3G rule for attending in person lectures at KIT:



geimpft – vaccinated

genesen – recovered

getestet – tested



"Solar Energy" WS 2021/2022

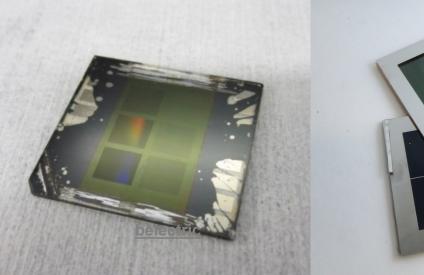
Lecture 15: Light management

Tenure-Track-Prof. Dr. Ulrich W. Paetzold

Institute of Microstructure Technology (IMT), Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen Light Technology Institute (LTI), Engesserstrasse 13, Building 30.34, 76131 Karlsruhe

KIT Focus Optics & Photonics





KIT – Universität des Landes Baden-Württemberg und nationales Forschungszentrum in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

Parts of the material used here have been kindly provided by Prof. T. Kirchartz, and Dr. D. Cheyns.

... nice picture! But ...





... nice picture! But it should look like this!





OUTLINE



Light matters for PV

- Light & solar cell operation principle
- Optics losses and their relation to the power conversion efficiency
- State-of-the-art light management in Si solar cells
 - Reducing light reflection
 - Light trapping
 - Avoiding shading and area losses
- Nanophotonic light management concepts
 - Nanophotonic light management in thin film Si solar cells
 - Nanophotonic light management in perovskite solar cells

What is light?



"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void;

and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Genesis, Chapter 1

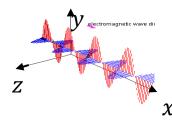
But what God @ really said was much more complex:

Light is a wave



$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \qquad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \qquad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} + \vec{J}$$

Maxwell



Wave properties: EM radiation has a wave like behavior

... but light is a particle

$$\vec{E} = E_{max} \cos(k x - \omega t) \hat{j}$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{E_{max}}{c} \cos(k x - \omega t) \hat{k}$$



Particle properties:

Light is emitted and absorbed as discrete packets of energy, i.e. quanta, called photons

Solar cell: Operating principle



Solar cell as a diode:

Principles:

Light management

Jsc

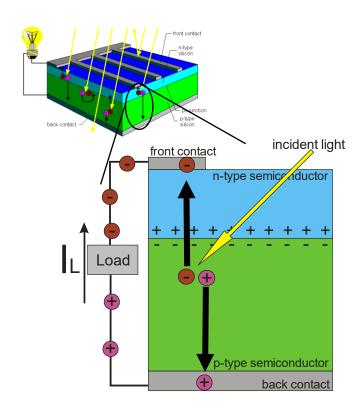
- 1. The active layer absorbs incident light
- 2. Charge carriers are created

Voc

FF

- 3. The p and n carriers are separated by the structural asymmetry (doping difference)
- 4. Collection of the separated carriers and the contacts

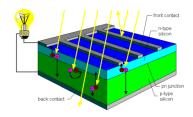
Electron management



Solar Cell Performance parameters



J_{sc}, V_{oc} and FF

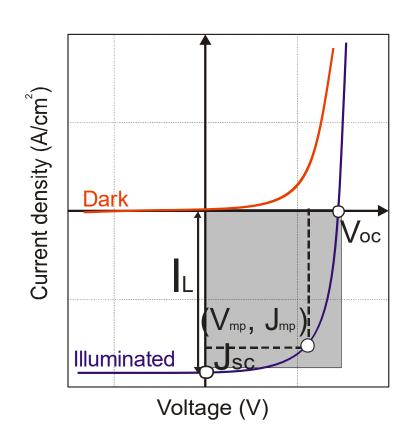


Fill factor

$$FF = \frac{V_{mp} \cdot J_{mp}}{V_{oc} \cdot J_{sc}}$$

Efficiency

$$\eta = \frac{V_{mp} \cdot J_{mp}}{P_{in}} = \frac{V_{oc} \cdot J_{sc} \cdot FF}{P_{in}}$$

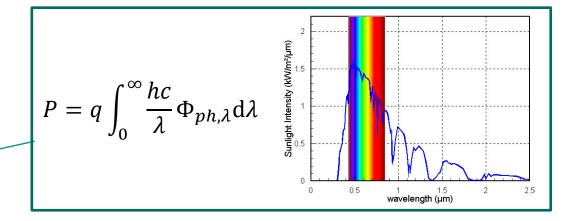


Solar Cell Performance parameters



Efficiency

$$\eta = \frac{J_{sc} \cdot V_{oc} \cdot FF}{/P_{in}}$$



Open circuit voltage

$$V_{oc} = \frac{k_B T}{q} \cdot \ln \left(\frac{J_{SC}}{J_0} + 1 \right)$$

Fill factor

$$FF \approx \frac{qV_{OC}/k_BT - \ln(0.72 + qV_{OC}/k_BT)}{1 + qV_{OC}/k_BT}$$

Short circuit current density

$$J_{SC} = q \int_0^\infty EQE(\lambda) \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda$$

$$J_{SC} = q \int_0^{E_G} A(\lambda) \, \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda \times$$

optics of the solar cell

Which parameter relates most to optics?

Relates directly to optics/light

Relates indirectly to optics/light

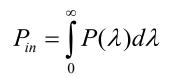
Solar Cell Performance parameters

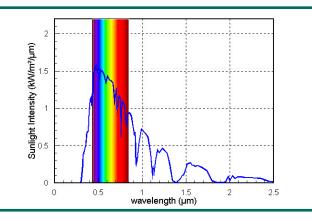


Efficiency

$$\eta = \frac{J_{sc} \cdot V_{oc} \cdot FF}{/P_{in}}$$

Irradiated intensity





Open circuit voltage

$$V_{oc} = \frac{k_B T}{q} \cdot \ln \left(\frac{J_{SC}}{J_0} + 1 \right)$$

Fill factor

$$FF \approx \frac{qV_{OC}/k_BT - \ln(0.72 + qV_{OC}/k_BT)}{1 + qV_{OC}/k_BT}$$

Short circuit current density

$$J_{SC} = -q \int_0^\infty EQE(\lambda) \, \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda$$

$$J_{SC} = -q \int_{0}^{E_G} \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda \times IQE_{opt} \times IQE_{el} \times (1-R) \times \frac{A_f}{A_{tot}}$$

See also textbook p. 136.

