SECOND ORDER NONLINEAR OPTICAL PROCESSES IN [111] CUBIC CRYSTALS FOR TERAHERTZ OPTOELECTRONICS

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In this paper, we give an overview of emission and detection of terahertz electromagnetic pulses using, respectively, optical rectification and electro-optic effect in [111] zinc blende crystals. This crystal orientation allows us to generate and read any polarization state of the THz beam only by controlling the polarization state of the laser beam that excites or probes the emitting and receiving crystals. This technique is very useful for polarimetric terahertz spectroscopic studies.

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1. Introduction

While studied since the pioneering works of Bose [1], Rubens [2] and Nichols [3], researches in the far-infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum, known today as the terahertz (THz) domain, have been strongly boosted in the 80's by the development of time-domain opto-electronic techniques [4] that were based on the use of reliable and efficient newly-invented mode-locked solid-state lasers. These lasers deliver extremely stable combs of femtosecond pulses. By rectifying such optical pulses in a nonlinear material or component, sub-picosecond electromagnetic bursts are generated, whose spectrum spreads typically from 100 GHz up to a few THz. Time-resolved optoelectronic sampling techniques make it possible to record the burst waveforms with a subpicosecond time-equivalent resolution, thanks to the periodicity and repeatability of the laser pulses. The frequency associated with these THz pulses is obtained by a numerical Fourier transform. This method has allowed the development of the widely spread THz time-domain spectroscopy (TDS). Most of the materials and devices exhibiting a THz response have been studied so far. Today, a strong effort is done for achieving ultrabroad spectra, extending up to several tens of THz and even over 100 THz [5], i.e. covering not only the far-infrared region, but also the mid-infrared and even the near-infrared. Simultaneously, researchers are aiming at producing extremely high power THz pulses, which allow one to perform nonlinear optics at THz frequencies, opening the route towards new topics in physics [6].

The key components in pulsed THz set-ups are the emitting and receiving antennas. They must efficiently rectify the femtosecond laser pulses without a too large broadening effect. Besides, in detection, the time-response should be as short as possible. This is mainly achieved with photoconducting switches, made with ultrafast semiconductor materials like low-temperature grown GaAs [7], or with electro-optic (EO) crystals [8].

This review paper is devoted to the EO THz antennas. When illuminated by a powerful pulsed laser beam, optical rectification (OR) occurs in the crystals; more rigorously speaking, this

phenomenon corresponds to difference-frequency generation, i.e. $\Omega = \omega_1 - \omega_2$, where Ω is the THz frequency, and ω_1 and ω_2 are two frequencies belonging to a wide spectrum of the ultra-short laser pulses. Because $\Omega \ll \omega_1$, ω_2 , this frequency difference is approximated by OR, i.e. $\omega_1 - \omega_2 \approx 0$. Efficient OR requires crystals exhibiting a large nonlinearity, and also phase-matching should be achieved, i.e. the laser group velocity and the THz phase velocity should be equal. Under these conditions, ultra broadband and high peak power THz signals are produced, thanks, respectively, to the almost instantaneous response of OR, and to the possibility of exciting the crystals with intense laser pulses. In the receiving device, the signal is measured through the EO (Pockels) effect: the incoming THz field modifies the index ellipsoid of the crystal. The resulting induced birefringence is read with a laser probe beam. Here again, rigorously speaking, the involved phenomenon is difference-frequency generation $\omega_1 + \Omega = \omega_2$: to our knowledge, this induced change of frequency (up-conversion) has only been exploited by Minamide et al. [9] to read the THz signals. Highly nonlinear crystals for THz generation include ferroelectrics like LiNbO₃ [10], and organic crystals like DAST [11], while phasematching is almost achieved around $\lambda = 800$ nm in ZnTe [12], or in DAST around $\lambda = 1.5 \ \mu m$ [13].

Among these crystals, cubic crystals present the advantage of being isotropic when dealing with linear optics, which facilitates the arrangement of THz time-domain set-ups. Additionally, a variation of the crystal temperature does not influence the phase change induced by the THz field. Moreover, the second order nonlinear tensor involved either in OR or EO effects exhibits only a few nonnull elements, namely $\chi_{ijk}^{(2)} \equiv \chi_{14}$ ($i \neq j \neq k$), which simplifies the modeling of THz generation.

Usually, the crystals are cut in the [110] direction and are illuminated under normal incidence, which leads to the highest nonlinear efficiency. However, the [111] cut is very interesting, because it allows one to control the polarization of the generated THz beam by adjusting the one of the laser pump beam, and, in receiving antennas, the detection sensitivity is independent of the THz beam polarization. This enables one to manipulate the THz polarization in TDS set-ups, without using THz wave plates that are still difficult to design for broadband THz signals. In this paper, we will give some basic properties of nonlinear optics with [111] cubic crystals. We will review THz emission by OR and THz detection by EO sampling, and we will finally address the limiting phenomenon of two-photon absorption (TPA).

2. Nonlinear second and third order effects in cubic crystals

2.1. Basic concepts

We define by x, y, z and X, Y, Z the frames, respectively, in the laboratory and in the crystal $(X, Y, Z \text{ correspond to the crystallographic axes of the cubic crystal. From now on, capital letters refer to the crystal frame, while lower-cases are related to the laboratory frame). The laser beams (pump beam in the emitter and probe beam in the receiver) propagate in the laboratory ry along the axis <math>z$. We set ω and Ω the frequencies of, respectively, the laser beam and the THz beam.

Nonlinear tensors are usually defined in the frame of the crystal. Thus, calculations should be performed as follows: first, the incoming fields (laser in the OR case, laser and THz in EO sampling) are written in the crystal frame by applying a rotation matrix R. Then the nonlinear effect is calculated. The resulting fields are obtained in the crystal frame and are calculated in the laboratory frame by using the inverse matrix R^{-1} . This procedure is compulsory as all the quantities are measured in the laboratory frame.

