



Cornell Laboratory for  
Accelerator-based ScienceS and Education (CLASSE)



5th International Particle Accelerator Conference  
June 15–20, 2014 – Dresden, Germany

# Advances in Photocathodes for Accelerators

L. Cultrera, CLASSE – Cornell University





- **Photocathode requirements and materials:**
  - Quantum Efficiency, Thermal Emittance, Response Time, Lifetime
  - What is new in the field
- **New venues to discuss questions related to photocathodes:**
  - dedicated photocathode workshops
- **Recent results**
  - Metals
    - Plasmonic enhanced emission
    - CsAu
    - CsBr coating on Cu
    - Cs dispenser photocathode
  - Alkali antimonides extensively studied and characterized
  - Engineered structures
    - MBE of epitaxial multilayered structures MgO/Ag(001)
    - GaAs with undoped layer





# Properties

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$$B_n = \frac{2I}{\varepsilon_{n,x} \varepsilon_{n,y}}$$

- **Quantum efficiency** => Max achievable currents
- Response time => Temporal profile
- **Thermal emittance** => Min beam emittance
- Lifetime => Operation time

$$\varepsilon_{n,x} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_{th}^2 + \cancel{\varepsilon_{sc}^2} + \cancel{s_{trans}^2}}$$

The perfect photocathode does not exist yet!

The right choice of the material and operating condition is a tradeoff dependent on the application





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# Recent workshops



[www.lns.cornell.edu/Events/Photocathode2012/](http://www.lns.cornell.edu/Events/Photocathode2012/)

## PHOTOCATHODE PHYSICS FOR PHOTONINJECTORS

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 8–10, 2012



[www.bnl.gov/pppworkshop/](http://www.bnl.gov/pppworkshop/)

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[www.lasa.mi.infn.it/WSPhotocathodes](http://www.lasa.mi.infn.it/WSPhotocathodes)



- SEARCH -

## High QE Photocathodes for RF Guns

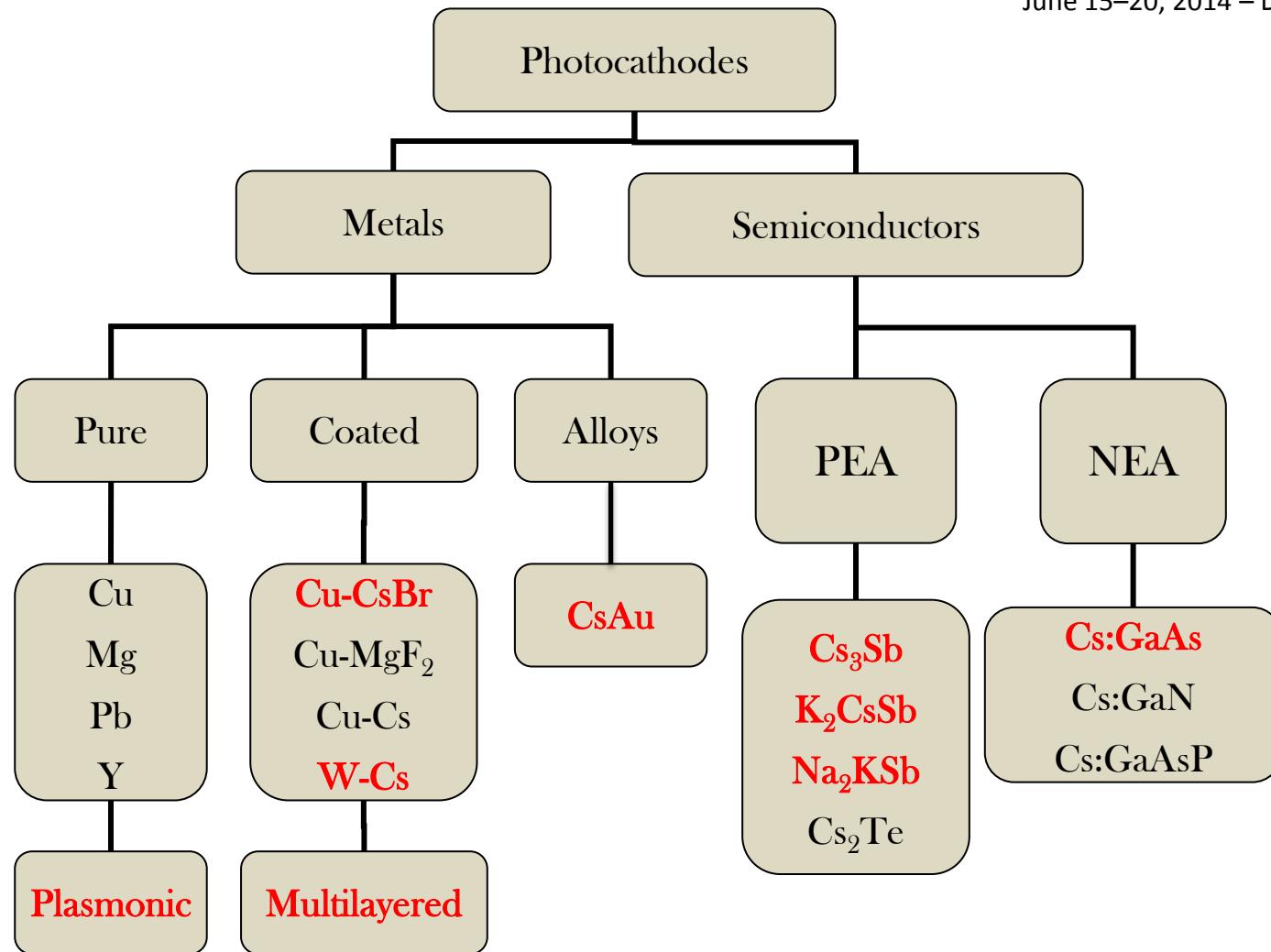


Workshop on Photocathodes for RF Guns  
1–2 March 2011, INFN of Lecce, Italy

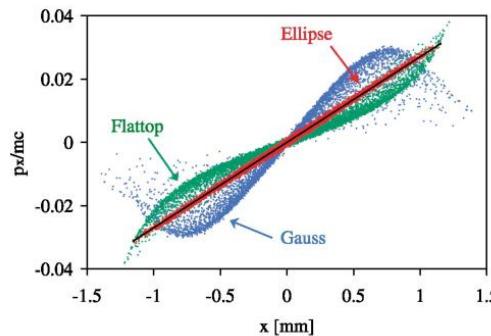


[photocathodes2011.eurofel.eu/](http://photocathodes2011.eurofel.eu/)





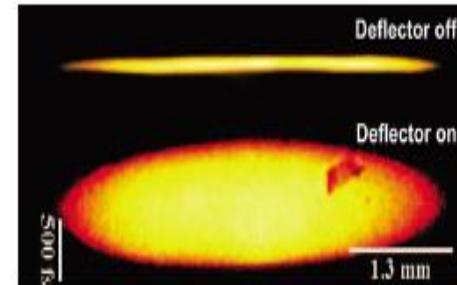
Generation of e-beam in “Blowout” regime is very convenient for RF gun operated at very low charge per bunch because reduced non linearities on the space charge forces



O.J. Luijten et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 93, 094802 (2004)

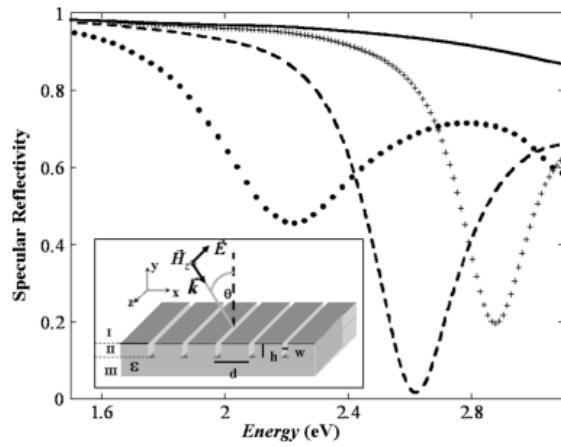
P. Musumeci et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 244801 (2010)

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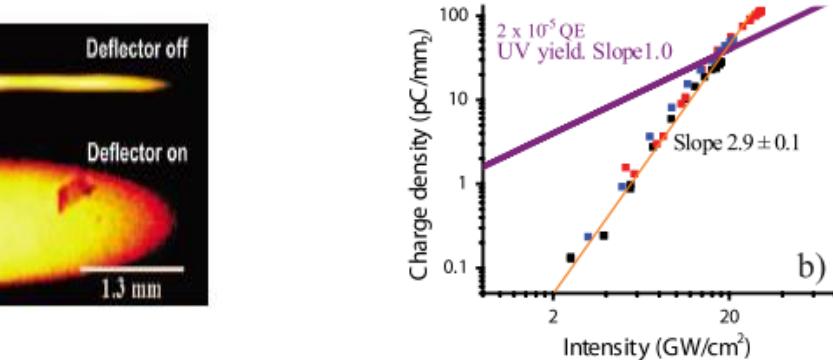


Cu reflectivity with  $\text{MgF}_2$  antireflective coating @800 nm  $\sim 85\%$

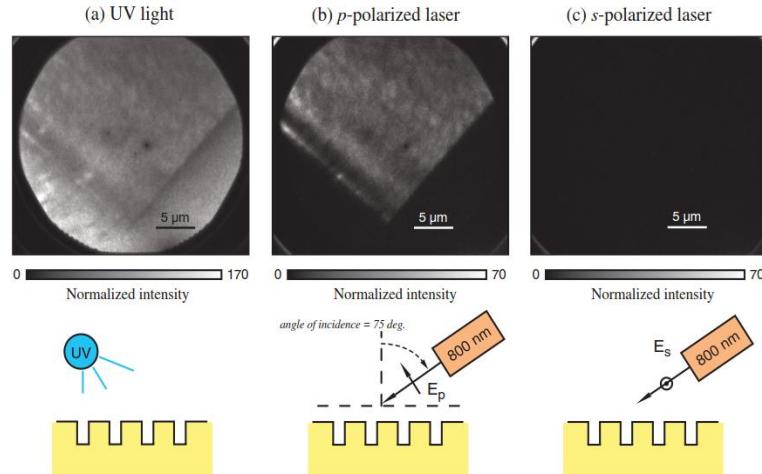
**Need to increase absorption!**



J. L. Perchec et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 066408 (2008)



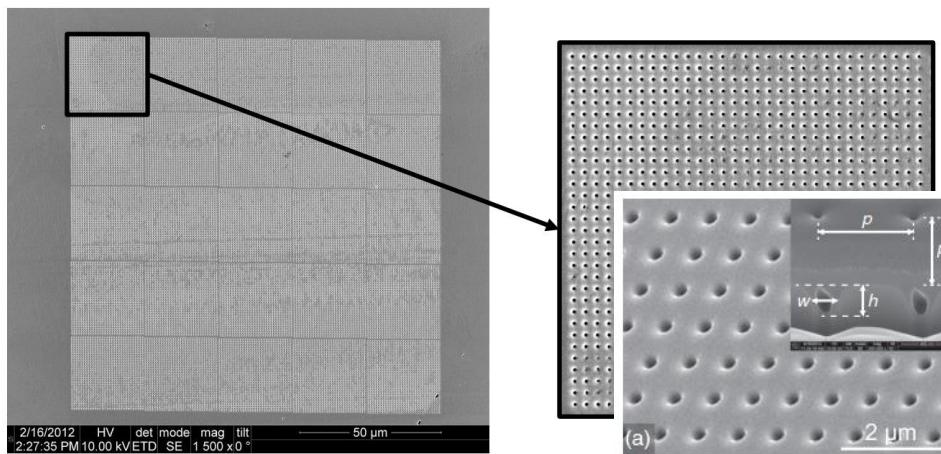
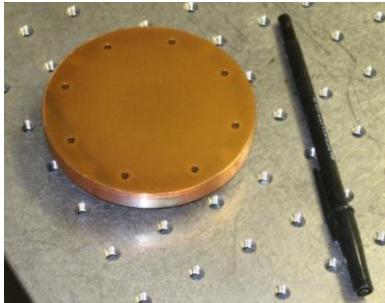
PEEM images of emission from plasmonic structures



