

UV–Vis–NIR broadband self-powered Bi₂O₂Se-based semi-vertical heterojunction photodetector with high performance

Ying Li^{1,2,3,4}, Fan Zhang^{1,2,5}, Shiqiang Wang^{1,2,6}, Dapeng Li^{1,2,6}, Ying Sun^{1,2,3}, Zhen Gao^{1,2,3}, Zhonghuai Wu^{1,2,6}, and Dezhi Zheng^{1,2,3}

¹ State Key Laboratory of Environment Characteristics and Effects for Near-space, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

² MIIT Key Laboratory of Complex-field Intelligent Exploration, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

³ School of Interdisciplinary Science, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

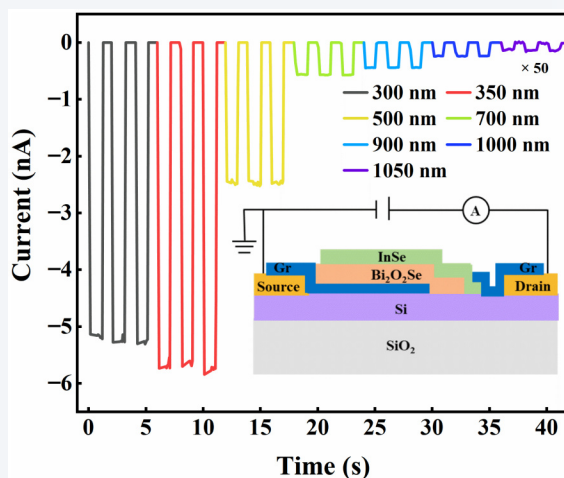
⁴ School of Mechatronics Engineering, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

⁵ School of Information and Electronics, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

⁶ School of Optics and Photonics, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

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ABSTRACT: Two-dimensional (2D) Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets, as an emerging ternary layered semiconductor, exhibit promising potential for photodetection owing to their moderate bandgap, high carrier mobility, and excellent environmental stability. However, their intrinsically high carrier concentration typically results in elevated dark currents and sluggish response speeds, thereby limiting further performance enhancement. To synergistically optimize both the response speed and sensitivity, we fabricated n-type Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets via chemical vapor deposition (CVD) and integrated them into a Bi₂O₂Se/InSe semi-vertical heterojunction photodetector featuring a single-sided depletion region. Benefitting from the type-II band alignment and the graphene bottom electrode, photogenerated carriers are efficiently separated and rapidly extracted. This design simultaneously shortens the carrier transit time and suppresses recombination, enabling the device to achieve high sensitivity (responsivity R of 0.47 A/W, detectivity D^* of 3.21×10^{12} Jones, external quantum efficiency (EQE) of 166.09%) while maintaining ultrafast response characteristics (rise/fall times of 48.5/41.7 μ s). The photodetector exhibits broadband self-powered operation across ultraviolet (UV) to near-infrared wavelengths (300–1050 nm). These results highlight the significant potential of Bi₂O₂Se/InSe semi-vertical heterojunctions for high-performance, low-power, self-powered broadband photodetectors spanning the UV–vis–near infrared ray (UV–Vis–NIR) spectrum.



KEYWORDS: Bi₂O₂Se, two-dimensional materials, van der Waals heterostructure, self-powered, broadband, photodetector

1 Introduction

In recent years, n-type two-dimensional (2D) Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets have emerged as a promising ternary layered material due to their significant potential in photodetection application. Their crystal structure comprises alternately stacked [Bi₂O₂]²⁺ layers and Se-

layers with an interlayer spacing of 0.61 nm. This unique layered arrangement helps suppress the recombination probability between electrons and holes while promoting the rapid separation and transport of photogenerated carriers, endowing the material with a series of outstanding physicochemical properties [1–4]. Bi₂O₂Se exhibits a moderate bandgap (~0.8 eV), an extremely low effective electron mass (approximately 0.14 m_0), and an exceptionally high intrinsic electron mobility. These properties enhance the response speed and quantum efficiency of photodetectors, endowing Bi₂O₂Se with outstanding photodetection performance [5–7]. Moreover, Bi₂O₂Se exhibits superior environmental stability compared to many other two-dimensional materials, laying the groundwork for practical applications. Based on these advantages, Bi₂O₂Se shows

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✉ Address correspondence to Zhonghuai Wu, wuzhonghuai@bit.edu.cn; Dezhi Zheng, zhengdezhi@bit.edu.cn

great prospects in optoelectronic fields such as high-speed optical communications, imaging, and contactless sensing [8–10].

However, the inherently high carrier concentration in $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ readily induces elevated dark currents in devices, which not only increases power consumption but also constrains the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and detectivity (D^*). To address these challenges, constructing van der Waals heterojunctions (vdWHs) based on $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ has emerged as an effective strategy [11–14]. The built-in electric field formed at the heterojunction interface provides a key driving force for efficient photogenerated carrier separation and self-powered operation. Although $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$'s high charge carrier mobility and tunable optical absorption properties offer advantages for constructing high-performance self-powered photodetectors, devices reported to date typically suffer from issues such as gain deficiency, low quantum efficiency, and slow response speed primarily due to strong carrier recombination induced by defect states [5, 15]. Furthermore, most of the existing research has focused on the visible (Vis) to near-infrared (NIR) bands [16, 17], failing to fully exploit the broad spectral response potential of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ nanosheets across the ultraviolet–visible–near-infrared (UV–Vis–NIR) spectrum. This limitation restricts their practical applications in scenarios such as multispectral detection and environmental monitoring [18].

