

# Traditional and Novel Thermoelectric Materials

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# Commercial Thermoelectric Devices

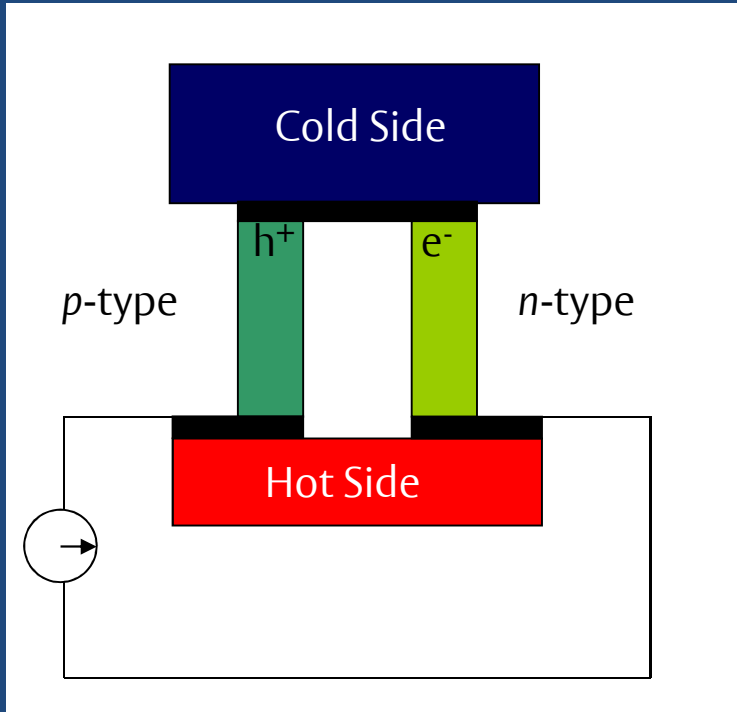
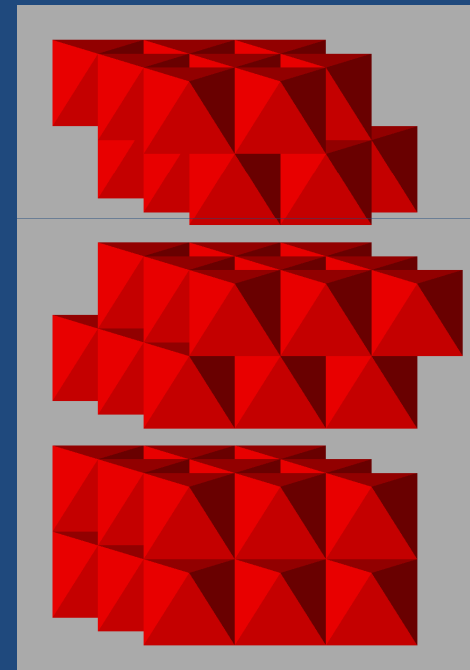
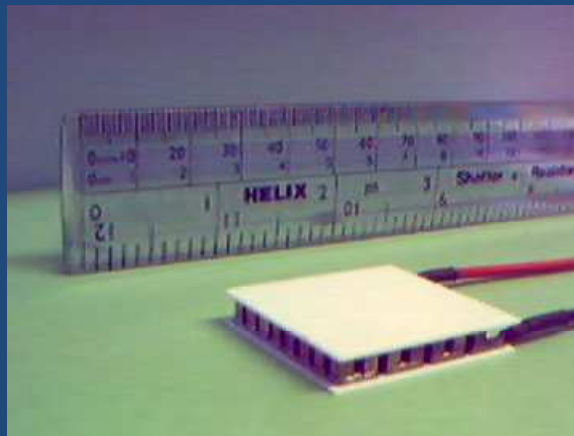


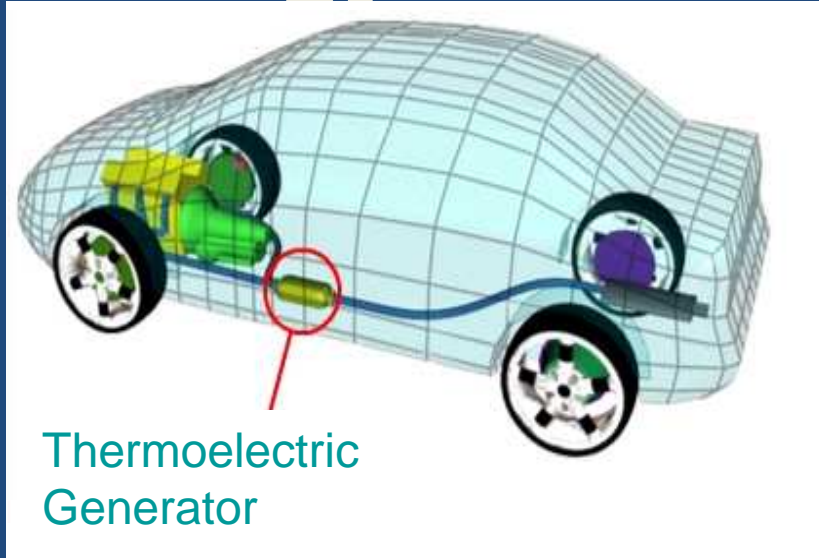
Figure of Merit:  $ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{(\kappa_L + \kappa_e)}$



$ZT \approx 0.9 @ RT$



# Energy from Waste Heat



## New car emission standards

160 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km (2007)

130 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km (2012)

95 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km (2020)

*Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 (2009)*

80% reduction in greenhouse gas  
emissions (from 1990 levels) by 2050

*UK Climate Change Act (2008)*

Recent programs:

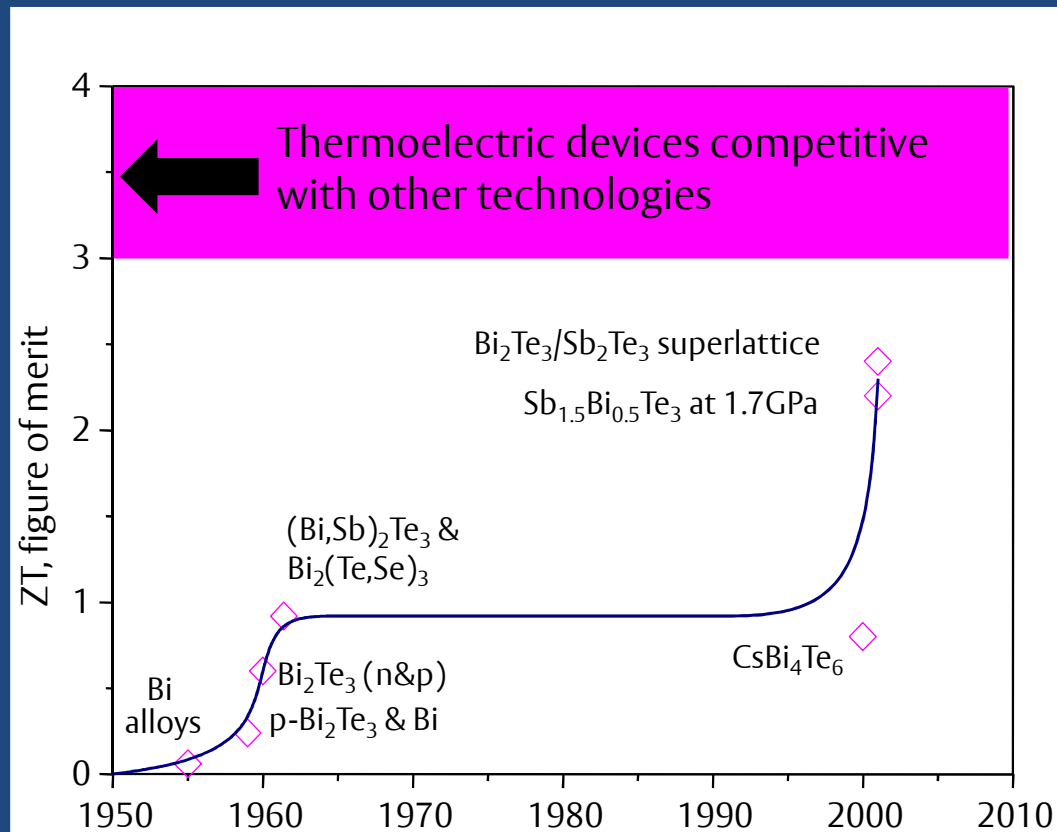
GM  
BMW  
VW

200 - 600W TEG  
ca. 5% Fuel Economy



# Thermoelectric Materials

Figure of Merit:  $ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{(\kappa_L + \kappa_e)}$



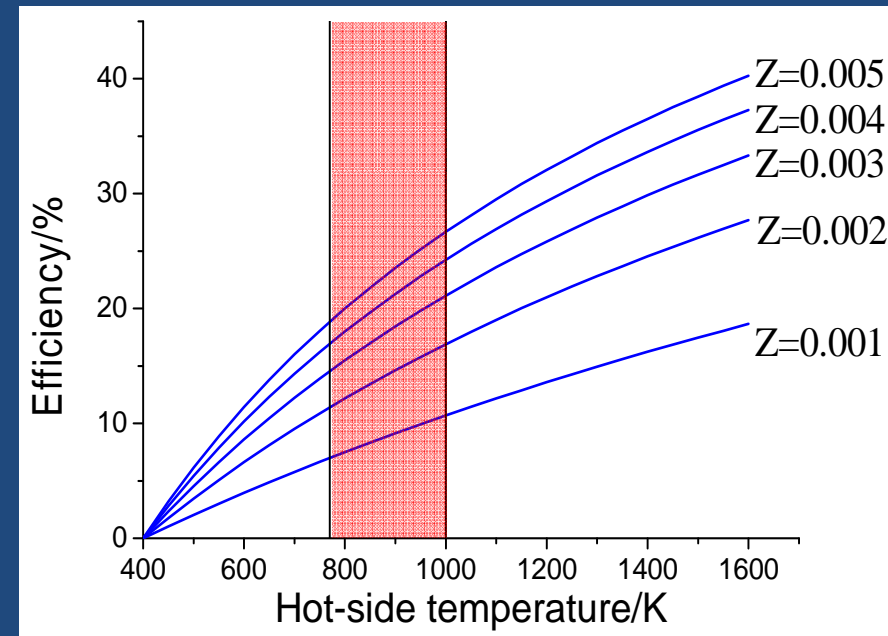
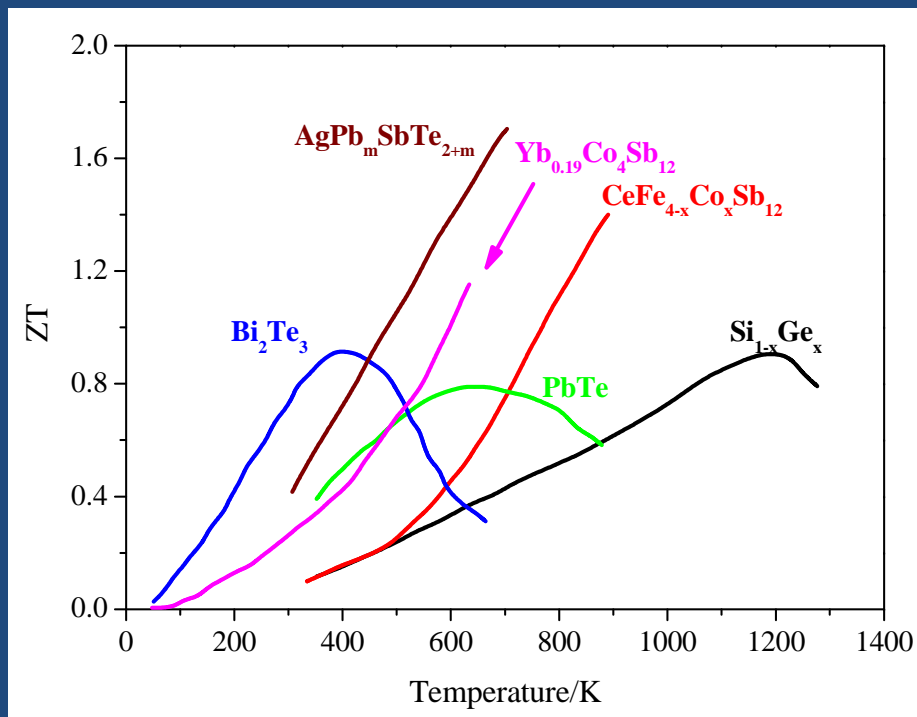
TE couple	Tc/Th (K)	Efficiency (%)
PbTe <i>n/p</i>	547/866	5
PbTe/ TAGS-85	430/785	6.2
SiGe <i>n/p</i>	570/1273	6.6
SiGe <i>n/p</i>	300/973	7.4

Power densities  
 $\leq 0.73 \text{ W cm}^{-2}$

# Limitations of Current Materials

Figure of Merit:

