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Efficient telecom to visible wavelength conversion in doubly resonant gallium phosphide microdisks

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Resonant second harmonic generation between 1550 nm and 775 nm with normalized outside efficiency $>3.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$ is demonstrated in a gallium phosphide microdisk supporting high- Q modes at visible ($Q \sim 10^4$) and infrared ($Q \sim 10^5$) wavelengths. The double resonance condition is satisfied for a specific pump power through intracavity photothermal temperature tuning using $\sim 360 \mu\text{W}$ of 1550 nm light input to a fiber taper and coupled to a microdisk resonance. Power dependent efficiency consistent with a simple model for thermal tuning of the double resonance condition is observed. © 2016 AIP Publishing LLC. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4940242>]

Since the first observation of second harmonic generation (SHG) in 1961,¹ it has become a ubiquitous demonstration of nonlinear optics. In recent years, there has been mounting interest in SHG within micron-scale optical structures such as waveguides and cavities.^{2–12} These experiments seek to take advantage of devices whose combination of large optical quality factor, Q , and small mode volume, V , provide enhancements to electromagnetic per-photon field intensities at both fundamental and second harmonic wavelengths. Furthermore, the compact nature of these optical devices lends itself to convenient integration into complex on-chip photonic circuits. To date, SHG has been demonstrated in a number of microresonator geometries including microdisks,^{7,11–13} microrings,¹⁴ microspheres,¹⁵ photonic crystal nanocavities,^{5,6,8,9} and waveguides.^{16,17} An impressive $9 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mW}^{-1}$ conversion efficiency was achieved by Fürst *et al.* in macroscopic (mm) sized whispering gallery mode resonators.¹⁸ Conversion between 1985 nm and 993 nm light with normalized outside and circulating efficiencies of 10^{-5} mW^{-1} and 10^{-3} mW^{-1} , respectively, have been demonstrated in μm -scale gallium arsenide microdisks with low optical absorption at infrared (IR) wavelengths.¹² Microcavities have also been utilized in nonlinear optical processes including sum-frequency generation¹⁹ and third harmonic generation.²⁰

In this work, we study microdisk cavities such as the device shown in Fig. 1(a), fabricated from gallium phosphide (GaP). The optical transparency window of GaP spans wavelengths from 550 nm to IR, making it a promising material for nonlinear wavelength conversion between C-band (~ 1550) and visible wavelengths.⁸ Second harmonic conversion efficiency can be enhanced by fabricating microcavities supporting high- Q optical resonances at λ_c and $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ that are resonant with the pump (λ_o) and second harmonic wavelengths ($\tilde{\lambda}_o = \lambda_o/2$), respectively. The high sensitivity of

small- V devices to fabrication imperfections and variations in material optical properties, combined with their large free-spectral range, makes it challenging in practice to realize high- Q/V doubly resonant microcavities. Approaches for addressing this problem include near-field perturbative tuning²¹ and bulk temperature tuning.¹³ Here, we demonstrate a method for tuning optical resonance wavelengths *in situ* using dispersive intracavity thermo-optic effects and utilize this tuning to enable highly efficient conversion between $\lambda_o = 1545 \text{ nm}$ and $\tilde{\lambda}_o = 772 \text{ nm}$, with normalized outside efficiency in excess of $3.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$.

Efficient SHG in microcavities requires, in addition to resonances at λ_o and $\tilde{\lambda}_o$, a phasematching mechanism to overcome dispersion intrinsic to the microcavity. A common approach to achieve this, known as quasi-phasematching, relies upon periodic domains with alternating nonlinear susceptibility.²² The zincblende structure of GaP possesses $\bar{4}$ symmetry,²² which can be used to realize quasi-phasematching of microdisk whispering gallery modes without explicit creation of periodic domains.^{10,12,23} The microdisks studied here support radially polarized (TE) modes near λ_o , and both TE and vertically (\hat{z}) polarized (TM) modes near $\tilde{\lambda}_o$, that are coupled by the second order nonlinear susceptibility of GaP. The amplitude of the radial and \hat{z} field components of these modes varies with $e^{im\theta}$, where m is the azimuthal mode number and θ is the cylindrical angular coordinate. The corresponding Cartesian in-plane

