

Oscillating between semiconductor and metal: moving ions faster than electron wave functions can spread

**Eric Mazur
Albert Kim
Chris Roeser**

**PQE 2002, Snowbird, Utah
10 January 2002**



Introduction

The Theory of Impurity Conduction†

By N. F. MOTT and W. D. TWOSE‡
Department of Physics, University of Cambridge

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N. Mott and W.D. Twose, *Adv. Phys.* 10, 107 (1961)

§ 1. INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this article is to study one of the ways in which electric current is carried by electrons in a conductor containing impurities. The current in a conductor is carried by electrons and the processes which are responsible for the current are the scattering of electrons on impurities and on phonons.

Introduction

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structure determines electronic state

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§ 1. INTRODUCTION

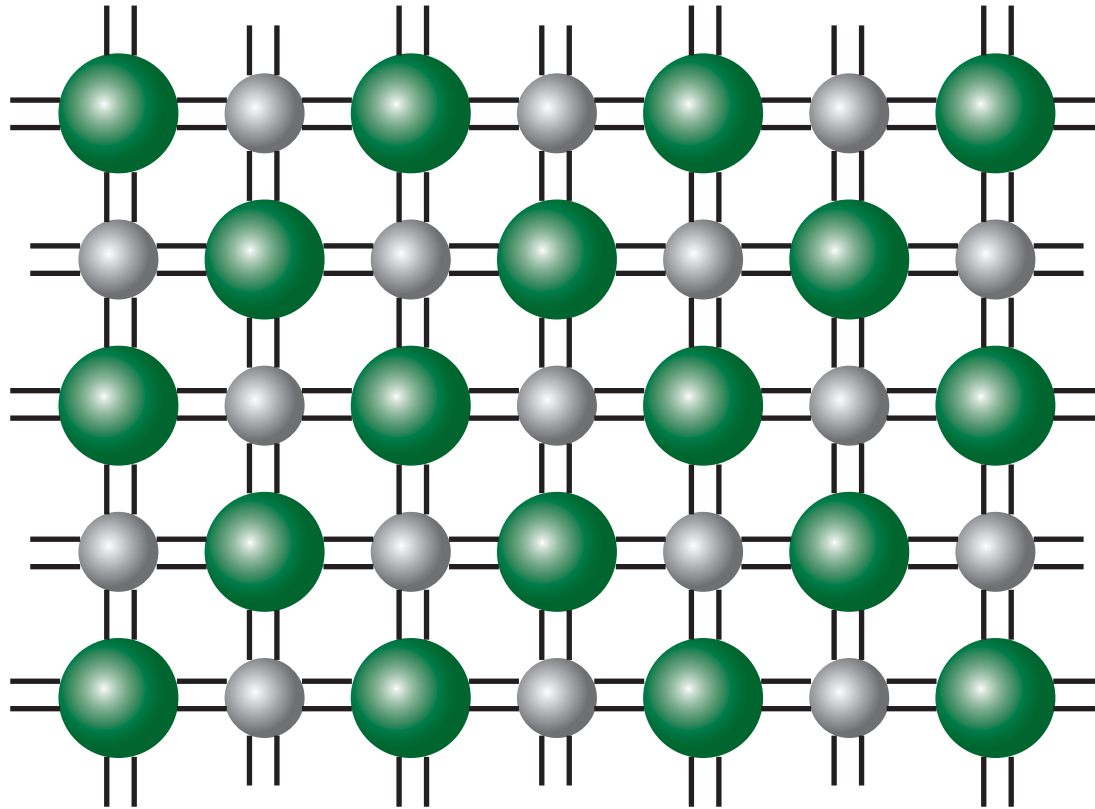
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Introduction

short laser pulses can drive structural transitions

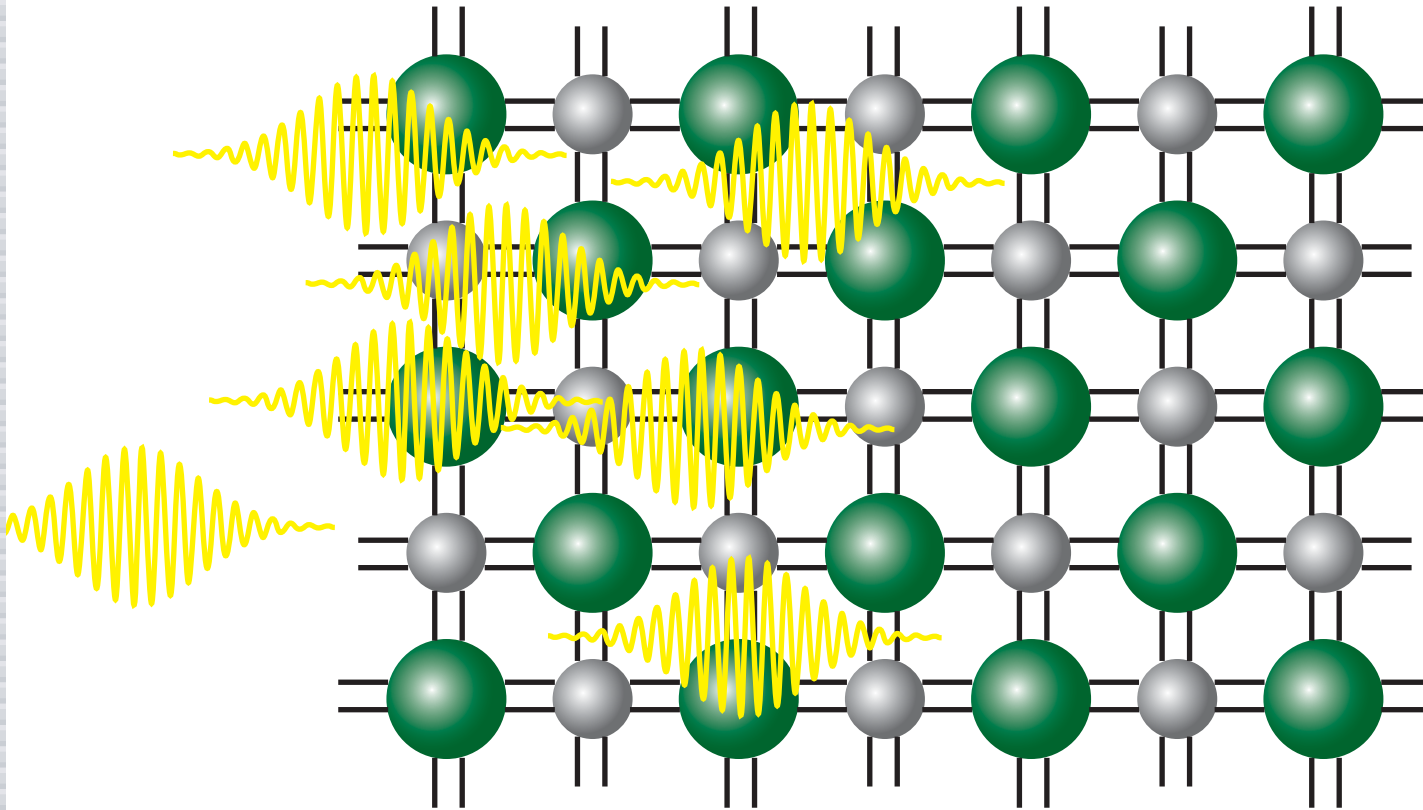
Introduction

how do femtosecond laser pulses alter a solid?



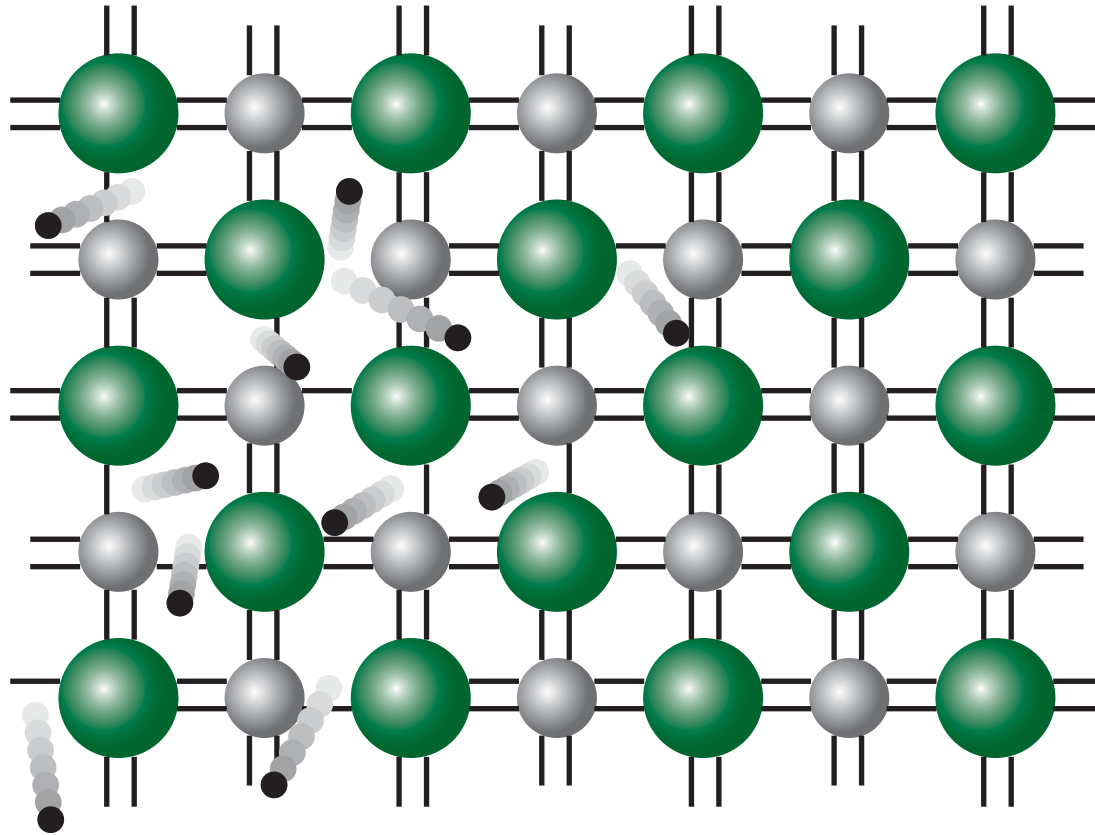
Introduction

photons excite valence electrons...



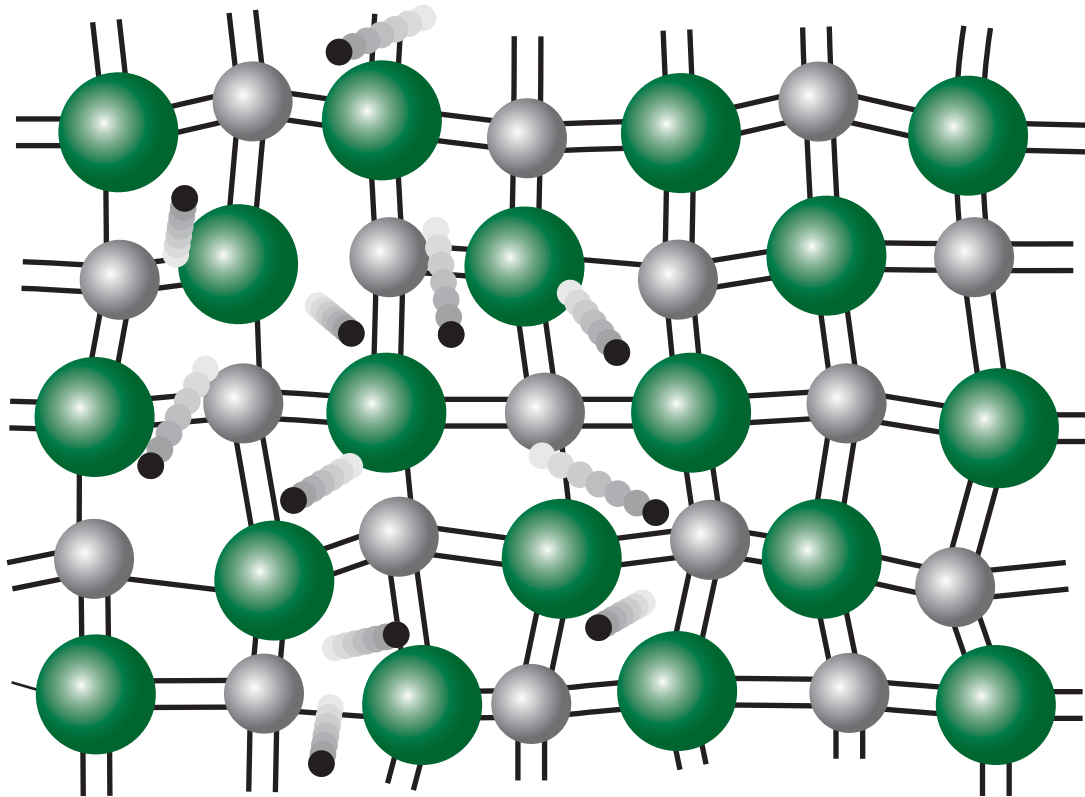
Introduction

... and create free electrons...



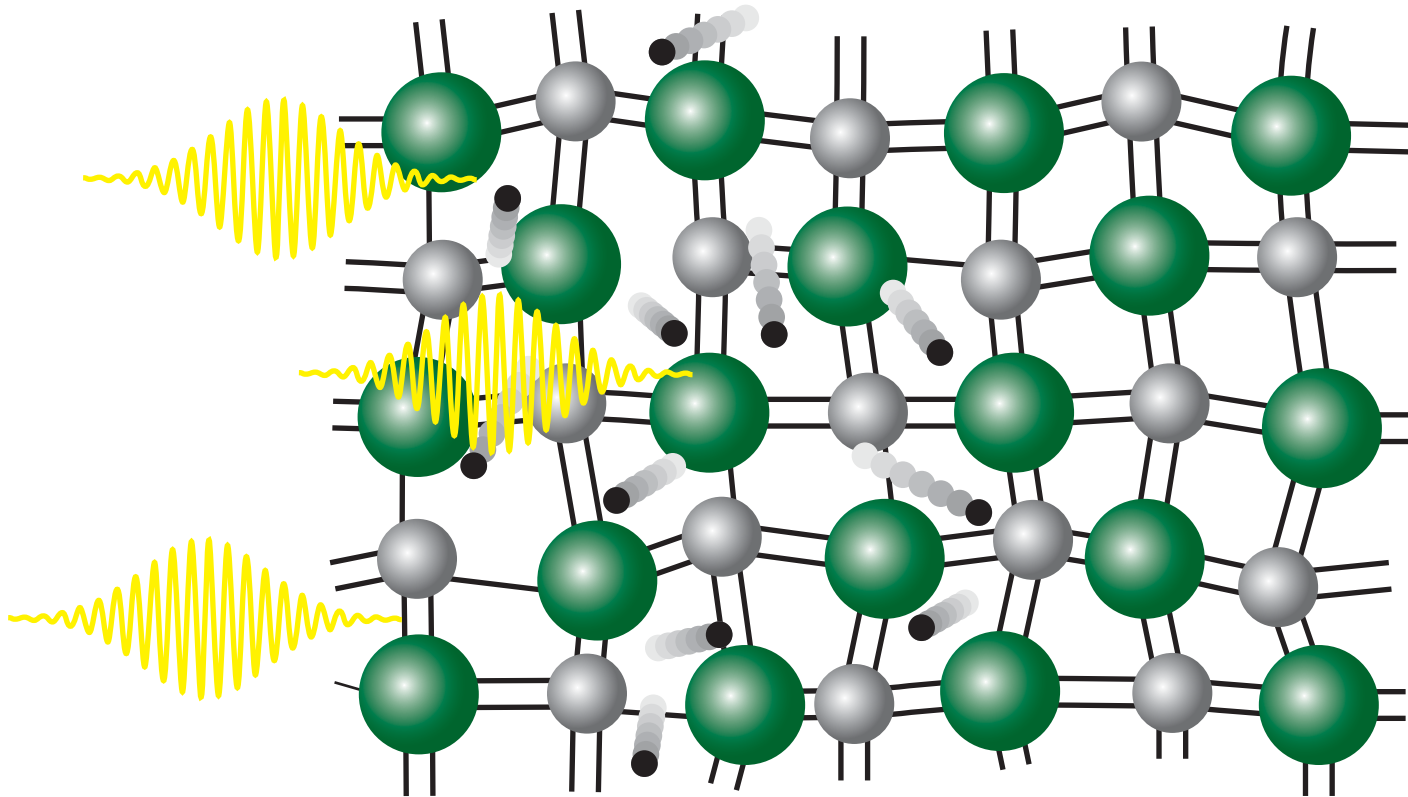
Introduction

... causing electronic and structural changes...



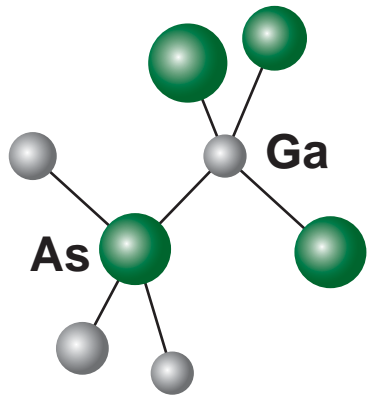
Introduction

... which we detect with a second laser pulse



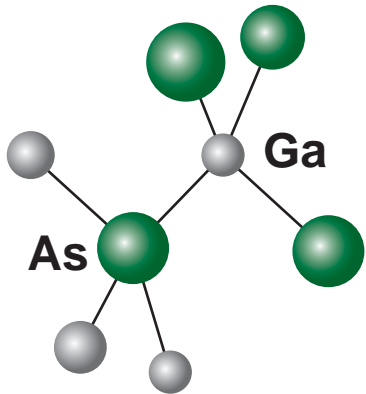
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structure

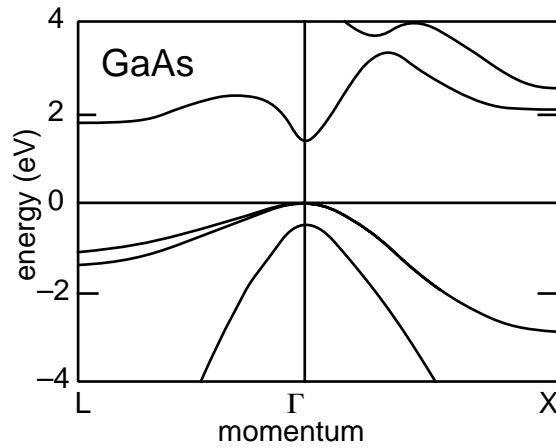


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structure

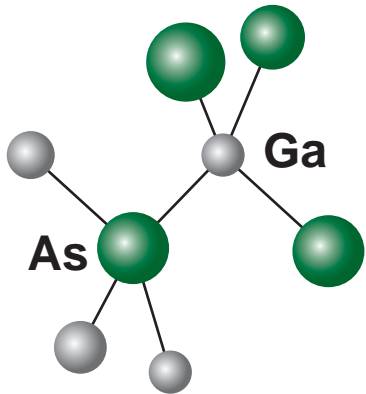


band structure

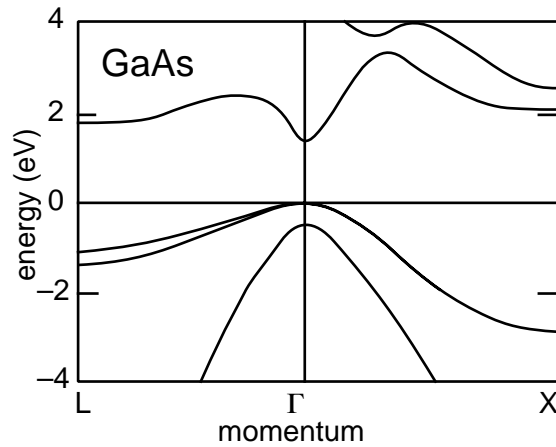


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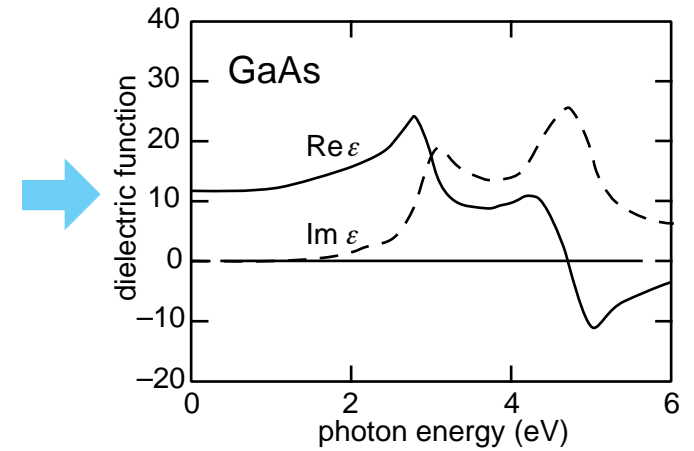
structure



band structure

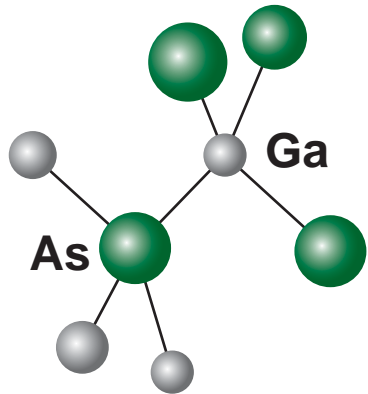


dielectric function

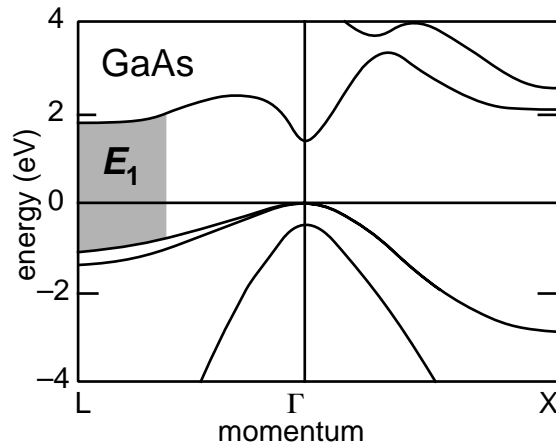


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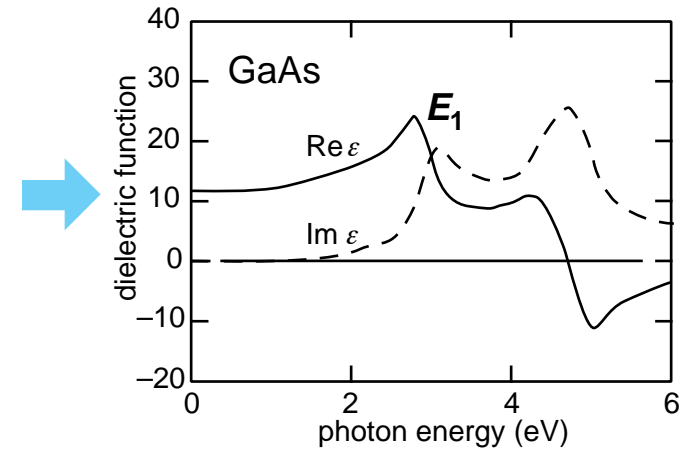
structure



band structure

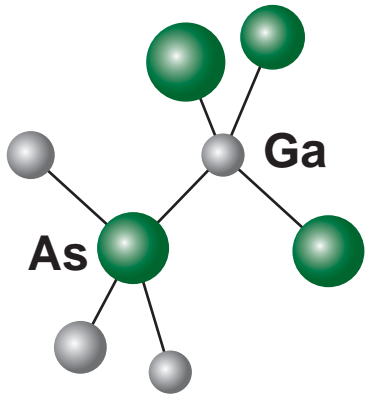


dielectric function

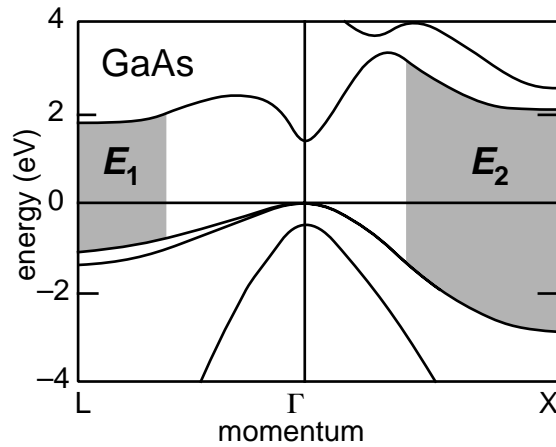


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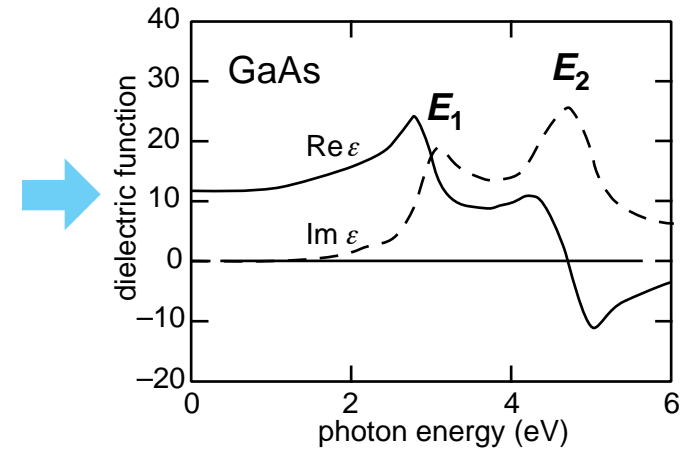
structure



band structure

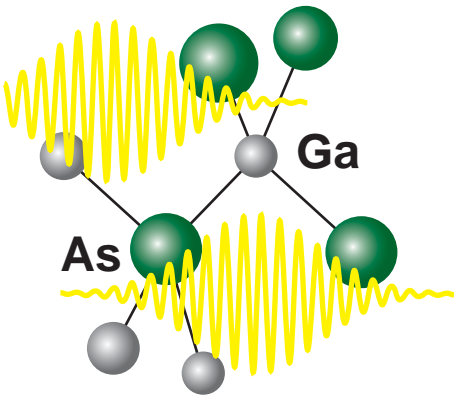


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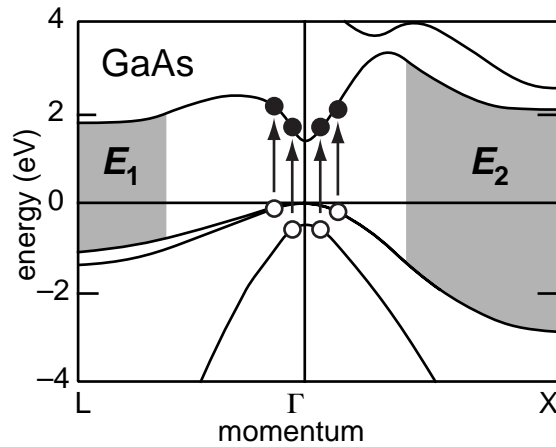


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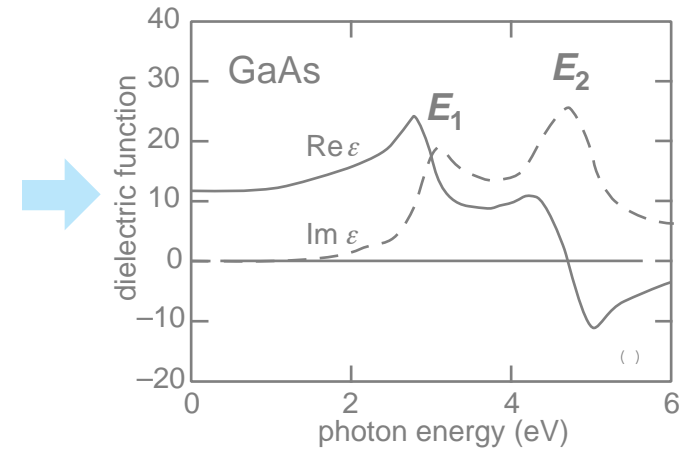
structure



band structure

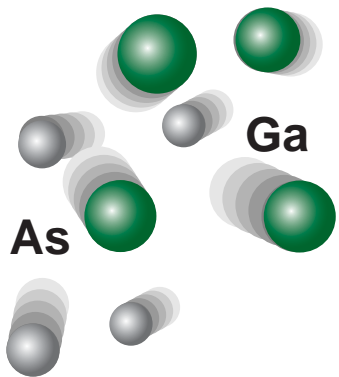


dielectric function

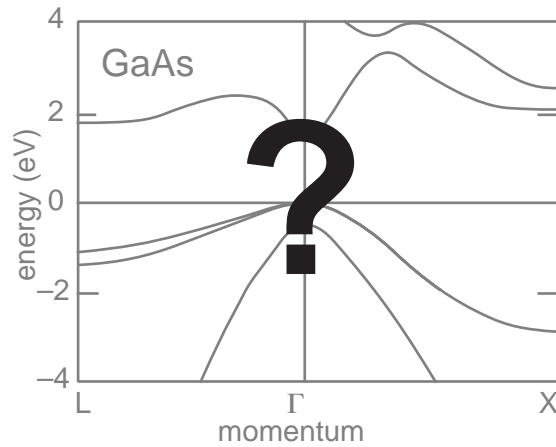


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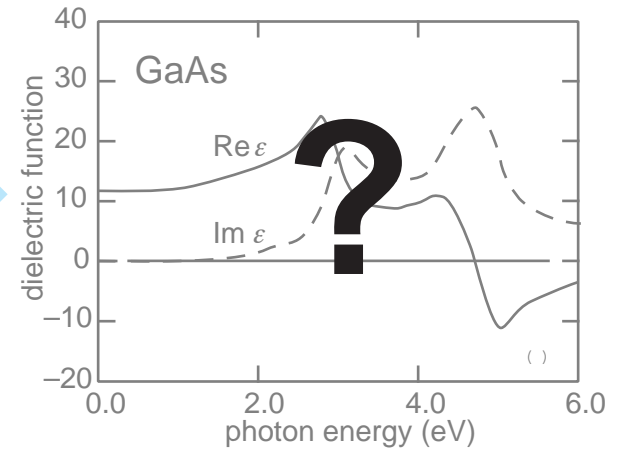
structure



band structure

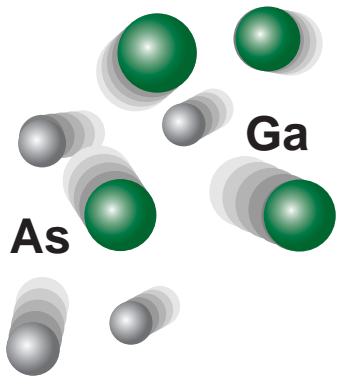


dielectric function

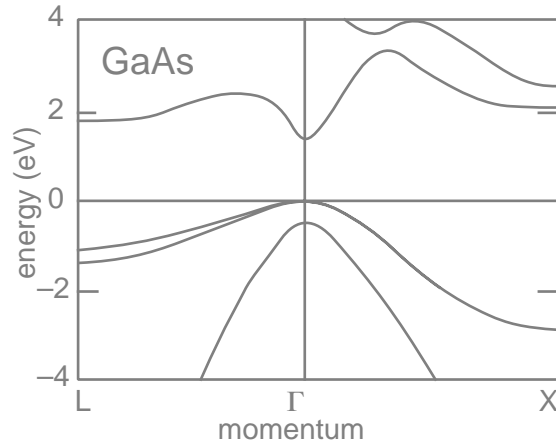


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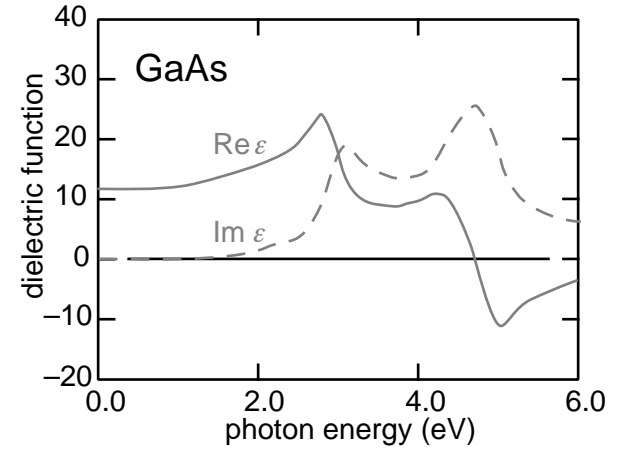
structure



band structure

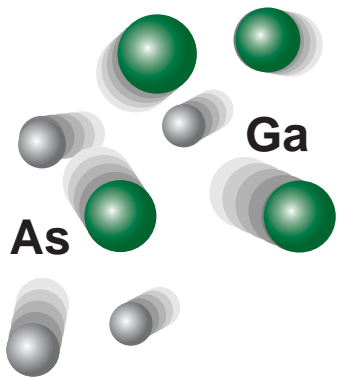


dielectric function

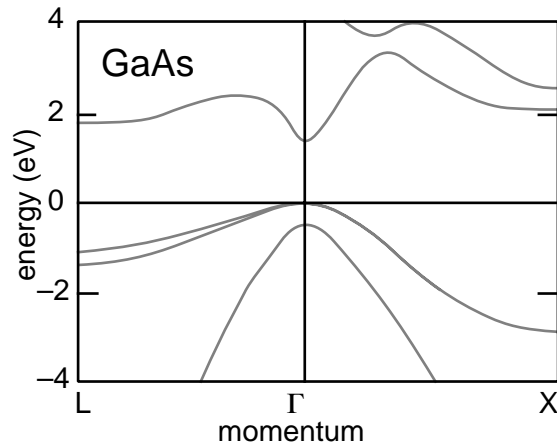


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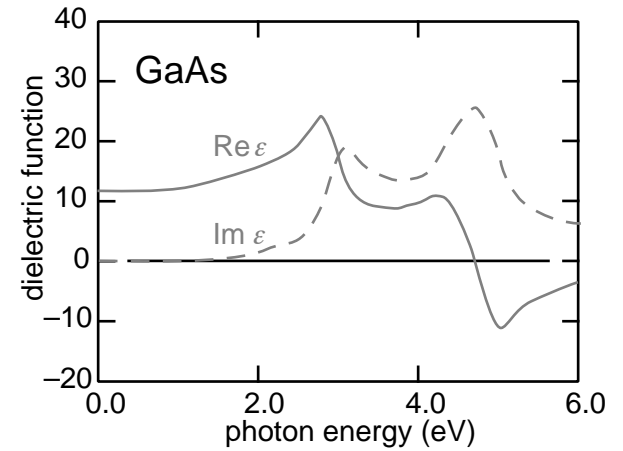
structure



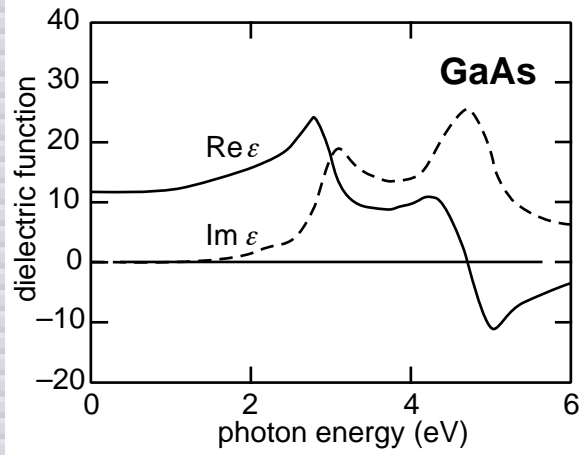
band structure



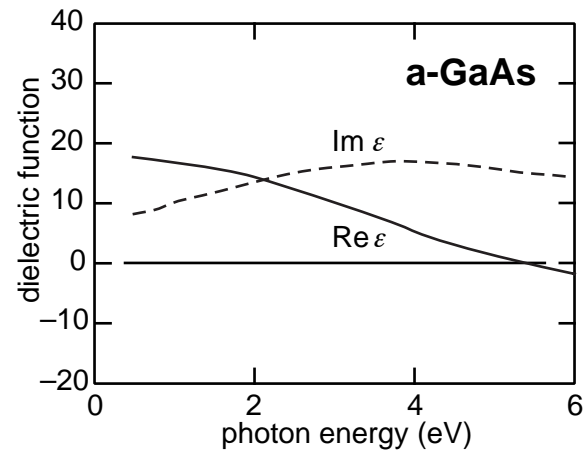
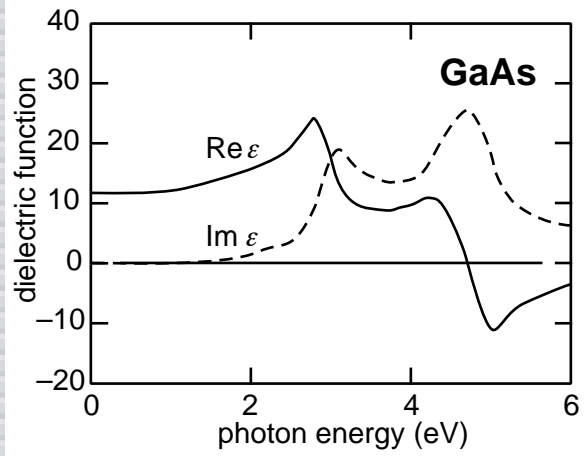
dielectric function



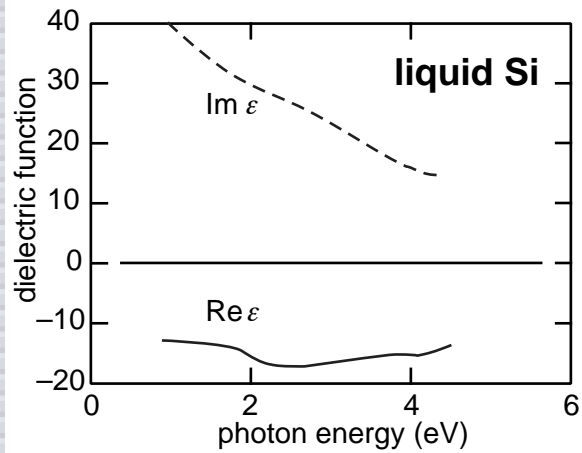
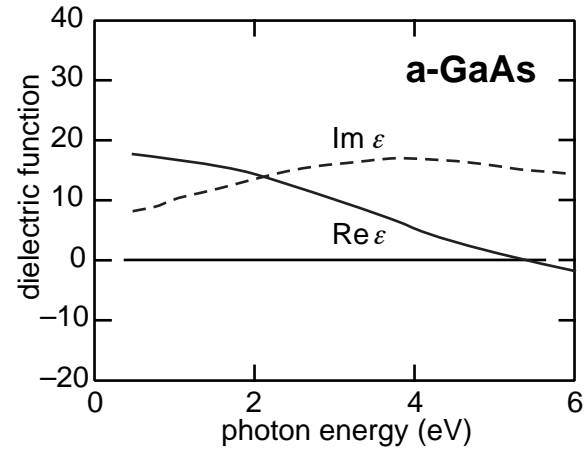
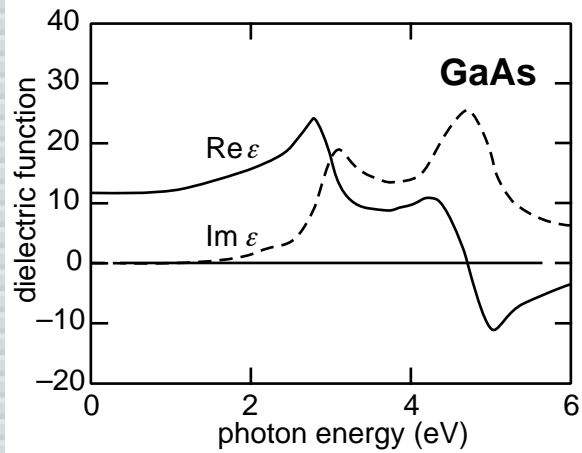
Introduction



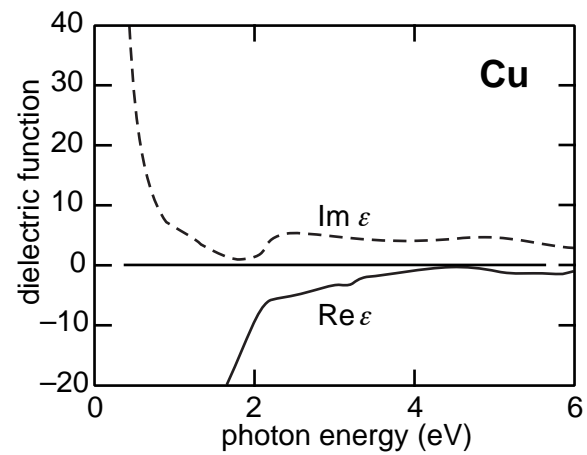
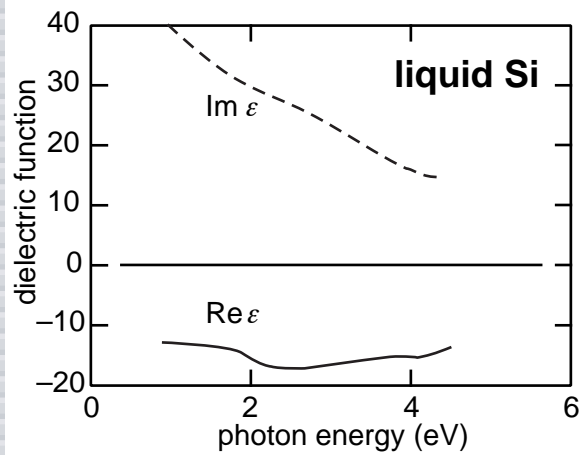
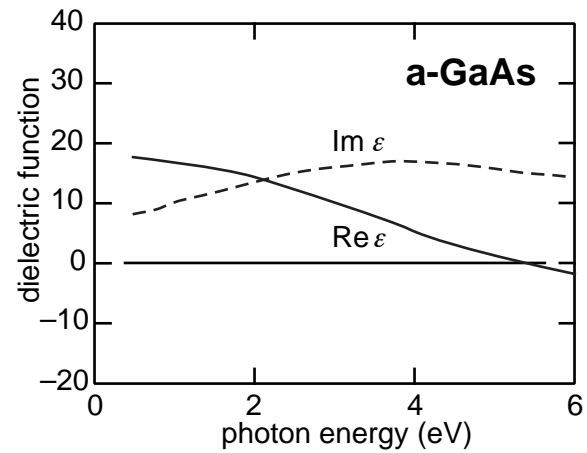
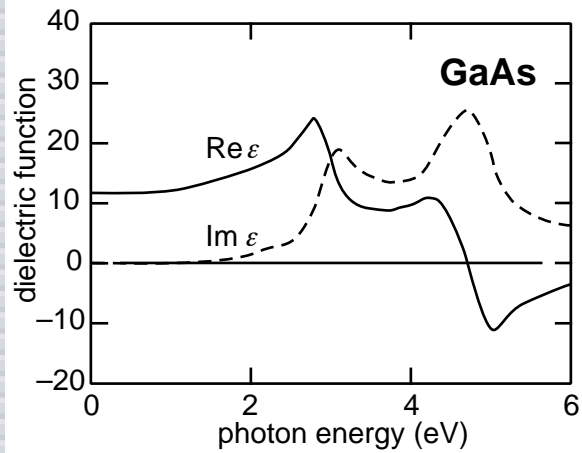
Introduction



Introduction



Introduction



Introduction

- ▶ **dielectric function: 'fingerprint' of state**
- ▶ **light can induce structural transitions**

Introduction

- ▶ **optically induce electronic transitions *without* disordering lattice?**
- ▶ **(coherently) control state of solid?**

Introduction

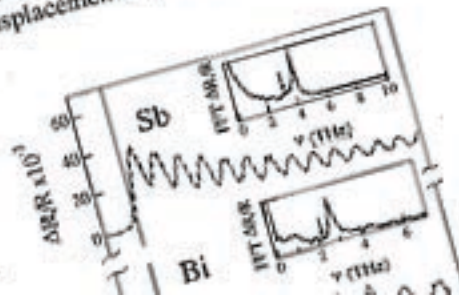
Mechanism for displacive excitation of coherent phonons in Sb, Bi, Te, and Ti_2O_3

T. K. Cheng, J. Vidal, H. J. Zeiger, G. Dresselhaus, M. S. Dresselhaus, and E. P. Ippen
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(Received 1 July 1991; accepted for publication 9 August 1991)

Coherent phonons in Sb, Bi, Te, and Ti_2O_3 can be generated impulsively, and detected in the time domain through reflectivity modulation using 60 fs pulses of laser light at 2 eV. Experimental data for these opaque solids suggest that a direct Raman excitation mechanism is not responsible for coherent phonon generation. Rather, the excitation is attributed to an electronically induced displacement of the ion equilibrium coordinates.