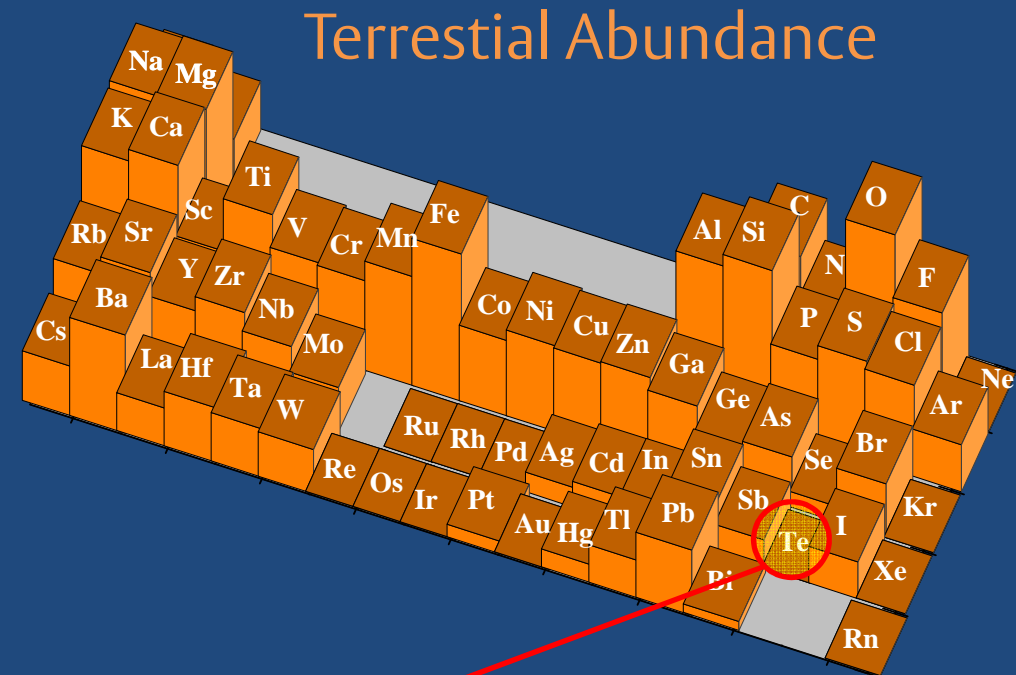
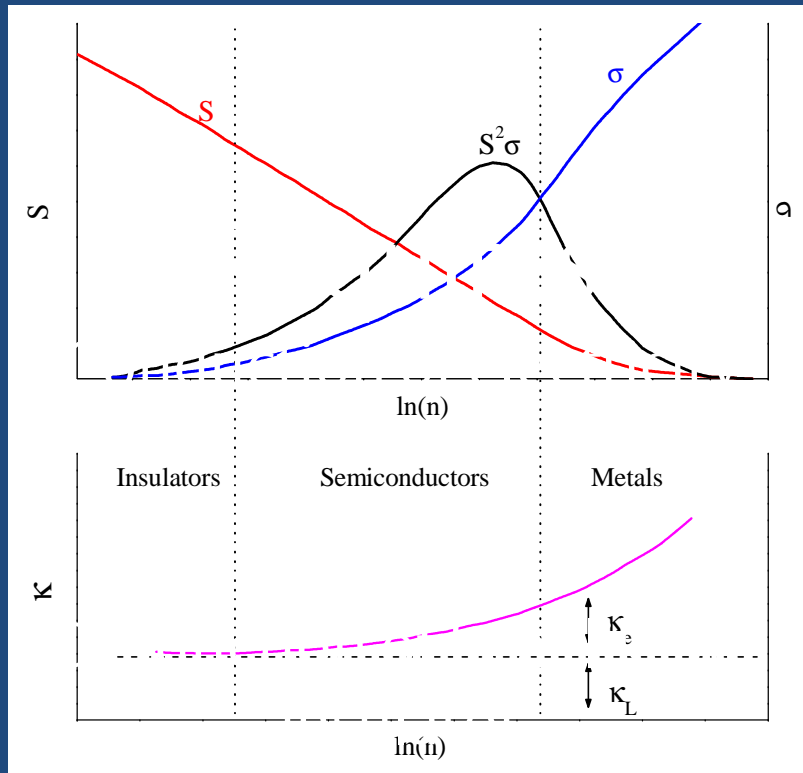
$$ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{(\kappa_L + \kappa_e)}$$



# Materials Parameters

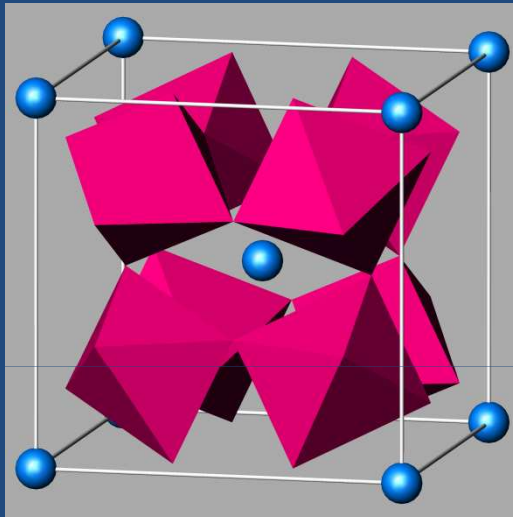
Figure of Merit: 
$$ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{(\kappa_L + \kappa_e)}$$

- Electrical conductivity ( $\sigma$ ), Seebeck ( $S$ ) and electronic thermal conductivity ( $\kappa_e$ ) all inter-dependent

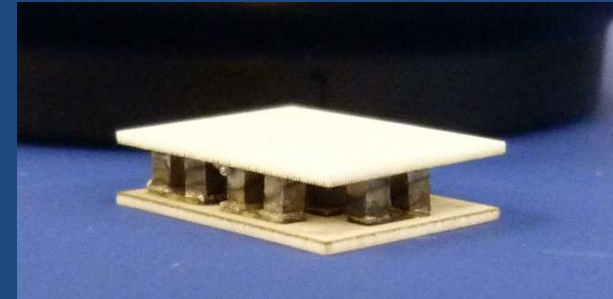
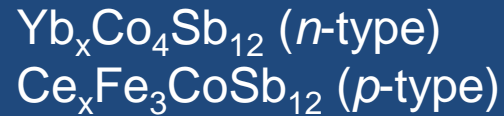


# Materials Design 1: Phonon Glass Electron Crystal

Filled Skutterudites



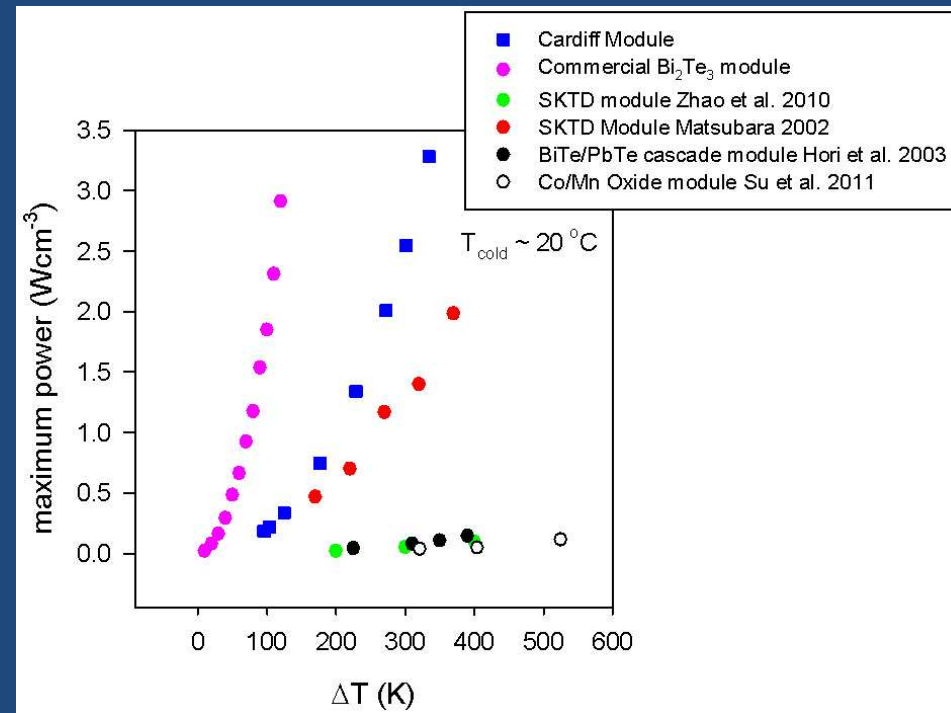
HWU-Cardiff Skutterudite Module



Rattling vibrations reduce  $\kappa_{\text{ph}}$   
 $\text{CoSb}_3$ :  $9 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$

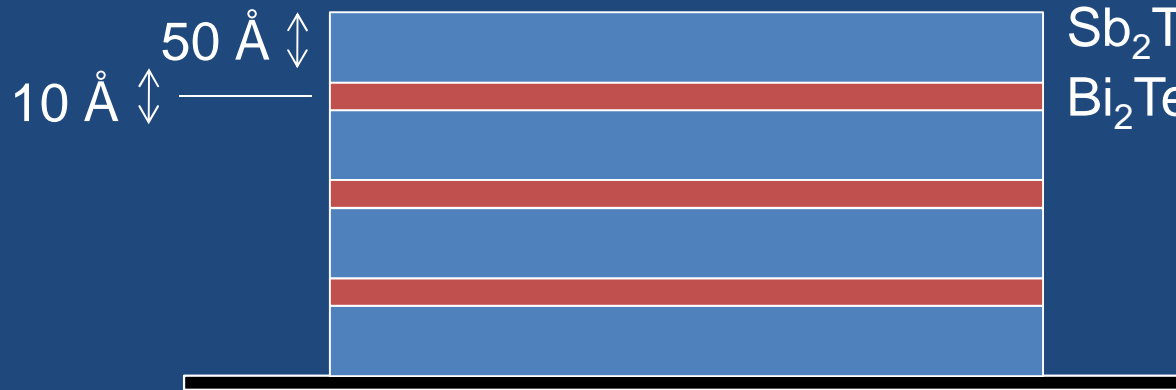
$R(\text{Fe}_3\text{CoSb}_{12})$ :  $1.2 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$

*J Garcia-Cañadas et al. J. Electron Mater. 42, 1369, (2013)*



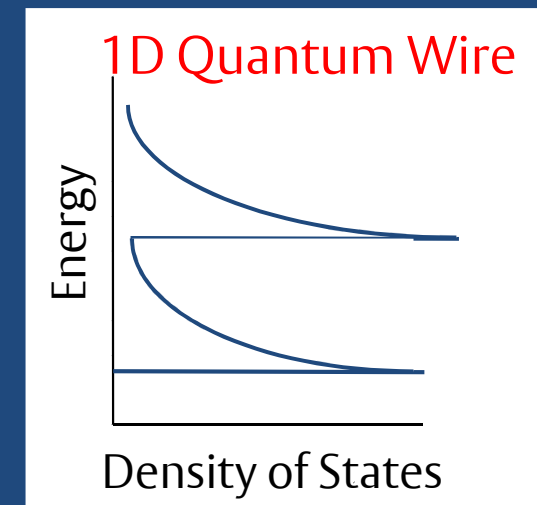
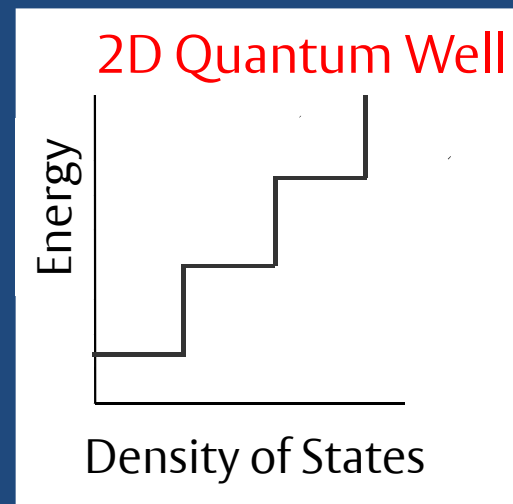
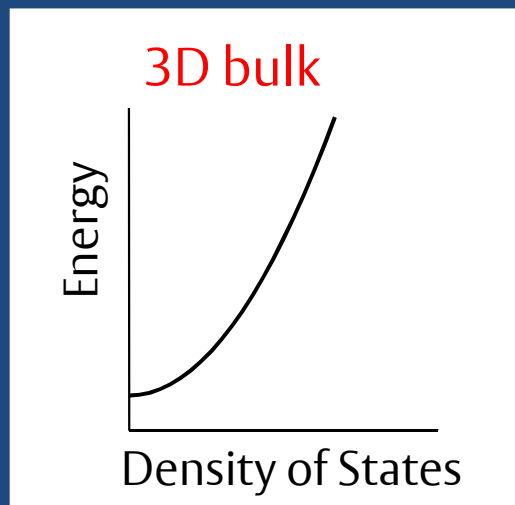
# Materials Design 2: Reduced Dimensionality

## Thin-Film Superlattices



$\text{Sb}_2\text{Te}_3$   $\kappa = 0.22 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$   
 $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3$   $ZT = 2.4 @ 330 \text{ K}$

Venkatasubramanian et al, *Nature*,  
413, 597, (2001)

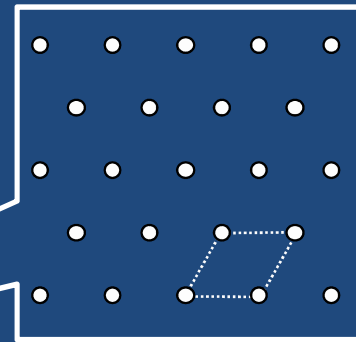
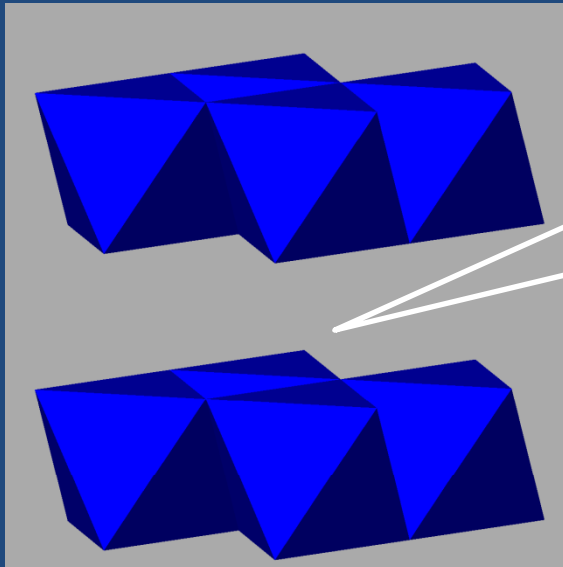


