

# Nano Sensors



**PhD/ MTech/ BTech**

**Course No.: EEL7450**

**L-T-P [C]: 3-0-0 [3]**

***Prof. AJAY AGARWAL***

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

**IIT JODHPUR**

*Lecture 01 dated 03<sup>rd</sup> January 2025*

Course Title	<i>Nano-Sensors</i>	Course No.	EEL7450			
Department	Electrical Engineering	Structure (LTPC)	3	0	0	3
Offered for	B.Tech. (IV year), M. Tech., and Ph.D.	Status	Program Elective			

***Class: Slot J (4 PM TO 4.50PM)***

***TUE***

***THU***

***FRI***

***TA: Ms. PRACHI SONI***

# Objective

1. Make the students understand the **importance of nanoscale materials** for **sensing applications**.
2. Explain the **approaches** used for **characterizing sensors based nanomaterials**.
3. Teach the **approaches** used for **tailoring nanomaterials** for a **specific sensing application**.

# Contents

- 1. Nanomaterials and Properties:** Nanoscale physics for quantum dot, nanowire and quantum wells; Properties of nanomaterials; nanomechanical oscillators, nano(bio)electronics, nanoscale heat transfer; fluids at nanoscale (8 lectures)
- 2. Nanoscale Characterization:** Examination of nanoscale characterization approaches including imaging, scattering, and spectroscopic techniques and their physical operating mechanisms. Microscopy (optical and electron: SEM, TEM); scattering & diffraction; spectroscopies (EDX, SIMS, Mass spec, Raman, XPS, XAS); scanning probe microscopes (SPM, AFM); particle size analysis (8 lectures)
- 3. Nanofabrication:** Basic engineering principles of nanofabrication. Topics include: photo-, electron beam and nanoimprint lithography, block of copolymers and self-assembled monolayers, colloidal assembly, biological nanofabrication (8 lectures)
- 4. Nanosensors:** Nanosensors based on metal nanoparticles, semi-conductor nanowires and nanocrystals and carbon nanotubes etc. (10 lectures)
- 5. Case Studies of Nanosensors:** Optical, mechanical and chemical sensors based on nanomaterials, Hybrid nanomaterial-based sensors, Quantum wells based IR sensors (8 lectures)

# Course Evaluation

1. Continuous evaluation: 40%
  - i. Quizzes
  - ii. Assignments
  - iii. Minor projects
2. Minor examination: 20%
3. Major/ final examination: 40 %

# Textbooks

1. Mindy Adams, (2016) Engineered Nanomaterials: Modeling, Methodologies and Applications, Wellford Press
2. John Hutchison, Angus Kirkland, (2007) Nano characterisation, RSC
3. Roger George Jackson, (2004) Novel Sensors and Sensing, CRC Press

## **Preparatory Course Material:**

Research articles from journals such as ACS Nano Letters, ACS Sensors, ACS Nano, Sensors & actuators B, etc.

# Introduction

What is **Nano Sensor**?

- Nano
  - Nano is a **unit prefix** meaning "**one billionth**". Used primarily with the metric system, this prefix denotes a factor of  **$10^{-9}$**  or **0.000000001**
- Sensor
  - a **device** which **detects or measures** a **physical** property and records, indicates, or otherwise responds to it



# The Scale of Things – Nanometers and More

## Things Natural

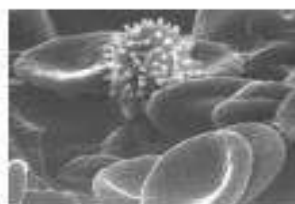


Dust mite  
200  $\mu\text{m}$



Human hair  
~ 60-120  $\mu\text{m}$  wide

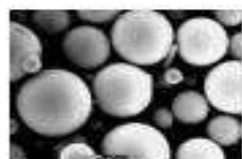
Red blood cells  
with white cell  
~ 2-5  $\mu\text{m}$



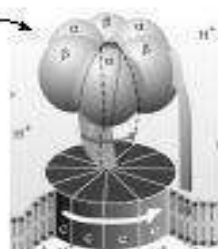
~10 nm diameter



Ant  
~ 5 mm



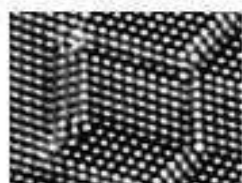
Fly ash  
~ 10-20  $\mu\text{m}$



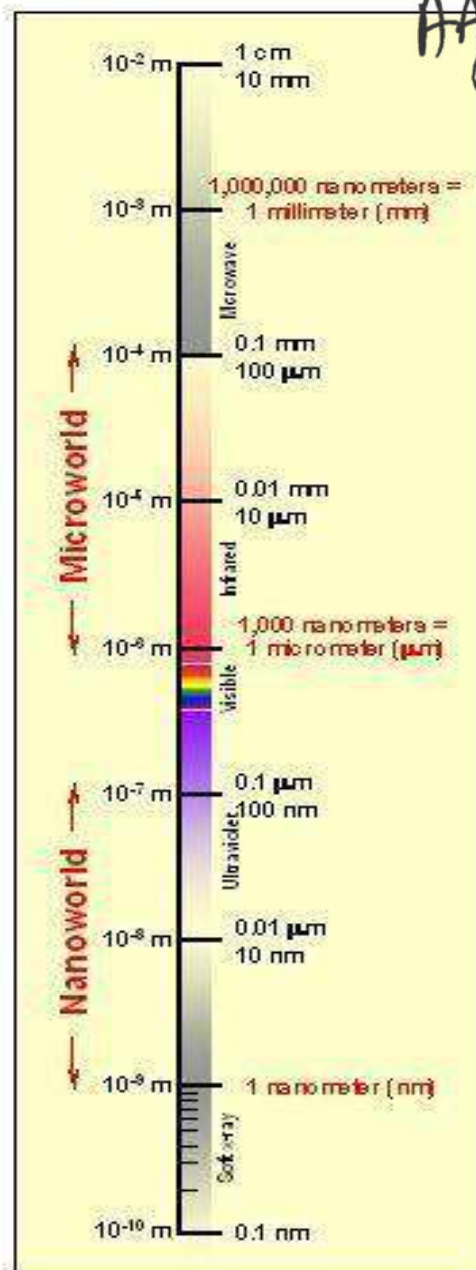
ATP synthase



DNA  
~ 2-12 nm diameter



Atoms of silicon  
spacing ~ tenths of nm



## Things Manmade



Head of a pin  
1-2 mm

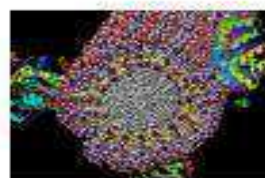


Micro Electro Mechanical  
(MEMS) devices  
10 - 100  $\mu\text{m}$  wide

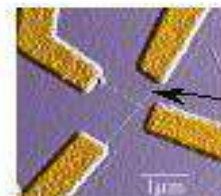


Pollen grain  
Red blood cells

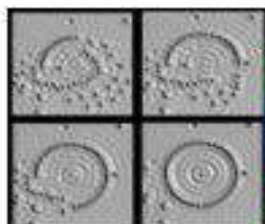
Zone plate x-ray "lens"  
Outer ring spacing ~ 35 nm



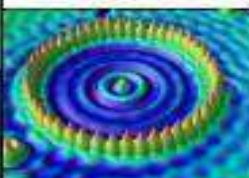
Self-assembled,  
Nature-inspired structure  
Many 10s of nm



Nanotube electrode

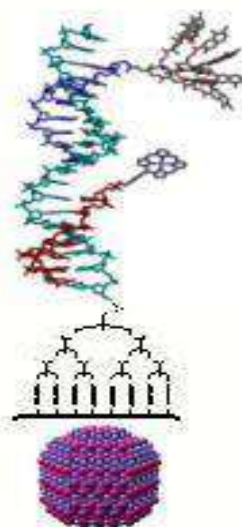


Quantum corral of 48 iron atoms on copper surface  
positioned one at a time with an STM tip  
Conical diameter 14 nm