To go from the laboratory x, y, z frame to the crystal X, Y, Z frame, a first rotation by θ around axis y is performed, leading to new axes x', y, z', followed by a second one by φ around z'. The expression of the rotation matrix is

$$R(\varphi, \theta) = R(\varphi)R(\theta)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta \cos\varphi & -\sin\varphi & \cos\theta \\ \cos\theta \sin\varphi & \cos\varphi & \sin\theta \sin\varphi \\ -\sin\theta & 0 & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (1)

In cubic crystals, the nonlinear second and third order tensors take the following forms

$$\chi_{IJK}^{(2)} = \chi_{14}^{(2)} \delta_{IJ} \delta_{JK},$$
(2)

$$\chi_{IJKL}^{(3)} = \chi_1^{(3)} \delta_{IJ} \delta_{JK} \delta_{KL} + \chi_2^{(3)} \delta_{IJ} \delta_{KL} + \chi_3^{(3)} \delta_{IK} \delta_{JL} + \chi_4^{(3)} \delta_{IL} \delta_{JK'}$$
(3)

where δ_{IJ} is the Kronecker symbol ($\delta_{II} = 1$, $\delta_{I\neq J} = 0$). The second order tensor describes OR and EO, while the third order one is related to TPA. Because TPA involves laser photons at the same frequency ω (see Eqs. (1) and (2)), thus $\chi_2^{(3)} = \chi_3^{(3)}$.

2.2. Generation of THz by OR in cubic crystals

In the undepleted pump beam approximation, the propagation equation of the laser beam field does not depend on the THz field. Therefore, the THz field obeys only the following differential equation

$$\frac{\partial^{2} \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{\partial z^{2}} + \vec{k}_{\Omega}^{2} \vec{E}_{\Omega}$$

$$= -\frac{\Omega^{2}}{c^{2}} \vec{\chi}^{(2)} (\Omega, \omega + \Omega, -\omega) : \vec{E}_{\omega + \Omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega, \alpha}^{*},$$
(4)

where $\tilde{k}_{\Omega}^2 = \tilde{\epsilon}_{\Omega} \Omega^2 / c^2$, $\tilde{\epsilon}_{\Omega}$ is the dielectric constant at THz frequency¹, and we do not write the *z* dependence of the laser field for the sake of simplicity. Also we do not take into account TPA effects: TPA will be treated in the last part of this paper. The generated THz field is thus proportional to the non-linear term in (4). As already explained, this term must be calculated in the crystal frame and then in the laboratory frame.

We start from the pump laser field that, in the laboratory, is polarized in the *xy* plane, i.e.

$$\vec{E}_{\omega,\text{lab}} = E_{\omega,\text{lab}} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \psi \\ \sin \psi \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5}$$

where ψ is the angle of the laser beam polarization in the *xy* plane. Then we calculate the nonlinear polarization in the laboratory frame:

$$\vec{P}_{lab}^{NL} = R(-\varphi,-\theta) \times \left(\varepsilon_0 \vec{\chi}^{(2)} : R(\theta,\varphi) \vec{E}_{\omega,lab} \cdot R(\theta,\varphi) \vec{E}_{\omega,lab} \right).$$
(6)

Therefore, in the referential laboratory, the THz field is

$$\vec{E}_{\Omega,(x,y,z)} = \begin{pmatrix} E_{\Omega,X} \cos \varphi \cos \theta + E_{\Omega,Y} \sin \varphi \cos \theta + E_{\Omega,Z} \sin \theta \\ - E_{\Omega,X} \sin \varphi + E_{\Omega,Y} \cos \varphi \\ - E_{\Omega,X} \sin \theta \cos \varphi - E_{\Omega,Y} \sin \theta \sin \varphi + E_{\Omega,Z} \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}, (7)$$

where $E_{\Omega,(X,Y,Z)}$ are the components of the THz generated field in the crystal frame, whose expressions are

$$\vec{E}_{\Omega,(X,Y,Z)} \propto \vec{\chi}^{(2)}(\Omega, \omega + \Omega, -\omega) : \vec{E}_{\omega+\Omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^{*}$$

$$\propto \chi_{14}^{(2)} E_{\omega}^{2}$$

$$\times \begin{pmatrix} (\cos\psi \, \cos\theta \, \sin\phi + \sin\psi \, \cos\phi \,) \cos\psi \, \sin\theta \\ (\cos\psi \, \cos\theta \, \cos\phi - \sin\psi \, \sin\phi) \cos\psi \, \sin\theta \\ (\cos\psi \, \cos\theta \, \sin\phi + \sin\psi \, \cos\phi \,) (\cos\psi \, \cos\theta \, \cos\phi \, \cos\phi \\ -\sin\psi \, \sin\phi \,) \end{pmatrix}.$$
(8)

It is useful to derive the intensity of the THz beam from (8):

$$I_{\Omega} \propto E_{\Omega,(x,y,z)}^{2} \left[\begin{pmatrix} (\cos\theta\cos\varphi\cos\psi - \sin\varphi\sin\psi) \\ \times (\cos\theta\sin\varphi\cos\psi + \cos\varphi\sin\psi) \end{pmatrix}^{2} \\ + \sin^{2}\theta\cos^{2}\psi (1 - \sin^{2}\theta\cos^{2}\psi) \end{pmatrix}^{2} \right].$$
(9)

 I_{Ω} does not depend on the laser beam polarization angle ψ only if $\cos\theta = 1/\sqrt{3}$ and $\varphi = \pi/4$, which corresponds to the [111] cut.

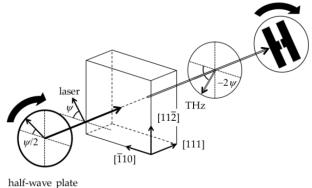
Table 1. Parameters for THz emission through OR in cubic crystals with different cuts.

Crystal cut	[100]	[110]	[111]	
Angle φ	0	$\pi/4$	$\pi/4$	
Angle θ	$\pi/2$	$\pi/2$	$acos(1/\sqrt{3})$	
$E_{\Omega,x}$	0	$(\cos 2\psi - 1)/4$	$\cos(2\psi)/\sqrt{6}$	
$E_{\Omega,y}$	0	$-\sin 2\psi/2$	$-\sin 2\psi/\sqrt{6}$	
$E_{\Omega,z}$	$E_{\Omega,z}$ $-\sin 2\psi/2$		$-1/2\sqrt{3}$	
I_{Ω}				

Table 1 gives the THz field components radiated by cubic crystals of different cuts under a normal incidence excitation. When using the [111] cut,

¹ In this paper, a complex value is pointed out by a tilde, but neither the vectors nor the tensors with a complex amplitude or complex elements.

the THz field is linearly polarized and its polarization angle is $\psi_{\Omega} = -2\psi$ (see Fig. 1), while the THz field magnitude is independent of ψ . Therefore, it is fully possible to monitor the radiated THz field polarization state by adjusting the laser polarization state that could be, for example, linear, circular, elliptical, and so on.



nan-wave plate

Fig. 1. Generation of a linearly polarized THz field by OR in a [111] cubic EO crystal.

