

# Alexey Belyanin

## Lecture 4

Unconventional nanostructures and new avenues

- Graphene
- Carbon nanotubes
- Plasmonics

# Graphene

Yet another amazing form of carbon

Nobel Prize in Physics 2010



Andre Geim



Konstantin Novoselov

Univ. of Manchester, UK

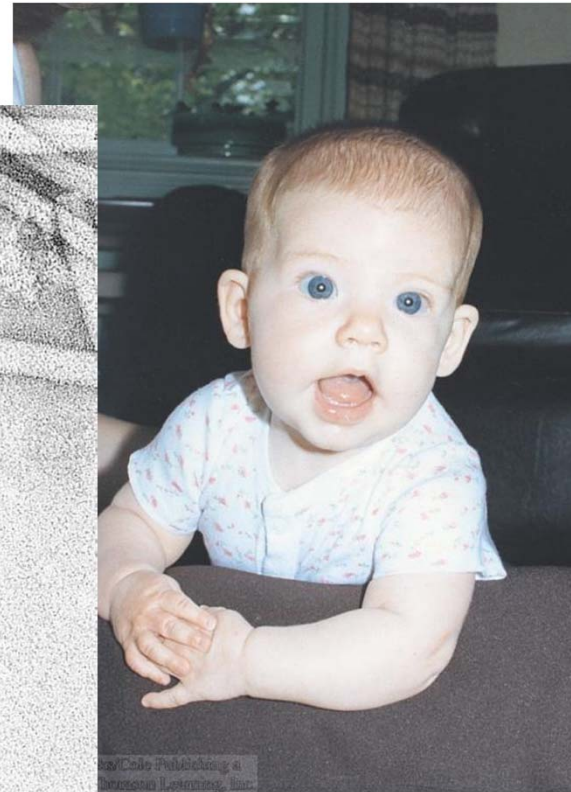
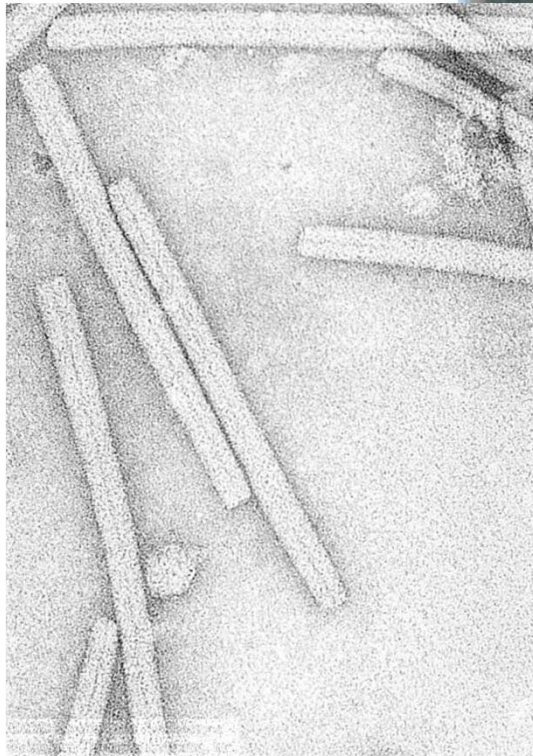
# Carbon: the Element of Life

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Has unique flexibility for bonding and ability to make complex compounds

All life forms on Earth, from viruses to complex mammals (including humans) are based on carbon chemistry.

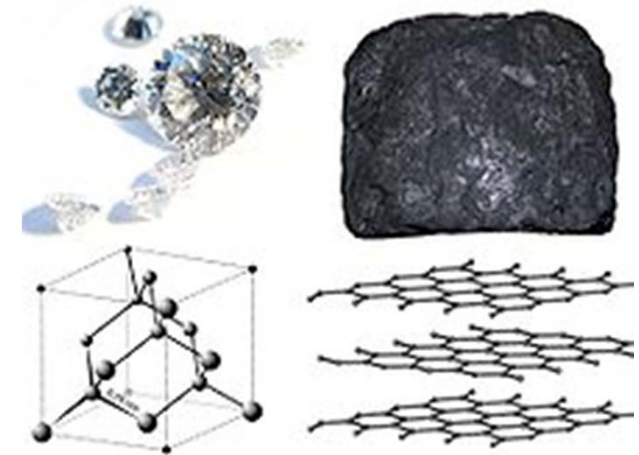
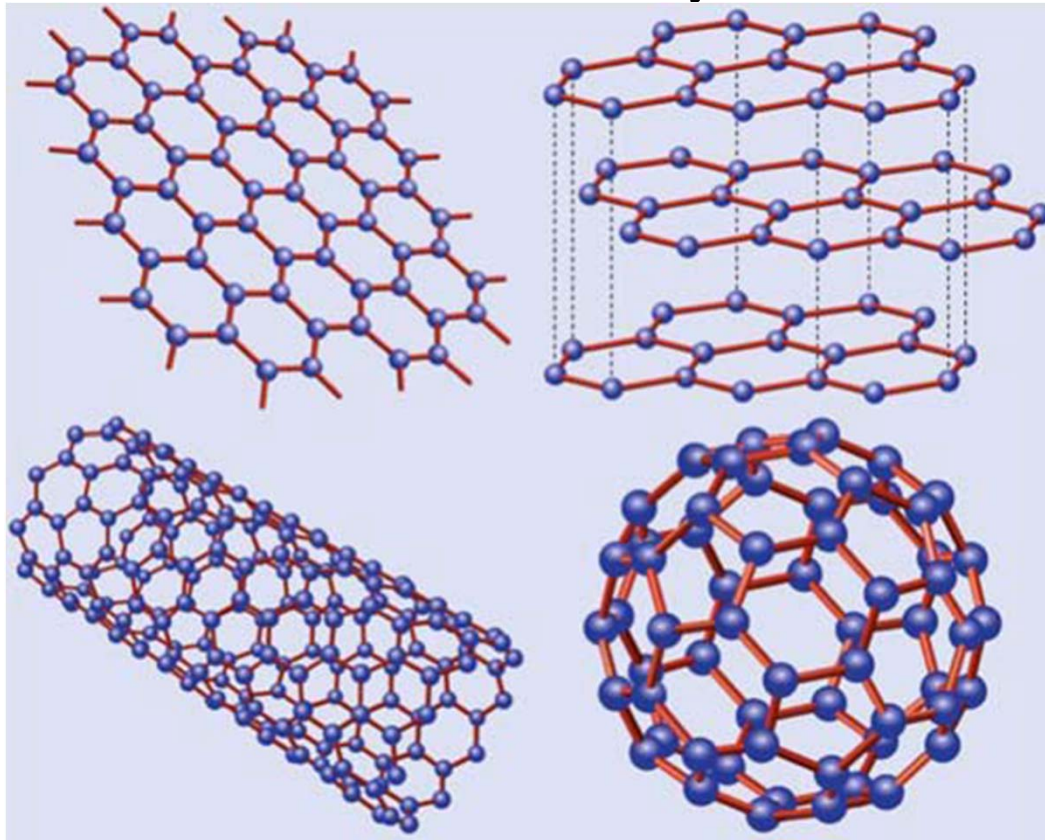
The Tobacco Mosaic Virus contains a single strand of RNA, about 0.1 mm long



This complex mammal contains about 3 billion miles of DNA.



# Even pure carbon can be present in a variety of forms:



## **Diamond** vs. **graphite**

Cubic  
Lattice,  
Very tight,  
inflexible

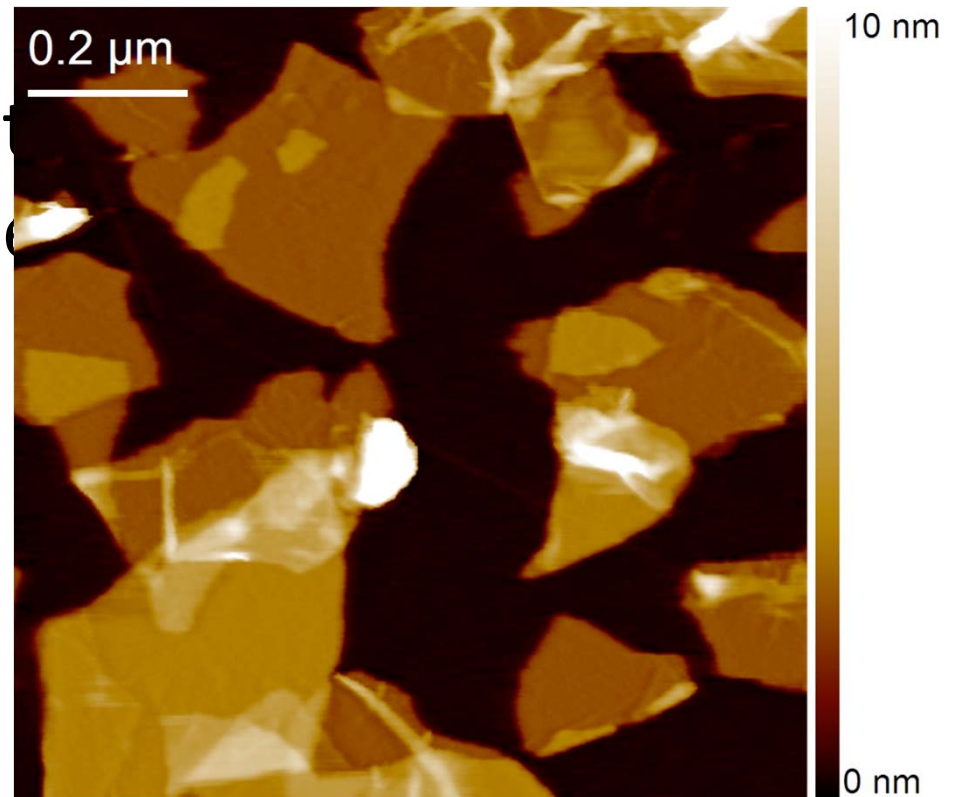
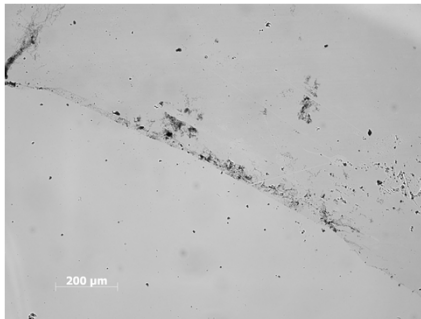
Honeycomb  
Sheets that  
easily slide  
(pencil)

Graphene (top left) is a 2D honeycomb lattice of carbon atoms. Graphite (top right) can be viewed as a stack of graphene layers.

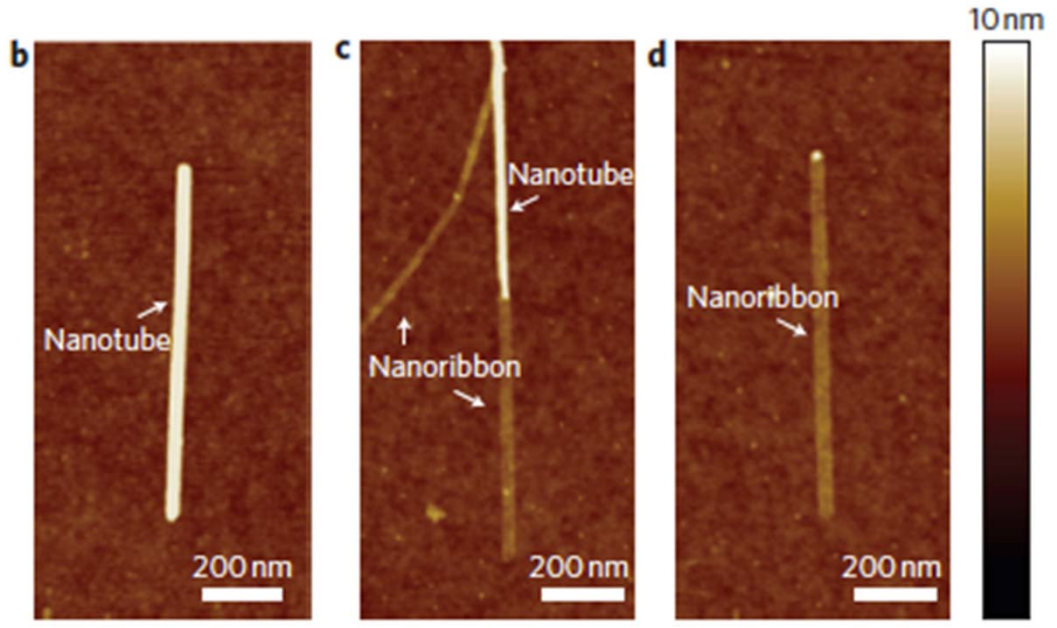
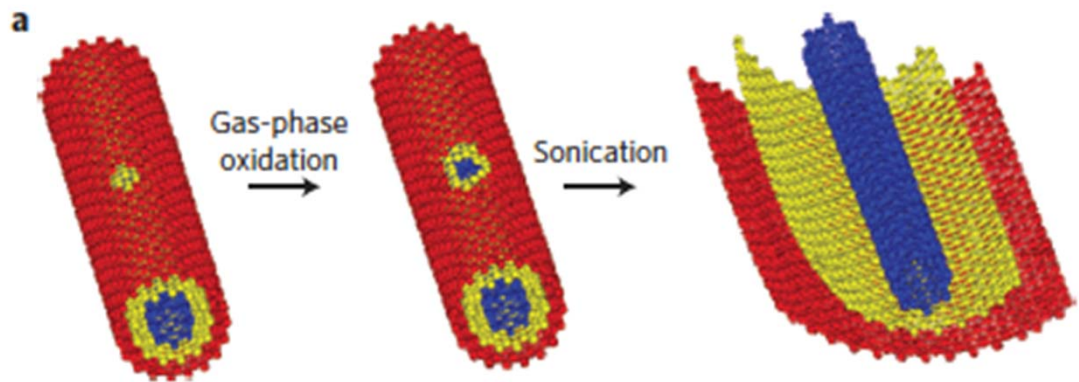
Carbon nanotubes are rolled-up cylinders of graphene (bottom left). Fullerenes  $C_{60}$  (bottom right) are molecules consisting of wrapped graphene by the introduction of pentagons on the hexagonal lattice. (From Castro-Neto et al. 2009)

# How Geim and Novoselov produced it

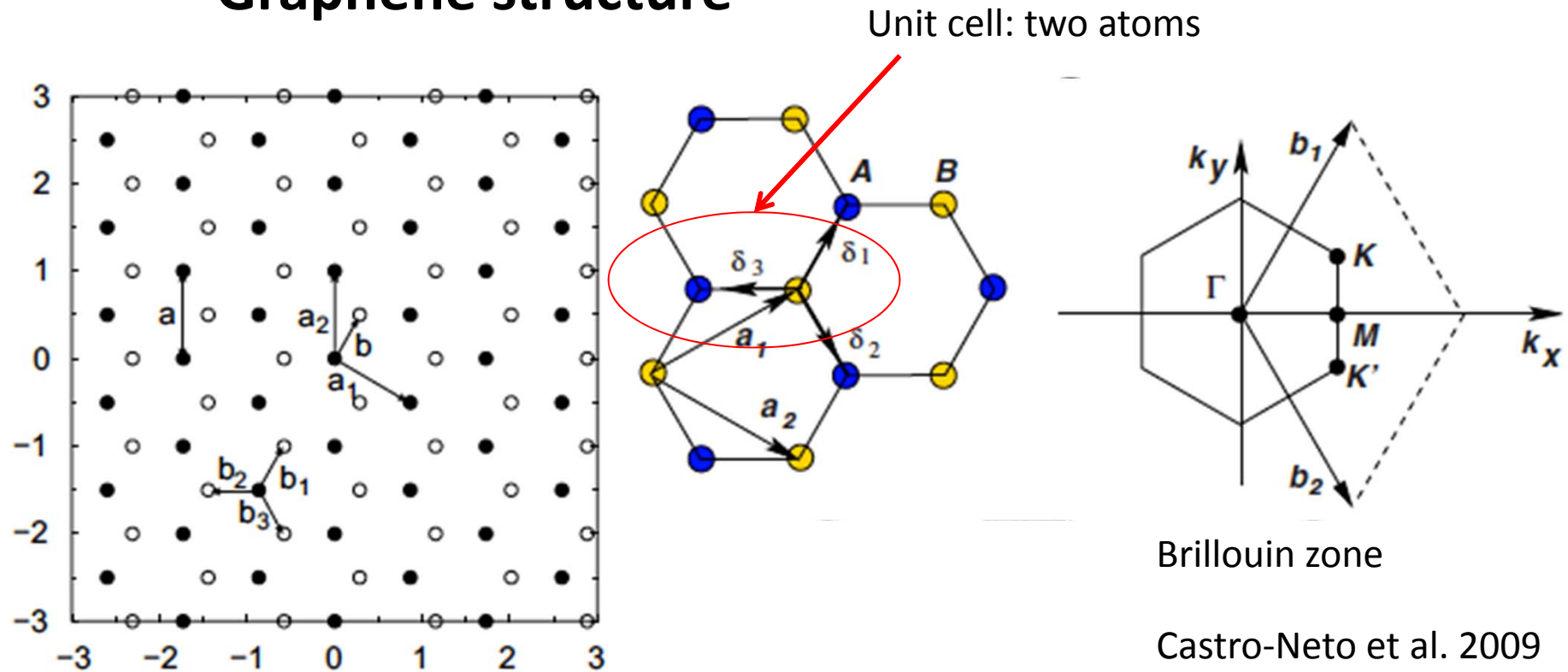
- They used Scotch tape to repeatedly split graphite crystals into increasingly thinner flakes
- Then placed the flakes on a substrate to prevent them from restacking



# Unzipping a nanotube



# Graphene structure

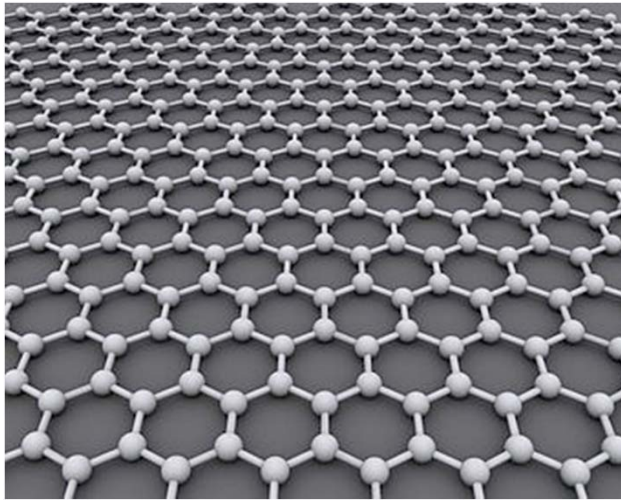


Wallace 1947

Note two identical sublattices A and B  
 Hamiltonian can be written as 2x2 matrix  $H_{X'X}(p)$ , where  $X', X = A, B$   
 One can associate pseudospin with choice of sublattice and write H with Pauli matrices

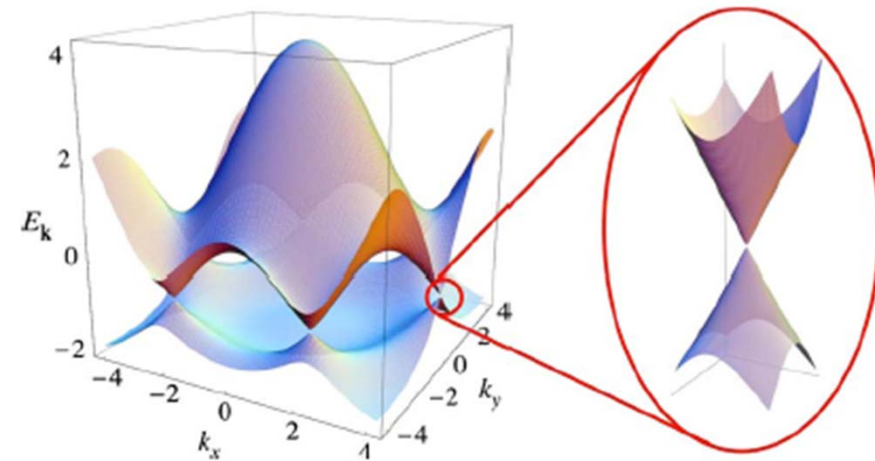
Castro-Neto et al. 2009

# Graphene structure



A single layer of carbon atoms tightly packed into a honeycomb lattice

Castro Neto et al. 2009



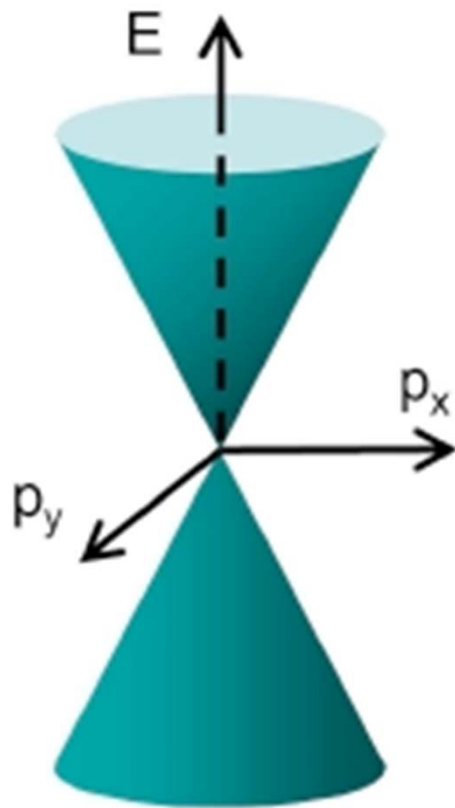
Electron dispersion (dependence of electron energy from its momentum)

Conduction and valence bands touch at  $E = 0$  K, K' symmetry points (gapless semiconductor)

Note linear dependence  $E(p)$  near  $E = 0$ !!  
Where does it come from?  
What does it mean?

