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**Evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  Thin Films with Tunable Bandgaps for Short-Wave Infrared Photodetectors**

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**Abstract**

Semiconducting absorbers in high-performance short-wave infrared (SWIR) photodetectors and imaging sensor arrays are dominated by single-crystalline germanium and III-V semiconductors. However, these materials require complex growth and device fabrication procedures. Here, we report thermal-evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloy thin films with tunable bandgaps for the fabrication of high-performance SWIR photodetectors. From absorption measurements, we show that the bandgaps of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films can be tuned continuously from 0.31 eV (Te) to 1.87 eV (Se). Owing to their tunable bandgaps, the peak responsivity position and photoresponse edge of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film-based photoconductors can be tuned in the SWIR regime. By using an optical cavity substrate consisting of Au/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  to enhance its absorption near the bandgap edge, the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film (an optical bandgap of  $\sim 0.8$  eV)-based photoconductor exhibits a cut-off wavelength at  $\sim 1.7$   $\mu\text{m}$  and gives a responsivity of  $1.5 \text{ AW}^{-1}$  and implied detectivity of  $6.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ cmHz}^{1/2}\text{W}^{-1}$  at  $1.55 \mu\text{m}$  at room temperature. Importantly, the nature of the thermal evaporation process enables the fabrication of  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$ -based  $42 \times 42$  focal plane arrays with good pixel uniformity, demonstrating the potential of this unique material system used for infrared imaging sensor systems.

Infrared photodetectors and imaging sensor arrays (for wavelengths over the range 1-14  $\mu\text{m}$ ) have been found to be critical in a wide range of applications including night-vision, remote sensing, optical communications, and emerging medical imaging modalities.<sup>[1-4]</sup> Semiconductors in devices and arrays for the short-wave infrared (SWIR, 1-3  $\mu\text{m}$ ) are dominated by single-crystalline germanium (Ge) and III-V semiconductors such as indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs) and indium gallium arsenide phosphide (InGaAsP).<sup>[5-7]</sup> However, these materials are typically grown by complex methods, including molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) and metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), resulting in complicated manufacturing procedures and subsequent high cost.<sup>[8-12]</sup> Although evaporated  $\text{Ge}_x\text{Sn}_{1-x}$  films have been explored as alternative materials for SWIR photodetectors, their practical applications are limited by the poor device performance, *e.g.* low specific detectivity.<sup>[13-15]</sup> Therefore, it remains challenging to develop novel material systems that can combine a simple preparation process and high device performance.

One potential material system that can meet the requirements stated above is tellurium (Te), a material with one-dimensional (1D) crystal structure, which has an indirect bandgap around 0.31 eV.<sup>[16,17]</sup> One of the key merits is that there are no dangling bonds on the edges and surfaces of Te crystal except at termination points of molecular chains, since it is a true 1D material which forms a three-dimensional (3D) structure through van der Waals bonding of the molecular chains. Therefore, crystalline Te does not suffer from the surface-induced performance degradation commonly observed in conventional III-V semiconductors that requires additional surface passivation to mitigate. Recent studies have demonstrated that solution-synthesized air-stable Te nanoflakes are a promising semiconductor for the fabrication of photoconductors for infrared photodetection, exhibiting good responsivity and specific detectivity.<sup>[18,19]</sup> Moreover, Te can be deposited as uniform thin films *via* simple thermal evaporation process,<sup>[20,21]</sup> which can be used for fabrication of high-performance *p*-type field-effect transistors and circuits.<sup>[22]</sup> However, the performance of Te-based photoconductors is ultimately limited by the high dark current induced by the thermal generation

originating from its small bandgap. Alloying Te with large bandgap Se ( $\sim 1.9$  eV) to form  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloys is a feasible and effective way to engineer the bandgap, i.e. allowing it assume between that of Te and Se.<sup>[23]</sup> Importantly,  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films can be also deposited *via* simple thermal evaporation. However, their optical, electronic and optoelectronic properties still remain unexplored.<sup>[24,25]</sup>

In this work, we report  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films thermally evaporated at cryogenic temperature ( $-110$  °C) with tunable bandgaps for the fabrication of high-performance SWIR photodetectors. We perform a systematic study on the optical properties of evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films. It is found that the bandgaps of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  are continuously tunable from 0.31 eV (pure Te) to 1.87 eV (pure Se).<sup>[26,27]</sup> We then explore the composition-dependent electrical properties and spectral photoresponse of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films. We fabricate a high-performance SWIR photoconductor based on  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin film (with an optical bandgap of 0.8 eV) with a 50% cut-off wavelength at 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  and obtain a implied detectivity of  $6.5 \times 10^{10}$   $\text{cm Hz}^{1/2} \text{W}^{-1}$  at a wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  and at room temperature. Importantly, the nature of the thermal evaporation process enables the scalability of these devices, which we demonstrate through the fabrication of a  $42 \times 42$  focal plane array based on  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin film. We show that this device has excellent pixel uniformity and we demonstrate its use in imaging.

