



**Photonics Career Event**  
**Delft**

# CARLA 2025

## Day 2 – Shaping your Career



PHOTONICS PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

This project has received funding from the European Union  
Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant  
agreement No 101135838.



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# Humeyra Caglayan TU Eindhoven



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# My Academic Journey

to Eindhoven University Technology and further...

Humeyra Caglayan



# About me...



## Biography

- Associate Professor Photonic Integration group, EE (August 2024)
- Associate Professor at Tampere University (Finland) since 2019
- Assistant Professor, Tampere Technical University (2017-2019)
- ERC StG Grantee (2019-2023)

## Areas of Expertise

- **Optics&Photonics:** Metaoptics for image processing
- **Photonic Chips:** Integrated metaphotonics devices
- **Application:** Metaoptics for 3D imaging, defect identification, and semicon metrology

## Department/Group

EE/Photonic  
Integration

## Relation to Institutes

Centre for Integrated  
Photonics Eindhoven  
Eindhoven Hendrik  
Casimir Institute

## Email:

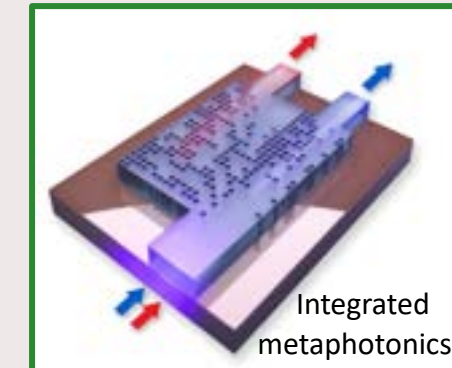
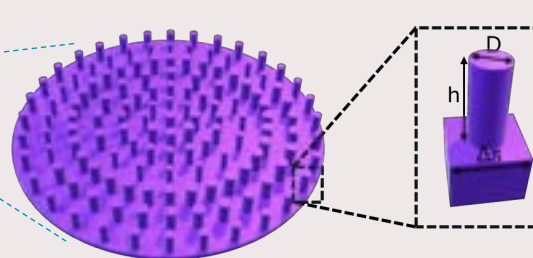
[h.caglayan@tue.nl](mailto:h.caglayan@tue.nl)

## Linkedin:

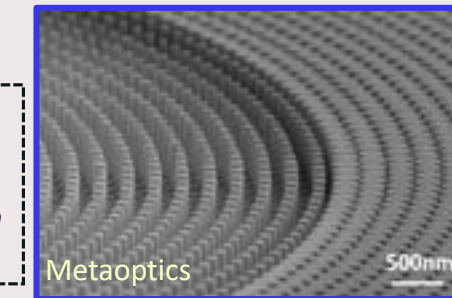
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/humeyracaglayan/>

## Key research topic for collaboration

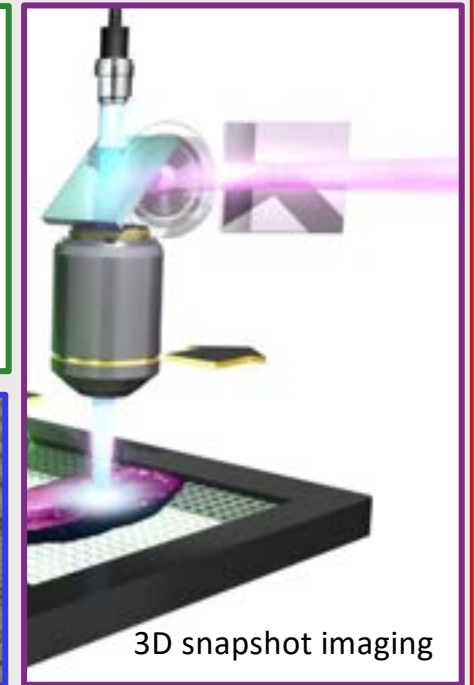
- Multifunctional interface between integrated photonic chips and free space optics
- High-performance optical imaging devices, such as 3D snapshot imaging
- Hybrid PIC/metaoptics integration



Integrated  
metaphotonics

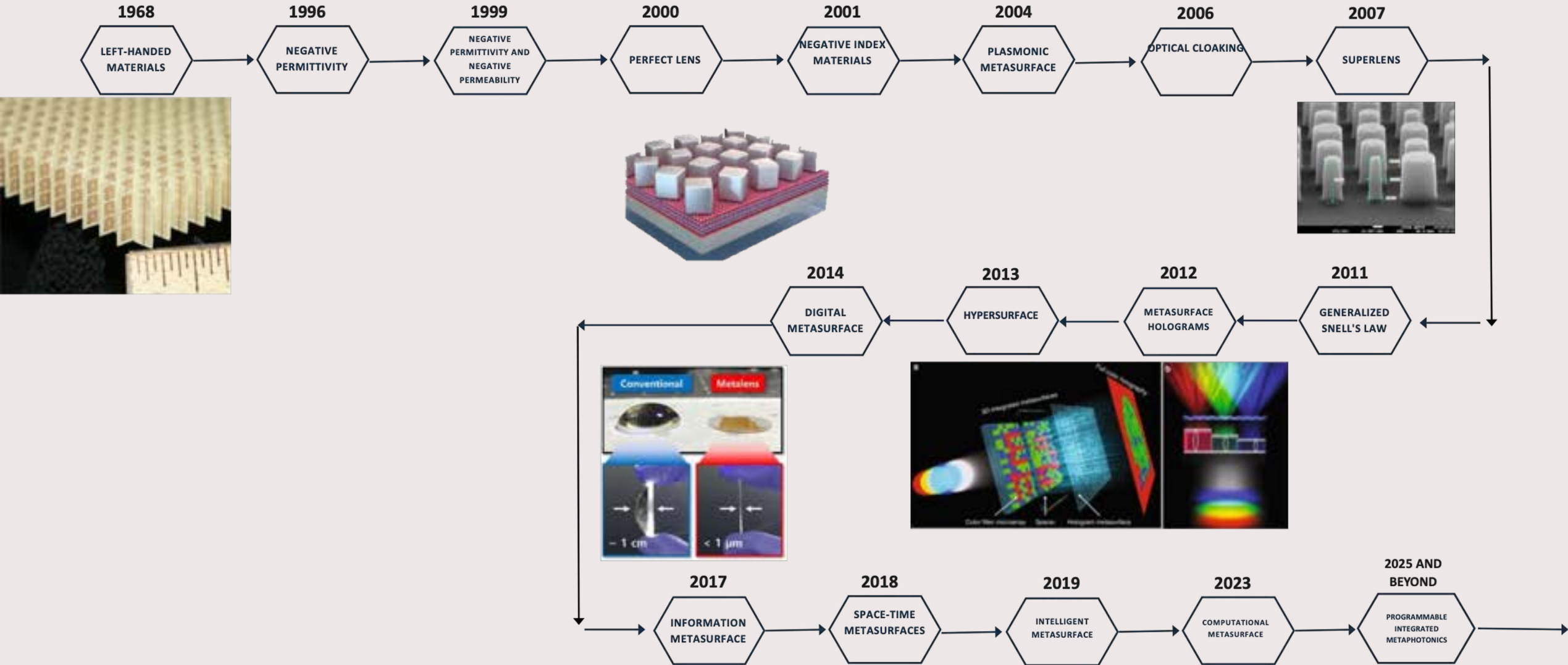


Metaoptics

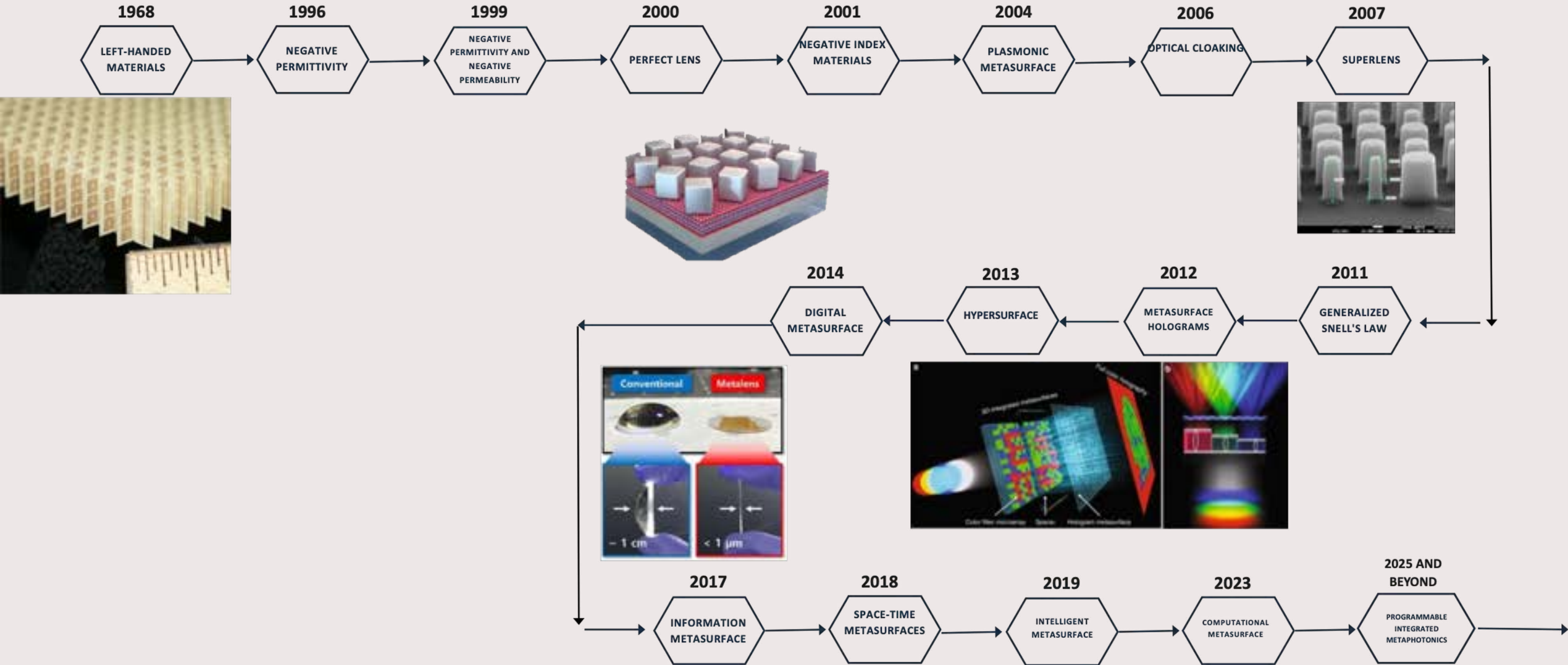


3D snapshot imaging

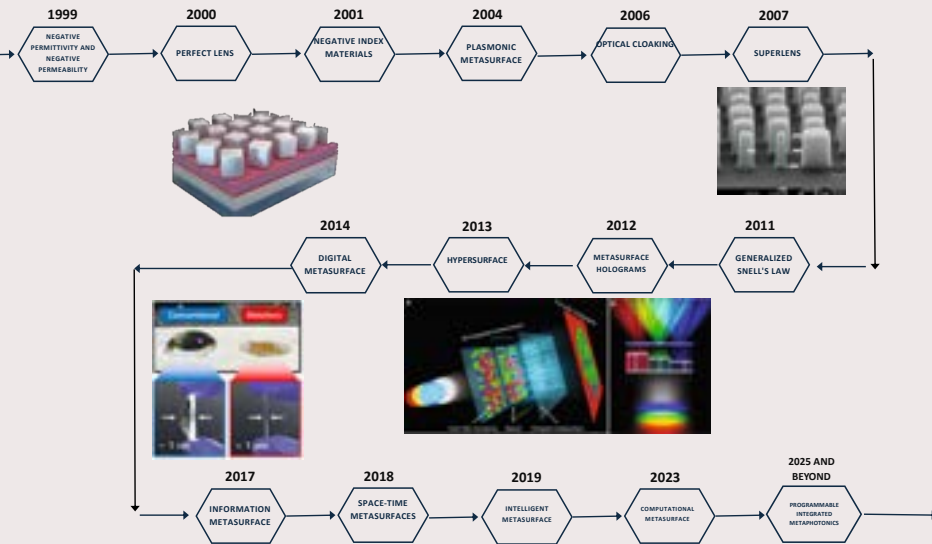
# Metamaterials timeline



# My photonics journey...



# My photonics journey...



Graduation

Physics, Bilkent University

2005

PhD

Physics, Bilkent University

2010

Postdoc

Uni. of Pennsylvania  
Prof. Nader Engheta

2014

Senior Researcher

NANOTAM, Bilkent Uni

2017

Assist. Prof

Tampere Uni  
Technology, Finland

2019

Assoc. Prof.

Tampere Uni. Physics  
Department

2024

Assoc. Prof.

