



# **MANIPULATING LIGHT: A THIN-FILM DEVICE PERSPECTIVE**

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School of Electrical and Computer Engineering,  
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# Outline

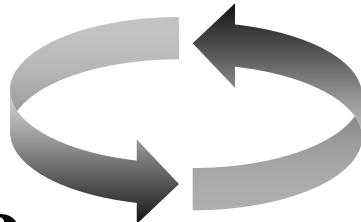
- An introduction to Printed electronics.
- Light and Thin film devices
  - Organic Solar Cells

# The Dawn of the Information Age



## Printing

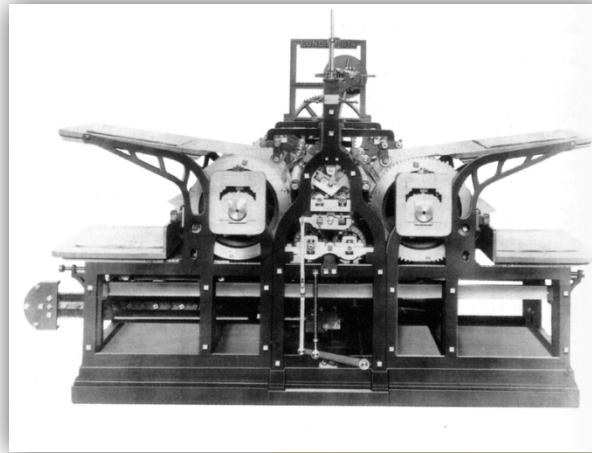
Ideas and  
information to  
text



Text to ideas  
and  
information



Gutenberg  
press (1450)



Koenig and Bauer  
steam powered  
press (1812)



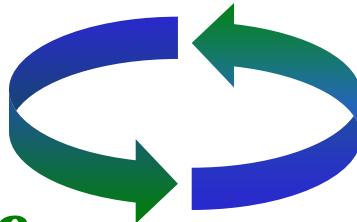
20<sup>th</sup> century  
industrial press

# The Dawn of the Information Age

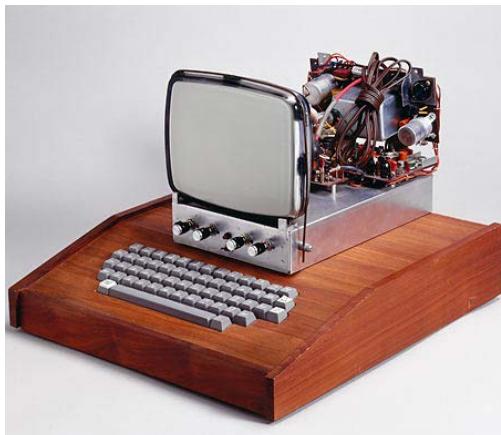


## Computing

Electricity to logic  
and/or arithmetic's



Logic and/or arithmetic's  
to electricity

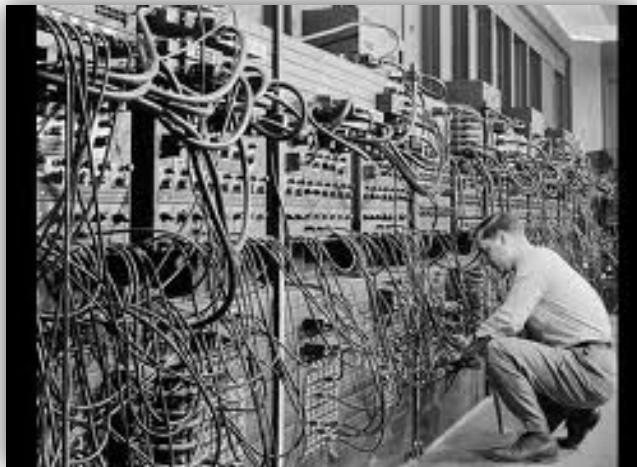


**IBM PC, (1981)**



**Apple I, (1976)**

Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer  
**ENIAC, U. Penn. (1946)**

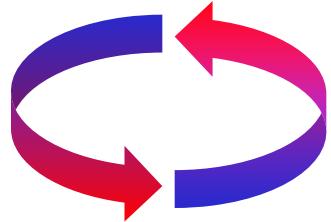




# The Dawn of the Information Age

## Optoelectronics

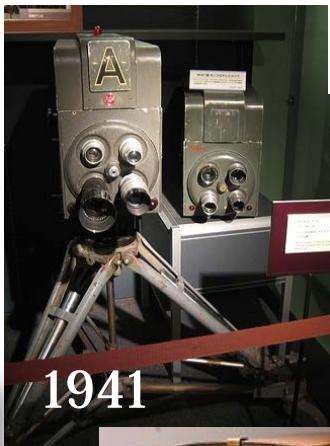
Electricity to light



Light to electricity



1879



1941



Energy Generation

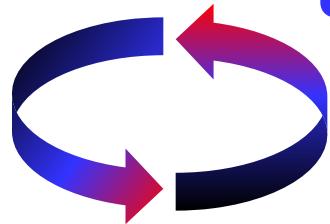




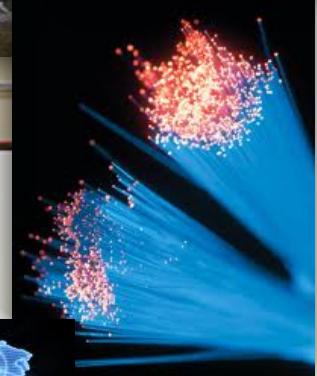
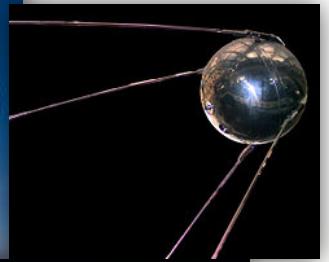
# The Dawn of the Information Age

