

Black silicon: Engineering an intermediate band in silicon for optical sensing and photovoltaics



G1 Faculty Lecture
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA, 8 November 2010

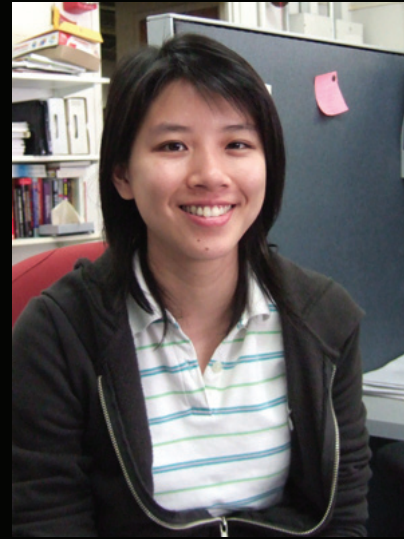




Mark Winkler



Renee Sher



Yu-Ting Lin



Eric Mazur

and also....

**Eric Diebold
Haifei Albert Zhang
William Whitney
Dr. Brian Tull
Dr. Jim Carey
Prof. Tsing-Hua Her
Dr. Shrenik Deliwala
Dr. Richard Finlay
Dr. Michael Sheehy
Dr. Claudia Wu
Dr. Rebecca Younkin
Prof. Catherine Crouch
Prof. Mengyan Shen
Prof. Li Zhao**

**Dr. John Chervinsky
Dr. Joshua Levinson**

**Prof. Michael Aziz
Prof. Cynthia Friend
Prof. Howard Stone**

**Prof. Tonio Buonassisi (MIT)
Prof. Silvija Gradecak (MIT)
Dr. Bonna Newman (MIT)
Joe Sullivan (MIT)
Matthew Smith (MIT)**

Prof. Augustinus Asenbaum (Vienna)

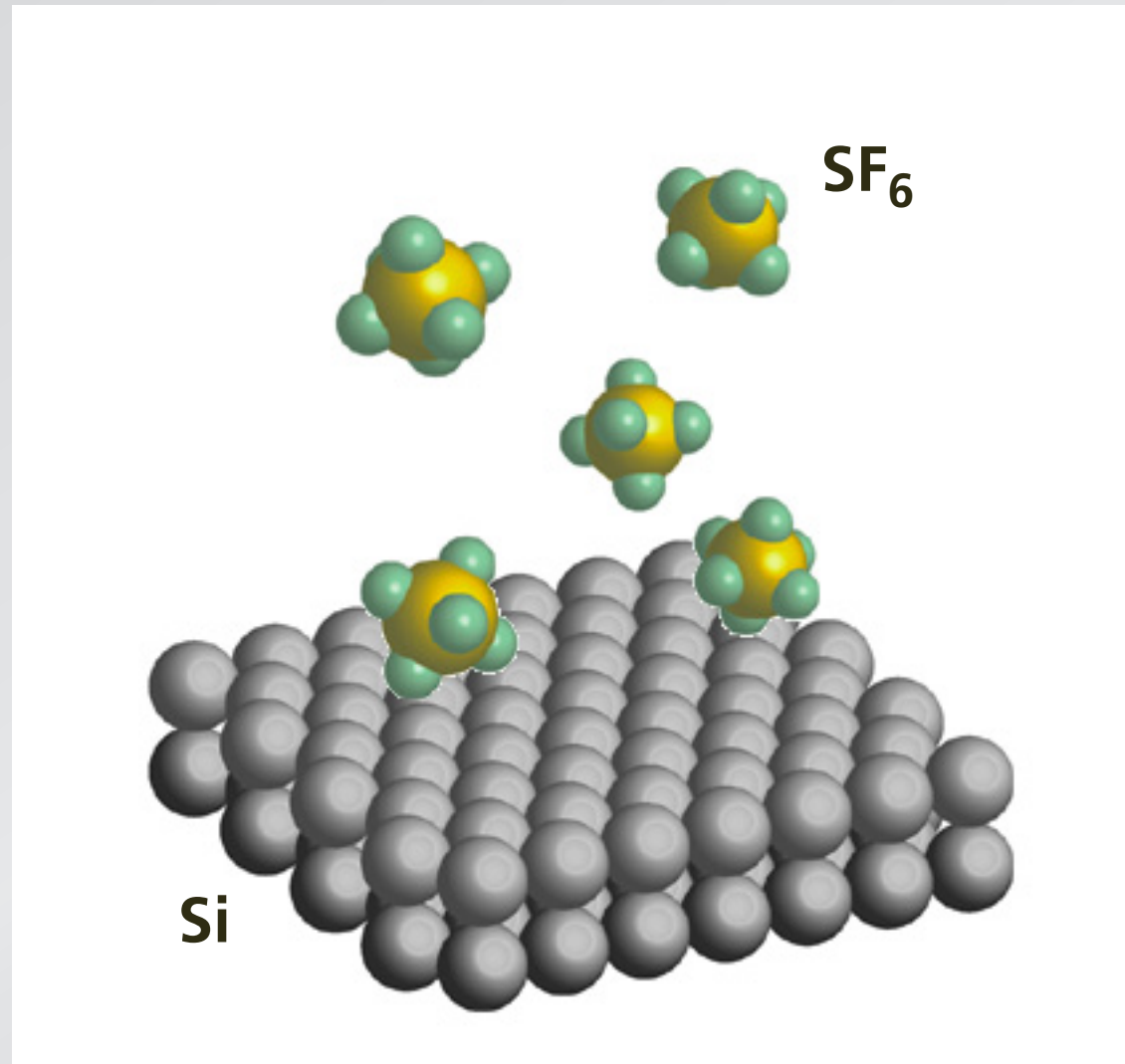
**Dr. François Génin (LLNL)
Mark Wall (LLNL)**

**Dr. Richard Farrell (RMD)
Dr. Arie Karger (RMD)
Dr. Richard Meyers (RMD)**

Dr. Pat Maloney (NVSED)

Dr. Jeffrey Warrander (ARDEC)

Introduction



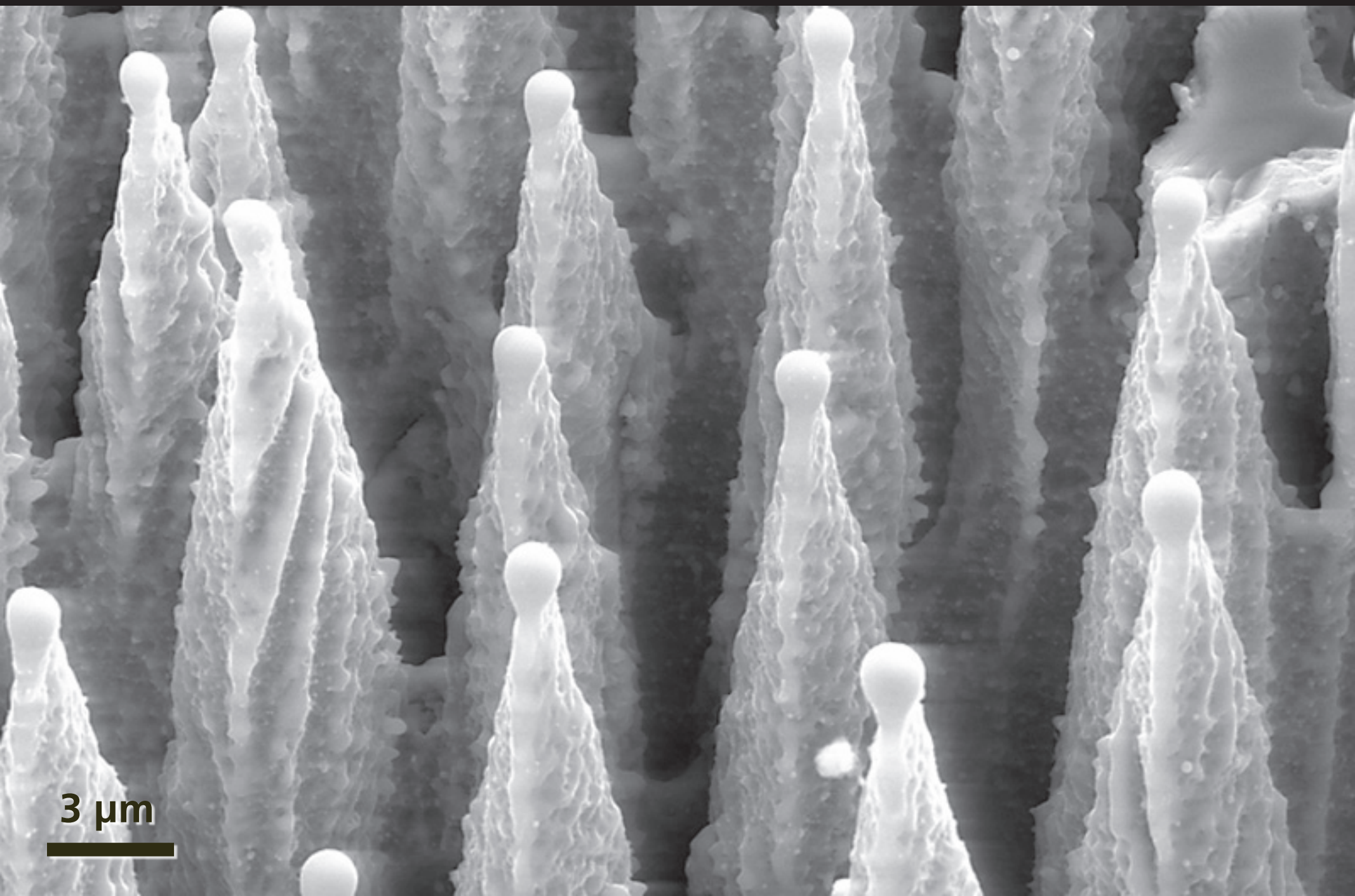
irradiate with 100-fs 10 kJ/m² pulses

Introduction



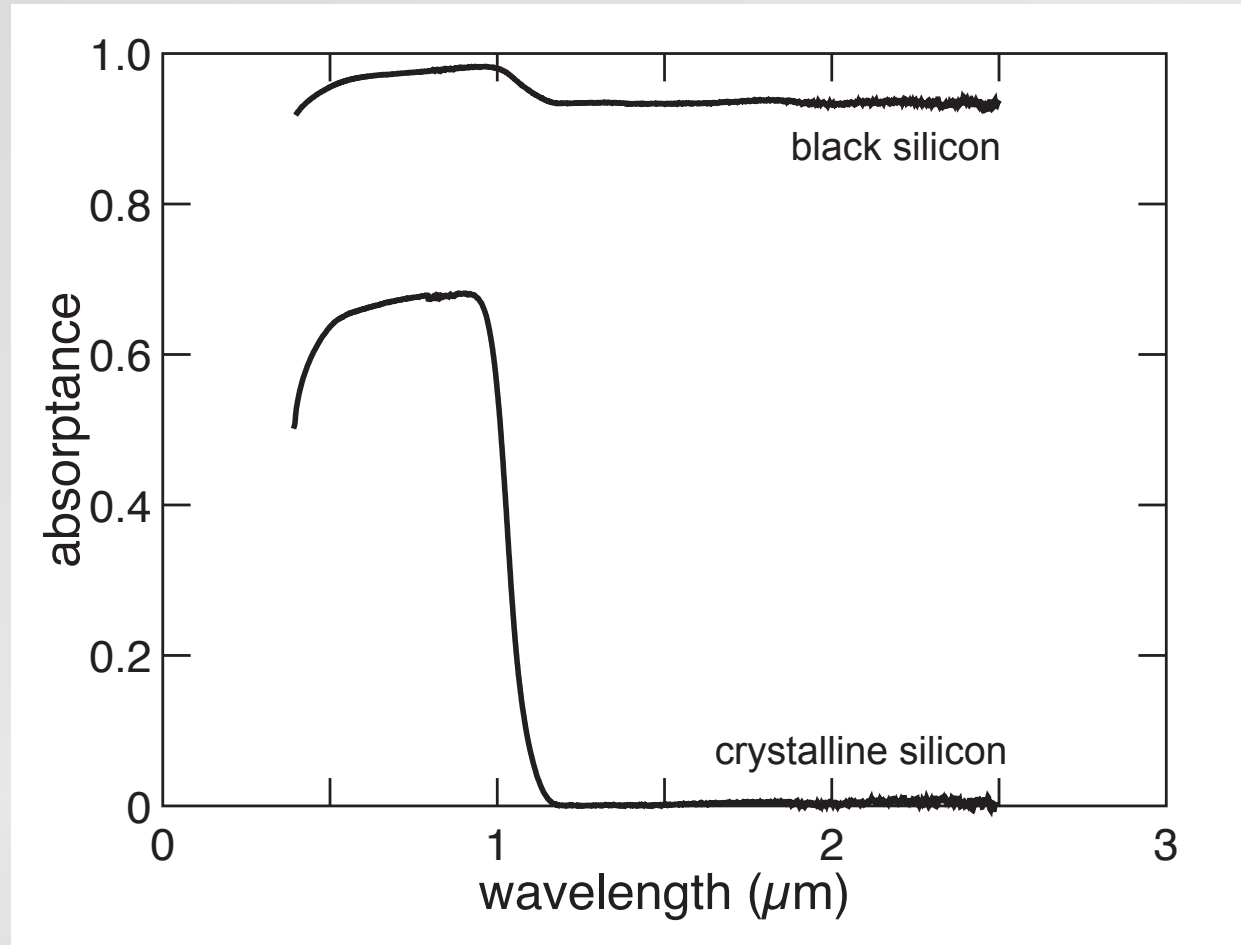
"black silicon"

Introduction

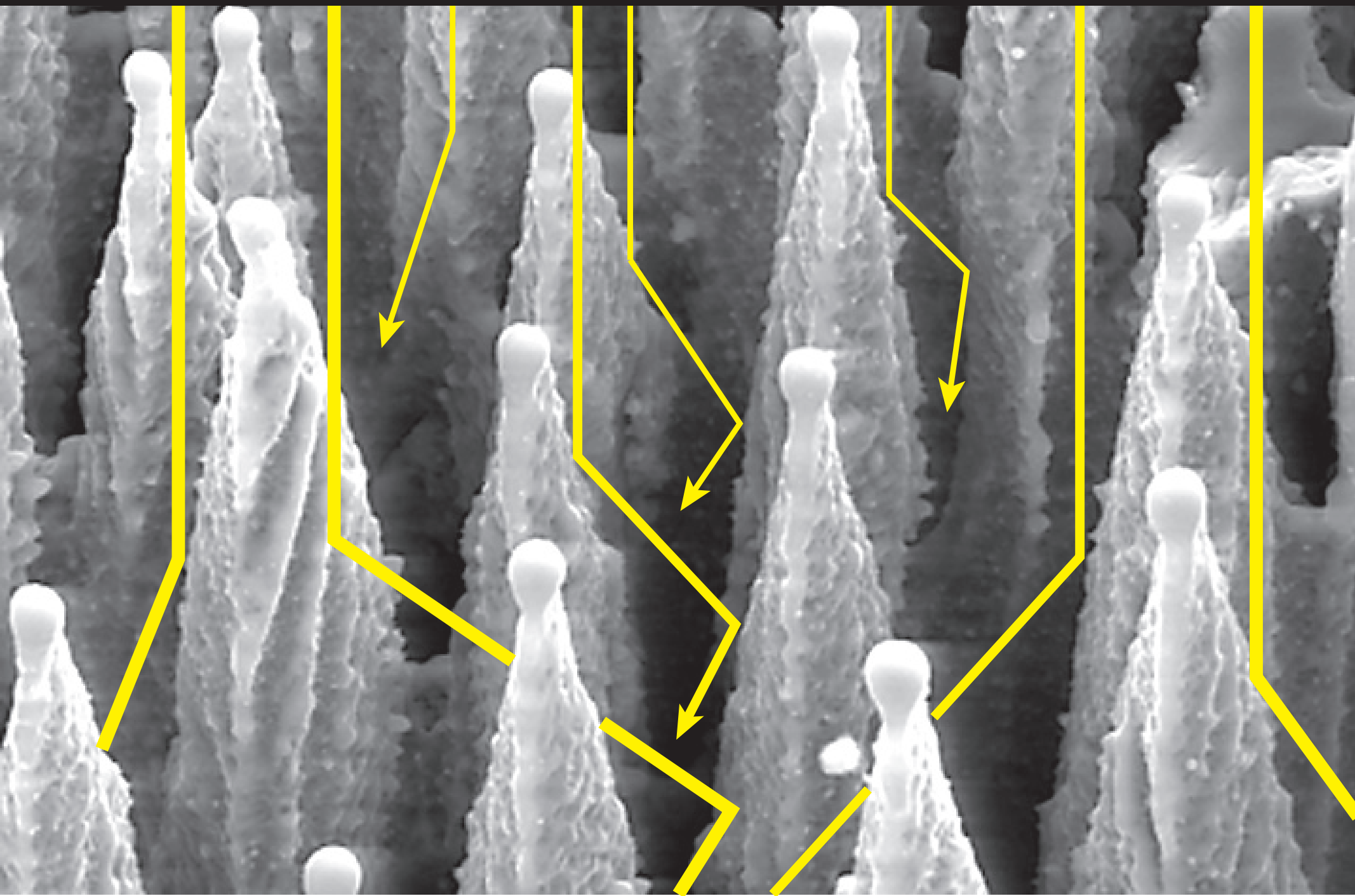


Introduction

absorptance ($1 - R_{int} - T_{int}$)

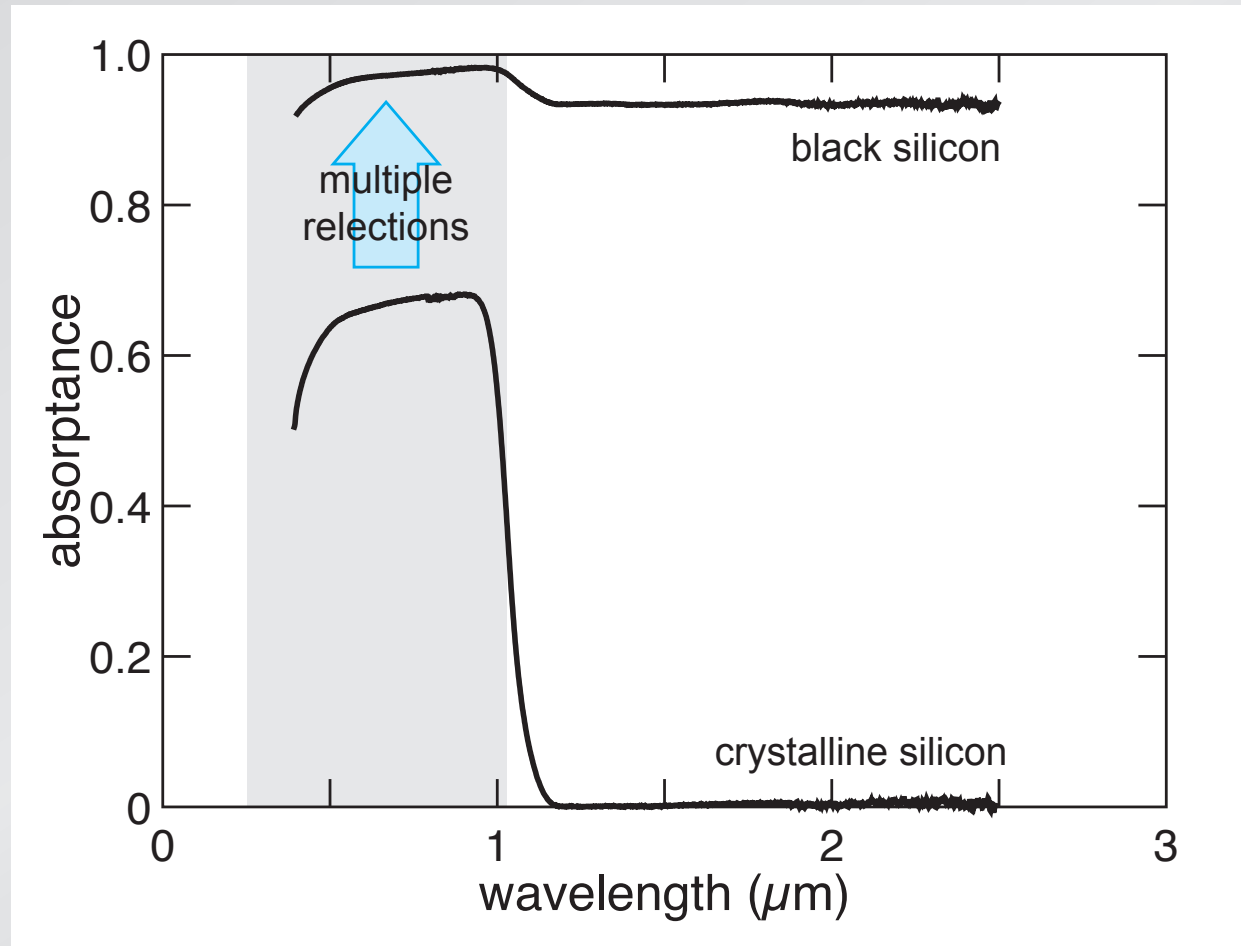


Introduction



Introduction

absorptance ($1 - R_{int} - T_{int}$)



Introduction

band structure changes: defects and/or impurities

Introduction

a decade of research

OPTICAL

UV-VIS-NIR
FTIR
photoluminescence
PTD spectroscopy
UPS
XPS

responsivity
photoconductivity

ELECTRONIC

Hall measurements
conductivity
IV rectification
c-AFM

STRUCTURAL

SEM
TEM
EDX
SAD
EXAFS
AFM
SIMS
RBS
ion channeling

Introduction

a decade of research

OPTICAL

UV-VIS-NIR
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photoluminescence
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responsivity
photoconductivity

gap
impurity band
transitions

ELECTRONIC

Hall measurements
conductivity
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STRUCTURAL

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Introduction

a decade of research

OPTICAL	ELECTRONIC	STRUCTURAL
UV-VIS-NIR	Hall measurements	SEM
FTIR	conductivity	TEM
photoluminescence	IV rectification	EDX
PTD spectroscopy	c-AFM	SAD
UPS		EXAFS
XPS		AFM
	responsivity	SIMS
	photoconductivity	RBS
		ion channeling
gap	carrier concentration	
impurity band	mobilities	
transitions	junction properties	

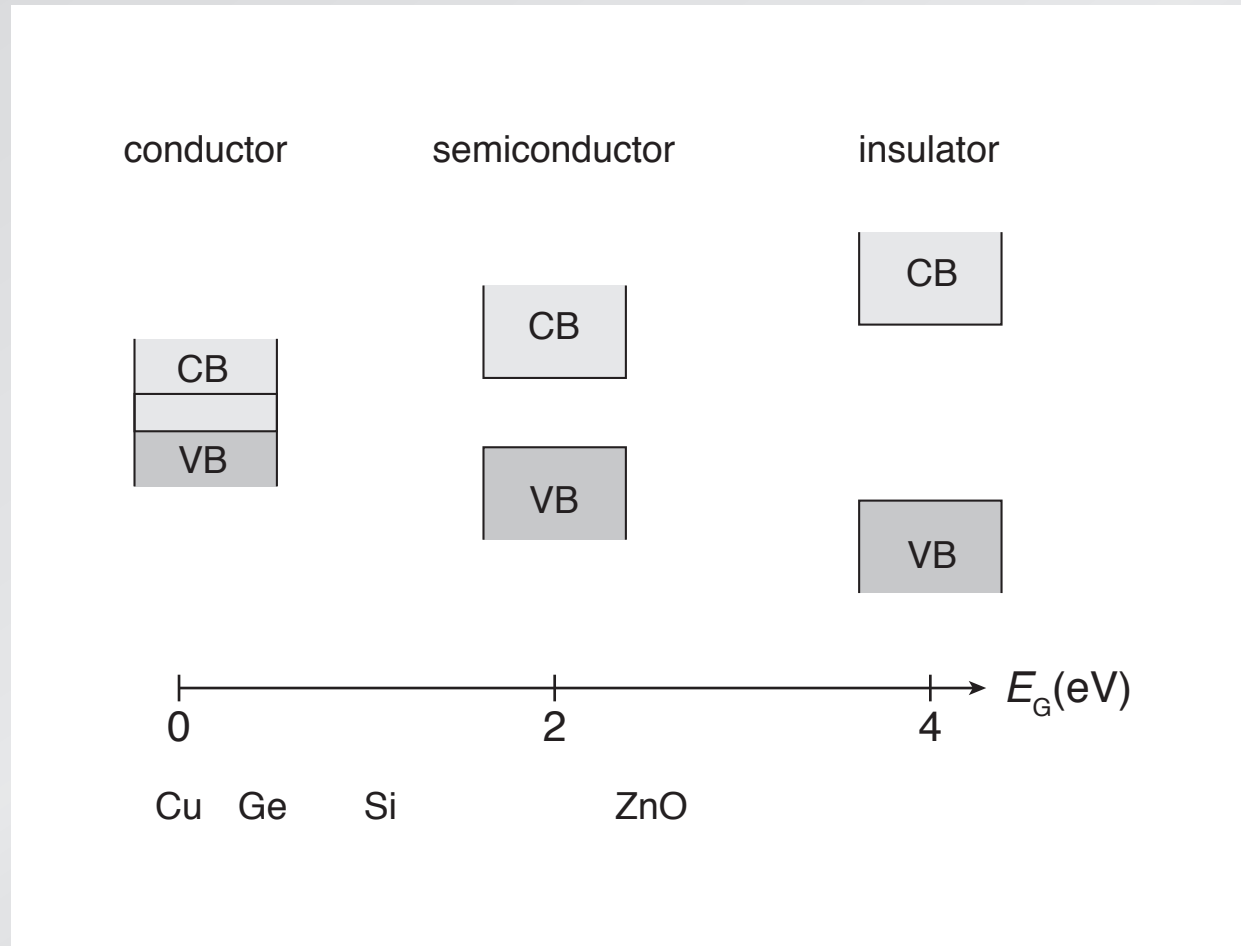
Introduction

a decade of research

OPTICAL	ELECTRONIC	STRUCTURAL
UV-VIS-NIR	Hall measurements	SEM
FTIR	conductivity	TEM
photoluminescence	IV rectification	EDX
PTD spectroscopy	c-AFM	SAD
UPS		EXAFS
XPS		AFM
	responsivity	SIMS
	photoconductivity	RBS
		ion channeling
gap	carrier concentration	morphology
impurity band	mobilities	composition
transitions	junction properties	atomic structure

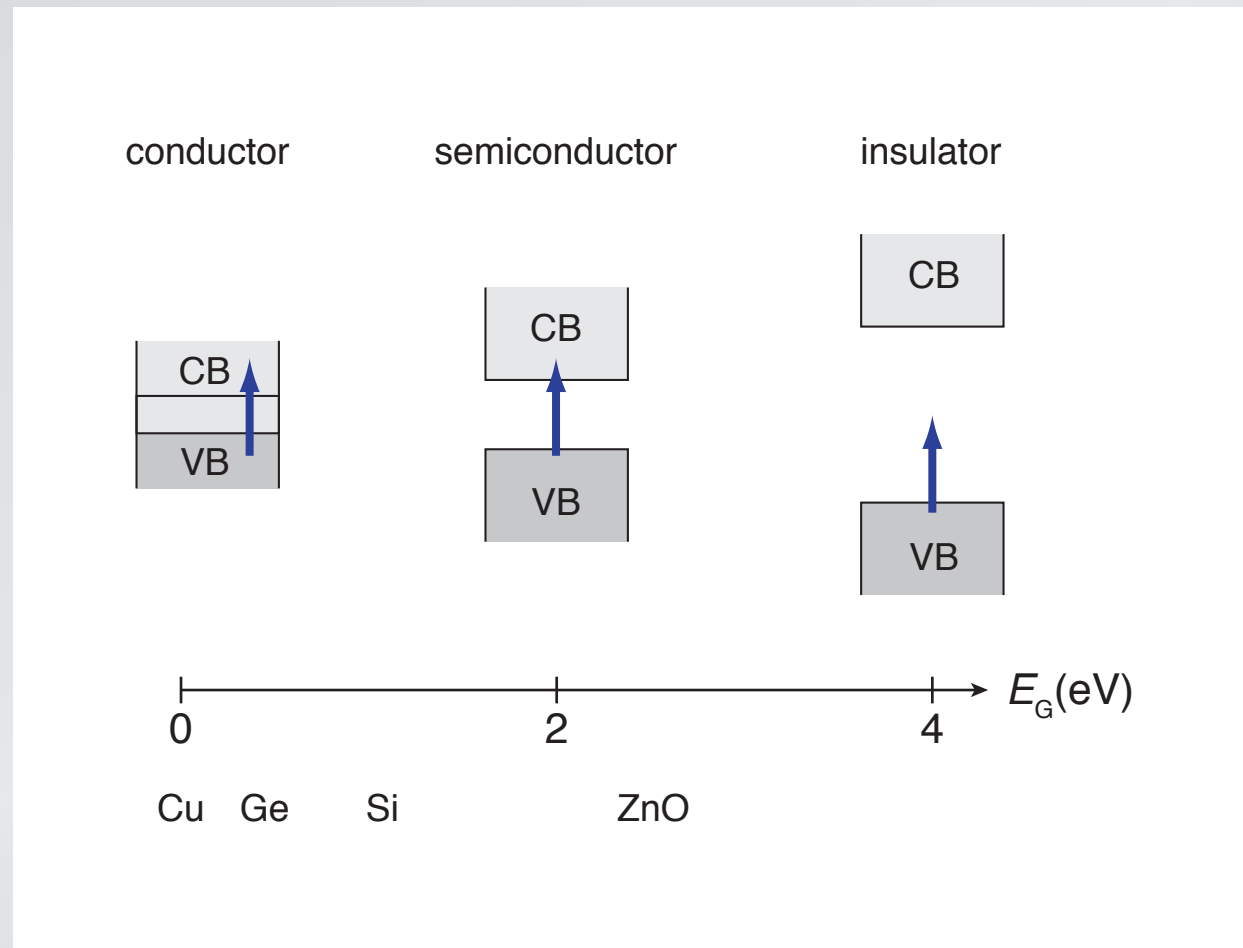
Introduction

new process & new class of material!



