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1 **Observation of Terahertz Spin Hall Conductivity Spectrum in**
2 **GaAs with Optical Spin Injection**

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11
12 **Abstract**

13
14 **We report the first observation of the spin Hall conductivity spectrum in GaAs at**
15 **room temperature. Our terahertz polarimetry with a precision of several μrad 's**
16 **resolves the Faraday rotation of terahertz pulses arising from the inverse spin Hall**
17 **effect of optically injected spin-polarized electrons. The obtained spin Hall**
18 **conductivity spectrum exhibits an excellent quantitative agreement with theory,**
19 **demonstrating a crossover in the dominant origin from impurity scattering in the**
20 **DC regime to the intrinsic Berry-curvature mechanism in the terahertz regime. Our**
21 **spectroscopic technique opens a new pathway to analyze anomalous transports**
22 **related to spin, valley, or orbital degrees of freedom.**

24 In the spin-orbit coupled systems, the current flow under a bias field is deflected in
25 transverse directions dependent on the carrier spin, thus giving rise to the transverse spin
26 current. The spin Hall effect (SHE) and its inverse process, the inverse spin Hall effect
27 (ISHE), are key components in the conversion between charge and spin currents in
28 spintronics [1–9]. The concept of spintronics, which utilizes spin as an additional degree
29 of freedom for electrons, has been further extended to valleys in momentum space [10,11]
30 and to orbital angular momentum [12,13]. The microscopic mechanisms of the SHE and
31 ISHE, associated with the anomalous Hall effect (AHE) in magnets [14], have been
32 intensively investigated in terms of the extrinsic impurity scattering [1-3] and dissipation-
33 less intrinsic mechanism [4,5]. While most studies on the SHE and ISHE have focused
34 on the quasi-static response under a DC bias field, the dynamics of the SHE and ISHE at
35 timescales comparable to or faster than the spin relaxation are yet to be investigated.
36 Quantum interference using near-infrared (NIR) femtosecond pulses has been
37 demonstrated to enable ultrafast optical control of charge and spin currents [15]. Optically
38 excited spin-polarized carriers in magnetic/nonmagnetic metal heterostructure thin films
39 can be converted into ultrashort in-plane transverse currents; thus, they are attracting
40 attention as broadband terahertz (THz) emitters [16]. However, studies on SHE and ISHE
41 driven by high-speed electric fields are lacking. Even in a material where the extrinsic
42 mechanisms dominate the DC transport, the AC Hall response can be solely driven by the
43 intrinsic mechanism if the driving electric field is faster than the scattering rate, which
44 typically lies in the THz frequency region. In line with the recent enthusiasm for ultrafast
45 spintronics, such as antiferromagnets exploiting spin precessional motion in THz
46 frequencies and control of magnetism using spin-orbit or spin-transfer torques [17-19],
47 the frequency characteristics of spin-charge current conversion need to be clarified for
48 the development of high-speed spintronic applications.

49

50 As the spintronic properties of materials can be sensitive to adjacent magnets [20], the
51 noncontact optical injection of spins using circularly polarized light is particularly
52 important. The conversion of spin-polarized photocarriers to Hall currents by the ISHE
53 has been studied in the form of the light-induced AHE in the DC limit [21–25].
54 Polarization rotation of THz pulses can also be a probe for the ISHE to reveal its
55 dynamical aspects and optically injected Berry curvature [26]. However, to the best of

56 our knowledge, THz spectroscopy has been limited to the study of a semiconductor GaAs
57 quantum well at cryogenic temperatures [27]. Although the phase shift of THz transients
58 has been discussed in time domain [27], the phase shift in the limited time window is
59 mostly determined by the response at the peak frequency of its spectral weight, which
60 significantly degrades spectral resolution. Because the extrinsic contribution would
61 sharply depend on frequency and the impurity scattering rate, the microscopic origin
62 should be discussed from the spectral profile of optical conductivity. For this purpose, the
63 full waveform of polarization-rotated THz pulse is required with a higher signal-to-noise
64 ratio. Spin Hall current dynamics in bulk GaAs was also studied from the THz pulse
65 emission [28,29]; however, spectral analysis was difficult owing to coexisting
66 contributions from the surface and bulk, as well as the propagation effect. For a
67 comprehensive understanding of this dynamical Hall conductivity, a quantitative analysis
68 of its frequency characteristics, *i.e.* the spin Hall conductivity spectrum, is required, as
69 studied for the anomalous Hall conductivity spectrum in magnets [30–35].

