

## EXCITATION OF UNSTABLE WAVES IN SEMICONDUCTORS SUCH AS GaAs MAGNETIC FIELDS

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**Abstract-** Using the Boltzmann kinetic equation, the frequency of the current oscillation in multi-valley semiconductors, in an external electric and strong magnetic fields, has been calculated. It has been proven that for the excitation of current oscillations in multi-lobe semiconductors, the sample size must be certain. It was found that the critical value of the electric field when the current oscillation appears almost does not differ from the value of the electric field obtained by the experiment of Gunn. It is shown for the first time that the appearance of unstable oscillations in two-valley semiconductors of the type GaAs size along the coordinate axes of the sample must have a certain value. Application of the Boltzmann kinetic equation leads to consistent values for the electric field and the frequency of current oscillations in the specified semiconductor. The obtained theoretical formulas were evaluated using the Gunn experiment in a semiconductor GaAs and numerical values were obtained for the current frequency and the critical value of the electric field.

**Keywords:** Oscillations, Frequency, Distribution Function, Electric Field, Magnetic Field, Current-Voltage Characteristic, Multi-Line Semiconductors.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In theoretical works, current oscillations in two-valley semiconductors of the GaAs type in an external electric field, and in an external electric and strong magnetic fields are investigated by solving the Boltzmann kinetic equation. In these works, the critical values of the electric and magnetic fields were calculated from the condition

$$\frac{dj}{dE} = \sigma_d = 0 \quad (1)$$

The  $j$  is the current flux density,  $E$  is the electric field,  $\sigma_d$  is the differential conductivity. However, from condition (1) it is impossible to determine the frequency of the current oscillation.

Therefore, it is of great interest to determine the current fluctuation in the presence of condition (1). In this theoretical work, we will calculate the frequency of

current oscillation and the critical value of the electric and magnetic fields by applying the Boltzmann kinetic equation [1-4].

### 2. THEORY

Let's develop a mathematical model of three-phase two-pole synchronous motors with permanent magnets, which is shown in Figure 1. Here, there is a falling section on the current-voltage characteristic.

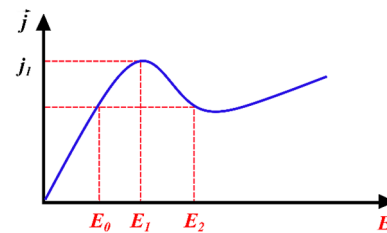


Figure 1. The dependence of the current density on the electric field in two-valley semiconductors of GaAs type is an N-shaped characteristic

The field strength is a multivalued function of the current density at certain range of currents  $j_2 < j < j_p$ . In this current range, the system can be in one of three spatially homogeneous states. The Gunn effect is associated with an N-shaped characteristic. With negative differential conductivity, electric charges in the system are distributed unevenly, i.e., spatial regions with different values of charges appear in the system (i.e., electrical domains appear). One of the mechanisms for the appearance of domains is the Ridley-Watkins-Hillsum mechanism. In electronic gallium arsenide GaAs, the dispersion law is as follows [5, 6].

Since the energy distance between the minima is relatively large ( $\Delta = 0.36$  eV,  $\Delta \gg T_p, T_p$  is the lattice temperature) under conditions of thermodynamic equilibrium, the presence of upper valleys (minima) practically does not affect the statistics of electrons.

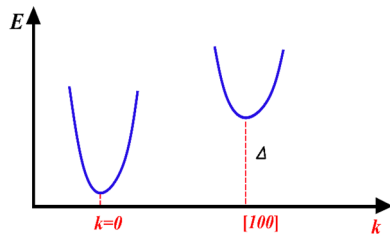


Figure 2. Electron energy versus wave vector in GaAs

Some of the electrons go to the upper minimum when heated sufficiently. In this case, the effective mass of electrons in the lower valley  $m_a$  is much less than the mass of electrons in the upper valley  $m_b$ . Therefore, the electron mobilities in the corresponding valleys are related by the relation

$$\mu_b \gg \mu_a \tag{2}$$

If we designate the concentrations in the valleys  $n_a, n_b$  we can write an expression for the current in the form;

$$\vec{j} = en_a \mu_a \vec{E} + en_b \mu_b \vec{E} \tag{3}$$

$$n = n_a + n_b = const \tag{4}$$

The diffusion current due to  $eEl \gg k_0T$ , where  $e$  is the elementary charge, as the electron mean free path which are neglected.