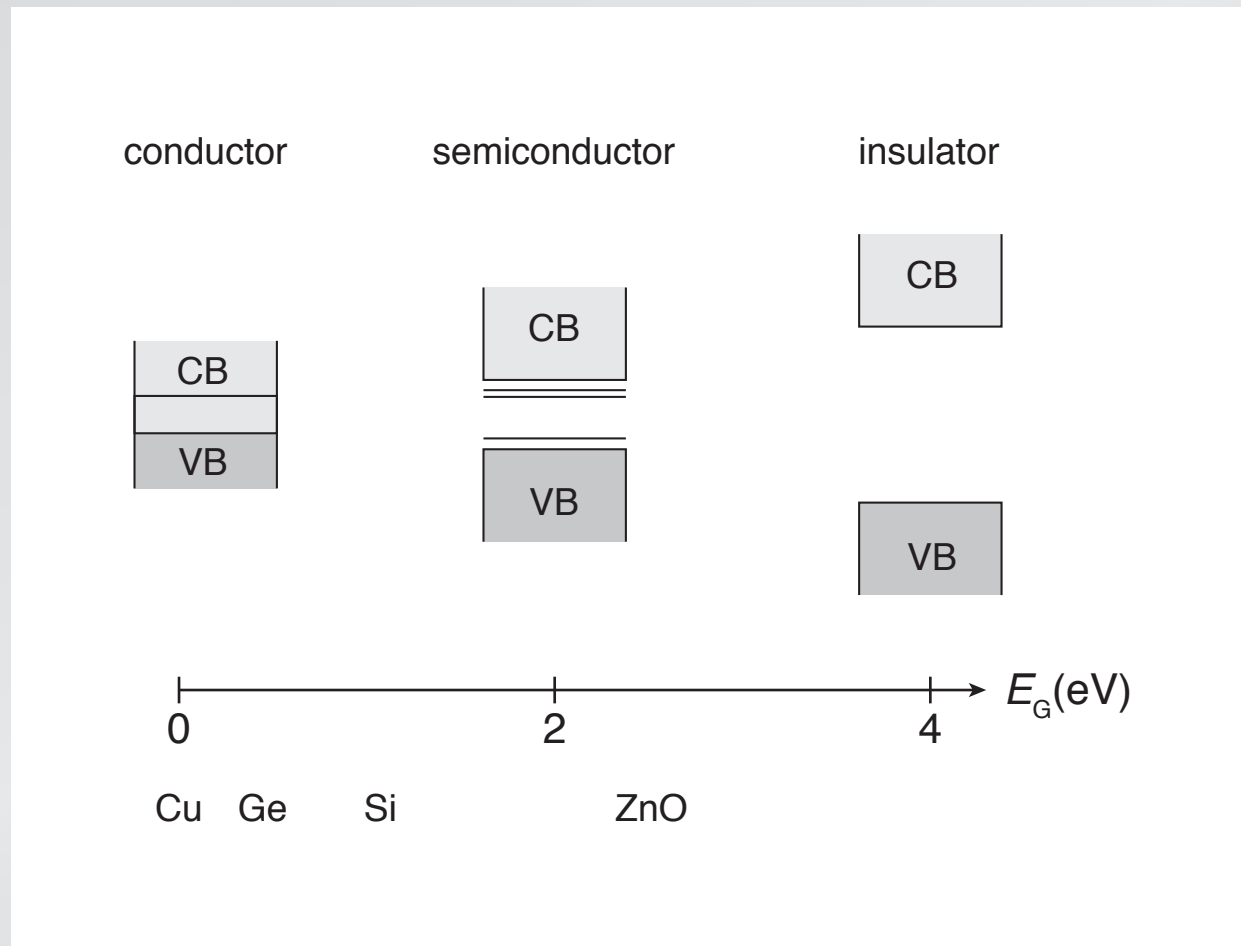
Introduction

gap determines optical and electronic properties



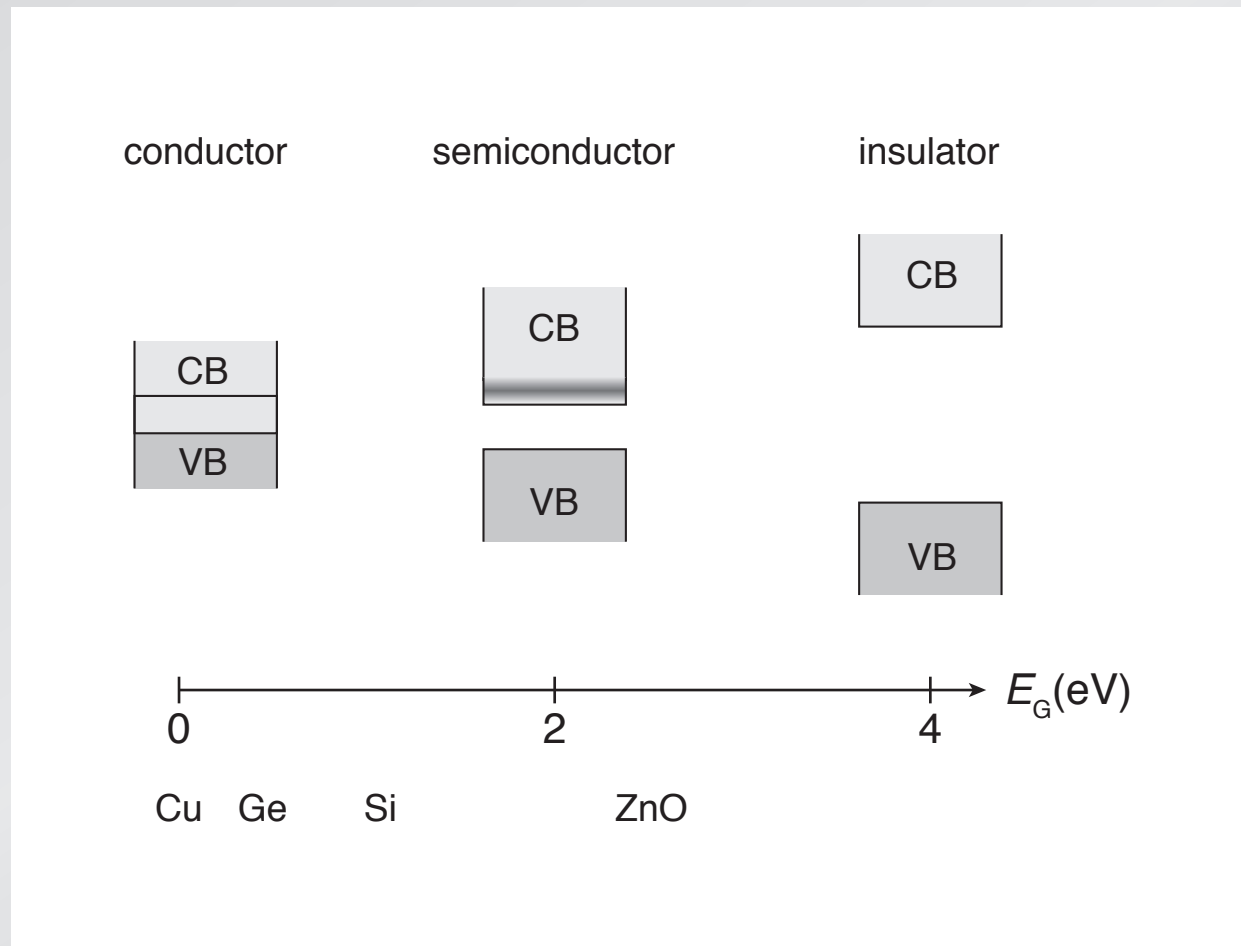
Introduction

shallow-level dopants control electronic properties



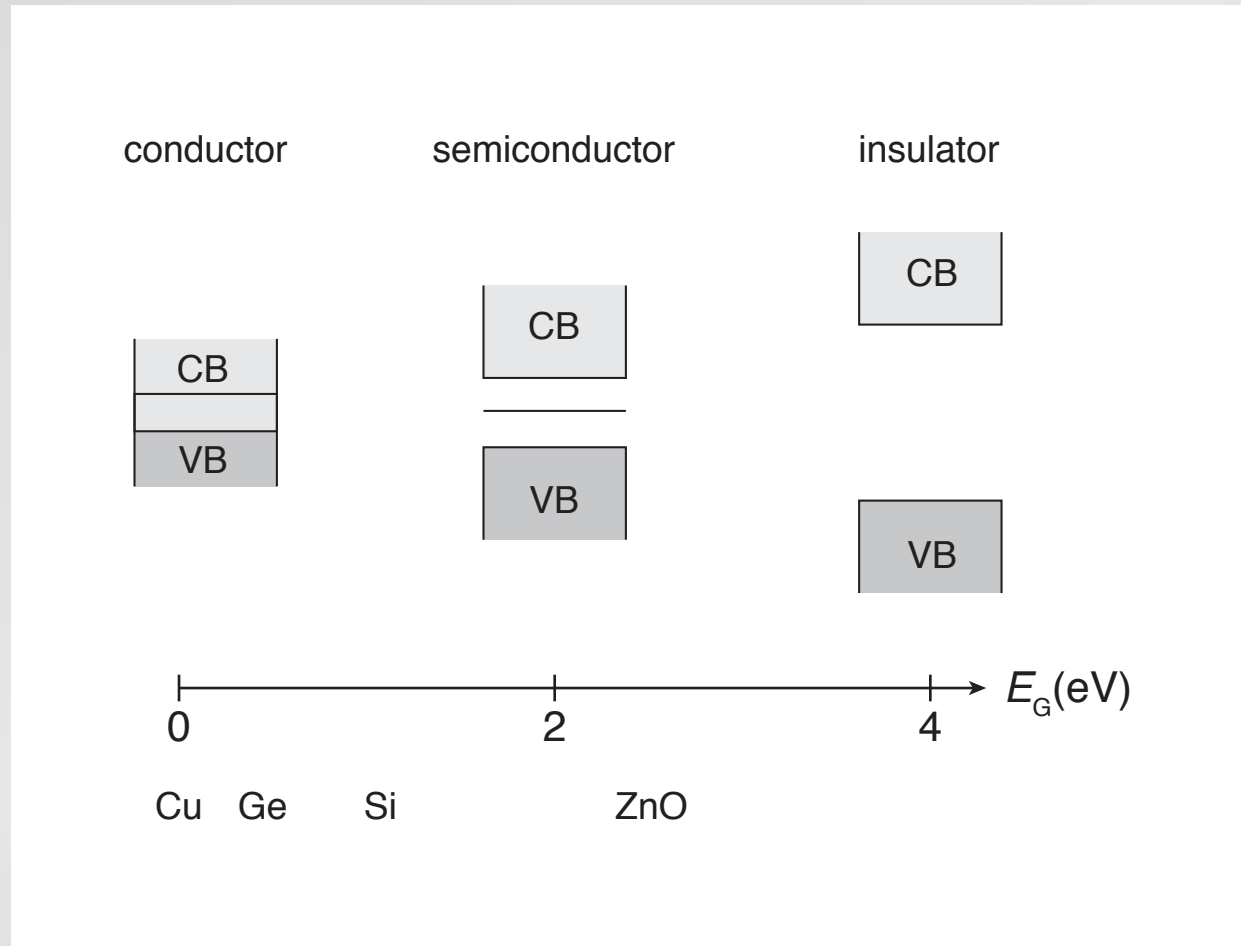
Introduction

shallow-level dopants control electronic properties



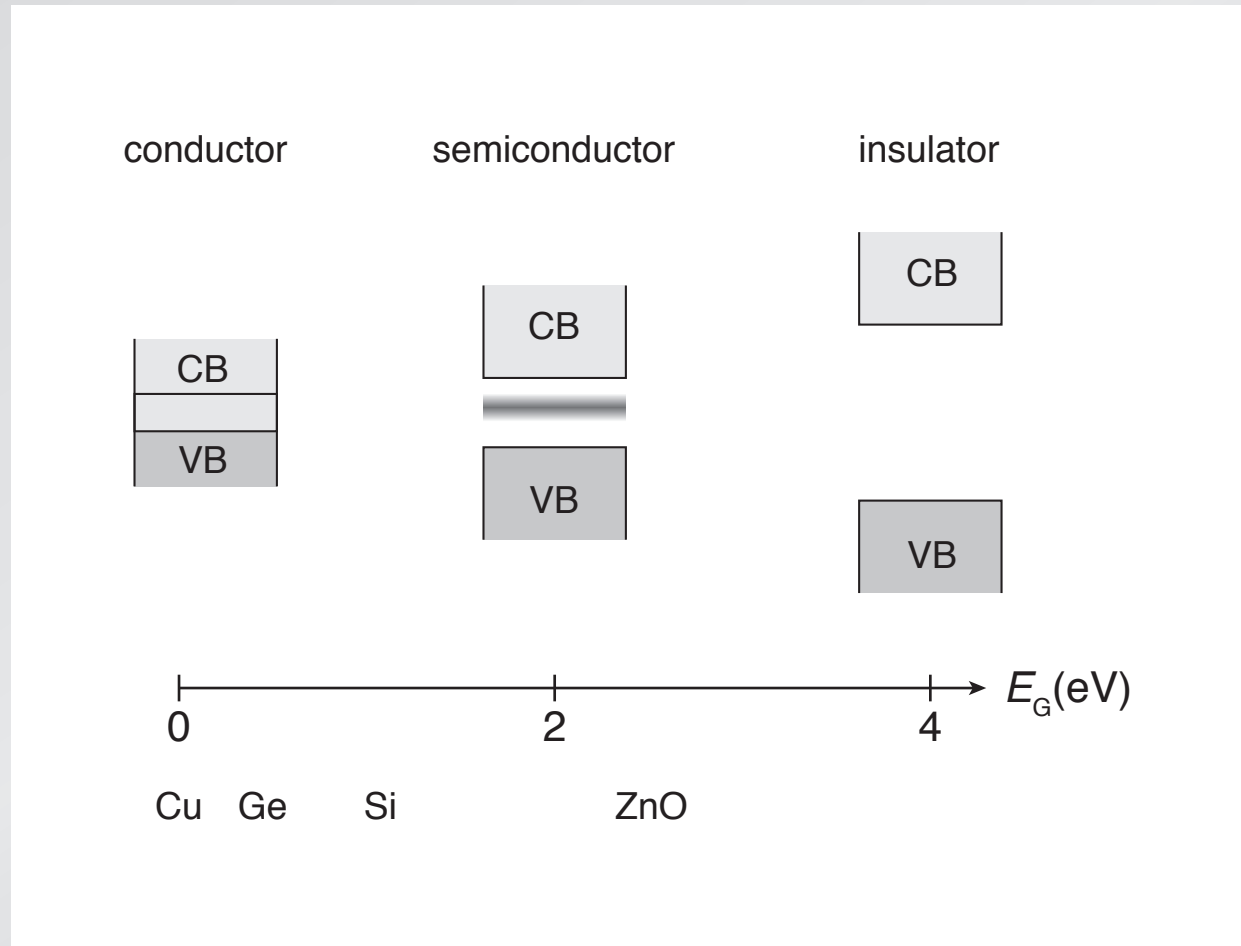
Introduction

deep-level dopants typically avoided



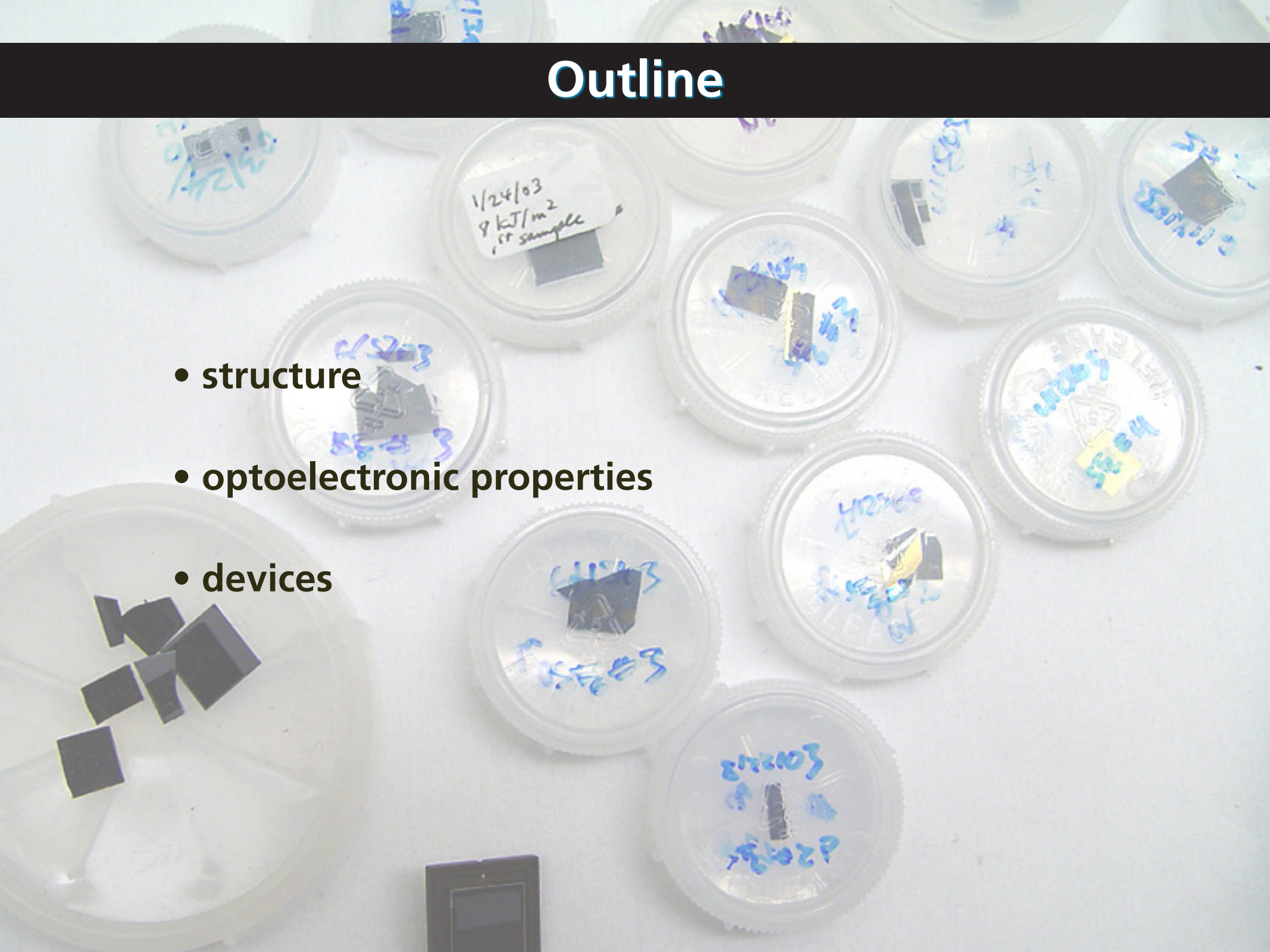
Introduction

femtosecond laser-doping gives rise to intermediate band

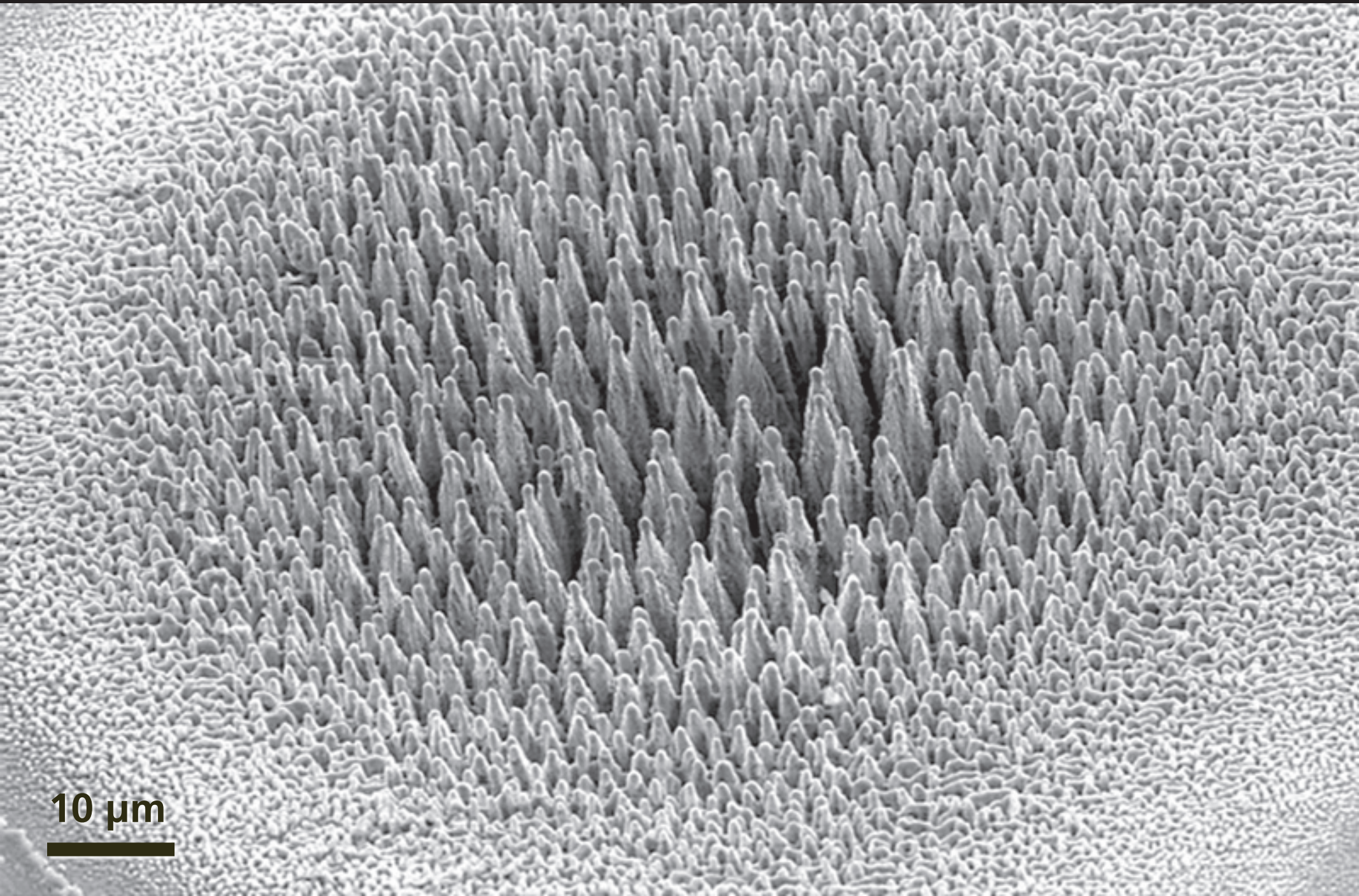


Outline

- structure
- optoelectronic properties
- devices



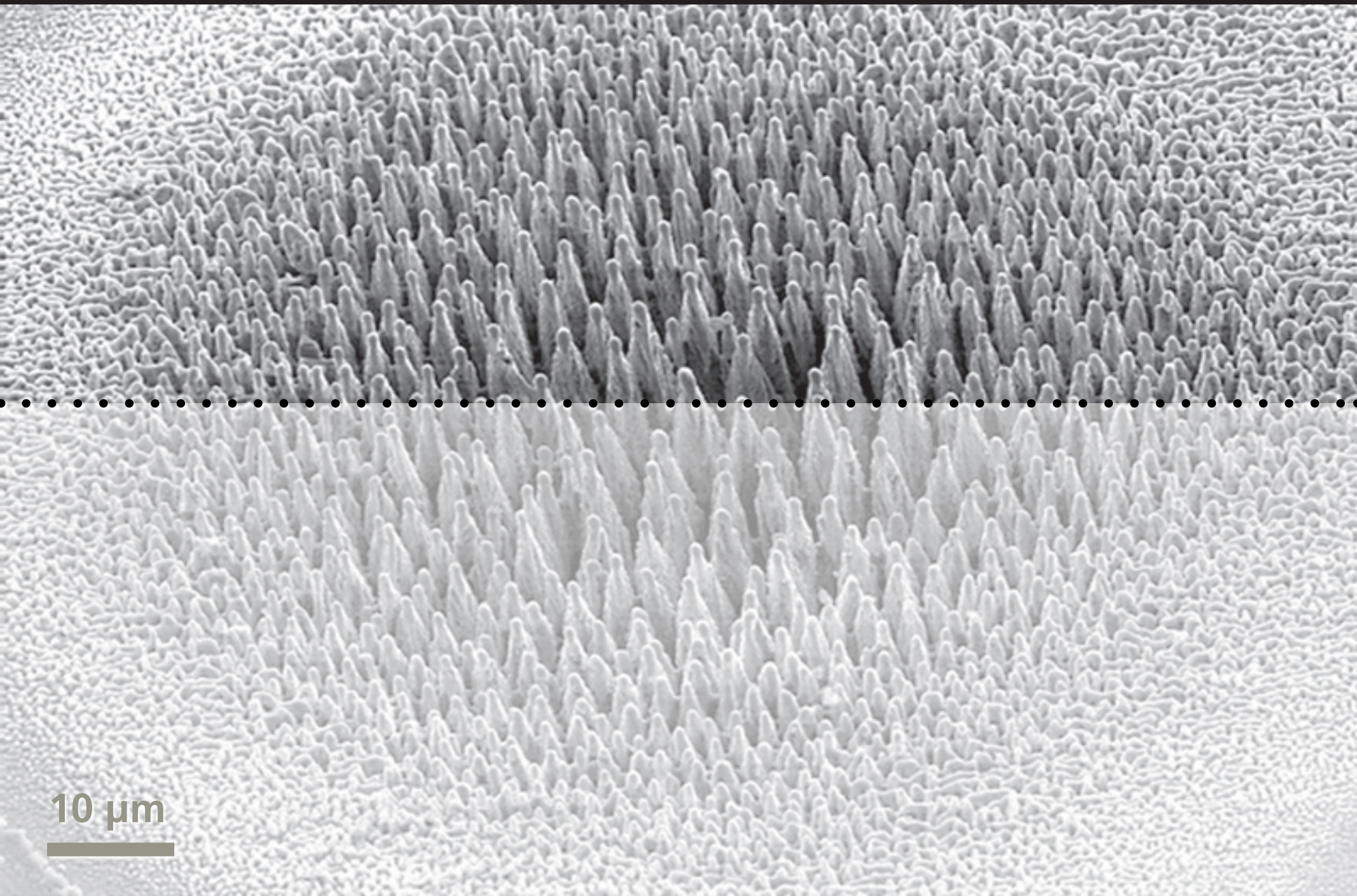
Structure



10 μm



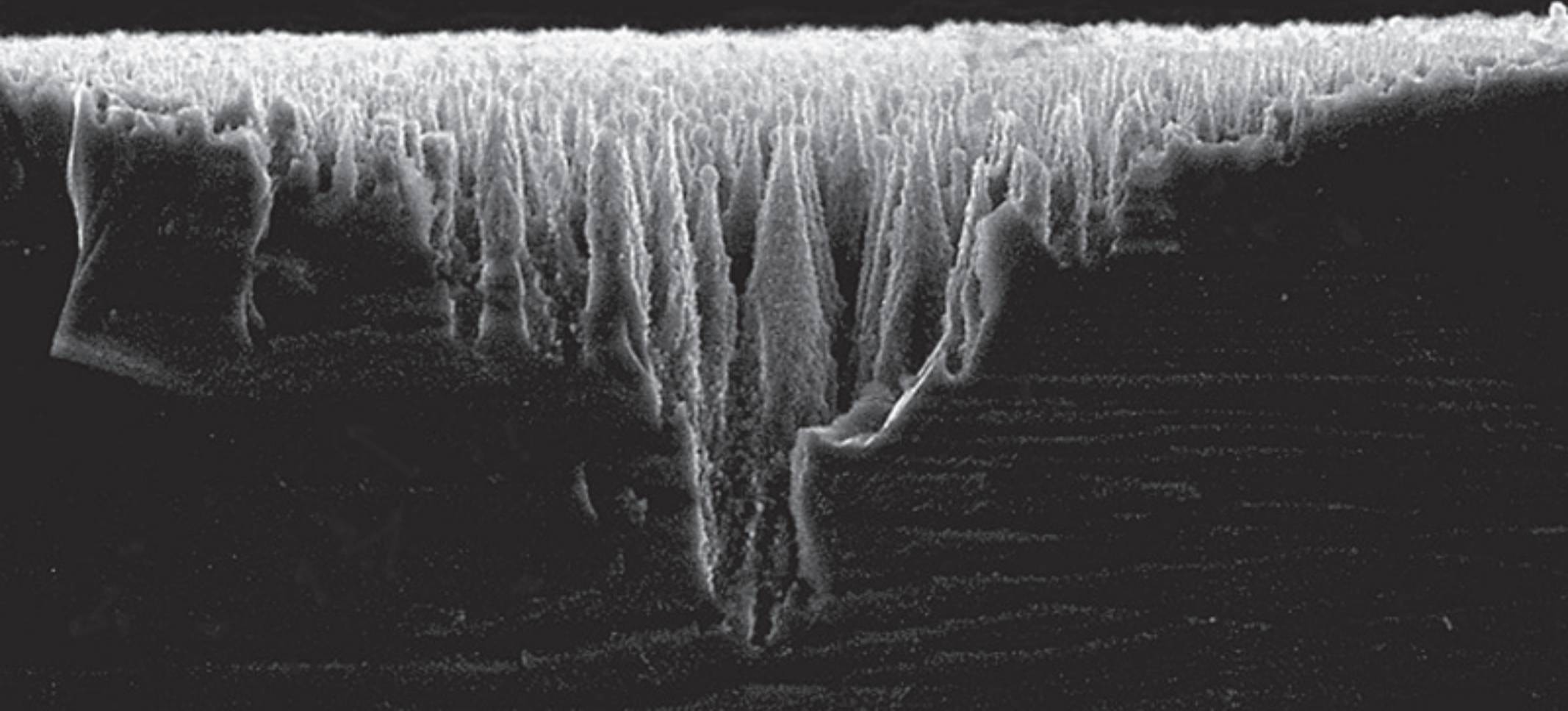
Structure



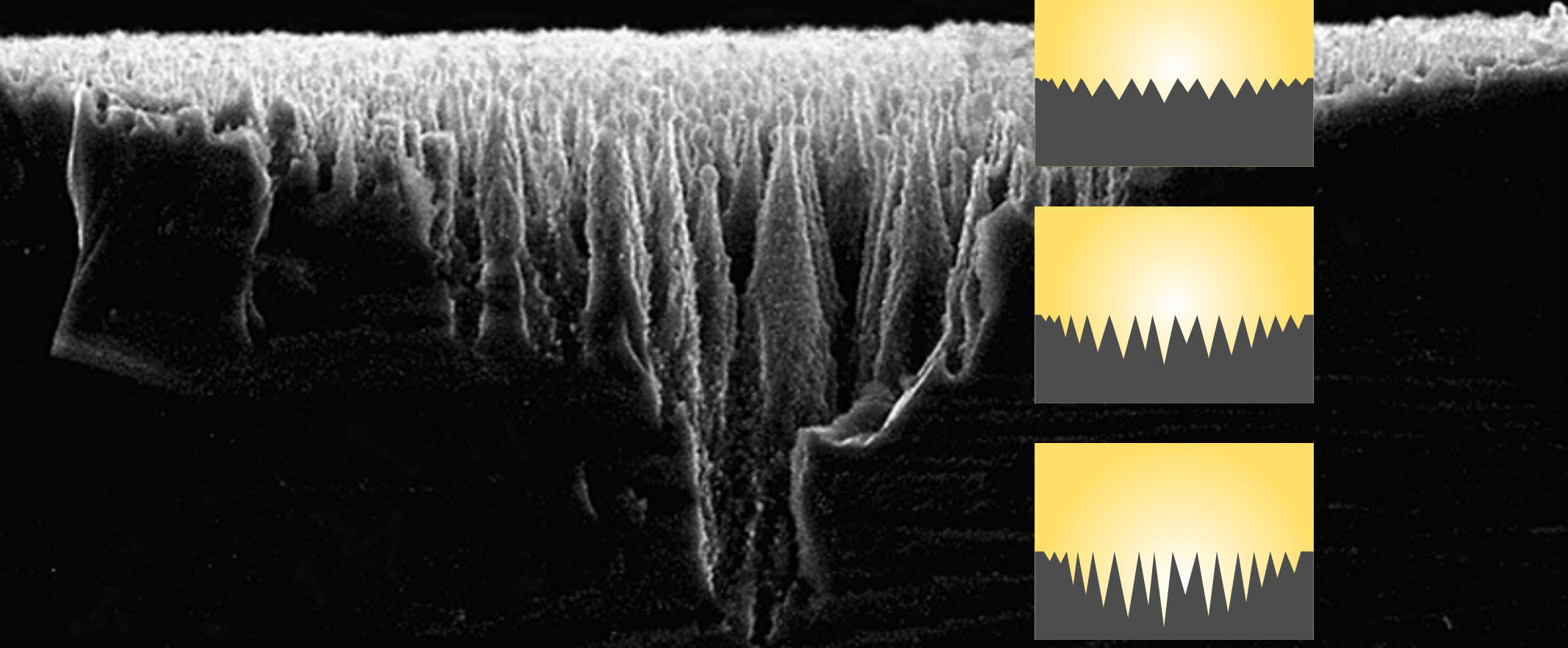
10 μm



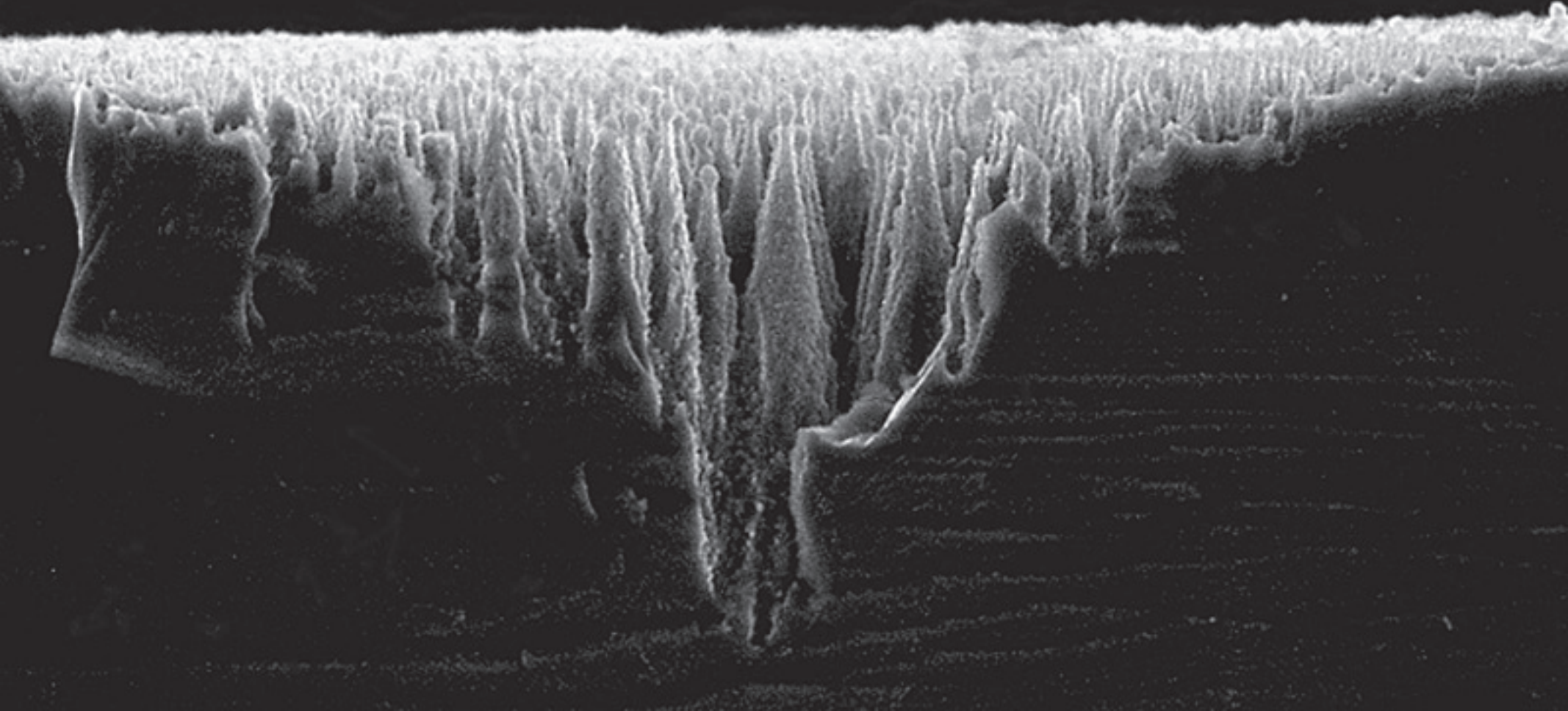
Structure



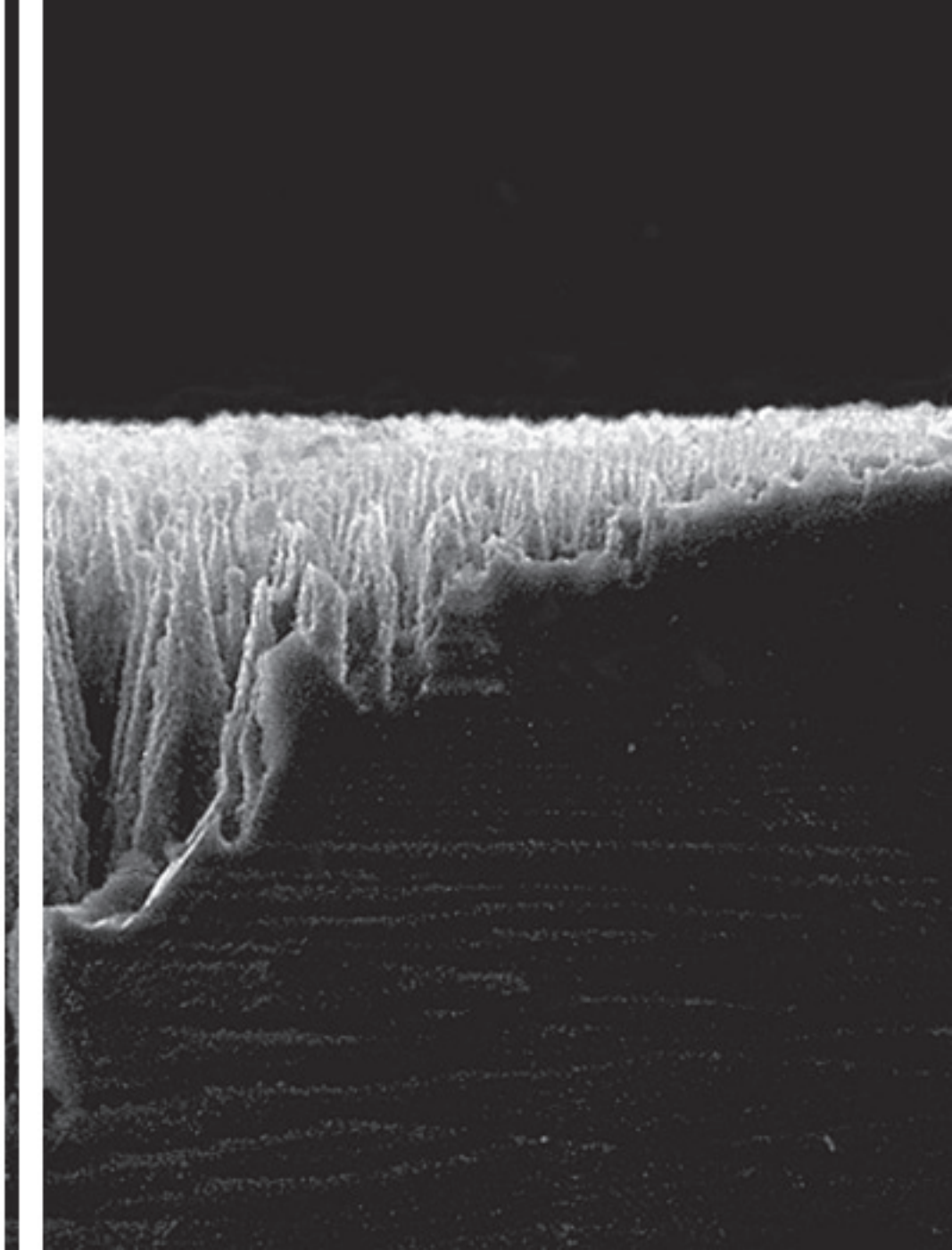
