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Nano-Micro Lett.
(2025) 17:284

Received: 10 March 2025
Accepted: 5 May 2025
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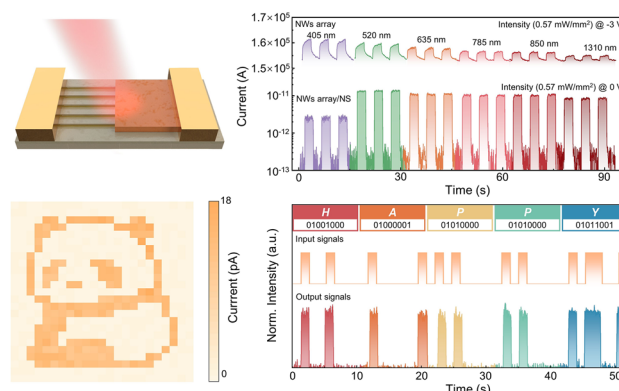
Mixed-Dimensional Nanowires/Nanosheet Heterojunction of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se for Self-Powered Near-Infrared Photodetection and Photocommunication

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The mixed-dimensional type II heterojunction of GaSb nanowires (NWs) and Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets (NSs) with a built-in electric field of ~140 meV is successfully constructed.
- As-fabricated NW/NS and NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetectors exhibit as-expected high-performance self-powered photodetection behaviors, including ultralow I_{dark} (0.07 and 0.08 pA), superior $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratios (82 and 182) and ultrafast photoresponse (<2/2 and 6/4 ms).
- As-fabricated NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector promises the future imaging and photocommunication.

ABSTRACT With high surface-to-volume ratio, the abundant surface states and high carrier concentration are challenging the near-infrared photodetection behaviors of narrow band gap semiconductor nanowires. In this study, the narrow band gap semiconductor of Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets (NSs) is adopted to construct mixed-dimensional heterojunctions with GaSb nanowires (NWs) for demonstrating the impressive self-powered NIR photodetection. Benefiting from the built-in electric field of ~140 meV, the as-constructed NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector shows the low dark current of 0.07 pA, high $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 82 and fast response times of <2/2 ms at room temperature. The self-powered photodetector performance can be further enhanced by fabricating the NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction by using a contact printing technique. The excellent photodetection performance promises the as-constructed NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector in imaging and photocommunication.



KEYWORDS Near-infrared photodetection; Self-powered photodetection; Mixed-dimensional heterojunction; GaSb nanowire; Bi₂O₂Se nanosheet

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1 Introduction

Near-infrared (NIR) photodetector has attracted much more attention in remote sensing, medical imaging and environmental monitoring, due to its ability to penetrate biological tissues and the atmosphere [1–12]. With the moderate narrow band gap of 0.72 eV, the highest hole mobility of $850 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ among III–V semiconductors and the broad spectral absorption ability, GaSb nanowires (NWs) have been utilized for near-infrared photodetection in the past decade, which is in forms of photoconductor, field-effect phototransistor and Schottky photodiode [13–17]. With high surface-to-volume ratio, the abundant surface states and high carrier concentration are challenging the NIR photodetection behaviors of GaSb NWs [17–19]. First of all, the surface state will act as the carrier traps, resulting in the bias stress instability of GaSb NW NIR photodetectors [15]. Furthermore, the surface state will cause the famous Fermi level pinning, resulting in the inability to modulate the dark current (I_{dark}) of the NIR photodetector through the metal/semiconductor contact barrier [13, 20]. At the same time, the high carrier concentration will cause the NIR photodetector to suffer from a large I_{dark} , resulting in a low $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ [21].

To date, the surface passivation, van der Waals integration and construction of heterojunction have been developed to optimize the NIR photodetection behaviors of low-dimensional semiconductors [13, 20, 22–24]. Among them, the construction of heterojunction is a popular and meaningful approach, because the built-in electric field and depletion region would be introduced at the semiconductor–semiconductor heterointerfaces by designing reasonably the energy band engineering, benefiting to the quick separation and collection of photogenerated electron–hole pairs, which facilitates the faster photoresponse speed [25–31]. Furthermore, the built-in electric field and depletion region benefit to the success construction of self-powered photodetector, which operates effectively without an external energy source, hold great potential applications in Internet of Things and low power dissipation. At the same time, the I_{dark} will be significantly suppressed and photosensitivity is effectively enhanced due to the barrier at the interfaces and the absence of an external bias, benefiting to the smart photodetection of NIR light [32].

It is worth pointing out that the type II semiconductor heterostructure promotes the separation of photogenerated

carriers by directing electrons and holes across the interface in opposite directions [33–35]. This property makes the type II heterojunctions ideal candidates for ultrasensitive and self-powered photodetectors [36–41]. With narrow band gap of 0.8 eV, $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ nanosheets (NSs) are adopted to construct mixed-dimensional type II heterojunctions with GaSb NWs for demonstrating the impressive self-powered NIR photodetection, optical imaging and photocommunication in this work [42, 43]. Benefiting from the built-in electric field, the as-fabricated NW/NS heterojunction photodetector exhibits excellent self-powered photodetection performance, that is, the I_{dark} is as low as 0.07 pA, the $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio is as high as 82, and the response times are as fast as $< 2/2$ ms, which significantly outperform the NW and NS photodetectors. Furthermore, the self-powered photodetection performance is further improved by constructing NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector. The fabricated NW array/NS heterojunction self-powered photodetector exhibits low I_{dark} of 0.08 pA, high $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 182 and fast optical response times of 6/4 ms. In the end, the fabricated NW array/NS heterojunction also enables self-powered imaging and photocommunication capabilities. These results demonstrate that the construction of GaSb NW/ $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ NS mixed-dimensional heterostructures promises the next-generation high-performance self-powered NIR photodetection.