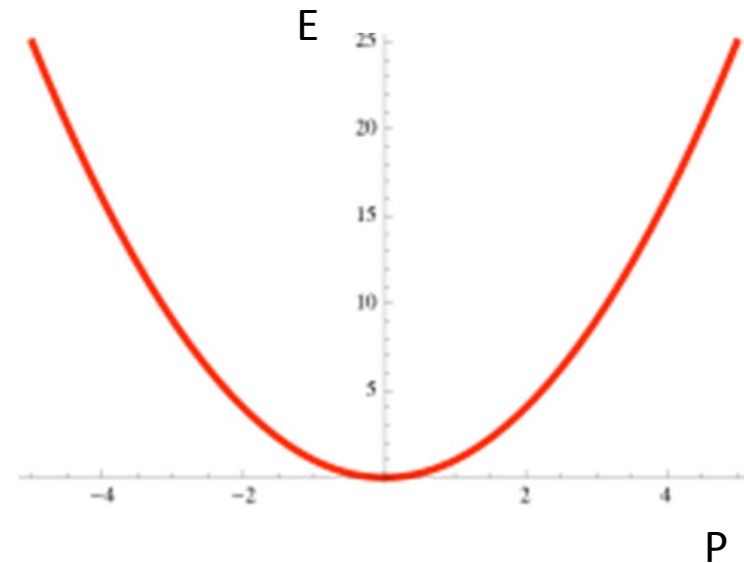


# Linear dispersion: like neutrinos!



Photons:  $E = pc$

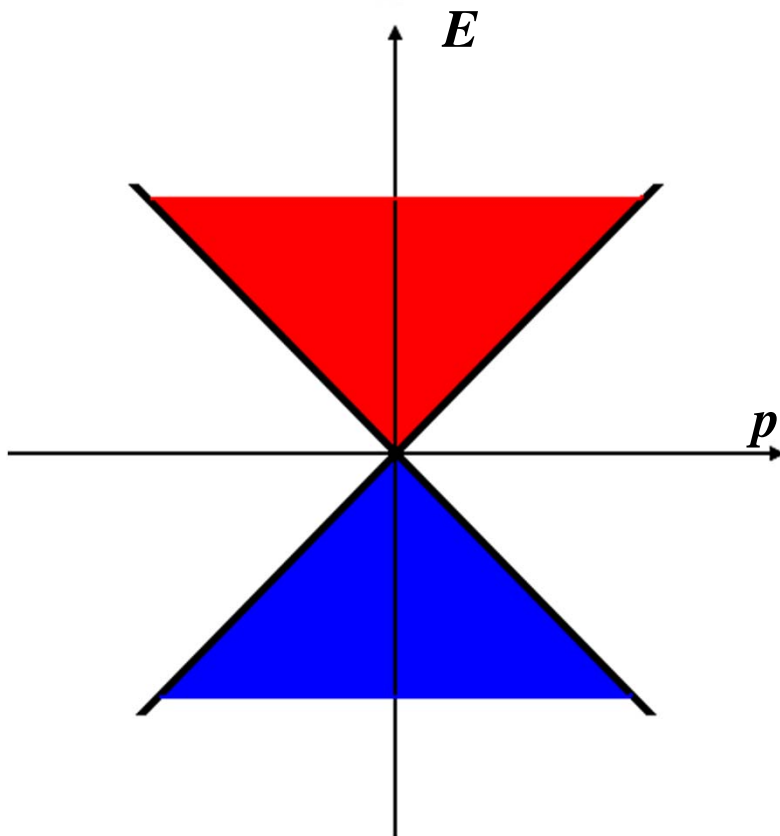
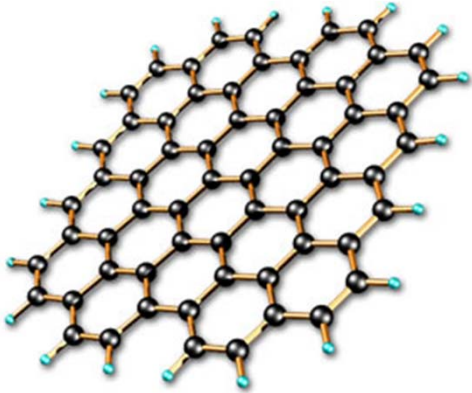
Electrons  
in graphene:  $E = pV; \quad V \approx c/300$



Compare with “normal” particles:

$$E = \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

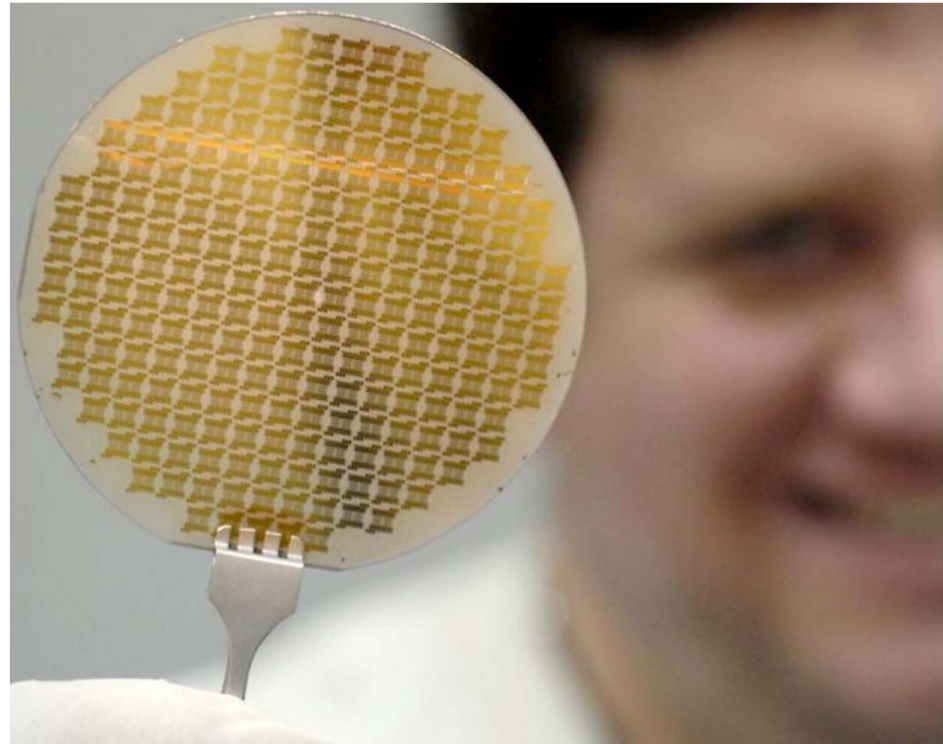
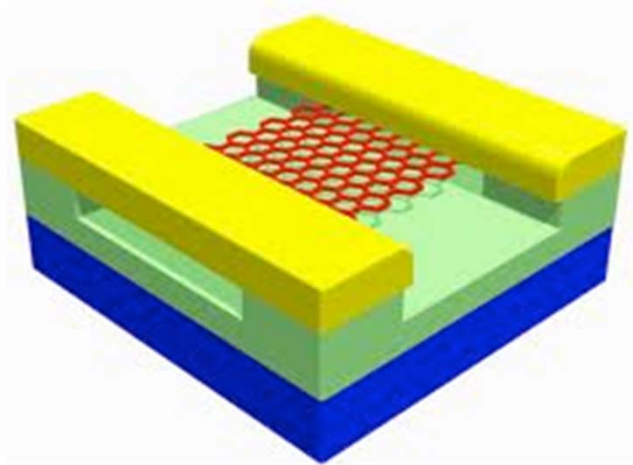
# Electron Dynamics in Graphene



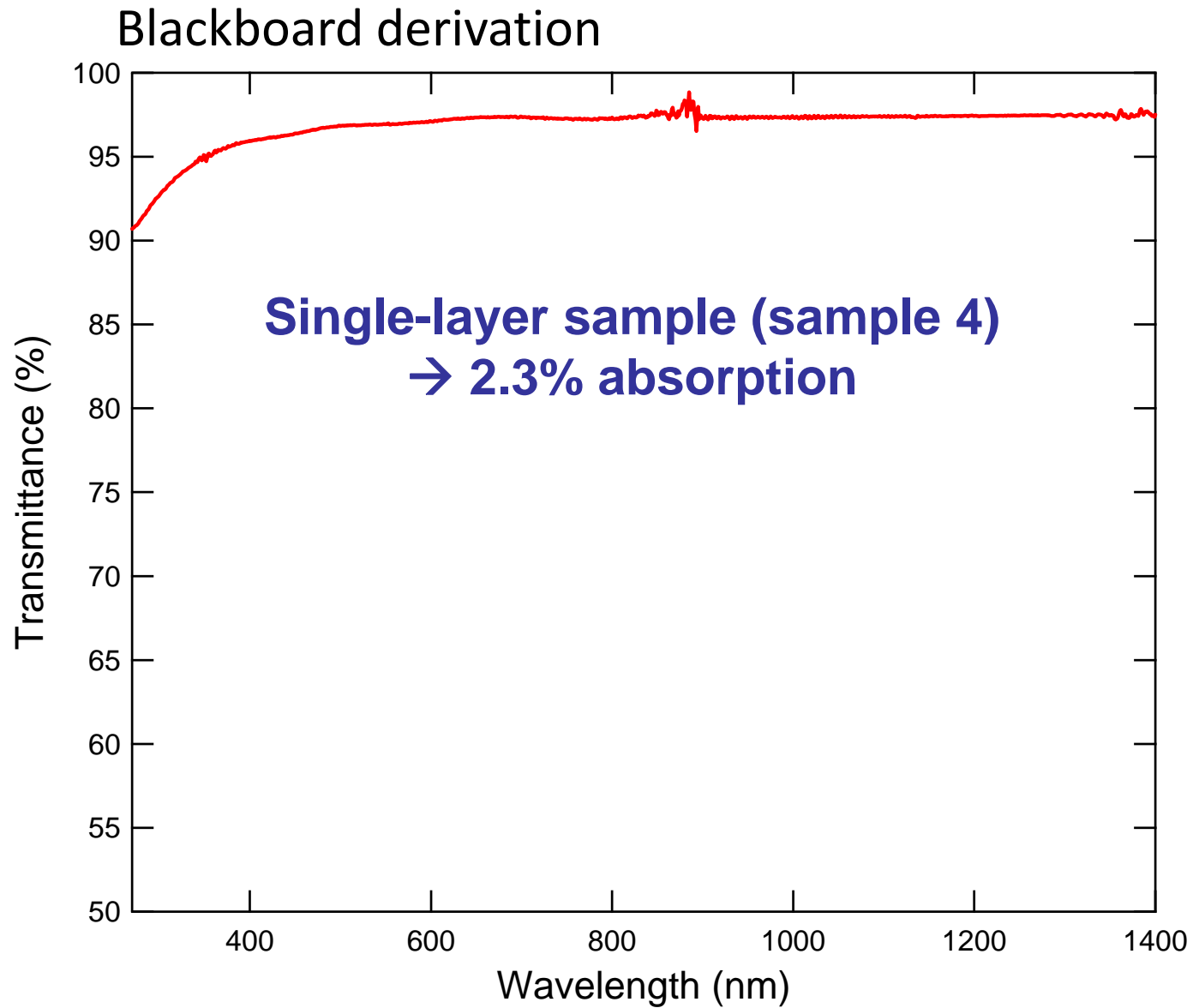
- Ultrahigh mobility, low resistance (like in copper!)
- Unique optical properties (absorption independent on wavelength)
- Unique magnetic properties
- Penetration through energy barriers
- Huge optical nonlinearity
- Highly tunable plasma frequency

# Potential applications

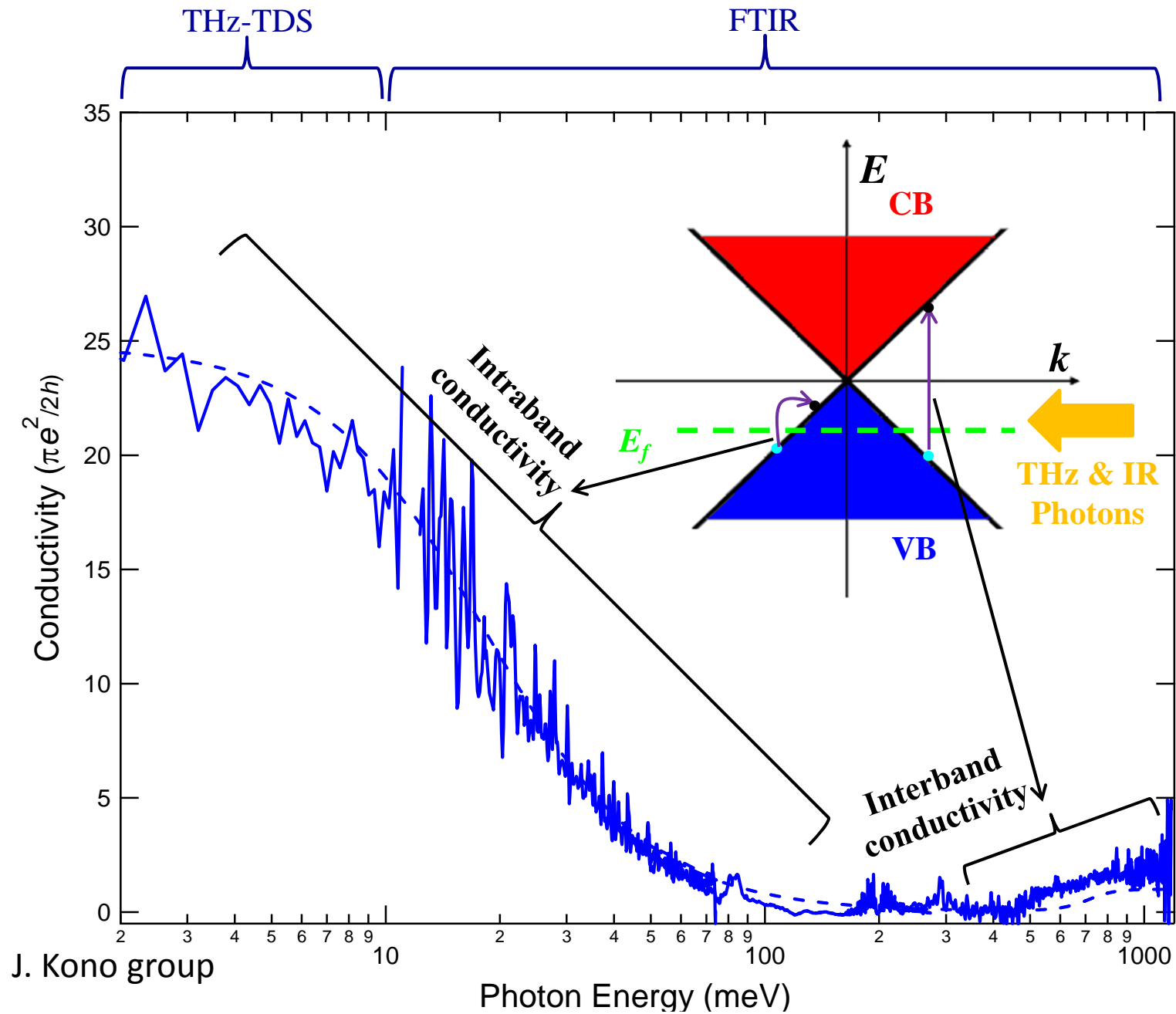
- Transistors
- Integrated circuits
- Lasers
- Detectors
- memory



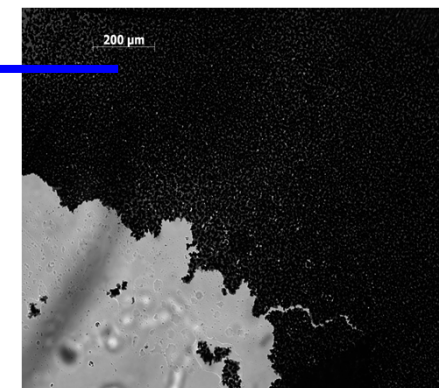
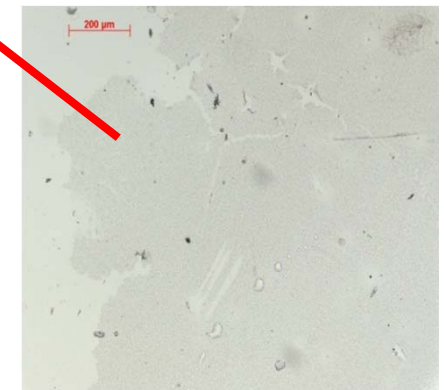
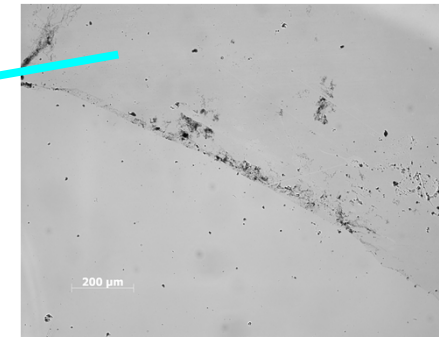
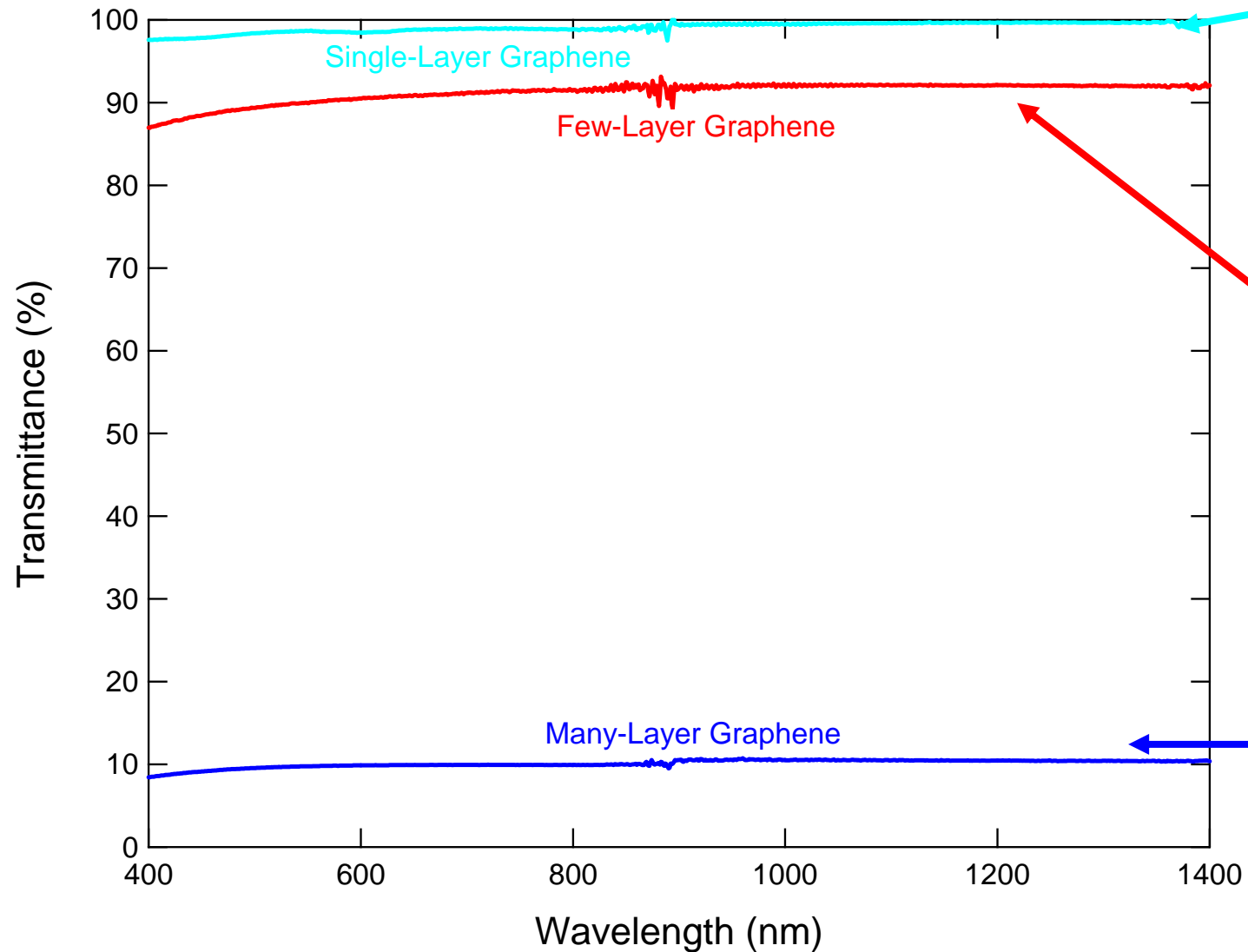
# NIR-Visible Absorption



