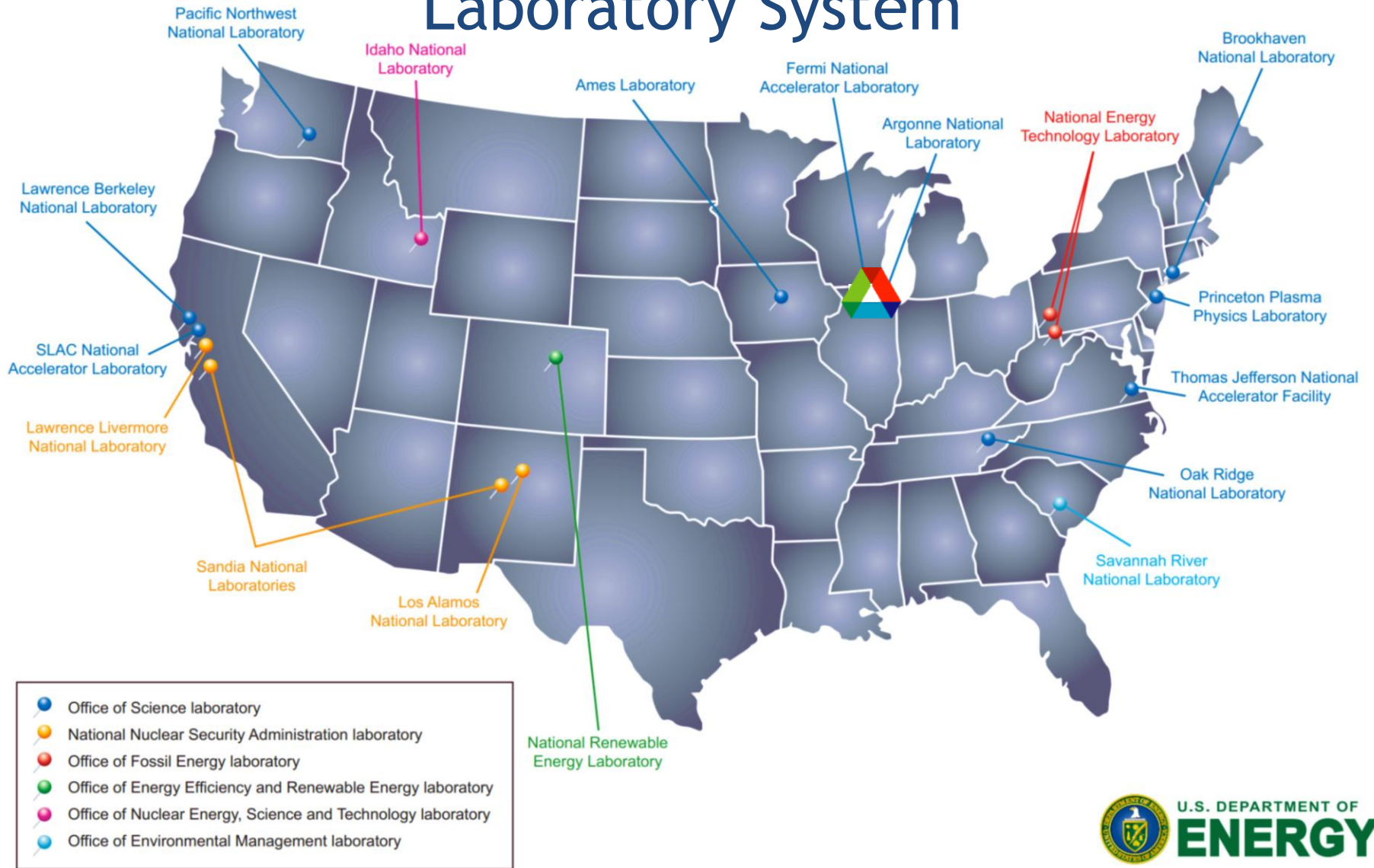


# Energy Technologies at Scale: Nanoscience by the Ton

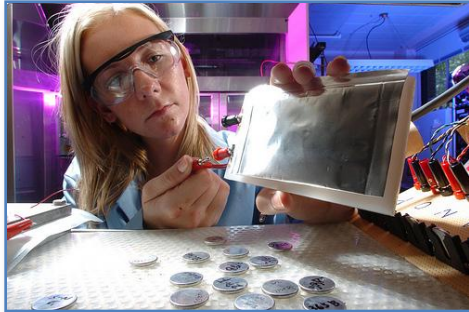
**2014 International Symposium on Energy Technology and Strategy**

Peter Littlewood, Laboratory Director  
Argonne National Laboratory  
[pblittlewood@anl.gov](mailto:pblittlewood@anl.gov)

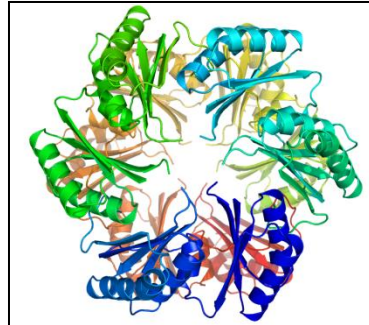
# Argonne - a vital part of DOE National Laboratory System



# Argonne's mission: To provide science-based solutions to pressing global challenges



Energy  
Science



Environmental  
Sustainability



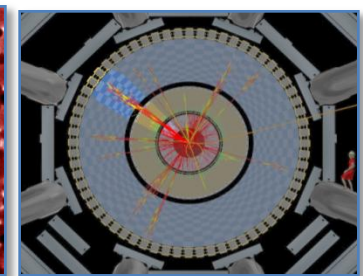
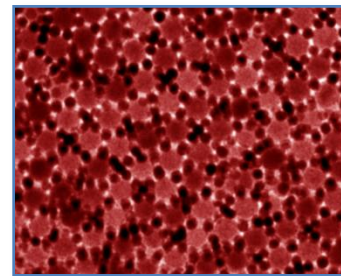
Nuclear and  
National Security

*Use-Inspired Science and Engineering...*

*...Discovery and Transformational Science and Engineering*



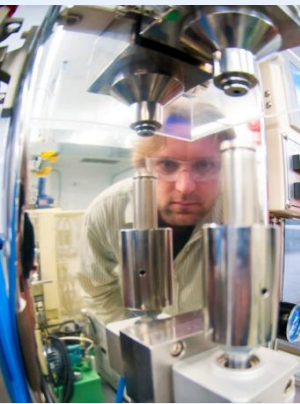
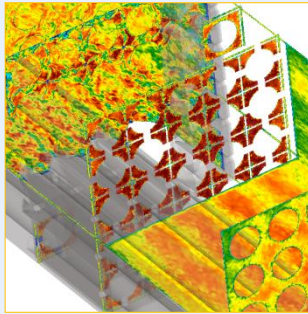
Major User Facilities



Science and Technology Programs







# Major research areas and key priorities

Hard x-ray sciences

Leadership computing and computational science

Energy storage

Materials for energy

Sustainable transportation

Nuclear energy and security

Biological and environmental systems



# Argonne's world-class suite of user facilities



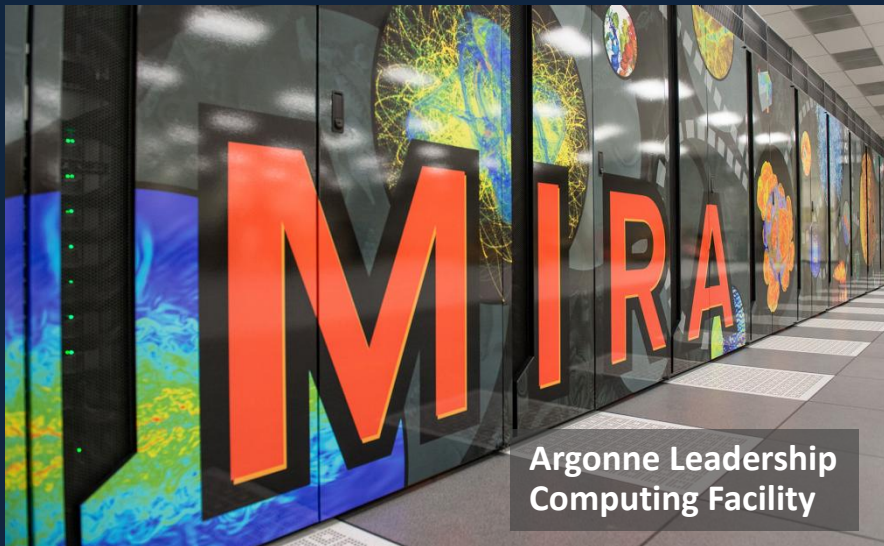
Advanced Photon Source



Argonne Tandem Linear Accelerator System



Center for Nanoscale Materials



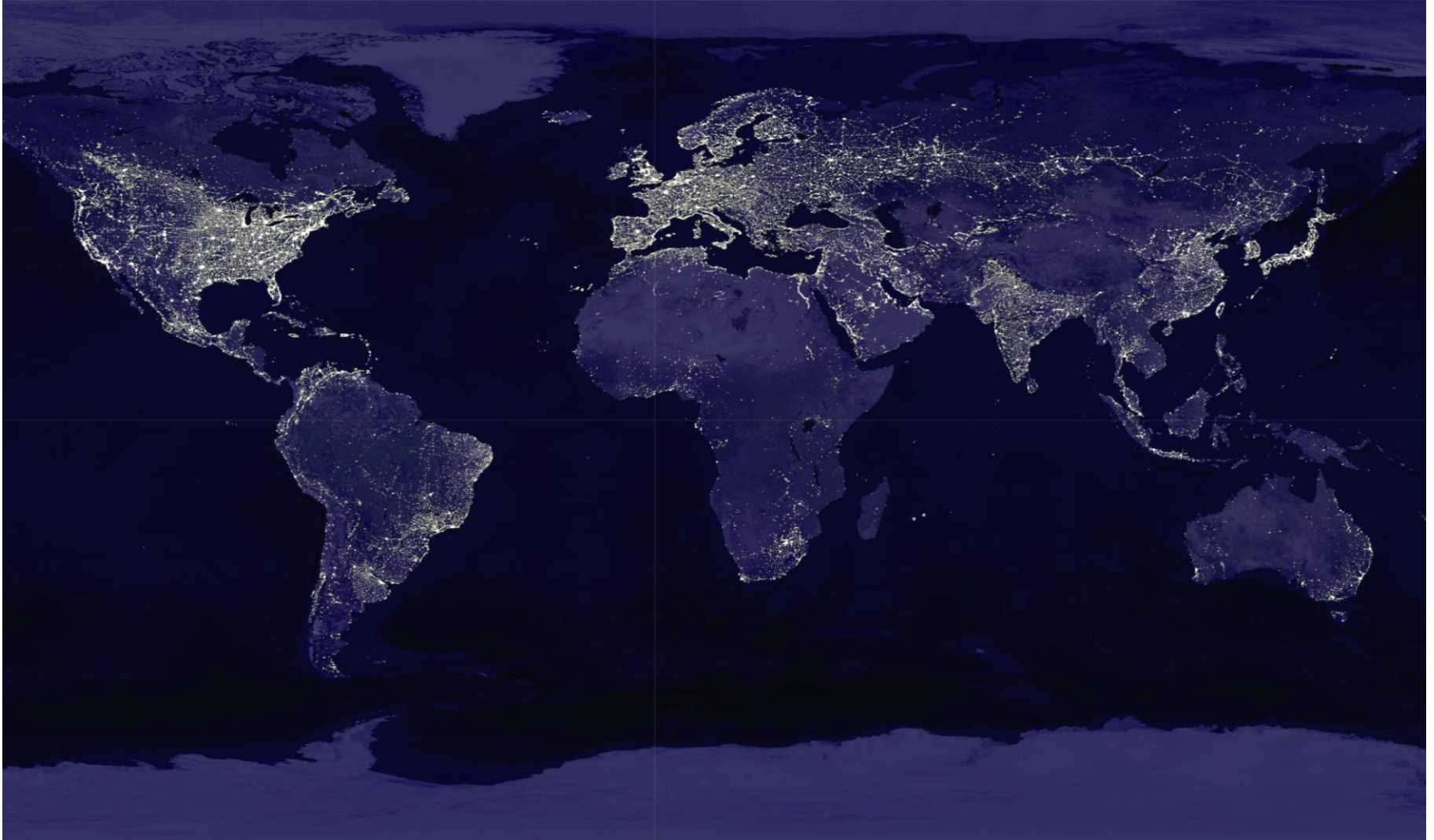
Argonne Leadership Computing Facility



Electron Microscopy Center



Today, our mission is to solve the world's greatest challenges - with scalable solutions



# Outline

- Scale : generation, storage and transmission of energy from renewable sources
- Cost : technology measured in \$/kg
- Science
  - 20<sup>th</sup> century condensed matter physics has evolved along with its technologies --- transistor, laser, display --- to maximise information capacity in dense packages for consumption
  - how will our science evolve along with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology pulls?
- How much headroom, and how?