Solar Cell Efficiency



If we discriminate the optical aspects in the device we get:

Photons

Charge carrier dynamics

$$\eta = \frac{\int_0^{E_G} \frac{hc}{\lambda} \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda}{\int_0^{\infty} \frac{hc}{\lambda} \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda} \times \frac{E_G \int_0^{E_G} \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda}{\int_0^{E_G} \frac{hc}{\lambda} \Phi_{ph,\lambda} d\lambda} \times IQE_{el} \times (1 - R) \times \frac{A_f}{A_{tot}} \times IQE_{opt} \times \frac{eV_{oc}}{E_G} \times FF$$

OUTLINE

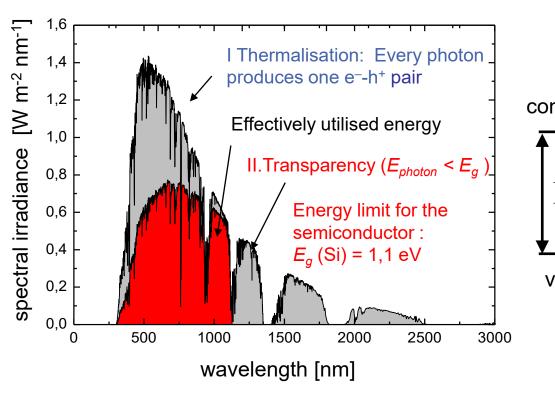


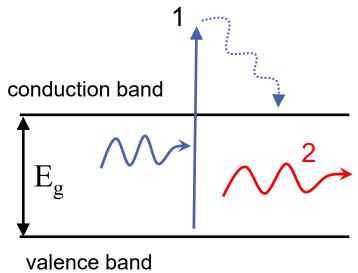
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Solar Cell Efficiency



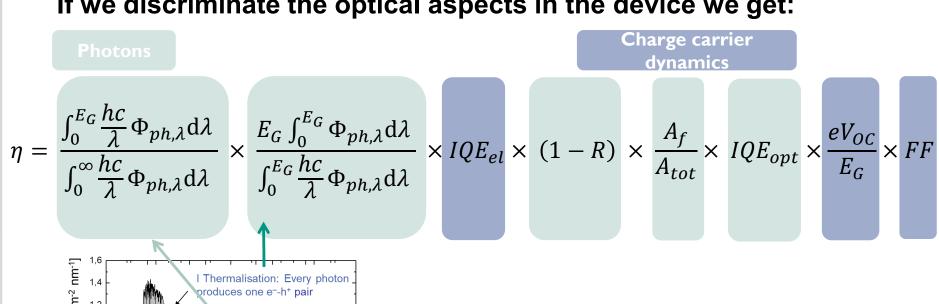


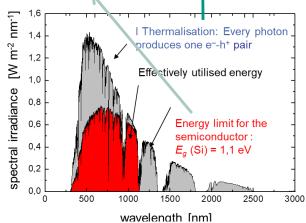


Solar Cell Efficiency



If we discriminate the optical aspects in the device we get:





Termalization loss

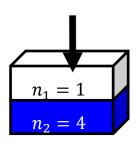
Sub band gap abs. loss



air/Si interface

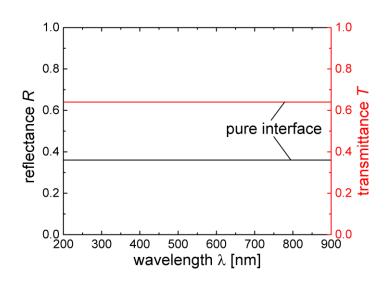
$$n_{air} = 1$$

 $n_{Si} = 4$



$$R = \left(\frac{n_{top} - n_{bot}}{n_{top} + n_{bot}}\right)^{2}$$

$$T = \frac{4n_{top}n_{bot}}{\left(n_{top} + n_{bot}\right)^2}$$

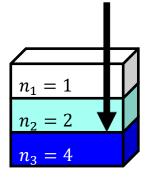


Strategies to overcome:

- 1. Anti reflection coatings
- 2. Microtextures which enforce multiple incidences on the surface
- 3. Nanotextures which induce a gradual matching of the refractive index.

single layer ARC

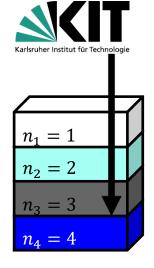
$$n_{air} = 1$$
, $n_{Si} = 4$
 $n_{ARC} = 2$



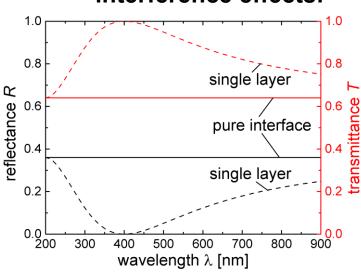
$$n_{ARC} = \sqrt{n_{top} \times n_{bot}}$$

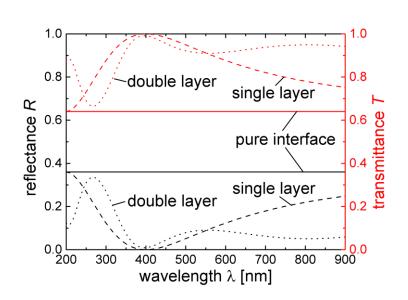
multi-layer ARC

- further improvement



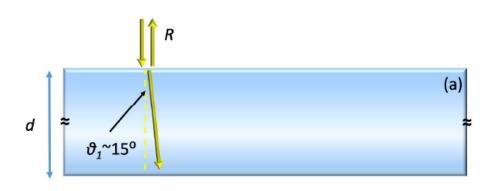


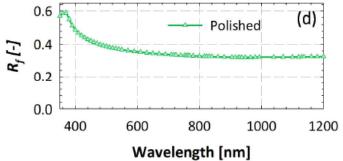




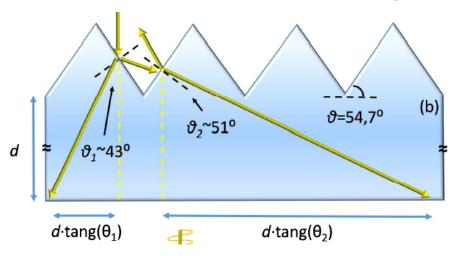


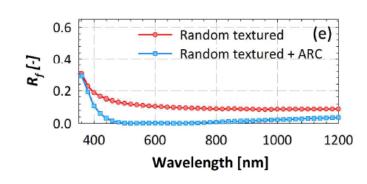
Textured interfaces reduce reflectance by multiple incidences





