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Shengli Wu

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Xiaoning Zhang

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*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Shengli Wu, Yiwei Liu, Xiaoning Zhang, Can Yang, Linguang Liu, Yaogong Wang, and Gang Niu



西安交通大学  
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY



# Performance Enhancement of Solid State Light Emission Device and Geometrically Confinement of Lighting Dots by Using Patterned Wafer Approaches

Shengli Wu\*, Yiwei Liu, Xiaoning Zhang, Can Yang, Lingguang Liu,  
Yaogong Wang and Gang Niu  
\*Email: [slwu@mail.xjtu.edu.cn](mailto:slwu@mail.xjtu.edu.cn)

Key Lab. for Physical Electronics and Devices of the Ministry of Education,  
Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China



# Outline

- **Background & Motivation**
- **Effect of Si substrate in SSI-LED**
- **SSI-LED on patterned Si-substrate**
- **Summary**



## ➤ Light source requirement for grating displacement sensor

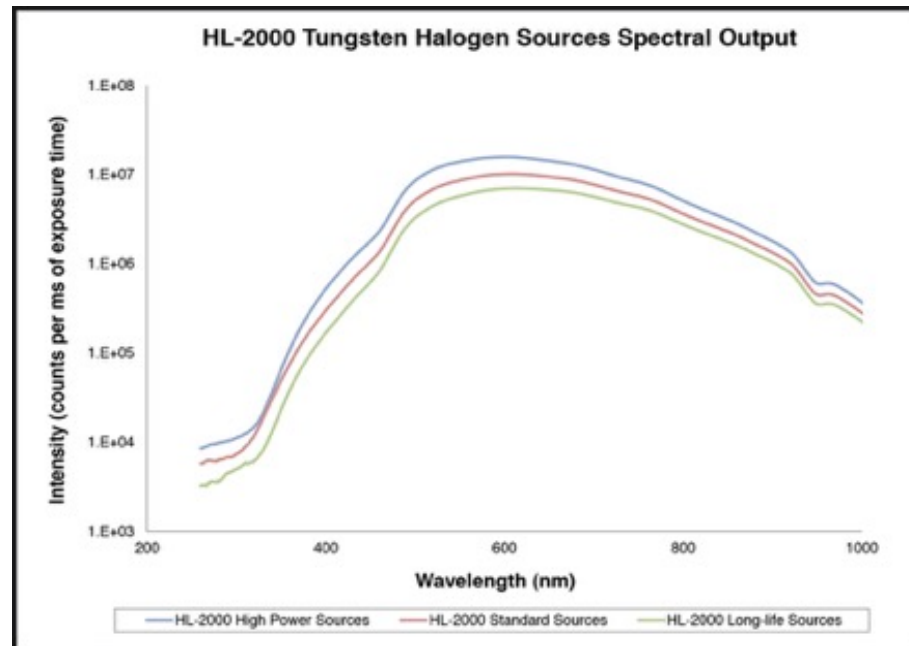
- Continuous spectrum
- Small in size
- Light in weight

Typical source used before:

Tungsten Halogen Lamp

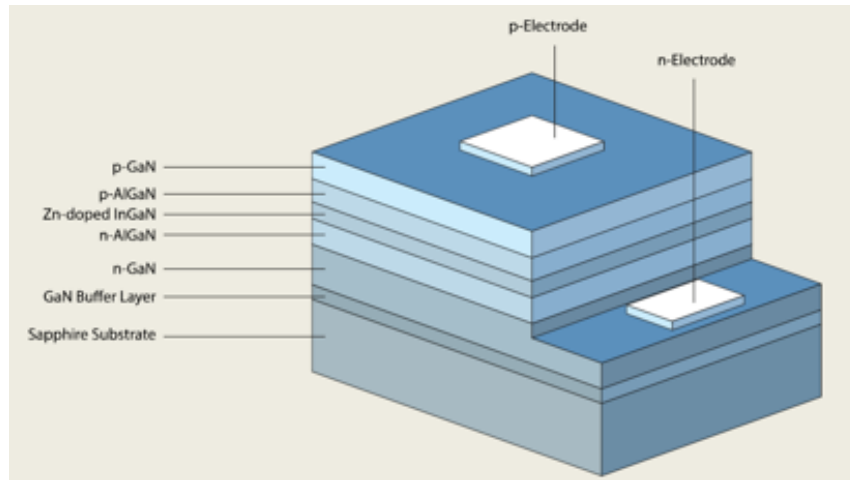


Real photos



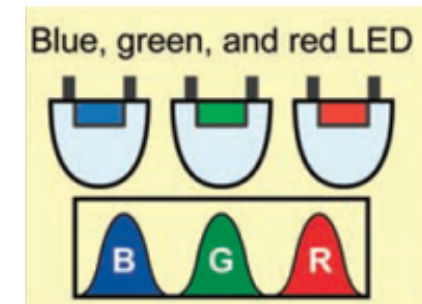
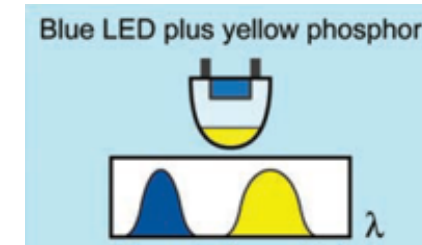
Luminescence spectrum

## ➤ Conventional LED



(Shuji Nakamura, et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 1994)

White light



(E. Fred Schubert, et al. Science 2005)

### Obtain white light

- Blue LED+Yellow phosphor
- R+G+B LEDs

### Disadvantages

- Complicated structure
- Narrow light spectrum (peaks)
- Low light intensity at red side



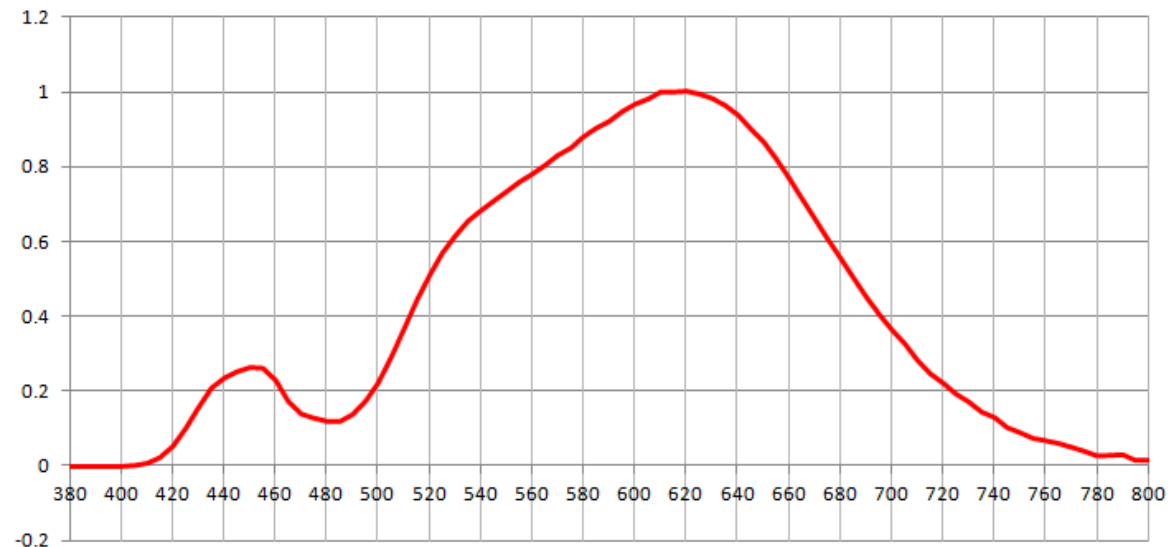
## ➤ Improvement of Luminescence spectrum for LED

### LED:

- Small in size
- Light in weight



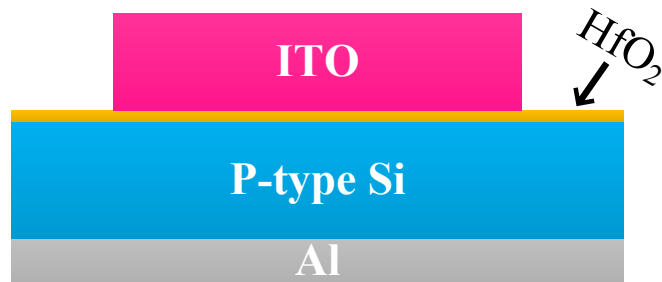
Luminescence spectrum need to be improved



