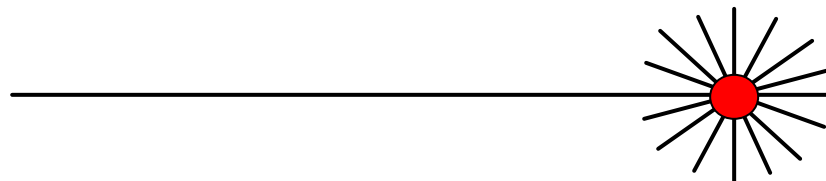


Probing Thin Film Thermophysical Properties using the Femtosecond Transient ThermoReflectance Technique

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.					
1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 30-05-2001		2. REPORT TYPE Workshop Presentations		3. DATES COVERED (FROM - TO) 30-05-2001 to 01-06-2001	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Probing Thin Film Thermophysical Properties using the Femtosecond Transient ThermoReflectance Technique Unclassified				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Norris, Pamela M. ;				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS University of Virginia Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Charlottesville, VAxxxxx				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS Office of Naval Research International Field Office Office of Naval Research Washington, DCxxxxx				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT APUBLIC RELEASE					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See Also ADM001348, Thermal Materials Workshop 2001, held in Cambridge, UK on May 30-June 1, 2001. Additional papers can be downloaded from: http://www-mech.eng.cam.ac.uk/onr/					
14. ABSTRACT ? Discuss Femtosecond Transient ThermoReflectance (FTTR) technique as a method for measuring the thermophysical properties of thin film materials. ? Demonstrate the measurement of the thermal diffusivity, electron-phonon coupling factor, and thermal boundary resistance of thin metallic films using the FTTR technique. ? Discuss the importance of considering the nonlinear relationship between reflectance and temperature. ? Present experimental results for Femtosecond Transient ThermoTransmittance (FTTT) studies performed on amorphous silicon solar cells.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:		17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON	
		Public Release	37	Fenster, Lynn lfenster@dtic.mil	
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified		19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER International Area Code Area Code Telephone Number 703767-9007 DSN 427-9007	
				Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98) Prescribed by ANSI Std Z39.18	

Acknowledgements

Students: Dr. John Hostetler (Princeton Lightwave), Dr. Andrew Smith (US Naval Academy), James McLeskey, Michael Klopff

This work was funded by:

National Science Foundation

#CTS-9908372

#CTS-9501911

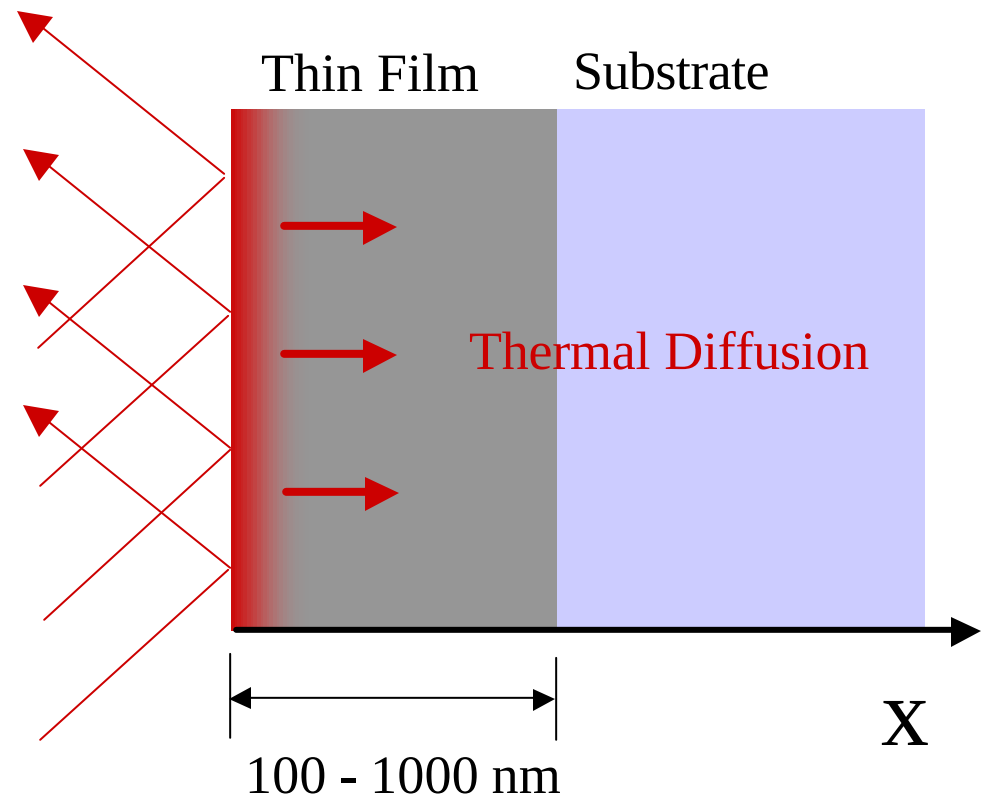
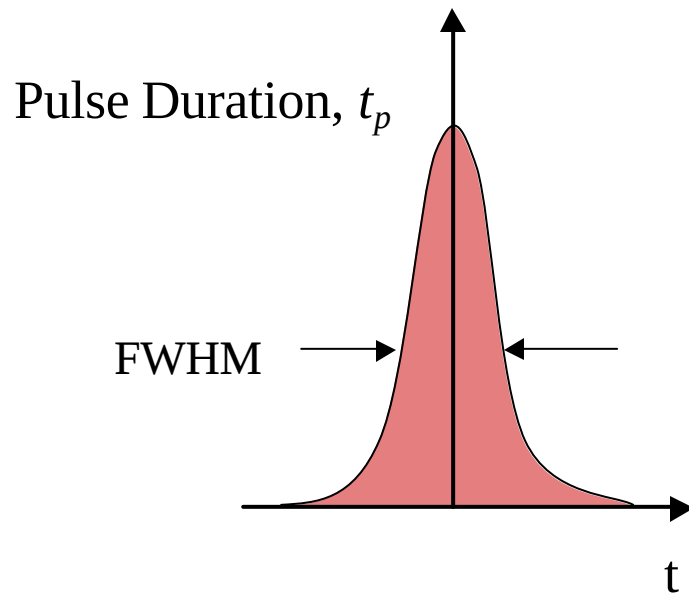
BP Solar

Objectives

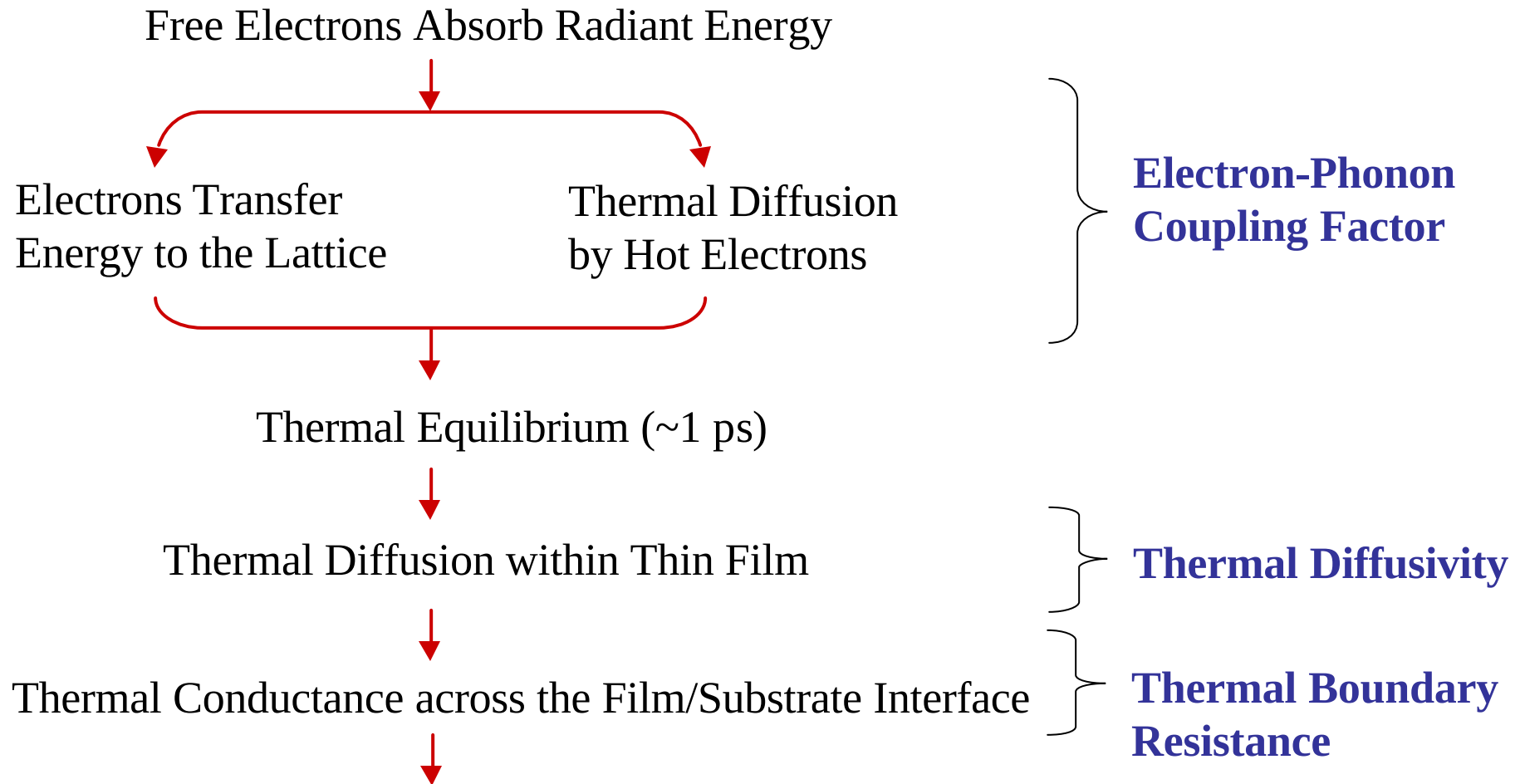
- Discuss Femtosecond Transient ThermoReflectance (FTTR) technique as a method for measuring the thermophysical properties of thin film materials.
- Demonstrate the measurement of the thermal diffusivity, electron-phonon coupling factor, and thermal boundary resistance of thin metallic films using the FTTR technique.
- Discuss the importance of considering the nonlinear relationship between reflectance and temperature.
- Present experimental results for Femtosecond Transient ThermoTransmittance (FTTT) studies performed on amorphous silicon solar cells.

Transient Thermal Property Measurement

Ultrashort Laser Pulse



Nonequilibrium Energy Deposition Process



Parabolic Two Step (PTS) Model

Electron System:

$$C_e(T_e) \frac{\partial T_e}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(K_e(T_e) \frac{\partial T_e}{\partial x} \right) - G[T_e - T_l] + S(x,t)$$

Lattice System:

$$C_l \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial t} = G[T_e - T_l]$$

Electron Heat Capacity:

$$C_e(T_e) = gT_e$$

G = Electron Phonon Coupling Factor

C_l = Lattice Heat Capacity

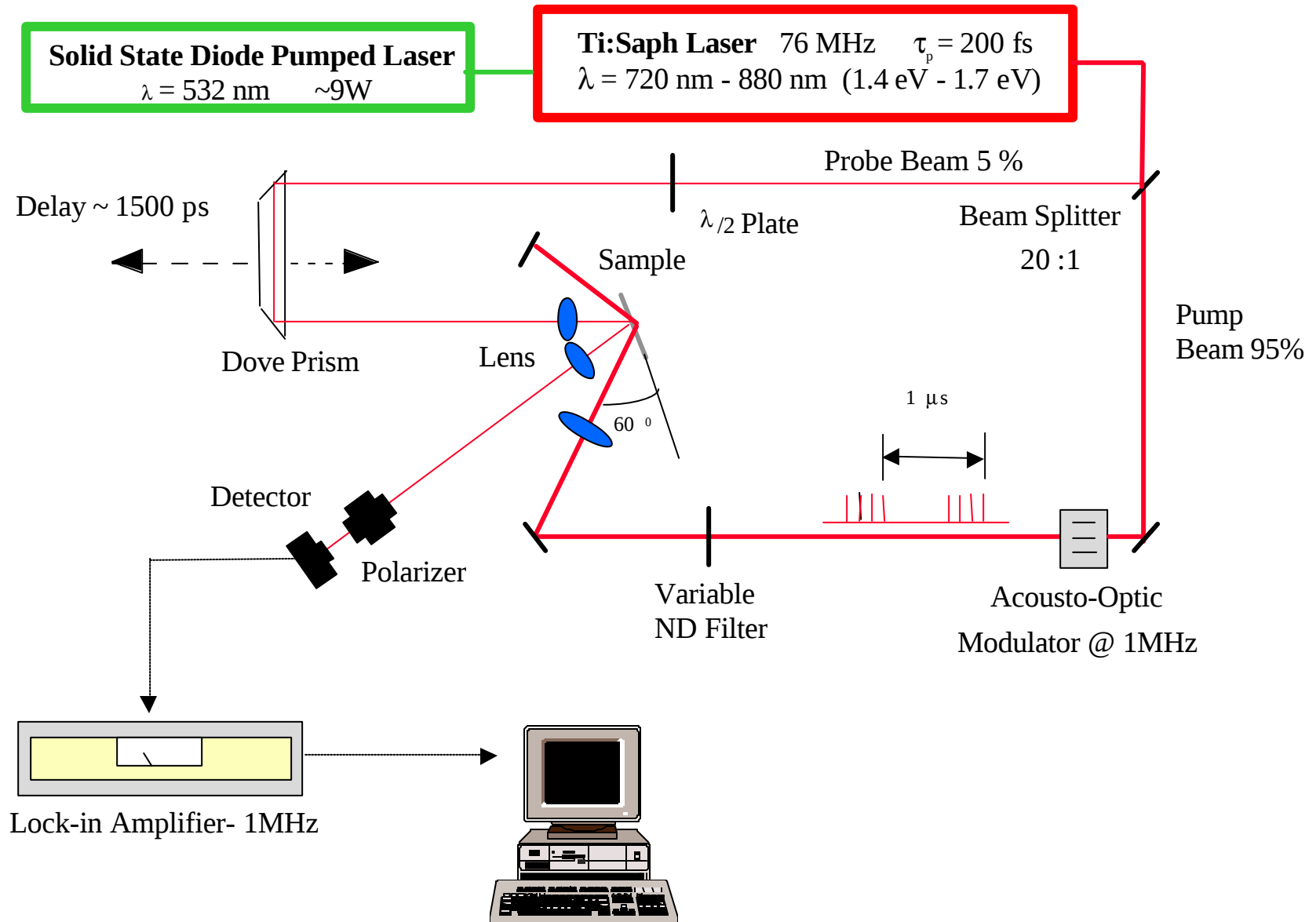
g = Electron Heat Capacity Constant

$S(x,t)$ = Laser Source Term

Electron Thermal Conductivity:

$$K_e(T_e, T_l) = K_{eq} \frac{T_e}{T_l}$$

Transient ThermoReflectance Technique



Reflectivity as a Function of Temperature and Strain

Laser Absorption

Nonequilibrium
Temperature Rise

Thermal Expansion

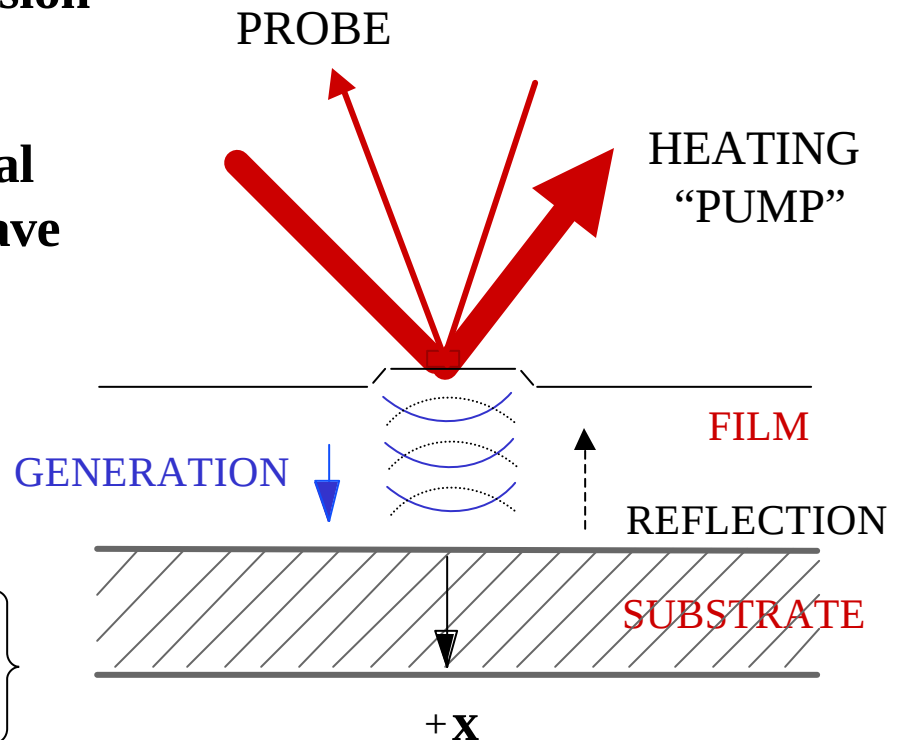
Electron-Phonon
Coupling

Compressional
"Acoustic" Wave

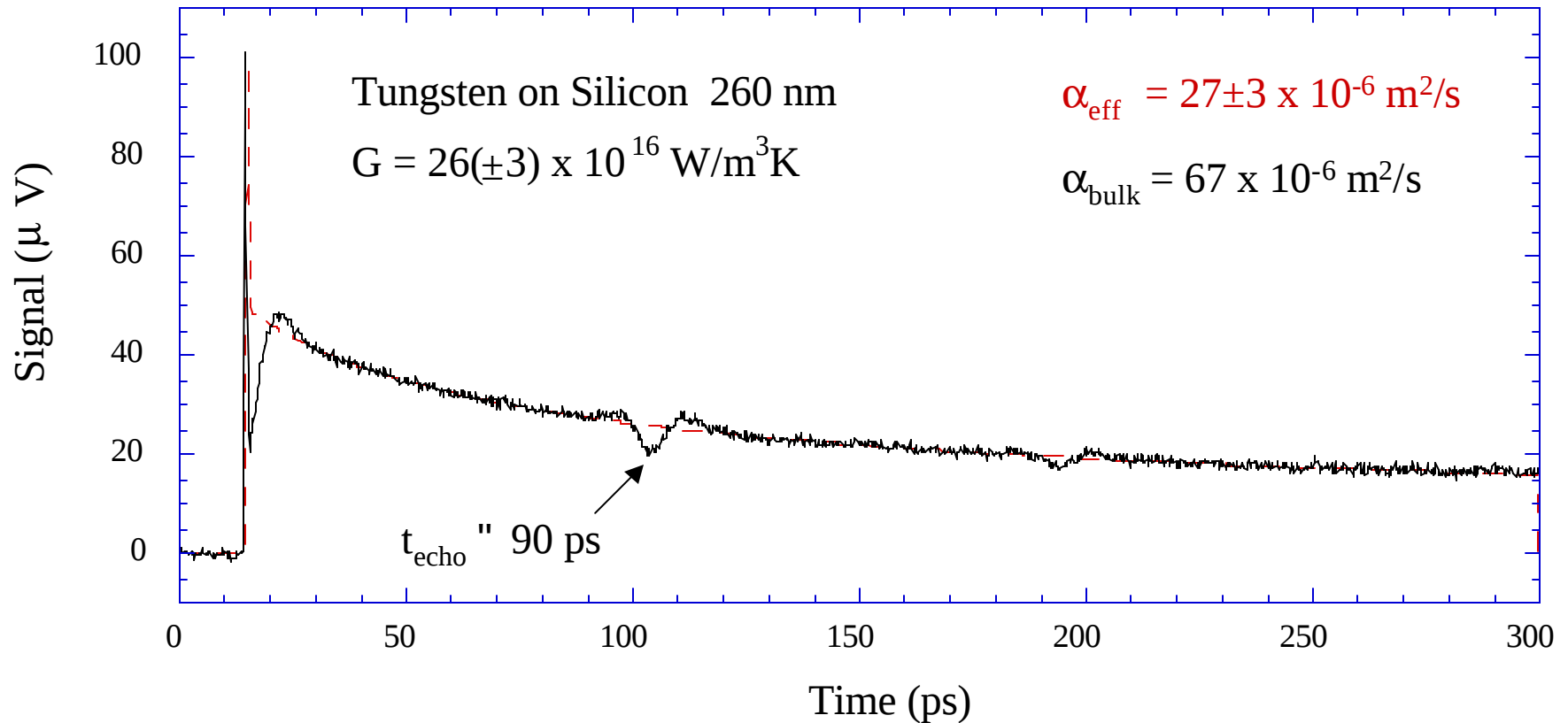
Thermal Diffusion

$DR(h)$

$$DR(T_e, T_l) \left\{ \frac{DR}{R} = aDT_e + bDT_l \right\}$$

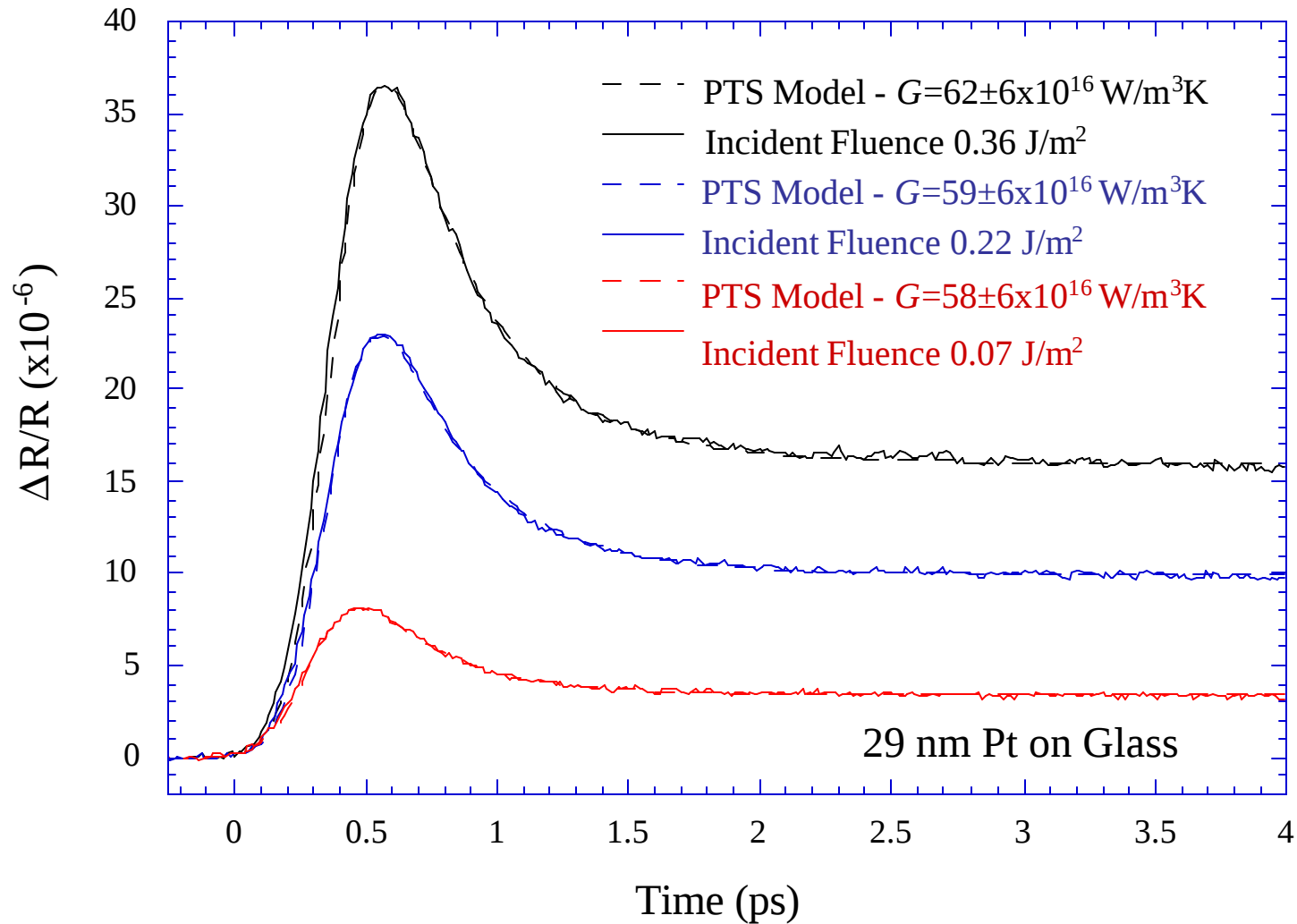


Thermal Diffusivity (W)



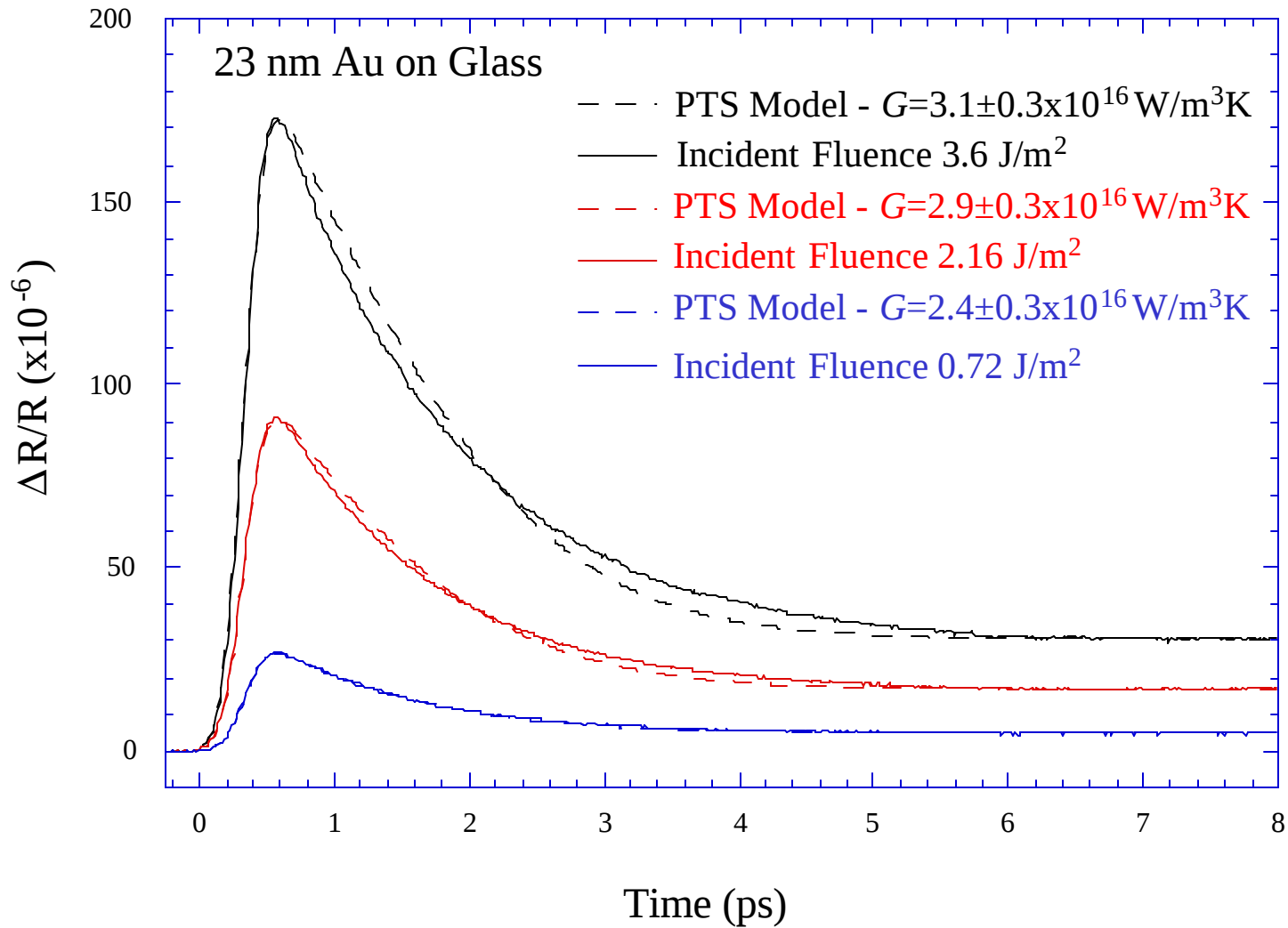
- The large initial response represents the initial nonequilibrium electron temperature.
- The ultrasonic echoes allow for the measurement of the sound velocity and/or elastic constants assuming the film thickness is known.
- The diffusion of thermal energy allows for determination of the thermal diffusivity.

