Acetone concentration (ppm)	Sensitivity (μA/ppm)	Relative variation (%)	Response time (s)
100	30	33.3	2.7	70
200	60	15	2.4	131
300	90	7	1.7	166
400	120	6	1.9	150

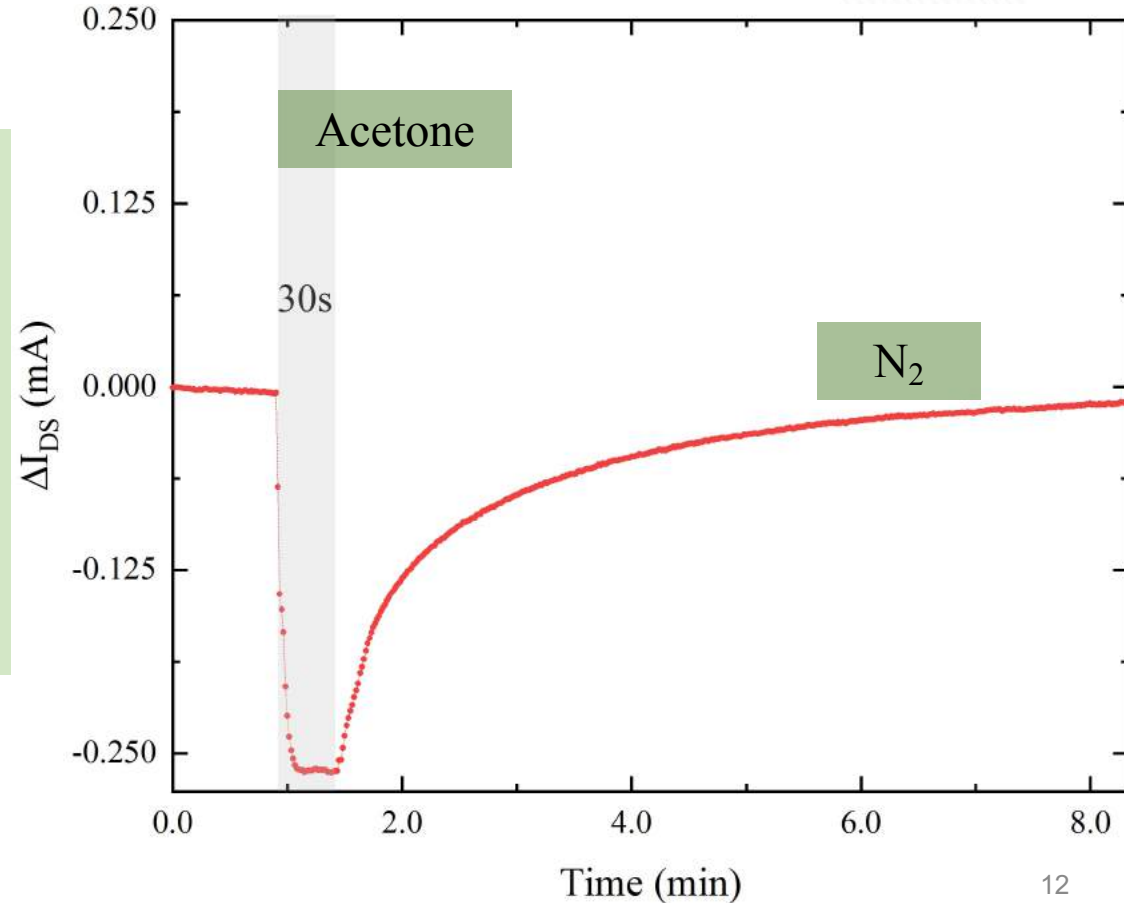
- $\begin{cases} S \searrow \text{ when } [Acetone] \nearrow \\ \tau_r \nearrow \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{Temperature effect (cooling of the sample)}$
- τ_{rc} , not measured it takes hours!

