

# TUNABILITY OF PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL PROPERTIES IN NANO-SYSTEMS

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



• UNESCO-UNISA Africa Chair  
• in Nanosciences/Nanotechnology  
• (South Africa)



# PRESENTER BIO

- PhD in Wave Matter Neutron Optics 1993
- Joint staff iThembaLABS-NRF & UNISA
- UNESCO UNISA ITLABS-NRF Africa Chair in Nanosciences & Nanotech
- **Research interest: Nanoscale**
- Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry-London
- Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of India
- Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences
- Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences
- Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences
- Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science
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# OUTLINE

1-U<sub>2</sub>ACN<sub>2</sub>:

2-NANO-BACKGROUND: FROM BACTERIA TO  
CELLPHONE

3-NANO-ZnO: SURFACE TENSION TUNABILITY

4-NANO-VO<sub>2</sub>: MULTIFUNCTIONALITY

4-NANO-IN NATURE

# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY



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# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA IITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY



# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY

**MULTISKILLED H<sub>uman</sub> C<sub>apital</sub> DEVELOPMENT-**



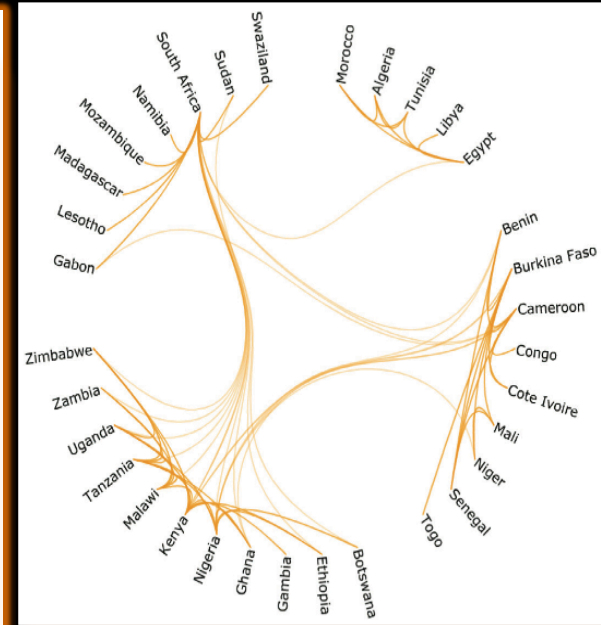
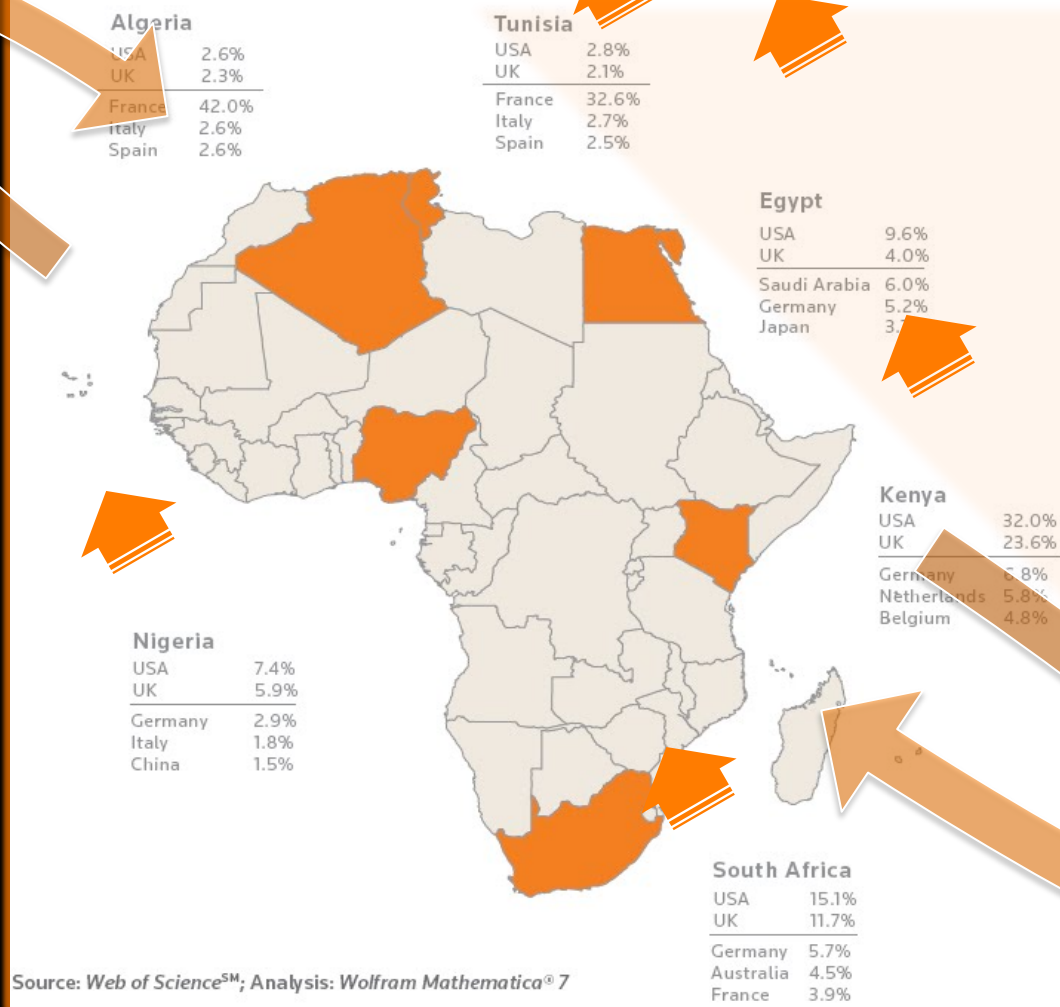
# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY

**MULTISKILLED H<sub>uman</sub> C<sub>apital</sub> DEVELOPMENT-**



# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY

FIGURE 5: TOP COLLABORATING COUNTRIES FOR SIX AFRICAN COUNTRIES



Source: OECD, Nature Publishing, World Economic Forum 2012



# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Applied Surface Science

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apsusc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apsusc)



## Structural and optical properties of nano-structured tungsten-doped ZnO thin films grown by pulsed laser deposition

B.D. Ngom<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, T. Mpahane<sup>c</sup>, N. Manyala<sup>d</sup>, O. Nemraoui<sup>c</sup>, U. Buttner<sup>e</sup>,  
J.B. Kana<sup>f</sup>, A.Y. Fasasi<sup>g</sup>, M. Maaza<sup>a,c</sup>, A.C. Beye<sup>a,b</sup>

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<sup>d</sup> Department of Physics and Electronics National University of Lesotho, Lesotho

<sup>e</sup> Engineering Department, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

<sup>f</sup> Department of Physique University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon

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# U2ACN2: UNESCO UNISA ITLABS/NRF AFRICA CHAIR IN NANOSCIENCES & NANOTECHNOLOGY

## RESEARCH FOCUS:

- Nanomaterials for Energy
- Nanophotonics,
- Nanomaterials by green Processing,
- Nanomaterials & biomimics,
- Nanomaterials & Radiations:
  - I-Nanostructures for neutrons trapping & neutron life time
  - II-H<sup>+</sup> induced magnetism in Carbon based nanosystems,
  - III-H<sup>+</sup>induced Superconductivity in WO<sub>3-d</sub> bronzes,
  - IV-Nano-suspensions by  $\gamma$ -radiolysis,
  - V-IBA Radiations hardness of nanomaterials.

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# NANO-0: NANO:BACKGROUND



UNESCO-UNISA Africa Chair  
in Nanosciences/Nanotechnology  
(South Africa)



# NANO-BACKGROUND: EVOLUTION

**Coal Industry**

**Nuclear era**

**Semicon tech.**

**Biotechnology**

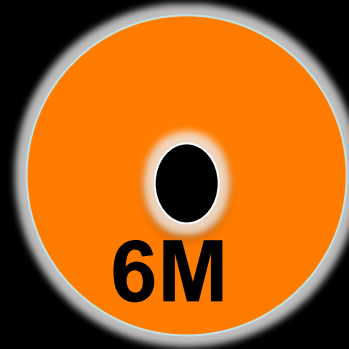
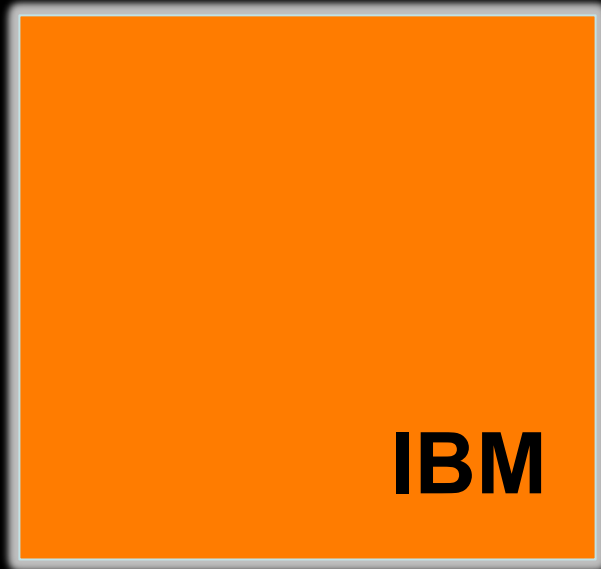
**ICT**



**Nanotech**

Timeline

# NANO-BACKGROUND: DATA STORAGE



4 589 844 “IBM” =

1 “6M”

1Tb = ? IBM

Data Storage Capacity



# NANO-BACKGROUND: BIO MIMICS LIMITS

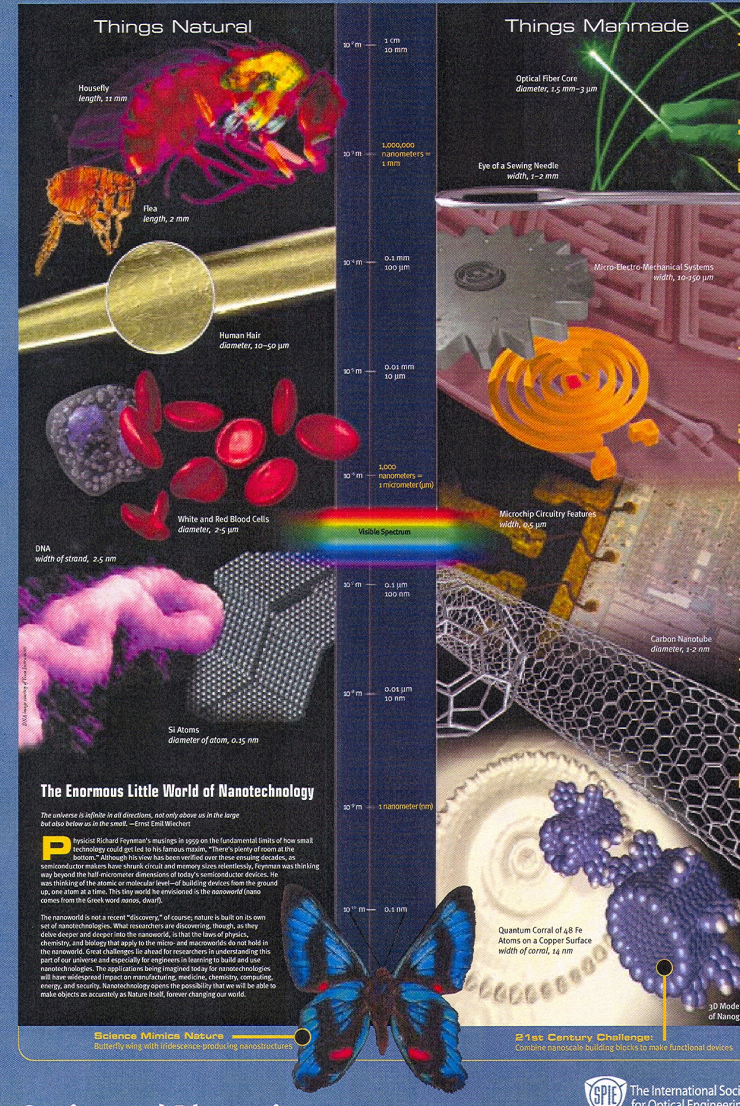
- Human hair  
10-50  $\mu\text{m}$

- Red blood cell  
2-5  $\mu\text{m}$

- DNA strand  
2-5 nm

## Macro • Micro • Nano

The Scale of Things



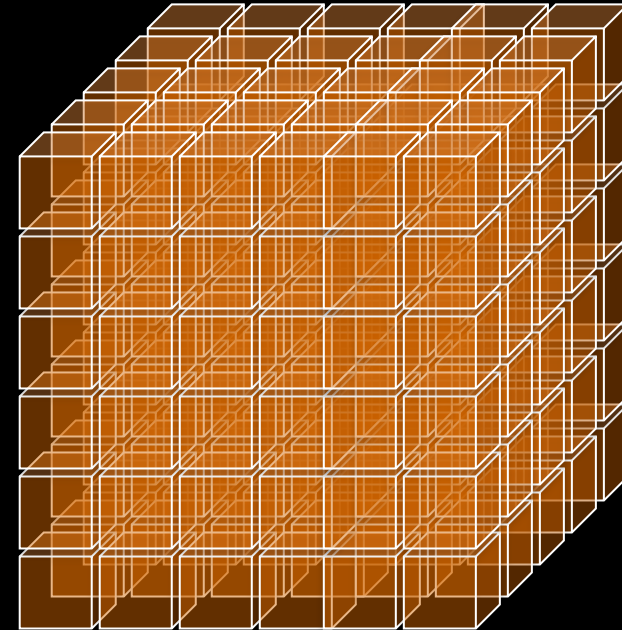
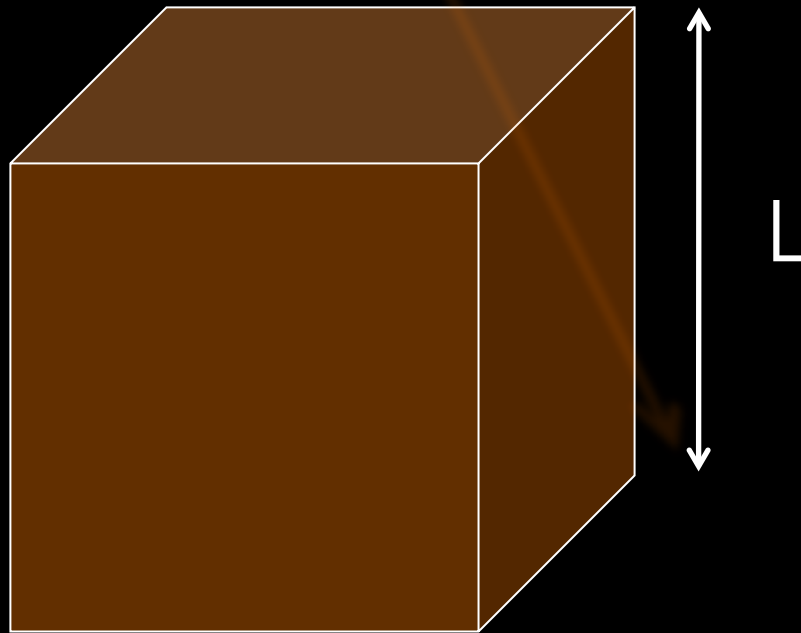
Past



Present

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## SURFACE/VOLUME



$$6 \times 6 \times 6 = 216$$

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## SURFACE/VOLUME



216 x6 active surfaces



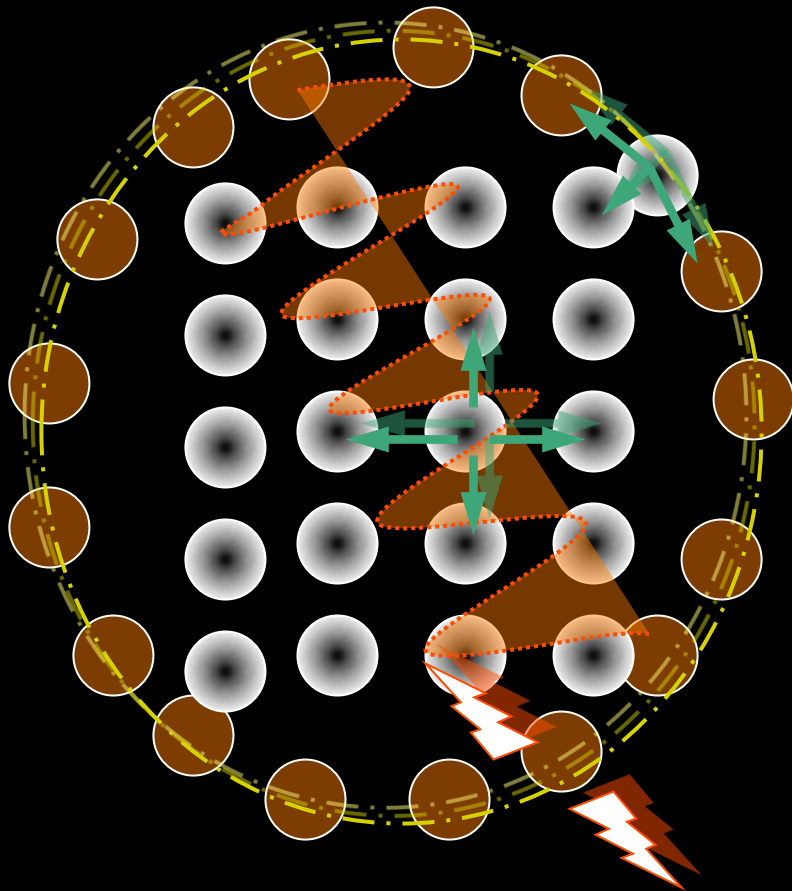
# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## SURFACE/VOLUME



1 kg of particles of  $1 \text{ mm}^3$   
has the same surface area as  
1 mg of particles of  $1 \text{ nm}^3$

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS



## -3-D Symmetry

Broken for Surface  
Atoms,

## -Localized States

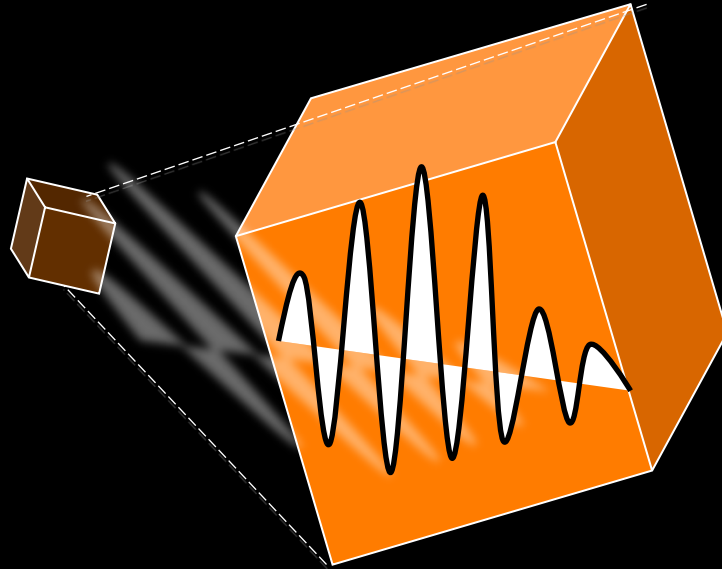
Carriers/ phonons  
confinement,

## -High Surface/Volume

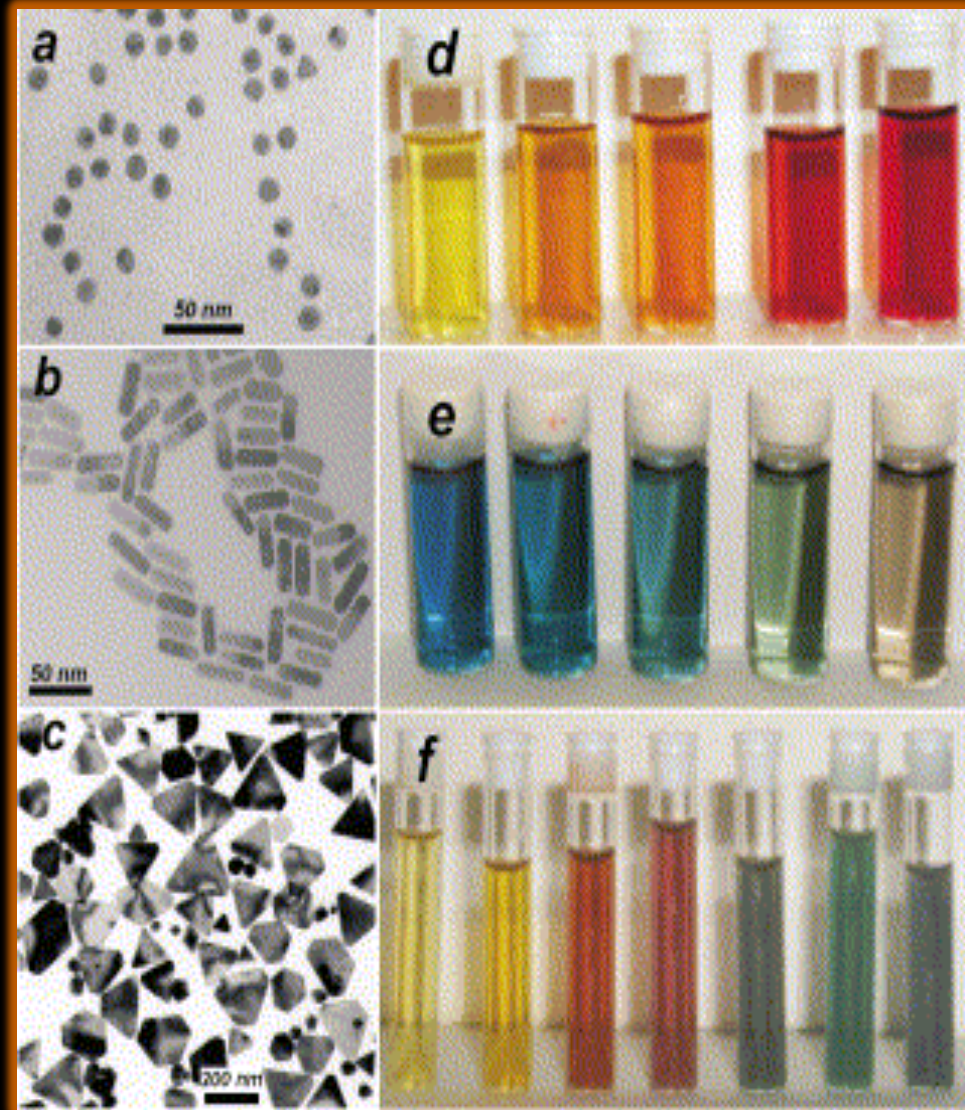
> 50% “ $1/\phi$ ”

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## ELECTRONIC CONFINEMENT



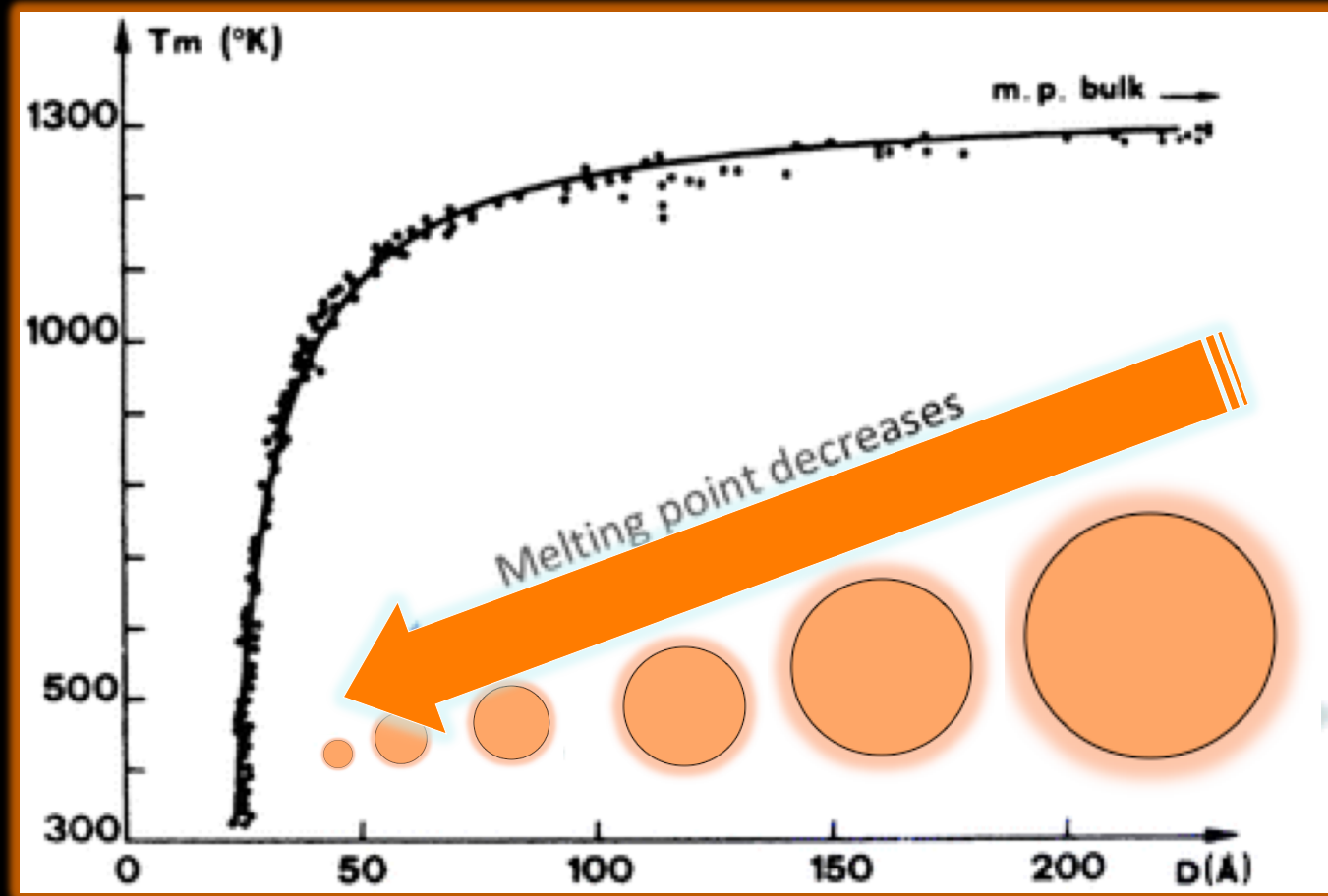
$$\Delta x \cdot \Delta p \approx h/2\pi$$



