

1 Polarization-Controlled Confined Tamm Plasmon Lasers

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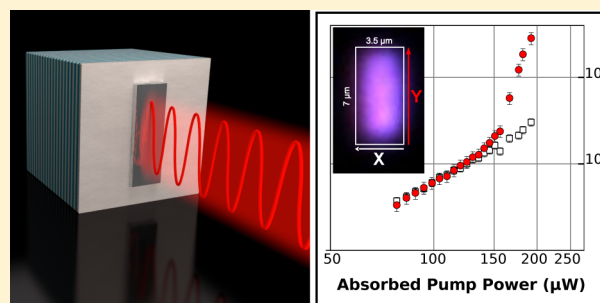
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7 **S** Supporting Information

8 **ABSTRACT:** In this paper we report on the evidence of polarized
9 and spatially localized emission of a Tamm laser. The polarized
10 emission results from an anisotropic three-dimensional confinement
11 of Tamm plasmon modes at the interface between an active
12 semiconductor distributed Bragg reflector and a silver thin-film.
13 The spatial confinement is achieved by patterning microrectangles
14 with an aspect ratio of 2 in the top metallic layer. This geometrical
15 birefringence is observed to split the fundamental confined Tamm
16 mode into two modes, which result to be orthogonally polarized
17 along the two sides of the structure. We measure a wavelength
18 splitting between the nondegenerate modes of ~ 0.2 nm, which
19 turns out to be in good agreement with numerical calculations. This weak splitting, together with the strong wavelength
20 dependence of the buried quantum wells gain curve, allows us to demonstrate the existence of a highly linearly polarized laser
21 emission at ~ 850 nm. By controlling the detuning between the confined Tamm modes and the gain curve, we report on a
22 maximum degree of linear polarization in excess of 90%.

23 **KEYWORDS:** *American Chemical Society, Latex*



24 **T**he polarization of an electromagnetic field represents a
25 crucial property for electromagnetic waves all over the
26 spectrum. At optical wavelengths, the control of a well-defined
27 polarization state of light is essential to various domains in
28 photonics, ranging from spectroscopy to nonlinear optics, as
29 well as optical communications and quantum information pro-
30 cessing.^{1,2} Polarized coherent light sources, that could eventually
31 be integrated onto a semiconductor platform to meet miniaturiza-
32 tion requirements, are always strongly needed.³ In addition,
33 important advances have been recently reported in the realiza-
34 tion of integrated devices dealing with polarization-encoded
35 photonic qubits, both at the source⁴ and logical operation
36 level.⁵ Concerning polarized laser sources, different types of
37 semiconductor lasers have been investigated over the years, that
38 can feature single mode operation with high spectral purity, the
39 most important constraints for applications.⁶ Among them,
40 vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs) have been
41 intensively studied in the last 20 years,⁷ due to their practical
42 advantages, such as compactness, circular beam shape, and
43 easy array integration, that finally contribute to lowering
44 production costs. However, the control of polarization remains
45 an open problem for the use of VCSELs in polarization-
46 sensitive applications, which makes them still subject of con-
47 tinuous research efforts.^{8–11} Indeed, the linear TE polarization
48 of a VCSEL is essentially randomly oriented in the plane of
49 the semiconductor material quantum wells. As a result, they
50 suffer from current- and temperature-dependent polarization

instabilities responsible for polarization switching of the single
51 transverse lasing mode between two orthogonal linearly
52 polarized states.^{12–14} Many approaches have been proposed
53 to solve this issue, mainly based on anisotropic gain mecha-
54 nisms^{15,16} or anisotropic transverse cavity geometries.^{17–20} In
55 particular, the latter approach has been proven to be a valuable
56 technique for increasing the energy splitting between the two
57 nearly degenerate polarizations,²⁰ thereby selecting a single
58 specific polarization direction.¹⁸ The best approaches trying
59 to obtain a stable single-polarization regime are those who
60 enhance the lasing operation in the fundamental mode. In this
61 direction, the use of a defect state in a photonic band gap,
62 namely, a defect in a photonic crystal (PhC) periodic structure,
63 represents a promising approach. A considerable amount of
64 experimental work has already been carried out on the fabrica-
65 tion of VCSELs incorporating a PhC structure in the top
66 mirror:^{21–23} results show the achievement of high output power
67 (\sim milliWatt) single fundamental mode emission at a stable
68 polarization, but at the expense of an accurate PhC design
69 followed by a complex and involved fabrication procedure.
70

71 Recently, a novel type of hybrid metal–semiconductor
72 photonic structure based on Tamm plasmon (TP) modes has
73 been proposed to control the spontaneous emission of a buried
74 quantum emitter,²⁴ and it has already been demonstrated to