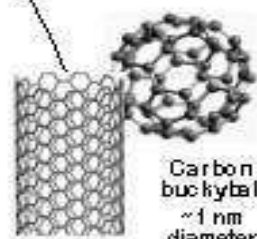


Carbon nanotube  
~ 1.3 nm diameter

### The Challenge



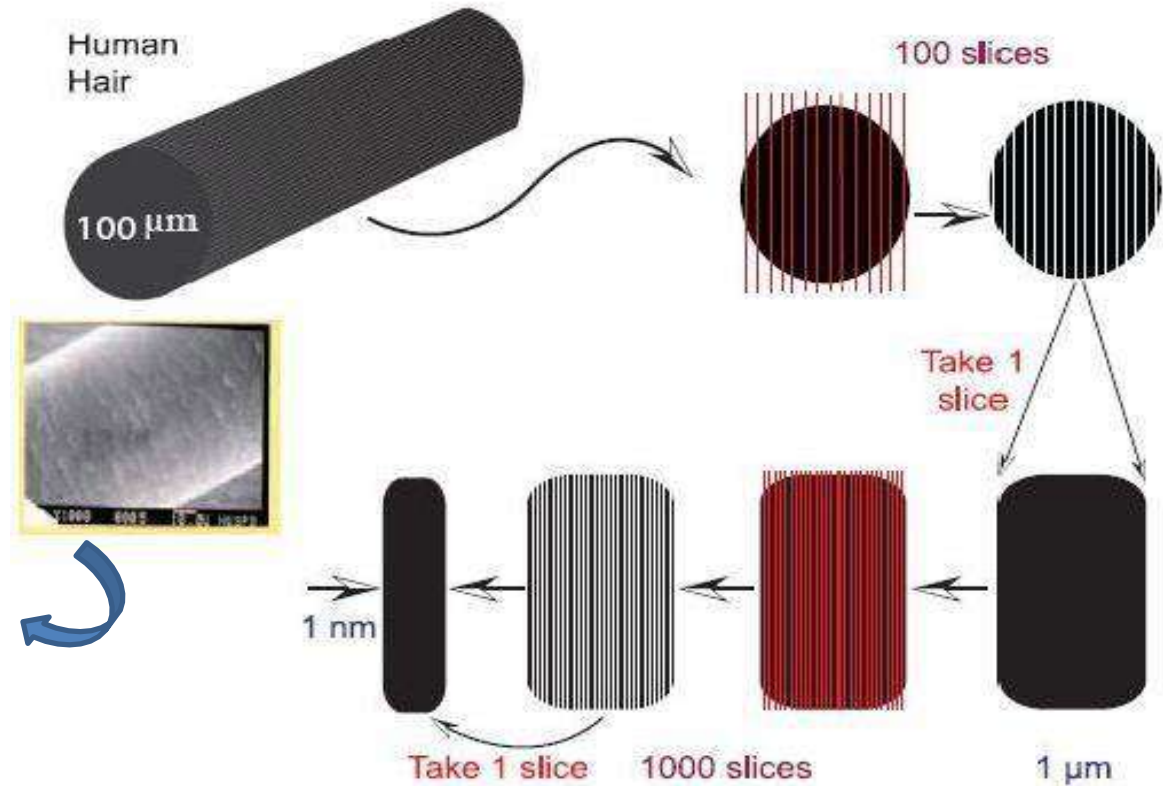
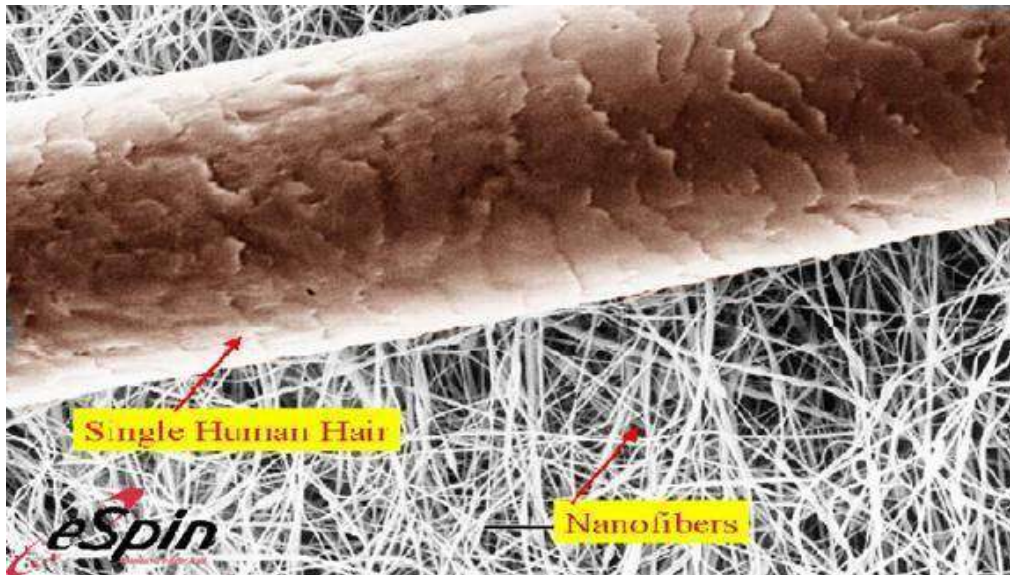
*Fabricate and combine  
nanoscale building  
blocks to make useful  
devices, e.g., a  
photosynthetic reaction  
center with integral  
semiconductor storage.*



Carbon  
buckyball  
~ 1 nm  
diameter



# Compared to Human Hair



A Human Hair is about 100,000nm in diameter

# Nano Sensors

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*Lecture 02 dated 07<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

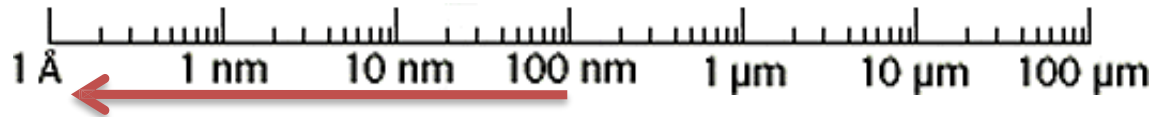
# What are Nanomaterials?

**Nanoscience**- deals with the science of very small objects

## Nanomaterials



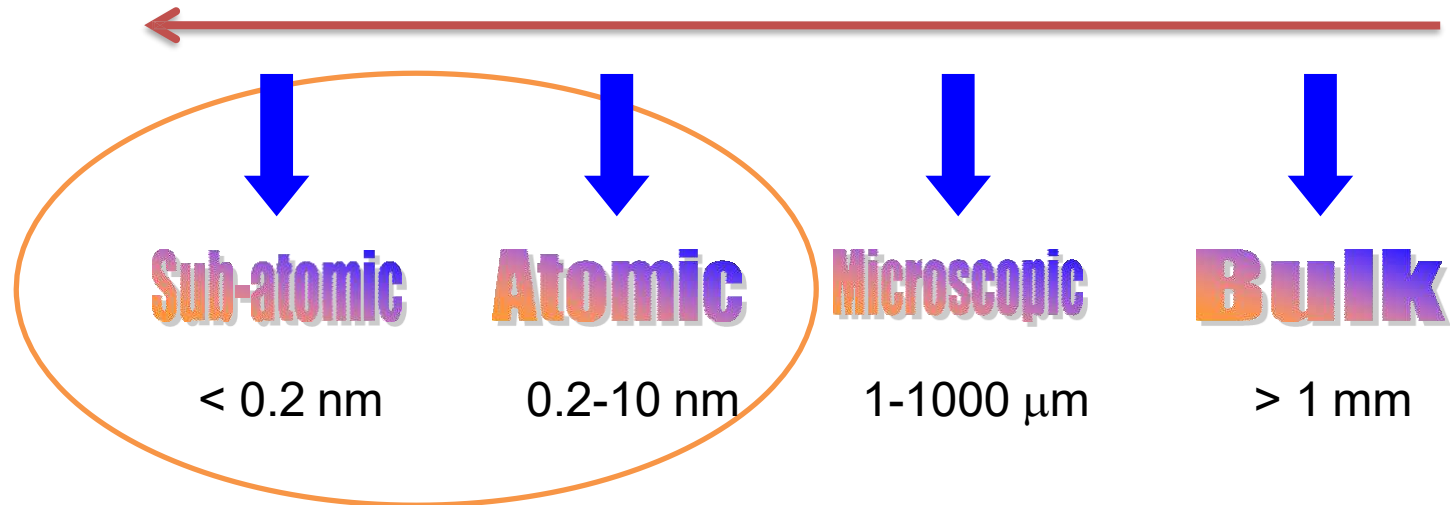
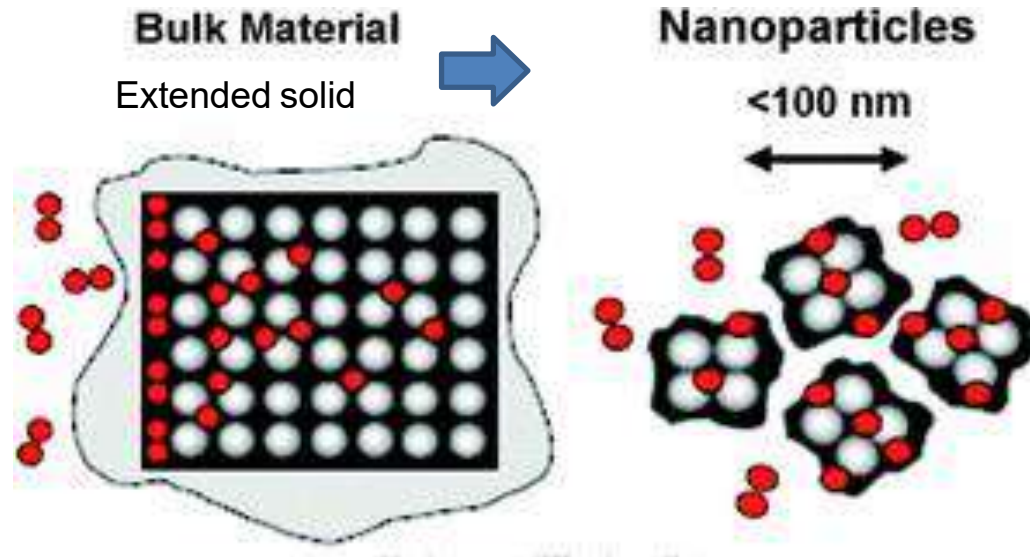
Particle sizes less than 100 nm at least one dimension  
(1 nanometer (nm) =  $10^{-9}$  m, 1 nm is 1 billionth of a meter)



A nanostructured material (or nanomaterial) is defined as a solid material characterized by **at least one dimension** in the nanometer range

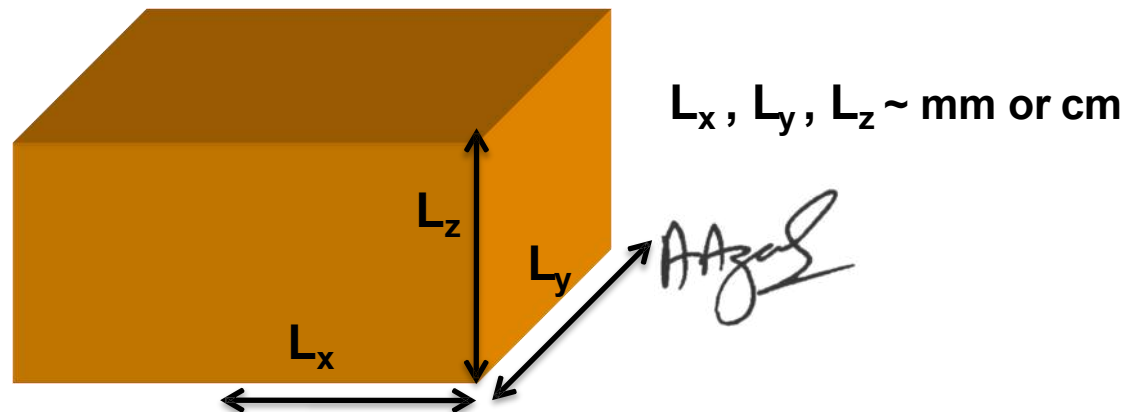
**Nanotechnology**- Engineering nano-materials for functional usage.  
Synthesize, characterize, and manipulate materials at less than 100 nm length scale.  
Developing new materials for practical applications

# Size/ Dimension Reduction



# Classification of Nanomaterials

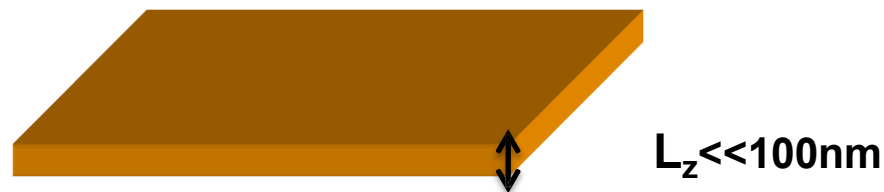
## Bulk (3D) Material



## Low-Dimensional Systems

### 2D Systems:

Systems confined in 1 dimensions



### 1D Systems:

Systems confined in 2 dimensions



### 0D Systems:

Systems confined in 3 dimensions



# Nanomaterials can be metals, semiconductors, oxides, ceramics, polymers, or composite materials

## MOLECULES

	<i>Size (approx.)</i>	<i>Materials</i>
Nanocrystals and clusters (quantum dots)	1 – 10 nm (diam.)	Metals, semiconductors, magnetic materials
Other nanoparticles	1 – 100 nm (diam.)	Ceramic oxides
Nanowires	1 – 100 nm (diam.)	Metals, semiconductors, oxides, sulfides, nitrides
Nanotubes	1 – 100 nm (diam.)	Carbon, layered metal chalcogenides
Nanoporous solids	0.5 – 10 nm (pore diam.)	Zeolites, phosphates, etc.
2-D arrays (of nanoparticles)	Several nm <sup>2</sup> – $\mu\text{m}^2$	Metals, semiconductors, magnetic mater.
Surfaces and thin films	1 – 1000 nm (thickness)	A variety of materials
3-D structures (superlattices)	Several nm in the three dimensions	Metals, semiconductors, magnetic materials