## Telecommunications

Information to  
electricity or  
light

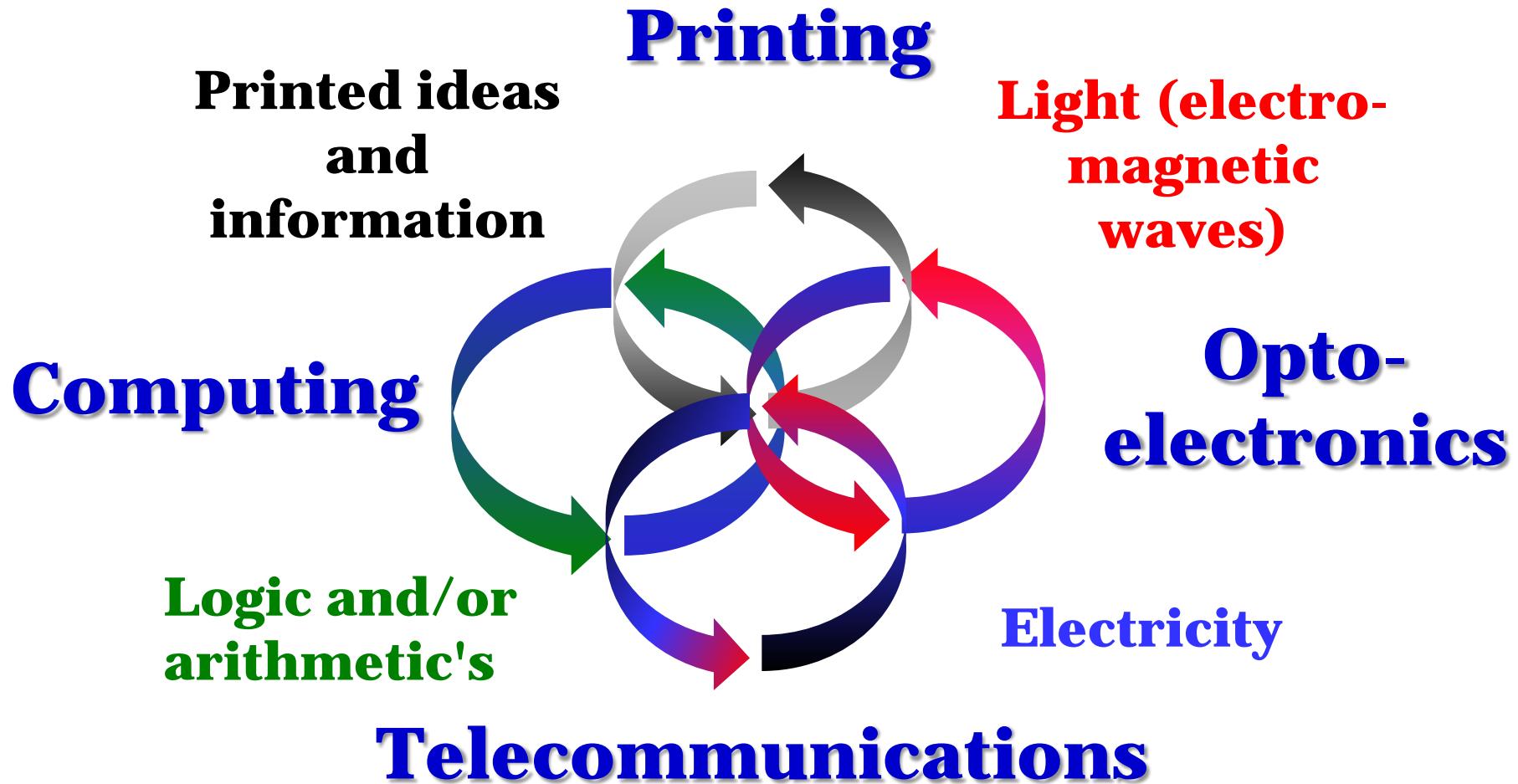


Electricity or light  
to Information

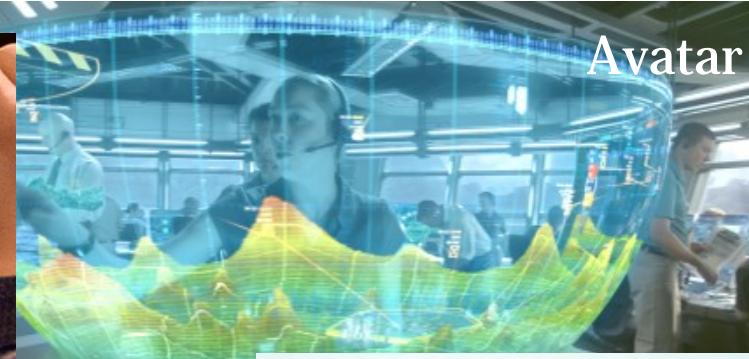




# An information revolution



# Printed Electronics: Ubiquitous information



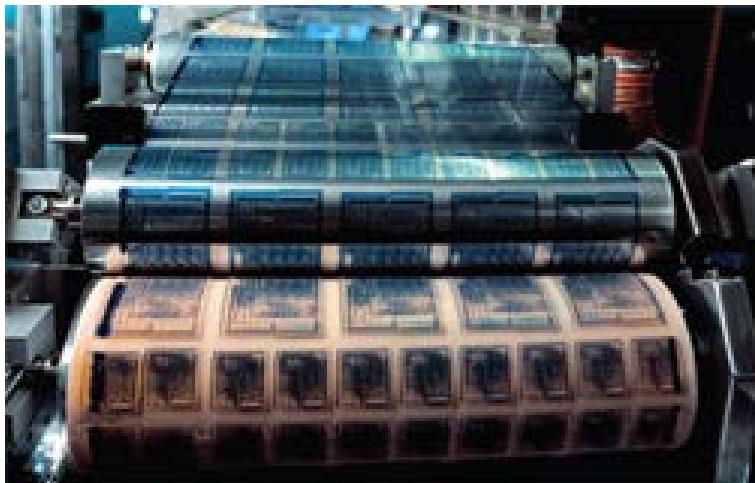
# A shift of paradigm in manufacturing

Inkjet printing



1. The Dimatix DMP-2800 printers can deposit a wide range of customer-supplied materials on the surface of almost any material.

Roll-to-roll



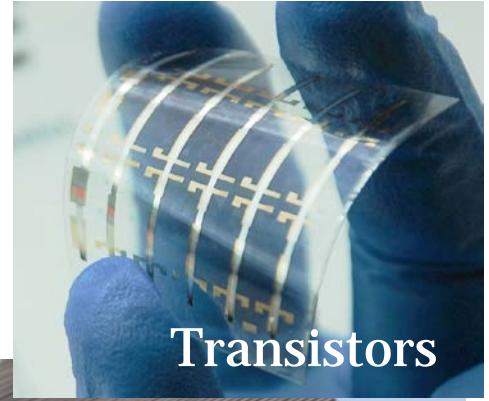
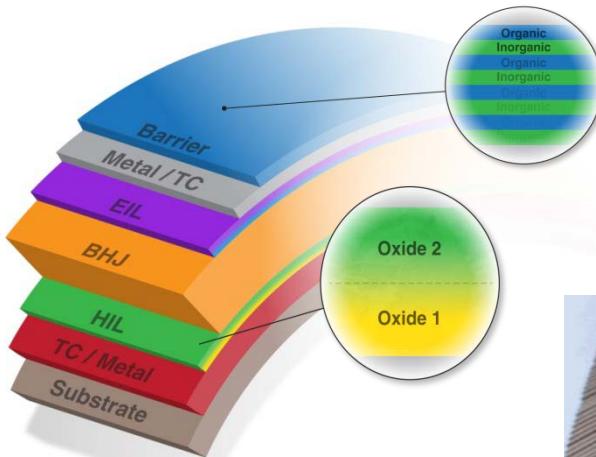
Printing electronics, 21<sup>th</sup> century

Flexible or free form; Large area; Low-cost.

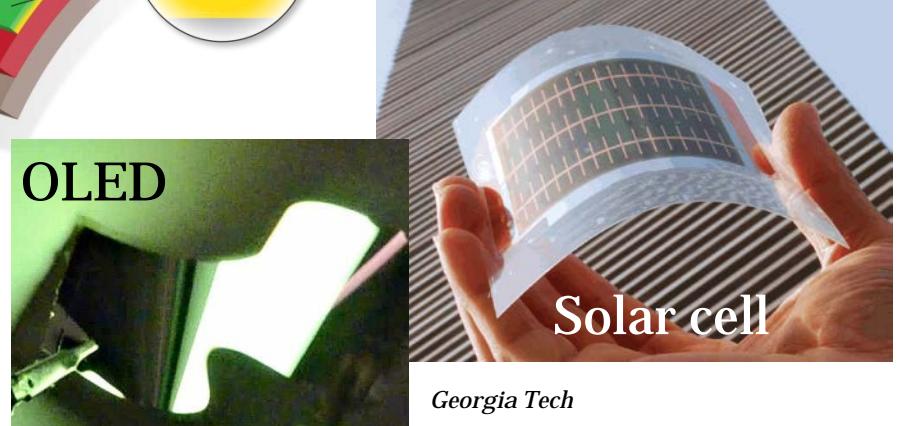
# Thin-film devices: The building blocks



- **Light emitting diodes**
- **Solar cells**
- Photodetectors
- Antennas
- Sensors
- Field-effect transistors
- Capacitors
- Batteries
- Memories
- Etc.



Transistors



Solar cell

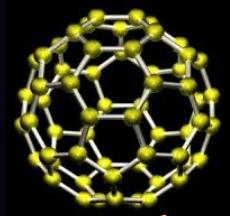
*Georgia Tech*

Functional structures with many layers of different materials with thicknesses ranging from **less than a nanometer to hundreds of nanometer**

# A nanometer?

1 m

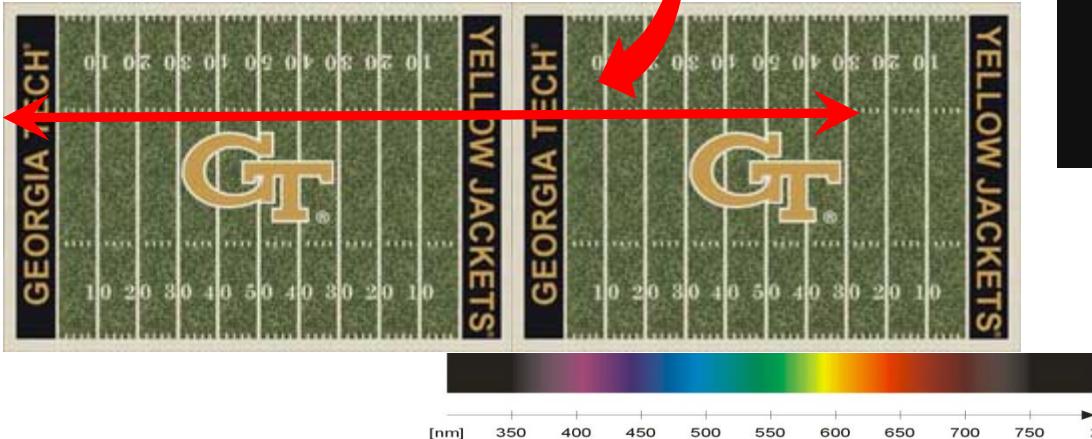
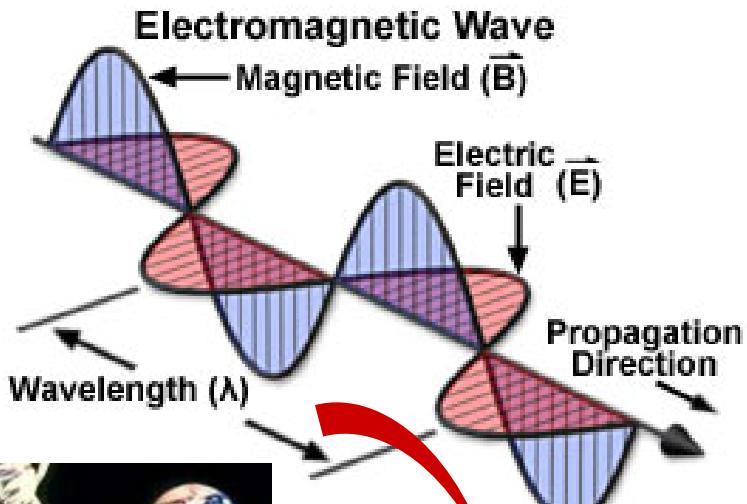
Fullerene ( $C_{60}$ )



