

# Scanning Near-Field Optical Microscopy: Relevant Insights and Trends

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### **Product Line**

#### **AFM**

#### AFM-Raman / TERS / SNOM









#### **SOLVER NANO**

### NEXT / TITANIUM

#### **NTEGRA**

#### NTEGRA IR

- Compact desktop AFM/STM for both education and science
- Full set of AFM/STM modes
- High AFM/STM performance
- Closed-loop Scanner

- AFM/STM with exceptional level of automation
- Fast, precise and low-noise closedloop scanner
- High resolution imaging due to extremely low noise and high stability
- Full set of standard and advanced AFM/STM modes
- HybriD Mode<sup>™</sup>

- Modular high performance AFM/STM for wide range of applications
- Fiber based SNOM
- Low noise and high resolution
- Full set of standard and advanced AFM/STM modes
- HybriD Mode<sup>™</sup>

- SPM
- Automated AFM laser, probe and photodiode

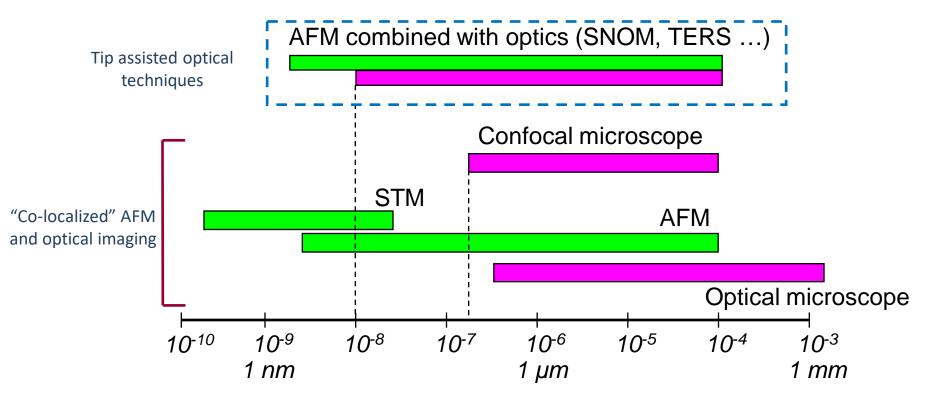
NTEGRA SPECTRA II

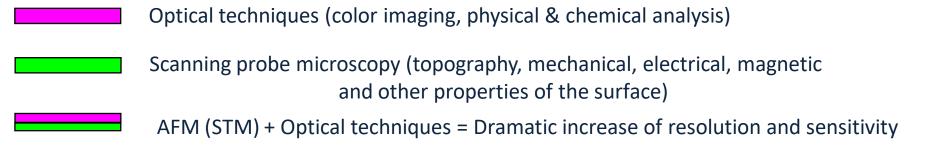
- Confocal Raman / Fluorescence / Rayleigh Microscopy
- Aperture SNOM
- Tip Enhanced Raman Scattering (TERS)
- TERS optimized system for all possible excitation/detection geometries
- HybriD Mode™

- IR sSNOM system
- High resolution
   AFM
- Stabilized CO<sub>2</sub> laser
- HybriD Mode<sup>TM</sup>



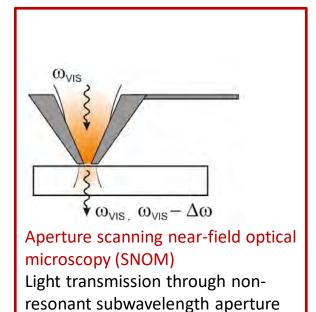
### Resolution and capabilities of different techniques

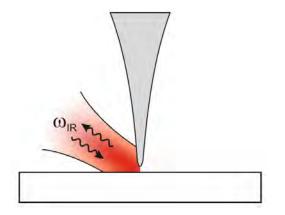






### Super-resolution imaging using scanning optical antennas





Apertureless (scattering) scanning near-field optical microscopy (s-SNOM); nano-IR Infrared (& Vis) light scattering by non-resonant antenna

ANTENNA

Optical antenna: a device designed to efficiently convert free-propagating optical radiation to localized energy, and vice versa.

- L. Novotny, N. van Hulst, Nature photonics 5, 89 (2011)
- P. Bharadwai, B. Deutch, L. Novotny, Adv. In Opt. Phot. 1, 438 (2009)
- Pohl D. W., Optics, Principles and Applications (World Scientific, 2000).





### Upright, Inverted and Side illumination configuration

Light input from side (with scanning mirror)

Top optics (LED illuminator & camera)

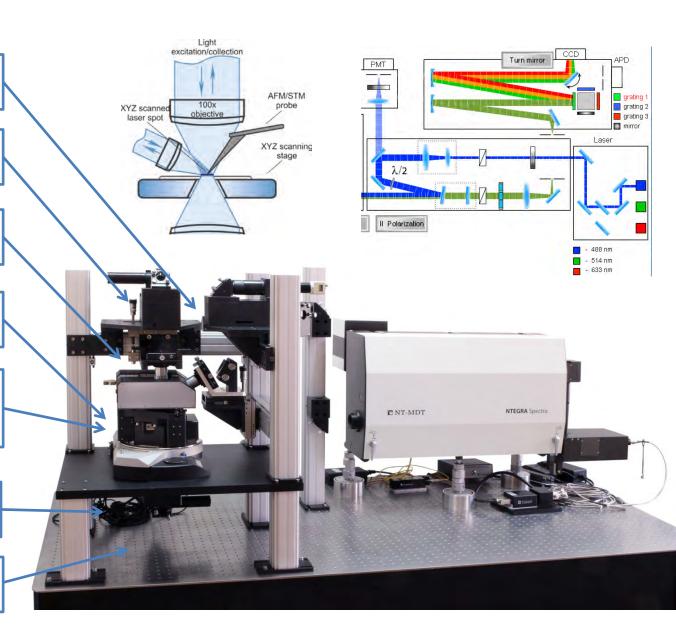
Light input from top (with scanning mirror)

Optical AFM (AFM probe + 100x objective on the top)

XYZ sample stage (bottom illumination objective inside)

Light input from bottom (with scanning mirror)

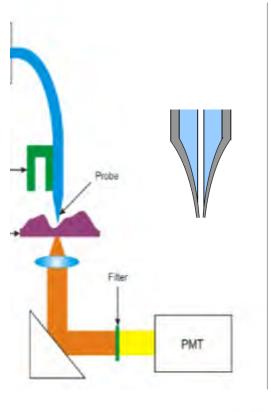
Bottom optics (LED illuminator & camera)

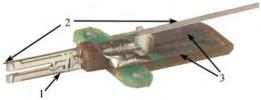




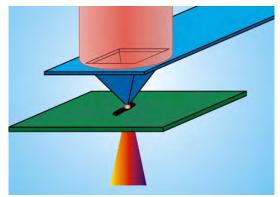
### **ALL types of SNOM probes**

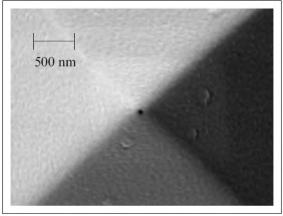
## 1. Straight quartz fiber (glued to tuning fork)

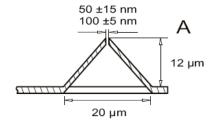




## 2. Silicon cantilevers with aperture



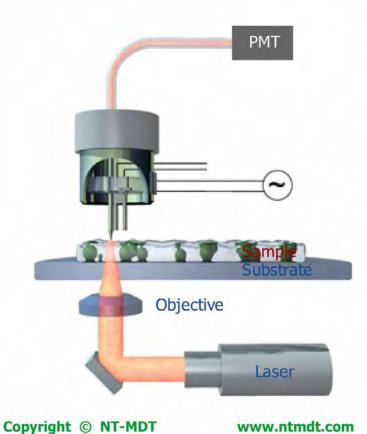






### Two major types of aperture SNOM

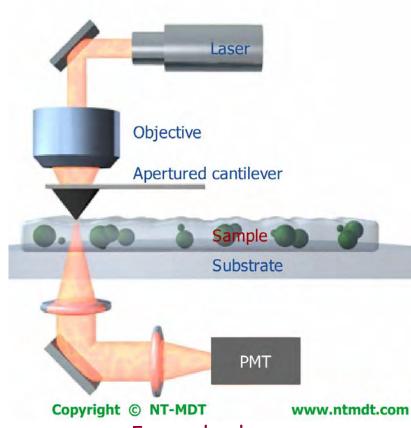
#### FIBER SNOM



Example shows
SNOM collection mode

(laser signal)

#### **CANTILEVER SNOM**

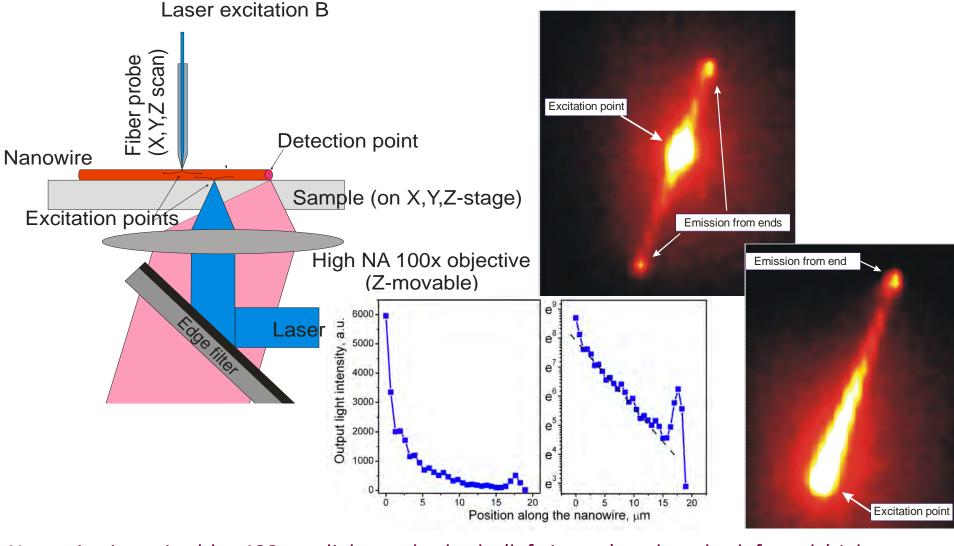


Example shows
SNOM Transmission mode
(laser signal)



