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# Terahertz and Gigahertz Electronics and Photonics VI

Kurt J. Linden Laurence P. Sadwick Chairs/Editors

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## Introduction

Terahertz and gigahertz electronics and photonics continue to make significant materials, device, and system development advances. This past year witnessed further advancements in modeling as well as demonstrations of improved device and system performance, as highlighted in this conference.

The proceedings from conference 6472 includes papers covering subjects that are arranged in four categories containing the following subjects:

(1) **High-Frequency Materials and Physics:** This session includes papers dealing with the performance of the cosmic microwave background telescope, studies of critical electric field and band offsets in semiconductors by use of terahertz radiation, as well as the theory of optical to terahertz conversion in non-linear materials. The session also features a theoretical and experimental article on artificially structured plasmonic materials (using micromachined pillars) for terahertz and gigahertz applications, in tune with the rapidly growing area of metamaterials.

(2) **Waveguides, Beams, and Modeling:** This session includes an invited paper reviewing the use of plastic fibers for terahertz waveguide applications. This session also deals with analytical modeling, and includes papers on electromagnetic scattering calculations for use in terahertz sensors, standing wave analysis in submillimeter optics — a problem that every experimenter working in the terahertz spectral region has encountered, Gaussian beam mode analysis in millimeter wave imaging and detection, high-finesse scanning Fabry-Perot filters for terahertz and gigahertz spectroscopy, and modeling of optical performance of millimeter wave instruments.

(3) **Terahertz Emitters and Detectors**: In this session, a widely tunable terahertz laser source using frequency mixing is presented, photoconductive antennas excited at telecommunication source wavelengths are presented, and terahertz applications of poled electro-optic polymers are reviewed.

(4) **Terahertz Detection and Imaging Systems**: This session includes papers on terahertz imaging of burn tissue through bandages, terahertz spectroscopy using transient mirror techniques, and high-speed modulators for millimeter wave detection and spectroscopy.

The general area of terahertz technology is still very much under development, and only limited options exist for sources, detectors, and imaging in general. For the reader's benefit, we here include a representative summary of currently used terahertz radiation sources and terahertz radiation detectors arranged in tabular form. Table 1. Summary of the more common terahertz radiation sources. The top four entries are traveling electron sources, the fifth entry is a gas source laser with remarkably broad spectral coverage depending on the choice of gas, while the other entries are solid-state sources.

|                                  | Terahertz radiation sources                             |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| THz source type                  | Details   | Characteristics                                     |
| Synchrotron                      | * Coherent synchrotron produces very high               | E-beam, very broadband source, limited instrument   |
|                                  | photon flux, including THz region                       | availability, very large size                       |
| Free electron laser              | * Benchtop design at Univ. Essex, UK                    | Tunable over entire THz region, under development   |
|                                  | Elec beam moves over alternate H-field regions          | 0.1 - 4.8 THz, 0.5 - 5 kW, 1 - 20 us pulses at 1 Hz |
| Smith-Purcell emitters           | * E-beam travels over metal grating surface,            |   |
|                                  |   |   |
| Backward-wave oscillators        | * Vacuum tube, requires homog H-field~10 kG             | Tunable output possible. Under development and      |
|                                  | "Carcinotron", room temperature, to 1.2 Thz             | commercially available, 10 mW power level, <1 THz   |
| Optically pumped gas cell laser  | * Grating-tuned CO2 laser and far-IR gas                | > 100 mW, 0.3-10 THz, discrete lines, CW/pulsed     |
|                                  | cell such as methane. Most mature laser.                | Commercially avail - Coherent (\$400K - \$1M)       |
| Opt pump GaAs, p-InAs, Si, ZnTe, | * Mode locked Nd:YAG or Ti:sapphire laser               | Imaging apparatus produced, 0.1 to 3 THz            |
| InGaAs (fiber laser pump)        | creates short across biased spiral antenna gap          | Commercially available, CW uW range, \$50K-500K     |
|                                  | * Also As-doped Si, CO2 laser pump                      | 6 THz stim emission from As, Liq He temp.           |
| Photomixing of near-IR lasers    | * Mixing tunable Ti-sapphire laser and diode            | Tens of nW, tunable. Requires antenna pattern       |
|                                  | laser in LT-grown GaAs photomixer.                      | Not commercial. GaP gave 480 mW @ 1.3 THz           |
|                                  | * GaSe crystal, Nd:YAG/OPO difference freq              | Tunable 58-3540um (5-0.1THz),209 W pulse 1.5THz     |
|                                  | * Single 835 nm diode laser, external cavity            | 2-freq mix& 4-wave mixing, RT, sub-nW,0.3-4.2THz    |
| Electrically pumped Ge           | * Electric field injects electrons, magnetic            | Requires electric and magnetic fields Output up to  |
|                                  | field splits hole levels for low-E transitions          | hundres of mW, cryogenic cooling                    |
| Electrically pumped Si:B or As   | <ul> <li>Transitions between impurity levels</li> </ul> | 31 uW output at 8.1 THz, slightly polarized         |
|                                  | 100 x 200 um rectangle mesas, biased                    | Cryogenic cooling needed                            |
| Direct multiplied mm waves       | <ul> <li>Multiplied to low-THz region</li> </ul>        | Low power (uW level), available (VA Diodes)         |
|                                  |   | Used for heterodyne local oscillators in astronomy  |
| Parametric generators            | * Q-switched Nd:YAG pumps MgO:LiNbO3                    | High pulsed power, room temperature                 |
|                                  | non-linear crystal                                      | Commercially available ~ \$30K                      |
| Quantum cascade (QC) laser       | * First announced in 2002, semiconductor,               | Operated at mW power, and up to 164K pulsed         |
|                                  | AlGaAs/GaAs-based, MBE grown, 2 to 4 THz                | Not commercially available, require cryo-cooling    |
| Transistor                       | * InGaAs channel HEMT with 60 nm gate                   | Under development at Inst. Elec. Micro, Lille       |
|                                  | * InGaAs with 12.5 nm gate, 0.845 THz                   | Univ. Illinois (Dec. 2006)                          |