Electron Phonon Coupling Factor (Pt)



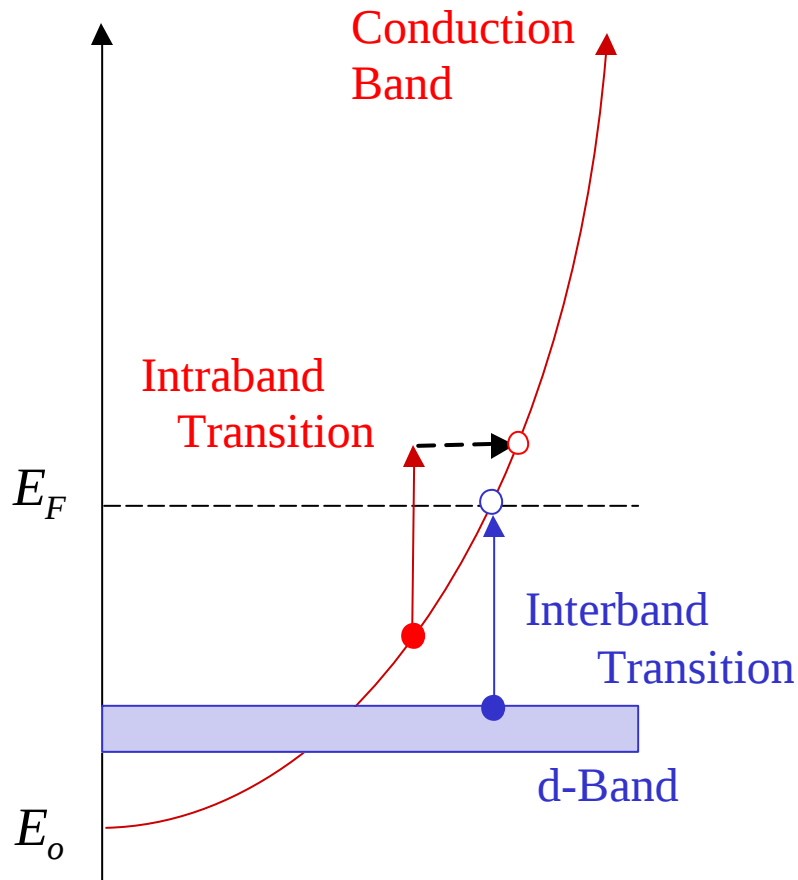
Slower scans of the nonequilibrium period allow for the measurement of electron phonon coupling factor, G . A linear relationship was used, $DR/R = aDT_e + bDT_l$.

Electron Phonon Coupling Factor (Au)



Note that the values of the electron-phonon coupling factor determined assuming a linear reflectance model change with the incident fluence.

Absorption Mechanisms in Metals



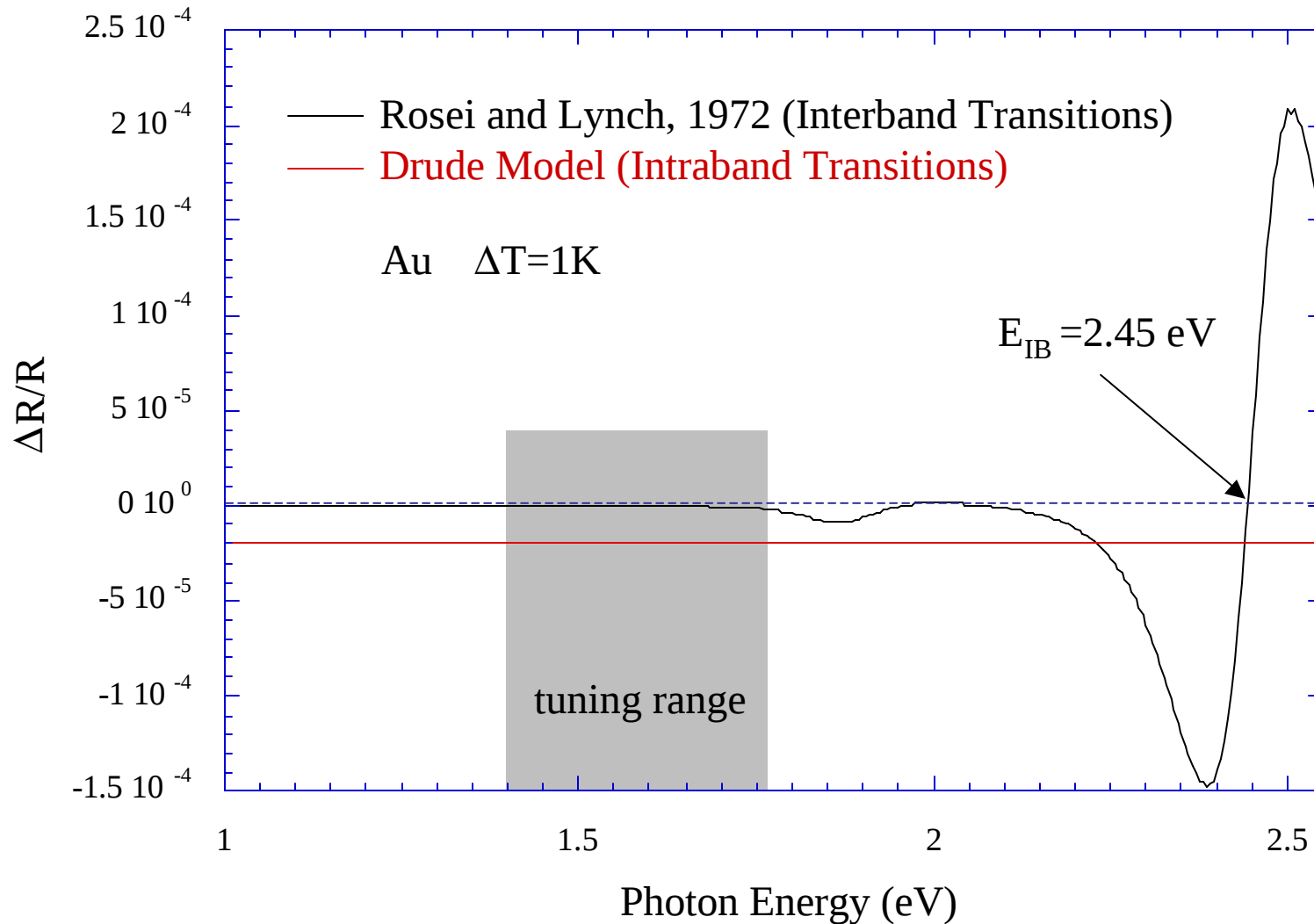
Intraband Transitions

- 1) Indirect transitions which require a collision.
- 2) Strongly influenced by the electron collisional frequency.

Interband Transitions

- 1) Direct transitions from the filled d-band to the conduction band.
- 2) Strongly influenced by changes in both the Fermi distribution and the interband transition energy.

ThermoReflectance Response of Au



In the tuning range of the Ti:Saph laser, the thermorefectance response of Au results from changes in the intraband transition probabilities.

Intraband Transitions

Drude model for the dielectric function of a nearly free electron metal

$$\epsilon(T_e, T_l) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega[\omega + i\omega_t(T_e, T_l)]}$$

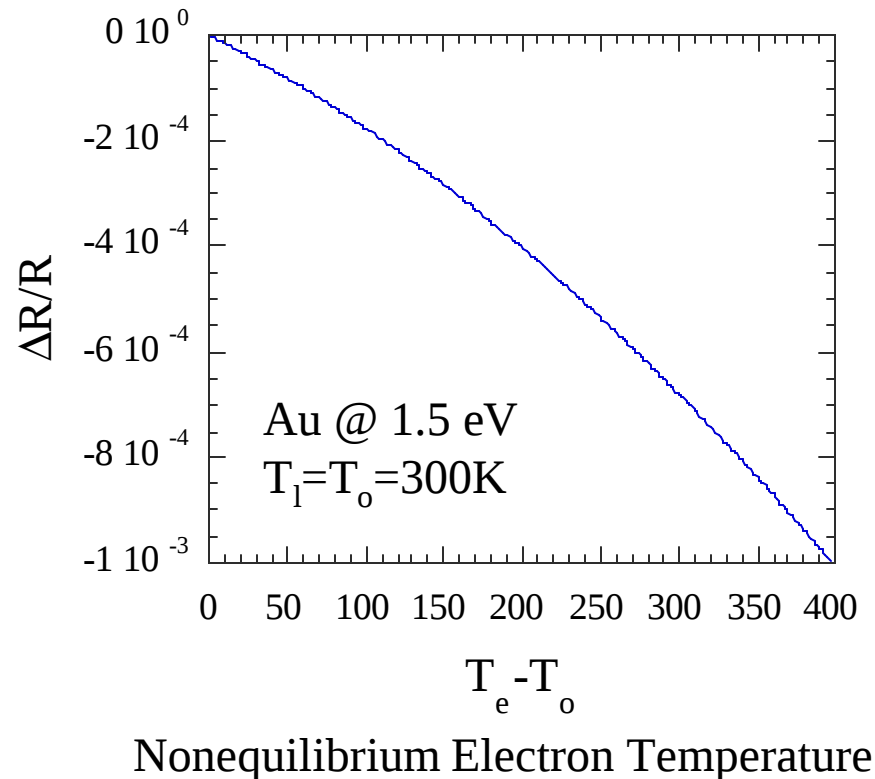
ω_p Plasma Frequency

ω Incident Photon Frequency

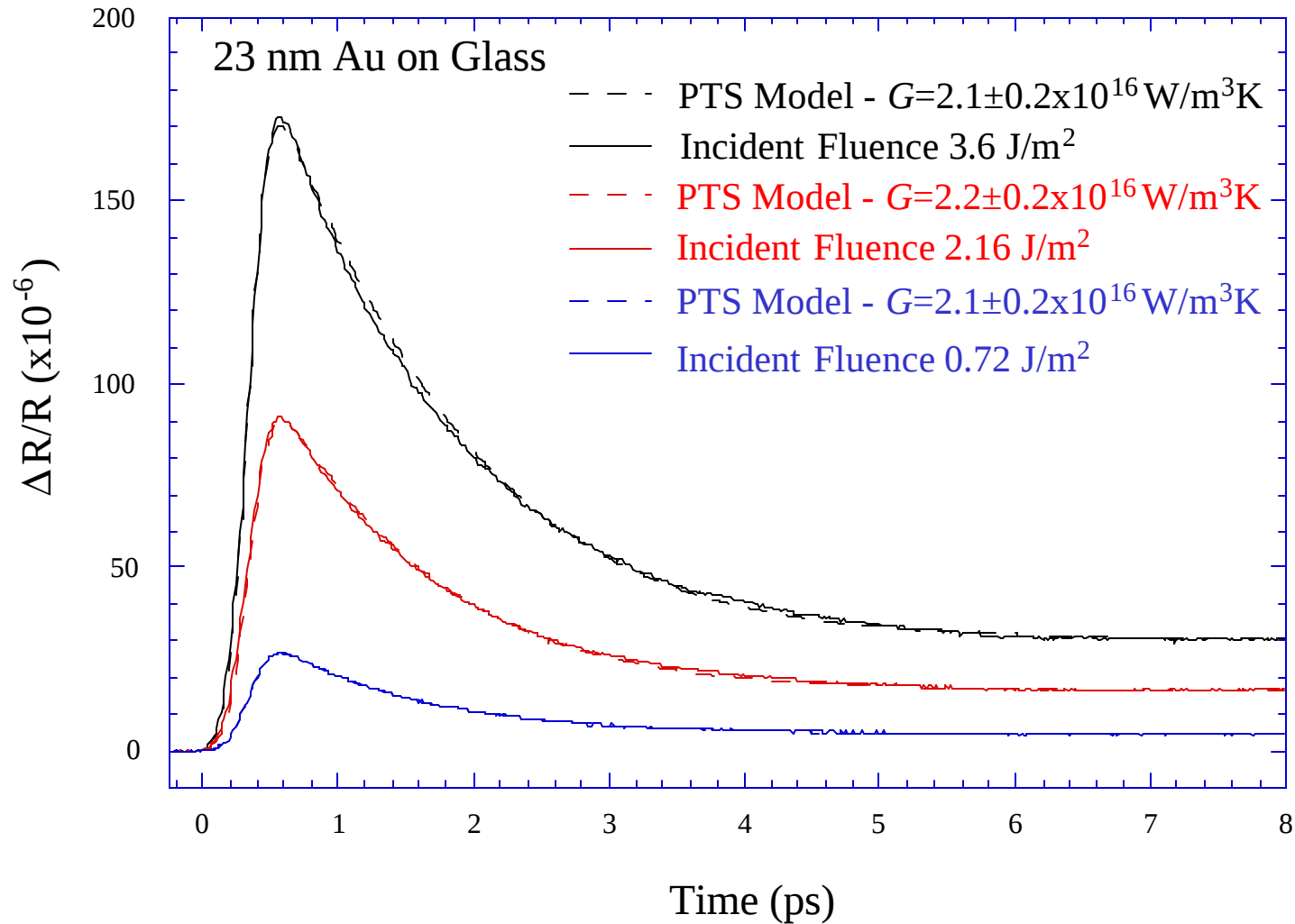
Electron Collisional Frequency:

$$\omega_t(T_e, T_l) \approx \frac{1}{t} = A_{ee}T_e^2 + B_{ep}T_l$$

$$DR \approx 10^{-6} \frac{1}{K}$$

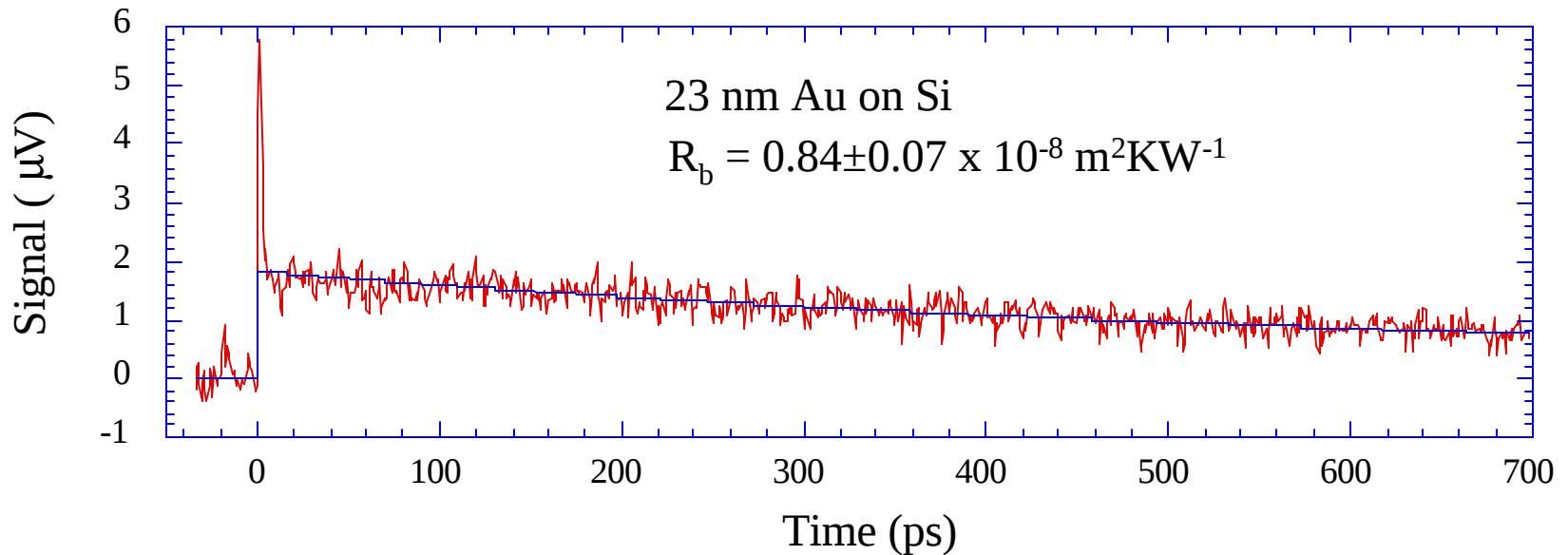
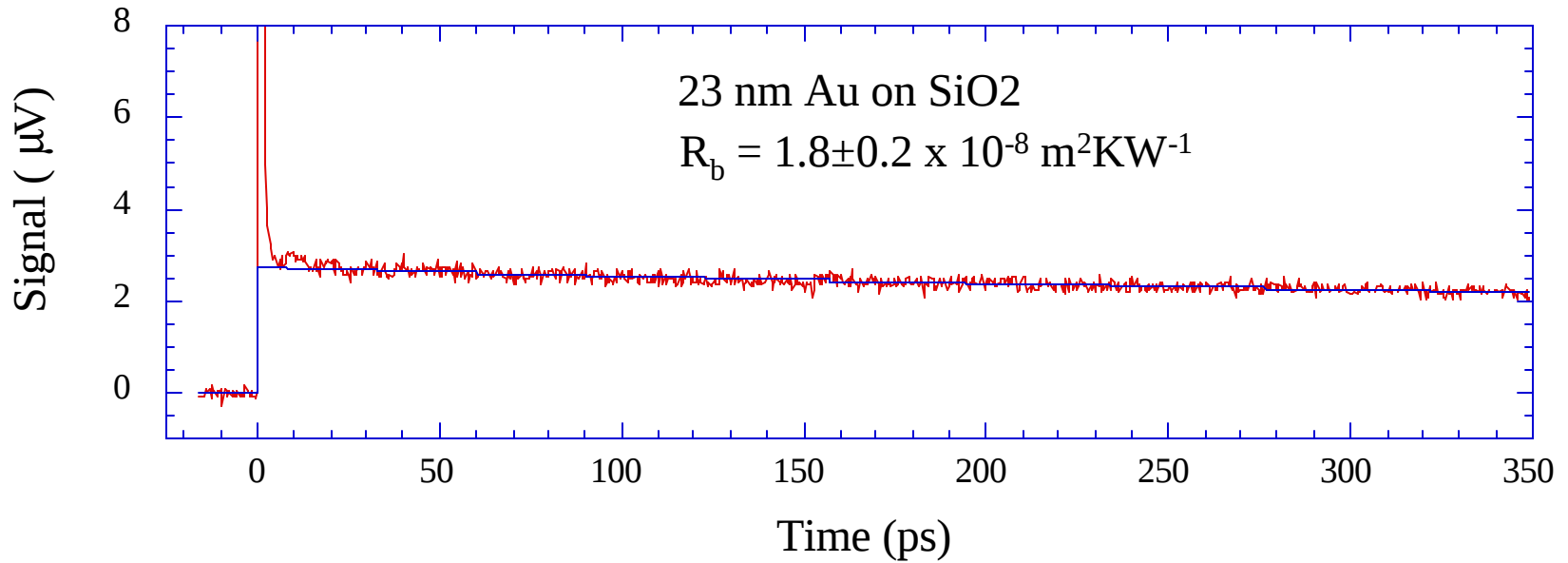


Intraband Reflectance Model (Au)

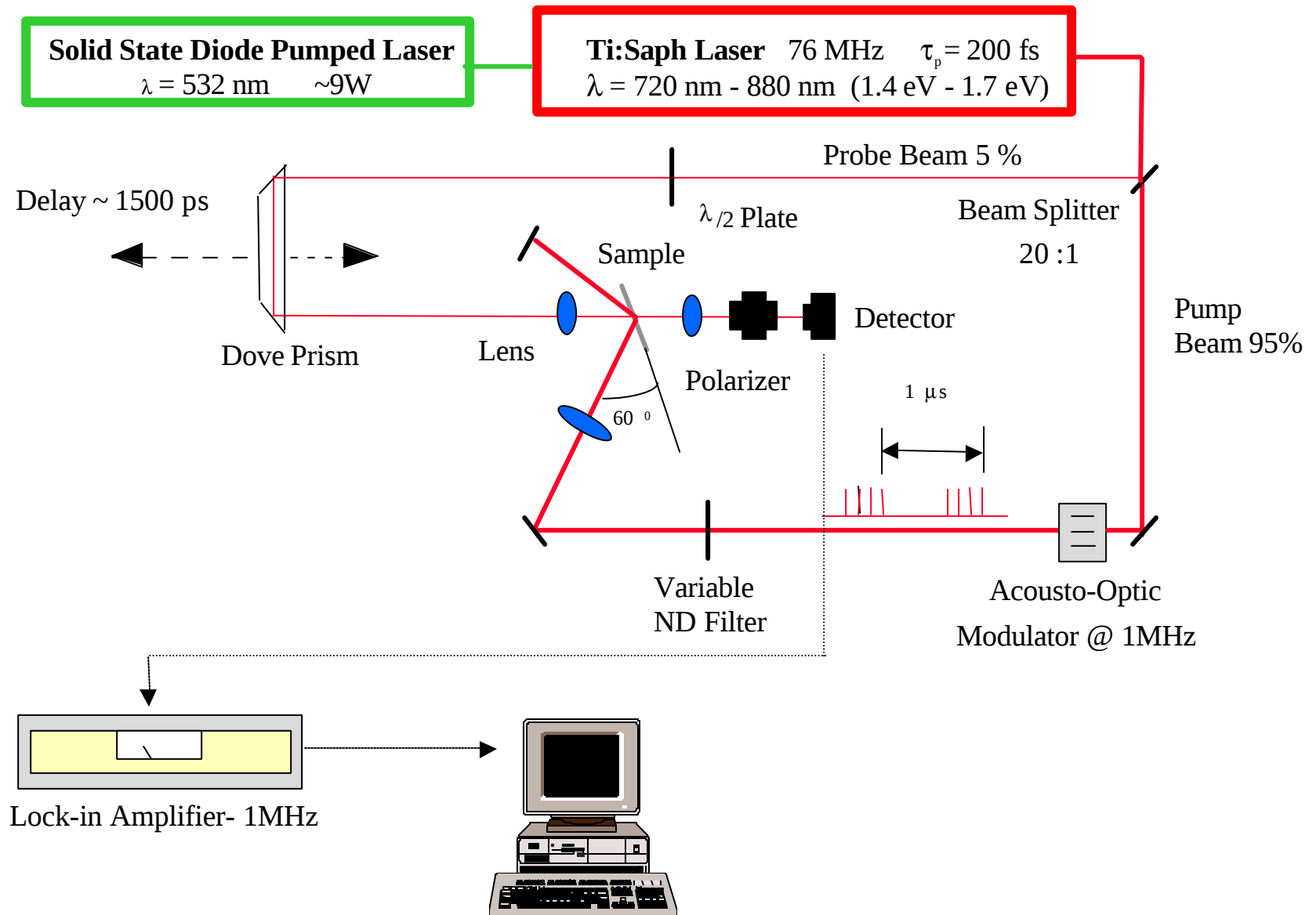


The Drude model was used to relate changes in temperature to reflectance. The electron-electron scattering coefficient was determined to be $A_{ee} = 1.4\times10^7$ 1/sK².

