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# **Video Holography**

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## Introduction

Today, despite many efforts by researchers world-wide, there are no holographic projectors that allow video-rate electronically controlled projection of complex holograms. Optically re-write-able holograms exist, but they are too slow; Acoustically-formed holograms can be switched fast but the image complexity is very limited. We identify the essential roadblock as one that we intend to clear by a breakthrough innovation coming from a combination of electronics, optics and material science. We propose a radically novel way to make and control holograms, that will be based on the direct, analog, nanometer-resolution and nanosecond-speed control over the local refractive index of a slab waveguide core over several square centimetres. Holograms will be formed by leaky waves evanescent from the waveguide, and controlled by the refractive-index modulation profile in the core. That profile will be controlled and modulated by electrical fields applied with nano-precision through one of the cladding layers of the waveguide. To that end, a novel metamaterial is proposed for this cladding. Also novel driving schemes will be needed to control the new holographic projecting method. With this combined radical innovation in architecture, materials and driving schemes, it is the goal of this project to fully prove the concept of video-rate electrically-controlled holographic projection. This will be the basis for many future innovations and applications, in domains such as augmented reality, automotive, optical metrology (LIDAR, microscopy, ...), mobile communication, education, safety, etc..., and result in a high economic and social impact.

## Short history of Holography

The concepts of holography have been first elaborated by Dennis Gabor around 1947. He received the [Nobel Prize](#) for this work. However, at the time Dennis Gabor elaborated holography, neither (1) the coherent light sources nor (2) the technologies to pattern the hologram at sufficient high resolution were available. Good coherent laser sources in the visible came available around 1960, first for red and green and more recent also for the blue.

For static holograms, progress on the photographic film resolution was the first to move the resolution towards the quarter wavelength. Further improvement on the resolution of static holograms was obtained from the progress in photoresist resolution that was driven by the progress in the semiconductor industry. The advent of nano-imprint technologies further enabled upscaling of static holograms at large scale. Static holograms can be found in banknotes, credit cards, ...

The next step is to make the hologram dynamic. This has been a challenging journey, as a hologram comprises a huge amount of information, which makes it a challenge to create, transfer and store this information. [Fig. 1](#) shows the evolution of dynamic hologram demonstrators, both in resolution and speed.

