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ABSTRACT

Understandings of population and relaxation of charges at surfaces and interfaces are essential to improve charge collection efficiency for energy conversion, catalysis, and photosynthesis. Existing time-resolved surface and interface tools are limited to either under ultrahigh vacuum or in a narrow wavelength region with the loss of spectral information. There lacks an efficient time-resolved surface/interface-specific electronic spectroscopy under ambient conditions for the ultrafast surface/interface dynamics. Here we developed a novel technique for surface/interface-specific broadband electronic sum frequency generation (ESFG). The broadband ESFG was based on a stable two-stage BiB₃O₆ crystal-based optical parametric amplifier, which generates a strong broadband short-wave infrared (SWIR) from 1200 nm to 2400 nm. A resultant surface spectrum covers almost all visible light from 480 nm to 760 nm, combined a broadband electronic second harmonic generation (ESHG) with the ESFG from the SWIR laser source. We further developed the steady-state and transient broadband ESFG and ESHG techniques to investigate the structure and dynamics of charges at oxidized p-type GaAs (100) semiconductor surfaces, as an example. Both the steady-state and transient experiments have shown that two surface states exist inside the bandgap of the GaAs. The kinetic processes at the GaAs surface include both the population and recombination of the surface states after photoexcitation, in addition to the build-up of the space photo-voltage (SPV). The build-up SPV occurs with a rate of $0.56 \pm 0.07 \text{ ps}^{-1}$, while the population rate of the surface states exhibits a two-body behavior with a rate constant of $(0.012 \pm 0.002) \times 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$. The photo-generated electron-hole pairs near the surface recombine with a rate of $0.002 \pm 0.0002 \text{ ps}^{-1}$ for the oxidized p-type GaAs (100). All the methodologies developed here are readily applied to any optically accessible interfaces and surfaces, in particular buried interfaces under ambient conditions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Surface/interface states are donor states or acceptor states and act as mediators for trapping and recombination of charge carriers in semiconductors.^{1–4} The knowledge of surface/interface states and, particularly, their energy levels and relaxation processes is critical for understanding the fundamental mechanisms of inorganic and organic semiconductors in the process of energy conversion, catalysis, and photosynthesis. For example, on a semiconductor

surface, the excess charge in surface states is balanced by bulk charge within a small space-charge region (SCR) on the order of a few nanometers, leading to band bending near the surface.^{1,2,5,6} After photo-excitation, charge separation of generated electron-hole pairs in the strong electric field of the SCR is responsible for band flattening.⁷ These surface charge properties dominate the optical and electrical characteristics of semiconductor materials. On the other hand, the determination of energy levels for surface states allows for identifying which mechanism governs the Fermi energy at surfaces such

as intrinsic surface state pinning, surface defect pinning, and bulk doping for unpinned surfaces. Although there are many surface tools for the determination of surface states,^{1,8-12} there lacks an efficient surface/interface-specific electronic spectroscopy under ambient conditions for ultrafast dynamics of inorganic and organic semiconductors occurred at surfaces and interfaces.

Recent studies showed that charge transfer occurs at semiconductor/organic thin film interfaces with time-resolved electric-field induced second harmonic generation (SHG), with the loss of spectral information.¹³⁻¹⁶ Early efforts have also demonstrated the ultrafast relaxation of the surface photo-voltage (SPV) effect on semiconductors by time-resolved photoemission spectroscopy.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ The time evolution of the electric field was demonstrated in the surface layer of semiconductors by measuring the kinetic-energy shifts of photoelectrons.²⁰ However, these experiments could not detect real surface properties since the methods used were not surface-specific. Sum frequency generation (SFG) and second harmonic generation (SHG) have been proven to be versatile nonlinear optical spectroscopic tools for investigations of structures, kinetics, dynamics, and chemical reactions occurred at surfaces and interfaces.²¹⁻⁶¹ SFG is the second order process generated by two fundamental beams, in which one is fixed and the other is tunable or broadband. In fact, SHG is a special case of SFG when the two incident beams are degenerate. Thanks to recent advances in solid-state lasers, the SFG technique continues to evolve into an analytical tool for applications relevant to environment, catalysis, materials, and biology. As a surface/interface-specific tool, SFG is anticipated to provide vibrational structures as well as electronic features, both of which are essential in understanding chemical and physical properties occurred at interfaces. Previous attempts were mainly concentrated on vibrational SFG (VSFG) experiments.^{22,26} In particular, recent efforts in a femtosecond broadband IR source have revolutionized VSFG experiments in terms of both ultrafast time scale^{30,39,54,62-66} and high-resolution spectrum.^{51,67} On the other hand, the development of electronic sum frequency generation (ESFG) is much left behind. The main reason for this lies in the fact that there lacks a broadband laser source with stable and high output energy for ESFG experiments.

Historically, ESFG experiments were implemented by detecting SHG and point-by-point tuning laser wavelength.⁶⁸⁻⁷³ Such experiments are considered as tuning SHG experiments, relying on dye lasers, or tunable Ti:sapphire oscillators or optical parametric oscillators (OPO), or optical parametric amplifiers (OPAs). The tuning SHG experiments are time-consuming. Moreover, wavelength calibrations and intensity normalization are challenging in that the divergence and pointing from the dye lasers, OPO, or OPA vary greatly with angular crystal tuning and different dyes. In recent years, tremendous efforts have been made in broadband ESFG experiments.^{38,71,74} These pioneering studies initiated a lot of interest from the community of interfacial nonlinear optical spectroscopies. In their experiments, the

authors introduced a multi-filament white light continuum by focusing a strong femtosecond laser onto flowing water.^{38,74} Analogous to the broadband VSFG, a broadband visible source was used to implement electronic SFG. However, the chirp with the white light was a serious problem in the ESFG experiments. Both one-photon and two-photon resonant signals also complicate the interpretation of electronic spectra from these experiments. As a consequence, the temporal chirp and the spectral complexity in the ESFG probe could prevent transient ESFG spectroscopy from revealing ultrafast structural dynamics and chemical reactions at surfaces and interfaces.

