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Transparent electrodes based on GaAs/metal subwavelength gratings for VCSEL applications

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Context

- Standard oxide-confined VCSEL with annular top-electrode geometry leads to poor injection uniformity
- Strong interest for **efficient uniform electrical injection** whatever the emission window diameter and shape
- Need for a **transparent electrode** scalable in size with **high transparency** with fixed **light polarization** and **good electrical conductivity**
- Transparent conductive electrodes (TCE) already proposed/used on VCSEL : Indium Tin Oxide (ITO), silver nanostructured materials and graphene films
=> Limitations of electrical performances (compared to metal electrodes) and scarcity of In resources.

Requirements for high performances TCE

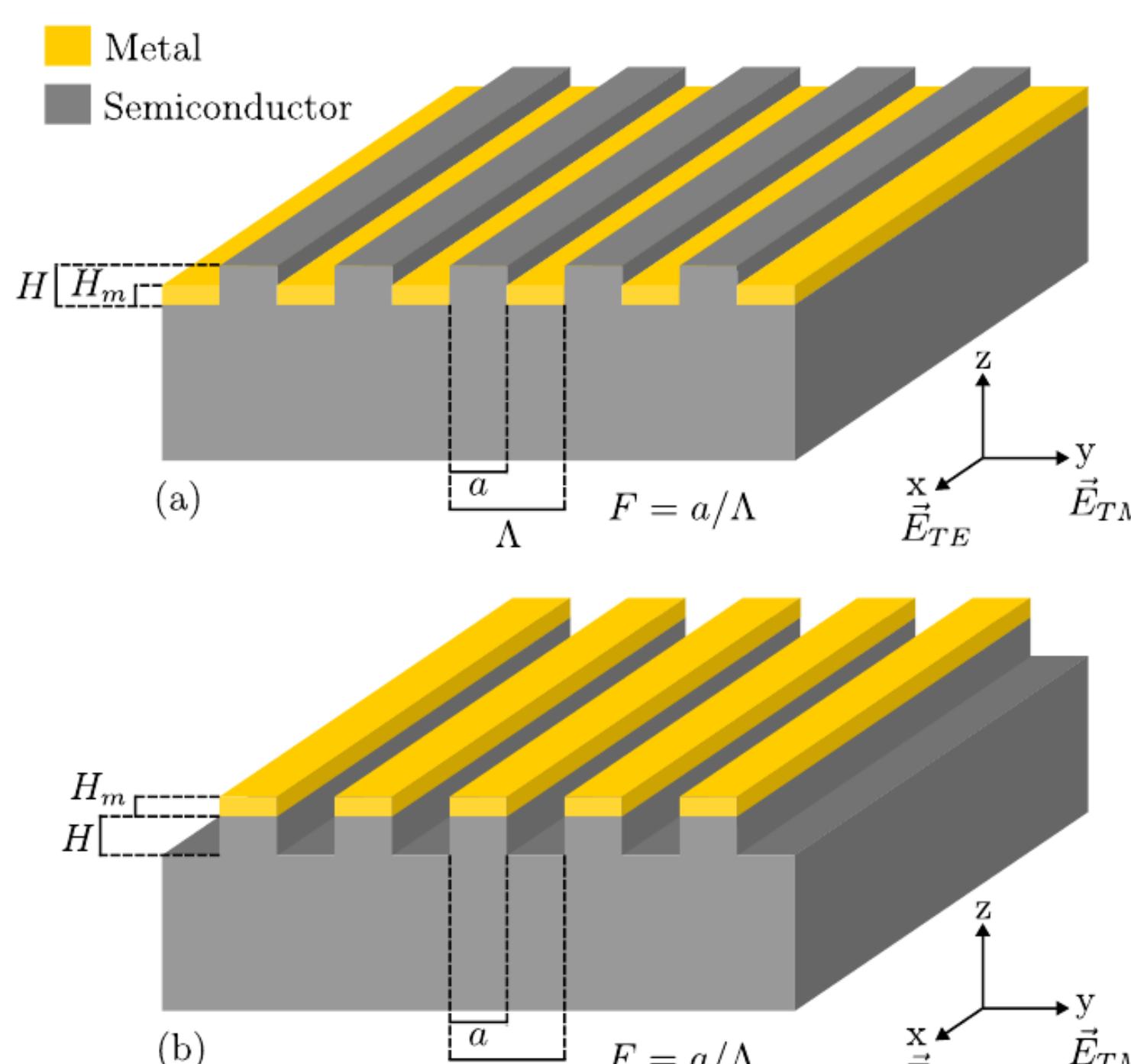
- Optical transparency as nearest as possible to 100%
- Electrical resistance as low as $1 \Omega/\square$
- Scalable to device size/geometry
- Compatible with standard VCSEL fabrication process

