

Thin Functional Films for solar cells and laser ablation transfer

Frank Nüesch

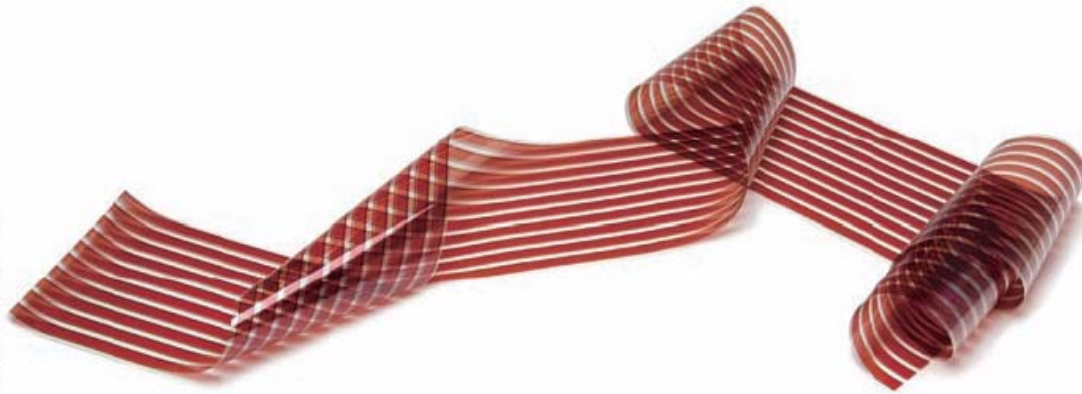
*Empa – Materials Science &
Technology
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Überlandstrasse 129
CH-8600 Dübendorf*



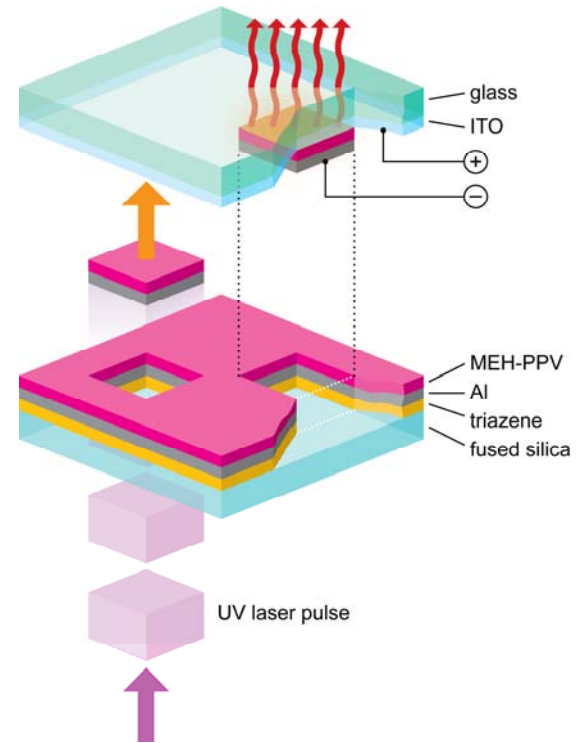
Materials synthesis and thin film devices

Organic solar cells

KONARKA TECHNOLOGIES

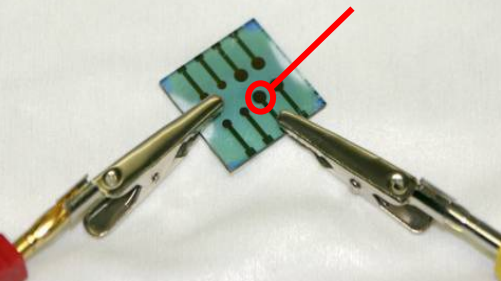


Dielectric elastomer actuators



Dry laser microdeposition method

active surface: 7 mm²



Solar cell device group

Roland Hany (GL)

Jakob Heier

Fernando Araujo de Castro

Bin Fan (PhD student)

Ylenia Maniglio (internship)