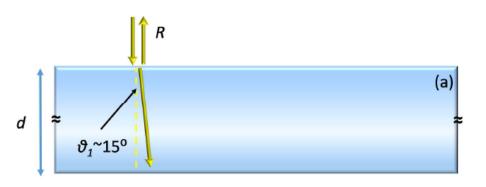
dimension of texture >> wavelength of light

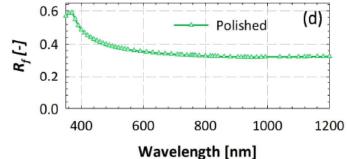




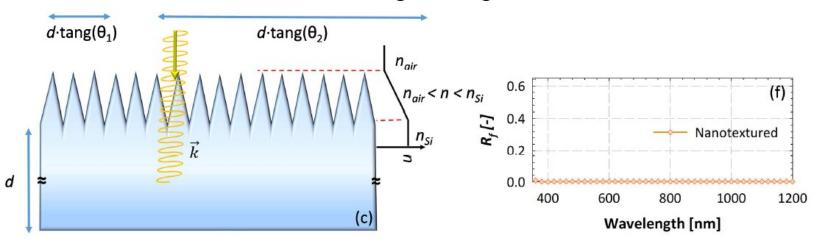


Nanoscale textures can reduce reflectance by "effective medium ARC"





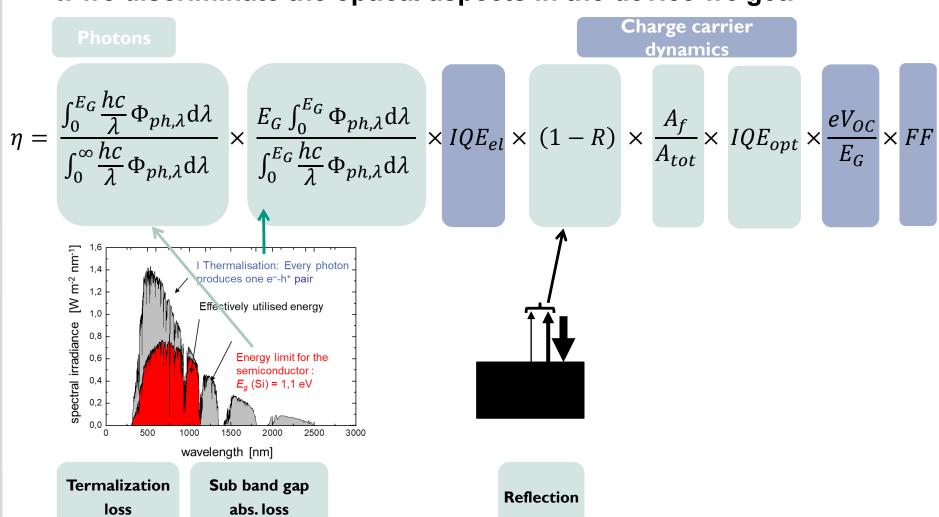
dimension of texture << wavelength of light



Solar Cell Efficiency



If we discriminate the optical aspects in the device we get:



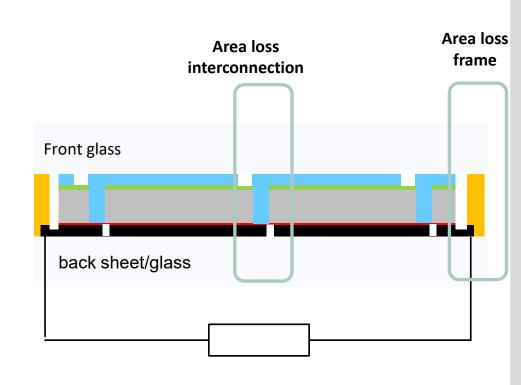
Losses of active area



Silicon solar cell technology

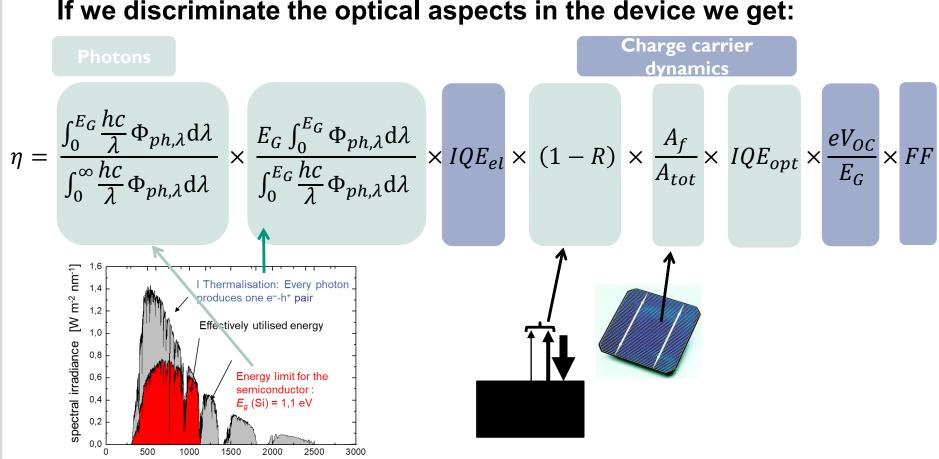
contact fingers busbars Solar Module Solar Cell dead module area frame Solar Panel dead area between modules

Thin-film solar cell technologies



Solar Cell Efficiency





Termalization loss

wavelength [nm]