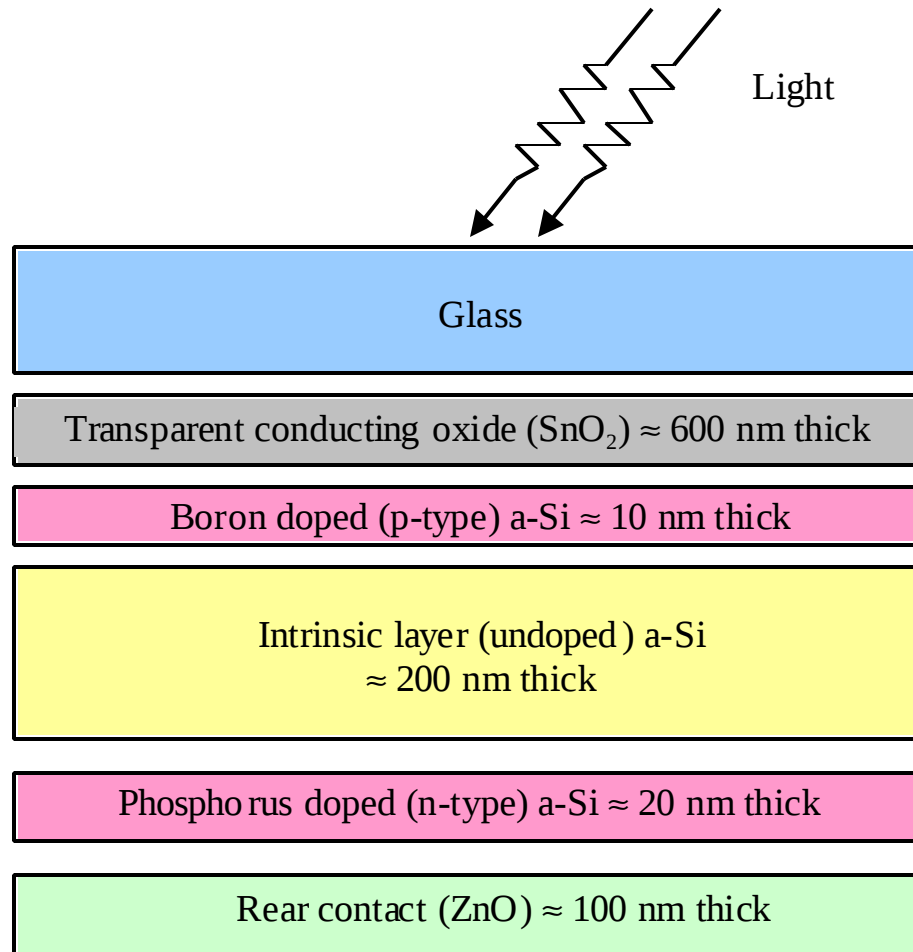
Thermal Boundary Resistance



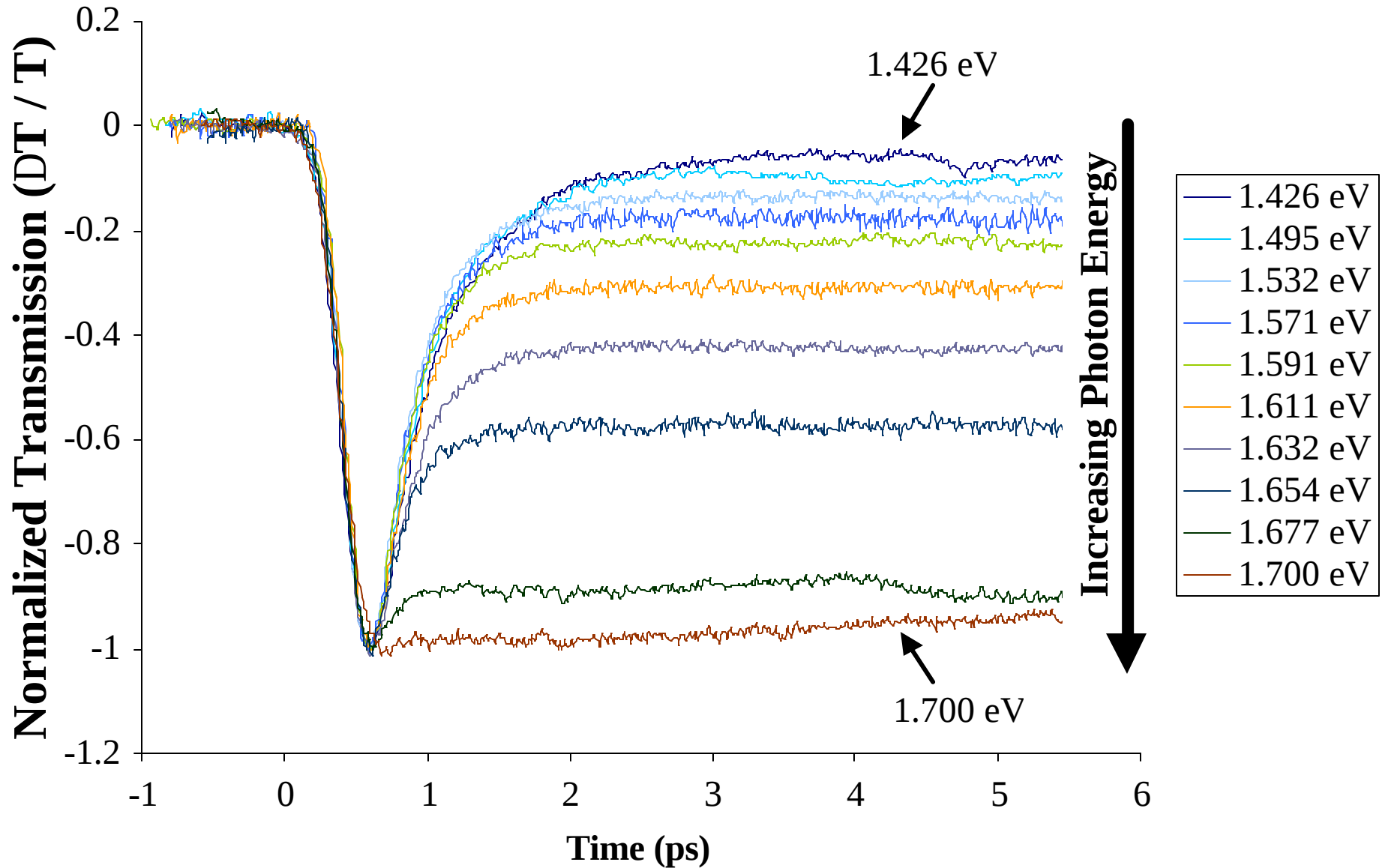
Transient ThermoTransmittance Technique



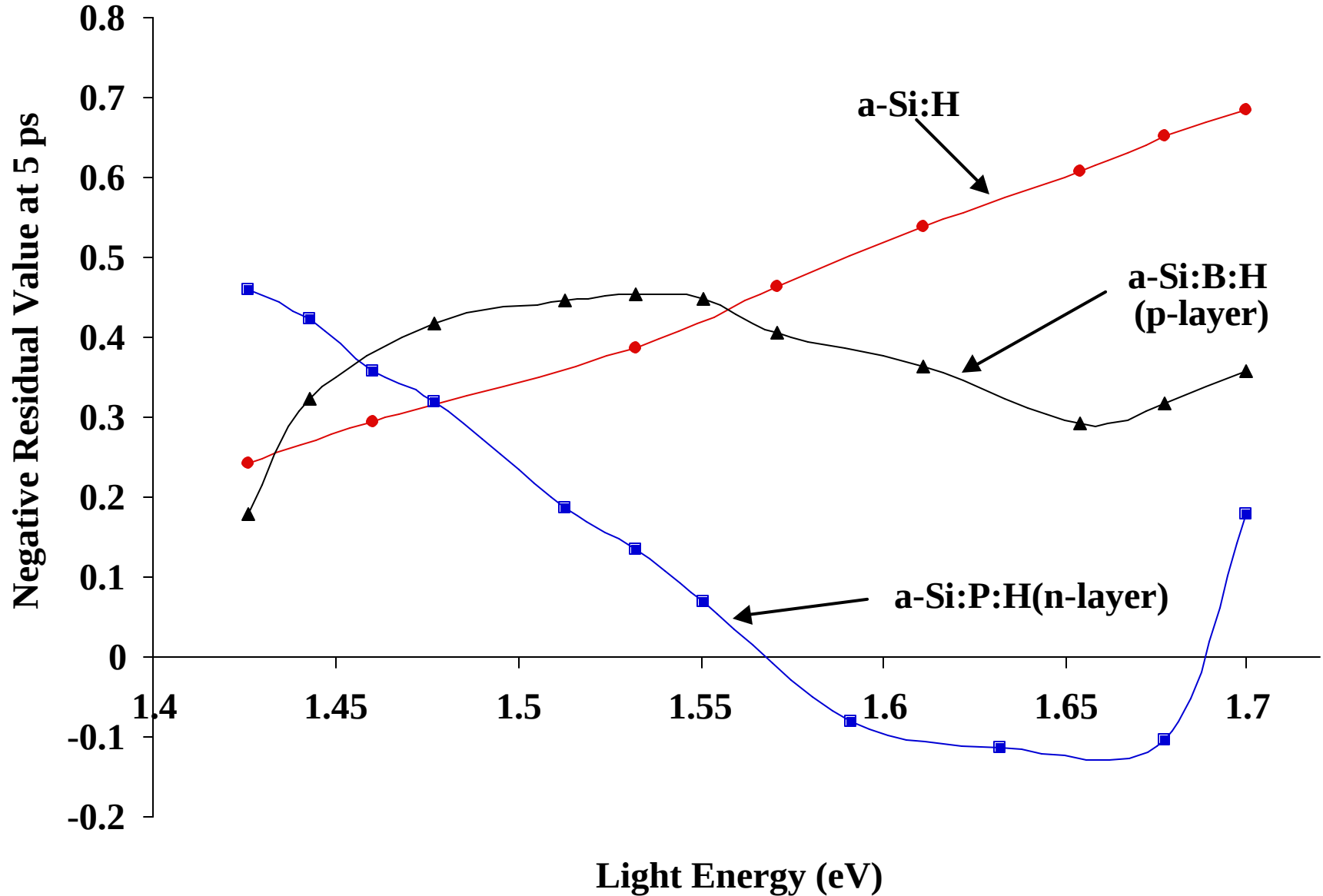
Probing Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells



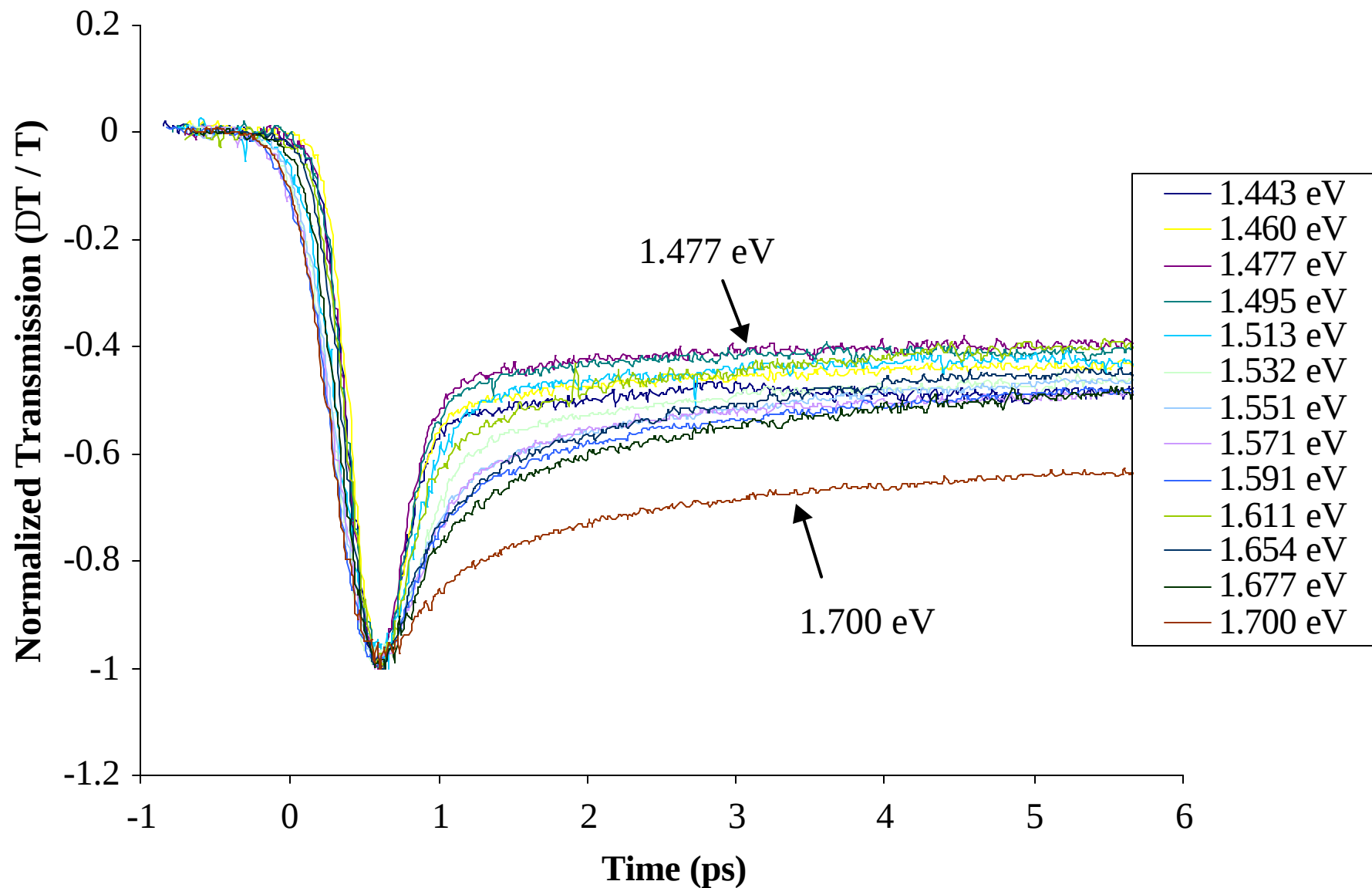
Scans of the 200 nm Intrinsic a-Si Layer