2 Experimental Section

2.1 Growth of GaSb NWs and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ NSs

GaSb NWs are prepared by using a surfactant-assisted CVD method in a dual-zone horizontal tube furnace [44]. High-purity GaSb powder (99.999%) is placed in the upstream zone, a Si/SiO₂ growth substrate coated with a 1-nm Pd catalyst is positioned in the downstream zone, and sulfur powder (99.99%) is placed between the two zones. The precursor vapor from the upstream zone is carried to the downstream zone by using hydrogen gas (99.999% purity). The CVD system is evacuated to 6×10^{-3} Torr and purged with 200 sccm of H₂ for 30 min prior to heating. Upon reaching the designated time, the source and substrate heaters are turned off simultaneously, allowing the system to cool to room temperature under a hydrogen flow.

The $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs are prepared on the mica by CVD method in a dual-zone horizontal tube furnace [45]. Source powder of Bi_2O_3 (0.1 g, 99.99%) is placed in the heating center of the first zone, and Bi_2Se_3 powder (0.01 g, 99.99%) is placed 6 cm upstream. The freshly cleaved mica is placed 6 cm upstream of the heating center in the second zone. Argon (200 sccm, 99.999%) with a tube pressure maintained at 60 Torr is employed as the carrier gas to transport the precursors onto a mica surface for the growth of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs. The temperatures in the two zones are set as 690 and 560 °C for 40 min to obtain the $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs. After the growth process, the system is subsequently cooled to room temperature while maintaining a flow of argon gas.

2.2 Fabrication of GaSb/ $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ Mixed-Dimensional Heterojunctions Photodetectors

First, for a single GaSb NW photodetector, the as-prepared NWs are suspended in an ethanol solution using ultrasonication and subsequently transferred onto Si substrates with a 50-nm SiO_2 layer via drop casting. For NW array photodetectors, the ordered GaSb NWs are transferred onto Si substrates with a 50-nm SiO_2 layer using a contact printing technique. Subsequently, the prepared $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NS is transferred from mica onto a SiO_2/Si substrate with GaSb NW or NW array using a wet transfer method, supported by polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) in a 1% dilute HF solution and finally cleaned with acetone. Finally, the contact electrodes are patterned using standard electron beam lithography, followed by the deposition of 50-nm Ni metal electrodes through a thermal evaporation system.

2.3 Characterization of GaSb/ $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ Mixed-Dimensional Heterojunctions and Photodetectors

The morphology of the as-prepared GaSb NWs and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs is characterized using a microscope (Olympus microscope BX53 M) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM, KYKY-EM6900). A scanning probe microscope (Horiba Bruker Multimode 8) equipped with atomic force microscopy (AFM) and Kelvin probe force microscopy (KPFM) modules is used to study the material thickness and surface potential. The photodetection performance of the as-prepared photodetectors is measured using an Agilent B1500A

semiconductor analyzer connected to a probe station at room temperature. Diode lasers are used as light sources for photodetection measurements.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Design and Construction of Mixed-dimensional NW/NS Heterojunctions

GaSb NWs and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs are prepared by chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method in a dual-zone tube furnace. The detailed experimental procedures are described in “Methods” section. SEM image in Fig. 1a shows that the as-prepared GaSb NWs have uniform diameter and smooth surface. Optical microscopy (OM) image reveals that the as-prepared $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs exhibit regular square morphology with size up to approximately 20 μm . X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns (Fig. 1b) confirm that the GaSb NWs have a pure zinc-blende crystal structure (JCPDS card No. 07–0215), while $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs exhibit tetragonal crystal phase (JCPDS card No. 25–1463). The as-prepared GaSb NWs and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NSs are then adopted to construct mixed-dimensional heterojunctions by PMMA-assisted wet transfer method, as reported in the literature [42]. Figure 1c displays the OM and SME images of as-constructed GaSb/ $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NW/NS and NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunctions, demonstrating the high-quality contact between NWs and NSs. AFM is then employed to measure the diameter of GaSb NW and the thickness of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NS in the as-constructed GaSb/ $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction, as shown in Fig. 1d, e. As a result, the diameter is 25 nm and the thickness is 30 nm. Furthermore, the Kelvin probe force microscopy (KPFM) is adopted to measure the surface potentials of GaSb NW and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NS, demonstrating the Fermi level difference. The measured area is as same as the AFM image in the inset of Fig. 1d. In this case, the potential curve is obtained from the cross of NW and NS, as depicted by the white line in the inset of Fig. 1f. As shown in Fig. 1f, $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NS exhibits a higher surface potential than GaSb NW, with a Fermi level difference of approximately 140 meV. The schematic of energy band alignment is then shown in Fig. 1g–i, benefiting to the explanation of photogenerated carrier transfer behavior at the heterostructure interface. As reported in the studies, the band gaps of GaSb NW and $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ NS are approximately 0.72 and