70

71 In this Letter, we have conducted NIR circularly polarized pump-THz probe
72 experiments for bulk semiconductor GaAs to reveal the dynamical properties of spin
73 transport. The anomalous Faraday rotation of the THz probe pulse depending on the pump
74 helicity is clearly observed as a manifestation of the spin-to-charge current conversion,
75 namely the ISHE. The signal shows double-exponential decays with time constants
76 consistent with the spin relaxation of the valence and conduction bands. After the hole
77 contribution relaxes, the spin Hall conductivity spectrum of the electrons is determined
78 experimentally by suppressing the noise of polarization rotation angle to several μrad .
79 Theoretical calculations of the sum of the intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms
80 quantitatively reproduces the experimentally observed spectrum quite well. This work
81 clearly resolves the microscopic mechanisms of SHE from the frequency characteristics.

82

83 Figures 1(a) and 1(b) show schematics of the present pump-probe spectroscopy setup
84 and experimental geometry. The circularly polarized NIR pump pulse excites the spin-
85 polarized carriers in GaAs. According to the selection rule for interband transitions, left-
86 handed circularly polarized (LCP) photons, denoted by σ_+ , excite up- and down-spin
87 electrons from the light-hole (LH) and heavy-hole (HH) bands with the angular momenta

88 of $-(3/2)\hbar$ and $-(1/2)\hbar$, respectively; the signs are the opposite for right-handed circularly
89 polarized (RCP) photons. As the oscillator strength of transitions from the HH band to
90 the conduction band is three times larger than that for the LH, the spin polarization ratio
91 of excited electrons $P_s \equiv (N_\uparrow - N_\downarrow)/(N_\uparrow + N_\downarrow)$ is -0.5 [36], where N_\uparrow and N_\downarrow are the
92 densities of up- and down-spin electrons. Subsequently, the carriers with spin polarization
93 are driven by a THz electric field linearly polarized in the x -direction, thus yielding a net
94 charge current J_y in the y -direction owing to the ISHE.

95

96 The sample is undoped (001) GaAs grown by the molecular-beam epitaxy method with
97 a thickness of $1.0\ \mu\text{m}$, sandwiched by $\text{Al}_{0.19}\text{Ga}_{0.81}\text{As}$ protective layers. All the experiments
98 are performed at room temperature. To perform NIR pump-THz probe spectroscopy, we
99 use a Yb:KGW laser amplifier system. Part of the output beam is converted into the NIR
100 pump pulse at 1.46 or $1.55\ \text{eV}$ using an optical parametric amplifier. Given that the
101 bandgap of $\text{Al}_{0.19}\text{Ga}_{0.81}\text{As}$ is $1.63\ \text{eV}$, the NIR pump excites only the GaAs layer with a
102 bandgap of $1.42\ \text{eV}$. The pump pulse duration is $200\ \text{fs}$, and the polarization is controlled
103 using a quarter-wave plate to switch between LCP and RCP. The remnant of the laser
104 output is compressed to $100\ \text{fs}$ using the multiplate broadening scheme [37,38] and split
105 into two beams for the generation and detection of the THz pulse in the form of time-
106 domain spectroscopy. The polarization of THz probe is linearly aligned in the x -direction.
107 After transmitting through the sample, the probe THz pulse is detected by the gate pulse
108 in electro-optic sampling. A pair of wire-grid polarizers is inserted between the sample
109 and the detection crystal to separately detect the x - and y -components of the THz probe
110 pulse. The details of present experiments and analyses are described in the Supplemental
111 Material [39].