LED lamp & Its spectrum after adjusting the ratio of red phosphor



## ➤ Solid State Incandescent Light Emitting Device (SSI-LED)

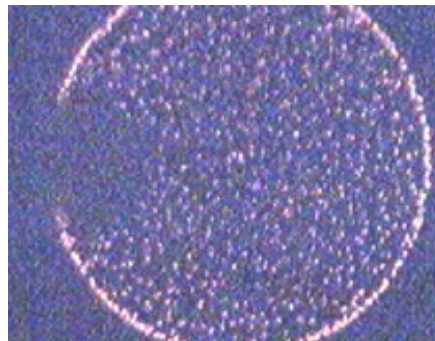


MOS structure

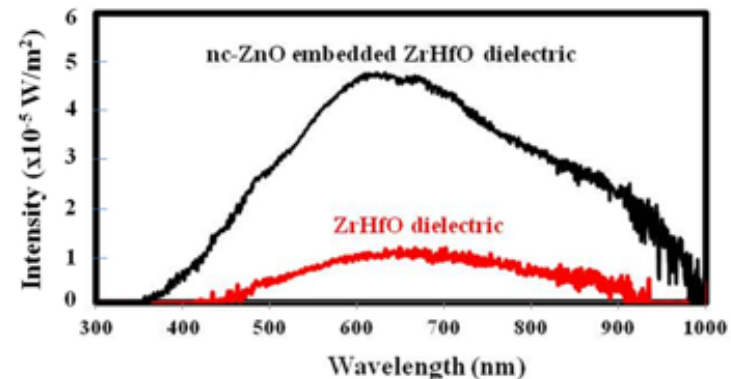
- **Broad band spectrum**
- **Light emission layer:**
  - ✓ **HfO<sub>2</sub>** (key material)
  - ✓ **HfO<sub>2</sub> + other materials**



Low resolution photo



Discrete lighting source



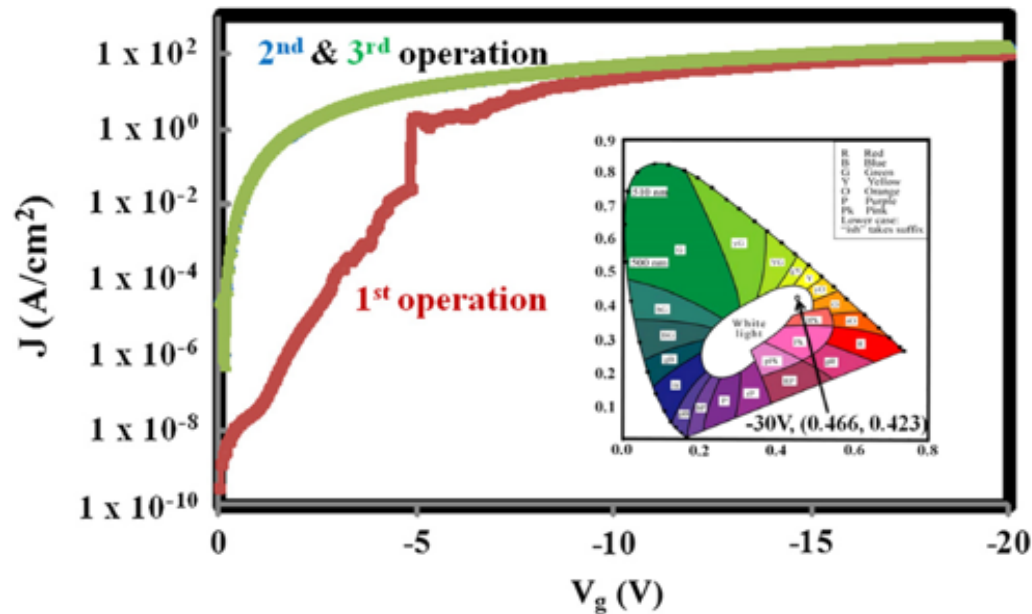
Emission spectra (broad band)

(Y Kuo, et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 2013)

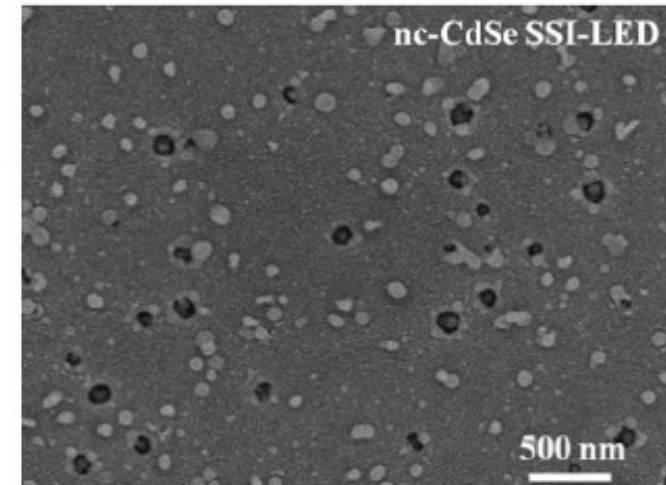




## ➤ Mechanism of SSI-LED



(Y Kuo, et al. Solid State Electronics. 2013)

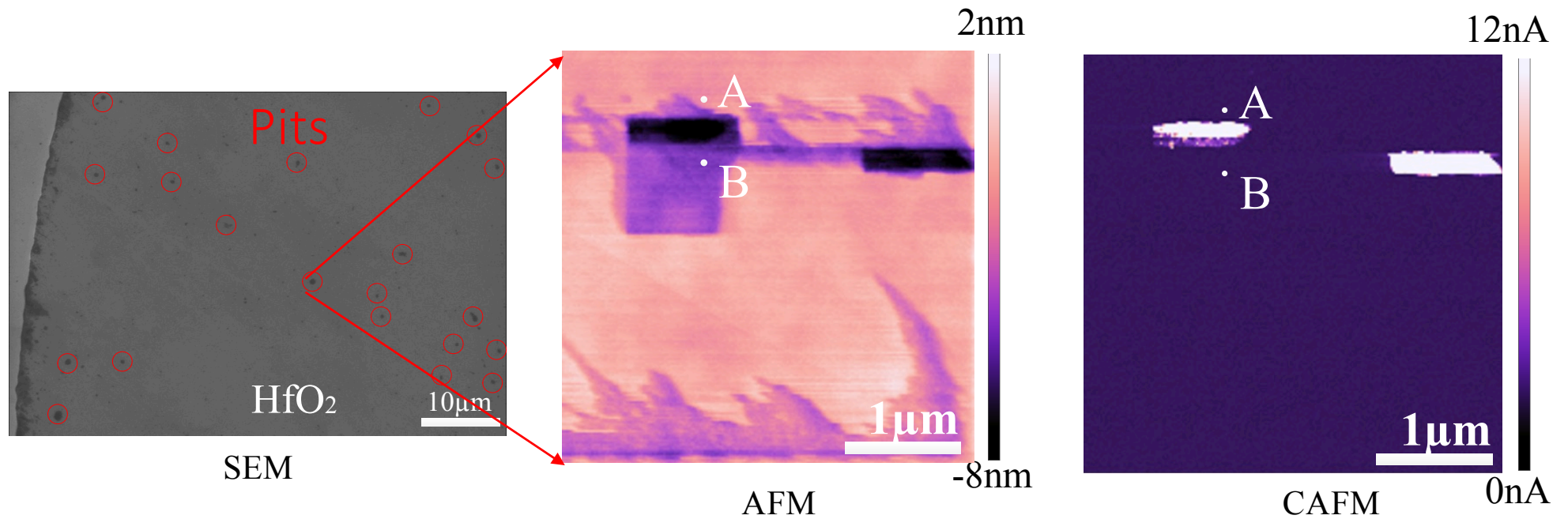


(Y Kuo, et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 2015)

**Luminescence comes from thermal excitation of current flowing through conductive filaments (CF).**



## ➤ Mechanism of SSI-LED

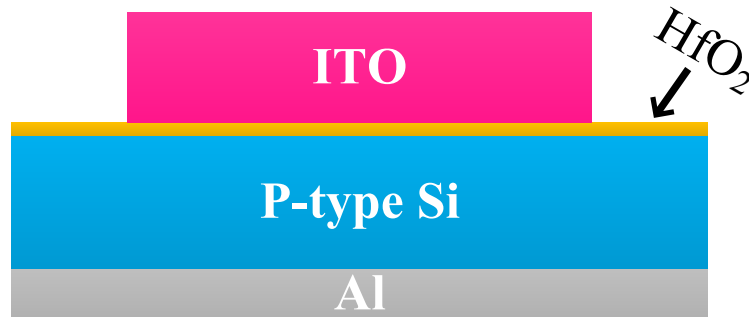


(Y Liu, et al. Nanotechnology. 2017)

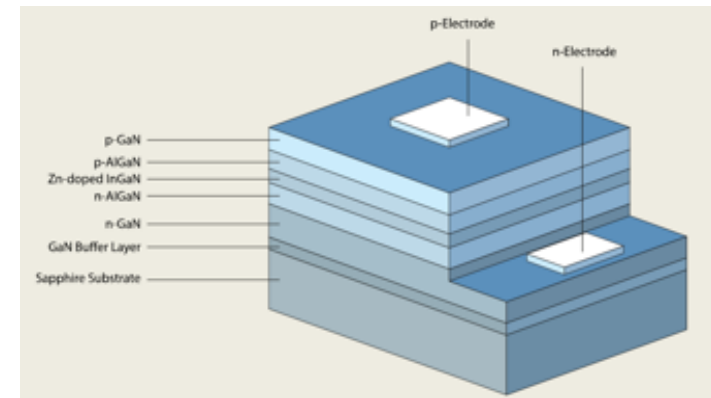
**The conductive material in the pits is the conductive filament.**