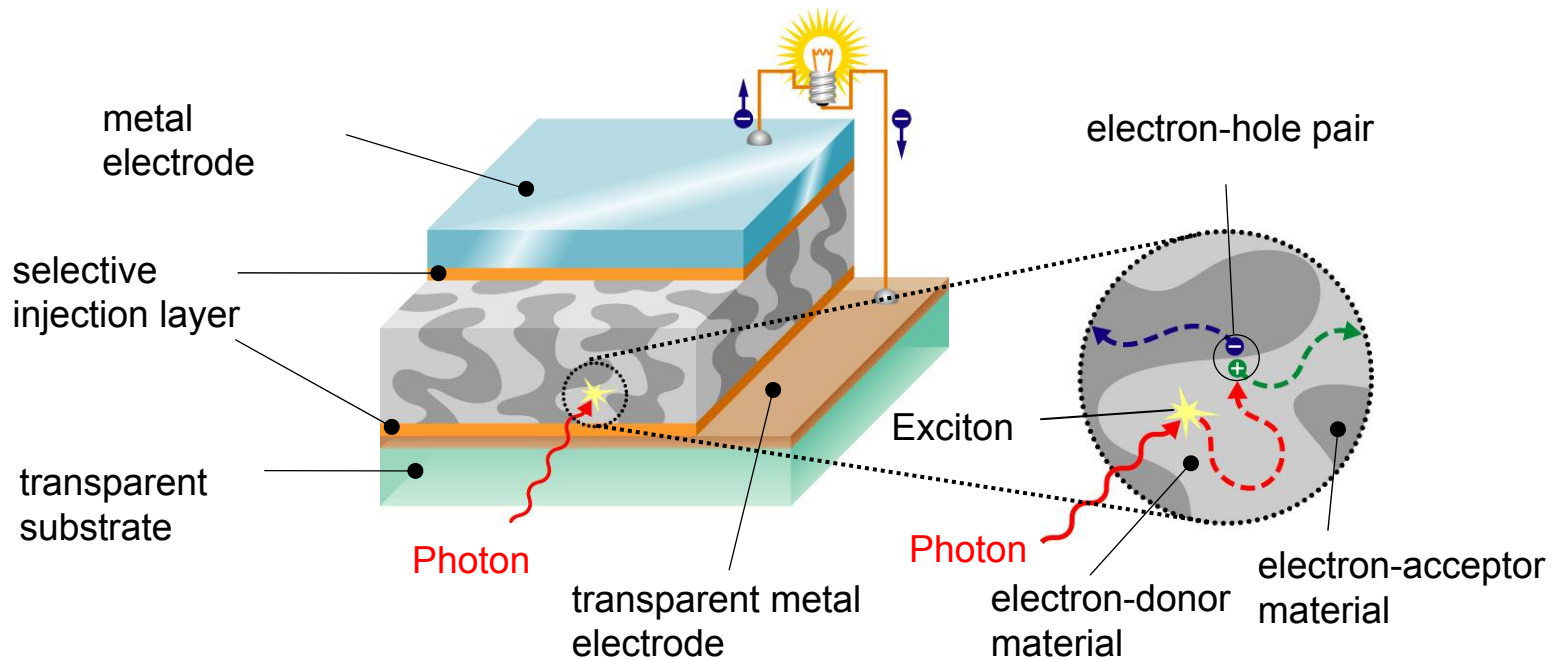
Arul Kumar (internship)

Thomas Geiger (GL)

Simon Kuster (PhD student)

Marina Simeunovic

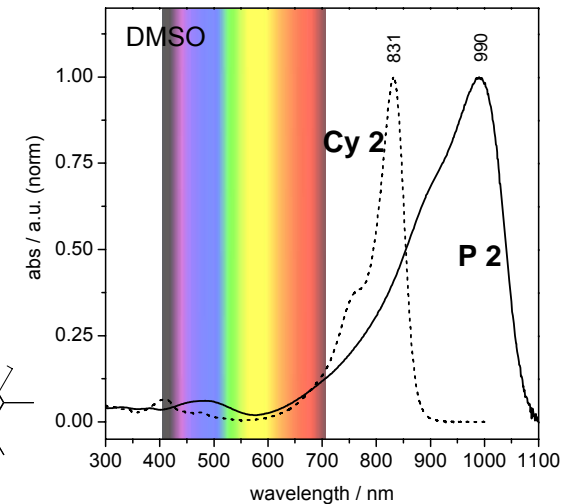
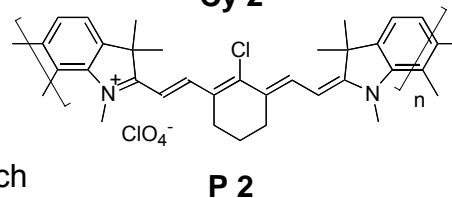
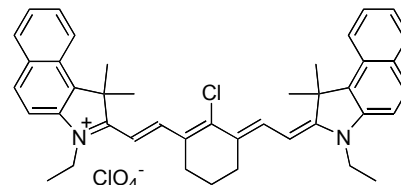
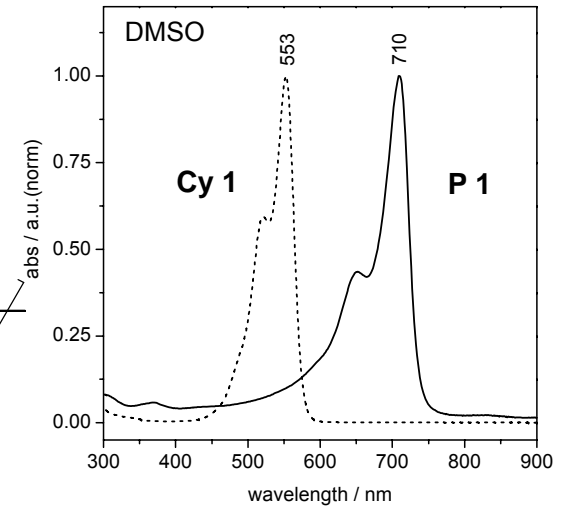
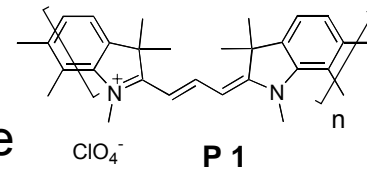
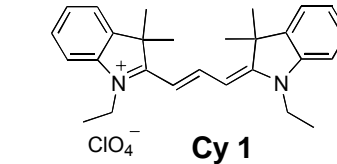
Big challenges in organic PV