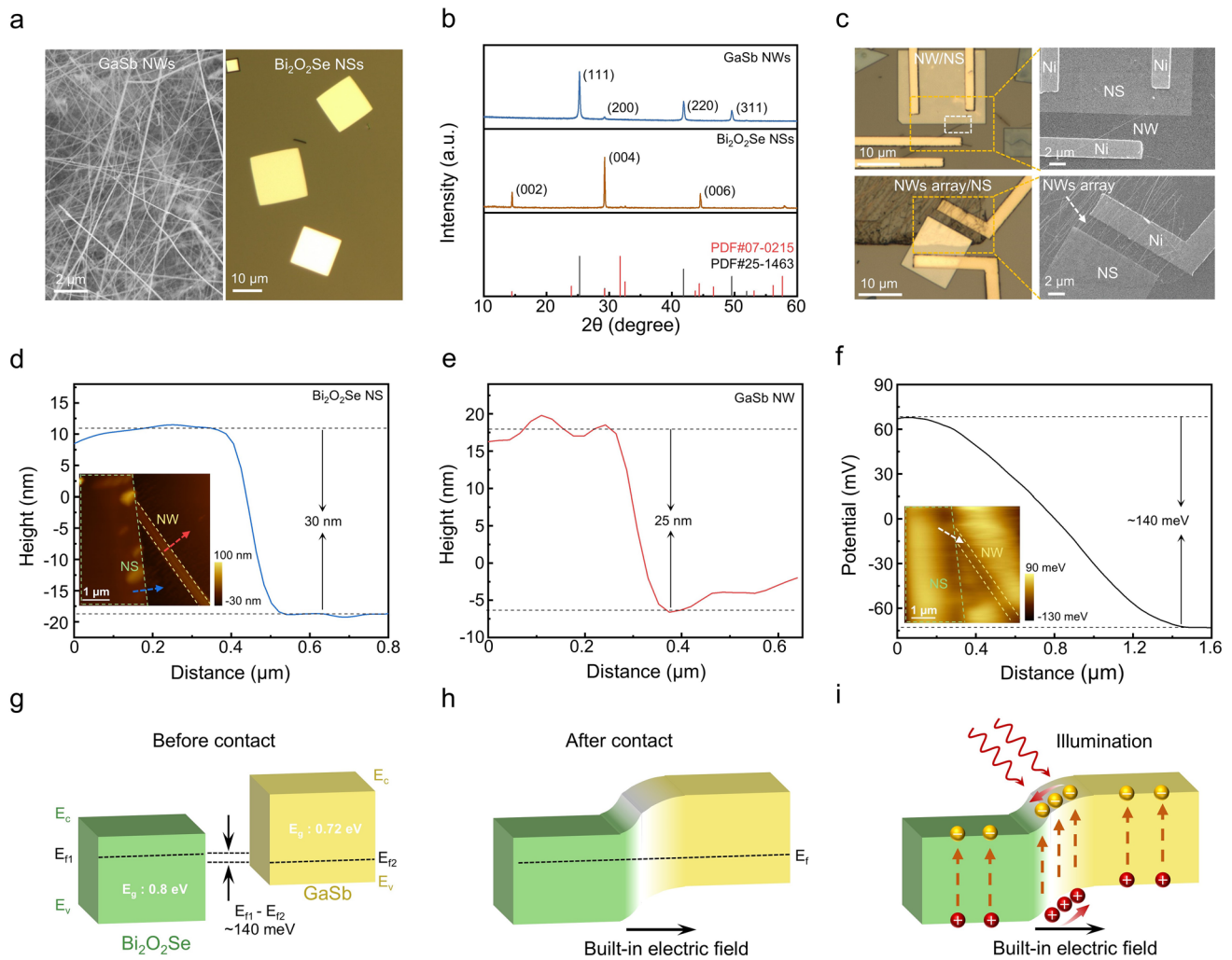


Fig. 1 Construction of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional NW/NS heterojunctions for self-powered photodetection. **a, b** SEM, OM images and XRD patterns of GaSb NWs and Bi₂O₂Se NSs, respectively. **c** OM and SEM images of NW/NS and NW array/NS heterojunction, respectively. **d, e** Height profiles of Bi₂O₂Se NS and GaSb NW. Inset is the AFM image of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se NW/NS heterojunction. **f** Surface potential difference profile of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se NW/NS heterojunction. **g–i** Schematic of the self-powered GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se NW/NS heterojunction photodetector (the E_c, E_v and E_f are the conduction band minimum, valance band maximum and Fermi level, respectively)

0.8 eV, respectively [14, 20]. When GaSb and Bi₂O₂Se come into contact, the higher Fermi level of Bi₂O₂Se facilitates the transfer of electrons into GaSb, leading to the thermal equilibrium and unified Fermi level. At the same time, the band will bend at the interface, forming a useful type II heterojunction. It is worth pointing out that the built-in electric field and depletion region form at the interface, which directs from Bi₂O₂Se NS to GaSb NW. In this case, under the illumination with wavelength shorter than 1310 nm, the photogenerated electron–hole pairs will be separated and collected quickly without an external energy source, which facilitates the self-powered photodetection behaviors with

faster photoresponse speed and reduced I_{dark}. In summary, the as-constructed GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional heterojunctions promise the next-generation self-powered high-performance NIR photodetection.