## ➤ SSI-LED vs LED



SSI-LED



LED

### Advantages of SSI-LEDs

- Simple MOS capacitor structure
- Light emission spectrum: from visible to IR ranges
- Low cost
- IC compatible processes



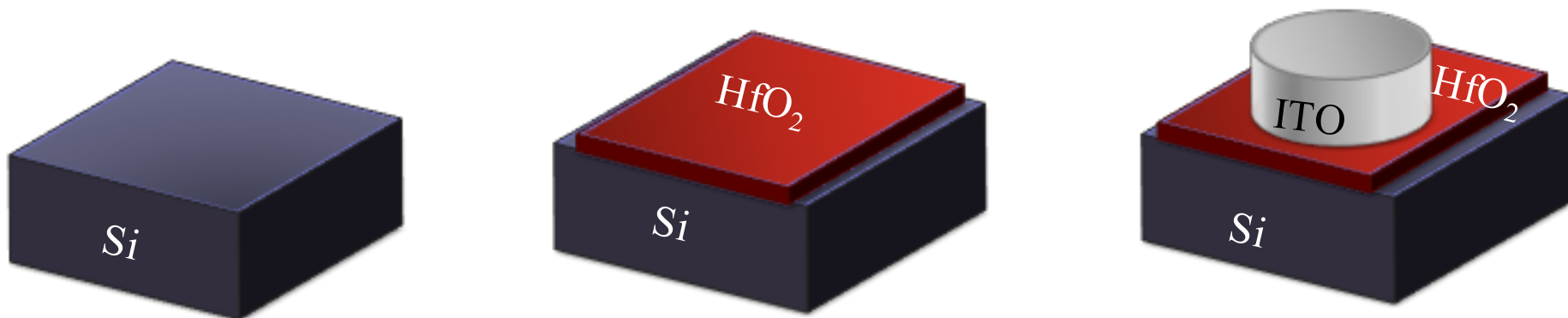
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- **Effect of Si substrate in SSI-LED**
- SSI-LED on patterned Si-substrate
- Summary



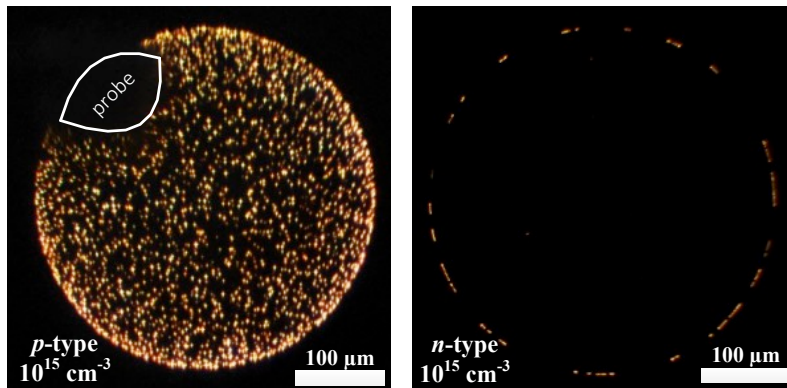
## ➤ Fabrication process of SSI-LED

- Substrate cleaning: BOE solution (60s); acetone(5min); ethyl alcohol(5min)
- High-k layer: Sputtering Hf target, Ar:O<sub>2</sub>=20:20, 100W, RT, 600 s
- ITO electrode: Sputtering ITO target, Ar:O<sub>2</sub>=20:0, 70W, RT, 600 s
- ITO etching: aqua regia, 20s
- RTA: N<sub>2</sub>, 400°C, 5min

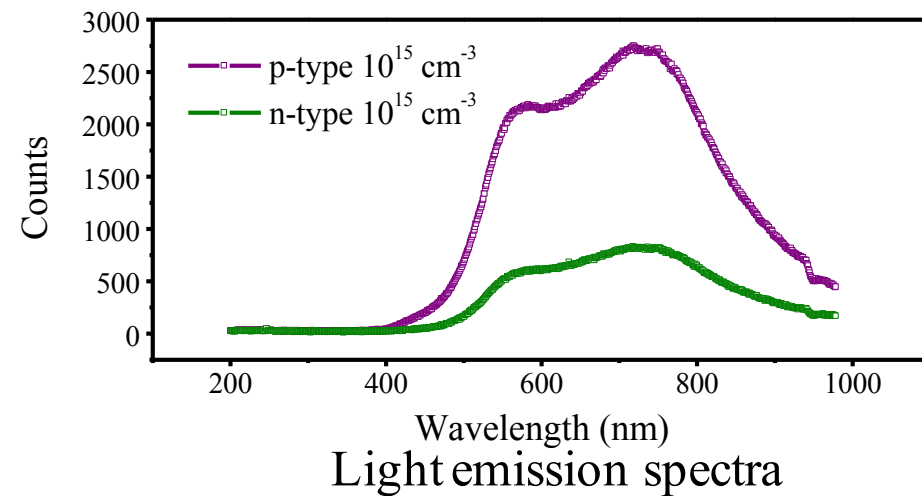


## ➤ Effect of Si substrate doping type (p-Si & n-Si)

### • Characteristics of light emission



Light emission photos

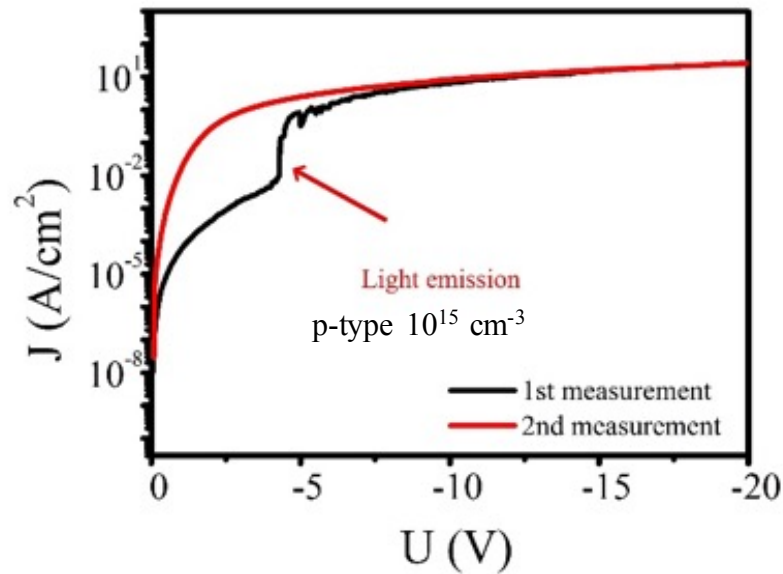


- ✓ More lighting dots in p-Si device
- ✓ Brighter light generated in p-Si device

