

Plasmas for additive manufacturing

OLTP Seminar

See Y. Sui *et al.*, *Plasma Proc. Polym.* **17**, e20000009 (2020).



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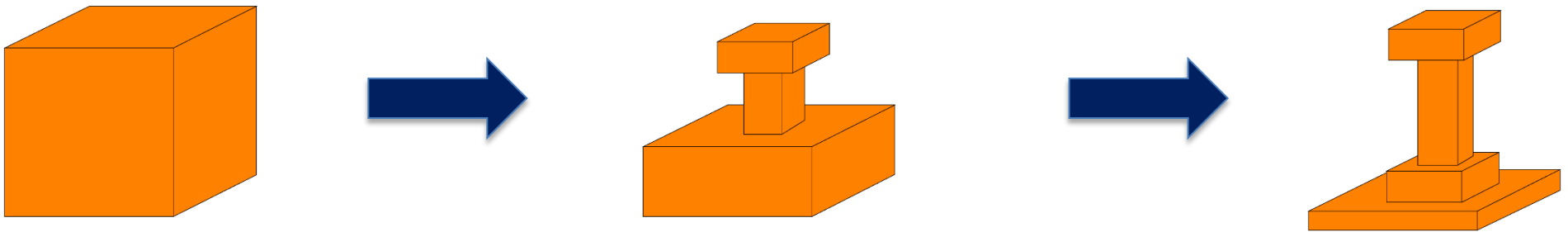
Email: rmohan@illinois.edu

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additive manufacturing (AM) – a process of joining materials to make objects from 3D model data, usually **layer upon layer**, as opposed to subtractive manufacturing technologies.

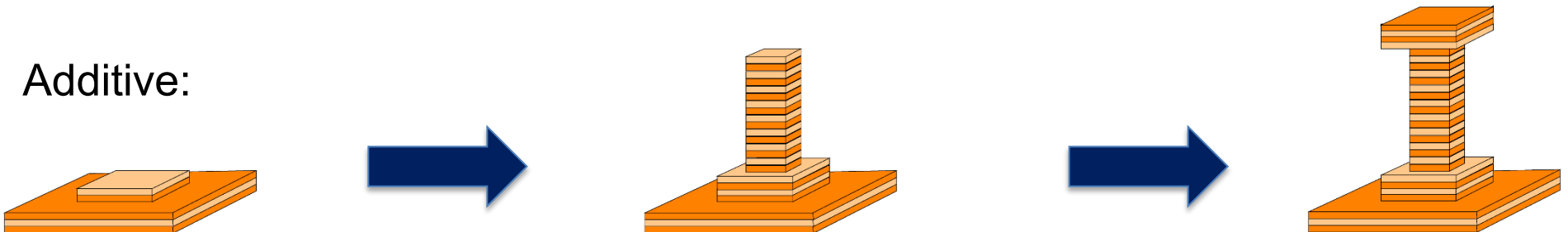
Subtractive vs. additive approaches to materials manufacturing

Subtractive:



Material wastage, relatively fast and easy, ideal for large parts

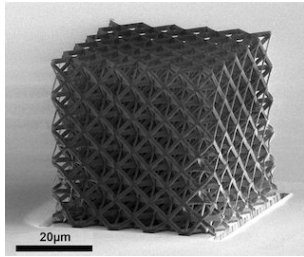
Additive:



Slow and complex, enables intricate geometries, small parts

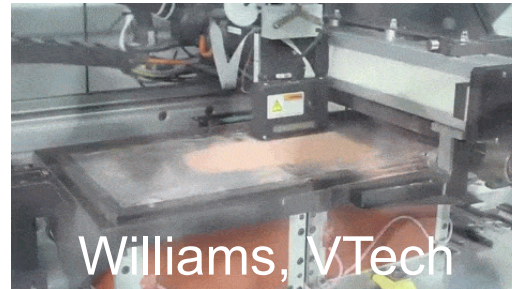
Examples of additive manufacturing

Stereolithography: Kodama, Nagoya MIRI, 1980; Hull, 3D Systems Corp., 1984



Greer, Caltech

Binder jetting: Sachs, MIT, 1993



Williams, VTech

FDM patent
ends, 2009

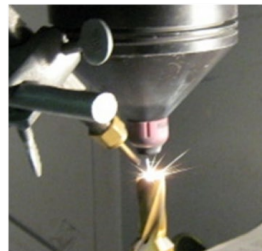
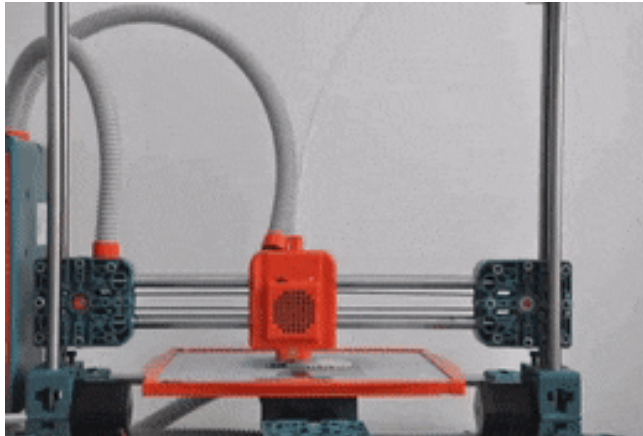
1980

1990

2000

2010

Forced deposition modeling: Crump, 1988



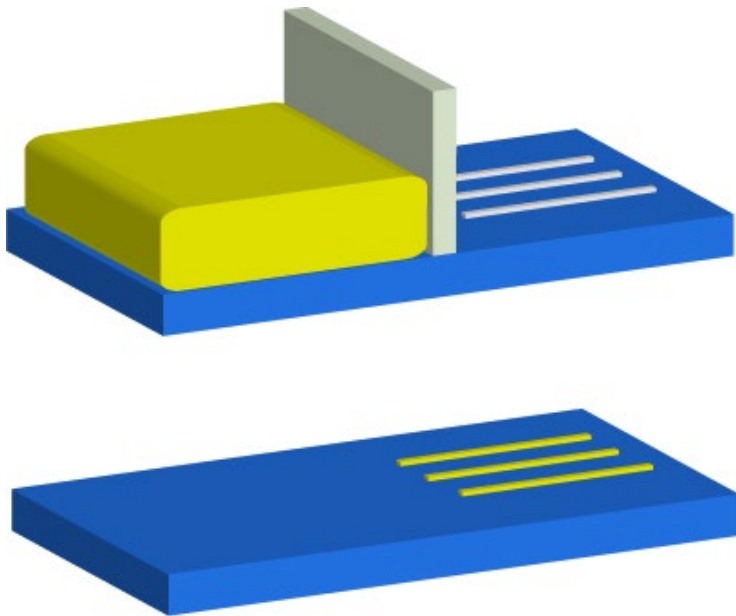
Selective laser sintering: Fraunhofer Institute, 1995



