

Article

# High-Q Multiband Narrowband Absorbers Based on Two-Dimensional Graphene Metamaterials

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**Abstract:** In this paper, an absorber with multi-band, tunable, high Q, and high sensitivity, based on terahertz periodic two-dimensional patterned graphene surface plasmon resonance (SPR), is proposed. The absorber consists of a bottom metal film separated by a periodically patterned graphene metamaterial structure and a SiO<sub>2</sub> dielectric layer, where the patterned graphene layer is etched by “+” and “L” shapes and circles. It has simple structural features that can greatly simplify the fabrication process. We have analyzed the optical properties of a graphene surface plasmon perfect metamaterial absorber based on graphene in the terahertz region using the finite-difference method in time domain (FDTD). The results show that the absorber device exhibits three perfect absorption peaks in the terahertz bands of  $f_1 = 1.55$  THz,  $f_2 = 4.19$  THz, and  $f_3 = 6.92$  THz, with absorption rates as high as 98.70%, 99.63%, and 99.42%, respectively. By discussing the effects of parameters such as the geometrical dimensions of patterned graphene metamaterial structure “+” width  $W_1$ , “L” width  $W_2$ , circular width  $R$ , and the thickness of the dielectric layer on the absorption performance of absorber, as well as investigating the chemical potential and relaxation time of patterned-layer graphene material, it was found that the amplitude of the absorption peaks and the frequency of resonance of absorber devices can be dynamically adjusted. Finally, we simulated the spectra as the surrounding refractive index  $n$  varied to better evaluate the sensing performance of the structure, yielding structural sensitivities up to 382 GHz/RIU. Based on this study, we find that the results of our research will open new doors for the use of multi-band, tunable, polarization-independent metamaterial absorbers that are insensitive to large-angle oblique incidence.

**Keywords:** graphene; surface plasmon resonance; the finite-difference time-domain; metamaterial



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## 1. Introduction

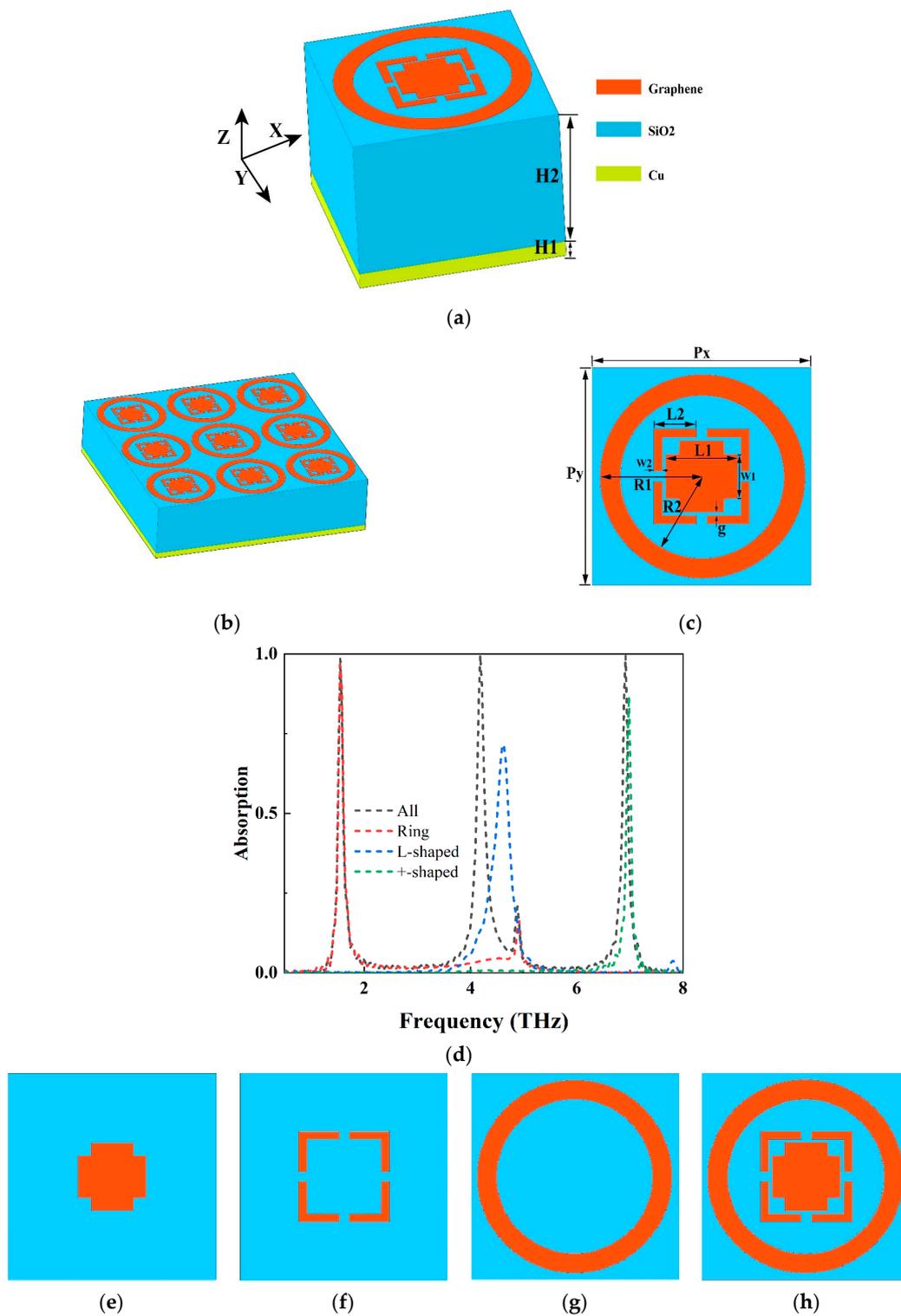
In recent years, the development of ultrafast laser technology has provided a reliable and stable excitation light source for terahertz pulses, which has led to the rapid development of applied research in terahertz technology. With the gradual deepening of the research, many terahertz functional devices have been designed and prepared, which have attracted a lot of researchers' attention, with the advantages of strong absorption, low thickness, and a lightweight absorber. The key issue in designing metamaterial absorbers is finding conventional materials in nature that can be specially customized according to the needs of the absorber, and designing reasonable artificial parameters to obtain “new materials” with extraordinary physical properties that are different from the original materials' properties [1–4]. Researches have proposed various metamaterial perfect absorber (MPA)

