

# **Cellulose nanofiber nanocomposite for flexible and wireless electronics**

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Korea Institute of Materials Science**





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- 01 Introduction of KIMS
- 02 Nanofibrillation of cellulose
- 03 Flexible electronic device application
- 04 Conclusion



CHAPTER

# 01 Introduction of KIMS

한국재료연구원

한국재료연구원

# KIMS (Korea Institute of Materials Science)



## Purpose of Establishment

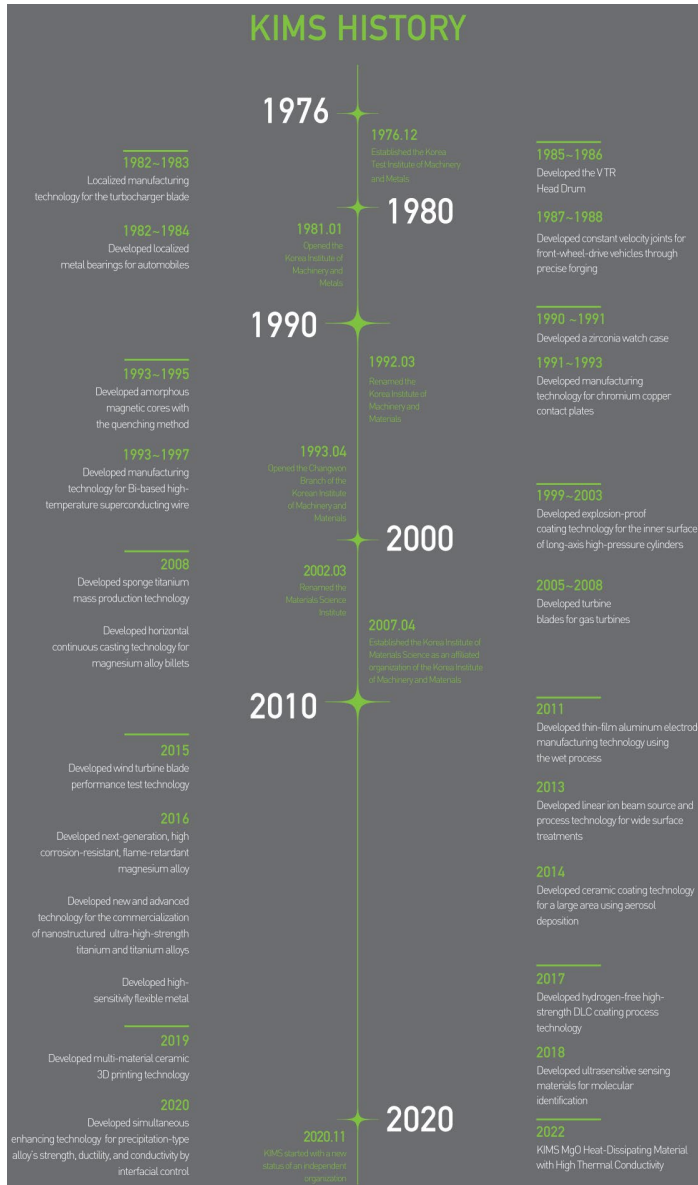
To support national research projects and policies and lead the development of the knowledge industry through supporting, fostering, and systematically managing Government-funded Research Institutes (hereinafter, "GRIs") in the field of science and technology

## Government-funded Research Institutes (GRIs) under the NST

We would like to introduce our 25 research institutes

|   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
|  Korea Institute of Science and Technology                     |   |  KOREA BASIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE                      |  Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute           |  Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information |
|    |  Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology |  Korea Institute of Industrial Technology           |  Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute |    |
|  KOREA INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING and BUILDING TECHNOLOGY |  Korea Railroad Research Institute                     |  Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science |  KOREA FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE                        |  World Institute of Kimchi                             |
|  Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources         |  KOREA INSTITUTE OF MACHINERY & MATERIALS             |  Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute           |  한국에너지기술연구원<br>KORER INSTITUTE OF ENERGY RESEARCH    |  KOREA ELECTROTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE          |
|  Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology             |  Korea Institute of Toxicology                        |  Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute           |  Korea Institute of Materials Science                |  KOREA INSTITUTE OF FUSION ENERGY                    |

# KIMS (Korea Institute of Materials Science)



As a government funded research institute, our objective at KIMS is to comprehensively facilitate R&D, test and evaluation and provide technical support related to materials technology in order to promote **innovative technology** and **industrial development**.

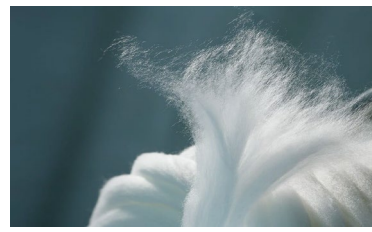


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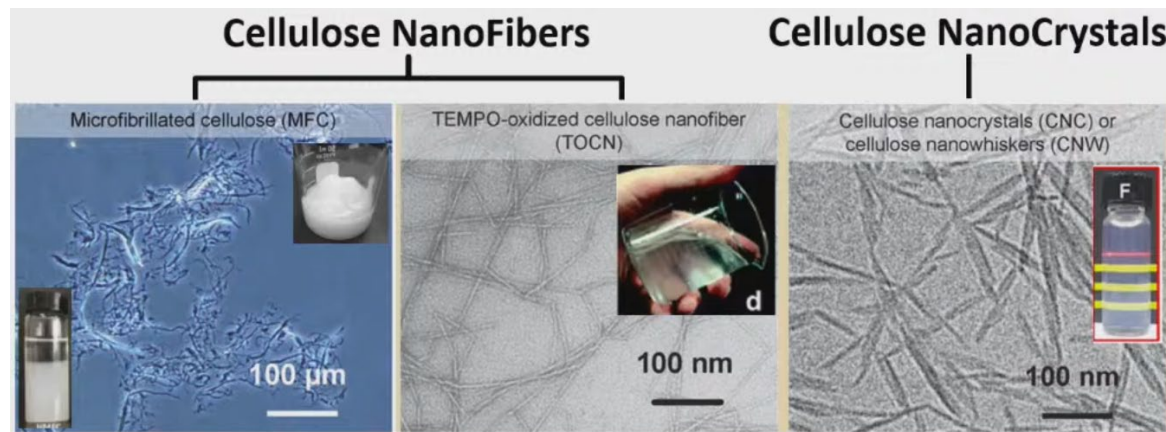
# 02 Nanofibrillation of Cellulose

한국재료연구원

## ❖ Cellulose nanomaterials at KIMS



- Lumber
- Cotton
- Lyocell



- MFC
- TOCNF
- CNC

| MFC  | TOCNF                                      | CNC   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Morphology</b>                            |  |   |
| Uneven width of 10-2000 nm forming bundles   | Uniform width 3~5 nm, several um in length | Uneven width of 5-10 nm, < 300 nm in length |
| <b>Energy consumption in nano-conversion</b> |  |   |
| <700~1400 MJ kg <sup>-1</sup>                | <7 MJ kg <sup>-1</sup>                     | <7 MJ kg <sup>-1</sup>                      |

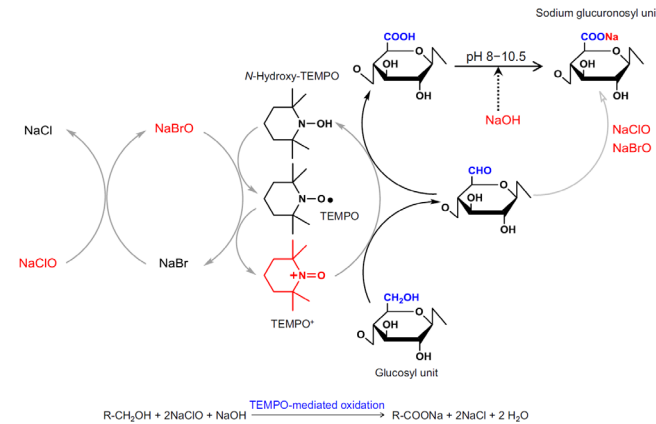
- Fabrication of MFC, TOCNF by using pulp, cotton, and lyocell
- CNC fabrication by using cotton



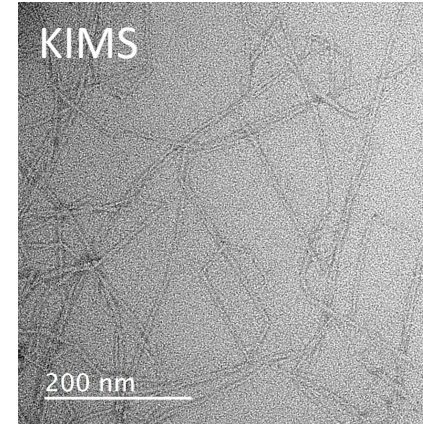
## ❖ CNF fabrication and morphology



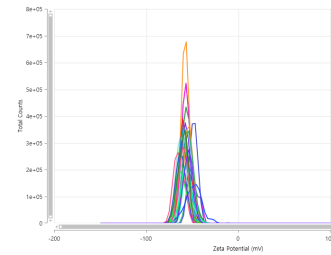
Several mm scale fiber



Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry 2018, 12:15–21



TEM image



Zeta potential result

- TEMPO catalyst is introduced to produce TOCNF through electrostatic repulsive force through substitution of COO<sup>-</sup> functional groups on the surface of CNF
- Manufacture CNF by the high-pressure homogenizer equipment
- Similar CNF morphology to other references
- Width : 5 nm, length : several um
- Zeta potential :  $-56 \pm 4.6$  mV, Stably dispersed state



## ❖ CNF dispersion concentration control and aerogel fabrication



**8 % CNF dispersion**



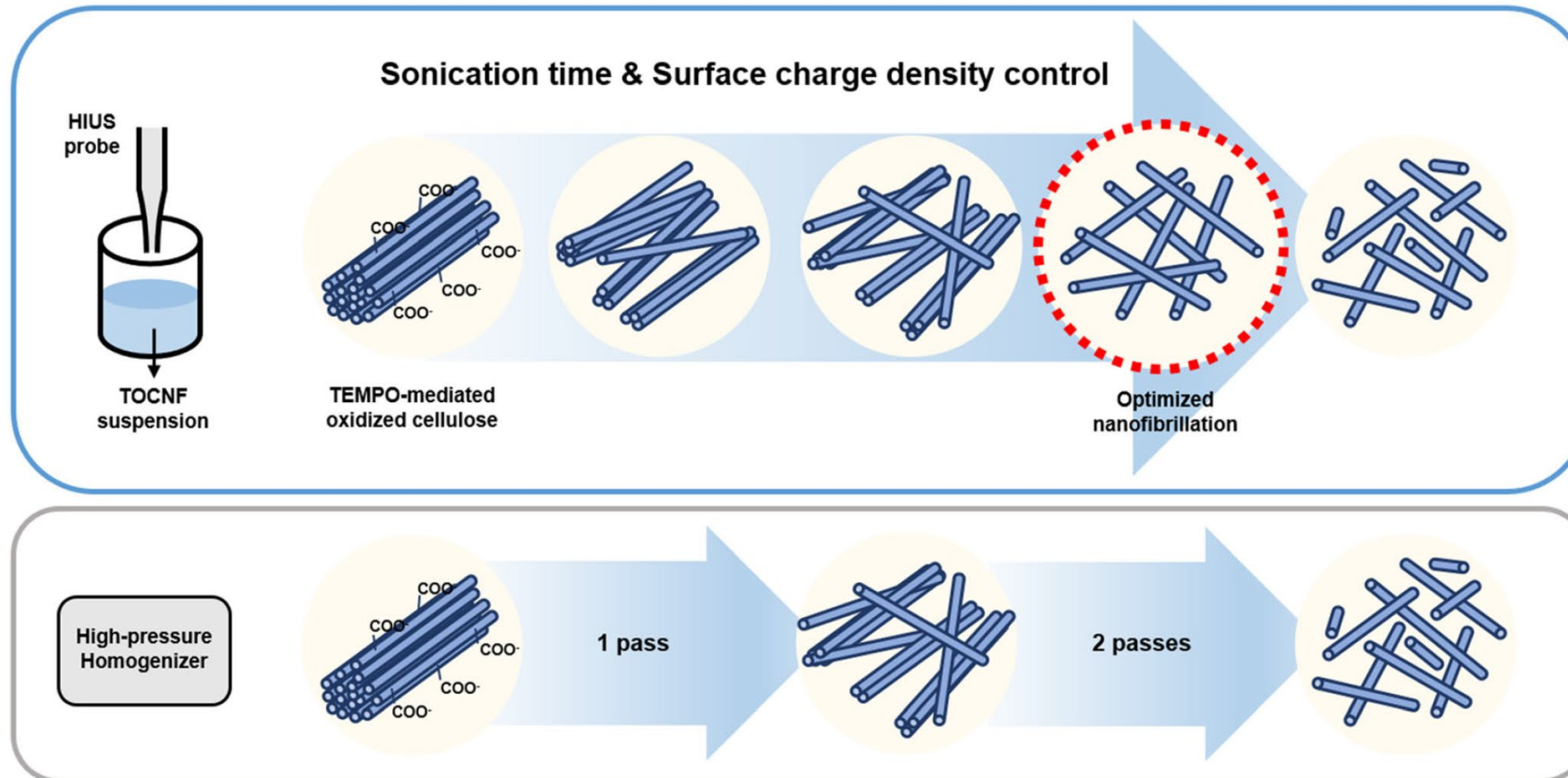
**1% dispersion and aerogel for composite**

- High concentration dispersion for nanocomposite applications
- Aerogel or sponge for resin infusion process

