

Travelling-Wave Optoelectronic Devices for Microwave Applications

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In this paper, we will discuss the fundamental concepts of ultrafast microwave photonic devices based upon the interaction between propagating microwaves and optical signal beams. Such travelling-wave optoelectronic devices utilizing, for example, microstrip or coplanar transmission lines as electrical waveguides exhibit cut-off frequencies not limited by the usual RC time constant. As a result, a high bandwidth together with improved efficiency and power capabilities are expected. In particular, travelling-wave photodetector, waveguide and vertical electrooptical modulators, microstrip optical switches and coplanar laser diodes are presented. Preliminary experimental results are also discussed.

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