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# Multi-scale Phonon Simulation in Nanostructures and Modeling of Phonon Interface Properties

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# Background: Progress in semi-conductor science



The Blue LED:  
A Solid-State  
Lighting revolution

Artificial lighting:  
6.5% of the world's  
primary energy and  
16% of the world's  
total generated  
electrical energy

# Nano-scale and Multi-structured heat conduction

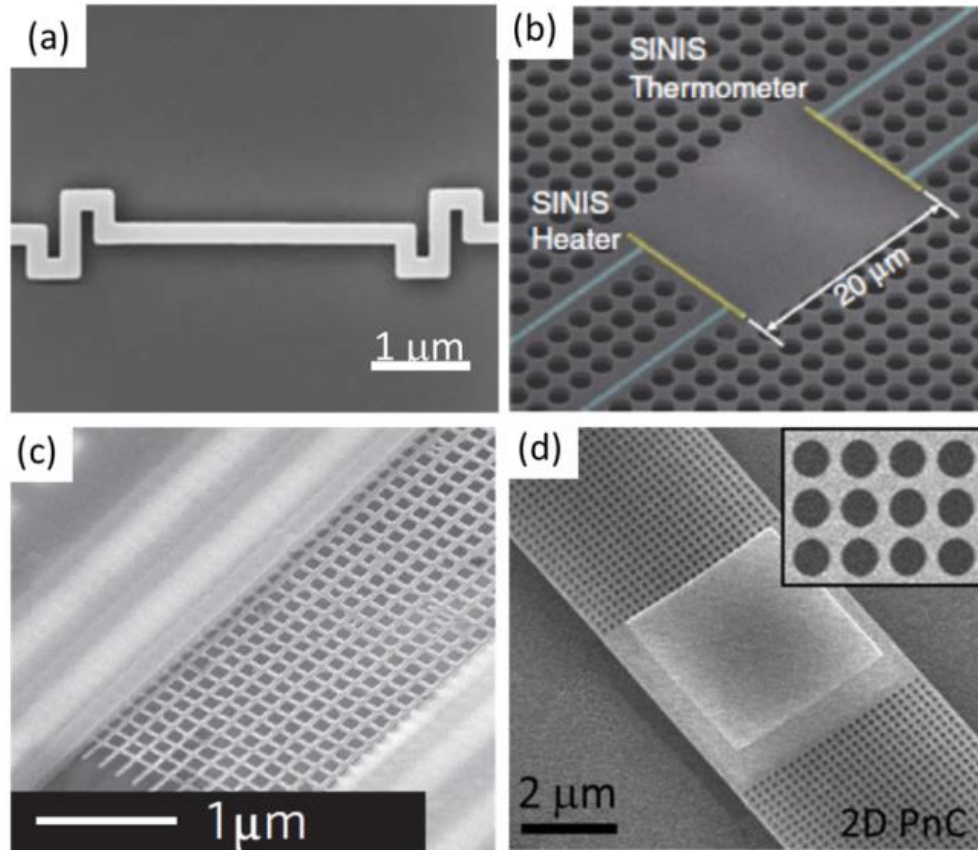


Fig: 8 SEM images of (a) Si serpentine nanowire, (b) SiN 2D PnC microstructure, (c) Si nanomesh structure, and (d) Si 2D PnC nanostructure

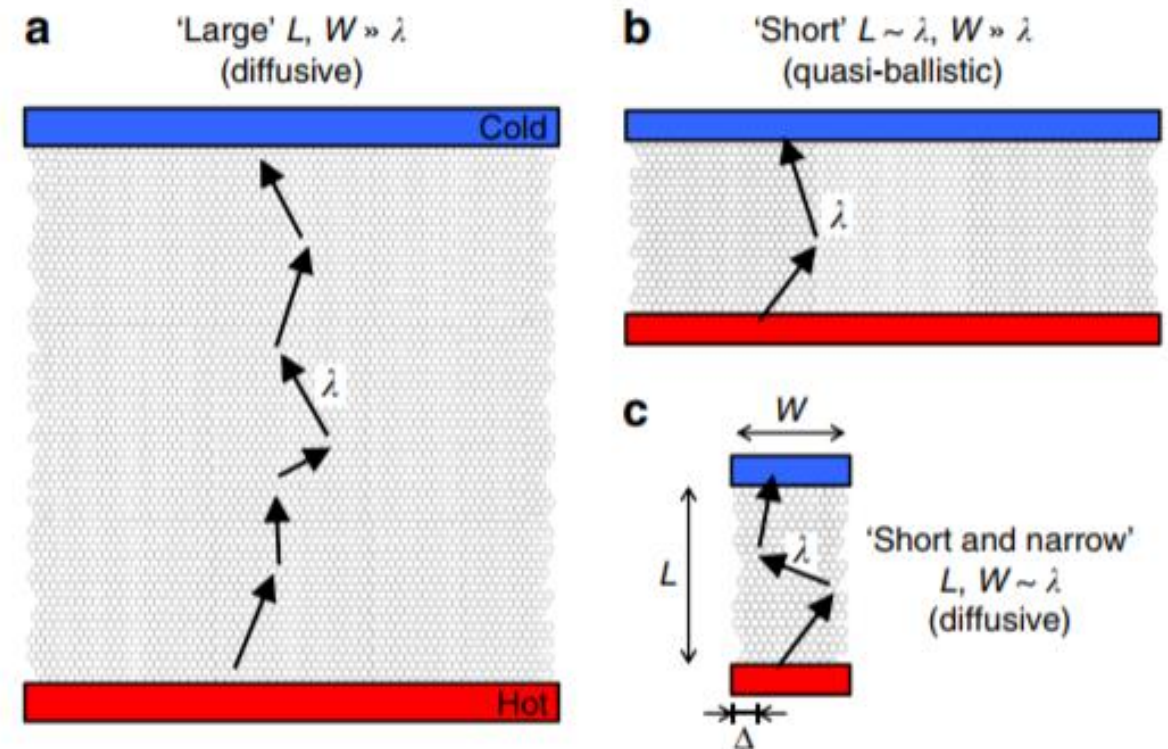


Fig: Schematic of size effects.

- (a) Diffusive heat transport
- (b) Quasi-ballistic heat flow
- (c) ) Return to a diffusive heat transport regime

## Outline

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My work mainly consists of the following three parts:

1. Part one: MC method to simulate the temperature profile of nano-film with heat source
2. Part two: Phonon properties of interfaces across III-V semi-conductors using Atomistic Green's Function Method
3. Designing Nanostructures for Phonon Transport via Bayesian Optimization

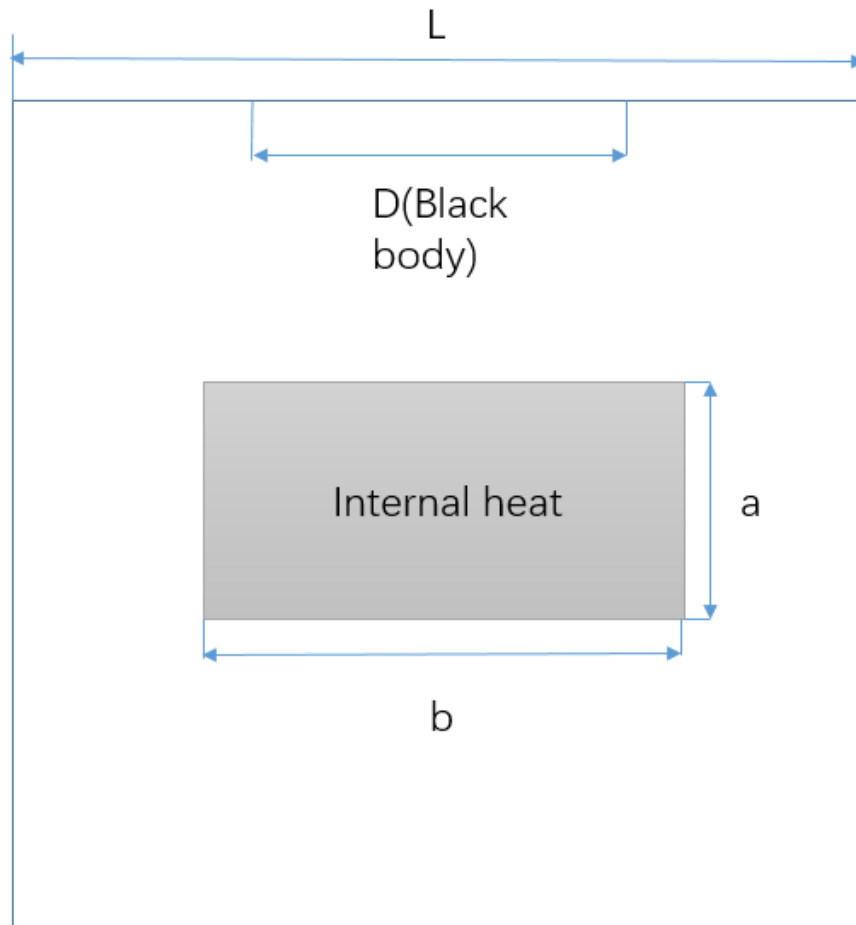
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## Part One

Monte Carlo simulation for phonon  
transport within silicon structures at  
nanoscales with heat generation

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# The fundamental model



Two dimensional thermal transport  
in silicon films with internal heating

- BTE

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + v_g \nabla f = \frac{f_0 - f}{\tau} + \dot{S}_\Omega$$

- The gray approximation

Using a uniform  
MPF(Frequency)

