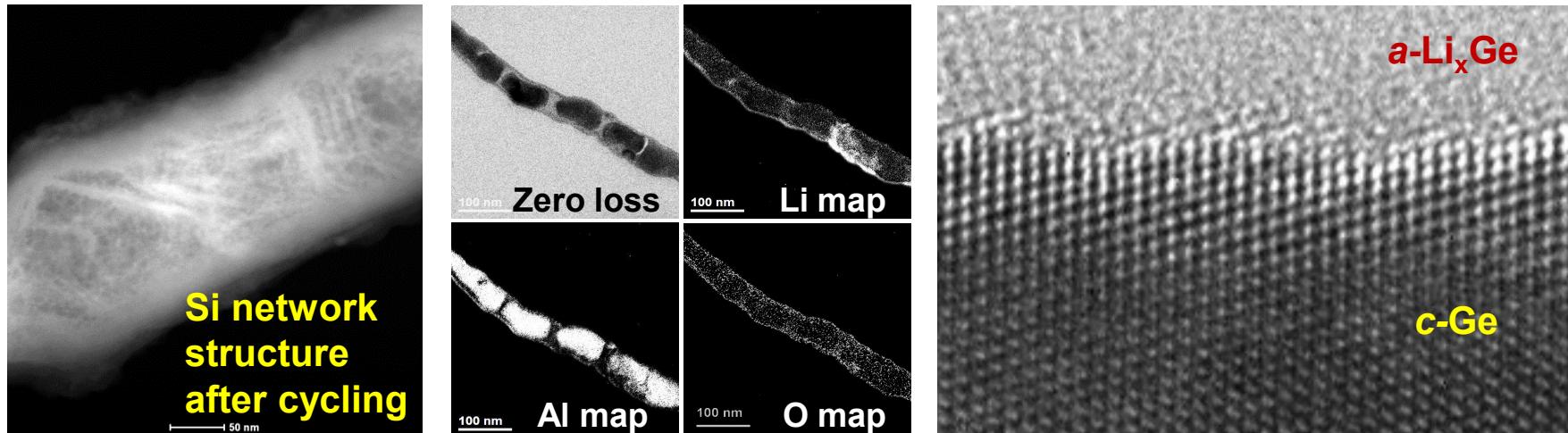


# Revealing the Working and Degradation Mechanisms in Lithium-Ion Batteries via In-situ Transmission Electron Microscopy

Yang Liu

*Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies (CINT), Sandia National Laboratories,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico*



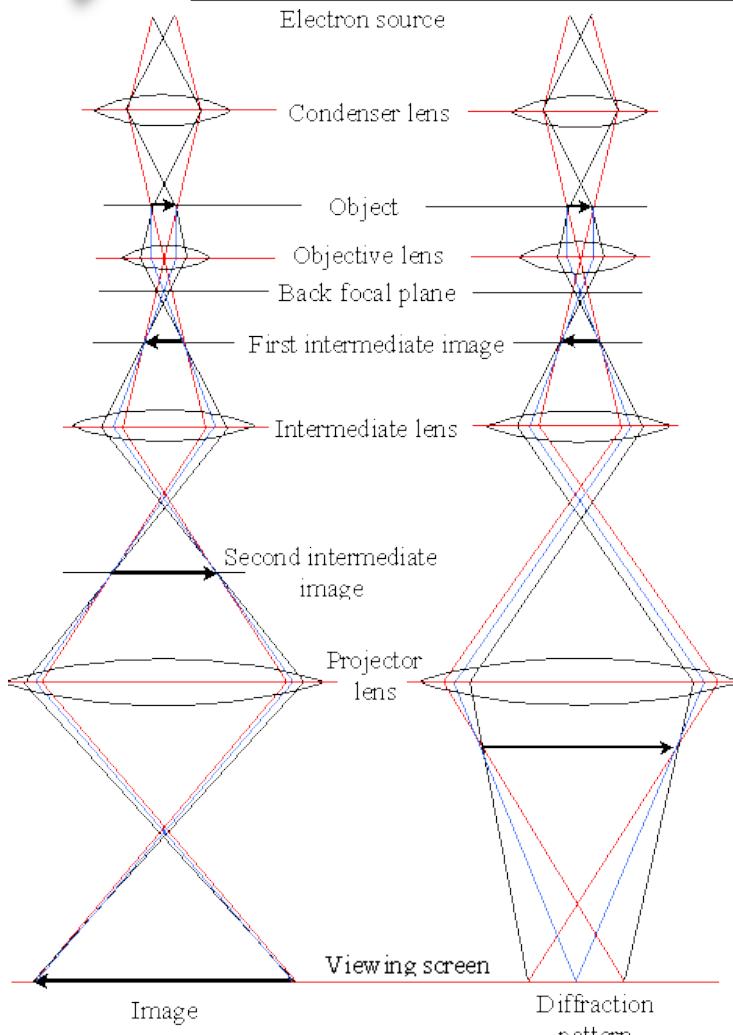
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

# Outline

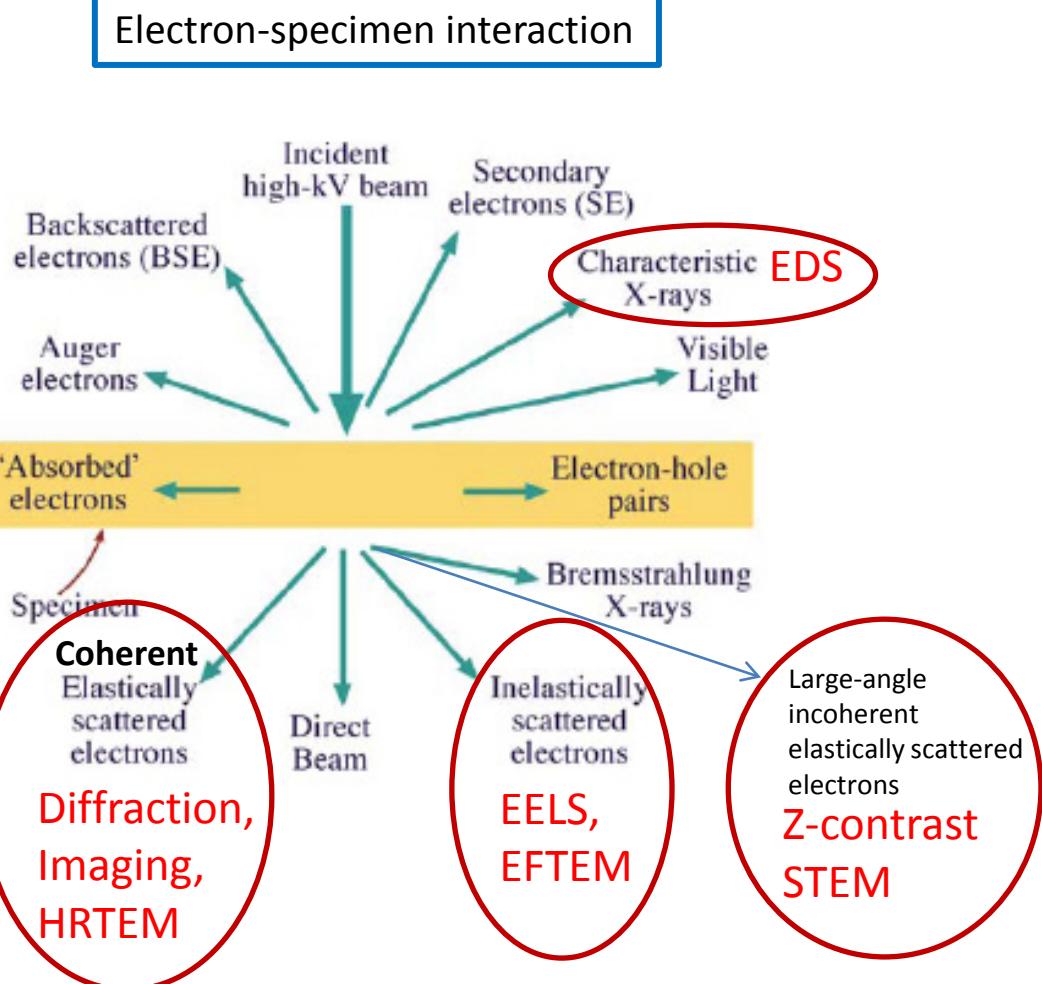
---

- Why Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)?
- Why in-situ TEM?
- Research Experience
- In-situ TEM Electrochemistry
  - ✓ Motivation
  - ✓ Methods
  - ✓ Li-ion batteries
  - ✓ Quantitative electrochemistry on individual nanostructure
  - ✓ Beyond Li-ion batteries (such as, Na-ion batteries, Li-O<sub>2</sub> battery)
- Conclusions and Perspective

# Why Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)?



Ray diagram



Williams & Carter, TEM textbook, Springer (2009)

# TEM techniques

---

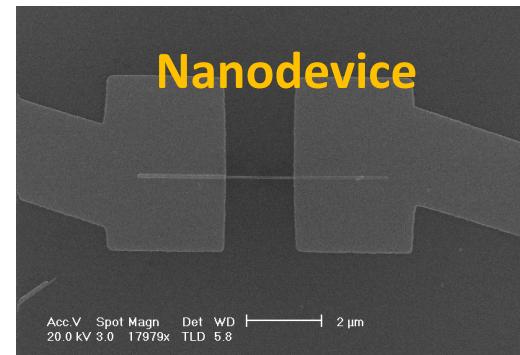
- **Imaging** [diffraction contrast, phase contrast (High resolution TEM, HRTEM), Z-contrast (Scanning TEM, STEM), energy-filtered (EFTEM),...]
- **Diffraction** (select-area, convergent beam, nano-area,...)
- **Spectrometry** [EDS, Electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS)]
- **Cryo-EM**
- **3D tomography**
- **Simulations**
- ...

# Why in-situ TEM?



Using the advanced TEM techniques:  
**TEM/STEM, HRTEM, EDS, EELS, EFTEM, Diffraction...**

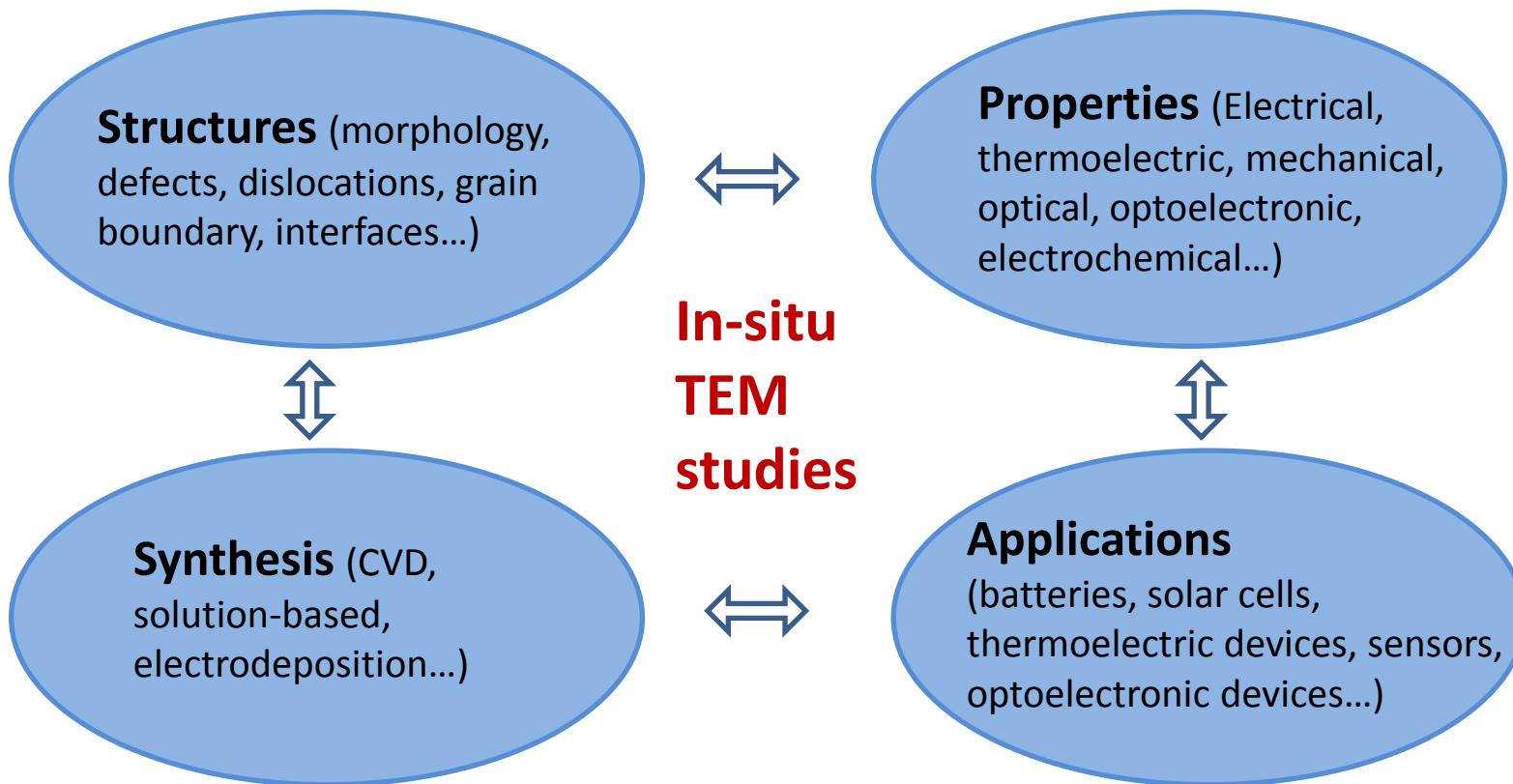
We can get these information:  
**Structure, phase, defects, crystal orientation, chemical composition and distribution, chemical state information...**



Using the advanced device fabrication and characterization, We can get these information:  
**Electrical properties, thermal transport properties, mechanical and optical properties, and the electrochemical performance...**

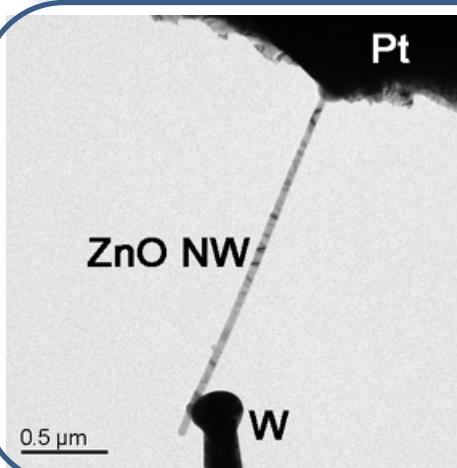
However, there exists a gap between the structures and physical properties studies of nano- or micro-structured materials, i.e. studying the structures without knowing the properties, and *vice versa*.

# Why in-situ TEM?

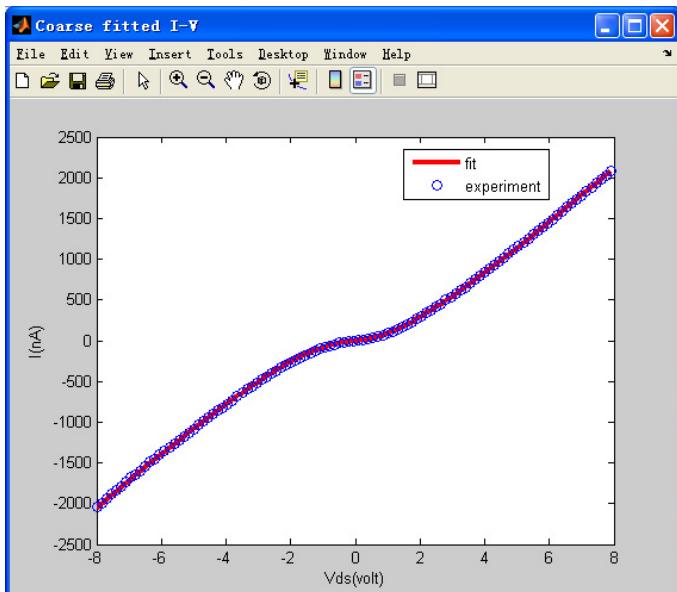


We can deeply understand their relationships by conducting simultaneous structures characterizations and properties measurements, through developing advanced in-situ TEM techniques. It can provide detailed directions/insights on how to synthesize materials and design novel architectures to realize powerful applications.

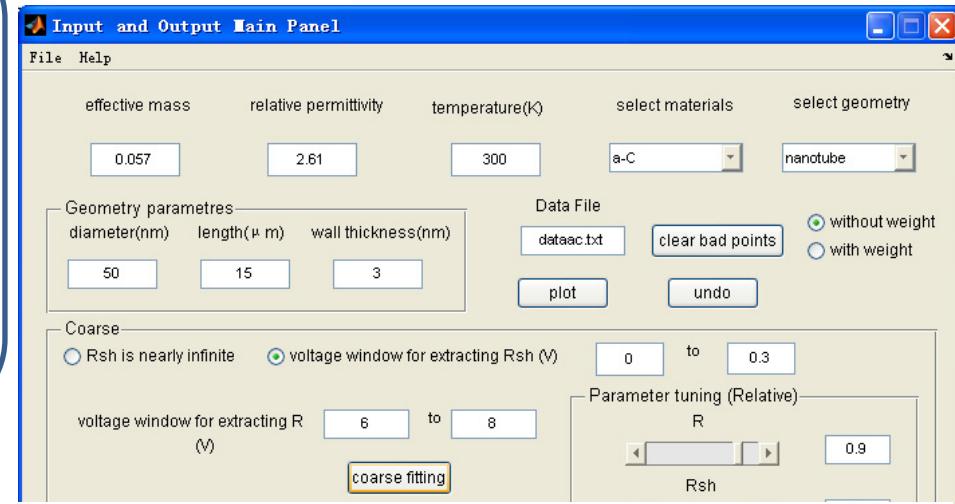
# Research Experience



In-situ measurement of the **electrical and thermal transport properties** of individual nanostructures



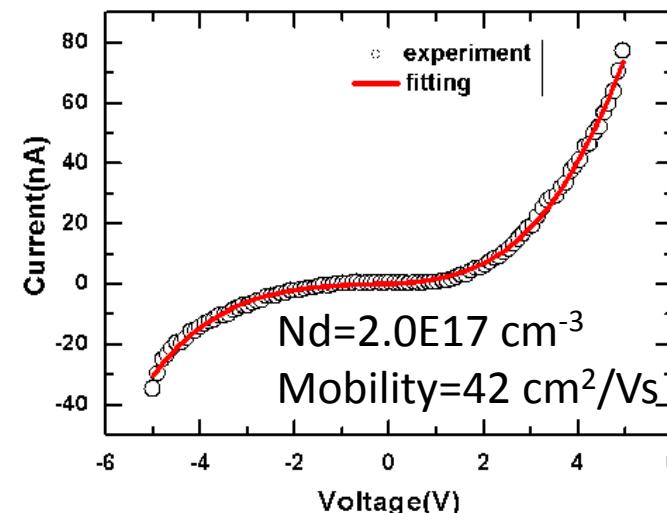
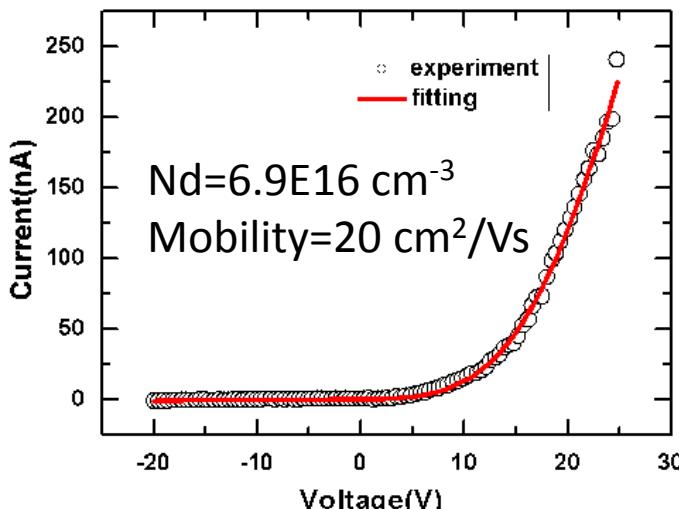
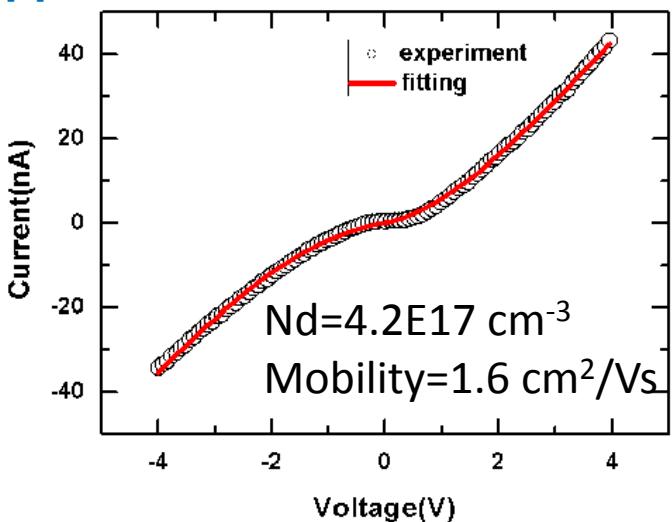
## Metal-Semiconductor-Metal (MSM) model



	Standard Value	Relative error
$\varphi_1$ (eV)	0.32135	0.00072
$\varphi_2$ (eV)	0.33769	0.00071
$E_0$ (meV)	26.9859	0.0039
$E_{00}$ (meV)	9.381	0.016
$R_{NS}$ ( $\Omega$ )	2.8133e+006	6.3e+003
$R_{sh1}$ ( $\Omega$ )	1.180e+007	6.7e+005
$R_{sh2}$ ( $\Omega$ )	1.6e+012	6.9e+014
$N_d$ ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	3.795e+016	1.3e+014
Conductivity (S/m)	1.1940e+004	2.7e+001
Mobility ( $\text{cm}^2/(\text{V} \cdot \text{s})$ )	1.9638e+004	8.2e+001
Objective function $\chi^2$		2.702602e-015

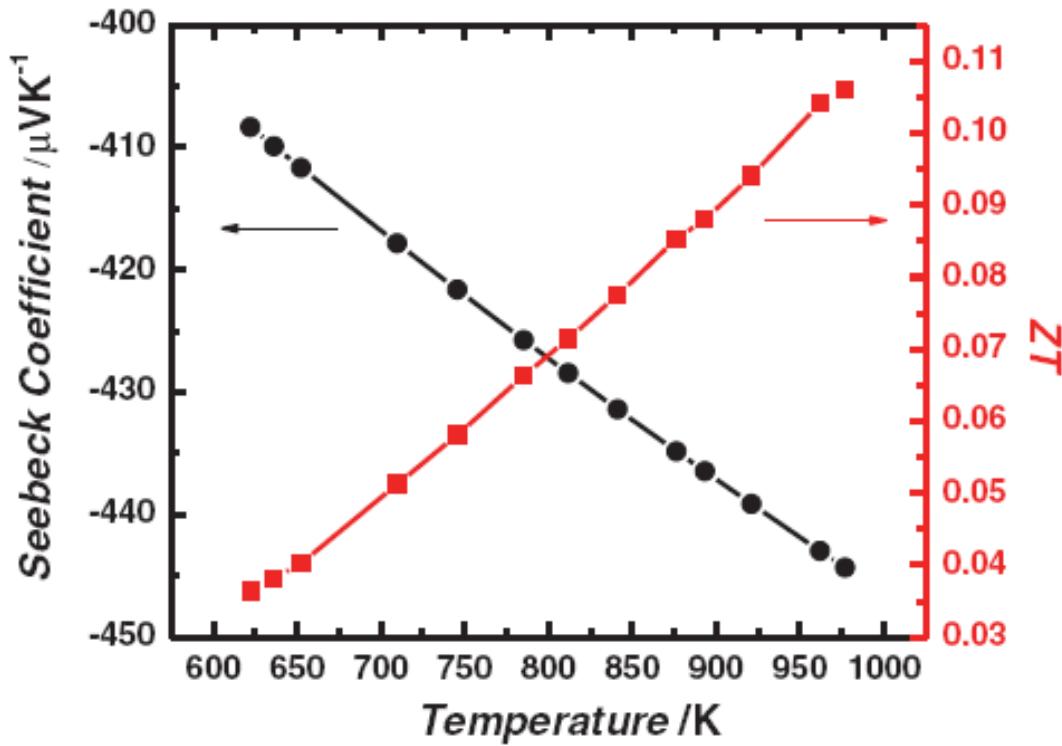
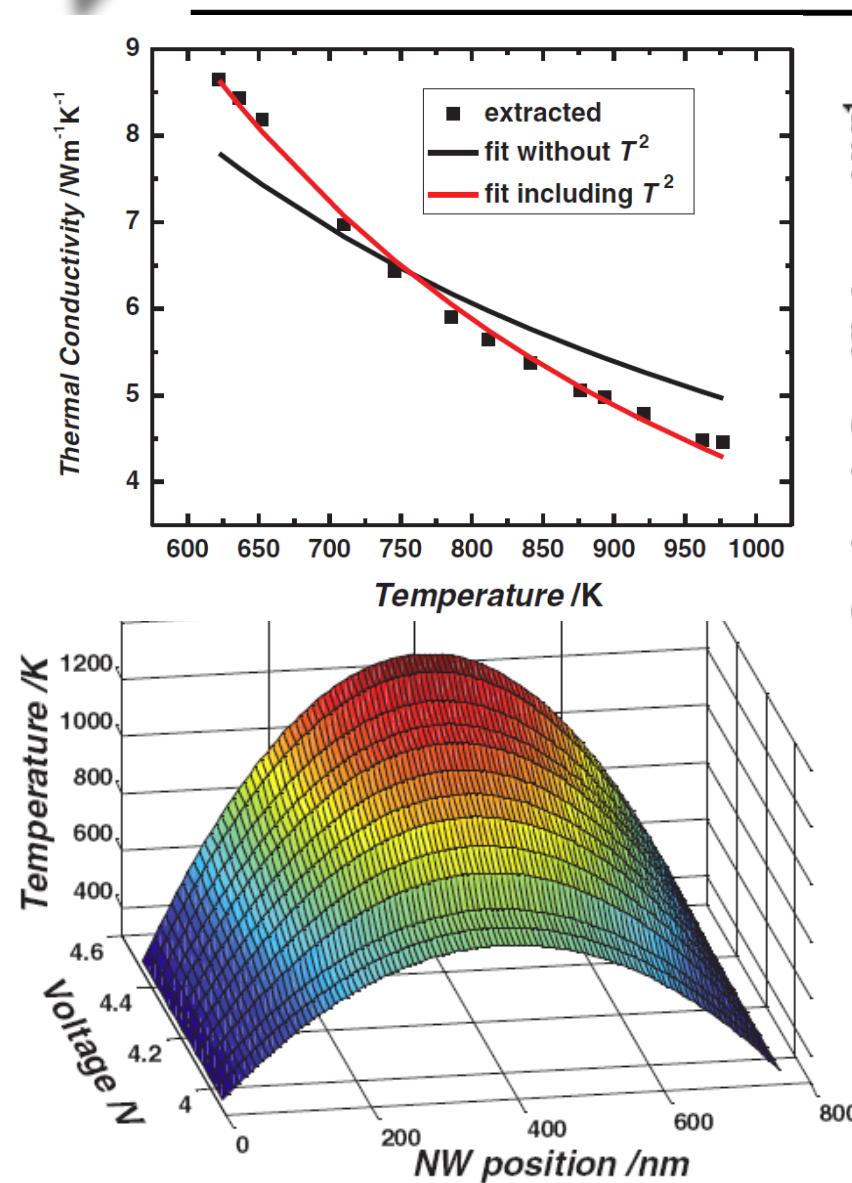
# Research Experience

## Applications



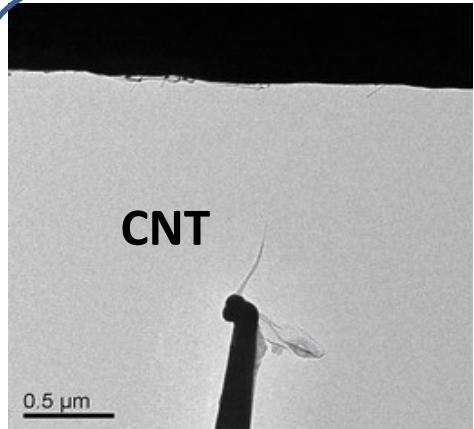
This model and software provides us a tool for quantitatively analyzing electrical transport properties of semiconducting nanomaterials from two terminal measurements.

# Research Experience

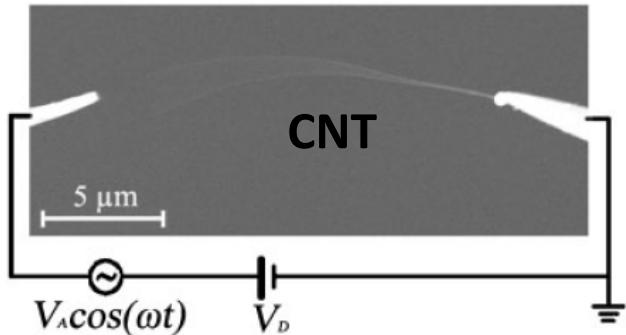
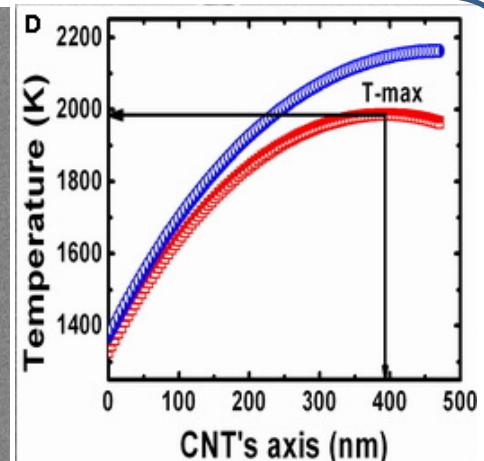
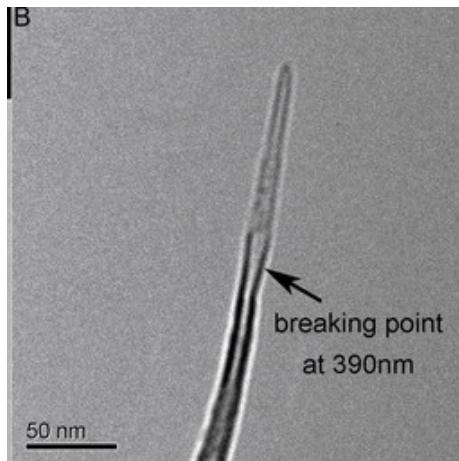


Y. Liu et al., Adv. Func. Mater. 21, 3900 (2011)

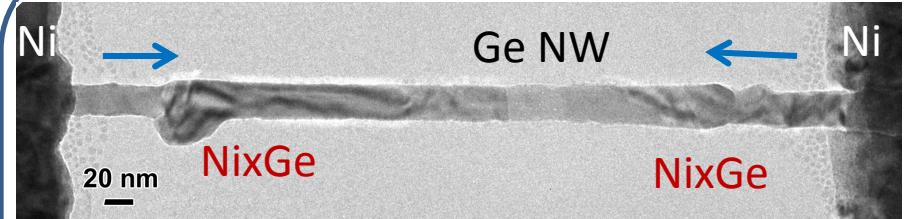
# Research Experience



In-situ study of field emission mechanism of carbon nanotubes

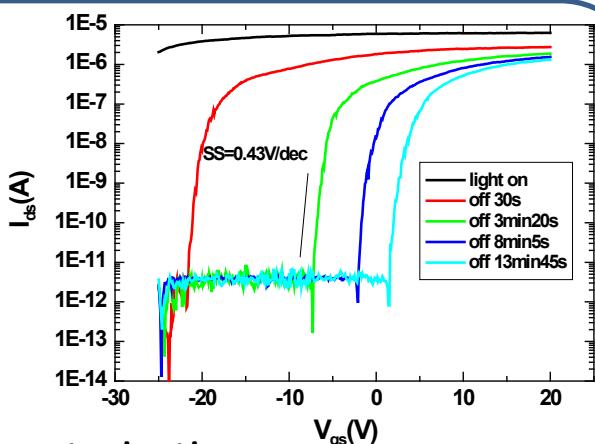
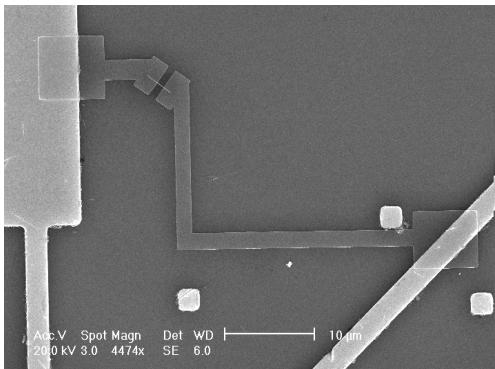


In-situ study of mechanical properties of carbon nanotubes

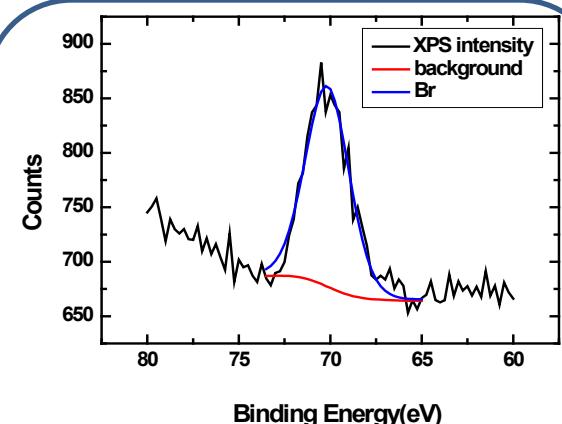


In-situ heating experiments on nickel reaction with Ge nanowires.

