

# High efficiency solar cells by nanophotonic design



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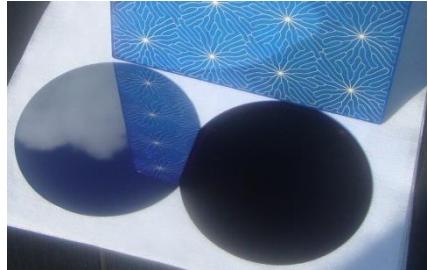
Guanchao Yin  
Martina Schmid



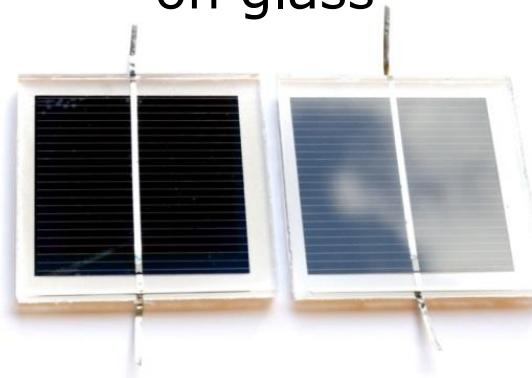
Vivian Ferry  
Dennis Calahan  
Matt Sheldon  
Harry Atwater

# Outline

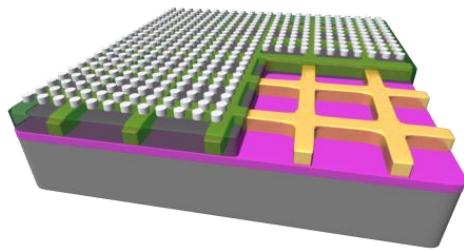
Light coupling  
and trapping



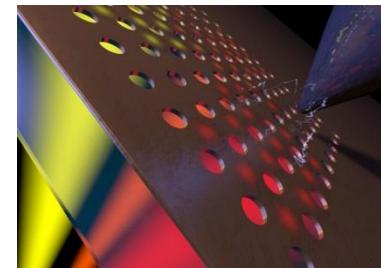
Nanopatterned ARC  
on glass



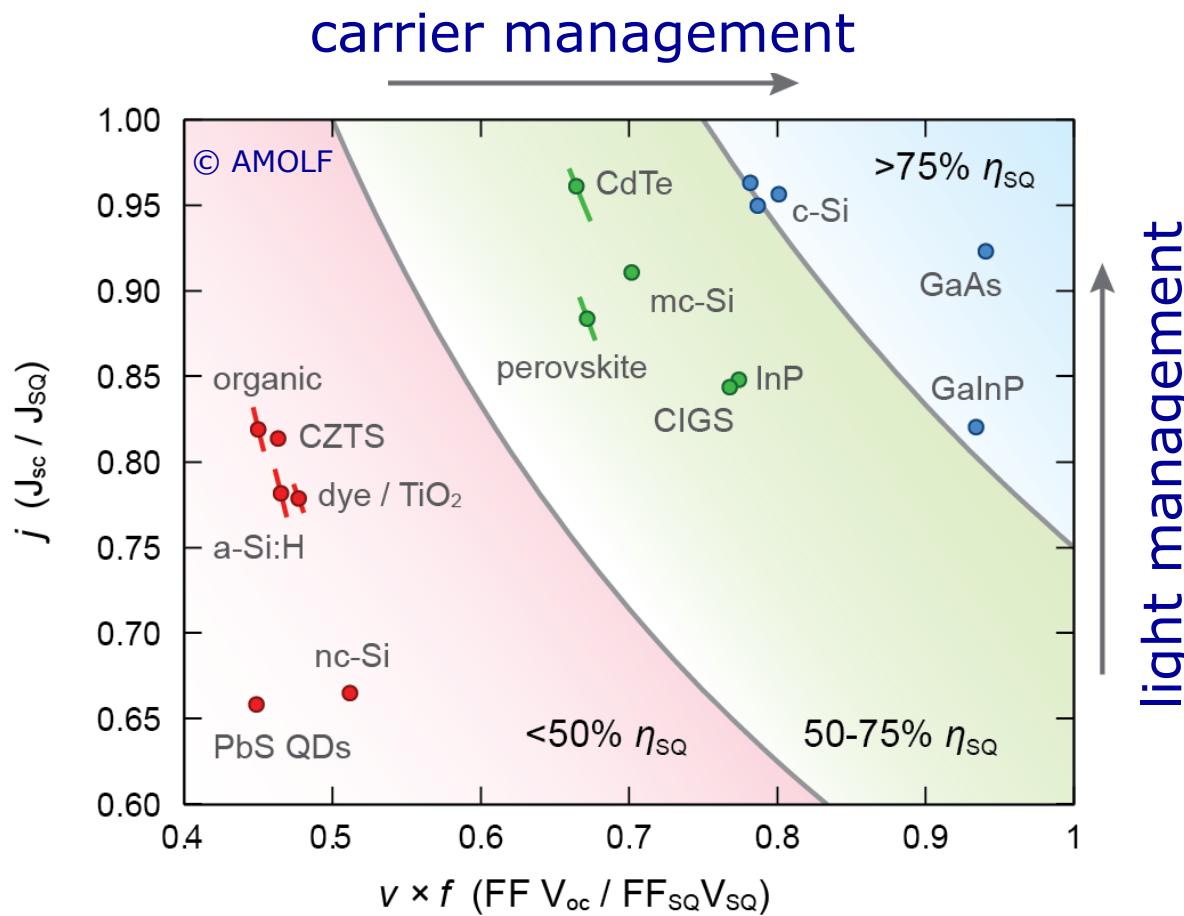
Transparent metal  
nanowire networks



Plasmolectric effect in  
metal nanostructures

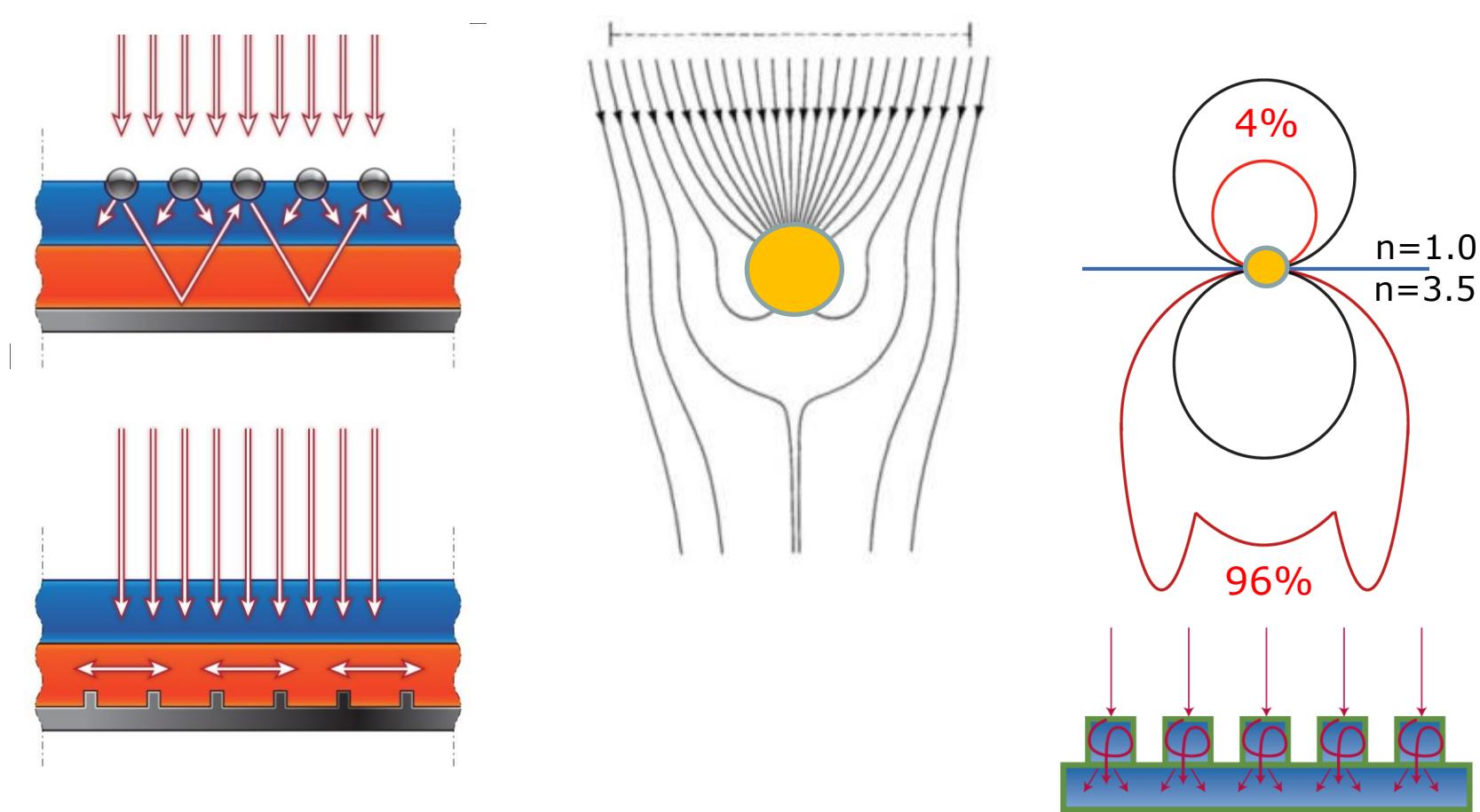


# $J_{sc}$ and $V_{oc}$ relative to SQ limit (at given bandgap)

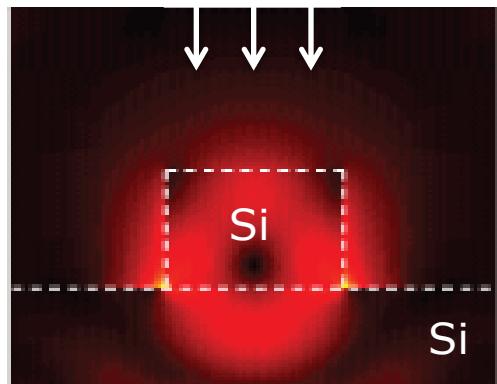
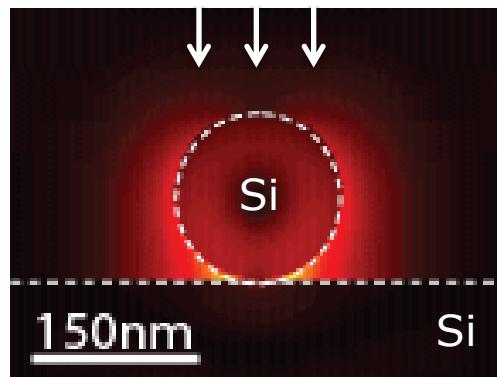
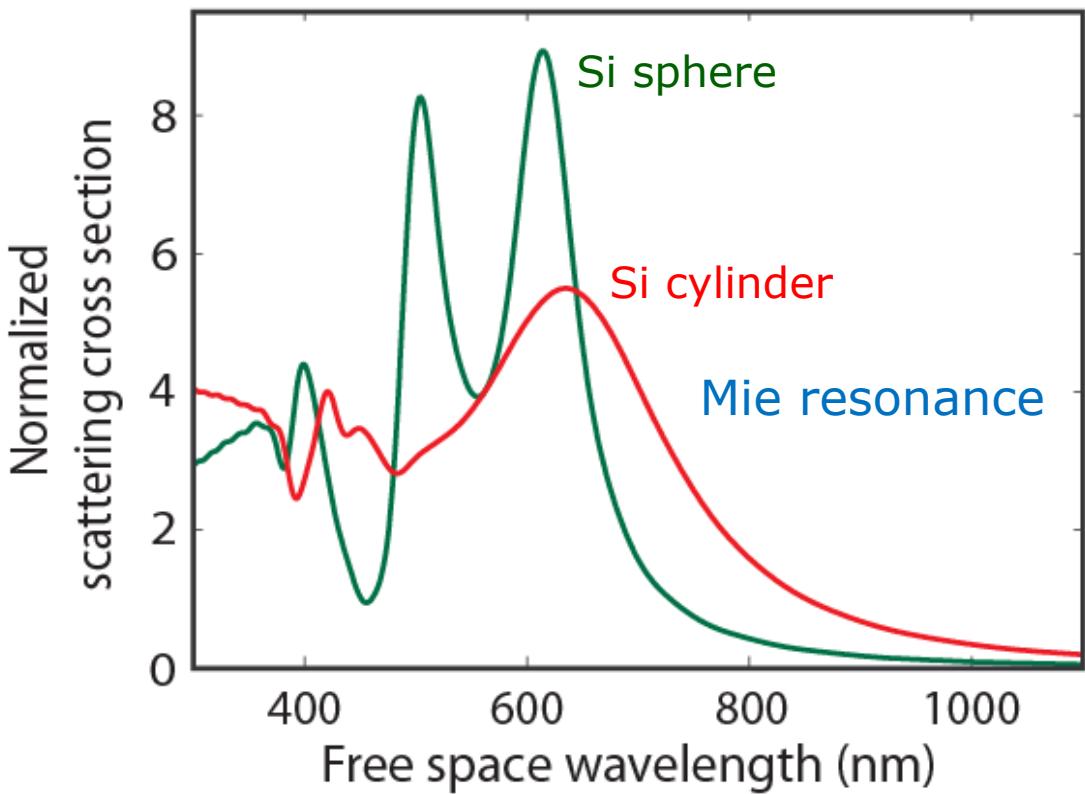


# The scattering solar cell

Light coupling and trapping by resonant light scatterers

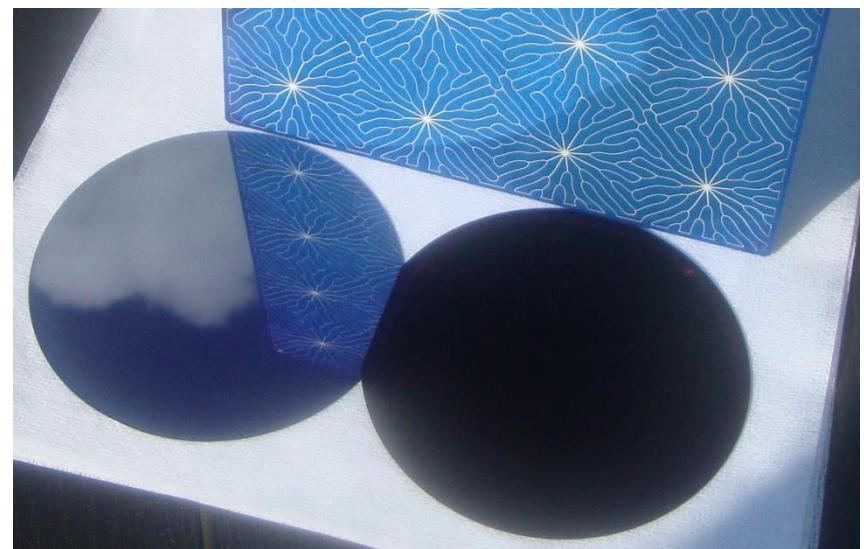
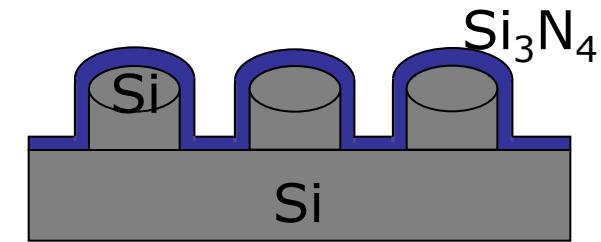
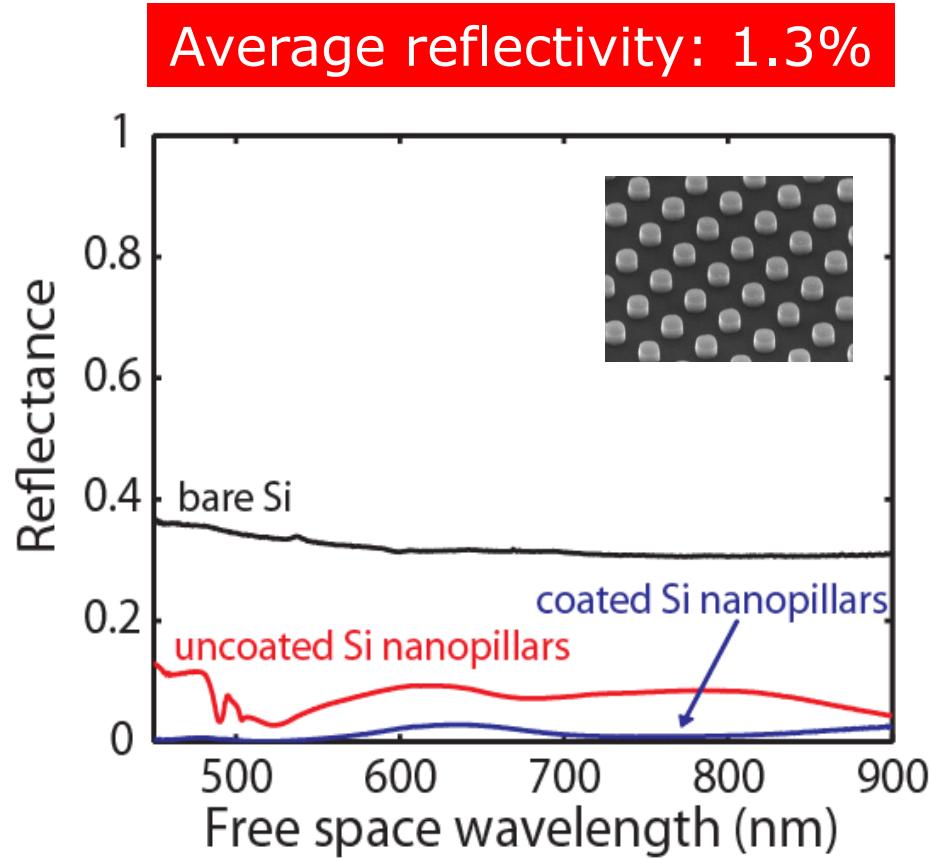


