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Nanostructuring of 4H-SiC by high temperature annealing

E. Vuillermet^{1,*}, E. Usureau¹, M. Lazar^{1,+}, R. Deturche¹

¹Laboratory Light, Nanomaterials & Nanotechnologies, CNRS EMR 7004, University of Technology of Troyes, 12 rue Marie Curie, 10004 Troyes, France

*enora.vuillermet@utt.fr, +mihai.lazar@utt.fr

1 Introduction

SiC high refractive index (2.65 at 590 nm) compared to air causes **low extraction efficiency of light emission** [1]. The objective of the project is to improve the extraction of light in 4H-SiC by changing the morphology of its surface. **High temperature annealing** is used to nanostructure 4H-SiC by controlling the sublimation of Si in surface. **PiN diode structures** are then developed.

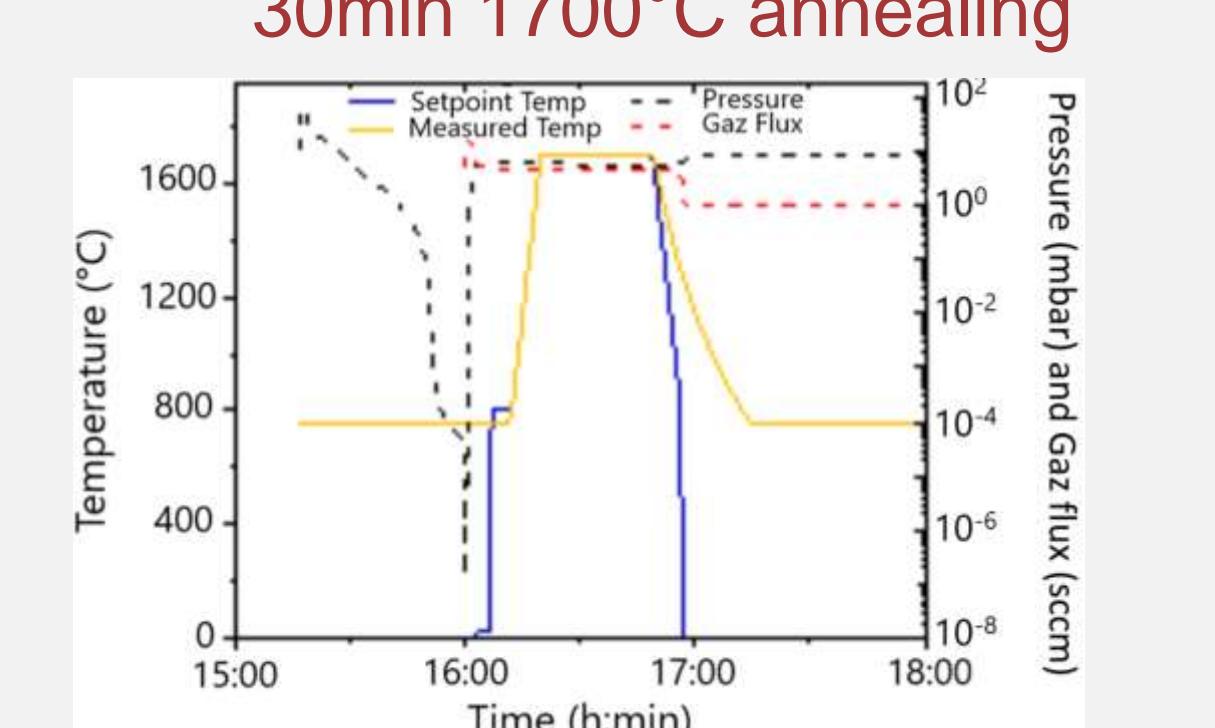
2 Nanostructuring the surface of 4H-SiC

→ Annealing of 4H-SiC in the **AET furnace** with high temperature (up to 1900°C) rapid (2°C/s) temperature process (**RTP**) in Ar.