Let us notice that the THz field longitudinal component, i.e. along z, exists in the crystal, but does not propagate in the surrounding medium, where the THz field has to be transverse. The [100]cut does not radiate THz wave, while the [110]-cut is delivering a strongly ψ -dependent signal. This is illustrated in Fig. 2 where I_{Ω} is plotted versus ψ for different crystal cuts. As compared to the maximum THz intensity generated with a [110] crystal, the intensity with [111] ones is only 16% weaker.

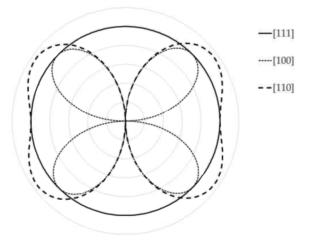


Fig. 2. THz intensity in the crystal versus the laser polarization angle ψ for different orientations of a cubic crystal (polar plot).

2.3. EO sampling with [111] cubic crystals

In the detecting antenna, the nonlinear crystal is illuminated simultaneously by the THz pulse and the laser probe pulse. Through the Pockels effect, the THz field induces a birefringence in the crystal, which is read with the probe beam. Even if different detection schemes can be used [14], generally a polarimetric method is employed to measure the induced birefringence and then to deduce the THz field strength and polarization. In this case, a circularly-polarized probe beam propagates through the crystal, and it becomes elliptic because of the crystal birefringence. In cubic crystals, the birefringence exists only through the EO effect due to the impinging THz field, while in anisotropic crystals, the EO effect mostly changes weakly the length of the ellipsoid axes but not their directions. Therefore, the orientation of the EOinduced ellipsoid must be determined for cubic crystals. The elliptical polarization is transformed into a linear one by a quarter wave plate (QWP) located after the EO crystal, and the resulting linear polarization direction is measured with a polarizing prism, like a Wollaston one. Let us explain the main details of this detection scheme.

In the crystal frame, the ellipsoid equation is

$$\frac{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}{n_{\omega}^2} + 2r_{14}(YZE_{\Omega X} + ZXE_{\Omega X} + XYE_{\Omega Z}) = 1. (10)$$

This equation can be written as a matrix product

$$(X Y Z) \begin{pmatrix} n_{\omega}^{-2} A & C \\ A & n_{\omega}^{-2} B \\ C & B & n_{\omega}^{-2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = 1,$$
(11)

with

$$A = r_{14} E_{\Omega Z}, B = r_{14} E_{\Omega X}, C = r_{14} E_{\Omega Y}.$$
 (12)

Calculating the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the matrix $M_{\rm EO}$ in (11) is quite tricky and leads to very long and complicated expressions. In fact, one does not need to know the ellipsoid in the laboratory frame, but only its projection (ellipse) on a plane perpendicular to the laser beam is requested [15]. This greatly simplifies the calculation. Let us set $m_{\rm EO}$ the matrix in the laboratory frame:

$$m_{\rm EO} = R(-\varphi, -\theta) M_{\rm EO} R(\theta, \varphi) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} a \ f \ e \\ f \ b \ d \\ e \ d \ c \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (13)

The ellipsoid equation is written in the laboratory frame and for z = 0 (plane perpendicular to the laser beam):

$$(x \ y \ 0)m_{\rm EO}\begin{pmatrix}x\\y\\0\end{pmatrix} = 1 \Leftrightarrow (x, \ y)\begin{pmatrix}a \ f\\f \ b\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}x\\y\end{pmatrix} = 1.$$
 (14)

The eigenvalues and eigenvectors of this matrix are

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{a+b \pm \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4f^2}}{2},\tag{15}$$

$$\vec{v}_{1,2} = \begin{pmatrix} 2f \\ a - b \pm \sqrt{(a - b)^2 + 4f^2} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (16)

For different crystal cuts, we end up with Table 2in which $\Delta n_{\omega} = n_{\omega}(E_{\Omega}) - n_{\omega}(E_{\Omega} = 0) = n_{\omega}(E_{\Omega}) - n_{\omega}$ is obtained in the weak EO effect approximation $(\Delta n_{\omega} \ll n_{\omega})$. This table is established in the case the laser and THz beams are collinear.

Therefore, the [100] cut is not suitable for EO detection under normal incidence; the [110] cut sensitivity is strongly dependent on the THz polarization. The [111] cut is highly attractive because the EO efficiency does only depend on the THz field strength E_{Ω} and not on its polarization. In this case, the induced index ellipse is oriented at $-\psi_{\Omega}/2$ from the *x* direction when the incident THz beam polarization angle is ψ_{Ω} . This effect is the inverse of what we determined for OR emission that is oriented at -2ψ when the laser pump polarization angle is ψ .

Let us now explain how to measure the induced birefringence. We employ a laser probe beam with a circular polarization that is obtained with a QWP from the linearly polarized incoming laser beam. After passing through the EO crystal, the polarization state of the laser probe beam is elliptically polarized. The two perpendicular components of the THz field are separated by a Wollaston prism and directed towards a balanced two-photodiodes detection system. In front of the Wollaston prism, a half-wave plate (HWP) allows to rotate the elliptical polarization in view of optimizing the detected signal. Using a Jones matrix formalism, the laser field at the Wollaston prism is

$$\vec{E}_{\omega,\text{det}} = R(-\alpha) M_{\text{HWP}} R(\alpha) R\left(-\gamma + \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2}\right)$$

$$\times M_{\text{crys}} R\left(\gamma - \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) M_{\text{QWP}} R\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \vec{E}_{\omega}.$$
(17)

Here γ and α are the orientation angles of, respectively, the [112] axis of the EO crystal, and the fast axis of the HWP. M_{QWP} , M_{HWP} and M_{crys} are the Jones matrices of the QWP, HWP and EO crystal ([111] cut). When the EO crystal is made bire-fringent by the incoming THz beam, M_{crys} writes:

$$M_{\rm crys} = e^{-i\frac{\omega}{c}n_{o,\omega}d} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\eta E} & 0\\ 0 & e^{i\eta E_{\Omega}} \end{pmatrix}, \ \eta = \frac{r_{14}}{\sqrt{6}}n_{o,\omega}^3.$$
(18)

