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# Terahertz photo-voltaic detection of cyclotron resonance in the regime of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations

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## Abstract

We examine and compare the diagonal magnetoresistance,  $R_{xx}$ , and the photo-voltage induced by microwave ( $42 \leq f < 300GHz$ ) and terahertz ( $f \geq 300GHz$ ) photoexcitation in the high mobility quasi two-dimensional GaAs/AlGaAs system. The data demonstrate strong radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  to  $360GHz$ . In addition, cyclotron resonance is observed in the photo-voltage to  $725GHz$ . These results show that our high mobility GaAs/AlGaAs 2DES specimens remain photo-active in magnetotransport into the terahertz band.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Microwave photo-excited transport studies of the GaAs/AlGaAs 2-dimensional electron system (2DES) at high filling factors or low magnetic fields,  $B$ , have revealed new physical effects such as, for example, the radiation-induced zero-resistance states and associated "1/4-cycle shifted" magnetoresistance oscillations. Such phenomena have led to broad experimental<sup>1-33</sup> and theoretical<sup>34-62</sup> investigations of transport in the photo-excited 2DES.

The microwave radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in the 2DES are characterized by  $B^{-1}$  periodic oscillations in the diagonal magnetoresistance,  $R_{xx}$ , of the 2DES at cryogenic temperatures,  $T$ , with oscillatory nodes near integral and half-integral multiples of cyclotron resonance.<sup>1,5,32</sup> These  $R_{xx}$  oscillations show a non-linear dependence on the microwave power,  $P$ , at modest  $P$ ,<sup>25,60</sup> and a strong sensitivity to  $T$ .<sup>1</sup> Proposed mechanisms for such oscillations include radiation-assisted indirect inter-Landau-level scattering by phonons and impurities (the displacement model),<sup>34,36,39,57</sup> non-parabolicity effects in an ac-driven system (the non-parabolicity model),<sup>38</sup> the periodic motion of the electron orbit centers under irradiation (the radiation driven electron orbit model).<sup>46,49</sup>, and a radiation-induced steady state non-equilibrium distribution (the inelastic model).<sup>45</sup> Notably, the last model predicts radiation-polarization insensitivity,<sup>45</sup> while recent experiments and theory have demonstrated a remarkable sensitivity in the amplitude of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations to the orientation of the linear microwave polarization.<sup>29,30,61,62</sup>

A topic of open interest in this field of radiation-induced transport relates to the responsiveness of the 2DES to photo-excitation at radiation frequencies,  $f$ , above  $100GHz$ . Works examining this regime include refs.<sup>1,15,17-19,21-23</sup> Here, ref.<sup>15</sup> exhibited radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations to 254 GHz. Ref.<sup>18</sup> reported that the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations begin to quench at  $120GHz$  and disappear completely above  $230GHz$ . The quench involved both a decay in the amplitude of the oscillations and a reduction in the number of observable oscillations with increasing radiation frequency. Thus, the authors suggested that the Landau level broadening increased,- and the single particle lifetime decreased,- rapidly with increasing  $f$ , in contradiction to the usual expectation that the broadening is independent of  $f$ . Wirthmann et al.<sup>19</sup> examined the effect of far-infrared excitation ( $\lambda = 184.3\mu m$ ) on very long GaAs/AlGaAs quantum well meandering Hall bar specimen with mobility  $\mu = 1.6 \times 10^6 cm^2/Vs$  and effective mass  $m^*/m = 0.0759$ , and re-

ported observing radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations in the  $\Delta R_{xx}$  response to chopped radiation. Tung et al. examined long Hall bars and Corbino rings at sub-millimeter wave frequencies, and reported a double lock-in photo-resistance signal up to 495 GHz.<sup>23</sup> Other experimental work by Mani et al.<sup>1,17,21,22</sup> also indicated zero-resistance states and radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  above 100GHz.

Experiments at such high frequencies confront the technological problem of generating radiation at adequate power levels, detecting the radiation, and effectively channelling this radiation to the specimen with minimal losses. In fact, associated practical problems are of sufficient interest that much research and development is devoted to addressing these issues without addressing the end use of high-frequency terahertz radiation.<sup>63-66</sup> Indeed, the terahertz band [0.3 – 10THz] presents unique challenges because it lies within the frequency span where neither electronic approaches nor optical techniques function very effectively. Yet, from the applications perspective, detectors and compact radiation sources are needed here for imaging for security and medical applications, bio-agent identification, and large bandwidth communications.<sup>63-66</sup>

Here, we focus upon radiation-induced transport above 200GHz in the high mobility GaAs/AlGaAs system using recently developed Schottky diode multiplier chains to boost a high power, low frequency signal up to  $f$  as large as 780GHz. A consequence of using multipliers in sources is that the available radiation power drops with increasing frequency and multiplication factor.