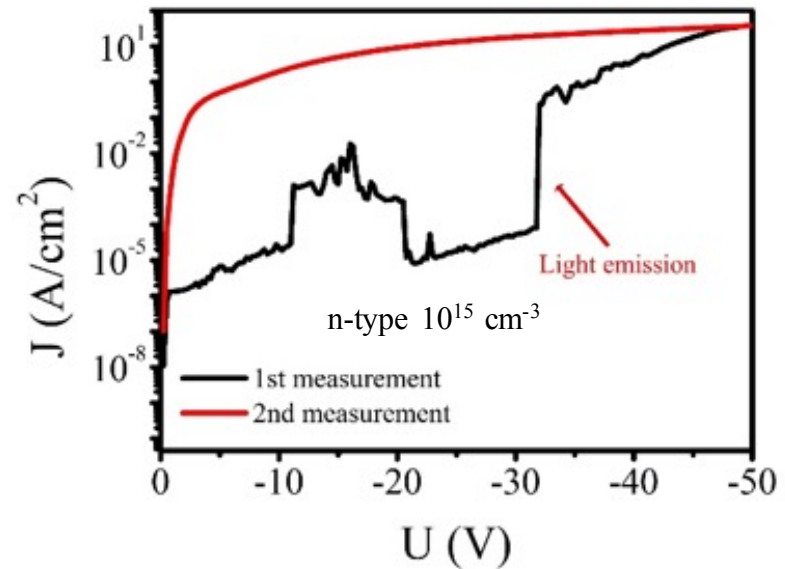


- **Electrical properties**

J-V curve



J-V curve

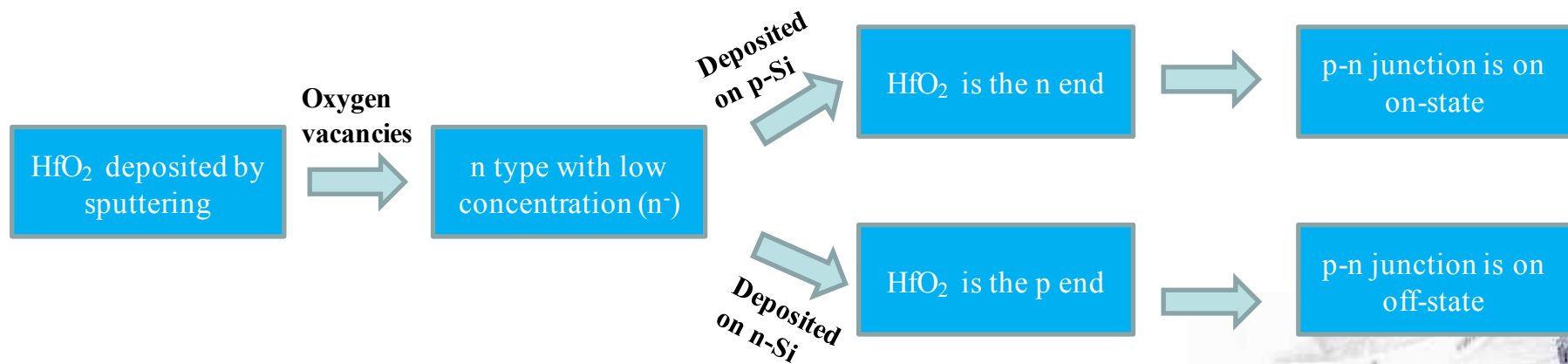
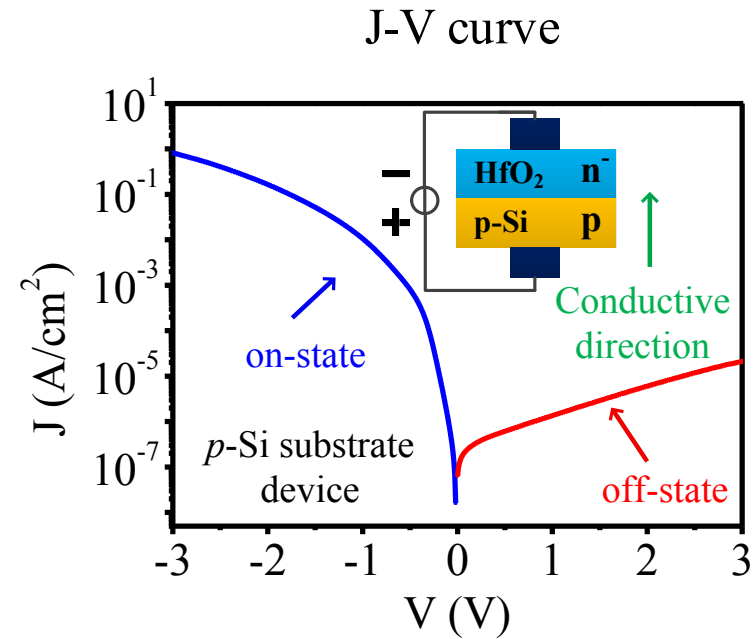
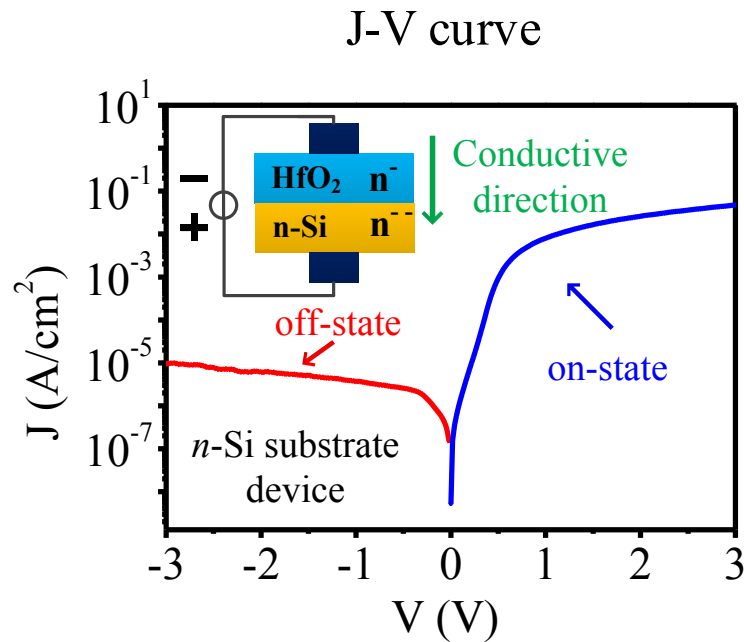


**p-Si substrate:**

- ✓ Lower breakdown and working voltage
- ✓ More suitable for SSI-LED than n-Si

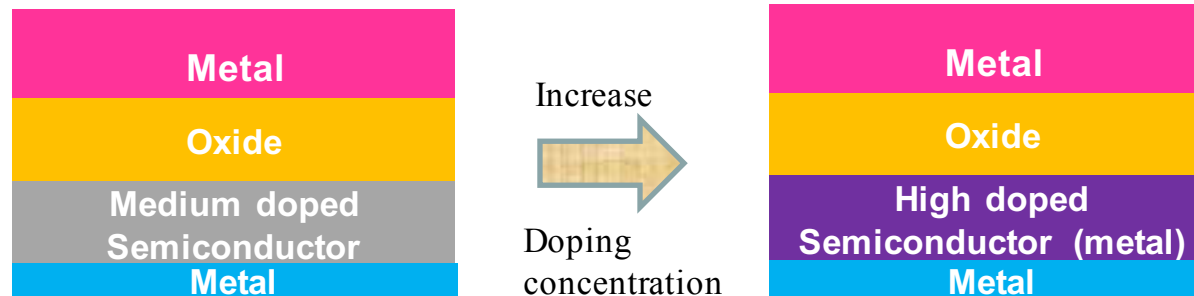
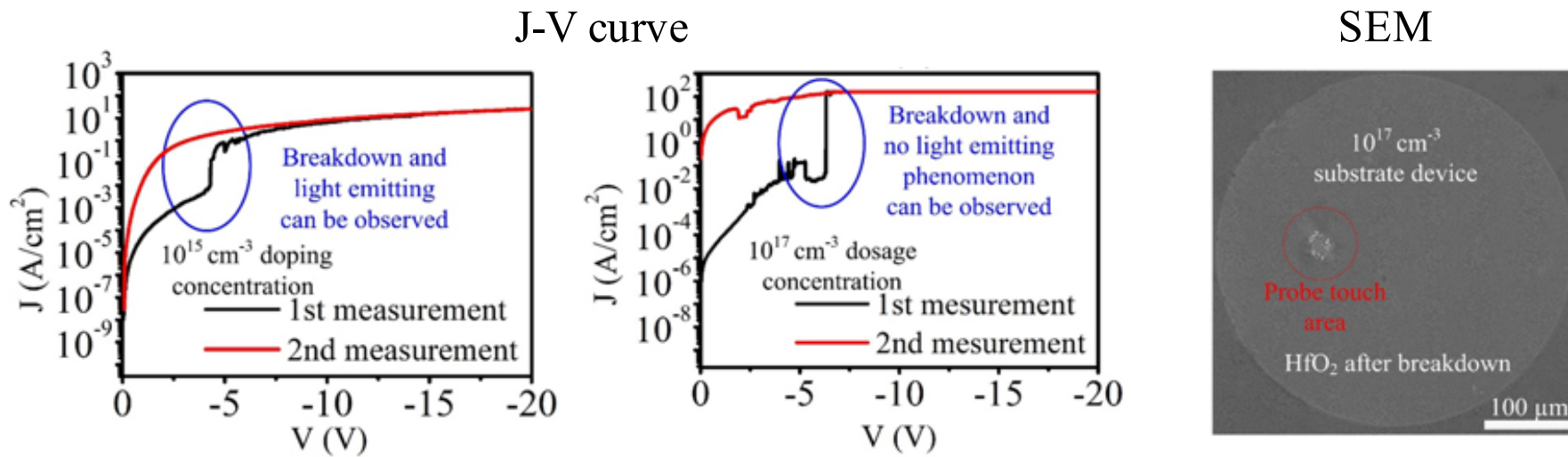


# Effect of Si substrate in SSI-LED





## ➤ Effect of doping concentrations of Si substrate



✓ P- $10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  is the optimization parameter of Si substrate for SSI-LED.