TU/e EE  
Photonic Integration  
Group



# What is really my job?





# Navigating Challenges and Embracing Rewards



## Science as my playground

- Nature's beauty and mysteries inspired me
- Optics/photonics → tools to explore & innovate



## Multiple roles

- Supervisor, teacher, researcher
- Collaborations worldwide
- Teaching & mentoring students



## Main Challenge – Work–Life Balance

- Learned: Be present in the moment
- Focused presence reduces stress & increases joy



## Key Lessons Learned

- You cannot be everywhere, but you can be present
- Challenges bring growth & resilience
- Science is about discovery and balance



## Message to Young Scientist

- Go for your dreams 🚀
- Don't give up exploring
- Opportunities appear as you move forward
- Even challenges can be rewarding

# Thank you



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**Delft**

# Stefan de Witte

## TU Delft



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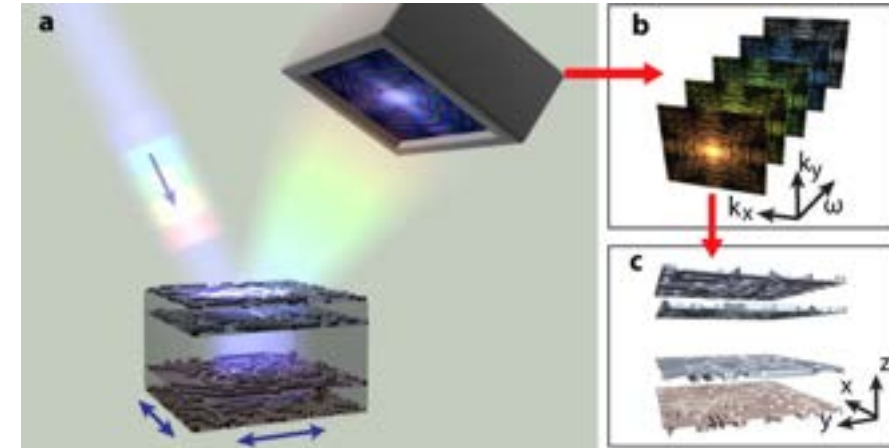
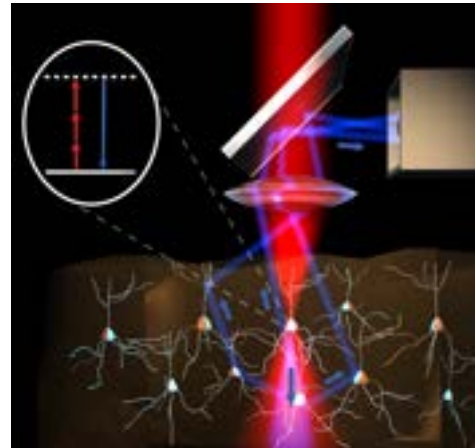
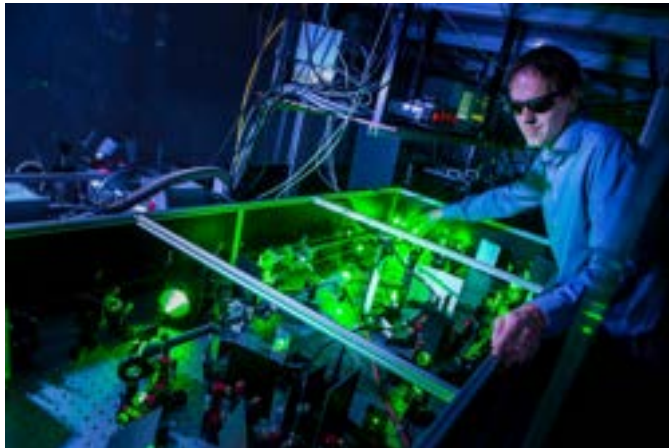
# Personal intro

**Stefan Witte (Alkmaar, 1979)**

PhD 2007, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,  
Postdoc 2007-2011, VU and University of Colorado  
2012-2014 Assistant professor, VU

2014-2024 Group leader, Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography

**Since Sep 2024: Professor Optics for Nanoscale Metrology, TU Delft**

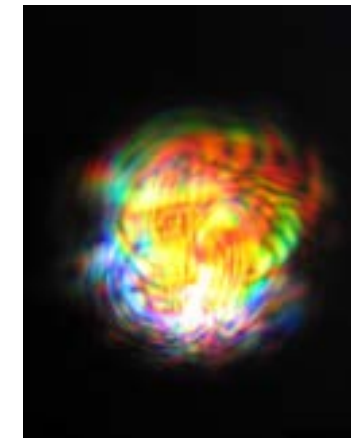
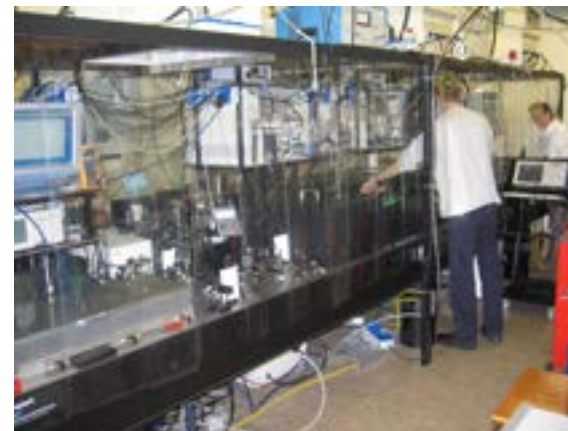
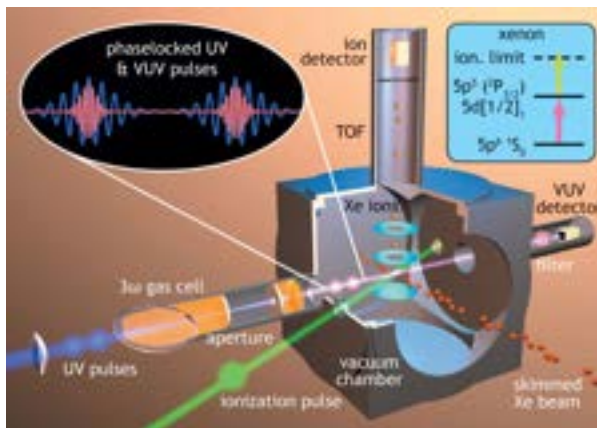


# Actual personal intro

I always enjoyed physics,  
especially optical phenomena

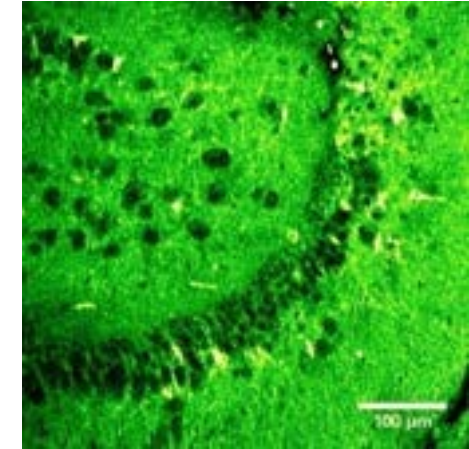
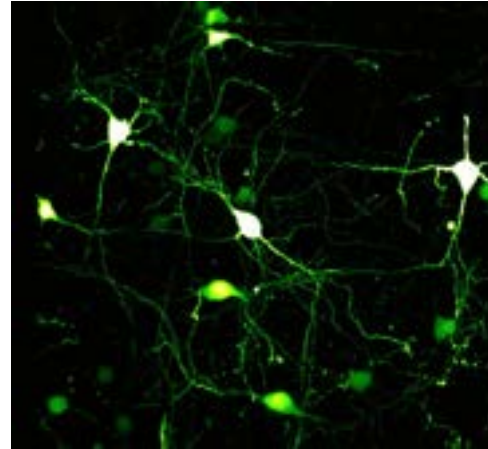
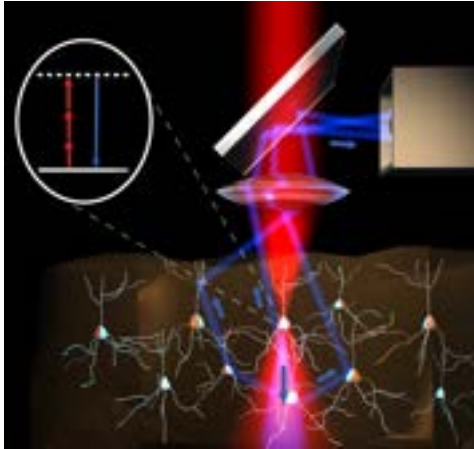


- Studied physics
- MSc project in laser spectroscopy
- PhD in frequency combs and ultrafast laser physics

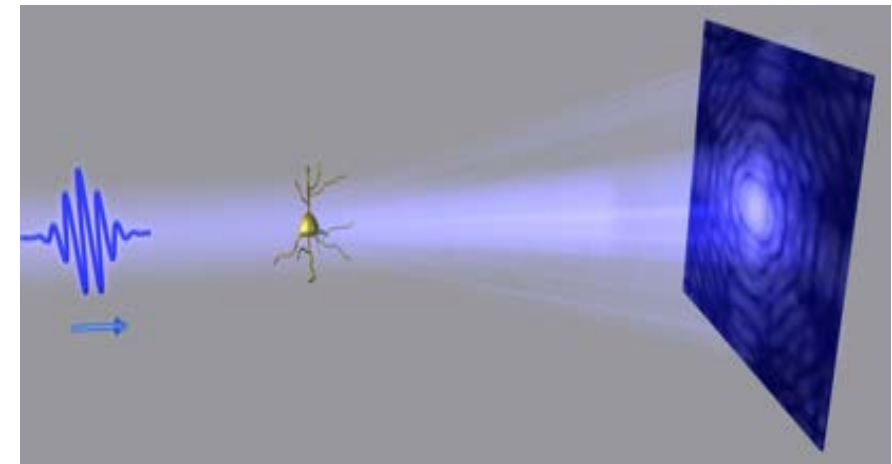
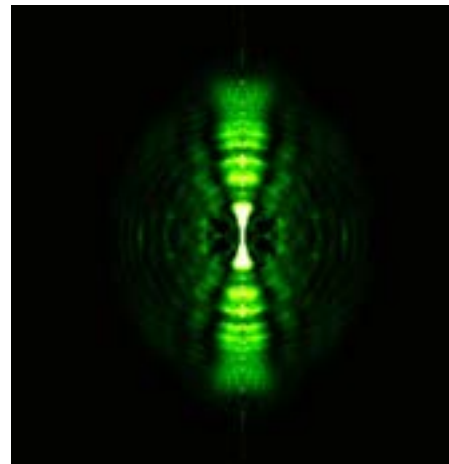


# Actual personal intro

Postdoc in something more applied (but still with lasers): neuro-imaging



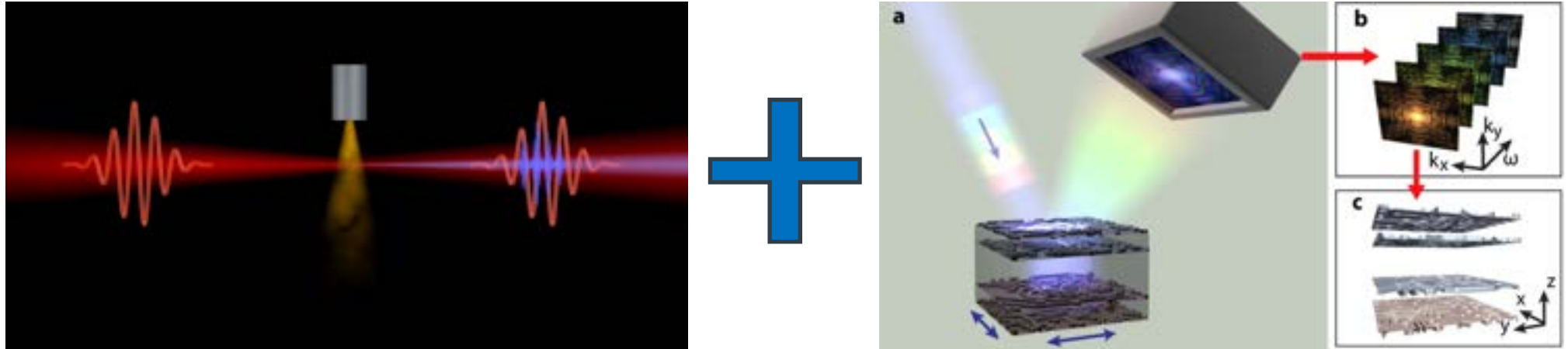
Postdoc in lasers and imaging, but with less brain matter:





# Actual personal intro

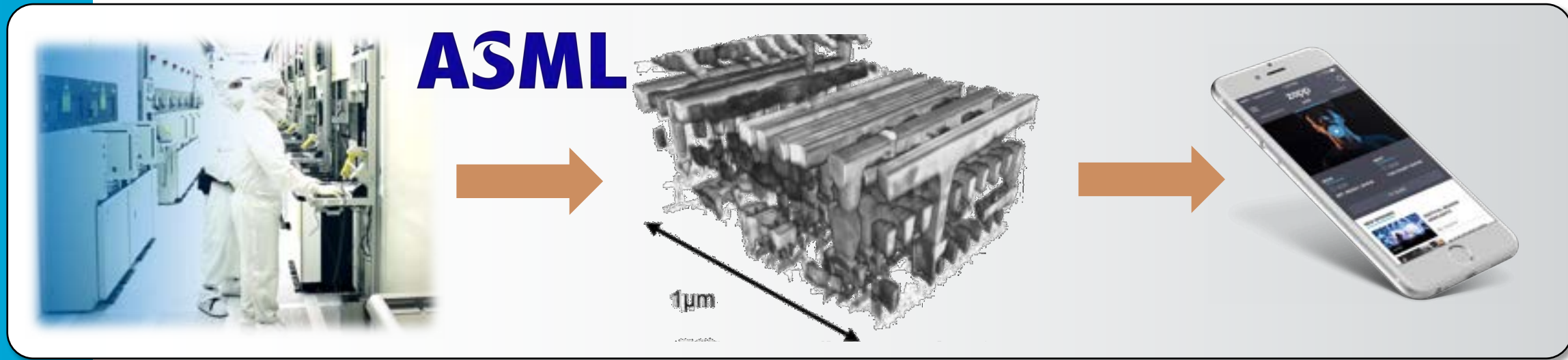
Here's my niche: computational imaging!



