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المؤتمر الدولي الثاني والعشرون لإدارة الأصول والمرافق والصيانة The 22nd International Asset, Facility & Maintenance Management Conference

Digitization - Excellence - Sustainability

Solar Panel Optimization Based on Graphene-Silicon-Droplet Integration for Hybrid Solar-RF Energy Harvesting System

Dr. Ahmed Kabeel

26-28 January 2025

The Ritz-Carlton Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Our Agenda



Solar Energy



Solar Panel Optimization



Research **Direction.**



Proposed System. Hybrid Solar-RF EH System



Results And Discussion.



Conclusion & Future work.



Solar Energy



Solar energy is crucial for sustainable and clean energy

- 7 Reliable and lasting energy source but also a very cost-effective and efficient.
- Techniques to generate, use, and store the sun's energy by using different types of solar panels.

Note: A solar cell is an electrical device that converts the energy of light directly into electricity by the photovoltaic effect.



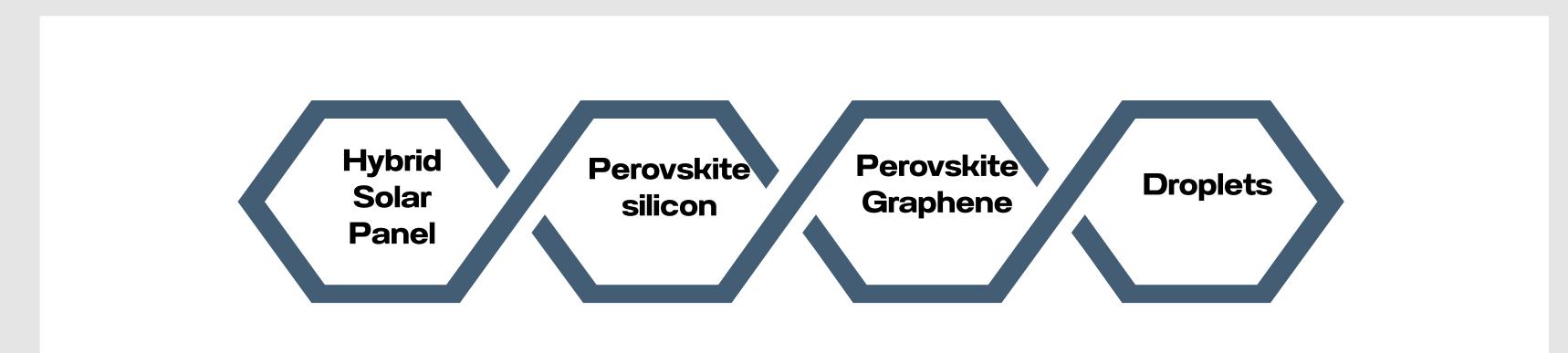




Solar Panel Optimization

Ongoing research focuses on "Hybrid Solar Panels" with perovskite, silicon, graphene, and raindrop energy, where:

- Hybrid panels hold promise for reshaping the energy landscape towards sustainability.
- Raindrop energy is an innovative addition for diversified energy sources.





Research Directions

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Perovskite-silicon hybrid cells:

Combine light absorption of perovskite and silicon efficiency.



Perovskite Solar Cell Development:

Encompasses materials discovery, synthesis, fabrication, optimization, and integration.

High-Efficiency Breakthrough:

Scientists at KAUST achieve 33.7% efficiency in perovskite-silicon solar cell.

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Research Directions

Graphene-perovskite solar cell

Graphene enhances conductivity, improving charge transport and panel efficiency. Graphene-perovskite solar cell achieved 20.3% efficiency.

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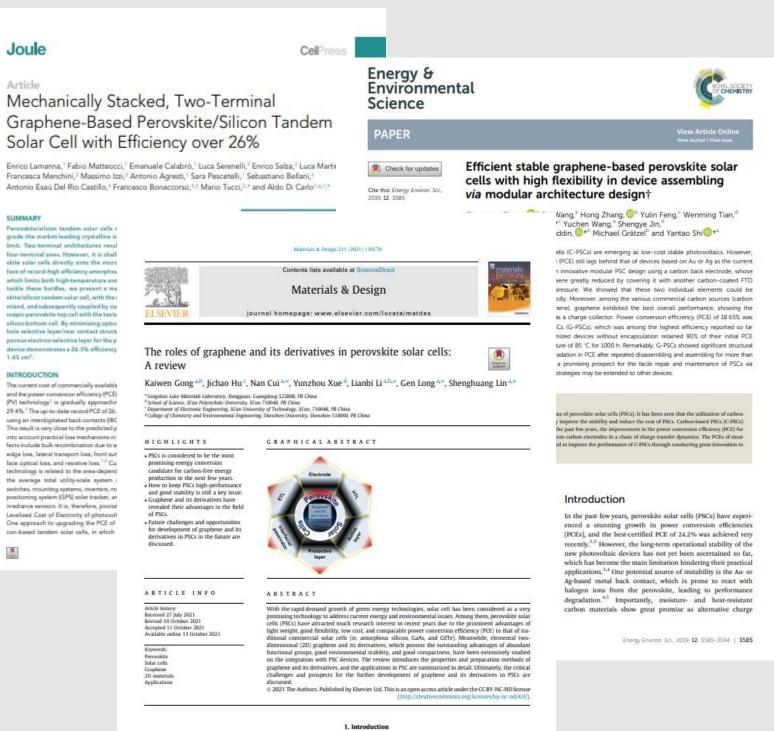
Article

SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

The current cost of commercially available and the power conversion efficiency (PCE) (PV) technology" is gradually approaching 29.4%.⁴ The up-to-date record PCE of 26. using an interdigitated back contacts ()BC This result is very close to the predicted p into account practical loss mechanisms in fects include bulk recombination due to a edge loss, lateral transport loss, front sur face optical loss, and resistive loss." // Cu technology is related to the area-depend the average total utility-scale system switches, mounting systems, inverters, mil positioning system (GPS) solar tracker, at irradiance sensors. It is, therefore, pivotal Leveland Cost of Electricity of photovol One approach to upgrading the PCE of con-based tandem solar cells, in which



* Corresponding authors at: Songsham Lake Materials Laboratory, Douggaan, Gazagdong 523808, PK China. E-mail addresse: coordys@165.com (N. Gui), zpu_lifachi@165.com (L. Ui), Global energy consumption has reached 16 terawatts in 2006 and is predicted to increase to ~30 terawatts by 2050 [1]. How-ever, traditional energy sources such as fossil fuels usually increase

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Research Directions



Droplet Layer:

Transistor-inspired structure introduced new coplanar-electrode which overcomes issues related to parasitic capacitance. Strip-like droplet energy harvesting panel overcomes challenges, achieving high output voltage.

Raindrop energy harvesting:

Raindrop impact's kinetic energy can supplement solar energy, especially in rainy regions.

Radio Frequency Energy harvesting

energy conversion technique employed for converting energy from the electromagnetic (EM) field into the electrical domain.