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ 300°C

- Acetone concentration: 60ppm
- Exposure time: 30, 60, 90, 120s

30s

- Sharp decrease of the current
- With N₂, recovery of the initial level
- Time response (6s) faster than RT
- Sensitivity (4.2μA/ppm, 1.9%) smaller, may be acetone cooling

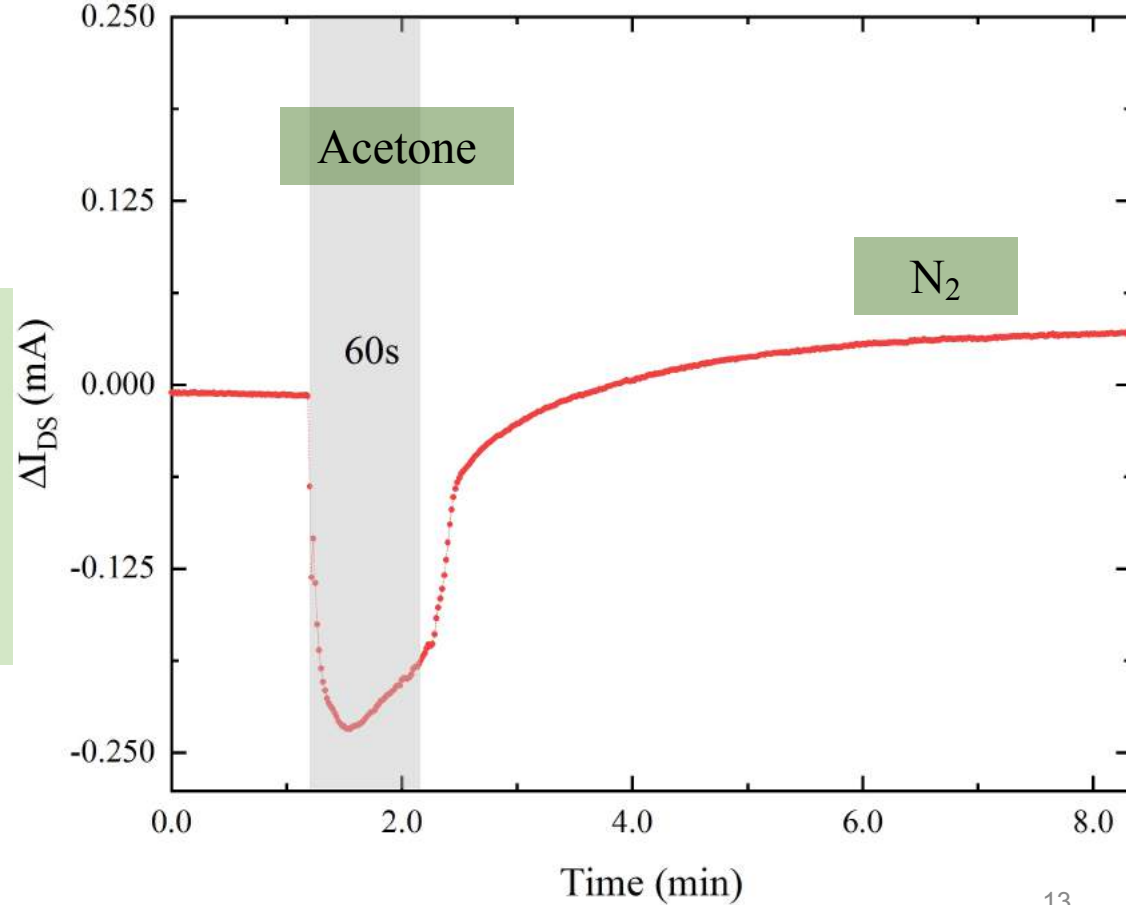


II. Experimental results: Acetone @ 300°C

- Acetone concentration: 60ppm
- Exposure time: 30, 60, 90, 120s

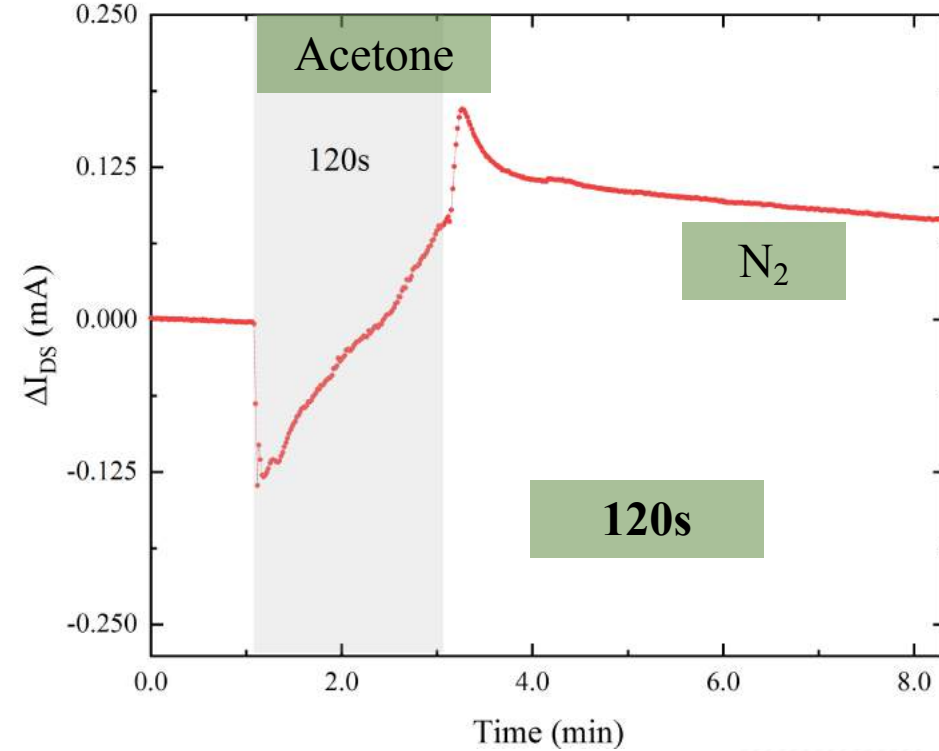
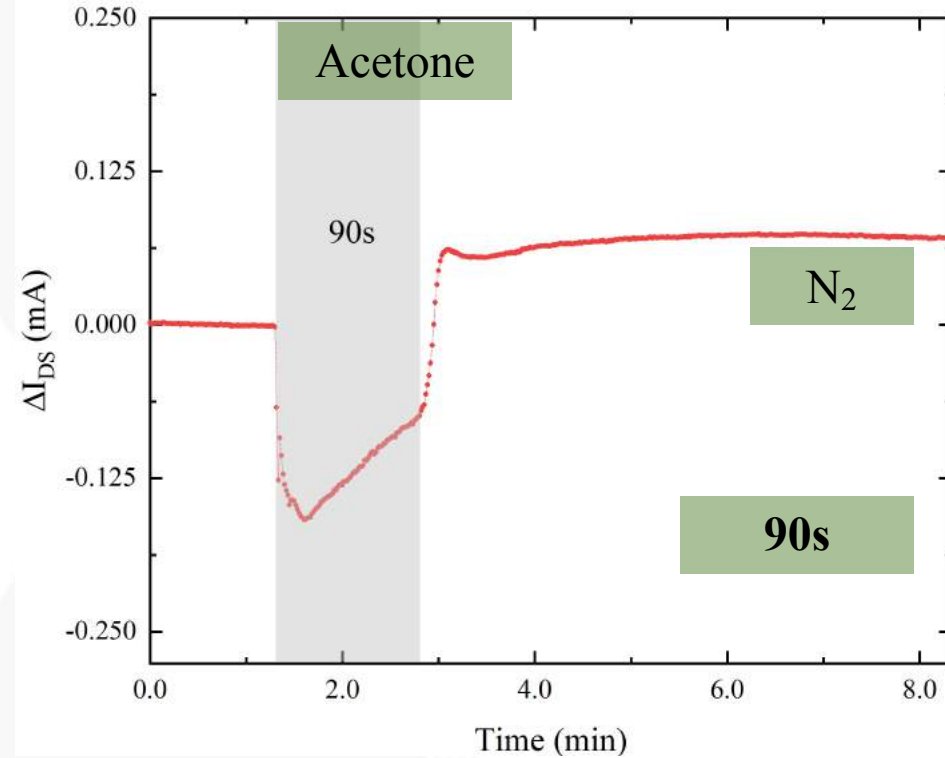
60s