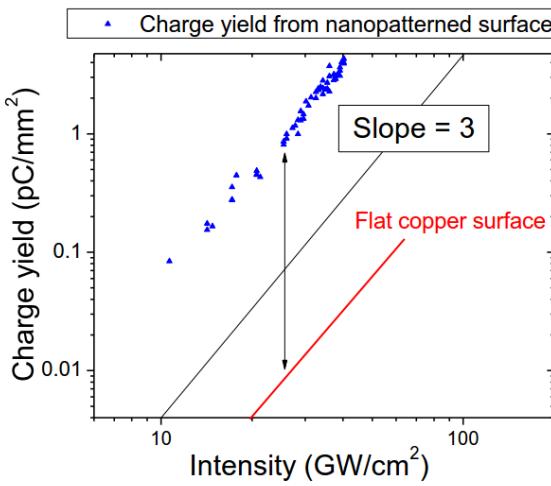
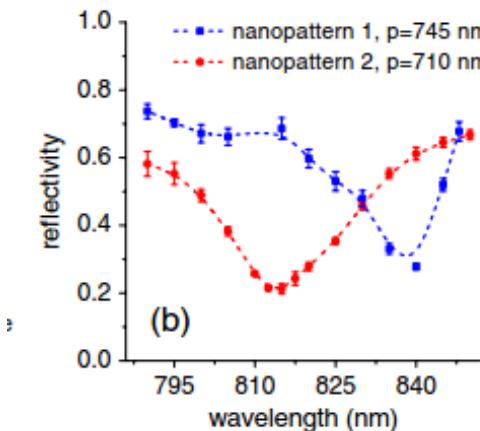
A. Polyakov et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 076802 (2013)



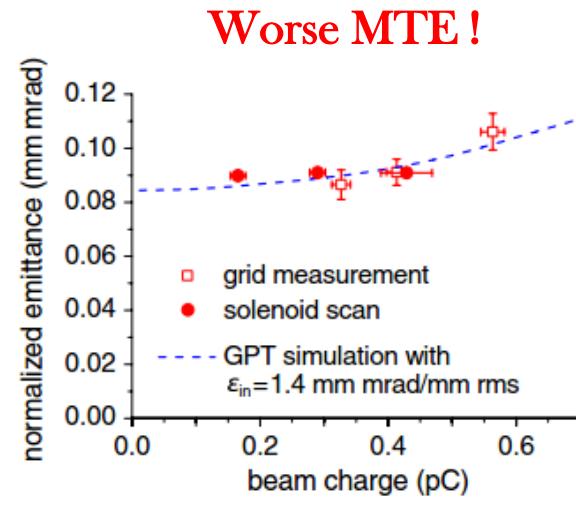
FIB has been used to generate a periodic pattern of nano holes on Copper surface



Tunable!



100x better QE!



R.K. Li, Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 074801 (2013)

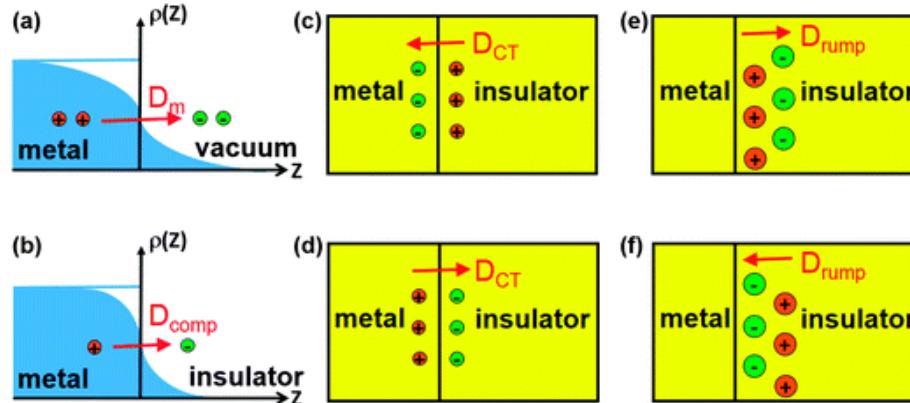




# Coated Metals

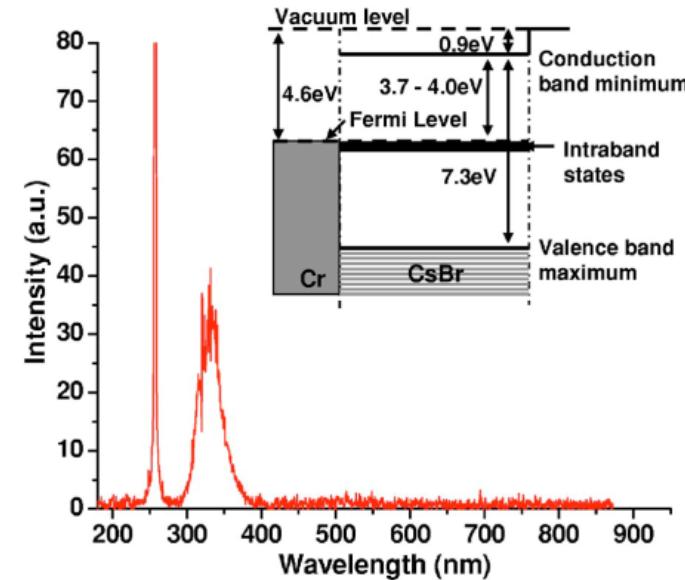
Possible way to enhance QE of metals:

- Reduction of workfunction
- Emission from intra-band states of insulating coatings

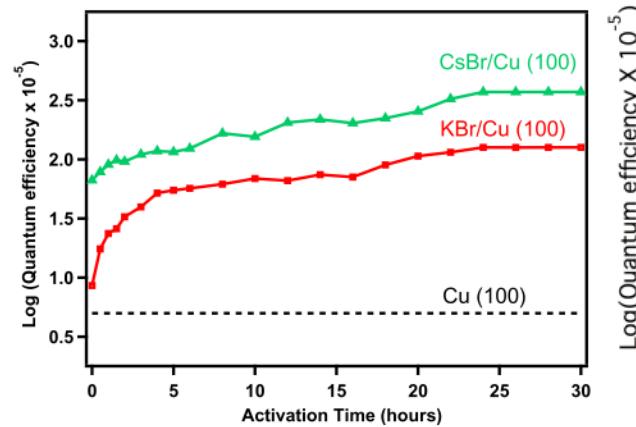


S. Ling et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **15**, 19615 (2013)

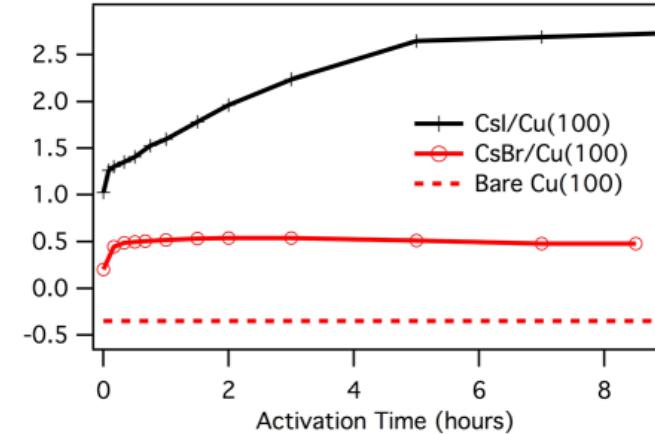
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Z. Liu et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **89**, 111114 (2006)



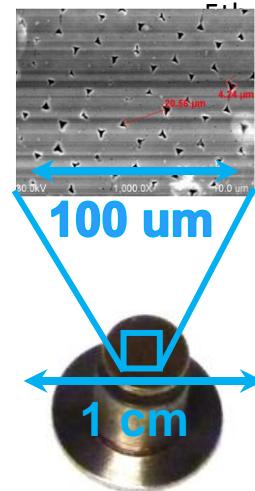
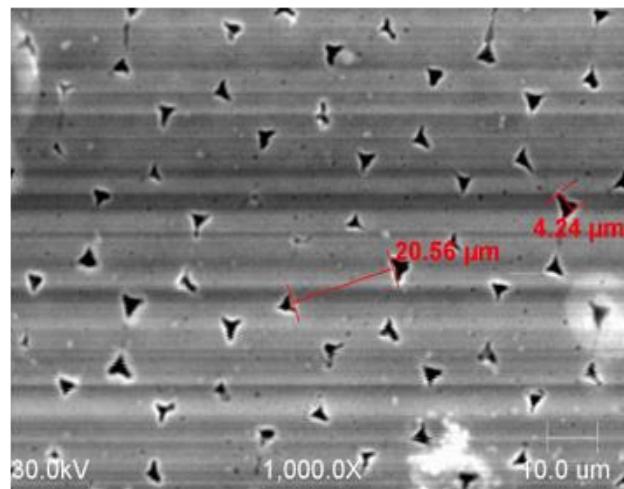
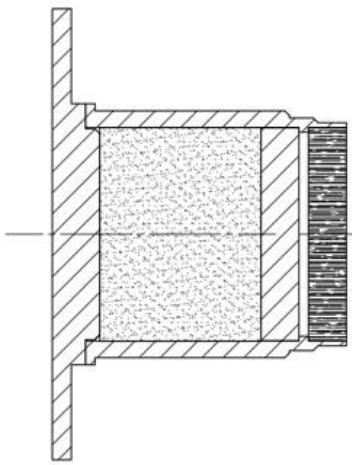
W. He et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **102**, 071604 (2013)



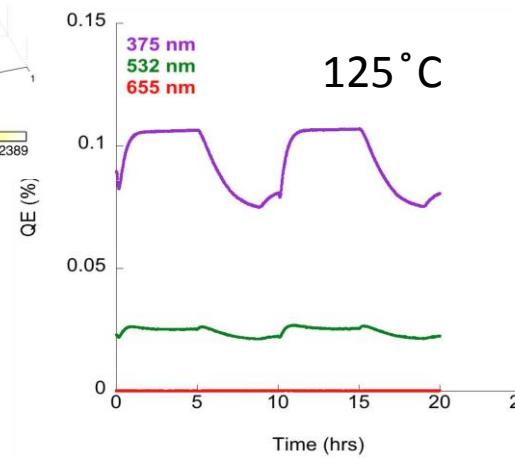
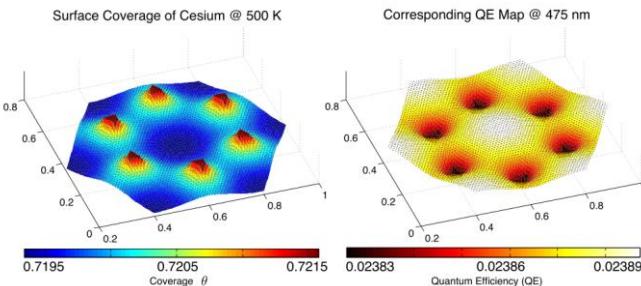
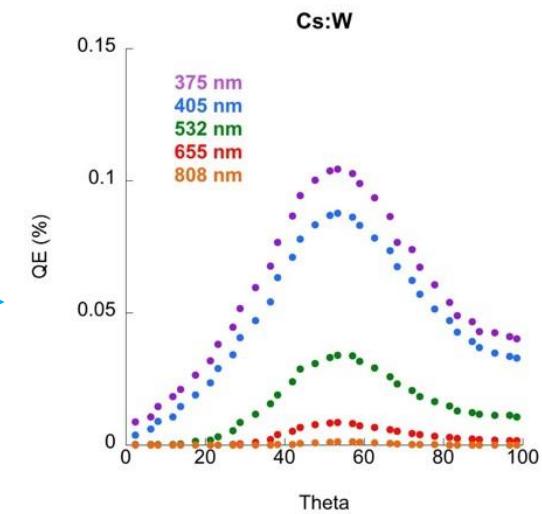
L. Kong et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **104**, 171106 (2014)

266 nm	KBr	CsBr	CsI
Film thick. (nm)	7	7	8
QE enh. b.a.	1.8	14	18
QE enh. a.a.	2.6	77	2700
WF b.a. (eV)	3.96	3.76	3.68
WF a.a. (eV)	3.66	3.41	1.74





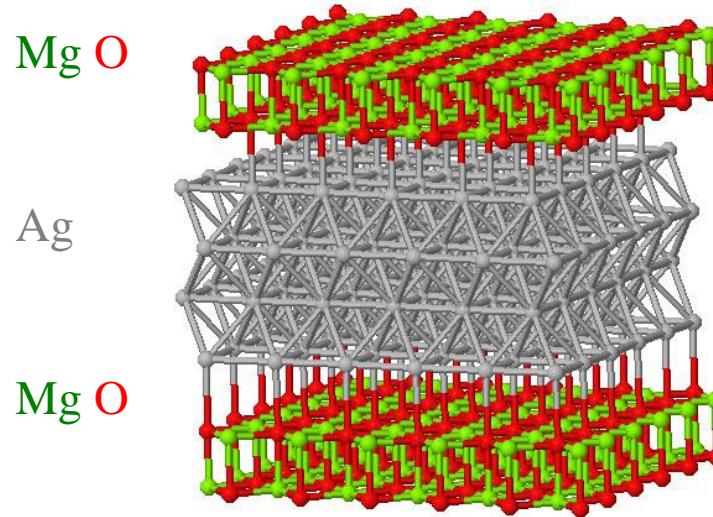
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	125 °C
Cs emission ug / cm <sup>2</sup> / hr	0.023
Monolayers per hr	0.34
Conservative reservoir lifetime (hr)	31000