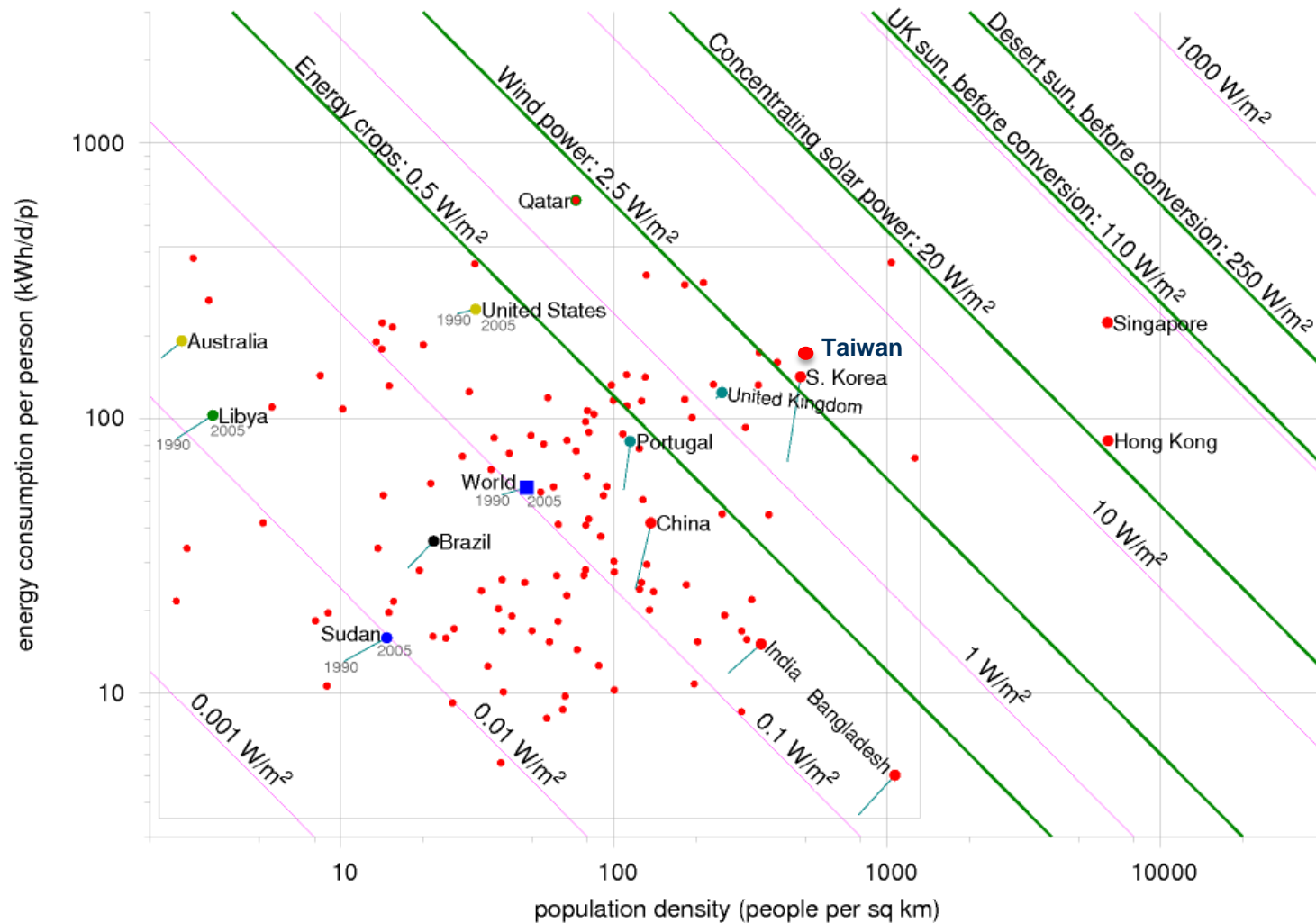


# Sources of renewable energy and the needs of the planet





# Renewables must be deployed on country-sized scale



Courtesy D J Mackay, UK DECC



# Solar: the energy input

- Solar insolation is the major energy input to the planet
- Mean radiative solar flux =  $341.5 \text{ W/m}^2$
- This energy gets redistributed into other degrees of freedom
  - thermalised into infra-red --- “heat”
  - wind energy
  - wave energy
  - rainfall

## How much do we need ?

USA average power consumption = 3 TeraWatt (Taiwan  $\sim 0.16 \text{ TW}$ )

10 kW per person (Taiwan  $\sim 7 \text{ kW}$ )

5 billion microwave ovens

Solar flux on  $10,000 \text{ km}^2$  = Delaware + Rhode Island





# Solar photovoltaics in the USA



Photo courtesy SEPA

- The US uses 3 TeraWatts of power, averaged over the day
- In 2011 2 GigaWatts (peak) installed in US (about 20GW worldwide)
- Unfortunately the rating assumes  $1\text{kW}/\text{m}^2$  intensity of insolation (mid-day in Arizona)
- In practice, the average power is probably 20-30% of peak (at best) – so this is 0.02% of demand ....
- Can we scale this up ?

<https://financere.nrel.gov/finance/content/calculating-total-us-solar-energy-production-behind-the-meter-utility-scale>



# Technologies by volume

Global shipments of silicon wafers  
1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012  
2033 million square inches<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: semi.org

**1.2 square kilometers**

[Global Foundries Fab 8 in Malta NY]



# 2011 Solar PV Capacity in USA - 2 GW (peak) 10 square kilometers





3 TW @ 300 W/m<sup>2</sup> (Full insolation in AZ) 10000 km<sup>2</sup>



3 TW @ 80 W/m<sup>2</sup> 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
State of the art PV - 30% efficient





3 TW @ 30W/m<sup>2</sup> 100000 km<sup>2</sup>

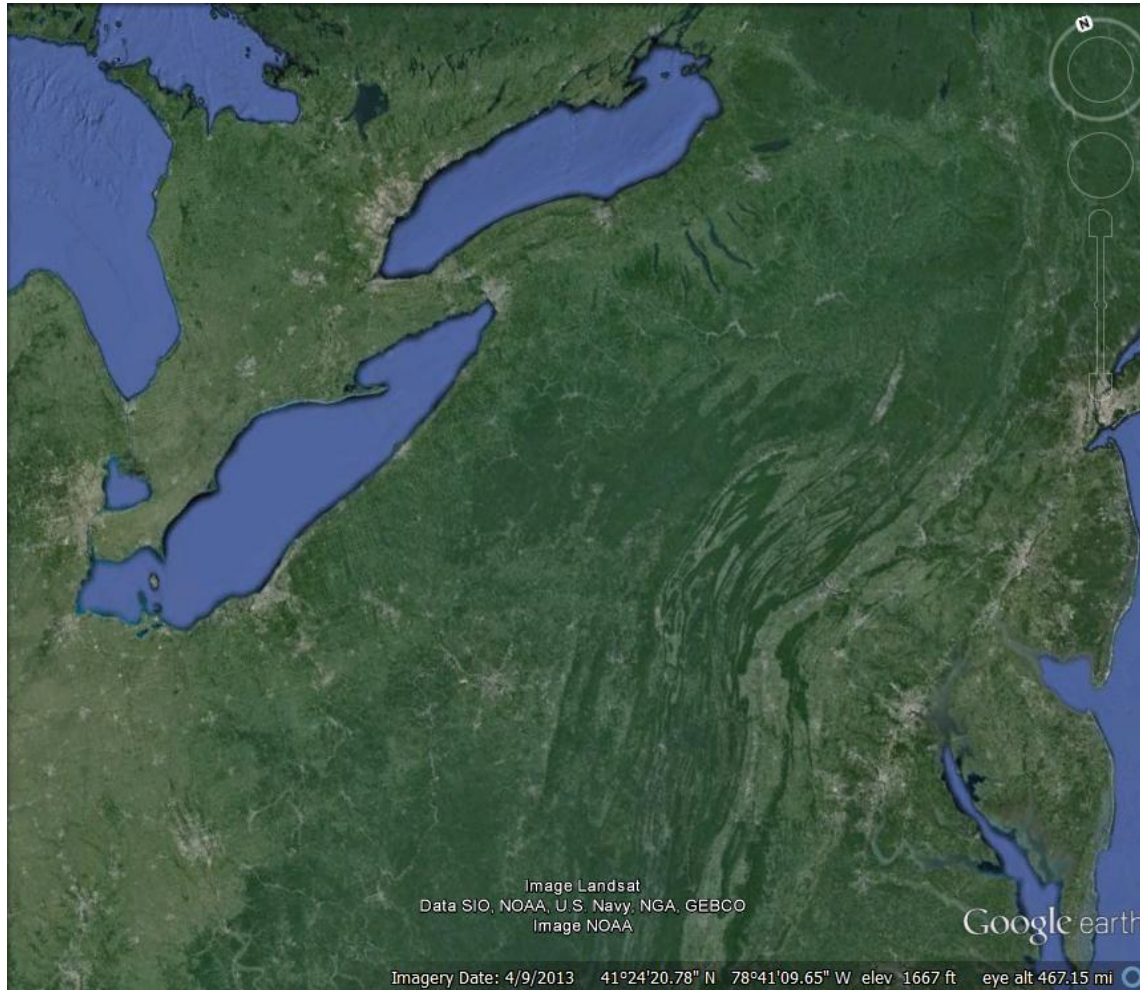
Typical solar PV installation ~ 10% efficient





3 TW @ 5W/m<sup>2</sup> 600000 km<sup>2</sup>

Typical installed PV under cloudy conditions



# Challenges of geography, efficiency, and cost

	Power density Watt/m <sup>2</sup>
Full insolation Arizona desert	300
Concentrated solar power (desert)	15-20
Solar photovoltaic	5-80
Biomass	1-2
Tidal pools/tidal stream	3-8
Wind	2-8
Rainwater (highland)	0.3
US energy consumption (all sources)	0.3

In the US:

Solar + wind + storage + grid infrastructure = Sustainable economy

In the Global South:

Solar + storage+ refrigeration+ lighting = Education and healthcare



# Backing up grid renewables with storage

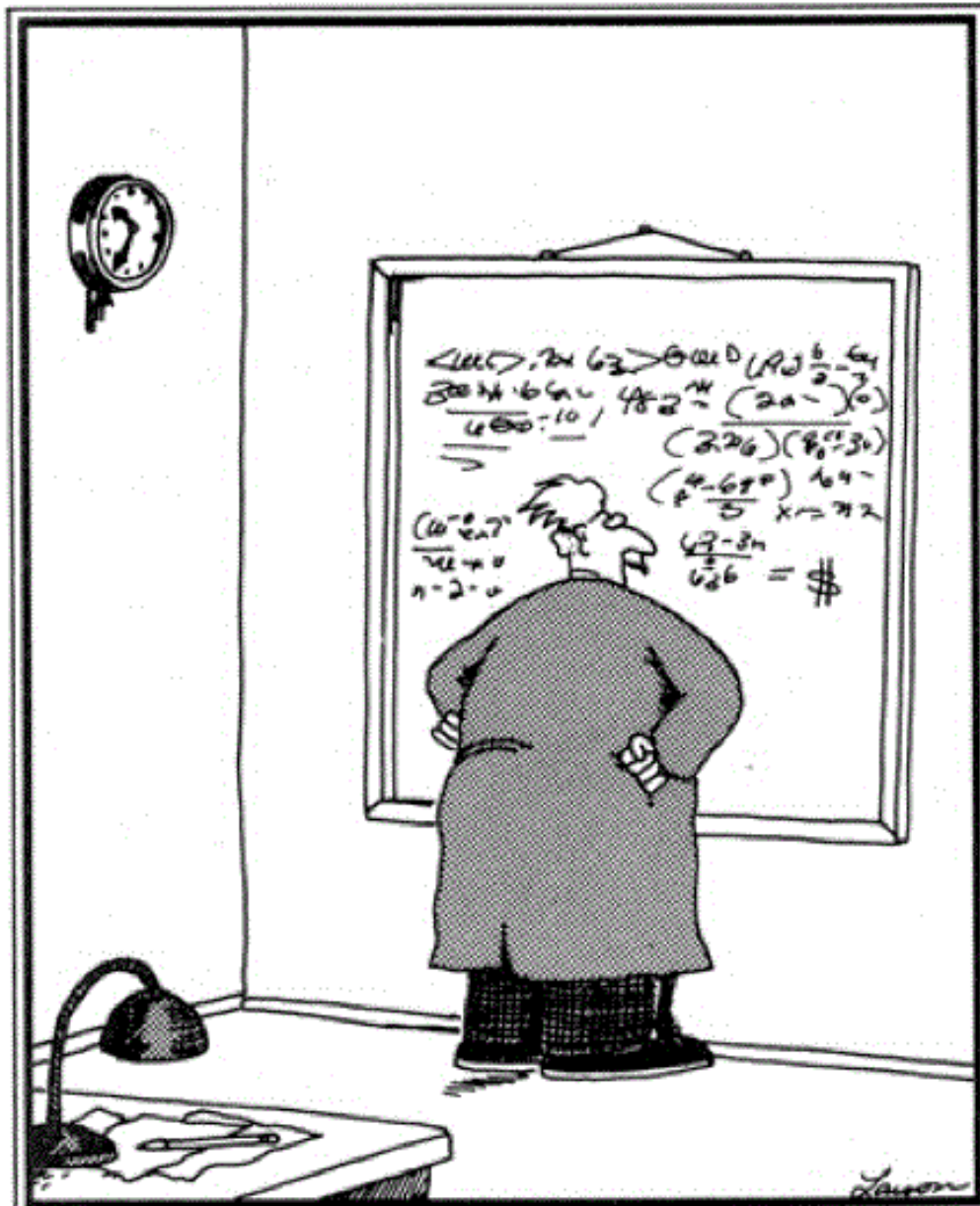


3 Terawatts x 12 hours equals:

9 times the **annual** energy generated by the Hoover Dam

$10^8$  tons of Li-ion batteries:  $\sim 10^3$  times current production





Einstein discovers that time is actually money





# The (energy) cost of making things

# Materials are energy, and energy is money

Energy input accounts for:

- 1/3 cost of steel (\$1/kg)
- 1/2 cost of aluminum (\$2.50/kg)

iPad  
Cost: \$500  
Weight: 0.6 kg  
**\$1,000/kg**



Boeing 787-9  
\$243M  
180,000kg  
**\$1,500/kg**

Honda Civic 1.8  
\$16,000  
1,210 kg  
**\$13/kg**



Ground beef  
**\$10/kg**



Enercon E-126  
7.58 MW  
\$10M  
6,000 tons  
**\$1.5/kg**  
Payback  
in 3-4 years  
at 10¢/kWh



# The cost of things is their energy input

	Price/\$	Energy consumed kWh	Implied cost of energy \$/kWh	Time to breakeven at 10c/kWh
1 kg steel*	1.00	7.5	0.13	
1 kg Al	2.50	16.2	0.15	
1 kg hamburger	10.00	1.9X50 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.11	
1 liter diesel	0.80	10	0.08	
1 kg wheat flour	1.00	4.3	0.23	
E-126 wind turbine <sup>(2)</sup>	\$10M/6000 ton= \$1.50/kg			3.5 years
Solar panel	\$1/Watt			4 years

\*1/3 of the cost of steel is the energy input

(1) *Energy factor – David Pimentel 1997*

(2) *Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Wind Turbine Price Index 7 Feb 2011*



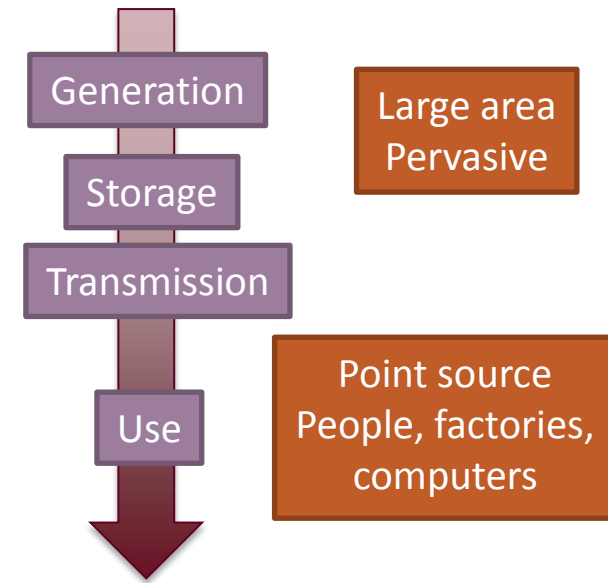


**How much headroom for new technologies ?**



# Transformative materials technologies for the electrified economy

- Solar PV for electricity generation (or solar to fuel)
- **Ultracapacitors/batteries for electrical storage**
- Superconductors for electrical transmission/motors
- Thermoelectrics for refrigeration/scavenging
- Light emitting diodes for electrical lighting
- Membranes for water purification/desalination



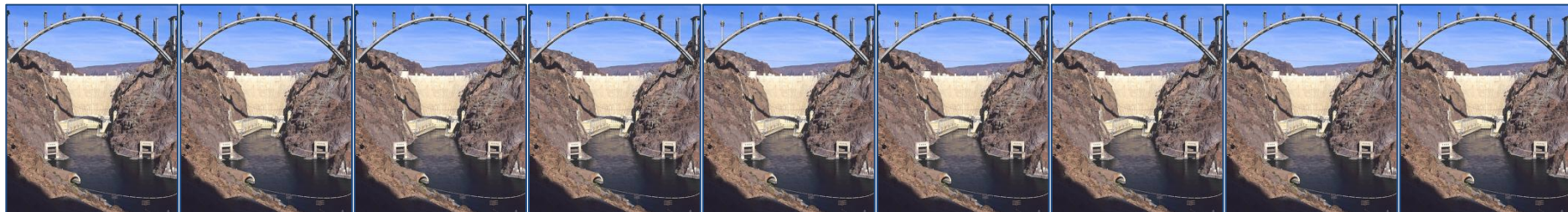
Point use is easier: smaller scale for fabrication, straightforward path to introduction  
Large scale disruptive technologies are very hard

Aside from the grid, we have no examples of implementing wide scale “by the ton” electrical materials technology



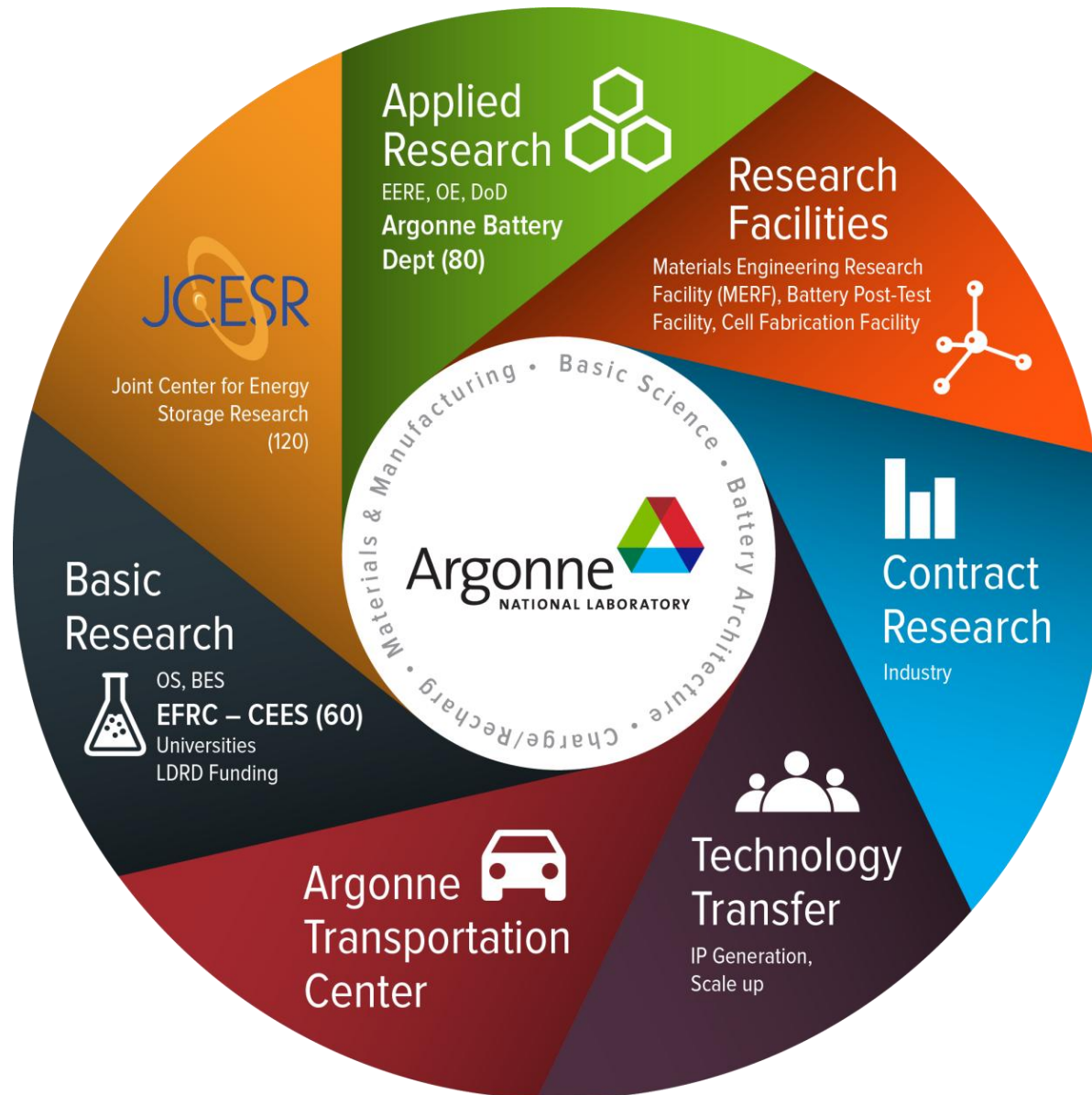
# Why electrical storage?

- Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries already a \$40B business (2011)
  - Improving at few percent per annum
  - **Can we do this faster?**
- Laggard technology
  - Around 1% theoretical efficiency; (lighting ~80%, solar PV ~30%)
  - **Can we do something much better?**
- Scale – To back up U.S. power use (~3 TeraWatt) for 12 hours takes:
  - 9x annual energy production of the Hoover Dam
  - 1,000x the annual production of Li-ion batteries
  - **Can we do something at scale?**

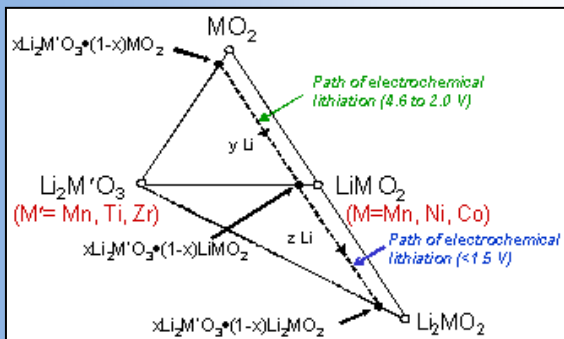




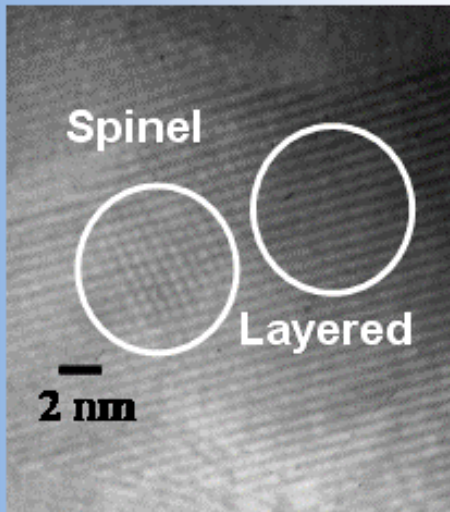
# Argonne's comprehensive energy storage portfolio



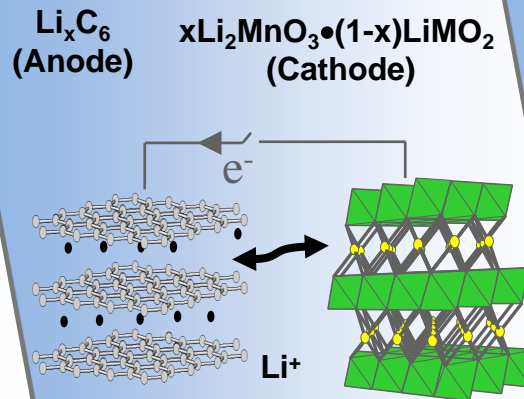
# Argonne's Li-ion battery research program: From fundamental research to cars on the road



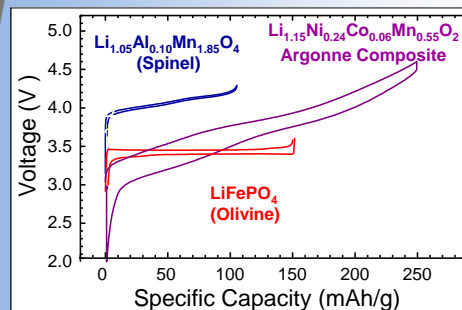
Discovered new composite structures for stable, high-capacity cathodes



