

# Solar Cells

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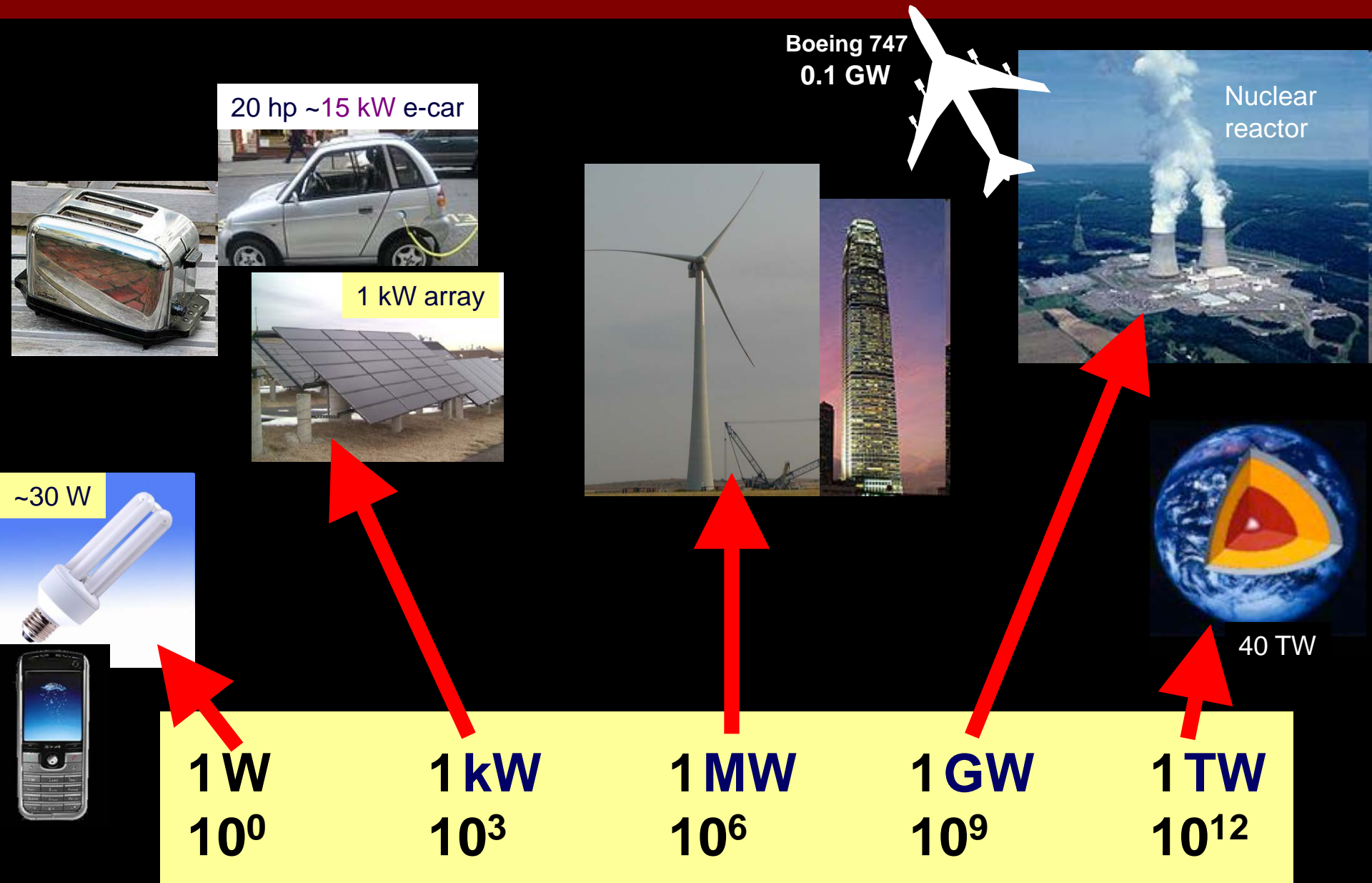
# World Energy Consumption

	2012	2050
People:	7 bil	12 bil
Energy:	15 TW	30 TW

~3 kW / person

# What is **Watt** ?

We will need ~**30 TW** in 2050



20 hp ~15 kW e-car

Boeing 747  
0.1 GW

Nuclear reactor

1 kW array

~30 W

40 TW

**1 W**  
 $10^0$

**1 kW**  
 $10^3$

**1 MW**  
 $10^6$

**1 GW**  
 $10^9$

**1 TW**  
 $10^{12}$

# Can we use only **nuclear power** ??

We will need **~30 TW** in 2050



One reactor ~1 GW

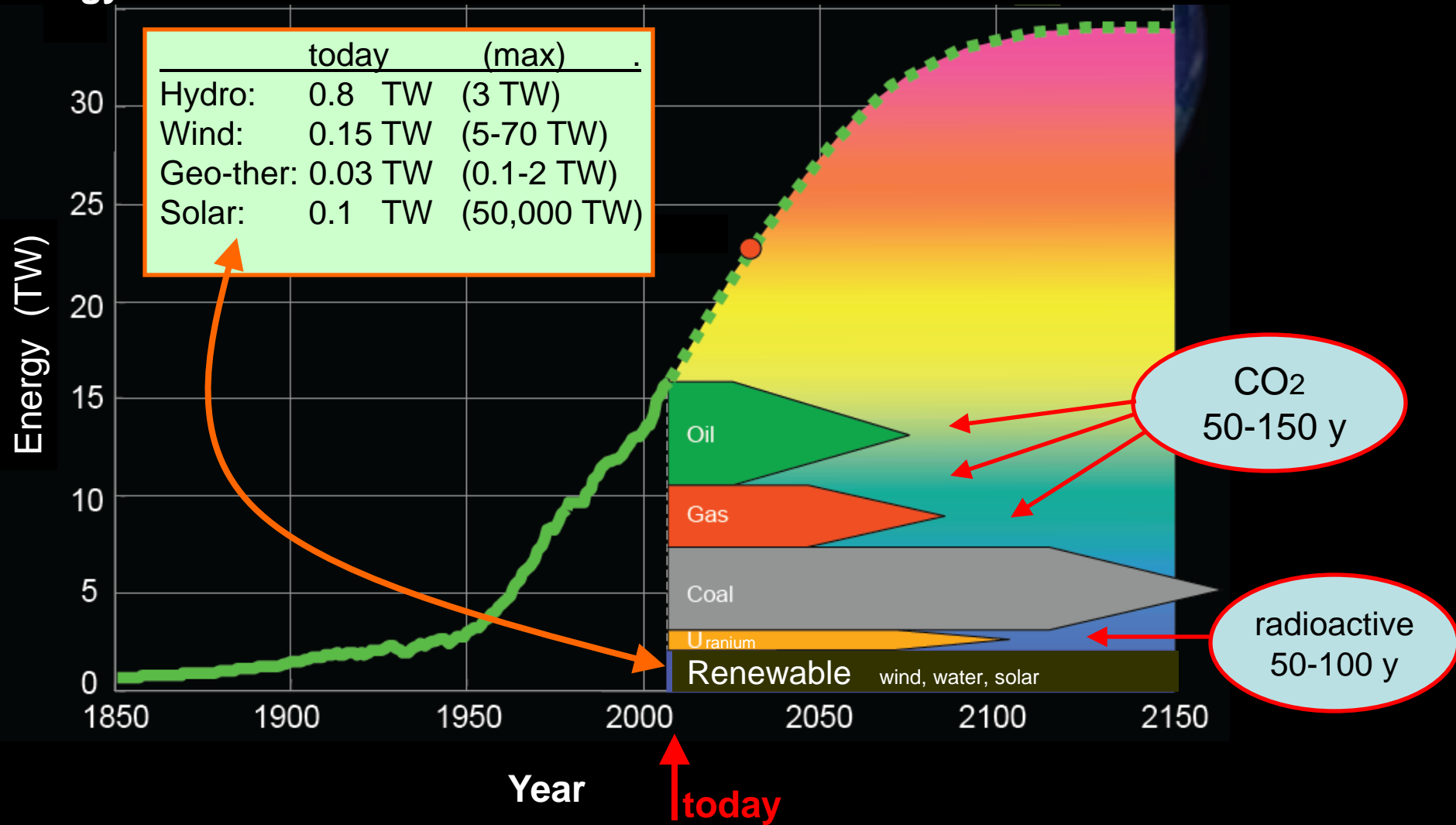
**~30,000 nuclear reactors**  
(today ~450 reactors)

..... 2 new reactors **every day** over 40y !!

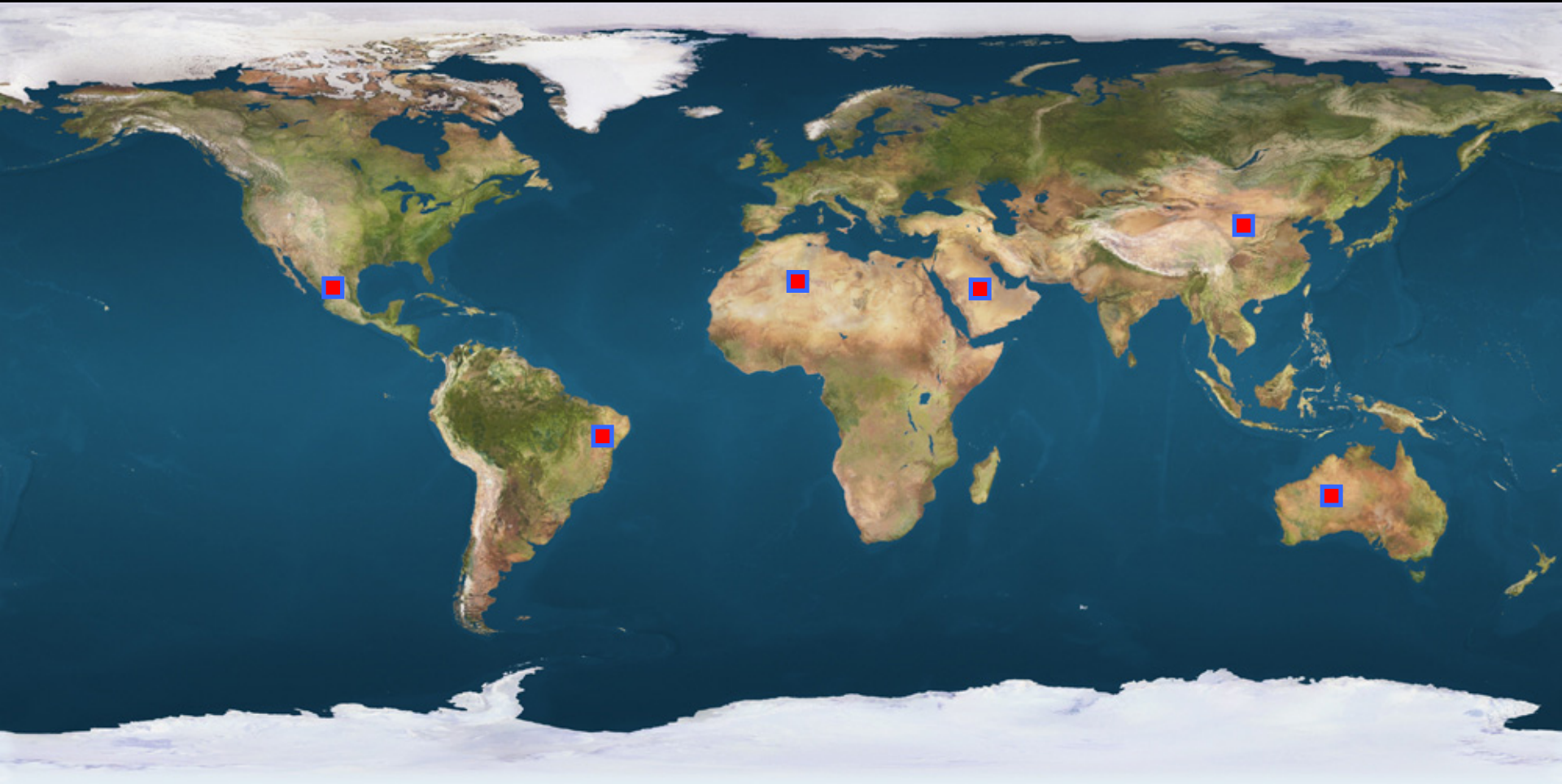
# Different alternatives

We will need ~30 TW in 2050

## Energy in TW



# Required land area



Six power plants can cover our need:  
500 x 500 km<sup>2</sup> each

Problem is distribution, losses and storage

Average sunlight power:  
~1 kW/m<sup>2</sup>

# 3 types of solar-energy technologies

1. **Solar-thermal**  
heat water



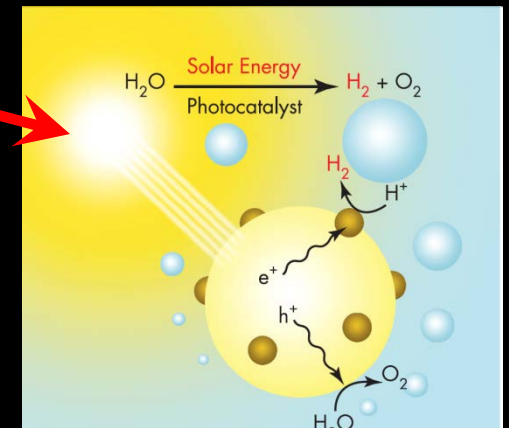
Power tower in California: 10 MW  
Steam engine

2. **Solar-chemical**  
H<sub>2</sub> from split of water

3. **Solar-electricity**  
photovoltaics  
or solar cells



~5 kW roof top system



mimic photo-catalyst reaction

# What will each person need in 2050 ?



Sunlight power:  $\sim 1 \text{ kW/m}^2$

Each person  $\sim 3 \text{ kW}$   
that is,  $\sim 3 \text{ m}^2$  solar cell

**In addition, we need  
energy storage, ie, batteries !**



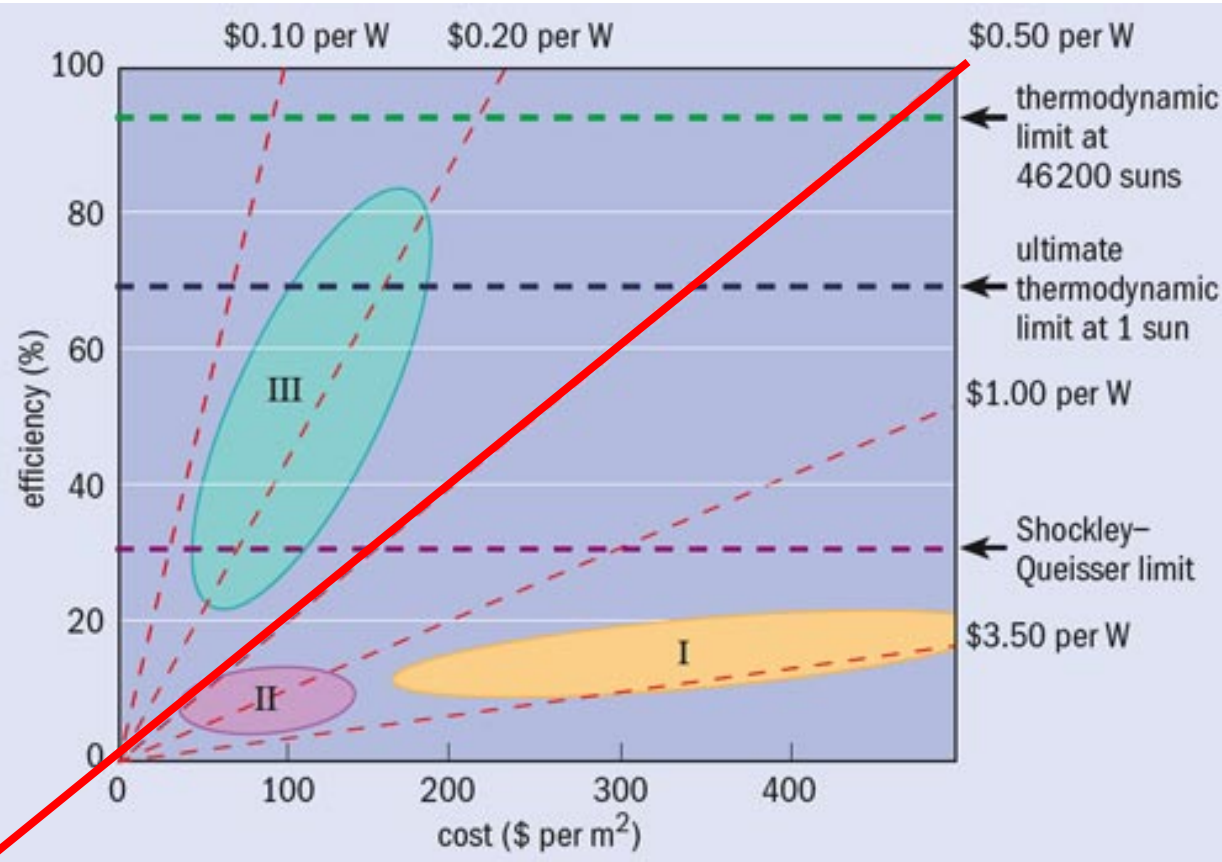
# 3rd/4th Generation of Photovoltaic Cells

## Low-cost and high-efficient solar-cell modules

- High device efficiency:  $n = \text{output electric power} / \text{input sunlight}$
- Low material costs
- Low degradation => Longer life-time of the solar cell panels
- Cost-efficient processing, manufacturing, development, handling
- Low installation costs
  
- Earth-abundant materials
- Non-toxic elements
- Environment friendly production

# 3rd generation solar cells

Martin Green, 3rd Generation PV,  
Springer-Verlag, Berlin, (2003).

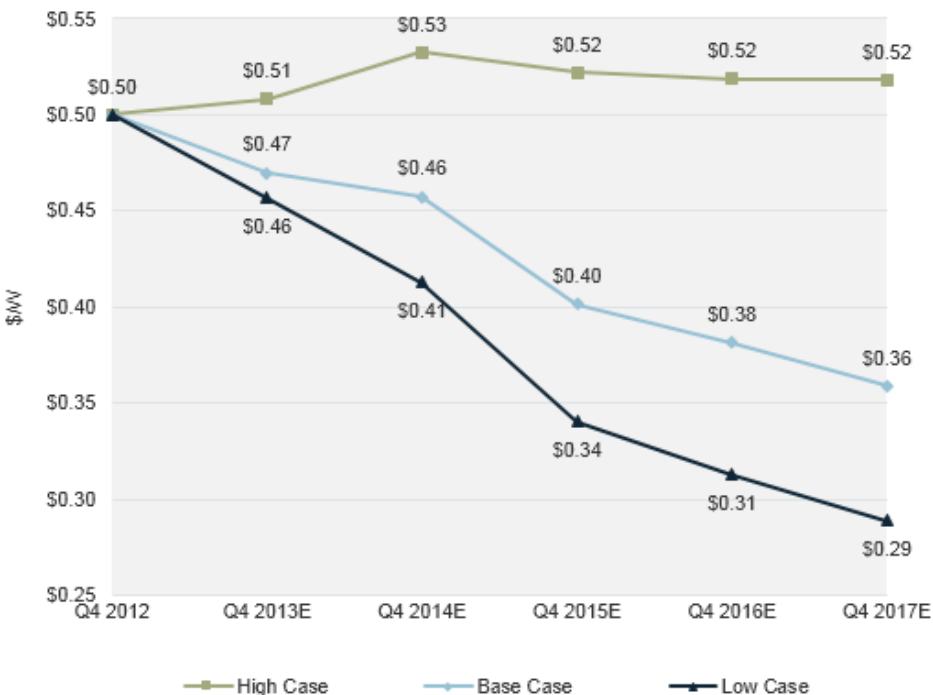


- Material cost
- Handling
- Processing
- Fabrication
- Packing
- Installation

- Efficiency
  - Thinner (lower material costs)
  - Crystal and device stability
- => better lifetime  
(cost to replace)

# Module Cost Outlook: 36 cents/W in 2017

## Cost \$/Watt

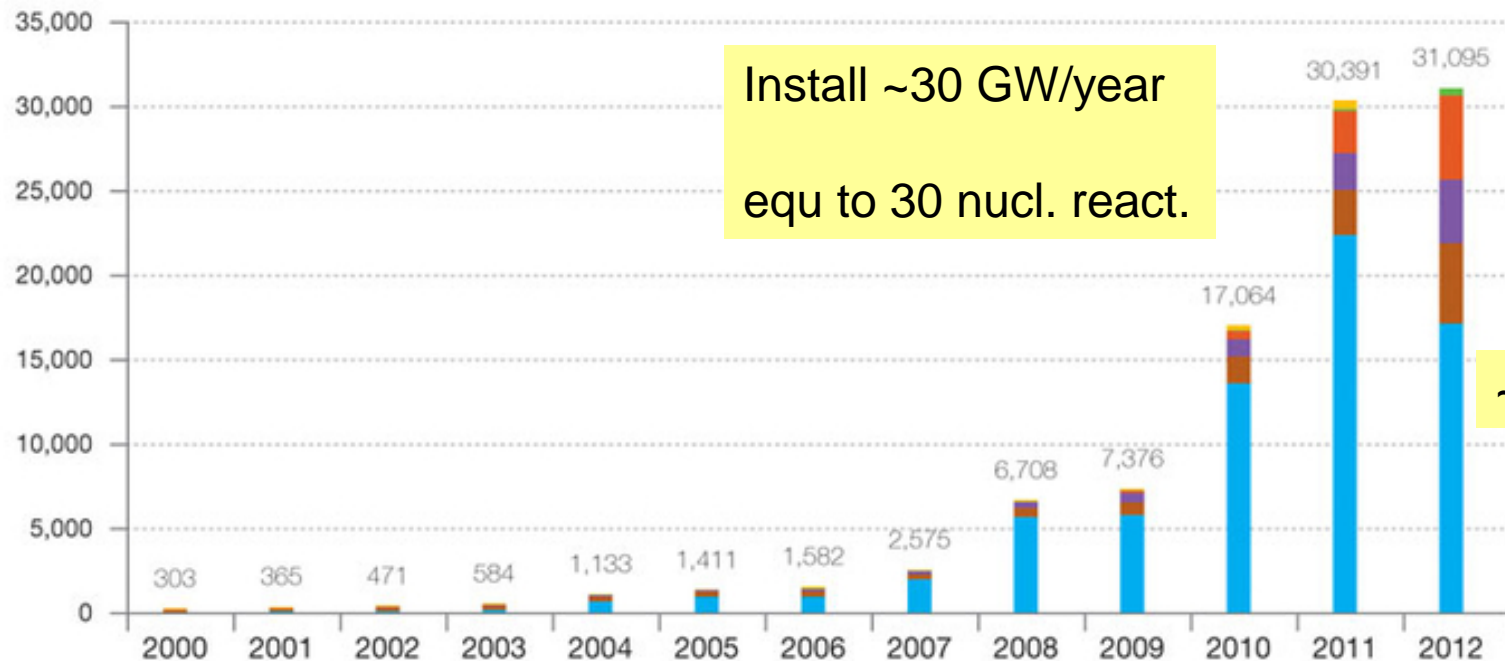


GTM Research, June 2013

Source: PV Technology and Cost Outlook, 2013-2017

Primary Category	Secondary Category	Historical Trend (2009-2012)	Base Case Forecast (2013-2017)
Technology Parameters	Conversion Efficiency (Module)	Average increase of 0.2% absolute per year	0.2% annual increase through 2017 to 16.2%
	Wafer Thickness	180 micron (2009-2012)	Drops to 160 micron in 2015
	Kerf (Sawing) Loss	160 micron (2009-2011) to 145 micron (2012)	Drops to 120 micron in 2015
	Cell-to-Module Loss	Average annual increase of 0.1% absolute	Average annual increase of 0.1% absolute
Capital Equipment Cost	Capex per Watt (Ingot-to-Module)	Annualized decline of 21%	Flat from 2012-2014; increases by 21% in 2015 due to increased automation to counter labor rate
Consumables Pricing	Polysilicon	Dropped from \$80/kg (Q4 2009) to \$18/kg (Q1 2013) - annualized decline of ~40%	Increases to \$22/kg by 2014 and then declines to \$18/kg by 2017
	Metallization Paste	Increased from \$700/kg in 2010 to \$1900/kg in mid-2011, dropped to \$1000/kg currently	Increases by 5% annually
	Other Consumables	~25-30% annualized decline (wafer), 15-25% decline (module)	Declines by 5% annually
Consumption Efficiency	Silicon	8% annualized decline to 5.3g/W by Q4 2012	6% annualized decline to 4.1g/W in 2017
	Electricity (Ingot)	4% annual average decline	1% annual average decline
	Wafer Slurry	3% annual average decline	17% reduction in 2015 with adoption of thinner sawing wire, flat thereafter (2% annualized decline)
	Silver	20% annual average decline	4% annual decline
Labor	Labor Rates	~10% annual increase	~10% annual increase
	Labor Intensity	3% annual decline due to increases in tool throughput and conversion efficiency	25% reduction from 2014-2015 due to increased automation
Manufacturing Scale	Plant Capacity	Increased by ~700 MW annually to 2.5 GW in 2012	Increase by 500 MW annually to 5 GW by 2017

# Evolution of global PV annual installations 2000-2012 (MW)



ROW	88	56	80	77	29	10	105	42	76	80	284	508	-*
MEA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	1					
China	19	5	19	10	10	8	10	20					
Americas	24	32	47	66	104	106	150	213					
APAC	117	140	191	230	282	303	324	271	535	742	1,583	2,672	4,769
Europe	56	133	135	202	707	984	992	2,028	5,710	5,830	13,622	22,411	17,159
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>6,708</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>17,064</b>	<b>30,391</b>	<b>31,095</b>

**We need 30 TW effect,  
Thus ×25 more PV installation**

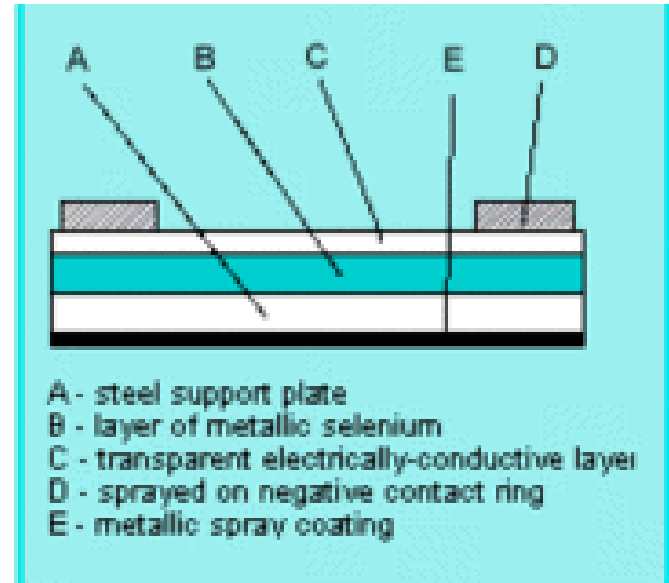
\* From 2012 onwards, these figures are directly integrated into those of the relevant regions.