The magnetotransport experiments indicate strong radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations in the directly measured  $R_{xx}$  up to 360GHz. At higher frequencies, oscillation amplitude drops in part due to inadequate available excitation power. A concurrent study of the photo-voltage signal indicates, however, continued response up to 725GHz. The observed photo-voltage response is consistent with cyclotron resonance based on the observed variation of the resonance field,  $B_R$ , with  $f$ . The results show that our high mobility 2DES specimens remain microwave and terahertz active up to at least 725GHz.

## II. EXPERIMENT

The GaAs/AlGaAs material utilized for this study was characterized by electron mobility  $\mu \approx 10^7 \text{cm}^2/\text{Vs}$  and electron density in the range  $2.4 \times 10^{11} \leq n \leq 3 \times 10^{11} \text{cm}^{-2}$ .

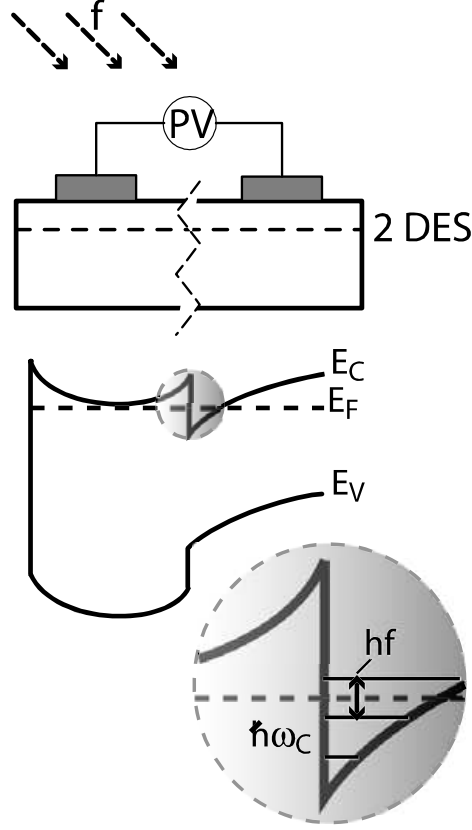


FIG. 1: This figure shows a cartoon of the photo-voltage experiment. Top: A lock-in amplifier measures the photo-voltage (PV) developed between a pair of nominally ohmic contacts on the surface of the GaAs/AlGaAs device, as the device is photo-excited by chopped microwave and terahertz radiation at frequency,  $f$ . Here, the 2D electron system (2DES) is located nearly  $100\text{nm}$  below the surface of the semiconductor. Center: This sketch shows the band diagram of the GaAs/AlGaAs heterostructure system, with a Schottky barrier (shown on the left) at the top surface, and a triangular well at the GaAs - AlGaAs interface, which hosts the 2DES. Bottom: An expanded view of the triangular well under the influence of a magnetic field. Here, the triangular well shows Landau levels spaced by  $\Delta E = \hbar\omega_c$ , and photoexcitation at photon energy  $hf$  produces inter-Landau-level transitions.

Devices examined here include cleaved specimens with alloyed indium contacts and Hall bars fabricated by optical lithography with alloyed Au-Ge/Ni contacts. The Hall bars were  $200\mu\text{m}$ -wide and the measured sections showed a length-to-width ratio  $L/W = 2$ .

At lower frequencies, the photoexcitation was generated using commercially available syn-