In works, without taking into account the intervalley scattering (it is considered small in comparison with the intravalley one), by solving the Boltzmann equation, more specific conditions for the appearance of current oscillations were obtained. In the scientific literature, there are no works devoted to theoretical studies of the Gunn effect taking into account the intervalley scattering based on the solution of the Boltzmann kinetic equation. We will theoretically analyze the influence of a strong magnetic field on the Gunn effect, taking into account the above [5-6].

### 3. BASIC EQUATIONS OF THE PROBLEM

Under the action of external forces, the state of charge carriers is described by the distribution function  $f(\vec{k}, \vec{r})$ , the value that is necessary when considering transport phenomena,  $f(\vec{k}, \vec{r})$  is the probability that an electron with a wave vector  $\vec{k}$  (quasi-momentum  $\hbar\vec{k}$ ) is located near the point  $\vec{r}$ . We consider stationary processes, then  $f(\vec{k}, \vec{r})$  is clearly independent of time. The distribution function is found from the kinetic Boltzmann equation. It is known that the distribution function changes under the influence of external factors and under the influence of collisions with lattice vibrations (phonons) and crystal defects. In the considered stationary state, the influence of these factors mutually compensates each other.

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}\right)_{external} + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}\right)_{coll} \tag{5}$$

In external electric and magnetic fields, Equation (5) has the form [7]

$$\vec{g} \nabla_{\vec{r}} f + \frac{e}{\hbar} \left\{ \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} [\vec{g} \vec{H}] \right\} \nabla_{\vec{k}} f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}\right)_{coll} \tag{6}$$

where,  $\vec{g} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \nabla_{\vec{k}} \varepsilon(\vec{k})$  is the electron velocity,  $\nabla_{\vec{k}}$  and  $\nabla_{\vec{r}}$  is the wave vectors and the gradient in the space of coordinates.

When solving the problem, we neglect the anisotropy. The fact that no orientation dependence was found in studies of the Gunn effect on GaAs samples speaks in favor of this assumption. We will assume that for the lower valley the intervalley scattering prevails over the intravalley one, and for the upper valley, the intravalley scattering prevails over the intervalley one. Then the Boltzmann equation for the lower valley can be written in the form

$$\left(\frac{\partial f^a}{\partial t}\right)_{internal} + \left(\frac{\partial f^a}{\partial t}\right)_{intervalley} \tag{7}$$

And for the upper valley in the form

$$\left(\frac{\partial f^b}{\partial t}\right)_{internal} + \left(\frac{\partial f^b}{\partial t}\right)_{intervalley} \tag{8}$$

Davydov [8] showed that in a strong electric field the distribution function has the form:

$$f = f_0 + \frac{\vec{p}}{p} \vec{f}_1 \tag{9}$$

where,  $f_0$  is the equilibrium distribution function, is the momentum of charge carriers. It is clear that you can write

$$f^a = f_0^a + \frac{\vec{p}}{p} \vec{f}_1^a, f^b = f_0^b + \frac{\vec{p}}{p} \vec{f}_1^b \tag{10}$$

Distribution function  $f^b$  found from Equation (8) in [8]

$$f_0^a = B e^{-\alpha_a (\varepsilon - \Delta)^2} \tag{11}$$

$$\vec{f}_1^a = -\frac{em_b l_b}{p} \vec{p} \frac{\partial f_0^b}{\partial p} \tag{12}$$

where,

$$l_b = \frac{\pi \hbar^4 \rho u_0^2}{D^2 m_b^2 k_0 T} \tag{13}$$

$$\alpha_a = \frac{3D^4 m_b^5 k_0 T}{e^2 \pi^2 \hbar^8 \rho^2 u_0^2} \tag{14}$$

It is clear that for the valley "a" you can write similar Equations (13) and (14) replacing "a" with "b". The  $l_b$  is the mean free path,  $D$  is the deformation potential,  $T$  is the temperature of the lattice,  $\rho$  is the density of the crystal, and  $u_0$  is the speed of sound in the crystal.

