

Supplementary Information

Trap-free exciton dynamics in monolayer WS₂ via oleic acid passivation

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Exciton density calculation

We calculate the initial photogenerated exciton density $N(0)$ from the incident fluence and the absorption efficiency, according to equation (S1):

$$N_0 = \varphi \frac{E\lambda}{hc} (1 - 10^{-A}) \quad (\text{S1})$$

where E is the fluence (J cm^{-2}) of excitation pulses, λ is excitation wavelength, A is the absorbance at excitation wavelength, φ is the ratio of exciton created per photon absorbed (assumed to be unity). The excitation intensities (fluences) applied in our study were in the linear-dependent range to avoid higher order nonlinear effect.

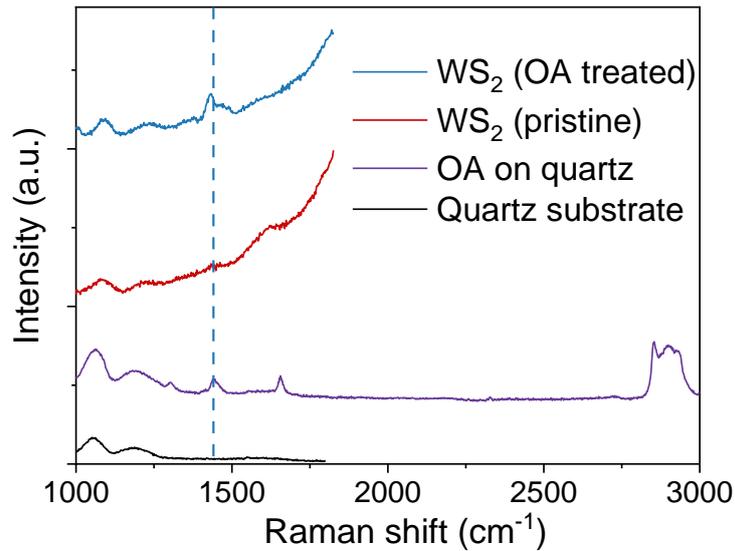


Figure S1. Raman spectra of OA treated WS₂ monolayer (blue), pristine WS₂ (red), oleic acid on quartz (purple) and quartz substrate (black) under excitation at 532 nm. The Raman signal at 1439 cm⁻¹ which corresponds to the CH₂ scissoring mode of oleic acid is labelled by the dash line. The Raman signals above 1800 cm⁻¹ for OA treated and pristine WS₂ were removed due to the influence from PL.