## BULK MATERIALS

# Nanostructure Geometries

Bulk



Cavities  
and pores



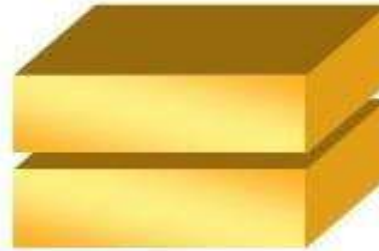
Networks  
And powders



Planar surface



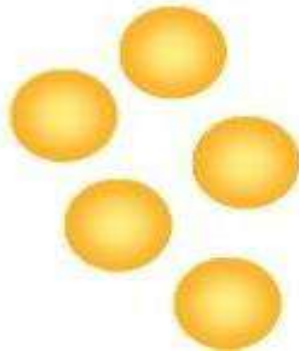
Slit



Structured  
surface



Particles



Shell



Spheroid

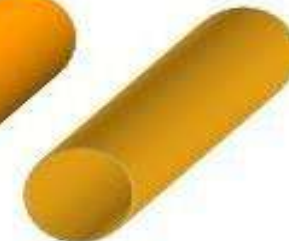
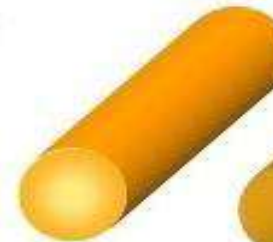


Spheroidal  
Shell



Rod

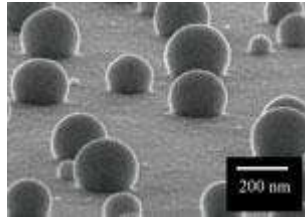
Tube



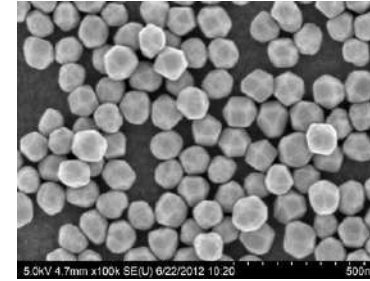


# Structures of engineered nanomaterials

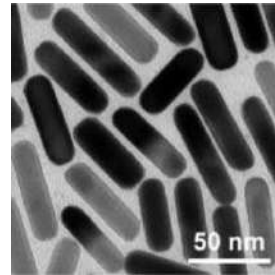
- Particles



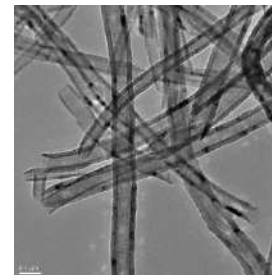
Au nano-particles



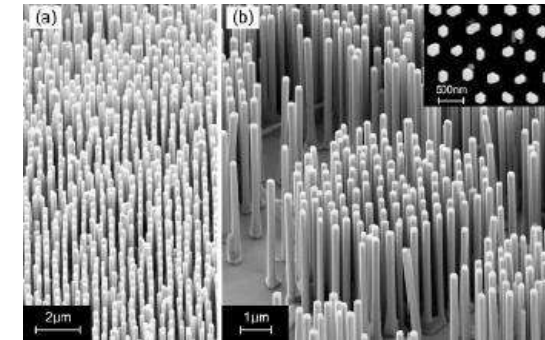
- Rods, fibres and tubes



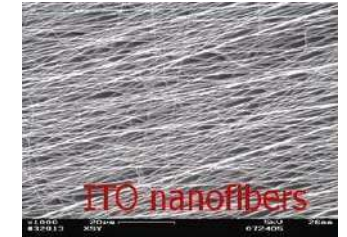
Au nanorods



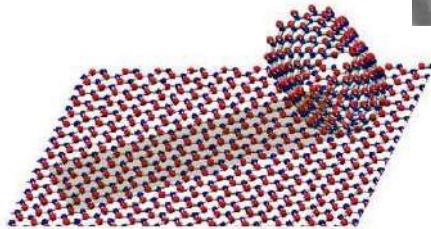
Carbon nanotubes



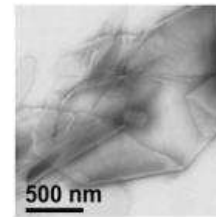
ZnO nanotubes



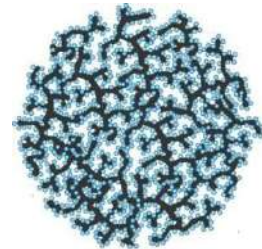
- Sheet



BN  
nanosheets

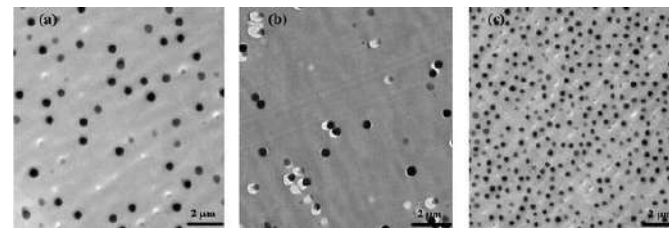


- Composites



silicon-carbon nanocomposite

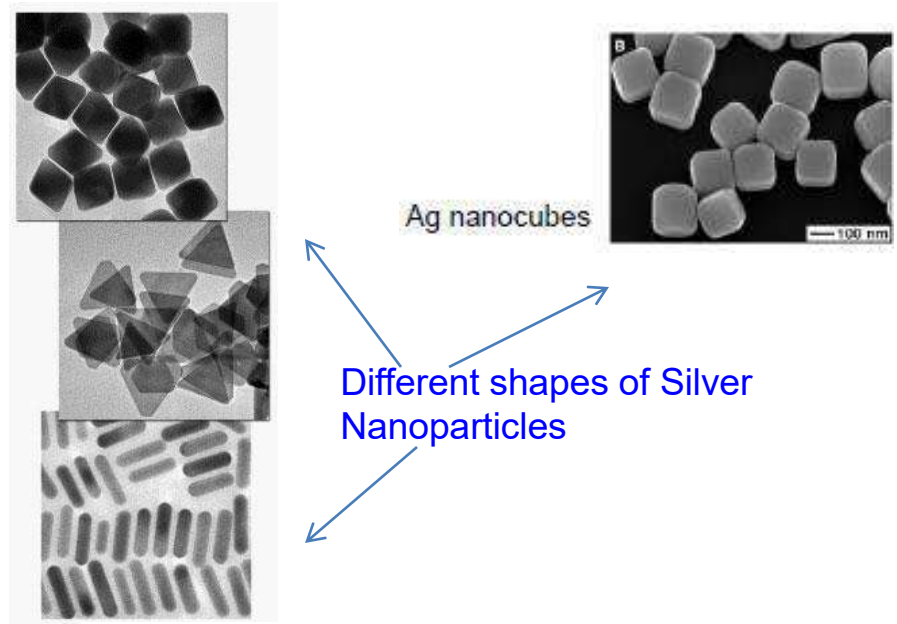
- Embedded in non-nanostructures



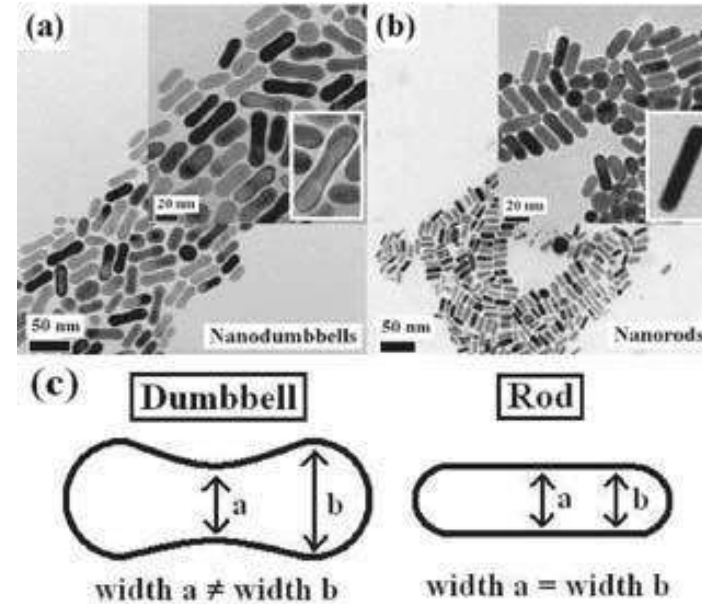
PMMA/silica nanocomposites

# Spherical and other Shaped Nanomaterials

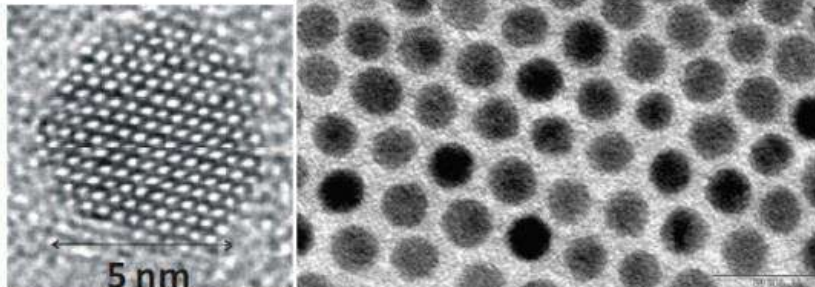
They can exist in single, fused, aggregated or agglomerated forms with spherical, tubular, and irregular shapes



