

Electronic Device Applications for Narrow Gap Semiconductors

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Semiconductors with narrow energy gaps have electronic properties, including a high mobility and strong spin-orbit coupling, that advantageous for electronic device are applications. The switching speed of a fieldeffect transistor and the sensitivity of a geometrical magnetoresistor are improved by a high carrier mobility. In addition to these traditional devices, we are studying devices that take advantage of quantum-mechanical or spin-orbit effects. We are also exploring the properties of holes in InSb and In_xGa_{1-x}As quantum wells, which are predicted to have stronger spin-orbit effects than electrons and would be required for CMOS logic applications.



Narrow gap semiconductors improve the performance of traditional electronic devices, including the geometrical magnetoresistor shown in the larger image, and quantummechanical devices, including the electron focusing device shown in the smaller image.