# Tracing the fibrillation of cellulose



## ❖ Scheme of nanofibrillation by ultrasonication and homogenizer

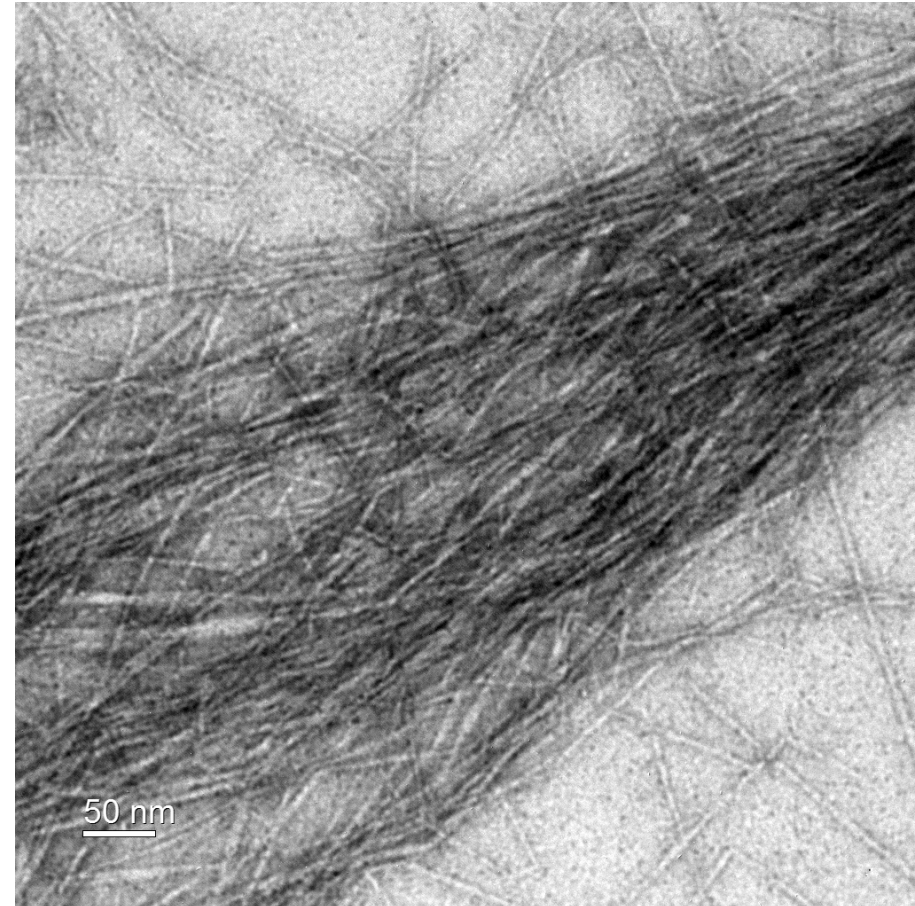
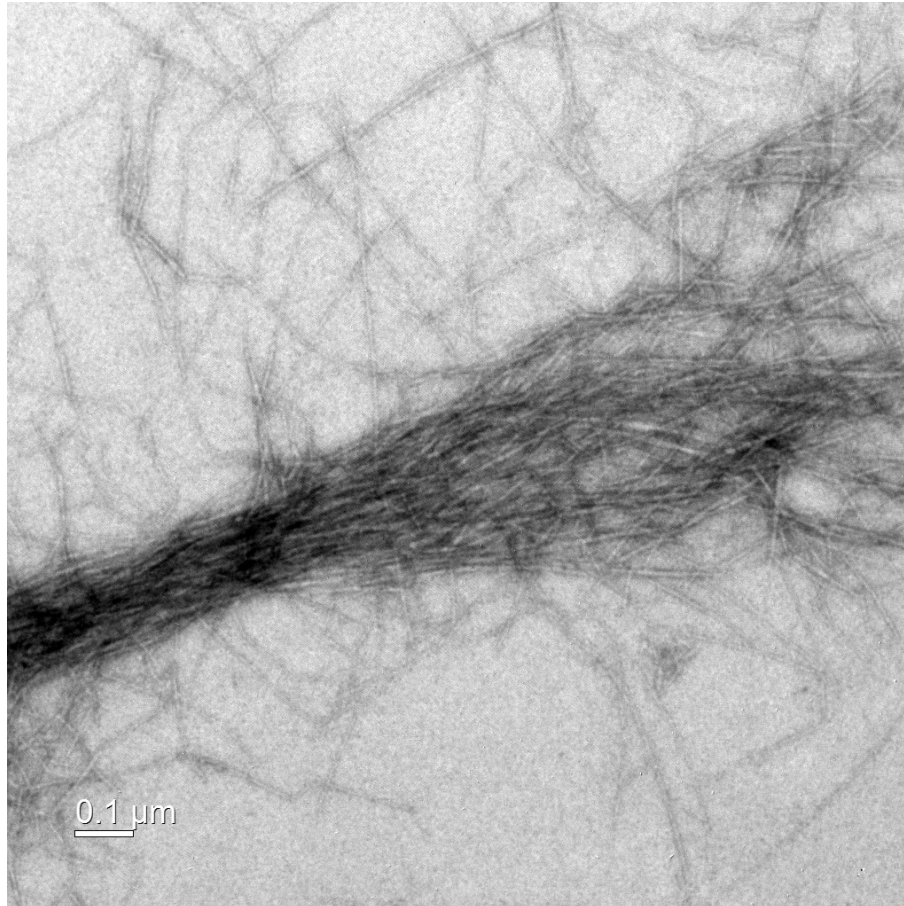


Ref: Cellulose, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10570-020-03410-4>, 2020, T.Park.

# Nanofibrillation of cellulose



## ❖ Nanofibrillation process

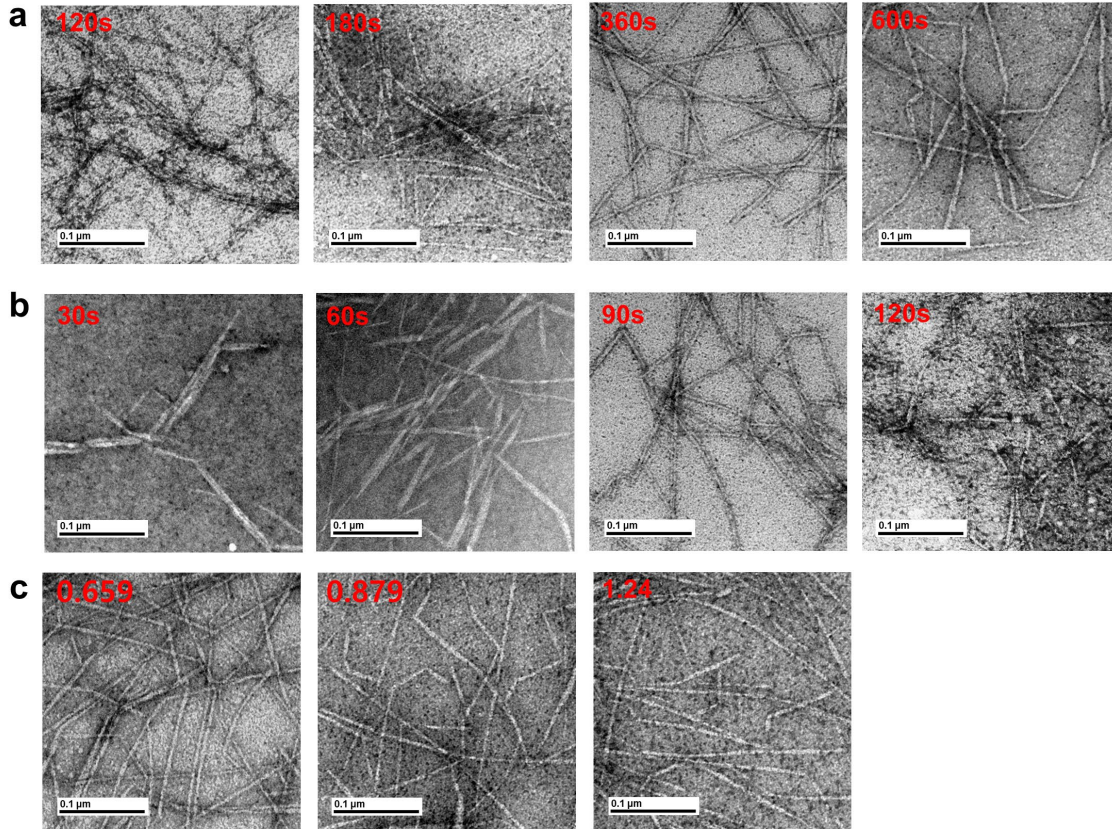


Ref: Cellulose, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10570-020-03410-4>, 2020, T.Park.

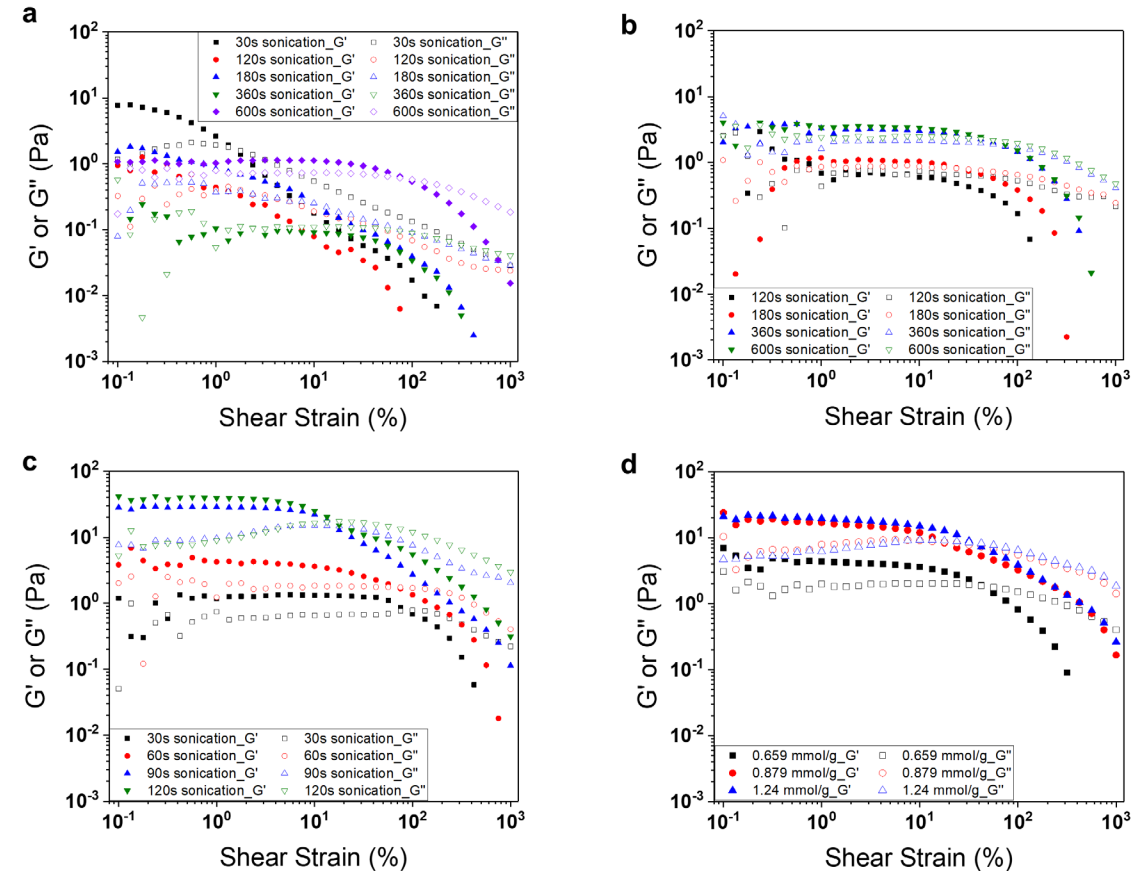
# Morphology and rheological property of CNF



## ❖ Fibrillation tracing and modulus comparison



**Fig.** TEM images of TOCNF nanofibrillated using (a, b) high-intensity ultrasonication with surface charge density of (a) 0.879 and (b) 1.24 mmol/g and (c) high-pressure homogenizer with different surface charge densities.



**Fig.** Oscillatory strain sweep measurement for 0.5% TOCNF suspensions disintegrated by (a-c) HIUS and (d) high-pressure homogenizer with different surface charge densities

# Degree of nanofibrillation prediction method

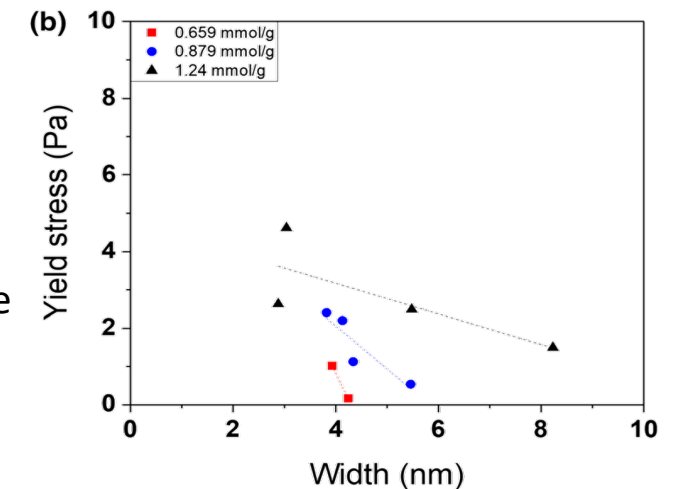
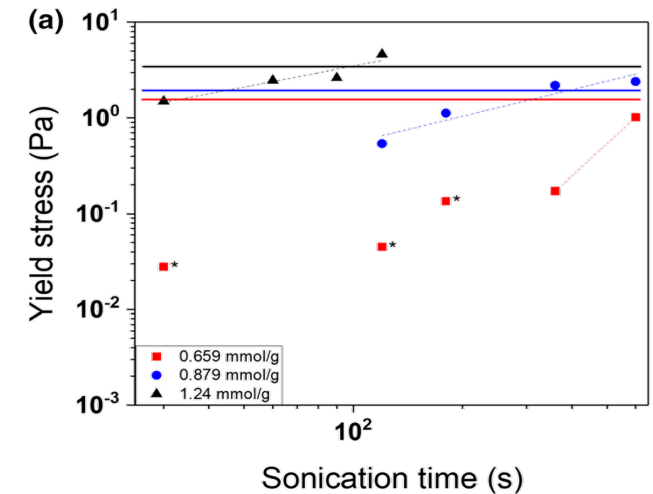


## ❖ Development of modeling that traces back the fibrillation process from the perspective of rheology

**Table 1** Average width of TOCNF with different nanofibrillation methods and surface charge densities

| Surface charge density (mmol/g cellulose) | Nanofibrillation method | Fibrillation time (s)     | Avg. width (nm) | SD (nm) |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 0.659                                     | HIUS                    | 120                       | —               | —       |
|   |                         | 180                       | —               | —       |
|   |                         | 360                       | 4.24            | 0.98    |
|   |                         | 600                       | 3.93            | 0.98    |
|   |                         | High-pressure homogenizer | —               | 3.86    |
| 0.879                                     | HIUS                    | 120                       | 5.46            | 1.37    |
|   |                         | 180                       | 4.34            | 1.51    |
|   |                         | 360                       | 4.13            | 1.02    |
|   |                         | 600                       | 3.82            | 1.07    |
|   |                         | High-pressure homogenizer | —               | 3.84    |
| 1.24                                      | HIUS                    | 30                        | 8.23            | 4.33    |
|   |                         | 60                        | 5.48            | 1.39    |
|   |                         | 90                        | 2.88            | 0.71    |
|   |                         | 120                       | 3.04            | 0.80    |
|   |                         | High-pressure homogenizer | —               | 3.20    |