# Intraband and Interband Conductivities of Graphene



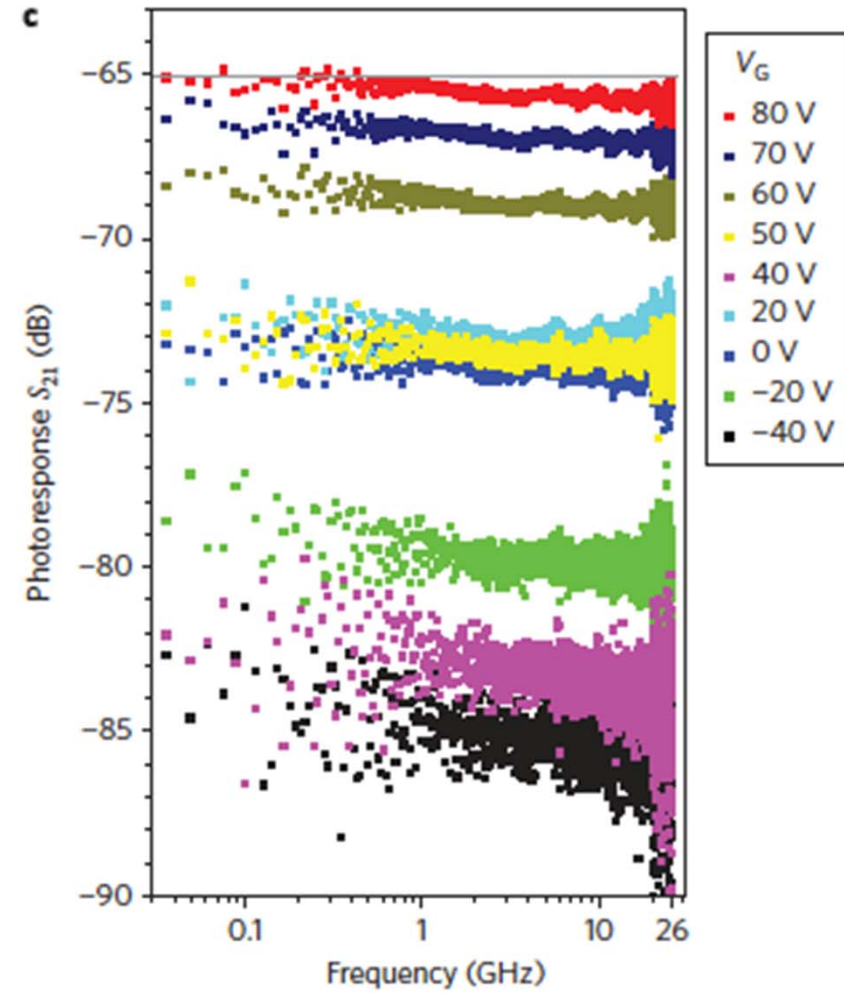
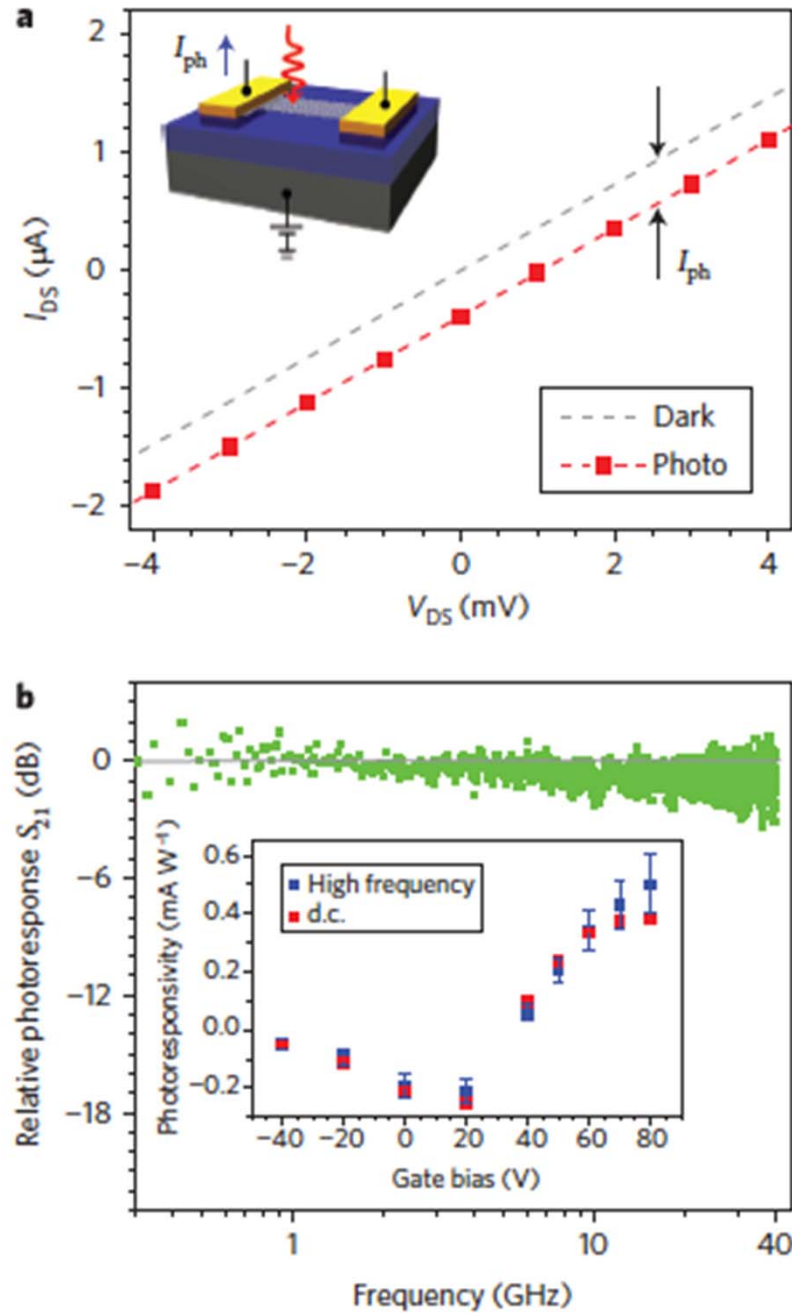
# NIR-Visible Absorption



**2.3% absorption per layer**

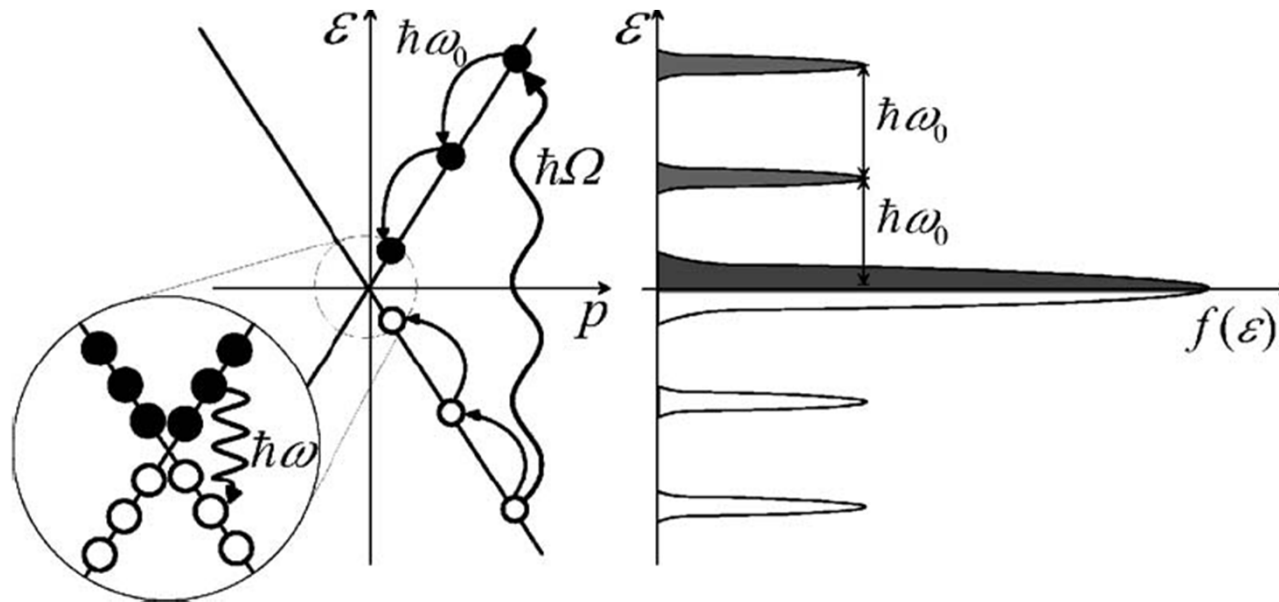
J. Kono, Rice Univ.

# Ultrafast graphene photodetector



Mueller et al. Nature Nanotech. 2009

# THz Gain in Graphene under Optical Pumping



- Population inversion readily achievable

V. Ryzhii *et al.*, J. Appl. Phys. 101, 083114 (2007)

- Negative THz conductivity (positive gain)

A. Satou *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B 78, 115431 (2008)

- Optically-pumped THz laser

A. Dubinov *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Exp. 2, 092301 (2009)



# THz Dynamics: GaAs 2DEG vs. Graphene

Linear bands lead to highly nonlinear dynamics

S. A. Mikhailov, Europhys. Lett. 79, 27002 (2007); J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 20, 384204 (2008)

Parabolic Dispersion (GaAs):

$$\varepsilon(\vec{p}) = \frac{|\vec{p}|^2}{2m^*}$$

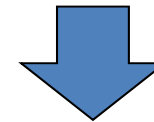


Current Response:

$$j_x(t) = \frac{n_s e^2 E_0}{m^* \omega} \sin \omega t$$

Linear Dispersion (graphene):

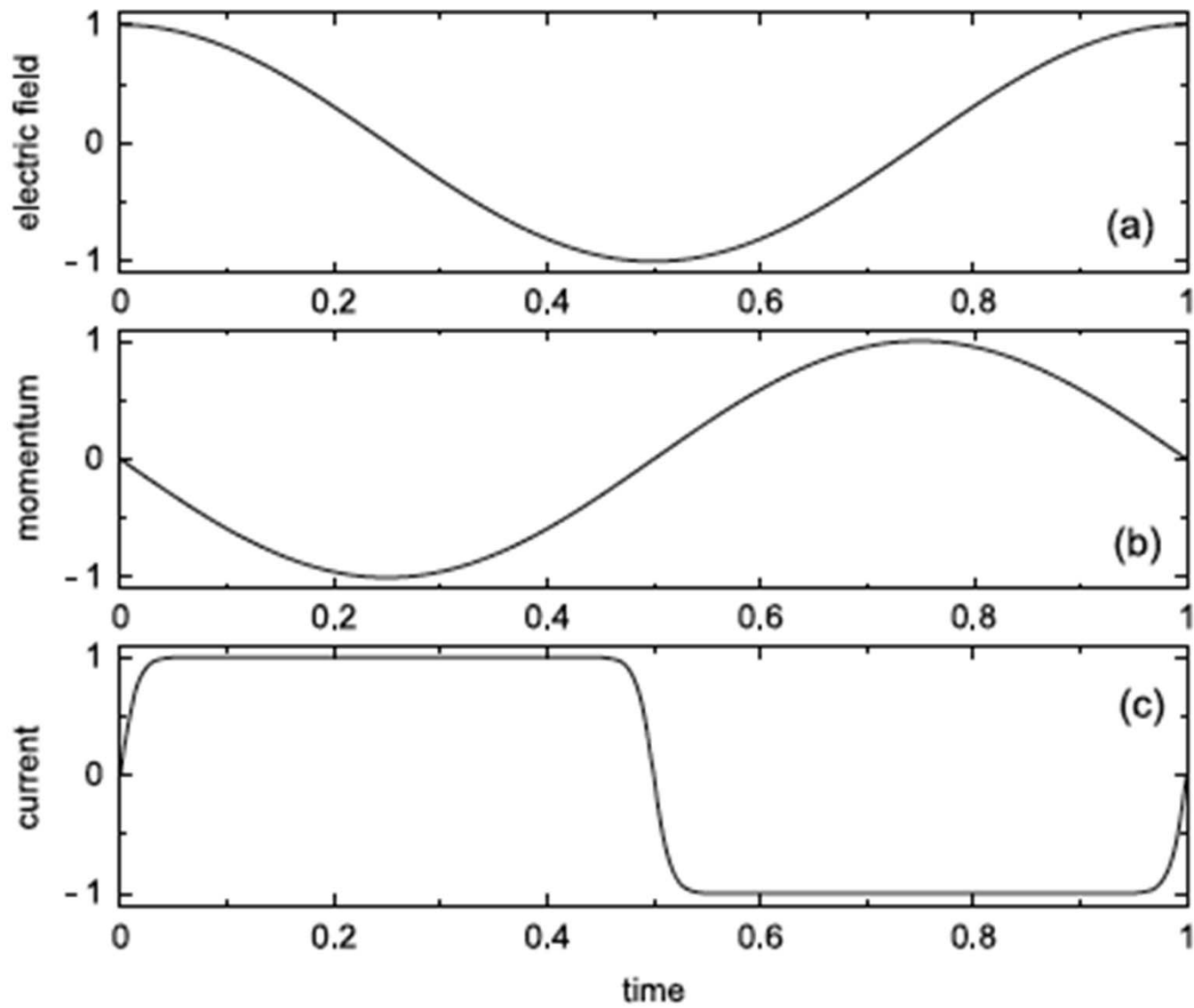
$$\varepsilon(\vec{p}) = V |\vec{p}|$$



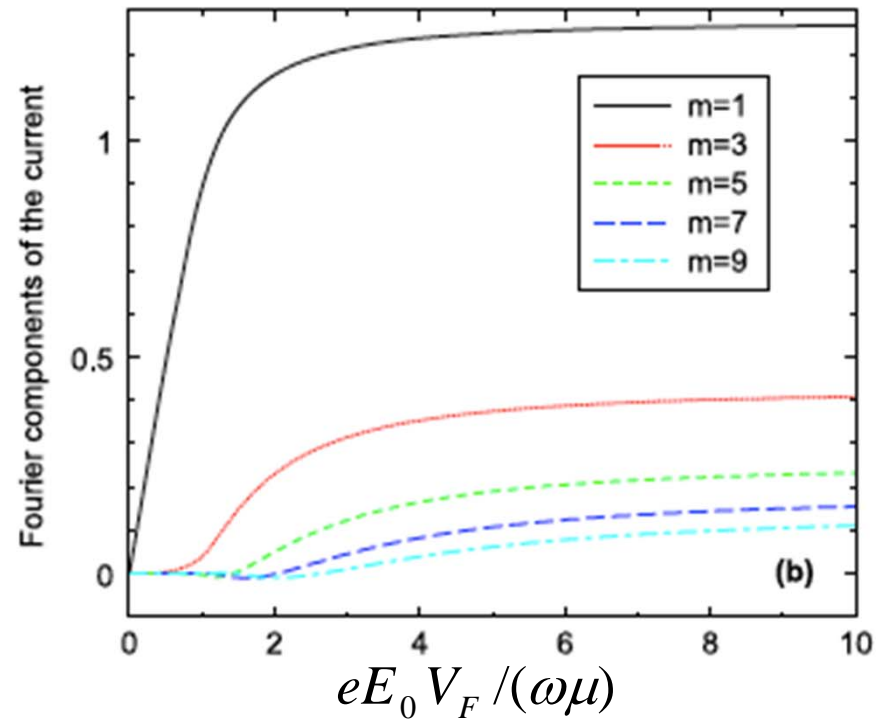
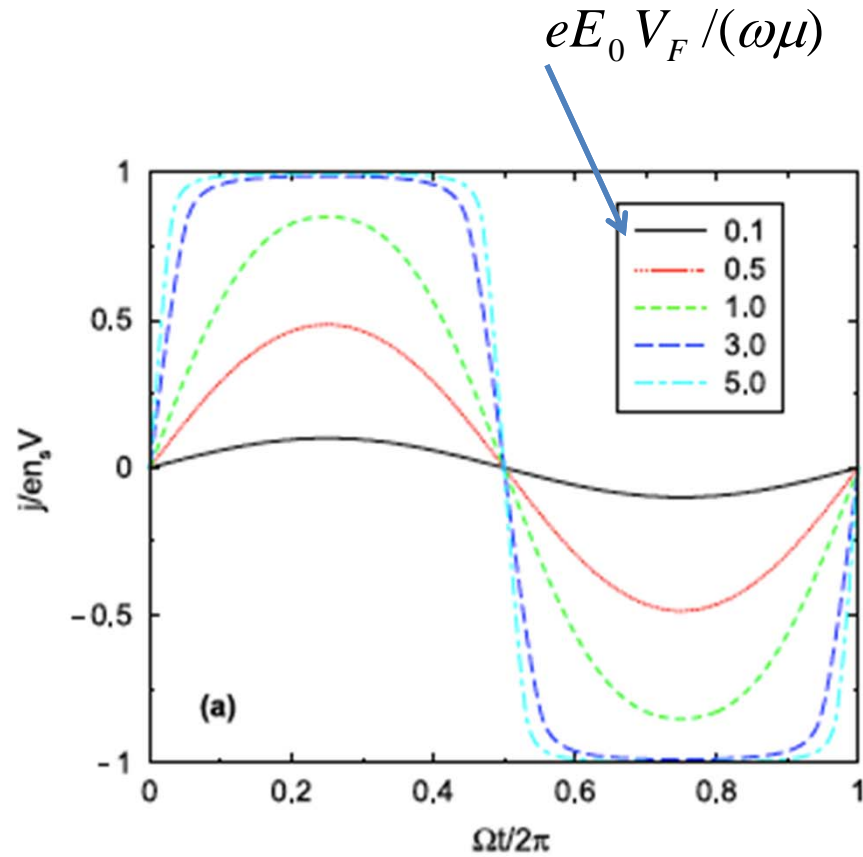
Current Response:

$$j_x(t) = en_s V \frac{4}{\pi} (\sin \omega t + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3\omega t + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5\omega t + \dots)$$

# Blackboard derivation of current

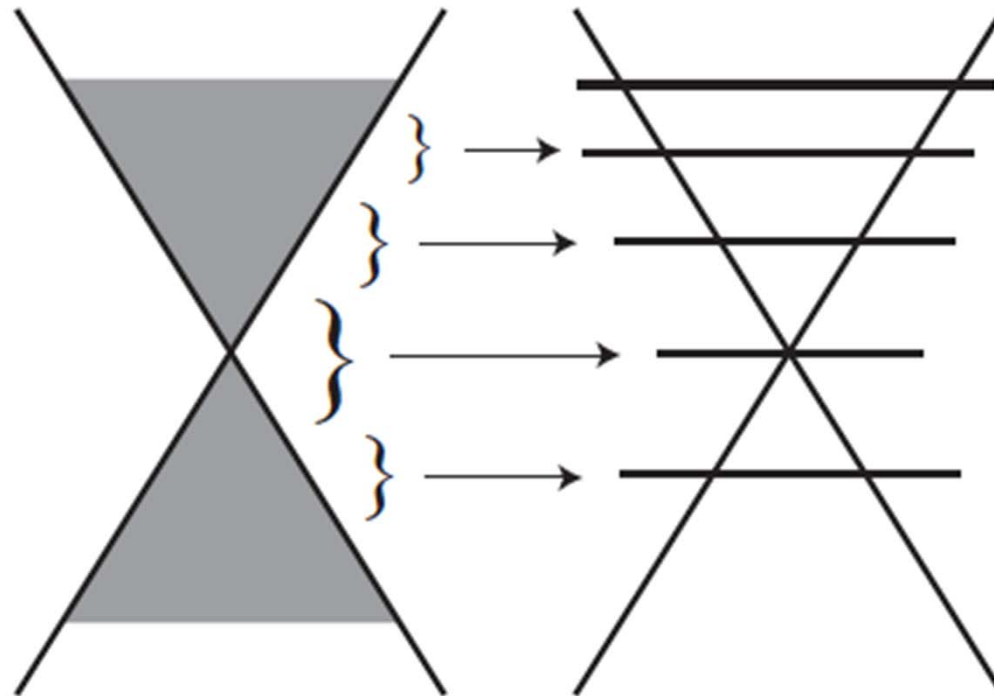


# Blackboard derivation of current



Strongly nonlinear response when  $eE_0 V_F / (\omega\mu) > 1$

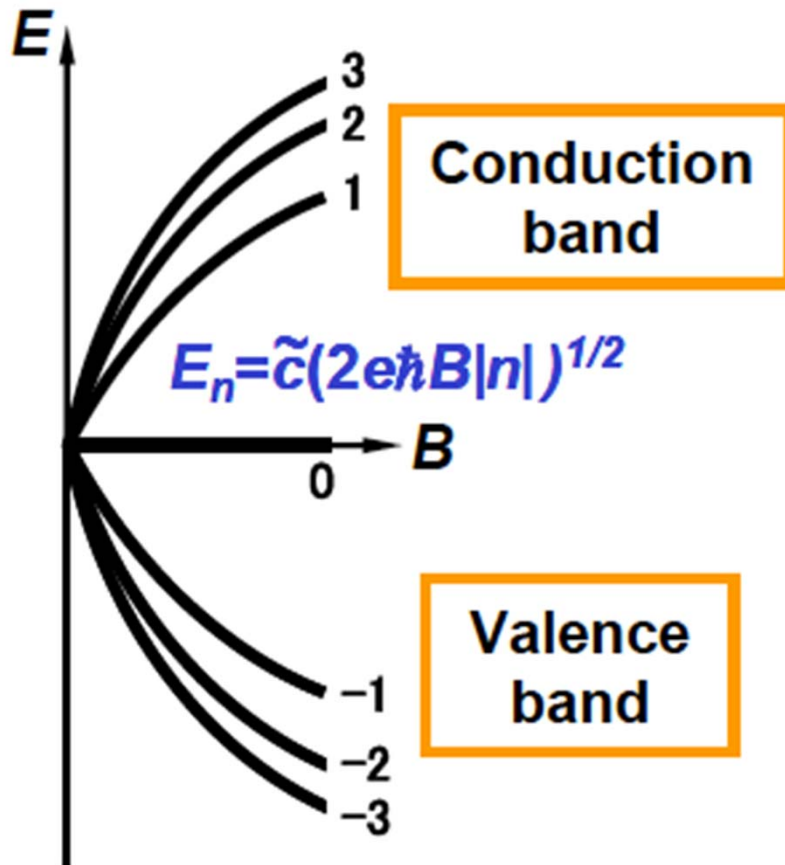
# Graphene in the magnetic field



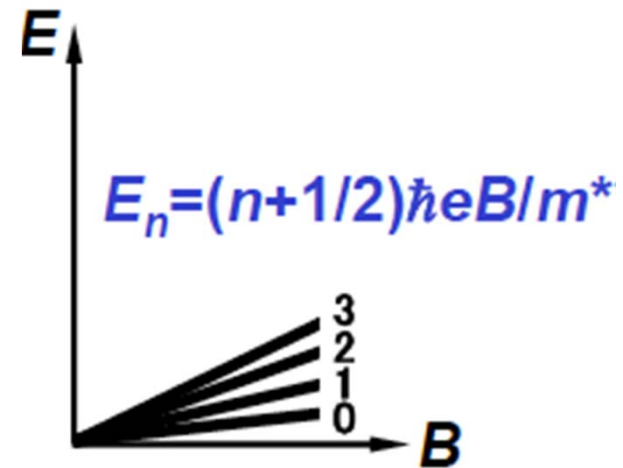
$$E_n = \text{sgn}(n) V_F * \sqrt{2ehB|n|},$$
$$n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