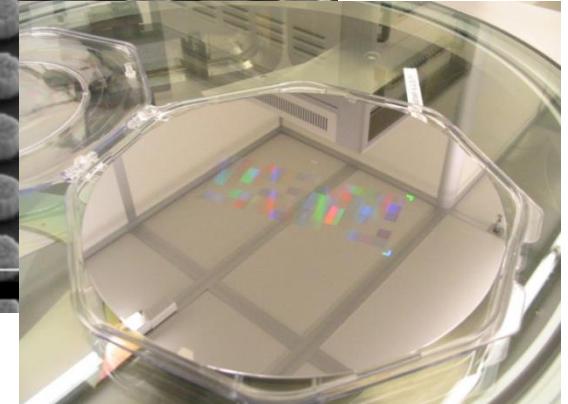
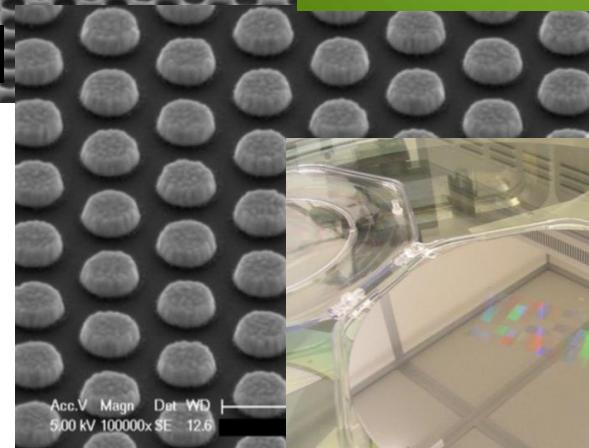
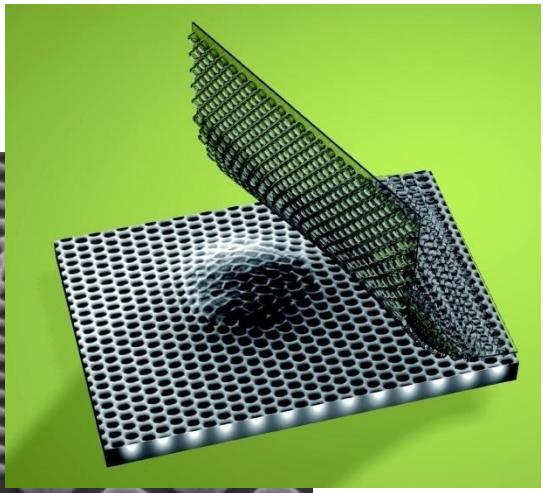
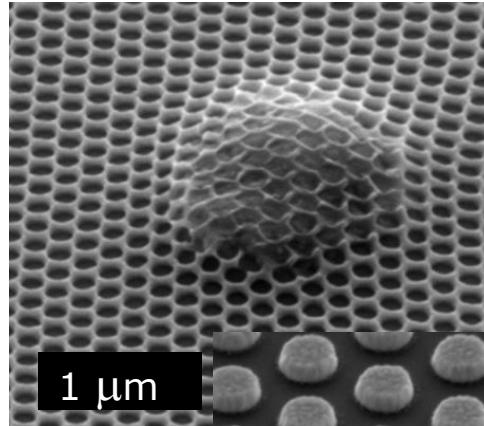
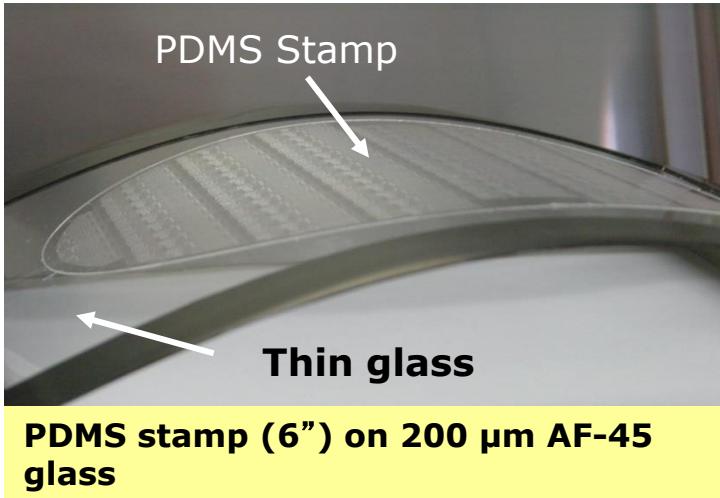
# Silicon Mie scatterer on a Si substrate



Silicon nano-cylinders act as cavities for light and direct light into the substrate

# Black silicon using leaky Mie resonances

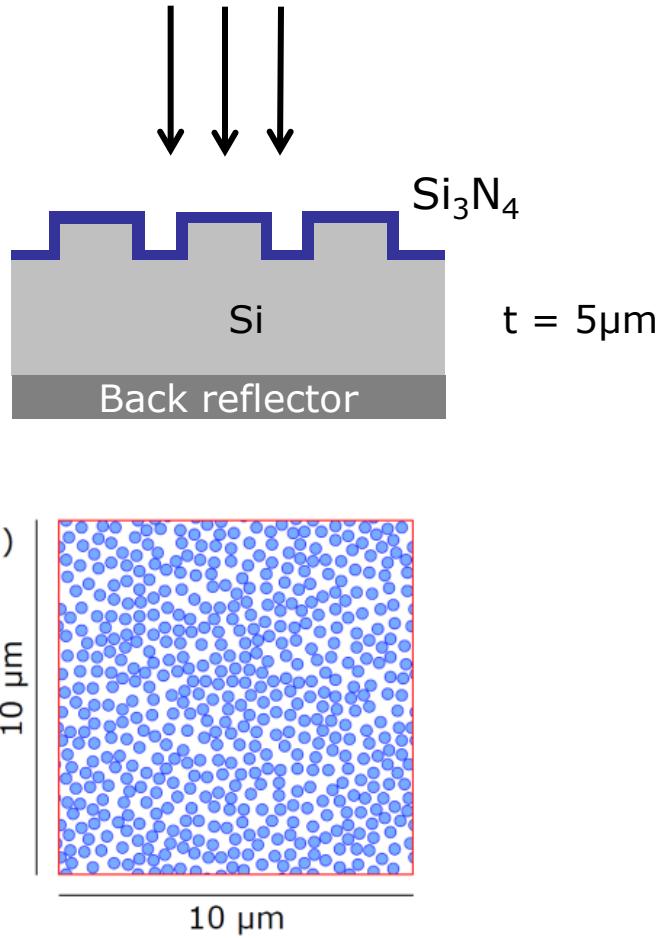
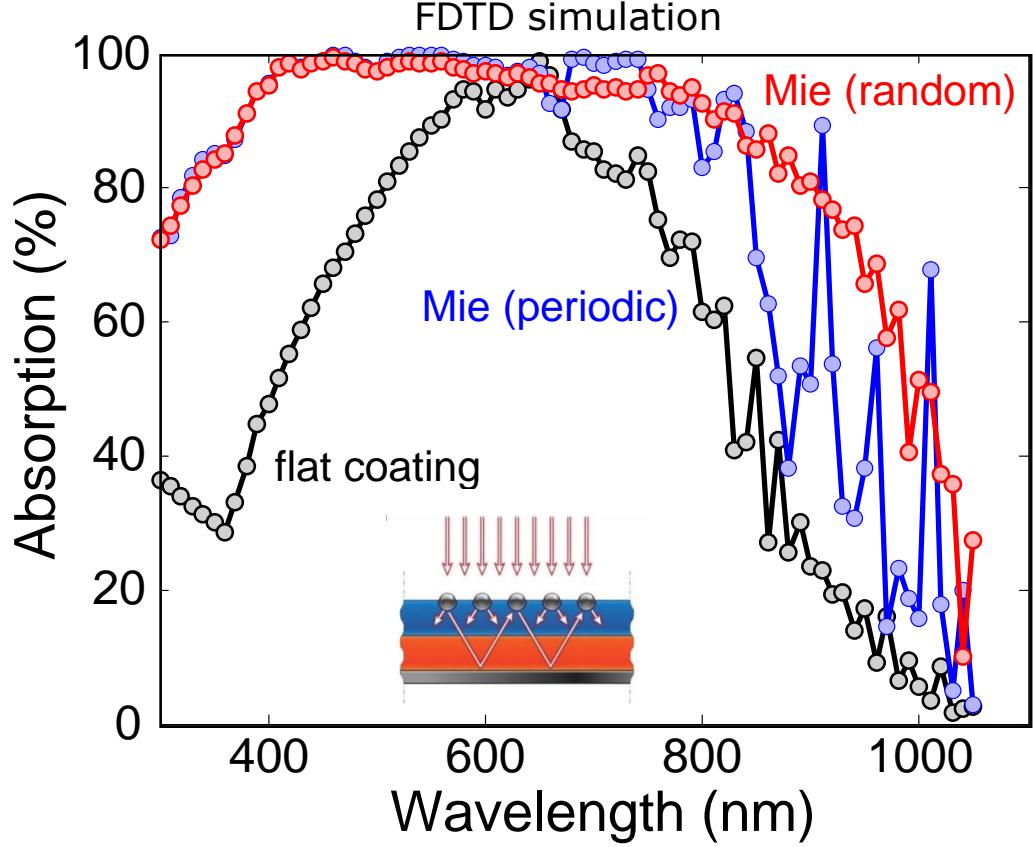




## Full-wafer soft nano-imprint

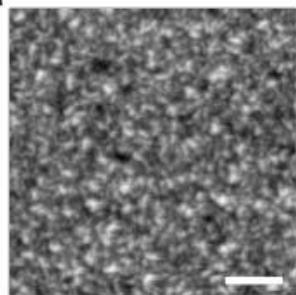
- Flexible rubber on thin glass
- Conform to substrate bow and roughness
- No stamp damage due to particles