Liz Marzin, Mater.Today.2004

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

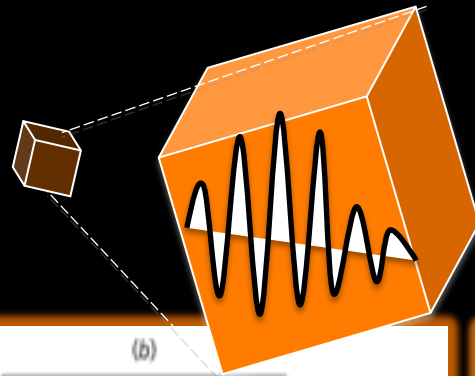
## SURFACE COORDINATION



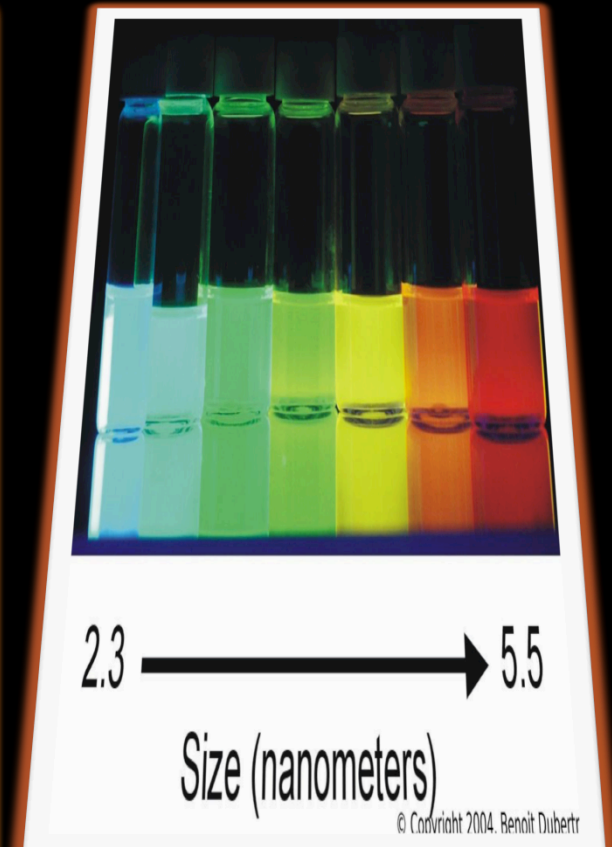
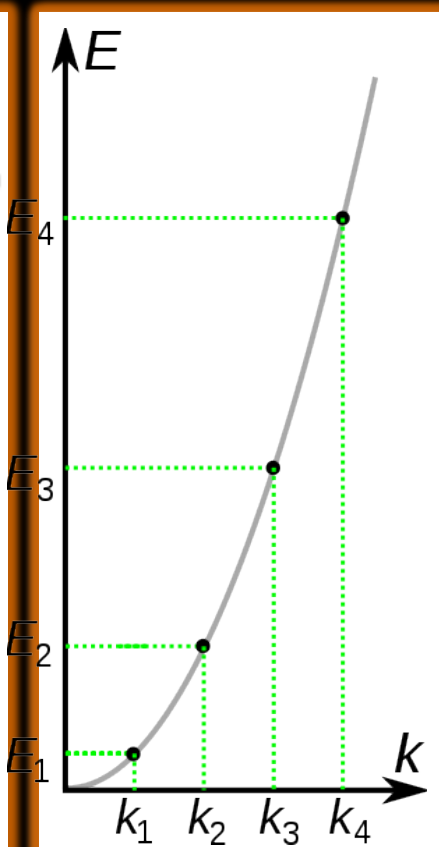
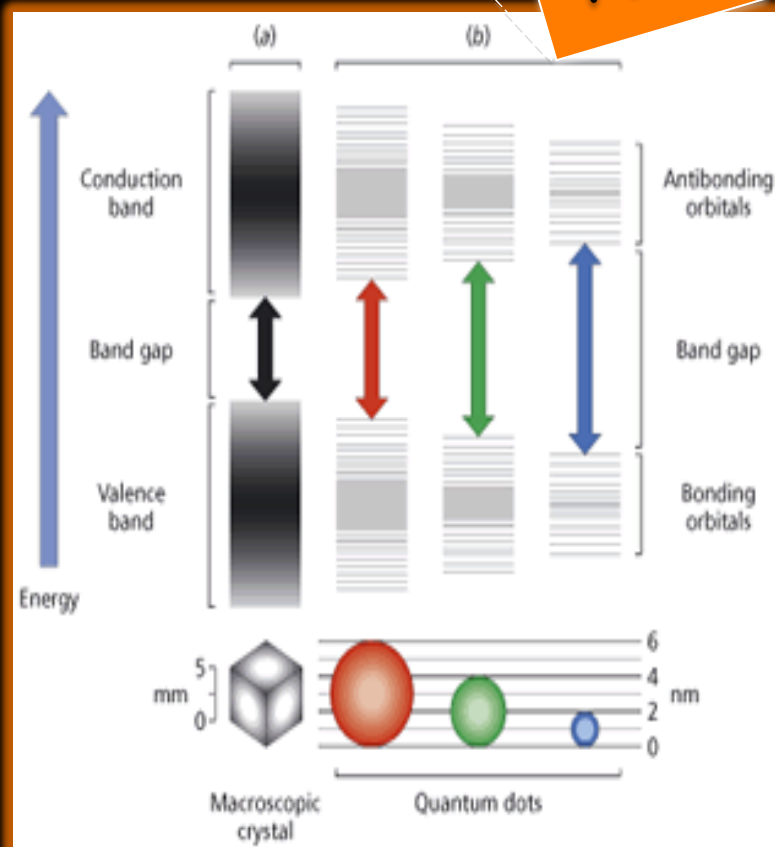
$$T_b/T_m = 1 + (2/L\rho_s R) [\gamma_s - \gamma_l (\rho_s/\rho_l)^{2/3}]$$

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## ELECTRONIC CONFINEMENT



$$E = n^2 k^2 / 8m L^2$$

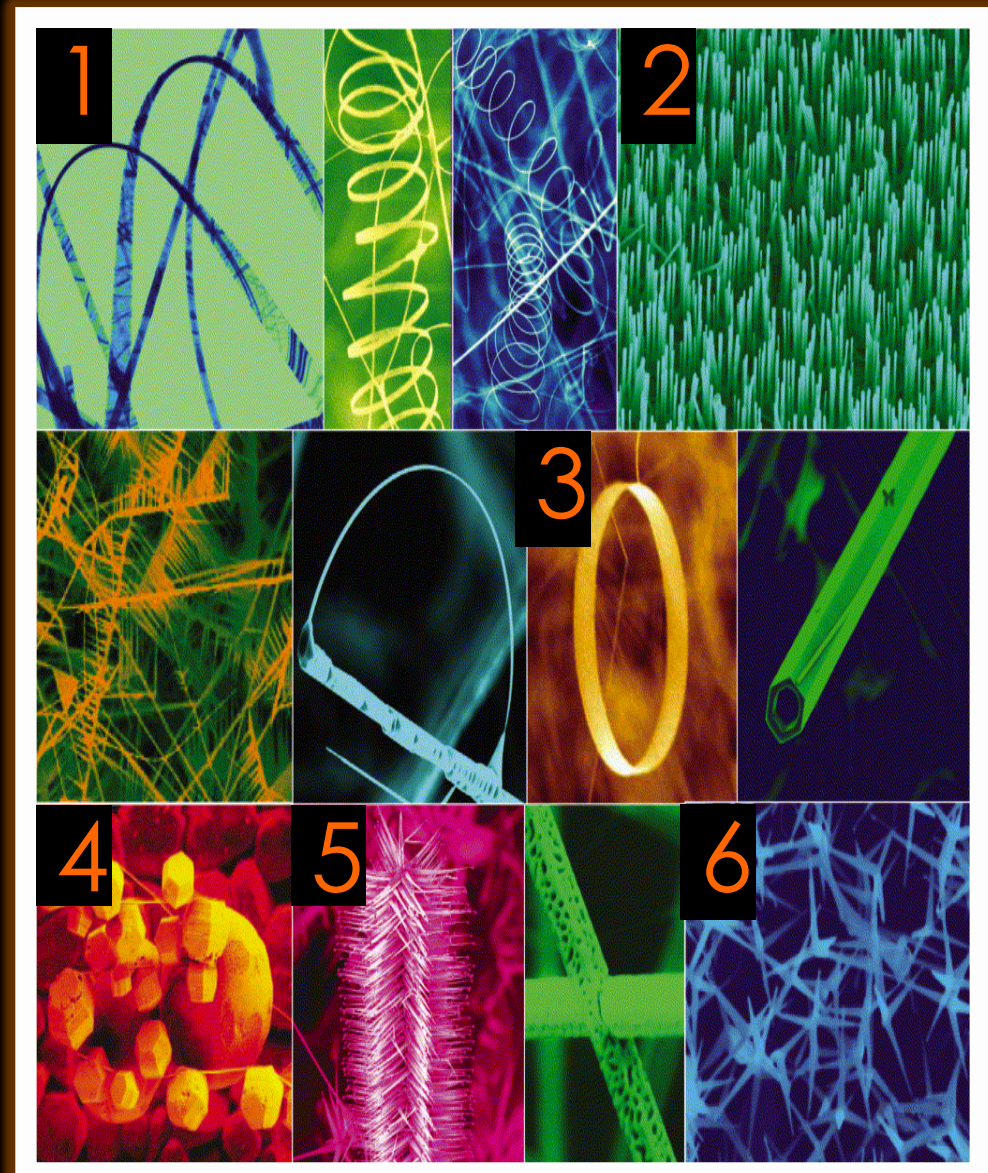


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# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## ELECTRONIC CONFINEMENT

- 1: Piezoelectrics
- 2: Field emission
- 3: Lasing  $\mu$ -cavity
- 4: Sunscreen
- 5: Gas sensing
- 6: Electro-screening



"ZnO", Wang & al, Optics , Mater. Today, 2003

# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS ELECTRODYNAMICS/ METAMATERIALS

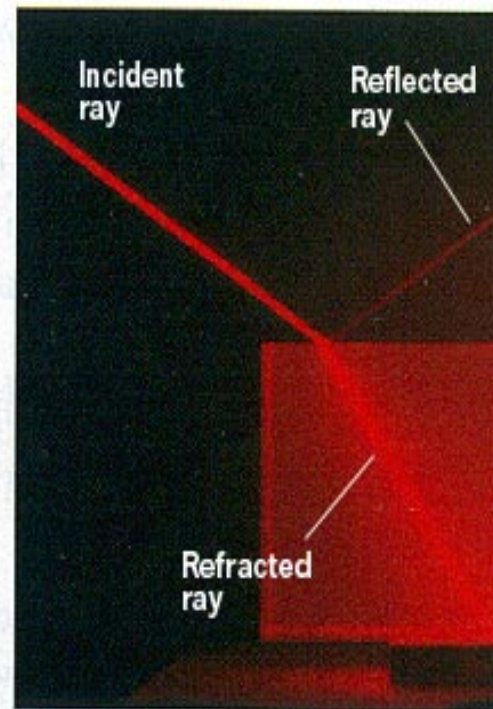
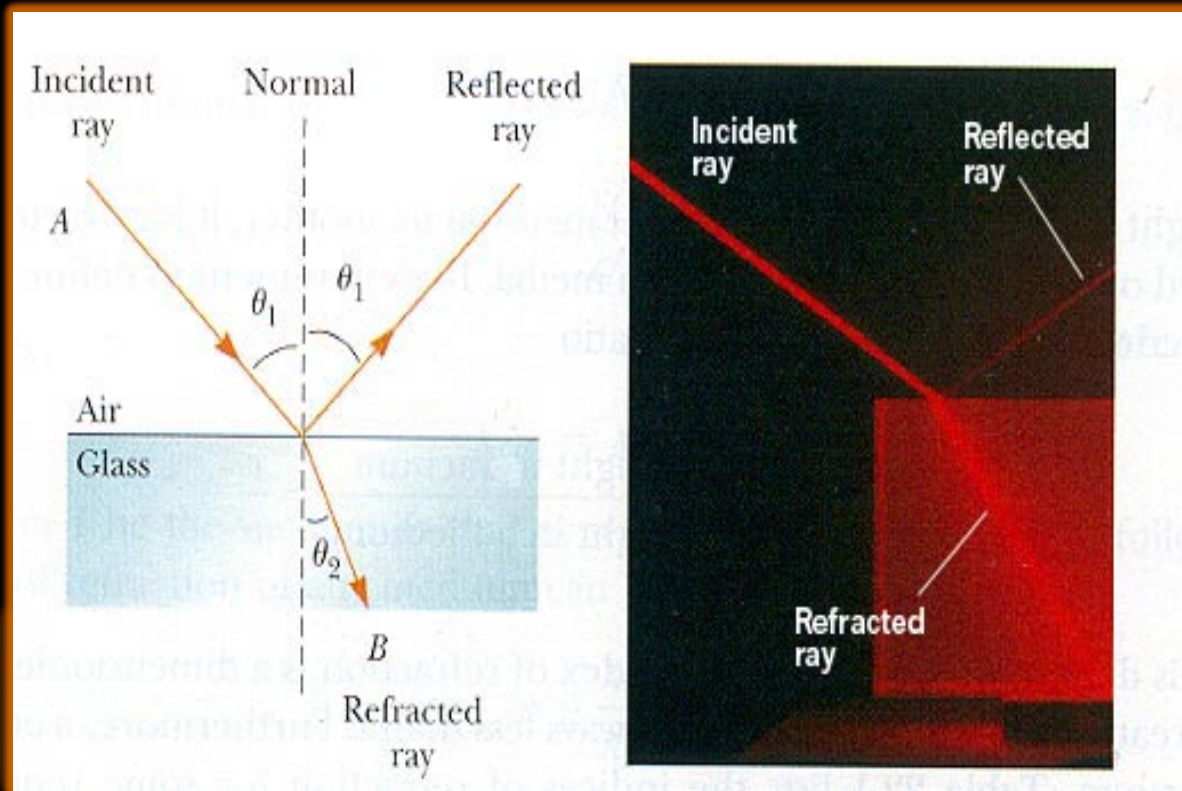
Electric permittivity:

$\epsilon$

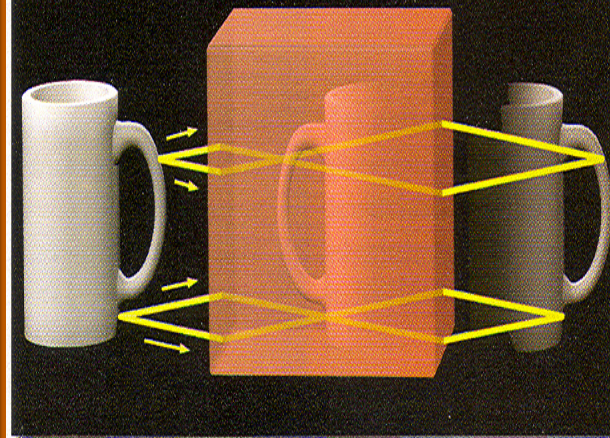
$$n = \pm \sqrt{\epsilon \mu}$$

Magnetic permeability:

$\mu$



A rectangular slab of negative-index material forms a superlens. Light (yellow lines) from an object (at left) is refracted at the surface of the lens and comes together again to form a reversed image inside the slab. The light is refracted again on leaving the slab, producing a second image (at right). For some metamaterials, the image even includes details finer than the wavelength of light used, which is impossible with positive-index lenses.



# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS ELECTRODYNAMICS/ METAMATERIALS

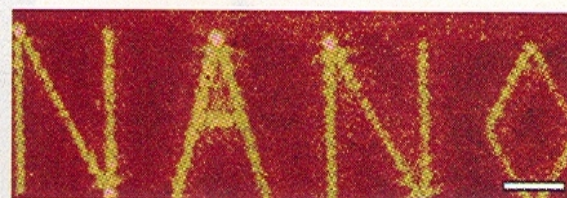
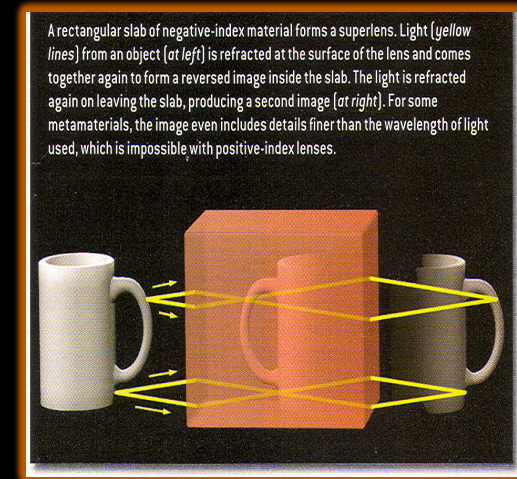
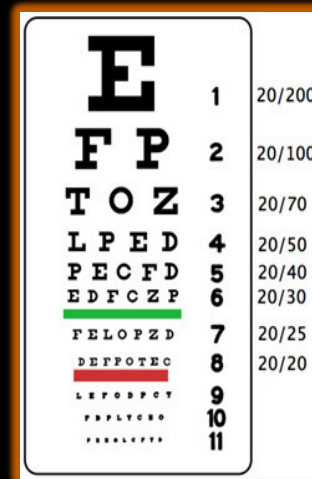
Electric permittivity:  
Magnetic permeability:  
(D. Veselago, 1963, J. Pendry, 2000)

$$\epsilon < 0$$

$$\mu < 0$$

$$n = \pm \sqrt{\epsilon \mu}$$

$$n < 0$$



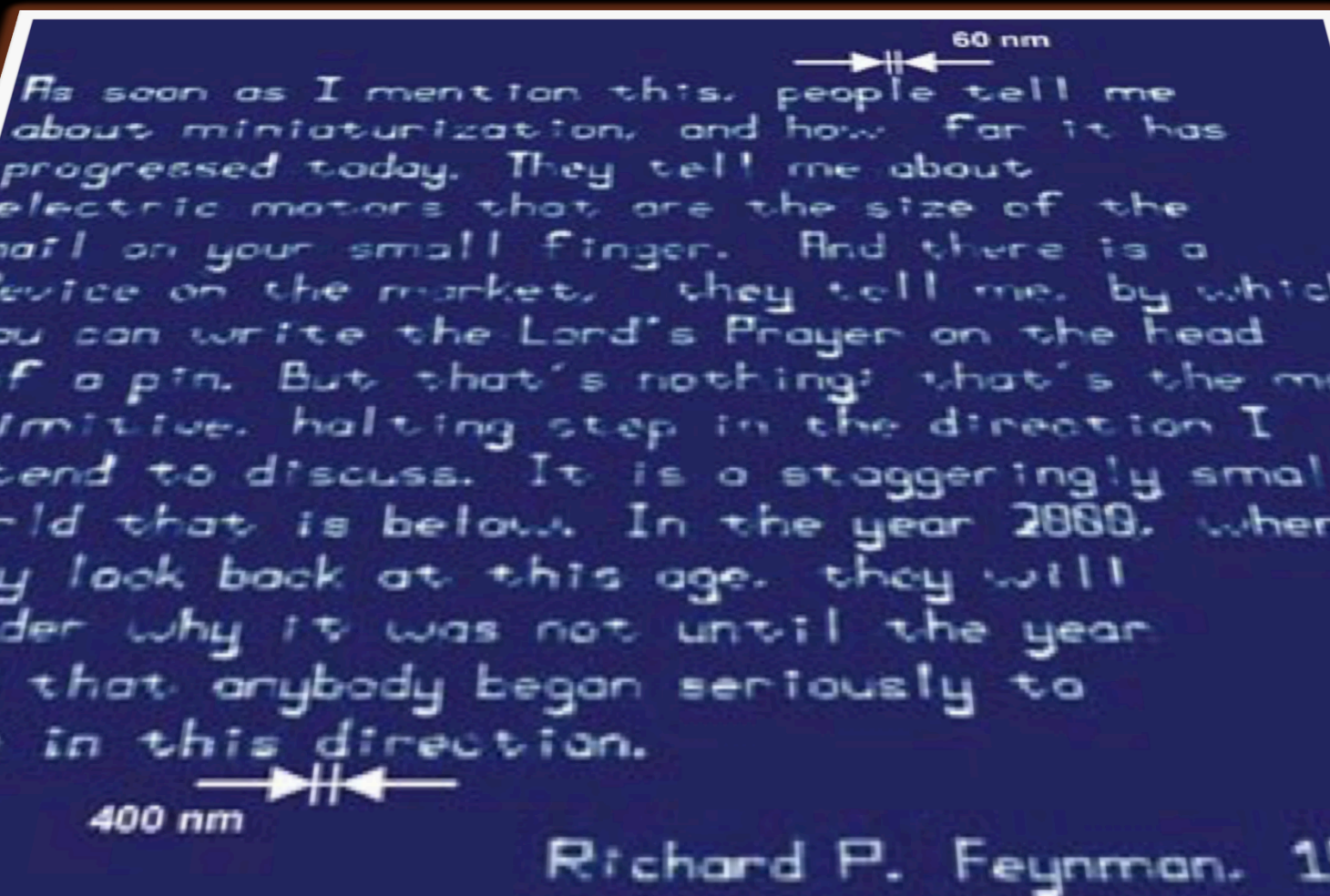
THIN LAYER OF SILVER acts like a superlens over very short distances. Here the word "NANO" is imaged with a focused ion beam (left), optically without a superlens (middle) and optically with

a 35-nanometer layer of silver in place (right). Scale bar is 2,000 nanometers long. With the superlens, the resolution is finer than the 365-nanometer wavelength of the light used.



# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS

## TOOLS: ATOMIC MANIPULATION

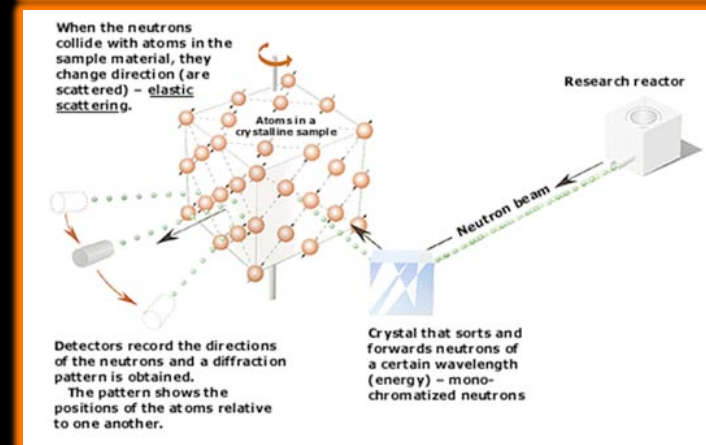
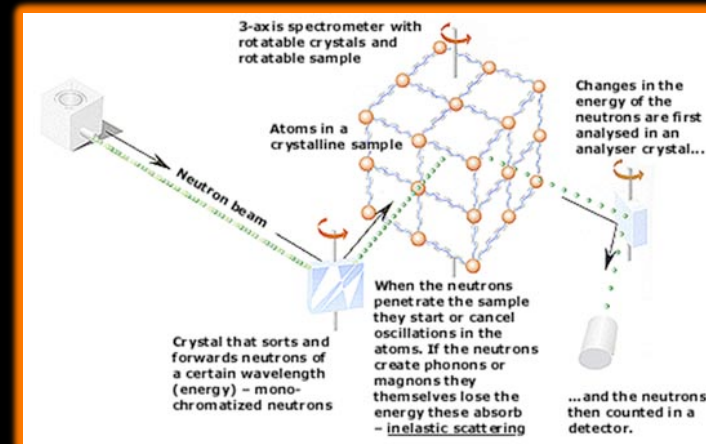
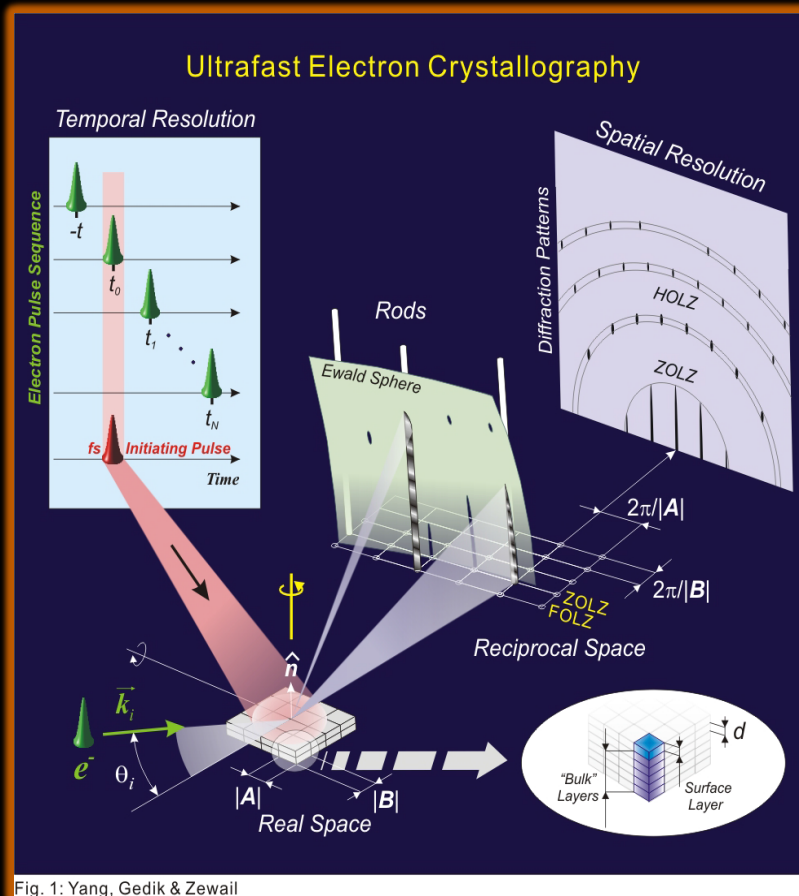


As soon as I mention this, people tell me about miniaturization, and how far it has progressed today. They tell me about electric motors that are the size of the nail on your small finger. And there is a device on the market, they tell me, by which you can write the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin. But that's nothing; that's the most primitive, halting step in the direction I intend to discuss. It is a staggeringly small world that is below. In the year 2000, when they look back at this age, they will wonder why it was not until the year 1960 that anybody began seriously to move in this direction.

Richard P. Feynman. 1960

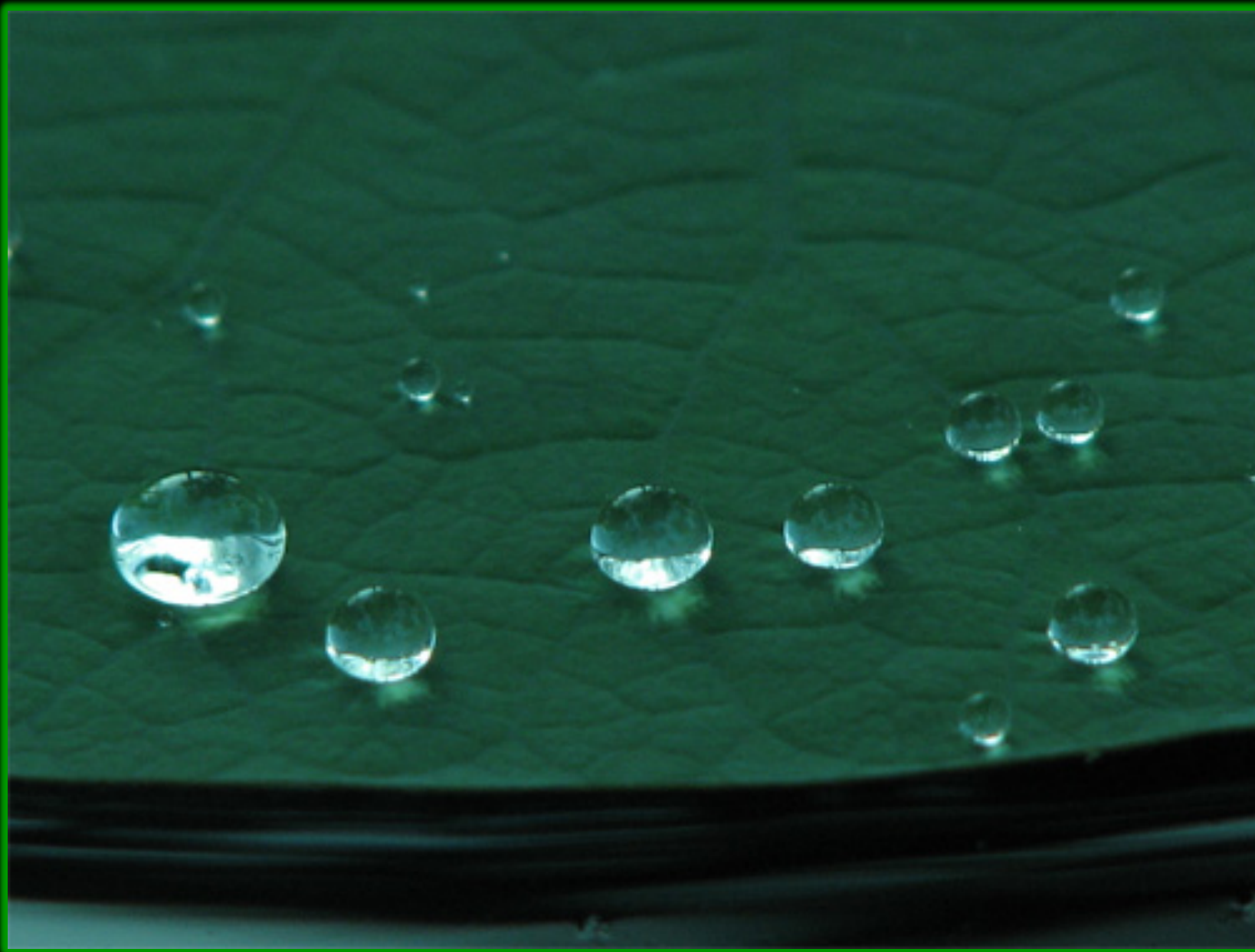
# NANO-BACKGROUND: FUNDAMENTALS ADVANCED SYNTHESIS/CHARACT. TECHS.

Variety of cost effective/mass scale synthesis techs.  
Fore front characterization techs.