The signal delivered by the balanced photodiodes is proportional to the difference of the intensities of the two perpendicularly polarized beams separated by the Wollaston prism, i.e. [16]:

$$S_{\text{photodiode}} \propto E_{\omega,\text{det},x}^2 - E_{\omega,\text{det},y}^2 \propto E_\Omega \sin(3\gamma + \psi_\Omega - 4\alpha).$$
 (19)

Whatever is the polarization ψ_{Ω} of the incident THz beam and the orientation γ of the EO crystal, there exists an optimal orientation α_{opt} of the HWP for which the detected signal $S_{photodiode}$ is maximum:

$$\alpha_{\rm opt} = \frac{3\gamma + \psi_{\Omega}}{4}.$$
 (20)

	$\frac{a-1/n_{\omega}^2}{r_{14}}$	$\frac{b-1/n_{\omega}^2}{r_{14}}$	$\frac{f}{r_{14}}$	$2 \frac{\lambda_{1,2} - 1/n_{\omega}^2}{r_{14}}$	Δn_{ω}	$\overrightarrow{V_1}$
100	0	0	0	0	0	-
110	0	$E_{_{\Omega x}}$	$E_{_{\Omega y}}$	$E_{\Omega_x} \pm \sqrt{E_{\Omega_x}^2 + 4E_{\Omega_y}^2}$	$-\frac{r_{14}}{4}n_{\omega}^3\left(E_{\Omega x}\pm\sqrt{E_{\Omega x}^2+4E_{\Omega y}^2}\right)$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2\sin\psi_{\Omega} \\ -\cos\psi_{\Omega} + \sqrt{1 + 3\sin^{2}\psi_{\Omega}} \end{pmatrix}$
111	$-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}E_{\Omega x}$	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}E_{\Omega x}$	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}E_{\Omega y}$	$\pm \sqrt{\frac{8}{3}}E_{\Omega}$	$\pm \frac{r_{14}}{\sqrt{6}} n_{o,\omega}^3 E_{\Omega}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2} \\ -\sin \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2} \end{pmatrix}$

Table 2. Parameters for EO detection of THz fields in cubic crystals with different cuts.

Therefore the [111] cut always allows one to perform an optimized detection of the THz field. However, rotating the HWP in front of the detector may be inconvenient. A smart scheme has been introduced by van der Valk et al. in view of performing polarization imaging [17]. The laser probe beam transmitted by the EO crystal is split in two beams and each of them is detected using the arrangement explained above (Wollaston prism and balanced photodiodes). In the second beam, a HWP is oriented at 22.5° = $\pi/8$. This HWP rotates the elliptically polarized probe beam by $\pi/4$. Here the detected fields in the first and second channels are

$$\vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 1} = R\left(-\gamma + \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2}\right) M_{\text{crys}}$$

$$\times R\left(\gamma - \frac{\psi_{\Omega}}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) M_{\text{QWP}} R\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \vec{E}_{\omega},$$

$$\vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 2} = R\left(-\frac{\pi}{8}\right) \left(e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2}} - 1\right) R\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) \vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 1}.$$
(21)

Performing the products in Eq. (21) leads to

$$\left|\vec{E}_{\omega,\,\text{det},1}\right|_{\binom{x}{y}}^{2} \approx \frac{1 \mp 2\eta E_{\Omega} \sin(2\gamma - \psi_{\Omega})}{2} E_{\omega}^{2}, \qquad (22)$$

$$\left|\vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 2}\right|_{\begin{pmatrix}x\\y\end{pmatrix}}^{2} \approx \frac{1 \mp 2\eta E_{\Omega} \cos(2\gamma - \psi_{\Omega})}{2} E_{\omega}^{2}.$$
 (23)

Therefore, the signals delivered by the first and second channels are, respectively,

$$S_{1} \propto \left| \vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 1} \right|_{x}^{2} - \left| \vec{E}_{\omega, \det, 1} \right|_{y}^{2} \propto -E_{\Omega} \sin(2\gamma - \psi_{\Omega}), \quad (24)$$

$$S_2 \propto E_{\Omega} \cos(2\gamma - \psi_{\Omega}). \tag{25}$$

Table 5. Main EO cubic crystals.									
	$\lambda_{ ext{laser}}$	n_{ω}	n_{Ω}	r_{14}	FoM	$E_{\rm gap}$	$f_{ m phonon}$		
	μ m			pm/V	$(pm/V)^2$	eV	THz		
GaAs	0.8	3.33	3.6	1.3	86	1.42	8		
ZnTe	0.8	2.85	3.23	4	370	2.26	5.4		
CdTe	10.6	2.64	3.23	6.8	700	1.44	4.4		
ZnSe	0.8	2.52	3.00	2.0	52	2.70	6.2		
GaP	0.8	2.95	3.3	0.97	25	2.26	11		
ZnS	1	2.29	2.90	1.7	23	3.54	8.4		

Table 3 Main FO cubic crystals

If the crystal axes are aligned with the laboratory frame, i.e. $\gamma = 0$, the two detections channels give simultaneously the two components of the THz field:

$$S_2 \propto E_{\Omega} \sin \psi_{\Omega} = E_{\Omega y}, S_2 \propto E_{\Omega} \cos \psi_{\Omega} = E_{\Omega x}.$$
 (26)

2.4. Figure-of-merit of cubic EO crystals

When TPA does not perturb the THz generation through the OR process, the propagation equation (4) has an analytic solution [11]:

$$E_{\Omega}(z) = \frac{\mu_o \chi^{(2)} \Omega I_{\text{laser}}(\Omega)}{n_{\omega\omega} \left[\frac{c}{\Omega} \left(\frac{\alpha_{\Omega}}{2} + \alpha_{\omega} \right) + i(n_{\Omega} + n_{G\omega}) \right]} \times \frac{e^{-i\frac{\Omega}{c}n_{\Omega}z} e^{-\frac{\alpha_{\Omega}}{2}z} - e^{-i\frac{\Omega}{c}n_{G\omega}z} e^{-\alpha_{\omega}z}}{\frac{\alpha_{\Omega}}{2} - \alpha_{\omega} + i\frac{\Omega}{c}(n_{\Omega} - n_{G\omega})} \cdot$$
(27)

 $I_{laser}(\Omega)$ is the spectral component of the laser intensity that is separated by Ω from the laser central frequency. $n_{G\omega}$ is the group index of the crystal at the laser frequency. When taking into account the transmission of the laser beam at the crystal entrance face, as well as the transmission of the THz field at the output face, one can show [11] that the THz field is

$$I_{\Omega}(z) \propto \frac{4n_{o,\omega}^{7} r_{ij}^{2} z^{2} I(\Omega)^{2}}{(1+n_{o,\omega})^{2} (1+n_{G\omega})^{2}} \equiv FoM \times (zI(\Omega))^{2}.$$
 (28)

To obtain (28), absorption is neglected and phase matching is supposed to be almost fulfilled $(n_{\Omega} \approx n_{G\omega})$. FoM is the factor of merit of nonlinear crystals for the OR process. It can also be used to select the best crystals for EO sampling, as OR and EO tensors are equal. Table 3 summarizes the main properties of cubic crystals that can be used for OR generation and EO sampling of THz beams. Some crystals, like InAs or InP, are missing because they are mostly employed for THz generation through the surface acceleration of photo-carriers (namely the Dember effect [7]).