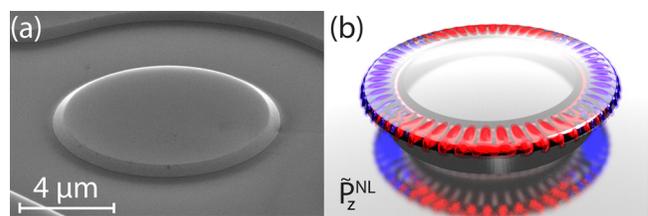


FIG. 1. (a) SEM of a GaP microdisk before being undercut. (b) \tilde{P}_z^{NL} generated by the $m=27$ fundamental TE mode at $\lambda_c \sim 1550 \text{ nm}$ of a microdisk with dimension as in (a).

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components E_x and E_y of the TE modes experience a sign change with period $|\Delta\theta| = \pi$. As a result, the second order nonlinear polarization along z , $\tilde{P}_z^{\text{NL}} = 2\epsilon_0 d_{14} E_x E_y$, where d_{14} is the relevant nonlinear susceptibility tensor element of GaP, experiences a sign change with period $|\Delta\theta| = \pi/2$. This is visualized in Fig. 1(b) and can be interpreted as momentum imparted by the periodic effective inversion of crystal orientation, creating azimuthal momentum components at $2m \pm 2$. As a result, the time-averaged coupling between \tilde{P}_z^{NL} and the TM microdisk mode with azimuthal index \tilde{m} is maximized when $\tilde{m} = 2m \pm 2$. This ± 2 offset can compensate for microdisk dispersion¹⁰ so that satisfying $\lambda_c|_m = 2\tilde{\lambda}_c|_{2m \pm 2}$ becomes possible.

The impact of these effects on SHG is captured by^{10,24}

$$\tilde{P} = |K|^2 \frac{\tilde{\lambda}_c/2\tilde{Q}_e}{\tilde{\Delta}(\lambda_o, P_d)^2 + (\tilde{\lambda}_c/2\tilde{Q}_t)^2} \left[\frac{\lambda_c/2Q_e}{\Delta(\lambda_o, P_d)^2 + \lambda_c^2/4Q_t^2} \right]^2 P^2, \quad (1)$$

which describes the second harmonic power \tilde{P} output into a waveguide coupled to the microdisk for IR pump power P input to the waveguide. $Q_{e,t}$ and $\tilde{Q}_{e,t}$ are the external waveguide coupling (e) and the total (t) quality factors of the pump and IR microdisk modes, respectively. The quasi-phase-matching is captured by the second harmonic coefficient, K , given in the supplementary material.²⁴ The remaining terms describe the cavity enhancement and are maximized at “double resonance” where both the pump and second harmonic fields are resonant with a cavity mode, i.e., $\Delta = \tilde{\Delta} = 0$. Here, $\Delta(\lambda_o, P_d) = \lambda_o - \lambda_c(P_d)$ and $\tilde{\Delta}(\lambda_o, P_d) = \tilde{\lambda}_o - \tilde{\lambda}_c(P_d) = \lambda_o/2 - \tilde{\lambda}_c(P_d)$ are the detunings between the pump and second harmonic fields, respectively, and the microdisk modes. Due to photothermal effects discussed below, λ_c and $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ depend on the pump power dropped into the cavity, P_d .

In microdisks, double resonance is generally not satisfied intrinsically. However, adjusting the microdisk temperature, T , can compensate for an initially non-zero relative detuning $|\lambda_c - 2\tilde{\lambda}_c|$. Changes in T modify λ_c and $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ via thermal expansion and the thermo-optic effect,²⁵ and tuning rates $d\lambda_c/dT$ and $d\tilde{\lambda}_c/dT$ can differ due to dispersion of the modal confinement, refractive index (n_{GaP}), and thermo-optic coefficient. In the experiment described below, the wavelength dependence of the normalized thermo-optic coefficient $(1/n_{\text{GaP}})dn_{\text{GaP}}/dT$ is the dominant mechanism for tuning rate dispersion. For GaP, we calculate this coefficient at λ_c and $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ to be $3.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (K}^{-1}\text{)}$ and $2.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (K}^{-1}\text{)}$, respectively,²⁶ which leads to a differential tuning coefficient $\eta = 1 - (2d\tilde{\lambda}_c/dT)/(d\lambda_c/dT) = 0.176$.