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75 allow for the realization of novel surface-wave lasers²⁵ and
 76 single photon²⁶ sources. TPs are electromagnetic defect states
 77 that can be formed at the interface of a thin-film metallic layer
 78 and a distributed Bragg reflector (DBR): their energy features
 79 an in-plane wave vector parabolic dispersion relation lying
 80 inside the DBR stop-band and within the light cone,^{27,28} so
 81 that these modes can be optically directly accessed at normal
 82 incidence. Moreover, the Tamm resonance electric field is
 83 confined at the metal-DBR interface, and, since the field
 84 penetration inside the DBR is about 2 orders of magnitude
 85 larger than that in the metal layer, they present reduced losses
 86 compared to surface plasmons. Since their introduction in
 87 2007 by Kaliteevski et al., TPs have already been theoretically
 88 proposed for the realization of perfect absorbers,²⁹ multi-
 89 channel filters,³⁰ and bistable switches.^{31,32} Furthermore, a few
 90 experimental results have been recently published in the litera-
 91 ture, showing the large growing interest in Tamm structures,
 92 attractive because of their advantages with respect to surface
 93 plasmons. TPs have been proposed and demonstrated as a
 94 novel straightforward and promising tool to engineer fluoro-
 95 phores emission in terms of directionality, wavelength and
 96 decay rates.^{33–35} TPs combined with mesoporous DBR have
 97 been proven to be successfully employed as high-sensitivity
 98 sensors in alternative to surface plasmons.³⁶ In addition, the
 99 coexistence of Tamm plasmon and surface plasmon modes in
 100 these hybrid metal/dielectric structures^{37,38} could make of
 101 Tamm plasmon lasers a new approach for the development of
 102 novel efficient surface plasmon sources.

103 The peculiarity of TP lasers lies in the absence of a cavity
 104 layer, having the TP mode itself the role of the resonant cavity,
 105 which results in a compact device whose emission properties
 106 can thus be easily controlled directly by tailoring the optical
 107 mode. Generally, for a semiconductor-integrated laser source,
 108 important interventions are needed on the laser cavity in order
 109 to modify emission properties such as the far-field emission
 110 or directionality, the quality factor and the β -factor. TP lasers
 111 allow for a simplified control of such properties: instead of
 112 modifying an optical cavity which does not physically exist, it is
 113 sufficient to act on the metal geometry to directly shape the
 114 lasing mode itself. Indeed, it has been successfully demon-
 115 strated that three-dimensionally confined Tamm plasmons
 116 (CTPs) can be obtained only by patterning the top metallic
 117 layer,²⁴ without any degradation of the quantum wells (QWs)
 118 buried in the active part of the DBR. In particular, circular
 119 metallic geometries in the form of microdisks have been
 120 successfully employed for the demonstration of lasing action
 121 from a CTP mode, and a reduction of the lasing threshold with
 122 respect to bidimensional TPs has been reported.³⁹ However,
 123 these novel laser sources suffer from the same polarization
 124 issues mentioned above for VCSELs, as they are still surface
 125 emitting devices.

126 The use of asymmetry in the form of anisotropic cross
 127 sections, for example, elliptical or rectangular, represents a
 128 valuable solution in order to control a given polarization state
 129 of light in a device confining and guiding light.⁴⁰ Indeed, such a
 130 geometrical asymmetry is responsible to lift-off the energy
 131 degeneracy between the two orthogonal linear polarization
 132 modes oscillating along the two Cartesian direction of the
 133 plane. The introduction of strong geometrical birefringence has
 134 already been used for years in polarization maintaining optical
 135 fibers, and it also allowed to address polarization issues in both
 136 VCSELs¹³ and semiconductor pillar microcavities.²⁰ Never-
 137 theless, the fabrication of such devices comes at the cost of a

138 long and delicate technological process, comprising, among
 139 others, multiples lithography and etching steps, the latter
 140 possibly involving the active material as well. On the contrary,
 141 TP structures are based on an electromagnetic mode existing
 142 only at the metal-DBR interface. This offers the great ad-
 143 vantage and capability of manipulating and confining the mode
 144 itself directly by patterning bidimensional geometries in the
 145 metallic layer, without affecting the semiconductor material. In
 146 this paper, exploiting the mode-tailoring capabilities offered by
 147 CTP structures, we propose to employ some geometrical
 148 birefringence to fix the polarization state of CTP lasers. Indeed,
 149 here we report on the first experimental study of anisotropic
 150 CTP (a-CTP) lasing devices. The use of anisotropic 2D metal
 151 geometries, that is, microrectangles, has been observed to
 152 increase enough the polarization splitting between the two
 153 confined degenerate fundamental modes as to produce a
 154 linearly polarized laser emission. The relevance of the energy
 155 detuning between the Tamm modes and the gain material has
 156 also been investigated, resulting to be the control mechanism
 157 for the emission of a single linearly polarized lasing mode.