# Light trapping in 5 $\mu\text{m}$ crystalline Si slab

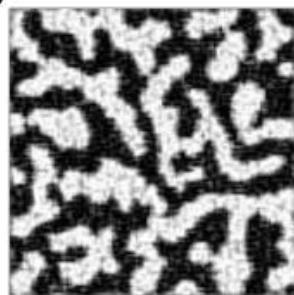


# Optimizing spatial frequency of scattering pattern

a Asahi U-type



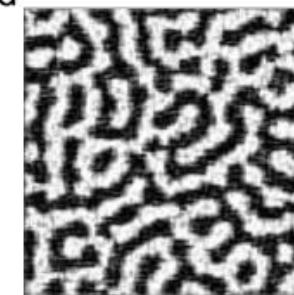
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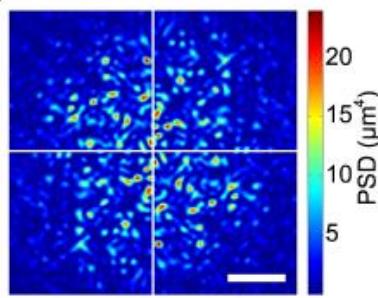
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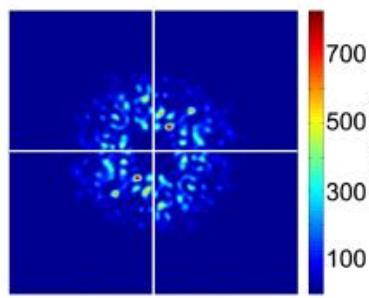
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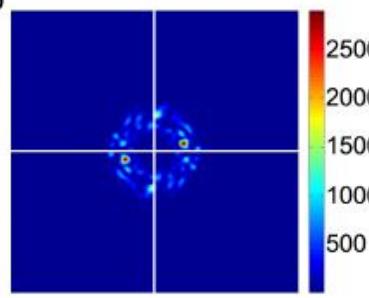
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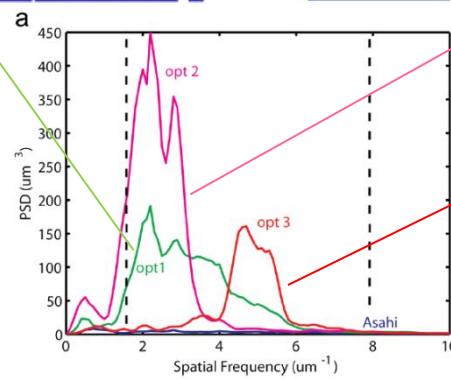
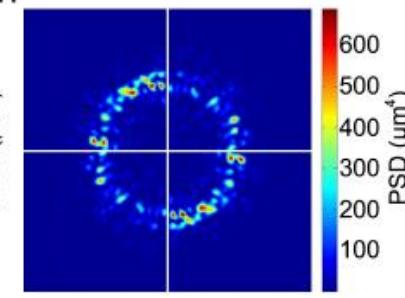
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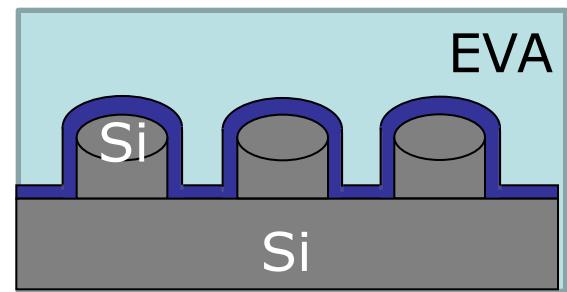
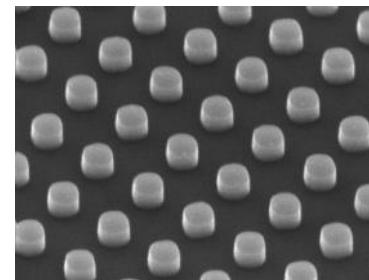
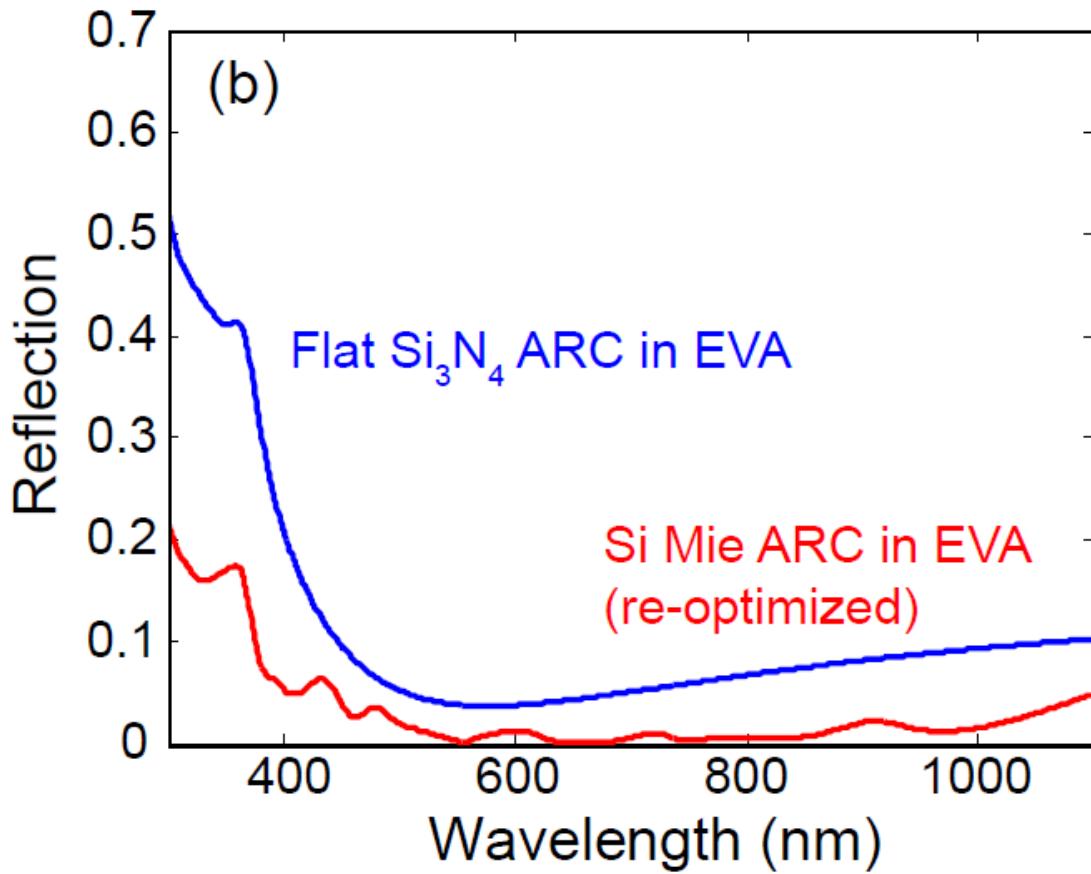
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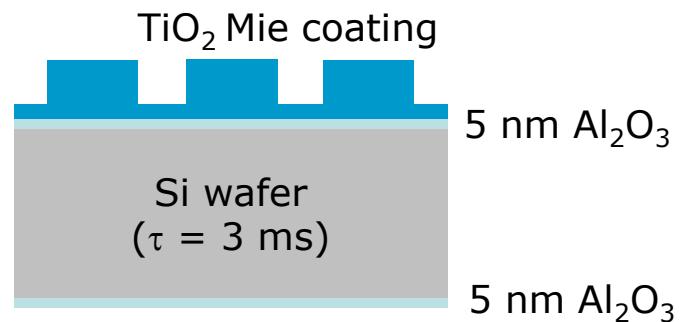
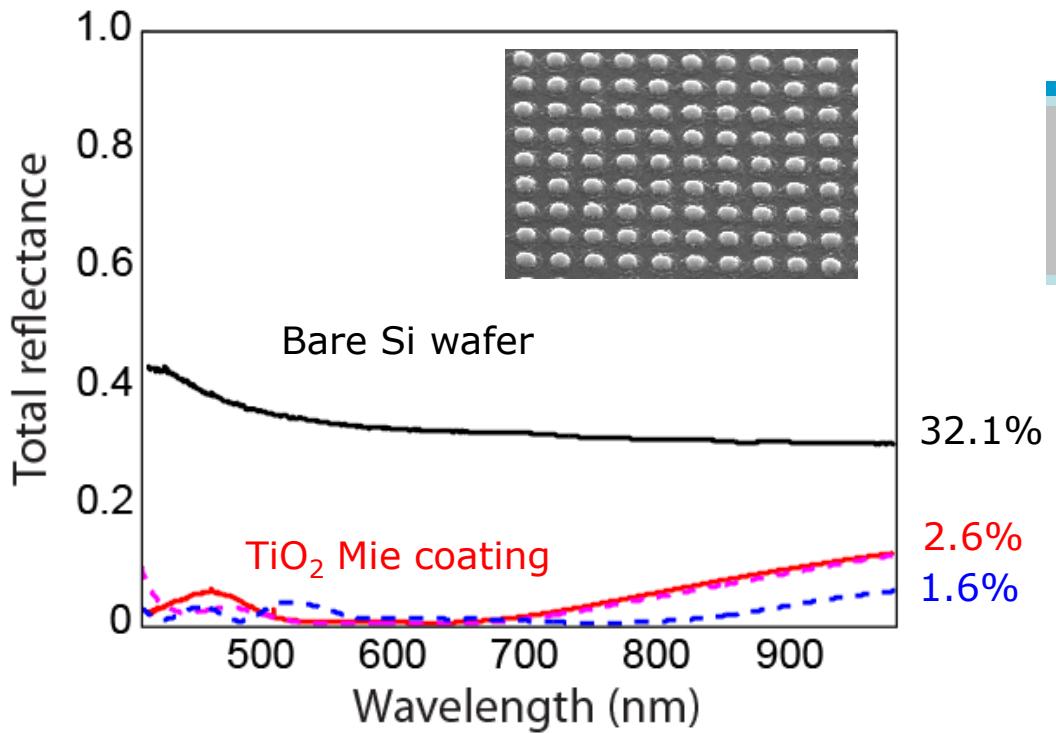
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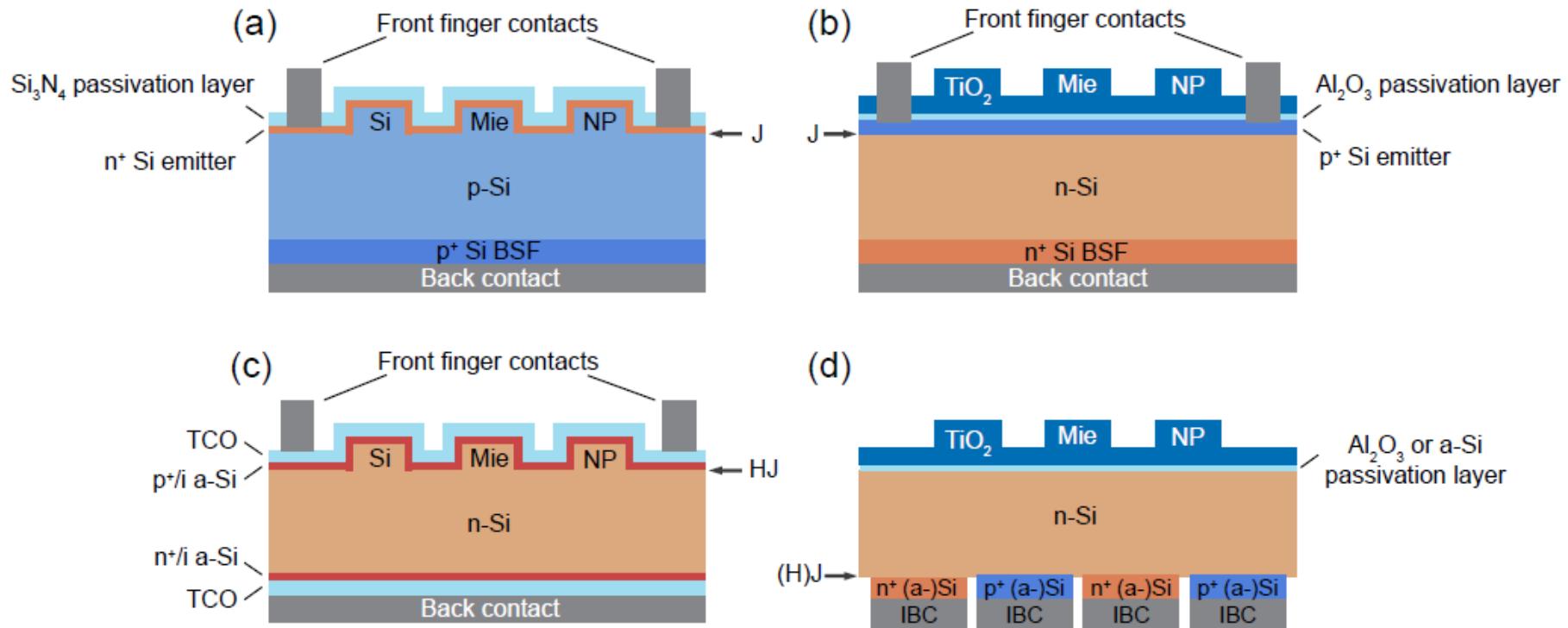
# Effect of EVA encapsulation



# TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoscatterers on Si Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> surface passivation

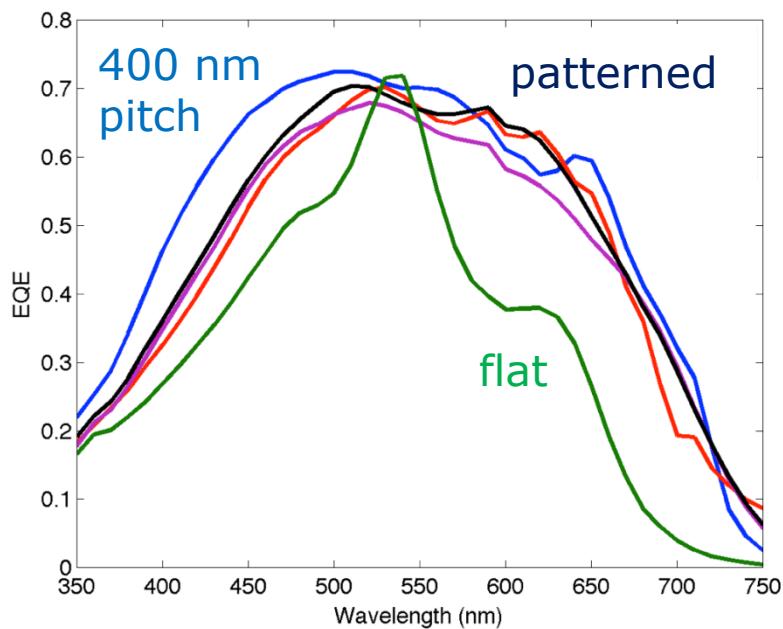


# Nanopatterned Si solar cell designs

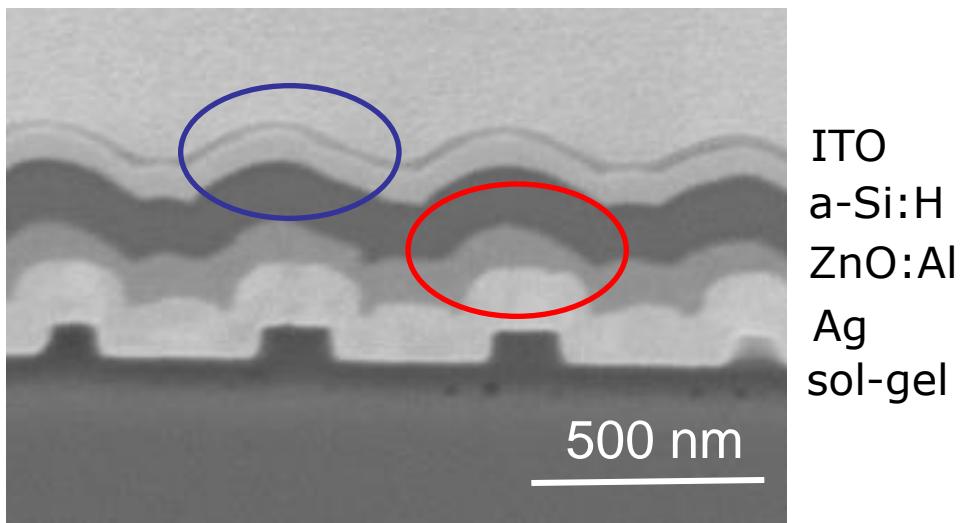


# Ultra-thin a-Si:H solar cell: 90 nm *i*-layer

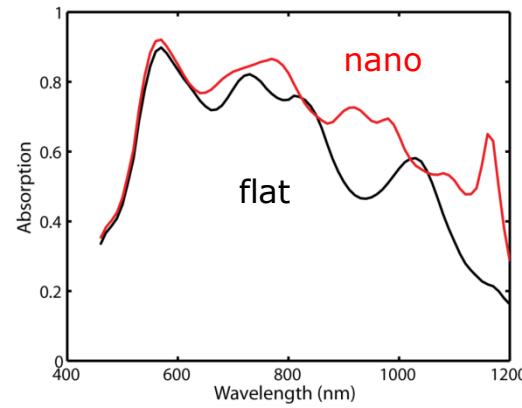
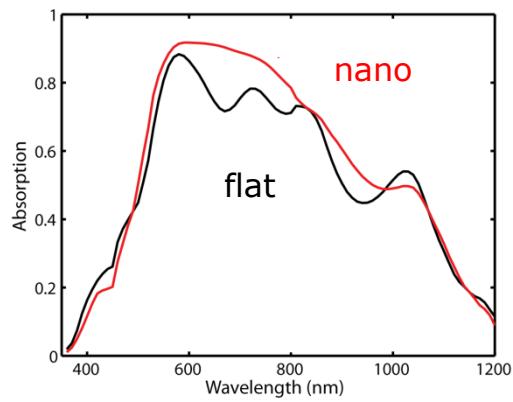
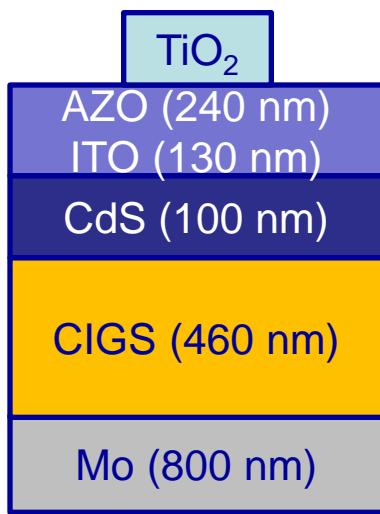
Experiment



enhanced **red** and **blue** response by resonant dielectric scatterers

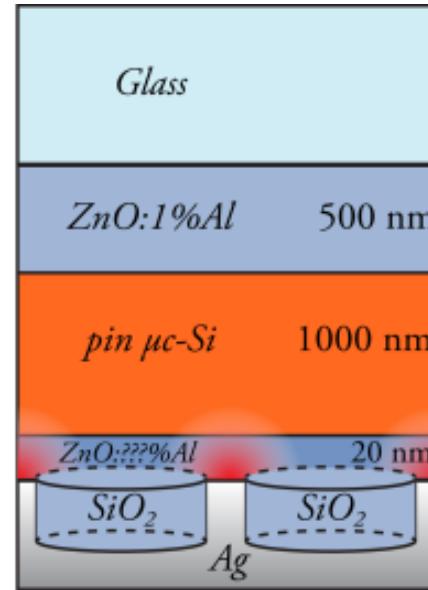
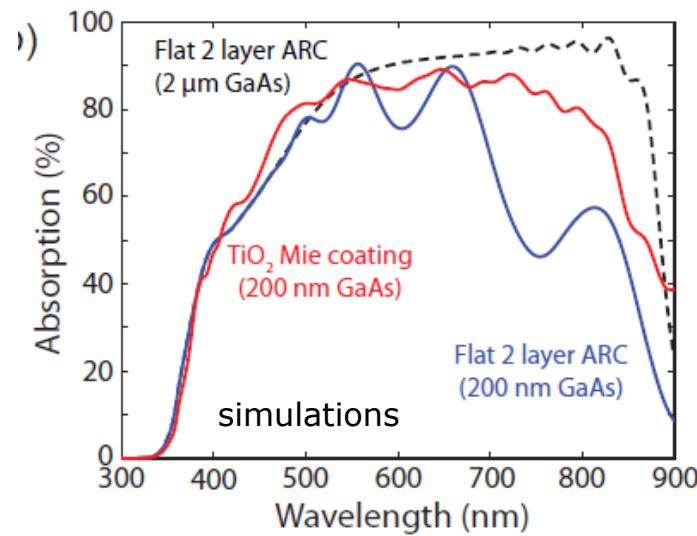
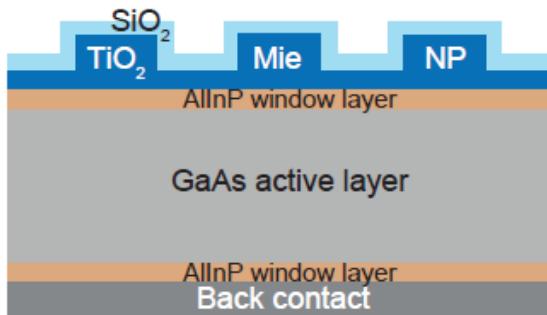


# Nanopatterned CIGS solar cell designs

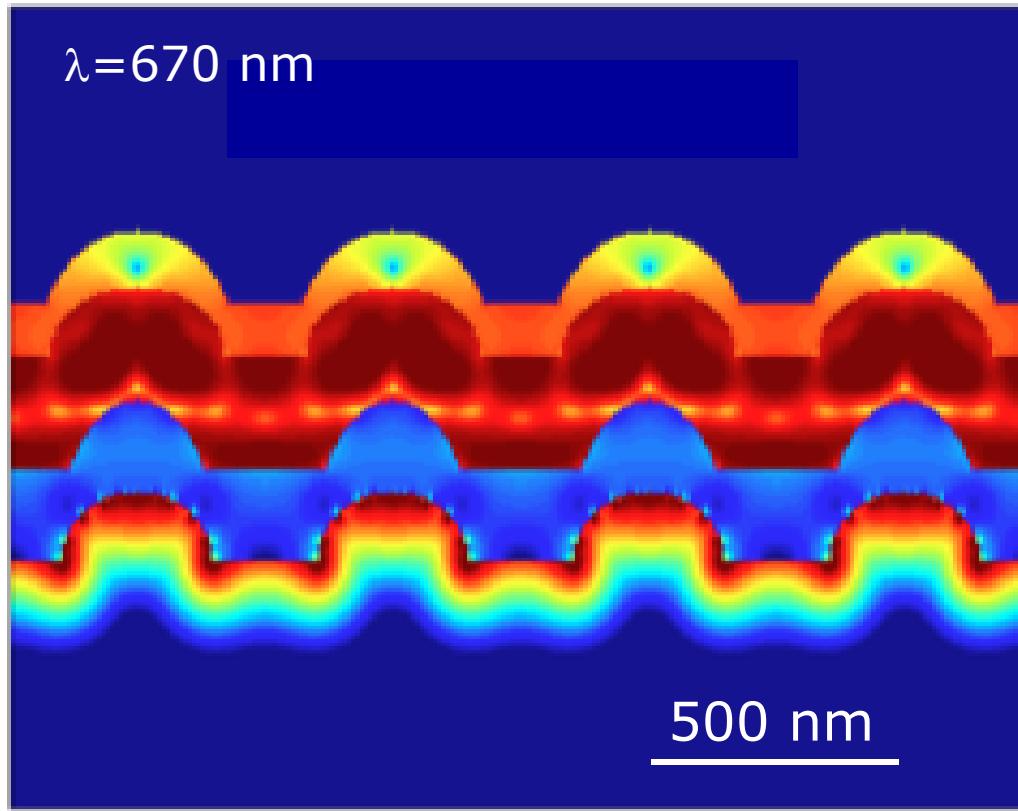


+ enhanced  $V_{oc}$   
reduced back-recombination

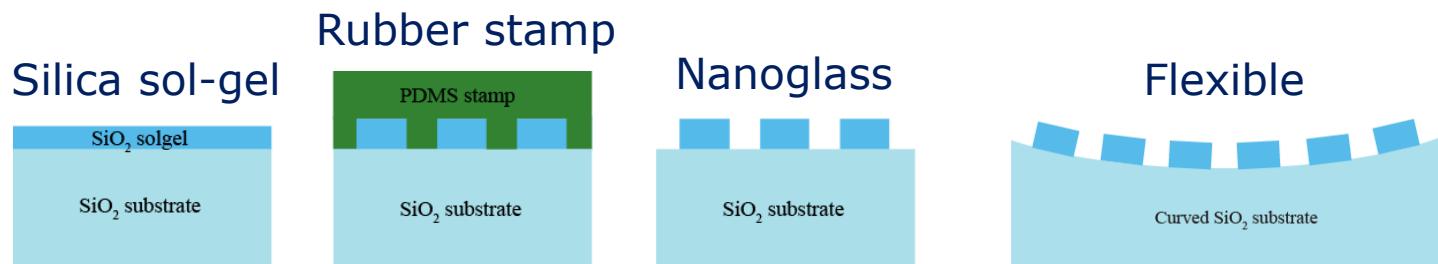
# Nanopatterned GaAs, thin crystalline Si