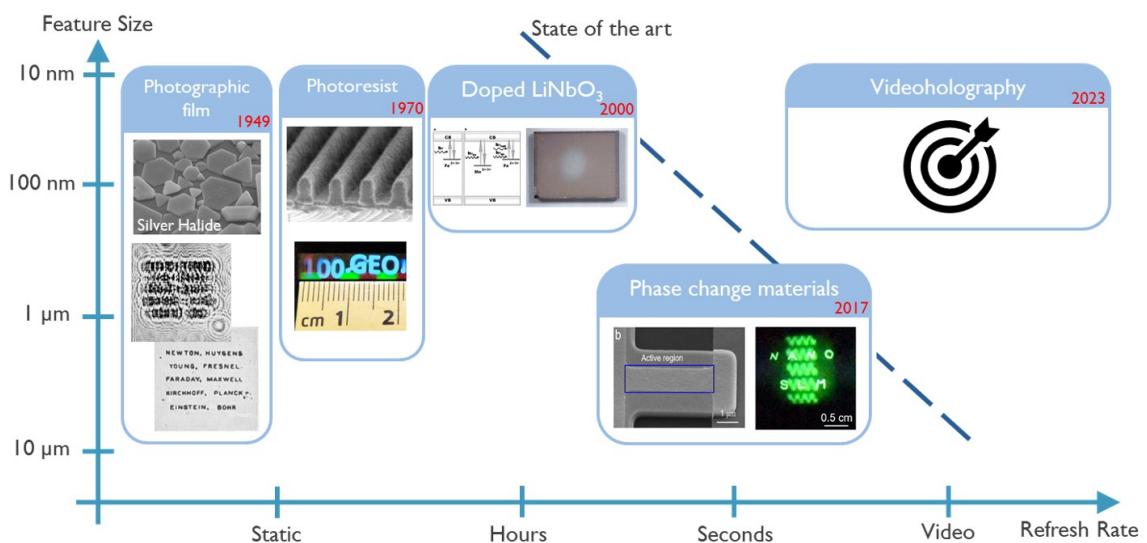


Fig. 1: Scaling Roadmap

## Selected implementation in the Video holography ERC project

Fig. 2 shows the selected implementation that has been elaborated in this project. A 500 nm thick metamaterial separates the metal electrodes where the requested hologram is applied from the BTO waveguide. As a consequence, no metal is in the presence of the BTO waveguide, which allows light to propagate in the waveguide without scattering losses. The metamaterial is fabricated using SiN wherein vertical trenches are etched at 100 nm pitch in both directions. These trenches have been filled with InGaZnO that has been engineered such that the dielectric constant carefully matches the dielectric constant of SiN. This lead to a metamaterial that is completely uniform and has no losses, when it is considered as the optical material that forms the cladding of the waveguide. However, when the same metamaterial is looked at from the electrical perspective, we have conductive channels at a 100 nm pitch that guides the electrical signal from the electrical contacts below to the waveguide above. As the waveguide material, BTO has been selected. BTO is known to have the highest Pockels effect. This enables us to alter the effective dielectric constant of the waveguide locally at a pitch of 100 nm using relative small electric fields. This dielectric variation forms the hologram that is applied.

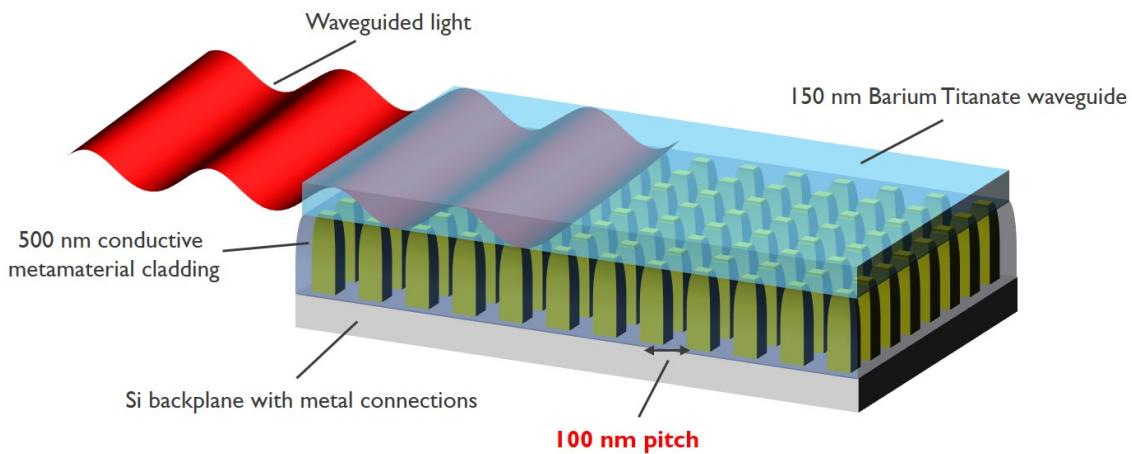


Fig. 2: Selected implementation

Changing the hologram using the hardware in Fig. 2 can be obtained by changing the voltages at the bottom electrodes, which can be done reasonably fast, e.g. at 100 Hz rate. This allows also to swap the hologram between 3 subsequent holograms, one for red, one for green and one for blue at video rates. This yields full color video holography.

## Main project results

The project has focused on two major scientific challenges, i.e. the development of the metamaterial and the realization of a high-quality BTO waveguide.

### Metamaterial development

We have been able to fabricate the required metamaterial in a standard 300 mm cleanroom [1]. We have also modeled the obtained electrical fields in the BTO waveguides, both along the vertical axis and in the horizontal plane [2, 3]. The knowledge of the Pockels coefficients both along the a-axis and the c-axis enables subsequently to describe a detailed algorithm for the hologram generation [1].

### High-quality BTO waveguide

We have realized high-quality BTO layers [4] on Silicon wafers by both Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) and Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD) [5, 6]. Both technologies required an SrTiO<sub>3</sub> interface layer for lattice matching (see [7, 8]).

The work on the BTO waveguides is been summarized in the PhD thesis of Tsang-Hsuan Wang [9].