112

113 The use of a thin sample allows the quantitative analysis of the response function
114 through transmission measurements, maintaining the bulk nature. Two delay stages are
115 used to control the delay times of the pump and probe pulses. We denote the time
116 difference between the probe and gate pulses as t_1 , and that between the pump and gate
117 as t_2 , as shown in Fig. 2(a). The upper panel of Fig. 2(b) shows $E_x(t_1)$, the probe THz
118 pulse waveform transmitted through the sample without a pump. The lower panel shows

119 a two-dimensional (2D) plot of E_x as a function of t_1 and t_2 with the pump at 1.46 eV.
120 The amplitude of E_x decreases upon pumping, indicating that the transmission is
121 suppressed by the photoexcited carriers. Figure 2(c) shows the photoinduced longitudinal
122 conductivity spectrum $\Delta\sigma_{xx}(\omega)$ at $t_2 = 5.0$ ps with a pump fluence of $19.7 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$. Fitting
123 by the Drude model gives the excited carrier density N as shown in Fig. 2(d). We find
124 that N increases linearly with the fluence below $100 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$, thus indicating the linear
125 absorption regime. Figure 2(e) shows the t_2 dependence of N . The decay time of N ,
126 which corresponds to the carrier recombination time, is longer than 1 ns and can be
127 neglected in the timescale considered below.

128

129 Next, we discuss the dynamics of anomalous Faraday rotation signal. Figure 3(a) shows
130 a 2D plot of the y component of the transmitted THz pulse, $\Delta E_y(t_1, t_2)$, at a pump fluence
131 of $18.3 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$ and a pump photon energy of 1.55 eV. To extract the signal depending
132 on the pump helicity, we define $\Delta E_y(t_1, t_2)$ as half of the difference between the results
133 for the LCP and RCP pumps: $\Delta E_y(t_1, t_2) \equiv (E_y^{\text{LCP}}(t_1, t_2) - E_y^{\text{RCP}}(t_1, t_2))/2$. Figure 3(a)
134 shows that ΔE_y arises upon pumping and most of the signal decays quickly at $t_2 < 1$ ps.
135 In addition, a small portion of the signal survives with a much longer lifetime at $t_2 > 1$
136 ps. Further, a slight phase shift is observed between the fast ($t_2 < 1$ ps) and slow ($t_2 > 1$ ps)
137 signals, suggesting the difference origin of the response in the fast and slow dynamics.
138 For analysis, t_1 is fixed at 0.12 and 0.30 ps, the peak of fast and slow components,
139 respectively. Their time evolutions after the pump are investigated by scanning along t_2 .
140 Figure 3(b) shows the quickly decaying signal as a function of t_2 . The data are fitted using
141 an exponential function with an offset, which yields a decay time of approximately 200
142 fs. By contrast, the slow decay signals are fitted by an exponential function with a time
143 constant of 80 ps, as shown in Fig. 3(c). The decay times do not depend on the pump
144 photon energy between 1.46 and 1.55 eV. Previously, the spin dynamics in bulk GaAs
145 have been investigated using optical pump-optical probe spectroscopy, and the typical
146 spin relaxation times of holes and electrons at room temperature were reported to be
147 approximately 100 fs [49] and 75 ps [50], respectively. These spin relaxation times are in
148 good agreement with the two decay times observed in the present experiment. Therefore,
149 the fast and slowly decaying ΔE_y signals can be ascribed to the ISHE of optically-injected

150 spin-polarized holes and electrons, respectively. The polarization rotation angle for the
 151 ISHE signal of electrons is so small as 100 μrad [39], which can be ascribed to the small
 152 spin-orbit coupling in the s -like conduction band. The upper and lower panels of Fig. 3(d)
 153 show the decay times of the fast (hole) and slow (electron) signals, respectively, as
 154 functions of the pump fluence. The decay times are almost independent of the pump
 155 fluence, thus indicating that the spin relaxation time does not depend on the carrier density
 156 in the measured region.

157

158 Notably, when the circularly polarized light temporally overlaps with the x -polarized
 159 THz field, a photocurrent in the y -direction can be generated owing to the anisotropic
 160 distribution of photoexcited carriers in momentum space, which was recently revealed in
 161 graphene [51] and a Dirac semimetal [52]. As this effect is well described by field-
 162 induced nonlinear current generation rather than a polarization rotation of the THz pulse,
 163 the resulting 2D map signal of $\Delta E_y(t_1, t_2)$ appears in a different way. In the present
 164 experimental condition this photocurrent effect is negligibly small, which will be
 165 presented elsewhere.