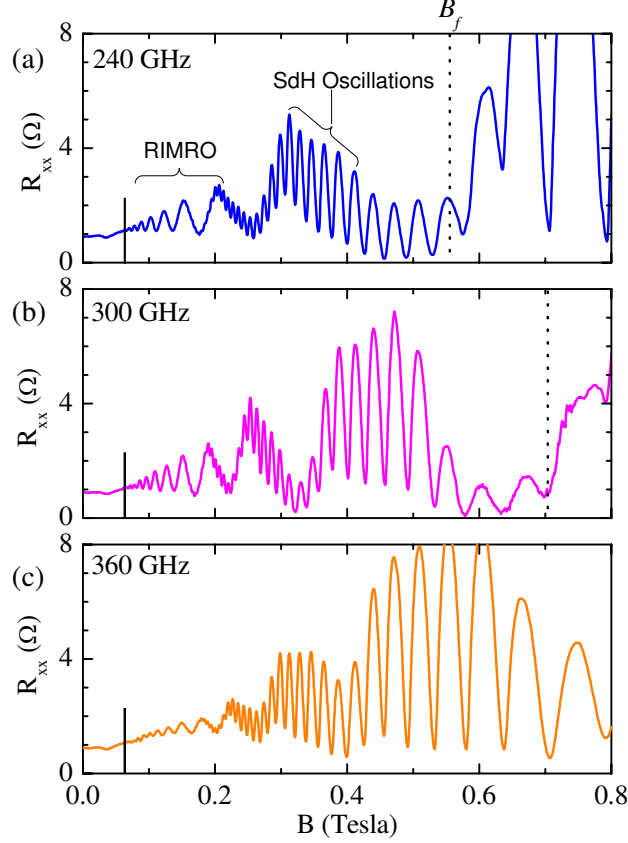


FIG. 2: (Color online) Microwave ( $f < 300GHz$ ) and terahertz ( $f \geq 300GHz$ ) radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in the diagonal resistance  $R_{xx}$ , which overlap Shubnikov-de Haas oscillations, are exhibited for (a)  $f = 240GHz$ , (b)  $f = 300GHz$ , and (c)  $f = 360GHz$ . Here, the slowly varying oscillations are the Radiation-induced Magneto-resistance Oscillations (RIMRO) while the quickly varying oscillations are the Shubnikov-de Haas (SdH) oscillations. A subset of oscillations of each type are marked on the figure. The solid vertical lines below  $0.1T$  marks the low- $B$  threshold for the appearance of RIMRO. The dotted lines indicate  $B_f = 2\pi fm^*/e$  with  $m^* = 0.065m$ .

thesizers with supplementary millimeter wave modules. In the terahertz regime, a highly stable and frequency tunable microwave oscillator in the  $10 - 20GHz$  region, with a linewidth of  $1Hz$  and output power of  $17dBm$ , excited a series of voltage biased- and unbiased- frequency multipliers. The frequency multiplication stage immediately following the  $10 - 20GHz$  oscillator was a frequency doubling Spacek amplifier. Subsequent frequency multipliers, based on a planar GaAs Schottky diode technology developed by Virginia Diodes, Inc.,<sup>67</sup> have indi-

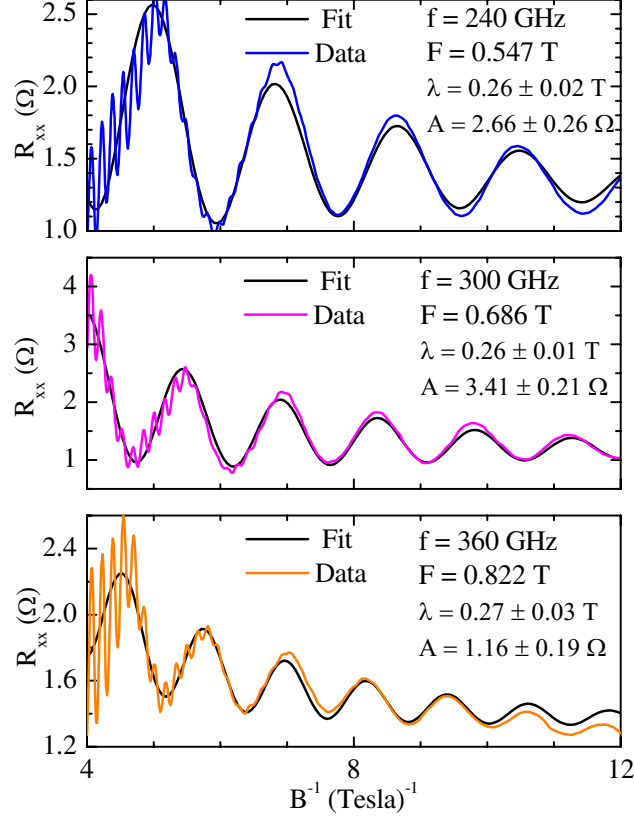


FIG. 3: (Color online) Inverse magnetic field plots of the radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in the diagonal resistance  $R_{xx}$  are exhibited for (a)  $f = 240\text{GHz}$ , (b)  $f = 300\text{GHz}$ , and (c)  $f = 360\text{GHz}$ . Also shown are fits to the data using exponentially damped sinusoids, i.e.,  $\Delta R_{xx} = -A \exp(-\lambda/B) \sin(2\pi F/B)$ , with the parameters  $F$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $A$  indicated in the figure. Note that  $\lambda$  is insensitive to the  $f$  within experimental uncertainty.

vidual multiplication factors of  $\times 2$  or  $\times 3$  and are daisy-chained to obtain the desired output frequency up to  $780\text{GHz}$ . Over the bands  $330 \leq f \leq 390\text{GHz}$ ,  $430 \leq f \leq 520\text{GHz}$ , and  $660 \leq f \leq 780\text{GHz}$ , the source power spanned  $2 - 6\text{mW}$ ,  $1 - 2.5\text{mW}$ , and  $0.3 - 0.6\text{mW}$ , respectively. In the THz regime, attenuation between the radiation source and specimen is estimated to be between  $10$  and  $20\text{dB}$  caused by a number of factors including mode mismatch, ohmic losses, and atmospheric attenuation at the highest frequencies.