3.2 Photodetection Behaviors of Mixed-dimensional NW/NS Heterojunction

After the success in constructing NW/NS heterojunction, the corresponding photodetection behaviors are then studied in Fig. 2. Figure 2a presents the I–V curves of NW,

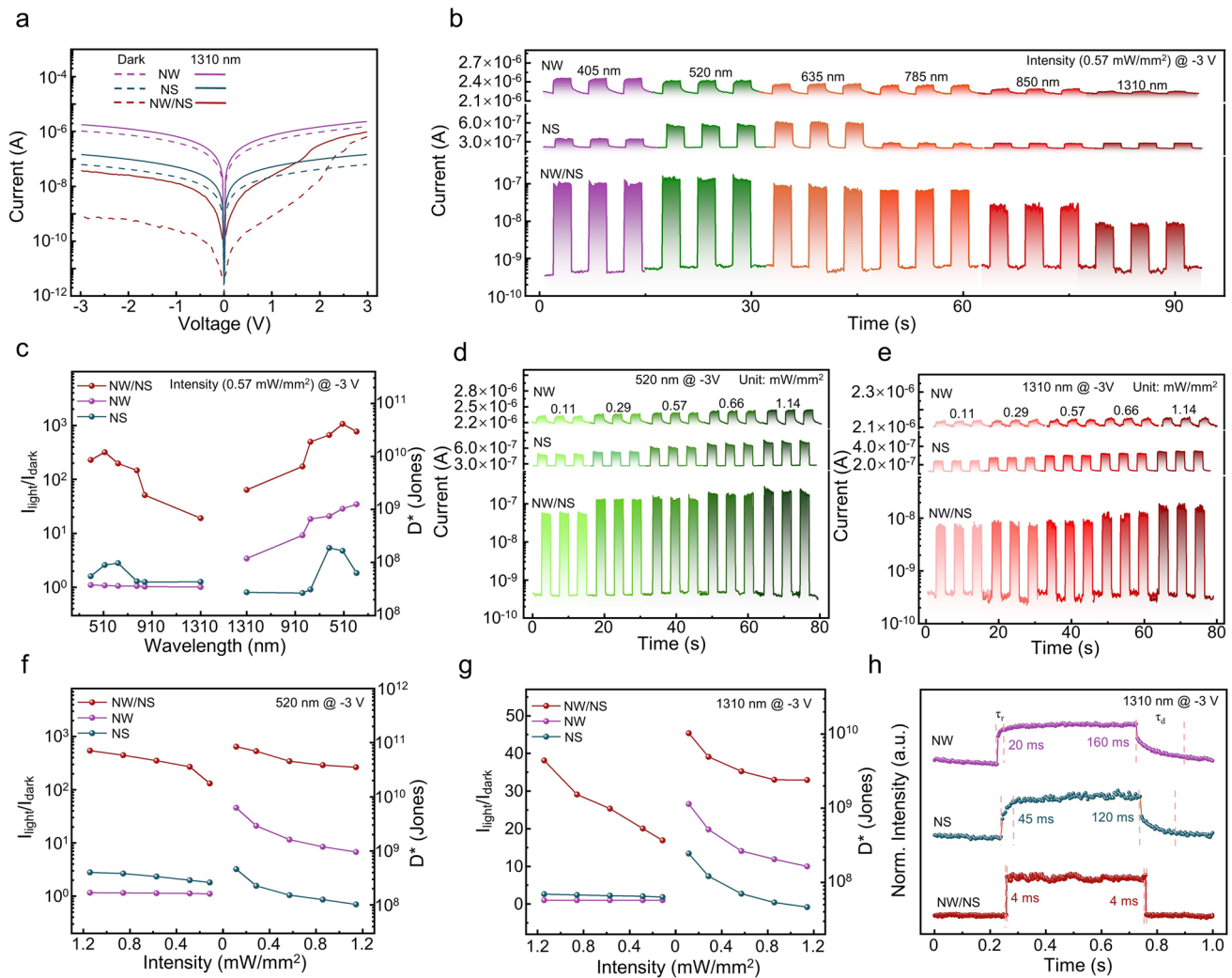


Fig. 2 Photodetection behaviors of GaSb NW, Bi₂O₂Se NS and GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional NW/NS heterojunction. **a** I–V characteristics of the NW, NS and NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetectors in dark and under the illumination of 1310-nm laser with power intensity of 0.57 mW mm⁻². **b** Wavelength-dependent temporal photoresponse of the NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors. **c** $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio, D^* and response time of the NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors under the illuminations of 405–1310-nm laser with power intensity of 0.57 mW mm⁻². **d, e** I–t curves of the NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors under the illumination of 520- and 1310-nm lasers, respectively. **f, g** $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio and D^* of the NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors under the illumination of 405- and 1310-nm laser, respectively. **h** Response times of the NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors

NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors in dark and under the illumination of 1310-nm laser with an intensity of 0.57 mW mm⁻². It is worth pointing out that both of the as-fabricated GaSb NW and Bi₂O₂Se NS photodetectors exhibit Ohmic contacts, which rules out the influence of the Schottky barrier for the heterostructure, as depicted in Fig. S1. Under –3 V bias, the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector shows the lowest I_{dark} of 0.5 nA and the highest $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 20. Figure 2b shows the wavelength-dependent photoresponse of the three photodetectors under

–3 V bias. Benefiting from the narrow band gaps of GaSb and Bi₂O₂Se, the as-fabricated NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors all exhibit broadband photodetection capability. Notably, the I_{dark} is significantly suppressed after constructing NW/NS heterojunction. As shown in Fig. 2c, as expected, due to the suppressed I_{dark} , the $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of the heterojunction photodetector is improved across the wavelength range of 405–1310 nm. The $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of NW/NS heterojunction photodetector is substantially enhanced by factors of 294 and 122 compared to NW and

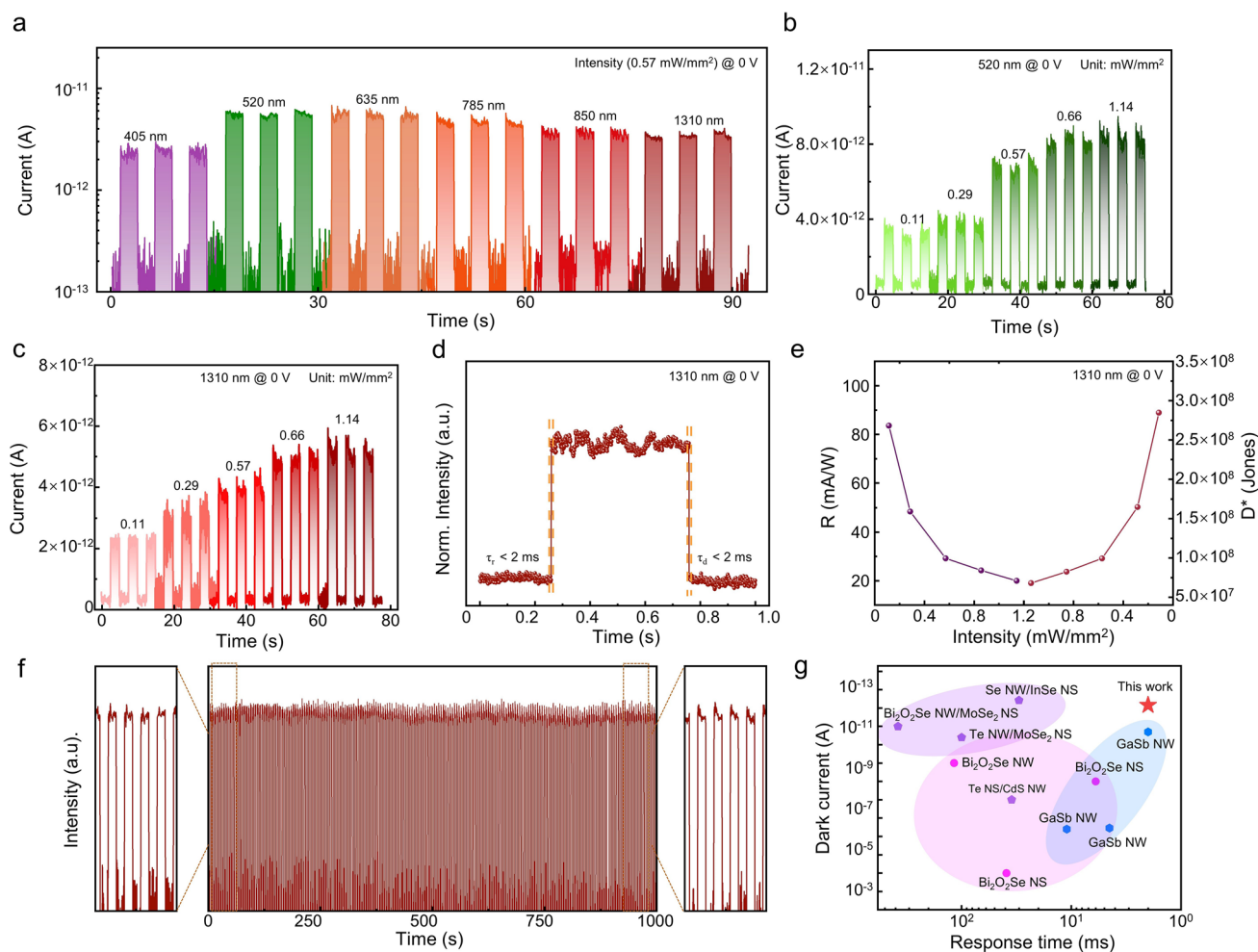


Fig. 3 Self-powered NIR photodetection behaviors of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional NW/NS heterojunction. **a** Wavelength-dependent photoresponse of the NW/NS heterojunction self-powered photodetector. **b**, **c** Intensity-dependent photoresponse under the illuminations of 520- and 1310-nm lasers. **d–f** Response time, R , D^* and long-term stability of NW/NS heterojunction self-powered NIR photodetector. **g** I_{dark} and response time comparison between this work and other photodetectors previously reported in the studies, including GaSb NW, Bi₂O₂Se NS, mixed-dimensional heterojunctions. References to the selected work can be found in Table S1