Tailored electrode materials

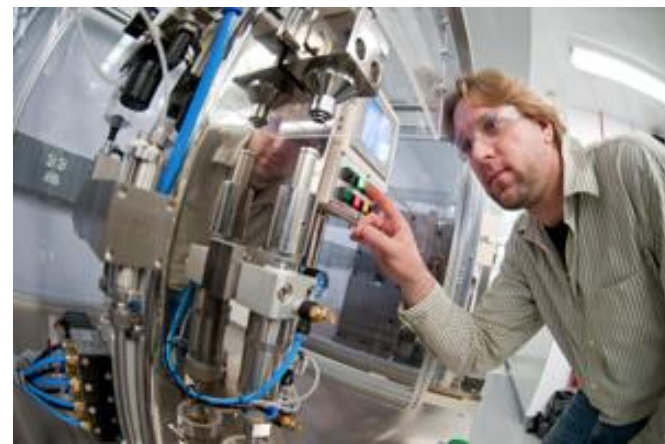


Created high-energy Li-ion cells with double cathode capacity, enhanced stability



Licenses to materials cell manufacturers and automobile companies

# Argonne provides scale-up research in energy storage, offers testing facilities to users

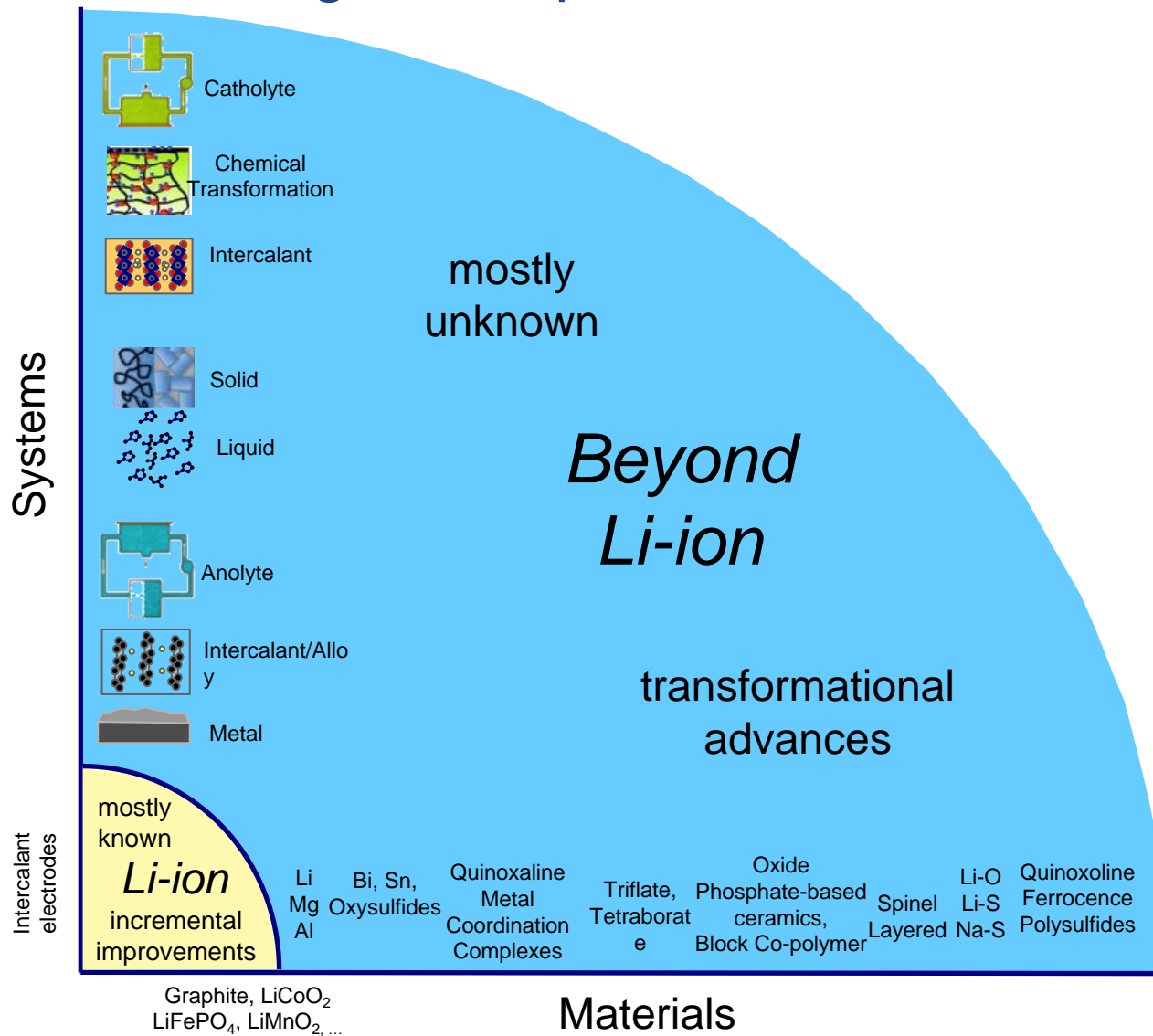




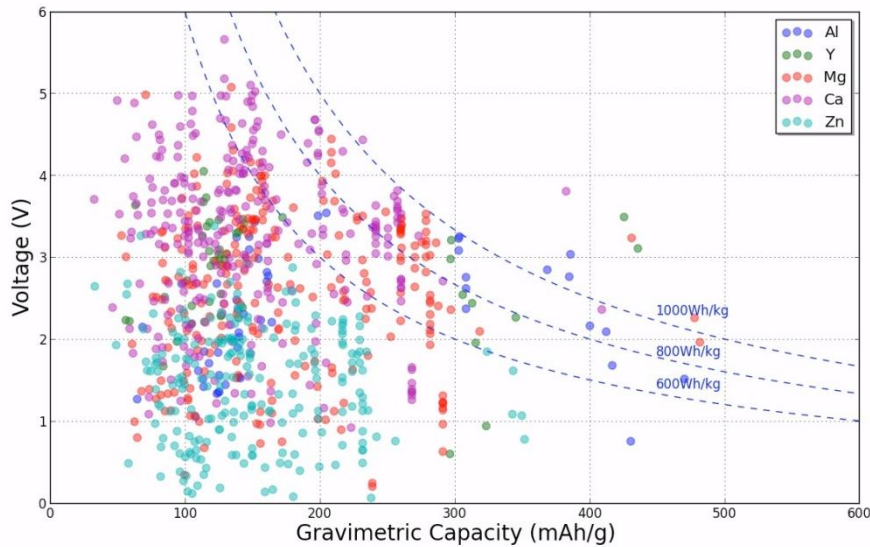
# JCESR: Strong affiliate group extends market reach



# Opportunity space beyond lithium-ion is large, unexplored and rich

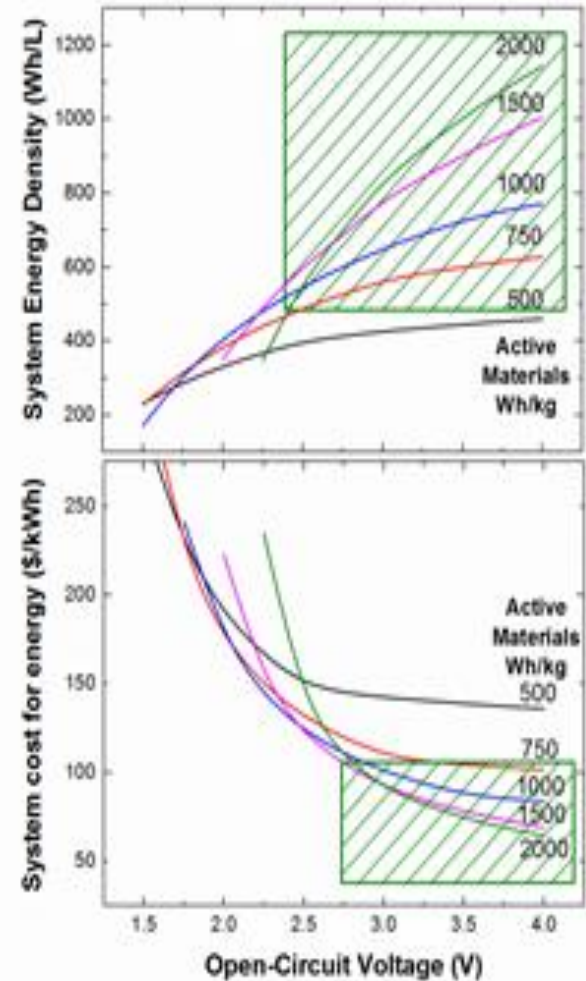
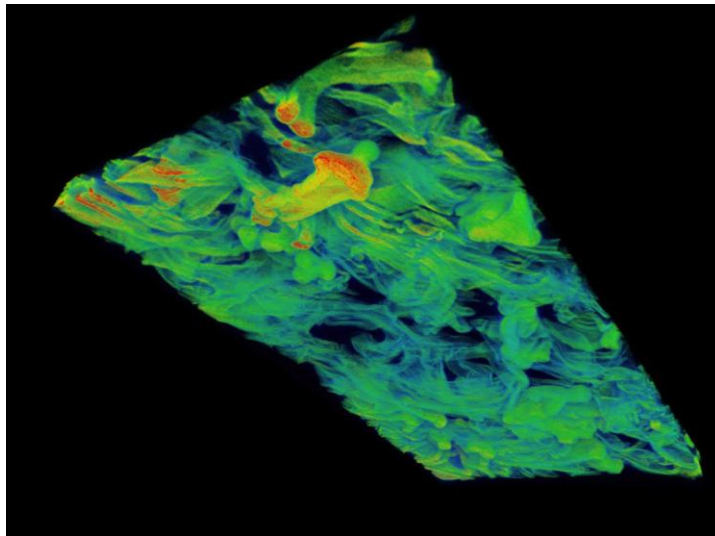


# Pruning the search tree



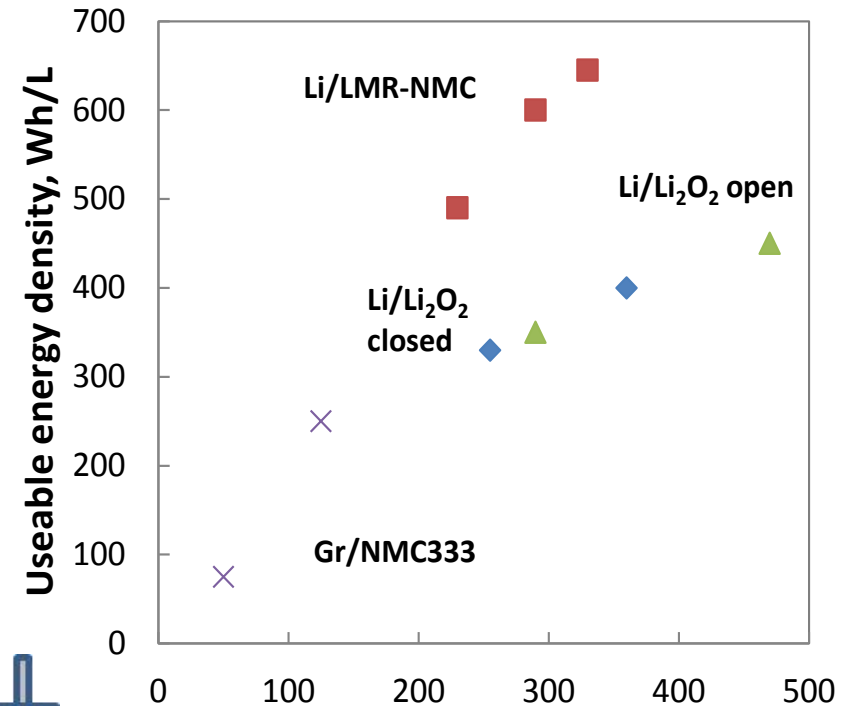
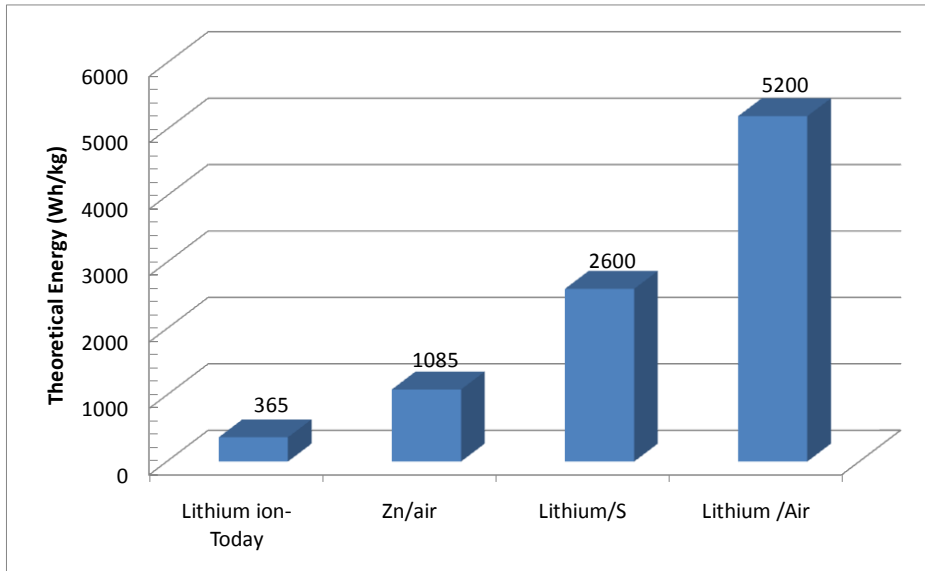
Screening of 1,800 intercalant hosts