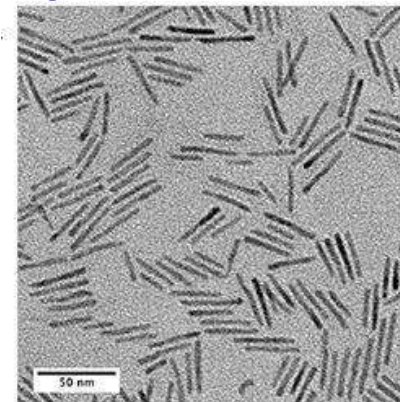
Different shapes of Gold Nanoparticles



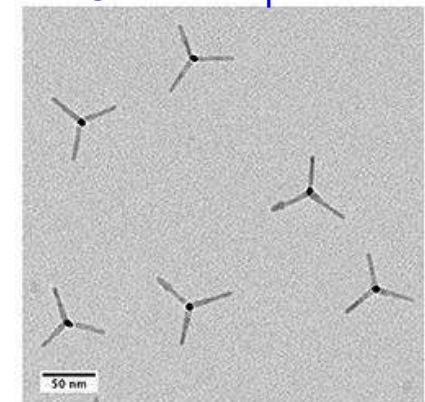
CdSe Nanocrystals



CdSe Nanorods



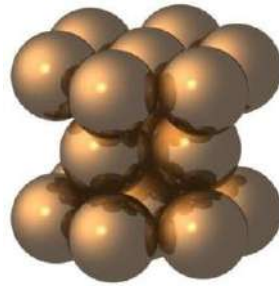
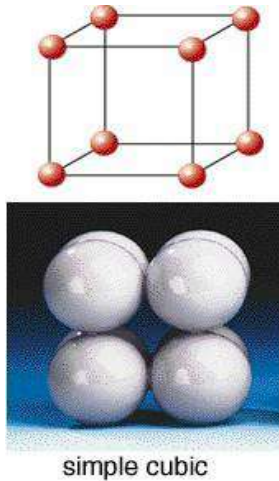
CdSe Tetrapods



# Atomic Arrangement: Ordered vs. Disordered

## Crystalline:

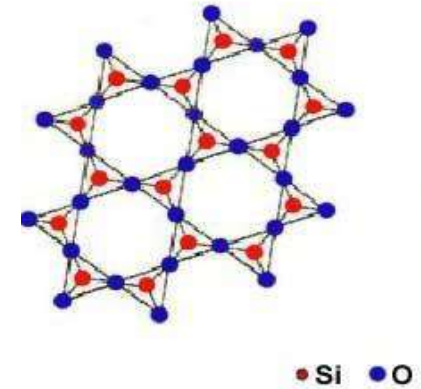
atoms are arranged in a 3D, periodic array giving the material “*long range order*”



hexagonal close-packed

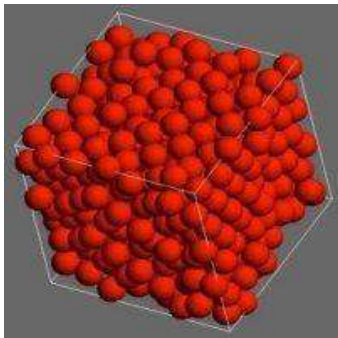
- anisotropic materials

Crystalline SiO<sub>2</sub>  
(Quartz)



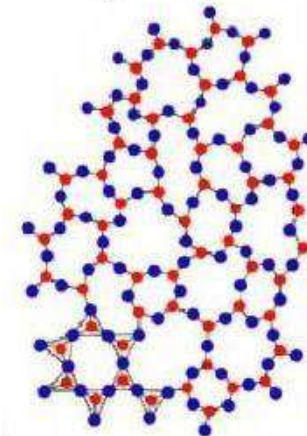
## Non-crystalline or amorphous:

atoms only have short-range, *nearest neighbor order*



- isotropic materials

Amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub>  
(Glass)





# Isotropic vs. Anisotropic materials

S. No	Isotropic Material	Anisotropic Material
1	Isotropic materials show the same properties in all directions.	Anisotropic materials show different properties in different directions.
2	Glass, crystals with cubic symmetry, diamonds, metals are examples of isotropic materials.	Wood, composite materials, all crystals (except cubic crystal) are examples of anisotropic materials.
3	These materials are direction-independent.	These materials are direction-dependent.
4	These materials have a single refractive index.	These materials have many refractive indices.
5	These materials have consistent chemical bonding.	These materials have inconsistent chemical bonding.
6	Isotropic minerals generally appear dark.	Anisotropic minerals generally appear light.
7	These materials don't show characteristics such as optical activity, dichroism, etc.	Optical activity, dichroism, dispersion in presence of different refractive indices are a few characteristics of anisotropic materials.
8	These materials are used in windows and lenses.	These materials are used for wedges, optical waveplates, polarizers, etc.
9	These materials show the same velocity of light in all directions.	These show different velocities of light in different directions.
10	Unpolarized light does not split (double refraction) into two in an isotropic medium.	Anisotropic medium splits unpolarized light into two when it enters the medium.

# Questions

# Nano Sensors

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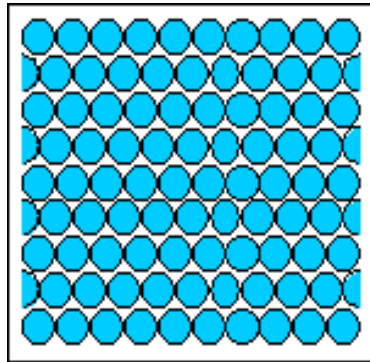
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**IIT JODHPUR**

*Lecture 03 dated 09<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

# Types of Solids

## Crystalline material

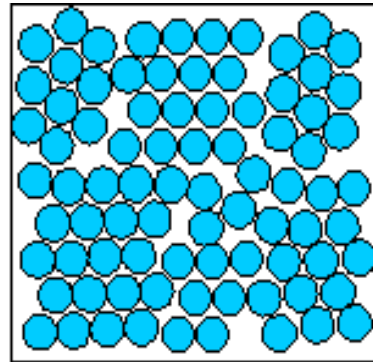
### Single crystal



Single crystal

Periodic across the whole volume.

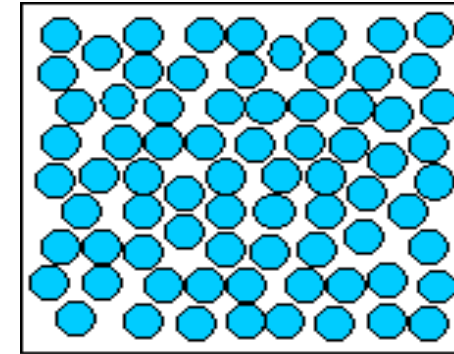
### Polycrystalline material



Polycrystal

Periodic across each grain.

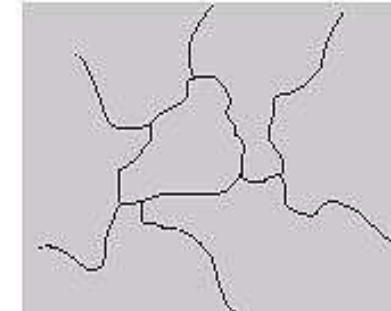
## Amorphous



Amorphous solid

Not periodic.

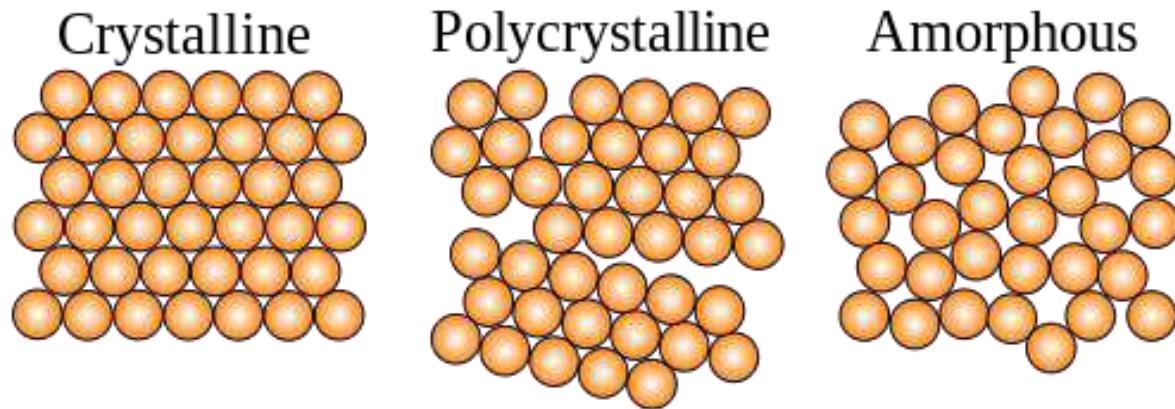
many small crystals or **grains**



periodic array over the entire extent of the material



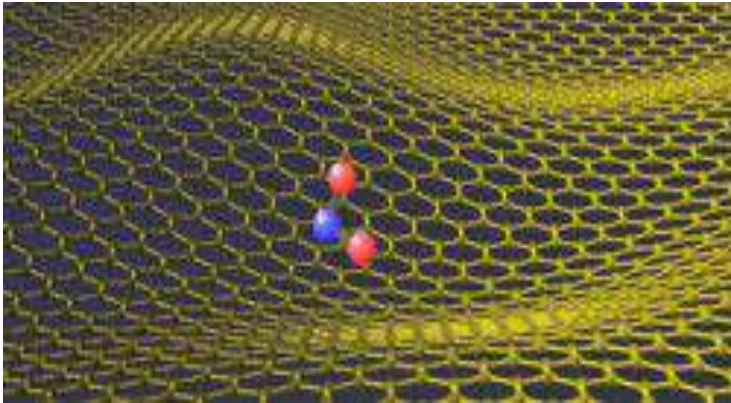
# Crystalline vs. Non-crystalline



Crystalline vs Noncrystalline Solids		
More Information Online <a href="http://WWW.DIFFERENCEBETWEEN.COM">WWW.DIFFERENCEBETWEEN.COM</a>		
	Crystalline Solids	Noncrystalline Solids
<b>DEFINITION</b>	In crystalline solids, constituent particles (atoms, molecules or ions) arrange in a three-dimensional periodic manner.	Non-crystalline solids do not have a consistent arrangement of particles.
<b>GEOMETRY</b>	Have a well-defined geometrical shape due to the regular arrangement of unit cells.	Do not have well-defined geometrical shape.
<b>RANGE OF ORDER</b>	Have a long-range order.	Have a short range order.
<b>MELTING POINT</b>	Have a definite melting point.	Melt over a range
<b>HEAT OF FUSION</b>	Have a high fixed value for the heat of fusion.	Do not have a fixed value for the heat of fusion.
<b>PROPERTIES</b>	These solids are true solids, so they show all the properties of solids.	These solids do not show all the properties of solids. Therefore, they are called "pseudo solids".
<b>ENERGY</b>	Energy in crystalline solids is lower than that of non-crystalline solids.	Energy in non-crystalline solids is higher than that of crystalline solids.

