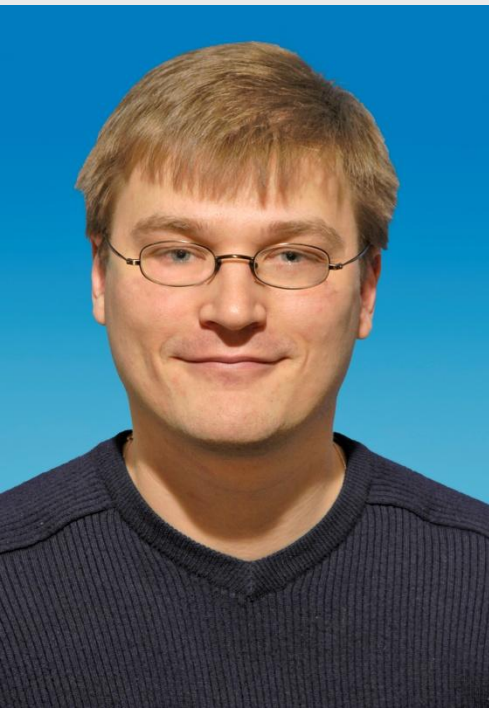


# Plastic fibers for terahertz wave guiding



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[www.photonics.phys.polymtl.ca](http://www.photonics.phys.polymtl.ca)



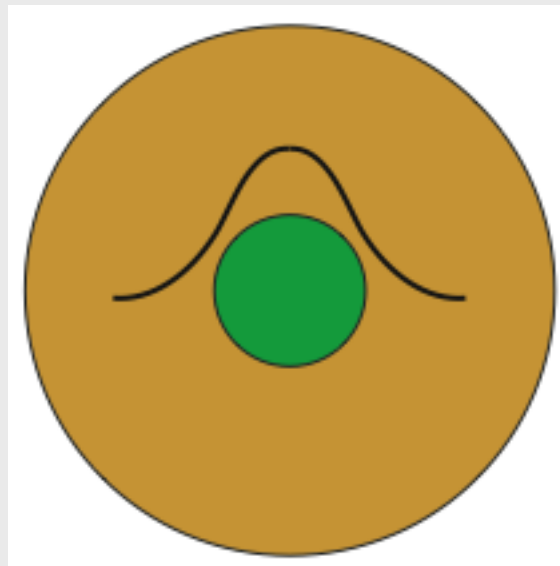


# Standard solid core TIR fiber in THz

Terahertz:  $\nu = 0.1-10 \text{ THz} \iff \lambda = 3000-30 \mu\text{m}$

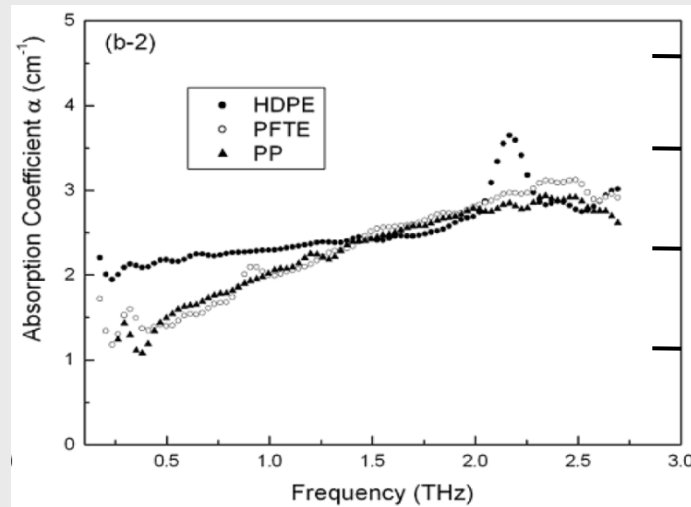
Total Internal Reflection solid-core fibers:

- Pros: Insensitive to environment (humidity, dust, etc.)
- Cons: High loss, high group velocity dispersion

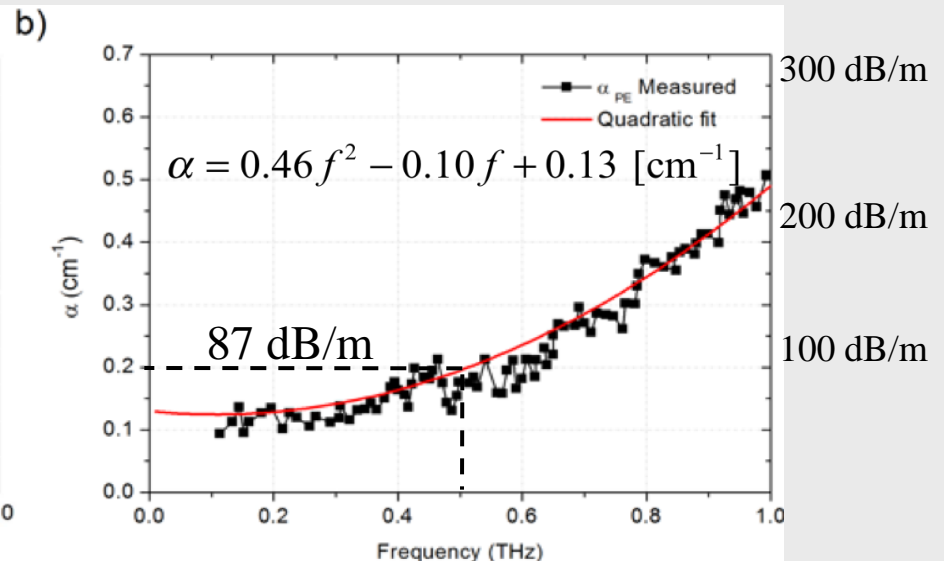
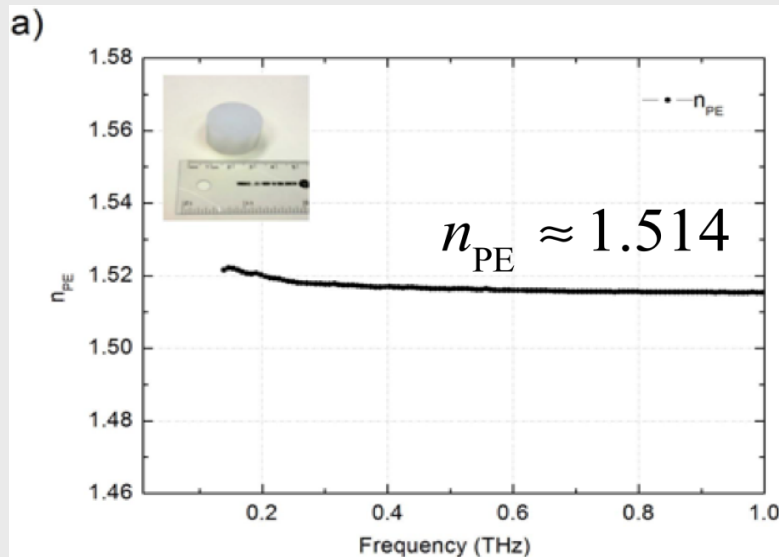




# Bulk polyethylene (PE) THz optical properties



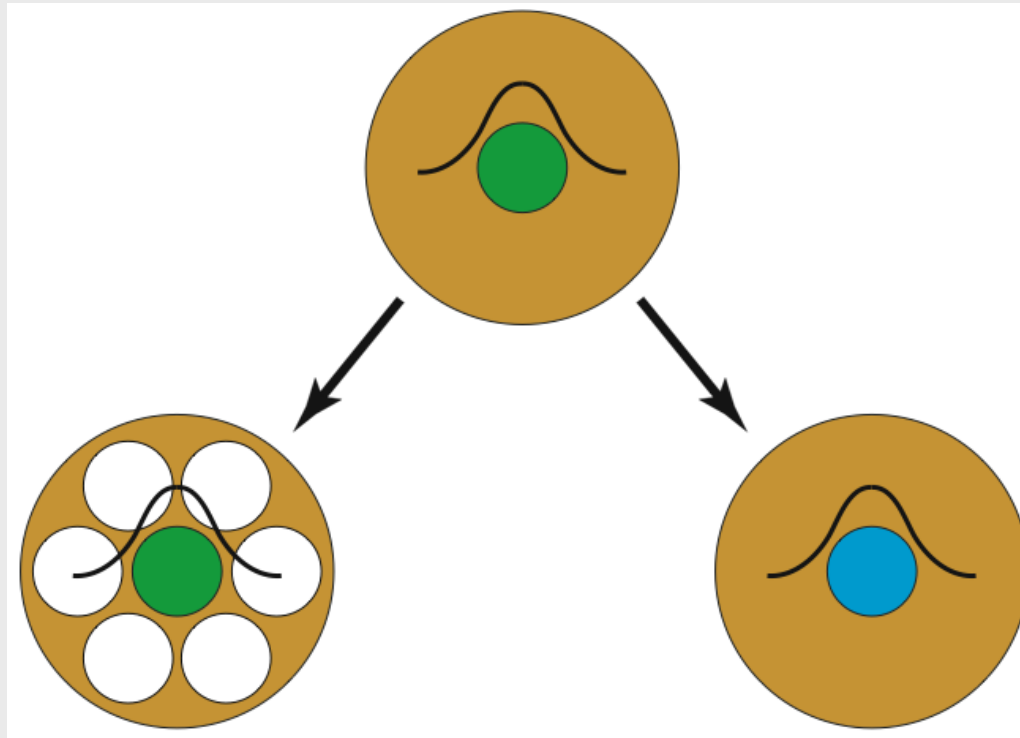
[Y. Jin et al., *J Kor. Phys. Soc.* **49** (2006)]



[A. Mazhorova, J. Gu, A. Dupuis, M. Peccianti, O. Tsuneyuki, R. Morandotti, H. Minamide, M. Tang, Y. Wang, H. Ito, and M. Skorobogatiy, "Composite THz materials using aligned metallic and semiconductor microwires, experiments and interpretation," *Opt. Express*, **18** (2010)]