Let's calculate the total current;

$$\vec{j} = \vec{j}_a + \vec{j}_b \tag{15}$$

$$\vec{j} = \frac{2e}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^\infty \frac{\vec{p}}{p} \vec{f} \vec{g} d\vec{k} \tag{16}$$

Davydov [8] showed that in the case of intravalley scattering  $f_1^b$  in an external electric and magnetic field  $f_1^b$  has the following form

$$f_1^b = -\frac{el_b m_b}{p} \frac{\partial f_0^b}{\partial p} \frac{\vec{E} + \left(\frac{el_b}{cp}\right) [\vec{E}\vec{H}] + \left(\frac{el_b}{cp}\right)^2 \vec{H} (\vec{E}\vec{H})}{1 + \left(\frac{el_b}{cp}\right)^2 \vec{H}^2} \quad (17)$$

$$\alpha_a = \frac{3D^4 m_b^5 k_0 T \left[1 + \left(\frac{el_b}{cp}\right)^2 \vec{H}^2\right]}{e^2 \pi^2 h^8 \rho^2 u_0^2 \left[E^2 + \left(\frac{el_b}{cp}\right)^2 (\vec{E}\vec{H})^2\right]} \quad (18)$$

where,  $f_1^a$  and  $\alpha_a$  are obtained if we replace "b" with "a" in (17)-(18). After an easy calculation of the current density  $j_a$  and  $j_b$  from (16) we get:

$$\vec{j}_a = \frac{e^2 l_a \alpha_a A}{12 \pi^2 h^2 m_a^2} \left\{ \vec{E} \frac{c^2}{e^2 l_a^2 H^2} \left(\frac{4m_a^2}{\alpha_a}\right)^2 + [\vec{E}\vec{H}] \frac{c \Gamma\left(\frac{7}{4}\right)}{el_a H^2} \left(\frac{4m_a^2}{\alpha_a}\right)^{\frac{7}{4}} + \vec{H} (\vec{E}\vec{H}) \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)}{H^2} \left(\frac{4m_a^2}{\alpha_a}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right\} \quad (19)$$

After calculating the total current by the formula;

$$\vec{j} = \vec{j}_a + \vec{j}_b \quad (20)$$

$$j'_z = \frac{8nc^2 m_a^{\frac{1}{2}}}{3\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) l_a} \cdot \frac{E'_z}{H^2} \cdot \frac{\alpha_a^{-\frac{1}{4}}}{1 + \gamma \frac{3}{2} Z^4 \beta} \left\{ 1 + t \gamma z^{-2} \beta + \frac{e^2 l_a^2 \alpha_a^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2c^2 m_a} H^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \left[ 1 + t \gamma^{-1} z^{\frac{1}{2}} \beta \right] \right\} \quad (21)$$

where,  $A = t \gamma^{-1} z^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{m_b}{m_a}$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{m_a}{m_b}$ ,  $z = \frac{\alpha_a}{\alpha_b}$ ,  $t = \frac{l_b}{l_a}$ ,

$$e^{-a} \alpha^{\Delta^2} = e^{-\left(\frac{E_x}{E}\right)^2} = \left(1 - \frac{E_x}{E}\right)^2;$$

$$E_x^2 = \frac{3D^4 m_0 m_a^3 k_0 T}{e^2 \pi^2 h^8 \rho^2 u_0^2} \quad (22)$$

We write (21) in the following form

$$\vec{j} = \sigma \vec{E} + \sigma_1 [\vec{E}\vec{h}] + \sigma_2 \vec{h} [\vec{E}\vec{h}] \quad (23)$$

where,  $\vec{h}$  is unit vector in the magnetic field. Comparing (23) with (21), one can easily write the expressions  $\sigma + \sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_2$ .