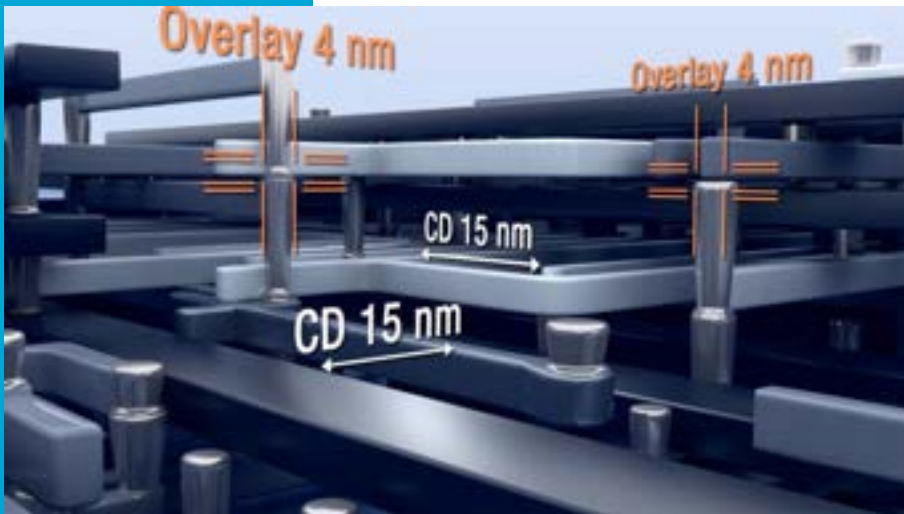
The combination of ultrafast laser physics, imaging, and (coherent) optics

Started writing grants and landed an assistant professor position

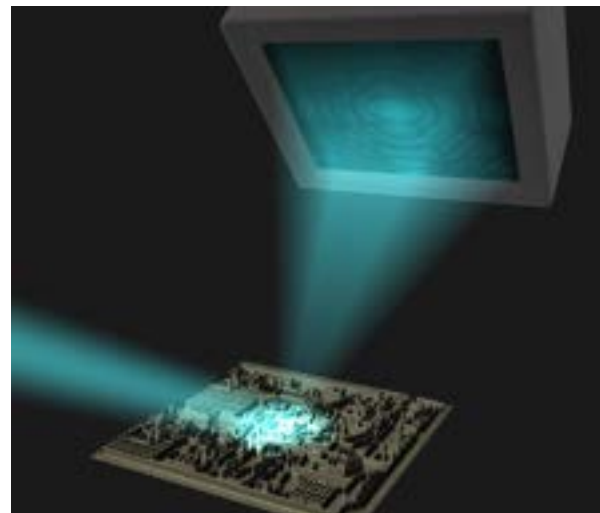
# Current focus: Nano-imaging for semiconductor metrology



**Fabrication requirements**



**Optical metrology**



**Challenge**

## Optical imaging at shorter wavelengths

- Better resolution
- Penetration depth
- Fast
- Non-invasive

# Why do(n't) I like my job?

- I get to work on interesting challenges, what I do matters
- Teaching is rewarding
- My work fits my skill set (including the grant writing, presentations, etc)

But:

- Academic work features multiple incompatible timescales
- Large turnover of group members
- Dependence on external funding makes long-term planning challenging



# My advice for a career in photonics

- Find your strengths in research (ideally not identical to your supervisor's)
- Find what motivates you
- Learn by example (grant writing, interviews, presentations, teaching)
- Don't be afraid to fail
- Don't listen to the old guys too much 😊



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# Wilbert IJzerman TU Eindhoven



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# My Career and Optics

Prof. dr. ir. ir. W.L. (Wilbert) IJzerman mba

Head of Sector Lighting Technology, Signify Research &

Professor Illumination Optics, Department of Mathematics & Computer Sciences, Technical University Eindhoven.

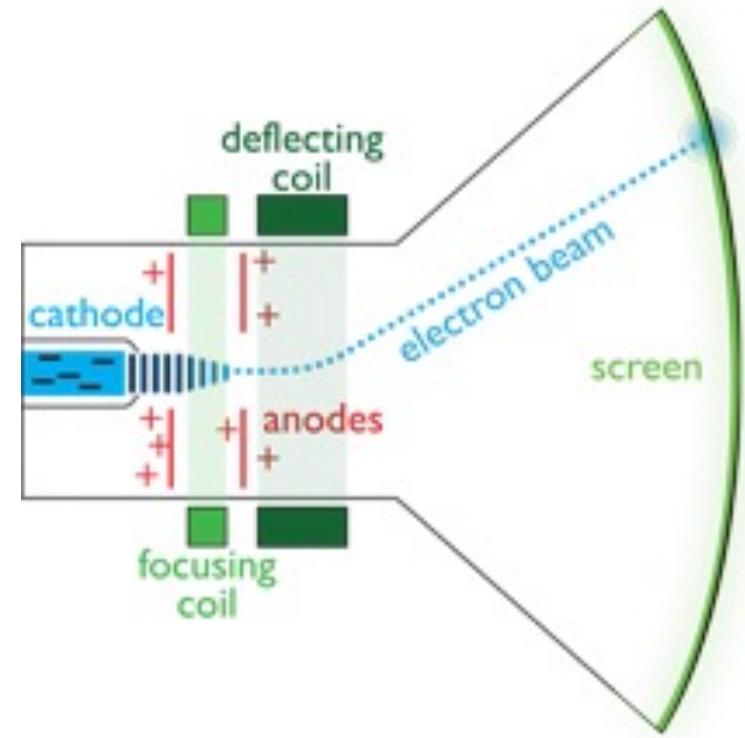


# My (Optics) career

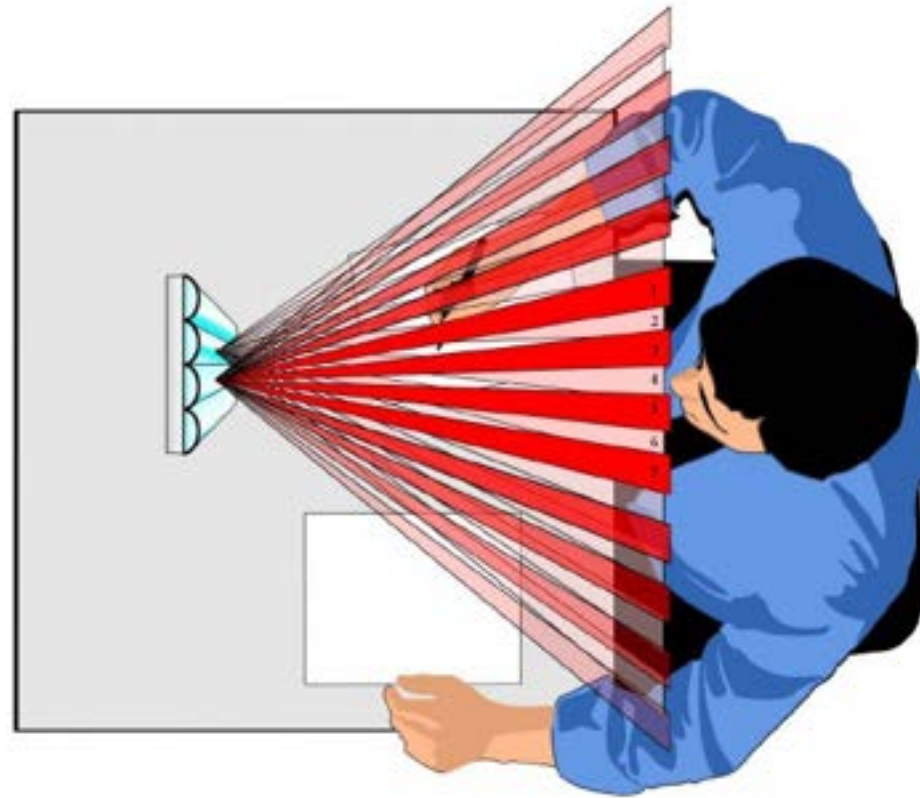
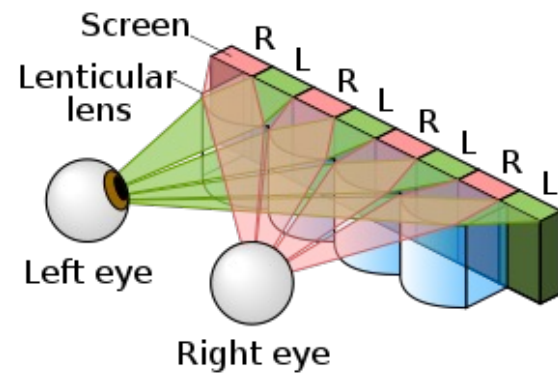
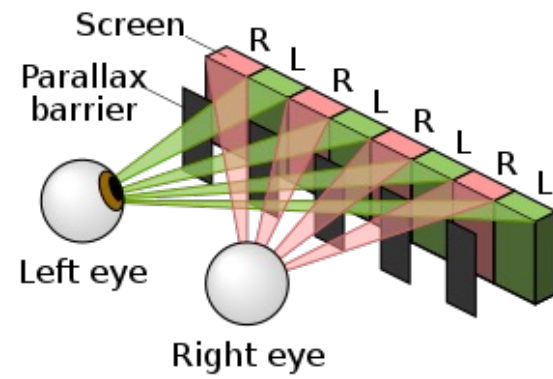
- 1984-1990 Secondary School (VWO)
  - optics as a special topic for physics
- 1990-1996 MsC Mathematics & Physics, UTwente
  - all courses on optics at UTwente
- 1996-2000 PhD Mathematics
  - no optics at all ☹️
- 2000-2005 Electron Optics for televisions
- 2005-2009 LED Optics
- 2009-2011 International MBA Erasmus
- 2012-today Prof. Computational illumination optics
- 2022-today Head of sector Lighting Technology, Signify



# Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)














# 3D TV





© signify

# Signify brand architecture

	Global brands	      			
	Technology brands	   			
	Specialty brands	     			
	Regional set-up and brands	 <div><div>Indoor</div><div>Outdoor</div><div>Connected Lighting Systems &amp; Controls</div><div>LED Lamps &amp; Electronics</div></div>		 <div></div>	
	Value brands	    			

# Signify is the world leader in lighting

We provide high-quality energy efficient lighting products, systems and services

Light sources



Luminaires



Systems and Services



No. 1

Connected, LED,  
Conventional

€6.1bn

sales in 2024

29,000

people in over  
70 countries

**4.3%**

sales reinvested in  
R&D in 2024

**90%**

LED sales  
in Q4 2024

**20,250**

Patents in 2024

**28%**

women in  
leadership in Q4  
2024

**156M**

connected  
light points in Q2 2025

**35%**

circular revenues in  
Q4 2024

**33%**

Brighter Lives  
revenues in Q4  
2024

**40%**

On track to reduce  
Green House Gas  
emissions by 2025



# Philips SunStay

- The all-in-one streetlight that harnesses the power of sunlight.



# Philips horticultural lighting

- Light recipes to improve the quality, consistency, and yield of various crops.





# Power of light to disinfect

- UV-C air disinfection to stop viruses spreading.



# 3D Printing

Remarkable Lighting  
Sustainably Printed



Amazing designs & unique textures created by the latest 3D technology



Low carbon footprint and increased use of recycled materials



Customized or tailored to your brand & concept



Instant development, fast delivery, global coverage





# NatureConnect

- Mimics natural daylight with a view to the sky to help people stay energized.
- Turning dark areas into productive, profitable and engaging areas.

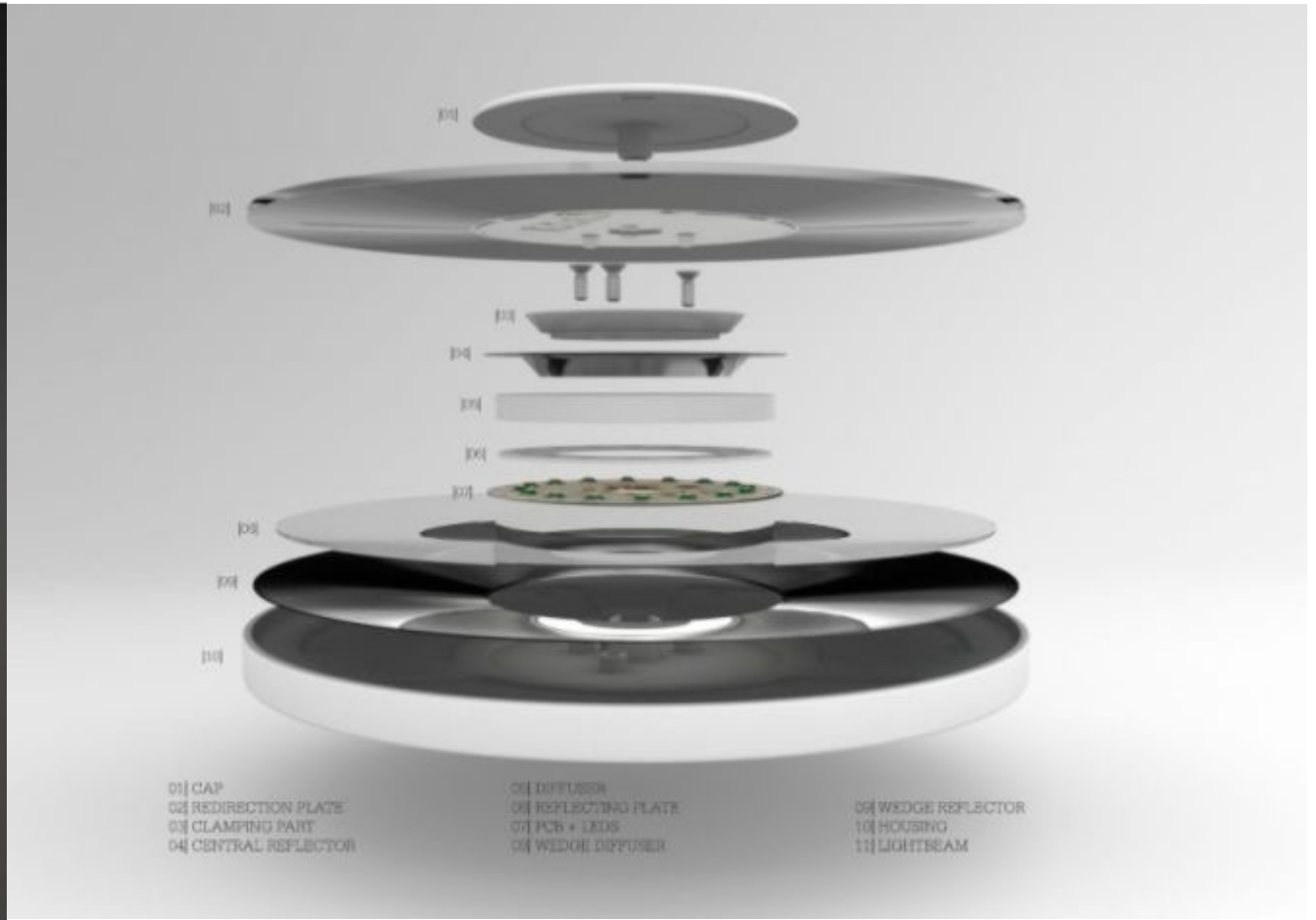


# Philips Hue

#1 smart home lighting system to light your home and garden smarter, in over 150 countries and five continents.