NS photodetectors. Two critical parameters of responsivity (R) and detectivity (D^*) are also optimized in Figs. S2 and 2c. R can be defined as $I_{\text{ph}}/(PA)$, and D^* can be defined as $RA^{1/2}/(2eI_{\text{dark}})^{1/2}$, in which P is the incident power density, A is the effective irradiated area, e is the electronic charge, and I_{ph} is defined as $I_{\text{light}} - I_{\text{dark}}$ [46]. In this case, the values of R and D^* are 2.3×10^3 , 3.2 , 9.7×10^2 A W⁻¹ and 1.0×10^9 , 1.7×10^8 , 4.1×10^{10} Jones for NW, NS and NW/NS heterojunction photodetectors, respectively.

The intensity-dependent photoresponse of the three photodetectors under the illuminations of 520- and 1310-nm lasers is shown in Figs. 2d, e and S3. The I_{light} of all three devices increases linearly with the increase in the incident

light intensity. Among them, the I_{light} of NW/NS heterojunction photodetector increases from 59.7 and 7.7 nA to 247.7 and 17.3 nA under the illuminations of 520- and 1310-nm lasers with the intensity increases from 0.11 to 1.14 mW mm⁻². Figure 2f, g shows the intensity-dependent $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio and D^* of the three photodetectors. The $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio increases with the increase in the laser intensity, while the D^* decreases as the laser intensity increases. Notably, the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector achieves a maximum $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 545 and 38, and a D^* of 8.4×10^{10} and 1.0×10^{10} Jones, respectively, under the illuminations of 520 and 1310 nm, further demonstrating the decreased I_{dark} and excellent photosensitivity. The response time, including

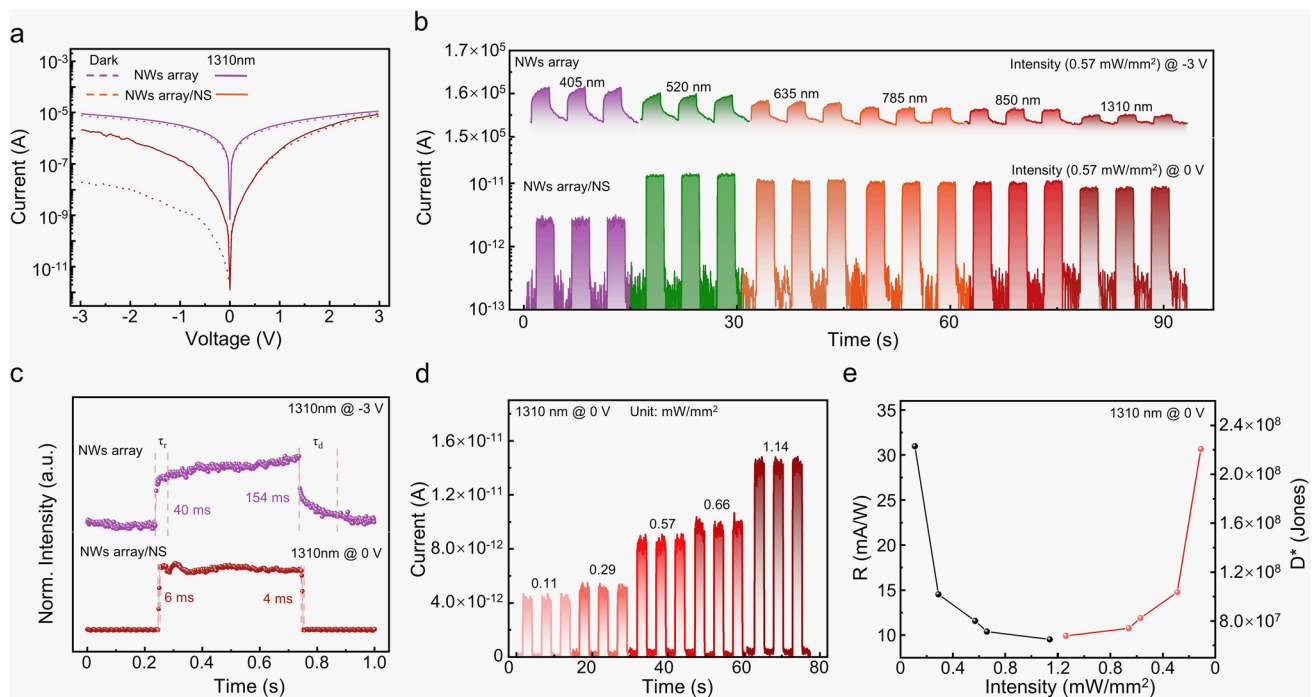


Fig. 4 Photodetection behaviors of GaSb array and GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional NW array/NS heterojunction. **a** I–V characteristic curves of the NW array and NW array/NS heterojunction photodetectors in dark and under the illumination of 1310-nm laser (0.57 mW mm⁻²). **b** Wavelength-dependent temporal photoresponse of the NW array and NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector. **c** Response time of the NW array and NW array/NS heterojunction photodetectors under the illumination of 1310-nm laser. **d** Self-powered photodetection behaviors of NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetector under the illumination of 1310-nm laser. **e** R and D^* of the self-powered NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector versus the incident light (1310-nm) intensity

the rise time (τ_r) and the decay time (τ_d), is another critical parameter of photodetectors. It refers to the time required for photocurrent to rise from 10 to 90% or fall from 90 to 10% [47]. As shown in Fig. 2h, the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector achieves τ_r/τ_d values of 4/4 ms, much shorter than the 20/160 and 45/120 ms of NW and NS photodetectors, respectively. In short, the as-constructed NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction promises the next-generation high-performance photodetectors.