- ➔ Rising efficiency (NIR absorbing materials, multijunction solar cells)
- ➔ Enhancing charge generation and transport
- ➔ Controlling and stabilizing biphasic nanostructure in thin films
- ➔ Find suitable encapsulation methods

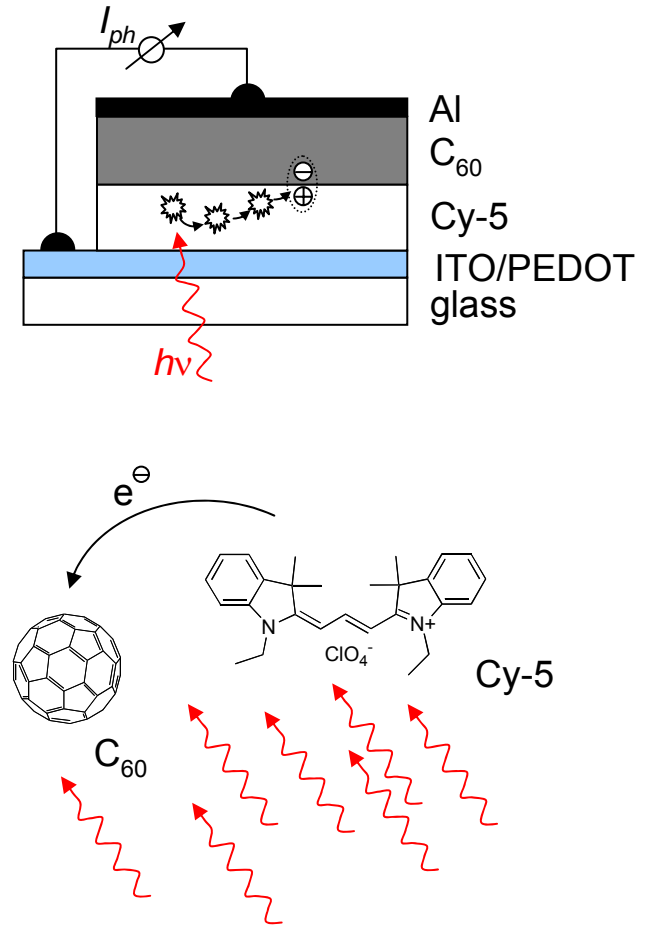
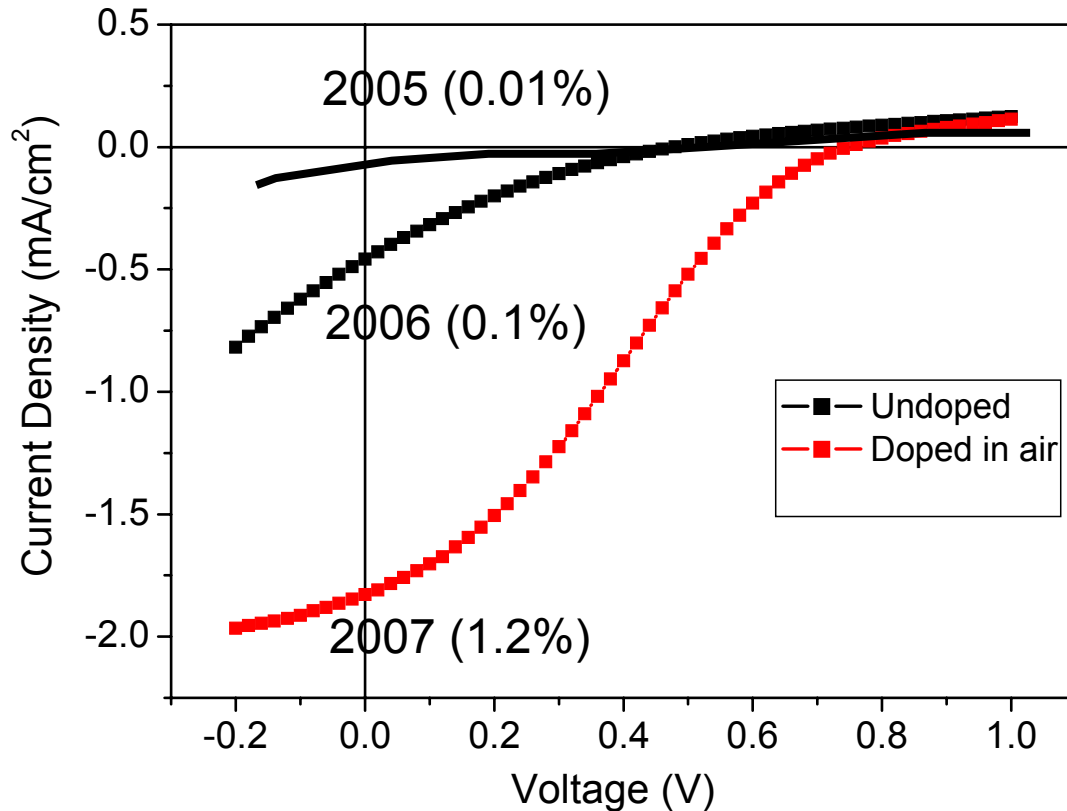
Photographic dyes for solar cells