Consequently, a $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ semi-vertical heterojunction photodetector was designed in this study. The heterojunction is formed by integrating 2D InSe, which is renowned for its strong light-matter interaction and high optical absorption coefficient, with $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$, which exhibits exceptionally high carrier mobility. This configuration enables self-powered broadband photodetection across the full UV–Vis–NIR spectrum [18–20]. Within the device structure, n-type $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ is stacked directly atop a graphene bottom electrode, and n-type InSe is subsequently layered above the n- $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$. This vertical stacking induces a single-sided depletion region within $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ and a corresponding carrier accumulation region in the InSe. Such a unilateral depletion profile effectively suppresses the recombination of photogenerated carriers, thereby

enhancing both responsivity and external quantum efficiency (EQE) [21, 22]. Simultaneously, the graphene electrode promotes the formation of an extended lateral depletion region within the heterostructure. Under the influence of the built-in electric field, photogenerated carriers are rapidly separated along the vertical transport channel, thereby significantly reducing both migration distance and transit time. This accelerated carrier extraction decouples optical gain from response speed—a longstanding challenge in photodetector design—and thus simultaneously enables high gain without compromising speed. Moreover, graphene exhibits high carrier mobility, which reduces contact resistance and forms an excellent ohmic contact with the materials. This minimizes series resistance and shortens carrier transit time. When employed as an electrode, graphene further suppresses recombination of photogenerated carriers while enabling rapid device response [15, 23].

Therefore, under zero bias conditions, the device exhibits outstanding performance: a high optical switching ratio of 10^4 , a responsivity (R) of 0.47 A/W, a D^* of 3.21×10^{12} Jones, an EQE as high as 166.09%, and rise/fall times of 48.5/41.7 μs . It exhibits broadband optical response spanning ultraviolet to near-infrared (300–1050 nm), achieving high sensitivity while maintaining excellent fast response capability. Our findings provide a suitable approach for developing high-performance, self-powered photodetectors based on 2D vdWHs.

2 Results and discussion

Figure 1(a) illustrates a schematic process for growing $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ using chemical vapor deposition (CVD). Bi_2O_3 and Bi_2Se_3 powders were selected as reaction precursors, with fluor mica (f-mica) serving as the growth substrate. The detailed procedure is described in the experimental section [24–26]. Optical microscope (OM) images in Fig. 1(b) present $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ nanosheets grown on f-mica exhibiting square morphology with dimensions ranging from 10 to 50 μm . To confirm the material's chemical composition, X-ray

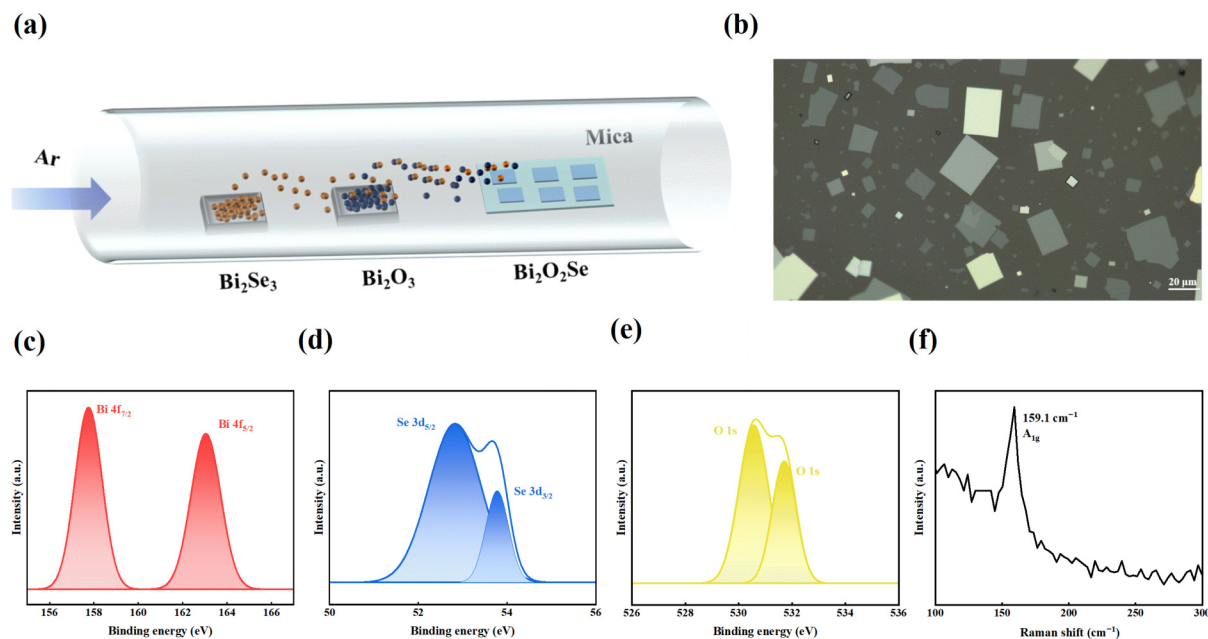


Figure 1 Synthesis and characterization of two-dimensional $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ nanosheets. (a) Schematic of CVD growth of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$. (b) Optical microscope image of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ nanosheets deposited on a mica substrate. XPS spectra of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$: (c) Bi 4f, (d) Se 3d, and (e) O 1s. (f) Raman spectrum of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ nanosheets.

photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was employed. As shown in Figs. 1(c)–1(e), characteristic peaks appear at Bi 4f energies of 158.7 and 163.0 eV, representing Bi 4f_{7/2} and Bi 4f_{5/2}, respectively. The Se 3d_{3/2} and Se 3d_{5/2} peaks in the Se spectrum are observed at 53.8 and 52.9 eV respectively, while the two characteristic peaks in the O 1s spectrum are located at 531.7 and 530.6 eV. All binding energies are in agreement with the Bi₂O₂Se composition [8, 18], confirming the chemical purity of the synthesized material. Furthermore, the Raman spectrum of two-dimensional Bi₂O₂Se (as shown in Fig. 1(f)) exhibits a single characteristic peak for the A_{1g} mode at ~ 159.1 cm⁻¹. This mode originates from the symmetric vibration of Bi–O bonds within the two back-to-back Bi₂O₂Se layers. The singlet nature and uniformity of the Raman peak further indicate that the prepared Bi₂O₂Se nanosheets exhibit excellent crystalline quality and structural homogeneity [12, 27].