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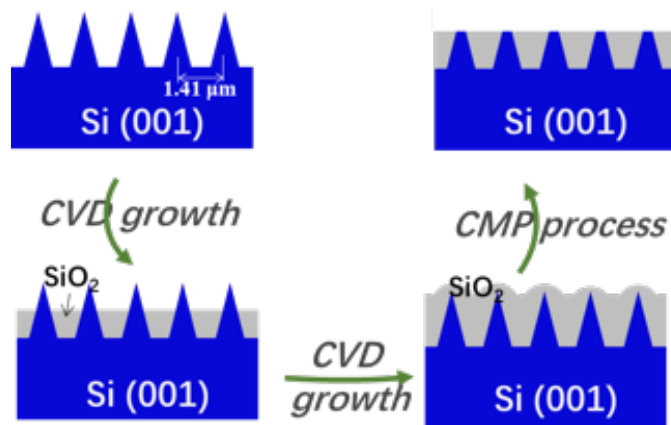
## ➤ Si substrates patterned in 2 different process

Electric field applied on  $\text{HfO}_2$  can be enhanced by the patterned wafer

### ❑ Wet-etching process

Tetramethylammonium Hydroxide (TMAH) solution at room temperature by standing wet-etching. (distribution cannot be controlled)

### ❑ CMOS process



**Si tips:** Advanced lithography and reaction-ion-etching technologies

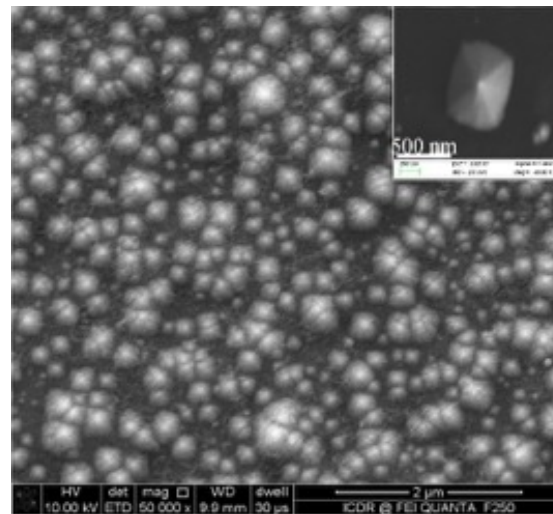
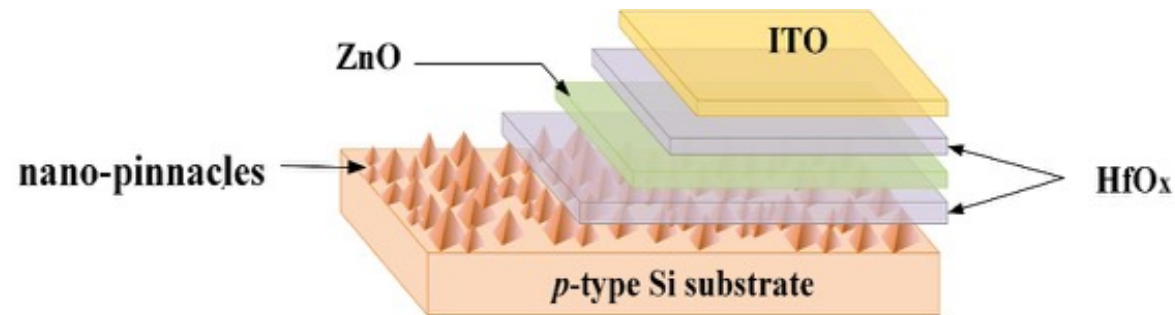
**$\text{SiO}_2$  layer:** CVD method

**Stripes:** Chemical mechanical polishing process

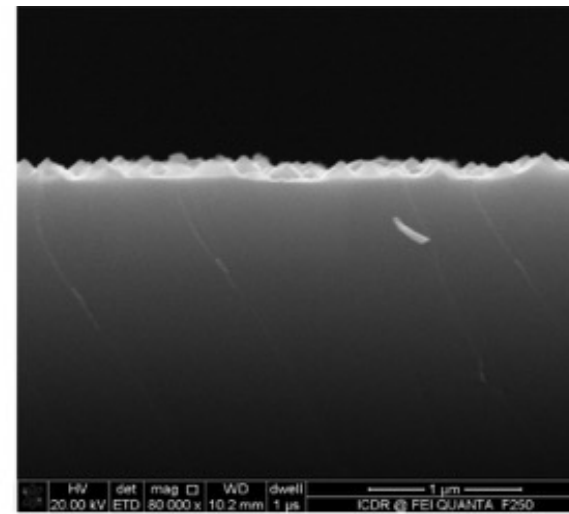


## ➤ Si substrate patterned randomly using wet-etching process (1)

### • Device structure



SEM: surface

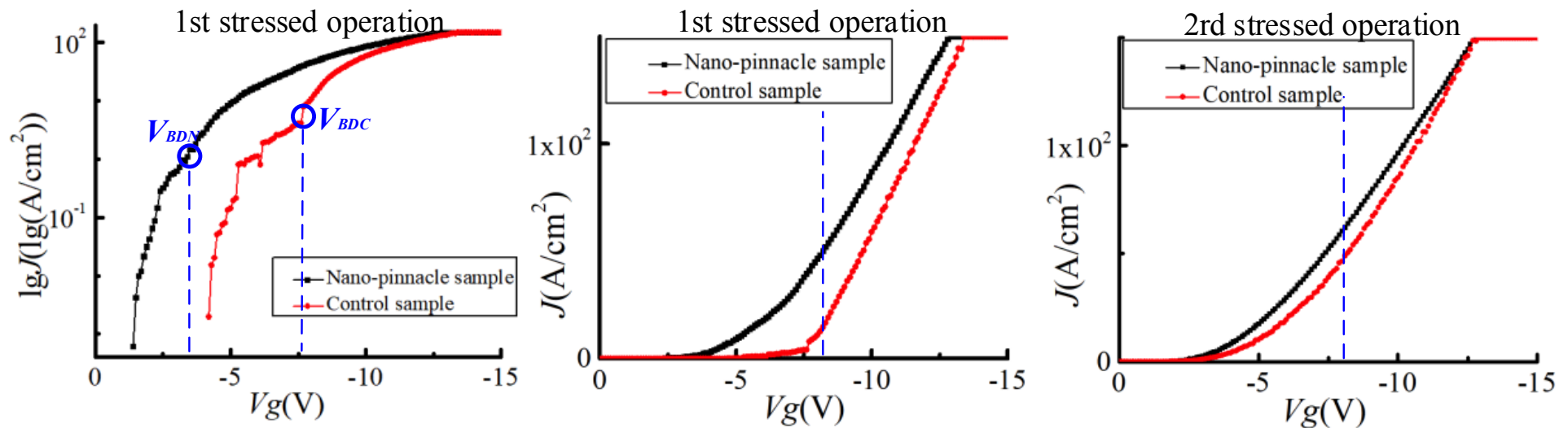


SEM: section



## ➤ Si substrate patterned randomly using wet-etching process (2)

### • Electrical characteristic



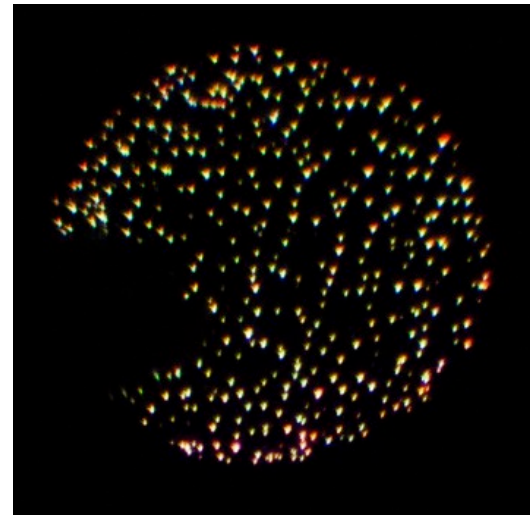
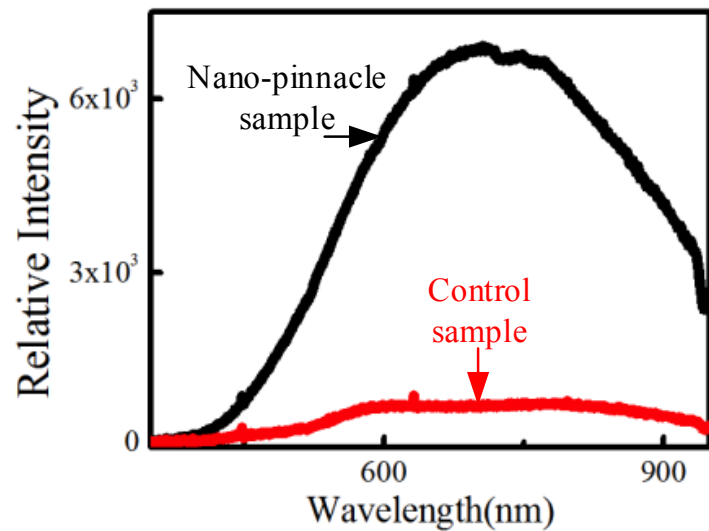
J-V curves of the nano-pinnacles substrate and reference device

**The nano-pinnacles substrate device has a lower breakdown voltage and larger working current density than the reference device.**