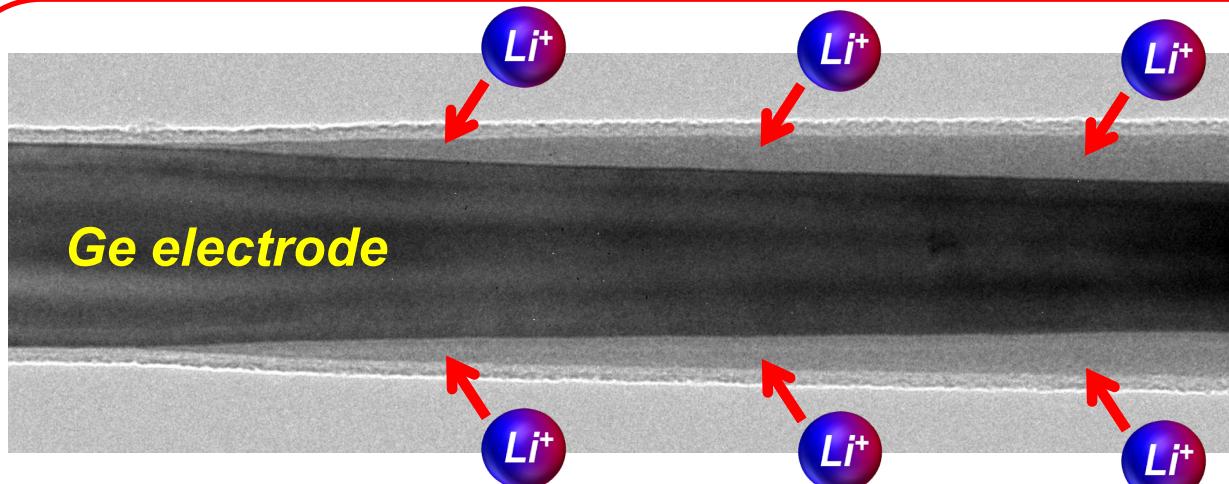
# Research Experience



Device fabrication and characterization

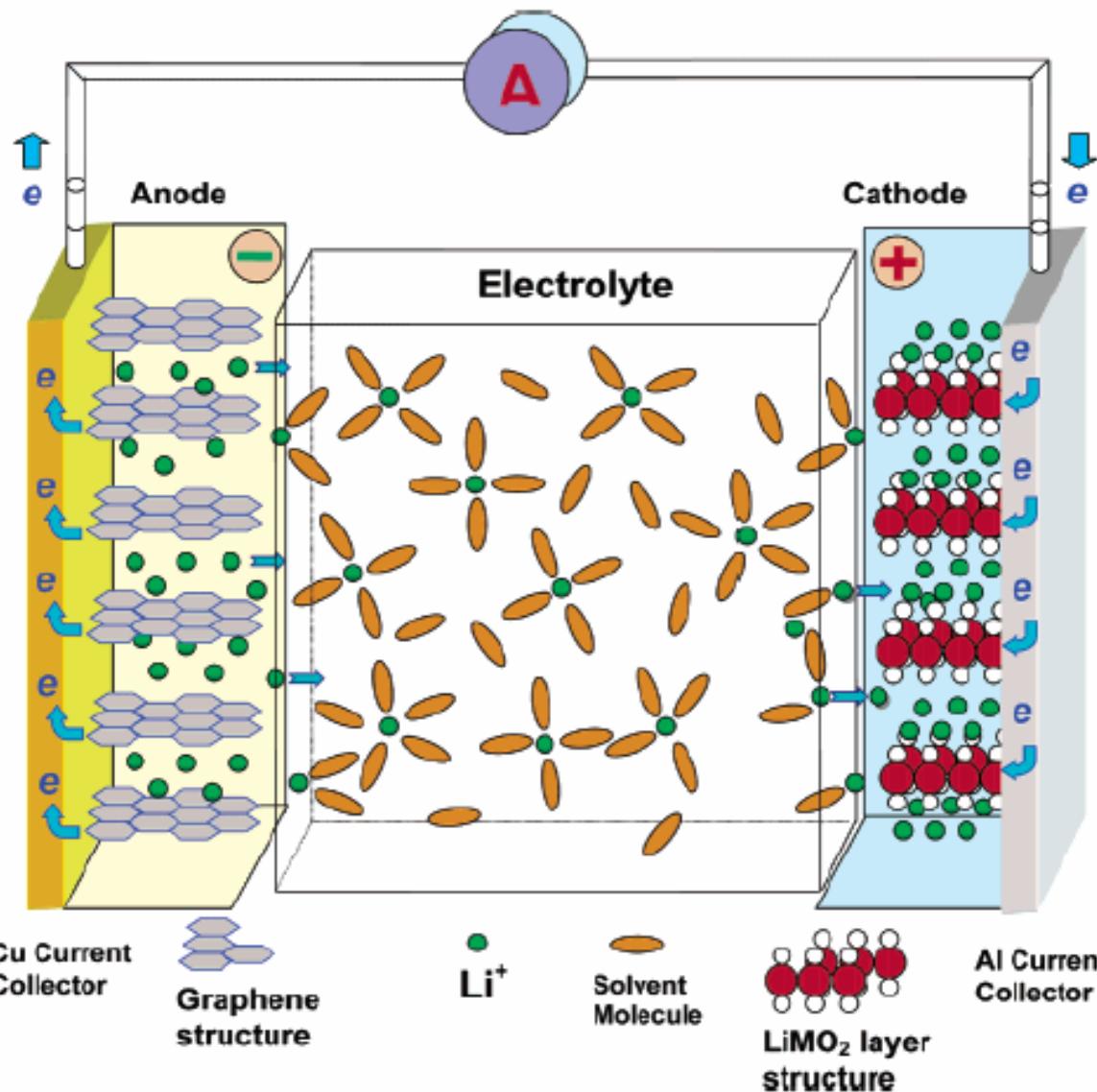


Surface functionalization



In-situ TEM  
**electrochemistry study**  
 on the working and  
 degradation  
 mechanisms in  
 batteries

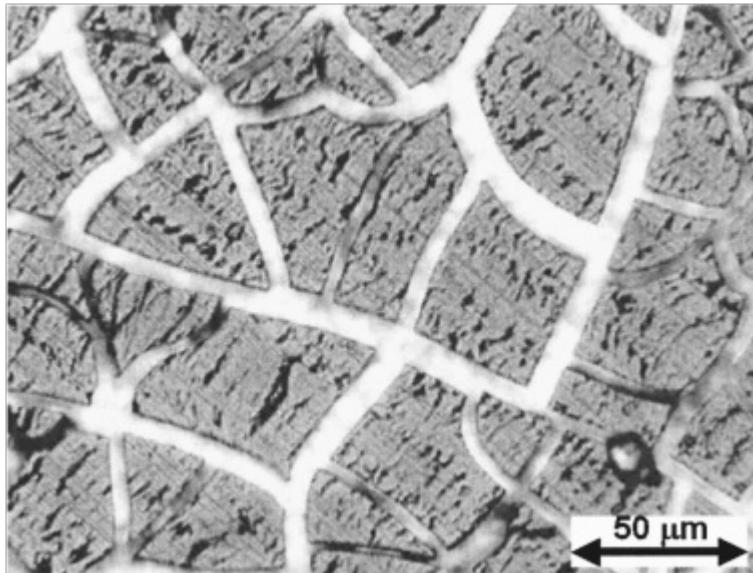
# Motivation



- ✓ High energy and power density
- ✓ Good cyclability
- ✓ Low cost

*Report of the Basic Energy Sciences Workshop  
on Electrical Energy Storage, April 2-4, 2007*

# Motivation



Optical micrograph of a Li-alloy film  
after expansion and contraction



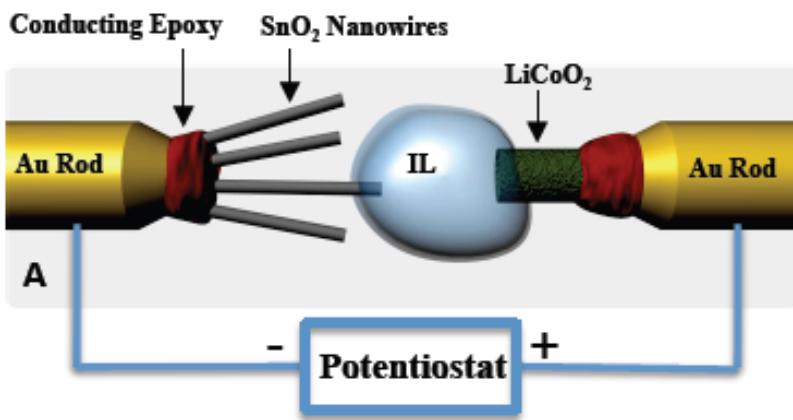
A dry lake bed

Dahn et al., *Electrochem. Solid-State Lett.* 4, A137 (2001)

- A fundamental understanding of the microstructural change of the electrodes and solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) layer during battery operation.
- Li-ion batteries (LIB) generally use liquid electrolyte, which is not compatible with the high vacuum of a TEM.
- How to create a working nano-LIB inside a TEM?
- Understanding the fundamental nano-electrochemistry.

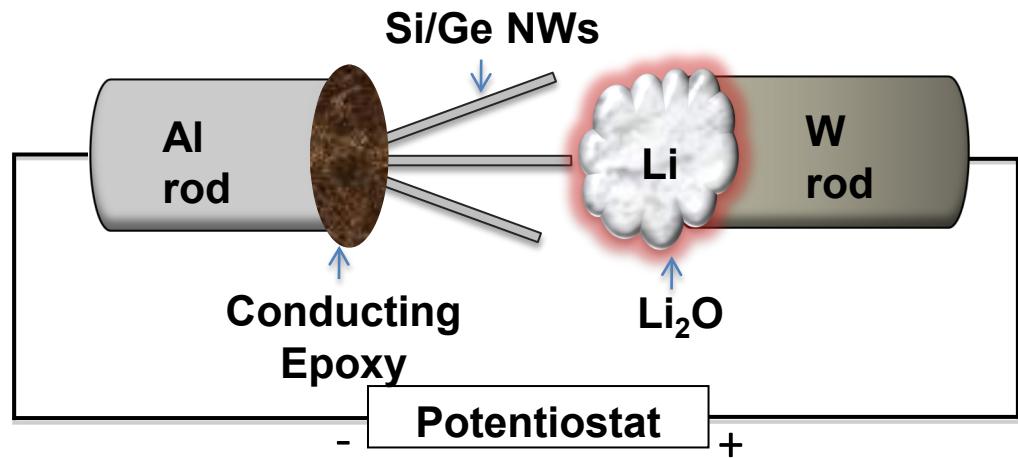
# Methods

## Experimental setup of *in situ* TEM battery test



J.Y. Huang *et al.*, *Science* 330, 1515 (2010)

Introduce a vacuum-compatible electrolyte.

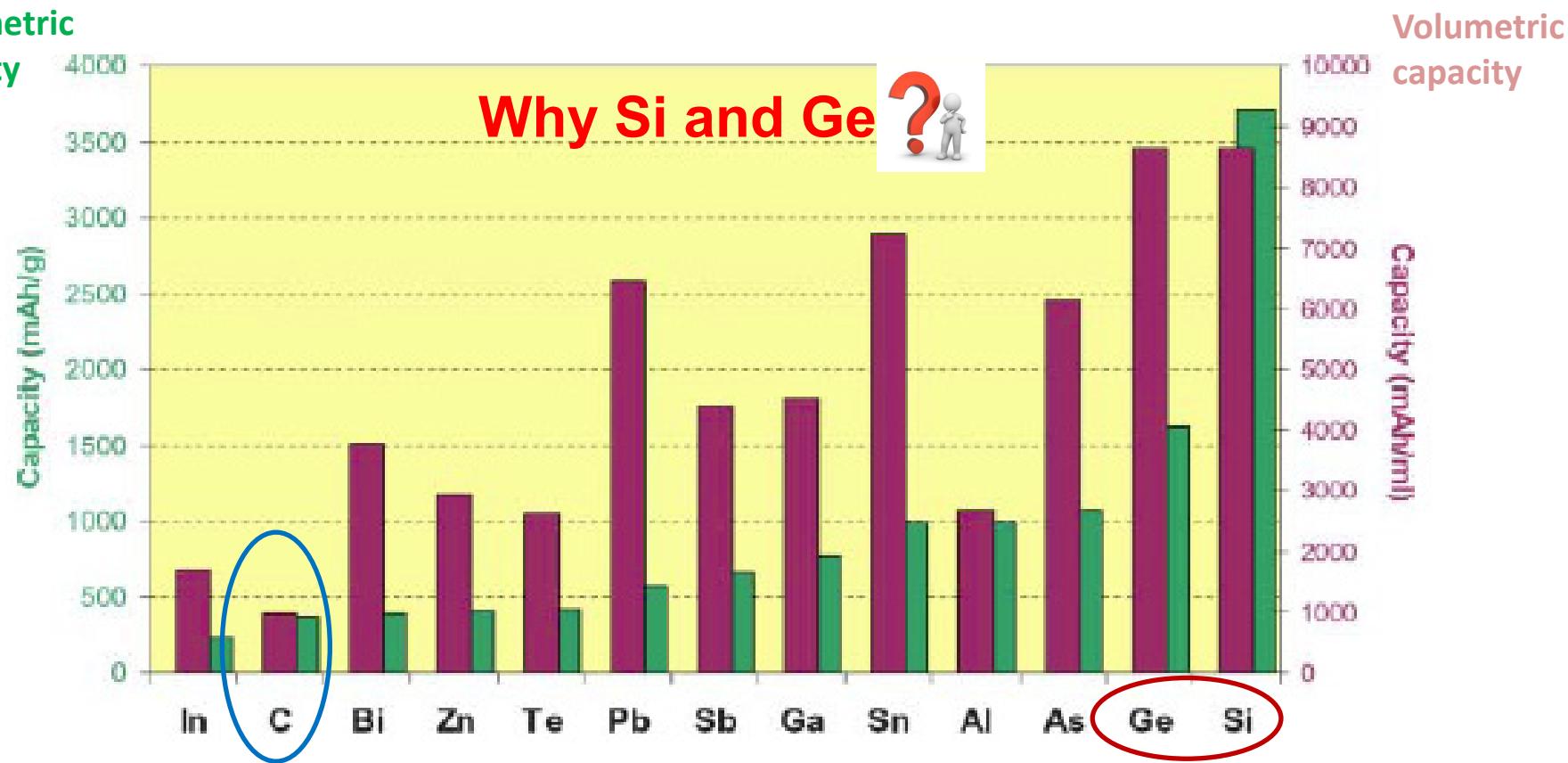


X.H. Liu and Y. Liu *et al.*, *Adv. Energy Mater.* 2, 722 (2012)

Using the naturally oxidized Li<sub>2</sub>O layer on Li metal as the solid electrolyte.  
The Li<sub>2</sub>O here can be replaced by other kinds of solid electrolytes, such as LiPON and LiAlSiOx.

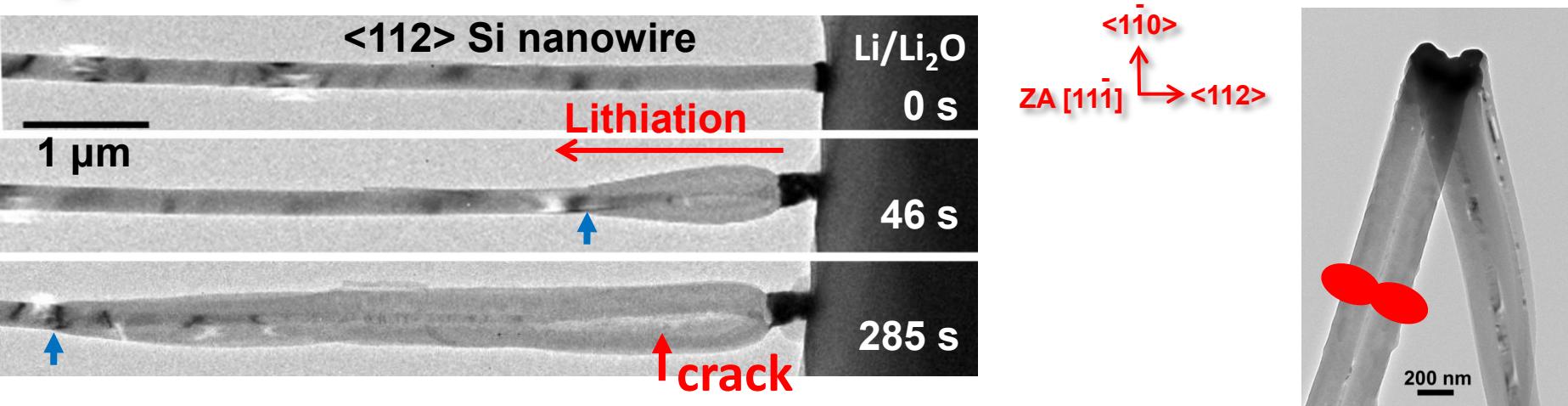
Building a nano-battery in a TEM, allowing for real time and atomic scale observations of battery charging and discharging processes.

# 1. Different lithiation behavior in c-Si and c-Ge



Si possesses the largest theoretical gravimetric capacity in the anode materials. Ge also has large capacity (both gravimetric and volumetric), second only to silicon. In addition, Ge has high intrinsic electronic conductivity and lithium ion diffusivity.

# Anisotropic expansion in c-Si versus isotropic expansion in c-Ge



X. H. Liu, ..., Y. Liu, et al. *Nano Letters*, 11, 3312, (2011)



Almost isotropic volume expansion in c-Ge

X.H. Liu and Y. Liu et al., *Adv. Energy Mater.* 2, 722 (2012)

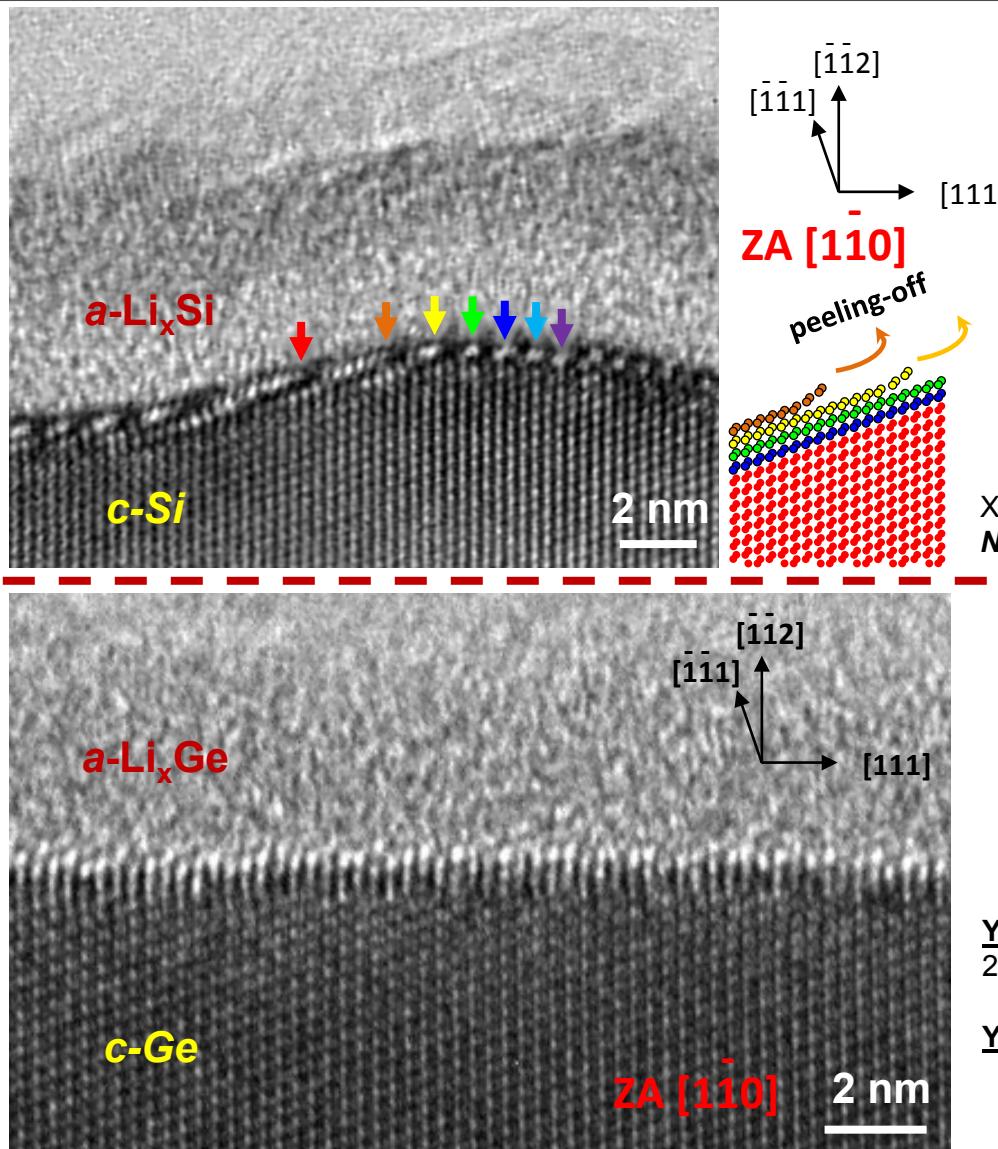
# Atomic scale imaging of lithiation process in Si and Ge nanowires

## Summary:

Li ions can hardly penetrate the  $\{111\}$  close-packed Si planes, but can penetrate the  $\{111\}$  close-packed planes in Ge.

The peeling-off effect of each  $(111)$  plane is not obvious in Ge.

This observation from the microscopic view can provide the root cause for the anisotropic expansion in Si upon first lithiation and the almost isotropic expansion in Ge.



X. H. Liu, ..., Y. Liu et al. *Nature Nanotechnology*, 7, 749, (2012)

Y. Liu et al. *Chemelectrochem*, 2014 in press

Y. Liu et al. in preparation

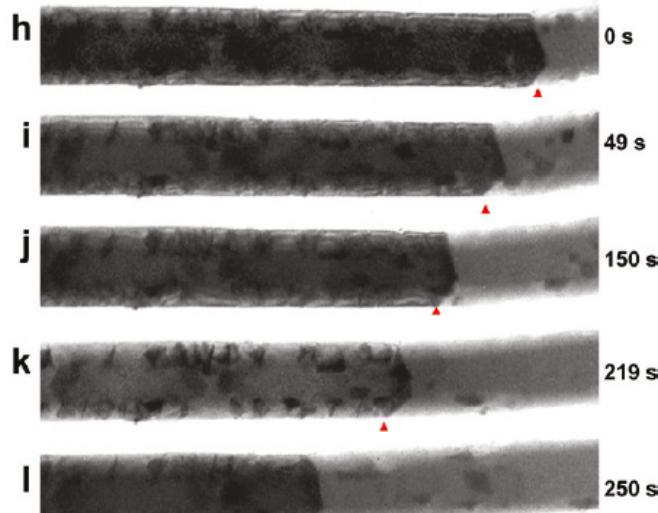
## 2. Tailoring Lithiation Behavior by Interface and Bandgap Engineering



How to control the lithiation behavior and thus the volume expansion?

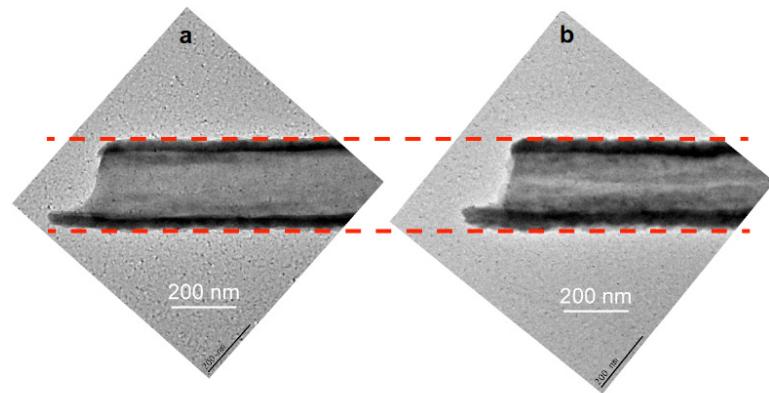
The normally used method:  
**External mechanical confinement**

Example #1: carbon-coated SnO<sub>2</sub> nanowire



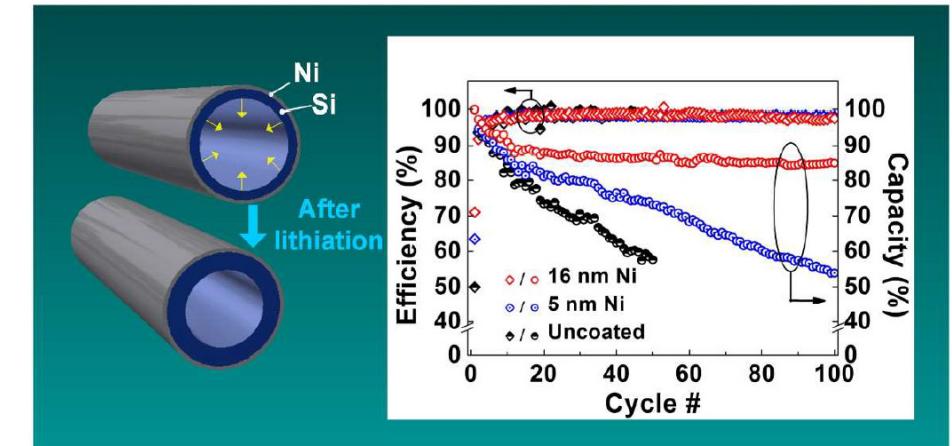
L. Zhang, X.H. Liu and Y. Liu et al, *ACS Nano*, 5, 4800 (2011)

Example #2: SiO<sub>2</sub>-coated Si nanotube



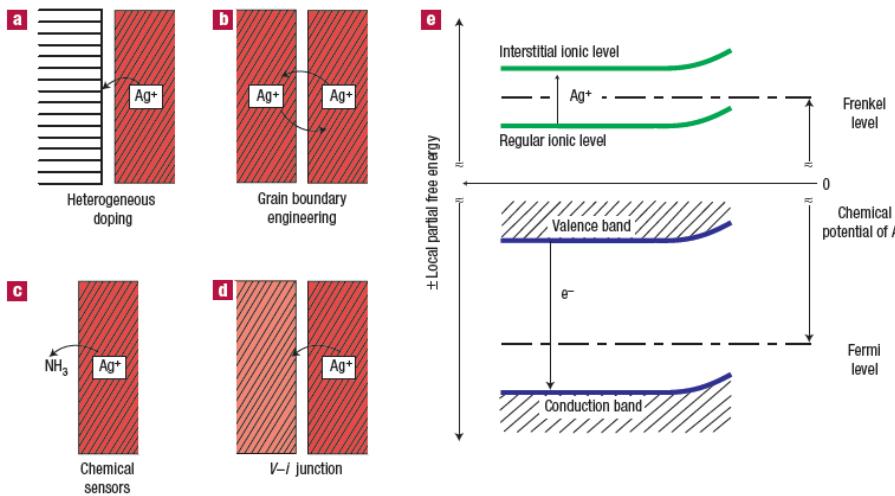
H. Wu et al, *Nature Nanotechnology*, 7, 310 (2012)

Example #3: Ni-coated Si nanotube

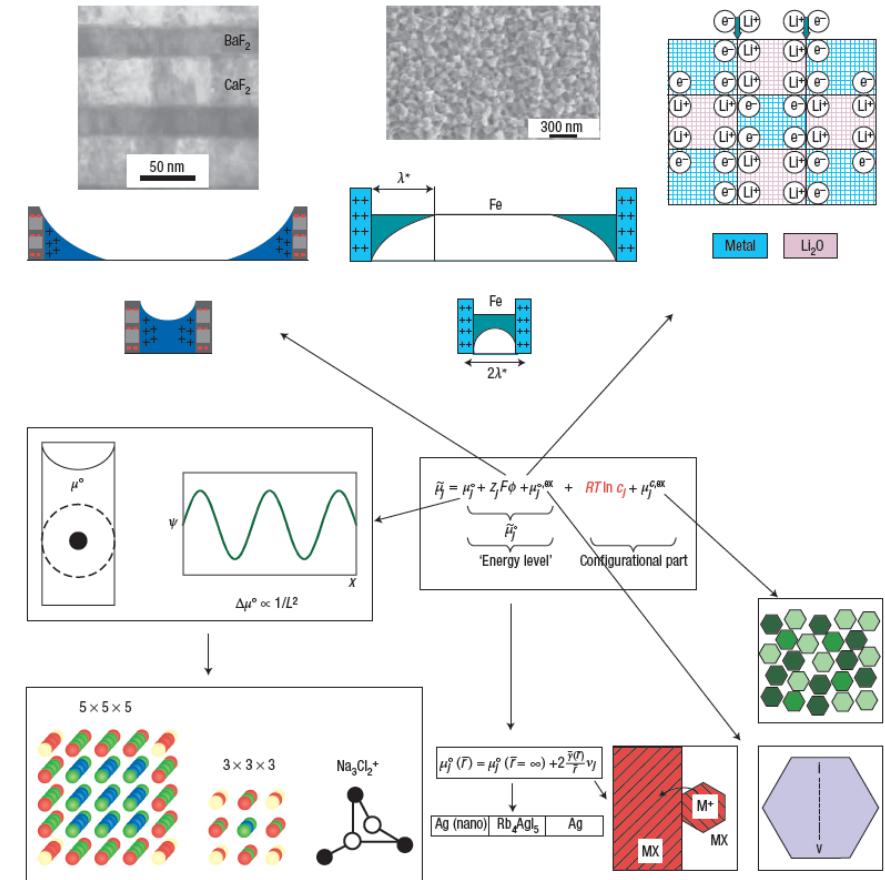


K. Karki et al, *ACS Nano*, 7, 8295-8302, (2013)

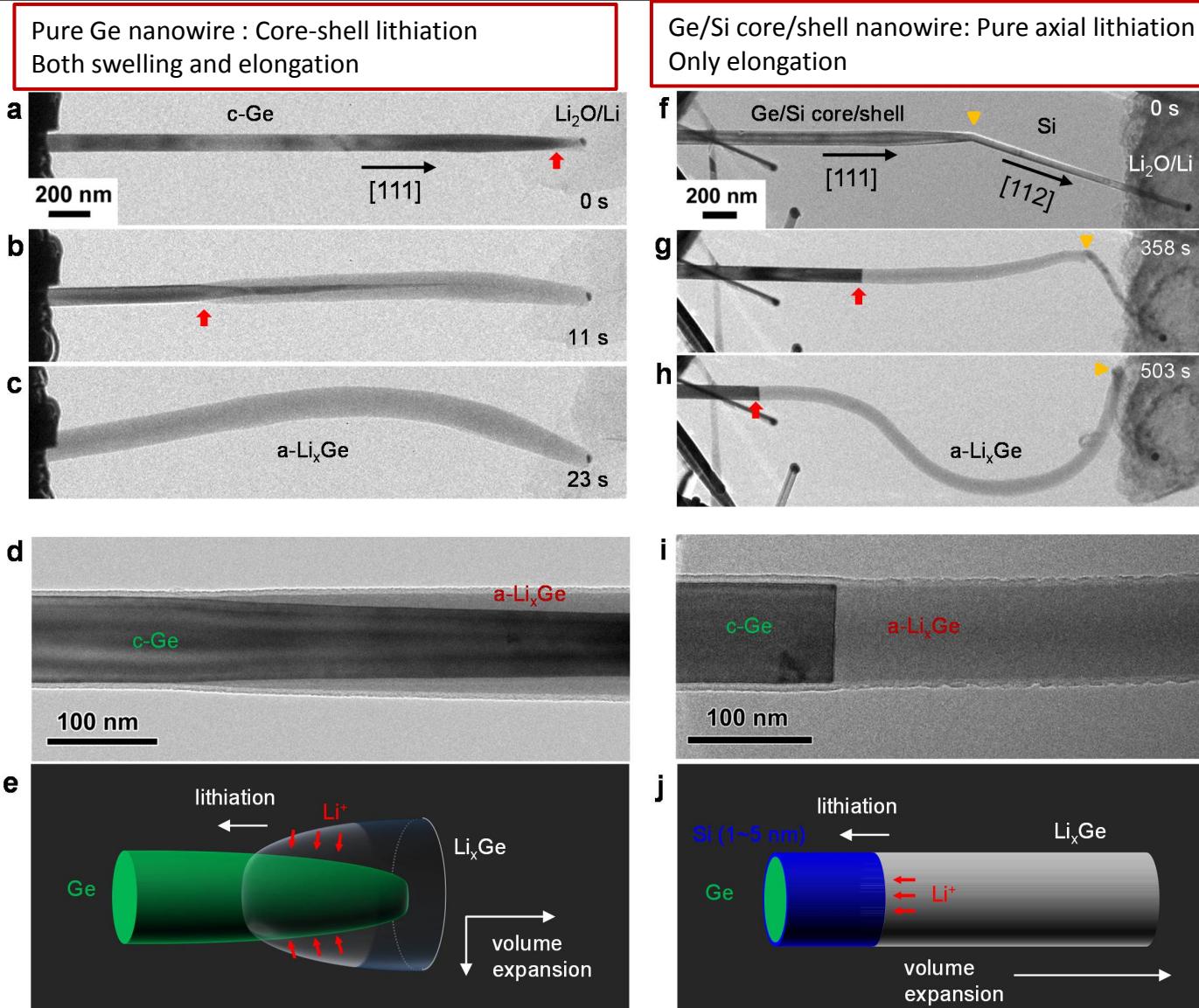
# Interface and nanosize effects on nano-ionics