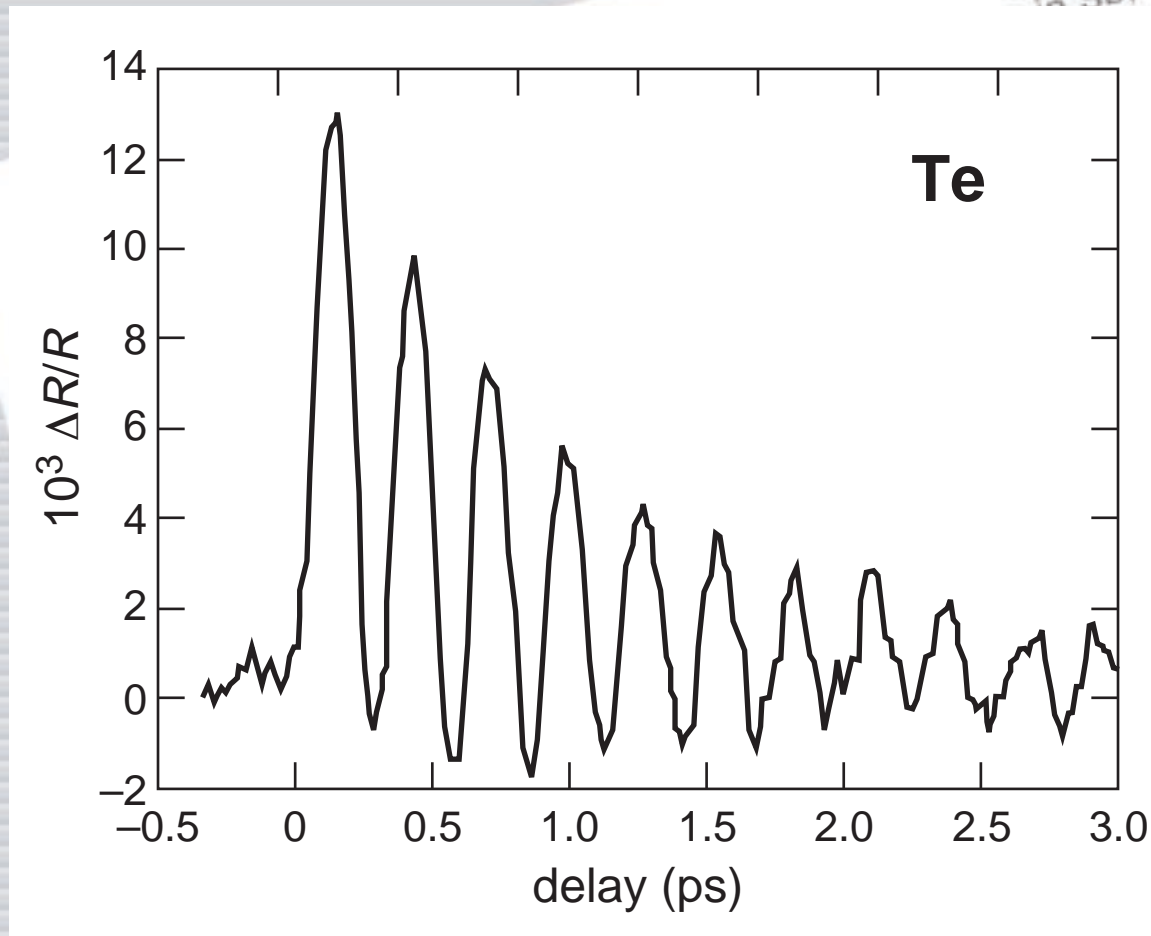
In recent years, there have been numerous reports of coherent molecular¹⁻³ and lattice⁴⁻⁹ vibrations in time-resolved optical pump-probe measurements. In this letter, we propose a model to explain our observations of the excitation of very large coherent phonon amplitudes with only A_1 symmetry in opaque single-crystal samples of Sb, Bi, Te, and Ti_2O_3 . The experimental data for these opaque solids suggest that the coherent phonon excitation involves an electronic resonance but is not directly driven by an impulsive stimulated Raman scattering mechanism (ISRS),²⁻⁵ as is often the case in the experiments for large coherent phonon mode selectivity and careful measurement of the coherent pump pulse in each material. Our conclusion follows from observation of the excitation and detection of coherent phonons were the output of a dispersion-compensated laser¹⁰ (producing 60 fs, 2 eV pulses at a repetition rate of 100 MHz) and a pump-

2 to 1 ratio for A_{1g} to E_g mode intensities in Sb and Bi). Rather, we believe the coherent phonon generation is due to a displacement of the ion quasi-equilibrium coordinates produced by electronic excitation, which we call displacive excitation of coherent phonons (DECP). The DECP mechanism is closely related to the displaced ion equilibrium model for molecular systems. The ions cannot respond on the time scale of the electronic quasi-equilibration time and are therefore set into oscillation in an A_1 mode of vibration about the displaced quasi-equilibrium A_1 ion coordinate Q_0 . Any other quasi-equilibrium displacements (displacements of E_g symmetry, for exam-



Introduction

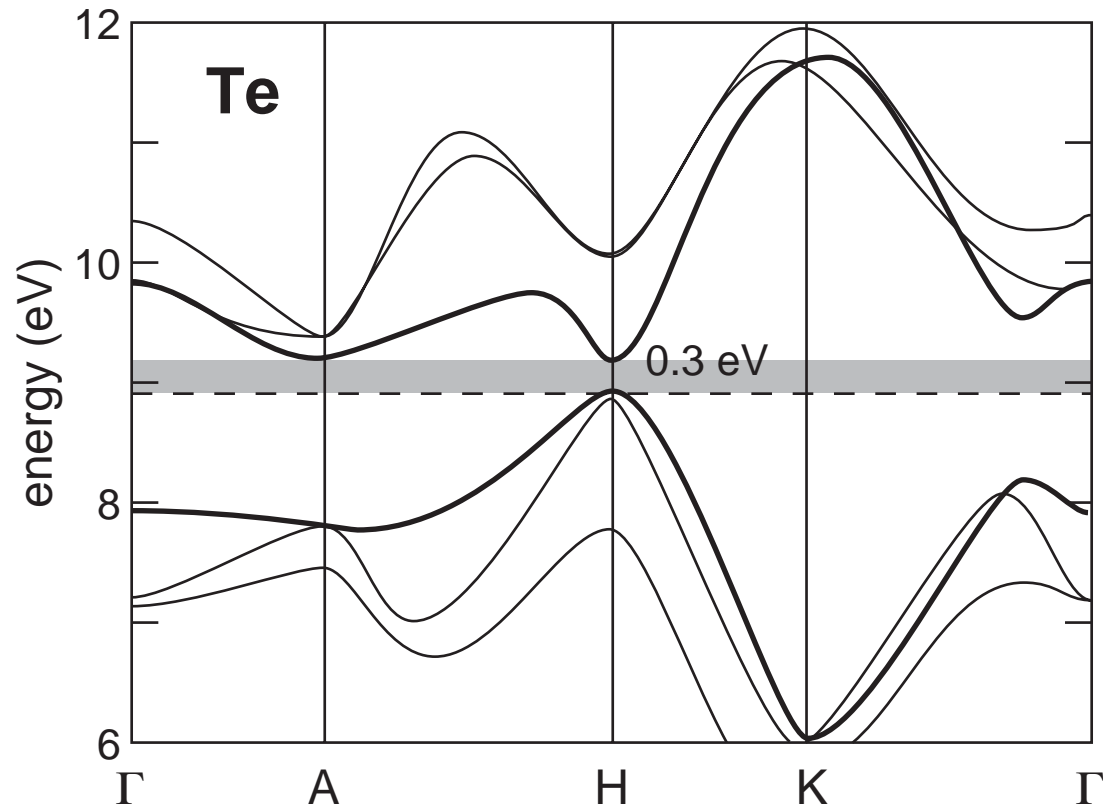
optically induce large amplitude phonons



Cheng *et al.*, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 59, 1923 (1991)

Introduction

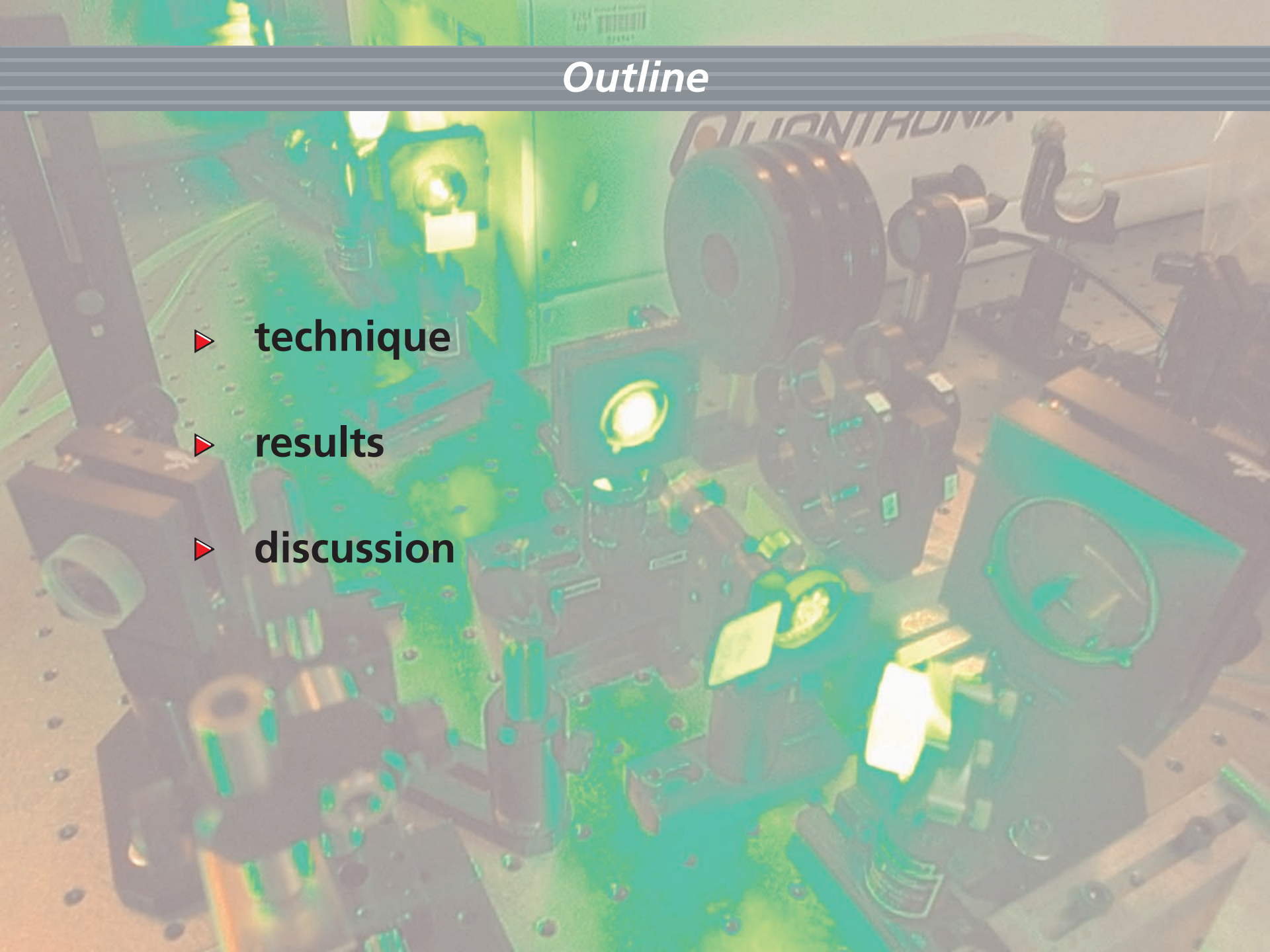
Tellurium: close to transition (0.3 eV gap)



P. Tangney (Princeton) and S. Fahey (Cork), *private communication*

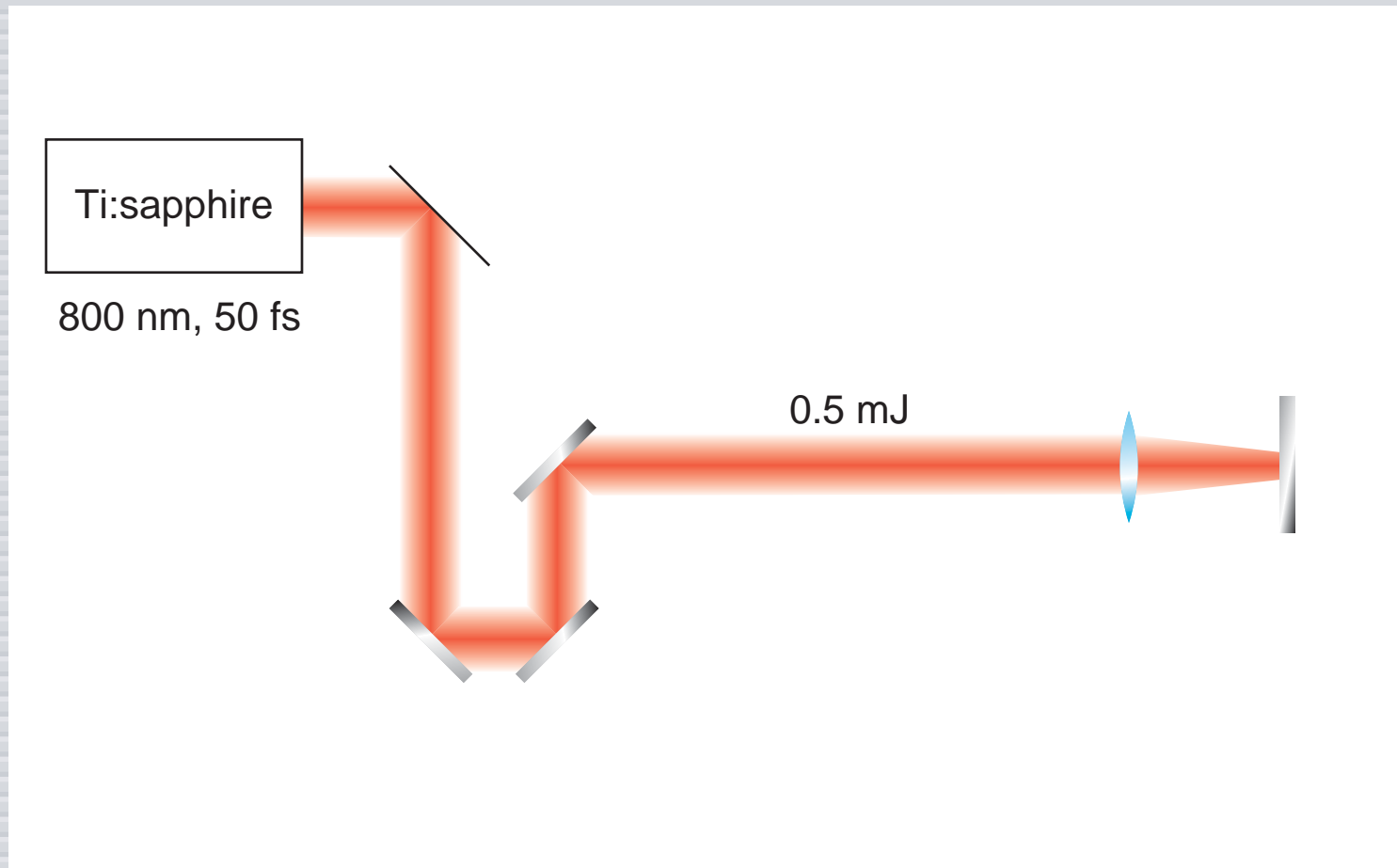
Outline

- ▶ **technique**
- ▶ **results**
- ▶ **discussion**



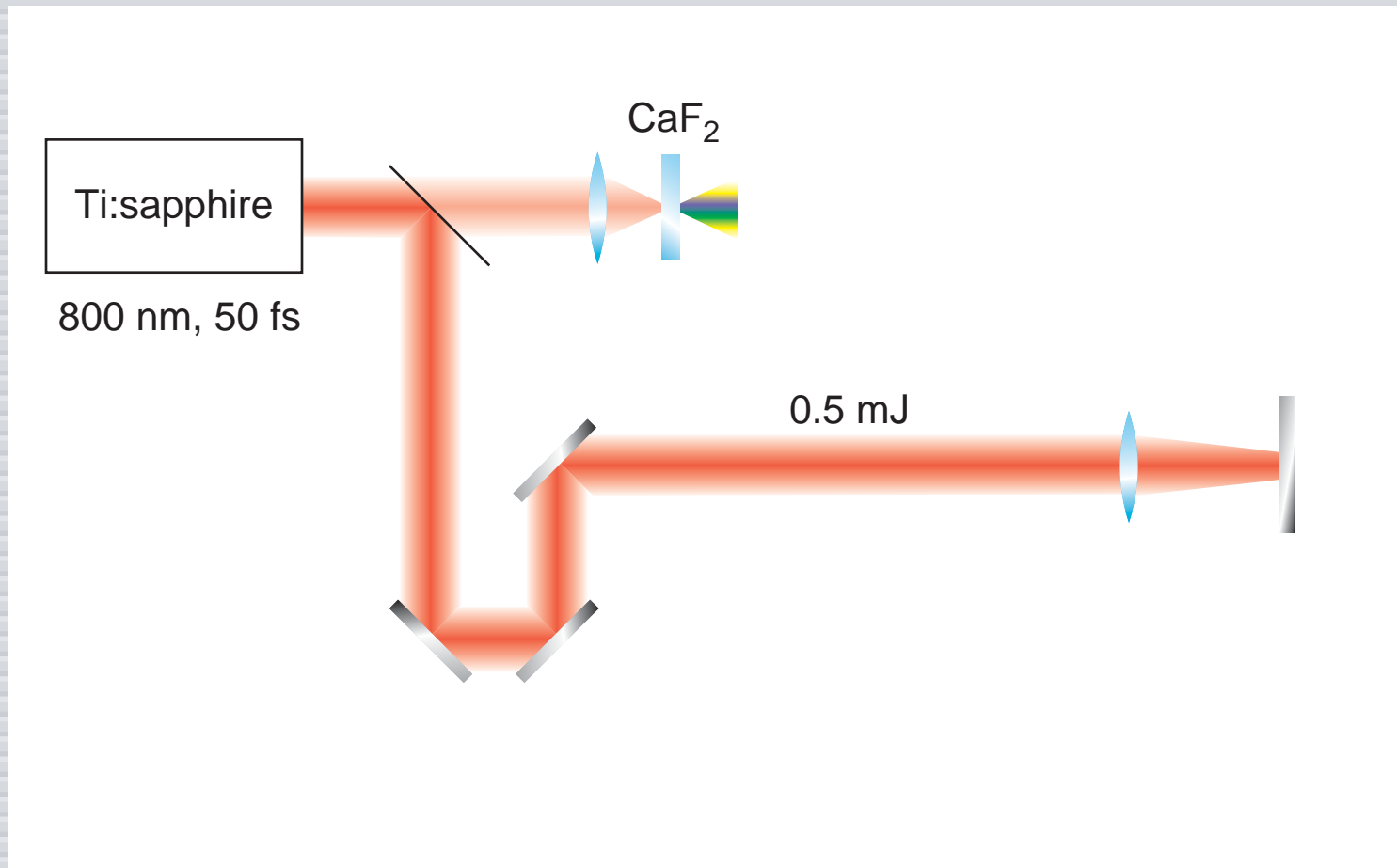
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



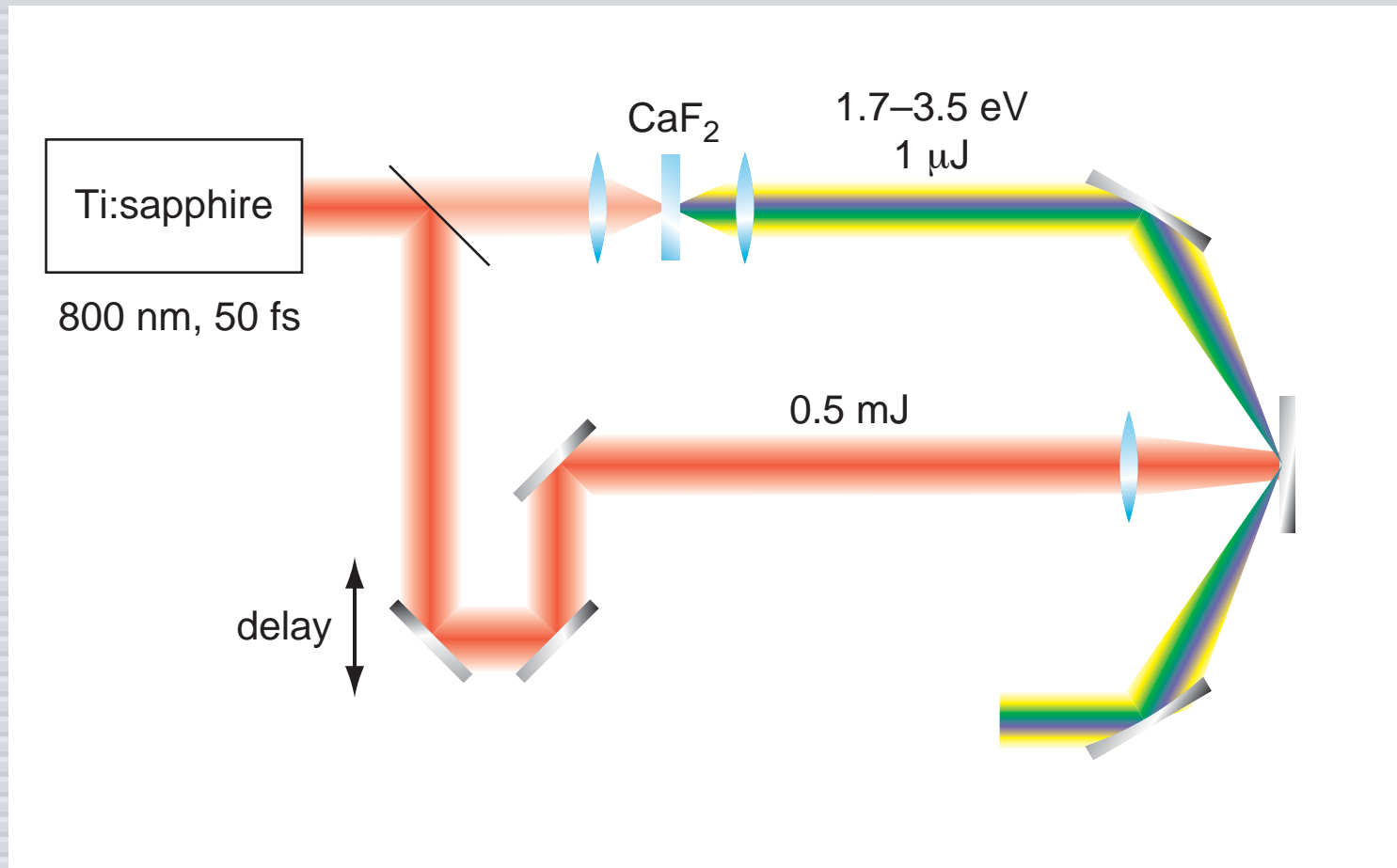
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



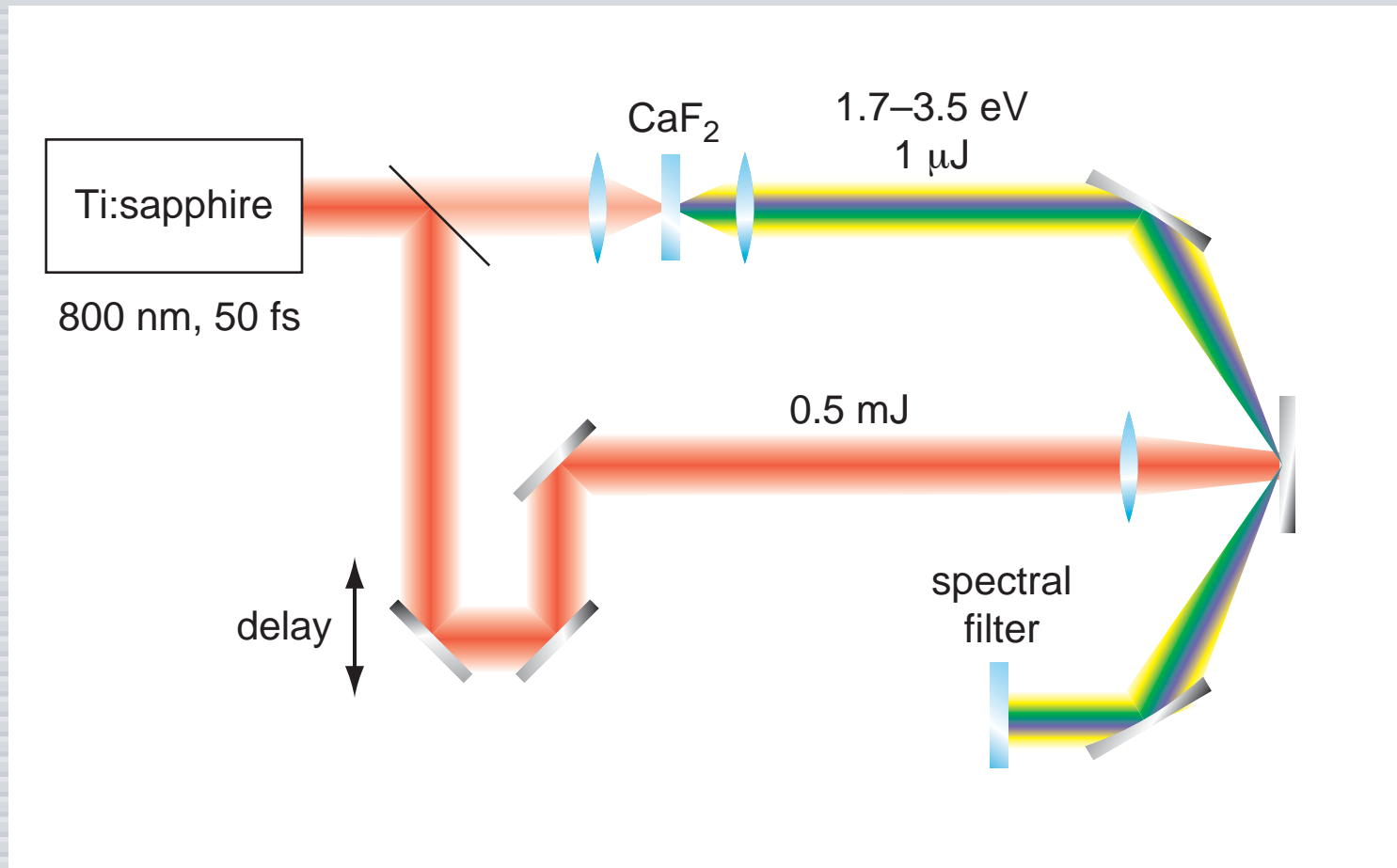
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



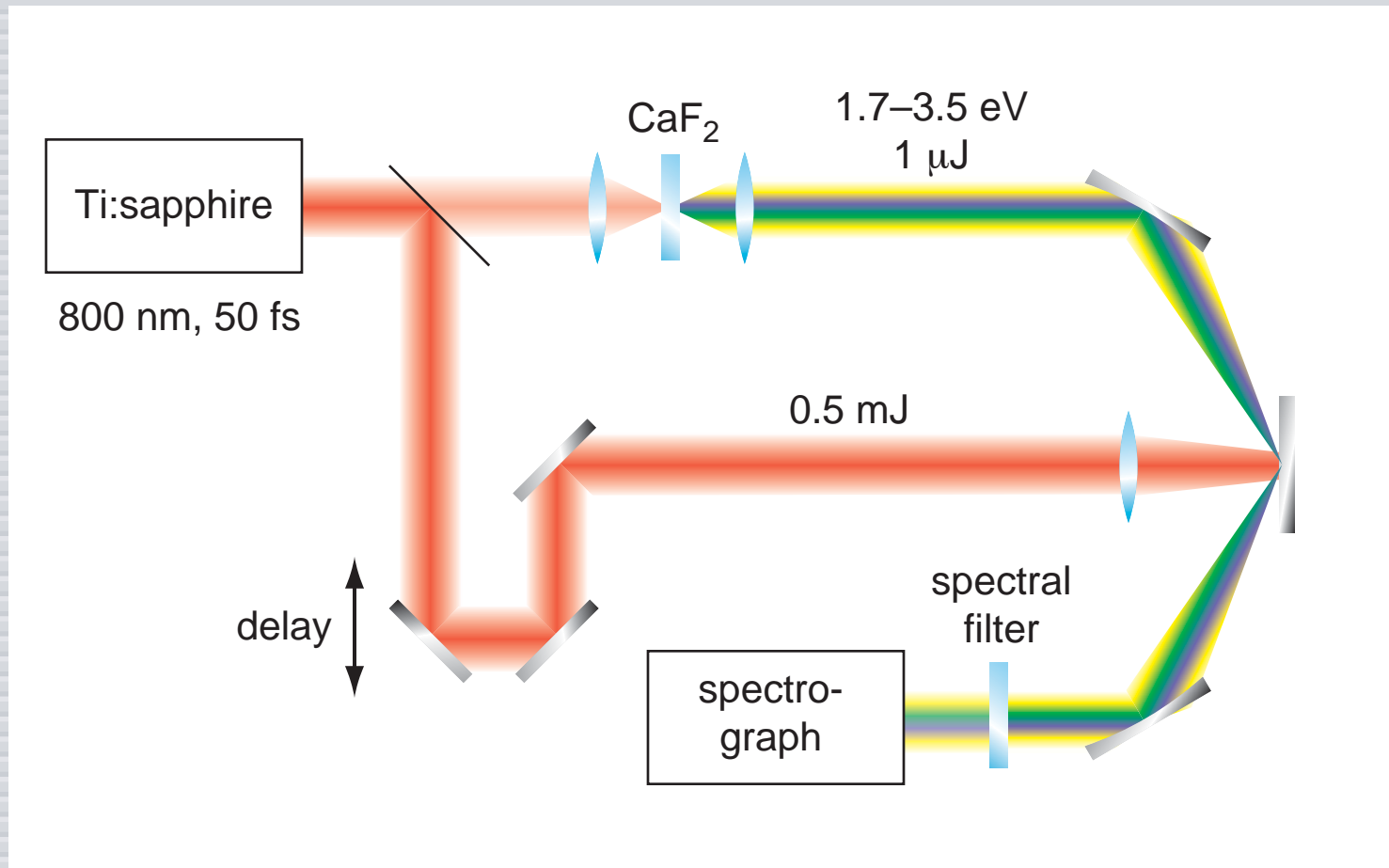
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



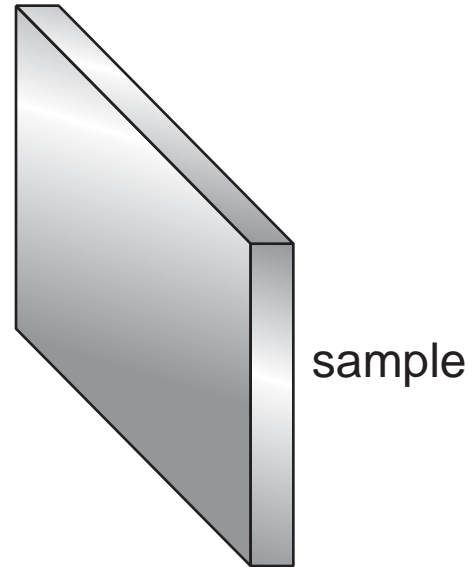
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



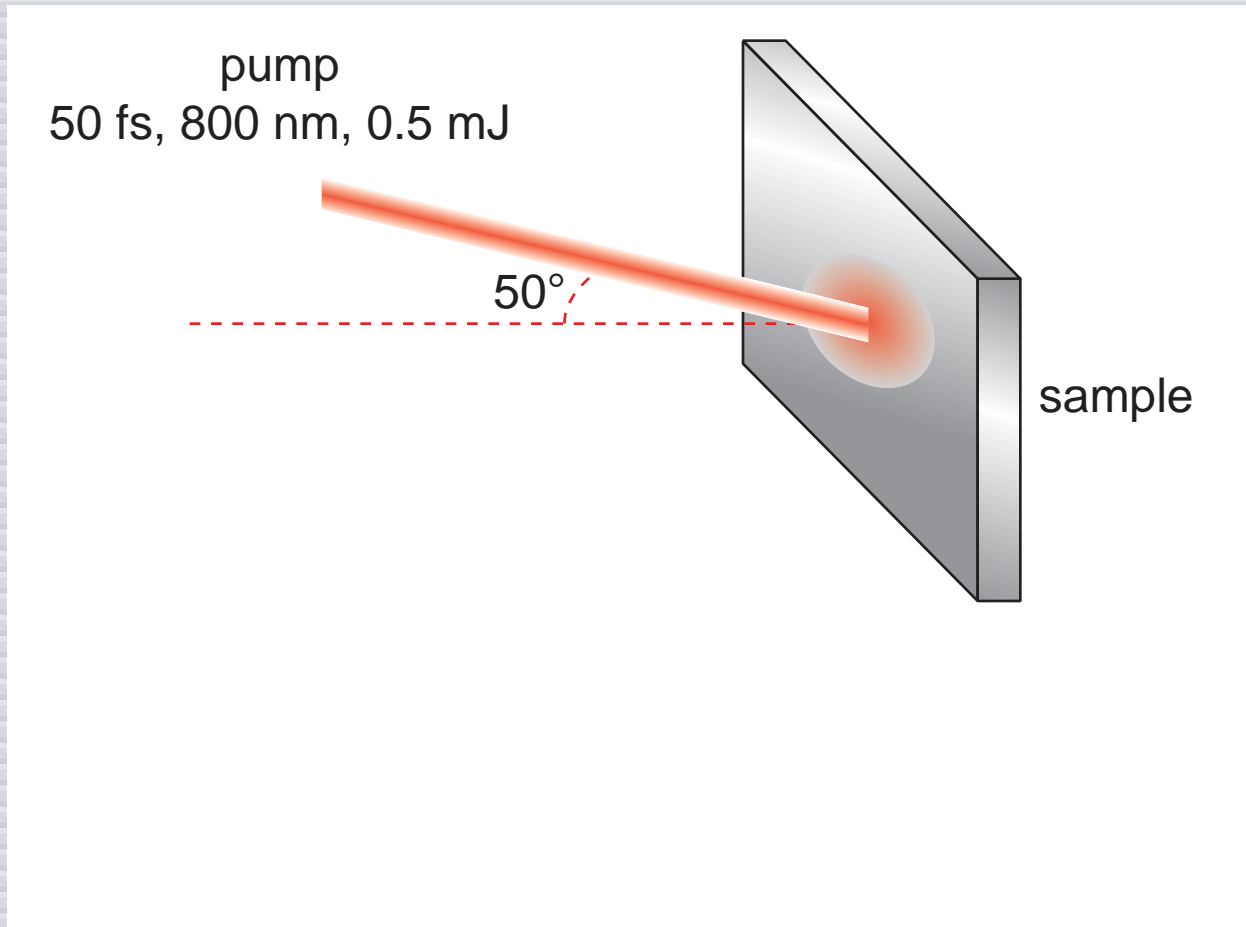
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