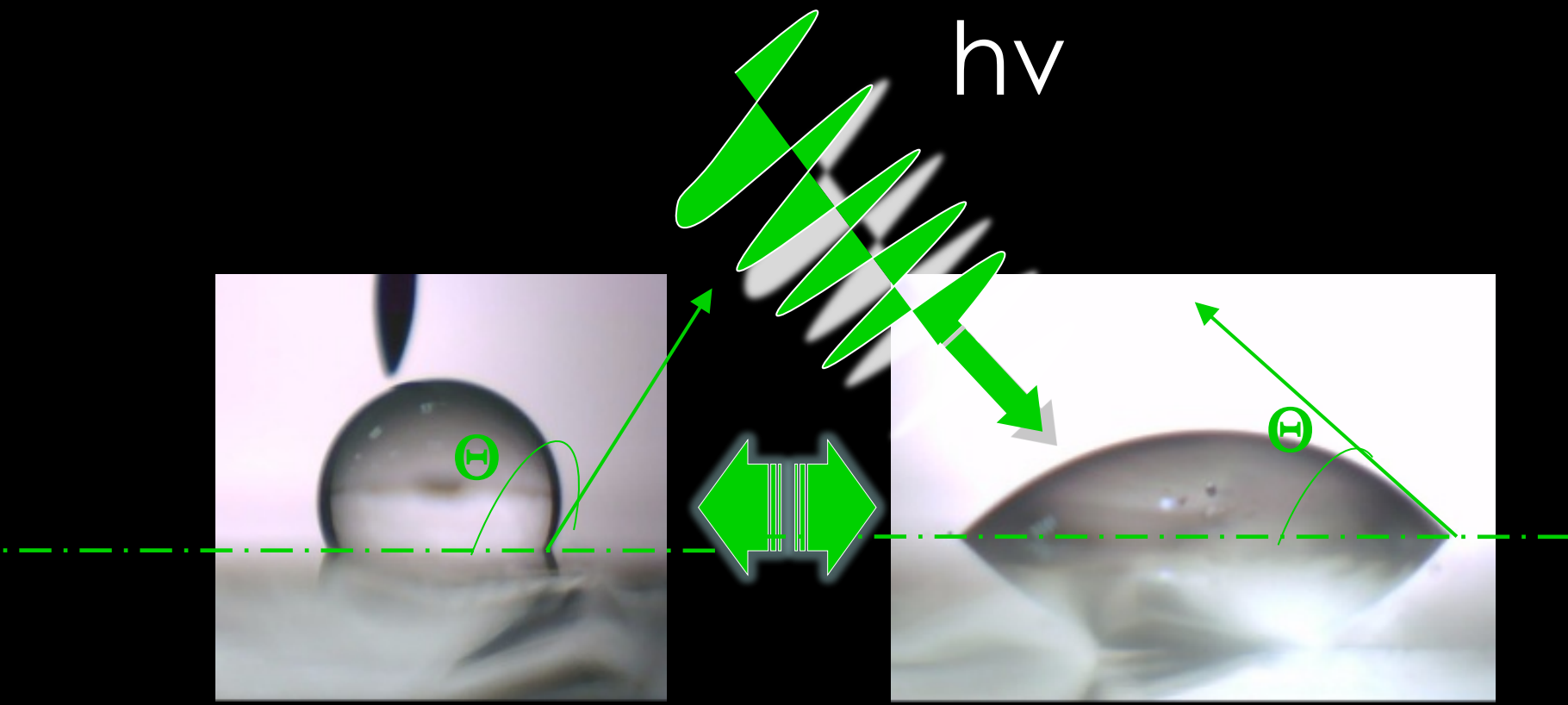
# NANO-1: TUNABLE SURFACE TENSION





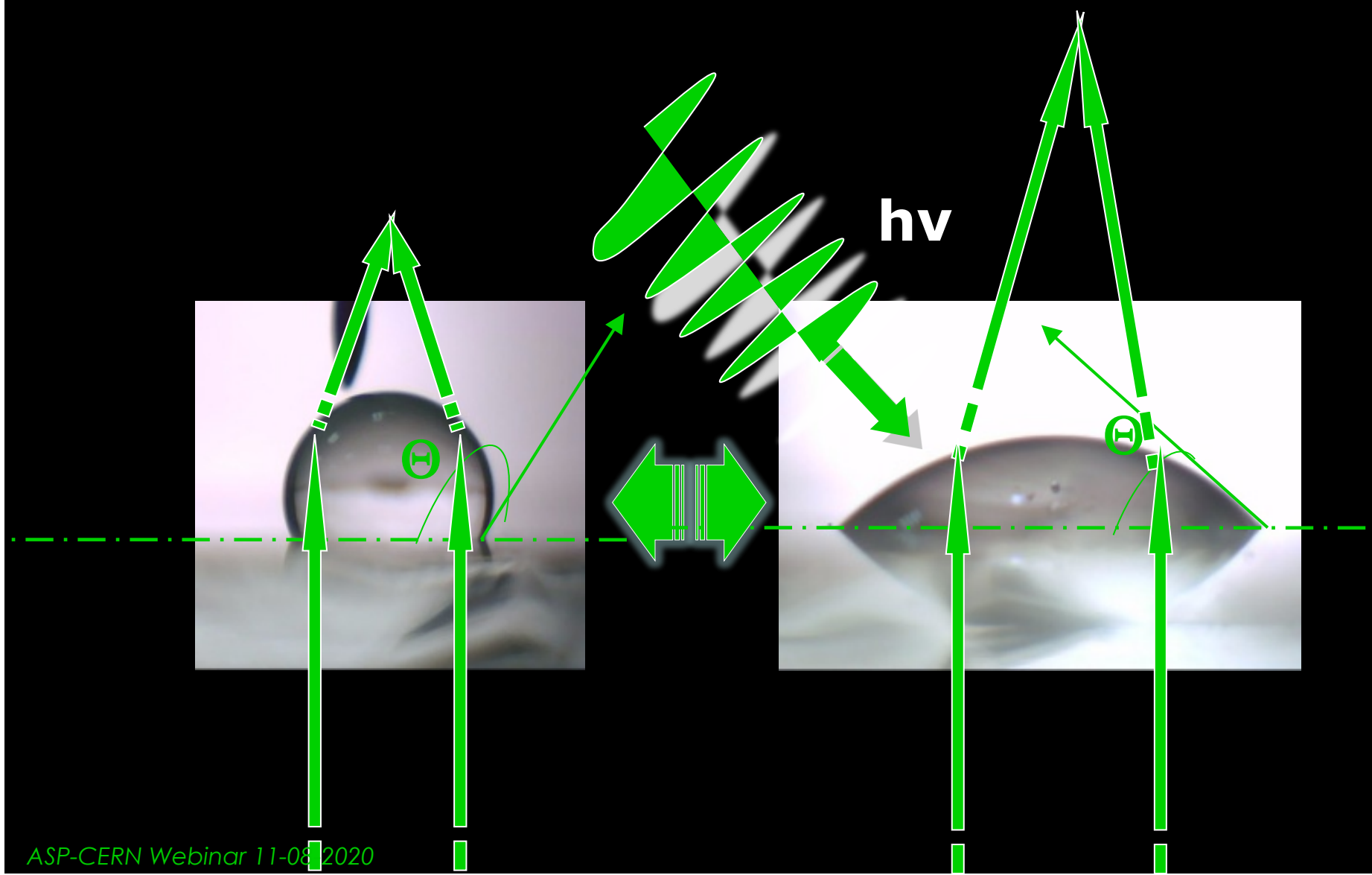
# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

## -Surface Tension Tunability



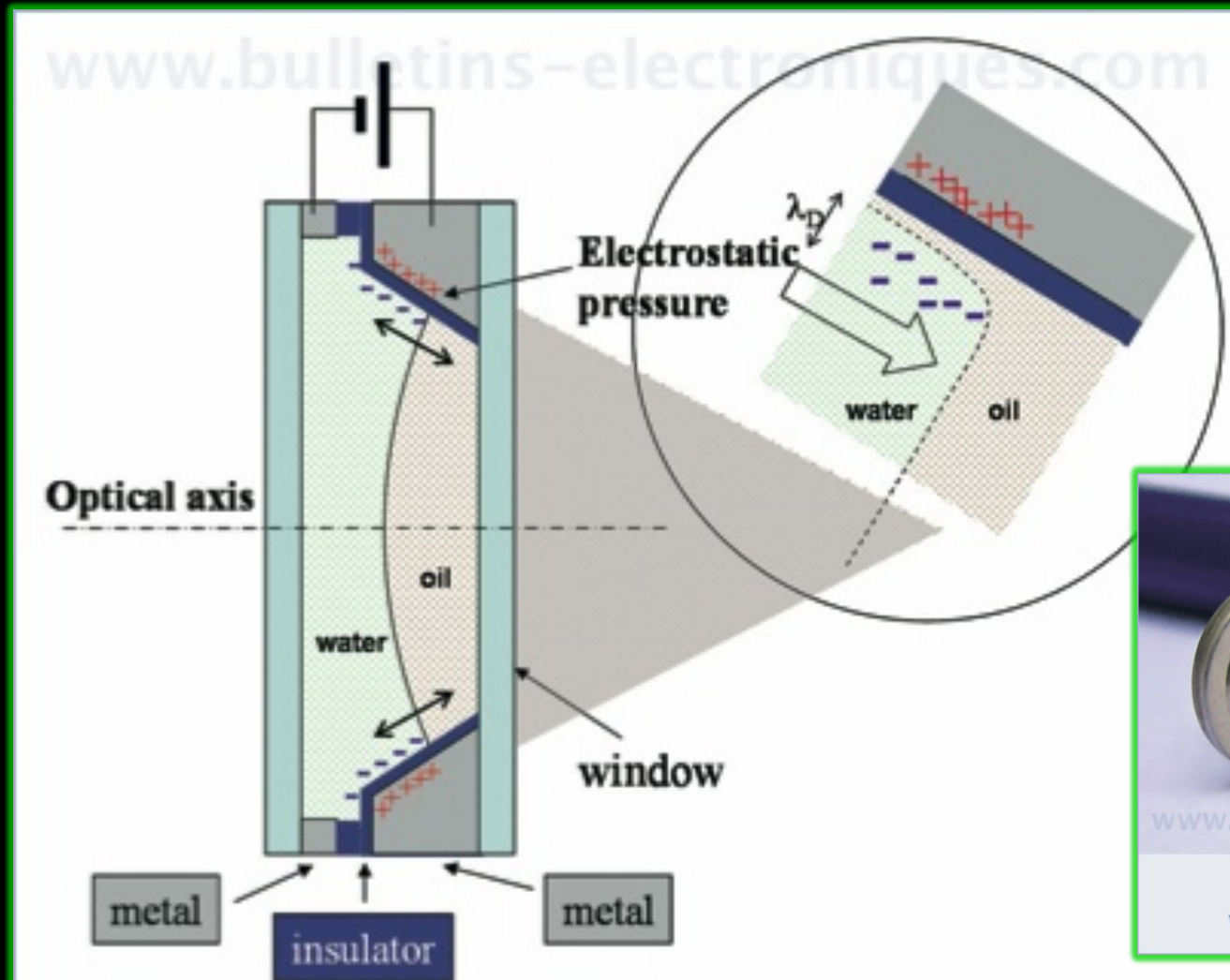
# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

- Liquid lens with tunable focus “f”



# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

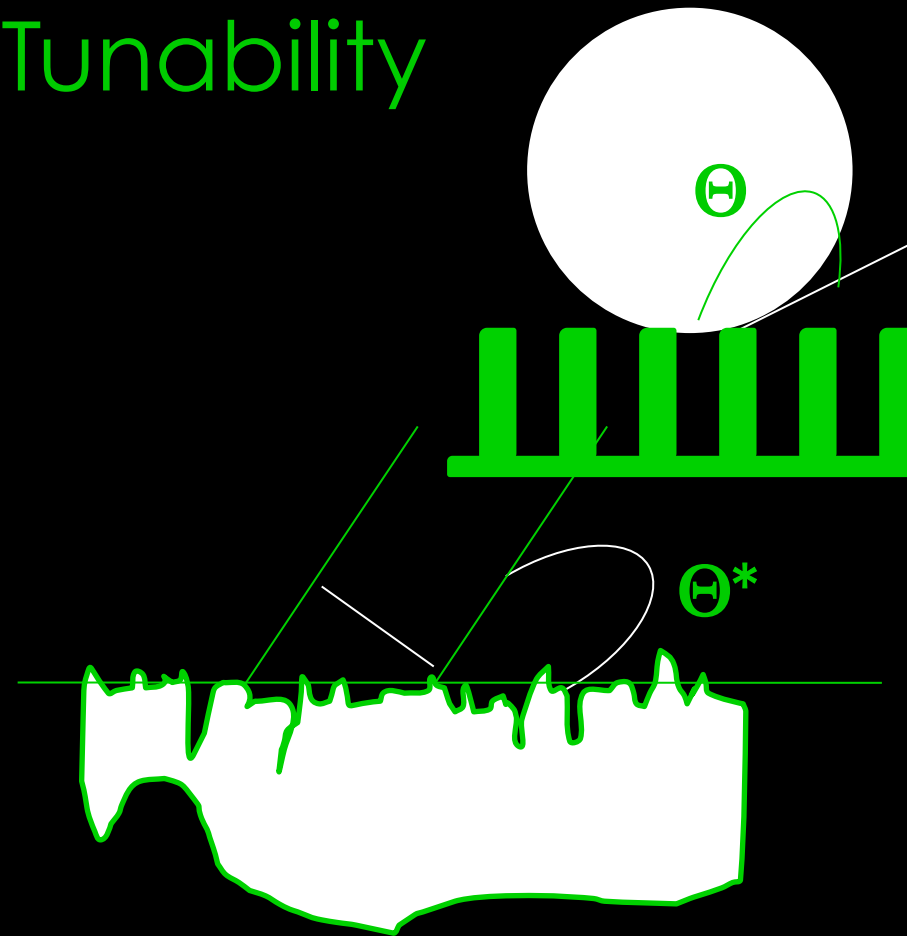
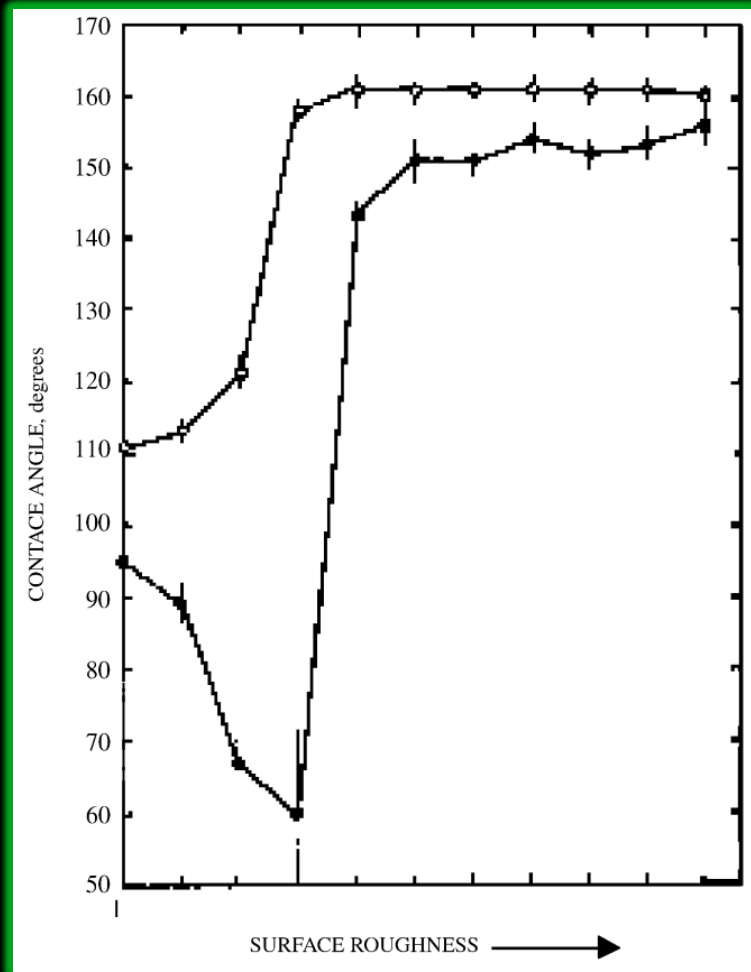
- Liquid lens with tunable focus “f”
- ”Varioptic/ Singapore” liquid lens



F-2015 BRICS 3-5 March 2015

# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

## -Surface Tension Tunability



$$\cos\theta^* = f_1 \cos\theta_1 + f_2 \cos\theta_2$$

**Wenzel/Cassie model**

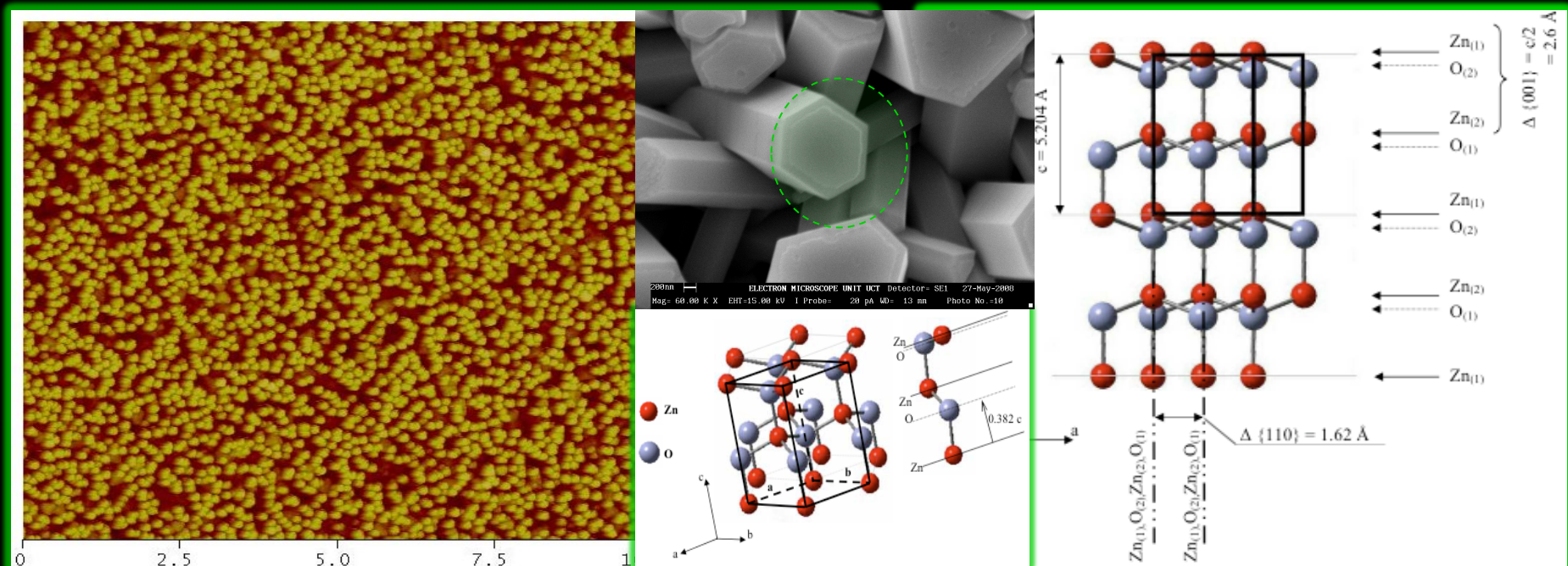
- Wenzel, R.N. *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, 1936, 28, 988-994.
- Cassie, A.B.D.; Baxter, S. *Transactions of the Faraday Society*, 1944, 40, 546-551
- Johnson R.E., Dettre R.H., *Adv. Chem. Ser.43*, 1964, 112-135 [ $H_2O$ / Wax substrates]



# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

## -Surface Tension Tunability

- **ZnO**: Wurtzite structure
  - O-lattice shifted by 0.382 fraction of cell unit height “c” from the Zn-latt.
  - Reference: Basal Hexagonal plane (001)
- Zn sites: (000) and (2/3, 1/3, 1/2)
- O sites: (0,0,0.382) and (2/3, 1/3, 1/2+0.382)



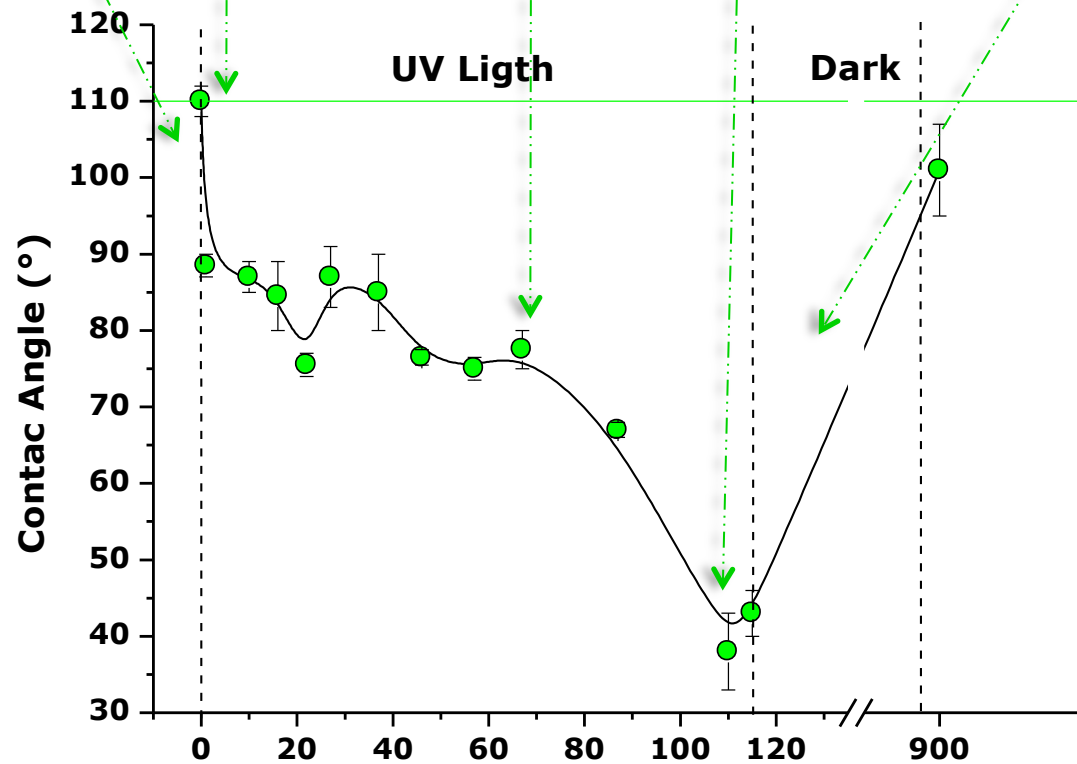
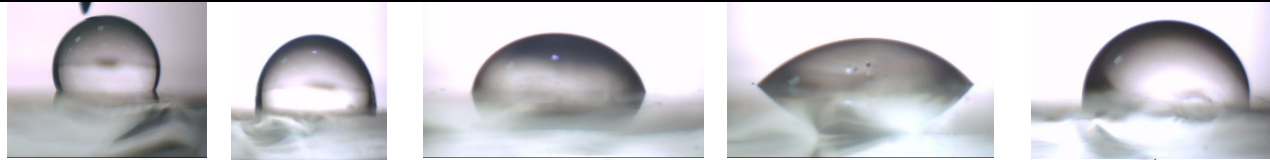
No UV

1 min UV

63 min UV

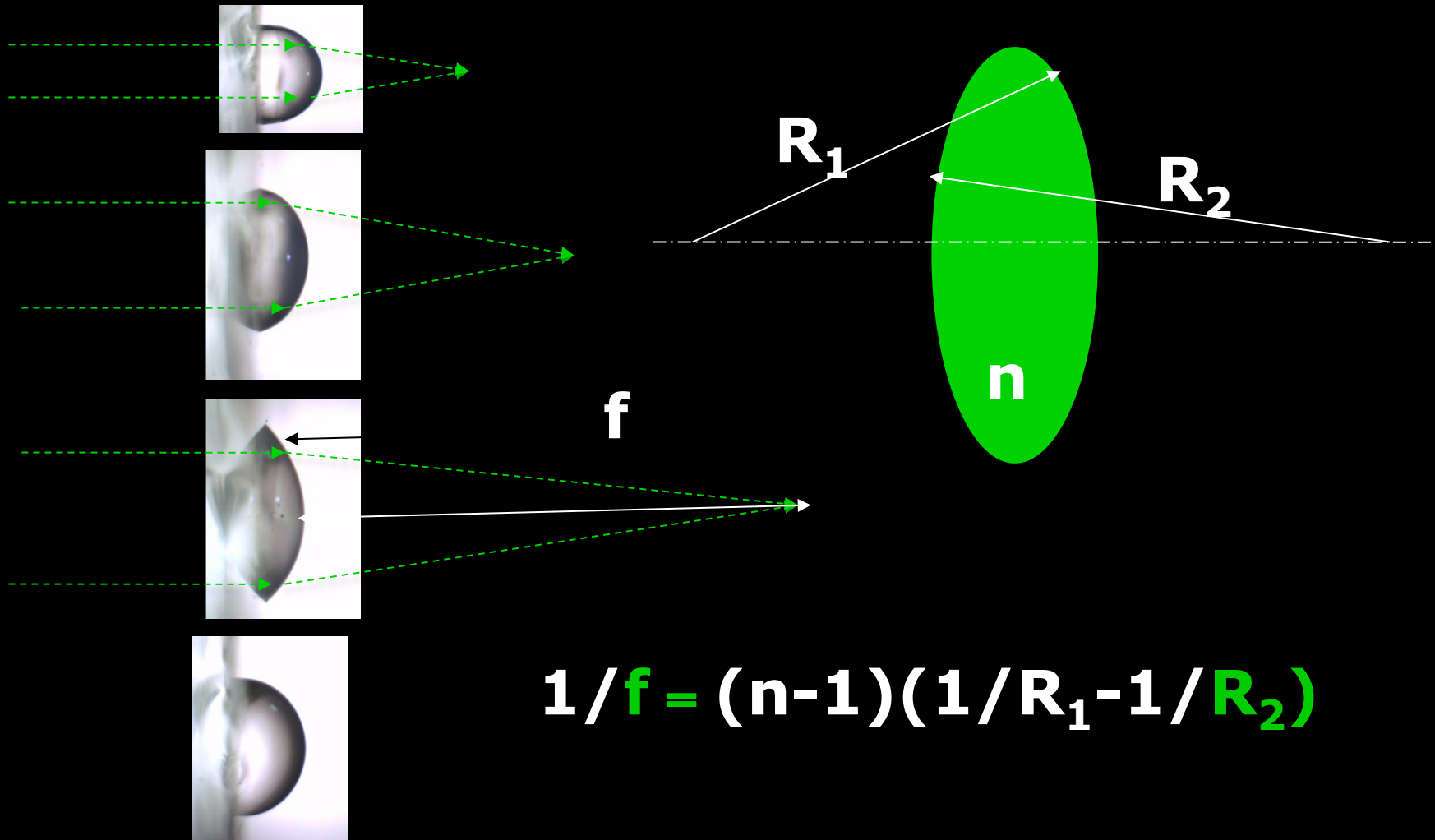
115 min UV

No UV: Dark



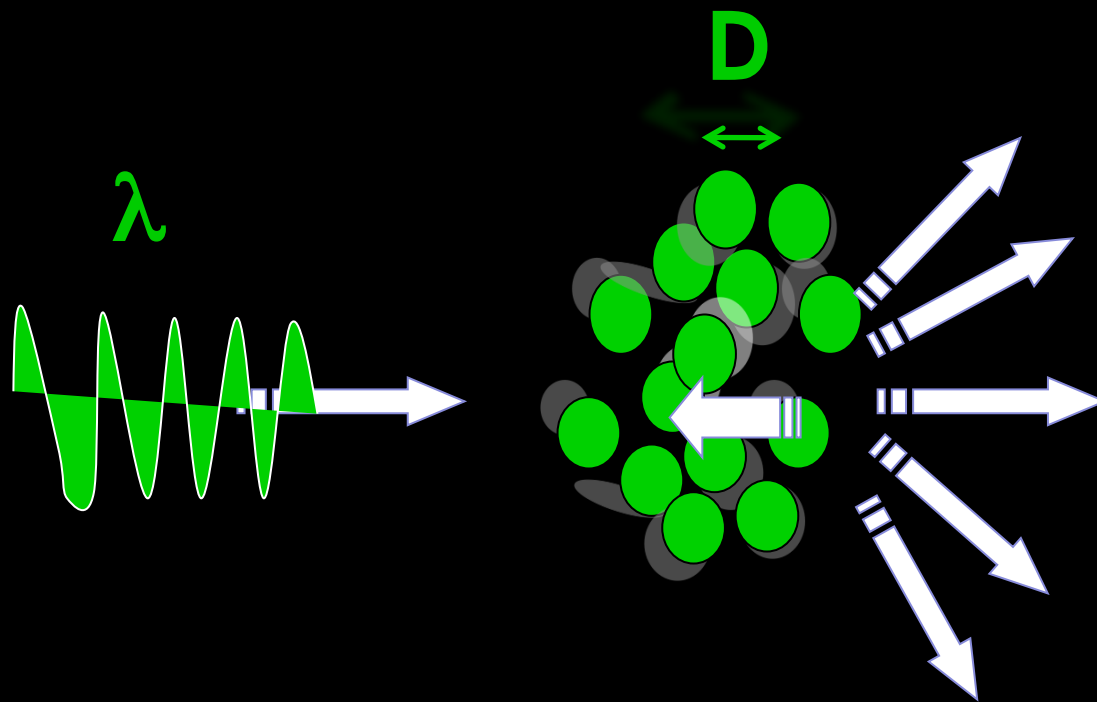
# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

- Liquid lens with tunable focus “f”



# NANO: LOCALIZATION & CONFINEMENT

## –Surface Tension Tunability



≠ Scattering cases

- Rayleigh type

$$s \propto 1/\lambda^4, D < \lambda$$

- Mie type  $D \cong \lambda$ , not analytically solvable for arbitrarily shapes

- Anderson loc.:  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  disordered syst.  
Random walk type