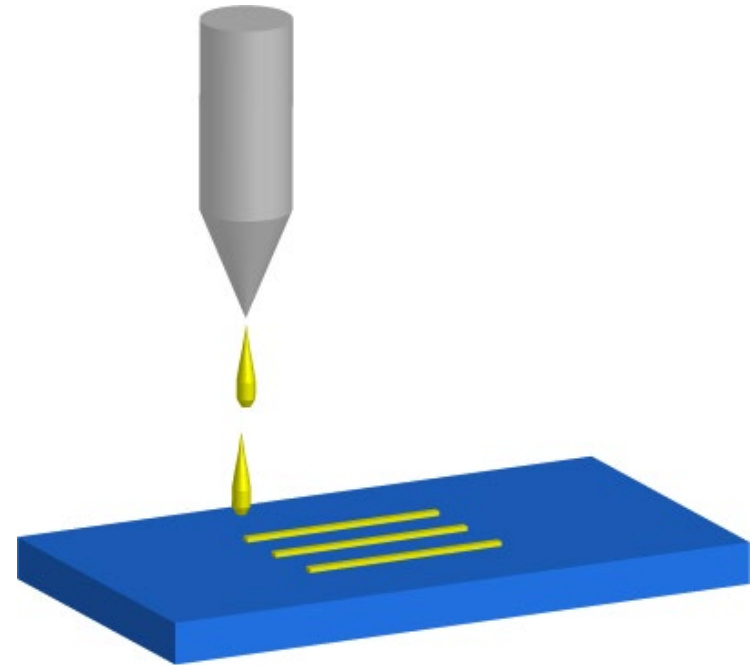
Spee3D
Cold spray: 2000s

Thin film printing approaches

Screen printing
(Doctor's blade)
(Gravure printing)

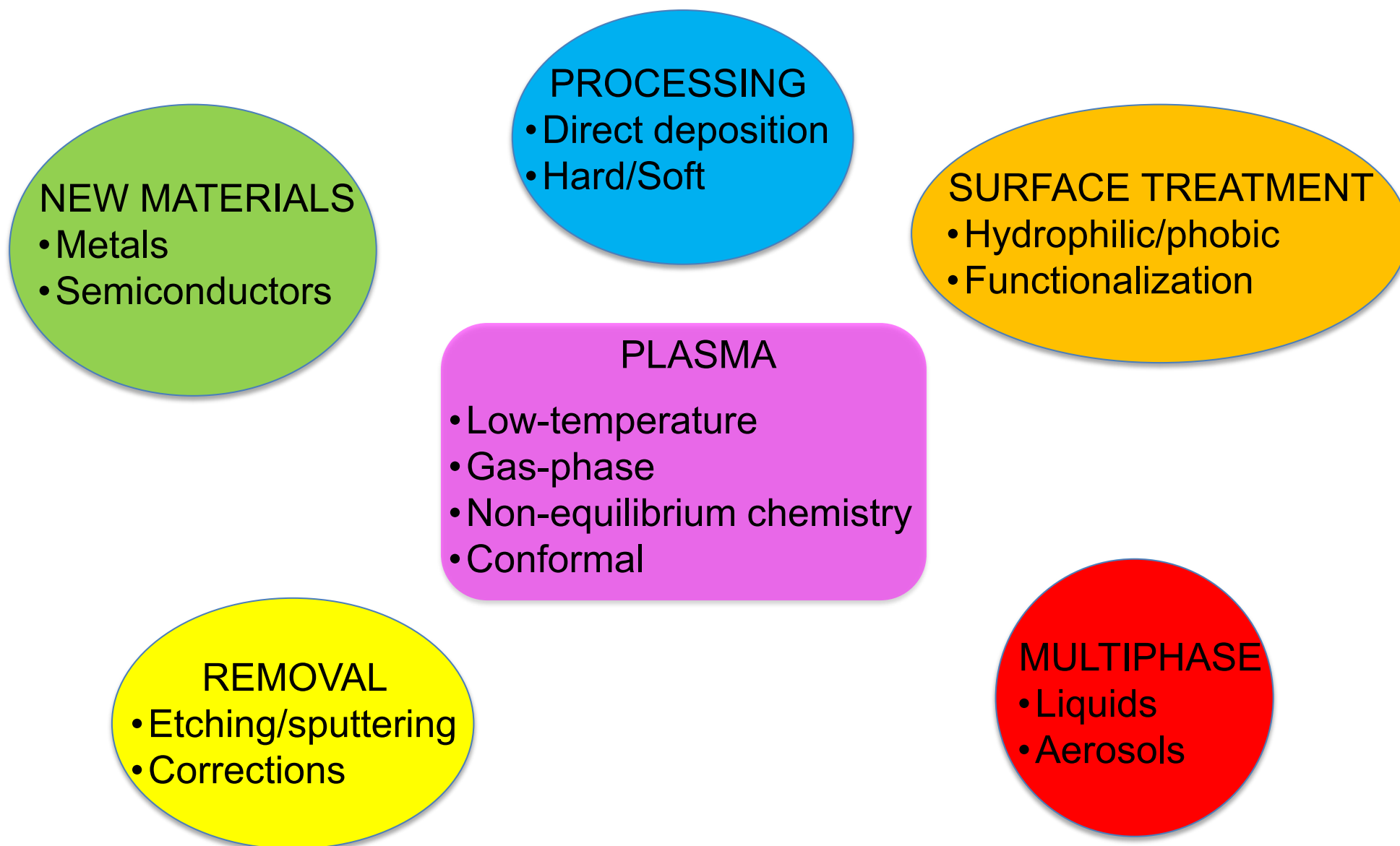


Inkjet printing
(Aerosol jet printing)

