

# Bifacial PV world 2018

## Technology, applications and economics

Radovan Kopecek and Joris Libal

International Solar Energy Research Center (ISC), Konstanz, GERMANY

2018

# bifi PV workshop

Denver



# W E L C O M E



W E L C O M E



W E L C O M E

Josh/Sandia



Hartmut/ZHAW

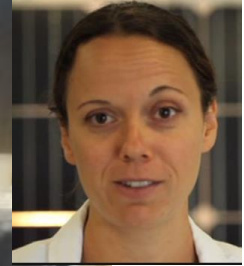
Chris/NREL

Inggrid/ECN

Joris/ISC

Rado/ISC

Bas/ECN Maryline/INES



W E L C O M E

## **Metallisation** WS from 2008 **>> next in May 2019 in Konstanz**



**Metallisation** WS from 2008

>> next in **May 2019 in Konstanz**



**nPV** WS from 2011 (merged with SiliconPV in 2014)

>> next in **April 2019 in Leuven**



## Metallisation WS from 2008

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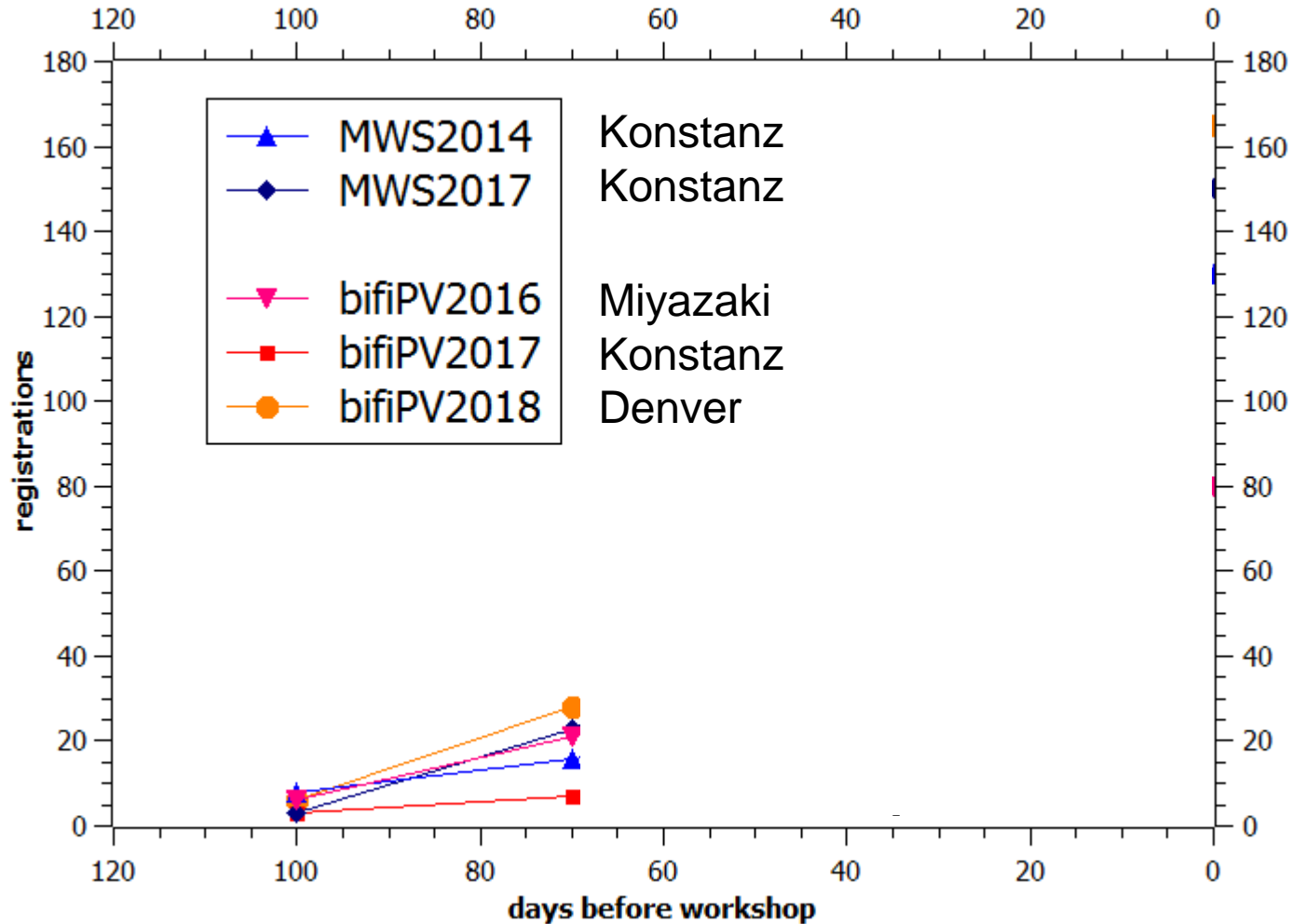
## bifiPV WS from 2012

>> next in **2019 in ???**

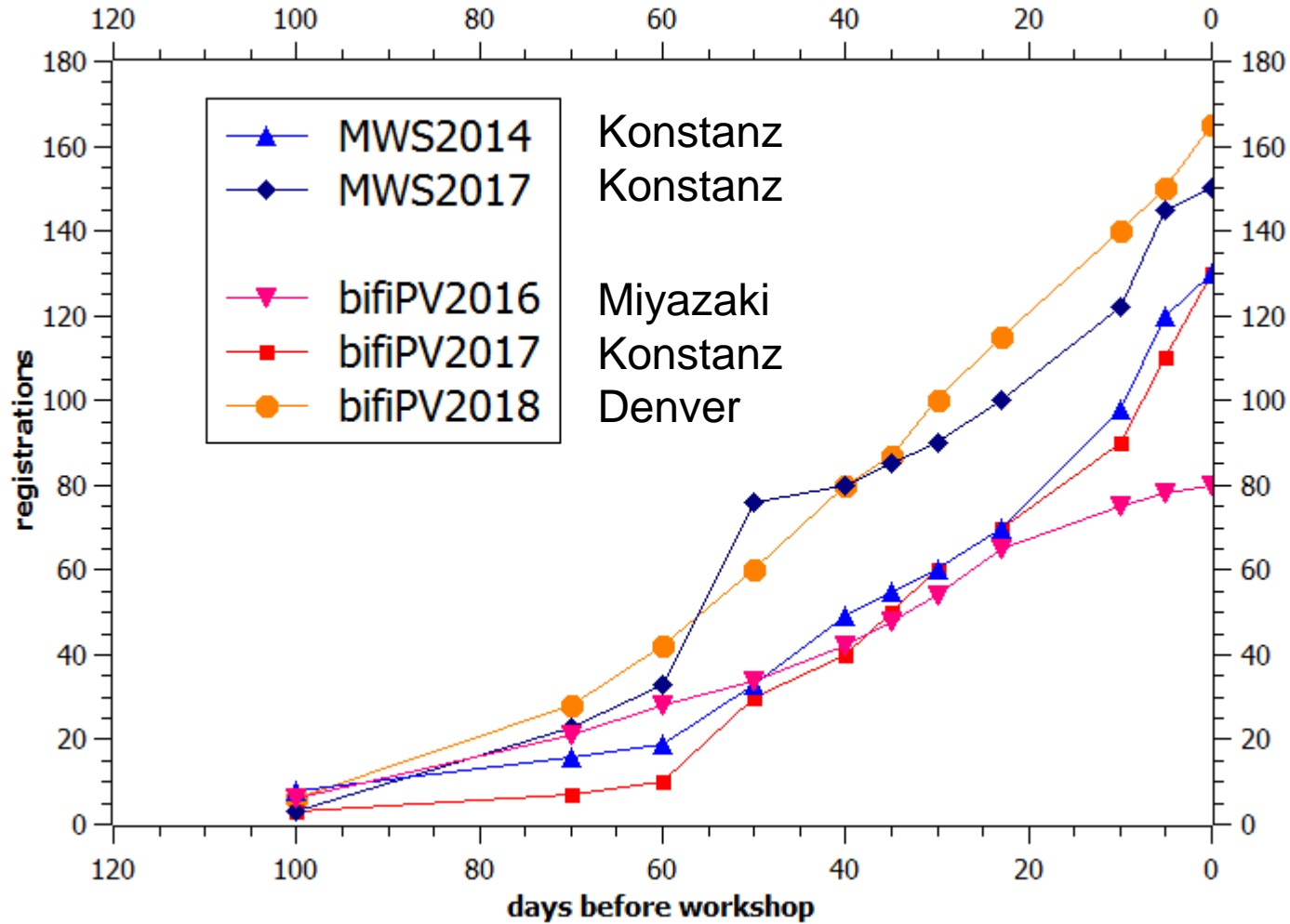




# Registrations



# Registrations



# Bifacial PV systems: best reported

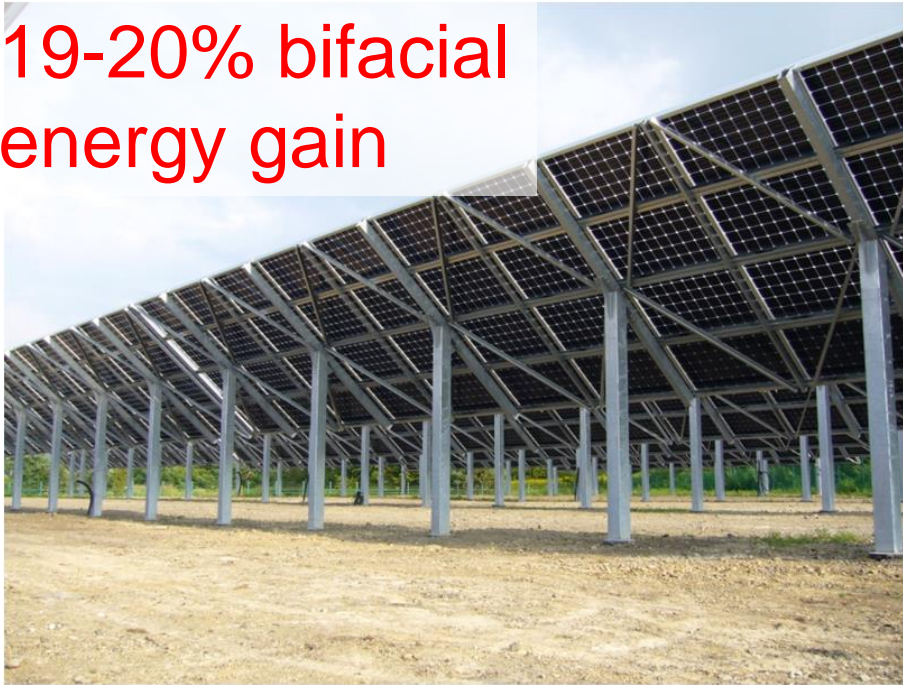


International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz



# Bifacial PV systems: best reported

19-20% bifacial  
energy gain



# Bifacial PV systems: mostly shown

20+% bifacial  
energy gain

 MegaCell

2.5 MWp



# Bifacial PV systems: largest fixed tilt



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ca. 12% bifacial  
energy gain



50 MWp  
100 MWp

# Bifacial PV systems: largest rooftop



# Bifacial PV systems: largest tracked



71 MWp





# Bifacial PV systems: largest vertical



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**Next 2 Sun**  
**2 MWp**

# Bifacial PV systems: largest vertical

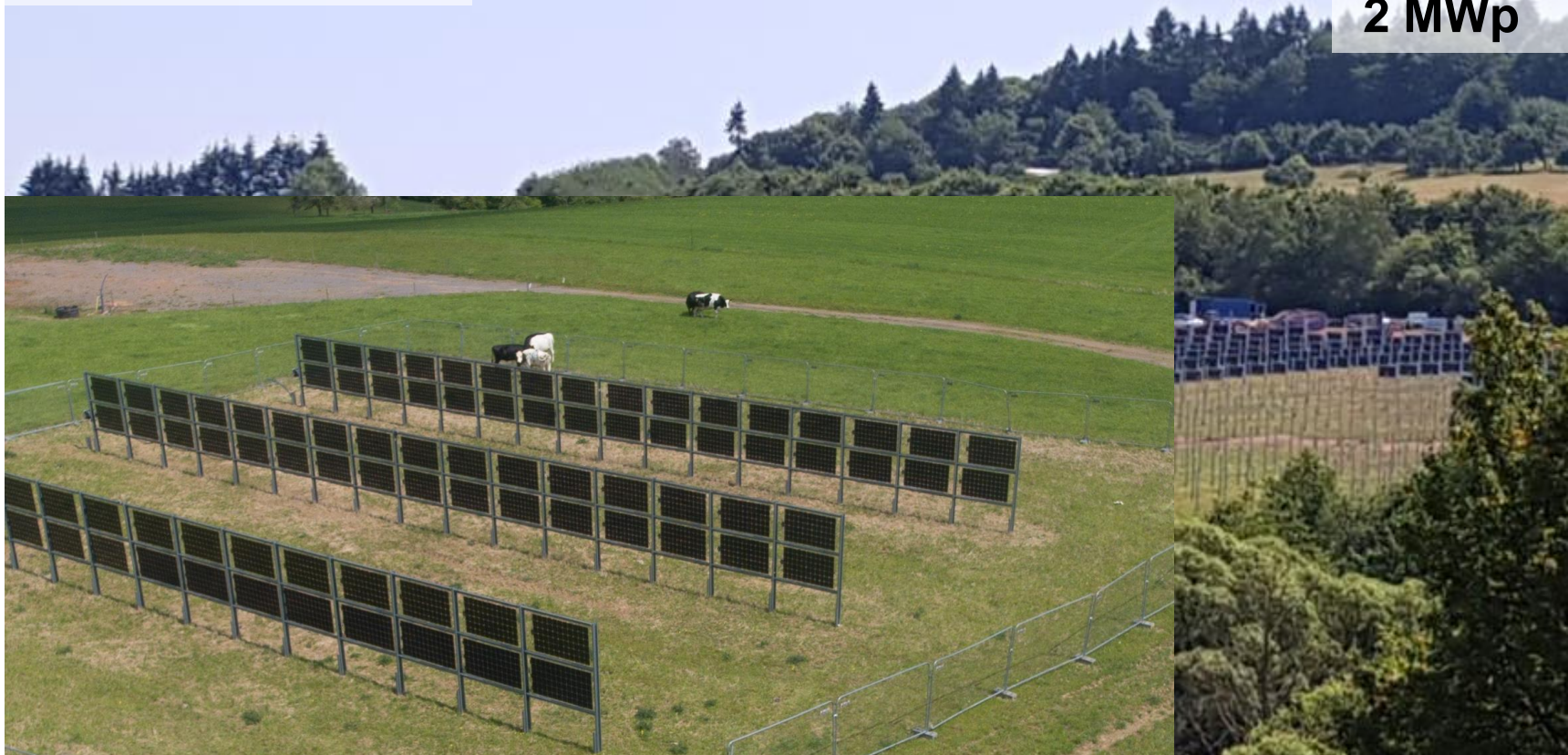


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Research Center Konstanz

10+% bifacial  
energy gain



**Next 2 Sun**  
**2 MWp**



# Bifacial applications (from LinkedIn)



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager & Technical Supporting  
2w



BIPV application with double glass bifacial modules. Looks very nice ...see more



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager & Technical Supporting  
2d



@Bifacial  
@N-type  
BIPV application with bifacial modules.

...see more



# Bifacial applications (from LinkedIn)



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager &Technical Supporting  
1w

@Shanxi, China @100MW PV plant  
@30MW Bifacial N-type modules from Jolywood  
It is bifacial.

...see more



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager &Technical Supporting  
1w

@Bifacial @N-type  
Location:Henan Mengzhou, China.  
Capacity:1MW



# Bifacial applications (from LinkedIn)



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager &Technical Supporting  
4d



@N-type @Bifacial

Fishing matched with PV solar plant. This is the largest fishing PV solar systems all over the world.