The schematic diagram and the optical microscope image of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe van der Waals heterojunction device are shown in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b). During the fabrication of the van der Waals Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction device, few-layer graphene was firstly mechanically exfoliated and transferred as the bottom electrode onto a pre-fabricated Au electrode on a SiO₂/Si substrate. Graphene, with its remarkably high mobility and excellent flexibility, effectively minimizes series resistance and reduces carrier transit time, thereby suppressing photogenerated carrier recombination and enhancing device response speed. This makes it an ideal electrode material for constructing high-quality electrode-semiconductor interfaces [28–30]. Subsequently, Bi₂O₂Se flakes were precisely transferred from a f-mica substrate onto the graphene layer using polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) [31]. An InSe flake was then placed atop the Bi₂O₂Se flake. Finally, another graphene sheet was subsequently transferred and connected to a pre-fabricated Au electrode on the SiO₂/Si substrate, forming a semi-

vertical heterojunction device with a graphene/Bi₂O₂Se/InSe/graphene structure. This fully transfer process avoided contamination potentially induced by conventional metal electrode depositions, ensuring a clean device surface and high-quality heterojunction interfaces [20]. The bottom electrode, in conjunction with the n-n semiconductor heterojunction, establishes an extended lateral single-sided depletion region. This configuration shortens both the migration distance and transit time of photogenerated carriers, suppresses recombination loss, and enables synergistic optimization of optical gain and response time.

Surface topography characterized by atomic force microscopy (AFM) scanning (Fig. 2(c)), revealed thicknesses of 19.62, 138.62, and 63.65 nm for graphene, Bi₂O₂Se, and InSe, respectively (Fig. 2(d)). To validate the formation and quality of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterostructure, Raman spectroscopy characterization was performed (Fig. 2(e)). The characteristic Raman peak of Bi₂O₂Se is observed at 159.1 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the A_{1g} vibrational mode. The Raman spectrum of the InSe flake exhibits three intense peaks at 115.6, 179.4, and 228.4 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the A_{1g}¹, E_{2g}¹, and A_{1g}² modes, respectively [32, 33]. Furthermore, in graphene/Bi₂O₂Se/InSe/graphene heterojunction device, the presence of overlying Bi₂O₂Se and InSe layers significantly attenuates the Raman signal from the underlying graphene electrode. The resulting characteristic peak intensities fall below the detection limit, preventing effective extraction. Consequently, the graphene electrode was characterized by separately measuring the Raman spectrum. The inset in Fig. 2(e) displays the Raman spectrum of graphene, featuring two characteristic peaks at 1582.8 and 2718.6 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the G and 2D phonon modes of graphene, respectively [34]. The Raman peaks in the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction region exhibit no shift compared to those of isolated Bi₂O₂Se and InSe. This observation indicates the successful

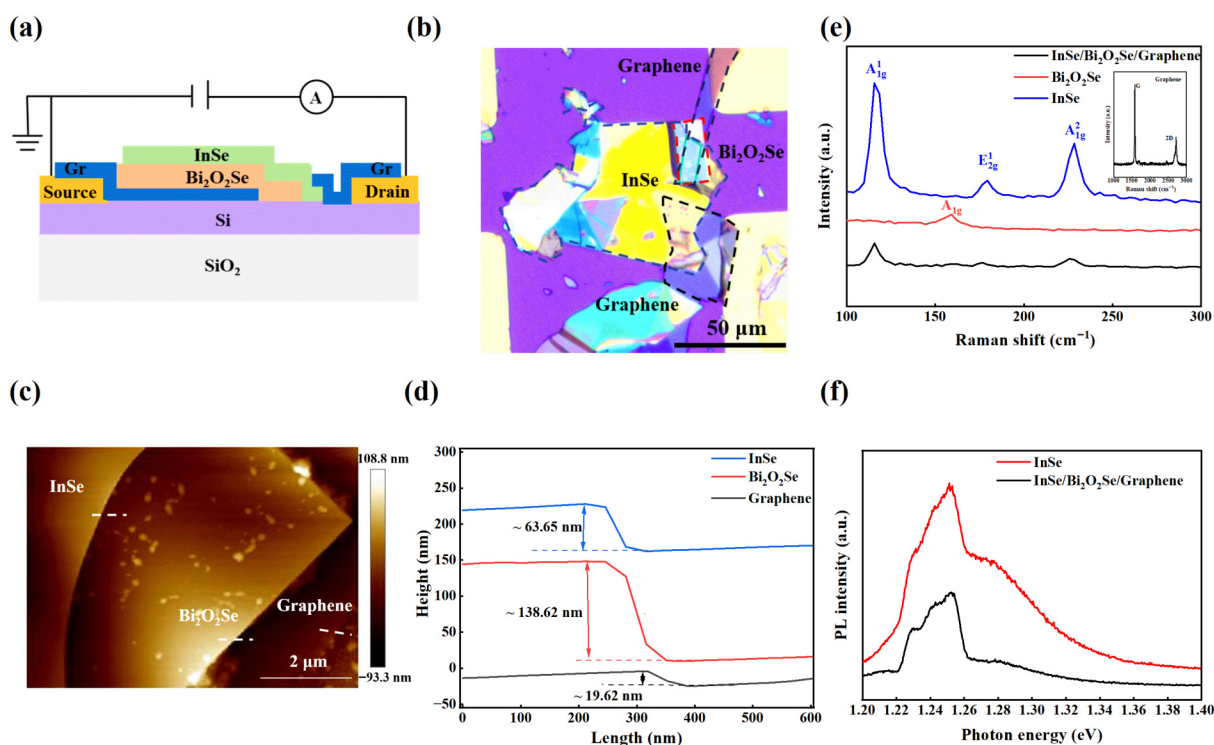


Figure 2 Structure and characterization of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe vdWH device. (a) Schematic diagram, (b) optical microscope image, and (c) AFM image of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe device. (d) AFM profile of the Bi₂O₂Se and InSe layers. (e) Raman spectra of the Bi₂O₂Se, InSe, and Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction regions. The inset shows the Raman spectrum of the graphene region. (f) Comparison of PL spectra between InSe nanosheet and the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction region.

formation of a high-quality heterojunction formation. Furthermore, the photoluminescence (PL) spectrum (Fig. 2(f)) reveals an emission peak for InSe at approximately 1.25 eV. The PL intensity is significantly quenched compared to the standalone InSe region, indicating efficient exciton dissociation and interlayer charge transfer within the heterojunction. This further confirms the high quality of the constructed heterojunction [5, 20].