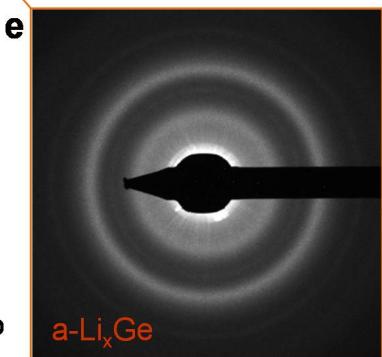
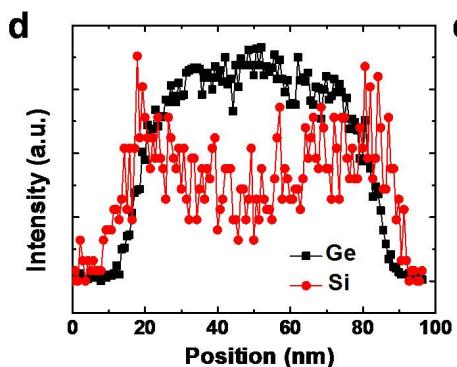
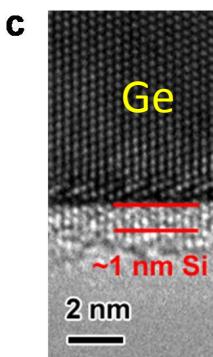
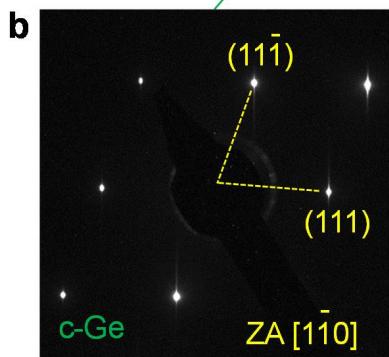
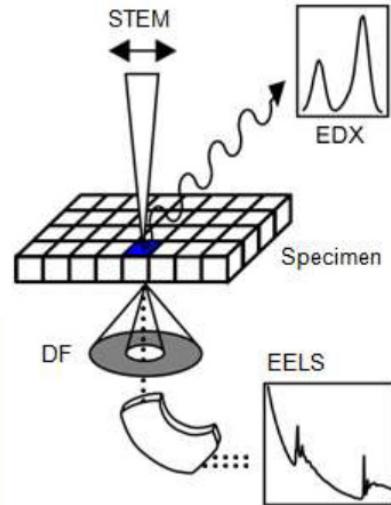
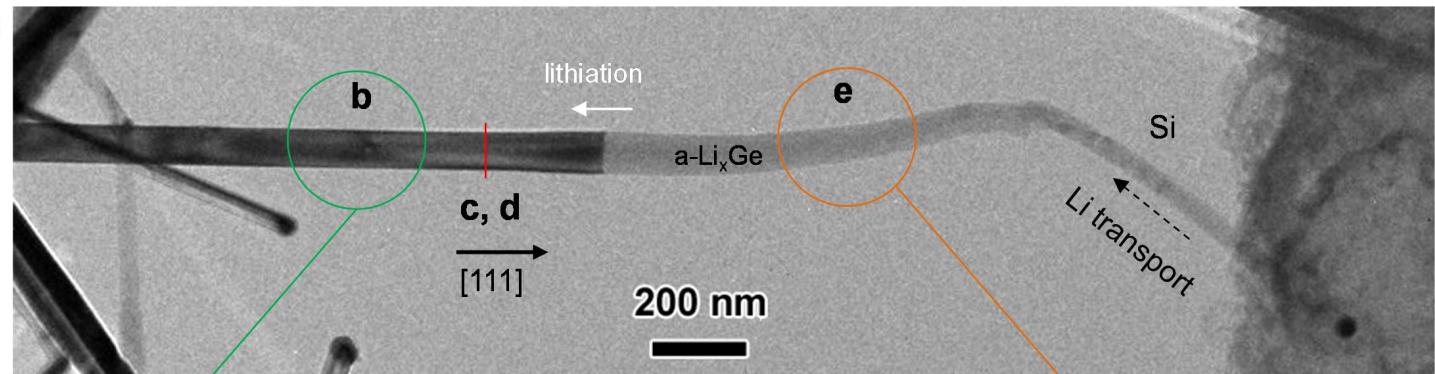
In the past two decades, it has been shown that ionic transport properties can be dominated by interfaces at the nanoscale, which provides the possibility to control the Li diffusion pathways and to modify the volume expansion direction by introducing heterojunctions (namely chemical and structural discontinuities).



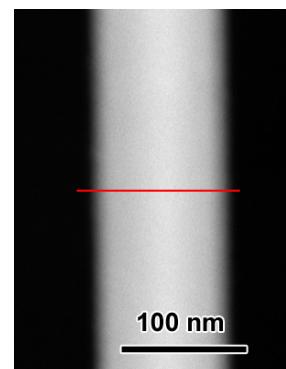
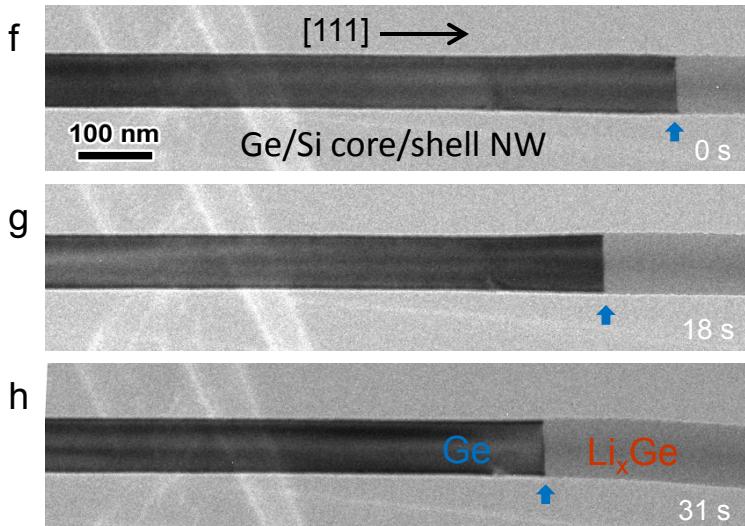
# The sharp contrast in the lithiation behavior between pure Ge NW and Ge/Si core/shell NW



Y. Liu et al., Nano Letters, 13, 4876 (2013)

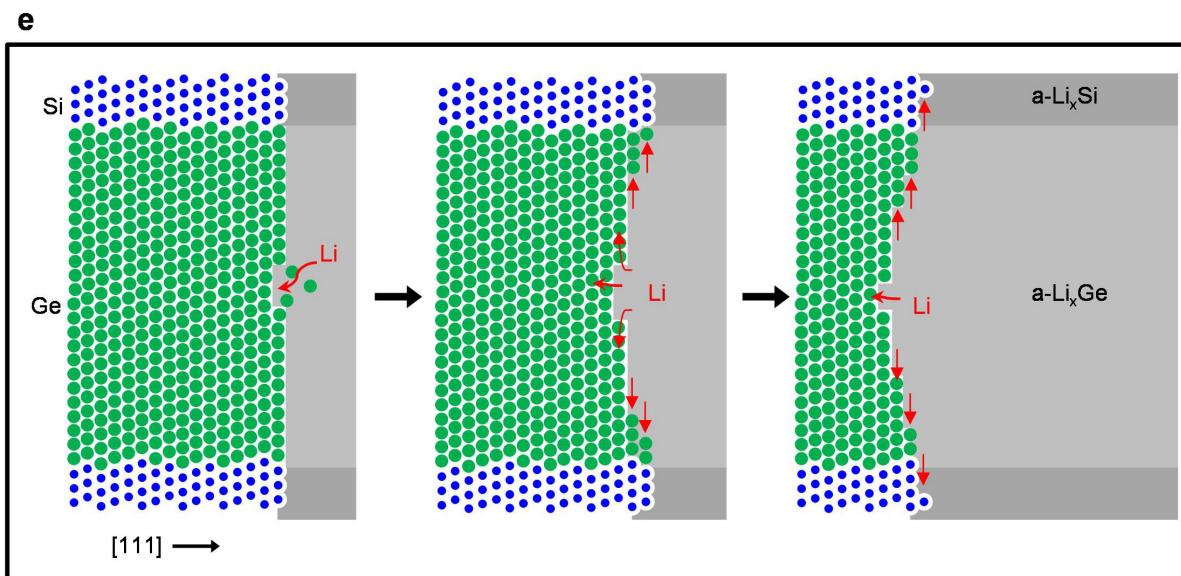
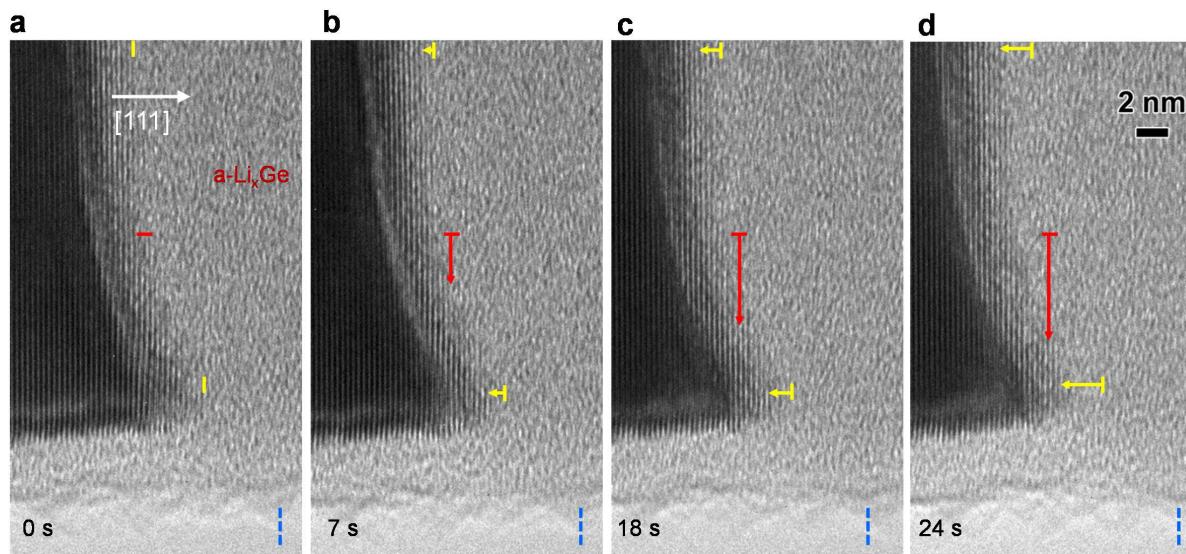


Introducing an ultrathin (down to  $\sim 1$  nm) and epitaxially-grown Si surface layer can dramatically change the volume expansion direction!!!



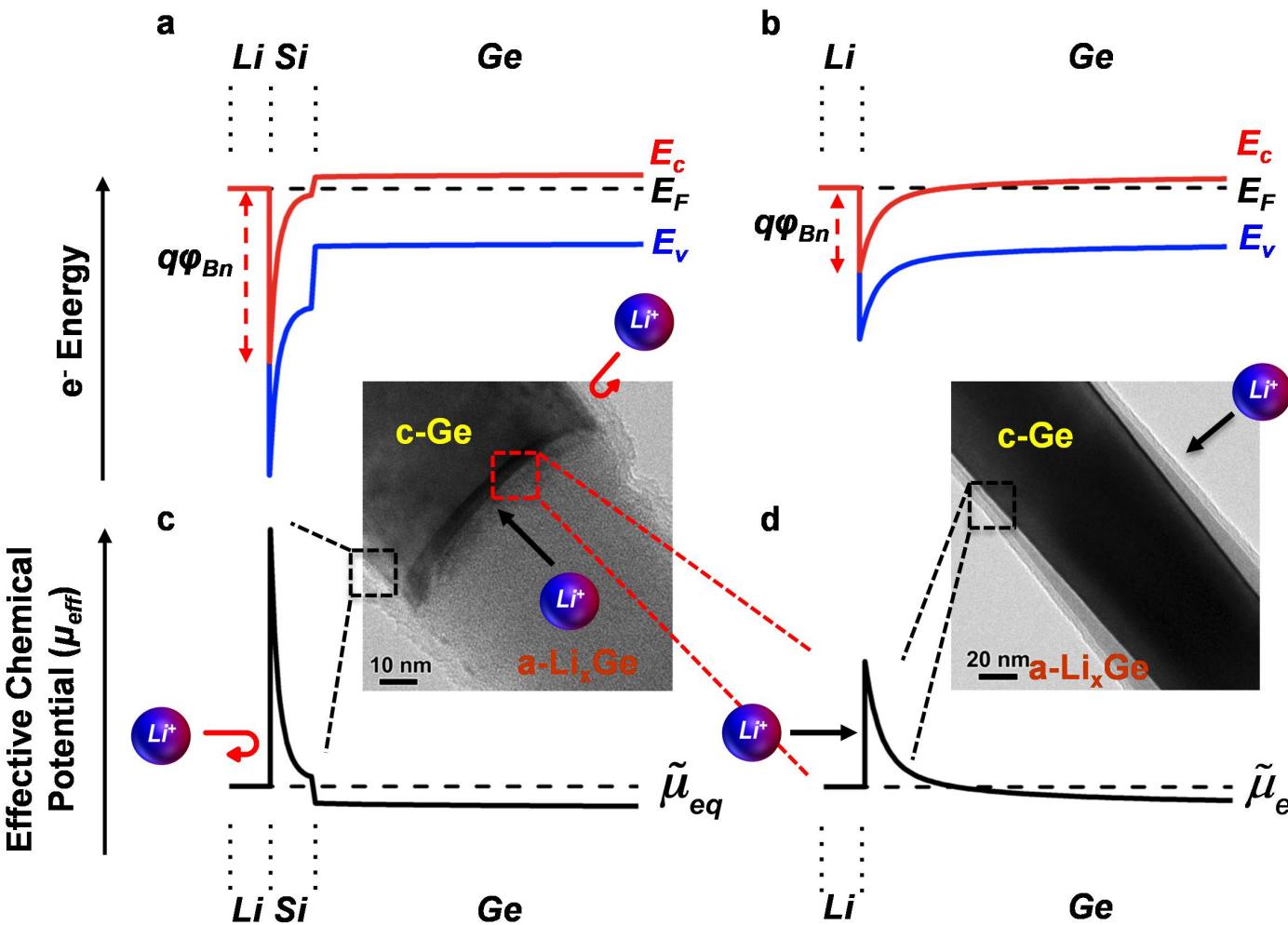
Y. Liu et al., *Nano Letters*, 13, 4876 (2013)

# Atomic scale imaging of lithiation process in Ge/Si core/shell nanowire



Y. Liu et al., *Nano Letters*, 13, 4876 (2013)

# A larger chemical potential for Si surface than for Ge surface



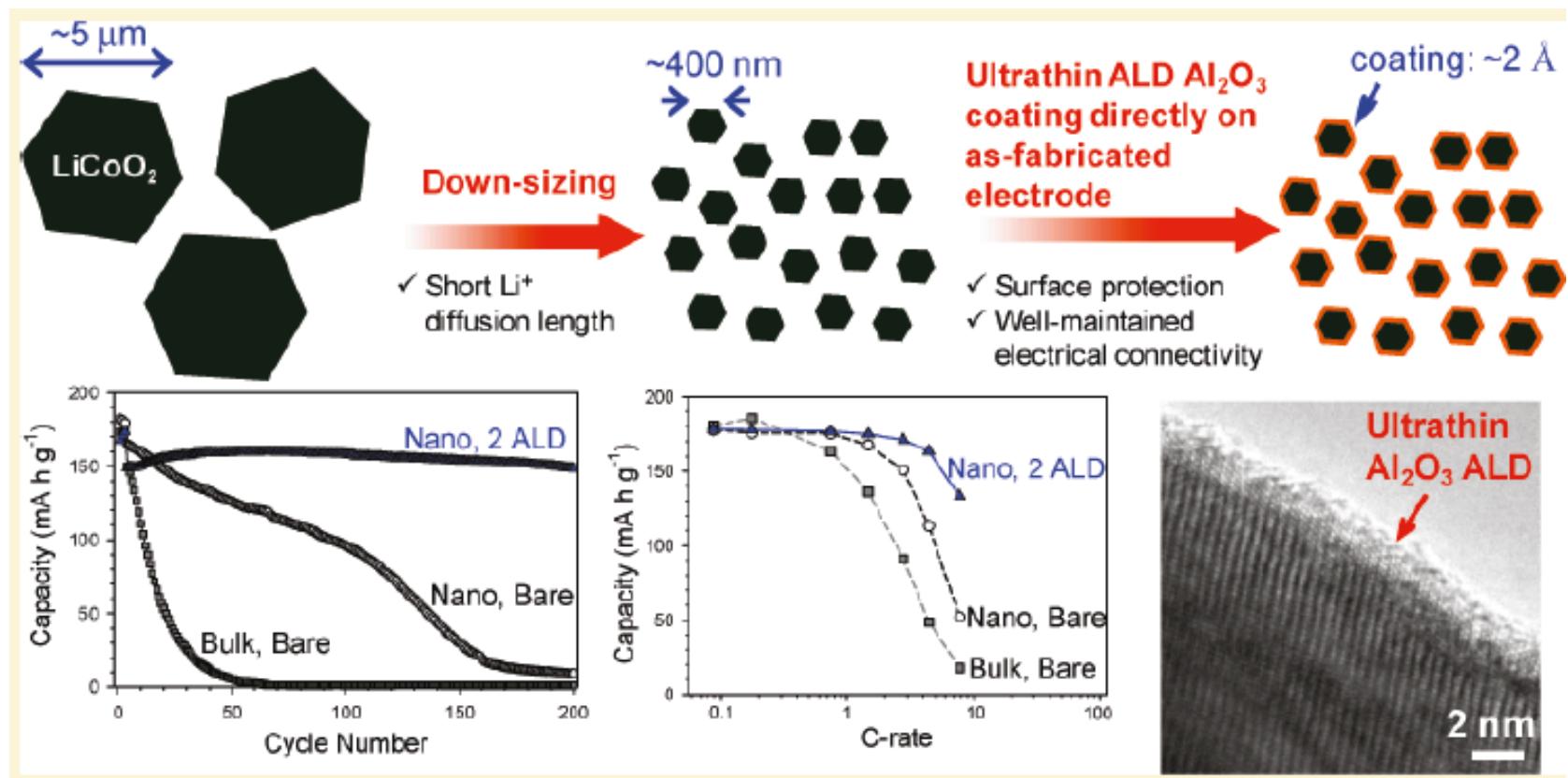
**Summary:**  
 This is the **first direct observation** of the dramatic **interfacial effect** on ionic **transport** at the **nanoscale**.

It provides a powerful **additional degree of freedom** to define the electrochemical reactions in Li-ion batteries.

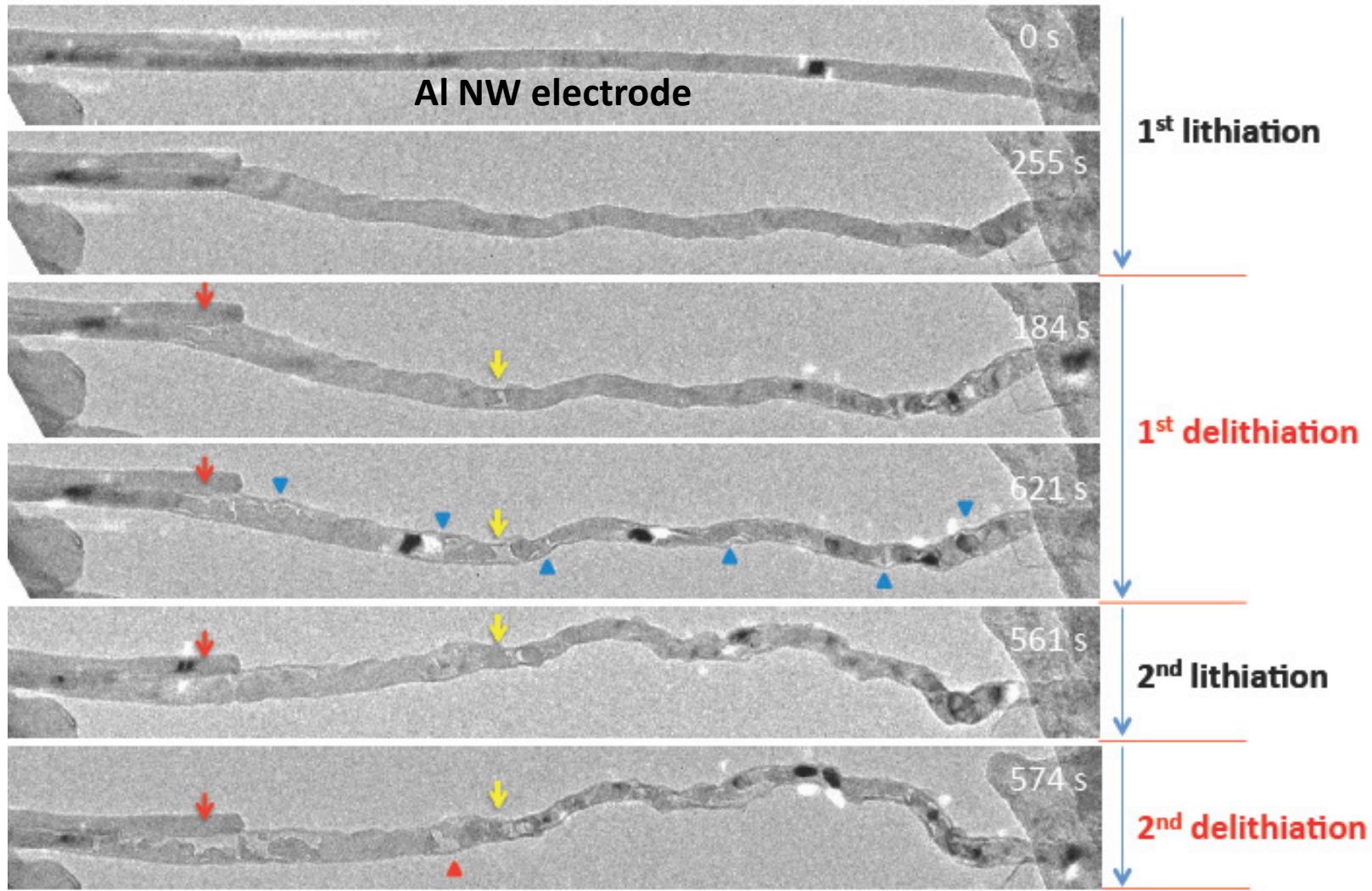
### 3. Pulverization of Al electrode and the function of ALD- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ coating



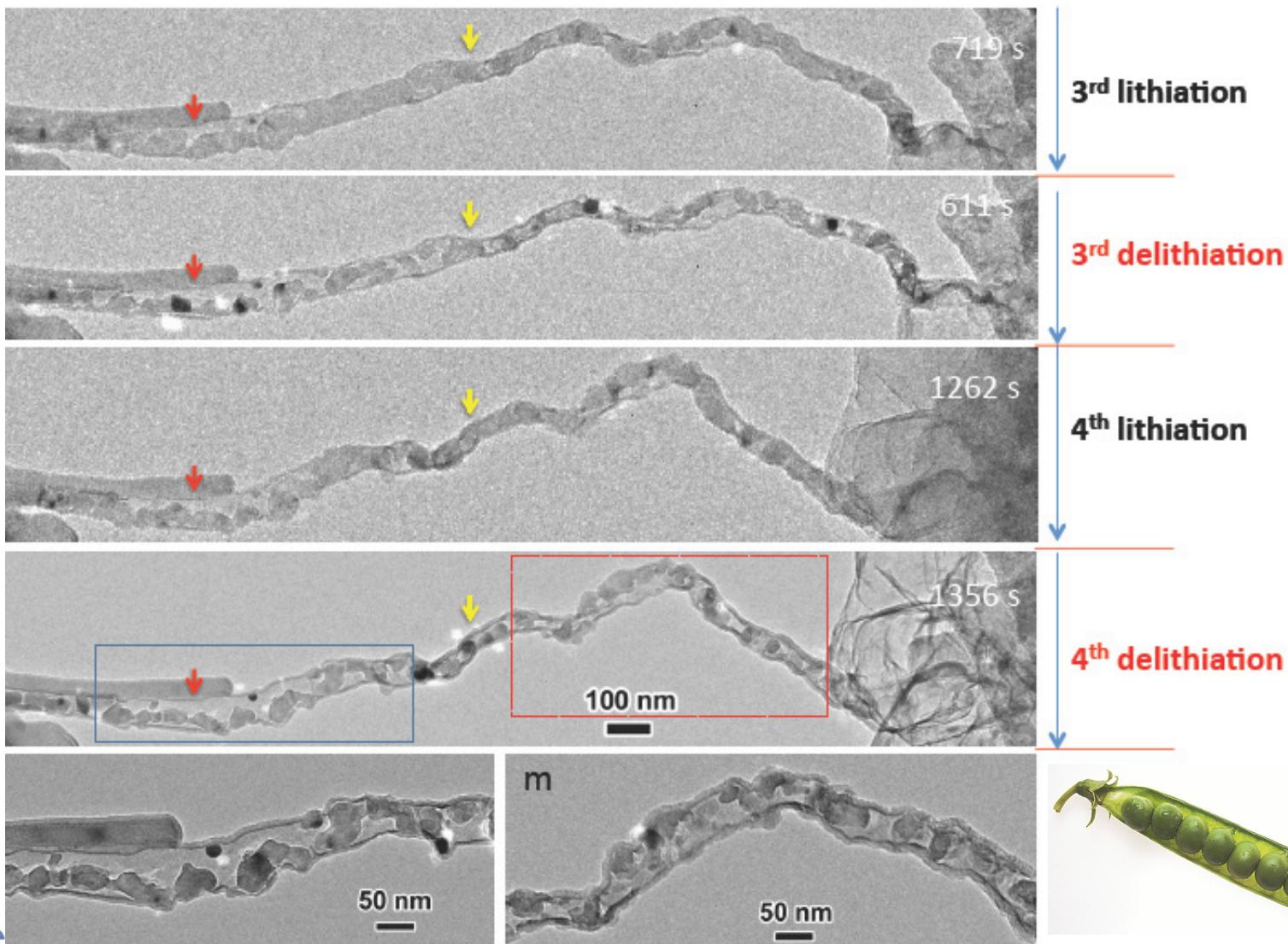
The evolution and function of these surface coatings of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  during cycling were not understood.