In this work, we presented a novel ESFG spectroscopy for probing ultrafast electronic properties at surfaces and interfaces. The approach relies on the construction of a stable and high power optical parametric amplifier (OPA) based on large aperture bismuth triborate, BiB_3O_6 (BIBO) crystals, pumped at 1 kHz by the fundamental of a Ti:sapphire amplifier. Here, we first demonstrated the build-up of a BIBO-based OPA with stable and high output power. With the broadband OPA, we then developed both steady-state and transient broadband ESFG and electronic second harmonic generation (ESHG) experiments for semiconductor surfaces. We took the oxidized p-type GaAs (100) surface as an example to demonstrate the ultrafast broadband ESFG spectroscopy.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

A. Construction of a broadband short-wave IR (SWIR) OPA

The concept of a broadband short-wave IR amplifier is based upon an OPA that under achromatic phase-matching conditions, zero group velocity mismatch (GVM) is satisfied between the idler (λ_i) and signal (λ_s) pulses for collinear interaction at 1600 nm. In the case of type-I collinear interaction, this condition can be fulfilled near degeneracy ($\lambda_s \approx \lambda_i$). However, the bandwidth can be further improved by the second condition that the group velocity dispersion (GVD) of the signal and idler pulses disappears. For birefringent nonlinear crystals like Beta Barium Borate (BBO), the second condition is simultaneously satisfied only at λ_p far from 800 nm. On the other hand, for the biaxial BIBO crystal, the second condition is readily satisfied near 800 nm that is available from a commercial femtosecond amplifier laser. The optical parametric interaction in the x - z principal plane of the BIBO unites broad spectral feature, high effective nonlinearity, and small GVM between the amplified signal and idler, and the pump pulses.⁷⁵ BIBO is a relatively new nonlinear optical crystal and has effective second-order nonlinearity d_{eff} . It possesses large angular and spectral acceptance bandwidths, highly efficient phase-matching properties, small spatial walk-off, and broadband angle tuning at room temperature. BIBO also has broad optical transparency extending from ~ 280 nm in the UV up to ~ 2.7 μm in the infrared.⁷⁵⁻⁷⁷ These features make the BIBO crystal an ideal choice for down-conversion of amplified femtosecond

pulses from a commercially available 800 nm solid-state laser without two-photon absorption.

In our work, a two-stage OPA was designed to generate a broadband short-wave infrared (SWIR) from 1200 nm to 2400 nm. The ultrabroadband SWIR is the combination of both signal (1200–1600 nm) and idler (1600–2400 nm). Experimentally, a fundamental light with a center wavelength of 796 nm and a pulse duration of 100 fs was generated by a 1 kHz Ti-sapphire amplified laser system (UpteK Solutions). A portion of 1.5 mJ was used for the broadband OPA. Figure 1(a) shows a schematic of our home-built broadband OPA. A collinear geometry was adopted in order for the broadband SWIR to be free of spatial walk-off. The broadband OPA consists of the generation of a white light, the first-stage amplifier, and the second-stage amplifier. The non-trivial part for the broadband OPA is the generation of a white light continuum as a regular OPA. We used a 3-mm thick YAG crystal to generate a white light continuum instead of a sapphire plate reported in the literature.⁷⁵ A pinhole was placed in front of the focal length in the light path of the white light generation for fine adjustments. Together with a tunable neutral density filter, a stable single filament white light was produced. Uncoated 3 mm thick BIBO crystals were cut at $\theta = 11.4^\circ$ (Eksma) for both the first-stage amplifier and the second-stage amplifier. With an input energy of 200 μJ , the output of an amplified first stage was expected to be 2–4 μJ with a fluence of less than 80 GW/cm^2 . A broadband spectrum from the first-stage amplifier could be readily detected by a SFG from a z-cut quartz single crystal surface with a mixing of a picosecond 796 nm. For the second-stage amplifier with an input of

1.2 mJ, a pump fluence was 60 GW/cm^2 . Seeding with the signal pulse from the first-stage, a pulse energy of 250 μJ was readily obtained from the second-stage (the signal plus the idler). It can be possible to obtain a higher output energy for broadband OPA by using a 5-mm thick BIBO crystal.

Generally, it is challenging to characterize temporal and spectral properties from the ultra-broadband SWIR. The main challenge is to find an ultrathin nonlinear optical single crystal for cross frequency-resolved optical grating (XFROG). To circumvent the difficulty, we measured frequency-resolved optical gating with interfacial reflection SFG responses (Interfacial XFROG) from a z-cut quartz single crystal (MTI Corporation). The interfacial SFG process satisfies the phase matching condition with a coherent length as short as 10–20 nm (see the supplementary material). Figure 1(b) shows interfacial XFROG from a z-cut quartz single crystal by mixing a femtosecond 796 nm with the broadband and short laser sources. The wavelength for the broadband SWIR was obtained from the SFG wavelength by considering energy conservation of the 796 nm and the broadband SWIR. The SWIR wavelength was found to cover from 1200 nm to 2400 nm from Fig. 1(b). The efficiency from 2200 nm to 2400 nm is slightly low probably due to a poor reflection for the wavelength range from the dichroic mirror after the second BIBO in our setup. This laser output is extended down to 600 nm by using a 0.2 mm BBO crystal. It is seen from the frequency-resolved SFG measurements that the broadband SWIR exhibited a pulse duration of 200 fs. These ultra-broadband and short pulse durations of the SWIR make the laser source a good choice for interfacial electronic sum frequency generation experiments.