# Landau levels

In graphene



In GaAs quantum well



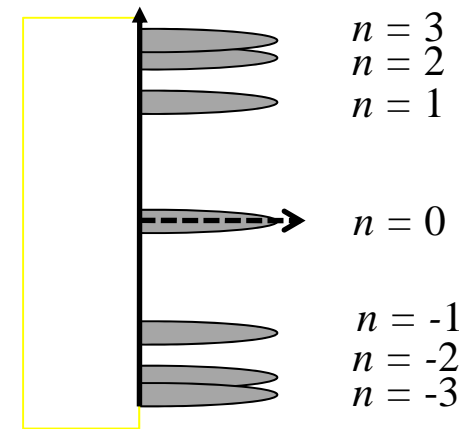
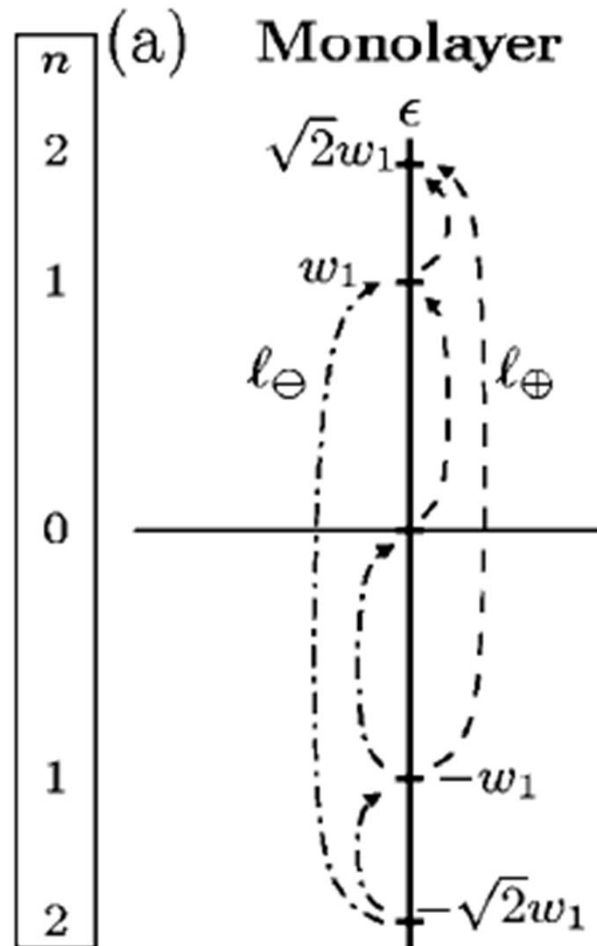
# Graphene in the magnetic field

Selection rules:  
Normal matter

$$\Delta n = \pm 1$$

Selection rules:  
graphene

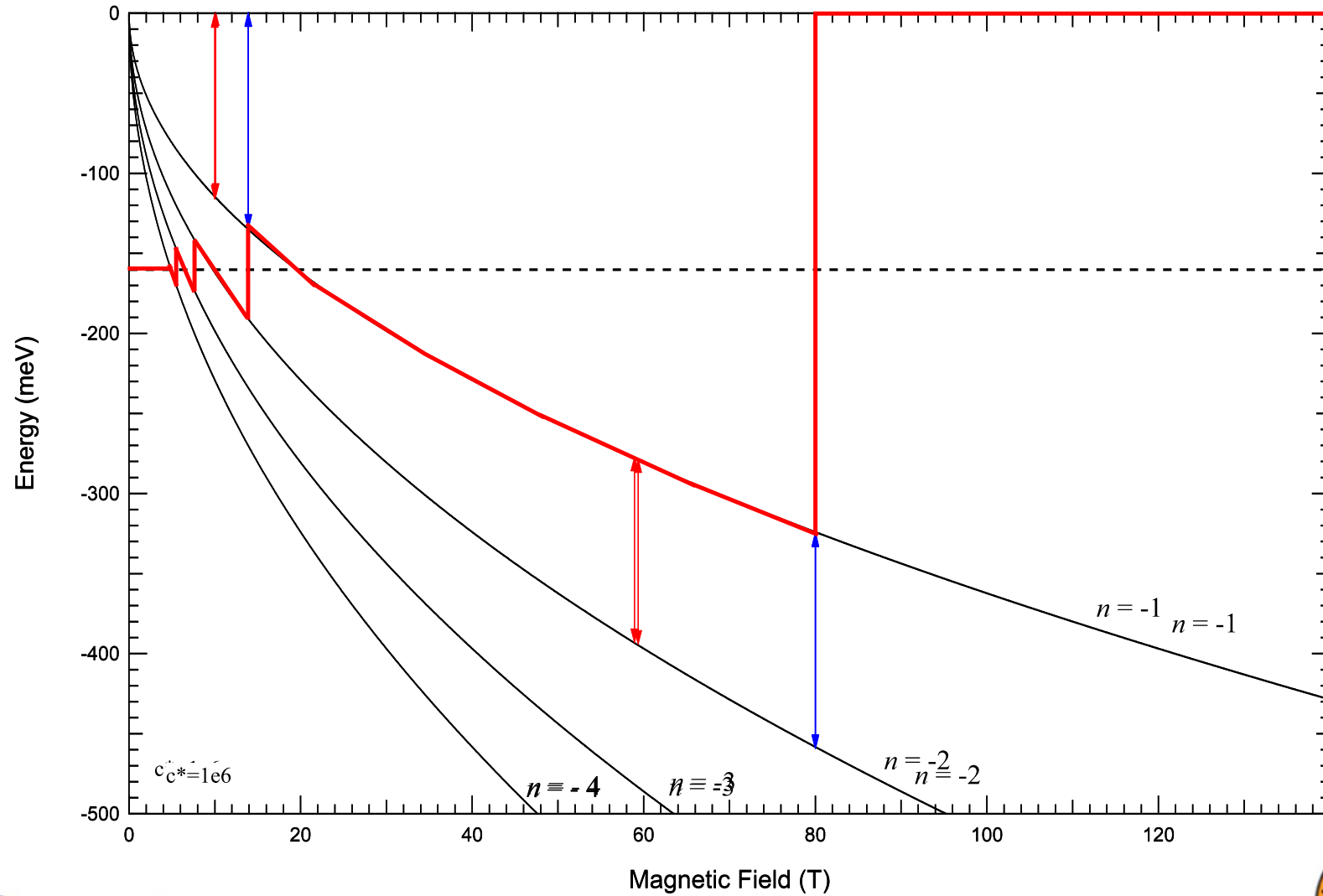
$$\Delta |n| = \pm 1$$



Abergel & Falko 2007

$$E_n = \text{sgn}(n) V_F * \sqrt{2ehB|n|}$$

# Landau Levels vs. B



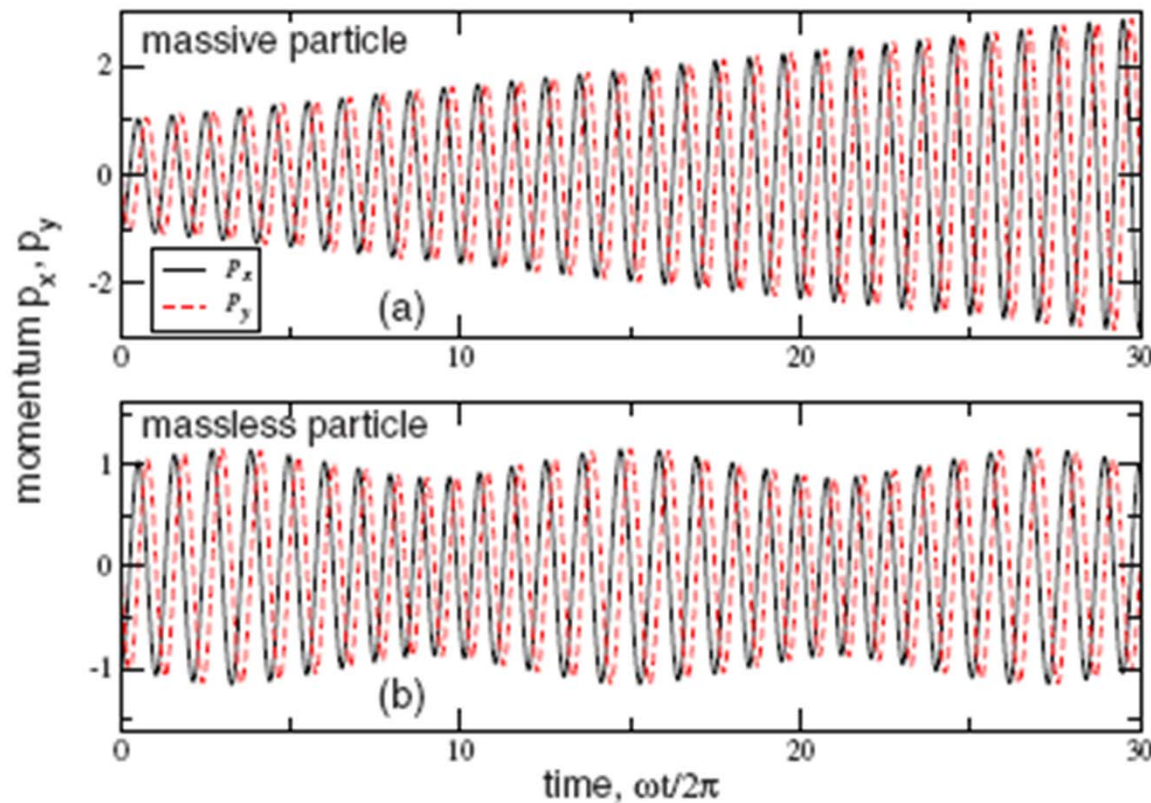
# Nonlinear THz Dynamics in $B$

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 79, 241309(R) (2009)

## Nonlinear cyclotron resonance of a massless quasiparticle in graphene

S. A. Mikhailov\*

*Institute of Physics, University of Augsburg, D-86135 Augsburg, Germany*



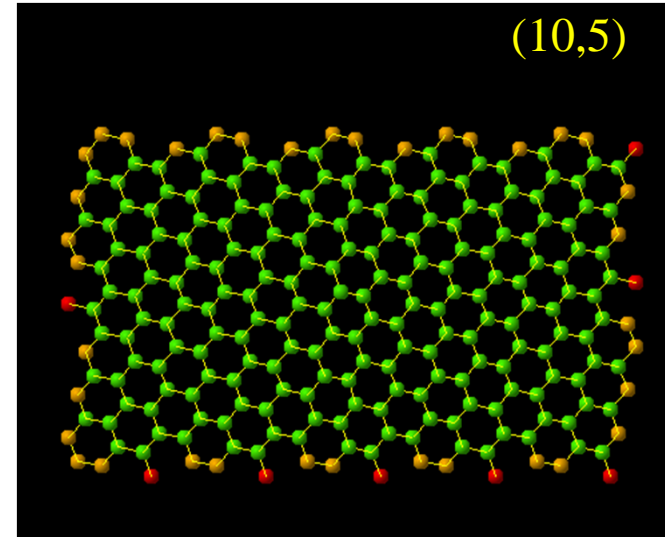
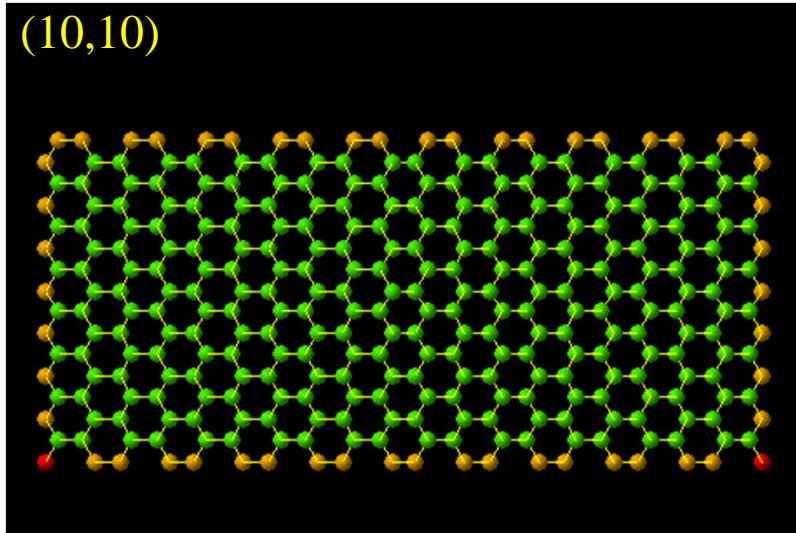
GaAs

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = -\frac{e}{c}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - e\mathbf{E}(t), \quad \mathbf{v} = V\frac{\mathbf{p}}{p}$$

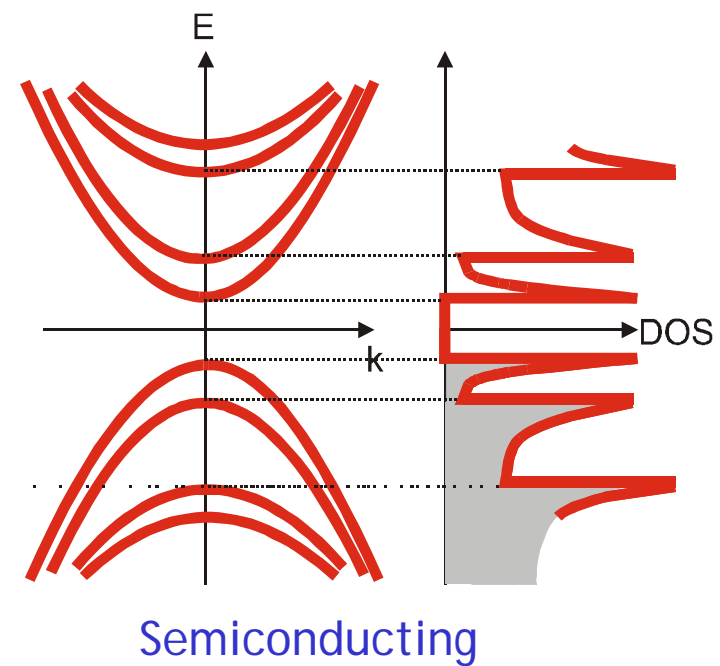
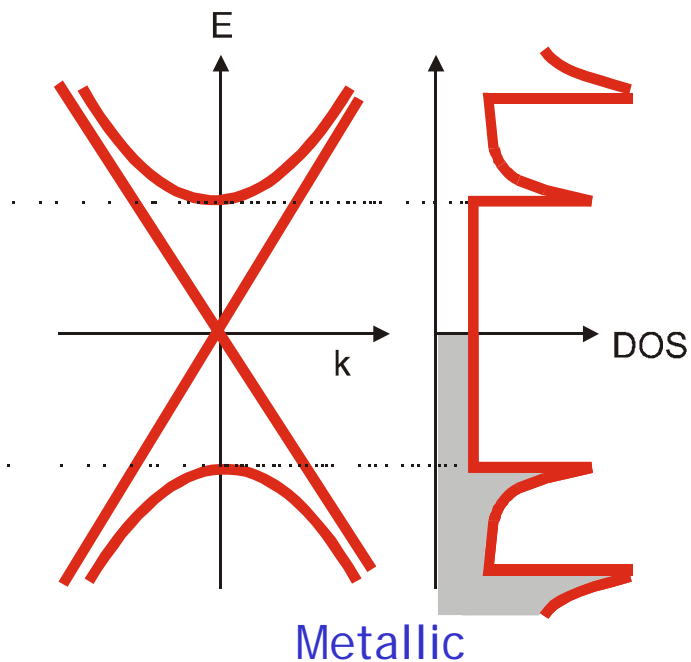
Graphene

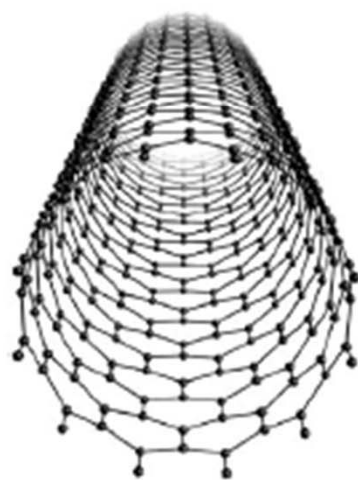
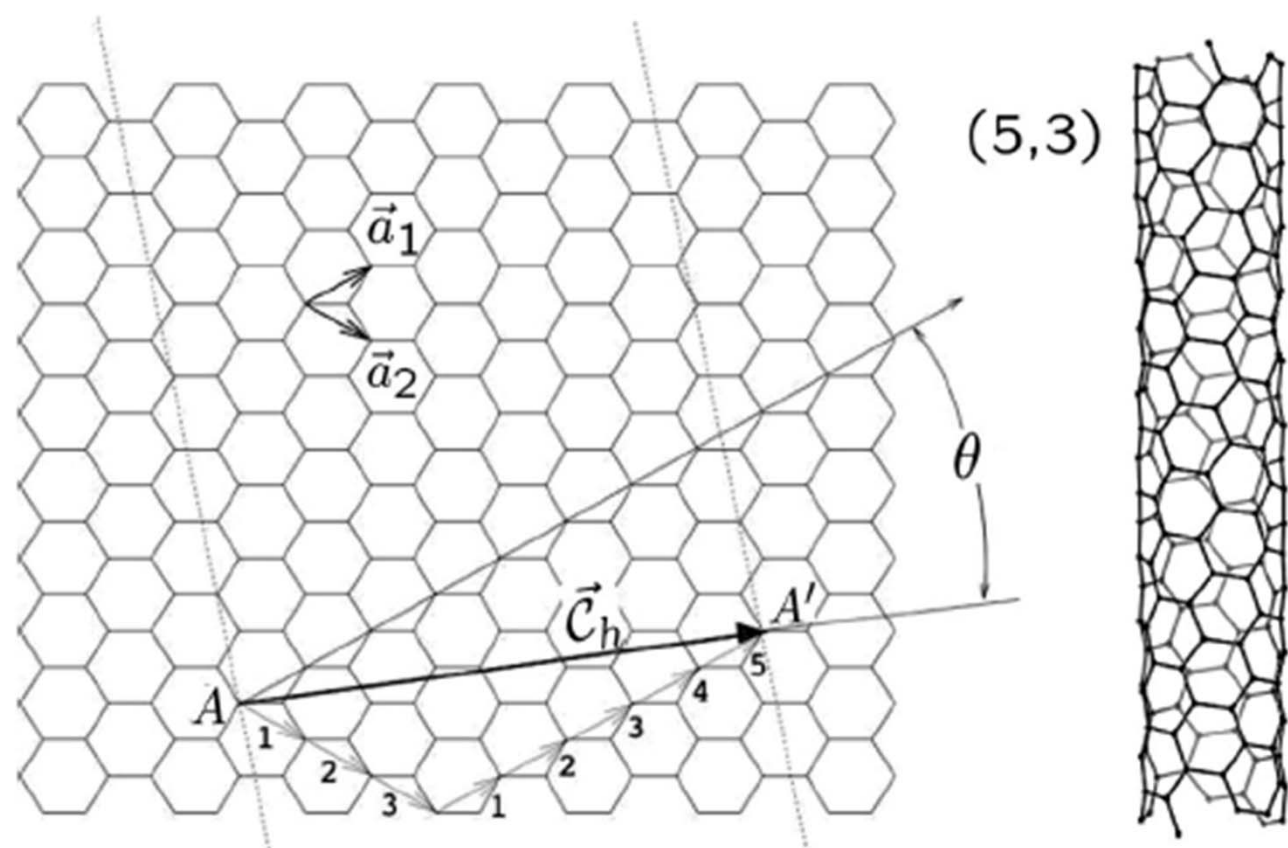


# Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes

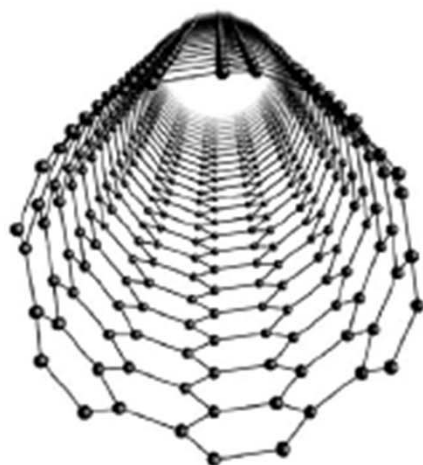


Animation by Prof. S. Maruyama (Univ. of Tokyo)