*In operando*  
X-ray



Systems analysis and  
techno-economic modeling

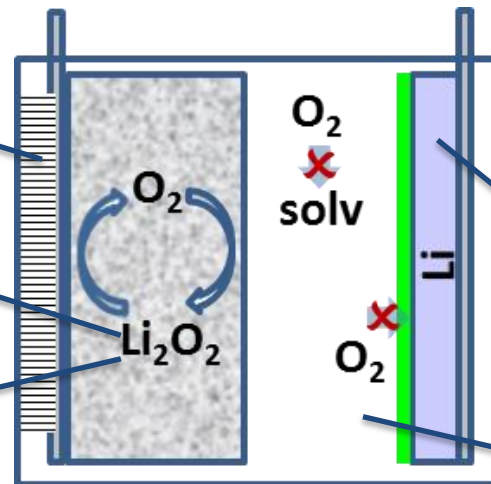
# Assessing the near-term challenges of lithium-air batteries



Oxygen ingress

Lithium peroxide is an insulator

Lithium peroxide growth/dissolution irreversible



Li metal very reactive, forms dendrites

Electrolyte unstable on oxygen electrode

Useable specific energy, Wh/kg

100 kWh<sub>use</sub>, 80 kWh<sub>net</sub> 360 V battery

Systems-level calculation

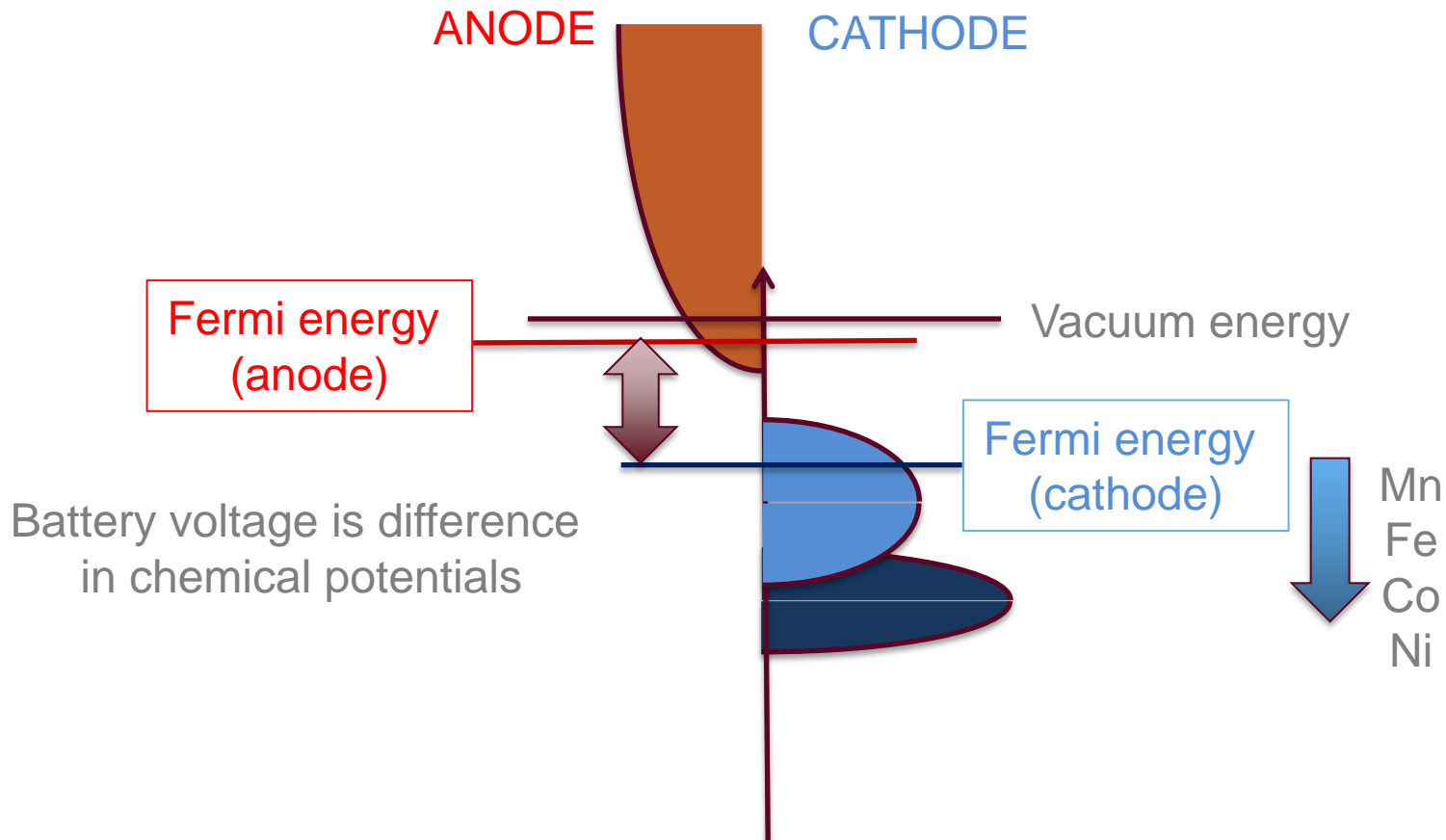
– ANL, GM, Berkeley NL





**Does this motivate fundamental science?**

# Battery basics



Want high density of states and deep levels (cathode)

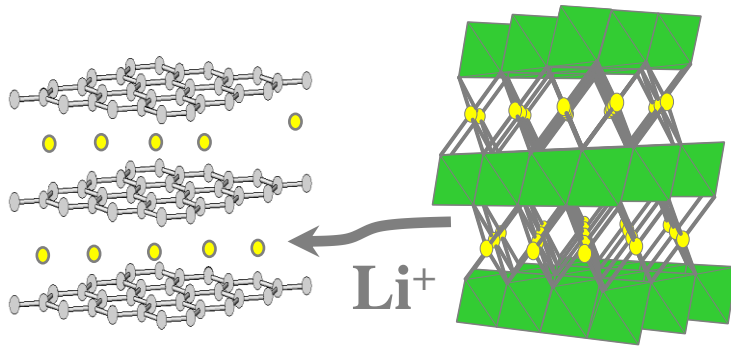
Want high density of states and shallow levels (anode)

Must be able to reversibly shift chemical potentials by ion transport ( $\text{Li}^+$ )

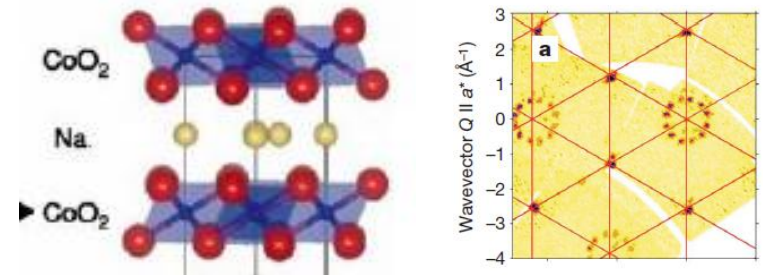
Non-reactive electrolyte

# Energy dense materials are strongly correlated

Li-ion battery, commercialised by Sony in 1991  
 $\text{Li}_x \text{C}_6$  (anode) /  $\text{Li}_{1-x} \text{CoO}_2$  (cathode)  
 $x$  limited to  $\sim 0.5$

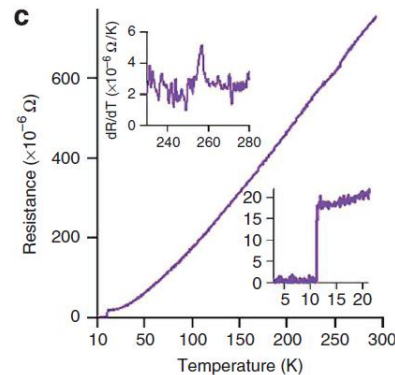
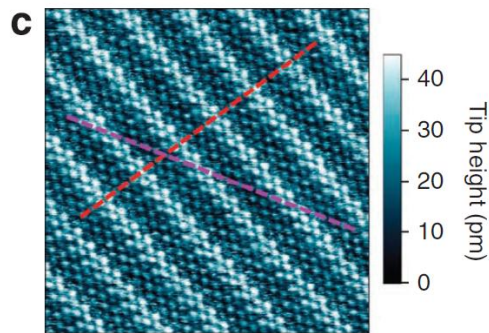


$\text{Na}_x \text{CoO}_2$   
 Enhanced thermopower, 5K superconductor  
 vacancy ordered phases



$\text{CaC}_6$   
 12K superconductor; 250K CDW

Roger et al. 2007 doi:10.1038/nature05531



This is not an accident!

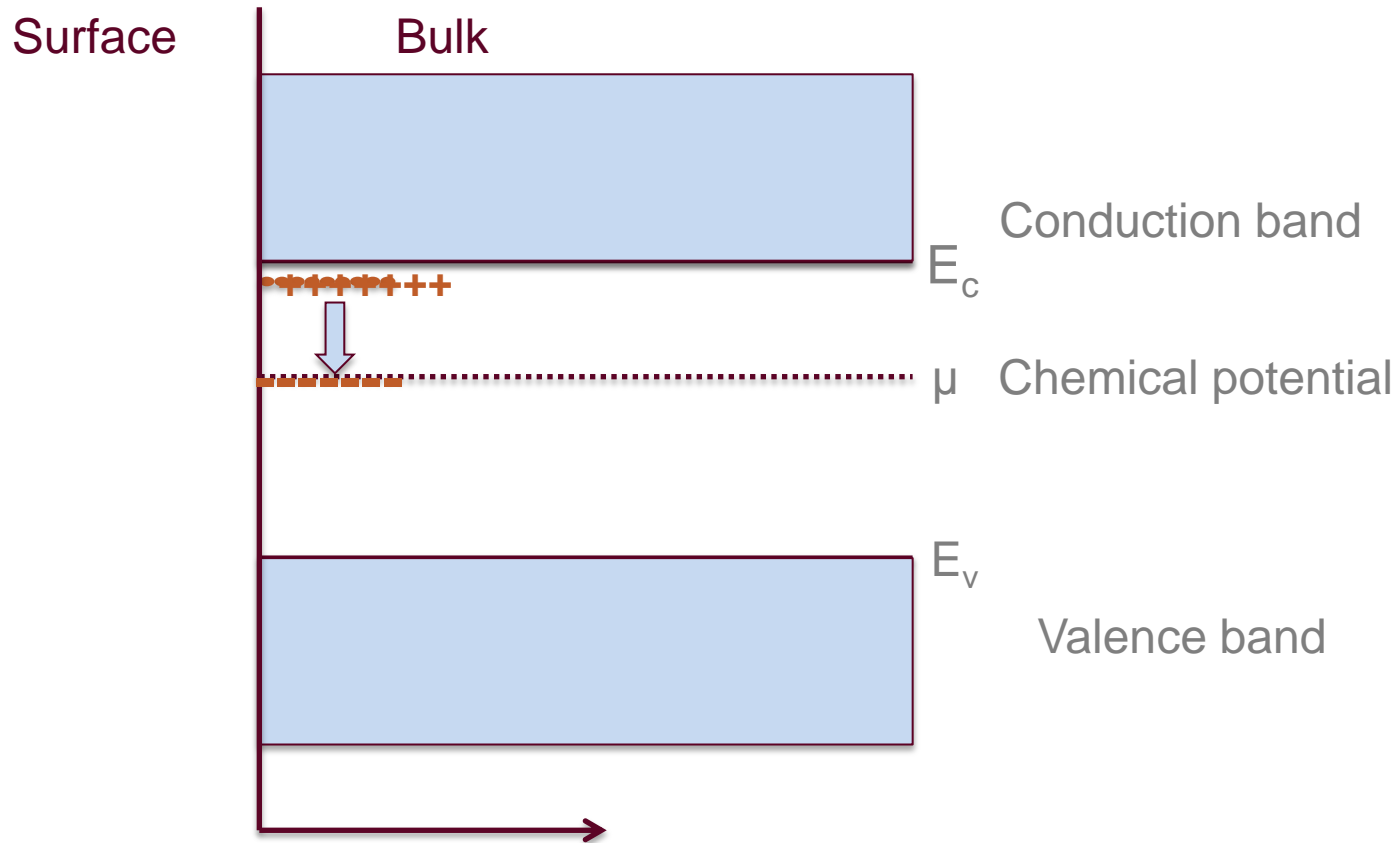
# Energy dense materials are strongly correlated