- ✓ Sharp decrease of the current
- ✓ Current decreases but starts to increase, due to the temperature effect
- ✓ **Temperature effect starts to appear**



II. Experimental results: Acetone @ 300°C

- Acetone concentration: 60ppm
- Exposure time: 30, 60, 90, 120s



- ✓ Sharp decrease of the current
- ✓ **Temperature effect more pronounced and**
- ✓ **Competitive effects**

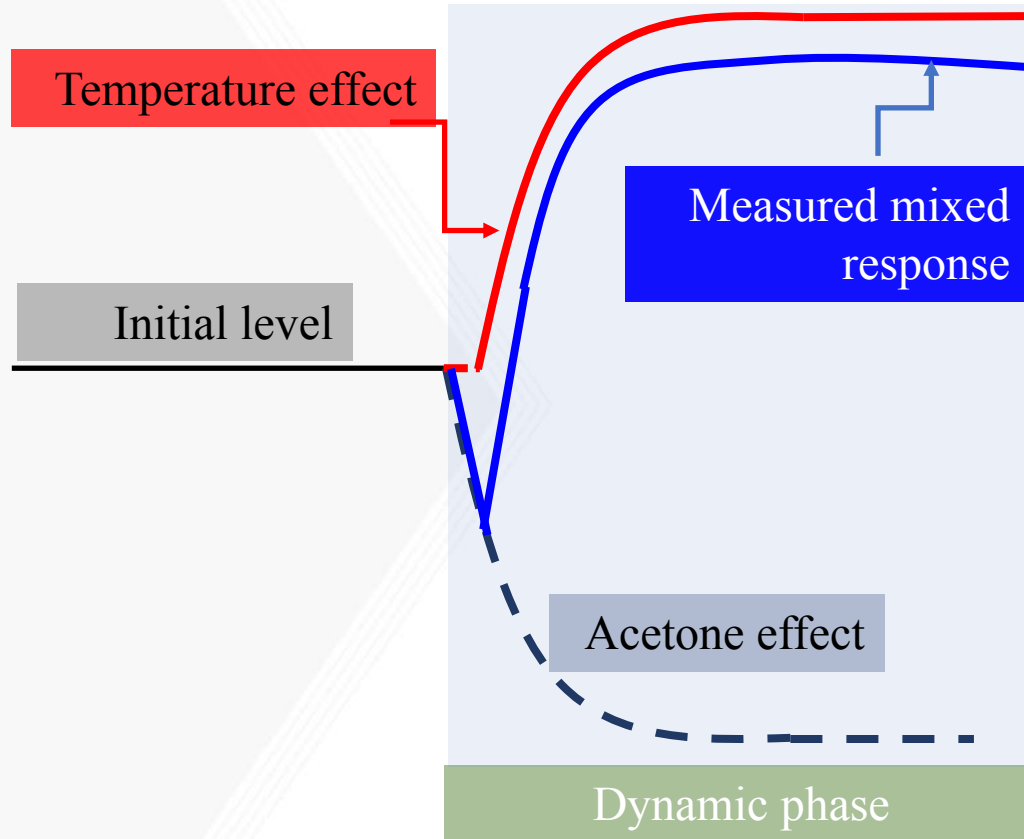
II. Experimental results: acetone @ 300°C

- Acetone concentration: 60ppm
- Exposure time: 30, 60, 90, 120s

Acetone duration	30s	60s	90s	120s
τ_r (s)	6	11	12	5
Sensitivity ($\mu\text{A/ppm}$)	4.2	4	2.7	2.2
Time before starting increase (s)	20	20	18	15