Sub band gap abs. loss

Reflection

Area loss / shadowing



Lambert-Beer law

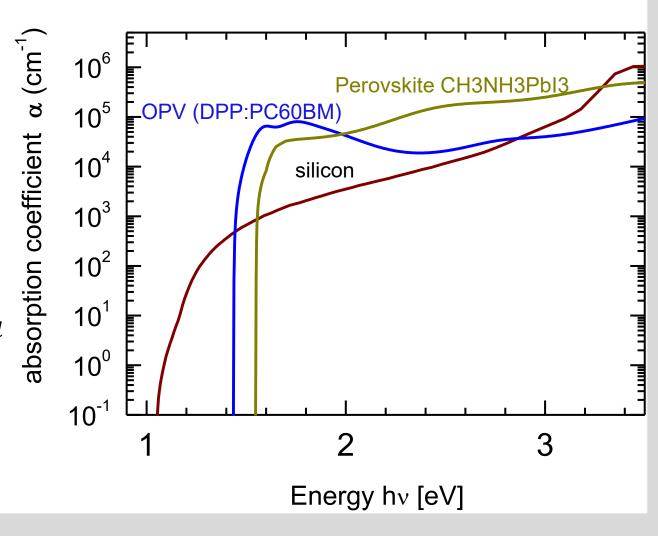
intensity in a medium:

$$I(x) = I_0 e^{-\alpha x}$$

lpha : absorption coefficient

Absorption of a single pass

$$A(E) = 1 - e^{-\alpha(E)d}$$





Lambert-Beer law

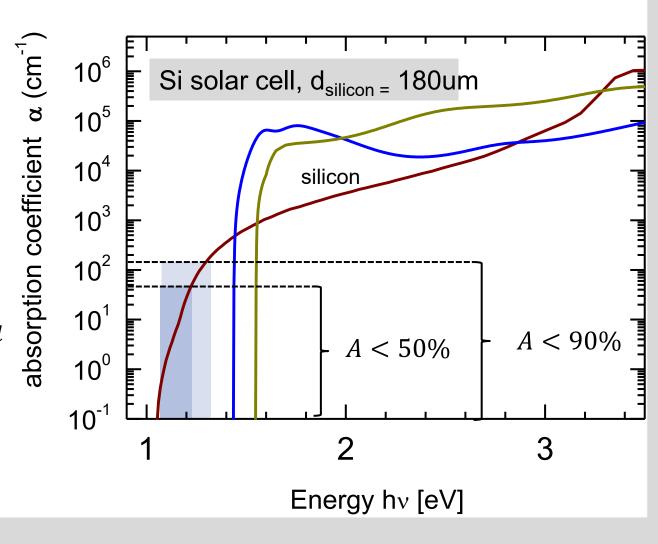
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Lambert-Beer law

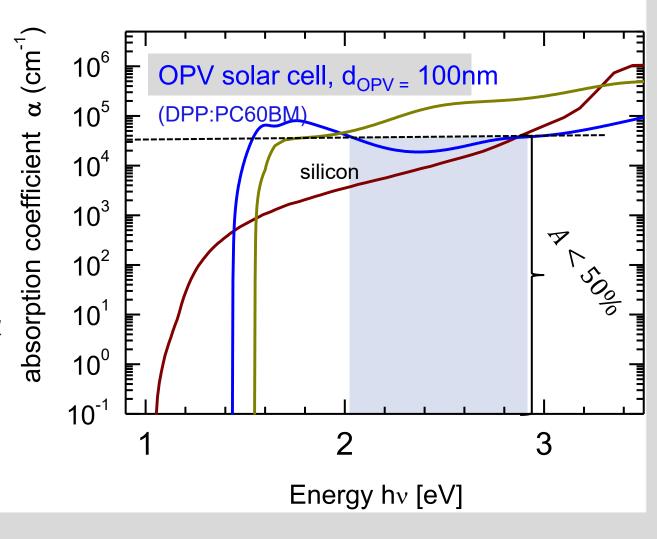
intensity in a medium:

$$I(x) = I_0 e^{-\alpha x}$$

lpha : absorption coefficient

Absorption of a single pass

$$A(E) = 1 - e^{-\alpha(E)d}$$





Lambert-Beer law

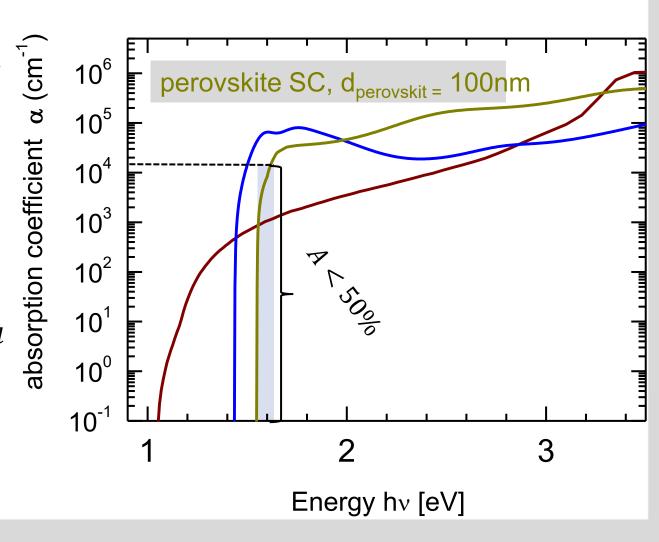
intensity in a medium:

$$I(x) = I_0 e^{-\alpha x}$$

lpha : absorption coefficient

Absorption of a single pass

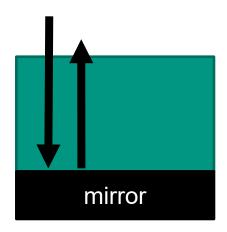
$$A(E) = 1 - e^{-\alpha(E)d}$$





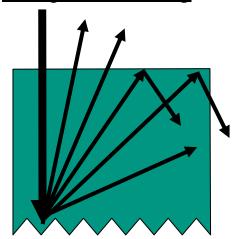
Strategies to improve light absorption are called "LIGHT TRAPPING"

1. Back Reflector



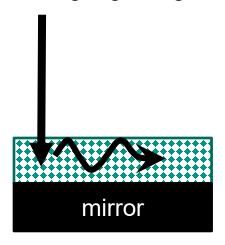
double the light path

2. Light scattering



- increase light path by scattering angle
- total internal reflection for $\alpha_{sca} > \alpha_{critica}$, $\alpha_{critica} = asin(n1/n2)$

2. Light guiding



- Coupling to waveguide modes (requires thin absorbers)
- Coupling via diffraction or nanophotonics