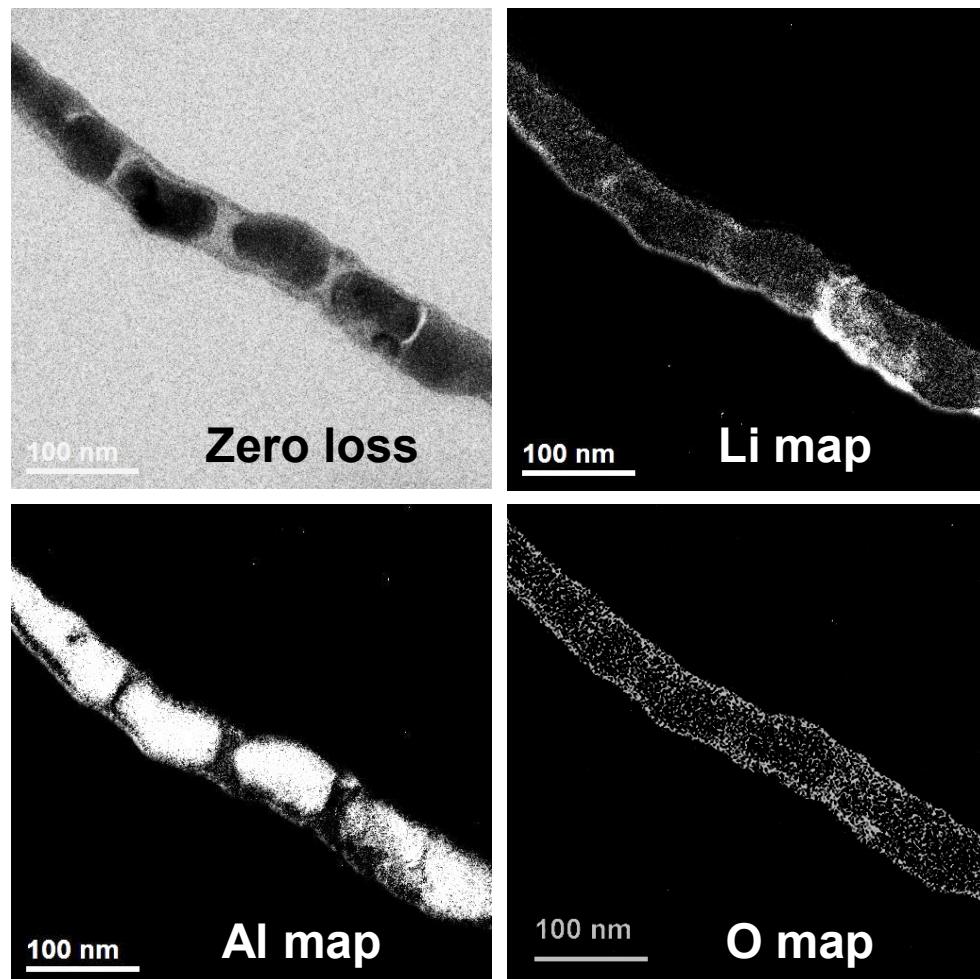
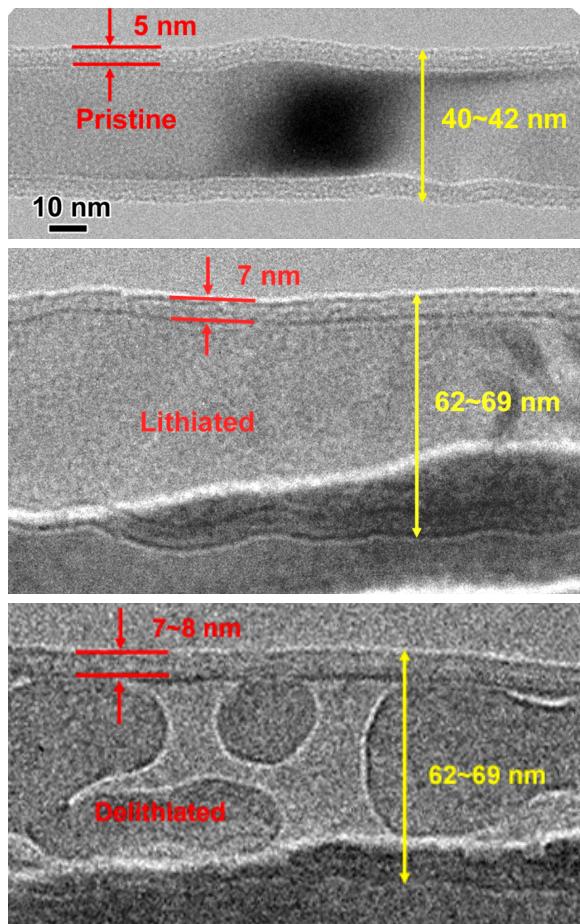
## Pulverization process of Al electrode



## Pulverization process of Al electrode



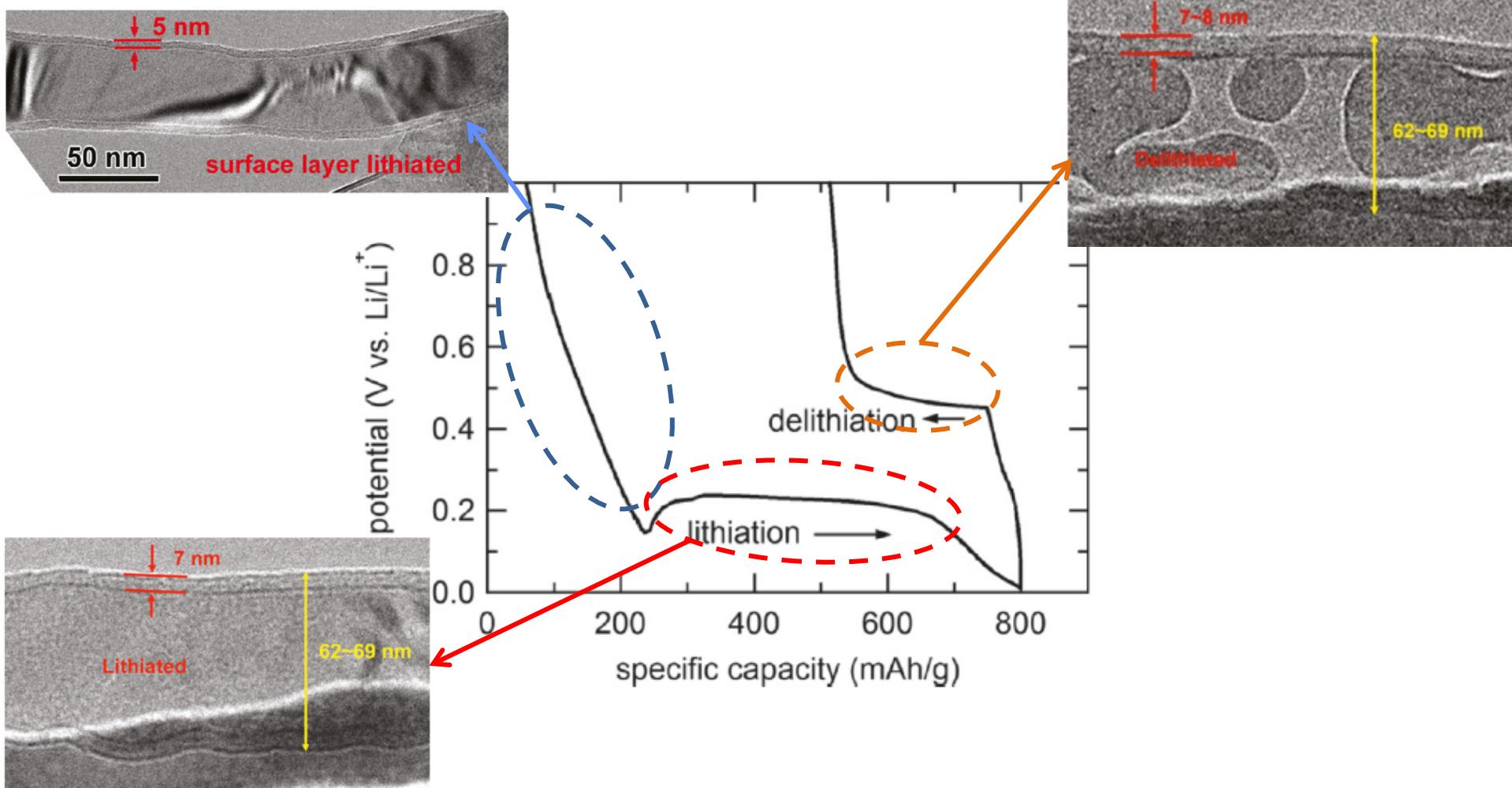
## Evolution of surface $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ layer



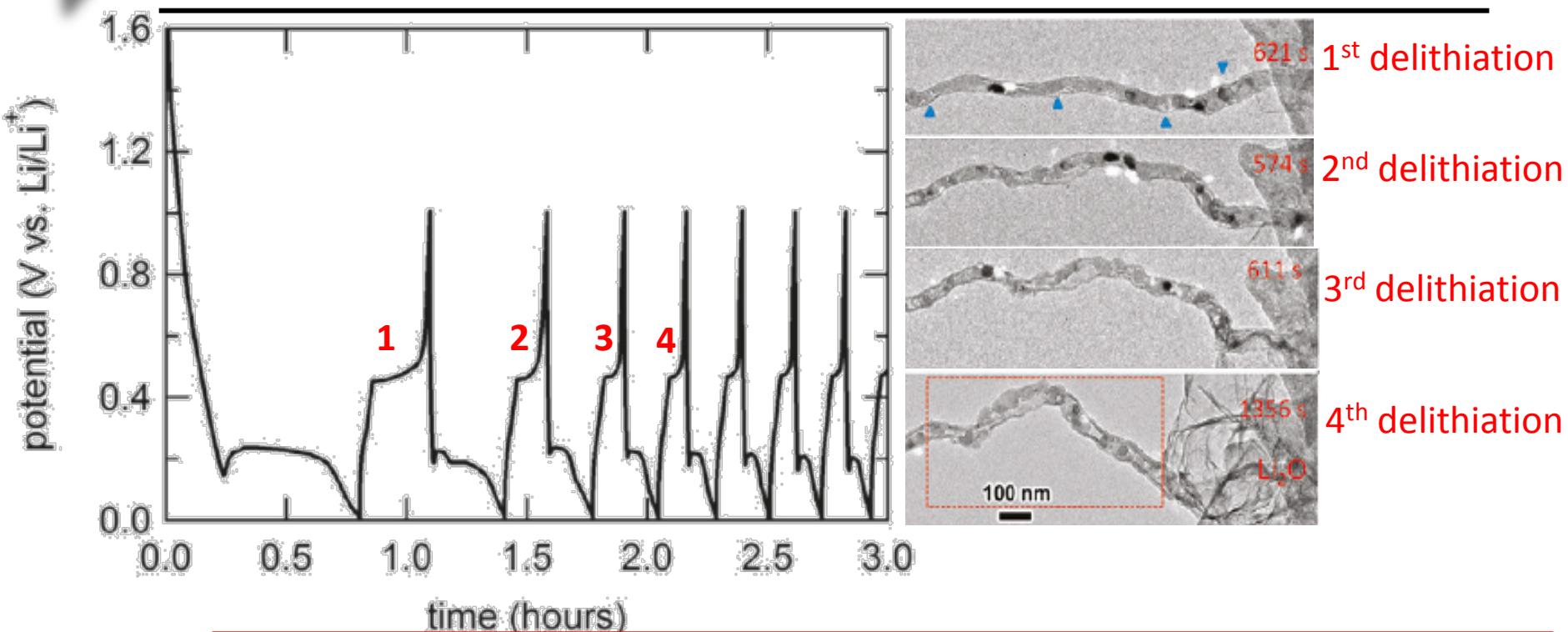
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  Layer was changed into Li-Al-O glass, wrapping the pulverized Al nanoparticles.

Y. Liu et al., *Nano Letters*, 11, 4188 (2011)

## Correlation with the ex-situ coin cell results



## Correlation with the ex-situ coin cell results



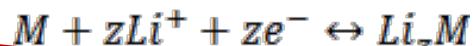
**Summary**--The function of the thin surface Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coatings:

- The improvement of the performance of LIBs using Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coatings on active materials is attributed to the formation of the Li-Al-O glass layer.
- The Li-Al-O glass layer can provide a facile Li-ion transport path, relative to that in the usually formed solid electrolyte interface (SEI). (like artificial SEI)
- The mechanically robust Li-Al-O glass layer can mitigate mechanical degradation of the active materials to prevent them from breaking off the electrodes.

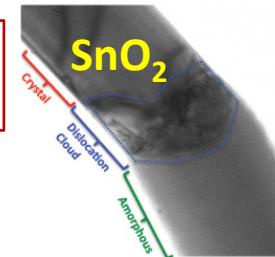
## 4. Phase evolution of conversion anode $\text{RuO}_2$

Metal oxide-based anodes can be classified into three groups depending on the reaction mechanisms:

**1. Li-alloy reaction mechanism:**  $\text{M}_x\text{O}_y + 2y\text{Li}^+ + 2ye^- \rightarrow x\text{M} + y\text{Li}_2\text{O}$



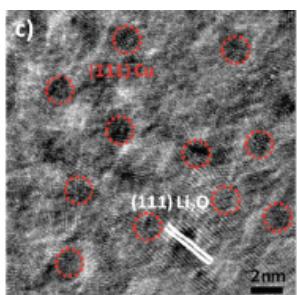
Large irreversible capacity loss in the first cycle.



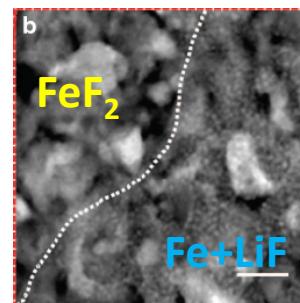
**2. Conversion reaction mechanism:**



**CuO**



X. Wang *et al.*, *Chem. Commun.* 48, 4812 (2012)

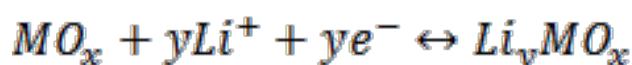


F. Wang *et al.*, *Nature Commun.* 3, 1201 (2012)

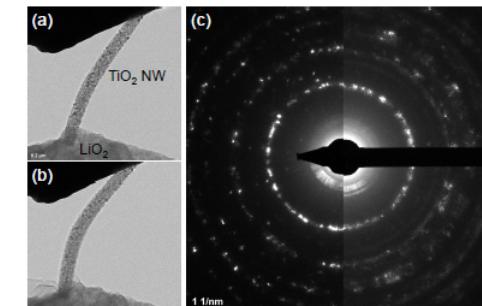
$\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  can be converted to Li, and usually, the oxidation state can be fully utilized, more than one electron/Li ion are involved.

J.Y. Huang *et al.*, *Science* 330, 1515 (2010)

**3. Insertion reaction mechanism:**

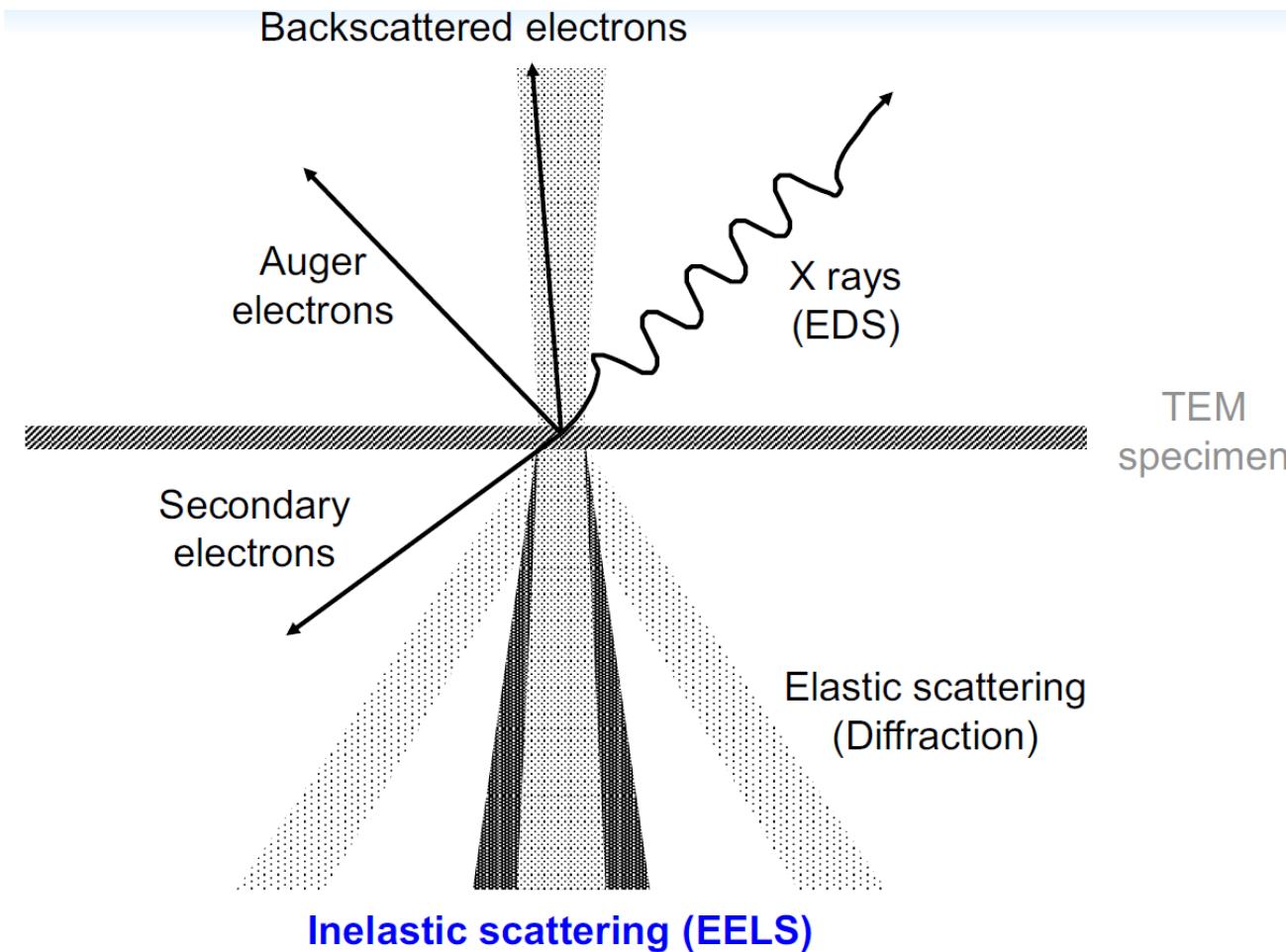


**TiO<sub>2</sub>**

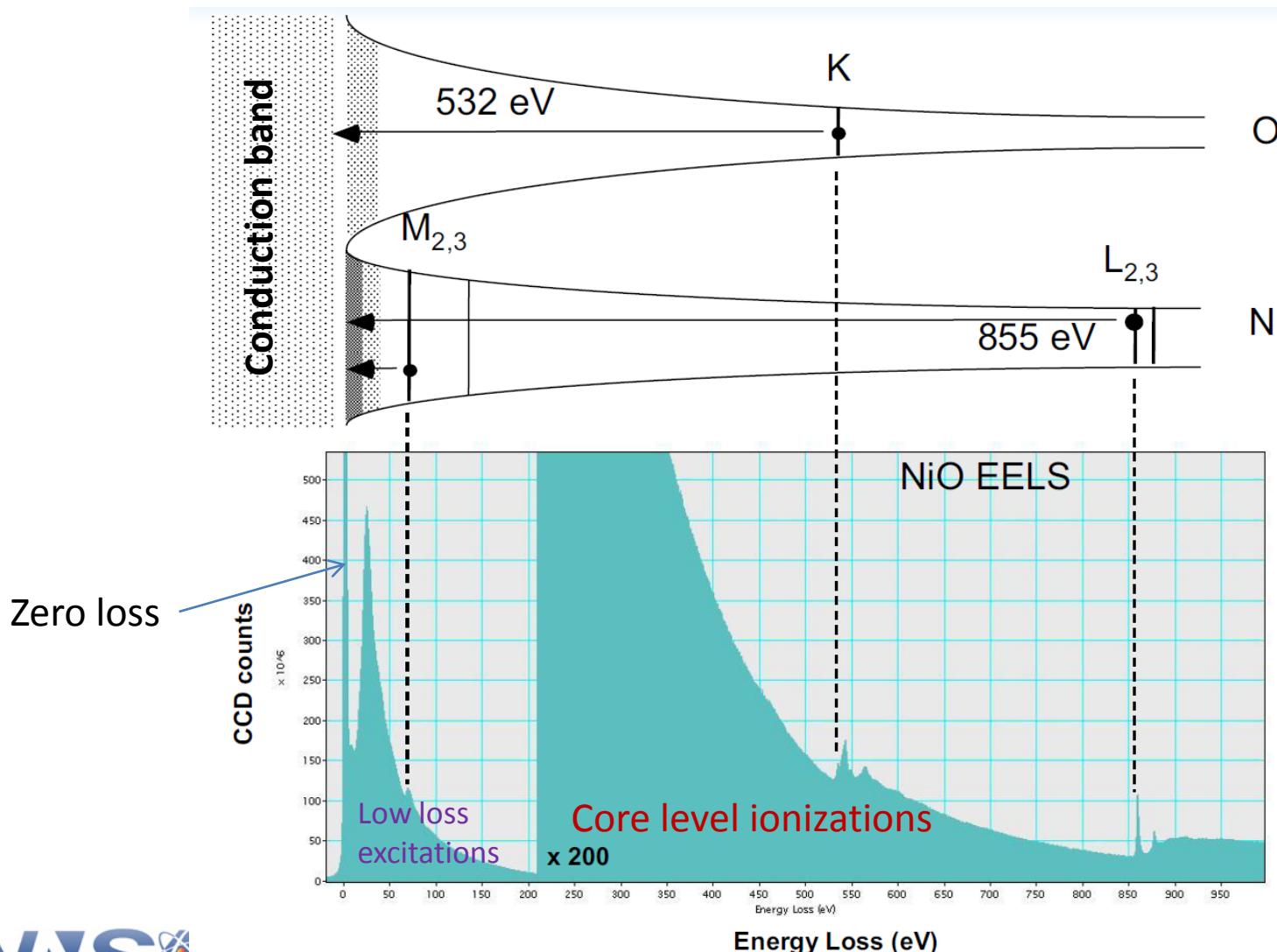


L. Ji and X. Zhang *et al.*, *Energy Environ. Sci.* 4, 2682 (2011)

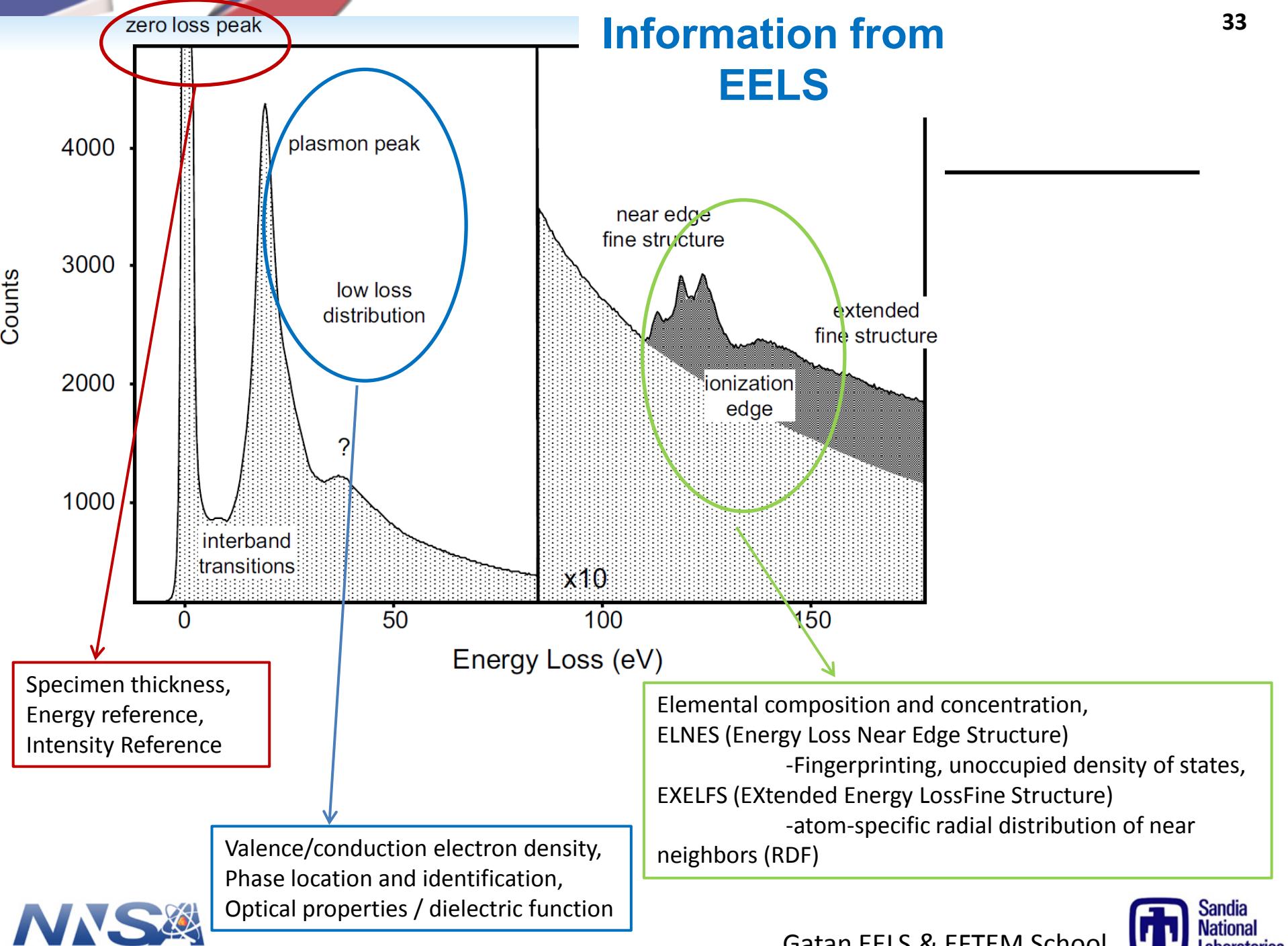
## Introduction to Electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS)



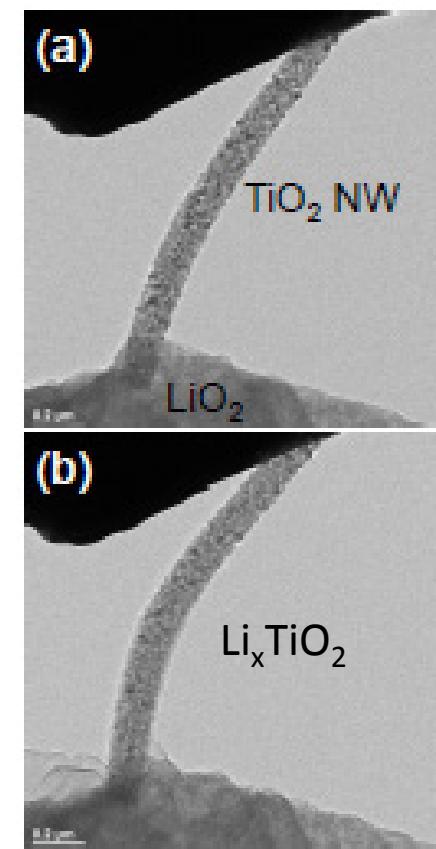
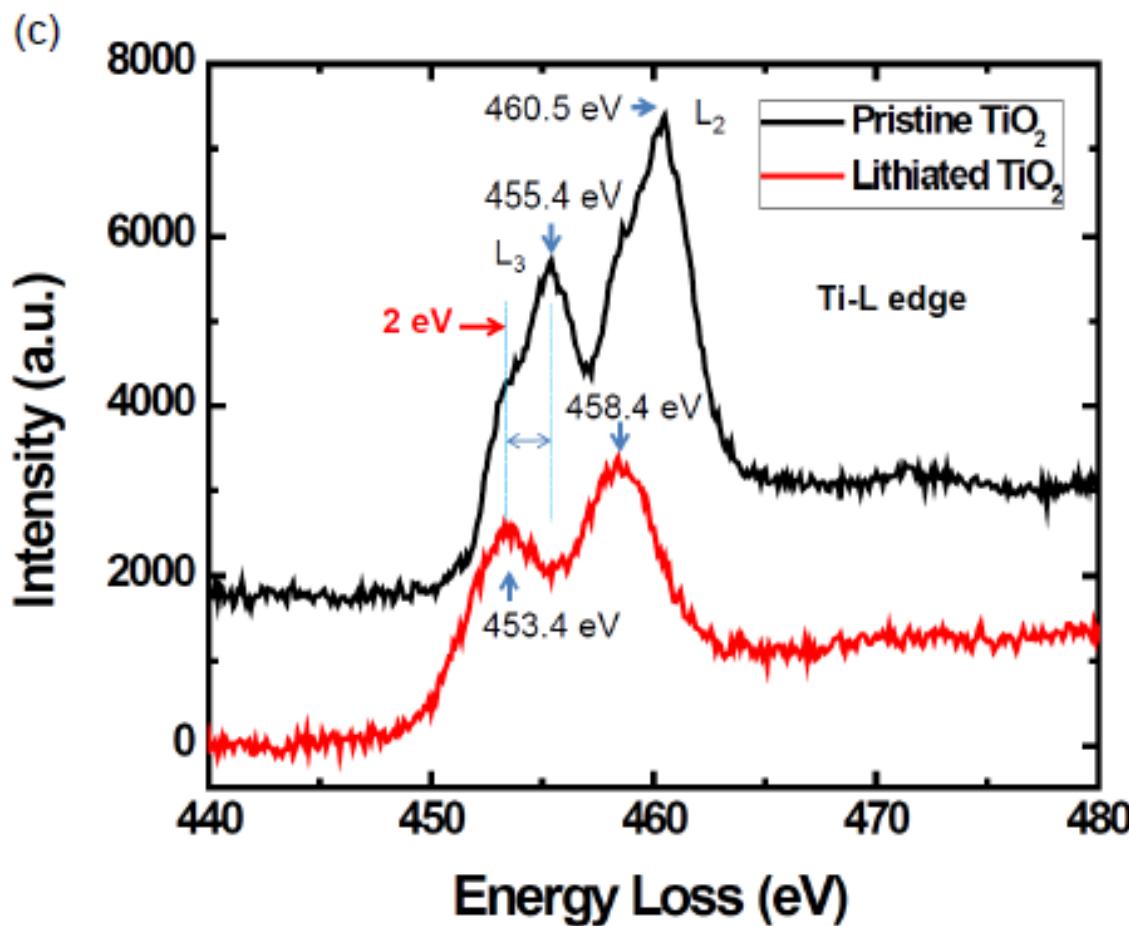
## Correlation between EELS and specimen features



# Information from EELS

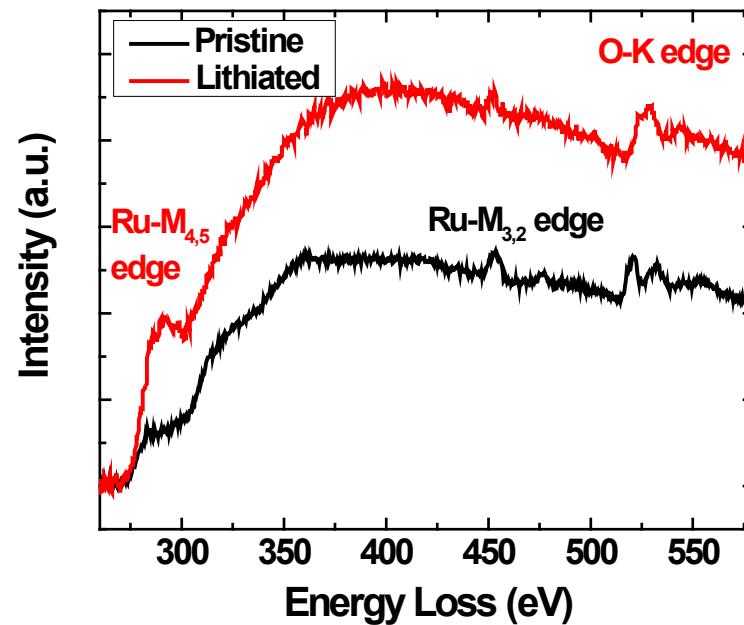
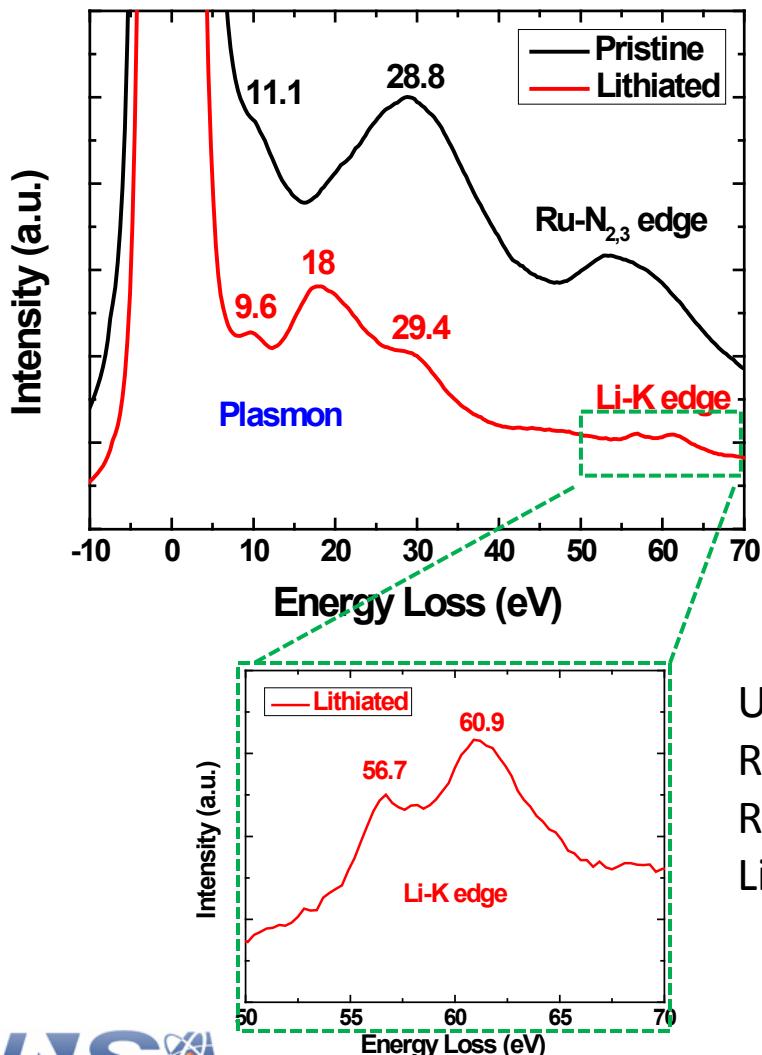


## Example on lithiation in $\text{TiO}_2$



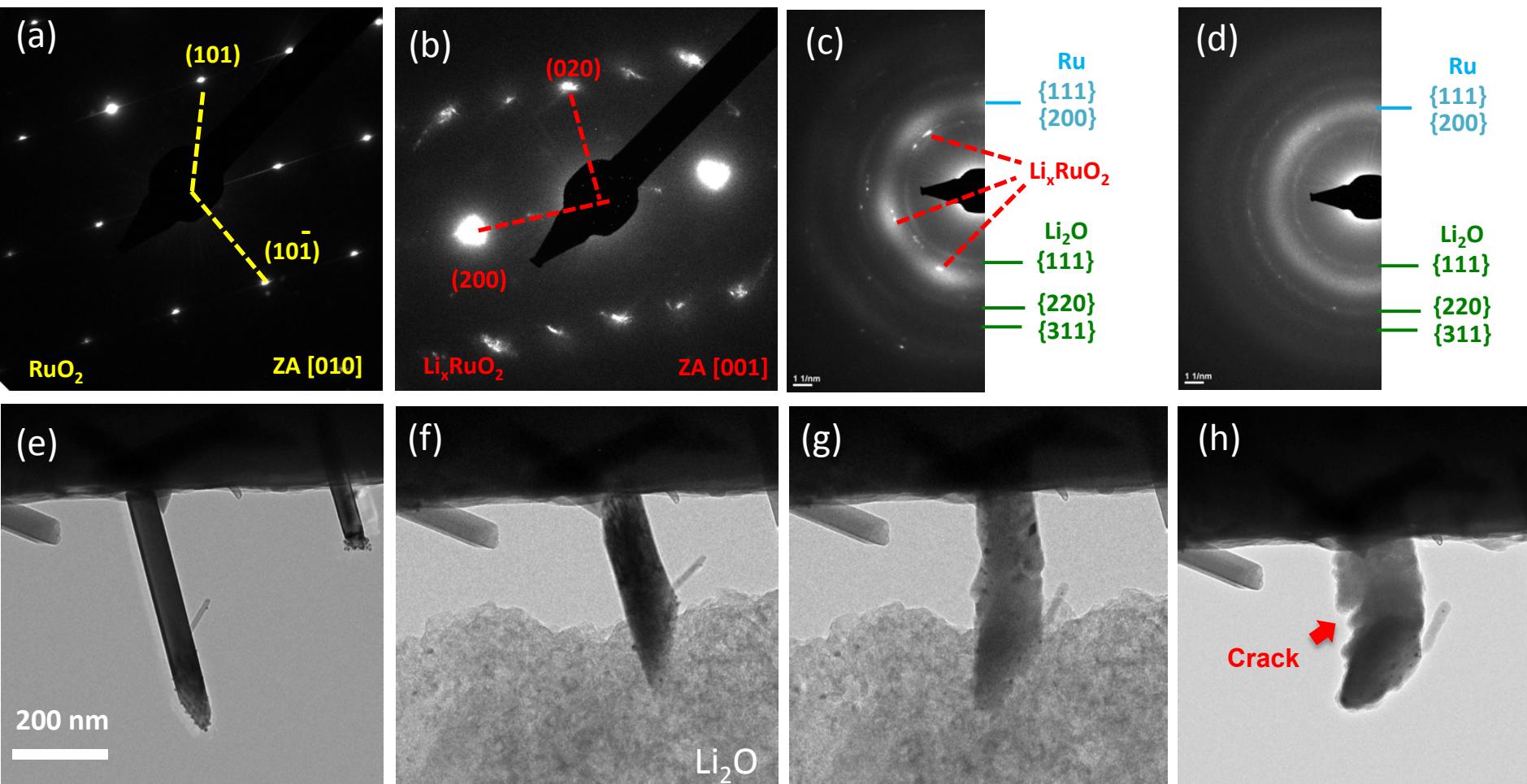
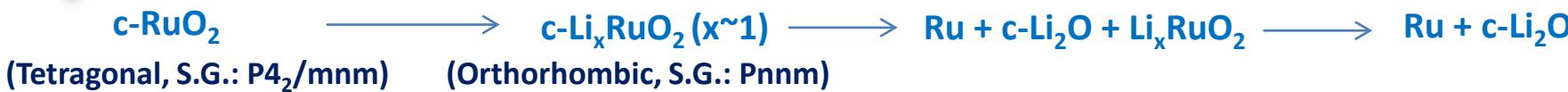
Chemical shift of Ti-L edge, indicating the transition from  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  to  $\text{Ti}^{3+}$  upon lithiation.

