

# Application of plasmonic subwavelength structuring to enhance infrared detection

David W. Peters, Paul S. Davids, Jin K. Kim, Darin Leonhardt, Thomas E. Beechem, Stephen W. Howell, Taisuke Ohta, Joel R. Wendt, John A. Montoya

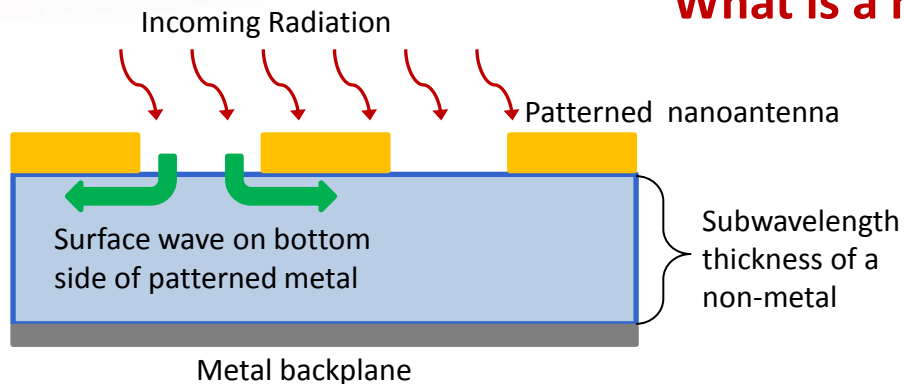
Sandia National Laboratories

[dwpeter@sandia.gov](mailto:dwpeter@sandia.gov)

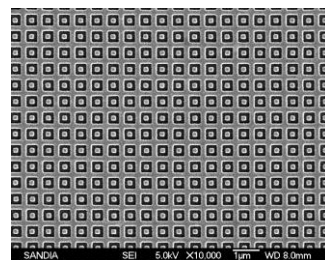
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

# Nanoantenna-Enabled Thin Detectors

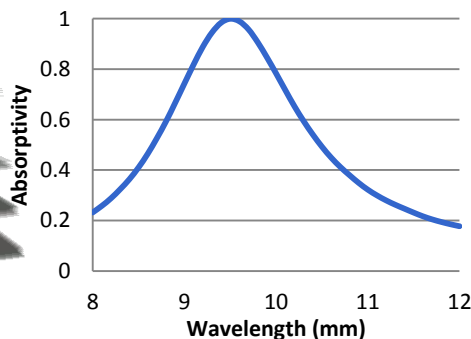
## What is a nanoantenna?



## Incident IR radiation



## High-intensity surface wave

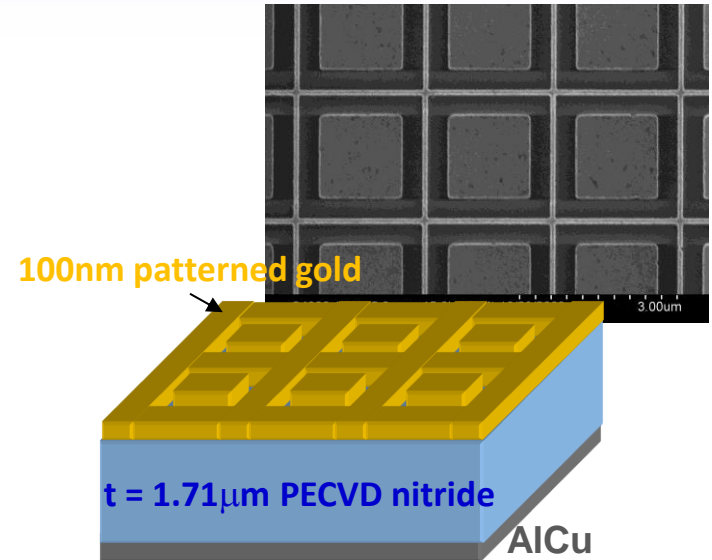


- Nanoantennas are a fundamental technology that spans numerous sensor types
- Nanoantennas are an enabling technology for new applications such as 2D materials
- A nanoantenna is a distributed energy conversion device: the entire surface is the device
- A nanoantenna converts incoming radiation to a surface wave with energy confined to a small volume under the nanoantenna
- This confinement is what enables us to look at interesting applications
- The pattern is subwavelength, with many nanoantenna periods per device pixel. This pattern may be changed on a pixel-to-pixel basis allowing adjacent pixels to have different spectral or polarization response
- Our IR devices are enhanced by, or completely reliant on, the radiation conversion achieved by the nanoantenna