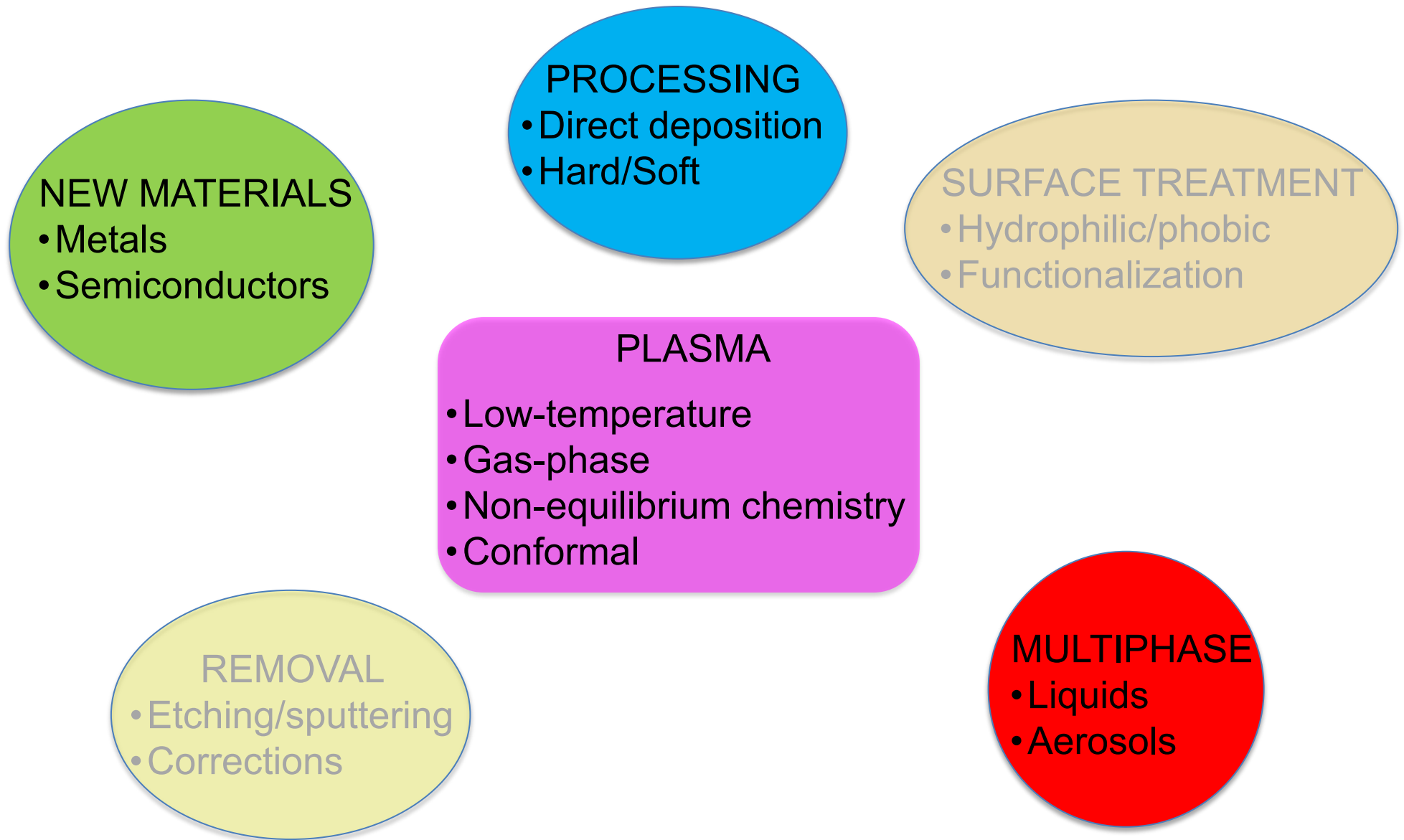


Limited to a few metals (Ag, Cu, ...)

Opportunities for plasmas in additive manufacturing



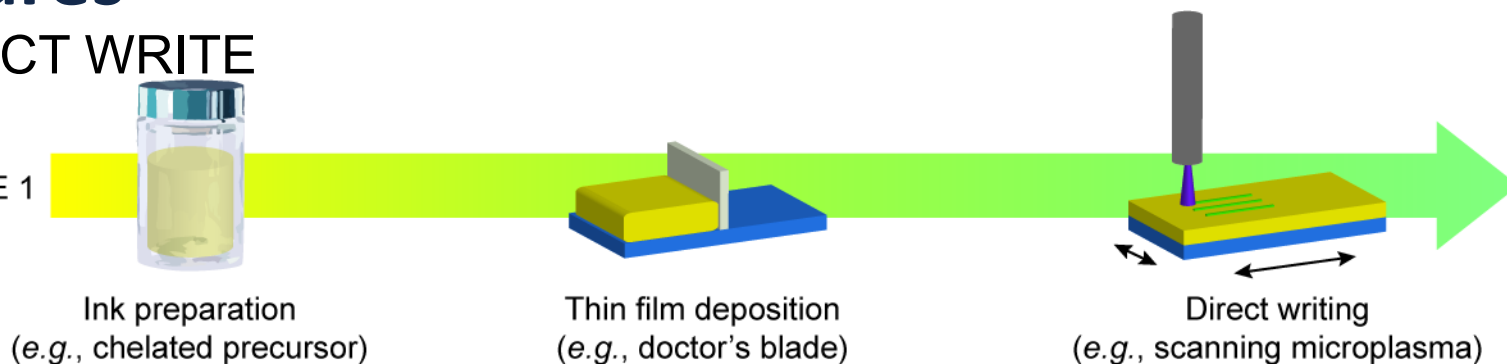
Opportunities for plasmas in additive manufacturing



Potential strategies for plasma synthesis of printed structures

DIRECT WRITE

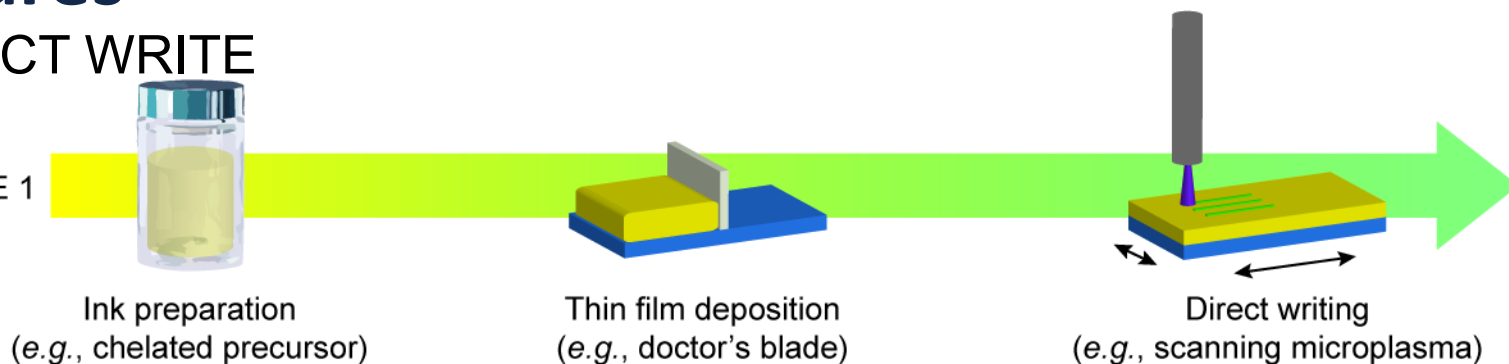
SCHEME 1



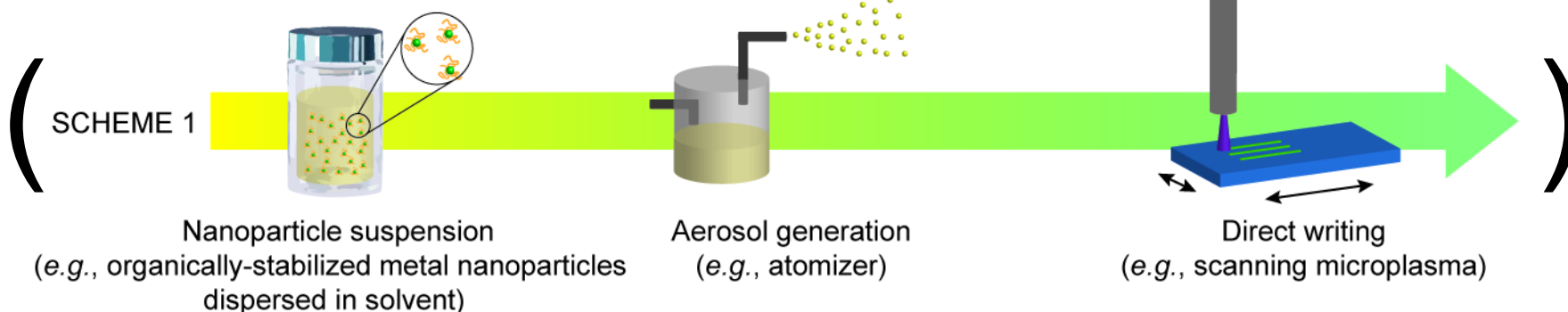
Potential strategies for plasma synthesis of printed structures