# EELS data on $\text{RuO}_2$ before and after lithiation

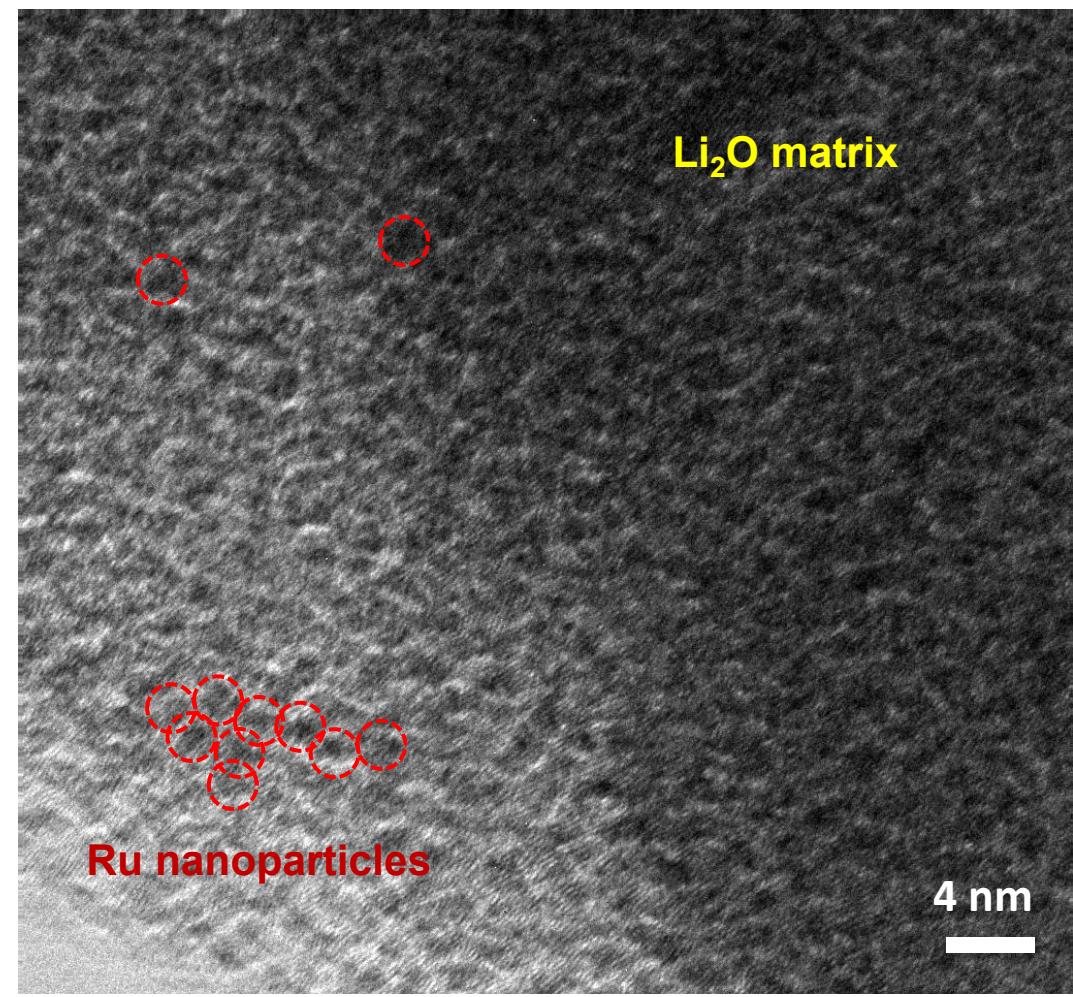
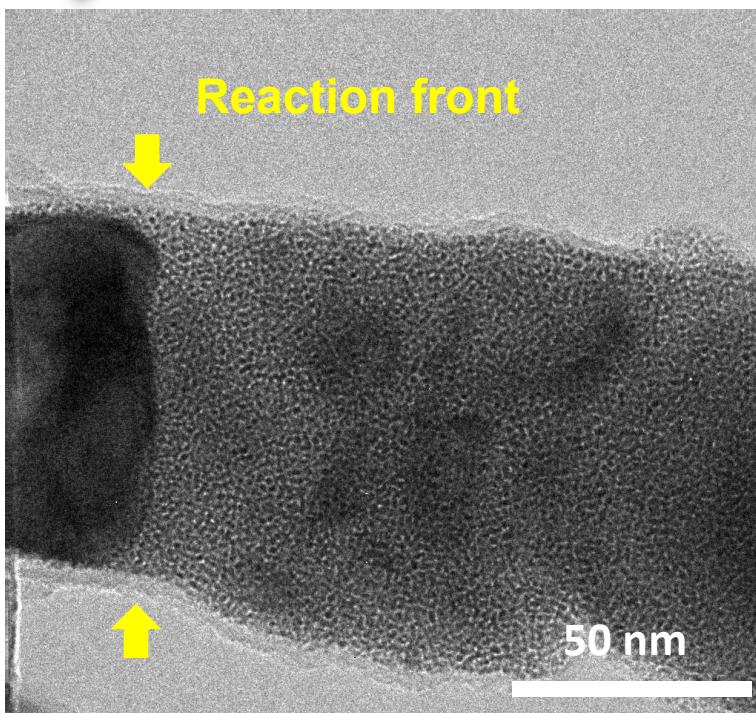


Upon lithiation,  
 $\text{Ru-N}_{2,3}$  edge significantly decreased,  
 $\text{Ru-M}_{4,5}$  edge increased, while  $\text{Ru-M}_{3,2}$  edge decreased.  
Li-K edge, assigned to  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , showed up.

# Intermediate phases



## HRTEM after 1<sup>st</sup> lithiation

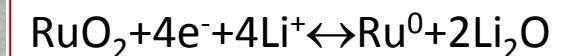
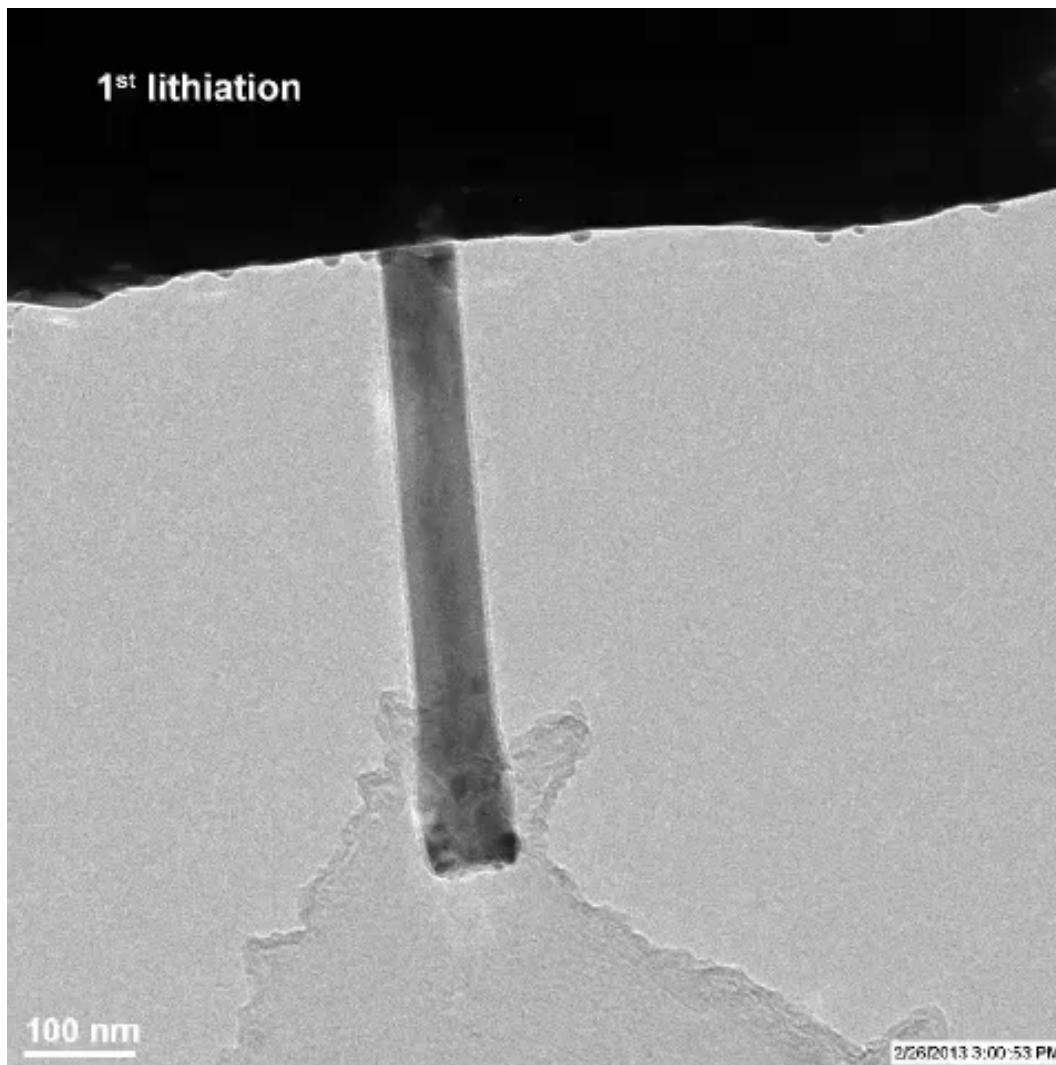


1~2 nm fine Ru nanoparticles formed connected network in the Li<sub>2</sub>O matrix, serving as a facile conductive path for electrons, while the Li<sub>2</sub>O provides a similar path for Li<sup>+</sup>.

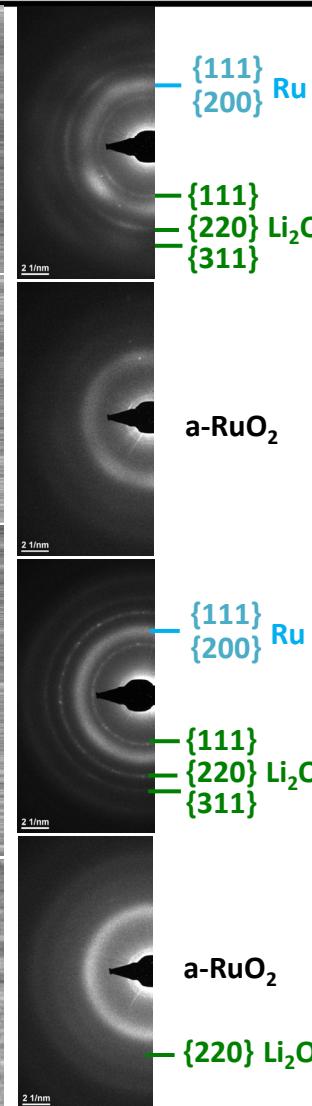
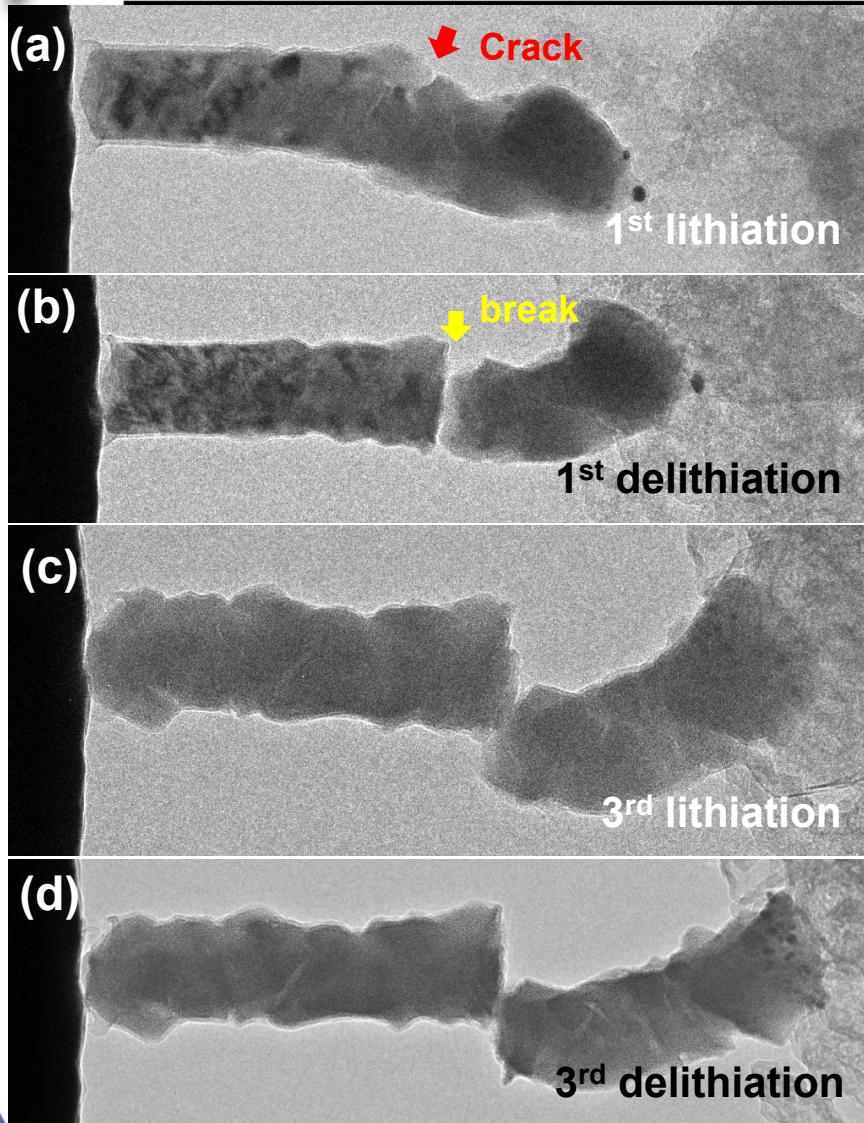


K.E. Gregorczyk and Y. Liu et al., *ACS Nano*, 7, 6354 (2013)

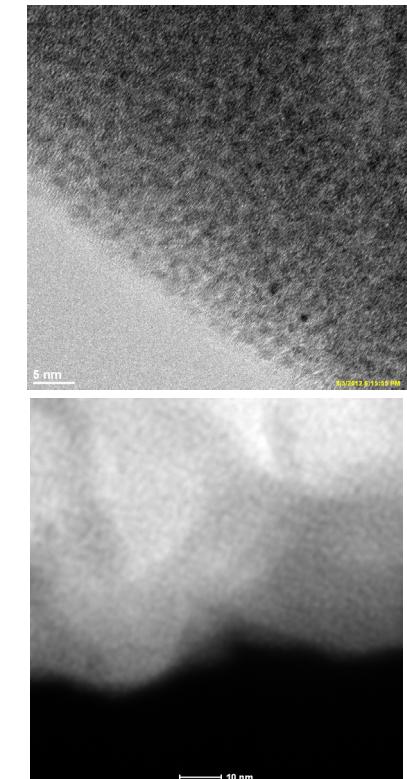
## Multiple cycling on individual nanowires



# Multiple cycling on individual nanowires



After 3 cycles, HRTEM and HAADF-STEM images

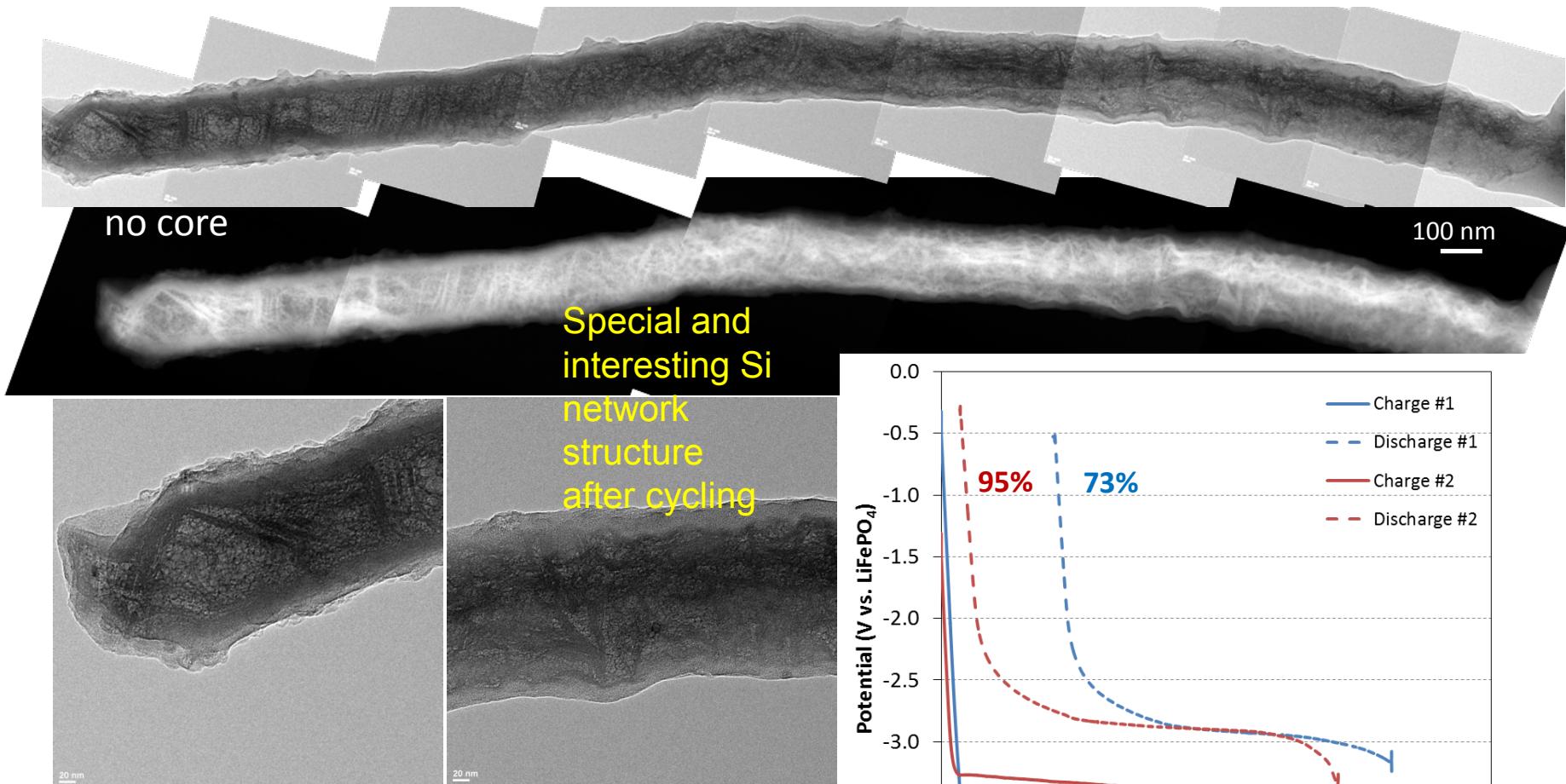


Some Ru nanoparticles embedded in a Li<sub>2</sub>O matrix, indicating part of the reaction is irreversible.

## 5. Quantitative Electrochemistry inside TEM

Si <111> 3 C rate

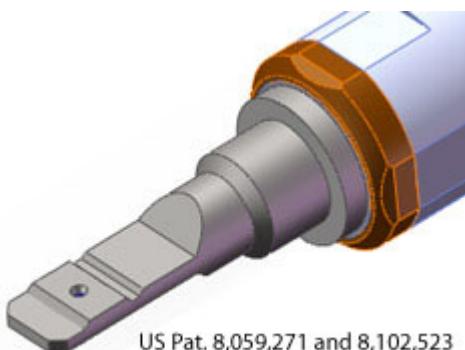
For a single Si nanowire with 100 nm diameter and 1 um length, 1 C rate = 65.5 fA current



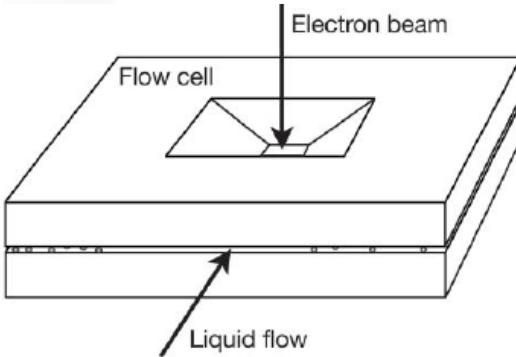
K. Zavadil and Y. Liu et al., in preparation

# Flowing and TEM compatible liquid chips

Commercialized  
Hummingbird systems

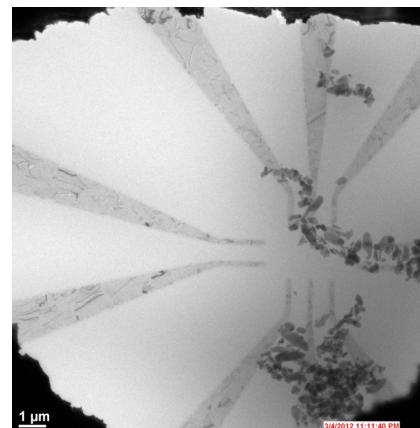
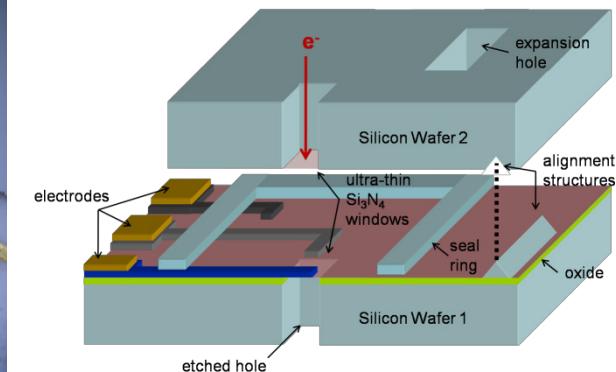
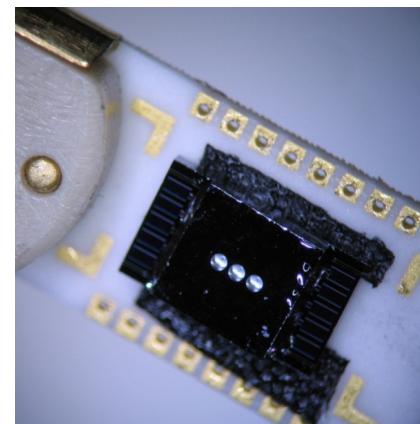


US Pat. 8,059,271 and 8,102,523

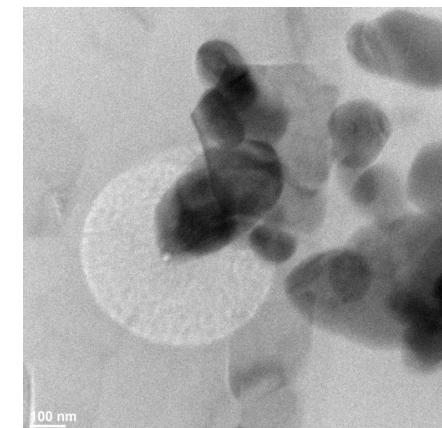


de Jonge et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 106, 2159 (2009).

Our home designed liquid chip  
And Nanofactory multiple-leads holder



3/4/2012 11:11:40 PM

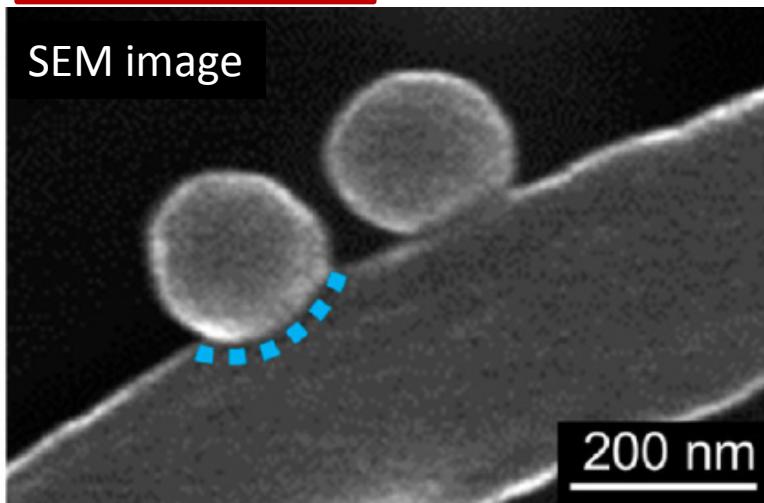


LiFePO<sub>4</sub> in  
EC/DEC  
electrolyte

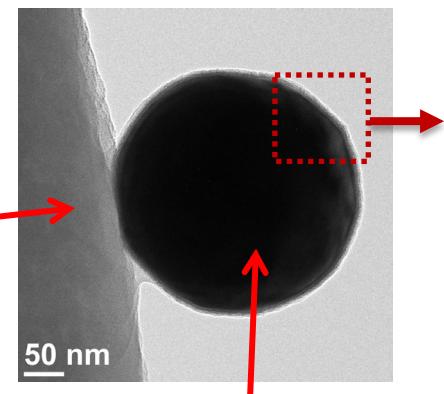
# Beyond Li-ion batteries

## Na-ion batteries

SEM image



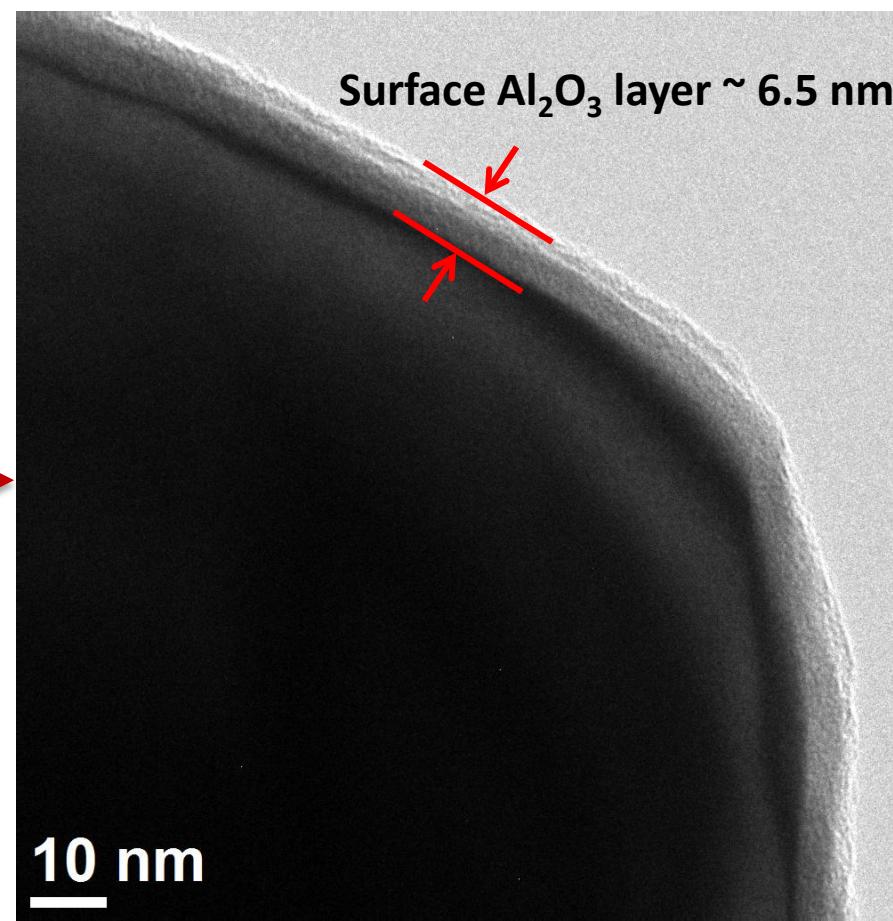
Carbon nanofiber



Sn nanoparticle with ALD-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coating

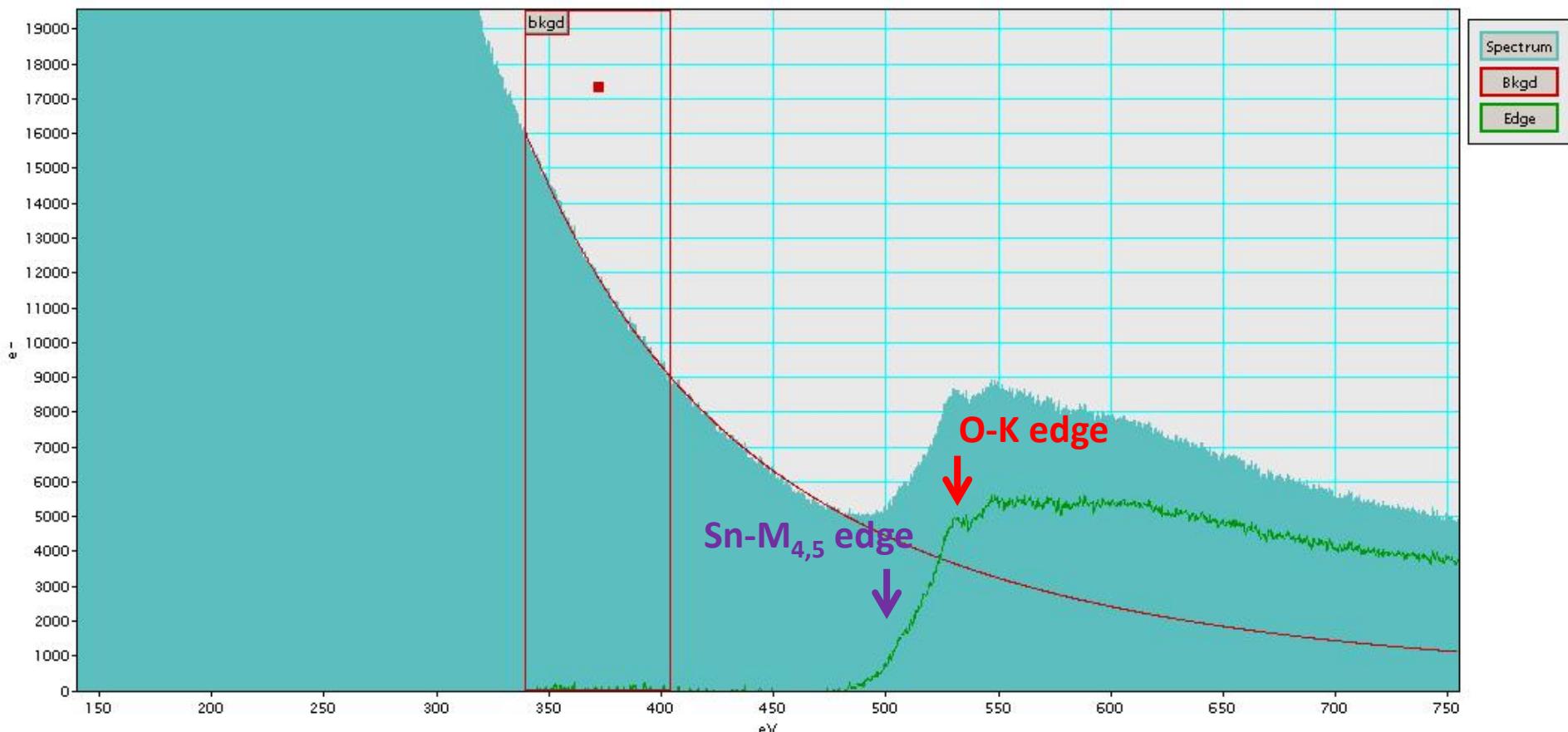
A promising anode material:  $\text{Sn/ALD-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  on CNF

Surface Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> layer  $\sim 6.5$  nm



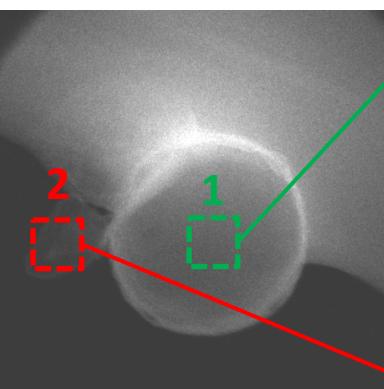
# Difficulty in EFTEM mapping

O-K edge is overlapped with the broad Sn-M edge, thus, it is very difficult to do O mapping, due to the difficulty in subtracting the background correctly.