CdTe exhibits the best *FoM* among the listed crystals, however, its absorption at THz frequencies is not null because of a phonon resonance at 4.4 THz. Therefore, even if less efficient, ZnTe is widely used for both OR and EO detection of THz beams.

3. Experimental works

3.1. State of the art in THz OR with zinc-blende [111] crystals

Generation of the far-infrared signal by OR in nonlinear dielectric crystals was first proposed and demonstrated by Zernike and Berman in 1965 [18], and followed in the '60s by a few reports on the generation by optical frequency difference in such crystals [19–22]. However, the first report of far-infrared generation using ultra-short laser pulses (picosecond at those times) was published by Y.R. Shen and his team [23-24]. A. Bonvalet et al. [25] were the first to make use of a femtosecond laser, and they generated ultra-broad band signals spreading up to 50 THz with a [110] zinc blende crystal, namely GaAs. Then X.-C. Zhang and his team made several seminal advances to employ OR in zinc-blende crystals as a source of THz radiation in time-domain systems (see, for example, [26, 27]). Several zinc blende crystals were investigated, like GaP, GaAs, ZnTe, etc. Even if generation in [111] crystal samples was reported, the polarization question was not addressed in these pioneering papers, because a large broadband and high power generation were the main goals of these researches.

To our knowledge, the team of T. Norris at the University of Michigan was the first one to generate THz pulses in [111] cubic crystals with a polarization state controlled by the one of the exciting laser beam [28]. In this work, the THz ellipticity was controlled by adjusting both the relative time delay in the nonlinear crystal of two exiting pulses delivered by two lasers, and the polarization between two lasers. A great improvement was demonstrated by the team of M. Kuwata-Gonokami in Japan [29], who employed a single femtosecond laser and derived the relation $\psi_{\Omega} = -2\psi$ established in the first part of this paper. In [25], the [111] zinc blende crystal was GaP, and the detection of the THz signal was based on sum frequency generation. A great demonstration of polarization-shaped THz spectra was realized, and, for example, left- and right-circularly polarized THz pulses were produced. Later on, we published a general theory of THz generation through OR in cubic crystals, with a special emphasize on the choice of the crystal cut [30].

3.2. State of the art in THz EO sampling with zinc-blende [111] crystals

G. Mourou and his colleagues were the first to employ the EO sampling technique to measure waveforms of electrical transients propagating along microwaves lines [31]. Then the technique was applied to sample freely-propagating THz pulses [32-34]. Among the different crystals tested for EO sampling of THz pulse (LiNbO₃, LiTaO₃, DAST...), zinc blende crystals like ZnTe and GaP attracted a great attention because of their isotropic behaviour and of the possibility of achieving ZnTe phase-matching between the incoming THz beam and the laser probe beam. Most of the publications made use of [110] cubic crystals that lead to the strongest signal in detection. However, the crystal axes should be oriented for each polarization of the THz beam in view of optimizing the detected signal. To solve this problem, an ultimate scheme includes an EO crystal that is continuously rotated in the THz beam during measurement [35].

Our team was the first to propose and theoretically demonstrate that the sensitivity of an EO detector made with a [111] zinc blende crystal is independent of the direction of the THz electric field polarization, and that they could detect THz pulses, whatever their polarization [15]. This was experimentally demonstrated by van der Valk et al. [17] who, in addition, introduced the smart EO detection scheme described above, with which measuring the polarization of the THz pulse is performed without rotating any component of the set-up. This system was employed to record polarized THz images. More recently [30], we derived and experimentally validated the practical analytic expressions that give the recorded signal versus the impinging THz field vector (magnitude and direction) and the orientation of the EO crystal axes and of the necessary wave-plates. Another polarimetric detection based on [111] zinc blende crystals was published in [36]: the direction of the THz electric field was obtained with another detection method using a [111] cubic crystal, based on a polarization modulation technique with an electro-optic modulator. Unfortunately, recording the signal is rather long and imprecise. Still using this polarization modulation technique, the polarization of linearly-polarized THz fields was obtained by rotating either a polarizer [37] or the [111]-cut crystal [38].

3.3. *Experimental demonstration of optically controlling the generated THz polarization*

In this paragraph, we show that the above relations (1)-(28) are nicely verified by experimental works, and thus [111] cubic crystals allow buildup of THz-TDS systems in which the THz polarization is only controlled in emission and detection through the laser polarization.

We choose ZnTe as the nonlinear crystal because its *FoM* is quite strong, even if its nonlinear coefficients (r_{14} , χ_{14}) are not the largest ones. The laser is either a Ti:sapphire mode-locked laser from *Femtolasers*, delivering 50 fs pulses at the sample location (80-MHz repetition rate, 200-mW average power), or a Ti:sapphire amplified system from *Coherent* (Libra model) delivering 5-mJ, 45-fs pulses at a 1-kHz repetition rate. Both lasers' wavelength is ~800 nm. In a first experiment, we make use of a typical free space THz-TDS set-up. The THz pulse emission is performed with the [111] ZnTe crystal, in front of which a HWP allows us to adjust the angle of polarization of the impinging laser beam. The THz beam detection is realized with a LT-GaAs photo-conducting antenna from *Teravil*, which is sensitive to the THz polarization and which is mounted on a rotation stage. For each orientation of the receiver (0 to 110°), the peak THz signal is recorded every 4° from 0° up to 180°. The result is presented in Fig. 3.