$\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloys share the same crystal structure as Te,<sup>[16]</sup> in which Te atoms are partially substituted by Se atoms, as shown in **Figure 1a**. Although this material appears to be layered when viewed from the x-axis, the 3D structure can be more clearly understood by viewing it from the z-axis (Figure 1a). It can be clearly seen that triangular helical Se/Te atomic chains stack together in a hexagonal array *via* van der Waals forces. One of the unique advantages of this material is that Se/Te atoms only connect to two nearest neighbor Se/Te atoms *via* covalent bonds in each single helical chain (Figure 1a), indicating that  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  has a true 1D crystal structure. Dangling bonds only thus exist at molecular chain terminals in this crystal. Surface recombination is therefore small by comparison to conventional 3D crystals (such as Ge, InGaAs and InGaAsP)<sup>[5-7]</sup> and layered two-dimensional (2D) crystals (such as black phosphorous,  $\text{PtSe}_2$  and  $\text{PdSe}_2$ ).<sup>[28-31]</sup>

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The  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  evaporation sources are prepared with different chemical compositions (from pure Se to pure Te) by reacting elemental Se shots and Te powders with the desired elemental ratio in a sealed quartz tube at 560 °C overnight (Figure S1a, see Methods for details). The X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) peaks gradually shift to greater angles with increasing Se content in  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  crystals (Figure S1b,c), confirming the formation of alloy crystals. The XRD peak shift is attributed to the change of lattice inter-layer spacing induced by substituting Te with Se atoms. Such behavior is consistent with Vegard's law for other solid solutions like  $\text{MoS}_{2x}\text{Se}_{2(1-x)}$  and  $\text{Mo}_x\text{W}_{1-x}\text{S}_2$ , which have been previously reported in the literature.<sup>[32]</sup>

These as-prepared  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloy crystals are then used as sources to deposit  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films with varying thickness through a thermal evaporation process at a substrate temperature around -110 °C. The compositions of evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films are characterized by Rutherford backscattering spectrometry (RBS), as shown in Figure 1b. Quantitative analysis of the RBS results suggests that there is always more Se (~10-20%) in evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films than that of the Te source crystal (Figure S2). This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that the vapor pressure of Se (~0.14 mmHg at 300 °C) is much higher than that of Te (~ $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$  mmHg at 300 °C) at the same temperature. This leads to the evaporation of Se being faster than that of Te during the thermal evaporation process. The  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films are also characterized by Raman spectroscopy, further demonstrating the gradual transition from Te to Se (Figure 1c).<sup>[16,33]</sup> The crystal structures of as-evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films are characterized by XRD. It was found that only a few as-prepared high-Te content samples including Te,  $\text{Se}_{0.12}\text{Te}_{0.88}$  and  $\text{Se}_{0.23}\text{Te}_{0.77}$  are polycrystalline (showing peaks in XRD patterns), with the others being amorphous (no peaks in XRD patterns) (Figure 1d). Similar to the source crystals, the XRD peaks of  $\text{Se}_{0.12}\text{Te}_{0.88}$  and  $\text{Se}_{0.23}\text{Te}_{0.77}$  slightly shift to angles greater than those of pure Te. Note that amorphous  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  ( $x > 0.3$ ) thin films can readily be transformed into polycrystalline films through a simple annealing process at mild temperatures (100-140 °C) in a few minutes. It is important to note that for mobile atoms such as Te, the substrate temperature is a critical factor to

the film quality. For example, the grain size of an evaporated Te thin film strongly depends on the deposition temperature and maximum grain size can be obtained at cryogenic temperatures. For the case of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film evaporated on a low temperature substrate is initially amorphous, the film can be easily transformed into polycrystalline film with relatively large grain size (few micrometers) via mild thermal annealing.<sup>[22]</sup> Further results on film characterization before and after annealing are shown in Figure S3. The high-resolution (HRTEM) image clearly shows the polycrystalline structure of the annealed  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film (Figure 1e). The measured lattice fringes are 0.38 and 0.32 nm, which can be assigned to the (100) and (101) planes of  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  crystal, respectively. The corresponding selective area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern shows a few sets of diffraction spots (inset in Figure 1e), further indicating its polycrystalline structure.

We next perform systematic optical characterization of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films that are evaporated on quartz ( $x > 0.3$ ) or  $\text{CaF}_2$  ( $x < 0.3$ ) substrates. Transmission and reflection spectra of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films are shown in Figure S4. As shown in **Figure 2a**, the composition-dependent absorption spectra of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films cover a broad wavelength range from the mid-wave infrared (pure Te) to visible (pure Se). The pure Te and Se films have absorption edges around 4000 nm and 650 nm, respectively, and the absorption edge gradually shifts from 4000 nm to shorter wavelengths when the Se content increases. We then extract the optical bandgaps of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films based on the absorption through Cody plots (Figure S5). Figure 2b clearly shows that the bandgap of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films can be tuned from 0.31 eV (for pure Te) to 1.87 eV (for pure Se) by increasing the Se content. Note that all measured samples are indirect bandgap semiconductors.