In our experiment, we do not have independent control of T . However, because of linear optical absorption and accompanying heating, T is proportional to $P_d(\Delta)$. For a given η and initial $|\lambda_c - 2\tilde{\lambda}_c|$, it is possible to find a critical power $P = P_{\text{crit}}$ where double resonance is achieved. The principle of this scheme is illustrated in Fig. 2(a), where we sketch Δ and $2\tilde{\Delta}$ versus λ_o for three values of P ,

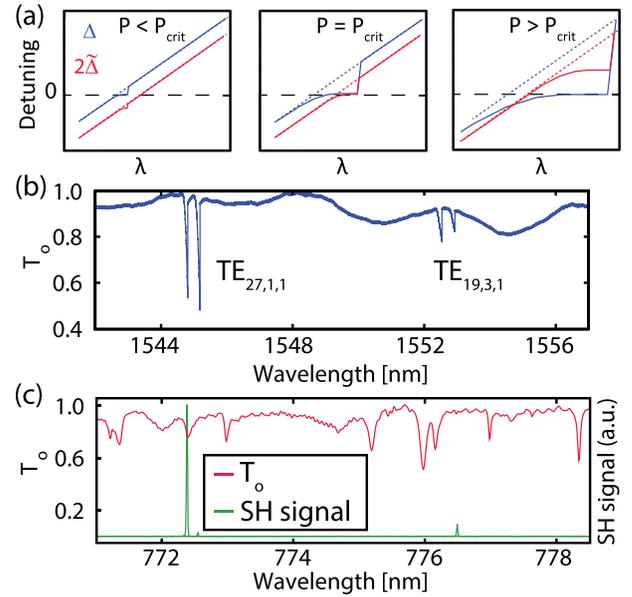


FIG. 2. (a) Cartoon of influence of P on detunings $\Delta(\lambda_o; P)$ (blue) and $2\tilde{\Delta}(\lambda_o; P)$ (red) for $\eta > 0$. The dashed lines show the expected behavior in the absence of thermo-optic effects. (b) IR transmission spectrum of a fiber taper coupled to a $6.52 \mu\text{m}$ diameter microdisk. (c) Red line: Visible transmission spectrum of the fiber taper. Green line: SHG signal generated by the IR input light from (b) and collected by the fiber taper. Note that for the P used in (b) and (c), the shortest wavelength IR mode nearly satisfies the double resonance condition.

assuming that $\eta > 0$. As λ_o is tuned towards λ_c from blue to red, the increase in $P_d(\Delta)$ heats the cavity, causing both λ_c and $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ to shift to longer wavelengths. For $P < P_{\text{crit}}$ (left panel in Fig. 2(a)), the deviation is relatively small, and double resonance is never realized. When $P = P_{\text{crit}}$ (center panel in Fig. 2(a)), the double resonance condition is satisfied. For $P > P_{\text{crit}}$ (right panel in Fig. 2(a)), λ_c is shifted past $2\tilde{\lambda}_c$ before λ_o reaches λ_c , and double resonance is never achieved. A sharp change in Δ and $\tilde{\Delta}$ occurs in all three scenarios when λ_o “catches up” to the thermally shifted λ_c .²⁵

We now show that this tuning scheme can be used to demonstrate SHG at double resonance in GaP microdisks fabricated following Mitchell *et al.*²⁷ To identify promising microdisks for efficient SHG, devices were characterized using fiber taper mode spectroscopy at IR wavelengths, while the spectrum of SHG produced by the microdisk and collected by the fiber taper was simultaneously measured. Figure 2(b) shows the transmission through the fiber taper when it is positioned in the near field of a $6.52 \mu\text{m}$ diameter microdisk, measured with $P \sim 0.5 \text{ mW}$ from a tunable IR wavelength laser (New Focus TLB-6700). Evanescent coupling from the fiber taper to high- Q microdisk doublet modes²⁸ results in sharp transmission dips and corresponding large P_d . Through comparison with finite difference time domain (MEEP) simulations of the microdisk mode spectrum measured from $1470 - 1570 \text{ nm}$, we identify doublets near 1545 nm and 1554 nm as corresponding to TE-polarized modes with m , radial (p), and axial (q) numbers $\{27, 1, 1\}$ and $\{19, 3, 1\}$, respectively. From fits to the doublet lineshape, we measured unloaded Q of 1.1×10^5 and 2.8×10^4 for the $p=1$ and $p=3$ doublets, respectively. Figure 2(c)

shows that SHG is observed when pumping both modes and is the strongest for the $p = 1$ mode.

