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**TiO<sub>2</sub> Protected Silicon Nanowires for Water Splitting.**

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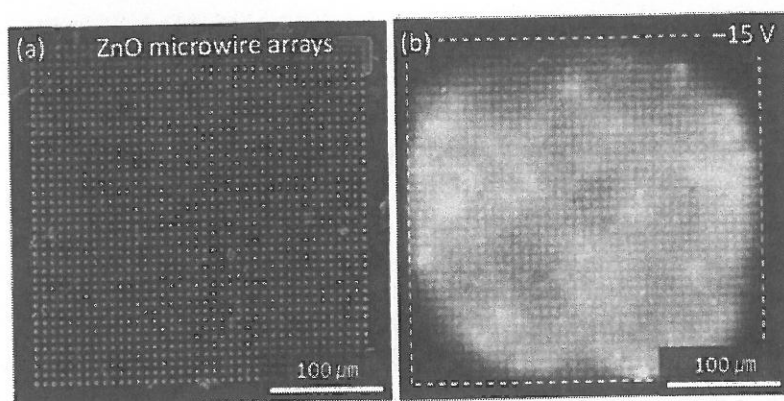


Fig 1. (a) Plan-view SEM image of position-controlled *n*-ZnO microwire arrays grown on pre-patterned *p*-GaN film and (b) the corresponding EL emission photomicrograph.

1. S. M. Sze, *Physics of Semiconductor Device*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Wiley, New York), (2007).

### P03: TiO<sub>2</sub> Protected Silicon Nanowires For Water Splitting

Vladislav Dřineček<sup>1</sup>, Pavel Dytrych<sup>1</sup>, Radek Fajgar<sup>1</sup>, Věra Jandová<sup>1</sup>, Jaroslav Kupčík<sup>1</sup>, Mariana Klementová<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laser Chemistry Group, Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic, email: drinek@icpf.cas.cz, web site: <http://www.icpf.cas.cz>

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic

Owing to optical properties, silicon is an almost ideal material for solar applications. Moreover, when the silicon is deposited in a form of silicon nanowires (SiNWs), total absorption over visual range of wavelengths is immensely increased due to multireflection inside a nanowire based film.

We succeeded to prepare SiNWs with a specific structure: external amorphous jacket and a thin inner crystalline core (Fig. 1) [1]. The amorphous jacket serves as absorption medium whereas the inner jacket as a drain electrode for free charge carriers. Experiments showed that this film is capable of splitting water via photon absorption. However, at the same time chemicals and photo-induced electrochemical processes have some detrimental impact on SiNWs.

To prolong a lifetime of a SiNW based film device for water splitting, we deposited a thin TiO<sub>2</sub> layer onto SiNWs so as to prevent an access of electrochemical medium to SiNW surface. Such prepared film was tested and analyzed by several techniques (SEM, EDX, XPS, TEM, Raman spectrometry, cyclic voltammetry).