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager &Technical Supporting  
1w



@Bifacial double glass module

@N-type

@Different applications like floating system/ground plant with track ...see more



# Bifacial applications (from LinkedIn)



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz



**Will Zhang**

Jolywood -Sales Manager & Technical Supporting

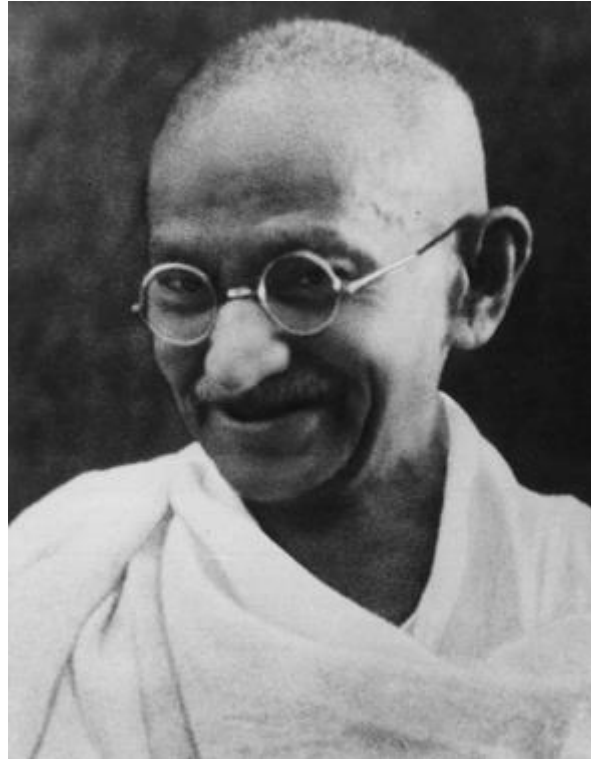
6h



@N-type @Bifacial

Blue sky VS. bifacial panels.





First they ignore you then they laugh at you  
then they fight you and then you win.

# History and future of PV, PERC, bifi



2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024	2027
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------



# History and future of PV, PERC, bifi



## PV against other energy sources (total installations)



First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

# History and future of PV, PERC, bifi



## PV against other energy sources (total installations)



First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

## PERC against AI-BSF (market share)

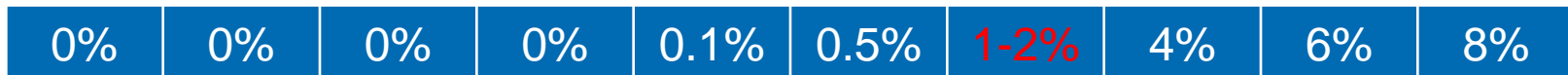


First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

# History and future of PV, PERC, bifi



## PV against other energy sources (total installations)



First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

## PERC against AI-BSF (market share)



First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

## Bifacial against Monofacial (total installations)



First they ignore you then they laugh at you then they fight you and then you win.

## Bifacial Photovoltaics: Technology, applications and economics

**Editors:** Radovan Kopecek and Joris Libal

Bifacial Photovoltaics: Technology, applications and economics provides an overview of the history, status and future of bifacial PV technology with a focus on crystalline silicon technology, covering the areas of cells, modules, and systems. In addition, topics like energy yield simulations and bankability are addressed. Illustrations are in full color.

Bifacial photovoltaic (PV) modules are able to utilize light from both sides and can therefore significantly increase the electric yield of PV power plants, thus reducing the electricity cost and improving profitability. Bifacial PV technology has a huge potential to reach a major market share, in particular when considering utility scale PV plants. In combination with simple tracking technology the total energy output of a PV power plant can be boosted to up to 50% compared to standard monofacial fixed tilt systems at about 10-20% additional costs. In addition different application fields are waiting for bifacial modules such as facades, car-ports, green-houses and other glass-intensive structures. Accordingly, bifacial PV is currently attracting increasing attention from involved engineers, scientists and investors.

**IET**  
The Institution of  
Engineering and Technology

Bifacial Photovoltaics  
Technology, applications and economics

Edited by  
Joris Libal and Radovan Kopecek



**Publication date:** October 2018

**Retail price:** £115 / \$150

**Hardback:** 300pp

**ISBN:** 978-1-78561-274-9

**Product code:** PBPO107

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The book cover features a photograph of a solar farm with bifacial panels. The panels are tilted and have a grid of small white dots on their surface, representing the bifacial technology. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant hills.

**IET** The Institution of  
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# Bifacial history



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz

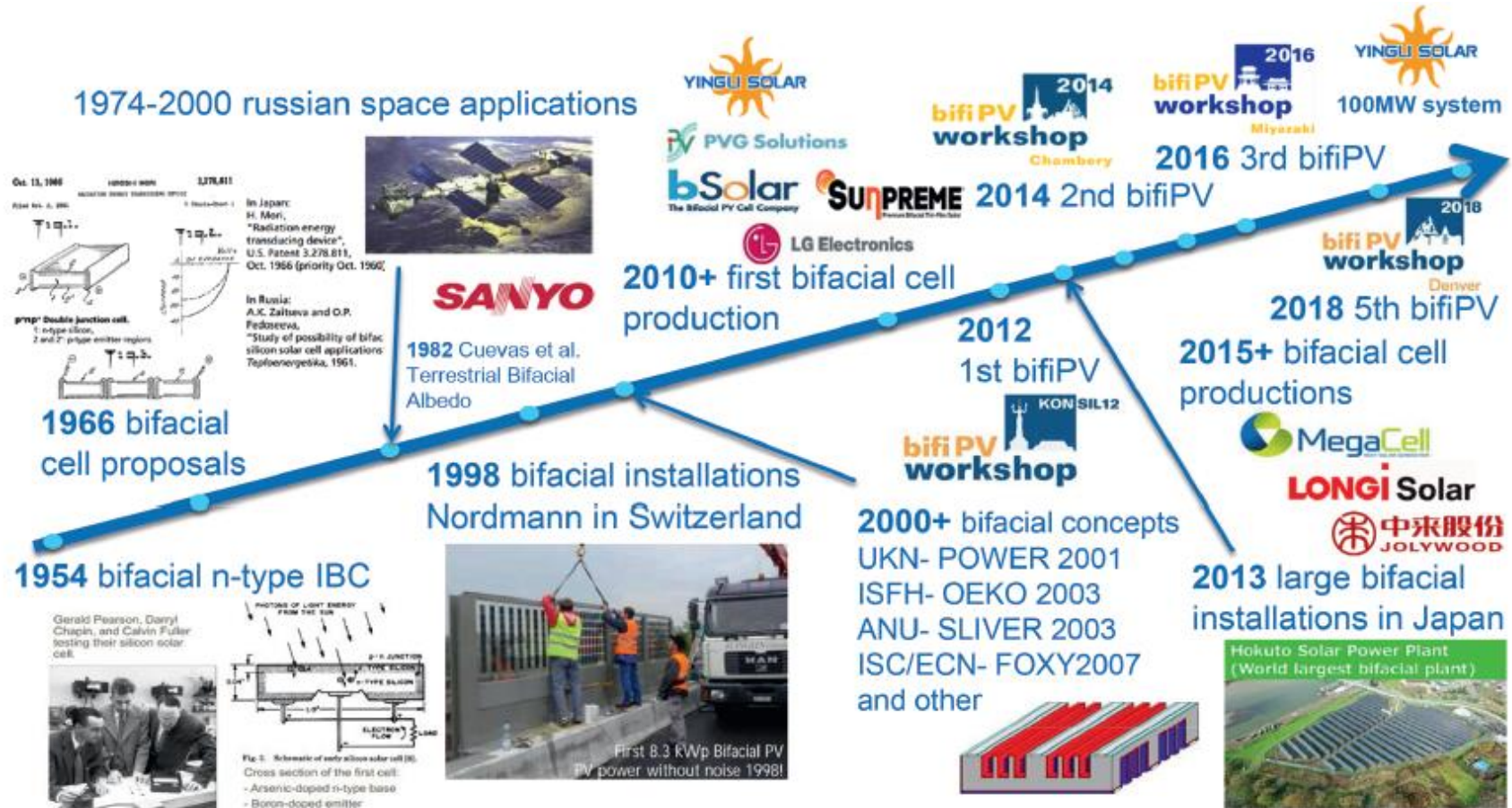


Figure 1.4 Bifacial history in few pictures

Bifacial book 2018

# Bifacial history

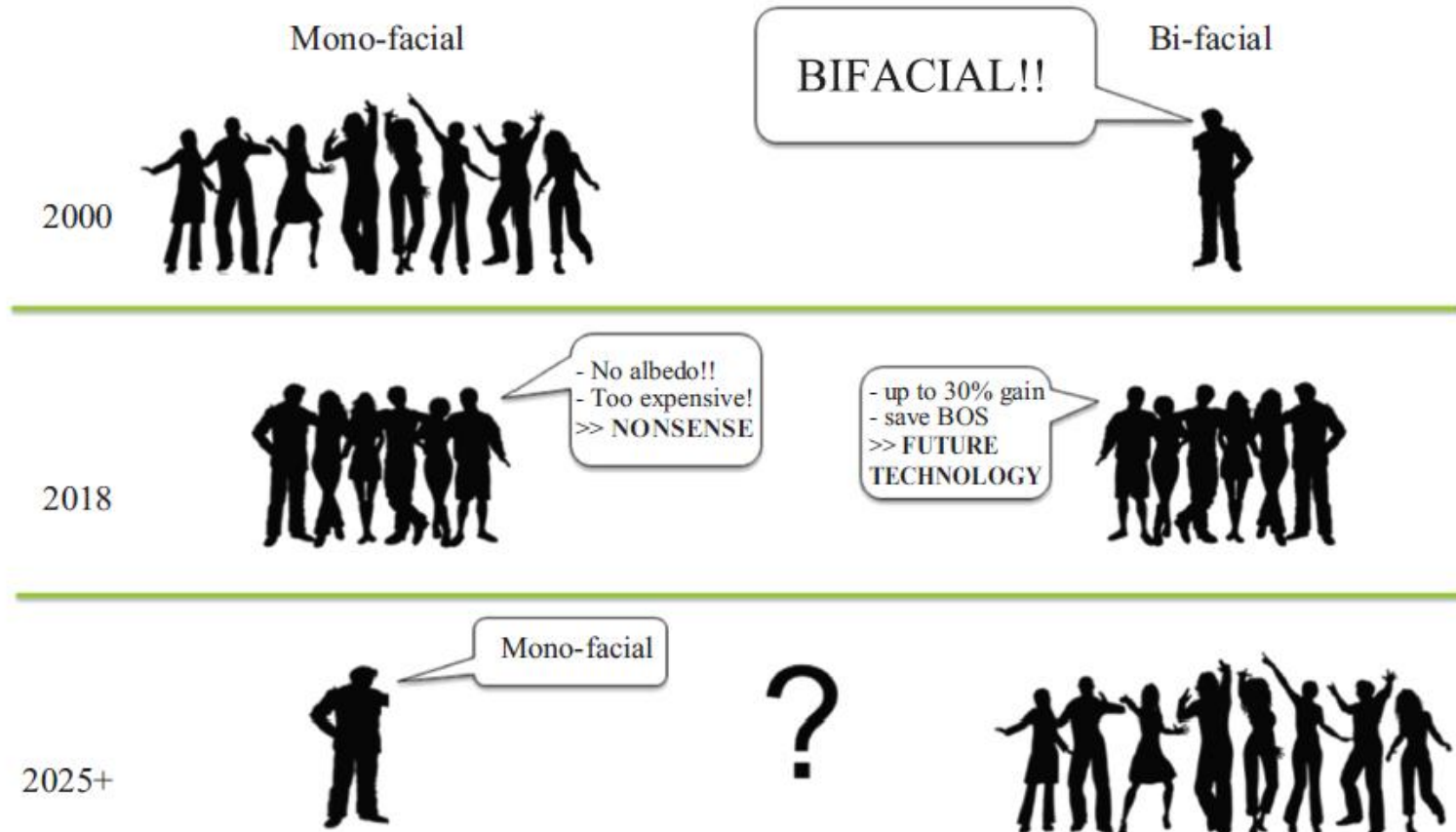


Figure 1.5 Bifacial comic explaining the change of mind of the PV industry [13]

# Bifacial history



Figure 1.7 Largest bifacial PV systems (left) and cumulated bifacial power (right) [13]



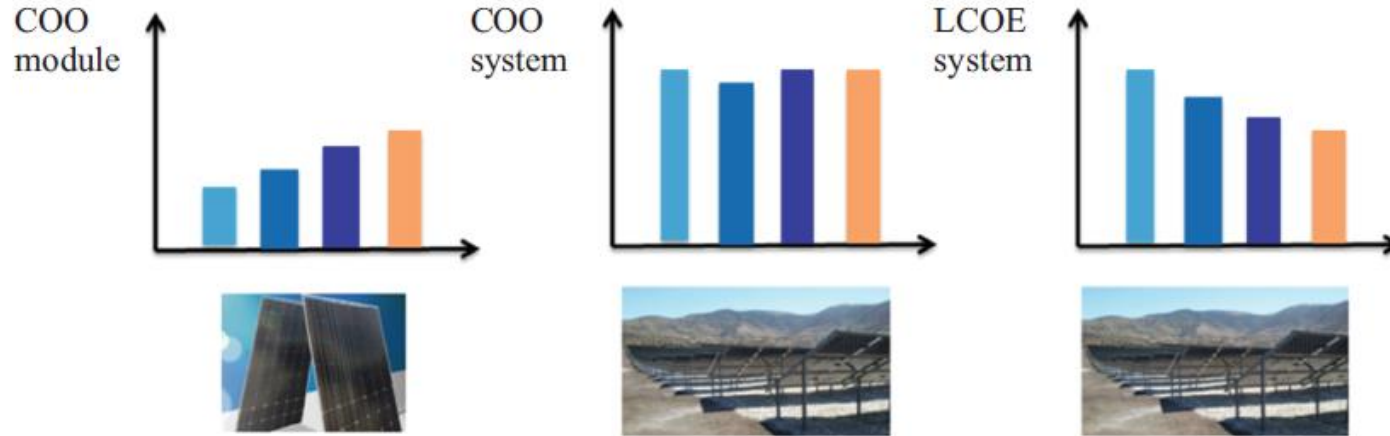
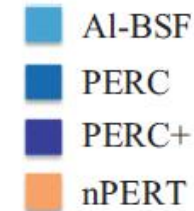
Bifacial book 2018

Figure 1.11 4th bifiPV workshop 25/26 October 2017 in Konstanz



# Why will bifacial win?

- Modules become cost effective
- To save BOS powerful modules are needed



*Figure 1.9 Schematic graphs for COO calculations for the most prominent c-Si technologies on module and system level and respective LCOE calculations. The trend in module COO and LCOE of a system is reversed due to savings of BOS and longer lifetime of double-glass modules*

*Table 2.1 Bifacial solar cells and their main parameters*

Cell concept	Bifaciality factor (on cell level)	Si base material	Junction and BSF doping method	Contacts	(Front) Efficiency potential
2.5.1 Heterojunction	>92%	n mono	a-Si:H p- and n-type doped	TCO/Ag printed TCO/Cu plated	22%–25%
2.5.2 n-PERT	>90%	n mono	Boron and Phosphorous diffusion	Ag and Ag/Al printed	21%–22%
2.5.3 p-PERT	>90%	p mono	Phosphorous and Boron diffusion	Ag and Ag/Al printed	21%–22%
2.5.4 PERC+	>80%	p-mono	Phosphorous diffusion and local Al BSF	Ag and Al printed	21%–22%
2.5.5 IBC	>70%	n-mono	Boron and Phosphorous diffusion	Ag and Ag/Al printed	22%–23%