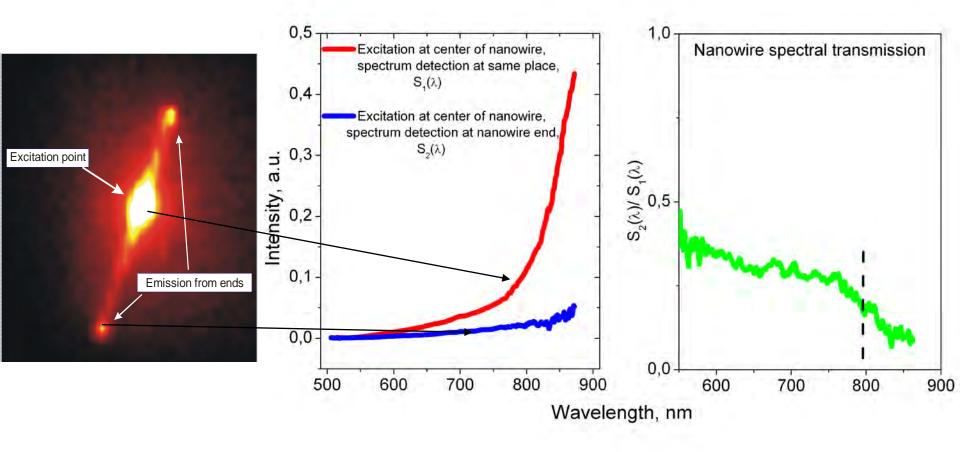
### F

### **Light Transport in Nanowires**



Nanowire is excited by 488 nm light at the body (left image) and at the left end (right image). Excitation green light is completely cut off from the image by two edge filters (with 10-6 transmission). Partly nanowire radiation (>10%) is transmitted through the nanowire and is emitted from nanowire ends.

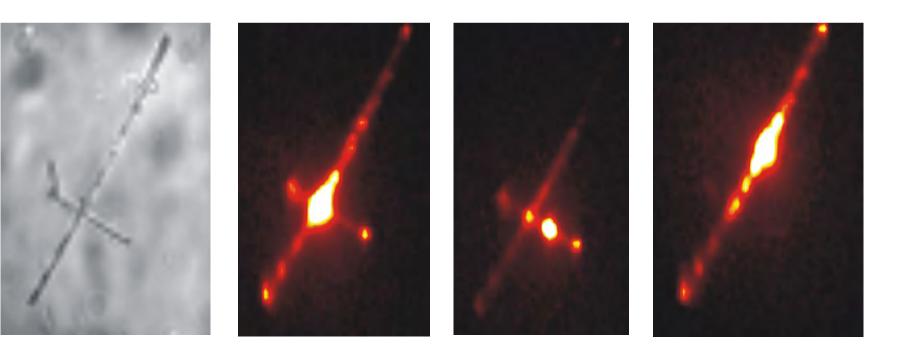
### **Light Transport in Nanowires**



Nanowire is locally excited at the center. Red curve shows spectrum taken at the excitation point [in the middle of the nanowire]. Blue curve is the transmitted light spectrum taken at the nanowire end. Green curve shows spectral transmission function of the nanowire



### **Light Transport in Nanowires**



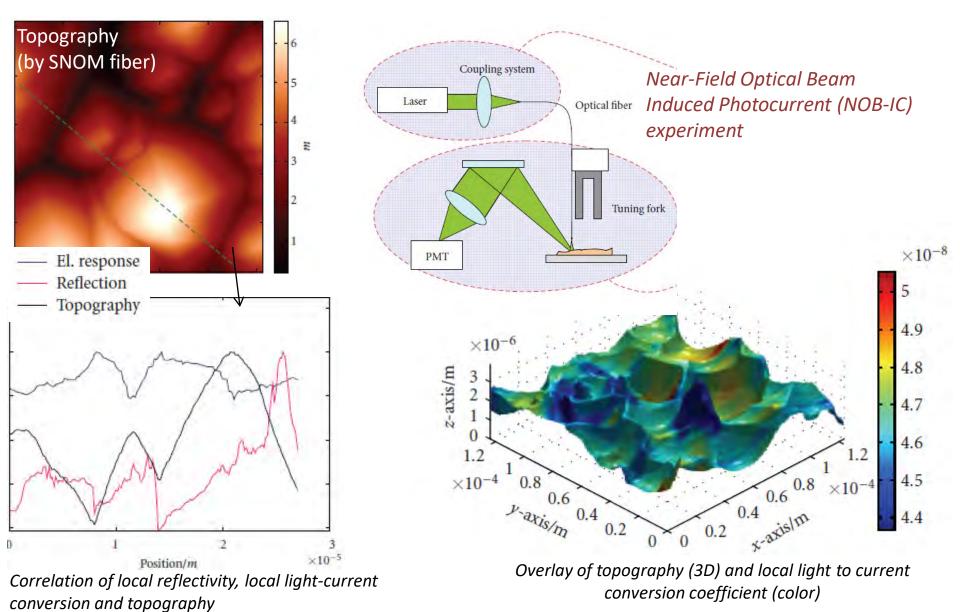
Light transfer through the nanowire containing large number of structural defects and crossing another nanowire.

EASY EXPERIMENT – < 10 minutes for one nanowire





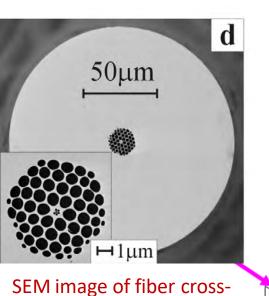
### **SNOM** for localized optical excitation in photovoltaics



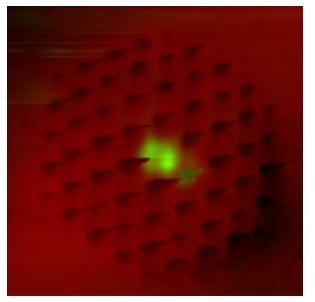


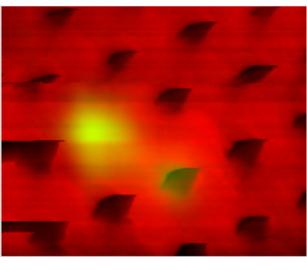
P. Tomanek, P. Skarvada et al., Adv. In Optical Technol., v.2010, 805325

### **SNOM** on photonic crystal optical fibers



section





Overlay of simultaneously measured:

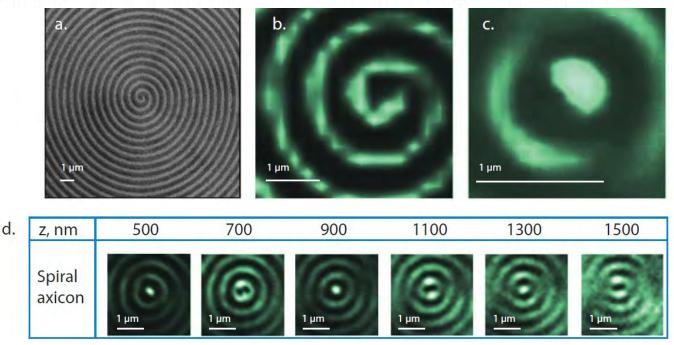
Sample topography (orange/red palette) and SNOM intensity (green palette)

Launch light from outside of the NT-MDT system with particular sources Data courtesy:
Yinlan Ruan, Heike Ebendorff-Heidepriem,
Tanya M. Monro
Centre of Expertise in Photonics, School of Chemistry &
Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, 5000 Australia



### Focusing diffraction optical elements

Diffraction of a Gaussian beam by axicons is studied by SNOM. Binary diffraction axicons with the period close to the light wavelength are formed by electron beam lithography on a quartz substrate. Different axicon geometries are studied. It is shown experimentally that asymmetric microaxicon can reduce the spot size of central light beam along polarization direction in a near zone of diffraction – overcoming the diffraction limit.

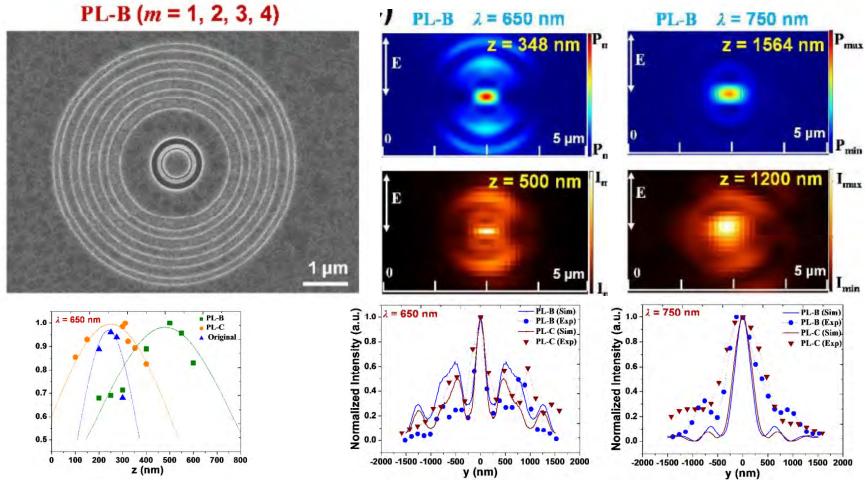


**Fig. 7.**(a) SEM image of the central part of a spiral axicon. (b) The diffracted light intensity distribution detected by SNOM in close proximity to the surface. (c) SNOM intensity distribution taken at  $\sim$ 500 nm from the surface. The central part of the beam at this plane is compressed in a light polarization direction (vertical) and has size less than optical limit. (d) Series of intensity distribution: the height of a scanning plane was varied from 500 nm to 1500 nm.