- Cathodes are best made from “strongly correlated” materials
  - Strongly bound, narrow bands with a large density of states
  - Also need large ratio of Li to transition metal (weight)
  - But they often have Mott transitions/Jahn Teller effects which lead to insulating behavior
- Anodes are usually made from weakly correlated materials
  - $\text{TiO}_2$ , graphite, graphene,  $\text{C}_{60}$  ----- weakly bound states, chemical potential near vacuum
  - But lowish density of states means there is less capacity: eg  $\text{LiC}_6$  is the maximum capacity of Li in graphite





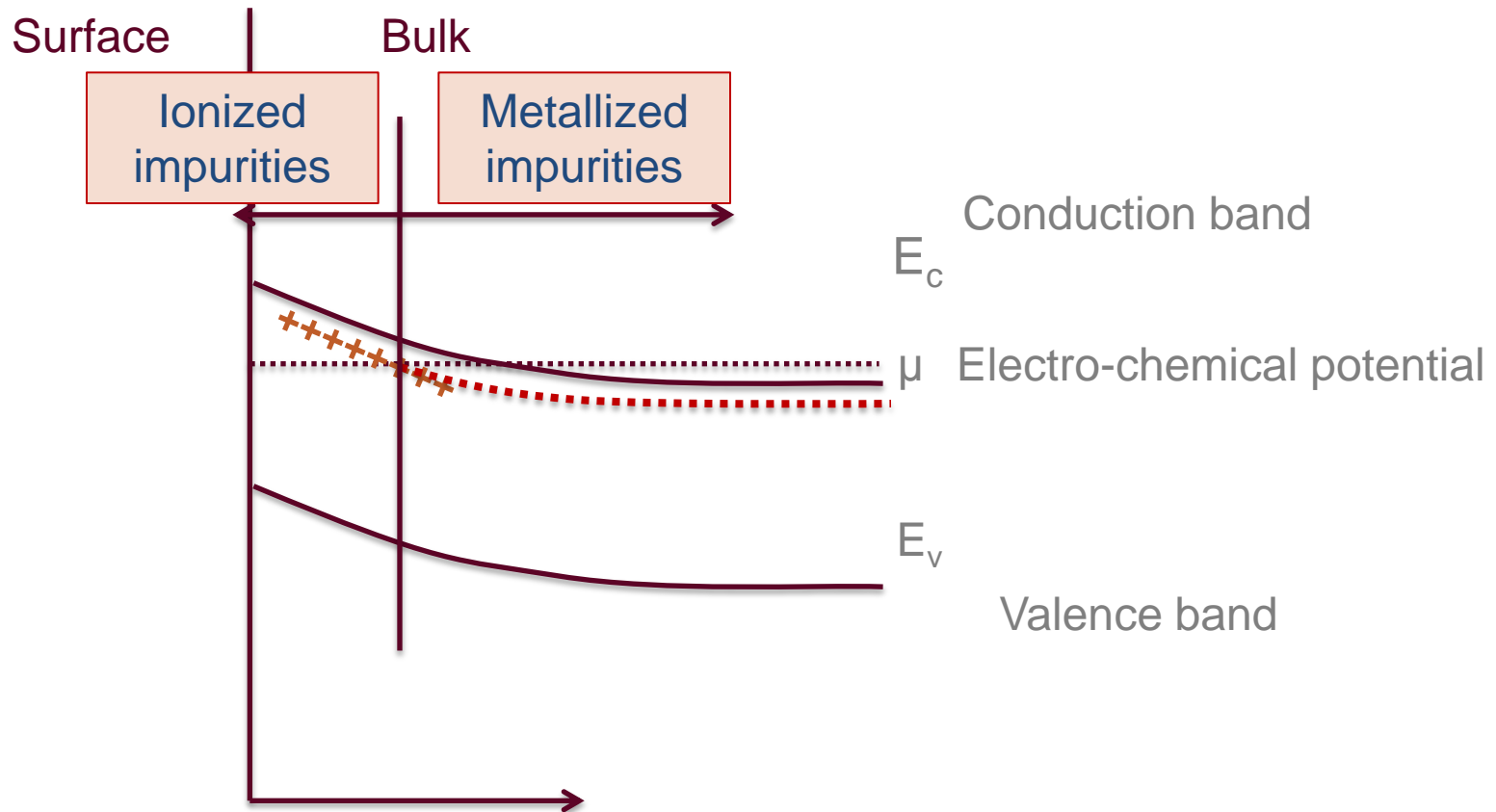
# Doping of conventional semiconductor



Add dopant (including associated electron) near the interface  
Dopants ionize and electrons delocalise



# Doping of conventional semiconductor



Charge separation introduces electrical potential which shifts the band edge  
Weakly bound carriers metallize , depletion layer at interface

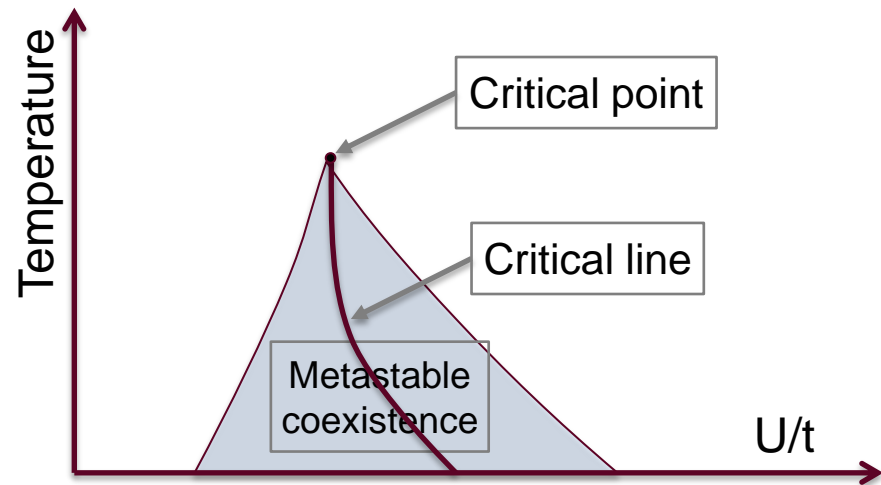
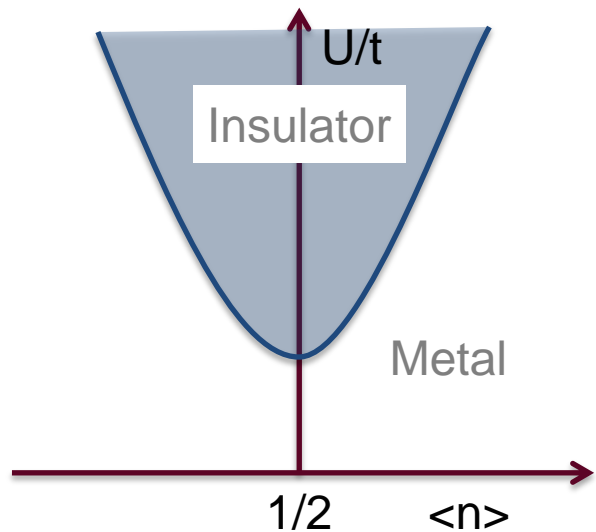


# Mott insulator

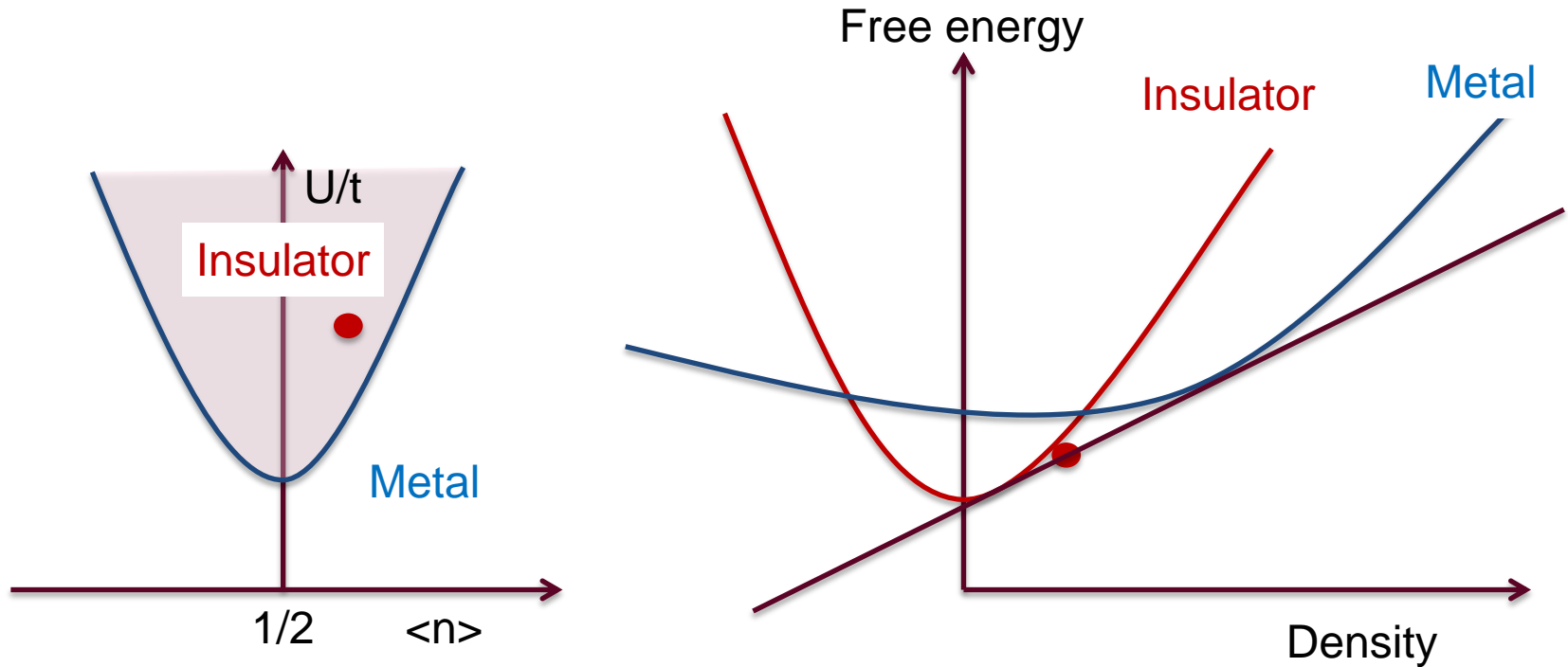
- Generic model due to Mott, Hubbard --- competition between hopping “t” and Coulomb “U”

$$H = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} \hat{c}_i^\dagger \hat{c}_j + \sum_i U \hat{n}_{i\uparrow} \hat{n}_{i\downarrow}$$

- Near half-filling, induces insulating/magnetic states by a discontinuous **first-order** phase transition



# Doping of a Mott insulator

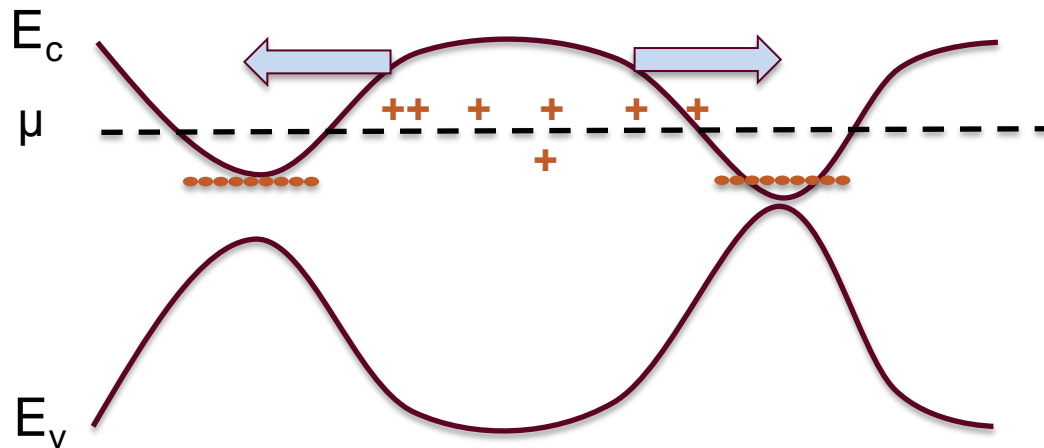


Expect phase separation and an inhomogeneous state  
"Frustrated" by Coulomb interaction