Nanometer



# A big is a light wave?



Visible spectrum

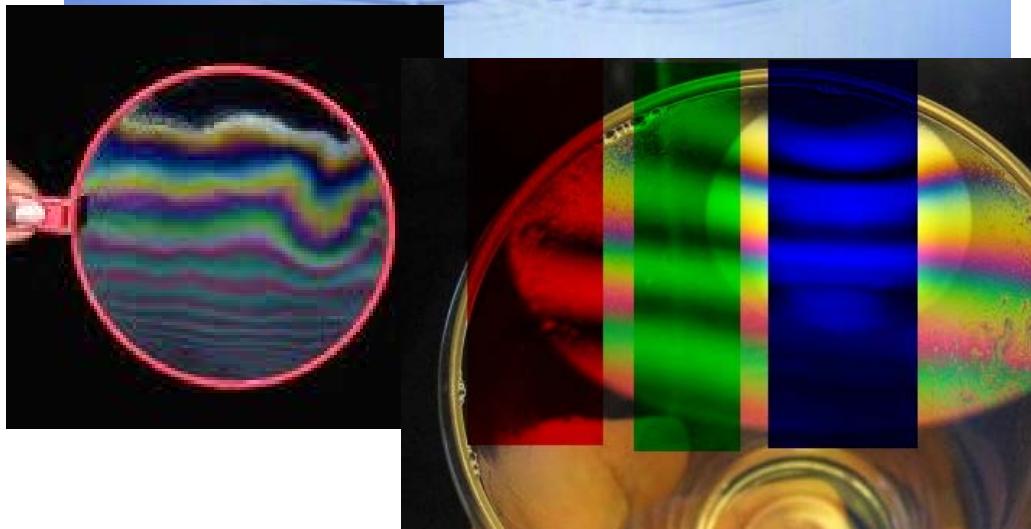
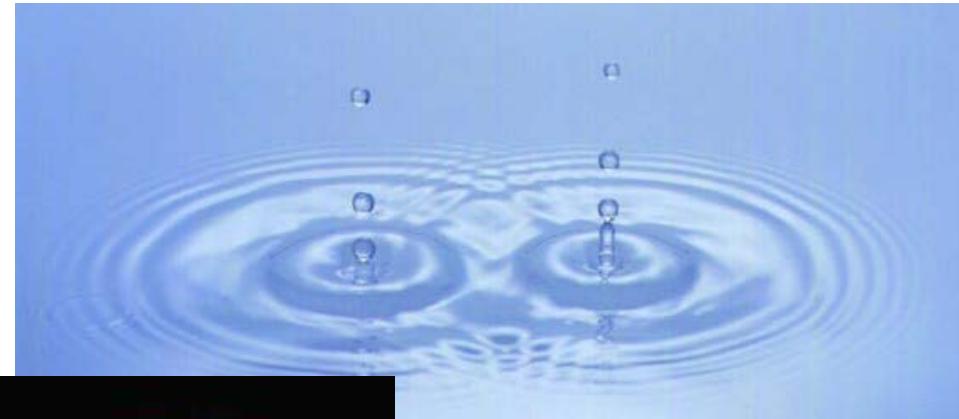


700 nm  
390 nm



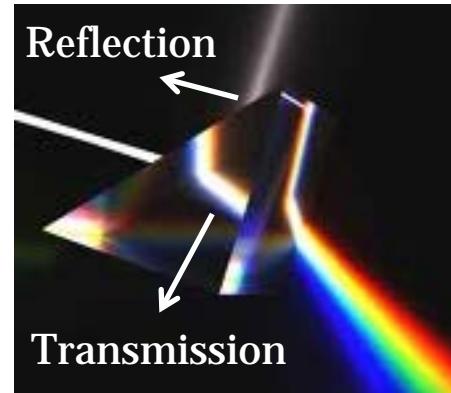
# Light waves interact :

**with each other**



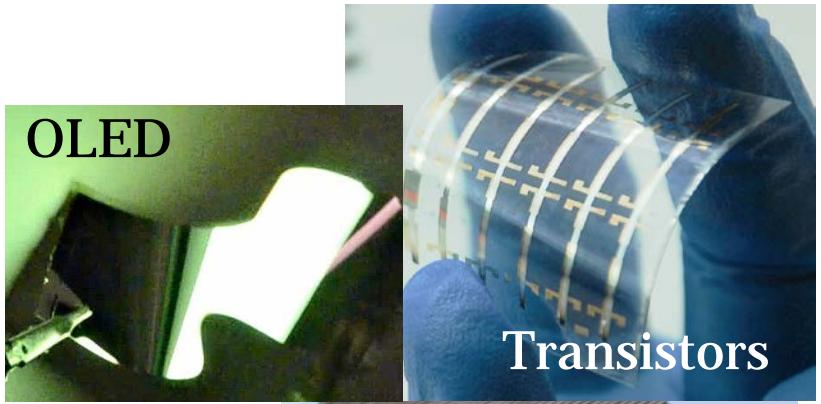
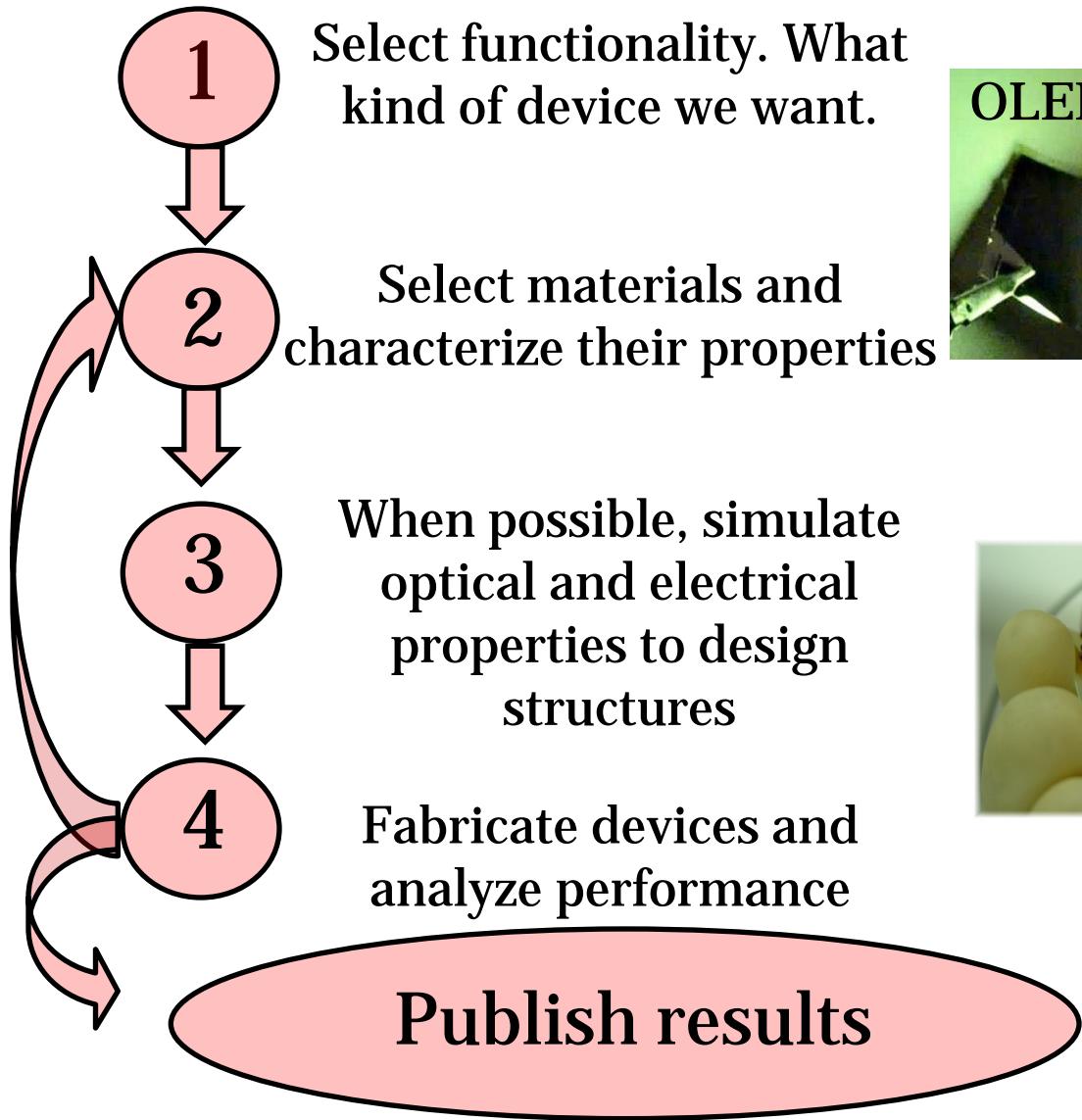
**To control  
interference**