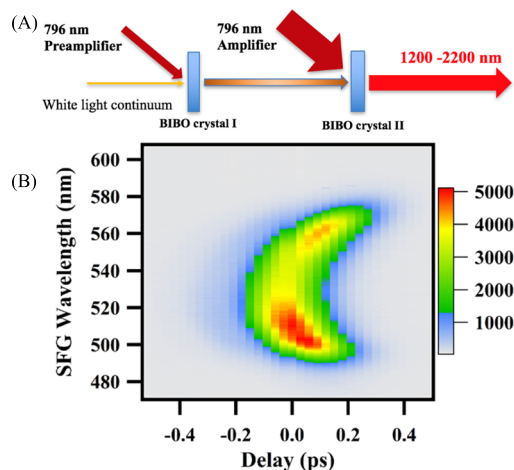


FIG. 1. (a) A schematic of a broadband BIBO-based OPA. The OPA consists of two-stage amplifiers. A white light continuum mixes on a BIBO crystal with a small portion of a 796 nm pump for a preamplifier, followed by further amplification on the second BIBO crystal with a large portion of a 796 nm pump. (b) Interfacial XFROG from a z-cut quartz single crystal surface by mixing a femtosecond 796 nm with the broadband and short laser sources. The short-wave IR wavelength was found to cover from 1200 nm to 2200 nm. The pulse duration of the output beam was on the order of 200 fs.

B. Steady-state broadband ESFG and ESHG experiments

Figure 2 shows a schematic setup for transient broadband ESFG and ESHG apparatus. To implement ESFG experiments, a picosecond 796 nm light was produced by a home-built 4-f configuration pulse shaper.^{43,78,79} It generally consists of a cylindrical lens (focal length = 25 cm), a grating (1200 grooves/mm), adjustable slits, and several highly reflective mirrors. The pulse duration and spectral resolution are readily varied by controlling the width of the slit. We obtained a bandwidth of 15 cm^{-1} with 2 ps pulse duration. The input energy of 2.0 mJ fundamental light generates 60 μJ output of the picosecond laser. A one-inch CaF_2 lens with 150 mm focus length was applied to focus the SWIR fundamental light onto the sample at an angle of 45° to the normal of the sample. The incident angle of picosecond 800 nm was set at 60° . A broadband polarizer was used to choose the polarization of the fundamental light. It is noted that the fundamental broadband SWIR light first went through a series of filters, including one 0.25 mm Si wafer (MTI Corp.), one 1600 nm short-pass filter (Edmund, only used for ESHG experiments to avoid third harmonic generation in the range of 600–760 nm), and one 1000 nm long-pass filter (Reynard) to remove residual 796 nm light and high-order harmonic light generated by the optics. Both the ESFG and ESHG signals were measured

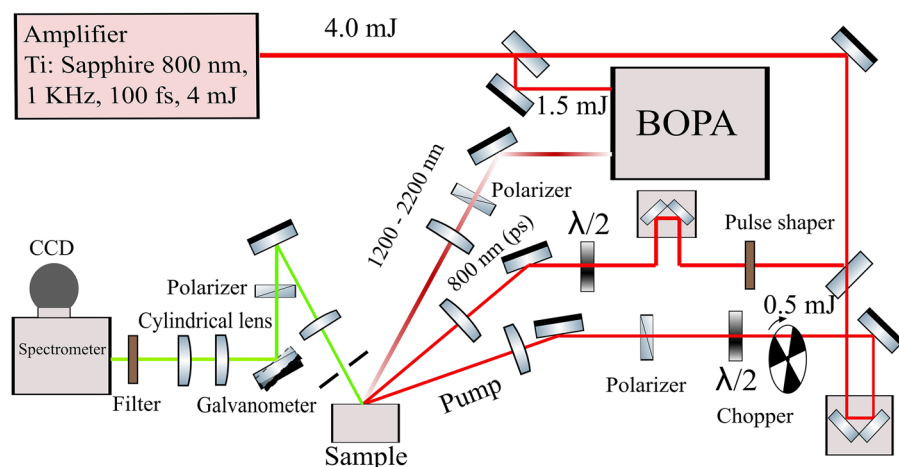


FIG. 2. A schematic of transient broadband ESFG and ESHG apparatus. A fundamental light with a center wavelength of 796 nm and a pulse duration of 100 fs was generated by a 1 kHz Ti-sapphire amplified laser system. One portion of 1.5 mJ was used for the broadband OPA. The second portion of 2.0 mJ fundamental light was used to generate the 60 μ J output of the picosecond laser with a home-built pulse shaper. The remaining of 0.5 mJ was used as a pump beam. A single-axis scanning Galvo mirror was applied by rotating the mirror with a small angle difference between them to separate the ESFG/ESHG signal with pump-on and pump-off at a frequency of 500 Hz.

by a combination of a spectrometer (Andor-2300i, Princeton Instrument) with a liquid nitrogen-cooled CCD (Princeton Instrument, back-illuminated 1300 \times 400). A Winspec software provided by Princeton Instrument or a self-complied Labview program was used to implement the data acquisition for steady-state ESFG and ESHG signals. For the broadband ESHG, we simply blocked the picosecond 796 nm and used only SWIR with a 1600 nm short-pass filter to carry out experiments. The SHG light beam is directional and goes along the reflected broadband SWIR by satisfying energy and momentum conservations. To measure the ESHG signal, the light along the reflection direction of the fundamental light was collected that includes both the fundamental light and ESHG signal. Subsequently, the fundamental light was filtered out combining three optical filters, including a 945 nm short-pass filter (Semrock), a 600 nm long-pass filter (Reynard), and a 785 nm short-pass filter (Semrock).