# Inhomogeneous phases in Mott systems

Mobile donors diffuse to form metallic puddles and screen Coulomb repulsion of phase-separating carriers

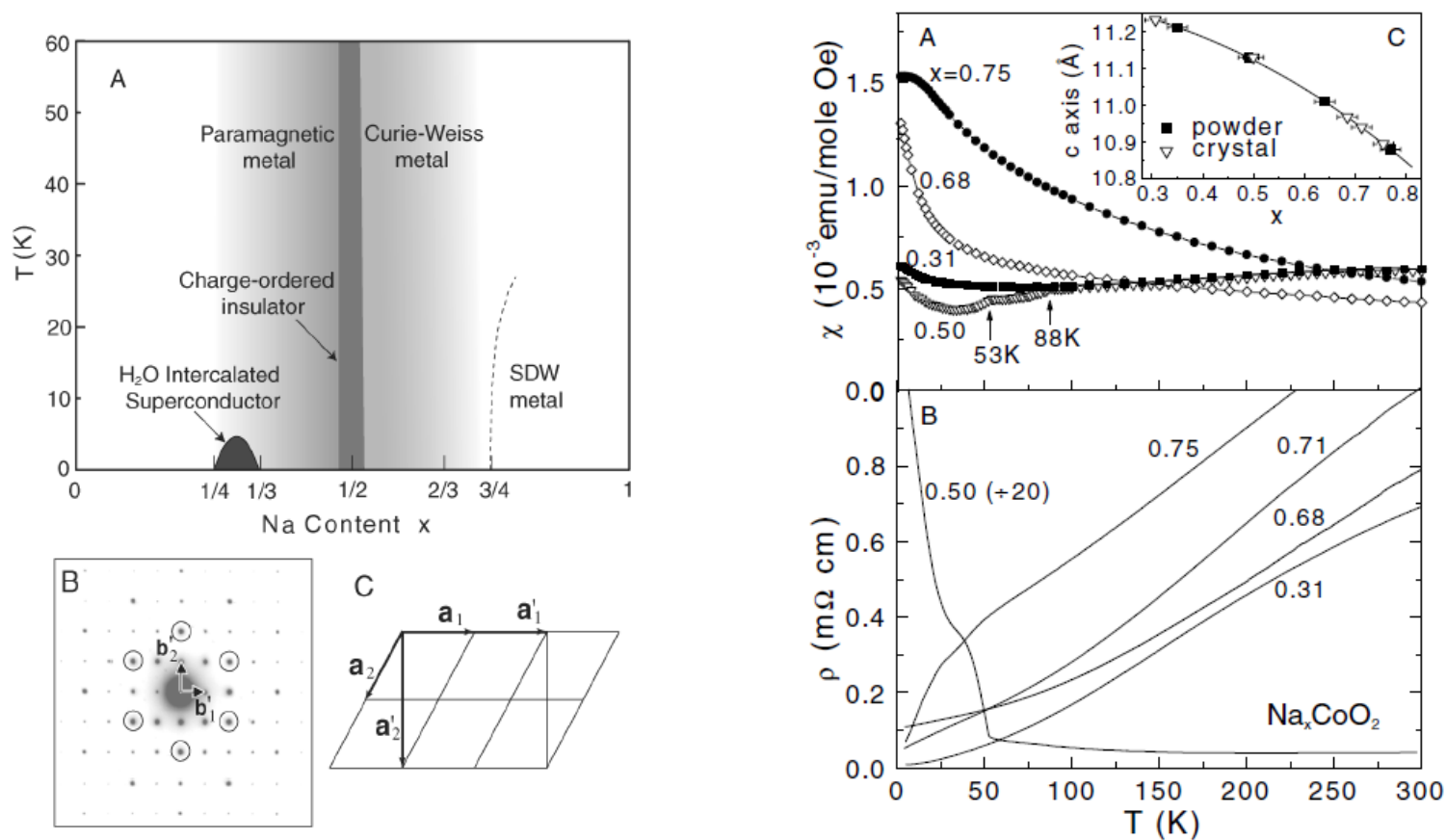


This is a generic feature of any system with a first-order phase transitions separating stable phases of differing electron density

Particularly prevalent when dopant species are highly mobile –  
e.g. O vacancies and Li ions

## Charge Ordering, Commensurability, and Metallicity in the Phase Diagram of the Layered $\text{Na}_x\text{CoO}_2$

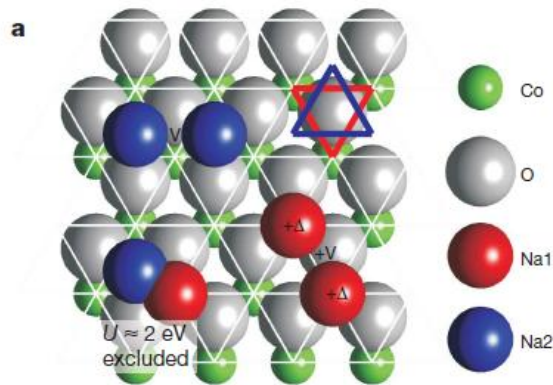
Maw Lin Foo,<sup>1</sup> Yayu Wang,<sup>2</sup> Satoshi Watauchi,<sup>1,\*</sup> H.W. Zandbergen,<sup>3,4</sup> Tao He,<sup>5</sup> R. J. Cava,<sup>1,3</sup> and N. P. Ong<sup>2,3</sup>



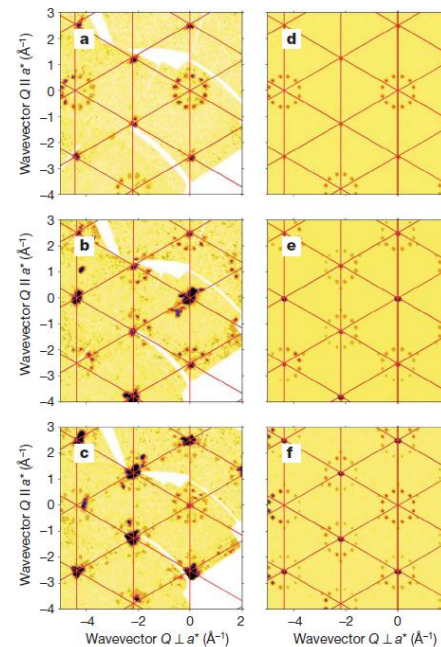
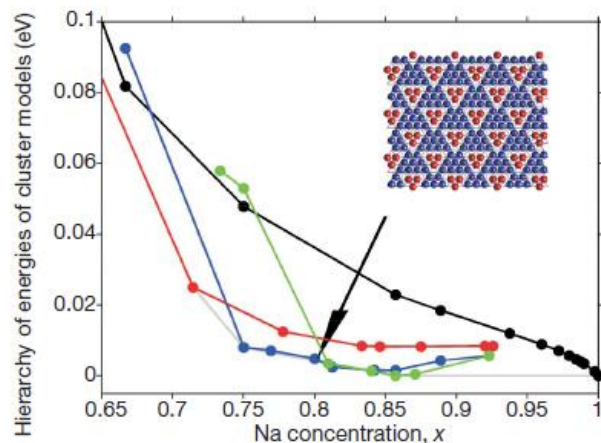
# Patterning of sodium ions and the control of electrons in sodium cobaltate

Vol 445 | 8 February 2007 | doi:10.1038/nature05531

M. Roger<sup>1</sup>, D. J. P. Morris<sup>2</sup>, D. A. Tennant<sup>3,4</sup>, M. J. Gutmann<sup>5</sup>, J. P. Goff<sup>2</sup>, J.-U. Hoffmann<sup>3</sup>, R. Feyerherm<sup>3</sup>, E. Dudzik<sup>3</sup>, D. Prabhakaran<sup>6</sup>, A. T. Boothroyd<sup>6</sup>, N. Shannon<sup>7</sup>, B. Lake<sup>3,4</sup> & P. P. Deen<sup>8</sup>



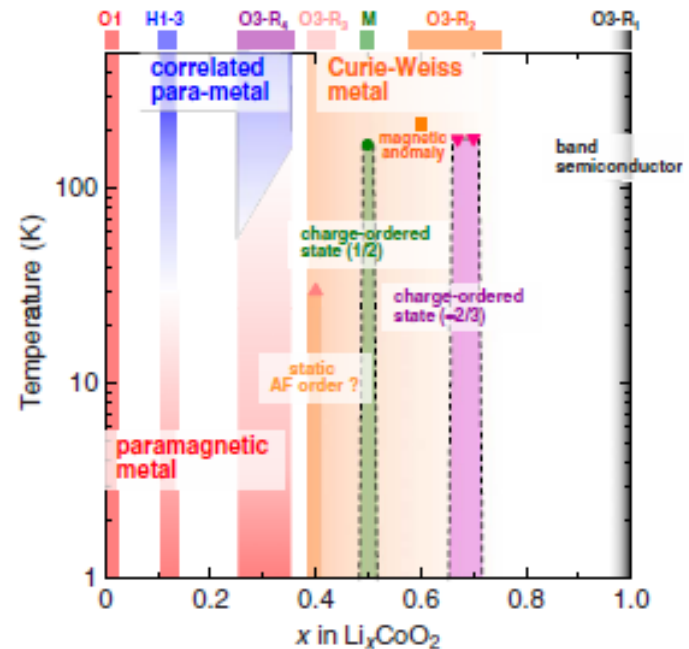
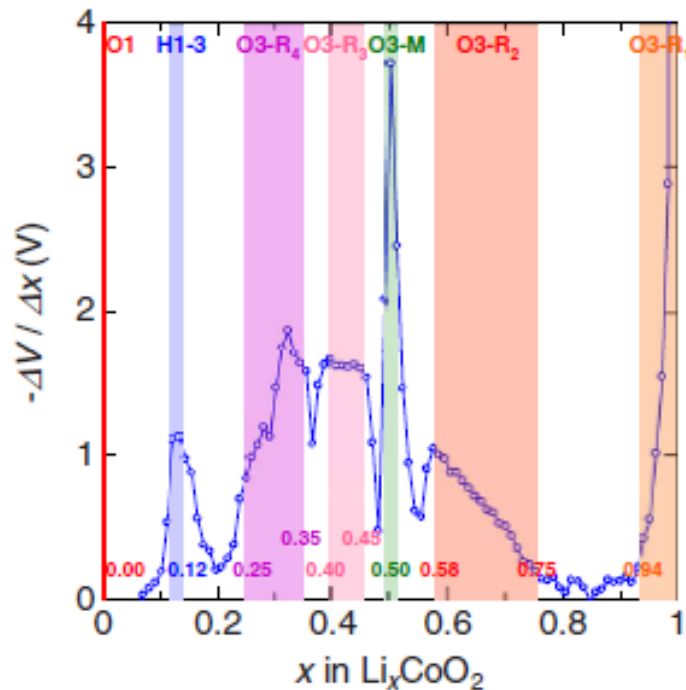
Ordered trivacancy phase  
of  $\text{Na}_{0.8}\text{CoO}_2$



### Electronic phase diagram of the layered cobalt oxide system $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$ ( $0.0 \leq x \leq 1.0$ )

T. Motohashi,<sup>1,2</sup> T. Ono,<sup>2,3</sup> Y. Sugimoto,<sup>1</sup> Y. Masubuchi,<sup>1</sup> S. Kikkawa,<sup>1</sup> R. Kanno,<sup>3</sup> M. Karppinen,<sup>2,4</sup> and H. Yamauchi<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Derivative of open cell voltage  $dV/dx$  indicates biphasic regions