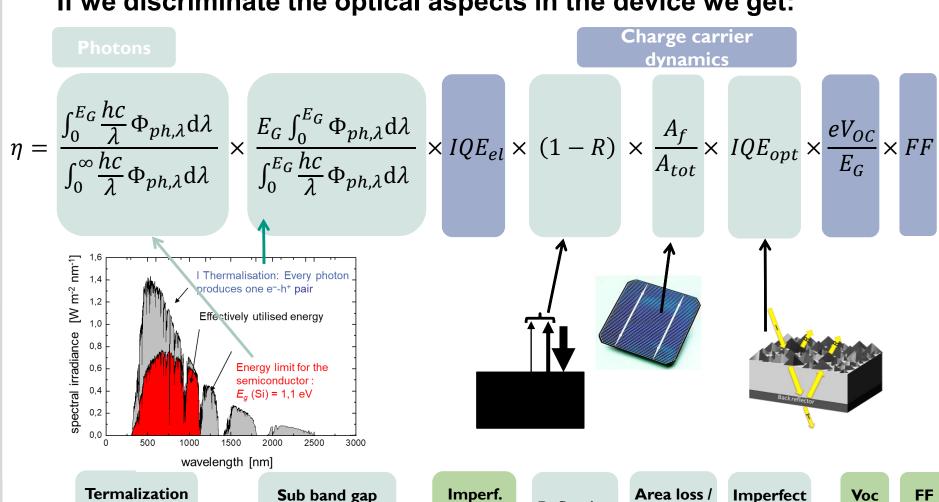
Solar Cell Efficiency

loss

abs. loss



If we discriminate the optical aspects in the device we get:



collection

Reflection

shadowing

abs

loss

loss





If we discriminate the optical aspects in the device we get:

$$\eta = \frac{\int\limits_{0}^{\lambda_{g}} P(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int\limits_{0}^{\lambda_{g}} P(\lambda) d\lambda} \times \frac{E_{g} \int\limits_{0}^{\lambda_{g}} N(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int\limits_{0}^{\lambda_{g}} P(\lambda) d\lambda} \times \eta_{col} \times (1-R) \times (\frac{S_{act}}{S_{tot}}) \times \eta_{\alpha} \times \frac{qV_{oC}}{E_{g}} \times FF$$

NOTE AGAIN! Light management influences the current generation but also the charge carrier dynamics!

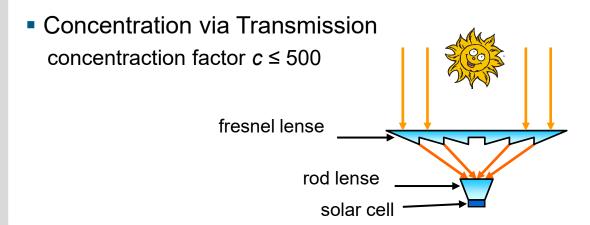
Open circuit voltage

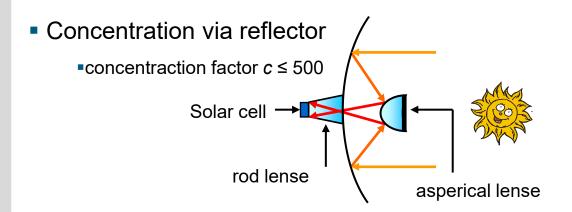
$$V_{oc} = \frac{k_B T}{q} \cdot \ln \left(\frac{J_{SC}}{J_0} + 1 \right)$$

Concentration Photovoltaics



Example for impact of light management on Voc!









Rod lense



asperical lense







Example for impact of light management on Voc!

Concentration via transmission



SolFocus Inc.

Concentration via reflector



Concentrix Solar GmbH



Concentration Photovoltaics



Example for impact of light management on Voc!

Concentration factor c: Multiple of the incident intensity of the sun ($p_{sun} = 1000 \text{W/m}^2$)

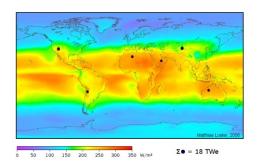
=>
$$j_{SC}^c = c j_{SC}^0$$
 concentrated short circuit current density increases with c

$$=> V_{OC}^{c} \approx \frac{n_{id}kT}{q} \ln \left(\frac{cj_{SC}^{0}}{j_{0}}\right) = V_{OC}^{0} + \frac{n_{id}kT}{q} \ln c = V_{OC}^{0} + \Delta V_{OC}$$

concentrated Voc increases.

$$=> \qquad \eta^{c} = \frac{p_{max}}{p_{in}^{c}} = \frac{j_{SC}^{c} V_{OC}^{c} F F^{c}}{p_{in}^{c}} = \frac{c j_{SC}^{0} V_{OC}^{c} F F^{c}}{c p_{in}^{0}} = \frac{j_{SC}^{0} V_{OC}^{c} F F^{c}}{p_{in}^{0}}$$

increase in efficiency only due to increase in Voc (increase in Jsc cancels out).



Human mankind consume 18TW per year (2013), for solar cells with 8% efficiency this is the consumed area!



EVALUATION BREAK

The evaluation of the lecture will be performed online. An invitation with the link will follow per mail. *Please contribute and help us to improve the lecture!*

- Solar Energy

(https://onlineumfrage.kit.edu/evasys/public/online/index/index?online_php=&p=EUEFM&_ga_8K KDCKF6WY=GS1.1.1610446757.1.1.1610446816.0&_ga=GA1.1.764319627.1610446757&rl_a nonymous_id=%22b8160e93-4991-4352-a149-8486066f2bcf%22&rl_user_id=%22wfkrfy45wb86dgzd5ozcgbn31o%22&rl_trait=%7B%7D&ONLI NEID=98090540693974710859462656885556377047270)



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Reducing light reflection



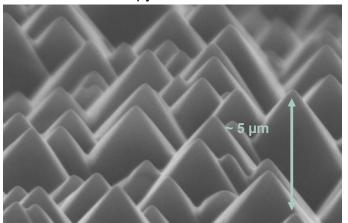
Random pyramid texturing by alkaline etching



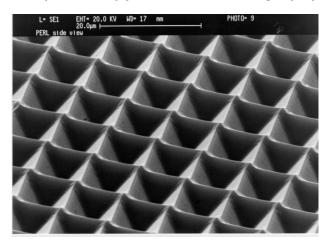
Etching of Si in KOH or NaOH:

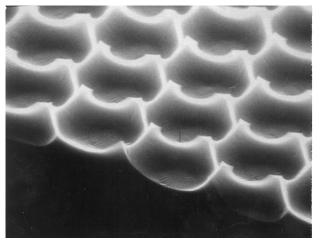
Etch rate depends on crystallographic planes