158 ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

159 **Sample Structure and Linear Characterization.** A
 160 typical a-CTP structure is presented in Figure 1a. It is com-
 161 posed by an active distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) formed by

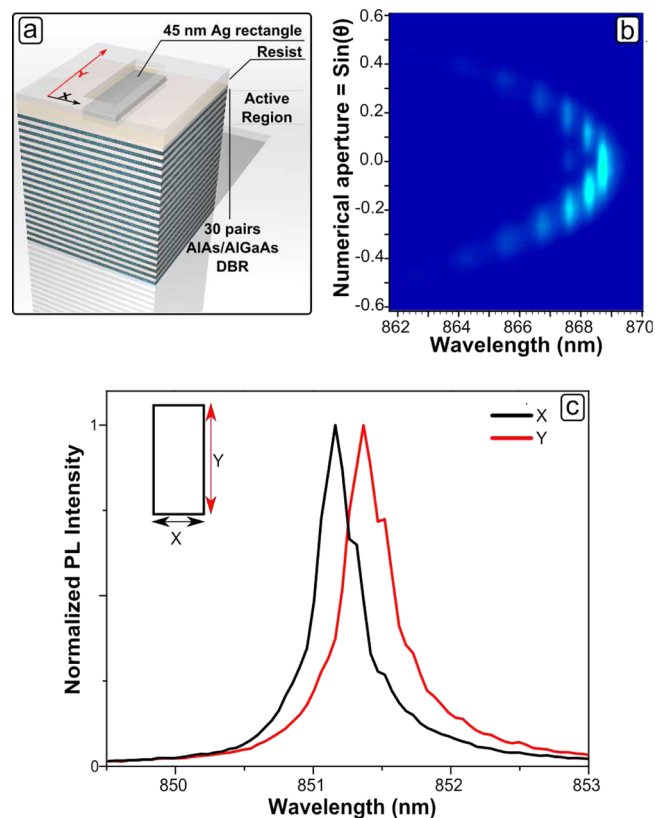


Figure 1. Anisotropic confined Tamm plasmons. (a) Schematic view of an anisotropic confined Tamm plasmon (a-CTP) laser device. The Tamm mode lies only beneath the metallic rectangle. (b) Unpolarized angle-resolved PL image taken on a $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ rectangle: Tamm plasmon resonances are largely detuned with respect to QW emission to ensure a weak coupling regime. (c) Polarization resolved PL emission spectra from a $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ device for two cross-polarizations: The X-polarized (black curve) and Y-polarized (red curve) a-CTP fundamental modes of a polarized laser device.