Electrical measurements of the diagonal resistance,  $R_{xx}$ , were carried out by passing a low-frequency ( $\approx 13\text{Hz}$ ) current,  $I$ , through the specimen *via* a set of "current" contacts and detecting the voltage drop,  $V_{xx}$ , in a four-terminal configuration across a second set of "voltage" contacts using standard low frequency lock-in techniques. The diagonal resistance

is numerically evaluated as  $R_{xx} = V_{xx}/I$  after the measurement.

The  $PV$  measurement is illustrated in Fig. 1. A pair of nominally ohmic contacts on the top surface of the GaAs/AlGaAs heterostructure are connected to a lock-in amplifier that serves to measure the photo-voltage, as chopped microwave/terahertz radiation is incident upon the surface of the semiconductor heterostructure. A Schottky barrier occurs near the native top surface of the semiconductor heterostructure as illustrated in the center of Fig. 1. The 2DES typically lies nearly  $100nm$  below the semiconductor surface, in a triangular well at the buried GaAs/AlGaAs interface. The existence of this Schottky barrier hinders contact formation to the 2DES. To form an ohmic contact,  $Au - Ge/Ni$  or  $In$  are deposited and alloyed on the top surface at  $\approx 450^{\circ}C$  in a forming gas atmosphere. In the case of  $Au - Ge/Ni$ , the alloying dopes the wide-gap AlGaAs layer with  $Ge$ , a group-IV element, and reduces the Schottky barrier width, helping to form a nominally ohmic contact. In the case of  $In$  contacts, the alloying helps to form AlInGaAs below the contacts, and this reduces the Schottky barrier height, helping to form nominally ohmic contacts.<sup>68</sup> Although in both cases the contacts are nominally ohmic, there is often some remnant of the initial non-linearity in the  $I - V$  characteristics of the contacts.

The  $PV$  measurement was carried out by chopping the incident microwave radiation at  $1kHz$  and detecting the resulting voltage at the chop-frequency using a lock-in amplifier. For concurrent measurements of  $R_{xx}$  and  $PV$ , a low frequency ( $\approx 13Hz$ ) current was applied to the specimen in conjunction with chopped ( $1kHz$ ) photo-excitation. A pair of lock-in amplifiers with appropriately set, non-overlapping, band pass filters were then used to concurrently measure the  $R_{xx} = V_{xx}/I$  and  $PV$ . Although two lock-in amplifiers are employed in such a concurrent measurement, the results do not correspond to a standard double modulation measurement because the output of one lock-in does not become the input to the other lock-in amplifier.

### III. RESULTS

Figure 2 exhibits the diagonal resistance,  $R_{xx}$ , vs. the magnetic field  $B$  under (a) 240 GHz, (b) 300 GHz, and (c) 360 GHz photoexcitation. All three panels exhibit strong radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$ , above the  $230GHz$  quench threshold identified in ref.<sup>(18)</sup> Since the characteristic field,  $B_f = 2\pi m^* f/e$ , for the radiation-induced