# History

**PV = Photo+voltaic = convert light to electricity**

**1839:** A. E. Becquerel first recognized photovoltaic effect.

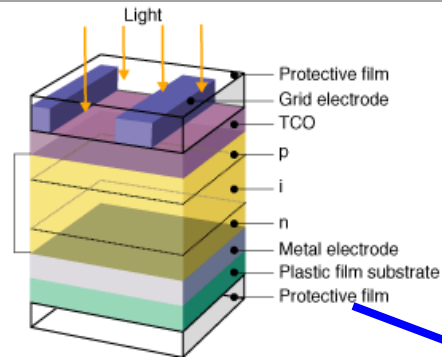
**1883:** First solar cell built, by Charles Fritts, gold-coated selenium.



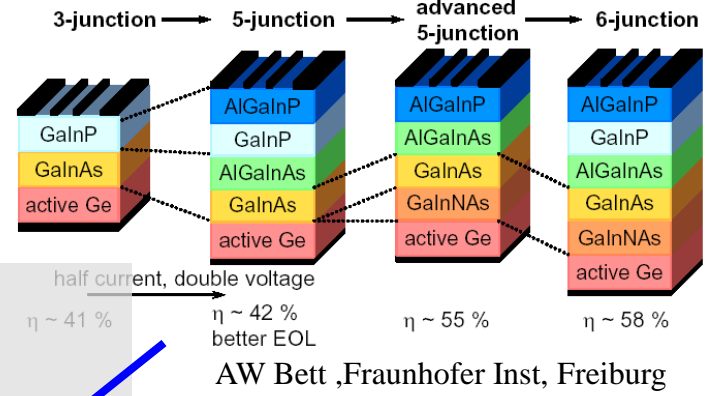
**1941:** First silicon-based solar cell demonstrated, by Russell Ohl (70y ago)

**2013:** Crystalline Si is dominating (80% market).

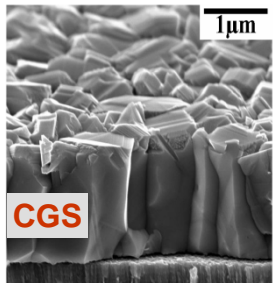
**Future:** More thin-film technologies ?



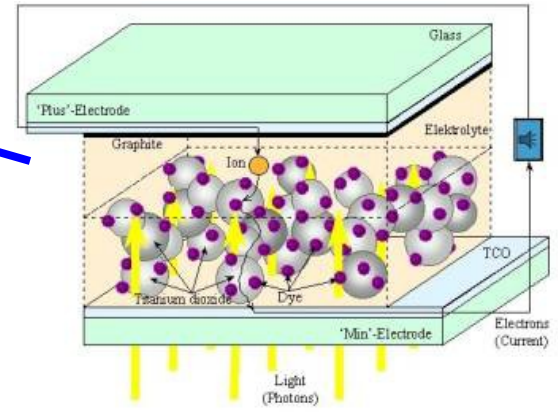
SANYO, Amorton



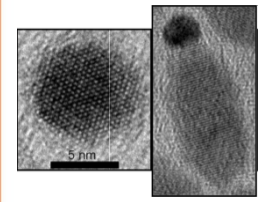
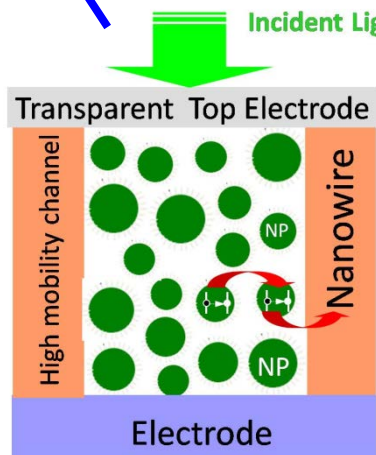
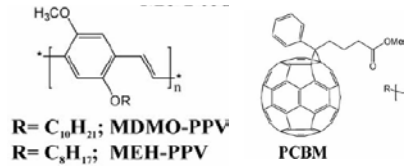
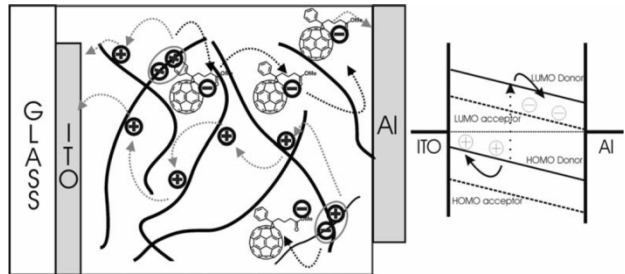
- combinations of
1. crystalline Si ( $\eta \approx 30\%$ )
  2. Thin-film solar cell ( $\sim 20\%$ )
  3. Multi-junction solar cells ( $\sim 40\%$ )
  4. Dye-sensitized solar cells ( $\sim 10\%$ )
- Polymer solar cells  
Nanocrystal solar cells



S. Schuler, *et al.* 29<sup>th</sup> IEEE PV Conf.(2002)



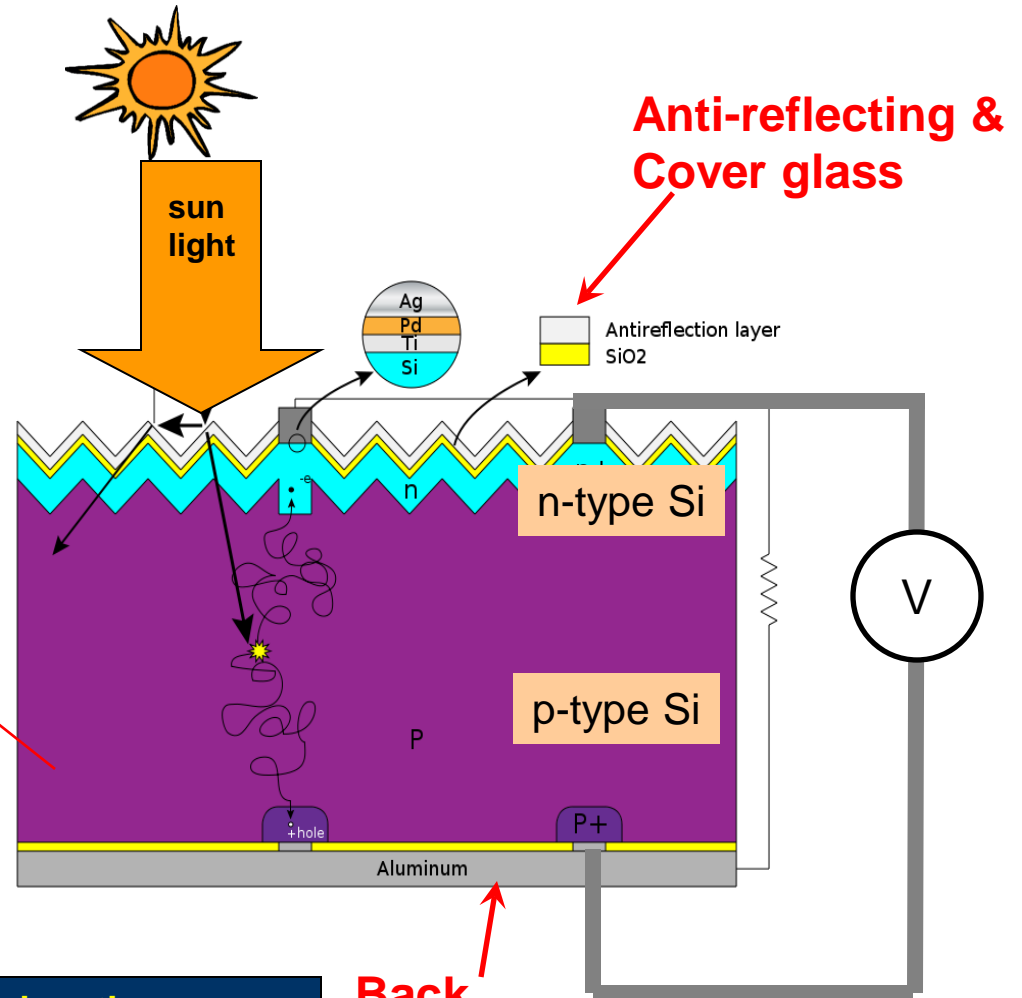
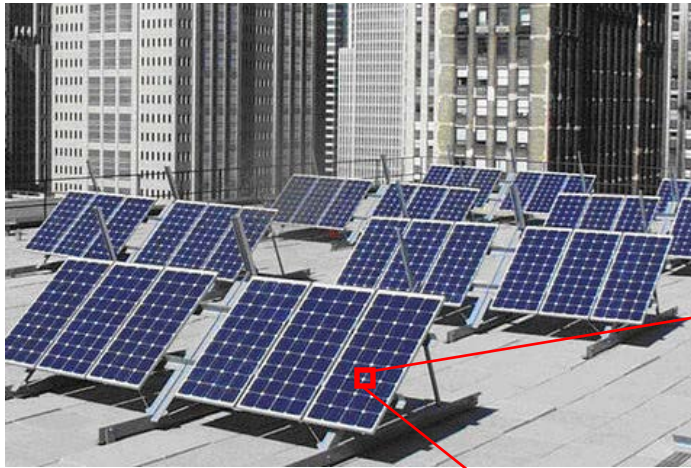
Man Solar, Petten



Nanostructure Materials & Devices Laboratory, USC

# #1 Crystalline Si

~80% of solar cell market



**thick device**

200  $\mu\text{m}$

Sun light  $\lambda \sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$   
Hair  $\sim 75 \mu\text{m}$

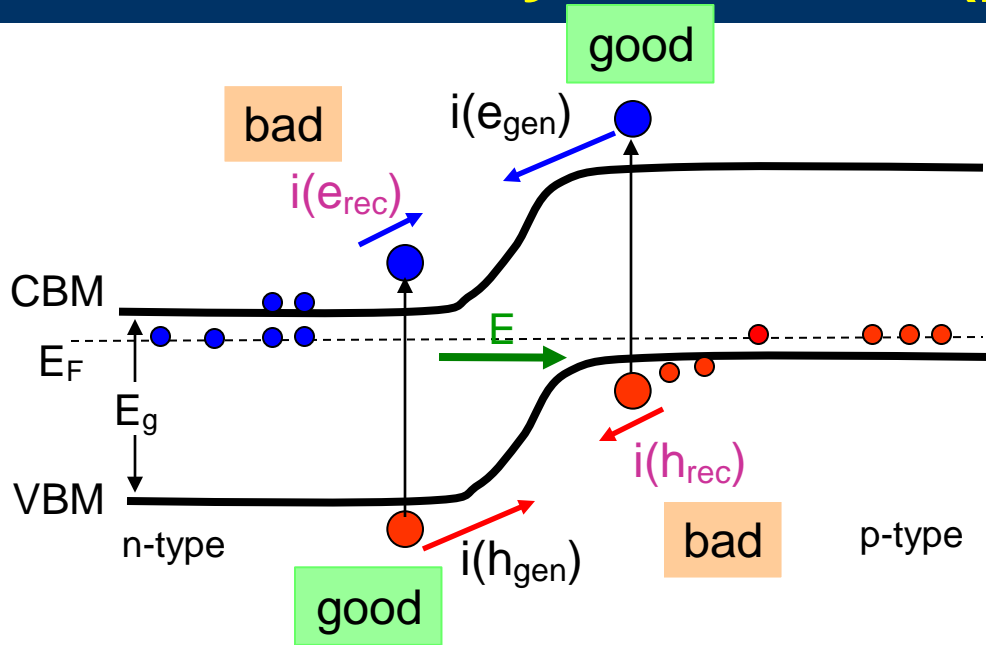
**Si**  $E_g \sim 1.1 \text{ eV}$

**Transport via pn-junctions**

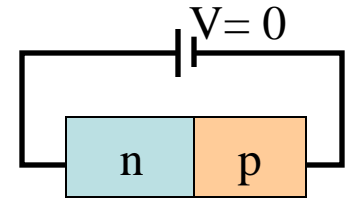
- Good efficiency (25 %)
- Expensive since thick device

**Back contact**

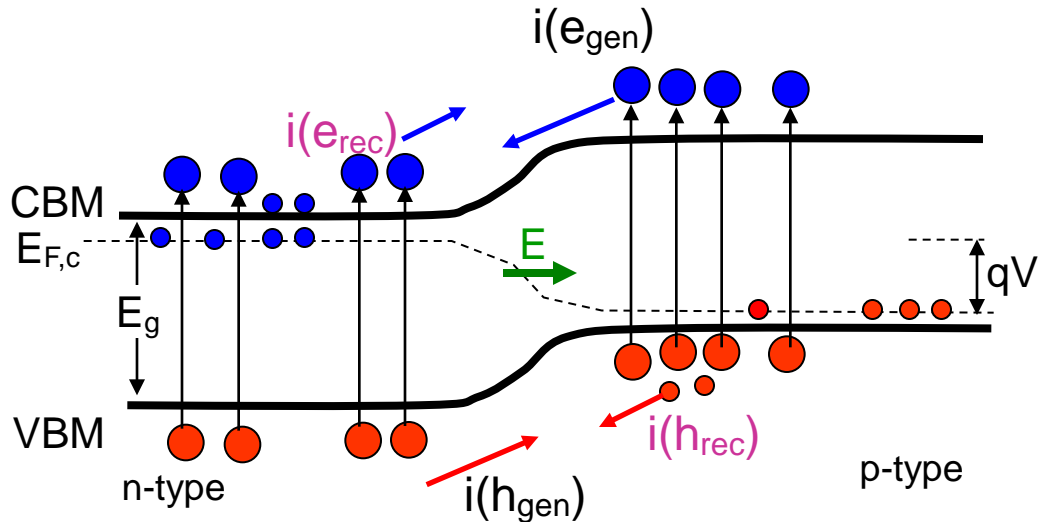
# #1 Crystalline Si (pn-junction)



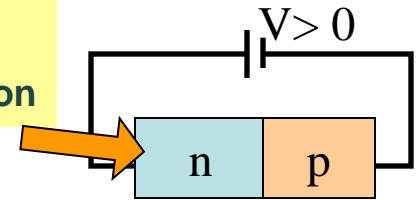
$T \gg 0$   
 $V = 0$



$i(e_{gen})$  due to E-field  
 $i(e_{rec})$  due to entropy ( $dn/dx$ )



$T \gg 0$   
 $V > 0$   
illumination



$i(e_{gen})$  due to E-field  
 $i(e_{rec})$  due to entropy ( $dn/dx$ )  
 $i(e_{gen})$  from light absorption  
 $P = V * I$



# #1 Crystalline Si

## Two main problems with c-Si

- 1) 200  $\mu\text{m}$  thick:  
Much material, and c-Si is costly to produce
- 2) band 1.1 eV  
Not optimized band gap

## #2 Thin-film Si

a-Si (or a-Si:Hi); amorphous silicon,

Low processing temperature (lower cost)

$E_g = 1.7$  eV, better absorber => thinner cell ( $\sim 1$   $\mu\text{m}$  thin)

But much less efficiency ( $\sim 10\%$ ) compared to c-Si ( $\sim 30\%$ ).

nc-Si (microcrystalline Si)

Low processing temperature, but  $E_g = 1.1$  eV

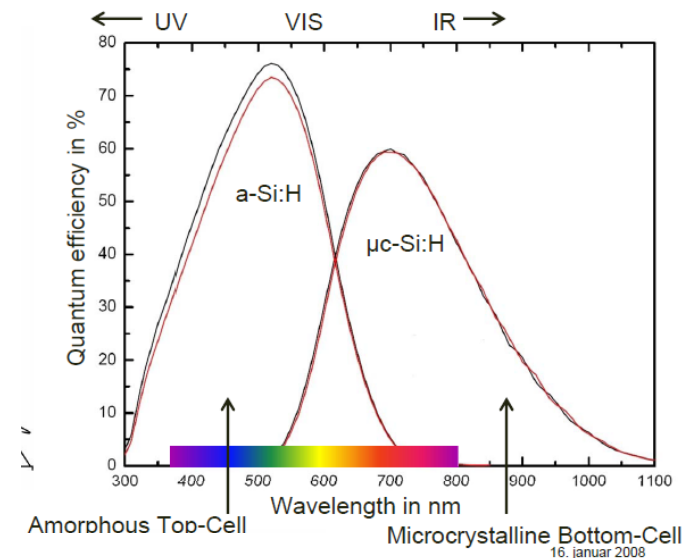
Improved material quality over a-Si

1.8  $\mu\text{m}$  thin with 10.7% efficiency (EPFL Inst of Microengineering, Feb 2013)

a-Si + nc-Si; micromorphous

$E_g = 1.1$  and  $1.7$

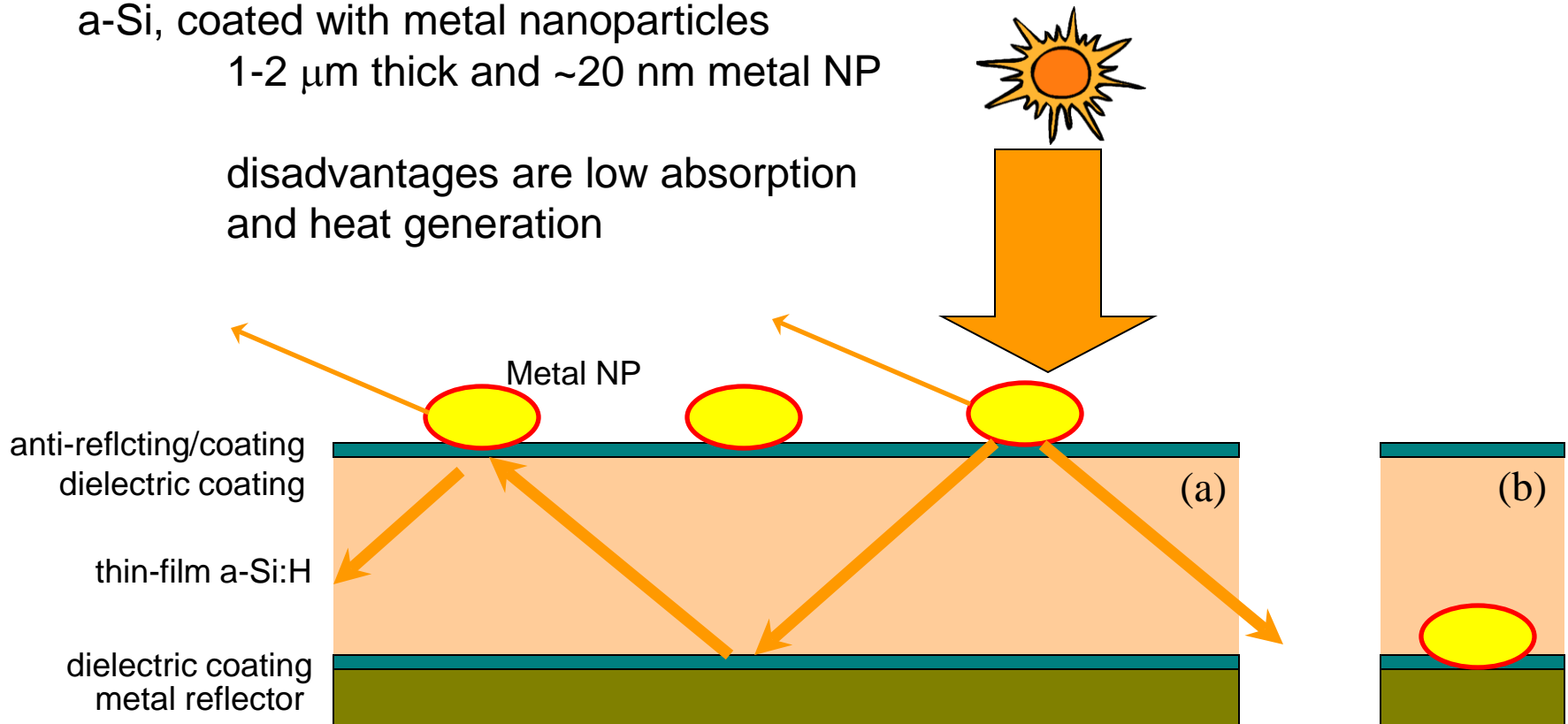
=> broader abs. spectrum



# #1 Plasmonic solar cells (thin film)

a-Si, coated with metal nanoparticles  
1-2  $\mu\text{m}$  thick and  $\sim 20$  nm metal NP

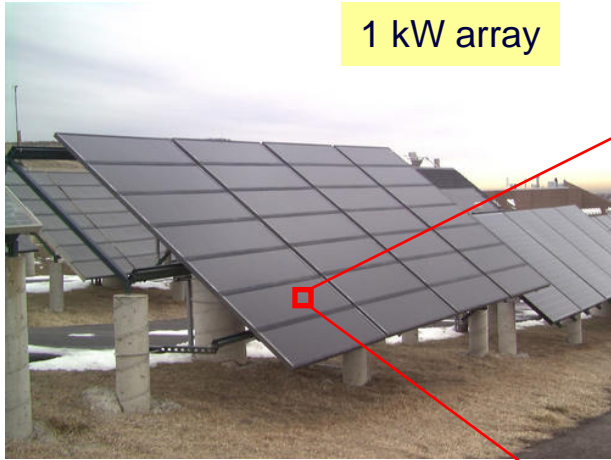
disadvantages are low absorption  
and heat generation



Light scatters through surface plasmon resonance, and get trapped inside a-Si layer.  $>90\%$  of light can be trapped.

Surface plasmon = collective electron vibration

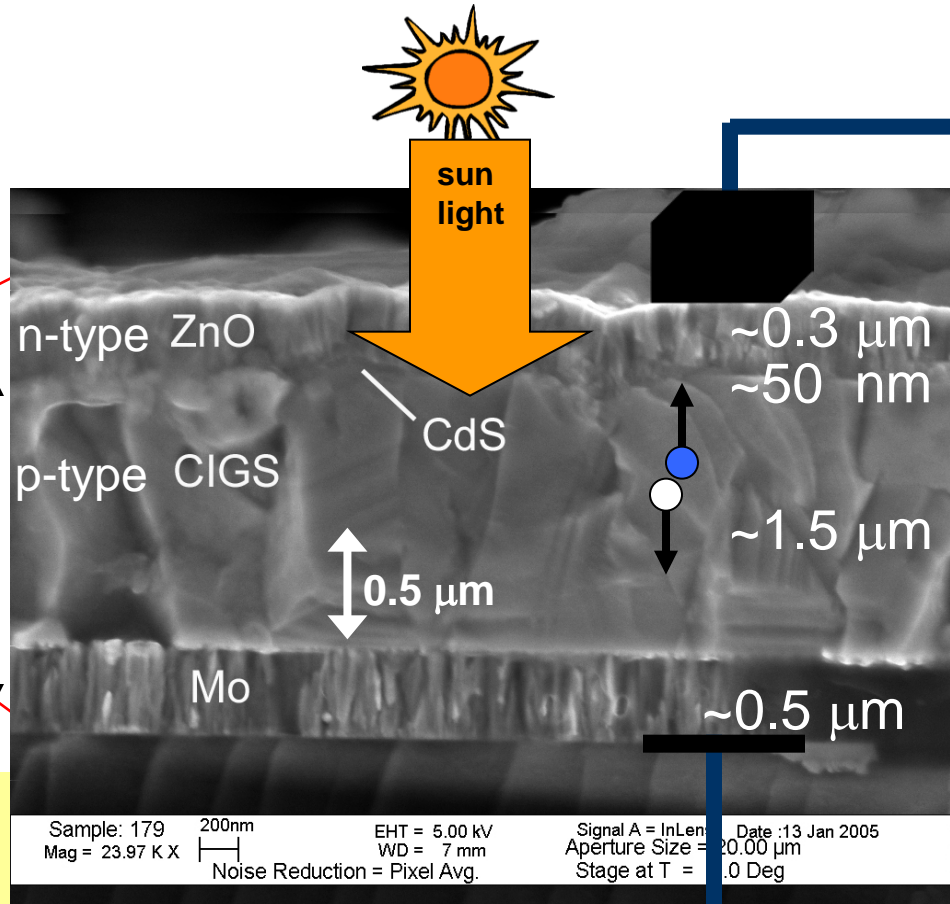
# #2 Other thin-film pn-junction



1 kW array

NREL, USA

1-2  $\mu\text{m}$



Ångström Solar Center, Uppsala Univ

- a-Si**  $E_g \sim 1.7 \text{ eV}$
- CdTe (toxic)**  $E_g \sim 1.5 \text{ eV}$
- GaAs (expens)**  $E_g \sim 1.5 \text{ eV}$
- $\text{CuIn}_{1-x}\text{Ga}_x\text{Se}_2$**   $E_g \sim 1.3 \text{ eV}$

higher efficiency (20%) than thin-film a-Si (10%)

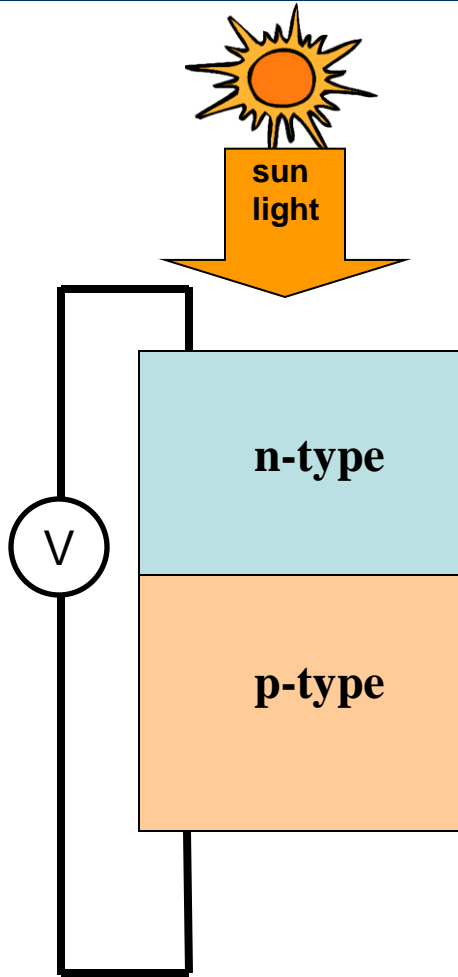
In is expensive; Se is toxic.

