

## Novel configurations for Photo-Induced Microscopy

Anton Naumenko<sup>1,2</sup>, Filippo Costa<sup>1,2</sup>, Matteo Lo Cicero<sup>1</sup>, Agostino Accardo<sup>2</sup>, Stefano Prato<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A.P.E. Research s.r.l., Area Science Park, Basovizza, Trieste, Italy

<sup>2</sup>University of Trieste, V. Valerio, Trieste, Italy

We present an instrument for examining samples of Gr/Cu with the possibility of using mechanical and infrared measurement methods in parallel. We have upgraded the existing A.P.E. Research instrument (AFM-A100) to include the ability to apply a heterogeneous configuration to reveal the chemical properties of the surface of interest. We perform a generalized Photo-Induced Microscopy (PiFM) heterodyne configuration by introducing a novel scheme: harmonic heterodyne detection and sequential heterodyne detection. For this reason, we have designed an experimental apparatus to obtain generalized heterodyne configurations for PiFM and semi-contact mode AFM.

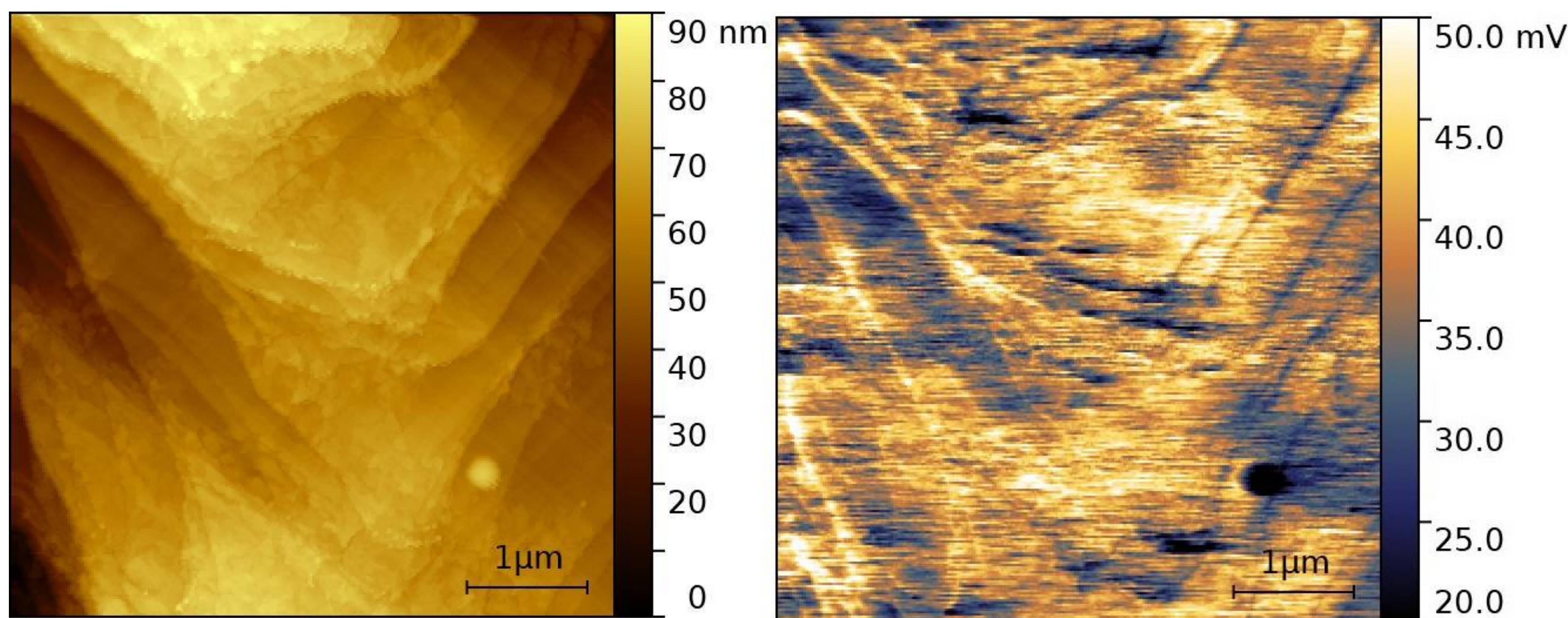


Figure 1: AFM 5x5 um Topography (left) and EFM MAP (right) of Gr/Cu.