As expected, the experimental data are well fitted by relation (19) and thus vary as $\sin(\psi_{\Omega}) = \sin(2\psi) = \sin(4\psi_{HWP})$, where $\psi_{HWP} \psi$, and ψ_{Ω} are the orientation/polarization angles of the HWP, of the laser beam and of the THz beam, respectively. Moreover, one can notice that for each THz beam polarization ψ_{Ω} , one can adjust the orientation of the receiver in order to maximize the detected signal. Thus, a proper HWP orientation enables us to adjust the desired THz polarization, and a proper orientation of the EO receiving crystal allows us to maximize the detected signal. The orientation of the generated THz polarization is determined from Fig. 3, and is plotted in Fig. 4 as a function of ψ_{HWP} .

The experimental data have been fitted with a linear function, whose slope is 4.04 (red continuous line). The theoretical curve (see Eq. (19)), whose slope is 4, is the dashed blue line. One can see the good agreement between the experimental results and theory. Due to experimental uncertainties, the experimental data are slightly spread along the linear fit. The related standard deviation is 3.9°. Let us notice that the orientation of the HWP is experimentally known with a 1°-precision, and thus

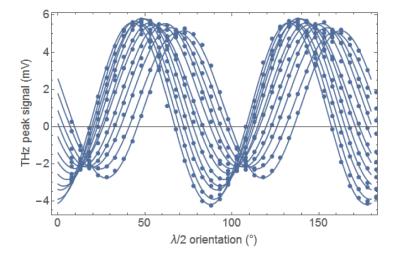


Fig. 3. THz peak signal as a function of the HWP orientation ψ_{HWP} Each curve corresponds to one orientation α of the THz receiver.

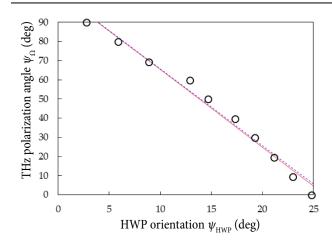


Fig. 4. THz polarization angle ψ_{Ω} as a function of the HWP orientation ψ_{HWP} . Open circles are experimental data. The red (online) continuous line is the best linear fit and the dashed blue (online) line is the theoretical curve.

the resulting imprecision of the THz polarization should be 4 times this value, i.e. 4°. The THz field vector deduced from both Figs. 3 and 4 is depicted in Fig. 5. Only one vector is drawn for the sake of legibility, but the full circles correspond to the end of each vector. The dashed lines give the uncertainty.

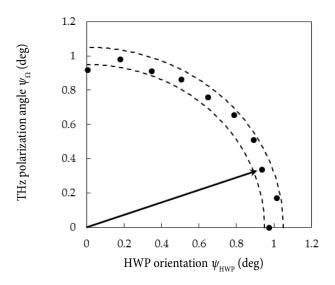


Fig. 5. End of each measured THz field vector (open circles). The vector for $\psi_{\Omega} = 20^{\circ}$ is drawn. The dashed lines give the uncertainty.

3.4. THz-TDS set-up with EO antennas for polarimetric studies

The results described in the previous subsection have been exploited to generate various THz polarization states. In addition, the THz beam is detected and analysed with EO antennas that include a [111] ZnTe crystal. The optical source is the amplified laser system, whose huge power allows us to implement a detection scheme less efficient, but easier to adjust than the classical one. The THz emission is achieved as described in the previous paragraph. At the detector, we employ a [111] ZnTe crystal, and the laser probe beam is now circularly polarized instead of being linearly polarized. It allows us to get a detection signal whatever the orientation γ of the ZnTe crystal, at the expense of a lower signal. After having crossed the ZnTe crystal, the probe beam is split in two beams thanks to a non-polarizing beam splitter. These two beams are respectively analysed along two eigen-axes, corresponding to the balanced measurement of x and y components of the THz field. The modulation induced by these two components of the THz field is acquired thanks to balanced photodiodes and a lock-in amplifier. The measured waveforms, corresponding to linearly and elliptically THz beams, are given in Fig. 6.

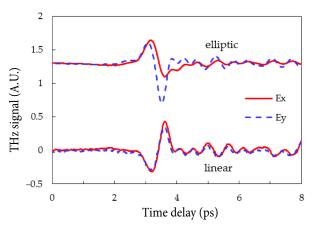


Fig. 6. THz waveforms for a linearly polarized signal (lower curve) and an elliptical one (upper curve, vertically shifted by 1.3 for the sake of legibility). The red (online) curves correspond to the x component of the THz fields, and the dashed blue (online) ones to the y component.

The experimental signal-to-noise ratio of these waveforms reaches 45 dB. The frequency bandwidth associated with these transient signals spreads up to 4 THz. A crucial issue related to this experimental procedure concerns the accuracy of the phase measurement, which actually leads to the THz field polarization. The temporal position of each recorded data in the $E_{\Omega x}$ and $E_{\Omega y}$ waveforms depends mostly on the delay line (equivalent time scale) and on the exact polarization direction measured on each path of the two-beams scheme (i.e. the precision of the eigen-axes). This latter one leads to the major uncertainty because of the accuracy of the HWP orientation, which defines the *x* and *y* directions with eventually an uncertainty $\Delta \psi_{\Omega} = 4^{\circ}$. Actually, as the THz field polarization angle is $\psi_{\Omega} = \operatorname{atan}(E_{\Omega y}/E_{\Omega x})$, any error in the measurement of $E_{\Omega x}$ and $E_{\Omega y}$ gives

$$\Delta \psi_{\Omega} = \frac{E_{\Omega y} \Delta E_{\Omega x} + E_{\Omega x} \Delta E_{\Omega y}}{E_{\Omega x}^2 + E_{\Omega y}^2}.$$
(29)

Assuming $\Delta E_{\Omega x}/E_{\Omega x} = \Delta E_{\Omega y}/E_{\Omega y} = 1\%$, $\Delta \psi_{\Omega} < 0.6^{\circ}$. This value remains much smaller than the one coming from the HWP.

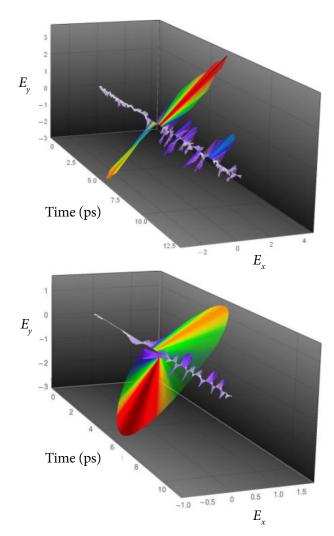


Fig. 7. 3D-plots of the THz field vectors versus time. Upper plot: linear THz polarization; lower plot: elliptical polarization.