Joule

Article Solar Cell with Efficiency over 26%

SUMMARY

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HIGHLIGHTS Harvesting energy from light and water drops simultaneously using hidden or transparent from electrode. Ilighest photovoltaic performance with surface charge transfer, lowest with

electrostatic induction electrode. + Curved electrodes allow may removed of water drops

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



ARTICLE INFO

Photovultaic cell Contact electrificatio

ABSTRACT

inergy harvesting of statight is after done using photovoltaic cells covered by a presective layer of polymer o data. Currently, this layer does not have any other itancian than being transported and protective, but it actionality rould be improved and in fact contribute to electrical energy harvesting from the environment. The ork reports new findings on the integration of silicox-based photovoltaic solar with a water droplet energy rvesting device based on contact electrification using readily realiable meterials. The stater droplet ener harvesting device utilizes hidden or transparent from electrodes in flat or curved geametries to increase th retering device assume that the state of the subject due to water desplot impact. The electrical energy harvesting efficiency of the conserved phonom cell is about 4.4%, schemes for the stater droplet energy harvesting device 1 is adout 0.0%. The relative tributions of the two energy harvesting mechanisms are analysed, and possible applications estilized.

ting demand for local renewable electrical energy

esting systems which do not need large scale in strategy to fulfill these demands. However, an important question i

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Introduction

Renewable energy, such as water energy, solar energy, and wind energy, is a promising alternative to fossil fuels for solving the energy crisis being faced by humanity today. Water, cov about 72% of the earth's surface, contains vast energy in the form of raindrops,^{1,2} river flows,³ ocean waves,⁴ and others.⁵⁻¹⁴ Traditional hydropower plants, which are bulky and require a large-volume water supply, have achieved great success in the global energy supply system. By contrast, the enormous energy stored in droplets has not yet been effectively exploited, such as aindrops, dews, and waterfalls. For raindrops, the estimated kinetic energy is 3000 TW h per year, which is equal to 5% of the global annual energy co global annual precipitation is about 5.05 × 105 km3, diameter of rain droplets is about 2 mm, and terminal speed of rain droplets is about 6.5 m s⁻¹.

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ever, such enormous energy has not yet been effectively exploited. Although high-n developed, strategies toward large-scale application under multi-position dropler el for high-efficiency energy harvesting under multi-position droplet impacts. The shunting effect of parasitic capacitance that deteri voltage of 103,47 V. Rational panel-topology designs are proposed for different terated by dispensers. The DEH panel also shows satisfying robustness and long strated as potential applic ig system are demo ions, Overall, th wireless sensor systems and the emerging internet of things

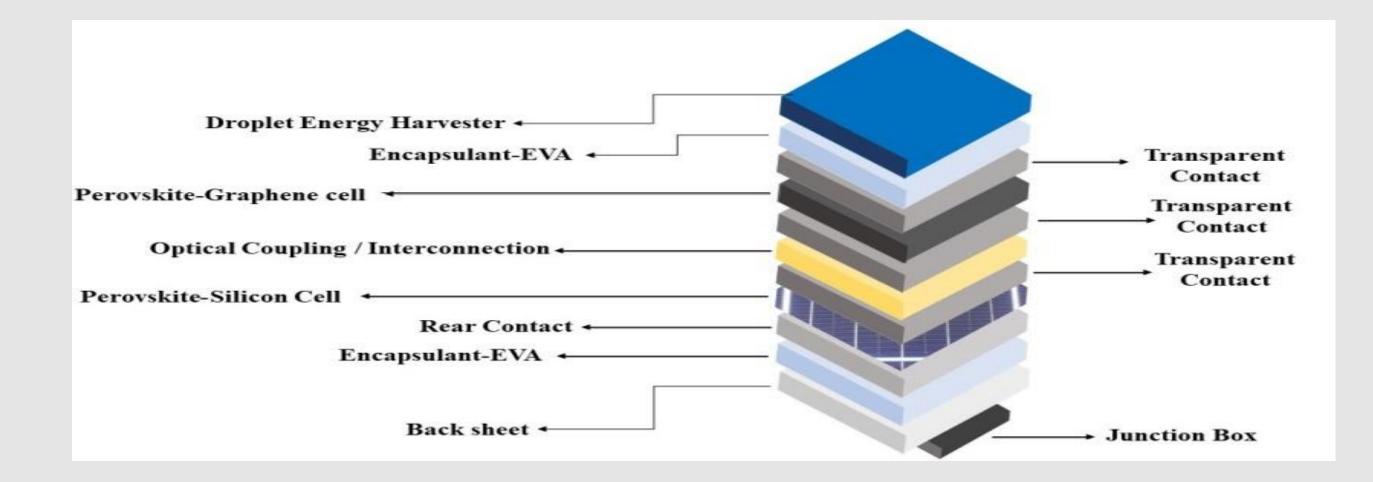


Proposed System





Advanced Solar Panel Configuration



Adaptive configuration captures sunlight and raindrop energy.



Proposed System

Silicon layer:

Enhances charge separation and collection efficiency.

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Perovskite layers:

Excel in light absorption, generating electron-hole pairs.

Graphene layer:

Acts as a superior conductor, amplifying charge transport.

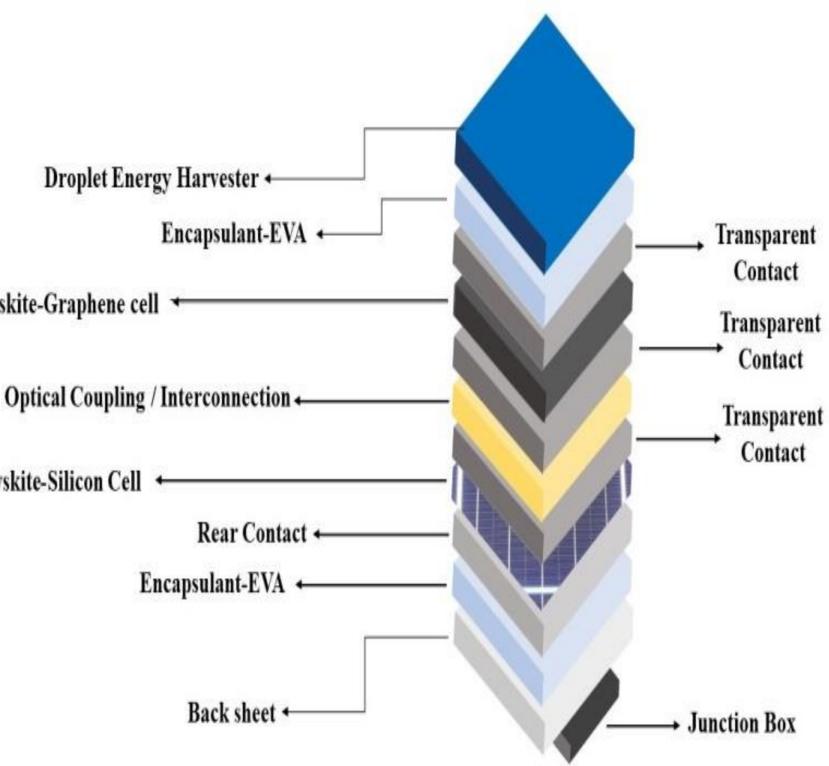
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Raindrop Energy Panel:

Raindrop impact generates electrical charge, adding to power generation.

Perovskite-Graphene cell

Perovskite-Silicon Cell

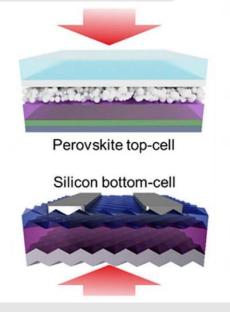




Perovskite/Silicon Tandem Solar Cell Structure

• Unified Solar Device Integration: Merges perovskite and silicon technologies for enhanced solar spectrum capture and higher efficiency.

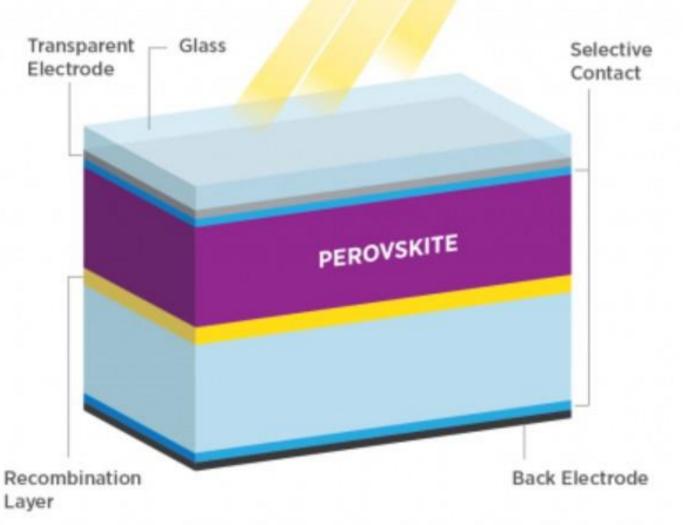
 Perovskite Solar Cell Evolution: Encompasses material discovery, synthesis, fabrication, optimization, and integration with other solar tech.



