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RESEARCH ARTICLE /**ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ**

DUAL – WAVELENGTH MODEL OF A NEW TYPE OPTICAL MOISTURE METER BASED ON GaInAsSb SOLID SOLUTIONS

M.A. AFRAILOV[1] ,C. AKAY[2]

ABSTRACT

Optoelectronic light-emitting diode – photodiode pairs based on multi component GaInAsSb have been researched and created dual – wavelength model of a new type optical moisture meter. Such pairs are able to detect absorption bands of water belonging to the spectral range 1.94 – 2.7 μm. Have been shown that, these pairs are very promising for new type optical sensors for ecology and environmental monitoring.

Key words: Optoelectronic light-emitting diode – photodiode pairs, Optical moisture meter, Two operational amplifiers.

GaInAsSb KATI ÇÖZELTİLERİ TABANLI YENİ OPTİK NEM ÖLÇERİN ÇİFT DALGA BOYU MODELİ

ÖZ

GaInAsSb çok bileşenli katı çözeltiden elde edilmiş olan optoelektronik LED – Fotodiyot çiftleri araştırıldı ve ikili dalgaboylu yeni tip optik nem ölçer geliştirildi. Bu tür çiftler, 1,94-2,7 μm aralığında bulunan suya ait absorpsiyon bandlarının gözlenmesini mümkün kılmaktadır. Bu tür çiftlerin, çevre denetiminde kullanılan yeni tip optik sensörlerin geliştirilmesinde çok önemli olduğu gösterildi.

Anahtar kelimeler: Optoelektronik LED-Fotodiyot çiftleri, Optik nem ölçer, İki işlemli yükselteçler.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years a great attention is paid to research and develop sensors for purposes of ecology and environmental control, in particularly, optical sensors. The important components of the devices are sources and photo detectors operating in the mid - IR spectral range 1.8 - 5 μm to which belong basic absorption bands of water and many industrial gases (See Table 1). However up-to-date water and gas sensors based on optical principle have a number of disadvantages. Such sensors have a bulb as an emission source, mechanical disk modulator with filters fixed on it to separate the measuring and reference operating wavelength (Riken-Keiki CO.LTD, Booklet,1985). As a detector in these devices IR-photo resistor is employed in the most cases, which is not very fast and then it needs often thermoelectric cooling. Besides such model of sensor is bulky, sensitive to electromagnetic interference and so on. At the same time, using semiconductor optoelectronic pairs LED – PD permit to create a qualitative new generation of optoelectronic sensors for the

[1,2] Uludağ University, Department of Physics, 16059 Görükle, Bursa – TURKEY **Faks:** (0224) 442 80 22**,**
e- mail: afrailov @ uludag.edu.tr, cenoy@uludag.edu.tr

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analysis of various liquids and gas mixture components (Afrailov and Mikhailova 2000).

We report the results of research and create dual – wavelength models of a new type optical moisture meter based on optoelectronic pairs operating in 1.8 - 2.2 μm spectral range.

Table 1 Absorption bands of water and some gases in the spectral range 1.6 – 4.8 μm.

Substance		Maximum of absorption band, μm			
Water	H_2O	1.94	2.67		3.1
Methane	CH_2	1.65	2.32		3.32
Acetone	CH_3COCH_3		3.4		4.6
Ammonia	NH_3		2.94		
Nitrous oxide	N_2O		2.9	3.9	4.5
Carbon dioxide	CO_2		2.65		4.27
Carbon monoxide	CO		2.34		4.7
Sulfur dioxide	SO_2				4.1
Hydrogen fluoride	HF	1.29	2.45		2.58

2. OPTOELECTRONIC LED-PD PAIRS FOR THE 1.8-2.5 μm SPECTRAL RANGE

LED's and photodiodes for the 1.8-2.5 μm spectral range have been fabricated by LPE technology and based on GaInAsSb multicomponet alloys lattice matched to GaSb substrate. Changing the composition of the solid solution ($0 \le x \ge 0.24$) the band gap of $Ga_{1-x}In_xAs_ySb_{1-y}$ can be chosen in the range of 0.8-0.5 eV which corresponds to the wavelength region of 1.8-2.5 μm (DeWinter et al., 1985).