The transfer characteristic curves of field-effect transistors fabricated from Bi₂O₂Se and InSe single materials are shown in Fig. S1 in the Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM). All transfer curves exhibit typical n-type electron transport behavior consistent with the n-type semiconductor properties of both materials, indicating that the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe van der Waals heterojunction forms an n-n heterojunction [20]. To determine the band alignment of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe van der Waals heterojunction device, the work functions of Bi₂O₂Se and InSe flakes were measured using Kelvin probe force microscopy (KPFM). The surface potential distribution of the heterojunction region (Fig. 3(a)) illustrates the contact potential difference (CPD) distribution between the KPFM tip and the sample, revealing a distinct surface potential difference exists between the Bi₂O₂Se and InSe regions [35, 36]. The Fermi level of InSe is approximately 67.3 meV lower than that of Bi₂O₂Se (Fig. 3(b)). Based on these results, combined with the electron affinity and bandgap of Bi₂O₂Se and InSe, the band alignment prior to heterojunction formation is established as shown in Fig. 3(c) [11, 37]. Following the formation of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe vdWH, electrons diffuse from Bi₂O₂Se into InSe, creating an electron-rich region on the InSe side and an electron-depleted region on the Bi₂O₂Se side. Concurrently, the band structure at the interface

undergoes bending. This results in the formation of a built-in electric field, as illustrated in Fig. 3(d), directed from Bi₂O₂Se towards InSe, thereby causing carrier drift. In the dark state, carrier diffusion and drift in the heterojunction region reach equilibrium, exhibiting characteristics of an n-n heterojunction and forming a unilateral depletion region. Under illumination, the photo-excited electron-hole pairs within the junction region are separated by the built-in electric field, generating a “self-driven” photocurrent without applied drain voltage (V_{ds}) or gate voltage (V_g) [38]. Figure 3(e) displays the output curves (I_{ds} - V_{ds}) of the heterojunction in dark conditions, with the drain voltage (on the InSe side) ranging from -1 to 1 V. Under reverse or zero bias, the built-in potential barrier prevents most electron transfer from InSe to Bi₂O₂Se, yielding currents below 0.68 pA. When the V_{ds} is positive, the applied electric field is opposite to the built-in electric field, weakening the latter and reducing the barrier height, thereby facilitating electron injection from the Bi₂O₂Se region into the InSe region. A dark current of 9 pA was observed under forward bias [39]. Upon illumination, photogenerated electrons and holes rapidly separated under the built-in electric field, migrating into Bi₂O₂Se and InSe respectively, generating a substantial photocurrent (Fig. 3(f)) [40].

Using a 350 nm xenon lamp as the test light source, the photoelectric performance of Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction photodetectors was systematically investigated under zero bias conditions. The I_{ds} - V_{ds} under different incident light power density (P_{inc}) are presented in Fig. 4(a). As P_{inc} increases, the I_{ds} - V_{ds} curve shifts overall to the upper right, exhibiting a significant photoresponse at zero bias and demonstrating excellent