# Bifacial gain for fixed tilt

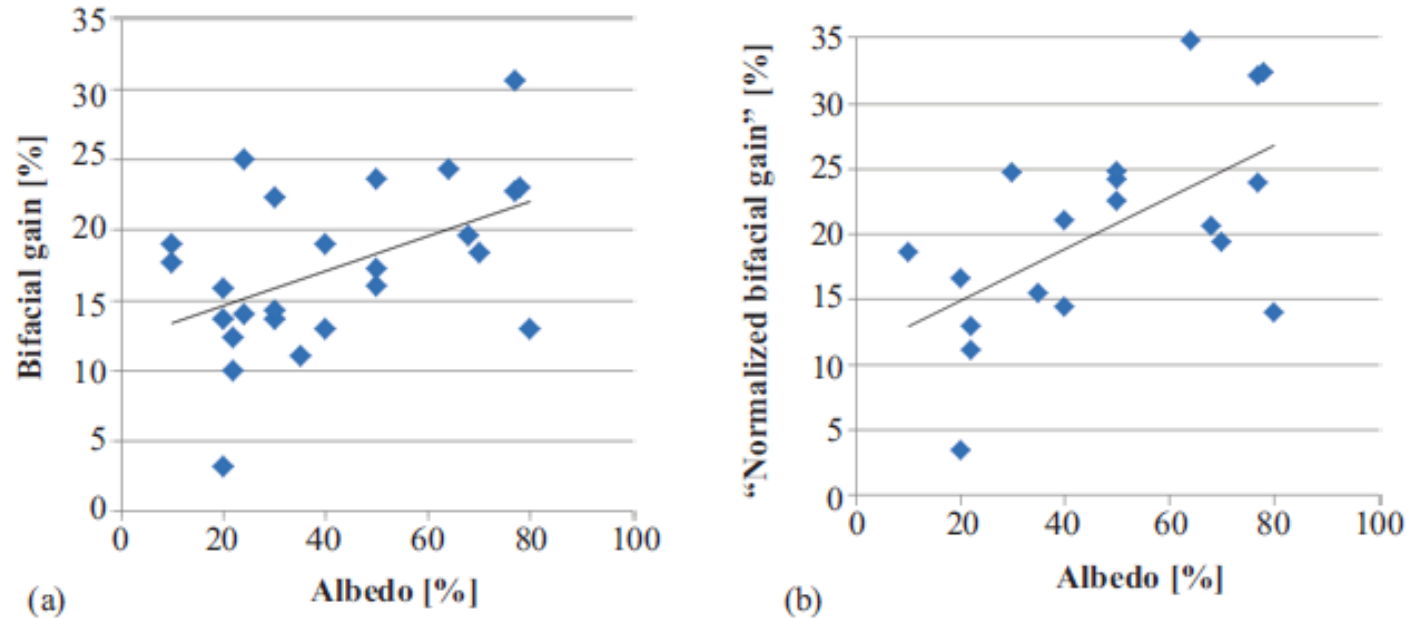
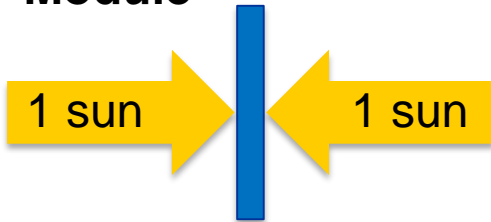


Figure 5.19 (a) Bifacial gain plotted versus the albedo for “typical” south-oriented arrays. The trend is visible, but the fluctuation range is significant. The smallest observed bifacial gain is above of 10%, except of one outlier. (b) “Normalized bifacial gain” as an attempt to take the different bifaciality factors into account. No obvious improvement and reduced amount of data, but the concept may be useful when comparing more similar PV installations




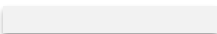
# Bifacial gain

## Module

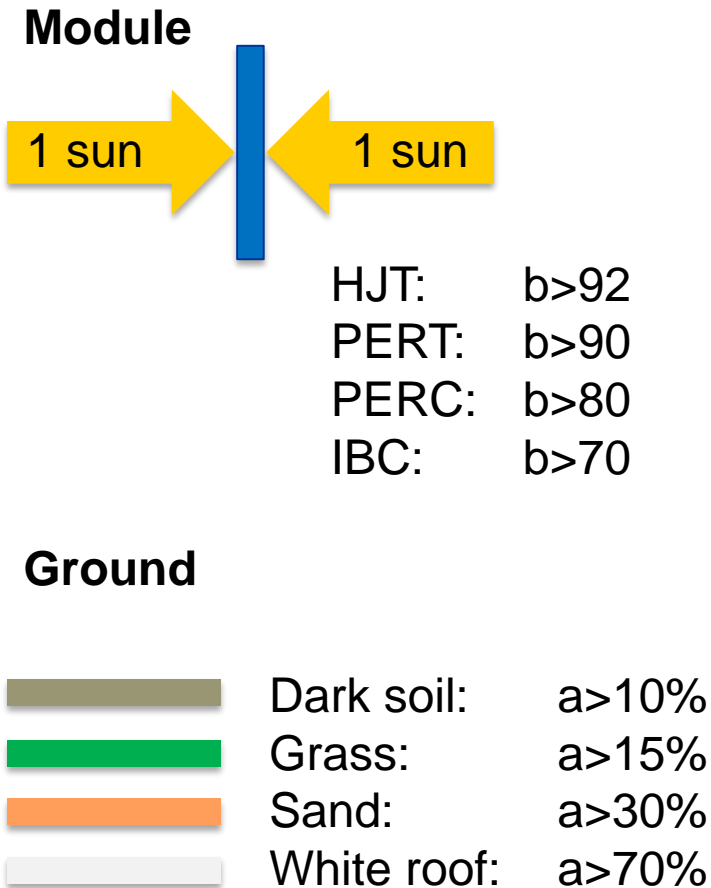


HJT:	$b > 92$
PERT:	$b > 90$
PERC:	$b > 80$
IBC:	$b > 70$

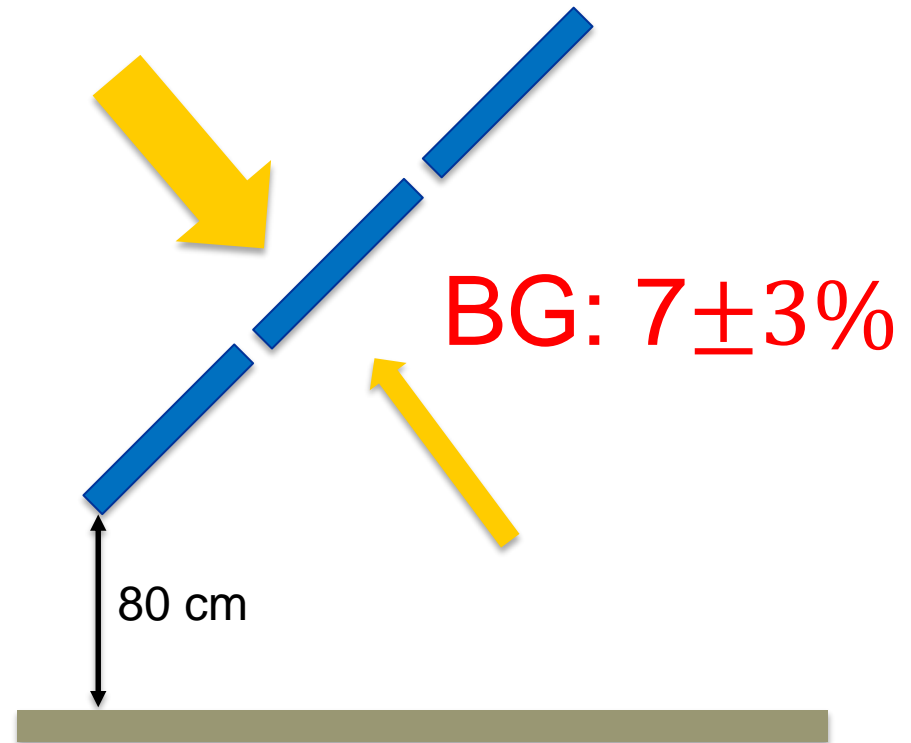
## Ground

	Dark soil:	$a > 10\%$
	Grass:	$a > 15\%$
	Sand:	$a > 30\%$
	White roof:	$a > 70\%$