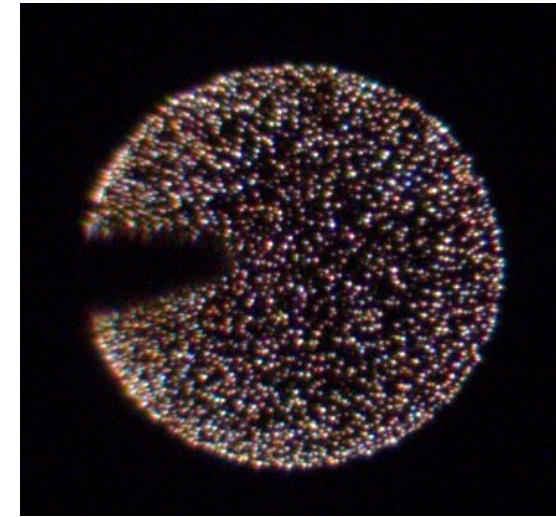


## ➤ Si substrate patterned randomly using wet-etching process (3)

### • Optical characteristic



Control sample



Nano-pinnacle sample

Lighting spectrum and photo of the nano-pinnacles substrate and reference device

### Lighting dot density:

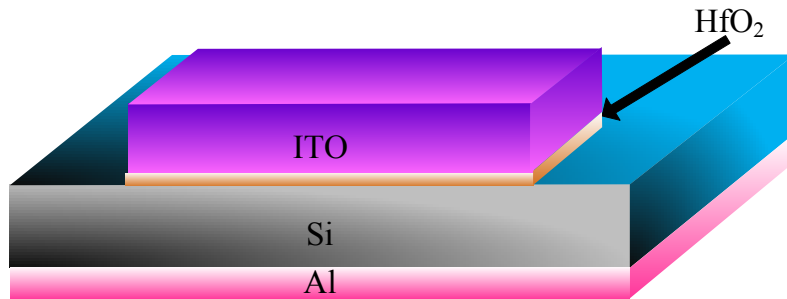
$0.8 \times 10^3/\text{cm}^2$  (reference device) and  $6.9 \times 10^3/\text{cm}^2$  (nano-pinnacles device)

**More lighting dots and brighter in nano-pinnacles substrate device.**

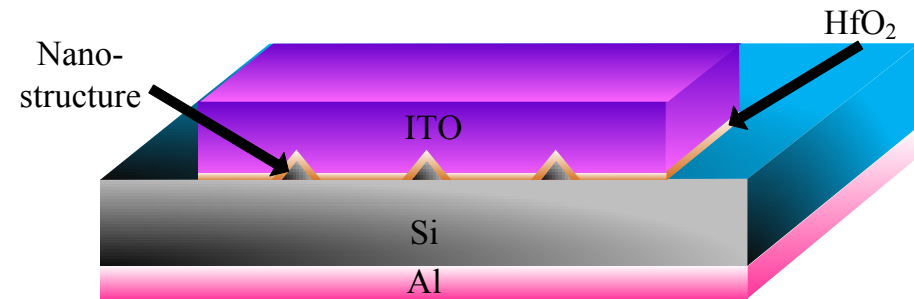


## ➤ Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (1)

### • Device structure

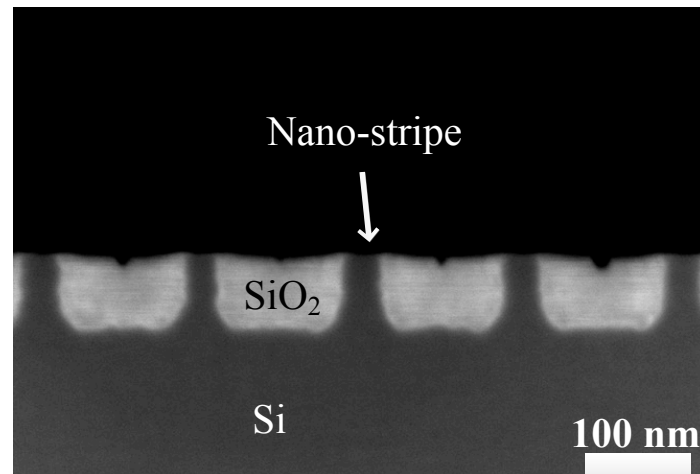


Reference sample

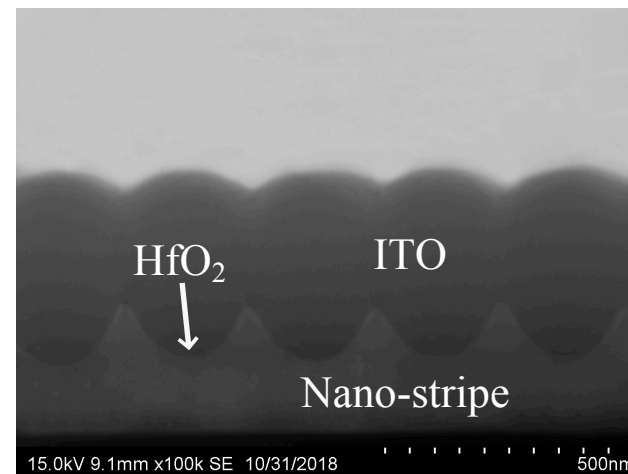


Nano-structure device

### SEM image



Only substrate



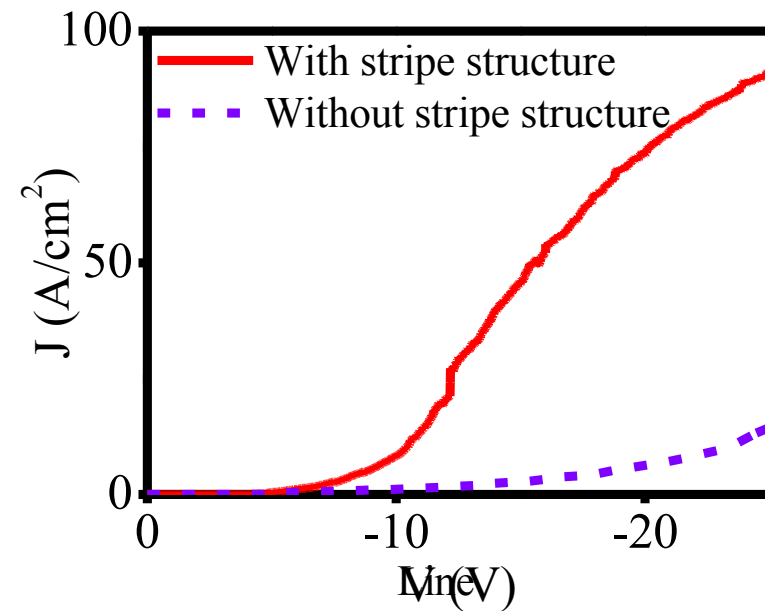
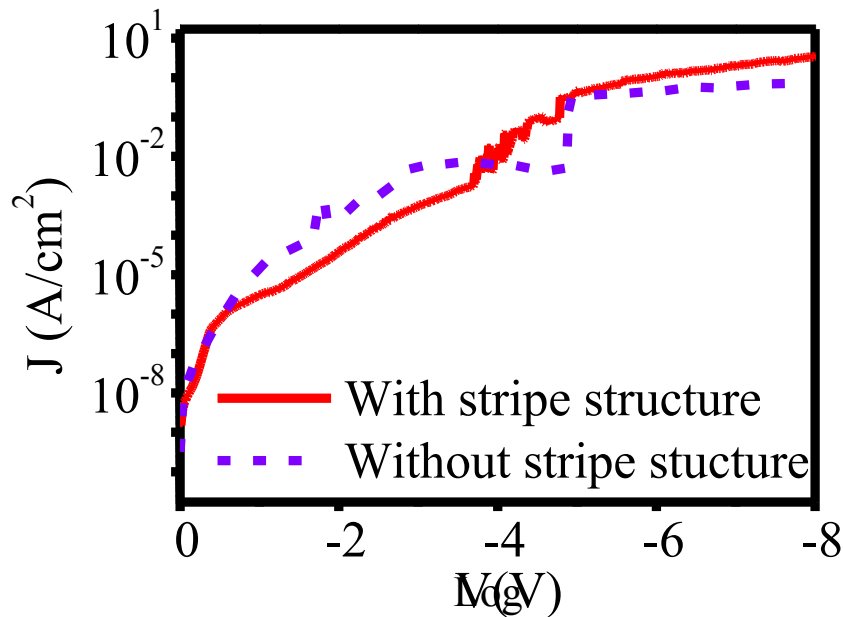
Substrate and device

Parameter of nano-stripe:  
Height: 100 nm  
Width: 150 nm  
Interval: 100 nm



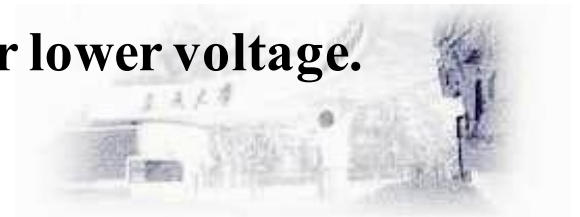
## ➤ Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (2)

- **Electrical characteristic**



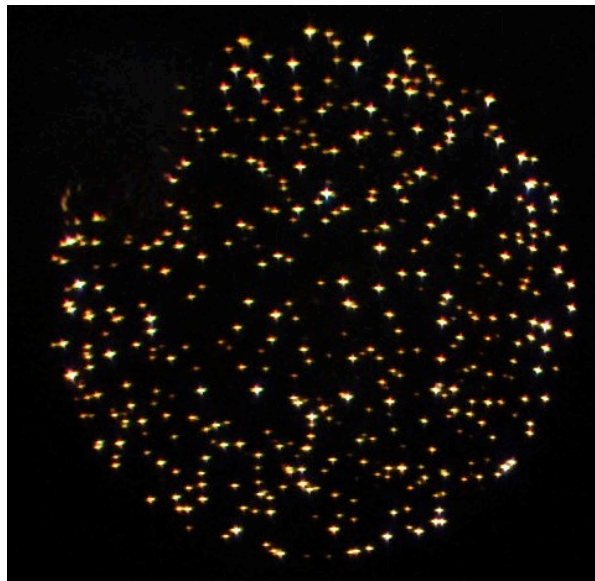
J-V curves of the nano-stripe substrate and reference device