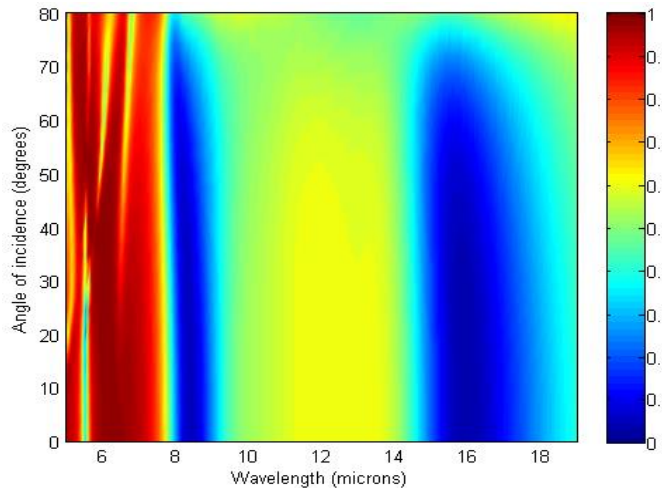


# Background: Perfect Absorbers

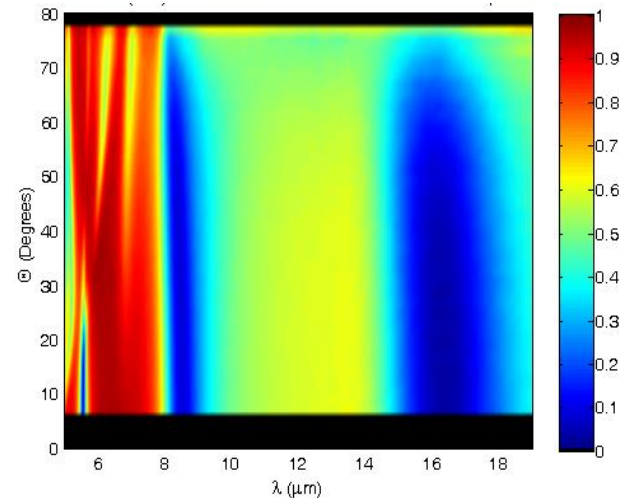
- We designed and made a dual-band perfect absorber.
- Excellent agreement between simulation and measurement → Great confidence in our models.
- Measured absorption of 99% in two bands.
- If we can absorb it, why not use that energy?



Simulated Reflectivity



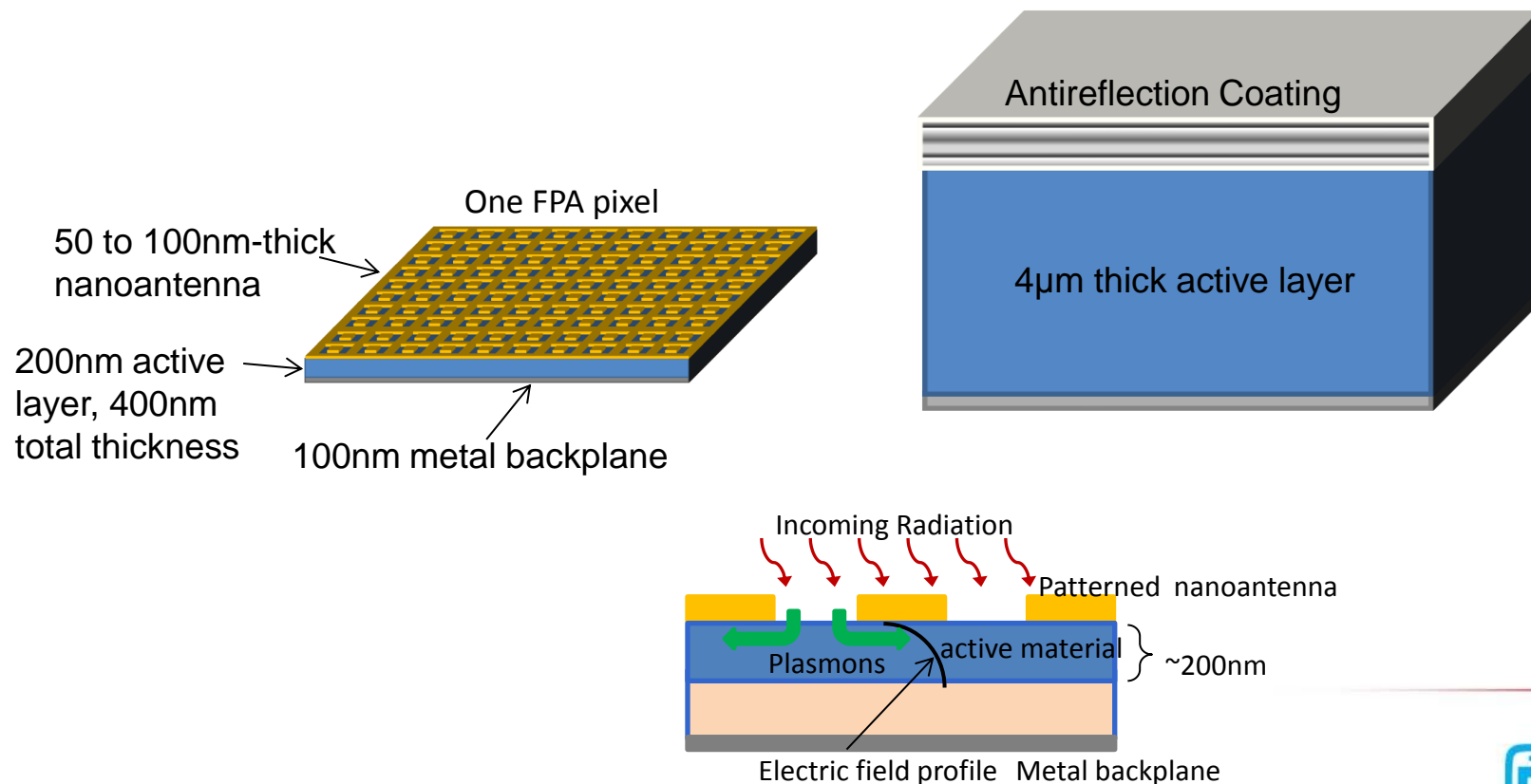
Measured Reflectivity



# Incorporation with Existing Detector Materials in the Midwave

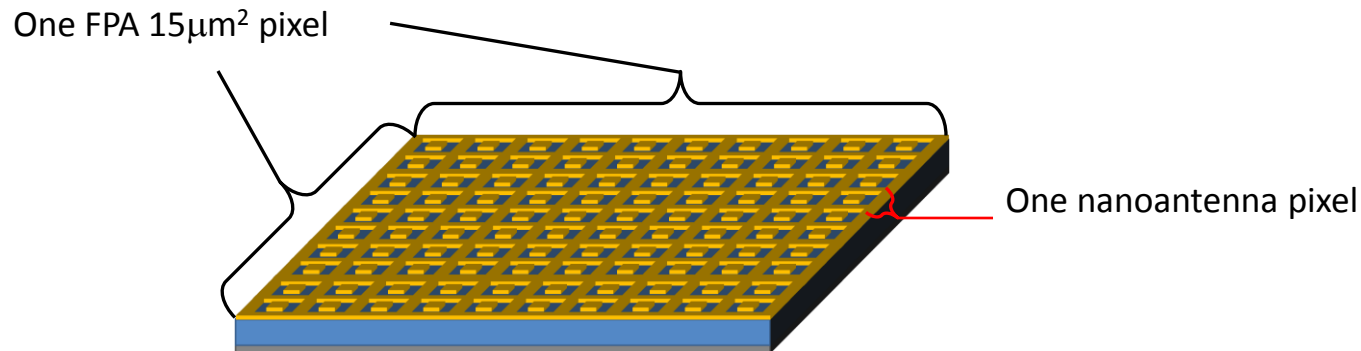
Integrate subwavelength nanoantenna with active material (MCT or InGaSb) for high-performance focal plane array (FPA).