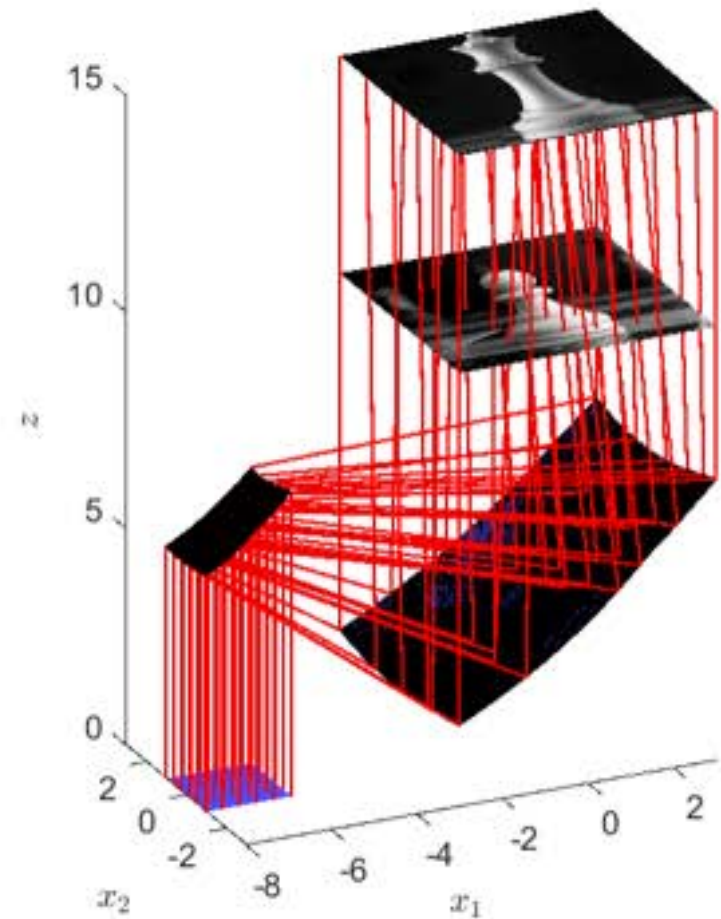
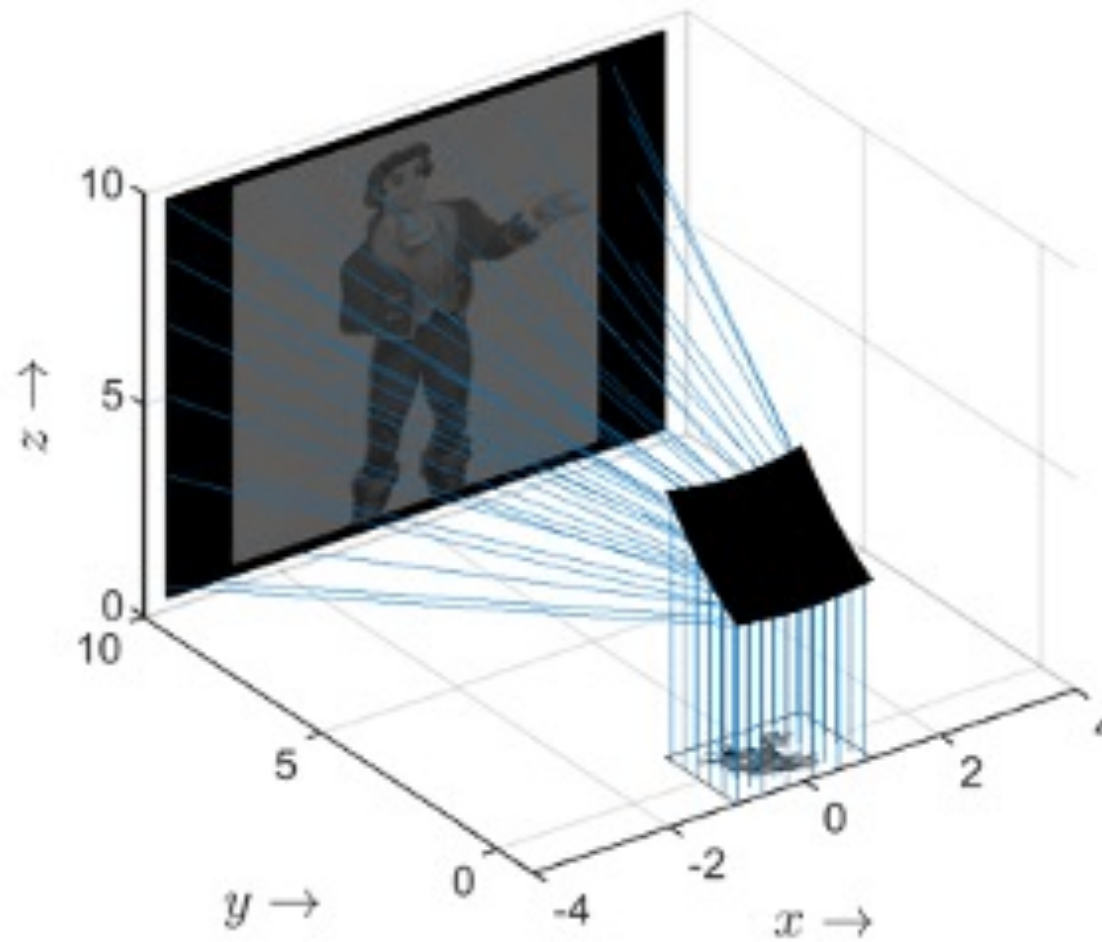


# LED Lighting: Modular Spock





# Computational Illumination Optics





# Advice

Successful career=**Talent** x **Investment in time** x **Luck**

## **Talent:**

- What is your talent?
  - What are your strengths and weaknesses

## **Investment in time:**

- What gives you most energy?
  - To be good in something you need to practice 10khours!



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# Nandini Bhattacharya

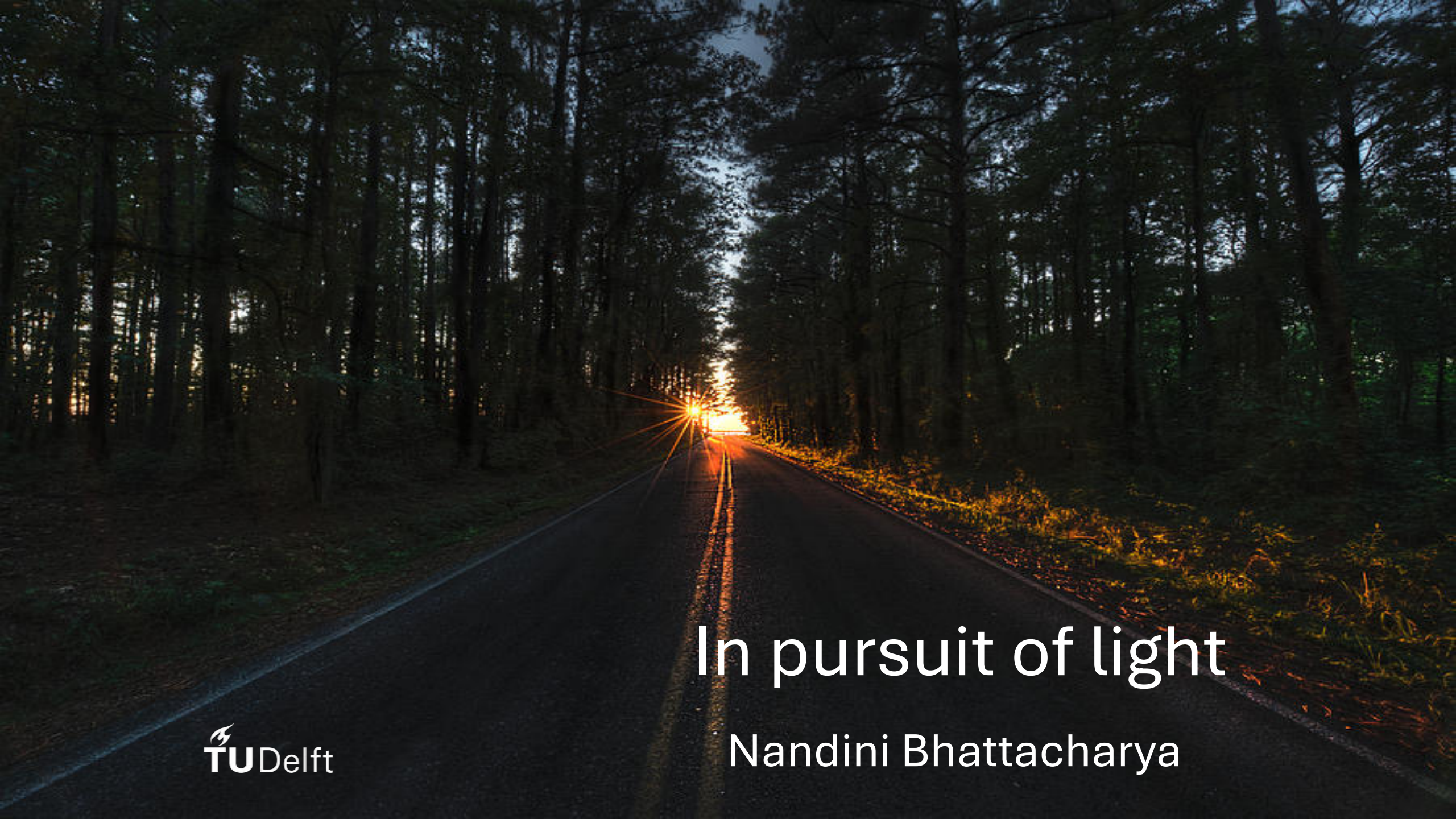
## TU Delft



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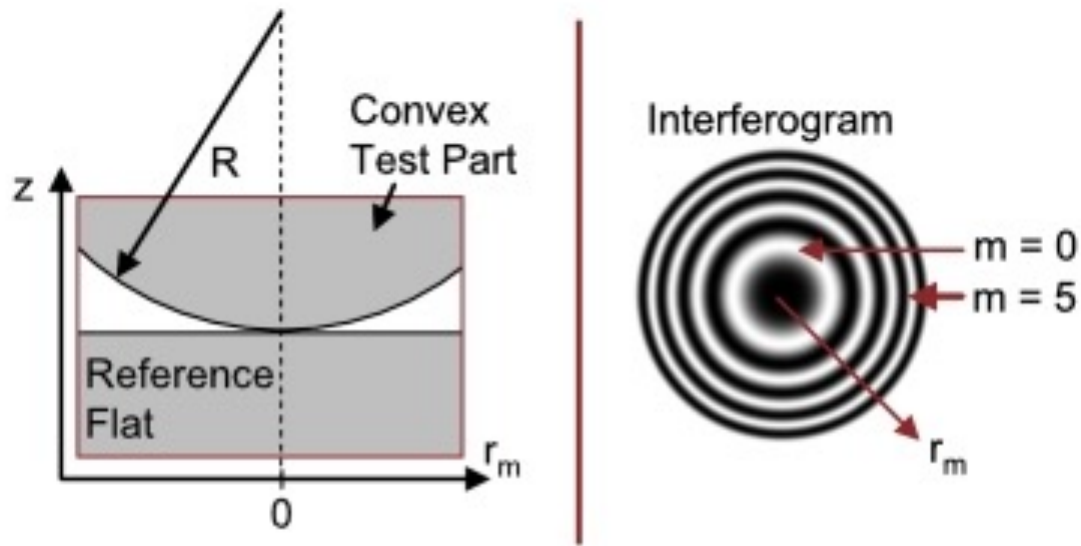
# In pursuit of light