- $\text{Cu}_2\text{ZnSnS}_4$**   $E_g \sim 1.5 \text{ eV}$

## Transport via pn-junction

- Good efficiency (20 %)
- Medium expensive
- Long life-time

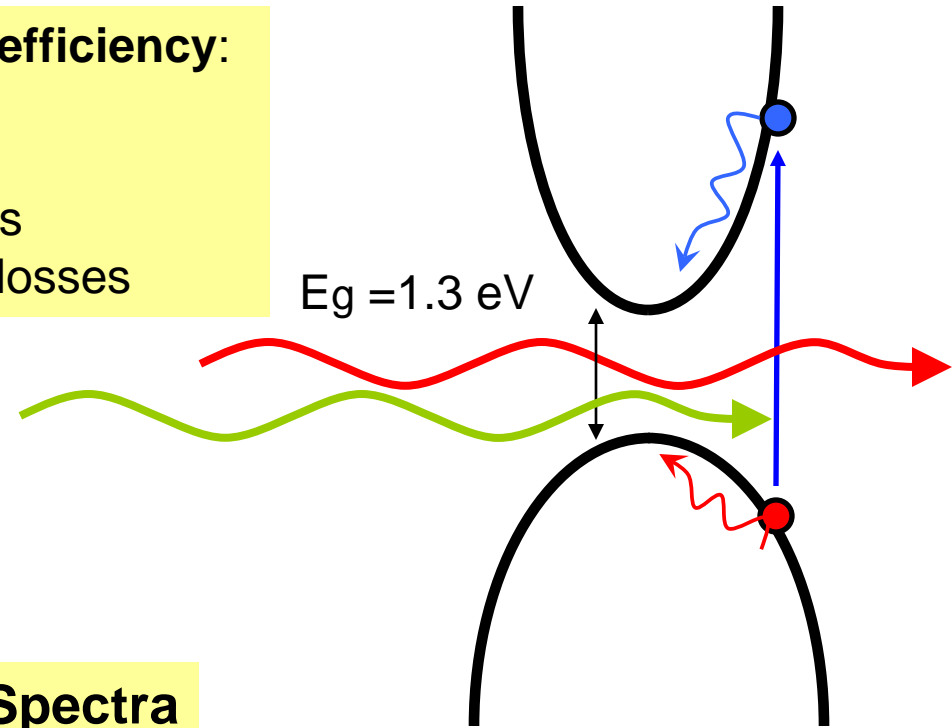
# Two problems with traditional solar cells



## Single-junction efficiency:

Theo. max ~31%

- \* Below- $E_g$  losses
- \* Thermalization losses

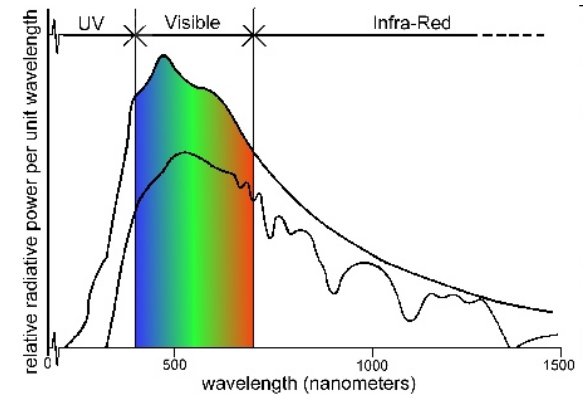


## Sunlight Spectra

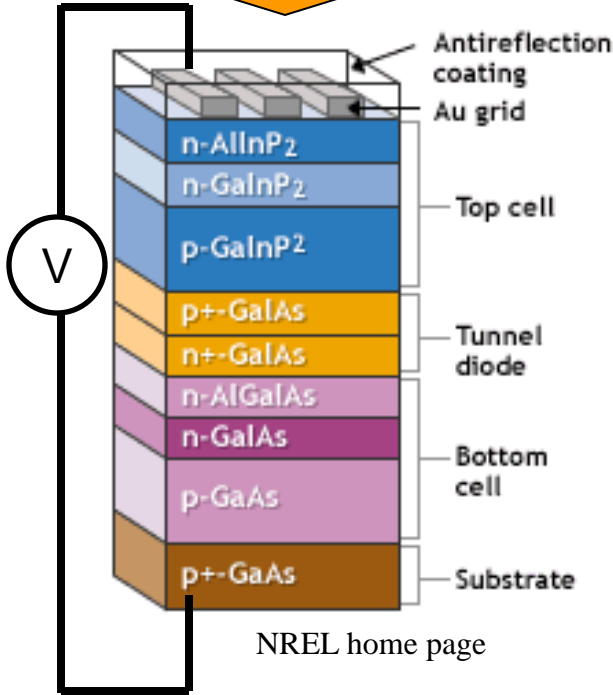
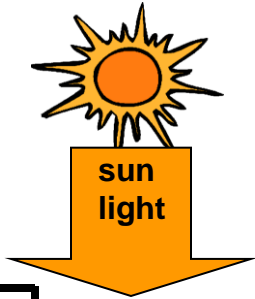
~800 to 400 nm

~1.0 to 3.5 eV

550 nm ~ 2.2 eV



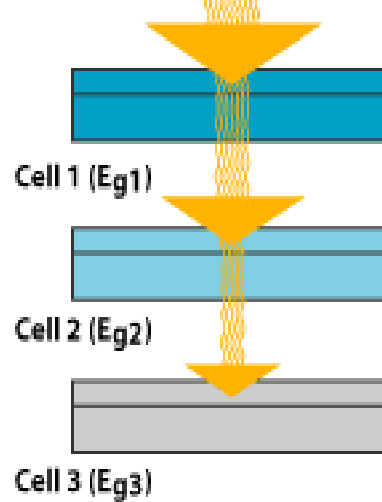
# #3 Thin-film multi-junction (40%)



NREL home page



$$E_{g1} > E_{g2} > E_{g3}$$



pn-junction #1:  $E > 2.0 \text{ eV}$

pn-junction #2:  $E > 1.5 \text{ eV}$

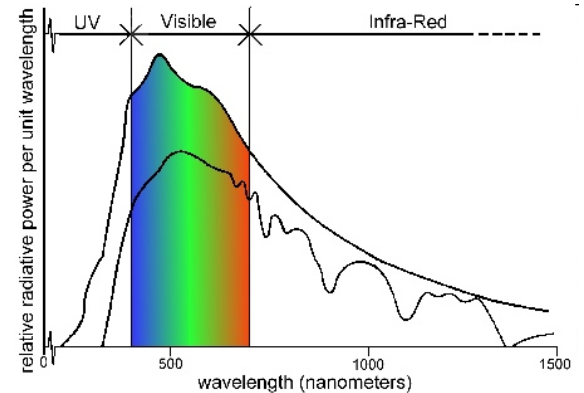
pn-junction #3:  $E > 1.0 \text{ eV}$

Ga-based  $0.7 < E_b < 2.0 \text{ eV}$

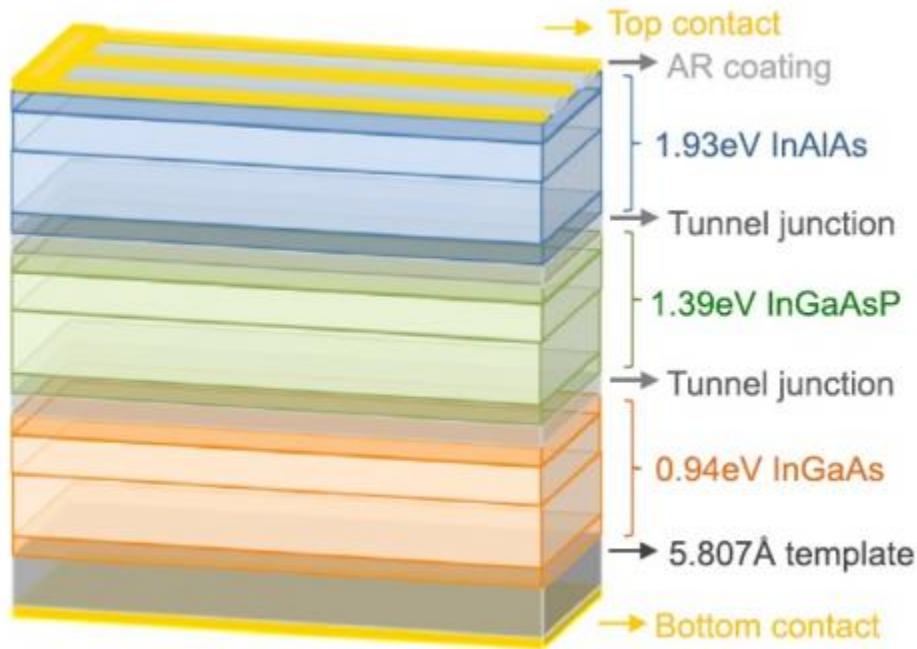
High efficiency,  $>50\%$   
but expensive

## Transport via pn-junctions

- High efficiency ( $>50\%$ )
- Expensive
- Lattice matching



## Multi-junction cell, InGaAs-based 52% efficiency in 2013 for 3-junction cell



Marina S. Leite, et al. APL, 102, 033901 (2013)

### **Theoretical limit**

31 % for single junction.

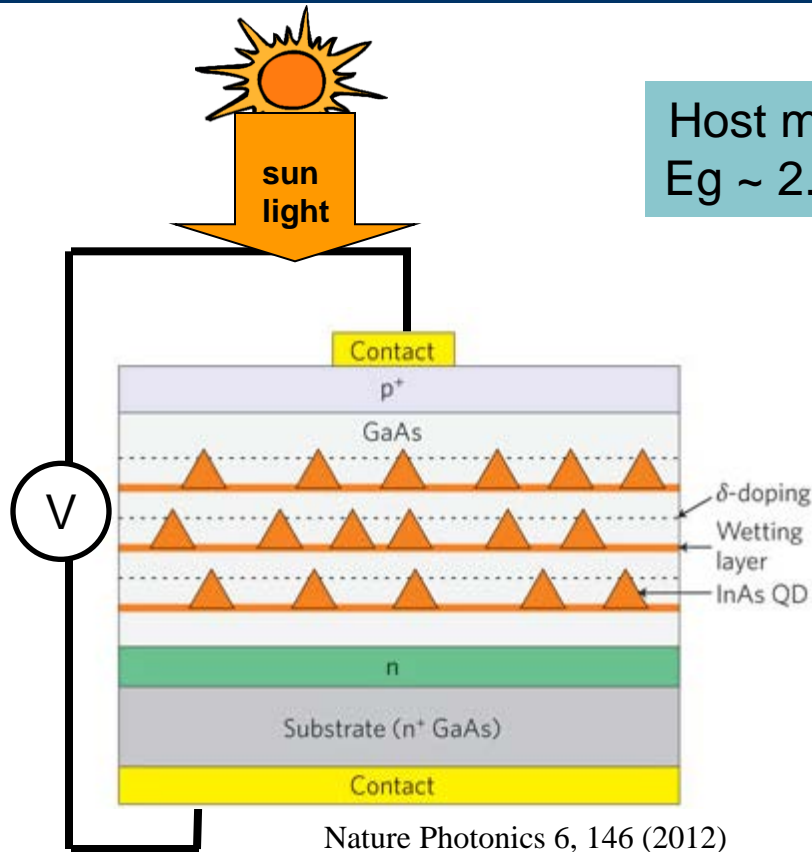
50% for 2-junction,  
56% for 3-junction,

86% for infinite-junction

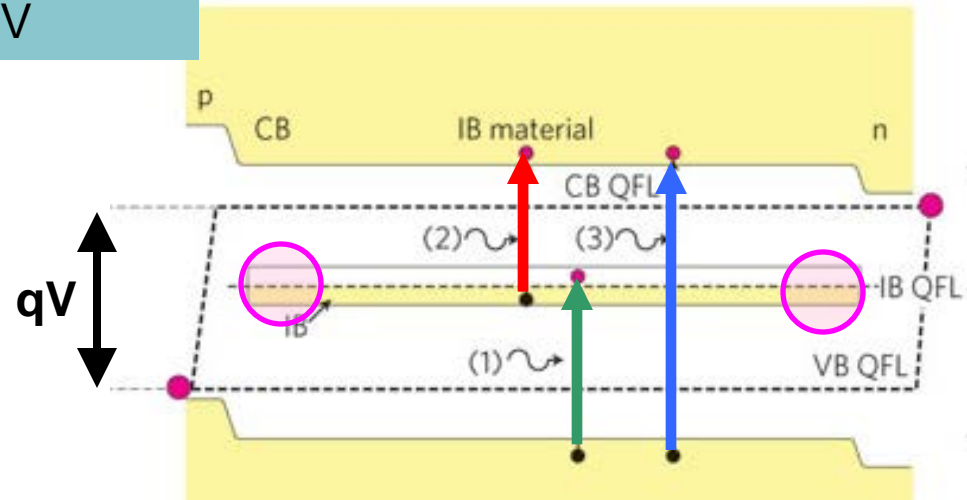
Indium is expensive

# Thin-film intermediate band (future)

Luque and Martí, PRL 78, 5014 (1997)



Host material with  $E_g \sim 2.0$  eV



Single-junction, but IB helps absorbing different energies  
Optimum:  $E_g = 0.7, 1.2, \text{ and } 2.0$  eV

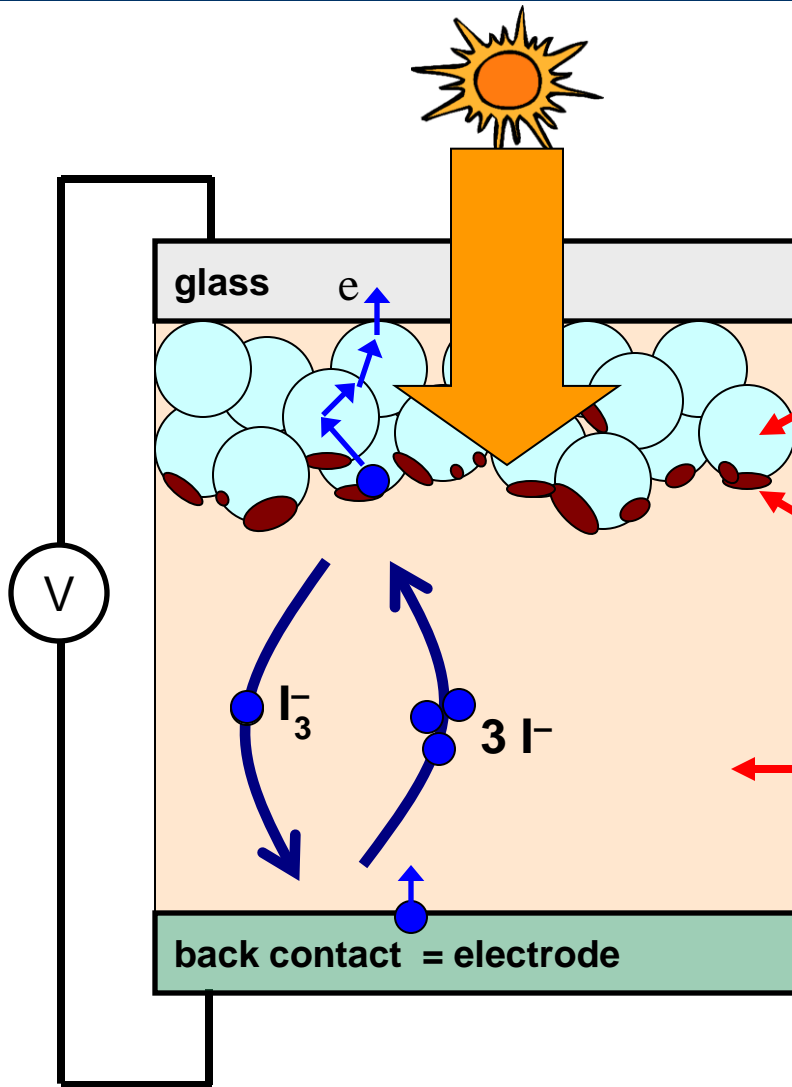
- $n \sim 55\%$  (theo), instead of  $\sim 31\%$  for single gap cell
- low absorption in QD,
- Extra non-radiative recomb
- difficult to realize a half-filled band w/ no tunneling, and accumulation in IB
- Band (not defect level) to avoid SRH-recomb.

## ZnTe:O

50% increase in power conversion efficiency  
Wang et. al, APL 95, 011103 (2009)



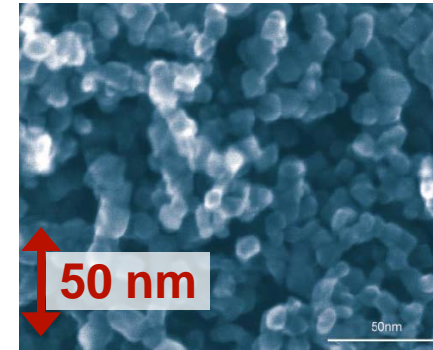
# #4. Dye-sensitized solar cell (O'Regan and Grätzel, 1991)



**NP-TiO<sub>2</sub>**  
transparent and  
good e<sup>-</sup> conductor,  
through diffusion

**dye film (Ru-based)**  
good absorber

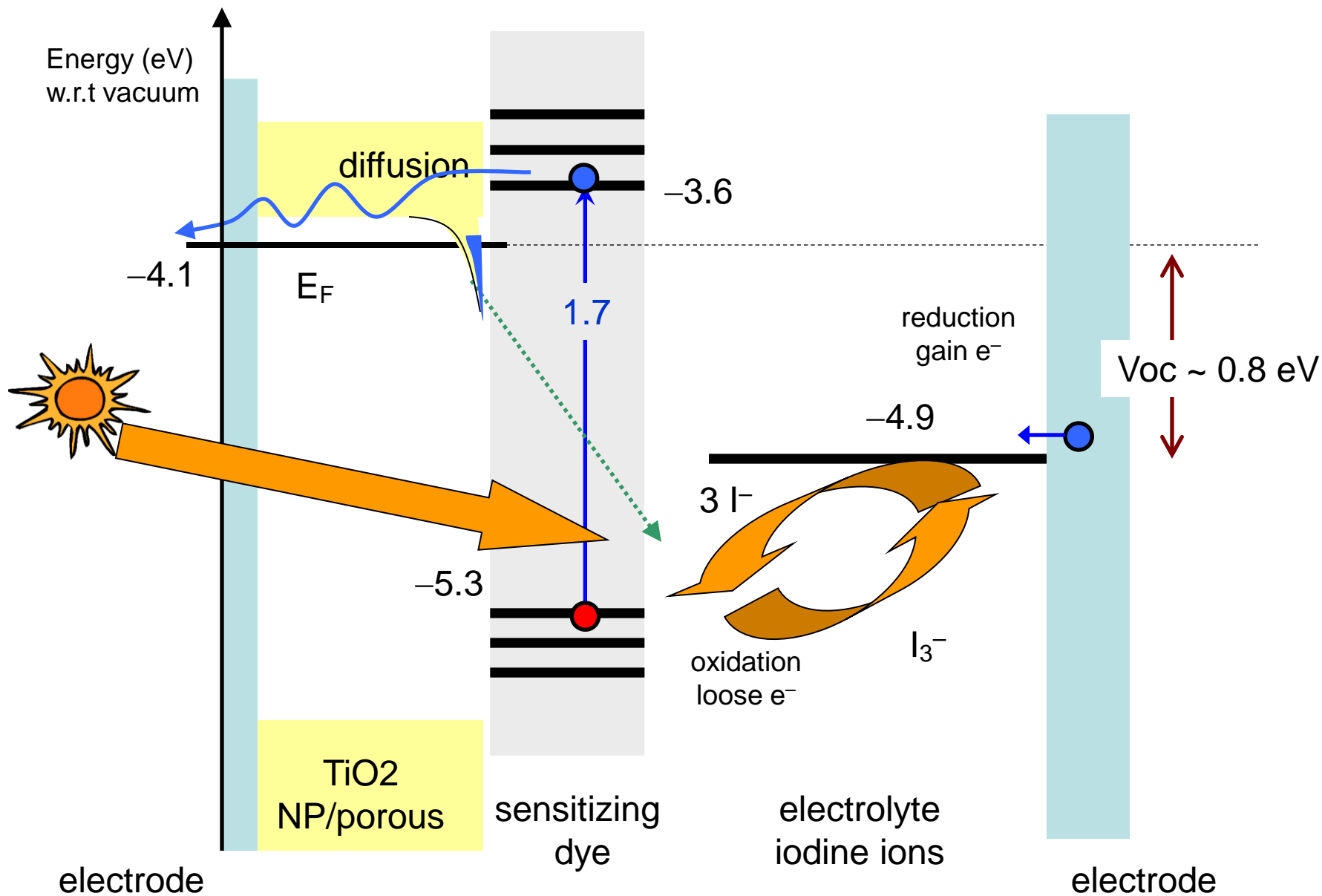
**electrolyte**  
iodine ions



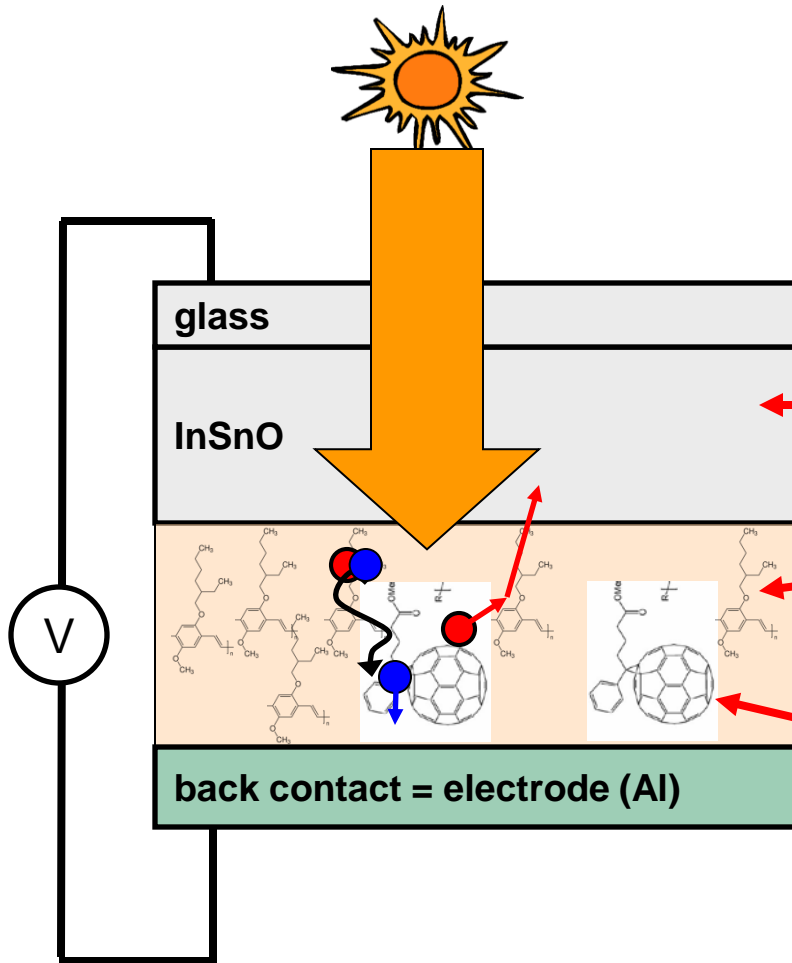
SEM: mesoporous anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>  
M. Grätzel, Nature, **414**, 338 (2001).

## Transport via electrolyte

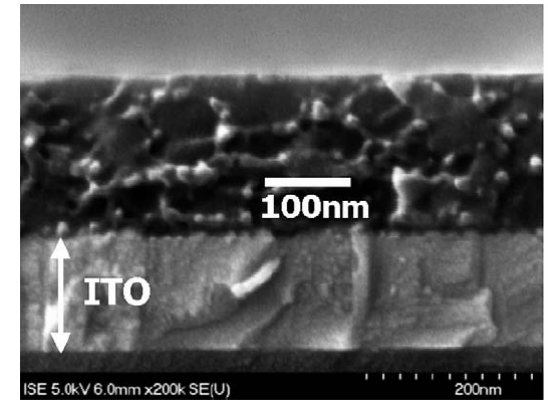
- Inexpensive,
- Slow diffusion in NP-TiO<sub>2</sub>
- Reasonable efficiency (15 %)
- Degradation and instability



# #4 Organic solar cells



**ITO / TiO<sub>2</sub>**  
transparent and  
good e<sup>-</sup> conductor



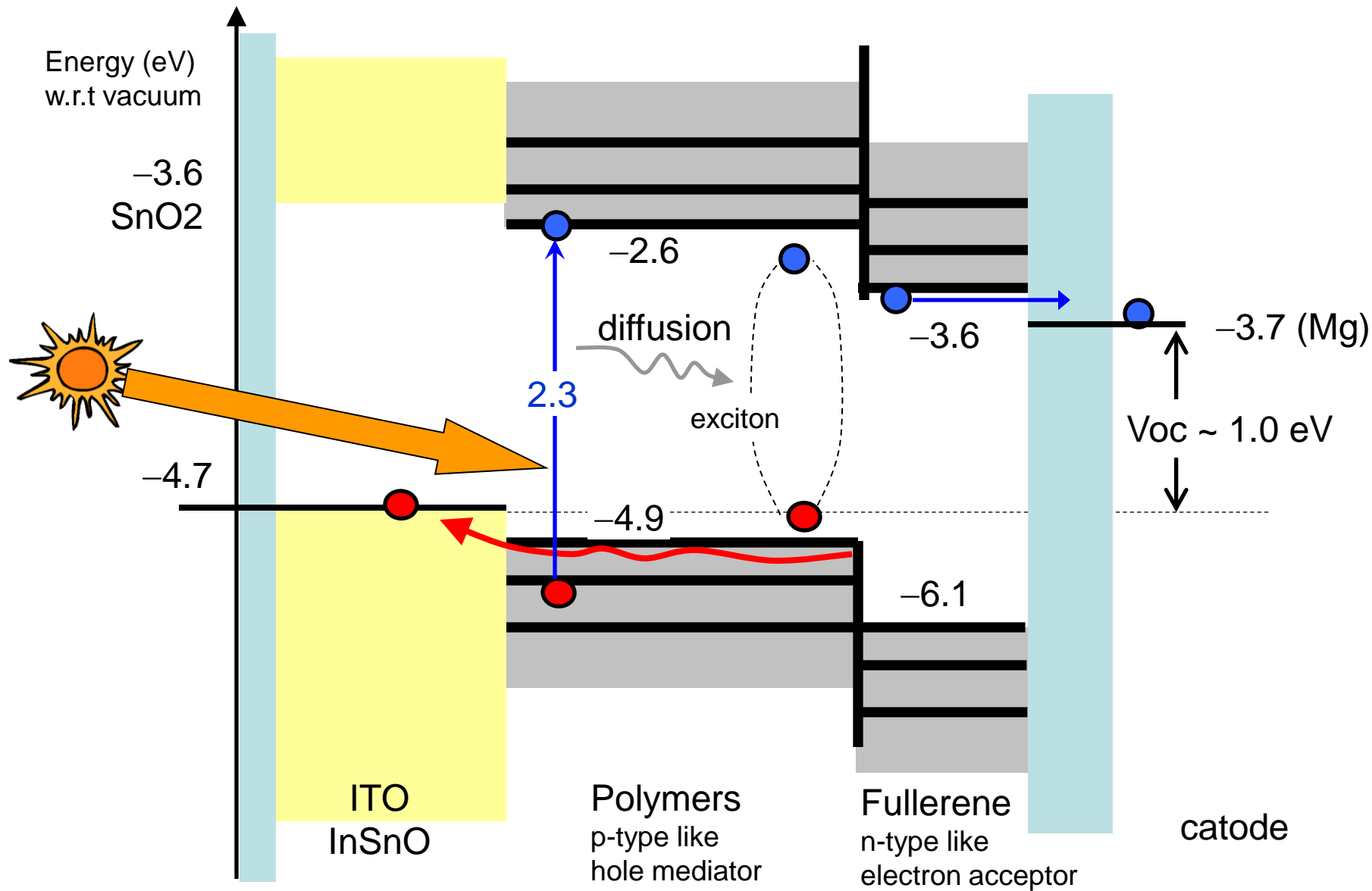
SEM images of MDMO-PPV/PCBM  
Mozer, CR Chimie, **9**, 568 (2006).