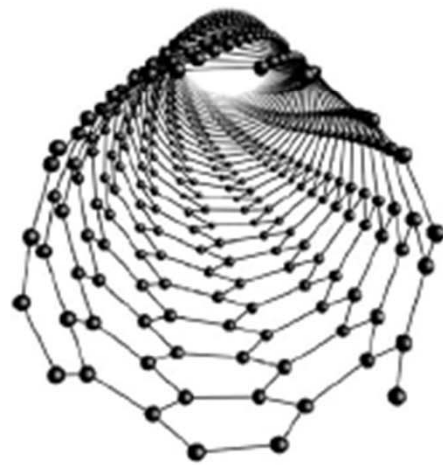




$(12,0)$

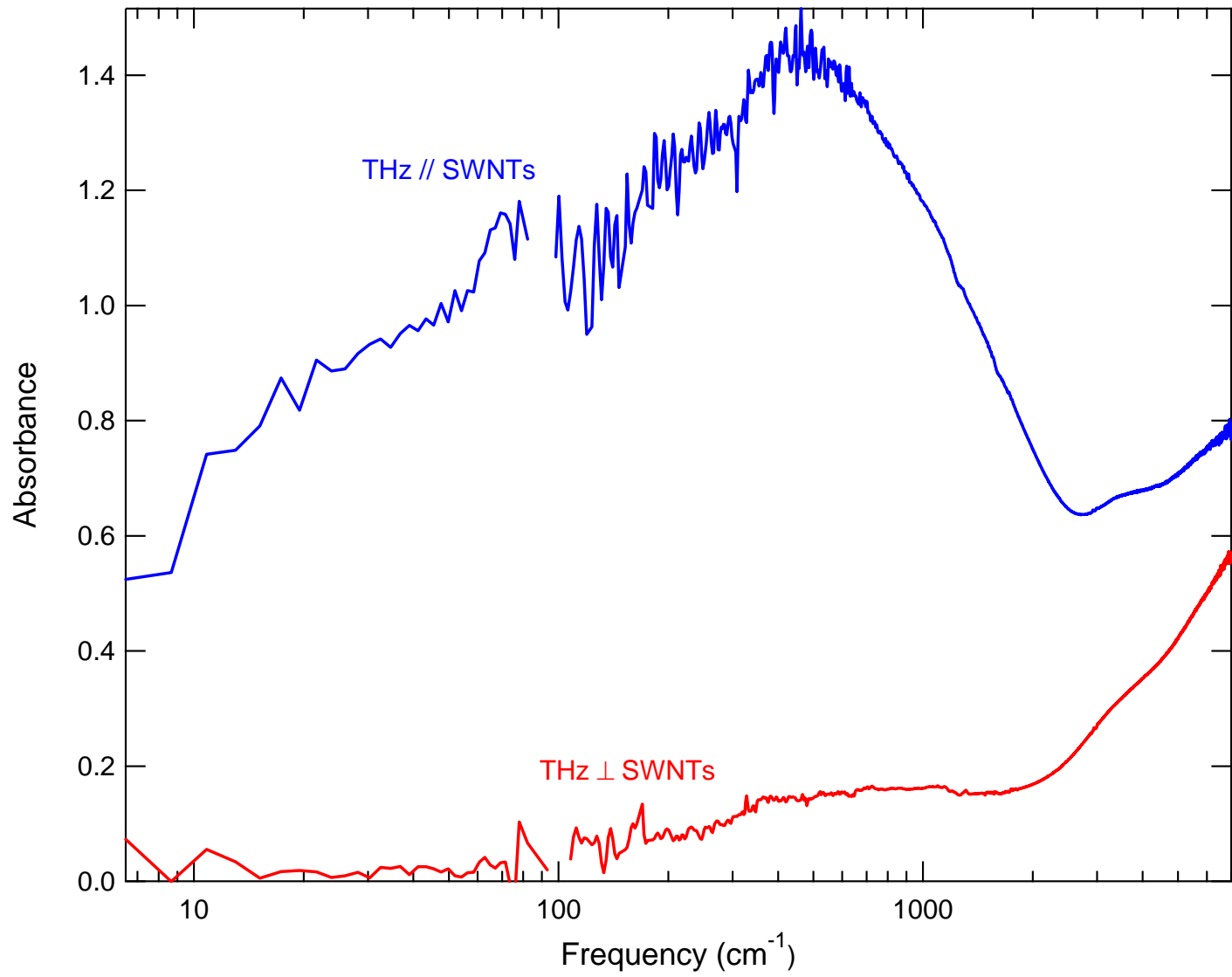


$(6,6)$

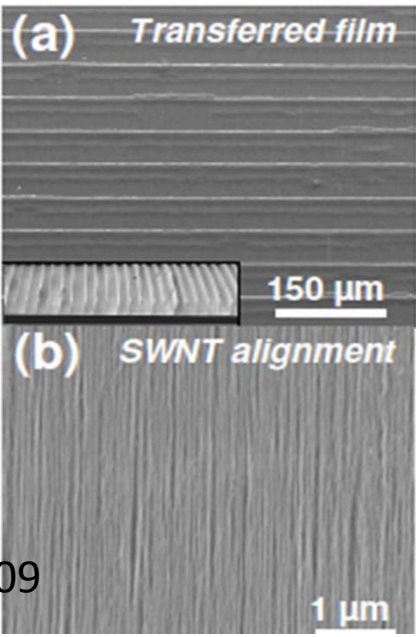


$(6,4)$

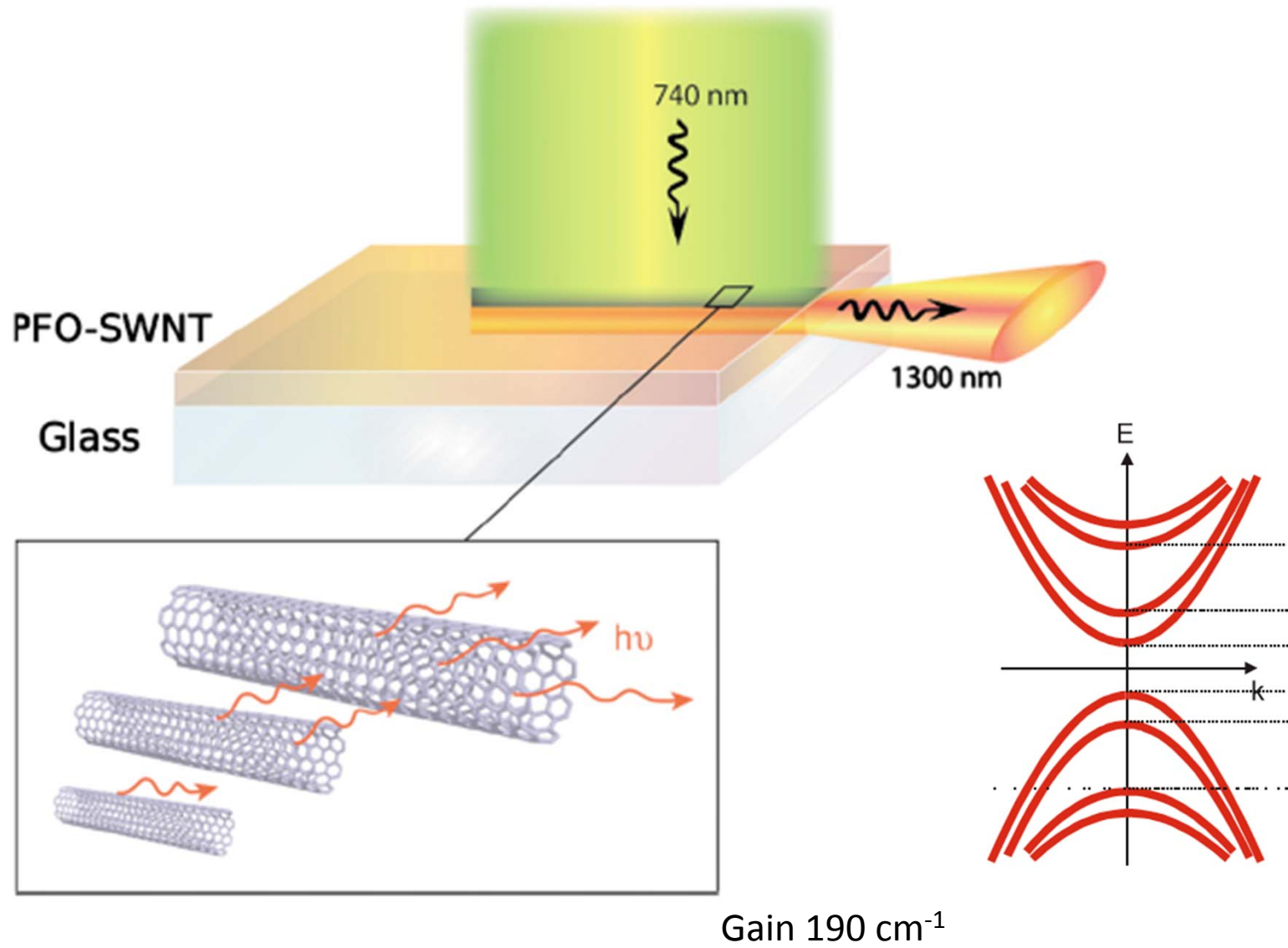
# THz & IR Dynamics of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (SWNTs)



- A broad FIR peak
- Peak position shifts as the SWNTs sample changes.
- Peak origin is still under debate and being sought.



# Gain in semiconducting CNTs

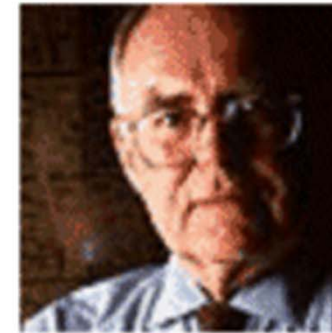
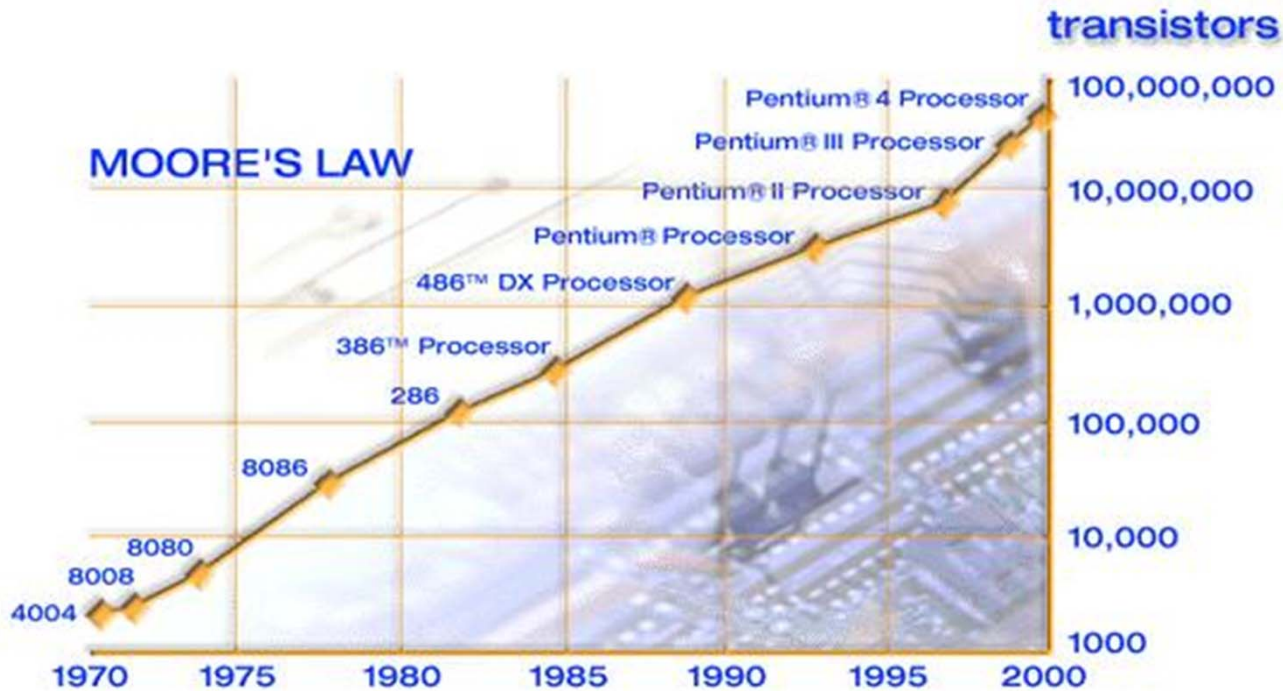


Gain  $190 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

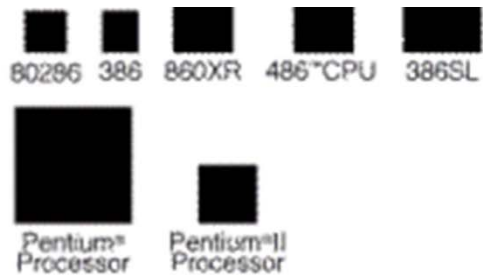
Common problem: small interaction volume

- Increase interaction by plasmonic effects?
- Plasmonics has been developed in parallel for sensing, communications, and computing applications

# Smaller, Denser, Cheaper

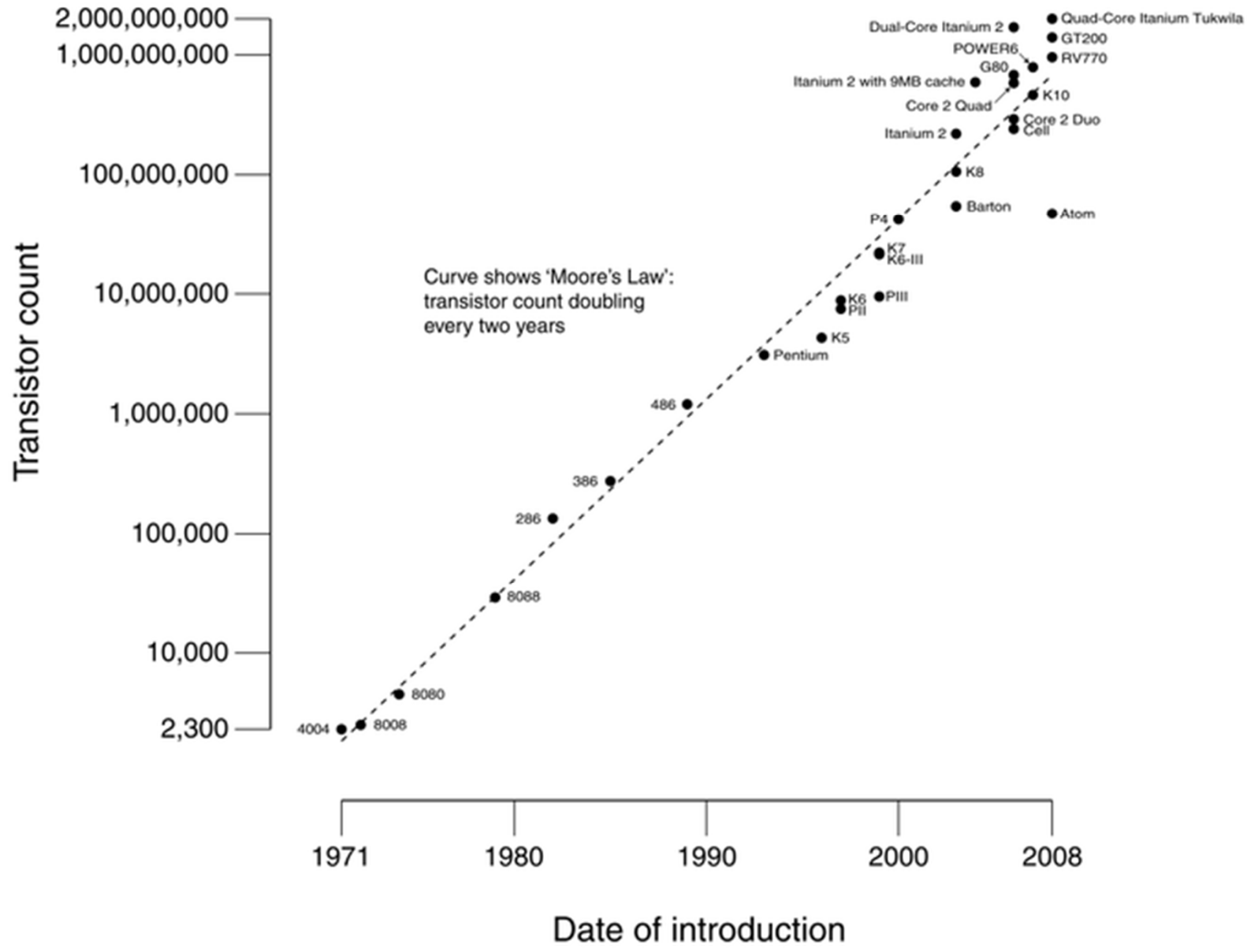


Gordon Moore, Intel co-founder



Moore's Law (1965): every 1.5 years the number of transistors on a chip is doubled

# Transistor of single-atom size by 2020?



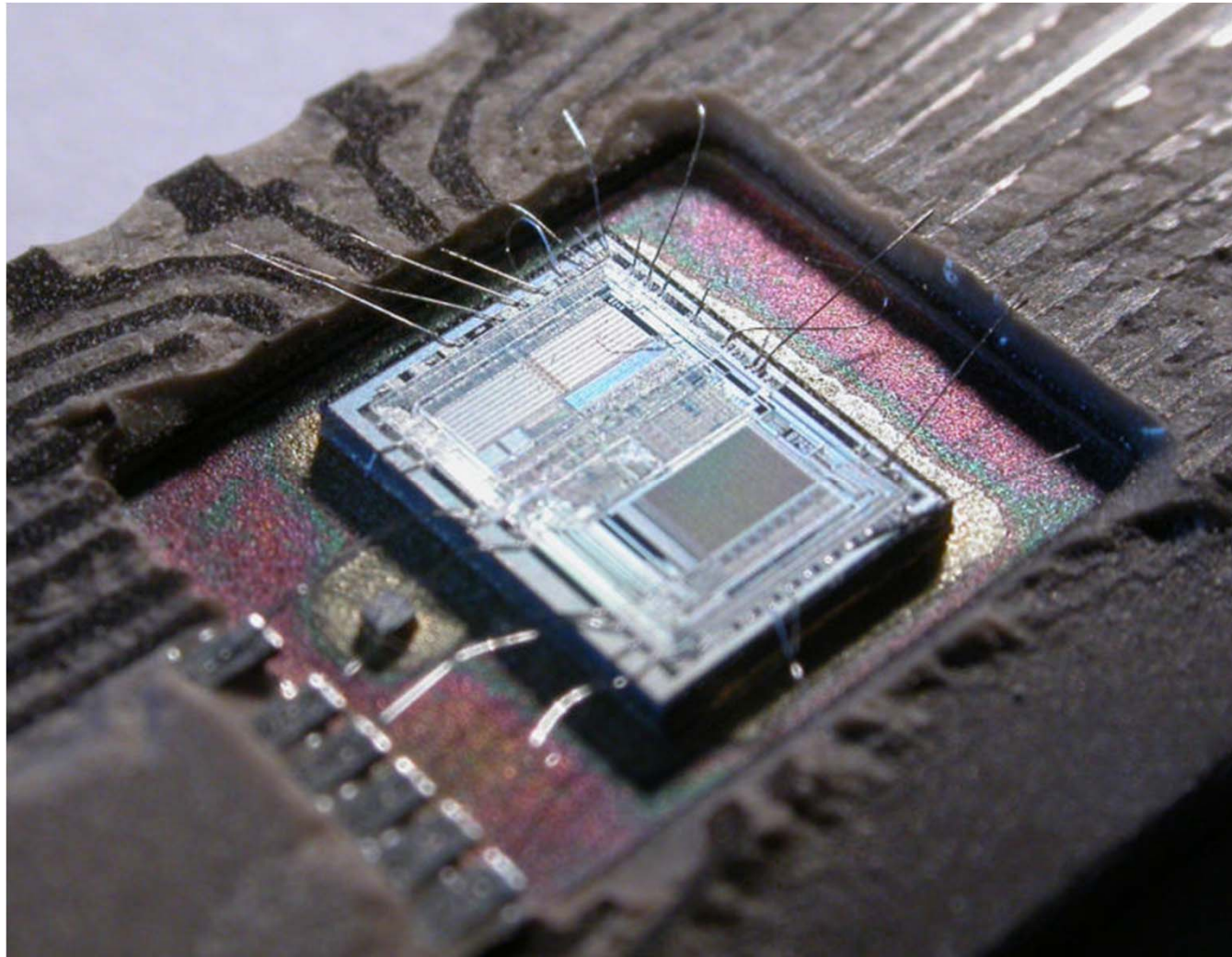
**Number of transistors grows, but this does not improve the performance as much.**

**Reason?**

**We use 21-century semiconductor devices and 19-century copper wires connecting them!**



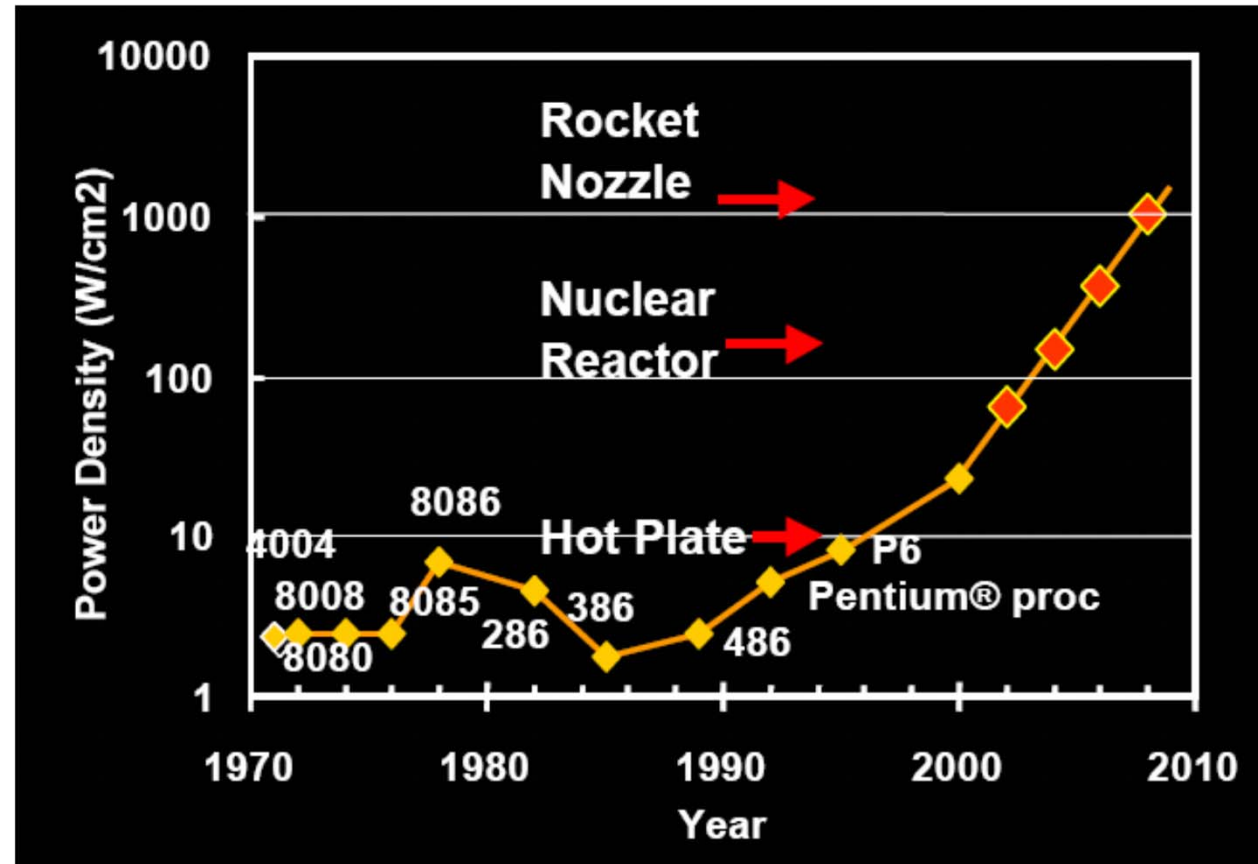
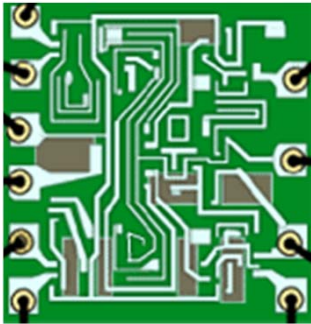
Electronic circuits: 45 nm wires, 1 million transistors per mm<sup>2</sup>



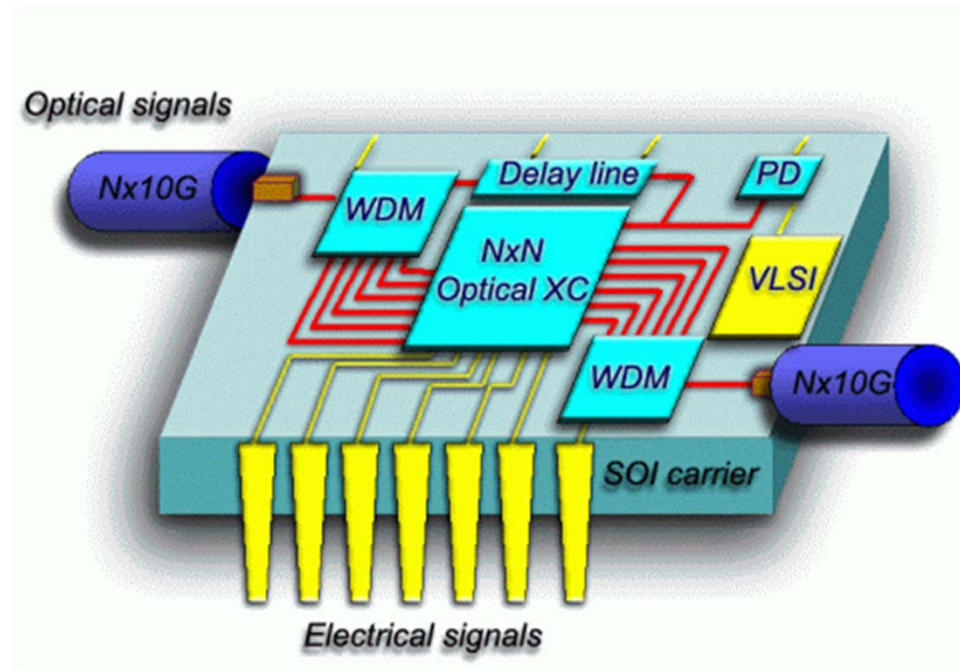
Computing speed is limited by inertia of electrons

# The interconnect bottleneck

- $10^9$  devices per chip
- Closely spaced metal wires slow down computation
- Huge heat generated due to electric resistance



**THE DREAM:** could we replace electrons with photons, and electric circuits with all-optical circuits?



IBM website

Futuristic silicon chip with monolithically integrated photonic and electronic circuits

wires → waveguides

Can electronic circuits be replaced by photonic ones?!