The intensity for ESFG and ESHG is given by^{21,24,69}

$$I(\omega_{SF/SH}) \propto |\chi^{(2)}(\omega_{SF/SH})|^2 = \left| \frac{N_s \langle \beta^{(2)} \rangle}{\omega - \omega_i + i\Gamma} \right|^2, \quad (1)$$

where $\chi^{(2)}(\omega_{SF/SH})$ represents macroscopic susceptibilities from interfaces and surfaces for ESFG or ESHG, N_s denotes surface density, $\beta^{(2)}$ denotes the molecular hyperpolarizability, ω_i denotes the i th electronic transition frequency, and Γ denotes the damping rate of electronic transitions.

C. Transient broadband ESFG and ESHG experiments

To investigate photo-excited relaxation processes at surfaces and interfaces, a pump laser was introduced to carry out transient broadband ESFG and ESHG experiments. The fundamental 796 nm light was used as a pump pulse for p-type GaAs (MTI, 0.5 mm thick) surfaces. A motorized translational stage (Klinger) was used to control a time delay between the pump and probe pulses. A pair of a half-wave plate (Thorlabs) and a polarizer (Thorlabs) was used to precisely tune the fluence of the pump pulse and to control its polarization. The pump light

was further spatially overlapped with the ESFG/ESHG probe by a 1-in. lens with a focal length of 500 mm at an incident angle of 37° with respect to the surface normal.

Transient broadband ESFG and ESHG spectra measure a few percent or less change in the probes. This was achieved by setting the working frequency of the optical chopper at 500 Hz synchronized to the 1 kHz laser system to measure the transient signal with and without the pump. Distinct from a traditional transient absorption method, ESFG and EHG probe signals are generally weak. A fast data acquisition could bring large readout noises in ESFG and ESHG experiments. To separate the ESFG/ESHG signal with pump-on and pump-off, a single-axis scanning Galvo mirror⁸⁰ (Thorlabs) was applied by rotating the mirror up and down with a small angle difference between them, as schematically shown in Fig. 2. As such, the ESFG/ESHG signal was imaged vertically separated into two strips onto a CCD chip by both a vertically focal cylindrical lens of 25 cm and a horizontally focal cylindrical lens of 10 cm. Since the scanning galvanometer system was synchronized with a chopper frequency of 500 Hz, the resultant two strips on the CCD chip corresponded to the ESFG/ESHG signal with pump-on and pump-off, respectively. A Labview program was compiled to control the acquisition of the ESFG/ESHG signal with pump-on and pump-off, as well as the time delay between the broadband ESFG/ESHG probe and the pump light. The change in transient ESFG/ESHG signal is calculated as^{54,65,81,82}

$$\frac{\Delta I}{I}(\omega, t) = \frac{I_{on}(\omega, t) - I_{off}(\omega, t)}{I_{off}(\omega, t)}, \quad (2)$$

where $I_{on}(\omega, t)$ and $I_{off}(\omega, t)$ are the ESFG/ESHG signals with the pump-on and the pump-off, respectively. In the presence of a pump, I_{on} is proportional to $|\chi^{(2)} + \Delta\chi^{(2)}|^2$, where $\Delta\chi^{(2)}$ is the photoinduced change in surface susceptibility $\chi^{(2)}$. Combining with Eq. (1), rearrangement of Eq. (2) gives^{54,65,81,82}

$$-\frac{\Delta I}{I}(\omega, t) = \frac{2\Delta\chi^{(2)}}{\chi^{(2)}}. \quad (3)$$

Time-dependent change in ESFG/ESHG, $-\frac{\Delta I}{I}(\omega, t)$, provides time evolution of ground state recovery, photo-induced absorption of new species, other relaxations, and intermolecular interactions occurred at surfaces and interfaces.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In what follows, we shall demonstrate how we applied the broadband electronic SFG to investigate the structure and dynamics of surface states at surfaces and interfaces. All methodologies developed in these cases are readily applied to any surfaces and interfaces that are optically accessible.

Steady-state ESFG and ESHG measurements were performed on the oxidized p-type GaAs (100) surface. Oxidized p-type (Zn-doped, $1.3\text{--}2.2 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) GaAs wafers with (100) surface termination were purchased from MTI Corporation. SSP and S-in/P-out polarization combinations were used for the ESFG and ESHG, respectively. SSP for the ESFG represents an S-polarized SFG output beam (ω_{SF}), an S-polarized visible input beam (ω_{vis}), and a P-polarized input SWIR (ω_{IR}). S-in/P-out for the ESHG refers to an S-polarized incident beam (ω_1) and a p-polarized output SHG beam (ω_2). A four-fold symmetry at the GaAs surface was observed as reported in the literature in the case of SSP for SFG⁸³ and S-in-P-out for SHG.^{84–87} Bulk contributions were eliminated by setting the azimuthal angle to be 45° with respect to the direction of GaAs [110]. Azimuthal angle-dependent experiments in our experiments are in good agreement with those reported in the literature.^{83–87}

To obtain broad surface electronic spectra, we measured both ESFG and ESHG responses from p-type oxidized GaAs (100). The ESFG spans from 480 nm to 600 nm and measures surface second-order responses by mixing the spectrally narrow 800 nm with the SWIR beam. On the other hand, the ESHG gives a spectral region from 600 nm to 765 nm by employing part of the SWIR beam with a short-pass filter cutoff at 1600 nm. Together, the steady-state surface spectra cover almost a majority of the visible region from 480 nm to 765 nm. This makes our second-order nonlinear electronic spectrometer a very unique tool for studying interfacial electronic responses into applications of materials, environment, and biology. The inset of the top panel in Fig. 3(a) displays the steady-state surface spectra from p-type oxidized GaAs (100). The polarization combinations for ESFG and ESHG were set at SSP and S-in/P-out, separately. The steady-state ESFG and ESHG spectra were normalized to that from a BBO surface. The steady-state surface electronic spectrum from p-type oxidized GaAs (100) shows only a broad peak above 600 nm, which is much larger than its energy gap of 870 nm. The broad peak was attributed to the transition from the surface states near the valence band to a higher valley of the p-type GaAs.