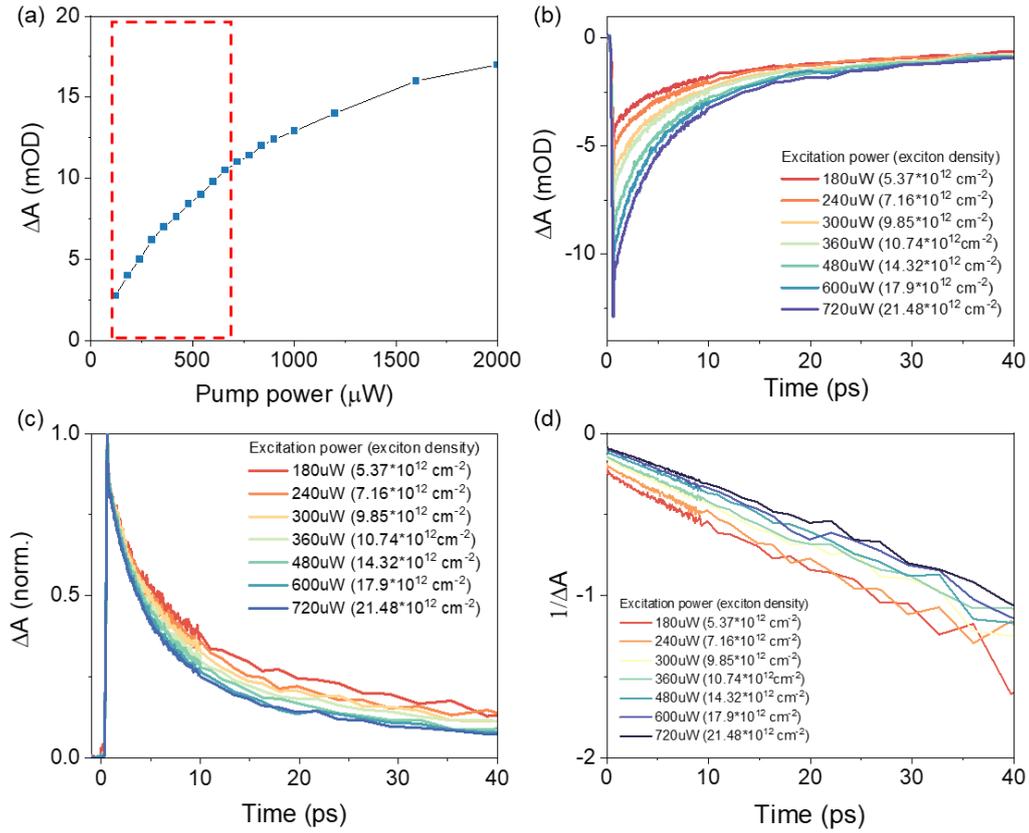


Figure S2. (a) Excitation power dependent TA signal at 1 ps in pristine monolayer WS₂. The dash rectangle indicates the power regime where the intensity dependent TA kinetics (b) were measured. (c) The normalized plot of (b) shows clear dependence of TA kinetics on the exciton density. (d) The relations between the reciprocal of ΔA ($1/\Delta A$) versus time. The similar slopes are indicating similar EEA constant.

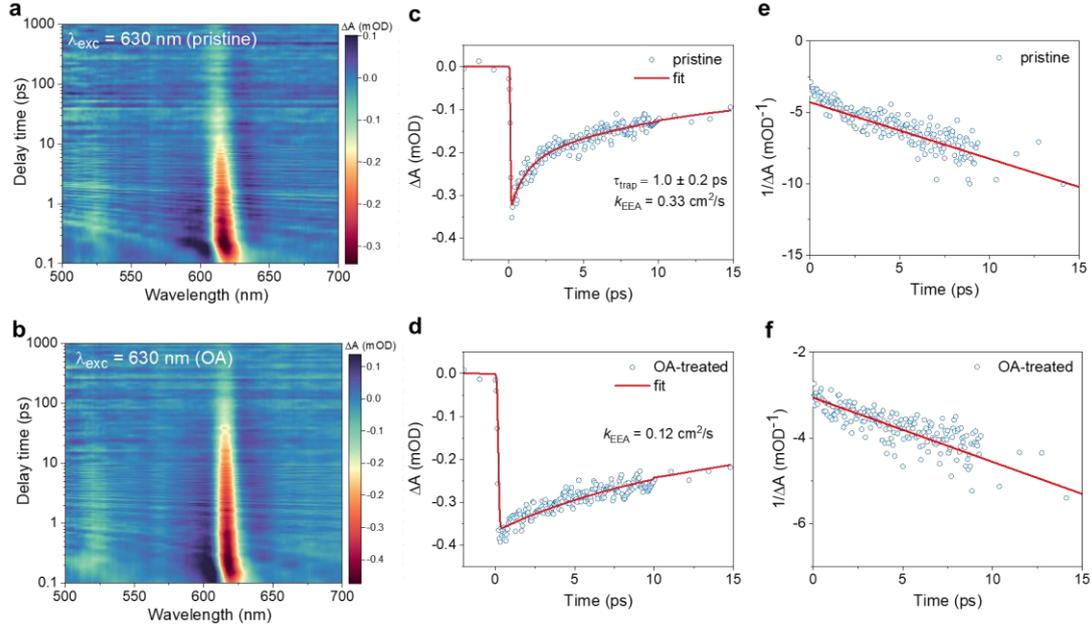


Figure S3. (a-b) 2D color contour plot of TA data; (c-d) TA kinetics; (e-f) The dependence of the reciprocal of ΔA ($1/\Delta A$) versus time of pristine and OA treated monolayer WS_2 under excitation at 630 nm with low exciton density $N(0) = 4.3 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