# Lowering absorption loss in TIR fibers



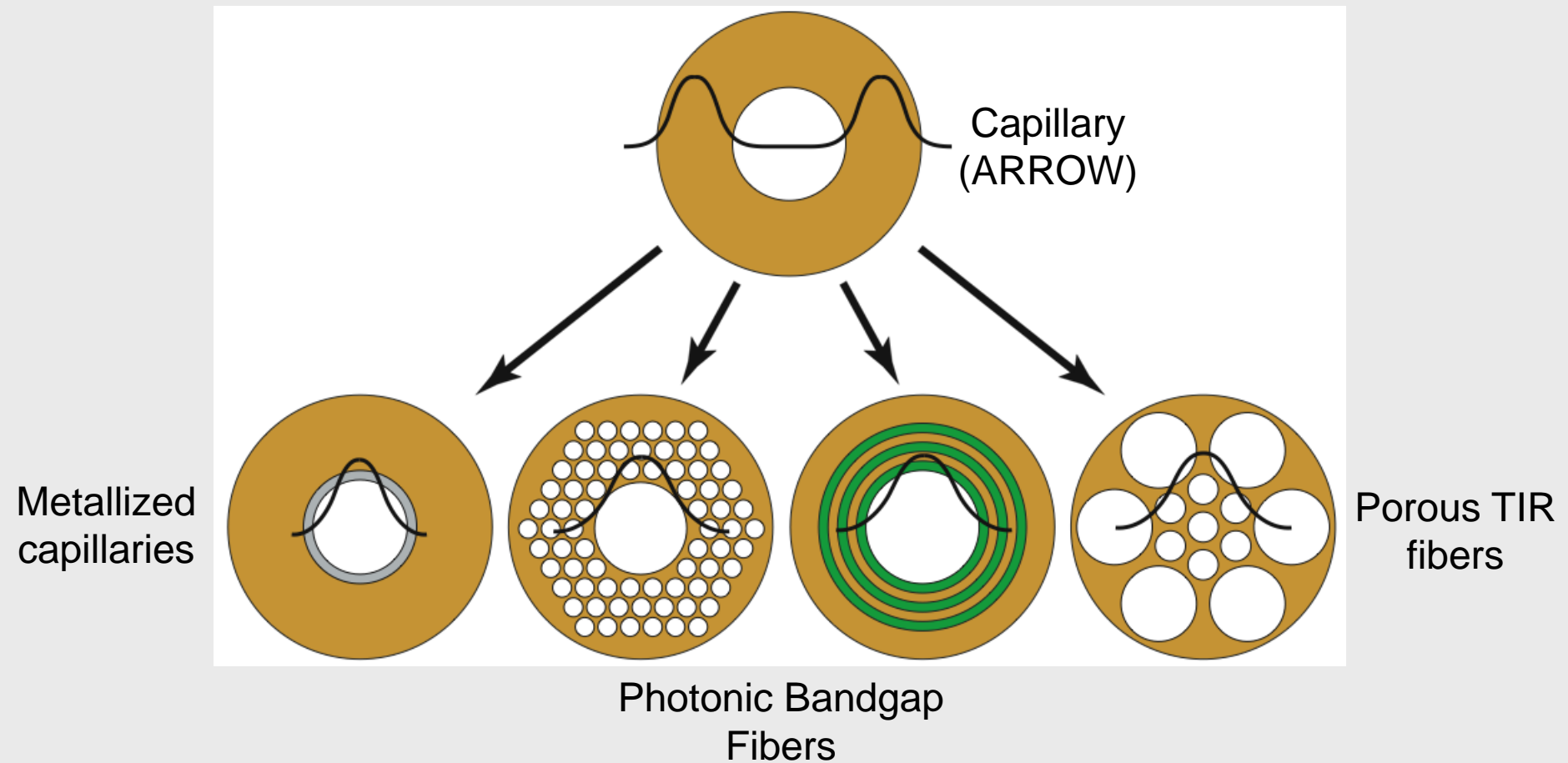
Holes filled with dry gas

Lower loss  
dielectrics  
by chemistry or  
composite  
materials





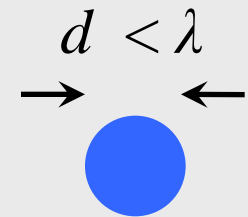
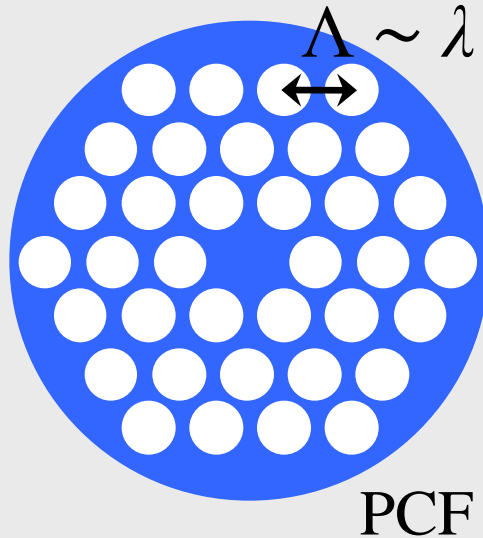
# Lowering absorption loss in fibers. Hollow core guidance.





# Plastic fibers for terahertz waves studied in our group

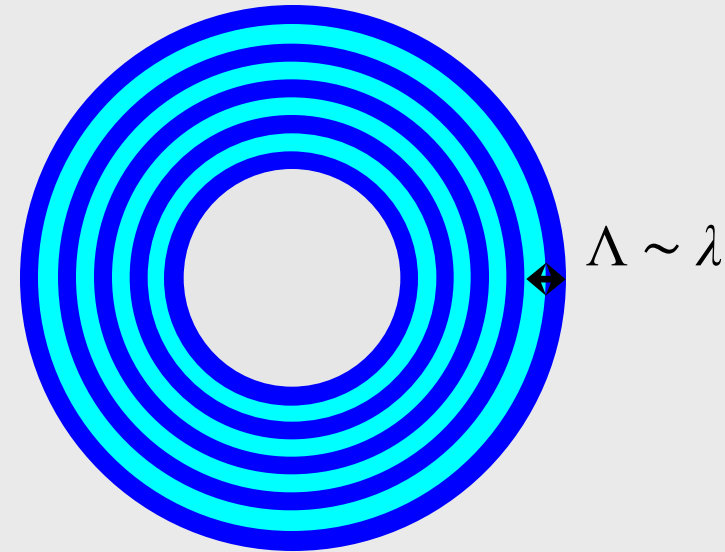
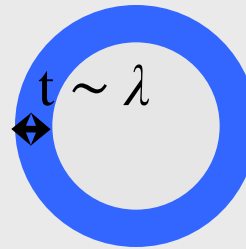
## SOLID CORE



porous core  
 $\Lambda \ll \lambda$

## HOLLOW CORE

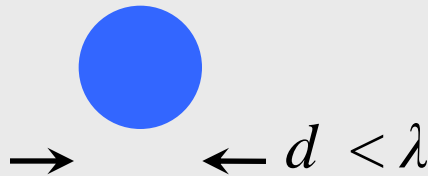
$$\alpha \sim \frac{1}{r_{core}^3 v^2}$$





# Subwavelength dielectric fibers

solid core



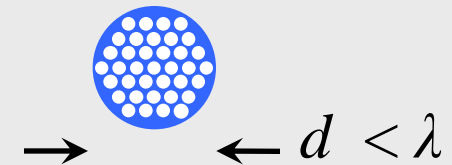
$d = 120 \mu\text{m}$

1 THz

$f_{\alpha} = 28 \%$

porous core

$$\Lambda \ll \lambda$$



$d = 120 \mu\text{m}$

1 THz

$f_{\alpha} = 12 \%$

$$f_{\alpha} = \frac{\text{Re}(n_{\text{mat}}) \cdot \int_{\text{mat}} |\mathbf{E}|^2 dA}{2 \int_{\text{total}} S_z dA}$$

$$S_z = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^*) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

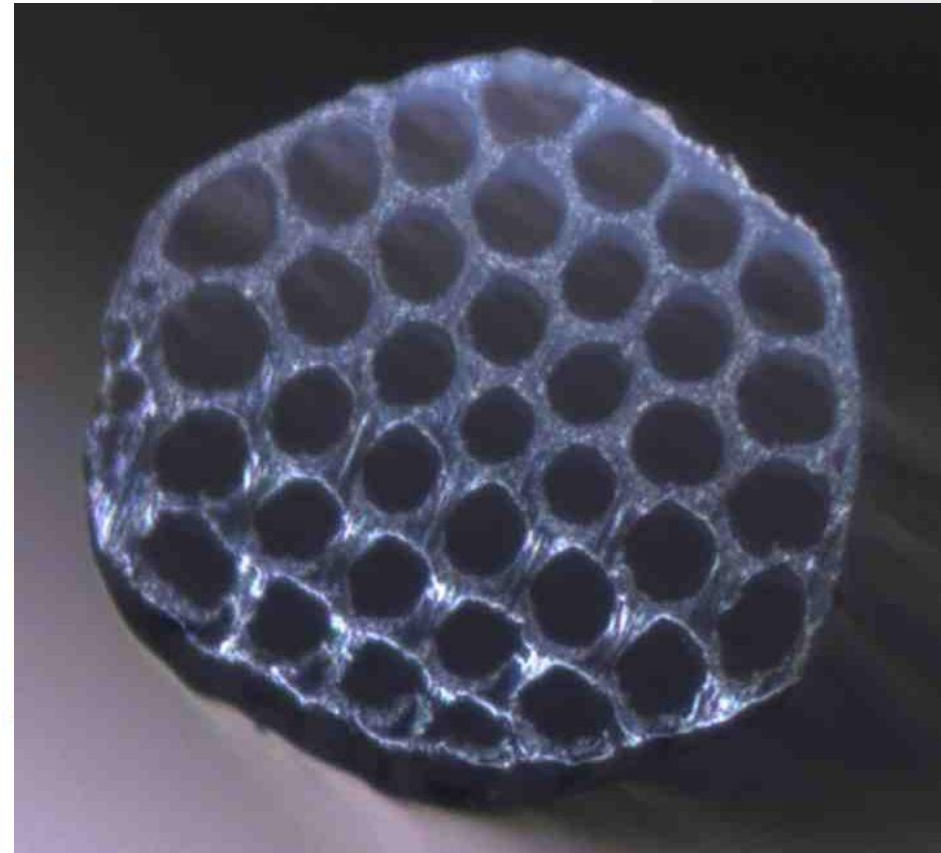
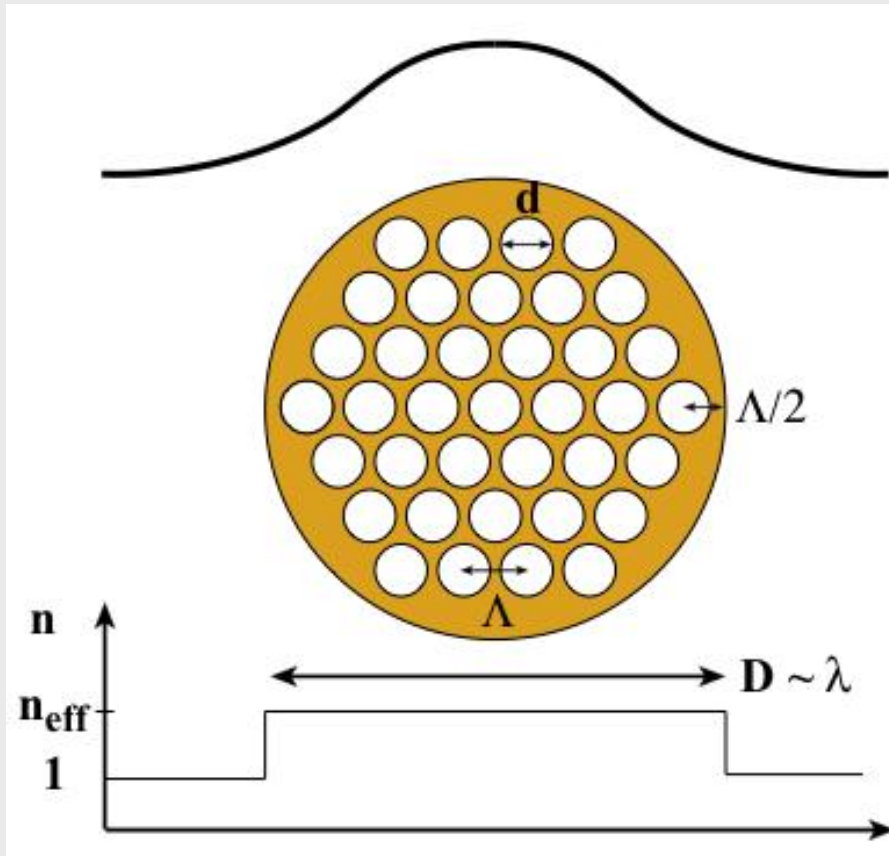




