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Wavelength converters, including polarization-enhanced carrier capture converters, for solid state lighting devices, and associated systems and methods

Abstract

Wavelength converters, including polarization-enhanced carrier capture converters, for solid state lighting devices, and associated systems and methods are disclosed. A solid state radiative semiconductor structure in accordance with a particular embodiment includes a first region having a first value of a material characteristic and being positioned to receive radiation at a first wavelength. The structure can further include a second region positioned adjacent to the first region to emit radiation at a second wavelength different than the first wavelength. The second region has a second value of the material characteristic that is different than the first value, with the first and second values of the characteristic forming a potential gradient to drive electrons, holes, or both electrons and holes in the radiative structure from the first region to the second region. In a further particular embodiment, the material characteristic includes material polarization.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a continuation of Ser. No. 16/664,770, filed Oct. 25, 2019; which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/134,813, filed Sep. 18, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,468,562; which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/083,063, filed Mar. 28, 2016, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,096,748; which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/216,062, filed Aug. 23, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,331,252; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present technology is directed generally to wavelength converters, including polarization-enhanced carrier capture converters, for solid state lighting devices, and associated systems and methods. Wavelength converters in accordance with the present technology are suitable for LEDs and other radiation emitting devices.

BACKGROUND

(2) Solid state lighting ("SSL") devices are used in a wide variety of products and applications. For example, mobile phones, personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), digital cameras, MP3 players, and other portable electronic devices utilize SSL devices (e.g., LEDs) for backlighting and other purposes. SSL devices are also used for signage, indoor lighting, outdoor lighting, and other types of general illumination. FIG. 1A is a cross-sectional view of a conventional SSL device **10a** with lateral contacts. As shown in FIG. 1A, the SSL device **10a** includes a substrate **20** carrying an LED structure **11** having an active region **14**, e.g., containing gallium nitride/indium gallium nitride (GaN/InGaN) multiple quantum wells ("MQWs"), positioned between N-type GaN **15** and P-type GaN **16**. The SSL device **10a** also includes a first contact **17** on the P-type GaN **16** and a second contact **19** on the N-type GaN **15**. The first contact **17** typically includes a transparent and conductive material (e.g., indium tin oxide ("ITO")) to allow light to escape from the LED structure **11**. In operation, electrical power is provided to the SSL device **10a** via the contacts **17**, **19**, causing the active region **14** to emit light.

(3) FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view of another conventional LED device **10b** in which the first and second contacts **17** and **19** are opposite each other, e.g., in a vertical rather than lateral configuration. During formation of the LED device **10b**, a growth substrate, similar to the substrate **20** shown in FIG. 1A, initially carries an N-type GaN **15**, an active region **14** and a P-type GaN **16**.

The first contact **17** is disposed on the P-type GaN **16**, and a carrier **21** is attached to the first contact **17**. The substrate **20** is removed, allowing the second contact **19** to be disposed on the N-type GaN **15**. The structure is then inverted to produce the orientation shown in FIG. **1B**. In the LED device **10b**, the first contact **17** typically includes a reflective and conductive material (e.g., silver or aluminum) to direct light toward the N-type GaN **15**.

(4) One drawback with existing LEDs is that they do not emit white light. Instead, LEDs typically emit light within only a narrow wavelength range. For human eyes to perceive the color white, a broad range of wavelengths is needed. Accordingly, one conventional technique for emulating white light with LEDs is to deposit a converter material (e.g., a phosphor) on an LED die. FIG. **1C** shows a conventional SSL device **10c** that includes a support **2** carrying an LED die **4** and a converter material **6**. In operation, an electrical voltage is applied to the die **4** via contacts having an arrangement generally similar to that shown in either FIG. **1A** or FIG. **1B**. In response to the applied voltage, the active region of the LED die **4** produces a first emission (e.g., a blue light) that stimulates the converter material **6** to emit a second emission (e.g., a yellow light). The combination of the first and second emissions appears white to human eyes if matched appropriately. As discussed in more detail below, using phosphor converter materials to “convert” blue light into white light has certain drawbacks. Accordingly, there is a need for light emitting devices that can produce light at a particular wavelength without phosphor converter materials.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) Many aspects of the present disclosure can be better understood with reference to the following drawings. The components in the drawings are not necessarily to scale. Instead, emphasis is placed on clearly illustrating the principles of the present disclosure. Moreover, in the drawings, like reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

(2) FIG. **1A** is a partially schematic, cross-sectional diagram of an SSL device having a lateral arrangement in accordance with the prior art.

