

SPIN-RELAXATION IN AN InGaAs/InP MQW

P.A.Marsden^{*}, A.Malinowski^{*}, K.Puech^{*}, L.Lefort^{*}, G.W.Ross^{*}, M.Hopkinson[†],
D.C.Hanna^{*}, R.T.Harley^{*} and A.C.Tropper^{*}

Optoelectronic Research Centre^{*} and Department of Physics and Astronomy^{*}

University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, U.K.

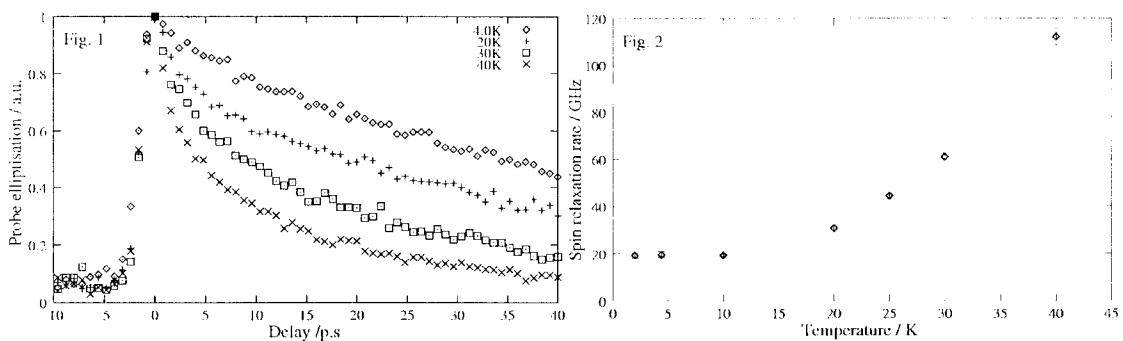
Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering[†]

The University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, U.K.

Room temperature picosecond pump-probe transmission measurements on InGaAsP/InGaAsP MQWs have shown large rotation ($\sim 40^\circ$) of probe polarisation induced by circularly polarised pump¹. We report low temperature investigations in a lattice matched In₄₃Ga₅₇As/InP MQW 8nm wide which does not reproduce this remarkable effect. Our measurements were made with an all-solid-state optical parametric oscillator tunable from 1.2 to 6 μ m. The non-linear crystal is periodically poled lithium niobate fabricated at Southampton, pumped synchronously by a modelocked, diode pumped Nd:YLF laser.

Circularly polarised pump pulses tuned to the $n=1$ heavy hole exciton absorption produced circular dichroism in the wells through phase space filling by spin-polarised excitons. Delayed probe pulses were linearly polarised and acquired elliptisation and/or rotation on transmission through the sample. Figure 1 shows the elliptisation signal as a function of time delay, and figure 2 the temperature dependence of the corresponding relaxation rate. The latter is consistent with the “motional narrowing” mechanism of Ref. 2; proportional to in-plane exciton kinetic energy and momentum scattering time. At higher T the decay became non exponential, with an initial fast component close to the time resolution of the system (5 ps). This may be due to rapid dissociation of the excitons, followed by slower electron spin relaxation.

The peak rotation of the plane of the probe polarisation in this low temperature regime is less than 1° for a pump intensity of 76 W/cm². Reasons for the contrast with Ref. 1 are not understood, especially since in both experiments phase-space-filling by excitons should play a significant role at early times.



[1] Hyland et al. Semicond. Sci.Tech **14** (1999) 215

[2] Maialle et al. Phys. Rev. B **47** (1993) 15 776