# Subwavelength porous fibers

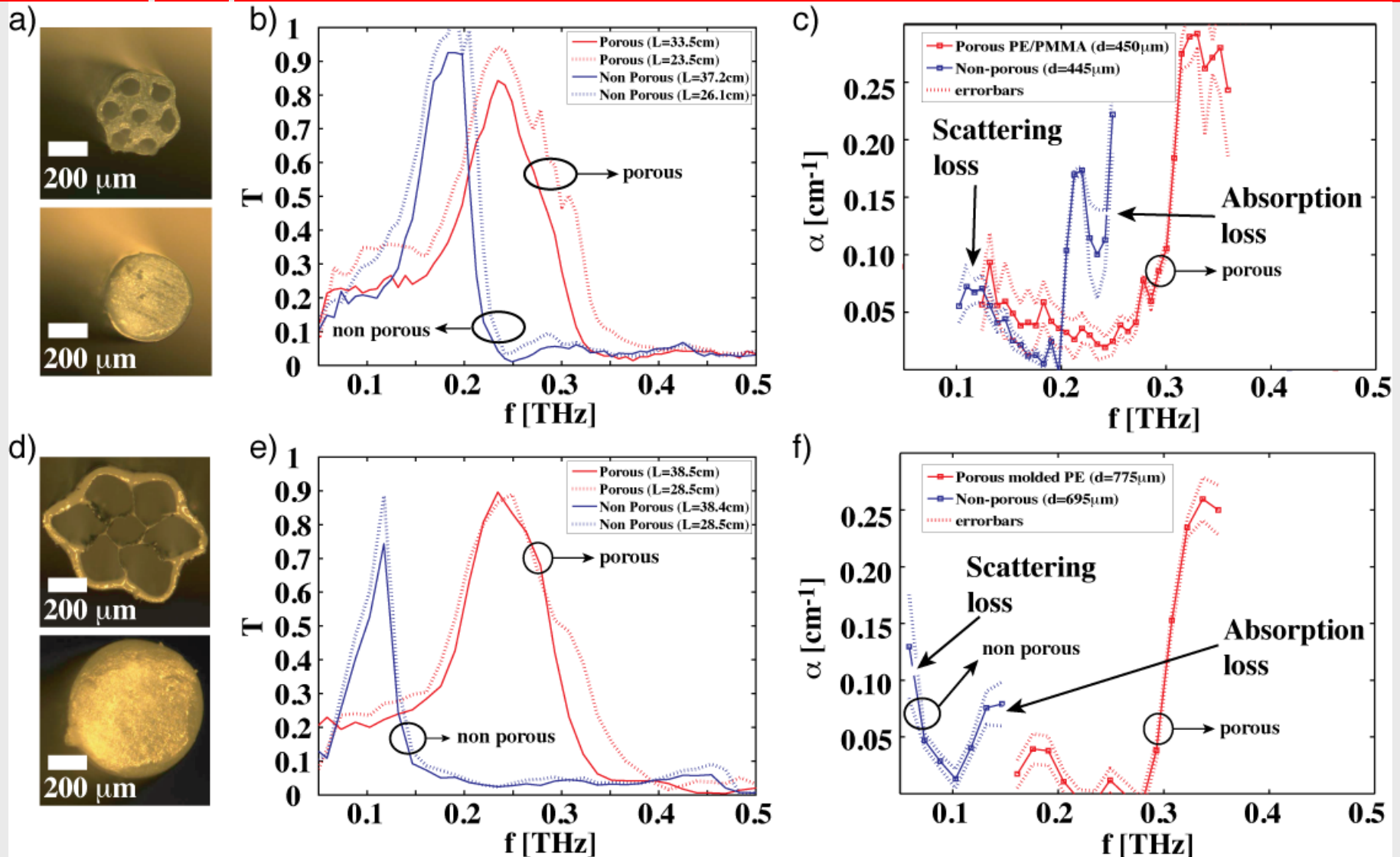
Lower loss dielectrics by **composite materials**

**Guidance by total internal reflection**





# Transmission and losses of porous fibers

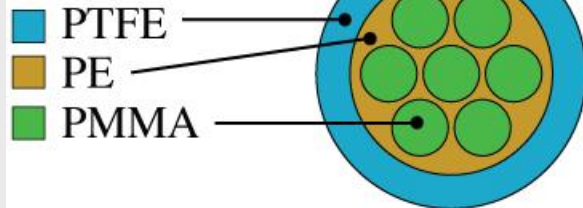




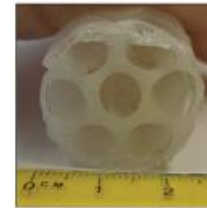
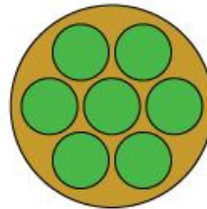
# Fabrication of porous fibers

## a) Sacrificial polymer technique

Solidification of preform



PE/PMMA preform



Preform

Drawing into fiber

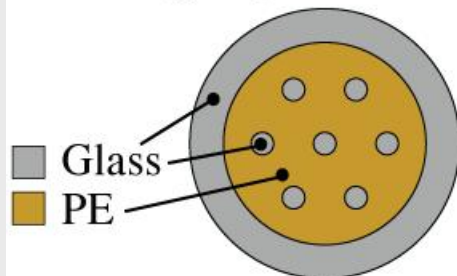


Dissolution of sacrificial polymer



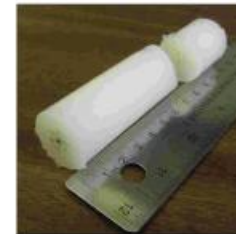
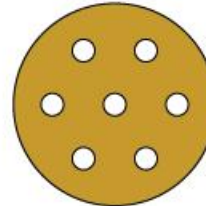
## b) Microstructured molding technique

Molding of preform



Mold + polymer

Molded preform



Preform

Drawing under pressure to inflate fiber holes

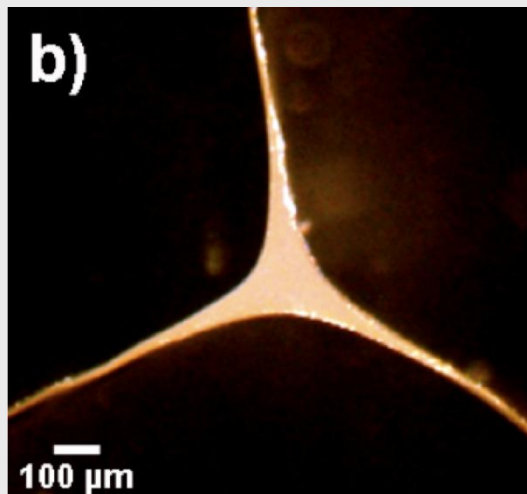
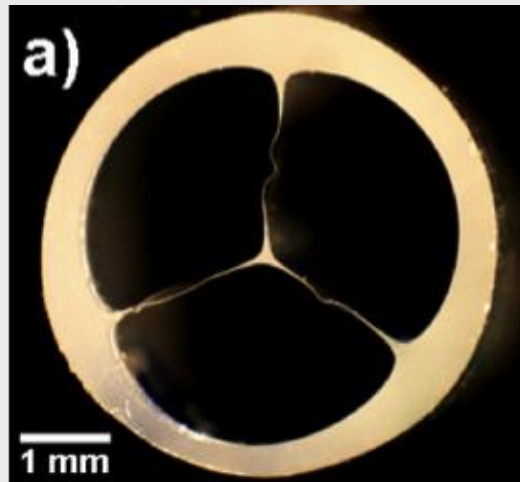