Using photons as bits of information instead of electrons would speed up the computing

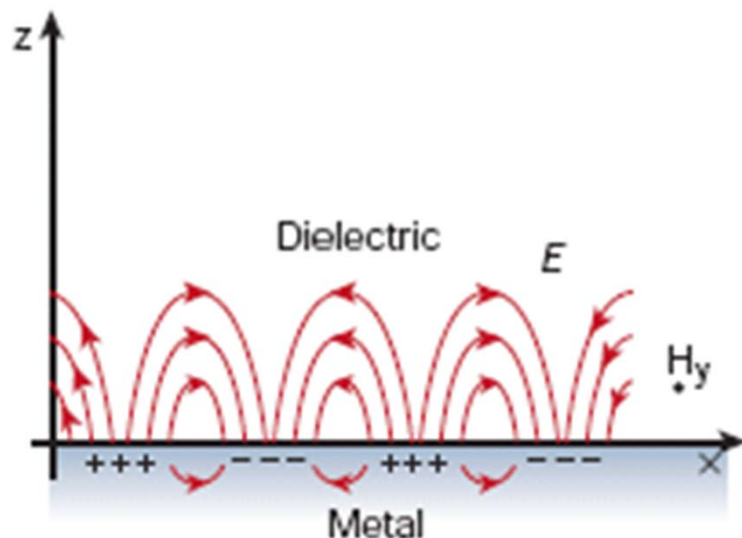
Photons travel much faster and don't dissipate as much power

However, large size of a photon would make computers 1000 times larger!



Optical computer is still a dream.

# What is a surface plasmon polariton?

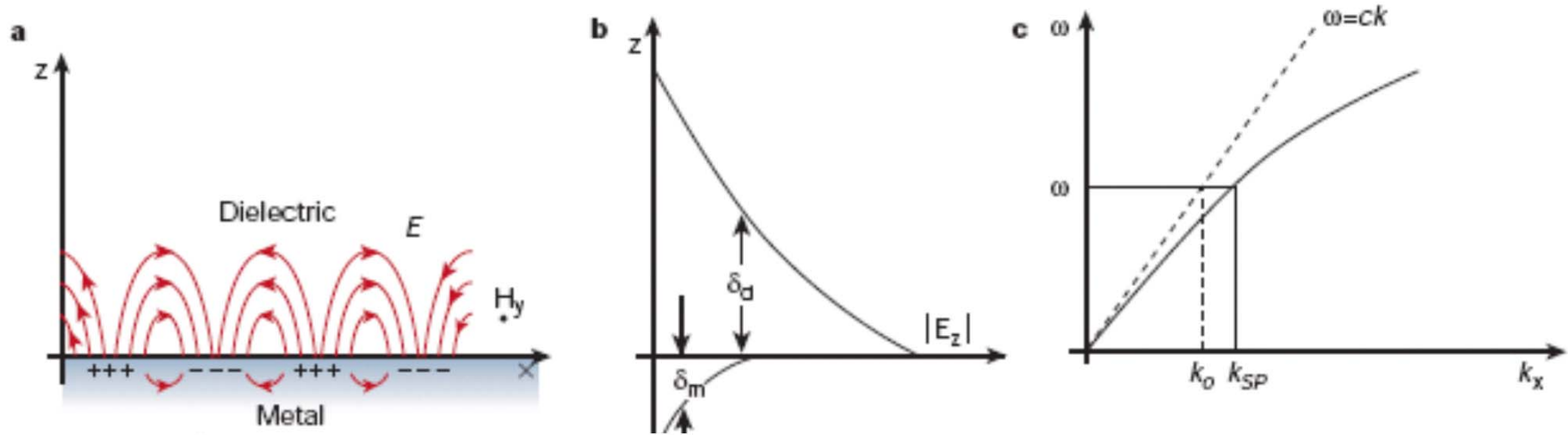


Barnes et al. Nature 2003

Transverse EM wave coupled to a plasmon (wave of charges on a metal/dielectric interface) = SPP (surface plasmon polariton)

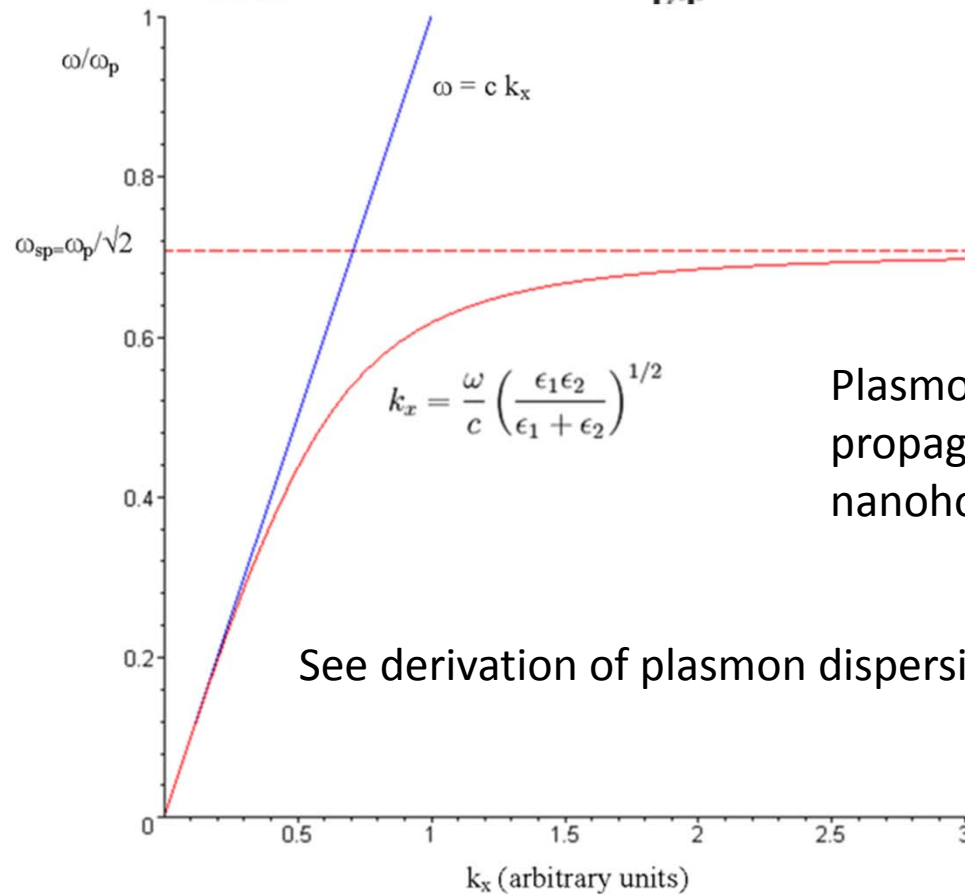
Note: the wave has to have the component of  $E$  transverse to the surface (be TM-polarized).

Polariton – any coupled oscillation of photons and dipoles in a medium



Barnes et al. Nature 2003

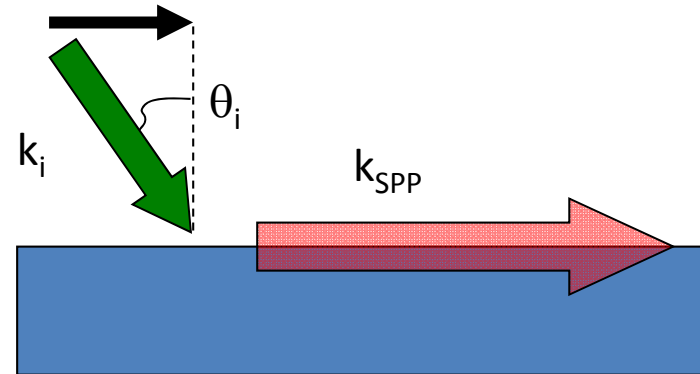
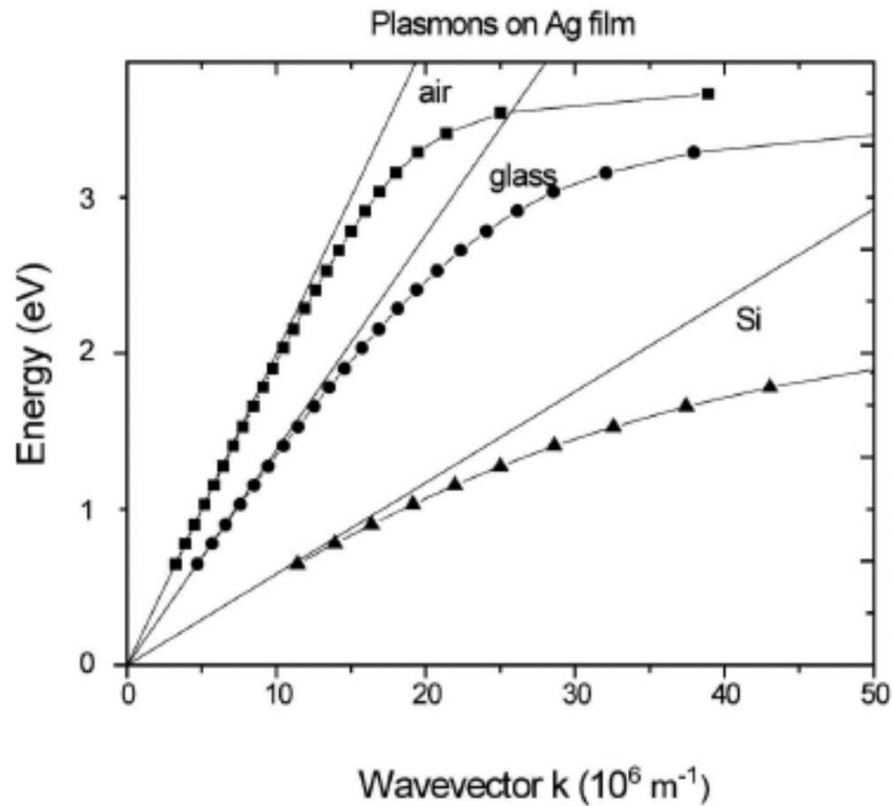
## Surface plasmons



Plasmons can be confined to nanoscale and propagate along nanostrips, through nanoholes, etc.

See derivation of plasmon dispersion on white board

Note: we cannot excite SPP by simply illuminating the surface!

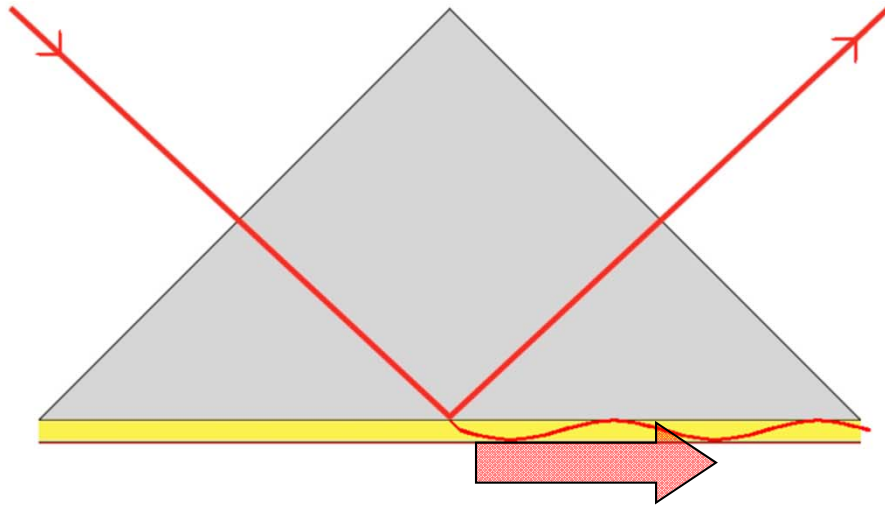


Excitation condition

$$k_i \sin \theta_i = k_{SPP}$$

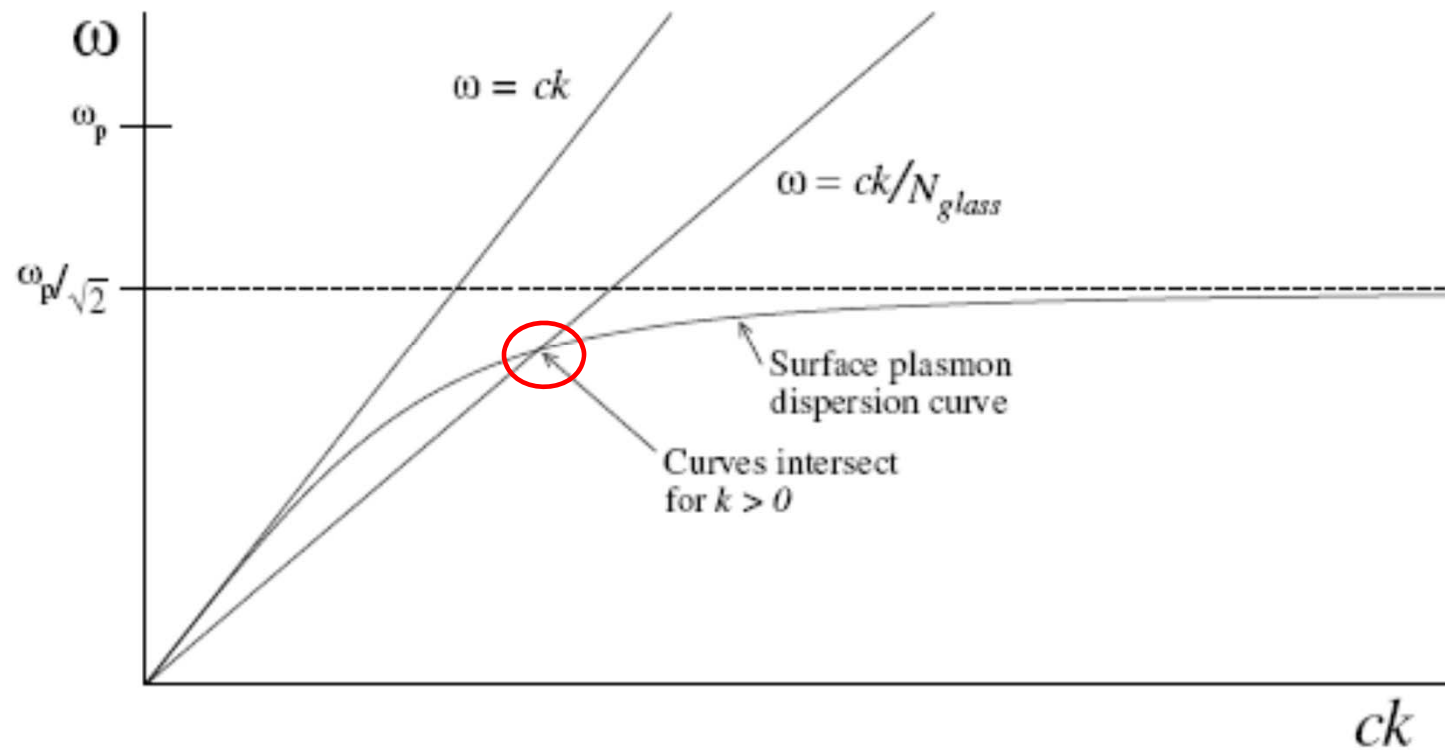
Impossible to satisfy!  
 $k_i$  is always less than  $k_{SPP}$

Calculated dispersion of surface plasmon-polaritons propagating at a Ag/air, Ag/glass, and Ag/Si interface, respectively.



Excitation of SPP:  
Kretschmann configuration

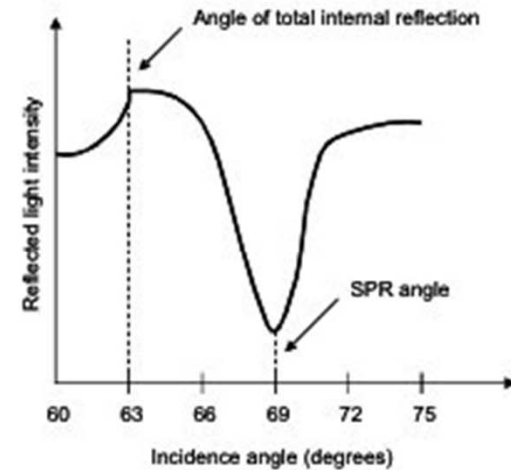
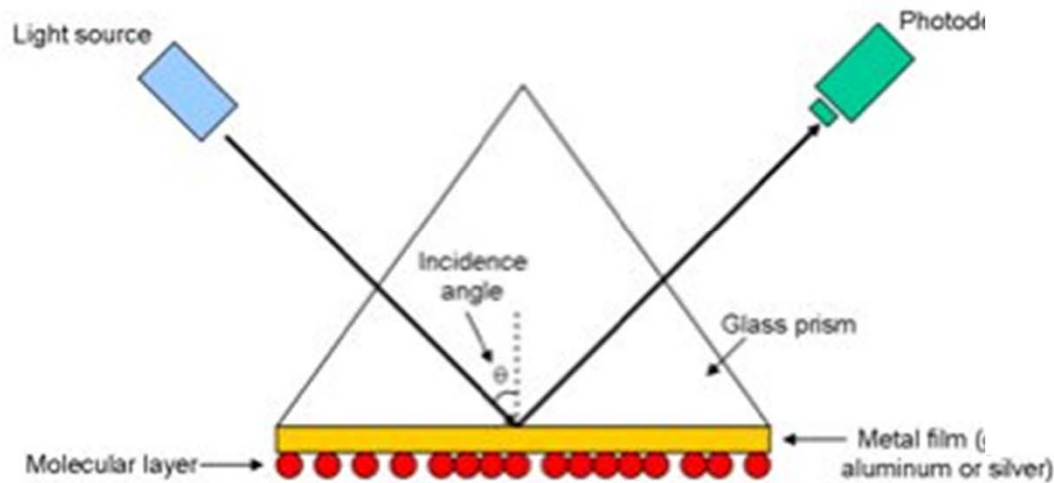
Note: these SPP are not particularly small-size





Nevertheless, this technique is simple and can be used when we don't care about having short SPP wavelength

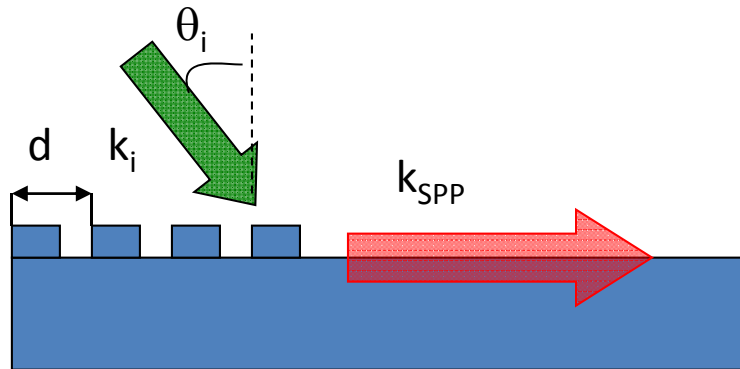
### Chem-Bio Sensing in the Kretschmann configuration



Example of SPR spectrum

Note: the angle is in the TIR range!