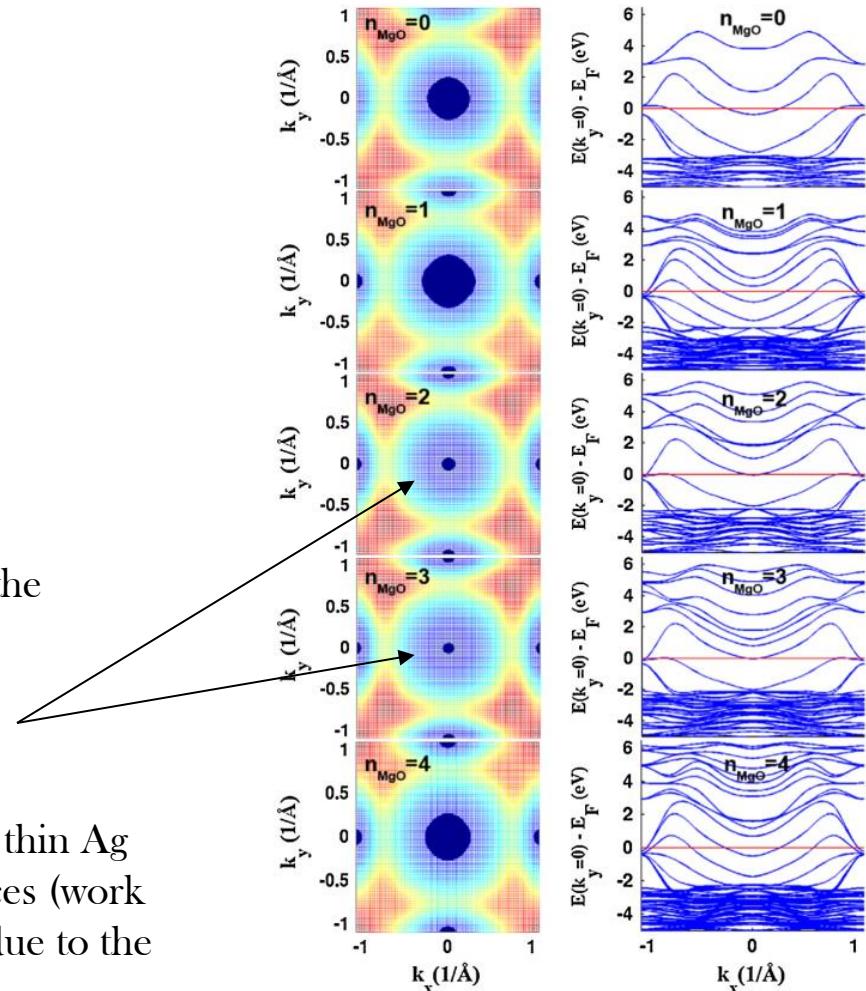
*Limiting the emission to a single surface band making  $k_{max}$  as small as possible*



The transverse intrinsic emittance is a function of the number of MgO layers;

Minimum at  $n_{\text{MgO}} = 2,3$  with  $\epsilon_{\text{th}} = 0.06 \text{ mm mrad}$

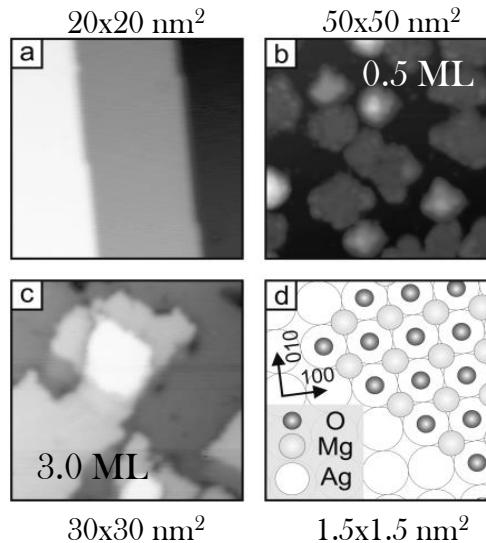
Maximum sensitivity to  $n_{\text{MgO}}$  can be achieved with thin Ag ( $\ll 8 \text{ ML}$ ) and MgO on both top and bottom surfaces (work function greatly reduces from  $\sim 4.6 \text{ eV}$  to  $2.92 \text{ eV}$  due to the MgO overlayers)



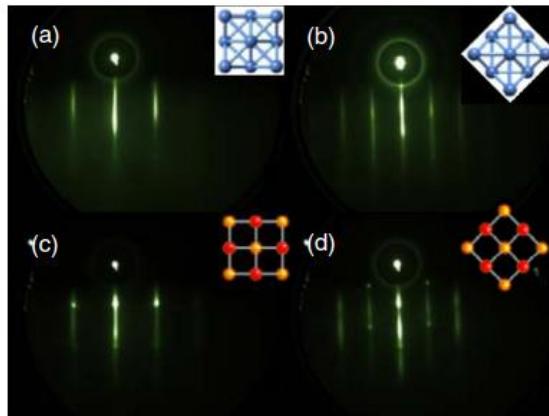


# Multilayers (2)

STM of thermal evaporated MgO on Ag(001)

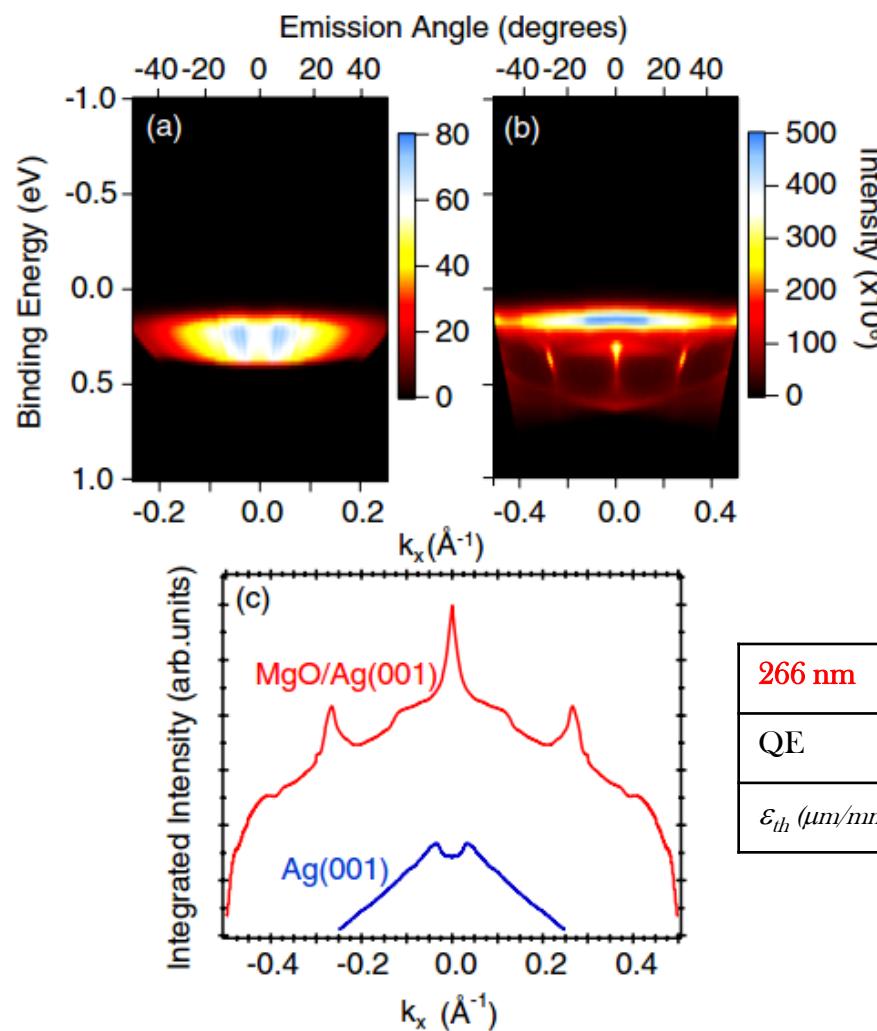


4 ML MBE grown MgO



RHEED indicate a non perfect  
layer by layer growth

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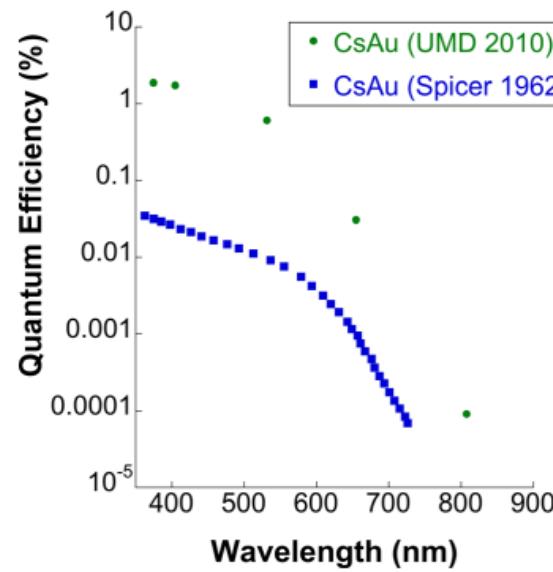
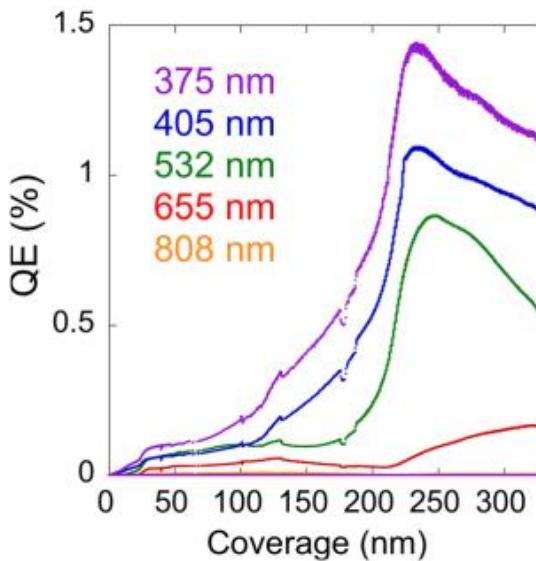
UV ARPES  
used to study  
emission  
properties and  
band structure



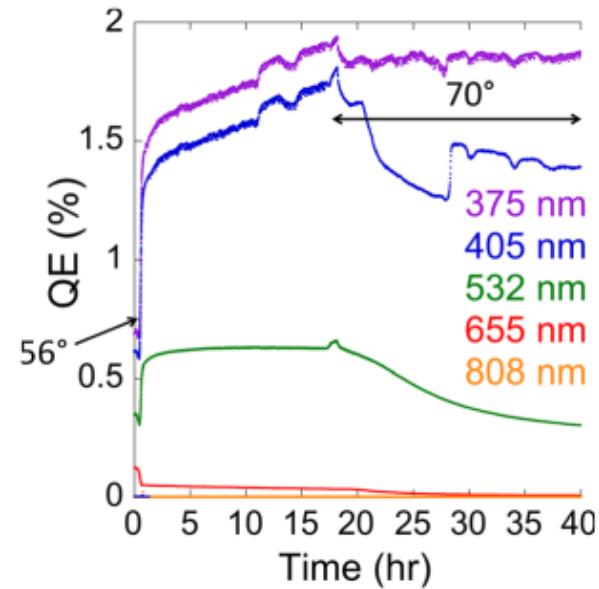


As was to be expected, the alloys of the AuM type are photo-electrically sensitive, but the sensitivity is too low to be of practical importance. An

A. Sommer, Nature 152, 215 (1943)



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- These results **reopen** the question of AuM semiconductors
- **QEs** in the range of **few %** can be achieved in the visible
- Lifetime properties at room and moderate temperature are encouraging
- MTE, Response Time yet to be characterized