**with materials**



**Control refractive index  
and thickness**

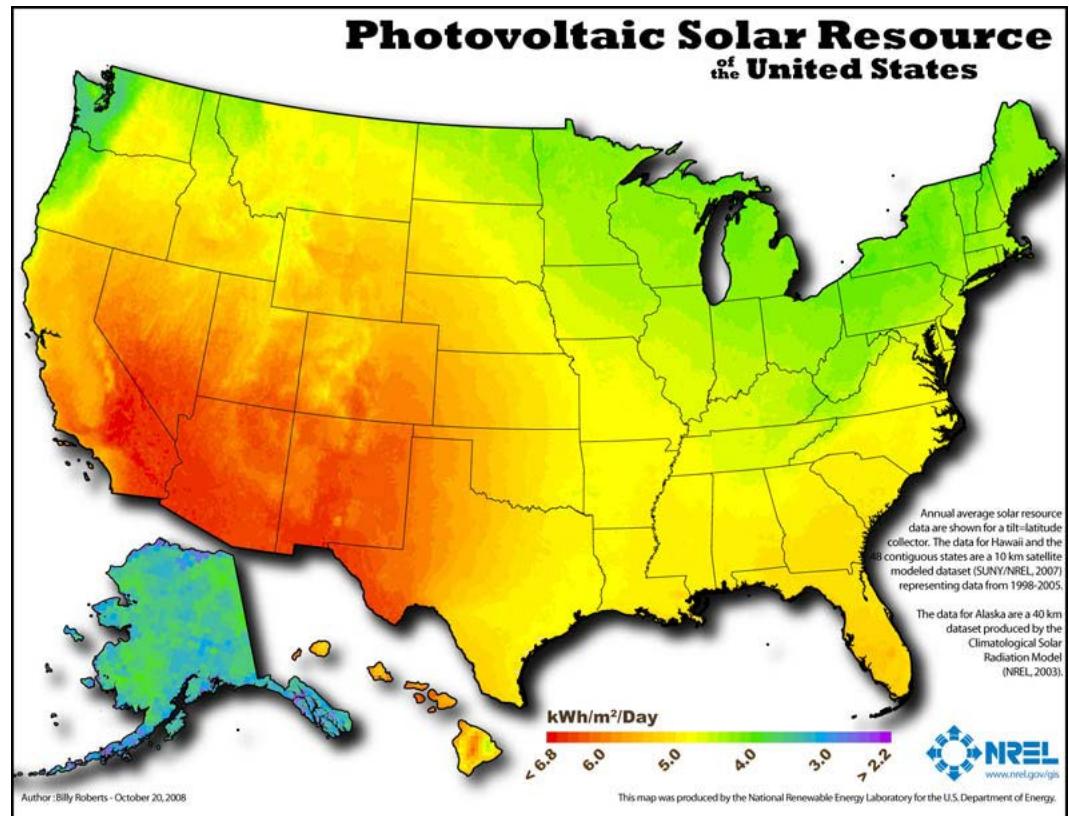
# What do we do?





# The need for solar power

- Abundant
- Affordable
- Reliable
- CLEAN



# SURFACE AREA REQUIRED TO POWER THE WORLD WITH ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS AND WITH SOLAR ALONE

→ [www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org)



## BOXES TO SCALE WITH MAP

■ 1980 (based on actual use)  
207,368 SQUARE KILOMETERS

■ 2008 (based on actual use)  
366,375 SQUARE KILOMETERS

■ 2030 (projection)  
496,805 SQUARE KILOMETERS

*Required area that would be needed in the year 2030 is shown as one large square in the key above and also as distributed around the world relative to use and available sunlight.*

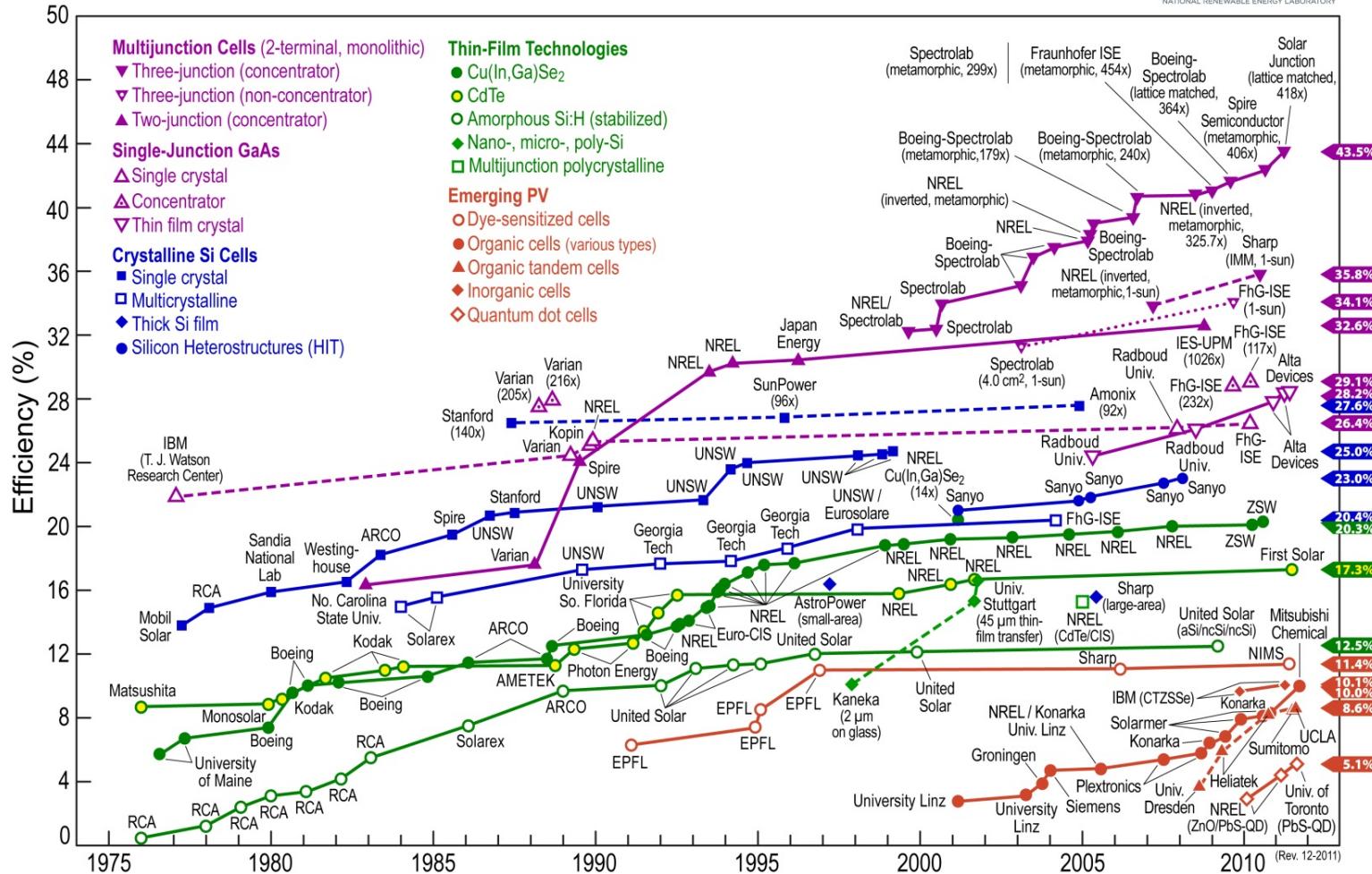
- ▶ Areas are calculated based on an assumption of 20% operating efficiency of collection devices and a 2000 hour per year natural solar input of 1000 watts per square meter striking the surface.
- ▶ These 19 areas distributed on the map show roughly what would be a reasonable responsibility for various parts of the world based on 2009 usage. They would be further divided many times, the more the better to reach a diversified infrastructure that localizes use as much as possible.
- ▶ The large square in the Saharan Desert (1/4 of the overall 2030 required area) would power all of Europe and North Africa. Though very large, it is 18 times less than the total area of that desert.
- ▶ The definition of "power" covers the fuel required to run all electrical consumption, all machinery, and all forms of transportation. It is based on the US Department of Energy statistics of worldwide Btu consumption and estimates the 2030 usage (678 quadrillion Btu) to be 44% greater than that of 2008.
- ▶ Area calculations do not include magenta border lines.