Figure 3(a) presents two-dimensional pseudo-color transient broadband surface spectra of p-type oxidized GaAs (100) under the photoexcitation of 796 nm. The transient spectra from bulk contribution are found in Fig. S1 of the [supplementary material](#). The transient change occurs mainly in the

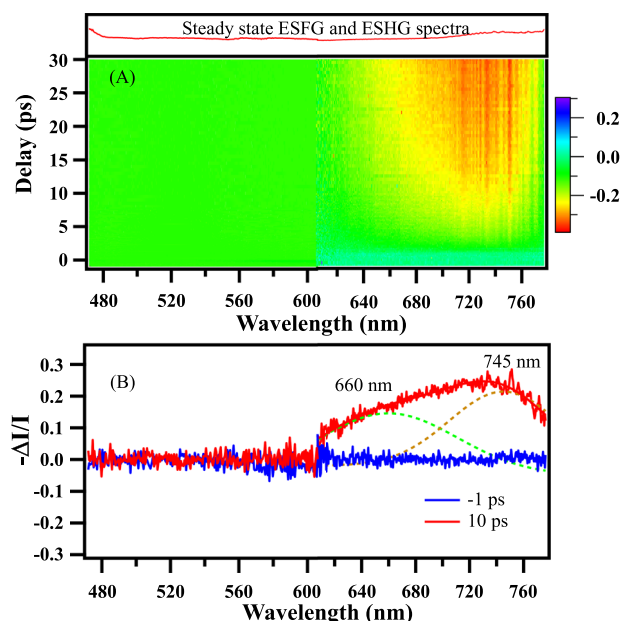


FIG. 3. (a) Two-dimensional pseudo-color transient broadband surface spectra from the p-type oxidized GaAs (100) surface, as compared with steady-state surface spectra in the inset (the red line). (b) The transient spectra for -1 ps and 10 ps taken from the two-dimensional spectra in (a). The transient spectrum at 10 ps was fitted by two Gaussian peaks. One is located at around 660 nm (green dashed line), and the other is at around 745 nm (brown dashed line). The pump wavelength was set at 796 nm, and the pump fluence was kept at $1.27 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$.

spectral region of 600 nm– 760 nm. Since the surface susceptibilities of $\chi_{\text{XXZ}}^{(2)}$ and $\chi_{\text{ZZX}}^{(2)}$ for GaAs are negative in sign,⁸⁵ the decrease in the transient surface signal corresponds to the increase in number density of new species, namely, the population and relaxation of surface states in the case of GaAs. Two Gaussian peaks are used to fit the transient surface responses in the spectral region of 600 nm– 765 nm. One is located at around 660 nm, and the other is located at around 745 nm, as seen in Fig. 3(b) for the p-type GaAs (110). The transient spectra at different delays (see Fig. S2 of the [supplementary material](#)) also displays no spectral shift. In general, the resonant peaks could arise from either one-photon or two-photon or both. Specifically, the transient signals from 600 nm to 765 nm can be resonant with either the fundamental light (1200 nm– 1500 nm) or the doubling frequency (600 nm– 765 nm) in the electronic SHG process. If the ESHG is resonant with the fundamental light (~ 1320 nm and ~ 1490 nm), it was expected to observe two distinct peaks around 497 nm and 519 nm by mixing the two fundamental lights with the 796 nm to conserve the energy conservation in transient ESFG spectra. No any clear features around 497 nm and 519 nm were observed in the transient ESFG. This suggests that the two peaks in transient ESHG spectra are due to a two-photon resonance of ~ 660 nm and ~ 745 nm from the surface states of oxidized p-type GaAs. The resulting spectra were attributed to the resonant transitions from the surface states to a higher valley with the doubling frequency. From these analyses, the two surface states

are suggested to likely exist in oxidized p-type GaAs. These two surface states in GaAs were also observed in the previous work:⁸⁸⁻⁹⁰ a dominant acceptor state located at $E_{as} = 0.75$ eV above the valence-band edge and a secondary donor state located at $E_{ds} = 0.50$ eV. The surface states are not pinned at the mid-gap (Fermi level pinning) in the oxidized p-type GaAs. Our experimental results are in qualitative agreement with those in the literature.⁸⁸⁻⁹⁰

To reveal the population and recombination rates of the surface states, we took kinetic profiles in Fig. 3(a) for the two surface states of p-type GaAs (100), as shown in Fig. 4. Time-dependent surface signals represent how the surface states are initially populated in GaAs and how the populated surface states subsequently relax over time. It is seen in Fig. 4 that the time-dependent responses at 660 nm and 745 nm were found to be almost similar, suggesting that both the surface states possess almost the same capability of trapping surface electrons. The decay trace was readily fitted with a single exponential function, yielding a time constant of $\sim 500 \pm 40$ ps. This process originates mainly from the surface electron-hole recombination of p-type GaAs. The electron-hole recombination at the surface is much slower than that of $\sim 103 \pm 10$ ps in the bulk in Fig. 4. On the other hand, the early kinetic rise for