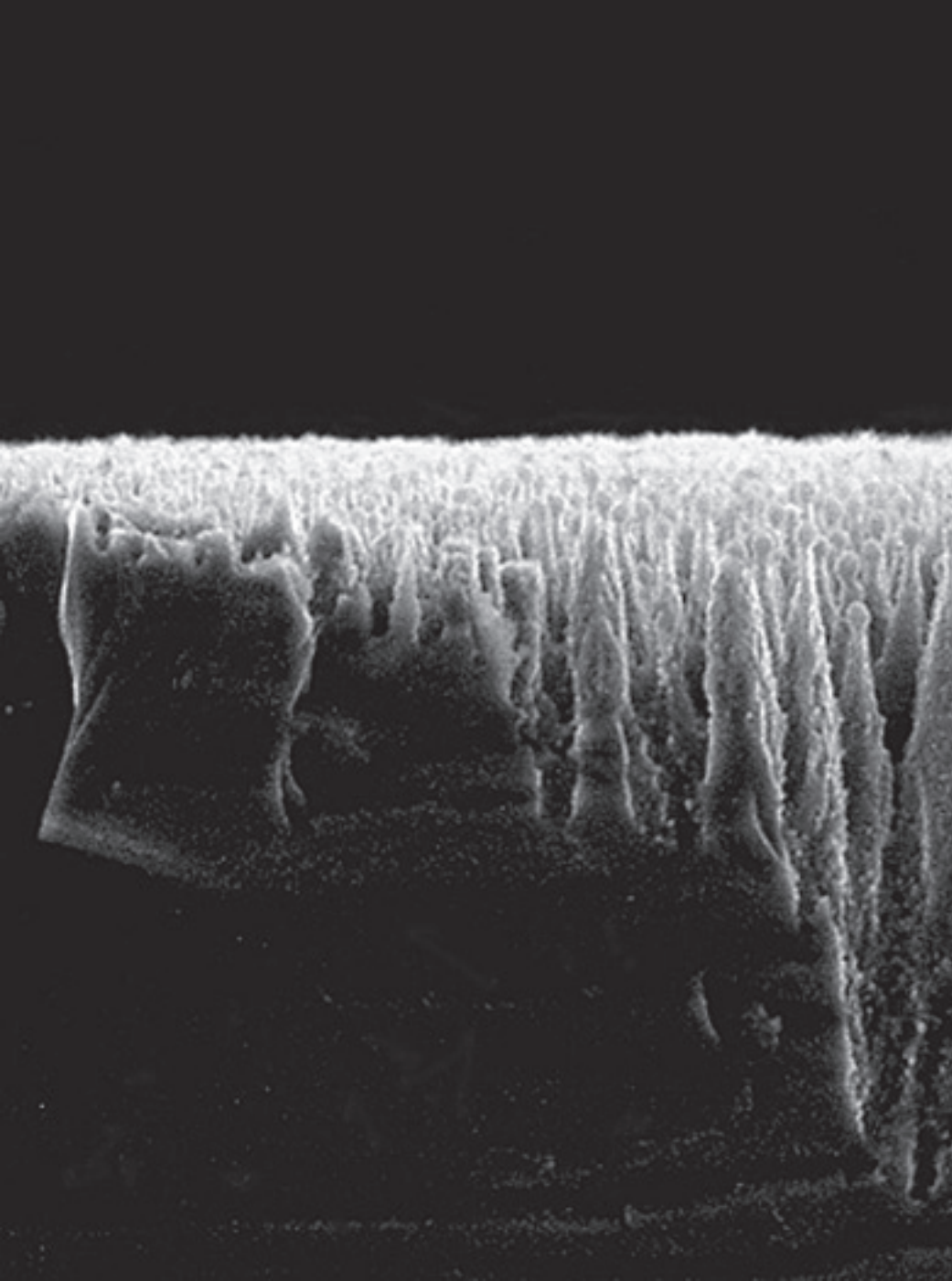
Structure



Structure

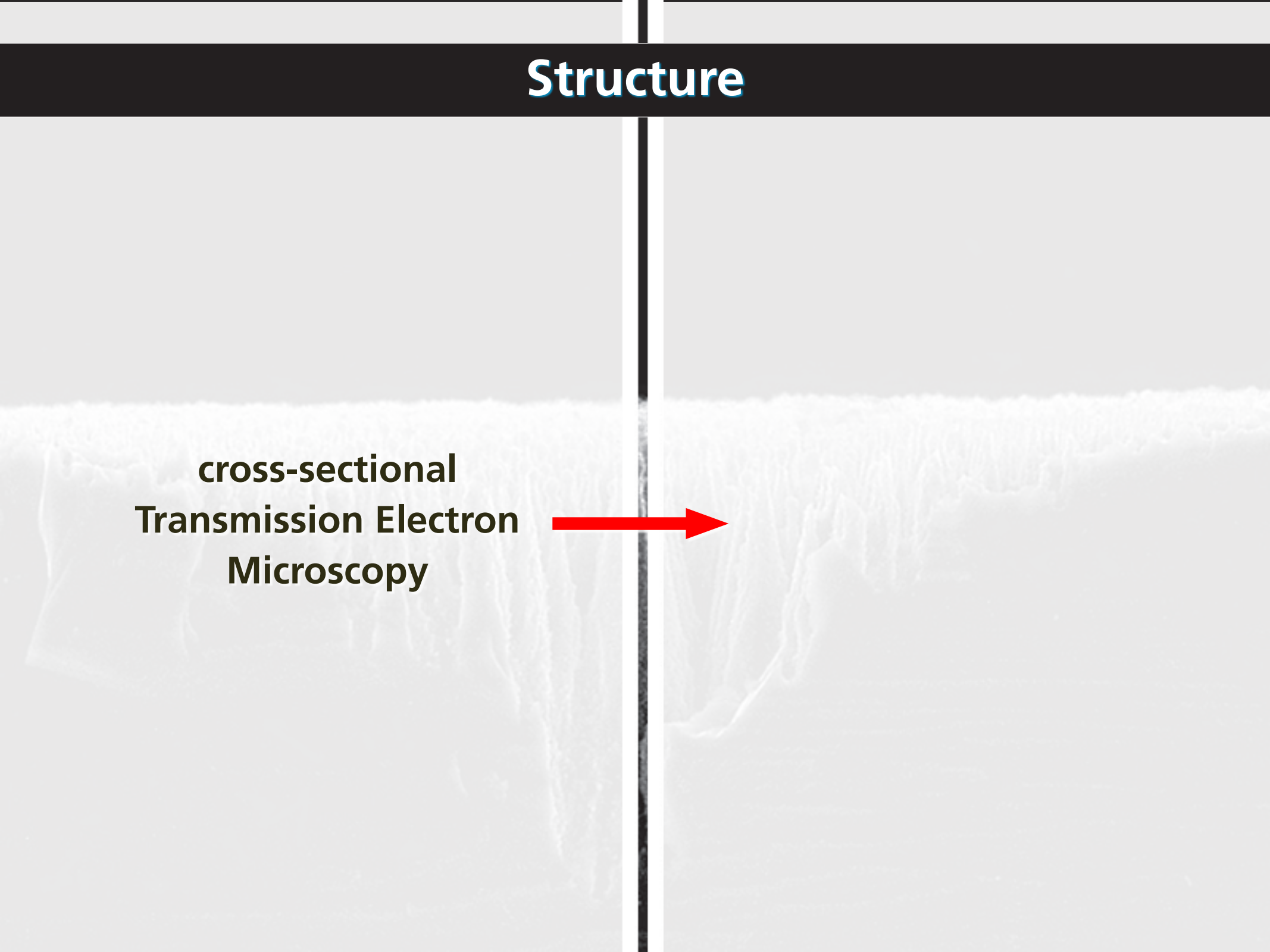


Structure



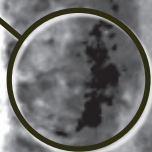
Structure

**cross-sectional
Transmission Electron
Microscopy**

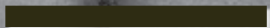


Structure

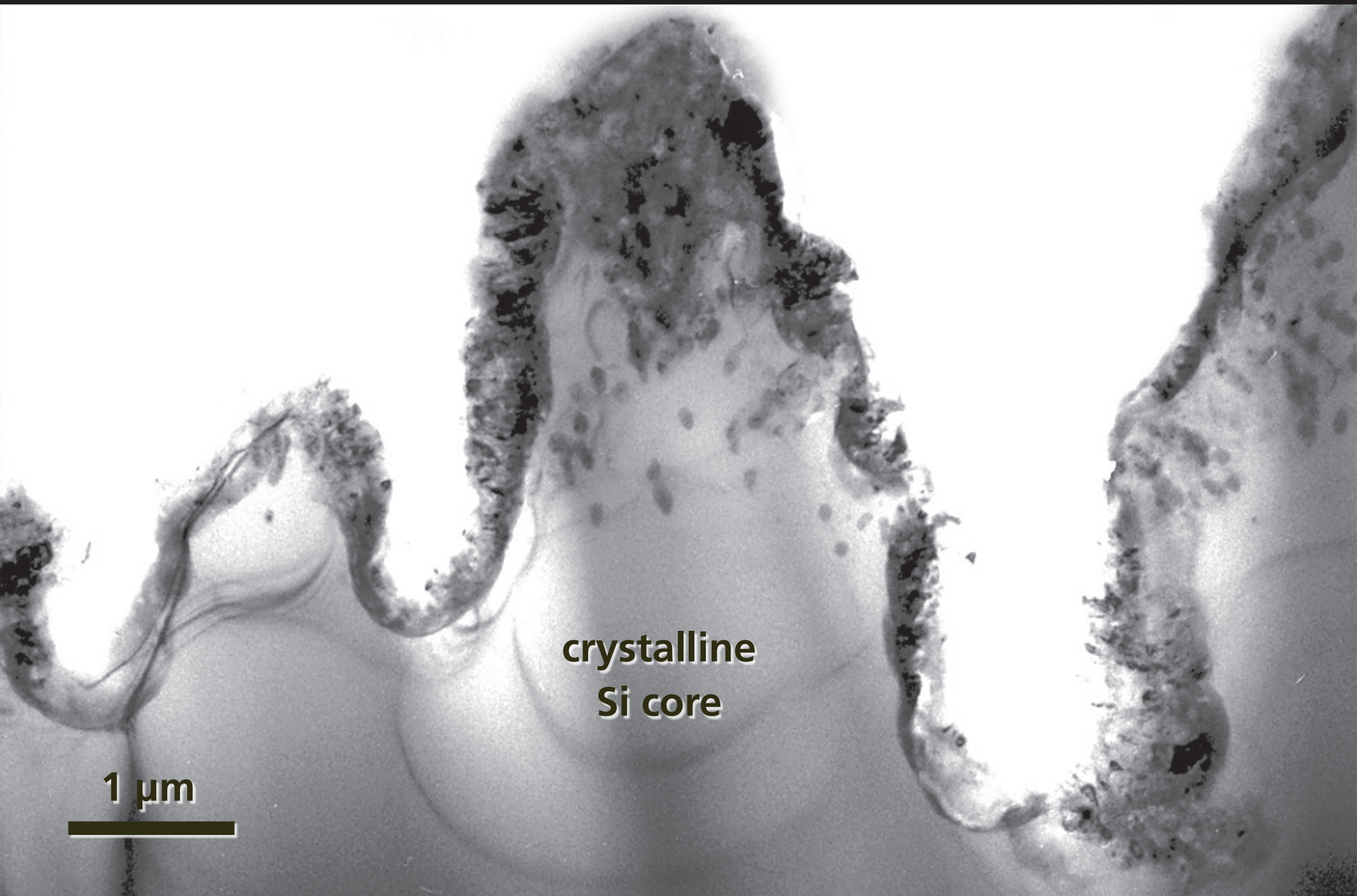
disordered
surface layer



1 μm



Structure



crystalline
Si core

1 μm

Structure

- 300-nm disordered surface layer
- undisturbed crystalline core
- surface layer: nanocrystalline Si with 1.6% sulfur

1 μm

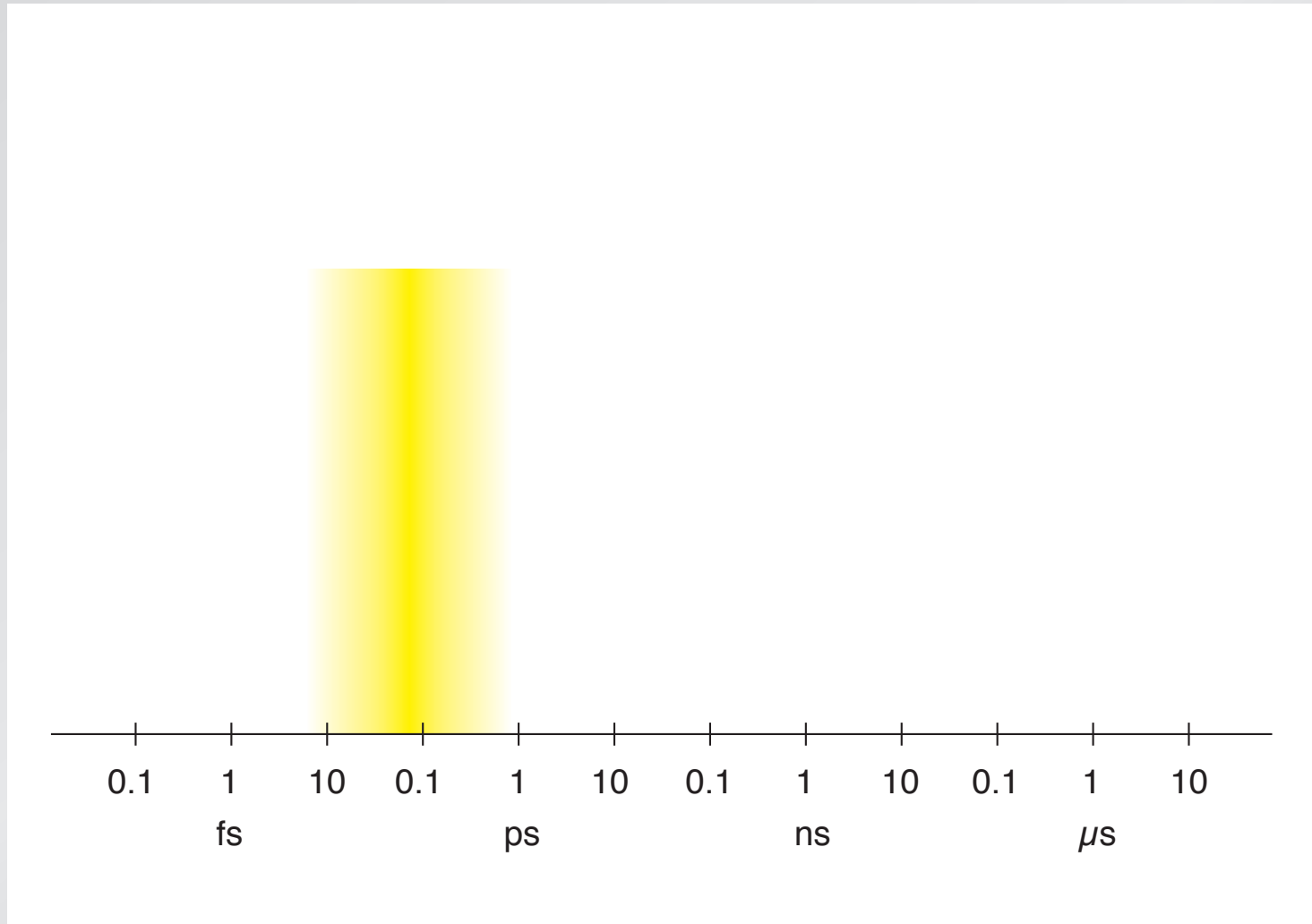
A grayscale micrograph showing several elongated, finger-like structures. Each structure has a darker, textured outer layer and a smoother, lighter inner core. The structures are interconnected and appear to be part of a larger network. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates a length of 1 micrometer.