# NANO-2: MOTT-TRANSITION & MULTI- FUNCTIONALITY

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION



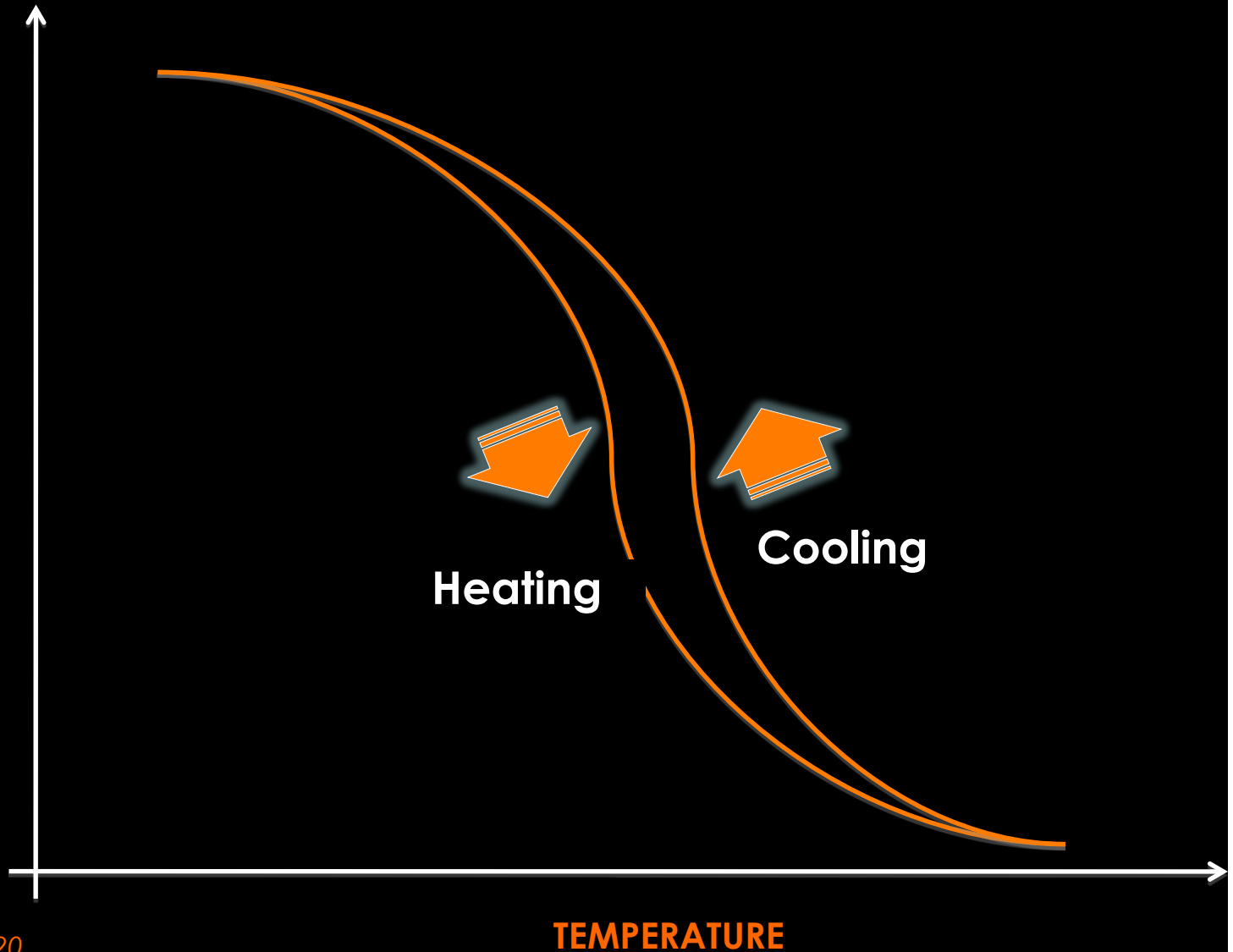
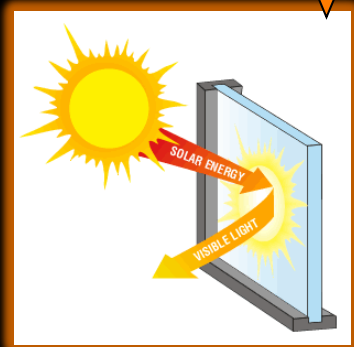
# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

nano-scaled oxides



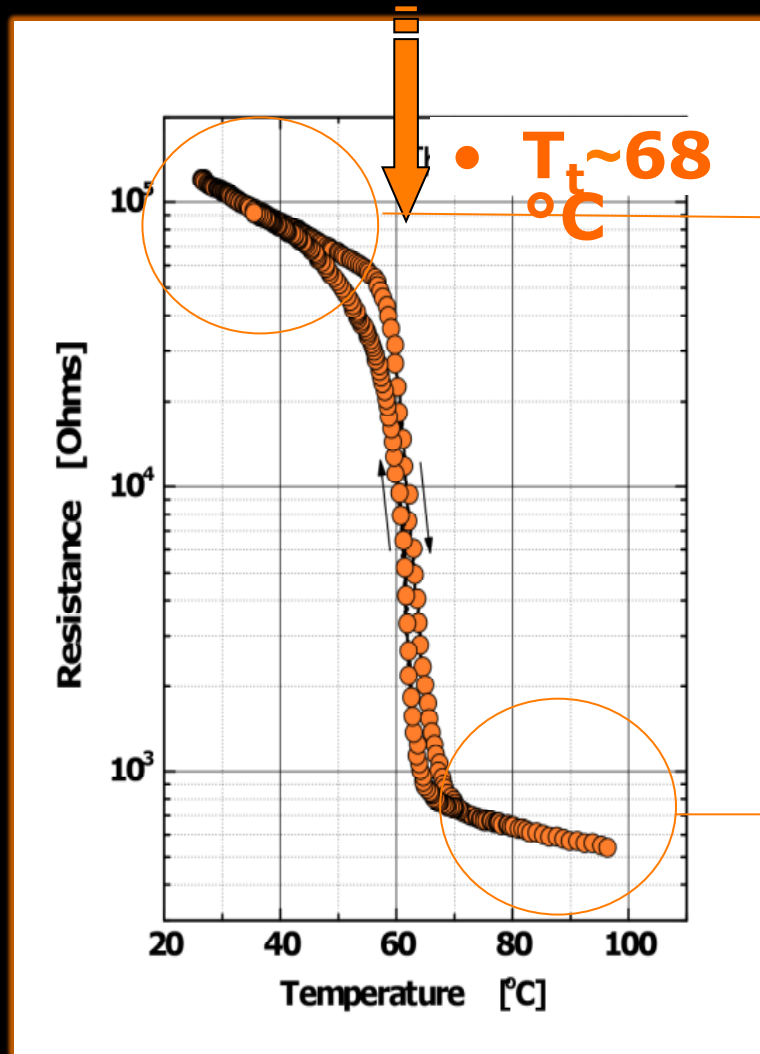
O<sub>2</sub> CONSUMPTION

ELECTRIC RESISTANCE



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & bandgap tunability



$T < 68^\circ\text{C}$ /  
Semiconductor

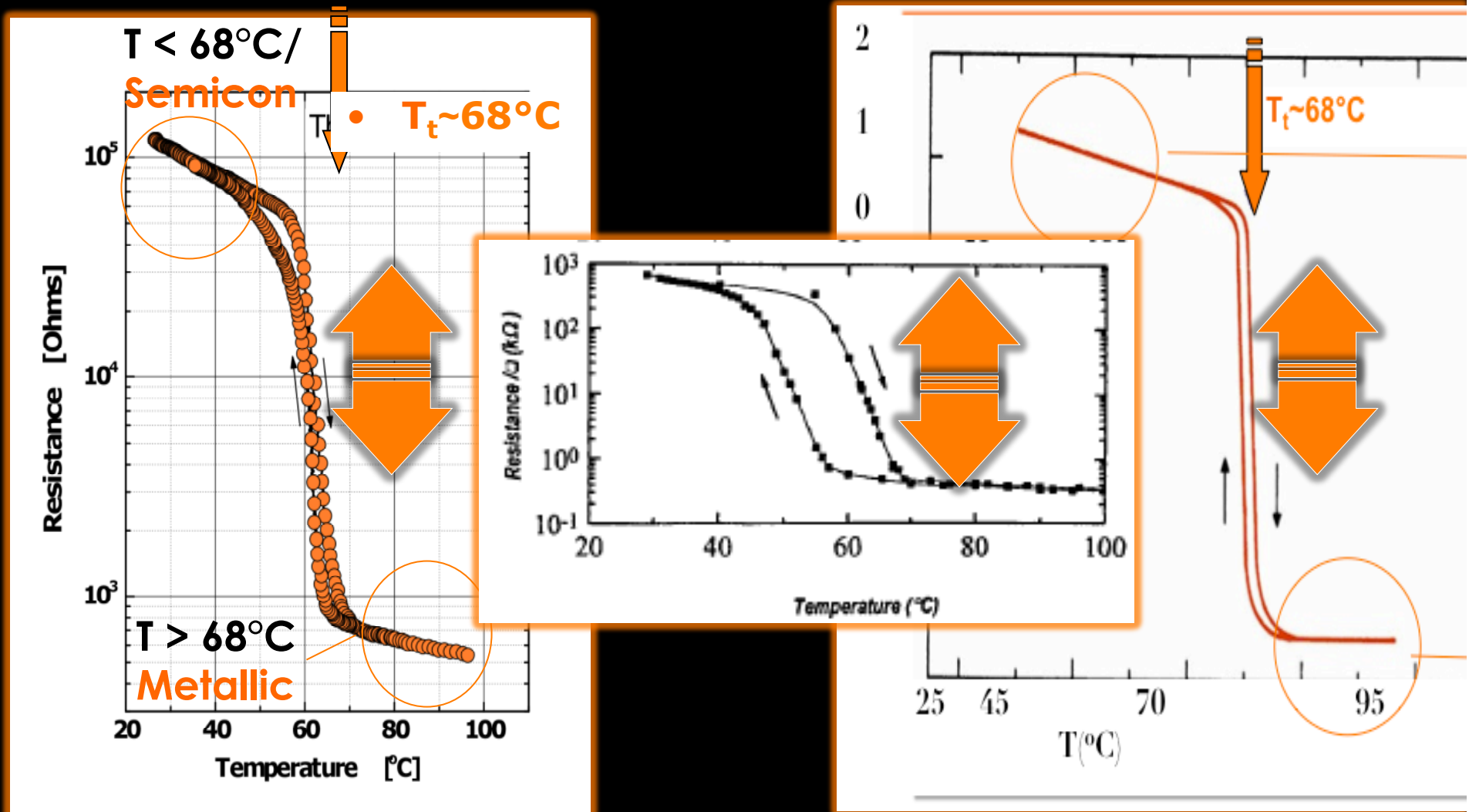


$T > 68^\circ\text{C}$ /  
Metallic



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & bandgap tunability
- Quality of the 1<sup>st</sup> order Mott **electronic** transition



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

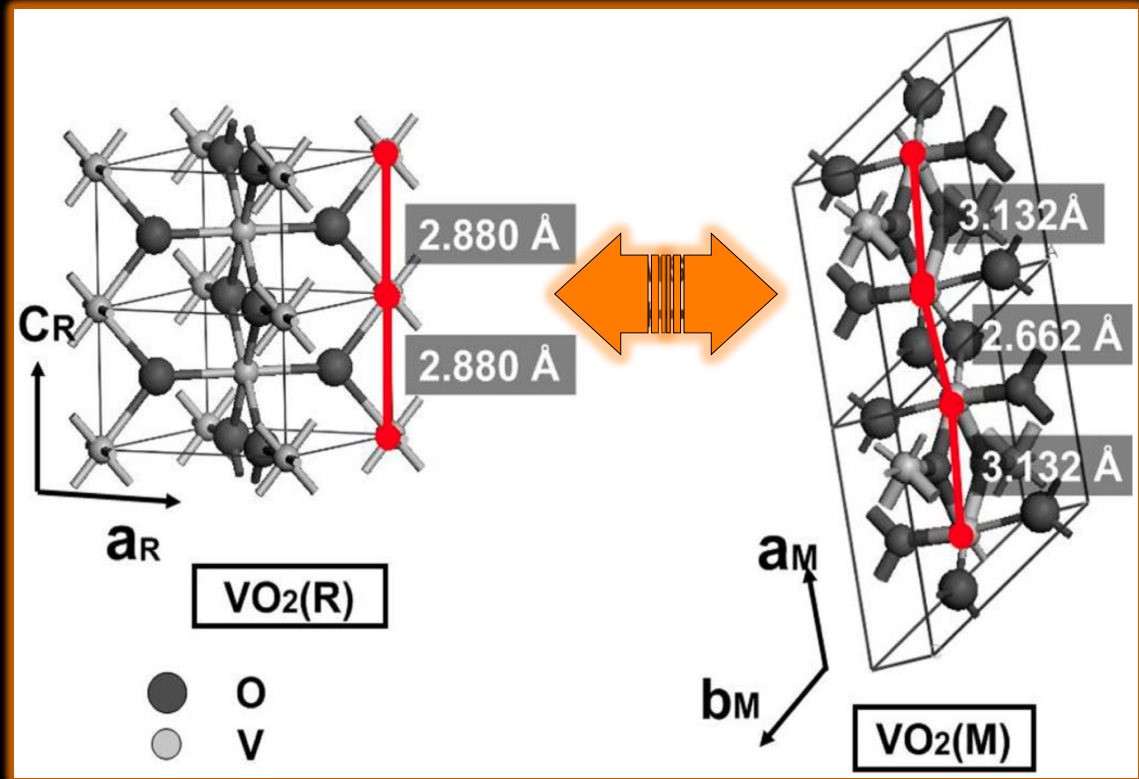
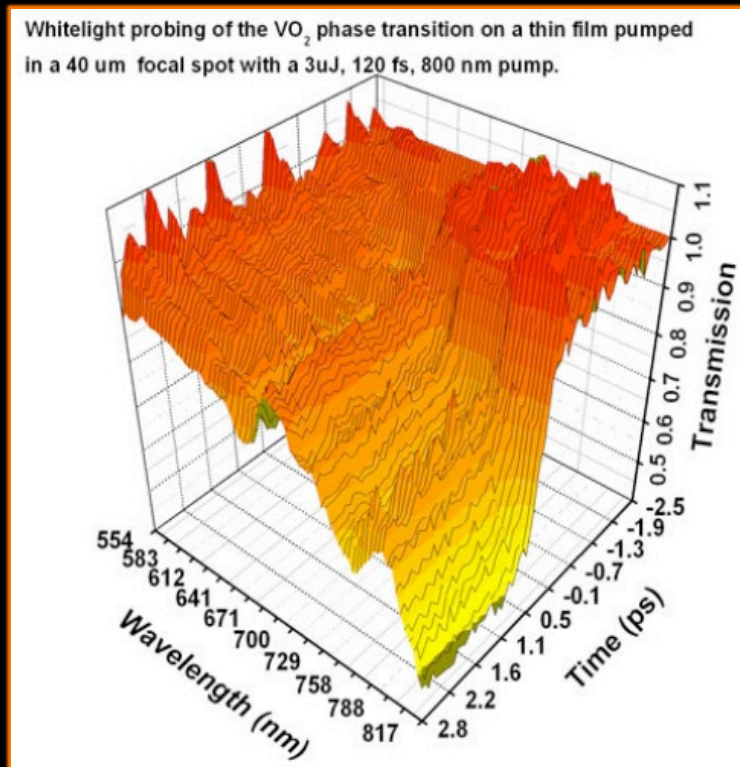
## –Mott nano-scaled oxides

- 1959: F. J. Morin, Phys. Rev. Lett. **3**, 34,
- 1968: Sir N. Mott, various seminal contributions.
- 1968: D. Adler, Rev. Mod. Phys. 40 (4) 714.
- 1975: 15A. Zylbersztejn and N. F. Mott, Phys. Rev. B **11**, 4383.
- 1994: Sella & Maaza, Maters. Coatings Tech., 23, 1750.
- 2000: M. Maaza et al, Optical Materials 15, 41-45 .
- 2005: S. Biermann et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 026404.
- 2004: A. Cavalleri, & al, PRB 70,161102. “Phase transition measurements: 150 fs”
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- 2014: S. Biermann et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 026404.

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

$\text{VO}_2$ : Mott type oxide/ Reversible MIT @  $T=67.8^\circ\text{C}$

$\text{VO}_2$ : Ultrafast Reversible MIT transition  $\tau_{\text{VO}_2}=120 \text{ fs}$



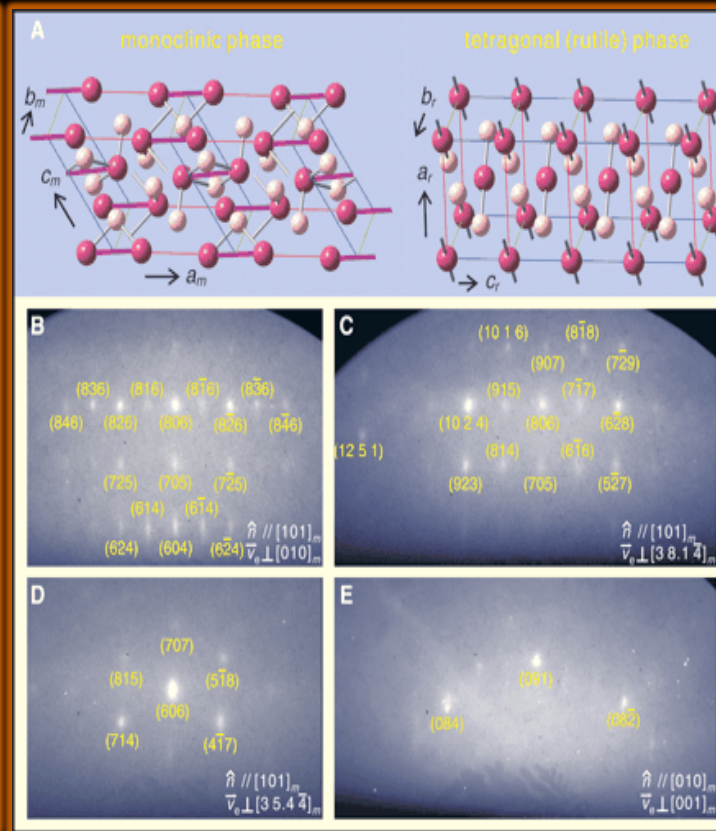
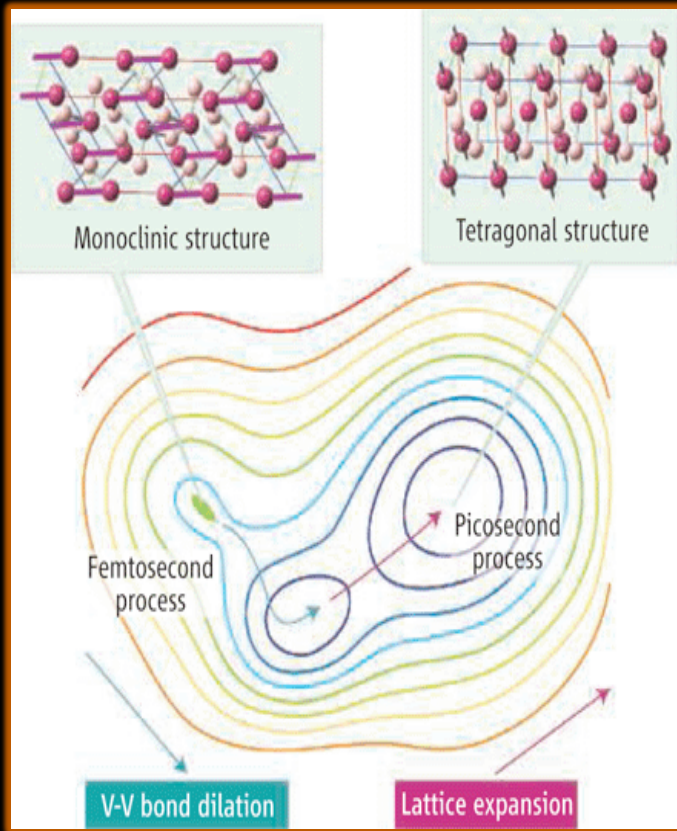
- $\text{VO}_2(\text{M})$ : insulator, IR transparent, monoclinic phase
- $\text{VO}_2(\text{R})$ : metallic, IR reflective, rutile phase
- $\Delta R$  electrical resistivity is  $10^5$  below/above  $\tau_{\text{VO}_2}$

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

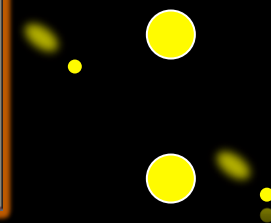
## -Mott nano-scaled oxides

Localized electrons

V<sup>4+</sup>



V<sup>4+</sup>



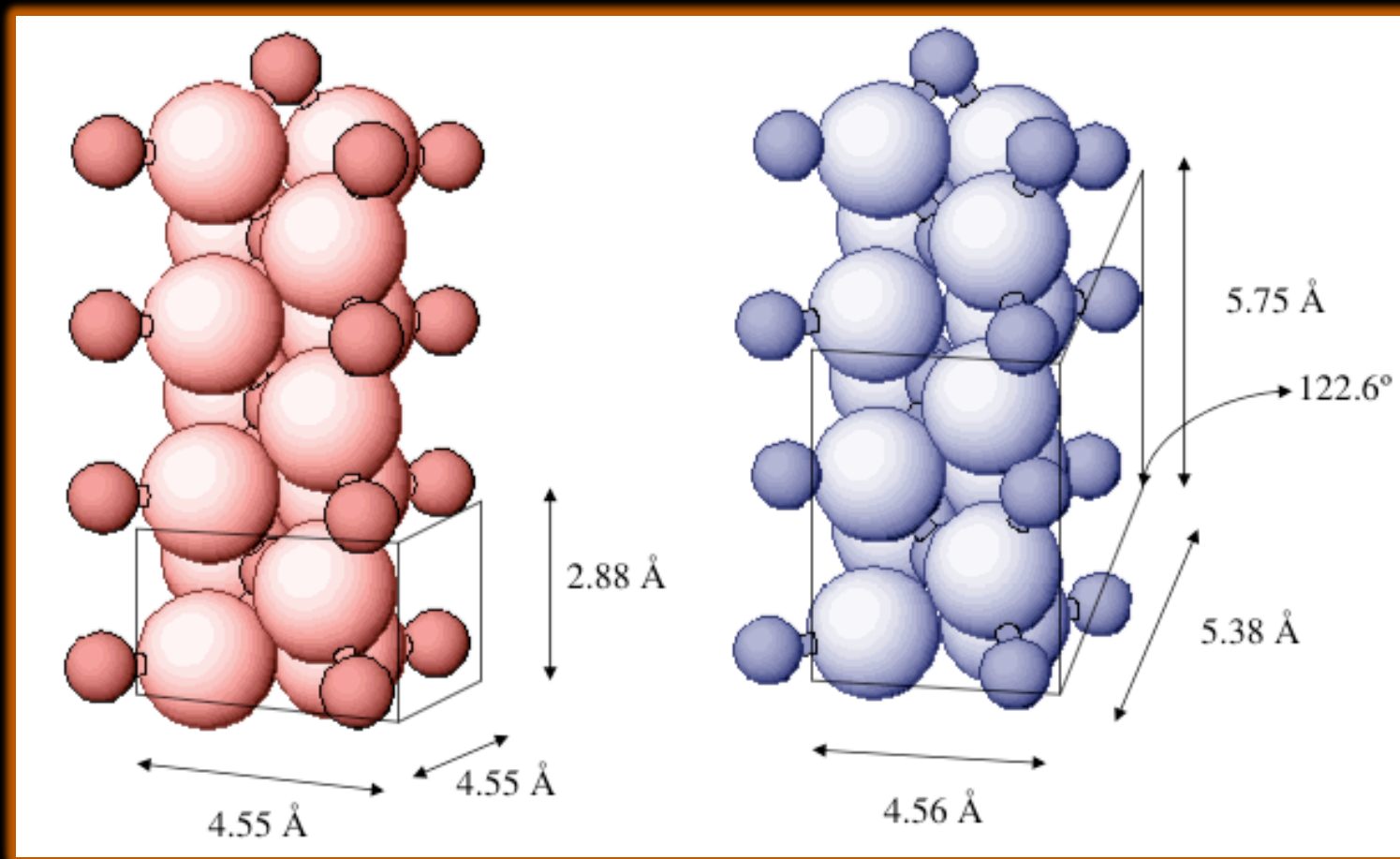
Free electrons

V-V dilatation ~Femto (V-V: 2.88Å)

Lattice expansion: ~Pico (V-V: 2.65Å, 3.12Å)

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## –Mott nano-scaled oxides



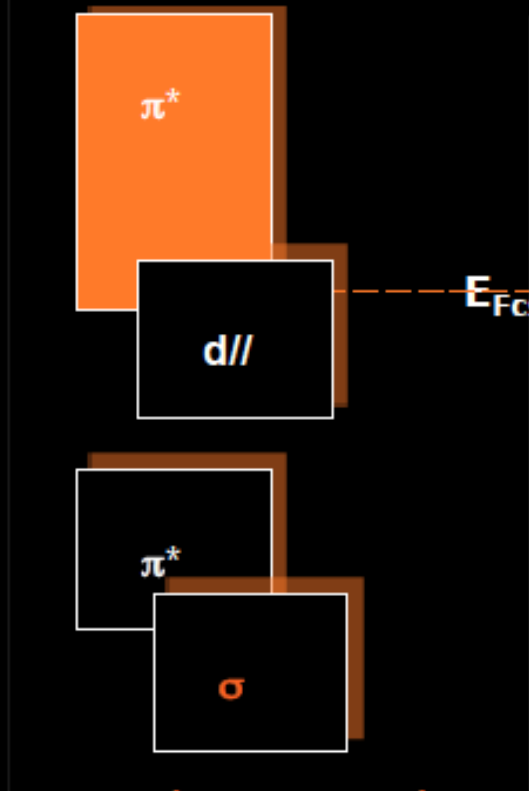
High T phase  
Tetragonal ( $P_{42}/mnm$ )

Low T phase  
Monoclinic ( $P_{21}/c$ )

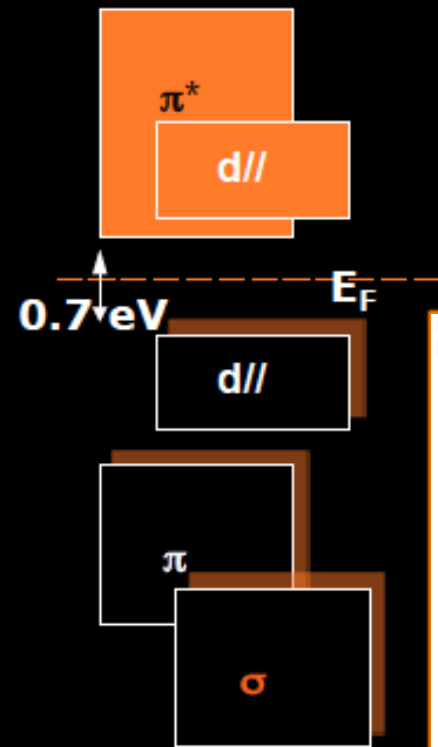
# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## -Mott nano-scaled oxides

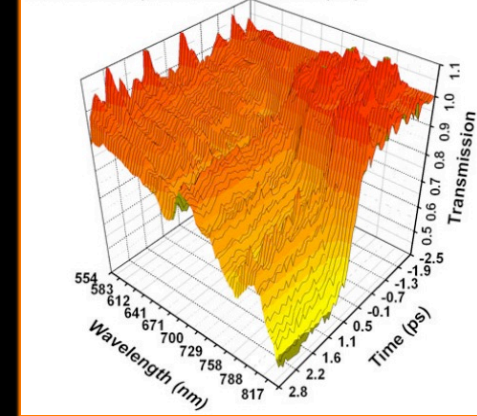
$T > 68^\circ\text{C}$   
Metallic (IR Opaque)



$T < 68^\circ\text{C}$   
Semicon (IR Transparent)



Whitelight probing of the VO<sub>2</sub> phase transition on a thin film pumped in a 40 um focal spot with a 3uJ, 120 fs, 800 nm pump.



$$E_g = E_g(\omega, T) \longrightarrow n = n(\omega, \text{Temperature})$$

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

–Mott nano-scaled oxides

$$(\mathbf{n}(\omega) + \mathbf{j}\mathbf{k}(\omega))^2 = \underbrace{\varepsilon_\infty + \varepsilon_1(\omega) + \varepsilon_2(\omega)}_{\text{Lorentz comp. Semicon. state}} + \underbrace{\varepsilon_3(\omega)}_{\text{Drude comp Metallic state}}$$

Lorentz comp.  
Semicon. state

Drude comp  
Metallic state

$\varepsilon_\infty$  : "Cte contribution due to high freq. electronic transitions"

$$\varepsilon_1(\omega) = [(\varepsilon_s - \varepsilon_\infty)\omega_t^2] / [\omega_t^2 - \mathbf{j}\omega\Gamma_0]$$

"  $\varepsilon_s$ : Static dielectric funct ( $\omega=0$ ),

$$\varepsilon_2(\omega) = \sum_{j=1}^n [f_j \omega_{0j}^2] / [\omega_{0j}^2 - \omega^2 + \mathbf{j}\omega\gamma_j]$$

"  $\omega_t, \omega_{0j}^2$ : Resonant freq. of oscillators whose energies correspond to abs. peaks

"  $f_j$ : Oscillator strength "multiple Lorenz oscillators"

"  $\Gamma_0, \gamma_j$ : Broadening/ Damping factors

$$\varepsilon_3(\omega) = \omega_p^2 [-\omega^2 + \mathbf{j}\omega\Gamma_d]$$

"Drude component"