(3) FIG. **1B** is a partially schematic, cross-sectional diagram of another SSL device having a vertical arrangement in accordance with the prior art.

(4) FIG. **1C** is a partially schematic, cross-sectional diagram of a light emitting device having a phosphor converter material positioned in accordance with the prior art.

(5) FIG. **2** is a partially schematic, cross-sectional illustration of a system that includes a light source and a radiative structure configured in accordance with an embodiment of the presently disclosed technology.

(6) FIGS. **3A-3F** are schematic, perspective views of various crystal planes in a GaN/InGaN material in accordance with embodiments of the presently disclosed technology.

(7) FIG. **4** is a band diagram illustrating interfaces between materials having different material polarizations in accordance with an embodiment of the presently disclosed technology.

(8) FIG. **5** is a partially schematic illustration of a portion of a radiative structure having quantum wells and barriers alternating in accordance with an embodiment of the presently disclosed technology.

(9) FIG. **6** is a band diagram illustrating the behavior expected of a representative structure shown in FIG. **5**, in accordance with an embodiment of the presently disclosed technology.

(10) FIGS. **7A** and **7B** are band diagrams comparing band gap energies for simulated structures having non-polar characteristics (FIG. **7A**) and polar characteristics (FIG. **7B**) in accordance with embodiments of the presently disclosed technology.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(11) Embodiments of the presently disclosed technology are directed generally to wavelength

converters for solid state lighting (“SSL”) devices, and associated systems and methods. As used hereinafter, the term “SSL device” generally refers to devices with light emitting diodes (“LEDs”), organic light emitting diodes (“OLEDs”), laser diodes (“LDs”), polymer light emitting diodes (“PLEDs”), and/or other suitable sources of illumination, other than electrical filaments, a plasma, or a gas. Briefly described, a radiation system in accordance with a particular embodiment of the disclosed technology includes a solid state radiative semiconductor structure that has a first region and a second region. The first region has a first value of a material characteristic, and the second region has a second value of the material characteristic that is different than the first value. The first region is positioned to receive radiation at a first wavelength, and the second region is positioned adjacent to the first region to emit radiation at a second wavelength different than the first wavelength. The first and second values of the characteristic form a potential gradient to drive electrons, holes, or both electrons and holes in the radiative structure from the first region to the second region. Accordingly, the second region can receive optically generated carriers from the first region and emit radiation at the second wavelength. In particular embodiments, the radiative semiconductor structure can be positioned proximate to an energy source that directs radiation at the first wavelength toward the first region of the semiconductor structure. In further particular embodiments, the energy source can include a solid state lighting device, for example, an LED.

(12) Other systems, methods, features, and advantages of the presently disclosed technology will become apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. Several details describing structures or processes that are well-known and often associated with such systems and methods, but that may unnecessarily obscure some significant aspects of the disclosure, are not set forth in the following description for purposes of clarity. Moreover, although the following disclosure sets forth several embodiments of different aspects of the technology disclosed herein, several other embodiments can include different configurations or different components than those described in this section. Accordingly, the disclosed technology may have other embodiments with additional elements, and/or without several of the elements described below with reference to FIGS. 2-7.

(13) FIG. 2 is a partially schematic, cross-sectional illustration of a system **200** that receives or absorbs energy at one wavelength and re-radiates or emits energy at another wavelength. In a particular embodiment, the system **200** includes a support **230** carrying a light source **250**. The light source **250** can include an LED or other SSL device, or another device (e.g., a laser) that emits first radiation at a first wavelength A. The system **200** further includes a radiative structure **240** positioned to receive and absorb the first radiation and emit second radiation at a different wavelength E. The radiative structure **240** can include one or more first regions **241** (e.g., absorptive regions) and one or more second regions **242** (e.g., emissive regions). For example, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the radiative structure **240** includes two absorptive regions **241**, shown as a first absorptive region **241a** and a second absorptive region **241b**, positioned on opposite sides of a single emissive region **242**. As used herein, the term “absorptive region” refers generally to a region having suitable (e.g., strong) absorptive characteristics at the first wavelength A emitted by the light source **250**. The term “emissive region” refers generally to a region having suitable (e.g., strong) emissive characteristics at the second wavelength E. In any of these embodiments, the radiative structure **240** can replace conventional phosphor structures and can accordingly modify the spectrum of light emitted by overall system **200** without the use of phosphors, or with a reduced use of phosphors. Further features and advantages of representative systems are described below with reference to FIGS. 3A-7.