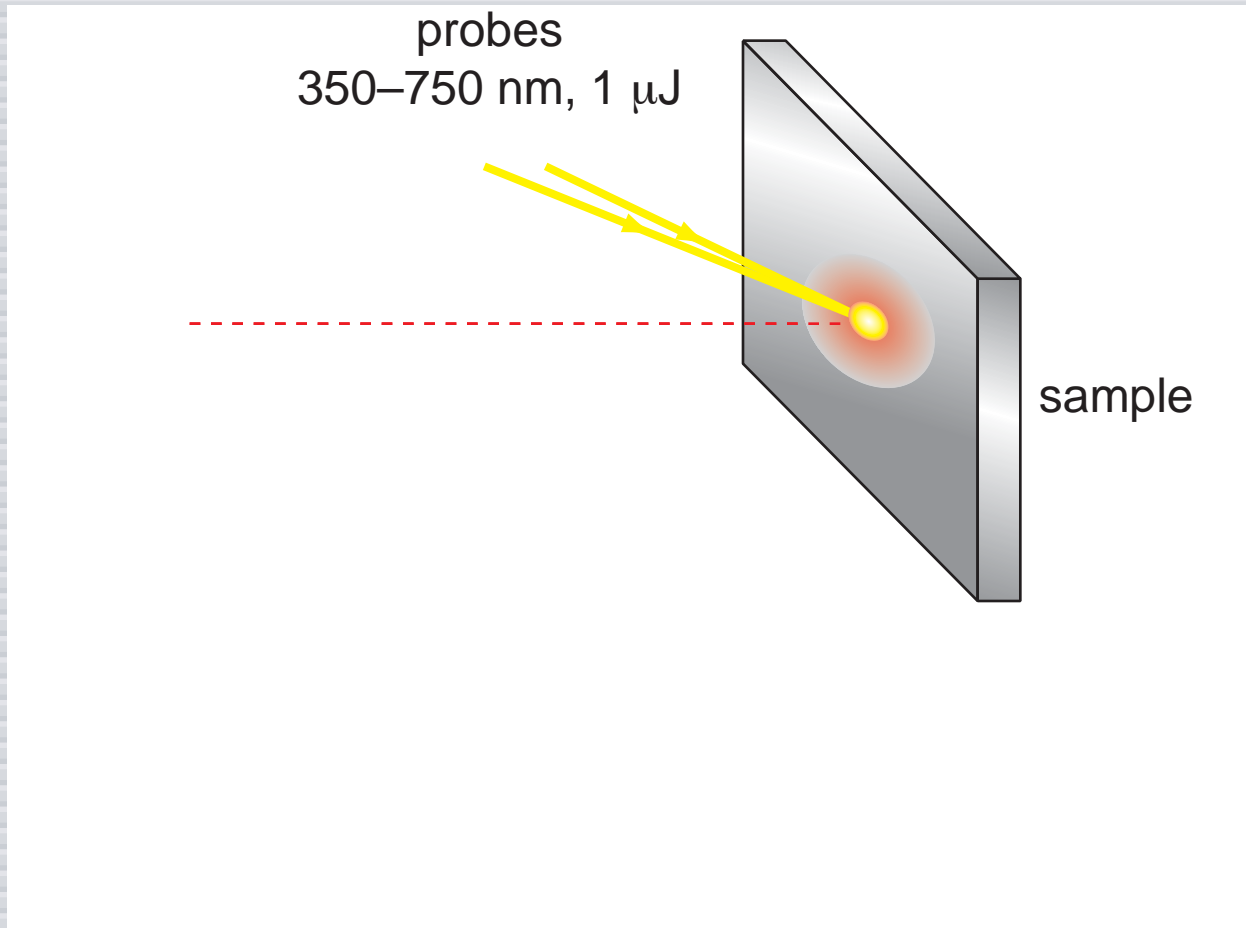
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



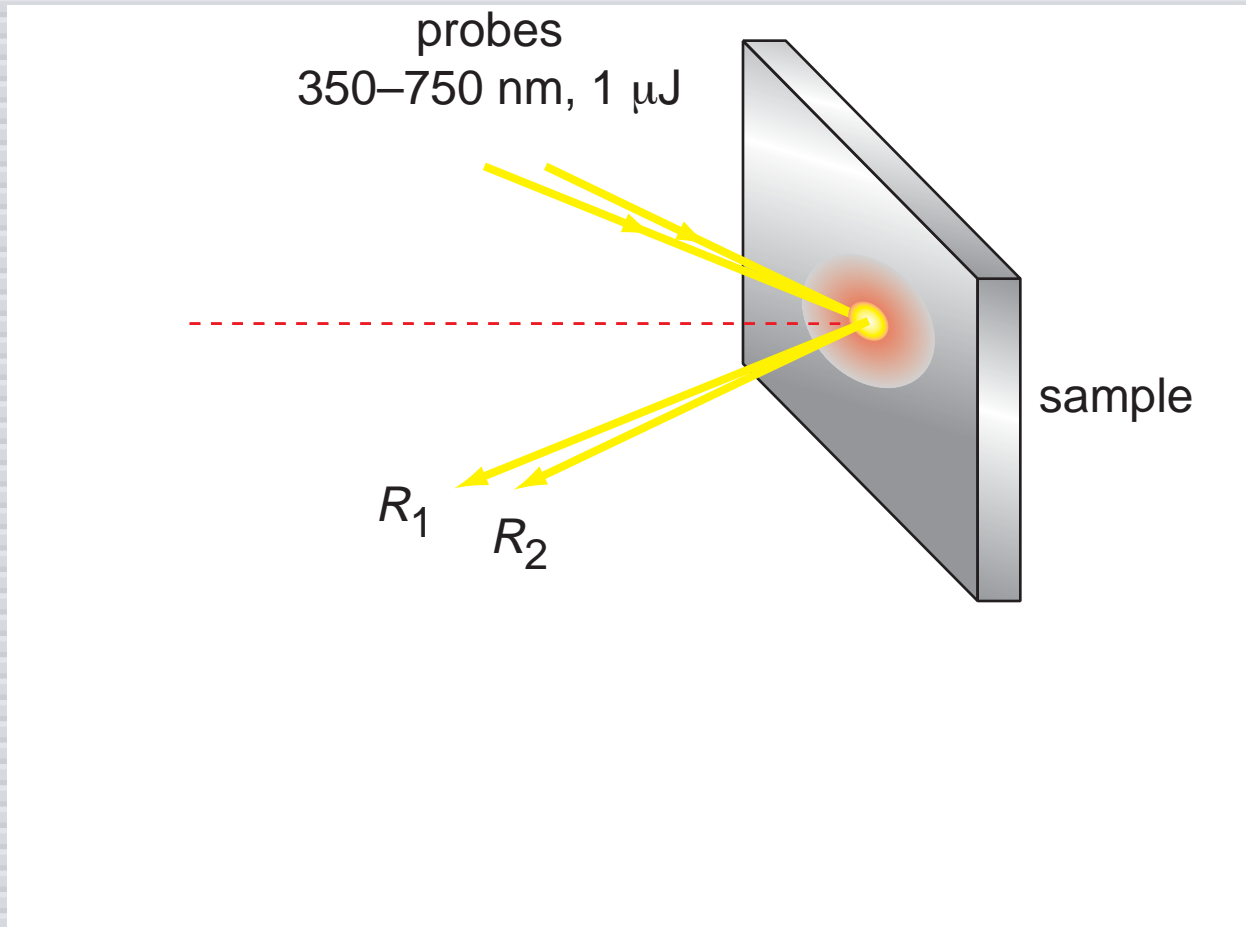
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



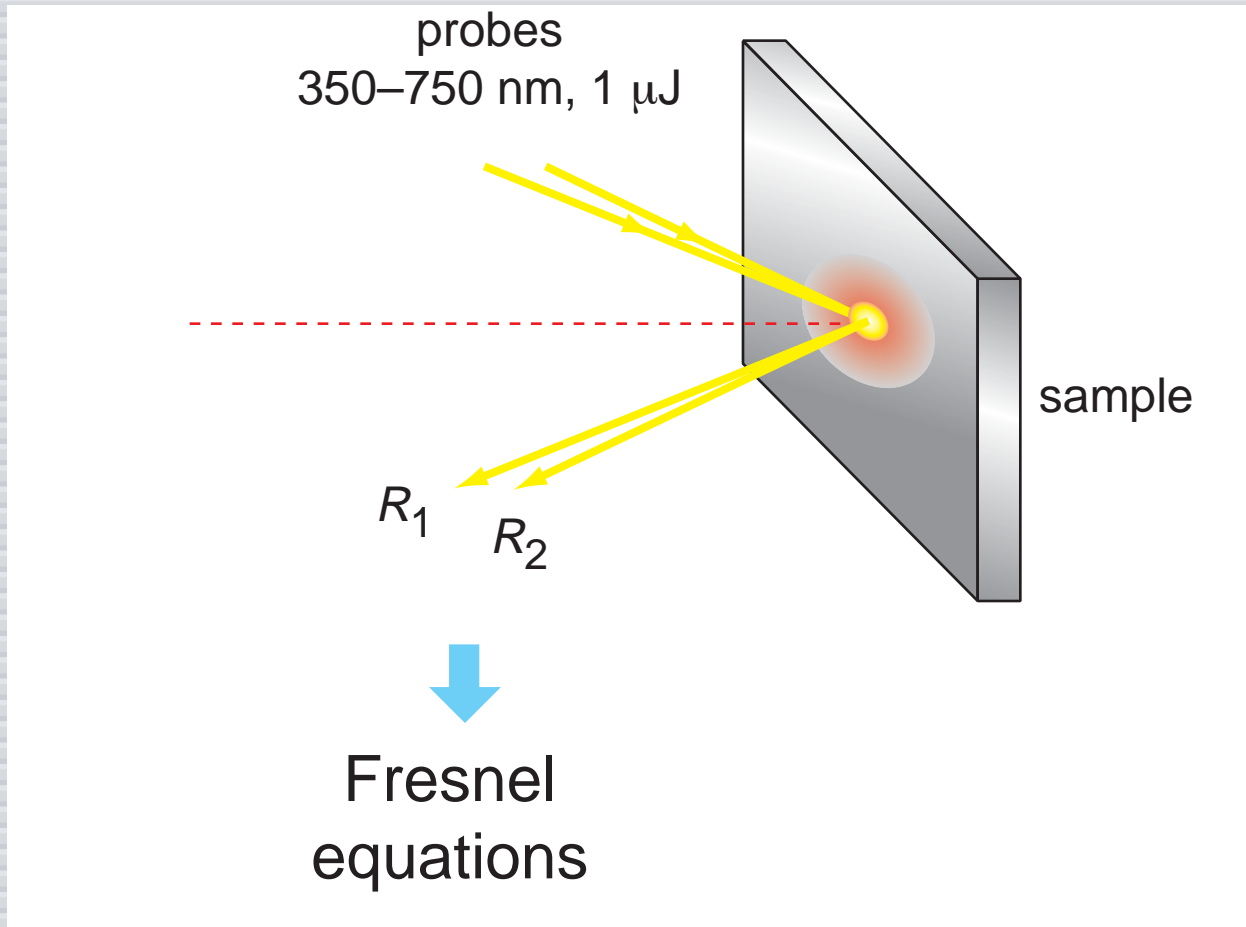
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



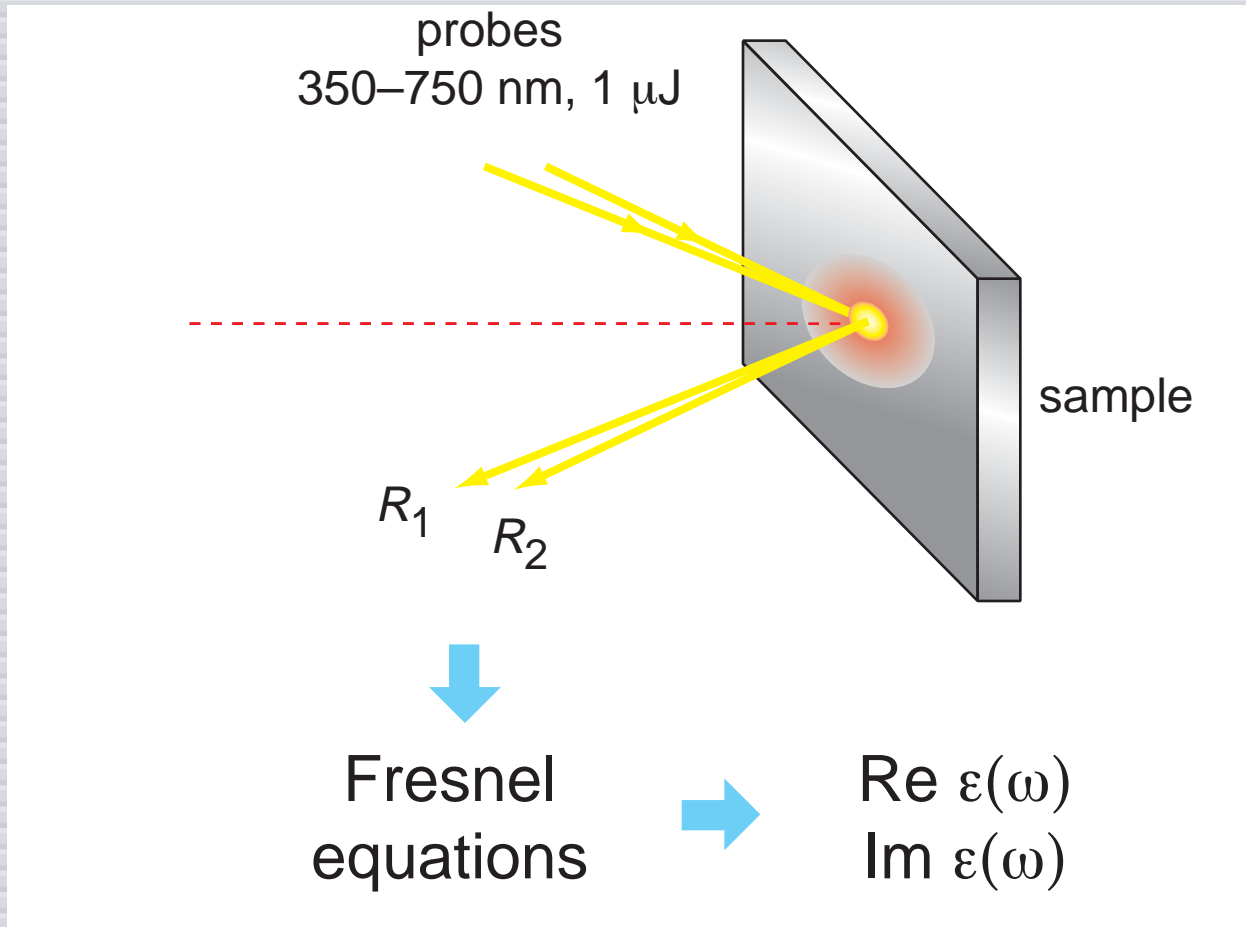
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



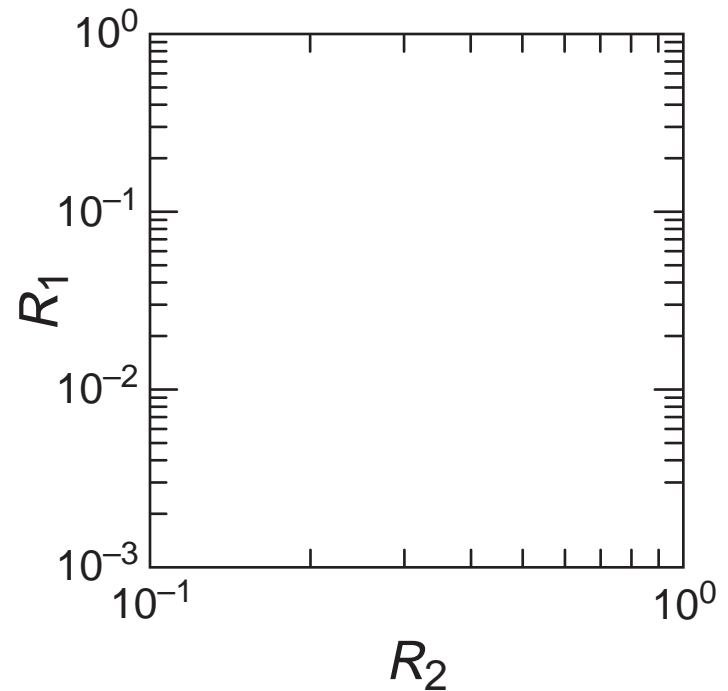
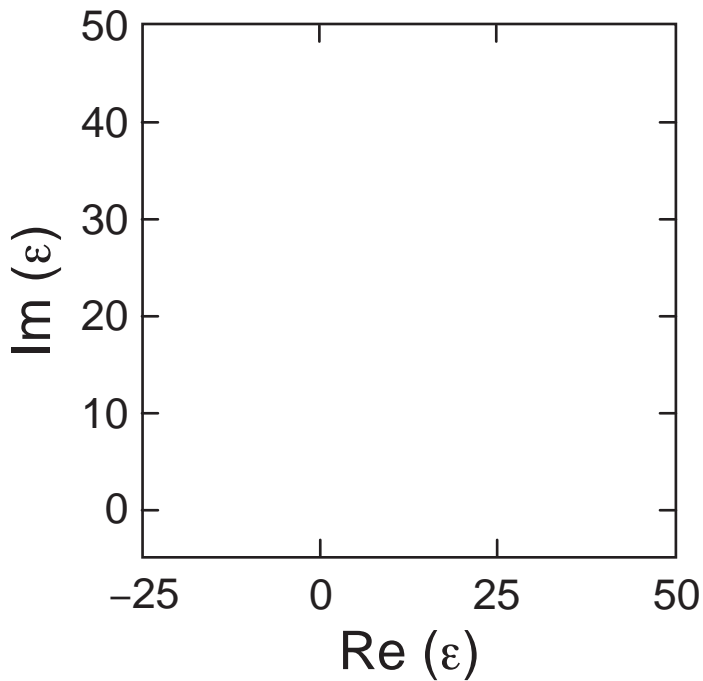
Technique

broadband time-resolved ellipsometry



Technique

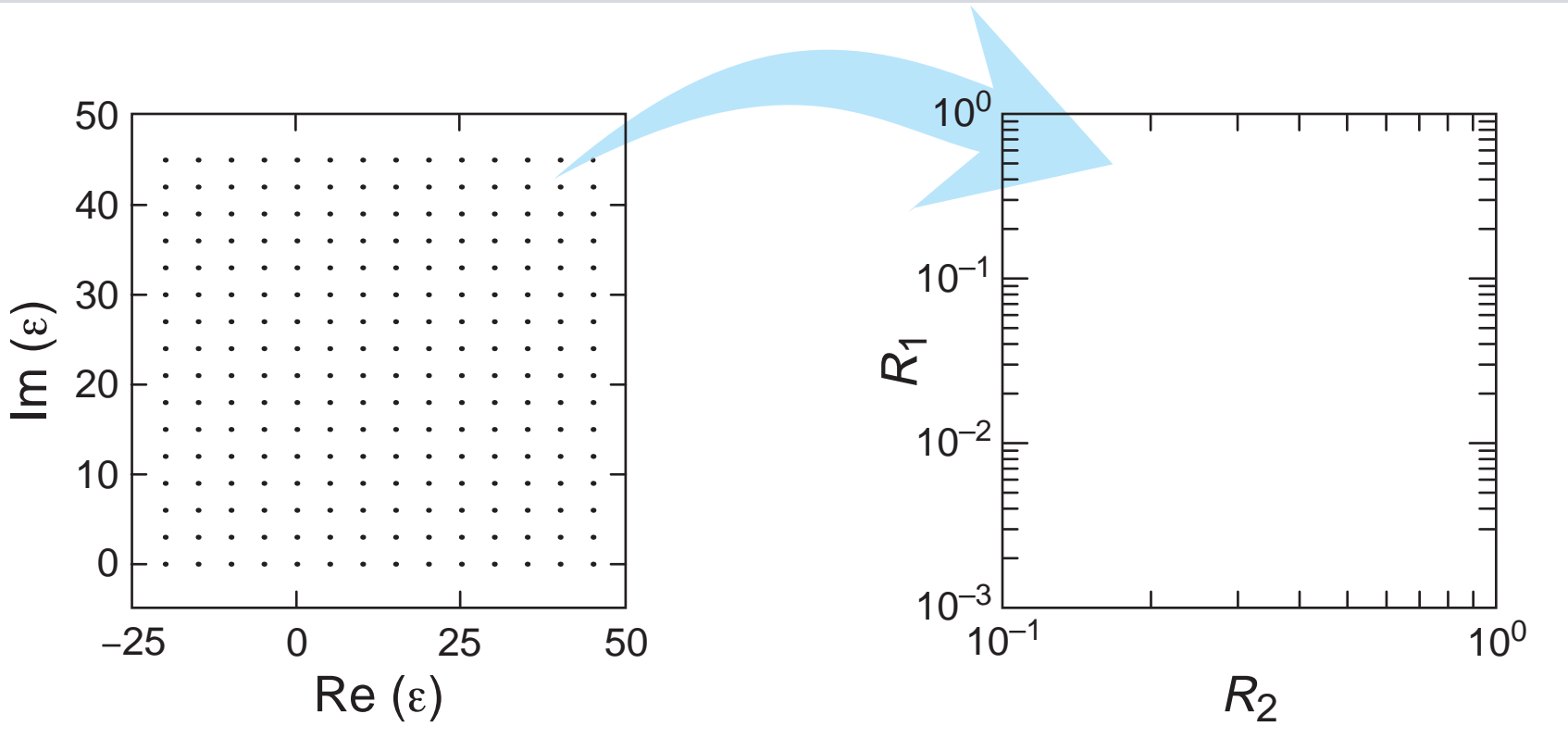
choice of angles



Fresnel equations cannot be inverted analytically

Technique

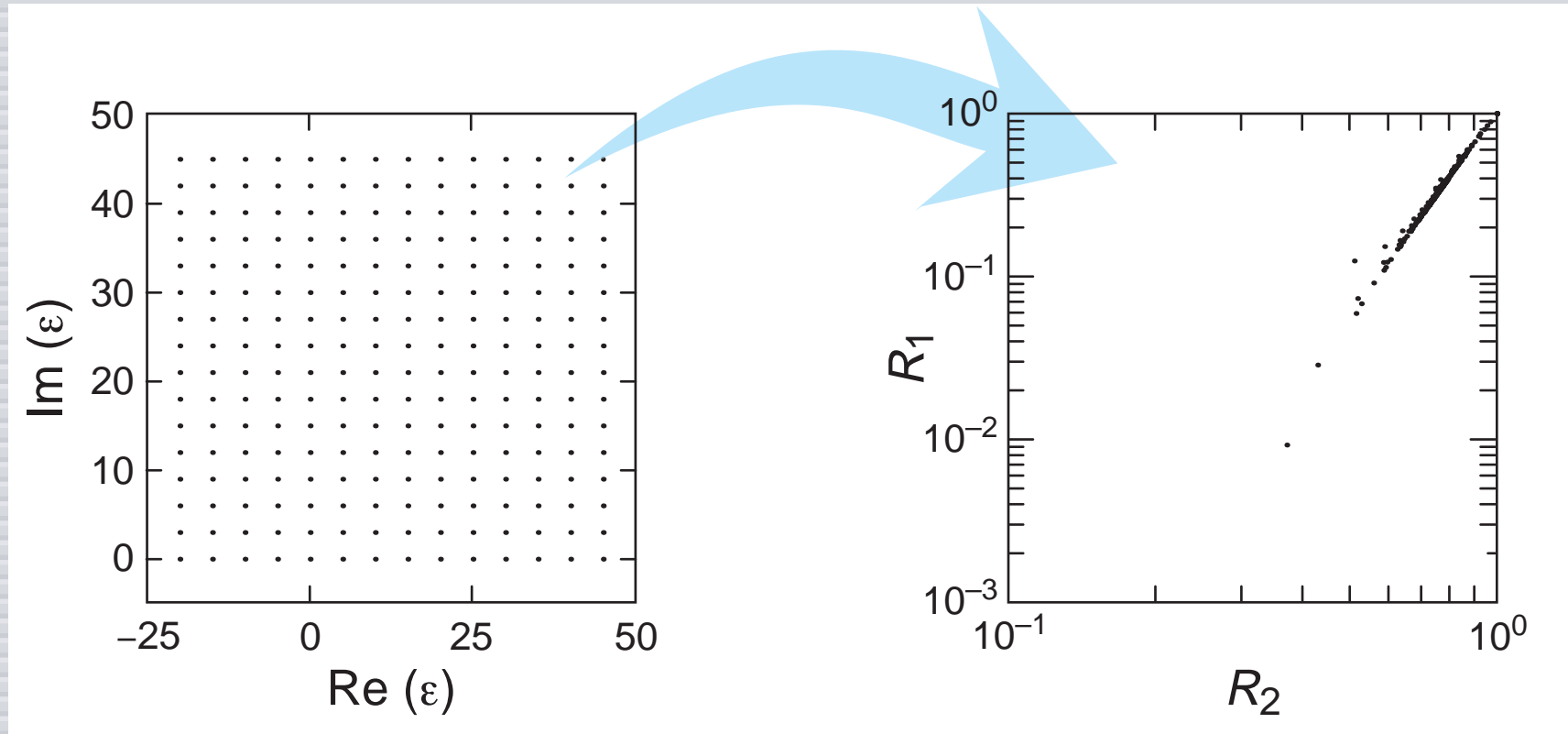
choice of angles



need numerical inversion

Technique

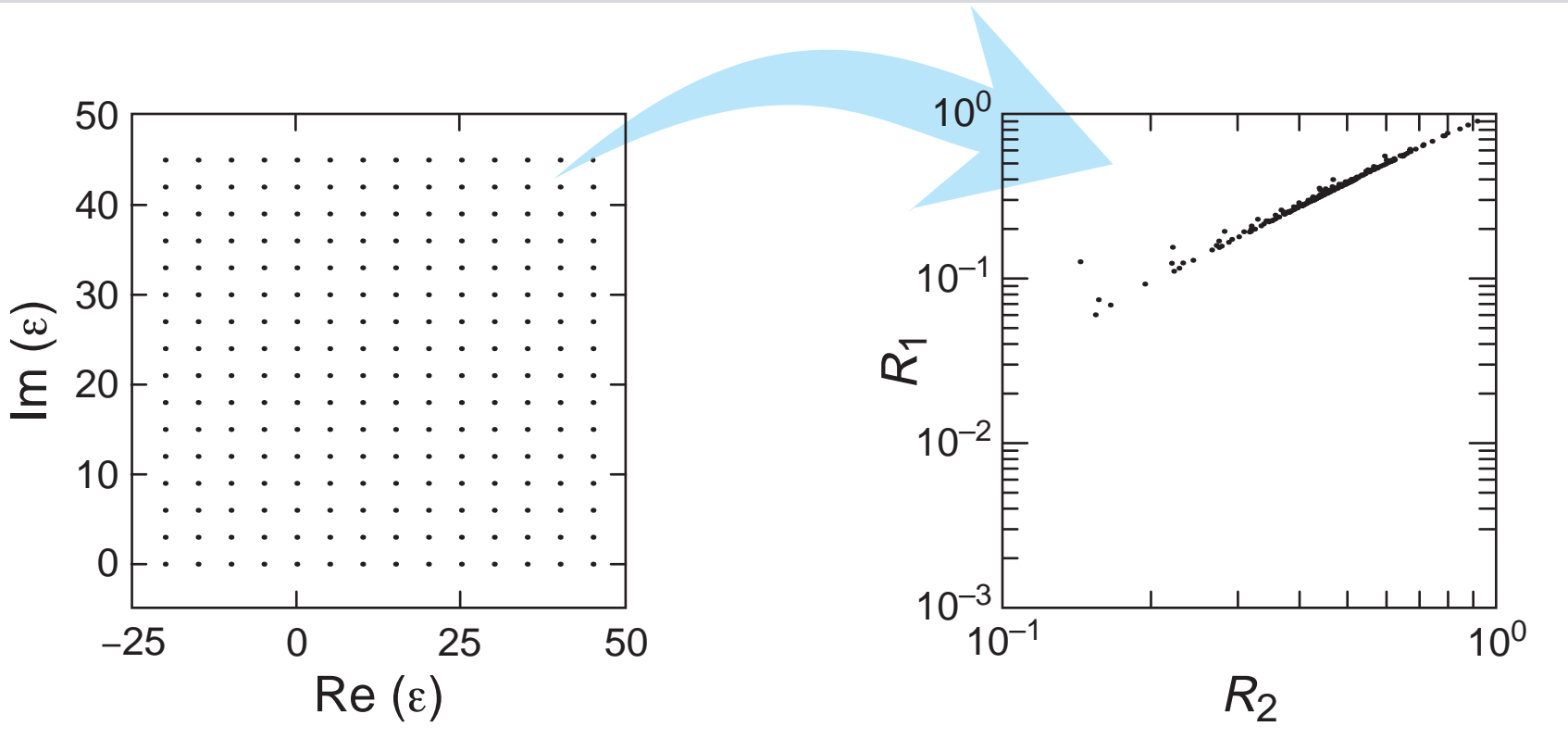
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ s-pol}$$

Technique

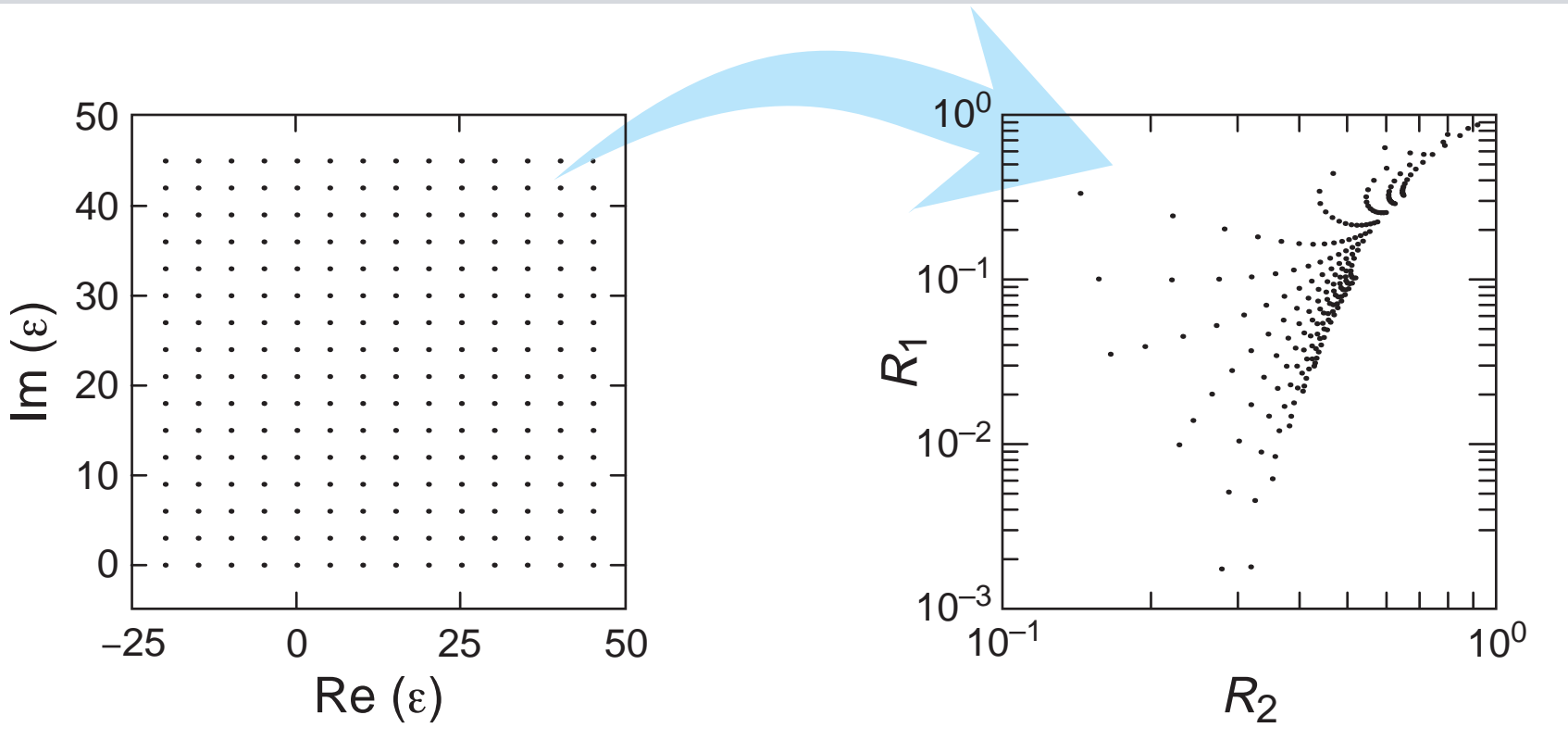
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 60^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

Technique

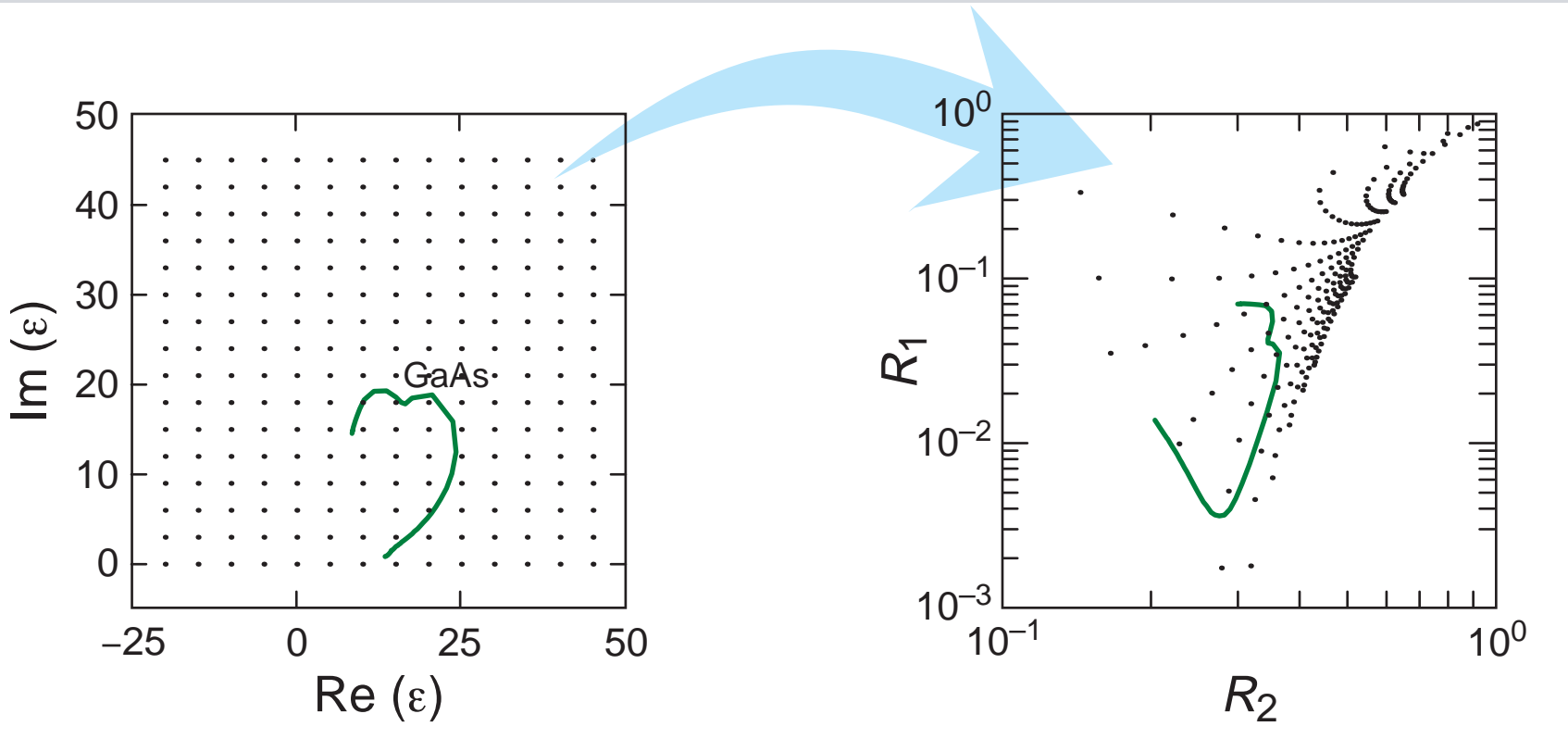
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

Technique

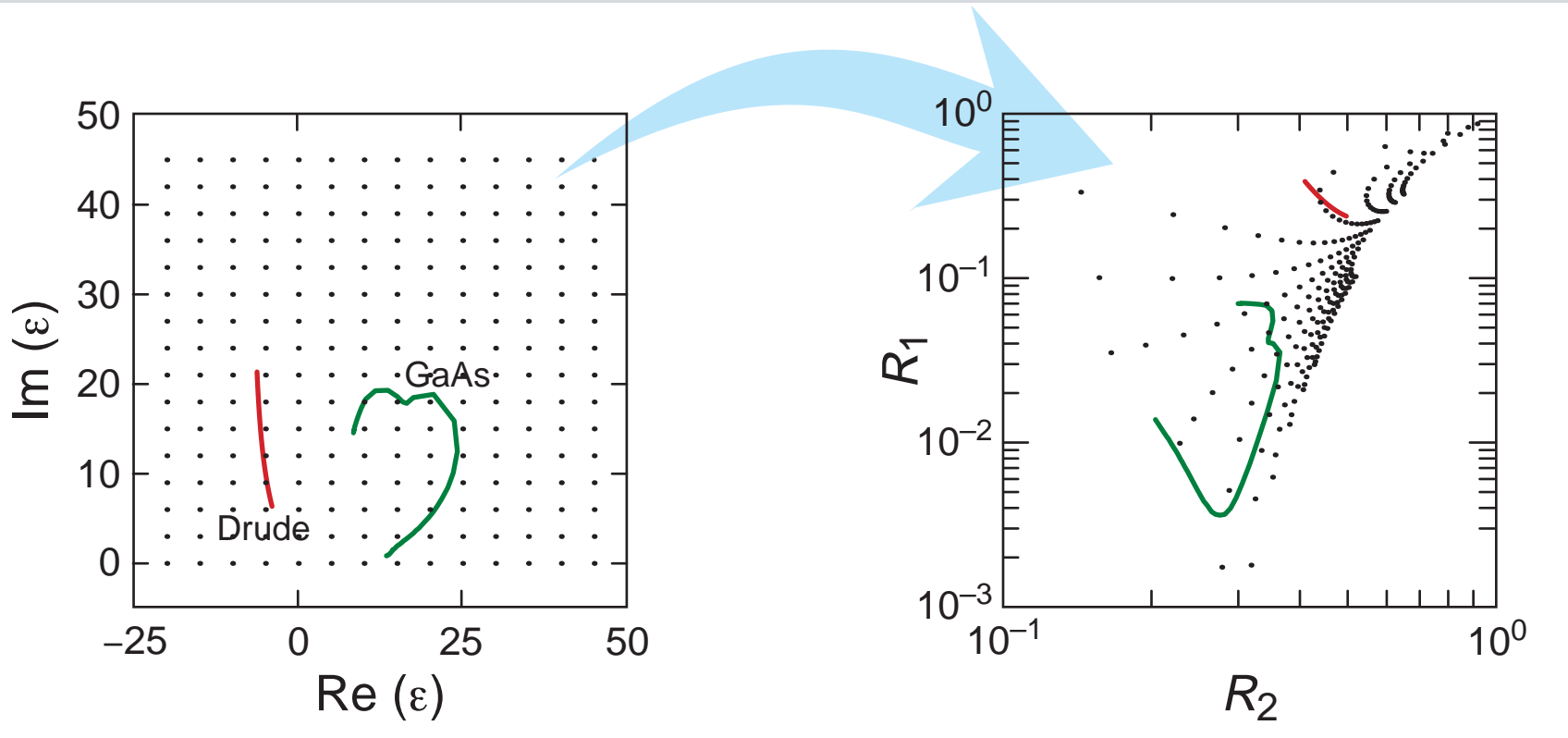
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