To study the initial alignment between modes near $\tilde{\lambda}_c$ and the SHG signal, we measured the fiber taper transmission using a visible supercontinuum source and spectrometer detection. Comparing the transmission and SHG spectra in Fig. 2(c) reveals that the strongest SHG occurs when exciting a doublet mode with SHG emission at $\tilde{\lambda}_o = \lambda_o/2$ that is close to a resonance at $\tilde{\lambda}_c \sim 772.2$ nm ($\{m, p, q\} = \{56, 3, 1\}$, $\tilde{Q} \sim 9600$). In contrast, SHG from the other mode in the doublet is weak, as it is off resonance from $\tilde{\lambda}_c$.

Further insight into the role played by double resonance was provided using the tuning scheme described above. We scanned λ_o from blue to red across λ_c for a range of fixed values of P and measured the pump transmission (Fig. 3(a)), and the corresponding SHG (Fig. 3(b)) as a function of P and λ_o . Each point in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) is the integrated intensity of the narrowband signal detected by the IR and visible spectrometers at λ_o and $\tilde{\lambda}_o$, respectively, for a given $\{\lambda_o, P\}$. The redshift of λ_c in the pump transmission spectrum in Fig. 3(a) with increasing P results from thermo-optic effects in the microdisk. These effects are also responsible for the asymmetric “shark fin” lineshape evident in Fig. 2(b).²⁵ Note that the jagged edges in Fig. 3(a) for high P are due to the discrete stepping of P . Figure 3(b) shows that SHG is most intense when exciting the shorter wavelength mode of the doublet, consistent with the observation in Fig. 2(c). Additionally, SHG is maximized at an intermediate value of P . As described below, this can be explained by the P_d dependence of $\tilde{\Delta}(\lambda_o = \lambda_c)$ illustrated in Fig. 2(a).

The SHG behaviour can be investigated more quantitatively by analyzing the subset of data in Fig. 3 where the pump is on-resonance ($\Delta = 0$). In this case, the SHG signal is described by a simplified form of Eq. (1) (Refs. 10 and 24)

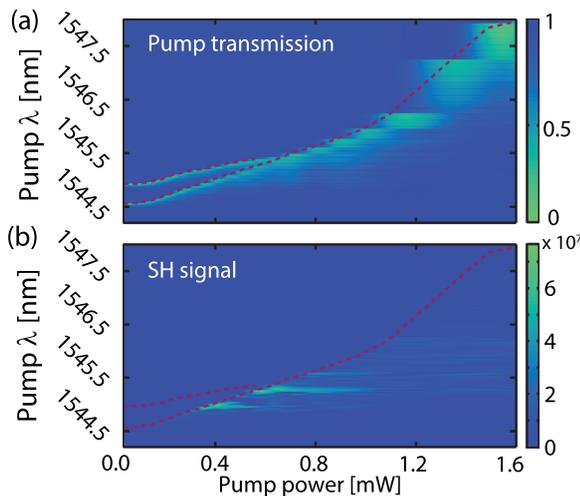


FIG. 3. (a) Normalized transmission of the pump through the fiber taper when λ_o is scanned from 1544 nm to 1548 nm (in the direction of increasing λ_o) for various fixed values of P . A thermally induced cavity resonance shift is evident with increased P . The red dashed line traces over points of minimum transmission where $\lambda_o = \lambda_c$. (b) SHG signal corresponding to the operating conditions in (a). The dashed line traces λ_c from (a) and serves as a guide to the eye.

$$\tilde{P}(\Delta = 0) \propto \frac{(\tilde{\lambda}_c/2\tilde{Q}_t)^2}{\tilde{\Delta}(\lambda_o, P)^2 + (\tilde{\lambda}_c/2\tilde{Q}_t)^2} \times |K|^2 P^2. \quad (2)$$

This expression is a product of two functions: the first captures the impact of the P dependence of the detuning $\tilde{\Delta}$ between the SHG signal ($\tilde{\lambda}_o = \lambda_c/2$) and the nearest cavity mode ($\tilde{\lambda}_c$), and the second describes the usual P^2 dependence of SHG and scales with the effective nonlinear susceptibility of the microdisk modes of interest. Conveniently, $\tilde{\Delta}$ is a linear function of P and λ_o for $\Delta = 0$ (see supplementary material²⁴), allowing Eq. (2) to be easily fit to experimental data.