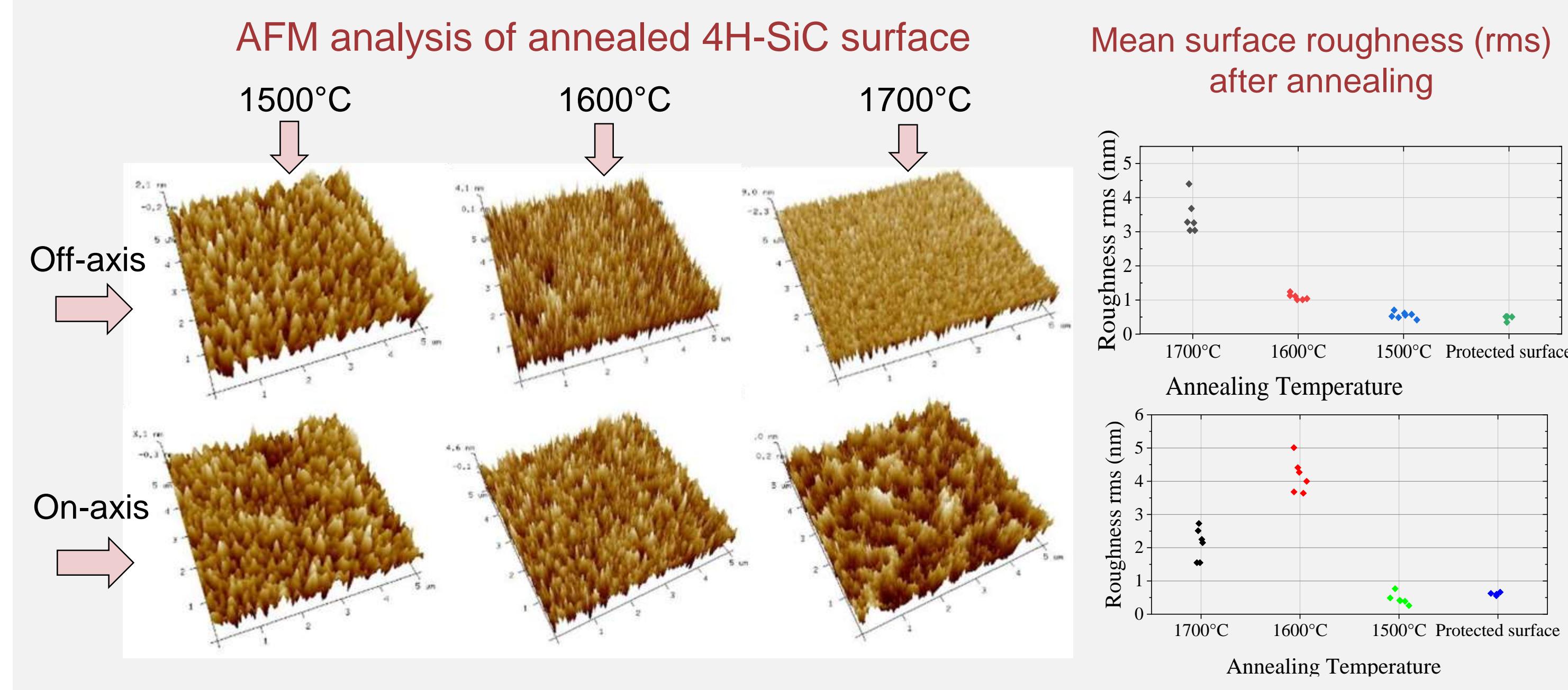
AET RTP graphite resistive furnace



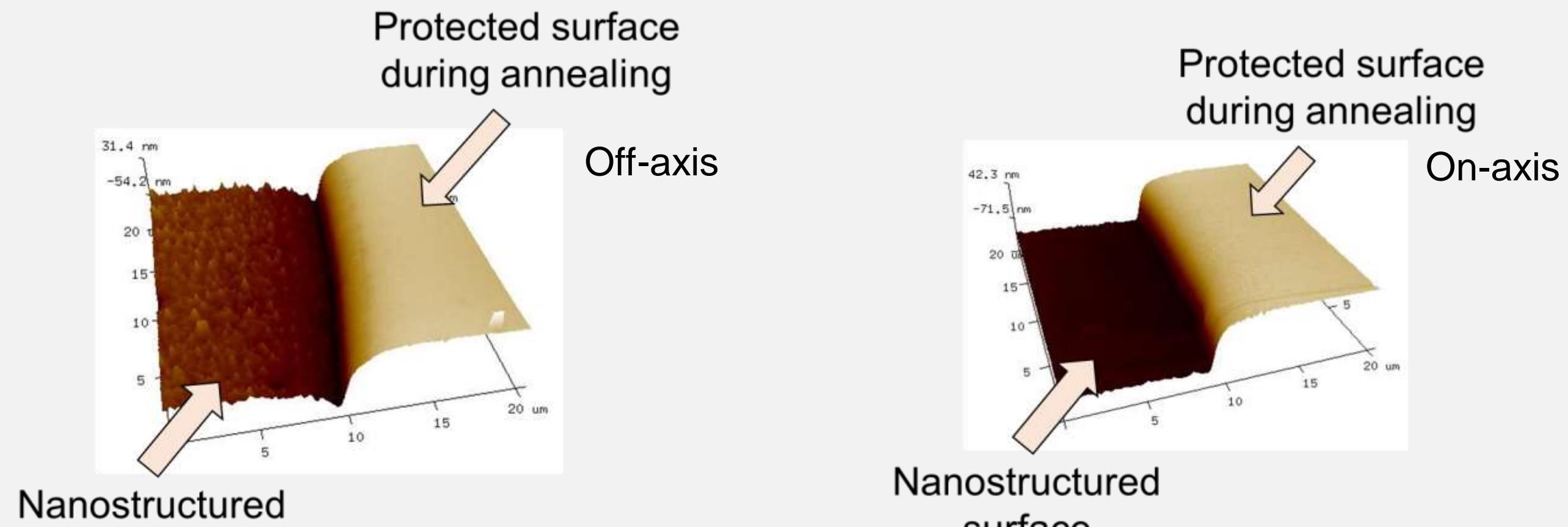
Temperature and Pressure profiles for 30min 1700°C annealing