DIRECT WRITE

SCHEME 1



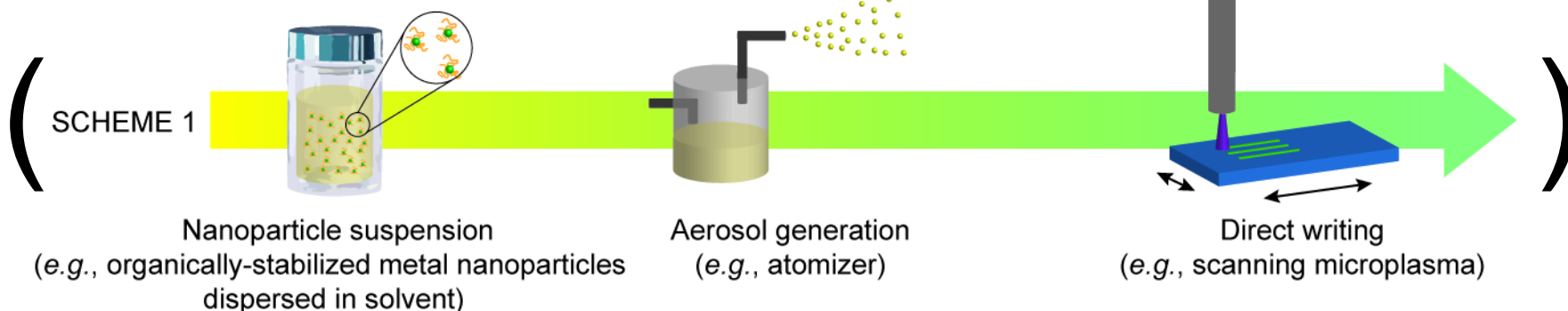
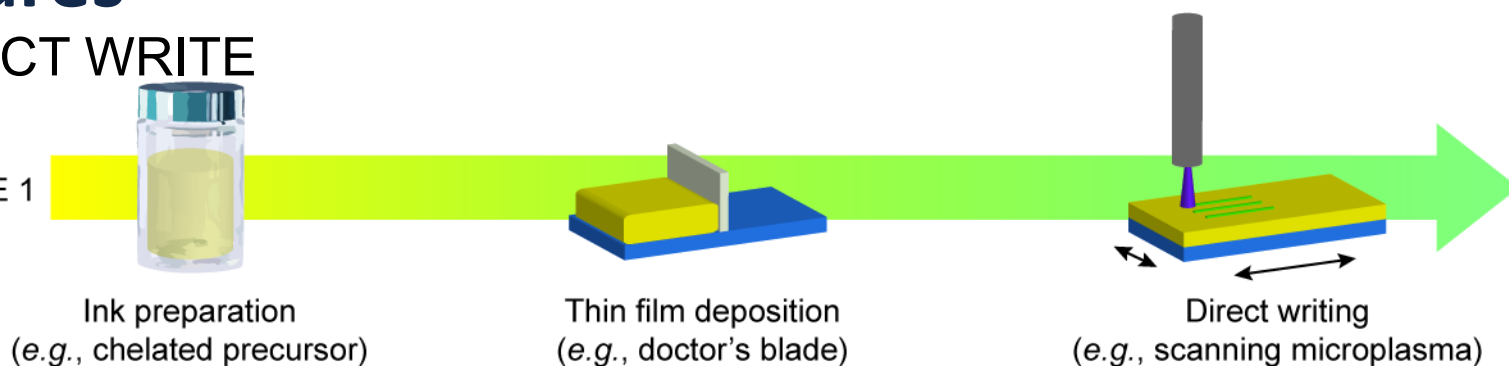
SCHEME 1