→ formation of pyramids



Improved periodic pyramides w. lithography





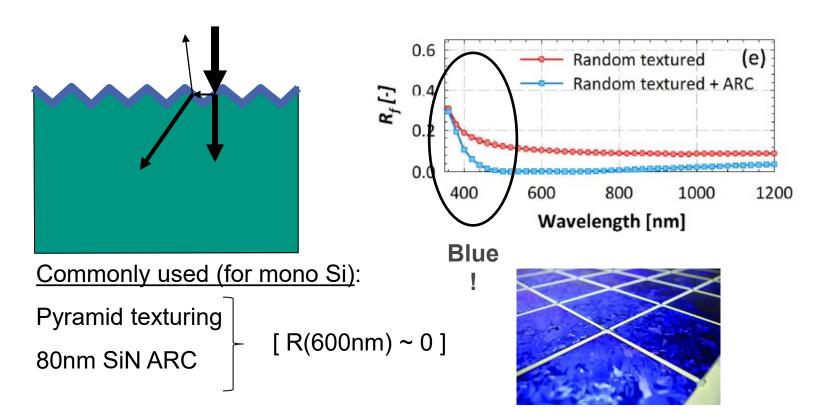
Reducing light reflection



Additionally, ARCs are deposited on top of the etched pyramids.

$$n_{\text{top(glass)}} = 1.4$$
$$n_{\text{Si}} = 3.5$$

Optimal RI for an ARC:
$$n_{ARC}(\lambda) = \sqrt{n_{Si}(\lambda)n_{top}(\lambda)} = 2.2$$

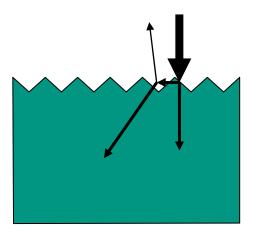


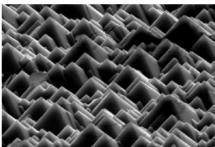
Light trapping



The textured front surface of So solar cells also scatter incident light

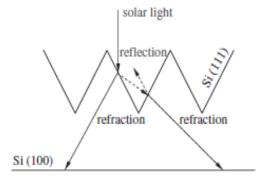
-> increase optical path





Textured surface:

- Multiple reflections: more impacts, more harvested photons
- Refraction: Longer path of the photons in the absorbing medium



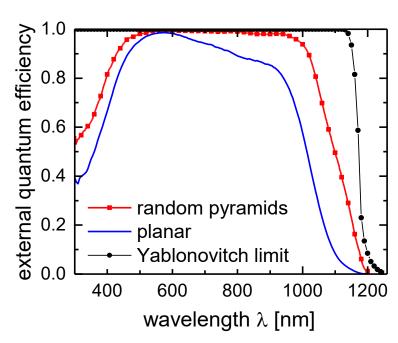
T. Yagi et al. / Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells 90 (2006) 2647-2656





For an exemplary state-of-the-art Si solar cell

Jsc increase significantly:



There is a limit – the Yablonovitch limit?

Is says: "... The maximum light path enhancement factor is 4 n² d."

$$= A = 1 - \exp(-\alpha < w >) \approx \alpha < w > = 4n^2 \alpha d$$

Avoiding shading and area losses

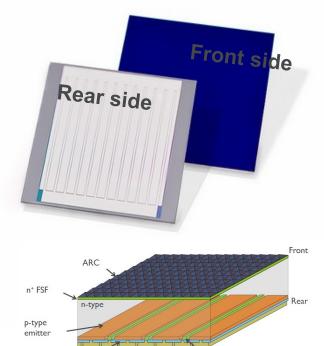


Shading losses - the challenge of designing metal contacts

Minimise metallised areas... but without losing from series resistance

All contacts on rear-side but process becomes very complex





metal finger

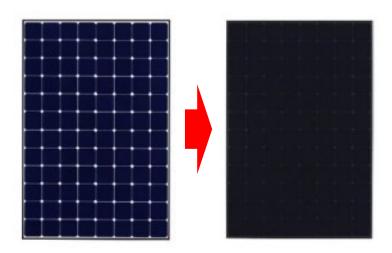
Dielectric

Avoiding shading and area losses



Advancing module design

- Using interdigitated back contact solar cells we obtain black modules
- Record power conversion efficiency of such a SI solar 23.8% (Panasonic)



This is already close to our goal:



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Nanophotonic light management concepts

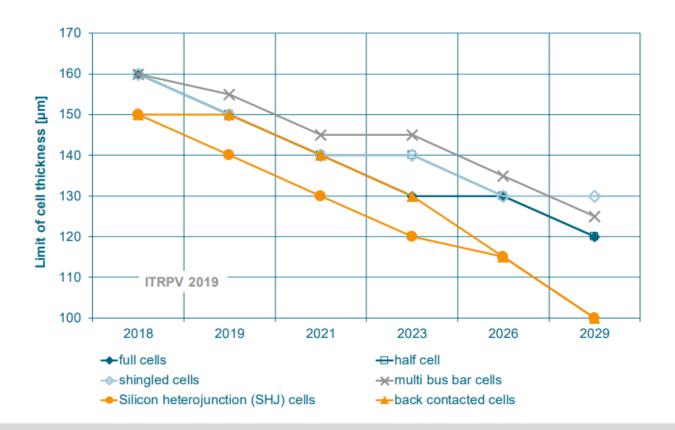
- Nanophotonic light management in thin film Si solar cells
- Nanophotonic light management in perovskite solar cells

Towards thin Si



- Crystalline silicon wafers (c-Si) are an expensive component of the Si solar cell
- Trend of going towards thinner Si wafers (ITRPV)

Limit of cell thickness in future module technology for different cell types



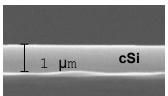
But Si is a poor absorber

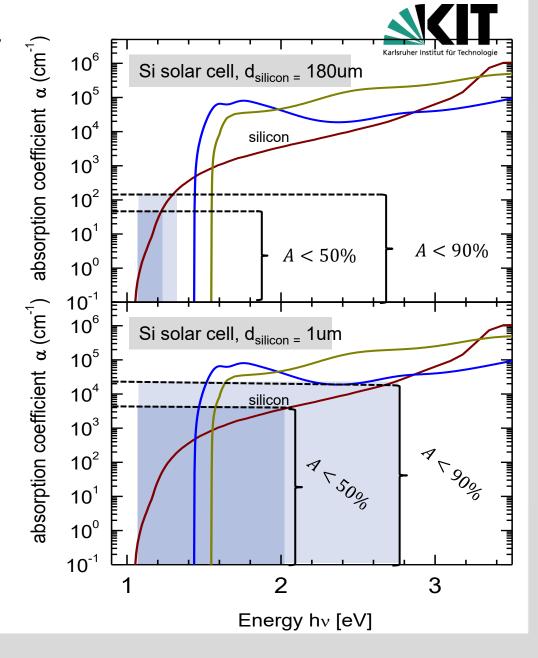
In order to reduce costs one would like to go for thin Si films < 50um