Nandini Bhattacharya



# Why Photonics

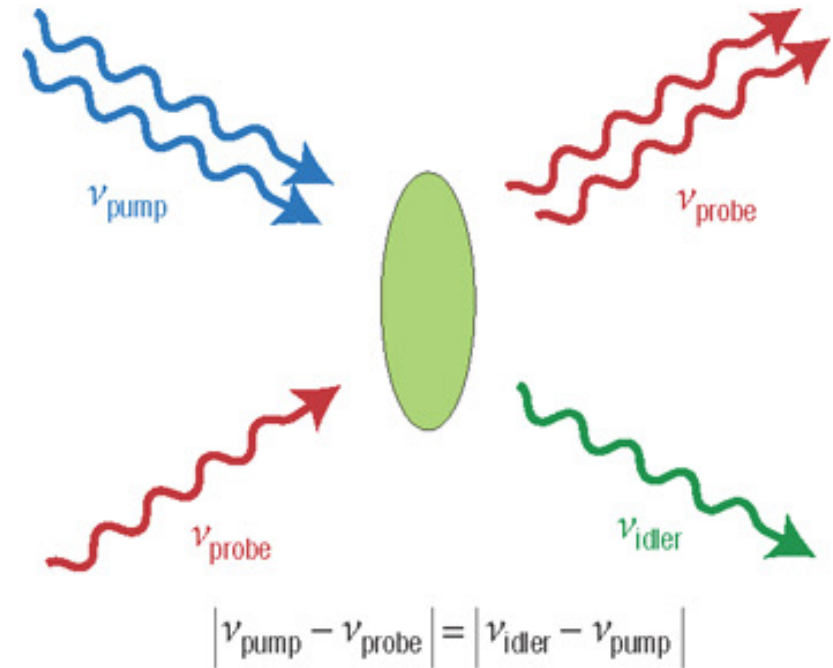
## Newton's rings in Delhi



$$R = \frac{r_m^2}{\lambda \left( m + \frac{1}{2} \right)}$$



## Non – linear Optics Four wave mixing in Chennai (formerly Madras)

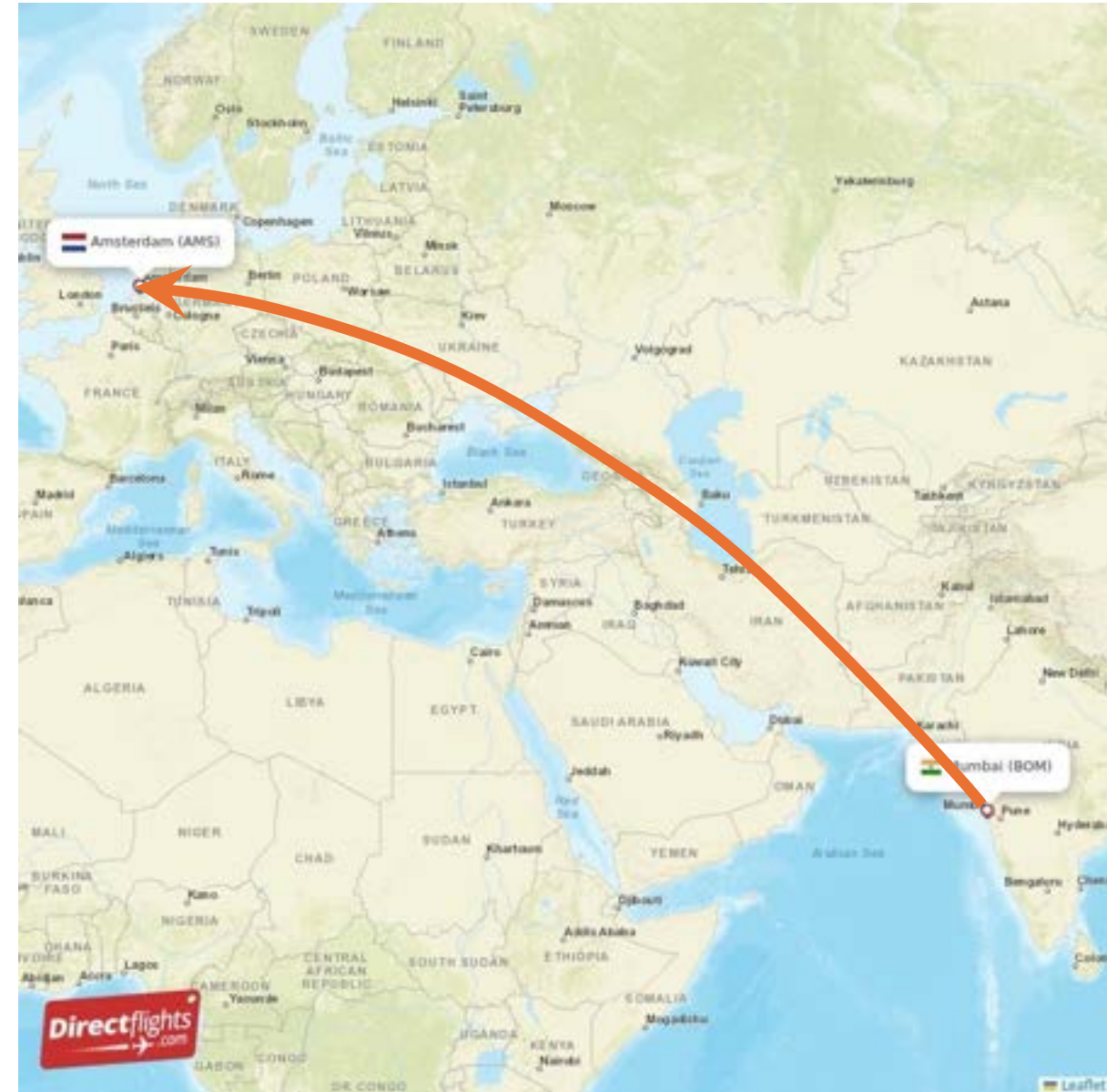
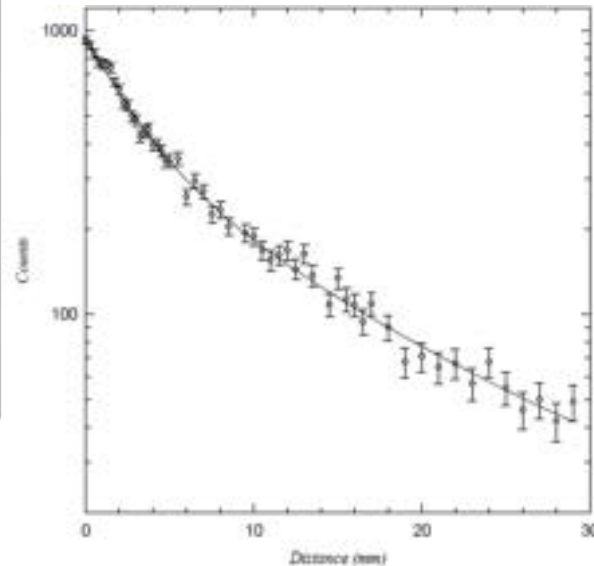
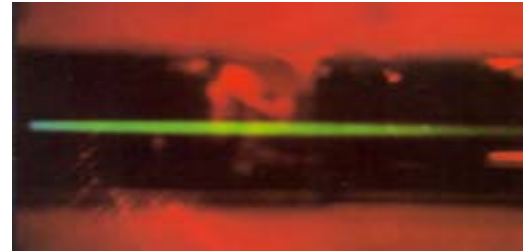
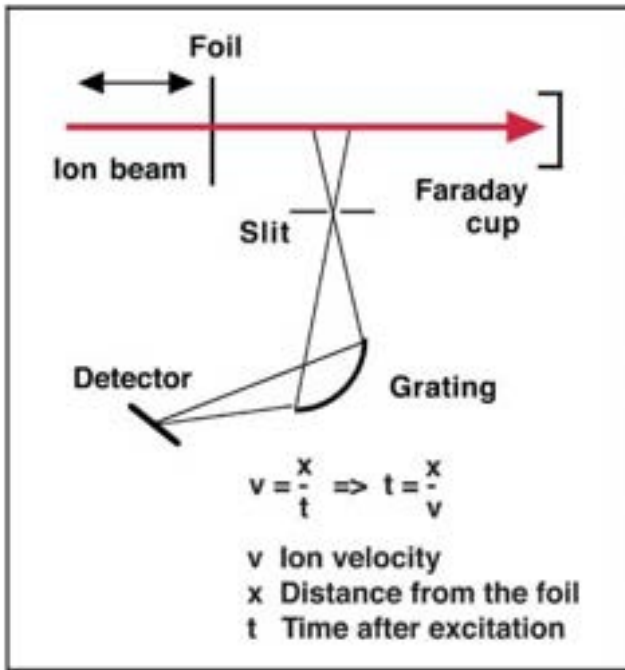






# Why Photonics

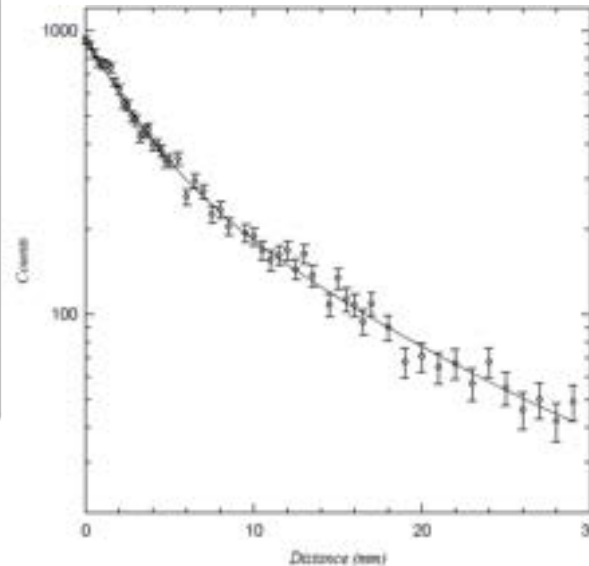
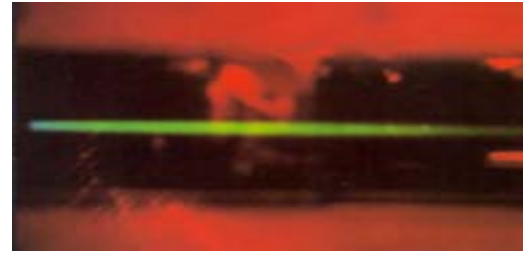
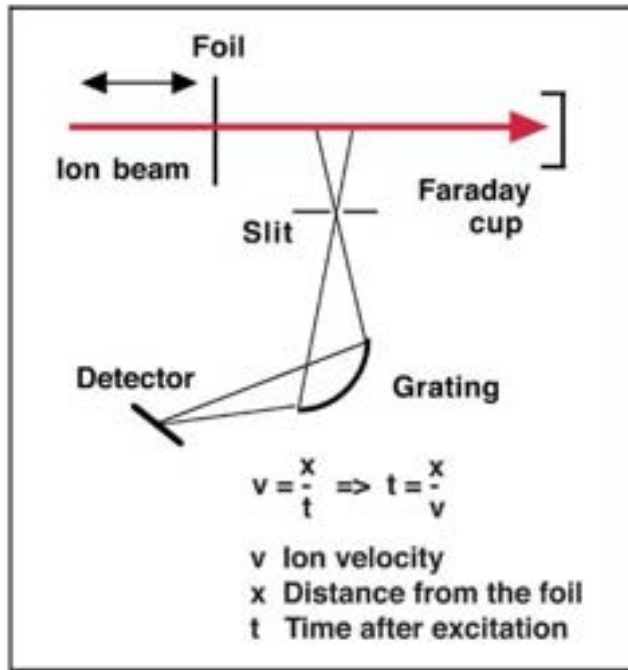
## Beam Foil Spectroscopy in Mumbai





# Why Photonics

## Beam Foil Spectroscopy in Mumbai



## Bouncing cold atoms in Amsterdam

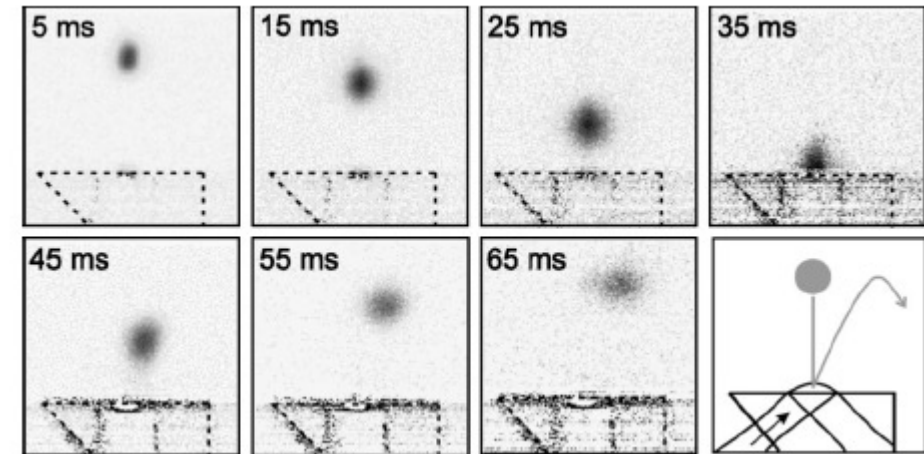
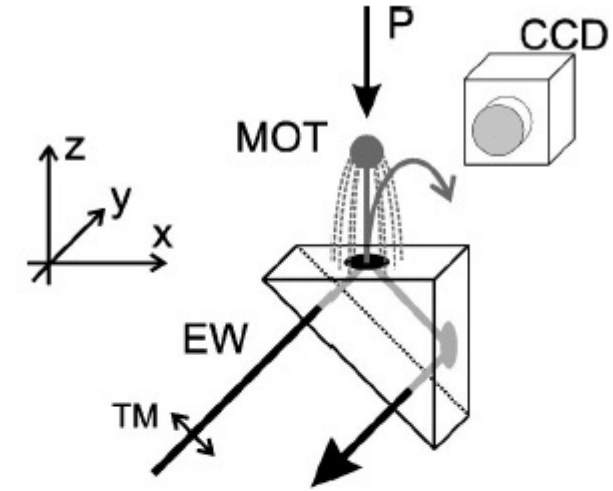


FIG. 2. Fluorescence images of a bouncing atom cloud. The first image was taken 5 ms after releasing the atoms from the MOT. The configuration of prism and evanescent wave is illustrated by the schematic (field of view:  $10.2 \times 10.2 \text{ mm}^2$ ).