- Extremely high extinction coefficient
- Tunable absorption spectrum from UV to NIR
- Potential to form well defined crystalline aggregates with strong π -orbital overlap
- Suitable reduction and oxidation levels to act as electron acceptor or donor in the photoinduced charge separation process.



T. Geiger, H. Benmansour, B. Fan, R. Hany, F. Nüesch
Macromol. Rapid Commun., 29, 651-658 (2008).

High performance doped cyanine solar cells



F. Meng, K. Chen, H. Tian, L. Zuppiroli, F. Nüesch, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 83 (21), (2003), p. 3788-3790
 B. Fan, R. Hany, J. E. Moser, F. Nüesch, *Org. Electronics*, 2008, 9, 85-94
 B. Fan et al., 2008 to be published

CCEM project ThinPV



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Z:W Zürcher
Hochschule
Winterthur

Greatcell Solar

SOLARONIX

EMPA 
Materials Science & Technology

ETH
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



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PSI

unine



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Next event:

PV PhD-Workshop in Ascona, Nov 16th-18th 2008

Confirmed speakers: Prof. L. Peter (U. Bath), Prof. M. Burgelman (U. Gent), Prof. R. Janssen (U. Eindh.), Dr. T. Coutts (NREL), Prof. B. Rech (Hahn-Meintner Inst., Berlin)



Materials Science & Technology

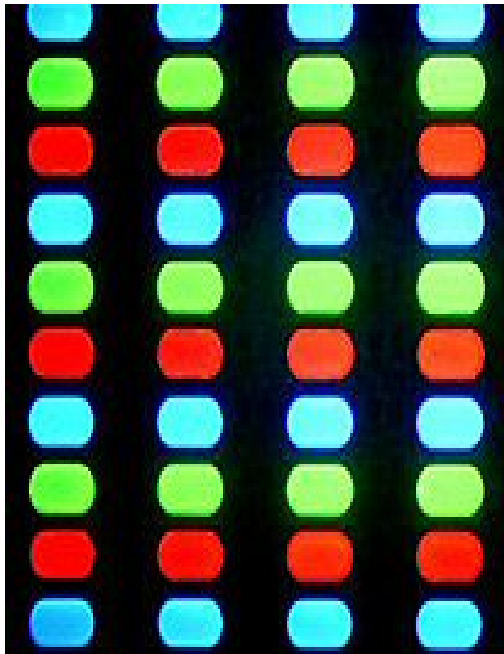
Patterned thin film polymer devices by laser-induced forward transfer

Romain Fardel, Matthias Nagel, Frank Nüesch

Empa, Laboratory for Functional Polymers

Thomas Lippert, Alexander Wokaun

Paul Scherrer Institut, General Energy Research Department



■ Production techniques :

- spin-coating : no structure
- evaporation : not for polymers
- inkjet, screen printing :
intermixing of the layers
- photolithography : photoprocessible
material required

➔ new method proposed...