**Data from:** S. N. Khonina, D. V. Nesterenko, A. A. Morozov, R. V. Skidanov, and V. A. Soifer, OPTICAL MEMORY AND NEURAL NETWORKS, Vol. 21, No. 1, 17-26 (2012).



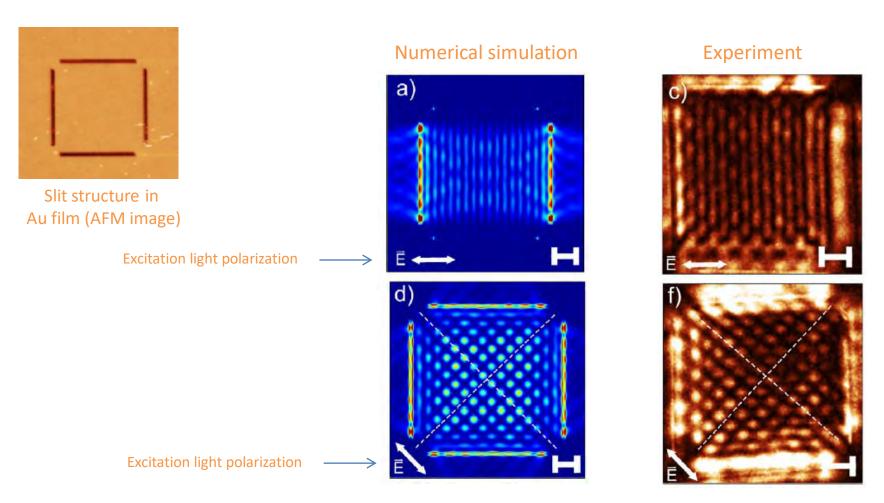
### Focusing diffraction optical elements



SEM image and the measured power intensity distributions along the z-axis are shown for  $\lambda$  = 650 nm and  $\lambda$  = 750 nm. (c) The simulated and measured focal spots at each focal plane. (d) The measured and simulated power intensities along the y-axis show the narrower focal spot for the PL-B at both working wavelengths.



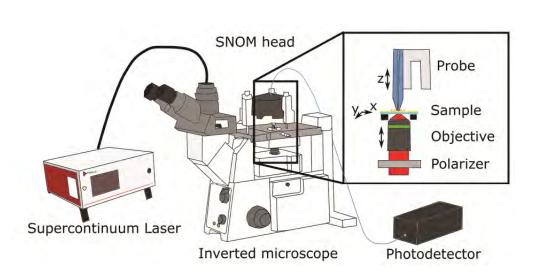
### **SPP interference studied by SNOM**

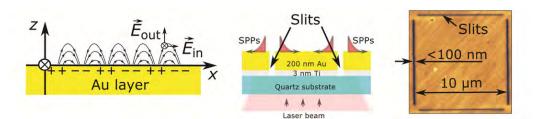


Near-field interference pattern of surface plasmon polaritons in a square-like slit structure in Au film

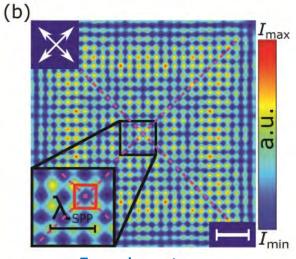


### **SPP interference studied by SNOM**

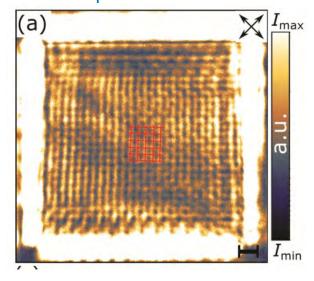




#### **Numerical simulation**

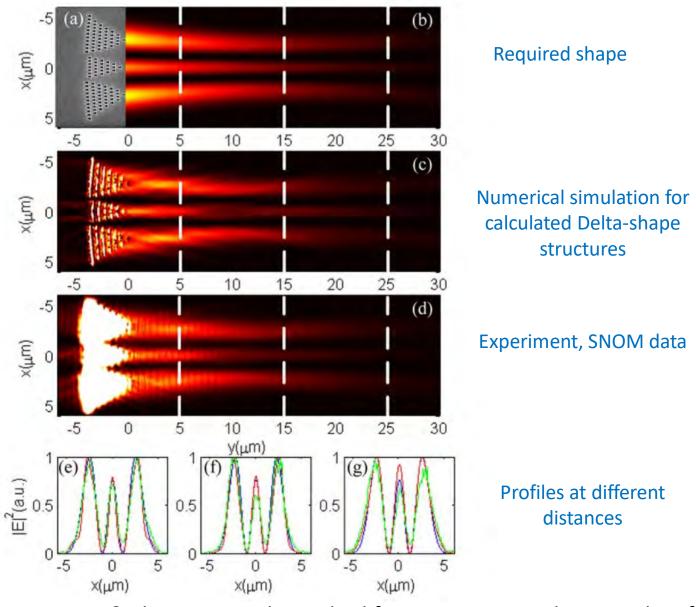


**Experiment** 





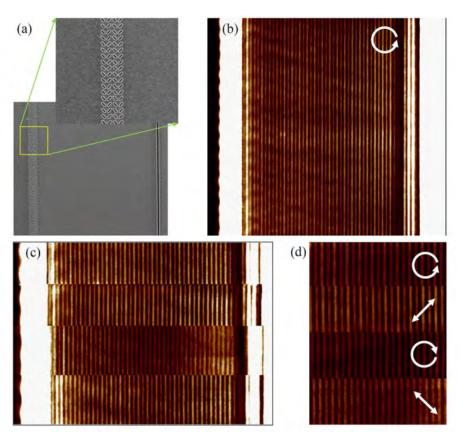
### **Generating unidirectional SPP beams**



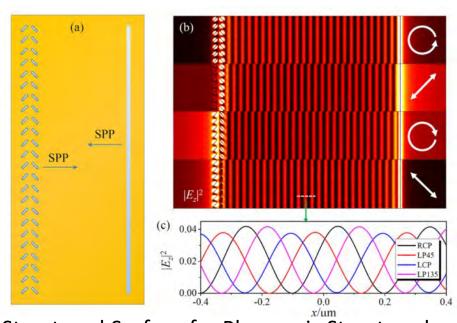
You, O., Wang, Q., Bai, B., Wu, X. & Zhu, Z. A simple method for generating unidirectional surface plasmon polariton beams with arbitrary profiles. *Opt. Lett.* **40**, 5486 (2015).

### **Plasmons Generation**

#### Experiment, SNOM data

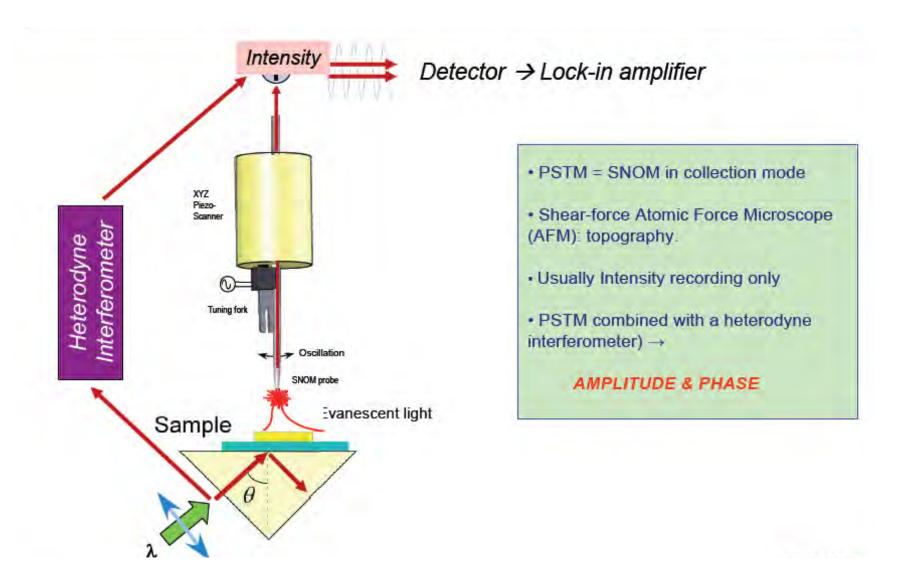


#### Simulation



Zhang, C. *et al.* Polarization-to-Phase Coupling at a Structured Surface for Plasmonic Structured Illumination Microscopy. *Laser Photonics Rev.* **12**, 1–7 (2018).

### Amplitude and phase detection by SNOM

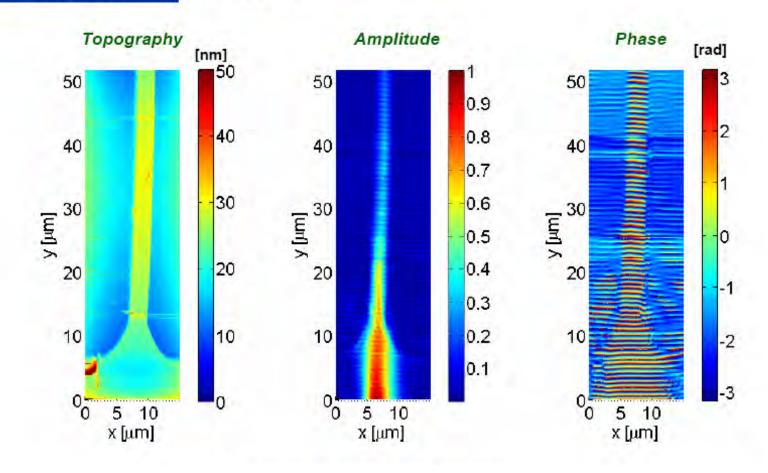




### Plasmons on gold waveguide

3 μm wide WG

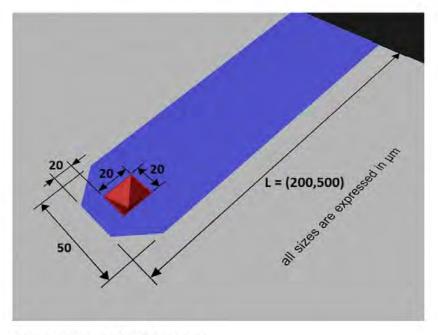
 $\lambda = 785 \text{ nm}$ 





### cantilever SNOM: contact AND non-contact probes

#### 1) Lever sizes and the pyramid position:

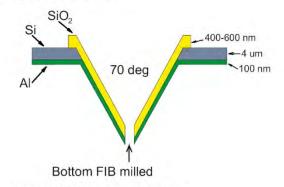


Pyramid LxWxH = 20x20x13 (70 deg)