Using dense fields to thin the active region.

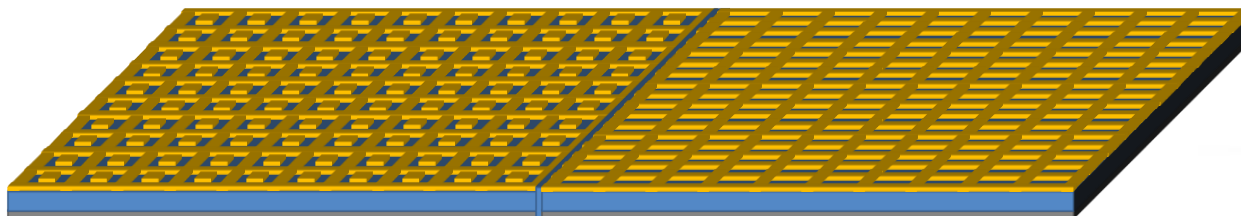


# Advantages of the Nanoantenna Structure

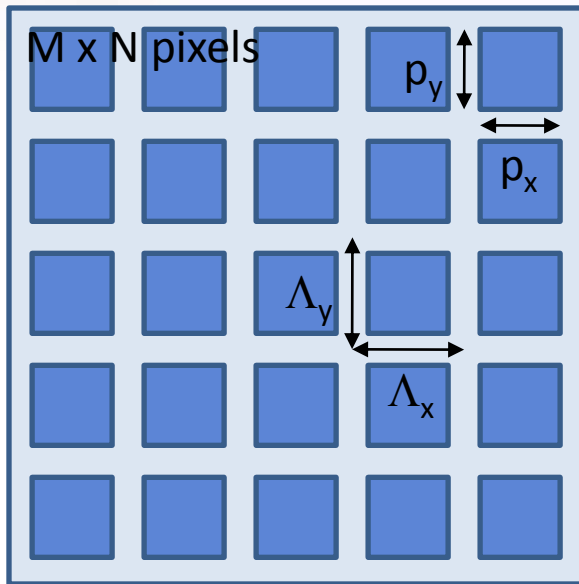
- Top and bottom contacts allow direct connection.
- Filtering can be changed from FPA pixel-to-pixel simply by changing the antenna pattern (Spectral or polarization). This is difficult to do with thin films.
- Small antenna unit cell allows multiple unit cells per FPA pixel (for broadband).



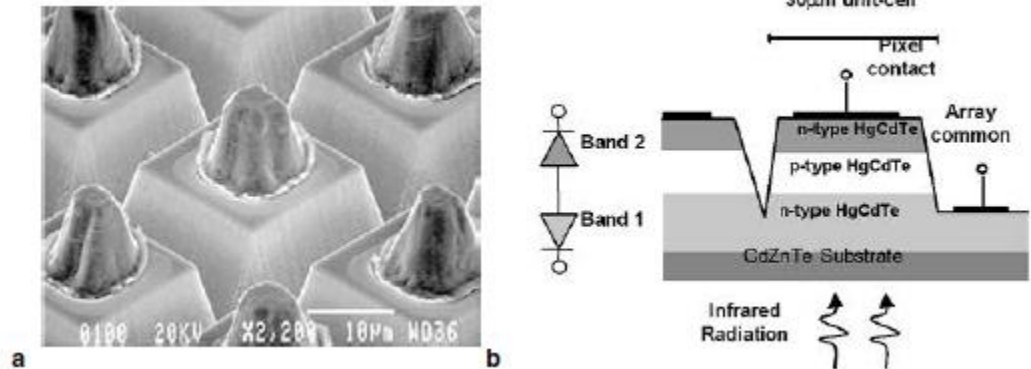
Two adjacent FPA pixels with different functionality.



# Maximizing Active Area Improves MTF and Signal



## MCT FPA architecture



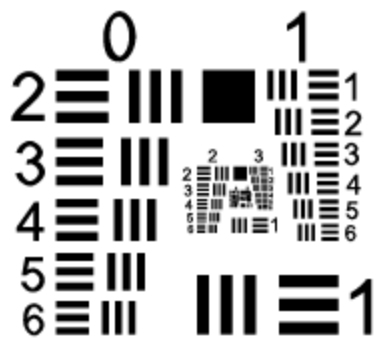
from E.P.G. Smith, et al, *J. of Electr. Matl.*, 2004.

$$\text{MTF}(f_x, f_y) = [\text{sinc}((M \cdot \Lambda_x) \cdot f_x, (N \cdot \Lambda_y) \cdot f_y) * \text{comb}(\Lambda_x \cdot f_x, \Lambda_y \cdot f_y)] \cdot \text{sinc}(p_x \cdot f_x, p_y \cdot f_y)$$

Ideally for the mathematical MTF function, we want  $\Lambda_x$ ,  $\Lambda_y$  and  $p_x$ ,  $p_y$  as small as possible to maximize the MTF.

This is clearly impossible, but we can make  $\Lambda_x$  and  $\Lambda_y$  as small as possible for a given  $p_x$  and  $p_y$ .