We next explore the composition-dependent electrical properties of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films. The results of Hall effect measurement are summarized in Table S1. The pure Te film gives a Hall effect mobility of  $191.2 \pm 0.4 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  and hole concentration of  $2.6 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . However,  $\text{Se}_{0.12}\text{Te}_{0.88}$  gives a Hall effect mobility of  $32.3 \pm 1.0 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  with a hole concentration of  $1.1 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . Further increasing the Se content in the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films further decreases the Hall effect mobility and hole

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concentration. We then explore the electrical properties of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film-based field-effect transistors (FETs). Back-gated FETs are fabricated using Au as the local back gate, 5 nm  $\text{ZrO}_x$  as the gate dielectric, Pd as source/drain contacts and the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film as the semiconductor channel. An optical microscope image and a schematic of the device structure are shown in **Figure 3a**. The  $I_d$ - $V_g$  curves clearly show the  $p$ -type transport properties for all  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  FETs (Figure 3b). The  $I_d$ - $V_d$  curves show Ohmic contact behavior for  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  FETs with an Pd source/drain (Figure S6). Therefore, we utilize the square law model to calculate the effective mobility ( $\mu_{\text{eff}}$ ) in this device as a function of gate field using  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = (dI_d/dV_d)L/W[C_{\text{ox}}(V_g - V_t - 0.5V_g)]$ , where  $C_{\text{ox}}$  is the gate capacitance,  $V_t$  is the threshold voltage and  $L$  and  $W$  are the channel length and width, respectively. As shown in Figure 3c, the FET that is based on pure Te with a thickness of 8.5 nm has an effective mobility of  $\sim 46 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  and an on/off ratio of  $\sim 10^3$ . The effective mobility decreases from  $\sim 46$  to  $\sim 1.2 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  when the Se content in the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  channel increases from 0% to 32%, due to the transition from a crystalline phase to an amorphous phase (Fig. 1d), which show the same trend with the Hall effect measurements. The on/off ratio increases from  $\sim 10^3$  to more than  $10^4$ , due to the fact that the bandgap increases with Se content (Figure 3c). Note that the electrical properties based on the FETs show the same trend with the Hall effect measurements. Interestingly, the FET based on a much thicker  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film ( $\sim 22.2$  nm) still gives an on/off ratio  $\sim 3.5 \times 10^3$  and the effective mobility increases to be  $\sim 14 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  (Figure S7). The high on/off ratio of thick  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films is favorable for photoconductors, as it means that strong optical absorption and low dark current can be simultaneously achieved.

We next fabricate SeTe photoconductors using Au/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  as the substrate (device structure shown in **Figure 4a**). Au finger contacts are used to facilitate efficient electron/hole extraction. An optical microscope image of a fabricated device is shown in Figure 4b (inset). We next explore the composition-dependent photoresponse of photoconductors based on  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  films. As shown in Figure 4b, these have tailorable spectral photoresponse, achieved by varying the composition and

thus the bandgap of the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$ . It can be seen from Figure 4b that the photoresponse edge can be tuned to longer wavelengths by decreasing the Se content. Indeed, it takes values of 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , 1.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  when the Se content (of the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film) is 43%, 32%, and 23%, respectively.  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films thus have widely tunable bandgaps, allowing us to select the photoresponse edge appropriate for the application intended for a given device. To this end, the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin film with an optical bandgap of 0.8 eV is selected for the fabrication of photodetectors to target SWIR with a cutoff wavelength around 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , a typical value for single-crystalline Ge SWIR photodetectors. It is worth to the broad subgap absorption could be attributed to defects in the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film. We therefore use an optical cavity substrate, consisting of an Au back reflector and an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  dielectric spacer, to significantly enhance the absorption in the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film in the short-wave regime (see Figure S8 and Figure S9 for the cavity design).<sup>[18]</sup> In order to achieve optimal performance, we need to strike a balance between the absorption and dark current since both will affect the key figure of merit of photodetectors, i.e.  $D^*$ . This leads us to employ  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin films with a thickness of around 28 nm in the devices we next fabricate. The measured absorption of a 23 nm  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film at 1500 nm is  $\sim 1\%$  (Figure S9d), which is consistent with the simulated value and the value estimated from ellipsometry measurement simply using Beer's law. To enhance the absorption of the  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film, an optical cavity substrate consisting of a  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  spacing layer and Au back reflector is employed. To find the optimal  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  thickness, we perform a simulation of the optical absorption of this film (28-nm-thick  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$ ) on the optical cavity substrate as a function of wavelength and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  thickness (Figure S9c). Based on these results, we choose the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  film to have a thickness of 75 nm, to enhance the absorption of the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film near its band edge, with the wavelength of peak absorption being 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Note that the optical cavity can also acts as the gate stack for the fabricated photoconductor.