■ Quantum Confinement: Enhances S



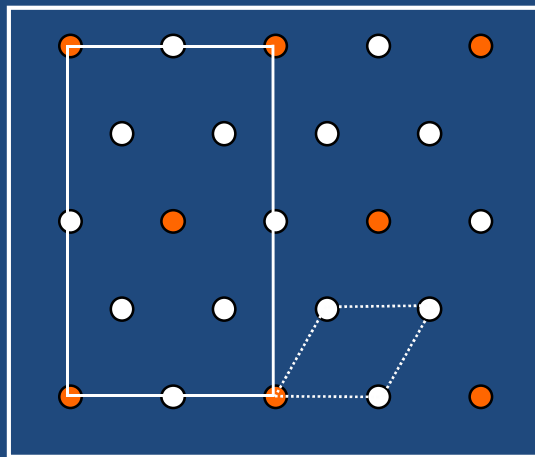
# Ordered Defect Phases as TEs

## CdI<sub>2</sub> Structure

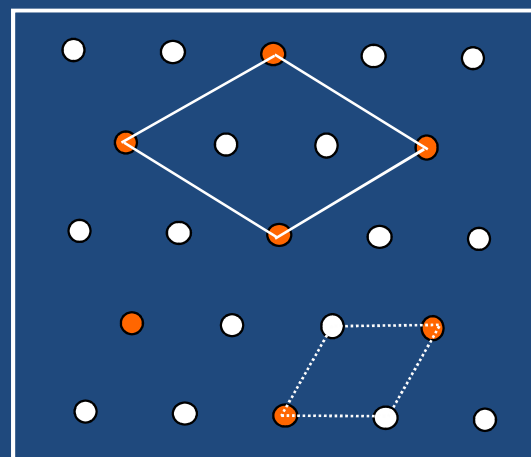


Network of vacant  
octahedral sites

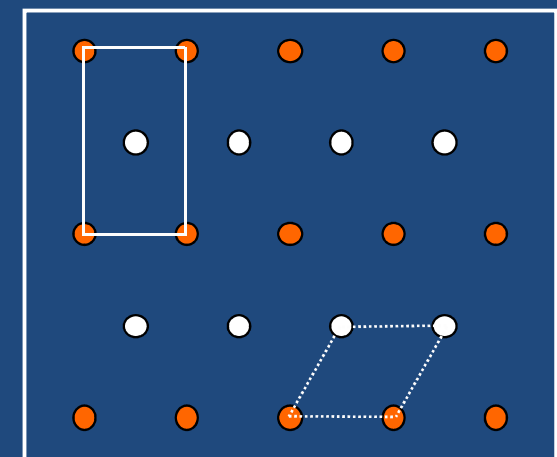
- Partial occupancy of octahedral sites between MS<sub>2</sub> slabs leads to ordering of vacancies and formation of superstructures