structures [5–11]. With the formation of the absorber structures, the absorption spectra were also determined, which means that the practical application of the absorbers is still limited. In order to develop dynamically tunable metamaterial absorbers, the selection of absorbing materials is considered as the key to overcoming this problem [12–16]. Graphene is a hexagonal honeycomb lattice composed of carbon atoms and  $sp^2$  hybridized orbitals [17–20]. Graphene has many special and excellent properties such as a strong electrical conductivity, excellent mechanical properties, and unique optical properties and thermal properties due to its unique two-dimensional structure. This makes graphene metamaterials some of the most promising materials for designing ultra-narrow-band perfect absorbers [21–24]. Meanwhile, compared with conventional metal surface plasma, graphene surface plasma has the advantages of a large mode confinement, long propagation distance in the infrared region, and transport properties that can be tuned by changing the chemical potential, bias electric field, and temperature [25–27]. When the incident light is infrared and the terahertz bands, graphene, and conventional metals have similar properties, the surface can support SPP propagation as well as surface plasmon resonance (SPR) [28]. Therefore, when graphene is combined with metamaterials, the metamaterials can enhance light absorption by exciting surface plasmon resonance [29]. Most studies have focused on narrowband ideal absorbers with single-peak and double-peak absorption [30,31], but relatively few studies have been conducted on multiband ideal narrowband absorbers. This is due to strict limitations that make it difficult to realize perfect absorbers with a multi-band narrowband with simple absorber structures. In general, narrowband absorption can be achieved using Fabry–Perot resonators, metallic gratings, photonic crystals, plasma metamaterials, and guided-wave resonances, while narrowband absorbers designed by plasma metamaterials are structurally simpler, more feasible to manufacture, and, most importantly, dynamically tunable in frequency using the tunable 2D material graphene [32–35].

In our work, we present a perfect metamaterial absorber based on terahertz periodic tunable plasma. The metamaterial absorber consists of copper, silicon dioxide, and patterned graphene layers, ordered from the bottom to the top. Due to the flexibility of the above structure, we can tune its response to light by changing the structural parameters. Throughout this study, we discussed not only the structural parameters, but also the effects of chemical potential, relaxation time, and incident angle on absorption at different polarizations. Finally, we also explored the sensing properties of this structure. We found that our proposed structure can also be used for sensors and detectors in terahertz.

## 2. Structure and Theory

As shown in Figure 1, the designed graphene metamaterial array structure consists of three layers: the bottom layer is a metallic copper with a thickness  $H_1$  of  $0.475\ \mu\text{m}$ , in which the electrical conductivity of copper in the metal loss model is  $\sigma = 5.8 \times 10^7\ \text{S/m}$ ; the middle layer is a silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) dielectric separator with a thickness  $h$  of  $4.52\ \mu\text{m}$ , which separates the patterned graphene nanostructured layer of the top layer from the copper layer of the bottom layer. Its relative dielectric constant and effective refractive index are  $\epsilon_d = 3.9$  and  $n_s = 1.97$ , respectively [36]; the top layer consists of graphene metamaterial array structures with the geometrical parameters of  $L_1 = 2.1\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $W_1 = 1.3\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $L_2 = 1.25\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $W_2 = 0.25\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $g = 0.3\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $R_1 = 2.4\ \mu\text{m}$ , and  $R_2 = 3.0\ \mu\text{m}$ , and the structural period is  $P_x = P_y = 6.4\ \mu\text{m}$ . The thickness of the single-layer graphene sheet is  $0.34\ \text{nm}$ , but in our study, we assumed that the effective medium thickness is  $\Delta = 1\ \text{nm}$ , to match the thickness of the three-layer graphene sheet. In the experimental process, an electron beam evaporation technique was used to deposit a Cu thin film and a  $\text{SiO}_2$  isolation layer onto a silicon substrate, and then a chemical vapor deposition technique was used to grow a graphene layer on a copper catalyst, which was transferred to a  $\text{SiO}_2$  isolation layer using a wet method. Patterned graphene was achieved by electron beam lithography and oxygen plasma etching [37]. Finally, the photoresist was stripped to obtain the final structure.



**Figure 1.** (a) Schematic of the unit structure of a tunable perfect absorber based on periodically patterned graphene; (b) three-dimensional schematic of the absorber; (c) structural diagram of the top layer of graphene; (d) absorption spectra of the proposed perfect absorber (black solid line), the structure with only circular graphene arrays (red dashed line), the structure with only "L" shaped graphene arrays (blue dashed line), and the structure with only "+-" shaped graphene arrays (green dashed line); (e) top view of the "+-" shaped graphene layer's unit structure; (f) top view of four "L"-shaped graphene layer's unit structures; (g) top view of a circular graphene layer's unit structure; (h) top view of a patterned graphene layer's unit structure.

In order to better study the absorption of this absorber, it is first necessary to characterize the optical response of graphene. Since graphene is a two-dimensional material, according to the Kubo formula [38–40], the surface conductivity of graphene can be described as follows:

$$\sigma(\omega, \Gamma, \mu_c, T) = \sigma_{inter}(\omega, \Gamma, \mu_c, T) + \sigma_{intra}(\omega, \Gamma, \mu_c, T) \quad (1)$$

$$\sigma_{inter} = \frac{ie^2}{4\pi\hbar} \ln \frac{2|\mu_c| - (\omega + i2\Gamma)\hbar}{2|\mu_c| + (\omega + i2\Gamma)\hbar} \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma_{intra} = \frac{ie^2 k_B T}{\pi\hbar^2(\omega + i2\Gamma)} \left[ \frac{\mu_c}{k_B T} + 2 \ln \left( 1 + e^{-\frac{\mu_c}{k_B T}} \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

where  $e$  is the electron charge,  $\hbar$  is the approximate Planck constant, and  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant. The scattering rate is related to the electron relaxation time ( $\tau$ ) by  $2\Gamma = \tau^{-1}$ .  $\omega$  is the angular frequency of the incident wave and  $\mu_c$  is the graphene chemical potential. As the chemical potential is  $|\mu_c| \gg \hbar\omega/2$  in the terahertz and far-infrared bands, the interband contribution to graphene conductivity is negligible according to the principle of bubbly repulsion, and the surface conductivity of graphene is mainly dependent on the in-band contribution. Therefore,  $\sigma_{intra}$  is mathematically solved and converted to the Drude form of the conductivity at room temperature as follows [41–43]:

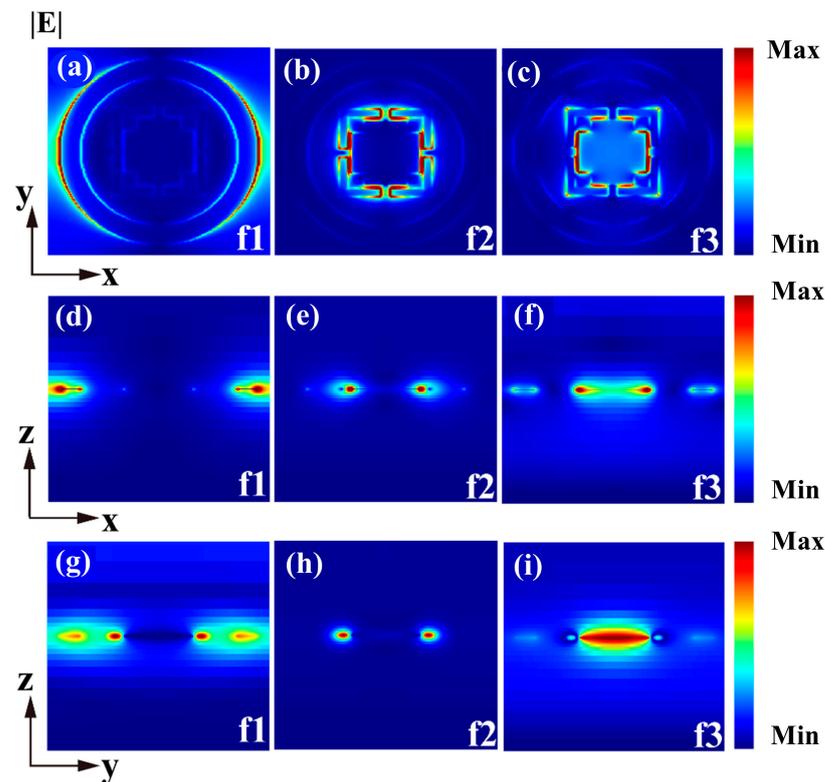
$$\sigma_g = \frac{ie^2\mu_c}{\pi\hbar^2(\omega + i\tau^{-1})} \quad (4)$$

The dielectric constant of graphene can be obtained from the equation  $\epsilon(\omega) = 1 + i\sigma_g/\omega\epsilon_0\Delta$  [44], where  $\Delta$ ,  $\epsilon_0$ ,  $\sigma_g$ , and  $\omega$  denote the graphene thickness, vacuum permittivity, electrical conductivity, and angular frequency, respectively. Since doped graphene has a negative dielectric constant in the infrared region, which is similar to that of metals in the visible region, strongly confined and long-lived surface plasmon resonance can be supported at the graphene/dielectric interface. In order to obtain the best performance, a simulation and analysis were carried out using FDTD Solutions optical software (version 2020 R2), and the structural parameters were optimized using progressive simulation [45] to obtain the optimal values after comprehensive consideration. In the boundary condition setting, the x/y direction of the cell was defined as a periodic boundary condition, while a perfectly matched layer was used in the Z direction to satisfy the absorption boundary condition [38]. The mesh accuracy was set to  $dx = dy = 0.4 \mu\text{m}$  and  $dz = 0.2 \mu\text{m}$ , respectively, which is a value that ensures the convergence and reliability of the computational results. In addition, the transmittance T and reflectance R were captured using the frequency-domain field and power monitors. The absorptivity A can be calculated from the equation  $A = 1 - T - R$ . Since the thickness of the bottom Cu material is much larger than the skinning depth of the electromagnetic wave, the transmittance obtained by the monitor was almost zero. In other words, the absorption efficiency can be expressed as  $A = 1 - R$ , and complete absorption can be realized when R approaches zero [46,47]. On this basis, we obtained three resonant frequencies corresponding to three strong absorption peaks in the terahertz band— $f_1 = 1.55 \text{ THz}$ ,  $f_2 = 4.19 \text{ THz}$ , and  $f_3 = 6.92 \text{ THz}$ —where the absorption efficiencies for modes A, B, and C are 98.70%, 99.63%, and 99.42%, respectively.

### 3. Results and Discussion

In order to better understand the principle of narrow-band absorption, we plotted the electric fields used to analyze the three peaks. The surface electric field distributions for  $f_1 = 1.55 \text{ THz}$ ,  $f_2 = 4.19 \text{ THz}$ , and  $f_3 = 6.92 \text{ THz}$  were obtained by simulation using the FDTD software (version 2020 R2), as shown in Figure 2a–i. Among them, (a), (b), and (c) in the x-y plane are the electric field distributions at the frequencies of 1.55 THz, 4.19 THz, and 6.92 THz, respectively. Absorption peaks of 1.55 THz are mainly distributed on the left and right sides of the circular structure of the patterned graphene, and 4.19 THz absorption

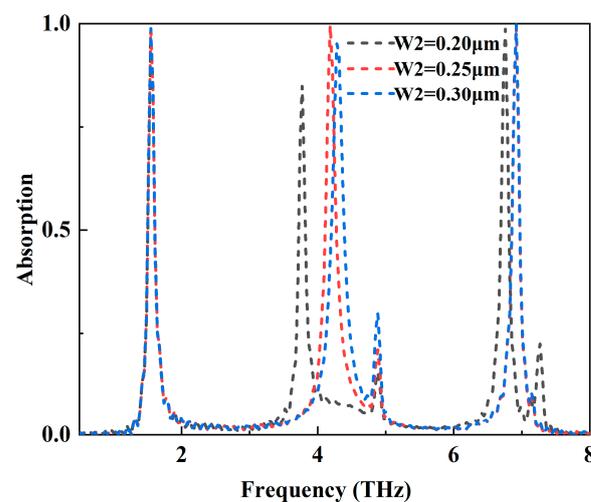
peaks are mainly concentrated in the “L” shaped patterned graphene and its coupling with the “+” shaped structure. The electric field of the 6.92 THz absorption peak is mainly concentrated in the “+” shaped patterned graphene structure and the left and right sides of the structure, which are stronger than the upper and lower sides. The electric field is stronger on the left and right sides of the “+” shaped patterned graphene structure than on the top and bottom sides. The reason for this distribution is that the coupling between the surface plasma and the electric field of graphene leads to the resonance of electric dipoles, which regionalizes and enhances the electromagnetic field, resulting in a non-uniform distribution of the electric field. According to this explanation, graphene locally absorbs incident light at specific wavelengths and the absorber achieves a peak absorption of more than 98.5% at all three positions.