Photocurrent can be observed from the  $I_d-V_g$  curves of a typical  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  photoconductor taken in the dark and under illumination by a white light source at 297 and 78 K, respectively (Figure

4c). The spectral response of the device is then measured *via* Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) by illuminating the device with the FTIR light source. The intensity vs wavelength of the illuminating light is determined by the internal deuterated triglycine sulfate (DTGS) detector of the FTIR and by a NIST traceable Ge photodiode (see details in Method and Ref 34). The responsivity ( $R$ ) of the photoconductor is then calculated through  $R(\lambda) = I_{ph}(\lambda)/P_{in}(\lambda)$ , where  $I_{ph}$  is the photocurrent and  $P_{in}$  is the optical power incident on the device. The drain bias-dependent responsivity and  $D^*$  of the device at an incident wavelength of 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  are shown in Figure S10a,b. The full spectral responsivity of the device is shown in Figure 4d. For  $V_d = 2$  V and  $V_g = 10$  V, this detector shows a peak responsivity at  $\lambda = 1.2$   $\mu\text{m}$  of 1.5  $\text{AW}^{-1}$  and 1.8  $\text{AW}^{-1}$  at 78 K and 297 K, respectively. We then calculate the detectivity of this device using:

$$D^* = \frac{\sqrt{A\Delta f}}{NEP} = \frac{R\sqrt{A\Delta f}}{i_n}$$

where  $A$  is the detector area, NEP is noise equivalent power,  $\Delta f$  is the bandwidth associated with the integration time and  $i_n$  is the noise current.<sup>[35,36]</sup> The major noise sources are the shot noise

$2q(I_p + I_{\text{dark}})\Delta f$  and thermal noise  $\frac{4k_B T}{R} \Delta f$ . To obtain NEP, we firstly estimate the  $I_p$  from  $\text{SNR} = \frac{I_p^2}{2q(I_p + I_{\text{dark}})\Delta f + \frac{4k_B T}{R_{\text{resistance}}}\Delta f}$ . All the values are acquired from experimental data, where  $R_{\text{resistance}} =$

$V_d/(I_p + I_{\text{dark}})$ ,  $\Delta f = 2.4$  MHz (Fig. 4f), and  $I_{\text{dark}} = 10^{-7}$  A ( $V_d = 5$  V;  $V_g = 10$  V). Under the condition of

$\text{SNR} = 1$ , we obtain  $NEP = \frac{I_p}{R_\lambda} = 1.6 \times 10^{-7}$  W which yields  $D^* = \frac{\sqrt{A\Delta f}}{NEP} = 3.1 \times 10^{10}$   $\text{cmHz}^{1/2}\text{W}^{-1}$ .

The implied detectivity as a function of wavelength is shown in Figure 4e for both 78 K and 297 K. The device shows a peak  $D^*$  of  $6.5 \times 10^{10}$   $\text{cmHz}^{1/2}\text{W}^{-1}$  at room temperature. This value increases to a peak value of  $3.6 \times 10^{11}$   $\text{cmHz}^{1/2}\text{W}^{-1}$  at low temperatures because the noise current decreases strongly while the responsivity decreases only slightly. To characterize the frequency response, the photoresponse is measured by modulating the laser diode in a sinusoidal manner over a wide

frequency range (1 Hz to 8 MHz). As shown in Figure 4f, over this measured spectral range a clear cutoff frequency of  $\sim 2.4$  MHz can be seen. We anticipate that this would be more than sufficient for many SWIR applications, e.g. imaging.

The deposition of the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film *via* a simple thermal evaporation process allows for the wafer-scale deposition of uniform thin films on various substrates. This, combined with the excellent photodetector performance, makes the  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film a promising candidate for fabrication of infrared image sensors, such as focal plane arrays (FPAs). To this end, we demonstrate the fabrication of a 42 pixel  $\times$  42 pixel FPA using an  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film with a thickness of 18.4 nm. The latter is determined by AFM imaging (Figure S11). **Figure 5a** shows optical microscope images of the fabricated 42 $\times$ 42 FPA obtained at different magnifications. Each pixel has an extent of 80  $\mu\text{m}$   $\times$  90  $\mu\text{m}$  and a structure that is schematically illustrated as Figure 5b. Each pixel has spectral responsivity similar to that discussed previously for the isolated photoconductors (Figure 4d). In order to examine the pixel-to-pixel uniformity of the FPA, we measure both the photoresponse and dark current of all 1764 pixels using a serial passive matrix configuration (Figure 5c). To quantify the FPA uniformity, we present a histogram of the measured responsivities of the pixels at a wavelength of 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  as Figure 5d. It can be seen that these responsivities have a relatively narrow distribution, indicating that the FPA has good uniformity. Moreover, the FPA also shows a good uniformity in terms of dark current, with the 1764 pixels of the FPA exhibiting dark currents within the range 170-220 nA (Figure 5e). Furthermore, from these measurements we verify that all 1764 fabricated pixels in the FPA are fully functional, i.e. the die yield is 100%. To demonstrate imaging, we use a camera lens to image the white light source of the FTIR onto the FPA (Figure 5f). Given the simple deposition method and low cost,  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin films have great potential for the construction of high-performance, low-cost and high-resolution infrared image sensor systems by integrating them with complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) readout chips.<sup>[37]</sup>