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ 300°C

- What happens?
 - 2 competitive effects



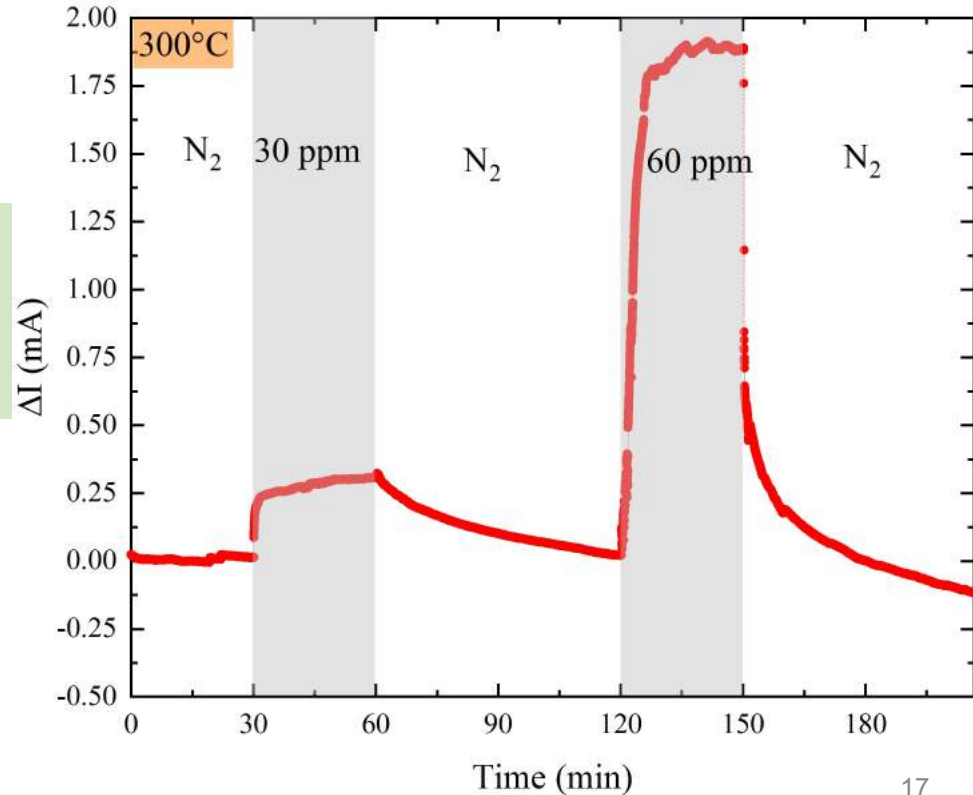
When a short duration flux is introduced:

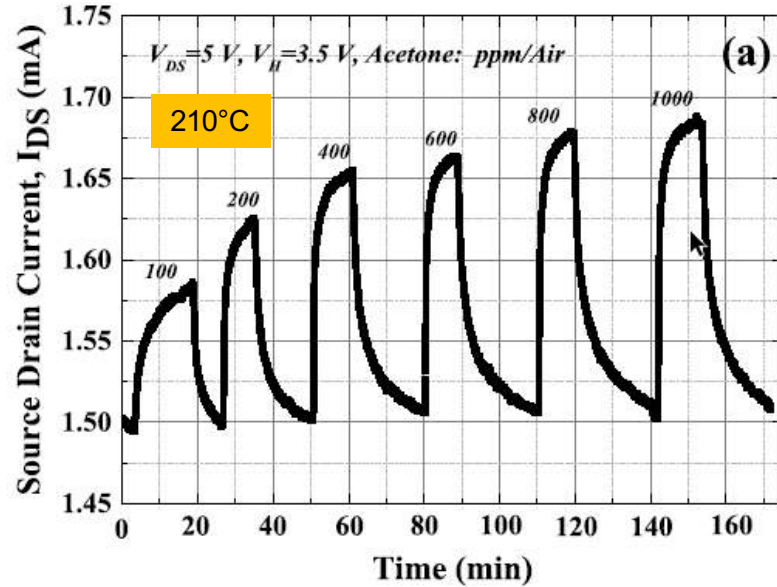
- Cooling effect, proportional to the injection duration
- The acetone implies a decrease of the current
- Cooling involves an increase of the current
- Compensation occurs and hence the acetone response is limited