## **Remaining challenges en further work**

The control of the BTO waveguide at 100 nm resolution requires close interaction with the metamaterial. Our simulations (see [3]) indicate that when the separation between the BTO and the metamaterial goes beyond 5 nm, the effective control is too low for an efficient demonstrator. Therefor, we targeted an oxide-oxide bonding process yielding an separation below 2 nm. Although other demonstrators of oxide-oxide bonding, also in our lab, have indicated that this should be in reach, the practical between the BTO wafer and the metamaterial wafer has not yet been possible.

## **Main funding info**

- Programme Funding: Horizon 2020
- Sub Programme Area: ERC-2016-ADG
- Project Reference: 742299
- From October 1, 2017 to March 31, 2023
- Budget: EUR 2 499 074
- Contract type: ERC-ADG
- DOI: [10.3030/742299](https://doi.org/10.3030/742299)

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**CHAPTER  
ONE**

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**ERC TEAM**

The ERC project Video Holography has been executed at [imec](#) as the host institute. It has been conceived and xx by Prof. Jan Genoe, as the principal investigator. He has been supported a strong team of senior academic staff (see [Table 1.1](#)) and two PhD students diving deep into the subject of the project (see [Table 1.2](#)). The project would also not have been possible without the strong support from several other technology experts from the different research units in the host institute [imec](#).

## 1.1 Core Team

### 1.1.1 Principal Investigator



Prof. Jan Genoe is scientific director at the Host institution [imec](#) and has received all support from the Host institution to build the research team and execute the research. Prof. Jan Genoe also takes the scientific leadership of the Video Holography ERC research.

### 1.1.2 Senior academic staff in the team

Table 1.1: Senior academic staff

	Dr. Robert Gehlhaar provides scientific input on the optical stack design and characterization.
	Dr. Zsolt Tokei provides technology input on the realisation of devices in the 300mm cleanroom.
	Prof. Clement Merckling provides scientific input on the material growth conditions for the BTO and STO waveguide materials.
	Prof. Paul Heremans provides scientific input on the device performance.

### 1.1.3 PhD students

Table 1.2: PhD students

	Guillaume Croes is the PhD student elaborating the metamaterial stack and optical model for the optimization for driving the hologram.
	Tsang-Hsuan Wang is the PhD student elaborating the optimized growth conditions for the BTO and STO waveguide materials.

## 1.2 Other contributors

- Diana Tsvetanova provides input on the CMP processes in the 300 mm line.
- Yunlong Li provides input on the process sequence in the 300 mm line.
- Renauld Puybaret is in charge of the daily supervision of the process in the 300 mm line.
- Thomas Raes is in charge of the Mask preparation for the process in the 300 mm line.
- Deniz Sabuncuoglu Tezcan is in charge of the supervision of the process in the 300 mm line.
- Jeremy Segers is in charge of the oxide-oxide bonding process between the BTO wafer and the optical transparent metamaterial.

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**CHAPTER  
TWO**

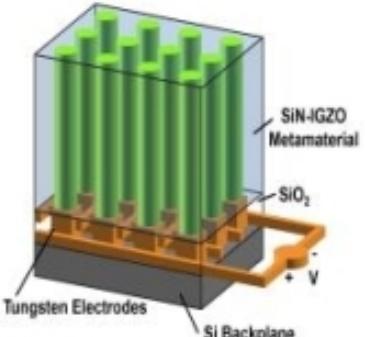
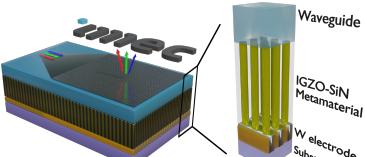
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## **ERC PUBLICATIONS**

The work performed in the ERC project Video Holography has been published in journal papers (see [Table 2.1](#)) and presented at conferences (see [Table 2.2](#)). A more elaborated description of the results can be found in the PhDs that have been supported by this project (see [Table 2.3](#)).