**Figure 2.** (a–c) Electric field strength distribution at the top of the absorber in the x-y plane for different resonant frequencies; (d–f) electric field intensity distribution in the x-z plane at different resonant frequencies; (g–i) electric field intensity distribution in the y-z plane at different resonant frequencies. The resonant frequencies are  $f_1 = 1.55$  THz,  $f_2 = 4.19$  THz, and  $f_3 = 6.92$  THz.

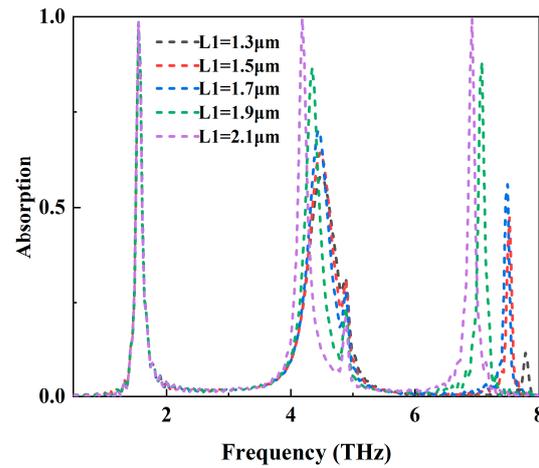
The resonance mode of the surface plasma can usually be subdivided into two forms. The first is the form of electromagnetic waves propagating at the interface of a metallic medium, called propagating plasma resonance. The second is the electromagnetic wave with energy binding to the closed surface of metal nanoparticles/nanocavities, called localized plasmon resonance (LSPR) [48]. The graphene LSPR has an electric field localization function, which we show in the side view of the electric field at three frequencies in Figure 2d–i. In summary, the electric field collects in the part of the absorber with the graphene pattern, while there is almost no electric field in the part outside the pattern. According to the periodicity condition, the graphene electric field distribution is periodic throughout the absorber. This ability to locally concentrate the electric field also concentrates the light in the vicinity of the graphene, exactly explaining the perfect absorption achieved by the absorber at three frequencies.

Next, we will further investigate the effect of different factors of the absorber on its absorption rate. The effects of the geometrical parameters of each subpart of the proposed graphene metamaterial structure (“L” shape width, “+” shape dimensions, and circular width) on the absorptive performance of this absorber are analyzed to achieve the optimal structural geometry. As shown in Figure 3, when the proposed graphene metamaterial structure is stabilized in terms of the circular width and “+” shape’s length L1 and width W1, with the spacing g, the “L” shape’s width W2 varies from 0.20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.30  $\mu\text{m}$ , and with the increase in width, the resonance peak frequencies of all three modes show a blue shift, and the absorption efficiency first increases and then decreases. It is shown that the resonant absorption efficiencies of all three modes are maximized at the “L” shape width  $W2 = 0.25 \mu\text{m}$ .

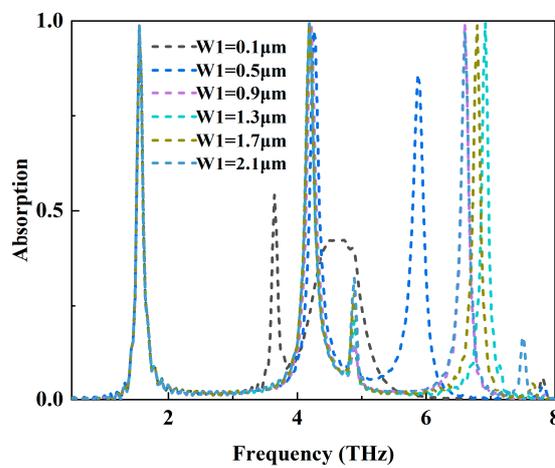


**Figure 3.** The absorption spectra of fixed, patterned, circular, and “+” shape graphene parameters with the “L” shape’s width W2 changing from 0.20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

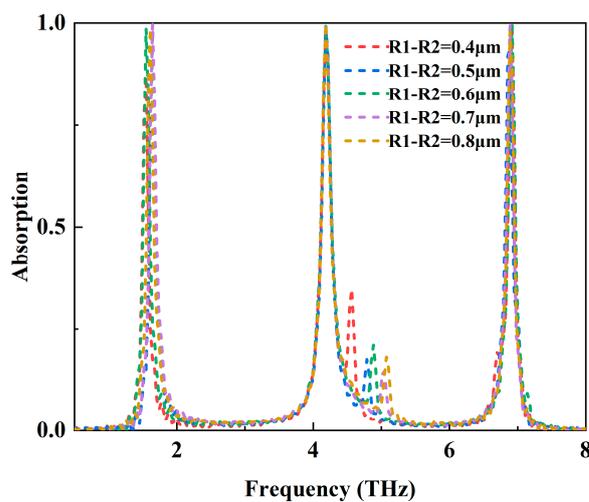
Similarly, as shown in Figure 4, when the proposed absorber structure is stabilized in terms of the circular width, the “L” width W2, and the “+” width W1, the “+” length L1 varies from 1.30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2.10  $\mu\text{m}$ . With the increase in length, the resonance peak frequencies of the three modes are red-shifted, the absorption efficiency gradually increases, and the absorption peaks of the three modes reach the optimum value at the “+” shape L1 = 2.10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Similarly, we studied the effect of the change in the width W1 of the “+” shaped from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2.10  $\mu\text{m}$  on the absorption performance of the proposed absorber, as shown in Figure 5, and the experimental results show that the three modes have the best absorption performance in the case of the “+” shape with the width W1 = 1.30  $\mu\text{m}$ . The experimental results show that the absorption performance of the three modes is the best at the “+” width W1 = 1.30  $\mu\text{m}$ . As shown in Figure 6, when the “L” shape width and “+” shape structure size of the proposed graphene metamaterial structure, as well as the spacing g, are stabilized, the circular width varies from 0.40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.80  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the experimental results show that the circular width is 0.60  $\mu\text{m}$ . The experimental results show that the combined absorption performance of the three modes of the absorption peaks is more favorable when the ring width is 0.60  $\mu\text{m}$ . After we adopted the above dimensions for the patterned graphene layer structure size with optimal absorption performance, we investigated the thickness of the dielectric layer SiO<sub>2</sub>, as shown in Figure 7, and the experimental results showed that the thickness of the dielectric layer SiO<sub>2</sub>, H2, was optimal for the absorption performance at the thickness of H2 = 4.52  $\mu\text{m}$ , when it ranged from 2.02  $\mu\text{m}$  to 7.02  $\mu\text{m}$ . Therefore, optimizing the geometry of the structure is very important to obtain a better absorption performance.