	Spring Constant (N/m)			Frequency (kHz)			Length (micron)			Width (micron)			Thickness (micron)		
	Nominal	Min	Max	Nominal	Min	Max	Nomina	Min	Max	Nominal	Min	Max	Nominal	Min	Max
NonContact	16.5	5.9	39.0	130	88	180	200	190	210	55	54	57	4	3	5
Contact	1.01	0.41	2.30	20.8	15	27	500	490	510	55	54	57	4	3	5

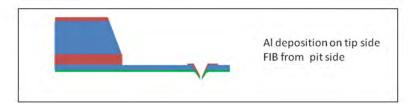
Probe	Resolution	TR@ 473		
1 contact	150 nm	~3*10-4		
1 contact	???	0.3*10-4		
1 noncontact	110 nm	~0.16*10-4		
2 noncontact	120 nm	~0.5*10-4		
3 noncontact	135 nm	~0.7*10-4		
4 noncontact	100 nm	~0.2*10-4		
5 noncontact	150 nm	~1.6*10-4		

#### 2) Tip shape and aperture size:



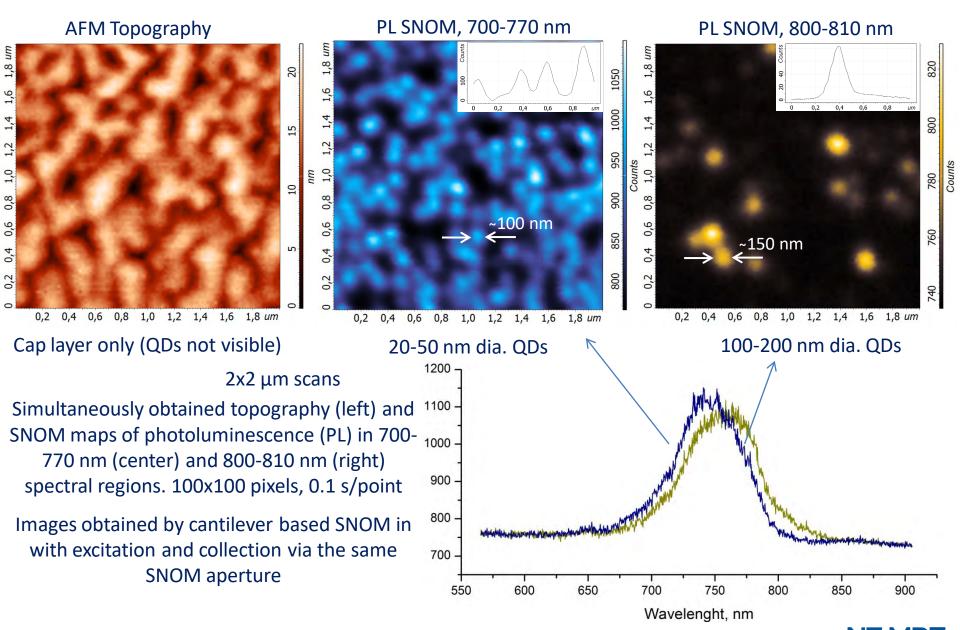
Pyramid (SiO2) thickness 400-600 nm

 Coating: Al, about 100 nm, coating from bottom side. Bottom FIB milling is done after coating. Typical aperture diameter about 170 ±25nm.



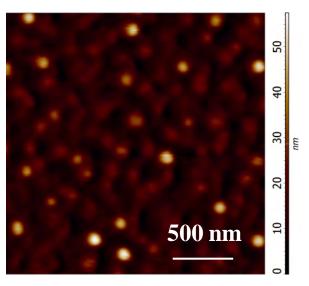


### SNOM of InP/GaInP quantum dots with GaInP cap layer

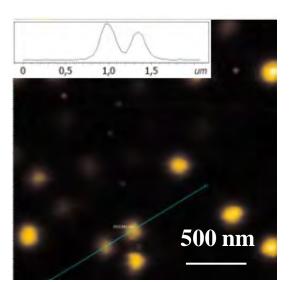


### QD SNOM spectroscopy and topography

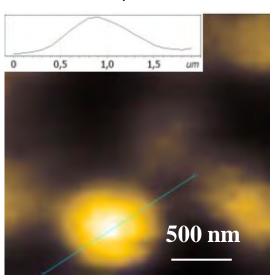


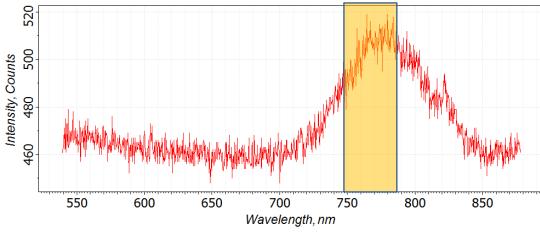


#### SNOM PL, 750-780 nm



#### Confocal map, 750-780 nm





3x3 µm scans

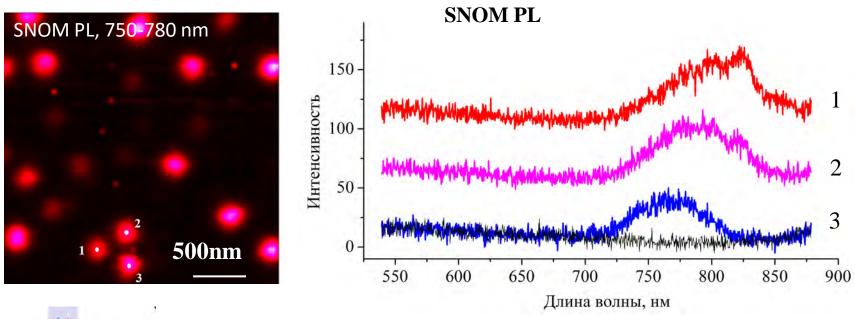
Simultaneously obtained topography (left) and SNOM maps of photoluminescence (PL) in 750-780 nm band (center) and confocal map with the same spectral band (right). 100x100 pixels, 0.1 s/point. Images obtained by cantilever based SNOM in with excitation and collection via the same SNOM aperture. AFM tapping mode used.

Shelaev A. V., Mintairov A. M., Dorozhkin P. S., and Bykov V. A. Scanning near-field microscopy of microdisk resonator with InP/GalnP quantum dots using cantilever-based probes // J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 2016. Vol. 741. P. 12132.

### F

### **Single QD SNOM spectroscopy**

#### InP/GaInP quantum dots with no cover layer





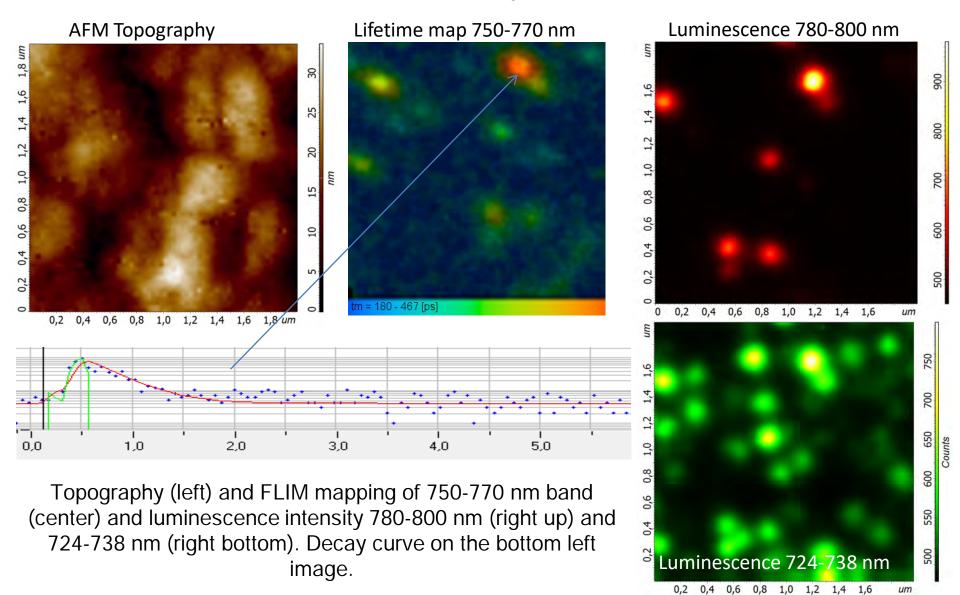
Thanks to high transmission of cantilever-based SNOM probes and high system sensitivity it is possible to detect single point spectrum with exposure time of few seconds per point. And distinguish spectra from single quantum dots which are less than 500 nm away from each other. Clear difference in PL spectra is observed.

Shelaev A. V., Mintairov A. M., Dorozhkin P. S., and Bykov V. A. Scanning near-field microscopy of microdisk resonator with InP/GalnP quantum dots using cantilever-based probes // J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 2016. Vol. 741. P. 12132.