Technique

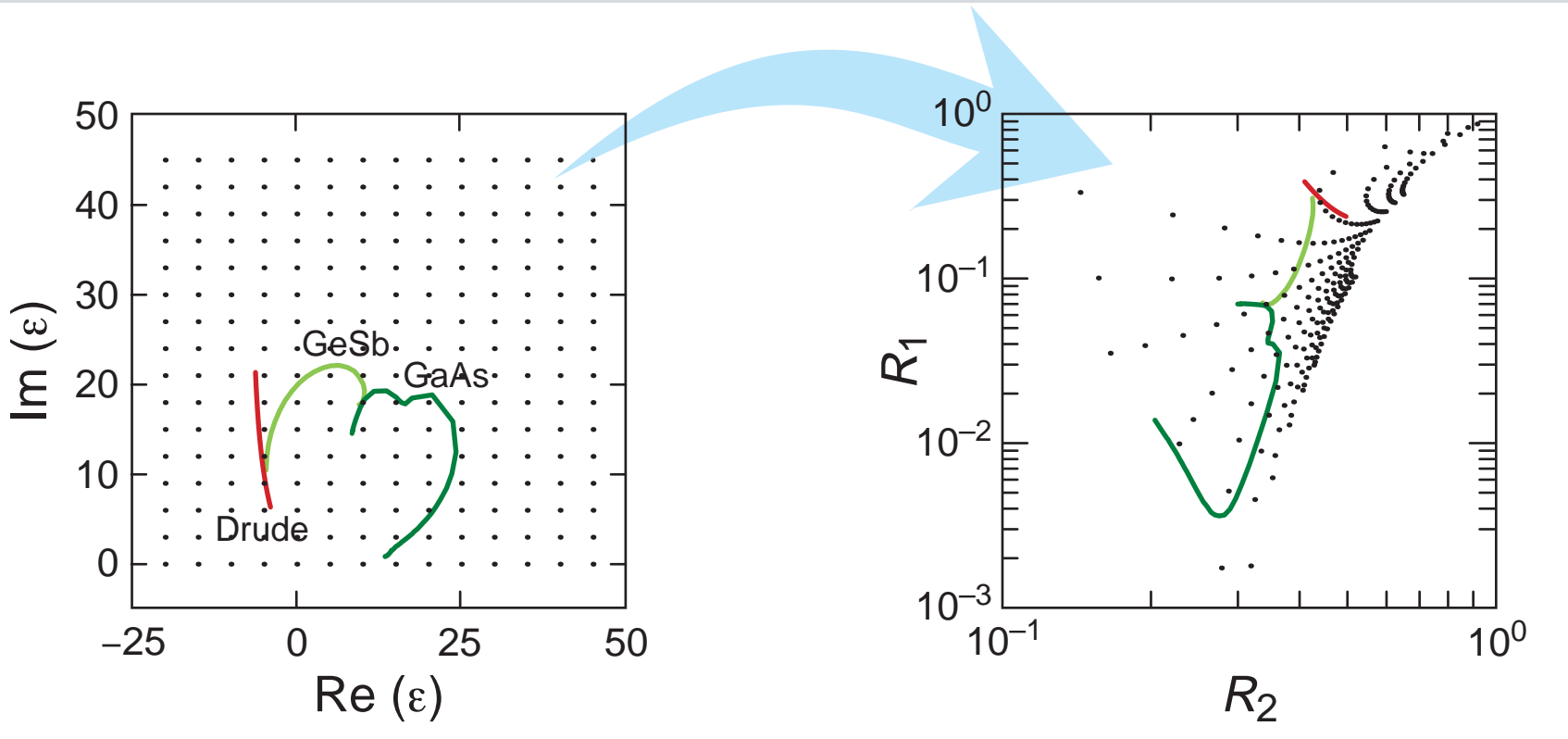
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

Technique

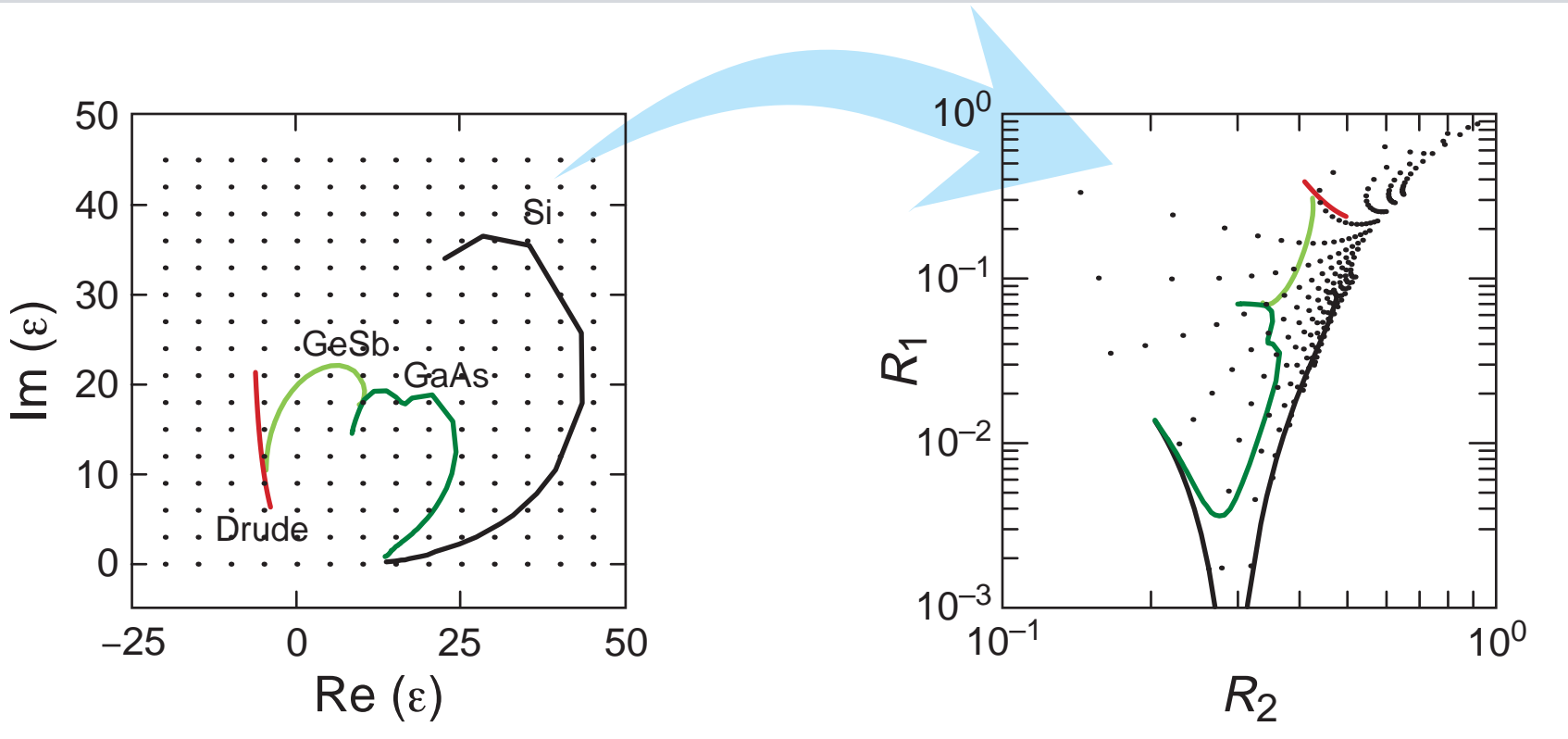
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

Technique

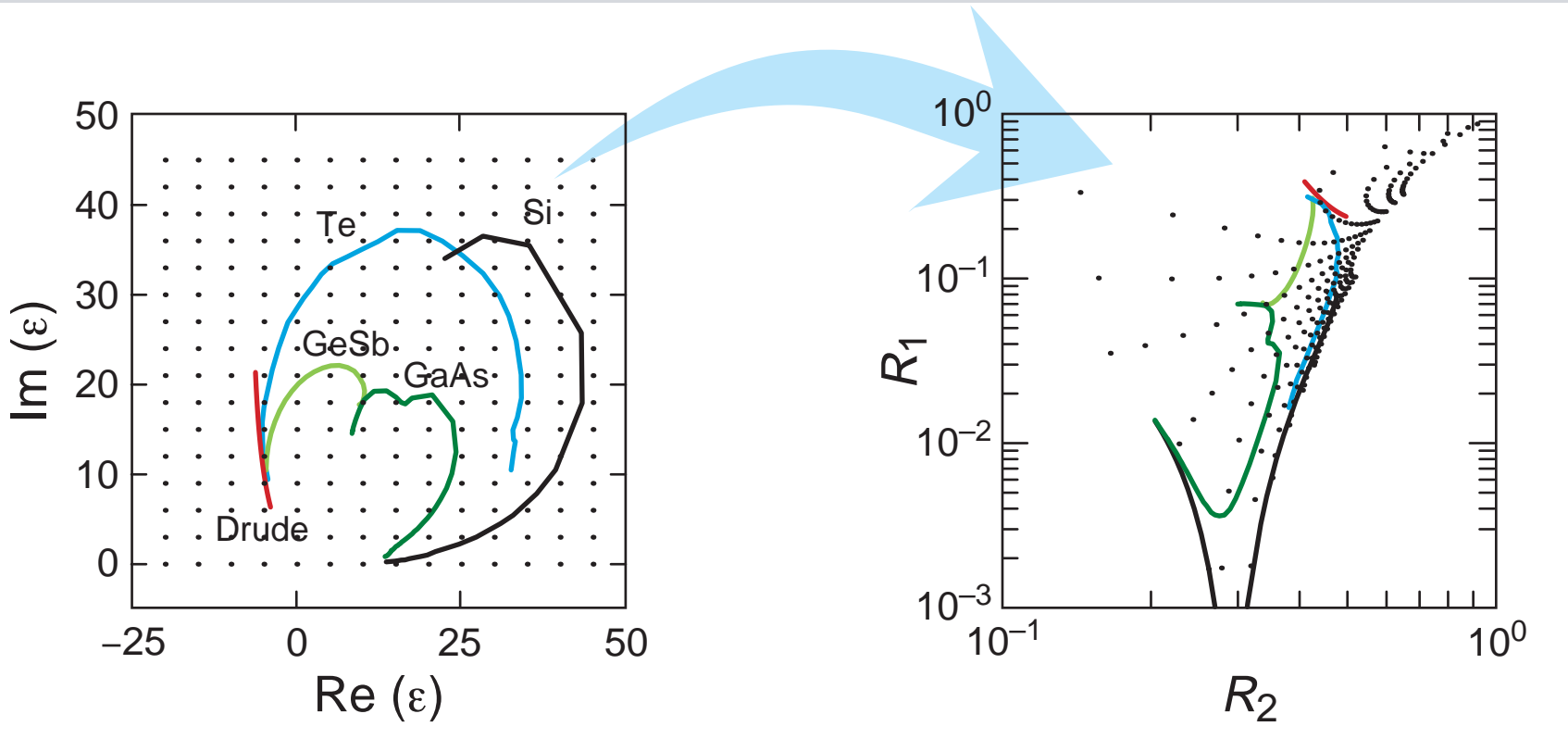
choice of angles



$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

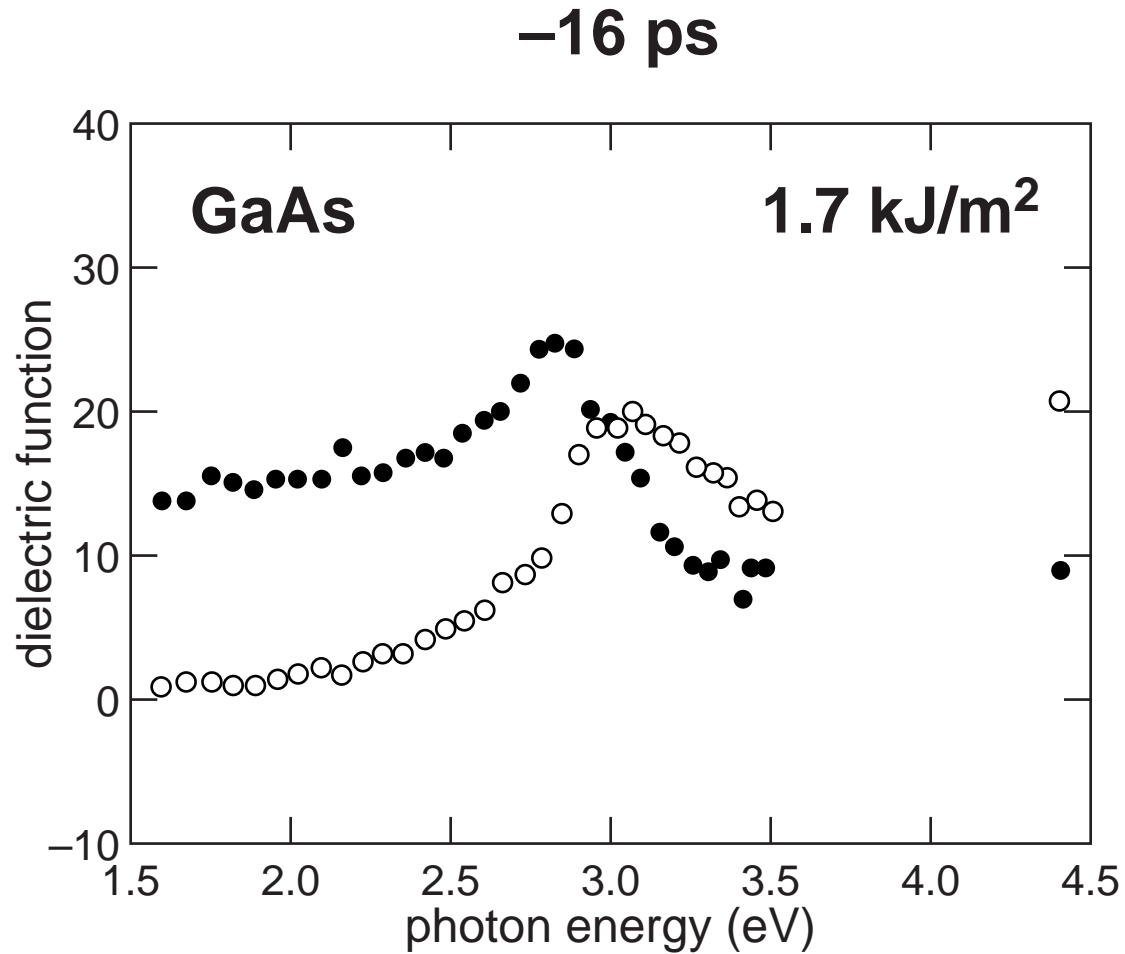
Technique

choice of angles

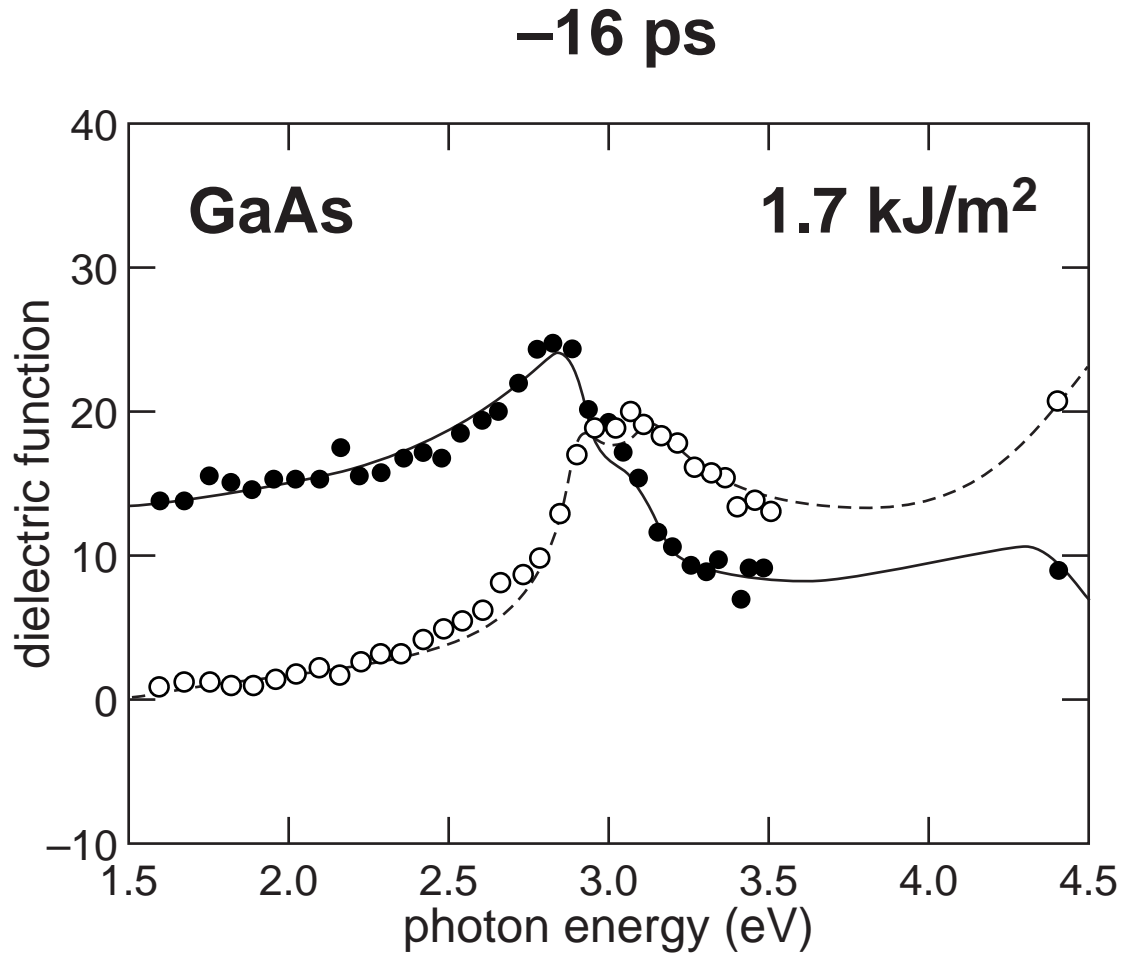


$$R_1 = 78^\circ \text{ p-pol}, R_2 = 45^\circ \text{ p-pol}$$

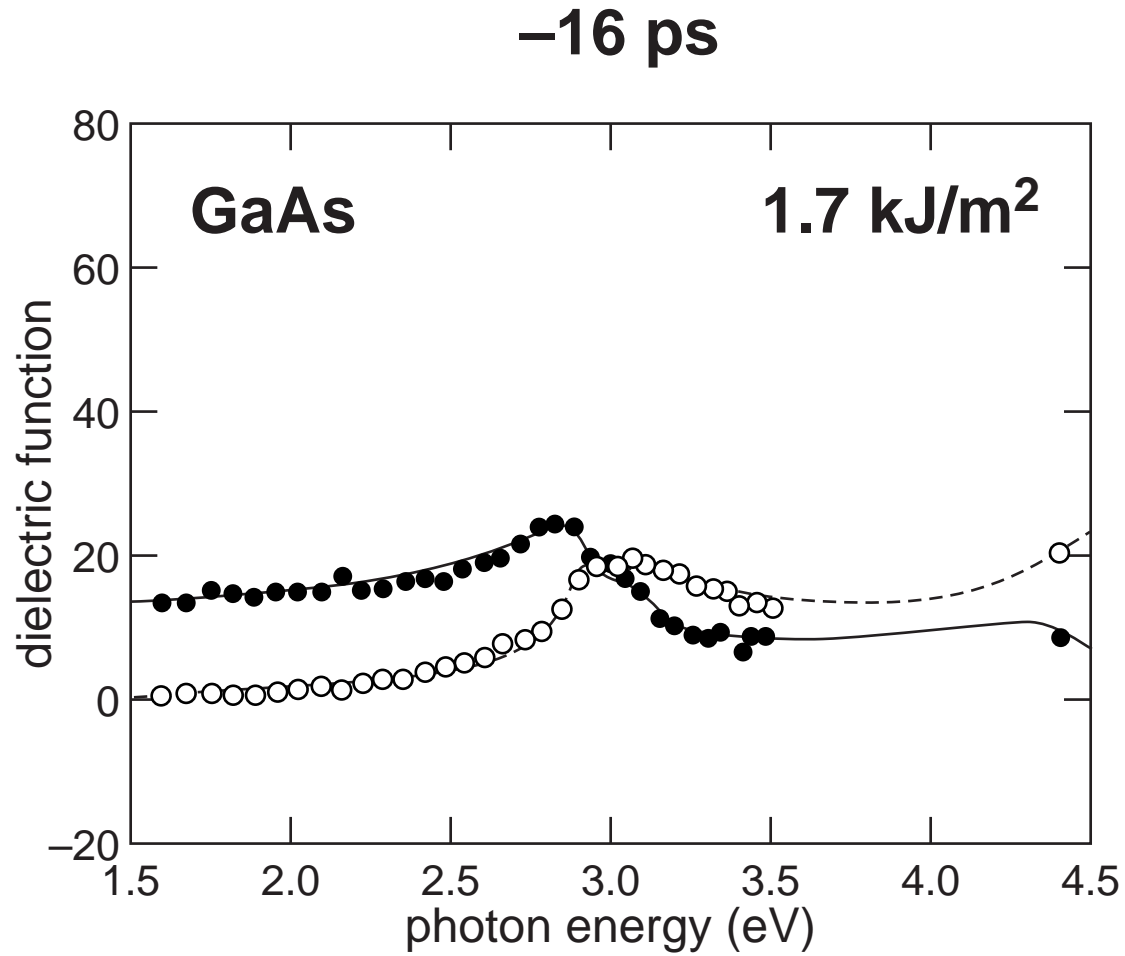
Technique



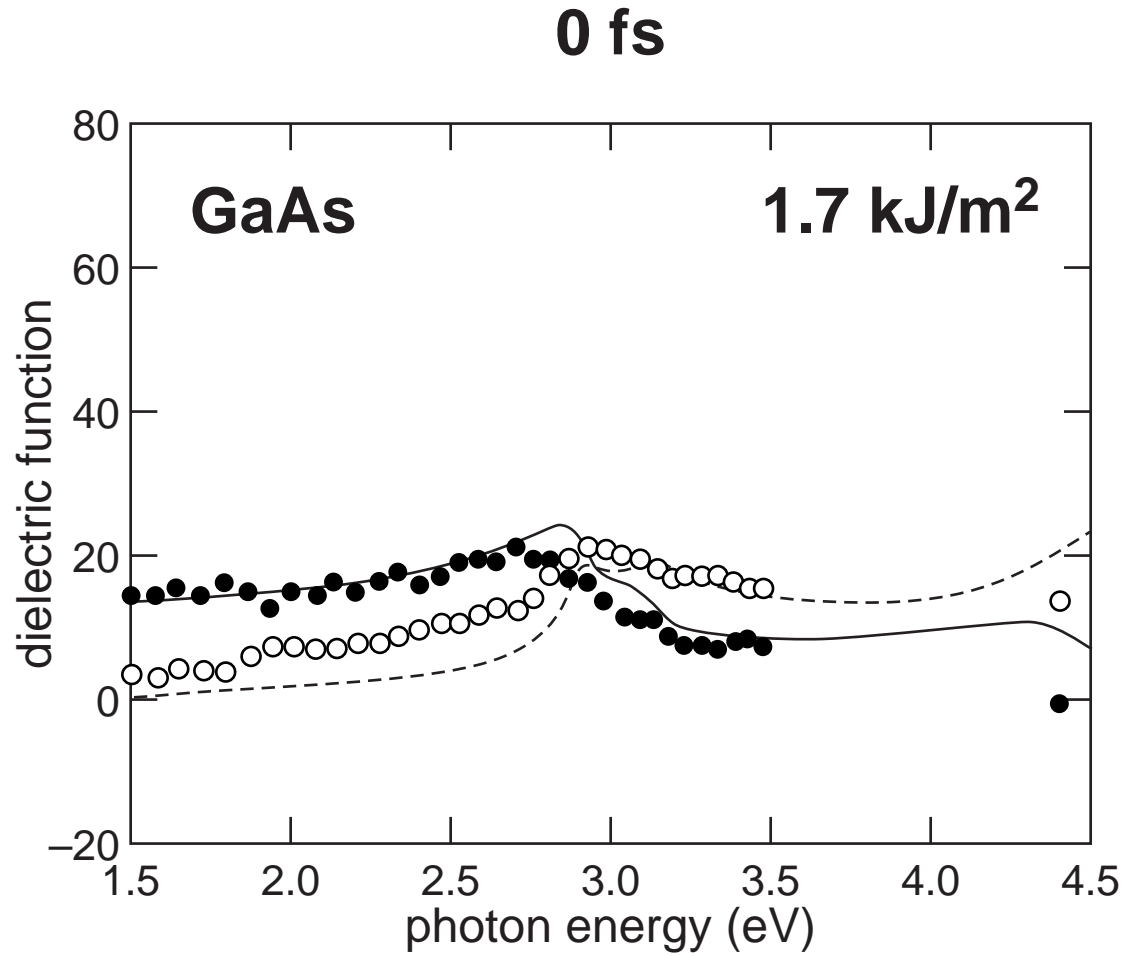
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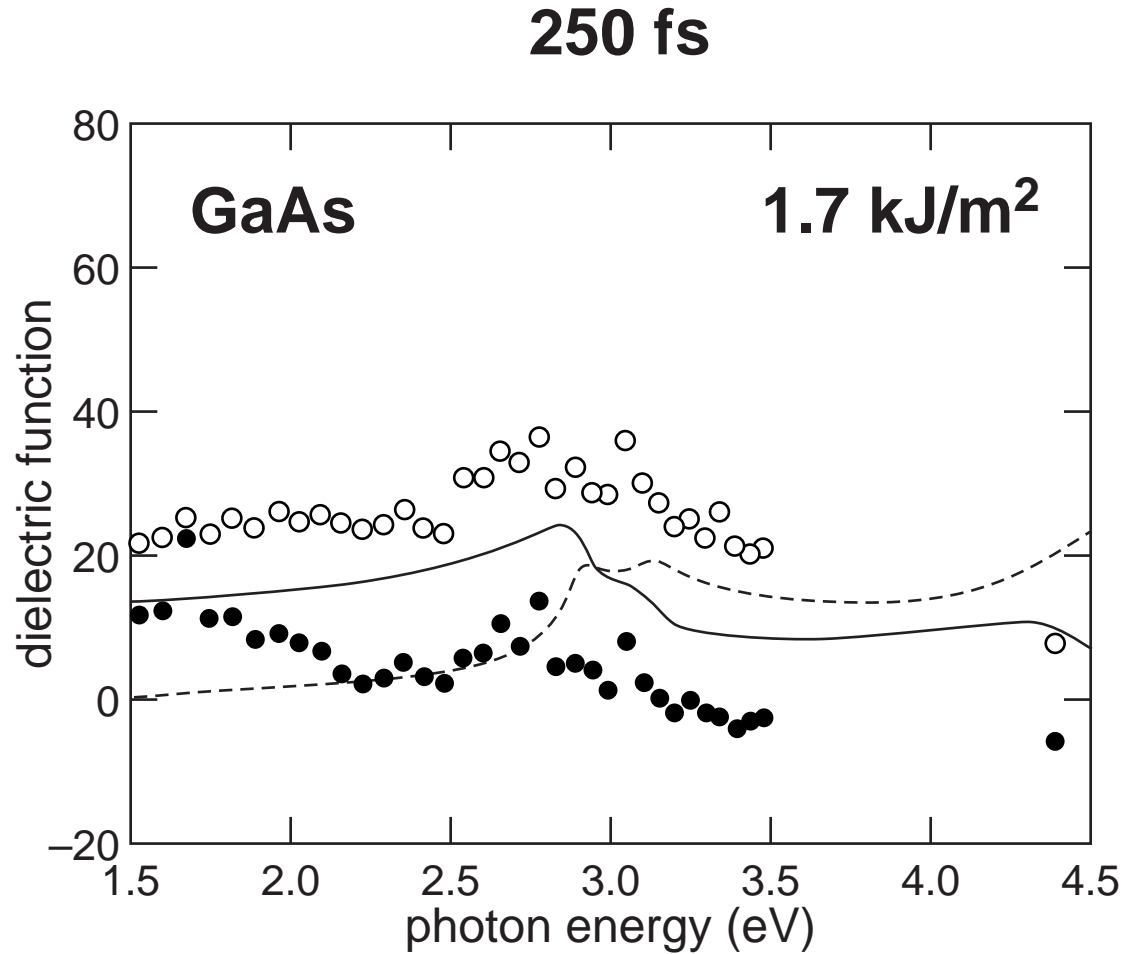
Technique



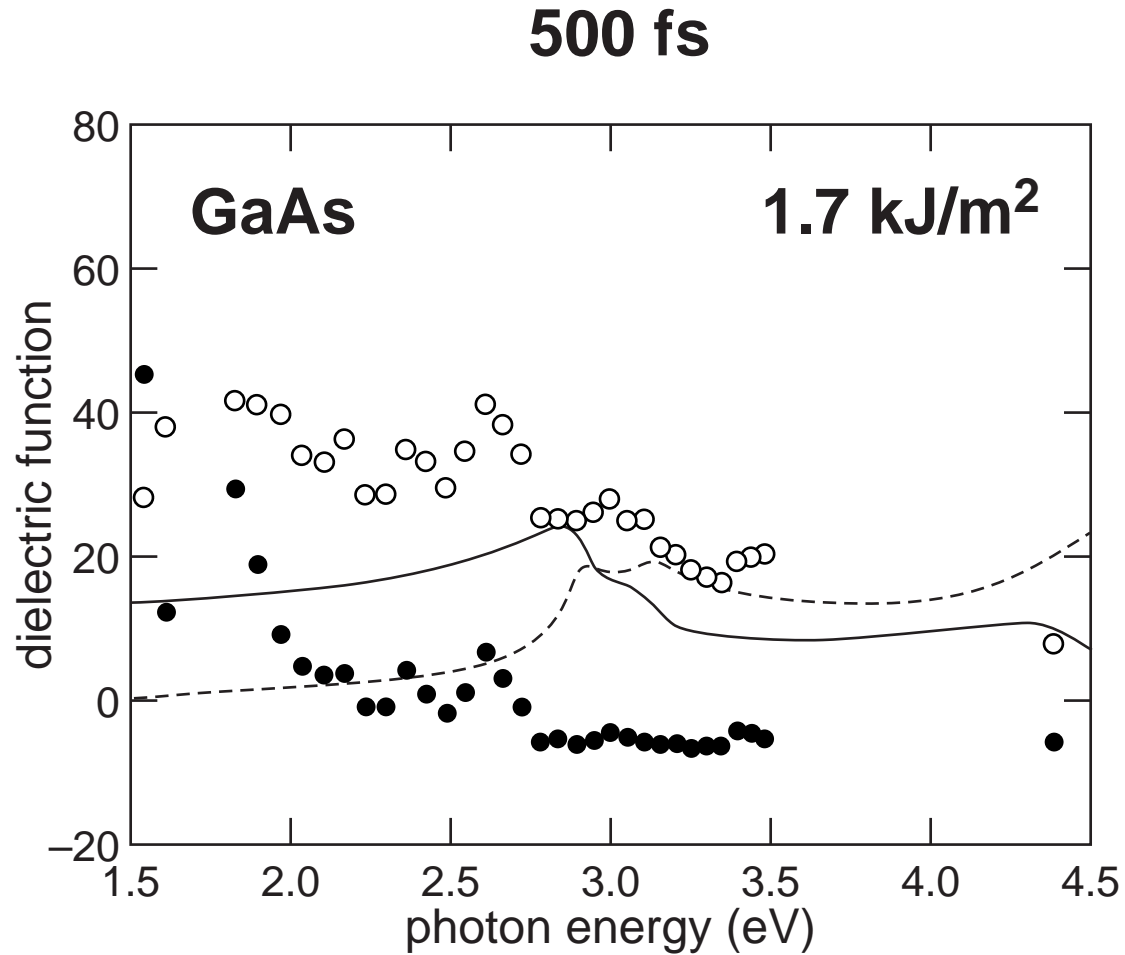
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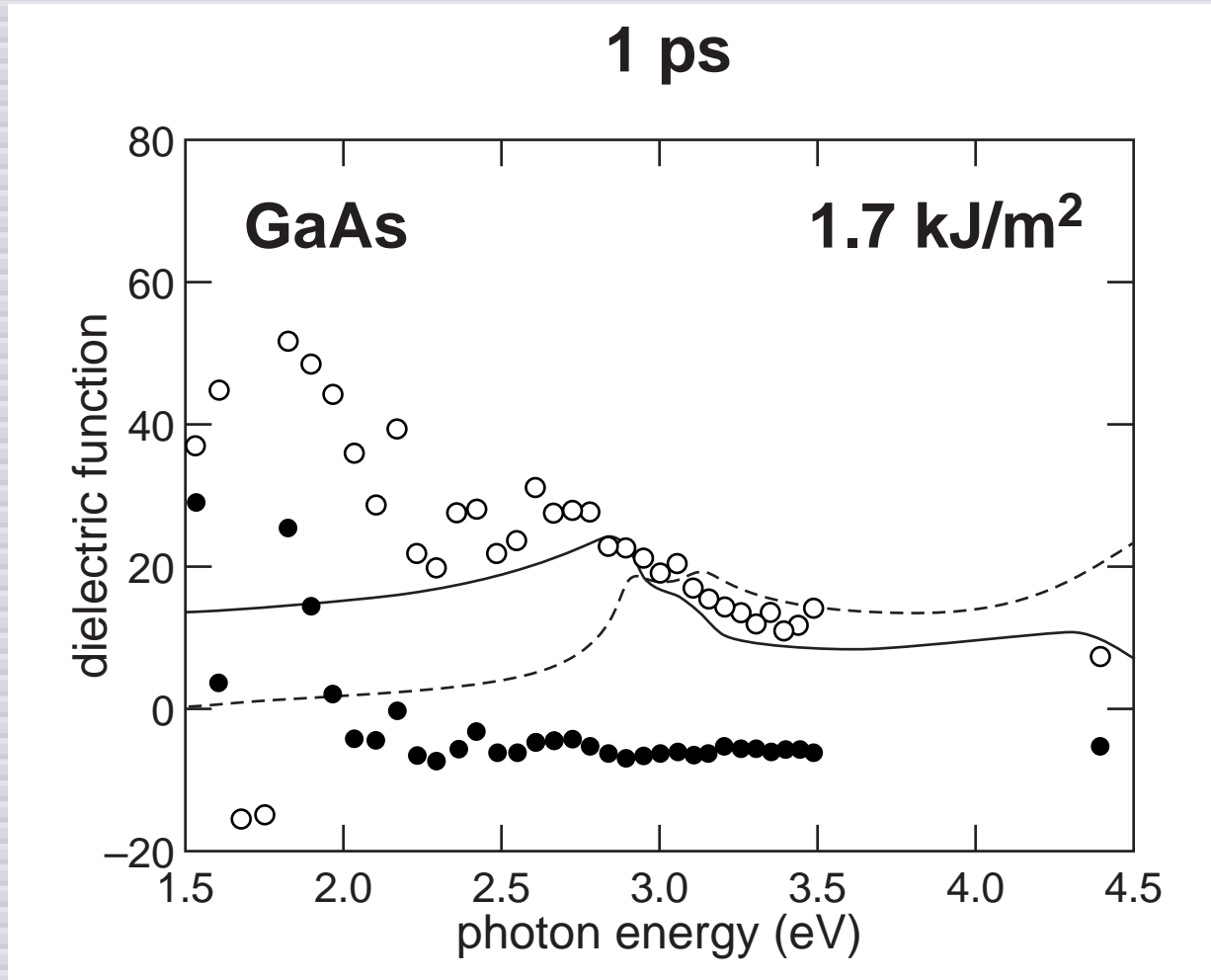
Technique