Potential strategies for plasma synthesis of printed structures

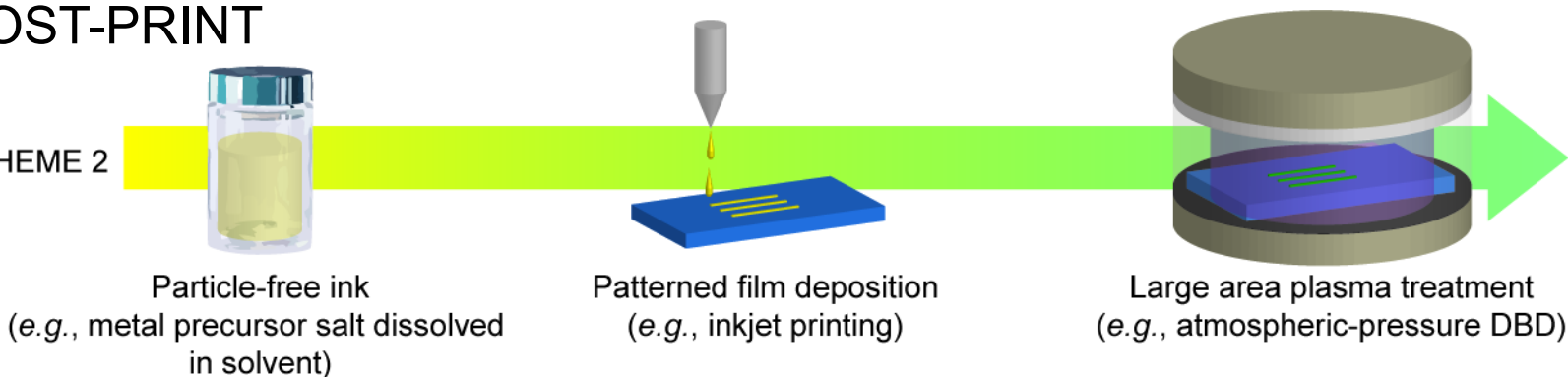
DIRECT WRITE

SCHEME 1



POST-PRINT

SCHEME 2



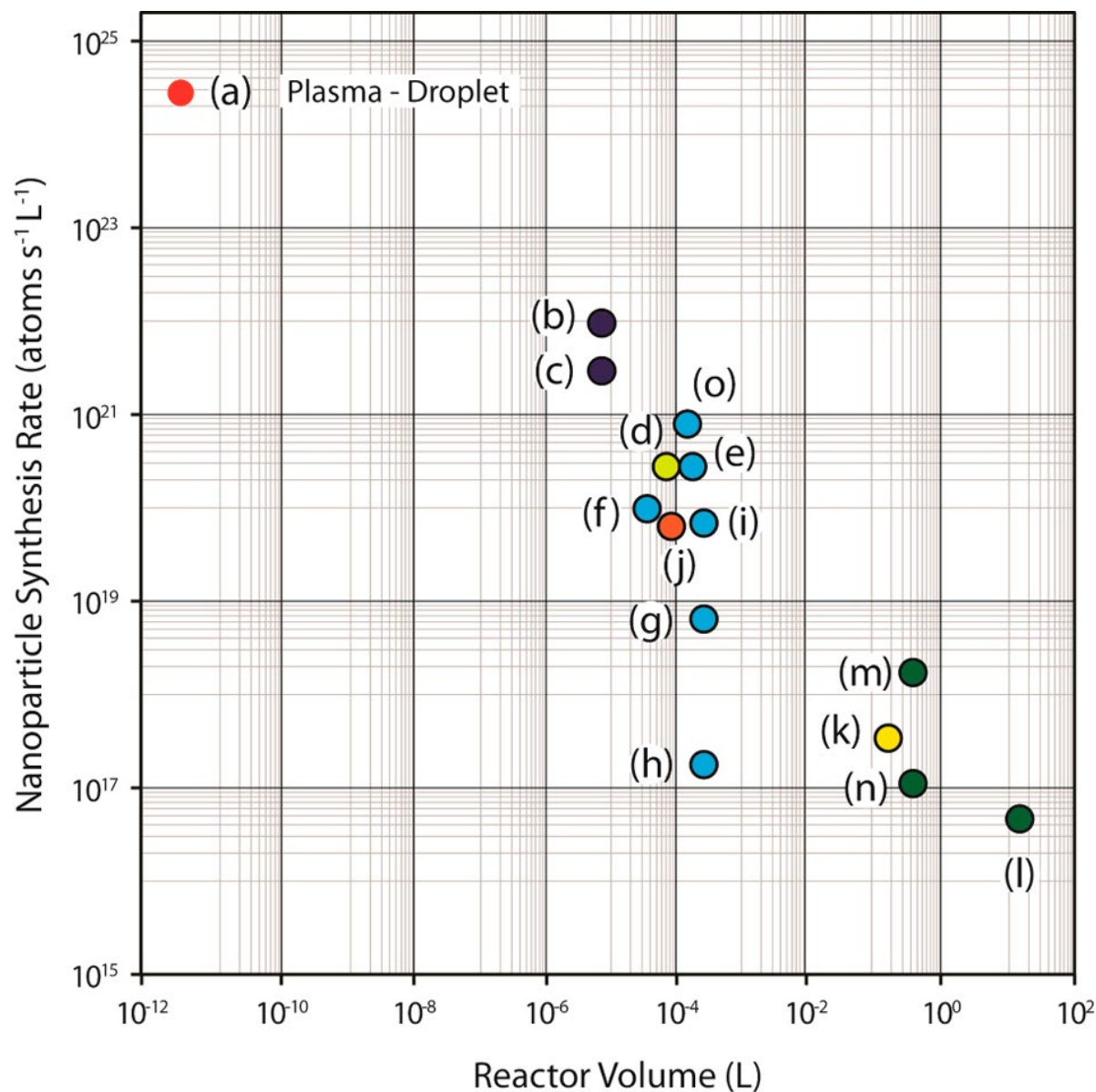
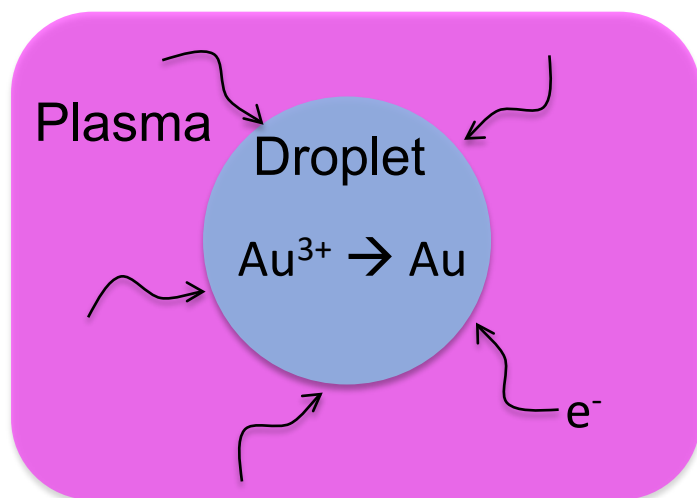
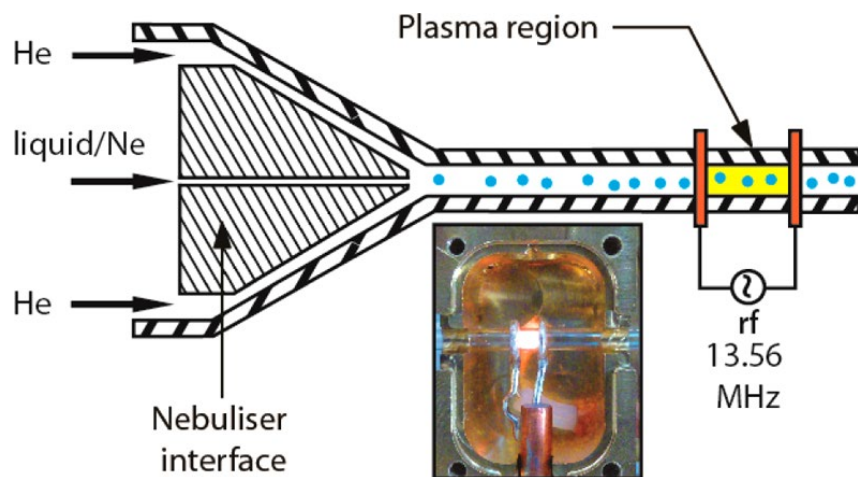
- I. Direct write
 - a. Nanoparticle deposition
 - b. Reduction of dispersed metal salts

- II. Post-print
 - a. Sintering
 - b. Conversion
 - c. Beyond metals

- I. Direct write
 - a. Nanoparticle deposition
 - b. Reduction of dispersed metal salts