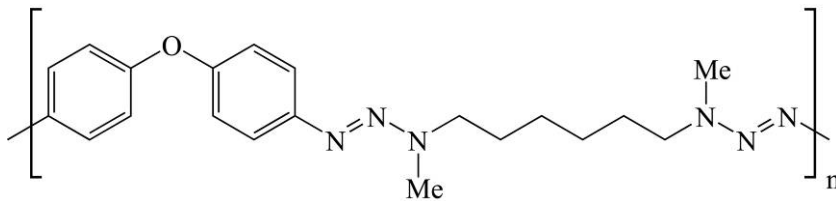
Work founded by



Materials Science & Technology

Laser-induced forward transfer using a photodynamic release layer

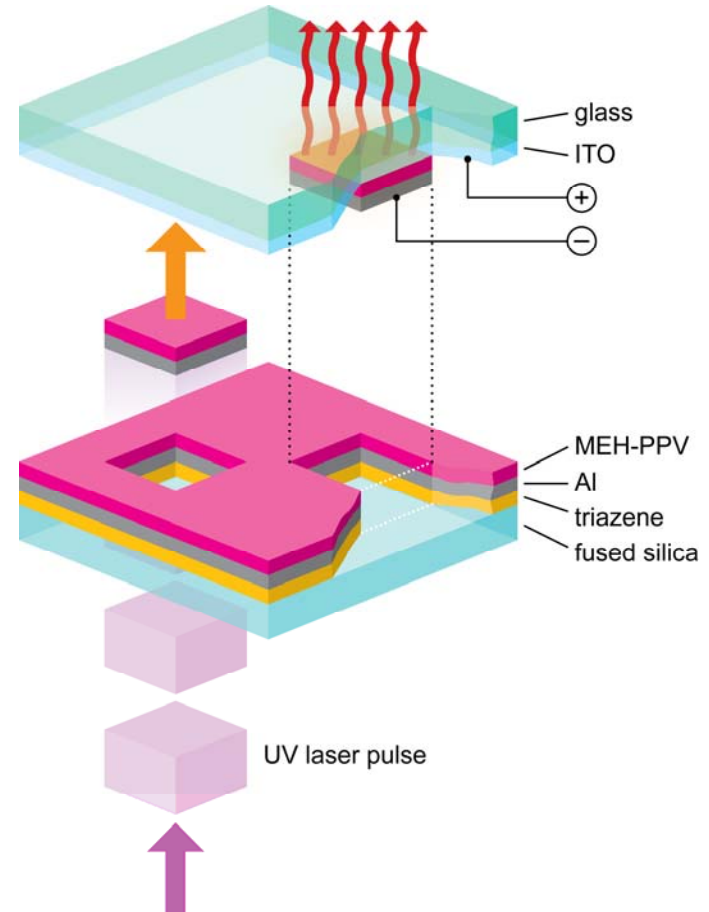
Use of a UV-sensitive dynamic release layer