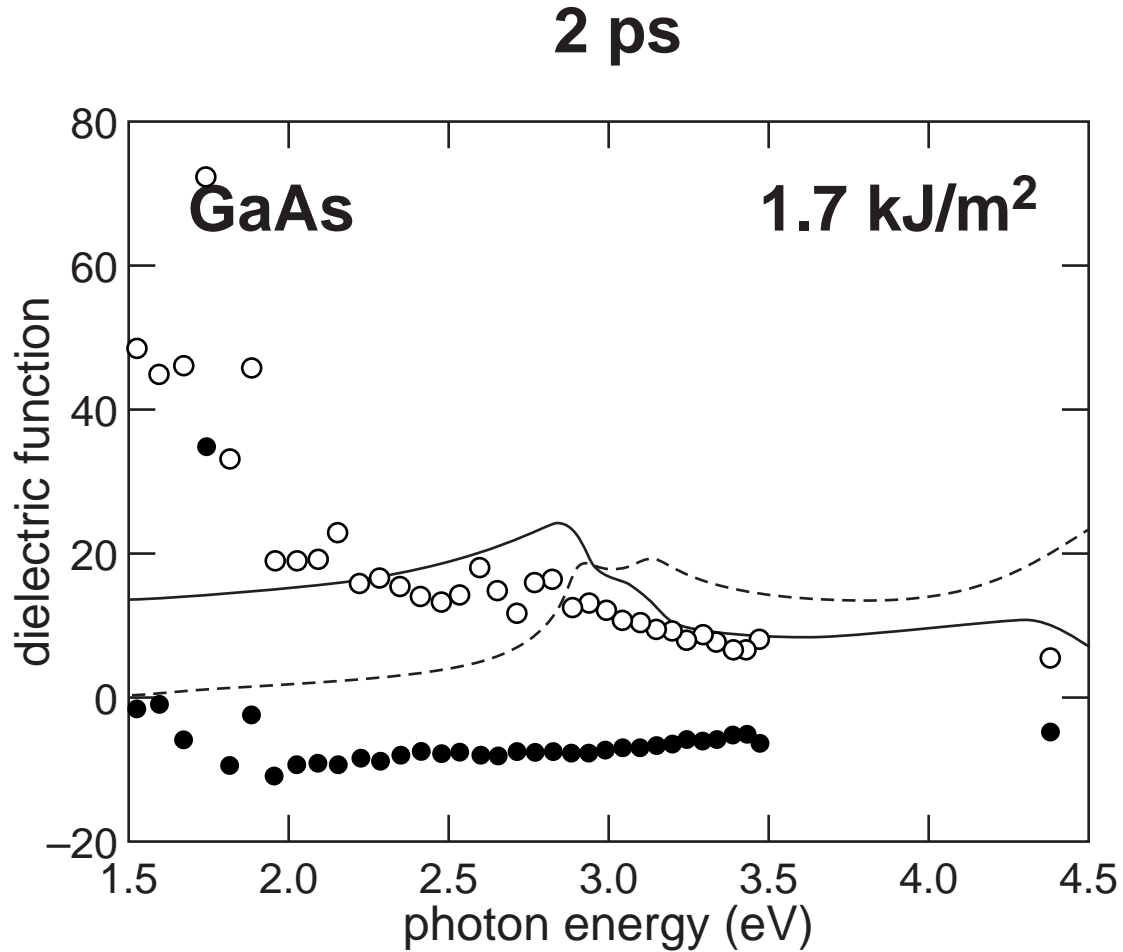
Technique



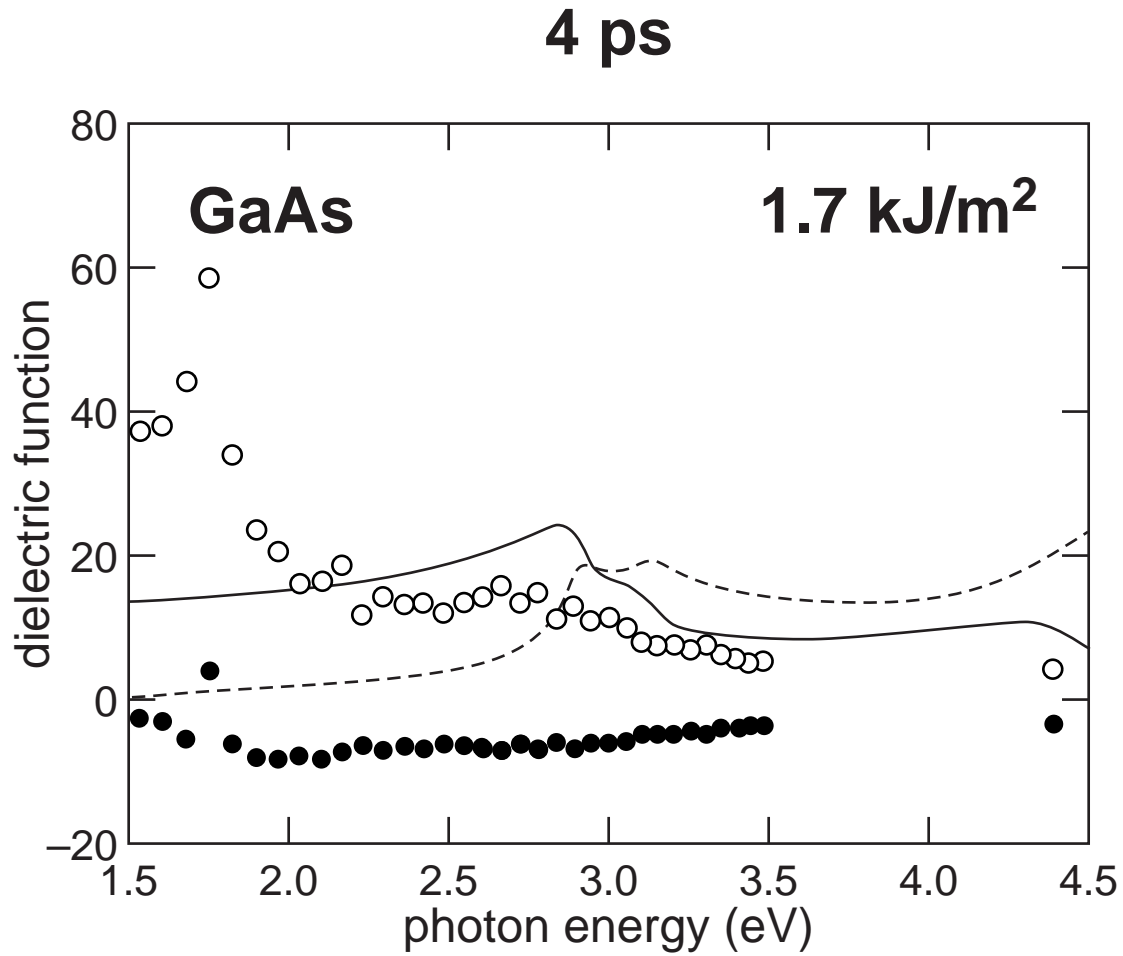
Technique



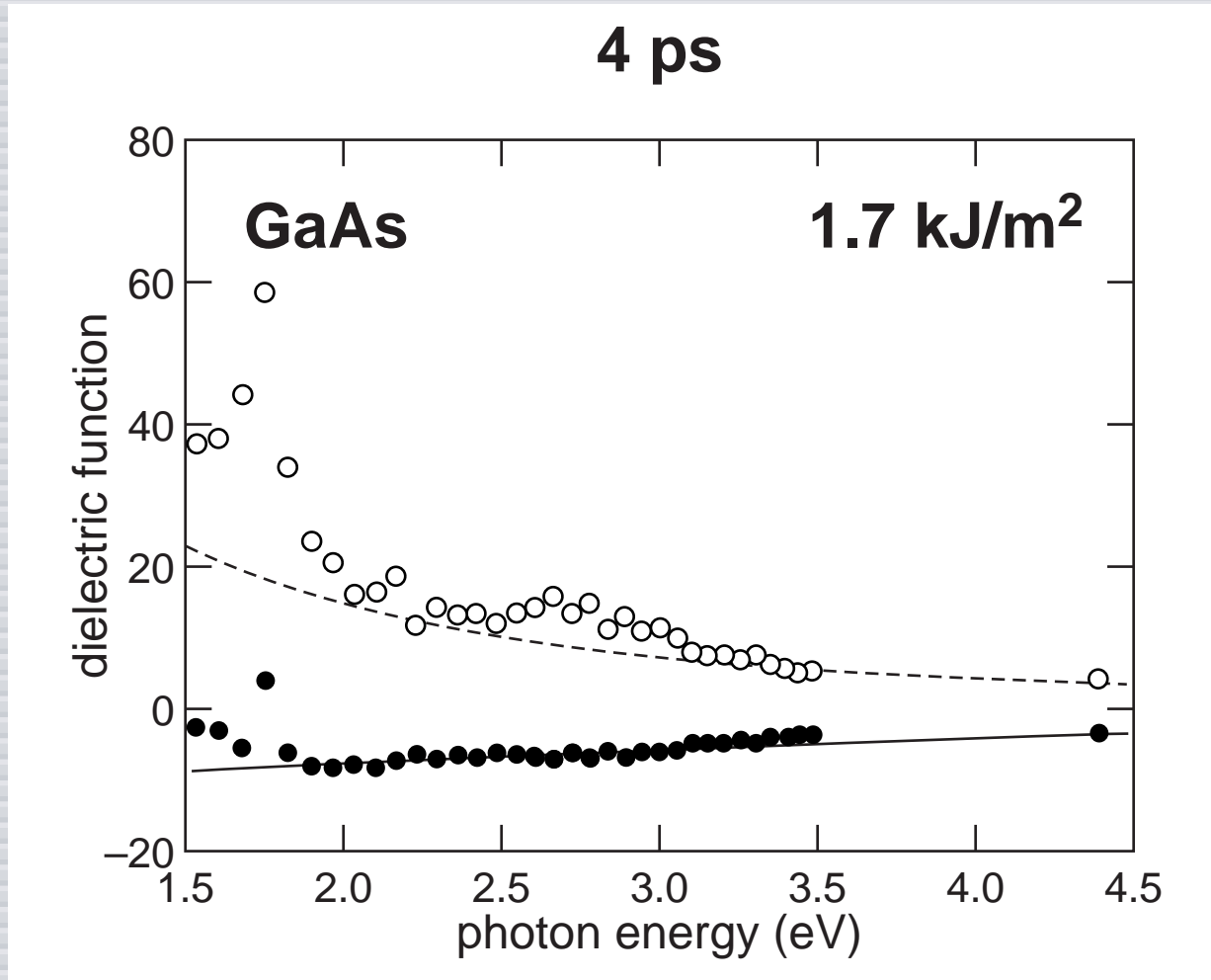
Technique



Technique



Technique

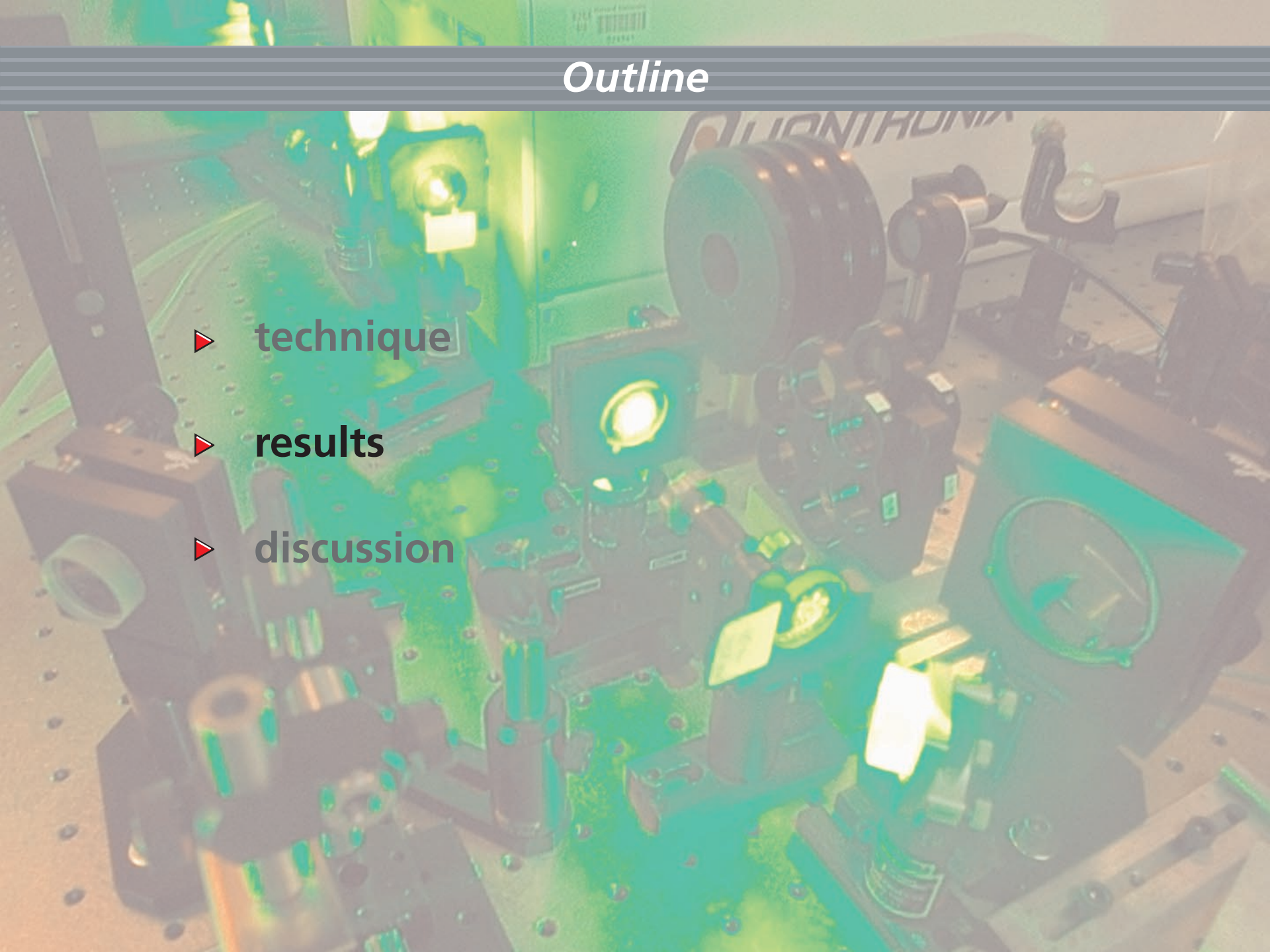


Technique

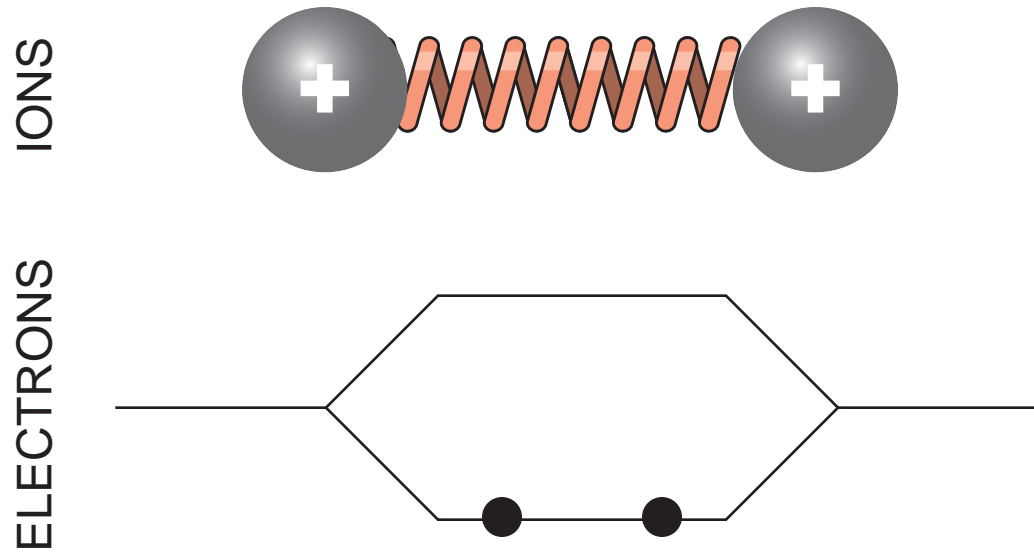
- ▶ **direct observation of semiconductor-to-metal transition**
- ▶ **order-disorder transition**
- ▶ **transition structural, not electronic**

Outline

- ▶ **technique**
- ▶ **results**
- ▶ **discussion**

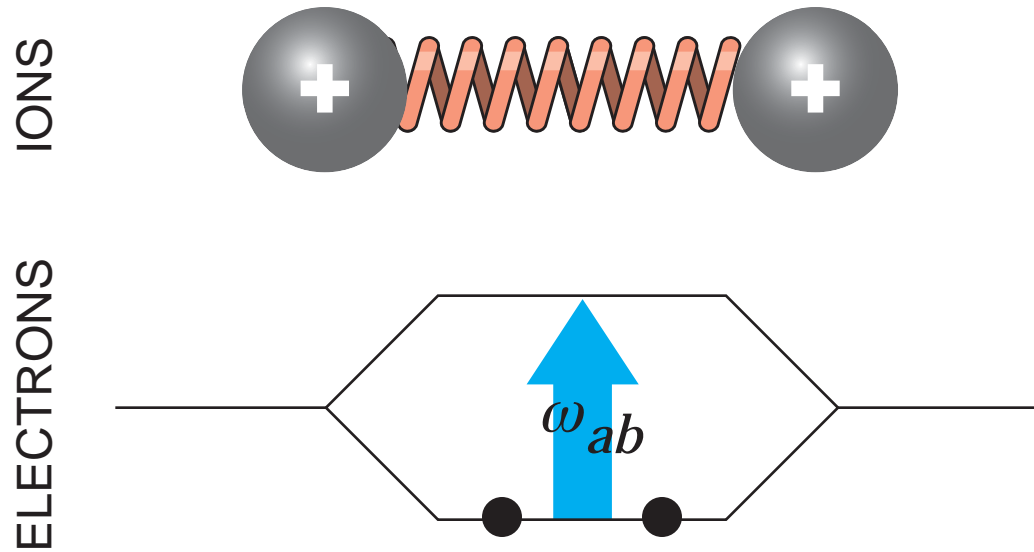


Displacive excitation



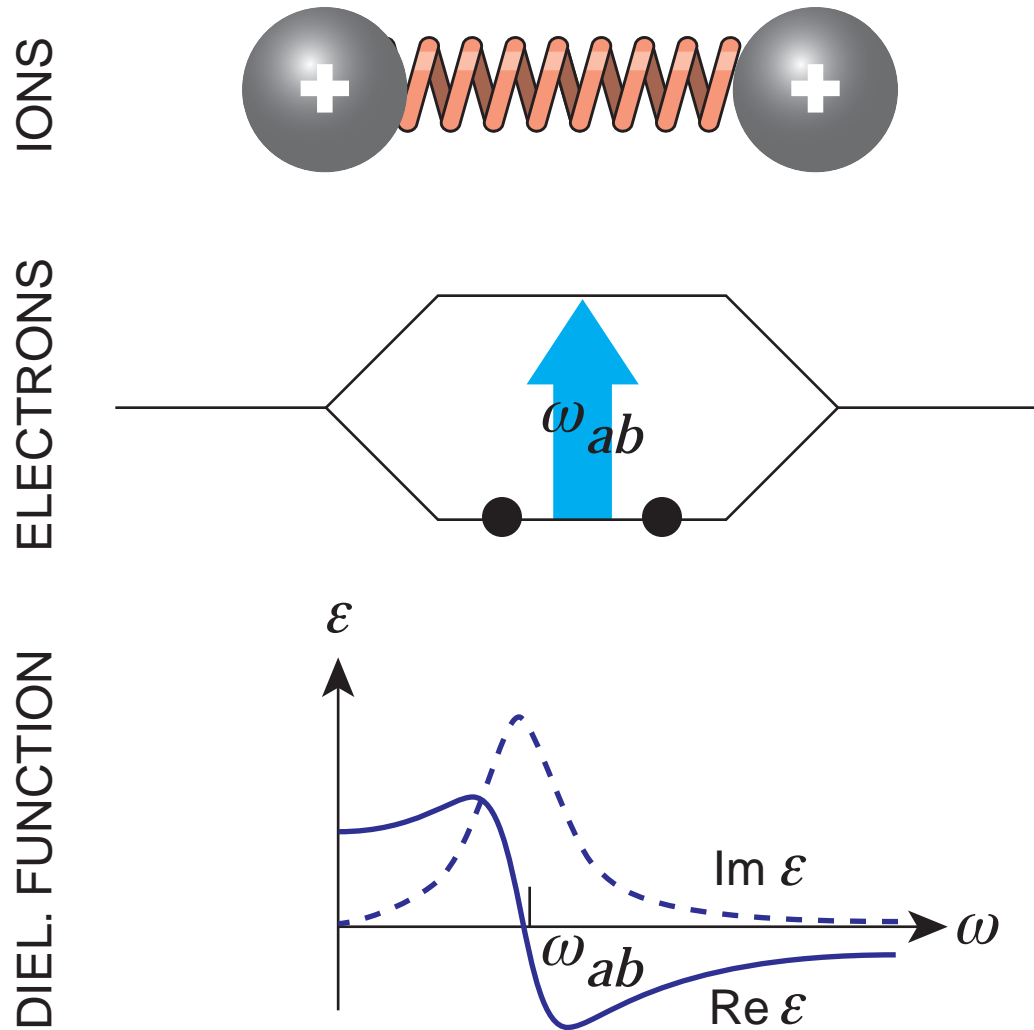
“two-atom model”

Displacive excitation



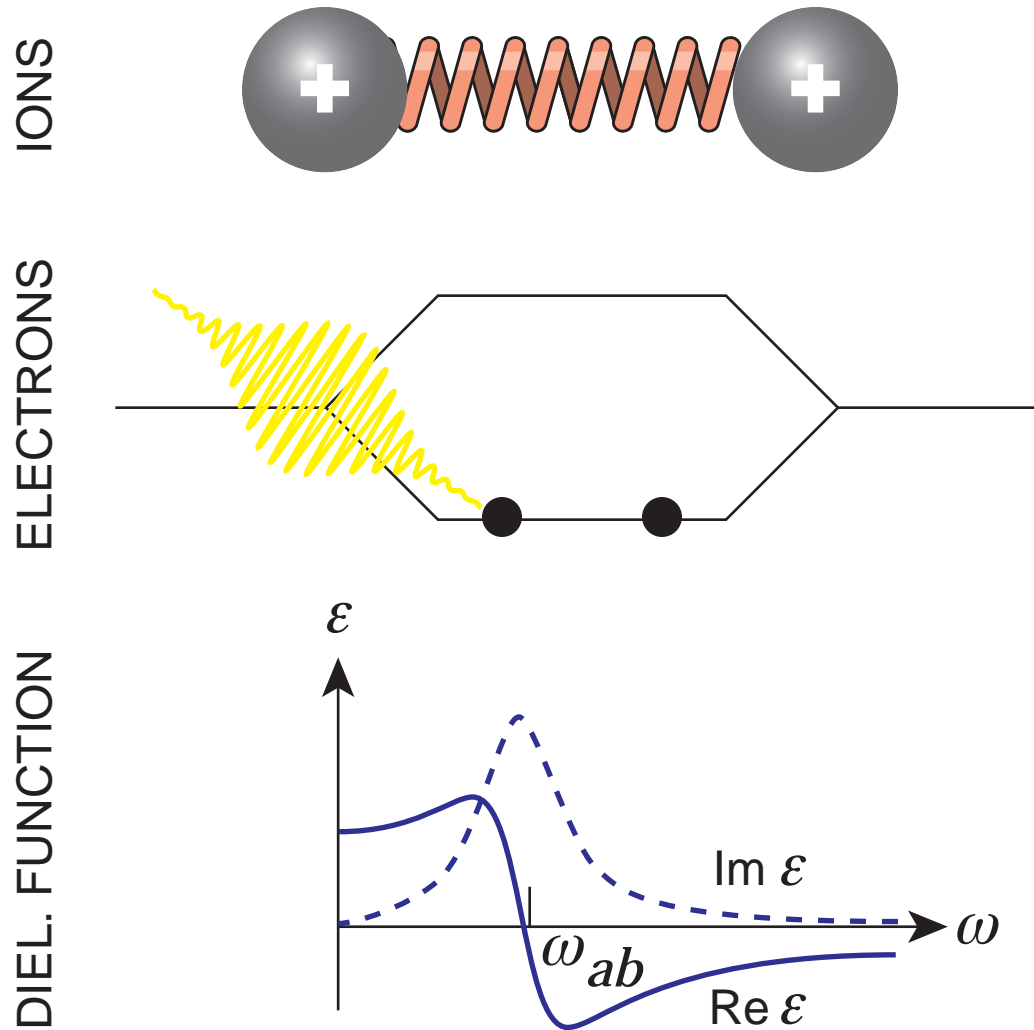
bonding-antibonding splitting

Displacive excitation



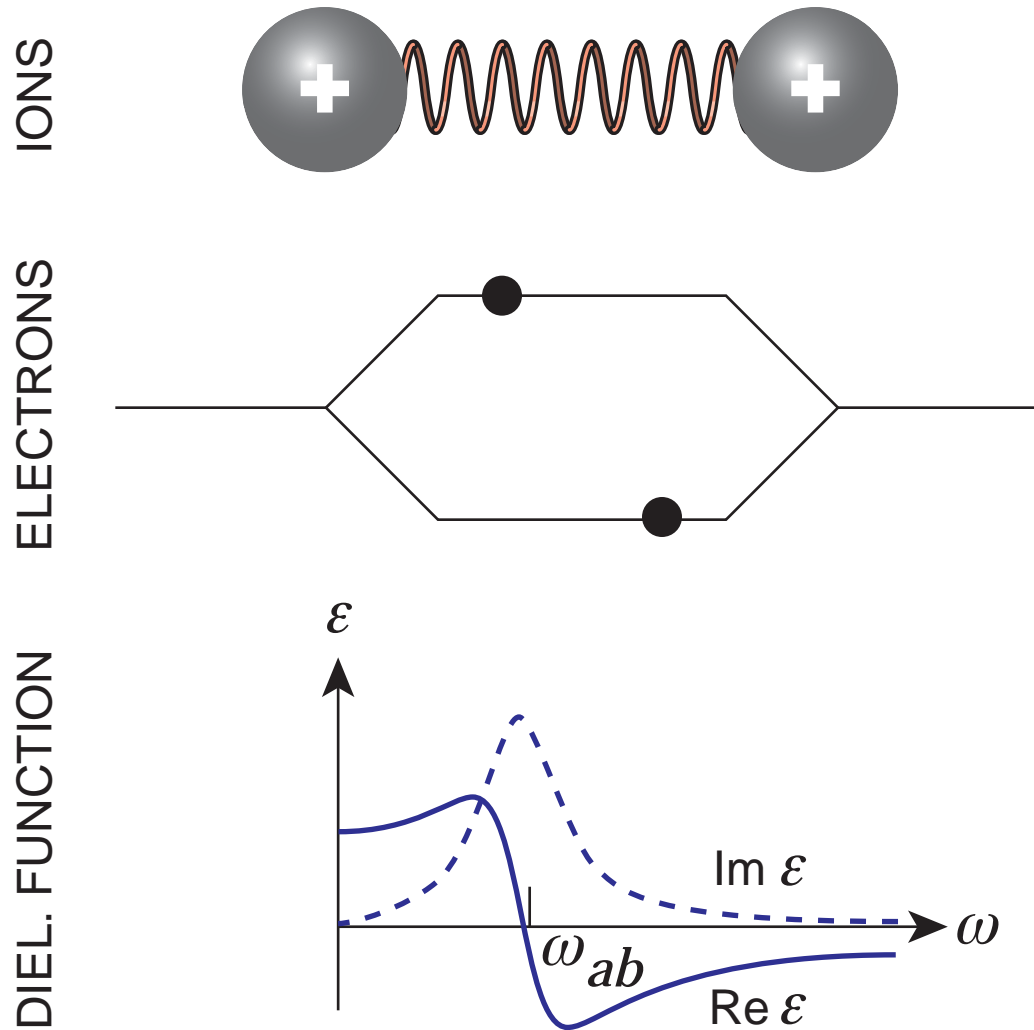
Lorentz model

Displacive excitation



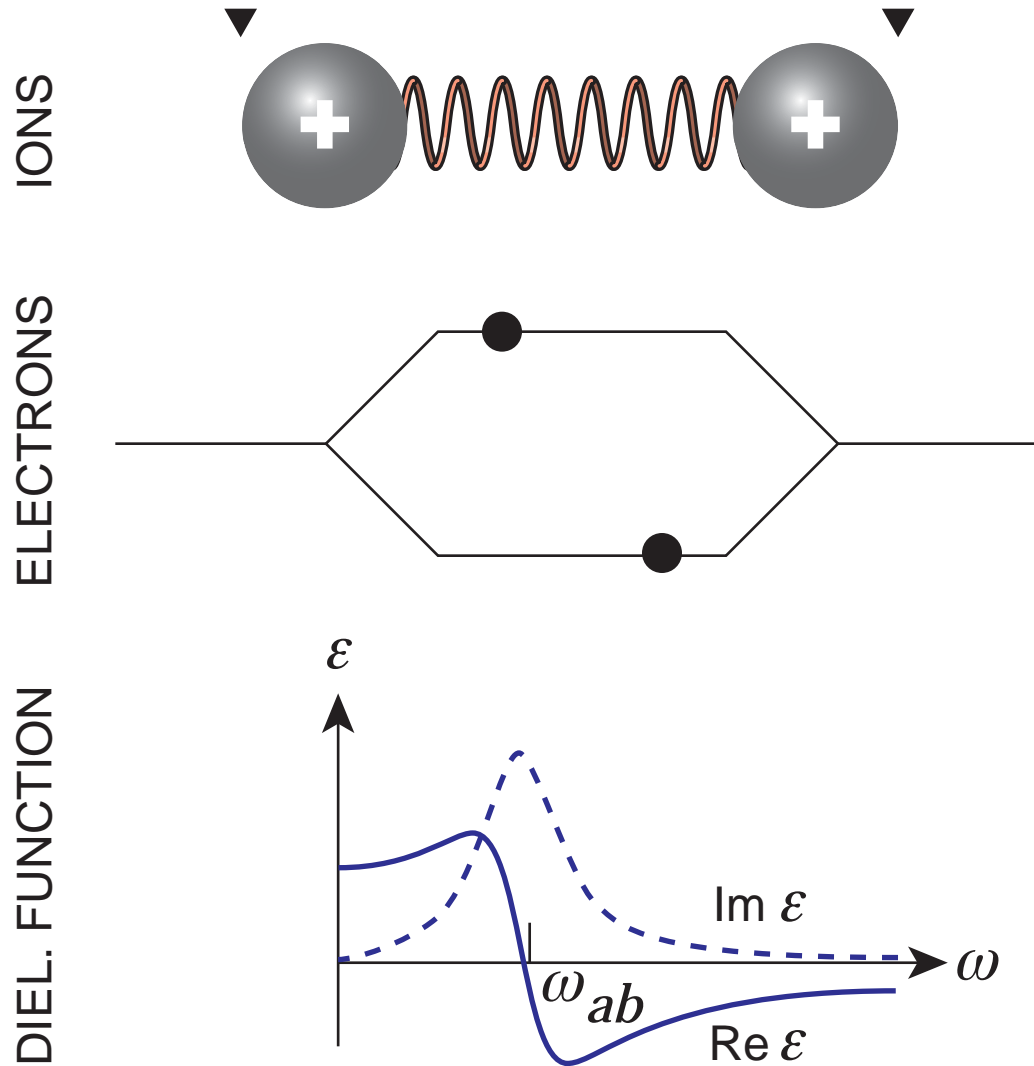
photon promotes electron...

Displacive excitation



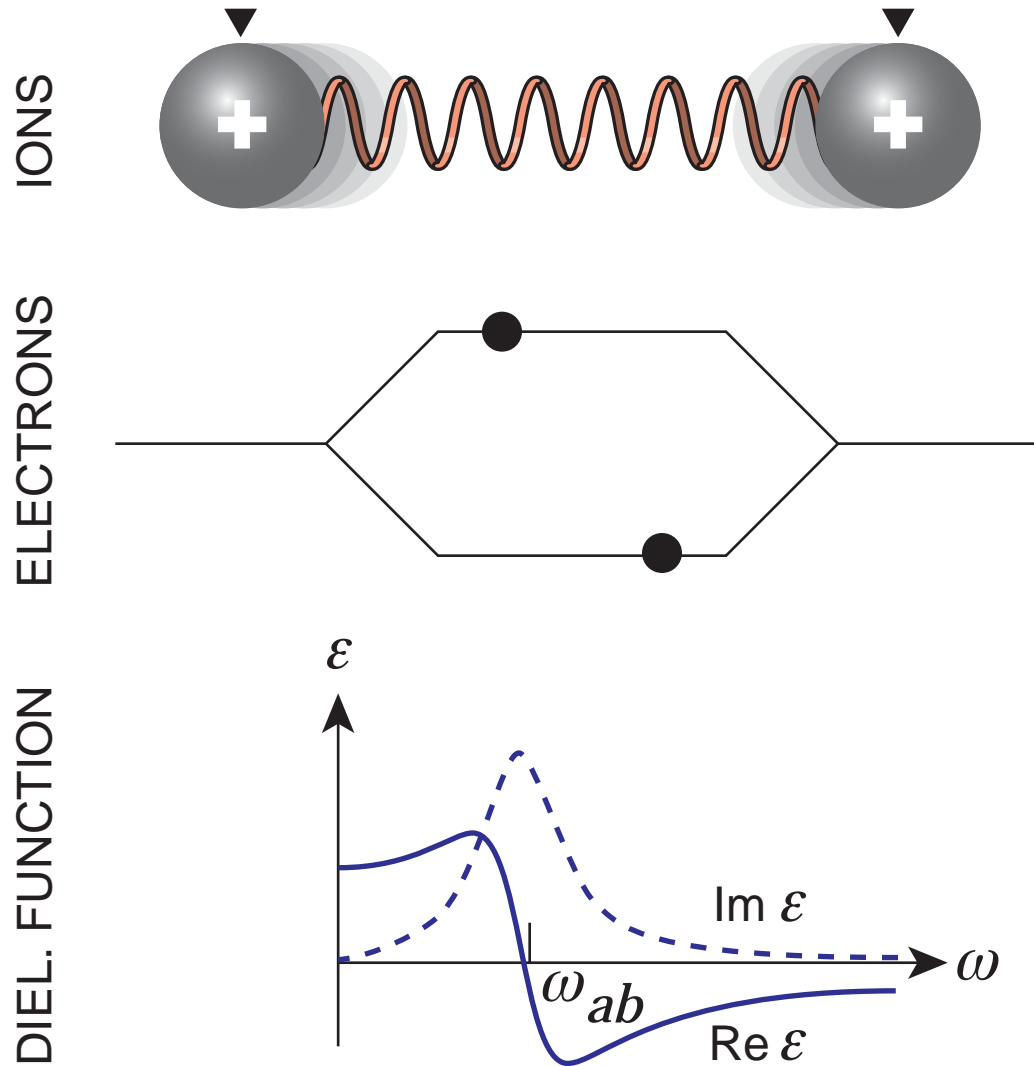
... weakening binding force...

Displacive excitation



... establishing new equilibrium positions

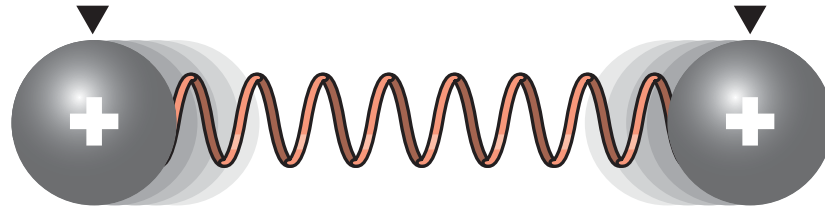
Displacive excitation



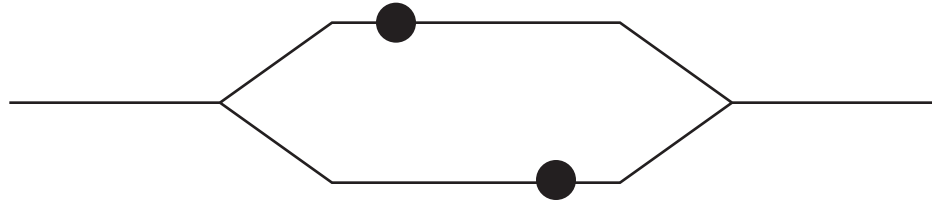
ions move to new equilibrium positions...

Displacive excitation

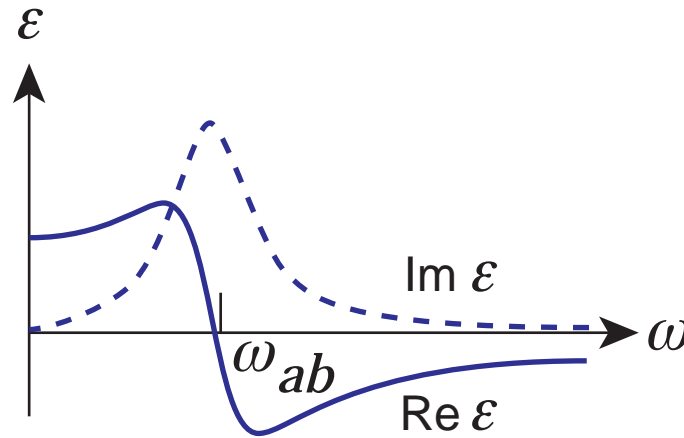
IONS



ELECTRONS

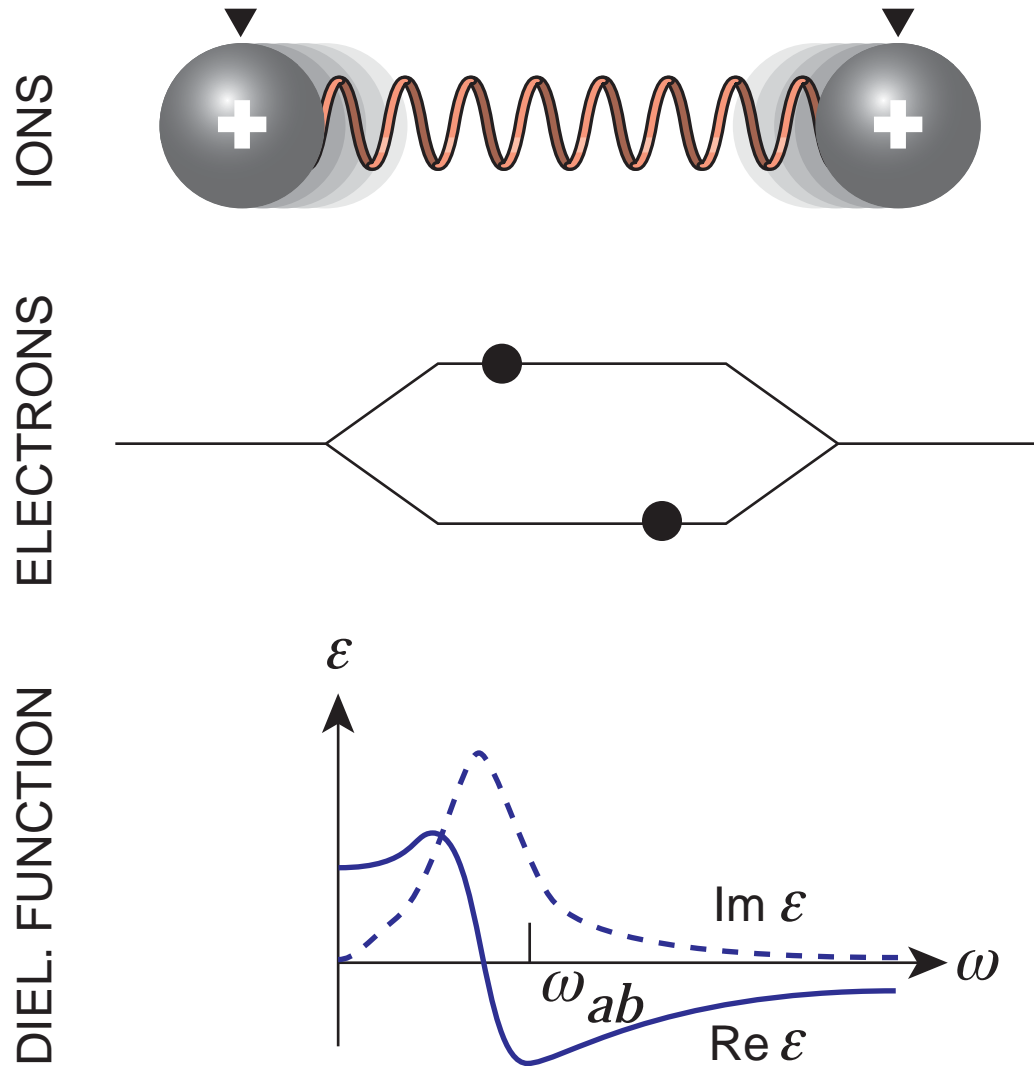


DIEL. FUNCTION



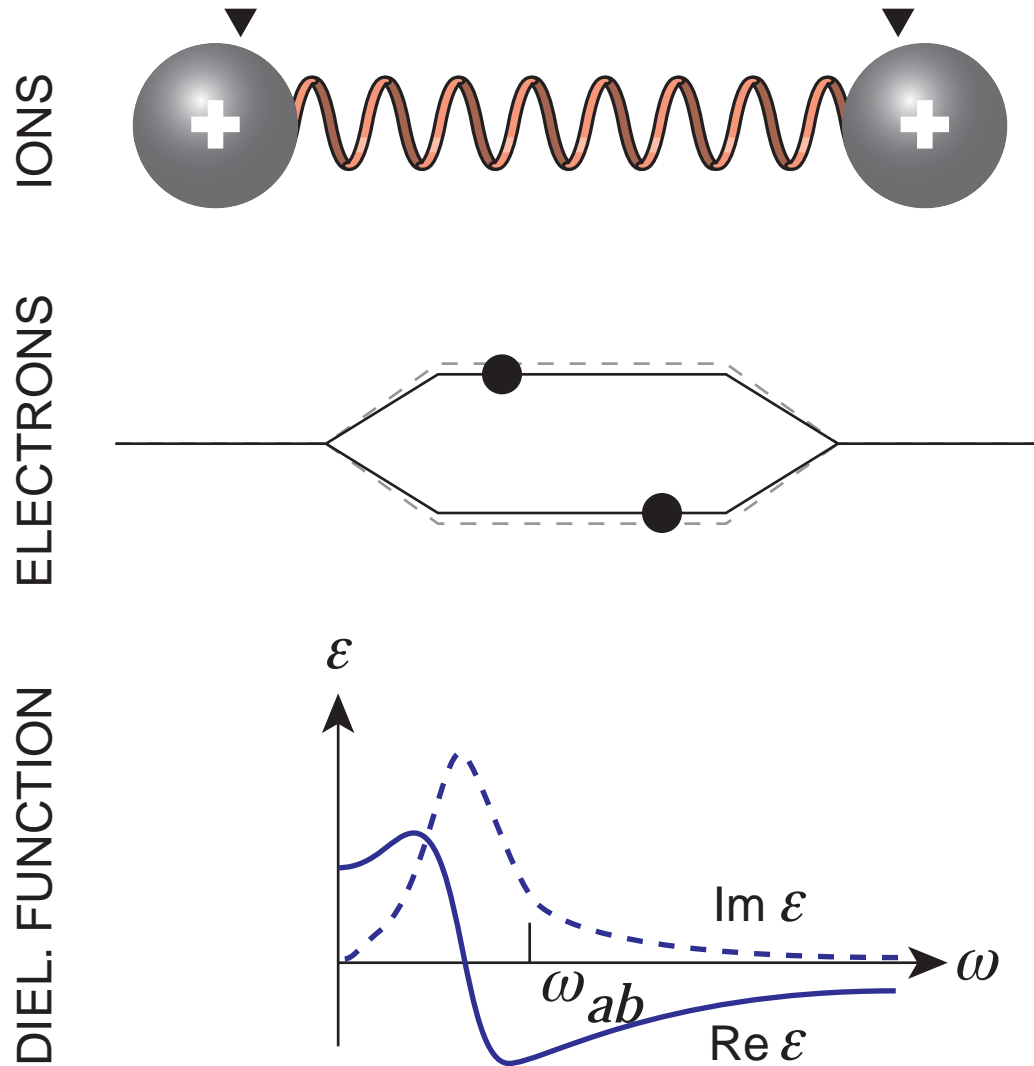
... diminishing splitting...