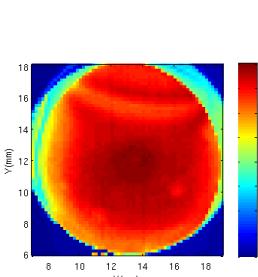
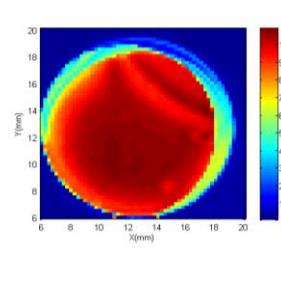


# Alklai antimonides promise of IPAC14 high QE and long lifetime

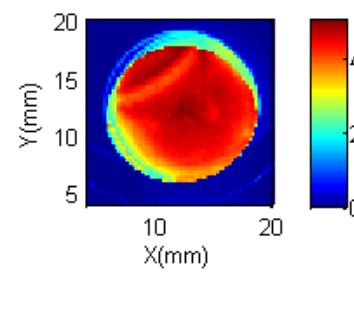


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QE map on 03 Feb 2012       $\sim 10\%$



QE map on 03 Apr 2012       $\sim 8\%$



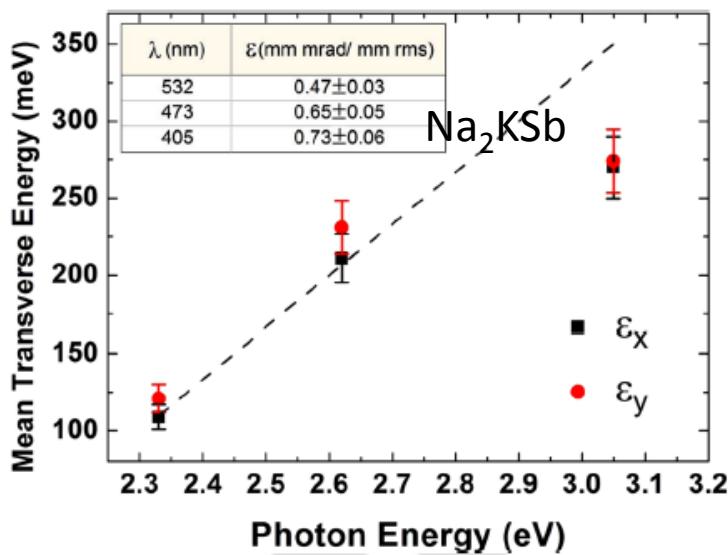
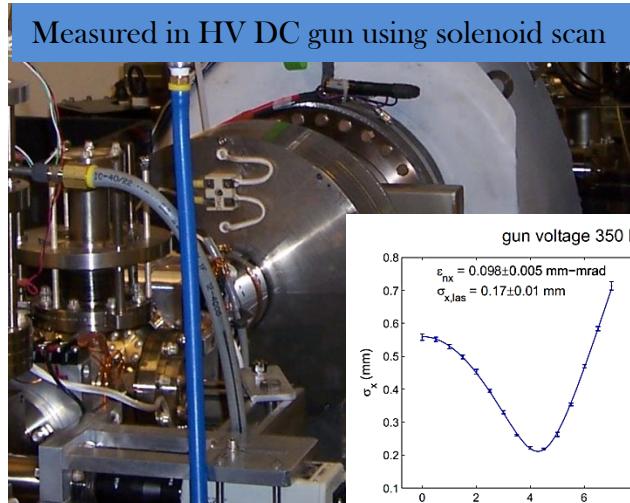
QE map on 02 Oct 2012       $\sim 5\%$

**QE 1/e lifetime  $\sim 13$  months**

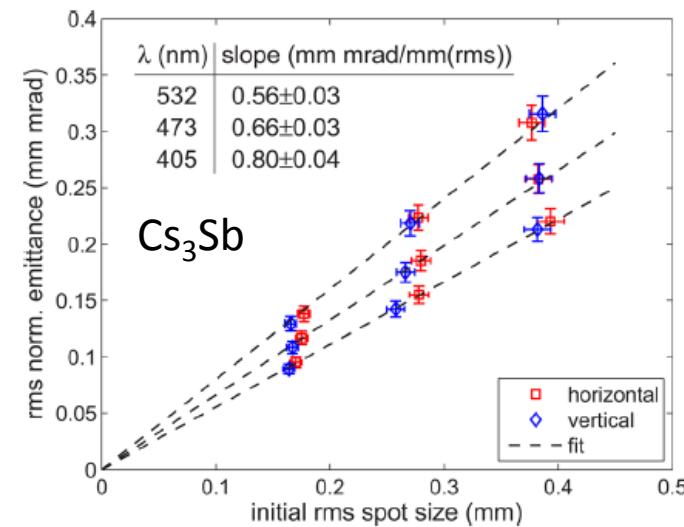
Non continuous low current (<mA) operation



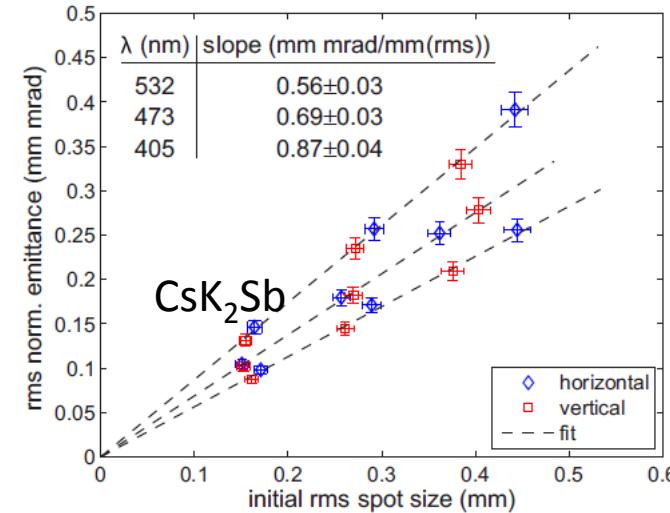
# Antimonides MTEs



L. Cultrera et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **103** (2013) 103504

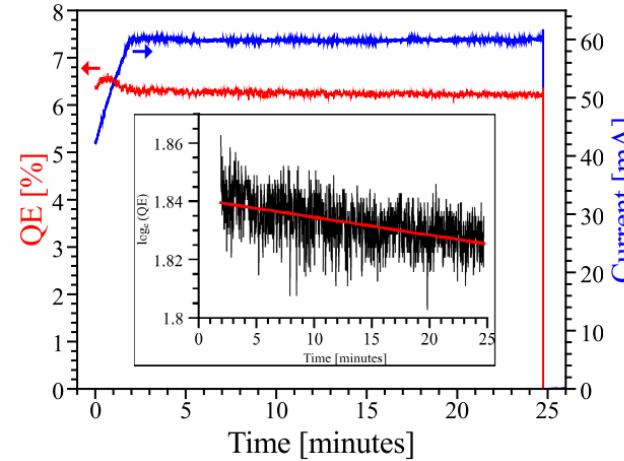
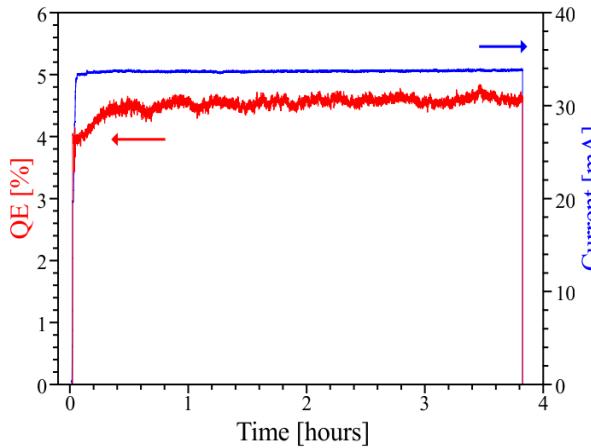


L. Cultrera et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **99** (2011) 152110

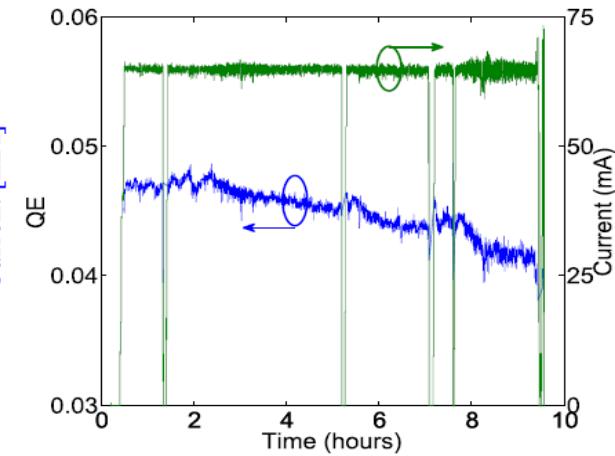


I. Bazarov et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **98** (2011) 224101

# High current lifetime



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## $\text{Cs}_3\text{Sb}$

QE @ 520 nm 4%

Max AVG current **33 mA**

Lifetime  $\gg$  500 C

**NO QE DECAY**

## $\text{Cs}_2\text{K}_3\text{Sb}$

QE @ 520 nm 6.5%

Max AVG current **60 mA**

Lifetime  $\gg$  2000 C

**1/e QE 30 hr**

## $\text{Na}_2\text{K}_3\text{Sb}$

QE @ 520 nm 4.5%

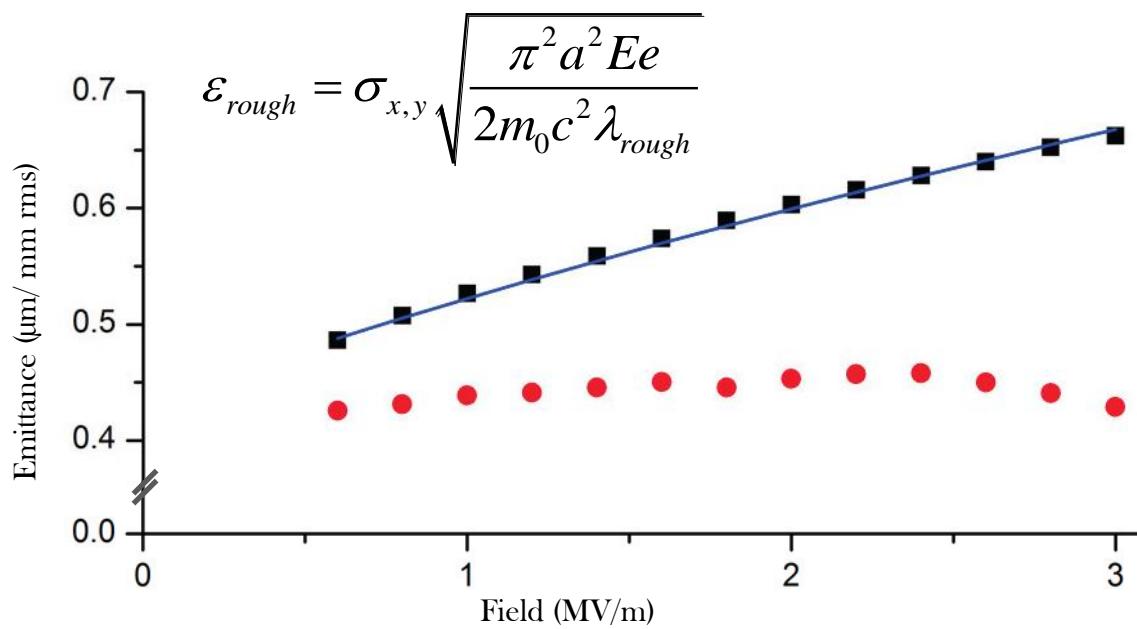
Max AVG current **65 mA**

Lifetime  $\gg$  2000 C

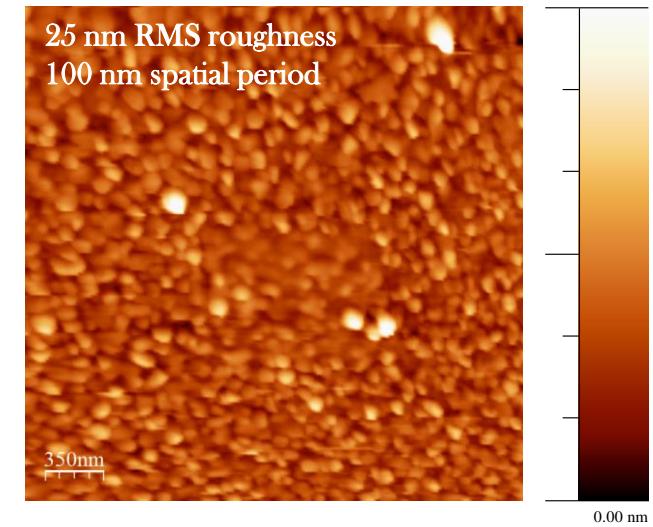
**1/e QE 66 hr**

Alkali antimonide based photocathode have been extensively tested in DC gun of the ERL injector prototype at Cornell University. MTEs, response time, QEs and lifetimes at high current are **compatible with the operation of an ERL user facility**.