166

167 To quantitatively evaluate the anomalous Hall conductivity spectrum $\sigma_{yx}(\omega)$, we
 168 measure the transmitted THz signal at $t_2 = 5.0$ ps, where the faster ISHE signal of the
 169 holes almost completely vanishes and only the slower electron contribution remains at a
 170 nearly constant value. For a spectral analysis, we suppress the statistic errors to be several
 171 μrad and measure the whole waveform of $E_y(t_1)$ with a high signal-to-noise ratio [39].
 172 $\sigma_{yx}(\omega)$ is obtained using the following equation.

$$173 \quad \sigma_{yx}(\omega) = \frac{\Delta\sigma_{xx}(\omega)}{E_x^{\text{neq}}(\omega)/E_x^{\text{eq}}(\omega) - 1} \tilde{\theta}(\omega), \quad (1)$$

174 where $E_x^{\text{neq}}(\omega)$ and $E_x^{\text{eq}}(\omega)$ are the E_x spectra with and without pumping, respectively;
 175 and $\tilde{\theta}(\omega)$ is the polarization rotation spectrum [32]. Furthermore, using the spin-
 176 polarization ratio P_s , the anomalous Hall conductivity can be converted to the spin Hall
 177 conductivity using the relation; $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega) = (P_s)^{-1}\sigma_{yx}(\omega)$. Here, P_s can be fixed at -0.5
 178 because the excitation process lies within the linear regime [Fig. 2(d)] and because the
 179 electron spin relaxation is negligible at $t_2 = 5.0$ ps owing to a much longer relaxation time

180 [Fig. 3(d)]. Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the real and imaginary parts of the spin Hall
 181 conductivity spectrum $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega)$, respectively, with the pump at 1.46 eV. The fluence is
 182 the same with the experiment for $\sigma_{xx}(\omega)$ in Fig. 2(c).

183

184 According to theoretical studies on the frequency dependence of the AHE and SHE on
 185 the conduction band of semiconductors [52,53], each contribution of the intrinsic and
 186 side-jump mechanisms can be represented by:

$$187 \quad \sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH,int}}(\omega) = 2N\lambda \frac{e^2}{\hbar}, \quad (2)$$

$$188 \quad \sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH,sj}}(\omega) = -4N\lambda \frac{e^2}{\hbar} \frac{1}{1 - i\omega\tau_{\text{ex}}}, \quad (3)$$

189 where N is the electron density; λ is the spin-orbit coupling constant; and τ_{ex} is the
 190 extrinsic scattering time [39]. In addition, the skew scattering contribution can be
 191 approximately given by:

$$192 \quad \sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH,skew}}(\omega) \approx 2N\lambda \frac{e^2}{\hbar} \frac{E_B}{\hbar} \tau_{\text{ex}} \frac{1}{(1 - i\omega\tau_{\text{ex}})^2}, \quad (4)$$

193 where E_B is the binding energy of the impurity potential [39]. The sum of Eqs. (2)-(4) has
 194 successfully explained the previous experimental results of SHE in the DC limit at room
 195 temperature [25]. For the bulk GaAs, the known parameters are: $\lambda = 5.3 \text{ \AA}^2$ [54] and $E_B =$
 196 $m^*R_y/m_0\epsilon^2 = 5.5 \text{ meV}$, where R_y is the Rydberg constant, m_0 is the free electron mass,
 197 $m^* = 0.067m_0$, and $\epsilon = 12.9$ are the effective mass and permittivity, respectively [55,56].
 198 From the Drude model fitting for $\sigma_{xx}(\omega)$ in Fig. 2(c), the electron density N and
 199 relaxation time τ were obtained as $N = 1.3 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $\tau = 150 \text{ fs}$. The impurity
 200 scattering time τ_{ex} in Eqs. (3) and (4) is expected to be the same with or a bit longer than
 201 τ . In Figs. 4(c) and 4(d), we plot $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega)$ as the sum of Eqs. (2)-(4), using $\tau_{\text{ex}} = 150, 250,$
 202 and 350 fs . Note that, except for τ_{ex} , any fitting parameters are not used in the calculation.
 203 The experimental results of $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega)$ in THz frequency are well reproduced by the
 204 calculations for any value of τ_{ex} between 150 and 350 fs. It is in contrast to the DC limit,
 205 which is sensitive to τ_{ex} because of the large influence of skew scattering. The result
 206 suggests that the SHE in THz frequency is less dependent on the scattering.