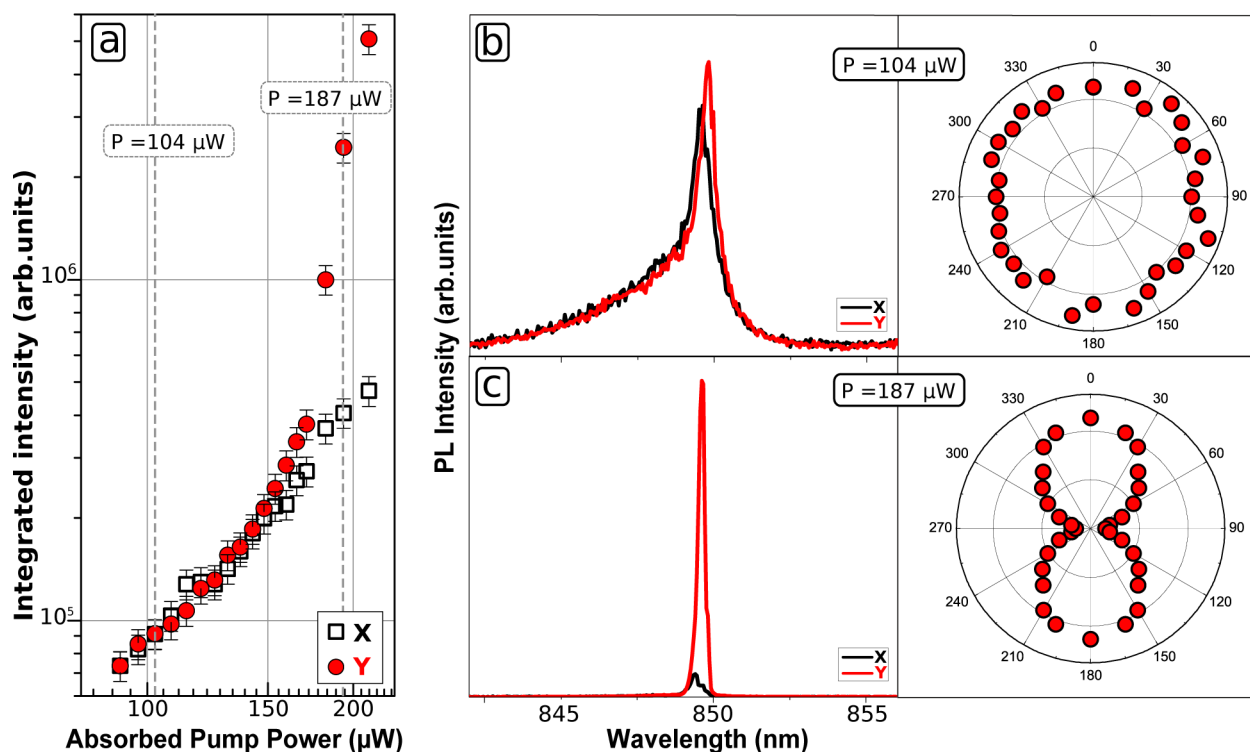


Figure 2. Experimental results from PL measurements on a $7 \mu\text{m} \times 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ a-CTP device. (a) Integrated intensities of the X- and Y-polarized fundamental Tamm modes as a function of absorbed pump power P . (b, c) PL spectra and polar plot at $P \sim 104 \mu\text{W}$ (below laser threshold) and $P \sim 187 \mu\text{W}$ (above laser threshold), respectively. For representation convenience, the polar plot in (c) is obtained by symmetrization of experimental data in between 0° and 180° .

162 a 30 pairs AlAs/AlGaAs $\lambda/4$ stacked layer grown on GaAs
 163 substrate by molecular beam epitaxy. Two 9.5 nm InGaAs
 164 semiconductor QWs, playing the role of active medium, are
 165 embedded in the five high-index upper layers, with optical
 166 emission lying around 856 nm at 77 K. In order to realize
 167 metallic patterns, a 90 nm thick PMMA resist layer was spin-
 168 coated on the top of the sample and several rectangular
 169 structures having aspect ratio of 2 were defined using electron
 170 beam lithography techniques. Finally, a 45 nm thick silver film
 171 was thermally evaporated on top of the DBR to allow for the
 172 formation of a TP mode only in the DBR region beneath the
 173 metallic layer. The chosen silver thickness represents a trade-off
 174 which allows to achieve a good quality factor while maintaining
 175 a sufficiently high extraction of the laser light. No lift-off was
 176 performed, as to mask QW emission from outside the Tamm
 177 structures.

178 The sample was kept at 77 K in a coldfinger cryostat and
 179 photoluminescence (PL) experiments were performed to study
 180 its optical properties. The devices were optically pumped from
 181 the top by means of a 80 MHz repetition-rate train of lasers
 182 pulses at 780 nm coming from a Ti:sapphire laser, focused onto
 183 the sample to a $\sim 8 \mu\text{m}$ spot-size by a high-numerical aperture
 184 microscope objective ($\text{NA} = 0.75$), preceded by a two-lenses
 185 optical telescope controlling the beam size. The emitted light
 186 was collected using the same objective and sent to a mono-
 187 chromator coupled to a silicon CCD array. Angular resolved PL
 188 spectroscopy was performed using a Fourier lens imaging the
 189 back focal plane of the objective onto the entrance slits of
 190 the spectrometer (spectral resolution 0.1 nm, angular resolution
 191 0.3°). Along the same optical path, a rotating half-wave plate
 192 together with a polarizer cube were placed, to be able to mea-
 193 sure any linear polarization state lying in the plane of the

sample. Figure 1b shows the PL intensity of a $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$
 194 rectangle as a function of wavelength and NA, measured at
 195 continuous-wave (CW) low-power excitation. The image was
 196 taken on a device characterized by a TP mode emission largely
 197 detuned at longer wavelengths with respect to QW emission:
 198 the photoemitted light is spontaneous emission which comes to
 199 enhanced by the TP modes themselves.^{41,42} Such a detuning
 200 allows us to observe TP resonances avoiding any TP/exciton
 201 strong coupling⁴³ or lasing phenomena²⁵ to occur. The disper-
 202 sion relation consists of a parabolic series of discrete resonance
 203 wavelengths, proving that the TP mode of an anisotropic
 204 Tamm device is actually confined in all three space dimensions,
 205 in a similar way as it was already observed for isotropic struc-
 206 tures.²⁴ The vertical confinement comes from the very nature of
 207 a TP mode, while its lateral confinement is provided by the
 208 finite lateral dimensions of the metallic film. The peculiarity of a
 209 typical $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ a-CTP structure is shown in Figure 1c,
 210 where two normalized PL spectra are presented taken at an
 211 estimated absorbed pump power $P \sim 100 \mu\text{W}$. In the case of
 212 Figure 1c, the TP emission is only weakly detuned with respect
 213 to QW emission. The two spectra correspond to the emission
 214 from the two split fundamental CTP modes which are
 215 orthogonally polarized along X and Y, namely, parallel to the
 216 short and long side of the rectangle, respectively. The measured
 217 X- and Y-polarized spectra are characterized by the same
 218 spectral shape, and, most importantly, they feature a wavelength
 219 splitting of about 0.3 nm. The shorter wavelength peak cor-
 220 responds to the X-polarized mode, while the longer wavelength
 221 one to the Y-polarized mode.
 222