Methods

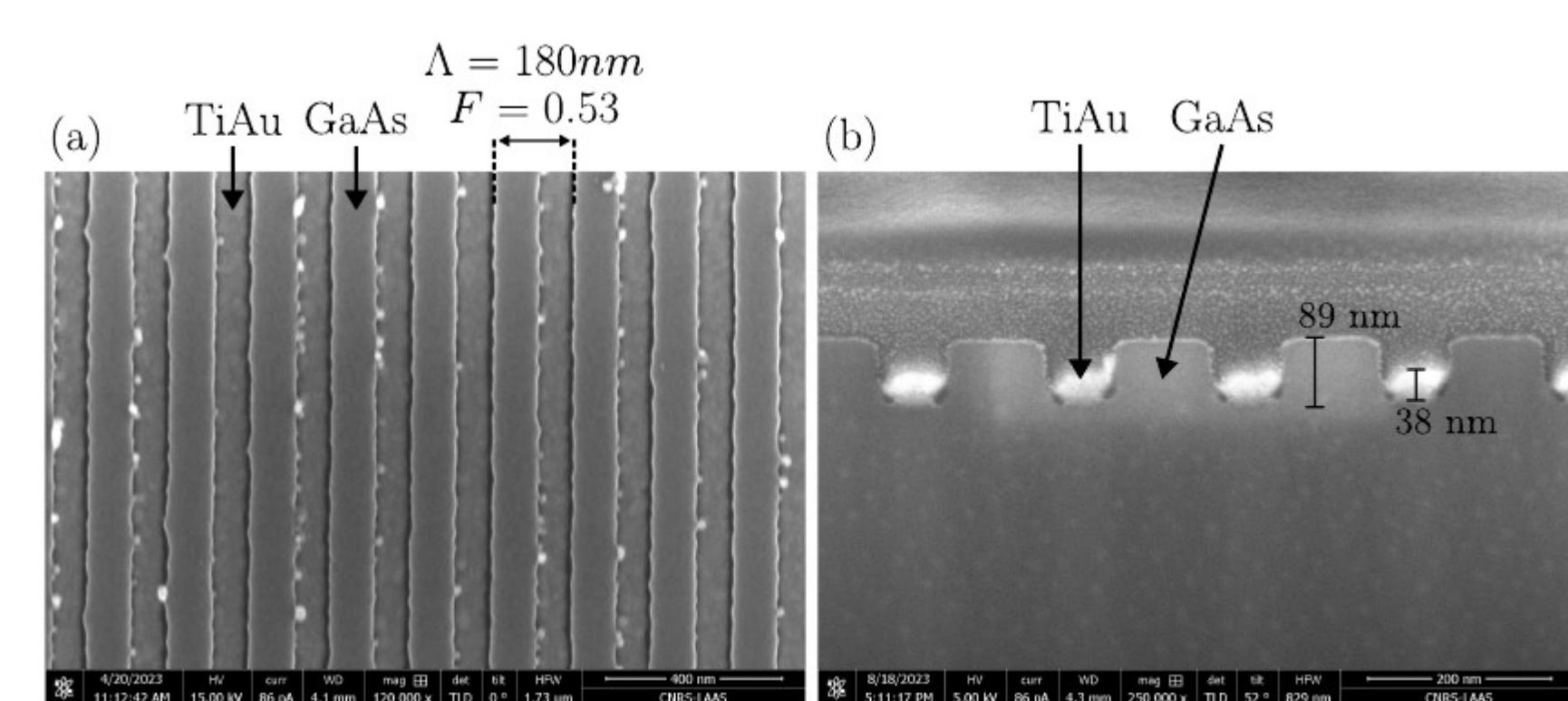
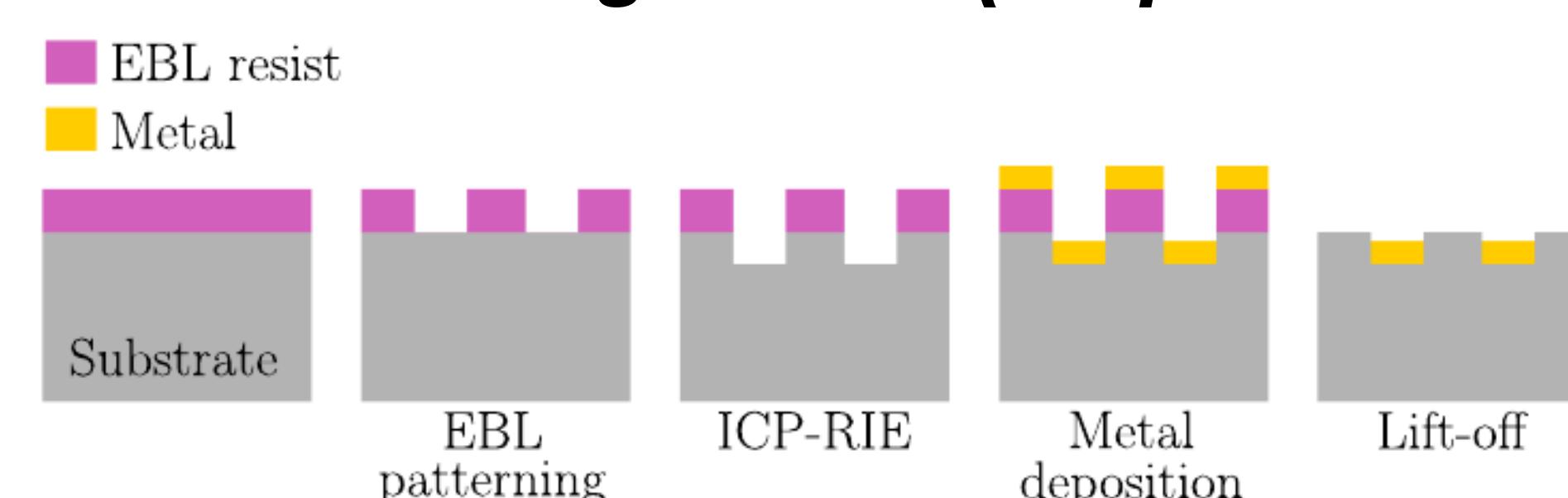
- **Semiconductor-metal deep-subwavelength grating (SMDSG)**
- **New TCE concept** proposed by Technical Univ. Lodz [1]
- Demonstrations in mid-infrared spectral window [2]
- This work is the **first experimental demonstration** of SMDSG in **near-infrared range** and on **GaAs platform**