In Fig. 4, we analyze the $\Delta = 0$ data from Fig. 3 using Eq. (2). We only consider the shorter λ_c doublet mode and find $\lambda_c(P; \Delta = 0)$ from the data in Fig. 3(a). In Fig. 4(a), we plot SHG absolute efficiency vs. P for $\Delta = 0$. Here, absolute efficiency is defined as \tilde{P}/P , where powers are measured in the fiber taper immediately before (P) and after (\tilde{P}) the microdisk, taking into account asymmetric fiber taper insertion loss. We emphasize that because of the P dependence of λ_c shown in Fig. 3(b), for every value of P , the selected λ_o corresponding to $\Delta = 0$ varies. For low $P < 0.18$ mW, the absolute efficiency is observed to increase approximately linearly with P , as thermo-optic effects are small compared to the intrinsic “cold cavity” $\tilde{\Delta}|_{P=0}$. In this region, we estimate $\tilde{\Delta}$ to range from -34 pm to -28 pm. As P approaches $P = P_{\text{crit}} = 0.35$ mW, thermo-optic effects become significant, $\tilde{\Delta} \rightarrow 0$ satisfying double resonance, and the absolute

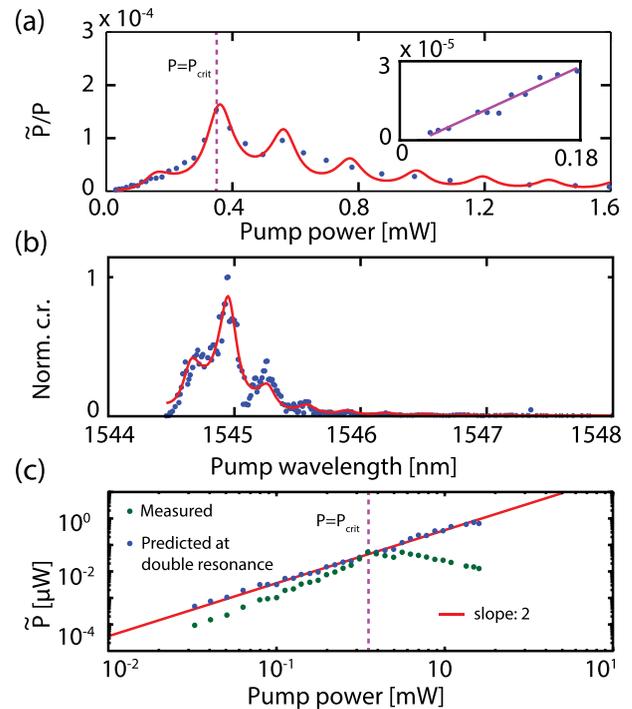


FIG. 4. (a) SHG absolute efficiency \tilde{P}/P versus P for $\Delta = 0$. The red line is a fit to the data using Eq. (2). The inset highlights low P data and includes a linear fit. (b) Normalized SHG count rate ($\propto \tilde{P}/P^2$) plotted versus pump wavelength λ_o for $\Delta = 0$, where the red line is a fit to the data adapted from Eq. (2). (c) SH power vs. P for $\Delta = 0$. The green points show the unprocessed measured data. The blue points show the predicted SH power if $\tilde{\Delta} = 0$ for the entire range of P . The red line is a weighted least squares fit to the data of a function proportional to P^2 and indicates a normalized SHG efficiency $\tilde{P}/P^2 = 3.8 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$.

efficiency increases superlinearly with P to a maximum value of 1.5×10^{-4} . For $P > P_{\text{crit}}$, absolute efficiency is observed to decrease.