→ Yield stress of 0.5 % TOCNF suspensions versus (a) sonication treatment time and (b) average width of the nanofibers as a function of surface charge densities. Solid lines indicate the yield stresses of TOCNF suspensions individualized using high-pressure homogenizer with different surface charge densities. (red: 0.659, blue: 0.879, and black: 1.24 mmol/g)



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# 03 Flexible electronic device application

# CNF for sensor application



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1-2

3-5

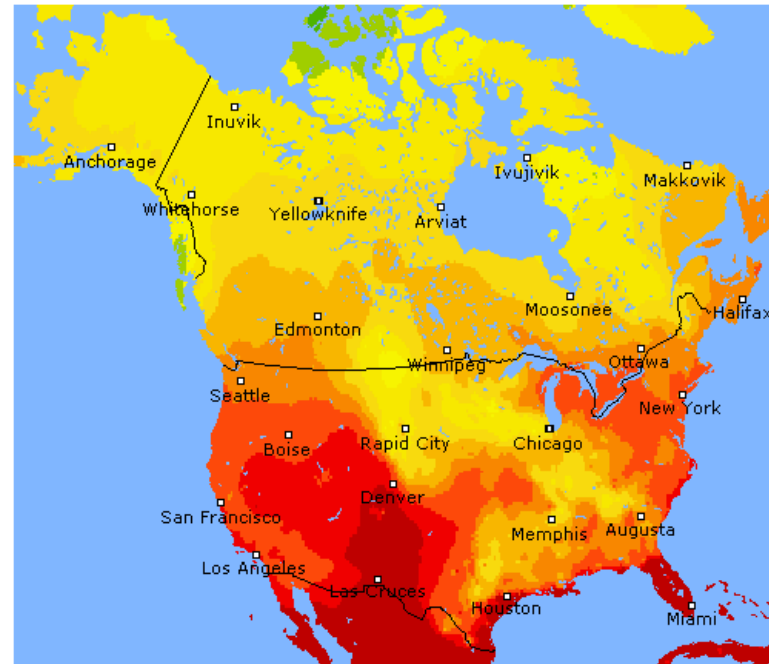
6-7

8-10

11+

## UV Index Map of North America

The following map of North America includes the regions surrounding Vancouver and shows the maximum UV index for today, 12 May. Inconsistencies with the data represented are very possible as our primary UV index reading factors in local hourly cloud cover. Source: [Weather Online](#)



<https://www.uvindex.app/vancouver>



**Air pollution (ozone depletion)**



**Ultraviolet (UV) light exposure on earth increase**



**Causes harmful diseases (sunburn, skin cancer, cataracts)**



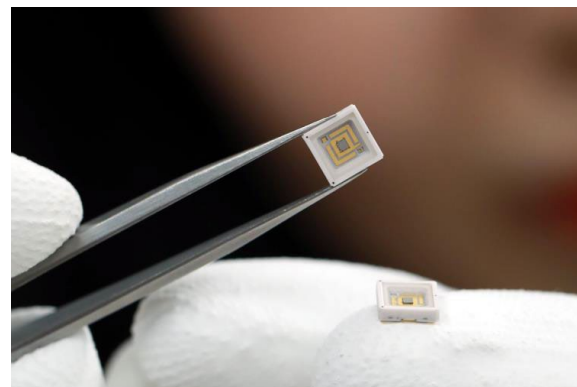
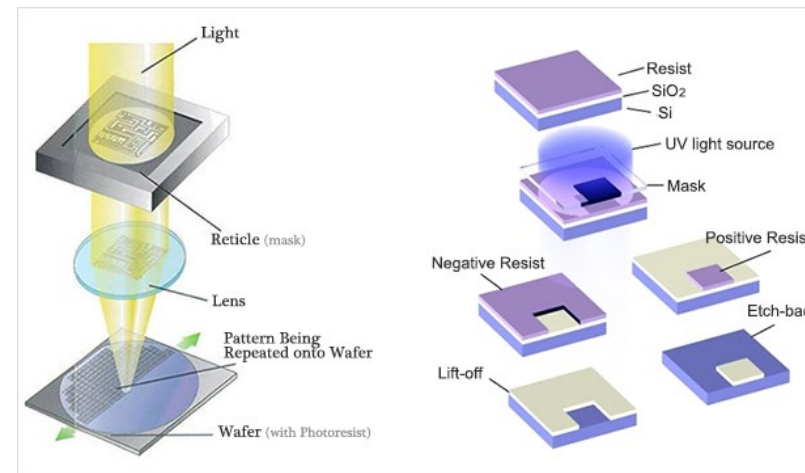
**Demands for evaluating the intensity of UV in day life**



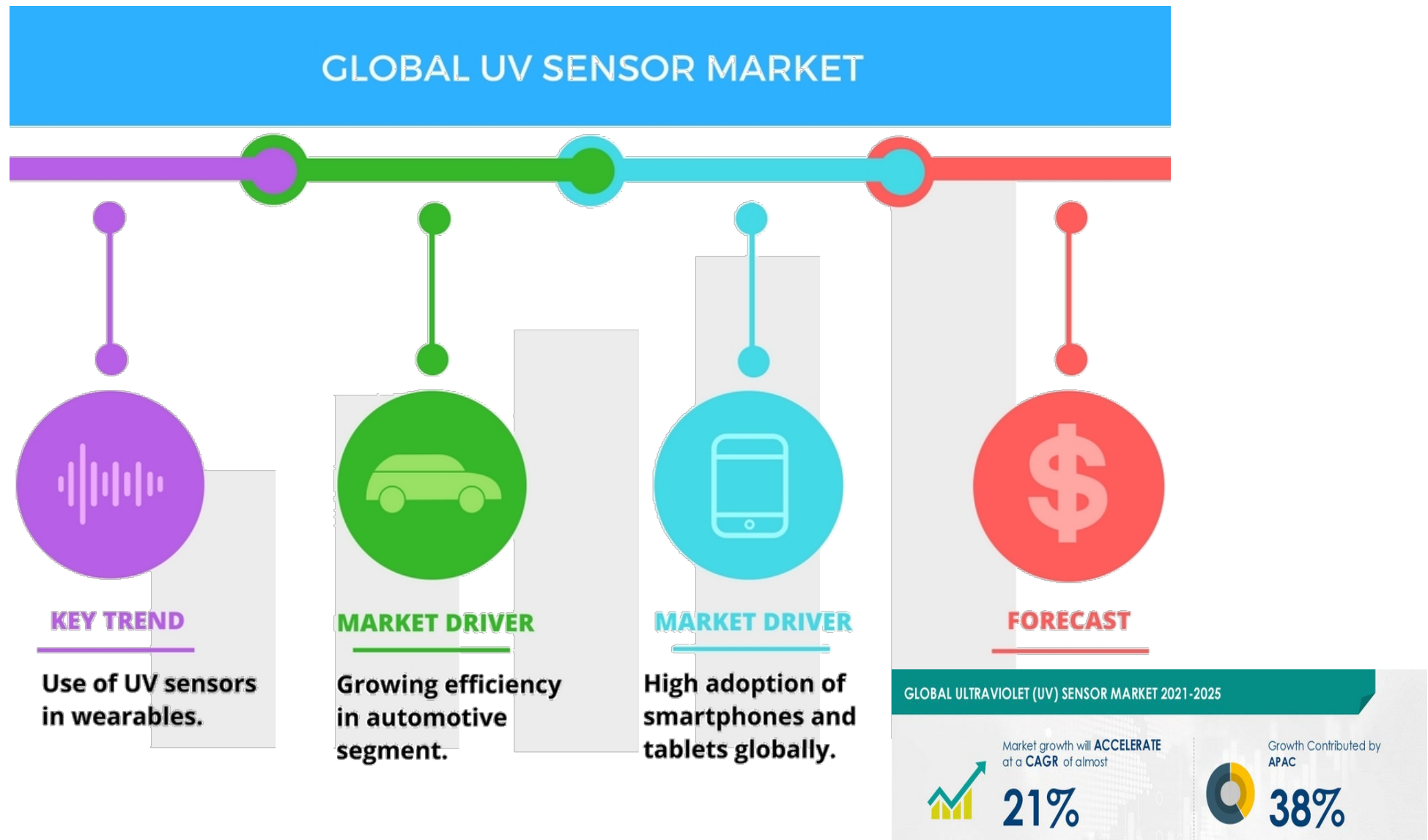
# CNF for sensor application



## ❖ UV lamp applications



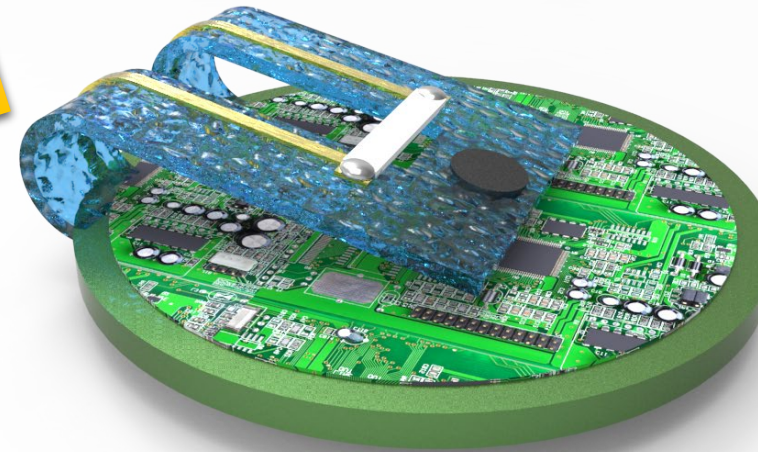
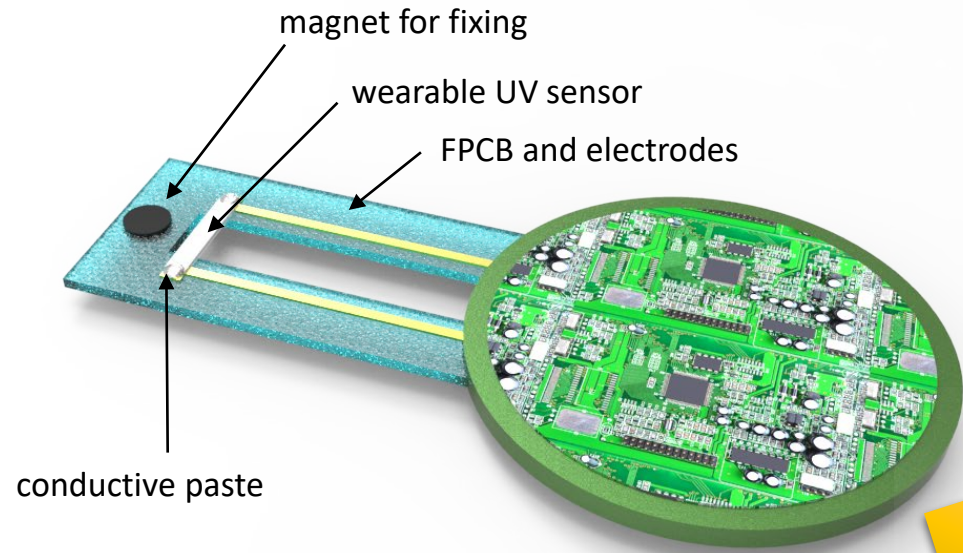
# CNF for sensor application



# CNF for sensor application



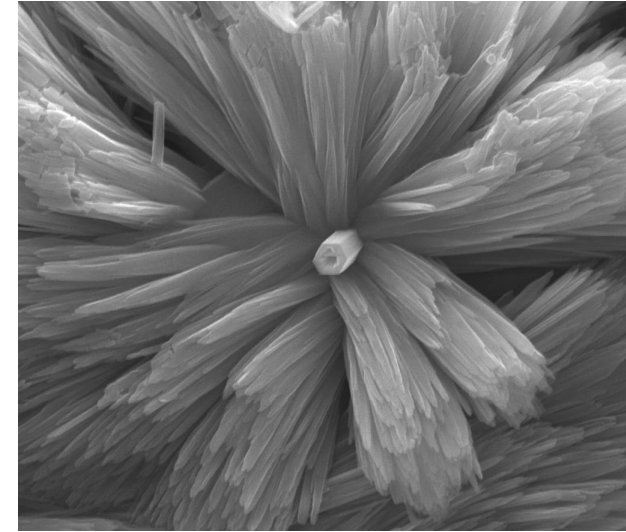
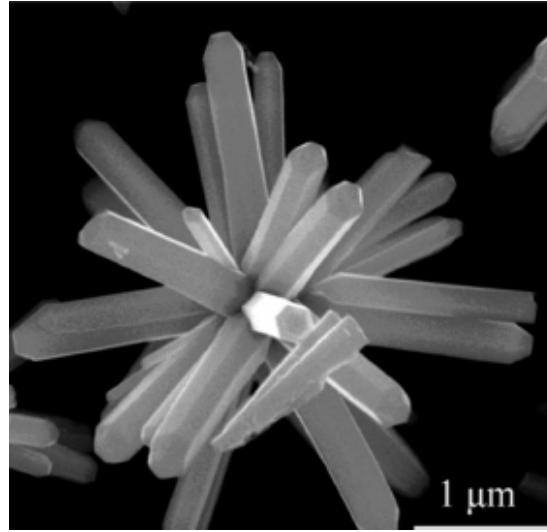
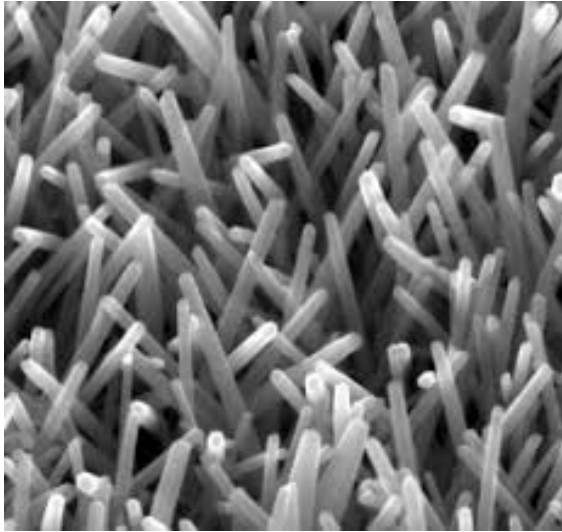
## ❖ Research goal (suggested)



# ZnO nanomaterials for sensing



## ❖ ZnO nanostructure for UV-sensing material

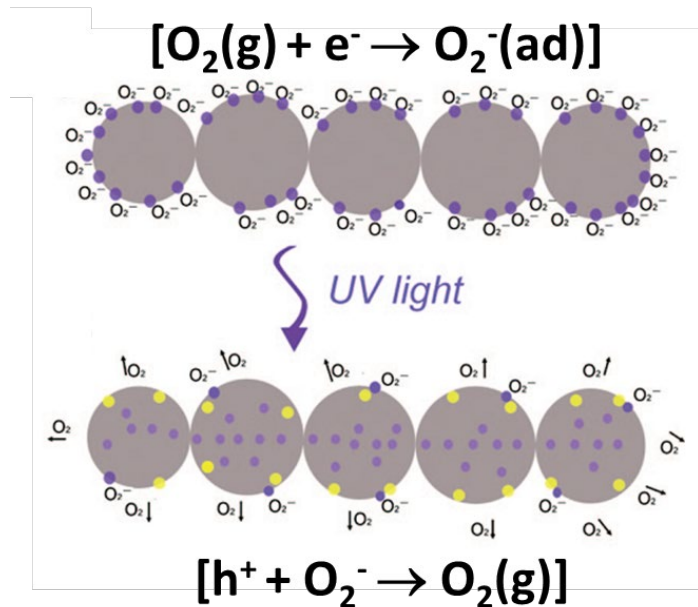


1. An environmentally friendly semiconductor
2. Band gap of 3.35 eV
3. Various synthetic methods, diverse processing technologies
4. Operating at high temperatures and in harsh environments.