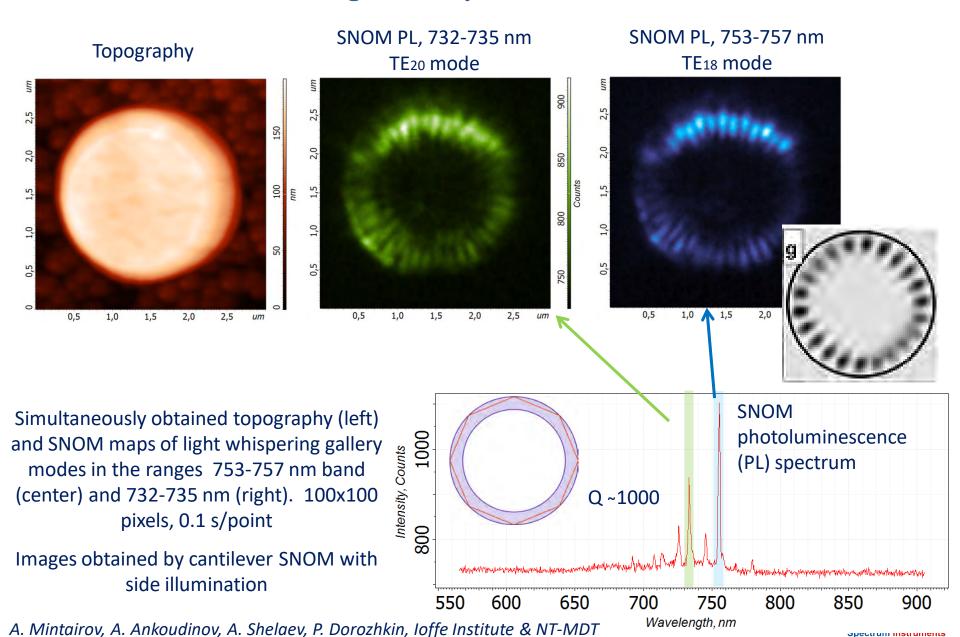


# Fluorescence lifetime (FLIM) SNOM microscopy of InP/GaInP quantum dots

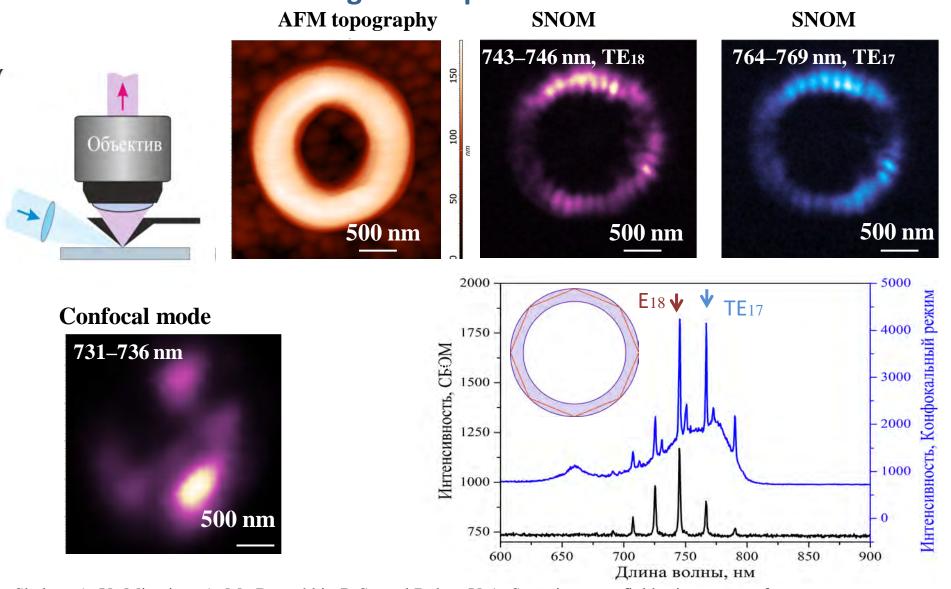




### Whispering gallery light modes in microdisks with InP/GaInP selforganized quantum dots



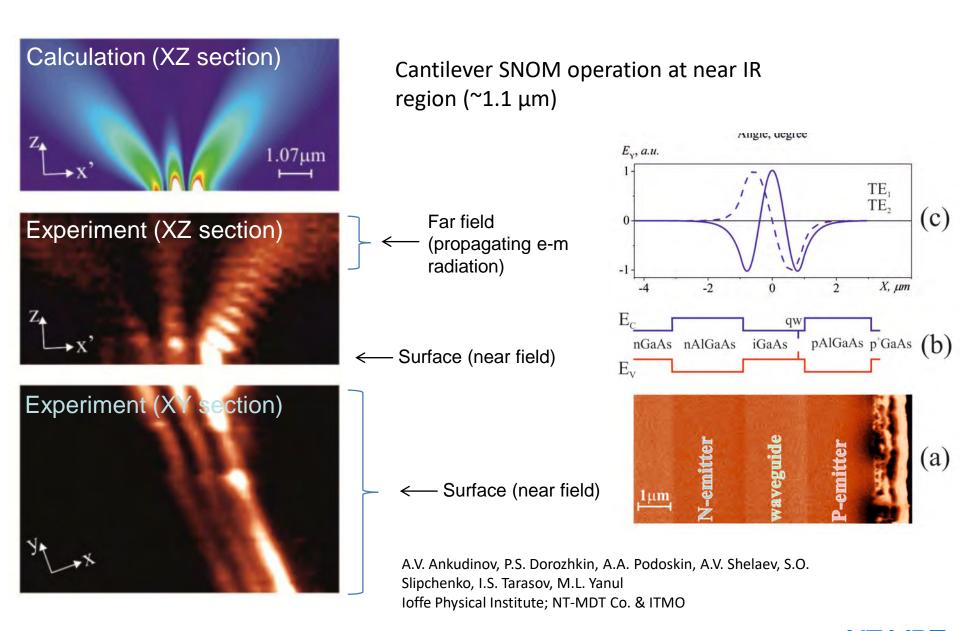
### Whispering gallery light modes in microrings with InP/GaInP selforganized quantum dots



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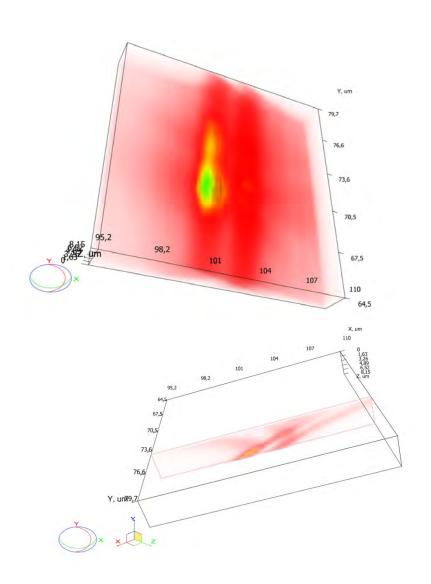


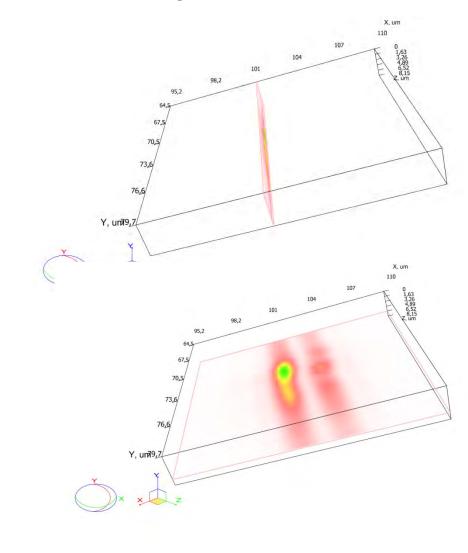
### Laser emission in 3D studied by SNOM



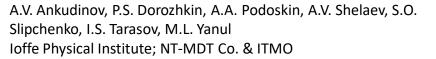


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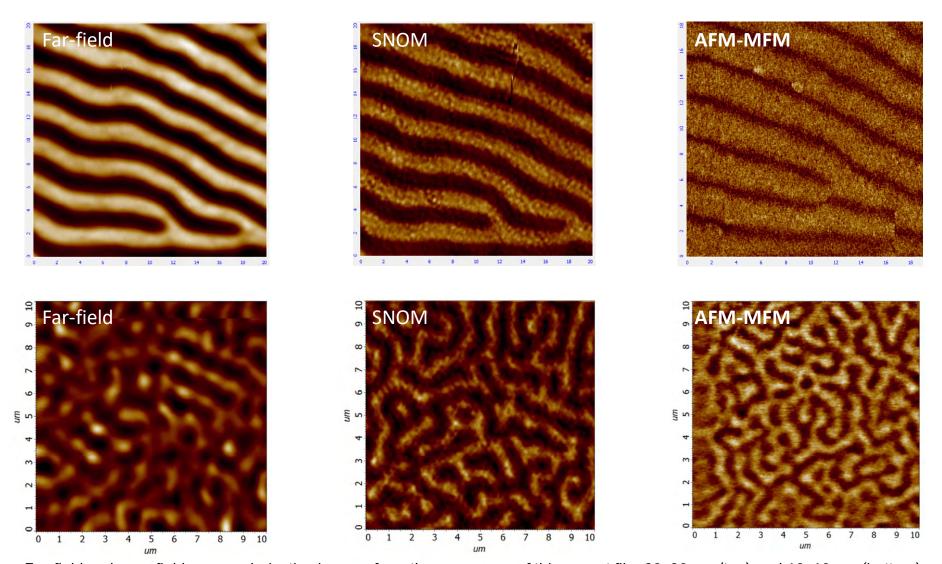


3D emission intensity distribution XY, XZ and YZ cross-sections





### Magneto-optic effects investigation by SNOM: thin film of YIG

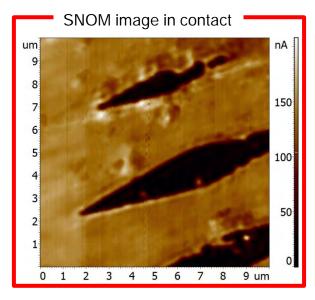


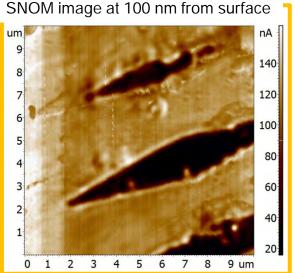
Far-field and near-field cross-polarization images from the same area of thin garnet film 20x20 um (top) and 10x10 um (bottom).

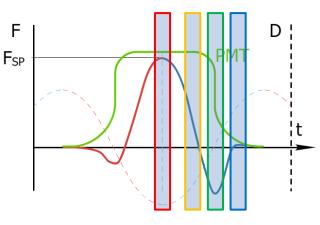
473 nm laser used. Comparison with MFM images from same sample (right).

