Doped Lead Telluride-Based Alloys – a New Type of Sensitive Detectors of Terahertz Radiation

D.E. Dolzhenko\textsuperscript{1}, A.V. Nicorici\textsuperscript{2}, L.I. Ryabova\textsuperscript{1}, and D.R. Khokhlov\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1} M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University*, Moscow 119991, Russia
\textsuperscript{2} Institute of Applied Physics, Moldavian Academy of Sciences, Kishinev MD-2028, Moldova

* Contact: khokhlov@mig.phys.msu.ru, phone +7-495-939 1151

Abstract—Doping of the lead telluride and related alloys with the group III impurities results in appearance of the unique physical features of a material, such as persistent photoresponse, enhanced responsive quantum efficiency (up to 100 photoelectrons/incident photon), high radiation hardness and many others. We present the physical principles of operation of the photodetecting devices based on the group III-doped IV-VI including the possibilities of a fast quenching of the persistent photoresponse, construction of the focal-plane array, and others. We report on the performance of lead telluride-based single direct detectors. The optical NEP as low as $6 \times 10^{-20}$ W/Hz\textsuperscript{1/2} at $T=1.57$ K has been demonstrated at the wavelength of 350 $\mu$m. The advantages of terahertz photodetecting systems based on the group III-doped IV-VI are summarized.