# Solar cell technologies

**NREL**  
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

## Best Research-Cell Efficiencies



C.W. Tang, Appl.  
Phys. Lett, 48, 183  
(1986)

1%

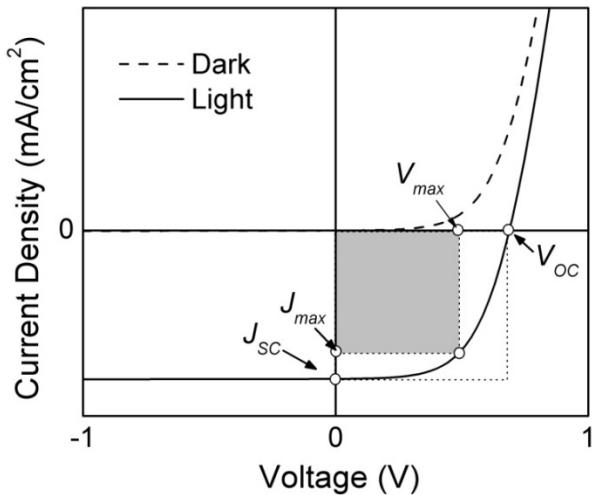
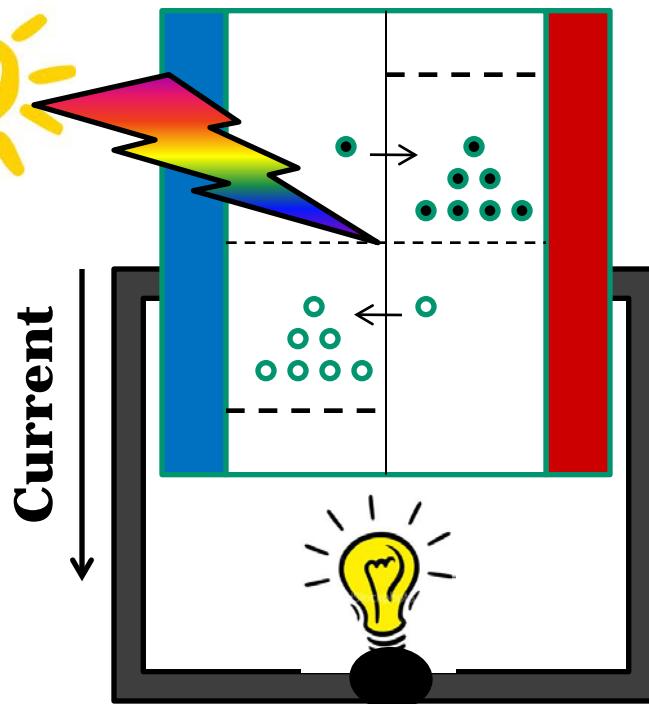
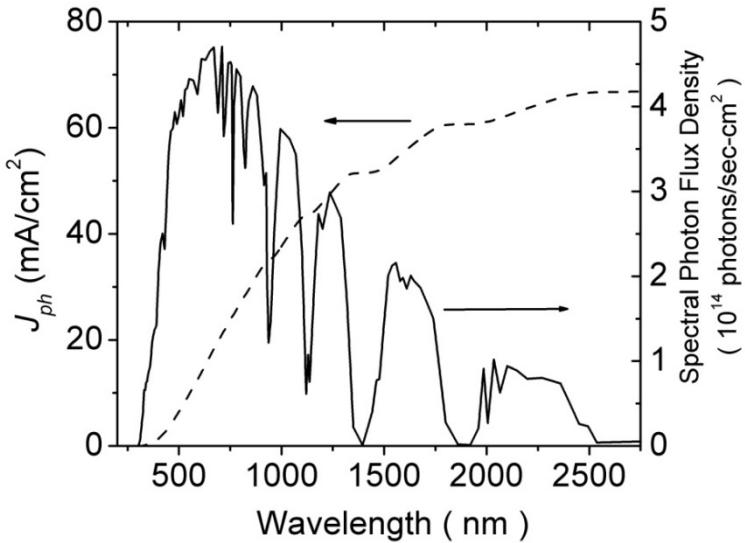


South China University of Technology: 9.2%  
(polymer) Aug. 2012  
HeliaTek: 12% (small molecules) Jan 2013

# Design the detector around the light

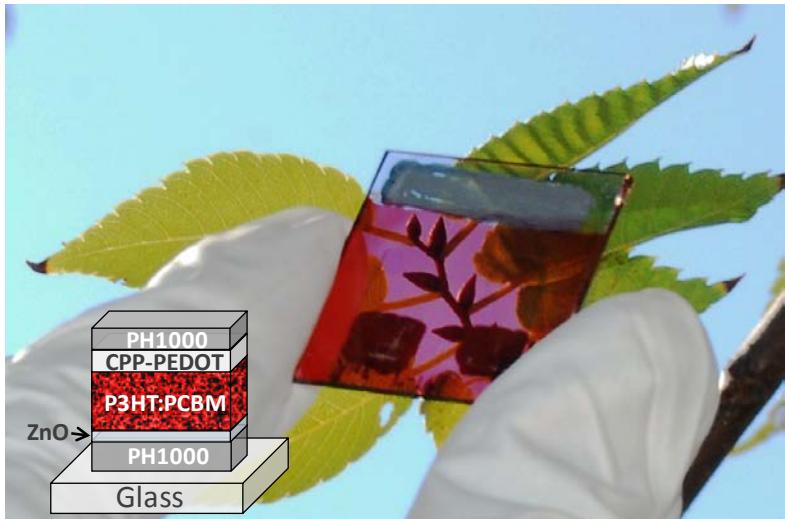


source

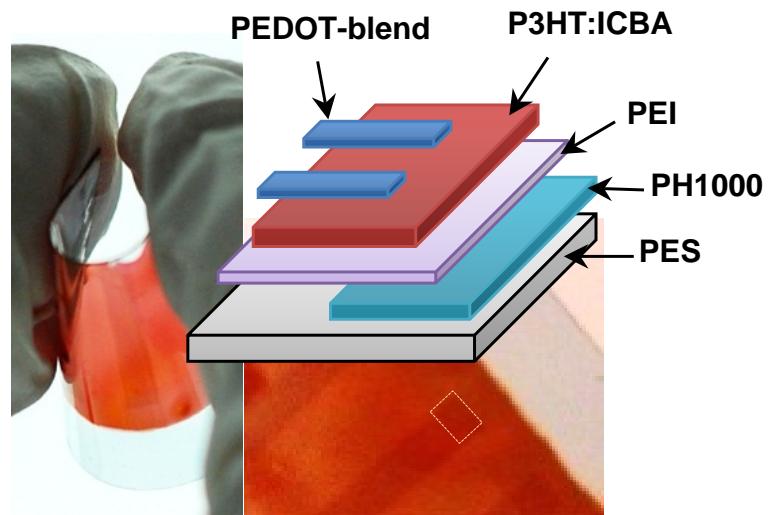


$$\eta = \frac{P_{max}}{P_{solar}} = FF \frac{J_{SC} V_{OC}}{P_{solar}}$$

# Example 1: semitransparent solar cells for smart windows



**PCE = 1.8 %**



**PCE = 3.3 %**

Metals like Ag are expensive, so do not use them.

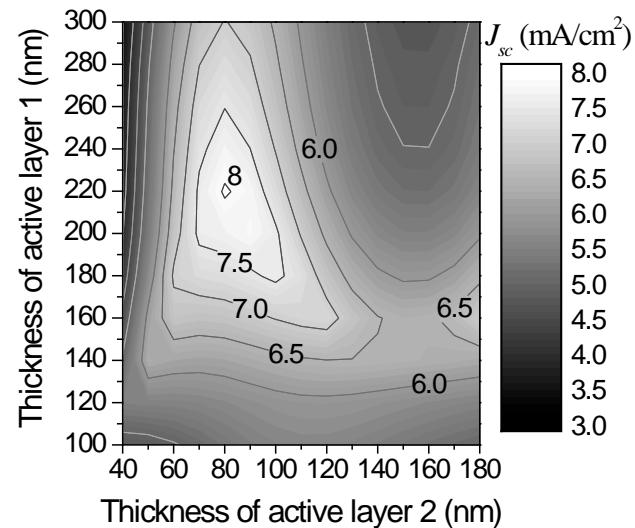
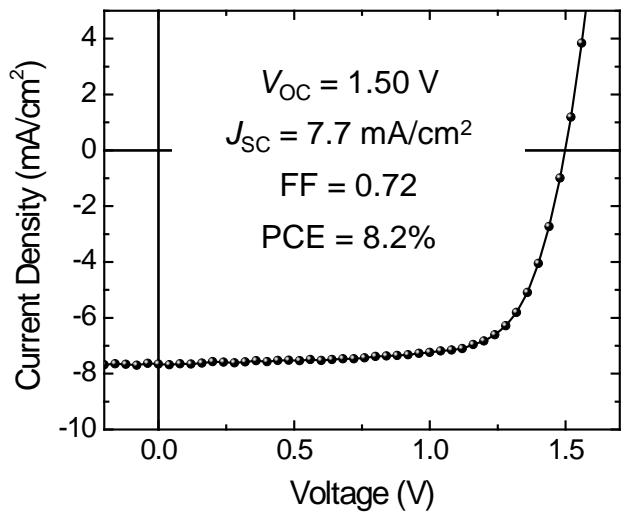
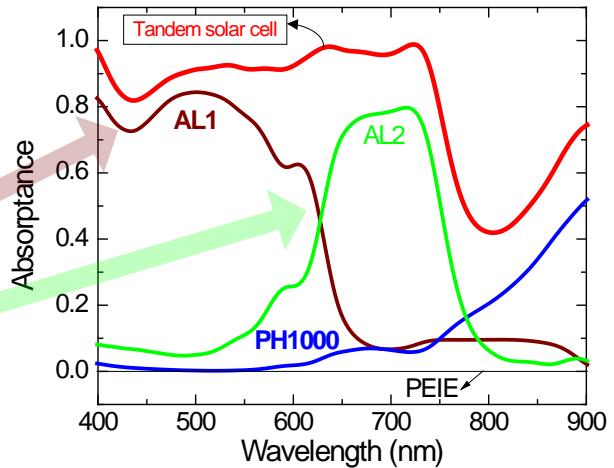
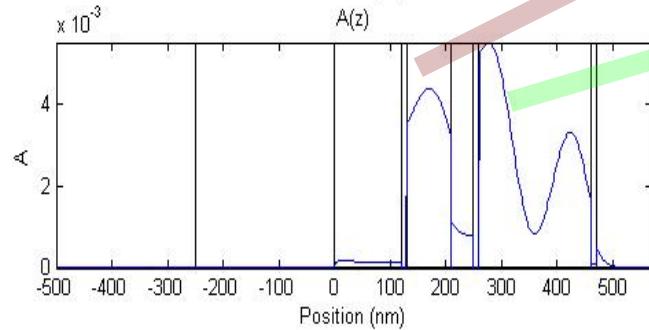
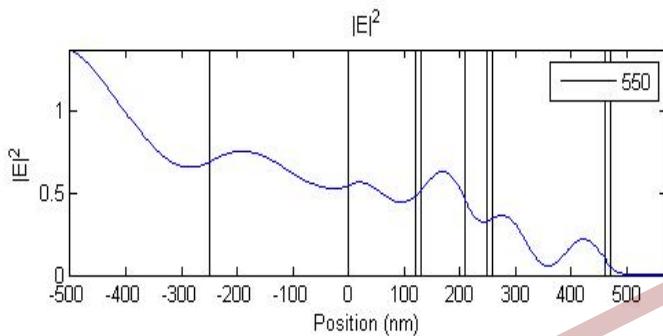
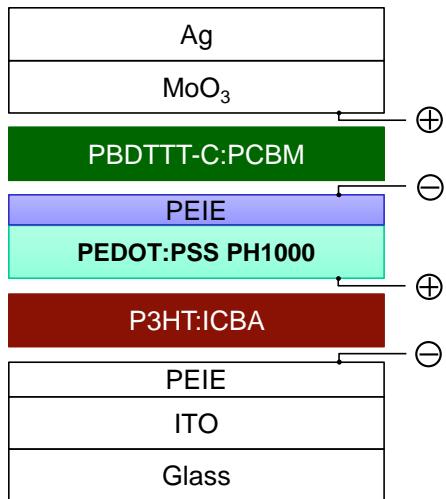
**Zhou Y. et.al. Applied Physics Letters 97(15), 153304 Oct. (2010)**