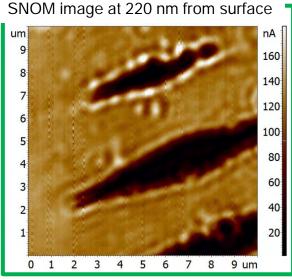


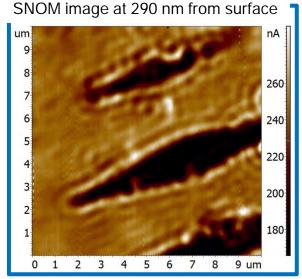
### **SNOM** in HybriD regime









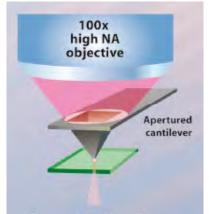


SNOM images (obtained HD mode). SNOM done images were simultaneously, HD by mode, choosing different boundaries for averaging of the signal The images were done in mode SNG01 HD on grating.



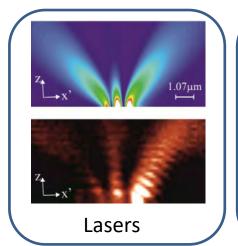
### **Key features of cantilever SNOM**

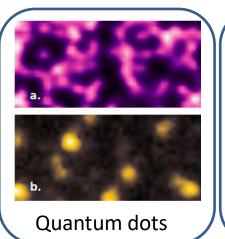
- ✓ High mechanical durability of the probes
- ✓ Stability under strong laser illumination (up to 30 mW in a focused spot)
- ✓ Very high resolution (NA) objectives used to focus/collect light onto/from SNOM aperture (1.0 NA, 280 nm resolution in liquid; 0.7 NA 400 nm resolution in air)
- ✓ Precise and reproducible automated positioning of the laser spot on SNOM cantilever aperture (positioning precision and stability <5 nm)</p>
- ✓ Non-contact SNOM cantilevers (allows lock-in detection of SNOM signal; allows advanced AFM modes, e.g. KFM *simultaneously* with SNOM imaging)
- ✓ Measurements in liquid
- ✓ Measurements with heating up to 150 C

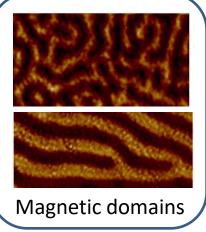


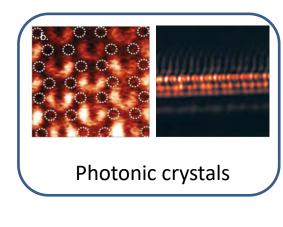


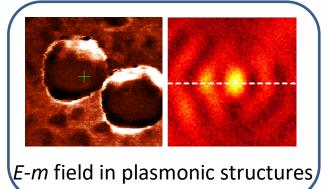
### **Aperture SNOM applications**

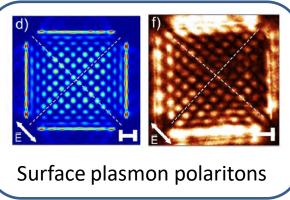


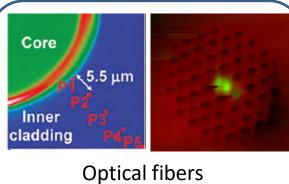


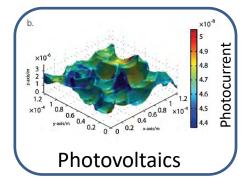


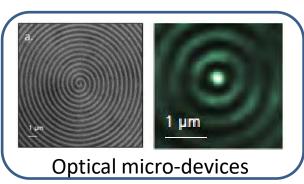






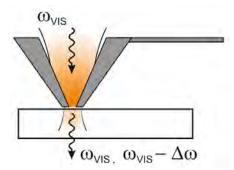






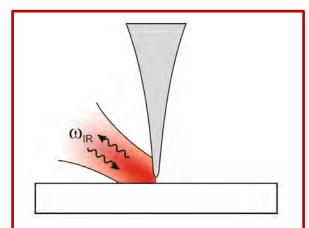


### Super-resolution imaging using scanning optical antennas



Aperture scanning near-field optical microscopy (SNOM)
Light transmission through non-

resonant subwavelength aperture



Apertureless (scattering) scanning near-field optical microscopy (s-SNOM); nano-IR Infrared (& Vis) light scattering by non-resonant antenna

ANTENNA

Optical antenna: a device designed to efficiently convert free-propagating optical radiation to localized energy, and vice versa.

- L. Novotny, N. van Hulst, Nature photonics 5, 89 (2011)
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- Pohl D. W., Optics, Principles and Applications (World Scientific, 2000).



## Scattering (apertureless) SNOM: mapping sample dielectric permittivity e(w) under light illumination

Light scattered by "tip+sample" configuration:

$$E_{sc} \propto \alpha_{\it eff} (\varepsilon_{\it s} z_{\it ts}) \cdot E_{\it loc}$$

 $\varepsilon_s(\omega)$  - dielectric permittivity of sample

$$Z_{ts}$$
 - tip-sample distance

$$E_{loc}\,$$
 - excitation light field

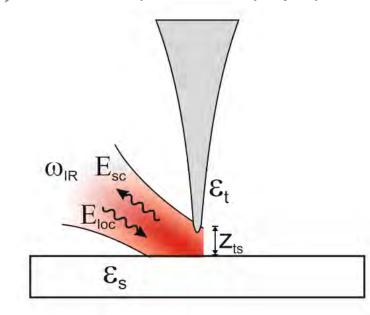
$$E_{sc}$$
 - scattered light field

$$lpha_{ ext{eff}}$$
 - effective polarizability of "tip+sample" configuration

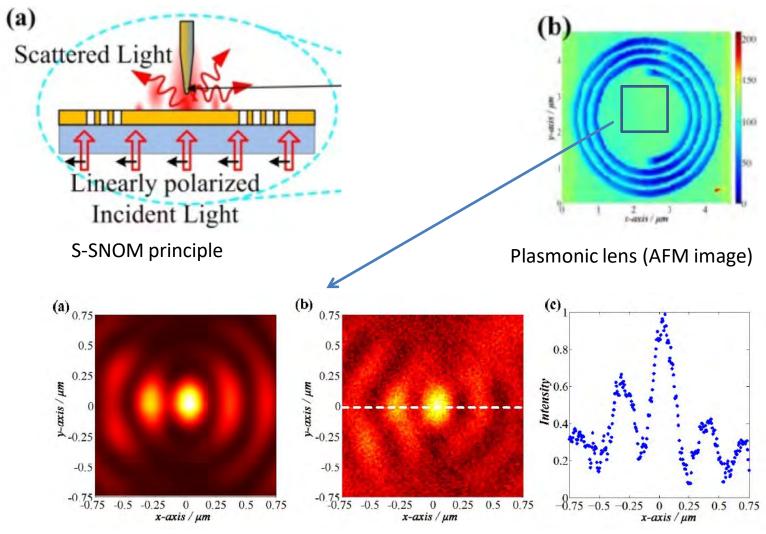
$$\alpha_{eff} = \frac{\alpha(1-\beta)}{1 - \frac{\alpha\beta}{32\pi(z+a)^3}}$$

$$\alpha = 4\pi a^3 \frac{(\varepsilon_t - \varepsilon_i)}{\varepsilon_t + 2\varepsilon_i}$$
 and  $\beta = \frac{\varepsilon_s - 1}{(\varepsilon_s) + 1}$ 

 $\varepsilon_{t}(\omega)$  - dielectric permittivity of tip



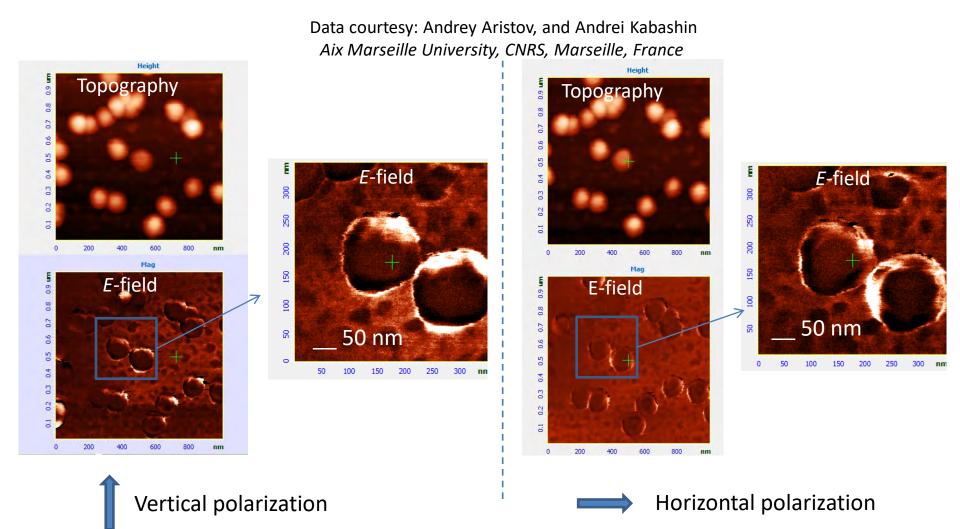
### sSNOM to study localized electromagnetic field



Calculated (a) and measured (b,c) longitufinal E-field component of light on the surface of a plasmonic lens



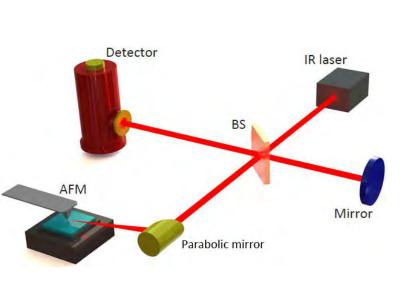
#### **EM field visualization by sSNOM**



Direct visualization of localized electromagnetic field in Au nanoparticles (SERS substrate). 633 nm