Figure 1 shows the emission spectra of some of GaInAsSb / GaSb LED's at room temperature. The LED's have a high quantum efficiency (1-4 %) and can be used both in pulse and cw regime (Andaspaeva et al., 1988). The output optical power is P=20-50 mW at operating currents 0.3-3 A, and P = 0.5-1 mW (I = 10-20 mA) in cw operating.

To detect the emission of the LED's we use hetero-photodiodes with GaInAsSb as active layer and GaAlAsSb as widebandgap "window" layer (Andreev et al., 1990). Sensitivity of GaInAsSb / GaAlAsSb photodiodes is about R = 1 A/Wt , and low dark current less than 0.1 μA was obtained at V = 0.5-1 V. The spectral characteristics of typical diode are shown in Figure 2. The GaInAsSb / GaAlAsSb photodiode has a wide range of sensitivity from 1.3 to 2.4 μm. It allows to use one photodiode to detect emitting photon energy of several LED's with different maximum wavelength of emission. It will be noticed that an important advantage of the developed LED's and PD's have similar temperature dependence of the spectral characteristics because LED's and PD's are made from the same material. The temperature coefficient of band gap dependence is $\Delta E_g/\Delta T = 3.5*10^{-4}$ eV / K.

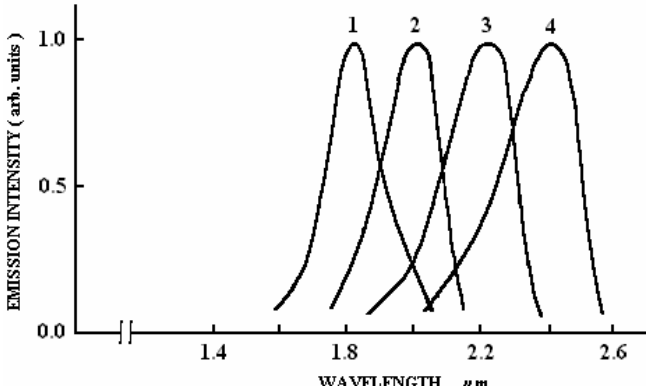

Figure 1 Spectra of emission intensity of GaInAsSb light-emitting diodes at room temperature(See Table 2).

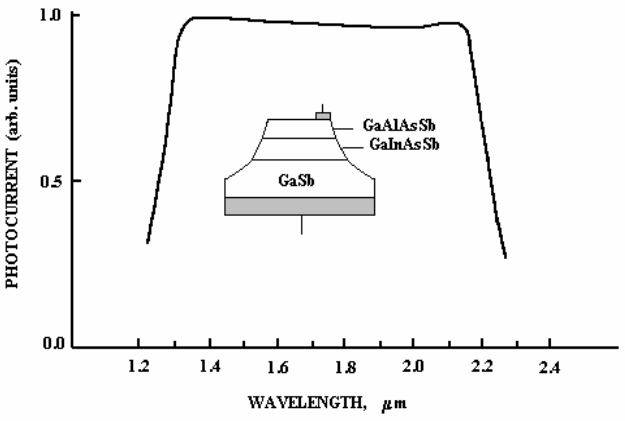

Figure 2 Spectral responses of GaInAsSb/ GaInAsSb photodiode at room temperature

3. MEASUREMENTS AND RESULTS

We used some optoelectronic LED – PD pairs based on GaInAsSb to develop a new type small-dimension dual-wavelength optical moisture meter. To measure moisture content in paper we chose LED's with maximum emission wavelength λ_{meas} = 1.94 μm which is selectively absorbed by water in paper and λ_{ref} = 2.2 μm which can not been absorbed in paper. As a photodiode was chosen GaInAsSb / GaAlAsSb PD with a broad spectral characteristic.

For this goal, was created the two-wavelength IR moisture meter which consist of two parts: electrical and optical parts. The scheme of en electrical part is shown in Figure 3. In optical part we use two type optical reflectors (see Figure 4): Parabolic (for measurements of thick papers moisture) and Flat (for measurements of thin papers moisture).

The circuit works as follow. The IC4047 has been working on the astable multivibrator mode. Working frequency is given with RC component values. The Q and ~Q outputs of the vibrator supply IR LEDs of 1.94 μm and 2.2μm from current drivers. These two IR LEDs act as transmitter.