[1] T. Czyszanowski, Adam K. Sokóć, et al. Optics Express 28,19 (Sept. 2020), p. 28383.
[2] L.Y.M. Tobing, Michał Wasiak, et al. Nanophotonics 10,15 (Nov. 2021), pp. 38233830.

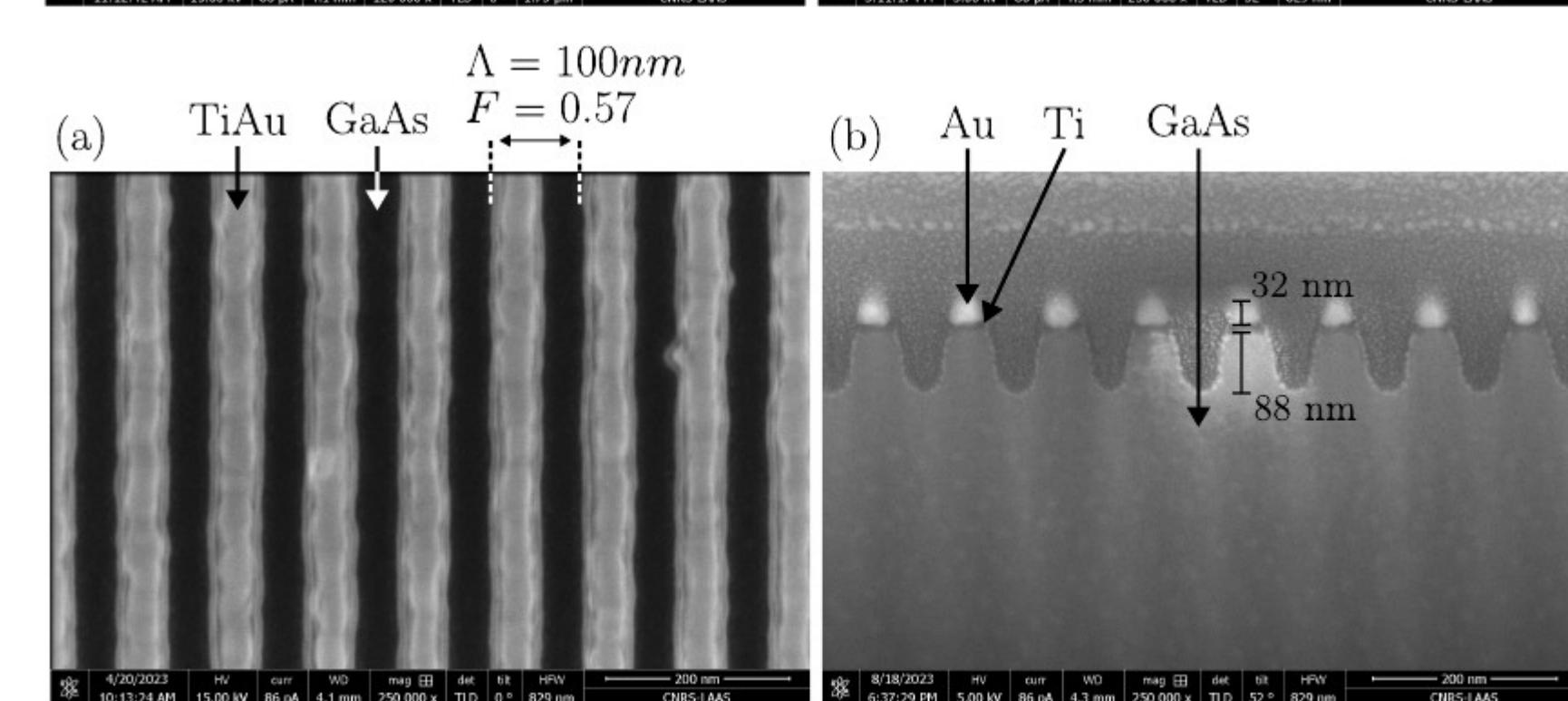
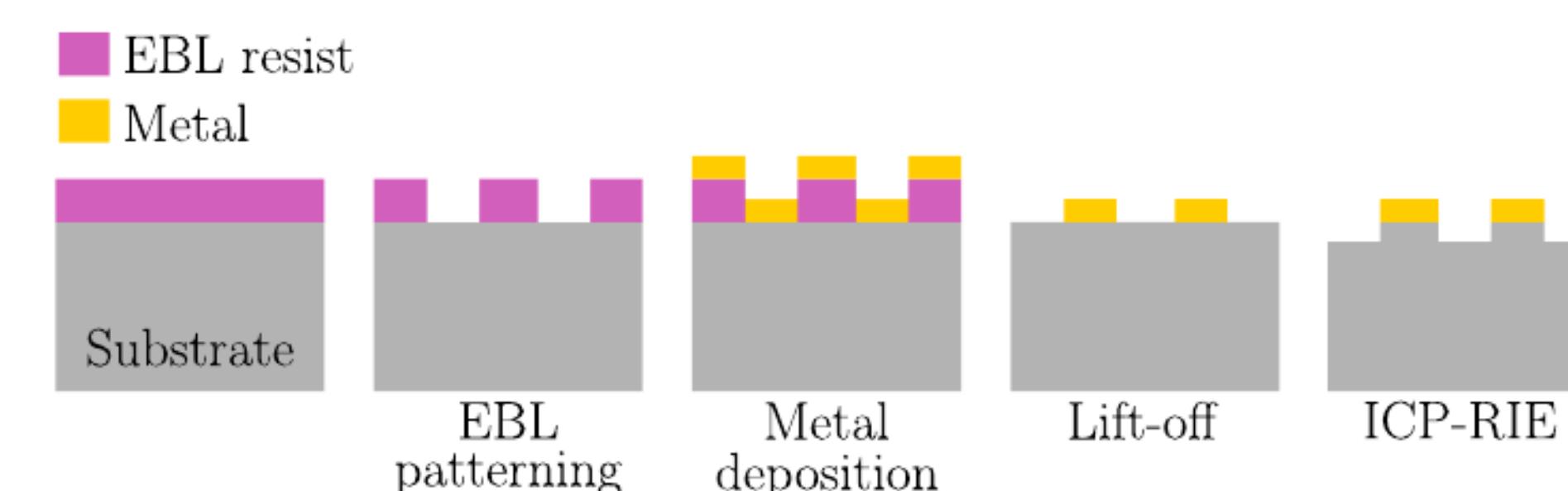
Design and nanofabrication