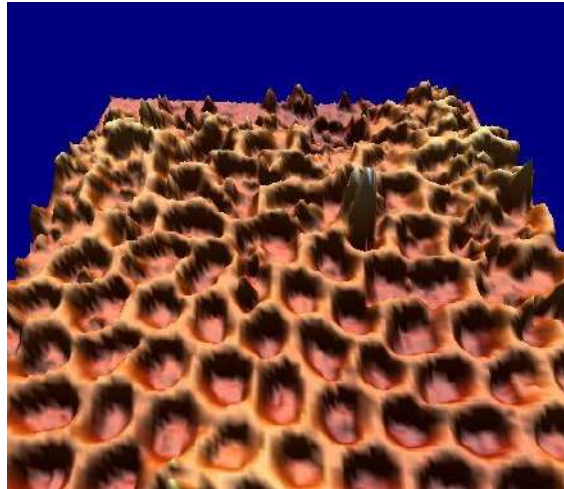
# Nano-structures/ Nano-materials

## 2- D structures



**Graphene sheet:** can detect single molecule - the ultimate sensitivity. F Schedin *et al*, *Nature*

*Materials*, 2007, DOI: 10.1038/nmat1967



**Nanomesh:** The distance between two pore centers is 3.2nm, & the pores are 0.05nm deep. M. Corso et al., Boron Nitride Nanomesh, *Science* 303, doi:10.1126/science.1091979

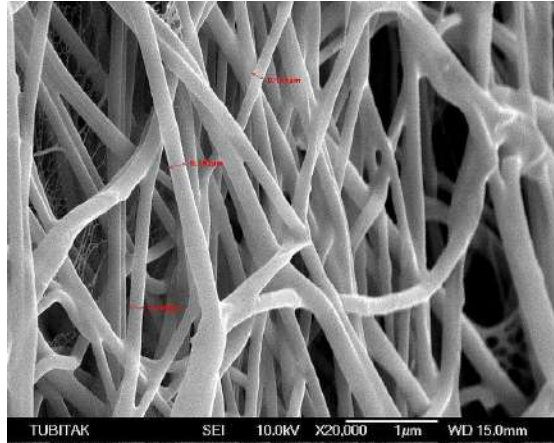


**Sculptured thin films** are nanostructured materials with varying properties that can be designed & realized in a controllable manner. A. Lakhtakia and R. Messier, *Sculptured Thin Films: Nanoengineered Morphology & Optics*, SPIE Press, Bellingham, USA, 2005

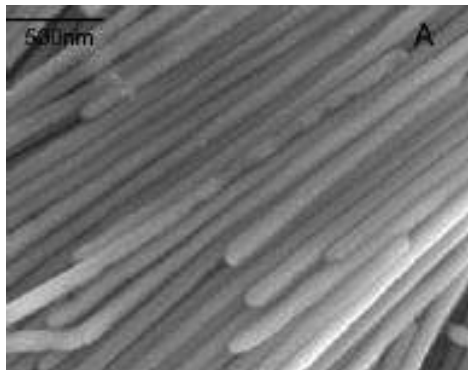


# Nano-structures/ Nano-materials

## 1- D structures

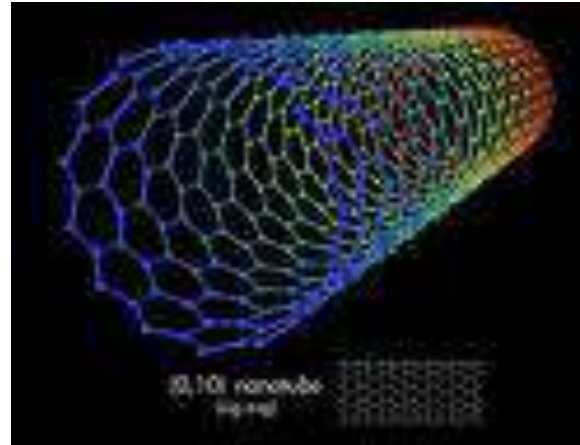


**Nano-fibers:** dia.  $\sim 100\text{nm}$ ; produced by polymerization & electro-spinning; catalytic synthesis (carbon nano-fibers). Source: Nano FMG

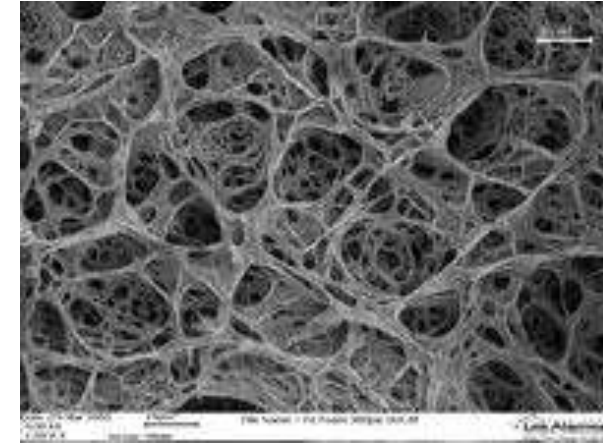


**Nanorods:** Self-assembled nano-rods on a substrate.

Zhang et al., J. Phys. Chem. B 109, 2005, 12544



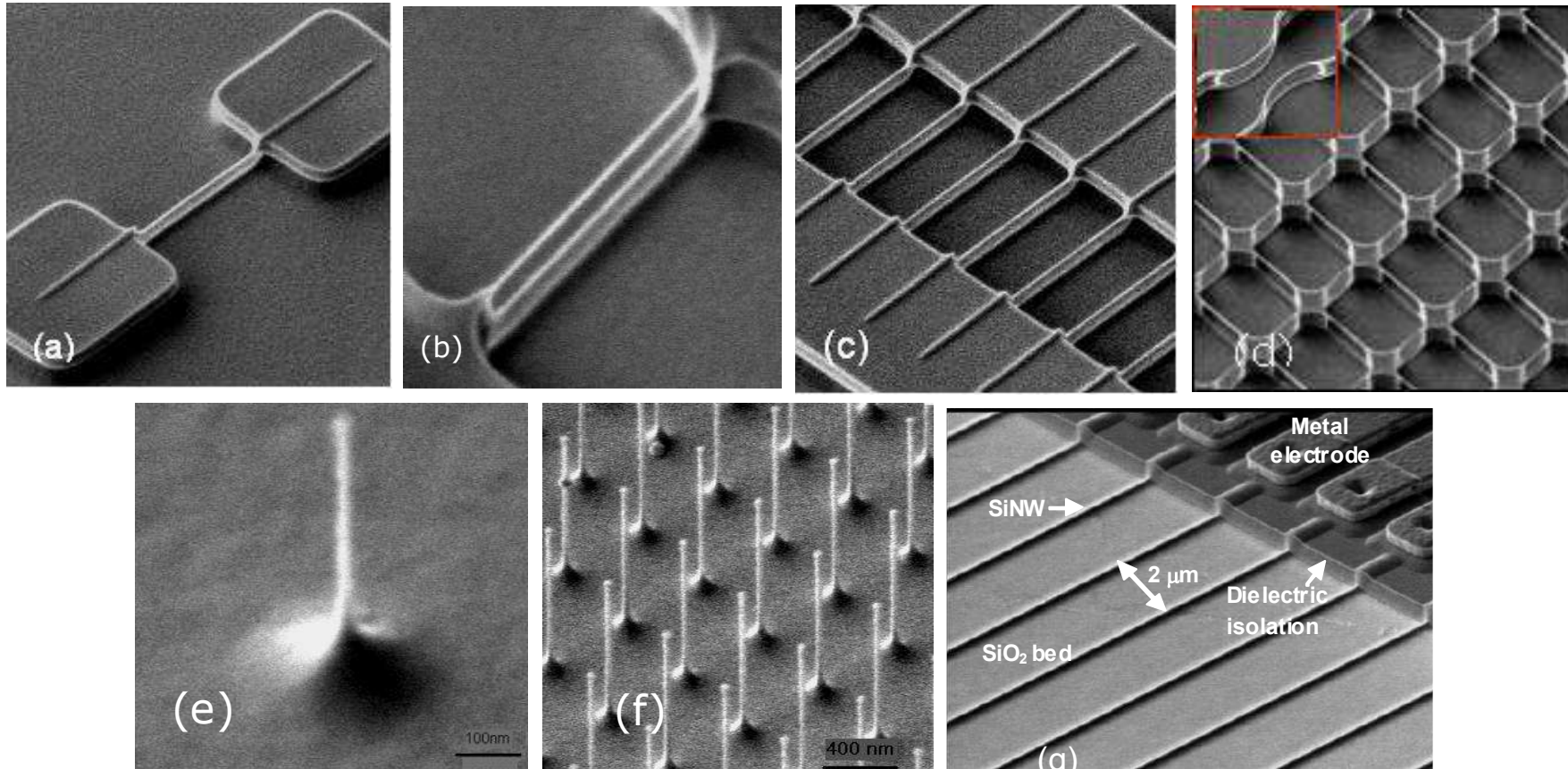
**Carbon nanotubes, CNTs:** cylindrical nanostructure with length-to-diameter ratio of up to 28,000,000:1 Zheng et al., Nature Materials 3, 2004 673, doi:10.1038/nmat1216



**Nanofoam:** porous material, contains significant population of pores with dia  $< 100\text{nm}$ ; e.g. aero-gels. R&D magazine 100 Awards, access date Aug. 26, 2008

# Nano-structures/ Nano-materials

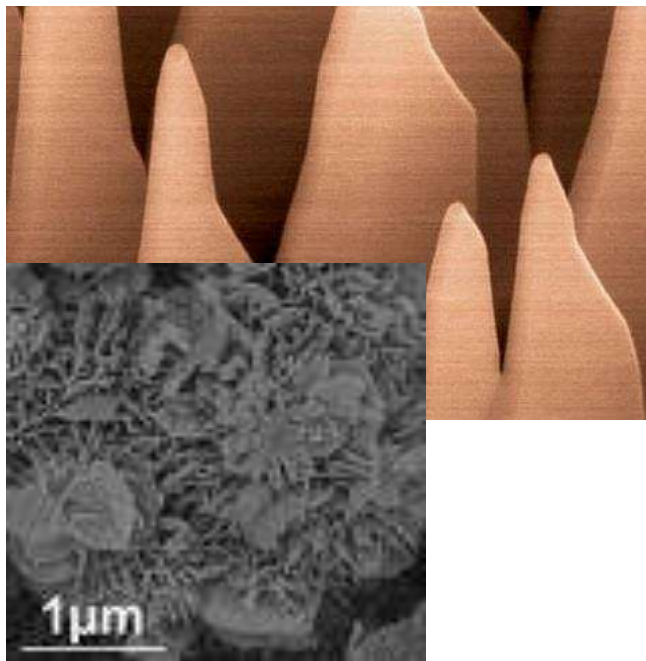
## 1- D structures



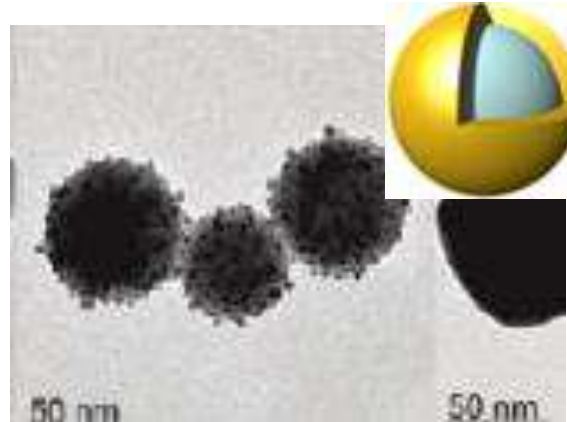
**Silicon nanowire:** (a) Single SiNW, (b) vertically stacked twin SiNWs (c) An array of SiNW (d) large area regular mesh of nanowires. The inset: curved SiNW (e) & (f) 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  tall isolated & dense-array of vertical SiNW of dia  $\sim 20$  nm (g) SiNW array for bio-chemical sensors; length-to-cross section ratio up to 40,000:1.