**Polymers** (donor)  
Easy to vary gap 1-4 eV, good e-conductor;  
Localizes e and h.  
Absorb, confine, and transport e-h excitons

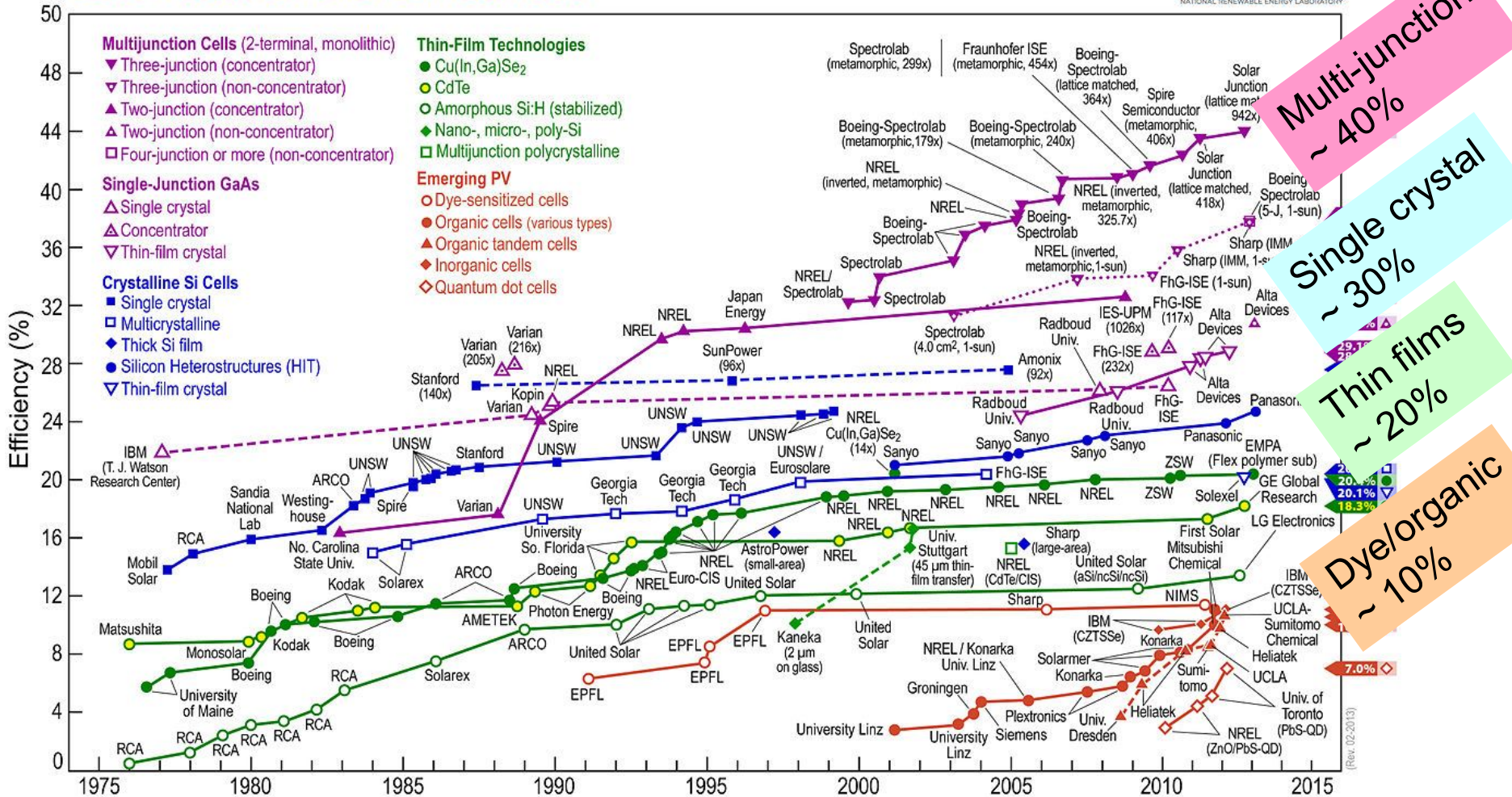
**Fullerene** (acceptor)  
Dissociation, good e-conductor

**Transport via diffusion**  
e-h diffusion length ~10nm  
(needs 100nm for absorption)

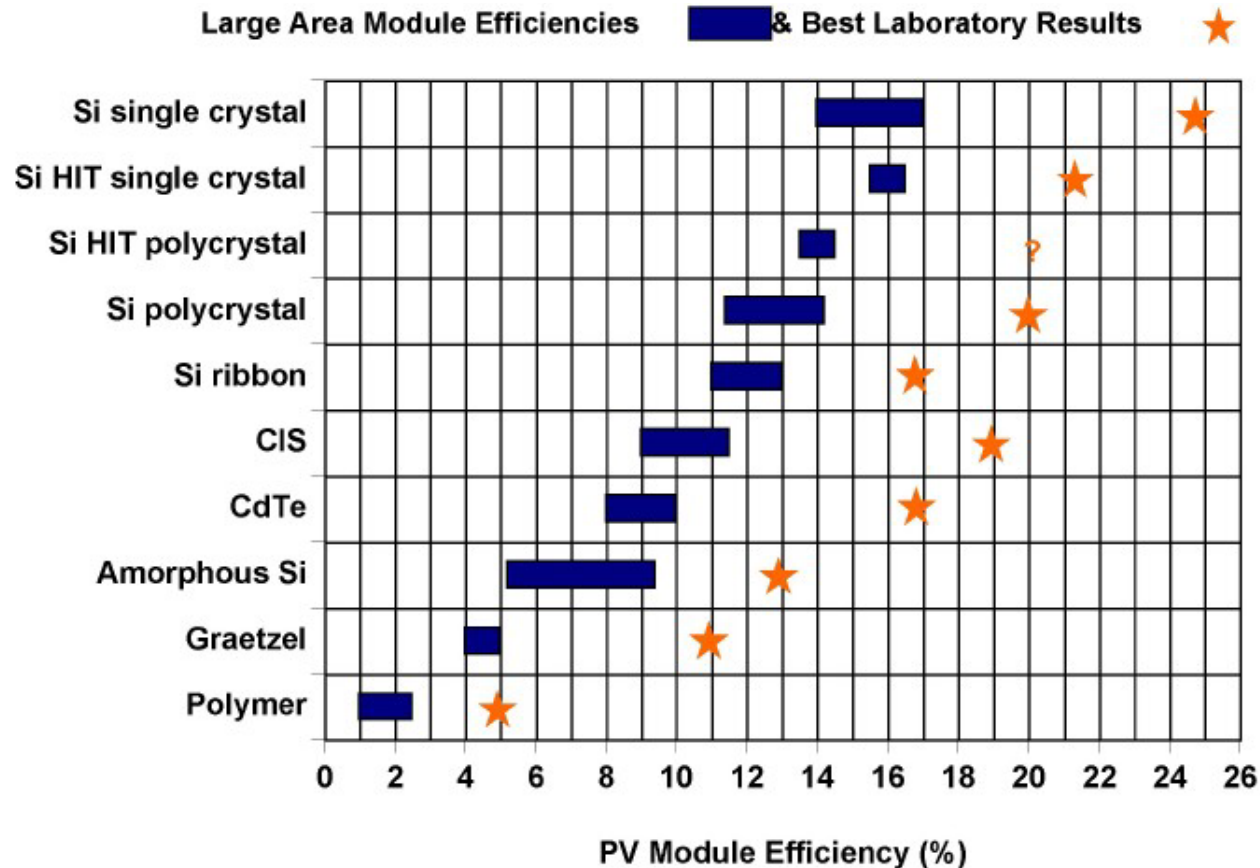
- Inexpensive
- Low efficiency (10 %)
- Degradation and instability

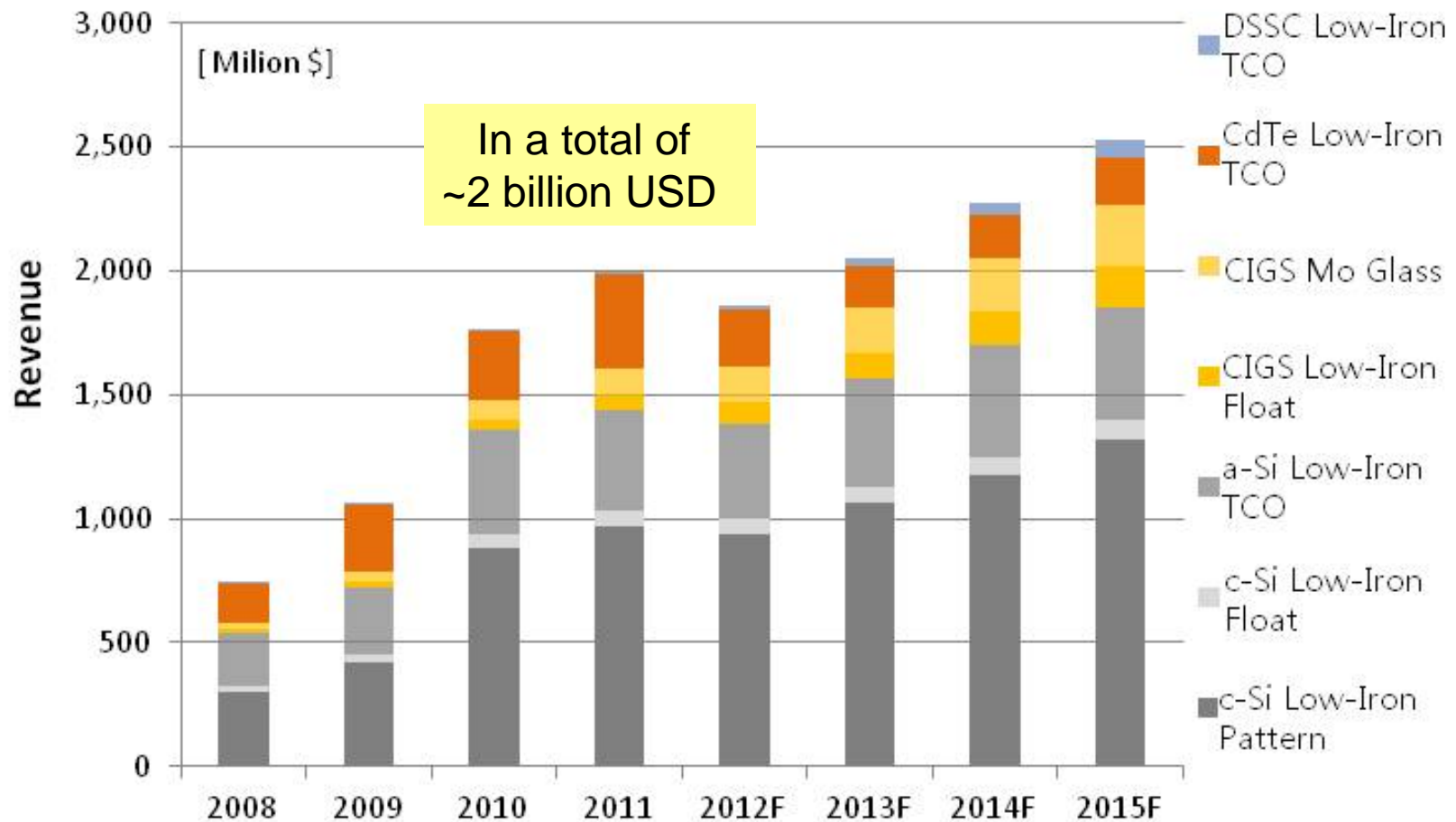


# Best Research-Cell Efficiencies



# Lab Results vs Module Efficiency





# Material Properties

## What properties do we want (for most solar cells)?

- High absorption in  $1.0 < h\nu < 3.5$  eV
- High carrier mobility
- High crystalline stability (long lifetime)  
No deep-level in-gap defects
- Dopability (n- and/or p-type)
  
- Control of complexes, nanostructures, etc



# Material Properties: High absorption

Find mater with good  $E_g$

Si: 1.1 eV

a-Si: 1.7 eV

GaAs: 1.5 eV

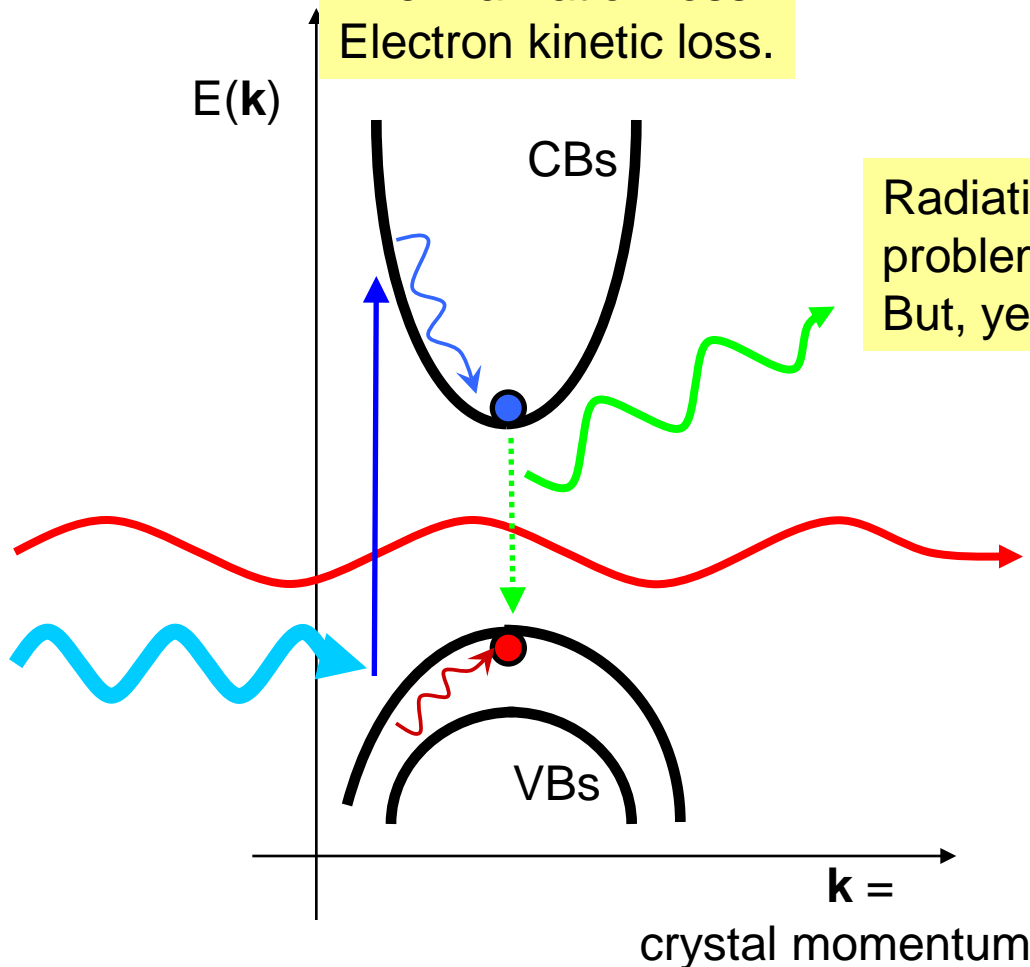
CdTe: 1.7 eV

CuInGaSe<sub>2</sub>: 1.0–1.7 eV

Thermalization loss.  
Electron kinetic loss.

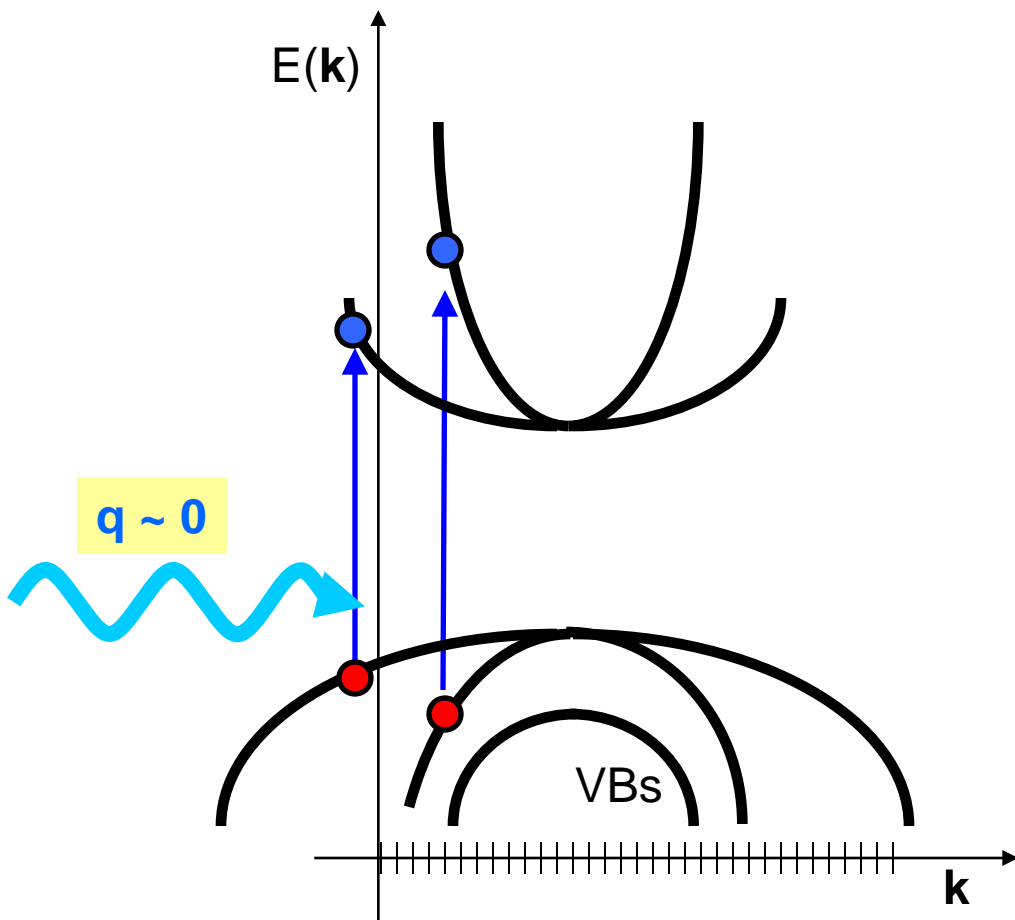
Radiative recombination is less problem. It can be absorbed again. But, yes, loss of energy.

Below  $E_g$  loss for photons with  $h\nu < E_g$

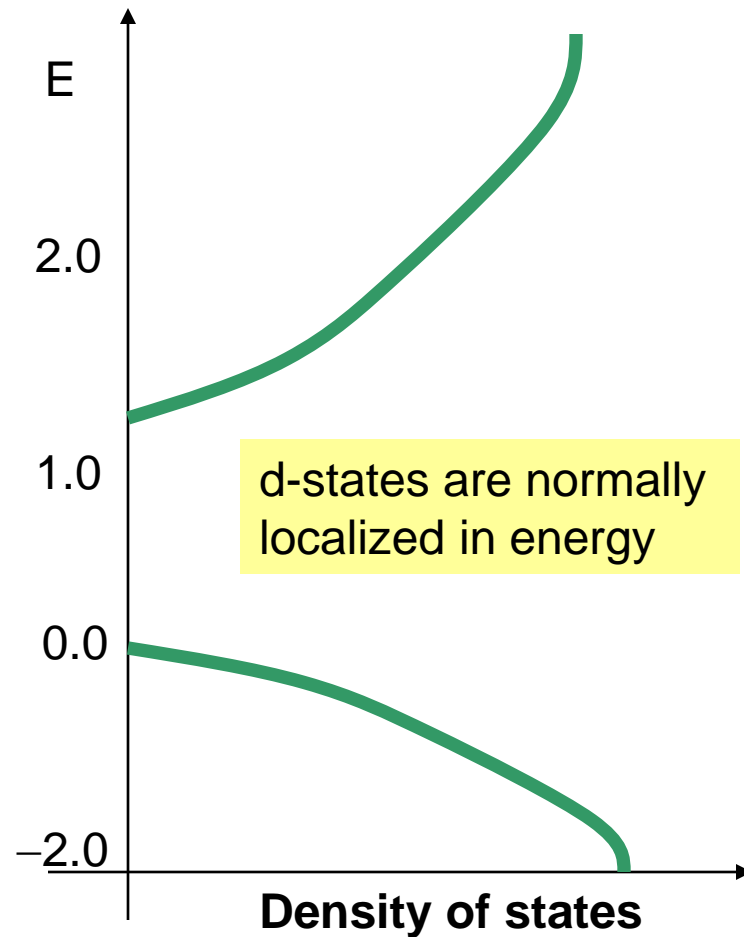


# Material Properties: High absorption

- \* Direct band gaps ( $q \sim 0$ )
- \* Good having CBM/VBM a BZ edge instead of at  $\Gamma$ -point,  $\Rightarrow$  higher JDOS



**High joint DOS  $-2 < E < 3$  eV**  
Many bands  
Flat bands



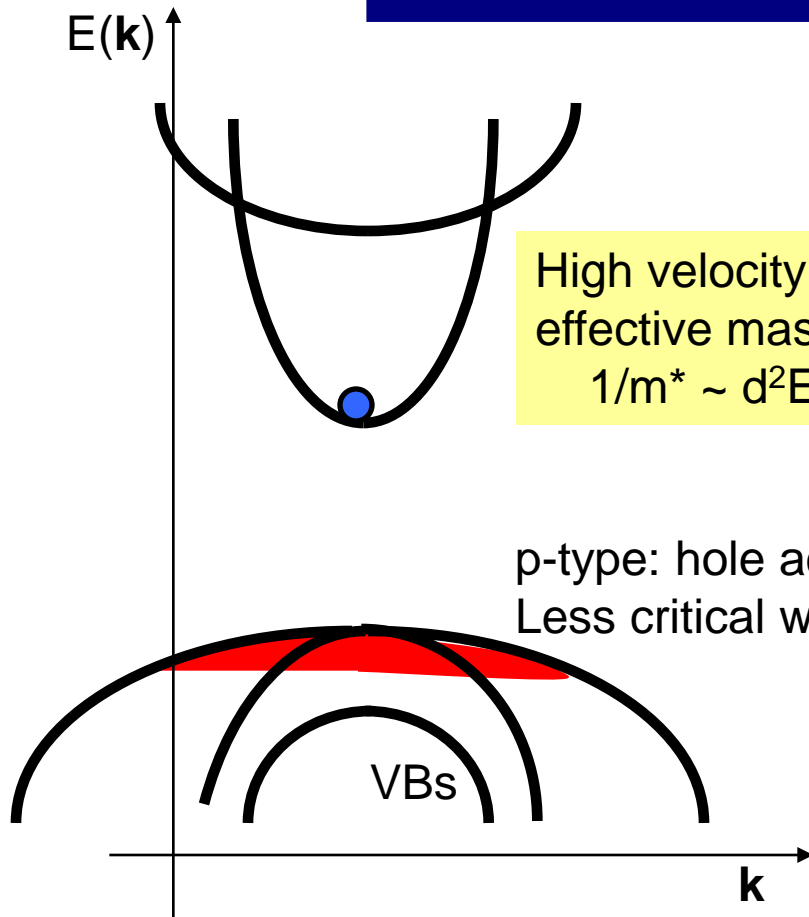
# Material Properties: High mobility

Small mass for minority carrier

That is, for n-type:

CB should have strong curvature (lower absorp)

But OK with flat VBs

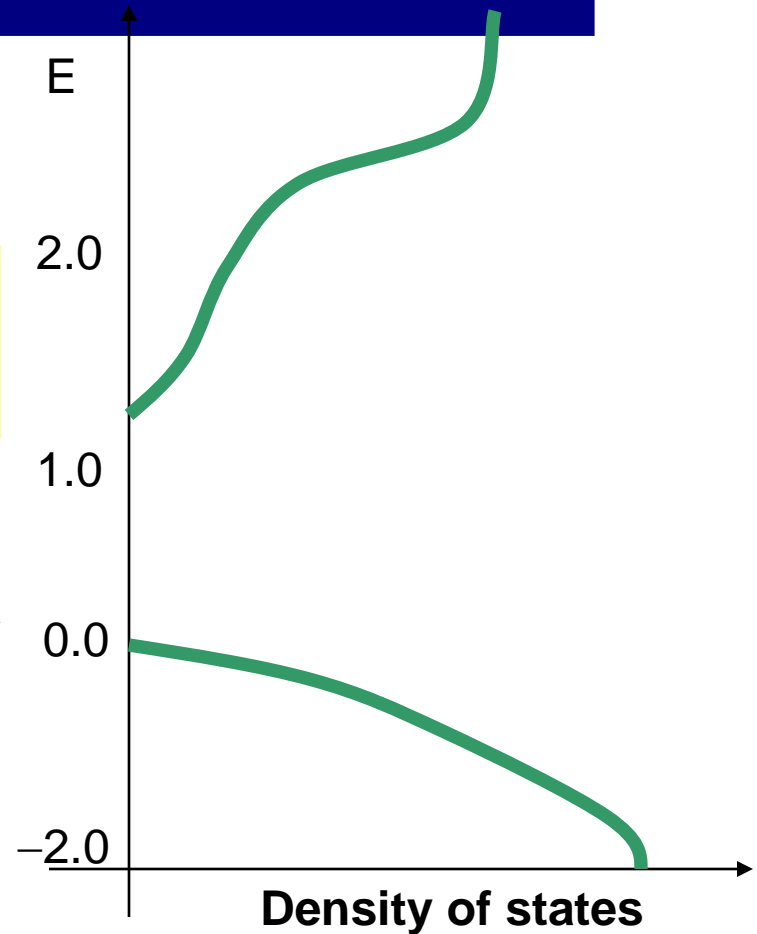


High velocity for small effective mass:

$$1/m^* \sim d^2E/dk^2$$

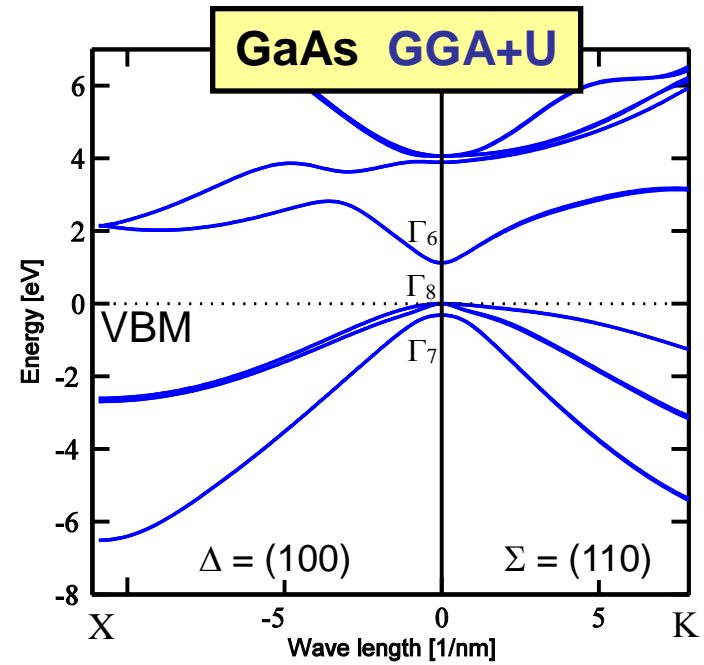
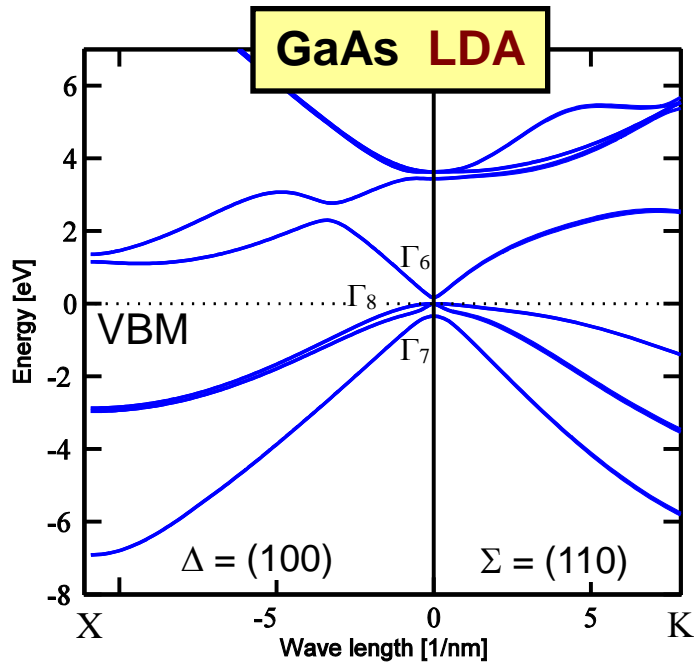
p-type: hole access  
Less critical with mobility