Layer

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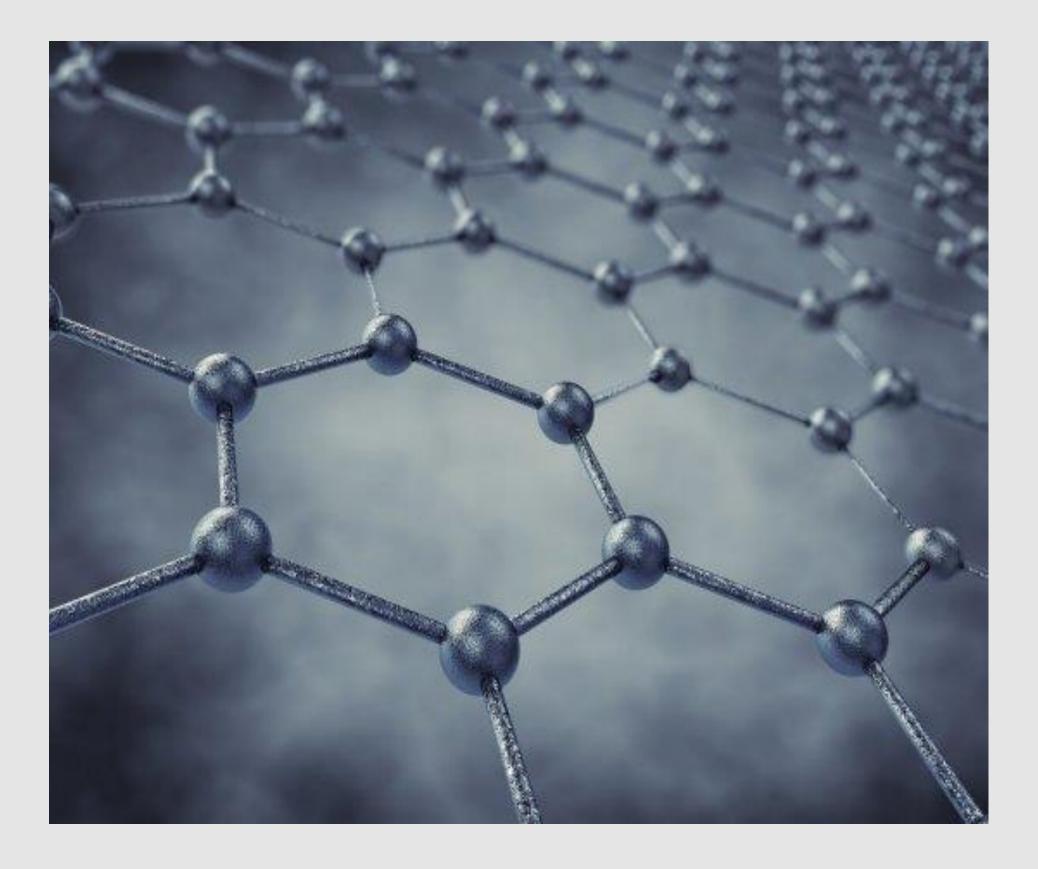
PEROVSKITE ON SILICON TANDEM SOLAR CELL





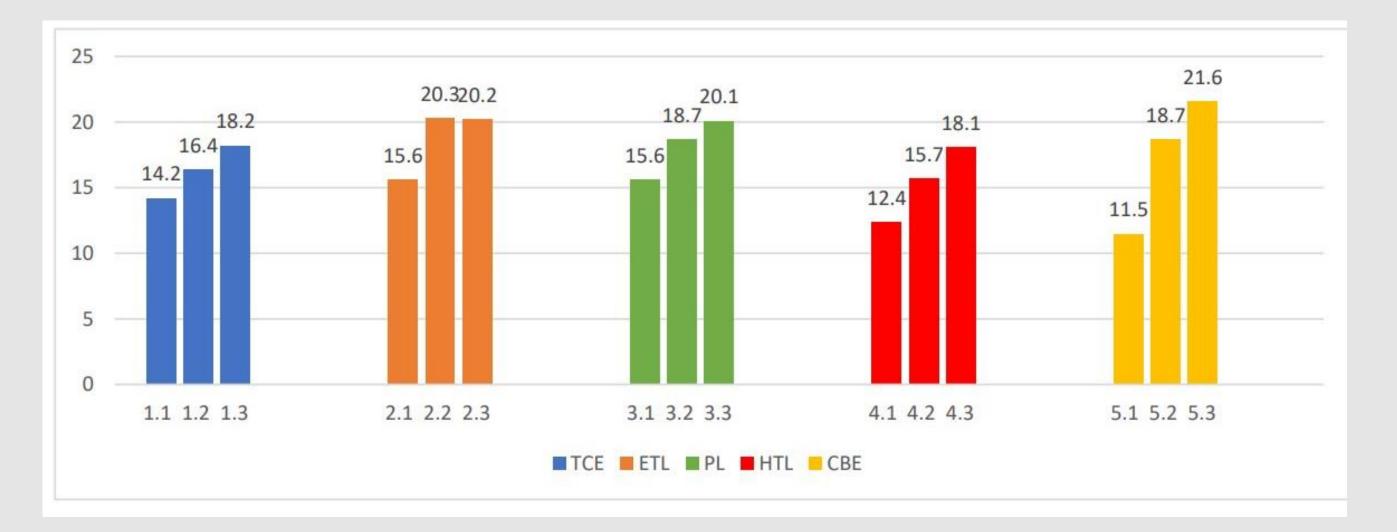
Graphene Features

- Two-dimensional (2D) material.
- Optical Transparency.
- Electrical Conductivity
- Carrier Transport Properties.





Graphene in Perovskite solar cells:



Performance Impact of Graphene in Perovskite Solar Cell Layers

The position of graphene doping in one of the five layers significantly impacts the performance and efficiency of perovskite solar cells.

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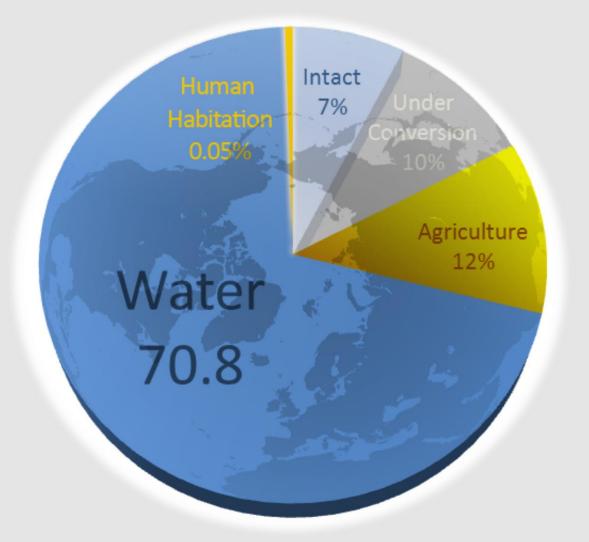
Droplet Energy Harvesting

Untapped Water Energy Potential:

- 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water.
- Earth's water holds substantial energy in various motion forms.
- Raindrops alone possess significant kinetic energy.
- An underutilized resource.