Displacive excitation



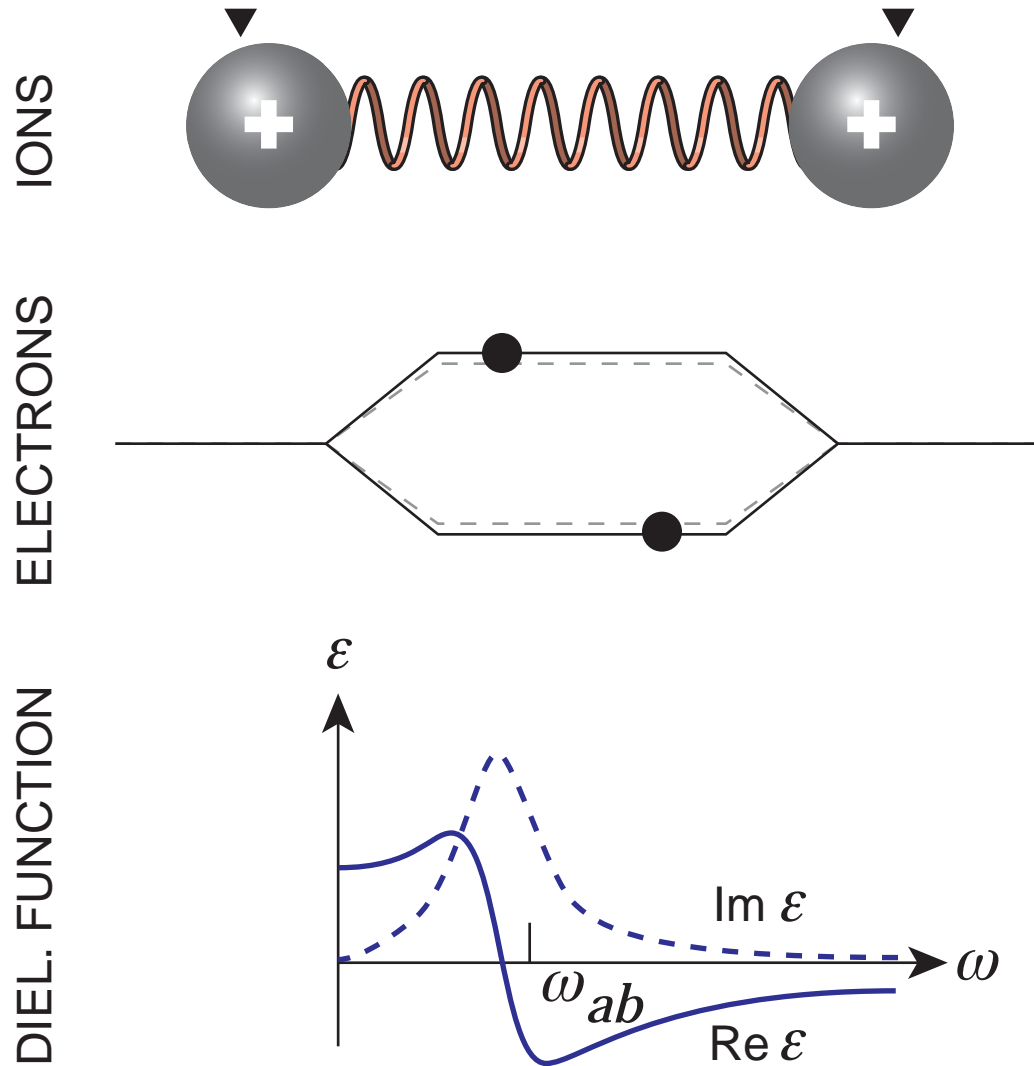
... and red-shifting the dielectric function

Displacive excitation



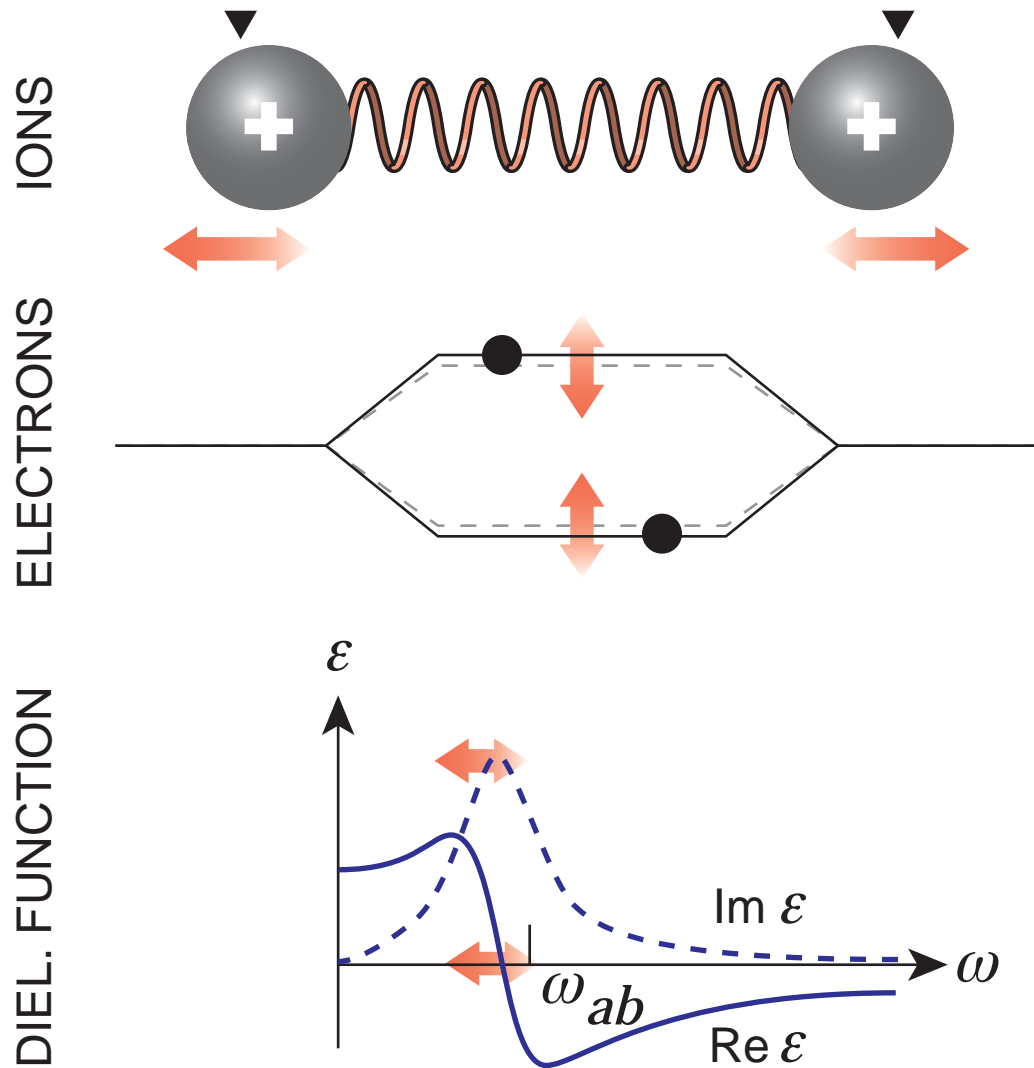
ions overshoot equilibrium position...

Displacive excitation



... reversing travel and overshooting again

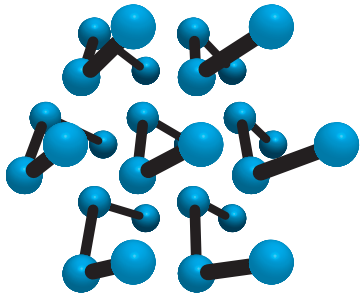
Displacive excitation



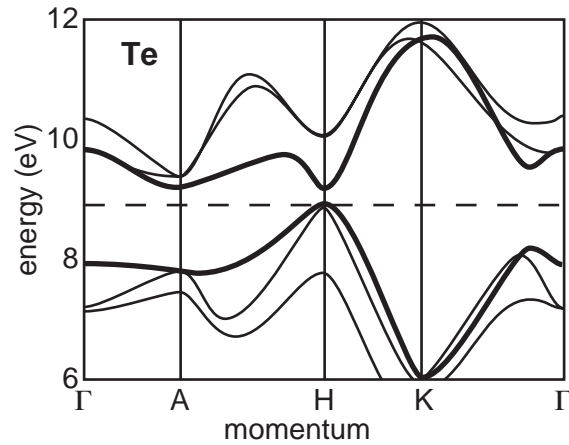
oscillation around "displaced" equilibrium position