(14) Particular embodiments of the presently disclosed technology are described below in the context of radiative structures having different regions with different material polarizations, resulting, for example, from a difference in material composition or strain of the materials forming the regions and a particular crystal orientation. In other embodiments, the material characteristics of the regions can have other differing characteristics. For example, the regions can have different compositions that produce different bandgap energies. Particular embodiments are disclosed in co-

pending U.S. application Ser. No. 13/215,998, filed Aug. 23, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,975,614, titled “Wavelength Converters for Solid State Lighting Devices, and Associated Systems and Methods”, which is incorporated herein by reference.

(15) FIGS. 3A-3F are schematic perspective views of various crystal planes in a portion of a GaN/InGaN material. In FIGS. 3A-3F, Ga (or Ga/In) and N atoms are schematically shown as large and small spheres, respectively. As shown in FIGS. 3A-3F, the GaN/InGaN material has a wurtzite crystal structure with various lattice planes or facets as represented by corresponding Miller indices. A discussion of the Miller index can be found in the *Handbook of Semiconductor Silicon Technology* by William C. O'Mara.

(16) As used hereinafter, a “polar plane” generally refers to a crystal plane in a crystal structure that contains only one type of atom. For example, as shown in FIG. 2A, the polar plane denoted as the “c-plane” in the wurtzite crystal structure with a Miller index of (0001) contains only Ga atoms. Similarly, other polar planes in the wurtzite crystal structure may contain only N atoms and/or other suitable type of atoms.

(17) As used hereinafter, a “non-polar plane” generally refers to a crystal plane in a crystal structure that is generally perpendicular to a polar plane (e.g., to the c-plane). For example, FIG. 3B shows a non-polar plane denoted as the “a-plane” in the wurtzite crystal structure with a Miller index of (1120). FIG. 3C shows another non-polar plane denoted as the “m-plane” in the wurtzite crystal structure with a Miller index of (1010). Both the a-plane and the m-plane are generally perpendicular to the c-plane shown in FIG. 3A.

(18) As used hereinafter, a “semi-polar plane” generally refers to a crystal plane in a crystal structure that is canted relative to a polar plane (e.g., to the c-plane) without being perpendicular to the polar plane. For example, as shown in FIGS. 3D-3F, each of the semi-polar planes in the wurtzite crystal structure with Miller indices of (1013), (1011), and (1122) form an angle with the c-plane shown in FIG. 3A. The angle is greater than 0° but less than 90°. Only particular examples of crystal planes are illustrated in FIGS. 3A-3F. Accordingly, the polar, non-polar, and semi-polar planes can also include other crystal planes not specifically illustrated in FIGS. 3A-3F. In general, the designer can select the material polarization of the materials forming wavelength converters in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure by selecting the angle along which a corresponding epitaxial substrate is cut. This in turn determines the material polarization of the subsequent epitaxially grown layers. In general, different layers will have the same crystal orientation (as individual layers are grown epitaxially on the layer below), but will have different material polarizations, e.g., due to different concentrations of particular constituents, such as indium.

(19) As described above with reference to FIG. 2, wavelength converters in accordance with the present technology can include one or more first or absorptive regions, and one or more second or emissive regions. The emissive regions can receive carriers from adjacent absorptive regions and can accordingly form quantum wells. FIG. 4 is a representative band diagram illustrating a conduction band 445 and a valance band 446 for a second region 242 (e.g., a quantum well) surrounded by corresponding first regions 241a, 241b. In a particular aspect of this embodiment, the second region 242 is a single, 2 nm-wide gallium indium nitride structure grown along the c-axis. In still a further particular embodiment, the composition of the second region 242 is Ga.sub.0.78In.sub.0.22N. In other embodiments, the second region 242 can include other gallium indium nitride structures, other III-nitride heterostructures, and/or other non-Group III heterostructures (e.g., Group II or Group VI heterostructures). In any of these embodiments, the second region 242 can form interfaces (e.g., heterointerfaces) 444 at the junctions between the second region 242 and the surrounding first regions 241a, 241b. The heterointerfaces 444 may be graded or abrupt, depending upon the particular embodiment. In general, based on the different material polarizations in the first and second regions, the heterointerfaces create electric fields that assist in the transport of optically generated electron-hole pairs from the first regions 241a, 241b to

the second region **242**.