$x=1/4: M_5S_8$

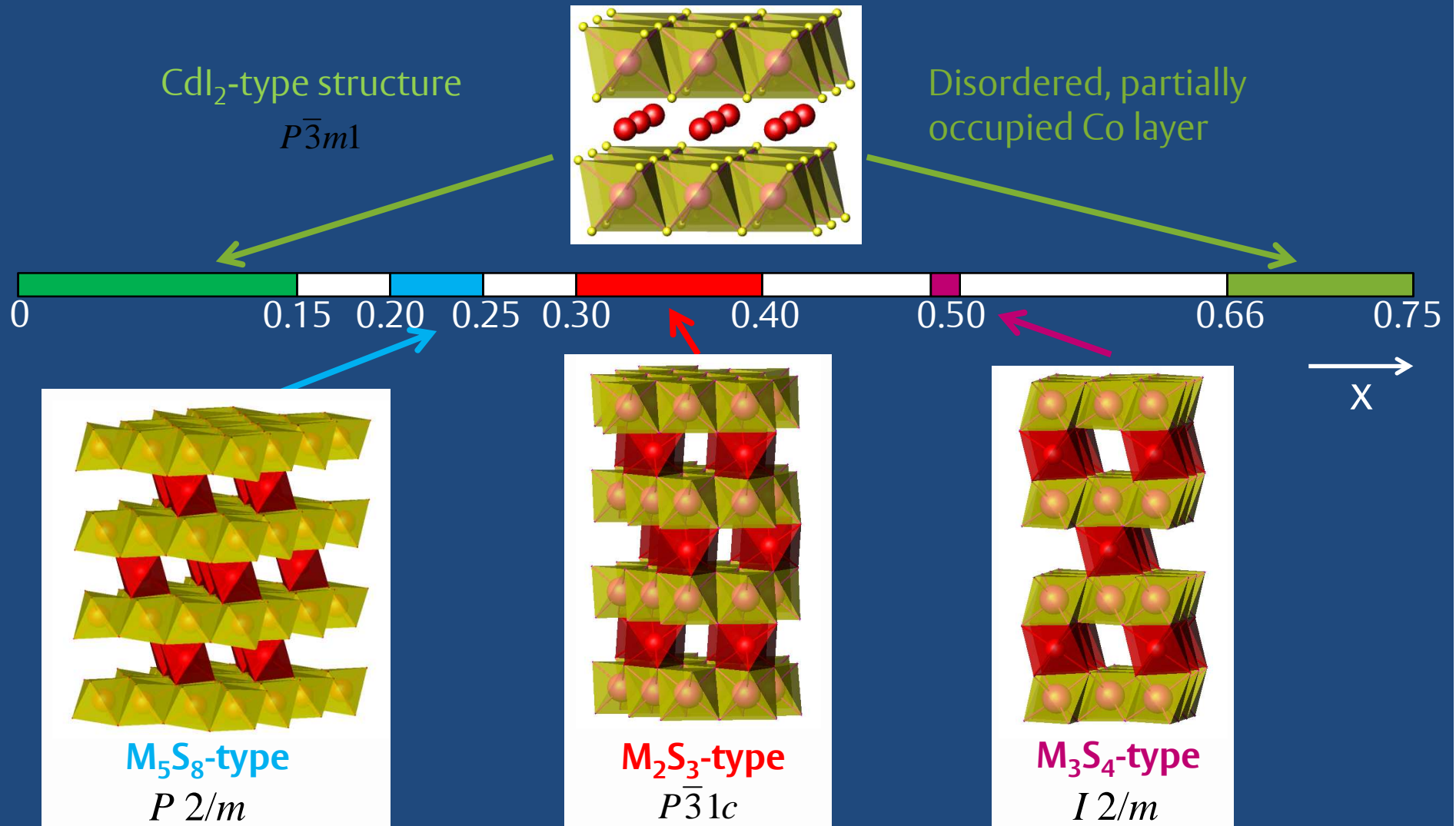


$x=1/3: M_2S_3$

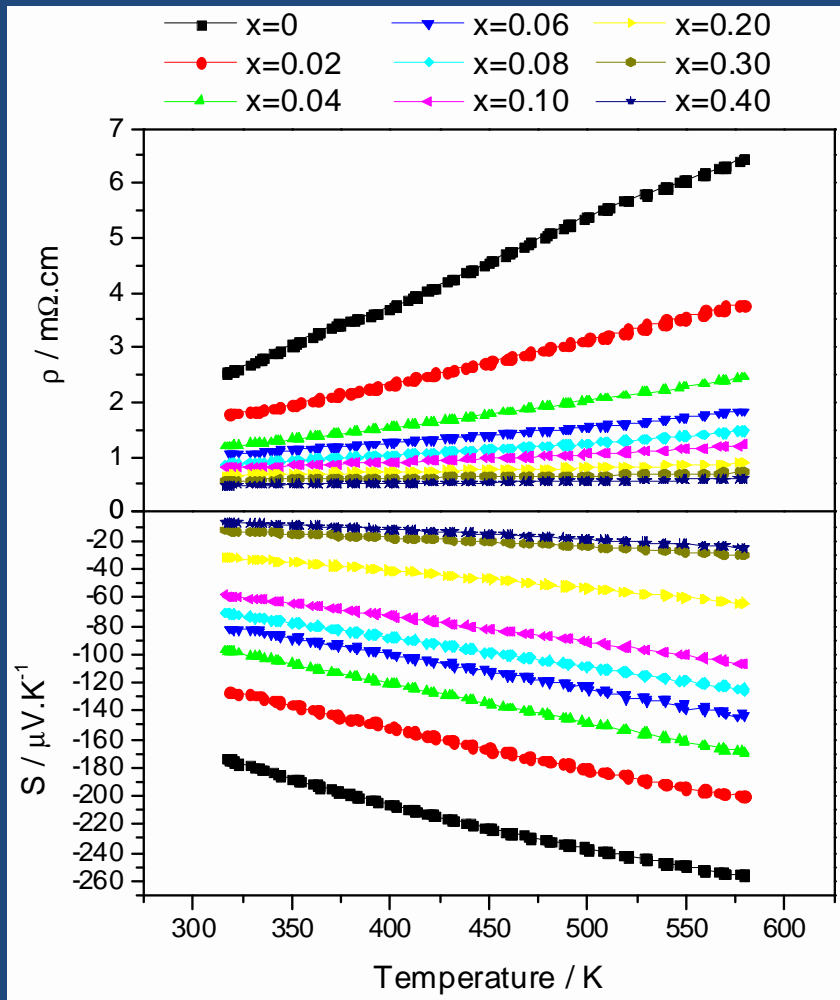


$x=1/2: M_3S_4$

# Compositional Dependence of Superstructure: $\text{Co}_x\text{TiS}_2$

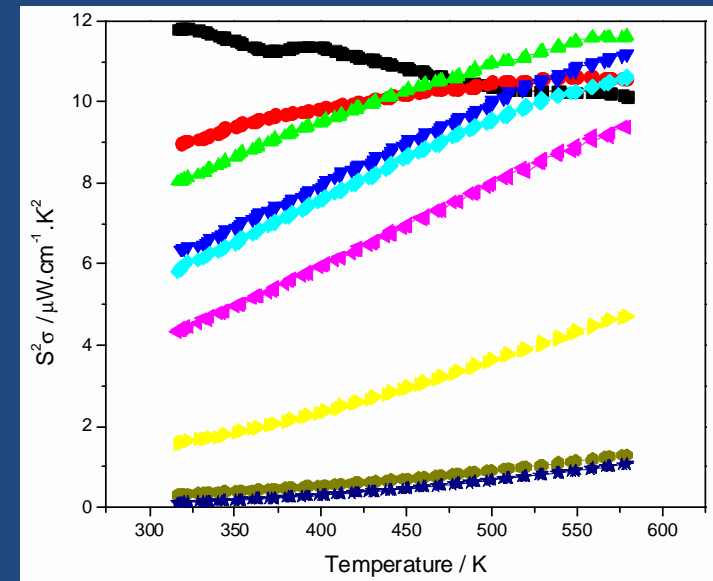


# TE Properties of $\text{Co}_x\text{TiS}_2$

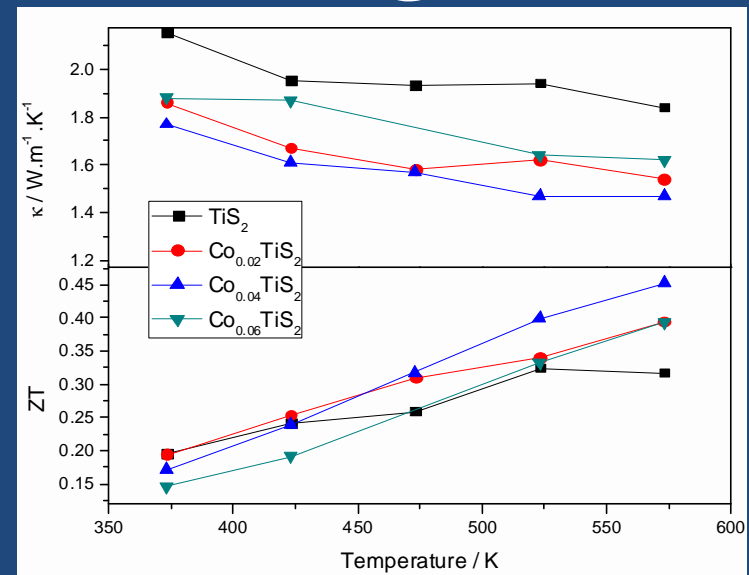


Resistivity and Seebeck coefficient decrease with increasing  $x$

*G. Guelou poster at lunchtime*



**ZT=0.45 @300°C**

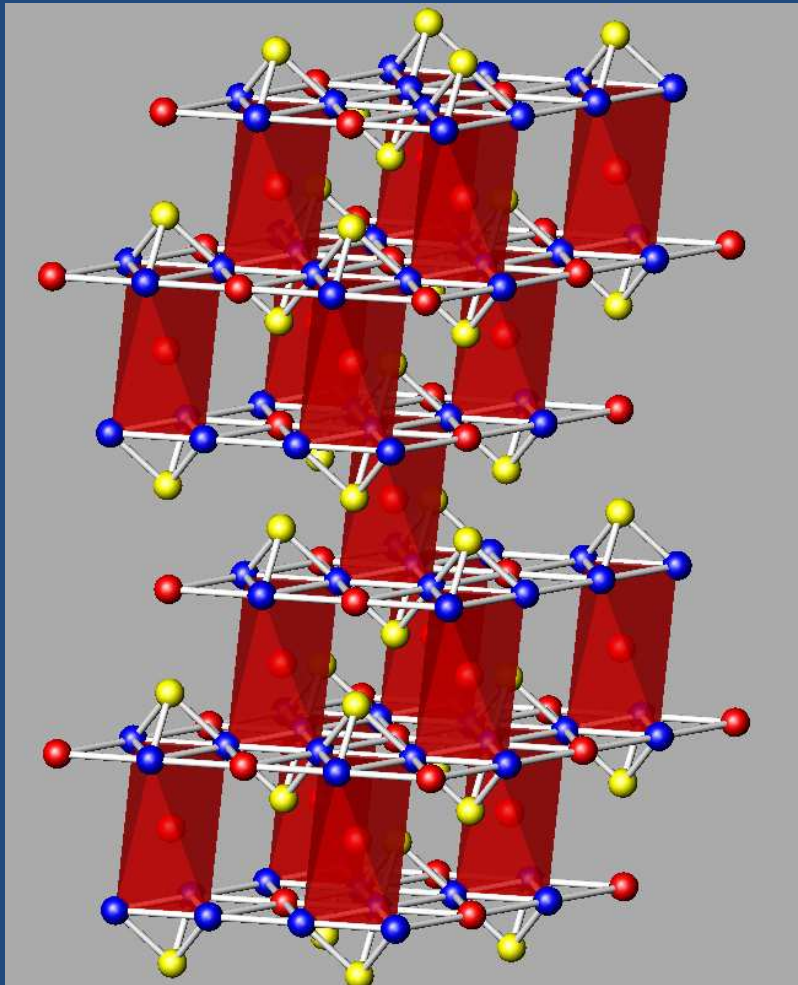


# Materials Design 3: Fermi Level

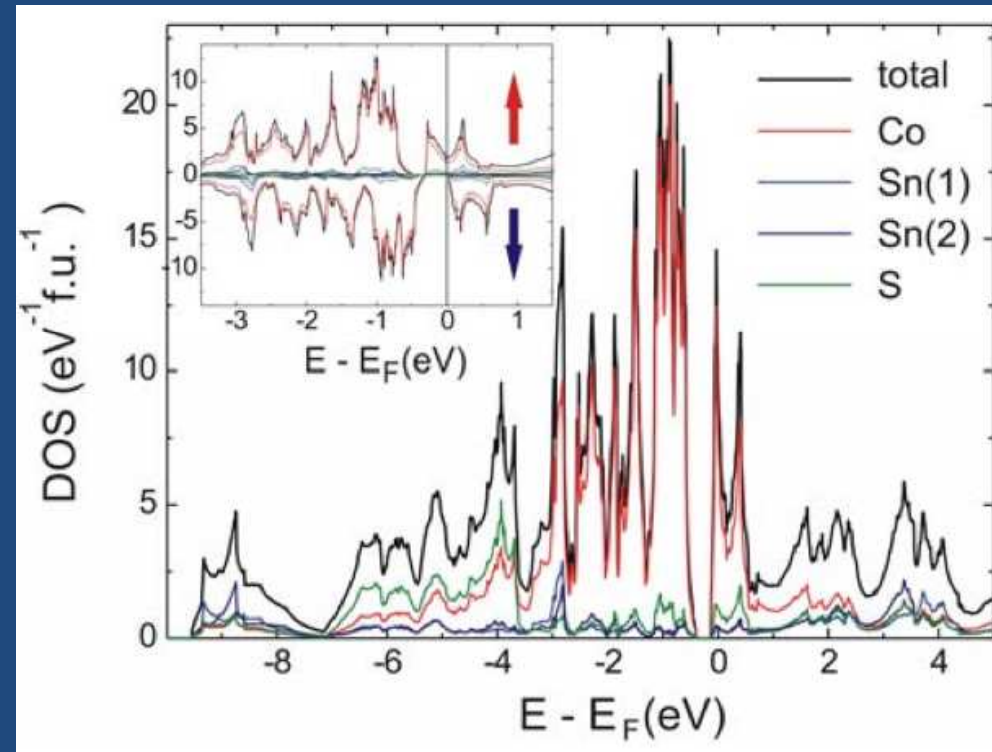
## Tuning

Mott Relation:

$$S \propto d \ln N(E) / dE @ E = E_F$$



Shandite:  $\text{Co}_3\text{Sn}_2\text{S}_2$

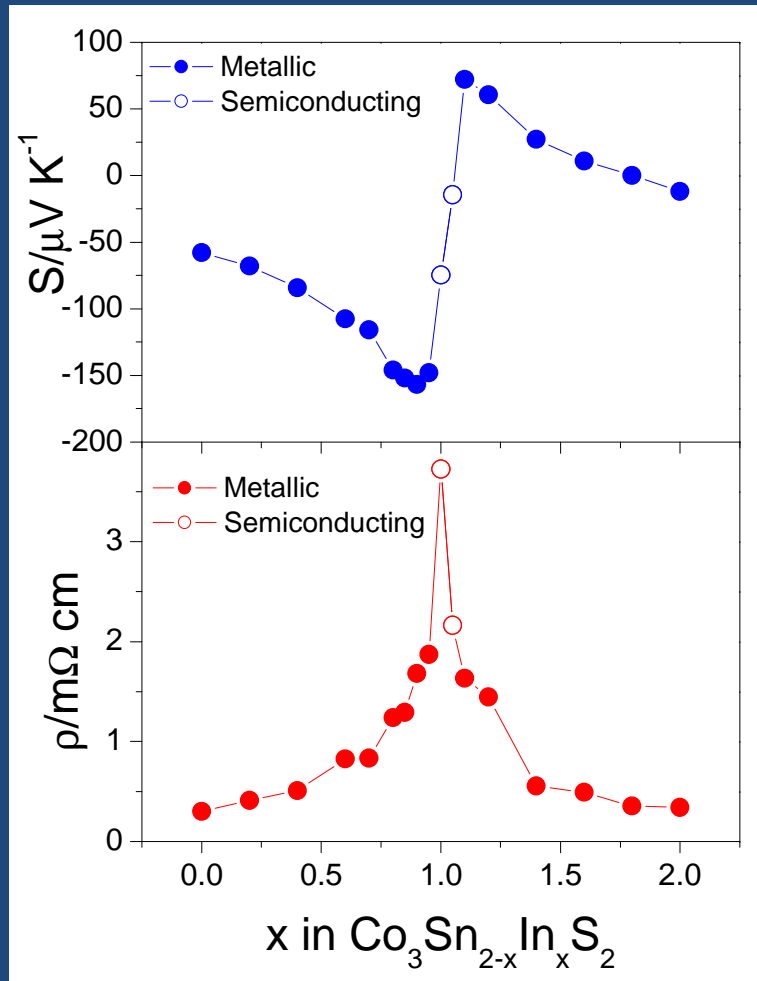


Yu et al. *J. Phys. Conf. Ser.* **100** (2008) 072011

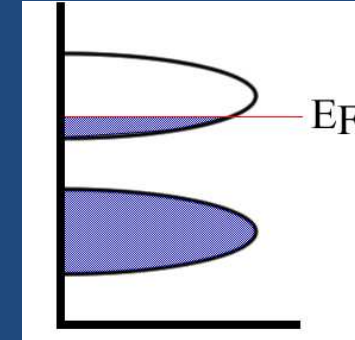
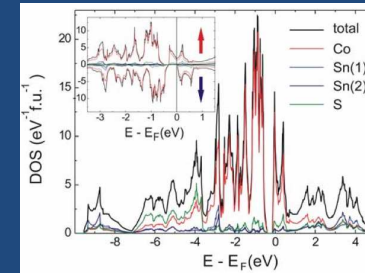
  $\text{Co}_3\text{Sn}_{2-x}\text{In}_x\text{S}_2$ : Tune  $E_F$  – 2  $e^-$  change

# Compositional Dependence of $S$ and $\rho$

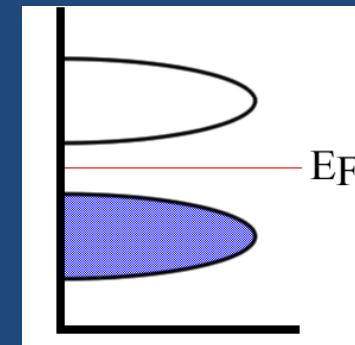
■ Electrical properties at 360 K



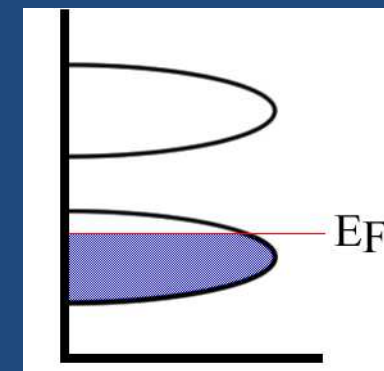
$x=0$ :  $47e^-$   
 $n$ -type metal



$x=1.0$ :  $46e^-$   
 semiconductor

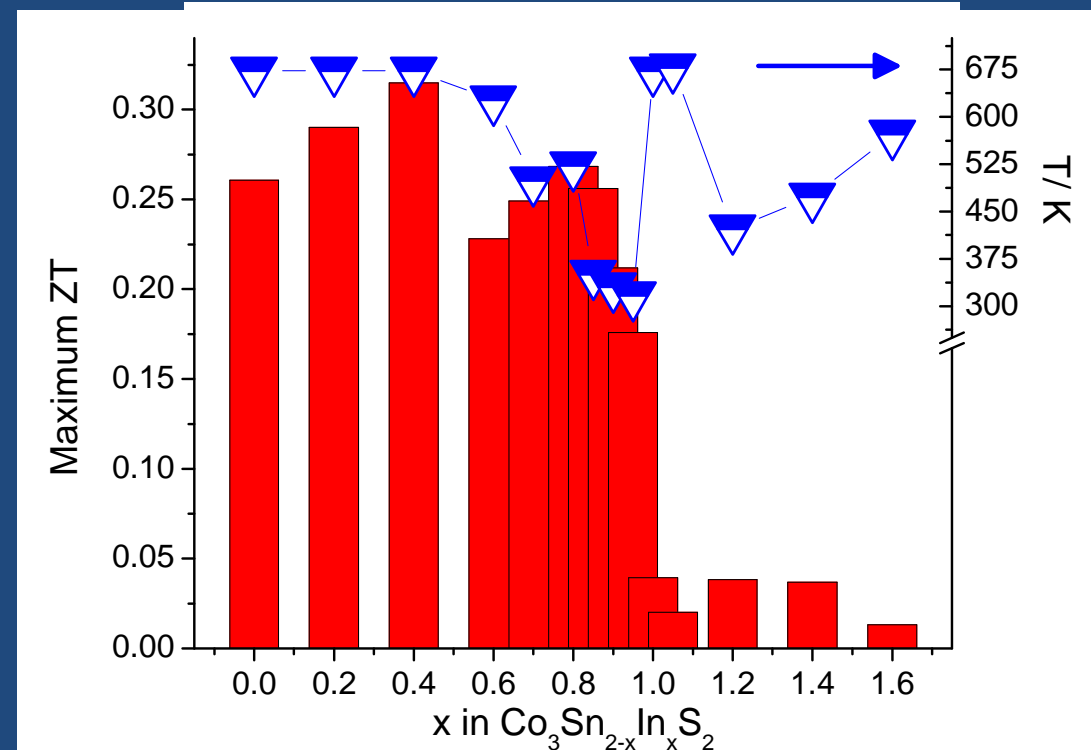
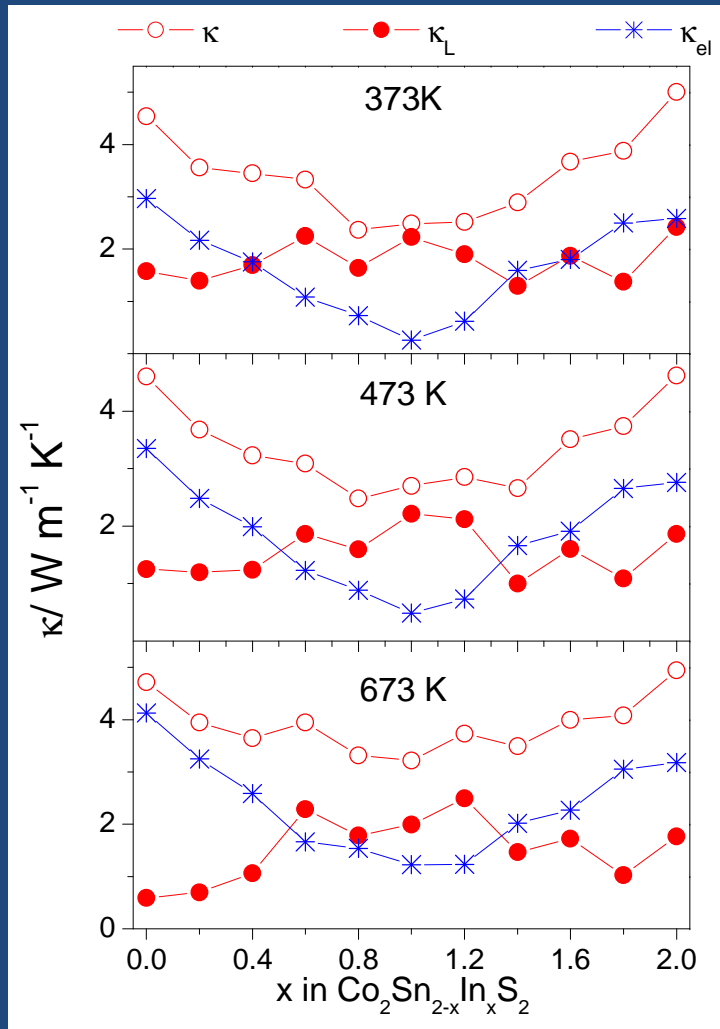