**Our architecture gives us near 100% fill factor.**



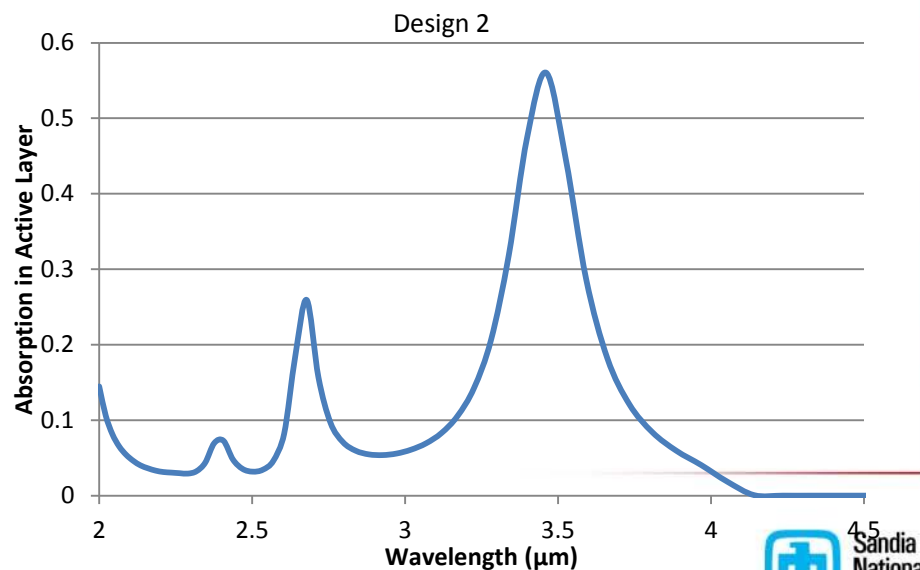
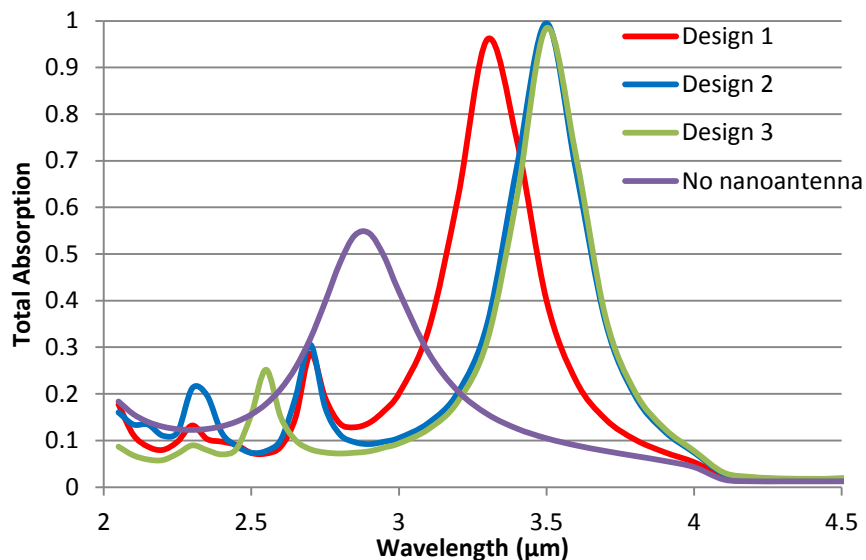
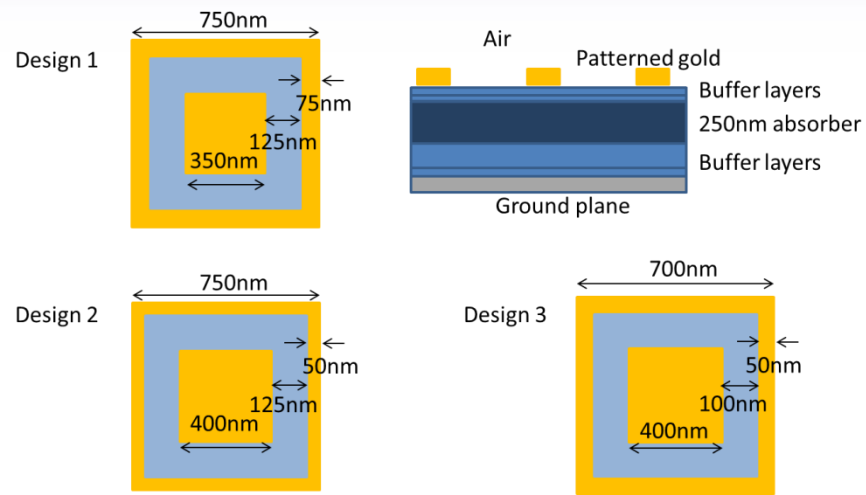
USAF 1951  
Made by LaserSoft Imaging

# Simulation of InAsSb Design

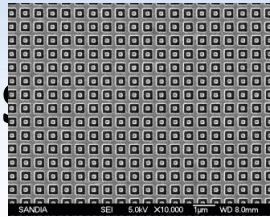
Designs for peak responsivity in the  $3.25\mu\text{m}$  to  $3.5\mu\text{m}$  range.

Three designs were fabricated with different patterns but similar peak resonances.

Designs were not optimized to maximize absorption in the active layer.