# The solar cell as an optical integrated circuit

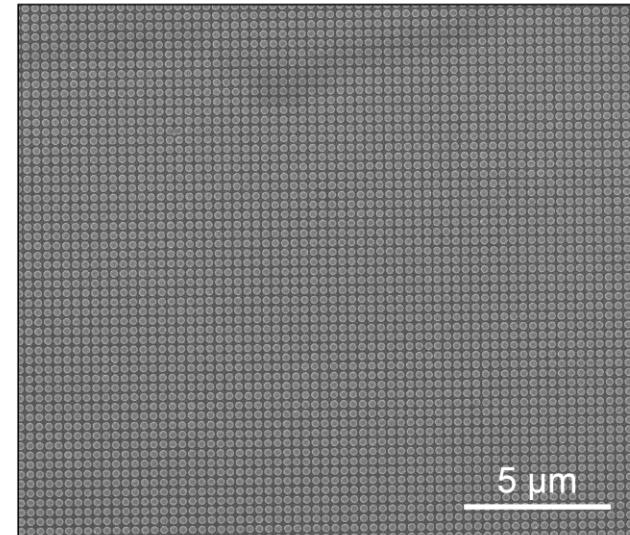
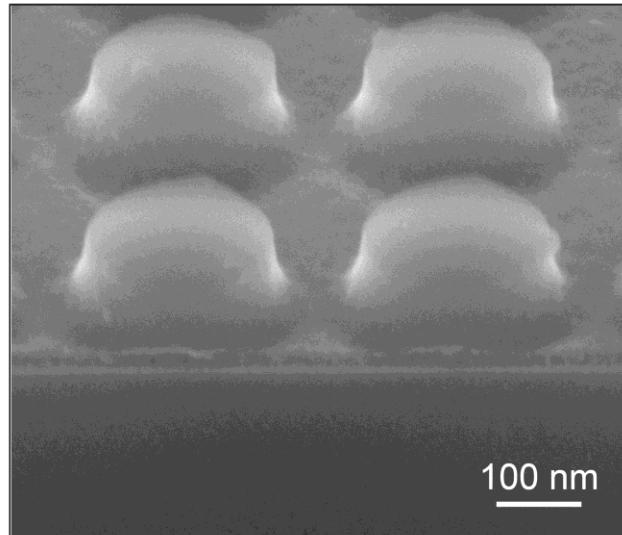


# Soft-imprinted nanopatterned AR interference coating



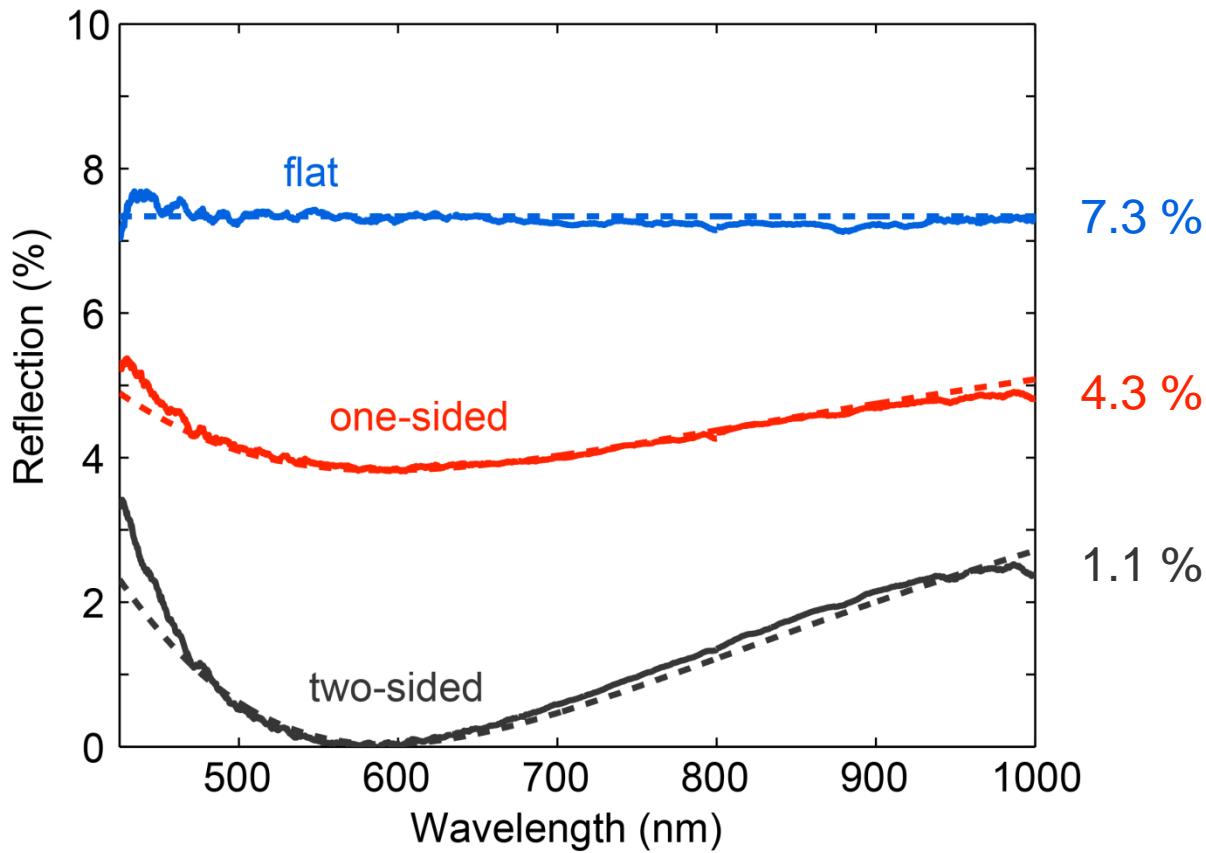
Silica nanopattern with effective index  $n=1.22$

$d = 240 \text{ nm}$   
 $h = 120 \text{ nm}$   
 $p = 325 \text{ nm}$

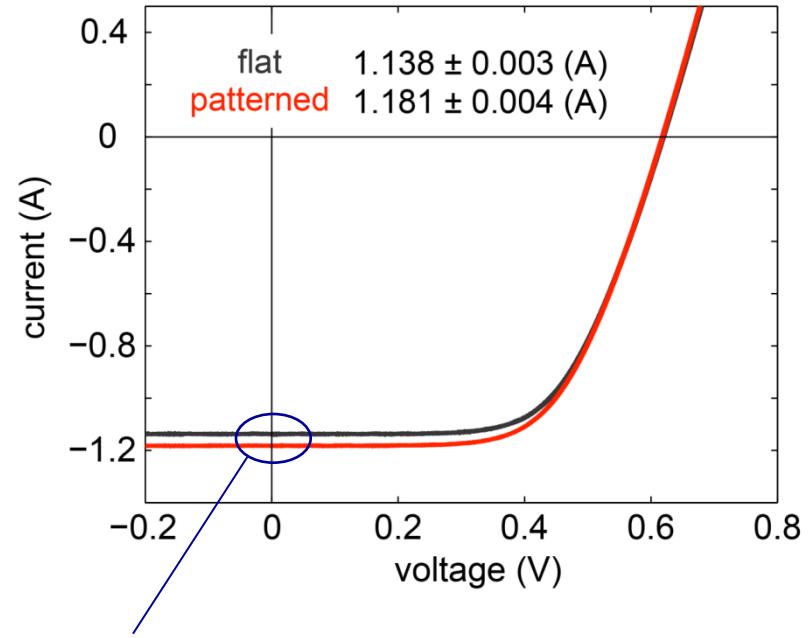
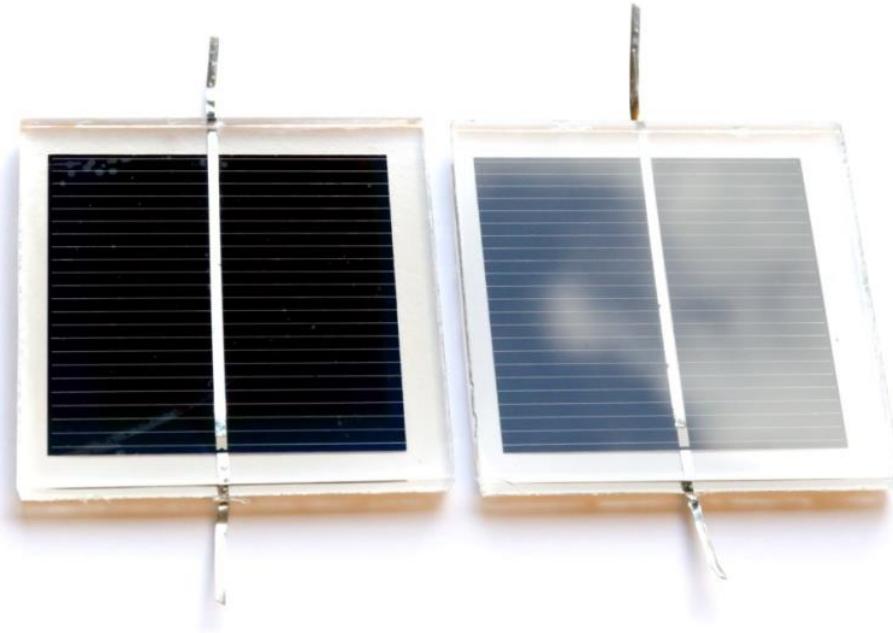