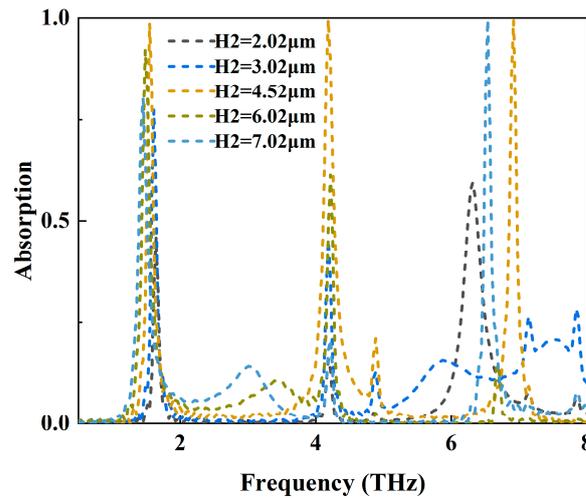
**Figure 4.** Absorption spectra of the fixed patterned circular and “L” shape graphene parameters with the “+” shape’s length  $L1$  changing from  $1.3 \mu\text{m}$  to  $2.1 \mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 5.** Absorption spectra of fixed patterned rings and “L” shape graphene parameters with “+” shape’s width  $W1$  changing from  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  to  $2.1 \mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 6.** Absorption spectra of the fixed patterned “+” and “L” shape graphene parameters with a change in the width of the rings from  $0.4 \mu\text{m}$  to  $0.8 \mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 7.** Absorption spectra of the fixed patterned graphene for each parameter, with the thickness of the dielectric layer H2 changing from 2.02 μm to 7.02 μm.

For patterned graphene metamaterial absorbers with fixed structural dimensions, tunability is equally valuable for each application. It is worth noting that the surface conductivity of graphene depends strongly on the chemical potential and the electronic relaxation time. Firstly, we experimentally controlled the chemical potential of patterned graphene layers by applying gate voltage (electrostatic) or chemical doping to study the effect of the chemical potential of graphene layers on the absorption properties of the proposed structures. The corresponding equations are calculated as follows [49–52]:

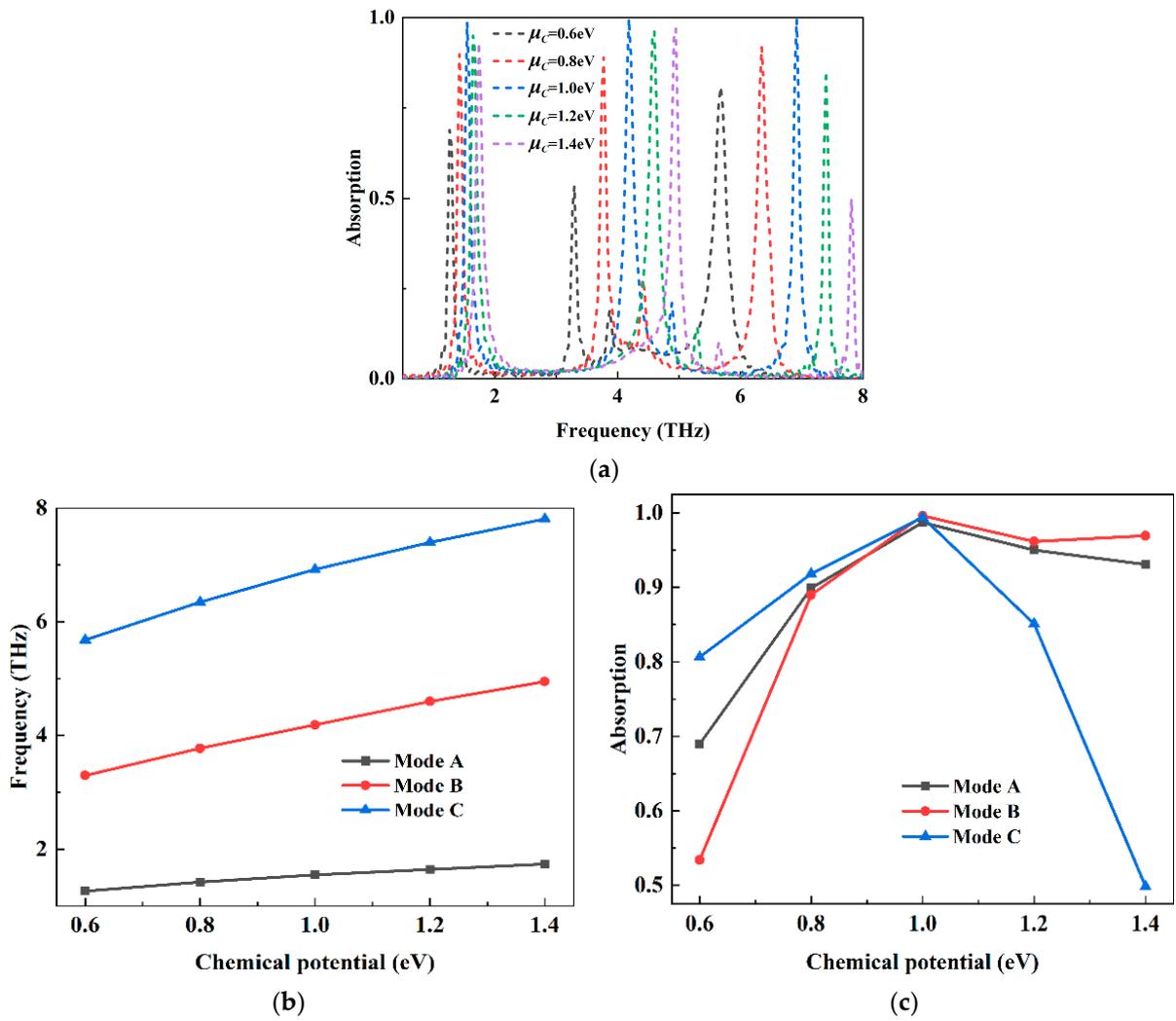
$$\mu_C = V_f \sqrt{\frac{\pi \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r V_g}{e_0 t_d}} \tag{5}$$

where  $t_d$  is the thickness of the dielectric layer,  $V_g$  is the applied voltage,  $V_f$  is the Fermi velocity,  $e_0$  is the charge carried by the electrons, and  $\epsilon_0$  and  $\epsilon_r$  denote the vacuum-order permittivity and relative permittivity of the dielectric, respectively. Figure 8 shows the absorption curves by plotting the chemical potential of the patterned graphene from 0.60 eV to 1.40 eV at 0.20 eV intervals under the condition that the light wave is positively incident in the terahertz band. Obviously, the absorption peaks corresponding to the three modes are blueshifted with the increase in graphene chemical potential, and the absorption efficiency first increases and then decreases. The absorption performance of the three modes reaches the optimum when the chemical potential of patterned graphene is 1.0 eV.