Structure

two processes: melting and ablation

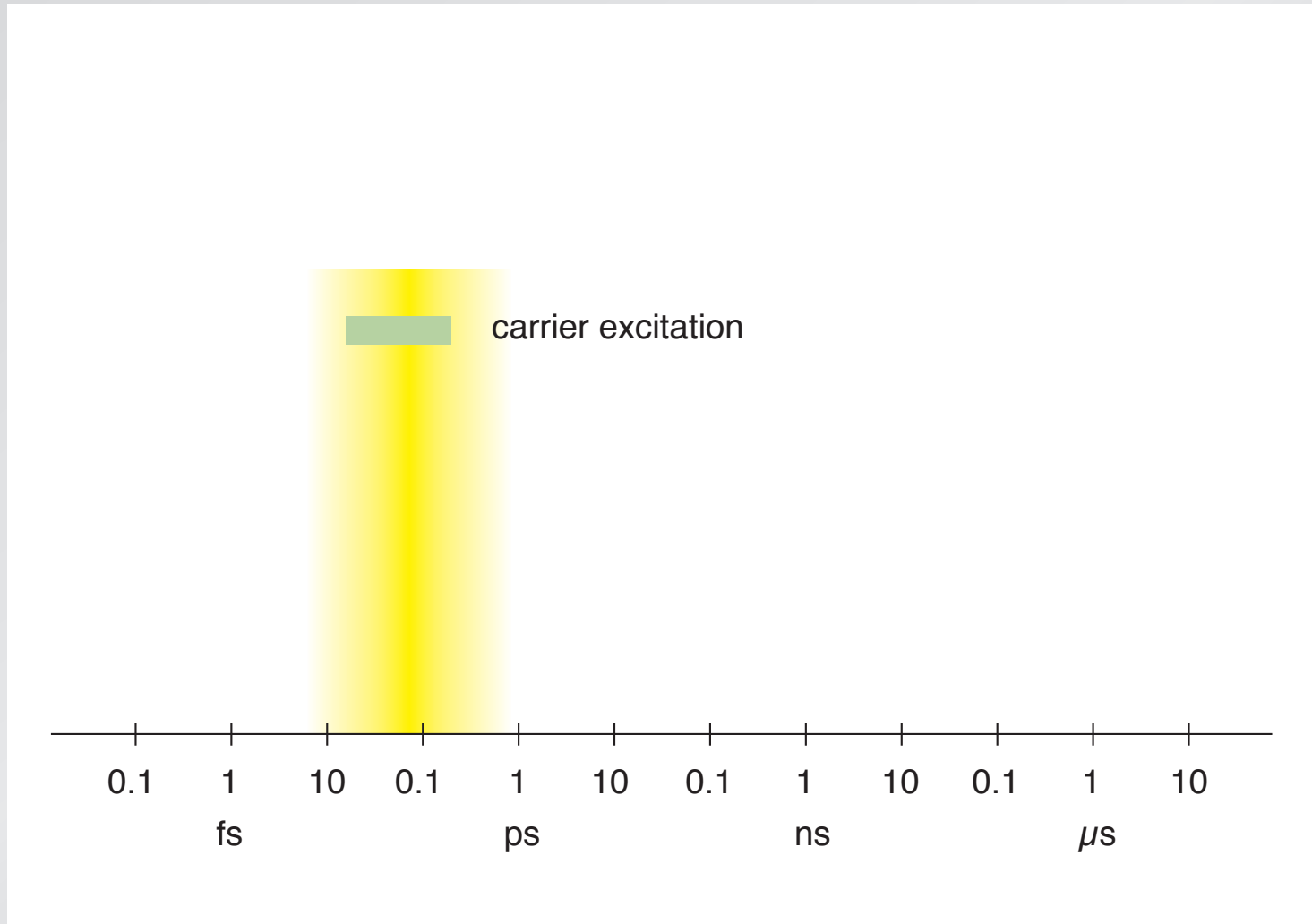
Structure

relevant time scales



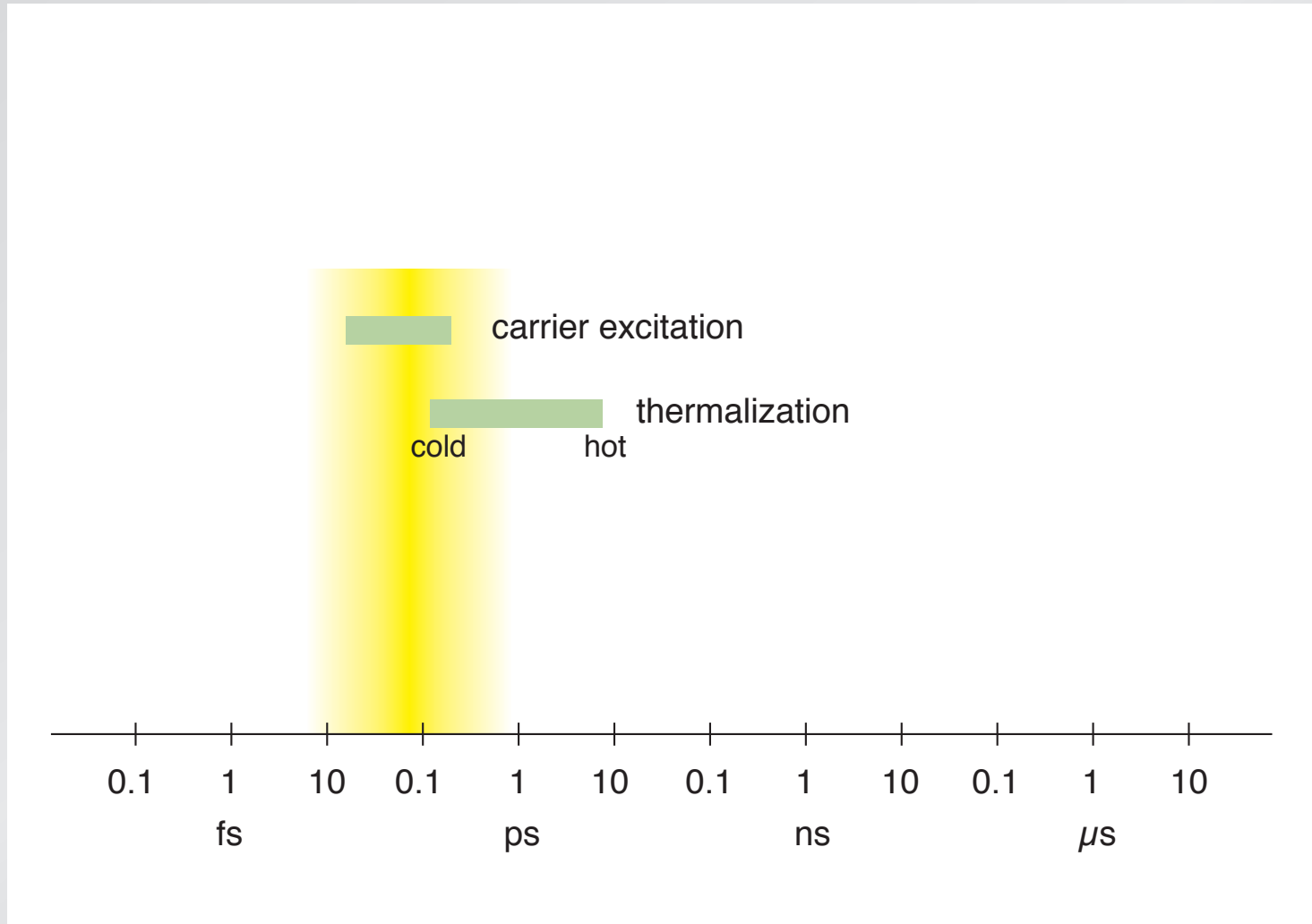
Structure

relevant time scales



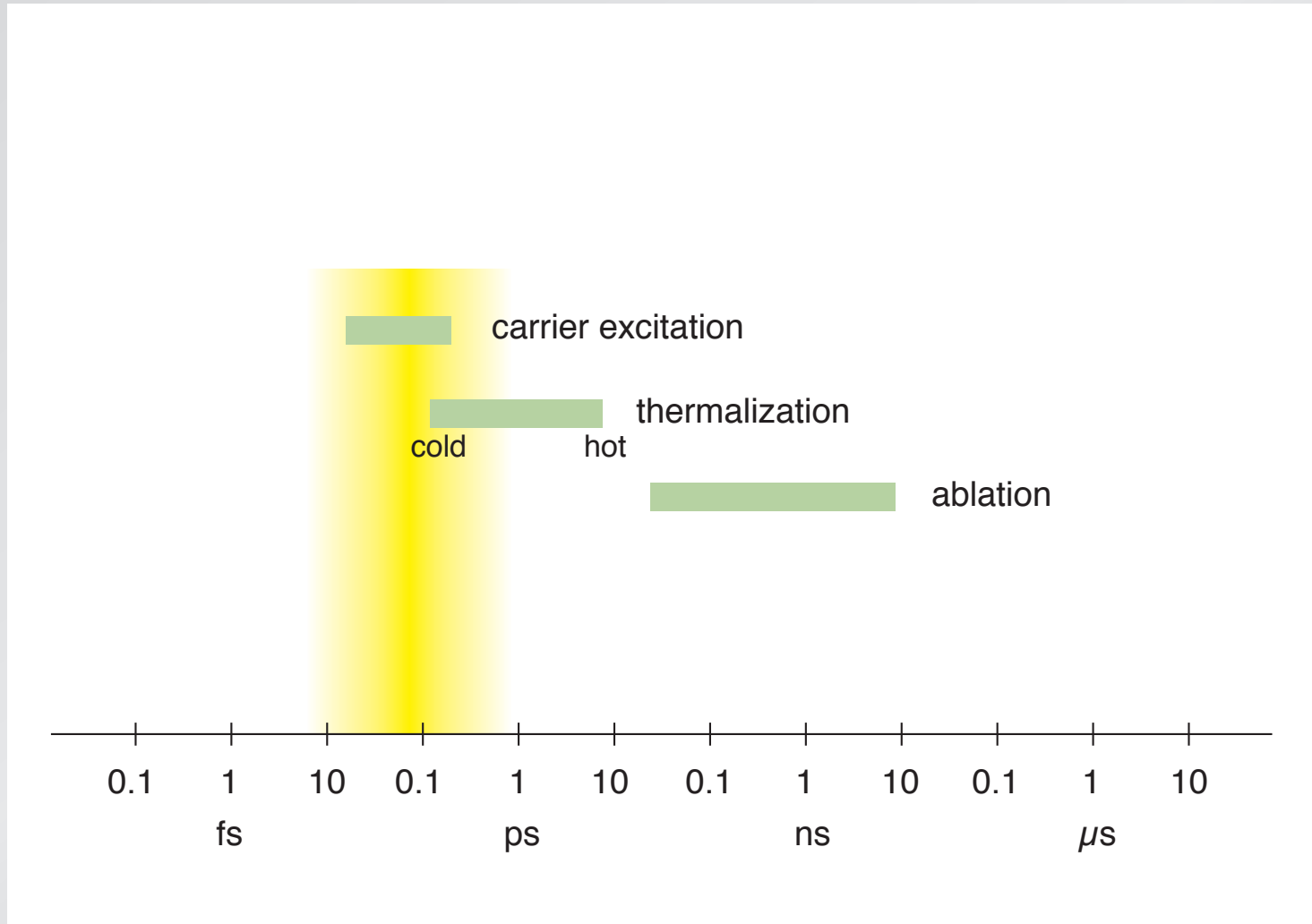
Structure

relevant time scales



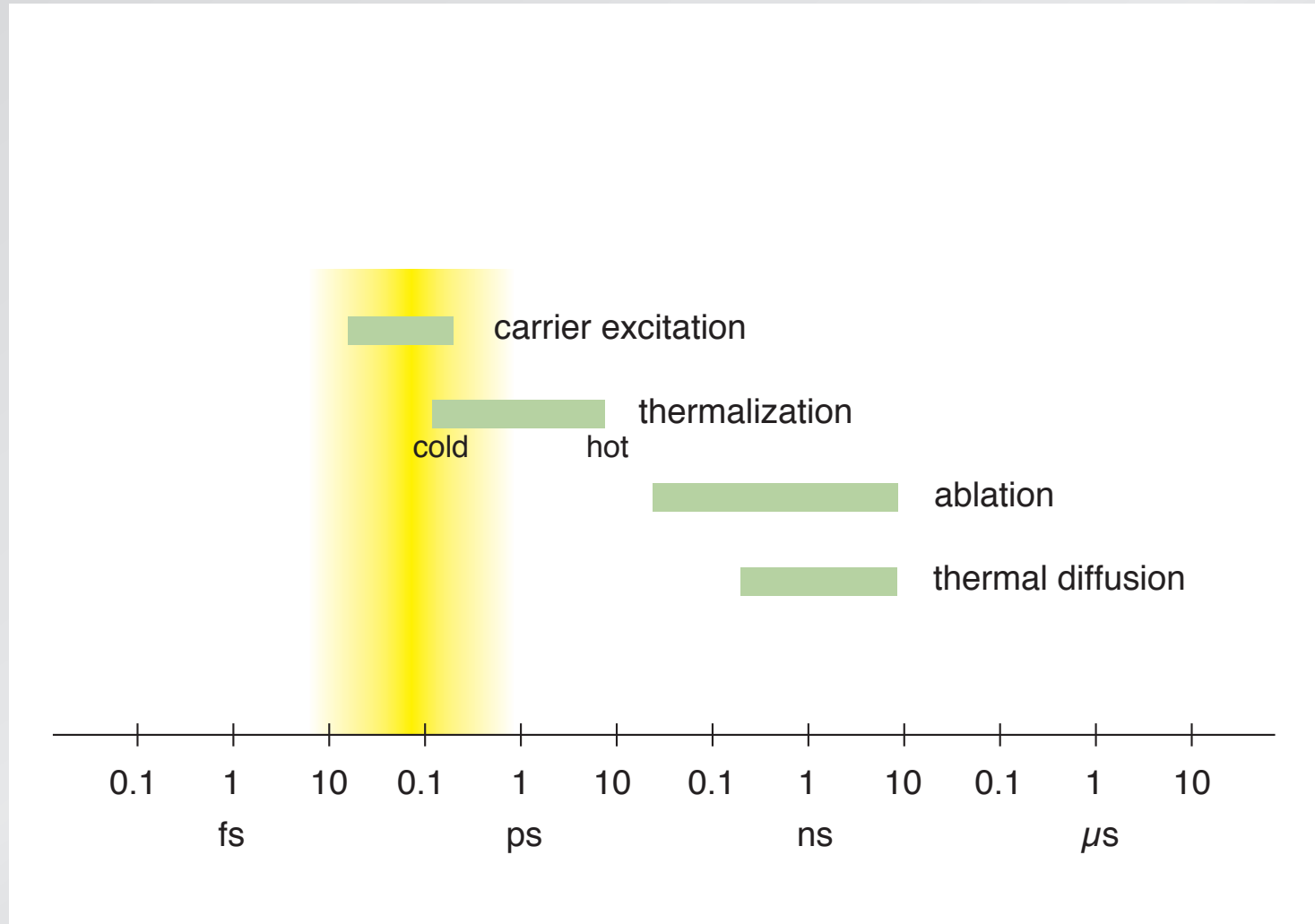
Structure

relevant time scales



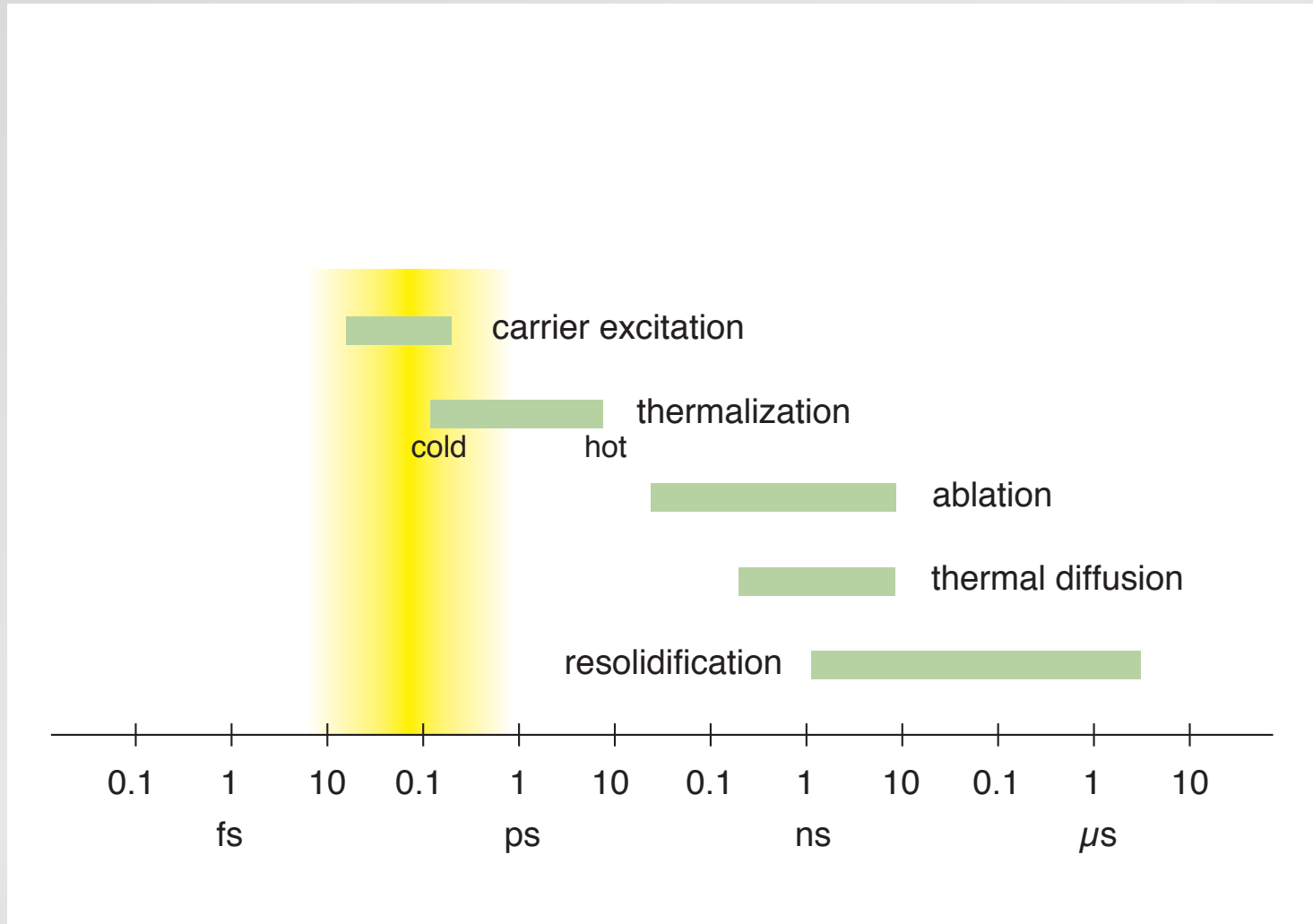
Structure

relevant time scales



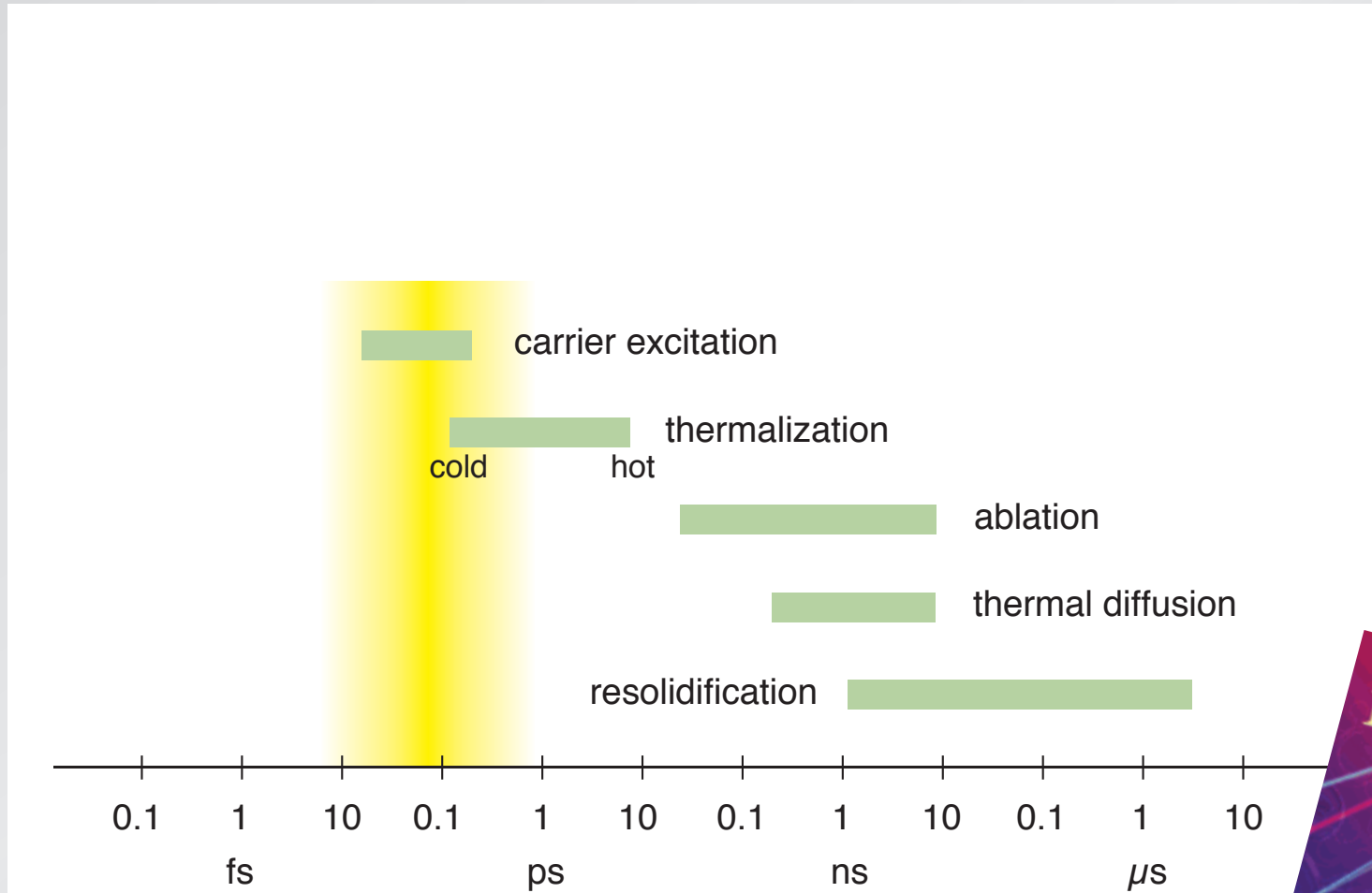
Structure

relevant time scales

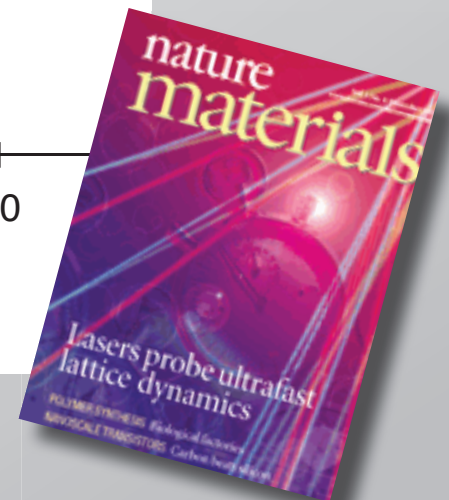


Structure

relevant time scales

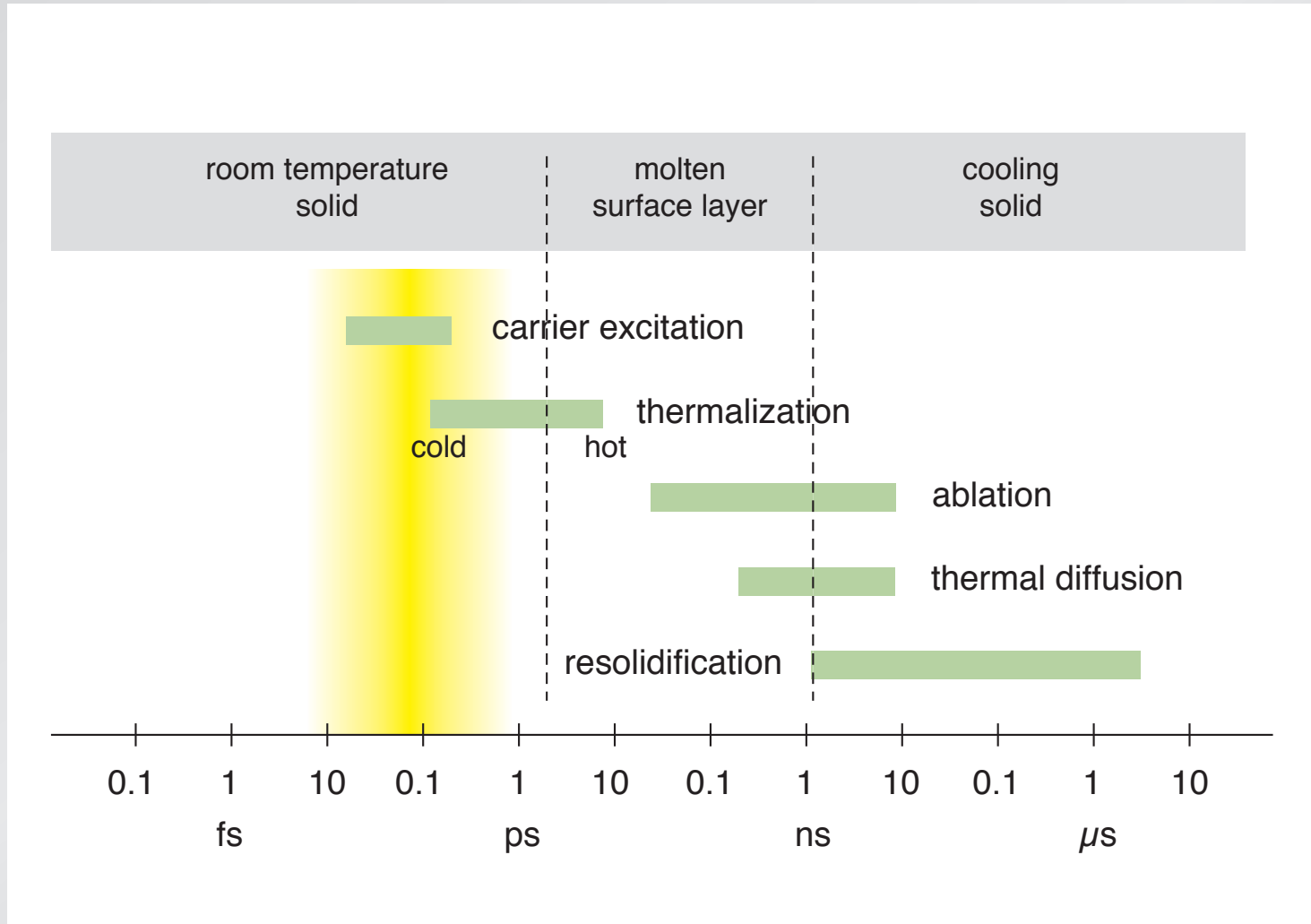


Nature Materials 1, 217 (2002)



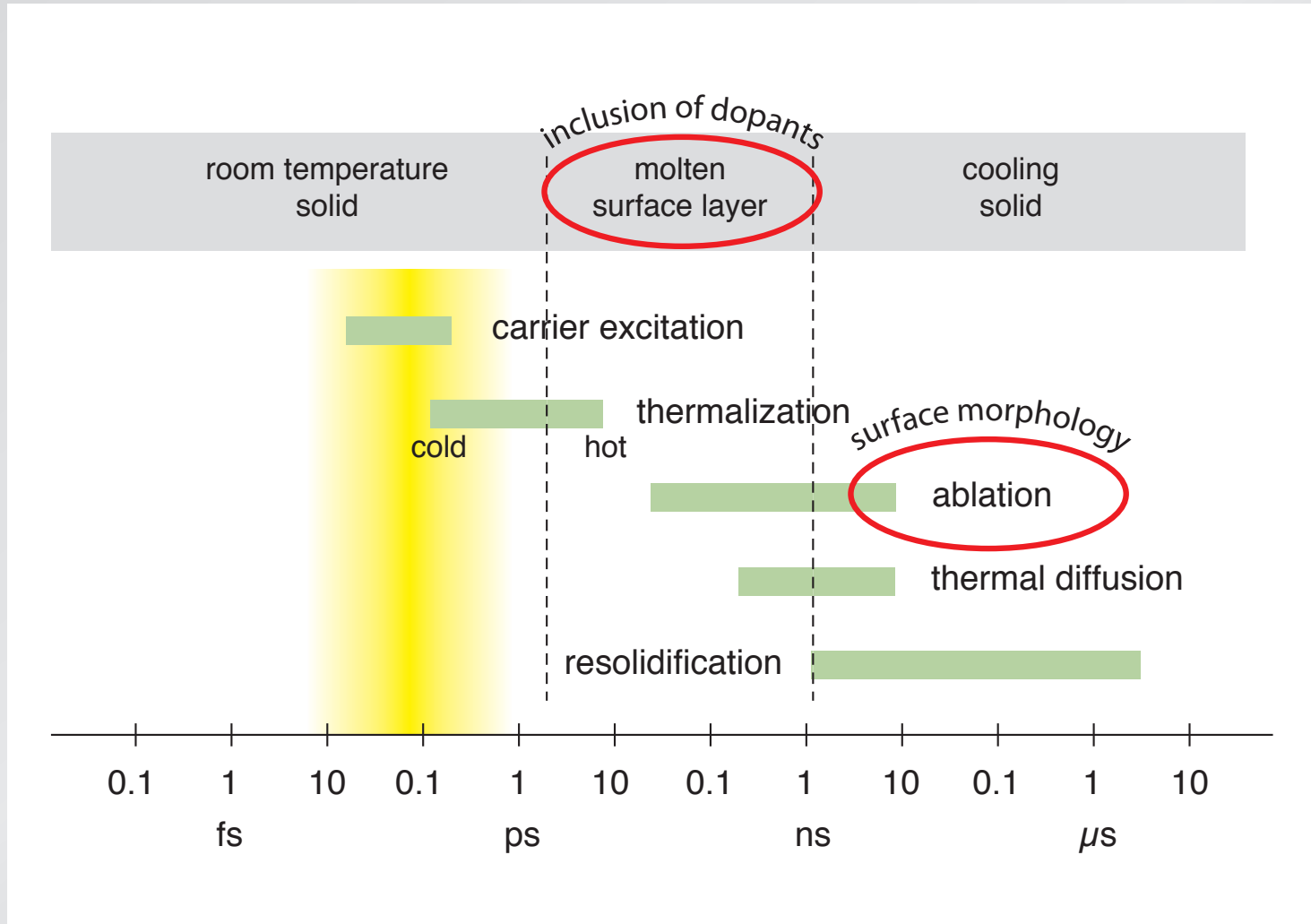
Structure

relevant time scales



Structure

relevant time scales



Structure

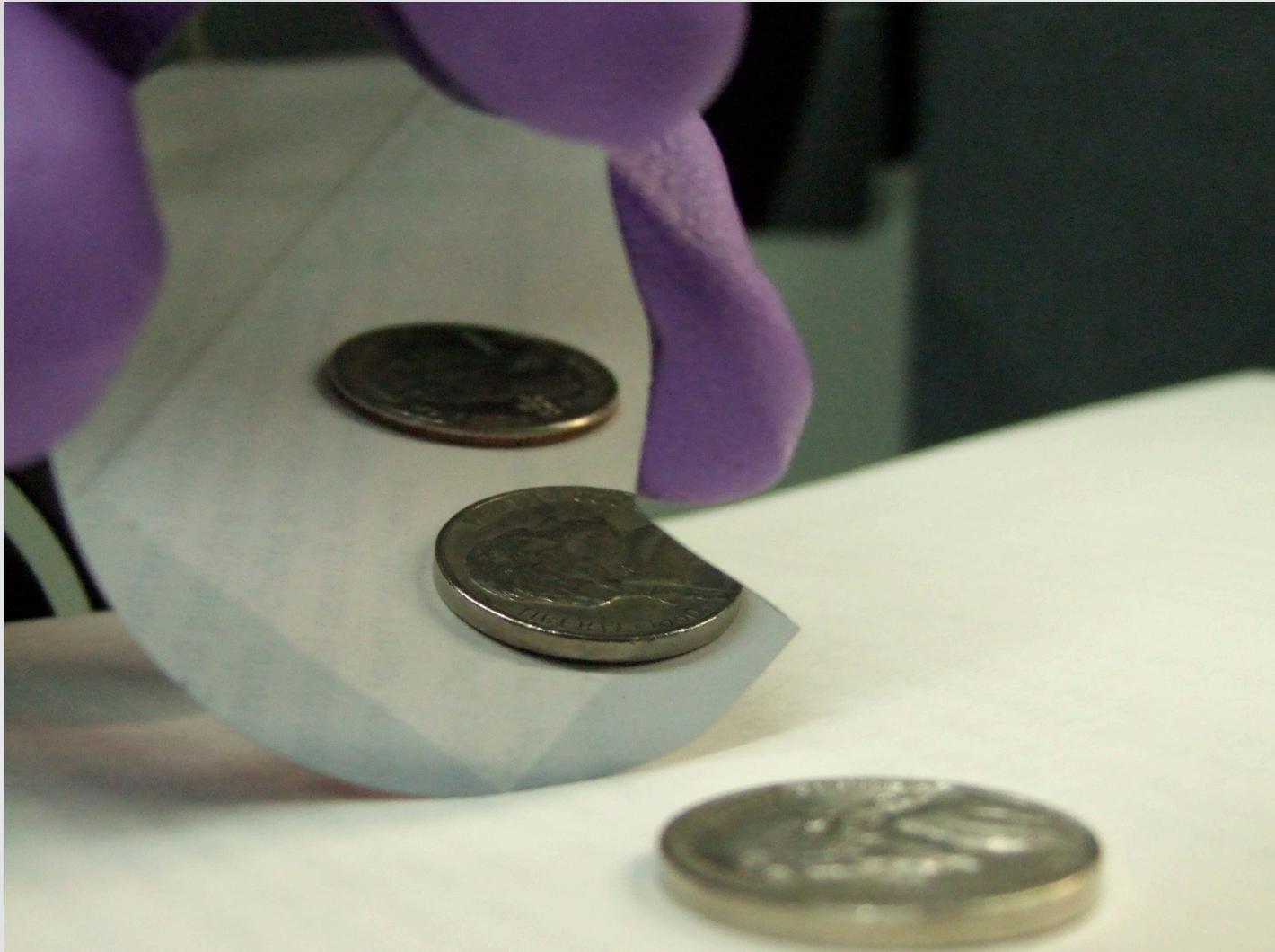
different thresholds:

melting: 1.5 kJ/m²

ablation: 3.1 kJ/m²

Structure

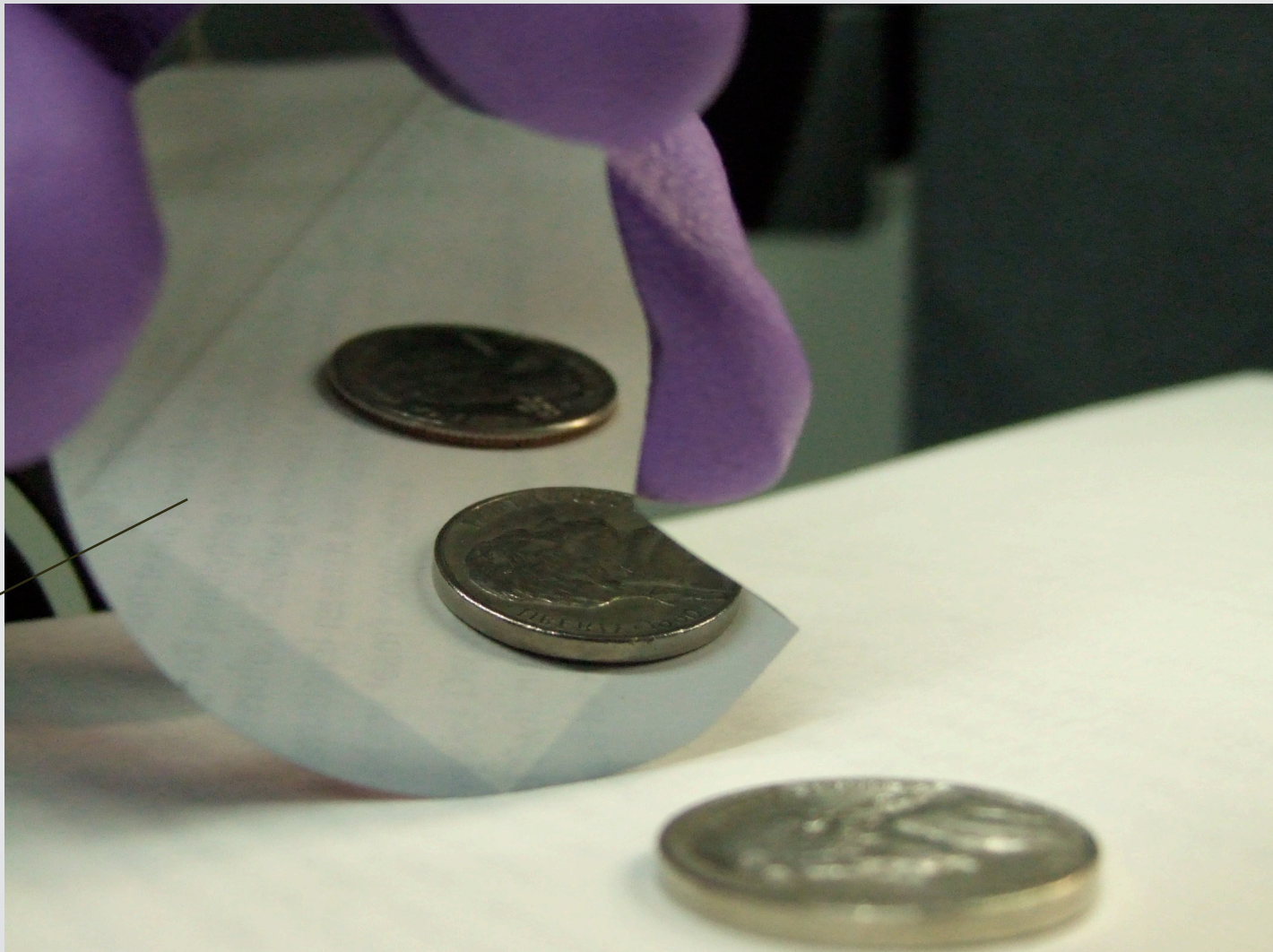
decouple ablation from melting



Structure

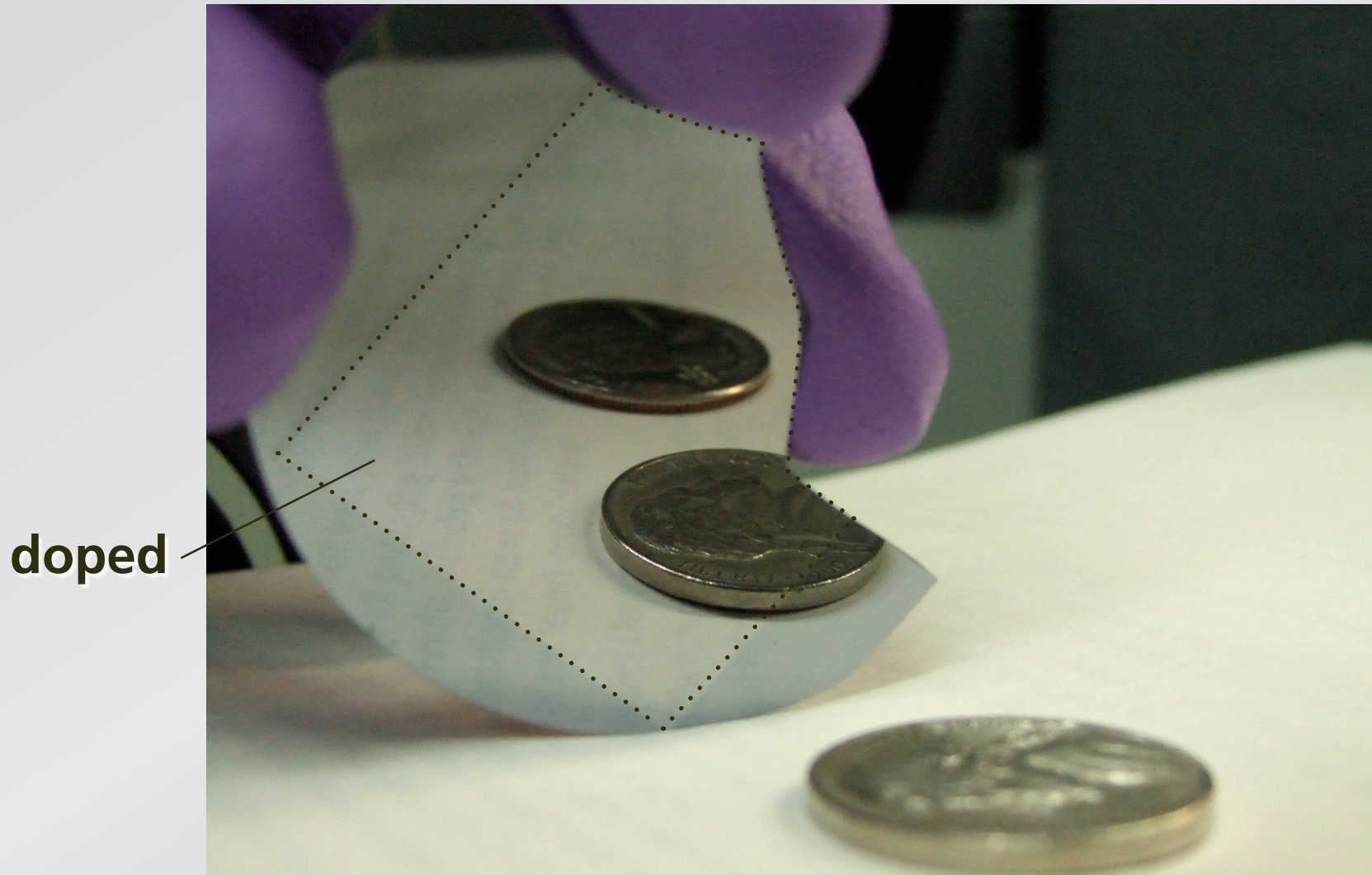
decouple ablation from melting

doped



Structure

decouple ablation from melting

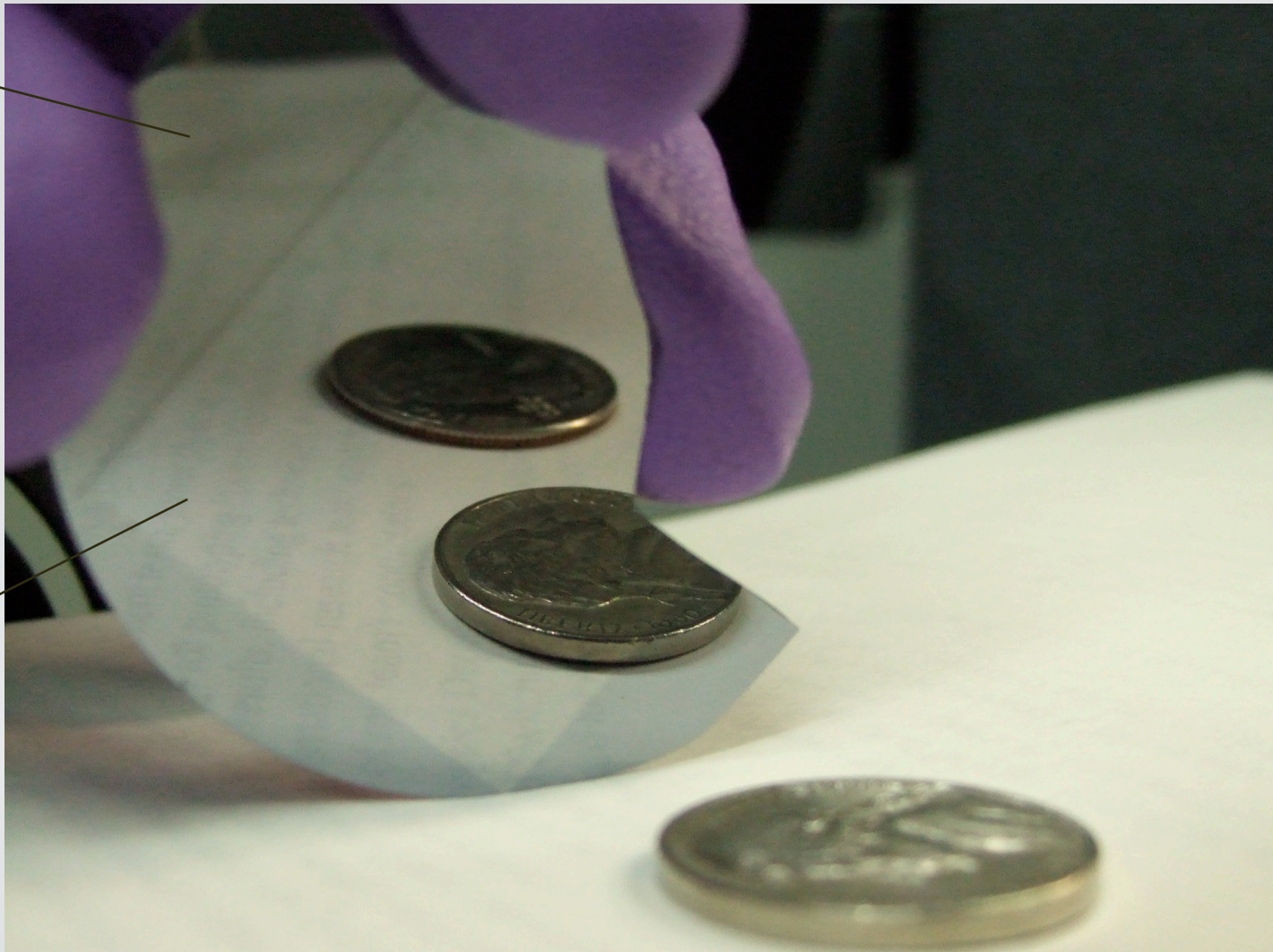


Structure

decouple ablation from melting

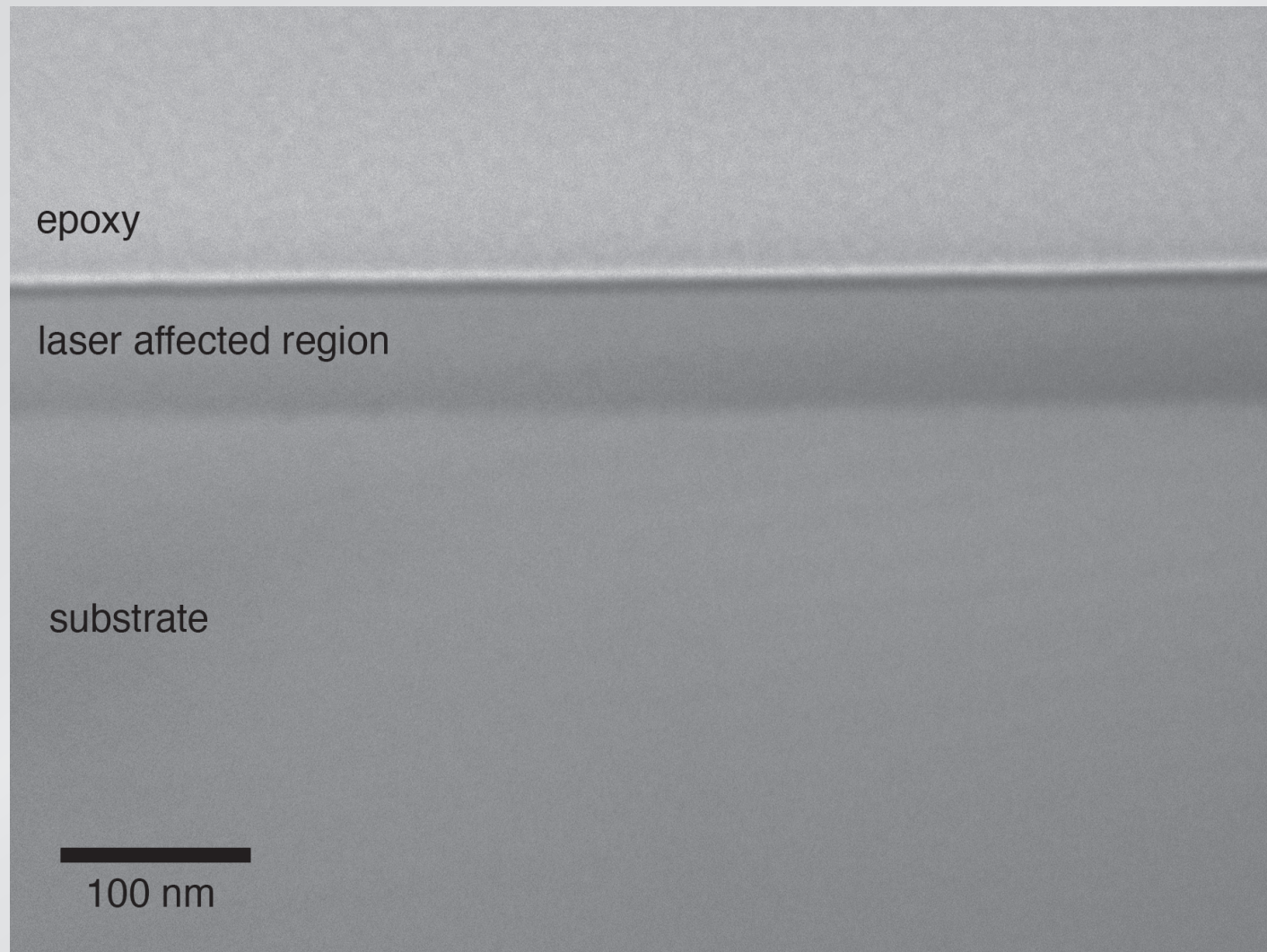
undoped

doped



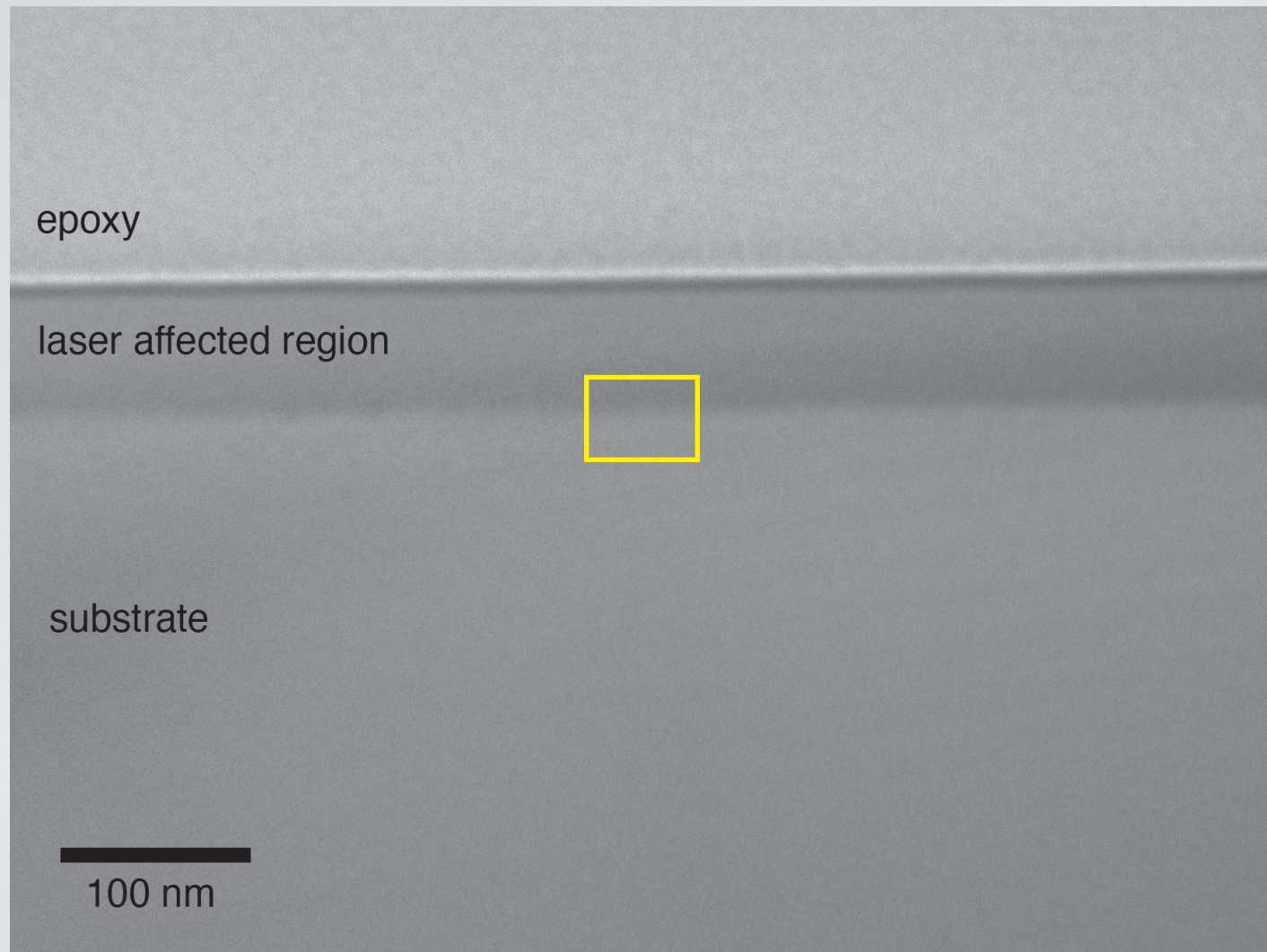
Structure

decouple ablation from melting



Structure

decouple ablation from melting



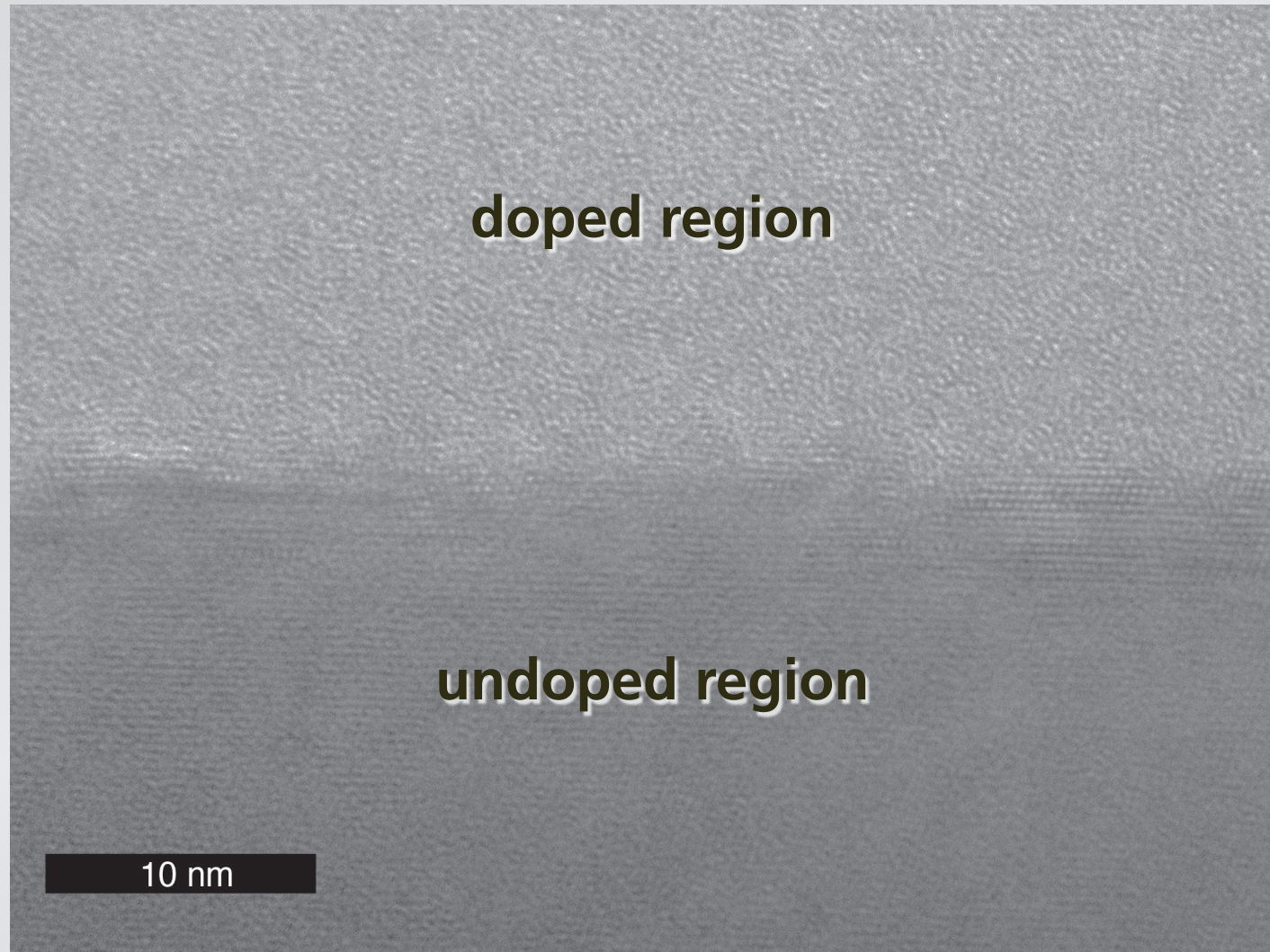
Structure

decouple ablation from melting



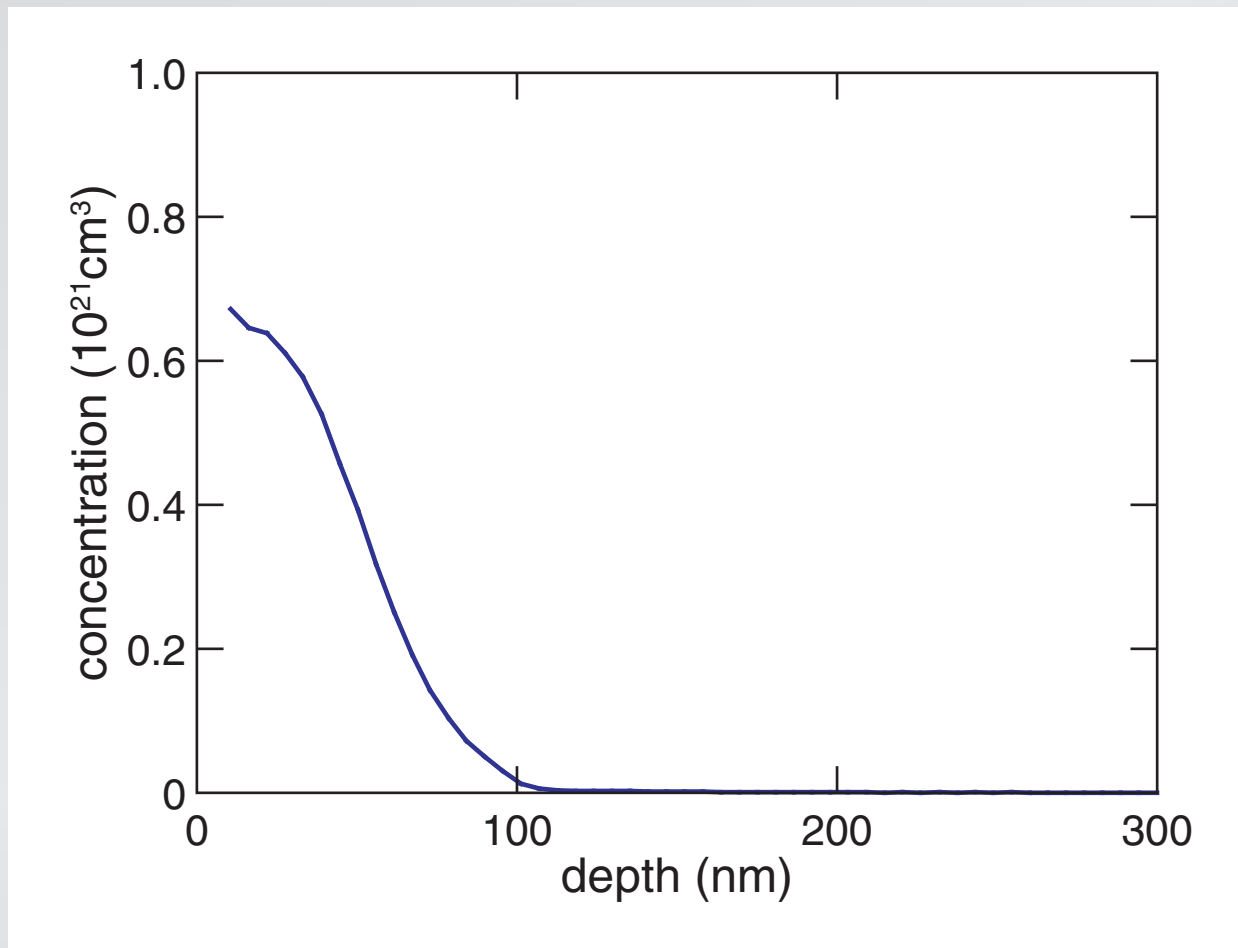
Structure

decouple ablation from melting



Structure

secondary ion mass spectrometry



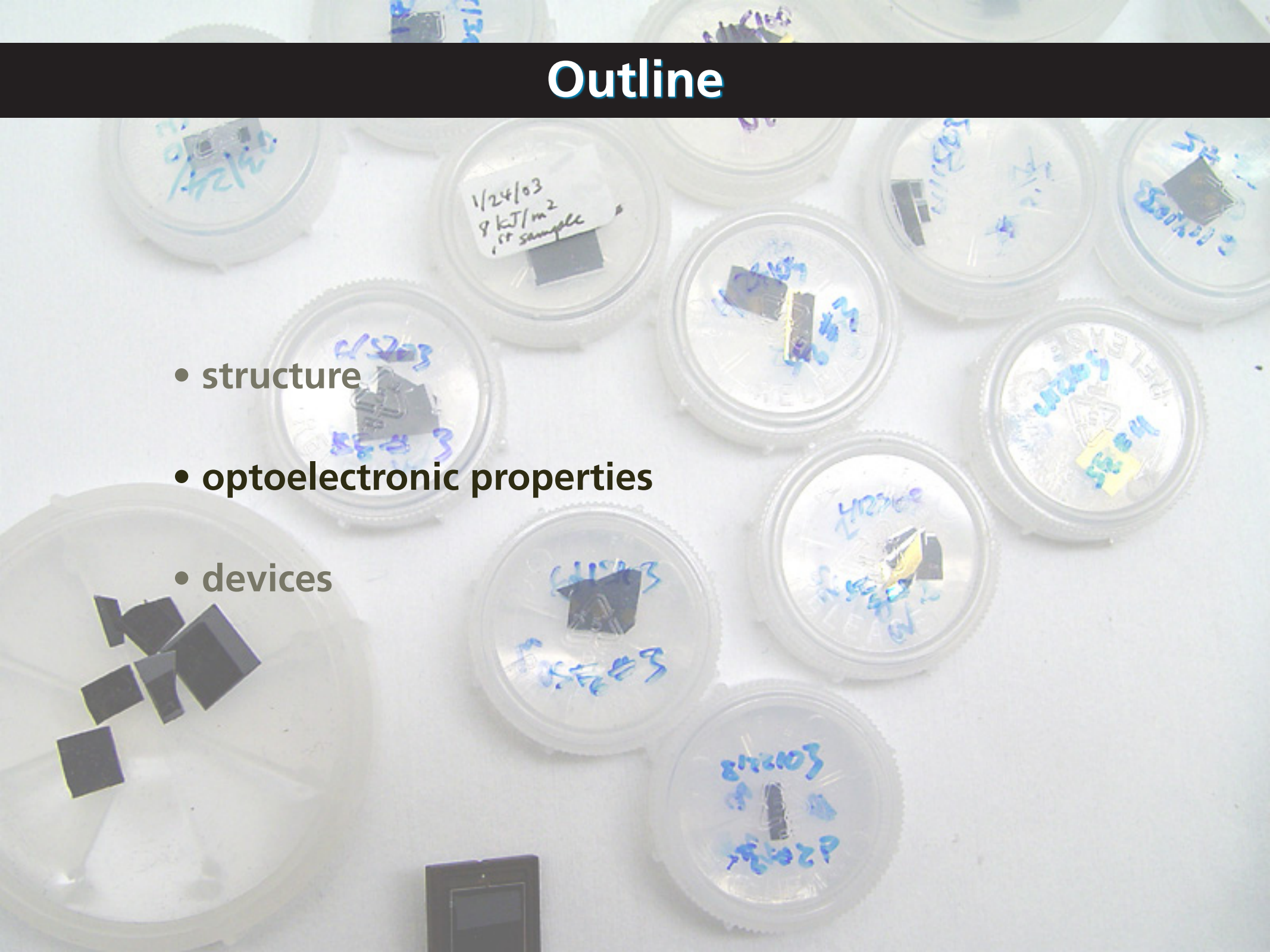
Structure

Things to keep in mind

- rapid melting and resolidification causes doping
- ablation causes morphology changes
- about 1% impurity in 100-nm thick surface layer
- annealing changes impurity coordination

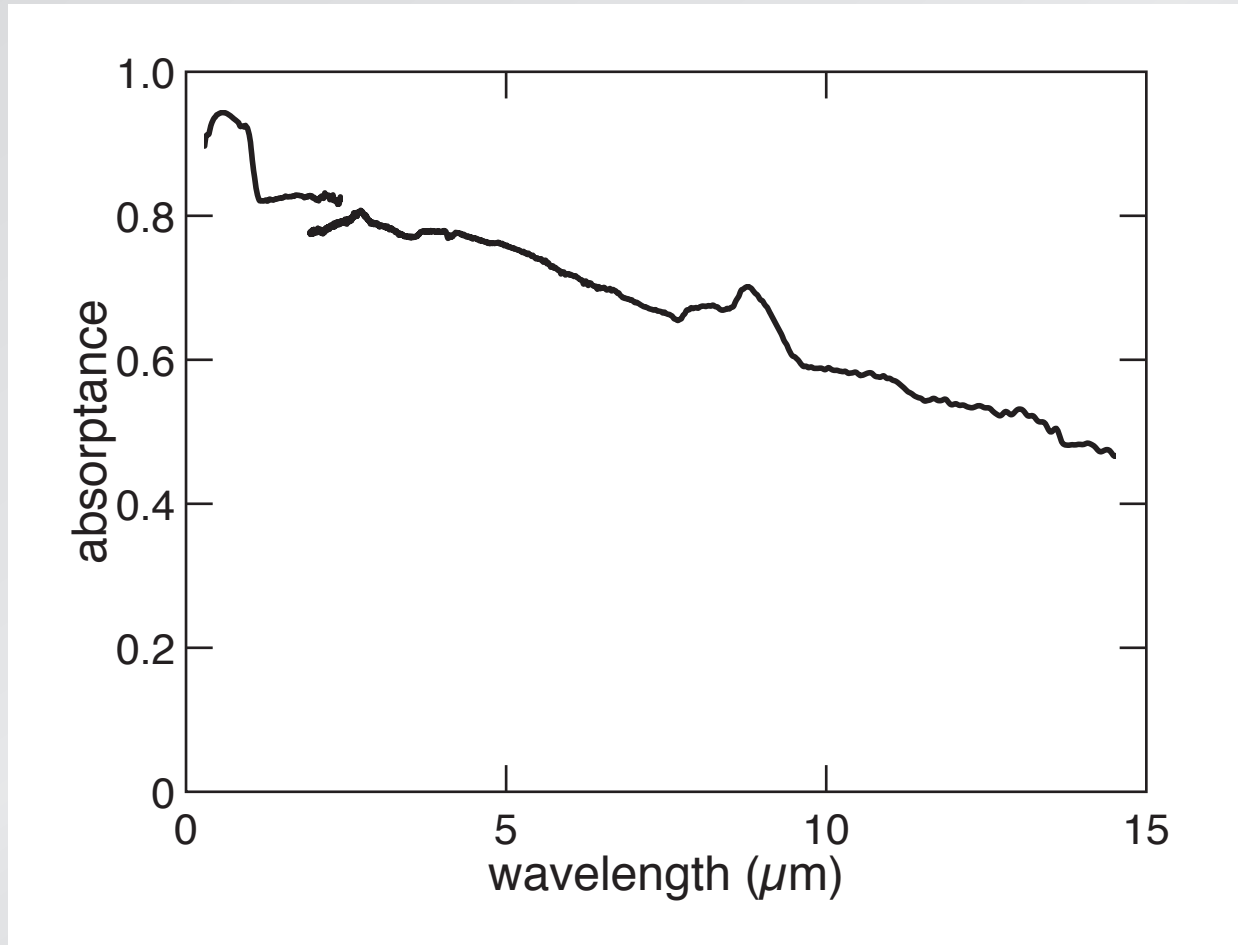
Outline

- structure
- optoelectronic properties
- devices



Optoelectronic properties

absorptance $(1 - R_{int} - T_{int})$

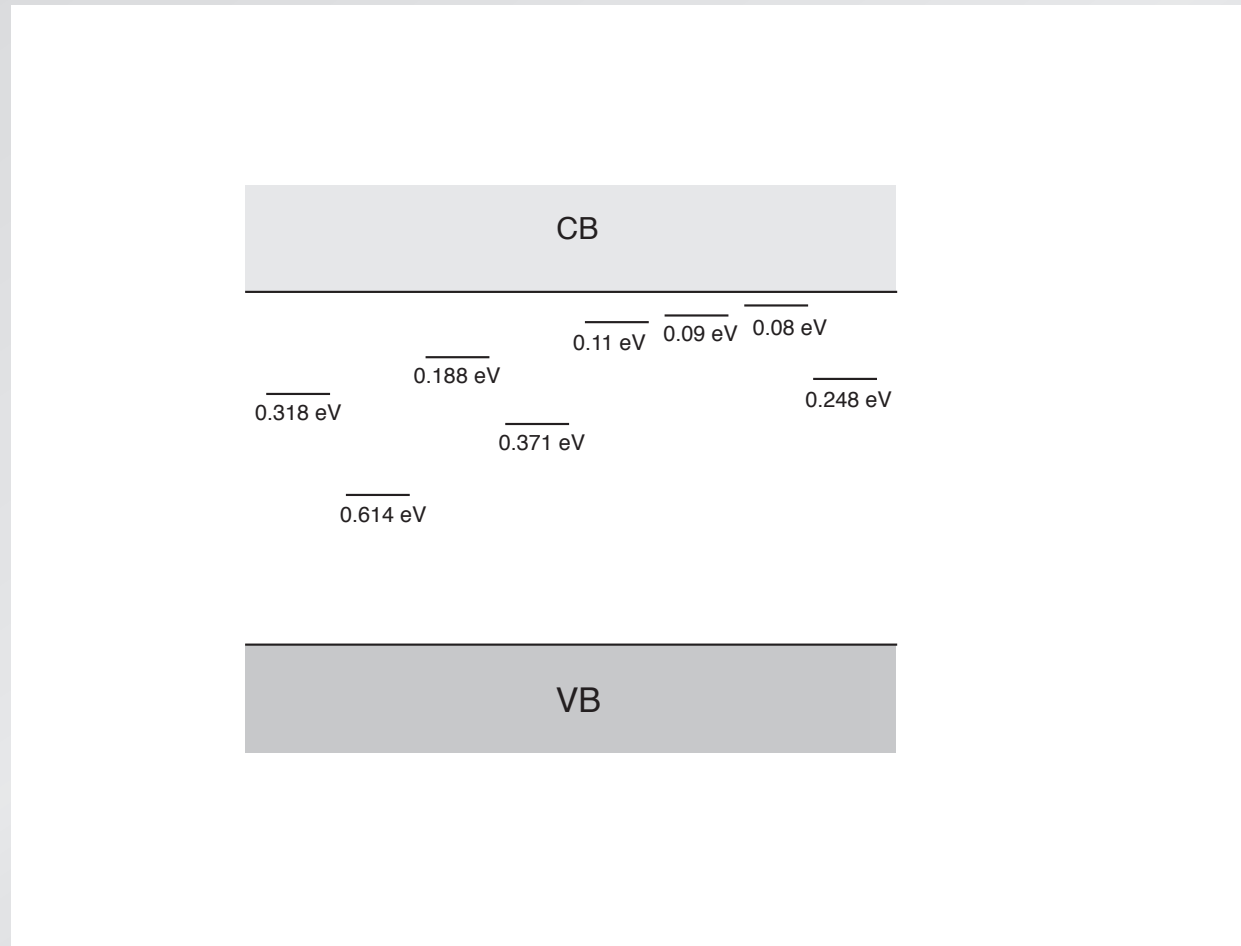


Optoelectronic properties

what dopant states/bands cause IR absorption?

