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Contents

vii	Conference Committee
ix	Introduction
xi	Sub-nanometer resolution for the inspection of reflective surfaces using white light (Plenary Paper) [7405-37] W. Jüptner, T. Bothe, Bremer Institut für angewandte Strahltechnik (Germany)
	FUTURE TRENDS IN NANOENGINEERING
7402 03	Enhancing the performance of photonic DNA nanomachines for implementing photonic nanoscale automaton (Invited Paper) [7402-02] T. Nishimura, Y. Ogura, J. Tanida, Osaka Univ. (Japan)
7402 04	Novel fabrication and optoelectronic property of semiconductor filaments by optical-fiber thermal drawing [7402-03] D. S. Deng, N. Orf, A. F. Abouraddy, Y. Fink, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)
	NANOTECHNOLOGIES FOR PRINTED ELECTRONICS AND PHOTOVOLTAICS
7402 06	Nanoscale self-assembly of high-efficiency copper indium gallium selenide photovoltaic thin films (Invited Paper) [7402-05] L. Eldada, HelioVolt Corp. (United States)
7402 07	Enhanced photoresponse of inkjet printed ZnO thin films induced by chemically capped CdS nanoparticles by dip coating [7402-06] Y. Wu, T. Tamaki, T. Volotinen, A. Riazanova, L. Belova, K. V. Rao, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)
	SENSING NANOSTRUCTURES
7402 0A	Real time micro/nano particle detection and tracking with nanosecond resolution [7402-09] F. Qian, Q. Song, E. Tien, O. Boyraz, Univ. of California, Irvine (United States)
7402 0C	Modeling of GaN/AIN heterostructure-based nano pressure sensors [7402-11] S. Patil, Wilfrid Laurier Univ. (Canada); N. Sinha, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States); R. V. N. Melnik, Wilfrid Laurier Univ. (Canada)

	TOWARD SINGLE PHOTON AND SINGLE ELECTRON NANODEVICES					
7402 0G	Highly directional emission from ultra-small photonic crystal resonators [7402-19] SH. Kim, California Institute of Technology (United States); YH. Lee, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of); J. Huang, A. Scherer, California Institute of Technology (United States)					
7402 0H	Characterization of single electron effects in nanoscale MOSFETs [7402-20] L. Forbes, D. A. Miller, Oregon State Univ. (United States)					
7402 01	InSb nanowire based field effect transistor [7402-21] X. Jing, M. Penchev, J. Zhong, R. Paul, M. Ozkan, C. Ozkan, Univ. of California, Riverside (United States)					
	PHOTONIC CRYSTALS AND NANOPHOTONIC INTEGRATED CIRCUITS					
7402 OL	Polymer photonic crystal dye lasers as label free evanescent cell sensors [7402-17] M. B. Christiansen, J. M. Lopacinska, M. H. Jakobsen, N. A. Mortensen, M. Dufva, A. Kristensen, Technical Univ. of Denmark (Denmark)					
	NANOENGINEERING DESIGNS AND PROCESSES					
7402 ON	Environment for thin-film manufacturing process development for product engineering of micro and nano devices [7402-22] D. Ortloff, Process Relations GmbH (Germany); K. Hahn, Univ. of Siegen (Germany); J. Popp, Process Relations GmbH (Germany); T. Schmidt, R. Brück, Univ. of Siegen (Germany)					
7402 00	Optimizing and engineering PbSe/PbSrSe quantum well laser structures: SQW, SQW-SCH, MQW, and MMQW [7402-23] M. Khodr, Hariri Canadian Univ. (Lebanon)					
7402 OP	Sensitization of erbium in silicon oxide by evaporation and thermal oxidation [7402-24] H. Alizadeh, L. Qian, N. P. Kherani, S. Zukotynski, Univ. of Toronto (Canada)					
	2D AND 3D NANOSTRUCTURES					
7402 OS	Undesired effects of nanostructured thin films [7402-28] G. Thériault, R. Tremblay, N. McCarthy, COPL, Univ. Laval (Canada)					
	POSTER SESSION					
7402 OT	Characterization of additive influence on reaction sintering of nano aluminum titanate [7402-25] M. Khosravi Saghezchi, K. N. Toosi Univ. of Technology (Iran, Islamic Republic of); M. Biazar Markie, R. Ajami, H. Sarpoolaky, Iran Univ. of Science and Technology (Iran, Islamic Republic of)					

