



# The effect of structure parameters and static electric field on the nonlinear optical properties of triple InGaAs/GaAs quantum well

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## ABSTRACT

Optical properties of In<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As/GaAs triple QW are studied for different quantum well thicknesses and external electric fields. The effective mass approximation is used to calculate the band alignment of the structure. The finite difference method (FDM) is applied to solve the 1D- Schrödinger equation. Inter-subband energies and the total optical absorption coefficients (TOACs) and total relative refractive index changes (RRICs) are numerically calculated under the applied external electric field. The structure parameters and applied electric field cause the separation of the energy levels and variation of the dipole moment matrix elements. These separations are responsible for the resonant peak shifts. It is shown that the varied structure parameters and external electric field cause red or blue shifts in the resonant peak position of TOAC and RRIC coefficients.

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## 1. Introduction

Recent growth technologies have made it possible to produce different low-dimensional semiconductor quantum systems. The quantum-based semiconductors have found broad usage in the study and application of light-emitting or detecting devices (optoelectronic electronic devices) [1–5].

III-V semiconductor materials have been investigated because of their integration into semiconductor devices [6–8]. Optimization of the structure parameters and the applied external fields modify the intersubband transitions because of the large quantum confinement effect [9–13]. Nonlinear optical properties such as second harmonic generation (SHG) and third harmonic generation (THG) as well as the absorption coefficients and relative refractive index changes have attracted a lot of interest because it gives detailed information about the behavior of the structure under the applied structure parameters and the external fields.

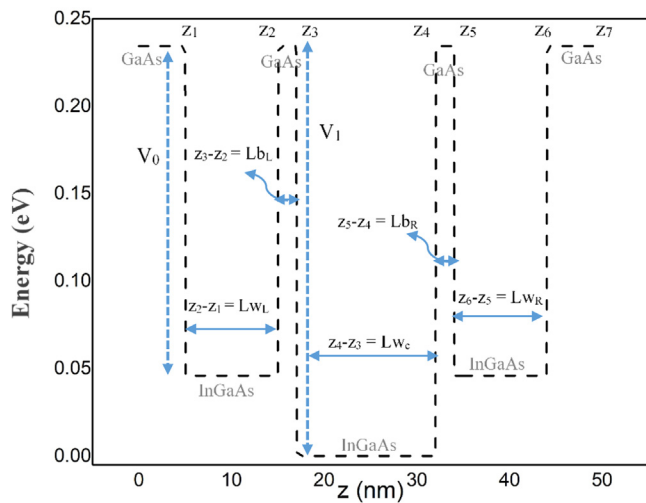
The nonlinear optical properties in different asymmetric structure shapes have been studied such as single quantum wells (QWs) [14, 15], multiple QWs [16, 17], and semi-parabolic QWs [18–20]. The investigation of these structures by controlling the structure parameters and applying external fields adjusts the amplitude and the position of the nonlinear optical properties. Yuan et al. investigated the SHG in the asymmetric Gaussian potential [21]. SHG in

the symmetric and asymmetric Gaussian potentials has been studied, and it found that the resonant SHG peak depends on the applied electric field and the structure parameters [22]. Liu et al. explored the impact of temperature, magnetic field, and hydrostatic pressure on the SHG coefficients [23].

The investigation of low dimensional structure is the main interest since they find possible applications in technological devices. The shape of the QW profile affects the physical properties of the systems. For this reason, theoretical and experimental research has been carried out to obtain linear and nonlinear properties of this structure at different structure parameters and the applied external fields [24–33]. Some of the main studies are as follows: the effect of the electric field on the nonlinear optical properties of QWs [34], the optical absorption in symmetric double parabolic QWs [35], total optical absorption coefficients with Rosen–Morse confinement potential [36], the effect of impurities and optical intensities on the linear and nonlinear absorption coefficients, the relative refractive index changes in low dimensional systems [37], and the optical absorption coefficients and the refractive index changes of the superlattice [38]. Moreover, the optical properties of quantum dots (QDs) [39, 40], the effect of ILF [41], the electric field [42], and hydrostatic pressure [43] have been investigated. Understanding the linear and nonlinear optical properties of the low dimensional systems is critical because these optical properties of the structure are strongly affected by the structure parameters and the applied external fields.

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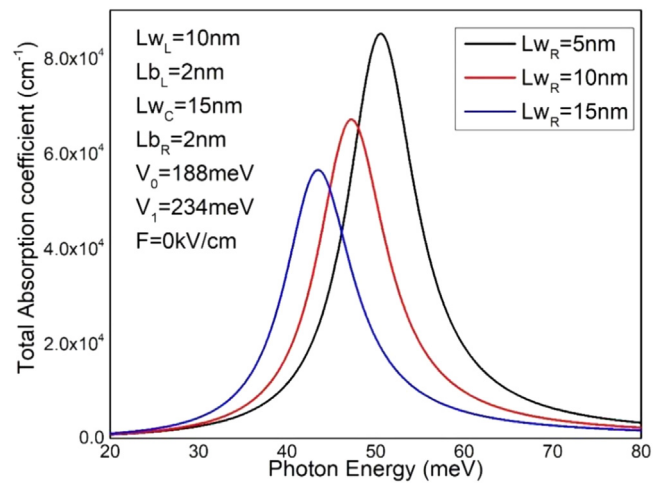


**Fig. 1.** Schematic representation of the triple GaAs/InGaAs quantum well. The index of structure parameters are as follows:  $z_2 - z_1 = L_{wL}$  for left QW width,  $z_3 - z_2 = L_{bL}$  for left barrier thickness,  $z_4 - z_3 = L_{wC}$  for center QW width,  $z_5 - z_4 = L_{bR}$  for right barrier thickness,  $z_6 - z_5 = L_{wR}$  for right QW width.