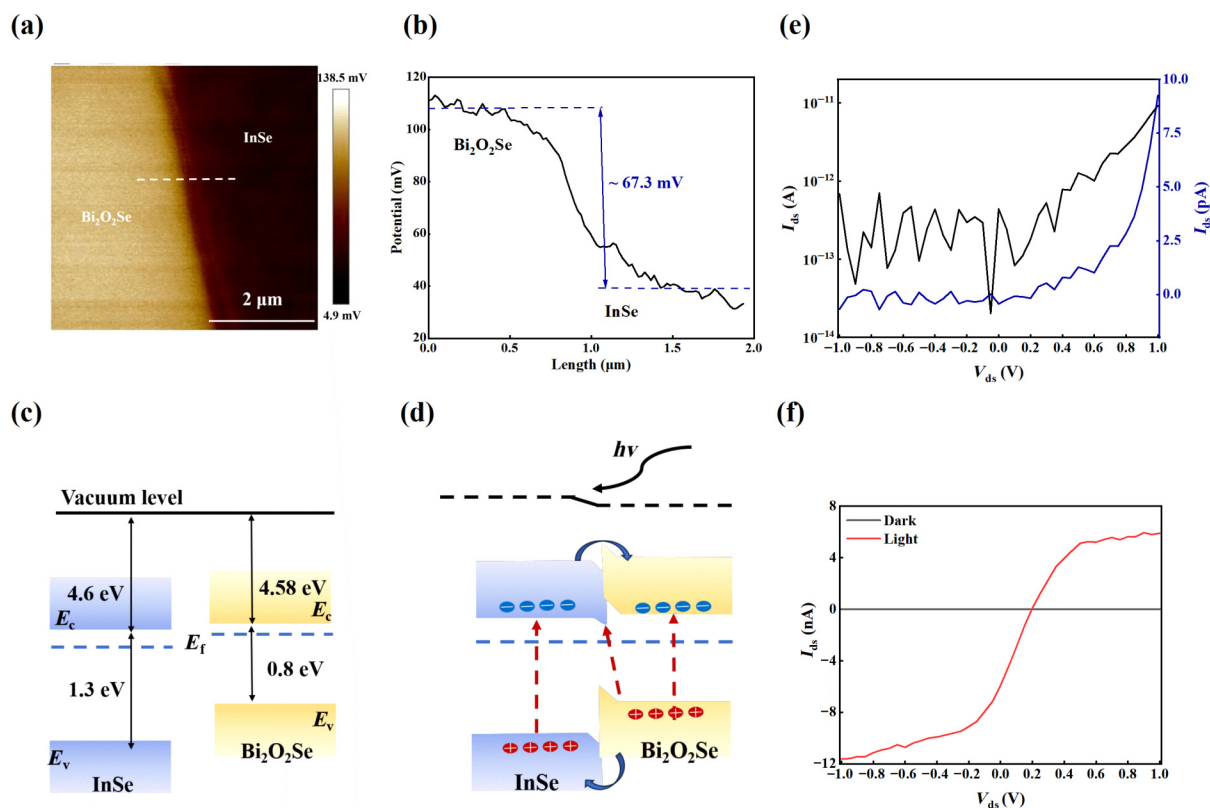


Figure 3 Band structure of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction. (a) Surface potential distribution map of the heterojunction region. (b) CPD between Bi₂O₂Se and InSe. (c) Schematic band diagrams of Bi₂O₂Se and InSe before contact. (d) Schematic band structure after contact under illumination. (e) I_{ds} - V_{ds} curves of the device under dark condition, with I_{ds} plotted in both linear and logarithmic formats. (f) I_{ds} - V_{ds} curves of the device under dark and illuminated conditions.

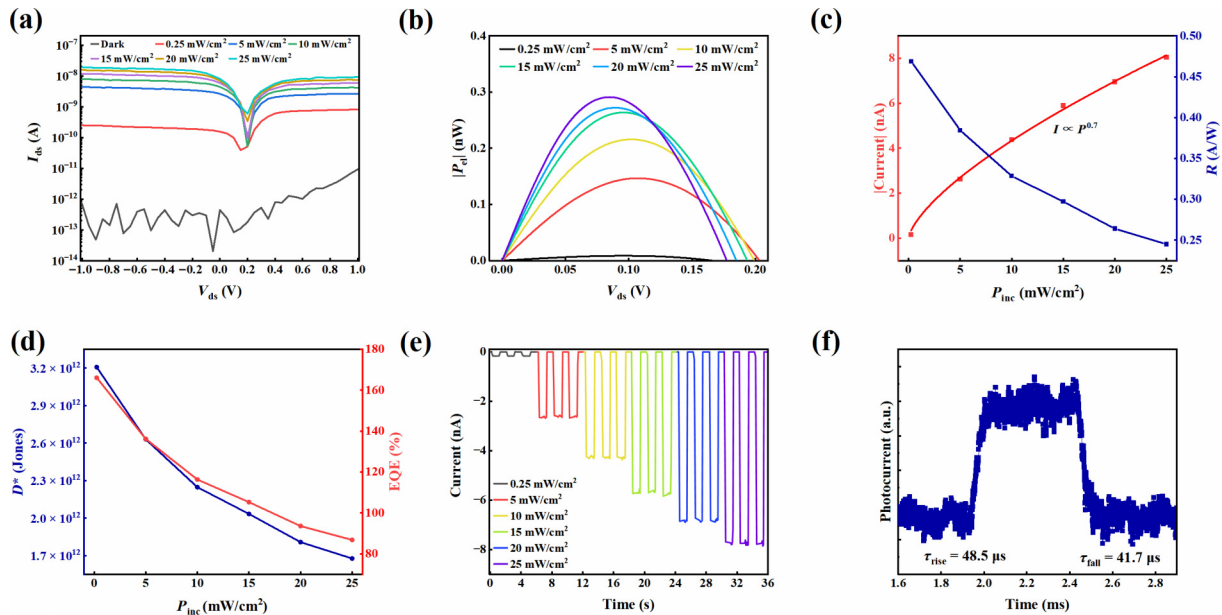


Figure 4 Photodetection performance of Bi₂O₂Se/InSe van der Waals heterostructure photodetectors under 350 nm illumination. (a) Logarithmic plots of I_{ds} - V_{ds} for the device at different P_{inc} . (b) P_{el} as a function of V_{ds} under various P_{inc} . (c) When $V_{ds} = 0$, the current and R at different P_{inc} . (d) When $V_{ds} = 0$, the D^* and EQE at different P_{inc} . (e) I - T curves at varying P_{inc} when $V_{ds} = 0$. (f) Transient time-resolved photoresponse curve of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction at $V_{ds} = 0$ V.

photovoltaic effect [5, 41]. As shown in Fig. 4(b), the device's output power (P_{el}), extracted using the formula as follows

$$P_{el} = I_{ds} \times V_{ds} \quad (1)$$

increases with the P_{inc} , reaching a maximum value of 0.31 nW at $P_{inc} = 25$ mW/cm². Furthermore, the fill factor (FF) and power conversion efficiency (PCE) are key parameters for evaluating photovoltaic performance, defined as

$$FF = \frac{P_{el,max}}{I_{sc} \times V_{oc}} \quad (2)$$

$$PCE = \frac{P_{el}}{P_{in}} \quad (3)$$

where P_{in} represents the effective incident light power [42, 43]. At $P_{inc} = 0.25$ mW/cm², the open-circuit voltage (V_{oc}) and short-circuit current (I_{sc}) were measured to be 0.17 V and 0.15 nA, respectively. The maximum FF and PCE were calculated to be 0.4 and 3.0%, surpassing previously reported photodetectors based on Bi₂O₂Se heterostructures [5, 16].

Subsequently, the self-powered photodetection performance of Bi₂O₂Se/InSe devices was evaluated under $V_{ds} = 0$ V. As shown in Fig. 4(c), the photocurrent increases with increasing incident light power density, exhibiting a power-law relationship as expressed by the following formula

$$I \propto P^\alpha \quad (4)$$

with a fitted exponent α of 0.7. This sublinear response may stem from partial photon non-conversion due to defects or impurities within the material and adsorbed molecules at the heterojunction interface [5, 44]. At zero bias, the dark current is as low as 0.44 pA. Under a P_{inc} of 25 mW/cm², the photocurrent reaches approximately 8.05 nA, yielding an on/off ratio (I_{light}/I_{dark}) of 1.82×10^4 . Key photodetection parameters such as R , D^* , and EQE are calculated using the following equations