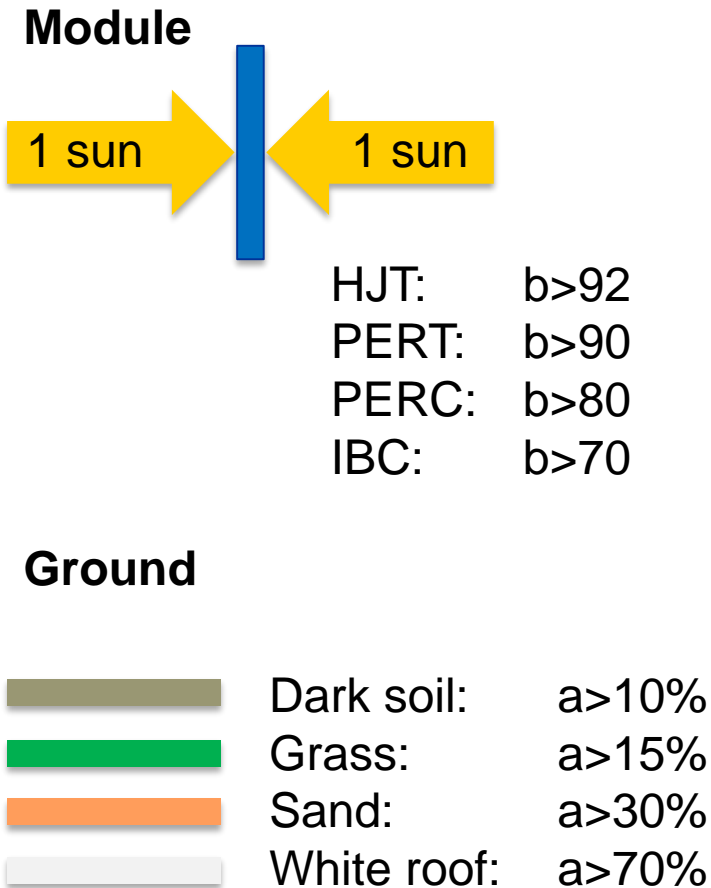
# Bifacial gain



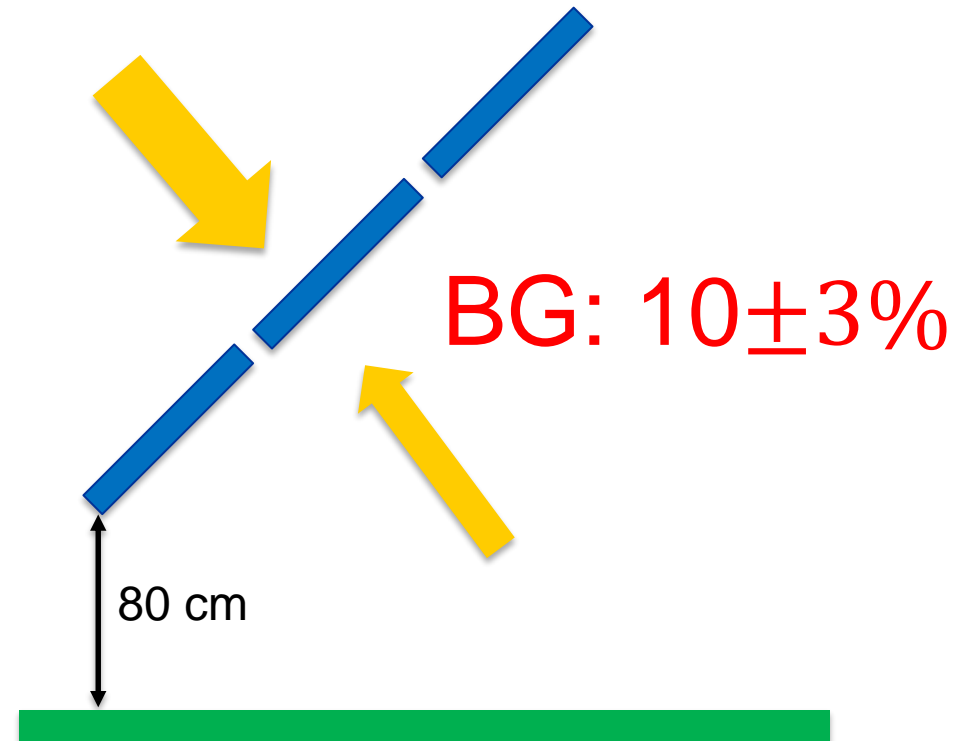
**Construction: fixed tilt**



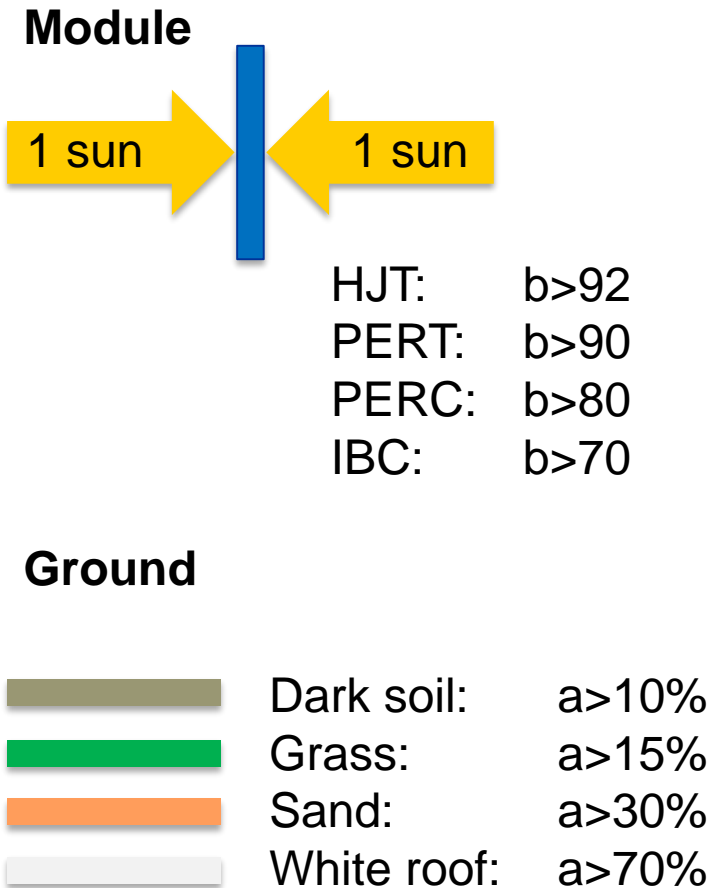
# Bifacial gain



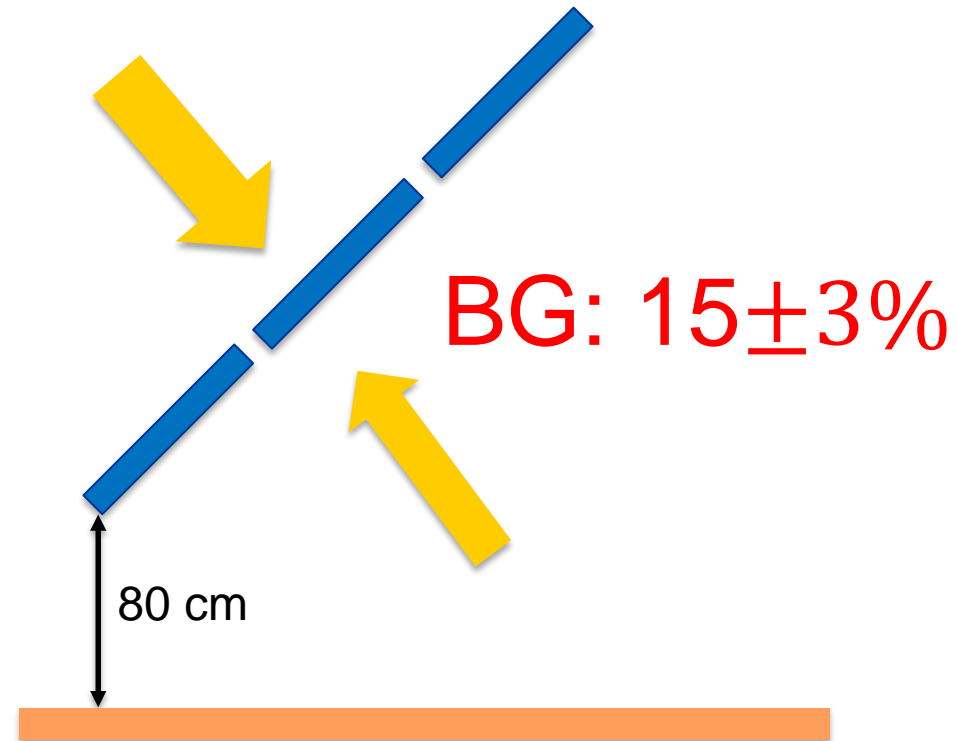
**Construction: fixed tilt**



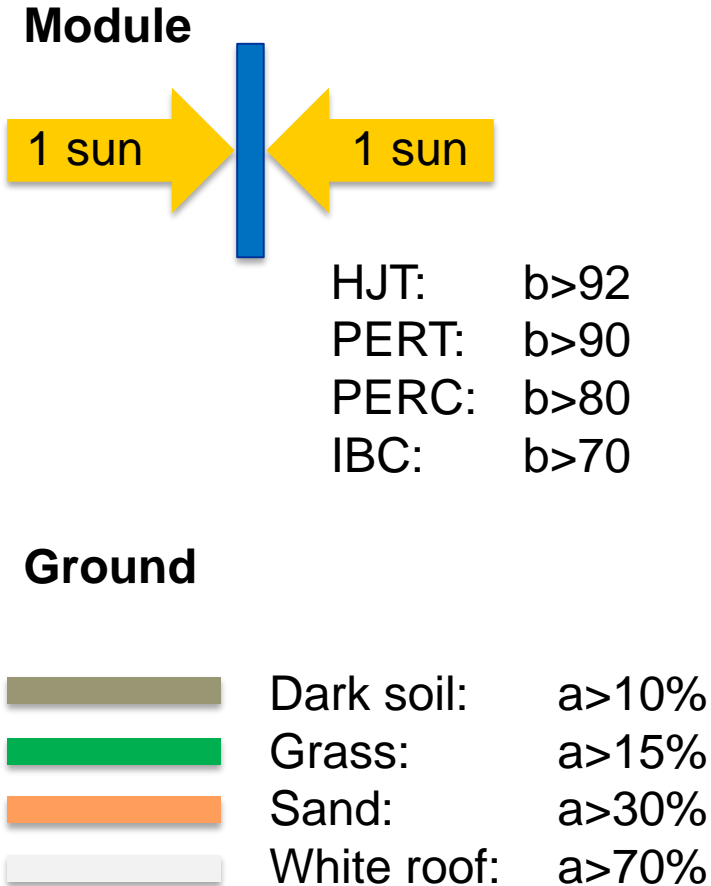
# Bifacial gain



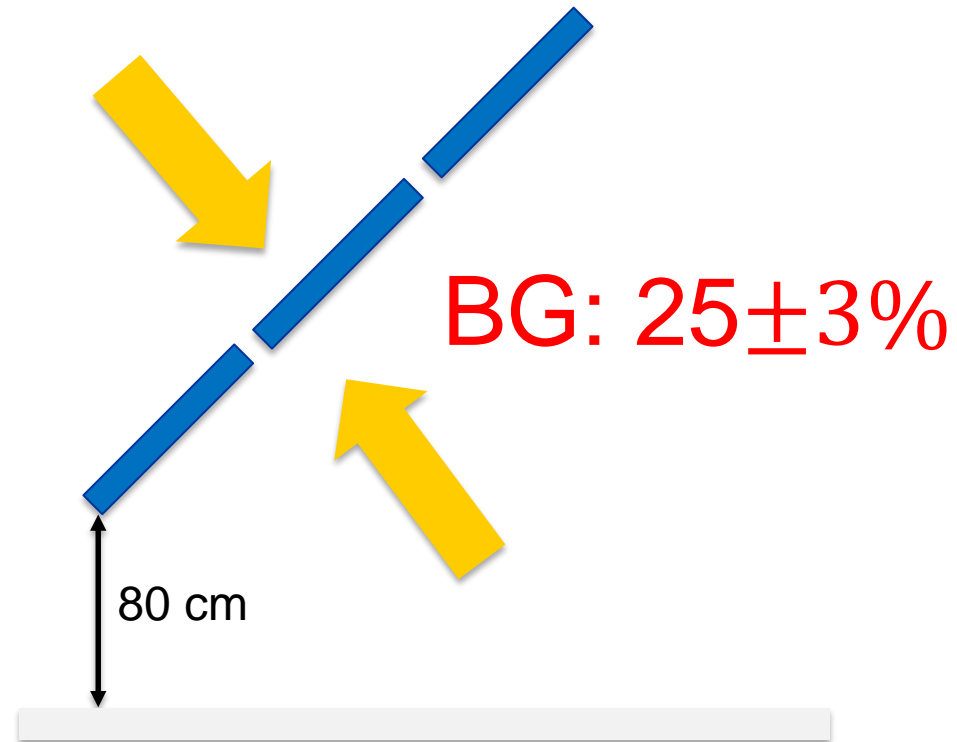
## Construction: fixed tilt



# Bifacial gain

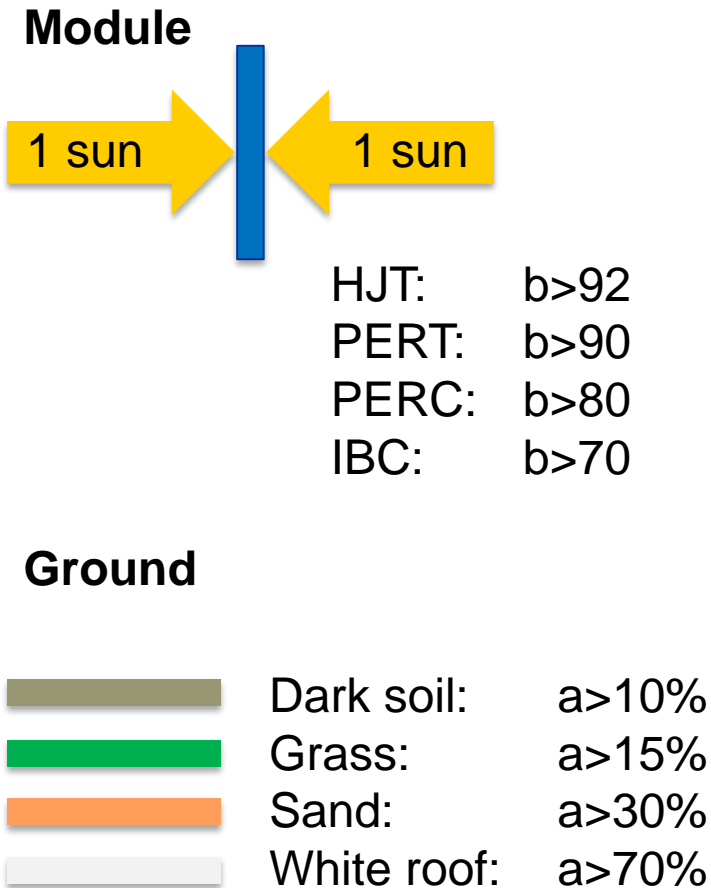


**Construction: fixed tilt**

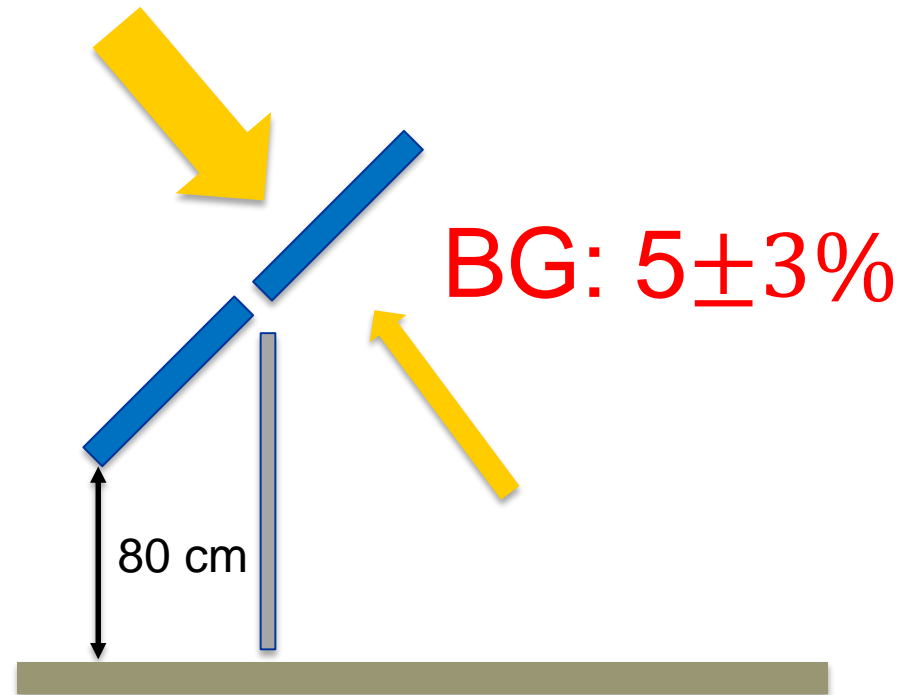




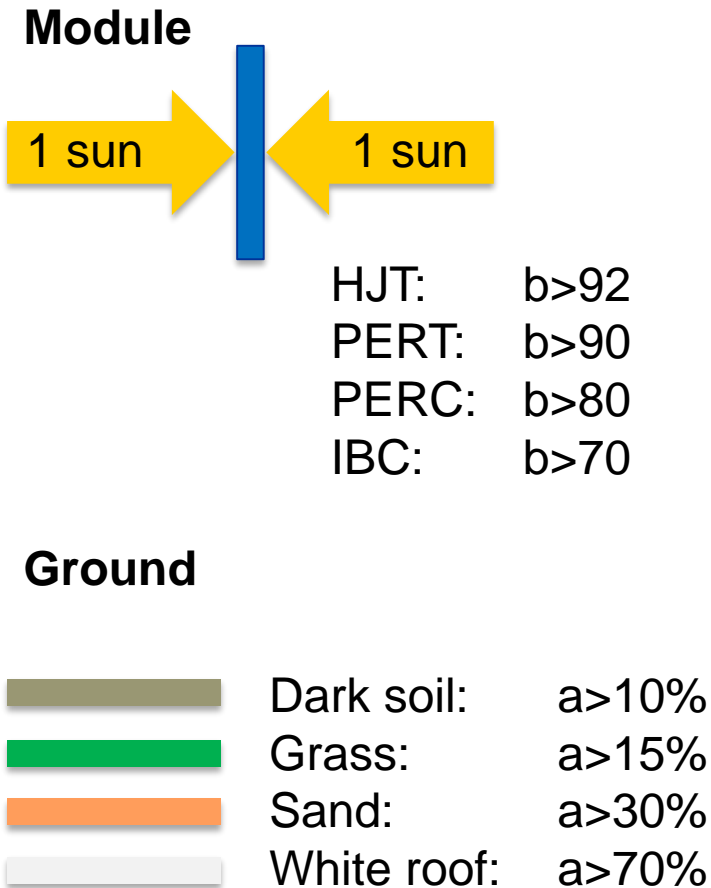
# Bifacial gain



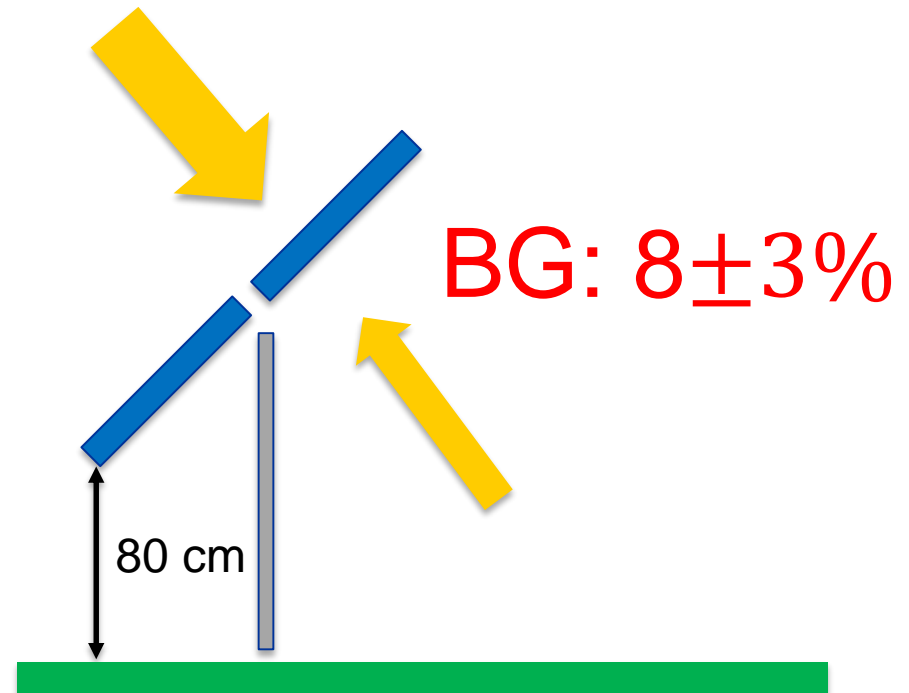
## Construction: HSAT



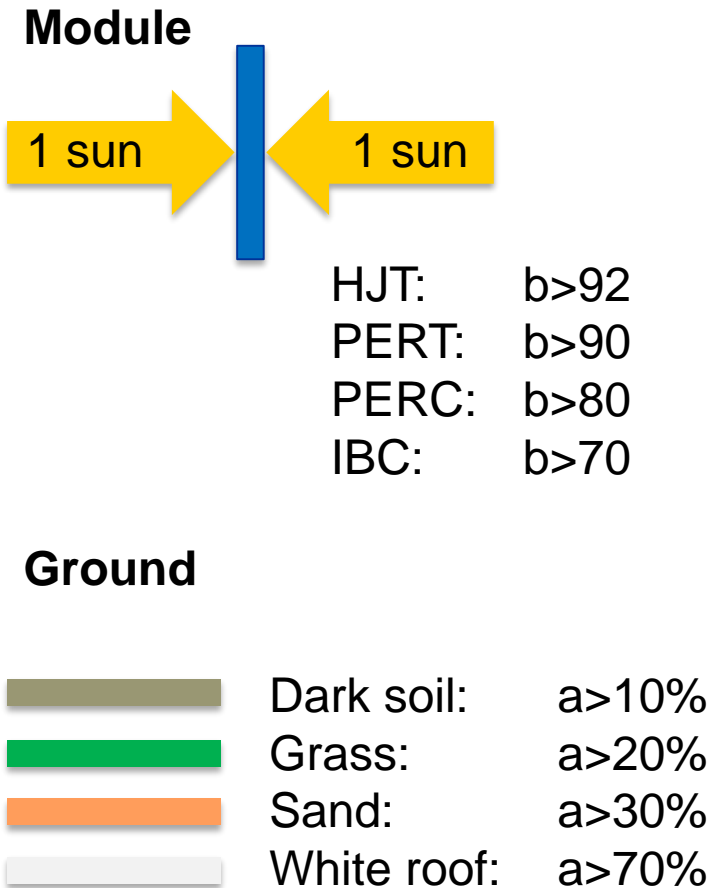
# Bifacial gain



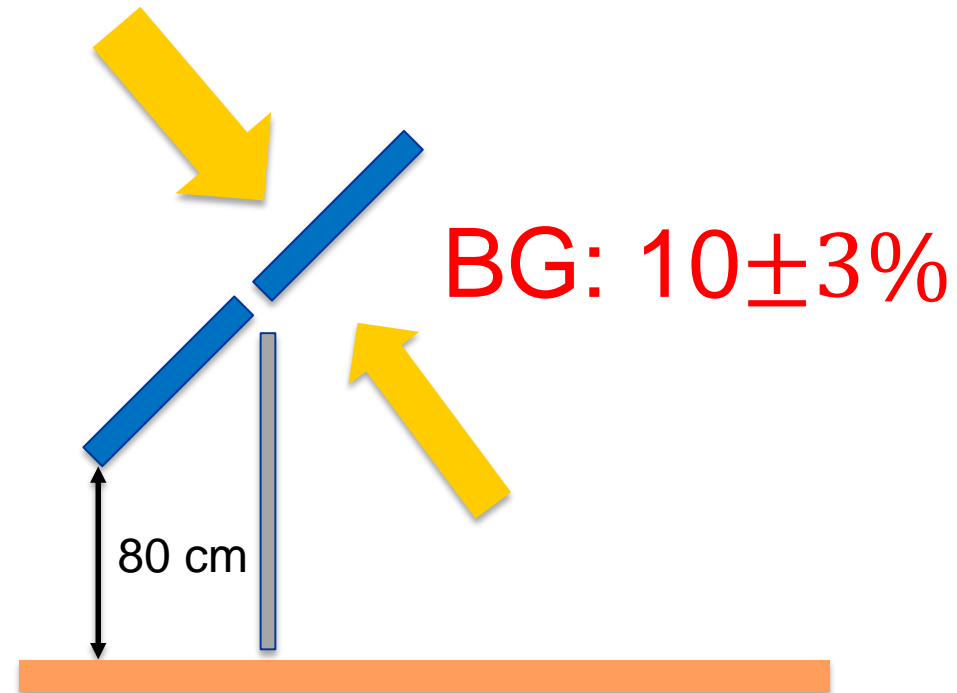
## Construction: HSAT



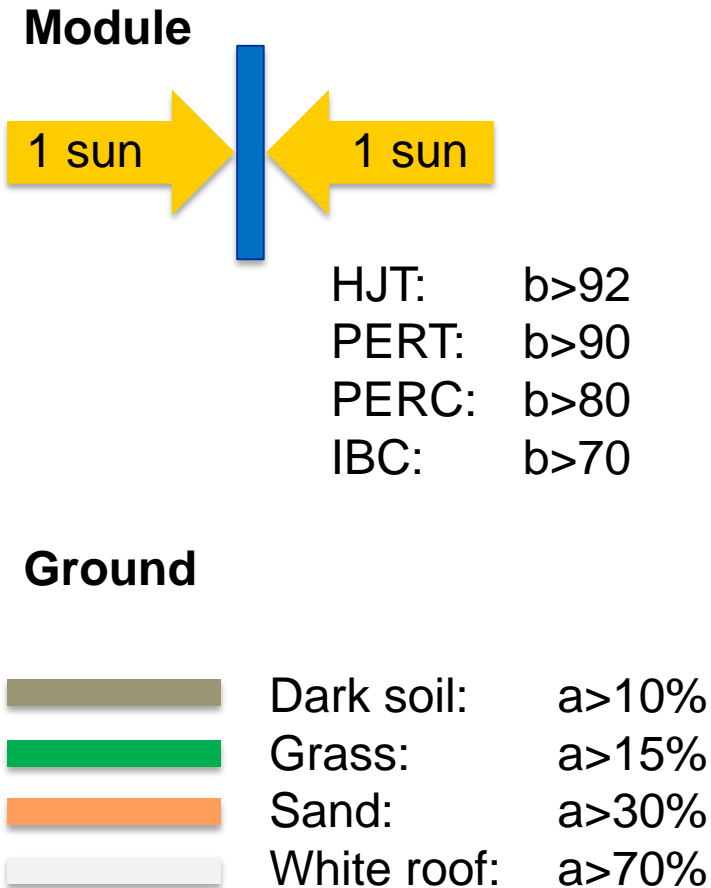