## Exciting SPP (or any mode of your choice) by scattering light off grating



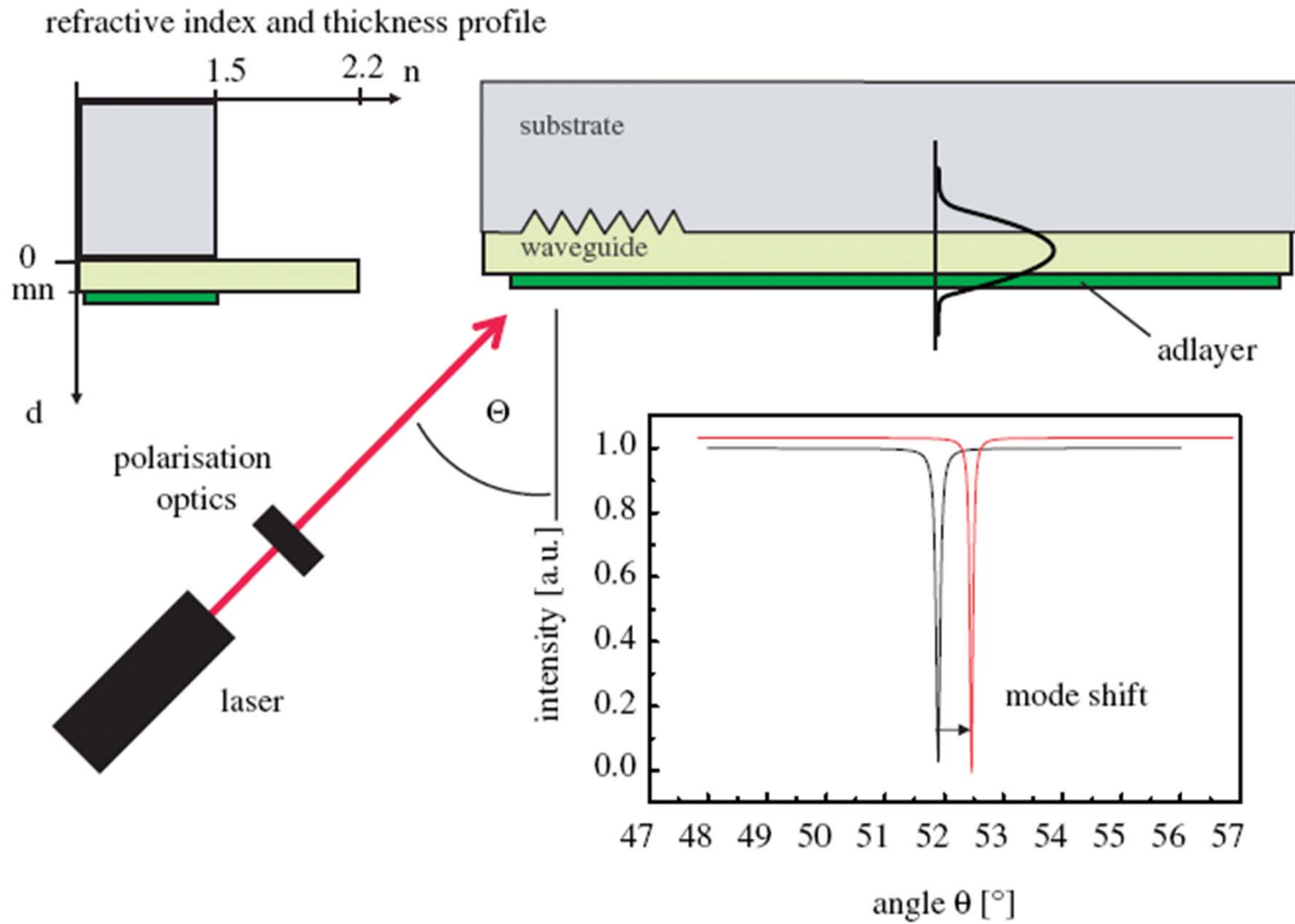
This is effectively a (quasi-)momentum conservation

Grating changes longitudinal wave vector of a photon by

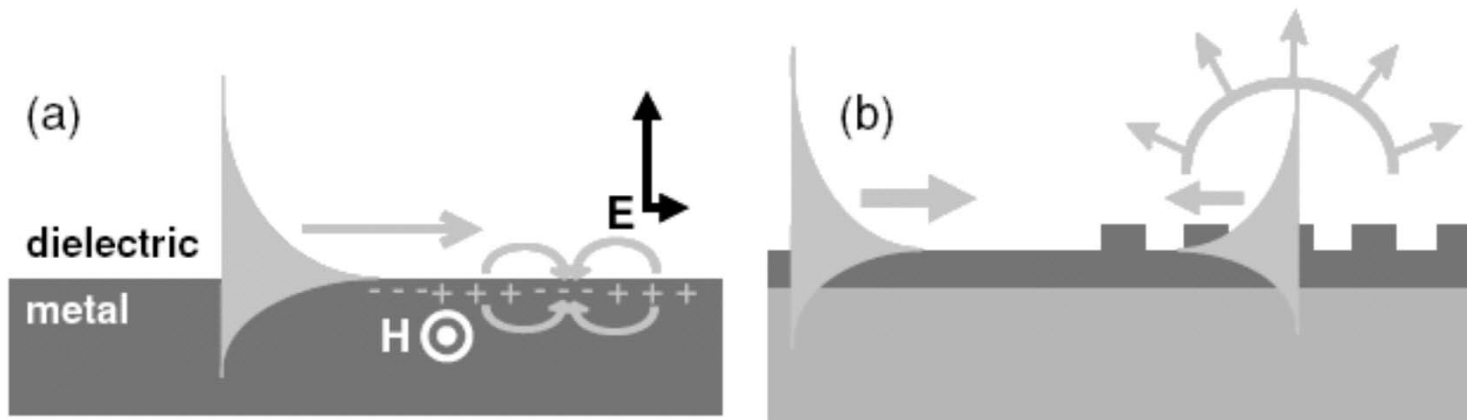
$$K_g = \pm m \frac{2\pi}{d}; m = 1, 2, \dots$$

Coupling to SPP is achieved when  $k_i \sin \theta_i + K_g = k_{SPP}$

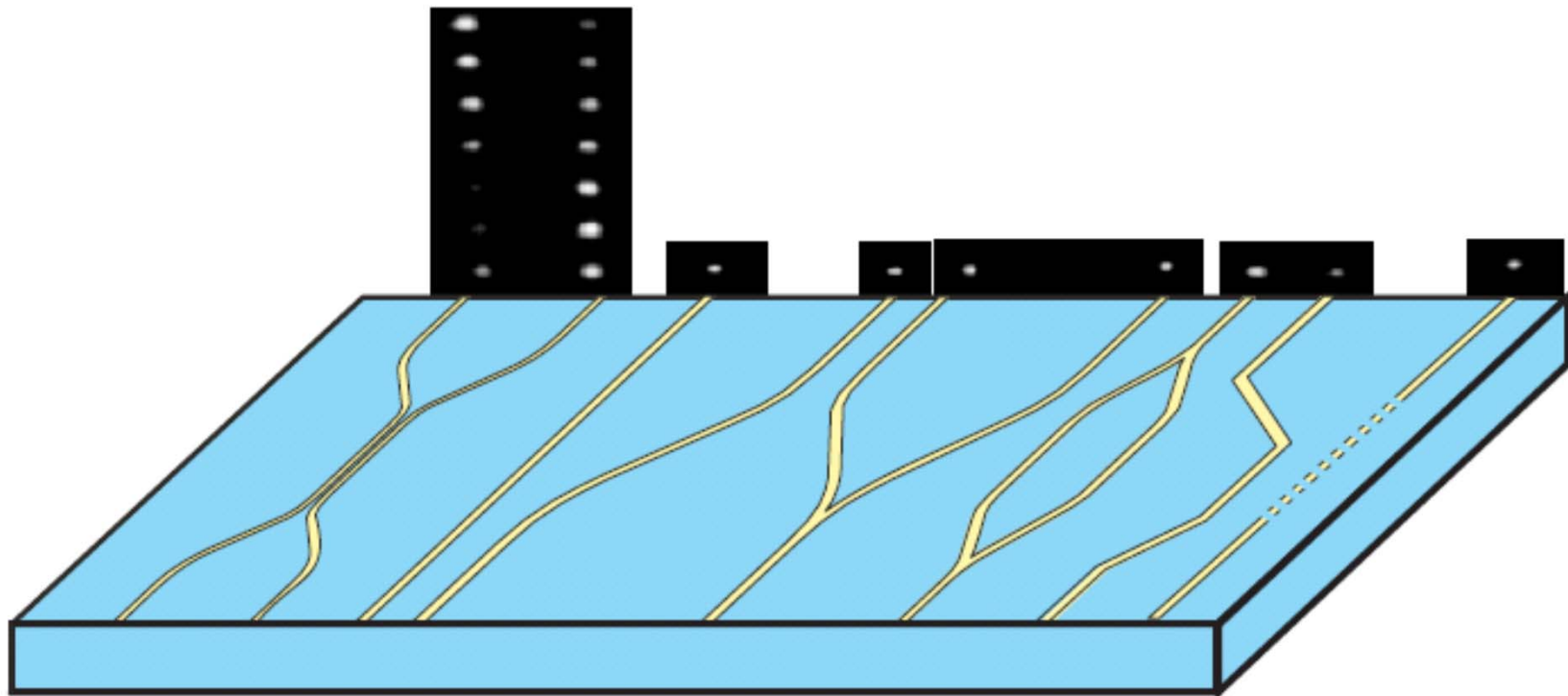
Adsorbed molecules change the excitation angle of EM mode



Grating can be also used to extract SPPs:

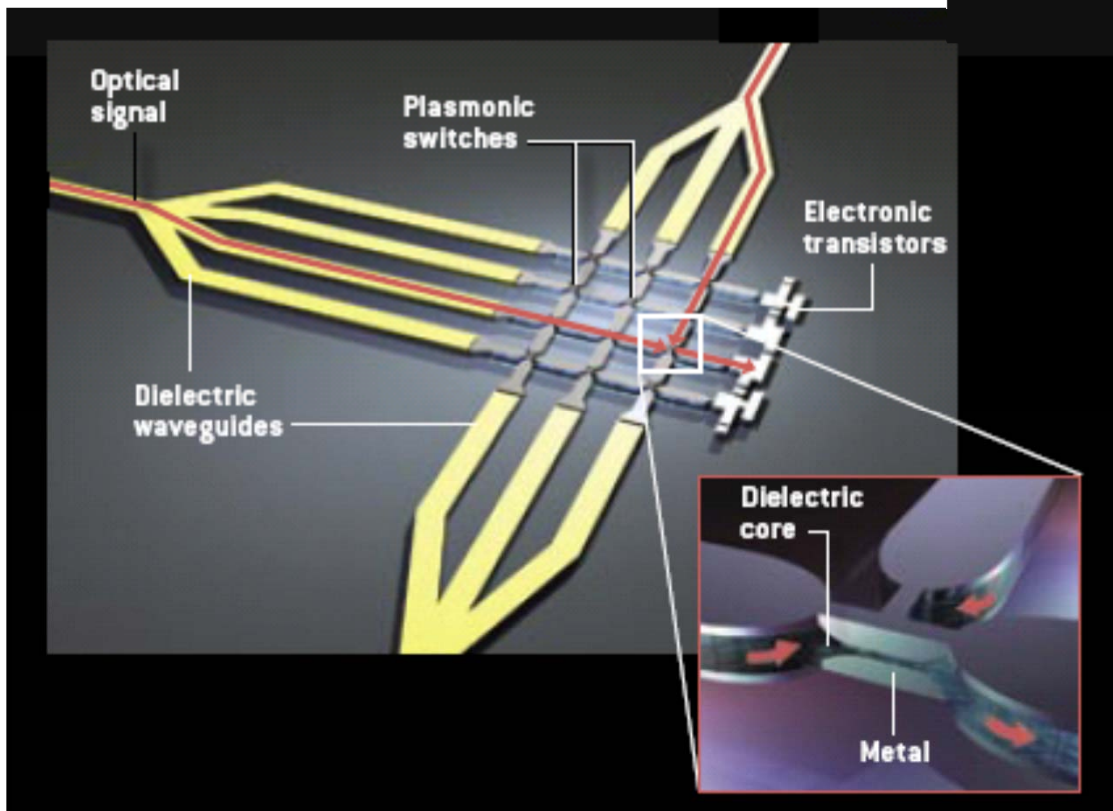
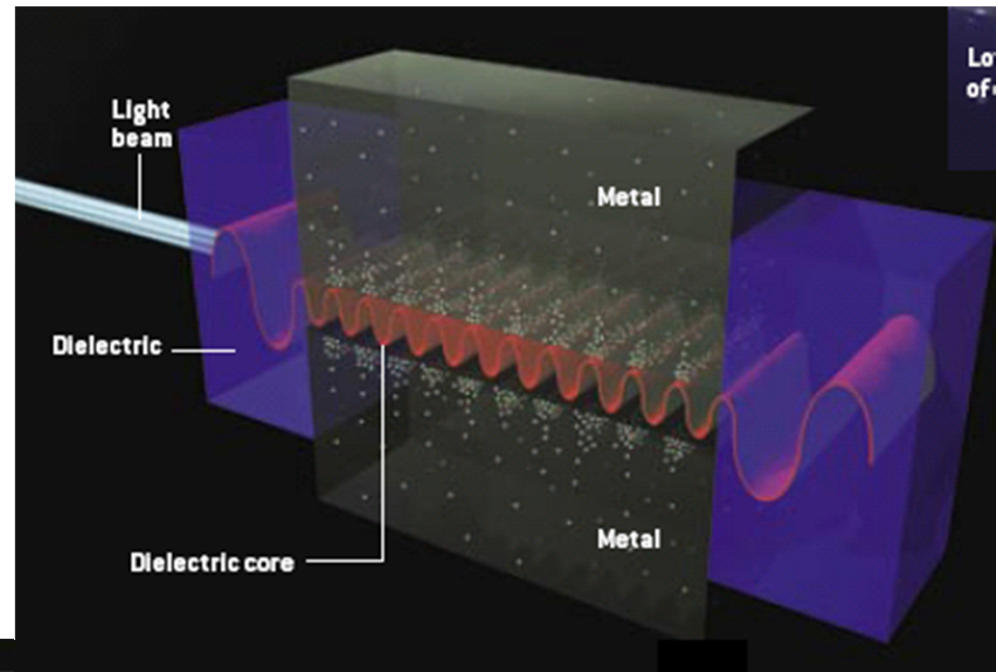


# Elements of integrated photonic chips based on SPP



# THE DREAM: Plasmonic chips

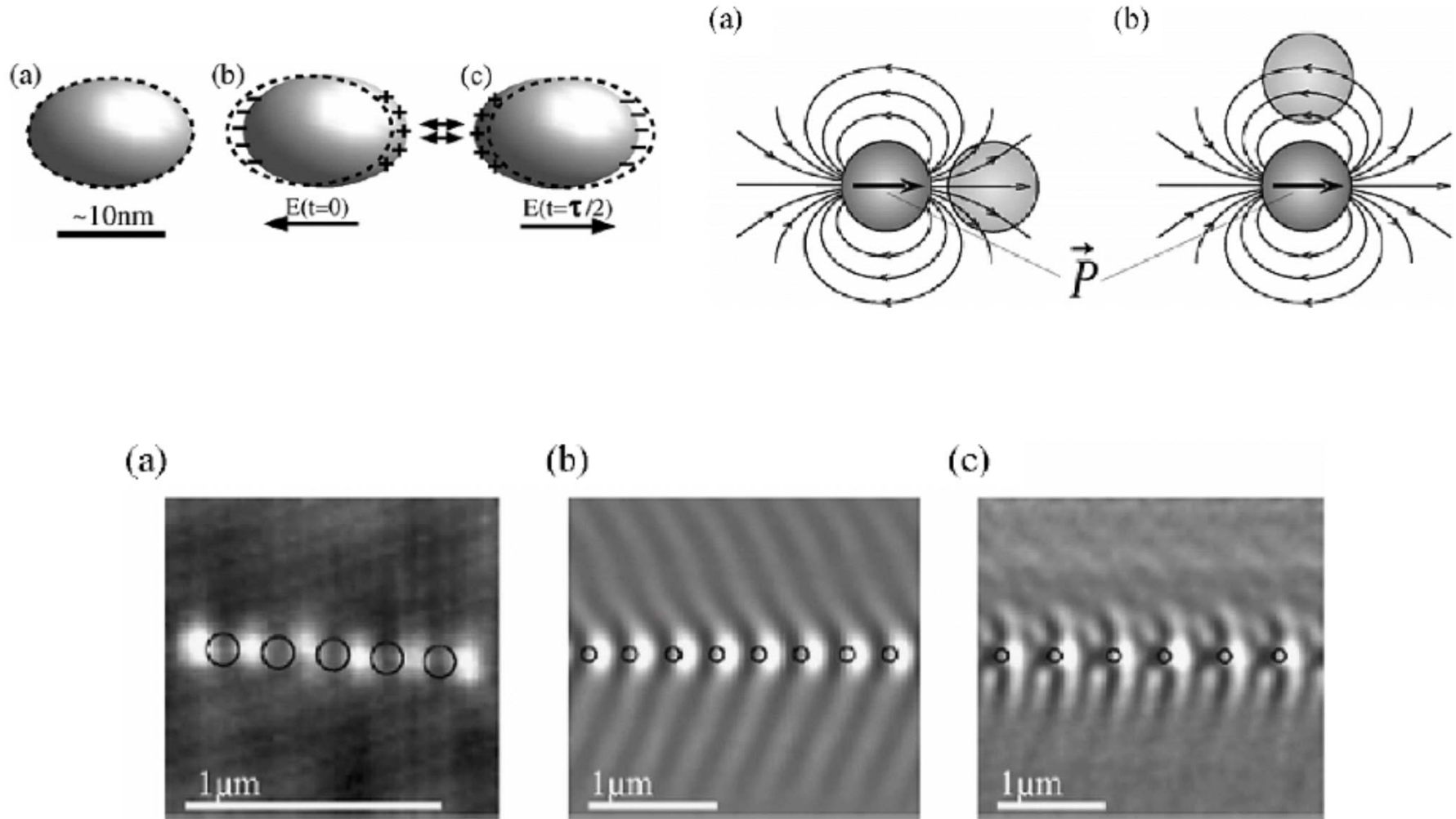
Plasmonic switches (“plasmonsters”)



Slot waveguide

H. Atwater, Sci. Am. 2007

# Plasmon waveguides made from chains of nanoparticles



LYCURGUS CUP, a Roman goblet dating from the fourth century A. D., changes color because of the plasmonic excitation of metallic particles within the glass matrix. When a light source is placed inside the normally greenish goblet, it looks red.