# Packaging of subwavelength fibers: encapsulation within a protective tube

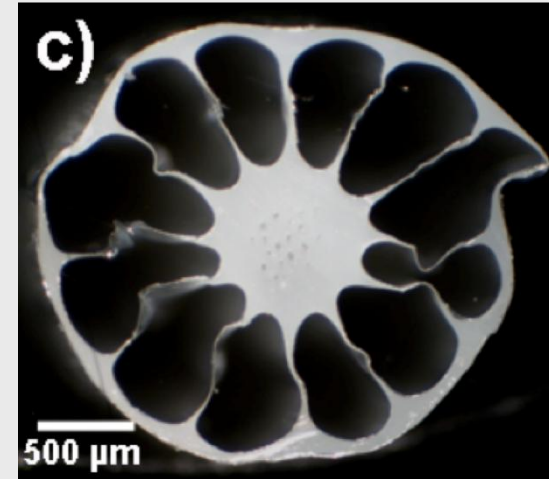
solid core

OD = 5.1 mm

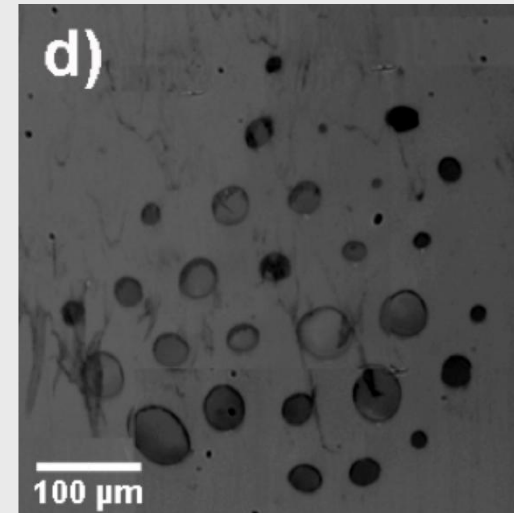


$d_{core} \sim 150 \mu\text{m}$

porous core



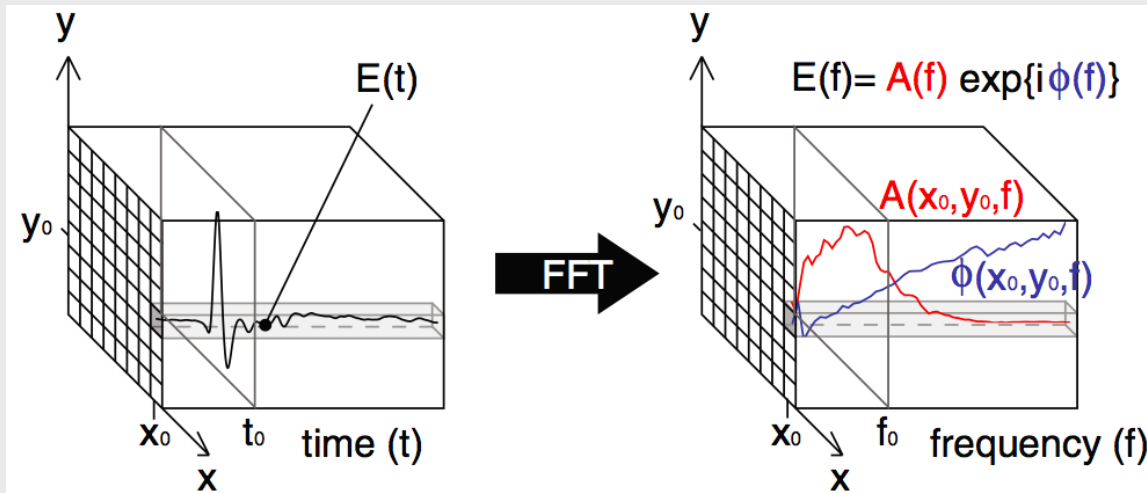
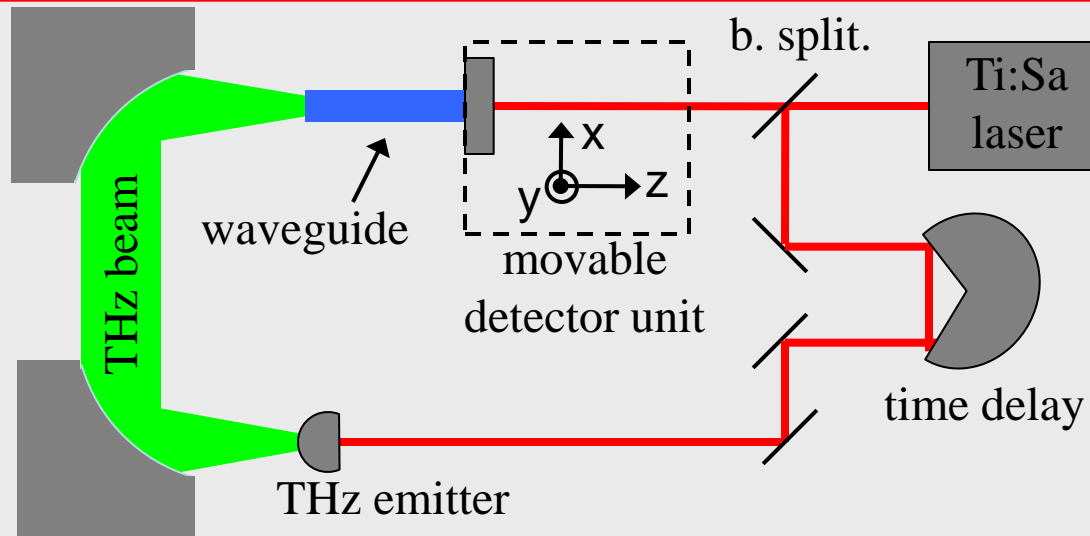
OD  $\sim$  3.0 mm



$d_{core} \sim 900 \mu\text{m}$



# THz near-field imaging setup

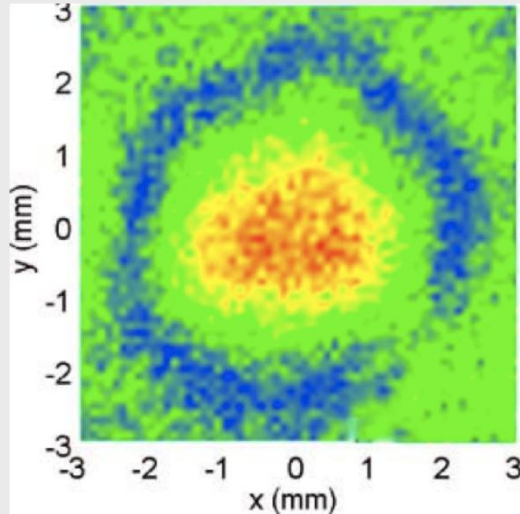




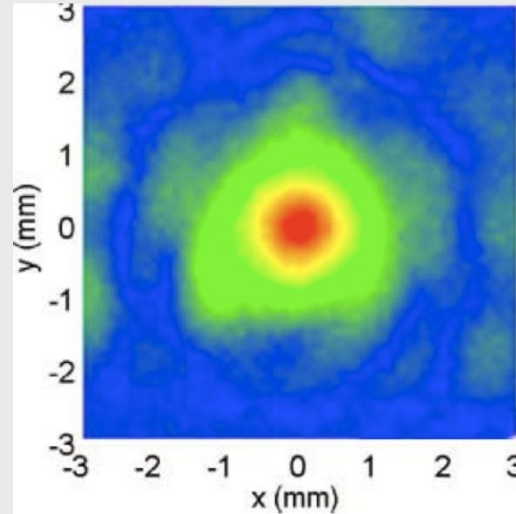
# THz near-field imaging of output profile for the suspended solid core fiber

Experiment

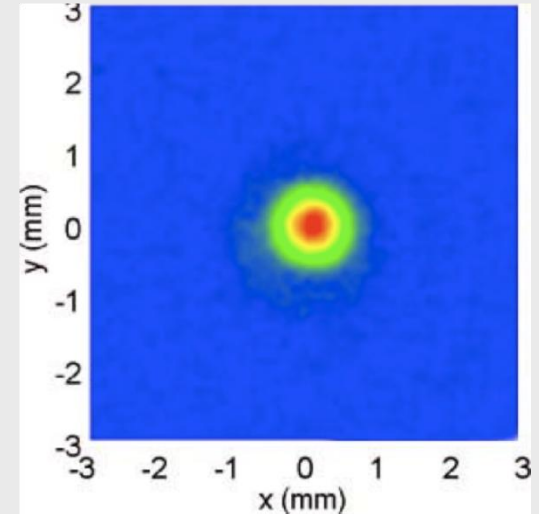
0.16 THz



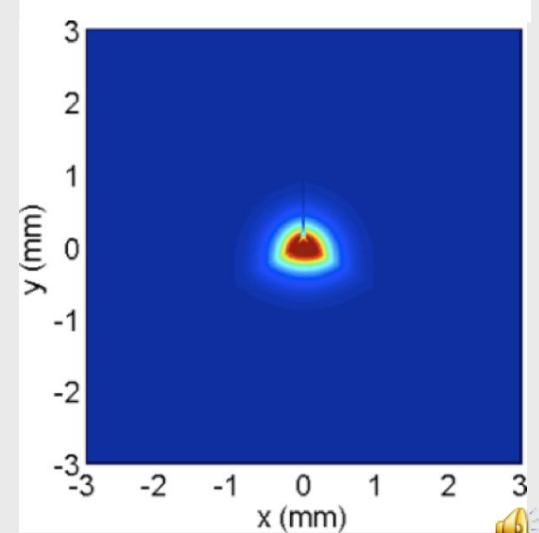
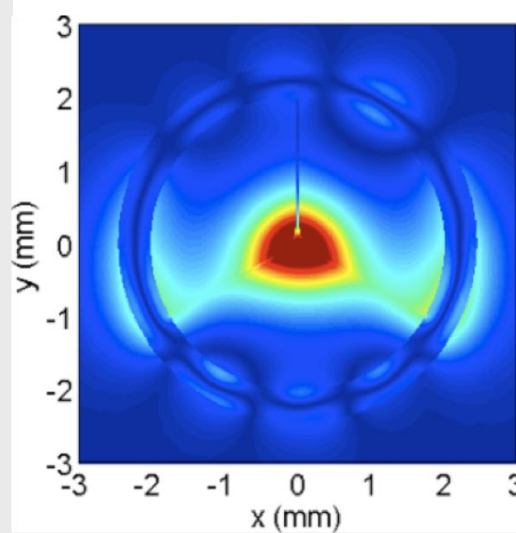
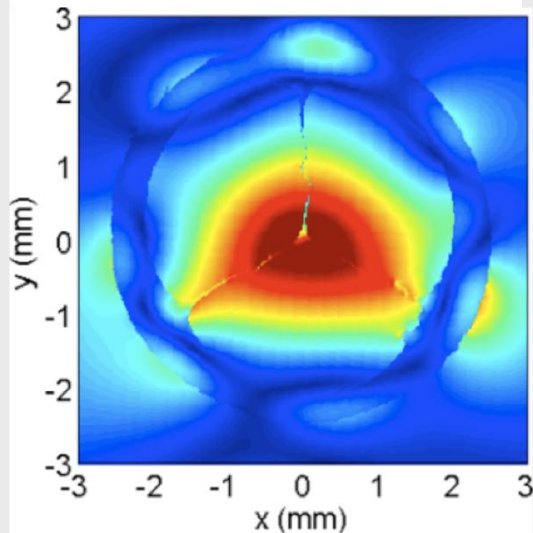
0.30 THz



0.48 THz

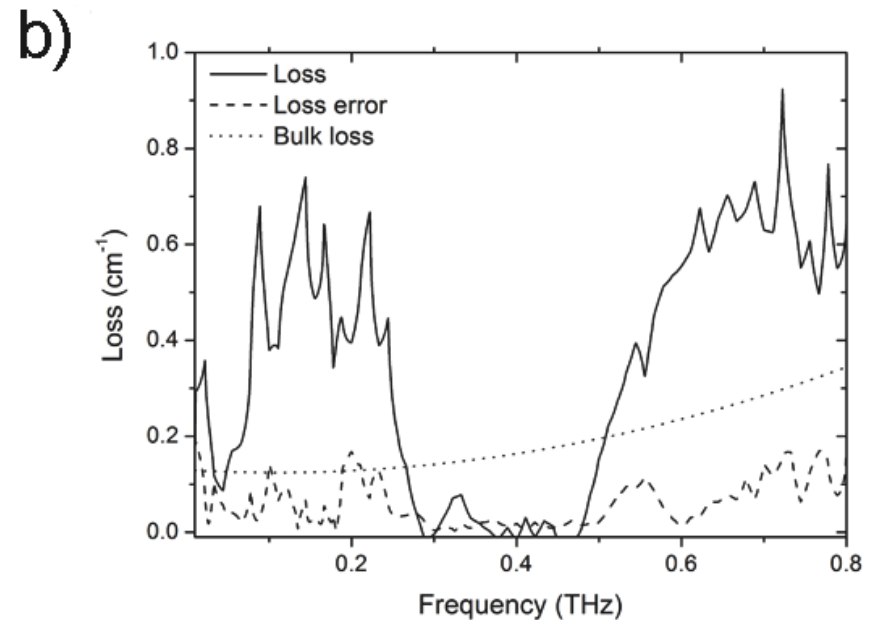
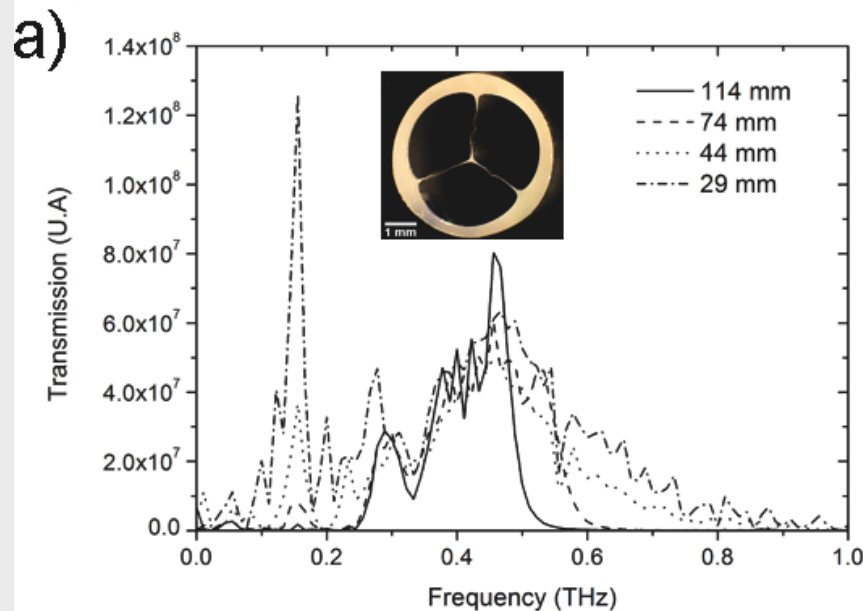