$x=2.0$ :  $45e^-$   
 $n$ -type metal



Increasing Indium Content

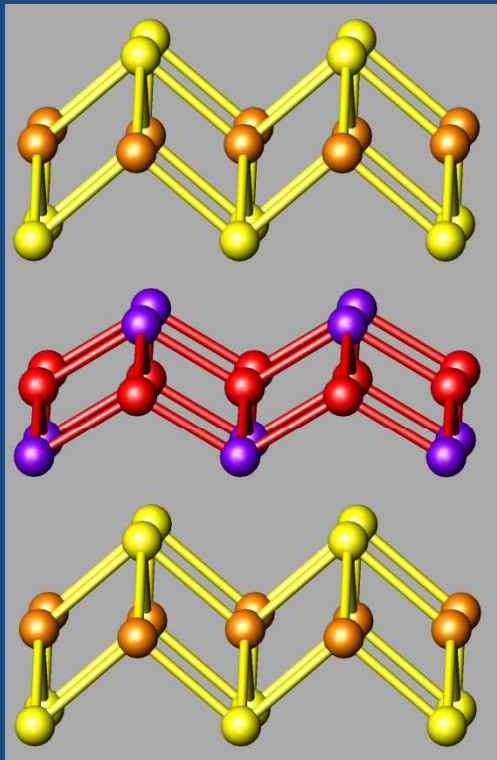
# TE Performance of $\text{Co}_3\text{Sn}_{2-x}\text{In}_x\text{S}_2$



- ZT  $\approx$  0.2 at temperatures close to ambient.
- Max ZT = 0.32 at 400 °C

■ Lattice contribution to thermal conductivity effectively independent of composition

# Materials Design 4: Separation of $S^2\sigma$ and $\kappa$ terms



Conducting  
 $[\text{Cu}_2\text{Q}_2]^{2-}$  layer

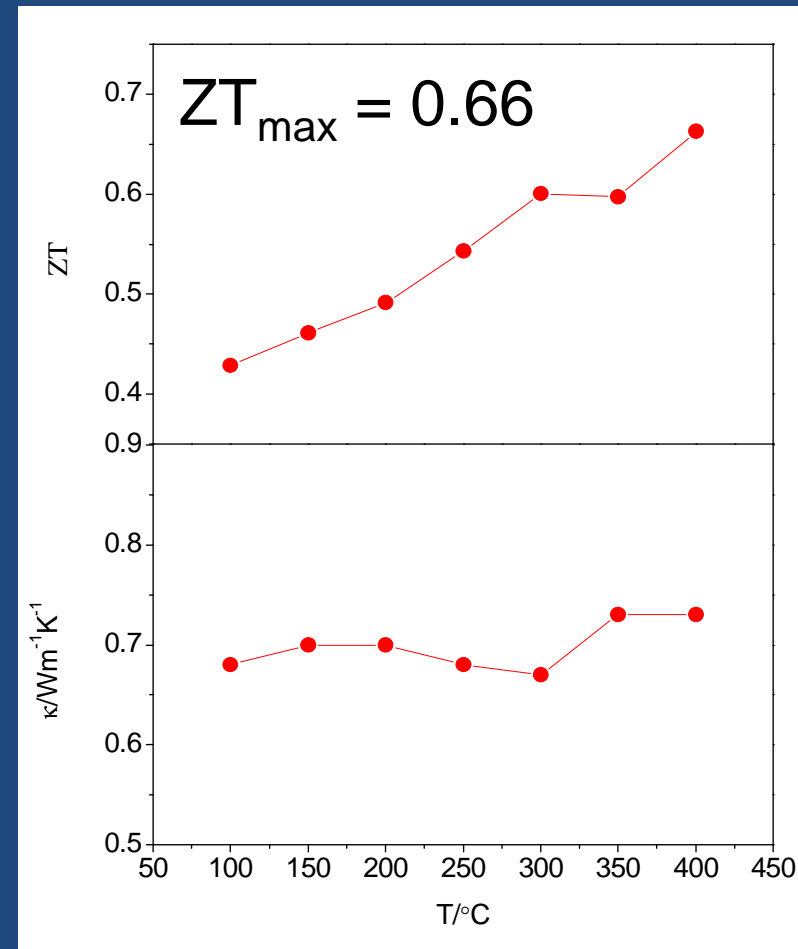
Insulating  
 $[\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$  layer



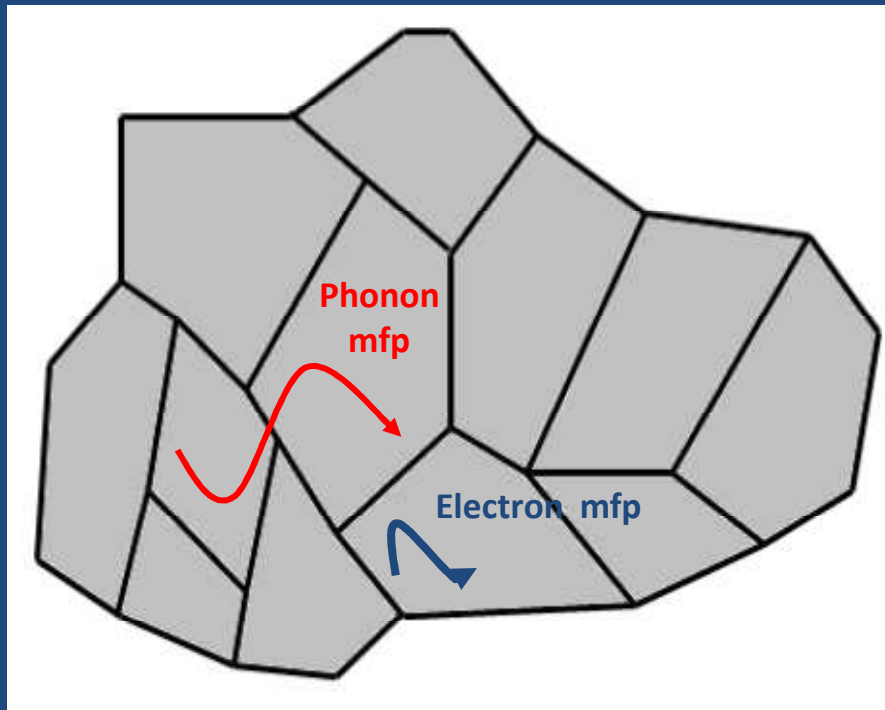
$$ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{\kappa}$$

- Independent optimisation of  $S^2\sigma$  (covalent) and  $\kappa_L$  (ionic)

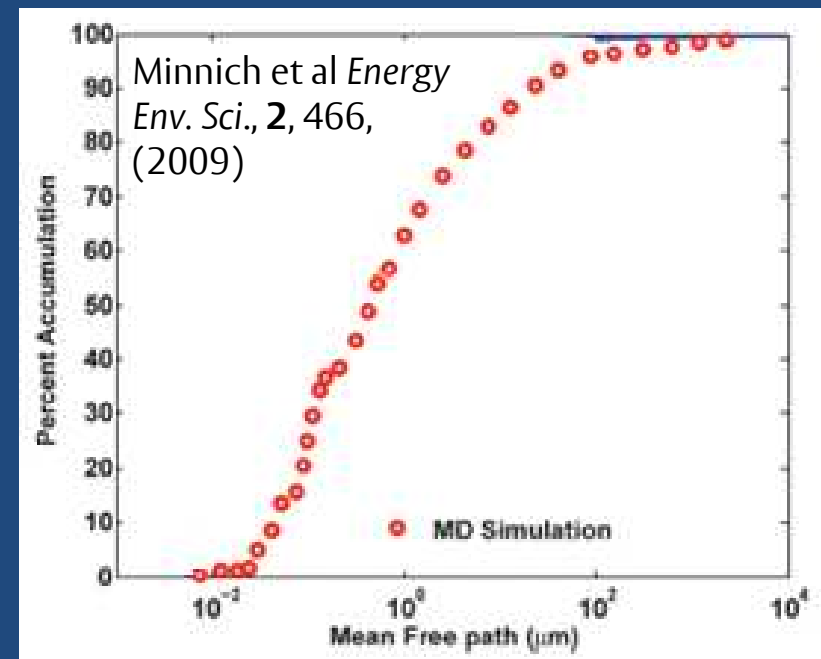
BiOCuTe



# Materials Design 5: Nanostructuring

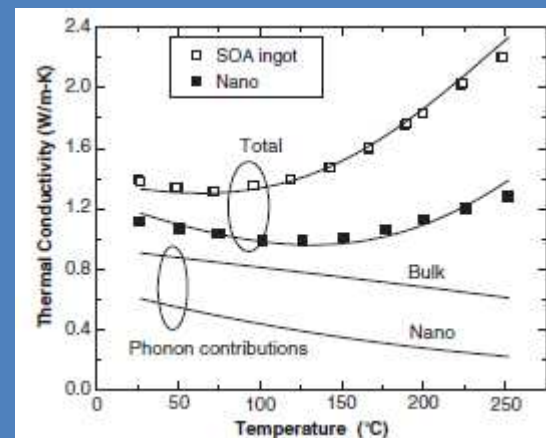
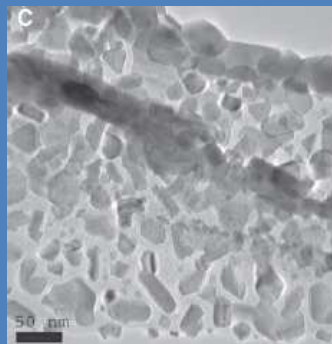
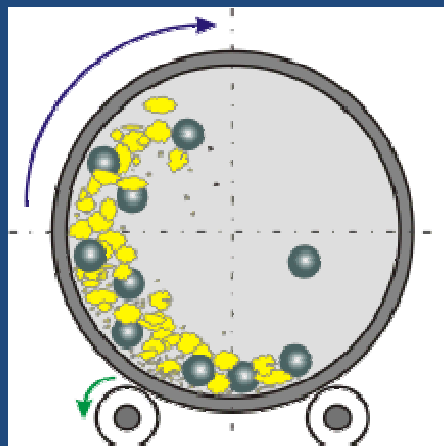


- Interface scattering: decreases  $\kappa_L$
- Interface scattering when mean-free-path  $>$  interface spacing





# Ball-Milled Thermoelectrics



Poudel et al, *Science*, **320**, 634, (2008)

Material	Bulk		Nanostructured	
	$ZT_{\max}$	Temperature at which $ZT_{\max}$ is observed	$ZT_{\max}$	Temperature at which $ZT_{\max}$ is observed
Si	0.2	1200	0.7	1200
$\text{Si}_{80}\text{Ge}_{20}$ (n-type)	1.0	1200	1.3	1173
$\text{Si}_{80}\text{Ge}_{20}$ (p-type)	0.7	1200	0.95	1073
$(\text{Bi,Sb})_2\text{Te}_3$	0.9	293	1.4	373
$\text{CoSb}_3$	0.45	700	0.71	700

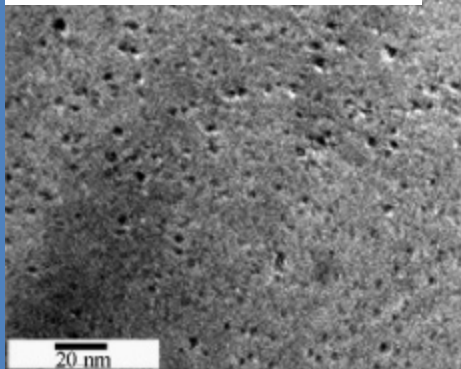
P. Vaquero and A.V. Powell, *J. Mater. Chem.*, **20**, 9577, (2010)