# Bifacial gain



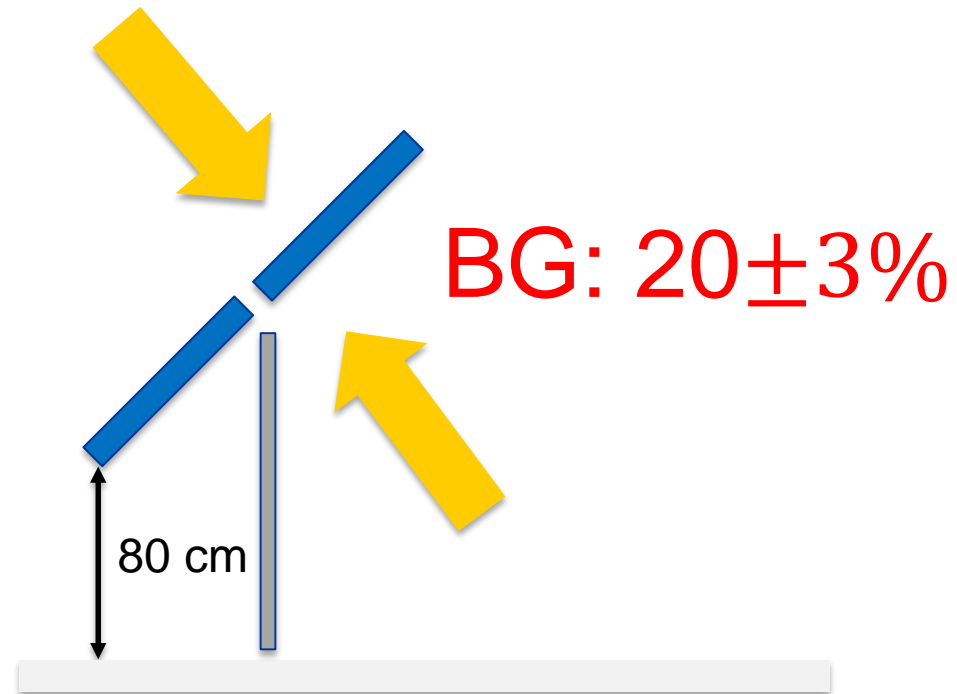
## Construction: HSAT



# Bifacial gain



## Construction: HSAT

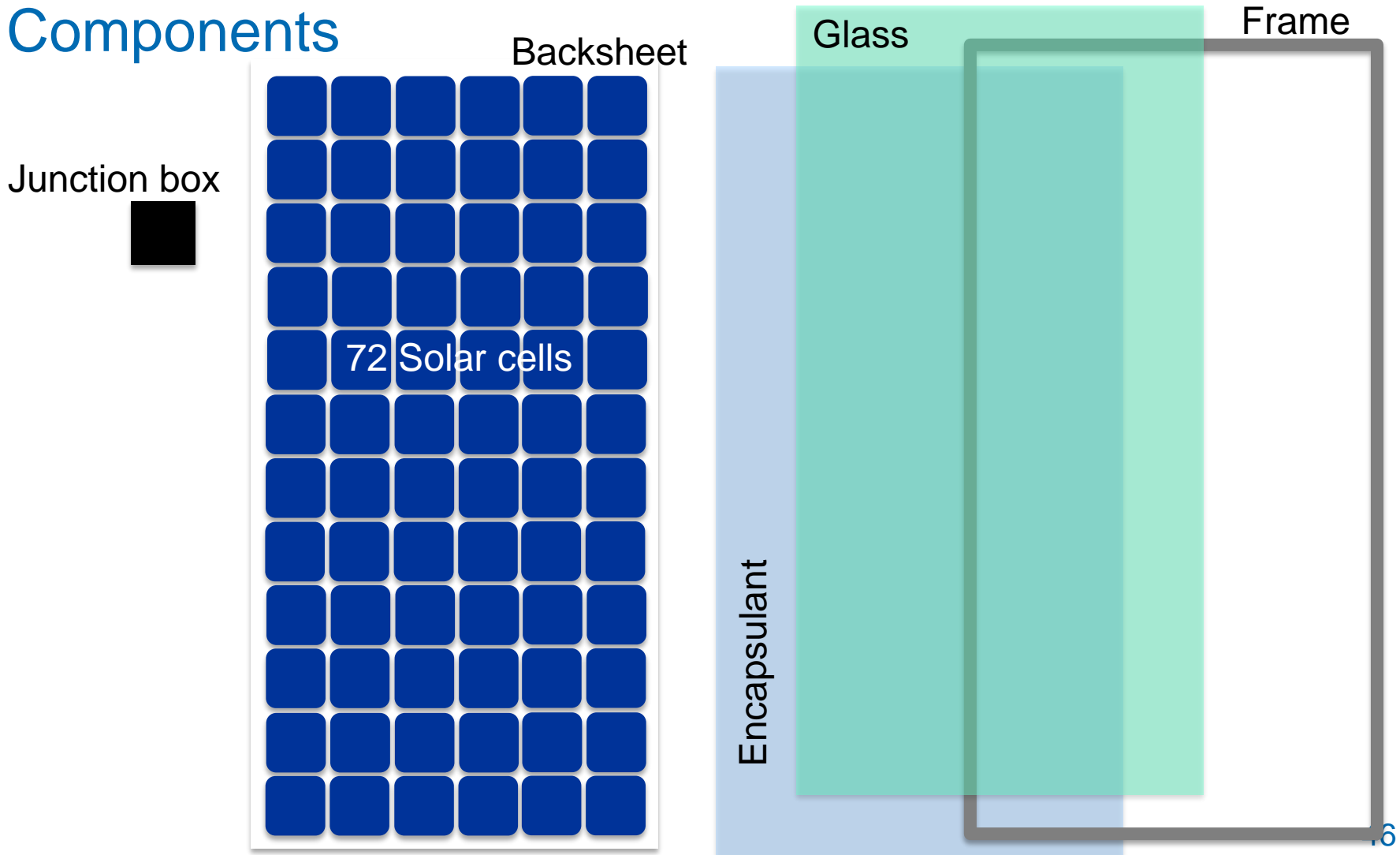


The image shows two bifacial solar panels mounted on a white structure. The panels are dark with a grid of thin lines and small white dots. The background is a clear blue sky with a bright sun in the upper left corner. A semi-transparent white horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Bifacial modules" in a blue, sans-serif font.

# Bifacial modules

# Bifacial module technologies

## Components

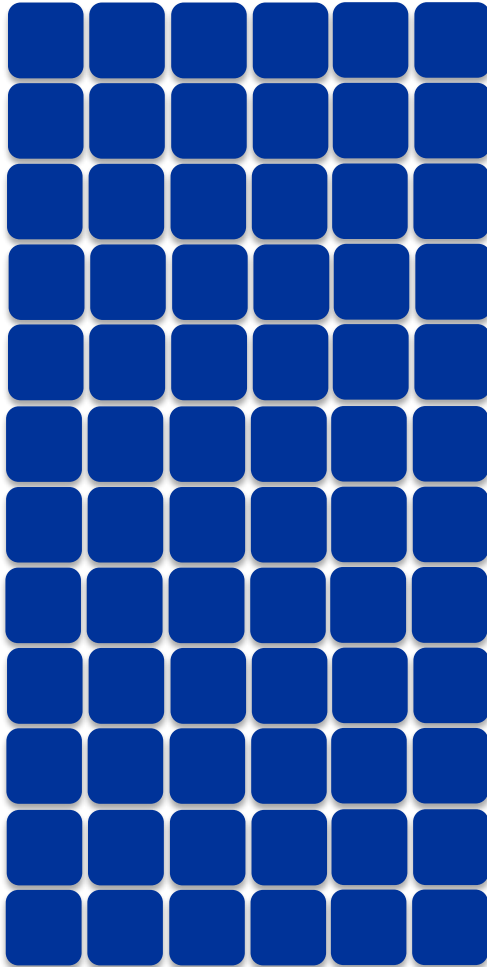


# Bifacial module technologies

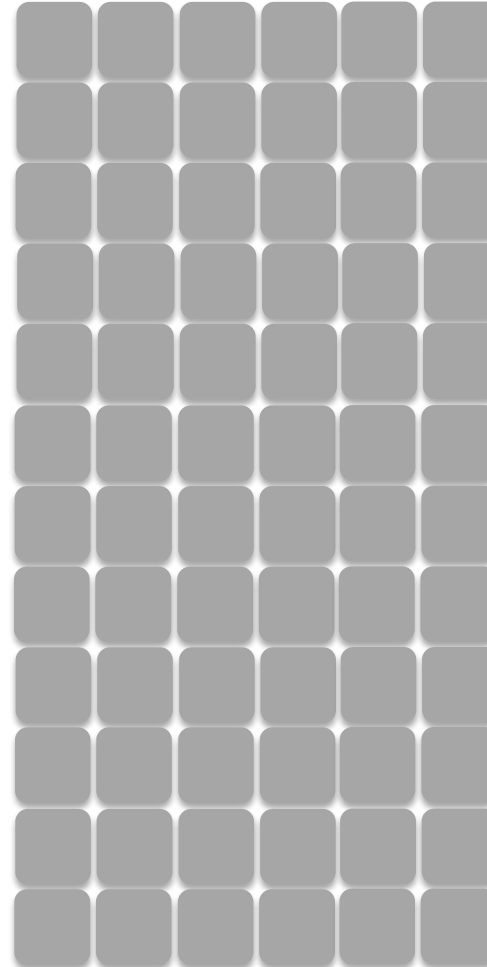
## Standard module

72 Solar cells

Front side



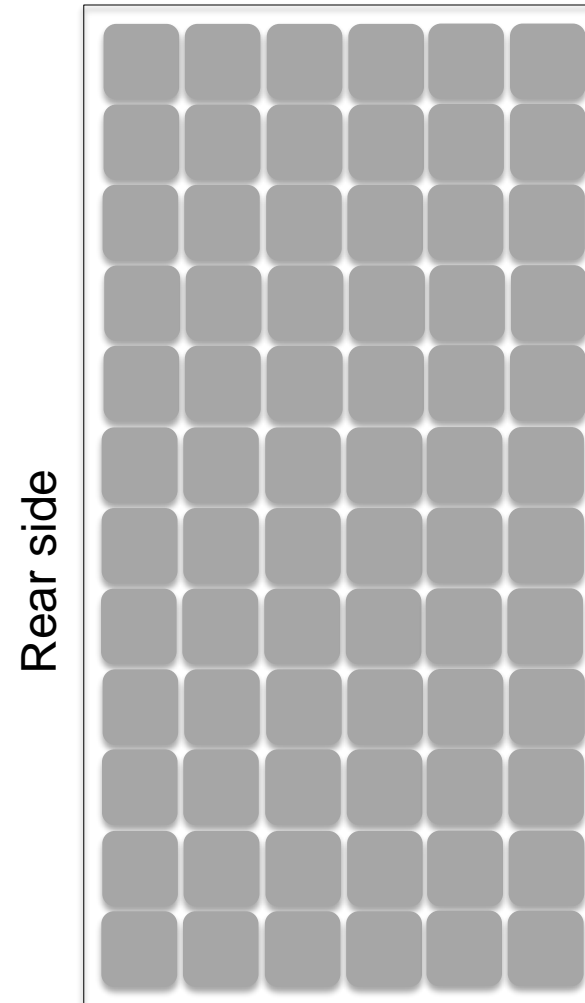
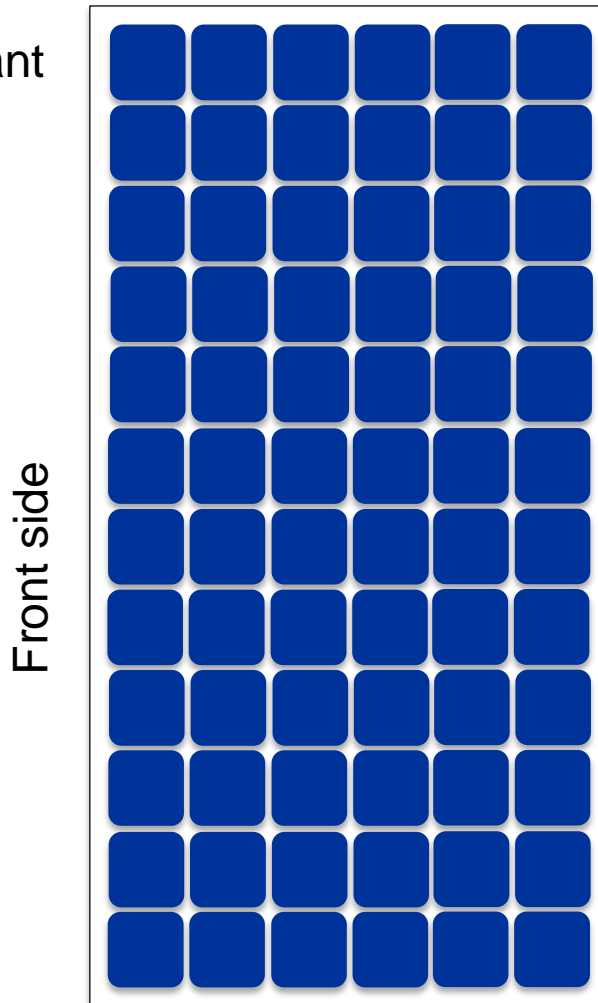
Rear side