Polarized Laser Emission. Polarization-resolved PL
 224 experiments, by increasing the optical pump power P (pump
 225

wavelength 780 nm), have been carried out to demonstrate a polarized lasing effect from the fundamental mode of a-CTPs and are summarized in Figure 2. These experiments were performed on a $7 \mu\text{m} \times 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ microrectangle. Indeed, although this structure presents a slightly lower fundamental mode splitting than a $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ rectangle ($\sim 0.2 \text{ nm}$, see Figure 2b), its quality factor is also slightly better, as it is discussed in Numerical Calculations. The integrated peaks intensities of the two orthogonal TE linear polarizations (parallel to the two sides of the rectangle) are shown in Figure 2(a) as a function of P in log–log scale. The Y -polarized integrated PL emission clearly shows a threshold behavior: when the excitation power is increased above $P \sim 150 \mu\text{W}$, a strong superlinear increase of PL integrated intensity from the longer wavelength zero-order CTP mode sets up, indicating the presence of a lasing effect. On the contrary, the X -polarized integrated emission does keep the same slope: no evidence of lasing behavior has been observed in the available range of pump powers, and the PL integrated intensity remains about 1 order of magnitude lower at the maximum excitation power.

PL spectra obtained by integration over all the far-field emission angles, and corresponding to two orthogonal angles of linear polarization (90° for X , 0° for Y), are reported in Figure 2b,c, for a pump power value well below ($P \sim 104 \mu\text{W}$) and well above ($P \sim 187 \mu\text{W}$) threshold, respectively. For each of the two excitation powers, the normalized integrated PL intensity as a function of the angle of the analyzed linear polarization is also shown in a separate polar plot. At low pump power (Figure 2b), $P \sim 104 \mu\text{W}$, the recorded spectra have comparable intensities and similar spectral shape, proving that the two weakly split modes ($\sim 0.2 \text{ nm}$) experience the same regime of light emission. The associated polar plot clearly shows that the normalized integrated PL has comparable intensity for every measured angle of linear polarization in between 0° and 360° , meaning that the TE polarization is randomly oriented in the plane of the structure. At high pump power (Figure 2c), $P \sim 187 \mu\text{W}$, the collected spectra are dramatically different, demonstrating that, even if the splitting is weak, the two modes experience strongly unequal interaction with the gain medium. The Y -polarized fundamental mode intensity is about 10 times higher than the X -polarized one, and the line width of the former is significantly narrower, implying an increased temporal coherence due to the onset of lasing action, completely absent in the case of the orthogonal polarization. In addition, the polar plot associated with this excitation power features a clear anisotropy of the PL intensity angular distribution, corresponding to a degree of linear polarization $\text{DOP} = (I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}})/(I_{\text{max}} + I_{\text{min}}) \approx 91.2\%$, confirming that the emitted light is highly Y -polarized.

The selection of a linearly polarized laser emission is achieved by suppressing lasing action in the orthogonal polarization state, thus, maintaining a given polarization at the output with a high rejection ratio. In order to explain the physical mechanism responsible for linearly polarized laser emission, we have measured laser curves for different spectral detuning between the QW gain and the Tamm mode for a $7 \mu\text{m} \times 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ rectangular metallic pattern. The detuning can be experimentally controlled thanks to the growth thickness gradient along the wafer, enabling a precise spectral tuning of the CTPs by changing the working position on the sample. The results are summarized in Figure 3a, where the absorbed pump power at the lasing threshold is plotted as a function of the spectral detuning Δ between the QWs gain and the Tamm mode.