A vectorial representation of the THz vector, corresponding to the waveforms of Fig. 6, is plotted versus time in Fig. 7. The linear (Fig. 7(a)) and elliptical (Fig. 7(b)) polarizations are clearly evidenced.

4. TPA effect in [111] crystals

Amplified femtosecond laser systems could be employed to achieve a large signal-over-noise ratio when dealing with the OR generation of THz signals, because the generated THz field is proportional to the laser intensity. Unfortunately, the huge peak power induces other nonlinear effects, like two-photon absorption (TPA). When TPA occurs, free carriers are excited in the conduction band of the crystal. This results in two effects: 1) the laser intensity decreases through the crystal, which leads to a weaker THz generation; 2) the THz beam is itself absorbed by the free carriers. TPA is a third order nonlinear process that involves two photons of the laser beam, and a third one which is either a laser photon in the case of TPA of the laser light, or a THz photon when looking at TPA of the THz beam. Both effects make the OR generation efficiency saturating at high pump power.

4.1. Simple modelling of the TPA effect

Using the same procedure as above (see Eq. (4)), and in the undepleted pump beam approximation, the propagation equations of the laser and THz fields are

$$\frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}_{\omega}}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \left(\widetilde{e}_{\omega} + \vec{\chi}_{\omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^* \right) \vec{E}_{\omega} = 0,$$
(30)

$$\frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\Omega^2}{c^2} \left(\widetilde{\epsilon}_{\omega} + \vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^* \right) \vec{E}_{\Omega}$$
(31)

$$=-rac{\Omega^2}{c^2}ec{\chi}^{(2)}_\Omega:ec{E}_\omega\cdotec{E}^*_\omega,$$

with $\vec{\chi}_{\omega}^{(3)} = \vec{\chi}^{(3)}(\omega, \omega, -\omega, \omega)$, $\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} = \vec{\chi}^{(3)}(\Omega, \omega, -\omega, \Omega)$, and $\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(2)} = \vec{\chi}^{(2)}(\Omega, \omega, -\omega)$. In zinc-blende crystals, only the following elements of the nonlinear tensors are not null:

$$\chi_{IJKL}^{(3)} \equiv \chi_1^{(3)}, \ \chi_{IIJJ}^{(3)} \equiv \chi_2^{(3)}, \ \chi_{IJIJ}^{(3)} \equiv \chi_3^{(3)}, \ \chi_{IJJI}^{(3)} \equiv \chi_4^{(3)}.$$
(32)

Moreover, because TPA is induced by the photons of the same pump laser beam, the two central indices in (32) may be permuted, which results in

$$\chi_2^{(3)} = \chi_3^{(3)}.$$
 (33)

Equation (30) exhibits an analytical solution within some approximations, but Eq. (31) must be solved numerically. Let us first treat Eq. (30), following a calculation published by Bepko [21]. We set $\vec{E}_{\omega} = \vec{E}_{\omega}(z)e^{\frac{in_{\omega}\omega}{c}z}$ and we neglect the second derivative in (30). We obtain for each component $\tilde{E}_{\omega i}(z)$ of $\vec{E}_{\omega}(z)$

$$2i\frac{\omega}{c}n_{\omega}\frac{\partial \widetilde{E}_{\omega i}(z)}{\partial z} + (2in_{\omega} - \kappa_{\omega})\kappa_{\omega}\widetilde{E}_{\omega i}(z)$$
$$= -\sum_{jkl} \left(\ddot{\chi}_{\omega ijkl}^{(3)} : \widetilde{E}_{\omega j}(z) \cdot \widetilde{E}_{\omega k}^{*}(z) \cdot \widetilde{E}_{\omega l}(z) \right).$$
(34)

In [111] cubic crystals, the nonlinear term in (34) is first calculated in the crystal frame and then in the laboratory frame, as previously explained. One obtains

$$\vec{\chi}_{\omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega}(z) \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^{*}(z) \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}(z) = \frac{(\vec{E}_{\omega}(z))^{3}}{2} \times \begin{pmatrix} (\chi_{1}^{(3)} + 3\chi_{2}^{(3)})\cos\psi \\ (\chi_{1}^{(3)} + 3\chi_{2}^{(3)})\sin\psi \\ (\chi_{1}^{(3)} - 3\chi_{2}^{(3)})\sin\psi \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}(\chi_{1}^{(3)} - 3\chi_{2}^{(3)})(3\cos^{2}\psi - \sin^{2}\psi)\cos\psi \end{pmatrix}.$$
(35)

 $\tilde{E}_{\omega i}(z)$ is the complex magnitude of $\vec{E}_{\omega}(z)$. Only the *x* and *y* components in (35) must be considered because the *z* component of the *E* field does not propagate in air. As they are equal to the projection of $\frac{1}{2}(\tilde{E}_{\omega}(z))^2(\chi_1^{(3)}+3\chi_2^{(3)})\tilde{E}_{\omega}(z)$ along, respectively, *x* and *y*, the TPA phenomenon is isotropic, and Eq. (34) simply leads to

$$2i\frac{\omega}{c}n_{\omega}\frac{\partial \widetilde{E}_{\omega}(z)}{\partial z} + (2in_{\omega} - \kappa_{\omega})\kappa_{\omega}\widetilde{E}_{\omega}(z)$$
$$= -\frac{\chi_{1}^{(3)} + 3\chi_{2}^{(3)}}{2}(\widetilde{E}_{\omega}(z))^{3}.$$
(36)

Then, one easily derives the expression of the intensity $I_{\omega}(z)$ of the laser beam after propagating over a distance *z* in the crystal [21]:

$$\frac{dI_{\omega}(z)}{dz} + \alpha_{\omega}I_{\omega}(z) = -\beta_{\omega}I_{\omega}^{2}(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow I_{\omega}(z) \approx \frac{I_{\omega}(0)e^{-\alpha_{\omega}z}}{1 + \frac{\beta}{\alpha_{\omega}}I_{\omega}(0)(1 - e^{-\alpha_{\omega}z})} \approx \frac{I_{\omega}(0)}{1 + \beta I_{\omega}(0)z} \cdot$$
(37)

This approximated solution is obtained if the nonlinear effect is weak, i.e. $\beta_{\omega} = Z_o \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{1}{n_{\omega}^2} \text{Im}(\chi_1^{(3)} + 3\chi_2^{(3)})$ is small. This is the well-known expression of the saturation of the crystal optical transmission due to the TPA phenomenon.