In this paper, the nonlinear optical properties such as the total optical absorption coefficients and relative refractive index changes of InGaAs/GaAs triple QW were investigated. The effect of structure parameters and applied external electric fields on these optical properties is discussed in detail. To perform the numerical simulations, firstly, the time-independent Schrödinger equation is numerically solved to obtain the subband energy values and their electronic wave functions of an electron confined in the conduction band of the structure. After that, using these electronic states obtained about the structure, the total optical absorption coefficients and relative refractive index changes of the system are calculated by using the compact-density matrix approach and iterative method. The organization of the paper is that Section 2 gives the theoretical background of the numerical calculations. Section 3 discusses the simulation result and compares the obtained results. Finally, a conclusion of the physical results obtained in the paper is given in Section 4.

## 2. Theoretical background

In this study, the effects of static electric field and structure parameters on the nonlinear optical properties of the InGaAs/GaAs triple quantum well, whose schematic representation is given in Fig. 1, are theoretically investigated. The static electric field along the  $z$  direction is applied to the structure. The quantum well struc-



**Fig. 3.** Variation of total optical absorption coefficients as a function of incident photon energy for different values of  $L_{wR}$ .

ture with different confining potentials is investigated by controlling the structure parameters. The total Hamiltonian of an electron in this structure under the external applied electric field is given by [41, 44, 45]

$$H = \frac{\vec{p}_e^2}{2m^*} + V(z) - eFz \quad (1)$$

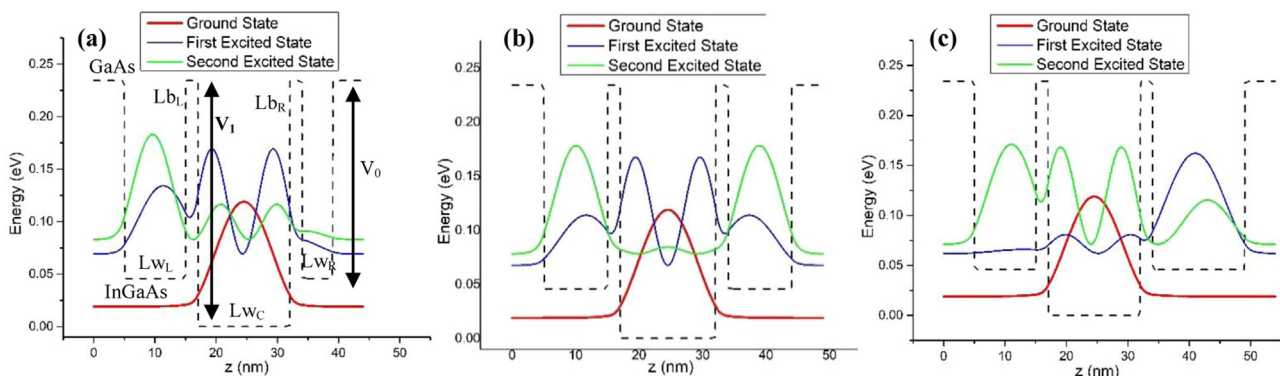
where  $m^*$  is the electron effective mass,  $P_e$  is the electron momentum,  $F$  is the magnitude of the applied external electric field, and the  $z$ -axis is the growth direction of the structure.

The confinement potential ( $V(z)$ ) for the electron in the  $z$ -direction is given by

$$V(z) = \begin{cases} V_0 & 0 < z < z_1 \\ (V_1 - V_0) & z_1 < z < z_2 \\ V_0 & z_2 < z < z_3 \\ 0 & z_3 < z < z_4 \\ V_0 & z_4 < z < z_5 \\ (V_1 - V_0) & z_5 < z < z_6 \\ V_0 & z_6 < z < z_7 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $V_0$  and  $V_1$  are the potential depths between GaAs/ $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$  for  $x=0.2$  and  $0.25$  in concentration.

The solution of Eq. 1 under different structure parameters and external fields produces the variation of the subband energy states and the corresponding wave functions by using the diagonalization method [46]. In this method, the calculation of the single-electron wave function  $\psi(z)$  is performed for infinite quantum well width  $L_\infty$ , which is large compared to the triple QW widths. The wave



**Fig. 2.** Confining potential and first three excited state wavefunctions and corresponding energy levels at different  $L_{wR}$ .

