Microsecond spin-flip times for localized donors in GaAs
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One of the central tasks in developing spin-based quantum computing is the development of materials which have long spin lifetimes. Observations of long electron spin lifetimes (hundreds of ns) in n-type GaAs dating back to Kikkawa and Awschalom in 1998 [1] have stimulated much excitement in the field, and many groups have similarly made observations of the inhomogeneous $T_2^*$ lifetime of electrons in GaAs in the ns regime. The homogeneous dephasing time, $T_2$, has not yet been measured, although it is expected to be much longer. Here, a series of measurements of lifetimes [2] are described for donors in lightly n-type GaAs doped at 3E14, 1E15, and 3E15 cm$^{-3}$ that mimic spin memory in doped quantum dots. Hanle effect measurements yield $T_2^*$ at close to 0T, magnetic resonance measurements provide $T_2^*$ at 40 mT, and Kerr rotation measurements provide $T_2^*$ at higher fields. The measured $T_2^*$ values for the 3E14 sample are consistent with full electron localization. A new pump-probe technique using electronic delays between pulses has been used to measure spin lifetimes into the $\mu$s range. This time-resolved technique provides measurements of the spin-flip time (often labeled $T_S$, which is essentially the same as $T_1$) for two of the samples at a range of fields and temperatures. $T_S$ is greater than 1 $\mu$s for B>0.6T at 1.5K and for B>2.5T at 6 K. Since $T_2$ is limited by the spin-flip time, these measurements show the range of temperature and magnetic field where very long $T_2$’s are possible. [1] Phys Rev Lett 80, 4313 (1998). [2] J.S. Colton et al., Phys Stat Sol B 233, 445 (2002); Phys Rev B 67, 165315 (2003); Phys Rev B 69, 121307(R) (2004); Solid State Comm 132, 613 (2004).

¹Now at UW-L. Most of the work was performed while JSC was an NRC Research Associate at NRL, in collaboration with T.A. Kennedy, A.S. Bracker, D. Gammon, J.B. Miller, and M. Scheibner, and was supported by DARPA and ONR.