When obtaining an expression for the current density  $j'_z$  using (21), then we direct the electric field and the magnetic field  $H_0$  as follows

$$\vec{E}_0 = \vec{h} E_0, \vec{H}_0 = \vec{h} H_0 \quad (24)$$

The  $E_x$  value is obtained from the following condition;

$$\frac{dj'_z}{dE'_z} = 0 \quad (25)$$

when, estimating  $E_x^2$  for GaAs, the value

$$E_x^2 = 43.84 \left(\frac{V}{cm}\right)^2 \quad (26)$$

For all strong electric fields,

$$E \gg E_x \quad (27)$$

It is quite satisfied. Now let's calculate the frequency of the current oscillation. When an alternating electric field  $E'$  is excited inside the medium, an alternating magnetic field  $H'$  arises, which satisfies Maxwell's Equation (28);

$$\frac{\partial \vec{H}'}{\partial t} = -\text{rot} \vec{E}' \quad (28)$$

The current density in the presence of electric and magnetic fields has the form;

$$\vec{j} = \sigma \vec{E} + \sigma_1 [\vec{E}\vec{H}] + \sigma_2 \vec{H} [\vec{E}\vec{H}] \quad (29)$$

Let us direct the external electric and magnetic field as follows.

$$\vec{E}_0 = \vec{h} E_0, \vec{H}_0 = \vec{h} H_0 \quad (30)$$

where,  $\vec{h}$  is the unit vector in  $z$ . We find the variable value  $j'_x, j'_y, j'_z$  from (29) taking into account (28-30), then we get.

$$j'_x = \sigma \left(1 - \frac{\mu k_z E_0}{\omega}\right) E'_x + \sigma_1 \left[ \left(1 + \frac{ck_x E_0}{\omega H_0}\right) - \frac{2\sigma_2 ck_z E_0}{\omega H_0} \right] E'_y + \frac{2\sigma_2 ck_y E_0}{\omega H_0} E'_z \quad (31)$$

$$j'_y = -\sigma_1 E'_x + \left(\sigma - \frac{\sigma_1 ck_z E_0}{\omega H_0}\right) E'_y + \sigma_1 \left(1 + \frac{ck_y E_0}{\omega H_0}\right) E'_z \quad (32)$$

$$j'_z = (\sigma + \sigma_2) E'_z - \frac{2\sigma_2 ck_y E_0}{\omega H_0} (E'_x + E'_y) \quad (33)$$

Equating  $j'_x = 0$  and  $j'_y = 0$  to zero, we find  $E'_z$  and  $E'_y$  from (31)-(32) and supplying  $E'_z, E'_y$  in (33), we obtain for  $j'_z$  the following expressions.

$$j'_z = \left[ \sigma_2 + \frac{2\sigma_2 ck_x E_0}{\omega H_0} \left(1 + \frac{c}{\mu H} \frac{ck_z \mu E_0}{\omega} + \frac{c}{\mu H_0} \frac{ck_y k_z \mu E_0}{\omega^2} \cdot \frac{E_0}{H_0} - \frac{ck_y}{\omega} \frac{c}{\mu H_0}\right) + \frac{2\sigma_2 ck_y E_0}{\omega} \cdot \frac{E_0}{H_0} \left(\frac{ck_y}{\omega} + \frac{ck_y k_z c \mu E_0}{\omega^2}\right) \frac{E_0}{H_0} \right] E'_z \quad (34)$$

When deriving expression (34), we used the conditions of a strong magnetic field  $\mu H_0 \gg c$ . Equating expressions (34) and (21), we obtain the following dispersion equation for determining the frequency of current oscillation.