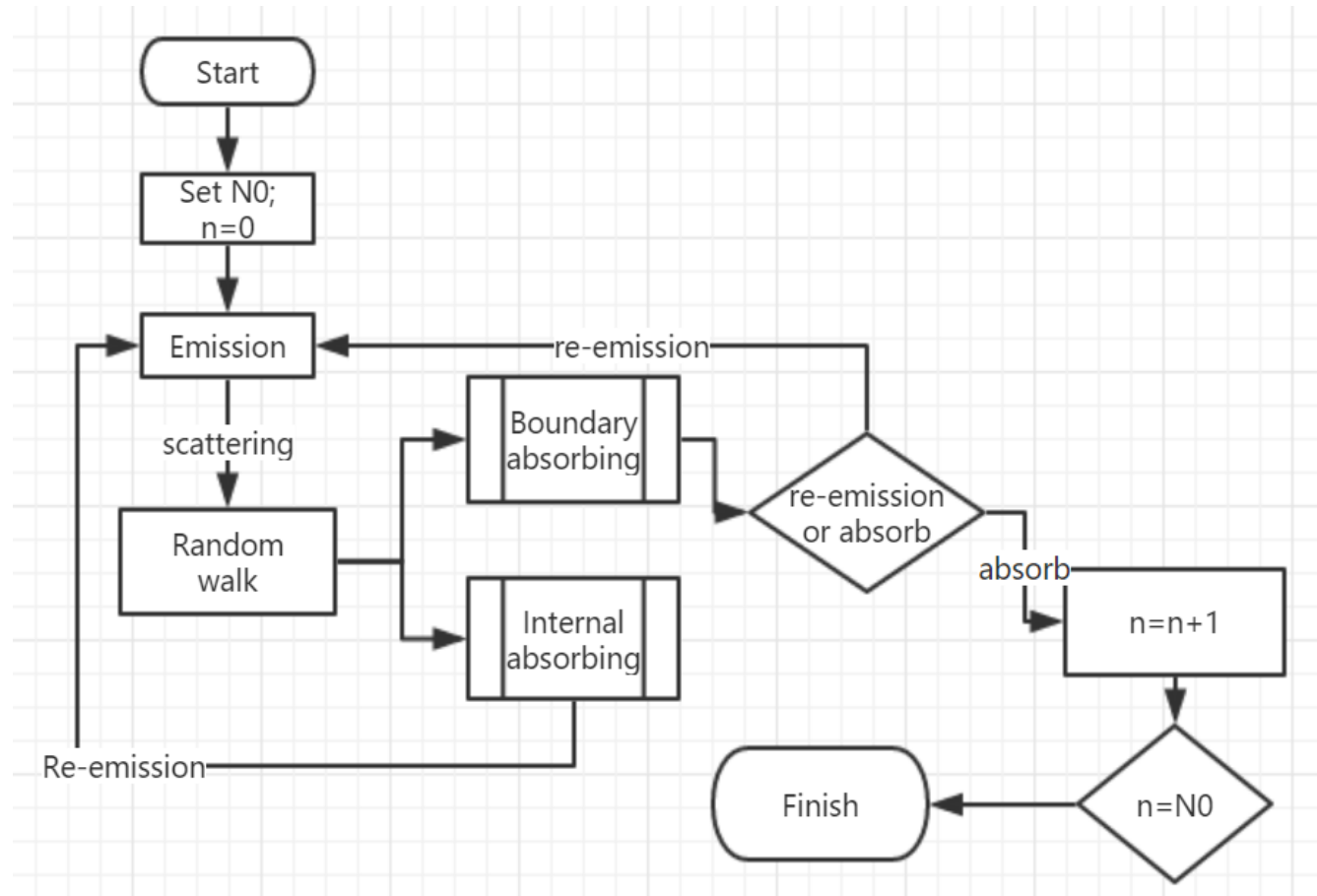
- The similarity between  
phonon and photon

$$E = \sigma T^4$$

$$dQ_{em} = 4\epsilon\sigma T^4 dT$$



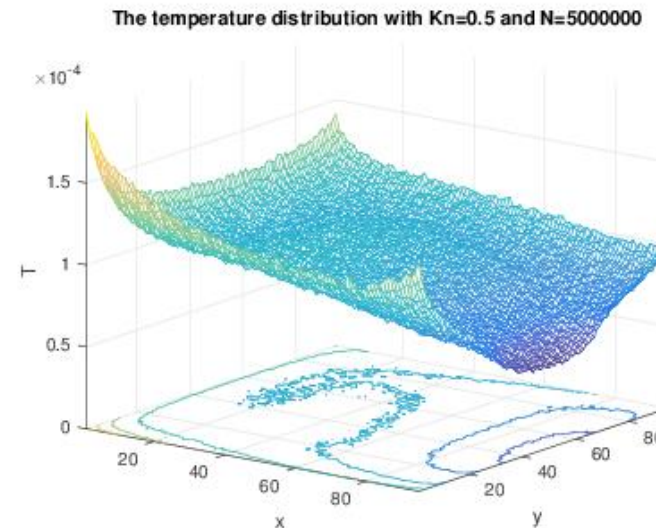
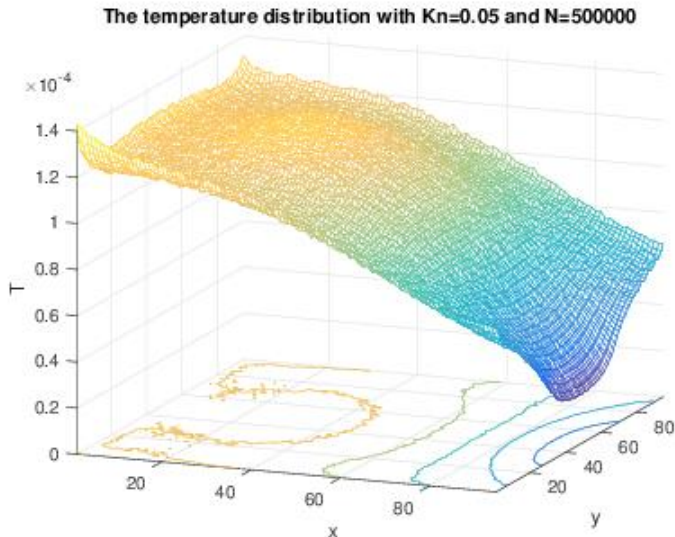
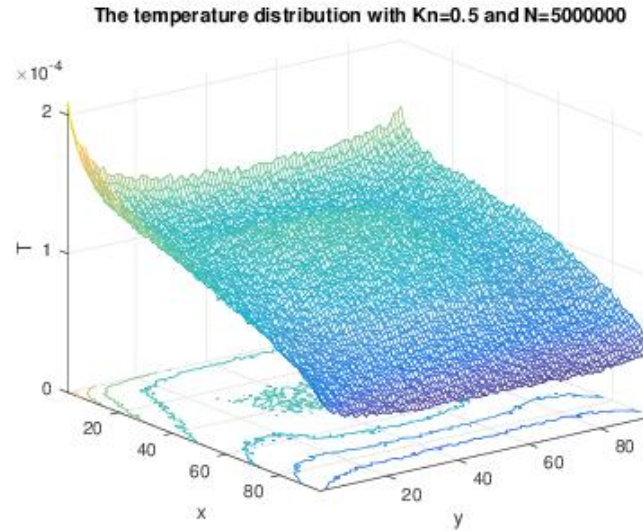
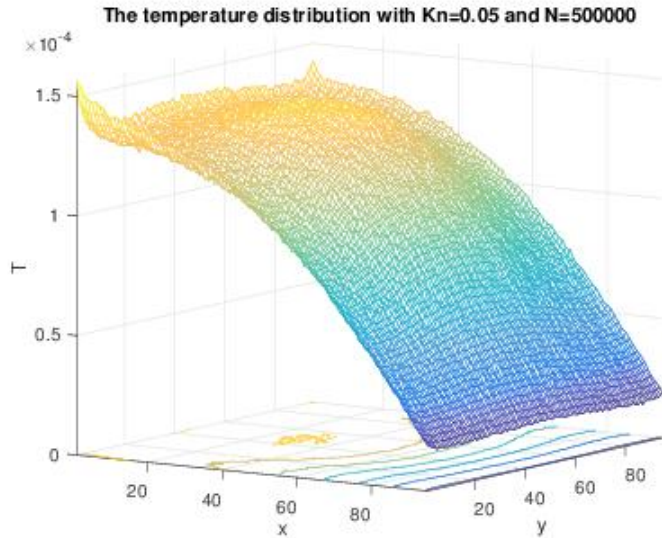
# MC Method



- Phonon bundle vector  
 $[\sin(\theta)\cos(\psi), \sin(\theta)\sin(\psi), \cos(\psi)]$
- Emission angel
  - From the boundary  
 $\sin(\theta) = (R_{\theta b}^{1/2})$   
 $\psi = 2\pi(R_{\psi b}^{1/2})$
  - In the media  
 $\cos(\theta) = 1 - 2R_{\theta m}$   
 $\psi = 2\pi(R_{\psi m}^{1/2})$
- The average travel distance  
 $\Delta l = -LK n \ln(1 - R_s)$

Block diagram of the tracing algorithm

# Results: Different boundary conditions



Discussion:

- Size effect

As  $Kn$  number becomes bigger, the ballistic effect begins governing the transport.

- Strongly Boundary-influenced

The great influence compared to in bulk materials was clearly shown

$Kn=0.05$  and  $0.5$  when  
 $L_{out}=1, 0.5L$



# Summary

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In our BTE-based MC work:

- We quantitatively study the phonon scattering effects.
- We include the internal heat source and study its effects.
- And we study the effects of different boundary conditions on heat conduction.