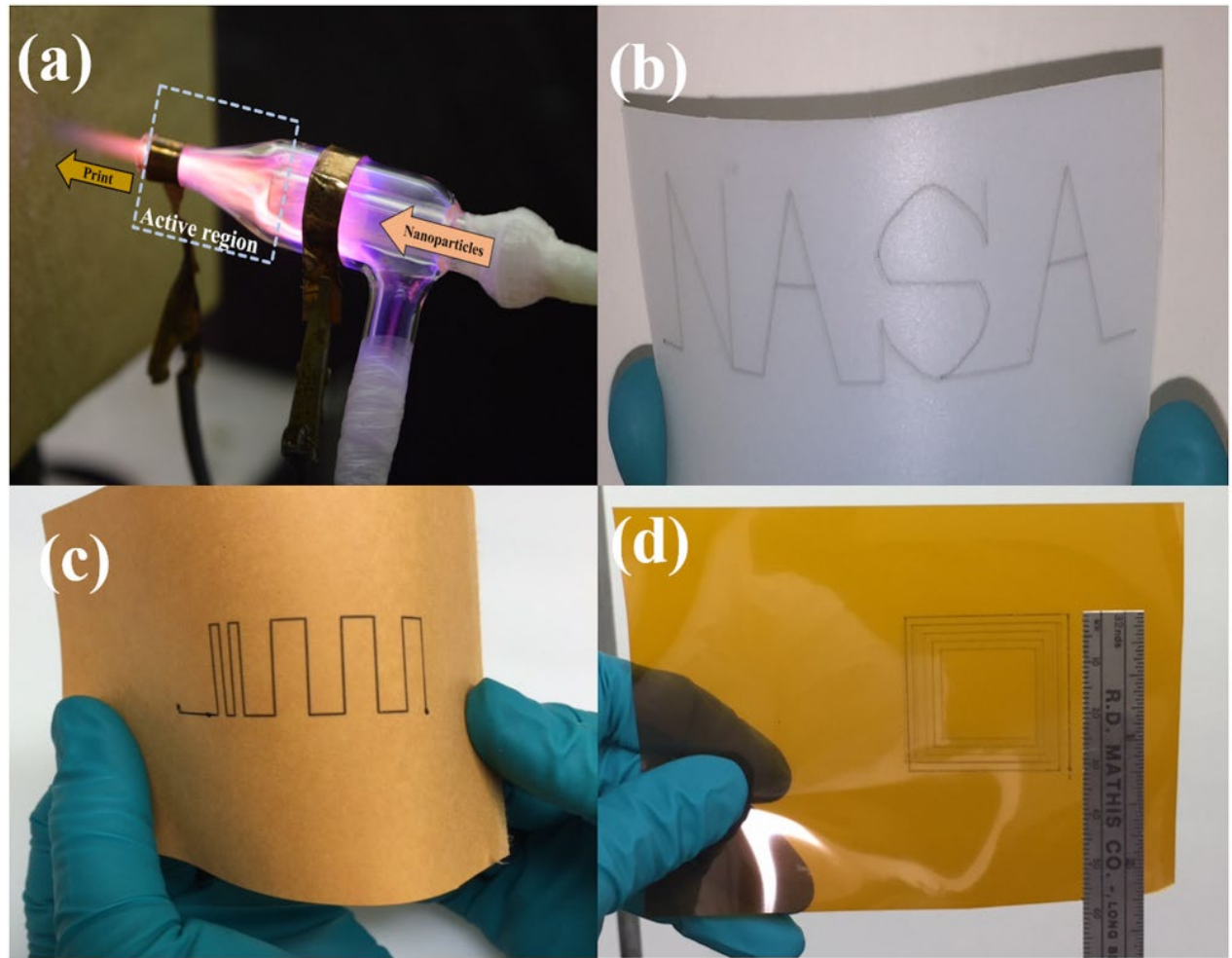
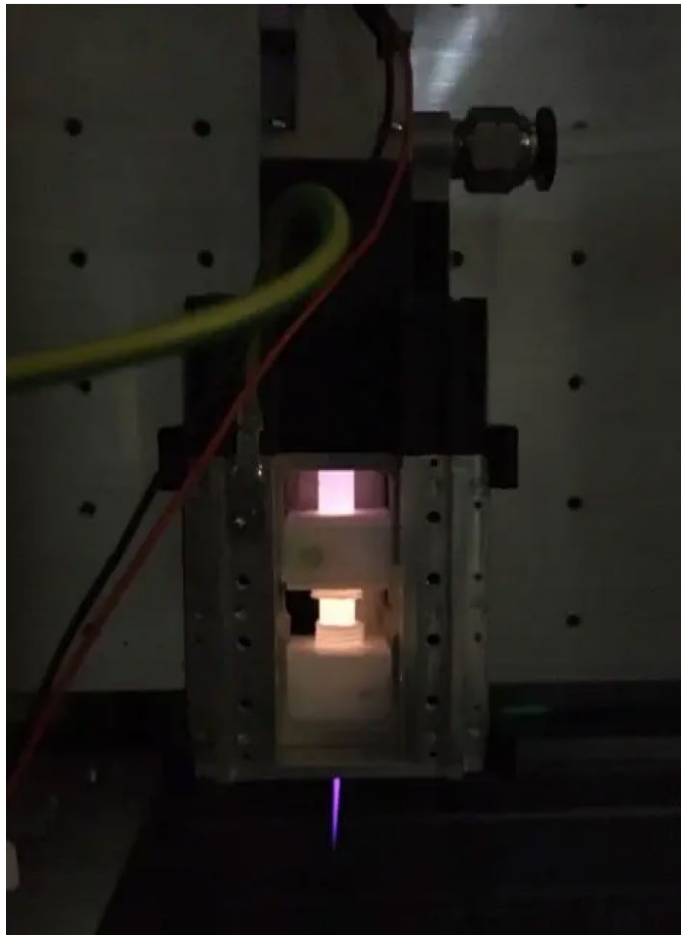
- II. Post-print
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Synthesis of nanoparticles from liquid aerosol droplets



Plasma jet printing of metals from liquid aerosols

Space Foundry Inc., Moffett Field, CA

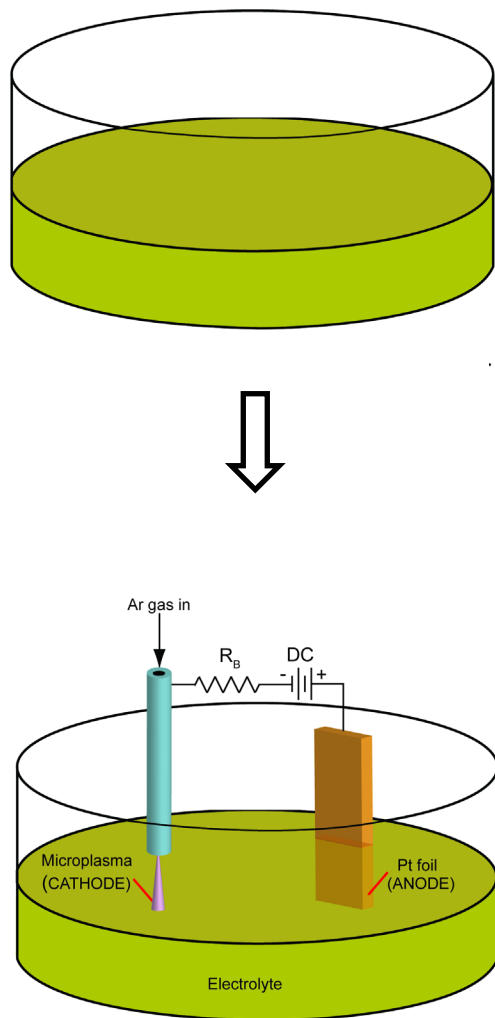


- I. Direct write
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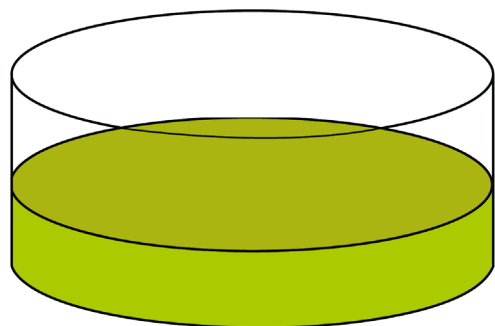
Localized conversion of thin films of metal precursor and polymer