#### **NTEGRA Nano IR**

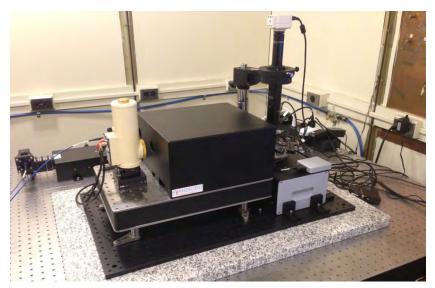




- IR microscopy and spectroscopy with 10 nm resolution
- Wide spectral range of operation: 3-12 μm
- Incredibly low thermal drift and high signal stability
- Versatile AFM with advanced modes: SRI (conductivity), KPFM (surface potential), SCM (capacitance), MFM (magnetic properties), PFM (piezoelectric forces)
- HybriD ModeTM quantitative nanomechanical mapping



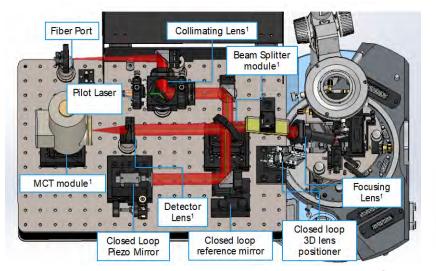
#### **NTEGRA Nano IR**

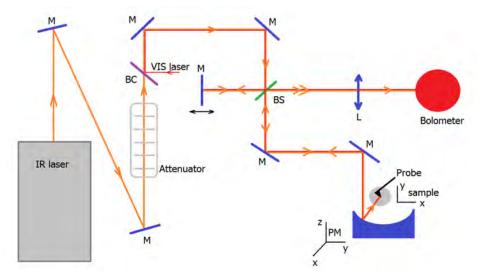


NTEGRA Nano IR, Stony Brook Univ., NY, USA



Measuring head

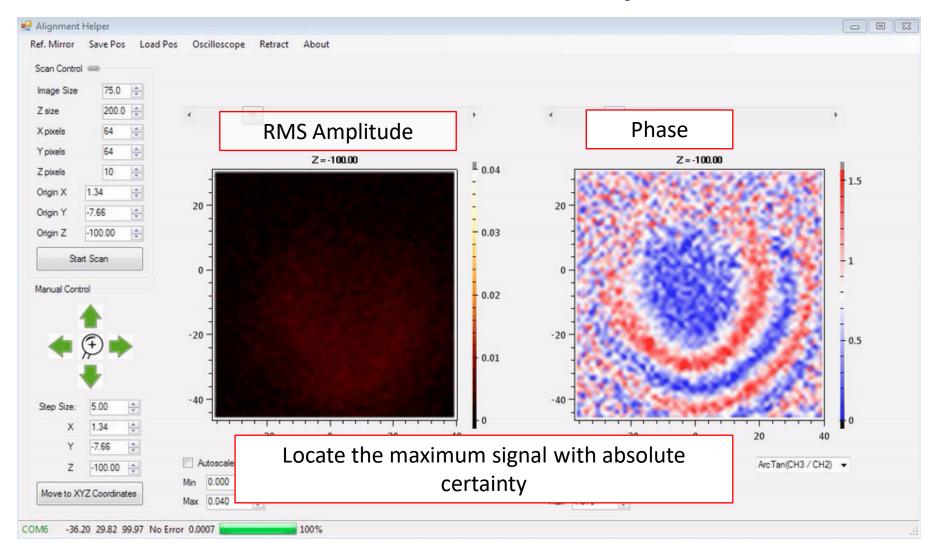




Optical schemes



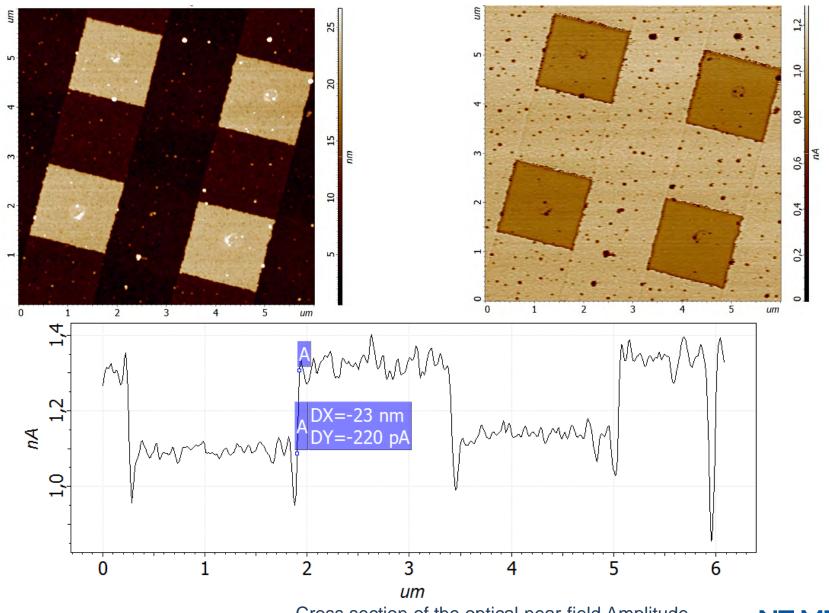
# Demonstration of hot-spot alignment, 10 scans over 200um of focus adjustment







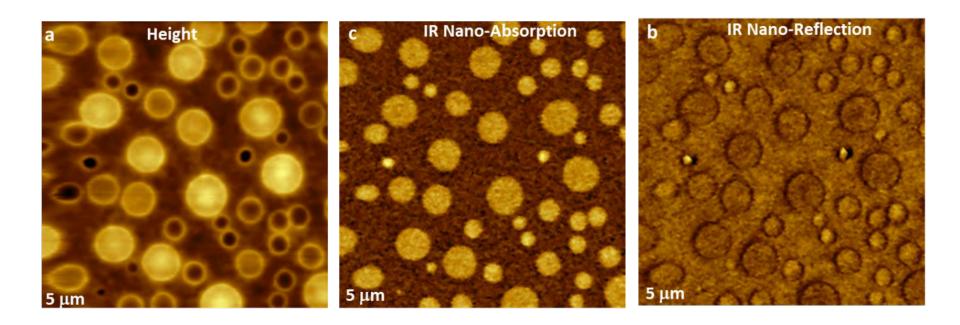
### NTEGRA Nano IR: TGQ Si/SiO2 grating



Cross section of the optical near-field Amplitude



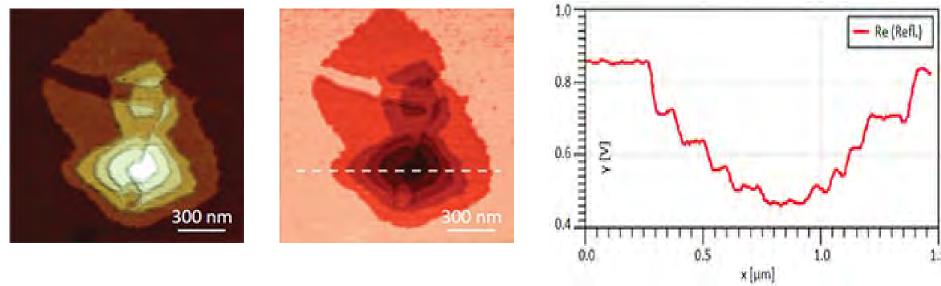
## NTEGRA nano IR: PS/PVAC blend on ITO



Height (a), nano-reflection ( $\lambda$ = 10.6 mm), (b) and nano-absorption ( $\lambda$ = 10.6 mm) (c) images of a PS/PVAC film on ITO substrate.



### NTEGRA IR: oligothiophene monolayers on Si

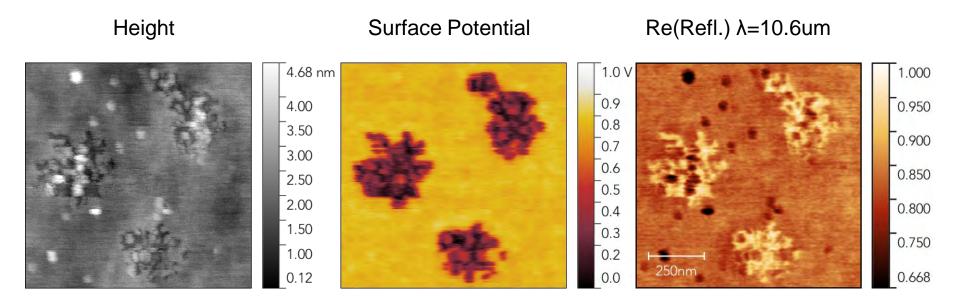


IR reflection contrast of thin and soft structures easily detectable. Each of five 3.4 nm steps is resolved. Spatial resolution is better than  $\lambda/1000$ .