→ Nanostructuring of the surface after high temperature annealing



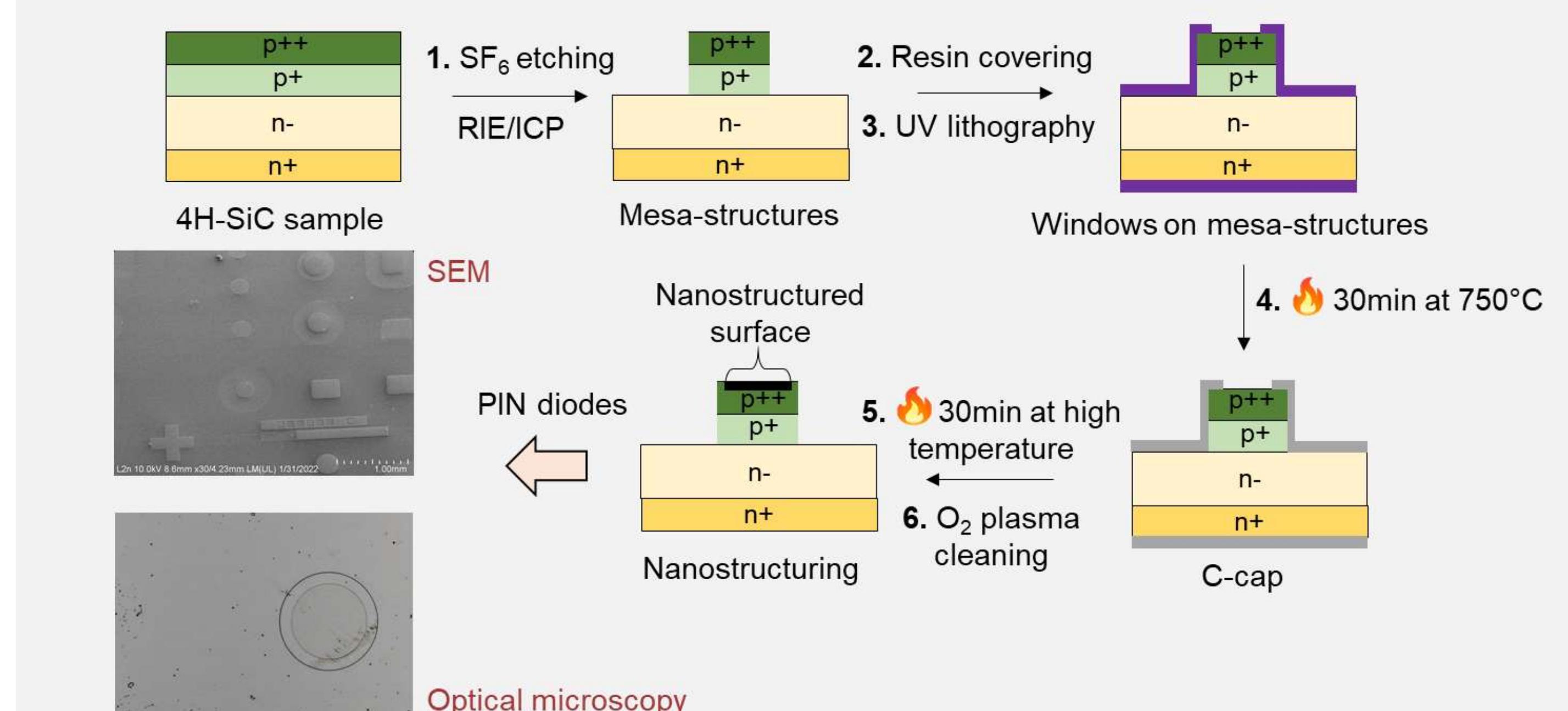
AFM analysis of 1700°C annealed surface



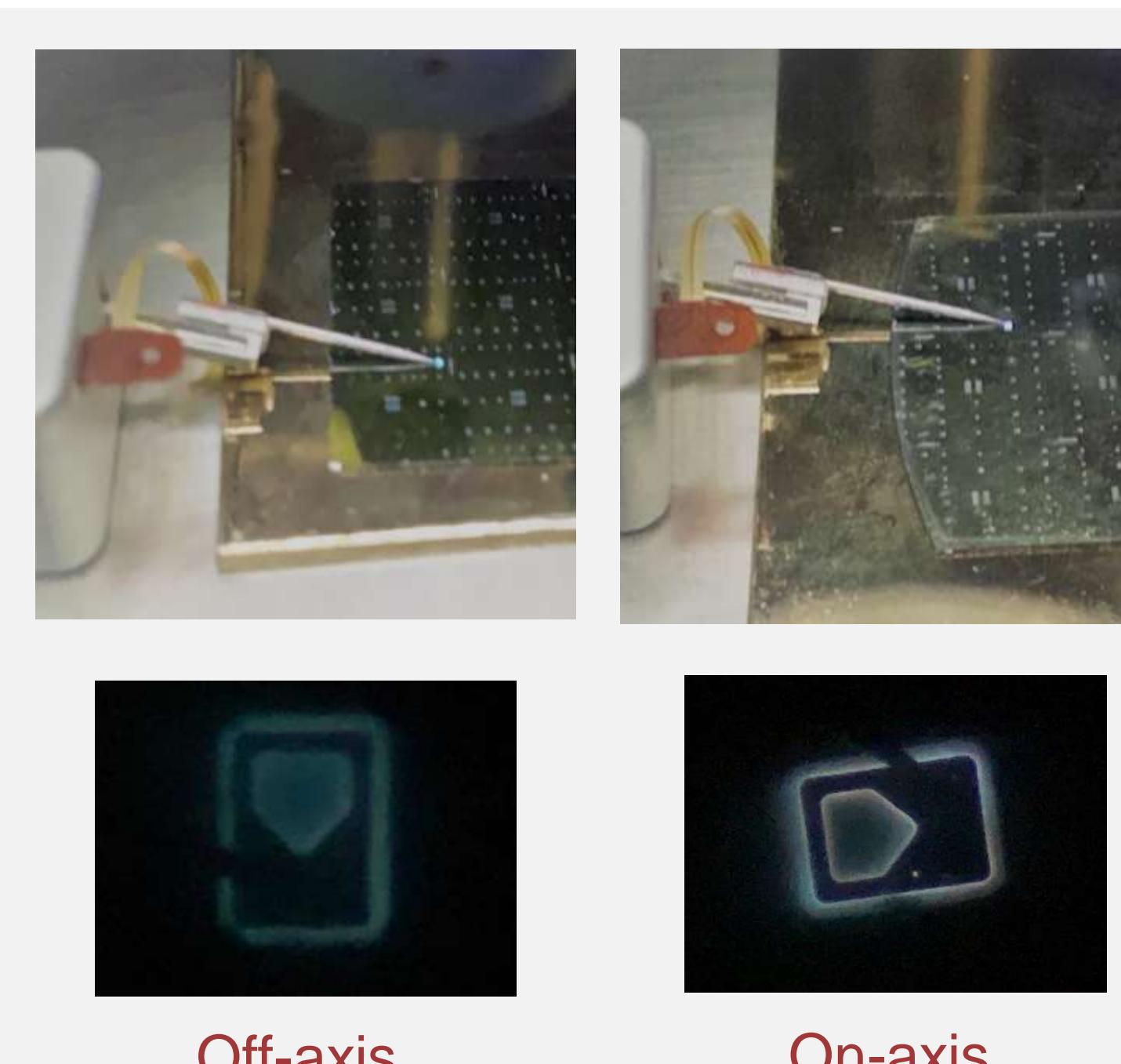
- The surface morphology of 4H-SiC becomes **needle-shaped**, like black silicon [2], after high temperature annealing.
- Si sublimation during high temperature annealing leads to a slight **etching** of the surface.

3 Fabrication of PiN diode structures

→ **Electrically isolated** PiN diode structures with a **nanostructured** surface are developed.



4 Electroluminescence of the PiN diode structures



- **Ohmic contacts :**
- C face : Ti / Ni → 10 / 120nm
 - Si face : Ni/Ti/Al/Ni → 11/25/150/11nm
 - RTA annealing: 800-900°C / 90s

→ The electro-luminescence of the PiN diode structures is **blue**.

5 Conclusion

- The surface of 4H-SiC is **nanostructured** and present a **needle-shape** surface morphology for annealing at higher temperatures (1700 and 1600°C).
- Electrical measurements show an **electro-luminescence** of the PiN diode structures under a **forward bias of 8V**. The off-axis sample has a better luminescence than the on-axis one but we don't observe any difference of luminescence when the high temperature annealing changes from 1500°C to 1700°C.
- Further spectral analysis of this luminescence will be made to determine if it varies depending on the annealing temperature of the diodes.

References

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