Aqueous solution of polymer and metal salt

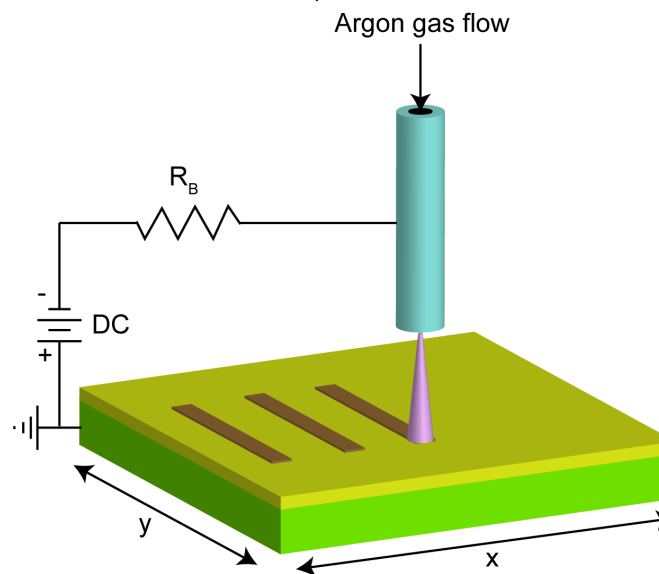
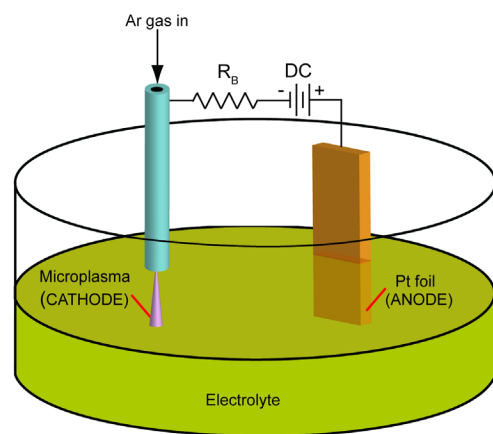
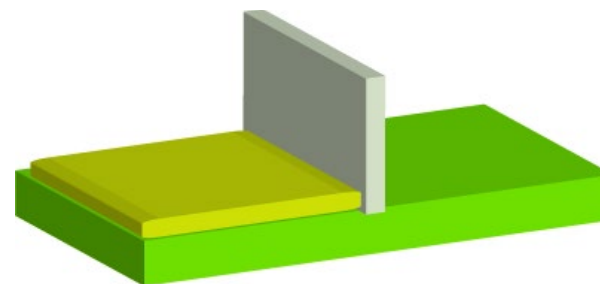


Localized conversion of thin films of metal precursor and polymer

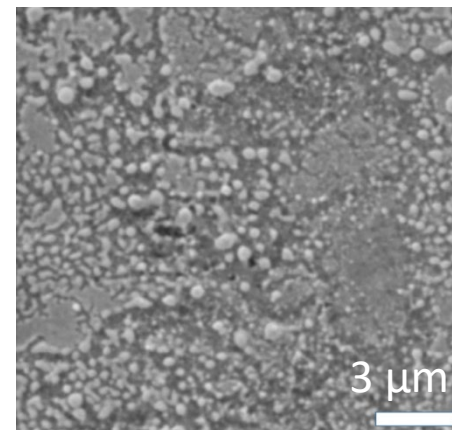
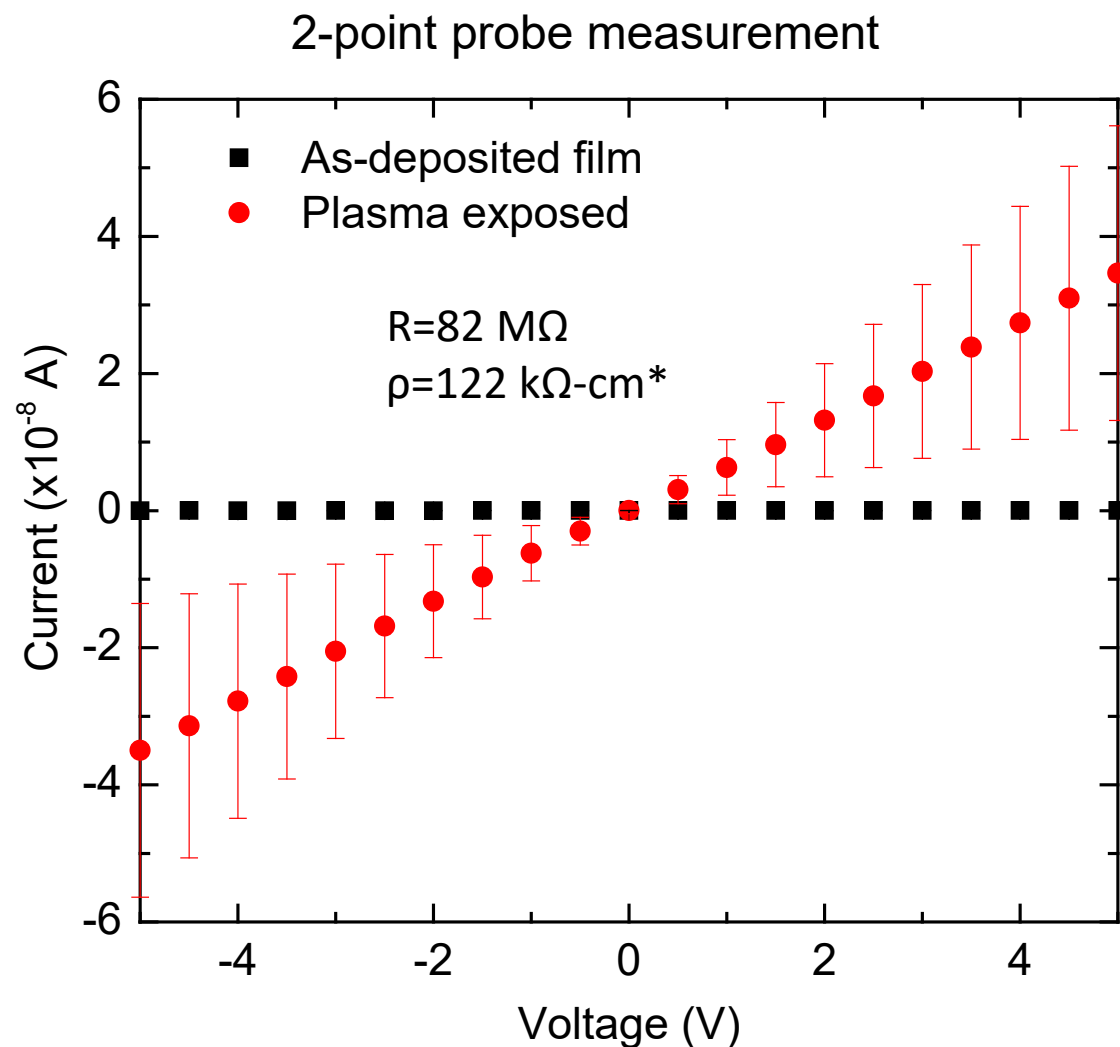
Aqueous solution of polymer and metal salt