Displacive excitation

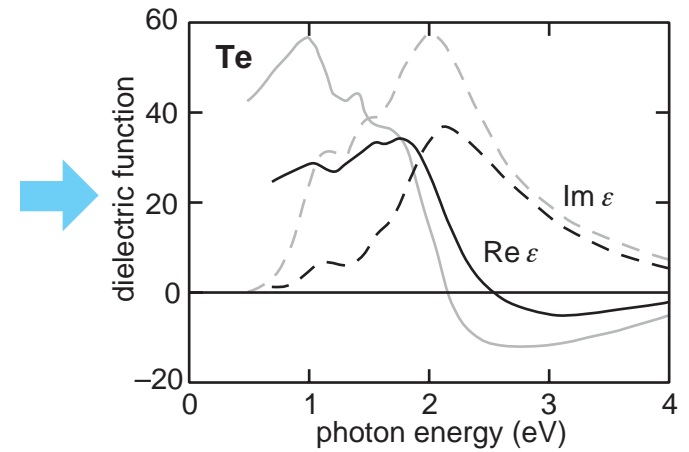
structure



band structure

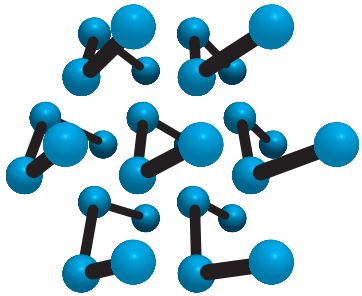


dielectric function

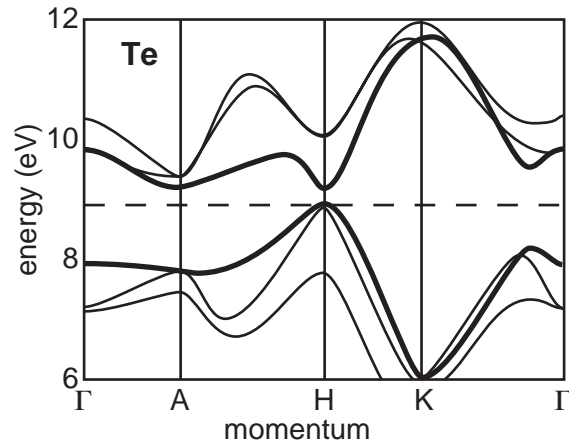


Displacive excitation

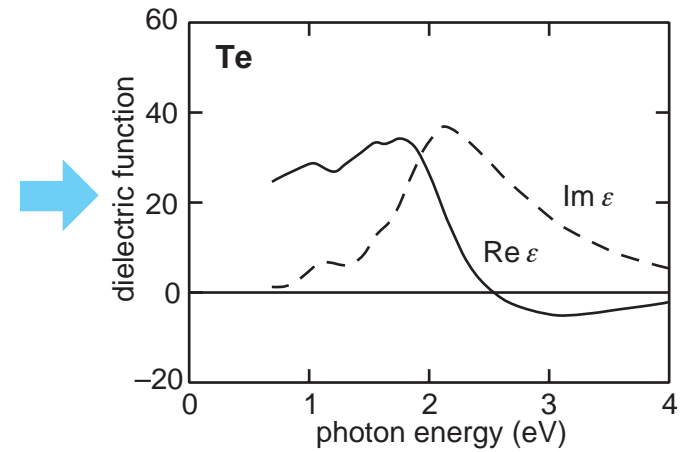
structure



band structure

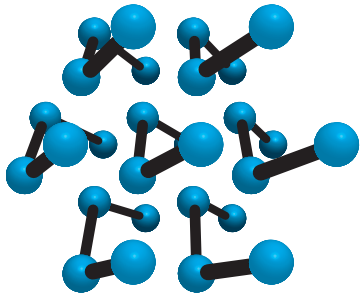


dielectric function

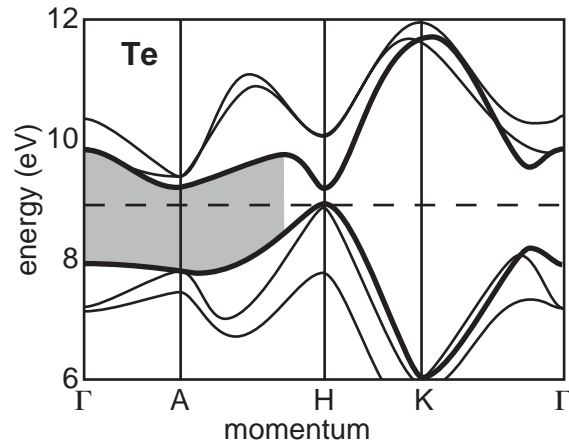


Displacive excitation

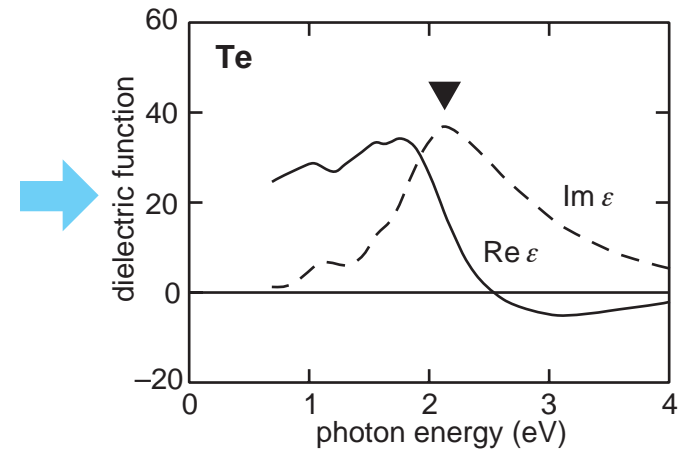
structure



band structure

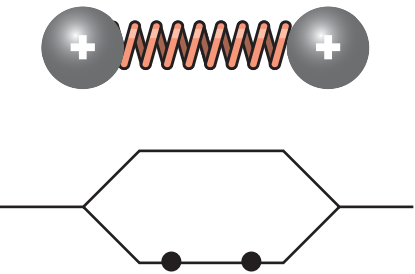


dielectric function

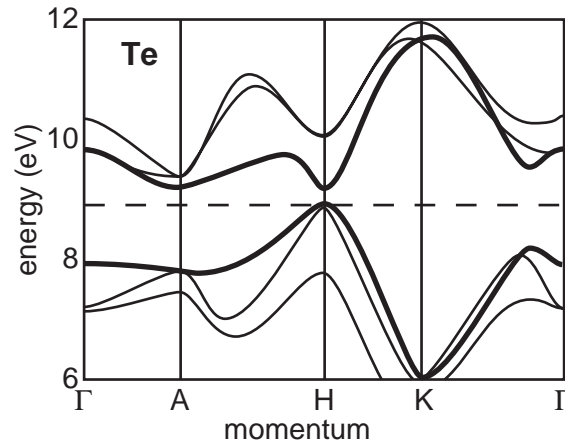


Displacive excitation

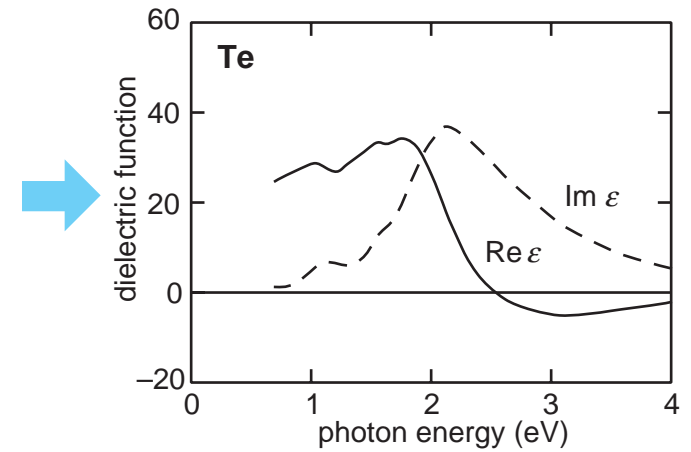
two-atom model



band structure

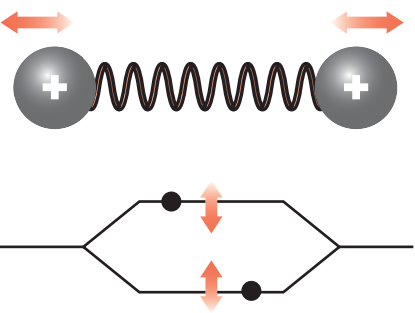


dielectric function

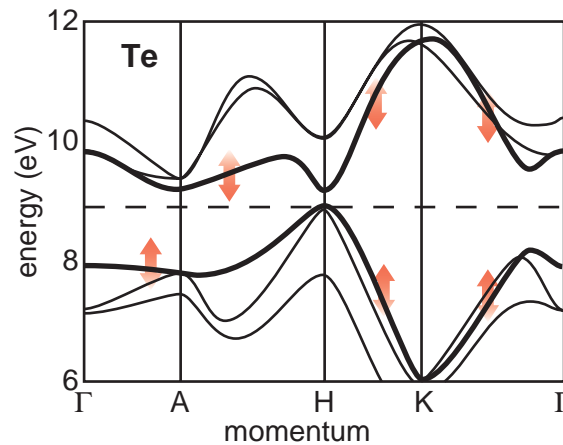


Displacive excitation

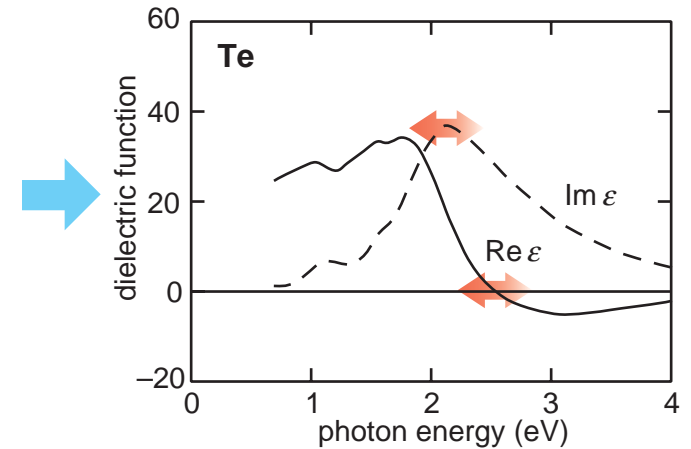
two-atom model



band structure



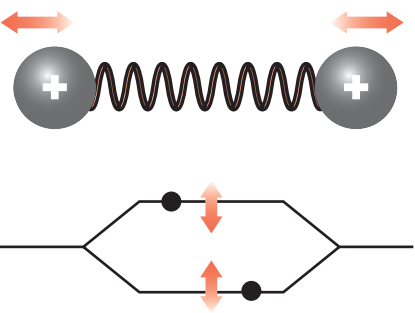
dielectric function



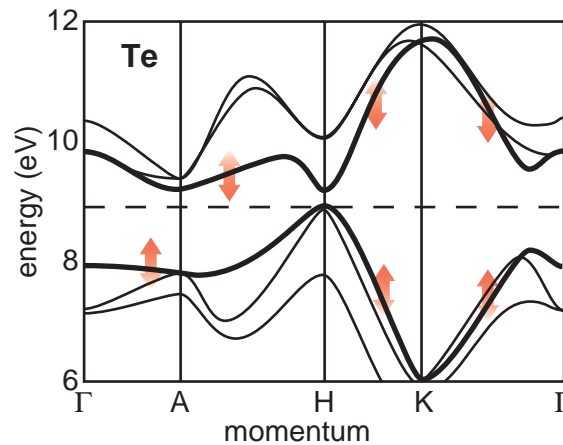
red-shift followed by oscillation

Displacive excitation

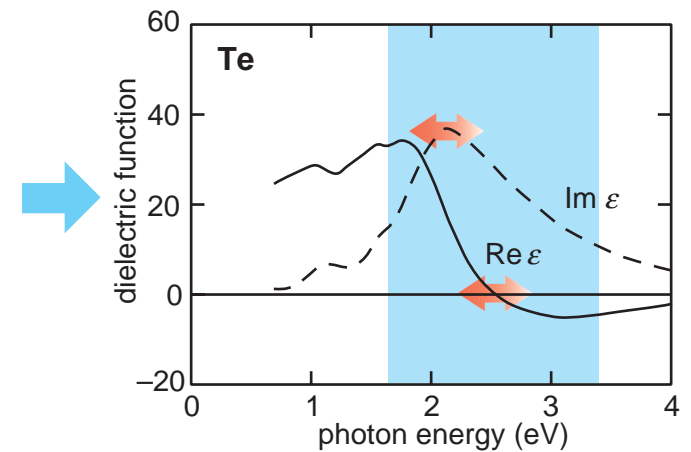
two-atom model



band structure

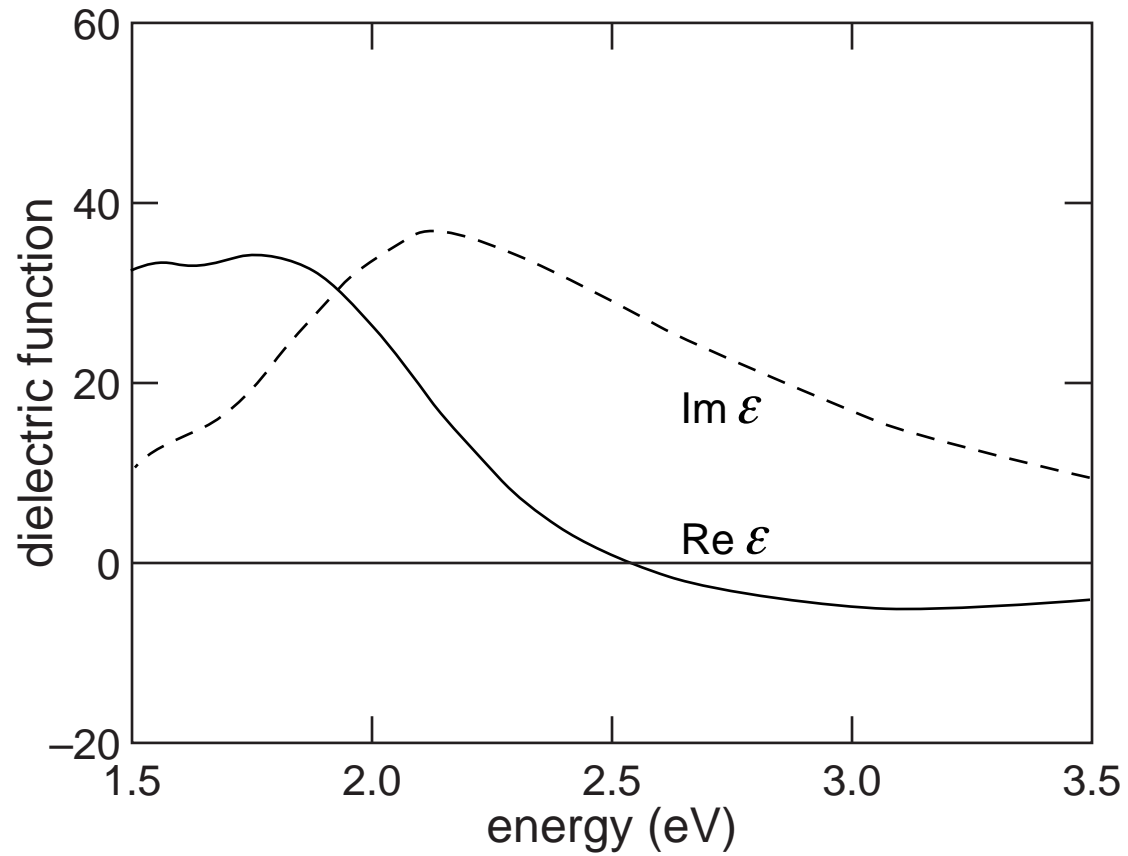


dielectric function

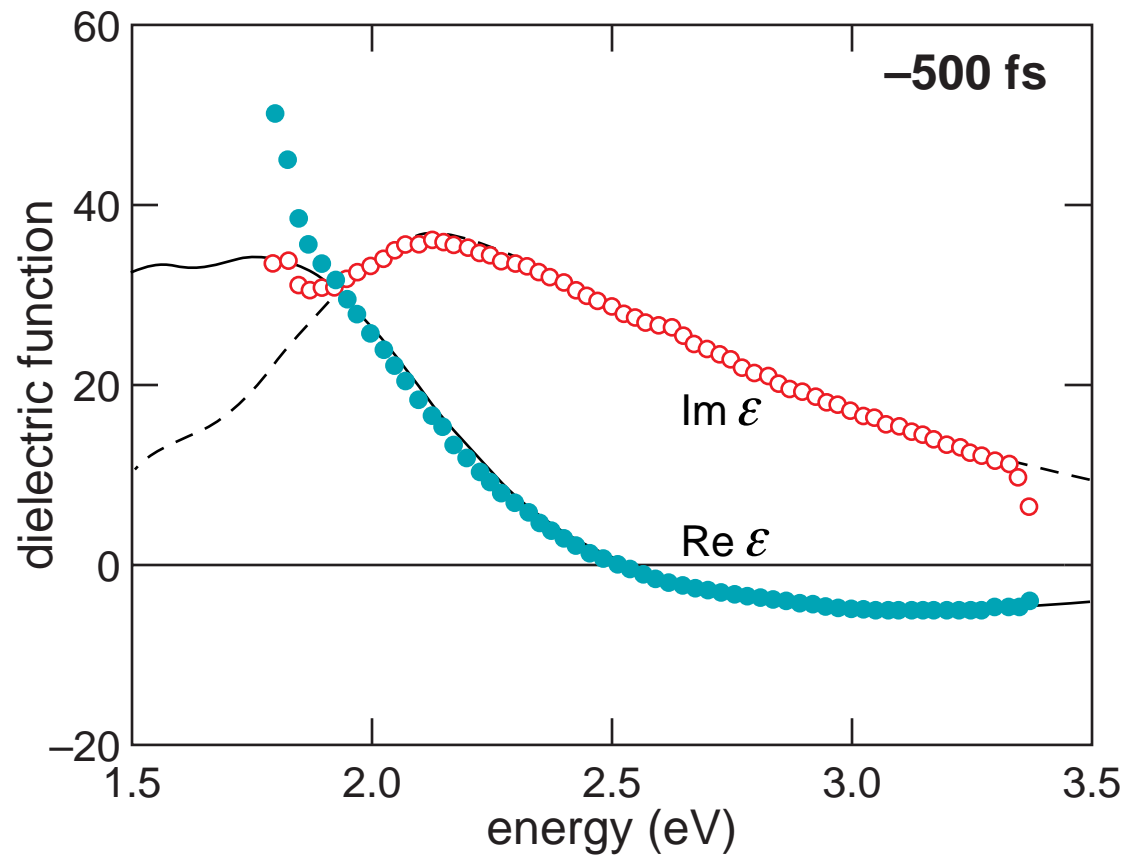


red-shift followed by oscillation

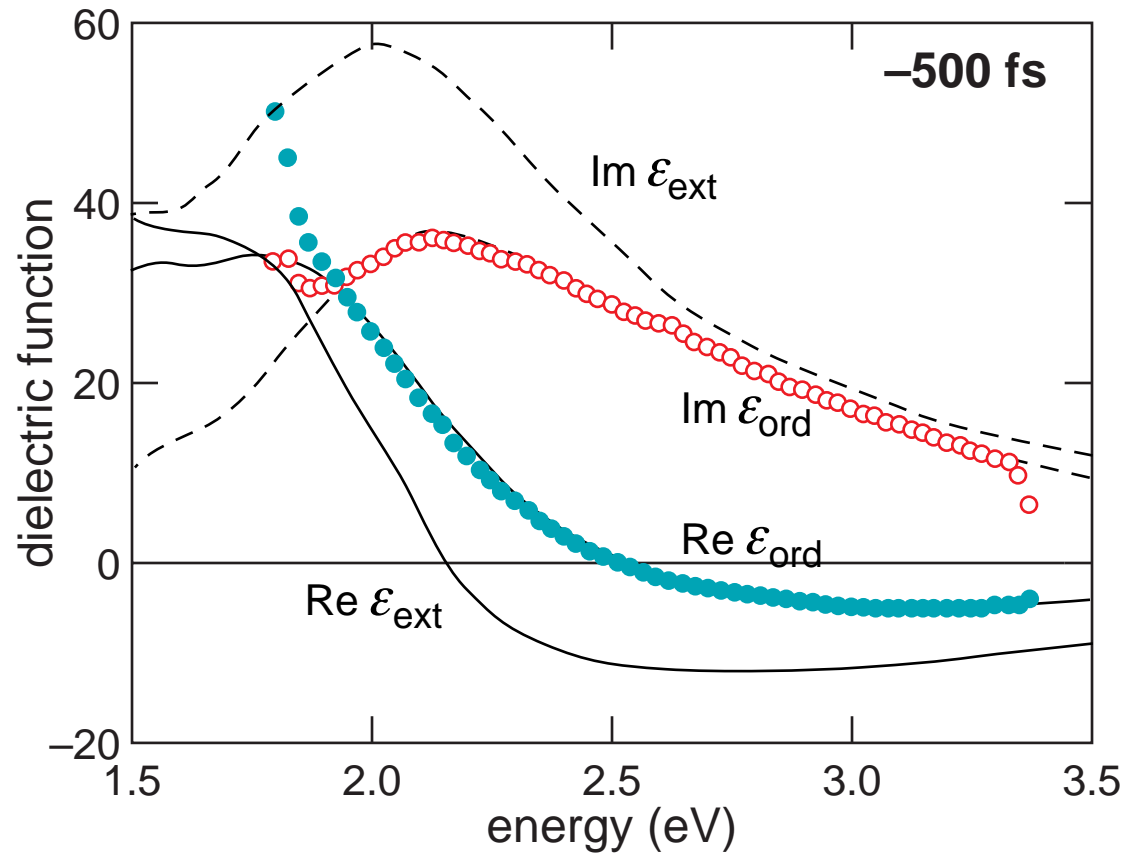
Results



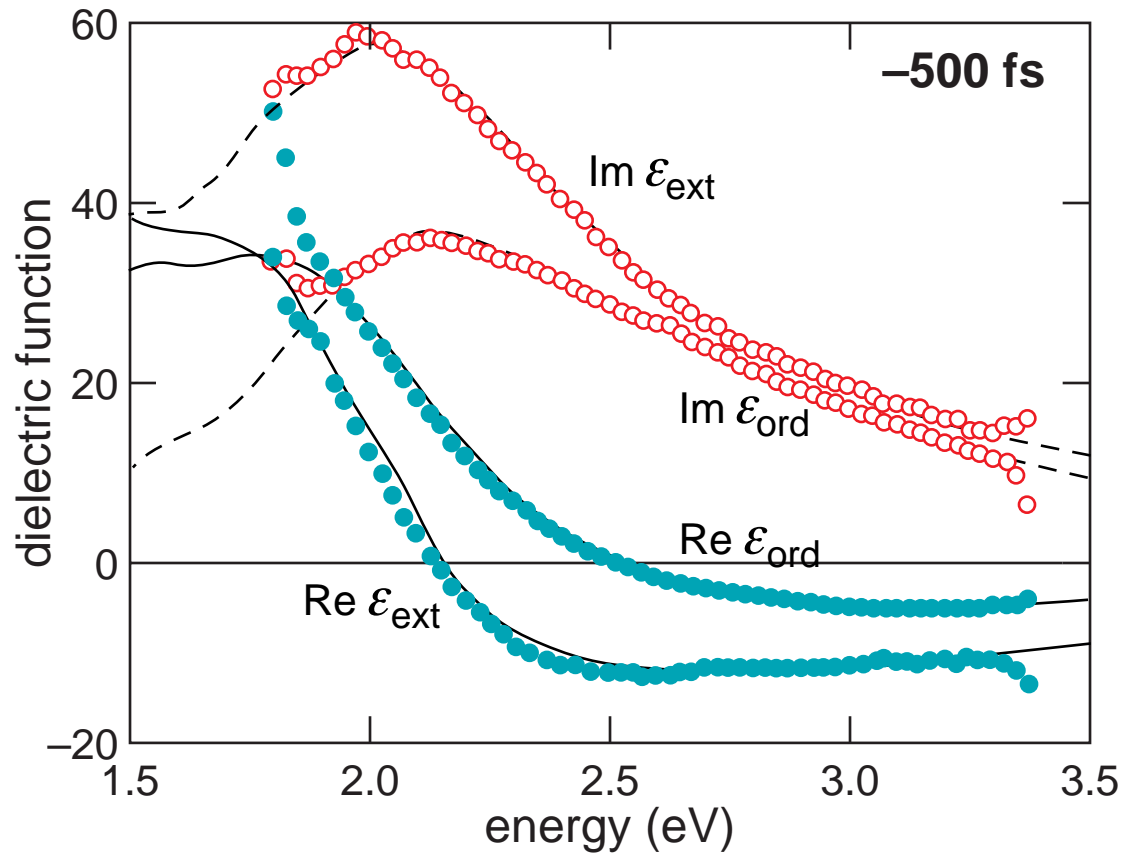
Results



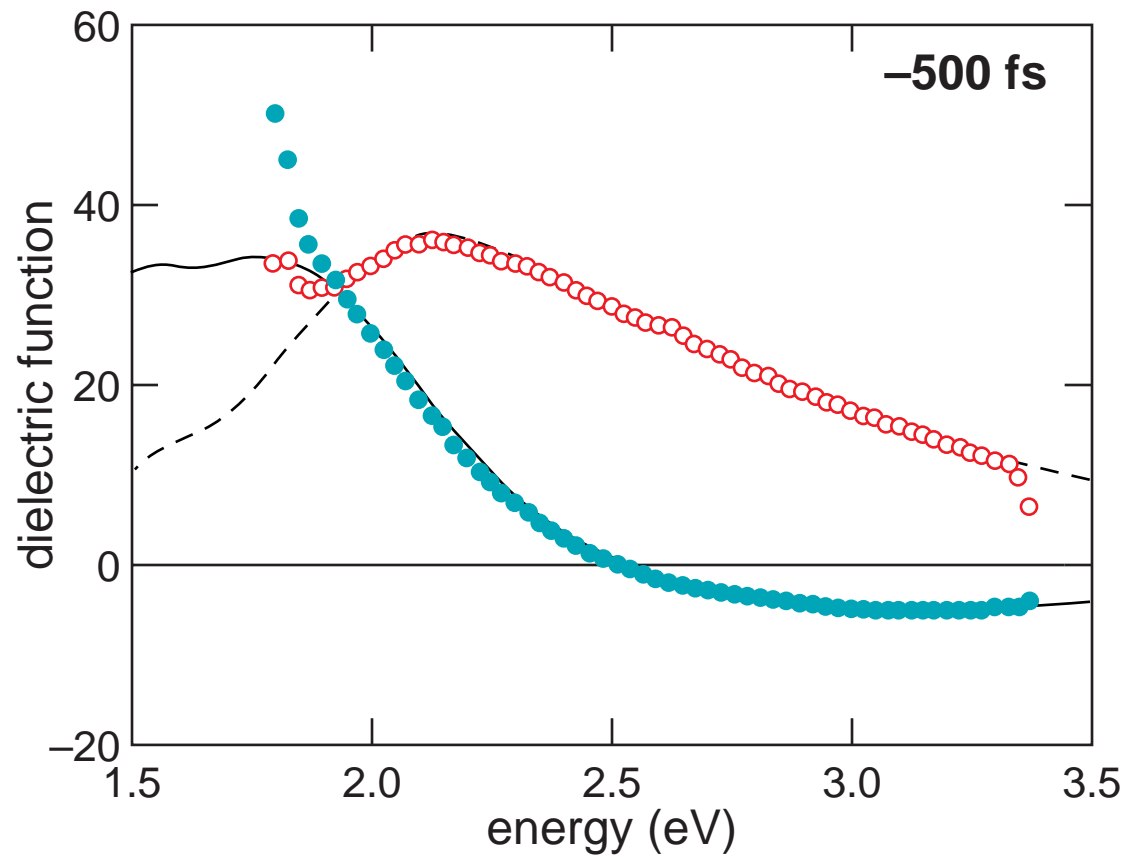
Results



Results

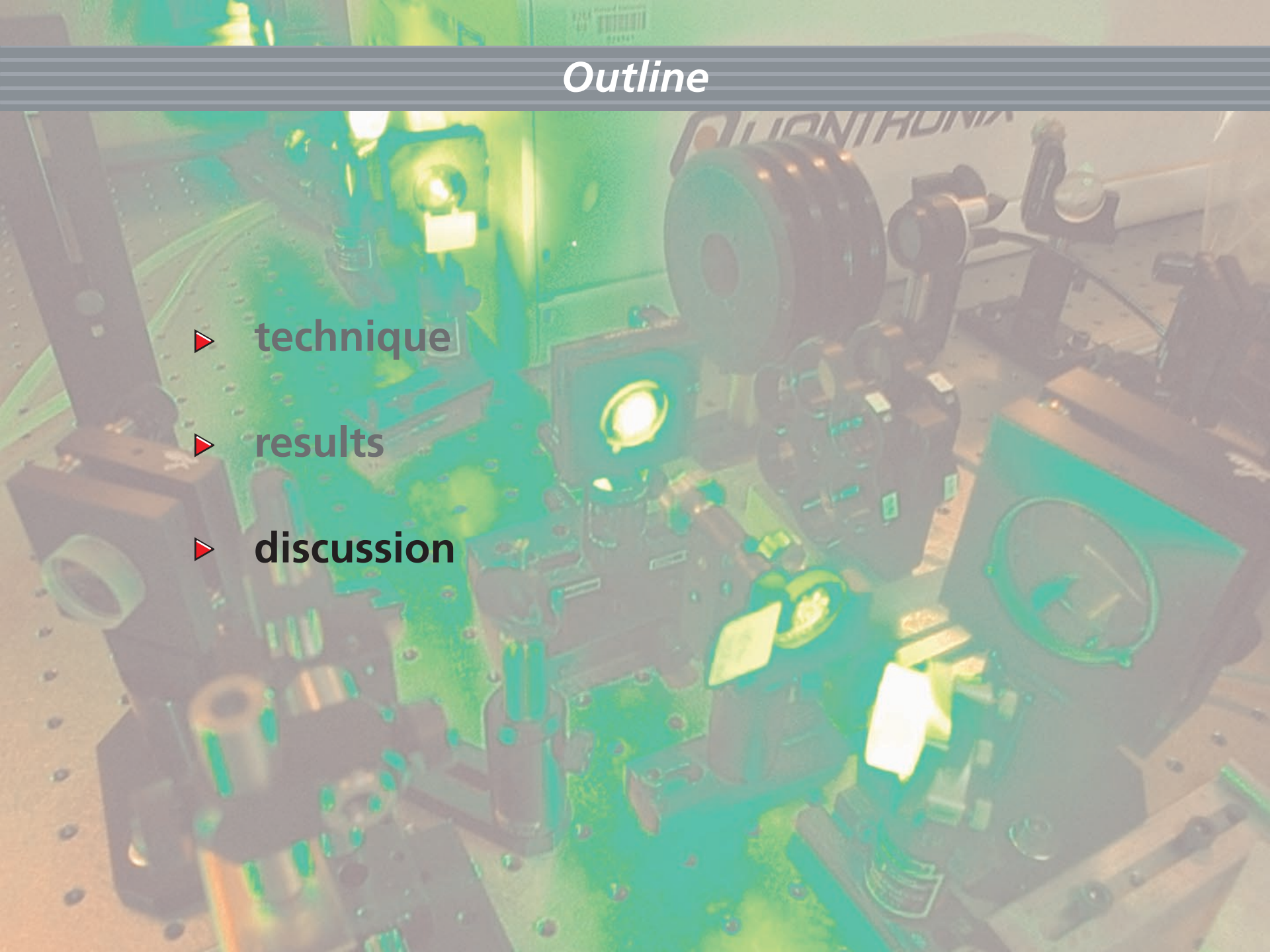


Results

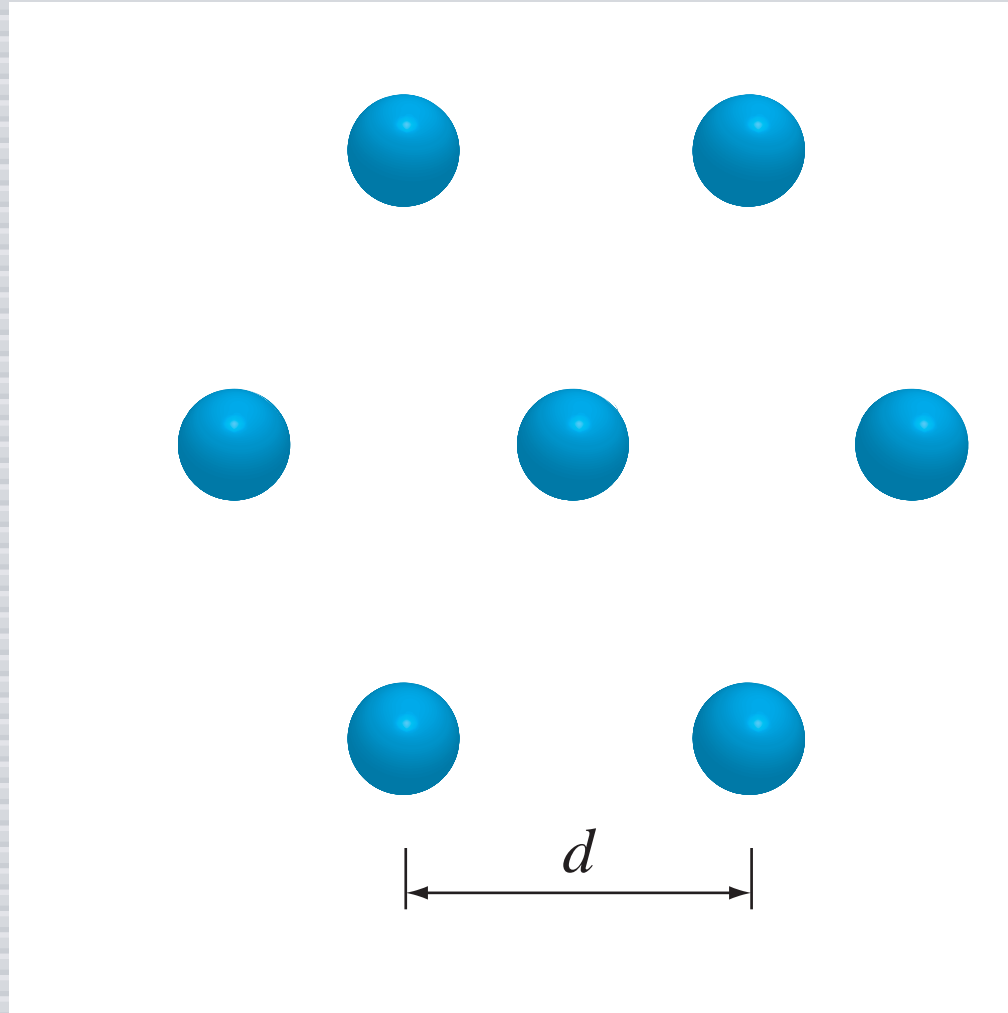


Outline

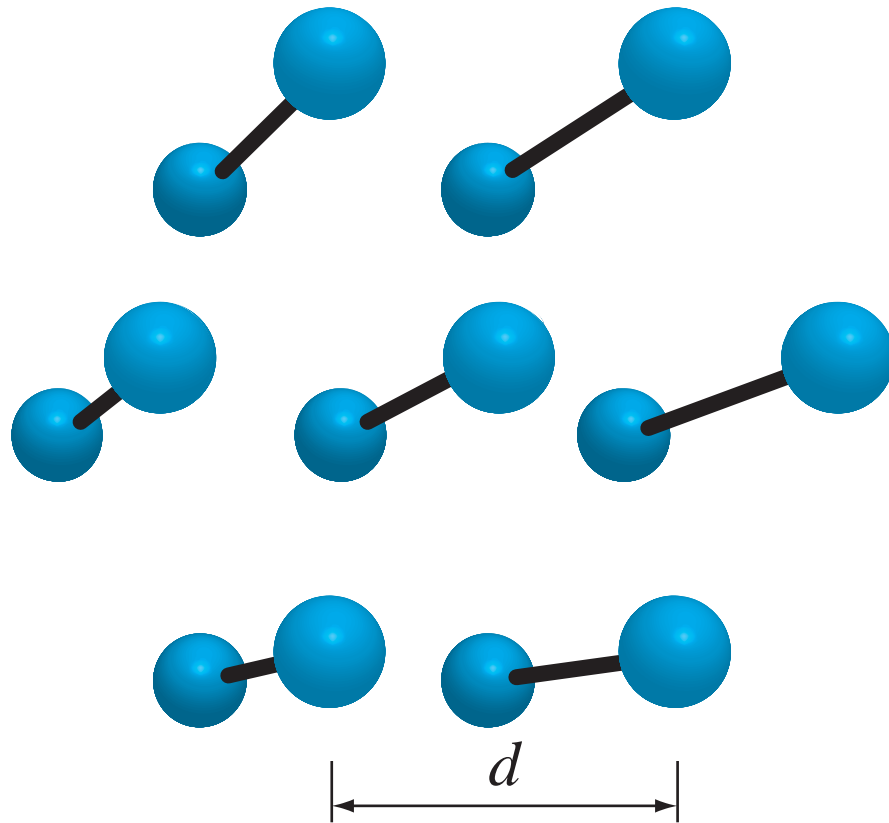
- ▶ **technique**
- ▶ **results**
- ▶ **discussion**