(20) In a particular aspect of an embodiment shown in FIG. 4, the discontinuity in the polarization field between the second region **242** and the adjacent first regions **241a**, **241b** creates a negative sheet charge to the left of the second region **242**. This negative sheet charge repels electrons and pushes the edge of the conduction band **445** upwards. To the right of the second region **242** is a positive sheet charge which attracts electrons and pulls the edge of the conduction band **445** down. The electric field to the left of the second region **242** pushes electrons to the left, as indicated by arrow R1. In the second region **242**, an electric field pushes the electrons to the right, as indicated by arrow R2. Holes are pushed in the opposite direction: to the right in the first region **241a** (as indicated by arrow R3) and to the left in the second region (as indicated by arrow R4).

(21) As described further below with reference to FIGS. 5-7B, radiative structures can be designed with multiple quantum wells separated by corresponding barriers in such a way that the polarization mismatches at the heterointerfaces between these structures create electric fields that funnel carriers (e.g., holes and/or electrons) into the adjacent layers, so as to produce emitted light at a target wavelength.

(22) FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of a representative radiative structure **540** that includes multiple quantum wells **542** (four are shown in FIG. 5), interleaved with multiple barriers **543** (four are shown in FIG. 5), and sandwiched between corresponding first regions **541a**, **541b**.

Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to those shown in FIG. 5. For example, other embodiments can include any suitable number of quantum wells and barriers, depending on device characteristics. In particular embodiments, the first regions **541a**, **541b** can include N—GaN. In the illustrated embodiment, the lower first region **541a** can provide a substrate for epitaxial growth of the barriers **543** and the quantum wells **542**. The upper first region **541b** can be eliminated in some embodiments. However, an advantage of the upper first region **541b** is that it can separate the quantum wells **542** from the outermost surface of the structure **540**, thus reducing or eliminating surface charges that can adversely affect the performance of the structure **540**. The quantum well composition can be Ga.sub.0.78In.sub.0.22N, and the barrier composition can be Ga.sub.0.9In.sub.0.1N, in particular embodiments, and can have other compositions in other embodiments. The doping concentration can be 5×10^{18} cm.⁻³ in the N—GaN and in the barriers **543**, and can have other values in other embodiments. The quantum wells **542** and corresponding barriers **543** are stacked (e.g., grown) generally perpendicular to the c-axis, as shown in FIG. 5. In other embodiments, the barriers **543** can be N—GaN without indium. However, an advantage of including indium (or another suitable element) is that it is expected to increase the absorptivity of the barriers **543**, and therefore the wavelength conversion efficiency of the structure **540**. In still further embodiments, materials other than GaInN can be used for the quantum wells **542** and the barriers **543**. Suitable materials include zinc oxide or other materials having a wurtzite crystal structure.

(23) FIG. 6 illustrates a band diagram corresponding to the structure described above with reference to FIG. 5. Each of the quantum wells **542** has a well width $W_{\text{sub.w}}$ of approximately 2 nanometers, and each barrier **543** has a barrier width W_B of approximately 10 nanometers. Accordingly, the total absorption thickness (e.g., the thickness of material absorbing incident radiation at a first wavelength) is 48 nanometers, while the total quantum well thickness is 8 nanometers. Both the barriers **543** and the quantum wells **542** absorb incident light. As the light is absorbed, it generates electrons and holes (e.g., optically generated carriers). When the electrons and holes are located in the quantum wells **542**, they are at an electropotential minimum (or relative minimum) and are accordingly confined. When electrons are located in the barriers **543**, they experience an electric field, which pushes the electron toward a nearby quantum well **542**. For example, in the left-most barrier **543** shown in FIG. 6, electrons are pushed to the right, as indicated by arrow R5. In the next three barriers **543**, the electrons are pushed to the left, as indicated by arrows R6. In a generally similar manner, holes located in a barrier are pushed toward

a corresponding quantum well by the field resulting from the difference in polarization between the barrier **543** and the quantum well **542**. For example, holes in the right-most three barriers **543** are forced to the right as indicated by arrows R7 and into the adjacent quantum wells **542**. Holes in the leftmost barrier **543** are pushed into the adjacent first region **541a** as indicated by arrow R8. In this manner, the polarization-induced fields act to funnel electrons and holes into the adjacent quantum wells **542**, where they may combine efficiently and emit light (or other radiation) at the target wavelength.