# Nano-structures/ Nano-materials

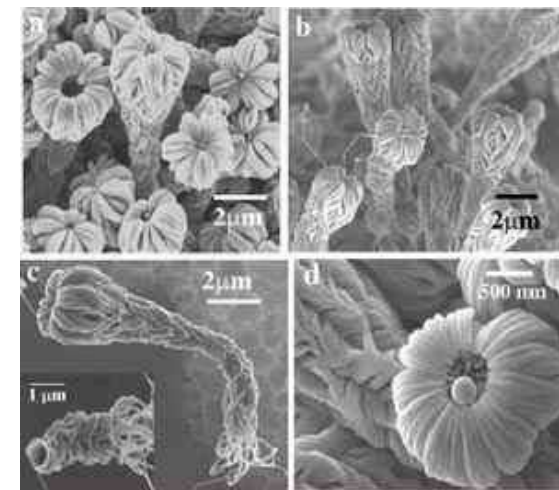
## 0-D nanostructures



**Nanoflake:** perfect crystalline structure that absorb all light; have potential to convert up to 30 % of the solar energy into electricity. Nano-Science Center at the University of Copenhagen



**Nanoshell:** a typical spherical nanoparticle consisting of a dielectric core covered by a thin metallic shell (usually gold). Discovered by Naomi Halas at Rice University

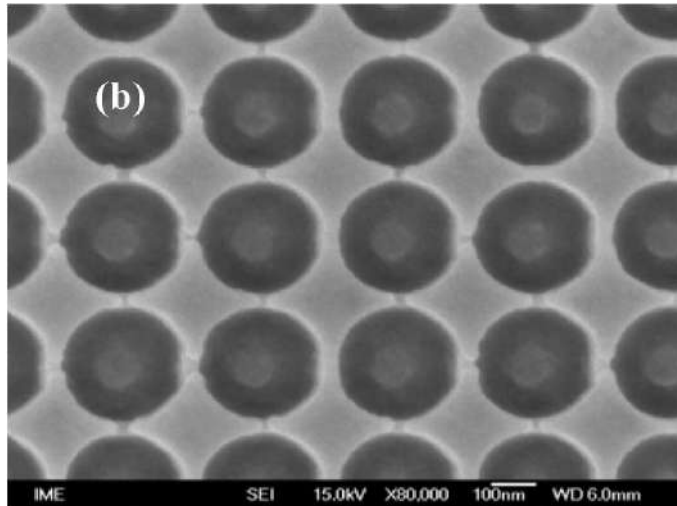


**Nanoflowers & nanotrees:** nano-scale wires of silicon carbide are grown from tiny droplets of liquid Gallium on silicon. Ghim Wei Ho, Cambridge University.

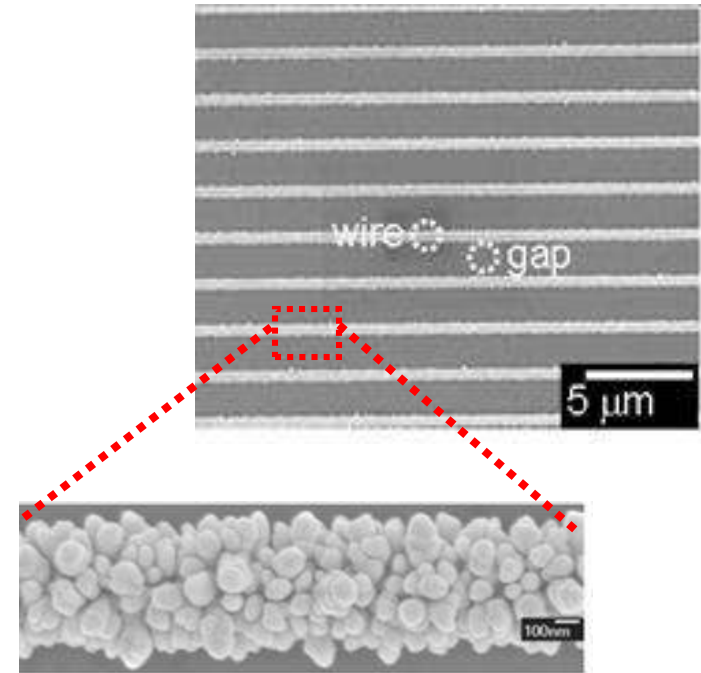


# Nano-structures/ Nano-materials

## 0-D structures



3-D sub-micron structures with regular **array of nano-gaps** as SERS.



**Silver nanoparticles** deposited on silicon nanowires as SERS active substrate

**Why should we use  
Nano-technologies/ Nano sensors  
for Sensing applications?**



# Nanotechnology / Nano-material important for the sensors

- Improves sensitivity & performance
- New signal transduction technologies in biosensors
- Submicron dimensions in nano sensors/ probes/ systems allow simple & rapid in vivo analysis
- Portable instruments for multi-components analysis realized

# Why Nanomaterials are interesting?

## Novel Properties: Size dependent Properties

**At the nanometer scale, properties become size-dependent.**

**For example,**

- (1) Chemical properties – reactivity, catalysis**
- (2) Thermal properties – melting temperature**
- (3) Mechanical properties – adhesion, capillary forces**
- (4) Optical properties – absorption and scattering of light**
- (5) Electrical properties – tunneling current**
- (6) Magnetic properties – superparamagnetic effect**

**New properties enable new applications**

Property	Influence of size reduction on properties of nanoparticle
Structural	Decrease or increase of lattice parameter Structure transformations
Mechanical	Enhancement of hardness, strength, fracture ductility Arise of superplasticity Raising of wear resistance
Thermal	Decrease of melting point Decrease of phase transition temperatures Decrease of melting entropy Softening of phonon spectra
Thermo-dynamical	Increase of heat capacity Increase of thermal expansion Decrease of Debye temperature Stabilization of high temperature phases
Kinetic	Increase of diffusion coefficient Sharp drop of thermal conductance under some critical size $d^*$ Oscillation of kinetic coefficients
Electrical	Increase of conductivity for nanometals Arise of conductivity for nanodielectrics Increase of dielectric inductivity for ferroelectrics at $d^*$
Electronic	Increase of band gap Arise of phonon generation Raising of conductivity under low temperatures in semimetallic Bi

Magnetic	Increase or decrease of coercive force at $d^*$
	Decrease of Curie temperature
	Rise of paramagnetism in ferromagnetics at some $d^*$
	Rise of giant magnetoresistance
	Rise of maximal temperature of magnetoresistance
	Increase of magnetic permeability in ferromagnetics at $d^*$
Optical	Diffraction and interference
	Increase of absorption in ultraviolet range (blue shift)
	Oscillation of optical absorption
	Arise of nonlinear optical properties
Chemical	Increase of catalytic activity
	Increase of velocity of physico-chemical interactions
	Swap of solubility

**Questions?**

## **Assignment 1**

**Write a short note on any 03 properties of Nano-sized materials.**

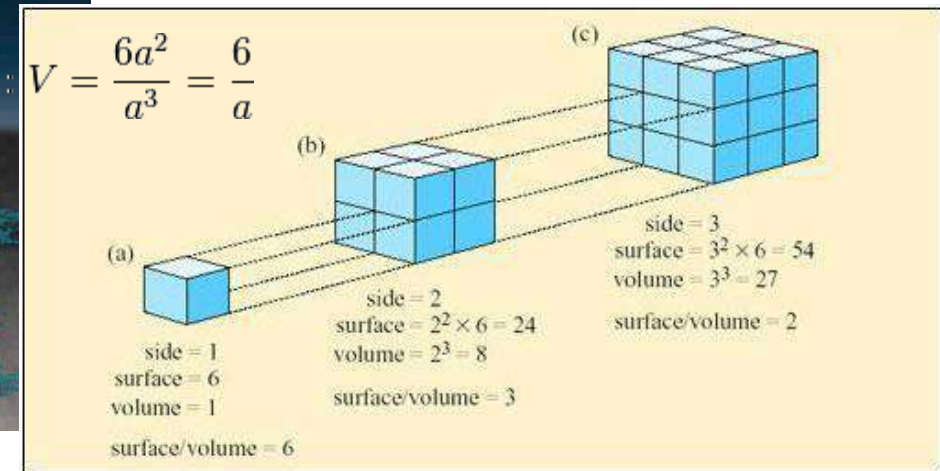
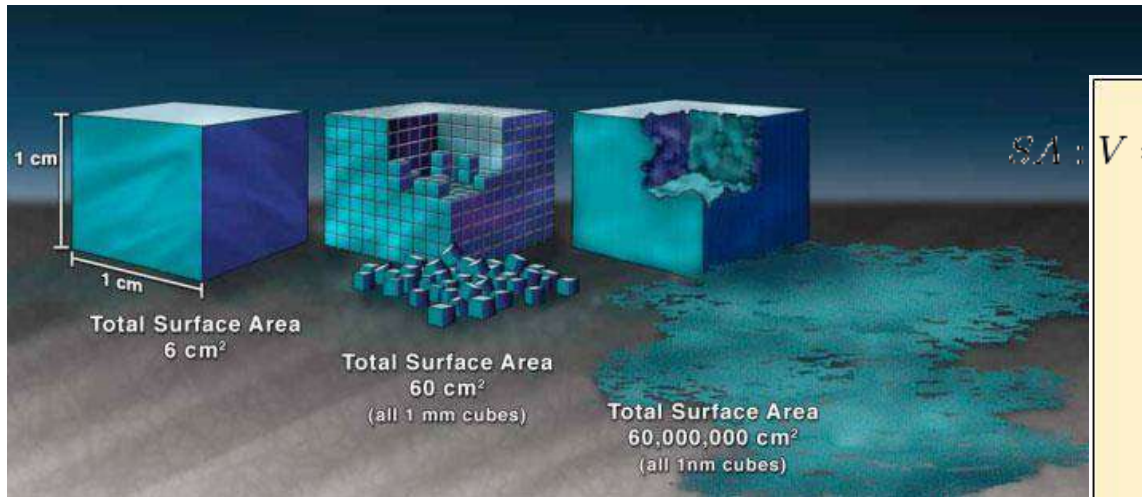
**Last date of submission: 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025**

# Size dependent Properties of nanoscale materials

Two principle factors causes the properties of nm differ significantly from bulk material

## 1. Large Surface effect - Increase in surface area to volume ratio

If a bulk material is divided in smaller particles, the **total volume** of material remains the **same**, whereas the collective surface area is greatly increased. In other words, the so called surface-to-volume ratio is significantly increased.