**Table 1**

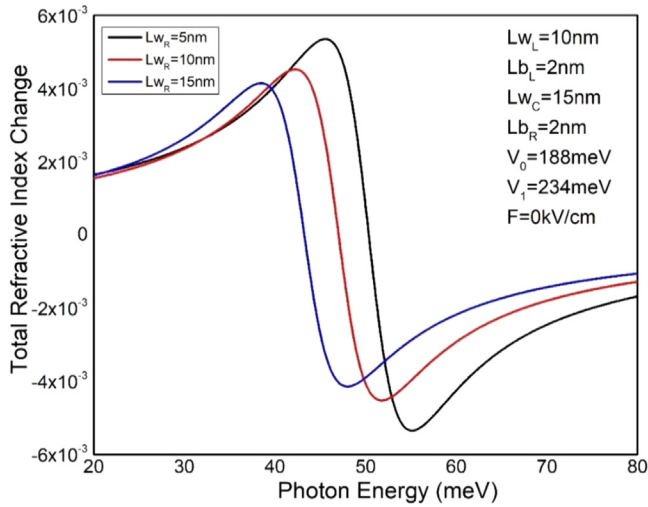
The variation of the subband energy difference and dipole moment matrix elements for different  $Lw_R$  values.

$Lw_R$ (nm)	$E_{10}$ (meV)	$\mu_{00}$ (nm)	$\mu_{11}$ (nm)	$\mu_{10}$ (nm)
5	50.3393	24.5023	20.3460	3.3451
10	47.0126	24.5250	24.5233	3.0711
15	43.2408	24.5304	27.8556	2.9375

**Table 2**

The variation of the energy difference and dipole moment matrix elements for different  $Lb_R$  values.

$Lb_R$ (nm)	$E_{10}$ (meV)	$\mu_{00}$ (nm)	$\mu_{11}$ (nm)	$\mu_{10}$ (nm)
2	48.7126	24.5250	24.5233	3.3711
5	50.2489	24.4072	19.2335	3.170
7	52.3601	24.4037	18.8294	3.0593



**Fig. 4.** Change in the relative refractive index changes as a function of the incident photon energy for three different  $Lw_R$ .

function describing the structure consists of the complete set is given

$$\psi(z) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L_\infty}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_m \sin(m\pi \left[ \frac{z}{L_\infty} + \frac{1}{2} \right]) \quad (3)$$

where  $C_m$  is the coefficients. After the energies and their corresponding wave functions are obtained, the linear, third-order nonlinear, total optical absorption coefficients (TOACs), and relative refractive index changes (RRICs) for transition for the electron states are analytically expressed under the compact density matrix approach and iterative method.

The system is excited by an electromagnetic field  $\omega$

$$E(t) = E_0 e^{i\omega t} + E_0 e^{-i\omega t} \quad (4)$$

The time evolution of one electron density operator  $\rho$  is written [47, 48]

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [H_0 - qxE(t), \rho] - \Gamma(\rho - \rho^{(0)}) \quad (5)$$

where  $H_0$  is the Hamiltonian for the system without the electromagnetic field ( $E(t)$ ), and  $q$  is the electron charge.  $\rho^{(0)}$  is the unperturbed density matrix operator and  $\Gamma$  is responsible for the electron-phonon interaction and collisions among electrons.  $\Gamma$  is a diagonal matrix element that equals the inverse of relaxation time  $T$ . Equation 5 is solved by using the iterative approach [49]

$$\rho(t) = \sum_n \rho^{(n)}(t),$$

with (6)

$$\frac{\partial \rho_{ij}^{(n+1)}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [H_0, \rho^{(n+1)}] - \Gamma_{ij} \rho_{ij}^{(n+1)} - \frac{1}{i\hbar} [qX, \rho^{(n)}]_{ij} E(t)$$

To simplify the analytical solution, we consider two-level electronic systems for electronic transitions. The electronic polarization  $P(t)$  and susceptibility  $\chi(t)$  are given by dipole operator  $M_{ij}$  and density matrix  $\rho$ :

$$P(t) = \varepsilon_0 \chi(\omega) E_0 e^{-i\omega t} + \varepsilon_0 \chi(-\omega) E_0^* e^{i\omega t} = \frac{1}{V} \text{Tr}(\rho M) \quad (7)$$

where  $\varepsilon_0$  is the permittivity of free space and  $\text{Tr}$  (trace) means the summation over the diagonal matrix elements. The analytical forms of the linear  $\chi^{(1)}$  and the third-order nonlinear  $\chi^{(3)}$  susceptibility coefficients are obtained from Eqs. 6, 7.

The absorption coefficient and refractive index changes are related to susceptibility [50].

$$\beta(\omega) = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_r}} \text{Im}[\varepsilon_0 \chi(\omega)] \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\Delta n(\omega)}{n_r} = \text{Re} \left[ \frac{\chi(\omega)}{2n_r^2} \right] \quad (9)$$

Now we can give the analytical formula for the linear and third-order nonlinear absorption coefficients and relative refractive index changes. These expressions are defined as follows [42, 51]

$$\beta^{(1)}(\omega) = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_r}} \frac{|M_{10}|^2 \sigma_v \hbar \Gamma_{10}}{(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2} \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{\Delta n^{(1)}(\omega)}{n_r} = \frac{\sigma_v |M_{10}|^2}{2n_r^2 \varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{E_{10} - \hbar\omega}{(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2} \right] \quad (11)$$