(24) FIGS. 7A and 7B illustrate the results of a numerical simulation conducted to demonstrate the efficacy of structures having characteristics generally similar to those described above with reference to FIGS. 2-6. In this particular simulation, the structures include a stack of nine quantum wells **542**, each having a width of approximately 3 nanometers and a composition of Ga.sub.0.8In.sub.0.2N. Neighboring quantum wells **542** are separated by barriers **543** having a width of approximately 100 nanometers and a composition of Ga.sub.0.9In.sub.0.1N. The outermost quantum wells are positioned adjacent to layers of gallium nitride **541a**, **541b**. The silicon doping concentration is $5 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the gallium nitride **541a**, **541b** and $1 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the barriers **543**. Non-radiative recombination lifetimes in the barriers are assumed to be 5 nanoseconds for both electrons and holes. FIG. 7A illustrates a simulation for which the polarization within the structure is zero. This case is analogous to potential wavelength conversion structures with non-polar semiconductors, or with polar semiconductors, but along non-polar directions. FIG. 7B illustrates the results when the polarization within the structure is the predicted amount for c-plane gallium indium nitride heterostructures. In both simulations, all layers are assumed to be pseudomorphic (e.g., strained).

(25) The simulation method solves the Poisson equation and continuity equations for electrons and holes self-consistently. The boundary condition for the simulation is that no current flows in or out of the structure, which is the case if the structure is not connected to an electrical circuit. An undepleted optical pump is assumed to generate electron-hole pairs uniformly within both the quantum wells **542** and the barriers **543**. This pump corresponds to an LED or other light source that generates the optical energy absorbed by the radiative structure and reemitted at a different wavelength. The total number of generated carriers is assumed to be equal for the results shown in both FIGS. 7A and 7B, and the carriers are permitted to move freely through drift and diffusion processes and recombine either non-radiatively (through Shockley-Reed-Hall recombination or Auger recombination) or radiatively, thereby generating light.

(26) Still referring to FIGS. 7A and 7B, the steady state band diagrams of the two structures in the presence of optical excitation are shown. The electron and hole quasi-Fermi levels are separated, as expected. The differences between the two cases are clearly shown. In FIG. 7B, the polarization produces electric fields that exist in the barriers **543** and that act to direct carriers toward the quantum wells **542** where they accumulate to sufficiently high densities to recombine efficiently. This is not the case for the structure without polarization (shown in FIG. 7A), where the lifetime of the carriers generated in the barriers **543** will be longer.

(27) The ultimate output of the calculation based on the foregoing simulations is the relative rate of radiative and non-radiative recombination. In the structure represented by FIG. 7B, the Shockley-Reed-Hall recombination rate was reduced by 30.9%, while the radiative rate was increased by 17.6%. Accordingly, FIGS. 7A and 7B demonstrate the efficiency enhancement that may be obtained by taking advantage of polarization-enhanced carrier capture.

(28) One feature of at least some of the foregoing embodiments described above with reference to FIGS. 2-7B is that the disclosed technology can include structures that are selected based on crystal-based material polarization to concentrate carriers in regions selected to emit radiation at particular wavelengths. These structures can more efficiently convert energy received at one wavelength to energy emitted at a second wavelength. An advantage of this arrangement is that it can reduce power consumed by the device, and/or increase the light output by the device, when

compared with conventional wavelength converters, for example, phosphor coatings and the like. In particular, the radiative structure can be manufactured and operated without a phosphor.

(29) From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that specific embodiments of the disclosed technology have been described herein for purposes of illustration, but that various modifications may be made without deviating from the disclosed technology. For example, materials having different material polarizations can be combined based on isotropic and/or anisotropic material polarizations. The material polarizations of adjacent elements in a wavelength converter structure can change abruptly at the hetero interfaces, as was generally shown above, or gradually, e.g., by gradually varying the concentration of indium at the hetero interfaces between GaInN barriers and quantum wells. Certain embodiments of the technology were described in the context of particular materials (e.g., gallium nitride and gallium indium nitride), but in other embodiments, other materials can be used to produce similar results. Certain embodiments of the technology were described above in the context of shifting the wavelength of visible light. In other embodiments similar structures and methods can be used to shift energy at other wavelengths.