VBs



# LDA error of masses

Persson et al. Phys.Rev B **64**, 033201 (2001)



	(100)	(110)	(111)
CB mass	$m_{c1} = 0.01$	<b>0.01</b>	0.01
hh-mass	$m_{hh} = 0.32$	0.56	0.77
lh-mass	$m_{lh} = 0.01$	0.02	0.02
so-mass	$m_{so} = 0.08$	0.08	0.08

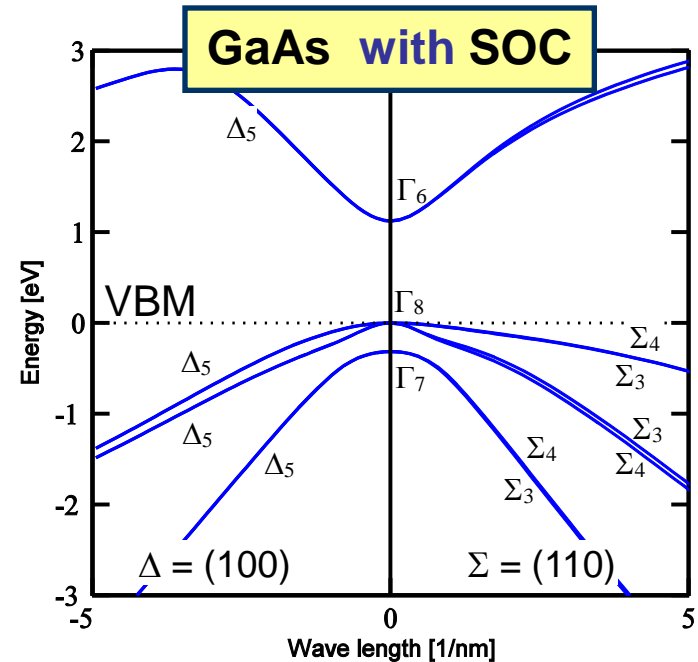
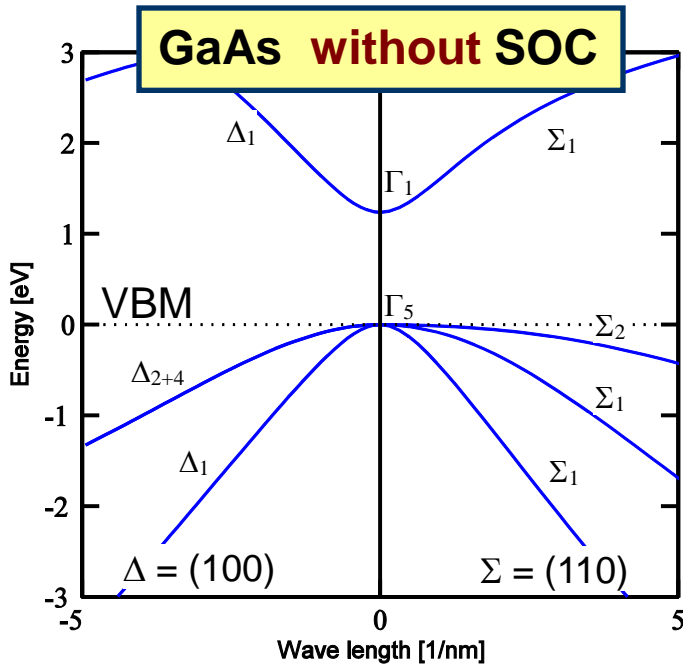
	(100)	(110)	(111)
CB mass	$m_{c1} = 0.07$	<b>0.07</b>	0.07
hh-mass	$m_{hh} = 0.38$	0.70	0.92
lh-mass	$m_{lh} = 0.09$	0.08	0.08
so-mass	$m_{so} = 0.18$	0.18	0.18

Expt data →

EXPT	(100)	(110)	(111)
$m_{c1} =$	0.07	<b>0.07</b>	0.07
$m_{hh} =$	0.35	0.64	0.89
$m_{lh} =$	0.09	0.08	0.08
$m_{so} =$	0.17	0.17	0.17

# Hole masses depends on **spin-orbit coupling (SOC)**

Christensen, PRB 30, 5753 (1984); Persson et al, PRB. **64**, 033201 (2001); *ibid* **54**, 10257 (1996)



	(100)	(110)	(111)
CB mass			
$m_{c1} =$	0.07	0.07	0.07
hh-mass	0.41	2.70	0.94
lh-mass	0.41	0.41	0.94
so-mass	0.07	0.06	0.06

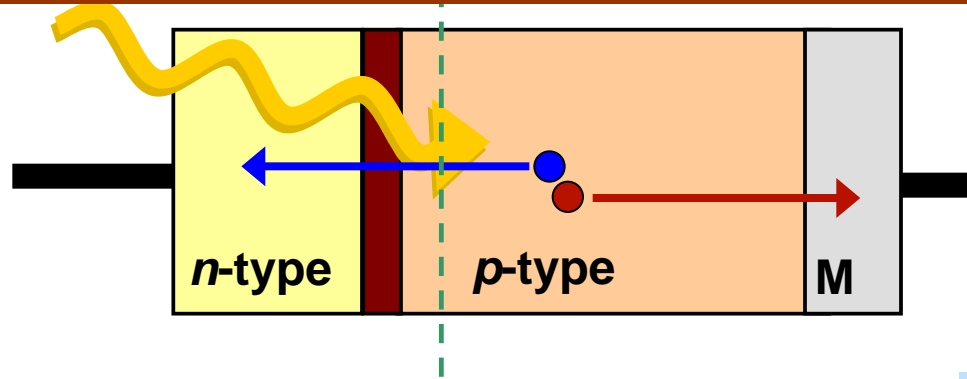
	(100)	(110)	(111)
CB mass			
$m_{c1} =$	0.07	0.07	0.07
$m_{hh} =$	0.38	0.70	0.92
$m_{lh} =$	0.09	0.08	0.08
$m_{so} =$	0.18	0.18	0.18

zb-AlN:  $m_{hh}(\Gamma K) = -253.1m_0 \Rightarrow +3.1m_0$   
 J.Cryst Growth **231**, 397 (2001)

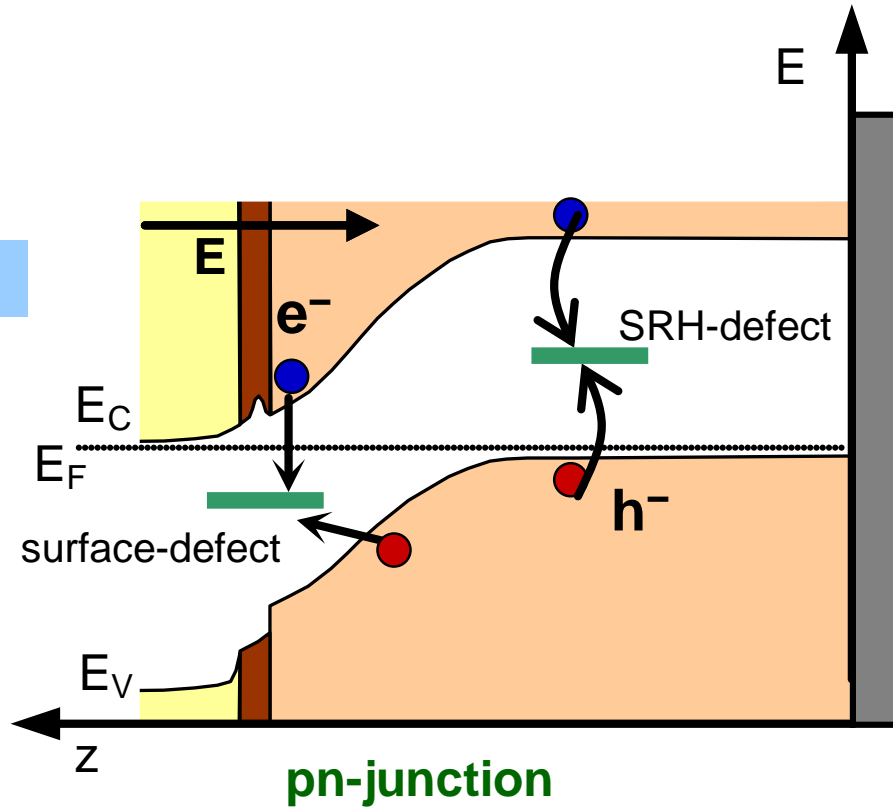
# Material Properties: Defects

- Defect involves scattering, and recombinations
- Deep-level in-gap state are normally non-radiative, and transfer energy to heat.
- Defects can diffuse, and form complexes, => degradation, especially at high operating temperature.

# Material Properties: Defects



PV cell structure

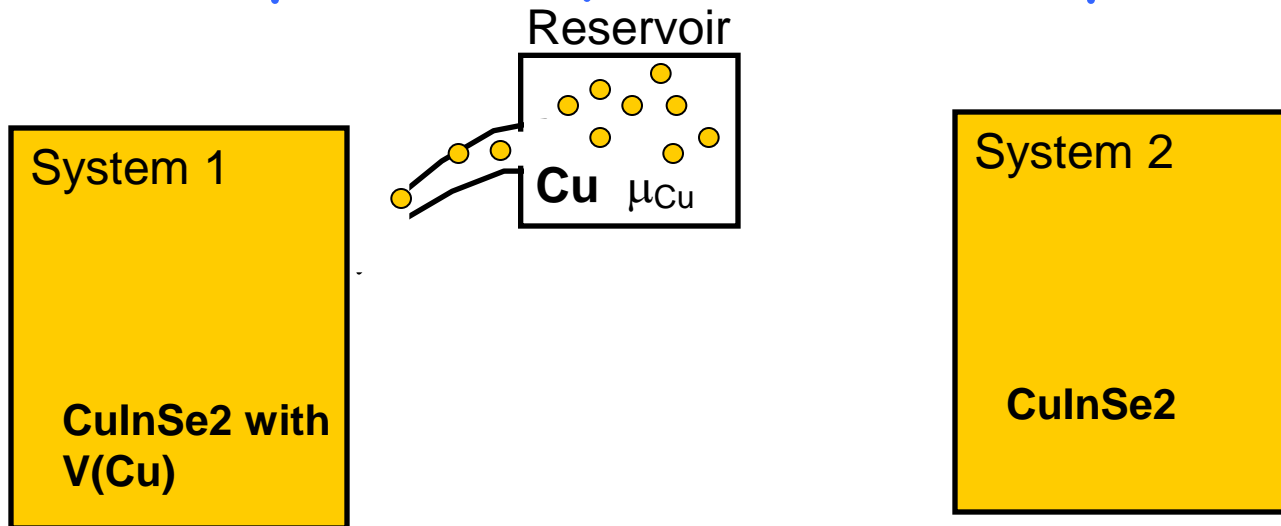


Energyband diagram

- Many type**
- Recombinations
  - Auger,
  - avalanche multiplication
  - Zener breakdown
  - Scattering processes
  - charged defects
  - neutral defects
  - carrier-carrier
  - interfacial scatt
  - deformation pot
  - phonons, plasmons

# Material Properties: Formation energies

$$dH_f(V) = [ E(V) - TS(V) + \mu_{\text{Cu}} \cdot N_{\text{Cu}} ] - [ E(0) - TS(0) ]$$



Set up two big supercells: one with V, and one without  
Calculate total energies.

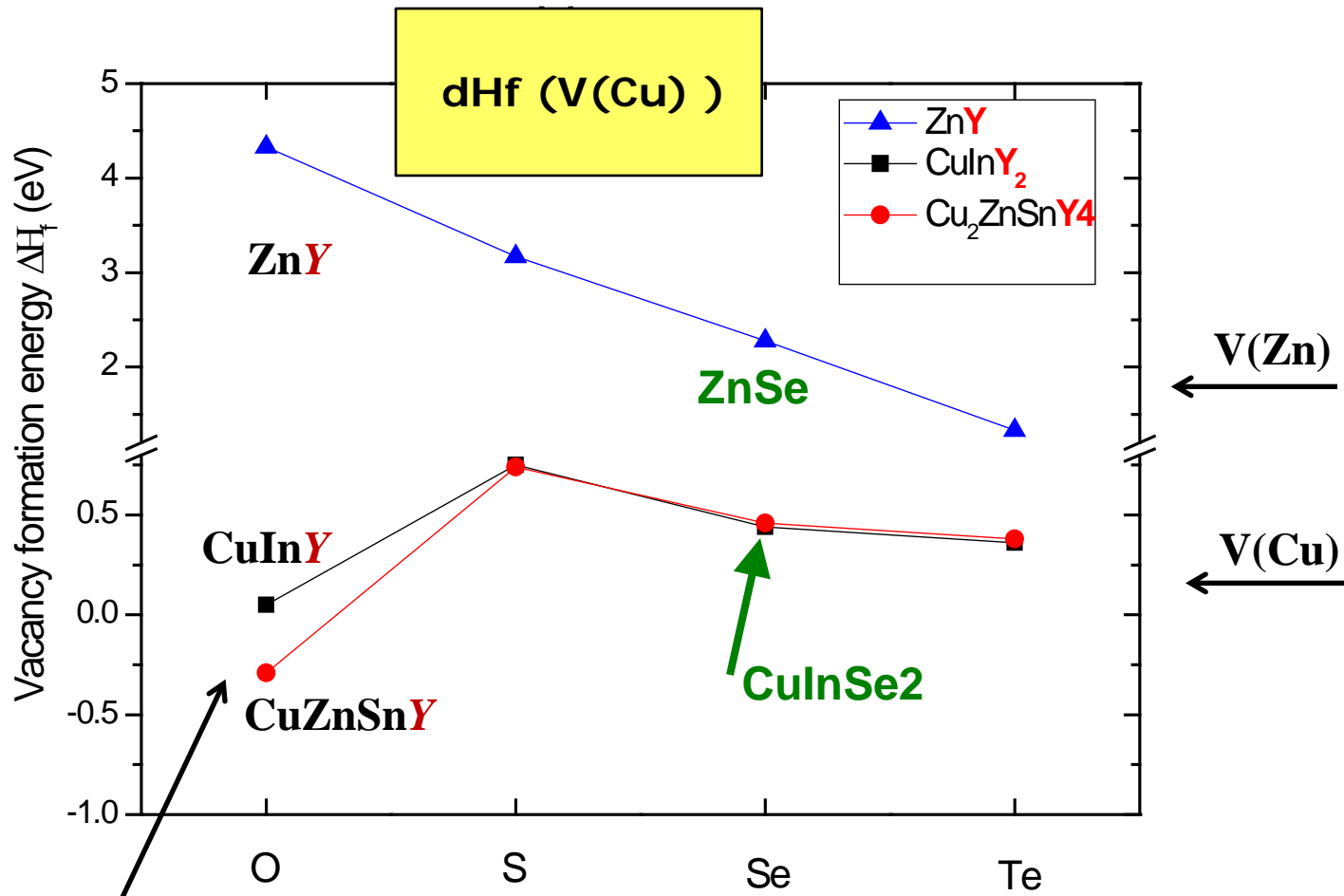
Calculate chemical potential for Cu.

Problem: What is chemical potential for Cu



# Formation energy of $V(\text{Cu})$ for different anion-alloys

S-based alloys have higher  $dH_f$  in Cu-compounds



May reflect the problem with oxygen in chalcopyriten structure

Kumar, Zhao, and Persson. submitted

# Material Properties: Dopability

**Because  $V(\text{Cu})$  has so low formation energy in  $\text{CuInSe}_2$ , the defect is used as an acceptor in p-type  $\text{CuInSe}_2$ .**

What is the ionization energy (= transition energy) of  $V(\text{Cu})$  as acceptor.

That is, how much energy does it cost to ionize it ??

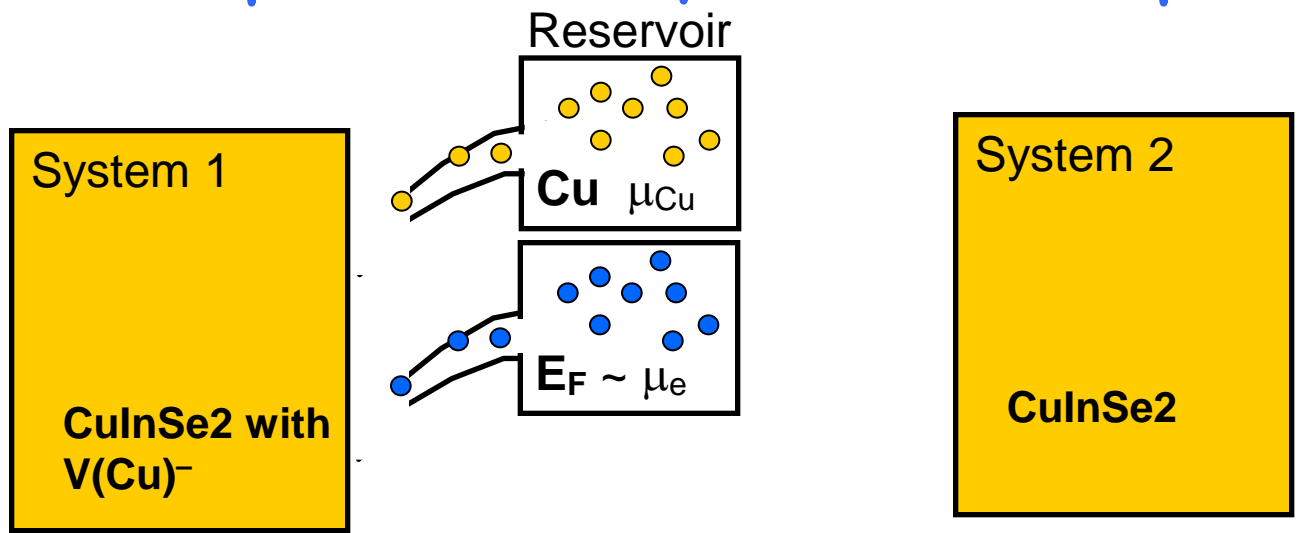
= how much energy to trap one electron at the acceptor ??

neutral

$$dH_f(V) = [ E(V) - TS(V) + \mu_{Cu} \cdot N_{Cu} ] - [ E(0) - TS(0) ]$$

charged

$$dH_f(V; q) = [ E(V; q) - TS(V) + \mu_{Cu} \cdot N_{Cu} + q \cdot E_F ] - [ E(0) - TS(0) ]$$



The transition energy can be defined as the Fermi energy for which  $dH_f(V) = dH_f(V; q)$

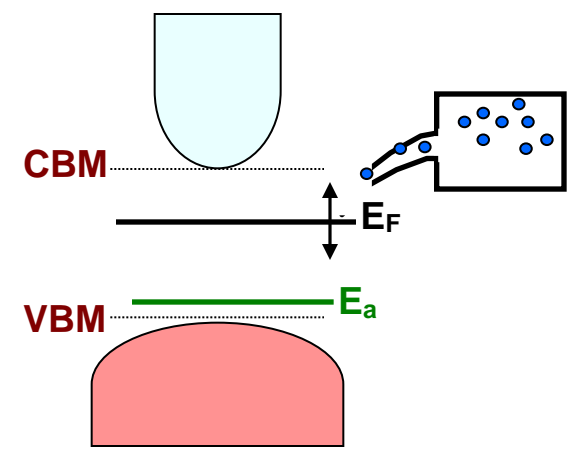
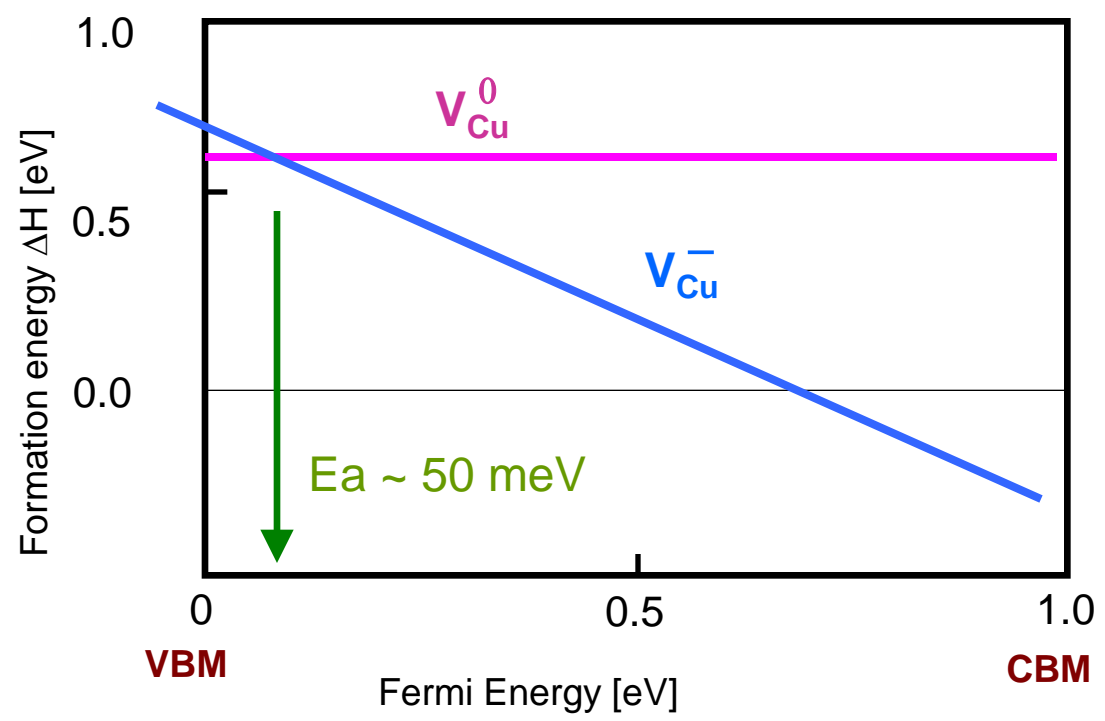
$$0 = E(V; q) - E(V) + q \cdot E_F \quad \rightarrow \quad E_F = [ E(V) - E(V; q) ] / q$$

neutral

$$dH_f(V) = [ E(V) - TS(V) + \mu_{Cu} \cdot N_{Cu} ] - [ E(0) - TS(0) ]$$

charged

$$dH_f(V; q) = [ E(V; q) - TS(V) + \mu_{Cu} \cdot N_{Cu} + q \cdot E_F ] - [ E(0) - TS(0) ]$$

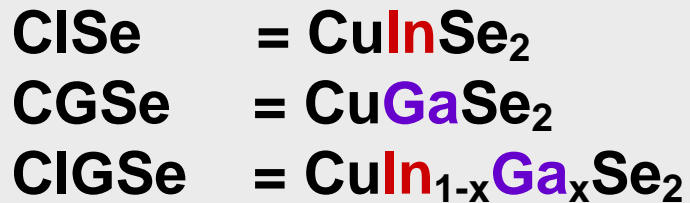


# Cu(InGa)Se<sub>2</sub> and Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSn(S,Se)<sub>4</sub>

## Cu(InGa)Se<sub>2</sub> commercialized

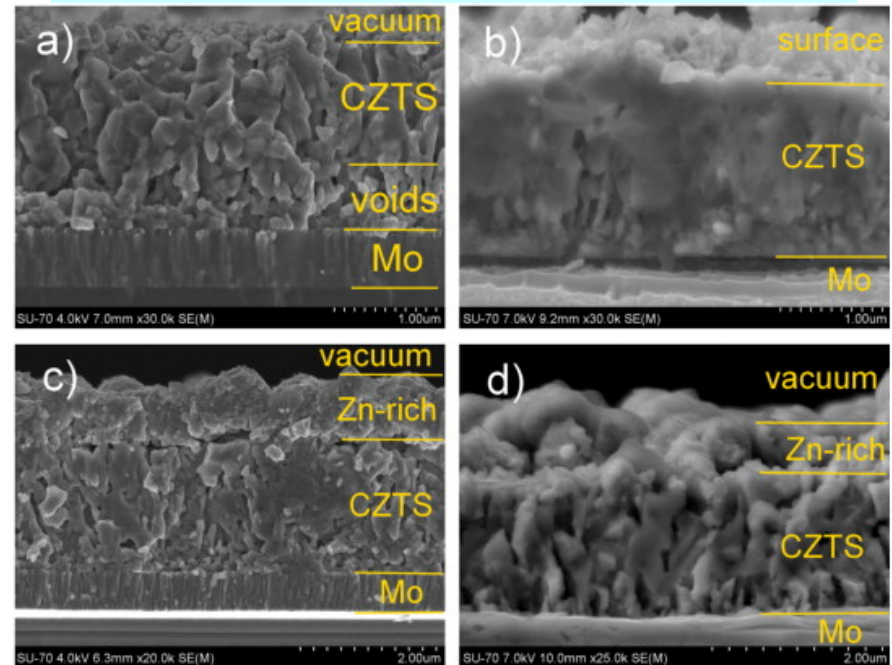


NREL, USA

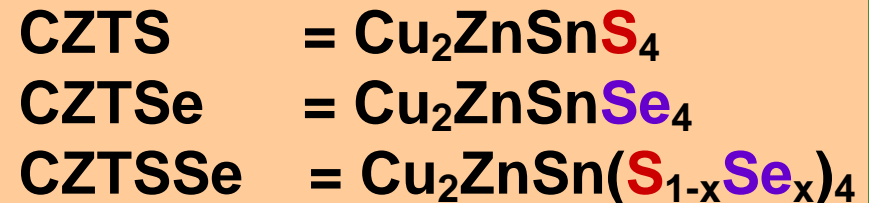


indium-free

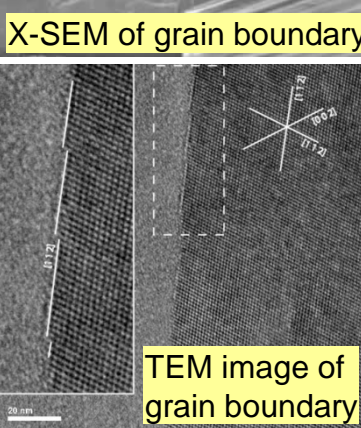
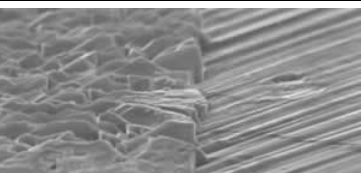
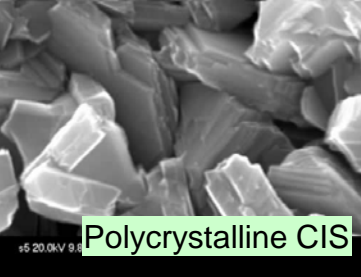
## Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSn(S,Se)<sub>4</sub> under developments