# Measured total reflection

Silica nanopattern on glass substrate

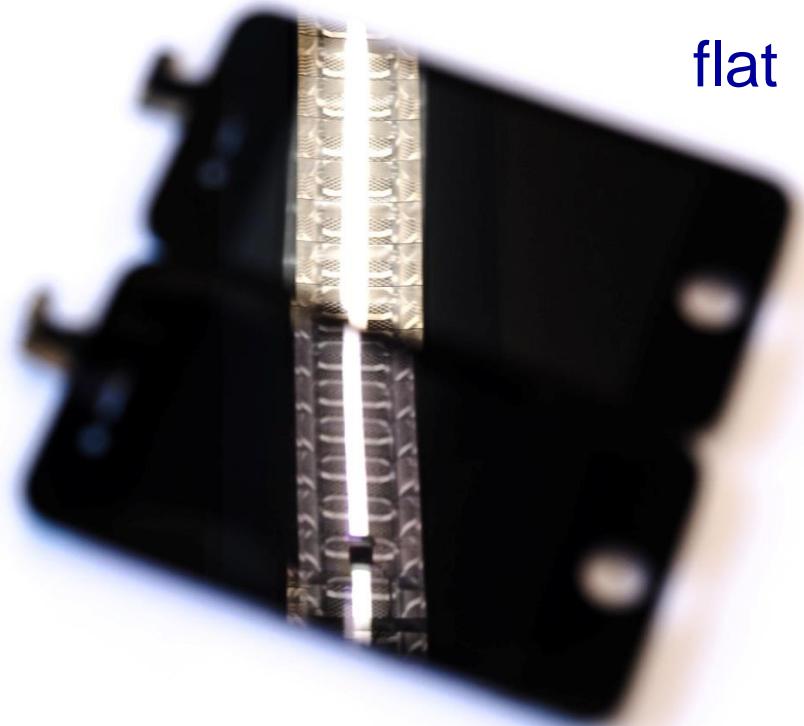


# Nano-imprinted encapsulated Si solar cells



3.8% increase in  
photocurrent

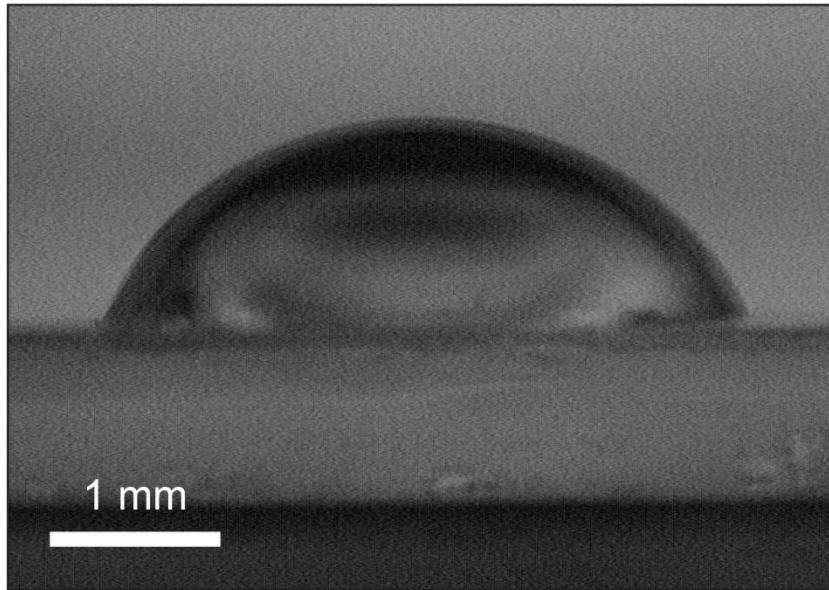
# Nano-imprinted smart phones



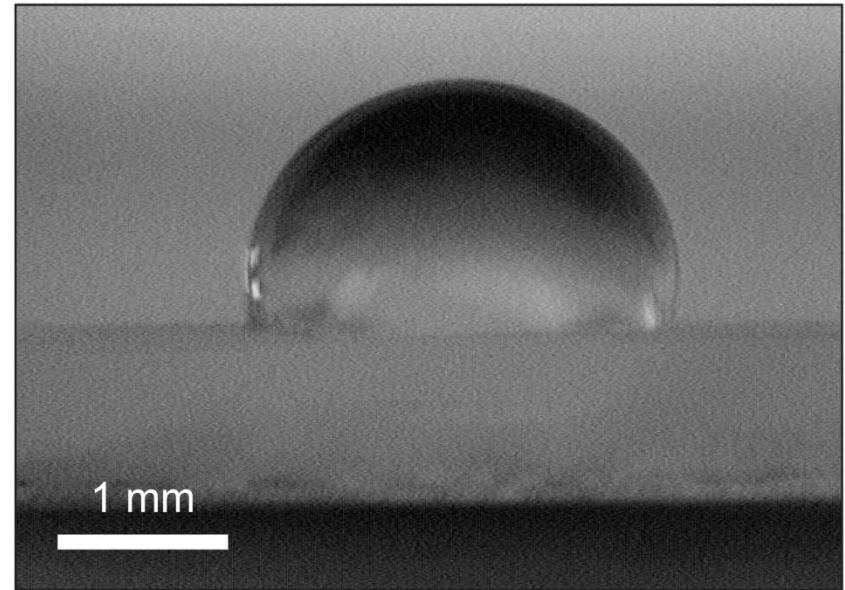
patterned

# Hydrophobicity

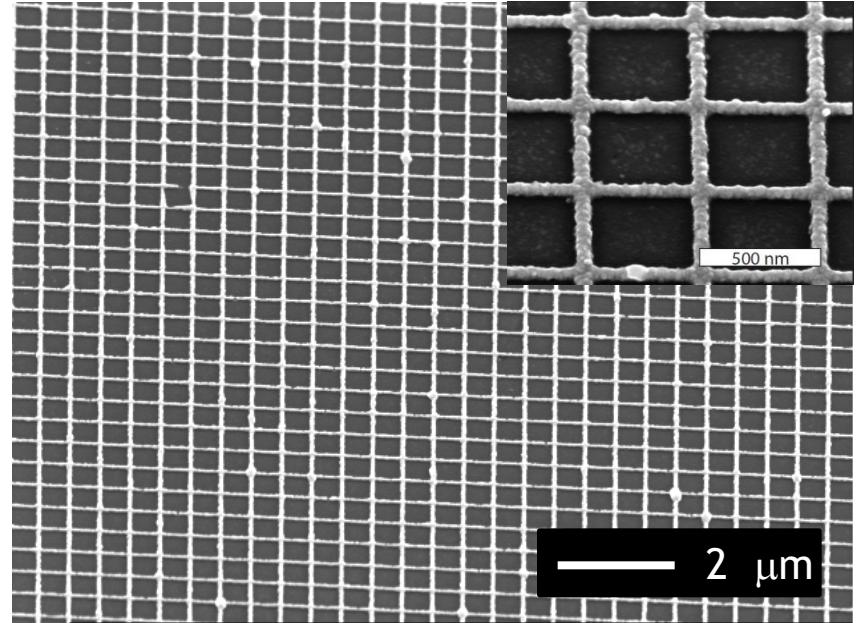
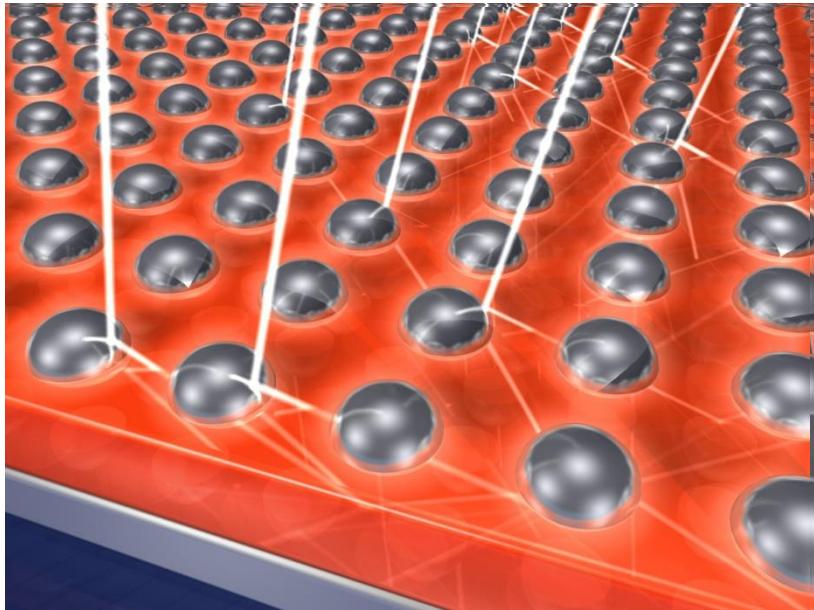
flat



patterned

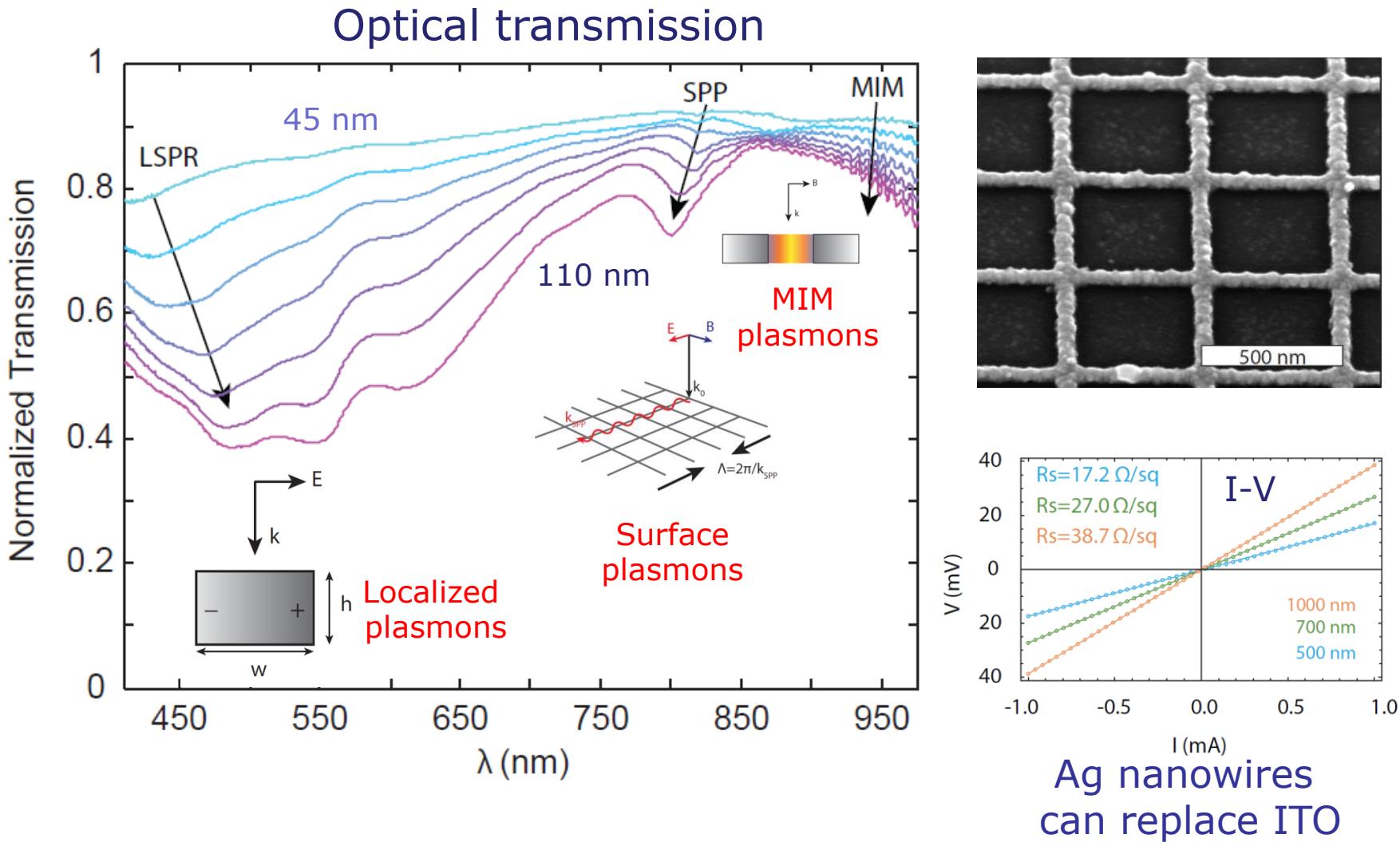


# Transparent conductive silver nanowire network

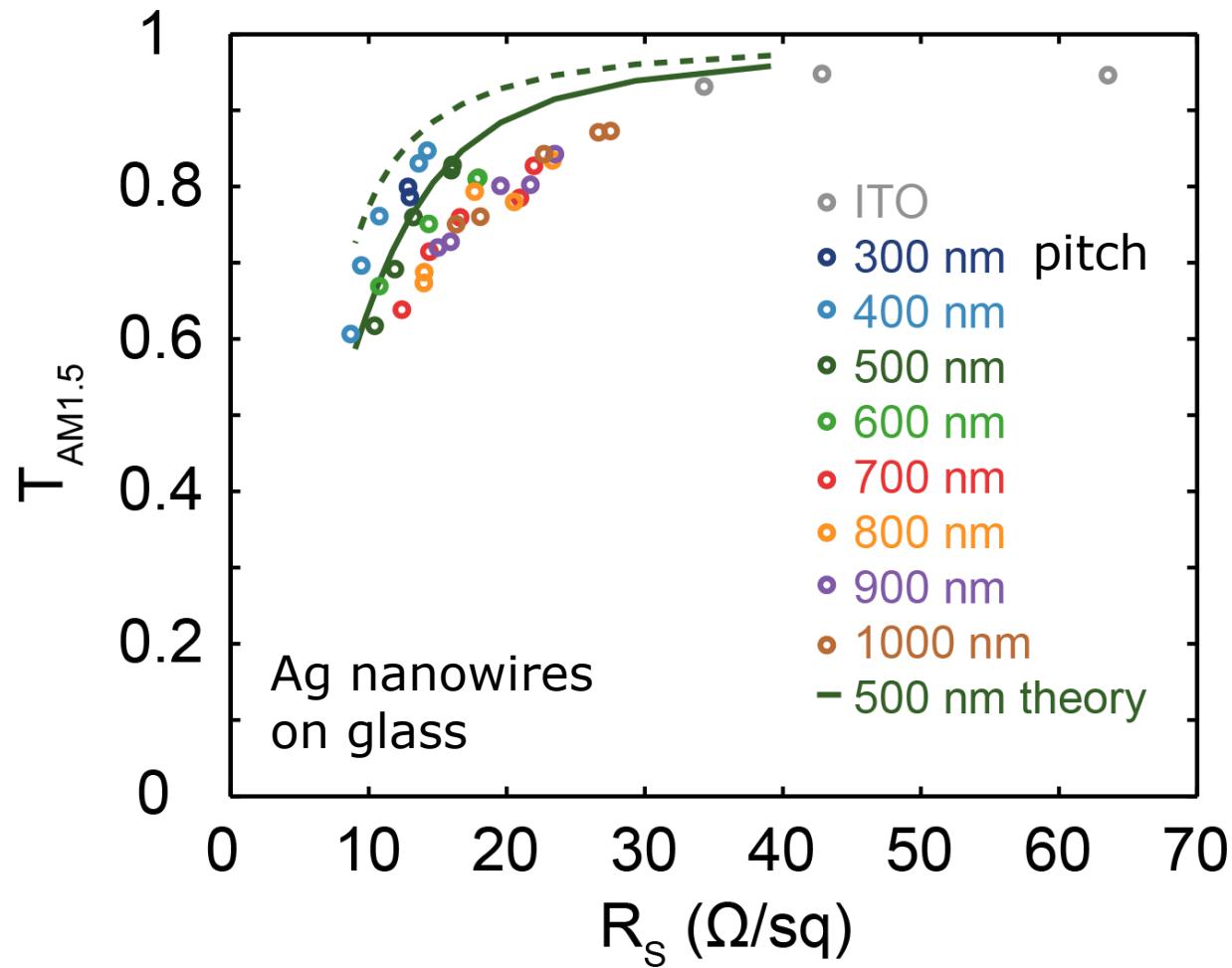


Ag nanowire network fabricated with  
electron beam lithography  
width: 45-110 nm  
height: 60 nm

# Transparent conductive silver nanowire network



# Ag nanowire network transparent conductors

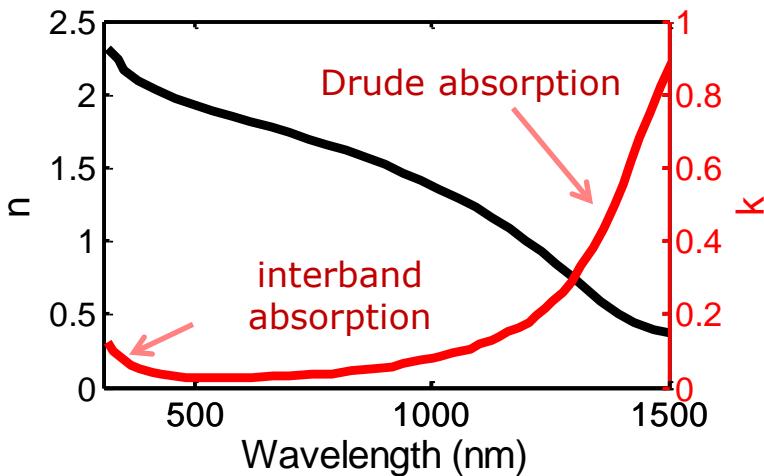


# Metal nanowire printed Si HIT cells

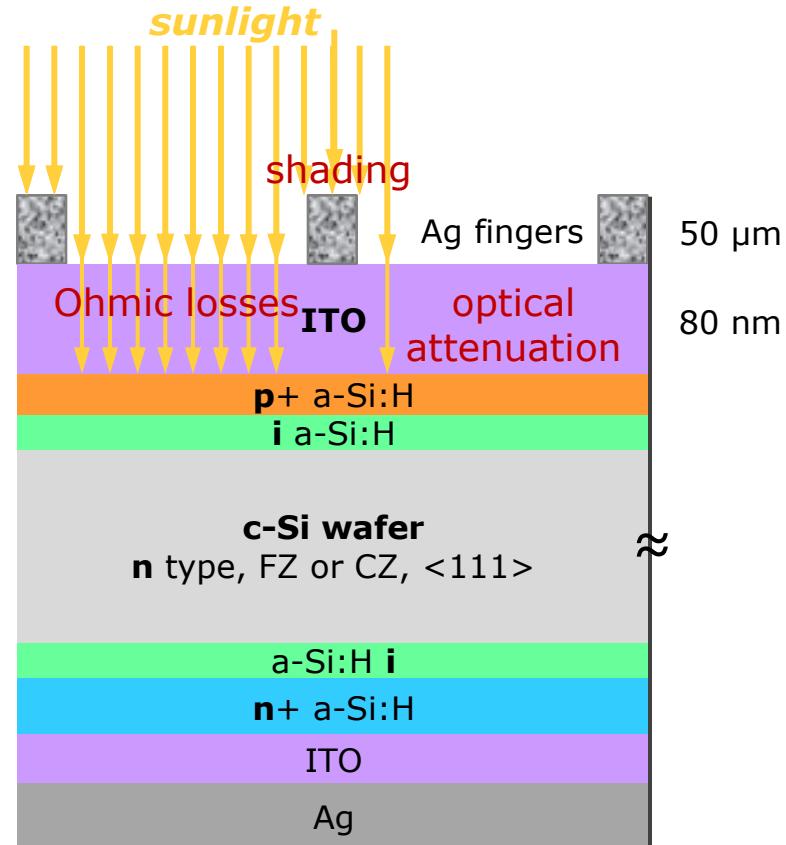
ITO: reduces  $J_{sc}$

- Ohmic losses
- Shading by Ag fingers
- Optical absorption
- Light reflection

ITO dielectric function



Synowicki, Thin Solid Films **313**, 394 (1998)

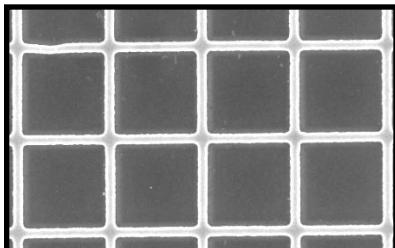


# Metal nanowire printed Si HIT solar cells

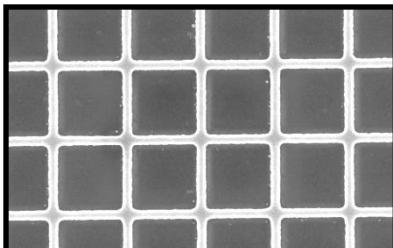
SCIL in silica sol-gel + Ag evaporation + lift-off