Nanostructure → Large surface area → High sensitivity



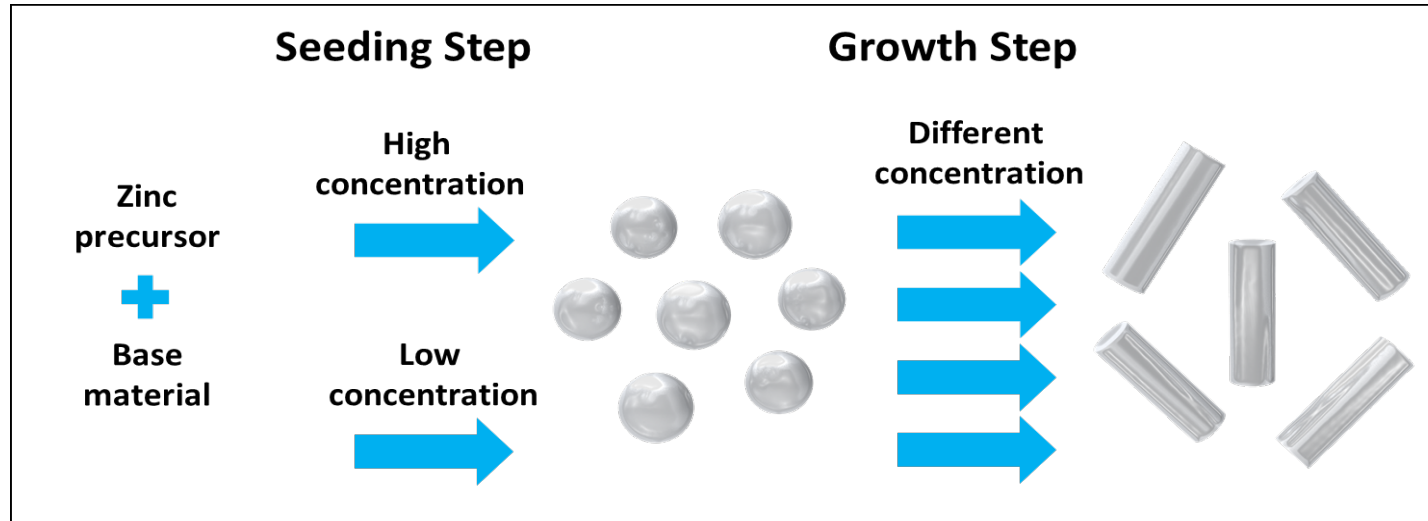
## ❖ UV sensing mechanism of ZnO devices



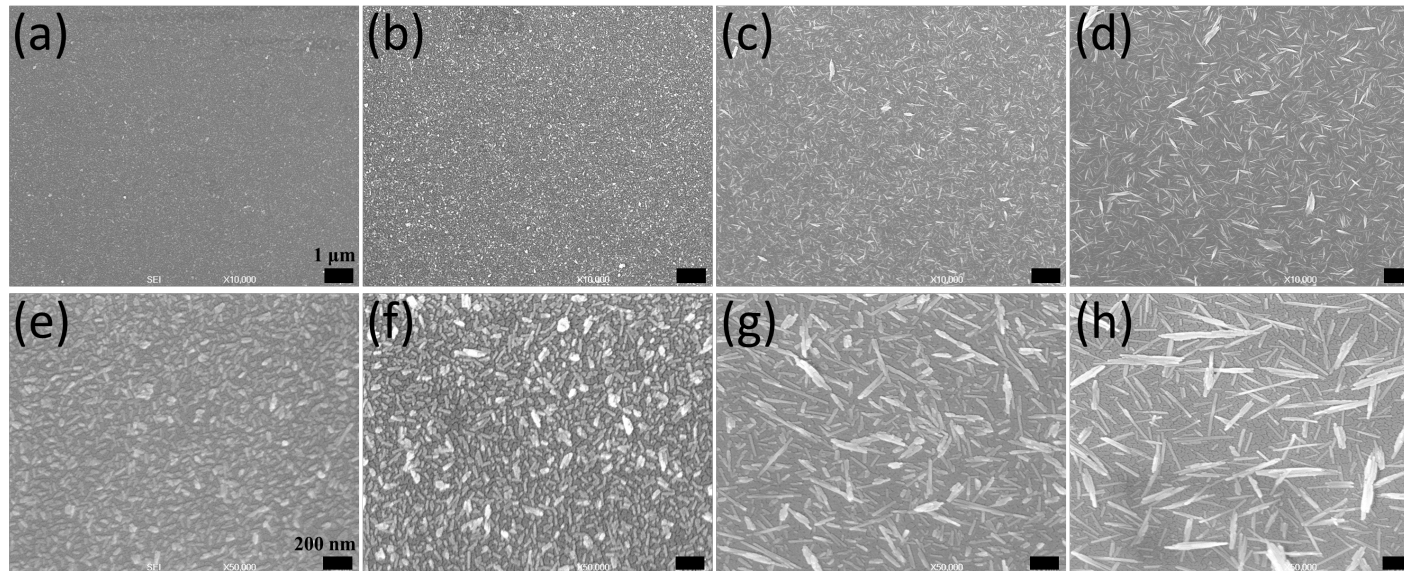
- Oxygen molecules are adsorbed onto ZnO surfaces by capturing free electrons which creates a low-conductivity depletion layer
- Upon UV illumination, hole discharge the negatively charged adsorbed oxygen ions to photodesorb oxygen from the surfaces or effectively get trapped at the ZnO surfaces, resulting in an increase in the free carrier concentration

### Objectives

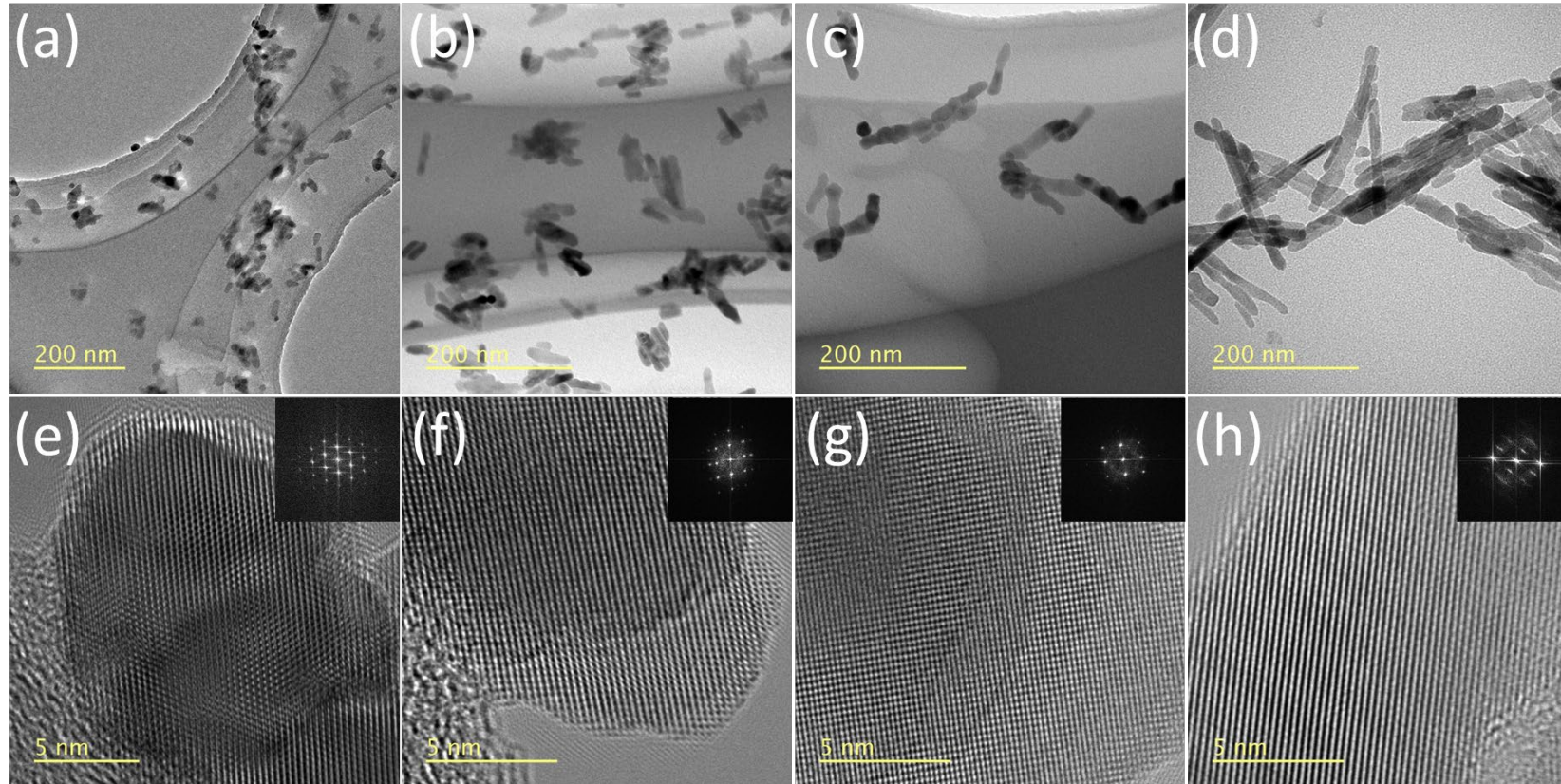
To synthesize ZnO nanorods by solution-processing method with controlling the length of them to understand the affects of the length of ZnO nanorods on ZnO nanorods based UV sensors.



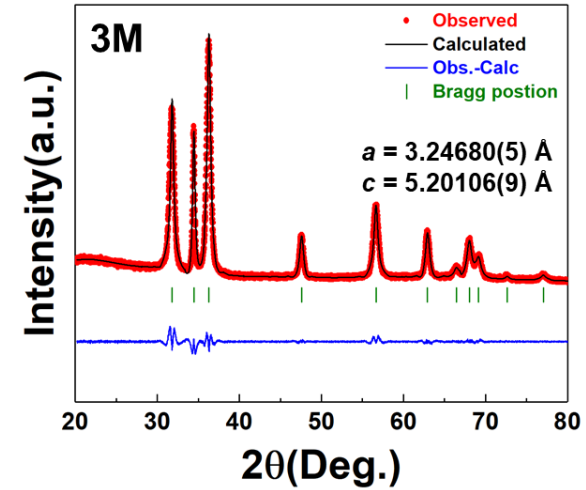
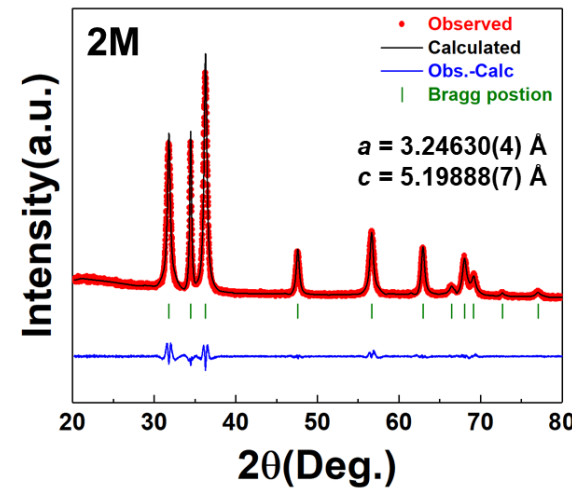
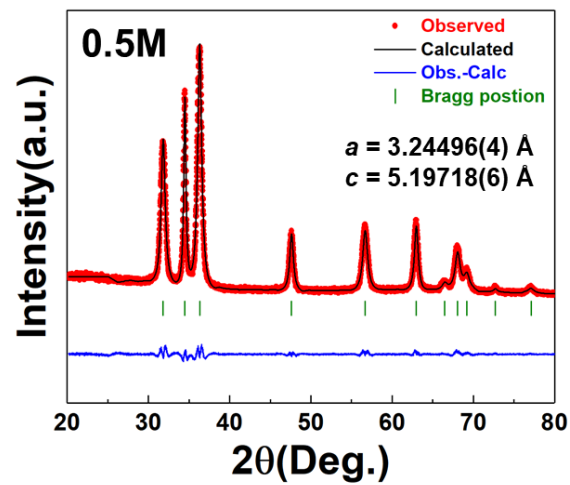
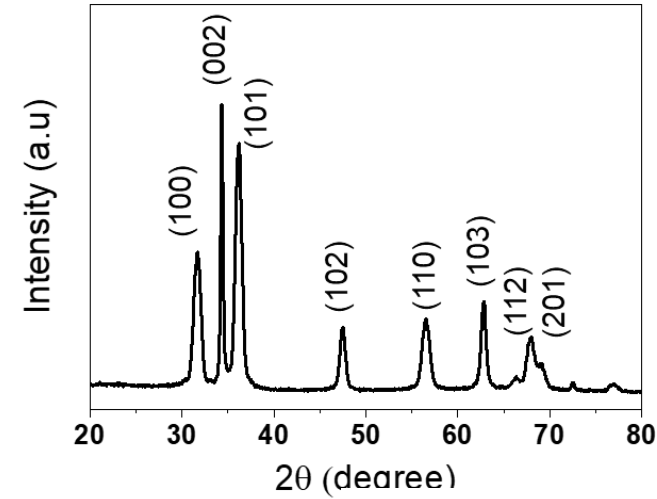
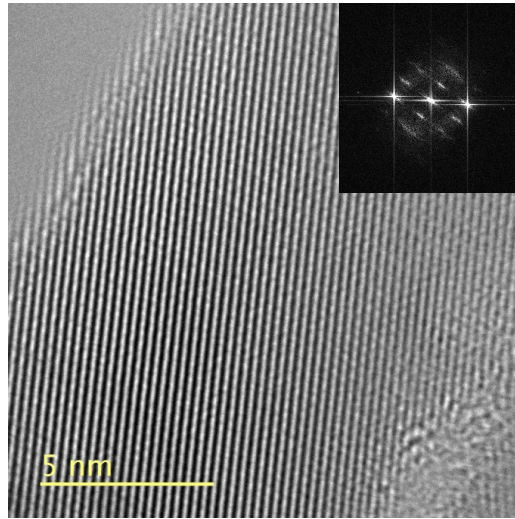
ZnO NRs synthesis by controlling the concentration of zinc precursors in the seeding and growth processes, respectively.