Simulation





# Suspended fibers: transmission spectrum and propagation losses



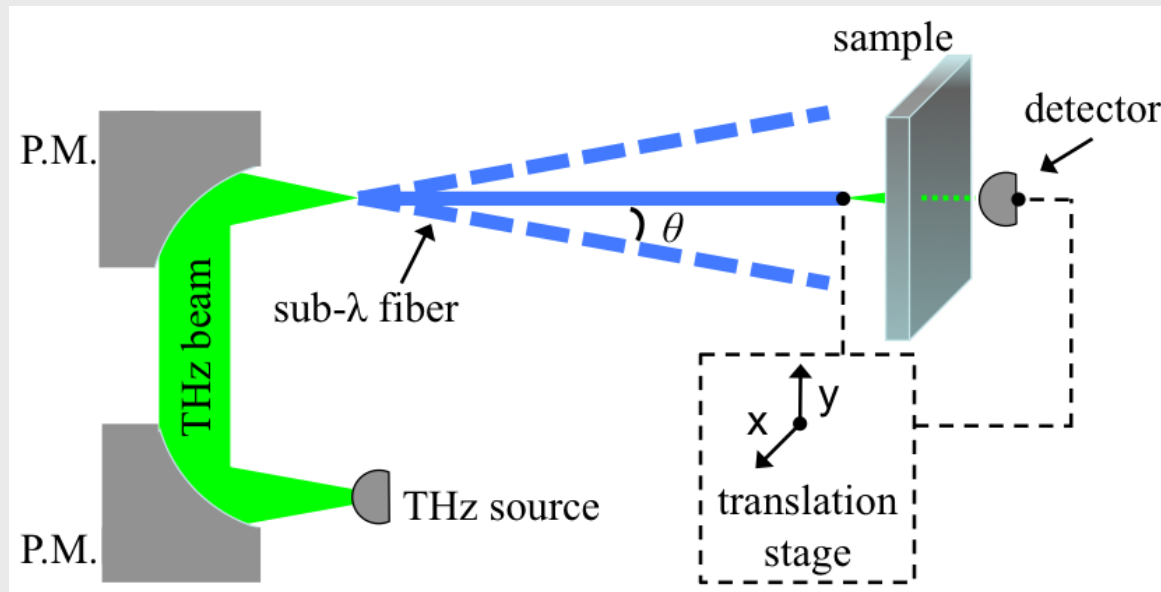
**min loss  $\leq 0.02 \text{ cm}^{-1}$**





# Examples of devices based on subwavelength dielectric fibers: near field imaging

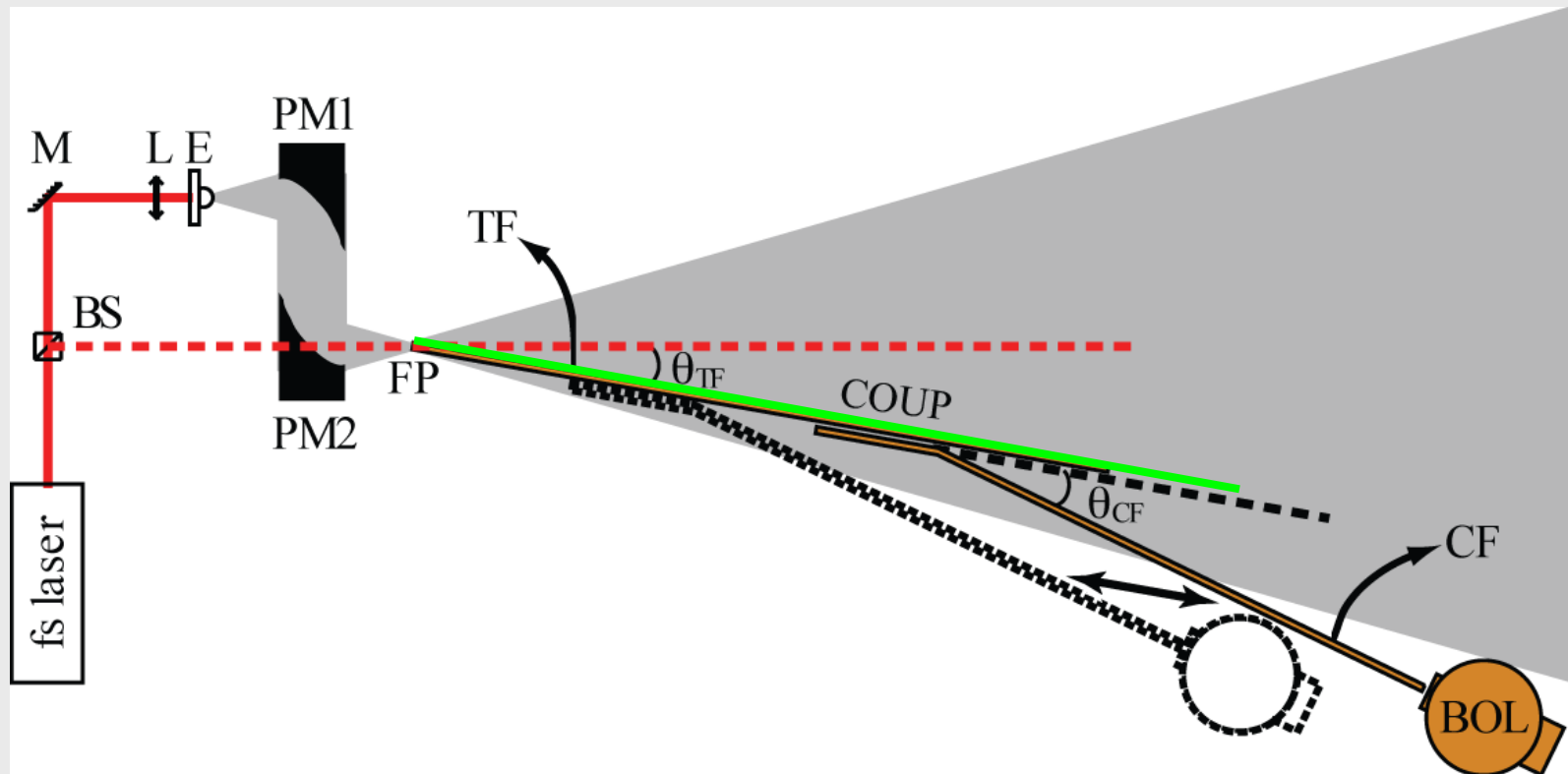
## Fiber-scanning THz imaging technique.





# Examples of devices based on subwavelength dielectric fibers: non-destructive cut back

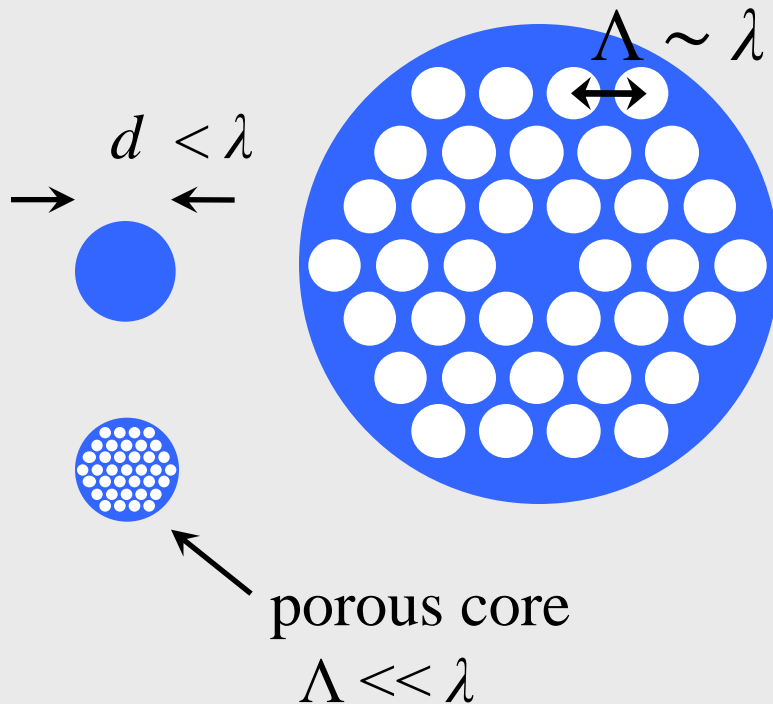
## Fiber-based directional coupler for non-destructive cutback technique.