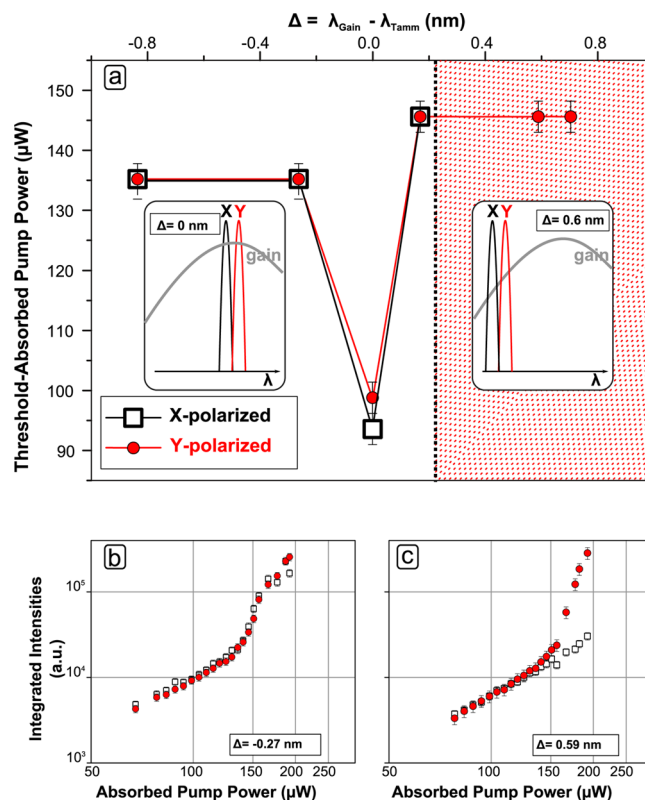


Figure 3. Lasing measurements on $7 \mu\text{m} \times 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ a-CTP devices at different energy detuning. (a) Estimated absorbed pump power at threshold as a function of Tamm-Gain (Δ) wavelength detuning for X - and Y -polarized emission: only for $\Delta = 0.59 \text{ nm}$ and 0.7 nm a single Y -polarized lasing threshold has been reported. Two detuning configurations are schematically shown in the insets. (b, c) Threshold curves taken at $\Delta = -0.27 \text{ nm}$ and 0.59 nm , respectively, exhibiting the two different lasing behaviors.

Although the spectral position of the gain does not appear directly in experiments,⁴⁴ it is possible to extract the detuning between the QW exciton and the Tamm mode from low power experiments (see Supporting Information). The gain maximum is shifted from the excitonic transition but a quantitative evaluation of this energy shift in QW lasers is difficult to make, a priori.⁴⁵ However, we can affect the detuning value $\Delta = 0 \text{ nm}$ to the minimum of the threshold curve (see Figure 3a), as it clearly comes from a maximum overlap between the QWs gain and the fundamental Tamm states.

Two main lasing behaviors can be observed within the spanned detuning range. For large positive detuning ($\Delta > 0.2 \text{ nm}$, hatched region in Figure 3a) the lasing action occurs only for the Y -polarized fundamental mode. We were not able to reach the threshold for the X polarization. This difference in threshold between the two directions of polarization appears in the input-output curve of Figure 3c ($\Delta = 0.59 \text{ nm}$), where we can observe a behavior similar to that reported in Figure 2a. For detunings $\Delta < 0.2 \text{ nm}$, we observe that both orthogonal polarizations have roughly the same lasing threshold. A typical input-output curve is given in Figure 3b ($\Delta = -0.27 \text{ nm}$). Consequently, for these devices, the resulting laser emission is unpolarized. In this spectral region, changing the detuning only affects the value of the threshold, with an optimum for zero detuning as discussed above, and an increase by a factor of 1.4 for the other devices. This threshold increase is a direct consequence of the strong dependence of the gain curve with respect to the wavelength.