Solving Eq. (31) is more difficult. However, in zinc-blende crystals, we have already shown (see Eq. (9)) that THz generation by OR does not depend on the laser polarization angle ψ when the crystal cut is [111], as well as TPA of the laser beam (Eq. (35)). Therefore, what could induce a ψ -dependence (i.e. anisotropy) in THz generation is only the TPA term of the THz signal in Eq. (31), i.e. $\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^* \cdot \vec{E}_{\Omega}$. Without solving rigorously (31), let us treat simply the anisotropy of the generated THz signal [38]. The propagation coefficient of the THz field appears in the second term in the left part of (31), namely $\frac{\Omega^2}{c^2} (\vec{\varepsilon}_{\Omega} + \vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^*) \vec{E}_{\Omega}$. The absorption of the THz field corresponds to the imaginary part of the square-root of this term:

$$\ddot{\alpha}_{\Omega}\left(\vec{E}_{\omega}\right) = 2\frac{\Omega}{c} \operatorname{Im}_{V} \sqrt{\widetilde{\varepsilon}_{\Omega} + \frac{\ddot{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega}^{*} \cdot \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{\vec{E}_{\Omega}}}.$$
 (38)

Let us notice that, because of the tensorial TPA term in (38), the coefficient of absorption is anisotropic. If this nonlinear term is small as compared to $\tilde{\epsilon}_{\alpha}$, we can take the first-order series expansion of (38):

$$\vec{\alpha}_{\Omega}(\vec{E}_{\omega}) \approx 2 \frac{\Omega}{c} \operatorname{Im}\left(\widetilde{n}_{\Omega} \left(1 + \frac{\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)} : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{2\widetilde{\epsilon}_{\Omega} \vec{E}_{\Omega}} \right) \right)$$
(39)
$$\approx \alpha \left(\Omega \right) + \frac{\Omega}{c} \frac{\operatorname{Im}(\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)}) : \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{n(\Omega) \vec{E}_{\Omega}}.$$

Here we have supposed that the imaginary part of $\tilde{n}_{\Omega} = \sqrt{\tilde{\varepsilon}_{\Omega}}$ is small as compared to the real part n_{Ω} . It follows that the change of absorption induced by the TPA phenomenon writes

$$\vec{\alpha}_{\text{TPA},\Omega} \approx \frac{\Omega}{c} \frac{1}{n_{\Omega}} \frac{\text{Im}(\vec{\chi}_{\Omega}^{(3)}): \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\omega} \cdot \vec{E}_{\Omega}}{\vec{E}_{\Omega}},$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_{\text{TPA},\Omega,i} \qquad (40)$$

$$\propto \text{Im}\left(\chi_{1}^{(3)} E_{\omega,1}^{2} E_{\Omega,i} + \chi_{2}^{(3)} E_{\omega,i} \sum_{j} (1 - \delta_{ij}) E_{\omega,j} E_{\Omega,j}\right).$$

When taking into account the [111] orientation of the crystal and entering in (40) the field components defined in the laboratory frame, as explained in the first part of this paper, we get

$$\Delta_{\text{TPA}} \vec{E}_{\Omega, \text{ lab}} \propto -E_0^4 \begin{pmatrix} A\cos 2\psi + B\cos 4\psi \\ B\sin 4\psi - A\sin 2\psi \\ C \end{pmatrix}, \qquad (41)$$

with

$$\begin{cases}
A = \chi_1^{(3)} + 4\chi_2^{(3)} + 5\chi_4^{(3)}, \\
B = \chi_1^{(3)} + 4\chi_2^{(3)} - \chi_4^{(3)}, \\
C = 3\sqrt{2}\chi_4^{(3)}.
\end{cases}$$
(42)

4.2. Experimental observation of the TPA effect

When looking precisely at the representation of the THz vector versus time in Fig. 7(b), the THz polarization is not perfectly circular, but elliptic. However, the polarization of the pumping laser beam is almost perfectly circular. As explained above, this is the signature of the TPA effect. For a better evaluation of this anisotropy, we analyse the OR efficiency of THz generation as a function of the orientation of a linearly polarized pump beam. We use two different detectors, namely a Schottky diode and an EO antenna detection. Both detectors are sensitive to only one direction of THz polarization. If there is no TPA effect, the THz signal is constant versus ψ_{HWP} and polarized along $2\psi = 4\psi_{HWP}$. The detected signal is proportional to the projection of the THz field along the direction of sensitivity of the detector and should vary as $\cos(4\psi_{\text{HWP}})$ (dashed curve in Fig. 8). But the recorded data in Fig. 8 do not follow this theoretical curve. Two successive angular maxima differ by more than 20%. The vertical component of the field is thus much more attenuated than the horizontal component as predicted by relation (41). The curve (continuous line in Fig. 8) calculated with this expression (41) fits very well the measured data. Let us notice that this effect was not observed before our publication [39], because studies are aiming at getting the strongest THz signal from ZnTe crystals, and thus mostly the [110] orientation is employed, for which the crystal anisotropy hides the TPA anisotropy effect.

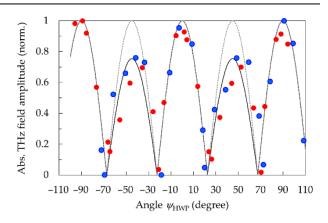


Fig. 8. THz peak value (normalized) as a function of ψ_{HWF} Smaller (red online) dots: data recorded with a Schottky diode. Bigger (blue online) dots: data recorded with an EO crystal. Black curve: fit using Eq. (41). Dashed gray curve: response without TPA effect.

5. Conclusions

We have shown that using [111] zinc blende crystals in a THz-TDS system makes it possible to easily generate and detect THz pulses with any polarization state. The great advantage is that no polarization component at THz frequencies is required. All the manipulation of the THz polarization is performed by adjusting the polarization of the laser pump and probe beams. Thus THz-TDS set-ups dedicated to polarimetric studies are easy to build up. They can be substituted to more complex TDS systems in which the polarization issue is, for example, addressed by rotating the antennas [40, 43], or by employing bi-polarization sensitive photoconducting switches [42, 43].

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ANTROSIOS EILĖS NETIESINIAI OPTINIAI VYKSMAI [111] KUBINIUOSE KRISTALUOSE TERAHERCINEI OPTOELEKTRONIKAI

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