FE-SEM images of ZnO nanomaterials synthesized from different Zinc precursor concentrations of the growth reactions. (a) 0.5M, (b) 1M, (c) 2M, and (d) 3M concentration (Scale bar = 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Enlarged images (50,000x magnification) of the ZnO products (e) 0.5M, (f) 1M, (g) 2M, and (h) 3M respectively (Scale bar = 200 nm).



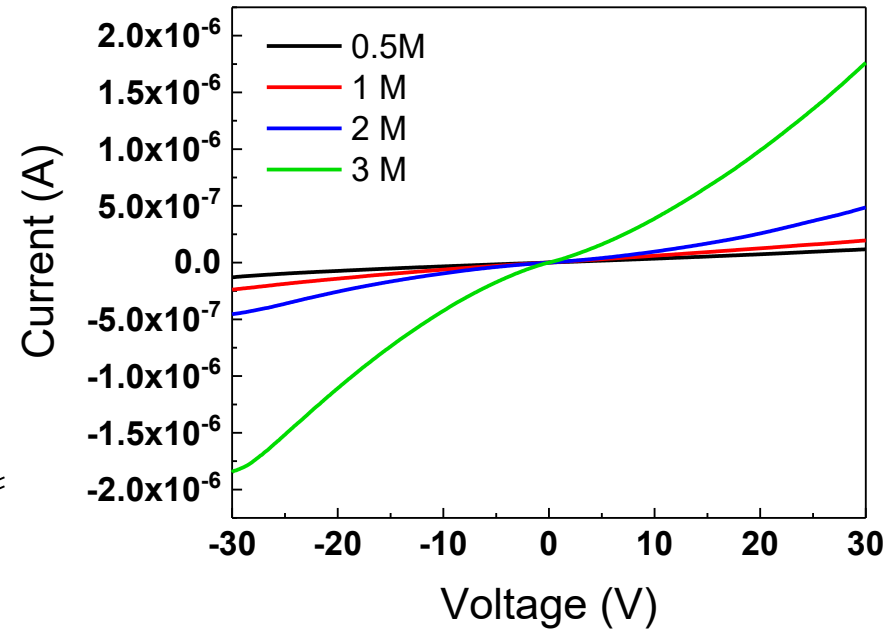
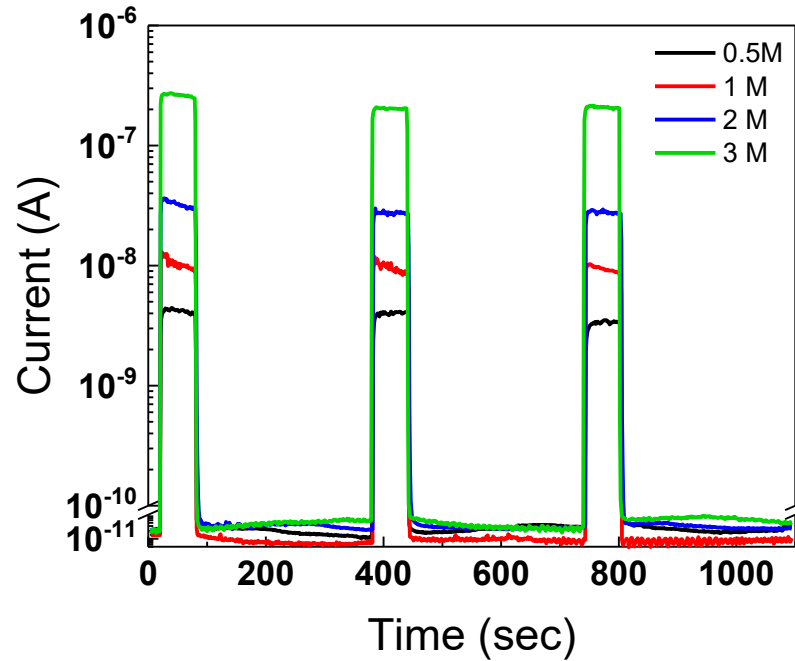
TEM images of ZnO nanomaterials with different aspect ratio synthesized from controlled precursor concentration such as (a) 0.5M, (b) 1M, (c) 2M, and (d) 3M. The crystal structure images and diffraction pattern of the product (e) 0.5M, (f) 1M, (g) 2M, and (h) 3M respectively.



TEM and XRD pattern of ZnO nanomaterials with different aspect ratio

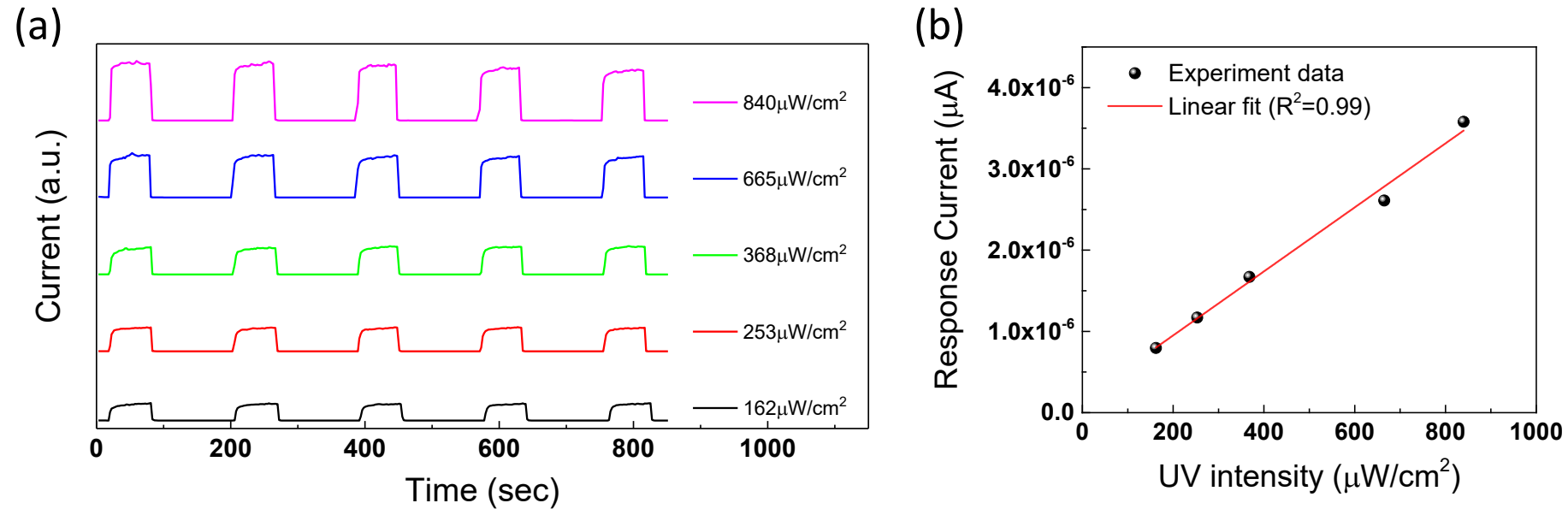


# Research results



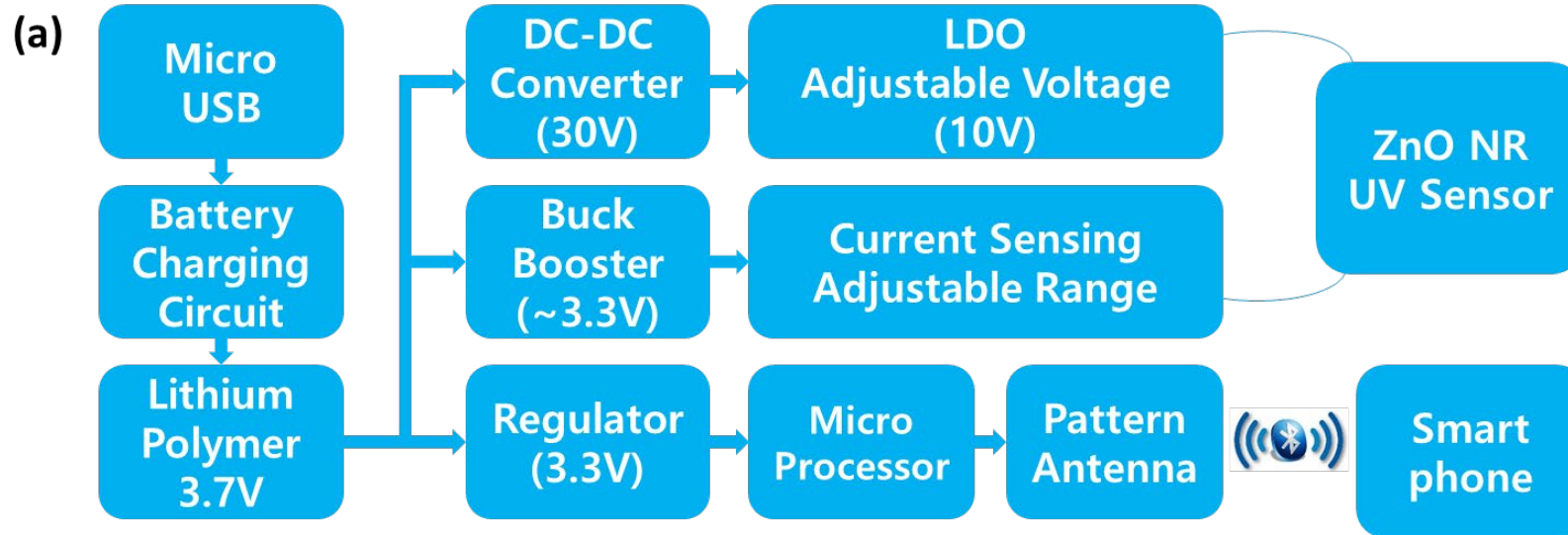
| Growth reaction precursor concentration | Aspect ratio (average/maximum) | $I_{UV} / I_{dark}$ | Response time (s) | Reset time (s) | Responsivity (A/W)    |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 0.5 M                                   | -                              | $2.62 \times 10^2$  | 5.15              | 1.10           | $9.46 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 1 M                                     | 4.5 / 5.5                      | $1.08 \times 10^3$  | 2.61              | 1.61           | $2.75 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| 2 M                                     | 13.5 / 20.1                    | $1.35 \times 10^3$  | 3.00              | 1.50           | $7.58 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| 3 M                                     | 18.6 / 27.3                    | $1.09 \times 10^4$  | 3.10              | 1.25           | $5.55 \times 10^{-1}$ |

Optoelectric properties of ZnO NRs under repeated UV irradiation on and off

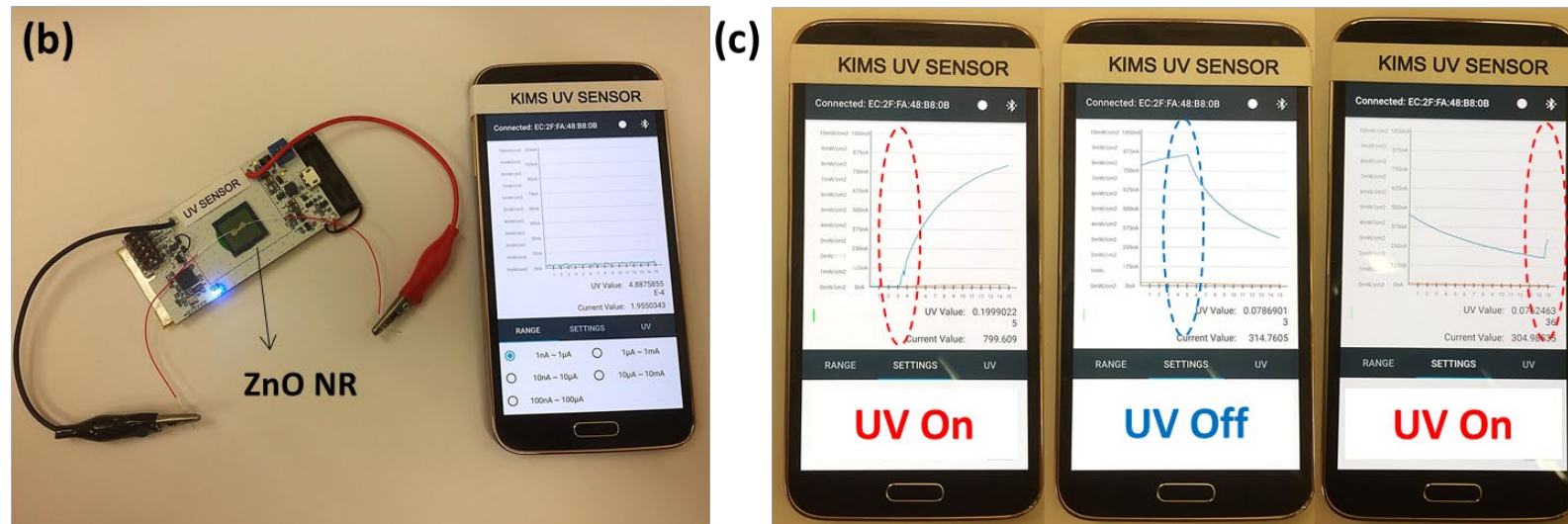


**Figure.** (a) Five times repeated photocurrent measurement under different UV intensity irradiation (162–840  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ) (b) The photocurrent vs. UV intensity plot and linear fit for the calibration curve. ( $R^2 = 0.99$ )

# Research results



(a) A schematic diagram of the circuitry for wireless ZnO NR UV sensor platform connected with a smartphone.



(b) A photographic image of the Bluetooth-connected ZnO NRs UV sensor module (left) and a smartphone display showing the dark current value in real time (right).

(c) Photographic images of the wireless ZnO NRs UV sensor operation under repeated UV light on/off.