$$\beta^{(3)}(\omega, I) = -2\omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\varepsilon_r}} \left( \frac{I}{\varepsilon_0 n_r c} \right) \frac{|M_{10}|^4 \sigma_v \hbar \Gamma_{10}}{[(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2]^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{|M_{11} - M_{00}|^2}{|2M_{10}|^2} \times \frac{(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)^2 - (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2 + 2(E_{10})(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)}{(E_{10})^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2} \right] \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{\Delta n^{(3)}(\omega, I)}{n_r} = -\frac{\mu c |M_{10}|^2}{4n_r^2 \varepsilon_0} \frac{\sigma_v I}{[(E_{10} - \hbar\omega)^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2]^2} \times \left[ 4(E_{10} - \hbar\omega) |M_{10}|^2 \right] \left[ -\frac{(M_{11} - M_{00})^2}{(E_{10})^2 + (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2} \{ (E_{10} - \hbar\omega) \times [(E_{10})(E_{10} - \hbar\omega) - (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2] - (\hbar\Gamma_{10})^2 (2(E_{10}) - \hbar\omega) \} \right] \quad (13)$$

where  $\omega$  presents the angular frequency and  $\Gamma$  is relaxation time for intersubband transitions.  $\mu$  and  $\varepsilon_r$  are magnetic permeability and the real part of the electrical permittivity.  $\sigma_v$  is the carrier density,  $\hbar$  is the Planck constant and  $n_r$  is the refractive index.  $E_{ij}$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and  $j^{\text{th}}$  energy state of the electron.  $M_{ij}$  corresponds to transition dipole element.

The total TOACs and RRICs equal the sum of the linear and third-order nonlinear terms and are given by the following equation:

$$\beta(\omega, I) = \beta^{(1)}(\omega) + \beta^{(3)}(\omega, I) \quad (14)$$

and

$$\frac{\Delta n(\omega, I)}{n_r} = \frac{\Delta n^{(1)}(\omega)}{n_r} + \frac{\Delta n^{(3)}(\omega, I)}{n_r} \quad (15)$$

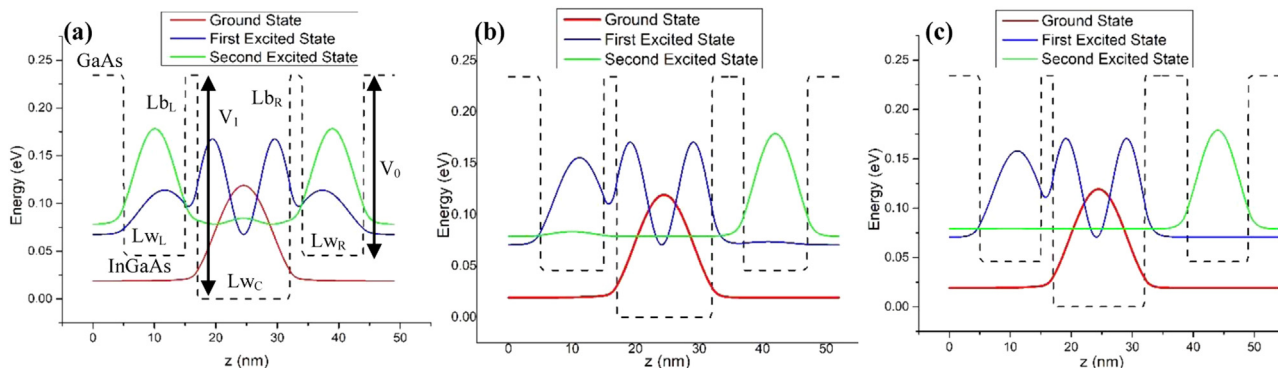


Fig. 5. Confining potential and first three excited state wavefunctions and corresponding energy levels at different  $Lb_R$ .

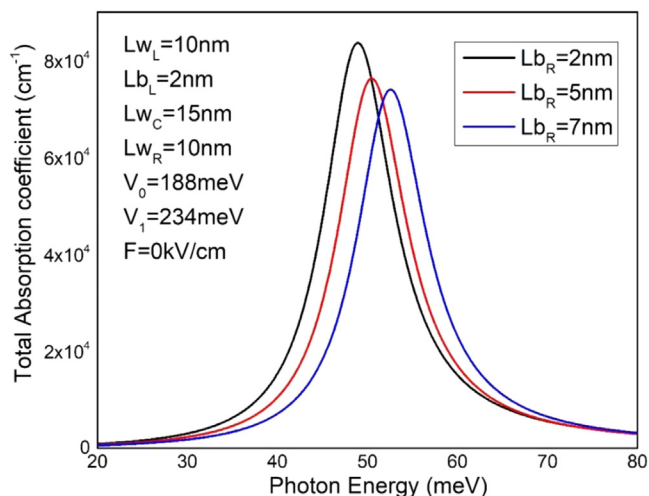


Fig. 6. The total optical absorption coefficients as a function of incident photon energy at different  $Lb_R$  values.

