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Droop-Multimode Trade-off in GaN-InGaN LEDs: Effect of Polarization-Matched AlInGaN Blocking Layers

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Abstract–Polarization-matched graded AlInGaN electron blocking layer (EBL) and hole blocking layer (HBL) are proposed to reduce efficiency droop in GaN-InGaN light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Five different structures have been simulated to study the effect of different blocking layers and a significant reduction in the efficiency droop has been noticed, from 52% in conventional structure to 2% in polarization-matched graded AlInGaN EBL and HBL structure at a current density of 1000 A cm⁻². This has been achieved at the cost of multimode emission from such polarization-matched blocking layers which sets a trade-off between efficiency droop and multimode emission. The AlInGaN layer can therefore be characterized by droop cut-off condition (DCC) and multimode cut-off condition (MCC). For the best structure proposed in this paper, simulations indicate a DCC having Al and In composition of 0.10 and 0.15 respectively; and an MCC having Al and In composition of 0.08 and 0.23 respectively.

Highlights-

- Efficiency droop is reduced by polarization-matched graded AlInGaN EBL and HBL.
- Droop reduced from 52% to 2% measured at a current density of 1000 A cm⁻².
- A high-intensity secondary emission is observed due to AlInGaN blocking layers.
- A trade-off exists between efficiency droop and multimode emission.

Keywords–droop cut-off condition (DCC), efficiency droop, internal quantum efficiency (IQE), light-emitting diode (LED), multimode cut-off condition (MCC), polarization-matched AlInGaN.

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