207

208 Using $\tau_{\text{ex}} = 250$ fs, Figs. 4(e) and 4(f) show the real and imaginary parts of the
 209 calculated $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega)$, respectively, for each contribution of the intrinsic, side-jump, and
 210 skew scattering mechanisms. In the DC limit, the intrinsic contribution is canceled by
 211 half of the side-jump contribution such that the total spin Hall conductivity of the
 212 electrons is dominated by extrinsic impurity scattering, which is consistent with the
 213 previous static measurement of the SHE for n -doped bulk GaAs [6]. At sub-THz
 214 frequency, the spin Hall conductivity decreases because the impurity scattering is
 215 suppressed when the electric field alternates faster than the scattering rate. As the
 216 frequency increases beyond 1 THz, however, the real-part spin Hall conductivity recovers
 217 to the value comparable to, or even larger than, that in the DC limit owing to the dominant
 218 contribution of intrinsic Berry curvature mechanism, which is nondissipative and
 219 independent of frequency. Although the imaginary part of the side-jump effect is still
 220 considerable at approximately 1 THz, it would be suppressed in higher frequency [39].
 221 The dissipation is rather dominated by the longitudinal current. Owing to the sharp Drude
 222 response in Fig. 2(c), the longitudinal conductivity $\Delta\sigma_{xx}$ is also suppressed and becomes
 223 less dissipative at several THz. Therefore, the larger spin Hall angle $\theta_{\text{SH}} = \sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}/\sigma_{xx}$ can
 224 be expected with less dissipative nature at several THz, thus implying an efficient spin-
 225 to-charge current conversion using semiconductors.

226

227 In conclusion, the spin Hall conductivity spectrum in GaAs at room temperature was
 228 successfully observed using our highly precise THz polarimetry. The excellent agreement
 229 between the experiment and theory in the representative material will stimulate further
 230 exploration of the spin Hall conductivity spectrum of various materials to reveal their
 231 microscopic origin, as spin-polarized carriers can be injected by light even in heavy
 232 metals [57]. The extension to a faster electric field up to the multi-THz frequency
 233 [38,58,59] is also promising for materials with a faster scattering time, such as transition
 234 metals with a much larger SHE [60]. The nonlinearity expected for an intense THz electric
 235 field and its effect on scattering [25,61,62] are also highly intriguing. This study opens a
 236 new avenue for ultrafast noncontact detection schemes for the anomalous transport
 237 related to spin, valley, and orbital degrees of freedom.

238

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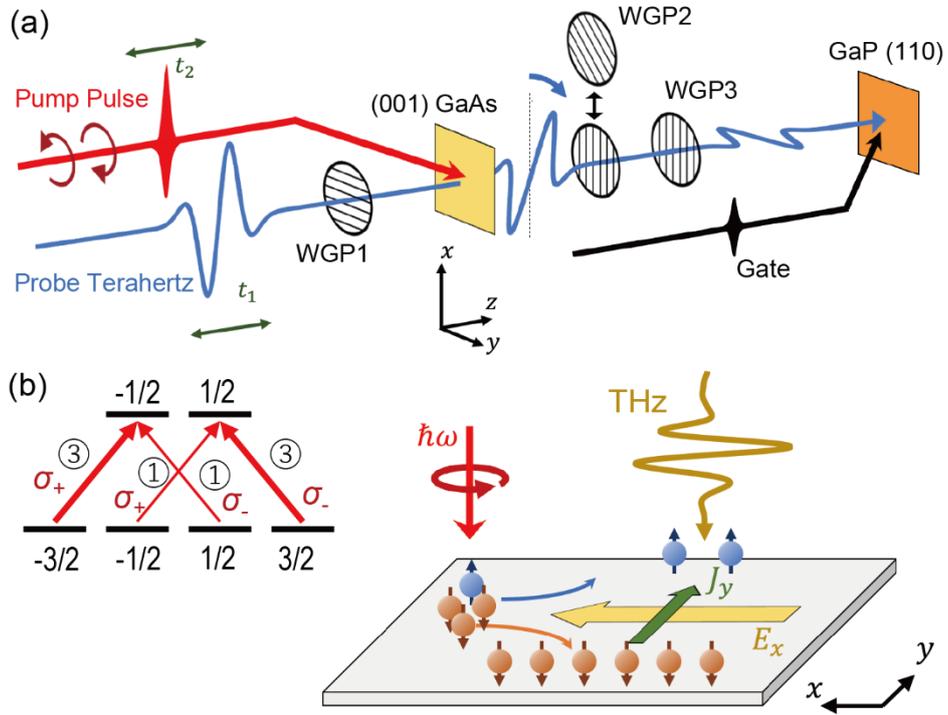
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417 FIG. 1. (a) Schematic of the optical system. A circularly polarized pump pulse excites the