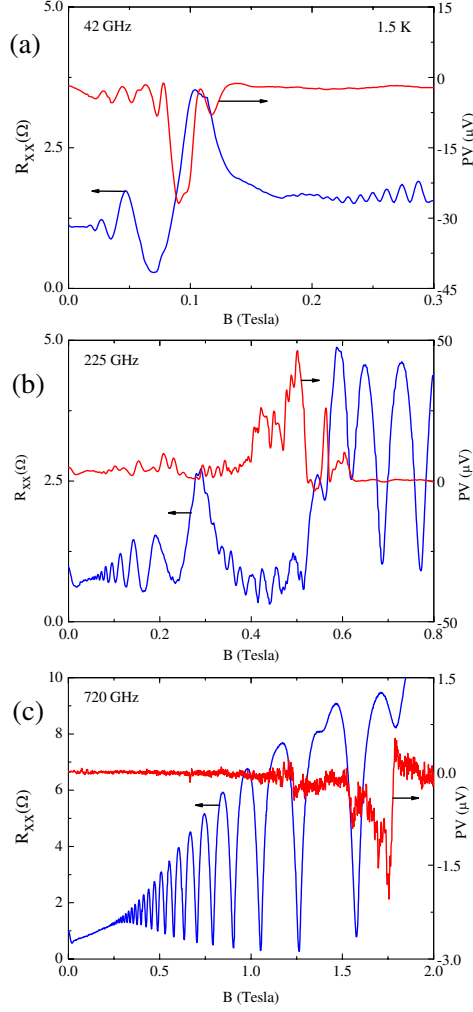


FIG. 4: (a) Microwave-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  at  $f = 42 \text{ GHz}$  are shown on the left ordinate. The concurrently measured photo-voltage (PV) is shown on the right ordinate. The PV shows a large and broad feature in the vicinity of the node of the  $R_{xx}$  oscillations at  $B = 0.1 \text{ T}$ . (b)  $R_{xx}$  (left-ordinate) and PV (right ordinate) at  $f = 225 \text{ GHz}$ . (c)  $R_{xx}$  (left-ordinate) and PV (right ordinate) at  $f = 720 \text{ GHz}$ . The largest features in the PV in panels (a) - (c) are associated with cyclotron resonance.

magnetoresistance oscillations increases linearly with the radiation frequency,  $f$ , the slowly-varying-with- $B$  radiation-induced oscillations shift to higher  $B$  with increasing  $f$ . Note that at these relatively large  $f$ , these radiation-induced oscillations do overlap the more-rapidly-varying-with- $B$  Shubnikov-de Haas (SdH) oscillations, see also ref.<sup>17,21,22</sup>. A close comparison of Fig. 2 (a) - (c) shows that, in the low  $B$  limit, the radiation-induced magne-

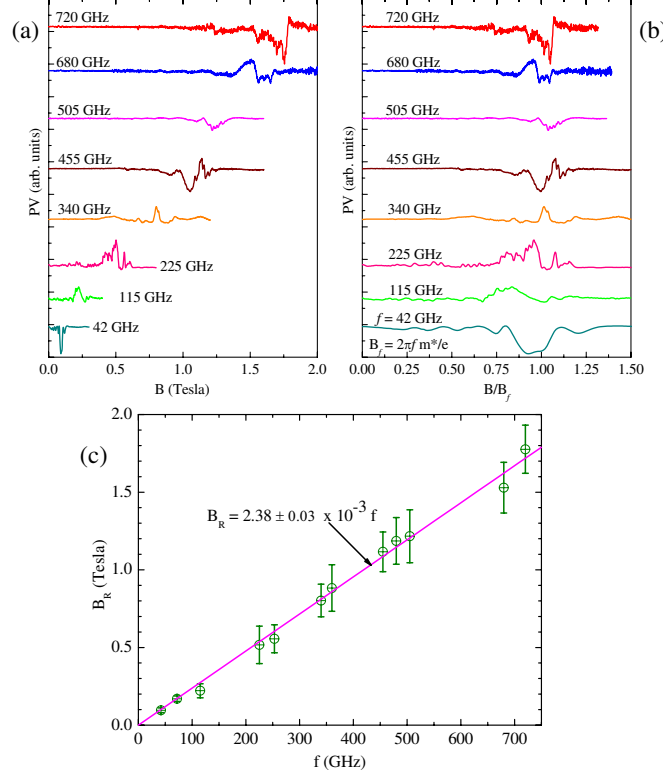


FIG. 5: (a) The radiation-induced photo-voltage (PV) is exhibited for a set of excitation frequencies over the range  $42 \leq f \leq 720 \text{ GHz}$  for a specimen with  $In$  contacts. Here, the curves have been stacked, i.e., offset vertically, for the sake of presentation. Note the progression of the strong feature in the PV to higher- $B$  with increasing  $f$ . (b) The radiation-induced photo-voltage (PV) is plotted vs. the normalized magnetic field,  $B/B_f$ , where  $B_f = 2\pi f m^*/e$ , with  $m^* = 0.065m$ , see ref.<sup>5</sup>. Note that the PV structure occurs at similar values of  $B/B_f$  at all  $f$ . (c) The magnetic field,  $B_R$ , of the strong feature in the PV shown above, is plotted *vs.* the radiation frequency,  $f$ . A best linear fit, following the equation  $B_R = 2.38 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{-3} f$ , is shown as the magenta colored line. The error bars associated with the symbols provide a measure of the width of the PV feature along the magnetic field axis in panel (a).

toresistance oscillations extend below  $B = 0.1T$ , to the same low magnetic field threshold. This feature suggests that the broadening is not dependent on the radiation frequency here. However, there is a decay in the amplitude of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations for a fixed index oscillatory maximum especially at  $360 \text{ GHz}$ . We attribute this feature to an effective decrease in radiation power at the highest  $f$ . A more careful analysis