As the particle/ grain size reduces the proportion of atoms exposed on its surface increases

5% for 30 nm particles

20% for 10 nm particles

50% for 3 nm particles

✦ This leads to high chemical reactivity of the nanomaterials

# Nano Sensors

**PhD/ MTech/ BTech**  
**Course No.: EEL7450**  
**L-T-P [C]: 3-0-0 [3]**

***Prof. AJAY AGARWAL***  
**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**  
**IIT JODHPUR**

*Lecture 04 dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025*



# Physical Properties of Nanomaterials

- **Known origins that cause physical properties to change:**
  - i. large fraction of surface atoms,
  - ii. Large surface energy,
  - iii. Spatial confinement, and
  - iv. Reduced imperfections

# Physical Properties of Nanomaterials

- 1. Reduced melting point:** Nanomaterial may have a significantly lower melting point or phase transition temperature and appreciably **reduced lattice constants (spacing between atoms is reduced)**, due to huge **fraction of surface atoms** in the total amount of atoms.
- 2. Ultra Hard:** Mechanical properties of nanomaterials may reach the theoretical strength, which are one or two orders of magnitude higher than that of single crystals in the bulk form. The enhancement in mechanical strength is simply **due to the reduced probability of defects**

# Physical Properties of Nanomaterials

**3. Optical properties** of Nanomaterials can be significantly different from bulk crystal.

- Semiconductor Blue shift in adsorption and emission due to an increased band gap – Quantum size effects, Particle in box
- Metallic Nanoparticles colour changes in spectra due to Surface Plasmons Resonances – Lorentz Oscillator Model

**4. Electrical conductivity** decreases with a reduced dimension due to increased surface scattering

Electrical conductivity increases due to the better ordering and ballistic transport

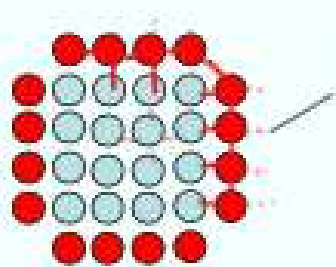
# Physical Properties of Nanomaterials

5. Magnetic properties of nanomaterials are distinctly different from the bulk materials.
  - Ferromagnetism disappears and transfers to superparamagnetism in the nanometer scale due to the huge surface energy
6. Self purification is an intrinsic thermodynamic property of nanostructures and nanomaterials due to enhanced diffusion of impurities/ defects/ dislocations in the nearby surfaces
  - Increased perfection enhances chemical stability

# Physical Properties of Nanomaterials

## 1. Reduced melting point:

### *Melting points and lattice constants*



Nanoparticles of metals,

semiconductors and

molecular crystals

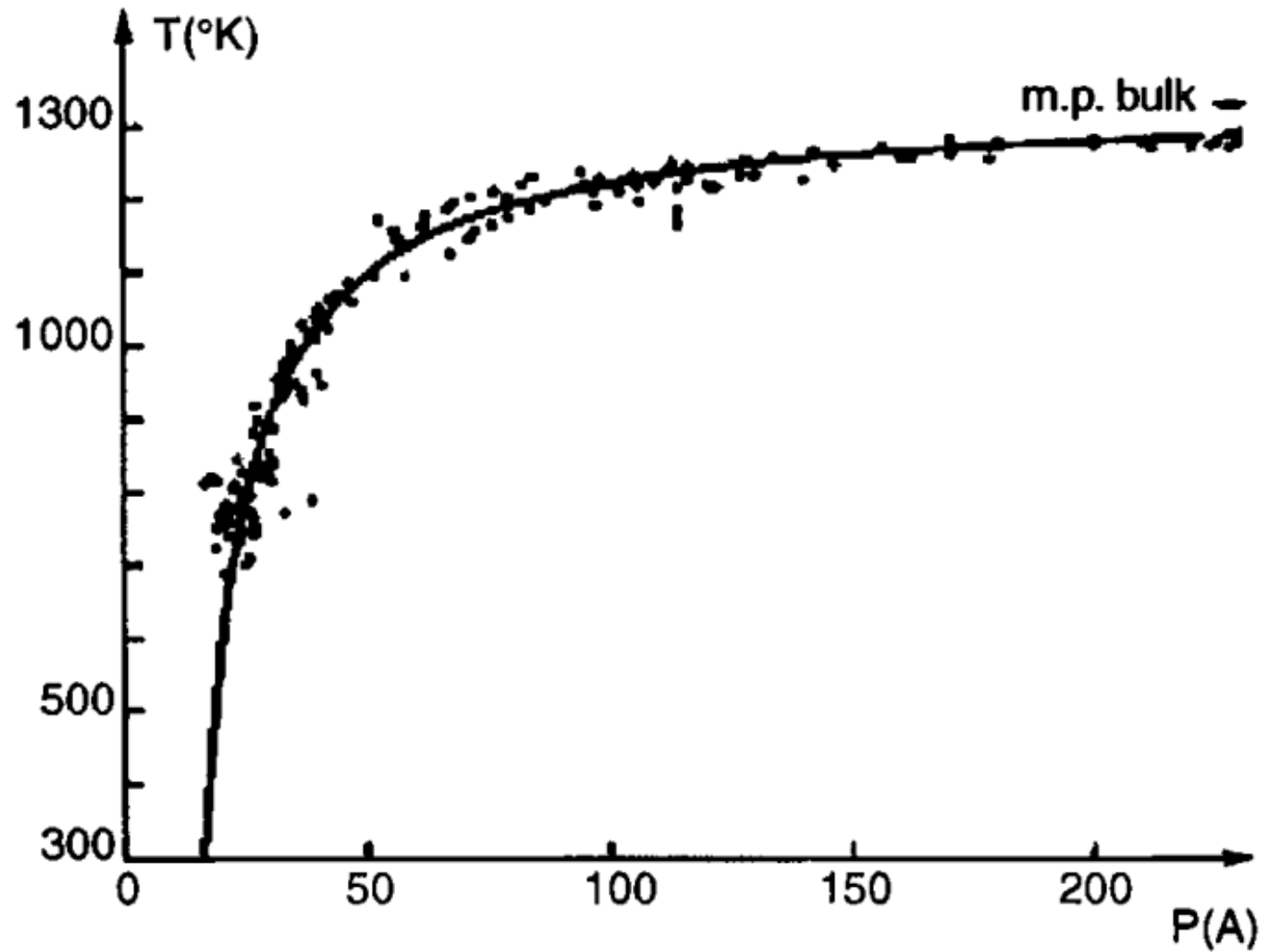
if  $< 100$  nm have a

a lower melting point (the difference can be as large as 1000 deg C)  
and reduced lattice constant.

Reason:

surface energy to volume energy ratio changes dramatically.

what is easier to get off? surface atom or volume atom.

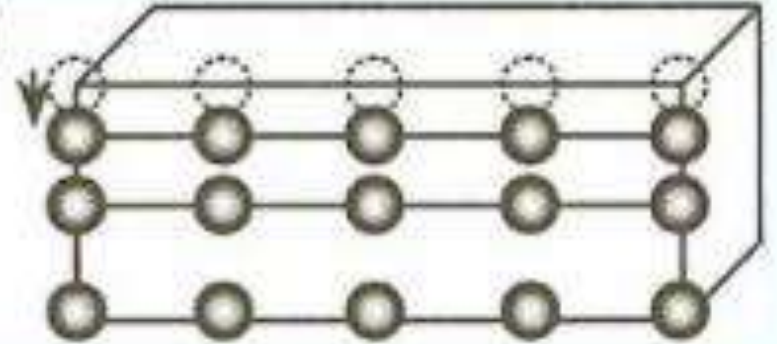


The melting point of bulk gold is of 1337 K and decreases rapidly for nanoparticles with diameters below 5nm. Both experimental data (the dots) and the results theoretical points (the solid line)

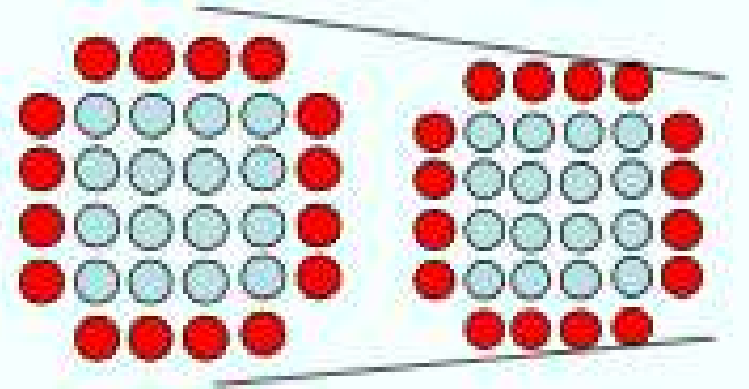
## Melting points and lattice constants

Atoms or molecules on a solid surface possess fewer nearest neighbors or coordination numbers, and thus have dangling or unsatisfied bonds exposed to the surface. Because of the dangling bonds on the surface, surface atoms or molecules are under an inwardly directed force and the bond distance between the surface atoms or molecules and the subsurface atoms or molecules, is smaller than that between interior atoms or molecules.