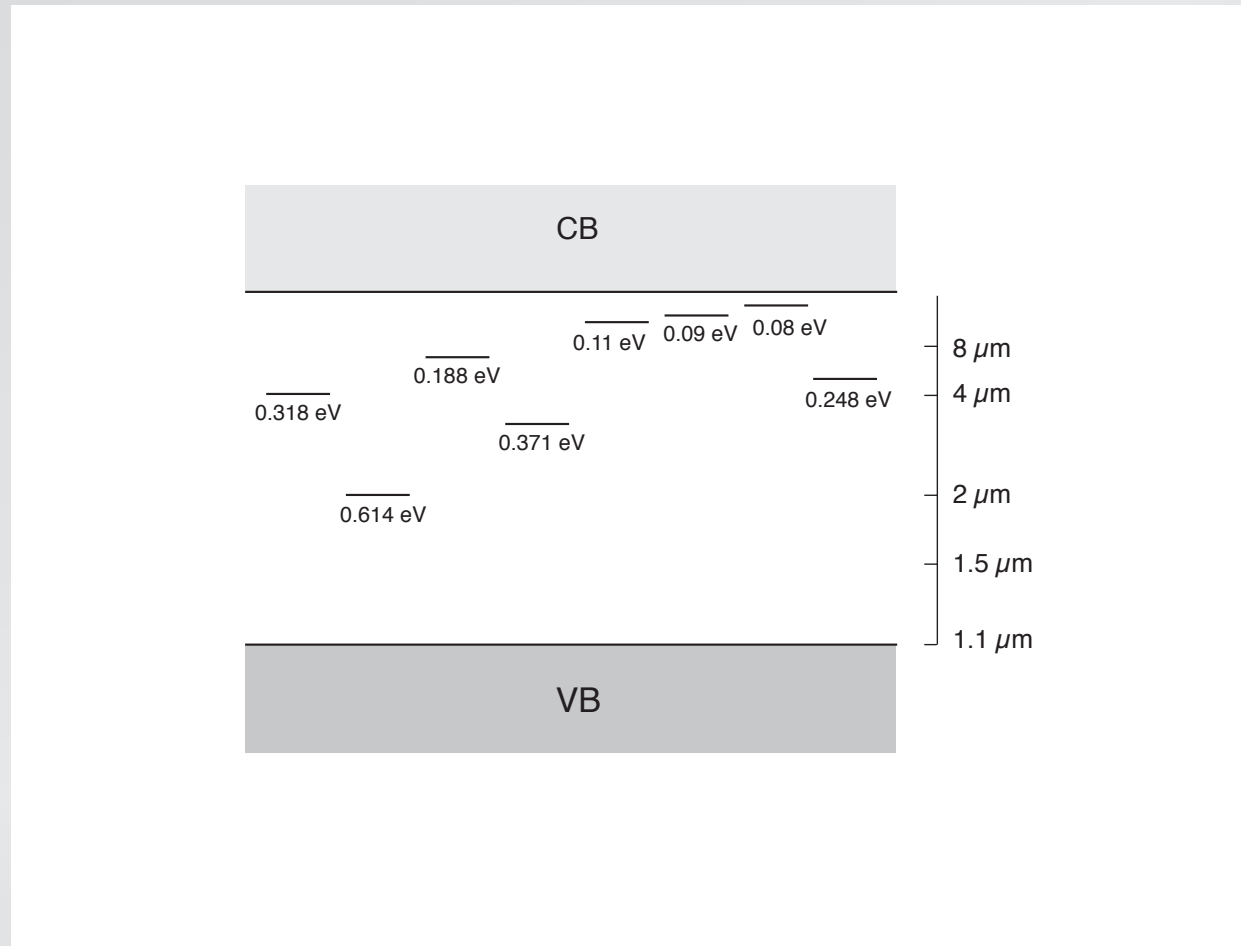
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



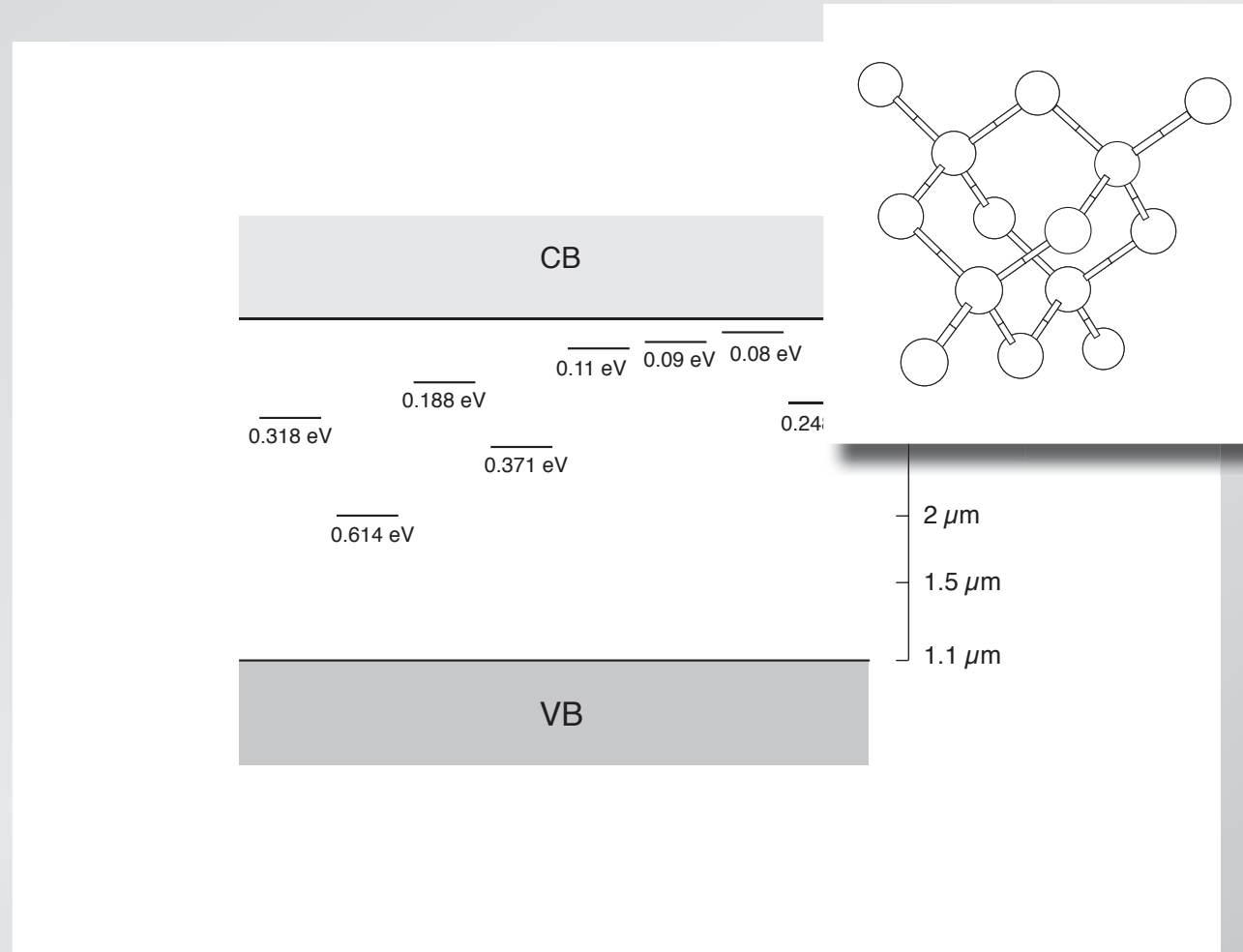
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



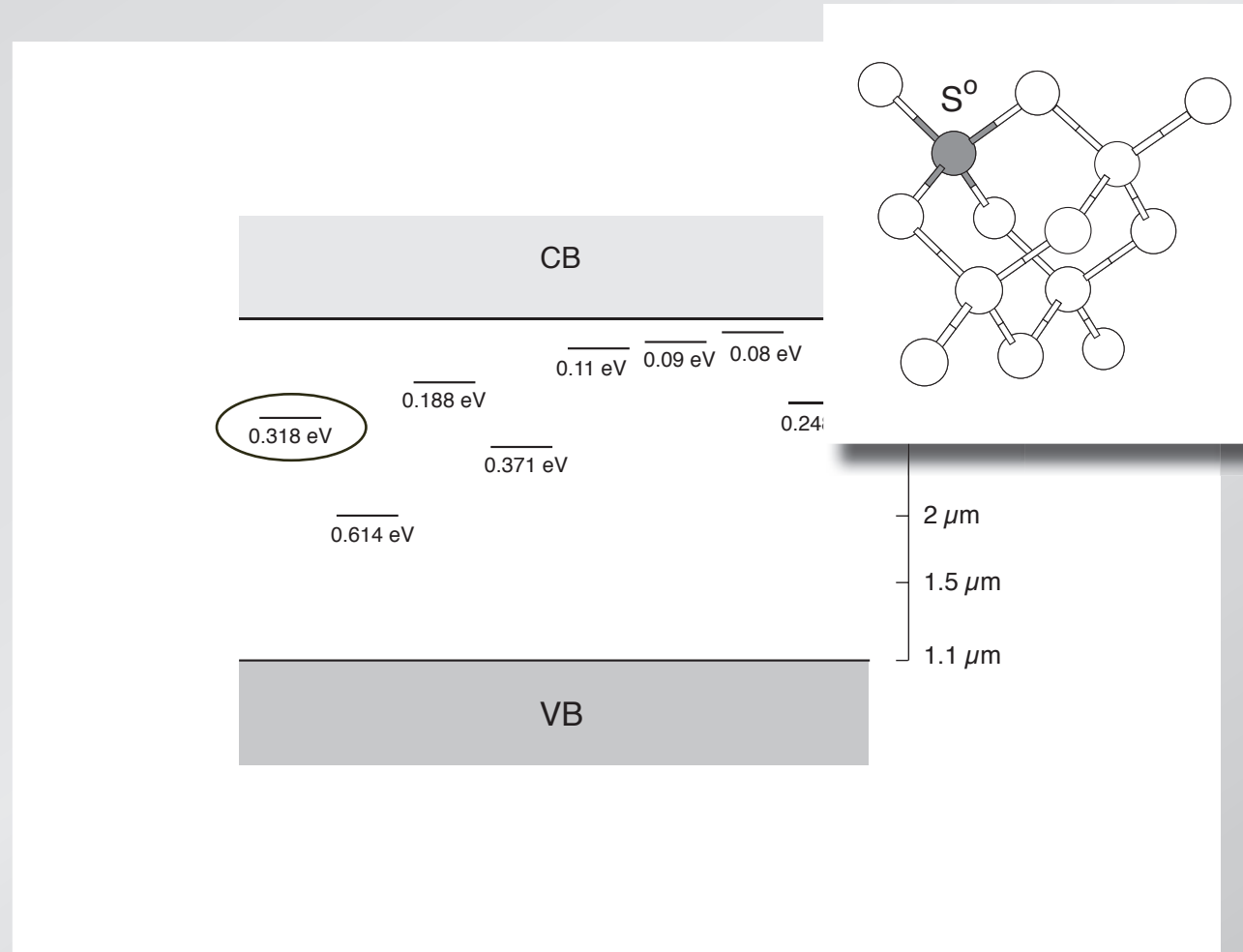
Optoelectronic properties

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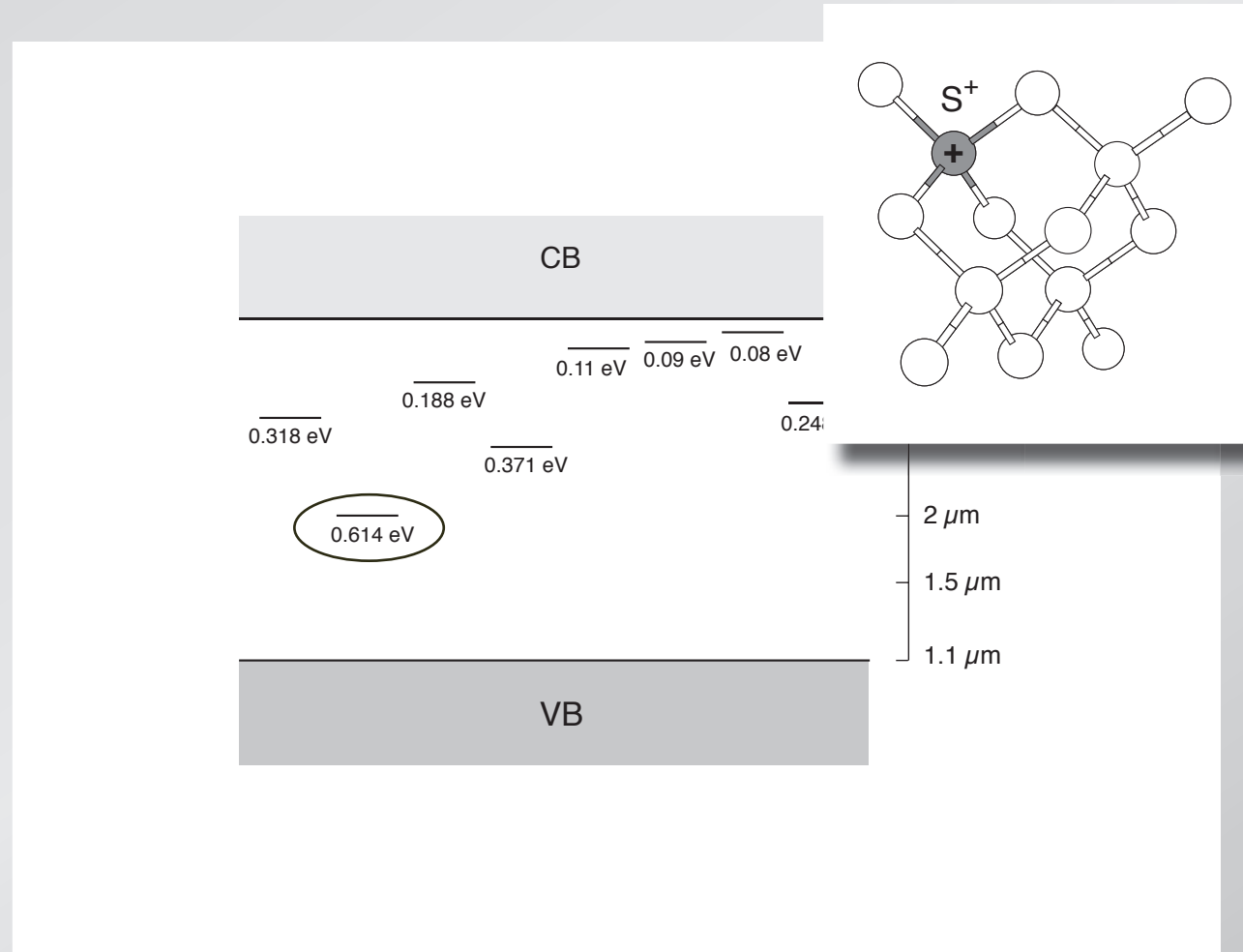
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



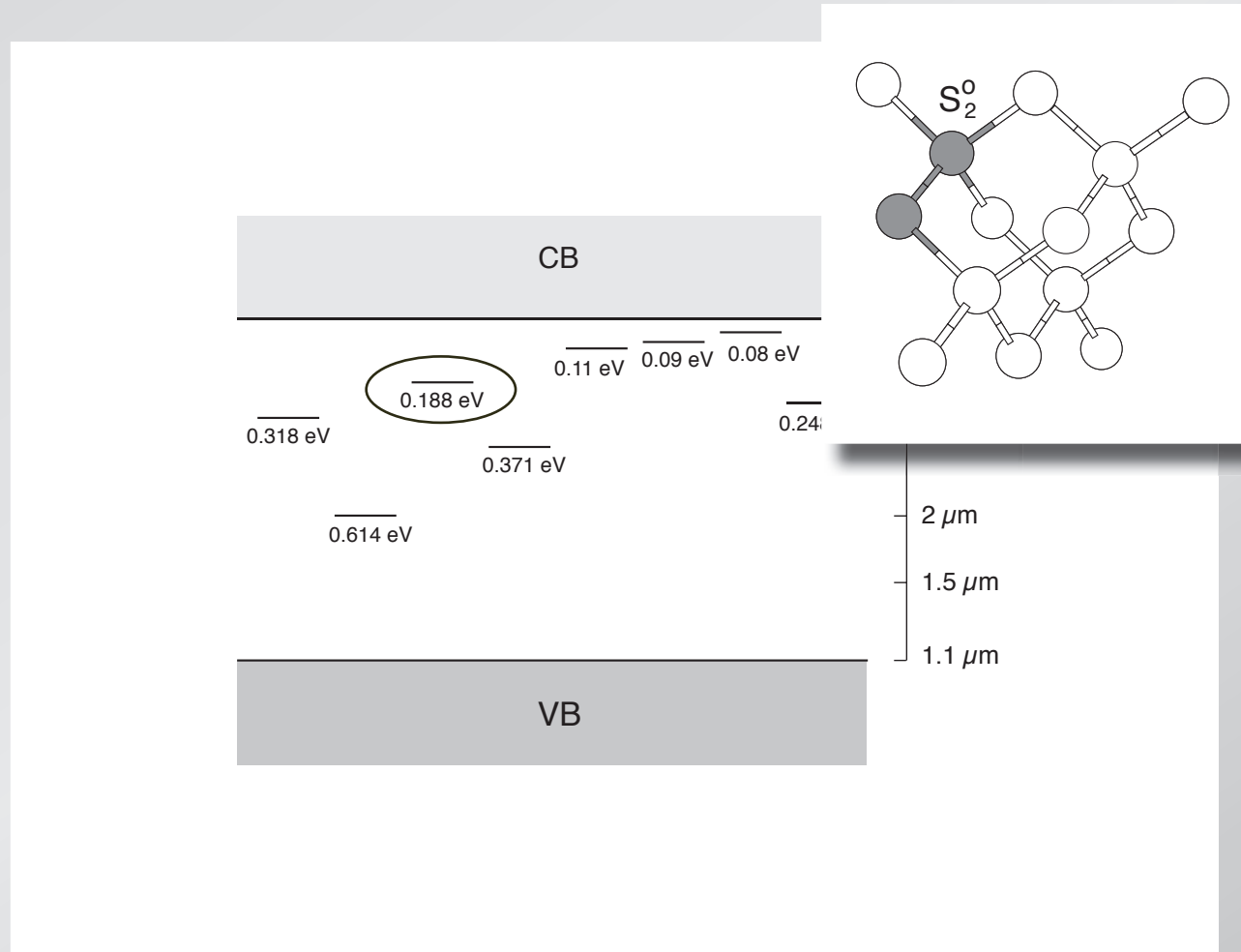
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



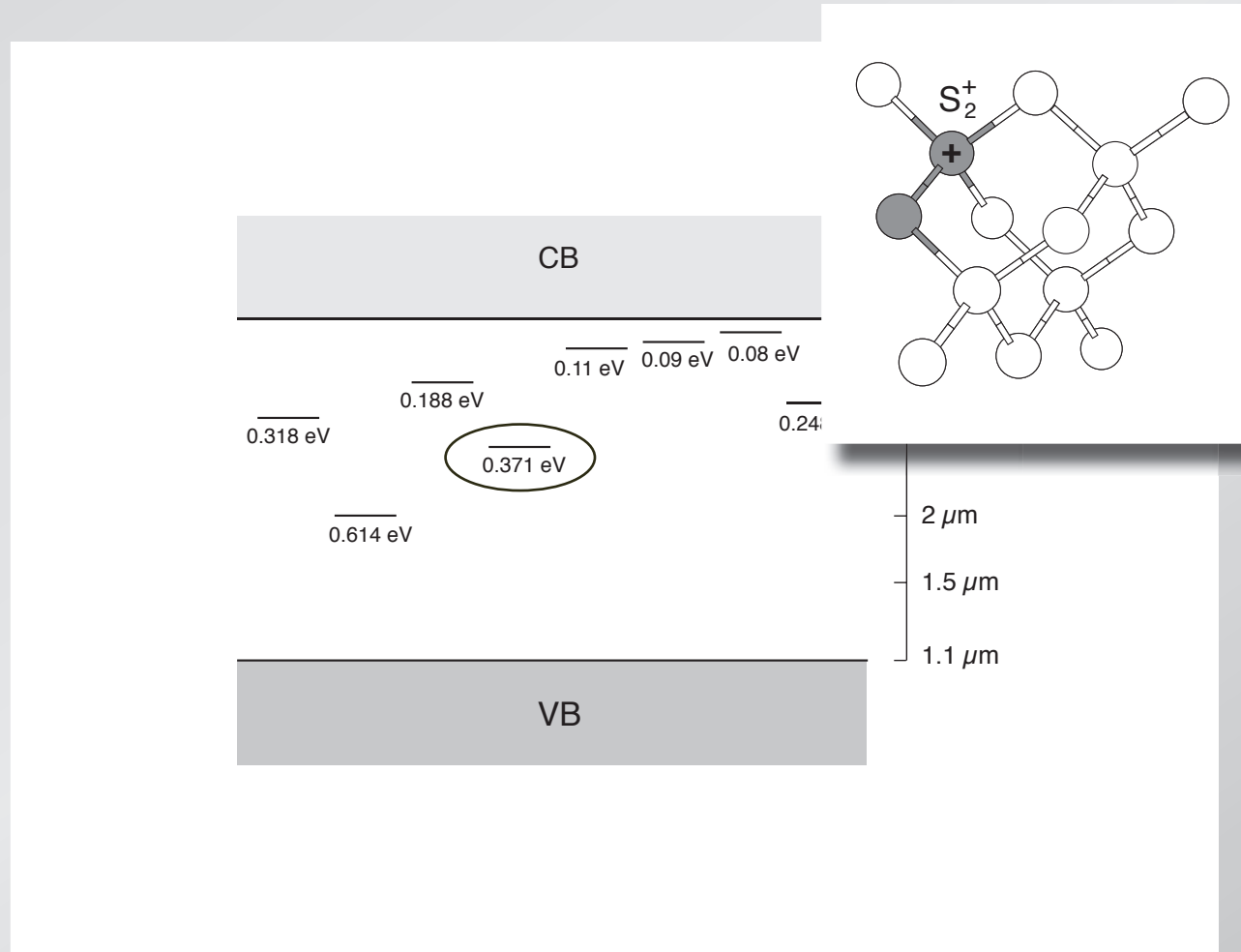
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



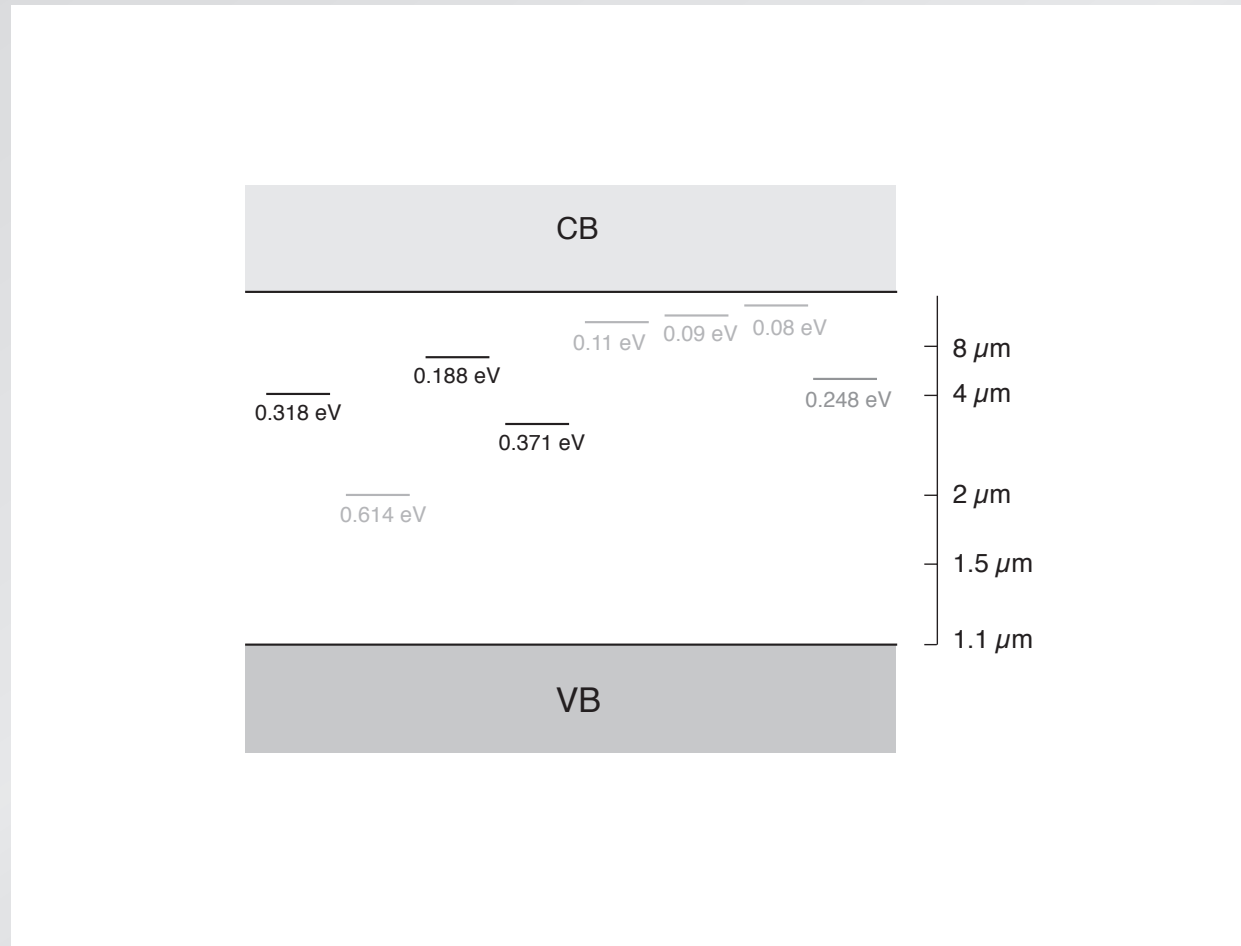
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



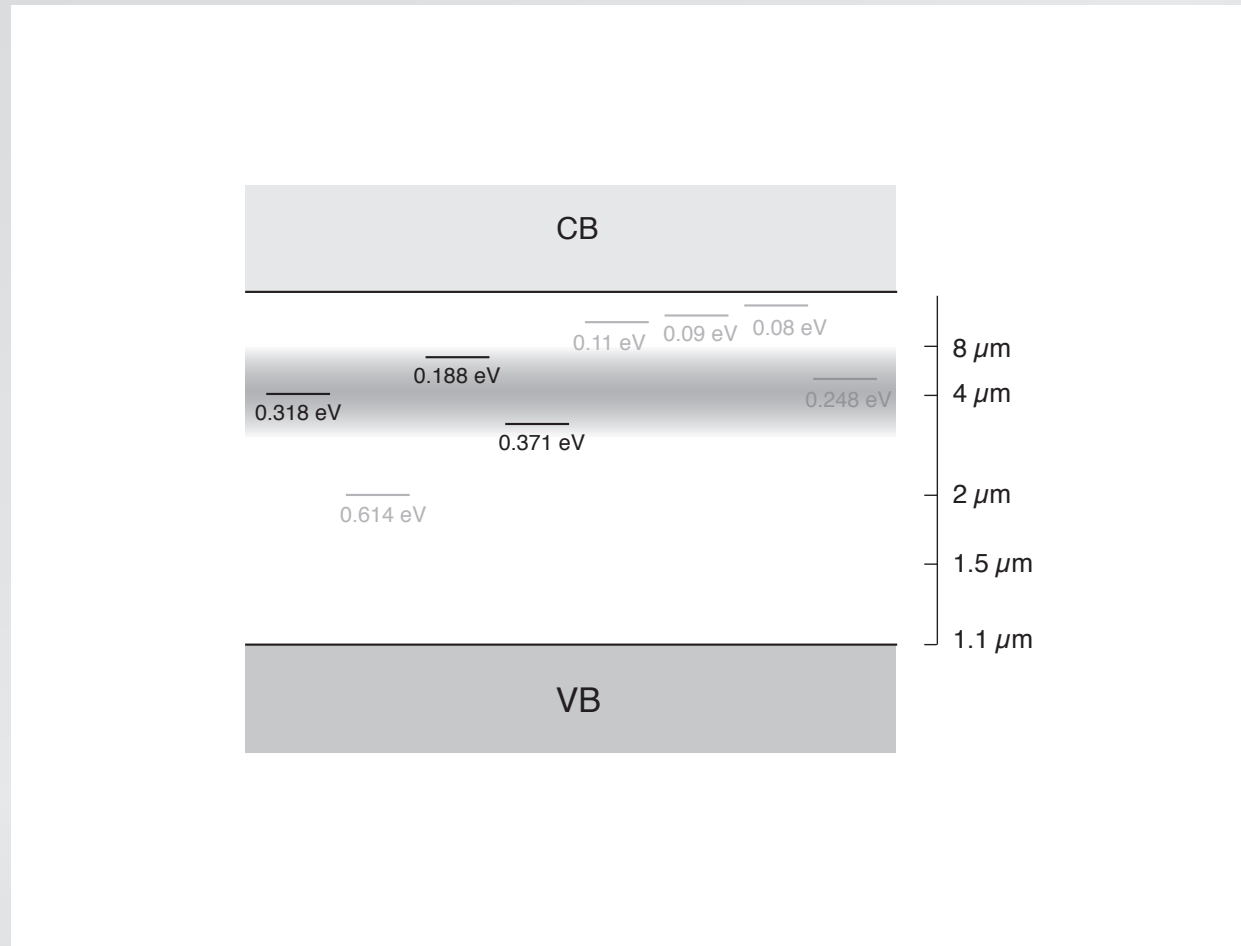
Optoelectronic properties

1 part in 10^6 sulfur introduces donor states in gap



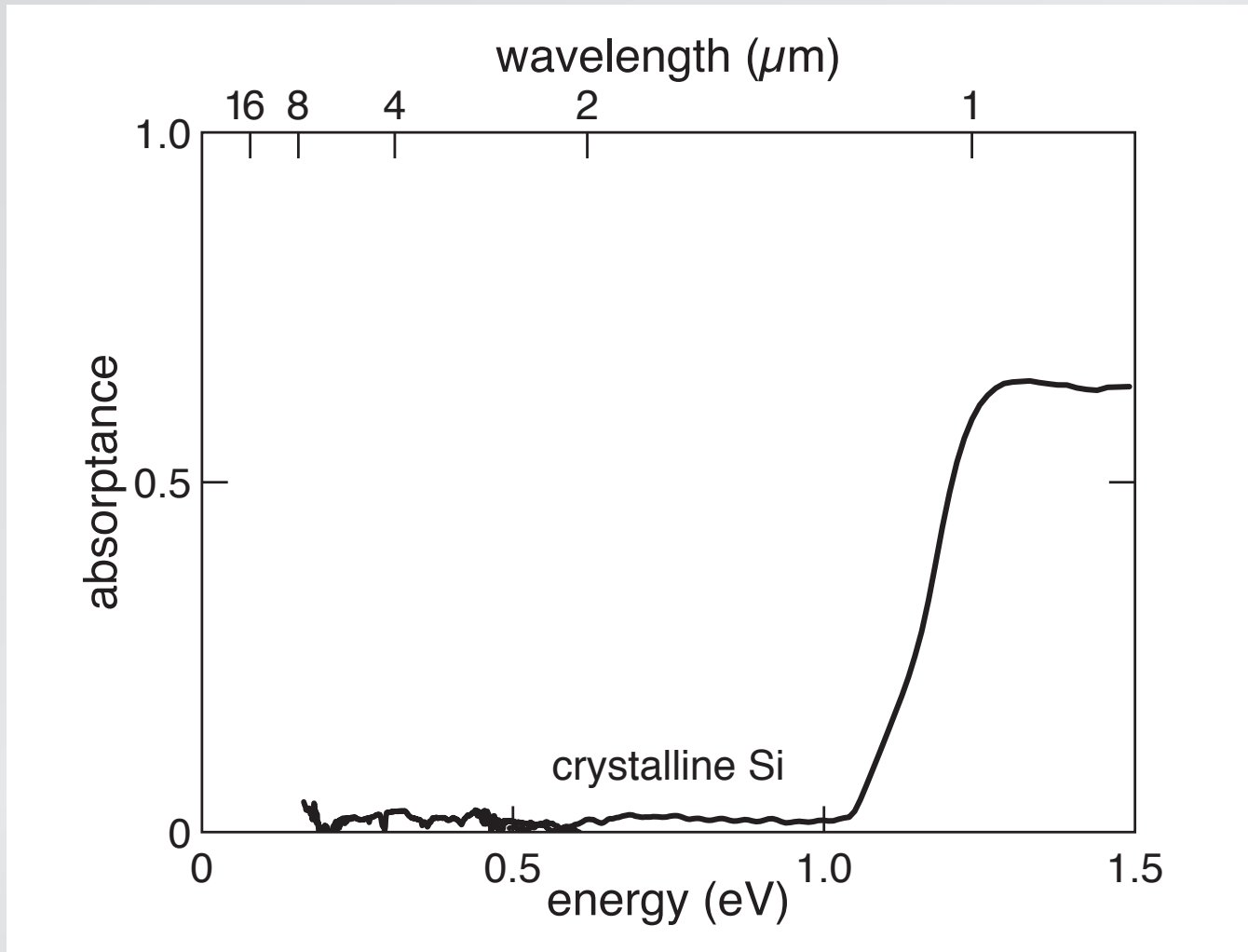
Optoelectronic properties

at high concentration states broaden into band



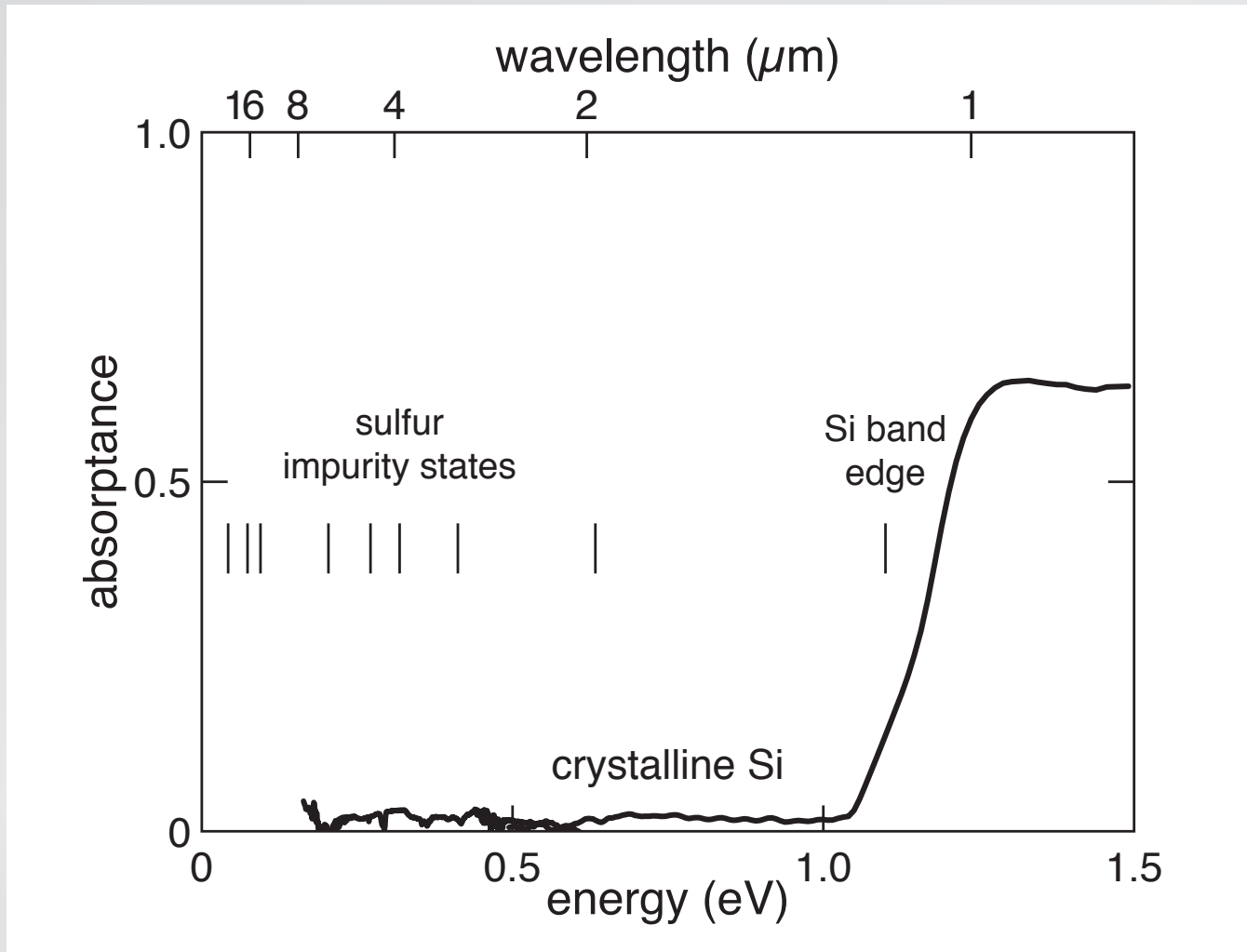
Optoelectronic properties

absorptance ($1 - R_{int} - T_{int}$)