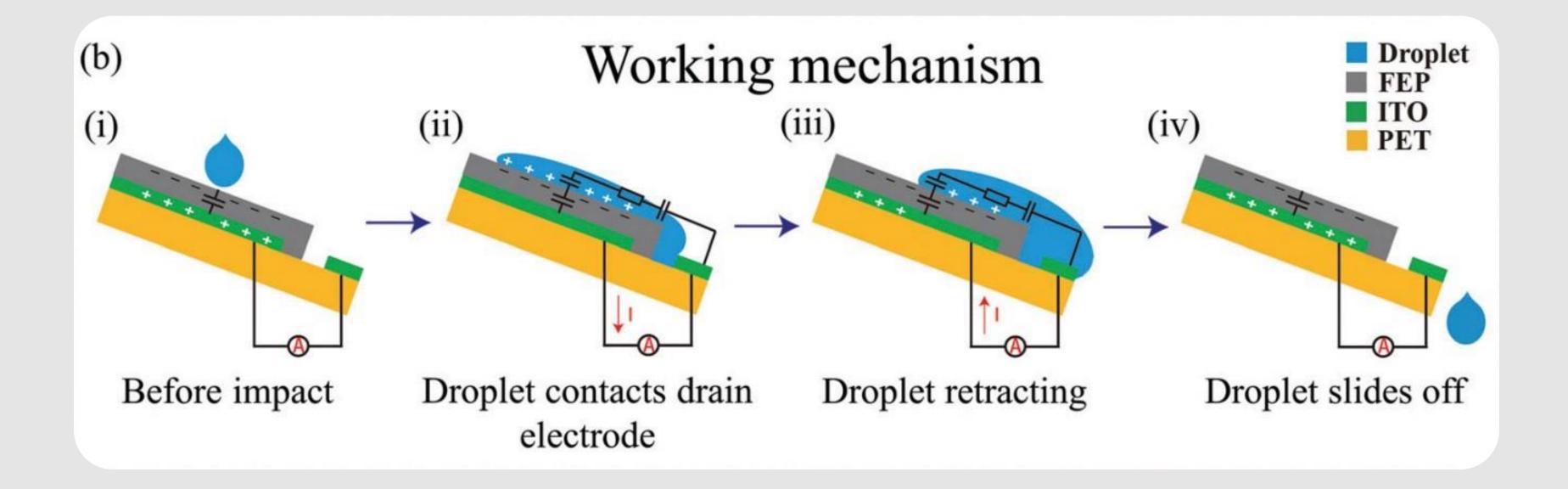
Raindrops Energy Global Impact:

- Raindrops contribute substantial kinetic energy 3000 TW h annually.
- This energy accounts for 5% of the world's yearly energy consumption.





Droplet Mechanism





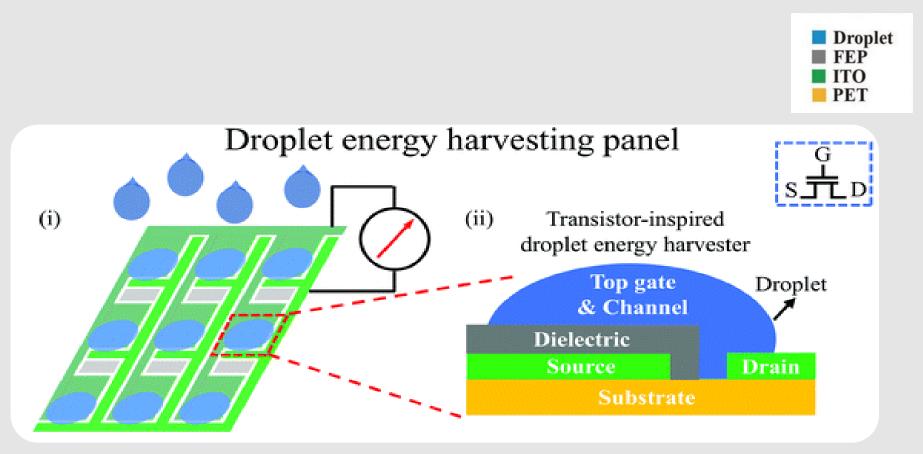
Droplet Cell Structure

This transistor inspired structure DEH cell consists

of 3 layers:

- FEP: Transparent Di-electric material, with strong electronattraction ability.
- ITO: Transparent Conductor.
- PET: Transparent Hydrophobic Substance.

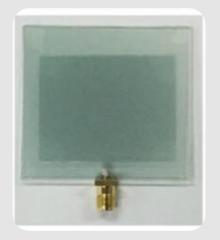
The coplanar source electrode and drain electrode were separated by etching a gap with a width of 1 mm on the ITO.



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Transistor inspired structure DEH cell



ITO: Transparent Conductor.



Droplet Cell Features

- Fully Transparent.
- High Performance.
- High-efficiency droplet energy harvesting under multiposition.

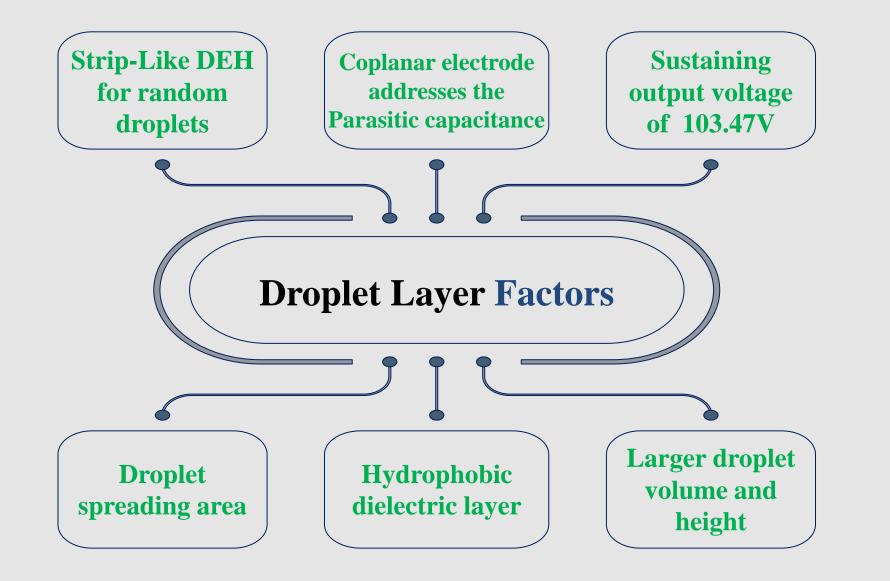
• Robustness:

1. When the source–drain gap was covered by water, the output performance remained unchanged.

2. After taking out from water, the output voltage gradually recovered and stabilized at about 220 V in 3 min.







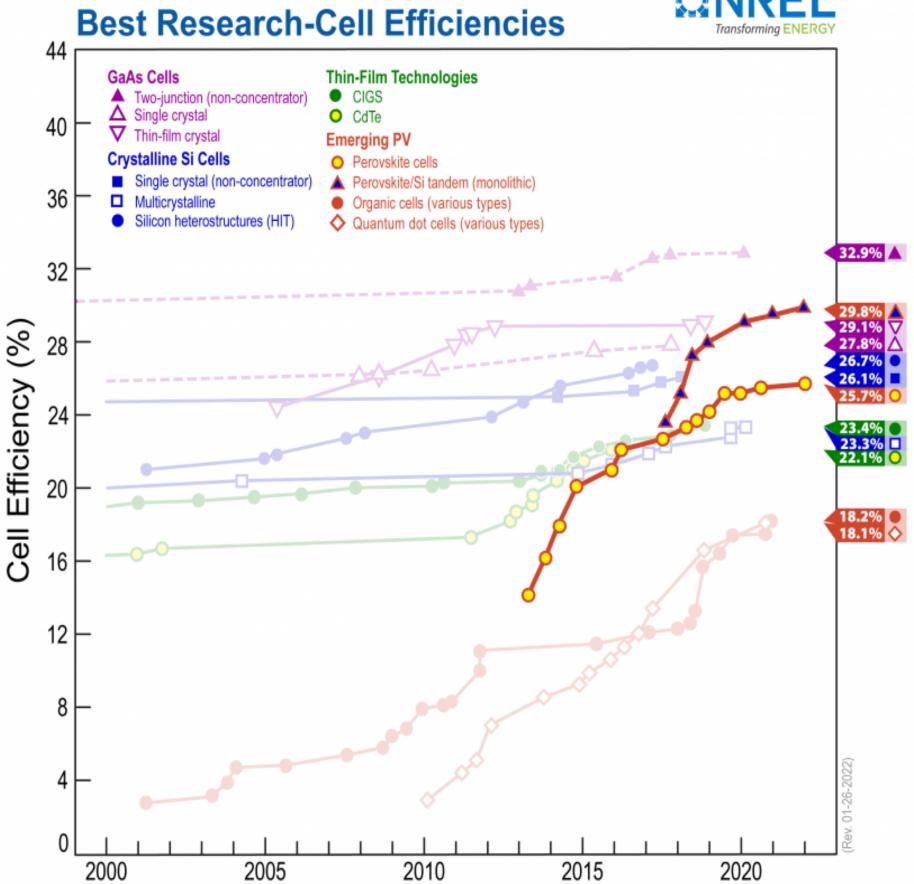


Simulation Results

Perovskite/Silicon Tandem Solar Cell The expected theoretical PCE for such a solar cell is around 40%.

• Up to now:

Scientists at KAUST achieved 33.7% efficiency in perovskite-silicon solar cell.





Simulation Results

By using the simulation software (COMSOL) yields the outcome:

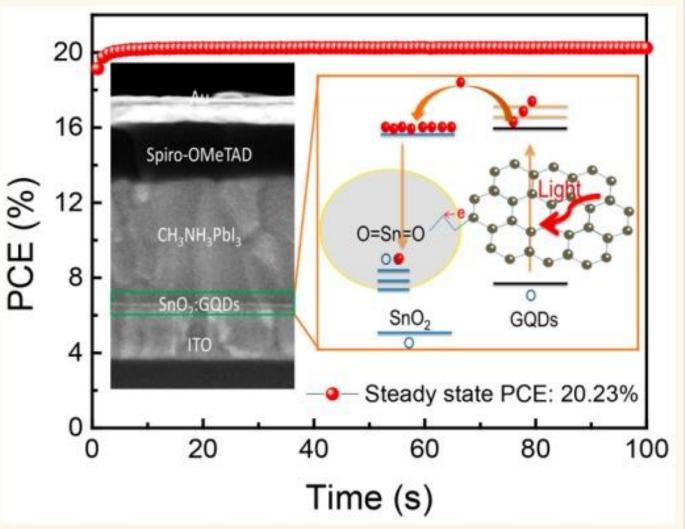
Graphene in Perovskite solar cells

Enhanced Device Performance with (SnO2:GQDs):

- Achieved average power conversion efficiency (PCE) of $19.2 \pm 1.0\%$.
- Peak steady-state PCE reached 20.23% with minimal hysteresis.

Method for Performance Enhancement:

Enhancing electronic properties of SnO2 effectively boosts cell performance.



Result showcases improved perovskite solar cell performance



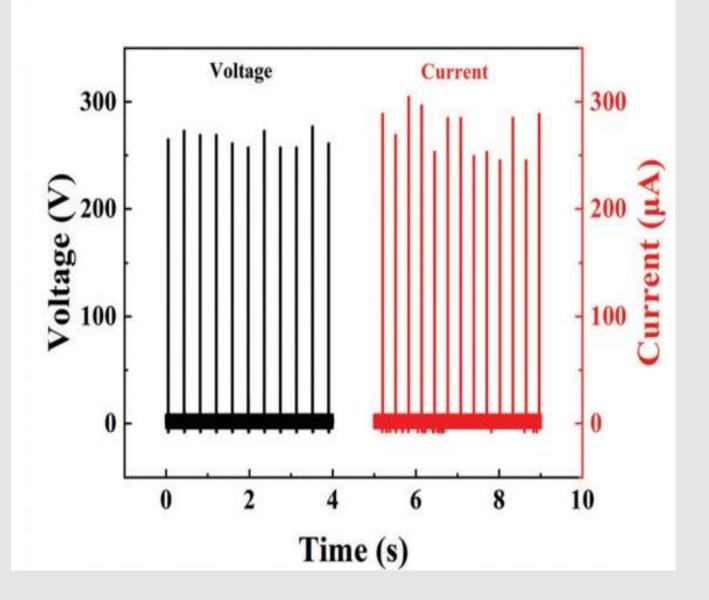
Simulation Results

By using the simulation software (COMSOL) yields the outcome:

• Droplet Energy Harvester:

The latest achievement in DEH panel is a strip-like DEH panel to the coplanar-electrode DEH panel can delicately alleviates the parasitic capacitance issue. Maintaining a high output voltage of 103.47V.

After taking out from water, the output voltage gradually recovered and stabilized at about 220 V in 3 min



Output voltage and current of the DEH cell

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RF Energy Harvesting

Radio frequency energy harvesting (RFEH) is an energy conversion technique employed for converting energy from the electromagnetic (EM) field into the electrical domain.

In particular, RF Energy Harvesting is a very appealing solution for use in body area networks as it allows lowpower sensors and systems to be wirelessly powered in various application scenarios. 2025



Fig.1. RF Waves Sources

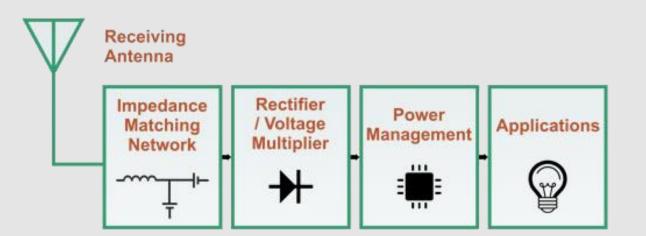


Fig.2. RF Energy Harvesting Block Diagram



RF Energy Harvesting Design Procedure



Band selection

-Local Survey for used bands and frequencies -Band Usage and Allocation



Circuit Design

-Combiner circuit design (only for antenna array) -Rectifier Circuit design -Matching network design