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## -Mott nano-scaled oxides

$$n = n(\omega, \text{Temperature})$$



From Lorenz formula

$$[n^2(T, \omega) - 1] / [n^2(T, \omega) + 2] = \rho(T) \alpha_\rho(\rho, T) / 3\epsilon_0$$

“ $\rho$ : Oscillator density”

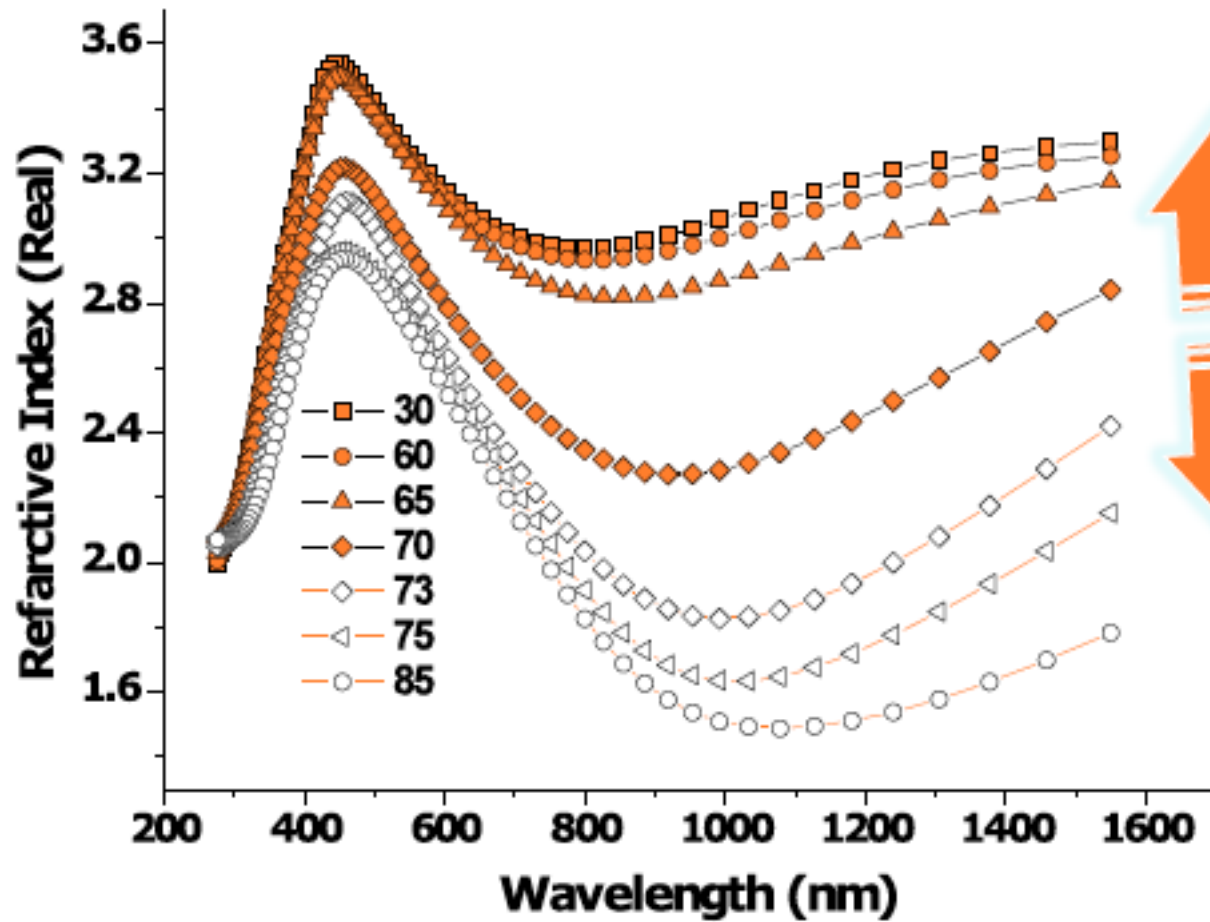
$$2n\epsilon_0 \frac{dn}{dT} = -[(n^2 + 2)(n^2 - 1)] \cdot \zeta(T)$$

$$\zeta(T) = \alpha_\rho [1 - (V/\alpha_\rho)(\delta\alpha_\rho/\delta V)_T] + [(\delta\alpha_\rho/\delta T)_V / 3\alpha_\rho]$$

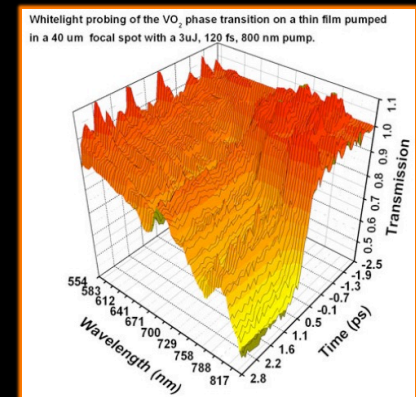


# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## -Refractive index tunability

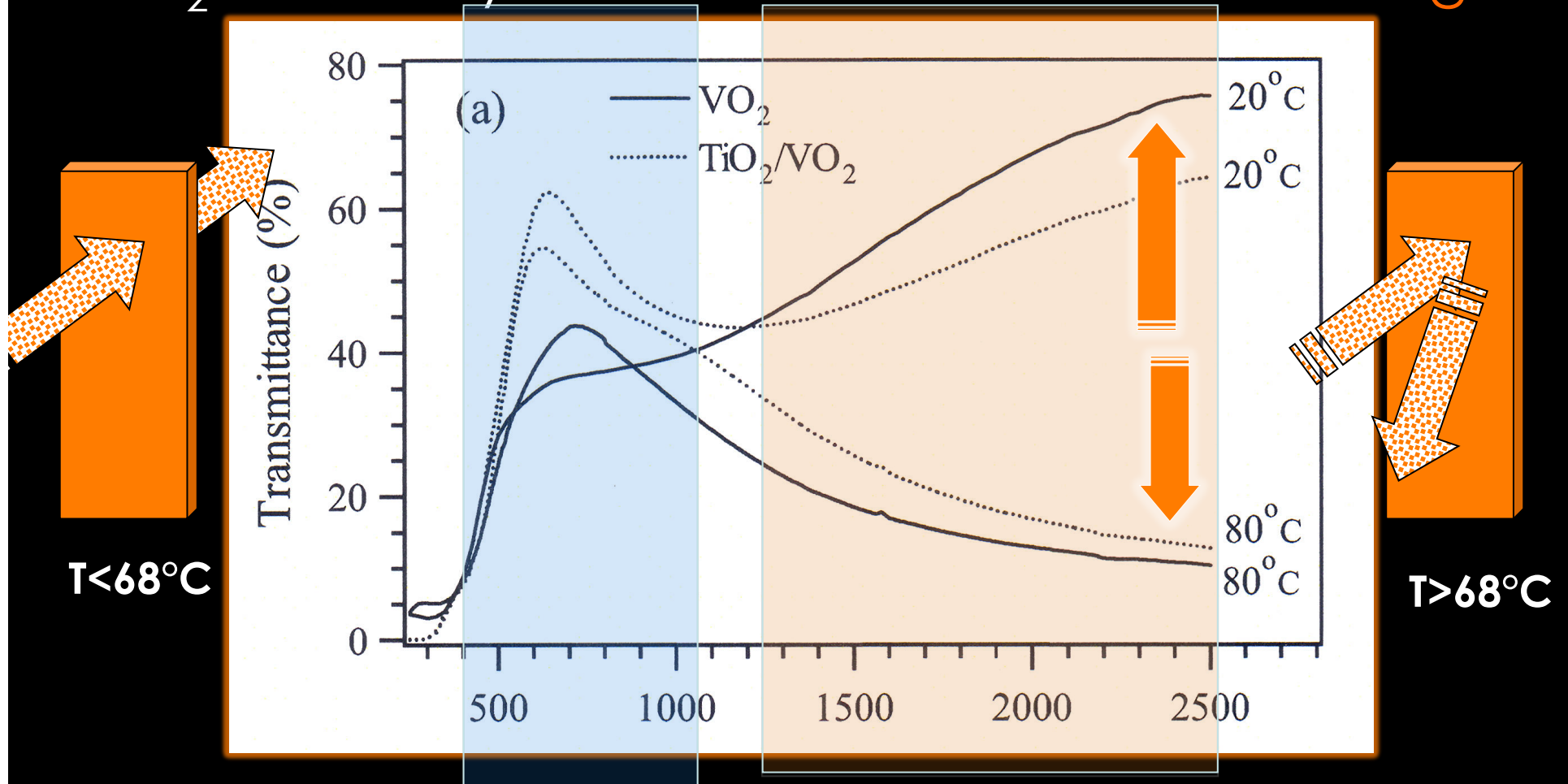


$\tau \sim 180$  fs



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

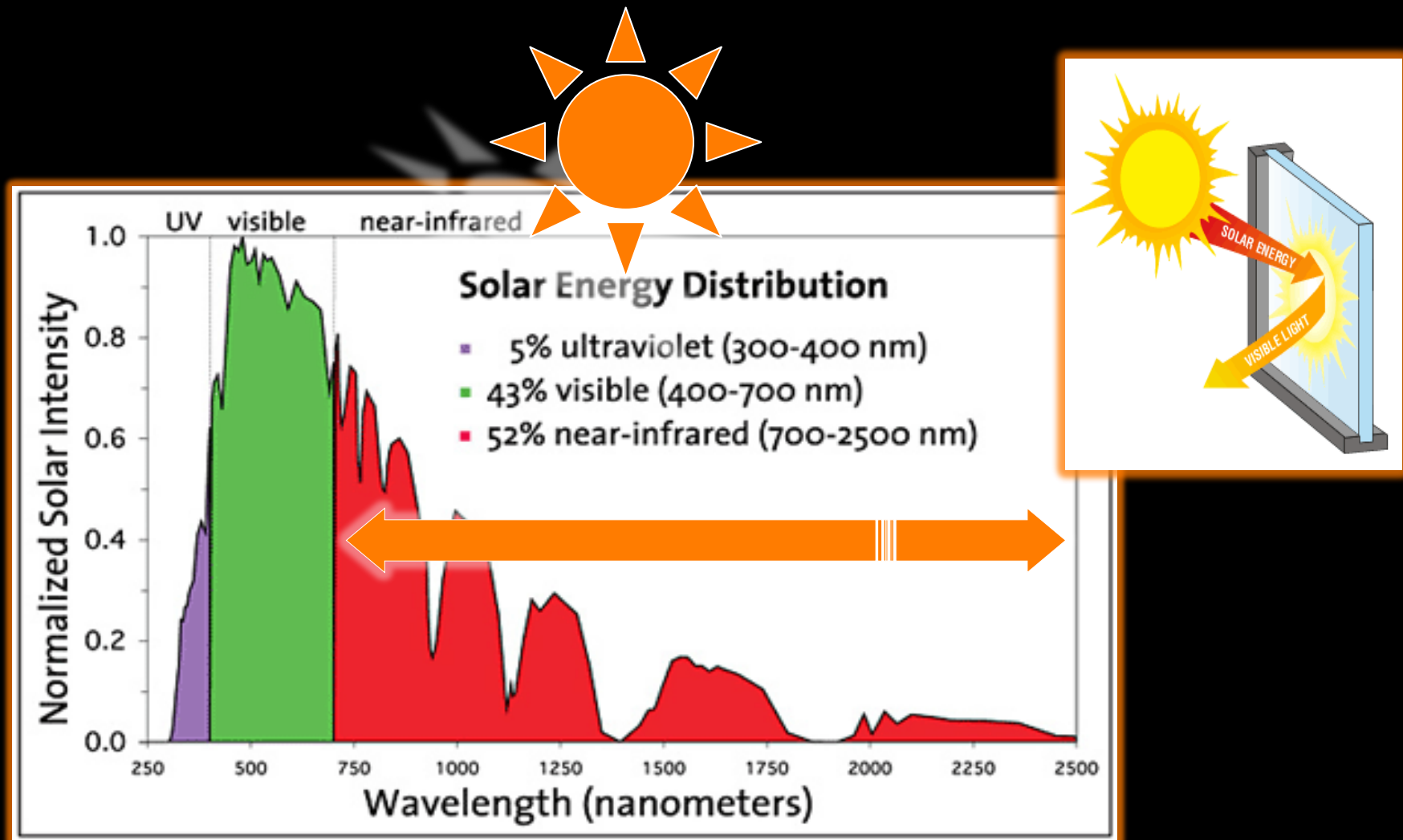
- $\text{VO}_2$  tunability & Smart Windows nano-Coatings



- Smart windows/air conditioning sector
- Vacuum based processing: Sputtering

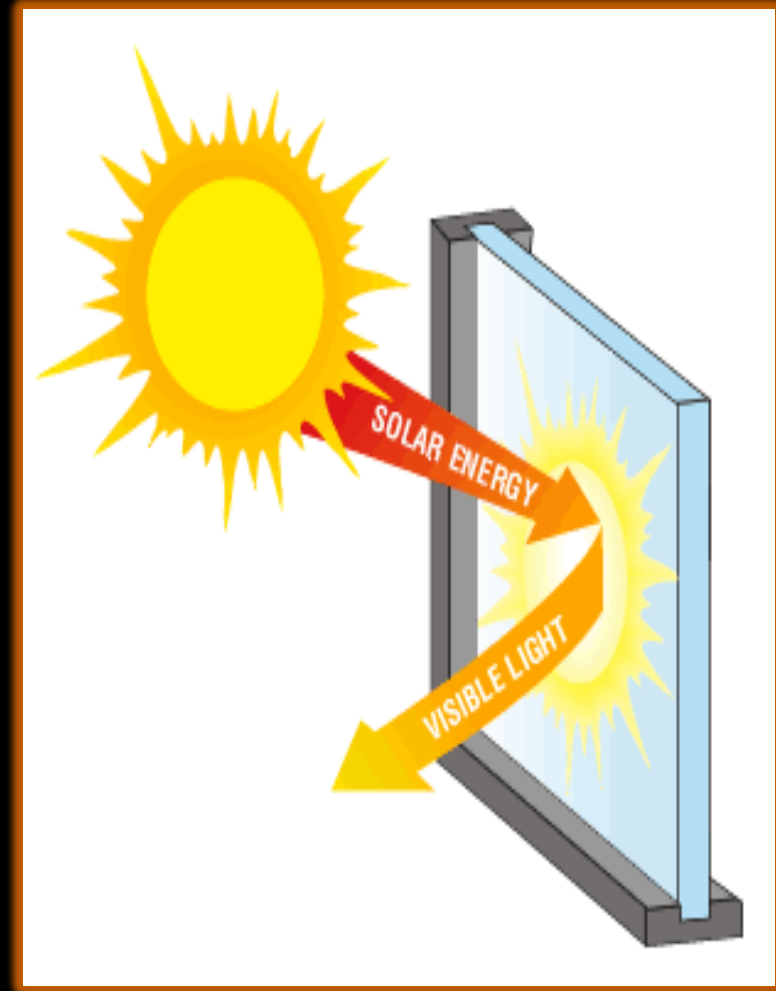
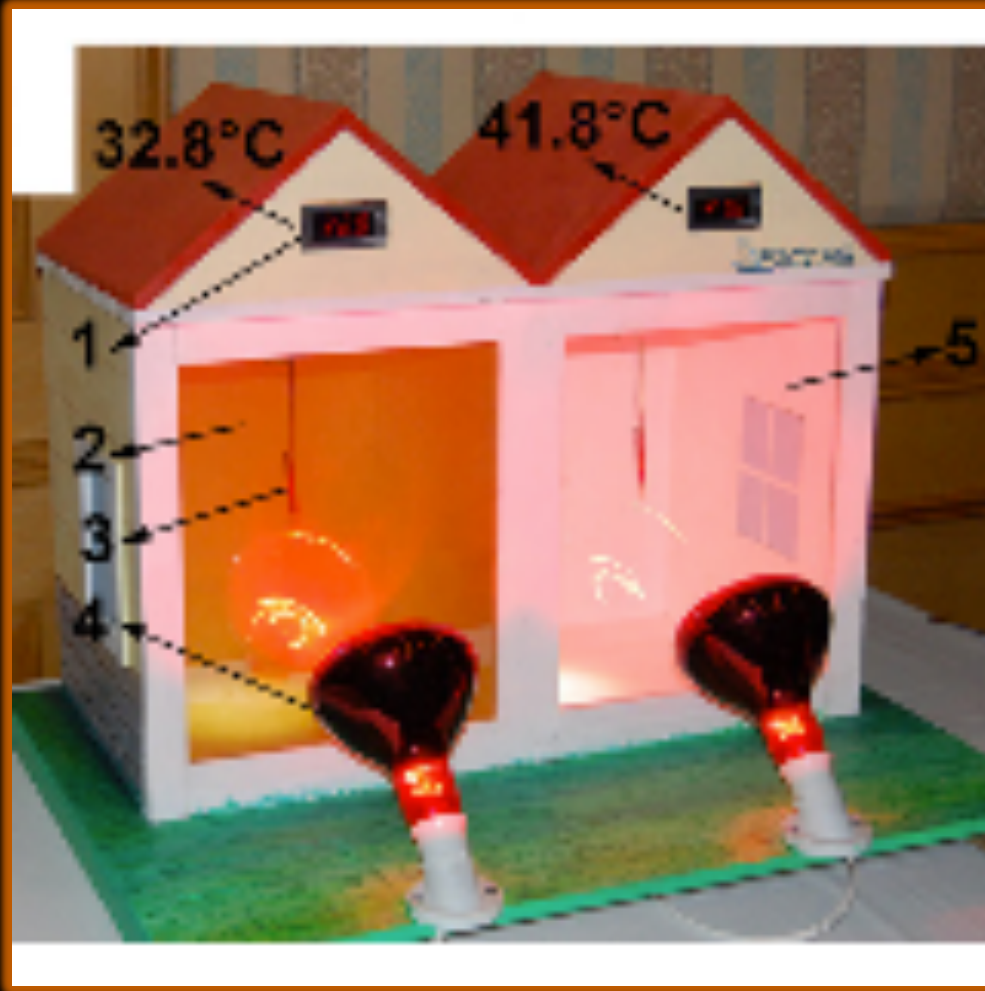
# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  tunability & Smart Windows nano-Coatings



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

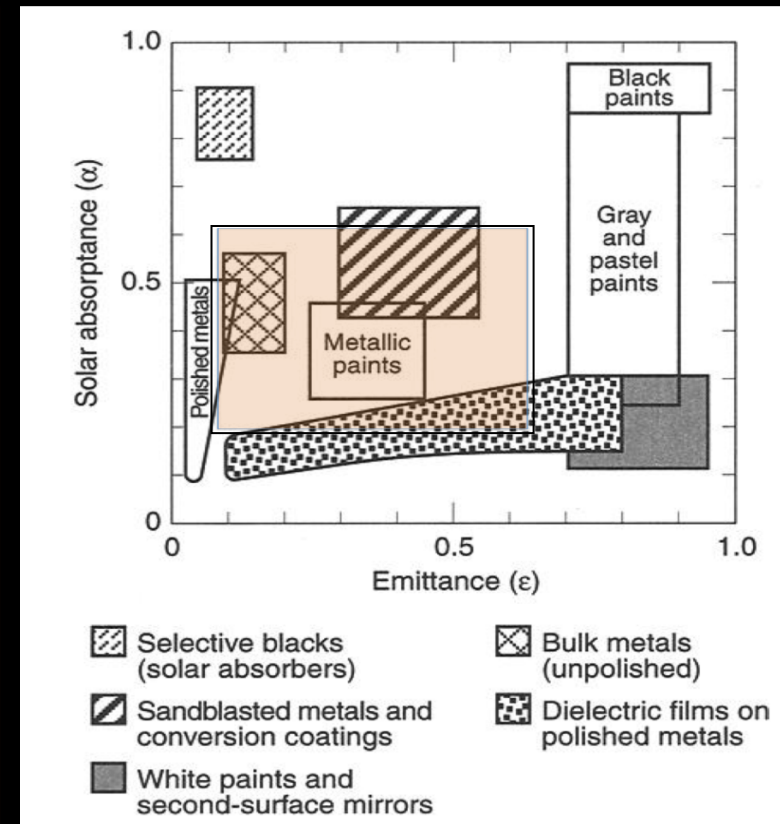
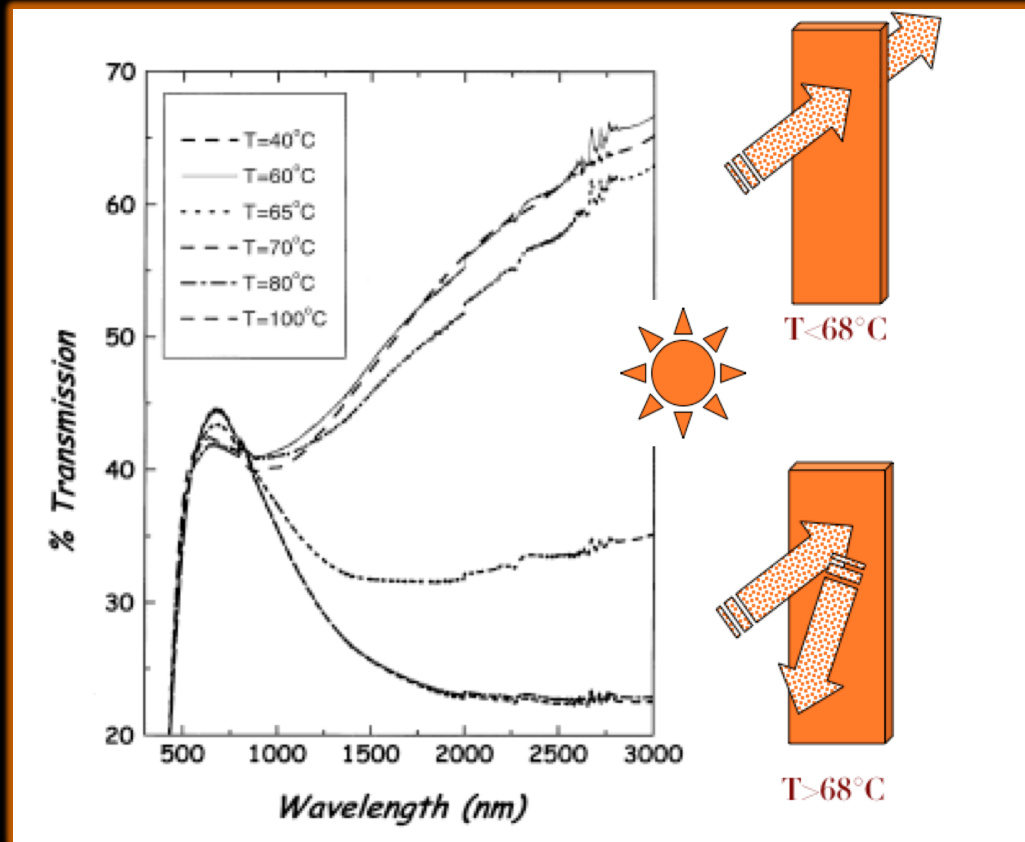
- VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & Smart Windows nano-Coatings



- Tuning down the Transition Temperature: W/Mo doping
- Good T<sub>vis</sub> but not satisfactory  $\Delta T_{IR}$

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## •VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & Smart Windows nano-Coatings

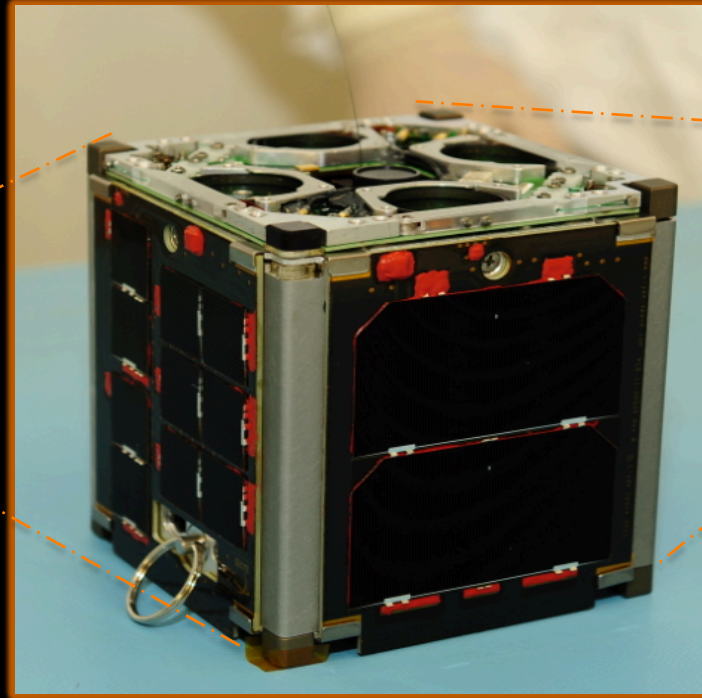


**VO<sub>2</sub> based coatings**

-Tuning the Emisivity  $\epsilon(T)$ : Space applications

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  tunability & Nanosatellites



- **Multi-functionality: Heat control in small satellites**
- JAXA, ESA, Canadian Space Agency,
- SANSa: Sumbandilla:  $\approx 81$  kg/**ZACube**  $\approx 1.175$  kg

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & Nanosatellites

Cosmic Rays

Latchap

Gev

Solar flare particles

Interf.