**Zhou et al. Organic Electronics 12 (5) 827 (2011)**

**Zhou et al. Science, 336 (2012) 327-332.**



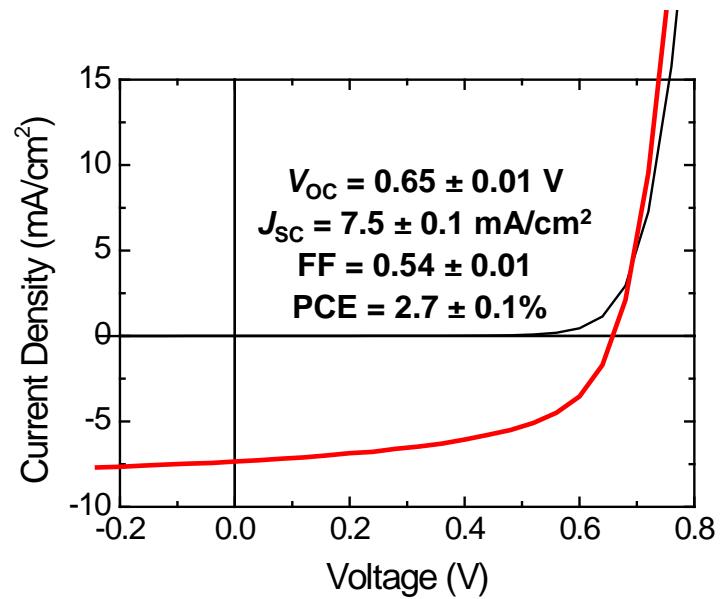
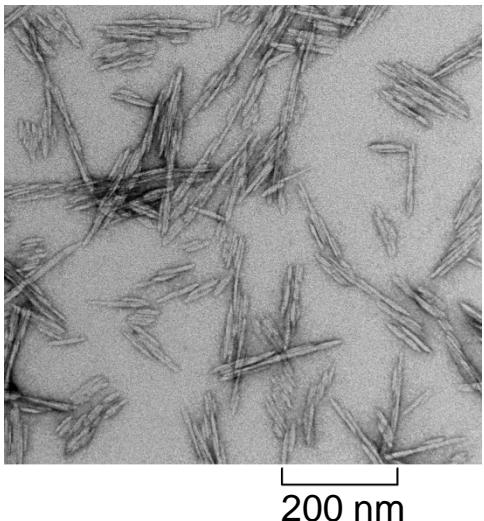
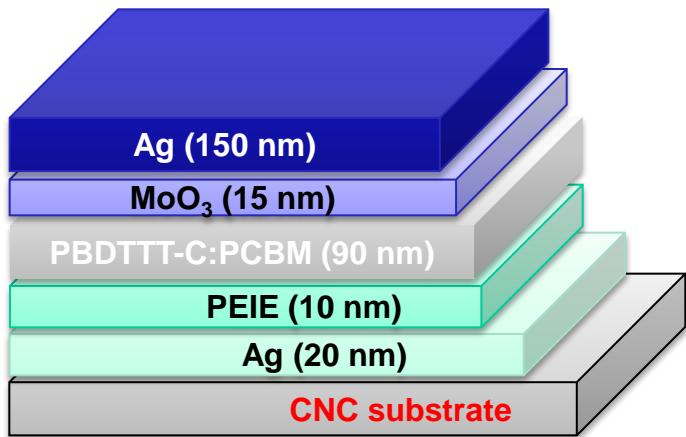
# Tandem solar cells



Zhou, et al. Energy &  
Environmental Science, 5  
(2012) 9827-9832.

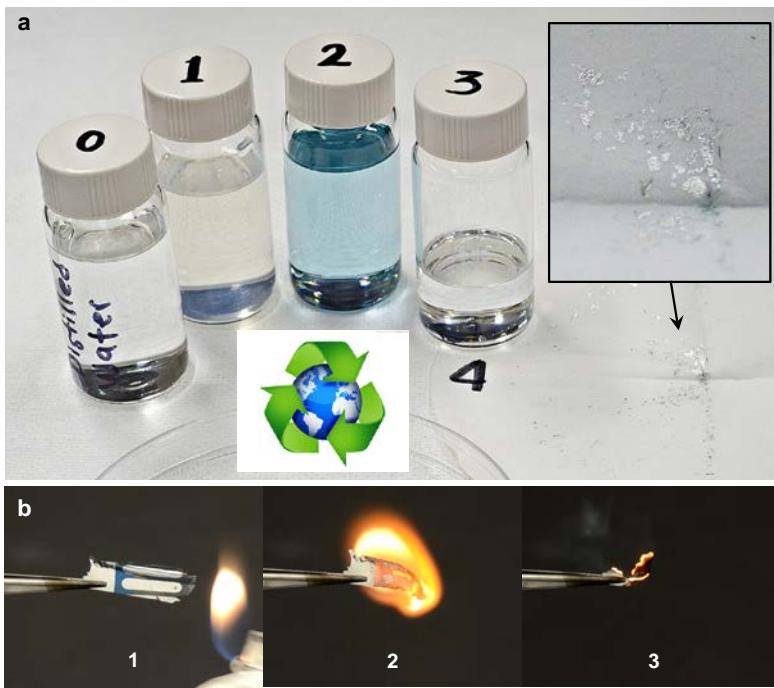
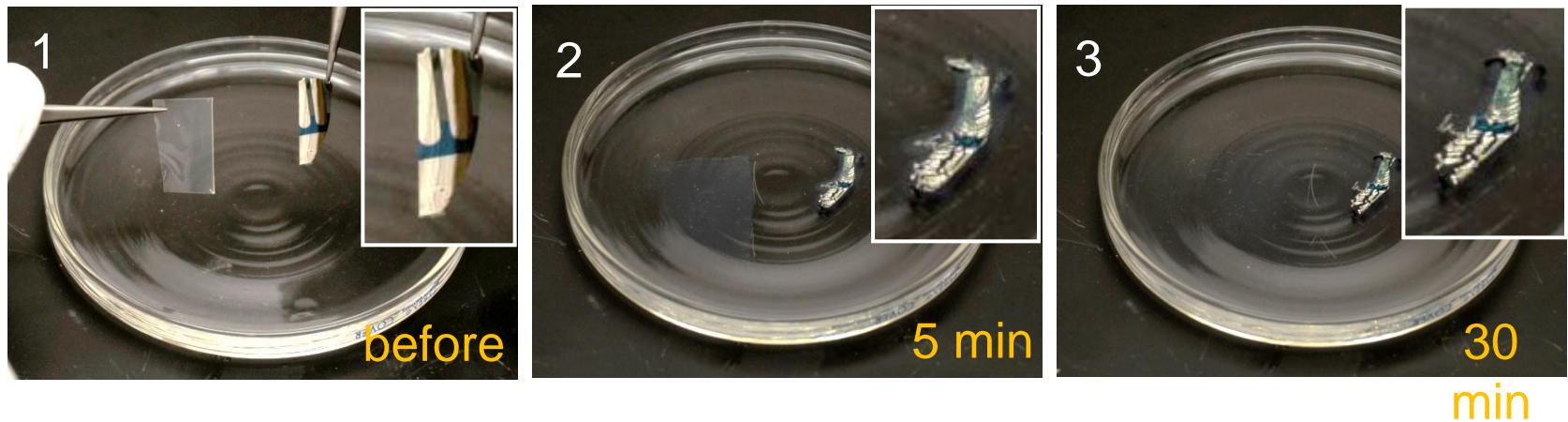