-Patch Shape Selection and Analysis -Design and Simulation -Antenna Array Design

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Design of Antenna



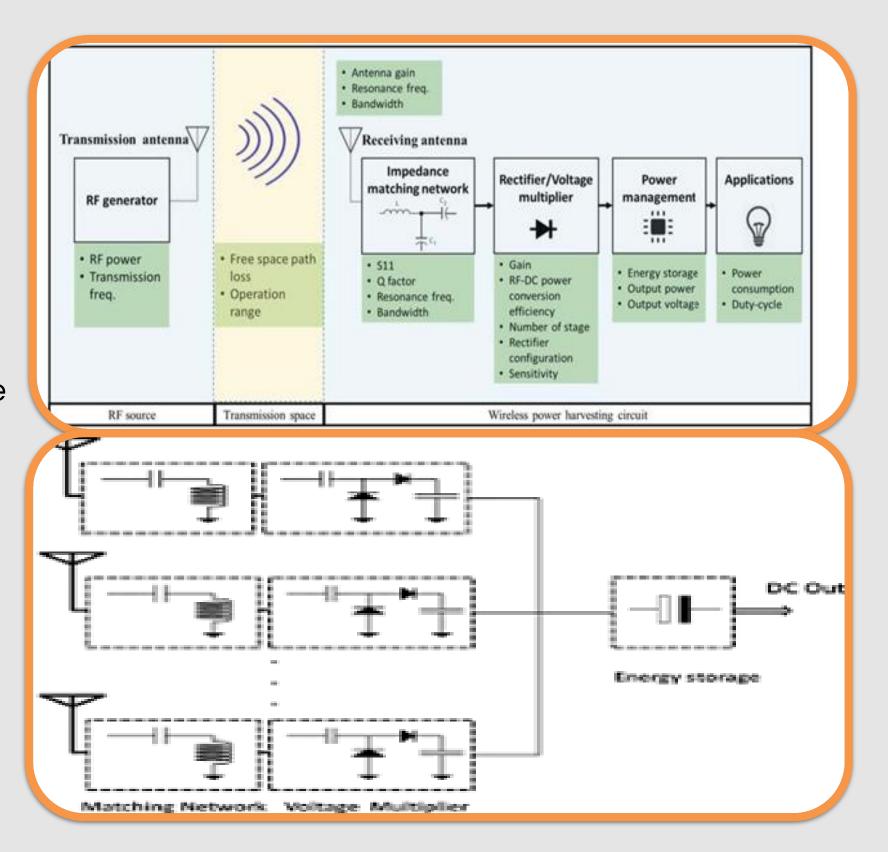
Final Steps

-Fabrication -Testing -Assembly



Using Antennas for Energy Harvesting

- Nowadays we are surrounded by a lot of electromagnetic waves from different sources such as WIFI, Bluetooth, telecommunication towers, etc. which makes a feasible source for energy harvesting.
- We can use antennas to harvest RF energy from the electromagnetic waves

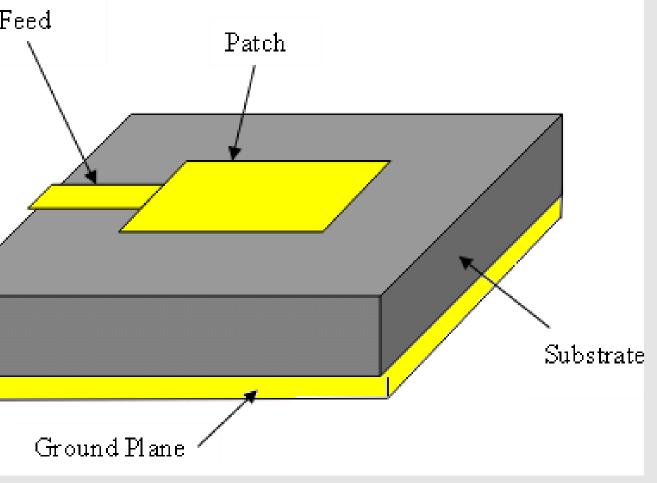




Microstrip Antenna

- A microstrip patch antenna is a type of low-profile antenna commonly used in modern wireless communication systems, such as mobile phones, satellites, and Wi-Fi routers.
- Structure:
 - A thin metallic patch (radiating element) on a dielectric substrate.
 - A ground plane on the other side of the substrate.
- Key Features:
 - Compact size, lightweight, and easy to integrate into devices.
 - Supports applications with frequencies ranging from MHz to several GHz.
 - Low cost and easy to manufacture.

Microstrip Feed





Microstrip Antenna

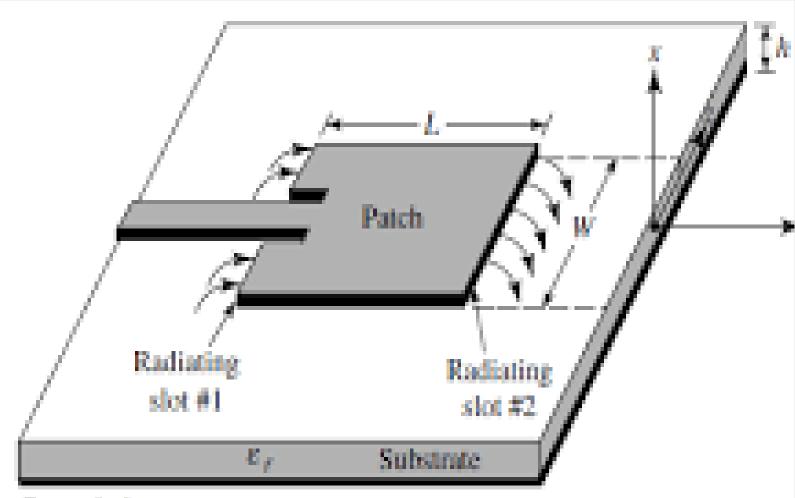
Basic Working Principle:

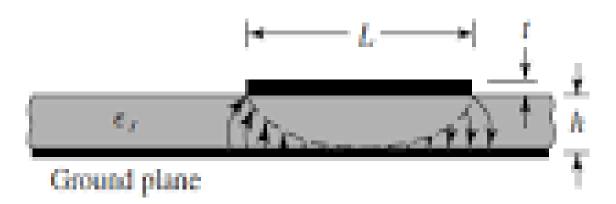
The metallic patch acts as a resonant cavity, radiating electromagnetic waves when fed with an RF signal. Radiation occurs due to the fringing fields at the edges of the patch.

Modes of Operation:

The dominant mode of operation is the TM1010 mode, where the electric field is maximum along one dimension of the patch. Feeding Methods:

Coaxial feed, microstrip line feed, aperture coupling, and proximity coupling.





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Ground plane



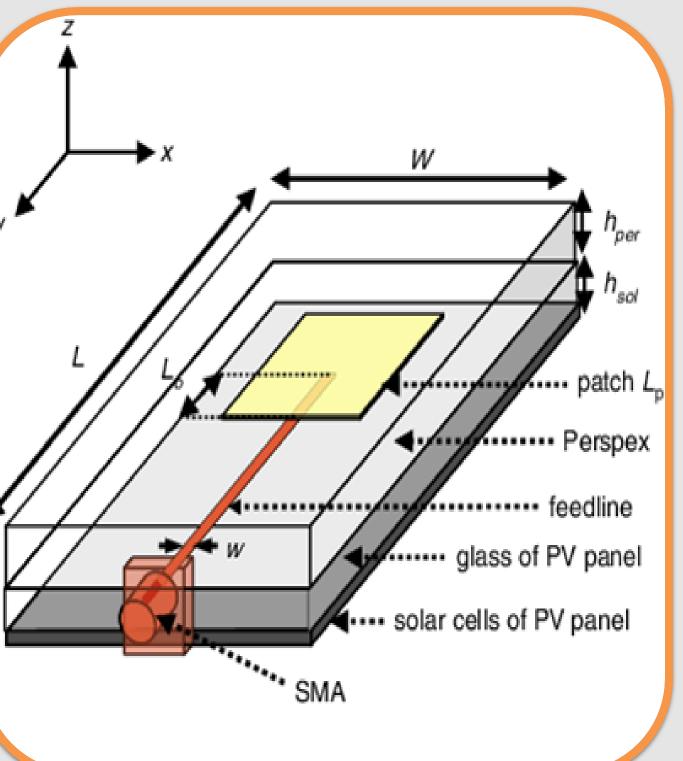
(b) Side view



Construction of Antenna over Solar Cell for Hybrid system

The whole system is constructed of the following parts:

- Patch acting as RF collector using conductive material
- **Perspex** acrylic substrate for RF Patch
- Feedline for transferring the collected RF power to the SMA connector for energy harvesting and matching the impedance with SMA connector.
- Glass for protecting the solar cell panel
- Solar cell panel
- SMA for terminating the antenna matching to 50 ohm