# Why Photonics

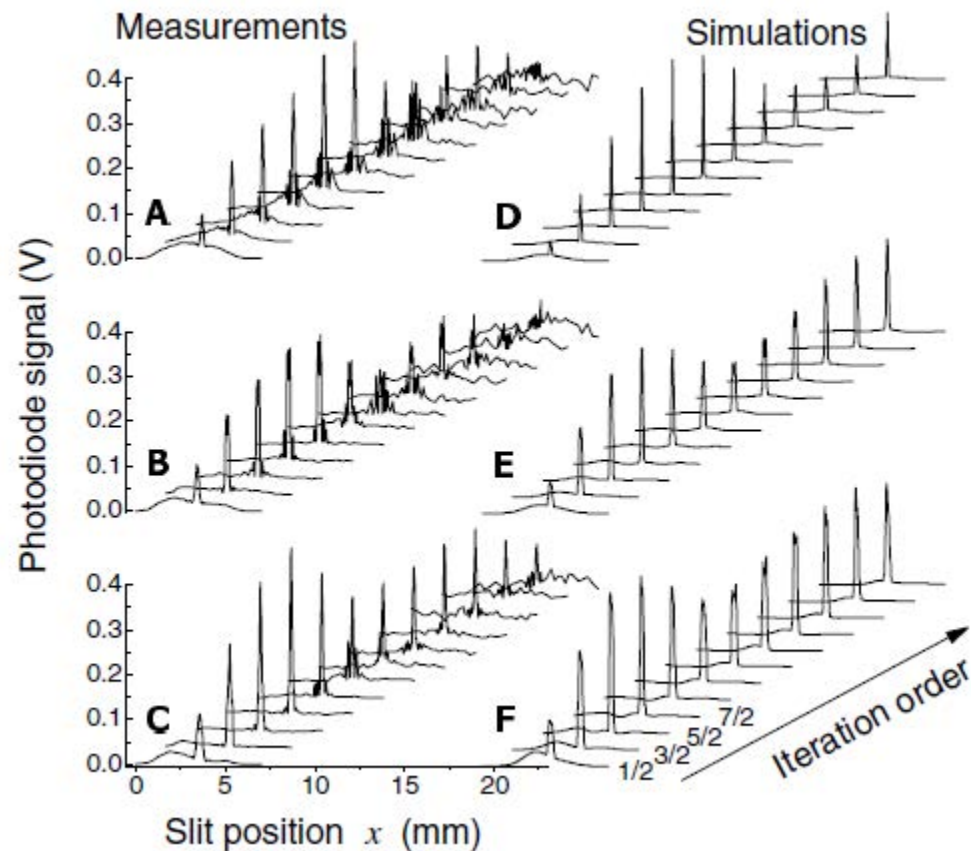
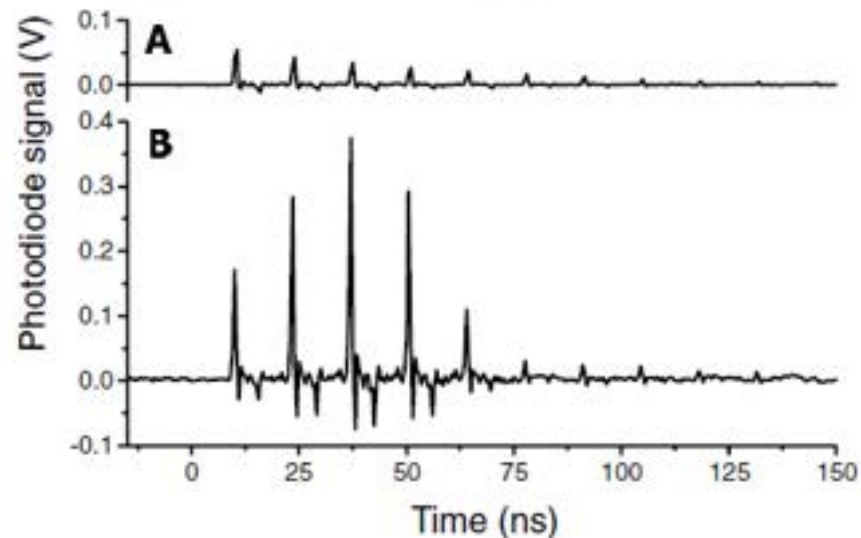
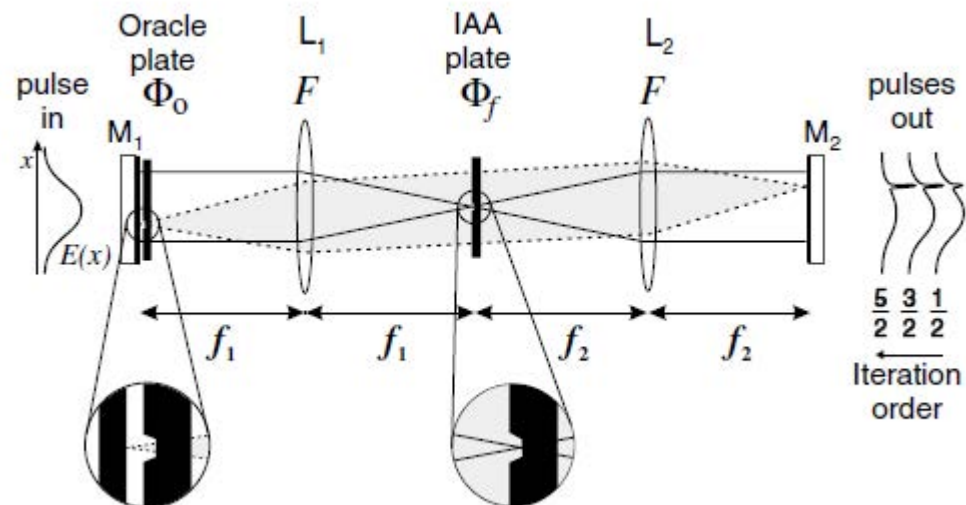
## Fun with Quantum Information

A phone book with  $N$  entries

phone number  $\rightarrow$  Name

Classically  $N$  consultations of phone book.

Grover's algorithm only  $\sqrt{N}$  consultations, using quantum mechanics.







# It is Photonics

Cold Atoms  
Quantum Information  
(UVA)

*to*

Classical Optics  
(Delft)

But also



*to*







# It is Photonics

And God said  
 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$   
 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$   
 $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$   
 $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{J} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$   
and then there was  
"Light"



# Need new skills !!

## Teaching

*How to become a good teacher ?*

*How to keep their interest in class?*

*How to teach quantum optics in an exciting way?*



# It is Photonics

Holographic Particle  
image Velocimetry

With 3ME

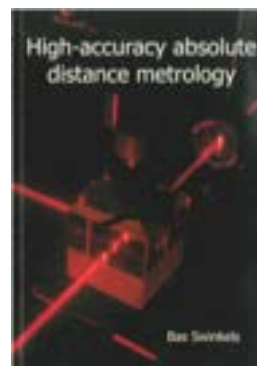
Wouter Koek  
February 2006



High-accuracy  
absolute distance  
metrology

With TNO

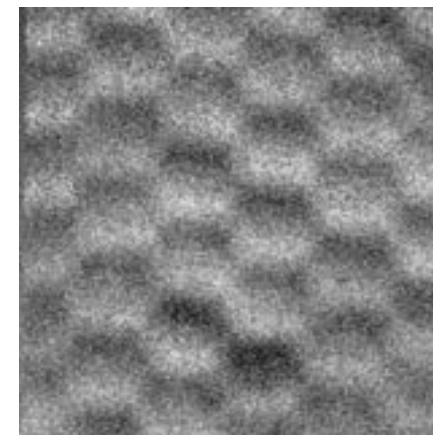
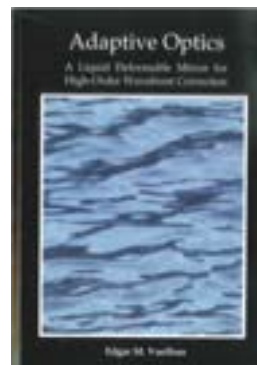
Bas Swinkels  
September 2006



Adaptive Optics  
Liquid deformable  
mirror

With TNO

Edgar Vuelban  
December 2006



**Peter Somers**  
Postdoc

Speckle  
Interferometry for  
non-destructive  
testing

## Need new skills !!

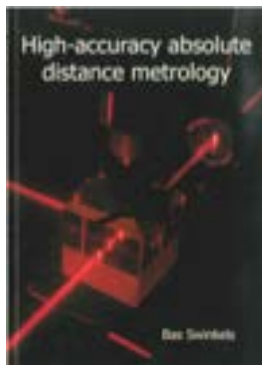
Leading research teams

Collaborating with industry



# It is Photonics

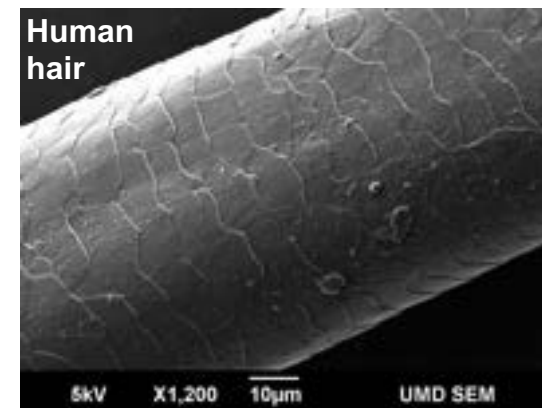
## Photonics is every where More challenging Projects



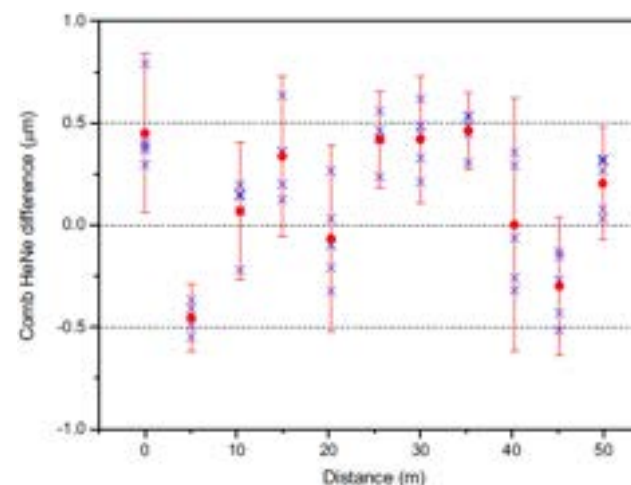
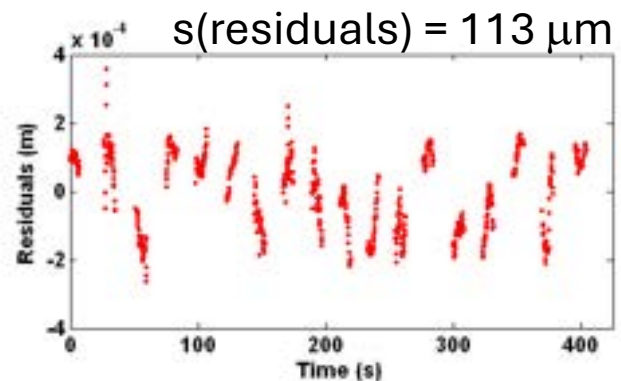
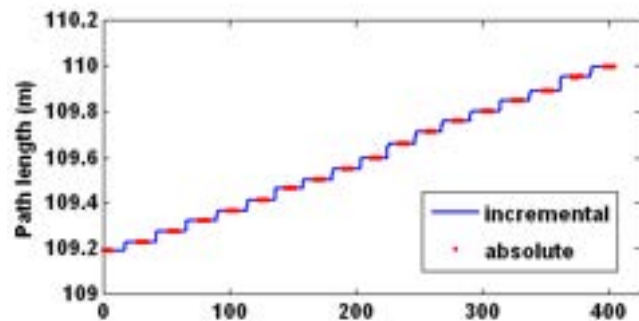
Bas Swinkels



Distance metrology



Measurement of 50m  
uncertainty 1 µm





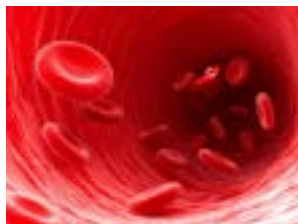


# It is Photonics

## Photonics is every where

Diverse Collaborations

### Hemodynamics



Photoplethysmography (PPG)

Leading diverse research teams

Collaborating with doctors



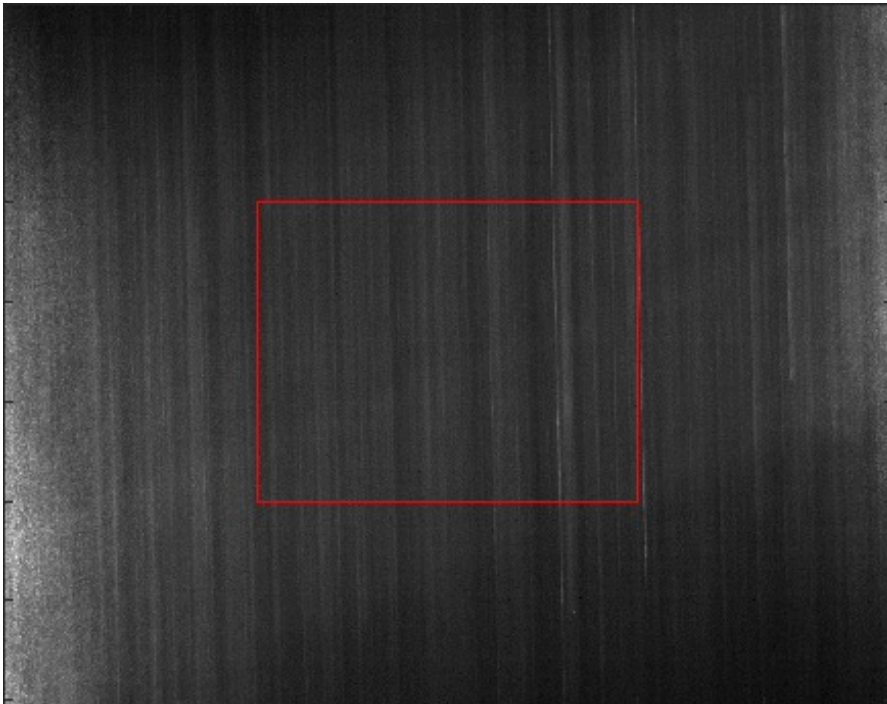




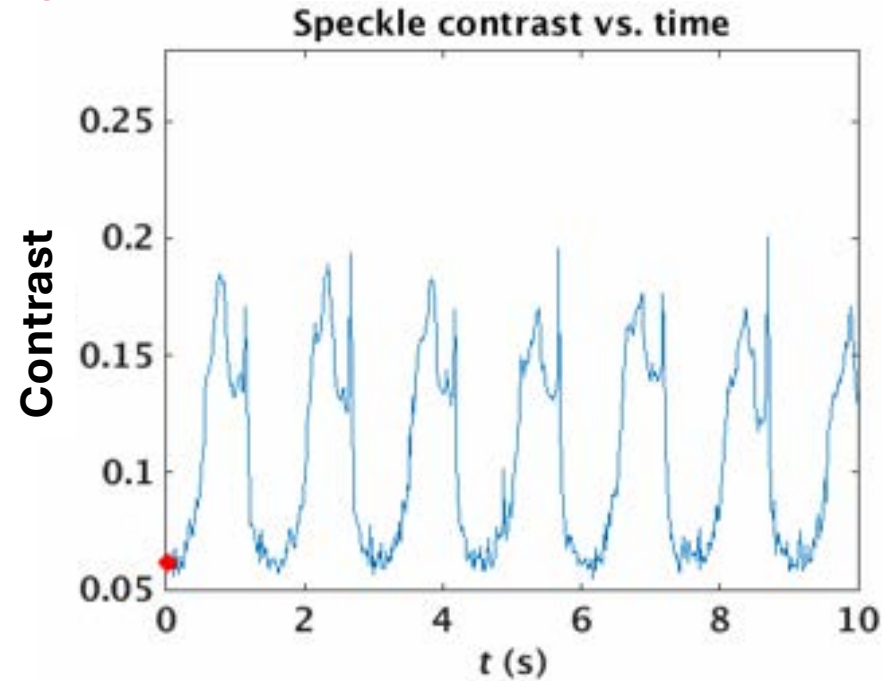
# It is Photonics

Photonics is every where  
Diverse Collaborations

**Hemodynamics**



Heart pulse retrieved from Speckle contrast



Camera Image inside Phantom

**Future devices using  
Speckle based  
measurements**





# It is Photonics

## My experience!!



Be curious

Work in something that challenges you

Try something new

Love at least some part of your job (it will never be 100% for most of us)

Persist (to solve problems) but decide for how long (consult and collaborate)

Thank You







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# Hai Wang

## Utrecht University



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# **CARLA 2025**

Hai Wang,  
Debye Institute for nanomaterials Science,  
Utrecht University  
h.wang5@uu.nl