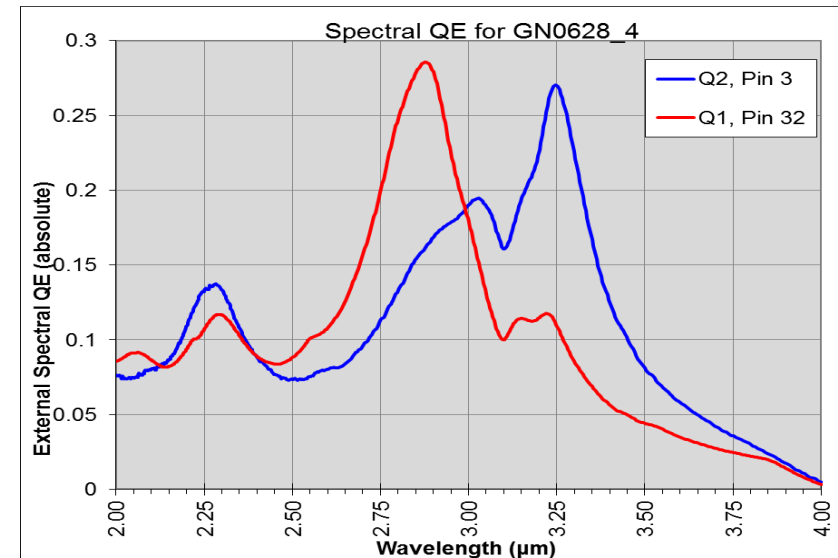
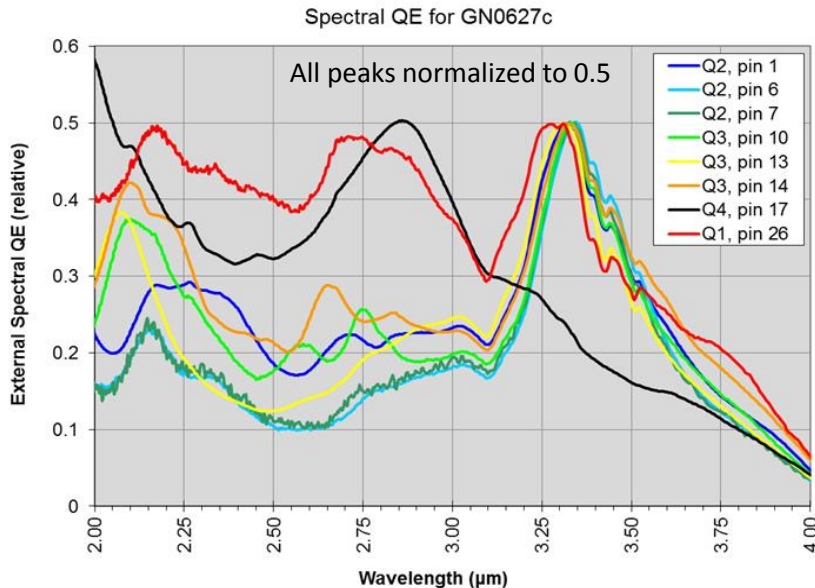
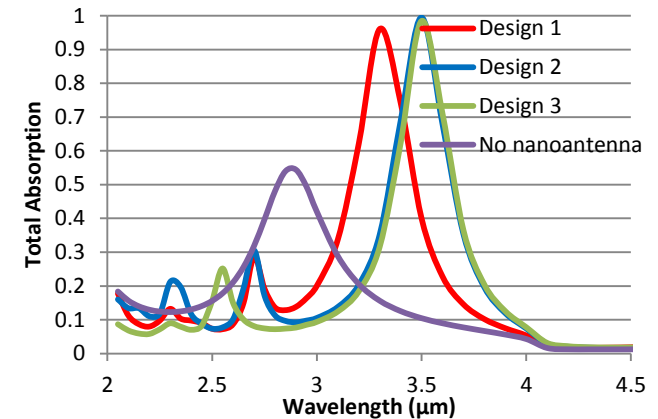


# Nanoantenna-Enhanced InAsSb Detector Re



- Epitaxial growth of two designs for integration with NA for test/ evaluation.
- Successful fabrication of detectors with integration of NAs using a flip-chip bonding process and selective substrate removal.
- Room for optimization in modeling and in characterization procedures.

RCWA Simulation



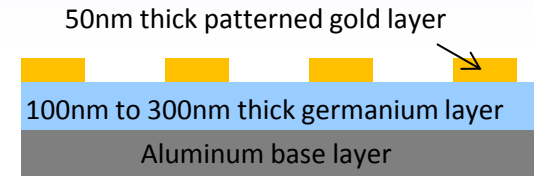


# Germanium Detector

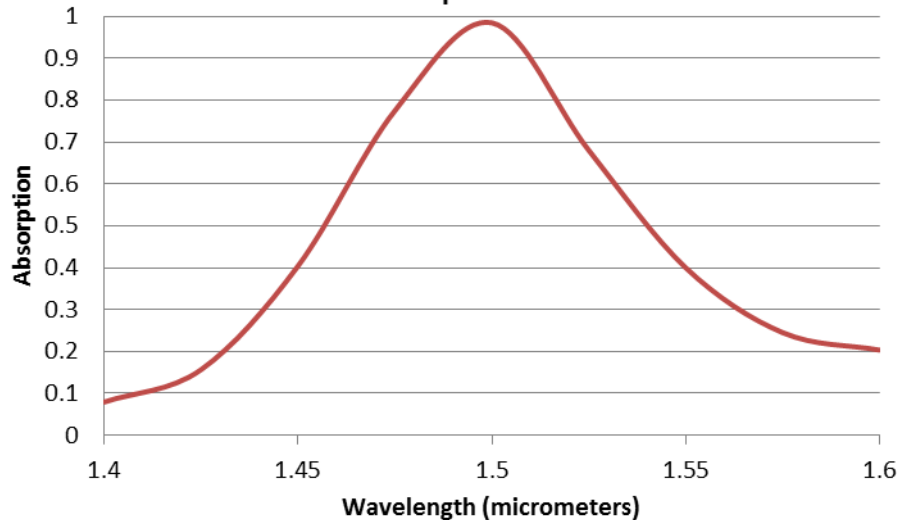
As with the MWIR designs, this one involves a detection material between two metal layers. Since it is for the near-IR, the detector layer is quite thin. The metal top and bottom layers act as contacts.