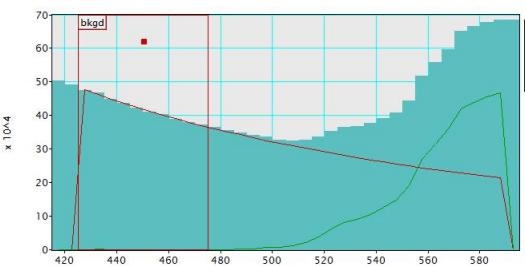


# Advanced EELS technique—MLLS mapping

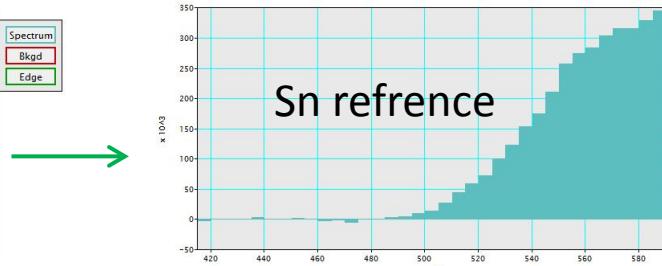
Multiple linear least-squares (MLLS) fitting can be used to fit a number of reference spectra to a spectrum, and thus can **separate overlapping edges, do chemical state mapping and orientation mapping**.



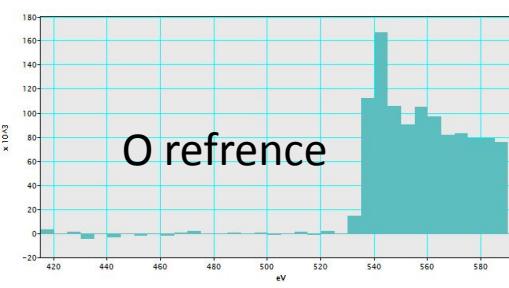
EFTEM-SI  
[420,600]eV



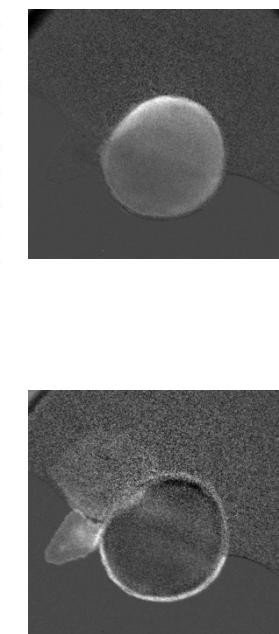
Subtract the background



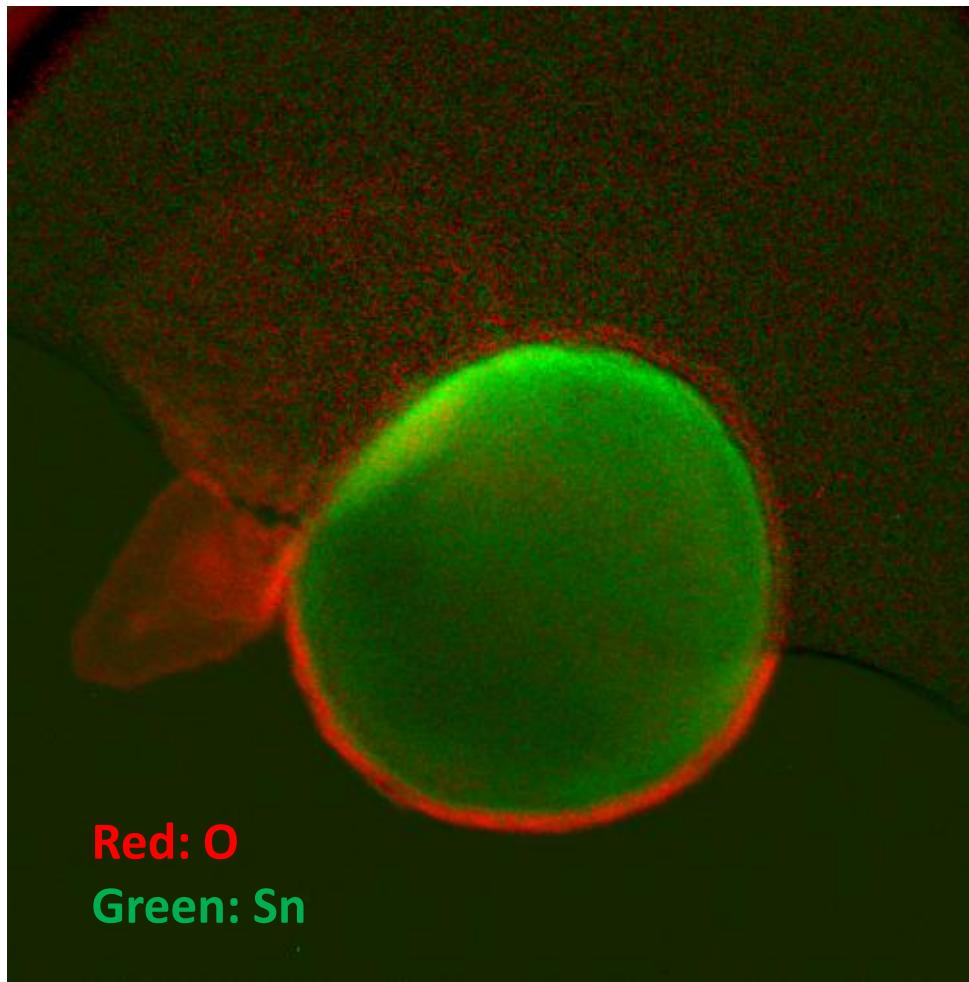
Sn reference



O reference

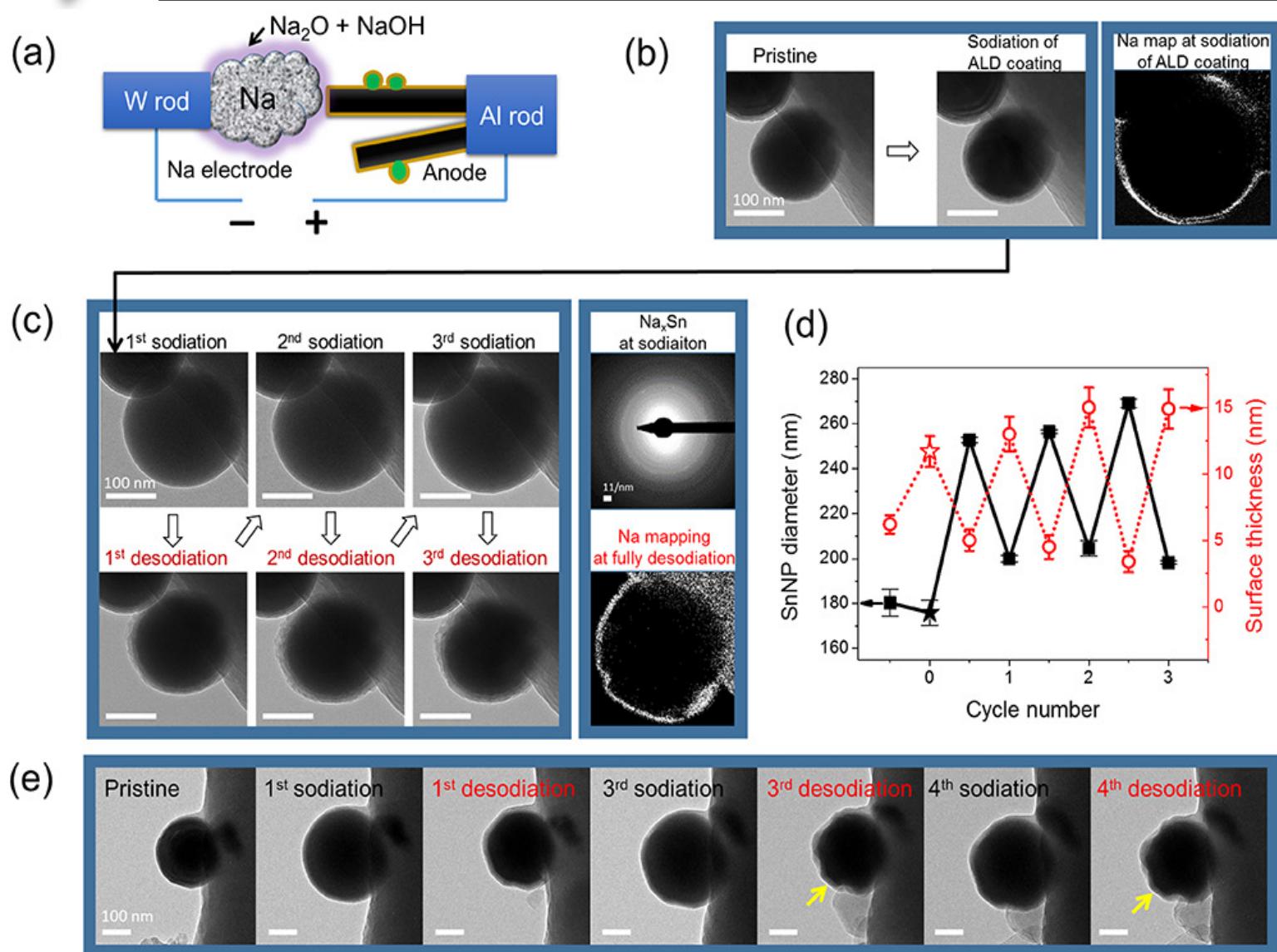


## MLLS mapping result



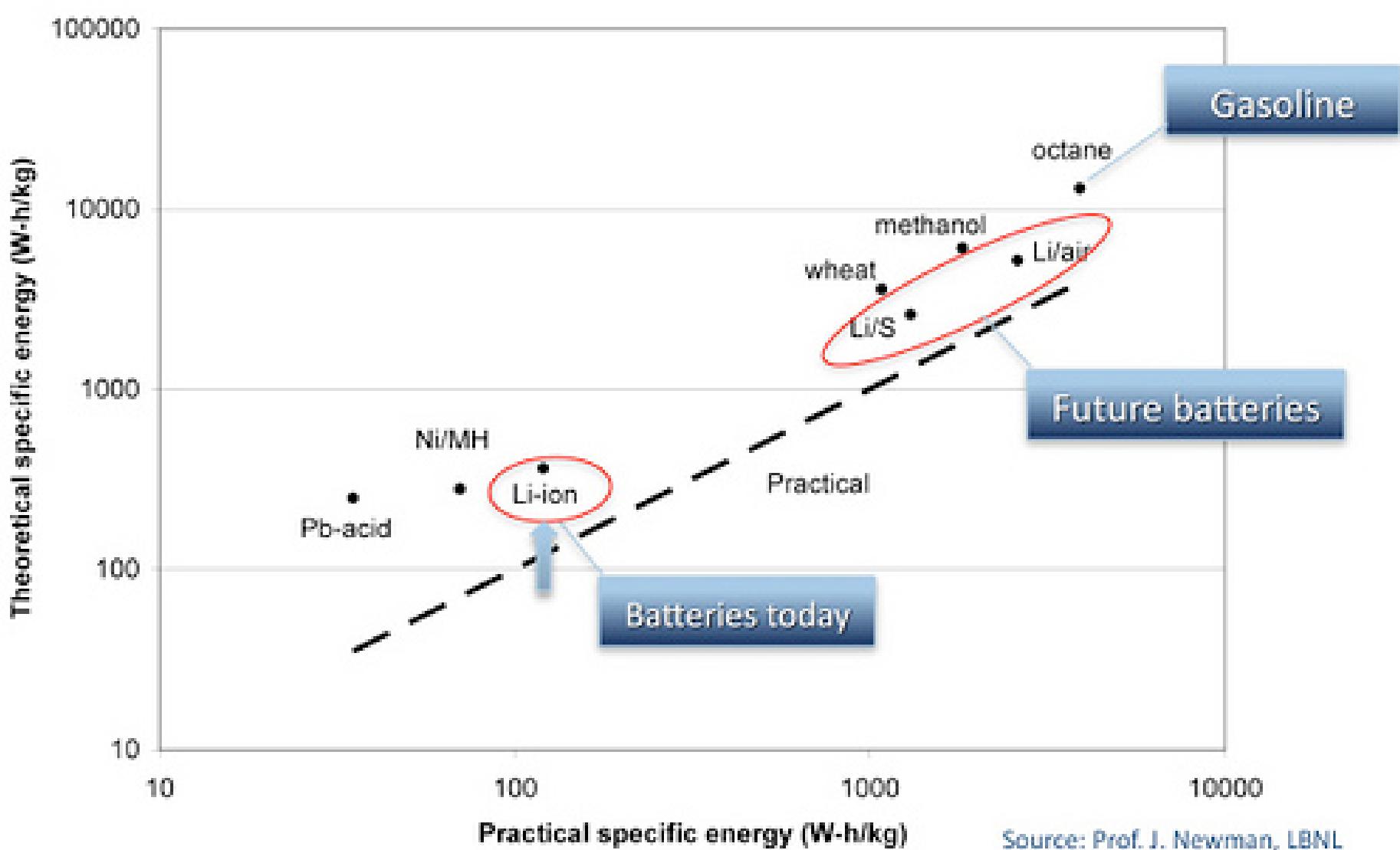
Particular acknowledgement goes to **Paolo Longo** @ Gatan, Inc. for assisting on the **GIF Quantum** when I was at Gatan EELS/EFTEM Training School.

# Na-ion batteries



X. Han and Y. Liu et al., *Nano Letters*, DOI: 10.1021/nl4035626

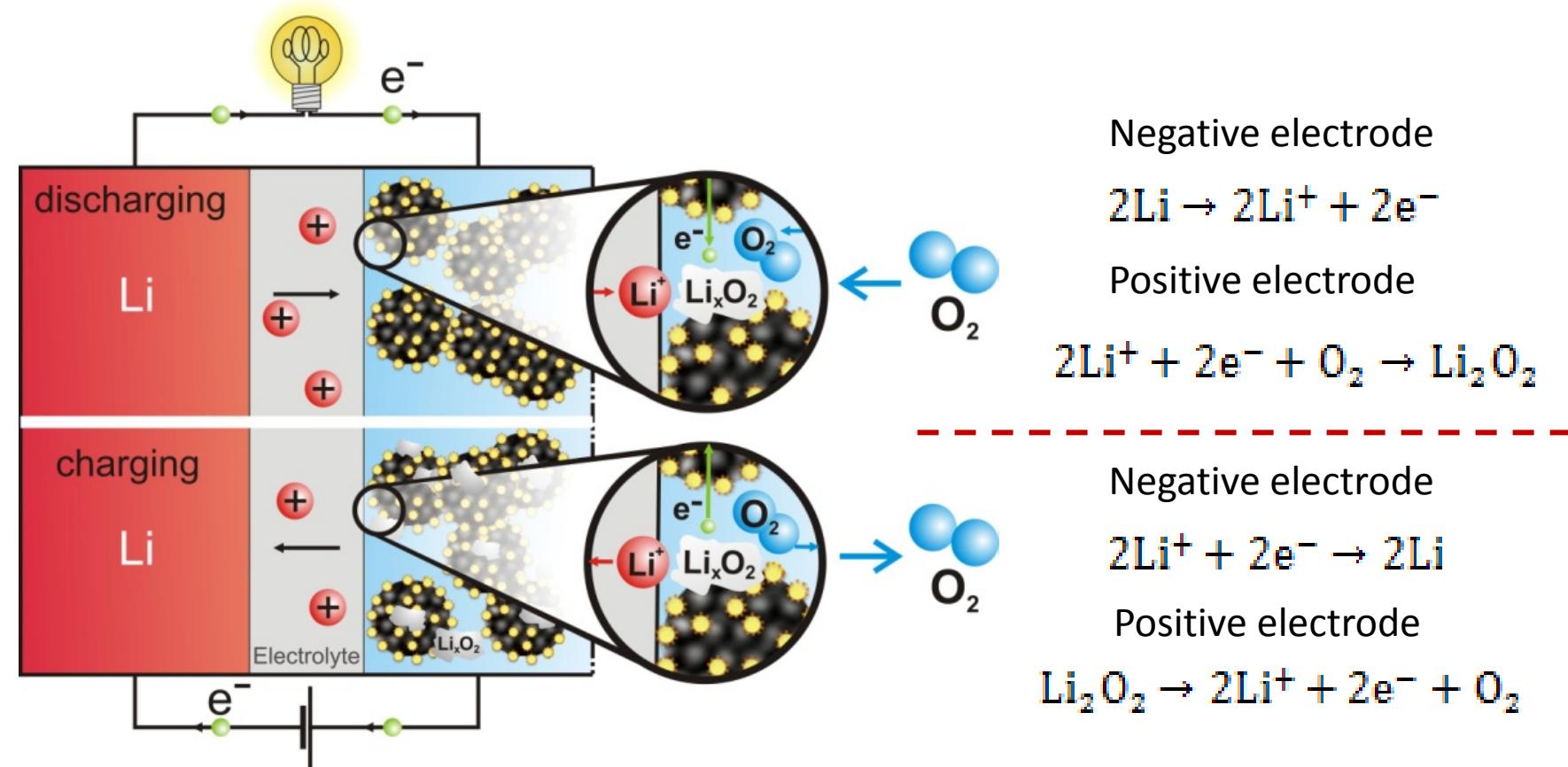
# Li-air battery



Source: Prof. J. Newman, LBNL

Laboratories

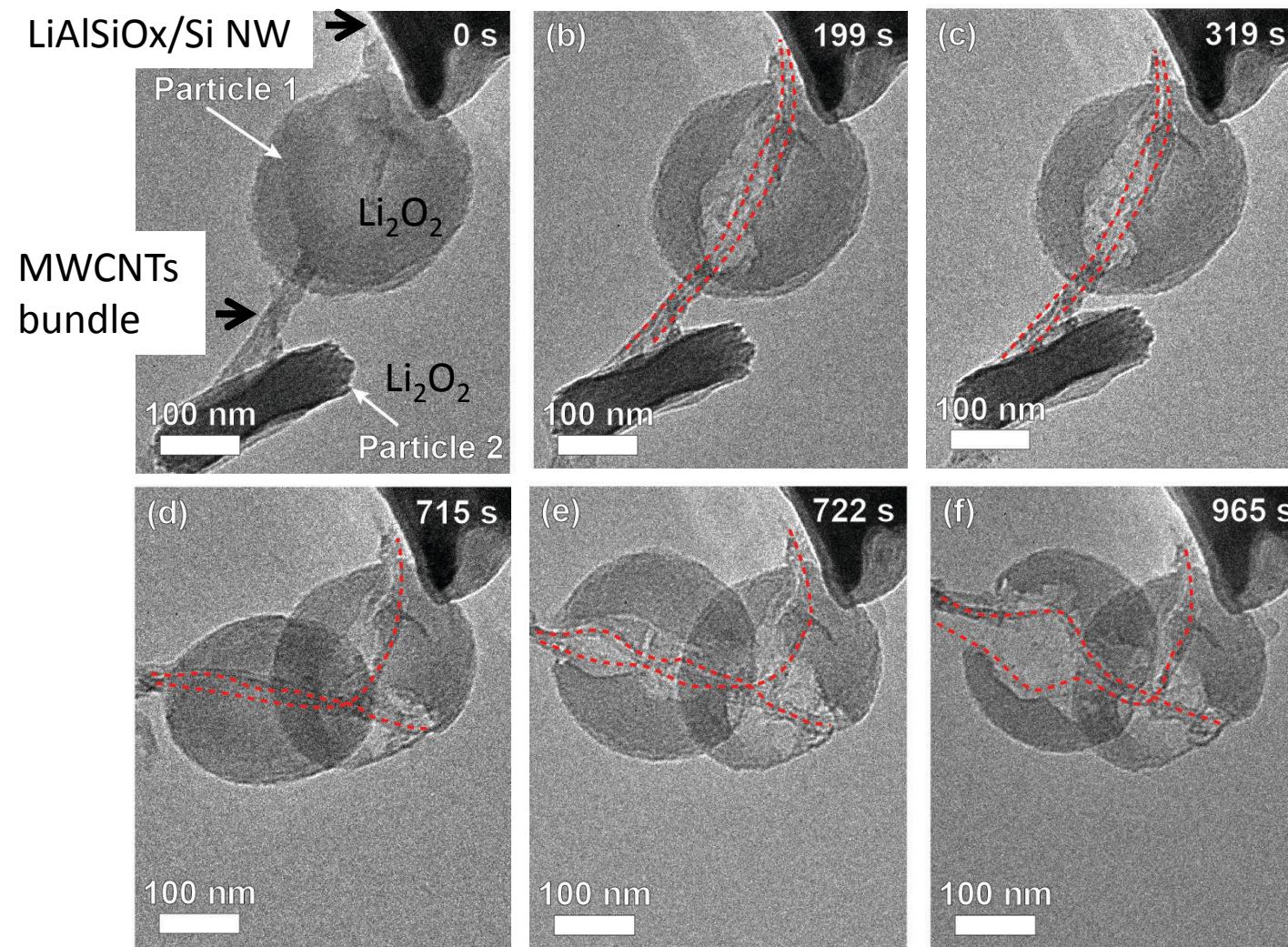
# Li-air battery: Working Principles



Reverse electrochemical reaction at equilibrium potential of 2.96 V:



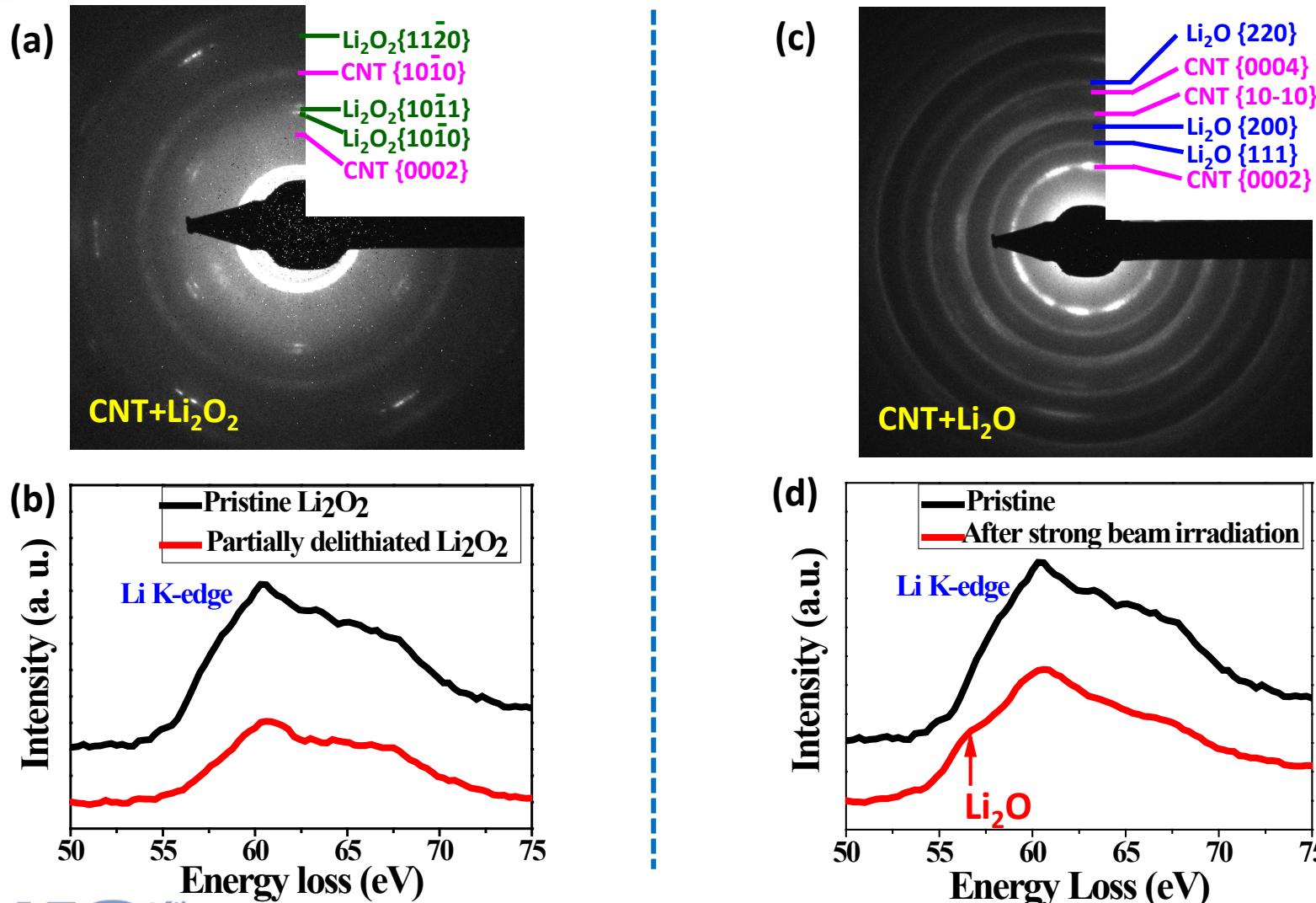
# Electrochemical oxidation of $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$ on MWCNTs



## Summary:

The oxidation of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$  was found to occur preferentially at the MWCNT/  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$  interface, which suggests that electron transport, not the transport of Li-ions, in  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$  ultimately limits the oxidation kinetics at high rate or overpotentials.

# The first EELS reference for $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$



# Conclusions and Perspective

---

- Constructed electrochemical cell inside a TEM, allowing for **real time and atomic scale observations** of battery electrode during operation.
- “Saw” the **effect of ion and electron transport**, provided fundamental understandings of the **working and degradation mechanisms** in LIBs.
- **Controlled the ionic transport** behavior in the nanoscale.
- Be able to study **almost all kinds of material systems**, anodes, cathodes, different electrolytes...
- How **the ALD coating** retains capacity? In-situ SEI formation.
- **Quantitative electrochemistry** on individual nanostructure.
- **Beyond Li-ion batteries**, such as Li-S, Li-air, Na-ion, Mg-ion systems.

# Acknowledgments

---

**I would like to offer my high appreciation to all my collaborators:**

Dr. Xiao Hua Liu, Dr. John Sullivan, Dr. Kevin Zavadil, Dr. Katherine Jungjohann, Dr. Nicholas Hudak, Dr. Dale Huber, Dr. Alec Talin, Dr. Paul Kotula, Dr. Matthew Marinella, Dr. Tom Harris, Dr. Andrew Leenheer, Dr. Kevin Leung, ...      **Sandia National Laboratories**

Dr. Tom Picraux, Dr. Jinkyung Yoo, Dr. Binh-Minh Nguyen, ...      **Los Alamos National Laboratory**

Dr. Sergiy Krylyuk, Dr. Albert Davydov, ...      **National Institute of Standards and Technology**

Prof. Ting Zhu, Prof. Gleb Yushin, ...      **Georgia Institute of Technology**

Prof. Gary Rubloff, Prof. Chunsheng Wang, Prof. Liangbing Hu, Prof. YuHuang Wang, Prof. John Cumings,...      **University of Maryland**

Dr. Akihiro Kushima, Prof. Ju Li, Prof. Yang Shao-Horn, ...      **MIT**

Prof. Sulin Zhang...      **Pennsylvania State University**

Prof. Shadi Dayeh, ...      **UC-San Diego**

Prof. Jane Chang, ...      **UC-Los Angeles**

Prof. Scott Mao, ...      **University of Pittsburgh**

Prof. Wenzhi Li, ...      **Florida International University**

Prof. Ronggui Yang, ...      **University of Colorado Boulder**

Prof. Yoke-Khin Yap, ...      **Michigan technological university**

Prof. Barry Carter, ...      **University of Connecticut**

...