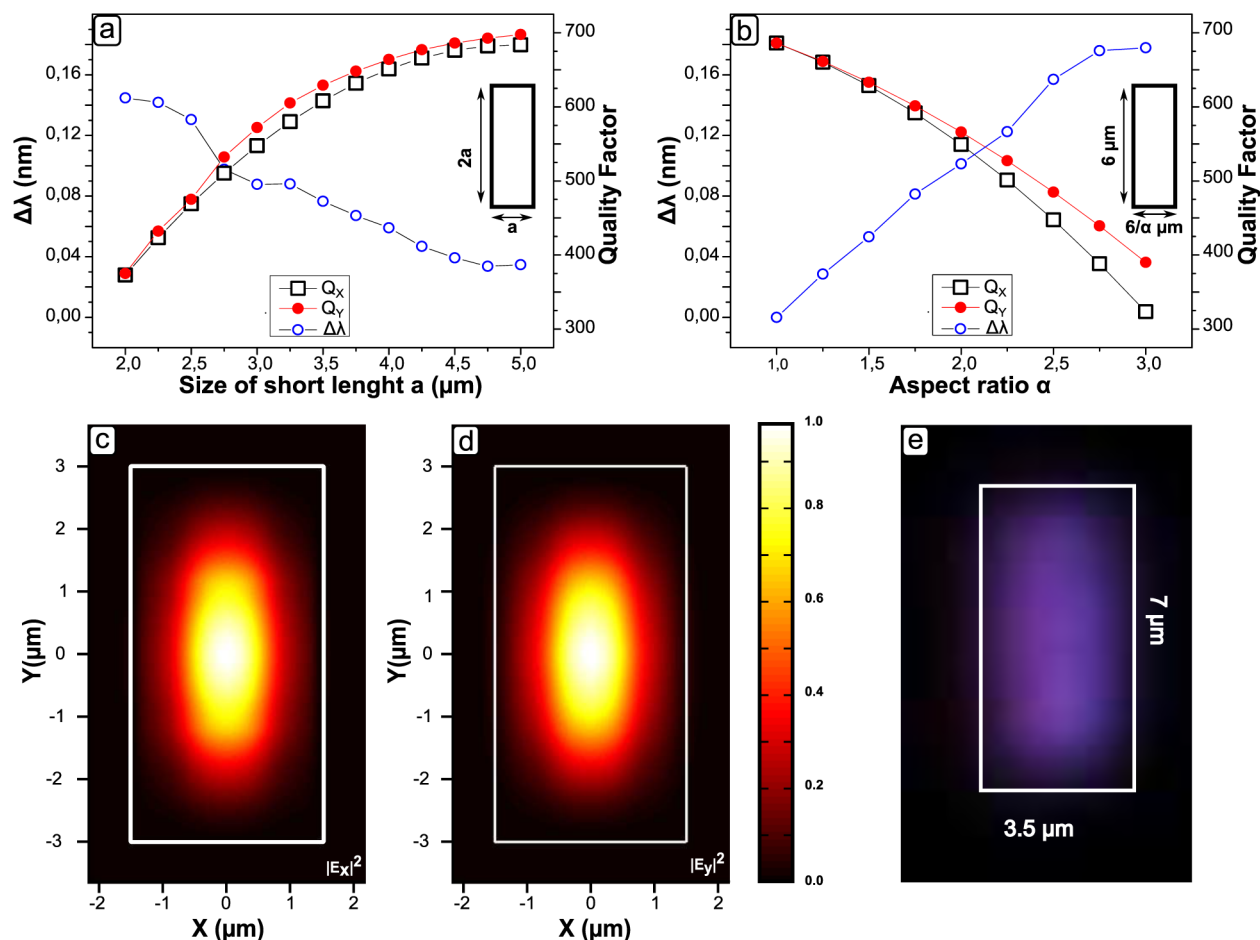


Figure 4. Numerical results from aperiodic Fourier modal method calculations. Wavelength splittings $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_y - \lambda_x$ (empty blue circle) and quality factors of the Y - and X -polarized fundamental Tamm mode (red circle and empty black square, respectively) calculated (a) for different lateral sizes with a fixed aspect ratio of 2; and (b) for a rectangular geometry with aspect ratio ranging between 1 and 3 (long side size fixed at $6 \mu\text{m}$). Fundamental modes normalized intensity distributions in the plane of a $6 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ rectangle for (c) E_x and (d) E_y . (e) Real space image of the top of a $7 \mu\text{m} \times 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ lasing a-CTP device.

316 There are two physical parameters, induced by the
 317 anisotropic confinement, that can explain the polarized laser
 318 emission, namely the energy splitting between the two modes
 319 and their difference in quality factor. The polarization-induced
 320 splittings between these values are very weak: for the $7 \mu\text{m} \times$
 321 $3.5 \mu\text{m}$ structure under study, the Y -polarized fundamental
 322 mode lies $\sim 0.2 \text{ nm}$ above the X -polarized mode, and its quality
 323 factor is only $\sim 3\%$ better (see Numerical Calculations,
 324 Figure 4a). A qualitative explanation for the polarization
 325 selection when $\Delta > 0.2 \text{ nm}$ is that, in this detuning range, the
 326 mode overlap with the gain curve is better for the Y -polarized
 327 mode than for the X -polarized mode. A very schematic layout
 328 of this process is given in the inset in Figure 3a, for a positive
 329 and zero detuning. Hence, when gain-clamping mechanism
 330 takes over, only the CTP fundamental mode polarized along Y
 331 direction can overcome losses. It should be noted that this
 332 polarization selection occurs only for positive detunings. The
 333 absence of X -polarization for negative detuning can be ex-
 334 plained by the higher order Tamm confined modes lying at
 335 lower wavelength (see Figure 1b), generating complex multi-
 336 mode emission. The polarization selection is thus obtained
 337 by the interplay of two effects. On one hand, we have the
 338 anisotropy of the bidimensional metal geometry confining the
 339 TP mode. This is crucial for clearly removing the inherent
 340 polarization degeneracy, and it is responsible for introducing a

341 weak energy splitting between the two orthogonal polarization
 342 states. On the other hand, we have the spectral misalignment
 343 between the CTPs and the QWs gain. This allows for reducing
 344 the gain overlap with one of the two weakly split eigenmodes,
 345 as to make lasing condition possible only for the orthogonal
 346 one.