triazene polymer

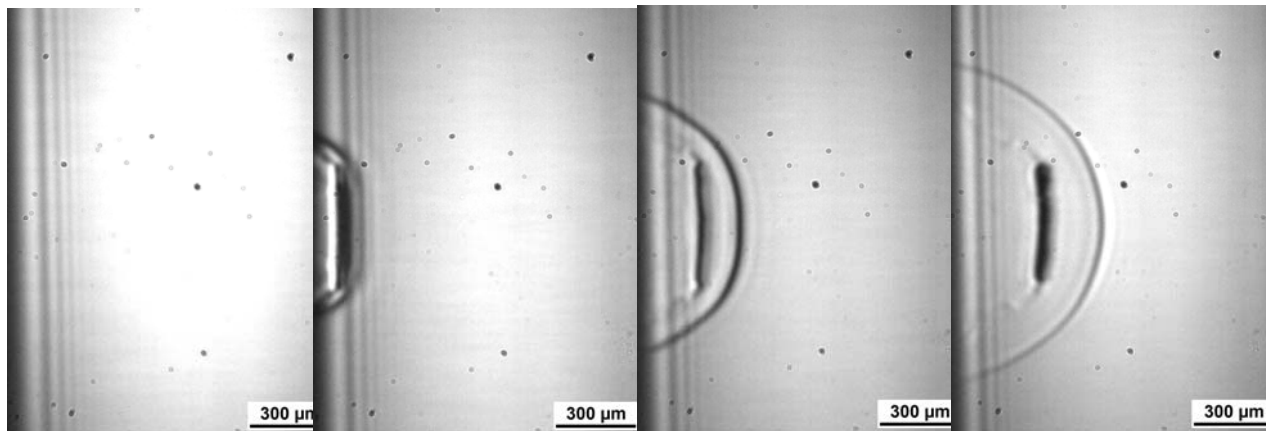
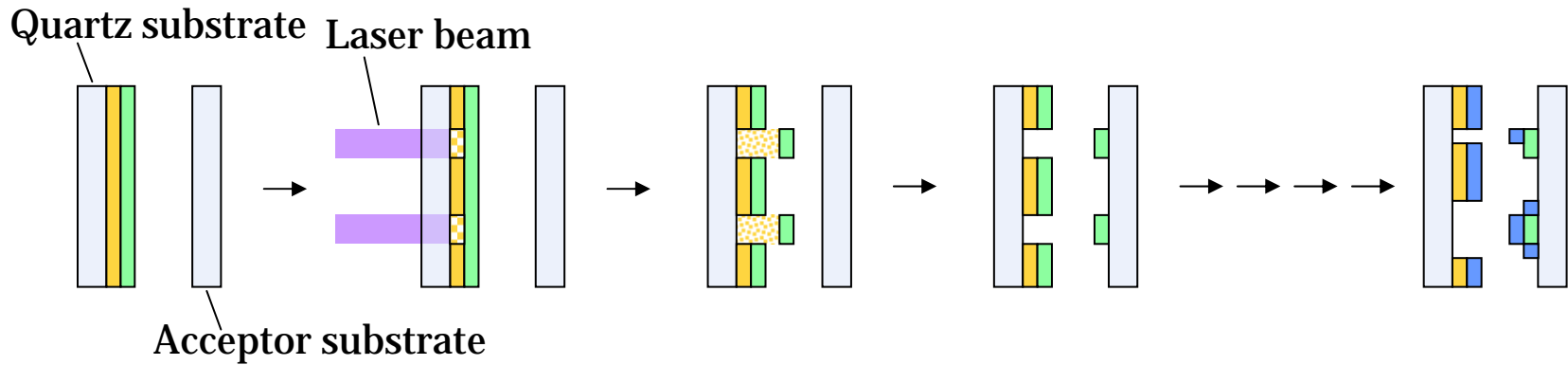
Advantages :

- Dry transfer technique → not limited by the solvent
- Three-dimensional structuring allowed
- Low thermal impact, debris-free ablation



M. Nagel et al., *Macromol. Chem. Phys.*, 208 (2007), 277-286

Forward Transfer



0 ns

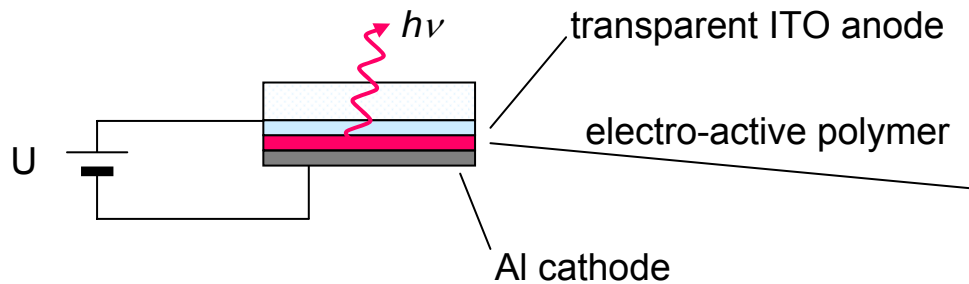
200 ns

400 ns

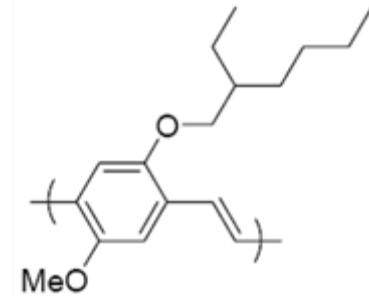
600 ns

Transfer of Al/MEH-PPV

Typical configuration of a basic OLED :