As it is thin, it is very fast as carriers move to a metal electrode quickly. Since the metal wire grid is not a large solid piece of metal, the capacitance should also be low.

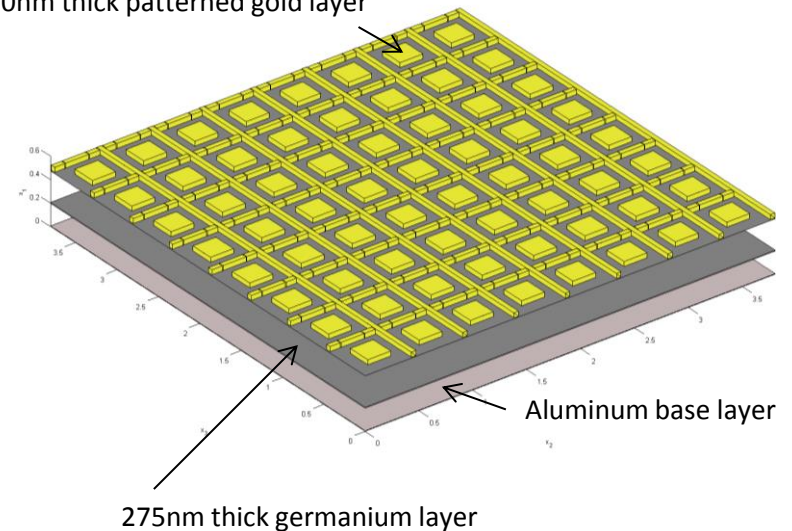
We designed and simulated a structure with dimensions below to work at  $1.5\mu\text{m}$ . This is in the telecommunications wavelength band.



Simulation of Absorption of Ge structure



50nm thick patterned gold layer



Period of nanoantenna =  $475\text{nm}$   
Width of continuous gold bars =  $50\text{nm}$

# Germanium Detector Design

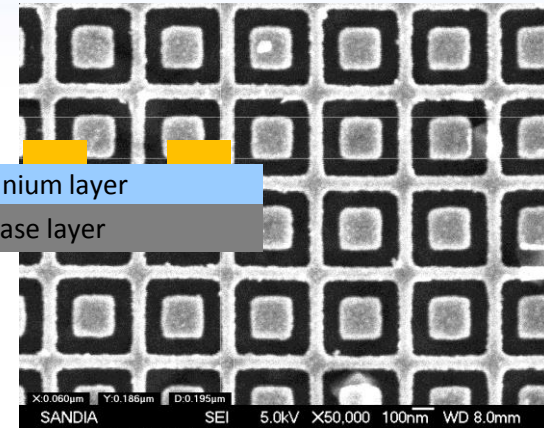
There is virtually no change from normal out to  $40^\circ$  in the 100nm thick design. In any practical imaging system, this is more than enough.

In the 275nm-thick design we see a change in peak wavelength between  $20^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$ .