II. Experimental results: Acetone @ 300°C

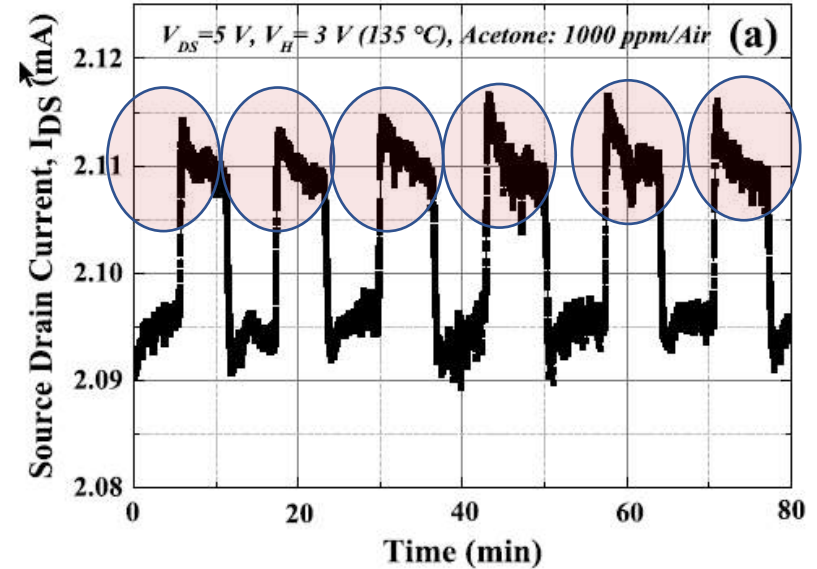
- Long time exposure

In this case the acetone effect is entirely dominated by the cooling effect





Increase of the current under acetone in air and @ 210°C

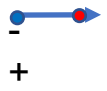
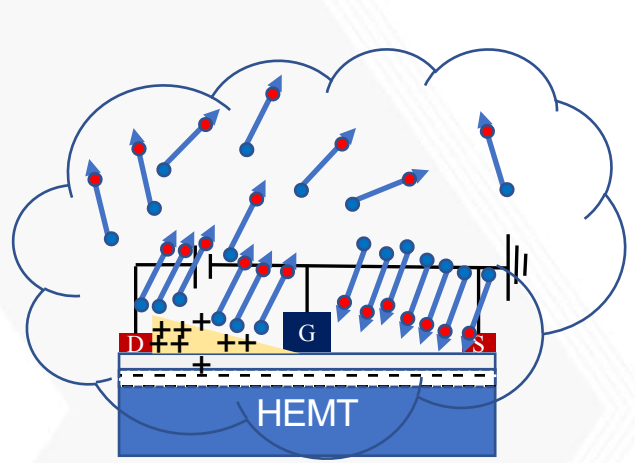


Some decrease is observed, @ the saturation region for lower temperature (135°C)

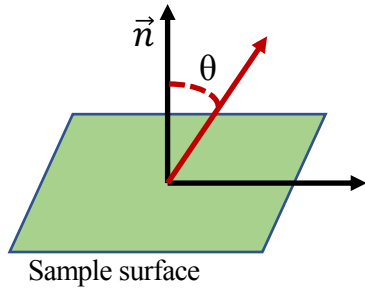
III. Discussion: How it sworks?

Dipolar moment theory

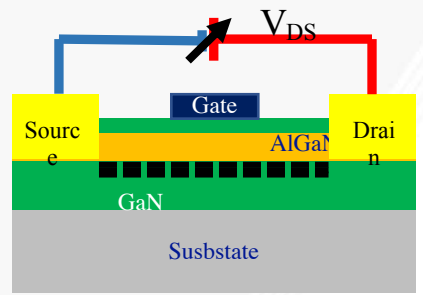
(Rabaa and Stiens, 2012)



- Polar molecules interaction with the surface charge lies a surface potential change:



$$\Delta V = \frac{N_{sp} p (\cos\theta)}{\epsilon \epsilon_0}$$



N_{sp} : dipole density per unit area
 θ : angle between the surface normal and the dipole moment
 ϵ : dielectric constant of the gas and ϵ_0 is the vacuum permittivity

III. Discussion: How it sworks?

Dipolar moment theory

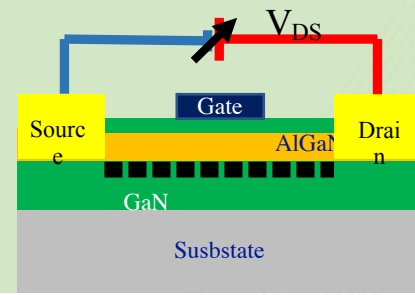
(Rabaa and Stiens, 2012)