# Roughness and emittance



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Films grown at high rate give expected emittance (very low field dependence)

Films grown in a multilayered manner were shown to give higher QE but  
showed marked emittance growth with field

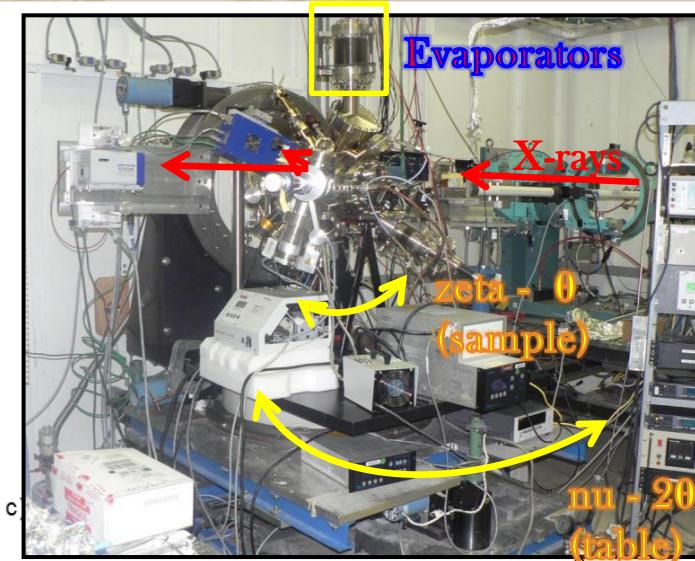
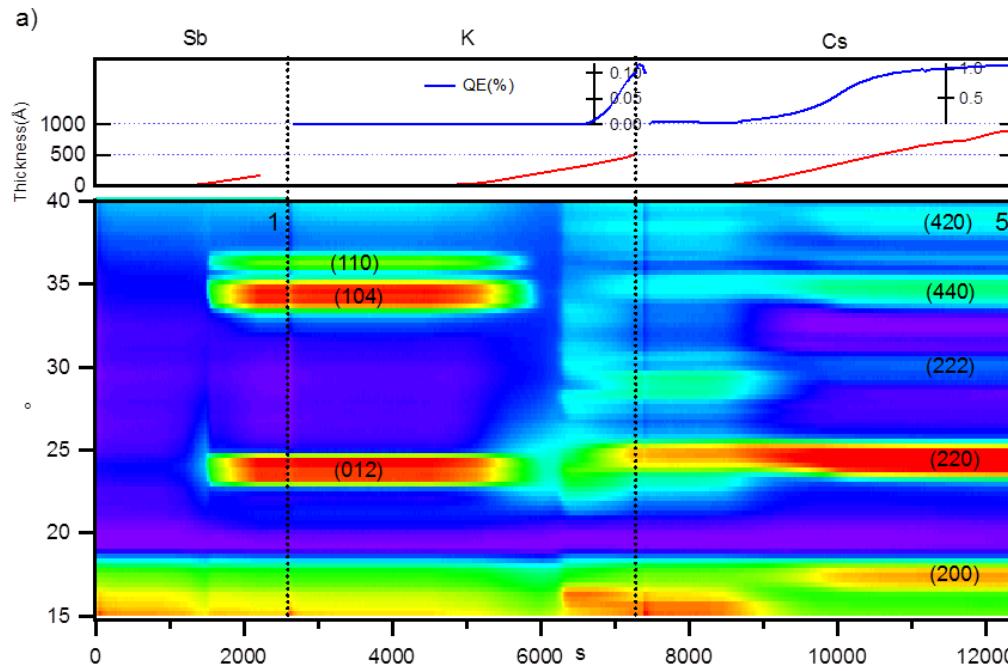
Can be explained by invoking a simple roughness model.

Fitting gave reasonable roughness parameters, confirmed by in vacuum AFM

**Roughness in high gradient guns looks to be an issue based on current in-situ measurements of cathode surfaces**



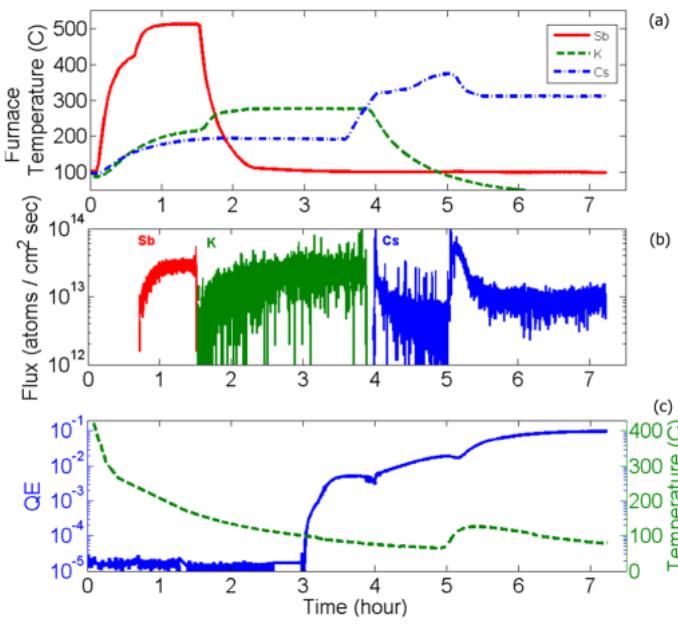
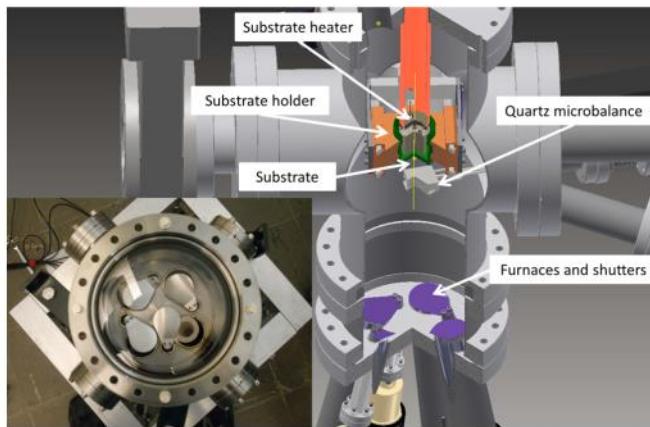
4 axis diffractometer UHV chamber  
NSLS & CHESS compatible  
XRD and GISAXS during growth  
High resolution XRD and XRR  
between growth steps  
XRD gives reaction chemistry  
GISAXS and XRR give roughness



- Sb evaporated at 0.2 Å/s
- Room temp,
- Crystallize at 4nm
- K deposition dissolves Sb layer
- Film goes amorphous
- QE increase corresponds with  $K_3Sb$  crystallization
- Cs increases lattice constant and reduces defects



# New recipes and sources

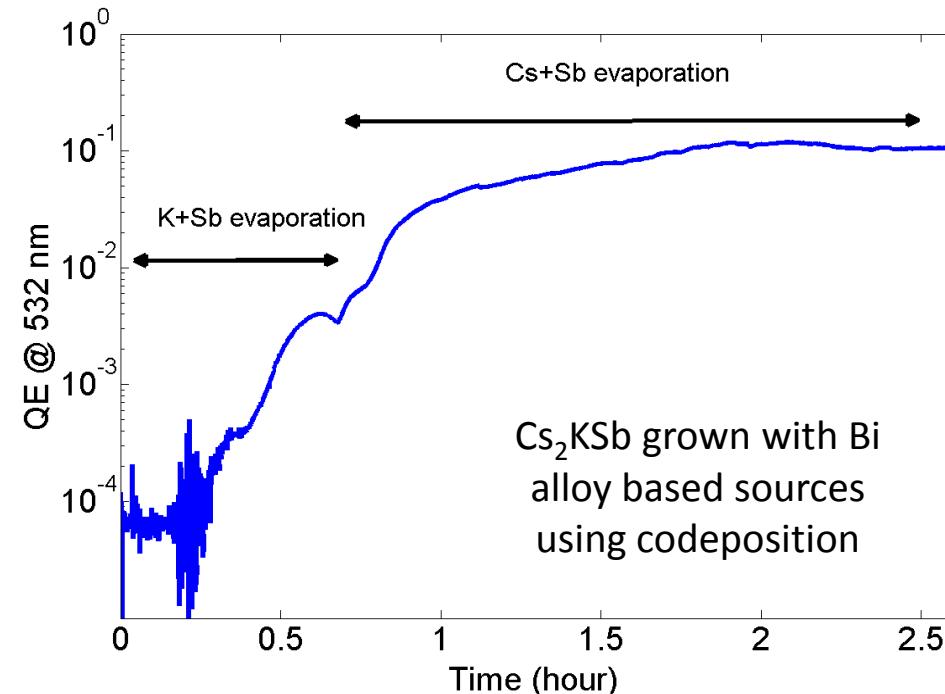


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Alkali Azide ( $\text{AN}_3$ )



Pure alkali metal



## Theoretical Transverse Emittance, Free Electron Model

### Radial Momentum Distribution

$$dJ = \frac{ekT}{4\pi^3\hbar^3} \log \left[ 1 + \exp \left( \frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{kT} - \frac{p_r^2}{2mkT} \right) \right] p_r dp_r d\theta$$

Approx:  $dJ \approx \frac{e}{4\pi^3\hbar^3} \left( \hbar\omega - \phi - \frac{p_r^2}{2m} \right) p_r dp_r d\theta$

RMS Radial Momentum

$$P_{r,rms} = \sqrt{\frac{\frac{ekT}{4\pi^3\hbar^3} \int_0^\infty \int_0^{2\pi} \log \left[ 1 + \exp \left( \frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{kT} - \frac{p_r^2}{2mkT} \right) \right] p_r^3 d\theta dp_r}{\frac{ekT}{4\pi^3\hbar^3} \int_0^\infty \int_0^{2\pi} \log \left[ 1 + \exp \left( \frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{kT} - \frac{p_r^2}{2mkT} \right) \right] p_r d\theta dp_r}}$$

$$P_{r,rms} = \sqrt{2mkT} \sqrt{\frac{Li_3 \left[ -\exp \left( \frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{kT} \right) \right]}{Li_2 \left[ -\exp \left( \frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{kT} \right) \right]}}$$

Normalized Emittance Definition

$$\sigma_x = \left( \frac{1}{mc} \right) \sqrt{\langle P_x^2 \rangle - \langle P_x \rangle^2}$$

$$\sigma_{x,rms} = \left( \frac{1000}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \frac{P_{r,rms}}{mc}$$

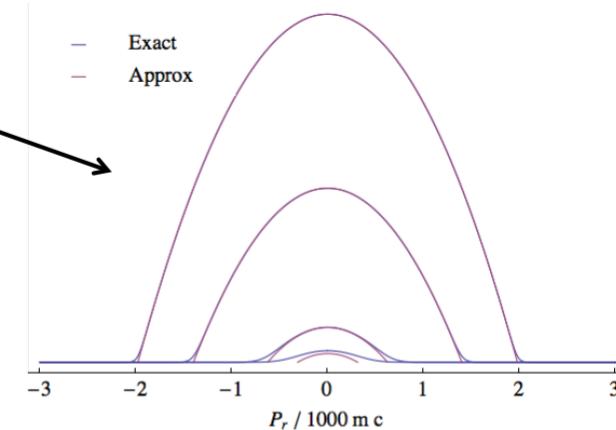
Approx:  $\sigma_{x,rms} \approx 1000 \sqrt{\frac{kT}{mc^2}}$

$$\sigma_{x,rms} \approx 1000 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega - \phi}{3mc^2}}$$