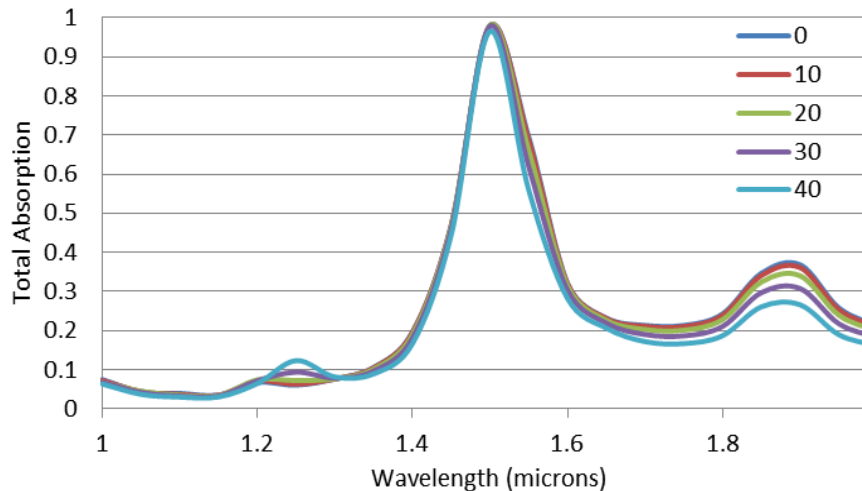
50nm thick  
patterned gold  
layer

100nm germanium layer

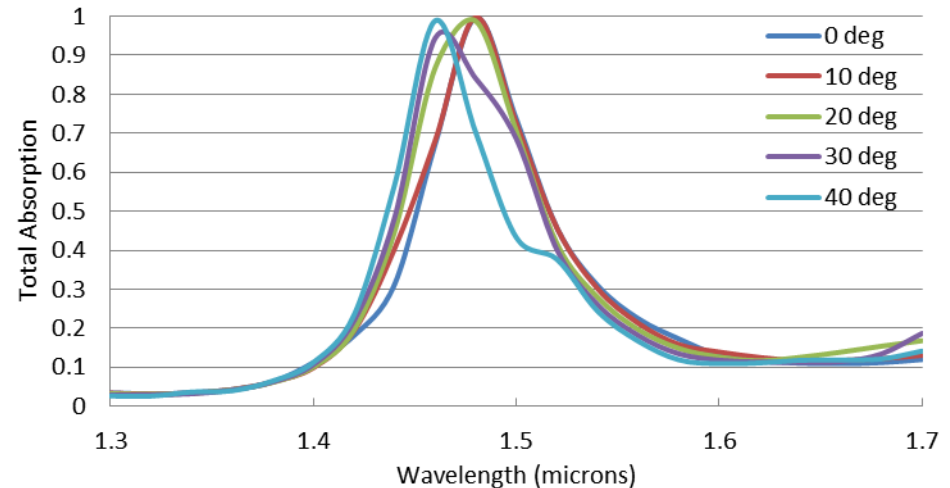
Aluminum base layer



Function of angle: 100nm Ge layer, 400nm period



Function of angle: 275nm Ge layer, 450nm period



# Graphene Detectors: Bilayer Graphene Tunability

nature

Vol 459 | 11 June 2009 | doi:10.1038/nature08105

## LETTERS

### Direct observation of a widely tunable bandgap in bilayer graphene

Yuanbo Zhang<sup>1\*</sup>, Tsung-Ta Tang<sup>1\*†</sup>, Caglar Girit<sup>1</sup>, Zhao Hao<sup>2,4</sup>, Michael C. Martin<sup>2</sup>, Alex Zettl<sup>1,3</sup>, Michael F. Crommie<sup>1,3</sup>, Y. Ron Shen<sup>1,3</sup> & Feng Wang<sup>1,3</sup>

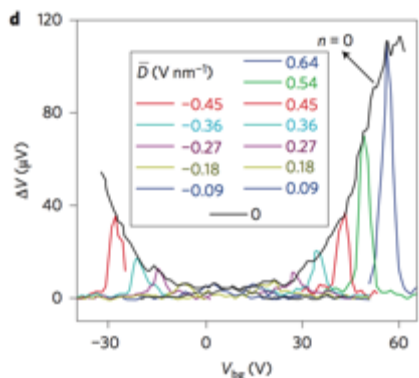
## ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 3 JUNE 2012 | DOI: 10.1038/NNANO.2012.88

nature  
nanotechnology

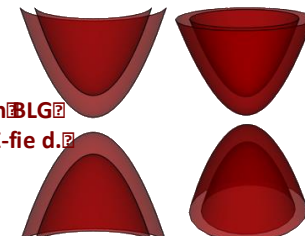
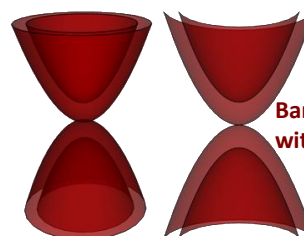
### Dual-gated bilayer graphene hot-electron bolometer

Jun Yan<sup>1,2</sup>, M-H. Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, J. A. Elle<sup>2,3</sup>, A. B. Sushkov<sup>1,2</sup>, G. S. Jenkins<sup>1,2</sup>, H. M. Milchberg<sup>2,3</sup>, M. S. Fuhrer<sup>1,2\*</sup> and H. D. Drew<sup>1,2</sup>



BLG: E-Field=0

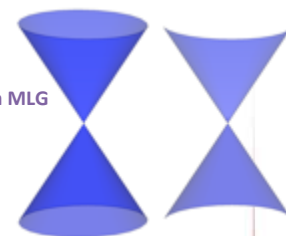
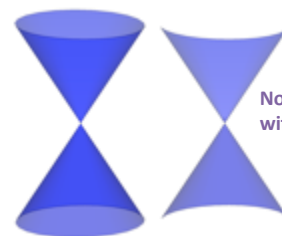
BLG: E-Field>0



Bandgap opens in BLG with a transverse E-field

Mono: E-Field=0

Mono: E-Field>0



No bandgap opening in MLG with E-field

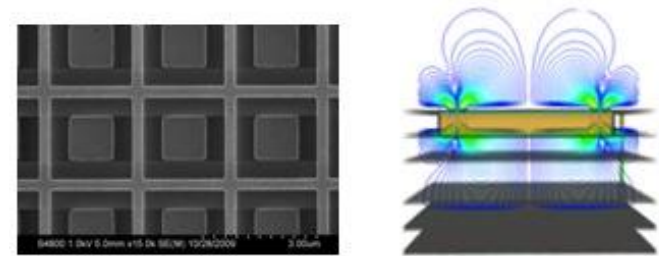
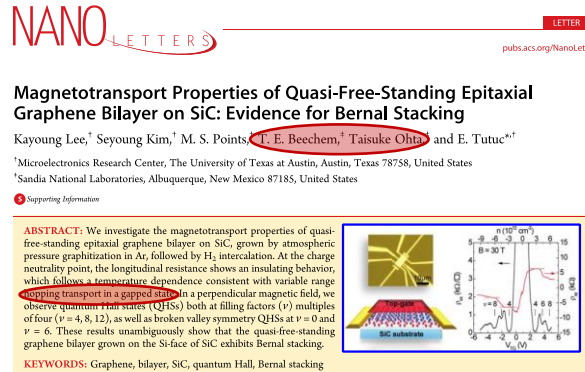
## Problems:

1. Scalability
2. Low absorption
3. Multiphysics problem

# Approach: Combination of Technologies

## Scalability: Wafer-Scale BLG

## Low Absorption: Nanoantennas



**Nanoantenna-Enabled Midwave Infrared Focal Plane Arrays**

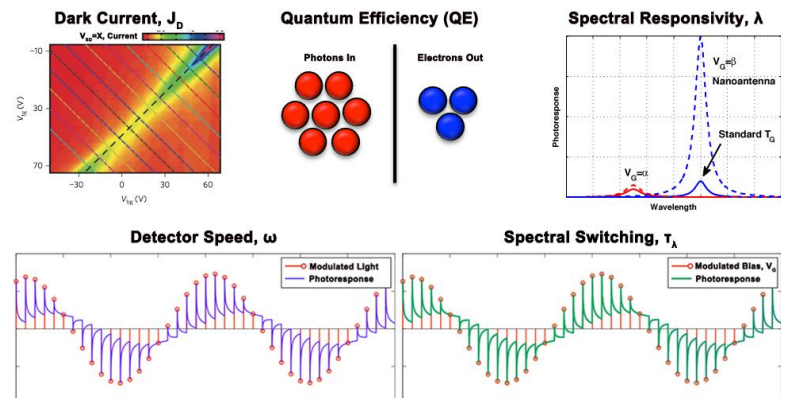
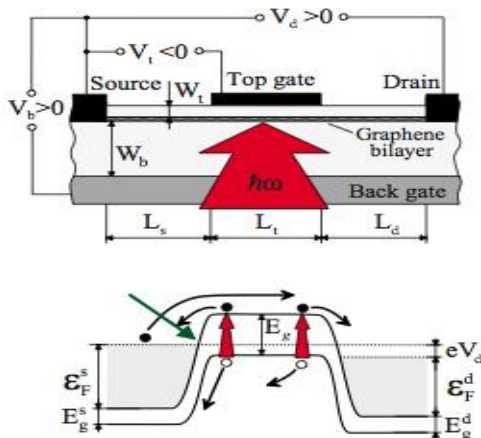
David W. Peters\*, Charles M. Reinke, Paul S. Davids, John F. Klem, Darin Leonhardt, Joel R. Wendt, Jin K. Kim, Sally Samora