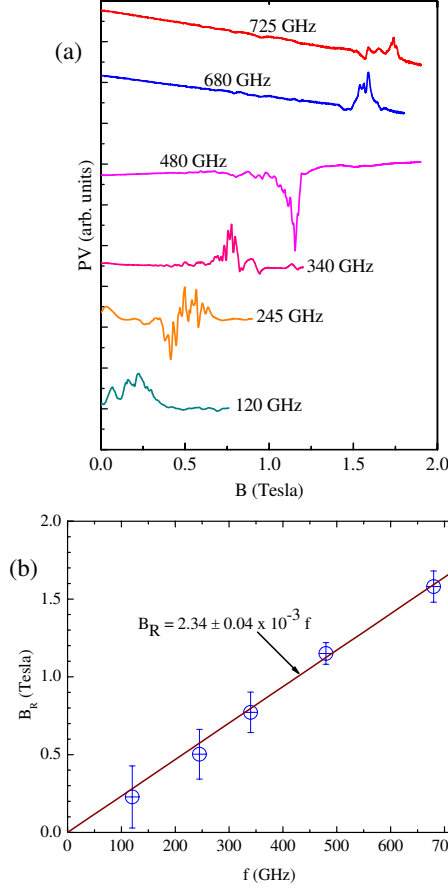


FIG. 6: (a) The radiation-induced photo-voltage (PV) is exhibited for a sample with  $Au - Ge/Ni$  contacts over the range  $120 \leq f \leq 725 GHz$ . Here, the curves have been offset vertically for the sake of presentation. Note the progression of the strong feature in the PV to higher- $B$  with increasing  $f$ . (b) The magnetic field,  $B_R$ , of the PV feature is plotted *vs.* the radiation frequency,  $f$ . A best linear fit, following the equation  $B_R = 2.34 \pm 0.04 \times 10^{-3} f$ , is shown as the magenta colored line. The error bars associated with the symbols provide a measure of the width of the PV feature along the magnetic field axis in panel (a).

leading to the same conclusion follows in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 presents inverse-magnetic-field plots of the data of Fig. 2. This figure indicates that the period of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations is reduced with increasing  $f$ , as expected. Also shown in this figure are fits to the oscillatory resistance with exponential damped sinusoids, i.e.,  $\Delta R_{xx} = -A \exp(-\lambda/B) \sin(2\pi F/B)$ .<sup>7,25</sup> Here, the exponential damping can serve to determine a finite frequency broadening lifetime  $[\tau_f]$  (or

single particle lifetime  $[\tau]$ ) and broadening temperature  $T_f$  when the exponential damping is written in Dingle form as  $\exp(-\lambda/B) = \exp(-\pi/\omega_c\tau_f) \approx \exp(-pT_f/B)$ .<sup>7</sup> The fits results, see Fig. 3, indicate that  $\lambda \approx 0.26T$ , which corresponds to  $T_f \approx 260mK$ , is constant and insensitive to  $f$ , within experimental uncertainties. In ref.<sup>7</sup>,  $\lambda$  was shown to be insensitive to  $f$  over the band  $30 < f < 120GHz$ . Thus, these results suggest similar behavior over the band examined in Fig. 3, to  $f = 360GHz$ .

Figure 4 exhibits  $R_{xx}$  and the concurrently measured photo-voltage ( $PV$ ) under (a)  $42GHz$ , (b)  $225GHz$ , and (c)  $720GHz$  photoexcitation. Fig. 4(a) shows that, at  $42GHz$ , a broad and deep minimum becomes observable in the  $PV$  near the node in the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillation at  $B \approx 0.1T$ . Fig. 4(b) shows that a broad  $PV$  maximum, with structure within, becomes observable near the node in the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillation at  $B \approx 0.525T$ , at  $f = 225GHz$ . Fig. 4(c) shows an irregular minimum in the  $PV$  in the vicinity of  $1.75T$ . Here, at  $f = 720GHz$ , the  $R_{xx}$  does not exhibit perceptible radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations. We attribute this feature to insufficient source power in this  $f$  band.