The built-in electric field facilitates the self-powered NIR photodetection behaviors of NW/NS heterojunction photodetector, which are detailedly studied in Fig. 3. As shown in Fig. 3a, NW/NS heterojunction photodetector exhibits as-expected broadband photodetection capability under no external bias voltage, along with extremely low I_{dark} of 0.07 pA. The dark current fluctuation is caused by the resolution limitation of semiconductor analyzer. The self-powered photodetection behaviors of the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector are further studied under the illumination of 520- and 1310-nm lasers, as shown in Fig. 3b, c. The I_{light} increases

from 3.8 and 2.5 to 9.5 and 5.9 pA under the illuminations of 520- and 1310-nm lasers with the intensity increases from 0.11 to 1.14 mW mm⁻², while the I_{dark} is maintained at a level of 0.07 pA. The $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio increases with the increase in the laser intensity, referring the superior photosensitivity of the NW/NS heterojunction. In self-powered mode, the photodetector exhibits τ_r and τ_d of <2 ms each, as illustrated in Fig. 3d. The NIR photodetection performance of the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector is further evaluated by R and D^* , as shown in Fig. 3e. Under the illumination of 1310 nm with power intensity of 0.11 mW mm⁻², the R and D^* reach 84 mA W⁻¹ and 2.85×10^8 Jones, respectively. Operation stability is a critical metric of photodetectors. Figure 3f exhibits the photoresponse of the NW/NS heterojunction self-powered photodetector over an operation time of 1000 s. No significant I_{light} attenuation demonstrates the excellent operational stability. The as-fabricated NW/NS heterojunction photodetector is compared with other photodetectors with similar material systems or configurations in Fig. 3g. Clearly, the as-fabricated NW/NS heterojunction

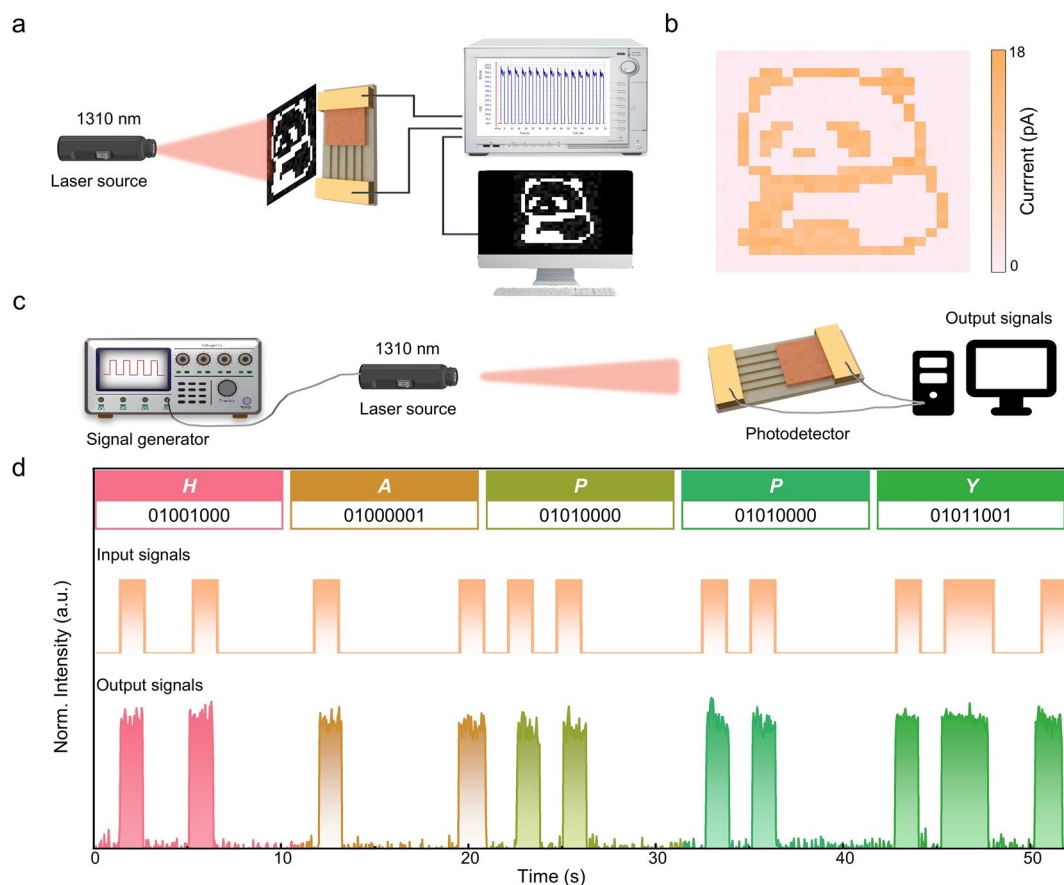


Fig. 5 Imaging and optical communication functions of GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se mixed-dimensional NW array/NS heterojunction self-powered NIR photodetector. **a** Schematic illustration of the NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector for imaging. **b** Photodetection imaging demonstration of a panda. **c** Schematic diagram of ASCII code signal transportation system. **d** Photocommunication demonstration of ASCII codes of “HAPPY”