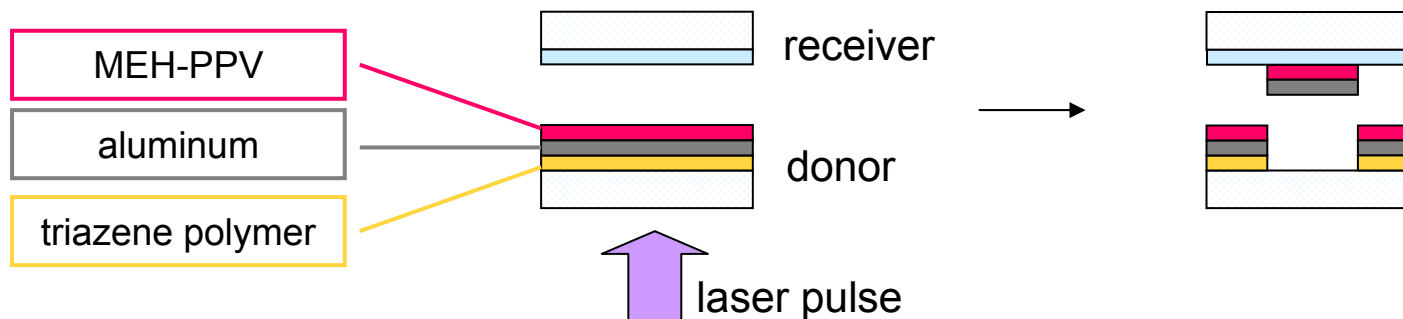


MEH-PPV

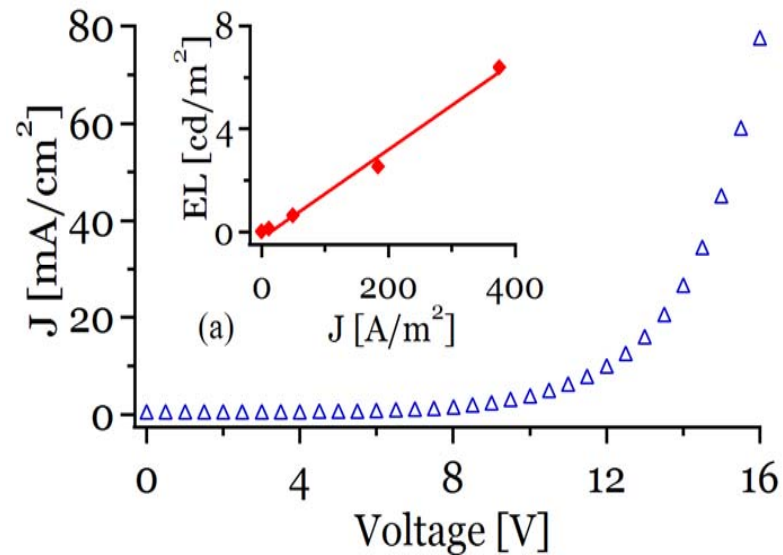
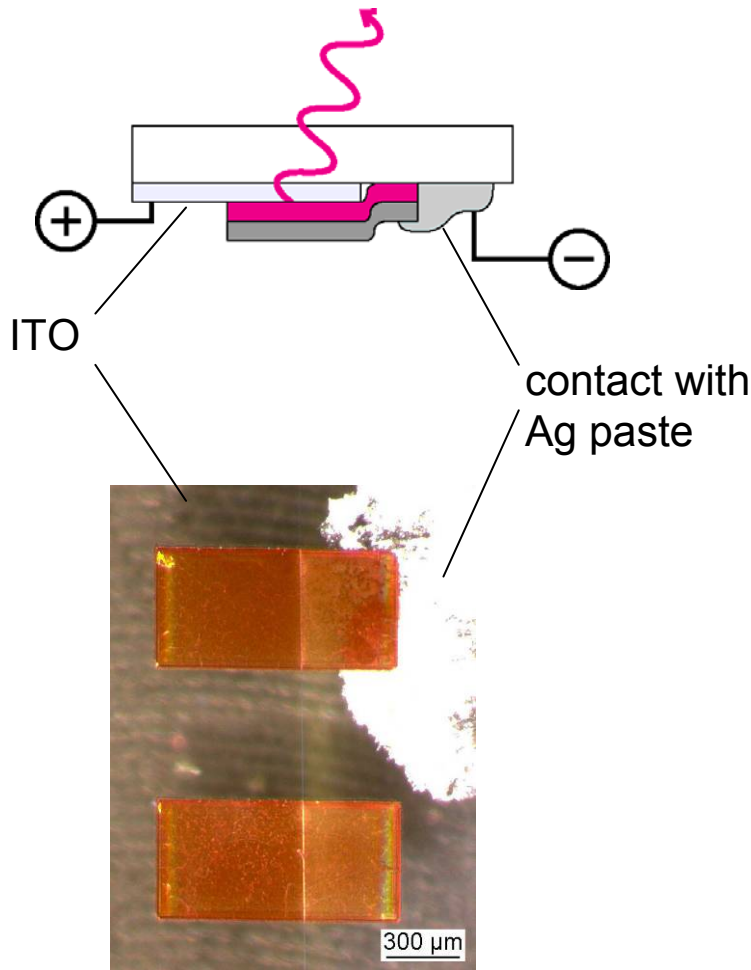