$$(\sigma_2 - \tilde{\sigma}\Phi)\omega^3 + \frac{2\sigma_2ck_xE_0}{H_0}\left(1 + \frac{E_0}{H_0}\right)\omega^2 + \frac{2\sigma_2ck_xE_0}{H_0}\omega + \frac{\sigma_2ck_xE_0}{H_0}ck_y\mu k_zE_0\left(\frac{c}{\mu H_0} \cdot \frac{E_0}{H_0} + 2\frac{E_0}{H_0}\right) = 0 \tag{35}$$

where,  $\tilde{\sigma} = \frac{8nc^2m_a^2\alpha_a^{-4}}{3\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)l_aH^2}$ ,

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{1 + \gamma^{-2}Z^4\beta} \left[ 1 + t\gamma^{-2}Z\beta + \frac{e^2l_a^2H^2\alpha_a^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2c^2m_a}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + \left(1 + t\gamma^{-1}Z^{\frac{1}{2}}\beta\right) \right] \tag{36}$$

Equating  $\sigma_2 = \tilde{\sigma}\Phi$ ,  $\left(\frac{H_x}{H_0}\right)^0 = 1$ .

$$H_x = H_0 = \left[ \frac{8c^2m_a^2\alpha_a^{-4}}{3\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)l_ae\mu} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{37}$$

is obtained. Putting the values of  $\alpha_a^{-4}$  in (37)

$$H_0 = \left[ \frac{8}{3\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)} \right]^2 \cdot \left( \frac{k_0T}{3m_0u_0^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{8}} \cdot \left( \frac{c^2m_a^2}{\mu} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \times \left( \frac{1}{el_a} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} E_0^{\frac{1}{4}} \tag{38}$$

are obtained.

From (38), we get;

$$E_0 = \left( \frac{\mu}{c^2m_a^2} \right)^2 el_a \left( \frac{H_0}{\varphi} \right)^4 \tag{39}$$

$$\varphi = \left[ \frac{8}{3\sqrt{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \left( \frac{k_0T}{m_0u_0^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{8}}$$

Thus, the value of the electric field is obtained during current fluctuations in the above two-valley semiconductors of the GaAs type. In [8], it was obtained that taking into account (26).

$$E_0 = E_{kr} = 1500 \frac{V}{cm} \tag{40}$$

Supplying (40) to (39), it is easy to see that  $\mu H_0 \gg c$ , from the solution of the dispersion Equation (35), we easily obtain.

$$\omega_{1,2} = -\frac{ck_zE_0}{2H_0} \pm i \frac{ck_zE_0}{H_0} \left( \frac{L_z}{L_y} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{41}$$

For growing fluctuations;

$$\omega = -\frac{ck_zE_0}{2H_0} + i \frac{ck_zE_0}{H_0} \left( \frac{L_z}{L_y} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \omega_0 + i\gamma \tag{42}$$

From (42), it is seen that in the crystal.

$$L_y > 4L_z, \quad \gamma \ll \omega_0 \tag{43}$$

Thus, with the size (43) ( $L_x$  can be any), current oscillations (i.e., instability) are excited under an electric field (39) In the calculation, we direct  $E_0$  along  $H_0$ . Of course, any orientation of the electric and magnetic fields could be chosen. For other orientations, it is necessary to obtain expressions (21) and (34) in the same orientations, and then find the vibration frequencies in the same orientations.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In valley semiconductors of the GaAs type, current oscillations occur under the influence of an external electric and strong ( $\mu H_0 \gg c$ ) magnetic field. The frequency of this oscillation  $\omega_0$  (42) is close to the frequency of the Gunn effect, i.e.,  $\omega_0 \sim 10^7 \div 10^9$  Hz. This proves that the application of the Boltzmann equation is quite valid, although the Boltzmann equation in strong fields is not always applied. By directing  $E_0 = \vec{i}E_0$ ,  $E_0 = \vec{j}E_0$ ,  $H_0 = \vec{i}H_0$ ,  $H_0 = \vec{j}H_0$  one can carry out a theoretical calculation and determine the critical value of the electric field (including the magnetic field) and the frequency of current oscillation. Of course, with such calculations, conditions (43) will most likely change. Theoretical analysis of current fluctuations in multi-valley semiconductors of the GaAs type shows that the sample size at current fluctuations is significant. This fact was confirmed in the experiment of Gunn.

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