**Nano-stripe device can breakdown and work under lower voltage.**

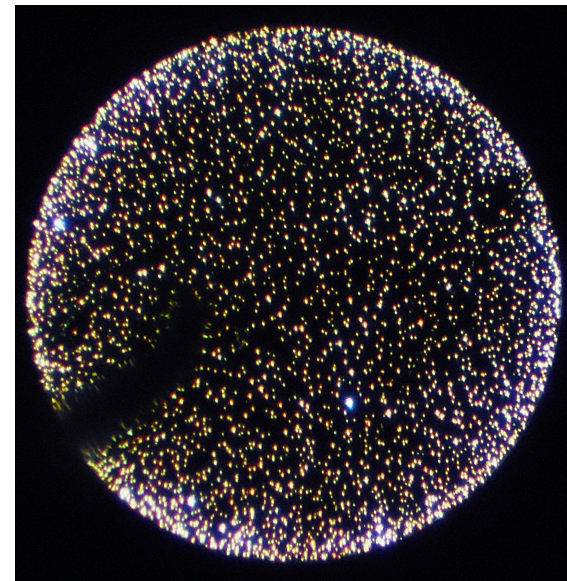




- Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (3)
  - Optical characteristic



Reference sample



Nano-stripe device

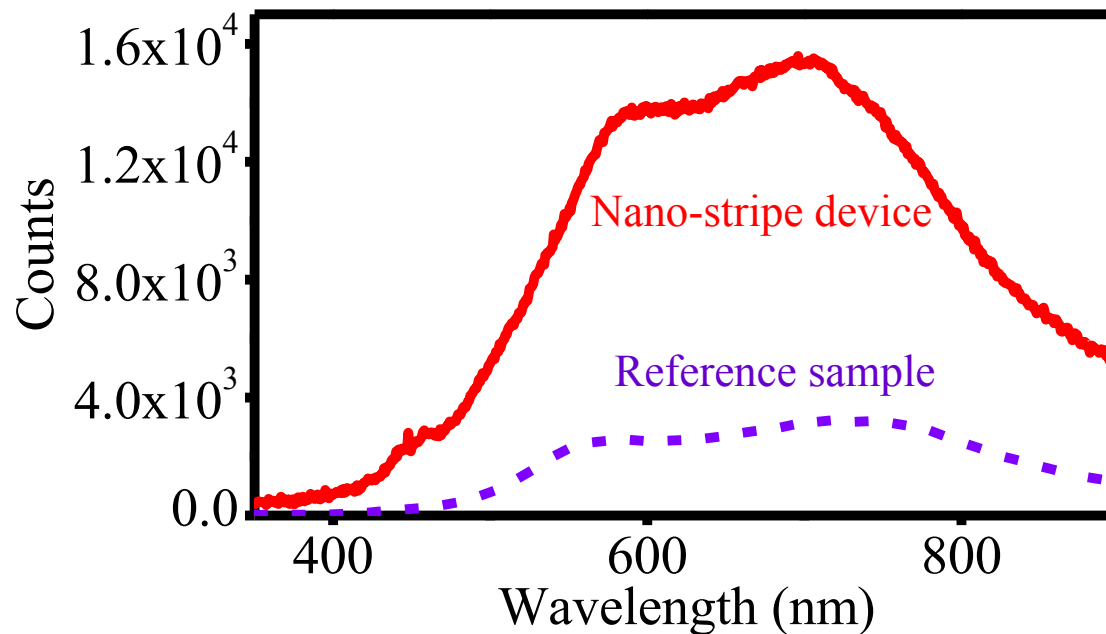
Lighting photo of the nano-stripe substrate and reference device

**Lighting dot density:  $2.66 \times 10^6/\text{cm}^2$  vs  $2.02 \times 10^7/\text{cm}^2$**   
**Lighting dots still distribute in a random way.**



## ➤ Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (4)

- **Optical characteristic**



**More lighting dots and stronger light generated in nano-stripe device**

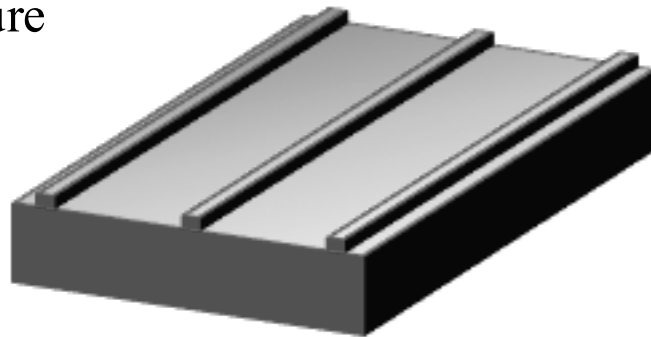
Lighting spectra of nano-stripe and reference device

**The properties of SSI-LED are improved by using nano-stripe substrate  
Distribution of lighting dots still can not be controlled.**

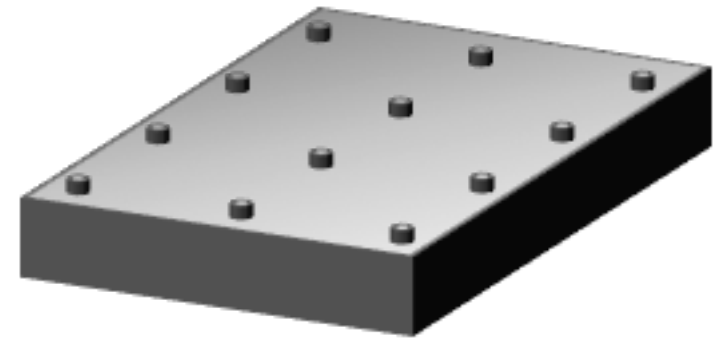


- Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (5)
  - Micrometer size stripe substrate device

Substrate structure

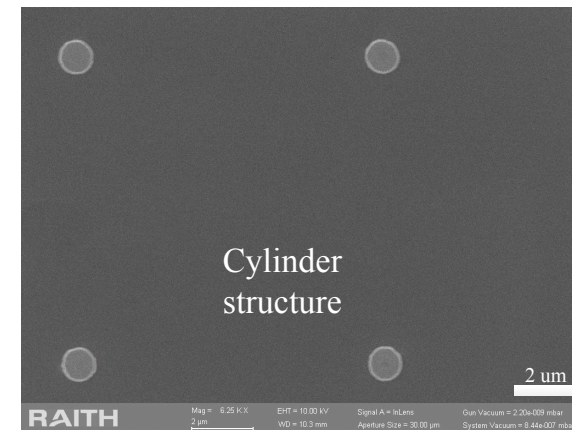
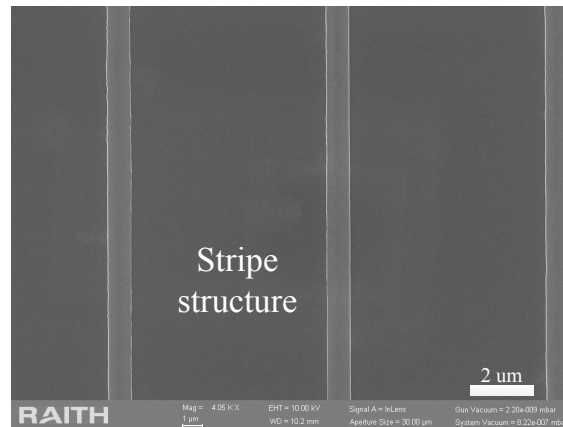