| THz detector type                | Details                                       | Characteristics                                      |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Si bolometer                     | * Most sensitive (10 pW Hz1/2) THz detector   | Responsivity 2E9V/W,NEP=1E-17 WHz1/2,100 mK          |
|                                  | at liquid He temp., slow response time        | Requires liquid He dewar, commercially avail.        |
| Superconducting hot elec bolom   | * Highest sensitivity                         | Requires cooling to 0.3 K, NEP=1E-17 WHz1/2          |
|                                  | Fast (1 us) response time                     | Commercially available, expensive, bulky             |
| Pyroelectric detectors           | * Slow response t, 220 nW sensitiv at 24 Hz   | Room temp operation, commercially available,         |
|                                  | Requires pulsed signals or mechanical chopper | Low cost, imagers available ~ \$10K                  |
| Schottky diodes                  | * ~ 1 THz cutoff frequency                    | Commercially available ((VA Diodes) with corner ref. |
|                                  | Fast response, but low THz sensitivity        | Room temp operation, good for mixers                 |
| PC dipole antennas               | * signal gen across biased spiral antenna gap | Analogous to optically pumped THz PC switch but      |
|                                  | Short pulsed detection only                   | in detection mode. Commercially available            |
| Antenna coupled inter-subband    | * 4-terminal phototransistor, 1.6 THz         | Under development UCSB                               |
|                                  |   |  |
| AlGaAs, InGaAs, & Si FET to 300K | * HEMT with 250 nm gate                       | Cryo and room temperature                            |
|                                  | plasma wave-based detection                   | Univ research, Si NEP to 1E-10 W/Hz1/2 at 300 K      |
| Quantum dot photon detector      | * Demo-photon counting terahertz microscopy   | Under development, 1E-19 W = 100 photons/sec,        |
|                                  | imaging, requires 0.3 K temp, research only   | Tokyo Univ.  |

Table 2. Summary of the more common terahertz radiation detector types.

Inevitably this summary is not all-inclusive. It is intended to present most of the commonly used terahertz source and detection components, representative features, advantages, disadvantages, relative performance, cost, and availability. As developments continue in this active field, we would like to update these tables on an ongoing basis, and suggestions for any additions or modifications to this list would be greatly appreciated, and can be sent to klinden@spirecorp.com.

In summary, this sixth conference on terahertz and gigahertz electronics and photonics demonstrates continued progress in both modeling and experimental demonstration areas, and touches on the rapidly evolving field of metamaterials for use in terahertz optics.

For individuals who wish to obtain a broader technical background in and deeper understanding of terahertz and gigahertz technologies, some representative review articles, including an article dealing with the rapidly evolving field of metamaterials, are listed in chronological order:

D.M. Mittlemen, R.H. Jacobson and M.C. Nuss, "T-Ray Imaging," IEEE J. Sel. Topics in QE 2, 679-692 (1996).

P.H. Siegel, "Terahertz Technology," IEEE Trans. MTT 50, 910-928 (2002).

D.L. Woolard, E.R. Brown, M. Pepper, and M. Kemp, "Terahertz Frequency Sensing and Imaging: A Time of Reckoning Future Applications?" Proc. IEEE **93**, 1722-1743 (2005).

C. Caloz and T. Itoh, "Metamaterials for High-Frequency Electronics," Proc. IEEE **93**, 1744-1752 (2005).

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