« Bottom » configuration (TE polarization)



« Top » configuration (TM polarization)



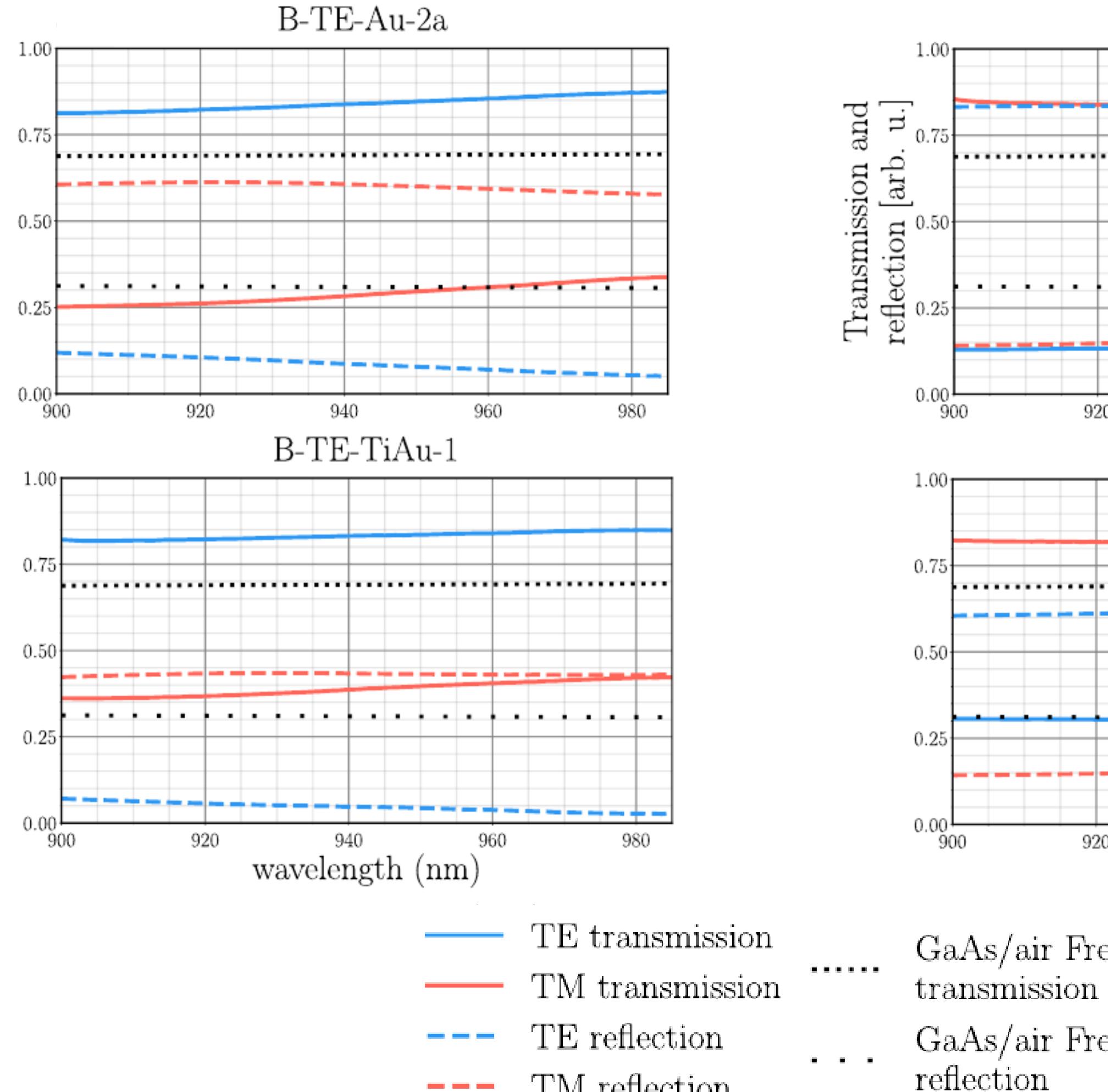
- Two configurations for TE and TM light polarization transmission
- Optical impedance matching with no impact on electrical properties
- Grating period : $\Lambda = 0.15\text{--}0.25 * \lambda$