In past we compared study of the apparent barrier height distribution and surface potential of the sample and nanoparticles of semiconductors. We have implemented the experimental setup which was built by APE Research and based on ambient Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM) and Kelvin Probe Force Microscope (KPFM). Photo-Induced Force Microscopy uses the detection of a mechanical heterodyne signal generated by the mechanical resonance oscillations of the cantilever and the photoinduced force induced by the interaction of light with matter. The aim of the job is to explore the possibility of using light sources with a moderate pulse repetition rate to perform PiFM measurements.

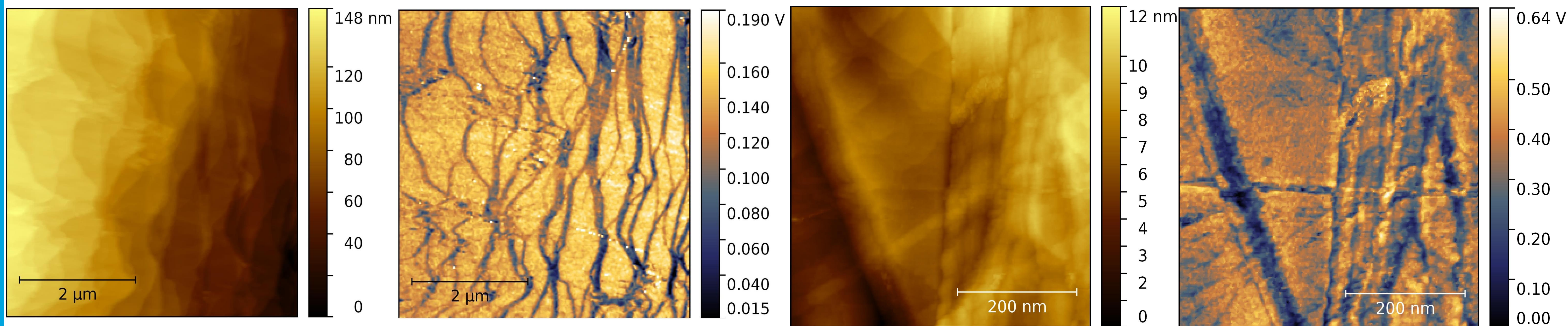


Figure 2: STM Topography and Apparent barrier height imaging; Sample - Gr on Cu.