# Who am I?

## Nanophotonics group @ Utrecht university



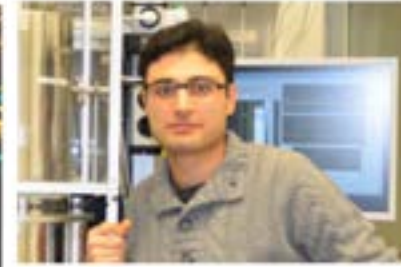
Prof. dr. P. van der Straten



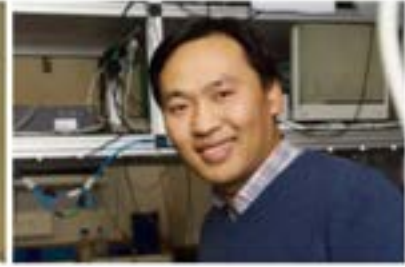
Prof. dr. A. Mosk



Dr. D. van Oosten



Dr. S. Faez

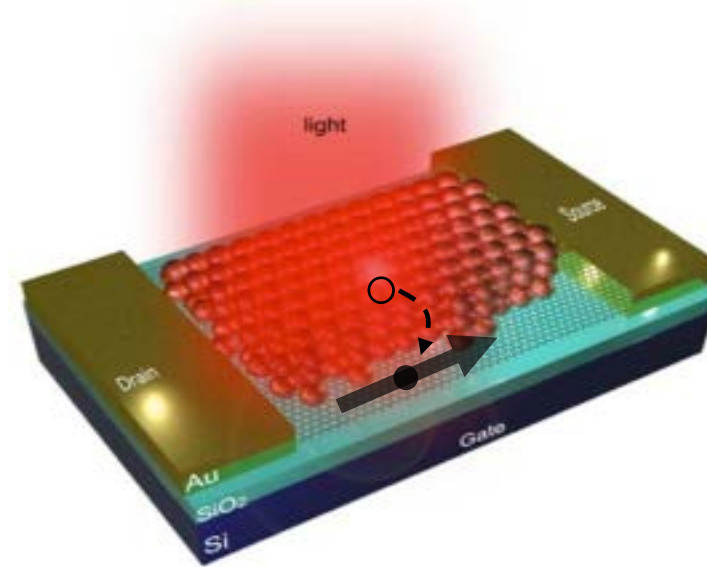


Dr. H. Wang

# What do I do for my research?



Energy production  
(solar cells)

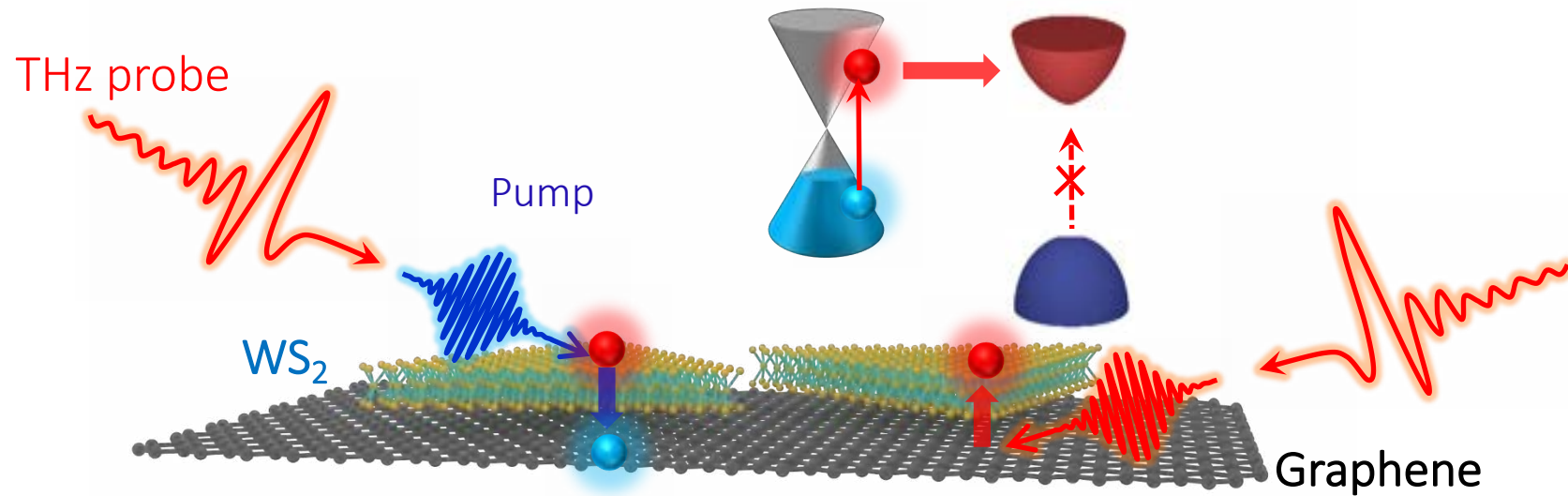


Photodetector

Fundamental understanding of key processes in electronic and optoelectronic materials and devices by pulsed THz spectroscopy

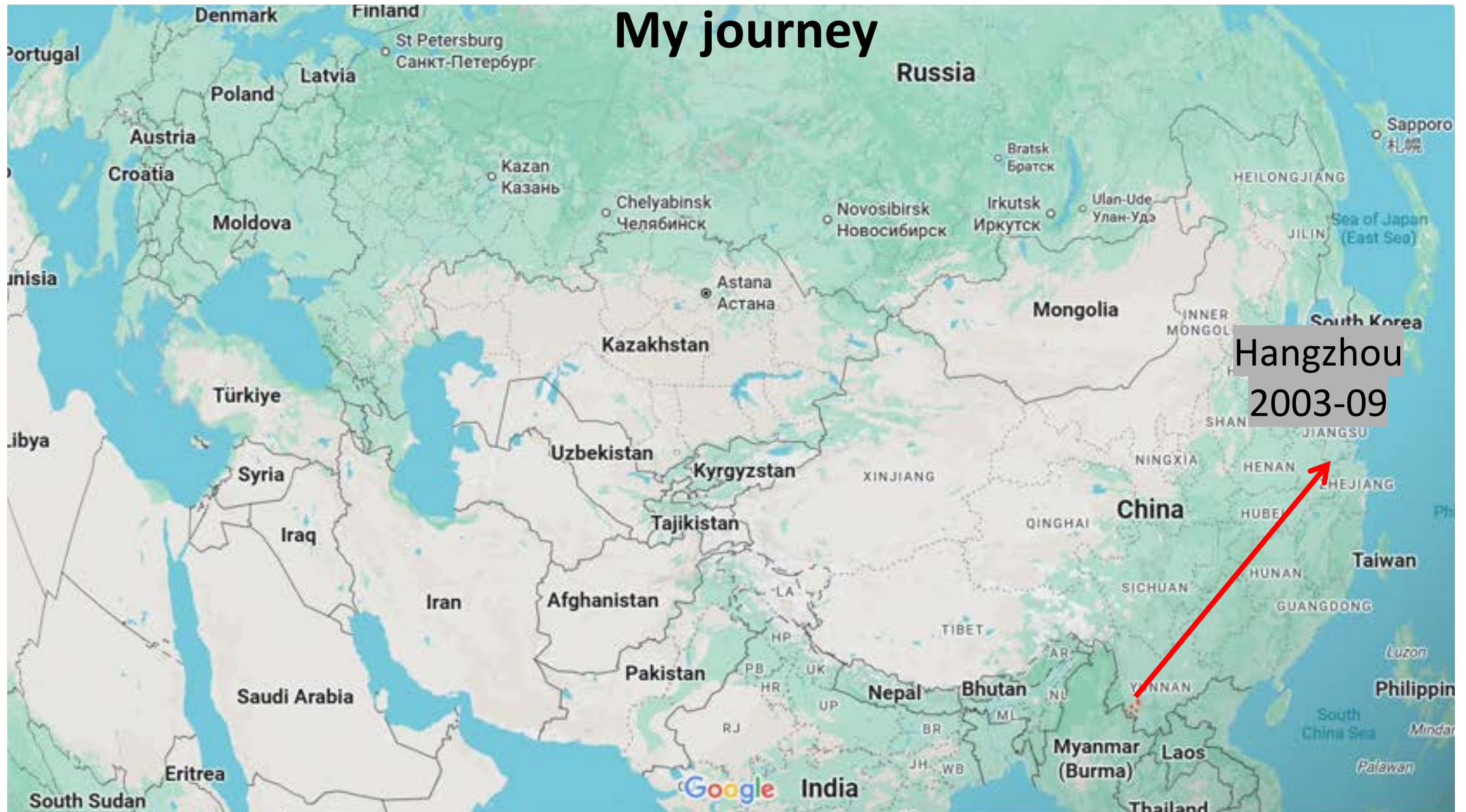


# Ultrafast charge carrier dynamics in nanomaterials and interfaces



THz radiation interacts strongly with free charge carriers  
Contact-free; sub-ps time resolution; quantitative

# My journey





# My journey

**What to do (2009) after graduation?  
No plans and puzzled!**

Job in the industry?

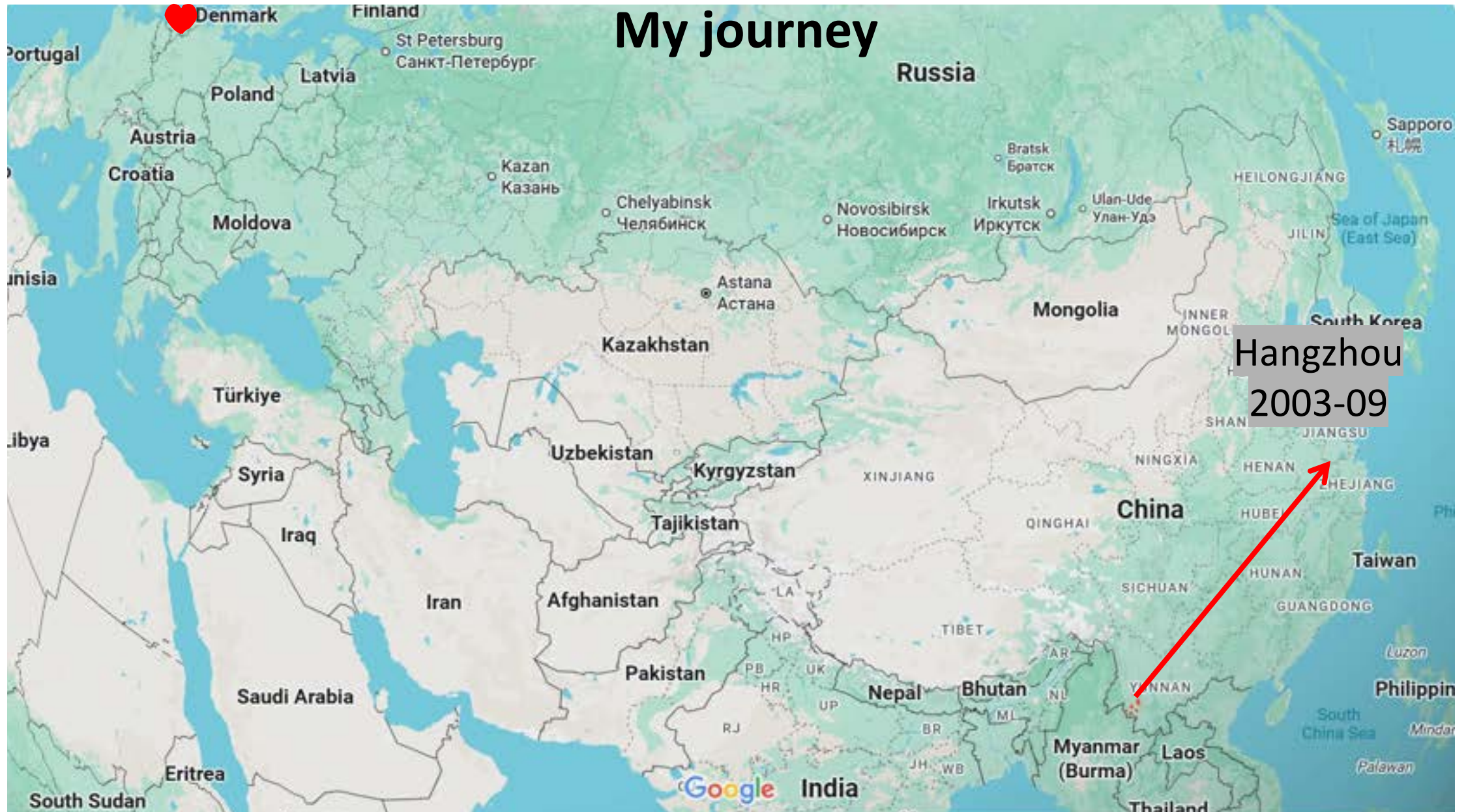
Master program?

**passion for semiconductor physics**





# My journey





# My journey: China->Belgium->NL->DE->NL



Two years of Master's study in Europe, and then a job back in China

That was the plan!





Still here after 16 years: Let life lead the way —don't try to predict it.

## - Master project at Delft: Inspired for nanoscience and laser spectroscopy



Excellent mentorship from my teacher and daily supervisor;

Experience with the flat research culture in the NL;

Development of interpersonal skills (communication and openness)

Learning is fun when you feel inspired.



## PhD study + postdoc in Mainz (2012-2017)

Fantastic research and social environment

**Follow your heart, but remember that passion alone may not lead to instant success.**

**Confidence and independence are not innate—they can be developed through mastery and experience.**





# Ultrafast Dynamics in Nano-Optoelectronic Materials (2017-2024)



Group leader at Max Planck Institute

- Treat students the way you wanted to be treated
- Inspiration is the best teacher
- Motivation grows when you actively encourage your students



# Home messages

Learning is fun when you feel inspired = Inspiration is the best teacher;

It's good to have plans, but it's also okay to follow your passion and let life guide you;

Follow your heart, but remember that passion alone may not lead to instant success;

Confidence and independence are not innate—they can be developed through mastery and experience.



**Photonics Career Event**  
**Delft**

# Ralf Kohlhaas

## SRON



PHOTONICS PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

This project has received funding from the European Union  
Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant  
agreement No 101135838.