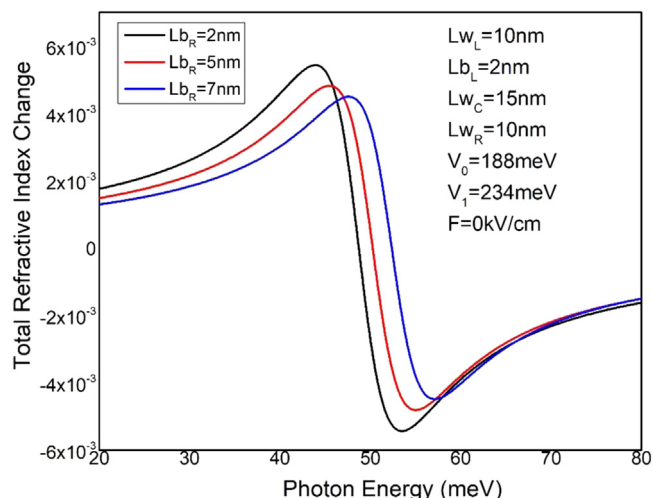


Fig. 7. The relative refractive index changes for three different  $Lb_R$  values.

where the relative refractive index of the system is  $n_r = \sqrt{\epsilon_r}$  and the real part of the permittivity is  $\epsilon_R = n_r^2 \epsilon_0$ .  $\epsilon_0$  and  $\mu_0$  are vacuum permittivity and vacuum permeability, respectively.  $\sigma_v$  is the carrier density of the system.  $\omega$  is the angular frequency of the incident photon,  $I$  is the optical intensity of the incident photon,  $E_{10}$  is the energy difference between the two lowest energy levels and  $\Gamma_{10}$  is defined as the relaxation rate for states 1 and 0.  $M_{ij} = \langle \psi_i(z) | ez | \psi_j(z) \rangle$  (here  $i, j = 0, 1$ ) represents the dipole moment matrix element for the transitions.

### 3. Result and discussion

The physical values of simulation input parameters are listed as [52–55]:  $m^* = 0.059m_0$  ( $m_0$  is the free electron mass),  $c = 3 \times 10^8 m/s$ ,  $e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} C$ ,  $\hbar = 1.056 \times 10^{-34} Js$ ,  $\sigma_v = 3 \times 10^{22} m^{-3}$ ,  $\mu = 4\pi \times 10^7 Hm^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon = 12.58$ ,  $\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$ ,  $I = 0.01 \frac{MW}{cm^2}$ ,  $\tau_{12} = 0.14 ps$  and  $n_r = 3.9$ . Discontinuity of conduction band of  $In_xGa_{1-x}As/GaAs$  is given as  $V_0^{InGaAs} = \chi E_g^{GaAs} - E_g^{InGaAs}$  [56], where  $E_g^{InGaAs} = (E_g^{GaAs} - 1619x - 555x^2) meV$  and  $E_g^{GaAs} = 1424 meV$ . Therefore, the potential depths for the center well ( $V_1$ ) and side wells ( $V_0$ ) are 234meV ( $\chi=0.25$ ) and 188meV ( $\chi=0.20$ ), respectively. We first examine the structure parameters' effects and the applied

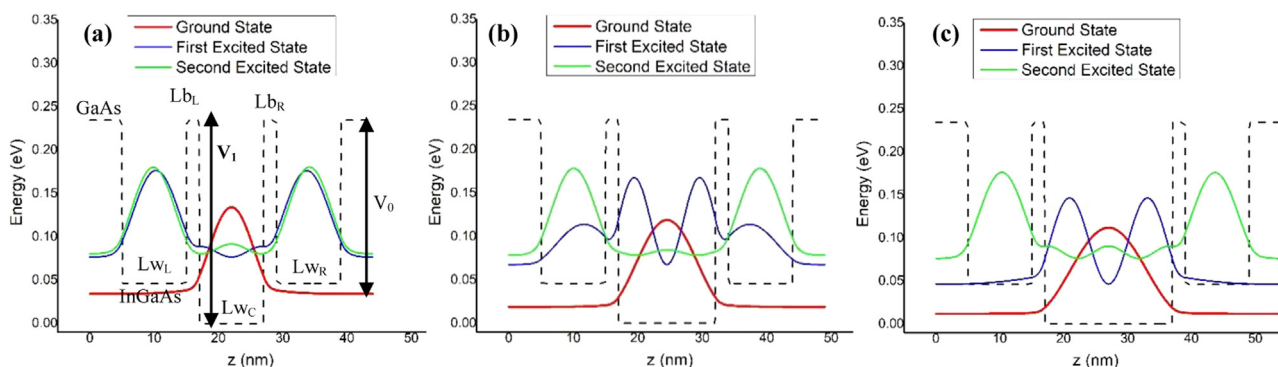
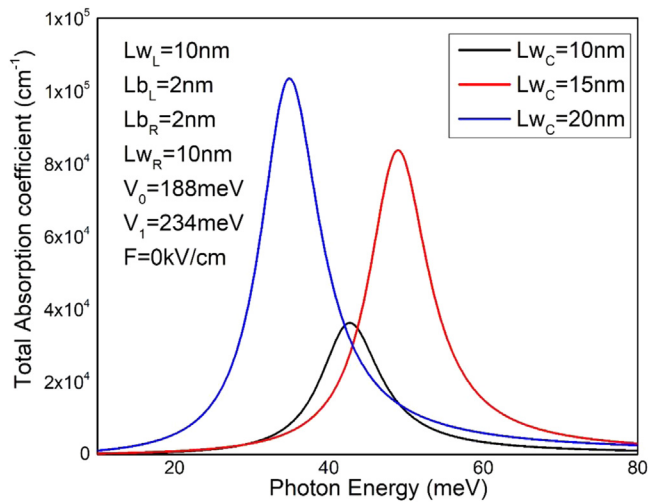
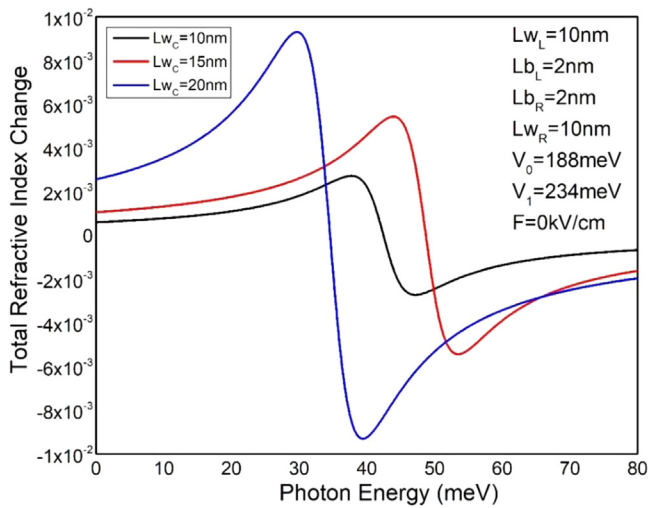