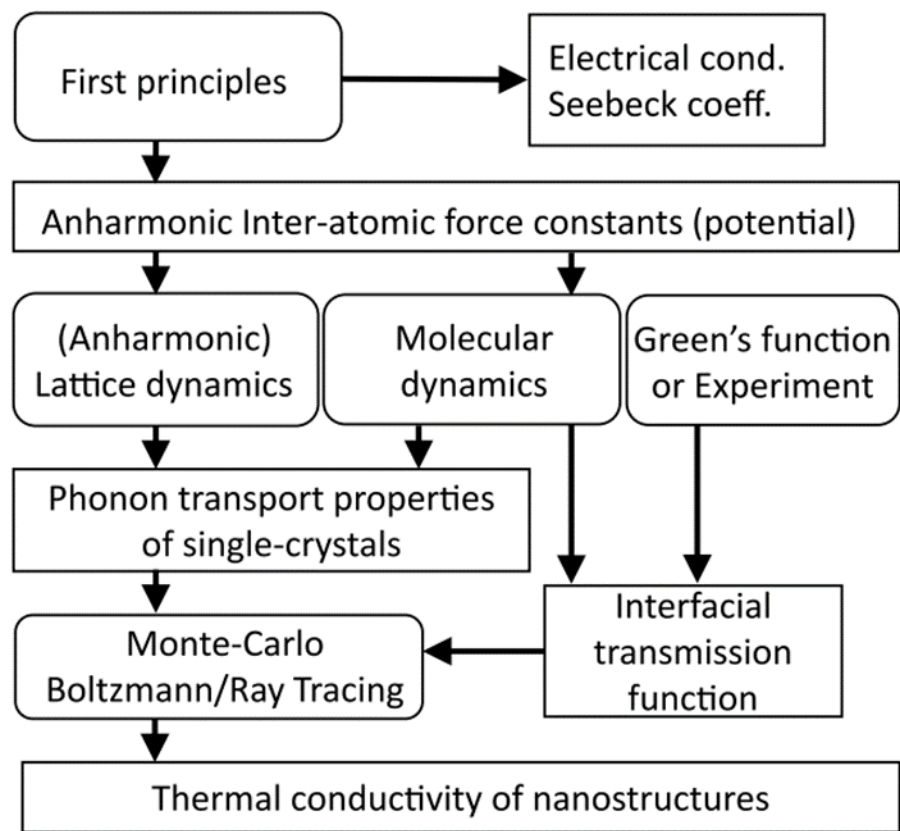
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## Part Two

Phonon properties of interfaces across  
III-V semi-conductors using  
Atomistic Green's Function Method

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# Status and Challenges: Multiscale phonon transport calculations



Multi phonon transport calculation(Junichiro Shiomi  
APL Materials 4, 104504 (2016))

## MD:

- Computationally expensive
- Not strictly at low temperatures(Quantum Effects)
- Links to large scales when handling boundaries

## BTE:

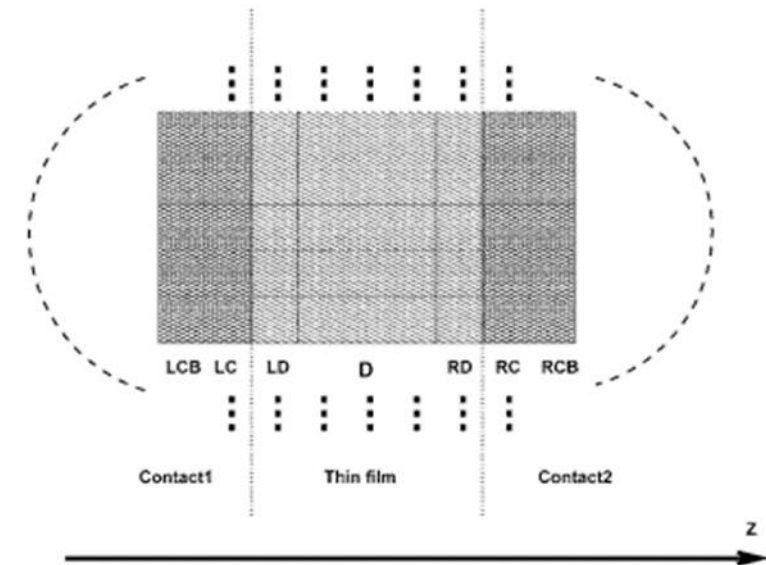
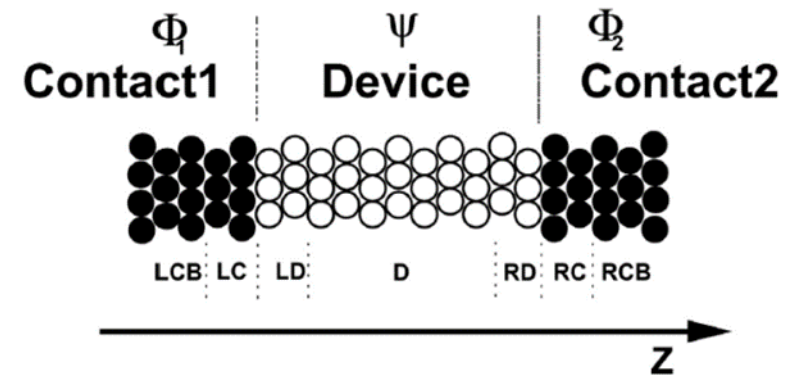
- Requires boundary scattering models
- Requires detailed understanding of phonon scattering and dispersion

The atomistic Green's function method (AGF) has emerged as a useful tool to study phonon transport across interfaces.

(Sadasivam, Sridhar, et al. Ann. Rev. Heat Transfer, 2014, 17: 89-145.)

# Atomistic Green's Function

- Includes effect of bulk contacts
- Suitable for ballistic transport
  - Nanoscale devices at room temperature
  - Low-temperature conditions
  - Scattering dominated by boundaries and interfaces
- Required inputs
  - Equilibrium atomic positions
  - Inter-atomic potentials
  - Contact temperatures



# AGF: The Methodology

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Lattice Dynamics

$$[\omega^2 I - H]\mu = 0$$

$$H_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M_i M_j}} k_{ij}$$

$$k_{ij} = -\frac{\partial^2 U^{harm}}{\partial u_i \partial u_j}$$

Green's Functions

$$L[u] = [\omega^2 I - H]u = 0$$

A perturbation

$$L[g] = \delta$$

$$g = [(\omega^2 + \delta i)I - H]^{-1}$$

Uncoupled  
Green

Functions  
for contacts

$$g_1 = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} [(\omega^2 + \delta i)I - H_1]^{-1}$$

$$g_2 = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} [(\omega^2 + \delta i)I - H_2]^{-1}$$



# AGF: The Methodology

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## The Device Green's Function

$$G = [\omega^2 I - H_d - \tau_1 g_1 \tau_1^T - \tau_2 g_2 \tau_2^T]$$

Overall matrix equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega^2 \mathbf{I} - H_1 & -\tau_1^\dagger & 0 \\ -\tau_1 & \omega^2 \mathbf{I} - H_d & -\tau_2 \\ 0 & -\tau_2^\dagger & \omega^2 \mathbf{I} - H_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1^R + \chi_1 \\ \psi \\ \phi_2^R + \chi_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

## Transmission

- Definitions of convenience

$$A_j = i[g_j - g_j^T]$$

$$\Gamma_j = \tau_j A_j \tau_j^T$$

- The Transmission function

$$\Xi(\omega) = \text{Trace}[\Gamma_1 G \Gamma_2 G^T]$$

# Simulation: Roadmap

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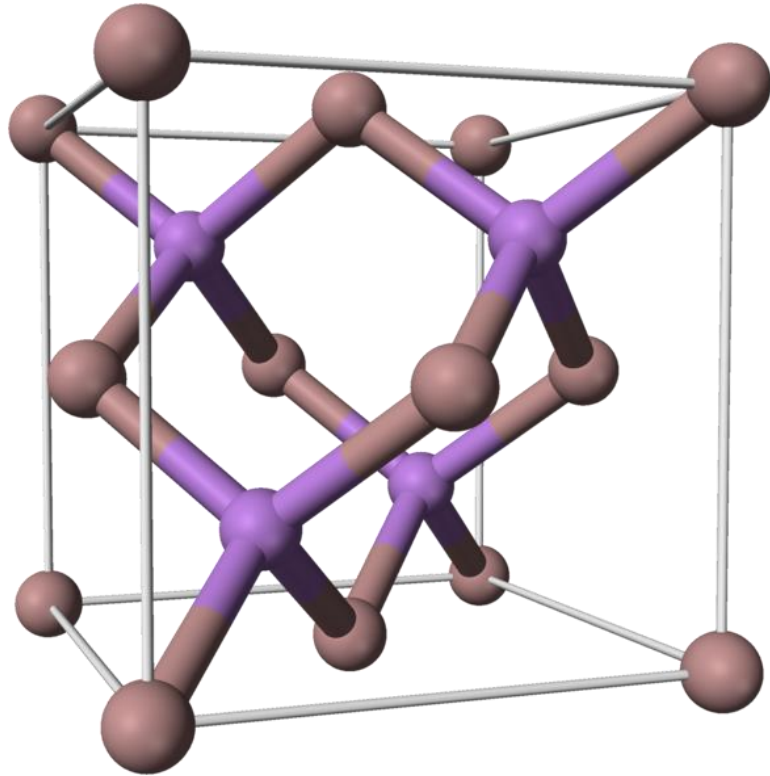


Two Inputs

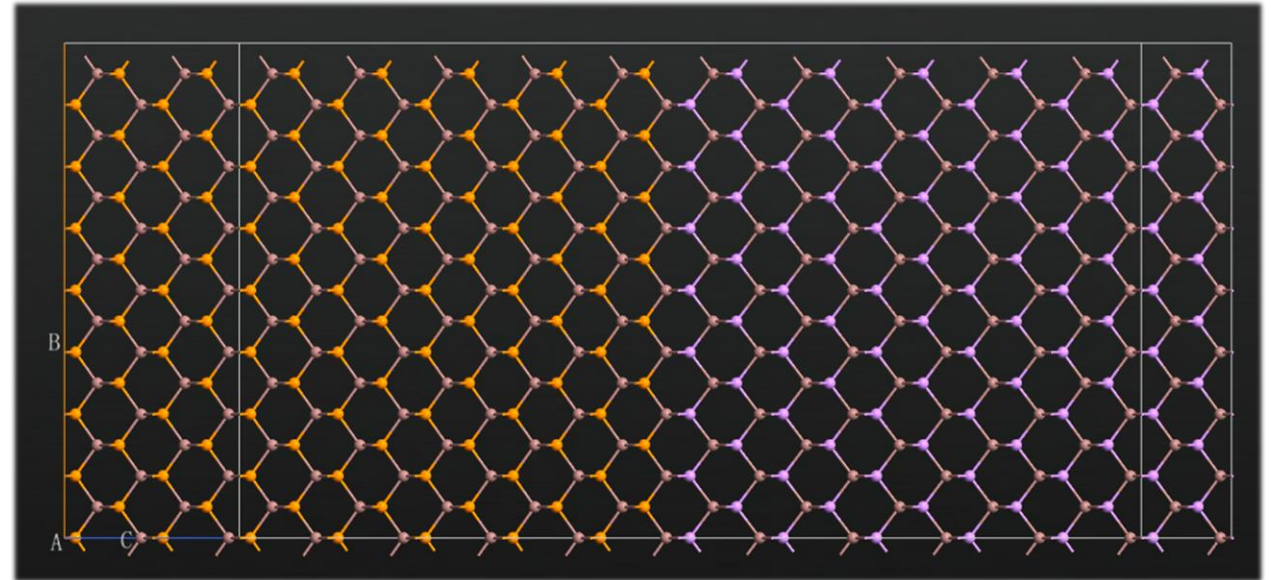
1. The configuration
2. The interaction

# Device: III-V semi-conductors

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Zinc blende



Interface Device  
(*AlP, AlAs, AlSb, GaP, GaAs, GaSb, InP, InAs, InSb*)