# Bifacial module technologies

## Standard module

Encapsulant

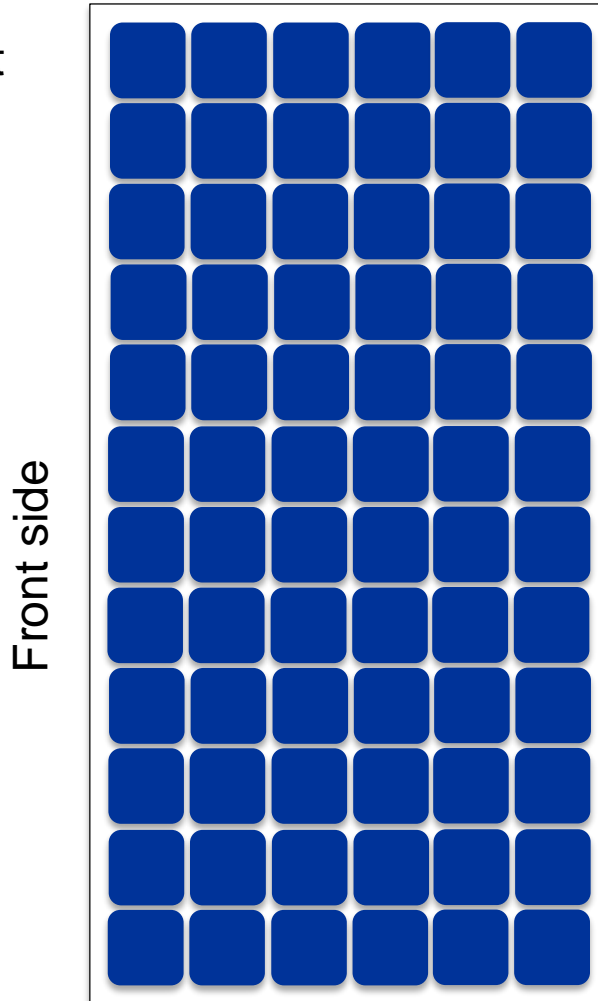




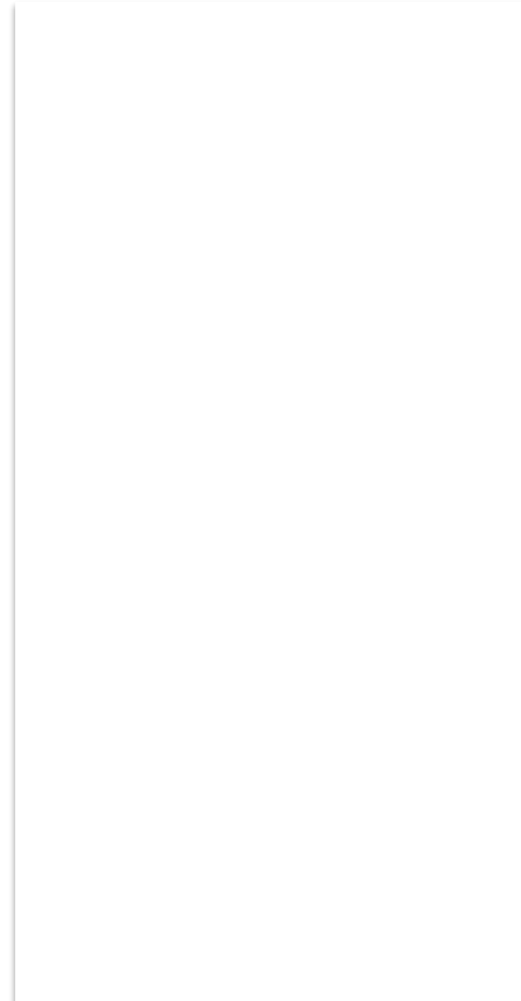
# Bifacial module technologies

## Standard module

Backsheet



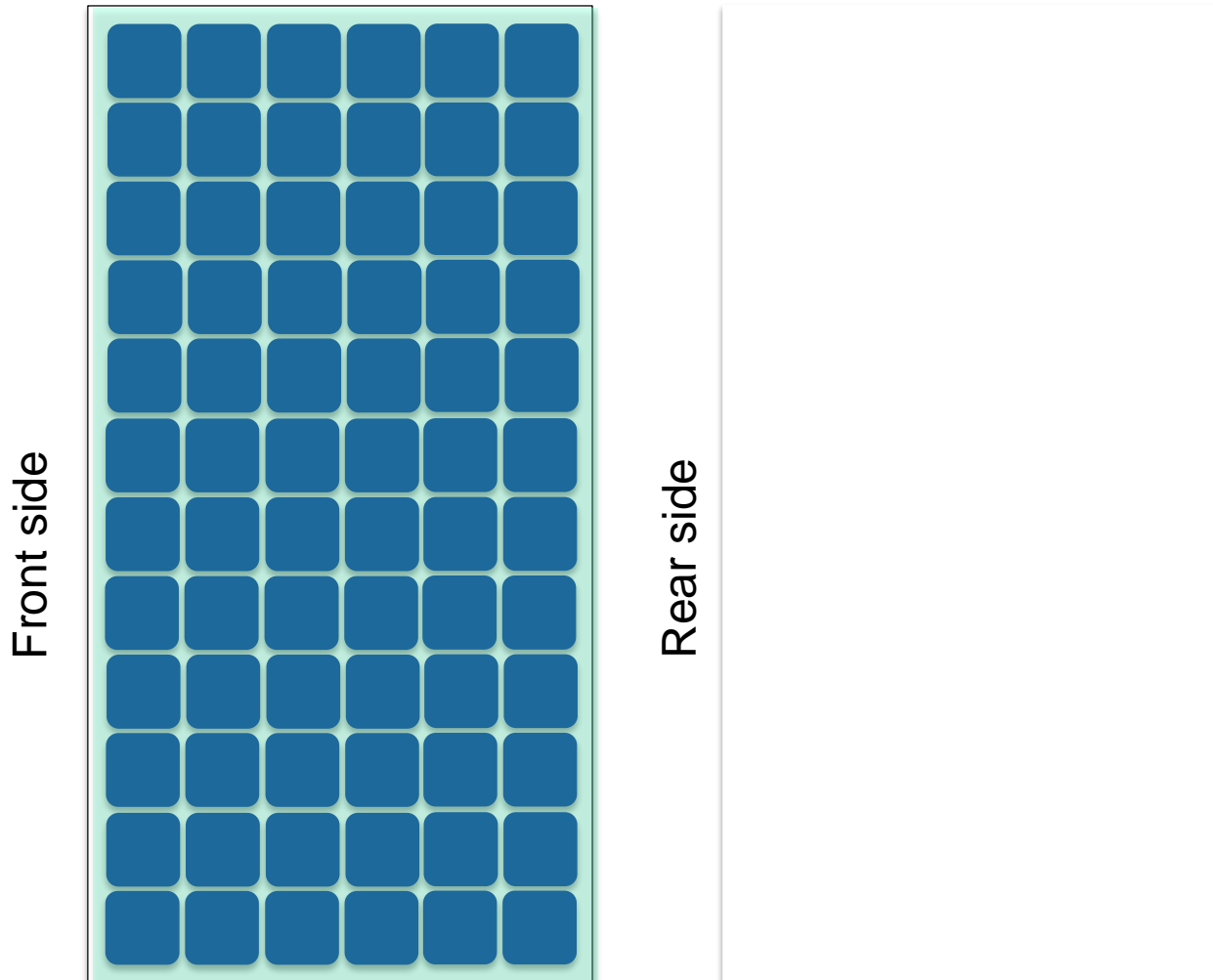
Rear side



# Bifacial module technologies

## Standard module

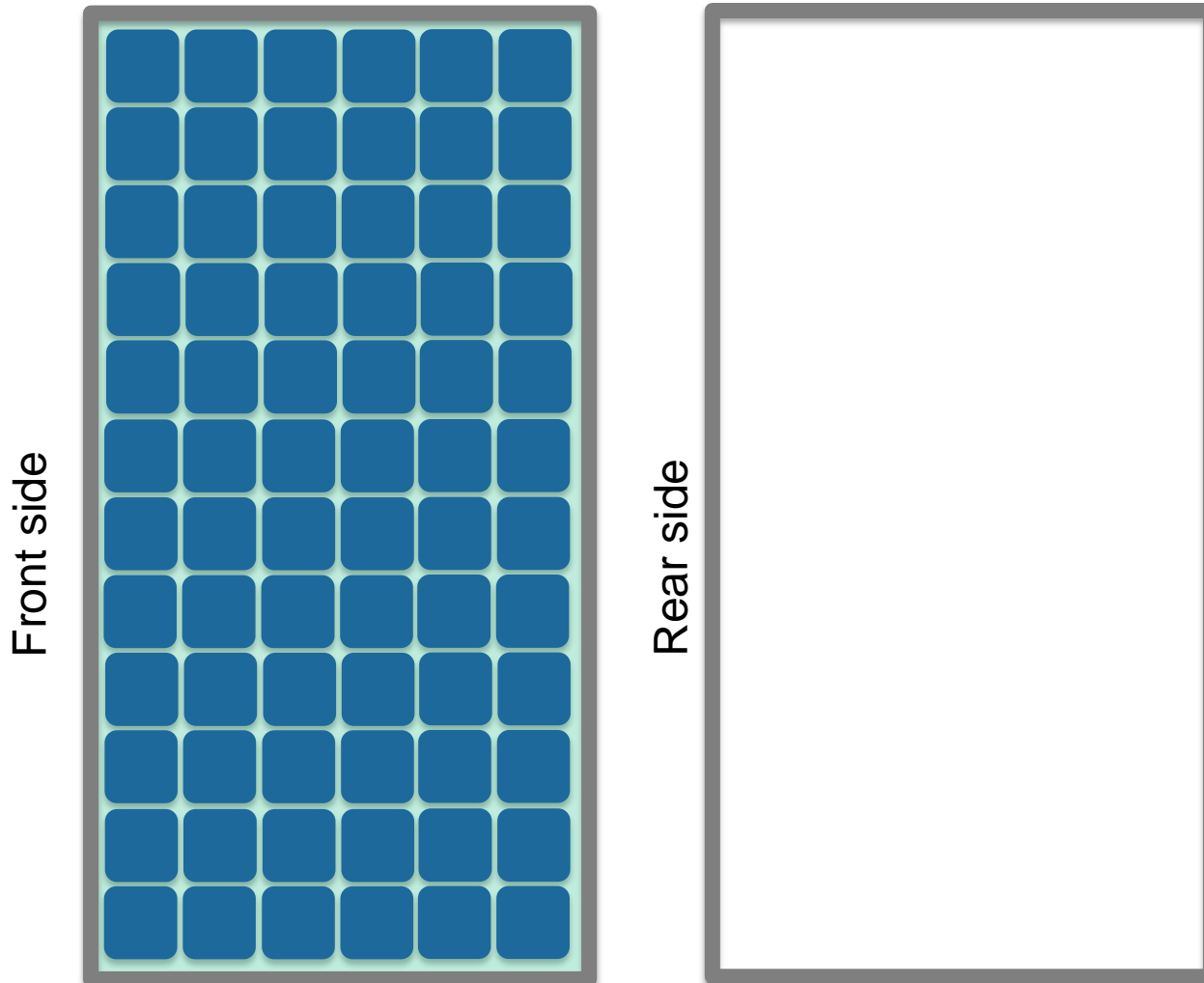
Glass



# Bifacial module technologies

## Standard module

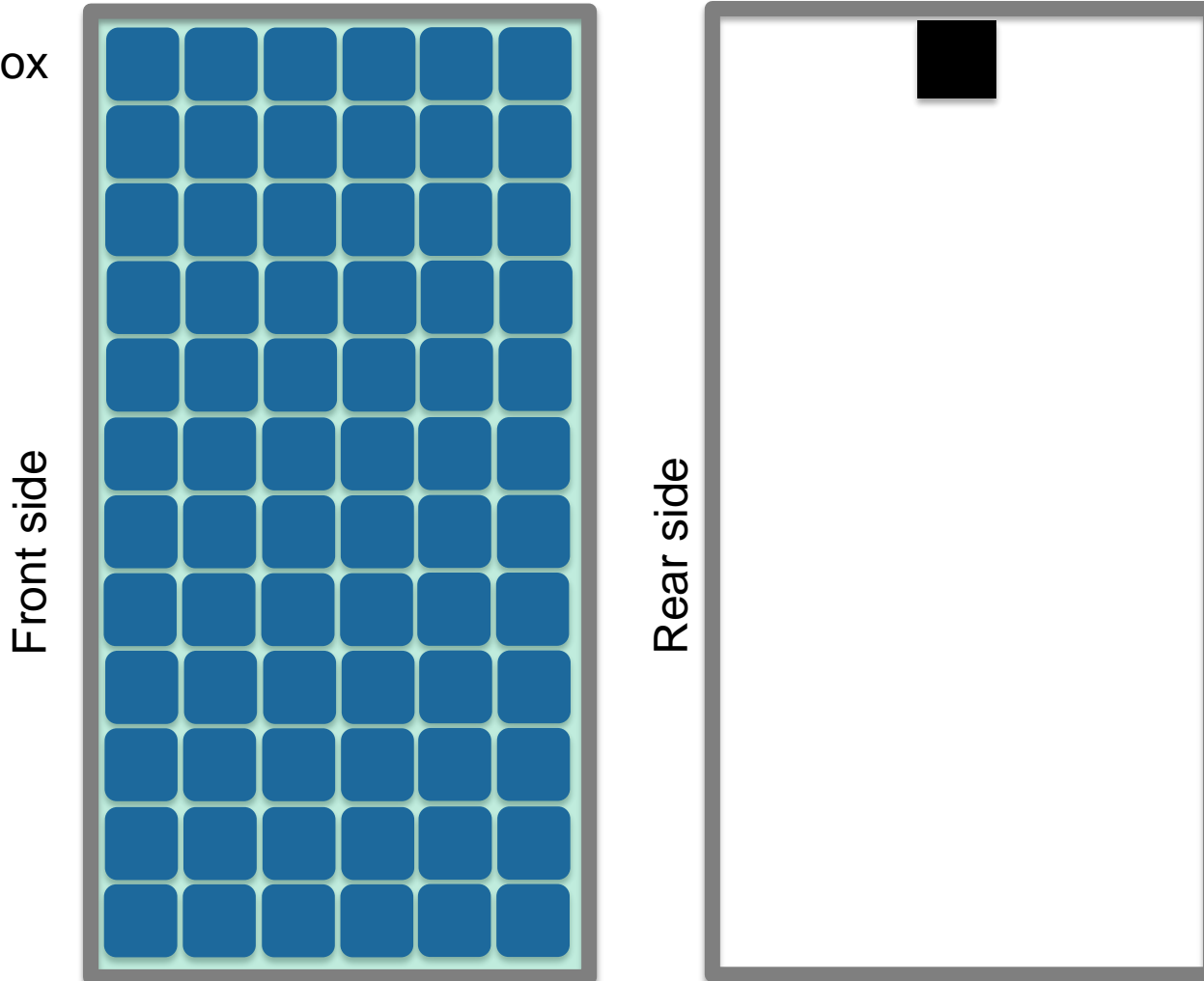
Frame



# Bifacial module technologies

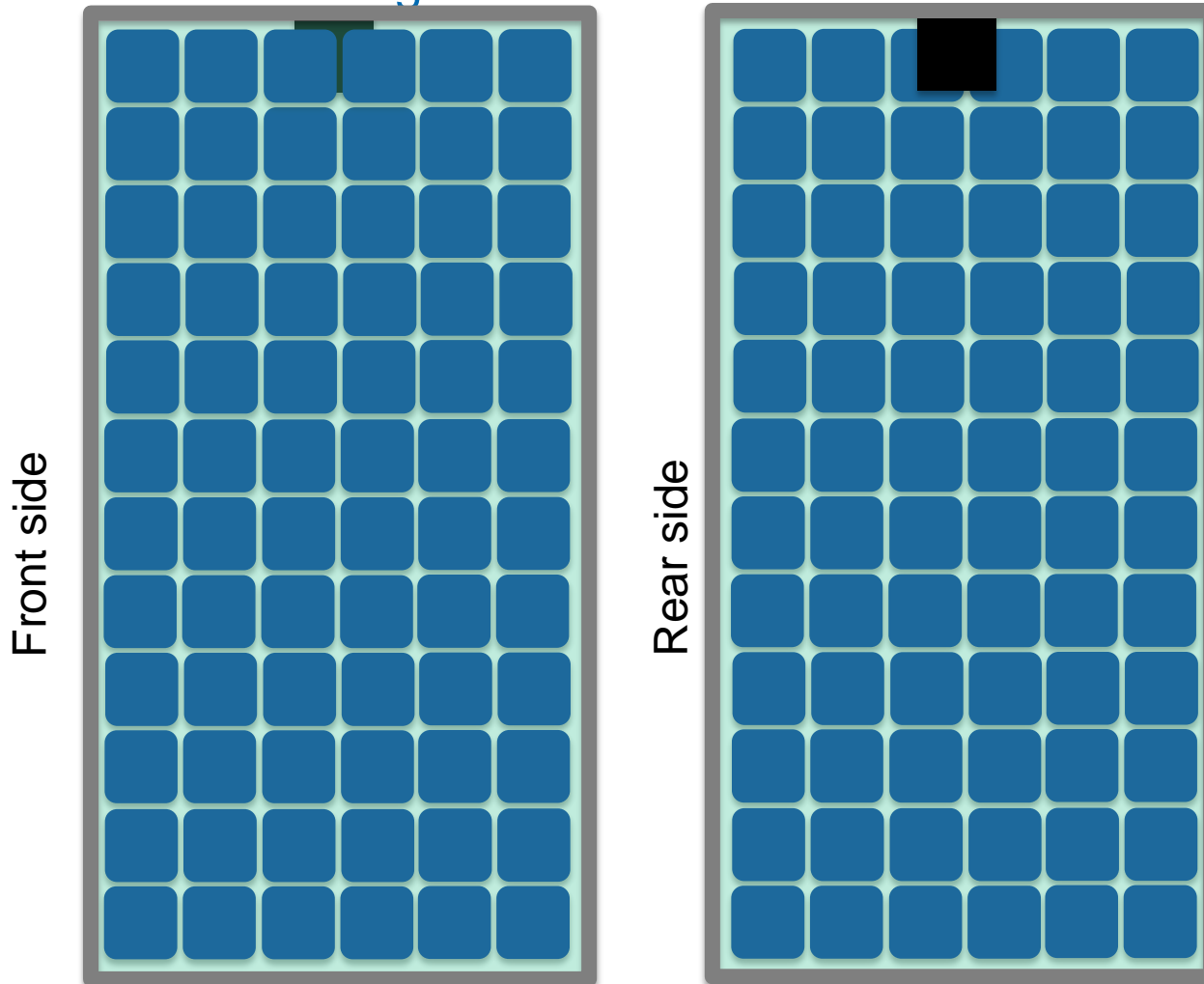