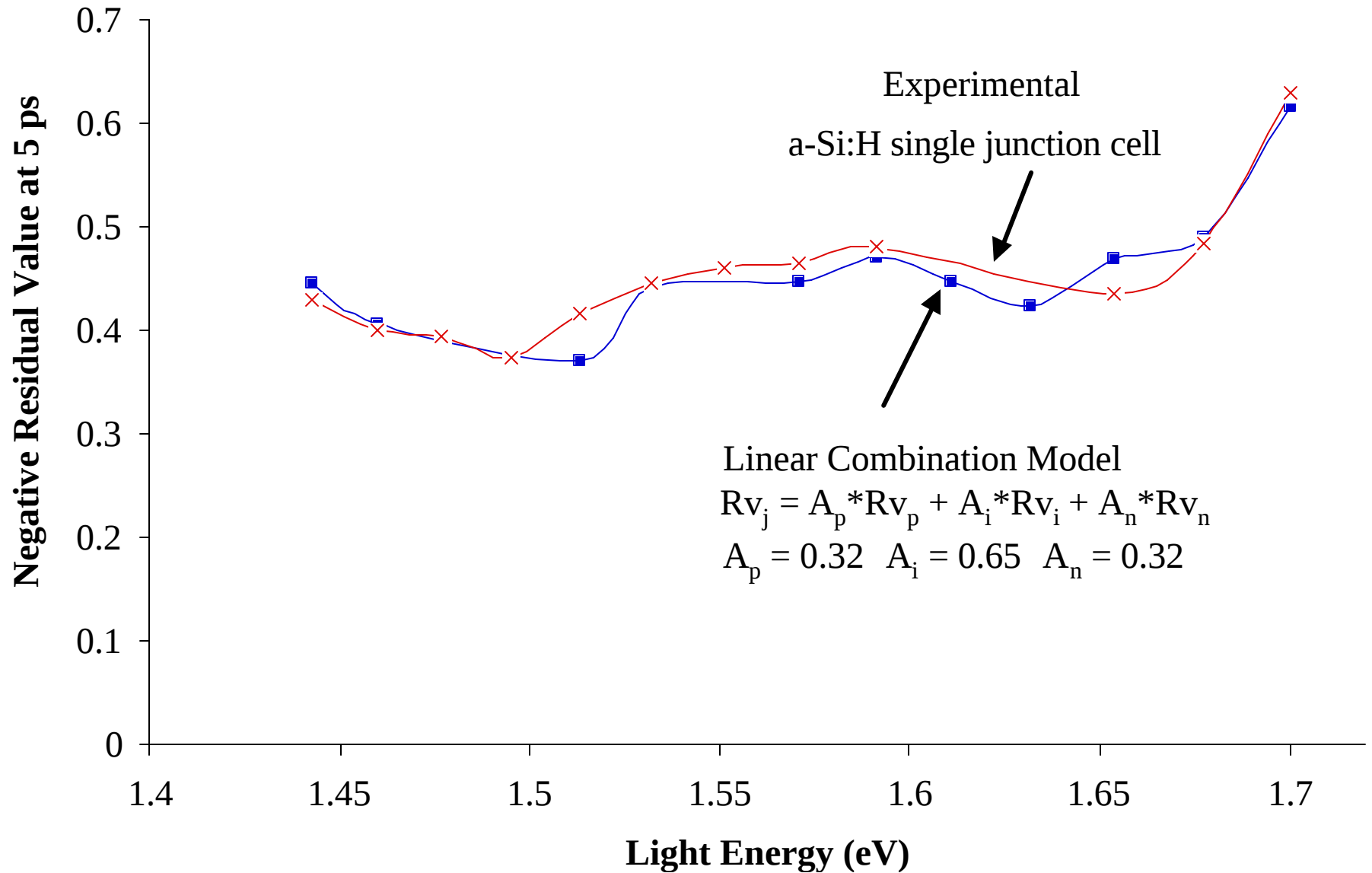
Residual Values for Individual Layers



Scan of a Single Junction a-Si:H Cell



Residual Value for Junction vs. Model



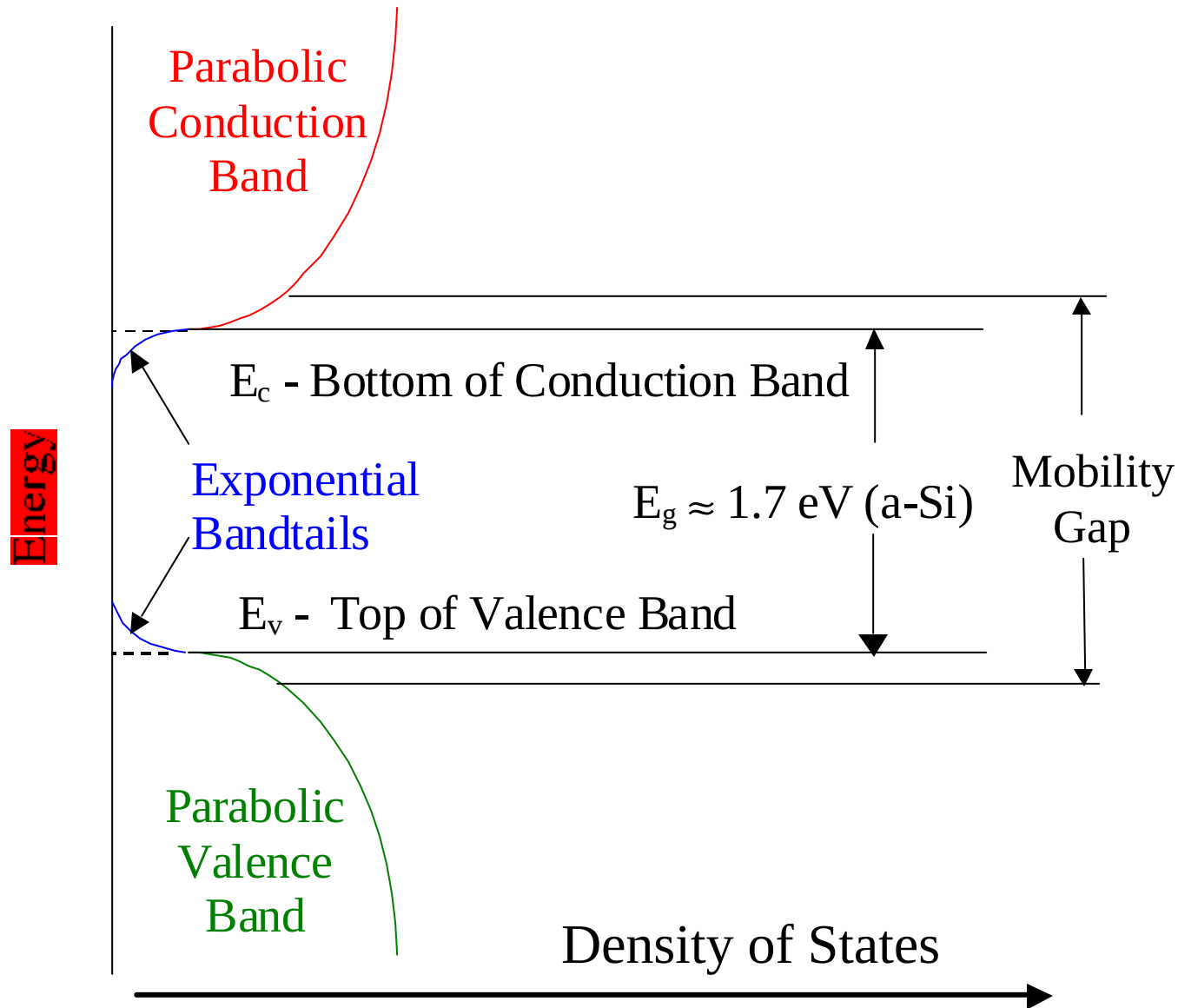
Distinguishable Material Parameters

- **Bandgap**
- **Sample composition (germanium and carbon alloys)**
- **Dopant concentration (phosphorus and boron doping)**
- **Hydrogenation level (defect passivation / crystallinity)**

Conclusions

- Presented Femtosecond Transient ThermoReflectance (FTTR) technique measurements of the thermal diffusivity, electron-phonon coupling factor, and thermal boundary resistance of thin metallic films.
- Showed that the thermoreflectance response is two orders of magnitude greater when the incident probe energy is near an interband transition, and that the response is only linear for small changes in temperature.
- Demonstrated that the wavelength dependence of Femtosecond Transient ThermoTransmittance (FTTT) response from an amorphous silicon solar cell can be related to the response of the individual layers.

Simplified Band Structure of a-Si



Model Assumptions

- **Change in transmission is entirely due to change in absorption.**
- **Band structure is parabolic with exponential band-tails.**
- **Absorption before and after spike is “interband” absorption into band-tails. Difference is due to temperature increase.**

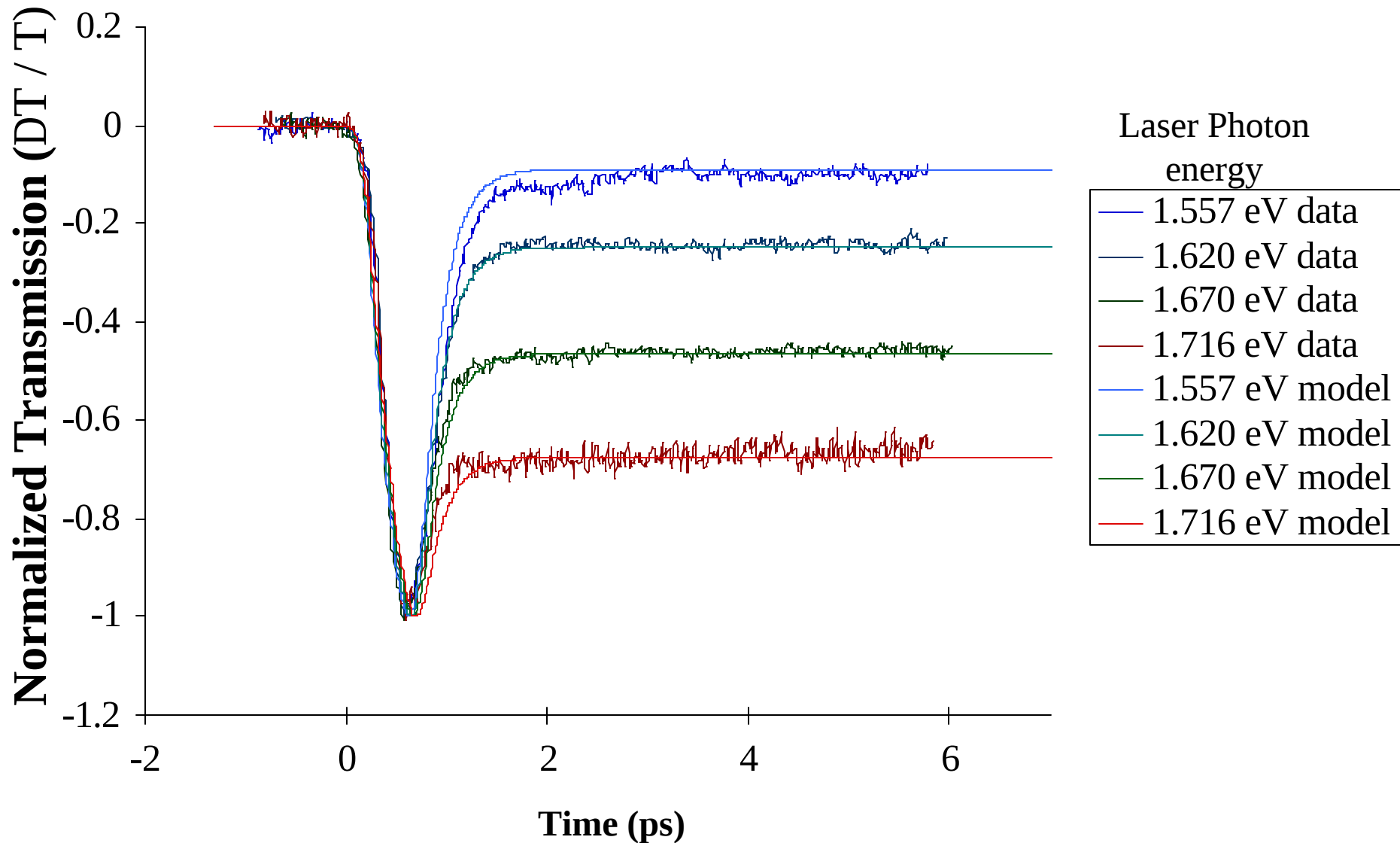
$$N = G_o - G_o \exp(-ax)$$

$$a_T = \alpha_o \exp \{ [hn - (E_o - bT)] / 2k_B T \}$$

- **Spike is due to “intraband” absorption of free carriers generated by the pump being excited higher within the conduction band.**

$$a_{fc} = l^2 \frac{q^3}{4p^2 c^3 n^* e_0} \left(\frac{N_n}{m_n^2 m_n} + \frac{N_p}{m_p^2 m_p} \right)$$