Sandia National Laboratories, P.O. Box 5800, Albuquerque, NM, USA 87185-1082

Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8353 83533B-1

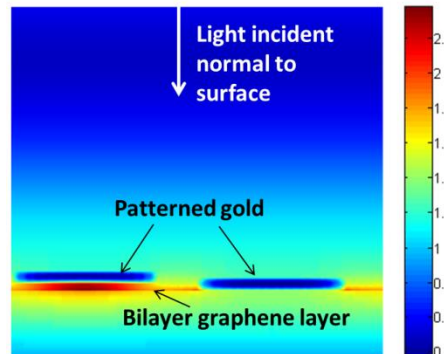
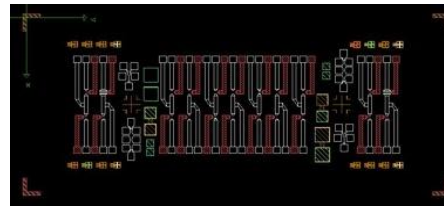
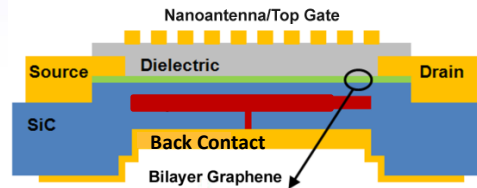
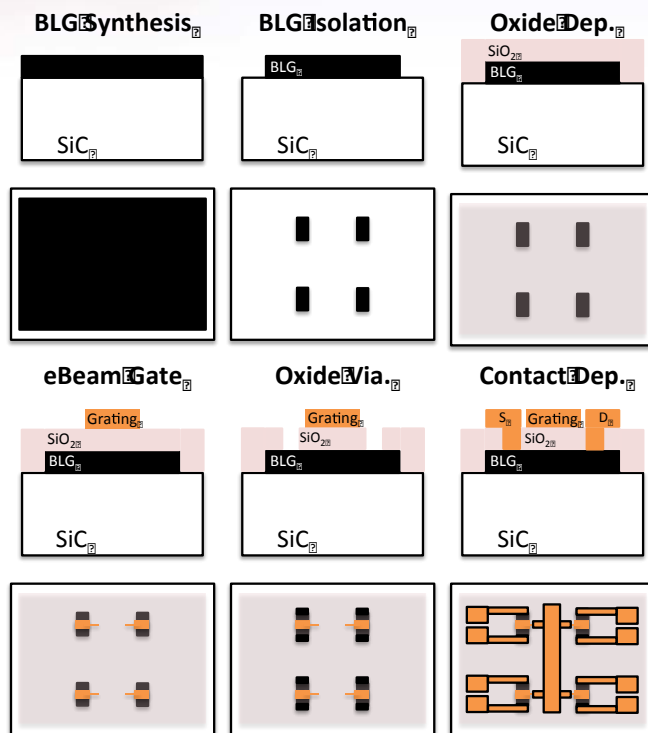
## Phenomenon: PhotoFET

## Next Steps: Technology Maturation



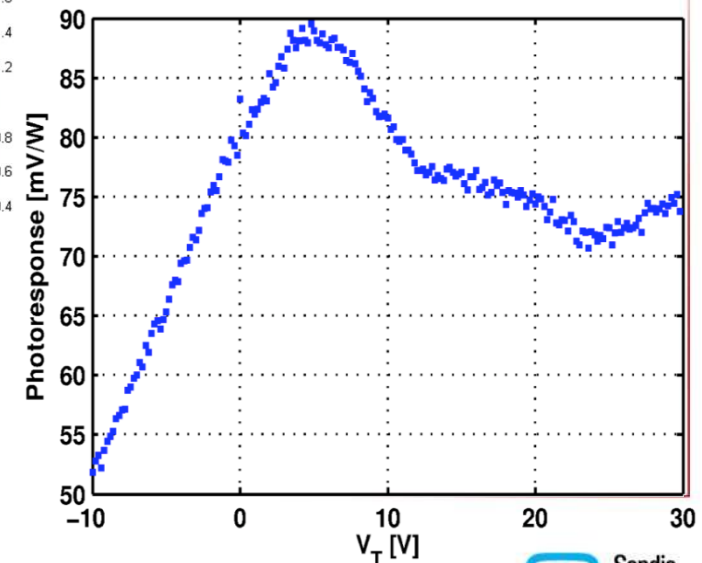


# Graphene Detector: Early Fab and Results



- Scalable fabrication using “standard” techniques
- Multiple operational devices on a chip
- Opens path towards arrays
- Developed an improved understanding of the graphene/SiC interface

Devices show bias dependent tunability with a signal enhanced by nanoantennas.





# Summary

**Nanoantennas offer methods of enhancement in traditional and new detector platforms.**

- InAsSb detectors in the MWIR.
- Germanium detectors in the Near-IR.
- Graphene detectors that offer new capabilities.