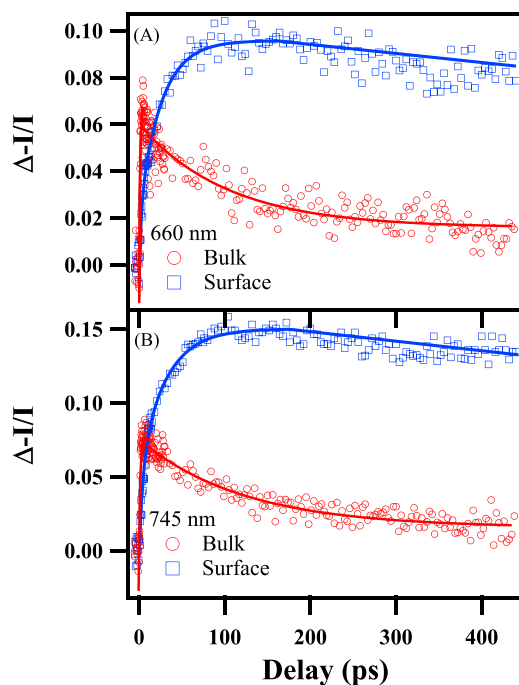


FIG. 4. Comparison of kinetic profiles of the surface and bulk for p-type GaAs (100) at 660 nm (a) and at 730 nm (b). The pump fluences for the surface experiments and the bulk experiments were kept at $1.27 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ and $381 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, respectively. The rise times for 660 nm and 745 nm in the bulk are 1.0 ± 0.2 ps and 1.2 ± 0.4 ps, respectively, both of which are much shorter than those for the surface. The decay times for 660 nm and 745 nm in the bulk are 103 ± 10 ps and 121 ± 9 ps, respectively, both of which are also faster than the value of 500 ± 40 ps for the surface.

the surface states could not be fitted with a single exponential function, suggesting that there is more than one process behind the rise for the two surface states. Fittings with a double exponential function to the kinetic traces of the rise time at 660 nm yield a fast component of 1.8 ± 0.2 ps and a slow component of 25.4 ± 3.1 ps under the pump fluence of $1.27 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$. The two surface processes are still much slower as compared to that of 1.0 ± 0.2 ps in the bulk in Fig. 4(b), in which the fast rise at the early time was due to the transport of photo-generated holes to the bulk. The instrument response function (IRF) for our system depends mainly on the pulse duration of the SWIR. The pulse duration of the SWIR was measured by interfacial XFROG from a z-cut quartz single crystal and was determined to be ~ 200 fs.

To further understand the nature of the two surface processes, the fluence of the pump was varied at different carrier densities. Figure 5(a) displays fluence-dependent kinetic traces at 745 nm as an example for p-type oxidized GaAs (100) under the photoexcitation of 796 nm. The fluence-dependent kinetic traces at 660 nm are found in Fig. S3 of the supplementary material. The surface recombination process speeds up as the fluence is increased to $12.66 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, suggesting that surface trapped electrons annihilate to dissipate excess energy at a longer time scale of 420 ps, as shown in Fig. 5(b). At the early time, the fast rise component tends to dominate with increasing fluence without changing the time constant with the applied fluence, while the slow rise component gradually decreases and gets shorter and shorter as the fluence is increased. The slow rise was attributed to the population of the surface states. However, the fast component at the early time might originate possibly from two mechanisms as follows. One possibility is that there exists a different surface state that has different energy barriers for the population of photo-generated electrons. The other possibility is the build-up of the surface photovoltage (SPV), which changes the depletion width towards the flat-band potential. This process is also called electric-field induced SHG (EFISH) process.^{13,15,48,91-101} The former was excluded since the two surface states exhibit almost the same population rate in the early time upon the photoexcitation, as displayed in Fig. 5(c). Therefore, the SPV mechanism was assigned to the fast rise in the fluence-dependent kinetics in Fig. 5(a). Electrons are generated and collected by the surface of p-type GaAs, leading to the decrease in the surface potential. The electric field in the space charge region is screened by the mobile carriers created by the optical pump pulse. As the fluence is increased, the SPV component almost governs the early rise process, as displayed in Fig. 5(c). Under a high fluence of $10.0 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, the transient signal at the maximum tends to saturate, as shown in Fig. 5(d). This photo-saturation suggests that the applications of the sufficiently intense above-bandgap illumination to the surface result in almost complete flattening of the surface band-bending of p-type GaAs.

Figure 5(c) shows the time constants obtained for both the fast component and the slow component by fitting the early time of the fluence dependent data in Fig. 5(a) and Fig. S3 with a double exponential function. The time constants for