Experiment-Model Comparison



Effects of Electron-Electron Scattering on Thermal Conductivity

Electron Thermal Conductivity

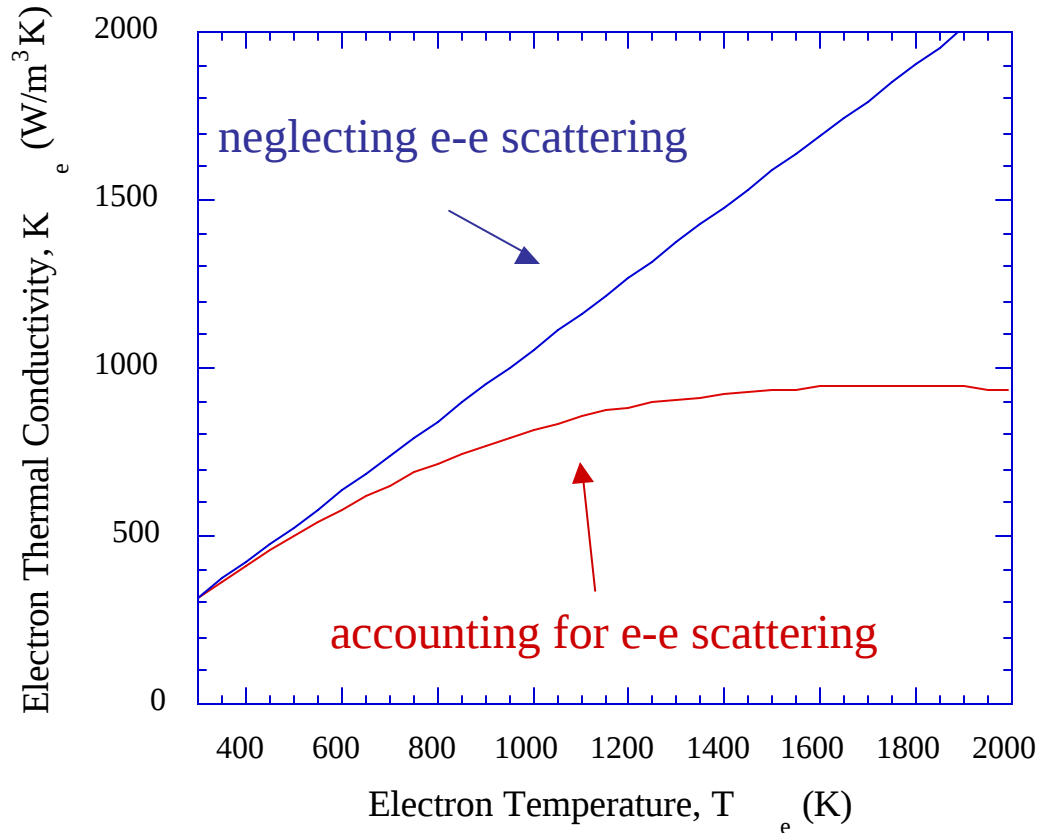
$$K_e \propto \frac{C_e}{w_t}$$

Electron Heat Capacity

$$C_e = gT_e$$

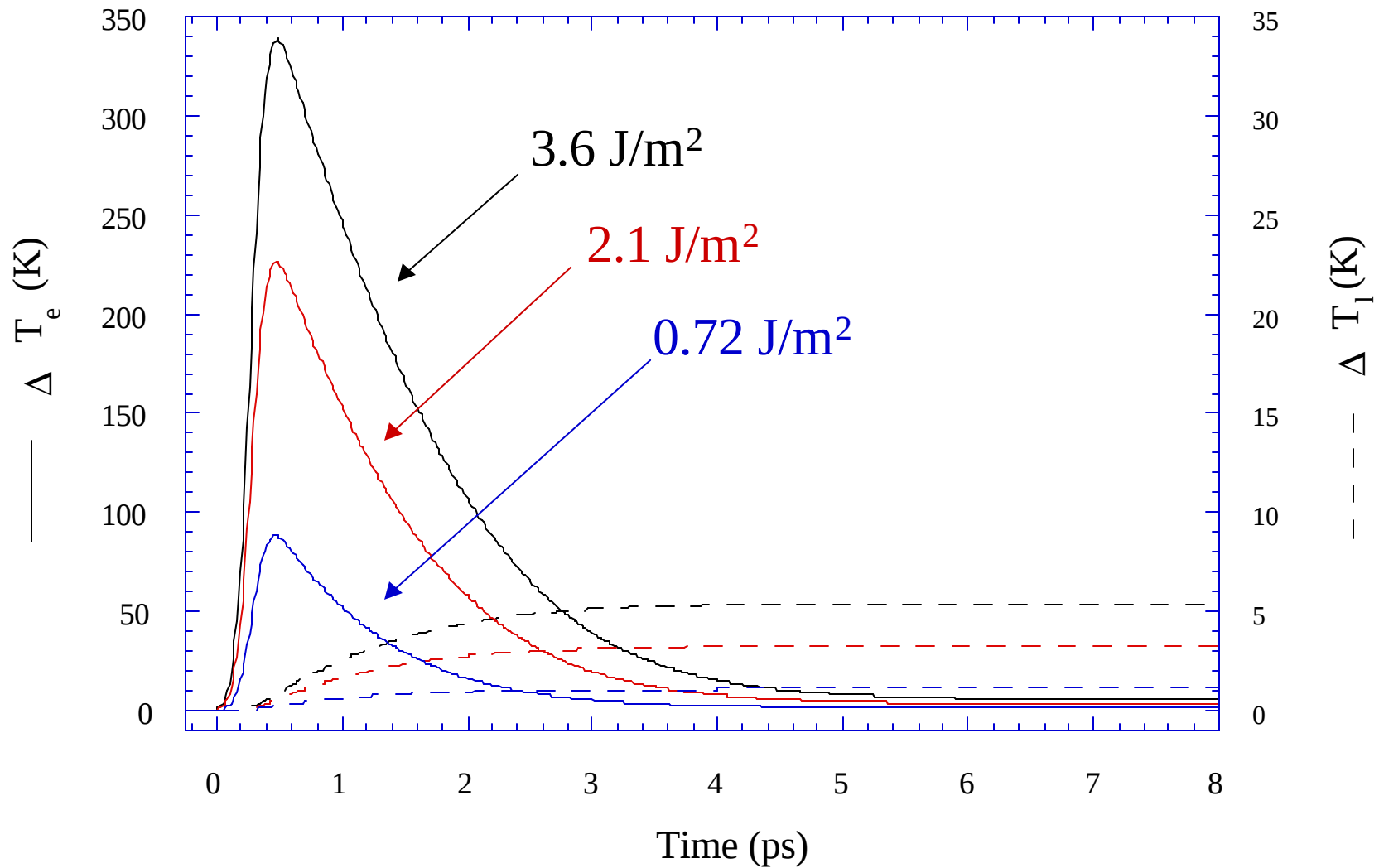
Electron Collisional Frequency

$$w_t = A_{ee}T_e^2 + B_{ep}T_l$$

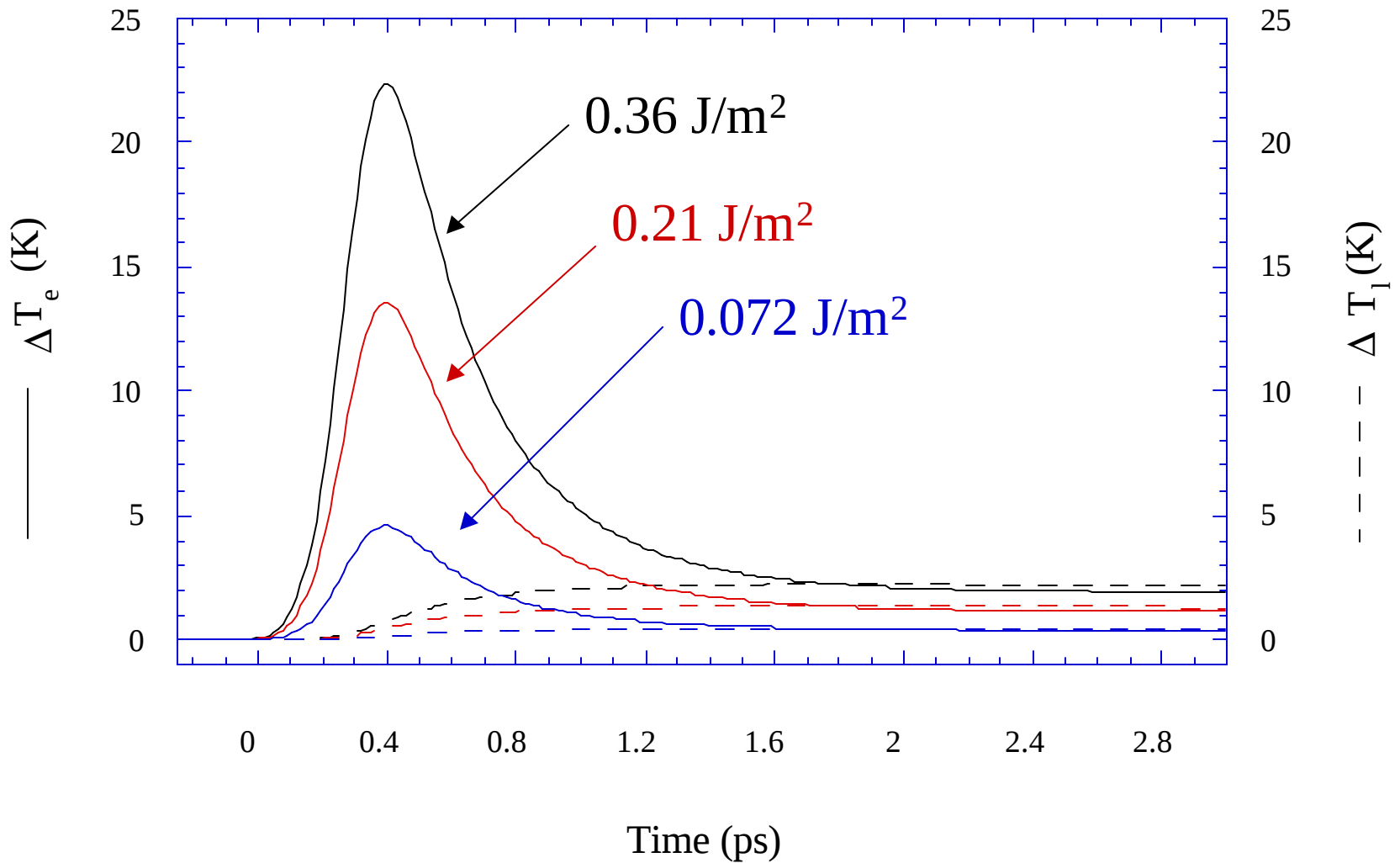


Electron-electron scattering becomes important at higher electron temperatures.

Predicted Temperature Response, Au



Predicted Temperature Response, Pt



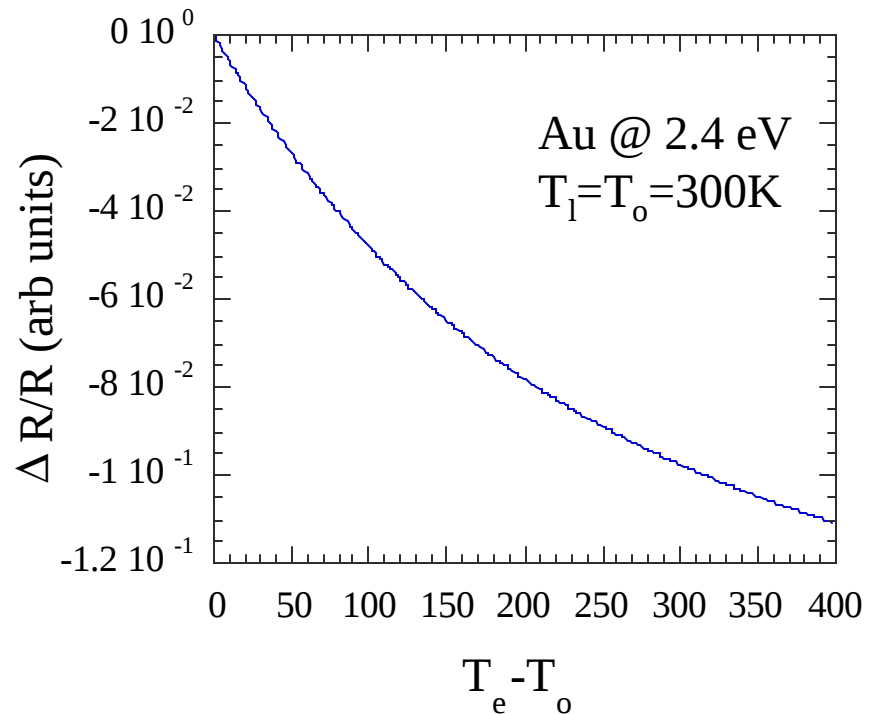
Interband Transitions

Rosei and Lynch, 1972

$$e_2 \propto \frac{(E - E_o)^{1/2}}{E^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{(E - E_1)}{k_B T}}} \right)$$

$$DR \approx 10^{-4} \frac{1}{K}$$

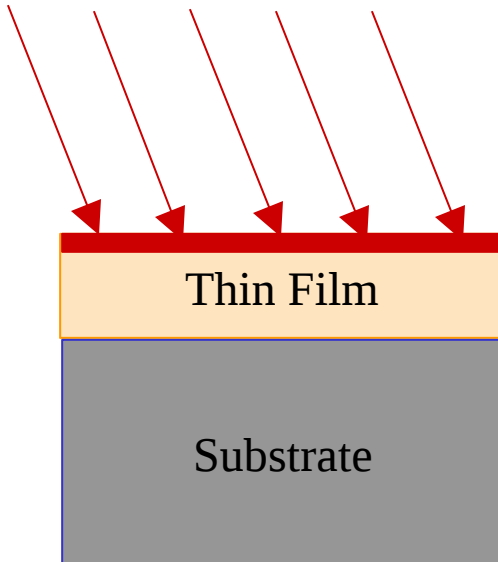
Using the Kramers-Kronig relations this expression can be used to calculate the temperature dependence of the complex dielectric function.



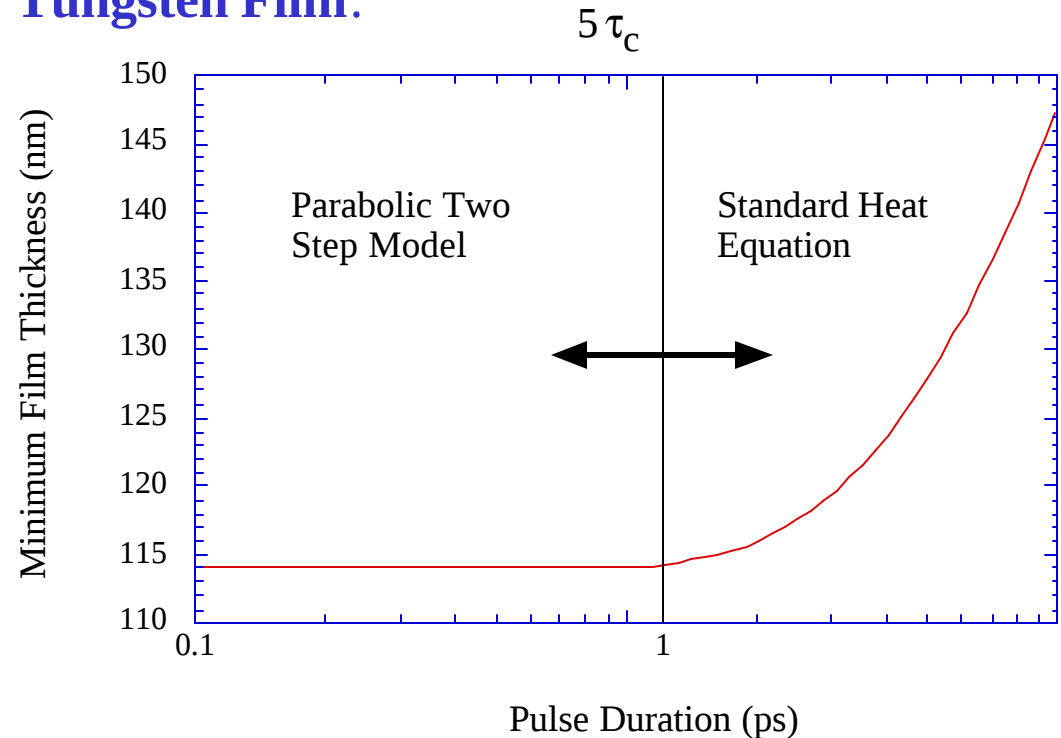
Nonequilibrium Electron Temperature

Transient Thermal Measurement

Ultrashort
Pulsed Laser



Tungsten Film:



10

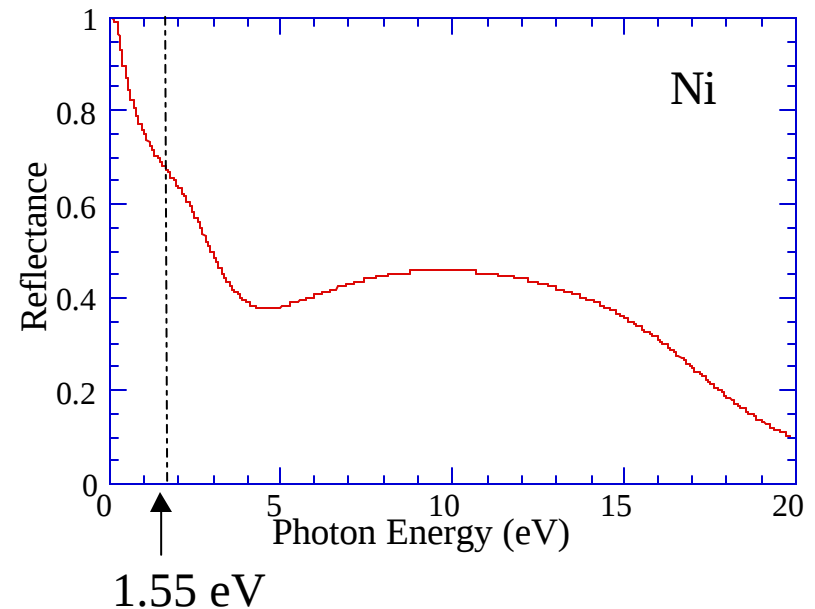
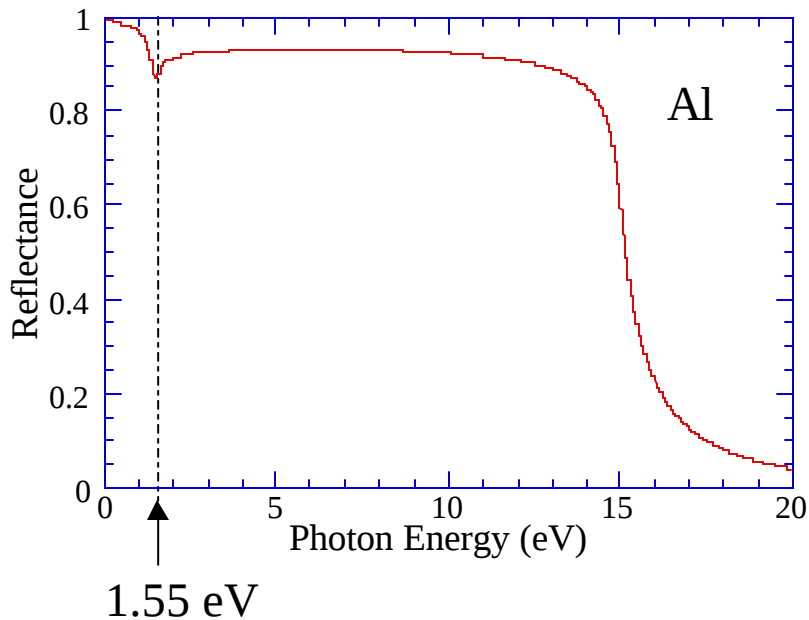
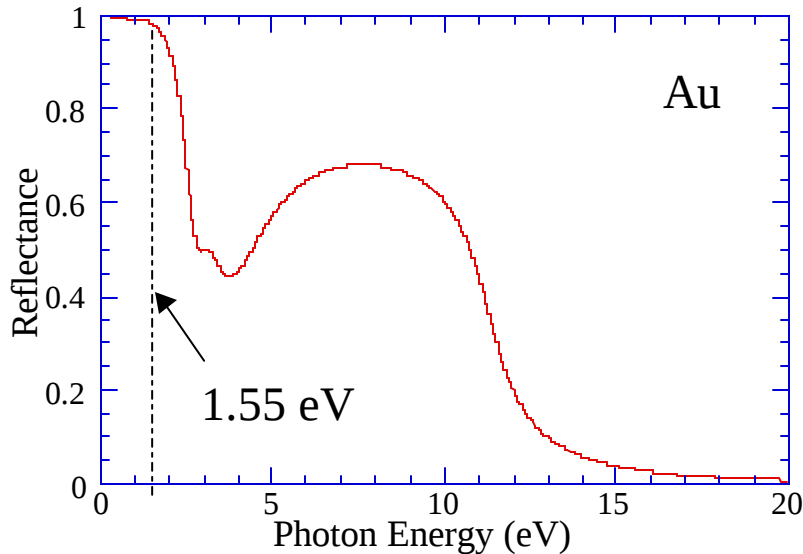
Thermal Penetration Depth:

$$d_{thermal} \approx \left(d_{optical} + \sqrt{\frac{k_e t_c}{C_e}} + \sqrt{\frac{k_e t_{pulse}}{C_l}} \right)$$

Interband Effects on Reflectivity

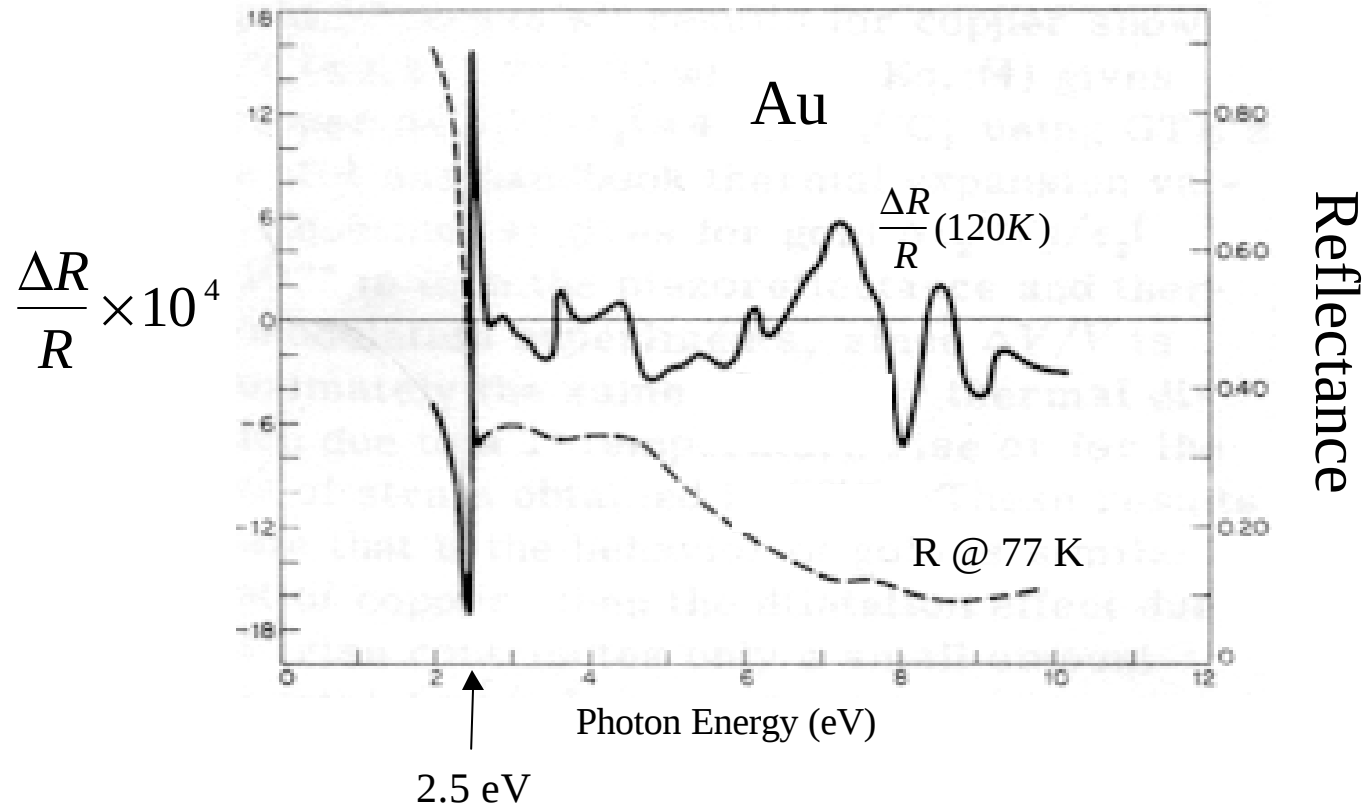
If probe photon energy is near an interband transition, then the bound electron contribution can be significant.

Reflectance spectra calculated from the Drude - Lorentz model with constants from Rakic et al., *Appl. Optics*, 37, 5271, 1998.



Thermomodulation Critical Points

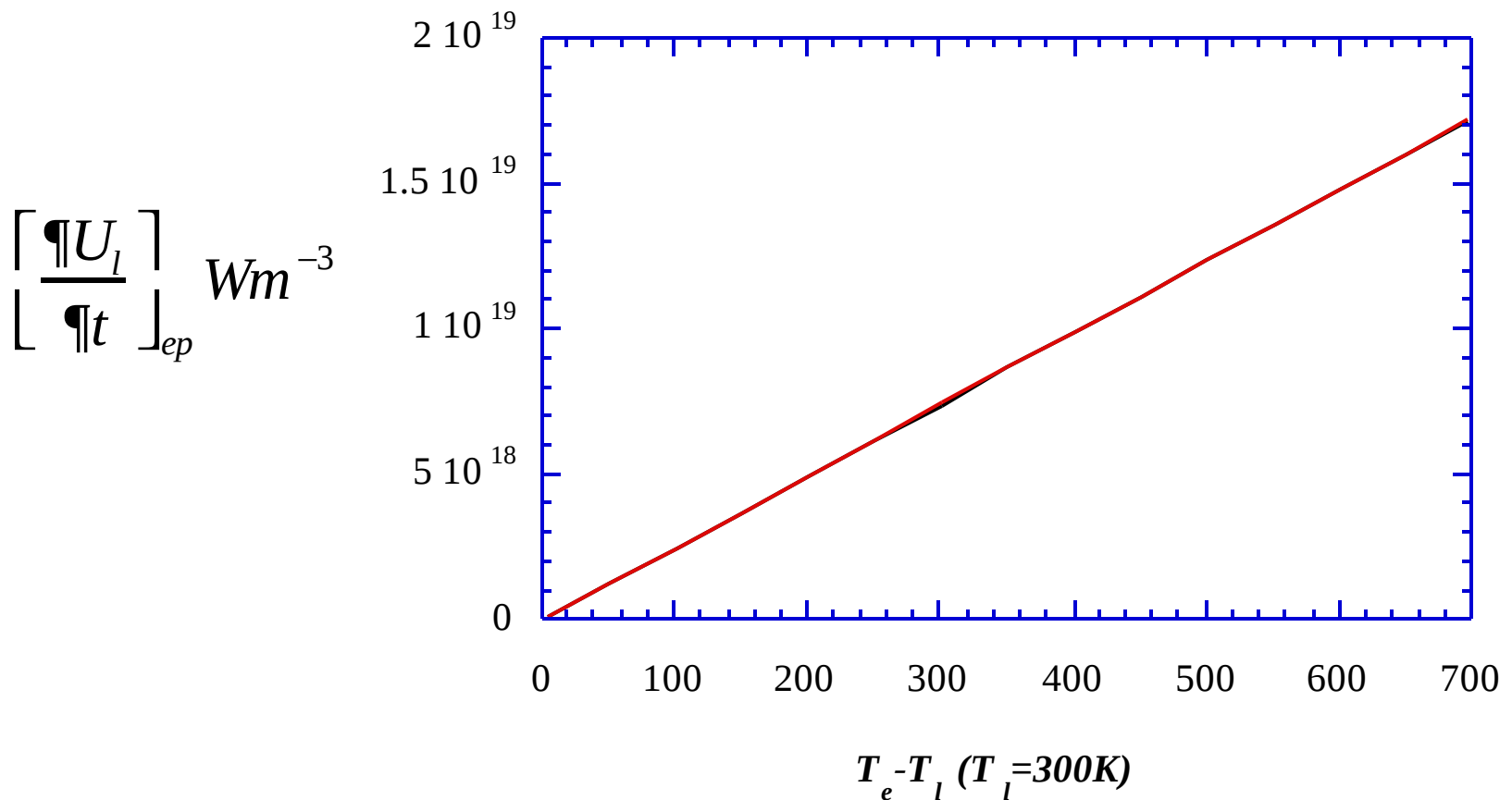
(Scouler, *Phys. Rev.*, Vol. 18, No. 12, p. 445, 1967)



Interband effects cause signal polarity reversal.

Electron Phonon Coupling

Calculated from the electron-phonon collisional equations using the Debye model and assuming that $T_e > T_l > T_D$.



Ultrashort Pulsed Laser Heating

Parabolic:

heat propagation is diffusive

One Step:

electrons and lattice are in equilibrium

Hyperbolic:

heat propagates at a finite speed

Two Step:

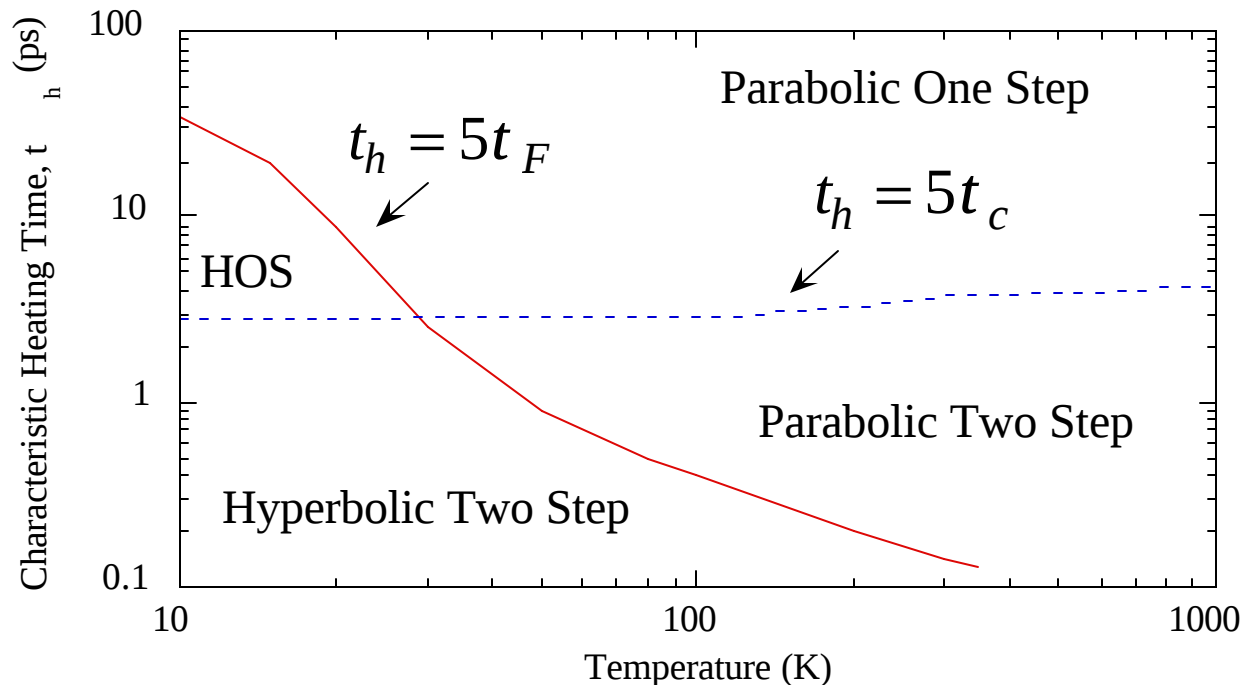
energy is initially absorbed by electrons then coupled into the lattice

Regime Map: (Au)

Thermalization Time:

$$t_c = \frac{C_e C_l}{(C_e + C_l) G}$$

$$\approx \frac{C_e}{G}$$



Nonlinear Thermoreflectance Response