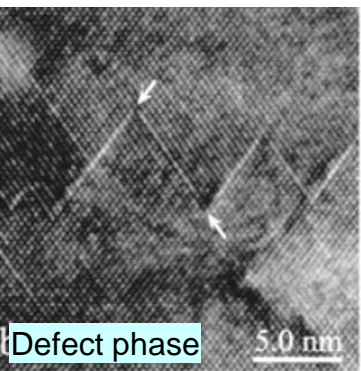
Salomé, et al. Solar Energy Mater & Solar Cells 95, 3482 (2011),



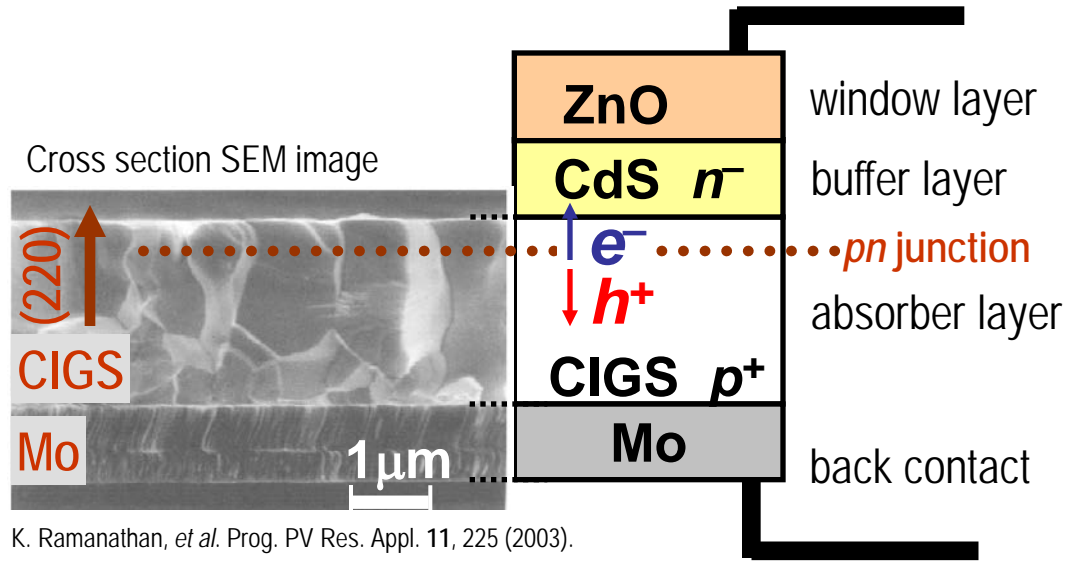
# Puzzling properties of CIGSe devices, different from Si, GaAs and CdTe devices



rockett.mse.uiuc.edu

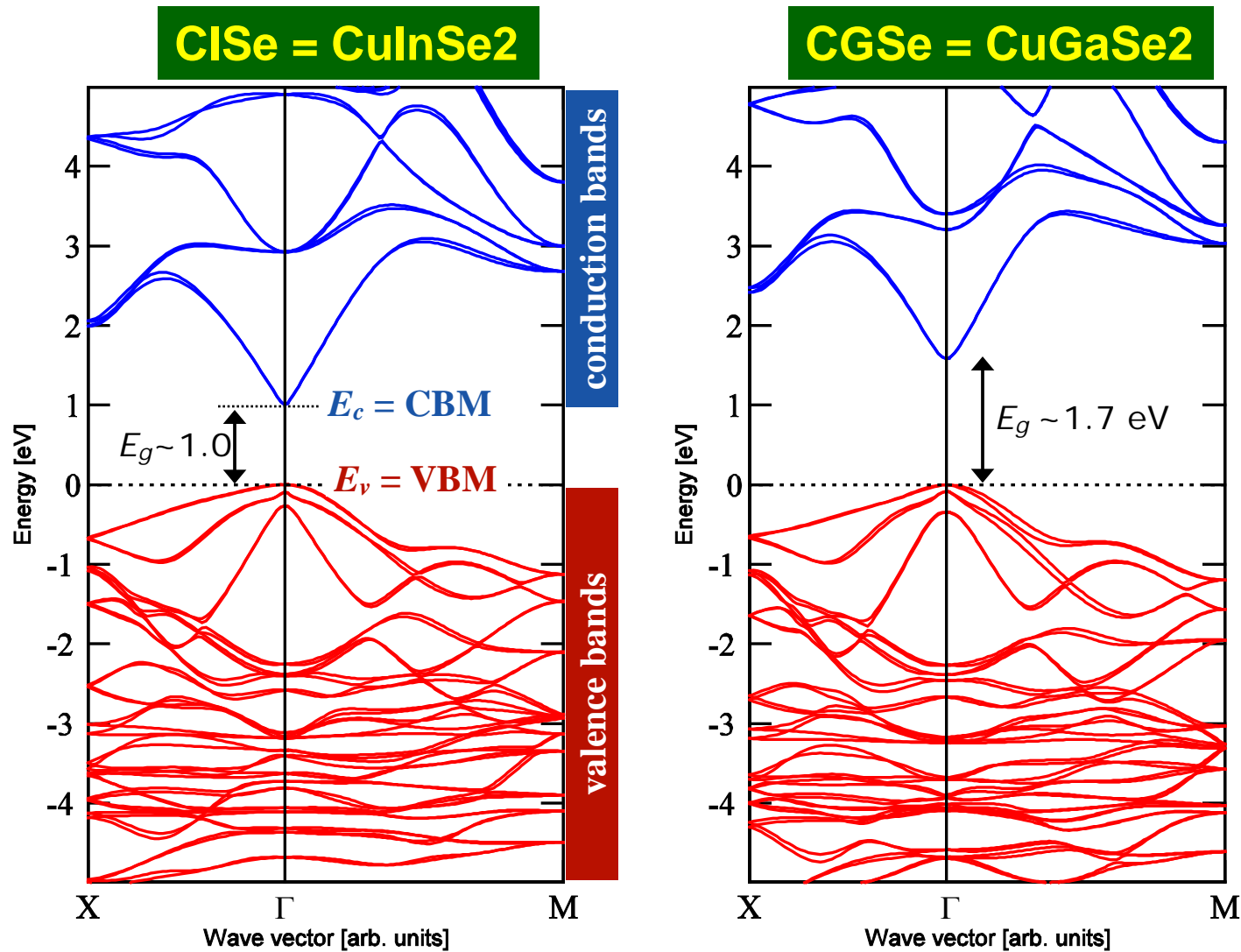


Y. Yan, et.al, report, NREL/CP-520-33615 (2003)



- (1) Grain boundaries are harmless for the device !!!
- (2) Best CIGS material is Cu-poor ( $[V_{Cu}], [In_{Cu}] \sim 1\%$ ) polycrystalline, non-stoichiometric, ODP (eg  $CuIn_3Se_5$ )
- (3) Extremely Cu-poor at surface/interfaces !!!
- (4) CIGSe is typically p-type as grown !!!
- (5) CISE can be n-type, but CGSe cannot !!!
- (6) Na at grain-boundaries is good for the device !!!
- (7) Not better efficiency for high Ga content ( $x > 0.30$ )

# CISe and CGSe are direct band-gap semicond.



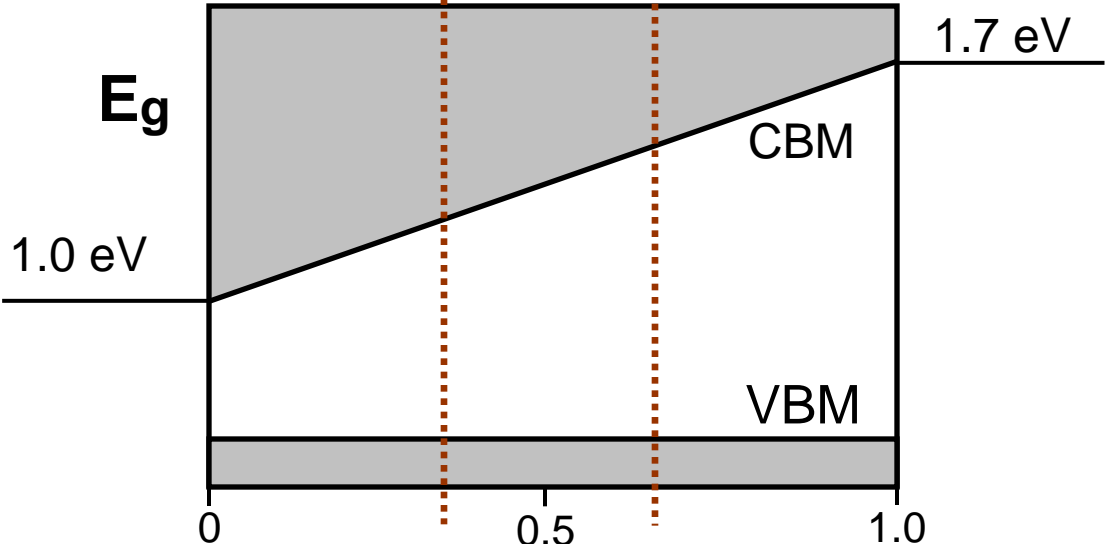
Solar cells need direct-gap materials because photons has  $q \sim 0$

# CIGSe band gap fits sun-light spectrum

		Group									
		13	14	15	16	17	18				
		B	C	N	O	F	Ne				
		5	6	7	8	9	10				
		13	14	15	16	17	18				
		Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar				
		13	14	15	16	17	18				
		Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr		
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
		Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr		
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
		Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe		
		47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54		
		Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe		
		47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54		

Expt. best composition ~30% Ga

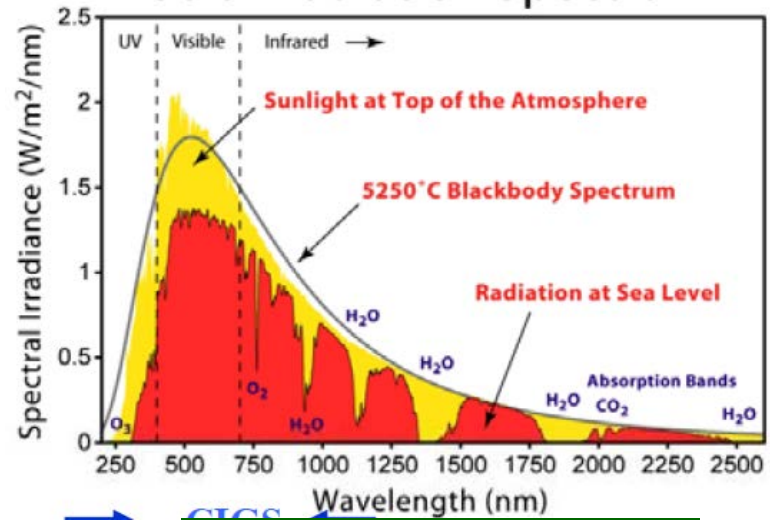
Best theoretical composition 50–60% Ga ??



$\text{CuInSe}_2$

$\text{CuIn}_{1-x}\text{Ga}_x\text{Se}_2$

$\text{CuGaSe}_2$



sun-light spectrum

Why is not solar-cell efficiency increasing for  $x > 30\%$  ???



		Group																
		13	14	15	16	17	18											
		B	C	N	O	F	Ne											
		5	6	7	8	9	10											
		2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8											
		Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar											
		13	14	15	16	17	18											
		2-3-3	2-3-4	2-3-5	2-3-6	2-3-7	2-3-8											
i	11	12																
		Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr									
		29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36									
		2-6-10-1	2-6-10-2	2-6-10-3	2-6-10-4	2-6-10-5	2-6-10-6	2-6-10-7	2-6-10-8									
d		Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe									
		47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54									
		2-6-10-10-1	2-6-10-10-2	2-6-10-10-3	2-6-10-10-4	2-6-10-10-5	2-6-10-10-6	2-6-10-10-7	2-6-10-10-8									
t		Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn									
		79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86									
		2-6-10-10-1	2-6-10-10-2	2-6-10-10-3	2-6-10-10-4	2-6-10-10-5	2-6-10-10-6	2-6-10-10-7	2-6-10-10-8									

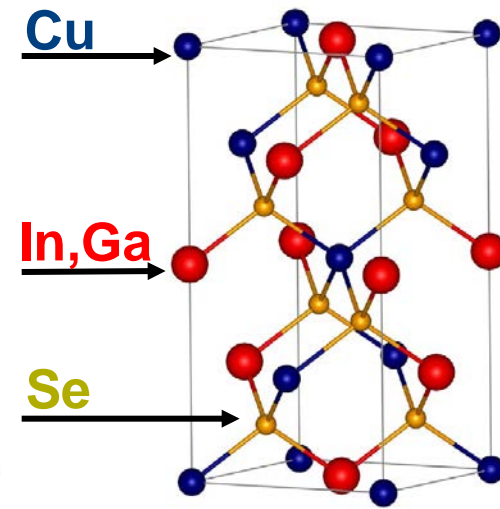
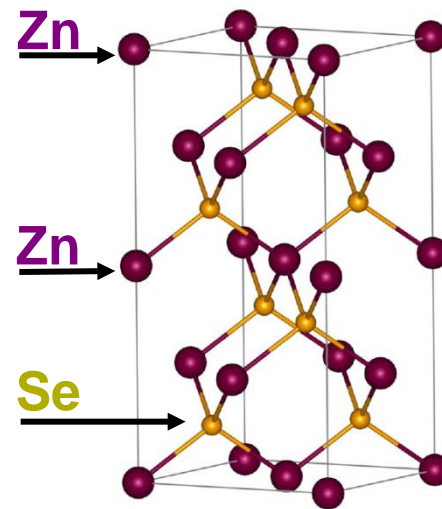
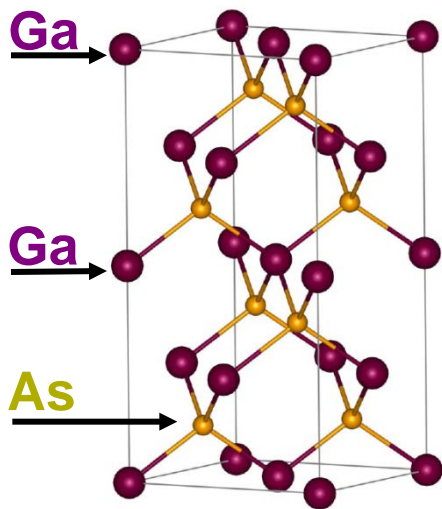
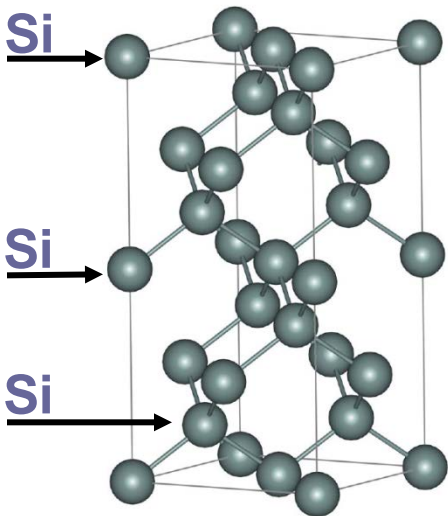


**SiSi SiSi**  
4+4+4+4 = 16

**GaAs GaAs**  
3+5 +3+5 = 16

**ZnSe ZnSe**  
2+6 +2+6 = 16

**CuSe InSe**  
1+6 +3+6 = 16



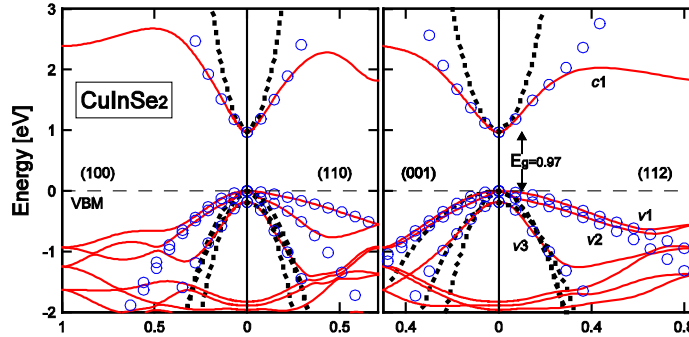
diamond structure  
e.g. group IV  
Si, Ge, C

zinc-blende struct.  
e.g. III-V and II-VI  
GaAs, ZnSe

chalcopyrites  
e.g. I-III-VI<sub>2</sub>  
CuInSe<sub>2</sub>, AuAlO<sub>2</sub>

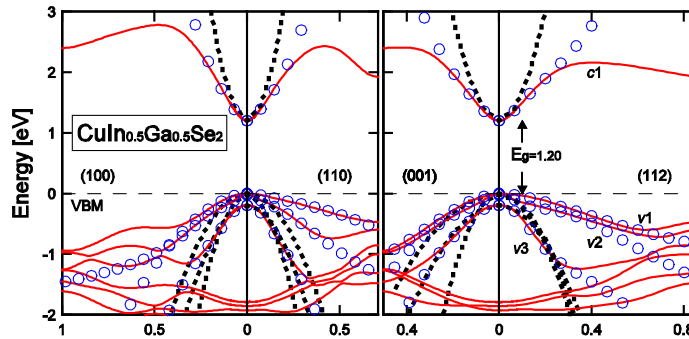
# Electronic band-edge structure

**CuInSe<sub>2</sub>**

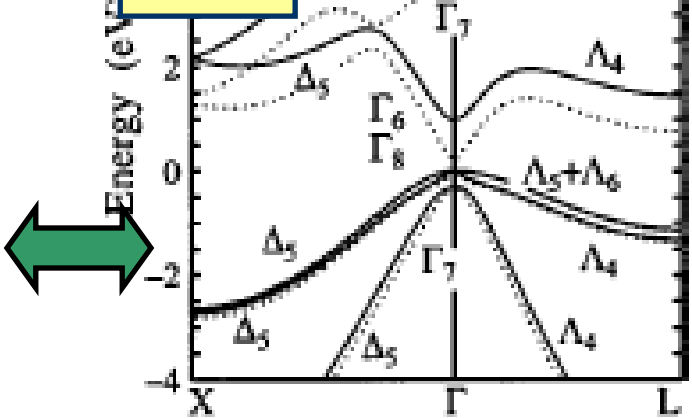


We are interested in details near CBM and VBM

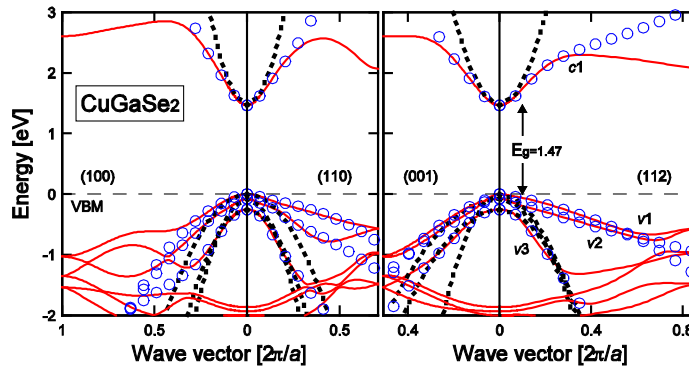
**CIGSe = CuIn<sub>0.5</sub>Ga<sub>0.5</sub>Se<sub>2</sub>**



**GaAs**



**CuGaSe<sub>2</sub>**



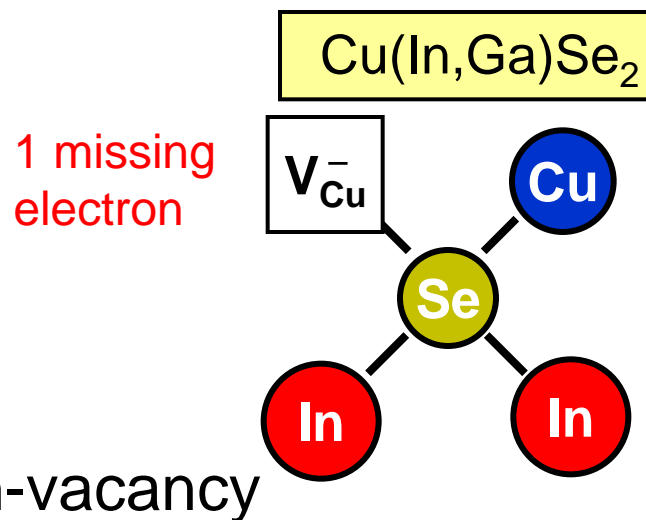
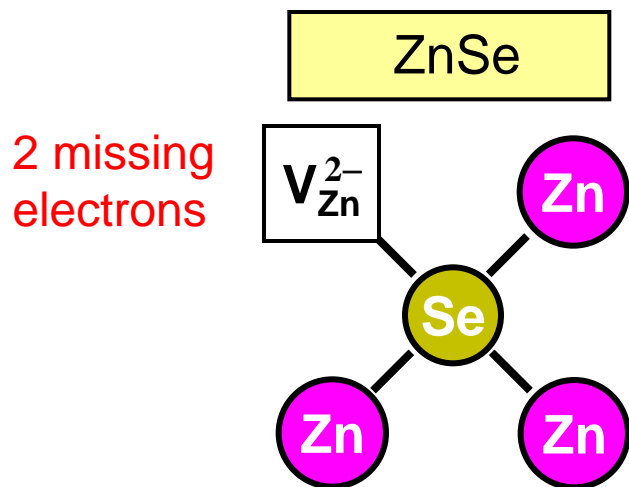
Wave vector (arb. units)  
Persson, et al PRB 033201 (2001)

blue circles show fitted band structure

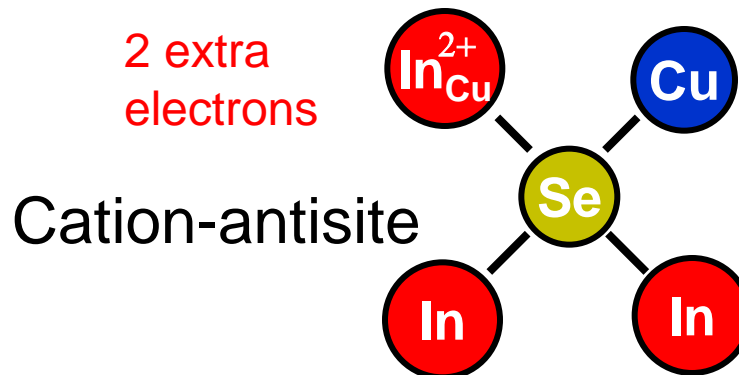
Chen and Persson, Thin Solid Films 519, 7503 (2011).

Similar CB as GaAs (but more VBs)

# Easy to form cation vacancies and antisites



		Group							
		13	14	15	16	17	18		
		B	C	N	O	F	Ne		
		5	6	7	8	9	10		
		2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8		
		Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar		
		13	14	15	16	17	18		
		0-3-3	0-3-4	0-3-5	0-3-6	0-3-7	0-3-8		
i	11	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
		29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
		2-8-18-1	2-8-18-2	2-8-18-3	2-8-18-4	2-8-18-5	2-8-18-6	2-8-18-7	2-8-18-8
d		Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
		47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
		2-8-18-18-1	2-8-18-18-2	2-8-18-18-3	2-8-18-18-4	2-8-18-18-5	2-8-18-18-6	2-8-18-18-7	2-8-18-18-8

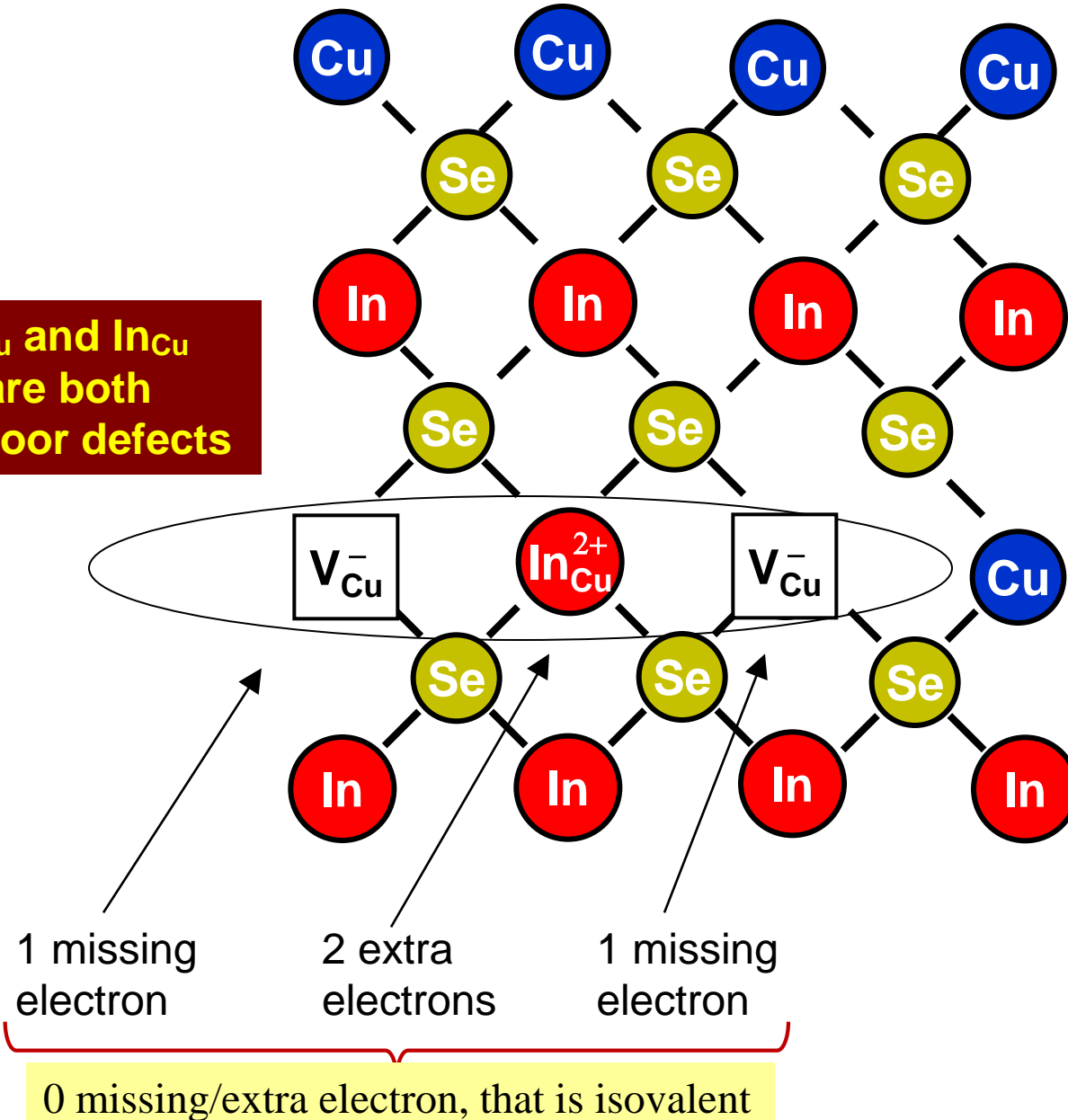


$V_{Cu}$  and  $In_{Cu}$  have very low formation energies in CIGSe

# Charge-neutral / isovalent defects $[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$

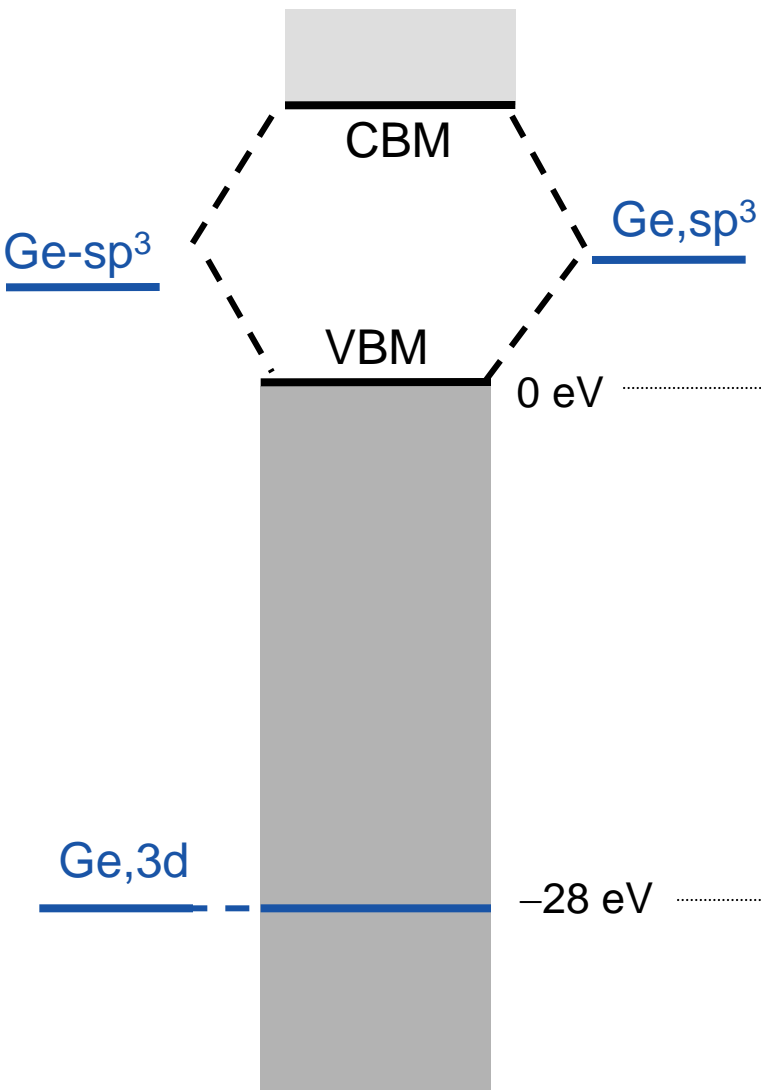
$V_{Cu}$  and  $In_{Cu}$   
are both  
Cu-poor defects

$[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$   
Charge-neutral  
defect !!