## Standard module

Junction box



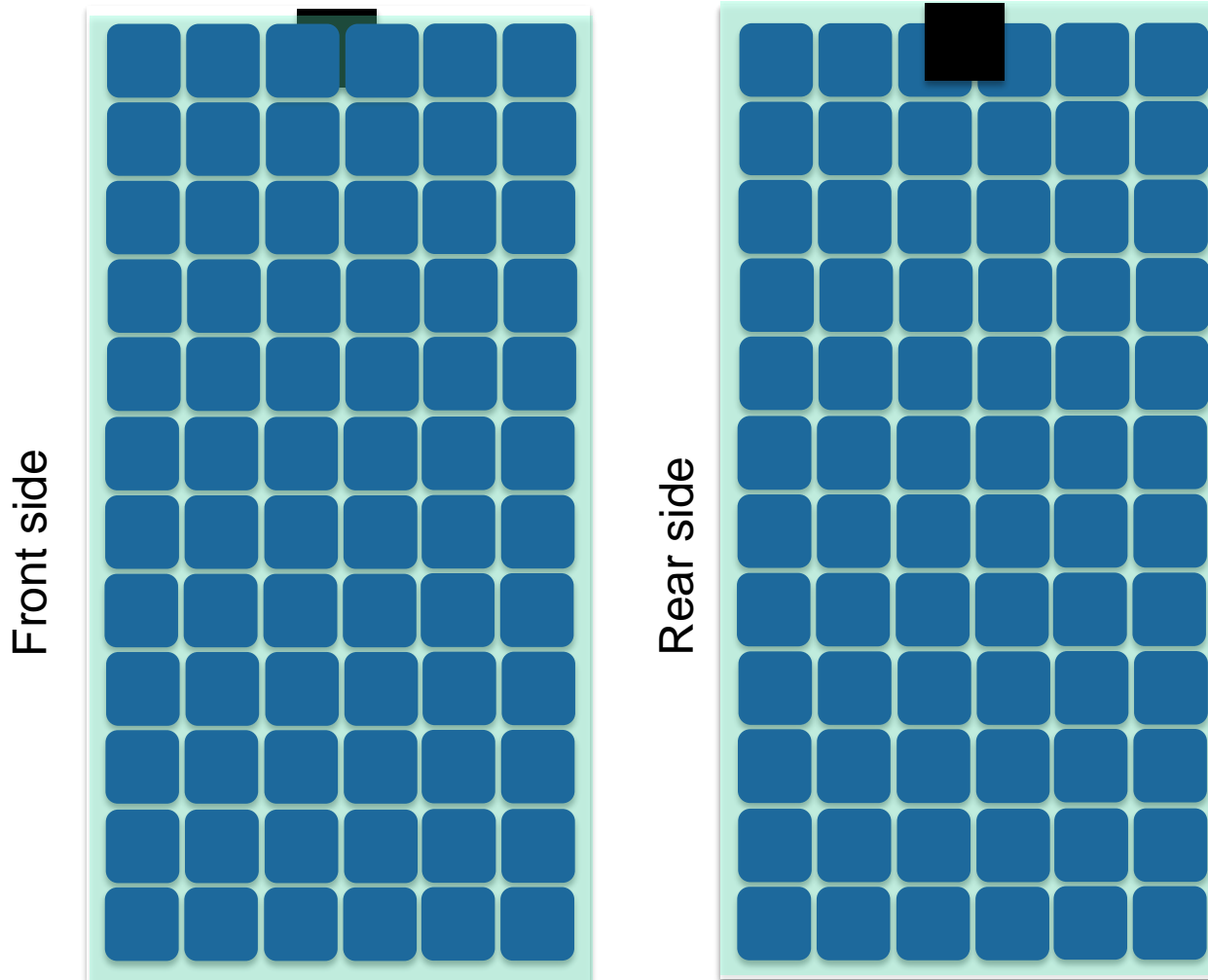
# Bifacial module technologies

## Bifacial module first generation



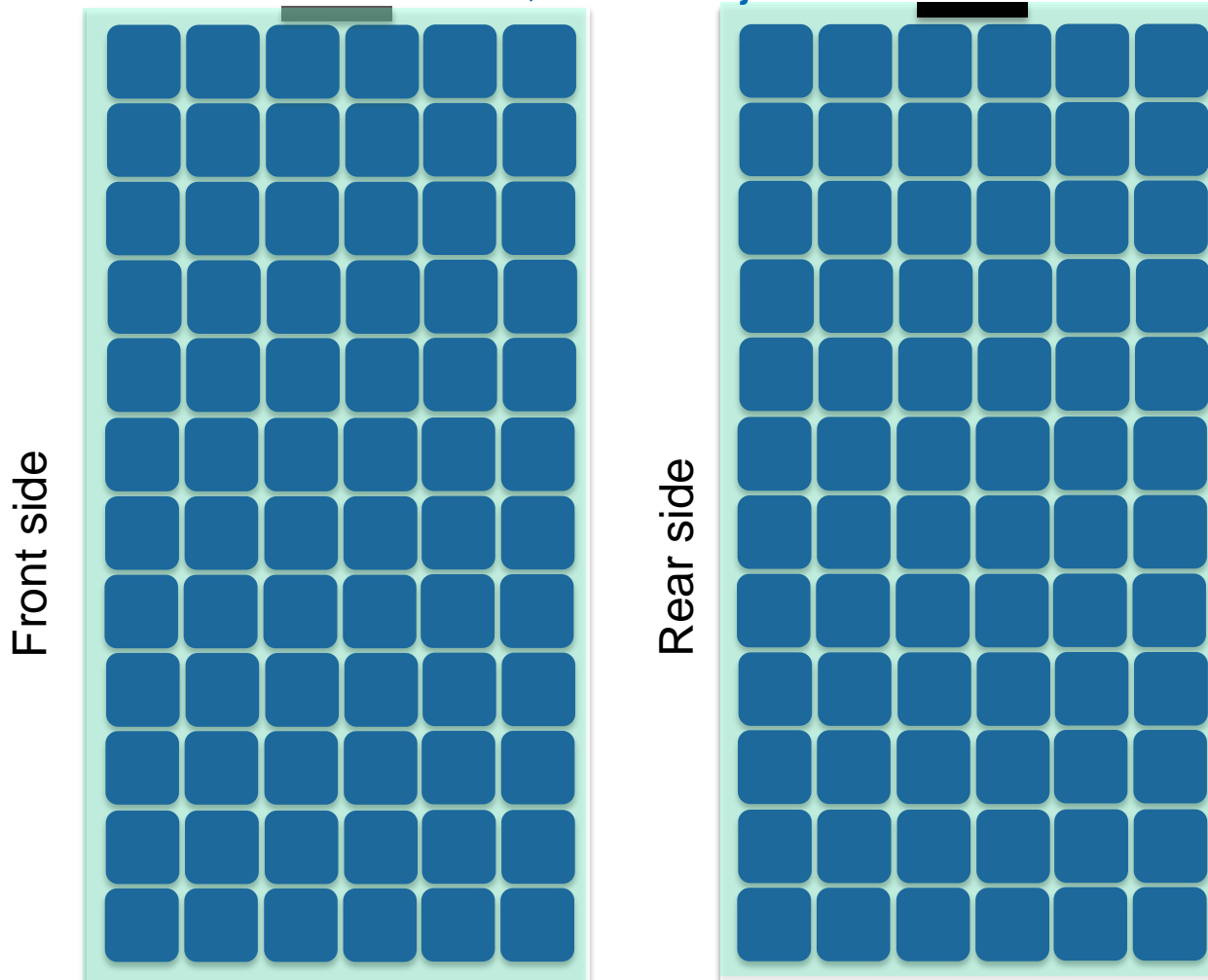
# Bifacial module technologies

## Bifacial module frameless



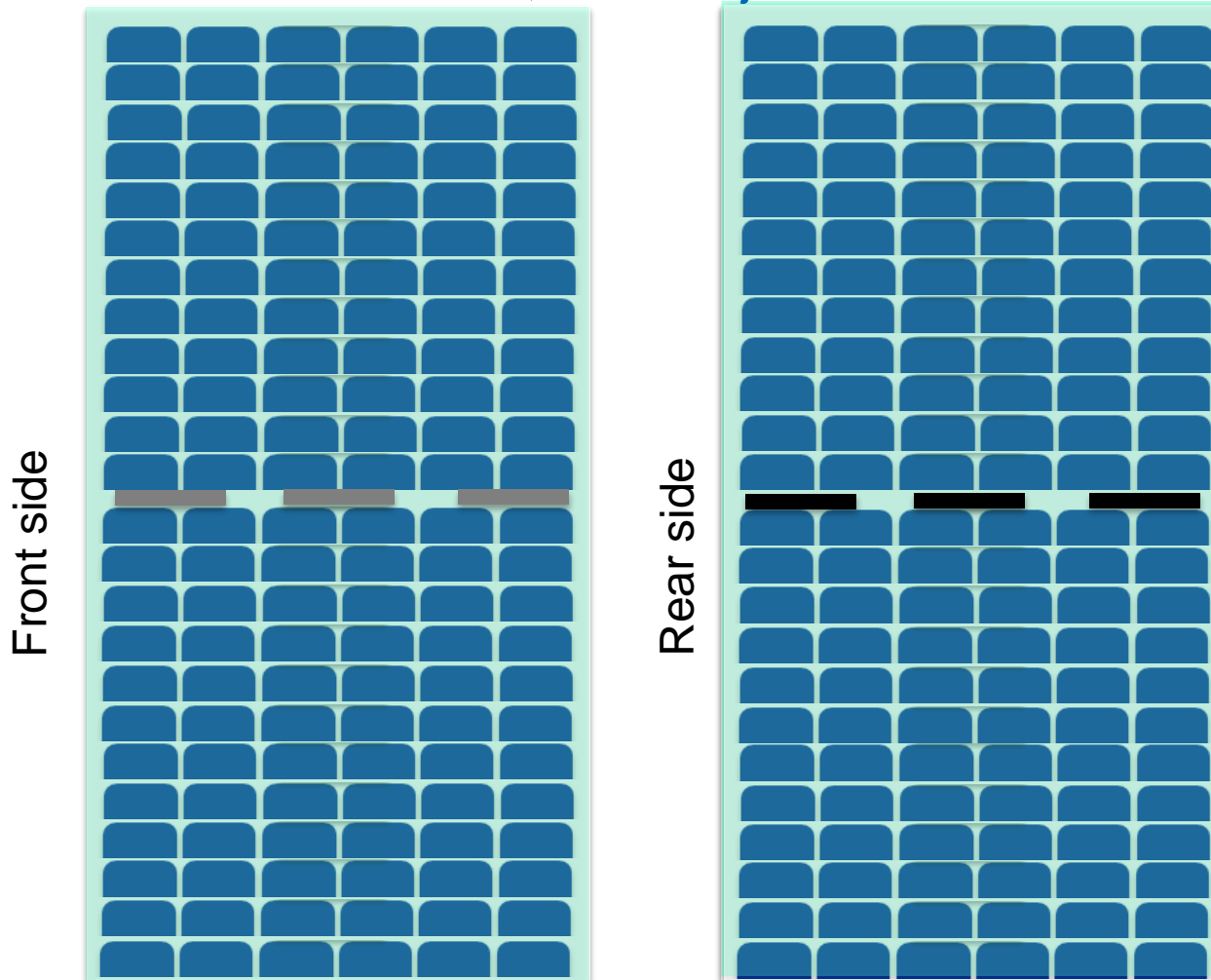
# Bifacial module technologies

## Bifacial module frameless, shallow junction box



# Bifacial module technologies

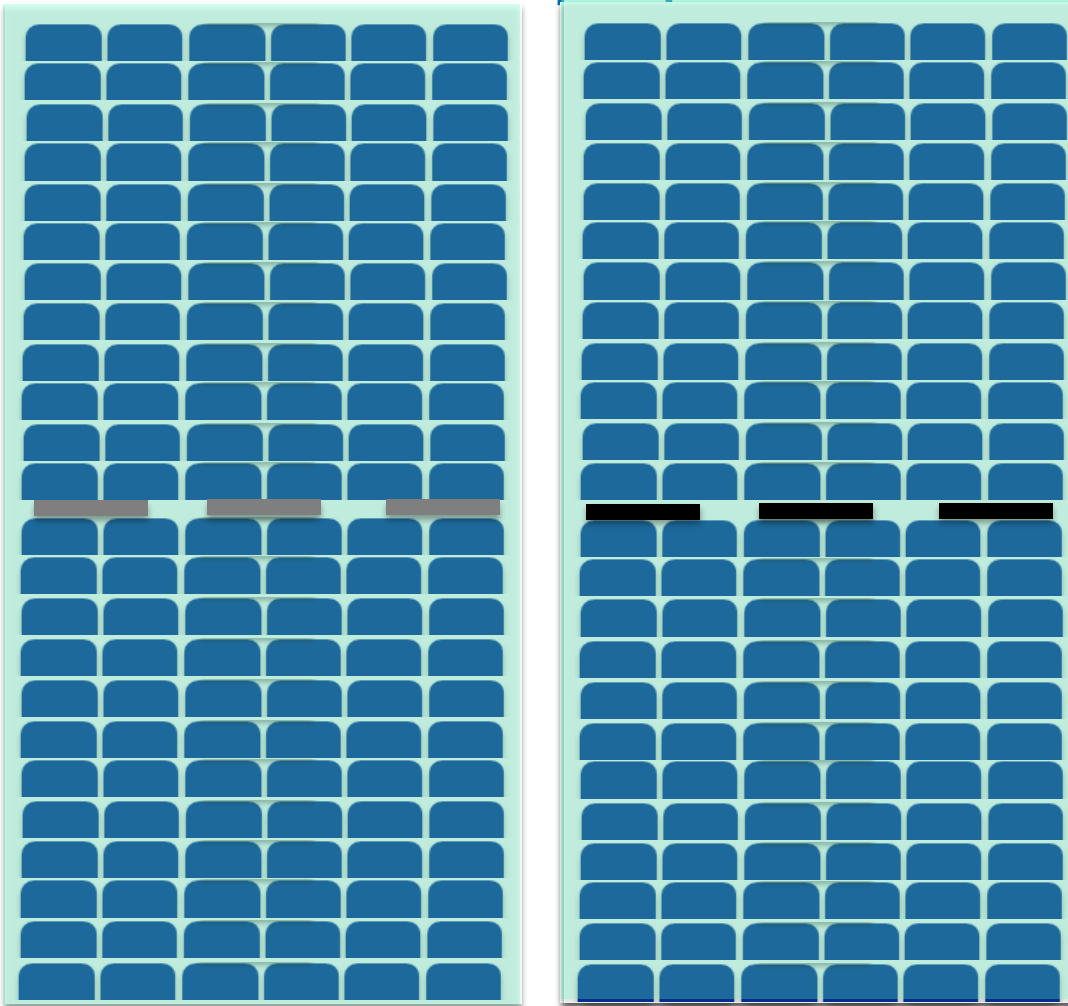
## Bifacial module frameless, shallow junction box and half cells