photodetector outperforms most counterparts in terms of fast response speed and exceptionally low I_{dark} . In summary, the NW/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetector exhibits outstanding self-powered NIR photodetection performance.

3.3 Photodetection Behaviors of Mixed-dimensional NW Array/NS Heterojunction

Ordered NW array has been considered promising candidates for the large-scale integration of optoelectronic devices [57, 58]. The ordered NW array is obtained by the reported contact printing technology [59, 60]. Then, the photodetection behaviors of NW array and the NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetectors are studied in Fig. 4. Figure 4a exhibits the I–V curves of NW

array and NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetectors in dark and under the illumination of 1310-nm laser with an intensity of 0.57 mW mm^{-2} . Under -3 V bias, the NW/NS heterojunction photodetector shows the lowest I_{dark} of 32 nA and the highest $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 60. The I_{dark} of the NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector is significantly reduced, approximately 600 times lower than that of the NW array photodetector. The wavelength-dependent photoresponse of the NW array and NW array/NS heterojunction photodetectors is shown in Figs. 4b and S4a, further demonstrating the improved $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio and decreased I_{dark} (0.08 pA). More importantly, the increased contact area between GaSb NWs and Bi₂O₂Se NS results in a larger photocurrent, which is twice as large as that of the NW/NS photodetector. The τ_r and τ_d of the NW array/NS heterojunction self-powered photodetector are 6 and 4 ms, significantly lower than the τ_r/τ_d

of 30/20 ms under -3 V bias and τ_r/τ_d of 40/154 ms for the NW array photodetector (Figs. 4c and S4b). Under the illumination of 1310-nm laser, the self-powered NIR photodetection behavior of the NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector is further investigated in Figs. 4d and S4c. With increasing incident light intensity from 0.11 to 1.14 mW mm⁻², the I_{light} rises proportionally from 4.7 to 14 pA, leading to a maximum $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio of 182. The NIR photodetection performance of the as-fabricated self-powered NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector is evaluated by calculating the R and D^* , as shown in Fig. 4e. With the 1310-nm light of 0.11 mW mm⁻², the R is up to 31 mA W⁻¹, while D^* is up to 2.21×10^8 Jones. In a word, the splendid photodetection performance confirms the effective strategy of constructing the NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction for the self-powered NIR photodetection.

3.4 Imaging and Photocommunication of Mixed-dimensional NW Array/NS Heterojunction

The ultrafast photoresponse and superior photosensitivity of as-constructed NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector hold great promise in imaging and photocommunication. Figure 5a provides a conceptual diagram illustrating the imaging principle of the NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector. Figure 5b displays the single-pixel imaging result, showing a clear "panda" image and highlighting the NW array/NS heterojunction photodetector's significant potential for self-powered imaging. Figure 5c depicts a schematic diagram of the NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector integrated into a NIR photocommunication system. A signal generator encodes the ASCII message "HAPPY" into a voltage signal, which is then used to control laser emission. Upon receiving the optical signal, the NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector produces a photocurrent signal corresponding to the ASCII message "HAPPY" as illustrated in Fig. 5d. This photocurrent signal is decoded into the message "HAPPY" effectively demonstrating the feasibility of NIR photocommunication.

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the high-performance self-powered NIR photodetectors are achieved by constructing the mixed-dimensional heterojunction of GaSb NWs and Bi₂O₂Se NS, promising the photodetection imaging and photocommunication. Due to the formation of a ~ 140 mV Fermi level difference, the as-fabricated NW/NS and NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction photodetectors exhibit ultralow I_{dark} (0.07 and 0.08 pA) and ultrafast photoresponse ($< 2/2$ and $6/4$ ms). Furthermore, the as-fabricated NW array/NS mixed-dimensional heterojunction self-powered photodetector successfully demonstrated its potential for applications in imaging and photocommunication. Overall, this study promises the as-constructed mixed-dimensional GaSb/Bi₂O₂Se NW/NS heterojunction, a novel platform for next-generation high-performance self-powered NIR photodetection, imaging and photocommunication.

Acknowledgements We acknowledge the Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province (Nos. ZR2022JQ05 and ZR2024MF010).

Author's Contribution ZY conceived the project. ZY and GW designed the experiments and wrote the manuscript. GW, ZS and ZZ contributed to the photodetection measurement. PL contributed to the growth of GaSb NWs and Bi₂O₂Se NSs. MW contributed to the XRD measurement. BY contributed to the SEM measurement. XW contributed to the AFM measurement. YY contributed to the KPFM measurement. All authors have discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare no interest conflict. They have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40820-025-01793-2>.

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