# Interaction: Tersoff-type Potential

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **75**, 115202 (2007)

## Optimized Tersoff potential parameters for tetrahedrally bonded III-V semiconductors

D. Powell, M. A. Migliorato, and A. G. Cullis

*Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield, S1 3JD United Kingdom*

(Received 21 November 2006; revised manuscript received 3 January 2007; published 9 March 2007)

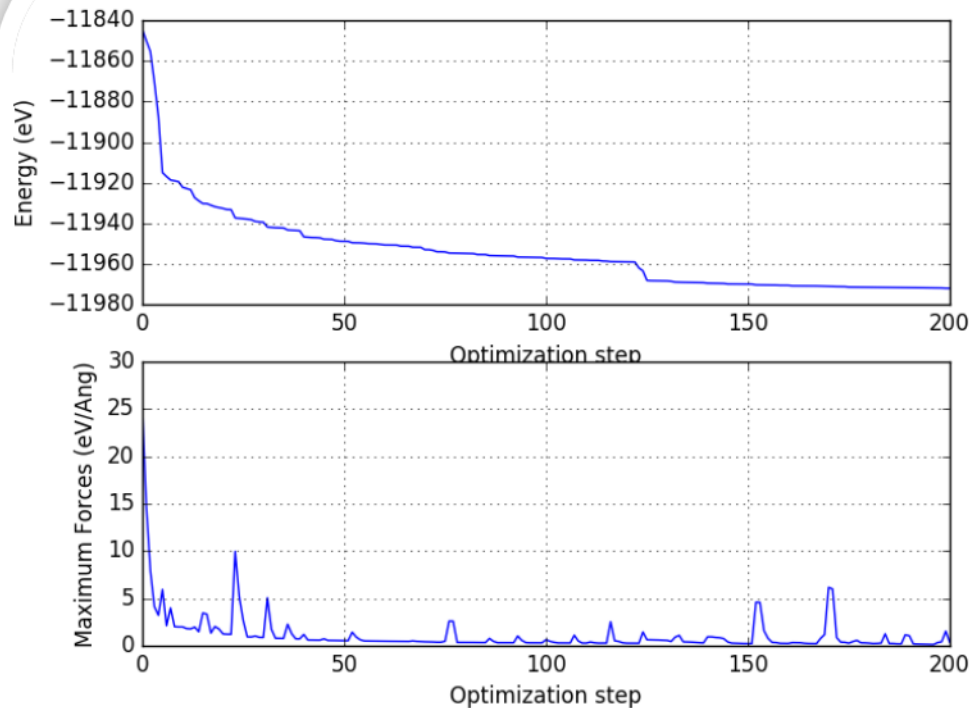
We address the issue of accurate parametrization for the Abell-Tersoff empirical potential applied to tetrahedrally bonded semiconductor materials. Empirical potential methods for structural relaxation are widely used for group IV semiconductors while, with few notable exceptions, work on III-V materials has not been extensive. In the case of the Abell-Tersoff potential parametrizations exist only for III-As and III-N, and are designed to correctly predict only a limited number of cohesive and elastic properties. In this work we show how by fitting to a larger set of cohesive and elastic properties calculated from density functional theory, we are able to obtain parameters for III-As, III-N, III-P, and III-Sb zinc blende semiconductors, which can also correctly predict important nonlinear effects in the strain.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.75.115202](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.75.115202)

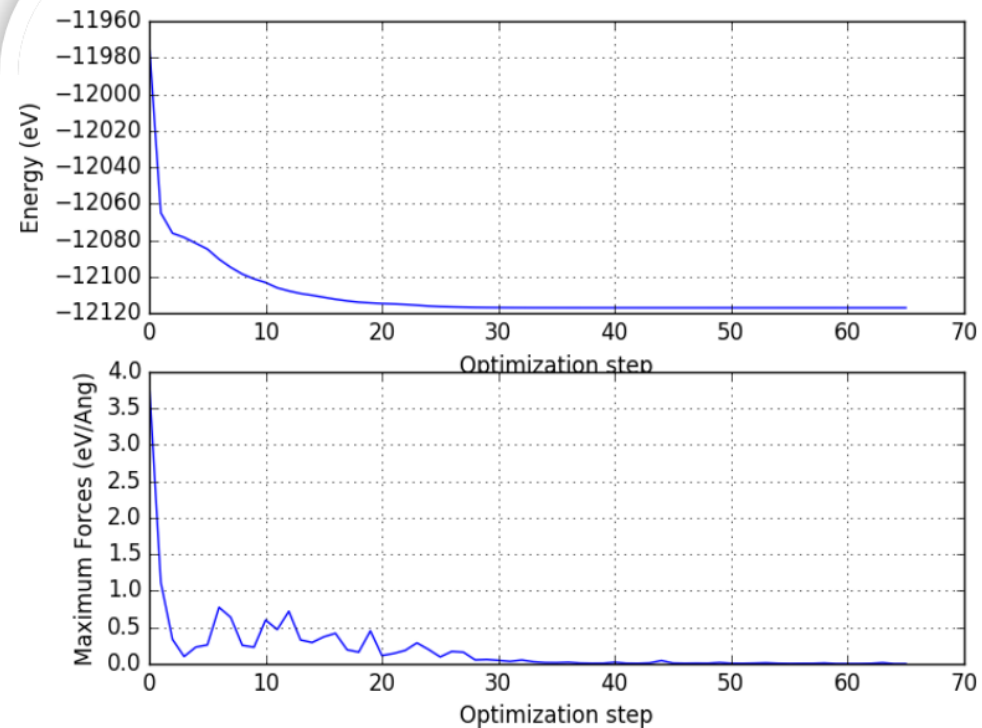
PACS number(s): 61.43.Bn, 61.50.Lt, 61.82.Fk, 62.40.+i

- First principle based calculation is quite costly
- This Tersoff type potential has been proved effective in many later works:
  - Phys. Rev. B 77, 235303(Quantum dots)
  - Sci.Rep. 2014; 4: 7150.(Thermoelectric)
  - J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 25 425801(vibrational properties)

# Stress Relaxation: Two-step way



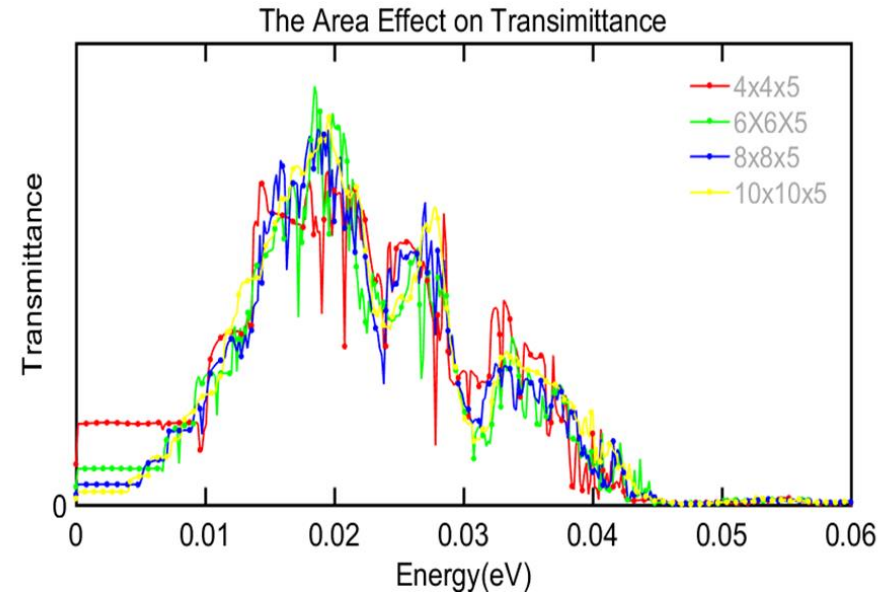
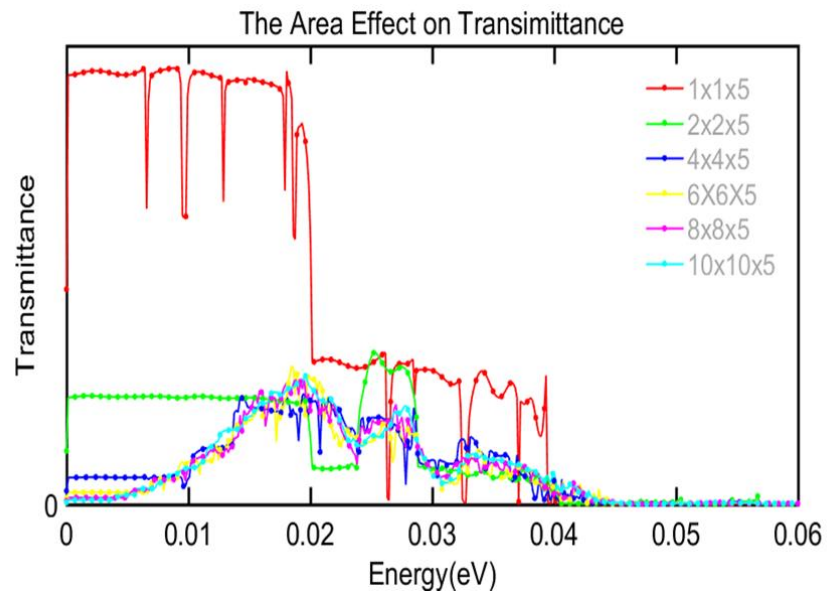
Central optimization with  
rigid constraints