+/-

Rad. Belt particles

MeV

Energetic plasma

KeV

Radiation damage degradation

Low energy plasma

eV

Leakage sputtering

Neutral O-atoms

Erosion

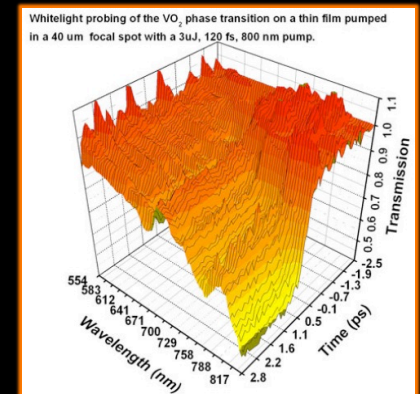
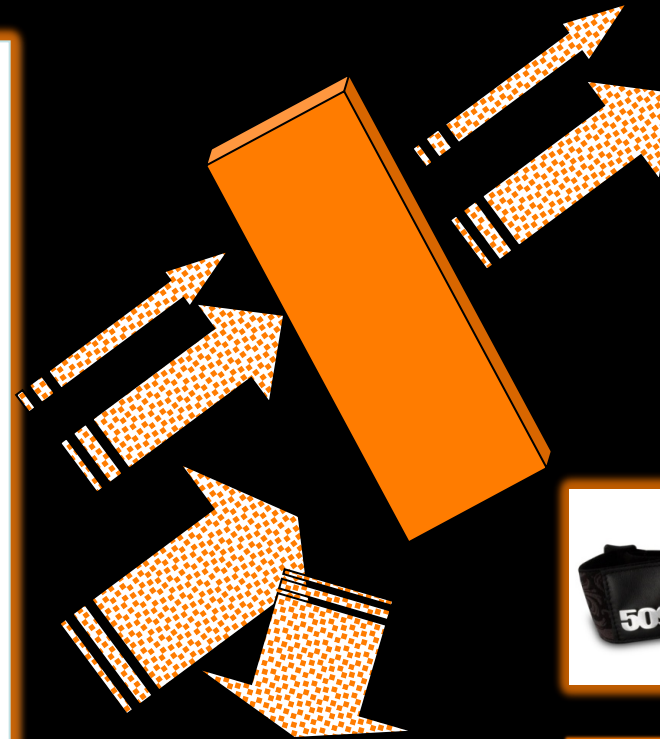
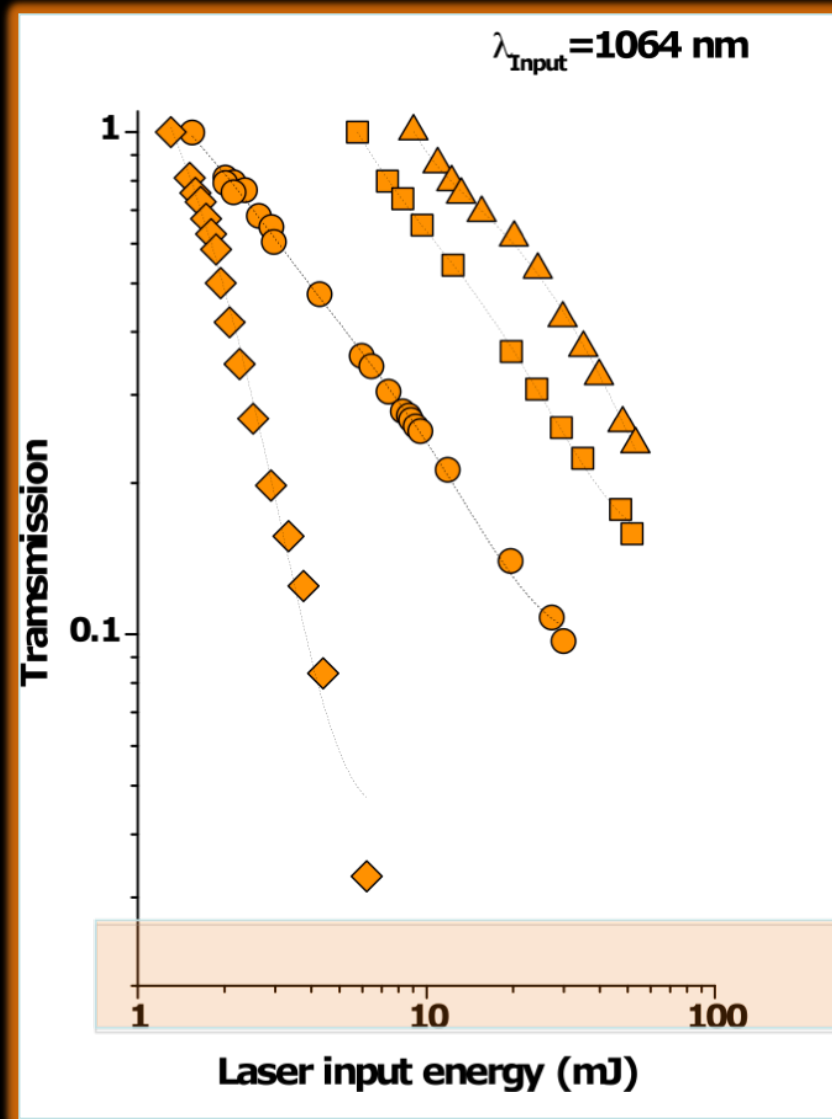
Debris meteorites

Puncture



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & IR Optical Limiters



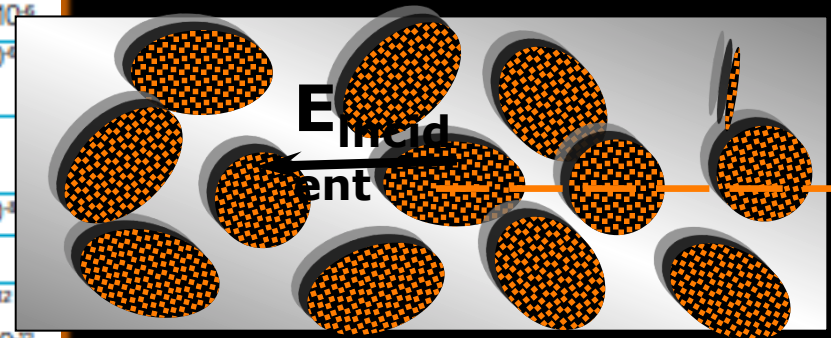
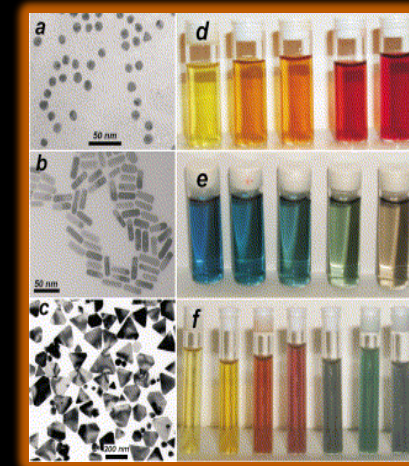
$\tau \sim 180 \text{ fs}$



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & Tunable Femto nano-plasmonics

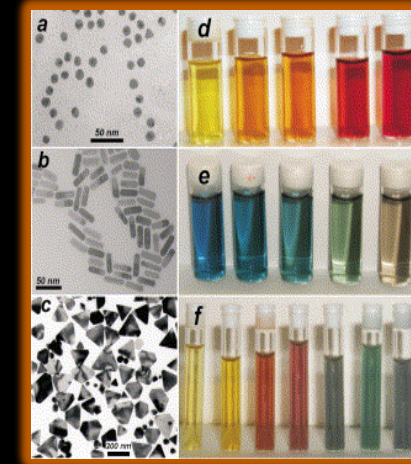
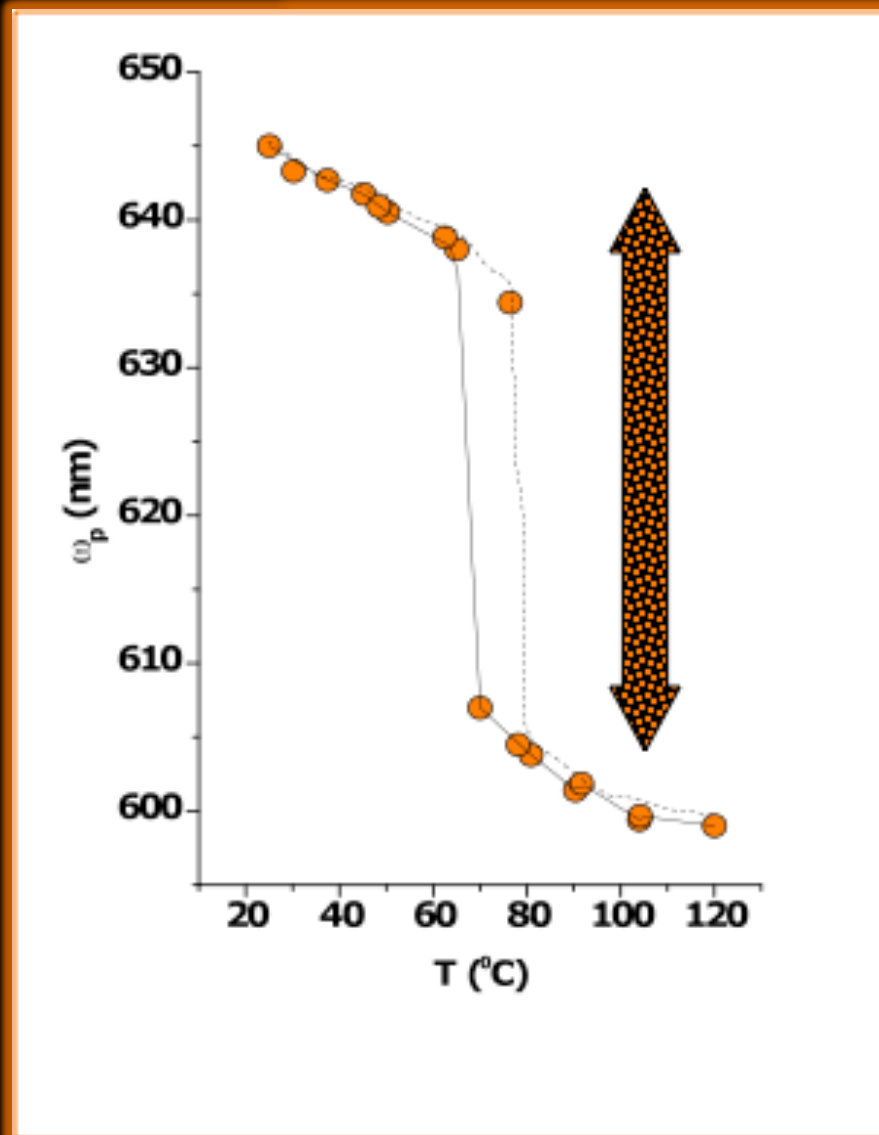
Diel.	Synth.	$\langle\phi\rangle$ (nm)	% Au	$\lambda_{pr}$ (nm)	$\lambda_e$ (nm)	$\chi_{eff}$ (esu)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Co-Sput.	3.5-13	2-3	528 540	480 560	1 10 <sup>-7</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	ion-impl.	5-30	4-7 10 <sup>-2</sup>	-	532	2 10 <sup>-9</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	doped Glasses	1.4-15	1.10 <sup>-5</sup>	530 527	532	8 10 <sup>-14</sup> 5.5 10 <sup>-11</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Co-Sput.	3-80	5-63	520 545	532	2 10 <sup>-9</sup> 2.5 10 <sup>-6</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Co-Sput.	3	13-19	539	532	-2.11 10 <sup>-6</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	ion-impl.	2.9	7.9	525	532	1.2 10 <sup>-7</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	ion-impl.	1.5-3	1	505	532	1.5 10 <sup>-8</sup>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	ion-impl.	5-25	5		532	1.86 10 <sup>-11</sup>
					591	2.93 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Co-Sput.	10-250	25-60	545 590	532	1.2 10 <sup>-6</sup>
TiO <sub>2</sub>	Co-Sput.	10-250	15-60	630 670	532 670	8 10 <sup>-6</sup> 6 10 <sup>-7</sup>
Colloi.	Hydrosol	10	510 <sup>-6</sup>		530	1.5 10 <sup>-8</sup>
Poly.	Organo.	24	7.210 <sup>-3</sup>	550		1 10 <sup>-8</sup>
Acet.		5-40	1.10 <sup>-6</sup>	535	516	-7 10 <sup>-12</sup>
					522	-4.2 10 <sup>-12</sup>



$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{ne^2 / \epsilon_m m_{eff}}{(1 + 2\epsilon_d(\omega, T))}$$

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- VO<sub>2</sub> tunability & Tunable Femto nano-plasmonics



Volume 116 (2015) 10–17

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Vacuum**

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/vacuum](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/vacuum)

**Functional nanostructured oxides**

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**ARTICLE INFO**

Article history:  
 Received 20 August 2014  
 Received in revised form 20 December 2014  
 Accepted 15 December 2014  
 Available online 5 January 2015

**ABSTRACT**

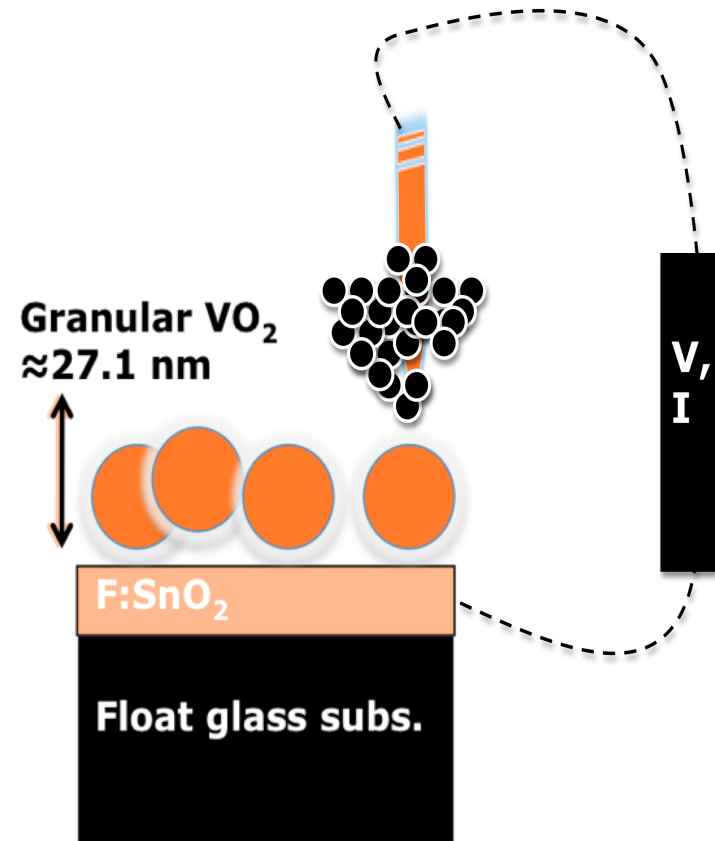
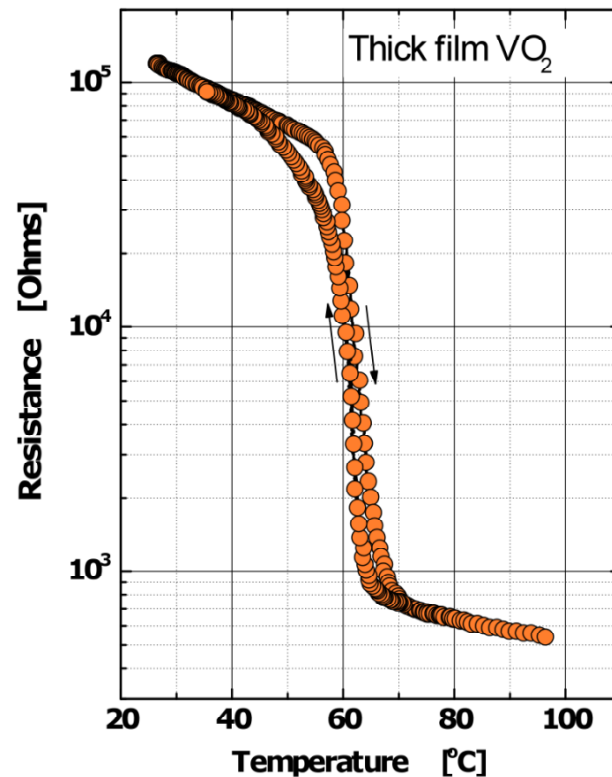
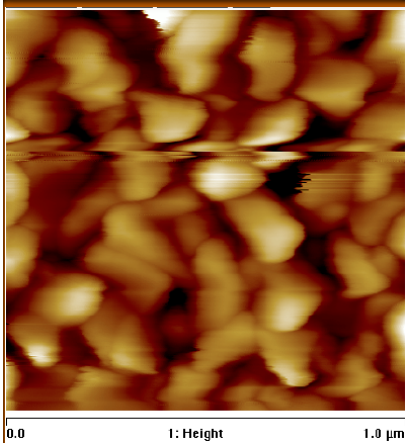
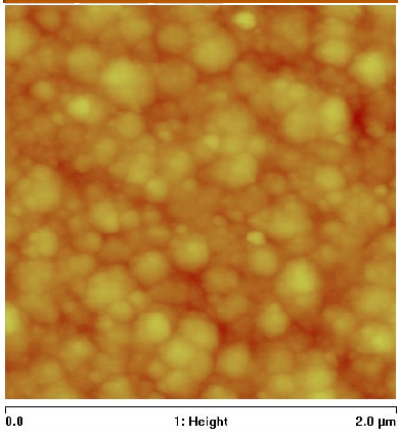
This contribution reports on novel physical properties of specific oxides in their nano scaled configuration. This includes the ultrafast optical limiting of VO<sub>2</sub> thin films, the magneto-optical tunability of the ESR response of α-Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nano-spheres, and the reversible control of the surface tension of ZnO oriented nano-rods as well as the validation of the synthesis of high crystalline stoichiometric of rare earth nanostructures by the so called local gas feeding beam pulsed laser deposition.

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**Keywords:**  
 Oxides  
 Nanoscale  
 Vacuums oxide  
 Zinc oxide  
 Chromium(III) oxide  
 Rare earth oxides  
 Thin films  
 Nanoparticles

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & Single nano-particle ultrafast gating



• Granular  $\text{VO}_2$  film

• Thick  $\text{VO}_2$  film

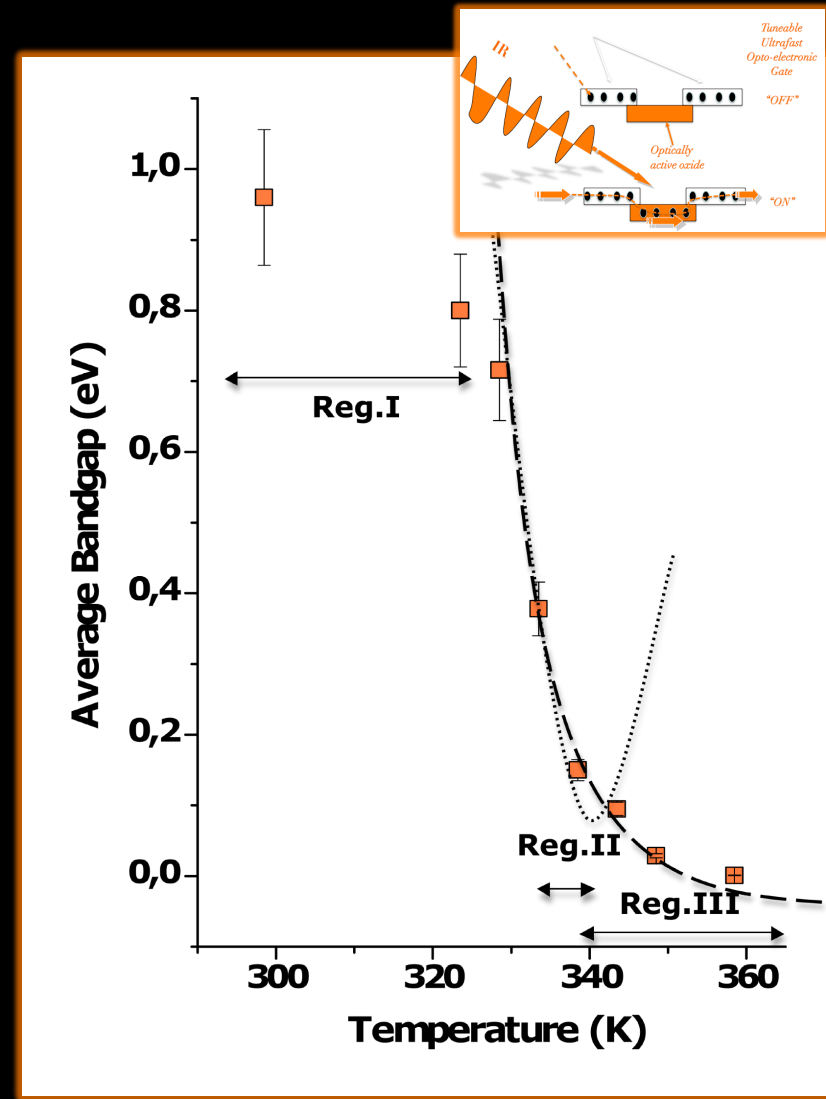
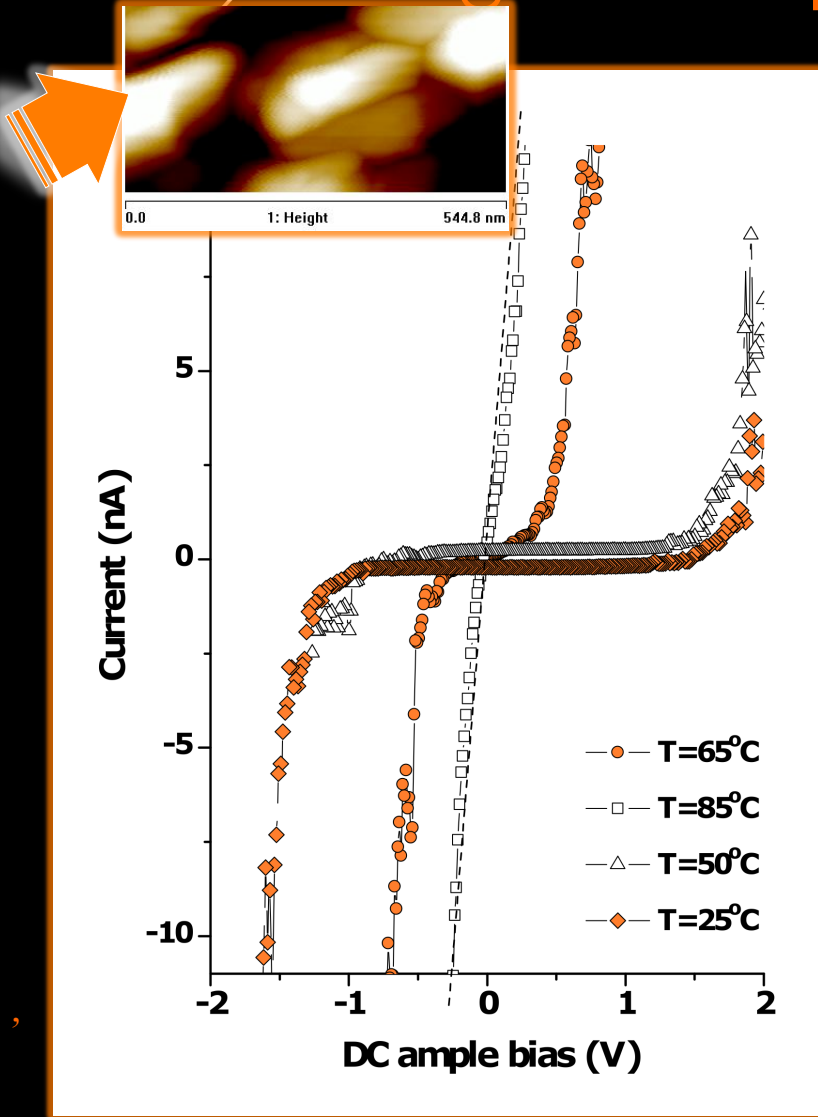
• STM set up

• Mott phase transition in “Single nano-Grains”

• Possible Ultrafast & Tuneable  $\text{VO}_2$  based gating

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

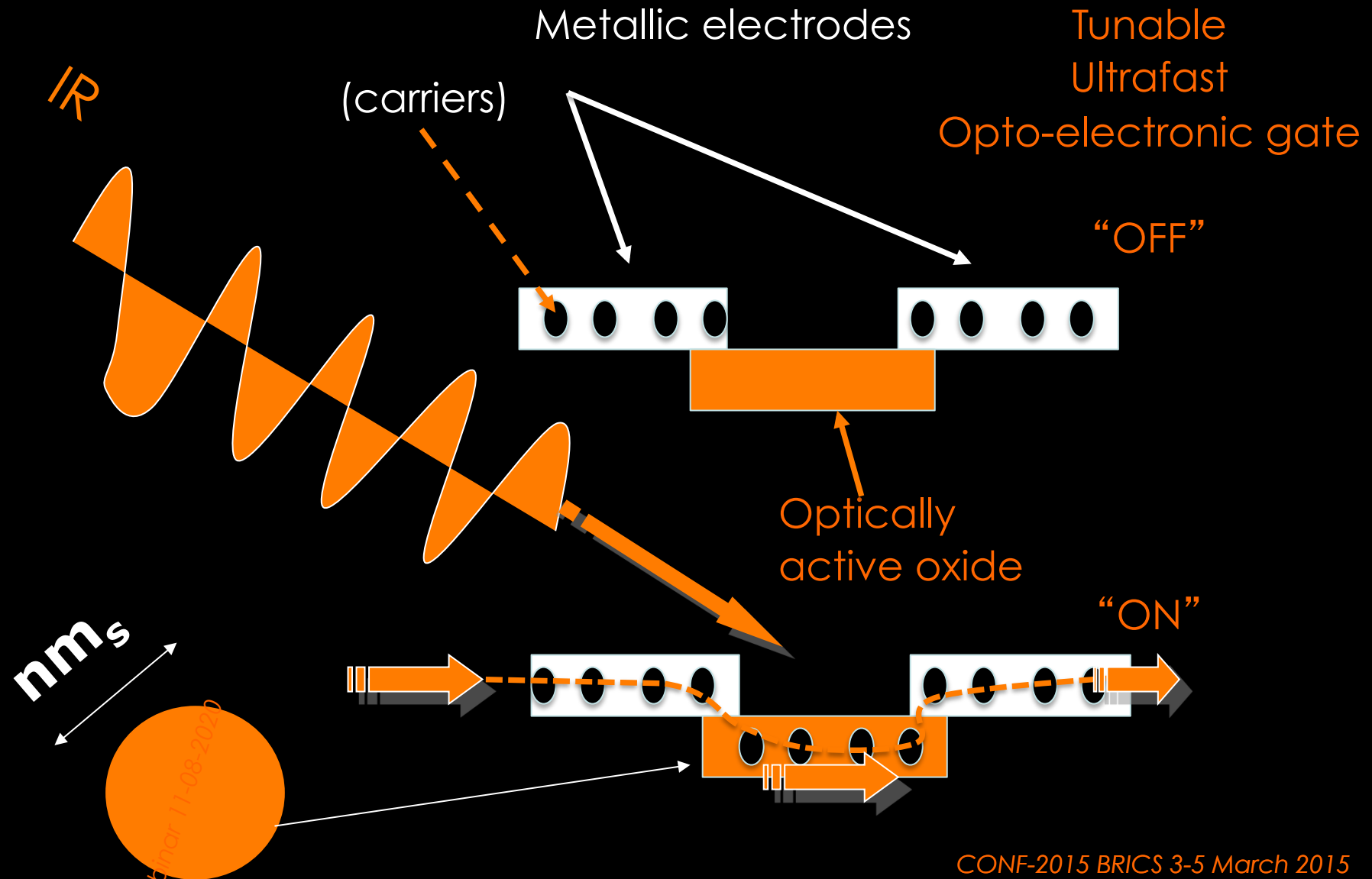
- $\text{VO}_2$  & Single nano-particle ultrafast gating



• **Proof of concept:** J. Nanoparticles Research (2014)

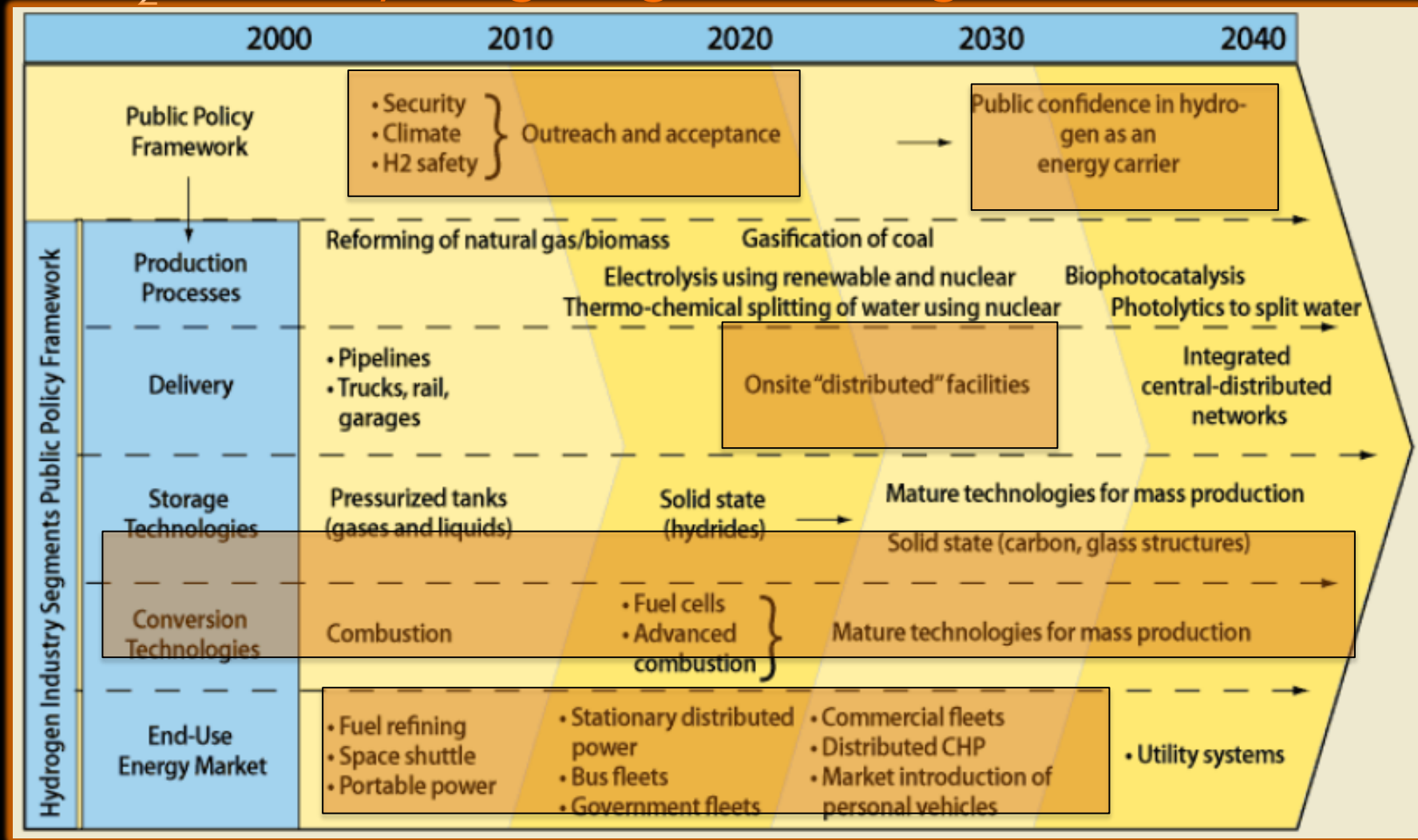
# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & Single nano-particle ultrafast gating



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & RT Hydrogen gas sensing



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## • VO<sub>2</sub> & RT Hydrogen gas sensing

- <sup>45</sup> European Commission, Directorate for Energy and Transport, "Clean Urban Transportation for Europe: Detailed Summary of Achievements," [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/fp6\\_projects/doc/hydrogen/deliverables/summary.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/fp6_projects/doc/hydrogen/deliverables/summary.pdf). (Last visited December 6, 2007.)
- <sup>46</sup> Green Car Congress, "European Commission Adopts 940M Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative," [www.greencarcongress.com/2007/10/european-commis.html](http://www.greencarcongress.com/2007/10/european-commis.html). (Last visited November 16, 2007.)
- <sup>47</sup> Green Car Congress, "Japan Plans to Spend \$1.72 Billion Over 5 Years to Spur Development of Low-Carbon Powertrains and Fuels," [www.greencarcongress.com/2007/05/japan\\_plans\\_to\\_.html](http://www.greencarcongress.com/2007/05/japan_plans_to_.html). (Last visited November 16, 2007.)
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- <sup>51</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, *Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technologies: Transition Strategies*, by Sig Gronich (Washington, D.C., March 8, 2006), [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/transition\\_wkshp\\_strategies2.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/transition_wkshp_strategies2.pdf). (Last visited December 6, 2007.)
- <sup>52</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, *A National Vision of America's Transition to A Hydrogen Economy—to 2030 and Beyond* (Washington D.C. February 2002) p. iii, [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/vision\\_doc.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/vision_doc.pdf) (last visited January 29, 2008.)