Combining Solar Cell with Antenna

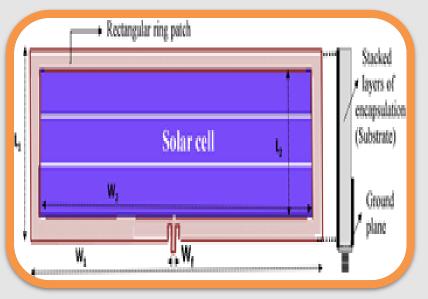
Building antennas around solar cells

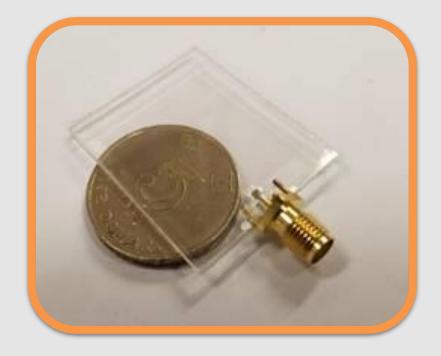
 Interdigitate the Antenna over the solar cells

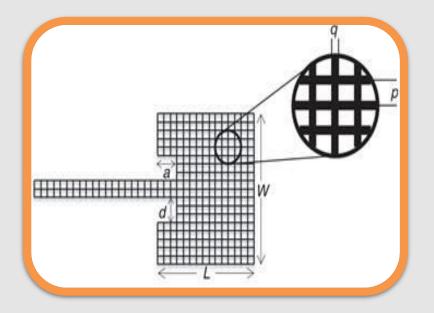
• Using Meshed Antenna

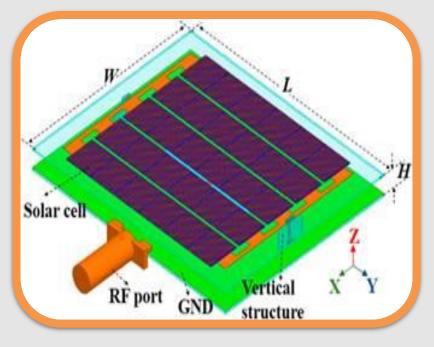
OUsing Transparent Conductors

The transparent antenna allows us to utilize the whole solar cell surface to build antenna and/or antenna arrays



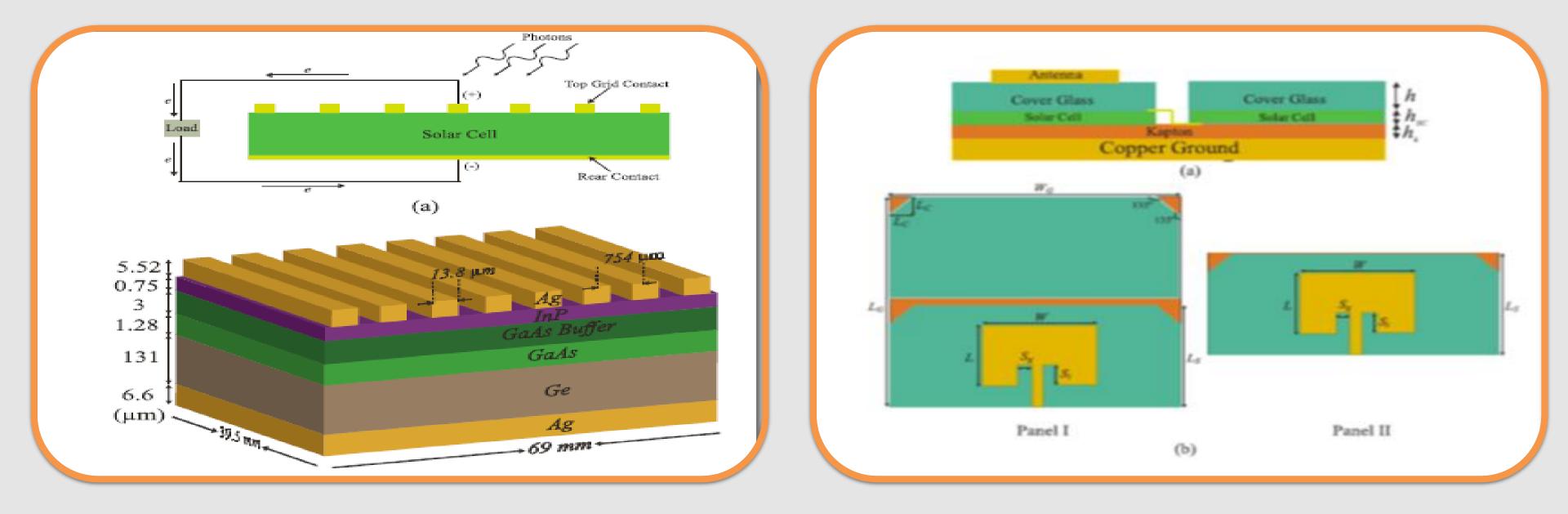








Combining Solar Cell with Antenna



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Transparent Antenna Concept

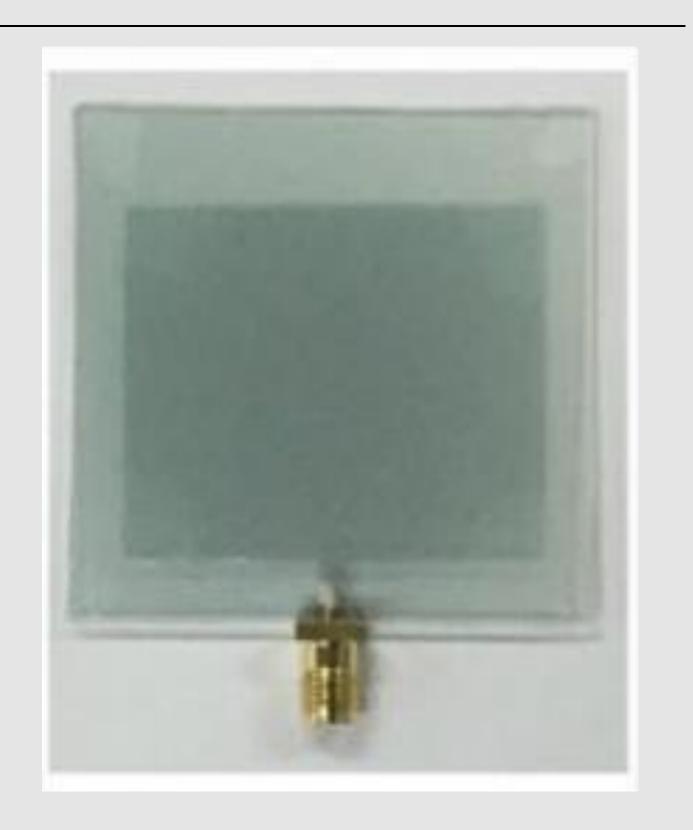
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Transparent antenna could be achieved by:

Using transparent material Meshing the Antenna Design by using very thin lines



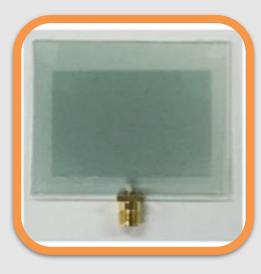
Meshing line width effect the peak gain of antenna





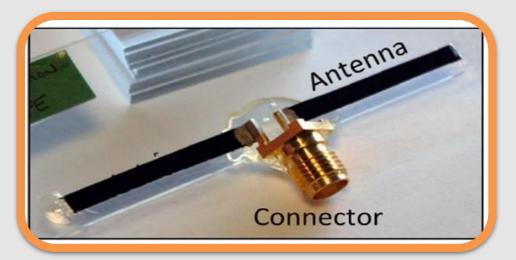
Types of Transparent Conductors

- Nano Carbon
 - 1. Graphene
 - 2. Carbon Nano Tubes (CNT)
- Transparent Conductive Oxide (TCO)
- Conductive Polymer
- Nanowires



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Carbon NanoTunes (CNT)



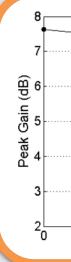
CNT-Silver Nano Tube - Hybrid



Effect of transparency on antenna gain

For a fixed line width, higher transparency results in gain reduction,

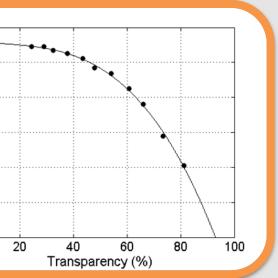
however, when fixing transperency and optimizing for line width, it is noticiable that the relation between antenna gain and line width is **inversely proportional** thus the thinner the line results in higher gain.