# Recyclable solar cells





# Recycling





# Acknowledgments



Bernard  
Kippelen



Yinhua  
Zhou



Talha  
Khan



Jaewon  
Shim



Amir  
Dindar



Keith  
Knauer



Ehsan  
Najafabadi



James  
Hsu



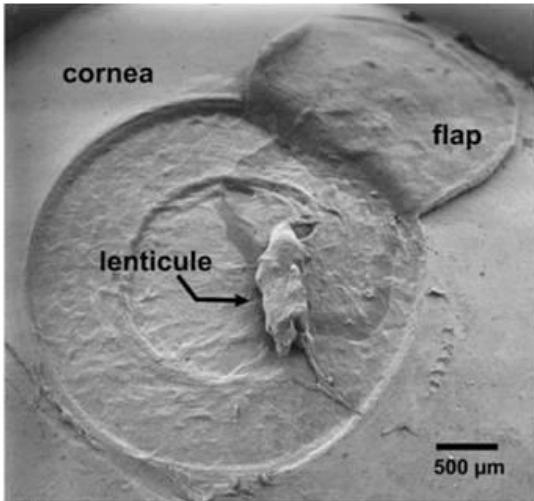
Albert  
Ernst



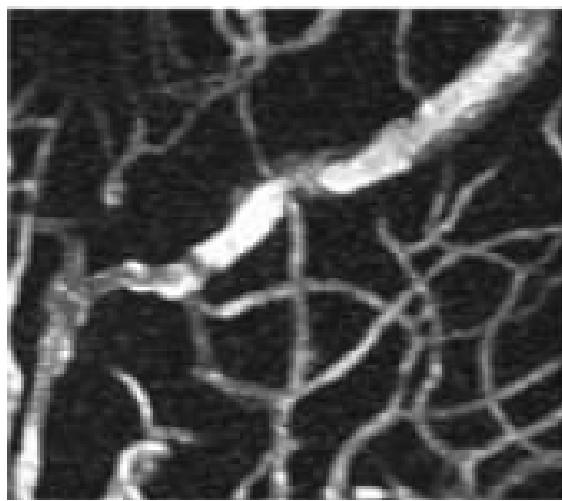
Asha  
Sharma



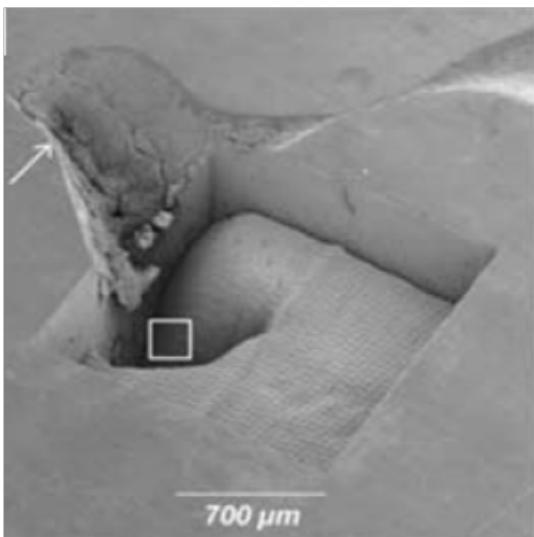
# Light knives



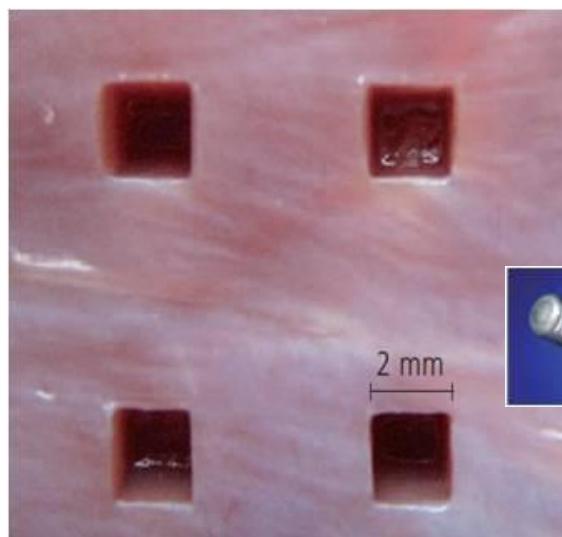
Eye



Blood vessels



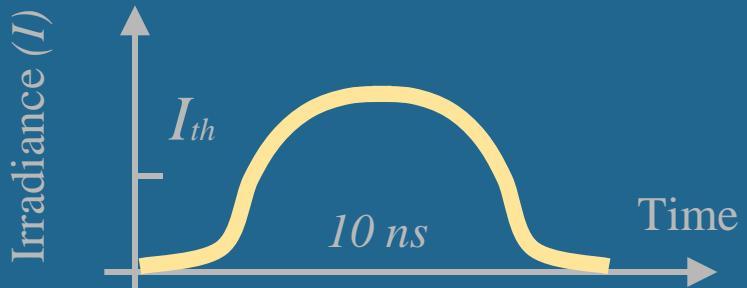
Dental



Neuroendoscope



## *ns* Laser

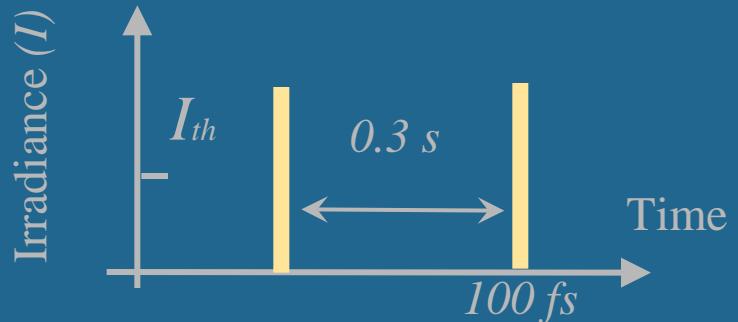


Evaporate  
with Heat

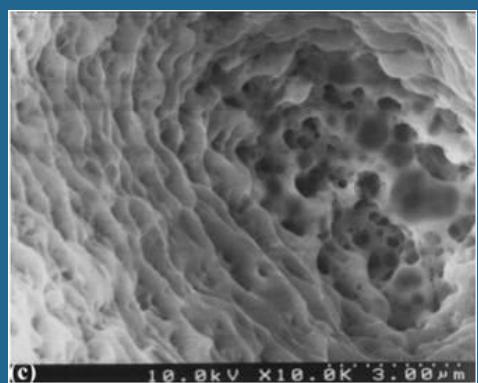


**Pain + \$**

## *fs* Laser



Evaporate  
w/o Heat





# Our Innovation

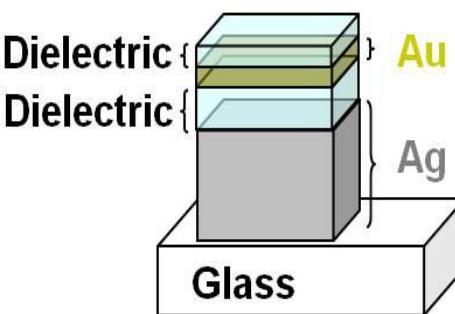
Journal paper published  
Provisional patent filed (GTRC 6221)

Dose Control System (Shutter) ~ \$2k



(Compact and Ultrafast)

Ultrafast Mirror  
( $R$  changes)



# SURFACE AREA REQUIRED TO POWER THE WORLD WITH ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS AND WITH SOLAR ALONE

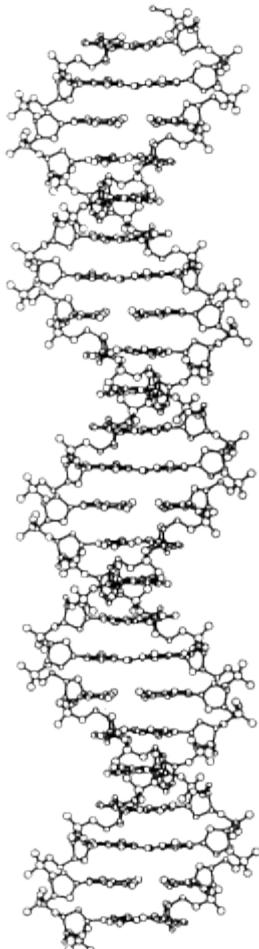
→ [www.landartgenerator.org](http://www.landartgenerator.org)



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- Area calculations do not include magenta border lines.