Varying array pitch

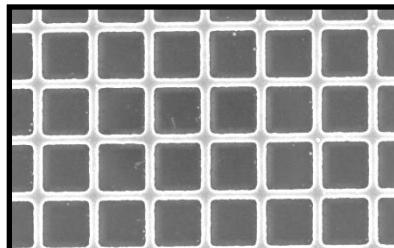
Width  
~80 nm



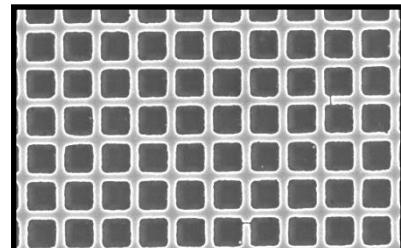
1000 nm



800 nm



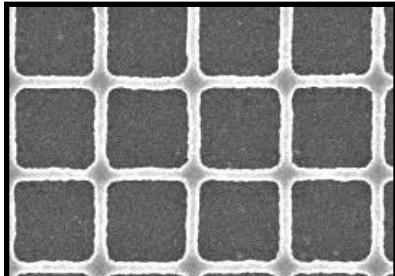
600 nm



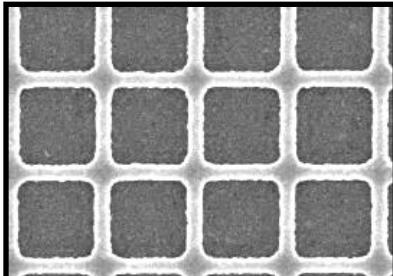
400 nm

Varying wire width

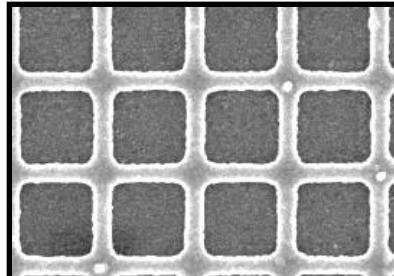
Pitch  
500 nm



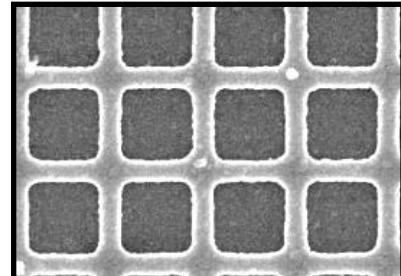
63 nm



82 nm



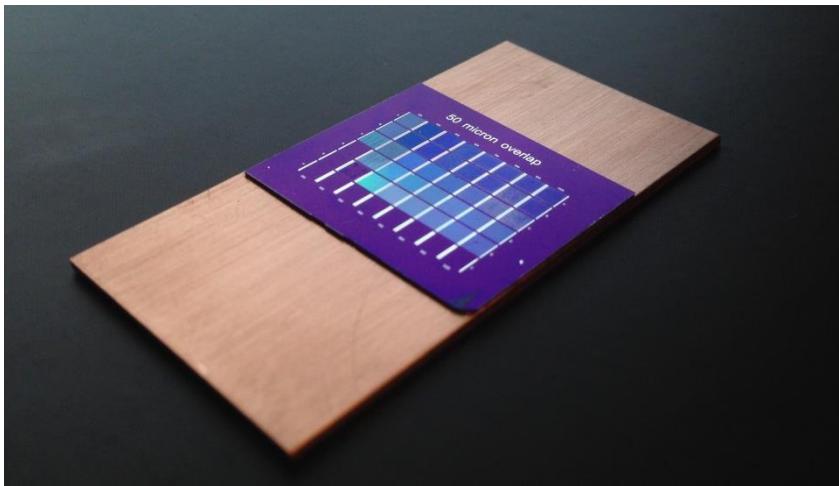
101 nm



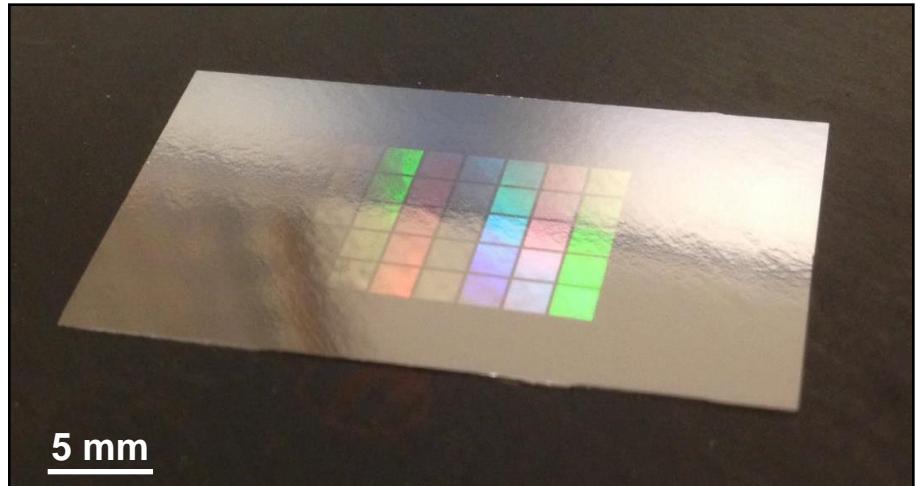
113 nm

# SCIL on FZ and CZ Si wafers

Float-zone Si(100)  
mechanically polished



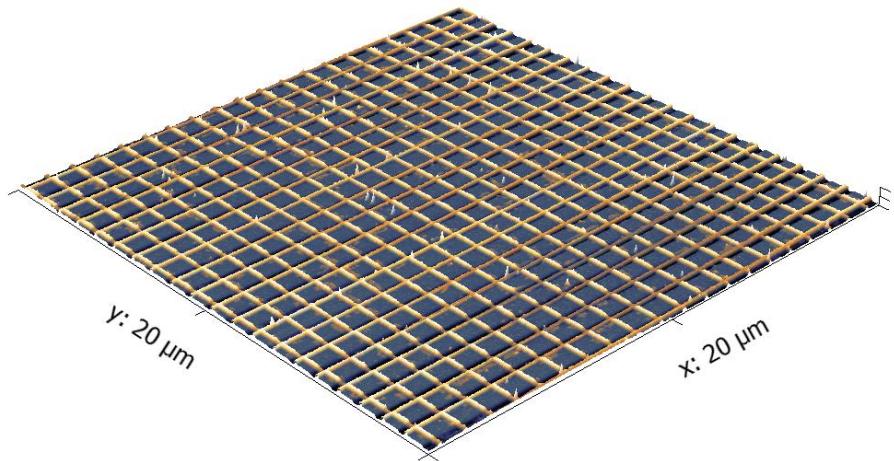
Czochralski-grown Si(111)  
chemically polished



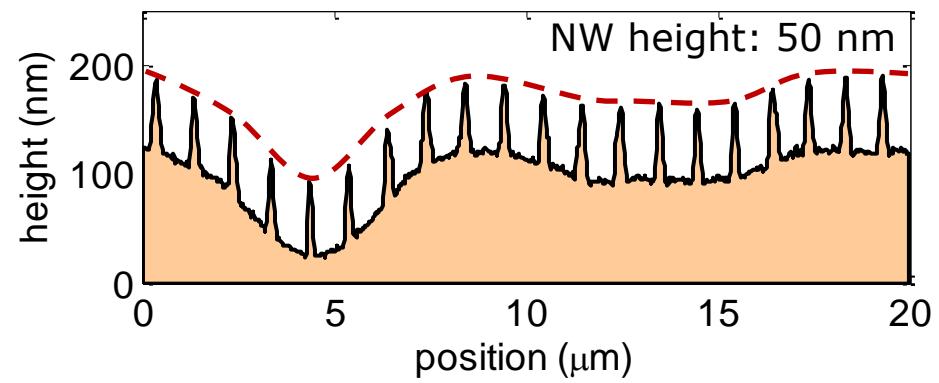
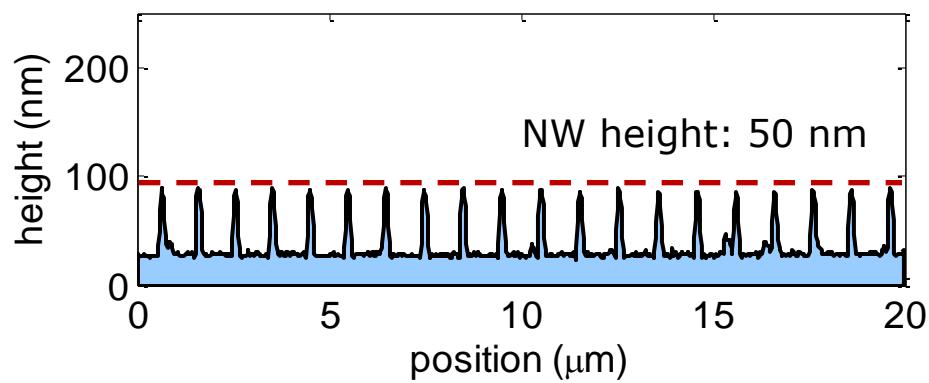
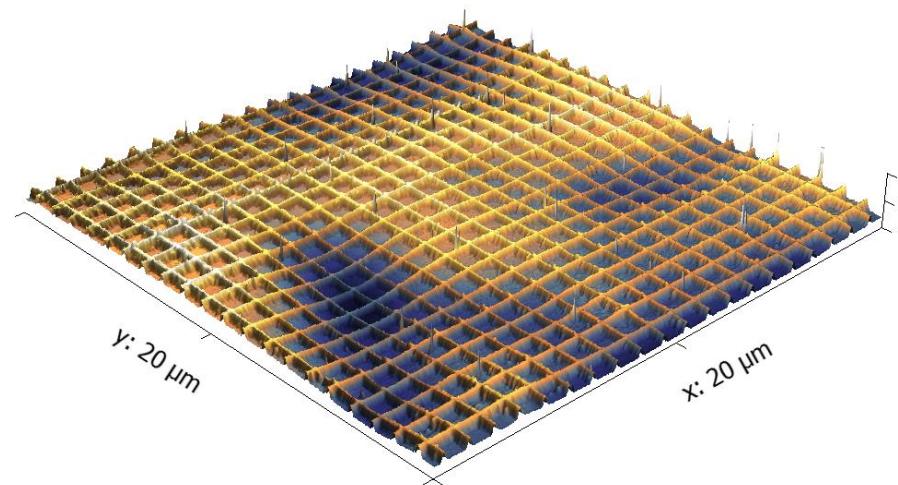
- Flexible PDMS stamp conforms to rough substrate
- No stamp damage due to dust, roughness

# Nanoscale conformality of SCIL soft imprint

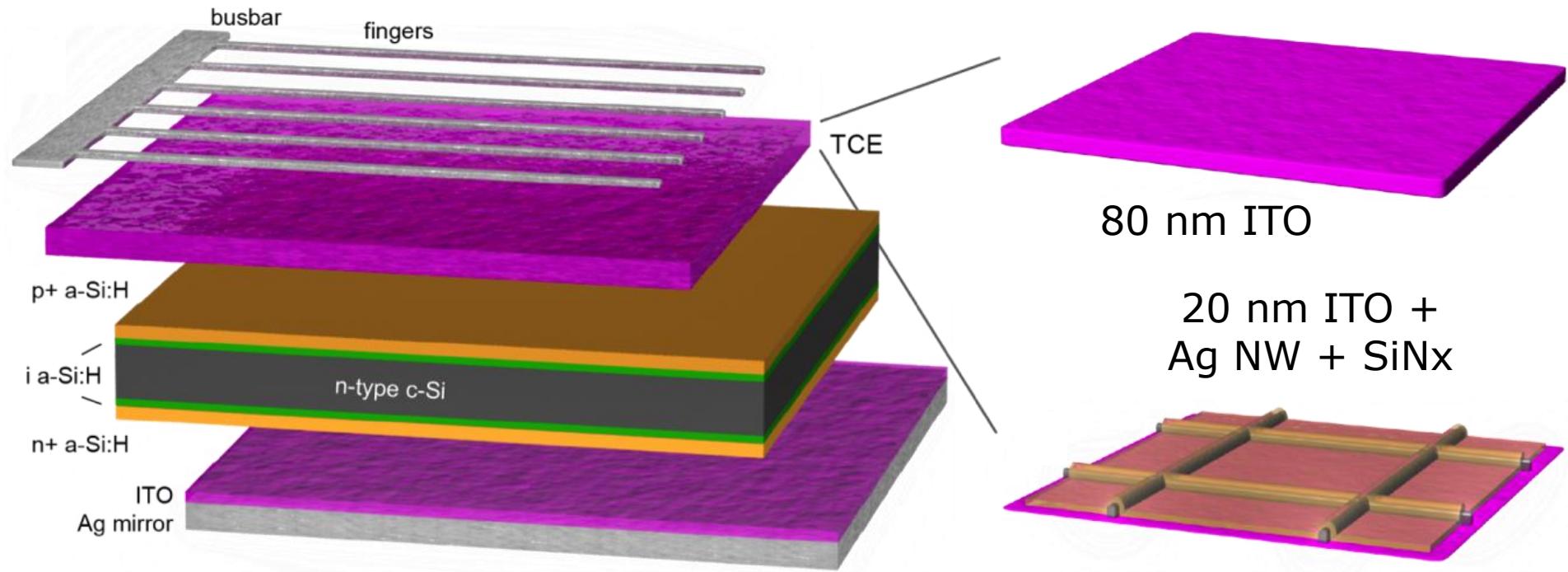
Polished FZ Si



Rough CZ Si



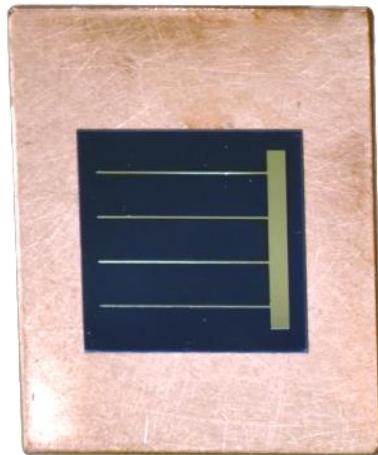
# Ag nanowire patterned Si heterojunction solar cells



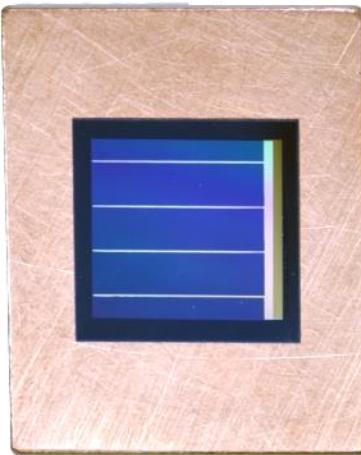
Mark Knight, Jorik van de Groep, Paula Bronsveld

# Ag nanowire patterned Si heterojunction solar cells

NW pitch : 1  $\mu\text{m}$



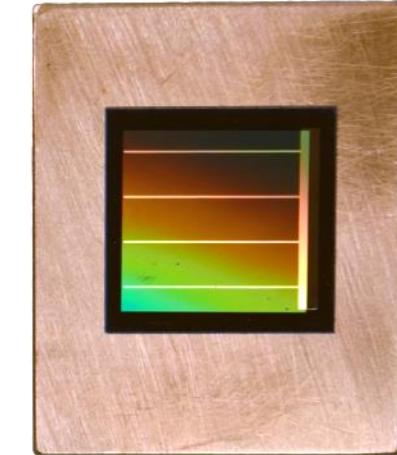
2  $\mu\text{m}$



4  $\mu\text{m}$

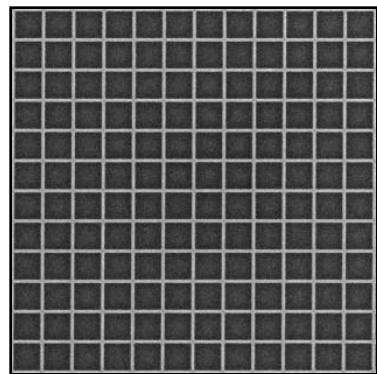


ITO only

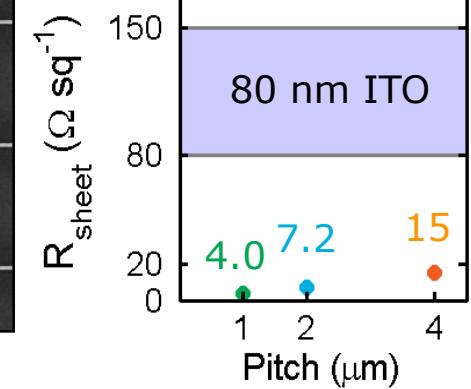
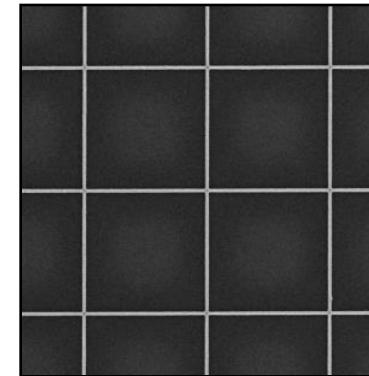
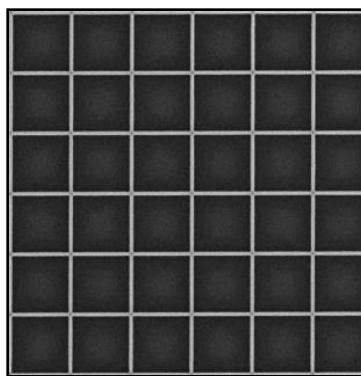