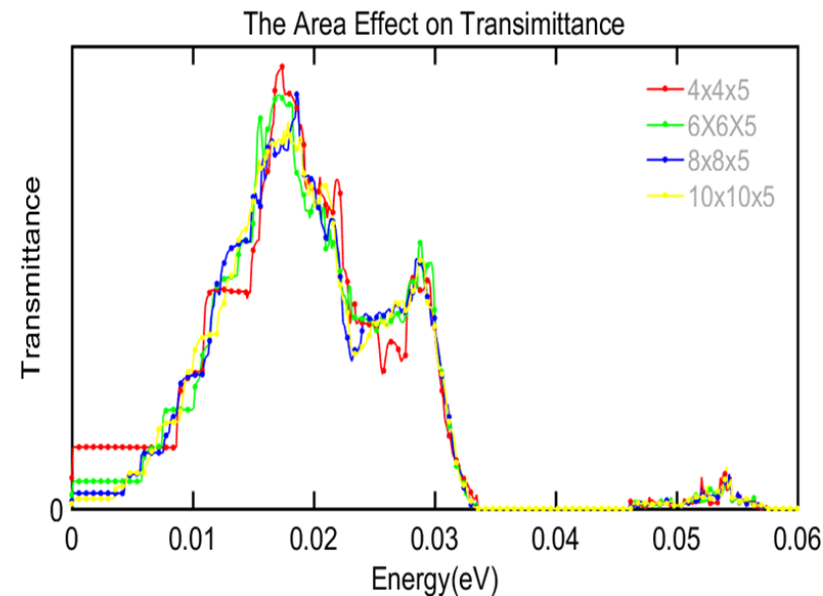
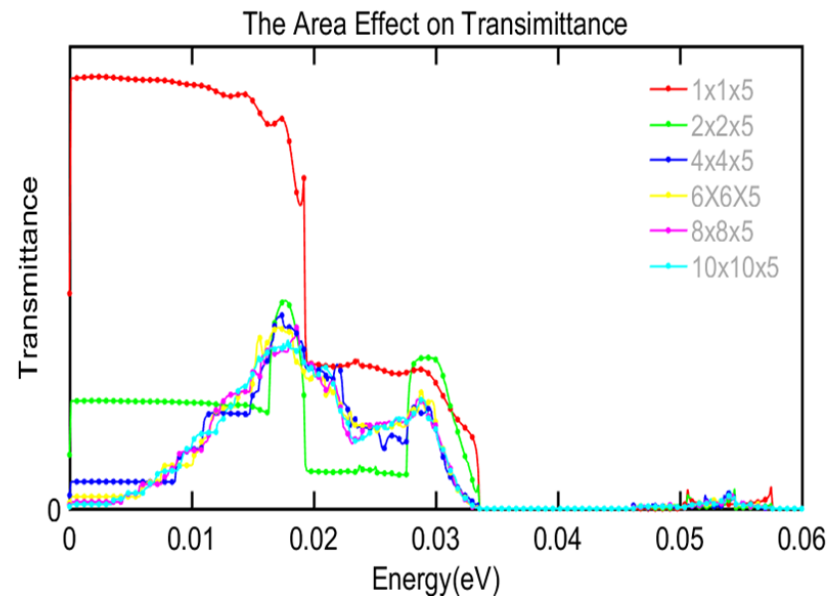
Whole device optimization