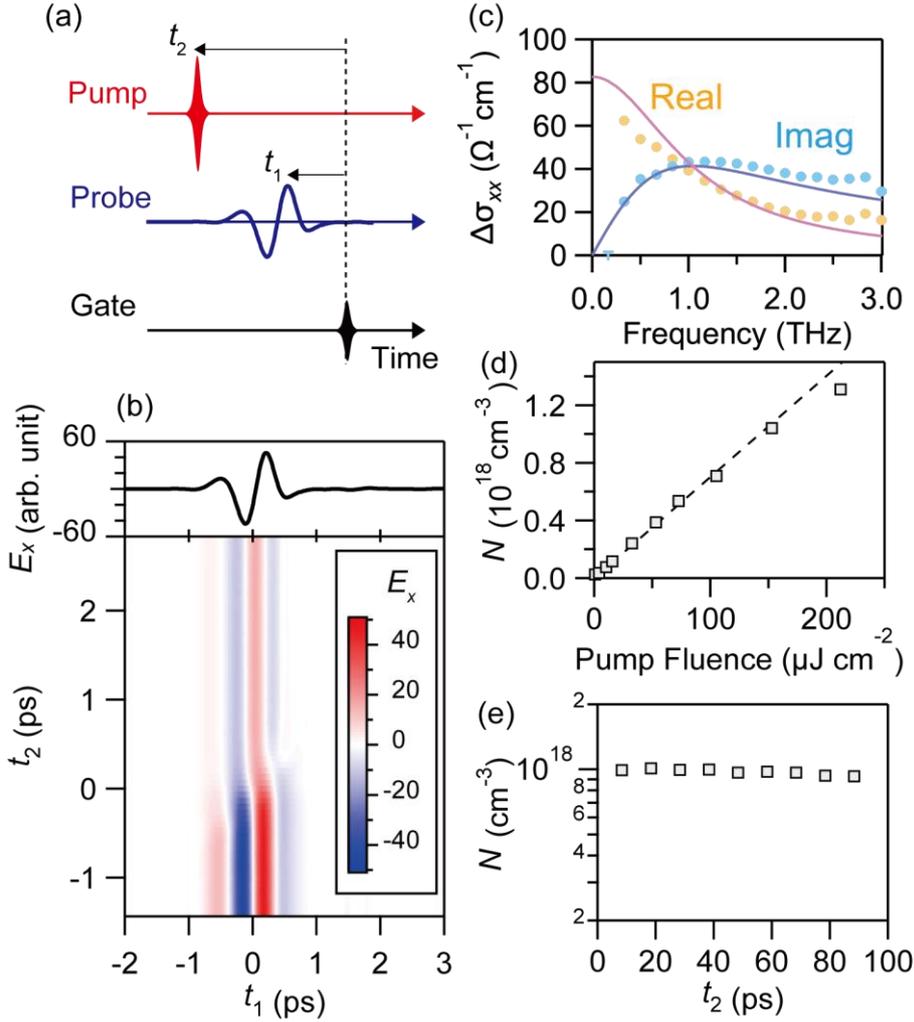
418 sample, and the Faraday rotation of the THz probe pulse is detected by electro-optical

419 sampling with a (110) GaP crystal. Both pulses are normally incident on the sample. (b)

420 Schematic of the experimental configuration in the sample. σ_+ denotes the LCP pump,421 exciting spin-polarized electrons with $N_{\downarrow}/N_{\uparrow}=3$. When x-polarized THz field E_x is422 applied, the net charge current J_y is generated by the ISHE. Inset shows the selection rule

423 of the interband transitions by the circularly polarized pump.