# CARLA 2025 Academic Pitch

**RALF KOHLHAAS, HEAD OF OPTX SECTION AT SRON**

**SRON**  
SPACE  
RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION  
NETHERLANDS

# Private / current position

- 38 years old, German
- Married, two sons (2.5 years old and 3 months old)
- Head of OptX Section at SRON

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Space Research  
Organisation Netherlands

National institute for space research



SRON building in  
Leiden

**SRON**



# Private / current position

- 38 years old, German
- Married, two sons (2.5 years old and 3 months old)

- Head of **OptX Section** at **SRON**



15 people working on optical  
instrumentation for space



Space Research  
Organisation Netherlands

National institute for space research

- 50% of my time spent on R&D
- 1 day/week guest scientist at TU Delft



SRON building in  
Leiden

**SRON**

# Why did I choose a career in optics?

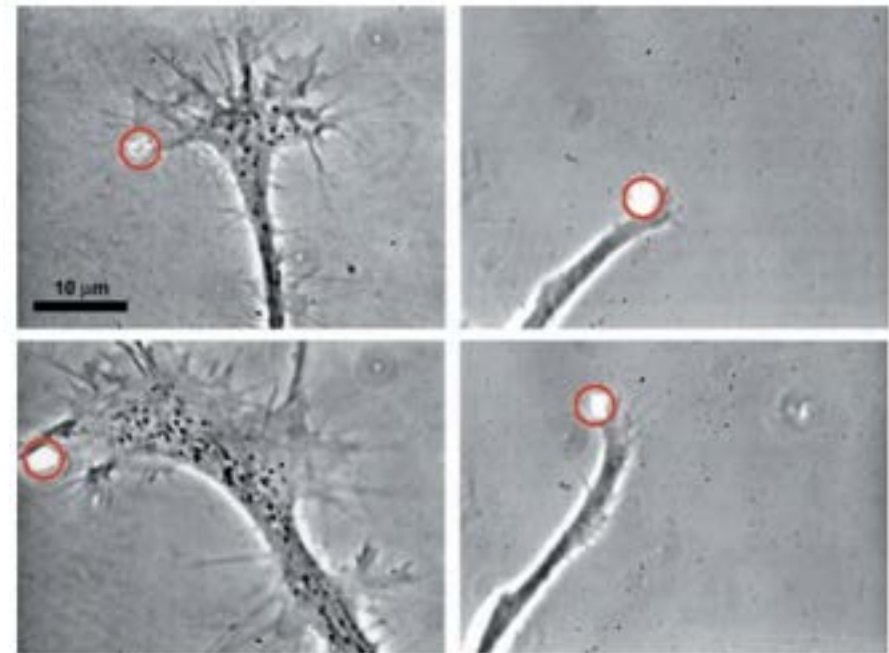
- BSc. in Physics in Leipzig
- Interest triggered in optics in biophysics

Optical stretcher



J. Guck, et. al, Biophys. J. 88(5):3689-3698 (2005)

Optical neuronal guidance



A. Ehrlicher, et al., PNAS 99.25 (2002): 16024-16028.

Bachelor thesis in Leipzig in neuronal guidance on soft substrates

# Bachelor ➔ Master

- Erasmus Mundus Double Master in Optics and Photonics at Imperial College London and Institut d'Optique Graduate School
- Financial support of German Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation



Image source: <https://ukcollegeadmissions.com/>



Image source: wikipedia commons

- Solid optics education, with mix of theoretical work and labwork



# PhD

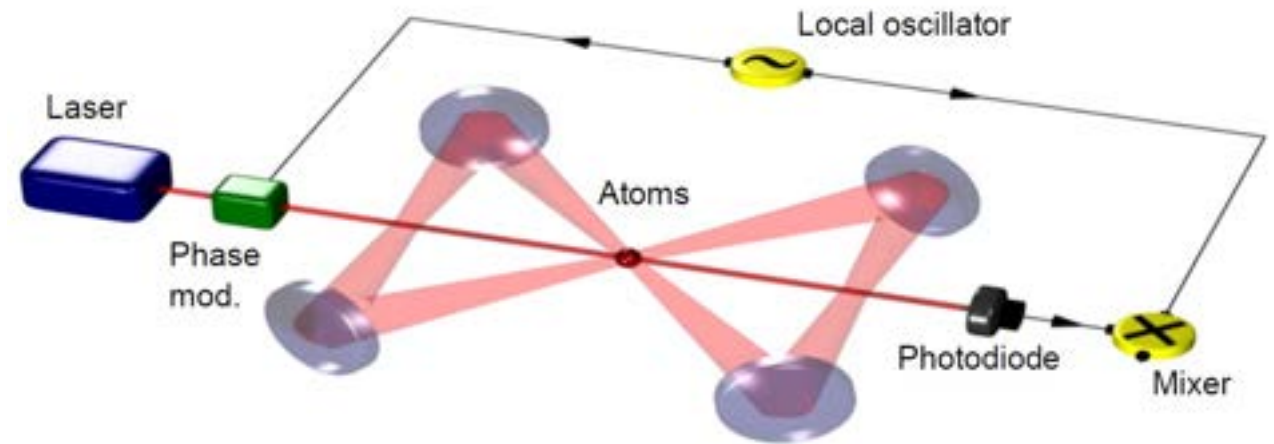
- PhD at Institut d'Optique on weak non-destructive measurements and feedback control of atomic ensembles
- Supervisors:  
Philippe Bouyer  
Alain Aspect



Nobel prize 2022  
for violation of  
Bell inequalities



Photo: wikipedia



Critical for education during my PhD:

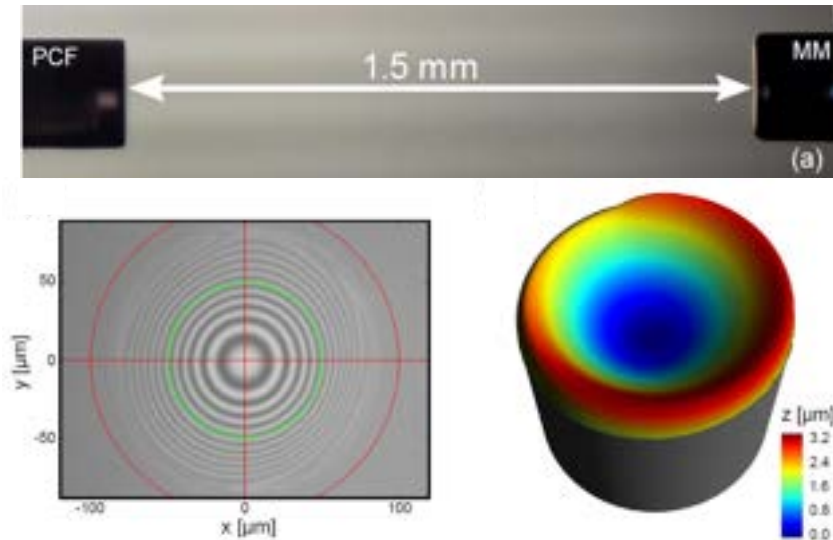
Senior PhD students + Postdoc (Simon Bernon, Thomas Vanderbruggen, Andrea Bertoldi)

**SRON**

# Postdoc / job search

- Girlfriend wanted to go back to the Netherlands but needed to finish PhD, therefore short postdoc at Observatoire de Paris
- Topic:

Chip-scaled atomic clocks with integrated optical fiber cavities

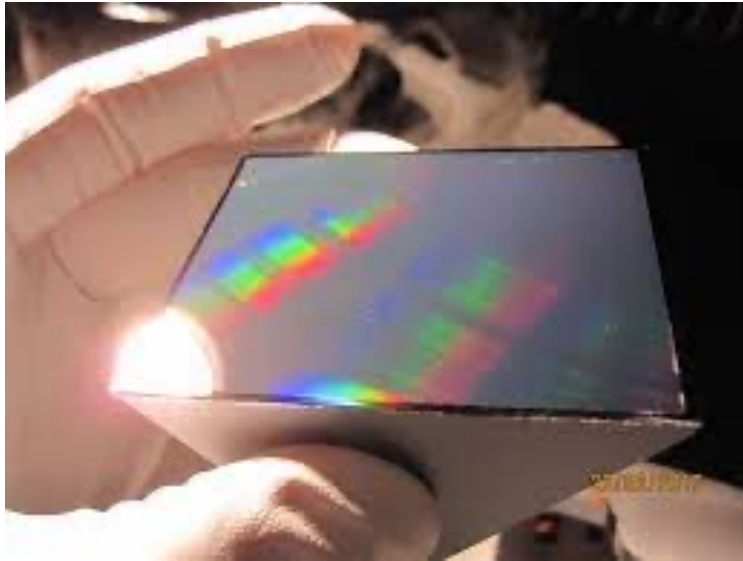


Job searchin NL: ASML, European Patent Office, ...

➡ Choice of SRON for first job

# Instrument Scientist SRON

Main project in the first years: Immersed gratings

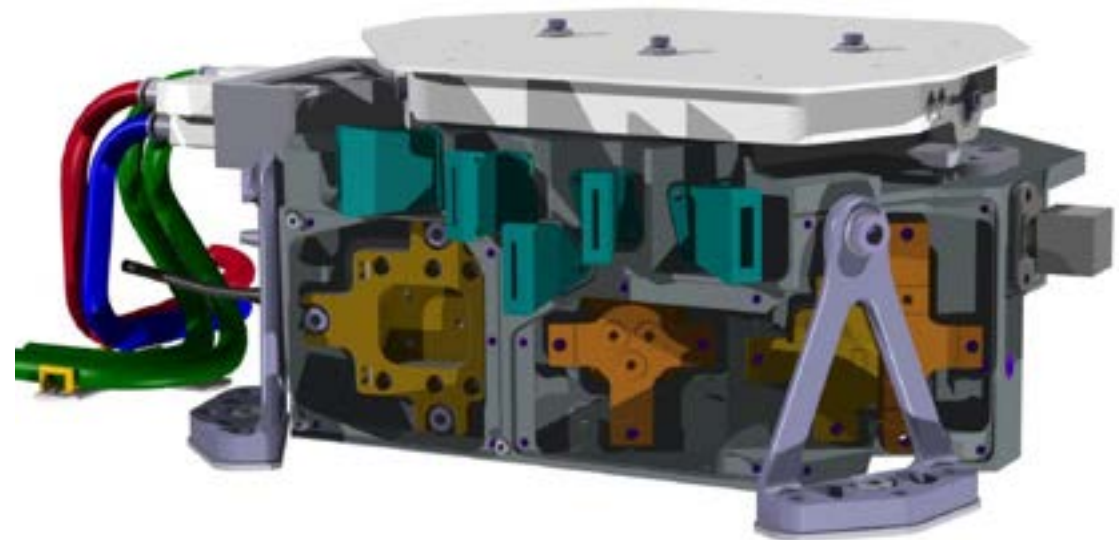


S-5 immersed grating

Performance engineer, then  
project manager for  
spectropolarimeter

Sentinel-5A launch on 13th of August!

First project on I was working on is  
now in space



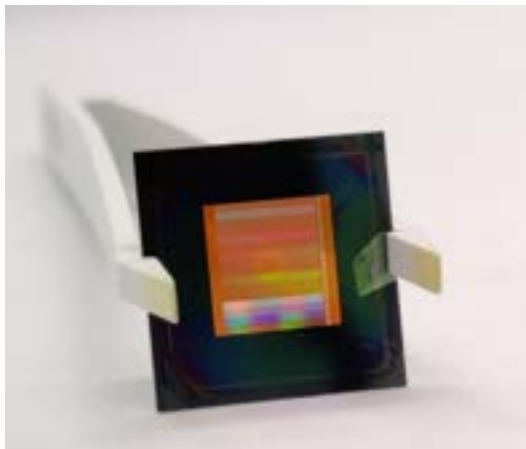
SPEXone SG spectropolarimeter



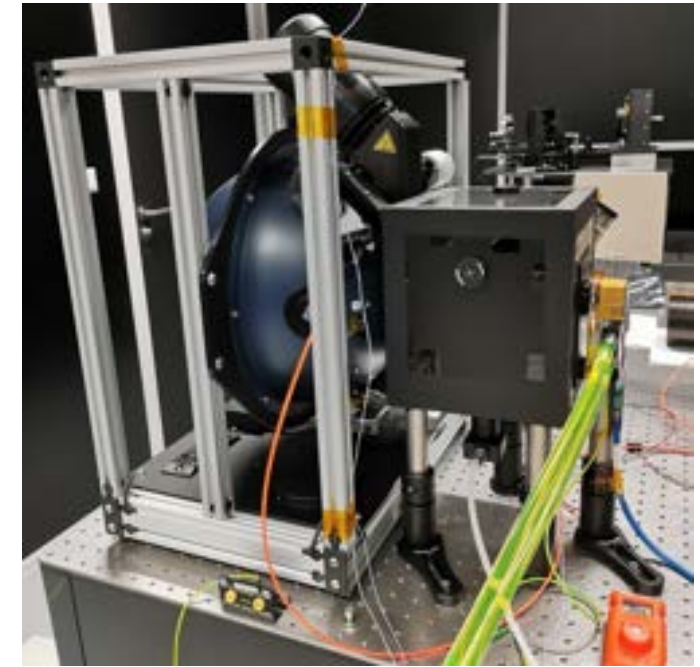
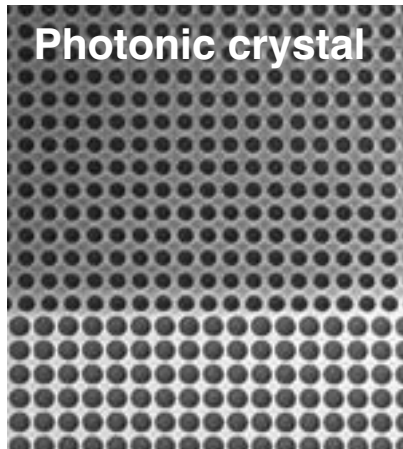
# Since 2020: head of OptX section at SRON

## Tasks:

- Allocate staff to projects
- Staff personal development and work happiness
- Support acquisition of new projects
- Work on medium to long-term strategy
- Brainstorm on new instruments



Photonic crystal



Detector testing setup in the visible

## Research work:

Nanostructured components and computational optics for space

# Advice/tips for students

- Go the extra mile when it is necessary. But do not structurally overwork yourself.
- For choosing your job/next position: choose your team, inquire within your network about the work environment
- Respect colleagues with other qualifications/background
- Continue learning
- Actively follow the state-of-the-art, in your field and beyond

Thank you!

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# SRON

SPACE  
RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION  
NETHERLANDS

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