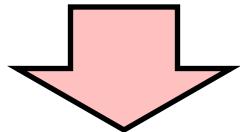
# Organic molecules and polymers



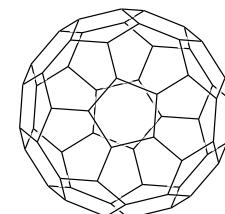
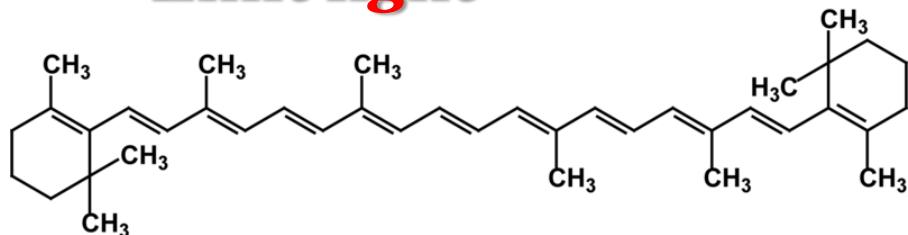
Synthetic **organic** compounds.

An important class of organic compounds:

**conjugated organic molecules and polymers**

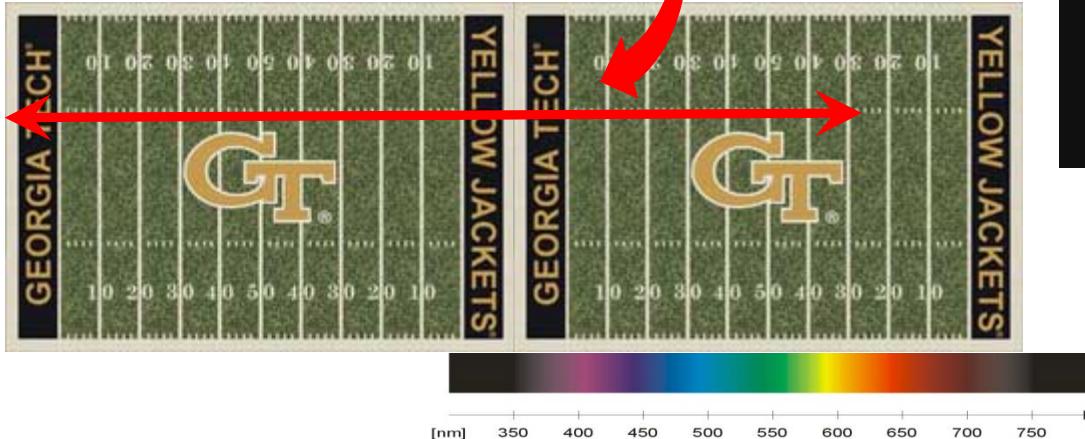
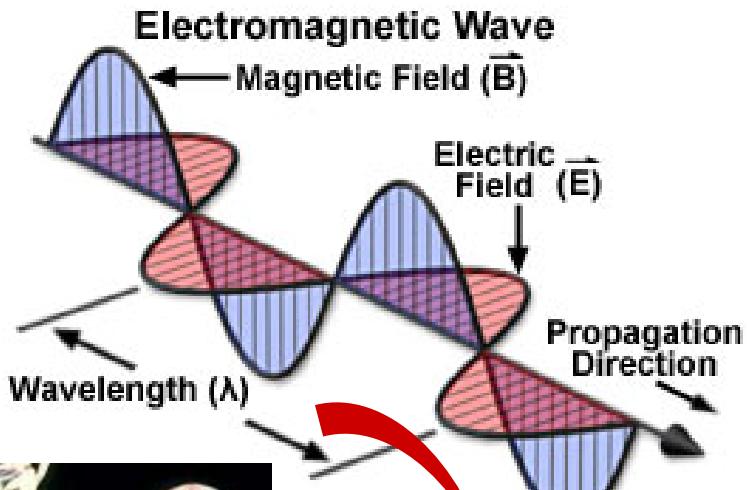


- **Conduct electricity**
- **Absorb**
- **Emit light**





# Light waves



Visible spectrum

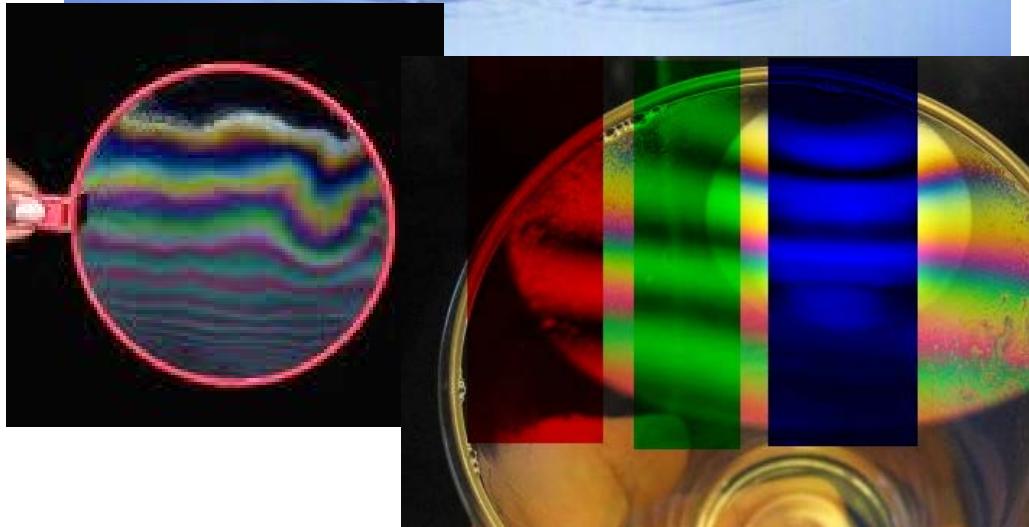
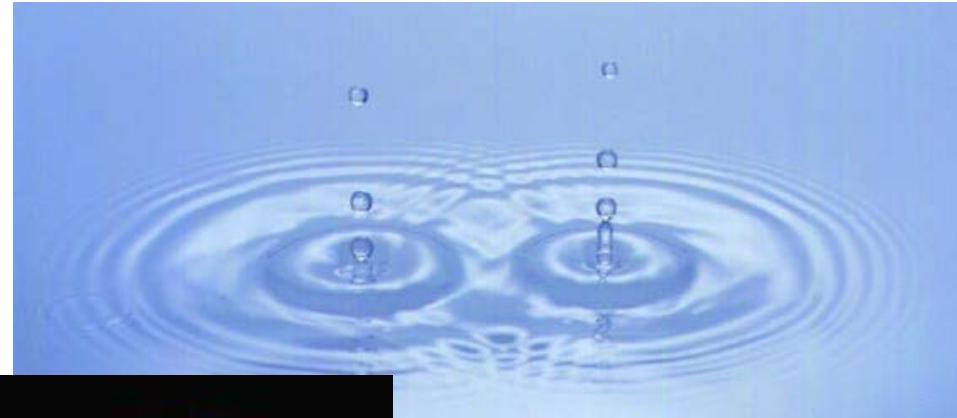


700 nm  
390 nm



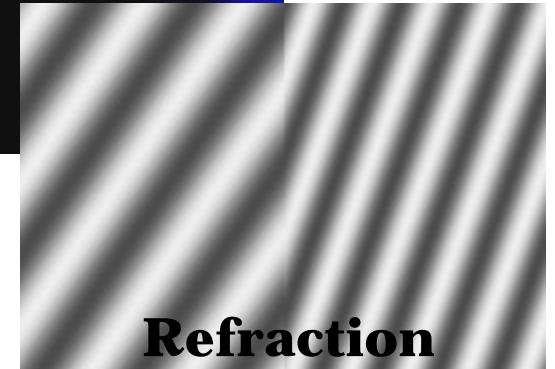
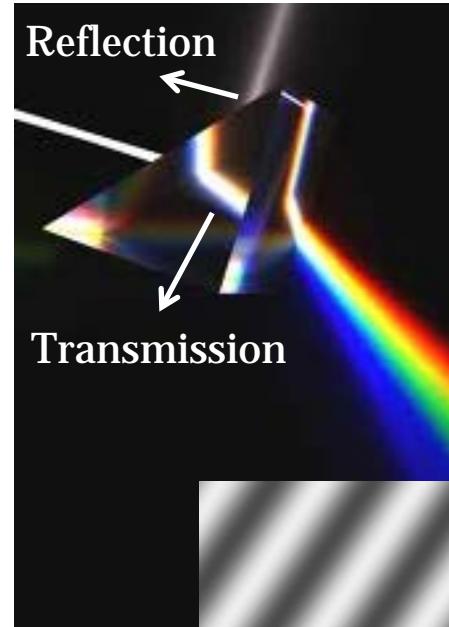
# Light waves interact :

**with each other**



**Interference**

**with materials**



**Refraction**