Sample courtesy to Dr. A. Mourran (DWI, Aachen, Germany). Measured by Dr. G. Andreev (EVS Co)

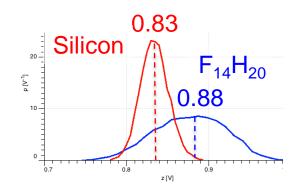


# Single pass AFM, KPFM, and Reflection of self assembled alkane nanostructures on Si



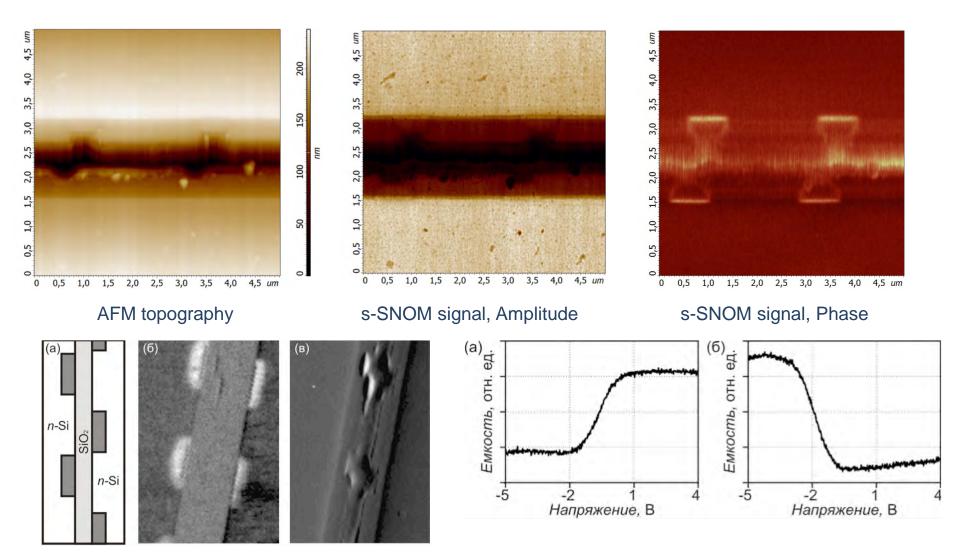
- Simultaneous nanoscale electrical and optical properties measured for the first time
- Reflection contrast of thin and soft structures easily detectable
- Better than λ/ 1000 spatial resolution

#### Reflection Distribution





#### p-doped Si grating



(a) - sample structure, (6) - capacitance contrast dC/dV, (B) - topography (measured separately) Scan size 3.5x5 um

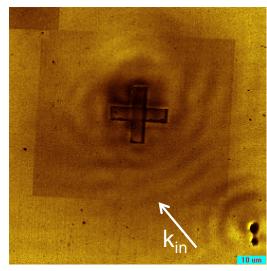
C-V curves measured on the wafer (right) and in the doped region (left)



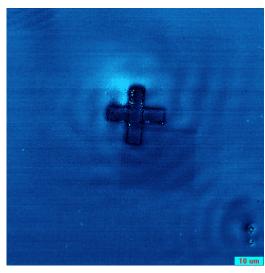
#### Interference of optical surface waves in SiC







Near-field Amplitude



**Near-field Phase** 

Interference of optical surface waves (propagating Surface Phonon Polaritons, SPhP) at the surface of SiC crystal is observed in Amplitude and Phase near-field optical images. The surface waves are excited by  $CO_2$  laser plane wave directed from the bottom-right ( $k_{in}$ ). SPhP wave beating pattern caused by presence of surface features is observed.

Sample: SiC crystal with etched cross-like structure on the surface

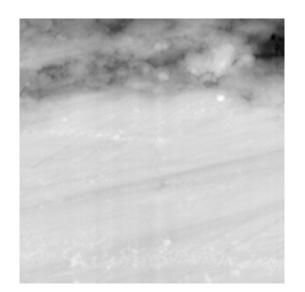
Excitation laser: 10.8 µm (923 cm-1)

Measurement mode: s-SNOM optical signal (Amplitude and Phase) by interferometric homodyning

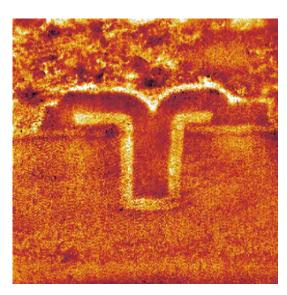
Image size: 90x90 μm



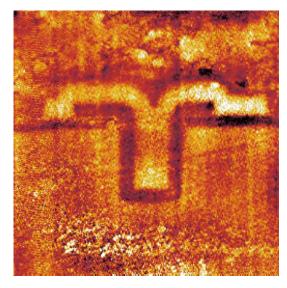
#### MOS transistor mapping, material and doping contrast



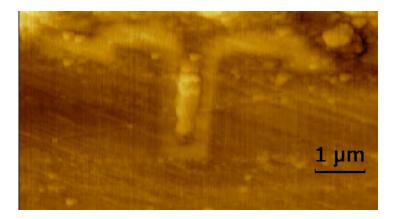




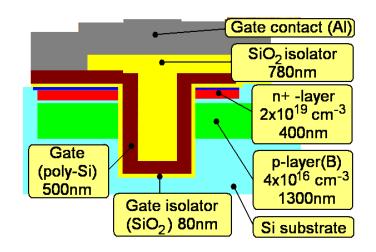
s-SNOM signal, Amplitude



s-SNOM signal, Phase



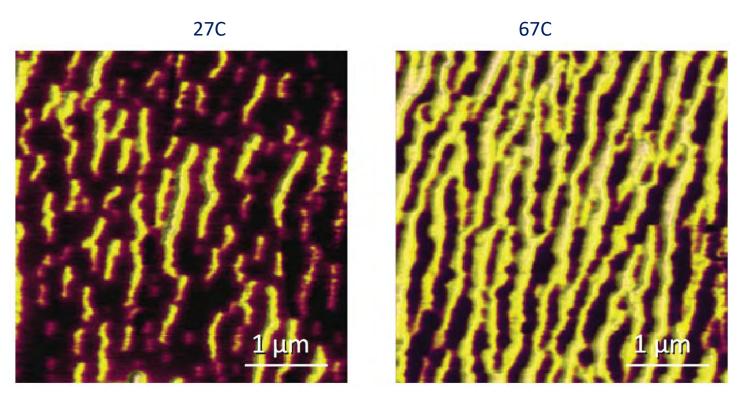
Kelvin probe microscopy, surface potential (measured separately)





#### sSNOM on a phase changing material: VO2

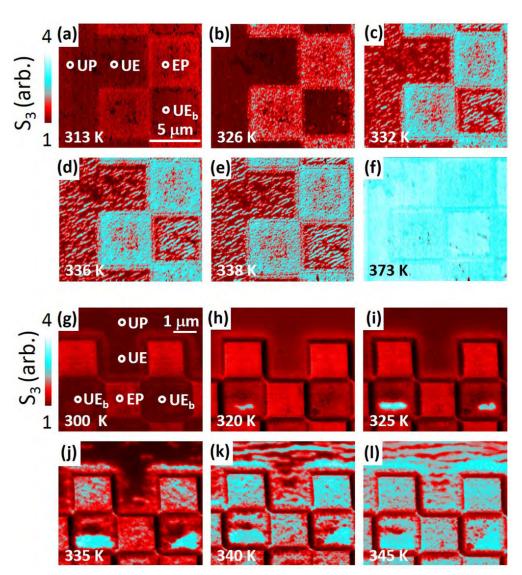
#### **IR sSNOM Reflection**



Superior high temperature performance: <1 hour needed to acquire images 40C apart. Low drift and high signal stability: <1um XY drift from 27 to 67C, no realignment of nanoReflection optics needed Sample courtesy to prof. Liu (Stony Brook University, New York, USA)



#### IR s-SNOM: VO2 Thin Films



Temperature-dependent infrared near-field images of patterned  $VO_2/TiO_2$  at 11  $\mu$ m, revealing area-dependent insulator-to-metal phase transitions.

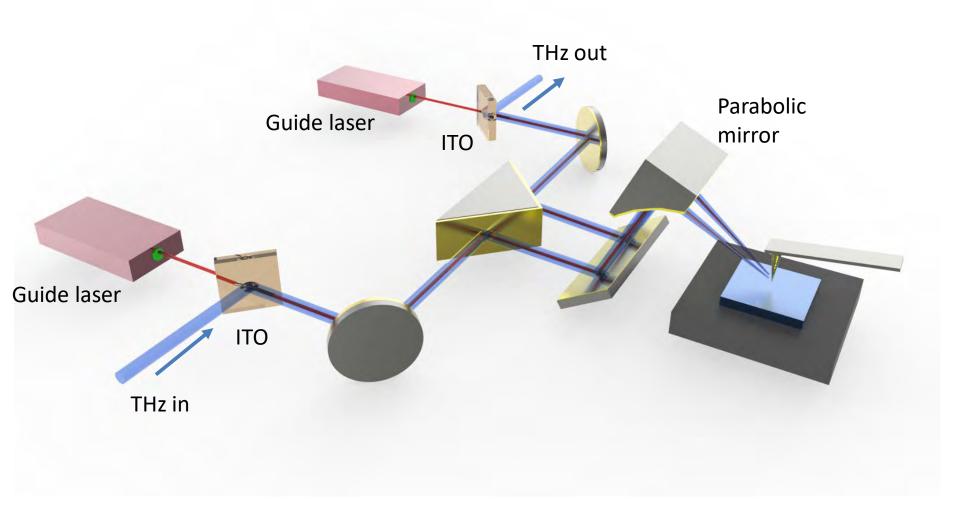
The metallic phase is shown in cyan and the insulating phase is in red.

(a)–(f) 5  $\mu$ m×5  $\mu$ m checkerboard patterns at (a) 313, (b) 326, (c) 332, (d) 336, (e) 338, and (f) 373 K.

(g)–(I) 1.5  $\mu$ m×1.5  $\mu$ m checkerboard patterns on the same sample, at (g) 300, (h) 320, (i) 325, (j) 335, (k) 345, and (l) 350 K. The smaller scale of the pattern shown in (g)–(I) exhibits straininduced confinement effects, especially in the fully bounded UE regions (UEb).



#### THz s-SNOM







#### THz s-SNOM: Nanoimaging of graphene

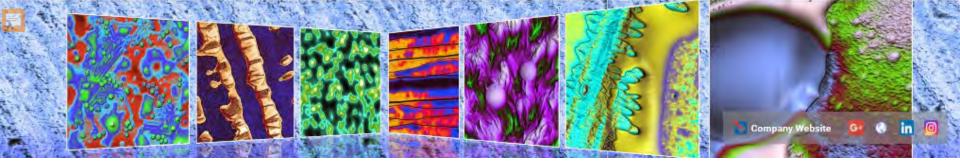
Figure 2. (a, b) AFM topography and THz near-field ( $S_2$ ) mapping of graphene on SiO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The numbers of graphene layers are marked in (a), with bare SiO<sub>2</sub> marked as 0. (c, d) AFM and THz near-field ( $S_2$ ) images of a SLG with a gold electrode. The near-field signal in graphene is comparable to that on the thin gold films. (e) Near field THz-TDS signal of SiO<sub>2</sub> (black) and graphene (red). (f) Normalized graphene THz near-field spectrum (to SiO<sub>2</sub>). The inset shows a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) of (e), which is the unnormalized  $S_2$  spectra of graphene (red) and SiO<sub>2</sub> (black).





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