$$R = \frac{I_{illumination} - I_{dark}}{A \times P_{inc}} \quad (5)$$

$$D^* = \frac{R \times \sqrt{A}}{\sqrt{2e \times I_{dark}}} \quad (6)$$

$$EQE = \frac{h \times C \times R}{e \times \lambda} \quad (7)$$

where A denotes the effective illumination area, while h , e , and c represent Planck's constant, the elementary charge, and the speed of light, respectively [16, 45, 46]. As illustrated in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d), at a P_{inc} of 0.25 mW/cm², R , D^* , and EQE achieve values of 0.47 A/W, 3.21×10^{12} Jones, and 166.09%, respectively. These parameters gradually decrease with increasing P_{inc} , primarily attributed to enhanced nonradiative recombination due to defect state filling under high injection conditions, which shortens carrier lifetime [47, 48]. Nevertheless, at $P_{inc} = 25$ mW/cm², the device maintains excellent performance with $R = 0.25$ A/W, $D^* = 1.68 \times 10^{12}$ Jones, EQE = 86.80%, indicating that its built-in electric field, supported by the Type-II band structure, still effectively separates photogenerated carriers. The large-area lateral single-sided depletion region formed in the heterojunction enables rapid separation of photogenerated carriers along the perpendicular depletion channel, thereby minimizing interfacial and migrational recombination loss. Concurrently, the graphene bottom electrode provides a high-mobility transport pathway that facilitates efficient extraction of photogenerated carriers, further suppressing recombination. Together, these mechanisms synergistically shorten carrier transit time, enabling both high optical gain and ultrafast photoresponse. As a result, the device exhibits exceptional optoelectronic performance. For a more accurate evaluation of the device's D^* , the detectivity D^* based on noise power spectral density is provided in the ESM (calculation of the D^*). Although this more conservative value is slightly lower than the shot-noise-limited estimate, both methodologies consistently demonstrate that the

device possesses high detection performance exceeding 10^{11} Jones (Fig. S6 in the ESM) [49, 50].

Response speed is a critical performance metric for photodetectors. At $V_{ds} = 0$ V, the multi-cycle time-resolved optical response curves of the device under different P_{inc} at 350 nm demonstrate excellent reproducibility and reliability (Fig. 4(e)). The response speed of the photodetector is characterized by the rise time τ_{rise} (the time taken for I_{ds} to rise from 10% to 90% of its maximum I_{ds}) and the fall time τ_{fall} (the time taken for I_{ds} to decay from 90% to 10% its maximum I_{ds}) [5]. As depicted in Fig. 4(f), the transient response curve of the self-powered $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetector was measured to be 48.5 and 41.7 μs respectively at a P_{inc} of 15 mW/cm^2 , indicating the device possesses microsecond-level fast optical response capability. Furthermore, the device's photoelectric performance was further enhanced under applied bias, while its time-resolved response still maintained excellent reproducibility (Fig. S2 in the ESM).

Using a xenon lamp as the light source, the self-powered broadband photodetection performance of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetectors across the UV-Vis-NIR spectrum ranging from 300 to 1050 nm was further investigated. As shown in Fig. 5(a), under a constant P_{inc} of 15 mW/cm^2 , the device exhibits distinct I_{ds} - V_{ds} photovoltaic responses across representative wavelengths from 300 to 1050 nm, demonstrating robust broadband detection capability. The multi-cycle time-resolved optical response curves of the device across the 300–1050 nm wavelength range under a constant light intensity, are shown in Fig. 5(b), demonstrating excellent repeatability and stability. Furthermore, the spectral response performance of the device was quantitatively evaluated

through parameters such as R , D^* , and EQE, as shown in Figs. 5(c) and 5(d). Due to the synergistic and competitive interactions between the intrinsic bandgap absorption of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ and InSe materials and the interlayer transition mechanism characteristic of the type-II heterojunction, the photoresponse performance initially increases before diminishing. This occurs because the strong intrinsic absorption of high-energy photons by the InSe layer reaches its maximum at 350 nm. As the incident light wavelength increases, the photon energy decreases, leading to a reduction in the optical absorption coefficient and a consequent drop in photoresponse. The slight enhancement observed near 950–975 nm is a hallmark of the type-II band alignment, signifying interlayer transitions. Specifically, photons with energies near the interlayer transition effectively drive electrons from the valence band of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$ across the heterointerface into the conduction band of InSe. This spatially indirect transition yields a localized increase in photocurrent due to its high intrinsic carrier collection efficiency. Beyond 975 nm, the photoresponse is predominantly governed by the intrinsic absorption of the narrow-bandgap $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}$, resulting in a gradual attenuation with increasing wavelengths [5, 51].

To further validate the device's detection performance across the ultraviolet to near-infrared bands, representative wavelengths of 350, 500, and 975 nm were selected for detailed characterization. It was found that the device exhibited excellent photovoltaic characteristics across all bands (corresponding to 350 nm in Fig. 4, as well as 500 and 975 nm in Figs. S3 and S4 in the ESM, respectively). These results collectively demonstrate that the $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ heterojunction photodetector possesses stable and highly efficient self-powered photodetection capabilities across a