Fig. 8. Shape of InGaAs/GaAs potential structure for different  $Lw_C$  values and corresponding wavefunctions and energy levels.



**Fig. 9.** Total absorption coefficients as a function of incident photon energy at three different  $Lw_c$  values.



**Fig. 10.** The relative refractive index changes for three different center quantum well width values.

**Table 3**

The variation of the energy difference and dipole moment matrix elements for different  $Lw_c$  values.

$Lw_c$ (nm)	$E_{10}$ (meV)	$\mu_{00}$ (nm)	$\mu_{11}$ (nm)	$\mu_{10}$ (nm)
10	42.4407	22.0250	22.0126	2.3734
15	48.7126	24.5250	24.5233	3.3711
20	34.5556	27.025	27.025	4.4428

electric field on the energy level and the dipole moment matrix elements of the structure. Then, the effects of the external field and the structural parameters on total optical absorption coefficients (TOACs) and the relative refractive index changes (RRIC) of the system were investigated. The simulation is performed in two steps. The first step is that the single parabolic band and effective mass approaches are applied to obtain energy eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the electron. In the second step, TOACs and RRICs for transition for the electron states are analytically expressed under the compact density matrix approach and iterative method. The applied static electric field results in the red/blue shifts of the TOACs and RRIC peak position. The applied external field brings additional freedom to control the physical properties of the system. The effects of the structure parameters and the applied external

**Table 4**

The variation of the energy difference and dipole moment matrix elements for different applied external electric fields.

F kV/cm	$E_{10}$ (meV)	$\mu_{00}$ (nm)	$\mu_{11}$ (nm)	$\mu_{10}$ (nm)
0	48.7126	24.5250	24.5233	3.3711
60	46.2567	24.2095	22.4747	2.9419
120	40.3311	23.8842	22.5546	2.4356

electric field on the TOACs and RRIC of the InGaAs/GaAs QW structure are detailed and investigated in each subsection below.

### 3.1. Effect of right-well width ( $Lw_R$ )

The triple QW is conceptualized by inserting the InGaAs QW surrounded by GaAs barriers, Fig. Fig. 2. The structure is subjected to variation of the right QW width ( $Lw_R$ ) for 5 nm, 10 nm, and 15 nm. The structure parameters (except  $Lw_R$ ) are kept constant as well as the applied electric field: the left well width ( $Lw_L = 10$  nm), the left barrier thickness ( $Lb_L = 2$  nm), the center well width ( $Lw_c = 15$  nm), and right barrier thickness ( $Lb_R = 2$  nm). The potential depths are  $V_0 = 188$  meV for the left and right QW and  $V_1 = 234$  meV for the center QW. In addition, there are no applied external fields on the structure ( $F = 0$ ). The shape of the potential profile is controlled by considering the above parameters. The variation of  $Lw_R$  results in the change of the ground state and excited state wavefunctions. The ground state wavefunction is confined in the deepest InGaAs QW. However, the first and second excited wavefunction is mostly confined in InGaAs well and with penetration in GaAs barrier.

Table 1 gives the energy difference between the ground state and the first excited state energy difference ( $E_{10}$ ) as well as the dipole moment matrix elements. By using the simulated values presented in Table 1, the TOACs as a function of the incident photon energy for three values of the  $Lw_R$  are numerically calculated, Fig. Fig. 3. The amplitude of the TOACs decreases with  $Lw_R$ , and the peak position of that moves towards the lower energies (red-shift). The physical explanation of this trend is that dipole moment matrix elements ( $M_{10}$ ) decrease with the increment of the  $Lw_R$ , and so the ground and first excited state energy difference decreases.

Fig. Fig. 4 displays the change in the RRICs for three different  $Lw_R$  values. The changes in the RRICs trend to redshifts. Furthermore, the amplitude of the change in RRICs decreases with the variation of  $Lw_R$ . These trends arise since the energy separation ( $E_{10}$ ) decreases and results in the red-shift of the RRIC peak position and the dipole moment matrix element ( $M_{10}$ ) decreases with the increment of  $Lw_R$ .