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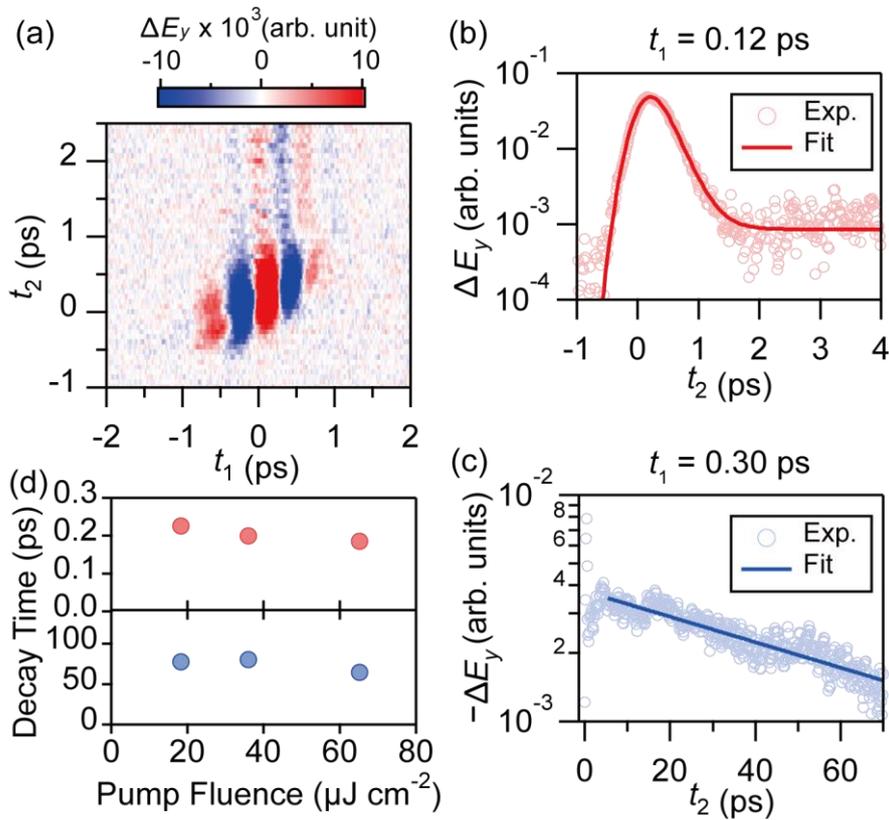
428 FIG. 2. (a) Schematic of relation between the pump, probe, and gate pulses. (b) (upper)

429 THz electric field waveform $E_x(t_1)$ transmitting through the sample without the pump.430 (lower) 2D plot of the THz electric field $E_x(t_1, t_2)$ across the pump pulse irradiation431 around $t_2 \sim 0$ with a pump fluence of $109 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$ and a pump photon energy of 1.46 eV.432 (c) Solid circles show light-induced longitudinal conductivity spectrum $\Delta\sigma_{xx}(\omega)$ at $t_2 =$ 433 5.0 ps with a pump fluence of $19.7 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$, whereas the solid curves show the Drude

434 model fitting. Error bars represent statistical errors. (d),(e) Carrier density estimated from

435 the Drude fitting as a function of the pump fluence at $t_2 = 5.0$ ps, and the pump delay t_2 436 with a pump fluence of $179 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$, respectively.