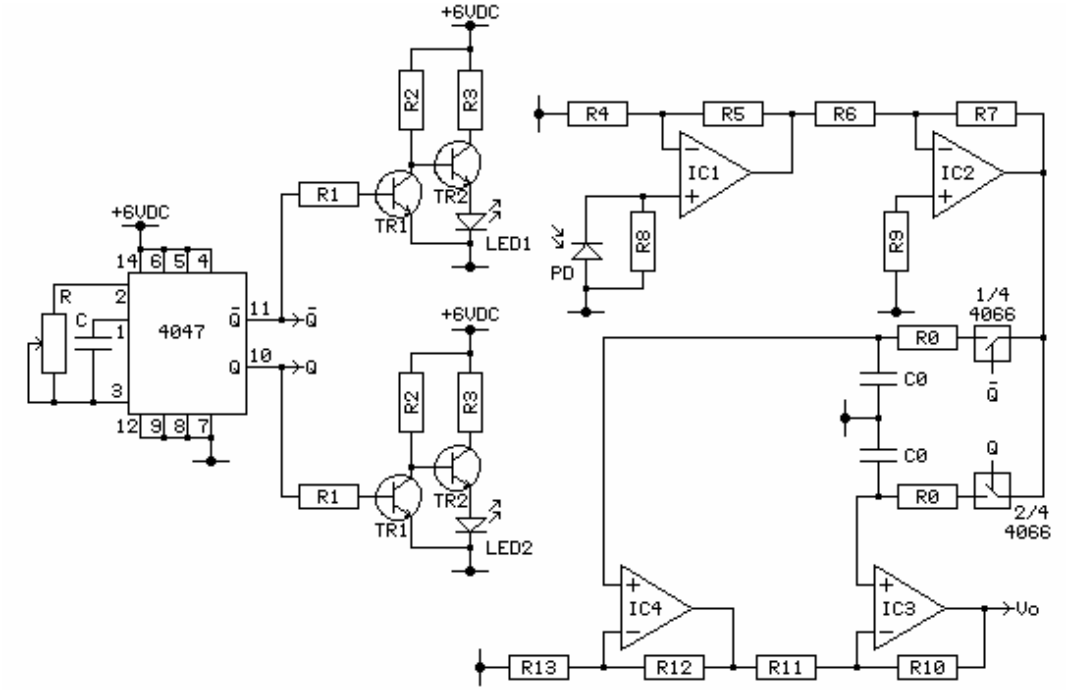

Figure 3 The electrical part of a dual- wavelength moisture meter

First two operational amplifiers on the receiver part of the circuit amplify the signal from photodiode. The amplifying signal has been applied of the switch circuit inputs which have been working with synchronous of the Q and ~Q outputs. One of the obtained signals is absorbing other is transmitting signal. These two signals has been applied input of the differential amplifier. The output signal of the differential amplifier gives information about moisture content in sample.

The moisture of papers may be determined by following expression

$$W = \frac{m_m}{m_m + m_p}\%100 \qquad \textbf{(1)}$$

Where W is moisture, m_p - mass of a dry paper, m_m - mass of moisture which content in paper. Magnitude of m_m expressing by magnitudes of reference and measurement signals, may be determined as follow:

$$m_m = \frac{1}{k_m \alpha_m} \ln \frac{V_r}{V_{out}} \qquad \textbf{(2)}$$

Where k_m is absorbing coefficient of light by moisture in the measurement wavelength and α_m is coefficient of nonlinearity. V_r and V_{out} are magnitudes of reference and measurement signals respectively.