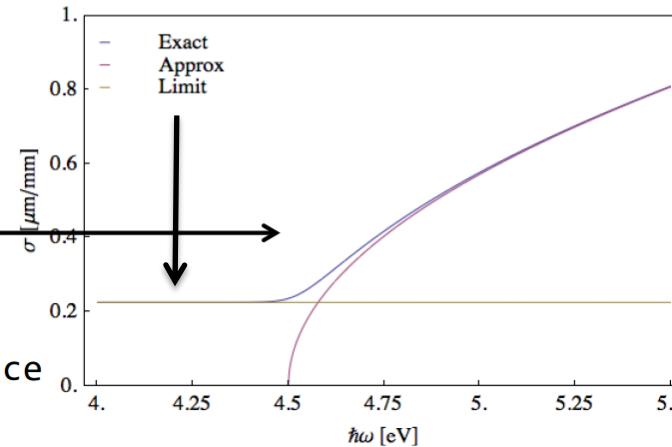
Thermionic Emittance

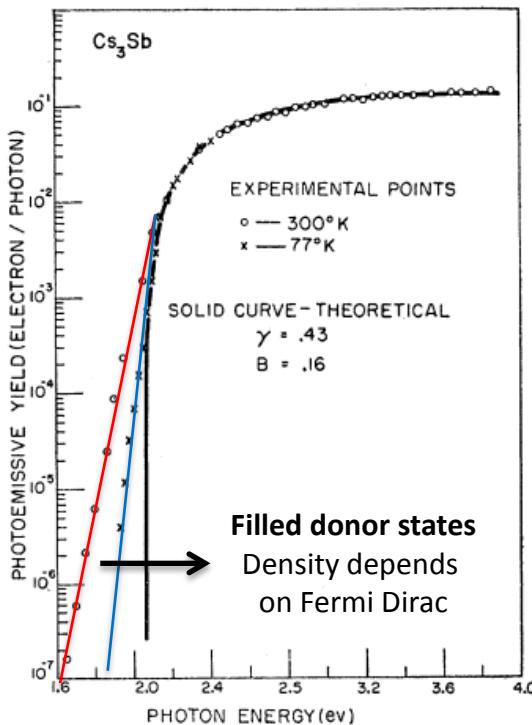
Dowell Emittance

Transverse Momentum Distribution

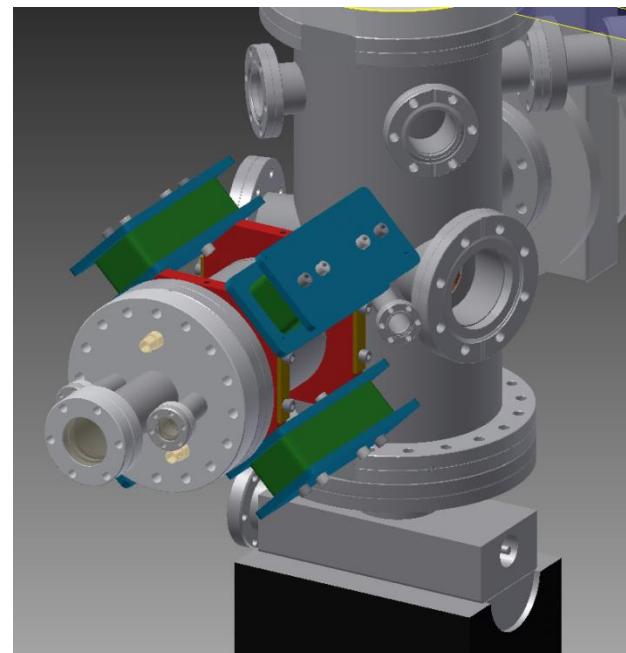


Transverse Emittance

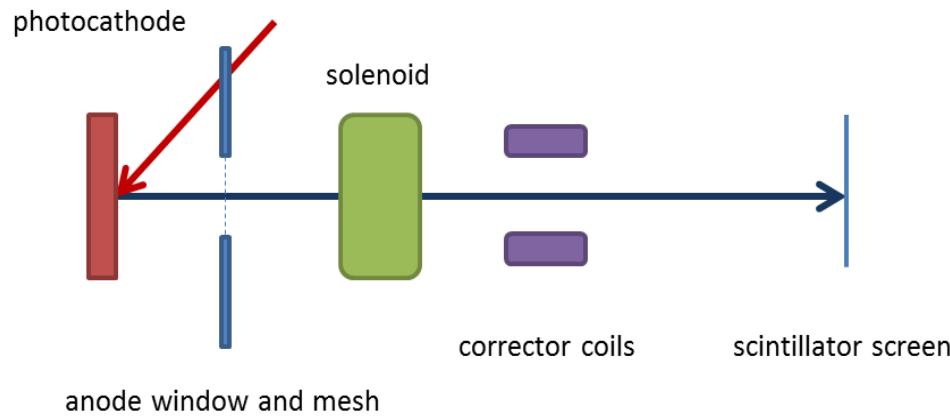
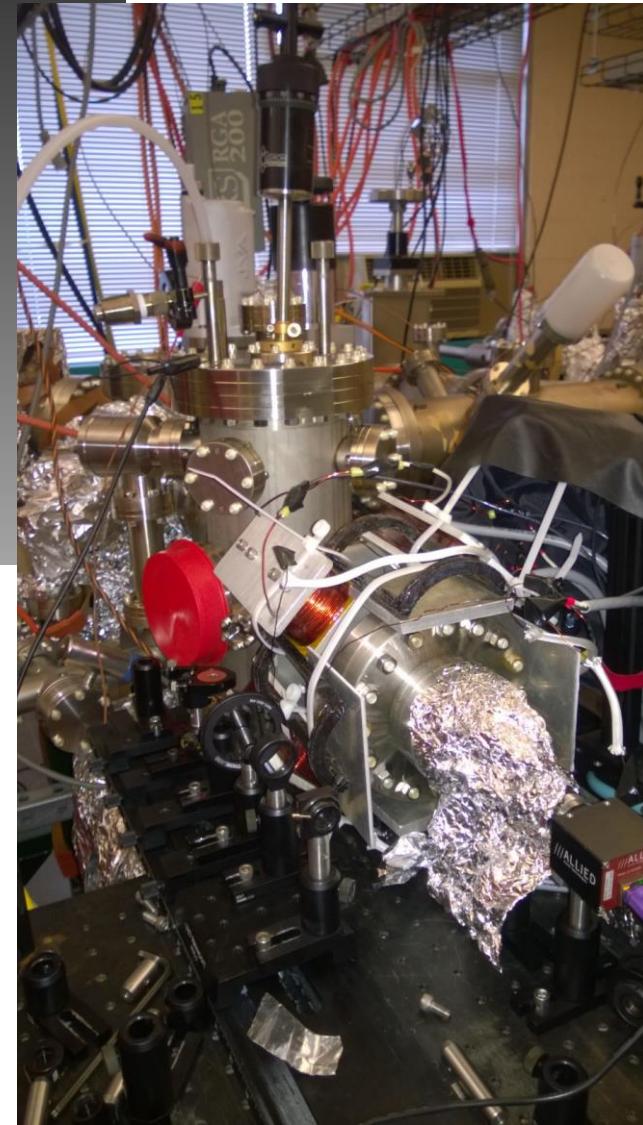


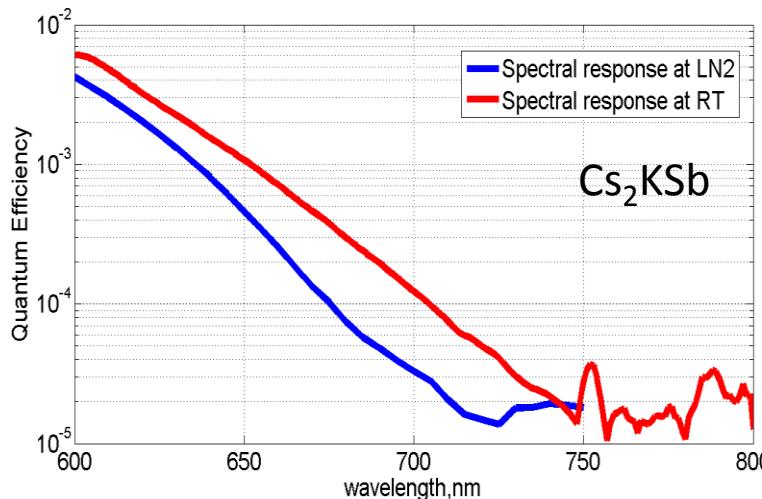


W.E. Spicer, *Phys. Rev.* **112**, 114 (1958)



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690 nm	300 K	90 K
QE	$2 \times 10^{-4}$	$5 \times 10^{-5}$
MTEs (meV)	<b>22 (25)</b>	<b>13 (9)</b>
$\epsilon$ ( $\mu\text{m}/\text{mm}$ )	<b>0.21 (0.22)</b>	<b>0.16 (0.13)</b>

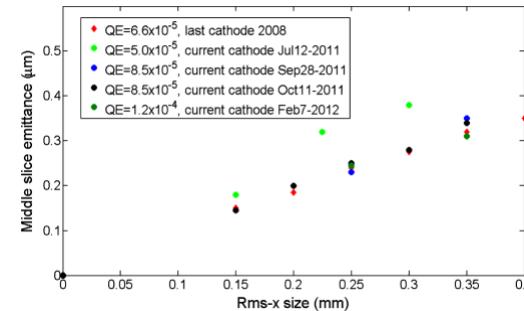
## Comparison with LCLS Cu cathode and MOT

Drive Laser Wavelength **253 nm**

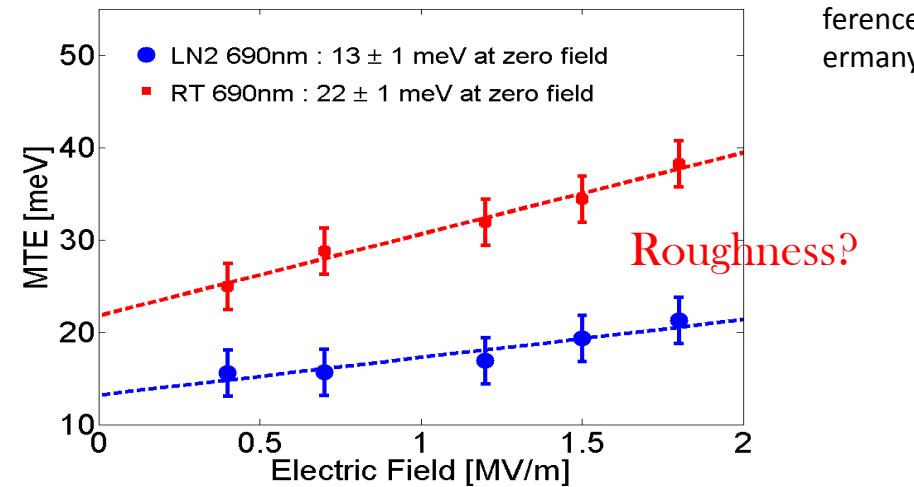
QE  **$1 \times 10^{-4}$**

MTE (meV) **413**

$\epsilon$  ( $\mu\text{m}/\text{mm}$ ) **0.9**

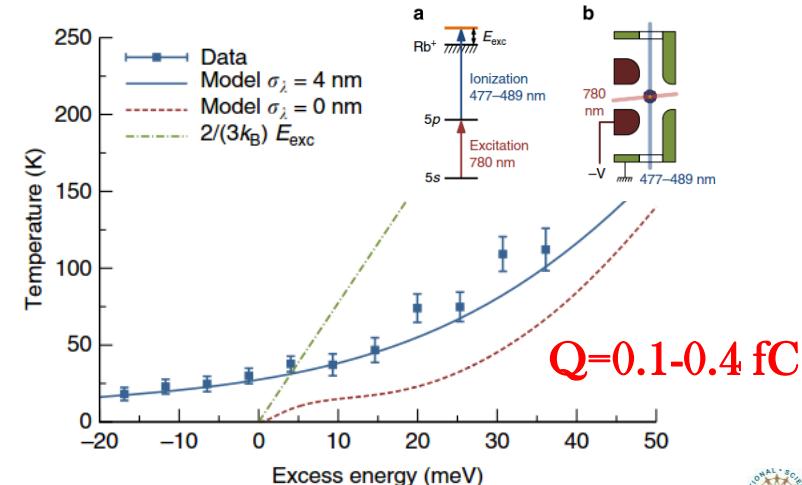


F. Zhou, *Phys. Rev. Spec. Top.-Accel. Beams* **15**, 090703 (2012)



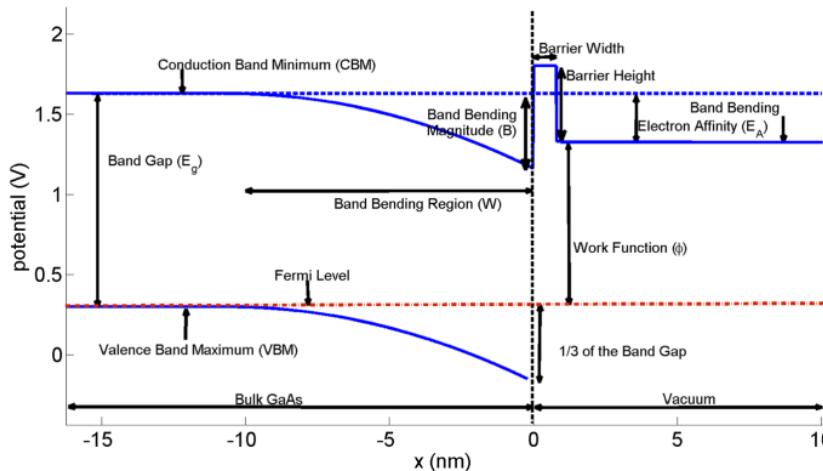
## Sub-thermal electron beam generation with a “standard” bialkali photocathode