# Nanocomposite TEs by Arrested Precipitation

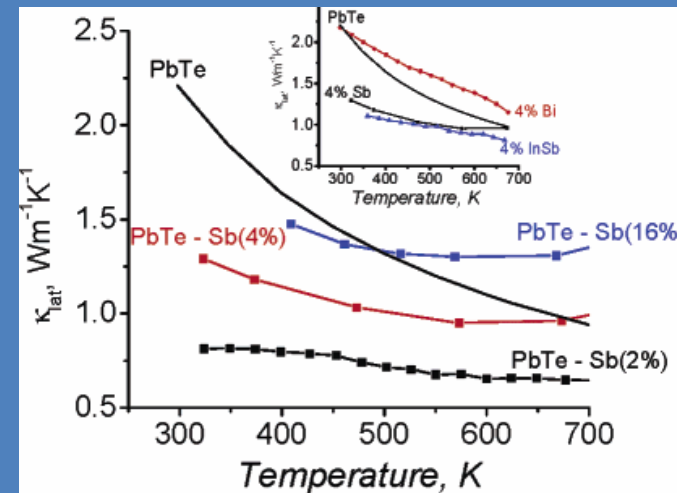
Matrix Encapsulation



PbTe - 2%Sb

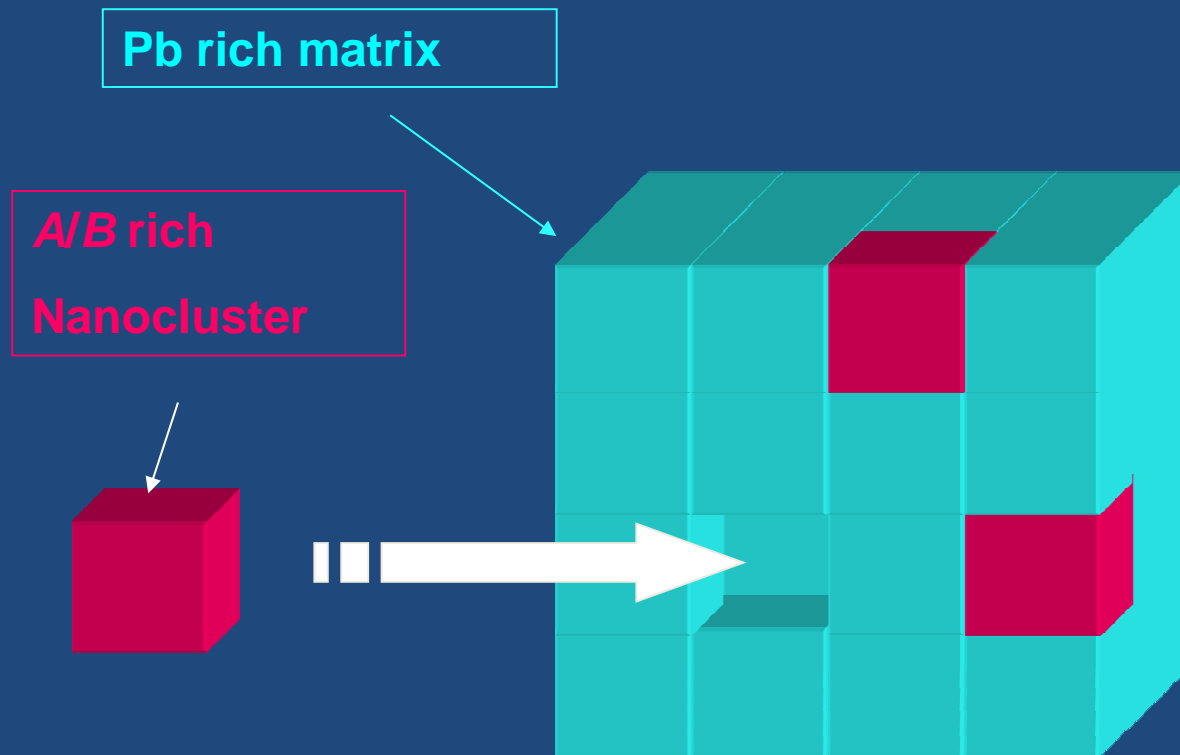


$$k_l = 0.8 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$$



Sootsman et al, *Chem. Mater.*, **18**, 4994, (2006)

# Nano-inclusions in *LAST*-type Phases



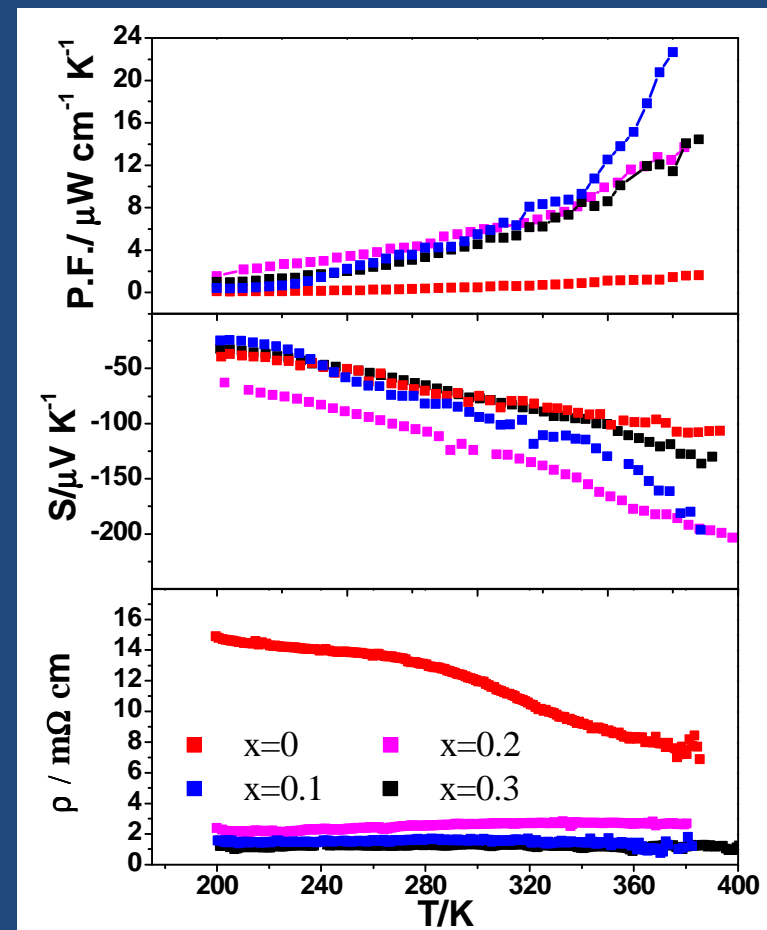
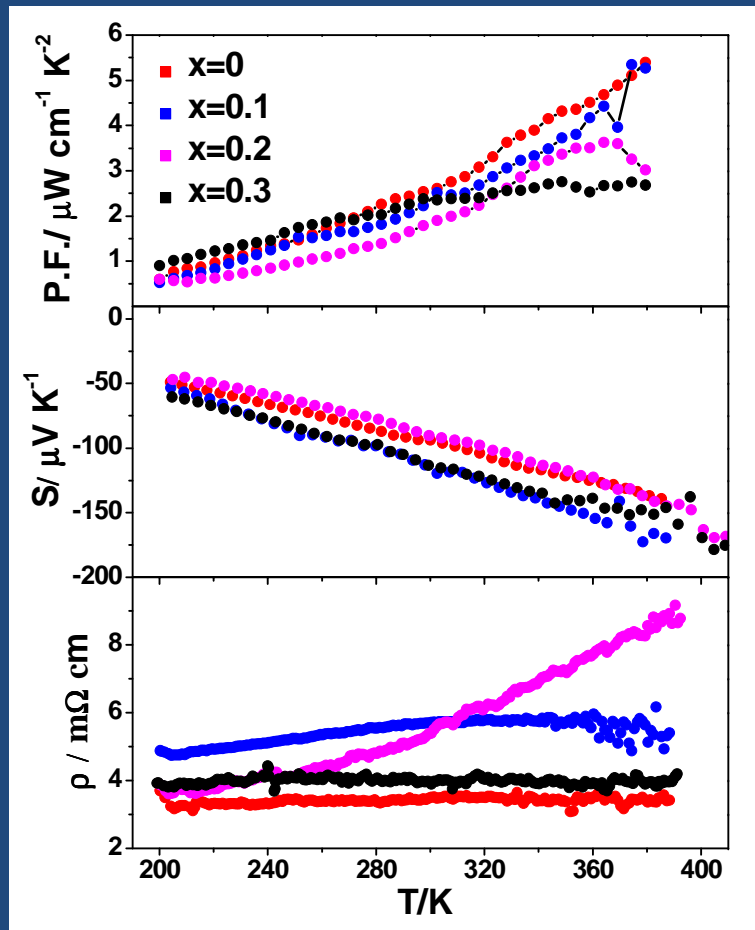
- Degenerate semiconductors
- Nano-inclusions
- Thermal conductivity reduced from PbTe

LAST=18

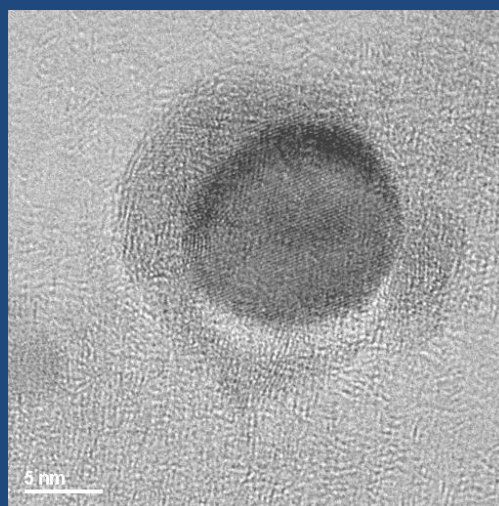
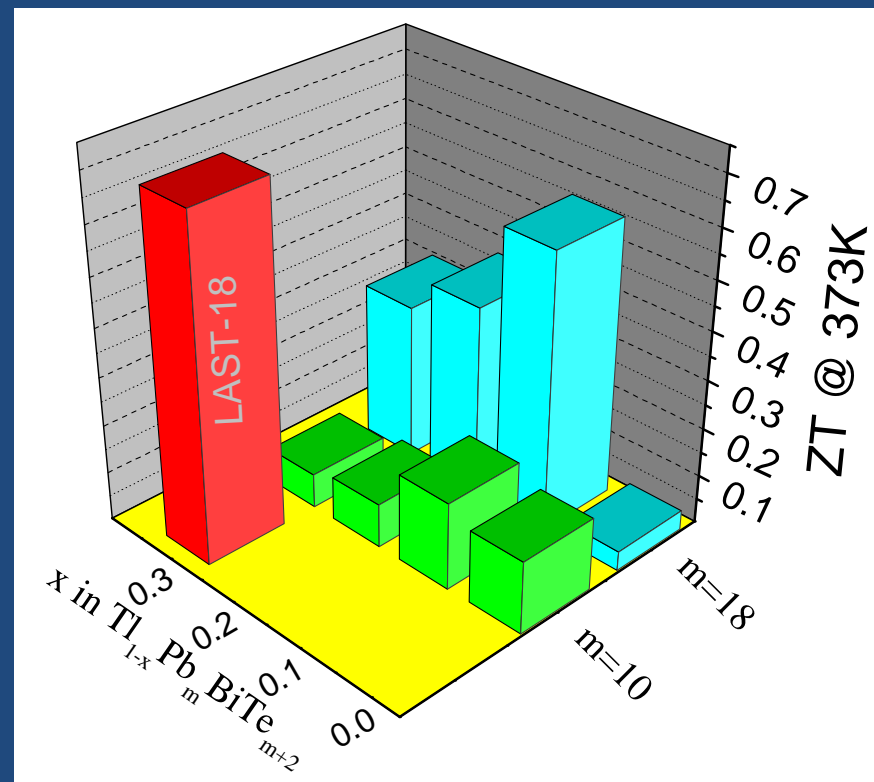
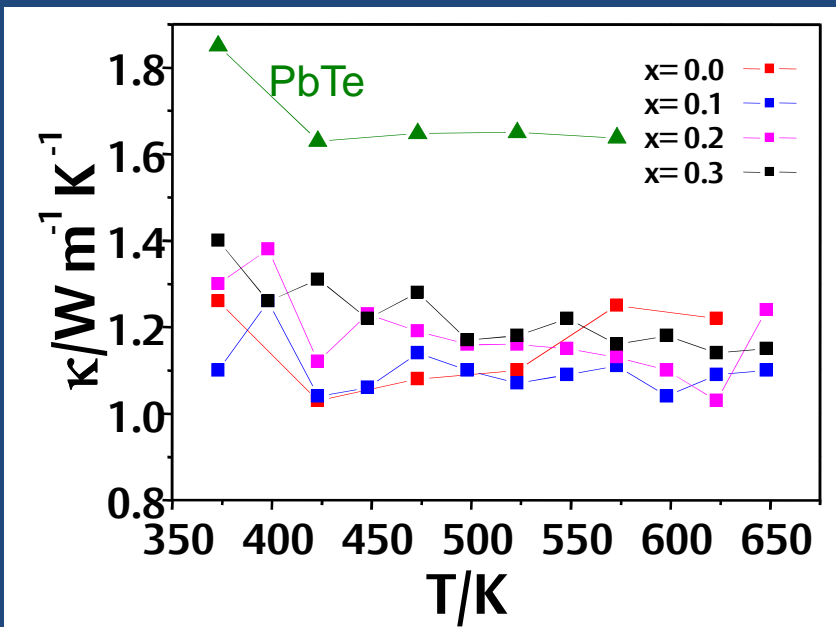
- *n*-type conduction
- $ZT_{max} = 2.2$  at 800K
- Silver deficient

Hsu et al, *Science*, **303**, 818, (2004)

# Electrical Properties: A = Tl, B = Bi Phases



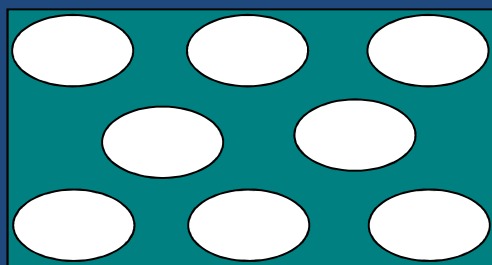
# TE Properties: $Tl_{1-x}Pb_mBiTe_{m+2}$