In summary, we have performed a systematic study of the electronic and optical properties of thermally evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films. We have demonstrated that tunable bandgap  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloys are promising materials for the fabrication of high-performance and low-cost SWIR photodetectors. The simple low temperature deposition ( $-110^\circ\text{C}$ ) of uniform thin films *via* thermal evaporation also enables the fabrication of FPAs for SWIR imaging. In the future, further refinements in crystallinity and purity could be used to optimize the photodetector performance. In addition, integration of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  based photodiodes with Si CMOS readout integrated circuits will enable the construction of high-performance, low-cost and high-resolution SWIR imaging sensor arrays.<sup>[37]</sup>

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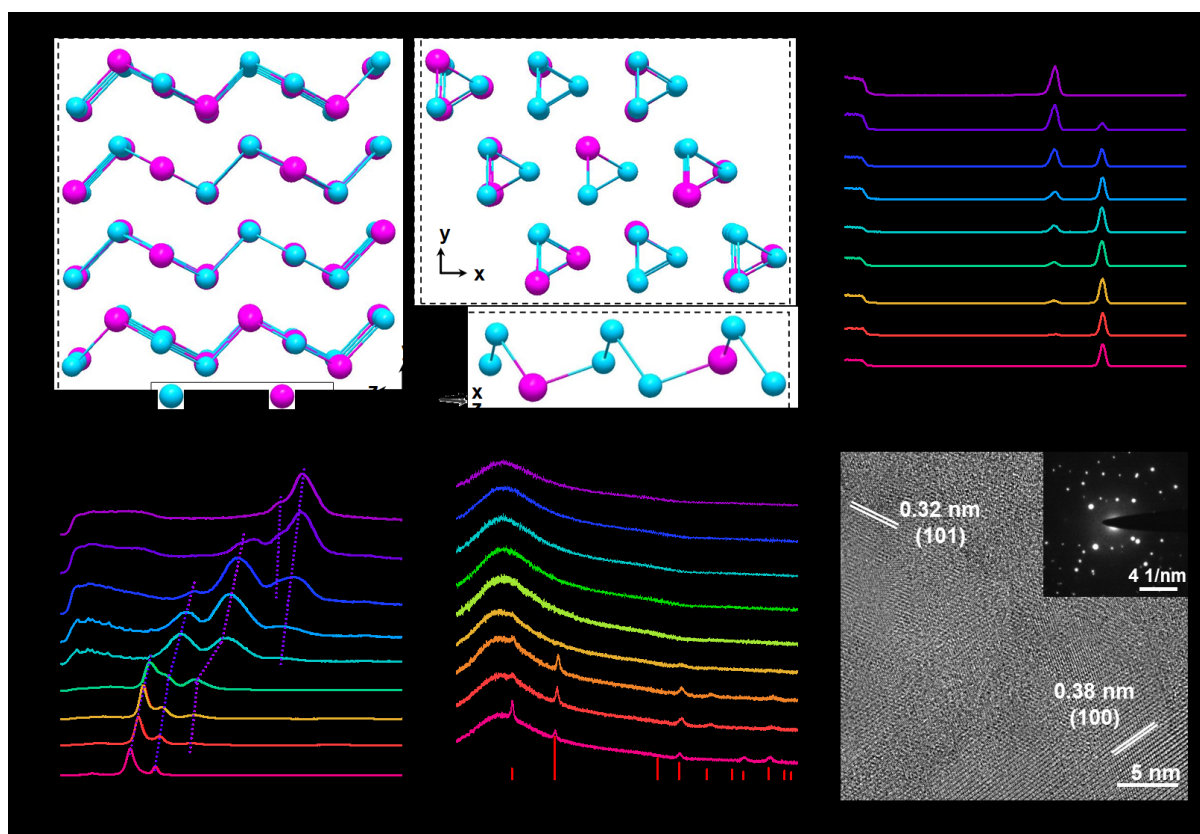
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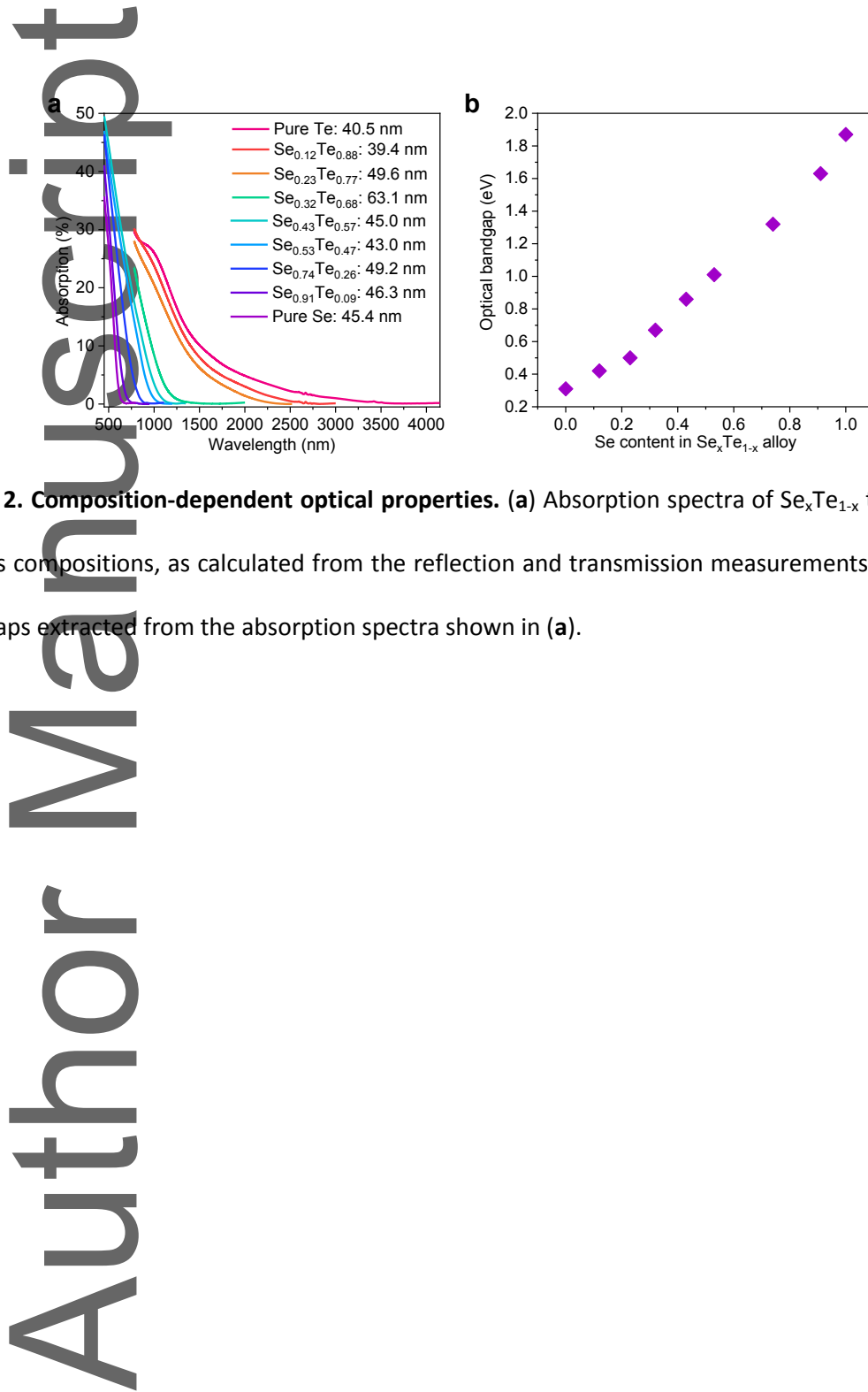
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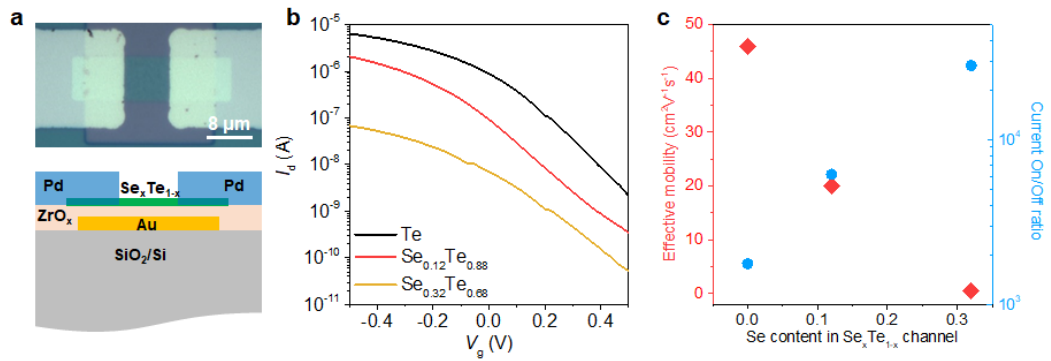
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**Figure 1. Crystal structure and materials characterization of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films.** (a) Crystal structure of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  crystal viewed from different directions. (b) RBS spectra of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films with different compositions. (c) Raman spectra of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films with different compositions. Raman spectrum of pure Te film exhibits three peaks, at 93.8, 123.1 and 142.2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These correspond to the  $E_1\text{-TO}$ ,  $A_1$  and  $E_2$  modes. Te-like  $A_1$  and  $E_2$  modes gradually shift to greater wavenumbers and an Se-like  $E_2$  mode begins to emerge as Se content increases from 0 to ~40%. As the Se content increases further, the Te-like  $A_1$  mode disappears, an Se-like  $A_1$  mode emerges, and the ratio of the intensities of the Te-like  $E_2$  mode and the Se-like  $E_2$  mode gradually changes. The Raman spectrum of Se exhibits two peaks at 236.3 and 254.2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to  $E_2$  and  $A_1$  modes. (d) XRD patterns of evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films with different compositions on quartz (the film thickness is within 40-60 nm). (e) HRTEM image of an annealed 25-nm-thick  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin film. Inset shows the corresponding SAED pattern.