# Convergence: The Area Effect

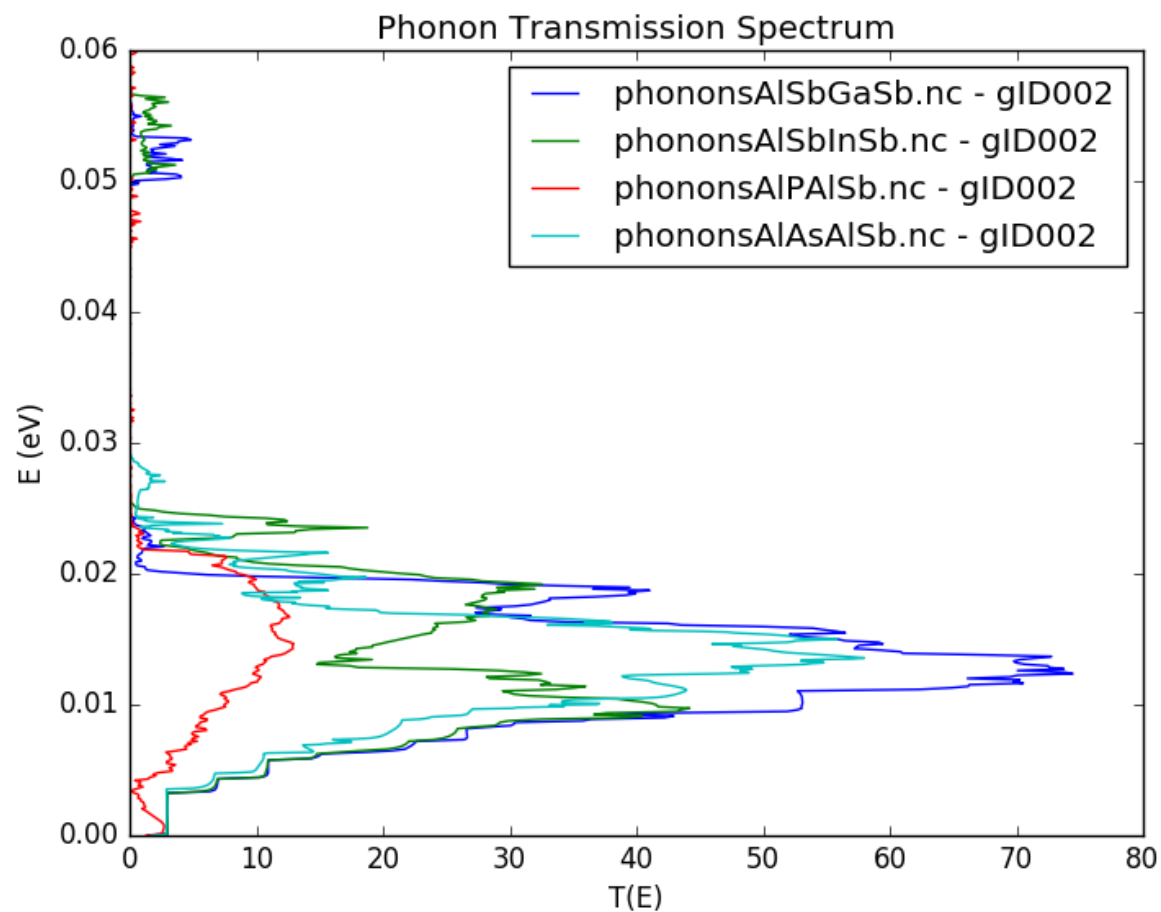


Si/Ge  
Interface

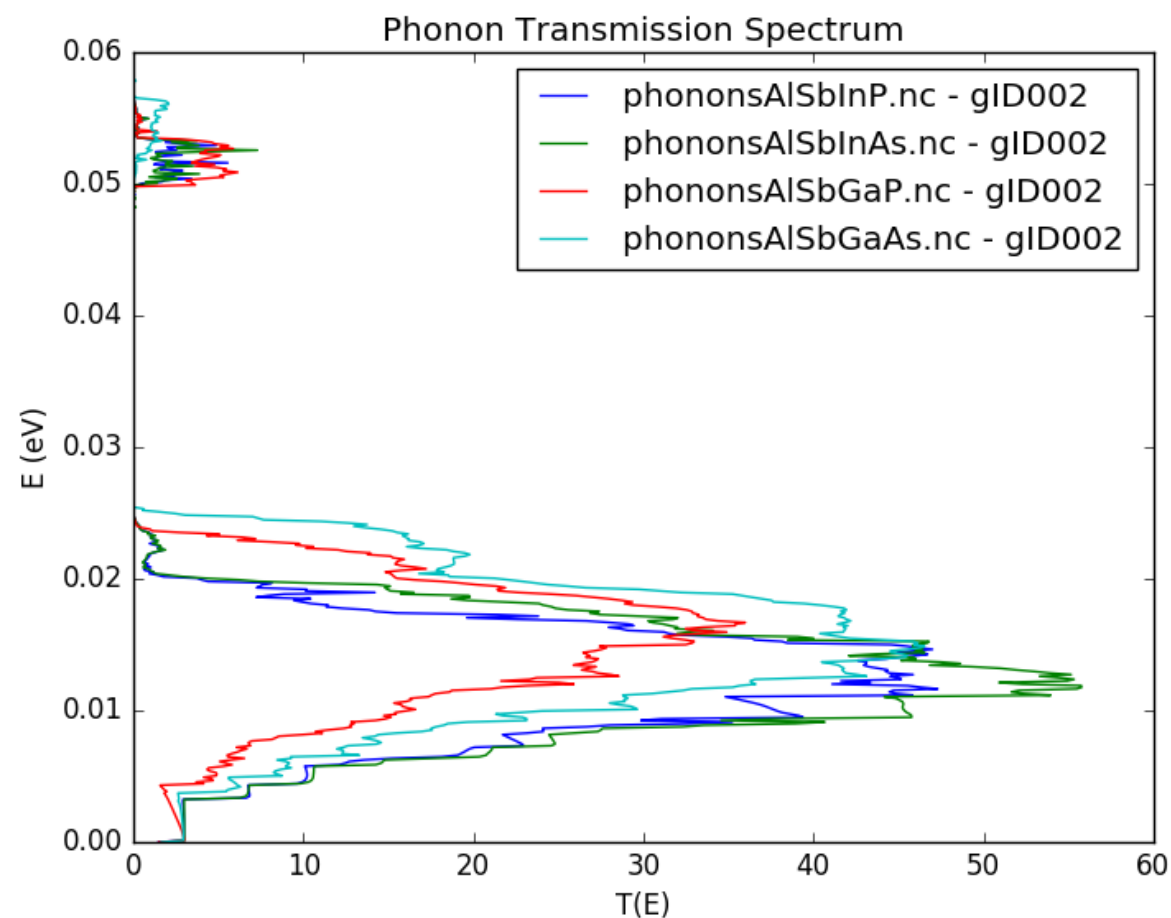


GaP/GaAs  
Interface

# Results: Transmittance



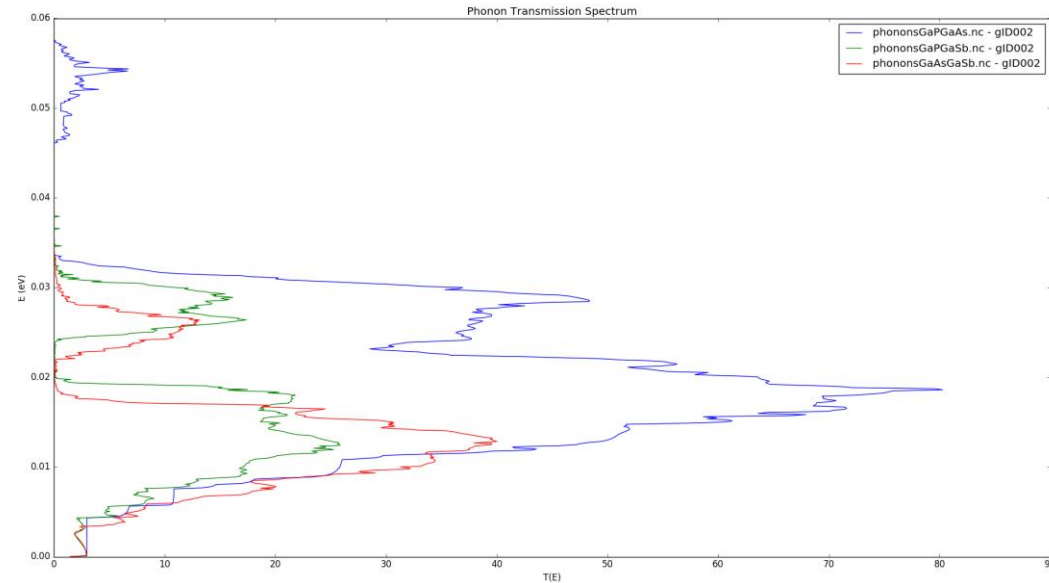
AlSb(with one same ion)



AlSb(with no same ion)

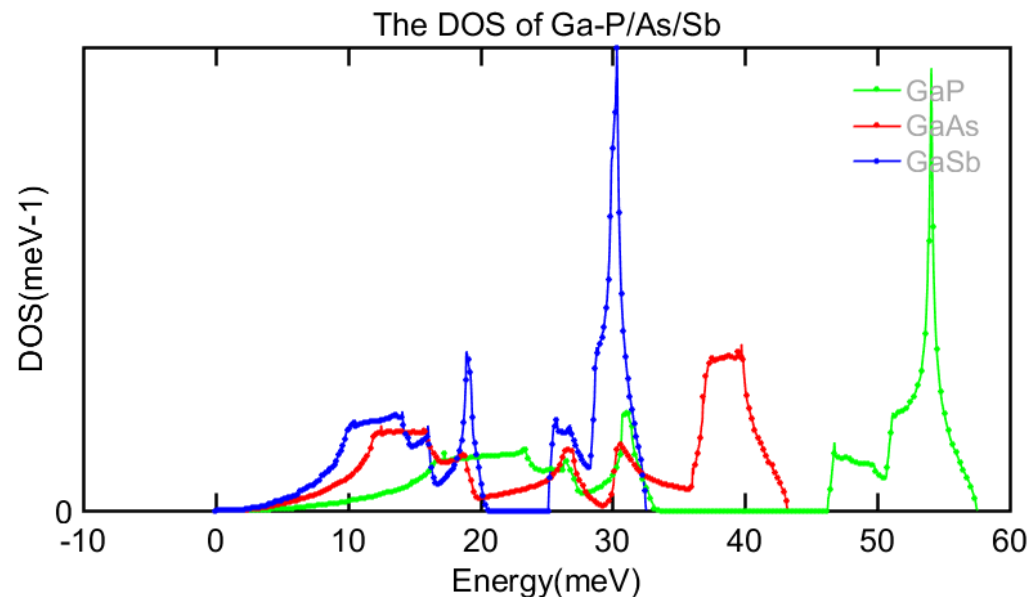


# Discussion: Thinking from the DOS



Phonon transmission across GaP/GaAs, GaP/GaSb and GaAs/GaSb

In the low frequency region, there are more similarity with GaP and GaAs in DOS, so the transmittance is large while in the high frequency region, the bigger difference in DOS caused a low transmittance.



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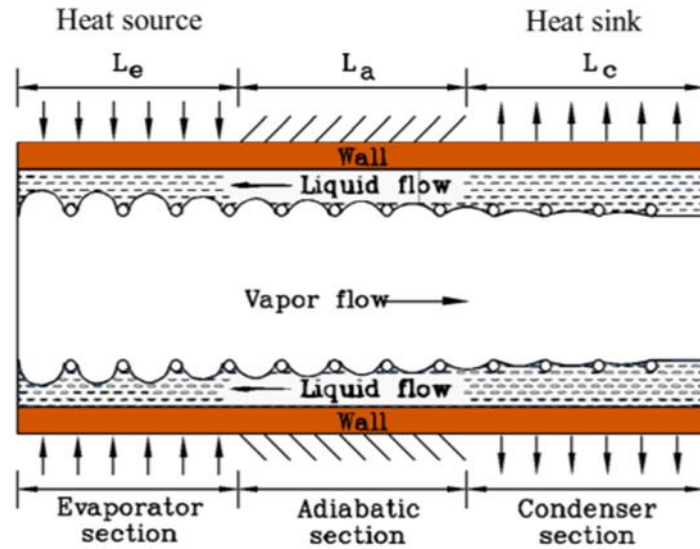
## Part Three

Designing Nanostructures for Phonon  
Transport via  
Bayesian Optimization

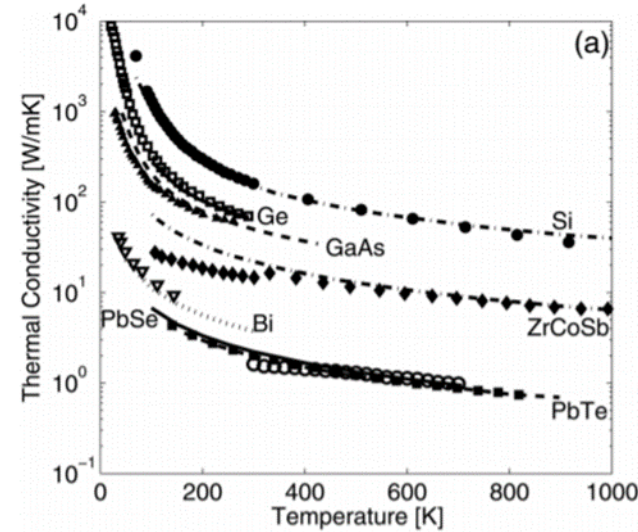
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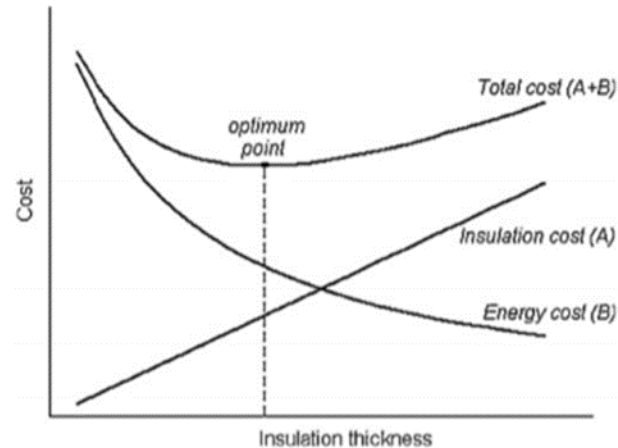
# Motivation: Design the thermal properties



Heat Pipe (J.Heat  
Transfer 134(12), 123001)



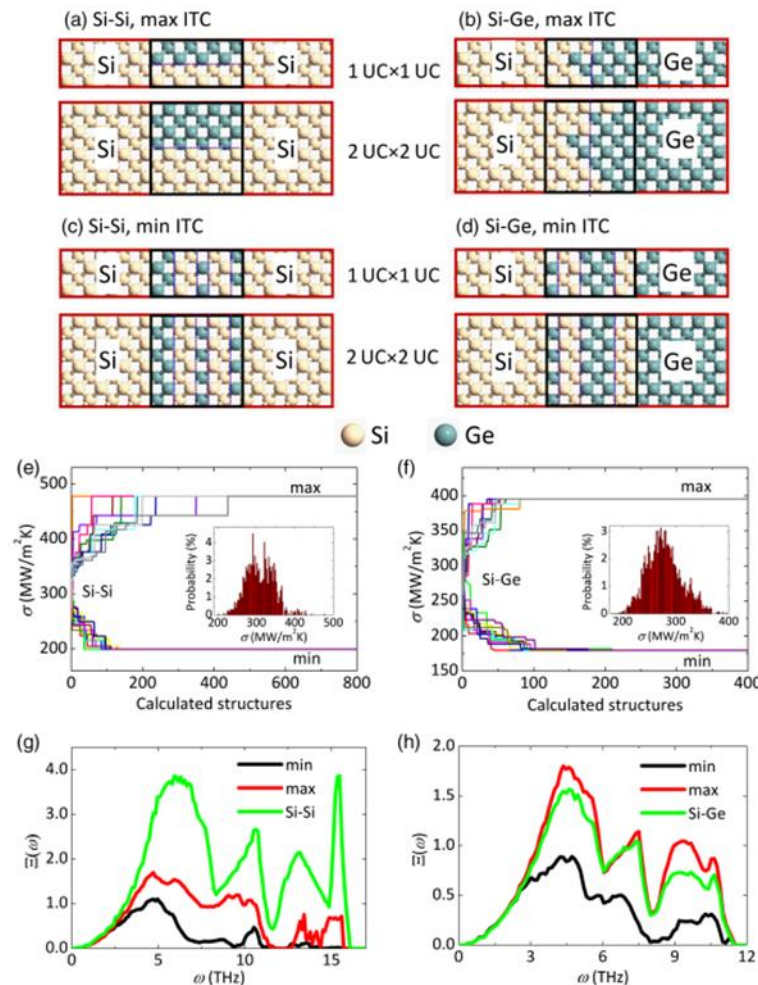
Thermoelectric  
Materials  
(J. Heat  
Transfer 135(6), 061605)



Thermal Insulation  
(Renewable and  
Sustainable Energy  
Reviews, 16(1),  
415-425.)