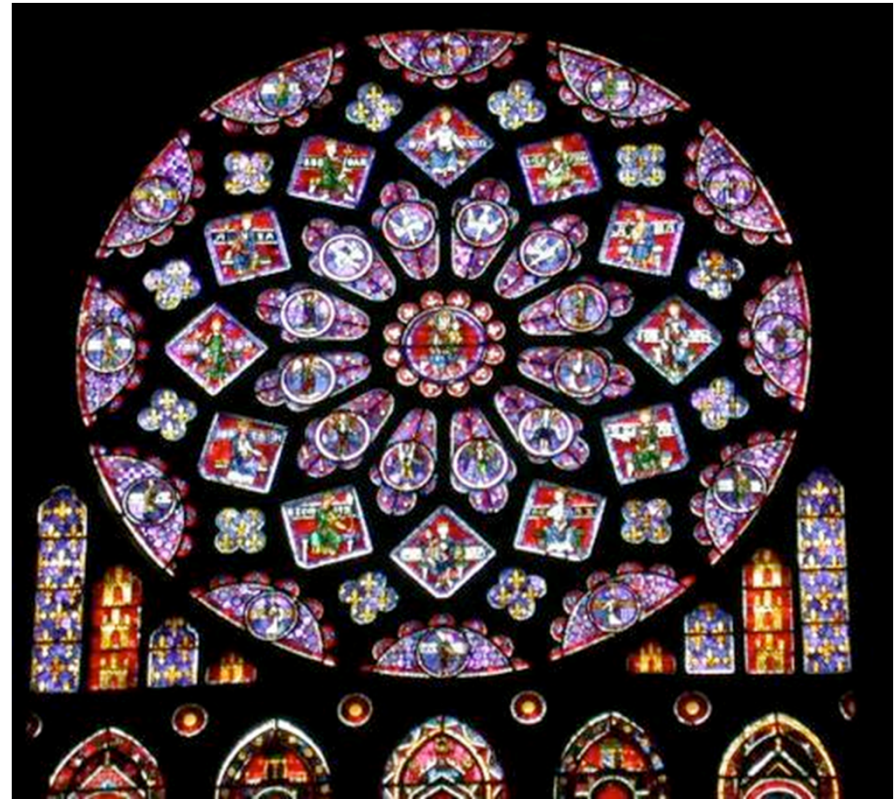
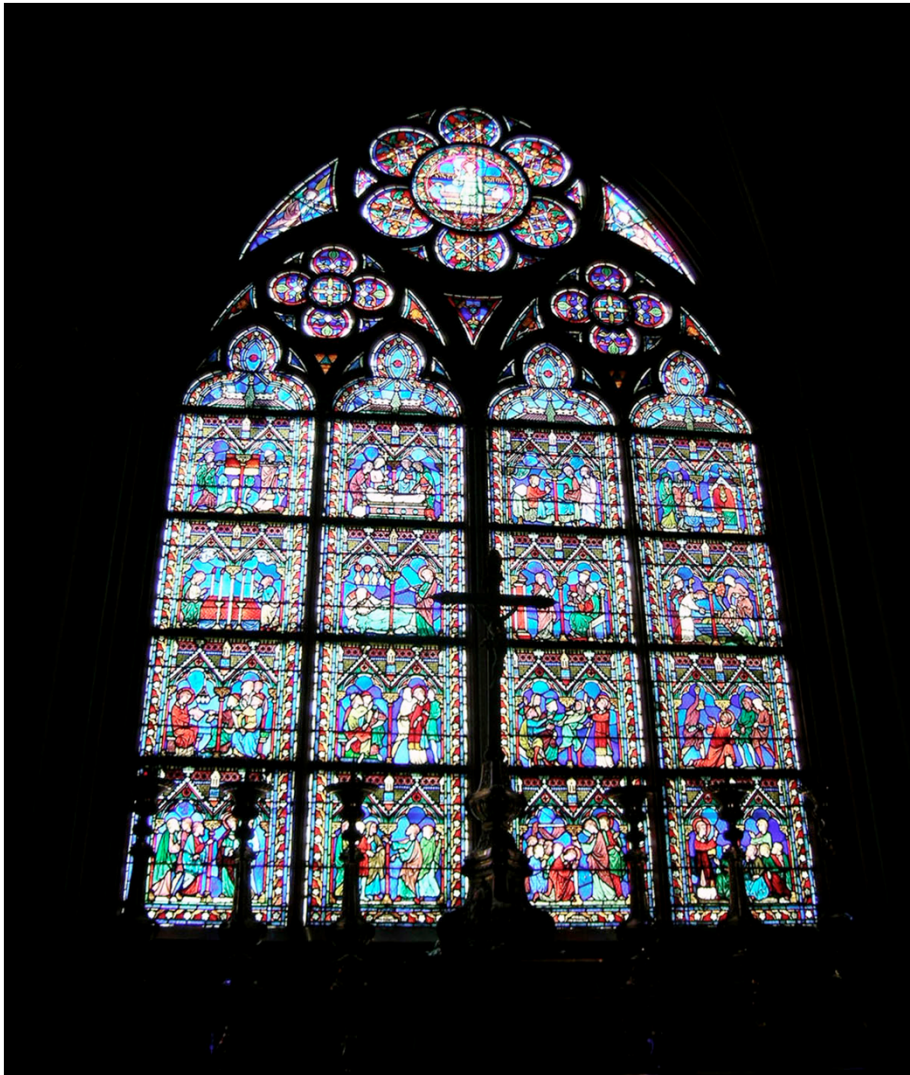


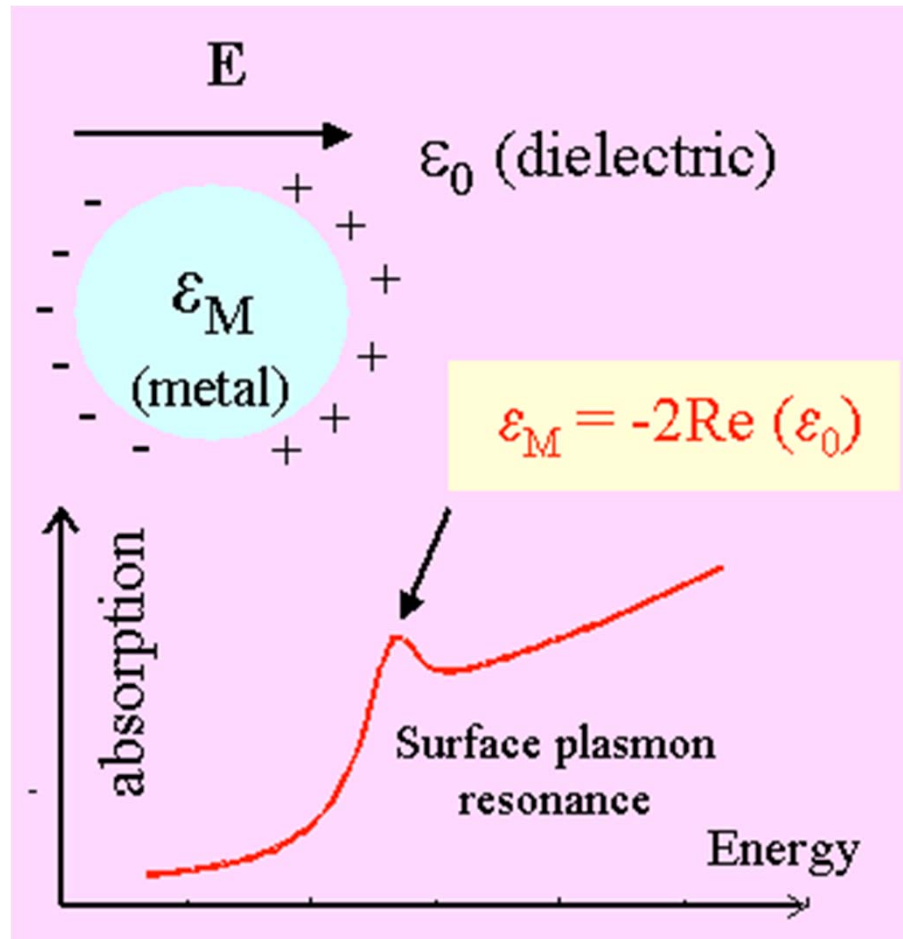
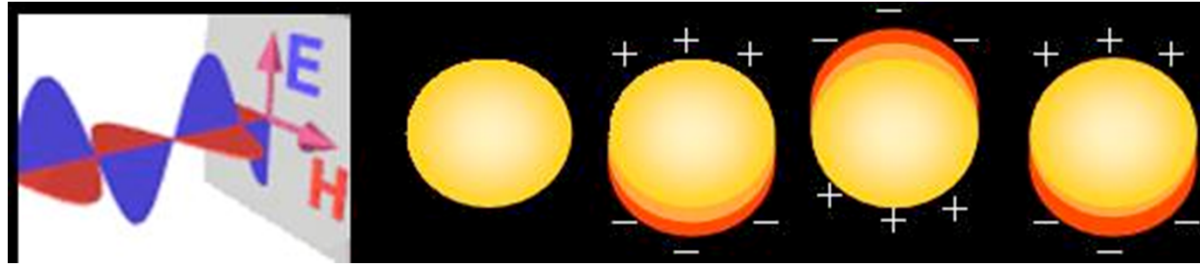
Plasmon absorption by metallic nanoparticles in stained glass windows, glass cups, ceramic pots

Lycurgus Cup, Romans 450 A.D.

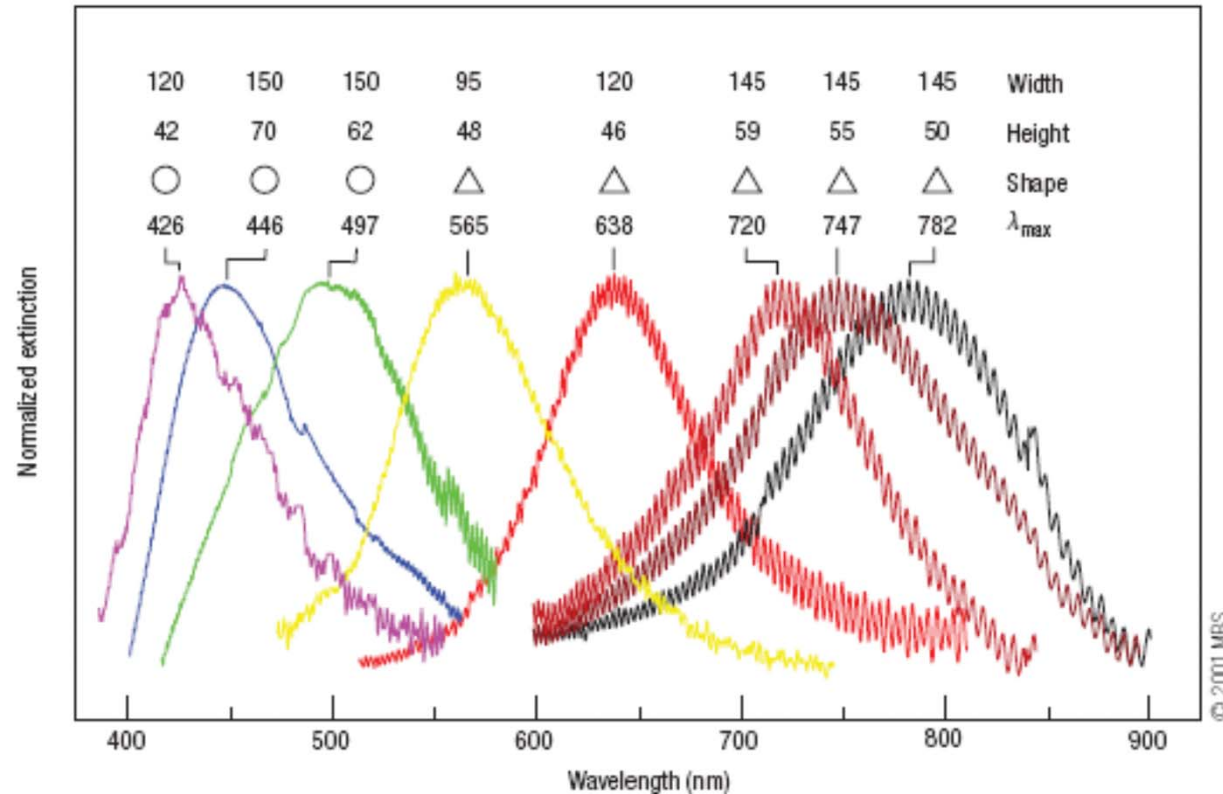


## Stained glass windows in Notre Dame





The shape of the nanoparticle extinction and scattering spectra, and in particular the peak wavelength  $\lambda_{\max}$ , depends on nanoparticle composition, size, shape, orientation and local dielectric environment.

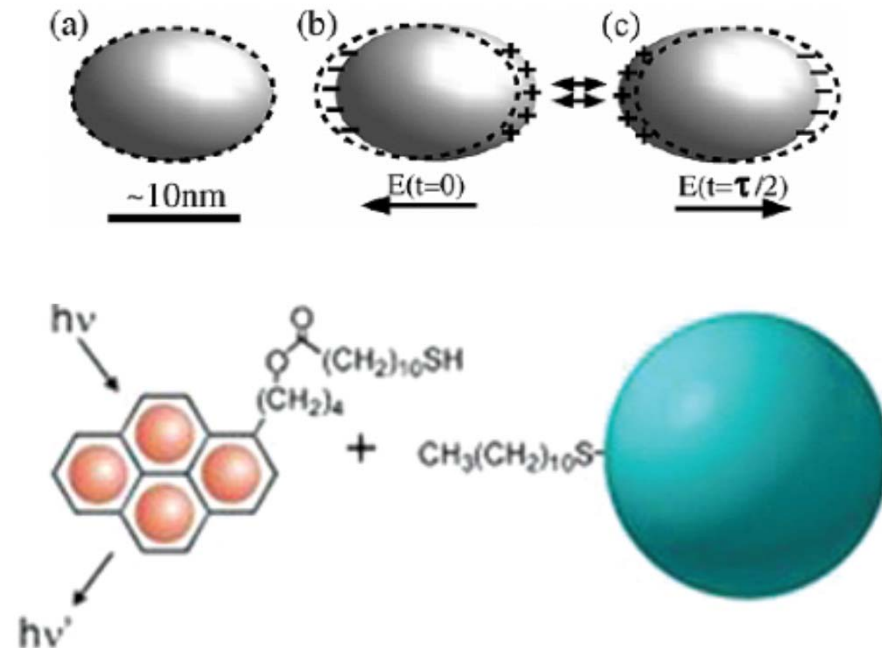


Effect of size and shape on LS PR extinction spectrum for silver nanoprisms and nanodiscs formed by nanosphere lithography. The high-frequency signal on the spectra is an interference pattern from the reflection at the front and back surfaces of the mica.

Anker et al., Nature Mat. 2008

Light incident on the nanoparticles induces the conduction electrons in them to oscillate collectively with a resonant frequency that depends on the nanoparticles' size, shape and composition. As a result of these LSPR modes, the nanoparticles absorb and scatter light so intensely that single nanoparticles are easily observed by eye using dark-field (optical scattering) microscopy.

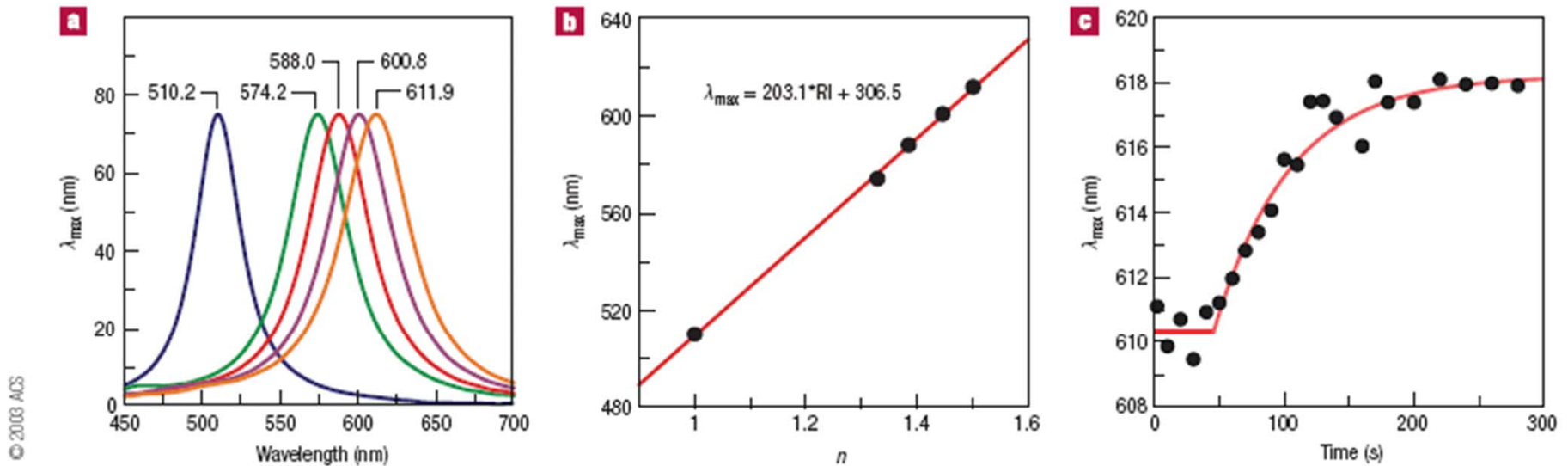
This phenomenon enables noble-metal nanoparticles to serve as extremely intense labels for immunoassays, biochemical sensors and surface-enhanced spectroscopies.



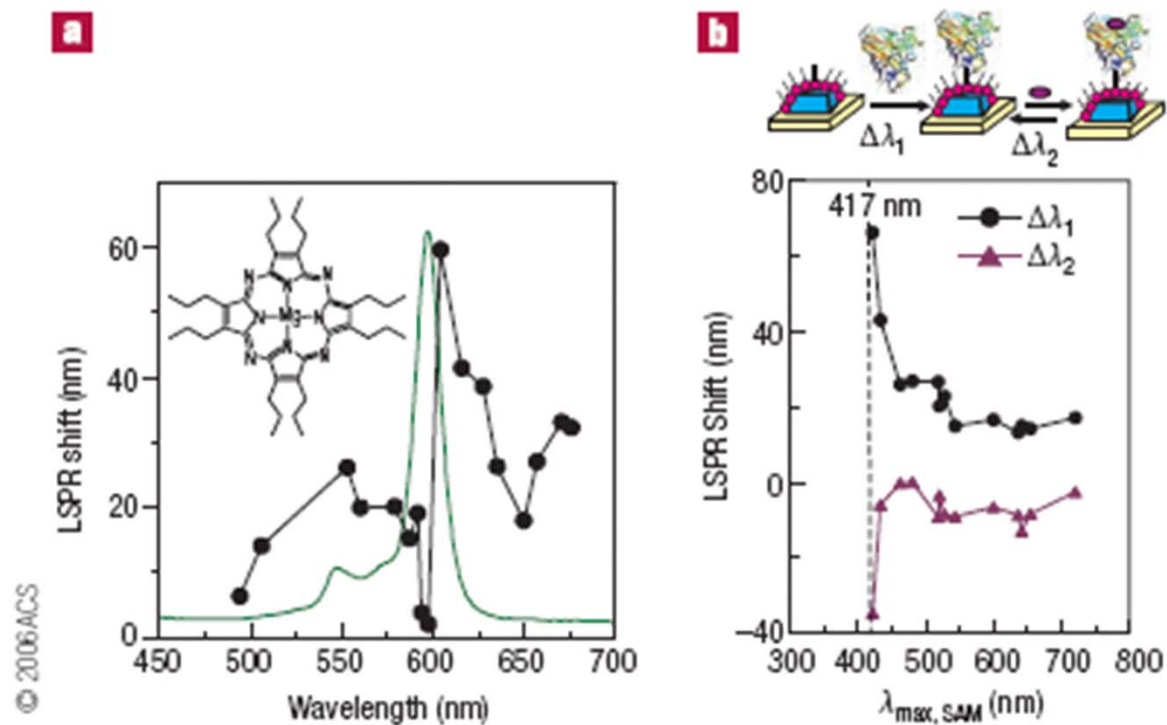
## What to observe?? (a) shift of the SPR spectrum

When molecules bind to a nanoparticle, the SPR peak wavelength is shifted:

$$\Delta\lambda \approx m(n_{\text{adsorbate}} - n_{\text{medium}})(1 - e^{-2d/l_2})$$



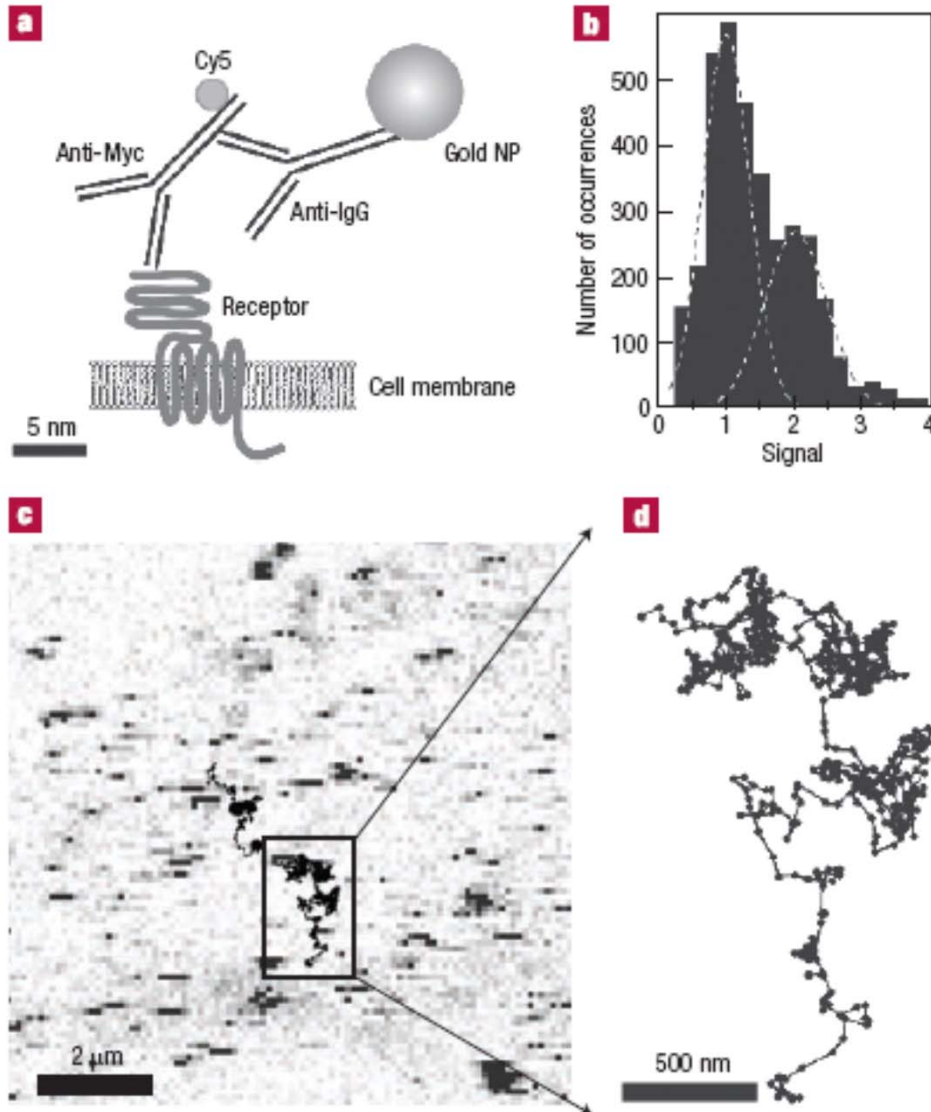
**Figure 2** Single-nanoprism LSPR. **a**, Resonant Rayleigh scattering spectrum from a single silver nanoparticle in various solvent environments (left to right): nitrogen, methanol, propan-1-ol, chloroform and benzene. **b**, Plot depicting the linear relationship between the solvent refractive index  $n$  and the LSPR  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ; the regression equation is  $\lambda = 203.1n + 306.5$ . **c**, Monitoring the real-time adsorption of octanethiol (1 mM) onto a single nanoparticle. At this concentration, the rate constant is estimated to be  $0.017 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Reprinted with permission from ref. 11.



**Figure 4** Wavelength-dependent LSPR shifts induced by resonant molecules.

**a**, Comparison of LSPR shifts induced by a monolayer of MgPz adsorption on silver nanoparticles with the LSPR of bare silver nanoparticles (black line with dots). Inset: molecular structure of MgPz. Reprinted with permission from ref. 70. The green line is the solution absorption spectrum of MgPz. **b**, Schematic representation of CYP101 immobilized on a silver nanobiosensor followed by binding of camphor, and plots of LSPR shifts against  $\lambda_{\max, \text{SAM}}$  (LSPR of SAM-functionalized nanoparticles), where  $\Delta\lambda_1$  is the shift on binding of CYP101 and  $\Delta\lambda_2$  is the shift on binding of camphor. The vertical black dotted line denotes the molecular resonance of substrate-free CYP101. Reprinted with permission from ref. 72.

What to observe?? (b) increase in temperature caused by optically heating the nanoparticle and its environment



You can track these particles by scattering the probe beam off a thermally induced change in the refractive index!