Inward  
shift

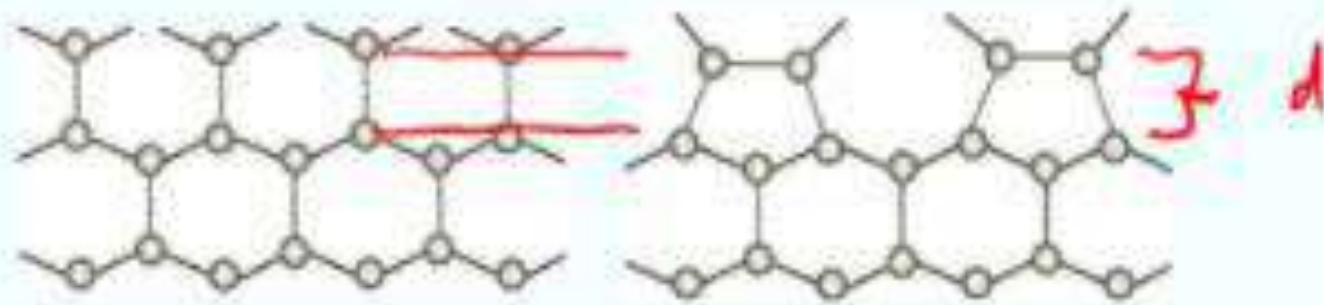


When solid particles are very small, such a decrease in bond length between the surface atoms and interior atoms becomes significant and the lattice constants of the entire solid particles show an appreciable reduction.

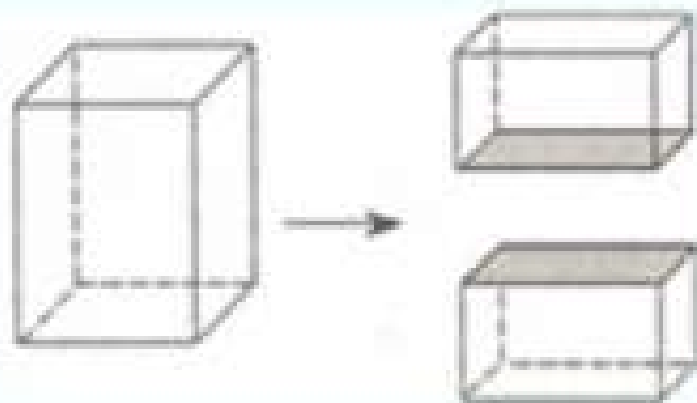




surface free energy triggers reconstruction (Example Silicon 100 reconstructs to (2x1)) surface lattice



The extra energy possessed by the surface atoms is described as surface energy, surface free energy or surface tension. Surface energy,  $\gamma$ , by definition, is the energy required to create a unit area of "new" surface:



What is the source of surface free energy?

Concepts of thermodynamics are used to calculate the surface energy of a material.

$$\gamma = \left( \frac{\partial \text{Gibbs free Energy}}{\partial \text{Area}} \right) \bigg|_{\substack{\text{@ const pressure,} \\ \text{temp, number}}}$$

Gibbs free Energy is defined as the energy portion of a thermodynamic system available to do work.

$$G = H - TS$$

H is enthalpy, S is entropy and T is the temperature in Kelvin

**Enthalpy:** a thermodynamic quantity **equivalent to the total heat content** of a system

**Entropy:** the **unavailability of a system's thermal energy** for conversion into mechanical work, often interpreted as the degree of disorder or randomness in the system

# Mechanical Properties of Nanomaterials


- they typically improve

The calculated strength of perfect crystals exceeds that of real ones by two or three orders of magnitudes.

A lot of work has been done on whiskers that approach the theoretical limit first demonstrated by Herring and Galt in 1952 if diameter are less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Note: The enhancement starts in the micrometer scale which is different from other size dependent properties.

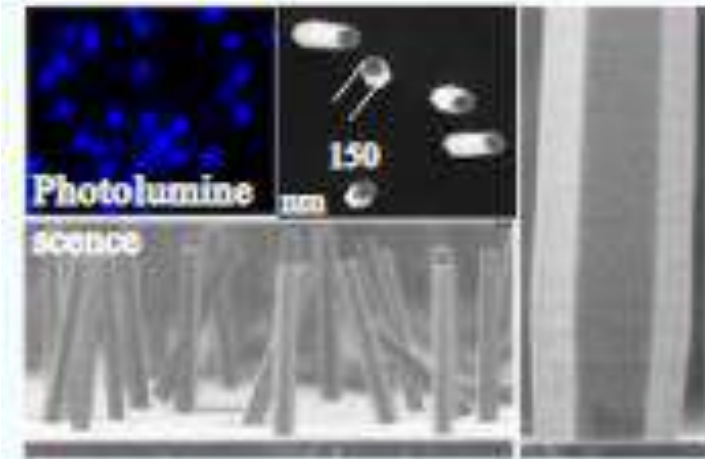
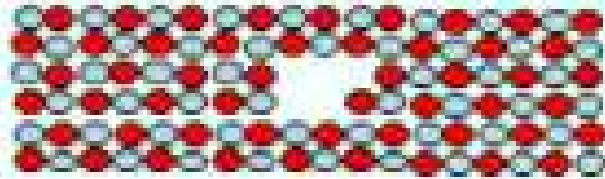
Two possible mechanisms have been proposed to explain the enhanced strength of nanowires or nanorods (in reality with diameters less than 10 microns).



Increased  
Internal Perfection

Increased  
Surface Perfection

Increased  
Internal Perfection



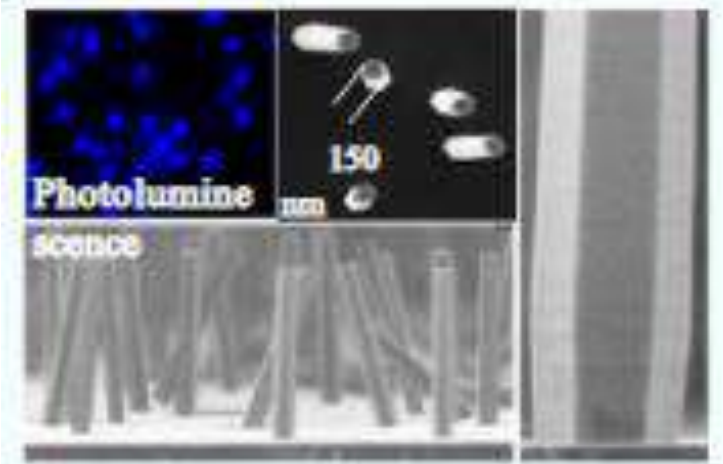
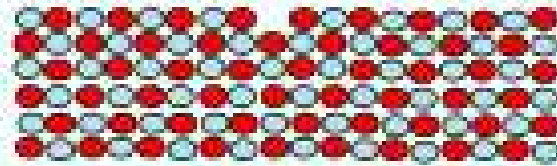
The smaller the cross-section of a whisker or nanowires, the less is the probability of finding in it any imperfections such as dislocations, micro-twins, impurity precipitates, etc

Thermodynamically, imperfections in crystals are highly energetic and can be eliminated -- small sizes makes such elimination of imperfections possible

Imperfections in bulk materials, such as dislocations are often created to accommodate stresses generated in the synthesis and processing of bulk materials due to temperature gradient and other inhomogeneities.

Such stresses can not be excluded but are generally not as likely to exist in small structures, particularly in nanomaterials

Increased  
Surface Perfection



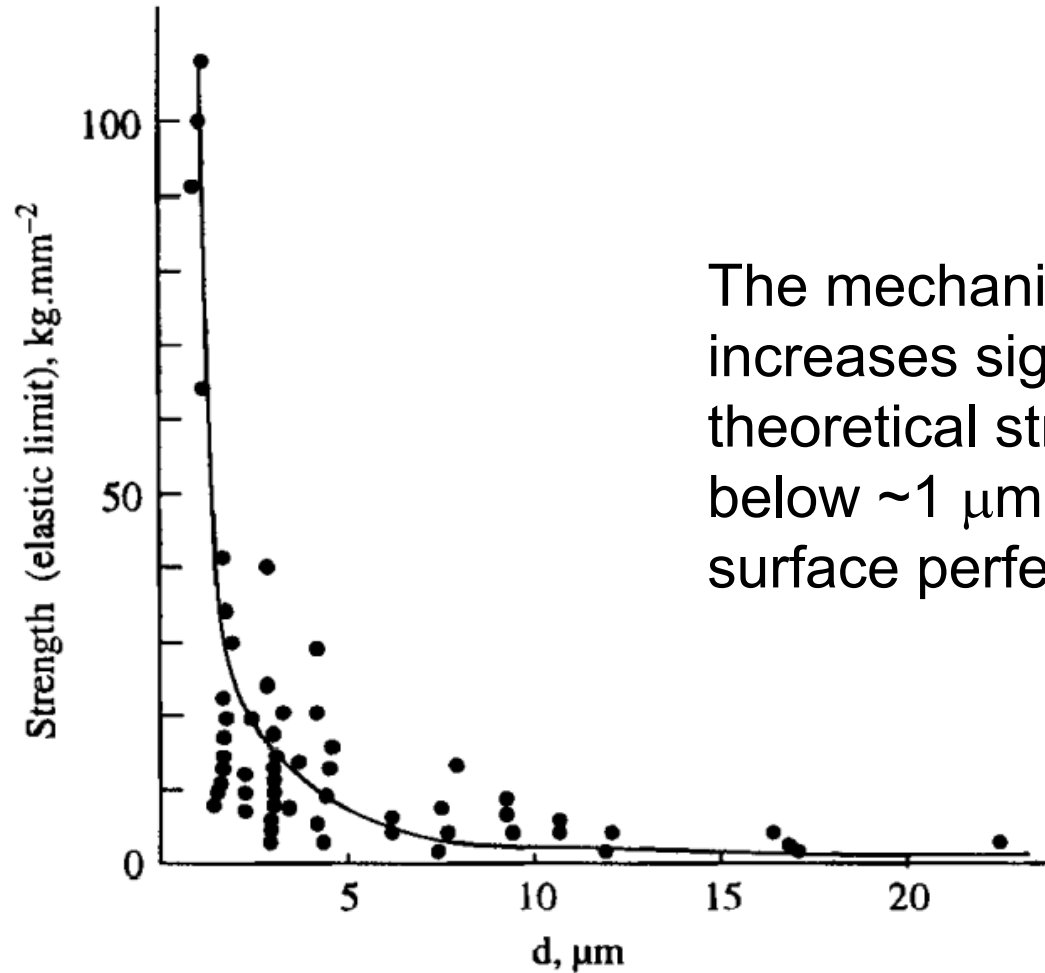
In general, smaller structures have less surface defects. It is particularly true when the materials are made through a bottom-up approach.

Vapor grown whiskers with diameters of 10 microns or less had no detectable steps on their surfaces by electron microscopy, whereas irregular growth steps were revealed on whiskers with diameters above 10 microns.

In the last few years, AFM and TEM have been applied for measuring the mechanical property of nanowires or nanorods.

Both AFM and TEM promise some direct evidence for the mechanical behavior of nanostructures and nanomaterials.

The Applied force per unit area before plastic deformation occurs



The mechanical strength of NaCl whiskers increases significantly and approaches the theoretical strength as the diameters decrease below  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$  due to an increased bulk and surface perfection



**End of Class**