Model

• $I_{DS} = Wq v_d(x) n_s(m, x)$, n_s being the charge density in the channel

$$n_s(m, s) = \frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon(m)}{qd} \times \left(V_{gs} + \Delta V - v_{th}(m) - V_{DS} - \frac{E_F(m)}{q} \right)$$

$$v_{th} = \phi_b - \frac{\Delta E_c(m)}{q} - \frac{q N_d d^2}{2 \epsilon_0 \epsilon(m)} - \frac{|\sigma(m)|}{\epsilon_0 \epsilon(m)} d$$

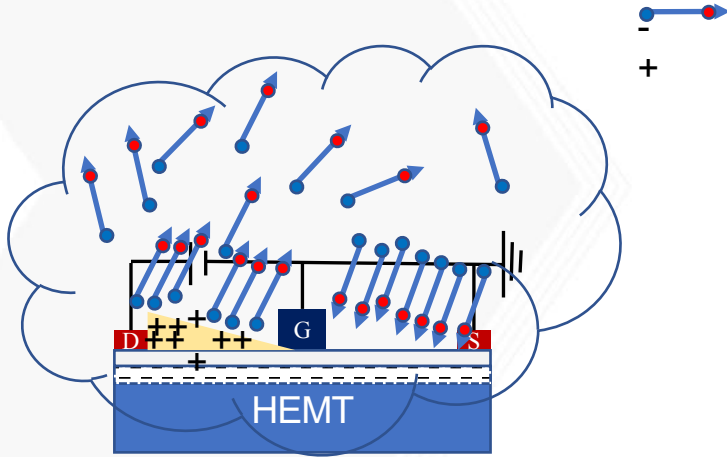


III. Discussion: How it sworks?

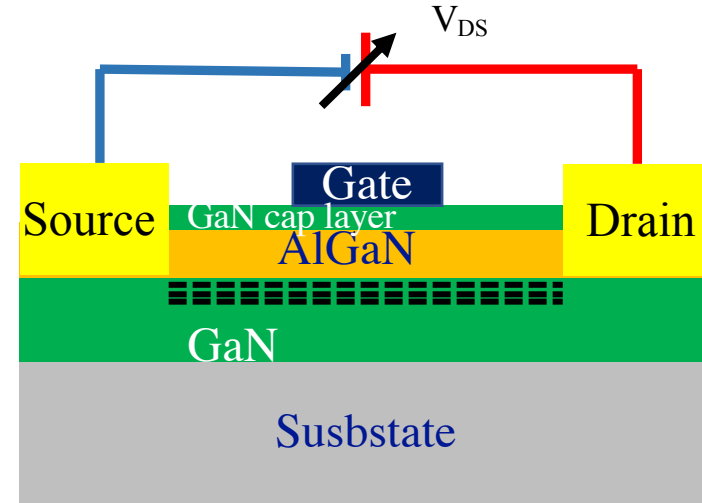
Dipolar moment theory

(Rabaa and Stiens, 2012)

In our case



$\Delta V < 0 \Rightarrow I_{DS} \searrow$ That is what observed in the acetone case



IV. Conclusion

- ✓ Acetone effect decreases the current @ RT with a sensitivity of $33\mu\text{A/ppm}$, the highest ever reported at Room temperature
- ✓ At high temperature, the temperature effect counterbalance the acetone effect, especially for longer exposition time.
- ✓ Dipolar moment electrostatic interaction is mainly responsible for the sensor response
- ✓ Temperature can be useful only to accelerate the sensor regeneration
- ✓ Care must be taken to annihilate temperature response

Aknowledgments

Team members



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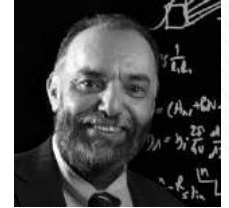
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Paul VOSS



Jean Paul
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Abdallah
OUGAZZADEN

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