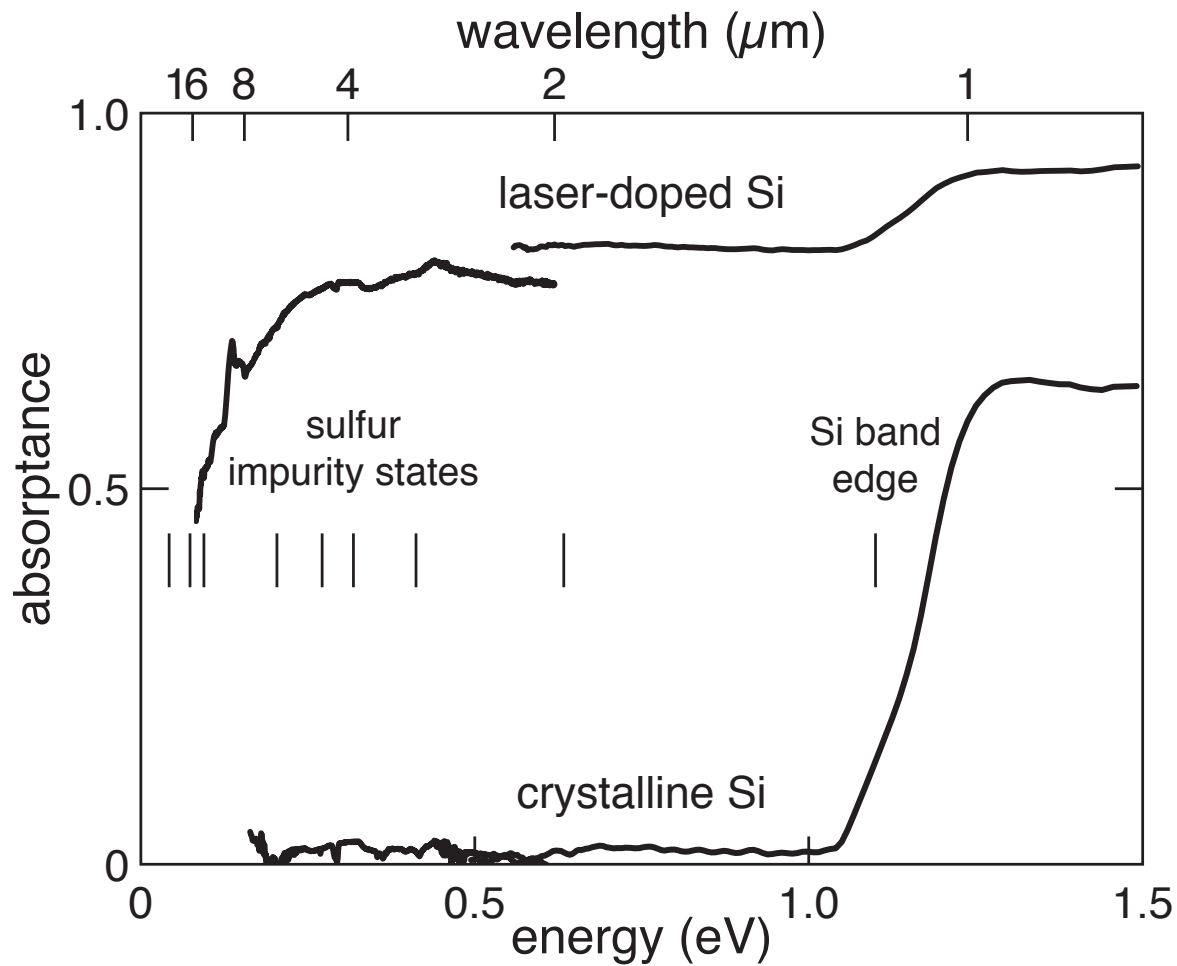
Optoelectronic properties

10^{-6} sulfur doping



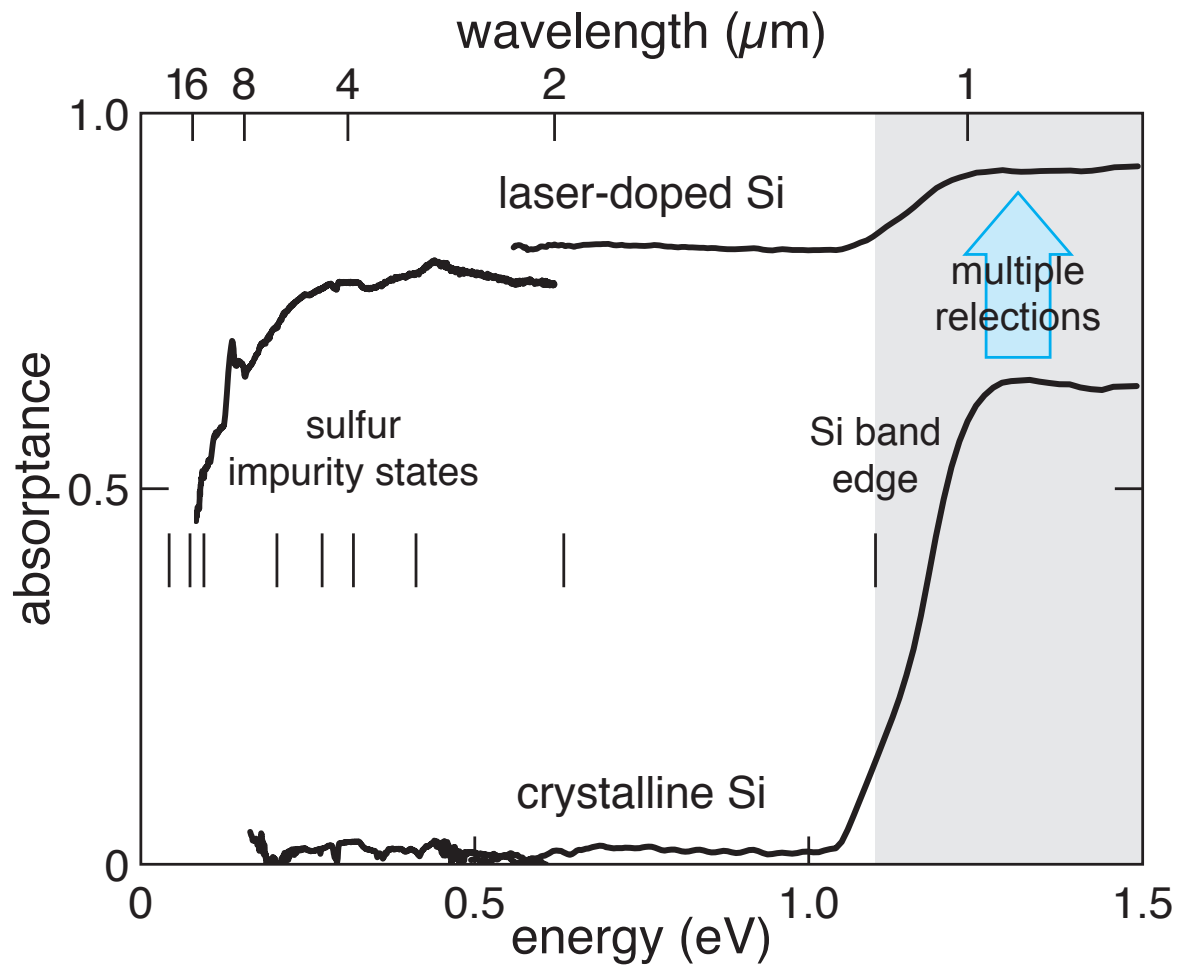
Optoelectronic properties

laser-doped S:Si



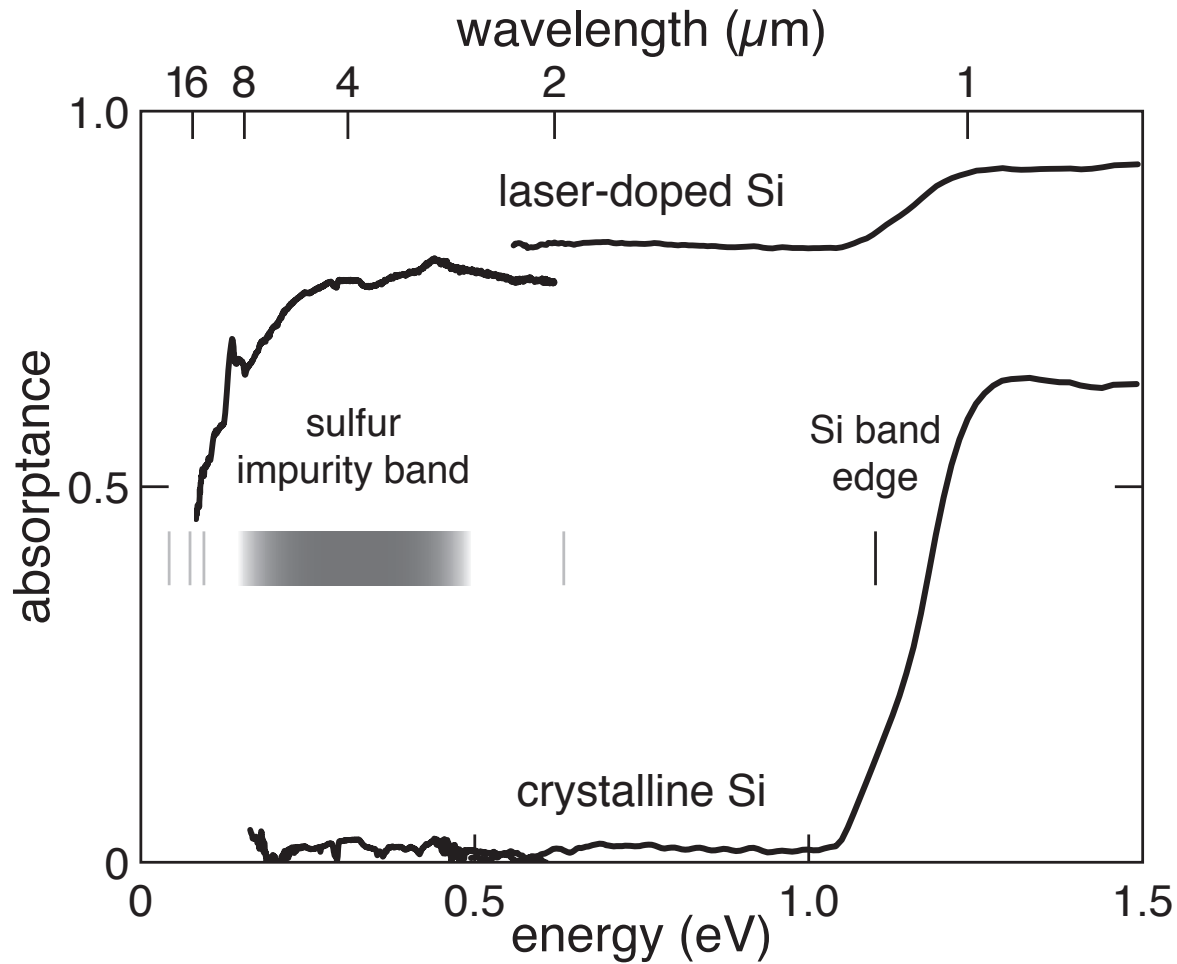
Optoelectronic properties

laser-doped S:Si



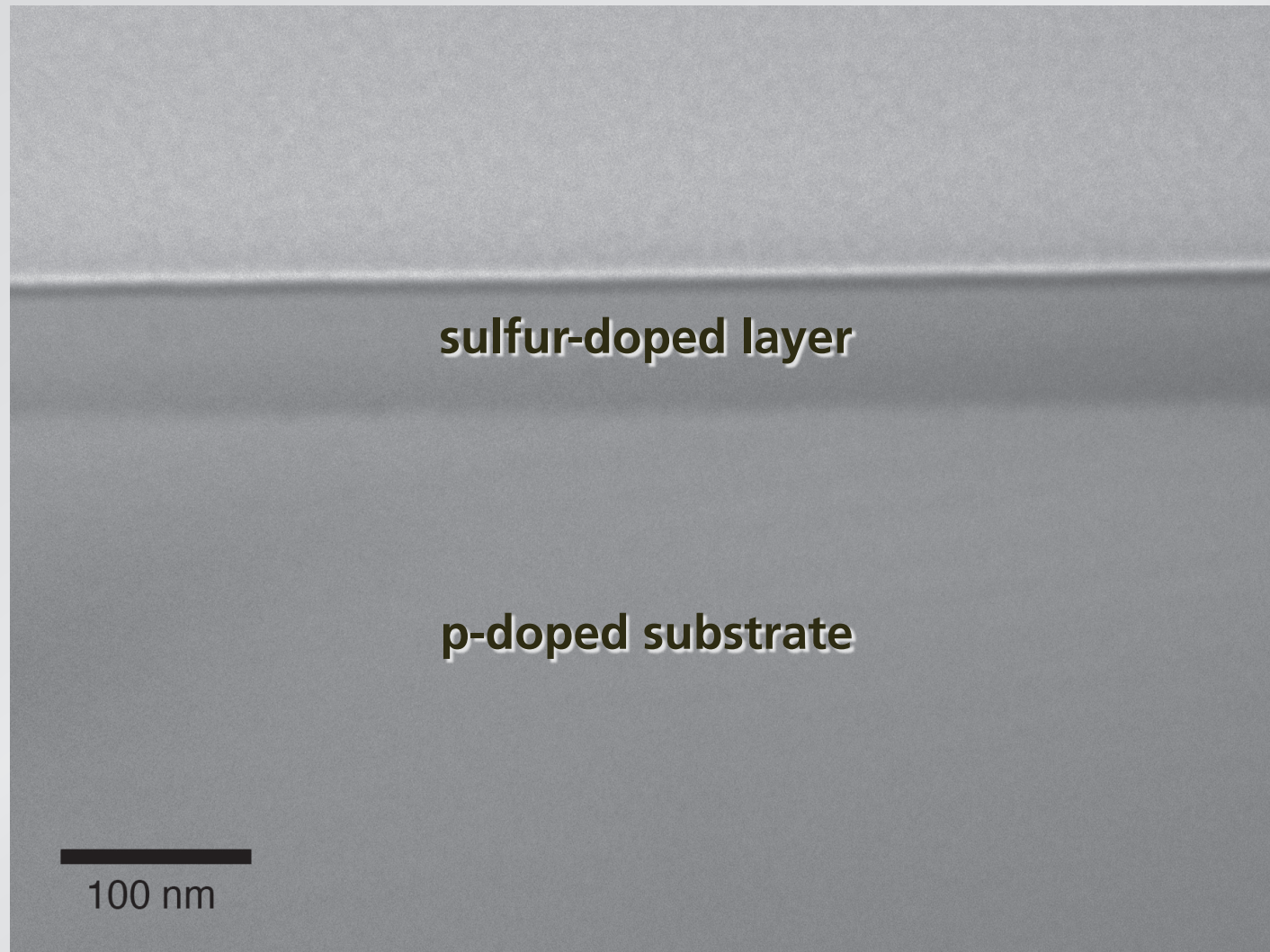
Optoelectronic properties

laser-doped S:Si



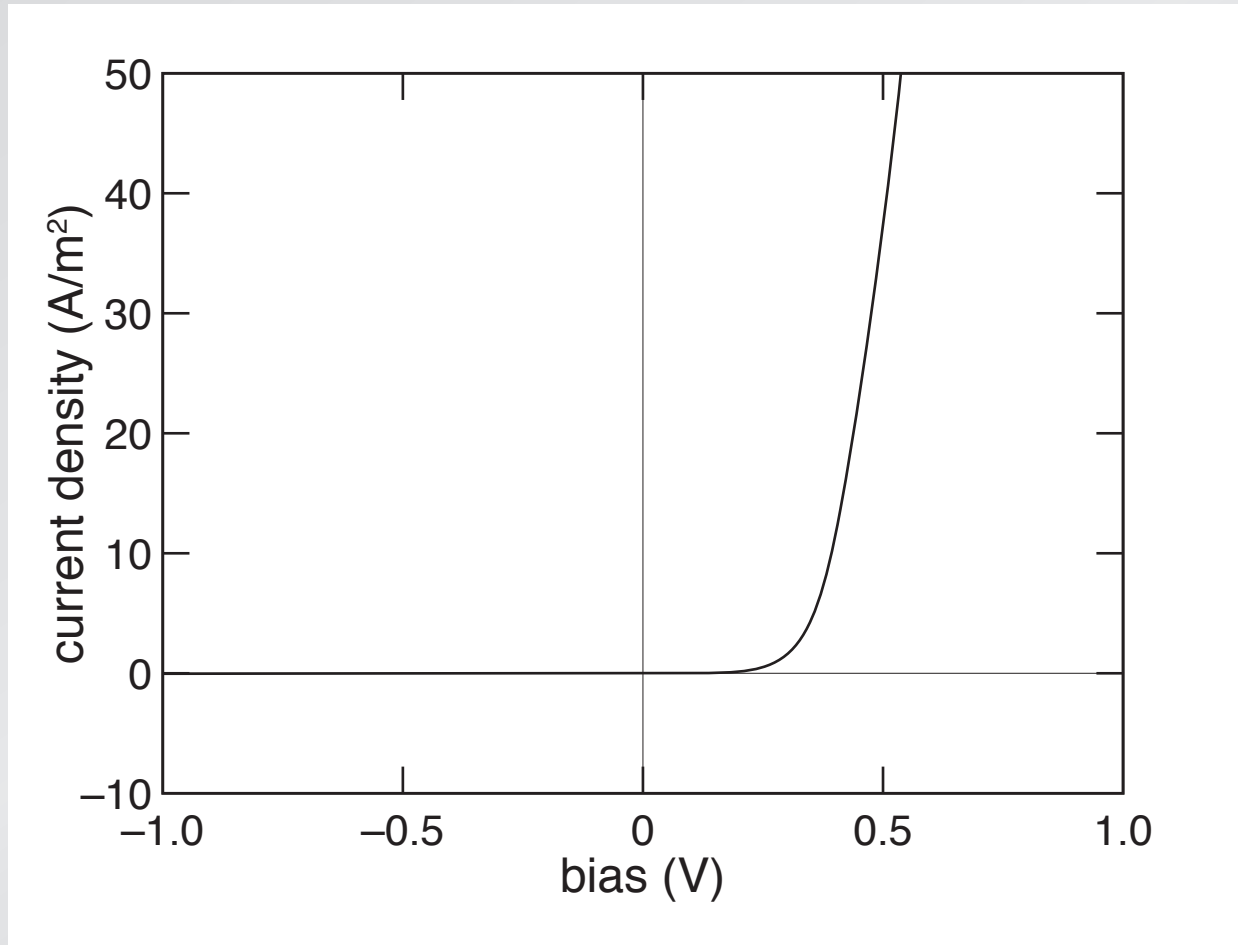
Optoelectronic properties

should have shallow junction below surface



Optoelectronic properties

excellent rectification (after annealing)

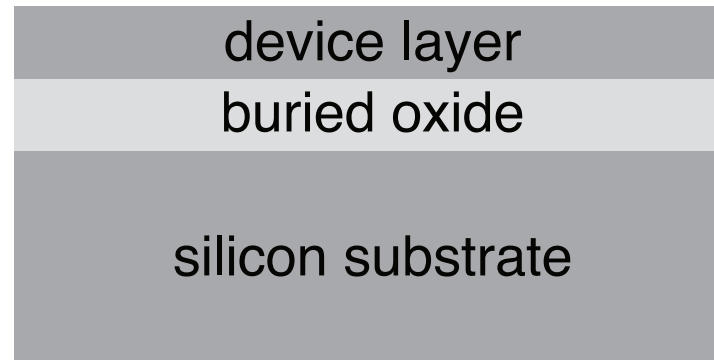


Optoelectronic properties

***I*/V behavior consistent with
impurity band between 200 and 400 meV**

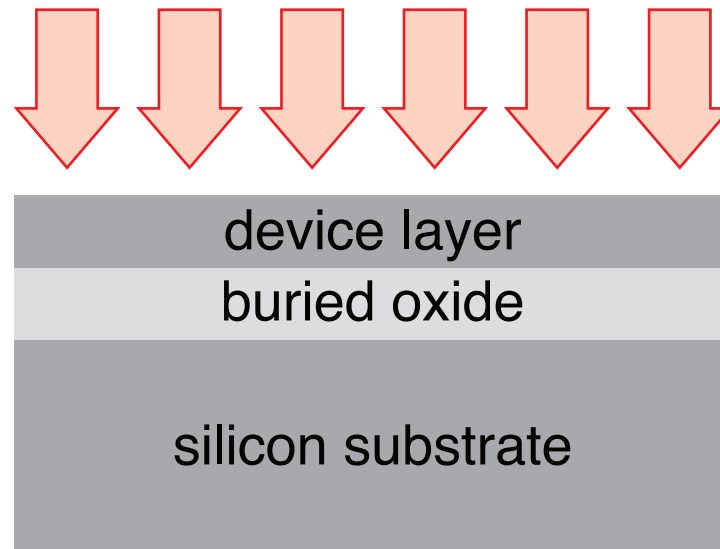
Optoelectronic properties

isolate surface layer for Hall measurements



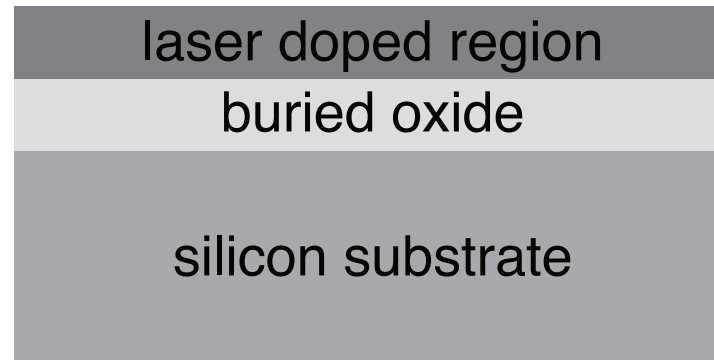
Optoelectronic properties

isolate surface layer for Hall measurements



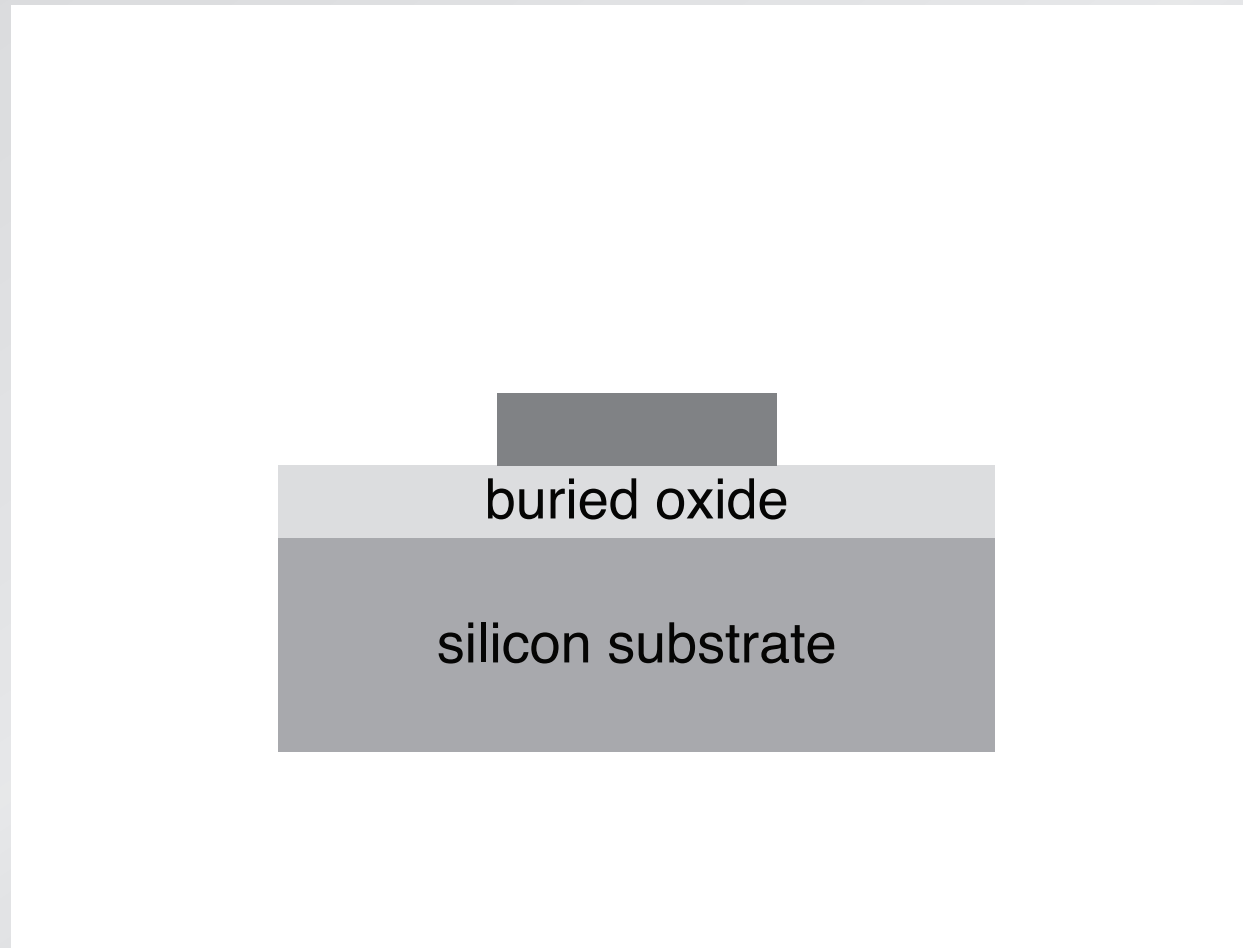
Optoelectronic properties

isolate surface layer for Hall measurements



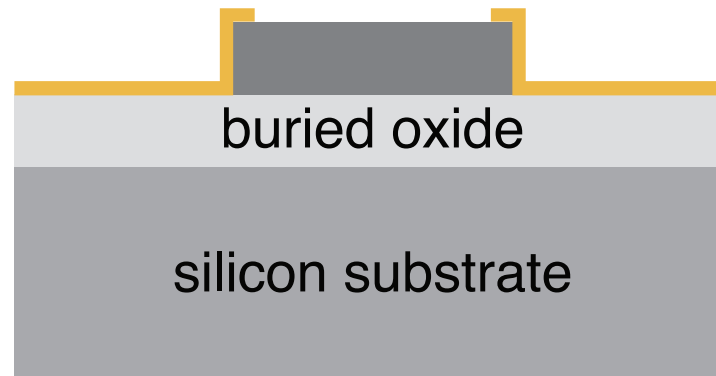
Optoelectronic properties

isolate surface layer for Hall measurements



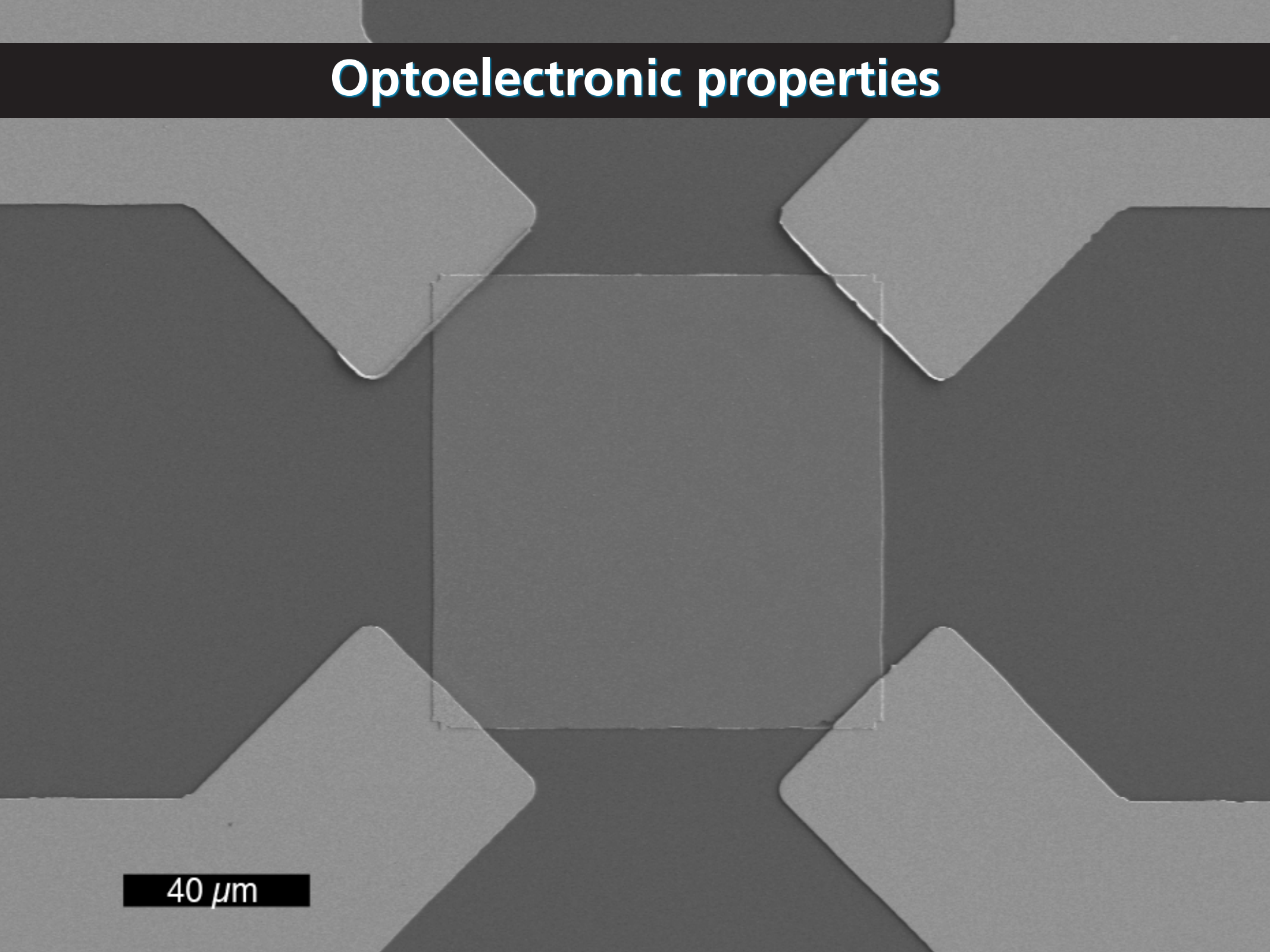
Optoelectronic properties

isolate surface layer for Hall measurements



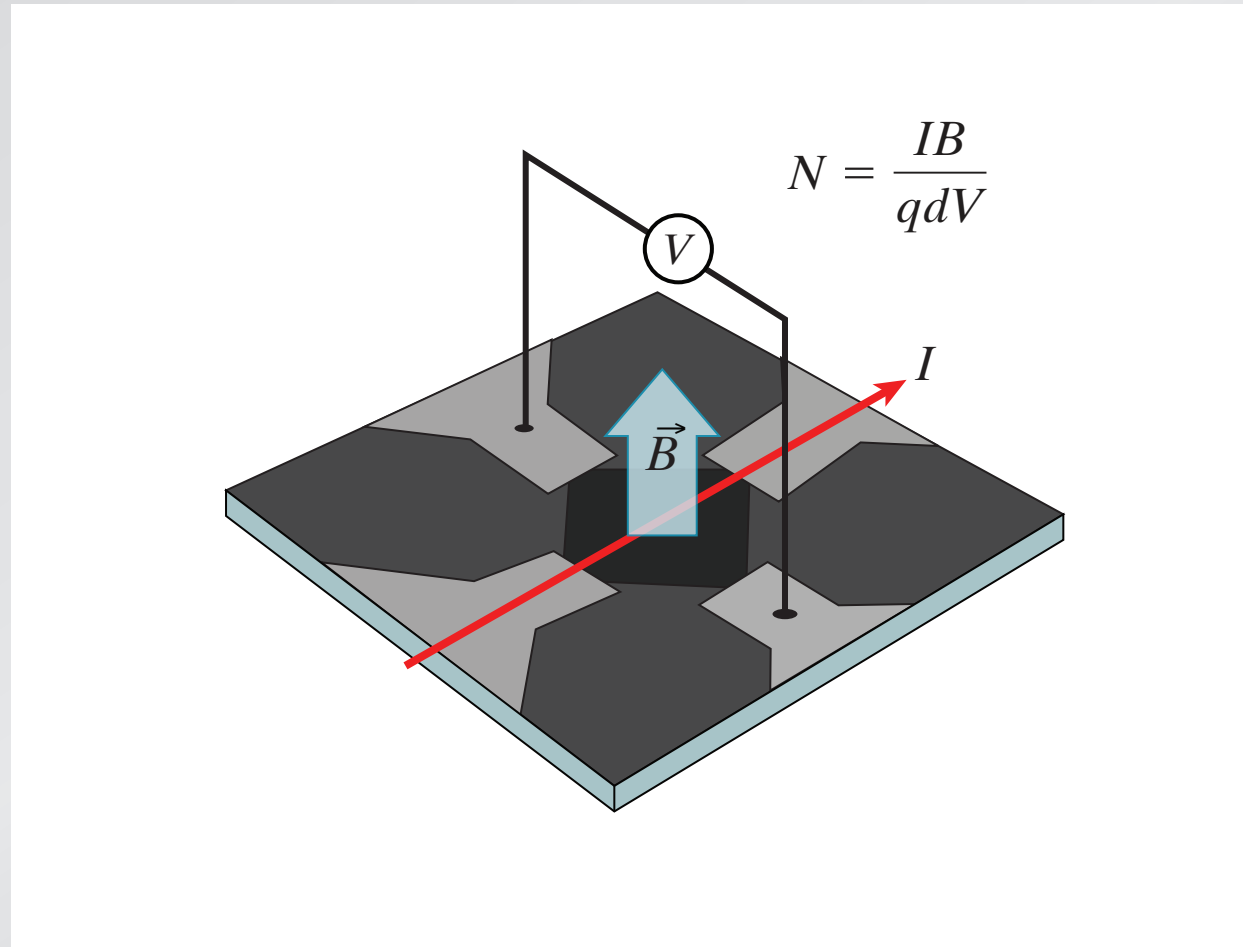
Optoelectronic properties

40 μm

A grayscale micrograph showing a central square region surrounded by four trapezoidal regions. The central square is outlined with a thin white border. The trapezoidal regions are positioned at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners relative to the central square. A scale bar in the bottom-left corner indicates a length of 40 micrometers.