Samf  
Samf  
Samf

# Nanocasting

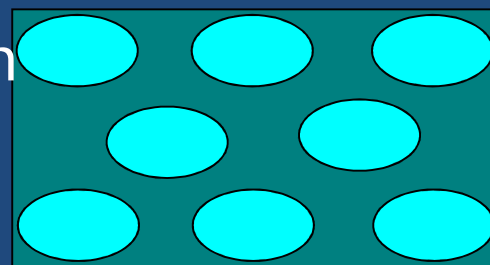
Mesoporous Solid



Infiltration



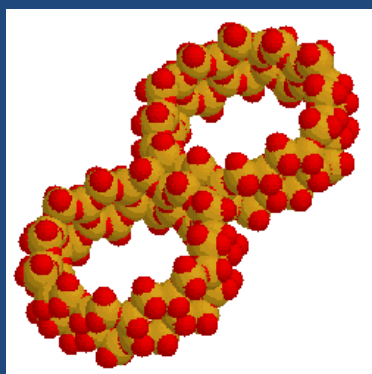
Embedded Nanowires



Etch



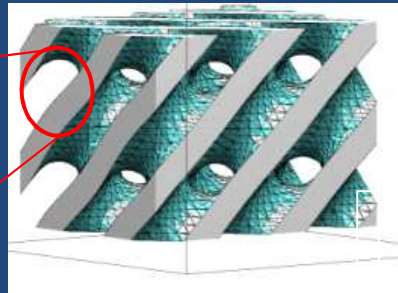
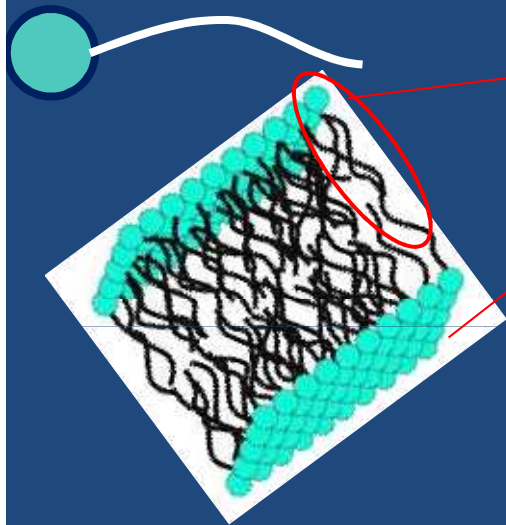
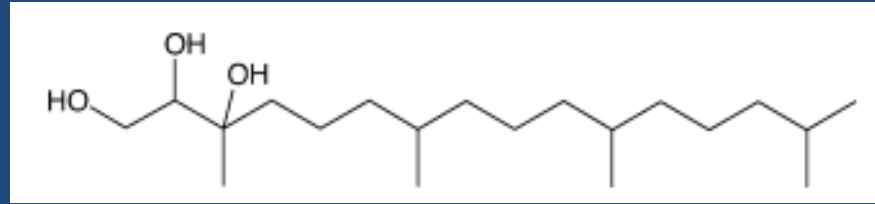
Nanowires



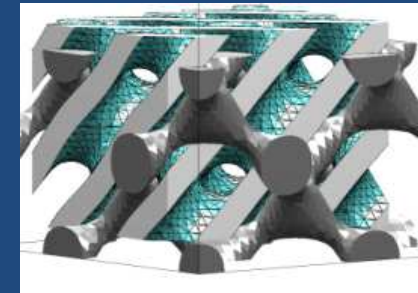
MCM-41

Template	Porosity	Average Pore Size/nm	Channel System
MCM-41	Mesoporous	2.2	1-D
MCM-48	Mesoporous	2.5	3-D
SBA-15	Mesoporous	7	1-D
SBA-16	Mesoporous	5.6	3-D
Zeolite VFI	Microporous	1.3	1-D
Zeolite LTL	Microporous	0.7	1-D

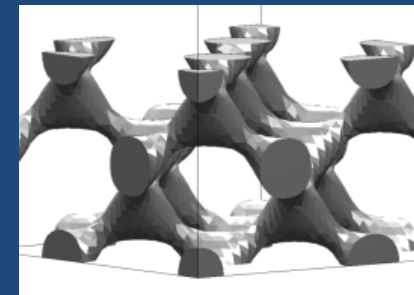
# Soft Templating: Lipid self-assembly



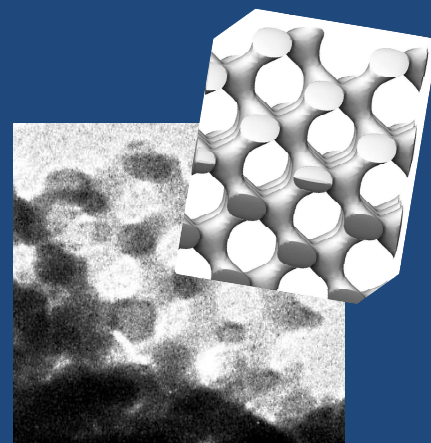
Deposition



Wash away template



Bicontinuous double  
diamond  
nanostructured Pt



50 nm

# Current Materials Challenges

## ■ Understanding:

New insights required into materials properties  
(especially at the nanoscale)

Design of new materials – portfolio of materials?

## ■ Performance vs cost:

What performance is acceptable at what price?

To what extent does this vary with application?

## ■ Sustainability:

Te-free thermoelectrics

## ■ Manufacture:

Scaleability of synthesis

Consolidation – SPS, Hot Pressing, Microwave

Module design and fabrication, solders, barrier layers etc

Compatible n- and p-type materials

## ■ Integration:

System-wide holistic approach



# Acknowledgements



Dr P. Vaqueiro  
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Dr G. Min (Cardiff)

Dr S. Hull (ISIS)

Dr R. Smith (ISIS)

Dr K. Knight (ISIS)

Mr K. Simpson (ETL)

Dr E. Guillmeau (CNRS)

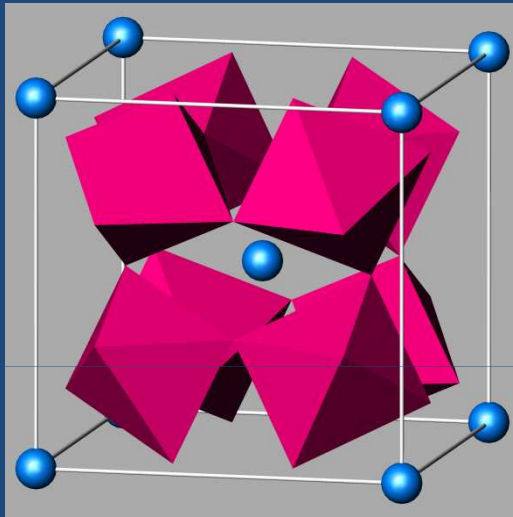






# Materials Design: Phonon Glass Electron Crystal

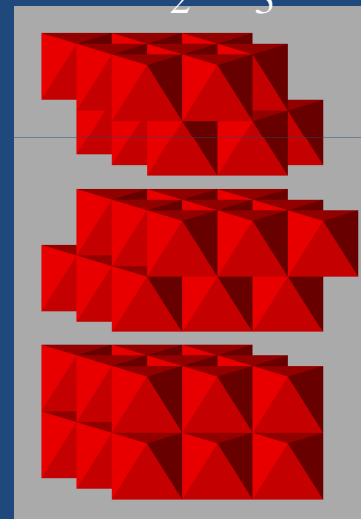
## Filled Skutterudites



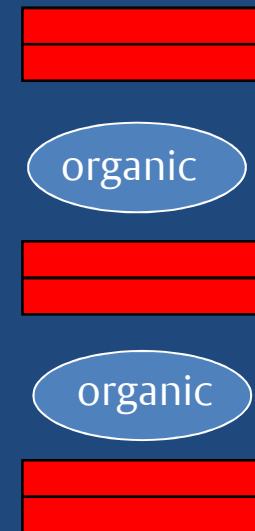
Rattling vibrations reduce  $\kappa_{\text{ph}}$   
 $\text{CoSb}_3$ :  $9 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$

$\text{R}(\text{Fe}_3\text{CoSb}_{12})$ :  $1.2 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$

## Organic-Inorganic Hybrids as Thermoelectrics

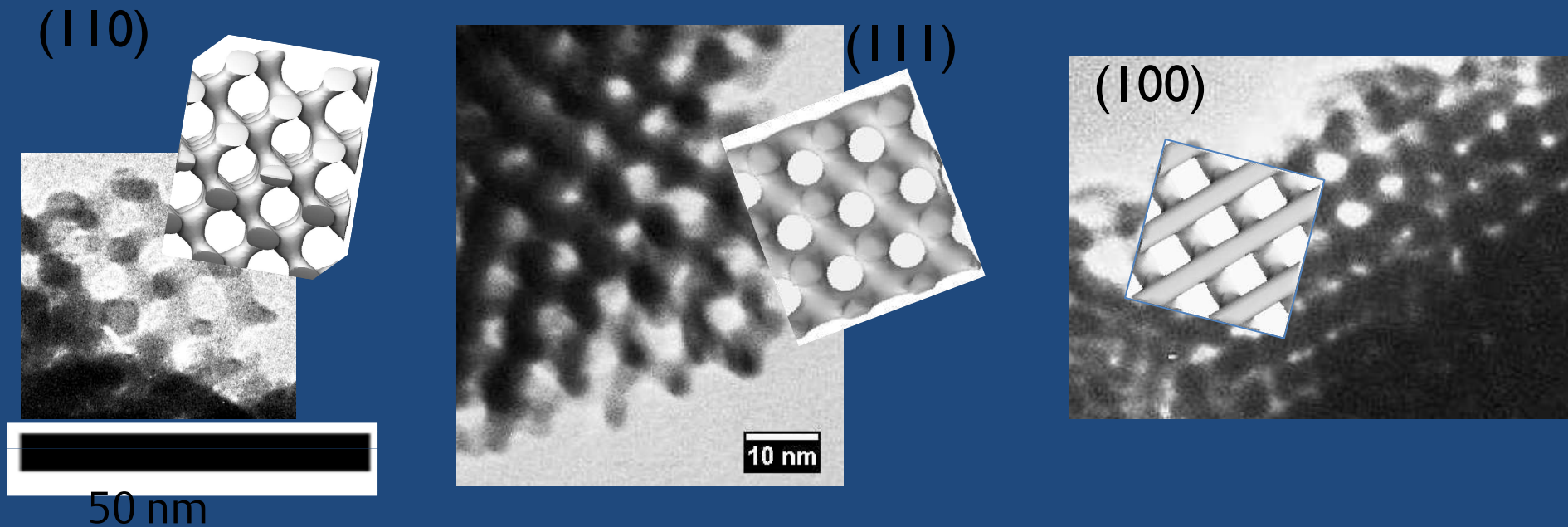


Layered  
semiconductor

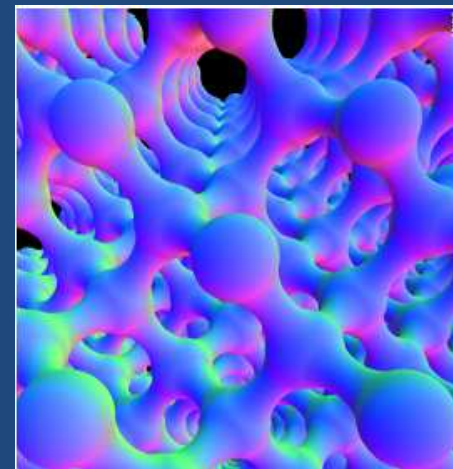


Organic-inorganic  
hybrid

# The “single diamond” nanostructure

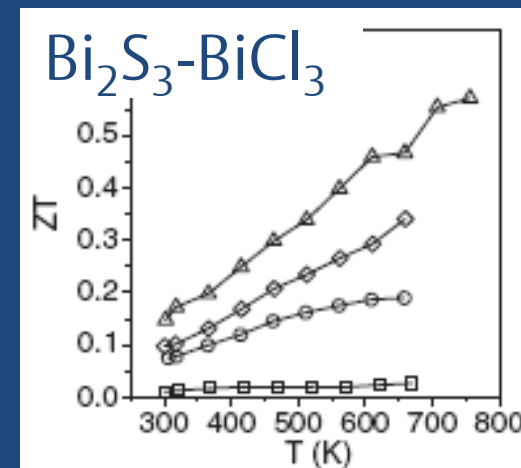
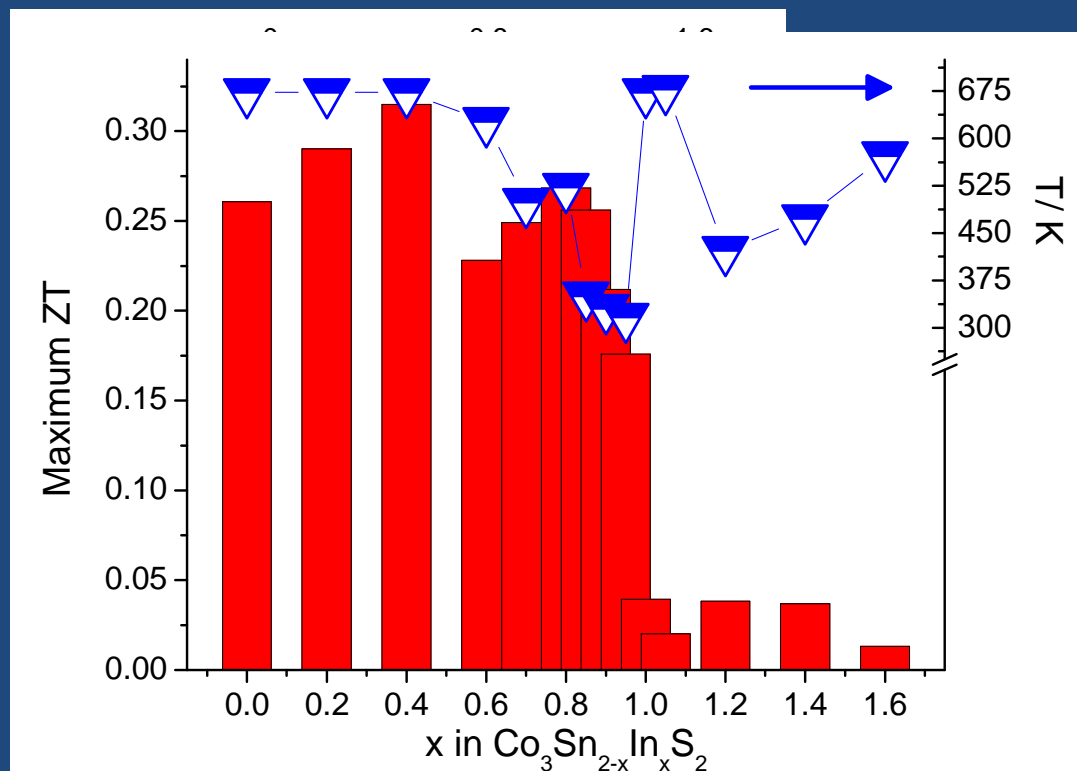