poly(2-methoxy,5-(2'-ethylhexyloxy)-1,4-phenylene vinylene)

OLED configuration can be achieved by a one-step transfer process :



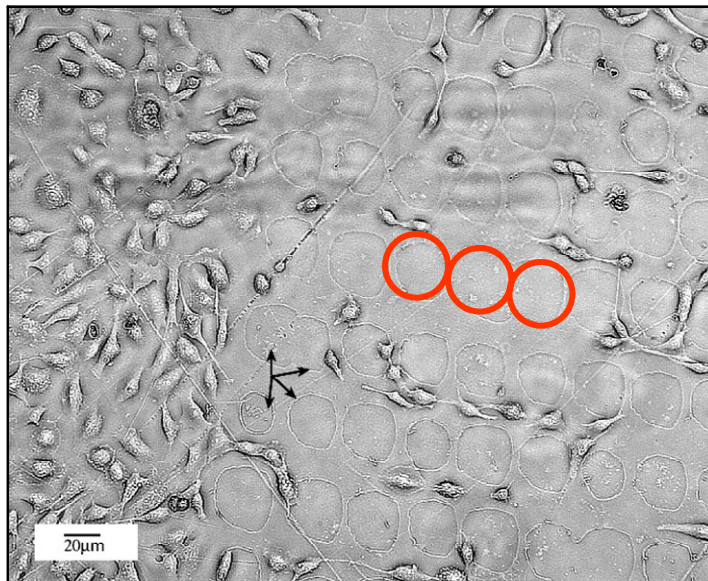
OLED fabricated by the LIFT method



R. Fardel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **91**, 061103 (2007)

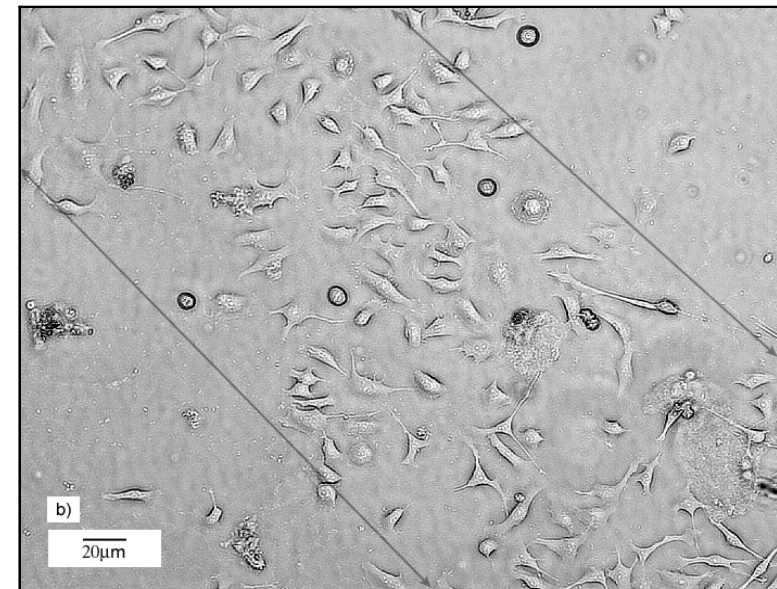
Transfer of living cells („Bio laser printing“)

Neuroblast B35 cells in extracellular matrix



Donor substrate after transfer

ArF*
193 nm
50 mJ cm⁻²
→
DRL ~100 nm
gap = 150 mm



Receiver substrate: transferred cells

A. Doraiswamy, R. Narayan, T. Lippert, L. Urech, A. Wokaun, M. Nagel, B. Hopp, M. Dinescu, R. Modi, R. Auyeung, D. Chrisey, *Appl. Surf. Sci.* **252**, 4743 (2006).

Thank you for your attention !