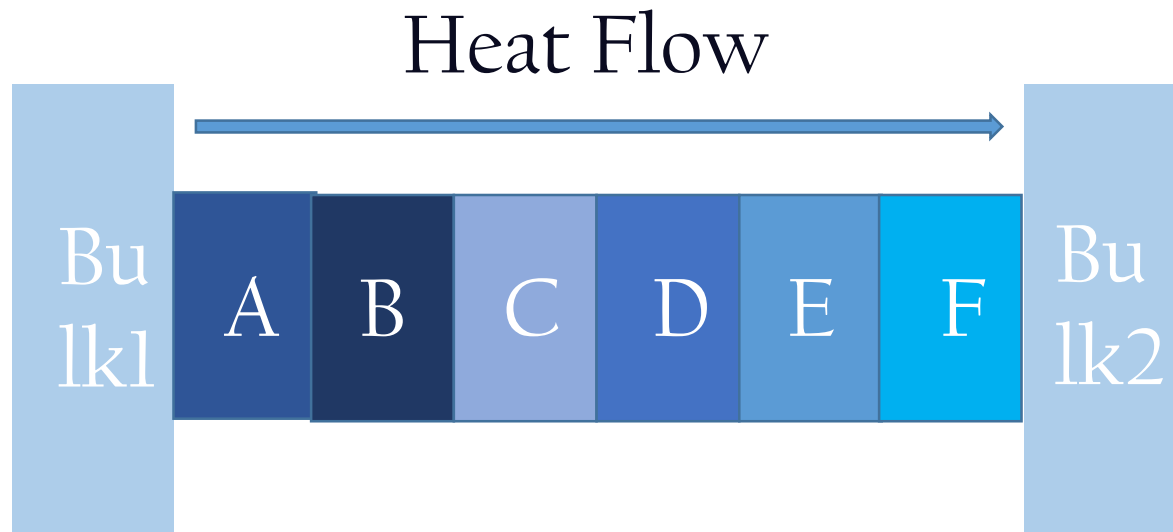
# Previous Work: Tuning the ITC

- **Roughness** (Phys. Rev. B 86, 235304 (2012), Phys. Rev. B 89, 054309 (2014))
- **Vacancy defects** (J. Chem. Phys. 142, 244703 (2015))
- **Lattice orientation** (J. Appl. Phys. 95, 6082 (2004), J. Appl. Phys. 113, 053513 (2013))
- **Nanoinclusions** (Nano Energy 13, 601 (2015))
- **Interfacial adhesion or bonding** (Appl. Phys. Lett. 106, 081603 (2015), ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 7, 23644 (2015))



The interfacial structure consists of either Si or Ge, and the optimization problem is how to arrange the Si and Ge atoms to obtain the largest and smallest ITC.

# Material informatics: Minimum or Maximum ITC

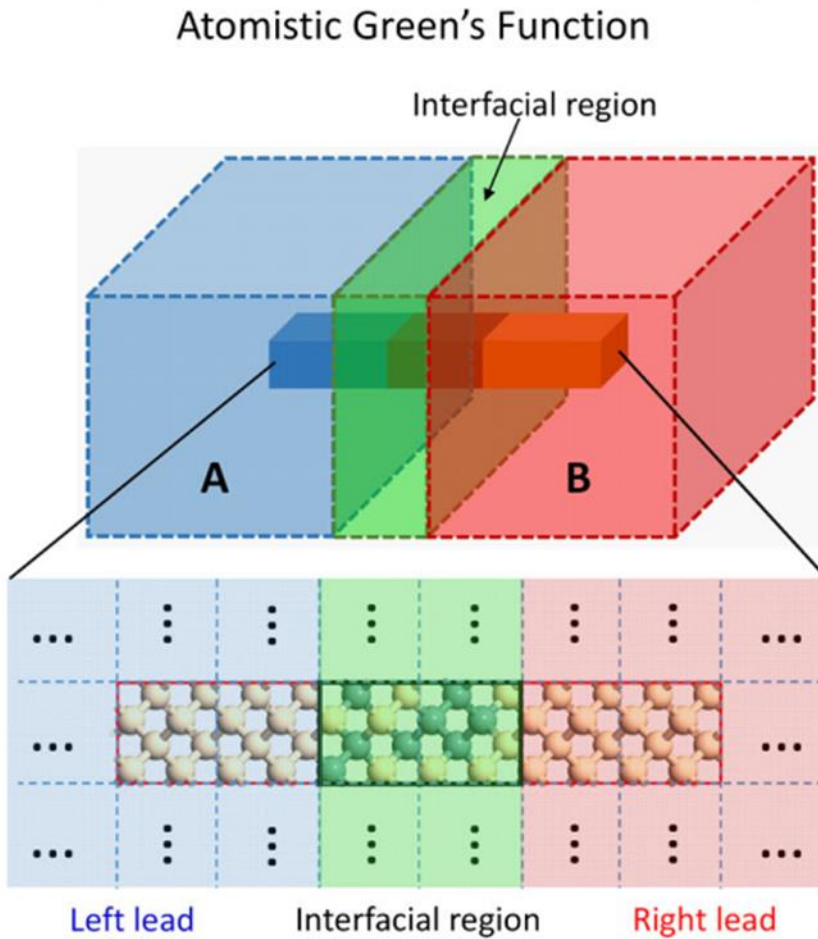


We choose four types of III-V semi-conductors:  
AlP, AlAs, GaP, GaAs

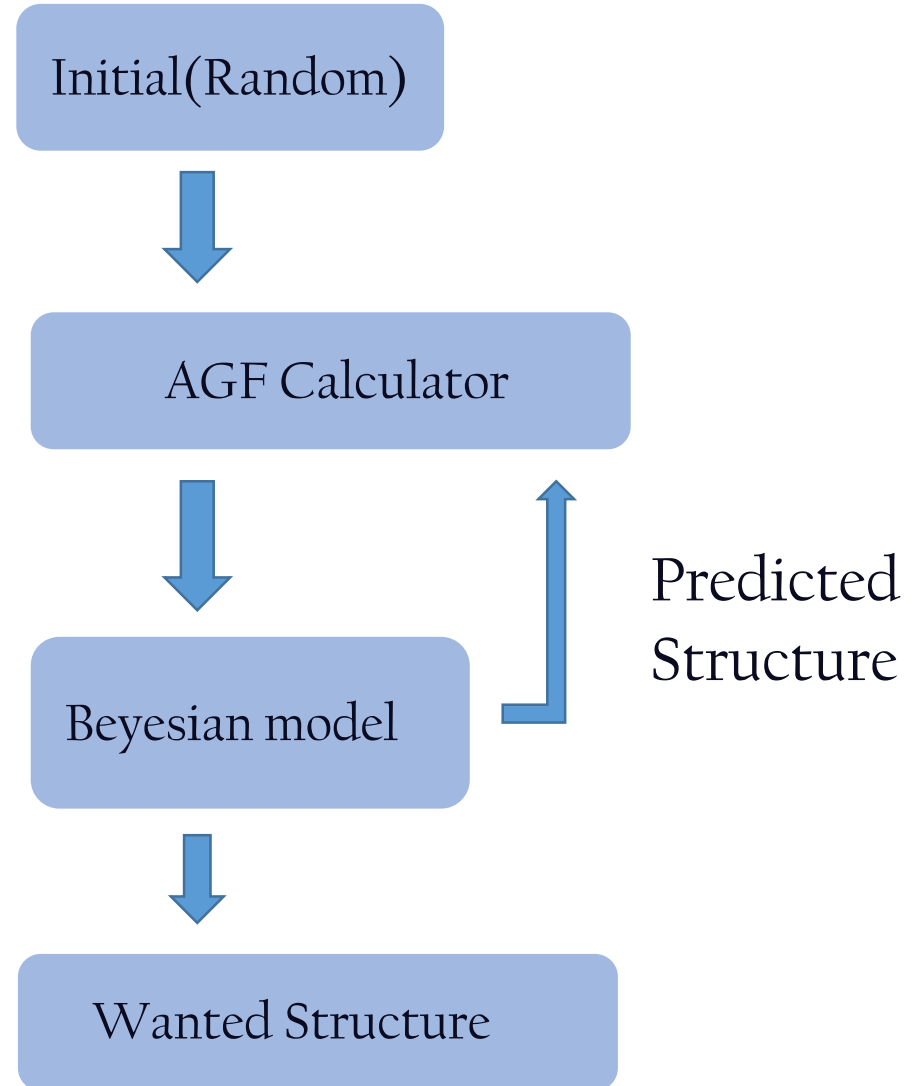
So, possible structures can be:  
 $4^6 = 4096$

If we calculate all the combinations, the time can be as long as 682 days!(one for about 4h with 12 cores)

# Bayesian Optimization based on AGF method



Jusheng Hong Phys. Rev. X 7, 021024



# Bayesian Intro: problem statement

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We are interested in solving

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_x f(x)$$

Under the constraints that

- $f$  is a **black box** for which no closed form is known (nor its gradients)
- $f$  is **expensive to evaluate**
- And evaluations of  $y = f(x)$  may be noisy



# Bayesian Intro: Bayesian optimization loop

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For  $t = 1 : T$  :

1. Given **observations**  $(x_i, y_i = f(x_i))$  for  $i = 1 : t$  , build a probabilistic model for the objective  $f$  .Integrate out all possible true functions, using **Gaussian process regression**.
2. Optimize a cheap acquisition/utility function  $\mu$  based on the posterior distribution for sampling the next point.

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x \mu(x)$$

Exploit uncertainty to balance exploration against exploitation.