Let us look in the future:



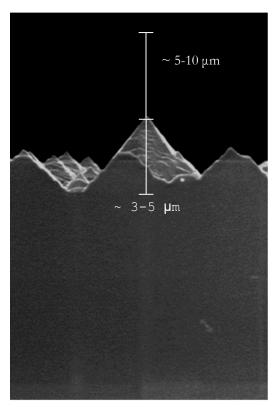
Epifree (~ Iµm)





Conventional light management is not compatible with thin Si

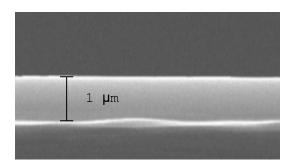




Random pyramid texturing

Advanced light trapping for ultra-thin film technologies is needed!

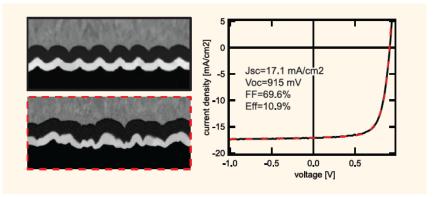
-> NEED TO GO NANO



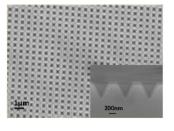
Ultra-thin c-Si films

Heavy recent research activities on nanoscale light management





Corsin Battaglia et al., ACS Nano, 2012, 6 (3), pp. 2790-2797



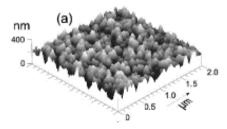


Letter pubs.acs.org/NanoLett

Efficient Light Trapping in Inverted Nanopyramid Thin Crystalline Silicon Membranes for Solar Cell Applications

Anastassios Mavrokefalos, Sang Eon Han, Selcuk Yerci, Matthew S. Branham, and Gang Chen*





Black nonreflecting silicon surfaces for solar cells

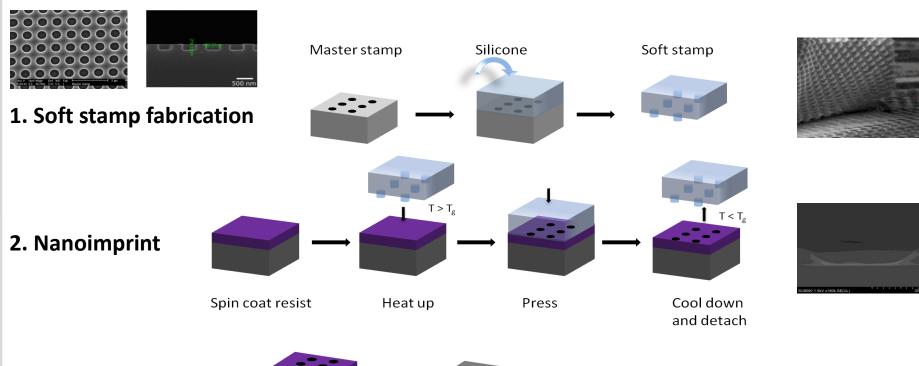
Svetoslav Koynov, a) Martin S. Brandt, and Martin Stutzmann Walter Schottky Institut, Technische Universität Mänchen, 85748 Garching, Germany

Fabrication of NanoTextures



Nanoimprint lithography (NIL)

silicon etch



3. Pattern transfer



Fabrication of NanoTextures

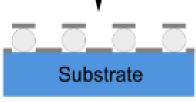


Hole mask colloidal lithography (HCL)

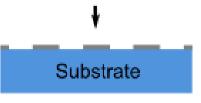
1. Adsorption of PS beads



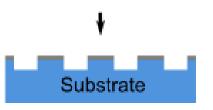
2. Etch mask deposition

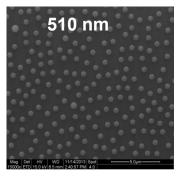


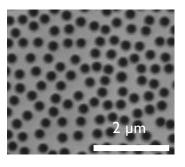
3. PS bead removal

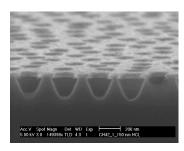


4. Pattern transfer





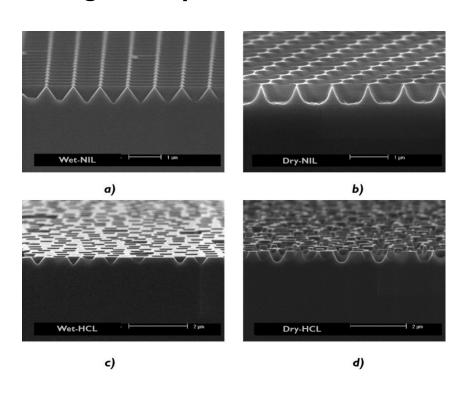


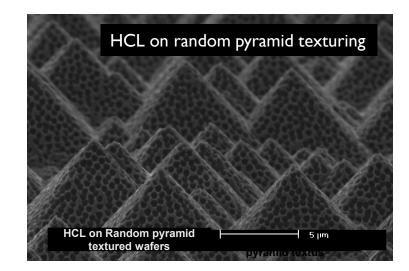


Fabrication of NanoTextures



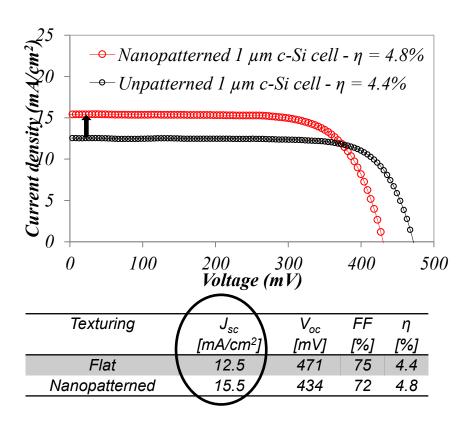
Large variety of nanostructures successfully transferred into Si.