# Acknowledgments

---



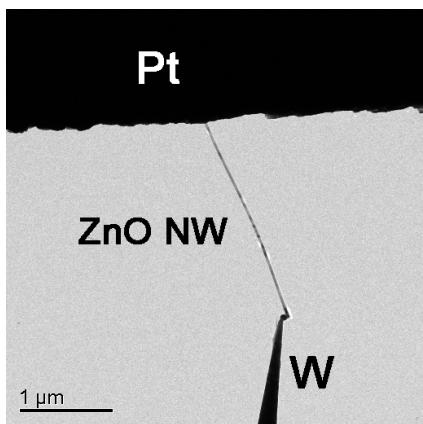
**Thank you very much for your attention!**

---

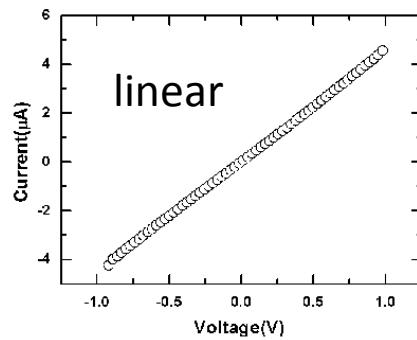
# Back up slides



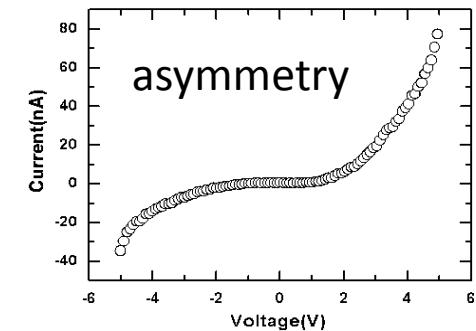
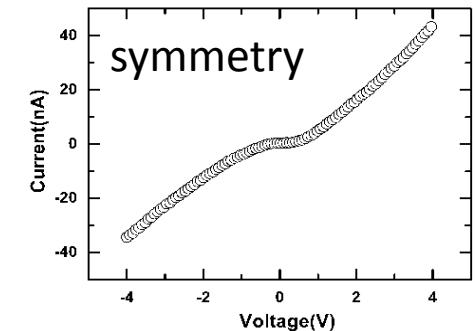
# Model required



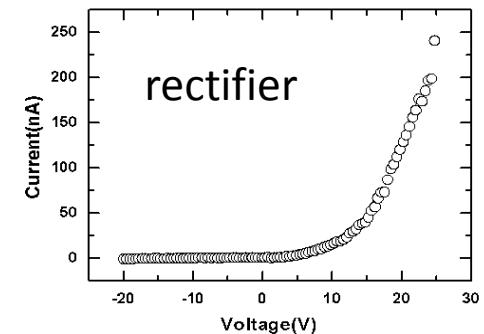
Two terminal  
I-V curves



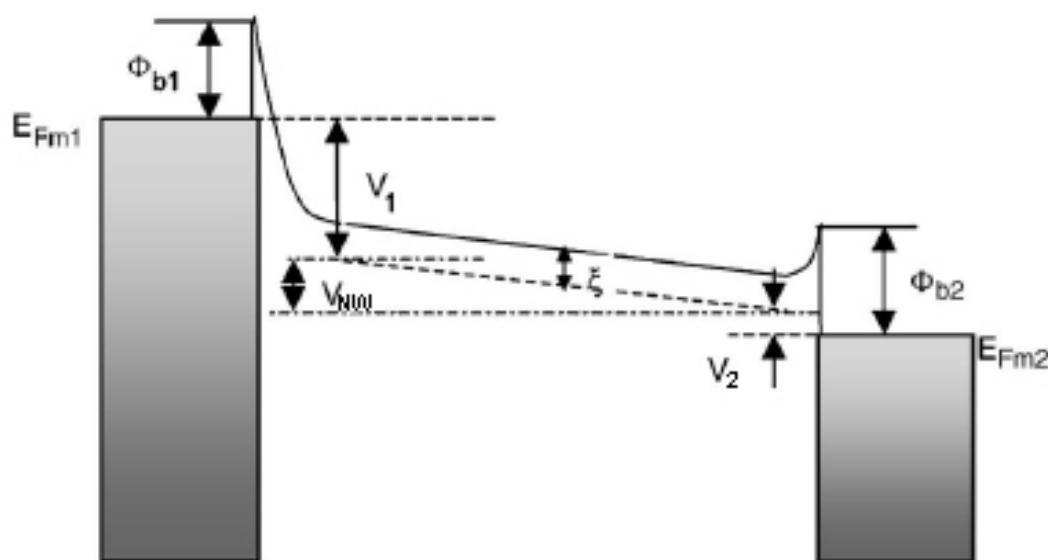
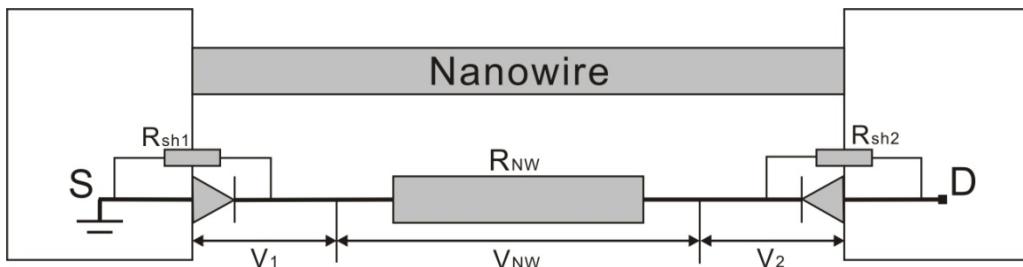
nonlinear



Decoupling the contact effect (Schottky barrier) and giving the intrinsic parameters (carrier concentration, mobility, conductivity) of the nanomaterials.



# Metal-Semiconductor-Metal (MSM) model



$$I_1 = S_1 J_r(V_1) + V_1 / R_{sh1}$$

$$I_2 = S_2 J_f(V_2) + V_2 / R_{sh2}$$

$$I_{NW} = V_{NW} / R_{NW}$$

$$I_1 = I_2 = I_{NW}$$

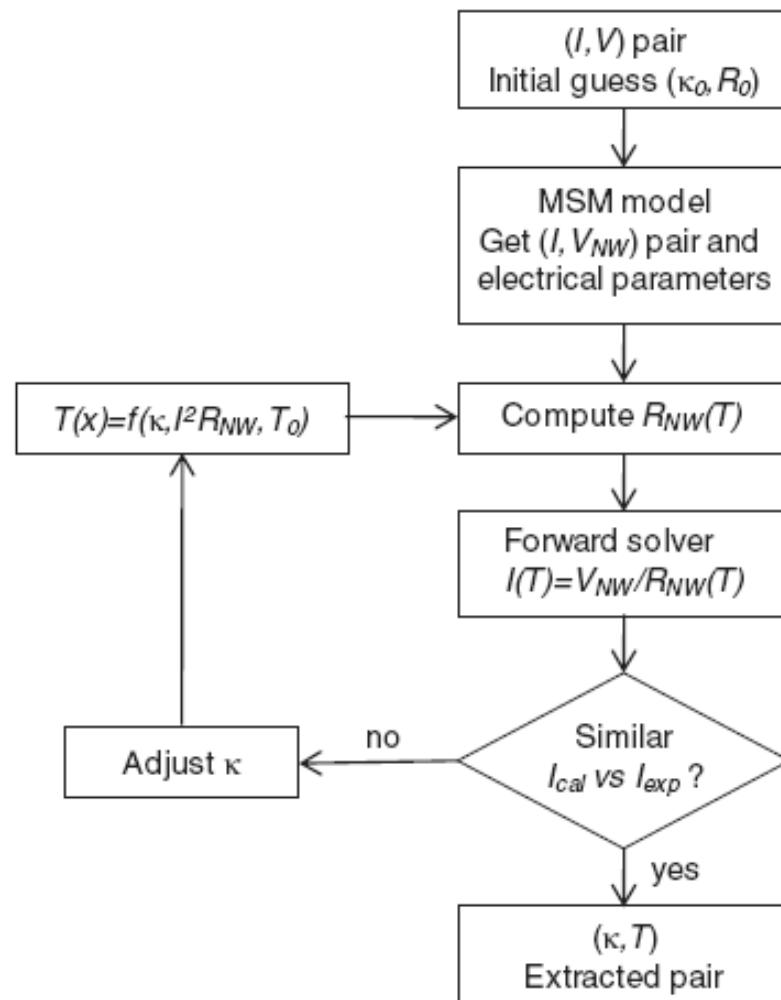
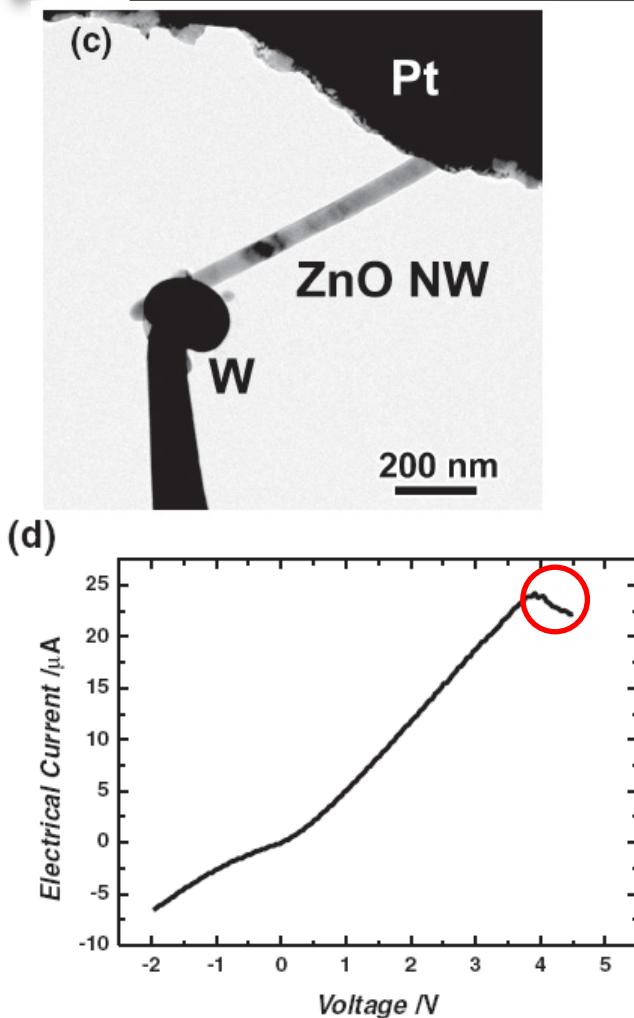
$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_{NW}$$

Given the parameters of nanowire and contacts, an unique current can be calculated under a bias. Reversely, given the I-V curve, the parameters of nanowire and contacts can be obtained by fitting the I-V curve.

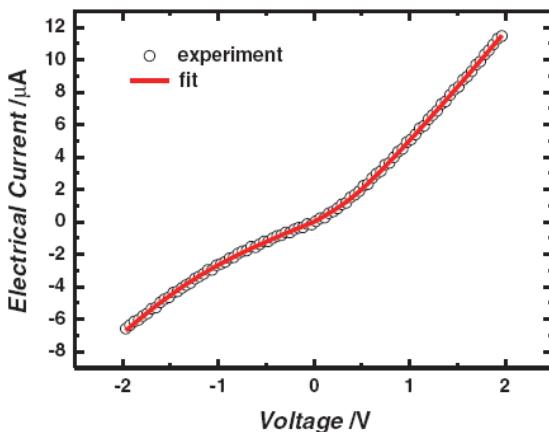
Z.Y. Zhang et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 88, 073102 (2006)

Z.Y. Zhang, Y. Liu et al., *Adv. Func. Mater.* 17, 2478 (2007)

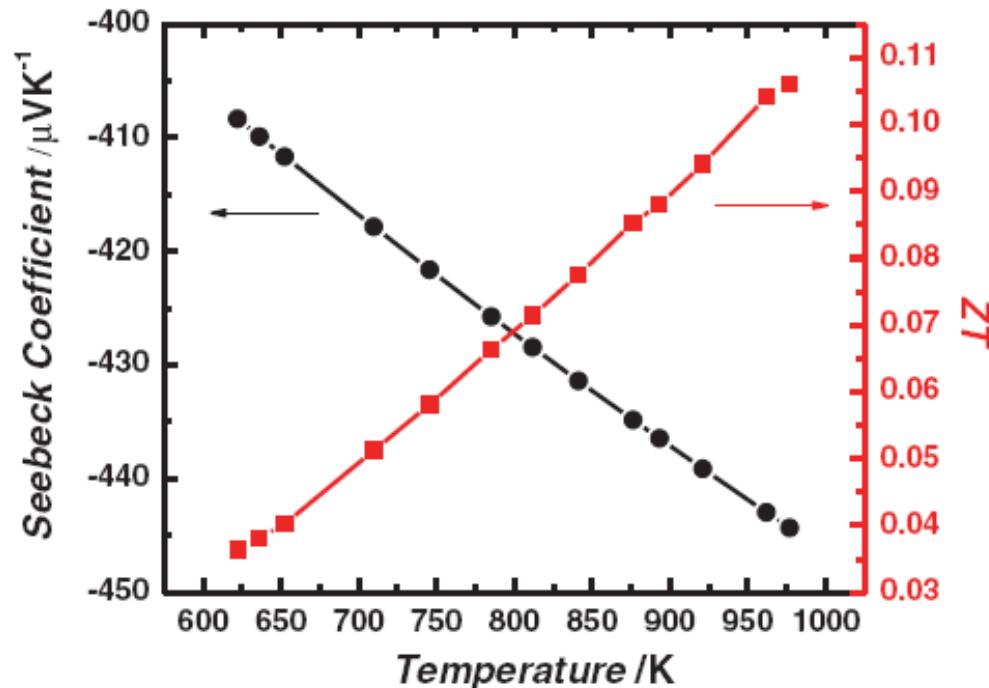
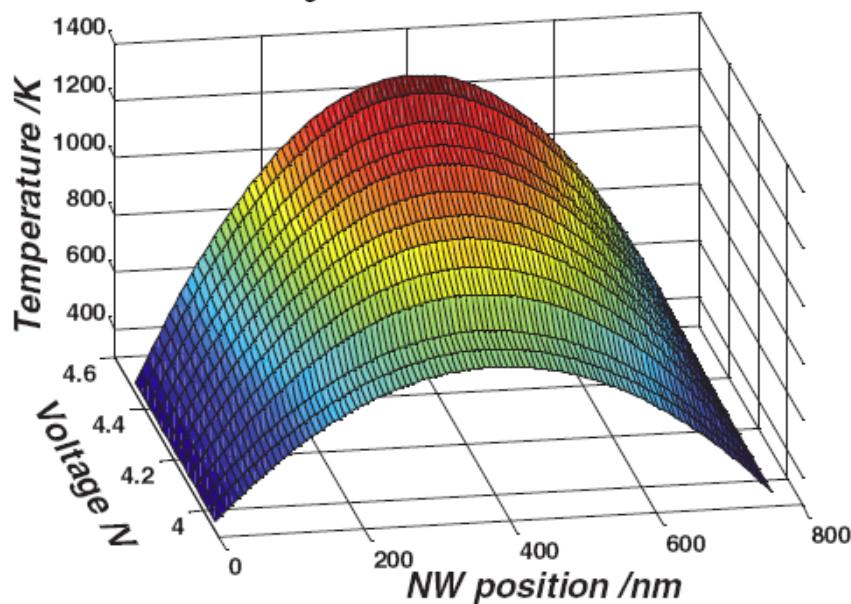
# Thermoelectric properties of ZnO nanowire



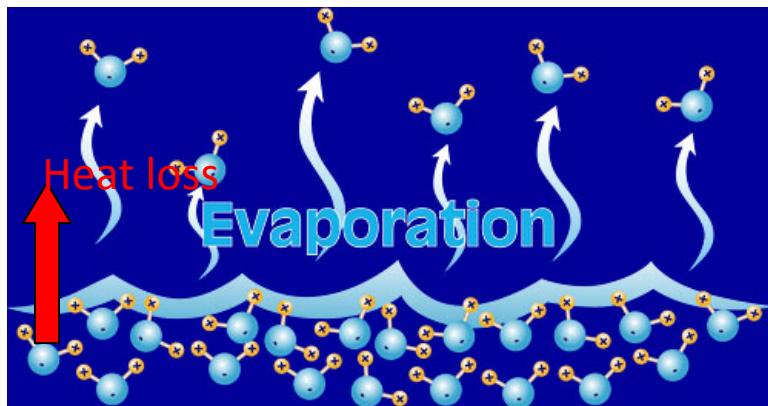
# Thermoelectric properties of ZnO nanowire



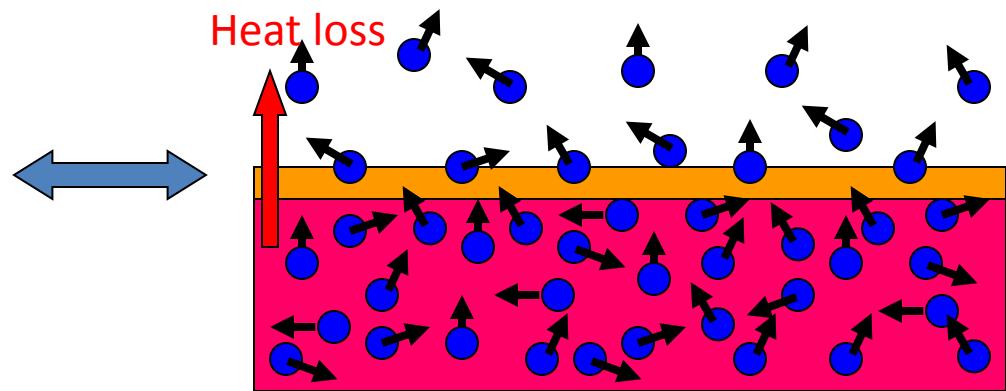
$\phi_1$ [eV]	$\phi_2$ [eV]	$\sigma$ [ $\text{Sm}^{-1}$ ]	$N_d$ [ $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ]	$\mu$ [ $\text{cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ ]
0.19	0.36	$3.19 \times 10^3$	$1.27 \times 10^{18}$	157



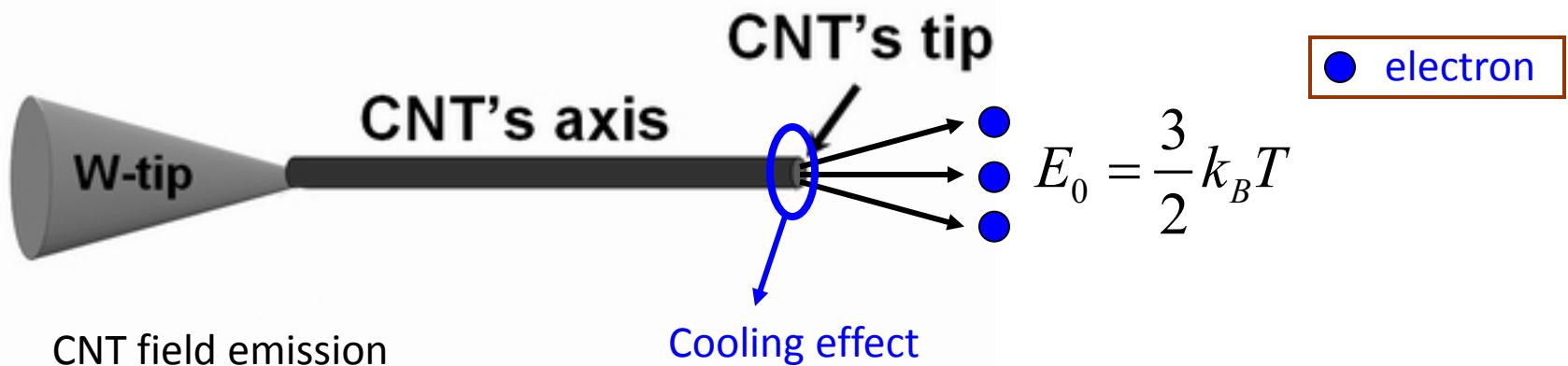
# Cooling Effect



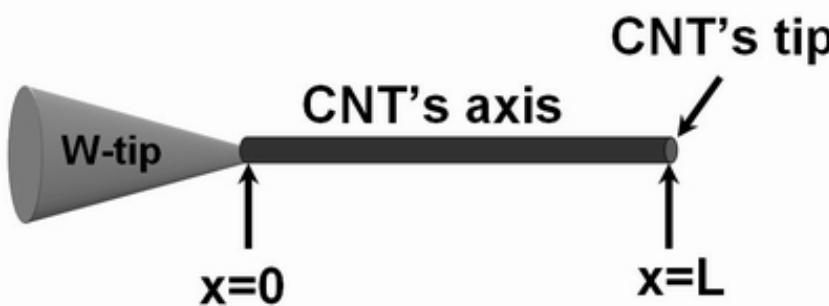
Water evaporation



Thermionic emission



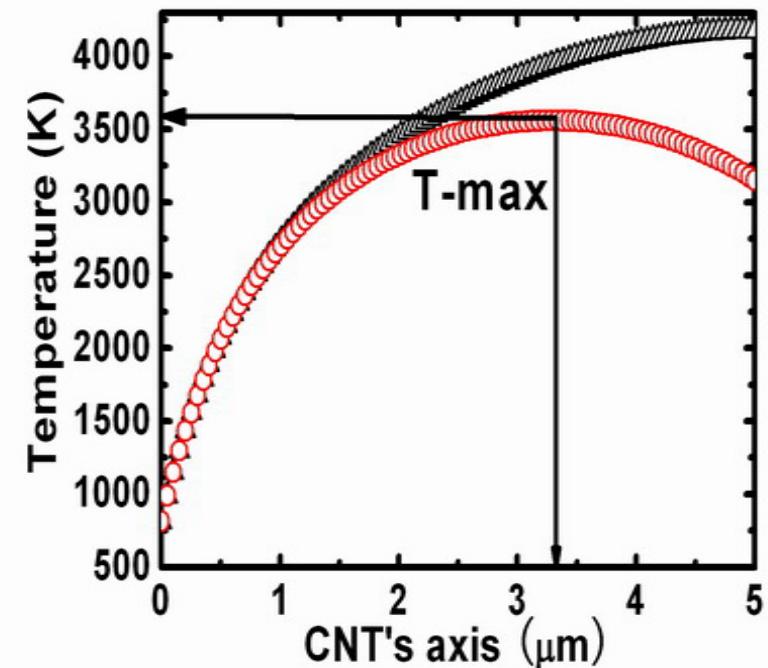
## Model and Numerical calculation



$$\pi r^2 \kappa \frac{\partial^2 T_x}{\partial x^2} dx - 2\pi r dx \sigma (T_x^4 - T_0^4) + \frac{I^2 \rho(T_x)}{\pi r^2} dx = 0$$

$$T_{x=0} = \lambda \pi r^2 \kappa \frac{\partial T_x}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=0} + T_0$$

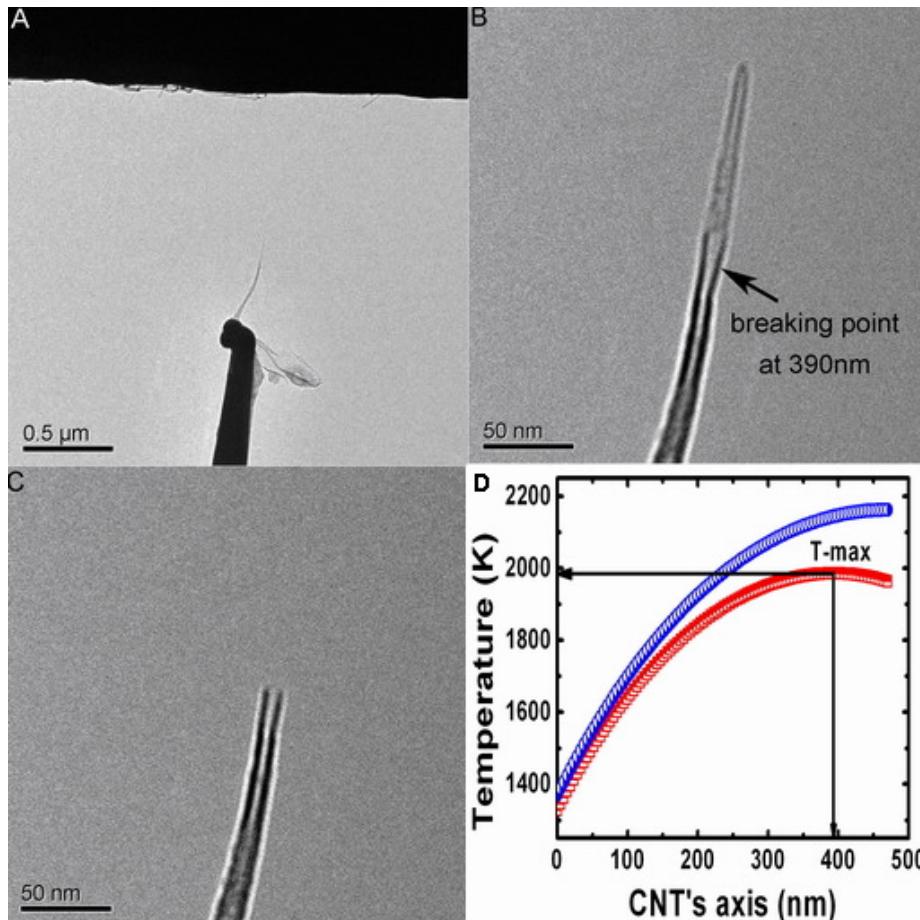
$$\frac{\partial T_x}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=L} = -\sigma \kappa^{-1} (T_{x=L}^4 - T_0^4) - \frac{3}{2} \kappa^{-1} \frac{k_B T_{x=L} I}{e \pi r^2}$$



$$L=5 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \quad D=10\text{nm} \quad I=10 \text{ } \mu\text{A}$$

The maximum temperature  $T_{\max}$  point is not at the tip, but in the body!

# Field emission mechanism of carbon nanotubes



$$I_{\max}(FE) \approx 35 \mu A$$

$$< I_{\max}(TT) \approx 81 \mu A$$

$$T_{\max}(FE) \approx 2000 K$$

$$< T_{\max}(TT) \approx 3400 K$$

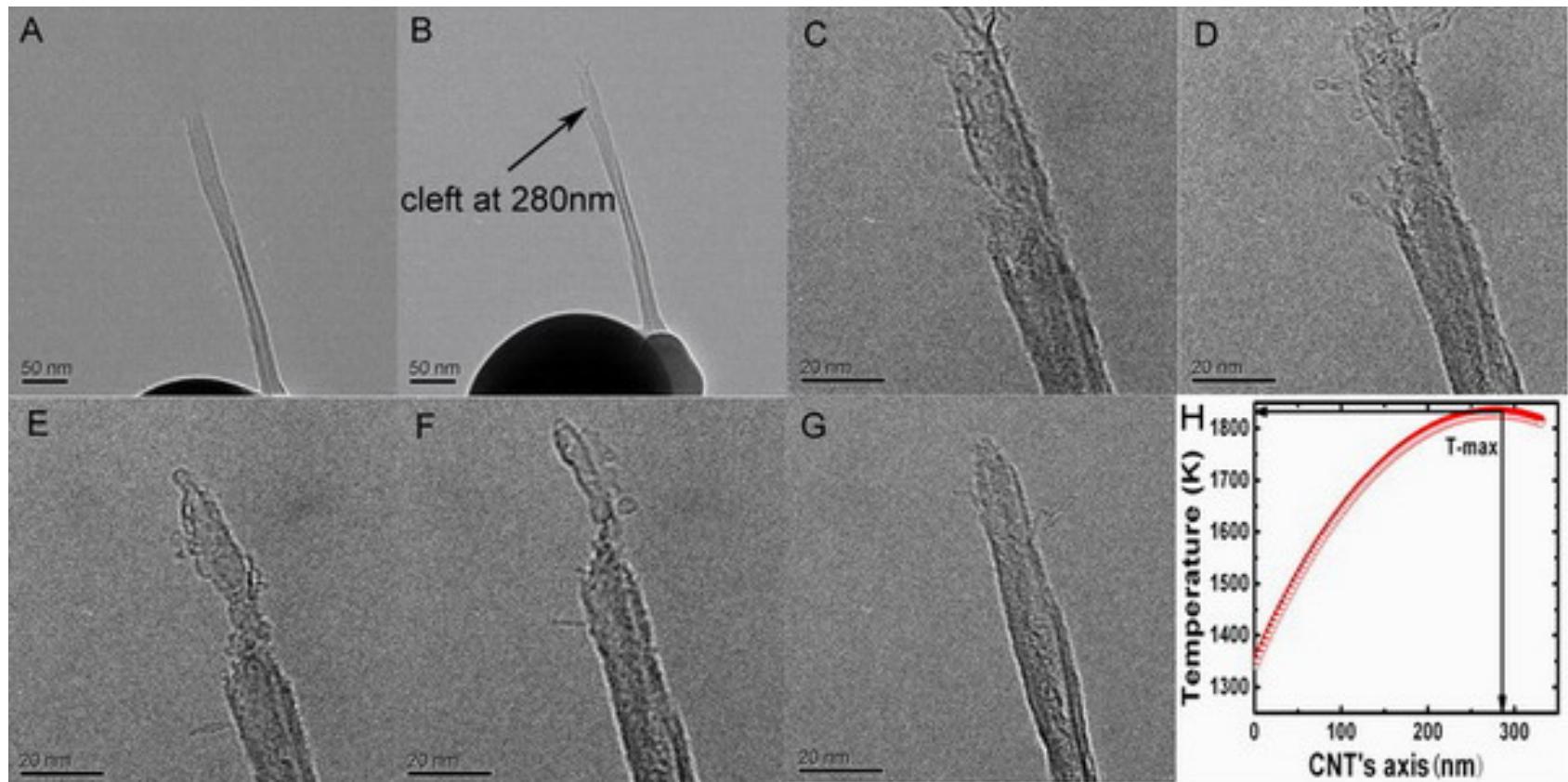
Electrostatic Force Stress  $\sim 3.9$  GPa  
 $<$  Tensile Stress  $\sim 11-63$  GPa

Combination of  
 Temperature-effect  
 and Force-effect

Breaking point is at 390 nm

$T_{\max}$  point predicted by the model is at 394.8 nm

# Field emission mechanism of carbon nanotubes



Breaking point is at 280 nm

T<sub>max</sub> point predicted by the model is at 283.8 nm

## The model used to estimate the chemical potential on Ge/Si nanowire

To rationalize the effects of the Si shell on Ge nanowire lithiation, we refer to the analogy of **chemical potential barriers** for impurity – Li ion – diffusion with that of chemical potential barriers for free charge carrier transport.

The effective potential for ions or defects at heterointerfaces is considered by moving the ion in the material by two steps: (1) moving the impurity across the interface, and (2) ionizing the impurity and returning the electron or hole to the starting position.

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = H_M^0 + I_M - (E_M^c - \tilde{\mu}_M)$$

$\mu_{\text{eff}}$  is the corresponding effective potential for a Li ion,

$M$  is either Si or Ge,

$H_M^0$  is the enthalpy of formation of the neutral Li defect site in  $M$ ,

$I_M$  is the ionization energy for Li ion in  $M$ ,

$E_M^c$  is the conduction band edge in  $M$ ,

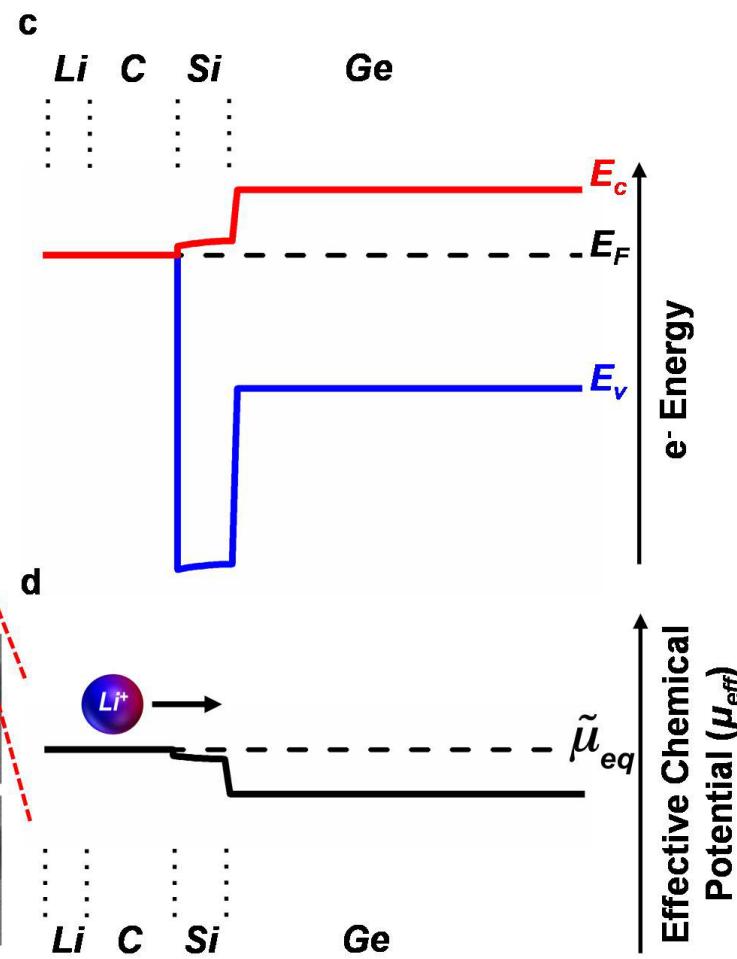
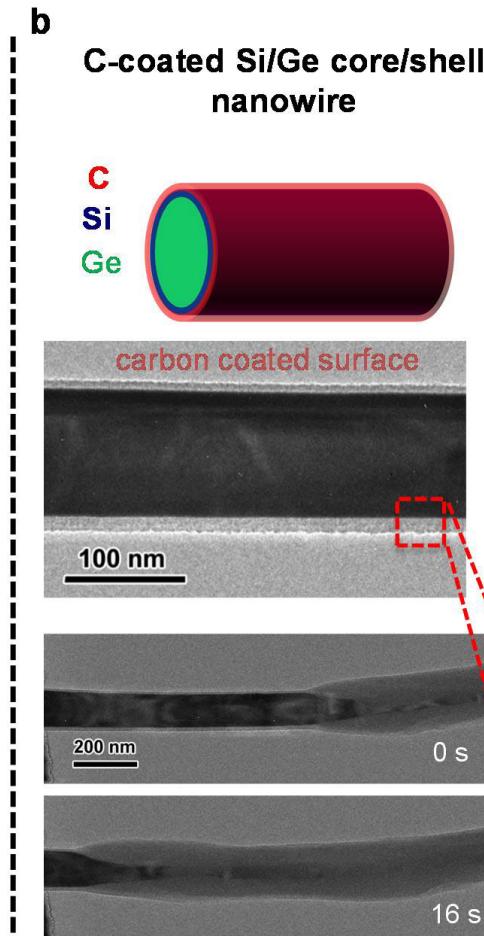
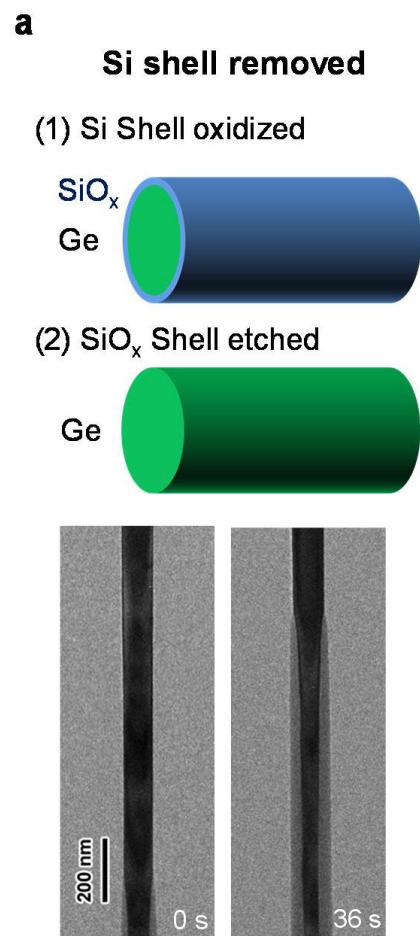
$\tilde{\mu}_M$  is the equilibrium electro-chemical potential across the whole structure.