- Self-aligned process based on e-beam lithography
- Technological bottlenecks : 50-nm-wide metal line lift-off and controlled ICP etch depth

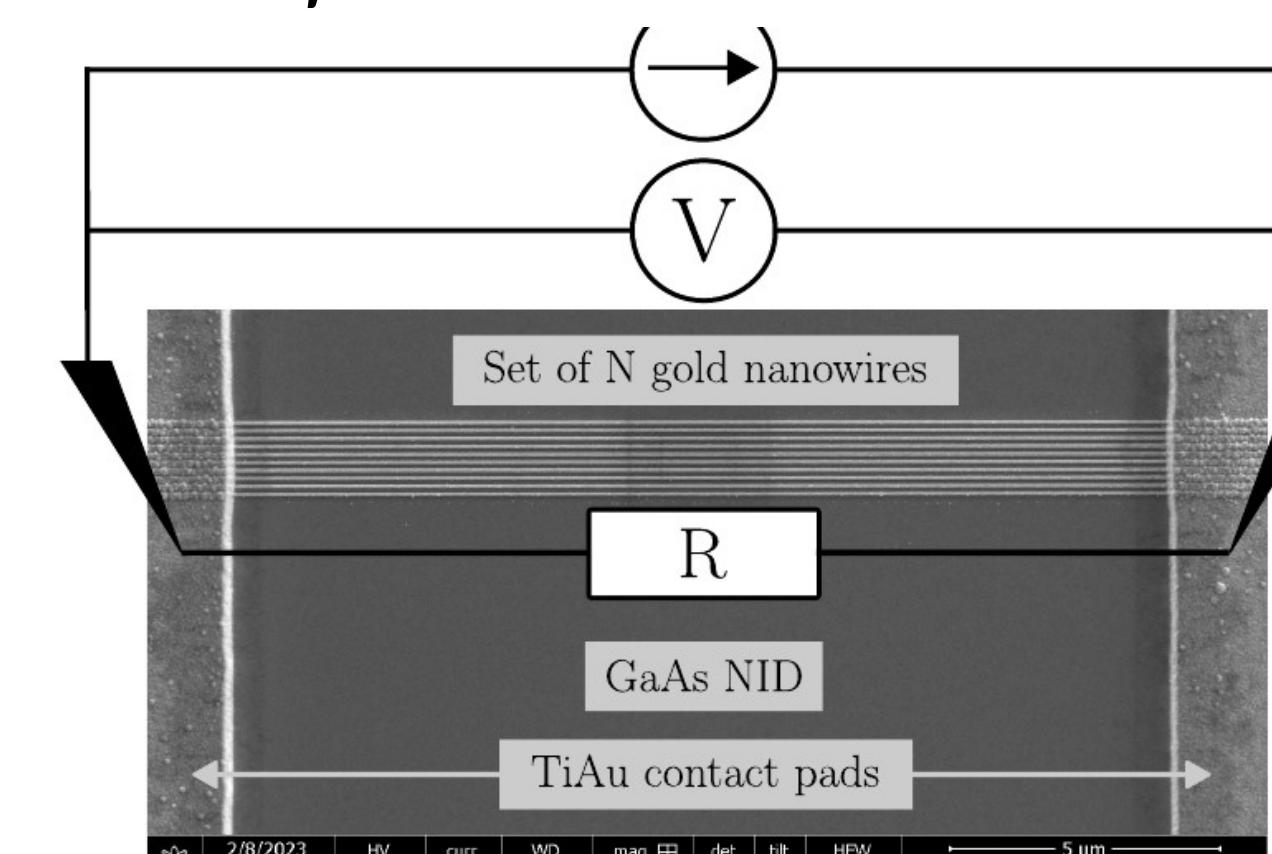
Structure	Λ (nm)	F	H (nm)	H_{Au} (nm)	H_f (nm)	Transmission
B-TE-TiAu-1	Theory	180	0.6	85	50	92 % (TE)
	Measured	180	0.53±0.01	89±6	33±5	5±1 82 % (TE)
T-TM-TiAu	Theory	100	0.5	80	50	83 % (TM)
	Measured	100	0.57±0.01	88±6	27±4	5±1 81 % (TM)