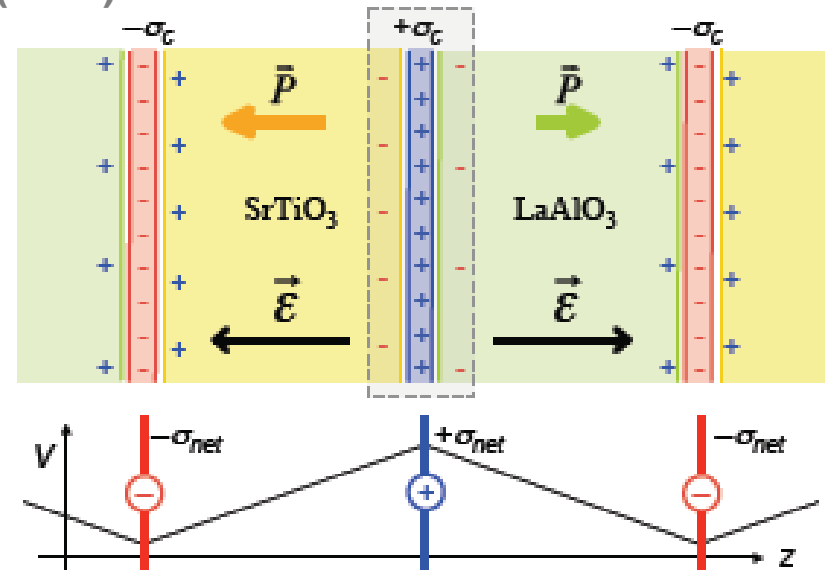
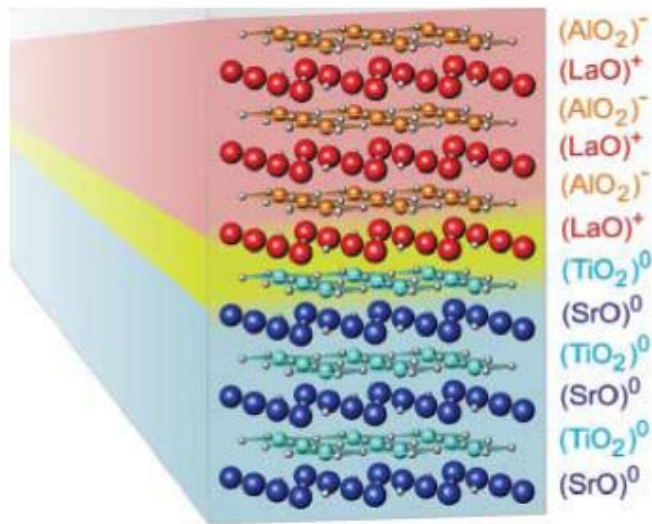


**What is actually possible?  
A thought experiment**



# Polar heterostructures demonstrate there is a possible solution

A Ohtomo & H Hwang, Nature 427, 423 (2004)



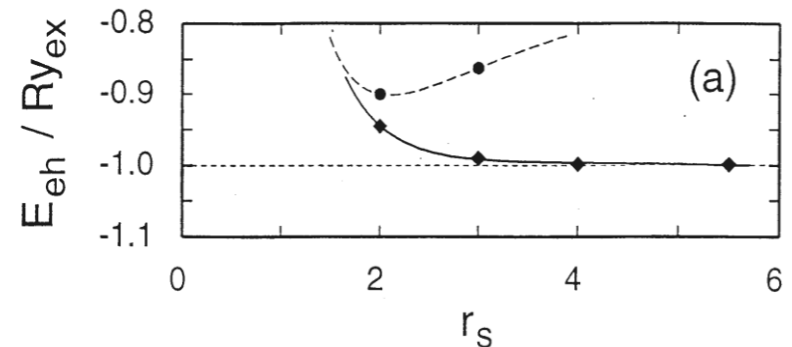
- Once voltage offset = bandgap, chemical potential of carriers controlled by external circuit
- Carriers are lattice-constant sized, so in principle density high
- There are a few issues with materials growth, defects, reconstructed surfaces etc ... currently a fictional and extremely expensive device



# Ultracapacitor / Photovoltaic

- Excitons: add electrons and holes in pairs
- Energy cost = Energy gap – binding energy + interaction energy
  - Tuned by external bias  $\sim 0$
- Capacitance is theoretically very large
  - Store one exciton/Bohr radius (Mott density)
- Intrinsic photovoltaic
  - Enormous internal field  $\sim V/nm$
- Quite possibly a high temperature superfluid or an exciton solid unless one is careful

Energy per pair (in exciton Rydberg) as a function of density



$$1/n = \frac{4\pi}{3}(a_{Bohr}r_s)^3$$

Zhu et al, PRB 54, 13575 (1996)



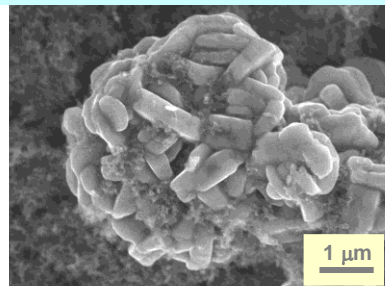
# Materials for Energy

## Creating transformational technologies: nanoscience by the ton

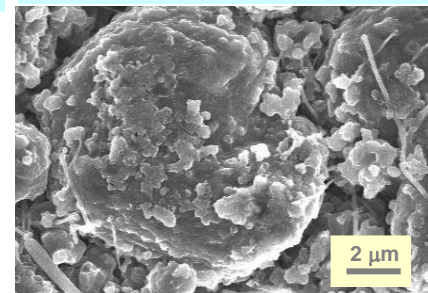
**Four magic technologies:** storage, photovoltaics, refrigeration and lighting depend on the science of *interfaces*.

- At least two orders of magnitude below optimal performance and too costly
- Devices are unnecessarily complicated, operation is poorly understood, and manufacturing difficult to control
- Major discoveries of new materials classes are rare and random
- There is no predictable path forward

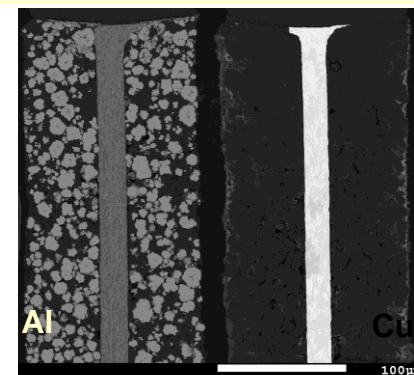
The cathode contains an oxide, carbon additives and PVdF binder



The anode contains graphite, carbon additives and PVdF binder



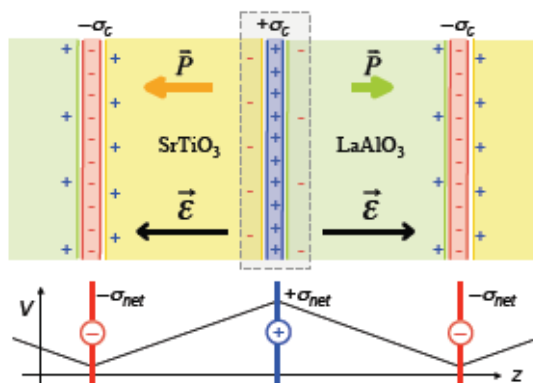
The cathode comprises an Al current collector coated on both sides. The anode comprises a Cu current collector coated on both sides.



Cathode    Separator    Anode

Photo image of an 18650 cell

Model “solar battery” with storage density of order gasoline ?





# Nanoscience by the ton

We need a road map for materials development that enables us to escape primitive technologies and have a predictable path forward – this is the science challenge of the next few decades

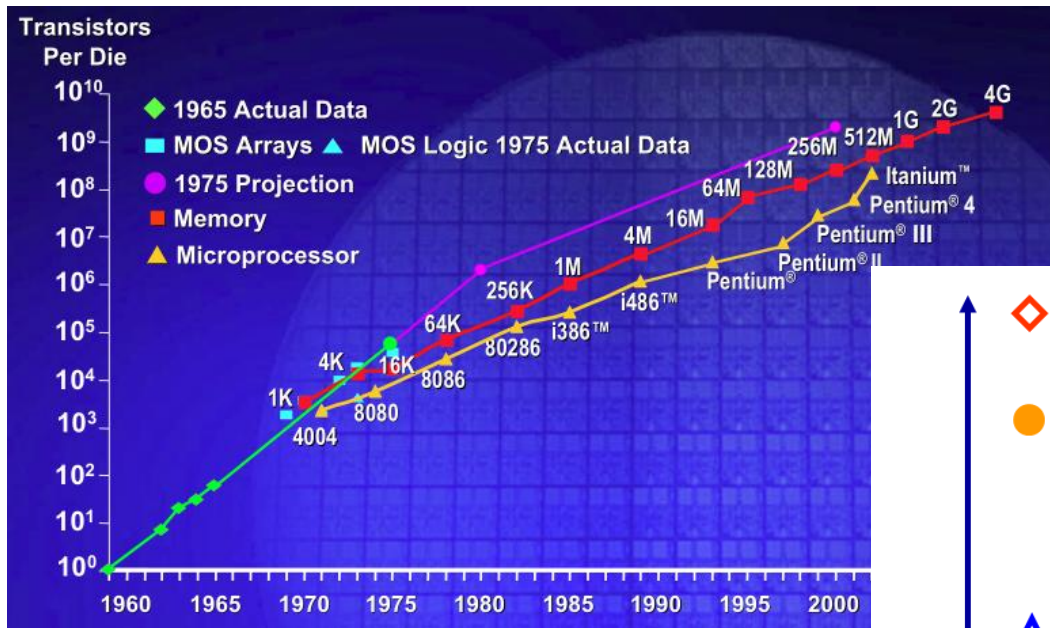
“Top –down” engineering is not the solution - for example:

- 2/3 of the weight of a PHEV battery is “packaging” – control electronics, safety engineering, casing etc.
- Most of the cost of solar panel installation is \*not\* the module – power electronics and packaging, installation costs, etc.

Can we learn how to construct functional materials whose properties are defined by precisely controlled interfaces on the nanoscale and which may be manufactured at low cost in enormous volume ....



# The consequence of understanding is prediction: Moore's Law for Si vs. current strategy for Li-ion batteries



Transformational technologies depend on reliable understanding and control of materials at scales ranging from the atomic to the mesoscale

- ◆ Unk-HV-HC / Li metal  
Safe and reversible cycling of Li metal  
Market entry >2021
- Unk-HV-HC / Gr-Si  
Discovery of high voltage electrolyte >4.8 V  
Discovery of reversible unknown high-voltage high-capacity cathode: 250 mAh/g @ 4.8 V  
Market entry > 2019
- ▲ Li<sub>2</sub>MXO<sub>4</sub> / Gr-Si  
Discovery of path to reversible multi-electron cathode material with 4V cell voltage  
Market entry > 2017
- LMR-NMC / Gr-Si  
Stabilization of silicon  
Market entry > 2015
- ◇ LMR-NMC / Gr  
Stabilization of LMR-NMC  
Market entry > 2013
- LMO / Gr



# Nanotechnology fabs of the future ...

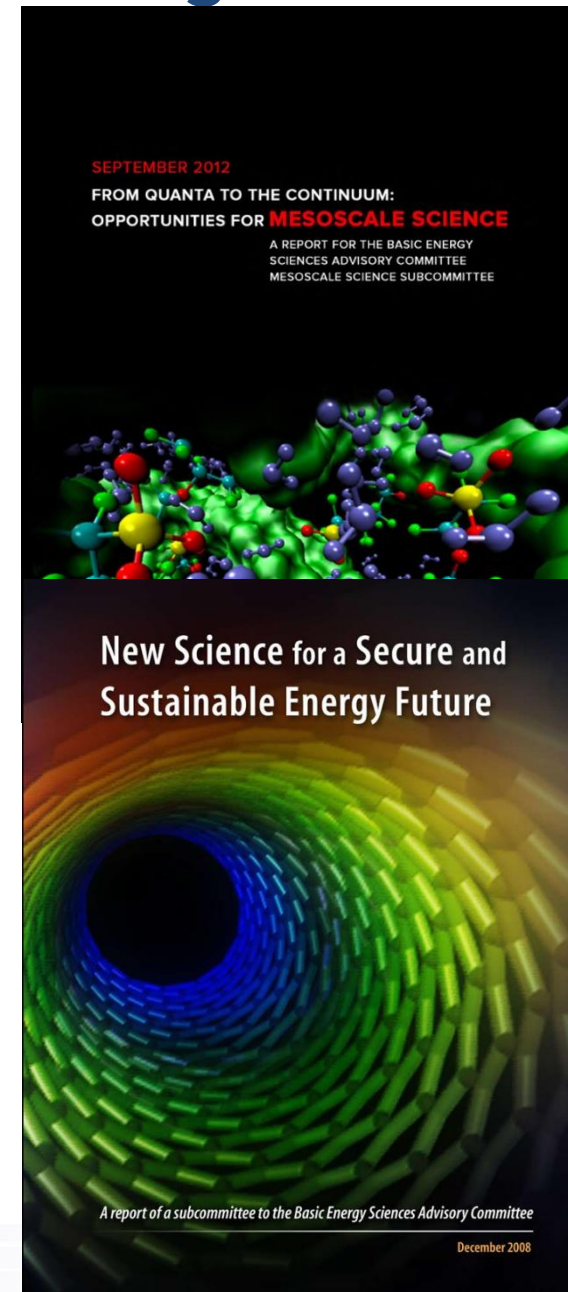




# Synthesis is king; manufacturing will begin at the nanoscale

- *Innovative theory and modeling strategies* that will span from ‘white boards’ to exascale computing
- *New synthetic frameworks* to discover and grow targeted materials classes
- *New manufacturing strategies* utilising self-assembly
- *In situ tools* to characterize, understand and control materials growth and function

***“Where to put the atoms,  
and how to put them there”***





Thank you





Thank you