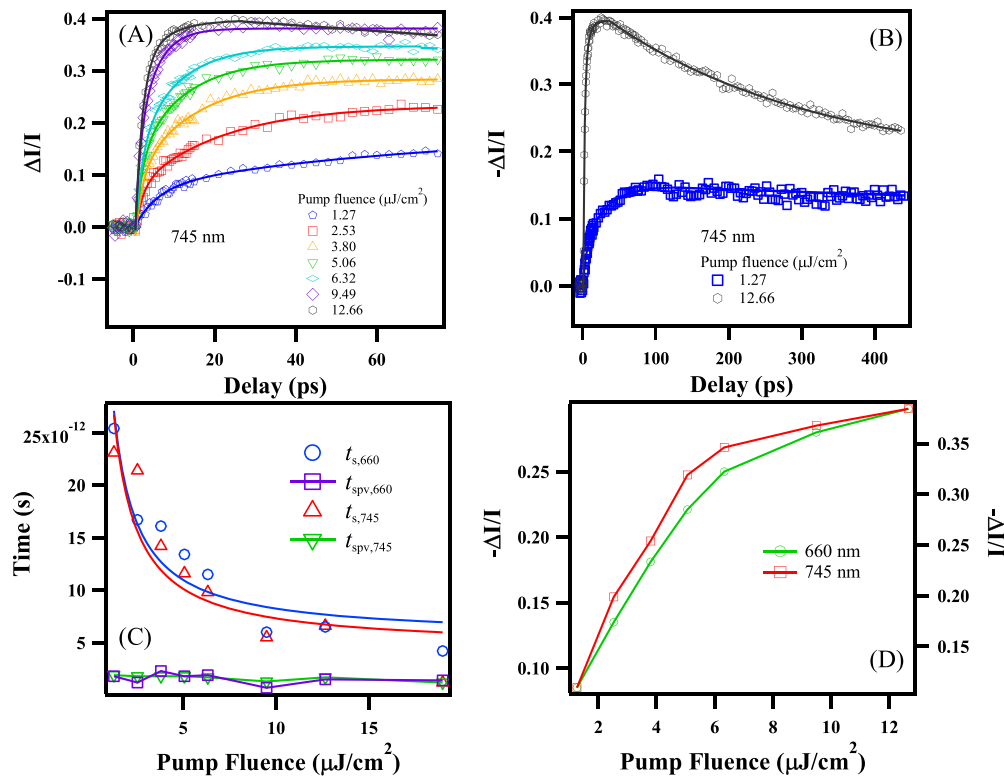


FIG. 5. (a) Fluence-dependent kinetic traces of the change in surface responses at a detection wavelength of 745 nm for p-type GaAs (100) under photoexcitation of 796 nm at a short time scale of 80 ps. Those at 660 nm are found in the [supplementary material](#). (b) At a longer time scale of 420 ps, kinetic traces of the change in surface responses at a detection wavelength of 745 nm for a low pump fluence of $1.27 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ (blue hexagons) and a high pump fluence of $12.66 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ (black squares). (c) The fast rise component (t_{spv}) and slow rise component (t_{s}) at 660 nm and 745 nm plotted as a function of applied pump fluence. (d) The transient signals at the maximum for 660 nm (green circles) and 745 nm (red squares) as a function of applied pump fluence.

the fast SPV component (t_{spv}) remain almost constant at the different applied fluences since the build-up of the SPV is a wavelength-independent process. On the other hand, the population times of the slow surface population component (t_{s}) vary with fluence. This process proceeds with the second-order carrier population of the surface states, as mentioned earlier. Based upon the standard physical chemistry textbooks,¹⁰² a simple model for the second-order reaction was used to fit t_{s} : $t_{\text{s}} = t_0 + 1/(k_{\text{s}} \times n_0)$, where k_{s} is the population rate of the surfaces states and n_0 is the number density of photoexcited electrons. Surface sites accessible for native oxidized p-type GaAs were found to be $3.0 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (see the [supplementary material](#)), which is in agreement with the value reported in the literature.^{103,104} A fluence of $10 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ fully populates all the surface states for p-type oxidized GaAs, as seen in the [supplementary material](#). Thus, the population rate constants at 660 nm and 745 nm were found to be similar with a value of $0.012 (\pm 0.002) \times 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$. These results suggest that two surface states have similar energy barriers for population of photo-generated electrons.

In an effort to understand time-dependent surface responses, a kinetic model was established for electrons in the

surface region and surface states as follows. According to the downward band bending in the p-type GaAs, holes are driven to the bulk region and photoexcited electrons are trapped to the surfaces, as schematically depicted in [Fig. 6](#). Surface electrons act to disrupt equilibrium space charge region conditions by more efficiently screening the space charge field (the photo-voltage effect) and temporally changing the occupancy of the surface levels. Photo-excited electrons tend to move towards the depleted surface region with a buildup rate of SPV, k_{SPV} . In the meantime, part of the electrons is populated in the surface states. This population proceeds with the second-order populating rate of surfaces states, k_{si} , in order for surface charge to remain neutral. Two independent equations for the surface carrier processes are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dn_e(t)}{dt} &= G(t) + k_{\text{SPV}}n_e(t) - k_e n_e(t), \\ \frac{dn_{\text{si}}(t)}{dt} &= G(t) + k_{\text{si}}n_{\text{si}}^2(t) - k_r n_{\text{si}}(t), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $G(t)$ is the instantaneous photoexcited rate of electrons related to the surfaces, $n_e(t)$ and $n_{\text{si}}(t)$ are the time-dependent electron density in the depleted region and the

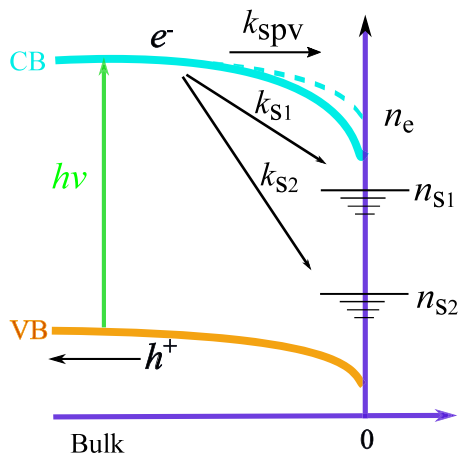


FIG. 6. Schematic of the energy diagrams of p-type GaAs for surface carrier relaxations upon photoexcitation. CB and VB represent conduction band and valence band, respectively. k_{SPV} is the buildup rate of surface photovoltage (SPV). k_{si} and n_{si} are the formation rate and number density of surface states ($i = 1, 2$), respectively. n_e is the electron density in the depleted region.