1 cm

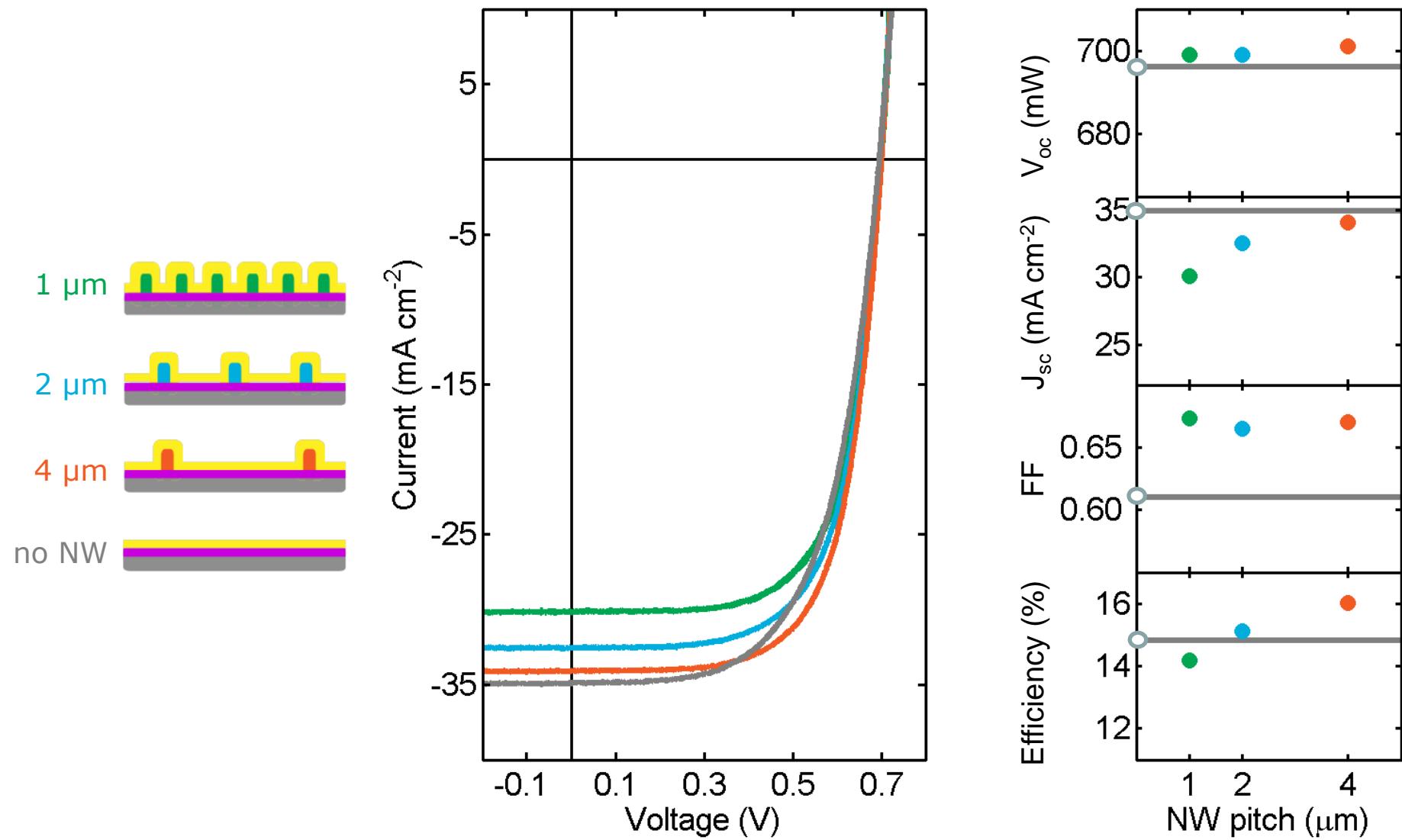
1  $\mu\text{m}$

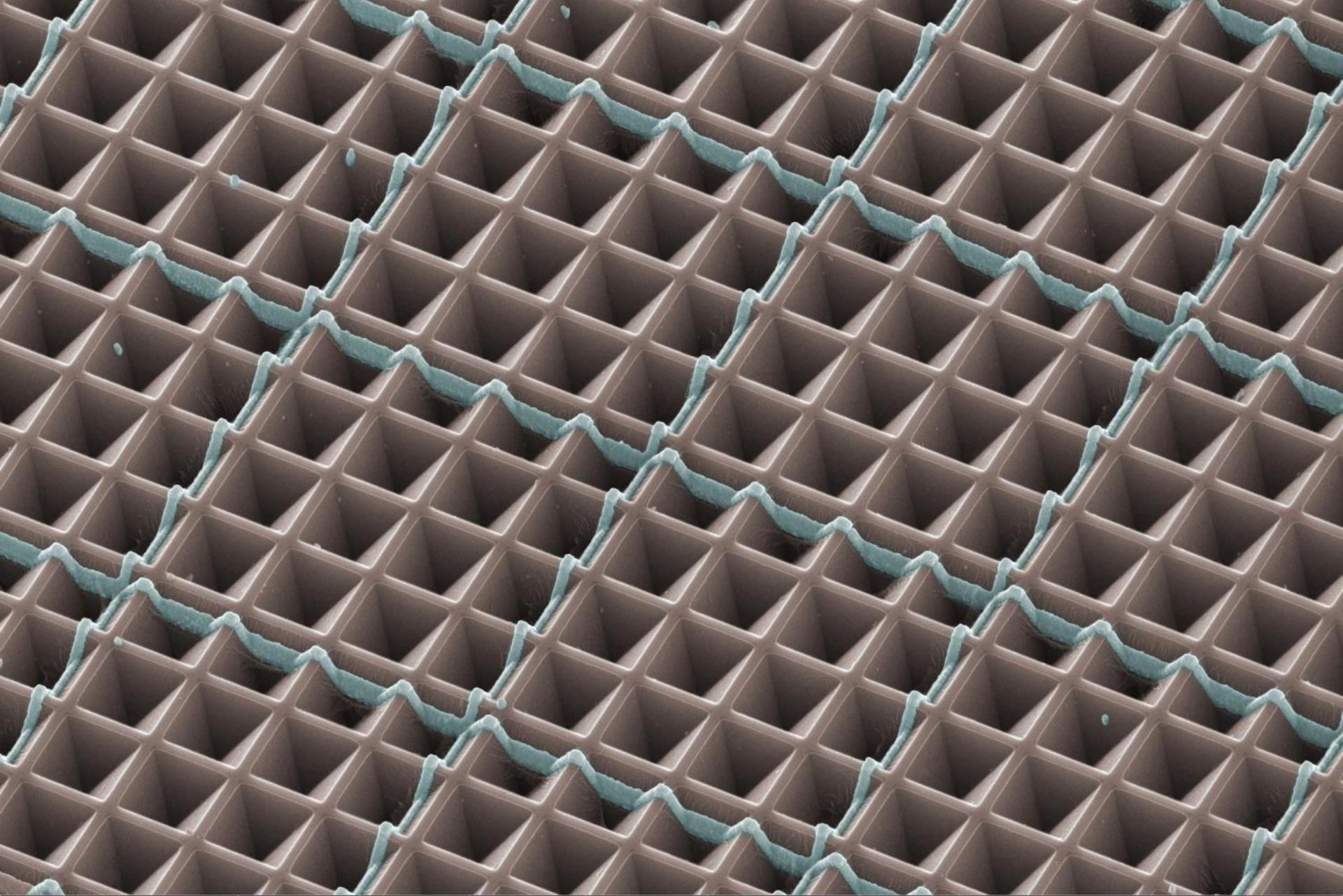


width: 80 nm  
height: 120 nm



# Ag nanowire patterned Si heterojunction solar cells





11/18/2015  
11:06:23 AM

HV  
10.00 kV

WD  
4.0 mm

HFW  
13.8  $\mu$ m

mag  
15 000 x

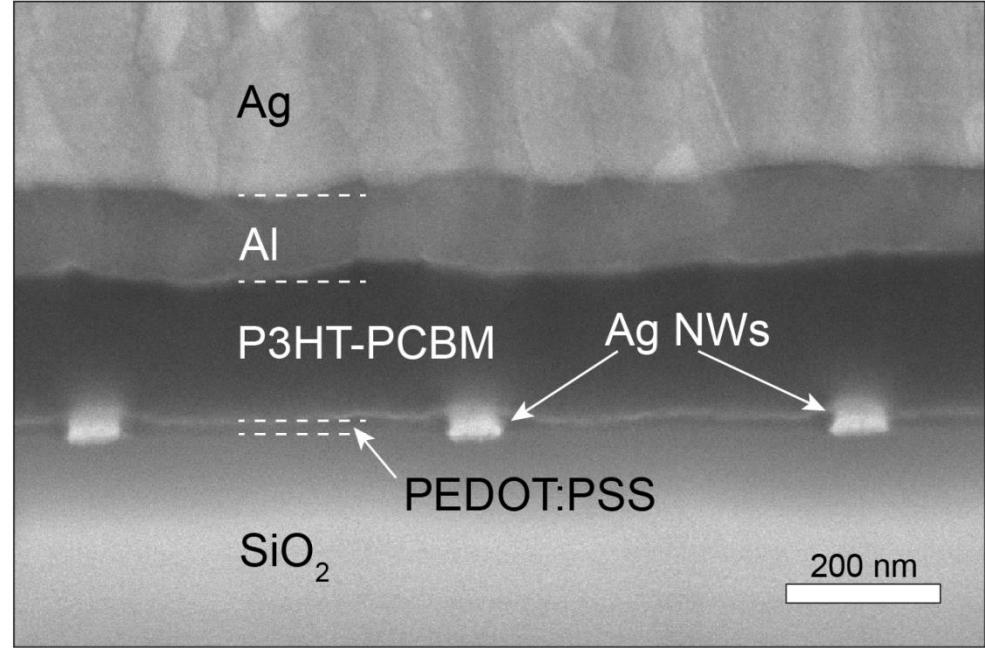
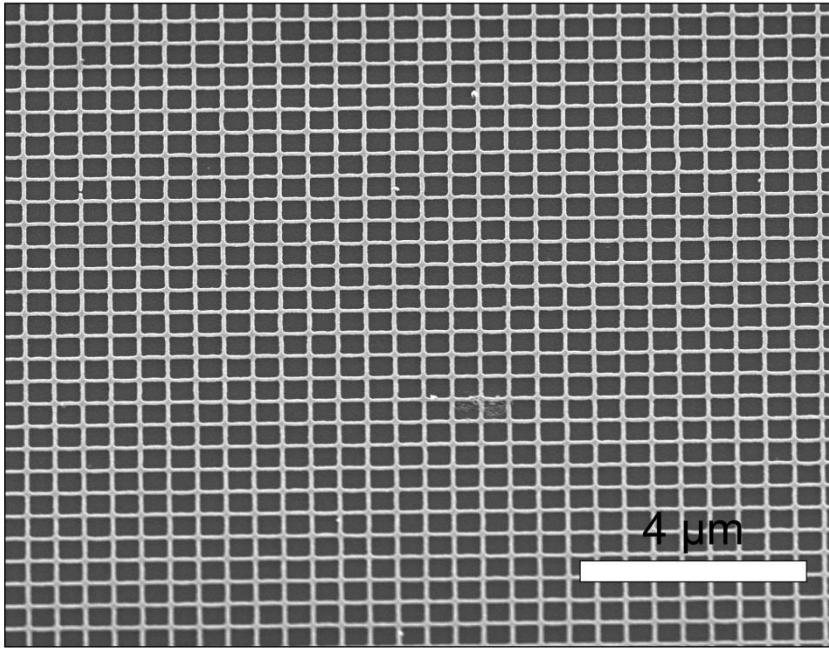
mode  
SE

det  
TLD

tilt  
40 °

3  $\mu$ m

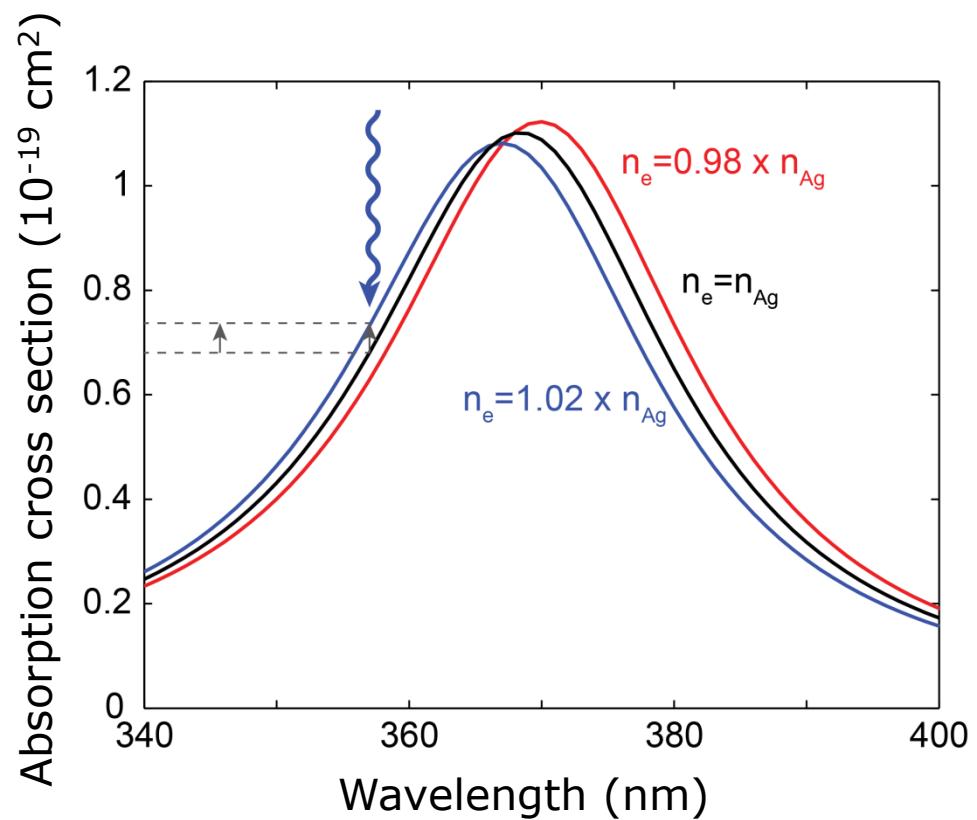
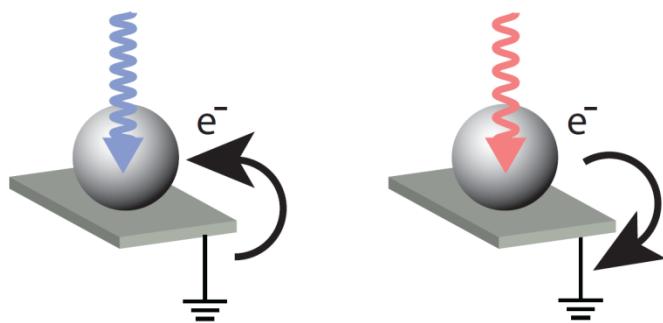
# Soft imprinted nanowire networks



# Plasmon resonance depends on charge density

20 nm Ag sphere in vacuum

$$\omega_R \propto \omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{n_e e^2}{m^* \epsilon_0}}$$

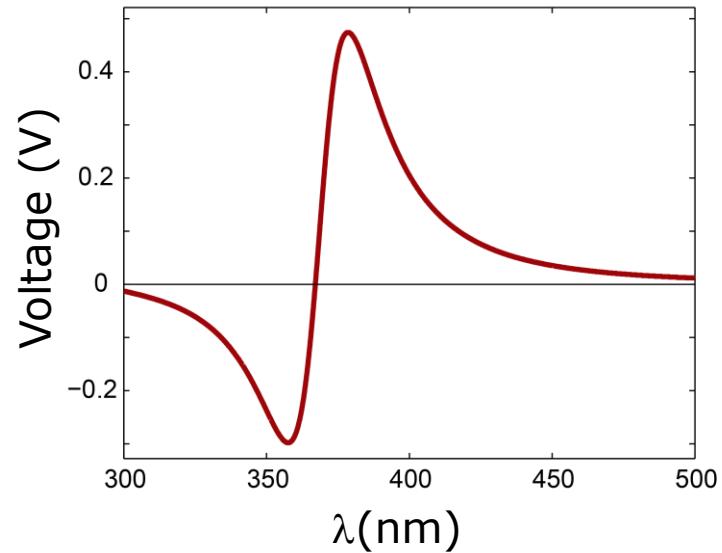
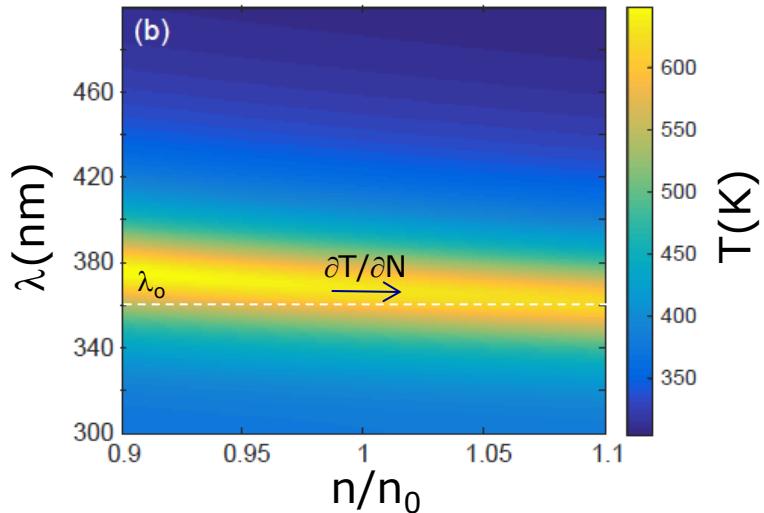
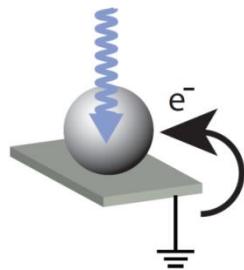


