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Patterned nano-domains in PMN-PT single crystals

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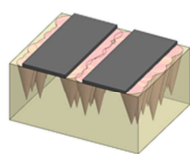
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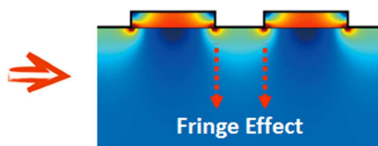
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Graphical abstract

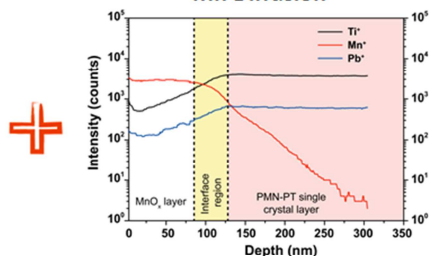
PMN-PT crystal with
 MnO_x -Au nanocomposite
electrode



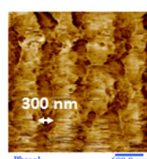
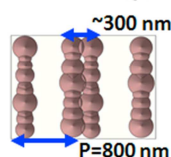
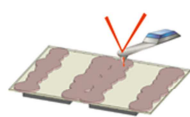
Electric Field Distribution



Mn Diffusion

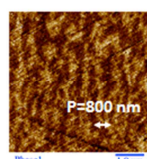
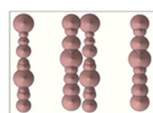
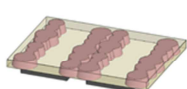


Thickness < 30 μm



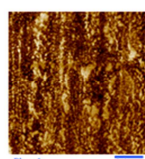
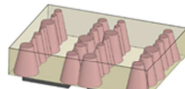
Phase1 600.0 nm

Thickness ~30 μm



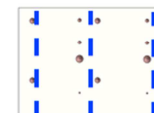
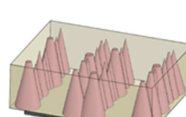
Phase1 1.0 μm

Thickness ~50 μm

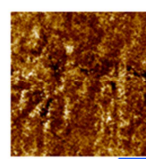


Phase1 2.0 μm

Thickness ~150 μm

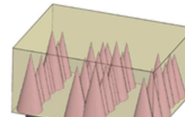


Linear distribution

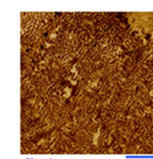


Phase1 2.0 μm

Thickness > 200 μm



Random distribution



Phase1 4.0 μm

The localized high electric field induced by fringe effect and the nanocomposite electrode can lead to enhanced nucleation of new domains, and the patterned Mn diffusion may also contribute to an enhancement in domain wall mobility. The domain distribution was observed using a piezoresponse force microscopy (PFM) for PMN-PT single crystal samples with different thicknesses.

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