### 3.2. Effect of right barrier thickness ( $Lb_R$ )

In this section, we propose a structure composed of triple QWs for different right barrier thicknesses ( $Lb_R$ ). The TOACs and RRICs are examined as a function of the incident photon energy, Fig. Fig. 5. The variation of  $Lb_R$  causes the variation of the ground state and excited state wavefunctions. Effects of the right barrier thickness ( $Lb_R$ ) on the wave function and energy eigenvalues of the structure are investigated.  $Lb_R$  is set to 2 nm, 5 nm, and 7 nm, respectively. The constant structure parameters are as follows: the left well width ( $Lw_L = 10$  nm), the left barrier thickness ( $Lb_L = 2$  nm), the center well width ( $Lw_c = 15$  nm), and the right QW width ( $Lw_R = 10$  nm). The left and right QW depths are  $V_0 = 188$  meV and the center QW depth is  $V_1 = 234$  meV. In addition, there are no applied external fields on the structure ( $F = 0$ ). The shape of the QW structure is monitored by considering the above parameters.

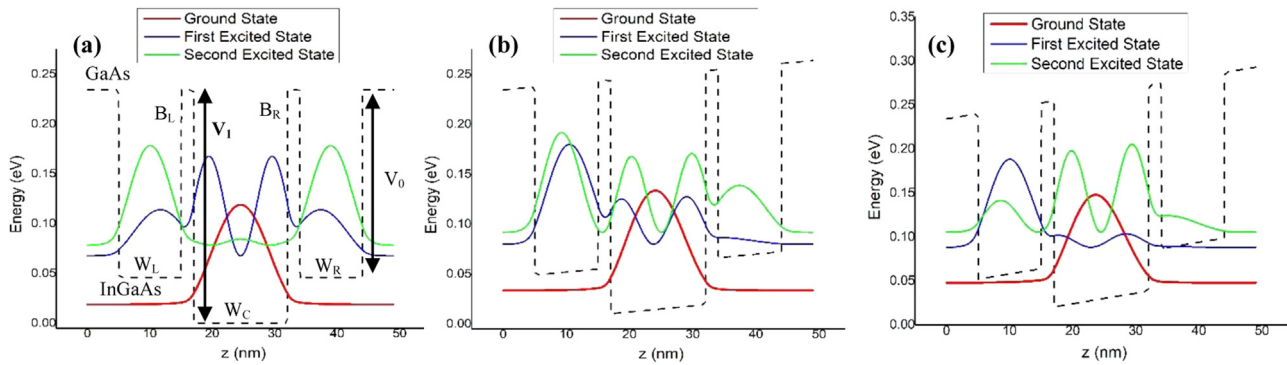


Fig. 11. InGaAs/GaAs potential shape for applied external electric fields and corresponding wavefunctions.

Table 2 exhibits the ground and first excited state energy difference and the dipole moment matrix elements. These parameters have direct control of the amplitude and the peak position of the TOACs and RRICs.

The numerical values in Table 2, TOAC as a function of the incident photon energy for different right barrier thickness values are numerically obtained in Fig. 6. The amplitude of TOAC gradually decreases while the peak position of that shifts to higher energy values (blue-shift). The control of the TOAC for different  $L_{bR}$  values is due to the ground and first excited states' energy difference increasing with the increment of  $L_{bR}$ . The dipole moment matrix elements decrease so the amplitude of TOAC decreases.

Fig. 7 exhibits RRIC for three different  $L_{bR}$  values. The peak position of the refractive indices trends the blue shifts. Furthermore, the amplitude of the RRIC decreases with the variation of  $L_{bR}$ . These trends arise since the energy separation between the ground state and the first excited state increases and results in the blue shift of the RRIC peak position. The amplitude of the RRIC is governed by the dipole moment matrix elements which decrease with the increment of  $L_{bR}$ .

### 3.3. Effect of center barrier width ( $L_{wC}$ )

In this part, we examine GaAs/InGaAs structure for different triple QWs for different center QW widths ( $L_{wC}$ ). The nonlinear optical coefficients as a function of incident photon energy are investigated for different  $L_{wC}$  values, Fig. 8. The center barrier width ( $L_{wC}$ ) is changed from 10nm to 20nm with a step of 5nm while the other parameters are kept constant; the left well width ( $L_{wL}$ =10nm), the left and right barrier thickness ( $L_{bL}$ =2nm,  $L_{bR}$ =2nm), and the right QW width ( $L_{wR}$ =10nm). The left and right QW depths are set to  $V_0$ =188meV, and the center QW depth is  $V_1$ =234meV. In addition, there are no applied external fields on the structure ( $F$ =0kV/cm). The shape of the potential profile is only controlled by considering the center barrier width ( $L_{wC}$ ).

Table 3 presents the calculated values of energy difference and dipole moment matrix elements. These values numerically depict the TOAC coefficients as a function of incident photon energy, Fig. 9. The ground and first excited state energy difference increases when the  $L_{wC}$  increase from 10 nm to 15 nm. Then, the increment of  $L_{wC}$  to 20 nm brings a noticeable decrease in the energy difference. These energy difference variations cause the initial blueshift and then cause the redshift to the peak position. The amplitude of the TOAC coefficient is controlled by the variation of the dipole moment matrix elements, which increases with the increment of the center quantum barrier width.