Figure 5 examines the evolution of the  $PV$  signal with  $f$  over the range  $42 \leq f \leq 720GHz$  for the specimen with  $In$  contacts. Here, in Fig. 5(a) and Fig. 5(b), the data traces have been offset vertically for the sake of presentation. Fig. 5(a) shows that a pronounced, irregularly shaped broad structure in the  $PV$  shifts to higher  $B$  with increasing  $f$ . Fig. 5(b) shows the  $PV$  signal plotted versus the normalized magnetic field,  $B/B_f$ , where  $B_f = 2\pi fm^*/e$ . This plot shows that the pronounced feature in the  $PV$  signal occurs near  $B/B_f \approx 1$ . An interesting point in Fig. 5(a) (and Fig. 5(b)) is that the  $PV$  feature at some  $f$  extend above- and at other  $f$  extend below- the background value. Note that, since the  $PV$  signifies a voltage difference between a pair of contacts, the sign of the  $PV$  depends upon the relative electrochemical potentials of the two contacts. This could depend upon the  $f$ -dependent profile of the radiation field over the sample, and also the quality of the contacts. Nevertheless, we determined the approximate center of the  $PV$  feature at each  $f$  and also measured the width of the  $PV$  feature to obtain an uncertainty estimate of this apparent resonance. The center of the  $PV$  feature is symbolized by  $B_R$  and plotted vs.  $f$  on the left-ordinate in Fig. 5(c). Here, the error bar associated with each point corresponds to the width-estimate of the  $PV$  feature mentioned above. Fig. 5(c) shows that the  $B_R$  increases linearly with  $f$ . A linear least squares fit to the data indicates that

$B_R = 2.38 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{-3}f$ , where  $B_R$  is in units of Tesla and  $f$  is in units of GHz.

Figure 6 examines the evolution of the  $PV$  signal with  $f$  for a  $200\mu m$  wide Hall bar specimen with alloyed  $Au - Ge/Ni$  contacts over the range  $120 \leq f \leq 725GHz$ . As in Fig. 5, the  $PV$  structure in Fig. 6(a) is irregularly shaped, with extensions at resonance both above and below the baseline of the trace, depending upon  $f$ . Nevertheless, we once again determined the approximate center of the  $PV$  feature at each  $f$  and also measured the approximate width of this  $PV$  of this resonance, and plot the results in Fig. 6(b). A best fit linear fit through the data points of Fig. 6(b) indicates that  $B_R = 2.34 \pm 0.04 \times 10^{-3}f$ . Note that we obtain consistency in the slope,  $dB_R/df$ , of the best fit lines shown in Fig. 5(c) and Fig. 6(b), within experimental uncertainties.

The slopes of the best fit lines can be understood by attributing the observed  $PV$  features to cyclotron resonance. In the GaAs/AlGaAs system, the "standard value" for the electron effective mass is  $m^* = 0.067m$ , which implies that the cyclotron resonance field depends on the radiation frequency as:  $B_C = 2.38 \times 10^{-3}f$ , with  $B_C$  in units of Tesla and  $f$  in units of GHz. A comparison of the results of Fig. 5(c) and Fig. 6(b) with these expectations indicates a cyclotron resonance origin for the observed resonant  $PV$  feature, i.e.,  $B_R \approx B_C$ . Since the electron effective mass determined from the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations,  $m^* = 0.065m$ , is known to differ slightly from the standard value,  $m^* = 0.067m$ , see ref.<sup>5</sup>,  $B_f$  may not be quite the same as  $B_C$ .

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The two main results reported here are (a) the observation of radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  above  $230GHz$ , and (b) the indication of cyclotron resonance in the photo-voltage up to  $725GHz$ .

Point (a) is interesting because, as mentioned, ref.<sup>18</sup> has argued for the quenching of radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations starting at  $120GHz$ , where the quenching took the form of both a reduction in the amplitude and a decrease in the number of observable oscillations with increasing  $f$ . The latter feature was attributed to an apparent increase in the level broadening with the radiation frequency.<sup>18</sup> The results shown here in Fig. 2 indicate observability of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  to  $f = 360GHz$ . At the highest  $f$ , the oscillation amplitude appears reduced due to a drop