Numerical Calculations. Theoretical studies have also
 347 been carried out in order to support experimental observations
 348 as well as to provide some general trends for the design of
 349 polarized Tamm lasers. The anisotropic confined Tamm modes
 350 have been numerically calculated with the aperiodic Fourier
 351 modal method (a-FMM).⁴⁶ The modes, which are poles of the
 352 scattering matrix, are calculated with an iterative solving of
 353 Maxwell's equations in the complex frequency plane.⁴⁷ The
 354 refractive indices n used in the calculations are $n_{\text{GaAs}} = 3.6633$,
 355 $n_{\text{AlAs}} = 3.0179$, and $n_{\text{AlGaAs}} = 3.5345$. For the permittivity
 356 of silver, we have used a Drude model that fits the data tabulated
 357 by Johnson and Christy around $\lambda = 850 \text{ nm}$.⁴⁸ As it has been shown
 358 in the previous section, the crucial parameter for a polarized lasing is
 359 the energy splitting between the two polarized modes. Figure 4a
 360 shows the calculated mode splitting and the quality factors when
 361 varying the length of the short side (X direction) of the rectangle,
 362 keeping a constant aspect ratio of 2. Largest rectangles feature a
 363 very small mode splitting (around 0.04 nm), which increases
 364 above 0.1 nm when reducing the short size of the rectangle.
 365

366 On the opposite, quality factors calculated for the X - and
367 Y -polarized modes decrease strongly when decreasing the size
368 of the structure. These additional losses with the size reduction
369 have already been observed for isotropic Tamm modes.^{24,39} For
370 the $6\ \mu\text{m} \times 3\ \mu\text{m}$ rectangle, a wavelength splitting of $\sim 0.1\ \text{nm}$
371 is obtained from calculations, with the X -polarized mode sitting
372 at shorter wavelength and the Y -polarized one at longer
373 wavelength. This numerical result turns out to be in qualitative
374 agreement with the experimental results presented Figure 1c.
375 The calculated quality factor of 550 (X -polarized mode) and
376 570 (Y -polarized mode) are also in qualitative agreement with
377 the experimental value of 790 (see Supporting Informations).
378 In Figure 4b, we present the calculated mode splitting and
379 quality factors as a function of the aspect ratio, with a long side
380 of the rectangle (Y direction) fixed at $6\ \mu\text{m}$. It also appears that
381 the mode splitting increases with the aspect ratio (even if it
382 tends to saturate), and that the quality factors for both polariza-
383 tions decrease when the short side length is reduced. The
384 optimization of the splitting has to be done keeping the quality
385 factor relatively high to allow lasing in the structure.³⁹ A good
386 trade-off is thus to use rectangles with a short side between 3
387 and $3.5\ \mu\text{m}$, and an aspect ratio around 2. Figure 4c,d shows the
388 calculated normalized intensity distribution in the XY -plane
389 lying 4 nm beneath the metallic disk for the two components
390 E_X and E_Y of the fundamental mode electric field. The spatial
391 profiles of the two field intensities have a similar shape and are
392 in qualitative agreement with the intensity distribution measured
393 on a CCD camera for an a-CTP device under Y -polarized
394 lasing operation (Figure 4e).

395 ■ CONCLUSIONS

396 We have demonstrated that Tamm plasmon modes can be
397 confined in all space dimensions by means of 2D anisotropic
398 metallic patterns on top of a DBR, and we call these structures
399 a-CTPs. In particular, a-CTPs made of silver microrectangles
400 having an aspect ratio of 2 ($7\ \mu\text{m} \times 3.5\ \mu\text{m}$) have been observed
401 to split the fundamental mode into two modes orthogonally
402 polarized along the two sides of the rectangle. Though weak, such
403 a splitting has been observed to lead to a linearly polarized laser
404 emission featuring a degree of linear polarization in excess of 90%,
405 given that the Tamm-gain energy detuning is properly controlled.
406 Our achievements show that a-CTPs are very promising candi-
407 dates as semiconductor-integrated surface-emitting laser sources
408 operating at a stable single-mode linear polarization. These easily
409 controllable polarized compact laser sources can be of large
410 interest for applications in spectroscopy, polarization-dependent
411 optical setups and low-noise high-speed data transmission over
412 single-mode optical fibers. Besides the easy and versatile patterning
413 of the metallic film, the semiconductor part of the structure is not
414 affected by any etching process. Thus, the electrical and
415 technological schemes already developed for electrical excitation
416 could be implemented for Tamm lasers as well.

417 ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

418 ● Supporting Information

419 Experimental procedure for the extraction of the detuning
420 between the Tamm mode and the exciton, as well as for the quality
421 factor. The Supporting Information is available free of charge on
422 the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/ph500467s.

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Notes

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