7402 OU	Nanoimprint lithography for complex 3D micro-nano structures replication under low
	temperature [7402-29]
	H. Sun. Hohai Univ. (China): J. Liu. D. Chen. Shanahai Jigo Tong Univ. (China)

7402 0X **Blue-sensitive nanoparticle-polymer composites for volume holographic recording**[7402-33] K. Omura, K. Gotoh, Y. Tomita, The Univ. of Electro-Communications (Japan); K. Ohmori,

K. Omura, K. Gotoh, Y. Tomita, The Univ. of Electro-Communications (Japan); K. Ohmori M. Hidaka, Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Japan)

7402 10 Synthesis and characterization of electrospun gallium nitride nanofibers [7402-36] A. Meléndez, K. Morales, I. Ramos, Univ. de Puerto Rico en Humacao (Puerto Rico); E. Campo, Lehigh Univ. (United States); J. J. Santiago-Avilés, Univ. of Pennsylvania (United States)

7402 12 **Bandgap tuning of photonic crystals on III-V nitride thin films** [7402-39] H. Yalamanchili, L. A. Hornak, D. Korakakis, J. M. Dawson, West Virginia Univ. (United States)

Author Index

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- Future Trends in Nanoengineering
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- Nanotechnologies for Printed Electronics and Photovoltaics Louay A. Eldada, HelioVolt Corporation (United States)
- 3 Sensing Nanostructures
 Louay A. Eldada, HelioVolt Corporation (United States)
- 4 Self-Assembled Nanostructures and Nanoimprint Technologies **Louay A. Eldada**, HelioVolt Corporation (United States)
- Toward Single Photon and Single Electron Nanodevices
 Shadi A. Dayeh, Los Alamos National Laboratory (United States)

- 6 Photonic Crystals and Nanophotonic Integrated Circuits **Louay A. Eldada**, HelioVolt Corporation (United States)
- Nanoengineering Designs and Processes
 Louay A. Eldada, HelioVolt Corporation (United States)
- 8 2D and 3D NanostructuresYusuke Ogura, Osaka University (Japan)

Introduction

This volume features contributions from scientists and engineers in the general area of nanoengineering. Over the past couple of years, mature technologies such as logic, memory, and data storage have been rapidly thrust into the sub-100 nm regime. Existing processes of record have been extended well beyond the ranges previously deemed feasible or reliable. New technologies such as advanced photovoltaics, biotechnology, medical nanosystems, 3D sensors, 3D displays, systems on a chip, optofluidics, nanophotonics, and molecular electronics and optics are emerging. The upcoming synthesized nanomaterials, nanotubes, and nanowires, offer extremely attractive novel physical properties with many opportunities. Continuing improvements in the design and fabrication of micro/nano/quantum-scale optical elements have driven the development of both passive and active miniature optical components with ever more diverse applications. New applications include optical communication, neural systems, optical information processing, optical computing, optical storage, optical scanning, smart pixel arrays, information display, imaging, printing, medical diagnosis, and chemical and biological sensing. Emerging nanotechnologies present new opportunities and challenges in materials processing, device design and integration. Commercial drivers have increased functionality over reduced size, performance, reliability, and cost.

The proceedings of the Nanoengineering Conference include discussions of novel materials fabrication and processing, properties of nanostructures, innovative patterning and processing techniques, micro/nano/quantum optics, and fabrication and packaging of miniature devices. The innovations reflected in these papers range from driving existing schemes and processes to new limits to totally novel concepts and designs. Papers from academic and research institutions push the state of the art in miniaturization, level of integration, and performance figures of merit; papers from the industry require yield and tolerances as new design criteria, and nanofabrication manufacturing methods are exploited to make commercially deployed products.

Although this volume cannot include all the recent important work in the vast field of nanoengineering, it does cover a significant cross-section of the advances happening globally in areas where nanoengineering is making an impact. We hope these papers by world-renown experts serve the purpose of bringing the readers up to date on the state of the art in this fast-growing and exciting field.

Elizabeth A. Dobisz Louay A. Eldada