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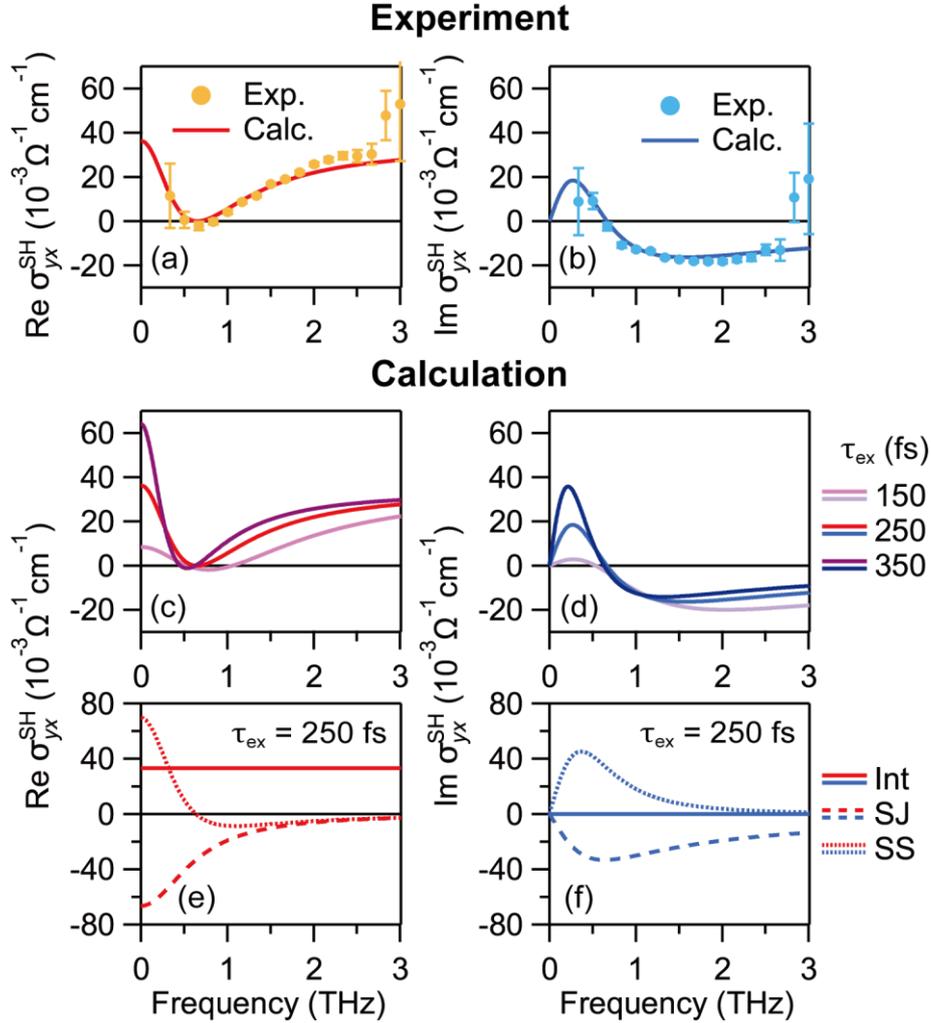


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440 FIG. 3. (a) 2D plot of the light-induced y-polarized electric field ΔE_y as a function of t_1
 441 and t_2 with a pump fluence of $18.3 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$ and a pump photon energy is 1.55 eV. (b),(c)
 442 Decay dynamics of ΔE_y for $t_1=0.12$ and 0.30 ps, respectively; the solid curves show the
 443 fitting results. (d) Upper and lower panels show the decay times as a function of the pump
 444 fluence for the data in (b) and (c), respectively.

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448 FIG. 4. (a),(b) Solid circles shows the experimental results of real and imaginary parts of
 449 the spin Hall conductivity spectrum $\sigma_{yx}^{\text{SH}}(\omega)$, respectively. Those error bars represent
 450 statistical errors. Solid curves show the theoretical curves for $\tau_{\text{ex}} = 250$ fs, using Eqs. (2)-
 451 (4). The pump photon energy is 1.46 eV and the fluence is $19.7 \mu\text{J cm}^{-2}$. (c),(d) Solid
 452 curves show the theoretical curves for various τ_{ex} . (e),(f) Each microscopic contribution
 453 of the spin Hall conductivity for $\tau_{\text{ex}}=250$ fs. Int, SJ, and SS stand for the intrinsic, side-
 454 jump, and skew scattering mechanisms, respectively.

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