Transition to a Hydrogen Economy

Source: U.S. DoE 2006-8, FP5-6, MITI/MEXT-2007

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- $\text{VO}_2$  & RT Hydrogen gas sensing

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS FOR A GAS SENSOR

- **Sensitivity:** Chemical Surface activity
- **Operational Temperature:** Low temp. functionality
- **Detection threshold:** Low threshold of detection
- **Selectivity:** Gas identification

- $\text{H}_2$ : *One of most explosive/ignition mix range with air of all gases with few exceptions; acetylene, silane, ethylene oxide.*

- $\text{H}_2$ : *Odorless and leaks cannot be detected by smell.*



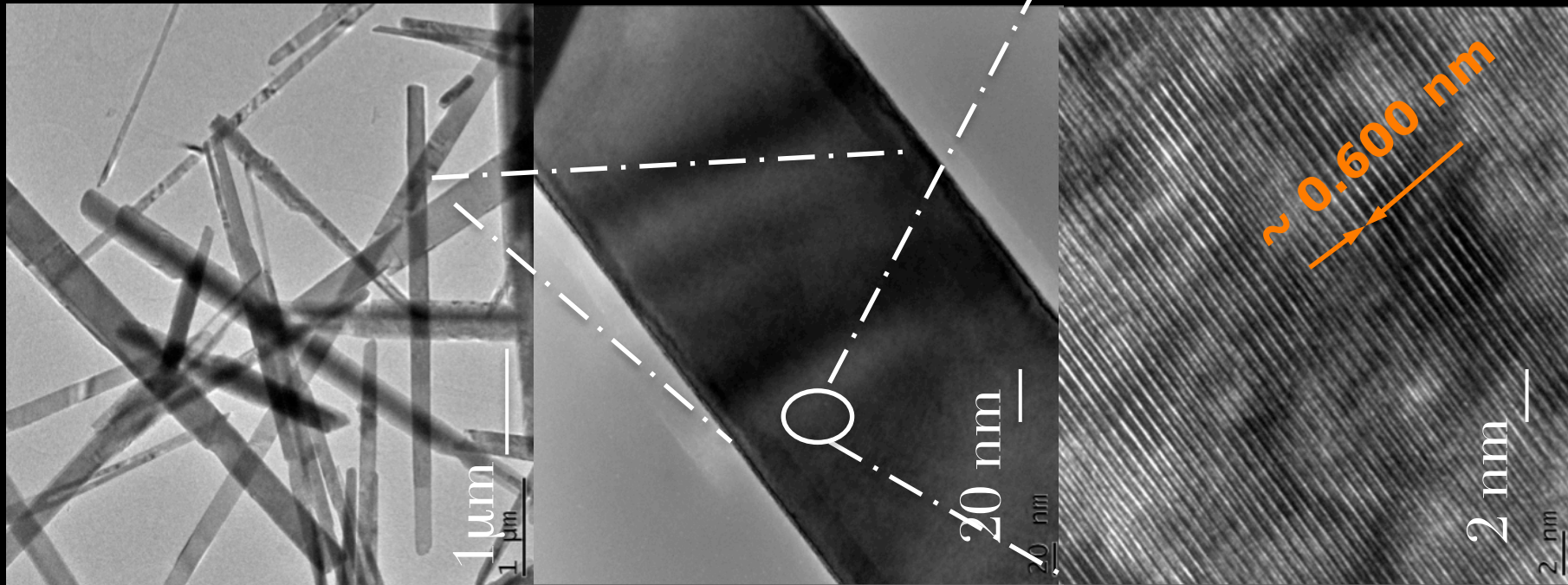
# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

- VO<sub>2</sub> & RT Hydrogen gas sensing

Materials		Target Gas	Lowest detection Concentration	Response/Recovery
SnO <sub>2</sub>	Nanowhiskers	Ethanol H <sub>2</sub>	50 ppm (300 °C, S=23) 10 ppm (300, S=0.4)	N/A 10min N/A
	Single nanowire	H <sub>2</sub> Humidity	100 ppm (2, S=13) RH:30% (30°C, S=1.25)	N/A 120-170s/20-60s
	Nanorods	H <sub>2</sub>	100ppm (150 °C)	N/A
In <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Nanowires	Ethanol	100ppm (370 °C, S≈2)	10s/-20s
		NO <sub>2</sub>	1ppm (250 °C, S=2.57)	N/A
		H <sub>2</sub> S	200ppb (RT)	2-3min/N/A
		Ethanol	5ppm (330 °C, S≈1.84)	6s/11s
	Single NW	H <sub>2</sub> S	1ppm (120 °C)	48s/56s
ZnO	Nanorods	H <sub>2</sub>	500ppm (25 °C)	10min/ N/A
		H <sub>2</sub> S	50ppb (RT, S≈1.7)	N/A
		Ethanol	1ppb (300°C, S≈10)	N/A
		Methanol	50ppm (300 °C, S≈3.2)	N/A
		Ethanol	100ppm (325 °C, S≈20)	N/A
		Single NW	H <sub>2</sub>	200ppm (RT, S≈0.04)
WO <sub>3</sub> nanowires		H <sub>2</sub> S	1ppm (250°C, S≈48)	N/A
		NH <sub>3</sub>	10ppb(room temp.)	N/A
TeO <sub>2</sub> nanowires		NO <sub>2</sub>	10ppm (26 °C)	10min
		NH <sub>3</sub>	10ppm (26 °C)	> 30min
		H <sub>2</sub> S	50ppm (26 °C)	N/A
CuO	nanowires	CO	30ppm (300 °C, S≈0.07)	N/A
		NO <sub>2</sub>	2ppm (300 °C, S≈0.15)	N/A
	nanoribbons	Methanol	5ppm (100 °C, S≈1.4)	2-4s/3-7s
		Ethanol	5ppm (200°C, S≈1.2)	3-6s/4-9s
CdO nanowires		NO <sub>2</sub>	1ppm (100 °C, S≈0.27)	N/A

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## –Mott nano-scaled oxides

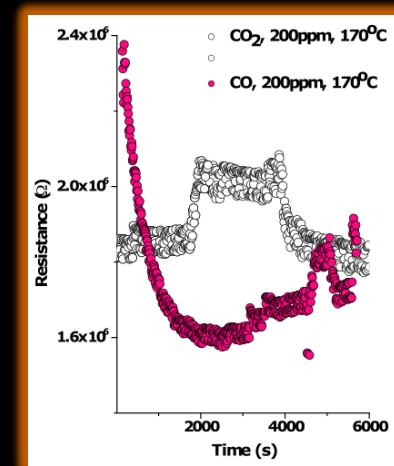
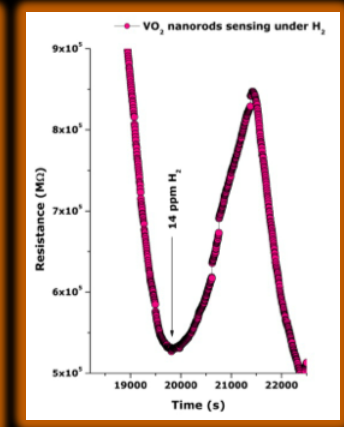
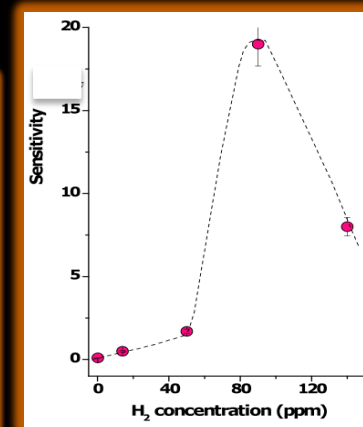
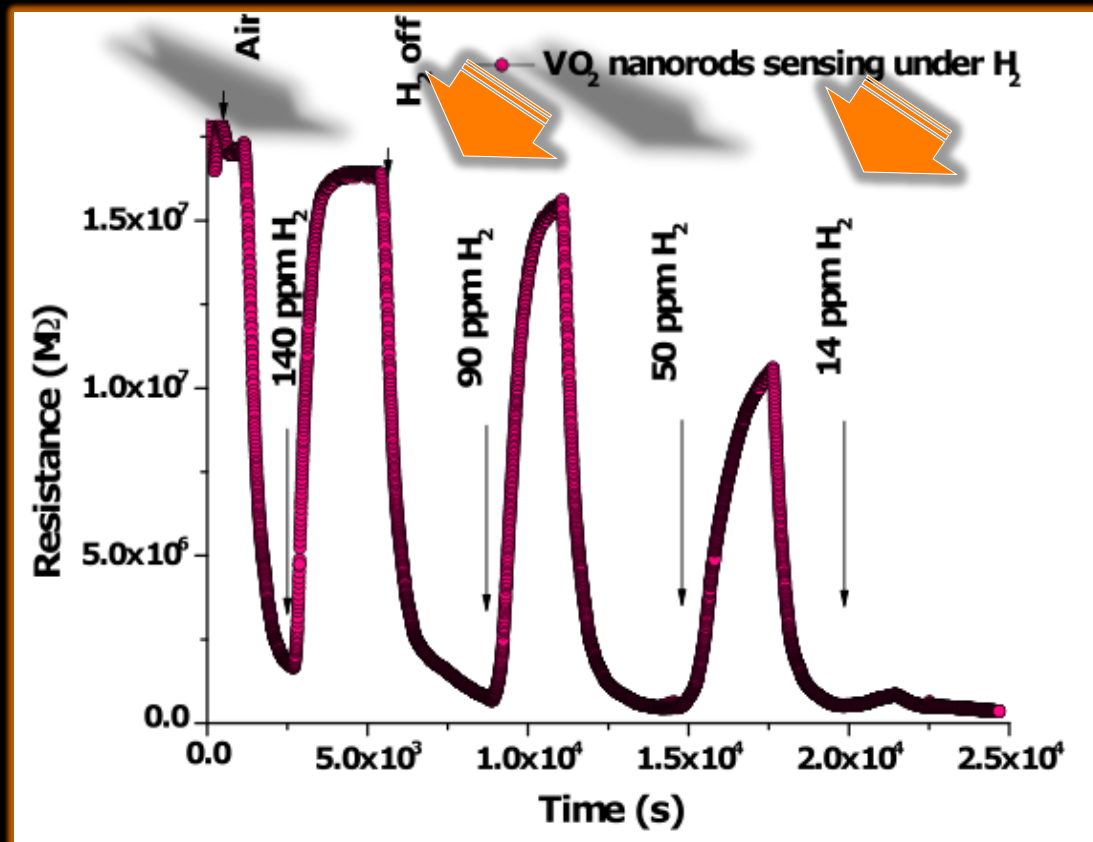


- Nanobelts: 20-150 nm in the transversal direction & a length  $\geq 20 \mu\text{m}$  with a thickness less than 10 nm.
- $\text{VO}_2$  (A): specific interspacing  $d_{(011)} \sim 0.600 \text{ nm}$ .

# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## -Mott nano-scaled oxides

- Different H<sub>2</sub> partial pressures equivalent to 140, 90, 50, 14, 0.17 ppm of H<sub>2</sub> (N<sub>2</sub> carrier): Standard gas sensing BUT at RT.
- Average response time are ~840, 890, 1080, 1020, 1050s for 140, 90, 50, 14 and 0.17 ppm of H<sub>2</sub> respectively.



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

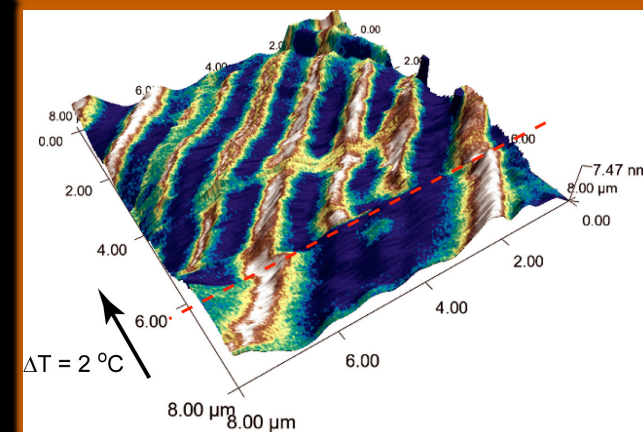
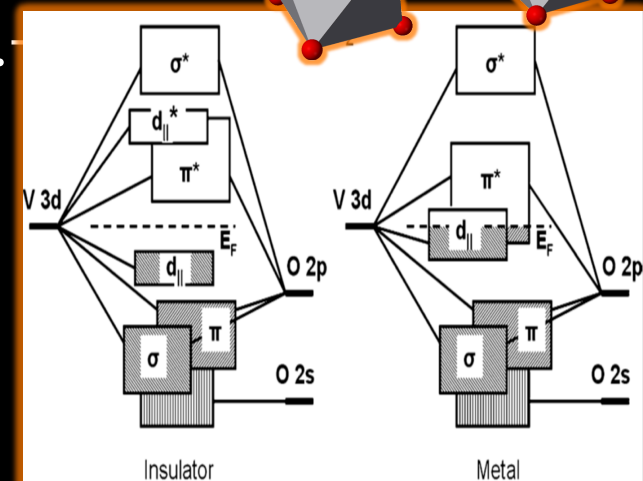
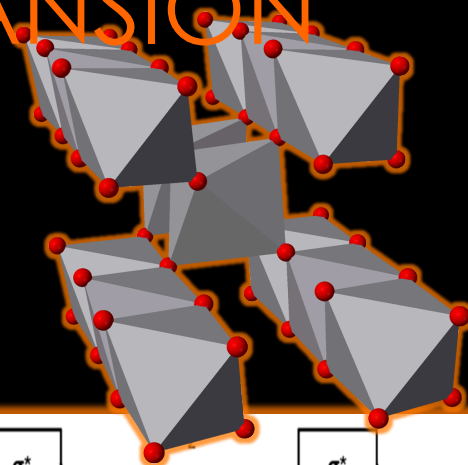
## MULTI-VALENCE OXIDES: $\text{VO}_2$

### Phase Diagram

- V has abundant oxidation states: 0, ...
- Large binary :  $\text{VO}_{2+x}$  ( $-0.5 \leq x \leq 0.5$ ),
- $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{V}_3\text{O}_7$ ,  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_9$ ,  $\text{V}_6\text{O}_{13}$ ,  $\text{VO}_2$ ,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ ,

### $\text{VO}_2$ :

- Polymorphic system
- $\text{VO}_2$  (A),  $\text{VO}_2$  (B),  $\text{VO}_2$  (M),  $\text{VO}_2$  (R)
- Active/non active phases.
- Stress controlled
- $\text{VO}_2$  (M-R)



# NANO: MOTT PHASE TRANSITION

## -Mott nano-scaled oxides

### The O-V (Oxygen-Vanadium) System\*

By H.A. Wriedt  
Consultant

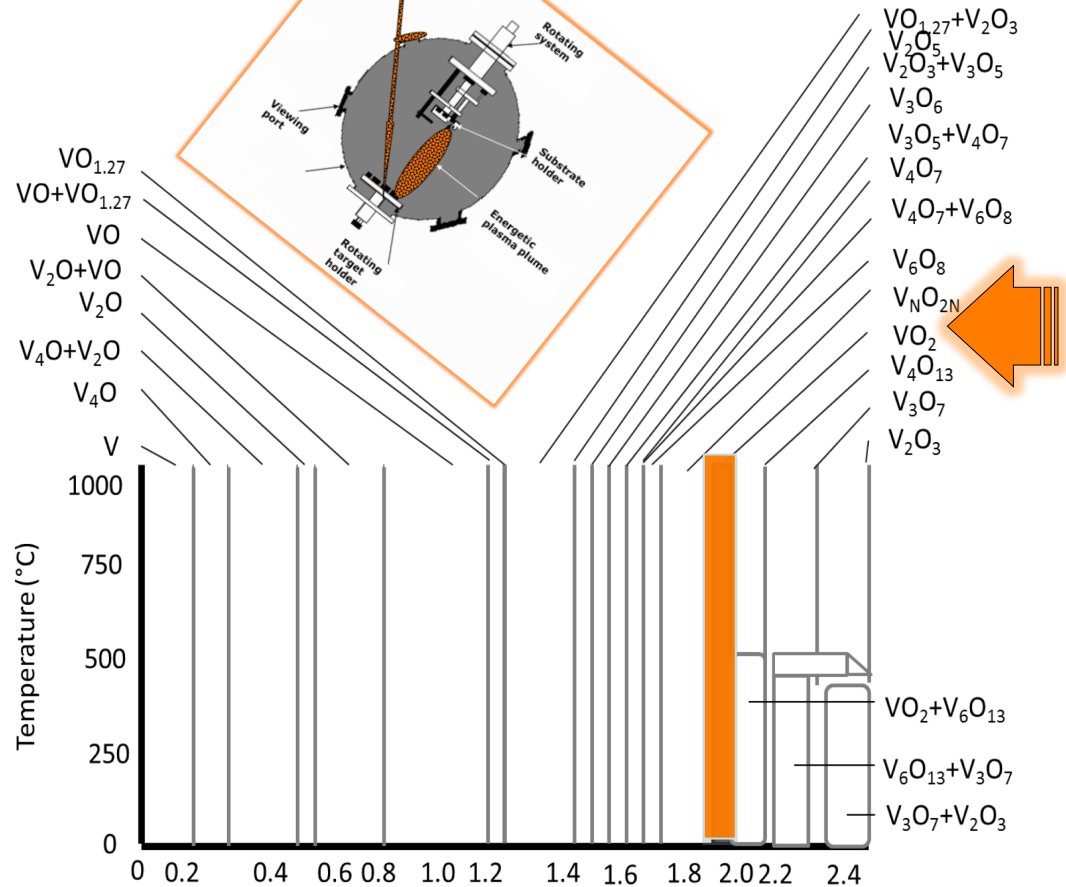
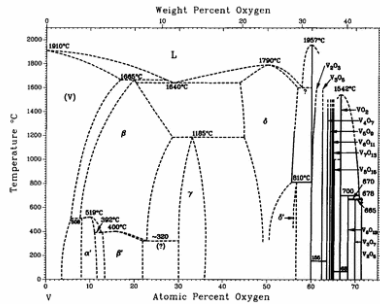
#### Equilibrium Diagram

The equilibrium solid phases of the V-O system at 0.1 MPa hydrostatic pressure are (1) the bcc terminal solid solution, (V); (2) bct  $\alpha'$ ; (3) bct  $\beta$ ; (4) bct  $\beta'$ ; (5) monoclinic  $\gamma$ ; (6) fcc  $\delta$ ; (7) bct  $\delta'$ ; (8)  $V_2O_3$ , with rhombohedral and monoclinic forms above and below  $-112^\circ\text{C}$ ; (9)  $V_3O_5$ , with different monoclinic forms above and below  $+155^\circ\text{C}$ ; (10) the triclinic  $V_4O_{13}$ ; (11)  $VO_2$ , with tetragonal  $\beta$  and monoclinic  $\alpha$  forms above and below  $+68^\circ\text{C}$ ; (12)  $V_6O_{13}$ , with different monoclinic forms above and below  $-124^\circ\text{C}$ ; (13) monoclinic  $V_3O_7$ ; and (14) orthorhombic  $V_2O_3$ . Numerous alternative designations to those adopted occur in the literature. Most solid phases exhibit detectable composition ranges, except for  $V_3O_5$ , the Magnéli phases,  $V_6O_{13}$ , and  $V_3O_7$ , where the breadths are on the order of the experimental uncertainties. The ranges in  $VO_2$  and  $V_2O_5$  are also very narrow. Among the many other phases reported, most are either unconfirmed or demonstrably unstable. The established phases  $V_3O_{17}$  and  $V_4O_9$  might be marginally stable, but they are omitted from the assessed V-O phase diagram (Fig. 1).

The pioneer draftings of the V-O phase diagram—[53Sev] and [57Bur] below and above 60 at.% O, respectively—incorporated both long-known and then recently discovered phases: (V),  $\beta$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $V_2O_3$ ,  $V_3O_5$ ,  $V_nO_{2n-1}$  Magnéli,  $VO_2$ ,  $V_6O_{13}$ , and  $V_2O_5$ . Major revisions followed. Phases were deleted (“ $\alpha$ ” of [53Sev]) or added by [55Ros] ( $\gamma$ ), by [66Tod] ( $V_3O_7$ , discovered by [66Tud]), by [70Hen] ( $\alpha'$ , discovered by [69Cam]), by [71Bel] ( $\delta'$ , discovered by [42Kle]), and by [74Hir] ( $\beta'$ , discovered by [73Hir]). The phase relationships and invariant equilibria depicted in the assessed diagram (Fig. 1), which incorporates all of these phases, were derived primarily below 55 at.% O from the diagram of [71Ale] (modified by detail from [71Bel] and [75Hir2]) and above 67 at.% O from [66Tod] (modified by detail from [80Vas]). Between 55 and 67 at.% O, the main influence was the [66Kac] diagram. Table 1 lists the known phase transformations and invariant equilibria.

\*Unabridged version of this assessment can be found in *Phase Diagrams of Binary Vanadium Alloys*, Monograph Series on Alloy Phase Diagrams, by J.F. Smith, published by ASM INTERNATIONAL, July 1989.

Fig. 1 Assessed V-O Phase Diagram (Condensed System, 0.1 MPa)



- V-O has abundant crystallographic states
- $VO_2$  Narrow P-T-% range: Challenging synthesis
- Targeted  $VO_2$  M-R active phase: PLD

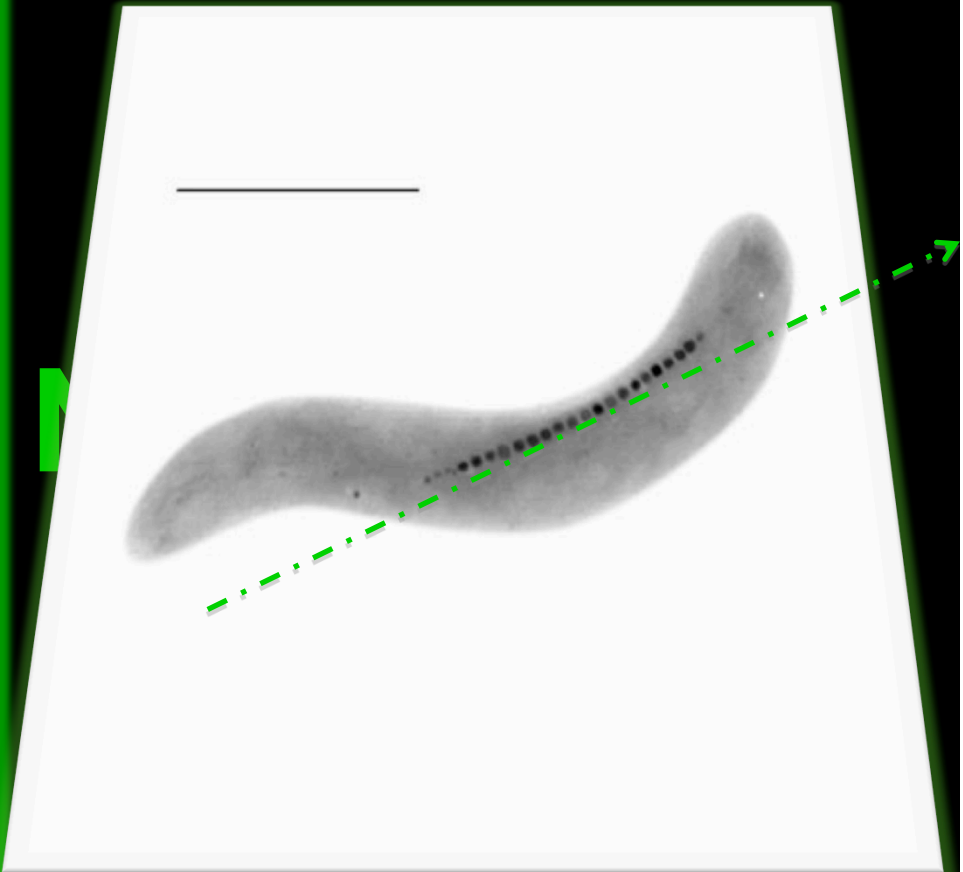
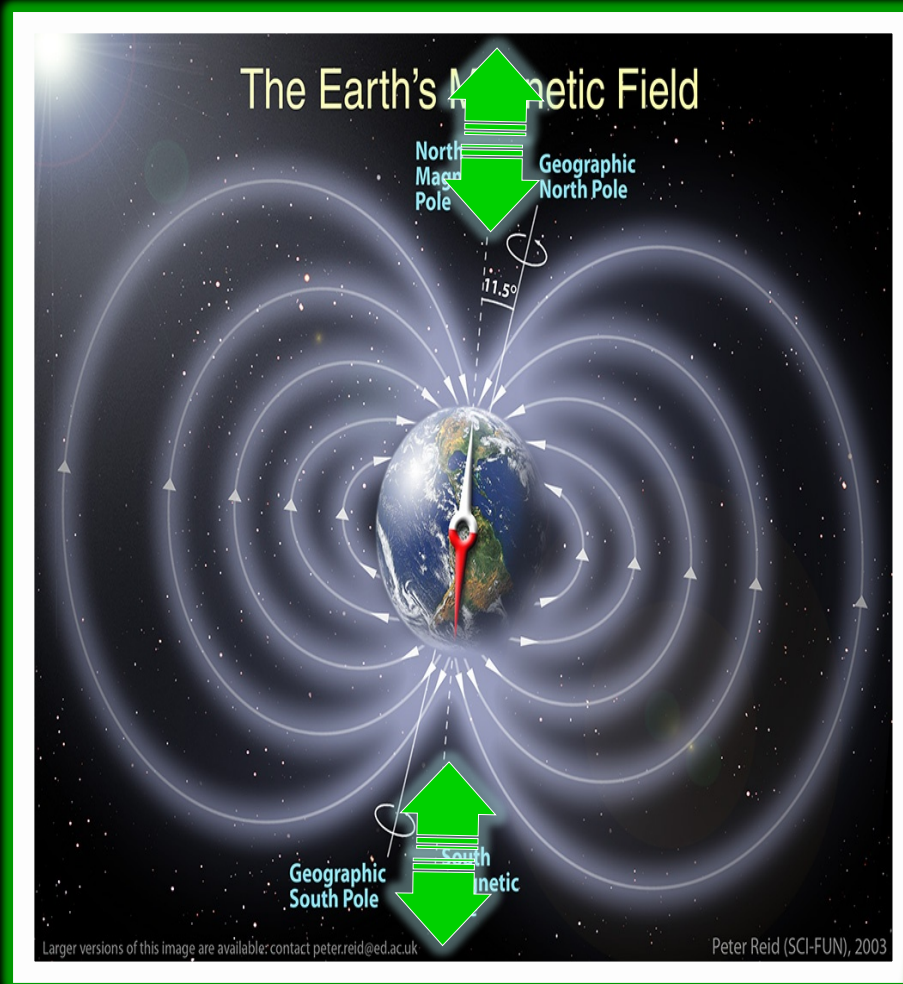
# NANO-3: NANO IN NATURE



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(South Africa)