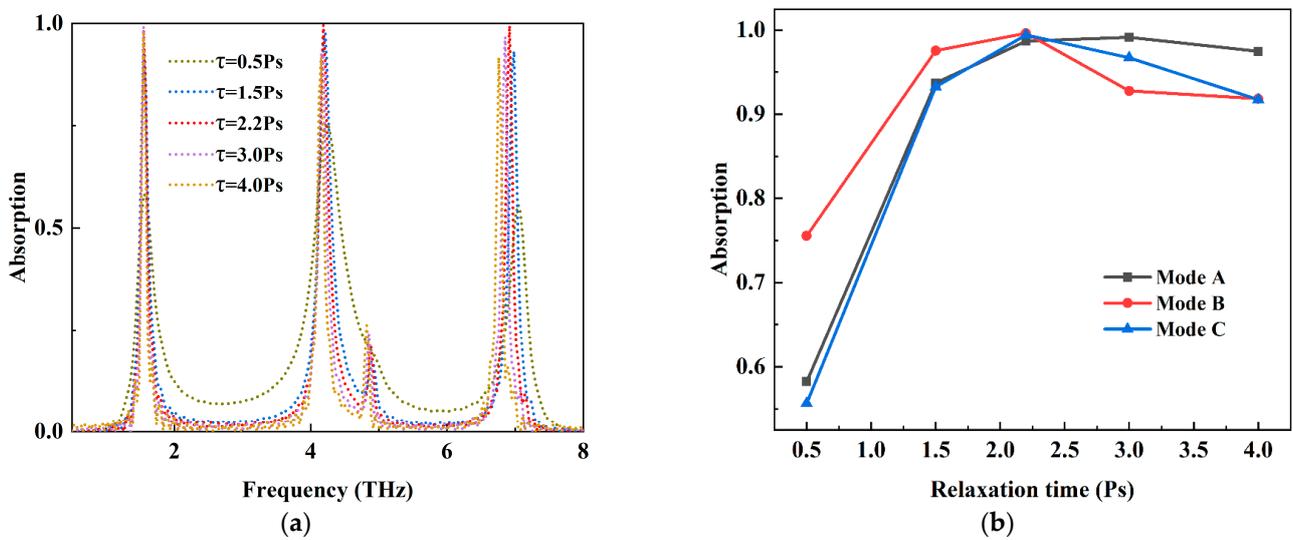
We next investigated the effect of the electrons’ relaxation time in graphene on the absorption properties of the proposed structure, which is expressed as follows [53,54]:

$$\tau = \mu_c v / (e V_f^2) \tag{6}$$

where  $V_f = 10^6$  m/s denotes the Fermi velocity,  $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  J/s denotes the electron charge,  $\mu_C$  denotes the chemical potential, and  $v$  denotes the carrier mobility of graphene. In our experiments, we set the chemical potential of the patterned graphene layer at 1.0 eV, and by placing organic molecules on graphene, the carrier mobility of graphene can be significantly increased, thereby controlling the increase in the relaxation time  $\tau$  [55]. As shown in Figure 9, the absorption efficiencies of the three modes change from 0.50 Ps to 4.00 Ps with the change in the relaxation time  $\tau$  at a fixed chemical potential  $\mu_C = 1.0$  eV.



**Figure 8.** (a) Absorption spectra obtained by changing the chemical potential of graphene from 0.6 to 1.4 eV; (b,c) the resonance frequency and peak absorption intensity spectra of the three modes with the change in chemical potential, respectively.



**Figure 9.** (a) Absorption spectra of the absorber for different relaxation times  $\tau$ . (b) Absorption peak versus relaxation time  $\tau$  for modes A, B, and C.

It is obvious that the position of the absorption peaks is red-shifted with the change in the relaxation time  $\tau$ , while the peaks of the absorption peaks increase and then decrease, and the bandwidth gradually becomes narrower. Figure 9 shows the variation rule of the absorption peak with relaxation time  $\tau$  for the three modes. When the relaxation time  $\tau$  was varied from 0.50 Ps to 4.00 Ps, the adsorption peaks of the three modes ranged from 58.24.% to 99.14% (Mode A), 75.54% to 99.63% (Mode B), and 55.64% to 99.42% (Mode C), respectively. The modulation ranges of the absorption peaks were 41.25%, 24.18%, and 44.04%, respectively. The absorption peaks of the three modes are close to the maximum when  $\mu_C = 1.0$  eV and  $\tau = 2.2$  Ps. At this point, the carrier concentration of graphene is close to saturation with respect to the plasma oscillations, and a continued increase will result in a decrease in absorption as the relaxation time increases and most of the light is reflected.

For the refractive index sensing properties of the proposed absorber structure, we increased the refractive index of the external environment from 1.0 to 1.5 with a spacing of 0.1. The absorption spectra of the three modes were obtained in turn, as shown in Figure 10, and it can be clearly seen that the resonance frequencies of the three modes were red-shifted as the refractive index  $n$  was changed. The redshift of mode A was from 1.548 THz to 1.516 THz, and the redshift of mode B was from 4.186 THz to 4.059 THz. The redshift of mode C was from 6.918 THz to 6.727 THz. The full width at half peaks (*FWHMs*) of the three modes were 0.108 THz, 0.166 THz, and 0.118 THz, respectively. Sensitivity and *FOM* are important parameters for the characterization of important parameters of sensing performance, which can be expressed as follows [56–60]:

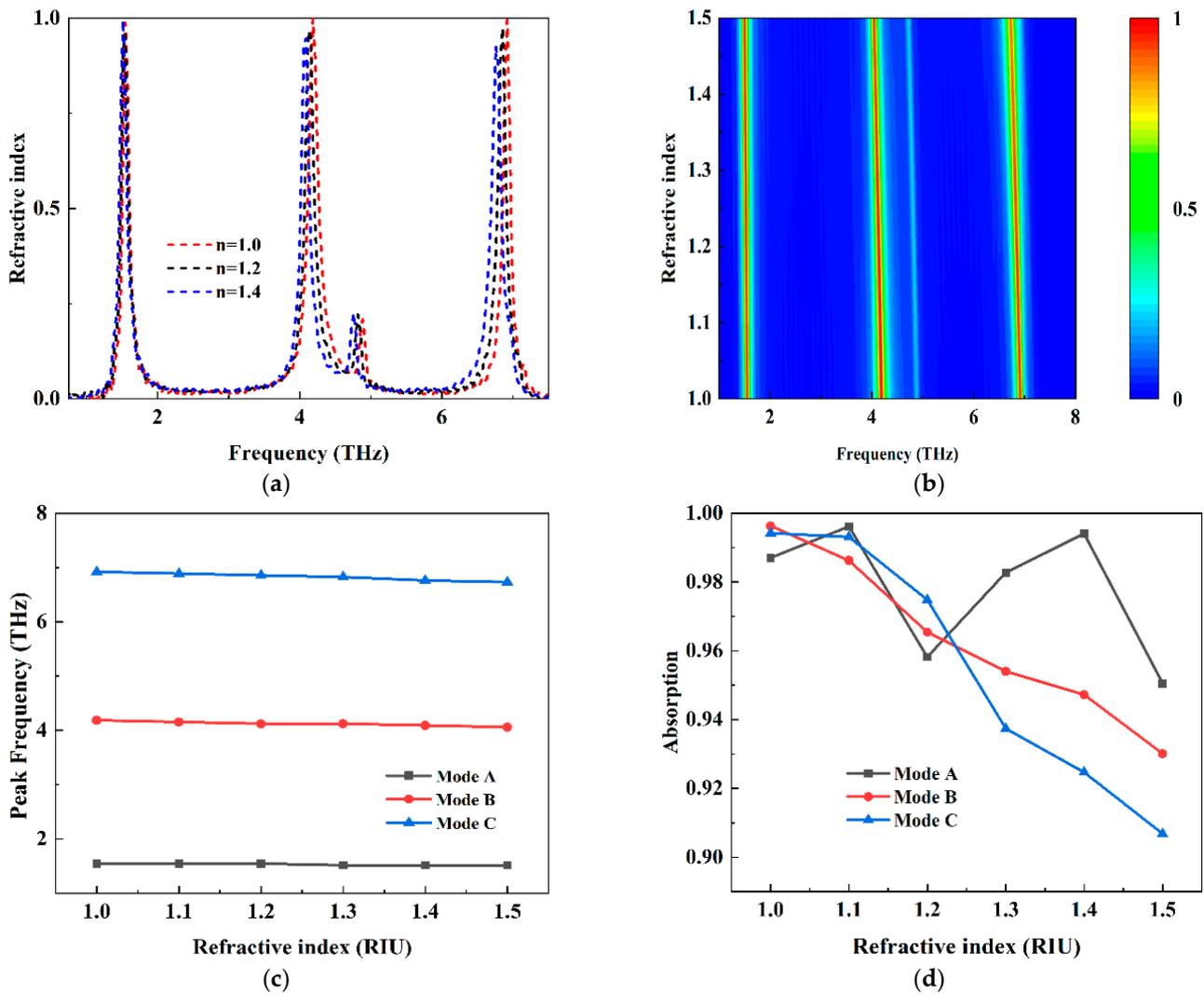
$$s = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta n} \tag{7}$$

$$FOM = \frac{s}{FWHM} \tag{8}$$

$$Q = \frac{f_r}{FWHM} \tag{9}$$

where  $\Delta T$  denotes the variation in the resonance peak frequency of the absorber with respect to the refractive index  $\Delta n$  of the external environment, and *FWHM* is the full width of the half peak at the absorption peak.

Figure 10a is a plot showing the relationship between the variation in the refractive index with the external environment and the variation in the frequency position of the absorption peak. According to Equation (7), the slope of the fitted straight line is the sensitivity of the proposed graphene metamaterial structure when used as a sensor. The calculated sensitivities of the three modes are 64 GHz/RIU, 254 GHz/RIU, and 382 GHz/RIU, respectively. It can be seen that the three modes of the absorber are sensitive to the change in the resonance frequency of the absorption peaks with respect to the change in the ambient refractive index. In addition, the absorption peaks of the three modes decrease with the increase in the ambient refractive index, but all of them maintain more than 90% perfect absorption, as shown in Figure 10d. Therefore, the high sensitivity of this structure has promising application in the field of sensing and detection. *FOM* can quantify the sensitivity of the sensor. According to Equation (8), the maximum *FOM* of the resonance peaks of the three modes can be calculated as 0.59, 1.53, and 3.24, respectively. After comparison, our absorber has a superior sensitivity and *Q*, with a dynamic tuning ability, as shown in Table 1 in recent studies [54,61–65].



**Figure 10.** (a) Absorption spectra of mode A, mode B, and mode C at different refractive indices; (b,c) linear relationship between resonant frequency and refractive index; (d) linear relationship between absorption peaks and refractive index.