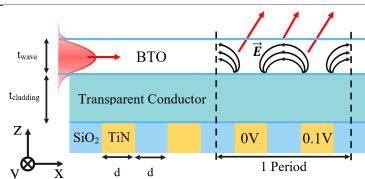
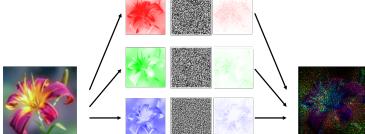
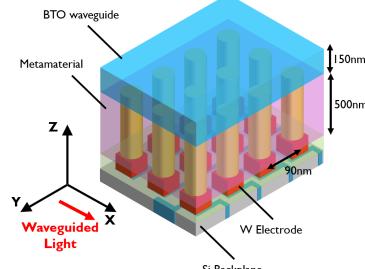
## 2.1 Journal papers

Table 2.1: Journal papers

	Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Po-Chun Hsu, Maxim Korytov, Jan Genoe, Clement Merckling, <b>Polarization control of epitaxial barium titanate (BaTiO<sub>3</sub>) grown by pulsed-laser deposition on a MBE-SrTiO<sub>3</sub>/Si(001) pseudo-substrate</b> , Journal of Applied Physics 128, 104104 (September 2020), DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0019980">10.1063/5.0019980</a>
	Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Robert Gehlhaar, Thierry Conard, Paola Favia, Jan Genoe, Clement Merckling, <b>Interfacial control of SrTiO<sub>3</sub>/Si(0 0 1) epitaxy and its effect on physical and optical properties</b> , Journal of Crystal Growth 582, 126524 (March 2022), DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrysGro.2022.126524">10.1016/j.jcrysGro.2022.126524</a>
	Guillaume Croes, Renaud Puybaret, Janusz Bogdanowicz, Umberto Celano, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Photonic Metamaterial with a Subwavelength Electrode Pattern</b> , Applied Optics 62,F14 (March 2023), DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1364/AO.481396">10.1364/AO.481396</a>
	Guillaume Croes, Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Sub-Wavelength Custom Wavefront Shaping by a Non-Linear Electro-Optic Spatial Light Modulator</b> , submitted manuscript
	Guillaume Croes, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Computer Generated Holography for Waveguide based Holographic Displays</b> , Manuscript in preparation

## 2.2 Conferences

Table 2.2: Conferences

	Artur Hermans, Robby Janneck, Cedric Rolin, S. Clemmen, Paul Heremans, Jan Genoe, Roel Baets, <b>Growth of Thin Film Organic Crystals with Strong Nonlinearity for On-Chip Second-Order Nonlinear Optics</b> , Proc. IEEE Photonics Benelux Symposium, Brussels, Belgium, November 15-16, 2018.
	Guillaume Croes, Nikolay Smolentsev, Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Non-linear electro-optic modelling of a Barium Titanate grating coupler</b> , Proc. SPIE 11484, 114840D: Optical Modeling and Performance Predictions XI (August 2020), DOI: 10.1117/12.2568032
	Guillaume Croes, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Hologram Wavefront Shaping by a Non-Linear Electro-Optic Spatial Light Modulator</b> , Holography: Advances and Modern Trends VIII, April 2023, Prague, Czech Republic
	Guillaume Croes, Robert Gehlhaar, Jan Genoe, <b>Sub-Wavelength Custom Reprogrammable Active Photonic Platform for High-Resolution Beam Shaping and Holography</b> , Proc. SPIE PC12196, PC1219619: Active Photonic Platforms, San Diego, California, United States (October 2022)
	Clement Merckling, Islam Ahmed, Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Moloud Kaviani, Jan Genoe, Stefan De Gendt, <b>Integrated Perovskites Oxides on Silicon: From Optical to Quantum Applications</b> , ECS Meeting Abstracts MA2022-01, 1060 , July 2022, DOI: 10.1149/MA2022-01191060mtgabs
	Tsang-Hsuan Wang, Robert Gehlhaar, Thierry Conard, Jan Genoe, Clement Merckling, <b>Interface Control and Characterization of Sr-TiO3/Si(001)</b> , Proc. E-MRS-fall, 20th to 23rd September 2021

## 2.3 PhD thesis

Table 2.3: PhD thesis

	Tsang-Hsuan Wang, <b>Study of Barium Titanate Epitaxy on Silicon toward Its Application in Video Holography</b> , PhD Thesis, KULeuven, Leuven, Belgium, Monday, February 13, 2023.
	Guillaume Croes, (PhD Thesis in preparation), KULeuven, Leuven, Belgium

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- [8] T-H Wang, Robert Gehlhaar, T. Conard, Jan Genoe, and Clement Merckling. Interface Control and Characterization of SrTiO<sub>3</sub>/Si(001). In *Proc. E-MRS-fall*. online Only, 20th to 23rd September 2021. MRS.
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