(30) Certain aspects of the technology described in the context of particular embodiments may be combined or eliminated in other embodiments. For example, particular embodiments can include more or fewer barriers and quantum wells than described above with reference to FIGS. 5-7B. The wavelength conversion structure can include a single first region rather than two, e.g., if the first region is properly doped. The structures described above can be combined with additional structures (e.g., lenses, power sources controllers, and/or other devices) depending upon the functions the structures are intended to perform. Further, while advantages associated with certain embodiments have been described in the context of those embodiments, other embodiments may also exhibit such advantages, and not all embodiments need necessarily exhibit such advantages to fall within the scope of the present technology. Accordingly, the present disclosure and associated technology can encompass other embodiments not expressly shown or described herein.

Claims

1. A solid-state radiation system, comprising: a light emitting diode (LED) configured to emit first light having a first wavelength; and a semiconductor wavelength converter coupled with the LED, the semiconductor wavelength converter including— a first absorptive region connected to the LED, the first absorptive region having a first semiconductor material with a first material polarization and configured to generate, in response to receiving the first light, charge carriers, a first emissive region adjacent to the first absorptive region, the first emissive region having a second semiconductor material with a second material polarization that forms, in combination with the first material polarization, a potential gradient selected to drive the charge carriers from the first absorptive region to the first emissive region, the first emissive region configured to emit, in response to receiving the charge carriers, a second light having a second wavelength different from the first wavelength, and a second emissive region adjacent to the first absorptive region on a side of the first absorptive region opposite the first emissive region, and in contact with no barrier layer on a side of the second emissive region opposite the first absorptive region, wherein a ratio of a first concentration of indium in the first semiconductor material to a second concentration of indium in the second semiconductor material being greater than 0.45 and less than or equal to 0.5.
2. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the semiconductor wavelength converter further comprises a second absorptive region adjacent the first emissive region and opposite the first absorptive region such that the first emissive region forms a quantum well structure disposed between the first and second absorptive regions.
3. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material has a bandgap energy corresponding to the second wavelength.
4. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the first absorptive region and the first

emissive region include an interface having a discontinuity in a polarization field between the first and second material polarizations such that an electric field is created at the interface, the electric field configured to drive the charge carriers from the first absorptive region to the first emissive region.

5. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material has a wurtzite crystal structure.

6. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the charge carriers include electrons, holes, or both.

7. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, further comprising a support structure carrying the LED.

8. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the first emissive region has a first non-zero concentration of a constituent and the first absorptive region has a second non-zero concentration of the constituent different than the first concentration.

9. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the first emissive region has a first crystal orientation and the first absorptive region has a second crystal orientation.

10. The solid-state radiation system of claim 9, wherein the first crystal orientation is the same as the second crystal orientation.

11. The solid-state radiation system of claim 1, wherein the first and second material polarizations are non-zero.

12. A semiconductor wavelength converter comprising: a first absorptive region having a first semiconductor material with a first material polarization and configured to generate, in response to receiving first light of a first wavelength, charge carriers, a first emissive region adjacent to the first absorptive region, the first emissive region having a second semiconductor material with a second material polarization that forms, in combination with the first material polarization, a potential gradient selected to drive the charge carriers from the first absorptive region to the first emissive region, the first emissive region configured to emit, in response to receiving the charge carriers, a second light having a second wavelength different from the first wavelength, and a second emissive region adjacent to the first absorptive region on a side of the first absorptive region opposite the first emissive region, and in contact with no barrier layer on a side of the second emissive region opposite the first absorptive region, wherein a ratio of a first concentration of indium in the first semiconductor material to a second concentration of indium in the second semiconductor material being greater than 0.45 and less than or equal to 0.5.

13. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the semiconductor wavelength converter further comprises a second absorptive region adjacent the first emissive region and opposite the first absorptive region such that the first emissive region forms a quantum well structure disposed between the first and second absorptive regions.

14. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the second semiconductor material has a bandgap energy corresponding to the second wavelength.

15. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the first absorptive region and the first emissive region include an interface having a discontinuity in a polarization field between the first and second material polarizations such that an electric field is created at the interface, the electric field configured to drive the charge carriers from the first absorptive region to the first emissive region.

16. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the second semiconductor material has a wurtzite crystal structure.

17. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the charge carriers include electrons, holes, or both.

18. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the first emissive region has a first non-zero concentration of a constituent and the first absorptive region has a second non-zero concentration of the constituent different than the first concentration.

19. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 12, wherein the first emissive region has a first crystal orientation and the first absorptive region has a second crystal orientation.
20. The semiconductor wavelength converter of claim 19, wherein the first crystal orientation is the same as the second crystal orientation.
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