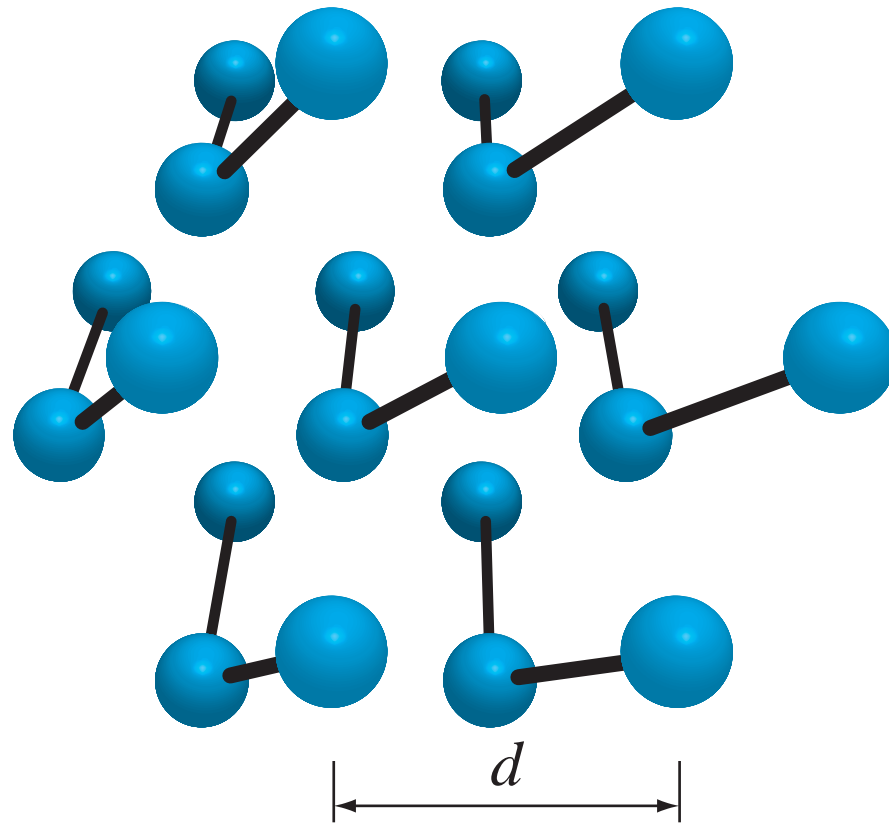
Tellurium structure



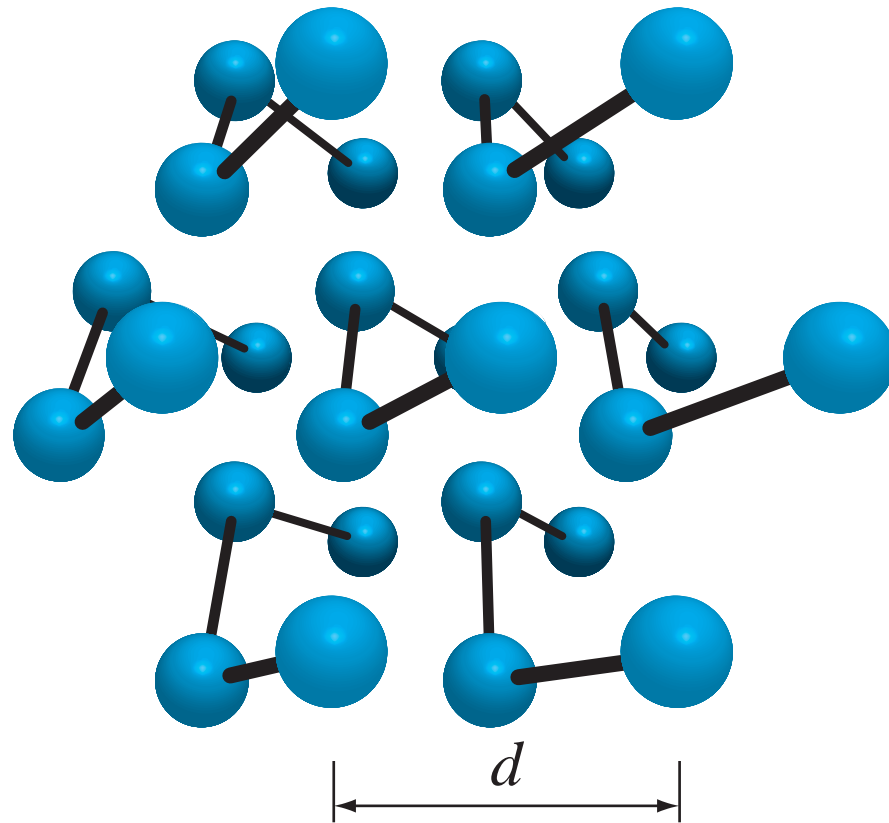
Tellurium structure



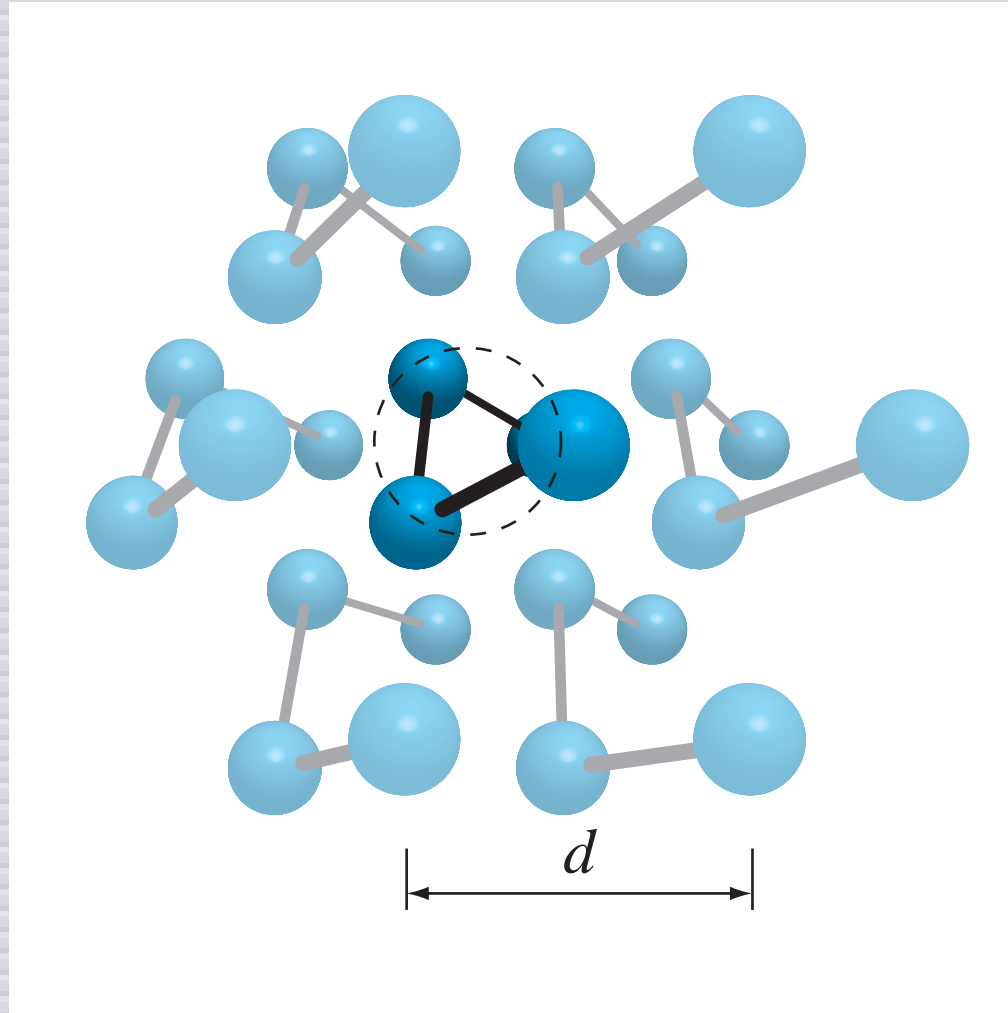
Tellurium structure



Tellurium structure

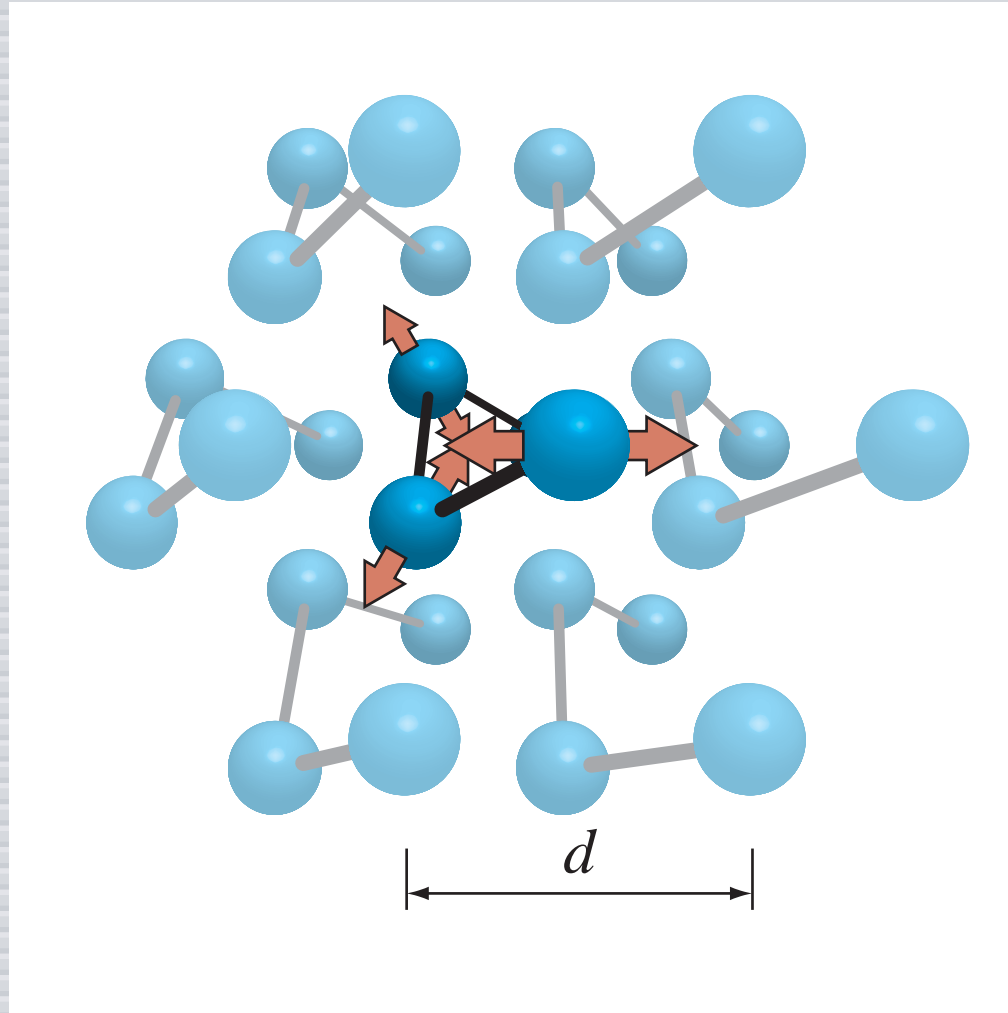


Tellurium structure



helical radius $x = 0.26d$

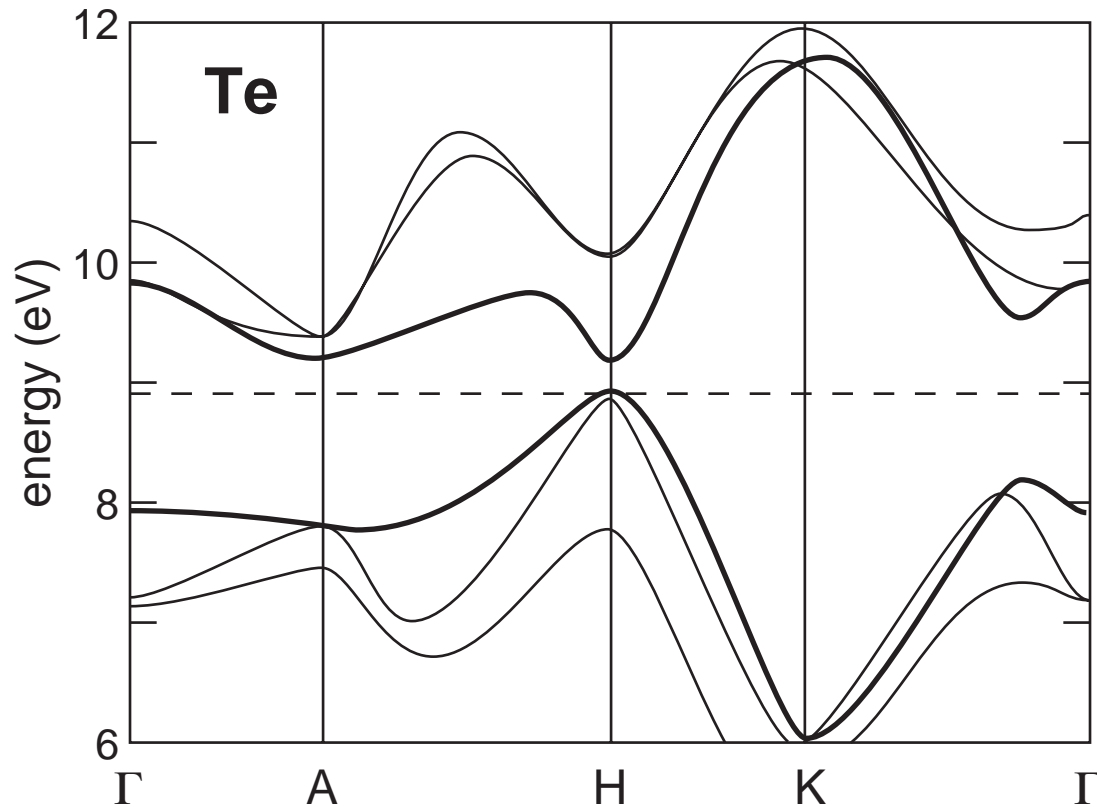
Tellurium structure



A_1 mode modulates x

Tellurium band structure

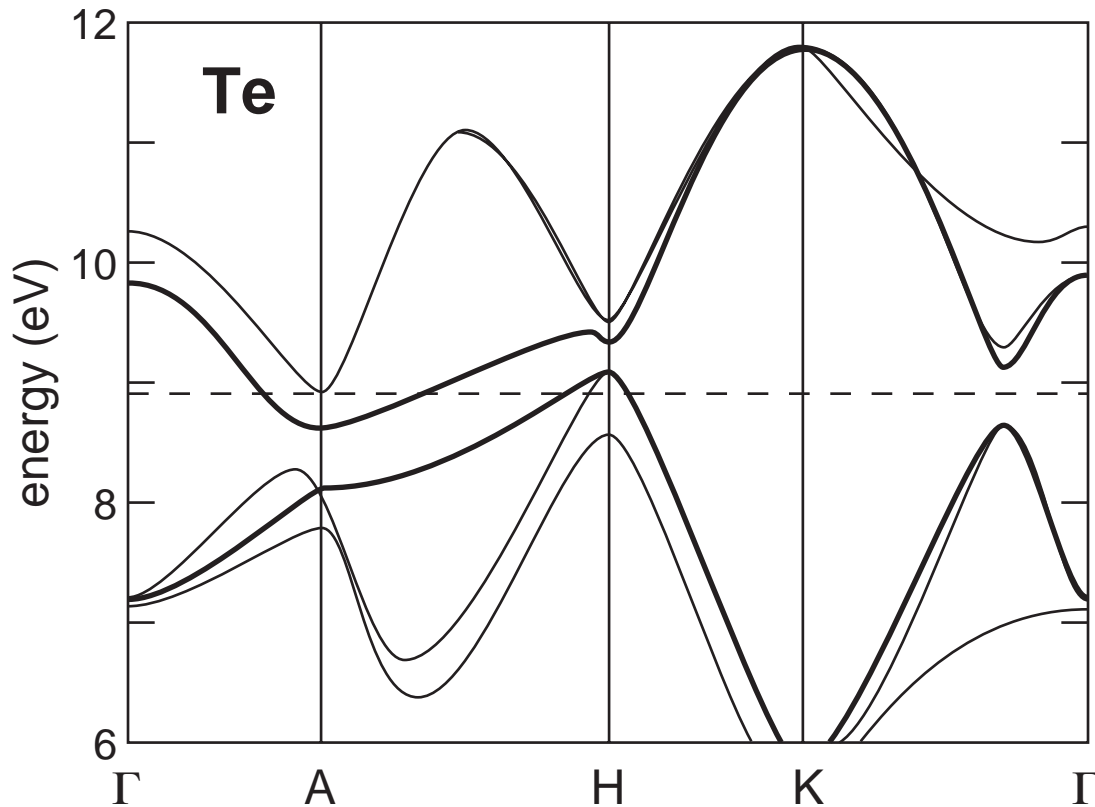
band structure very sensitive to x



P. Tangney (Princeton) and S. Fahey (Cork), *private communication*

Tellurium band structure

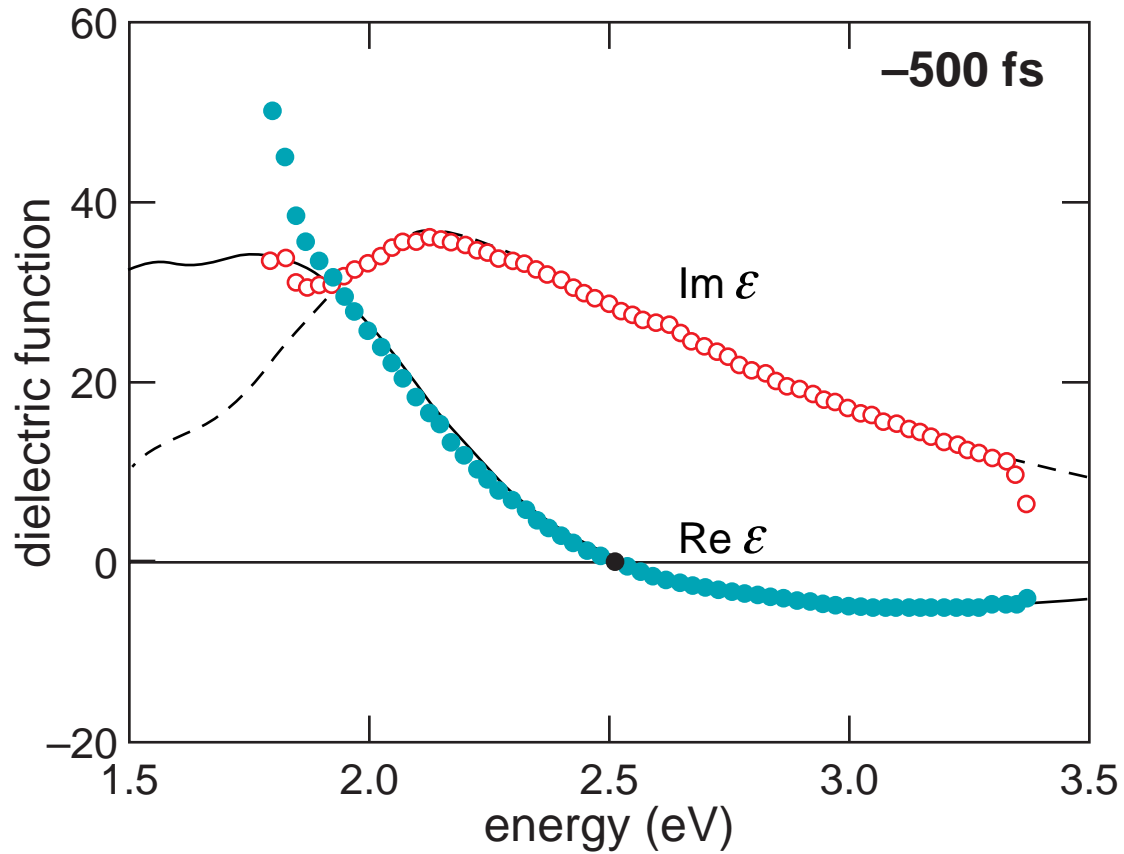
bands cross when x changes by 6%



P. Tangney (Princeton) and S. Fahey (Cork), *private communication*

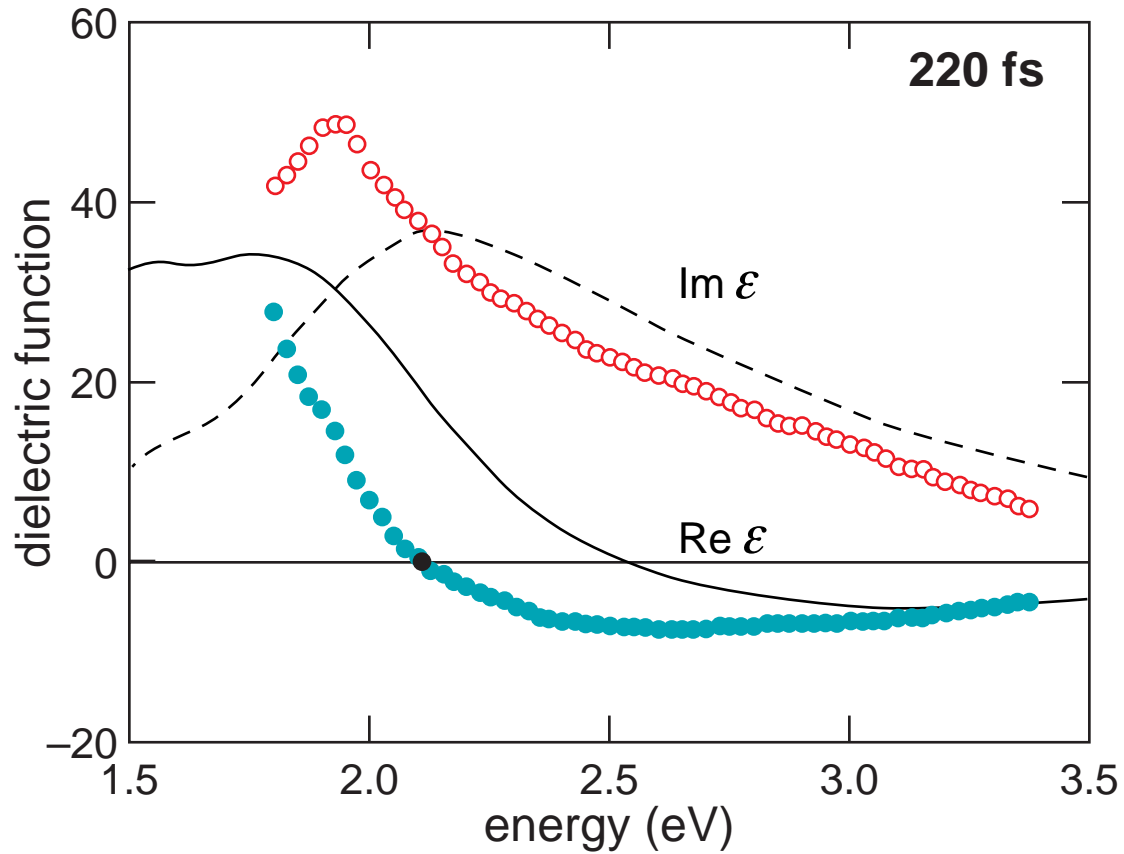
Discussion

track zero-crossing of real part



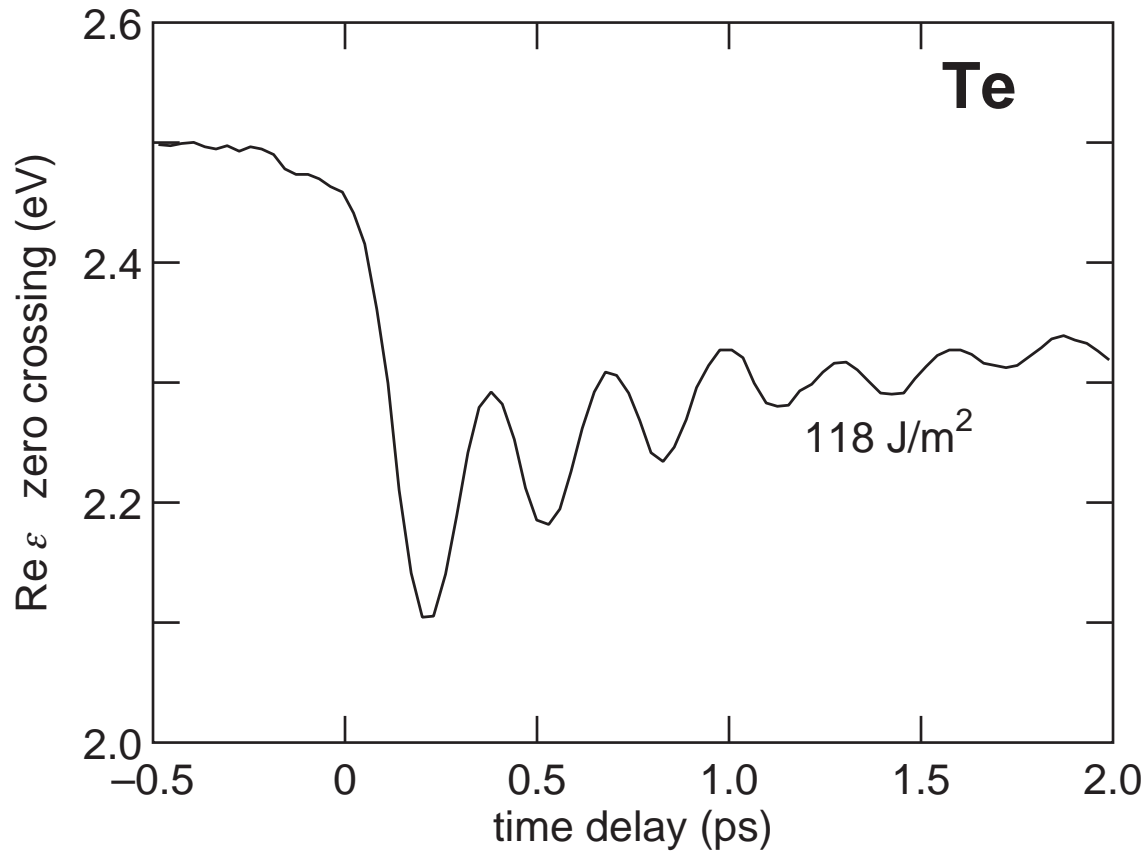
Discussion

track zero-crossing of real part



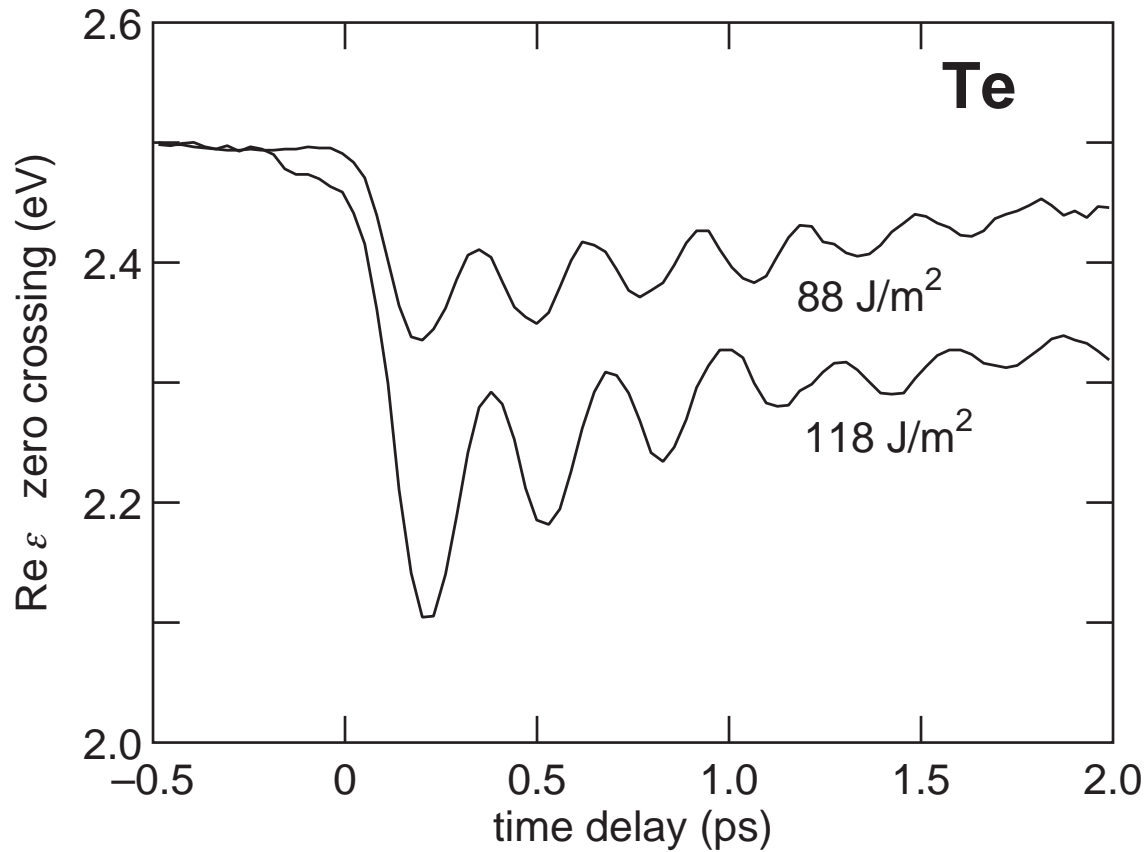
Discussion

track zero-crossing of real part



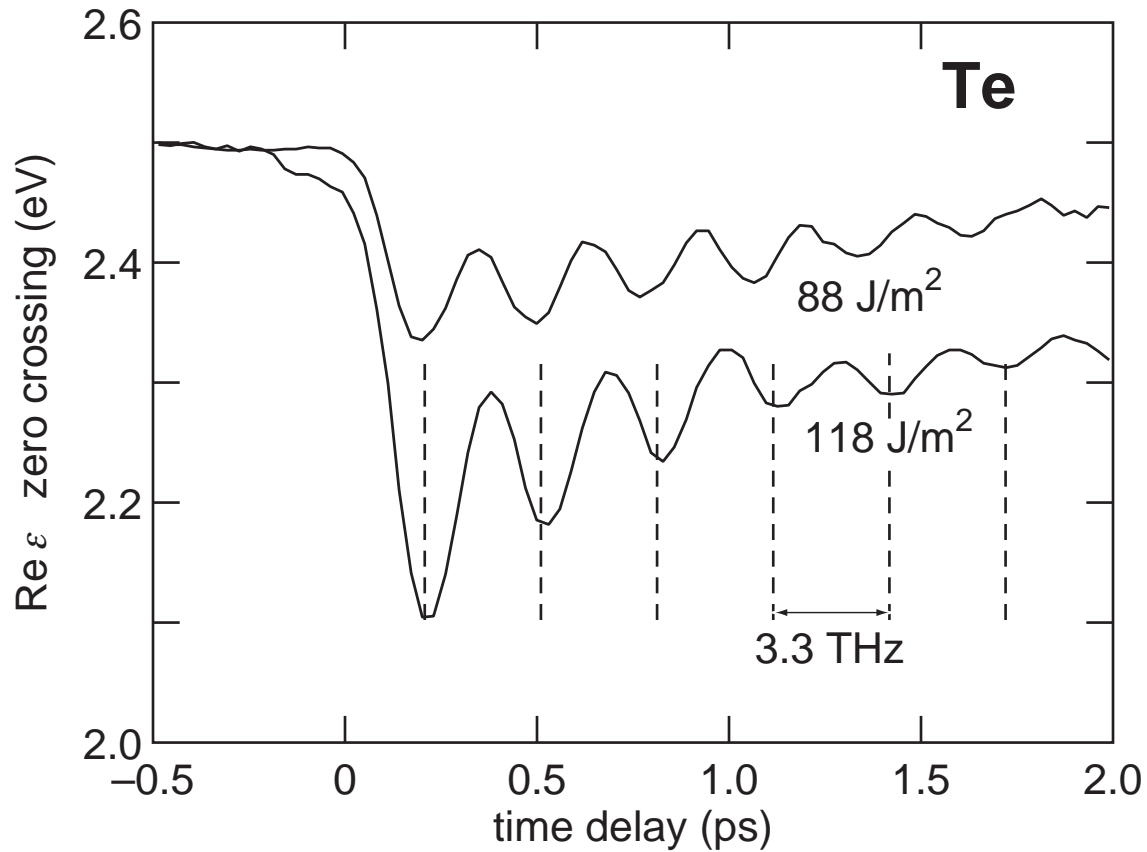
Discussion

higher fluence: larger amplitude oscillations



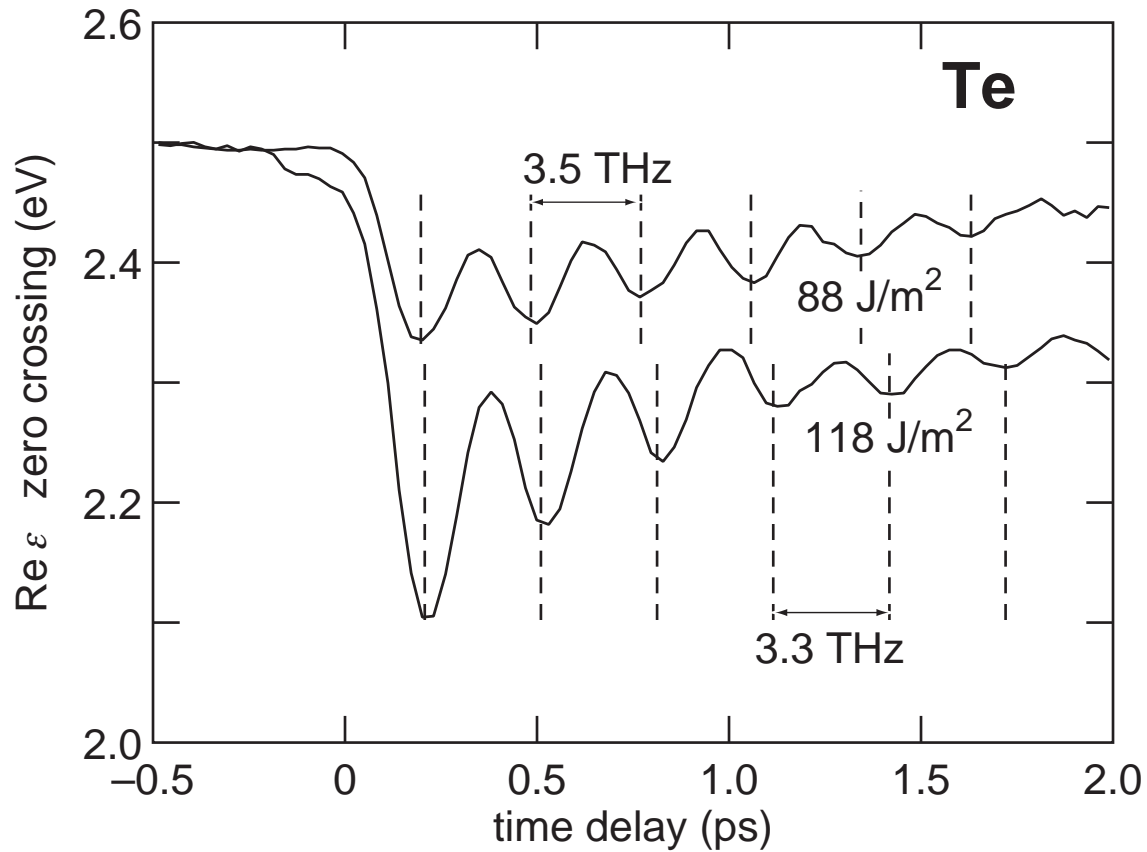
Discussion

frequency less than 3.6 THz equilibrium value



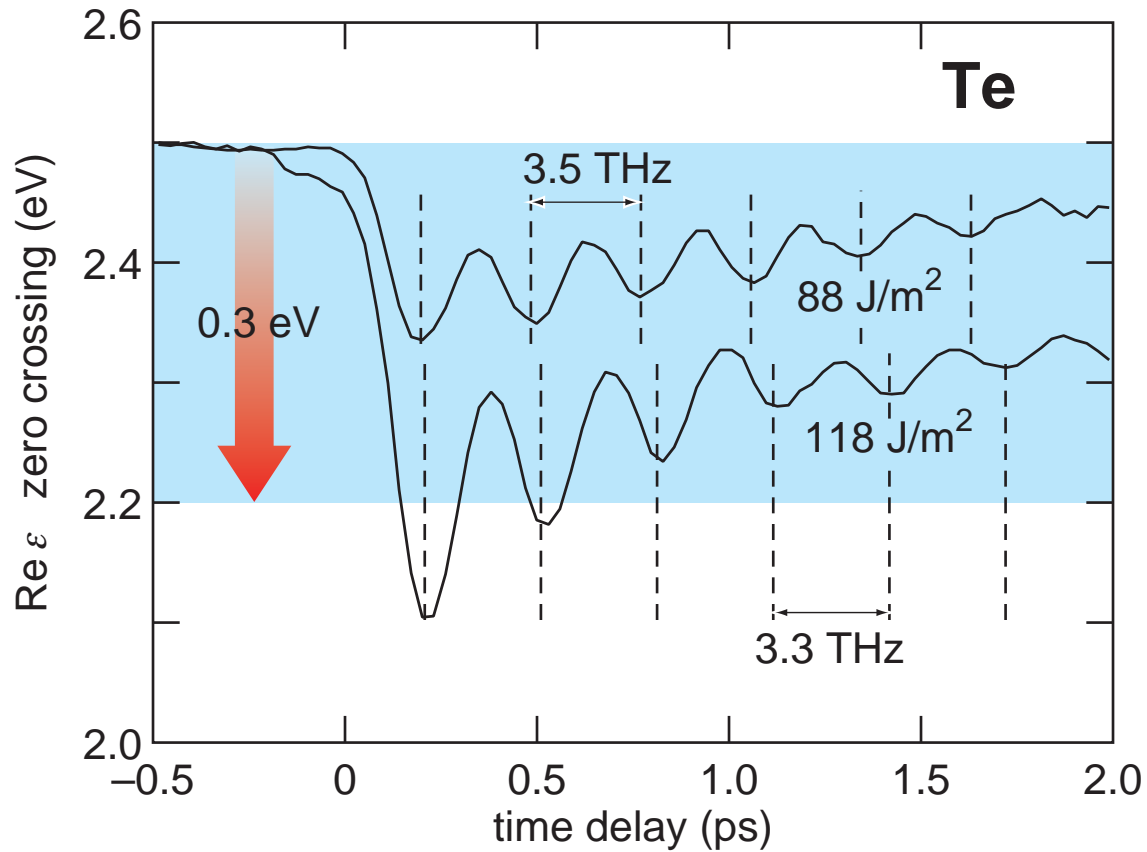
Discussion

softening of phonon mode



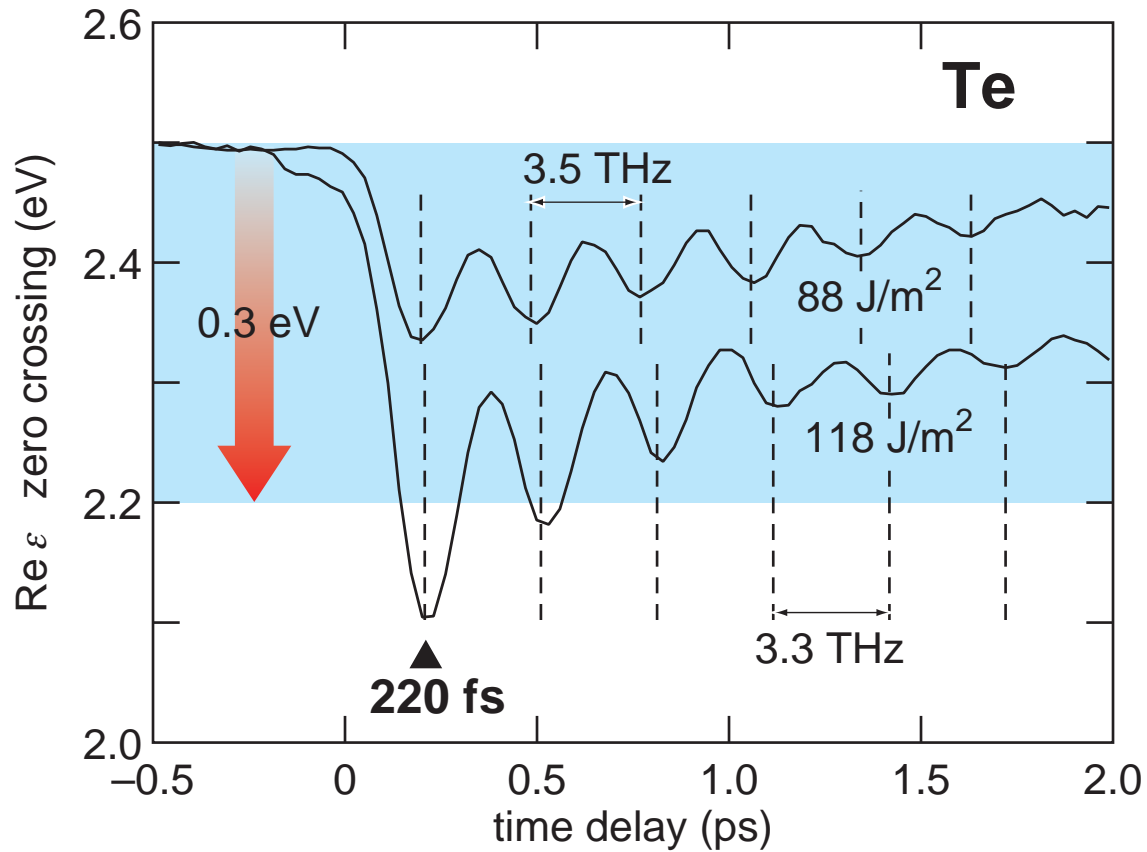
Discussion

compare shift to band gap



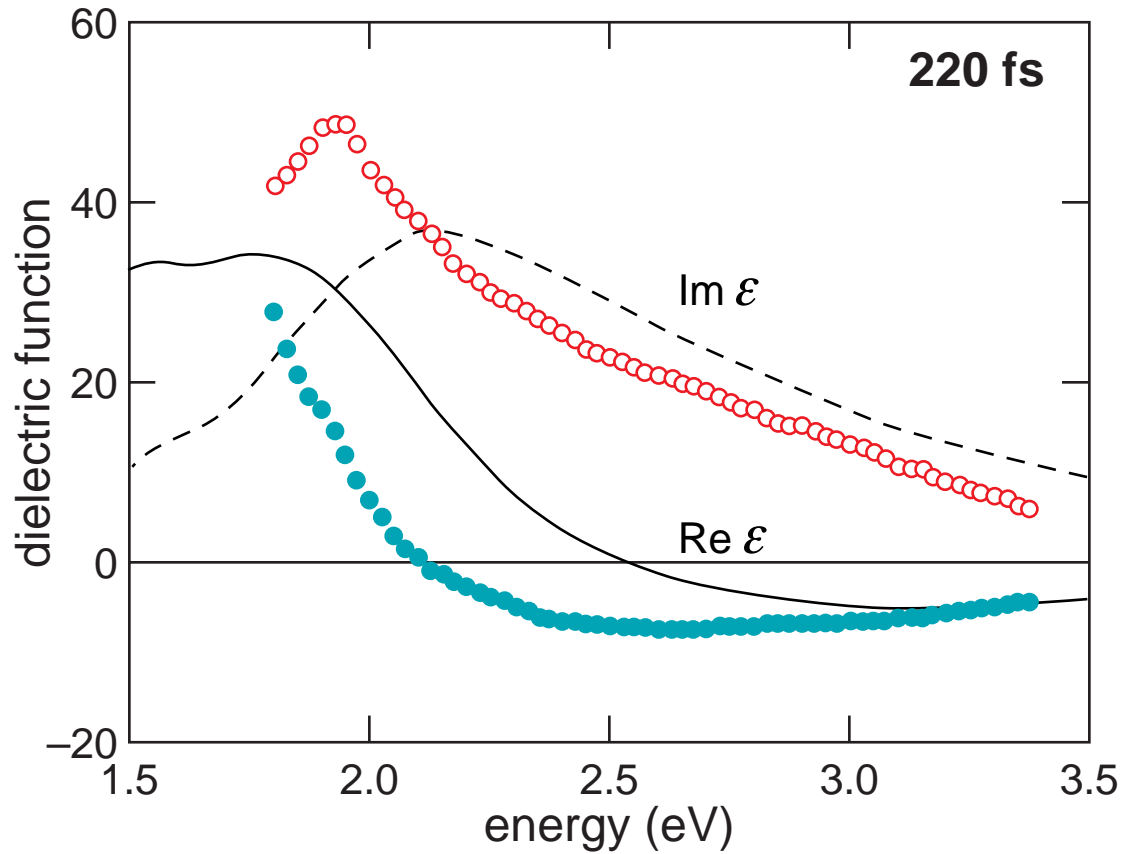
Discussion

shift exceeds band gap at 220 fs...

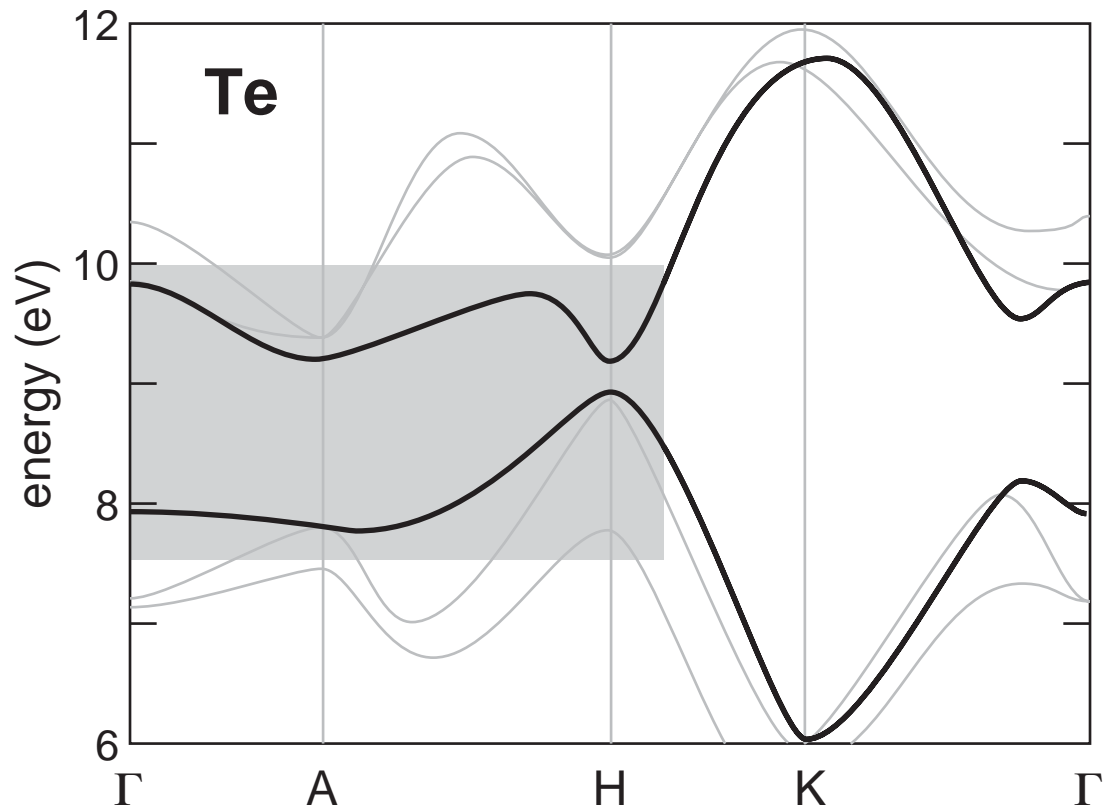


Discussion

... but dielectric function non-metallic!

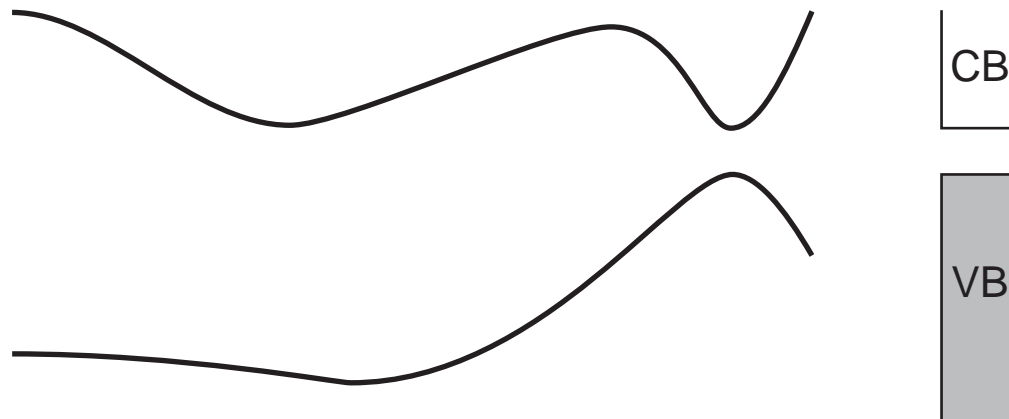


Discussion



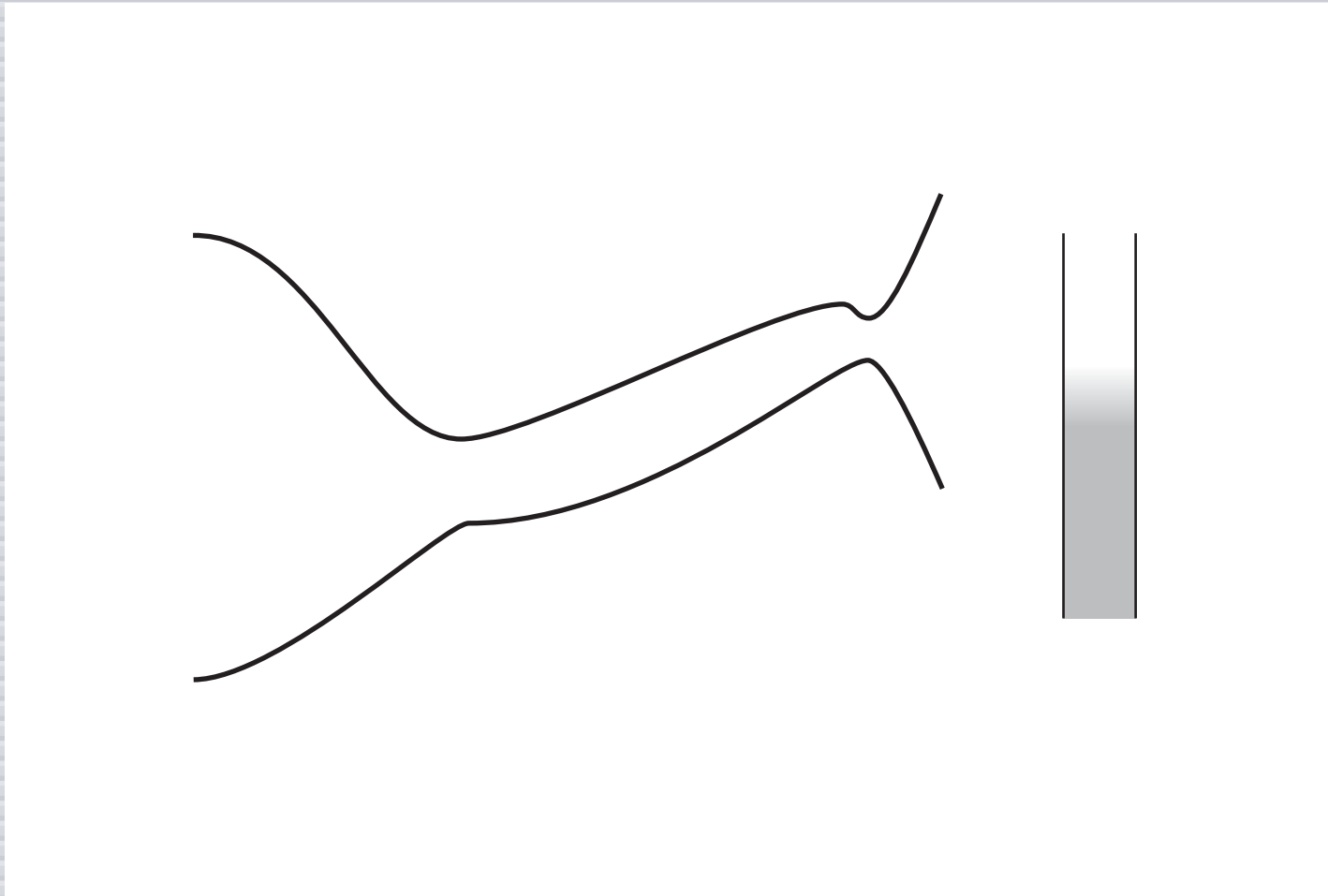
Discussion

semiconducting because of 0.3 eV gap



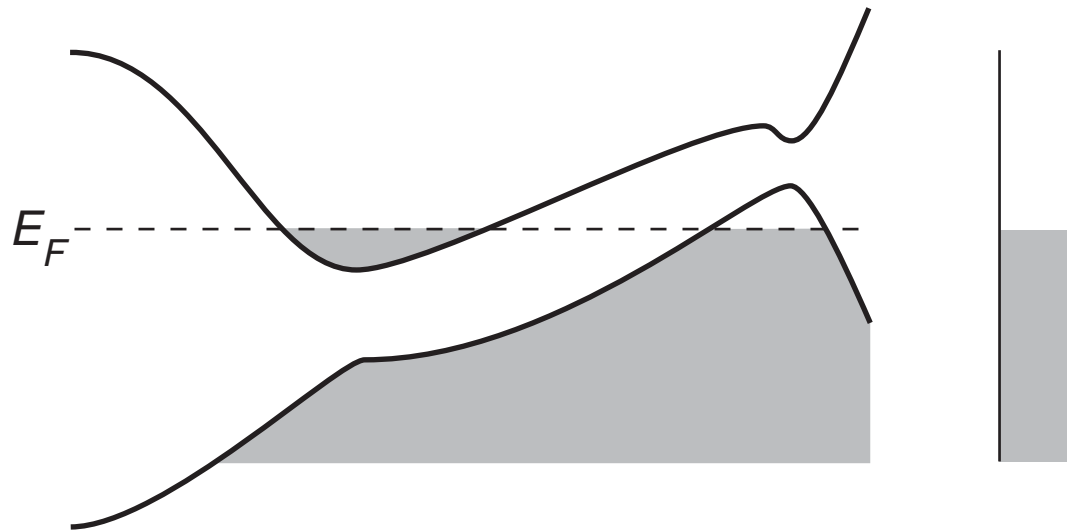
Discussion

after bands cross...



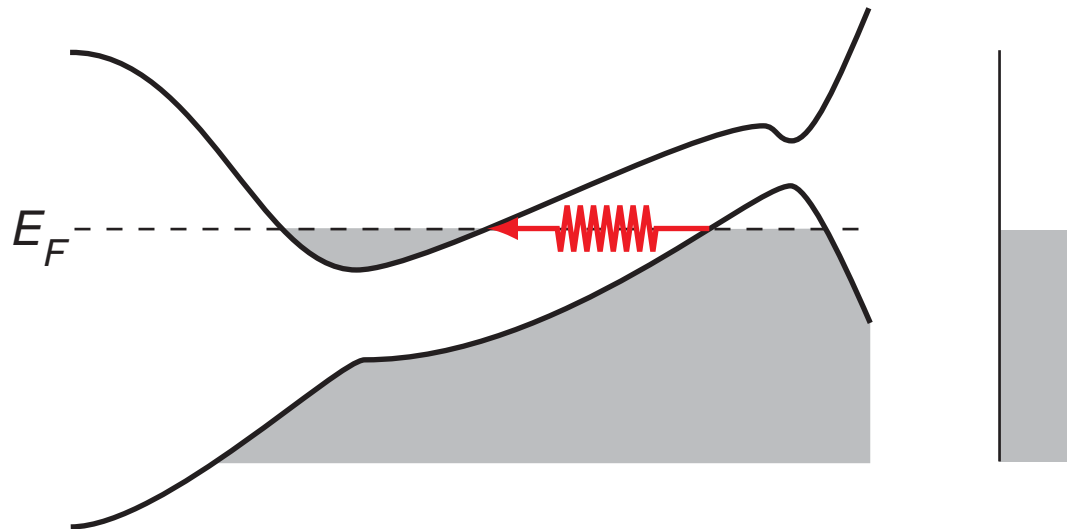
Discussion

... tellurium can become metallic...



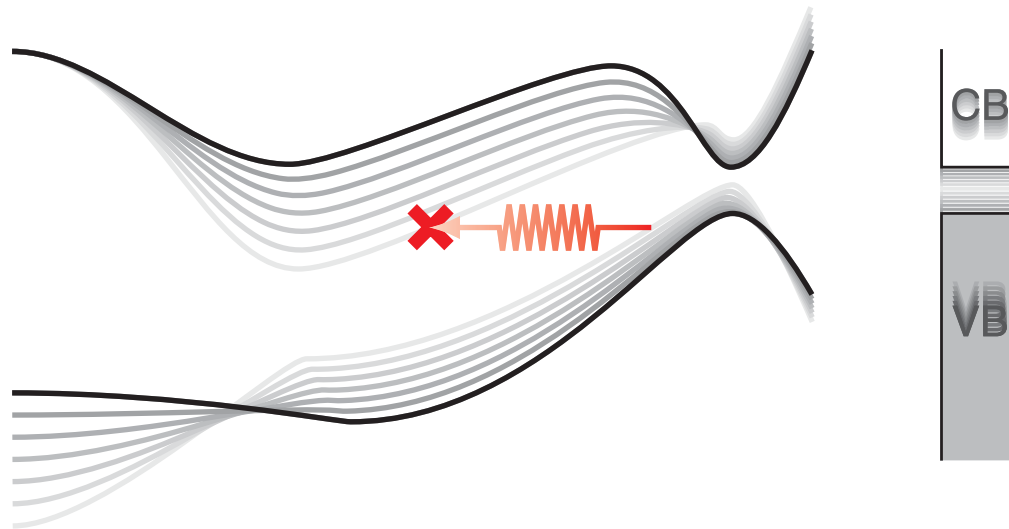
Discussion

... provided phonons scatter electrons



Discussion

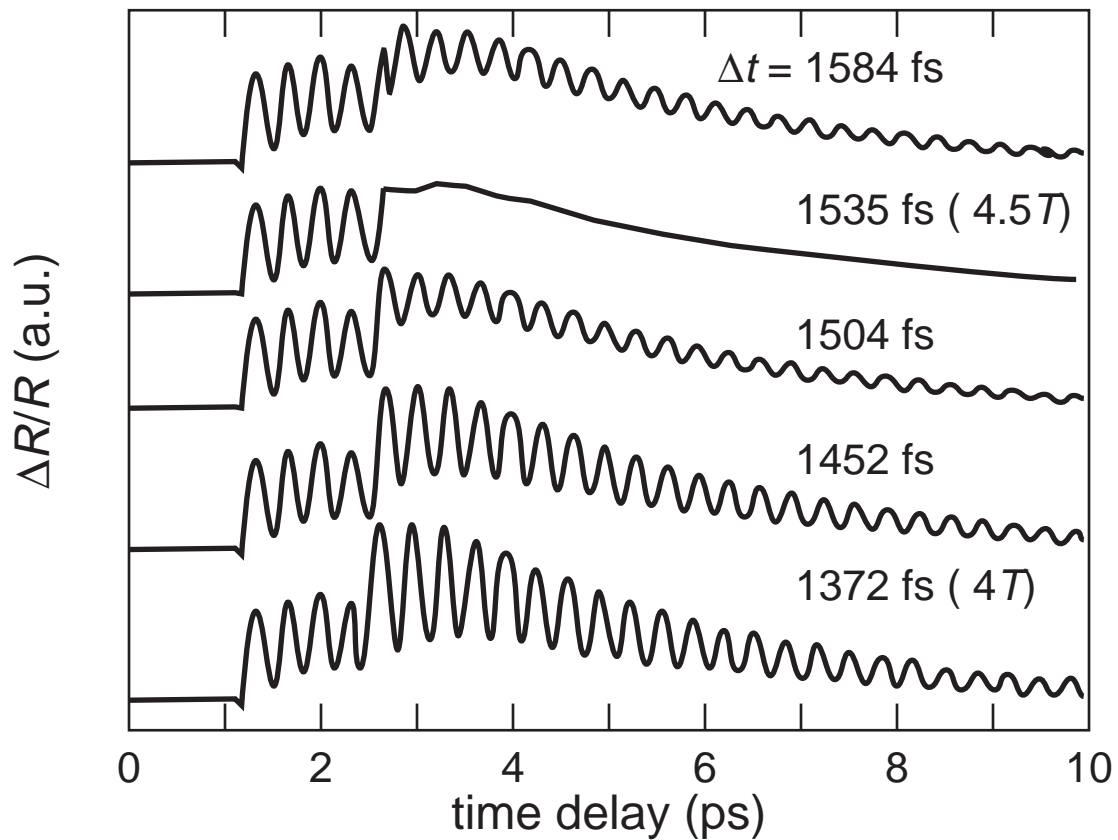
if $\tau_{scatter} > T_{phonon}$, 'frustrated' metal



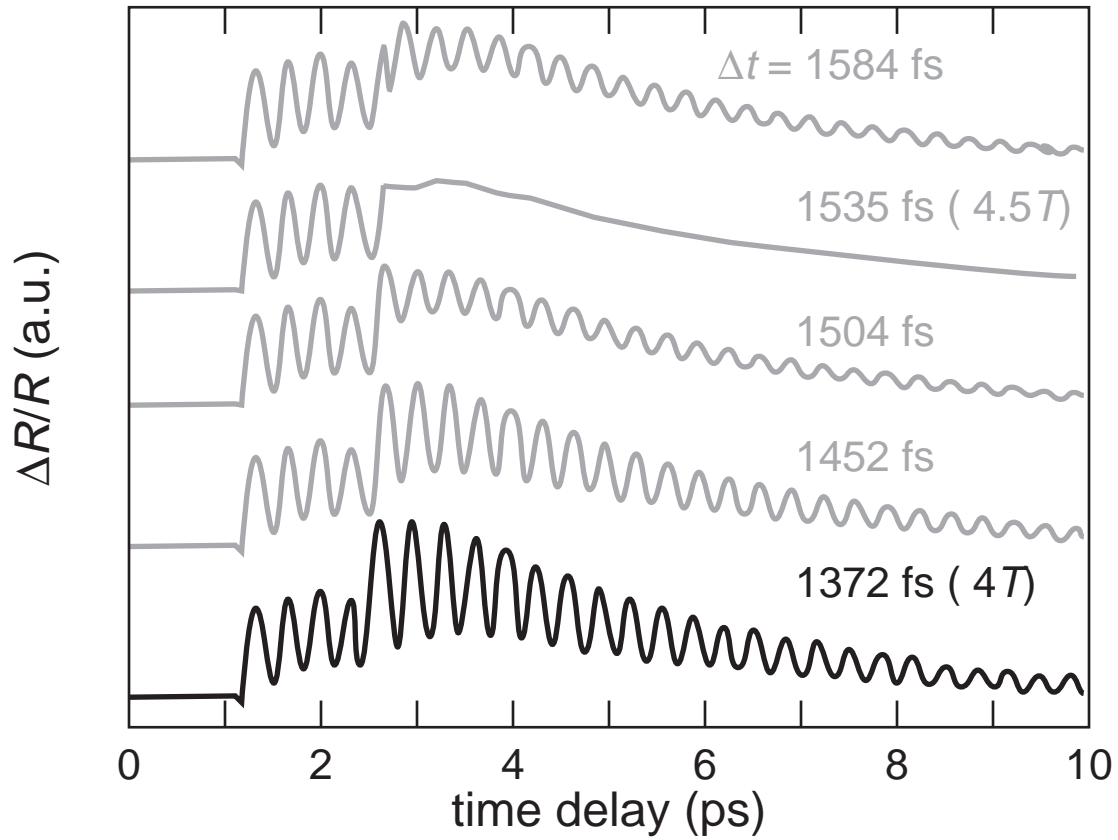
What's next?

- ▶ **larger amplitude phonons**
- ▶ **different materials**
- ▶ **density functional theory modeling**
- ▶ **multiple pulse excitation for coherent control**

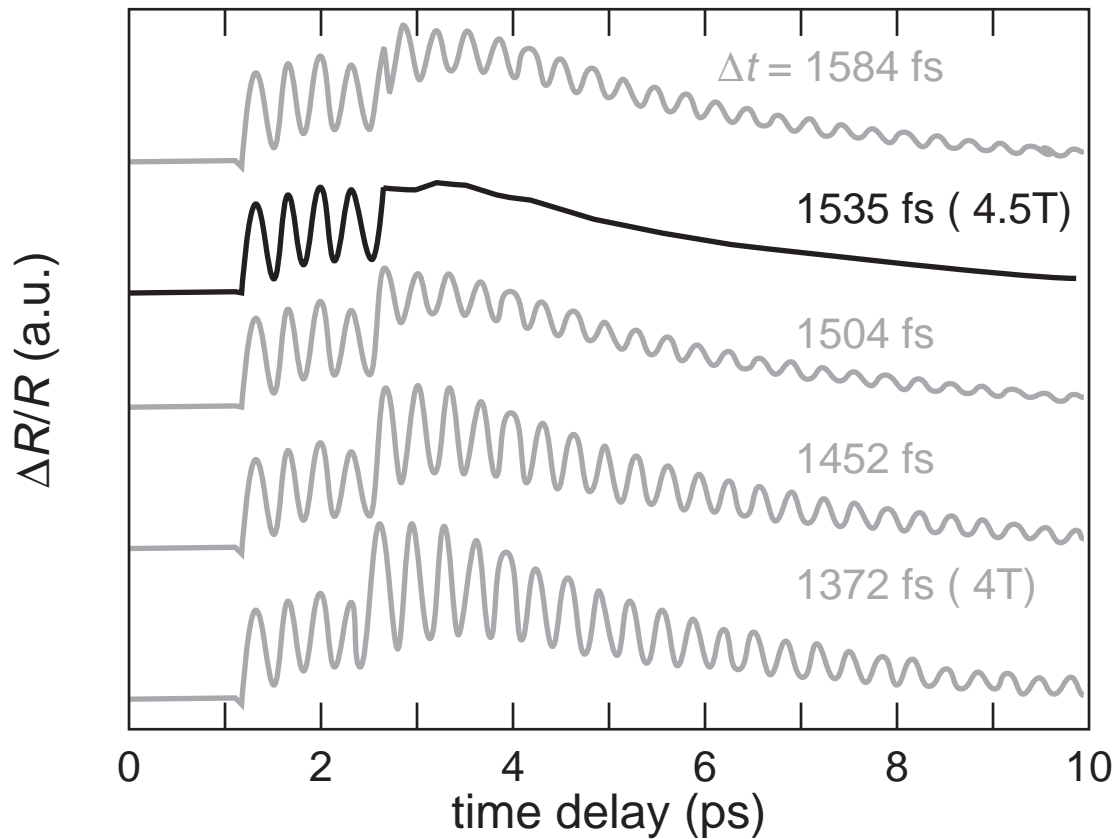
What's next?



What's next?



What's next?



Summary

- ▶ **femtosecond ellipsometry:**
observe transitions *as they occur*

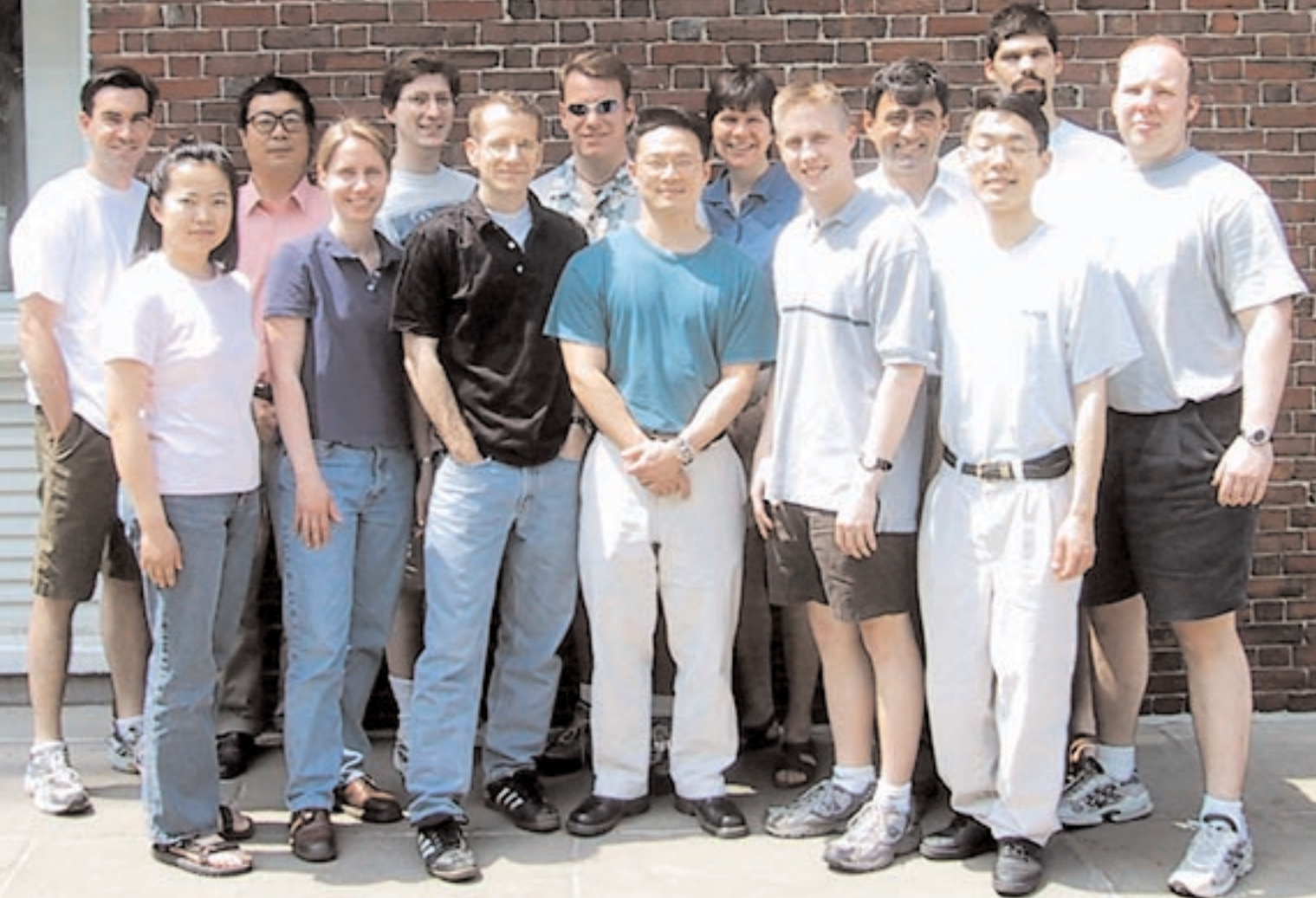
Summary

- ▶ **femtosecond ellipsometry:**
observe transitions *as they occur*
- ▶ **dielectric function shows dispersive
excitation of coherent phonons**

Summary

- ▶ **femtosecond ellipsometry:
observe transitions *as they occur***
- ▶ **dielectric function shows dispersive
excitation of coherent phonons**
- ▶ **no electronic transition in spite of
structural change**

GORDON MCKAY
LABORATORY OF
APPLIED SCIENCE



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Nick Choly (Harvard University)

Prof. Tim Kaxiras (Harvard University)

**For a copy of this talk and
additional information, see:**

<http://mazur-www.harvard.edu>