# Bifacial module technologies

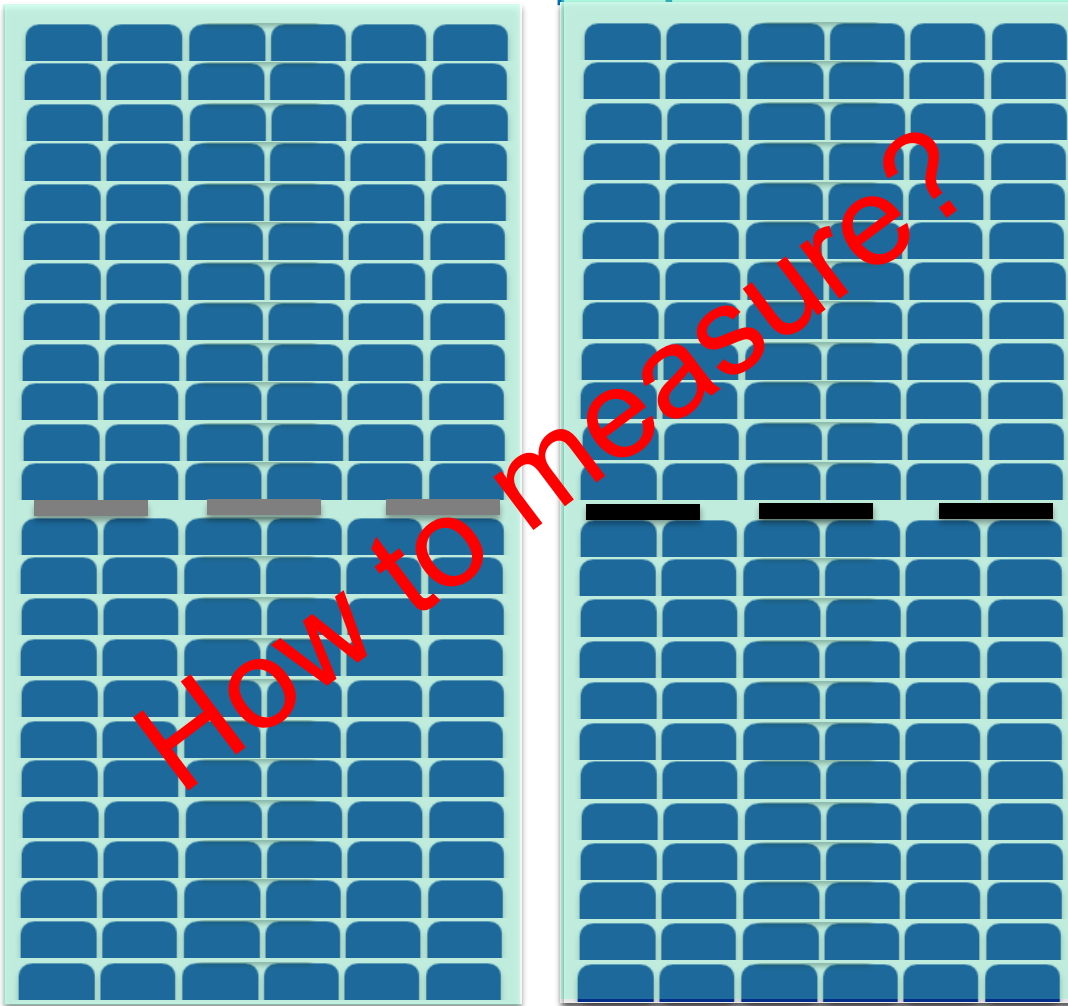
## Bifacial module: properties



- **frameless**  
(or with frame)
- **double glass**  
(or transparent backsheet)
- **shallow junction box**  
(or more boxes)
- **Polyolefin**  
(or EVA)
- **n-type solar cells**  
(or p-type)
- **5 BB solar cells**  
(or multi BB, or shingling)
- **half cells**  
(or full cells)

# Bifacial module technologies

## Bifacial module: properties



- **frameless**  
(or with frame)
- **double glass**  
(or transparent backsheet)
- **shallow junction box**  
(or more boxes)
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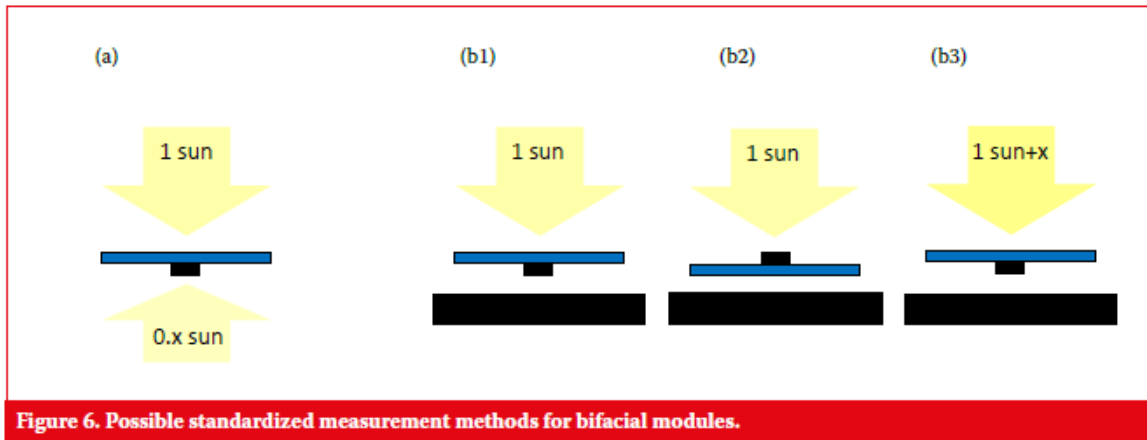
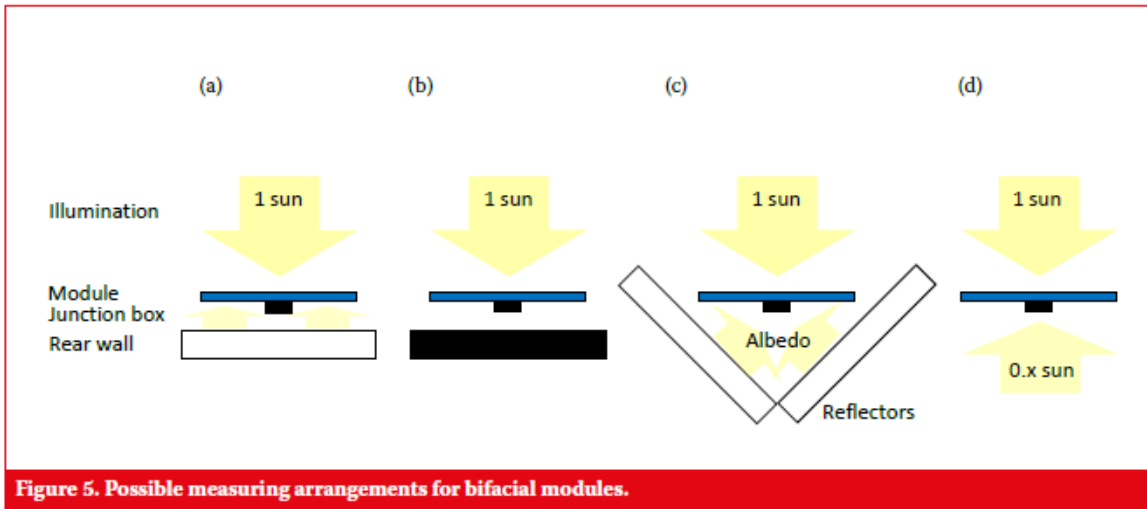
# Bifacial module technologies: standard



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz

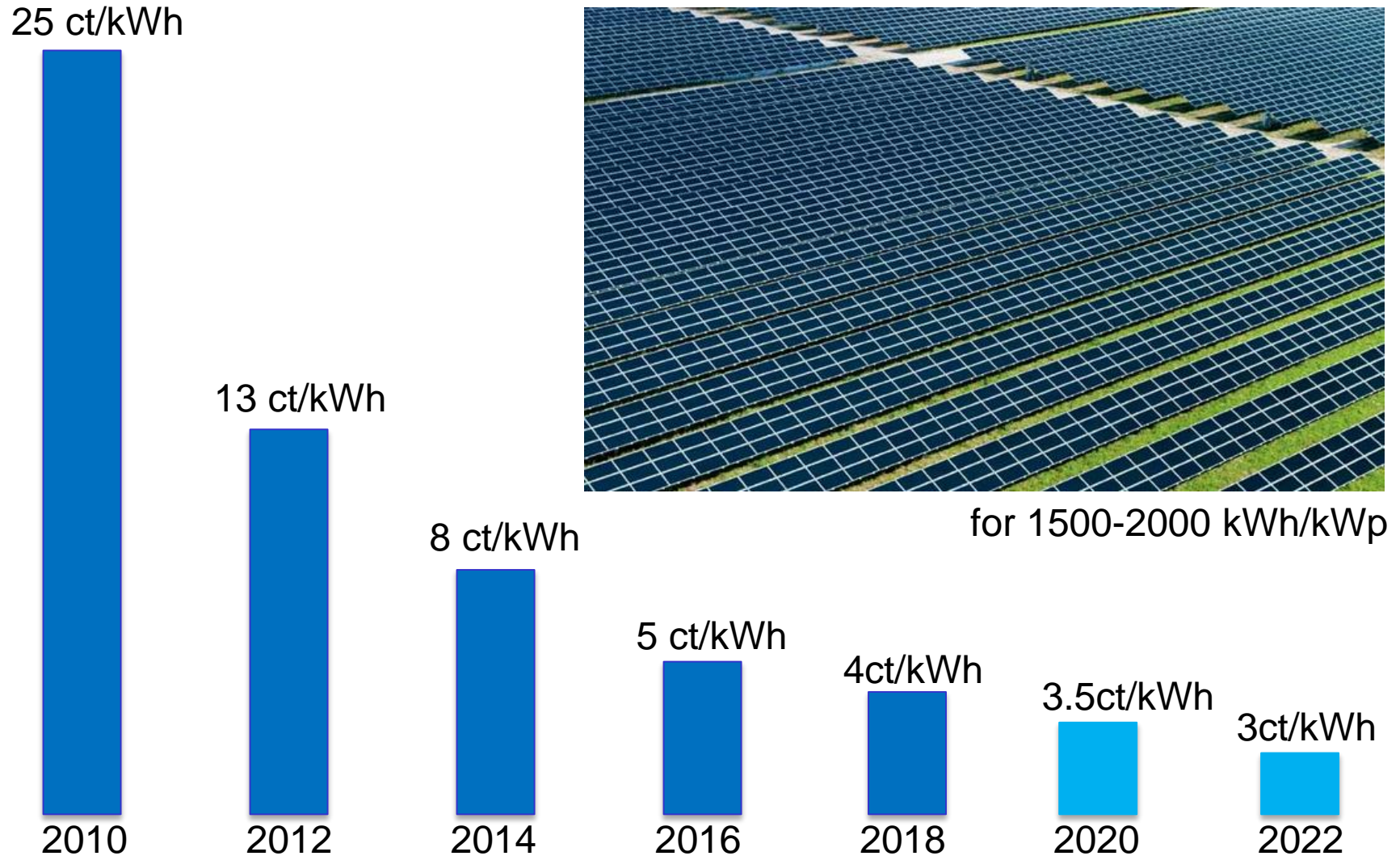
R. Kopecek et al., PVI37,  
September 2017

Possible measurements



Standards: Vahid and  
now Pasan in lead

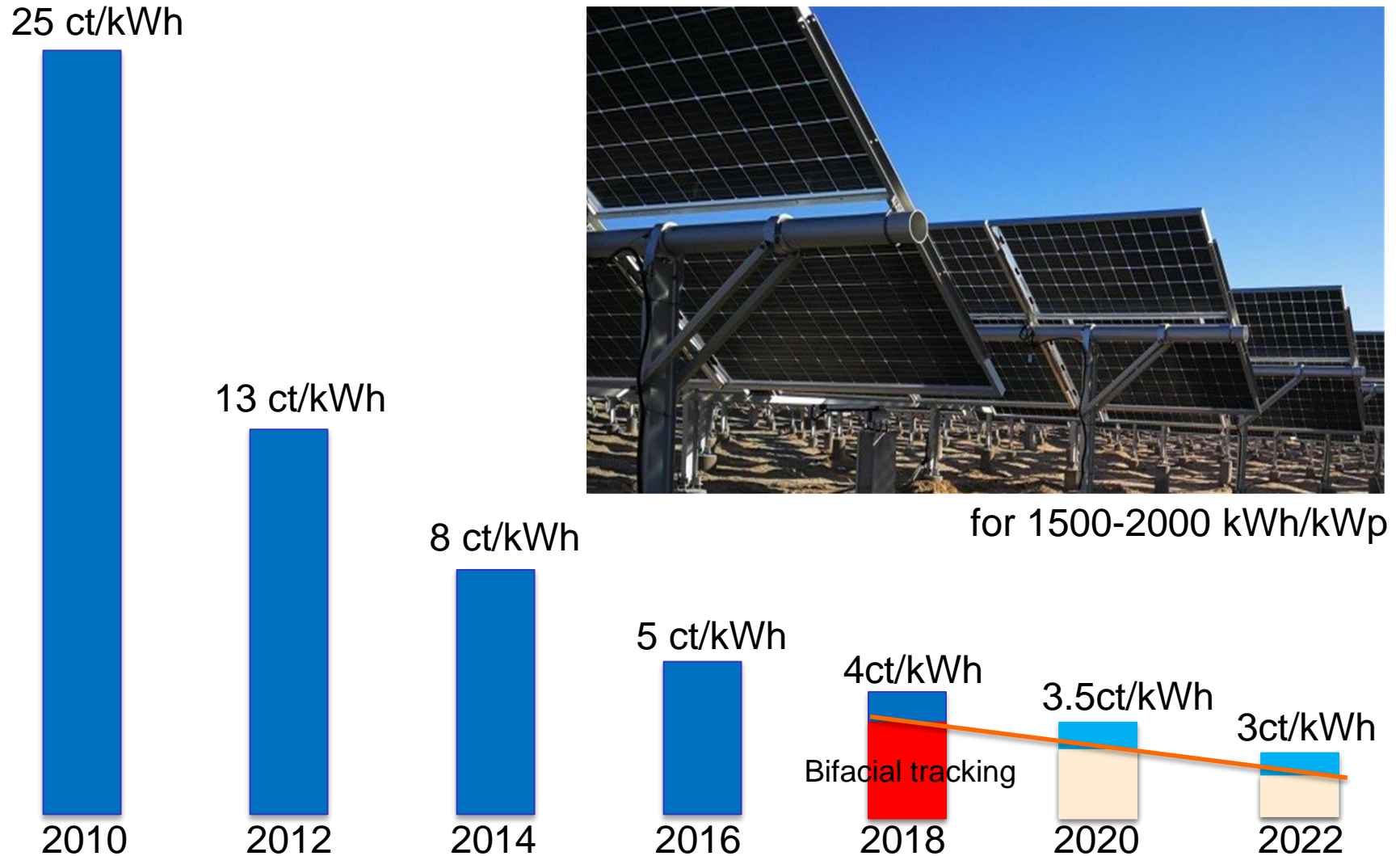
# electricity costs from PV (utility scale)



# electricity costs from PV (utility scale)



International Solar Energy  
Research Center Konstanz



- c-Si solar cells in future will be bifacial anyhow
- many companies are already producing bifacial cells:  
PERC+, nPERT, HJT and soon IBC
- PERC will become Nr.1 technology in 2018/2019
- many modules in future will be double glass based anyhow
- the system kWh can be extremely increased by using bifacial modules and/or simple tracking in addition
- in total >1GWp large bifacial systems are already installed

**>> EVALUATION OF EXISTING SIMULATION PROGRAMS  
ARE NEEDED TO MAKE BIFACIALITY MORE BANKABLE**



Bifacial HSAT is the way to go for LCOEs below 1ct/kWh