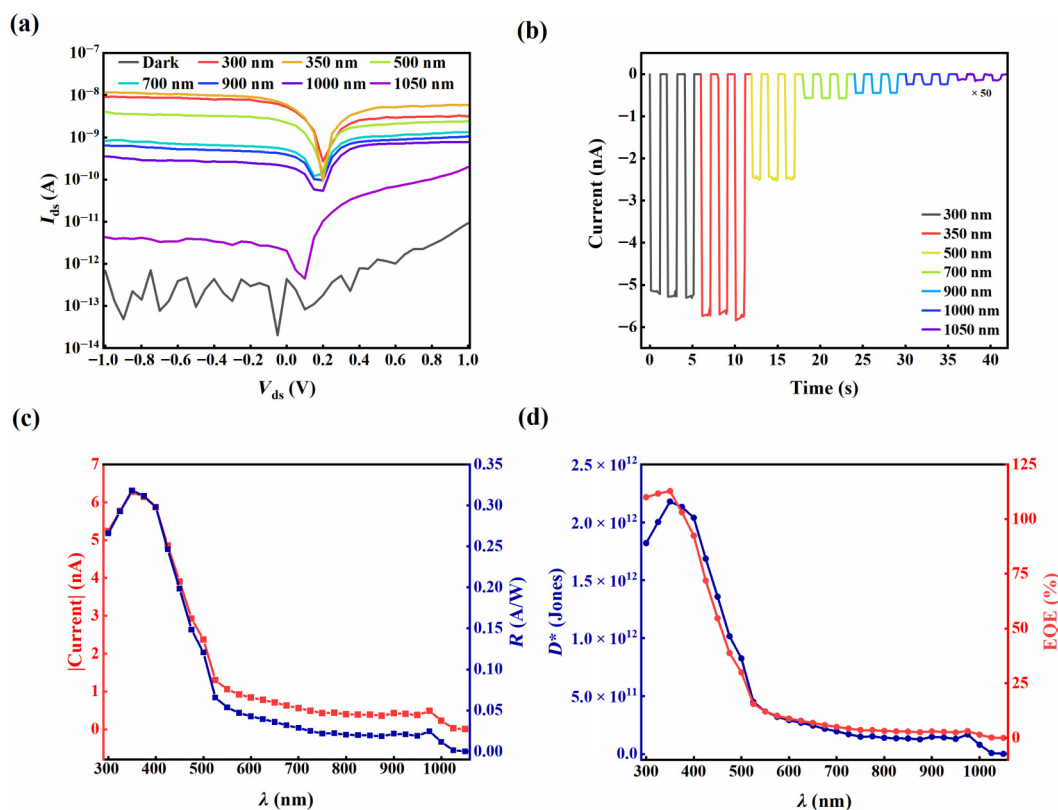


Figure 5 Broadband self-powered photodetection characteristics of $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ vdWH photodetectors. (a) I_{ds} - V_{ds} curves of the device under different wavelengths at a P_{inc} of 15 mW/cm^2 . (b) I - T curves at $V_{ds} = 0$ for different wavelengths under a P_{inc} of 15 mW/cm^2 . (c) Relationship between photocurrent and R with wavelength at zero bias. (d) Relationship between D^* and EQE with wavelength at zero bias.

broad spectral range of 300–1050 nm, exhibiting outstanding full-band photoresponse performance.

$\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetector, with its fast optical response and self-powered characteristics, has demonstrated significant application potential in the field of optical communications. To evaluate the performance of the designed semi-vertical heterojunction photodetector, we constructed a UV–Vis–NIR optical communication system, as shown in Fig. 6(a). A xenon lamp serves as the broadband source, whose output is modulated by a programmable shutter to encode the optical signal. The ASCII-encoded digital information is converted into corresponding control signals that drive the shutter, generating optical pulses corresponding to a binary sequence across the UV–Vis–NIR spectrum. At the receiving end, the $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetector converts the incident light pulses into photocurrent signals, which are recorded and decoded in real-time by a computer to reconstruct the transmitted information [39, 40].

As shown in Fig. 6(b), representative wavelengths—350, 500, and 850 nm—were selected to demonstrate the detector's broadband operation. Under illumination at these wavelengths, the detector successfully produced clear and stable photocurrent response signals corresponding to the shutter-encoded letter “BIT”. The output signal faithfully reproduced the original input, confirming high-quality optical communication [52]. These results underscore the practical applicability of the self-powered $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetector in UV–Vis–NIR optical communication systems.

Key parameters of the $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ semi-vertical photodetector are summarized in Table 1 and compared with several $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ -based and other heterojunction self-driven photodetectors reported in the literature. The $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ semi-vertical photodetector exhibits outstanding R and D^* , EQE values, and response speed under zero bias, demonstrating exceptional broadband self-powered optical response performance spanning the ultraviolet to near-infrared spectrum (300–1050 nm).

3 Conclusions

In summary, we have successfully designed and fabricated a $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ semi-vertical heterojunction photodetector based on CVD-grown n-type $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ nanosheets. The device exhibits exceptional self-powered broadband photoresponse across 300–1050 nm, enabled by the synergistic integration of a single-sided depletion region and a graphene electrode. This architecture simultaneously achieves high sensitivity ($R = 0.47 \text{ A/W}$, $D^* = 3.21 \times 10^{12} \text{ Jones}$, EQE = 166.09%) and microsecond-scale response speeds (rise/fall times of 48.5/41.7 μs). These results underscore the compelling potential of semi-vertical van der Waals heterojunctions as a versatile platform for next-generation, high-performance, self-powered optoelectronic devices.

4 Experimental section

4.1 Preparation of two-dimensional $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ films

Two-dimensional $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}$ nanosheets were synthesised via CVD in a quartz tube. Bi_2O_3 powder (Alfa Aesar, 99.999%) and Bi_2Se_3 powder (Alfa Aesar, 99.999%) were placed at the thermal centre of the tube and 8 cm above it, respectively. Newly exfoliated f-mica substrates were positioned 10–14 cm downstream from the thermal center. Prior to growth, the vacuum-drawn quartz tube was repeatedly purged with high-purity argon gas (99.99%) to prevent environmental contamination. Then it was heated at a rate of $15^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ to $750\text{--}780^\circ\text{C}$, held for 20 min, and allowed to cool to room temperature. In the growth process, argon gas at 150 sccm was introduced as a carrier gas to transport the precursor vapors for deposition onto the surface of the low-temperature f-mica substrates [24, 26].