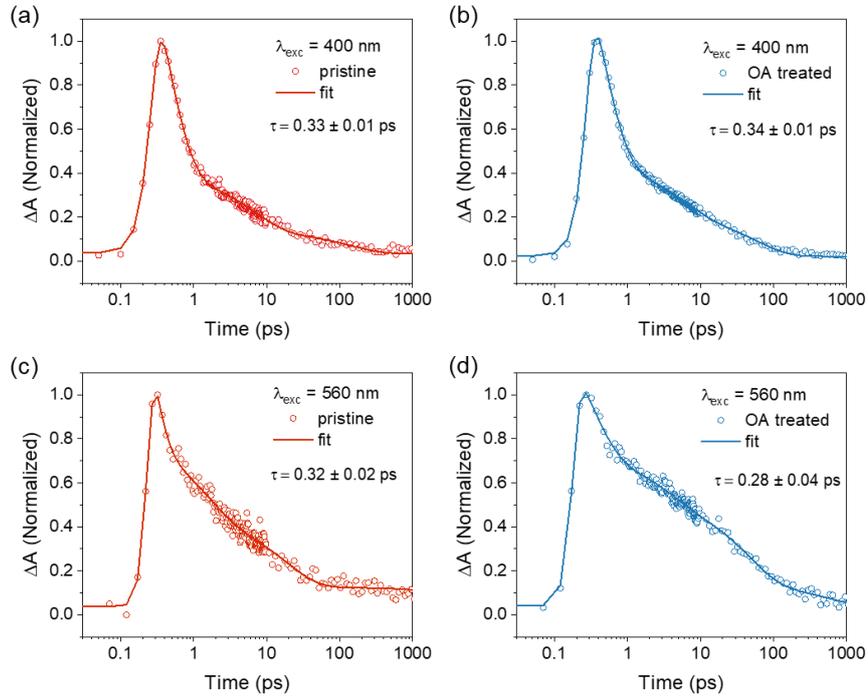


Figure S4. (a-b) Transient absorption kinetics of monolayer WS_2 before (a) and after OA treatment (b) under excitation at 400 nm. (c-d) Transient absorption kinetics of monolayer WS_2 before (c) and after OA treatment (d) under excitation at 560 nm. The solid lines are exponential fits to extract the ultrafast sub-ps time constant.

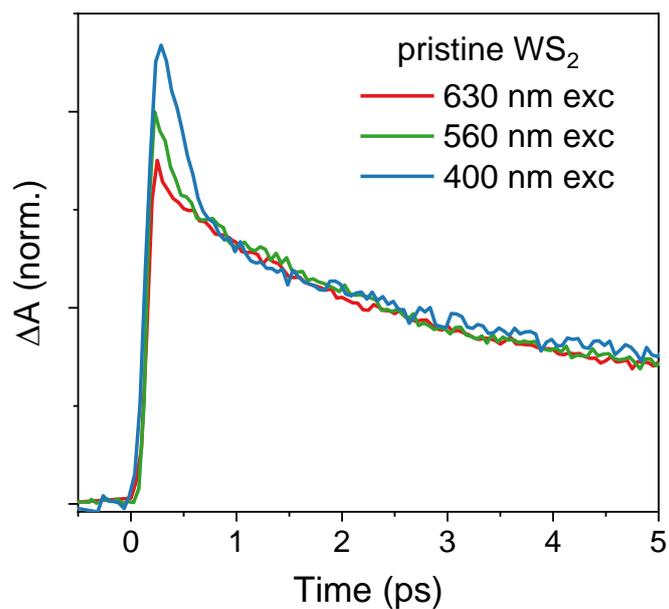


Figure S5. Normalized transient absorption kinetics at 614 nm of pristine WS₂ under excitation at 630, 560 and 400 nm.

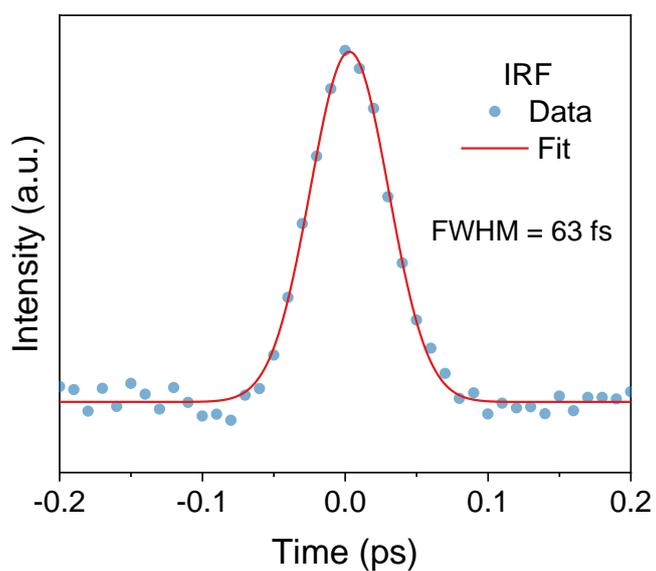


Figure S6. Instrument response function (IRF) of transient absorption setup determined from the Gaussian fit of Raman scattering signal in water.