in the source power. An increase in the Landau level broadening with  $f$  is not indicated here since there is no perceptible change in the low field threshold for the observability of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations with increasing  $f$ , see Fig. 2. Further, a lineshape fit indicates no perceptible change in the damping parameter  $\lambda$ , and therefore the broadening temperature/lifetime, with increasing  $f$ , within experimental uncertainties, see Fig. 3. The origin of this difference between our observations and ref.<sup>18</sup> is not understood at the present. Perhaps, there are some subtle differences in the MBE GaAs/AlGaAs material prepared using different recipes in different laboratories, that are the cause of the observed differences. Although we have observed radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations to  $f = 360GHz$ , we have not yet succeeded in obtaining strong oscillations at much higher  $f$ . There appear to be two reasons for this: (i) losses between source and sample amount to between 10 to 20 dB at high  $f$ , and available radiation sources are simply unable to provide sufficient source power at  $f \geq 400GHz$  to compensate for the losses. (ii) our experimental observations suggest that the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations could be sensitive to the photon flux, i.e., number of photons per unit time per unit area, rather than the incident radiation intensity, i.e., energy per unit time per unit area. According to the displacement model, see, for example, ref.<sup>34</sup>, each photon produces one inter-Landau-level transition, if multi-photon effects are not considered. Thus, the photon flux could be a critical parameter, and to maintain a constant photon flux with increasing  $f$ , the source intensity would need to increase linearly with  $f$ . In such a situation, a factor-of-ten increase in the  $f$  from, say,  $40GHz$  to  $400GHz$ , would call for a proportionate  $10\times$  increase in the source power. Unfortunately, however, in the terahertz regime, source power is more difficult to realize than the microwave regime. Finally, the inelastic model, see eqn. 10 in ref.<sup>45</sup>, predicts that for  $\omega_c \ll \omega$ , where  $\omega = 2\pi f$ , the amplitude of the radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations should decrease as  $1/\omega^4$  with increasing  $f$ .

Simply put, radiation source hardware limitations and inefficient radiation transmission seem to limit, at least in part, the observability of radiation-induced magnetoresistance oscillations at high  $f$ .

Point (b) - the observability of cyclotron resonance in the photo-voltage to  $725GHz$  - is remarkable because, unlike traditional cyclotron resonance measurements, this *PV* measurement does not require a supplemental bolometric detector. And, this *PV* measurement of cyclotron resonance utilizes linearly polarized radiation, not the usual circular polarized

radiation.

An infinite 2DES is expected to exhibit a plasmon response as  $\omega_p^2 = ne^2k/2\epsilon_{eff}\epsilon_0m^*$ , where  $\omega_p$  is the plasmon frequency,  $n$  is the carrier density,  $e$  is the electron charge,  $k$  is the plasmon wave vector,  $m^*$  is the effective mass, and  $\epsilon_{eff} = 13.8$ .<sup>69</sup> The application of a transverse magnetic field hybridizes cyclotron resonance with the plasmon response, producing the magnetoplasmon response, which follows  $\omega_{mp}^2 = \omega_p^2 + \omega_c^2$ .<sup>69</sup> In a finite size specimen, the length scale set by the sample boundary can determine the plasmon ( $\omega_p$ ) response with  $k = \pi/W$ , where  $W$  is the Hall bar width.<sup>70</sup> For a Hall bar with width  $W = 200\mu m$ ,  $k = 15.7 \times 10^3 m^{-1}$  and  $\omega_p = 1.99 \times 10^{10} rad/s$ . At  $f = 100 GHz$ ,  $\omega_c = 6.28 \times 10^{11} rad/s$ . Thus,  $\omega_c \gg \omega_p$ , and therefore  $\omega_{mp} \approx \omega_c$  over the  $f$  range examined here in the Hall bar specimen. For this reason, similar results are observed for the cleaved specimen and the Hall bar in Fig. 5(b) and Fig. 6(b), respectively.

As mentioned, although the contacts utilized in the  $PV$  measurement are nominally ohmic, there is non-linearity in the  $I - V$  characteristics of the contacts. Photo-excitation of a 2DES with terahertz radiation can produce inter-Landau level transitions when the radiation energy equals the Landau level spacing in the presence of a perpendicular magnetic field, i.e.,  $hf = \hbar\omega_c$ , see Fig. 1, bottom. Such transitions can change the shape of the self consistent triangular well by redistributing charge between the Landau levels near the Fermi level. This change in the self-consistent potential well can be propagated through the band structure to the surface, leading to a change in the contact electrochemical potential and a photo-voltage measured across the top-side contacts. An interesting feature in the experimental results is that the sign of the photo-voltage in the vicinity of resonance is variable and not amenable to prediction. We attribute this characteristic to the point that the measured PV represents an electrochemical potential difference between two contacts, therefore the sign of the response could change, in principle, if the photo-excitation does not produce precisely the same response in the vicinity of the two contacts. Curiously, such a picture seems to require an inhomogeneity in the contact quality or the radiation intensity across the specimen in order to develop the *voltage difference* between two contacts. The experimental situation suggests, however, that neither of these possibilities can be ruled out at the moment.

## V. SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

An experimental study of the high mobility GaAs/AlGaAs system indicates strong radiation-induced magneto-resistance oscillations in  $R_{xx}$  to nearly  $360GHz$ . In addition, cyclotron resonance is observed in the photo-voltage to  $725GHz$ . These results show that our high mobility GaAs/AlGaAs 2DES remains photo-active in magnetotransport into the terahertz band.

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