L. Cultrera et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, submitted

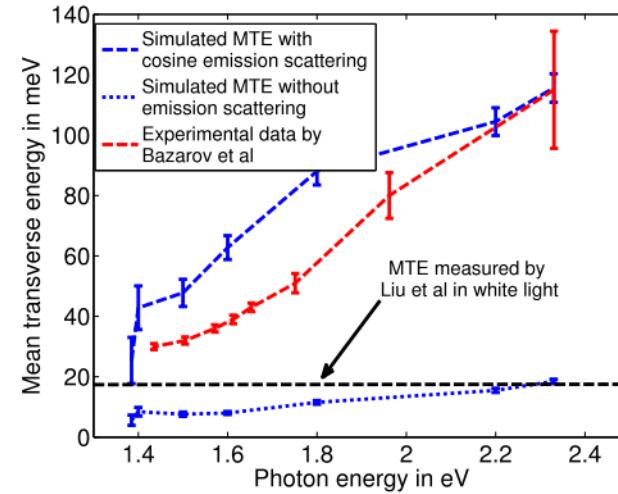
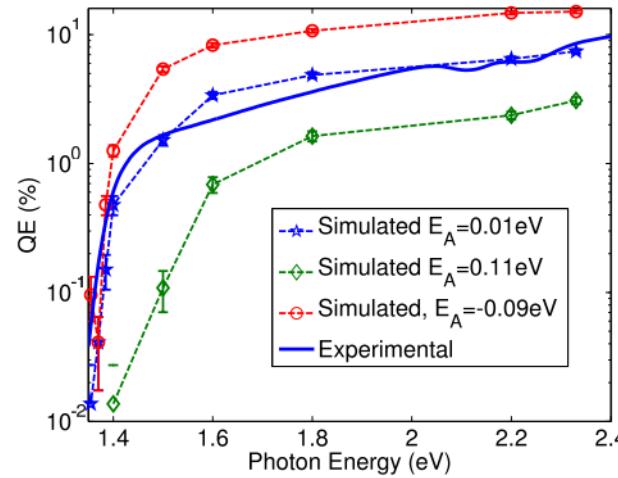
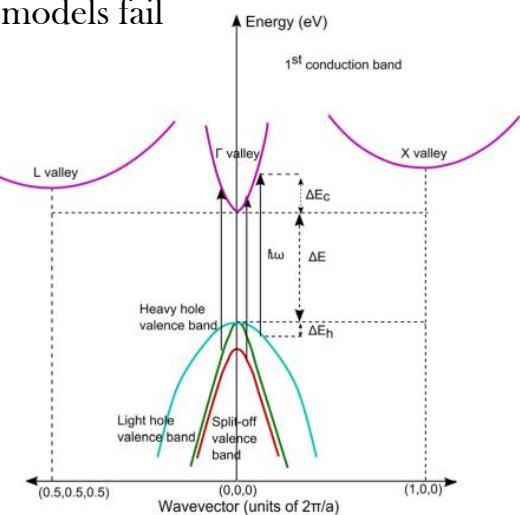


W. J. Engelen et al., *Nature Communications* **4**, 1693 (2013)

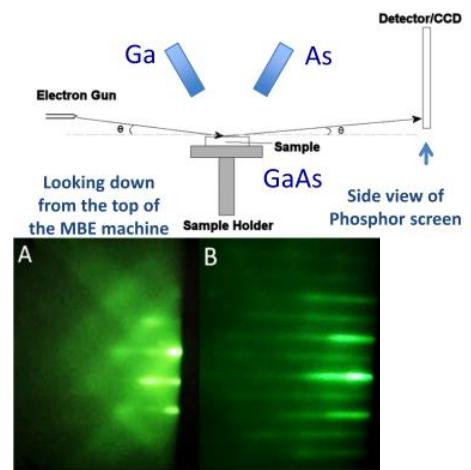
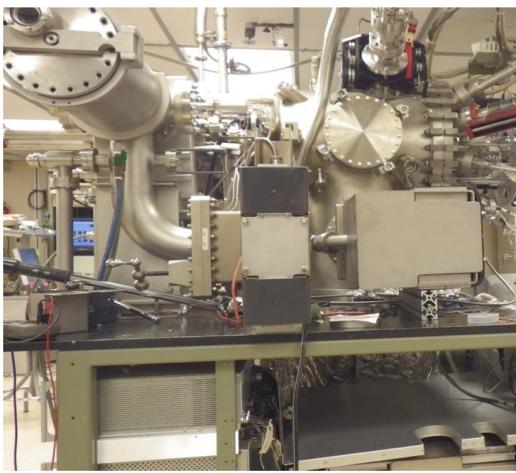
Need to better understand the physics to explain the experimental results where simple models fail



Excitation, relaxation and transport are simulated considering **all** the relevant physical processes

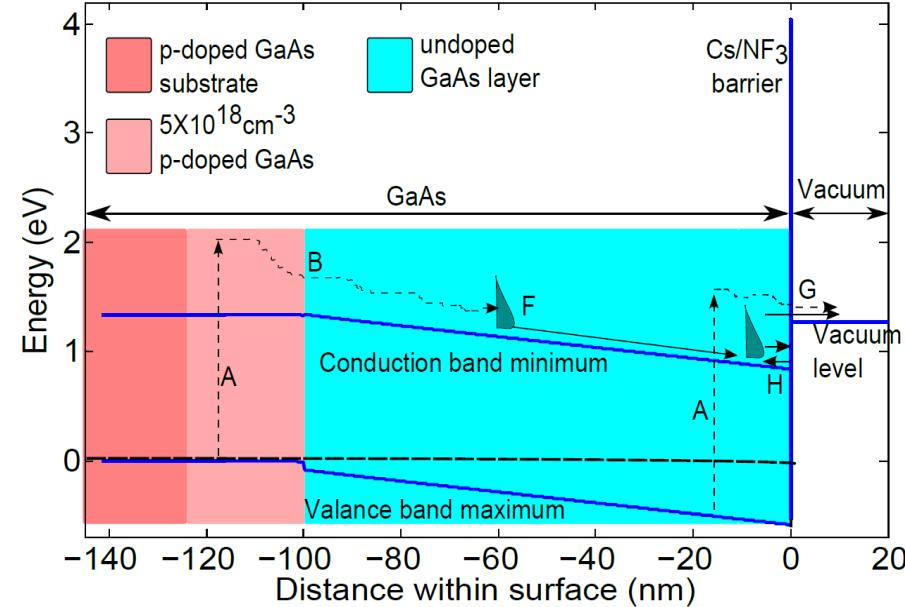
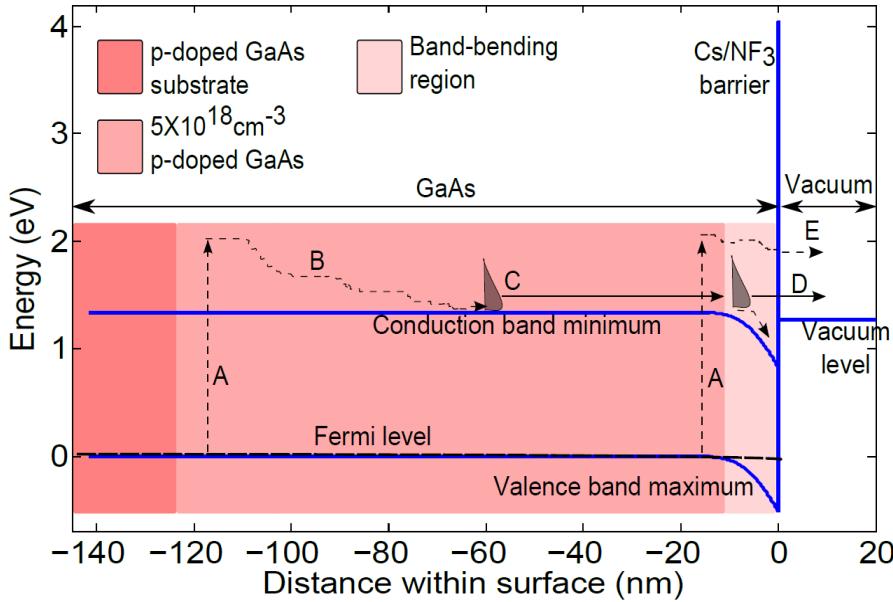


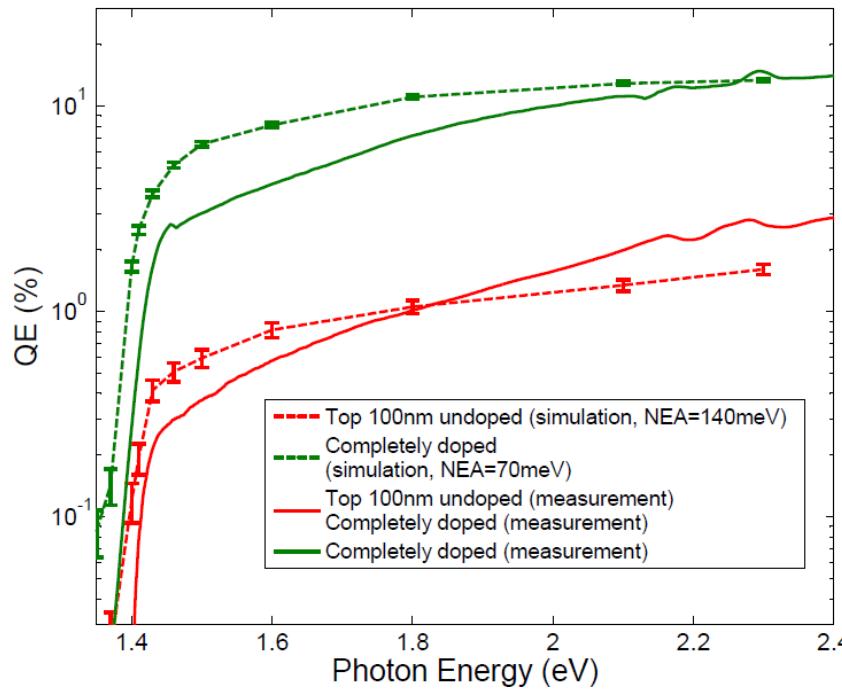
The only free parameter is the **electron affinity**



5th International Particle Accelerator Conference  
June 15–20, 2014 – Dresden, Germany

- **MBE: ultimate tool for photocathodes**
  - Atomically flat GaAs photocathodes with customized doping
  - Routinely used in photoinjector for smallest emittance
- Now “engineering” new types of MBE photocathode structures



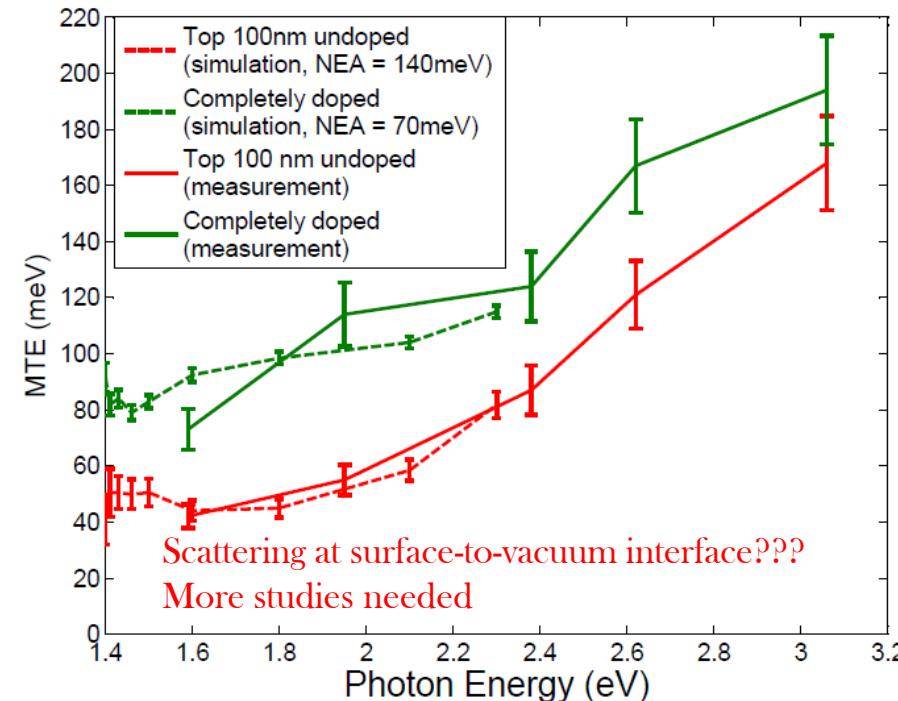


The sample with intrinsic layer shows as expected a smaller QE and MTE.