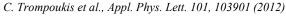


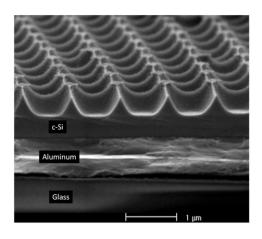




Solar cell integration: 1 um epifree



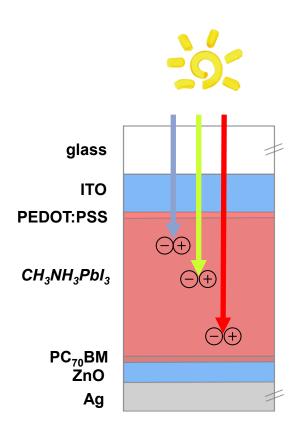




- Increase in current
- Voc decreased due to material degradation from dry etching
- Increased efficiency

Nanophotonic Light Management in Perovskite Solar Cells





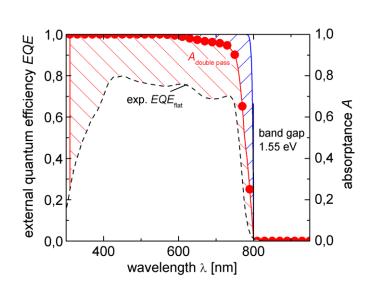
Perovskite Solar cells:

- Perfect charge carrier collection
- Perfect absorption (E>E_g)



- Poor light incoupling



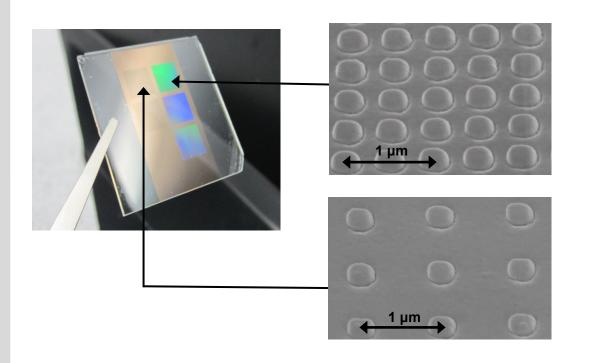


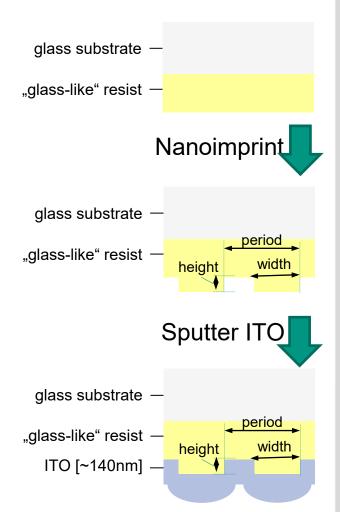
Nanophotonic electrodes



Spin coat resist

Fabricated by nanoimprint lithography

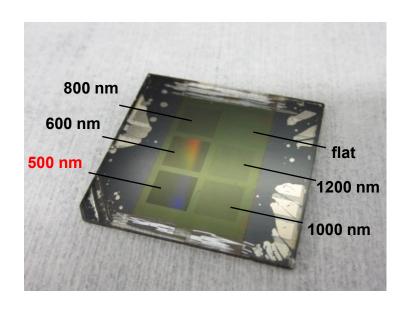


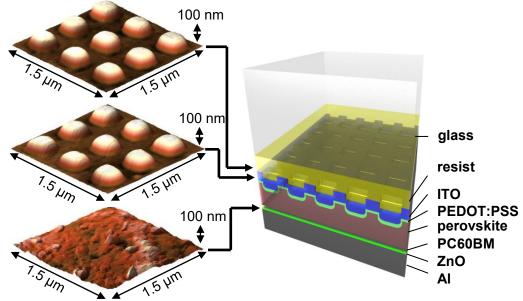


Nanophotonic electrodes



Prototype Solar Cells

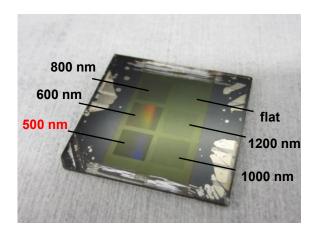




Nanophotonic electrodes

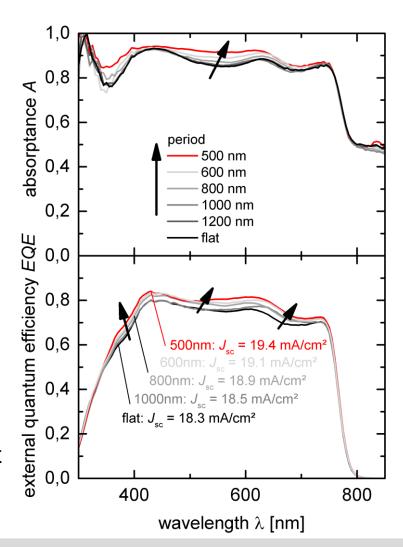


Prototype Solar Cells



		FF	V _{oc} [V]	J _{SC} [mA/cm²] (calc. from EQE)	η [%]
	Flat	0.59	0.89	18.3	9.6
Nanophotonic (period 500 nm)		0.59	0.87	19.4	9.9

- Reduced reflection -> light management
- Still far away from the optimum!



Take Away Messages



- o Light matters for PV!
- Optics influence directly the Jsc, but indirectly also the Voc and FF!
- Key optical losses which require light management are:
 - Reflection
 - Shading
 - Poor absorption => Light trapping
- State-of-the-art light management in Si solar cells
 - Reducing light reflection => textured front surface + ARC
 - Light trapping => textured front surface
 - Avoiding shading and area losses => IBC solar cells
- Nanotechnology for next generation light management is in focus of state-of-the-art research

Examples:

- Nanotextures for thin film cSi solar cells
- Nanophotonic electrodes for improved light incoupling in perovskite solar cells

Quick Test



- Discriminate the optical aspects that influence the power conversion efficiency of a solar cell.
- How does light managment / optics of a solar cell correlate with (1) short-circuits current density, (2) open-circuit voltage, (3) fill factor?
- Why does the open-circuit voltage of a concentrated solar cell increase with the concentration coefficient? (Derive the correlation!)
- Explain state-of-the-art light management in Si solar cells with regard to
 (1) light incoupling, (2) light trapping, and (3) reducing inactive areas.
- How does nanophotonic light management differ from conventional light management?