The observed P dependence of $\tilde{P}(\Delta = 0)$ is consistent with $\tilde{\Delta}(P; \Delta = 0)$ increasing monotonically with P from $\tilde{\Delta} < 0$ to $\tilde{\Delta} > 0$. We test this quantitatively by comparing the predictions from Eq. (2) with the measured data in Fig. 4(a). Here, the required fitting parameters are an overall scaling factor and the differential thermo-optic tuning coefficient η that determines the linear dependence of $\tilde{\Delta}$ on P for $\Delta = 0$. We find a best fit for $\eta = 0.181$, which is within 3% of the theoretical value presented above. In applying this model, we included a λ_o dependence in the scaling factor that follows an Airy function and accounts for etaloning in the non-wedged neutral density filters used in this experiment, resulting in oscillations evident in the data.

Further analysis of the SHG signal at $\Delta = 0$ is given in Fig. 4(b), which shows the SHG signal for varying λ_o . Here, we are plotting \tilde{P} normalized by P^2 in order to isolate the cavity contribution described in Eq. (2). The resulting fit of Eq. (2) to the data, shown in Fig. 4(b), has good agreement. For this fit, we use the value for η found above and treat Q_t as a fitting parameter; the fit predicts $\tilde{Q}_t \sim 1.0 \times 10^4$, in close agreement with the spectrometer measured value in Fig. 2(c). As in the P -dependent fit in Fig. 4(a), we included a λ_o dependent scaling factor to account for etaloning from the neutral density filters that creates the observed oscillations.

Finally, in Fig. 4(c), we analyze the SHG signal power vs. P at $\Delta = 0$. In this analysis, we plot \tilde{P} in absolute measured units, as well as scaled by the P dependent microdisk resonance response described by the first term in Eq. (2) and predicted from the fit to $\tilde{\Delta}(P; \Delta = 0)$ obtained for Fig. 4(a). This latter scaling isolates the term in Eq. (2) that describes the microdisk nonlinear susceptibility and is ideally proportional to $|K|^2 P^2$. As shown in Fig. 4(c), when scaled in this manner, the data are well described by a P^2 dependence. This plot represents the predicted SHG signal if the enhancement provided by the microdisk density of states is fixed to its maximum value at $\tilde{\Delta} = \Delta = 0$. Note that in our experiment, this efficiency is only realized when $P = P_{\text{crit}}$, as evident by comparing the unscaled and predicted data in Fig. 4(c).

The maximum normalized outside efficiency, defined as \tilde{P}/P^2 , was found from the point of highest efficiency in Fig. 4(a) to be $4.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$ for the case $P = P_{\text{crit}}$. The weighted least squares fit to the scaled data shown in Fig. 4(c) can be used as a consistency check and gives the predicted normalized outside efficiency if the double resonance condition $\Delta = \tilde{\Delta} = 0$ is satisfied over the entire range of P . We find a normalized efficiency of $(3.8 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$, in good agreement with the measured maximum normalized outside efficiency at P_{crit} in Fig. 4(b) where the double resonance condition is satisfied. In comparison, the SHG signal at low P shown in the inset Fig. 4(b), where $\tilde{\Delta}$ is approximately constant (i.e., independent of P), has a normalized outside efficiency of $1.78 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$. This illustrates that the SHG normalized outside efficiency \tilde{P}/P^2 , in addition to the total

efficiency \tilde{P}/P shown in Fig. 4(b), is enhanced through satisfaction of the double resonance condition at $P = P_{\text{crit}}$.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated resonant second harmonic generation from 1550 nm to 775 nm in a GaP microdisk with maximum normalized outside efficiency of $3.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mW}^{-1}$ for $P = P_{\text{crit}} = 0.35 \text{ mW}$, which is larger than previously reported values in similarly sized structures used for 2000 nm–1000 nm wavelength conversion.¹² We have shown that this efficiency is achieved via double resonance between high- Q modes of the GaP microdisk at both IR ($Q \sim 1.1 \times 10^5$) and visible ($\tilde{Q} \sim 1.0 \times 10^4$) wavelengths. Further improvements to the efficiency could be made by spectrally aligning higher- \tilde{Q} modes and optimizing fiber taper coupling at visible wavelengths. Control of the differential tuning independent of pump power could be realized by thermally heating using light from an additional optical mode not involved in the nonlinear conversion process. As GaP is a piezoelectric material, it may be possible to tune the modes through electronic means.²⁹ The geometry presented in this letter can also be adapted for use in other nonlinear optics scenarios such as four wave mixing and downconversion.^{30–33} With the present system, we have already observed third harmonic generation although efficient collection of the resultant 515 nm light via fiber taper requires additional optimization.

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