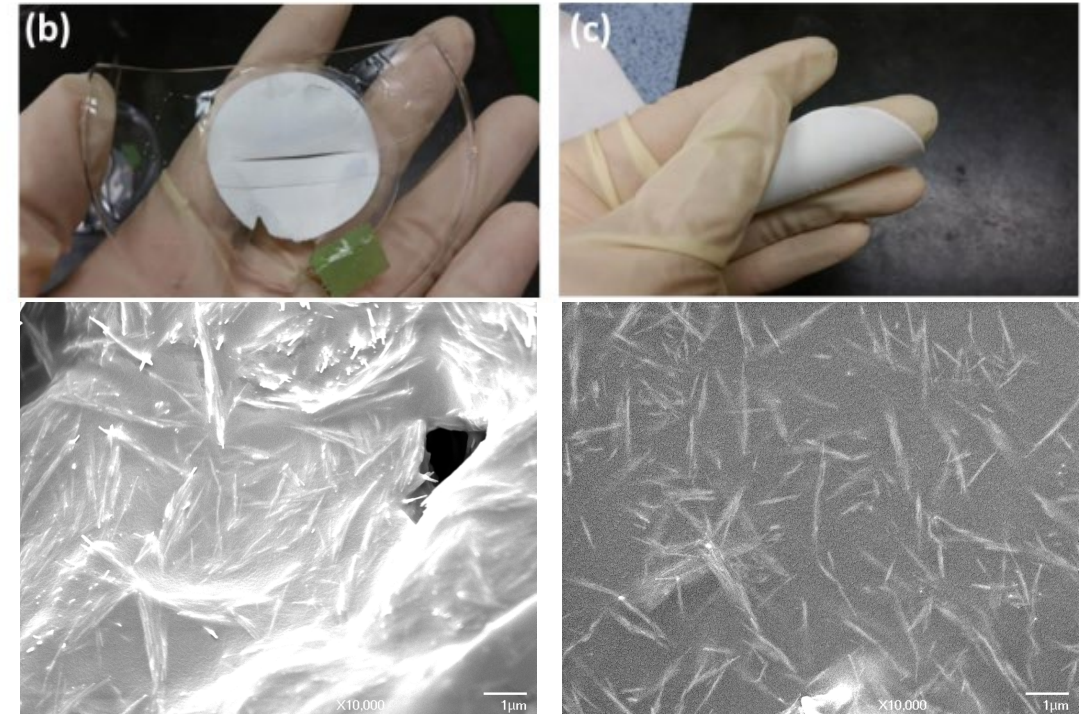
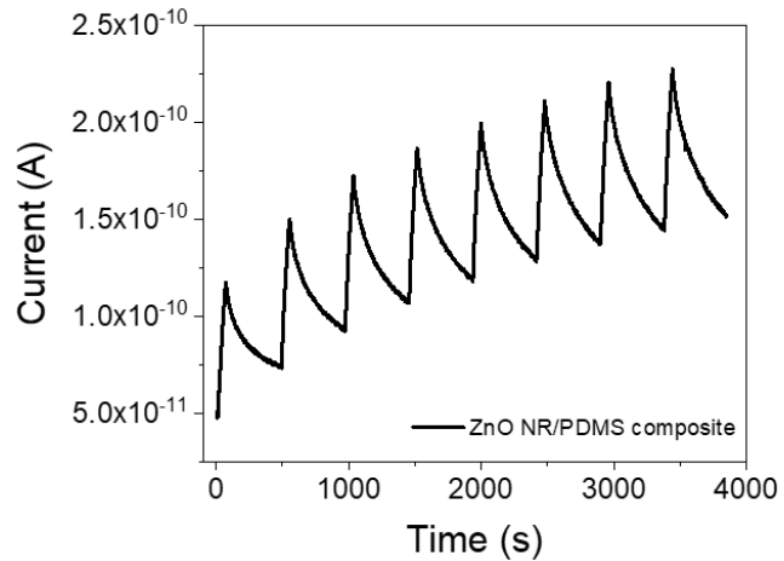
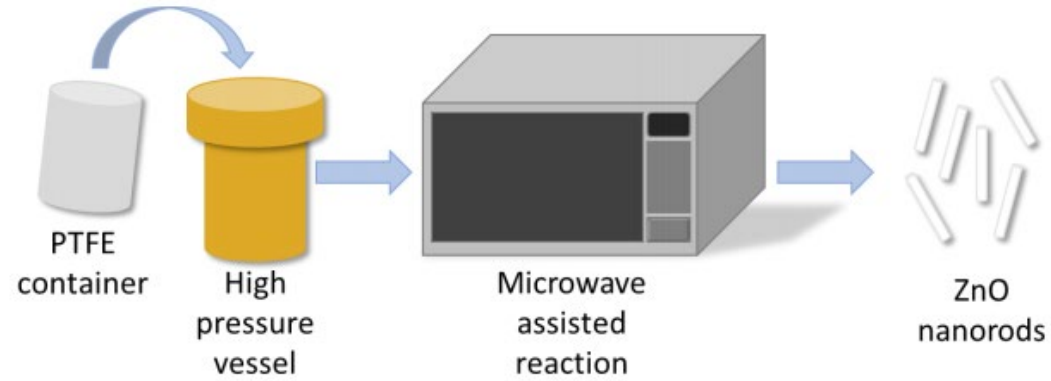
## ❖ How to make a flexible sensor? A fiber type?



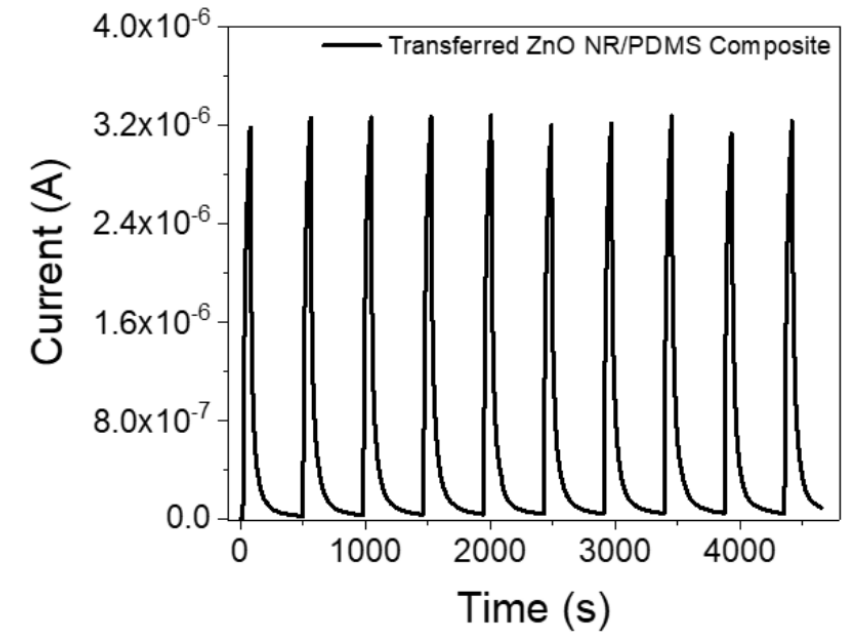
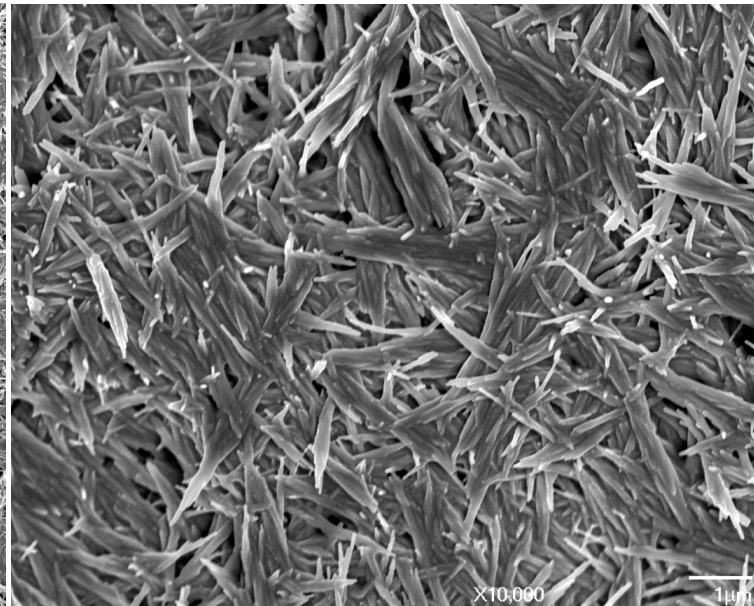
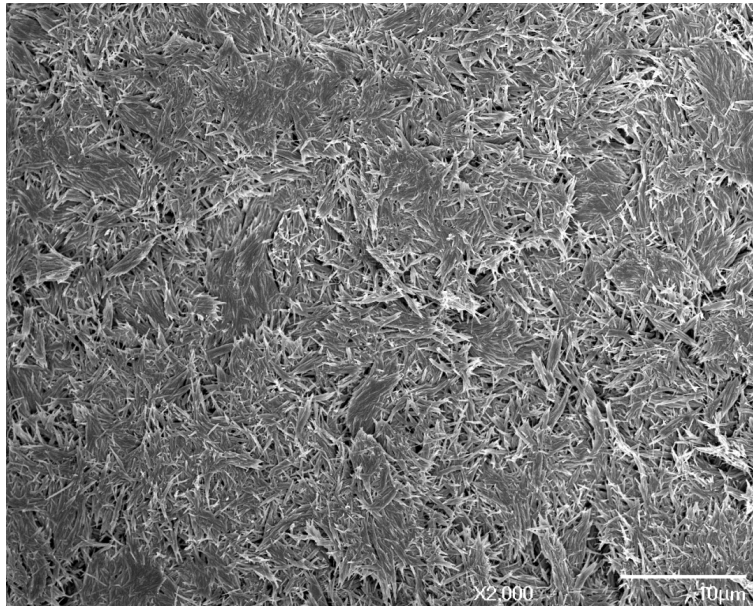
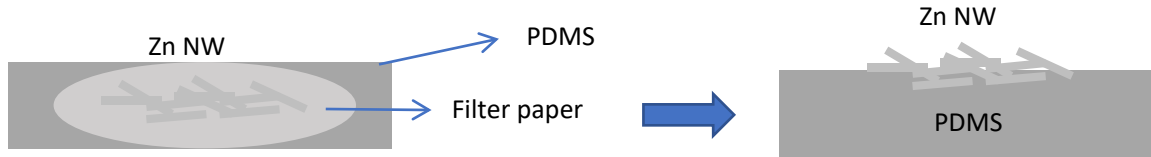
# Further research



## ❖ PDMS + ZnO nanorods Composite (1:1 weight ratio)



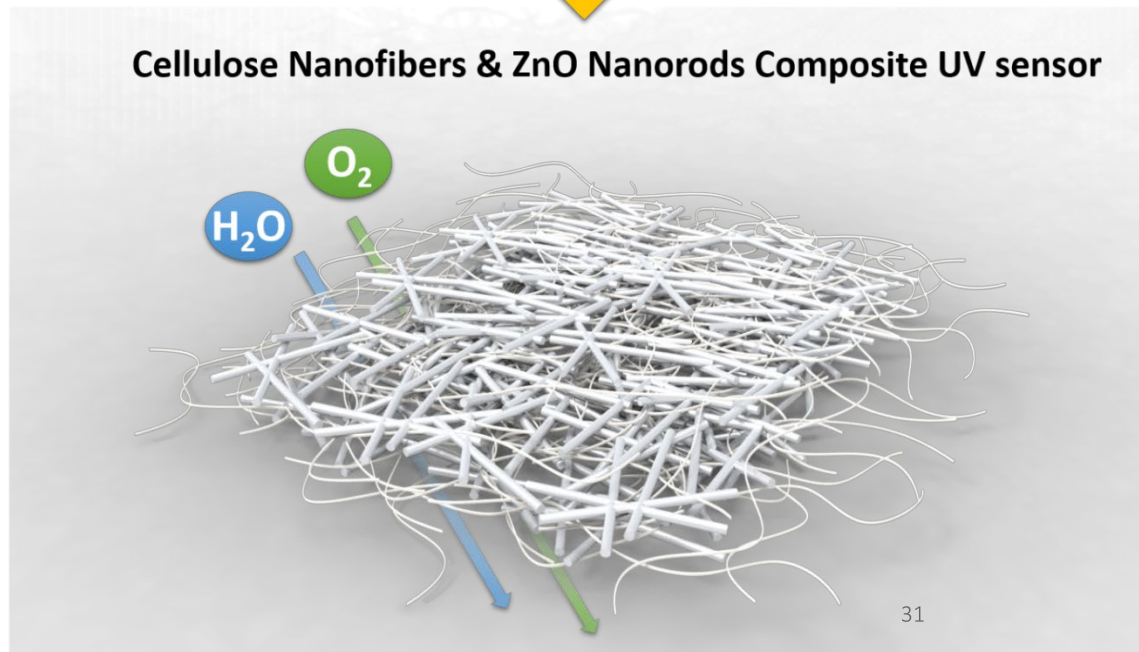
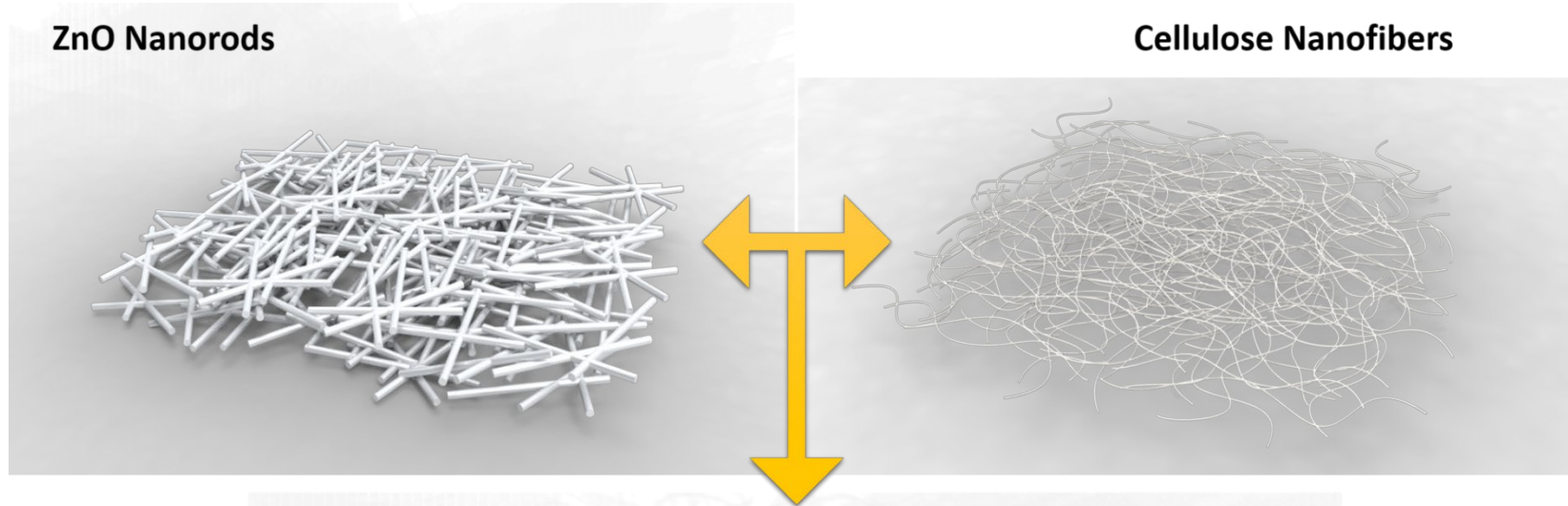
## ❖ Transferred Composite (ZnO nanorods embedded PDMS)



|                          | Dark current          | On current            | On/off ratio |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ZnO NRs/PDMS             | -                     | -                     | 1.84         |
| Transferred ZnO NRs/PDMS | $3.74 \times 10^{-8}$ | $3.26 \times 10^{-6}$ | 88.9         |