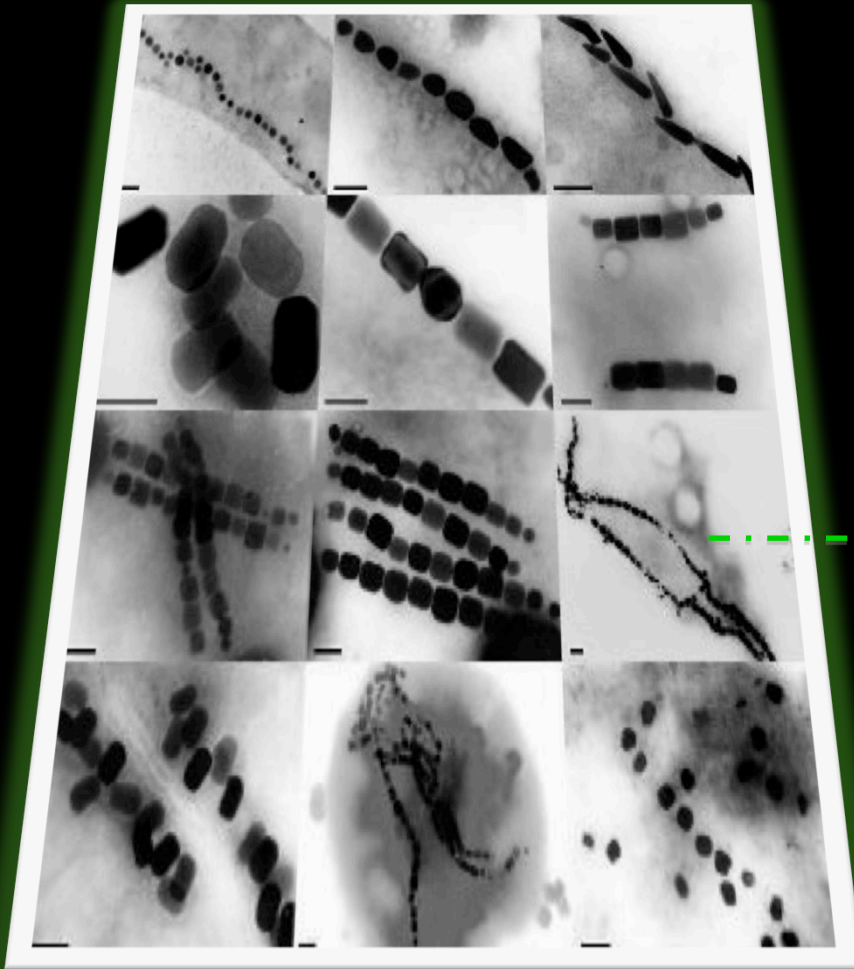


# NANO IN NATURE: NATURAL NANO-FACTORIES



Magnetostatic Bacteria  
-Marine Spirillum Strain MV4

# NANO IN NATURE: NATURAL NANO-FACTORIES



50 nm  
↔

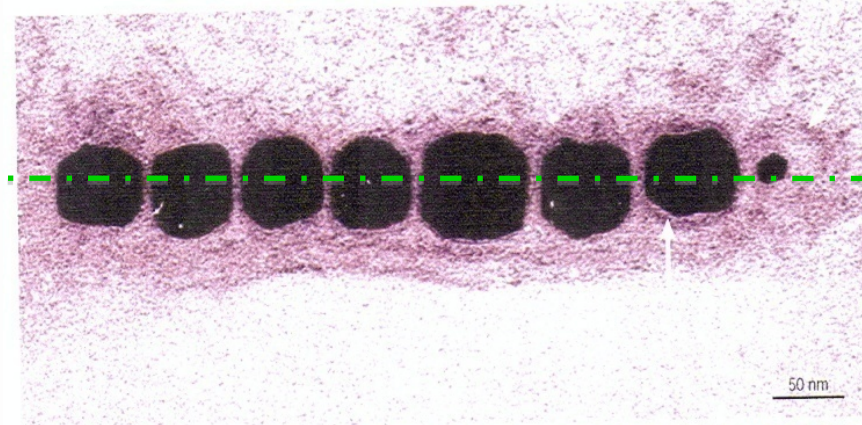
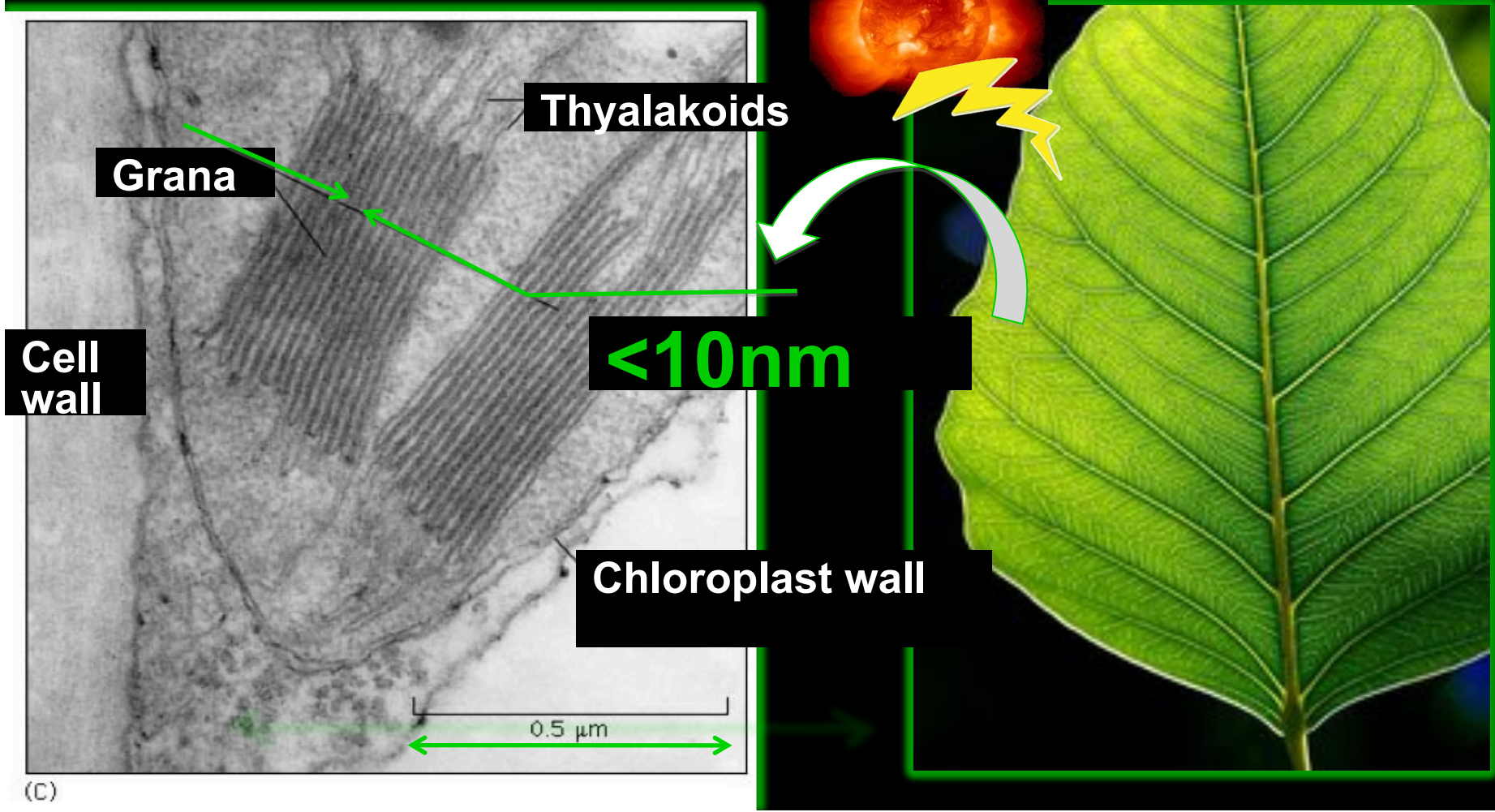
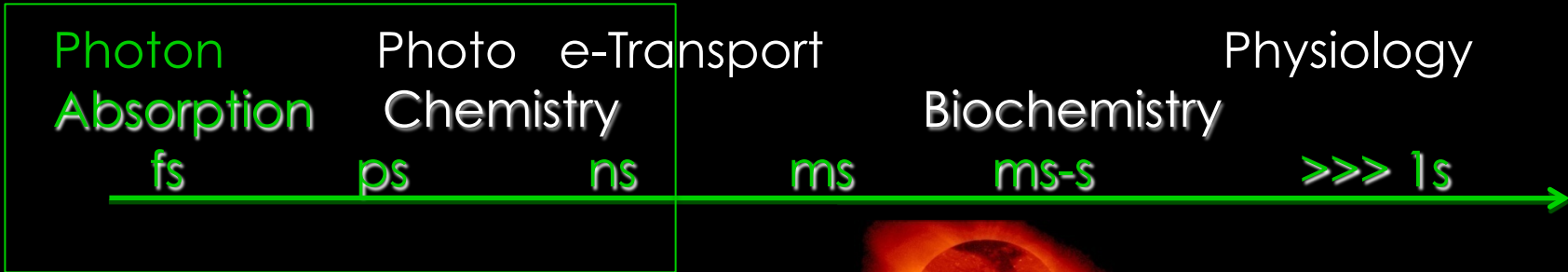


Figure 5 | Transmission electron micrograph of a thin section of a magnetosome chain in a cell of the marine spirillum strain MV-4. The magnetosome membrane is shown as an electron-dense coating surrounding the magnetite crystals. The membrane seems to be pulled away from the crystal at the long arrow, and the short arrow indicates a partially filled magnetosome vesicle. The magnetosome membrane is often difficult to visualize around all the magnetite particles owing to its close proximity to the crystal. Sometimes, the thin section must be tilted in the electron beam. Immature magnetite crystals are often observed at the ends of the chain in magnetotactic bacteria. Image courtesy of T. J. Beveridge.

Magnetostatic Bacteria  
-(100)  $\text{FeS}_2$  or (111)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nano-crystals



# NANO IN NATURE: NAT. PHOTOSYNTHESIS



(C)

# NANO IN NATURE: NAT. PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Photon  
Absorption  
fs

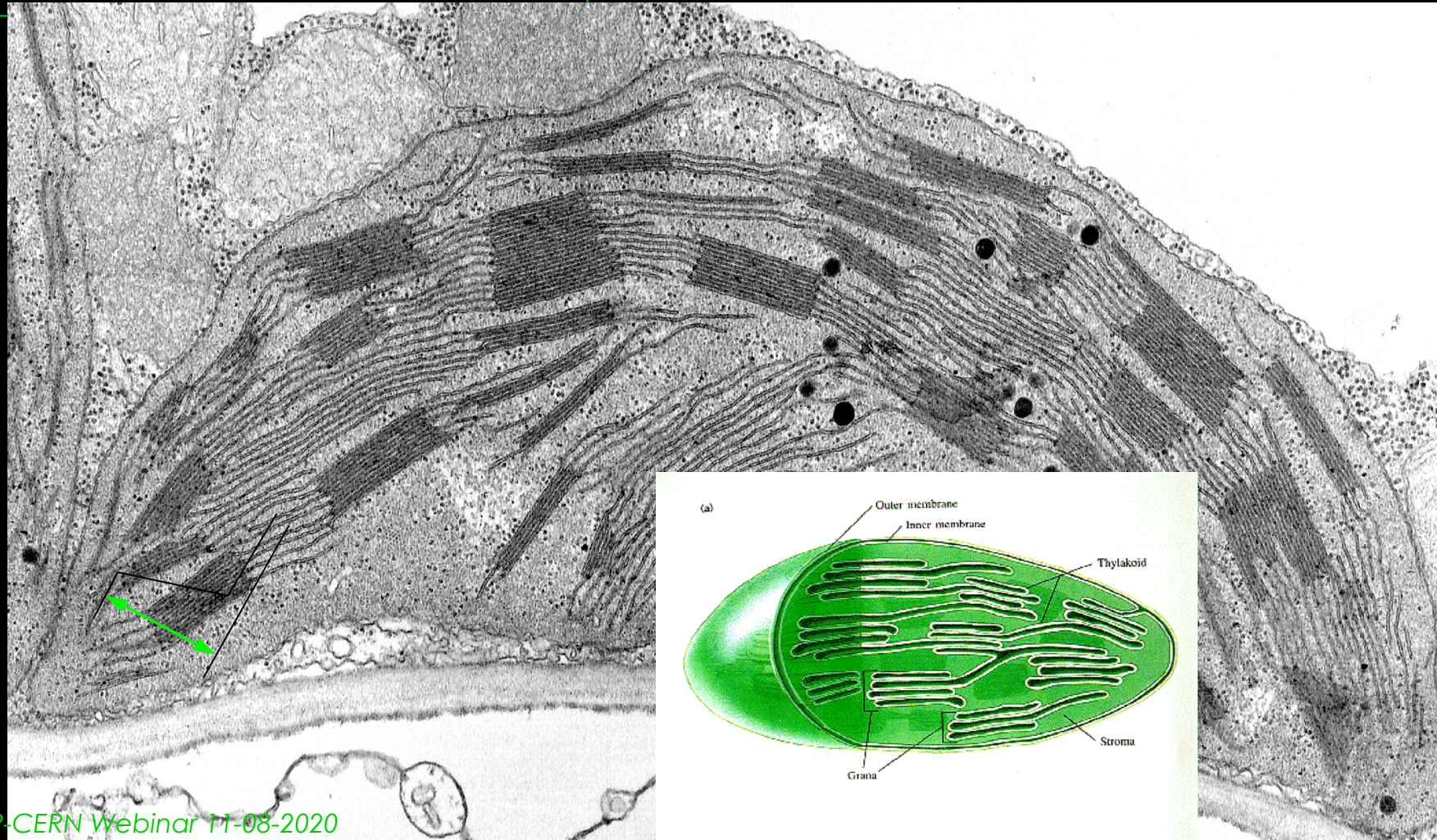
Photo  
Chemistry  
ps

e-Transport  
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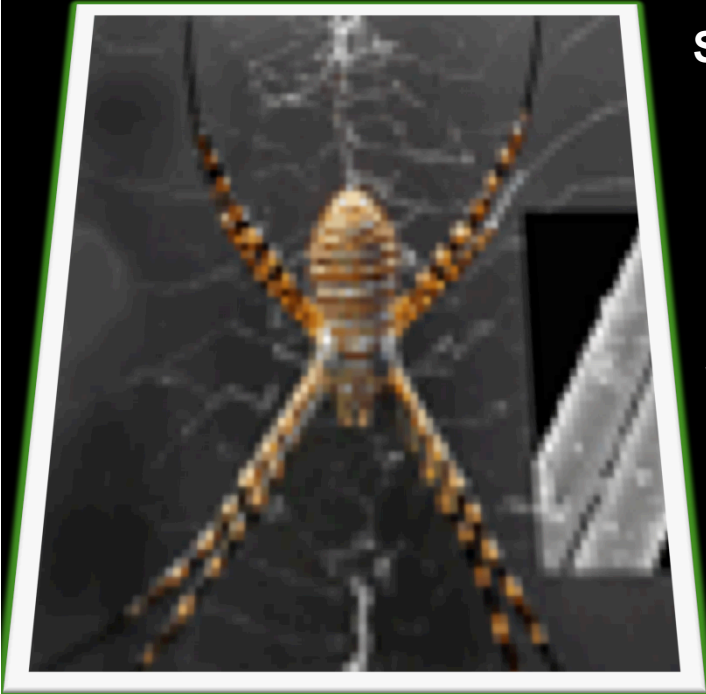
ms

Biochemistry  
ms-s

Physiology  
>>> 1s



# U2ACN2: NANO IN NATURE



## Spider Silk

**Argiope trifasciata**

1.3

1-10

1.2

30

100

**Nephila clavipes**

1.3

1-10

1.8

30

130

## Silkworm

**Bombyx mori**

1.3

5

0.6

12

50

**Nylon 6.6**

1.1

5

0.9

18

80

**Kevlar 49**

1.4

130

3.6

3

50

**PBO**

1.6

270

5.8

3

70

**Steel**

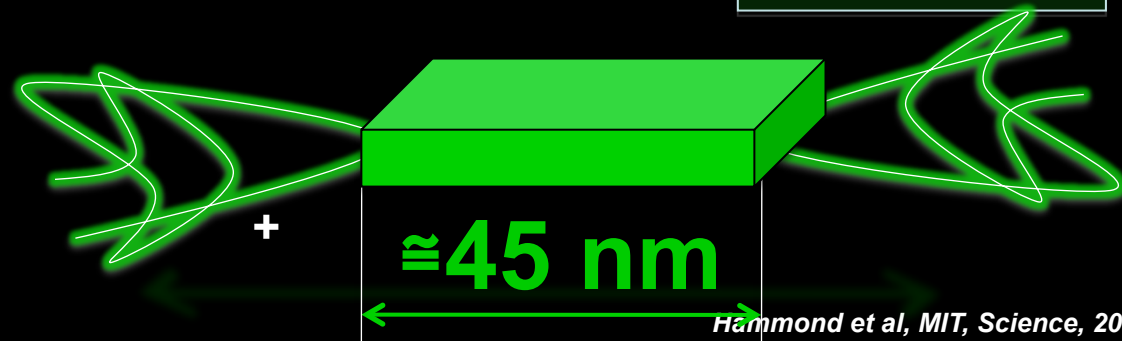
7.8

200

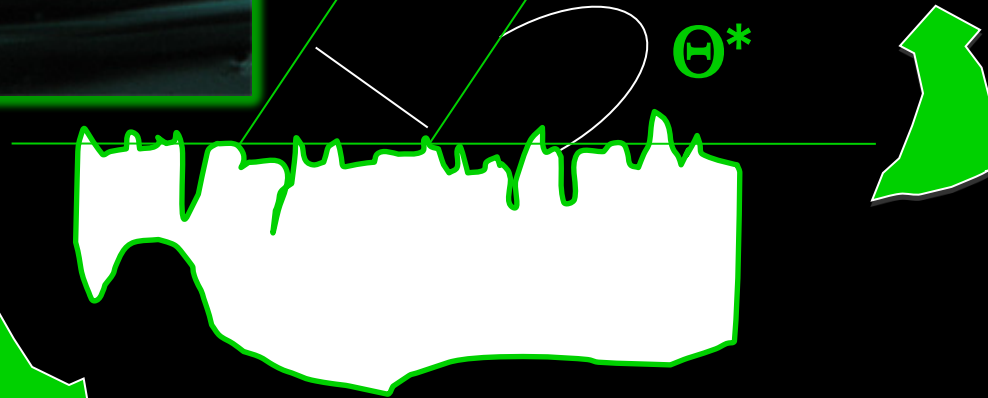
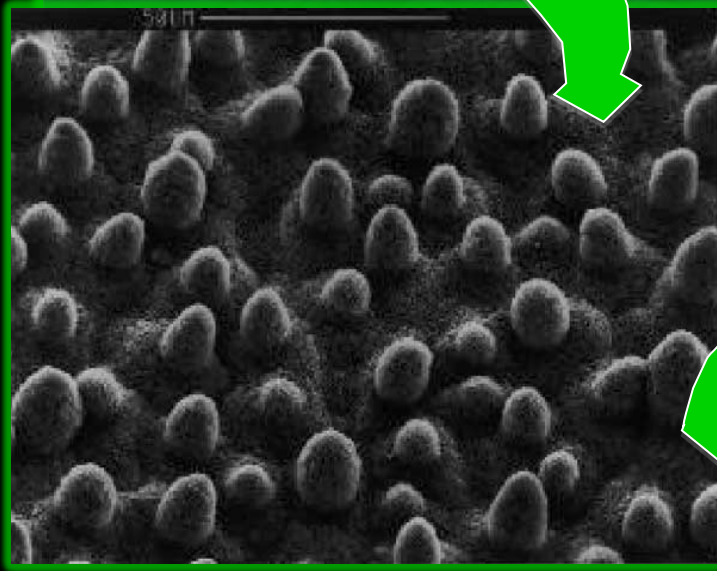
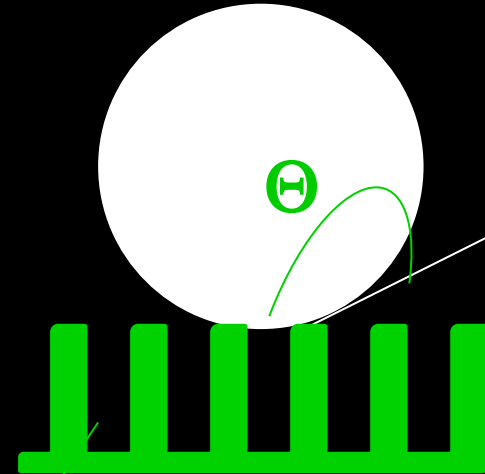
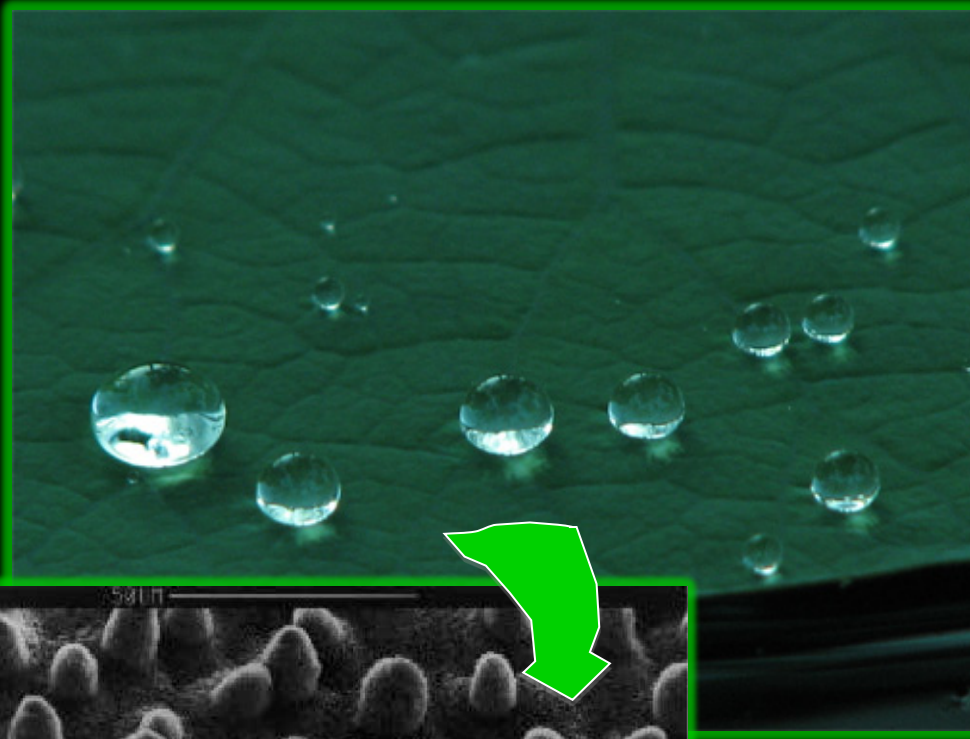
3.0

2

6



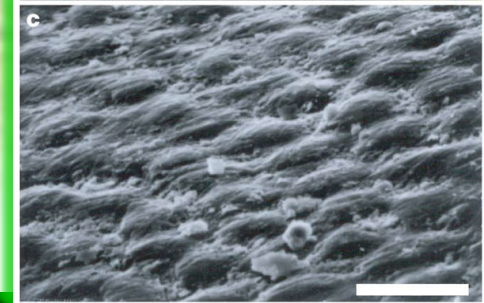
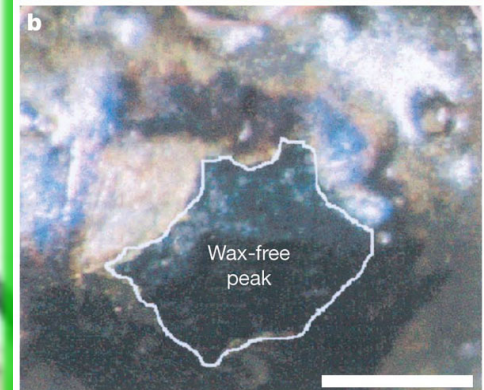
# NANO IN NATURE: LEAVE' SURF. TENSION



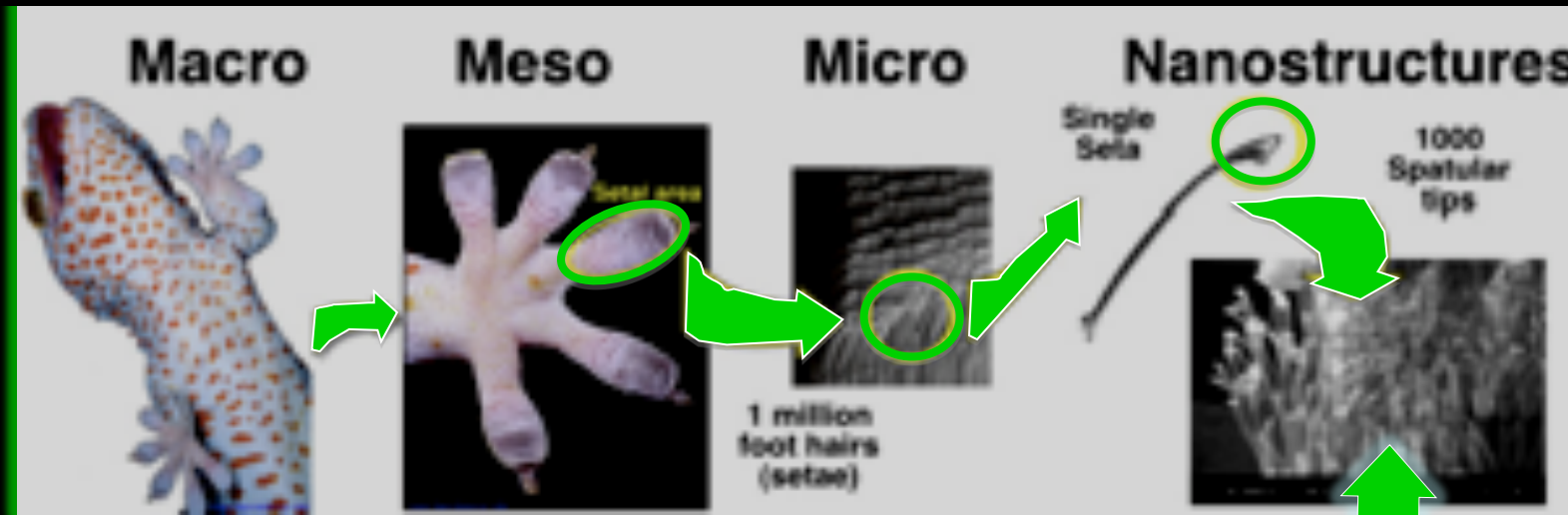
$$\cos\Theta^* = f_1 \cos\Theta_1 + f_2 \cos\Theta_2$$

40 nm

# NANO APPLICATIONS: SURFACE TENSION TUNABILITY



# NANO IN NATURE: GECKO ADHESIVE SYST.

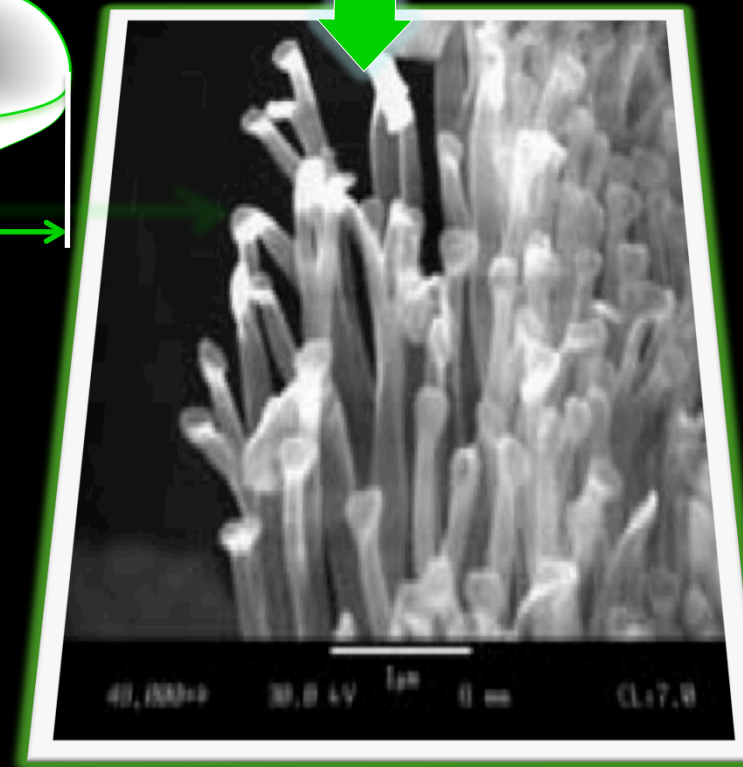
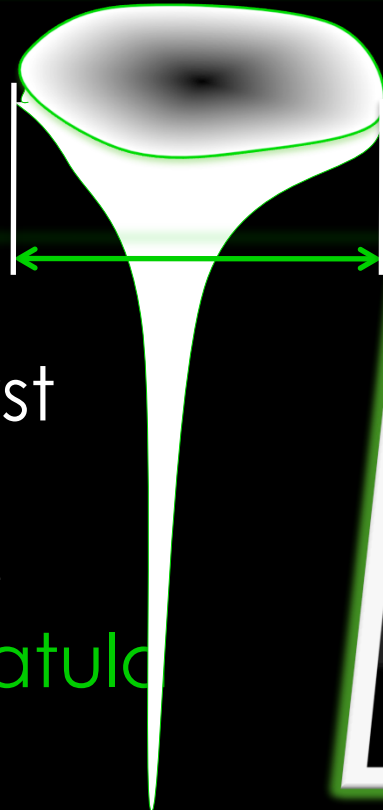


$\approx 250 \text{ nm}$

-Gecko's adhesion syst  
& Van der Waals.

-m-elastic hairs: Setae

Setae: nano-fibers  
Spatula



# Acknowledgments

- UNESCO & IAEA.
- UNISA (University of South Africa),
- National Research Foundation of South Africa, Pretoria-South Africa.
- iThemba LABS, Western Cape-South Africa.
- DAAD.
- Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste-Italy.
- Department of Science & Technology of South Africa, Pretoria-South Africa.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Roma-Italy.
- Science & Technology Directorate, French Embassy, Pretoria-South Africa.
- ELETTRA Synchrotron Facility, Trieste-Italy
- African Laser Centre, Pretoria-South Africa.
- African Union-Science & Technology Commission, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.
- Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Trieste-Italy.
- Organization of Women in Science for the Developing World, Trieste-Italy.
- International Centre for Science & Technology-UNIDO, Trieste-Italy.
- Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique, Paris-France.
- The EU-FP7 ICPCNANONET, Brussels-Belgium.
- The National Institute for Materials Sciences NIMS, Tsukuba-Japan.
- Nelson Mandela African University of Science & Technology, Abuja-Nigeria.
- I' Oreal-UNESCO Foundation, Paris-France.
- University of South Africa.
- Islamic Academy of Sciences, Amman-Jordan.



# THANK YOU, NDIALIVUHA CHUKRAN, MERCI, DANKE



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Educational, Scientific and  
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