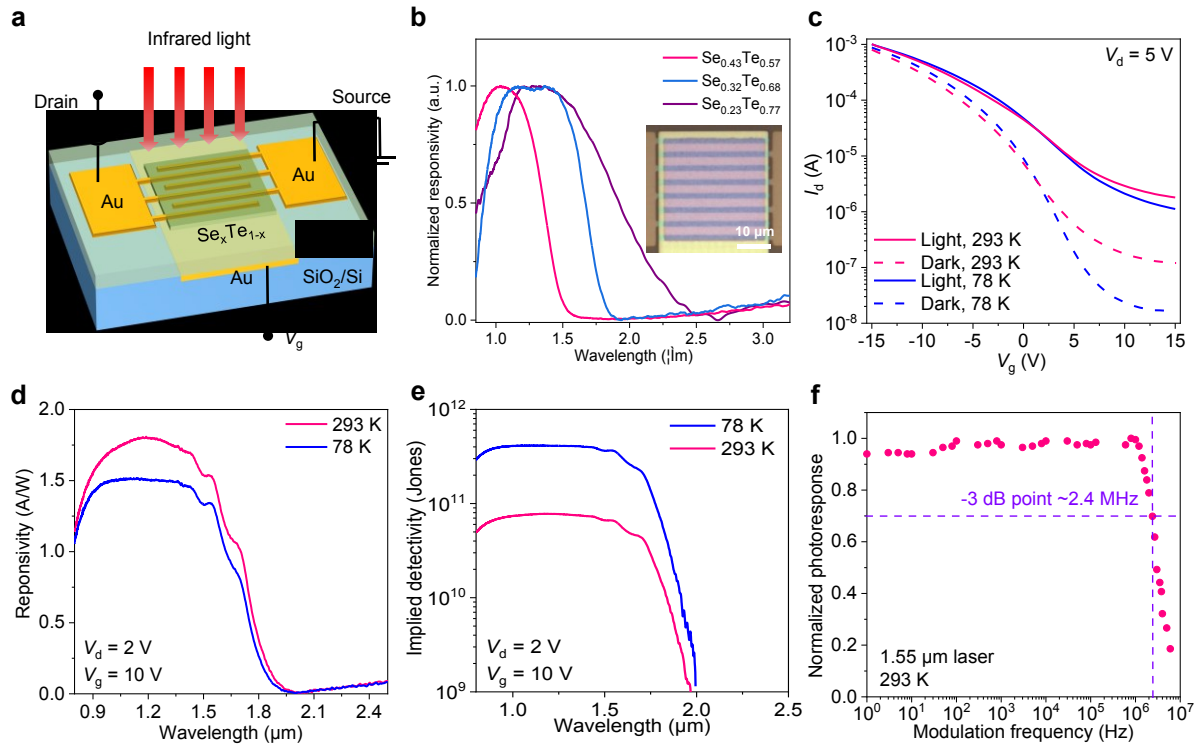


**Figure 2. Composition-dependent optical properties.** (a) Absorption spectra of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films of various compositions, as calculated from the reflection and transmission measurements. (b) Optical bandgaps extracted from the absorption spectra shown in (a).