“The diamond structure... possesses the champion [photonic and phononic] band gap”  
Gorishnyy et al, *Physics World* 2005

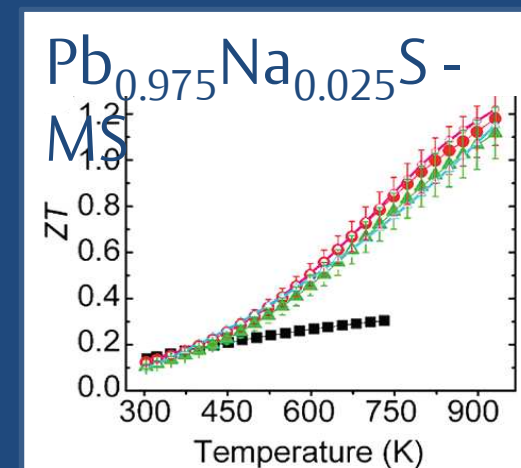


S. Akbar, J. Elliott\*, M. Rittman & A. Squires\*, *Advanced Materials* 2013,

# Figures of Merit



*Adv Energy Mater.* **2**, 634, (2012)

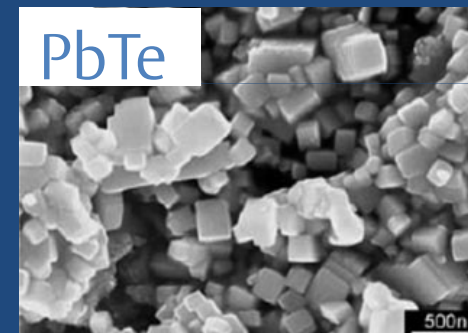
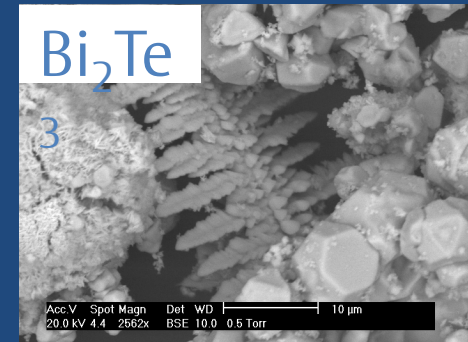


*JACS*, **134**, 7902, (2012)

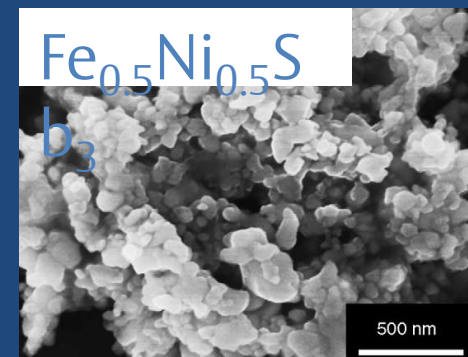
# Solvothermal Growth of Nanoparticulate

Metal Salts,  
Reducing agent  
Solvent,  
'Template  
Molecule'

$T > T_c$   
 $P \leq 200 \text{ bar}$



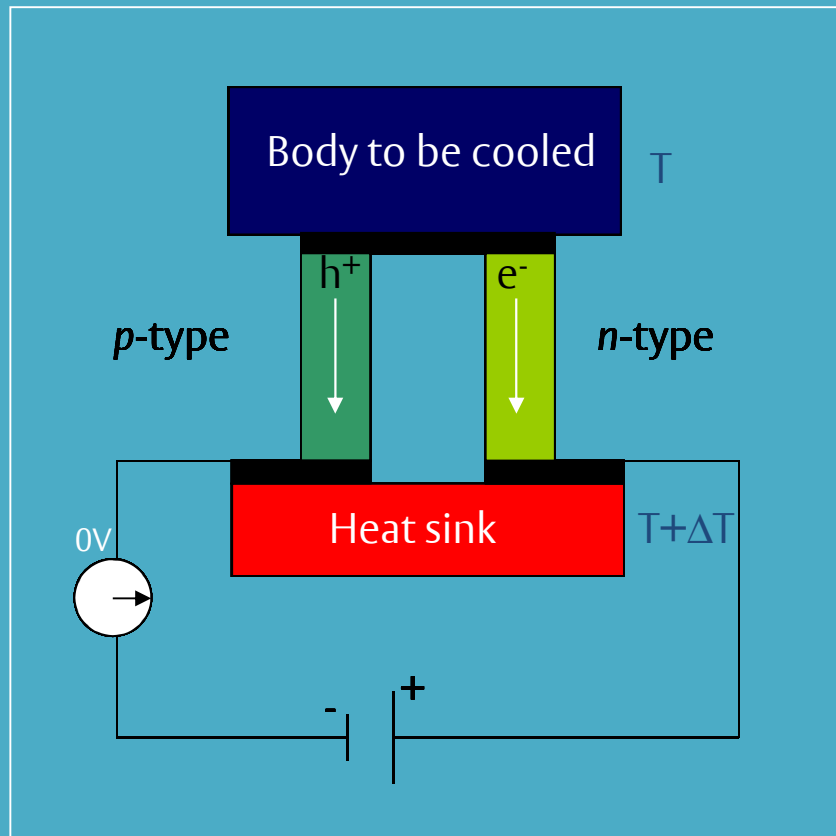
Ji et al. *J. Electron Mater.*, **36**, 271, (2007)



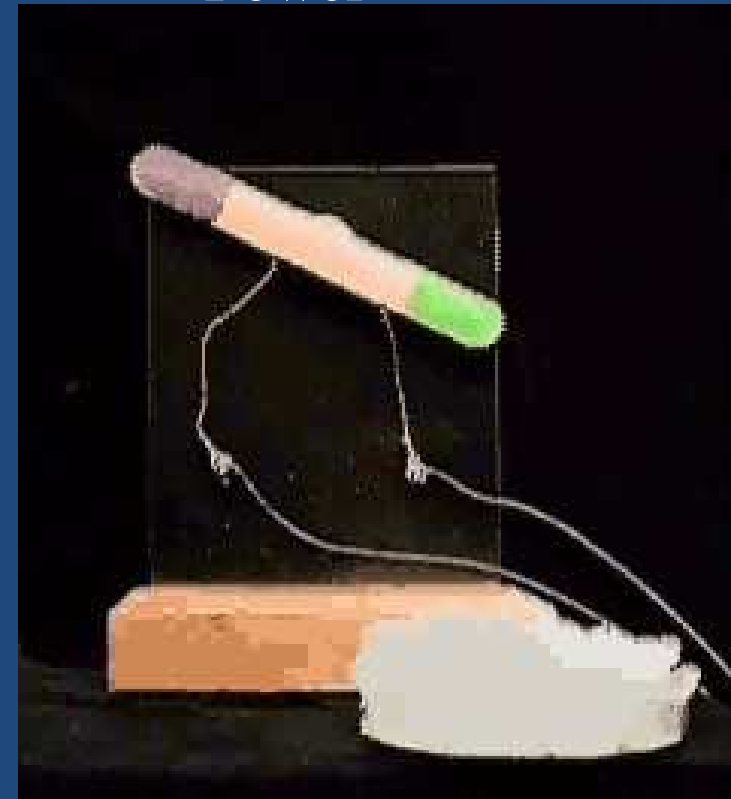
Mi et al. *JALCOM*, **399**, 260, (2005)

# Thermoelectric Energy Recovery

## Thermoelectric Couple



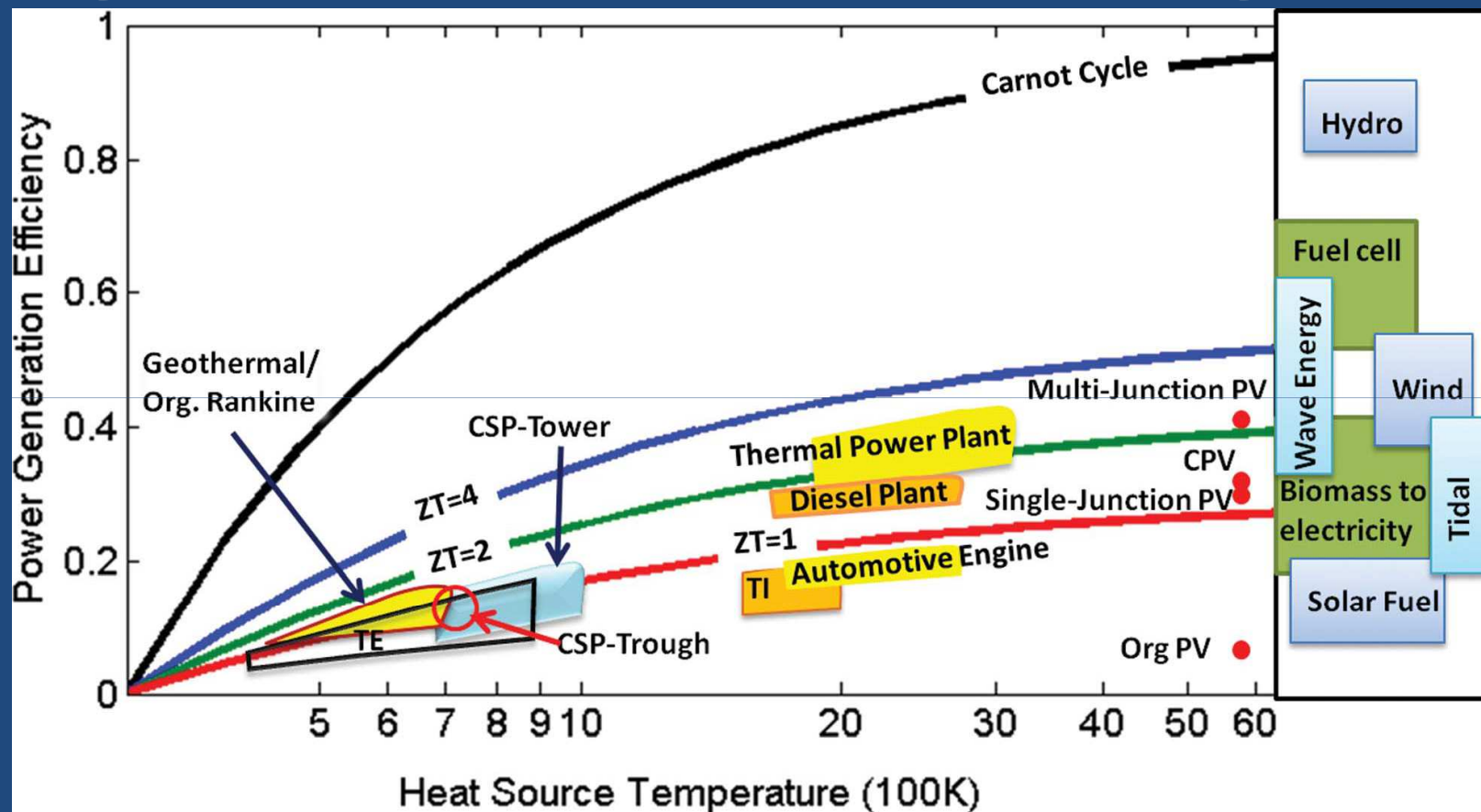
## Power



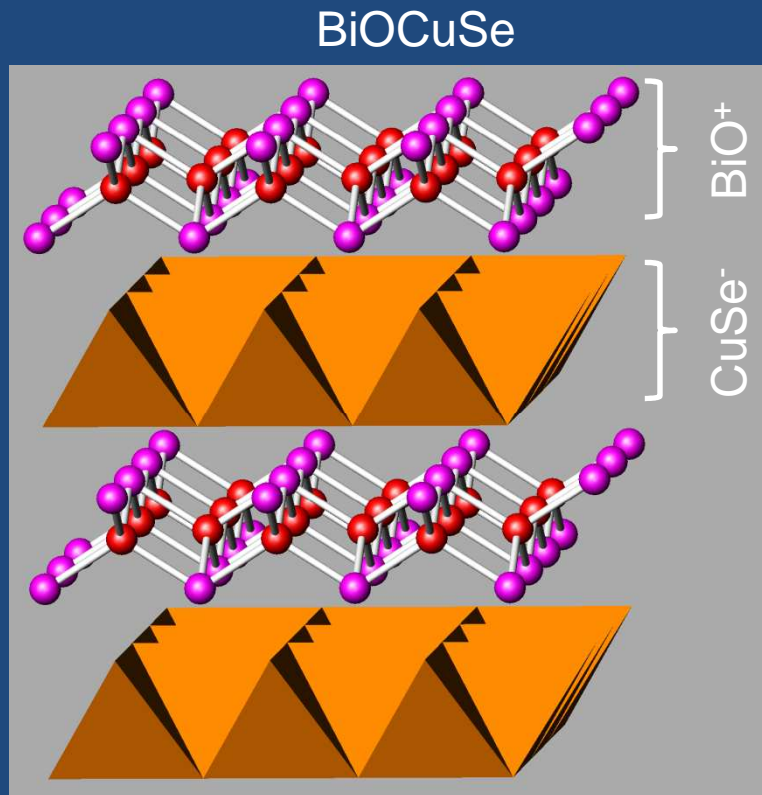
- Lightweight and small
- Very reliable



# Energy Conversion Technologies



# Materials Design 4: Separation of $S^2\sigma$ and $\kappa$ terms



- Independent optimisation of  $S^2\sigma$  (covalent) and  $\kappa_L$  (ionic)