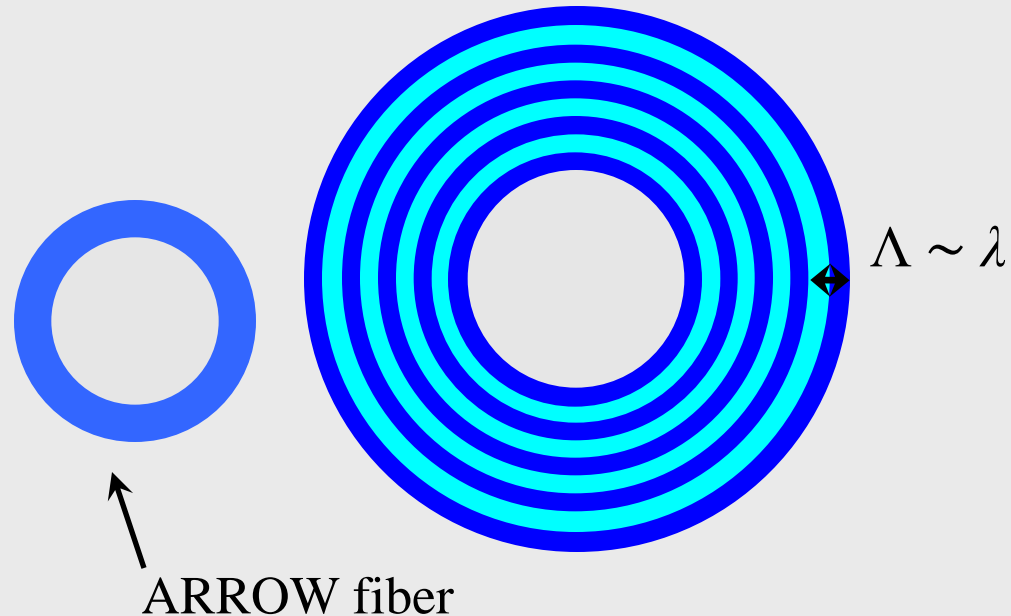
# Plastic fibers for terahertz waves

## SOLID CORE



## HOLLOW CORE FIBERS

$$\alpha \sim \frac{1}{r_{core}^3 v^2}$$

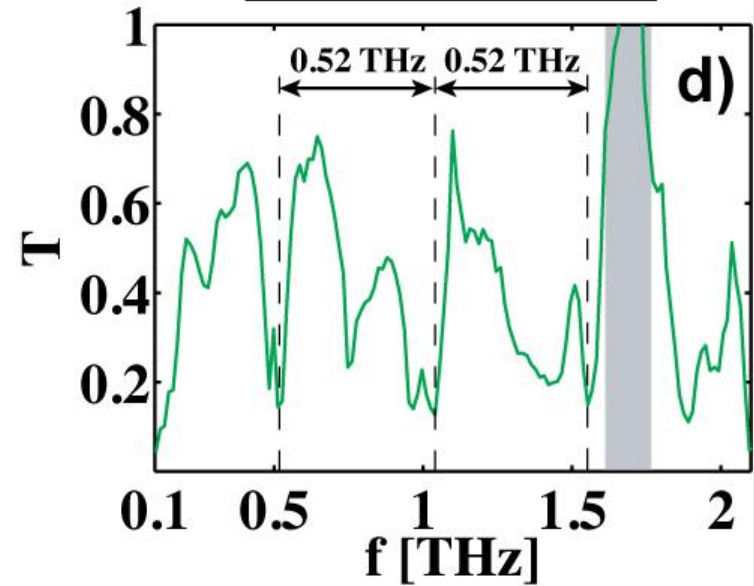
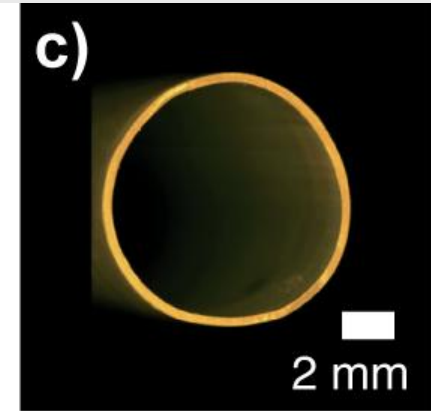
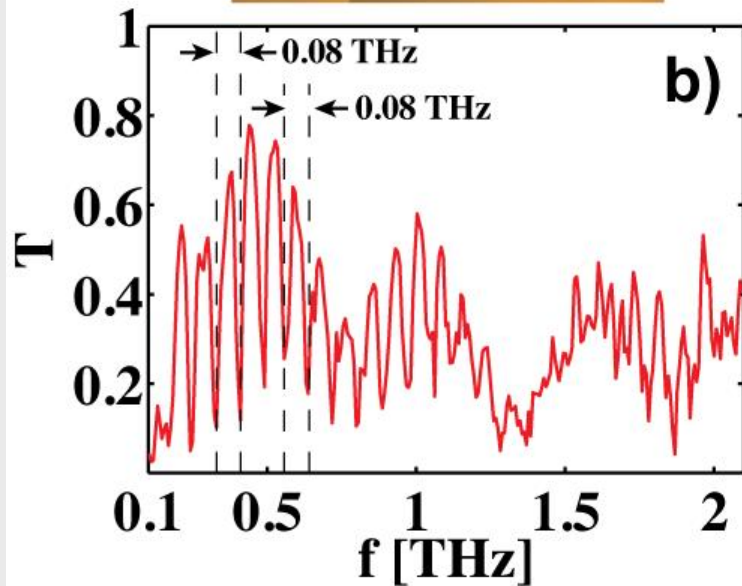
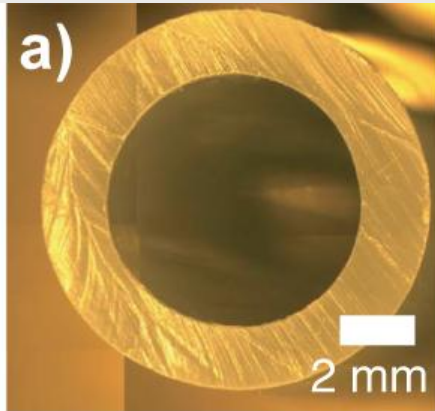


$$f_m = \frac{c \cdot m}{2t \sqrt{n_{clad}^2 - n_{core}^2}}, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$





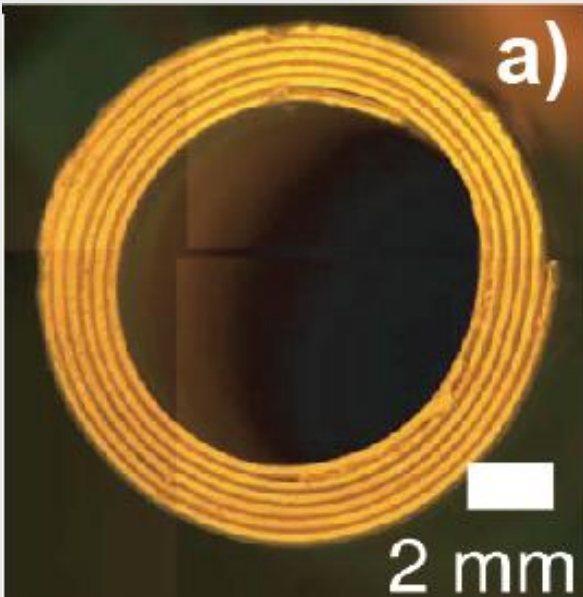
# ARROW-based transmission in plastic capillaries



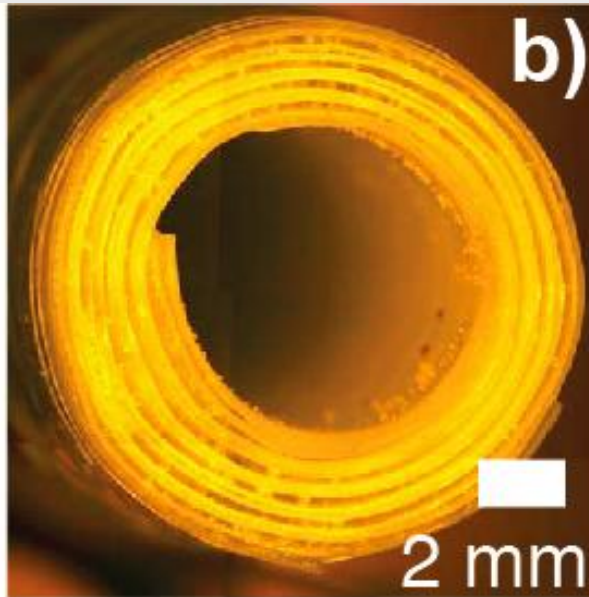


# Plastic Bragg fibers

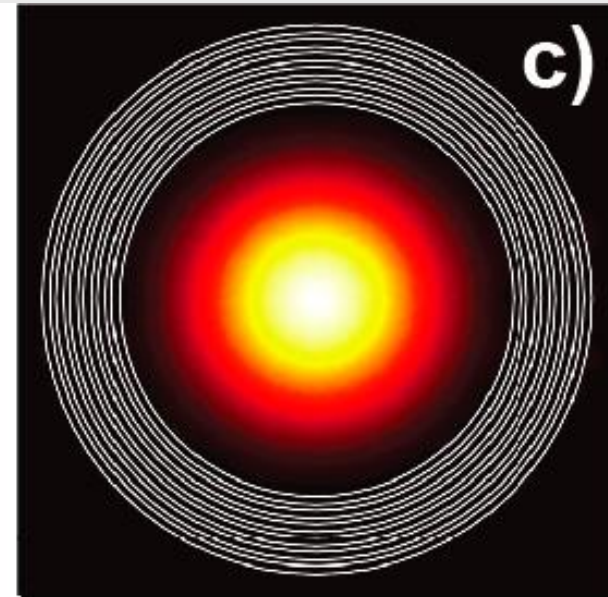
PE /  $\text{TiO}_2$  doped layers



PE / air layers  
(with PMMA spacers)



$\text{HE}_{11}$  fundamental mode

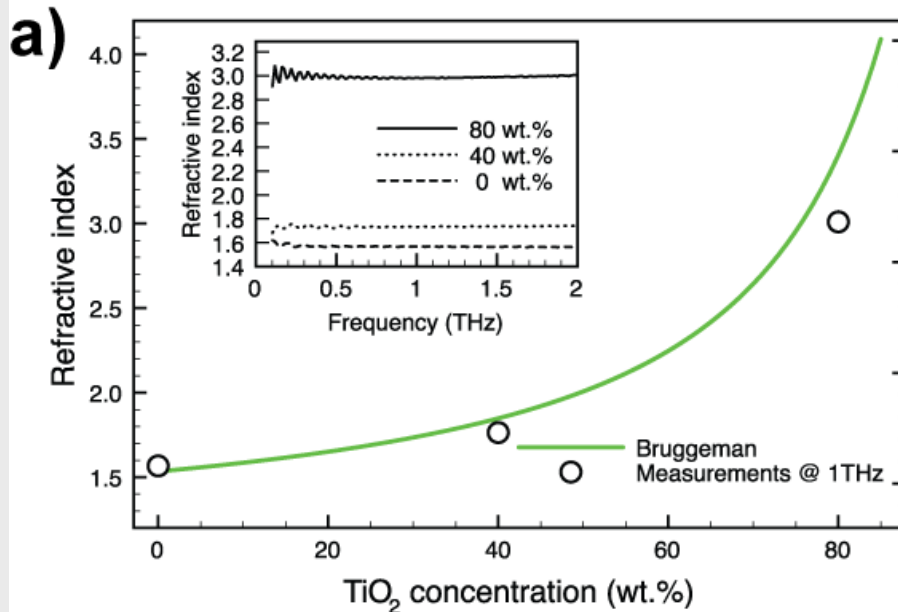




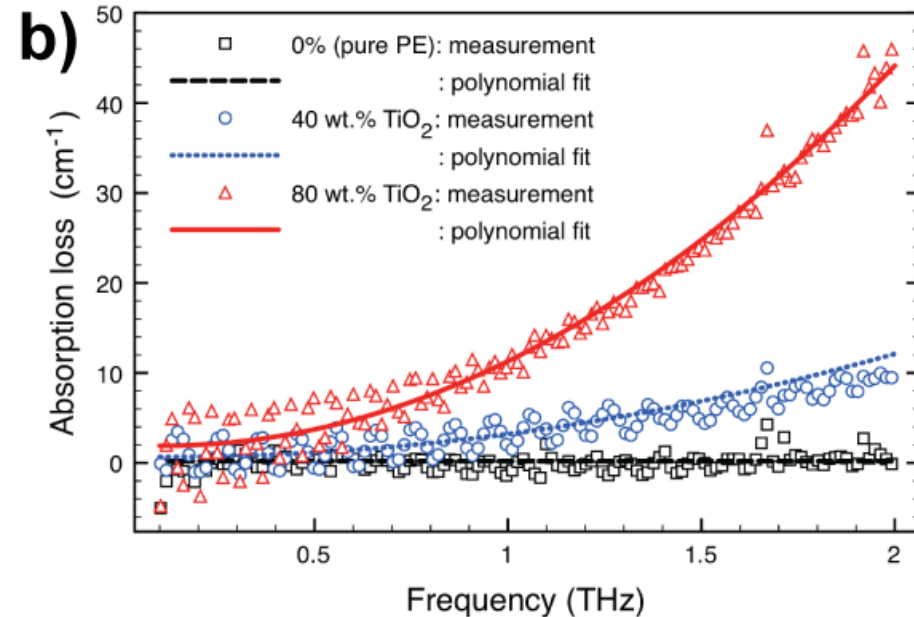
# Optical properties of the polyethylene (PE) / TiO<sub>2</sub> compounds