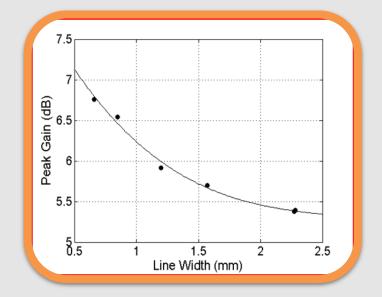


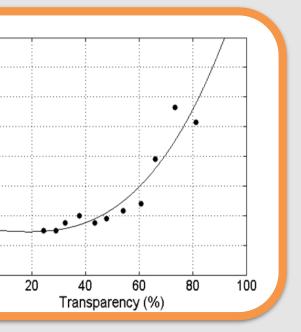
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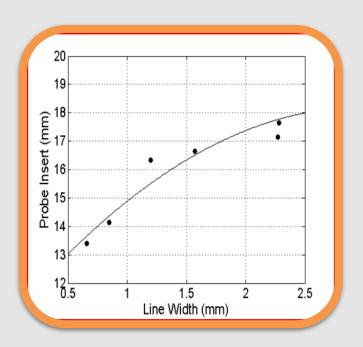
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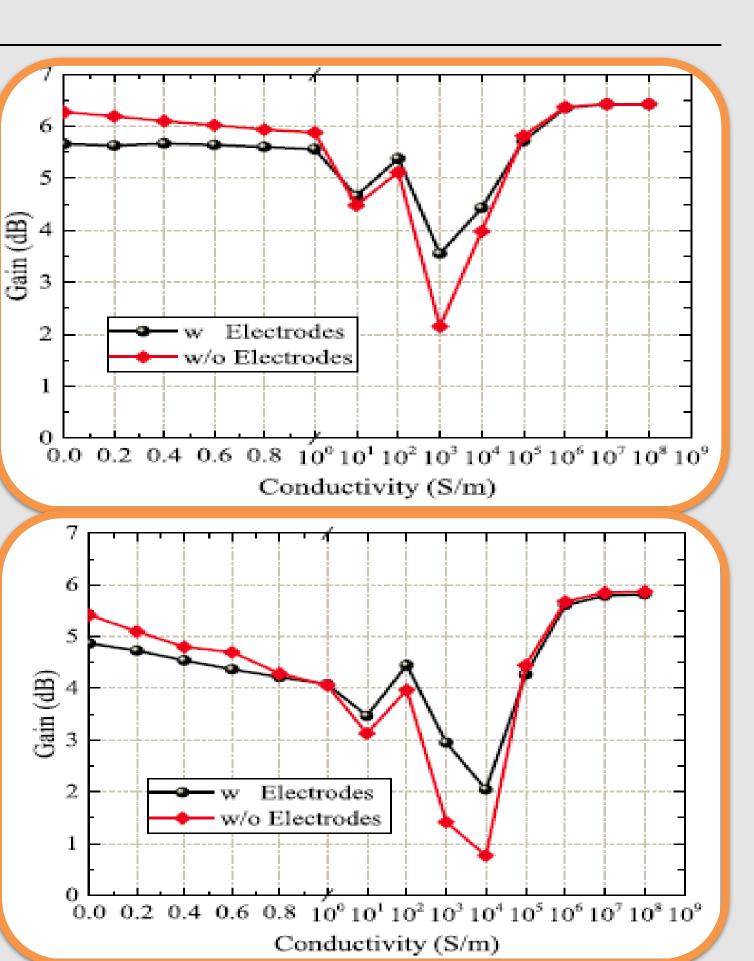






Effect of solar cell on antenna

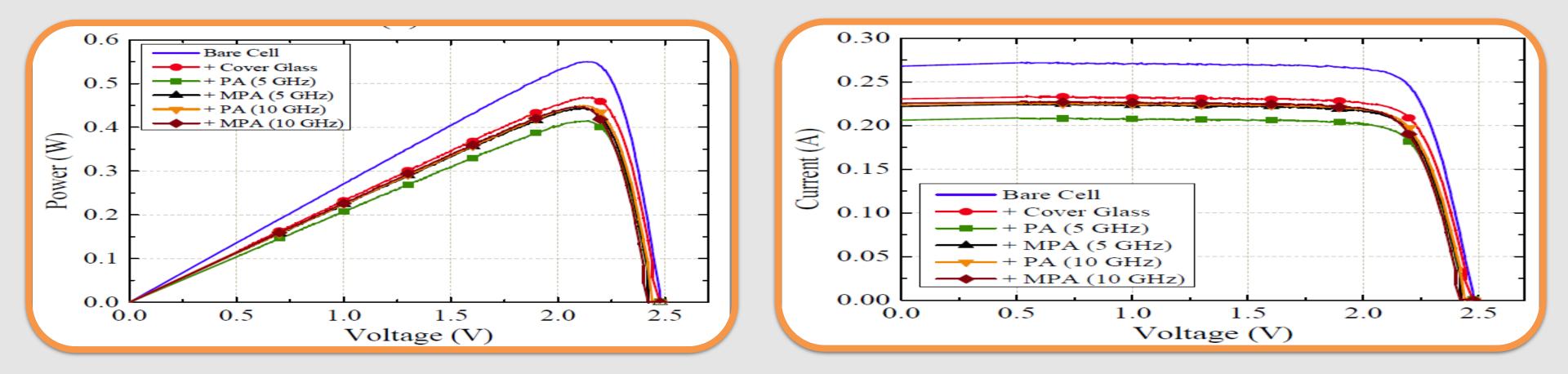
- When solar cells are placed near an antenna, they can cause interference and affect the performance of the antenna
- This interference effect the overall efficiency of the antenna
- The presence of solar cells can also lead to changes in the radiation pattern and polarization of the antenna
- The most noticeable reduction in antenna gain occurs at the conductivity level where solar panel junctions operate





Effect of Antenna on Solar Cell

- Solar cells efficiency is very sensitive to the attenuation in solar energy
- Addition of any materials over the solar cell increase the attenuation
- Conductors easily block light due to it's nature





Conclusion

- Integration of perovskite, silicon, and graphene layers yields remarkable achievements.
- Efficacy of up to 33.7% (perovskite-silicon) and 23.1% (perovskite-graphene) realized
- Hybrid Energy Source: Combining transparent microstrip patch antennas with solar cells enables dual-mode energy harvesting from both RF and solar sources.
- Transparency Advantage: Transparent antennas offer practical benefits for applications requiring visibility, such as in windows or wearable devices.
- Nanomaterial Enhancements: Using nanomaterial substrates improves the efficiency and compactness of transparent antennas, optimizing energy harvesting.



Future Work

- Study the feasibility of transparent conductive materials suitable for antenna
- Development of suitable conductive ink with low resistivity and can sustained wear and tear.
- Testing more techniques for placing antenna over solar cells for better transparency results.
- Study the feasibility of using graphene solutions to print antenna using ink-jet material printers.
- Adding the new materials to simulation software and simulating the antenna structure using it.
- Study the impedance effect on matching transmission line due to different materials used in antenna and connector electrode.



Thank you

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