

Exercise 5: Photodetectors

1. We consider a GaAs-pin-photodiode, with an intrinsic layer thickness of $1.0\ \mu\text{m}$ and a surface area of $10^{-4}\ \text{cm}^2$. The detector is illuminated at a wavelength of $775\ \text{nm}$ with a light intensity of $0.1\ \text{W cm}^{-2}$. The absorption coefficient of the active region is $10^4\ \text{cm}^{-1}$ at the wavelength of interest. Calculate the induced current under the assumption that photons are absorbed only in the active region.
2. Estimate the bandwidth of a GaAs pin-photodiode, when the detector surface is $1\ \text{mm}^2$ and the thickness of the active region is $1.0\ \mu\text{m}$. The dielectric constant of GaAs is 12.3, the saturation velocity for holes is $3 \times 10^6\ \text{cm/s}$ and the detector load is $50\ \Omega$.
3. The active region of a p-i-n-photodiode (silicon) is circular in shape with a diameter of $0.4\ \text{mm}$. At the wavelength of $700\ \text{nm}$ and intensity $0.1\ \text{mW/cm}^2$ light induces a $56.6\ \text{nA}$ current. Calculate the responsivity of the photodiode and the quantum efficiency at this wavelength.
4. A pin-photodiode has a responsivity of $0.6\ \text{A/W}$ at a wavelength of $0.8\ \mu\text{m}$. The dark current value is $1\ \text{nA}$, the bandwidth is $10\ \text{MHz}$ and the load resistance is $100\ \Omega$. a) Calculate the signal-to-noise ratio when the input optical signal has a power of $1.0\ \mu\text{W}$. b) What is the NEP of the detector?
5. The quantum efficiency of an InGaAsP/InP avalanche detector is 0.8 at a wavelength of $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$. When the detector is illuminated with a power of $1.0\ \mu\text{W}$, a current of $20\ \mu\text{A}$ is measured from the detector. The thickness of the multiplication region is $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$. a) What is the multiplication coefficient of the photodiode? b) How large is the ionisation coefficient if we suppose that only electrons multiply themselves?