# Plasmo-electric effect in metal nanostructures: thermodynamics

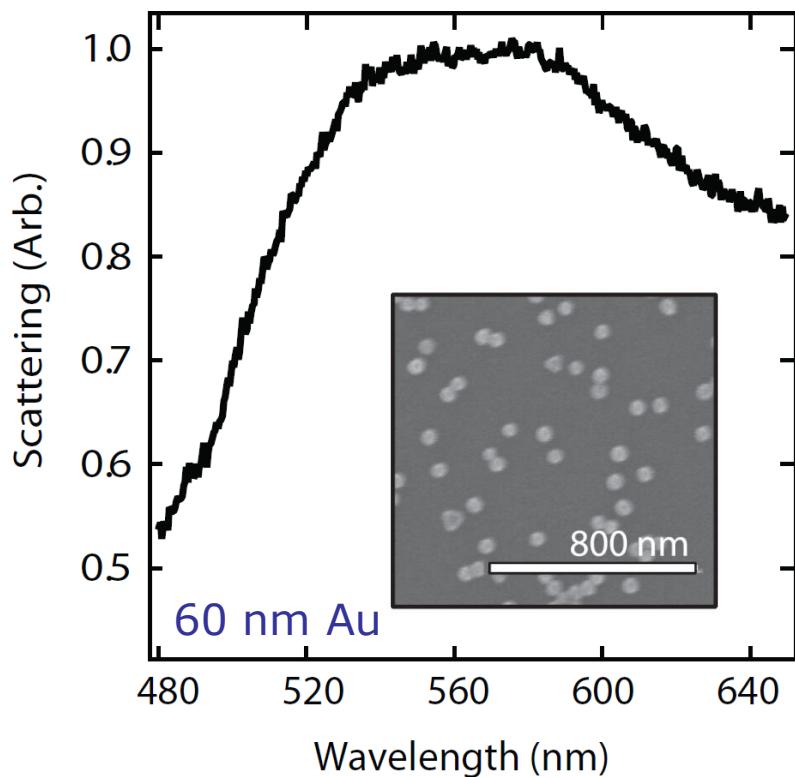
Minimize free energy  $F(N, T)$

$$\frac{\partial F(N, T)}{\partial N} = \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial N} \right)_T + \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \right)_N \frac{\partial T}{\partial N} = 0$$
$$= \mu - S \frac{\partial T}{\partial N} = 0$$

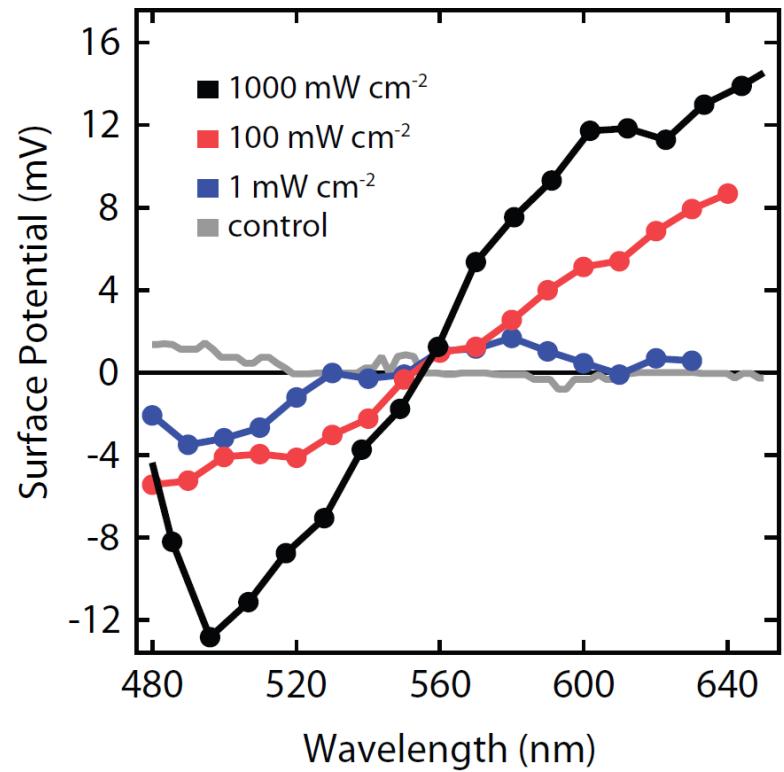
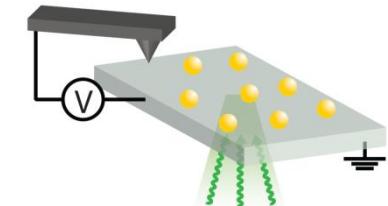
$$\boxed{\mu(N, T) = S(N, T) \frac{\partial T}{\partial N}}$$



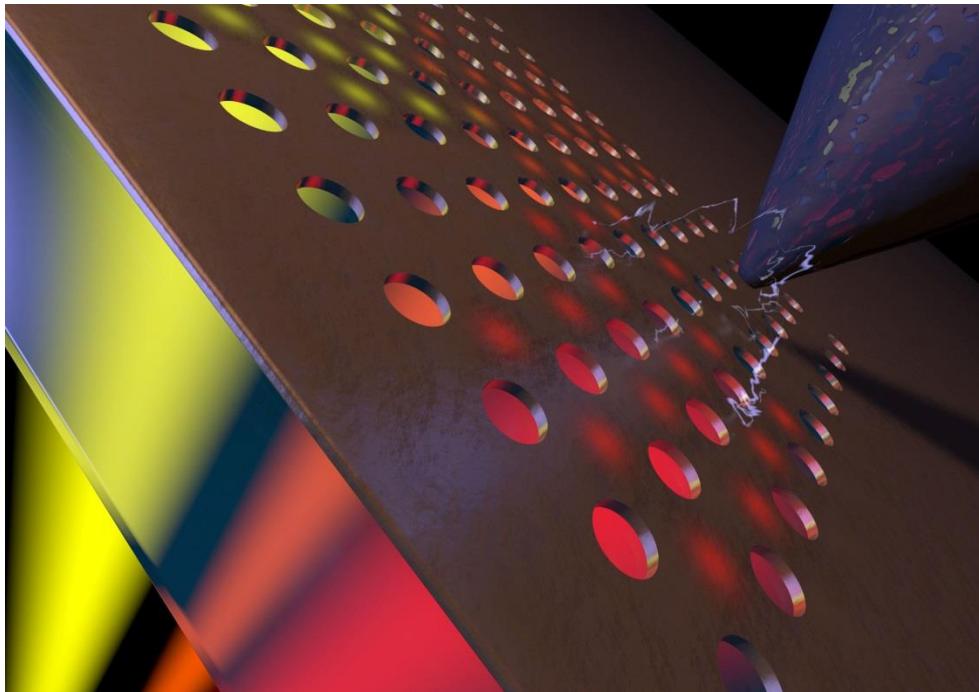
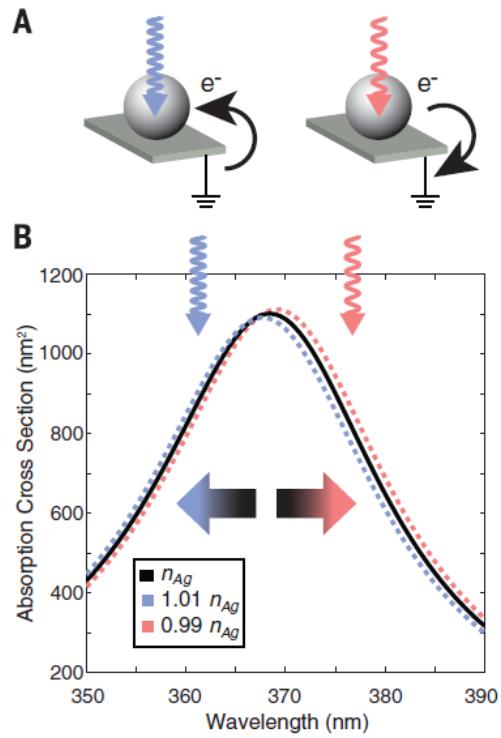
# Plasmo-electric potential: experiments Ag colloids on ITO



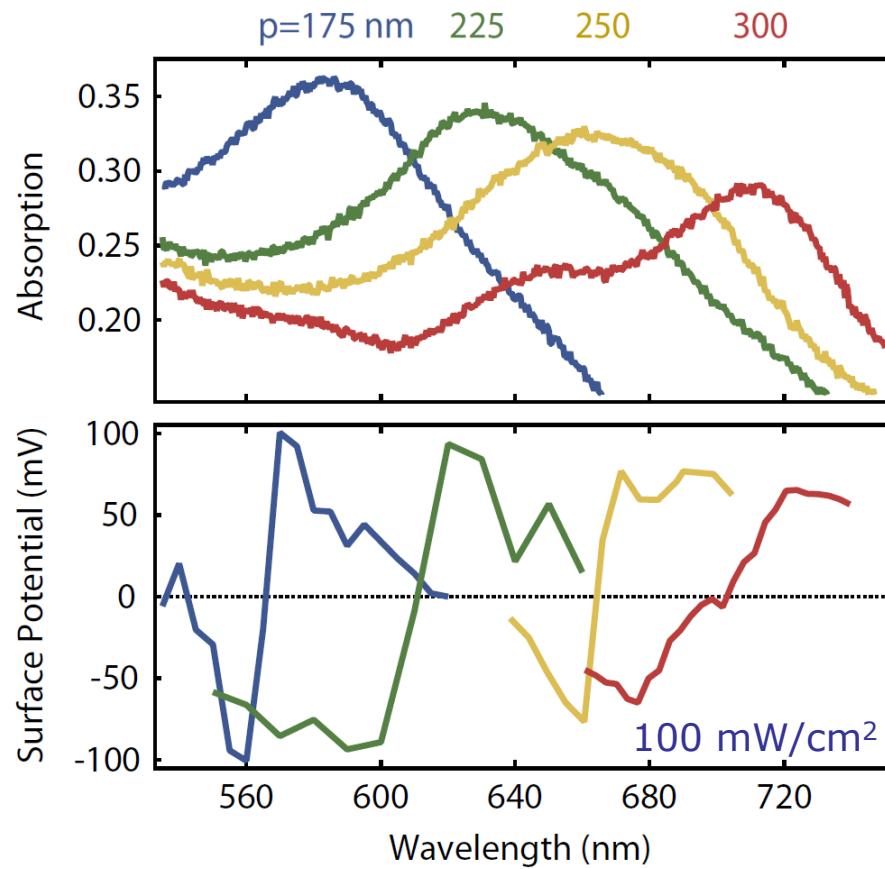
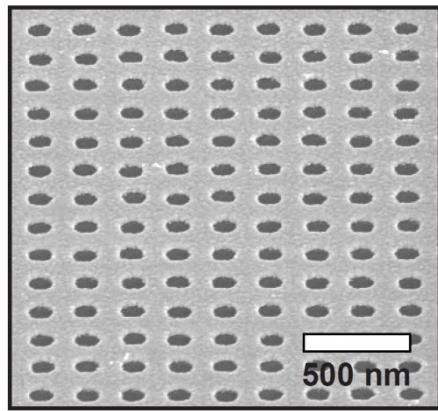
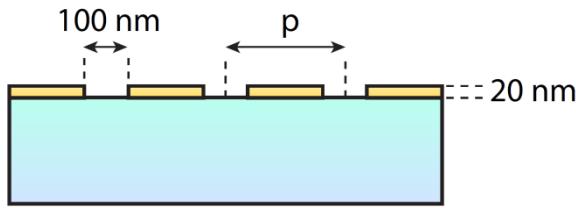
Kelvin probe  
microscopy



# Plasmo-electric effect in metal nanostructures

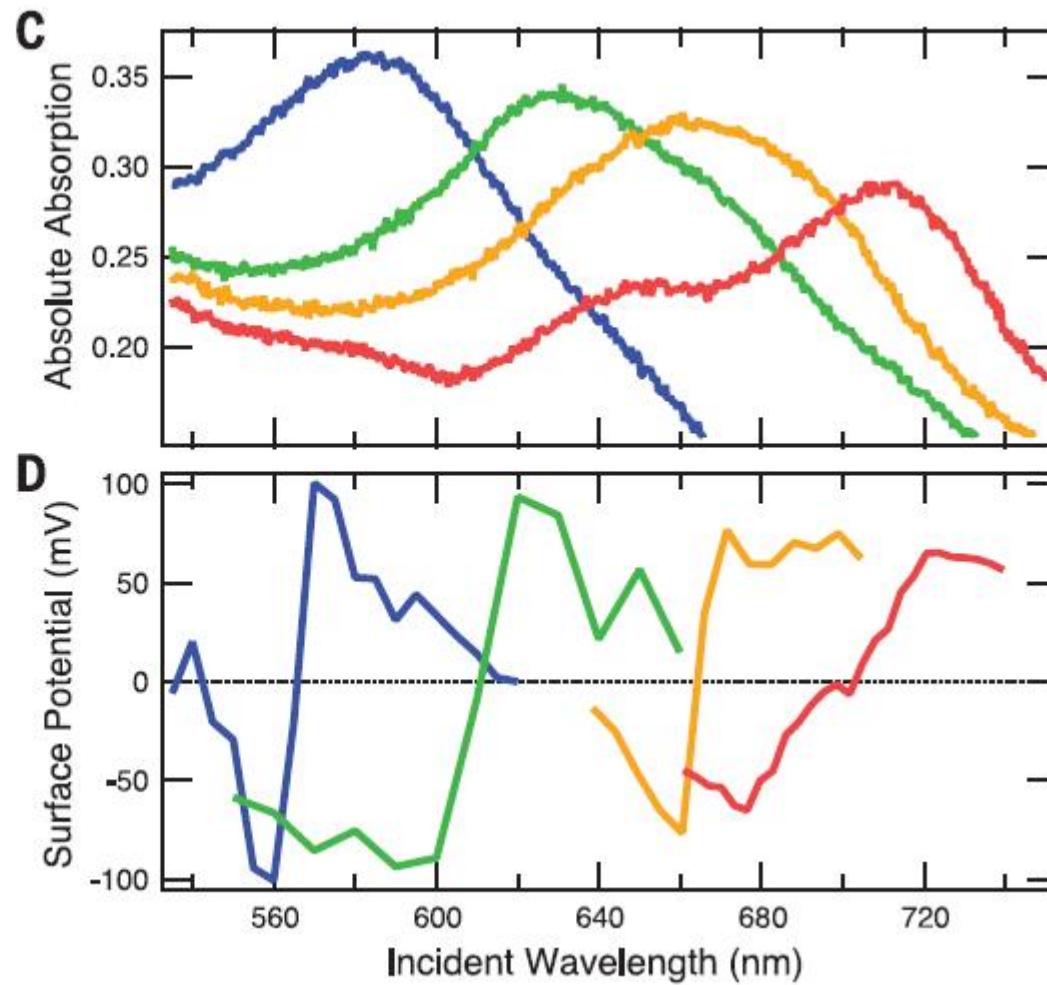
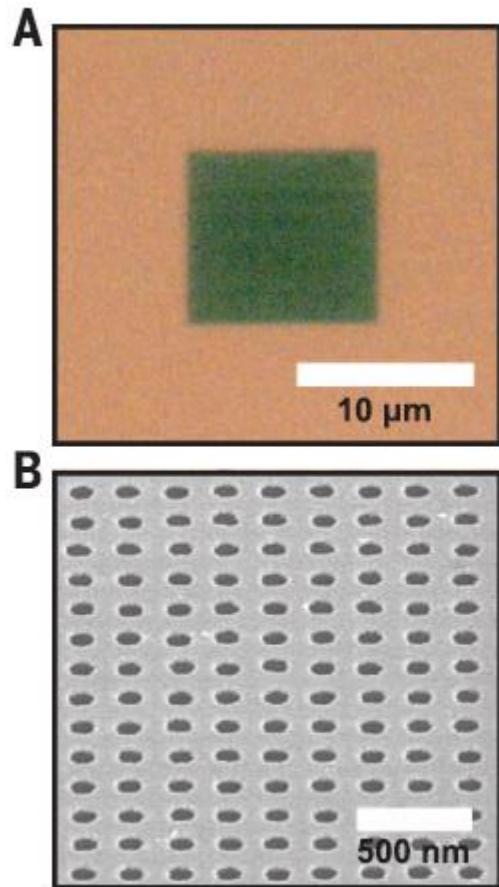


# Plasmo-electric effect on resonant Au hole arrays



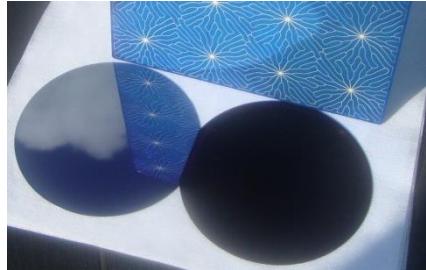
Plasmo-electric potential spectral dependence shifts with array resonance

# Plasmo-electric effect in metal nanostructures

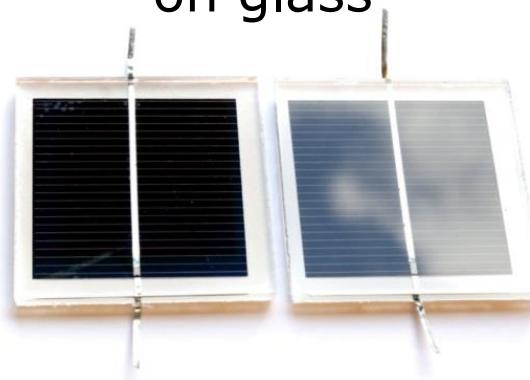


# Conclusions

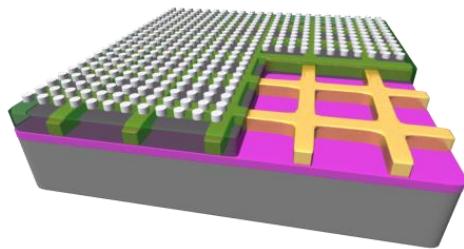
Light coupling  
and trapping



Nanopatterned ARC  
on glass



Transparent metal  
nanowire networks



Plasmolectric effect in  
metal nanostructures