Substituting Eq (2) in Eq (1) we obtaine

$$W = \frac{\ln \frac{V_r}{V_{out}}}{\ln \frac{V_r}{V_{out}} + k_m \alpha_m m_p}\%100 \qquad \textbf{(3)}$$

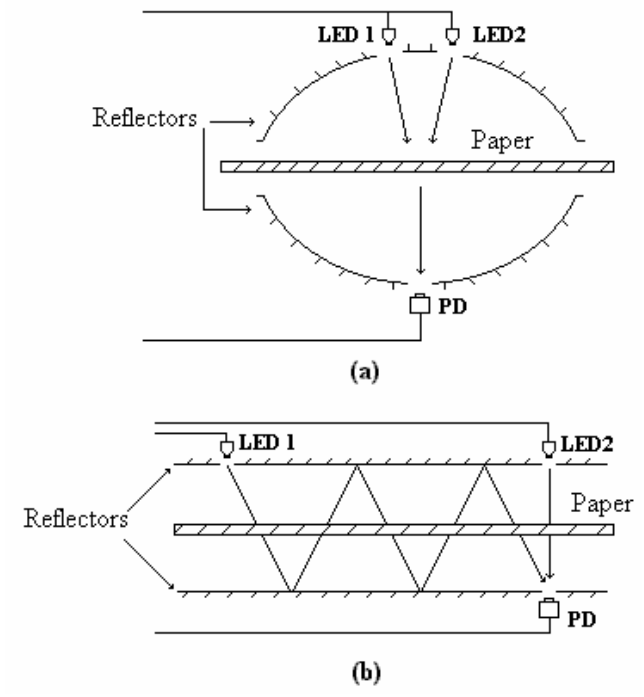

Figure 4 The optical part of a dual- wavelength moisture meter: Parabolic (a) and flat (b) optical reflectors

In Figure 5 shown the dependence of moisture content in paper on output signal obtaining with the different optical reflectors. It is seen that, using a flat optical reflectors, we can get high sensitivity and good linear characteristics. The distinction between of results, obtaining by different reflectors is increase with increasing of papers moisture (see figure 5).

The output signal calibrated in moisture percentage is indicated by digital display. Optical moisture meter allows to measure moisture content in paper of 0.05-2 mm thick with accuracy less than 1% in the range of 0-35 % .

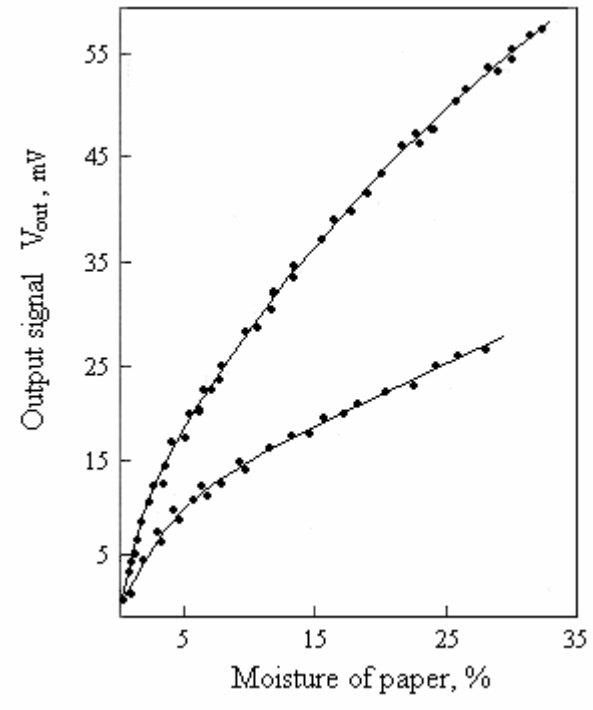

Figure 5 The dependence of moisture content in paper on output signal: 1) with a parabolic and 2) with a flat optical reflectors

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the optoelectronic LED – PD pairs based on multi component GaInAsSb alloy have been researched and created two – wavelength model of a new type optical moisture meter. These pairs are very promising for fabricating new type optical sensors for ecology, environmental monitoring, IR – spectroscopy, automatic control of technological processes, and some other tasks.

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M. A. Afrailov, received B.S degree in Physics from Semerkant State University in 1980 PhD Degree from Russia Acedemy of Sciences, Physics Research Institute Sankt-Petersburg in Semiconductor Physics, in 1991. He worked at Namangan State University as lecturer. He became Assoc. Prof. in Namangan State University in 1997 He has been with the Department of Physics, Uludağ University, Bursa, since 1997.

Cengiz Akay, was born in Bursa in 1964. He graduated from Uludağ University, Science Faculty, Physics Department in 1988. He received M.Sc. degree in physics in 1990 and then Ph. D. Degree in physics in 1999. He appointed as a lecturer in 1999.