Optical and electrical characterizations

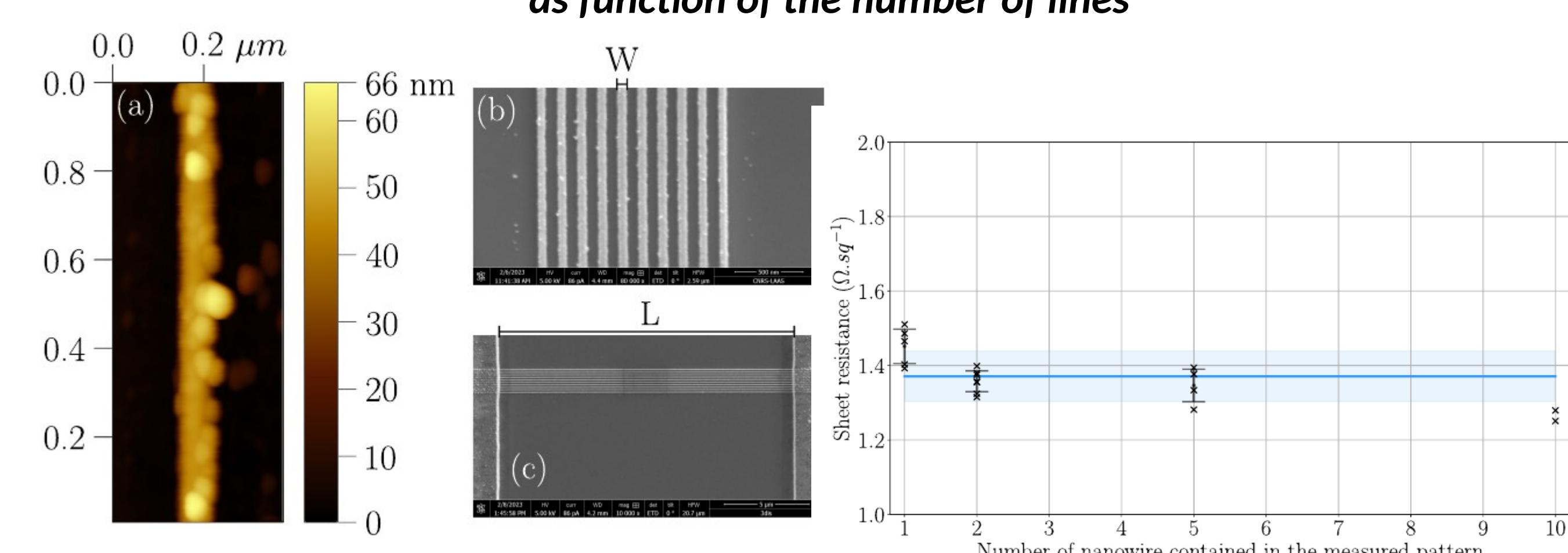
Experimental spectroscopy measurements of polarized transmission and reflection of fabricated SMDSG



Schematic of the two-probes measurement of nanowire set resistance



AFM and SEM images of nanowires and sheet resistance measurements as function of the number of lines



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