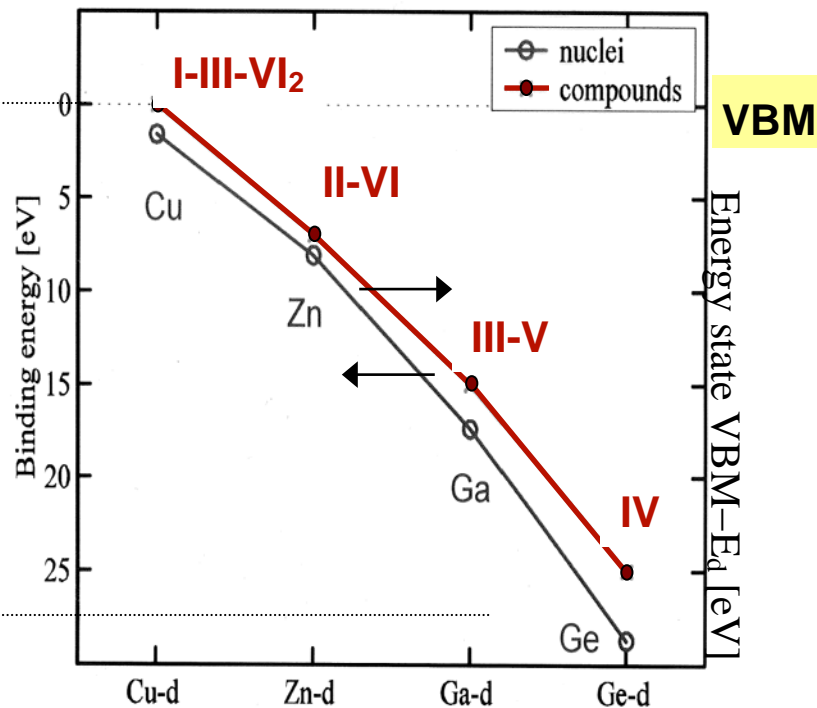
# Trends in d-state energies

Ge: [Ar] 3d<sup>10</sup>4s<sup>2</sup>p<sup>2</sup>

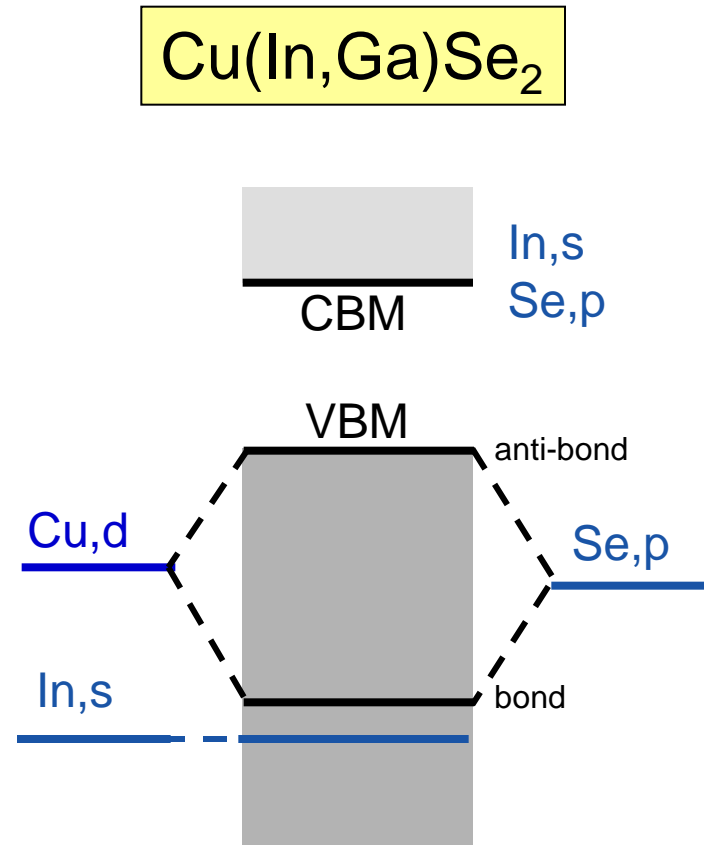
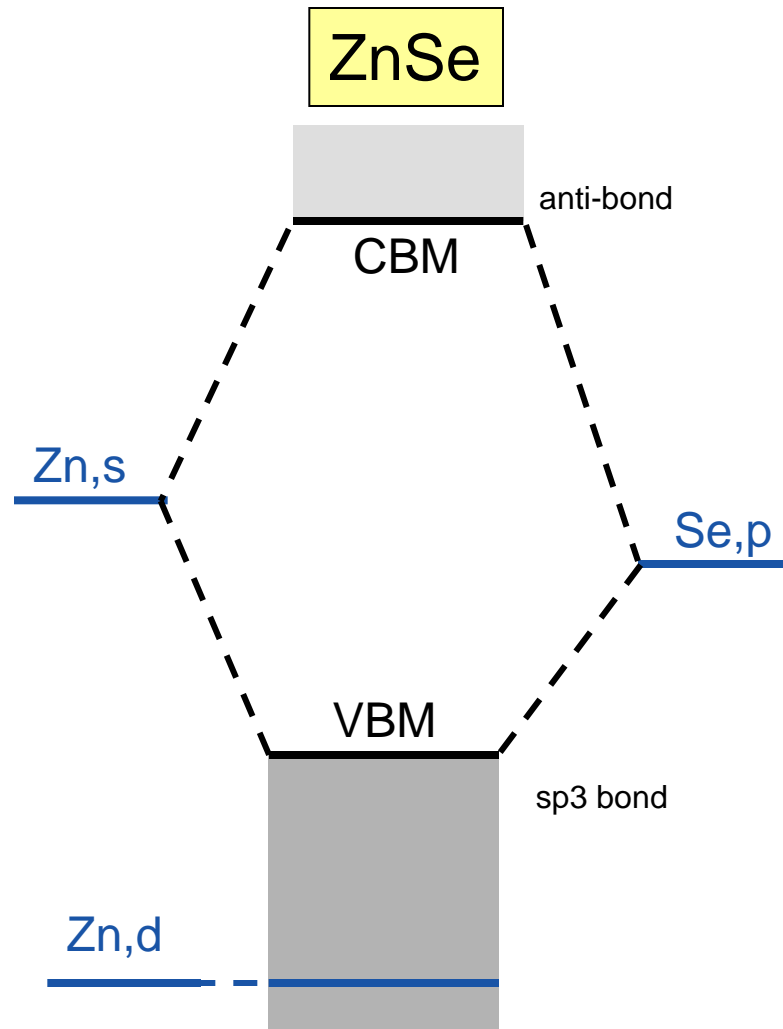


19

										Group					
										13	14	15	16	17	18
										B	C	N	O	F	Ne
										5	6	7	8	9	10
										2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8
										Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
										13	14	15	16	17	18
										2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8
11	12														
i	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr							
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36								
2-8-18-1	2-8-18-2	2-8-18-3	2-8-18-4	2-8-18-5	2-8-18-6	2-8-18-7	2-8-18-8								
47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54								
2-4-16-18-1	2-4-16-18-2	2-4-16-18-3	2-4-16-18-4	2-4-16-18-5	2-4-16-18-6	2-4-16-18-7	2-4-16-18-8								
t	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn							
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86								
2-4-16-18-1	2-4-16-18-2	2-4-16-18-3	2-4-16-18-4	2-4-16-18-5	2-4-16-18-6	2-4-16-18-7	2-4-16-18-8								



# VBM of CIGS has strong d-character !!



**Cu(In,Ga)Se<sub>2</sub> is very different from ZnSe !!**

# Cation vacancy formation energies

## CISE and CGSe

$$V_{Cu} \sim \mathbf{0.7} + \Delta\mu_{Cu} \quad [\text{eV}]$$

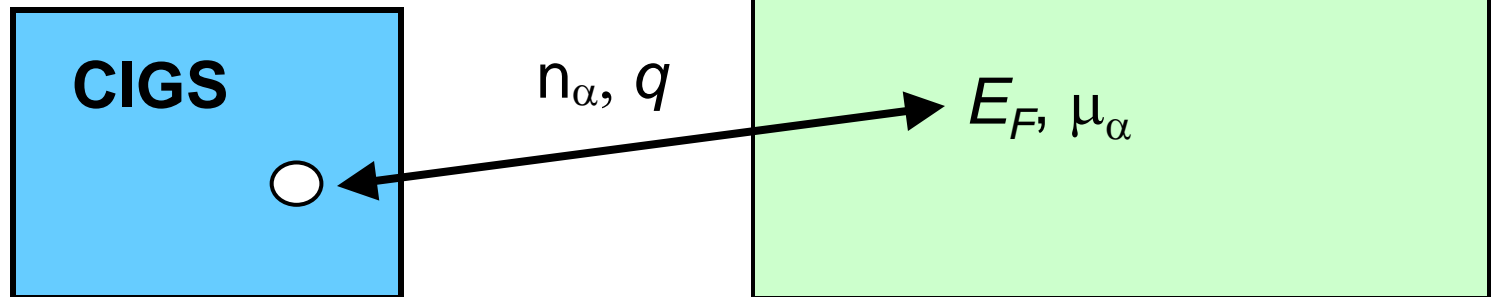
Persson, *et al.* PRB **72**, 035211 (2005)

## ZnTe

$$V_{Zn} \sim \mathbf{3} + \Delta\mu_{Zn} \quad [\text{eV}]$$

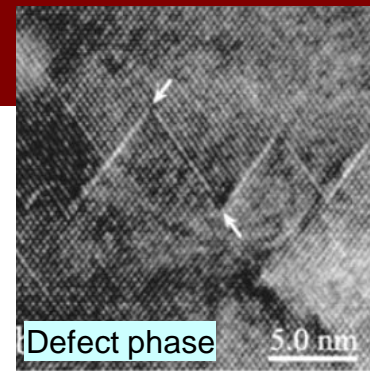
Laks, *et al.* PRB **45**, 10965 (1992)  
Cheocg, *et al.* PRB **51**, 10610 (1995)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta H(\alpha, q) &= E(\alpha, q) - E_{host} \\ &+ \sum n_{\alpha} (\Delta\mu_{\alpha} + \mu_{\alpha}^{solid}) \\ &+ q(E_{VBM} + E_F) \end{aligned}$$



**High quality CIGS is Cu-poor: 23.5 – 24.5 at.% (not 25%)**

# Charge-neutral complex $[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$

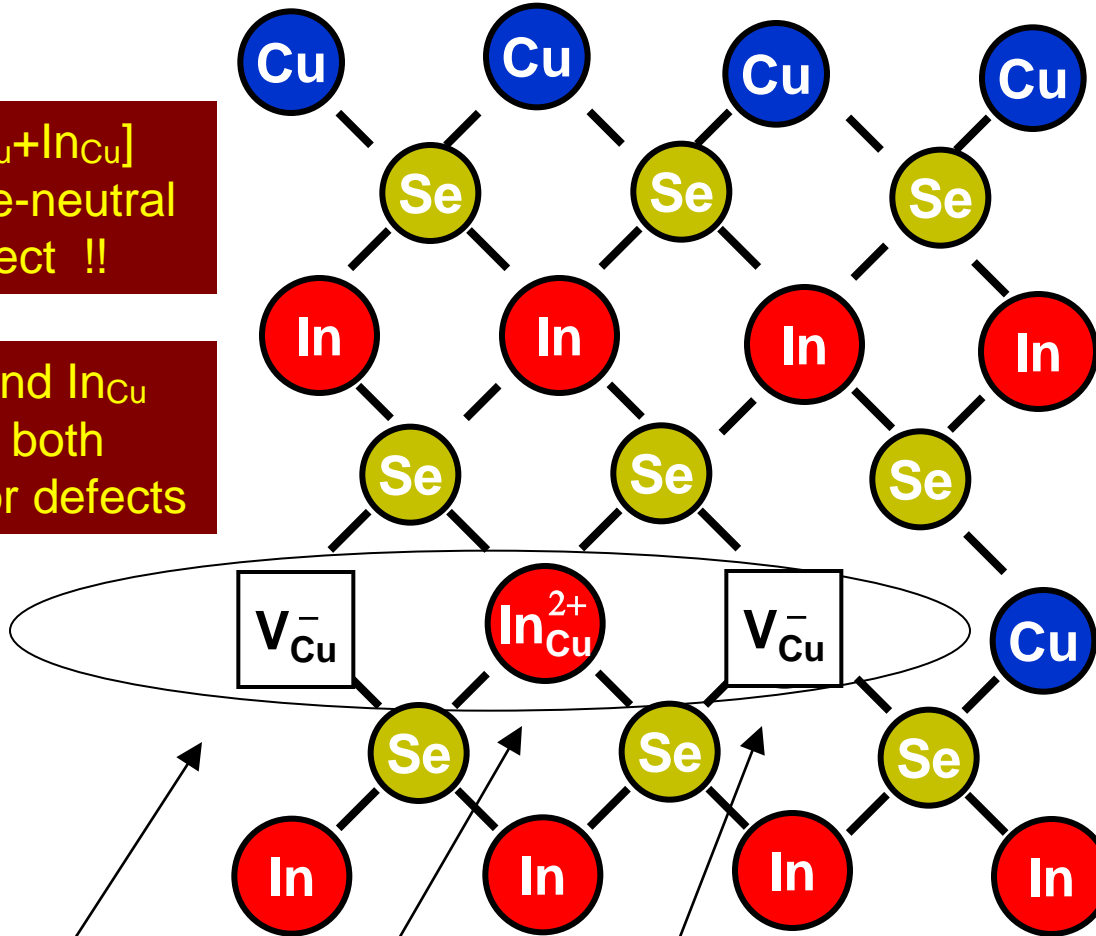


Defect phase 5.0 nm

Y. Yan, et.al, report, NREL/CP-520-33615 (2003)

$[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$   
Charge-neutral defect !!

$V_{Cu}$  and  $In_{Cu}$   
are both  
Cu-poor defects

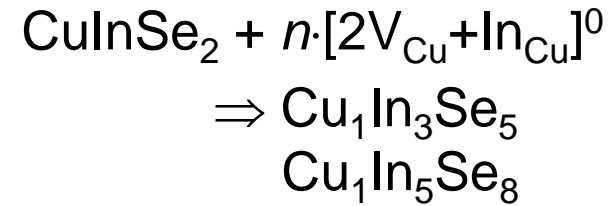


1 missing electron

2 extra electrons

1 missing electron

0 missing/extra electron, that is isovalent



Zhang et al. PRB 57, 9642 (1998)

Calculation  $S = N_i e^{-\Delta H_f / k_B T}$   
 $\sim 1-5 \% V_{Cu}$



Cu-vacancies can

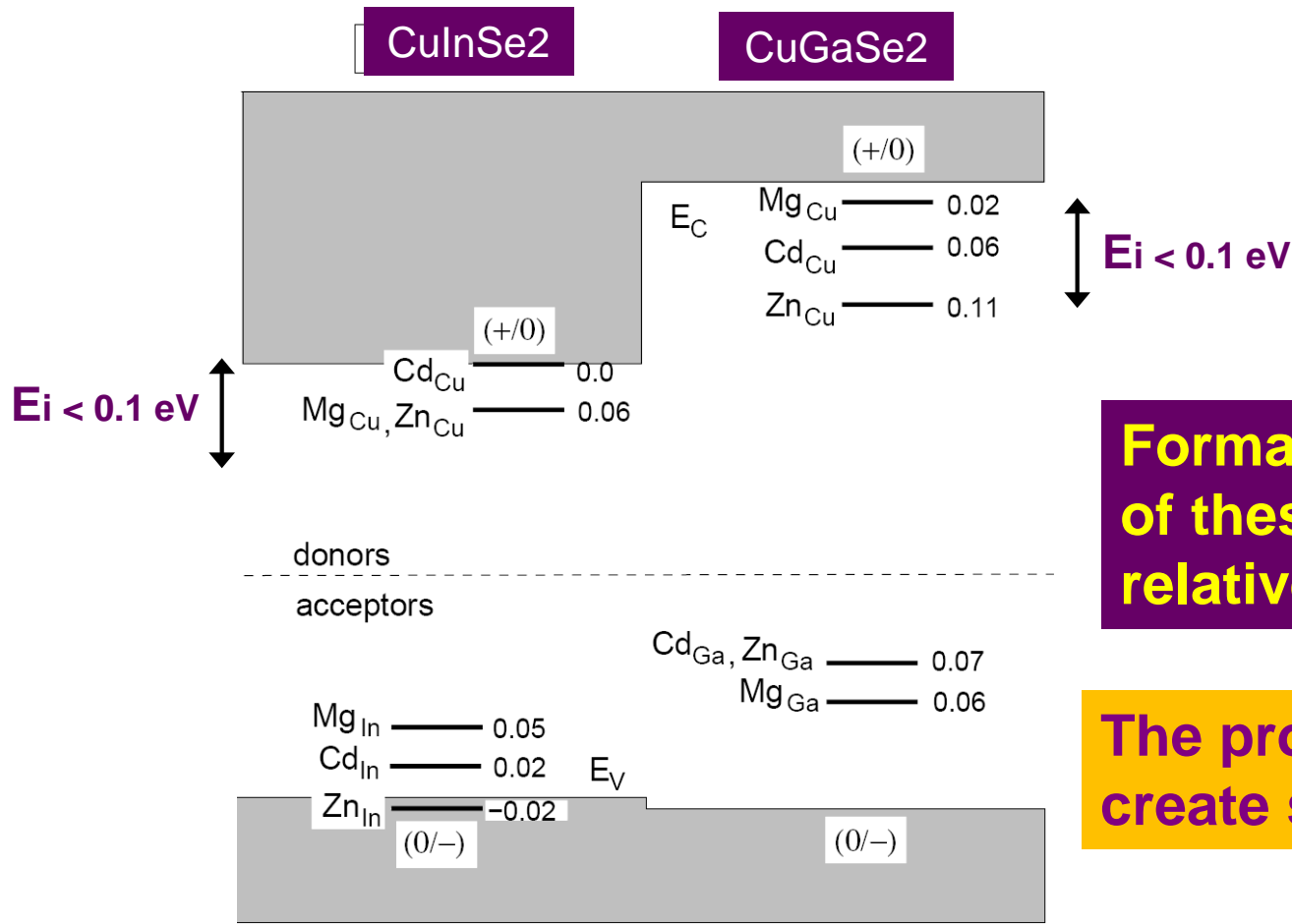
for example,

**1) limit n-type doping**

experimental observation:

**CuInSe<sub>2</sub> be n-type, but not CuGaSe<sub>2</sub>**

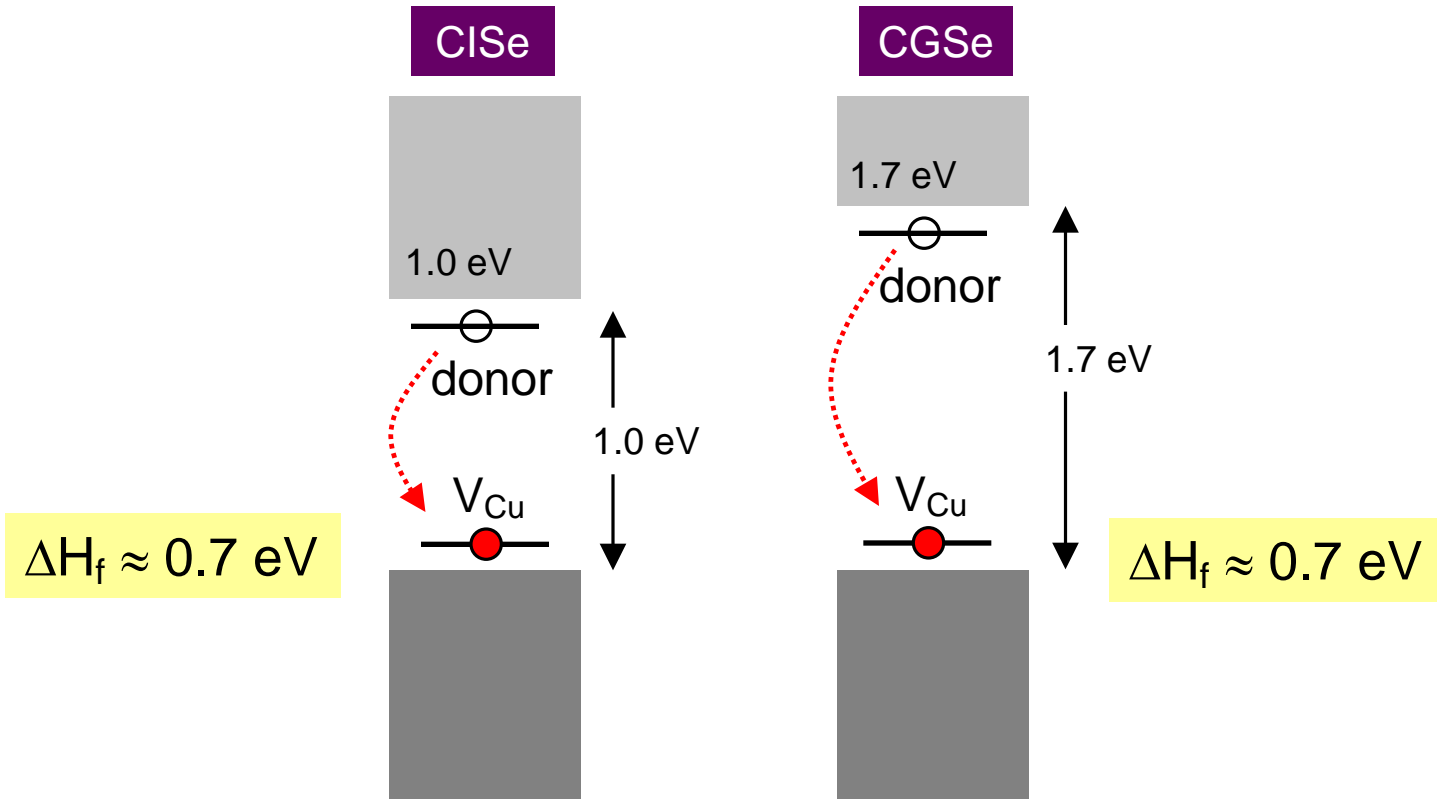
# Both ClSe and CGSe have shallow donors !!!