## TiO<sub>2</sub> -doped PE optical properties

Refractive index



Absorption coefficient



**Bruggeman:**

$$1 - f_v = \frac{\epsilon_p - \epsilon_m}{\epsilon_p - \epsilon_h} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_h}{\epsilon_m}}$$

$f_v$  : volume fraction of dopants

$\epsilon_p$  : permittivity of particles

$\epsilon_h$  : permittivity of host

$\epsilon_m$  : permittivity of mixture





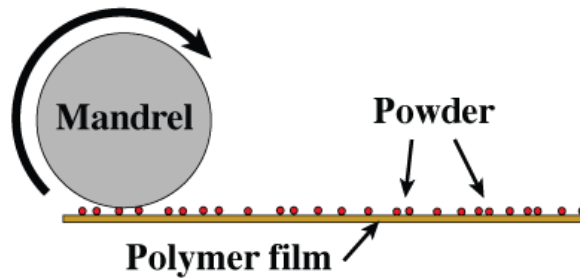
# Fabrication of plastic Bragg fibers

## Air-polymer Bragg fiber:

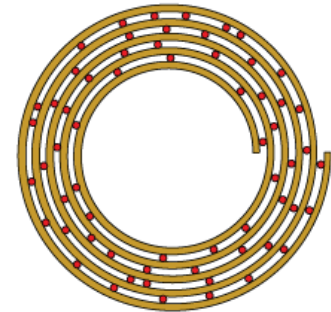
a) Ideal structure



b) Rolling film with powder

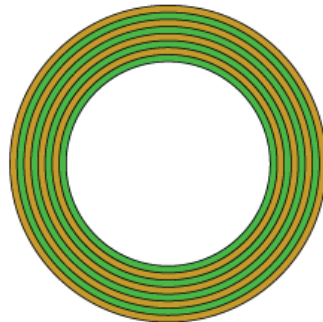


c) Experimental structure

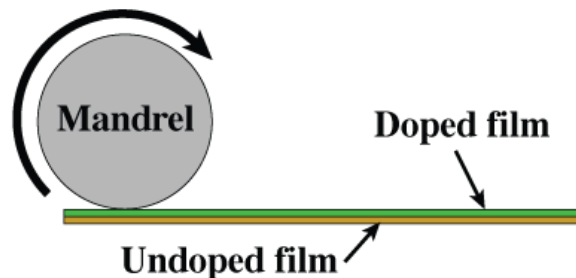


## Doped-polymer Bragg fiber:

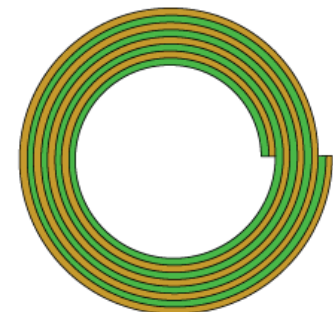
d) Ideal structure



e) Pressing films into bilayer  
Rolling bilayer film

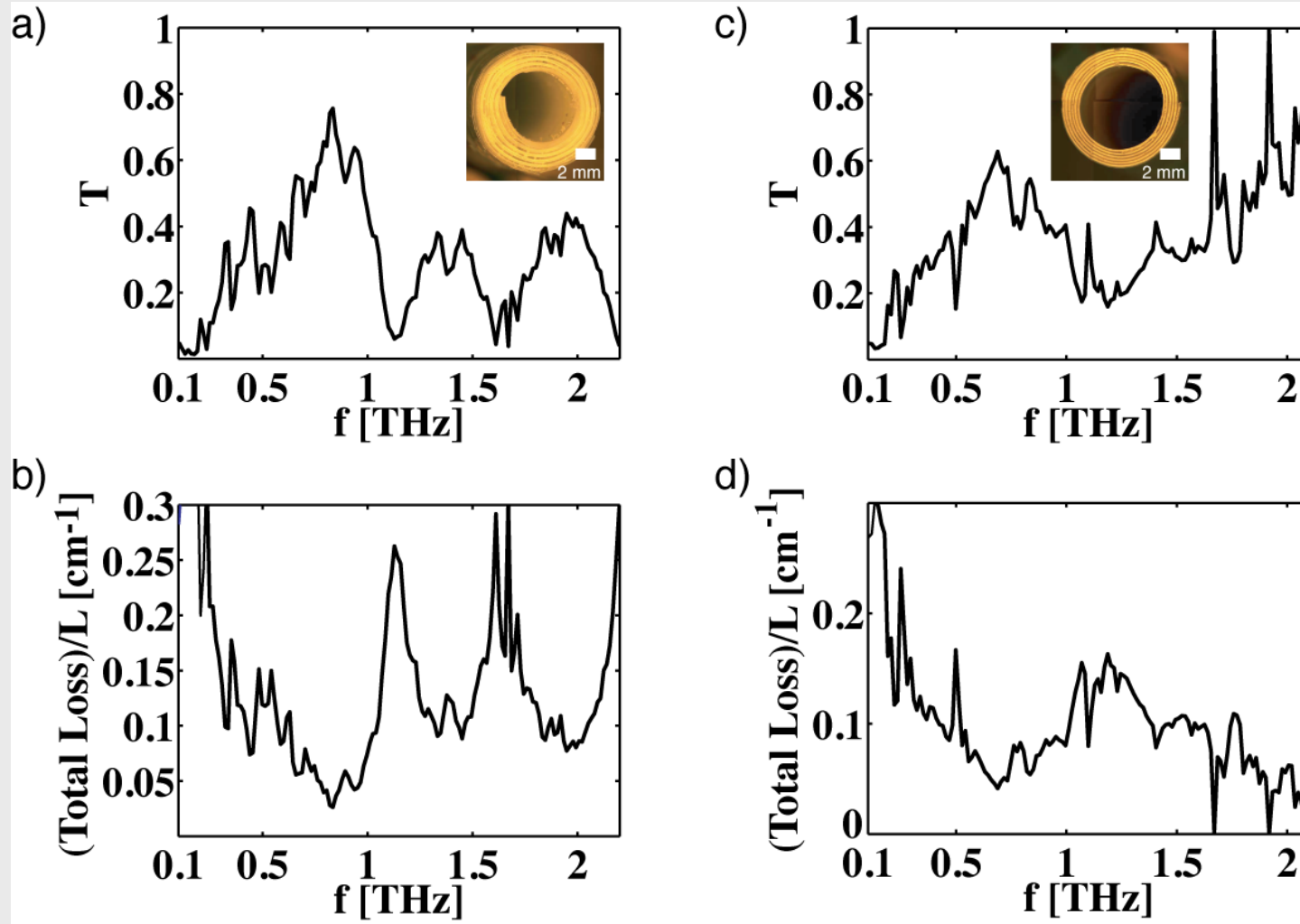


f) Experimental structure





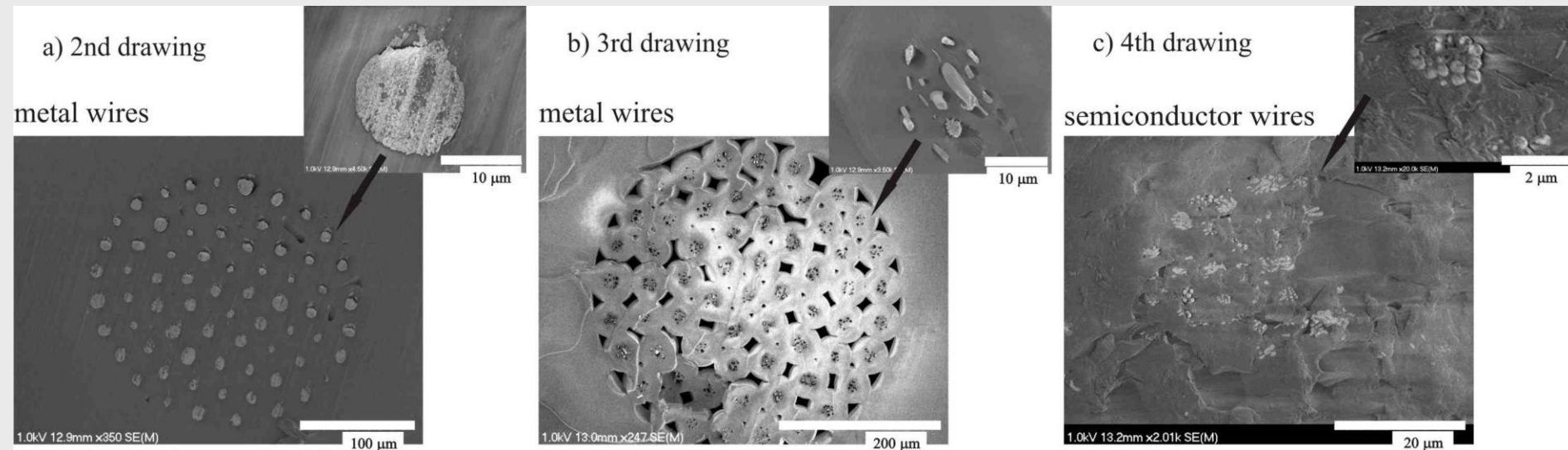
# Transmission of plastic Bragg fibers





# Composite terahertz materials: fabrication

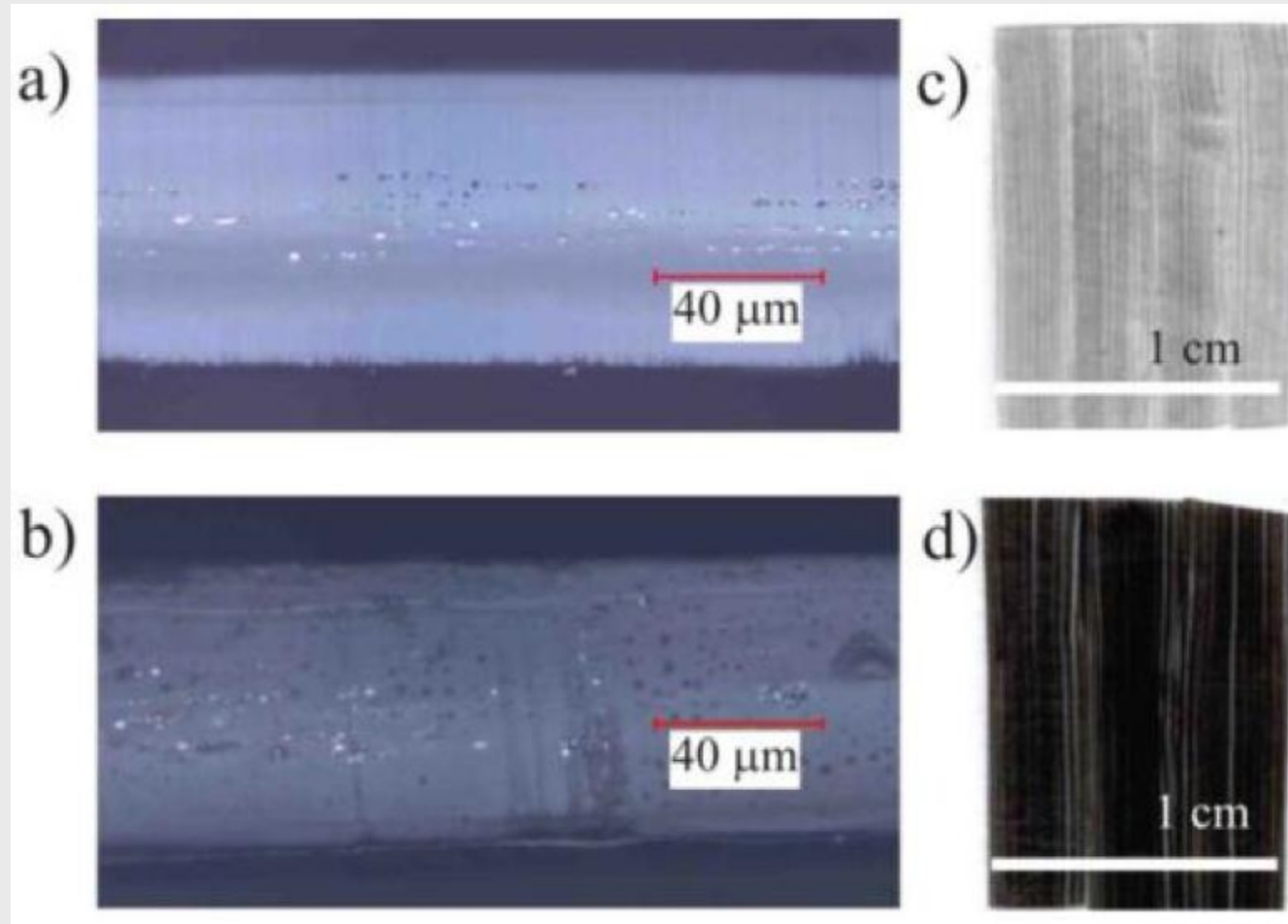
## Consecutive stack-and-draw technique towards fabrication of micro(-nano) wire arrays





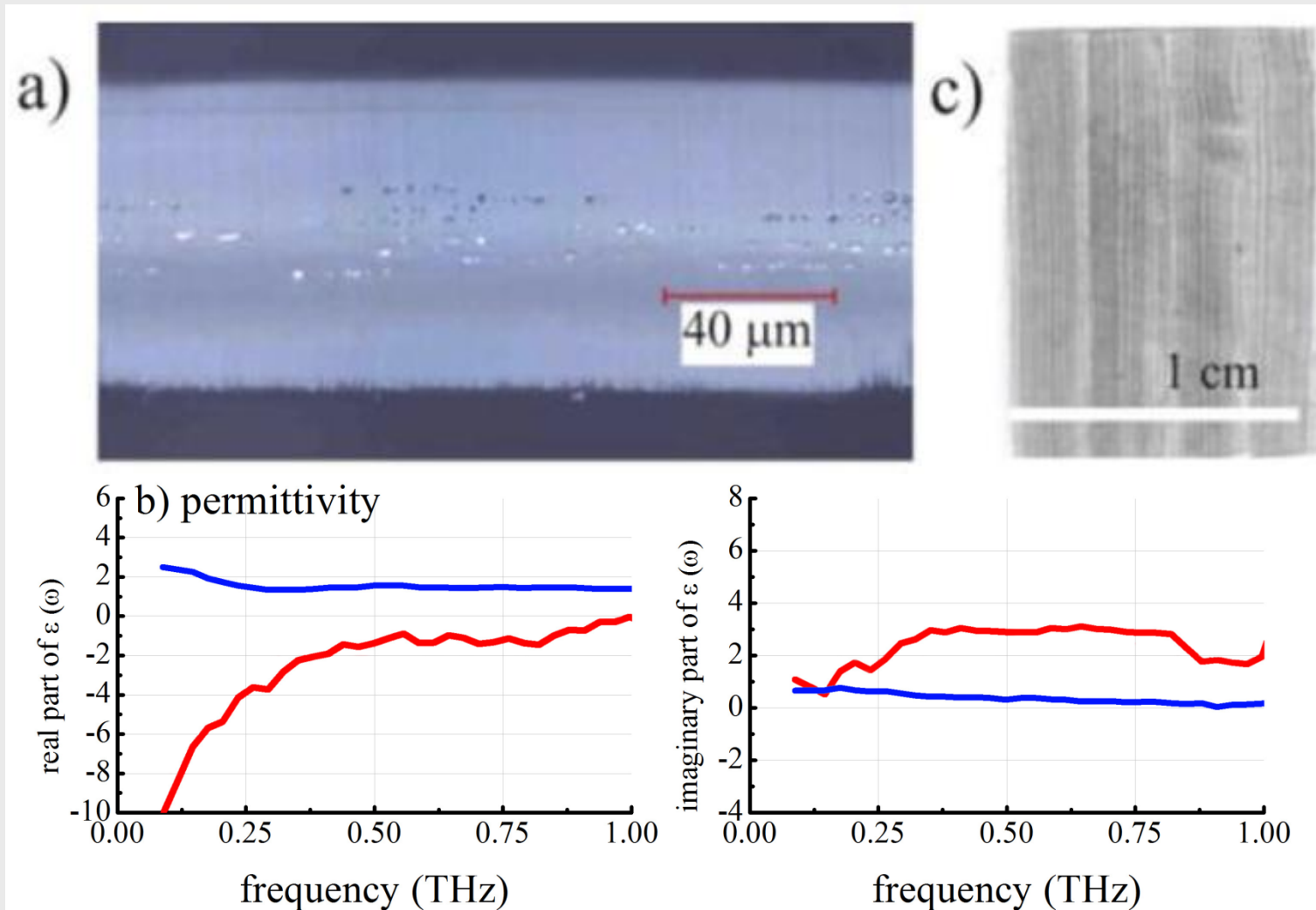
# Composite terahertz materials: fabrication

Planar metamaterial film fabrication by pressing fibers containign wire arrays



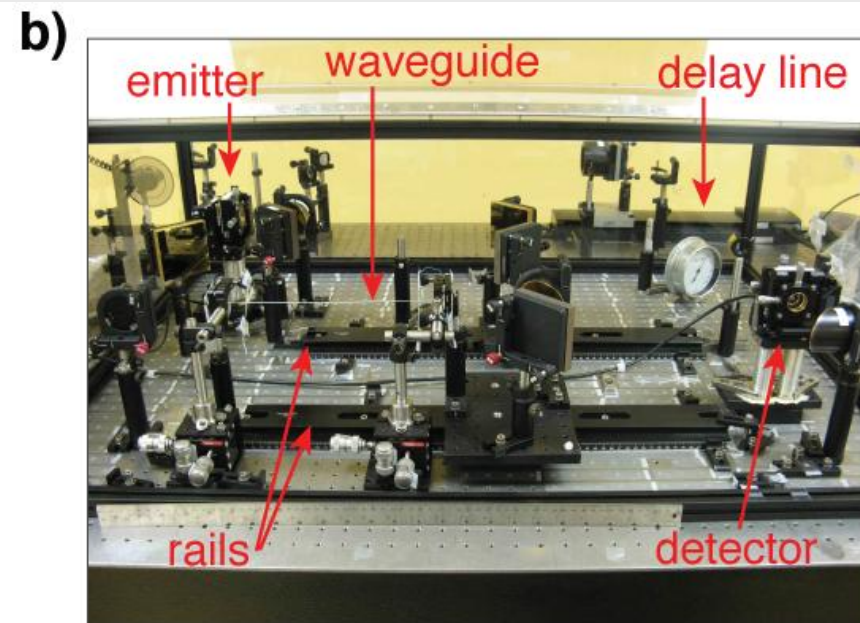
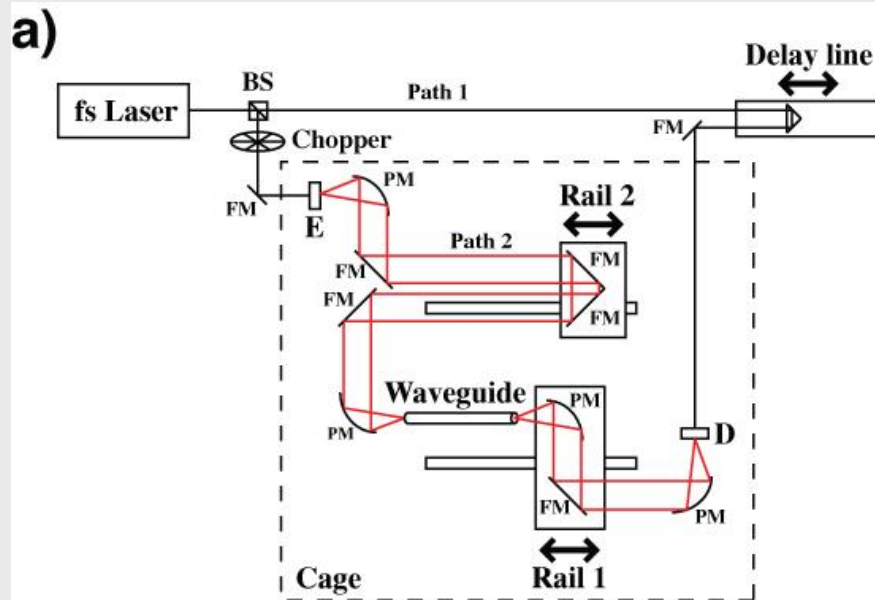


# Composite terahertz materials: optical properties





# Reconfigurable THz-TDS setup for waveguide measurements





# Conclusions (subwavelength fibers)

- To counteract material bulk absorption losses, the most effective approach is to minimize the fraction of power guided in lossy material regions: subwavelength fibers OR hollow-core fibers