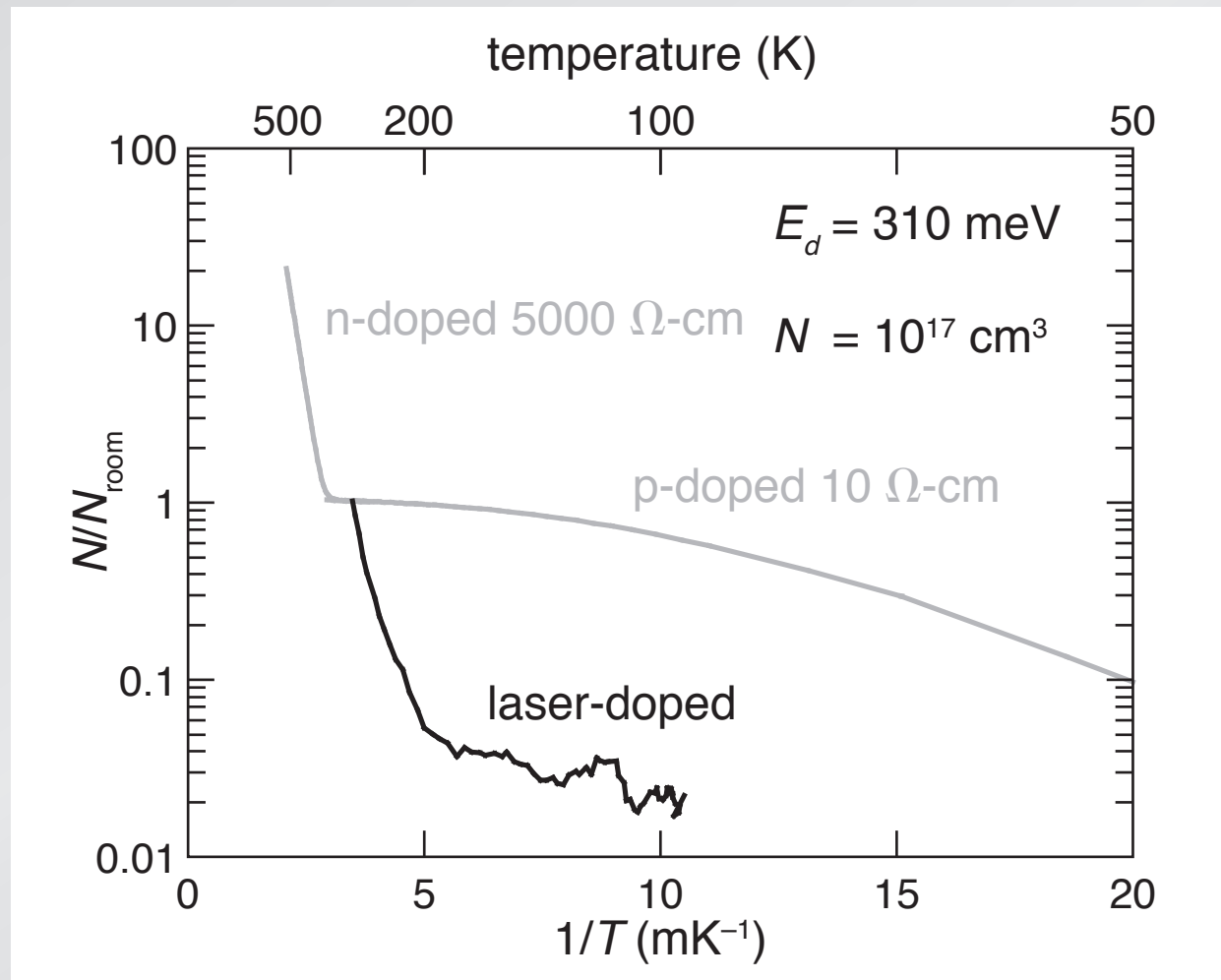
Optoelectronic properties

Hall measurements



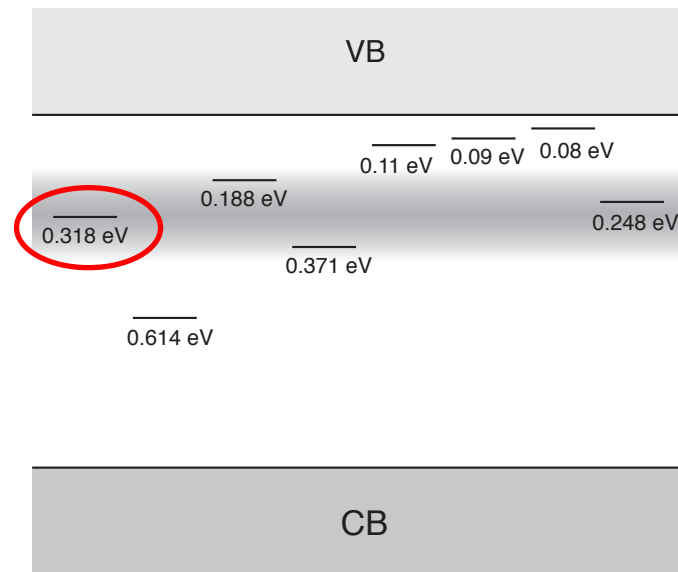
Optoelectronic properties

Hall measurements



Optoelectronic properties

impurity (donor) band centered at 310 meV



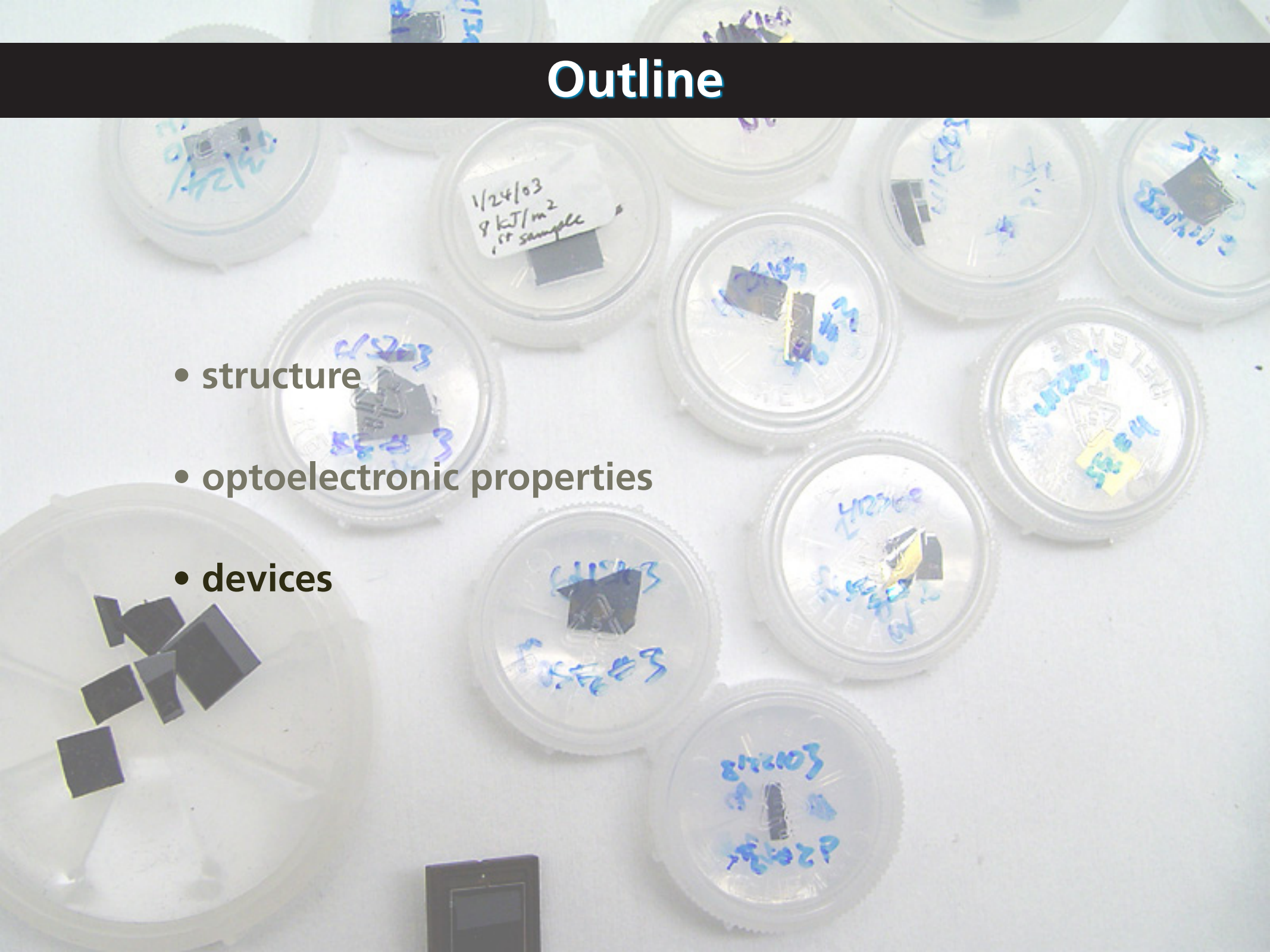
Optoelectronic properties

Things to keep in mind

- IR absorption rolls off around 8 μm
- 1 in 10^3 sulfur atoms are ionized donors at 300 K
- all data indicate these S donors are substitutional

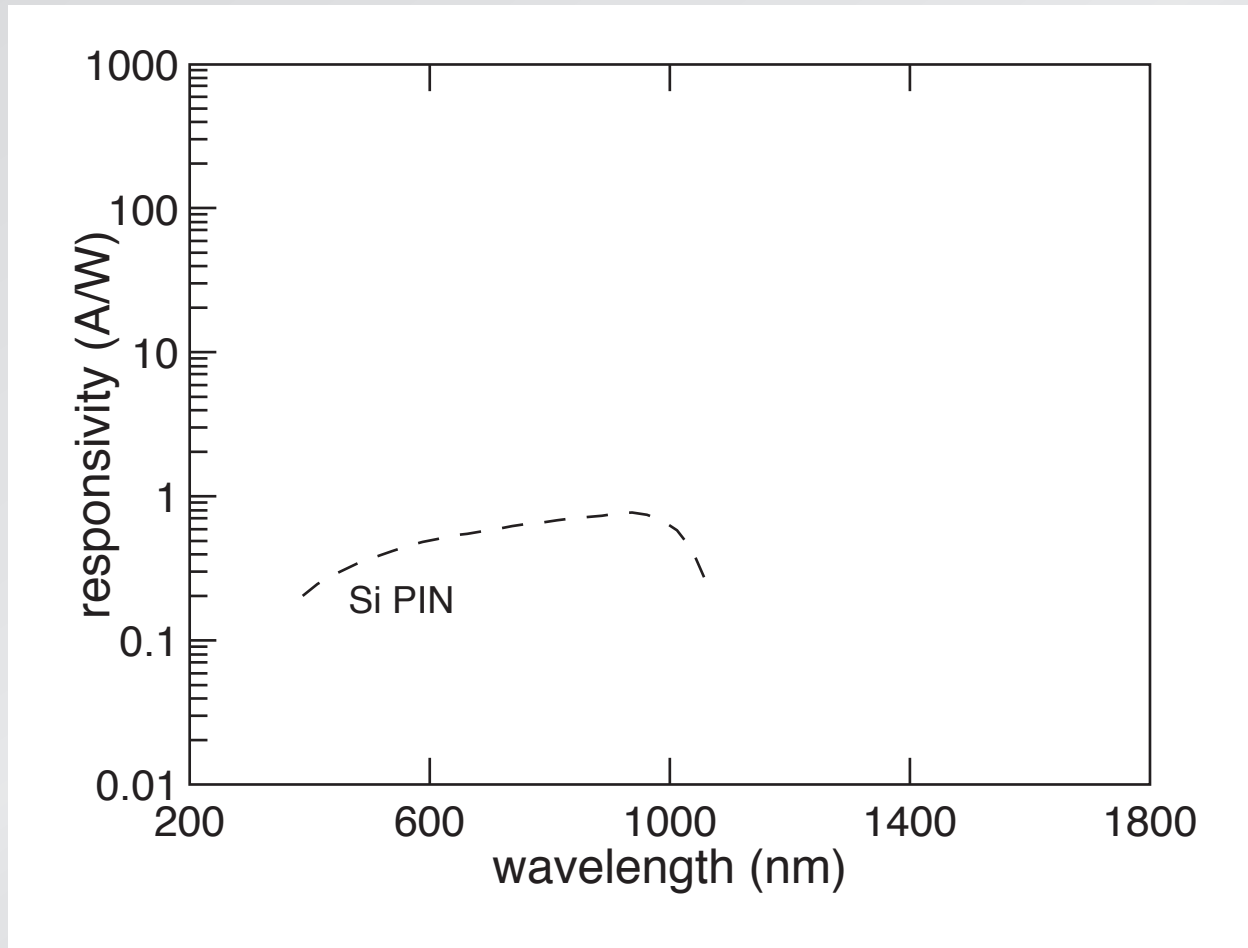
Outline

- structure
- optoelectronic properties
- devices



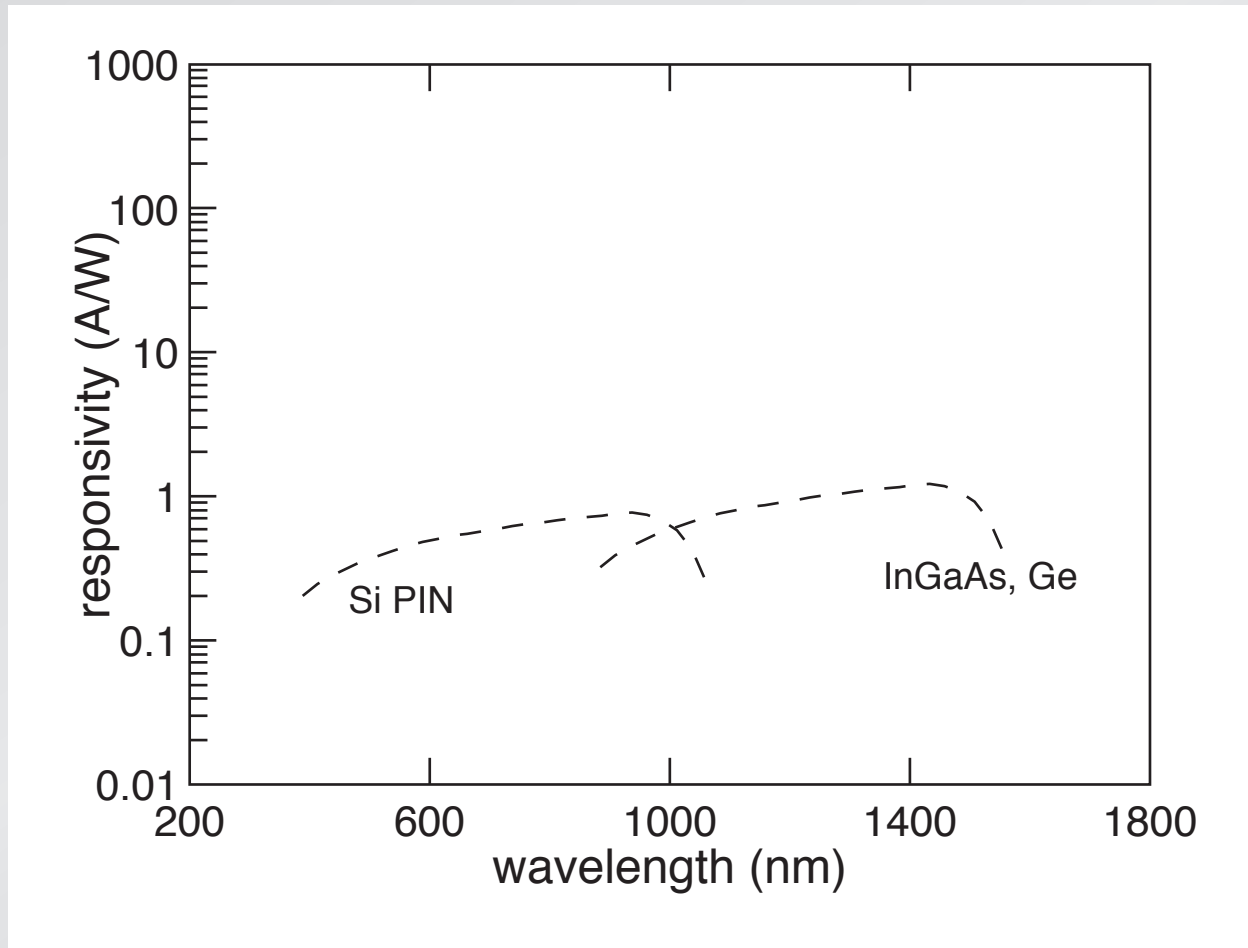
Devices

responsivity



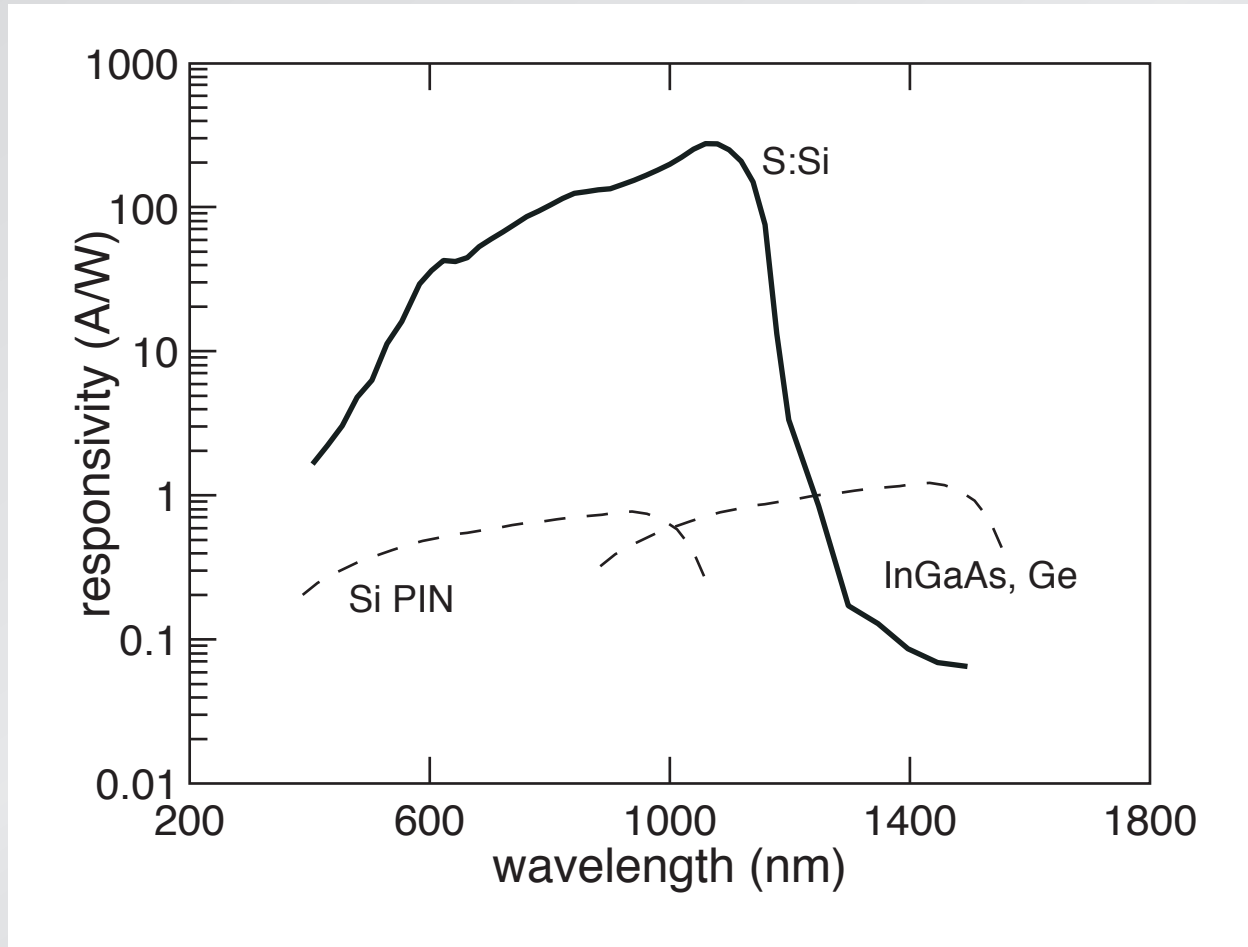
Devices

responsivity



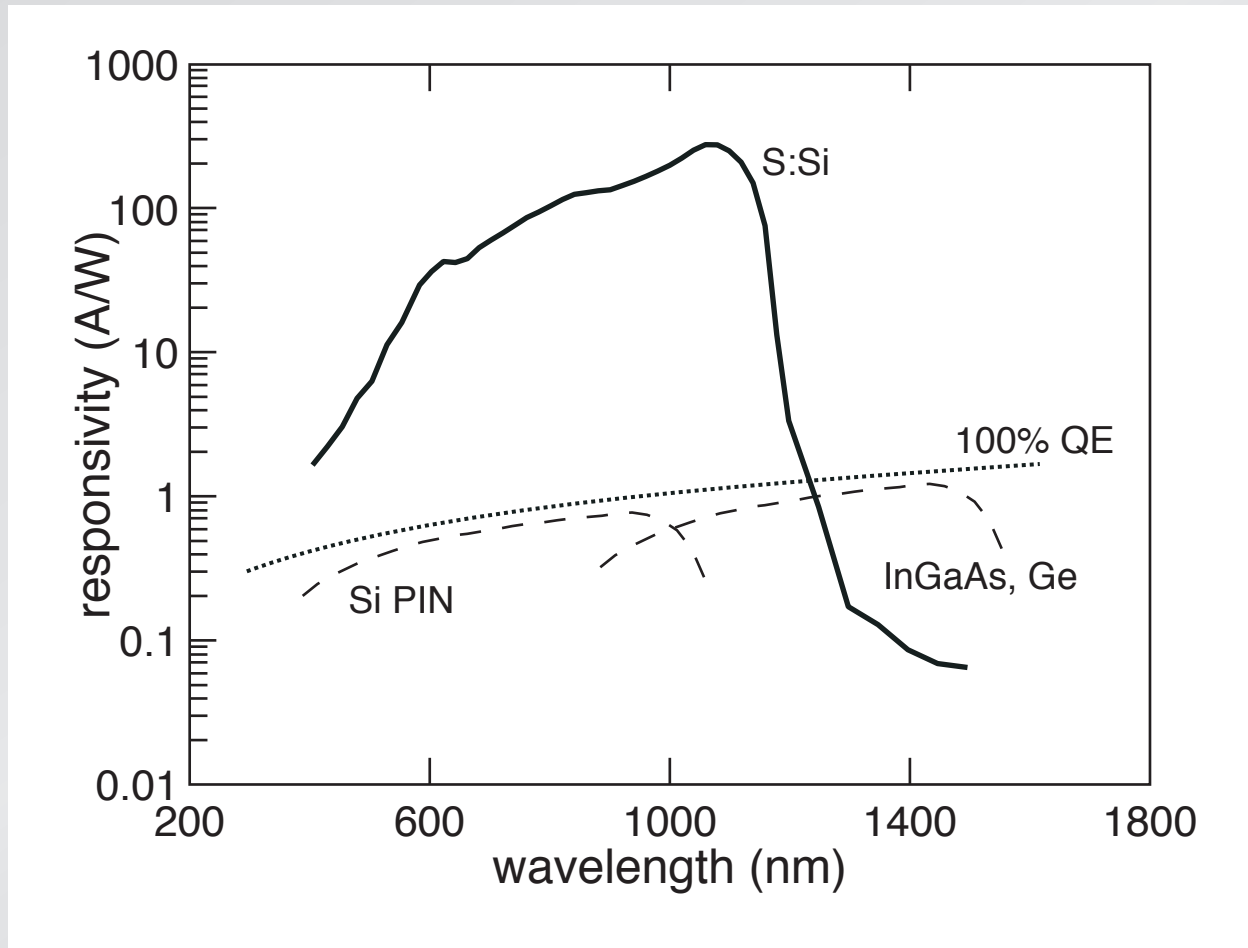
Devices

responsivity



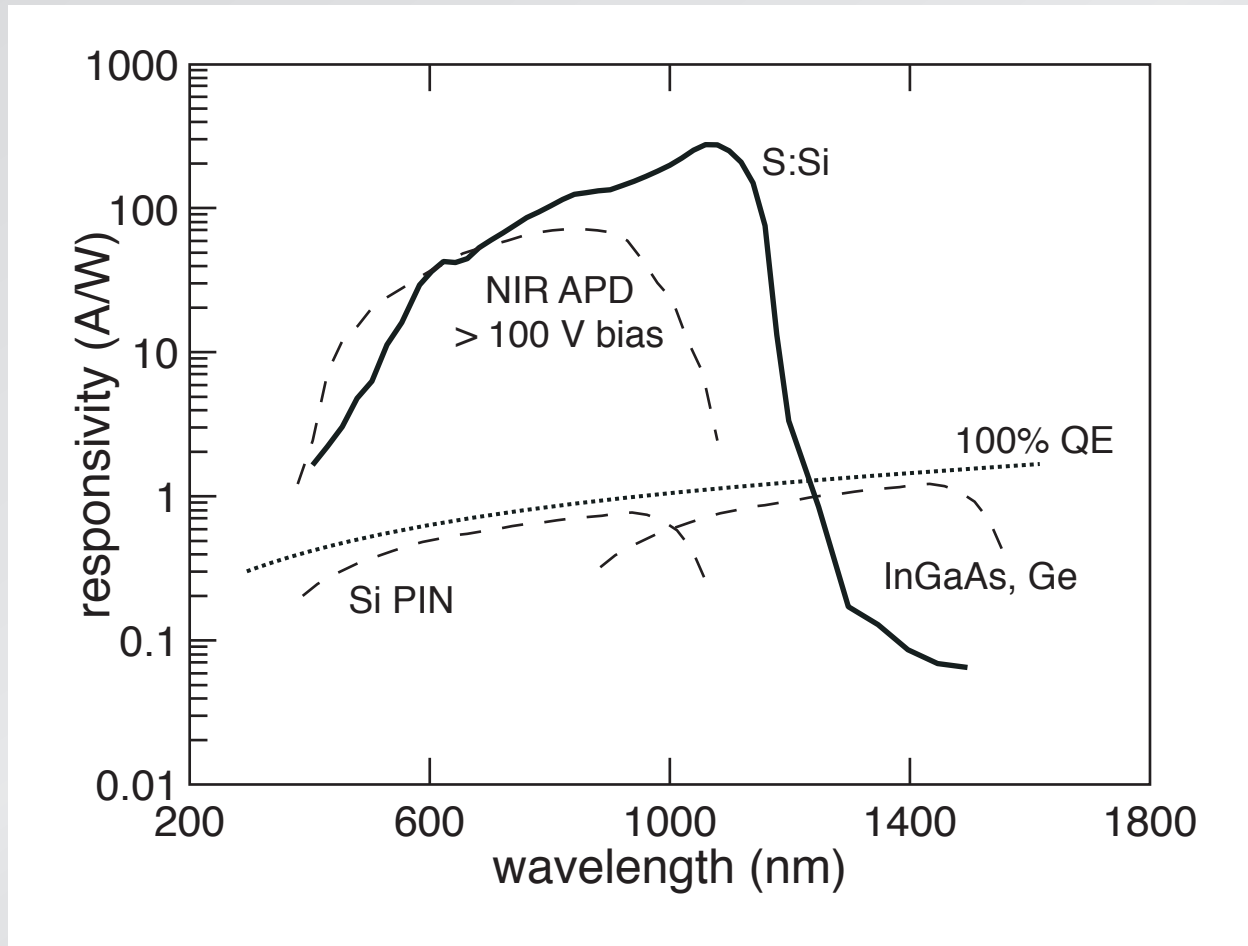
Devices

responsivity



Devices

responsivity



Devices

What causes gain?

- **impact excitation (avalanching)**
- **carrier lifetime \gg transit time (photoconductive gain)**
- **some other mechanism**

Devices

Things to keep in mind

- can turn absorption into carrier generation
- very high responsivity in VIS and IR
- phenomenal photoconductive gain

Devices



SiOnyx

<http://www.sionyx.com>

Conclusion

- **new doping process**
- **new class of material**
- **new types of (silicon-based) devices**

Conclusion

A collection of colorful, star-patterned paper scraps is scattered on a white surface. The scraps are in various shades of blue, purple, and cyan, with some featuring small white stars. A few plain white scraps are also visible. The text "What is different about this process?" is overlaid on the center of the image.

What is different about this process?

Conclusion

Compare femtosecond laser doping to:

- inclusion during growth
- thermal diffusion
- ion implantation

Funding:

Army Research Office

DARPA

Department of Energy

NDSEG

National Science Foundation

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