Fig. 10 exhibits RRIC for three different  $L_{wC}$  values. The resonant peak position of the refractive indices initially shifts the higher energy (blue shift) and shifts the lower energy (red shift). This effect is due to variation of the ground state and first excited state energy

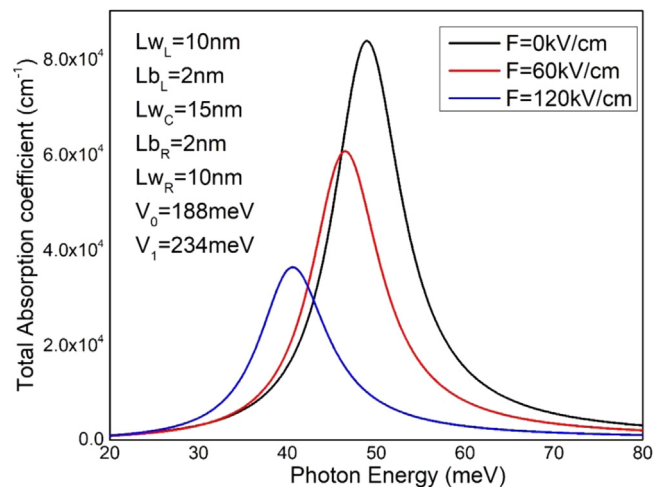


Fig. 12. Total optical absorption coefficients as a function of incident photon energy at three different applied electric fields.

difference, Table 3. In addition, the amplitude of the RRIC increases with the variation of the quantum well width of  $L_{wC}$ . RRIC yield is controlled by the dipole moment matrix elements.

### 3.4. Effect of applied external electric field ( $F$ )

After examining the effects of the structure parameters on the TOAC and RRIC coefficients, the applied electric field ( $F$ ) on the GaAs/InGaAs QW structure is examined. In this part, we investigated the effects of the applied external electric field on the structure profile. The  $F$  field is adjusted to 0, 60, and 120 kV/cm. The QW potential parameters are set as: the left well width ( $L_{wL}$ =10nm), the left and right barrier thickness ( $L_{bL}$ =2nm,  $L_{bR}$ =2nm), the center QW width ( $L_{wC}$ =15nm), and the right QW width ( $L_{wR}$ =10nm). The left and right QW depths are  $V_0$ =188meV and the center QW depth is  $V_1$ =234meV. The applied electric field tilts the QW potential, i.e. electron feels tilted QW structure, and they occupy different energy levels and different wavefunctions, Fig. 11. The TOACs and RRICs are investigated at three different applied electric field values.

The obtained numerical values for the energy difference and the dipole moment matrix elements for different external electric fields are given in Table 4. By using these numerical values, TOACs are presented for different  $F$  values, Fig. 12. The increment of  $F$  values results in the decrease of the energy difference values. This energy variation causes the redshift of the TOAC peak, Fig. 12. The dipole moment matrix elements decrease with the applied exter-

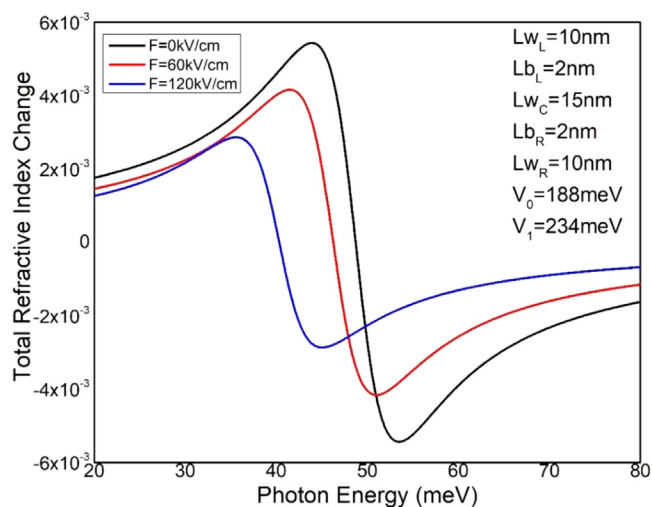


Fig. 13. The relative refractive index changes at different applied external fields.

nal electric field, and these variations cause the amplitude drop of the TOAC peak.

Fig. 13 presents the RRICs as a function of the incident photon energy. The RRIC peak position shifts to a lower energy region (redshift) with the applied external electric field since the energy difference decreases with the increment of the external field. The amplitude of the RRIC peaks is governed by the dipole moment matrix elements, which decrease with the applied external electric field.

#### 4. Conclusion

In general, the total optical absorption coefficient and relative refractive index changes of the  $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}/\text{GaAs}$  triple quantum well, which is favorable for the design and fabrication of new photodetectors, have been extensively studied under the influence of structure parameters and applied electric field. The variation of these parameters gives us additional freedom to monitor the peak position and peak amplitude of TOACs and RRICs of the structure. The obtained numerical results show that the optical absorption coefficients and refractive index changes of the structure can be shifted to higher or lower energy regions by controlling the structure parameters and external fields. These numerical simulations and analyzes have shown that these materials have the potential to develop new photodetectors and optoelectronic devices that operate especially in the infrared and far-infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

#### Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**M. Sayrac:** Software, Writing – original draft, Formal analysis. **E. Kaynar:** Writing – review & editing, Validation, Visualization. **F. Ungan:** Validation, Supervision, Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft.

#### Data Availability

Data will be made available on request.

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