- Compared to a solid core fiber of the same diameter, porous subwavelength fiber enables higher fraction of light to be guided in the low-loss air region. Transmission window of a porous fiber is, therefore, broader and shifted to higher frequencies.
- Compared to a solid core fiber of the same diameter, porous subwavelength fiber show lower group velocity dispersion, while its bending loss is superior to a solid core fiber due to high confinement of light in the porous air core.
- Packaging of fibers is crucial for practical applications:
  - protective tubing shields core-guided mode from interacting with the environment
  - allows to forgo a purging cage by filling directly fiber cladding with a dry gas
  - enables direct and convenient handling of fibers during experiments





# Conclusions (ARROW, Bragg fibers, new THz materials)

- Low-loss THz guiding possible in ARROW fibers. Thinner capillaries = wider transmission windows.
- Bragg fibers with thicker cladding confers greater mechanical stability compared to the thin-walled ARROW fibers, provides stronger modal confinement, and consequently, lower bending losses and reduced sensitivity to the environment.
- Possible to obtain very wide bandgaps with Bragg fibers provided that a high-refractive-index contrast is present in the bilayers of the periodic reflector.
- Composite THz materials based on polymers doped with high-index particles OR polymers with embedded metallic/semiconductor wires.
- Metallic micro/nano-wire media enables design of artificial materials with tunable refractive index and remarkable polarization properties.





# Acknowledgements



- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Nature et les Technologies
- Canada Research Chair Foundation
- Canadian Institute for Photonics Innovations