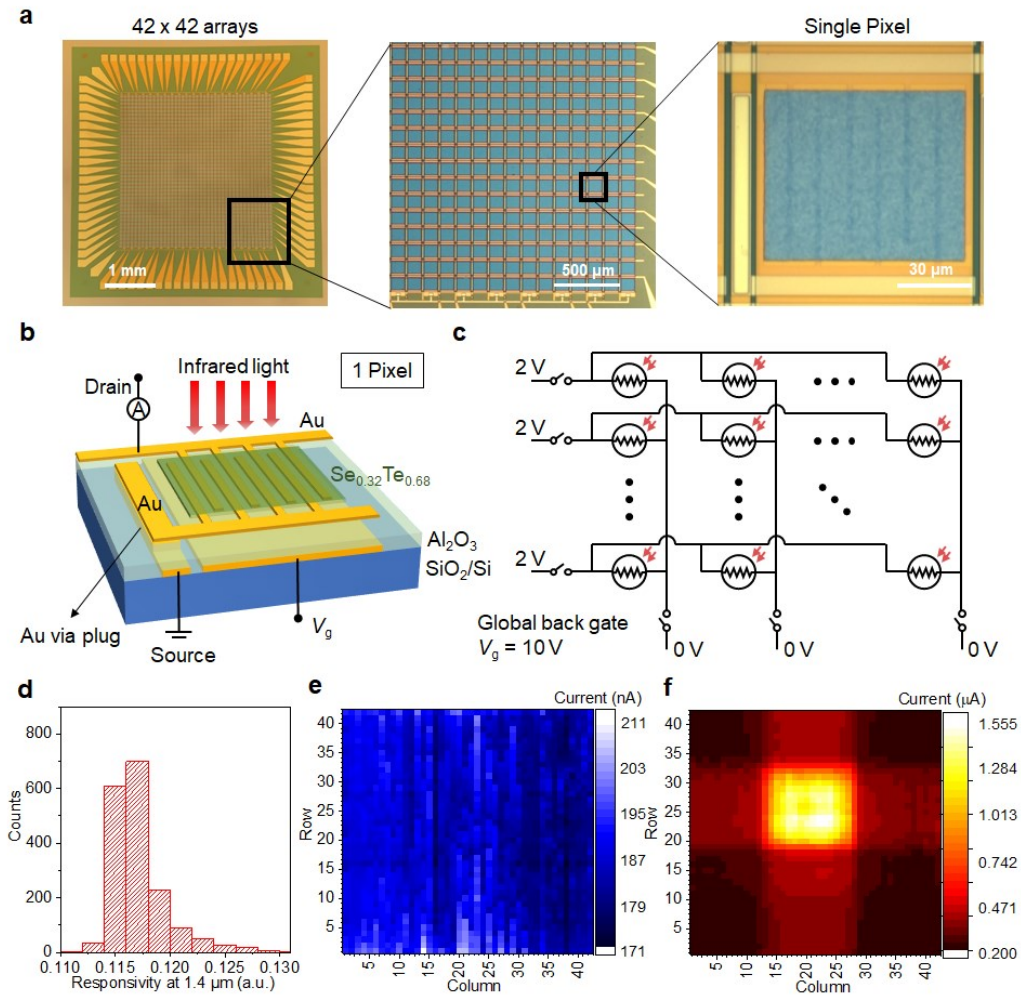


**Figure 3. Composition-dependent electrical properties.** (a) Optical microscope image and device structure schematic of a Se<sub>x</sub>Te<sub>1-x</sub> film-based FET. (b)  $I_d$ - $V_g$  curves for Se<sub>x</sub>Te<sub>1-x</sub> FETs with different compositions. (c) Effective mobilities and current on/off ratios for Se<sub>x</sub>Te<sub>1-x</sub> film-based FETs with different compositions.

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**Figure 4.**  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin film-based photoconductors. (a) Schematic of photoconductor-based on  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin film on an Au/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  substrate. (b) Normalized spectral responsivity of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  film-based photoconductors of different compositions. Inset in (b) is the optical microscope image of  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin film-based photoconductor. (c)  $I_d$ - $V_g$  characteristics of a photoconductor based on 28 nm thick  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  at 297 K and 78 K in the dark and under illumination. (d) Spectral responsivity per watt of a  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  photoconductor measured at 78 K and 297 K with  $V_g = 10$  V and  $V_d = 2$  V. (e) implied detectivity of  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  photoconductor. (f) Frequency response of  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  photoconductor showing a 3-dB frequency of 2.4 MHz ( $\lambda = 1.55$   $\mu\text{m}$ ).



**Figure 5.  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  thin film-based focal plane arrays.** (a) Optical microscope images of 42 pixel  $\times$  42 pixel FPA with 1764 pixels at different magnifications. (b) Schematic showing the device structure of pixel. (c) Configuration of the passive matrix addressing. Gate voltage is applied ( $V_g = 10\text{ V}$ ) to achieve optimal photodetector performance. Note that a negative gate voltage ( $V_g = 10\text{ V}$ ) is applied when the device is off to reduce the effect of threshold voltage drift. (d) Histogram of responsivity (arbitrary units) at  $1.4\ \mu\text{m}$  of all 1764 pixels of FPA. (e) Dark current image of FPA. (f) Image of white light source of our FTIR taken by the FPA. Image is formed using a camera lens.

**Thermal-evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  alloy thin films with tunable bandgaps (from 0.31 eV to 1.87 eV)** are prepared for the fabrication of high-performance SWIR photodetectors. The  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$  film-based photoconductor fabricated on an optical cavity substrate consisting of Au/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  exhibits a cut-off wavelength at  $\sim 1.7 \mu\text{m}$  and gives a responsivity of  $1.5 \text{ A/W}^{-1}$  and implied detectivity of  $6.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ cmHz}^{1/2}\text{W}^{-1}$  at  $1.55 \mu\text{m}$  at room temperature. Importantly, the fabrication of  $\text{Se}_{0.32}\text{Te}_{0.68}$ -based  $42 \times 42$  focal plane arrays with good pixel uniformity is also demonstrated.

**Keywords:**  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  thin films, Tunable bandgaps, Short-wave infrared, Photodetectors, Focal plane arrays

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**Evaporated  $\text{Se}_x\text{Te}_{1-x}$  Thin Films with Tunable Bandgaps for Short-Wave Infrared Photodetectors**

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