Contents

Acknowledgments Abstract	v Vii
CHAPTER 1	1
Introduction	
1.1 Overview1.2 Organization of the thesis	1 5
CHAPTER 2	9
Nonlinear distortions in active devices	9
2.1 Linearity figure of merit for active devices2.2 Distortion in active devices2.3 IMD characterization of devices2.4 Comparison of devices in terms of linearity	9 10 15 20
CHAPTER 3	23
GaN HEMT	23
 3.1 Basic HEMT operation 3.2 GaN material properties 3.3 GaN HEMTdevice fabrication 3.3.1 Substrate 3.3.2 Basic GaN process technology at FBH 3.4 Packaging 	15 23 24 24 25 28

Contents	X

CHAPTER 4	31				
Measurement and characterization					
4.1 Intermodulation test setup 4.1.1 The input amplifier 4.1.2 Bias-T	31 35				
 4.2 Power calibration 4.3 Fixture 4.4 Measurements 4.5 Measurement safety 4.5.1 Drain safety using e-fuse 4.5.2 Self pinching bias-T to avoid gate turn-on and spurious oscillation 	37 37 39 41 42 47				
CHAPTER 5	57				
IMD sources in GaN HEMT					
 5.1 Sensitivity analysis based on large signal model 5.2 Measurement based analysis 5.2.1 SiN undoped cap 5.2.2 GaN cap doped with silicon 5.3.3 AlGaN barrier height 5.3.4 T-Gate and embedded gate 5.3.5 Field plate variation 5.3.6 Drain source capacitance variation 5.3 Access resistance related nonlinearity 5.31 Influence of gate source spacing 	57 69 69 71 73 73 75 77 79				
CHAPTER 6	92				
Device Level Linearity of GaN HEMT	87				
6.1 Linking systematic and sensitivity analyses to physical simulation	87				
 6.2 Influence of barrier thickness 6.3.1 Theory and simulation 6.3.2 Fabrication, measurements & discussion 6.3 Enhancing overall linearity of a large device 6.4 Enhancing linearity at low back-off regime 6.4.1 Simulation and analysis 	92 92 95 99 103 104				

Contents	XI

CHAPTER 7	109
GaN HEMT as Linear Amplifier	
 7.1 Class-A, B and AB 7.2 GaN HEMT based linear PA design 7.3 Performance of GaN HEMT 7.3.1 Power performance 7.3.2 Noise performance 7.3.3 Linearity performance 	109 110 112 113 114 117
CONCLUSIONS	119
References List of acronyms Appendix-I Appendix-II Publication and natont	125 131 133 135 137
Publication and patent	137