J. Tersoff, *J. Phys. Rev. Lett.* 65 (7), 887–890 (1990).

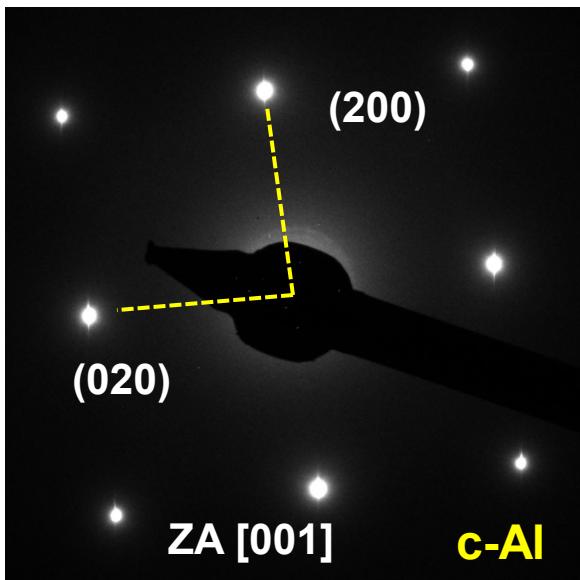
J. Maier et al, *Nature Materials* 4, 805 (2005)

## Control experiments under different scenarios

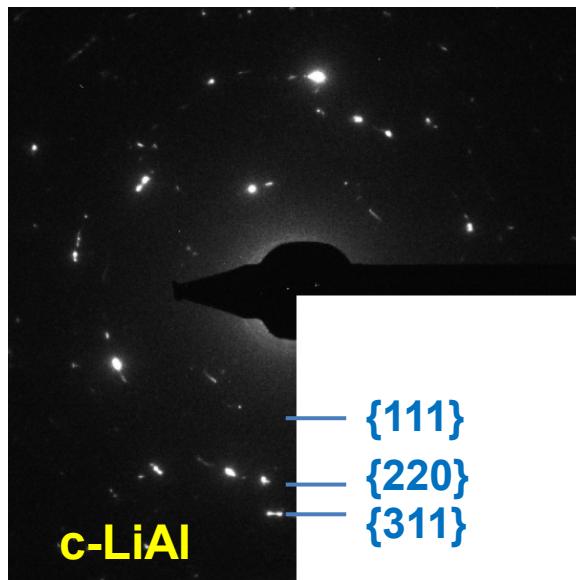
The equilibrium band-edge profiles across Ge/Si/C core/multi-shells nanowire, showing a chemical potential well for Li ions, which is therefore expected to accelerate the lithiation reaction at the surface of the nanowire, resulting in core-shell lithiation behavior, as shown in (b).



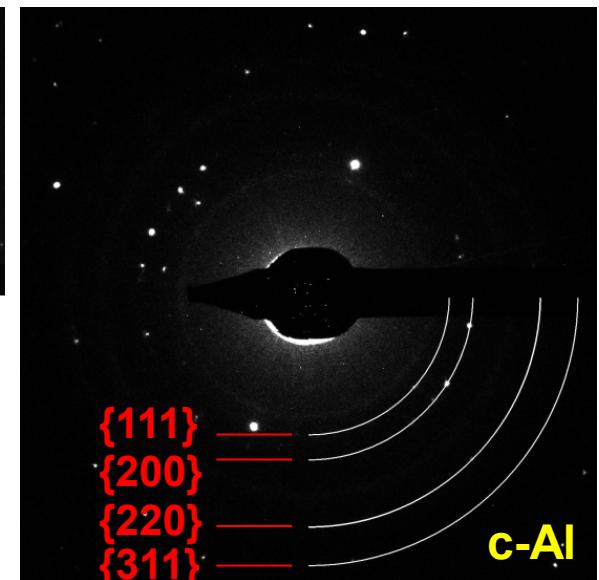
## Lithiated phase of Aluminum Nanowires



Pristine Al NW



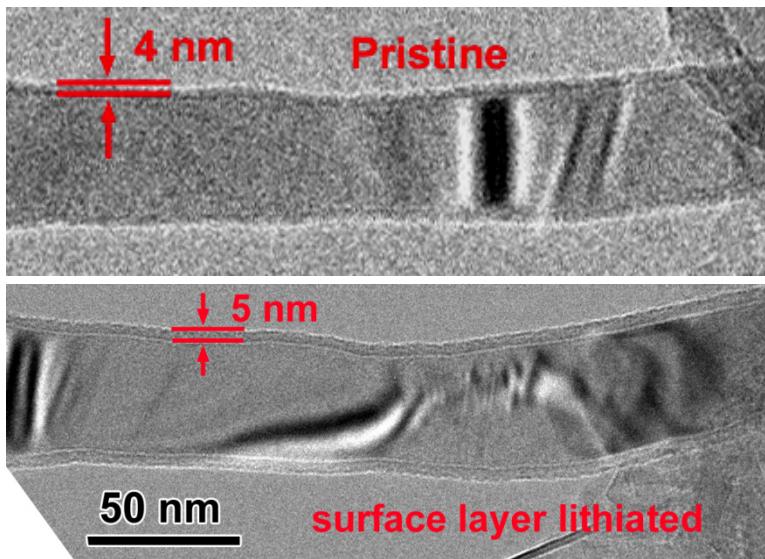
Lithiated Al NW



Delithiated Al NW

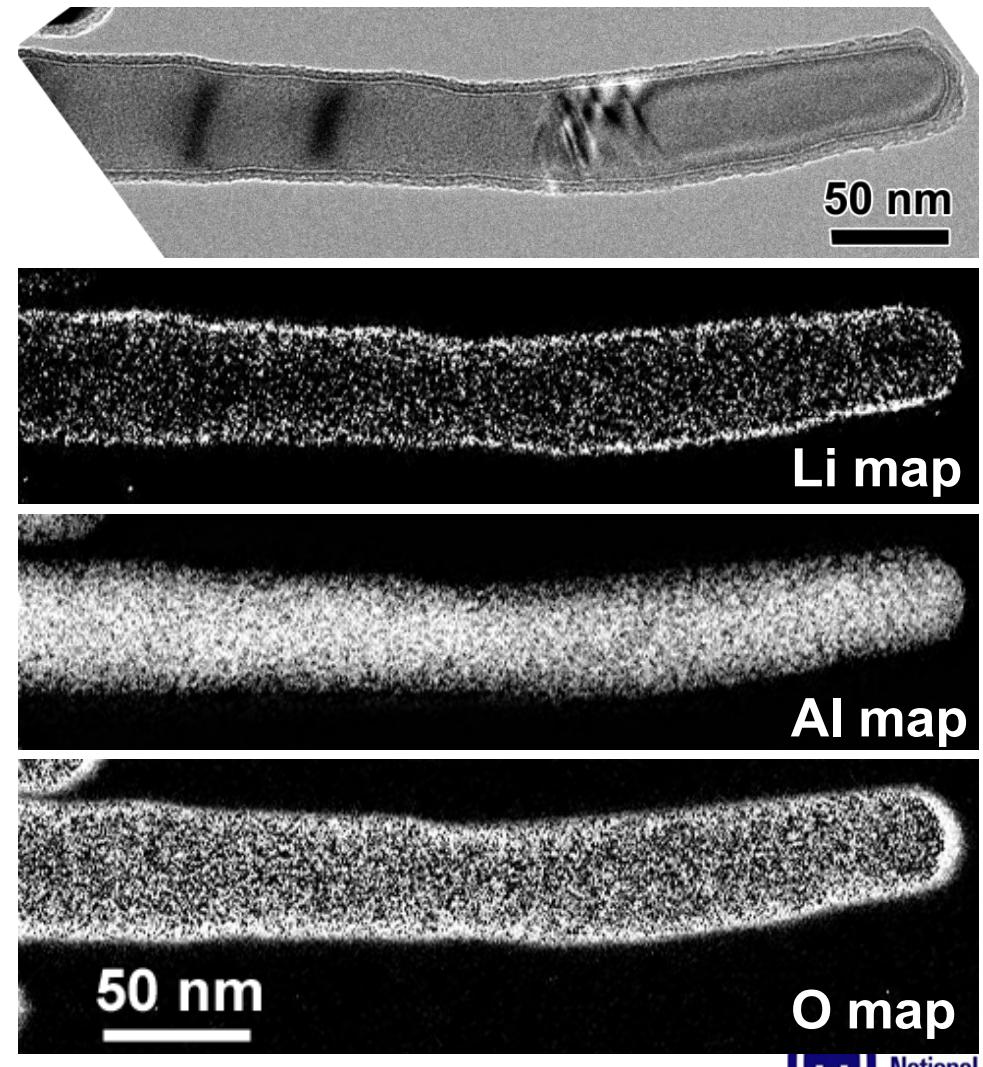
Electrochemically driven solid state amorphization (ESA) did not occur in the LiAl system.

## Evolution of the Thin Surface $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ Layers



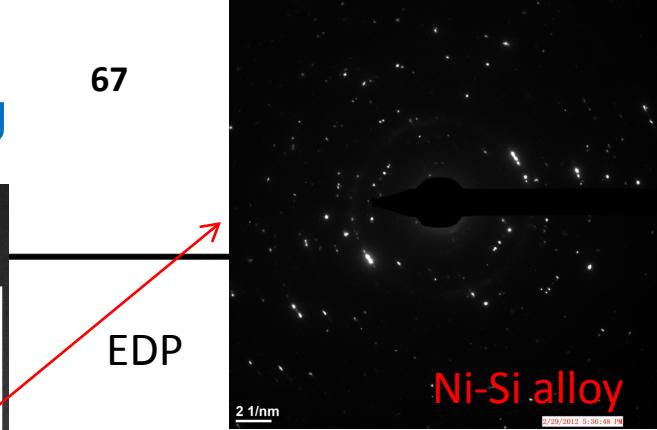
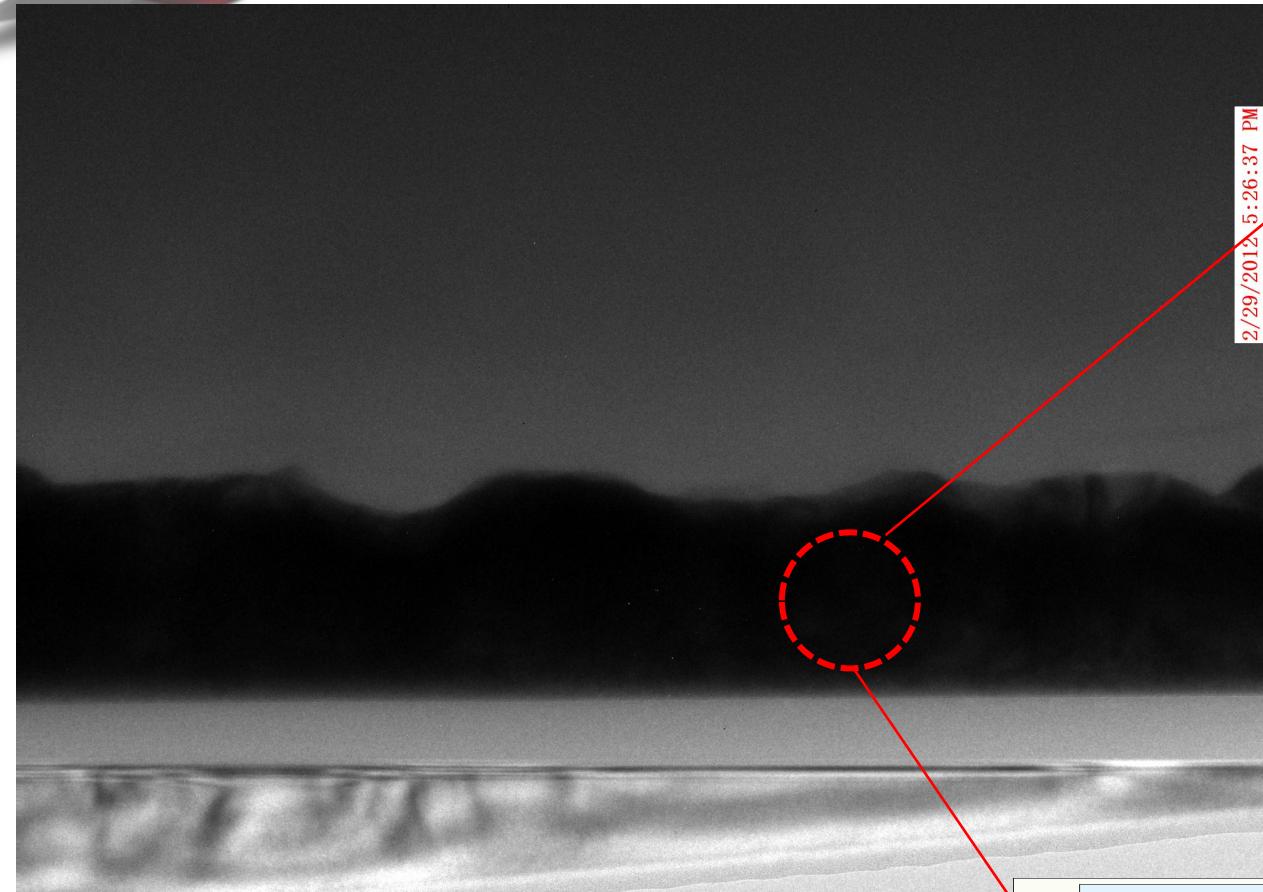
Controlled lithiation of the surface  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  Layer

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  Layer was changed into Li-Al-O glass.



# Cross-section on Ni-Si alloying

67



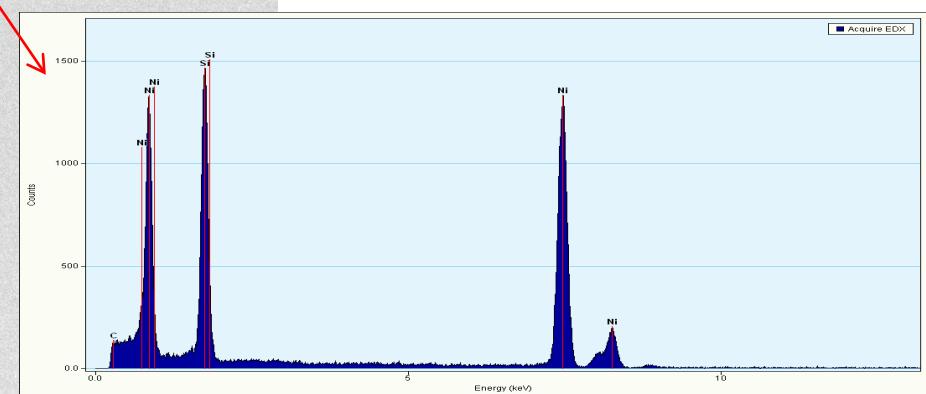
EDP

50  $\mu\text{m}$  Si

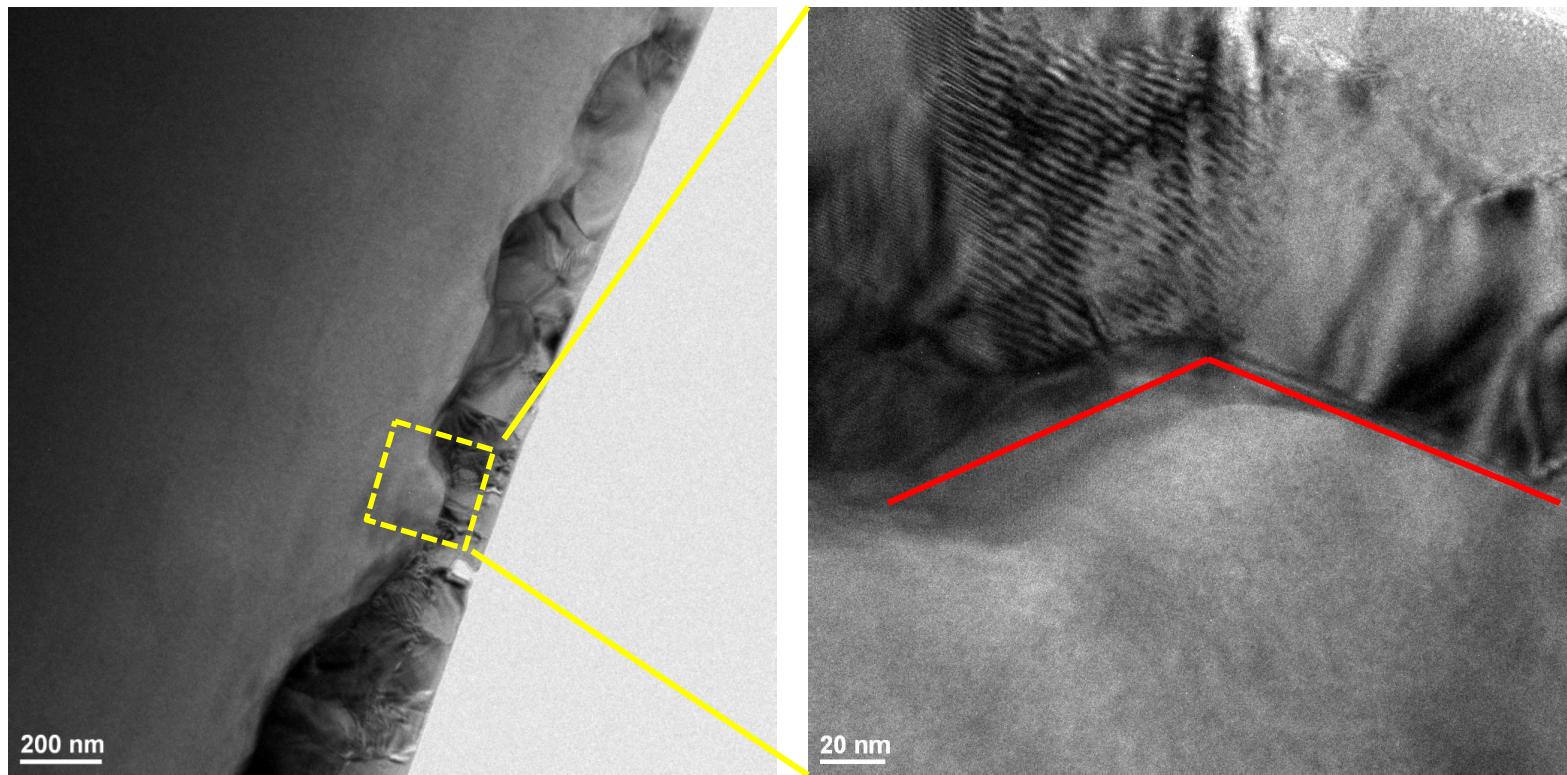
$\sim$ 400 nm Si-Ni alloy

200 nm  $\text{SiO}_2$

Bulk Si substrate

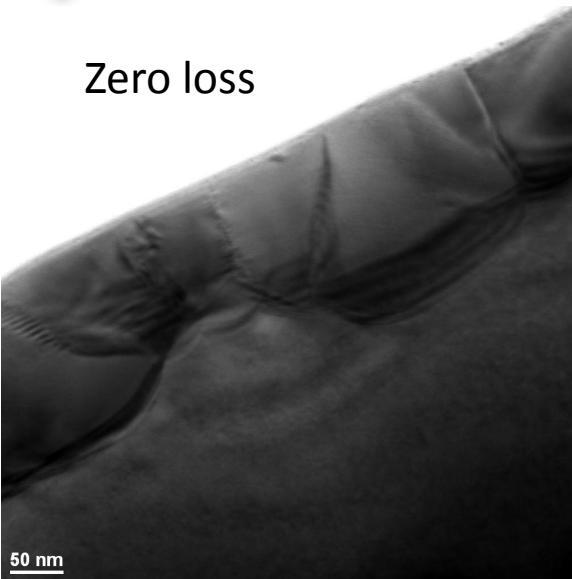


## Cross-section on Ni-Si alloying

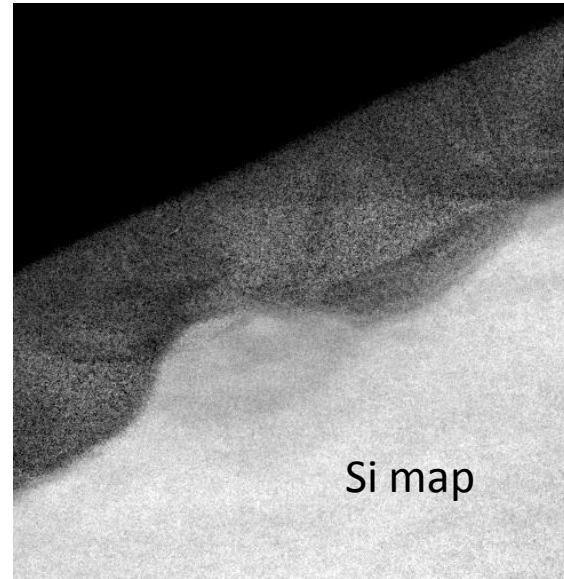


## Cross-section on Ni-Si alloying

Zero loss



Mapping at the interface

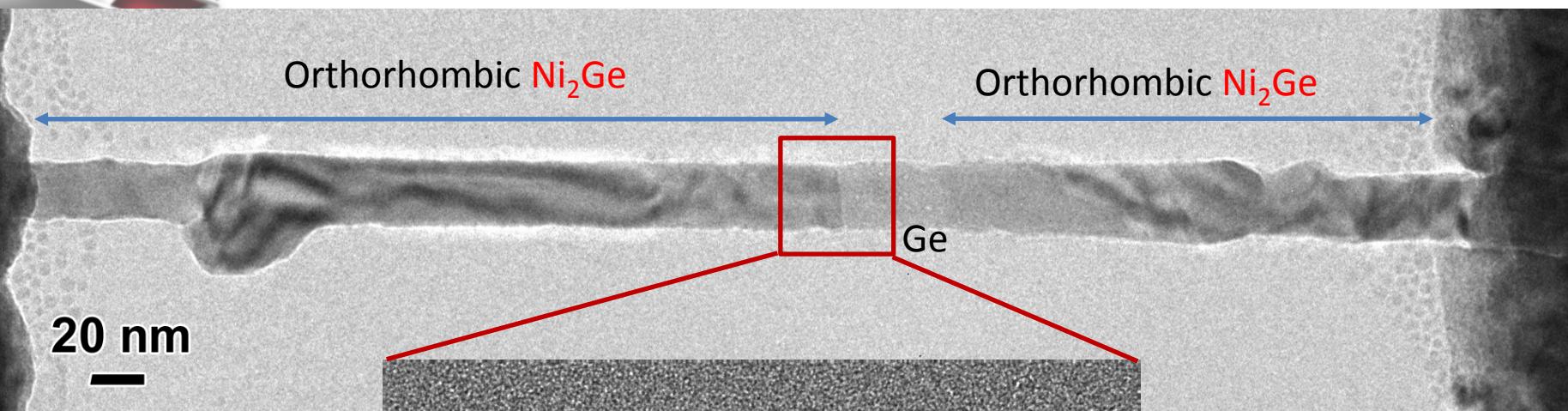


Ni map

Si map

Collaborated with  
Prof. Shadi Dayeh @  
UCSD

# Heating experiment



20 nm

(111)

(220)

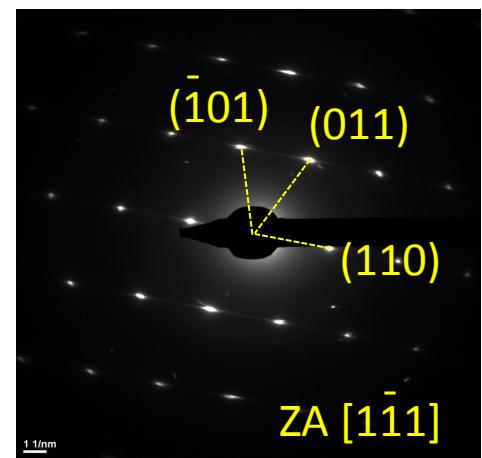
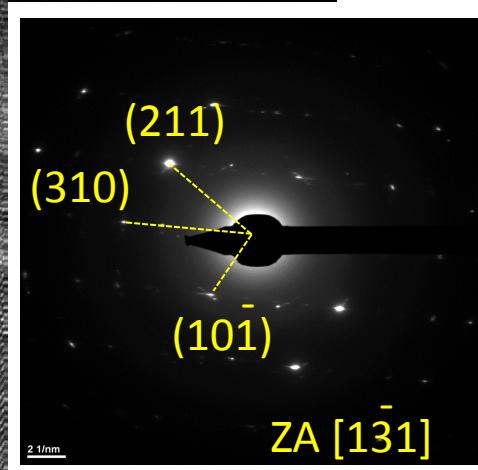
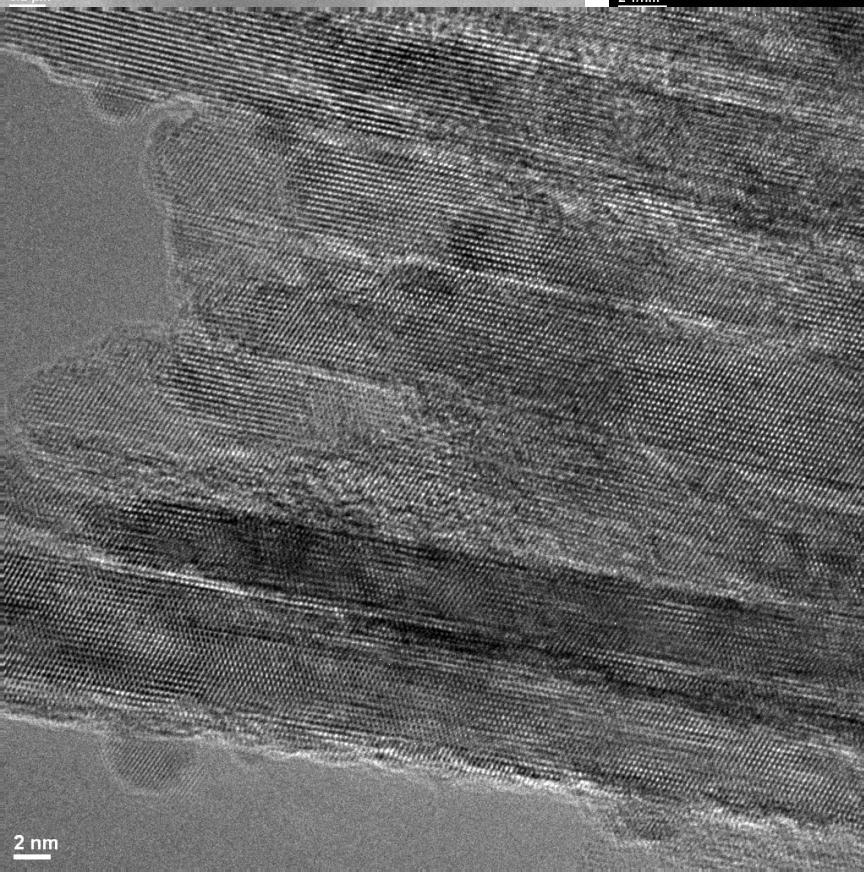
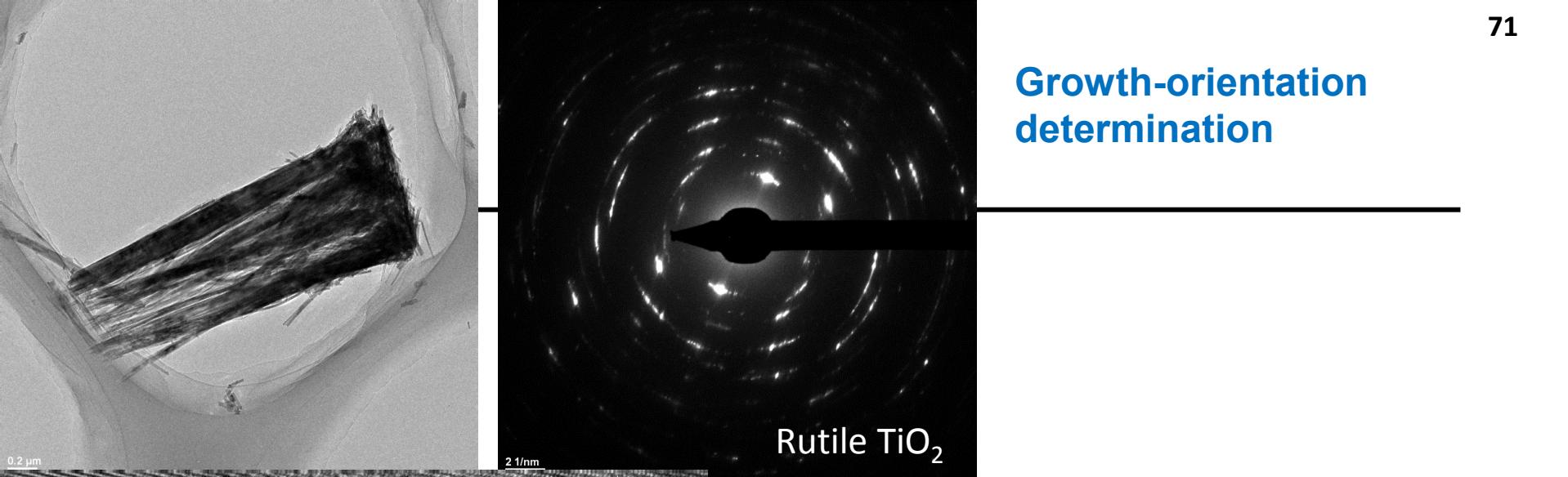
Cubic Ge

ZA [112]

Figure 3 consists of two panels. Panel (a) is a high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) image showing a curved interface between two materials. A yellow arrow on the left points to the interface, and a white arrow on the right points to a specific region. A scale bar of 2 nm is located in the bottom left corner. Panel (b) is a selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern. It shows several indexed reflections in red, including (200), (211), and (011) for the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Ge}$  phase, and ZA [011] for the  $\text{ZnAl}_3$  phase. The SAED pattern is overlaid on a grayscale image of the interface.

Collaborated with Dr. Binh-Minh  
Nguyen@ LANL, Prof. Shadi Dayeh  
@ UCSD





## Growth-orientation determination

The growth direction is  $\langle 310 \rangle \times \langle 110 \rangle = \langle 001 \rangle$

Collaborated with Prof. Wenzhi Li @ FIU

## Cross section of <111> Si nanowires with position well-controlled