1  $\mu$  m width, 8  $\mu$  m interval

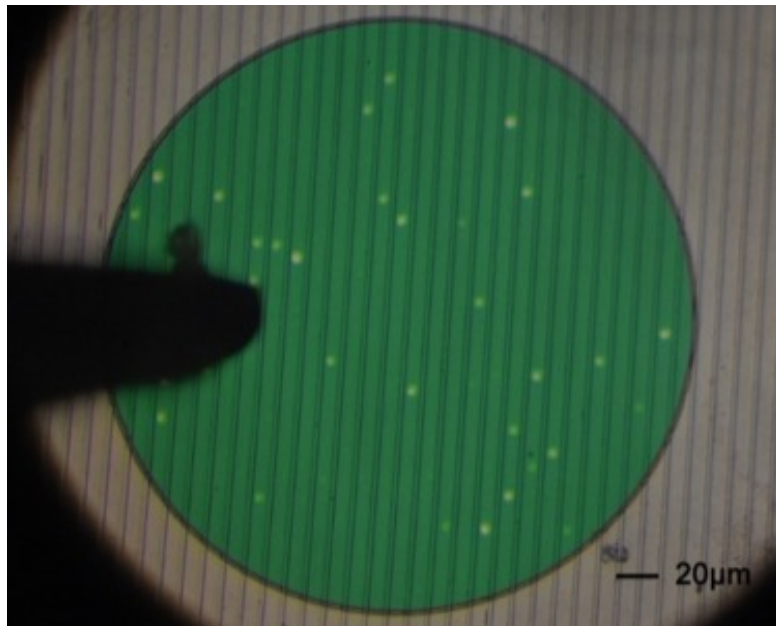


1  $\mu$  m diameter, 8  $\mu$  m interval

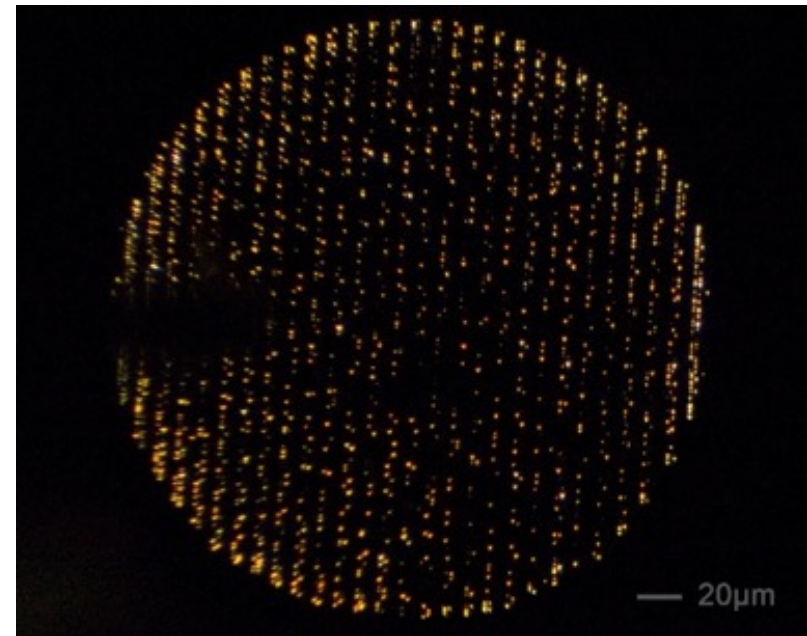
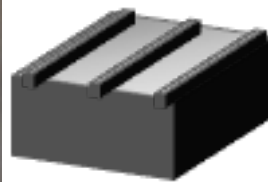
SEM image



- Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (6)
  - Micrometer size stripe substrate device



Before lighting

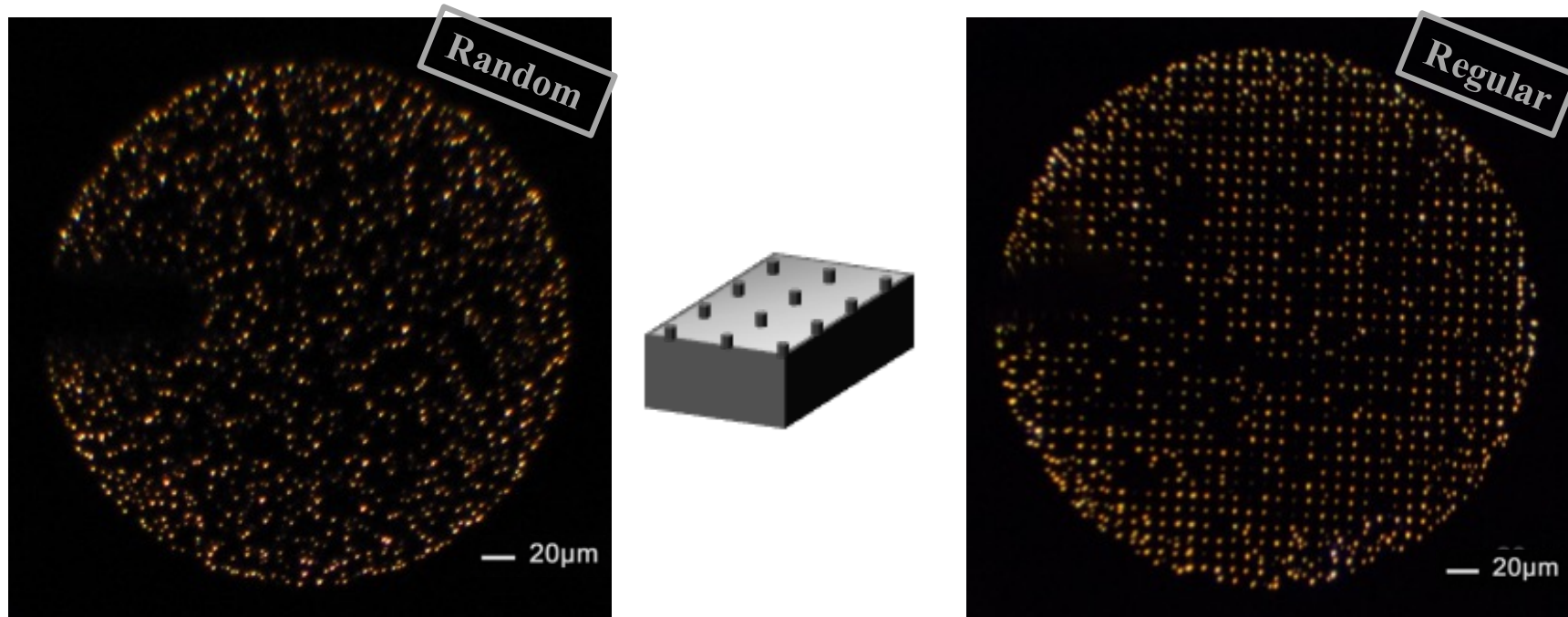


lighting

Lighting photos of the micrometer size stripe substrate device



- Si substrate patterned regularly using CMOS processing (6)
- Micrometer size stripe substrate device



Lighting photo of the micrometer size cylinder substrate and reference device

**Generally conductive filaments appear randomly. For devices fabricated on substrates with micrometer size structure, the arrangement of bright dots coincides with the nanostructure array on the substrate.**



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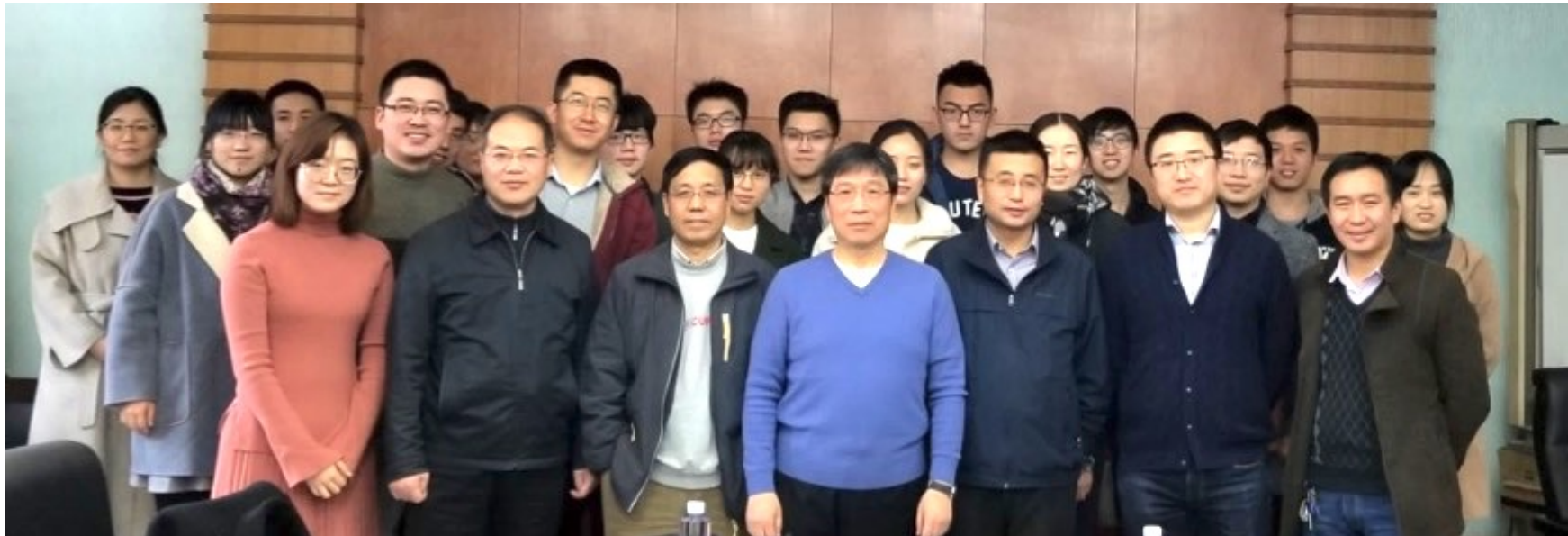
- The doping type and concentration of Si substrate has significant effects on performance of the device. The  $p\text{-}10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  Si wafer is a superior substrate candidate for the SSI-LEDs.
- The electrical and optical characteristics of SSI-LED were optimized with the use of two nanometer size structures, nano-pyramid and nano-stripe, fabricated on Si substrate.
- The surface structure patterned regularly on substrate with a micro-meter size has been verified to be in great capacity for the lighting dots distribution control.



# Acknowledgements

**Thanks to Prof. Y. Kuo for many helpful discussions.**

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**Thank you for your kind attention!**