QE @532 nm is still on the range of few %

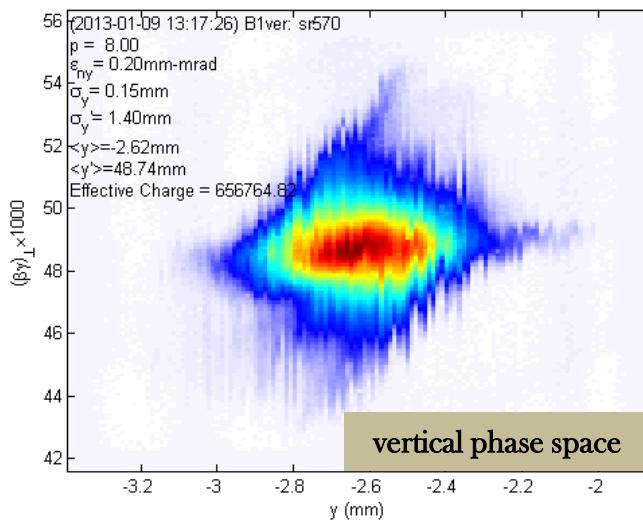
MBE samples with As cap to prevent contamination and preserve surface flatness

- Control sample  $5 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  doping
- Test sample with 100 nm intrinsic layer

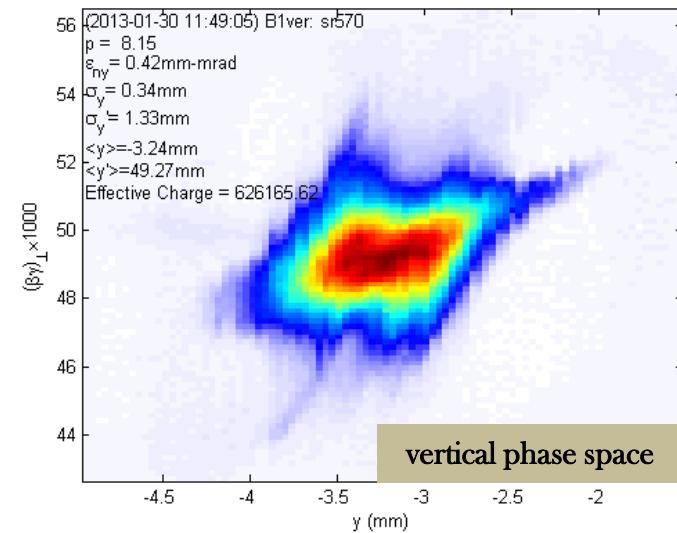


# Improved beam brightness

**20 pC/bunch**



**80 pC/bunch**



Normalized rms emittance (horizontal/vertical) 90% beam,  $E \sim 8 \text{ MeV}$ , 2-3 ps rms

0.22/0.15 mm-mrad

0.49/0.29 mm-mrad

Normalized rms core emittance (horizontal/vertical) @ core fraction (%)

0.14/0.09 mm-mrad @ 68%

0.24/0.18 mm-mrad @ 61%

20x the brightness at 5 GeV of the best storage ring (1nm-rad hor. emittance 100 mA!)

Similar to the best NCRF guns emittance but with  $> 10^6$  repetition rate (duty factor = 1)



# Conclusions

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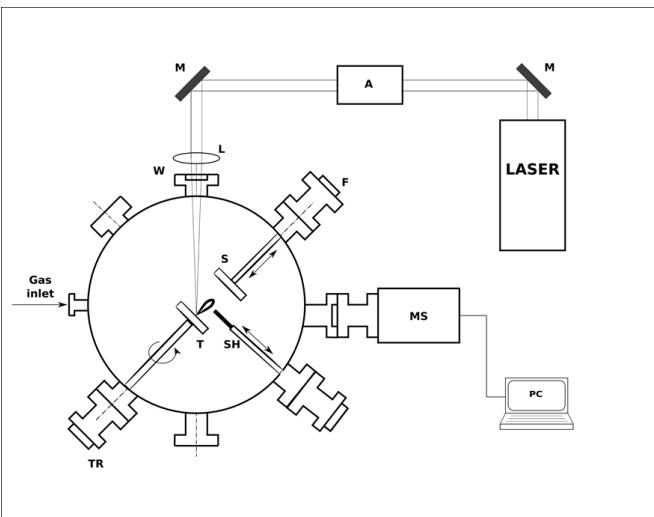
- Lots of new results during last 3 years
  - Sub thermal emittance
  - World record average current
  - Improved beam brightness
  - Better understanding of growth dynamics
  - DFT and Montecarlo applied to photoemission
  - New materials and new structures

# Thank you!





# PLD metal film

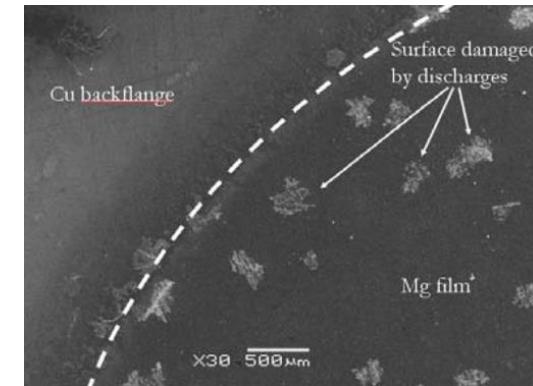


Successful RF testing of Mg on Cu



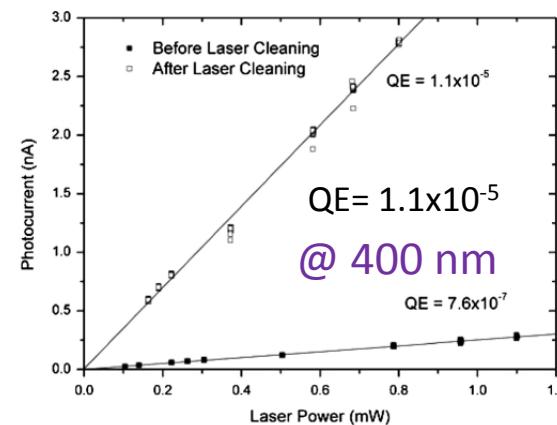
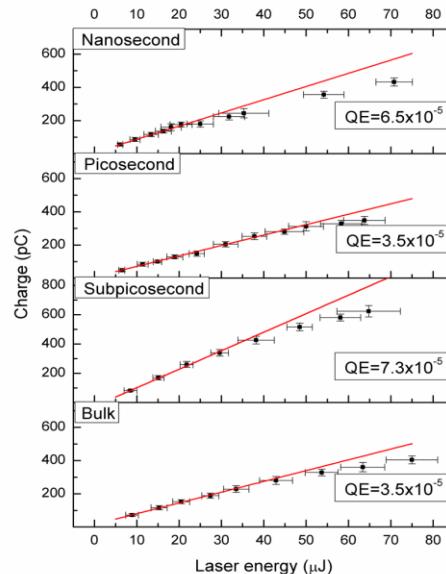
5th International Particle Accelerator Conference  
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L. Cultrera et al., Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams **12**, 043502 (2009)

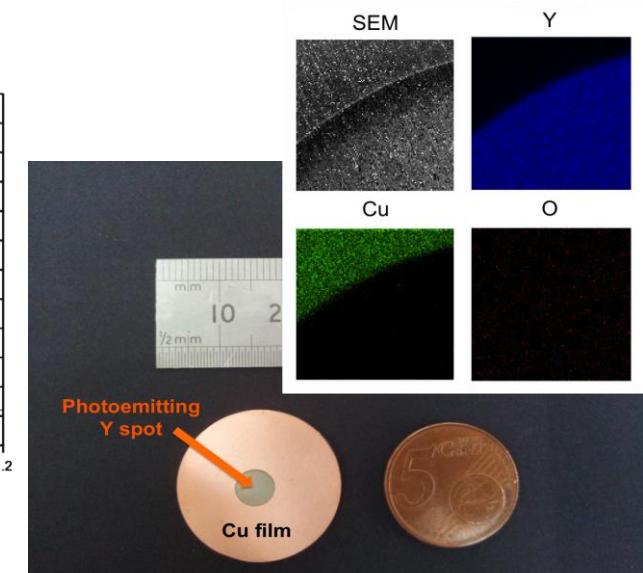


**Extensive** exploration of growth parameters space have been performed for **Mg, Y and Pb**

Deposition of Pb on Nb for SRF gun



F. Gontad and A. Perrone, NIMA **747** 1 (2014)

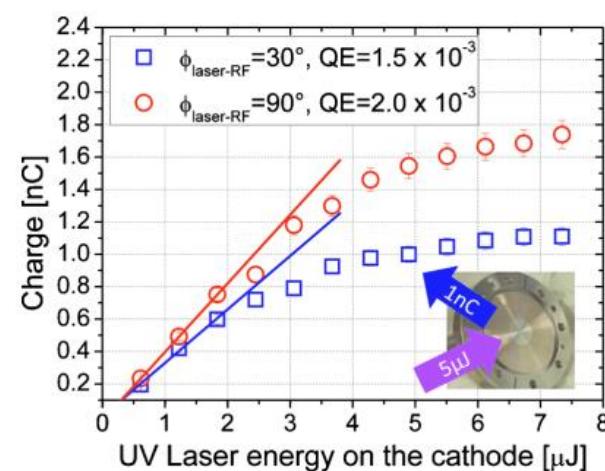


A. Lorusso et al., Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams **12**, 043502 (2009)

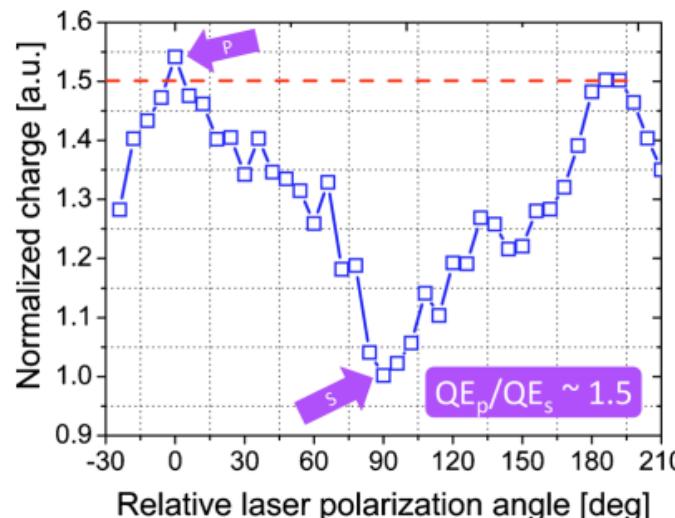
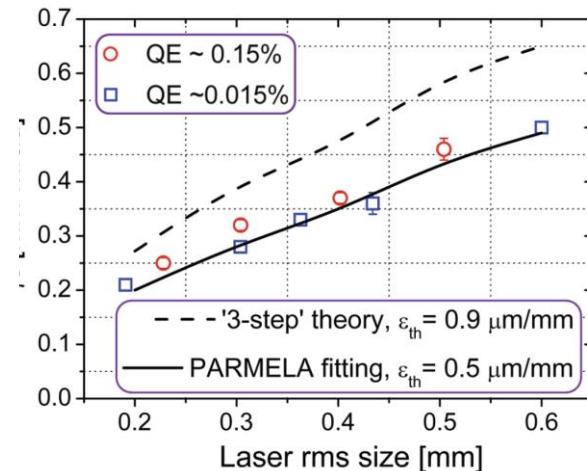
# Metals - bulk Mg



UV photons needed ( $h\nu > 3.6$  eV)  
 Laser cleaning procedure  
 QE is higher compared to Cu  
 $\epsilon_{th}$  is smaller than predicted



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QEp/QEs under this condition was reported to be 5 for a flat surface film:  

- *Plasmon enhancement* due to residual roughness after cleaning?

Mg bulk is a reliable alternative to Cu!