

Power Generation via Traveling Domains (#5144)

Improved methods and circuits for generating millimeter-wave oscillations

Researchers at Georgia Tech have developed improved methods and circuits for generating millimeter-wave oscillations. Generating millimeter-wave oscillations involves providing a semiconductor device comprising of at least two terminals and a polar heterojunction formed from two semiconductor materials. A voltage bias is applied to at least two terminals of the device in which the voltage enhances a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) layer at the polar heterojunction and produces a sharply-peaked but spatially-localized electric field within the 2DEG with a large longitudinal component. The longitudinal component of the electric field serves as a nucleation site for a plurality of propagating dipole domains observable as a plurality of self-sustaining millimeter-wave oscillations.

Benefits/Advantages

- Improved methods and circuits for generating millimeter-wave oscillations
- High-speed microwave data links

Potential Commercial Applications

- Target tracking and imaging
- All-weather radiometry
- Remote sensing

Background/Context for This Invention

Presently known oscillators for generating millimeter-wave signals, are ill-suited for several of these potential applications. Gunn diodes, although theorized for microwave through terahertz signal generation, are subject to severe tradeoffs between frequency and output power. In the case of the emerging families of wide bandgap compound semiconductor materials, the very doping levels which would be required for a Gunn diode to function also likely degrade electron velocity to the point of precluding Gunn oscillations in the first place. Moreover, travelling wave tubes, the devices most commonly used to generate millimeter waves at room temperature, have significant drawbacks including large size, high cost, and relative fragility. As a result, they too have significant shortcomings when it comes to implementing them in all of the potential applications available to millimeter-wave signals. As a result, there remains a need for improved methods and systems for generating millimeter-wave oscillations.

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More Information

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Publications

For more information about this technology, please visit:

<https://licensing.research.gatech.edu/technology/power-generation-traveling-domains>

Images:

The automated sequential delivery of multiple fluids. A varying number of delay gates imprinted in the branches are shown in the figure.

COVID-19 and flu saliva test on paper: (A) The automatic sequential delivery of multiple reagents required for virus test; (B) Water pouring into the device triggers the virus assay, allowing the presence of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A & B viruses to be visually identified by the color changes in the corresponding detection spot