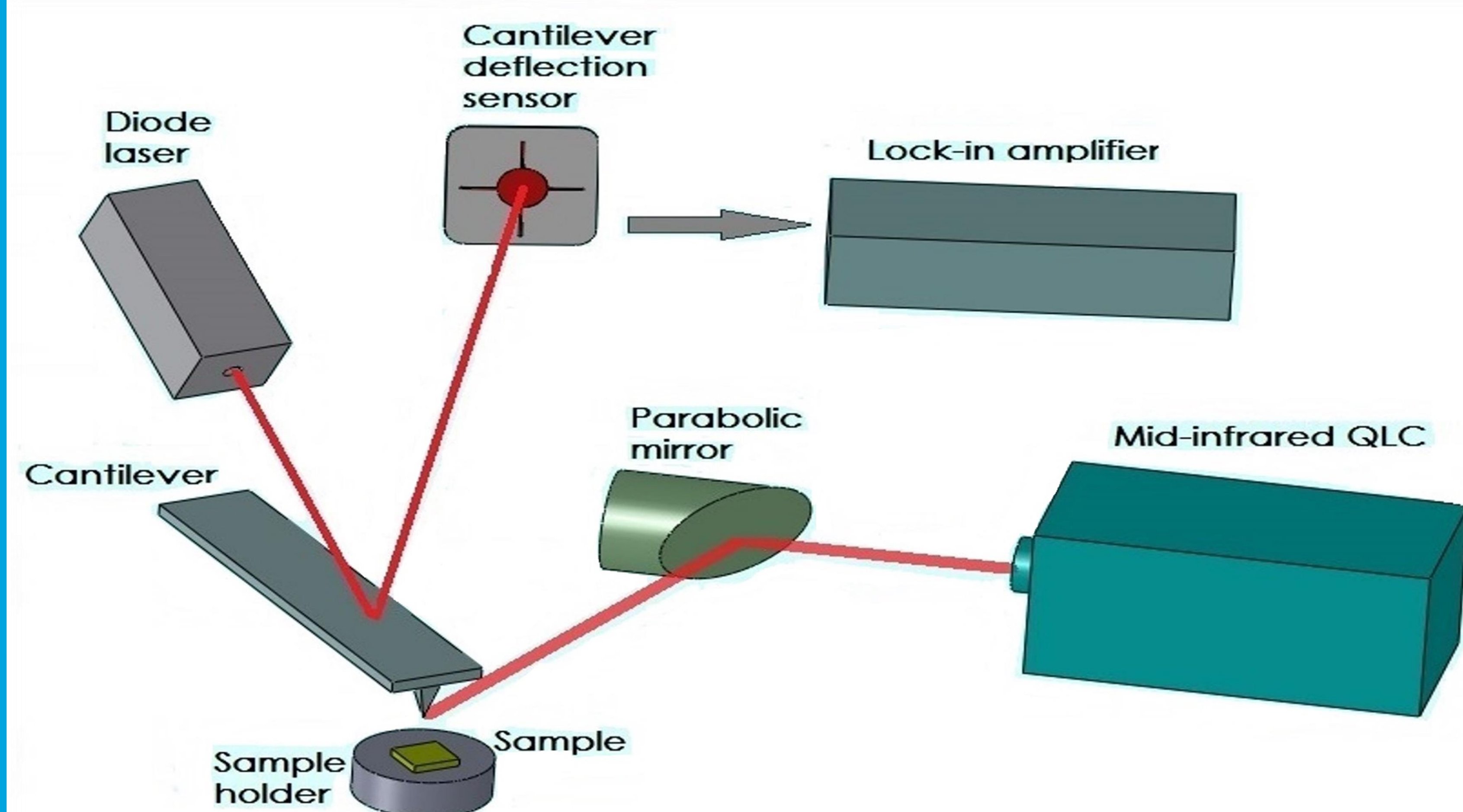


Figure 3: Scheme of device with Harmonic Heterodyne Configuration.

The tunnel current at a low bias voltage can be expressed as  $I \propto V \exp(-2kz)$  (1), where  $z$  is the tip-sample separation and  $k$  the decay rate given by  $k = \sqrt{2m\phi}/\hbar$  (2), where  $\phi$  is the barrier height,  $m$  is the mass of an electron, and  $\hbar$  is Planck's constant. Eq. (1) illustrates linear dependence of the tunneling current on the applied bias voltage. More in detail, to overcome the diffraction limit of infrared microscopy, we use mechanical modulation mixed with light by atomic force microscopy (AFM) (heterodyne configurations) in which a signal frequency is created by combining or mixing two different frequencies. The heterodyne configurations for PiFM open up new possibilities for chemical mapping and broadband spectroscopy with a spatial resolution of less than  $\lambda/2$ . They are suitable for a wide range of heterogeneous materials in various fields, from structured polymer films to polaritonic boron nitride materials and isolated bacterial cell walls. This project is supported by MSCA under Horizon 2020 ULTIMATE (Grant Agreement No. 813036 - ETN).

### CONTACT PERSON

[anton.naumenko@apereaserch.com](mailto:anton.naumenko@apereaserch.com)

A.P.E. Research s.r.l., Area Science Park,  
Basovizza, Trieste, Italy

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