4.2 Device fabrication

$\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ van der Waals heterojunction devices were fabricated

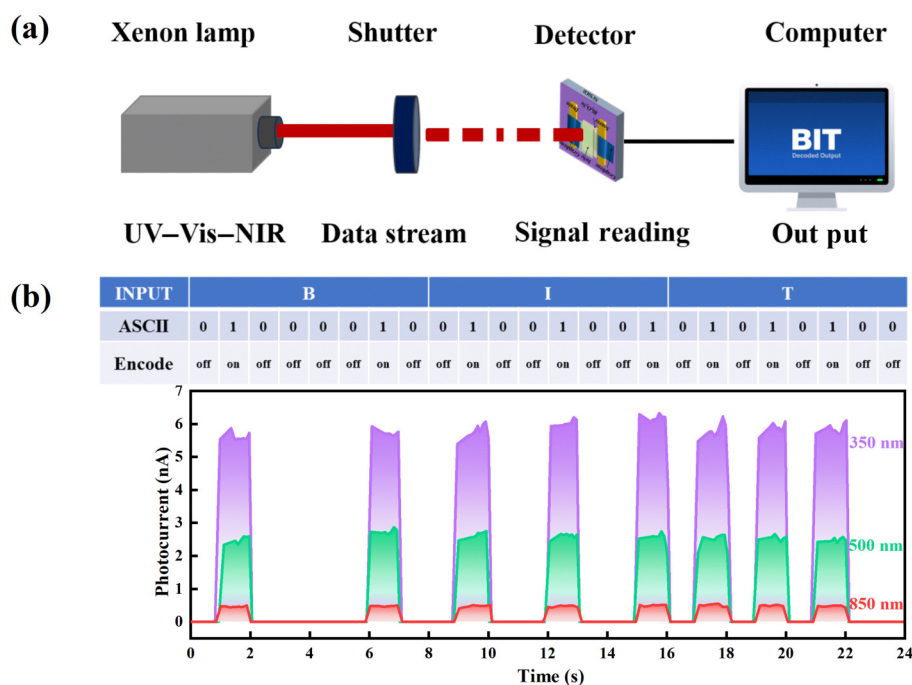


Figure 6 An optical communication system using a $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ photodetector. (a) Schematic diagram of the system. (b) Input and output signals showing the transmission of the ASCII code “BIT” in the $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3\text{Se}/\text{InSe}$ optical communication system.

Table 1 Comparison of performance with previously published self-powered photodetectors based on Bi₂O₂Se and other heterojunctions

Materials	Wavelength (nm)	R (A/W)	D* (Jones)	EQE (%)	T (μs)	Reference
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/InSe	300–1050	0.47	3.21×10^{12}	166.09	48.5/41.7	This Work
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/InSe	400–1064	0.075	1.08×10^{12}	23.05	$5.8/15 \times 10^3$	[5]
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/WSe ₂	532	0.28	—	66.27	20/20	[53]
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/MoTe ₂	532	0.33	—	78.10	—	[16]
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/MoO ₃	405–1550	0.51	6.42×10^{10}	—	80/90	[54]
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/1D-MoSe ₂	405–808	0.66	1.68×10^{10}	126	350/380	[17]
Bi ₂ O ₂ Se/Bi ₂ Se ₃	532–1450	6.43×10^{-5}	10^7	—	$274/318 \times 10^3$	[55]
WS ₂ /InSe	325–980	0.061	2.50×10^{11}	14.5	63/76	[20]
InSe/MoTe ₂	405	0.0879	2.9×10^{11}	27	19/14	[32]
MoS ₂ /WS ₂	405–800	0.283	6.44×10^{12}	60.59	$375/6 \times 10^3$	[56]
WSe ₂ /WS ₂	400–1550	0.32	6.15×10^{13}	76	$2.3/2.5 \times 10^3$	[35]
PdSe ₂ /2H-MoTe ₂	375–1550	0.243	6.46×10^{10}	56.73	$3.5/3.7 \times 10^3$	[45]

via mechanical exfoliation and a fully dry transfer technique. First, patterned Cr/Au (10/50 nm) electrodes were fabricated on a silicon substrate covered with 300 nm SiO₂ using UV lithography and thermal evaporation processes. Subsequently, Bi₂O₂Se films were directly exfoliated from f-mica using PDMS films, avoiding contamination and structural damage potentially introduced by wet transfer methods. Graphene and InSe multilayer flakes were also mechanically exfoliated using PDMS. Subsequently, a transfer platform was employed to precisely sequentially transfer graphene, Bi₂O₂Se, InSe, and graphene back onto the SiO₂/Si substrate, constructing a vdWH Bi₂O₂Se/InSe semi-vertical photodetector with graphene as the bottom electrode. Finally, annealing for 30 min at 200 °C under vacuum was performed to relieve stresses introduced during transfer and enhance electrode contact performance.

4.3 Device characterization

XPS spectra of Bi₂O₂Se were measured using a PHI Quantera II X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. Raman spectra were acquired at room temperature using an Alpha300R system with an excitation wavelength of 532 nm. Sample thickness and CPD were measured using a multifunctional atomic force microscope (Bruker Dimension Icon) equipped with AFM and KPFM functional modules. Photovoltaic performance testing was conducted using a Metatest E2-Vac vacuum micro-photovoltaic testing system. This system, equipped with a xenon lamp light source and a semiconductor parameter analyzer (Keithley 4200-SCS), enabled precise measurement of photovoltaic signals. All measurements were performed at room temperature.

Electronic Supplementary Material: Supplementary material (transfer curves of individual Bi₂O₂Se and InSe flakes; photodetection performance of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe heterojunction device under different bias voltages; photodetection characteristics of the Bi₂O₂Se/InSe vdWH photodetector under 500 and 975 nm illuminations; calculation of the D^* ; comparison of D^* calculated via two methods) is available in the online version of this article at <https://doi.org/10.26599/NR.2026.94908400>.

Data availability

All data needed to support the conclusions in the paper are

presented in the manuscript and the Electronic Supplementary Material. Additional data related to this paper may be requested from the corresponding author upon request.

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Declaration of competing interest

All the contributing authors report no conflict of interests in this work.

Author contribution statement

Y. L.: Data curation, project administration, validation, writing manuscript, experimental design, conceptualization. F. Z. and S. Q. W.: Data curation. D. P. L., Y. S., Z. G., and D. Z. Z.: Project administration, funding acquisition. Z. H. W.: Project administration, funding acquisition, writing manuscript, conceptualization, supervision. All the authors have approved the final manuscript.

Use of AI statement

None.

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