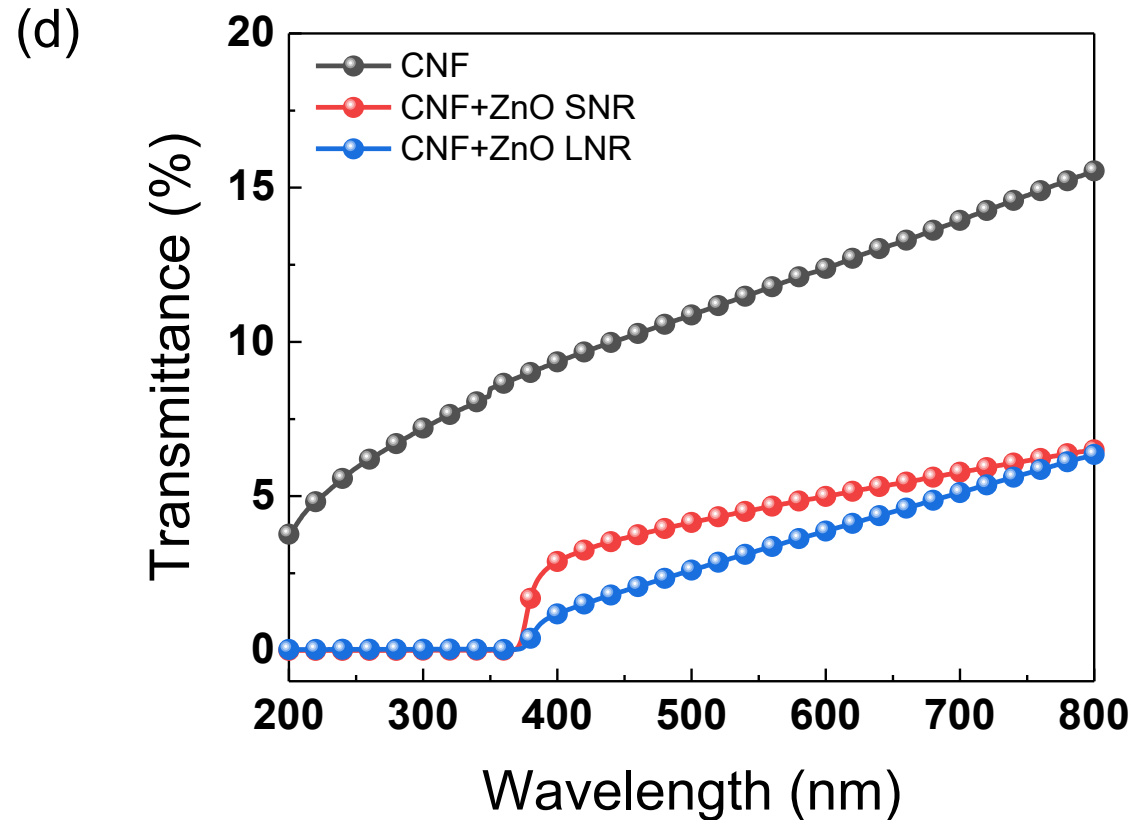
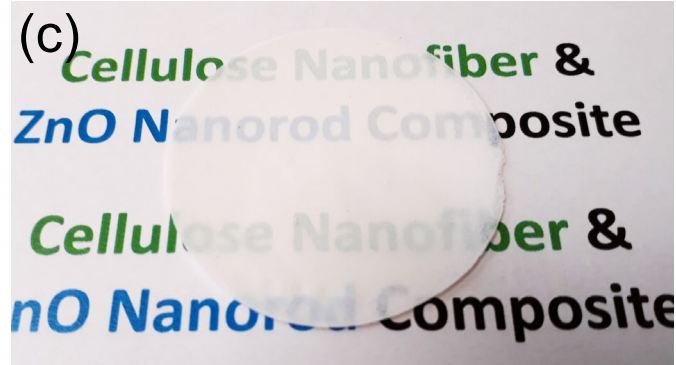
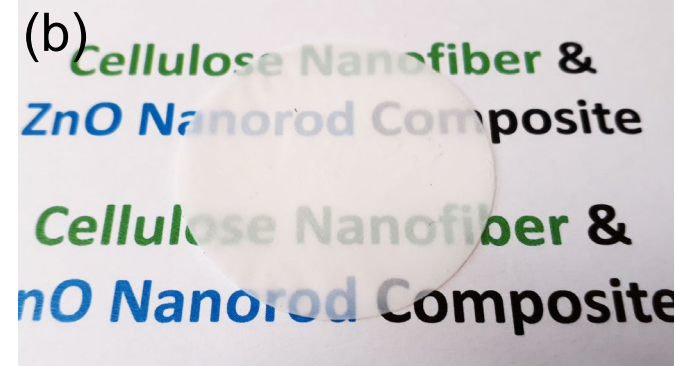
The optoelectronic properties of ZnO NRs/PDMS composite sensor

## ❖ ZnO nanorods and CNF composite film for a flexible sensor



A schematic image of the fabrication of flexible CNF+ZnO NRs composite sheet UV sensor operating appropriately under atmospheric conditions based on the porous matrix materials.

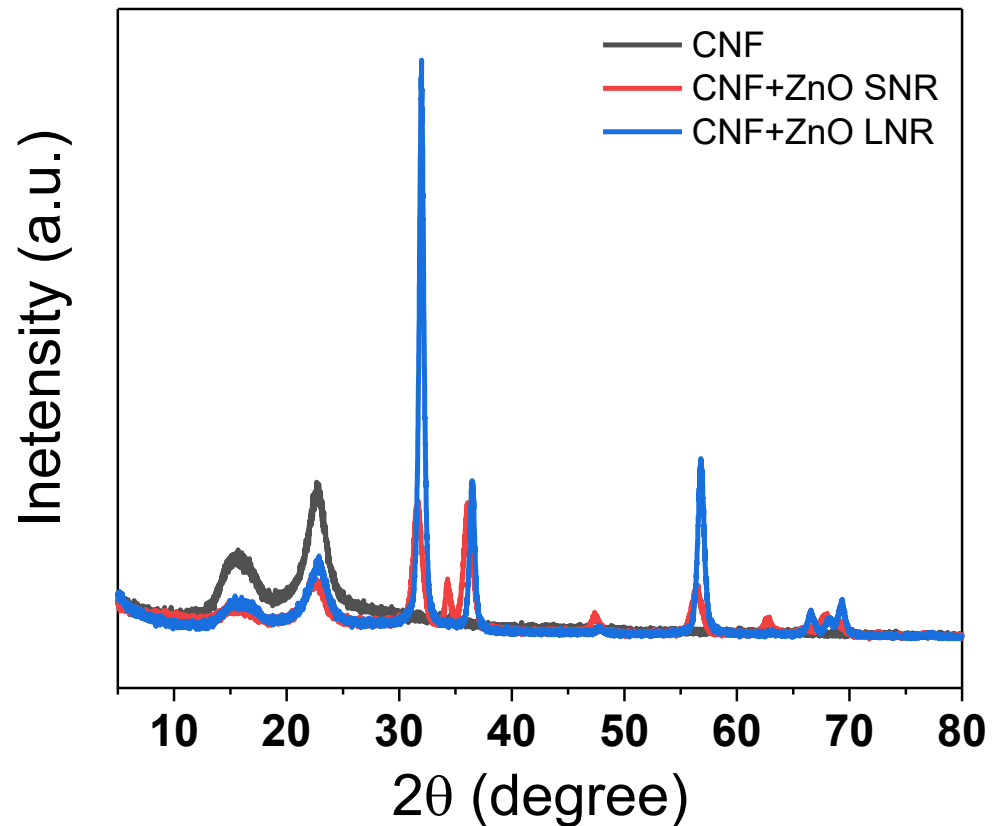
## ❖ Optical property of ZnO nanorods and CNF composite films



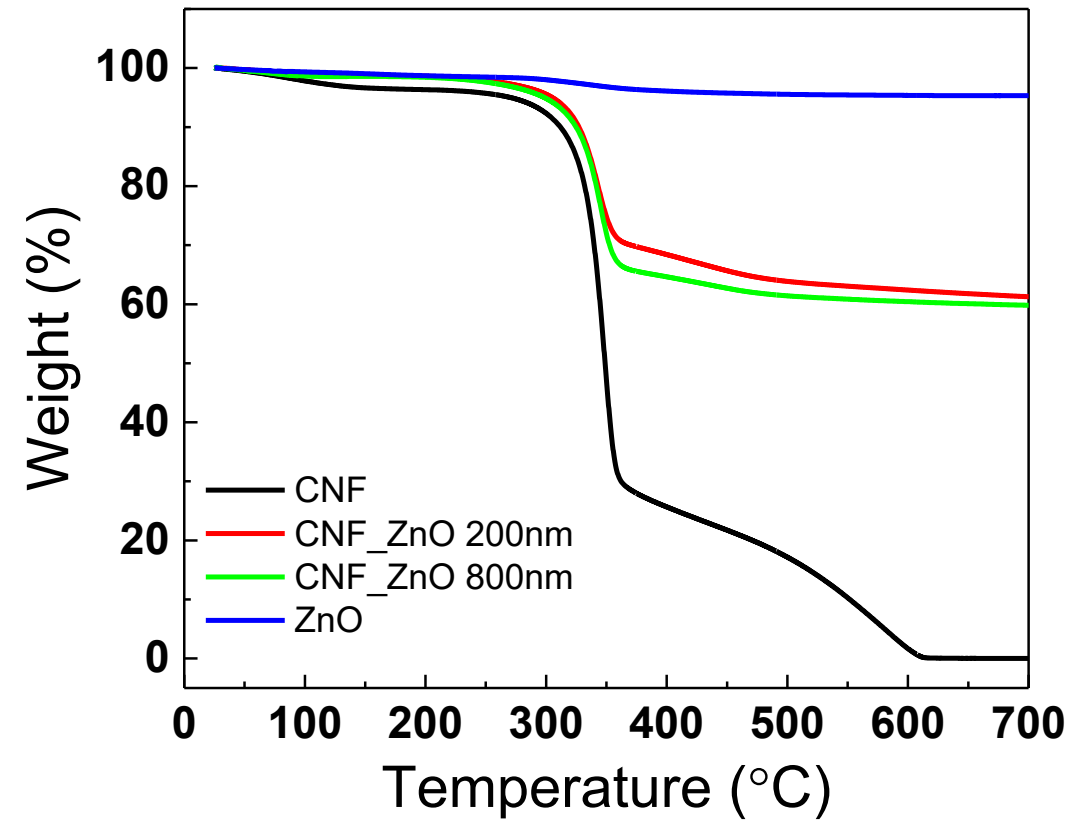
Photographic images of free-standing (a) CNF sheet, (b) CNF-ZnO SNR composite sheet, and (c) CNF-ZnO LNR composite sheet. (d) UV-Vis (Transmittance) spectra of CNF sheet and CNF+ZnO NR composite sheets.