**Formation energies of these donors are relatively small**

**The problem is not to create shallow donors**

# Trying to n-type dope CGSe



simplified  
model

It costs  $\sim 0.7 \text{ eV}$  to create  $V_{Cu}$

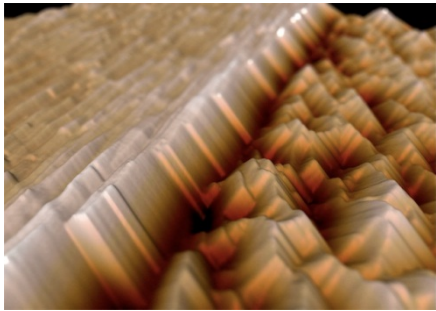
But  $V_{Cu}$ -compensation, the system gains  
 $\sim 0.8 \text{ eV}$  in CIS  
 $\sim 1.4 \text{ eV}$  in CGS

Cu-vacancies can

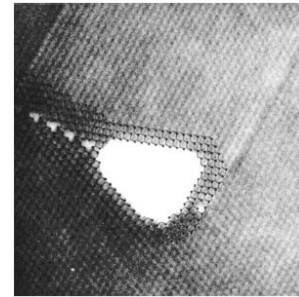
second example,

**2) create hole barriers**

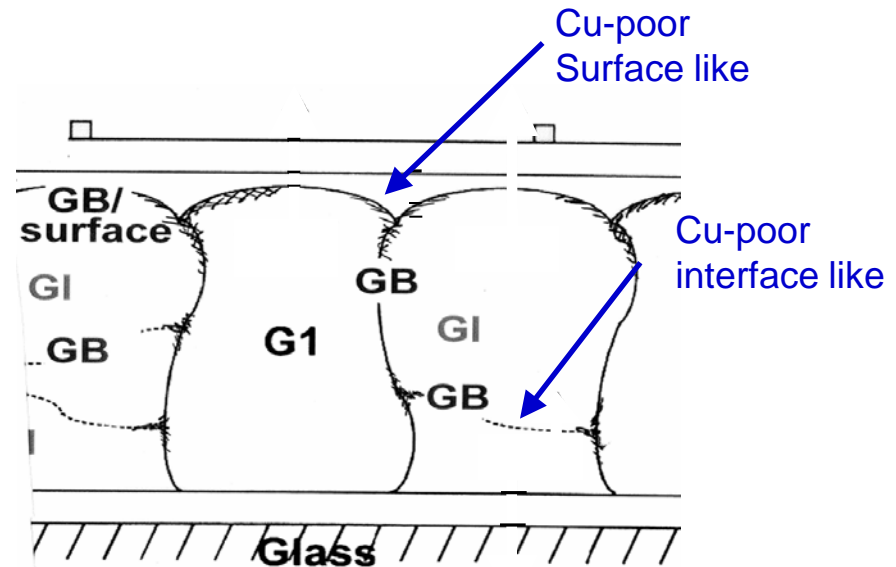
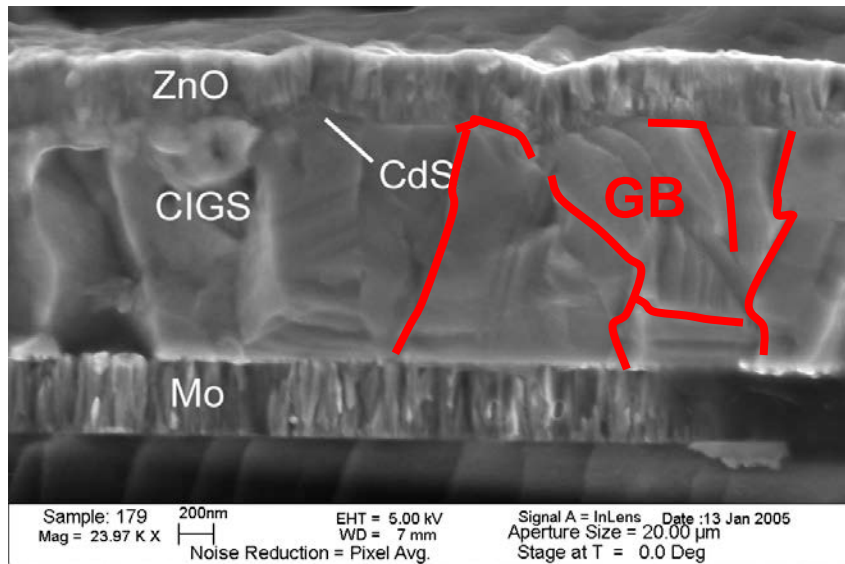
# Modeling of GBs: GB are Cu poor



AFM grain boundaries in CIGS  
rockett.mse.uiuc.edu



nano-voids with (112)-surfaces  
Lei, JAP 100, 073518 (2006)



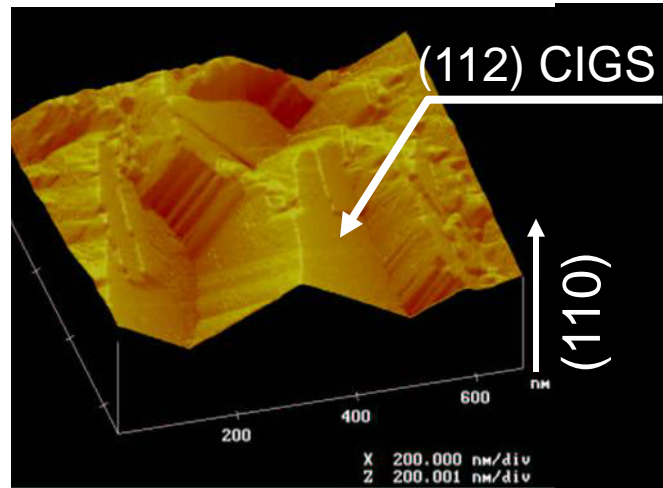
Why is GBs good/harmless for the device ?

What is happening at GBs ?

# Stable polar (112)-surface in CIGSe !!

## Experimentally:

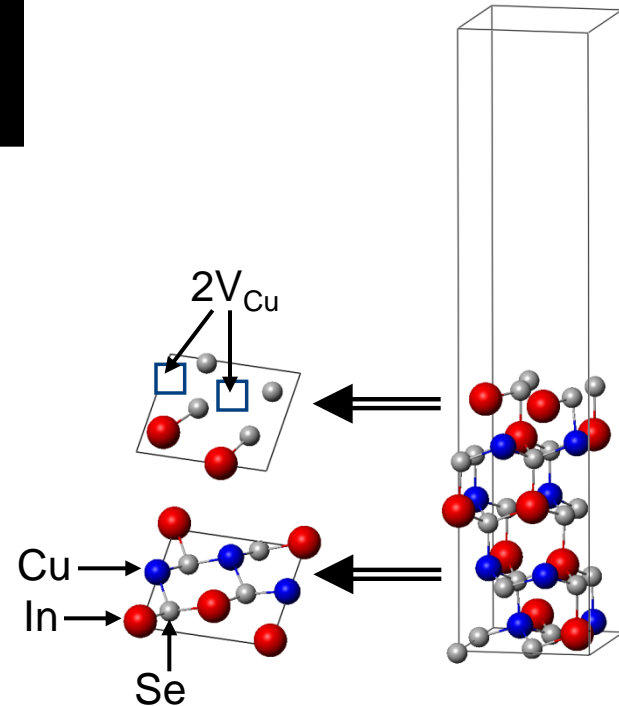
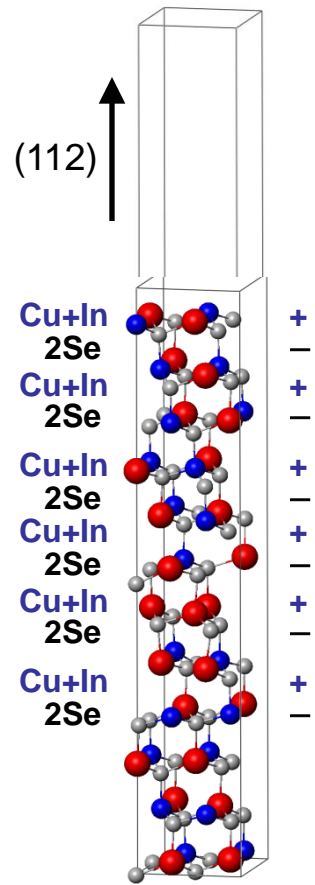
Liao and Rockett, 29<sup>th</sup> IEEE Conf. p. 515 (2002).



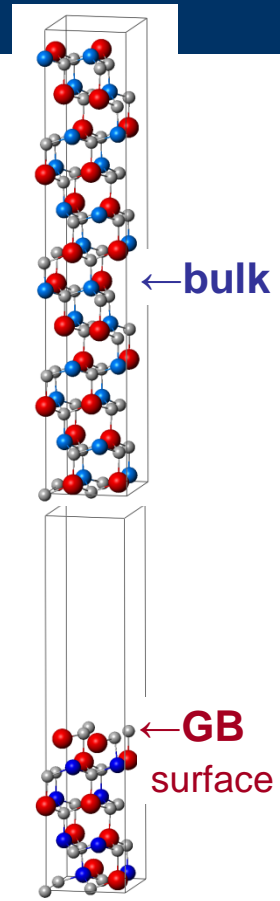
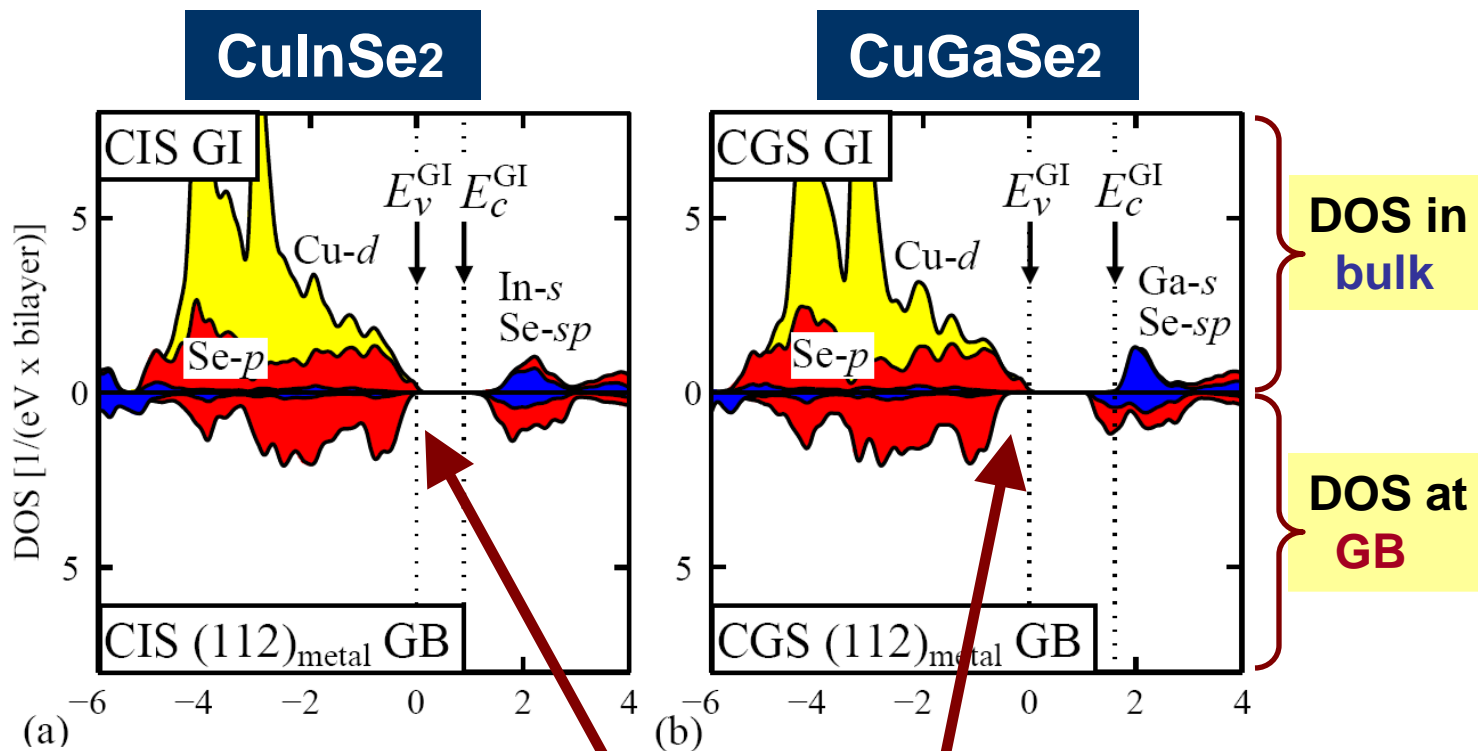
An atomic-force microscopy image of the surface of a (220)-oriented Cu(In,Ga)Se<sub>2</sub> epitaxial layer grown on GaAs. The surface has decomposed into two sets of polar (112) planes identified by their crystallographic orientation).

## Theory:

- In CIGSe: **polar** (112) is most stable  
it is energetically 'cheap' to create  $V_{Cu}$   
[Jaffe and Zunger, PRB 64, 241304 (2001)].
- (112) surface reconstruct by  $V_{Cu}$ .  
-(112) surface reconstruct by  $In_{Cu}$ .  
[Zhang and Wei, PRB 65, 081402 (2002)].

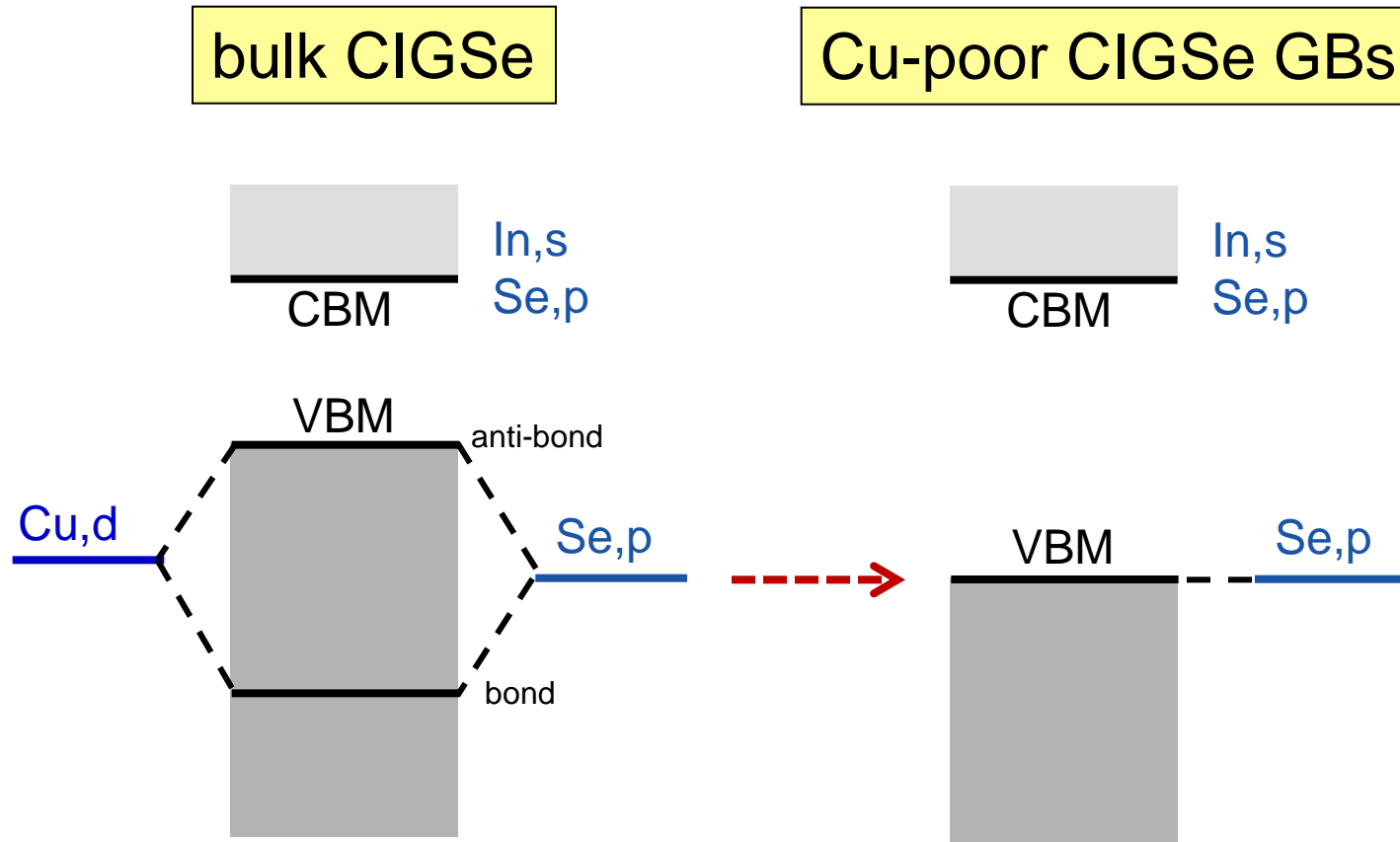


# Hole barrier at the GBs



**Missing electron states at the VBM**

# VBM of CIGS has strong d-character !!

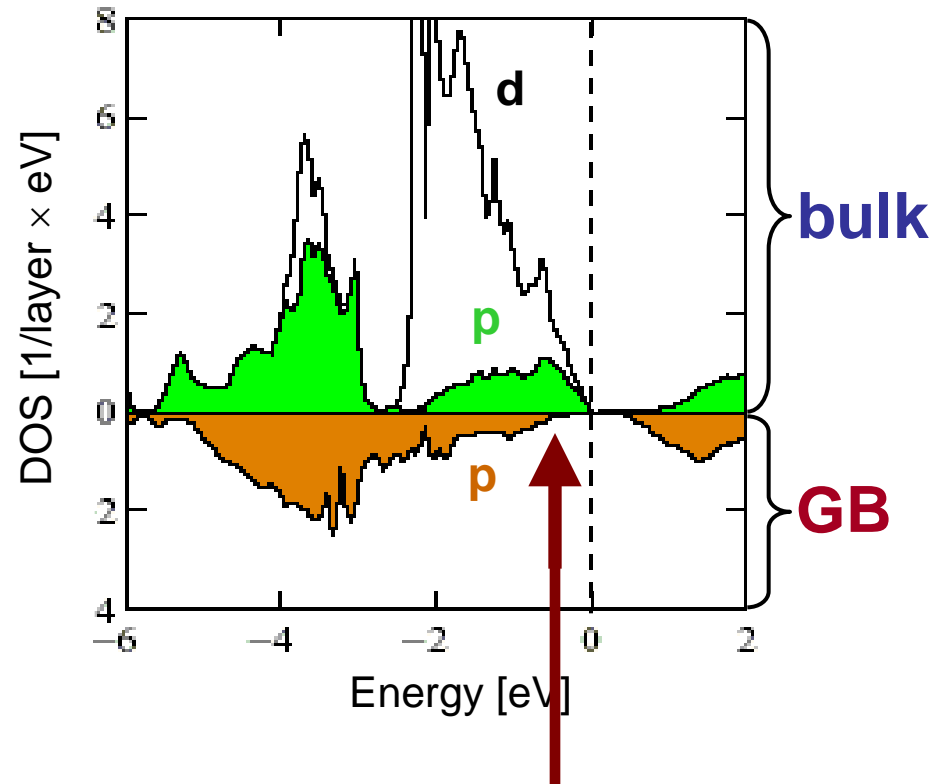
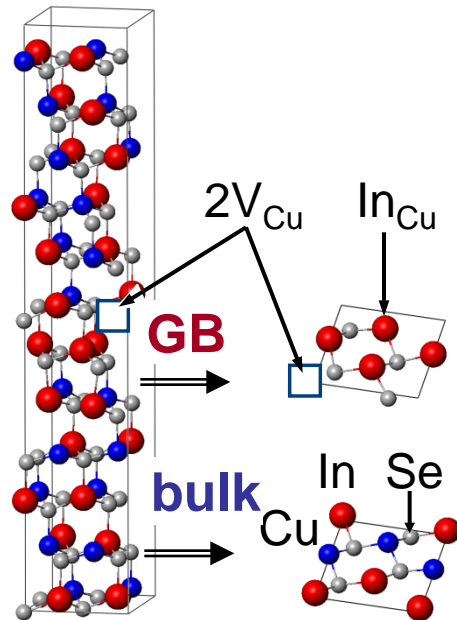


**No Cu-d  
⇒ lower VBM !!**



# $[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$ at dislocations can also repel holes

CISe with  $2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}$

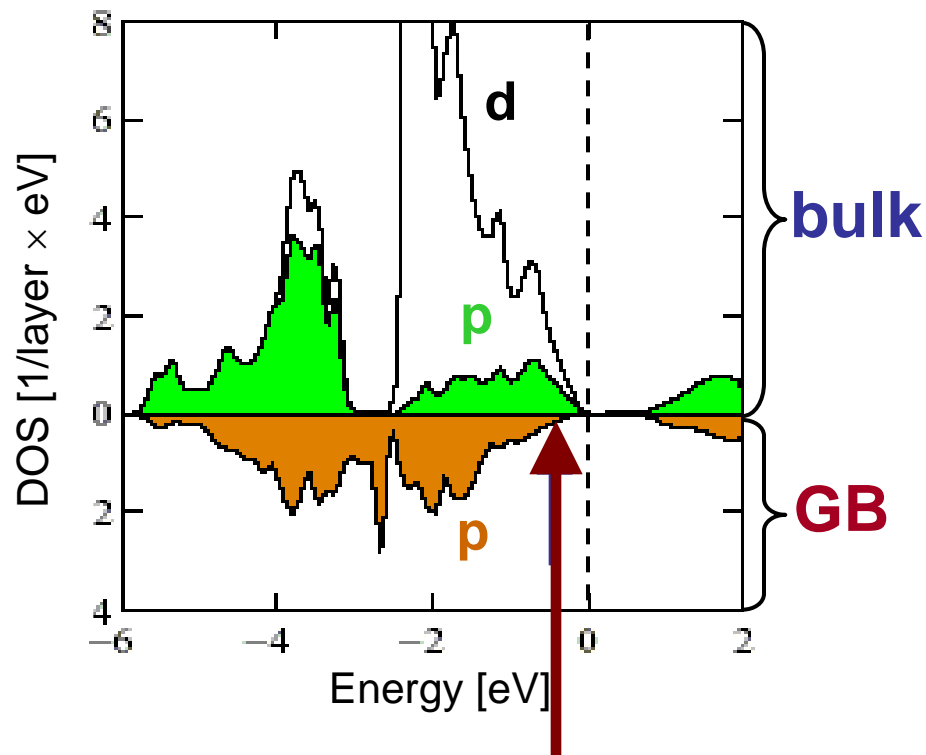
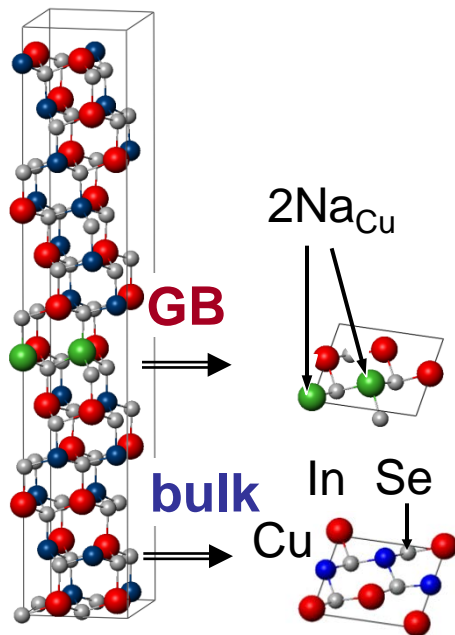


$[2V_{Cu}+In_{Cu}]$  means Cu-poor region

# NaCu at dislocation interface can also repel holes

Periodic table showing the positions of Na (Group 1, Period 3) and Cu (Group 11, Period 4). Na is circled in green and Cu is circled in red.

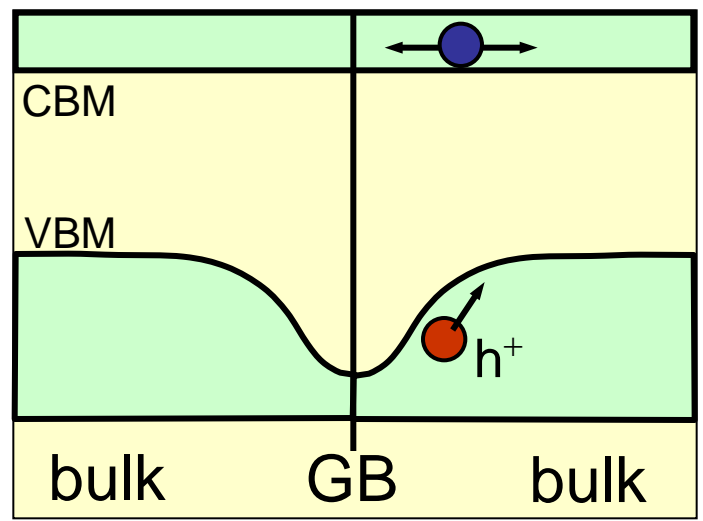
Cu: [Ar]  $3d^{10}4s^1$   
 Na: [Ne]  $3s^1$



Na at GB lacks d-orbitals so it creates a hole barrier

**Good GB**

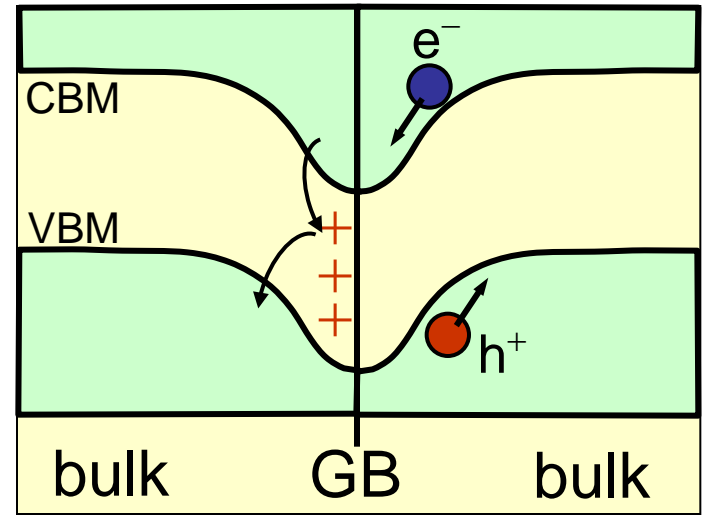
**CuInSe<sub>2</sub>**



**Can we utilize this phenomena ?**

**Bad GB**

case  
**Positively** charged ions  
Donors, e.g.  $V_{Se}^{++}$



GB **repels** holes (majority),  
**attracts** electrons (minority)

# Neutral GBs now observed expt

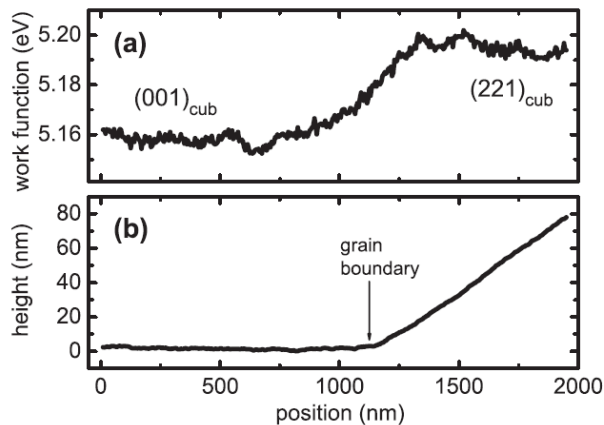


FIG. 3. KPFM line profile of the work function (a) and topography (b) across the grain boundary. The KPFM scan shows no indication of a space charge at the grain boundary.

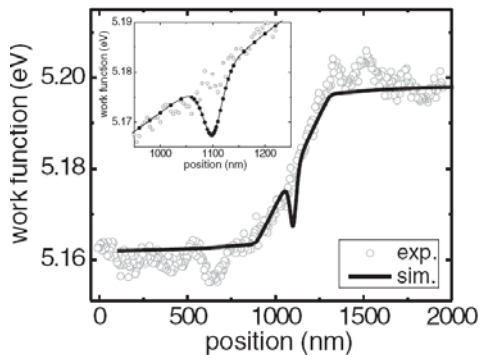


FIG. 4. Simulation of the KPFM line profile (solid line) across the grain boundary assuming a 30 meV barrier at the grain boundary. The points show the comparison with the experimental data.

Siebert, et al, PRL 97,146601 (2006)

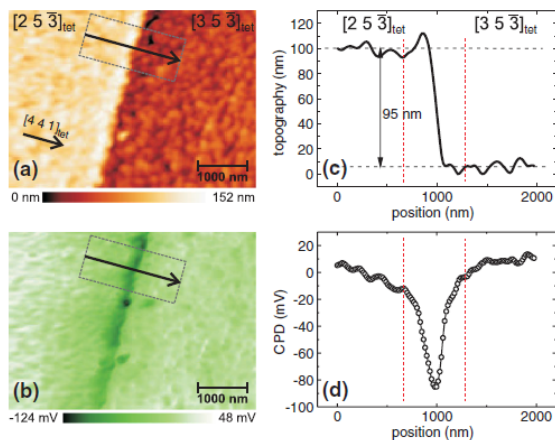


FIG. 1 (color online). KPFM measurement on the  $\text{CuGaSe}_2$  bicrystal containing a  $\Sigma 9$  grain boundary. (a) Topography and (b) CPD showing a dip along the GB. Averaged line profiles across the GB were extracted in the gray box indicated in the images for (c) topography and (d) CPD.

Hafenmeister, et al, PRL 104,196602 (2010)