3. Sample the next observation  $y_{t+1}$  at  $x_{t+1}$

# Bayesian Intro: Acquisition functions

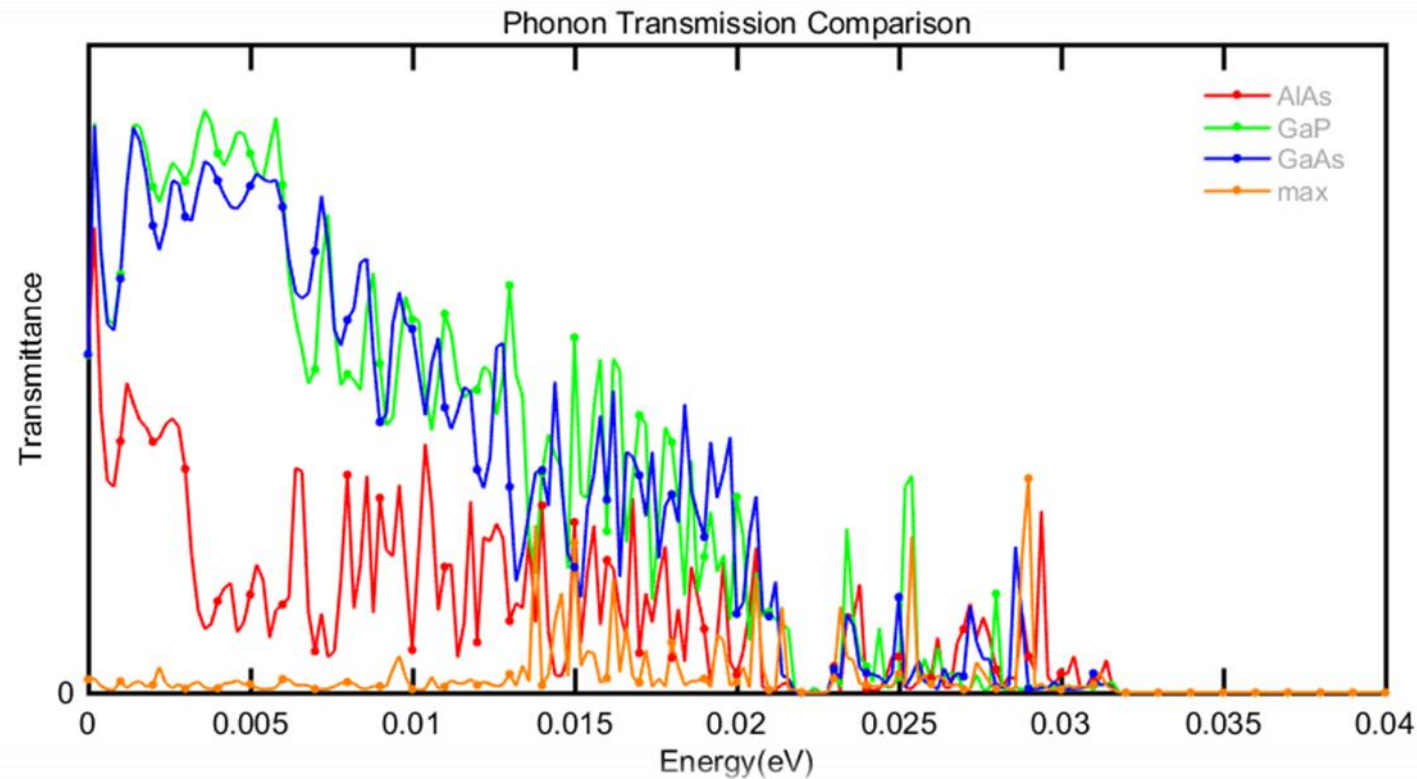
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Acquisition functions  $\mu(x)$  specify which sample  $\mathcal{X}$  should be tried next

- Expected improvement(default):  $-EI(x) = -\mathcal{E}[f(x) - f(x_t^+)]$
- Lower confidence bound:  $LCB(x) = \mu_{GB}(x) + \kappa\sigma_{GP}(x)$
- Probability of improvement:  $-PI(x) = -P(f(x) \geq f(x_t^+) + \kappa)$

where  $x_t^+$  is the best point observed so far.

# Result: Maximum ITC



The Maximum ITC structure has an obvious lower transmittance in almost every frequency

The Maximum ITC structure we get is **not Intuitive**:  
412314(1-AlP,2-AlAs,3-GaP,4-GaAs)

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## Part Four

### The Conclusion and Prospects

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# Conclusion

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In our work,

- We use the [MC method](#) to investigate the [temperature profile](#) of nano-films with internal source.
- We employ the [AGF method](#) to calculate the [phonon interface transmission](#) between III-V semi-conductors, which leaves enough data for analysis of physics.
- We combine the [Bayesian Method\(Machine Learning\)](#) with AGF calculation to help predict the [design of structures](#) with maximum or minimum ITC.
- Later work will focus on discovering the factors and mechanism affecting the phonon property at interface, maybe using tools like regression.

# Prospect: Find out the mechanism of transmittance

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## Prediction of thermal boundary resistance by the machine learning method

Tianzhuo Zhan, Lei Fang & Yibin Xu

Thermal boundary resistance (TBR) is a key property for the thermal management of high power micro- and opto-electronic devices and for the development of high efficiency thermal barrier coatings and thermoelectric materials. Prediction of TBR is important for guiding the discovery of interfaces with very low or very high TBR. In this study, we report the prediction of TBR by the machine learning method. We trained machine learning models using the collected experimental TBR data as training data and materials properties that might affect TBR as descriptors. We found that the machine learning models have much better predictive accuracy than the commonly used acoustic mismatch model and diffuse mismatch model. Among the trained models, the Gaussian process regression and the support vector regression models have better predictive accuracy. Also, by comparing the prediction results using different descriptor sets, we found that the film thickness is an important descriptor in the prediction of TBR. These results indicate that machine learning is an accurate and cost-effective method for the prediction of TBR.

The descriptors used for the AMM and DMM predictions are temperature, density, speed of sound (longitudinal and transverse), and unit cell volume, which we define as “AMM and DMM descriptor.(Sci. Rep. 2017;7 ; 7109. )

Our next step: include new factors and consider mechanism different from AMM and DMM, such as MFP.

## Concluding remarks

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*I owe a lot to my engineering training because it [taught] me to tolerate approximations.*

*Previously to that I thought...one should just concentrate on exact equations all the time.*

*Then I got the idea that in the actual world all our equations are only approximate. We must just tend to greater and greater accuracy.*

*In spite of the equations being approximate, they can be beautiful.*

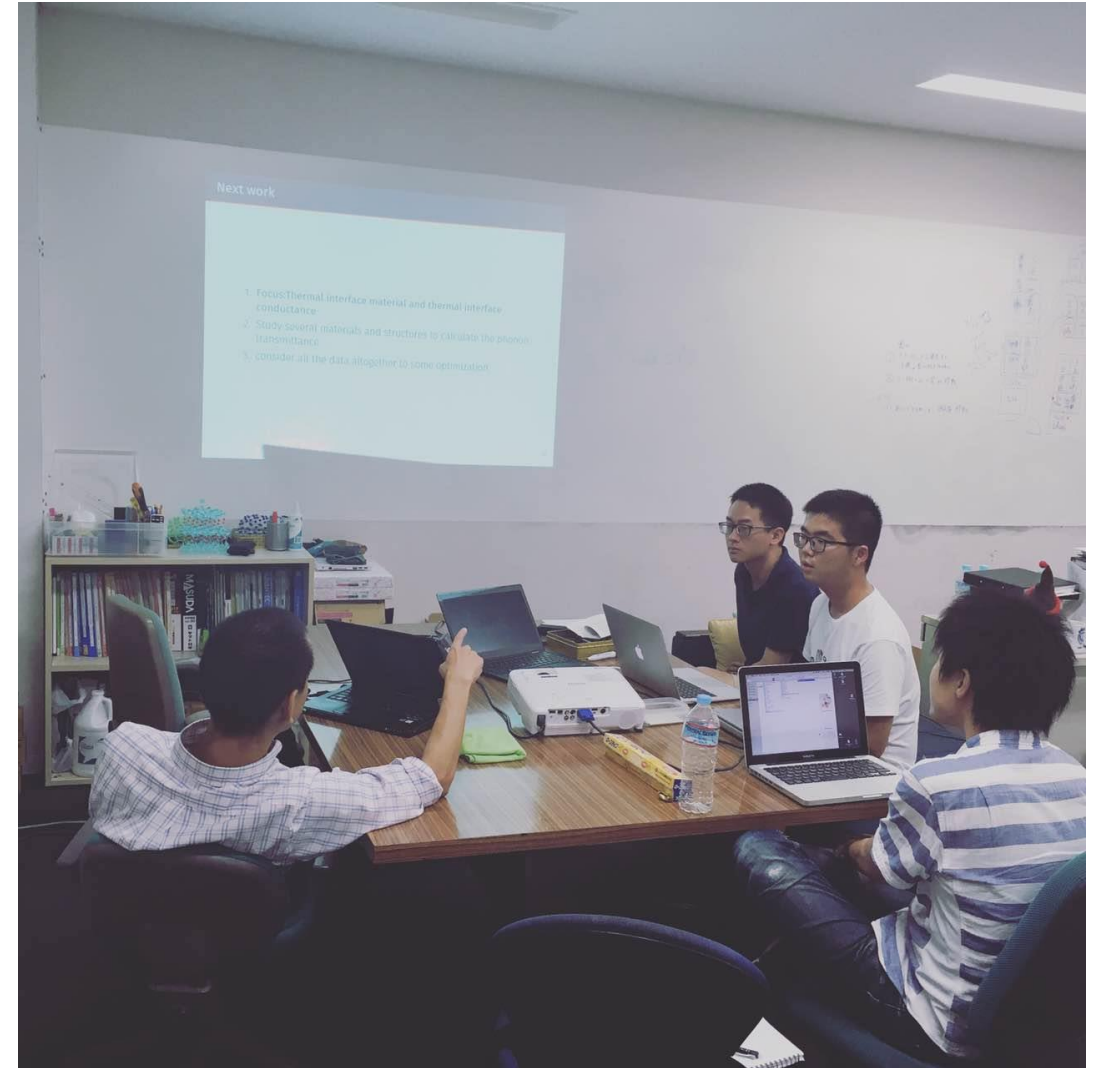
*——Dirac*





A visit to NTNU

Thank you!



Summer research in University of Tokyo