time-dependent surface trapped electron density in the two surface states ($i = 1$ and 2), respectively, k_e is the recombination rate of surface electrons, and k_r is the decay rate of the surface trapped electrons. Here, k_r can be neglected since the escape rate is so low. Surface electron-electron annihilation could occur at a longer time scale under a high fluence of $12.7 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, as shown in Fig. 5(b). For simplicity, the annihilation is not considered here. Time-dependent changes in surface responses are the sum over both the electrons densities at the p-type GaAs surface. The electric-field induced response, namely SPV, is of non-resonant origin and independent of a detected wavelength. On the other hand, trapped electrons in the surface states are wavelength-dependent. Thus, the time-dependent change in the surface responses is given by

$$-\frac{\Delta I}{I}(\lambda, t) = a_1 * n_e(t) + a_2 * n_{s_i}(\lambda, t). \quad (5)$$

The kinetic processes at the oxidized p-type GaAs (100) surface include both the population and recombination of the surface states after photoexcitation, in addition to the build-up of the SPV in the surface region. According to the downward band bending in the p-type GaAs, the photo-excited holes are driven to the bulk region and the electrons move towards the surface region. The electrons subsequently relax by electron-hole two-body surface recombination. Photo-generated carriers act to disrupt equilibrium SCR conditions by more efficiently screening the space electric field or temporally changing the occupancy of the surface states. (1) Build-up of the SPV. The formation of the SPV occurs only if carrier generation is followed by net charge redistribution. In our case, the SPV with a rate of $0.56 \pm 0.07 \text{ ps}^{-1}$ is a competition step with the population of the surface states on p-type GaAs. At a high fluence above $8 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, the SPV dominates in

the early time. The SPV build-up step is the first-order process and does not change with the newly generated electron-holes in the heavily doped p-type GaAs. (2) Population of the surface states. The population of the surface states is significantly slower than that for the SPV. The population rate of the surface states varies with the applied fluence, implying that the population is a two-body process. The population rate of the surface states depends on the electron capture cross section and the carrier thermal velocity at the surfaces. The population rate constants for the two surface states are similar, which is on the order of $0.012 (\pm 0.002) \times 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$. Surface states accessible for native oxidized p-type GaAs are estimated to be about $3 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, which is in agreement with our experimental results (see the [supplementary material](#)).^{7,105} As such, the surface states are fully populated even with a pump fluence above $10.0 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$. (3) Surface recombination: the photoexcitation creates electron-hole pairs near the surface, which recombine either directly or indirectly through the surface states. The surface electron-hole recombination has a rate of $0.002 \pm 0.0002 \text{ ps}^{-1}$ for the oxidized p-type GaAs (100). At a higher fluence above $5 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$, the indirect recombination of surface-trapped electron-electron annihilation becomes prominent in the relaxation process, leading to a faster relaxation of hot surface trapped electrons.

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We have established a new ultrafast surface/interface-specific spectrometer for broadband electronic SFG and SHG. The broadband surface/interface spectrometer was based upon a stable two-stage BIBO crystal-based optical parametric amplifier, which generates a strong broadband short-wave IR from 1200 nm to 2200 nm and is readily extended down to 600 nm. A resultant surface spectrum covers almost all visible light from 480 nm to 760 nm, combined with a broadband second harmonic generation of the short-wave IR. The temporal pulse of the broad short-wave IR was as short as 200 fs. The output power was as high as $250 \mu\text{J}$ with a 796 nm fundamental light of 1.5 mJ per pulse. These unique features for the broadband laser source enable us to develop both steady-state and transient electronic surface/interface-specific techniques. These ultrafast interface/surface-specific tools are anticipated to apply to more topics related to environmental issues, materials science, and biological systems.

Based on the newly established broadband OPA, we have further developed the steady-state and transient ESFG and ESHG techniques to investigate the surface structure and dynamics of charges at oxidized p-type GaAs (100) semiconductor surfaces. Both the steady-state and transient experiments have shown that two surface states exist inside the bandgap of the GaAs. The kinetic processes at the GaAs surface include both the population and recombination of the surface states after photoexcitation, in addition to the build-up of the SPV. The SPV competes with the population of the surface states on the p-type GaAs surface. The SPV dominates in the early time, with the first-order rate of

$0.56 \pm 0.07 \text{ ps}^{-1}$, while the population of the surface states exhibits a two-body behavior when the photo-generated electrons tend to saturate the surface states. The second order populating rate constants for the two surface states are similar, which are $0.012 (\pm 0.002) \times 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$. The photo-generated electron-hole pairs near the surface recombine both directly and indirectly through the surface states. The direct recombination occurs at a time constant of $0.002 \pm 0.0002 \text{ ps}^{-1}$ for the oxidized p-type GaAs (100). The indirect annihilation recombination becomes dominant once the surface states were fully occupied.

The newly developed transient surface/interface-specific electronic spectroscopies provide the structure and dynamics of interfacial/surface states related to environmental issues, materials science, and biological systems. These methodologies are readily applied to not only classical inorganic semiconductor surfaces and their interfaces with other materials but also organic semiconductor surfaces, buried interfaces, and hybrid interfaces.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Calculations of coherent length of SFG from the GaAs surface and photo-generated electron density are shown in the [supplementary material](#). Transient two-dimensional pseudo-color SHG spectra from the p-type oxidized GaAs (100) surface, transient SHG spectra of the GaAs surface at different delay times, and fluence-dependent kinetic traces of the change in surface responses at a detection wavelength of 660 nm for p-type GaAs (100) under photoexcitation of 796 nm are given in Figs. S1–S3 of the [supplementary material](#), respectively.

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