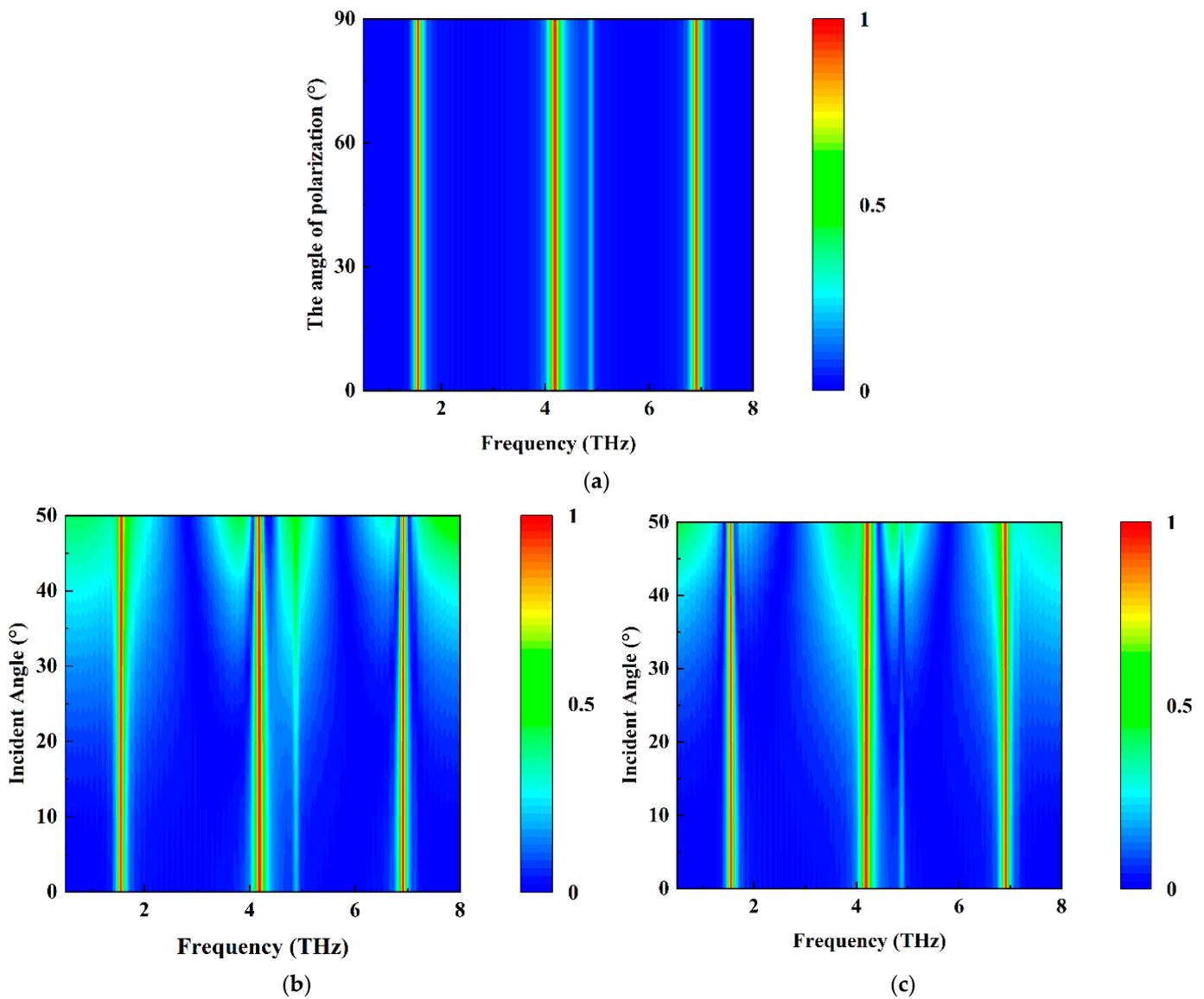
**Table 1.** Comparison of the proposed absorber with other similar absorbers.

Structure	Sensitivity (RIU <sup>-1</sup> )	FOM (Max)	Q	Tunability	Absorption Peak Number	Ref.
Microfiber and MoTe <sub>2</sub>	590 (nm/RIU)	55	/	No	1	[54]
Graphene and AL <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	282 (nm/RIU)	34.3	/	Yes	1	[61]
Graphene and SiO <sub>2</sub>	942.6 (nm/RIU)	/	/	Yes	3	[62]
Graphene and STO	50 (GHz/RIU)	0.33	14	Yes	2	[63]
Graphene and Au	15.0 (um/RIU)	4.19	/	Yes	1	[64]
Graphene and Glass	113.9 (GHz/RIU)	3.15	11.22	Yes	1	[65]
Graphene and Cu	382 (GHz/RIU)	3.24	58.64	Yes	3	This work

It is worth mentioning that the wave absorber proposed in this paper has obvious advantages, such as a simple fabrication and high stability. The results show that our designed sensitivity sensor has a better sensing performance and broader application prospects.

In the above work, the absorption properties of the structure under the positive incidence of terahertz waves were investigated. However, in practical applications, the polarization-independent and angle-of-incidence-insensitive properties of the absorber are also important. Figure 11 shows the effect of polarization angle and incidence angle on

the absorption characteristics of the absorber. Figure 11a shows the relationship between the variation in polarization angle from  $0^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  and the absorption spectrum for a vertical terahertz wave incident, and the results show that the position and intensity of the absorption peaks remain almost constant at vertical incidence due to the good symmetry and local resonance of the absorber. The absorption plots of TE polarization and TM polarization as a function of the frequency and angle of incidence were investigated, as shown in Figure 11b,c. The angle of incidence ranges from  $0^\circ$  to  $50^\circ$ . For TE polarization, the three absorption peaks are almost unaffected, and the absorption remains above 90% when the incident angle is increased from  $0^\circ$  to  $50^\circ$ . The absorption of peak 2 decreases gradually with an incidence angle greater than  $50^\circ$ . For TM polarization, the structure can maintain stable absorption below an incidence angle of  $50^\circ$ , the absorption peaks gradually become bluer, and the absorption bandwidth narrows after the incidence angle becomes larger than  $50^\circ$ . Therefore, we consider this structure to be a polarization-insensitive absorber with a tunable absorption frequency and amplitude.



**Figure 11.** (a) Absorption spectra for different polarization angles; (b,c) the absorption spectra of incident light at angles of incidence ranging from  $0^\circ$  to  $50^\circ$  for TE polarization and TM polarization, respectively.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this paper, a multi-band tunable narrowband absorber with high sensitivity and a high Q based on graphene metamaterial is proposed. The simulation results show that the absorber can obtain three perfect absorption peaks:  $f_1 = 1.55$  THz,  $f_2 = 4.19$  THz, and  $f_3 = 6.92$  THz, with absorption rates of 98.70%, 99.63%, and 99.42%, respectively. The geometrical parameters, chemical potentials, relaxation times, polarization angles, and incidence angles of incident light of the patterned graphene structural units were investigated. It is found that the amplitude of the resonant frequency and amplitude of the absorber unit structure can be flexibly controlled by varying the geometrical parameters and chemical formula of the patterned graphene. By studying and analyzing the variation in the refractive index of the sensing medium, the structure is shown to have a good performance and high-sensitivity response. For modes A, B, and C, the sensitivities are 64 GHz/RIU, 254 GHz/RIU, and 382 GHz/RIU, and the modulation depths are 41.25%, 24.18%, and 44.04%, respectively. In addition, the absorption performance of the absorber remains unchanged as the polarization angle changes, indicating that the absorber is polarization-independent. Based on this, our results will open new doors for the use of multi-band, tunable, polarization-independent, and insensitive-to-large-angle oblique incidence metamaterial absorbers. In the future, they can be applied in the fields of photoelectric detection, photovoltaic cells, photoelectric sensors, and photoelectric thermal radiation.

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