## ❖ Crystal structure and thermal analysis of the composite sensor



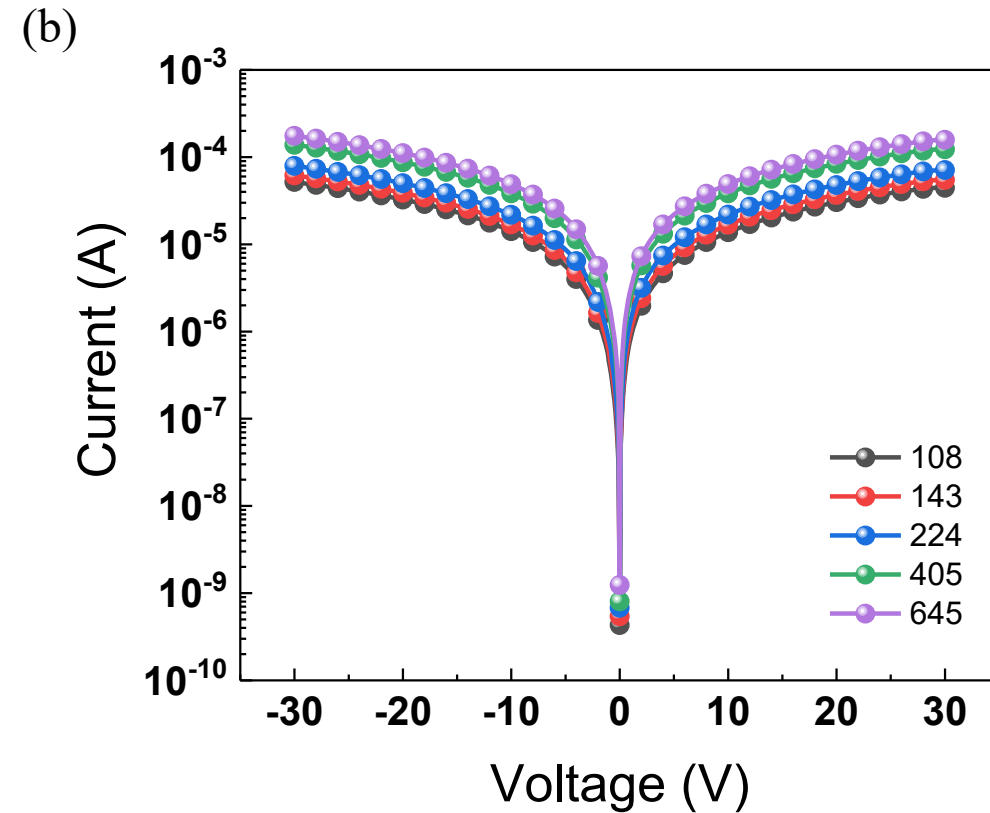
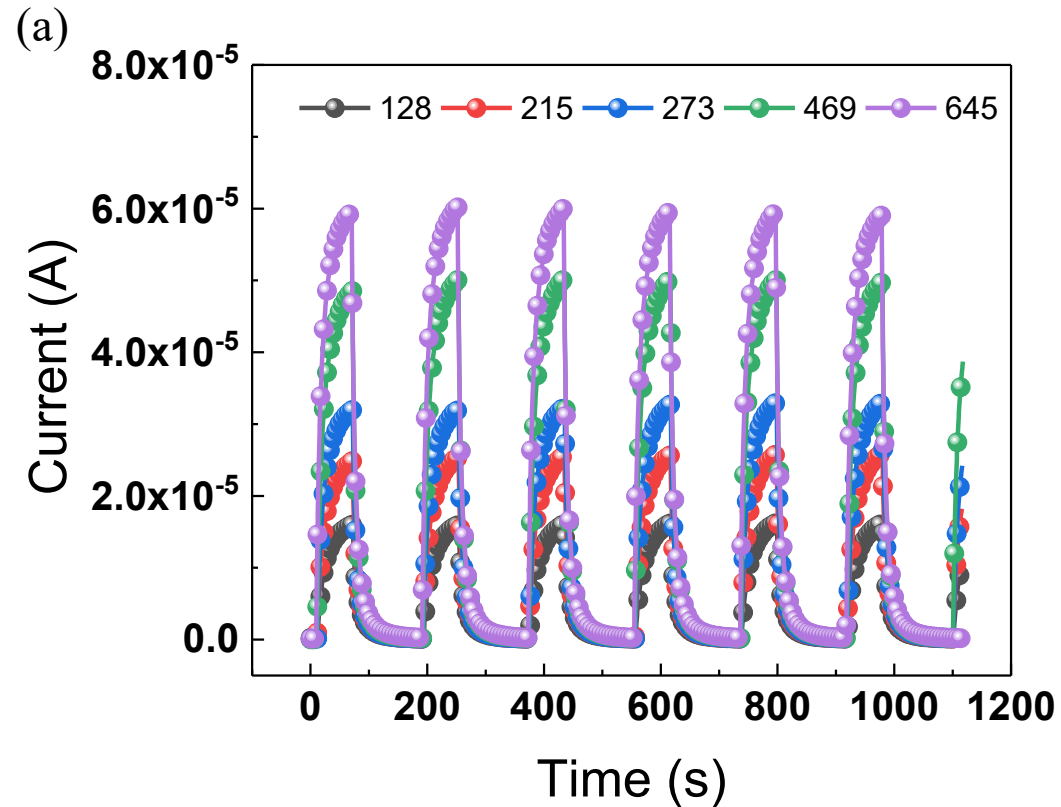
XRD pattern of CNF film and CNF-ZnO NR composite films with different lengths of ZnO NRs.



TGA spectra of CNF, ZnO, and composites



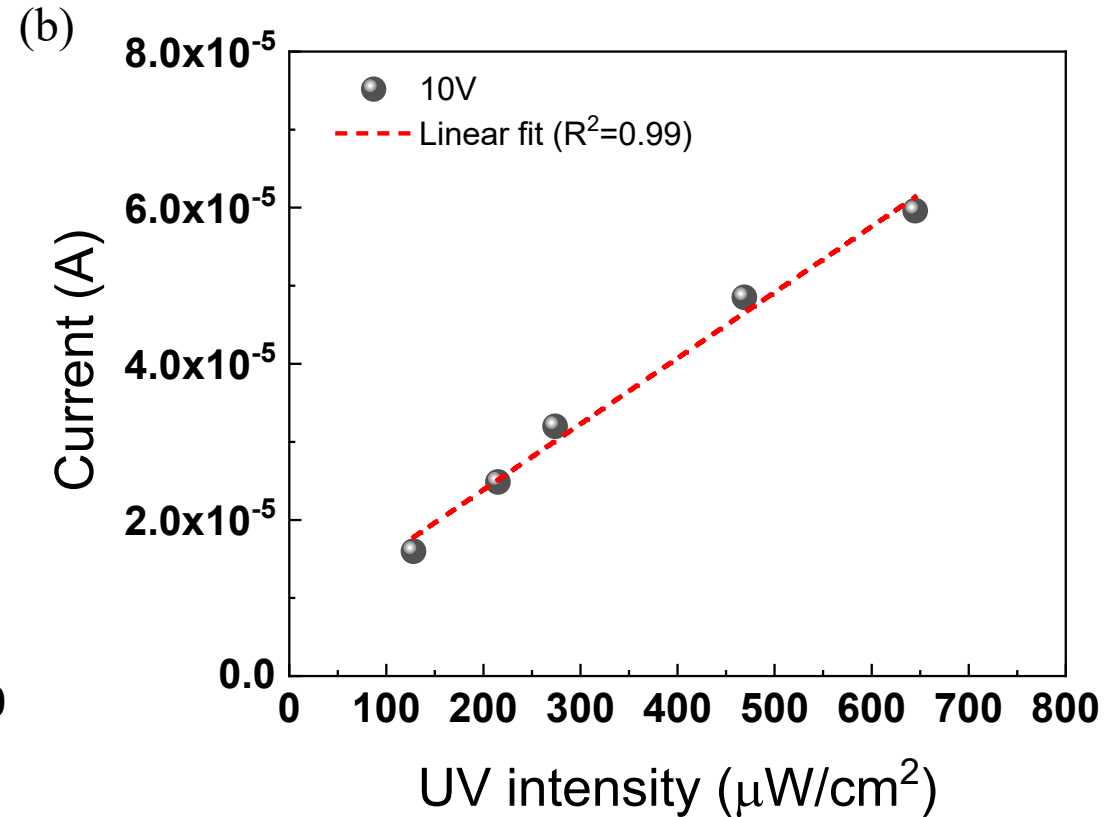
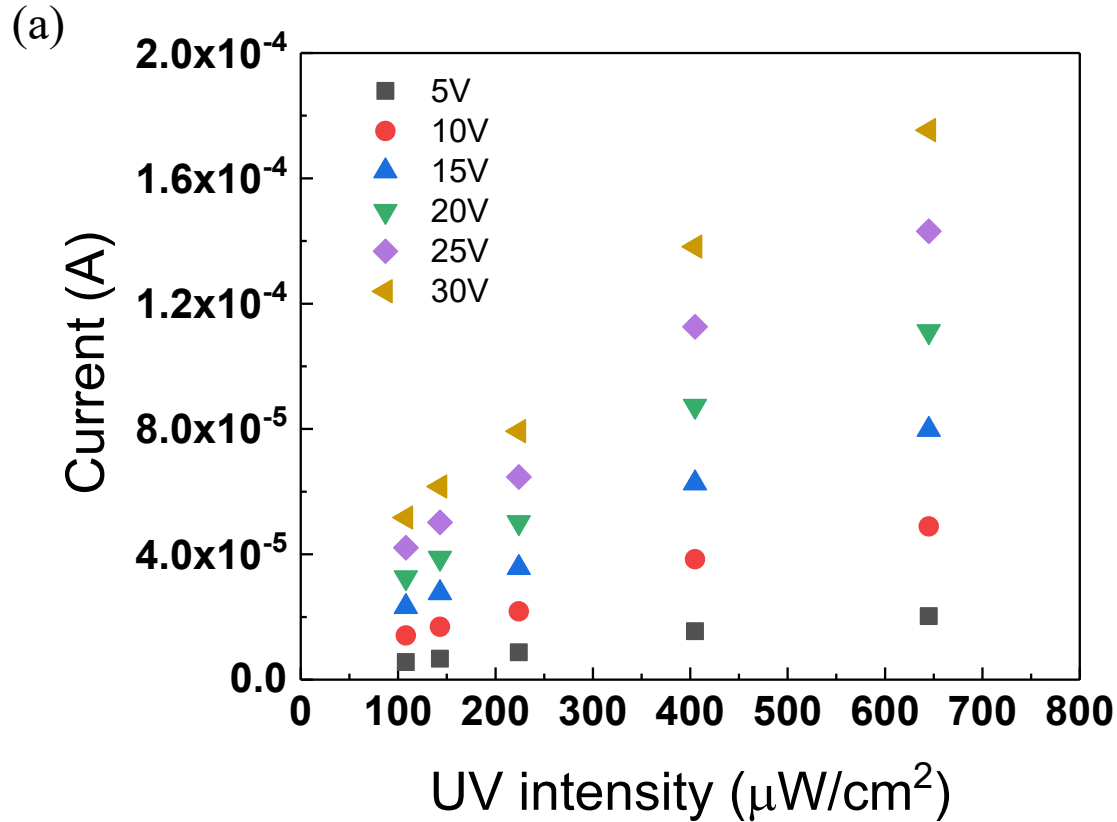
## ❖ Optoelectronic properties



(a) Optoelectronic properties of ZnO NRs under repeated UV irradiation on and off (Intensity: from 128 to 645  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ). (b) I-V curve of ZnO NR UV sensors.



## ❖ Optoelectronic properties

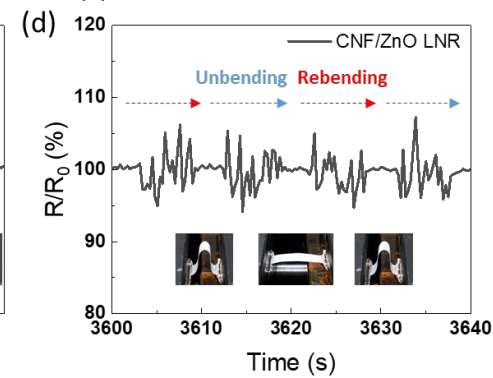
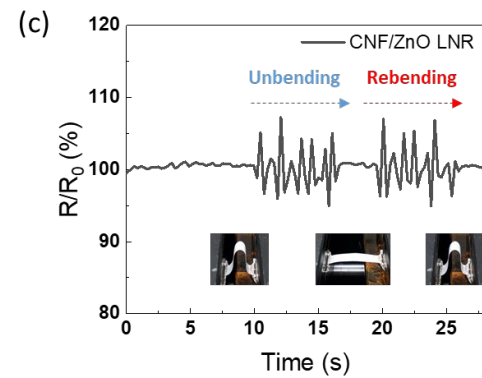
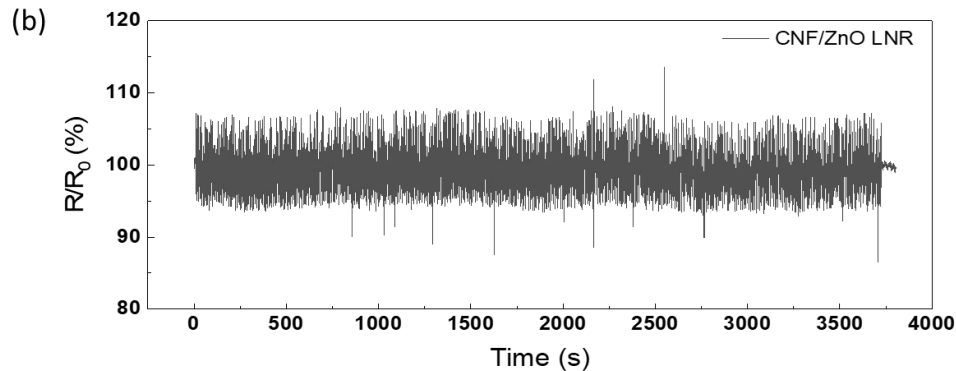
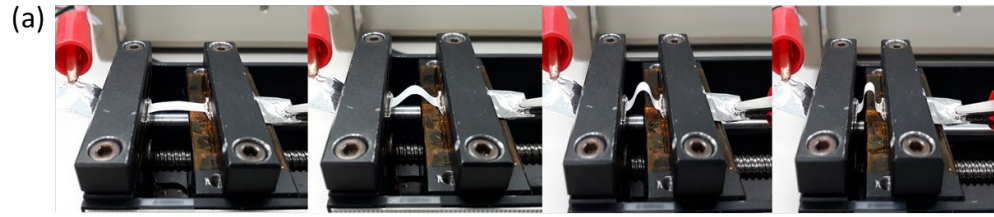


(a) Optoelectronic properties of ZnO NRs under different UV irradiation and bias potential.

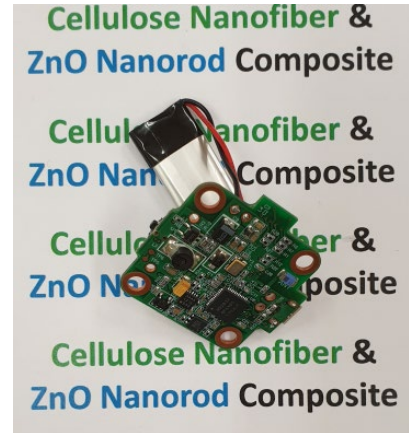
(b) The photocurrent vs. UV intensity plot and linear fit for the calibration curve. ( $R^2 = 0.99$ )



## ❖ Verification of flexibility and implementation of the wireless platform



Photographic images of the bending test and resistance change plot



- Design and manufacture of wireless circuits
- Development of a prototype in the form of a smartwatch
- Development of a smartphone-linked wireless sensing platform



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CHAPTER

# 04 Conclusion

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- Cellulose nanofibers were fabricated by delicate nano fibrillization.
- The rheology properties were suggested to estimate the degree of nano fibrillization.
- Aspect ratio controlled ZnO nanorods were successfully synthesized via two-step processes.
- As the length of ZnO nanorods was longer, UV responsivity was 58.5 times higher.
- **Flexible sensors** with high sensitivity based on inorganic and organic 1-dimensional nanomaterials.
- **Cellulose nanofibers** can make a **porous nano matrix** for inorganic sensing materials.
- Composites sensor was successfully prepared for wearable devices.

# Acknowledgement



## KIMS MEMBERS

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Sangjun Hong  
Sanghyeon Ju  
Youngeun Shin



## RESEARCH FIELDS

Conductive polymer synthesis and their applications  
Flexible energy harvester  
Organic photo-electric materials

CNT & Graphene composites  
Carbon fiber composites  
Fiber-based energy storage, sensor  
**Sustainable polymer composite**  
**Cellulose-based nano-composite (Insulation, SAP)**



Thank you!