Doctor's blade coating (spin coating, etc.)



Electrical characterization of AgNO_3/PVA films

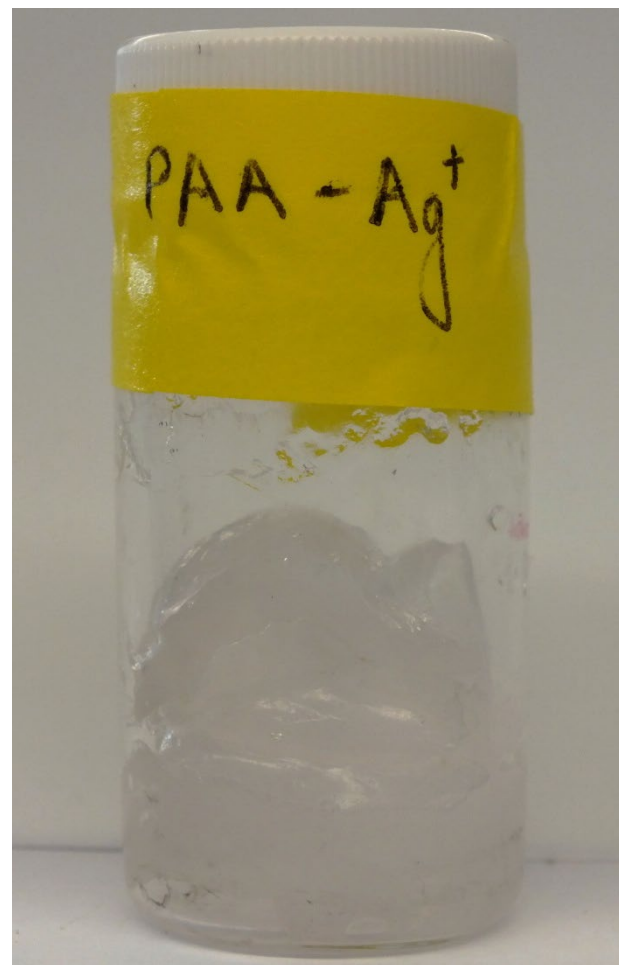
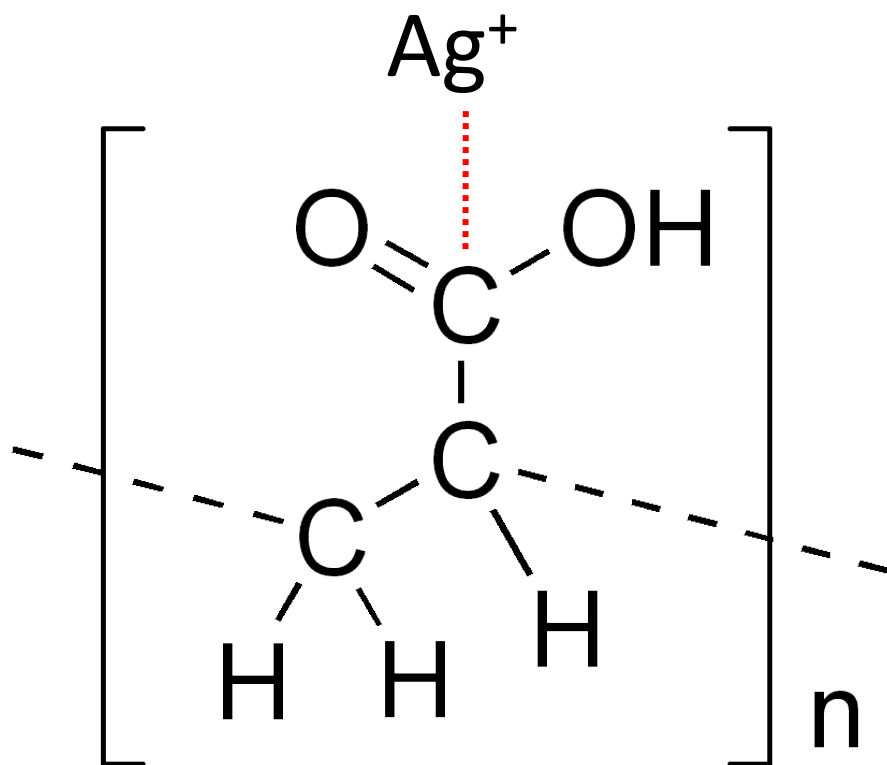


- ▶ Large resistance may be due to poor morphology (not completely percolating).
- ▶ At higher Ag precursor loading, solutions are unstable.

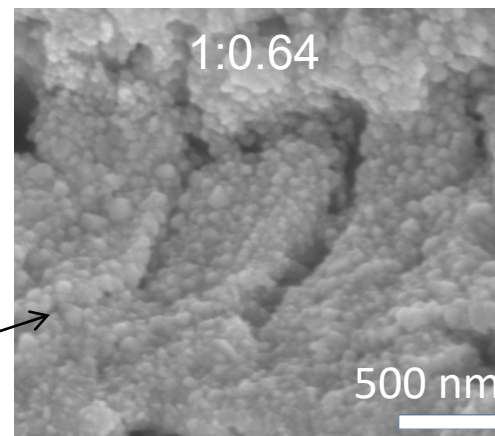
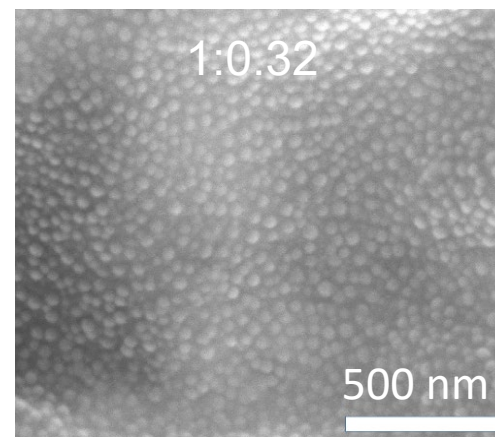
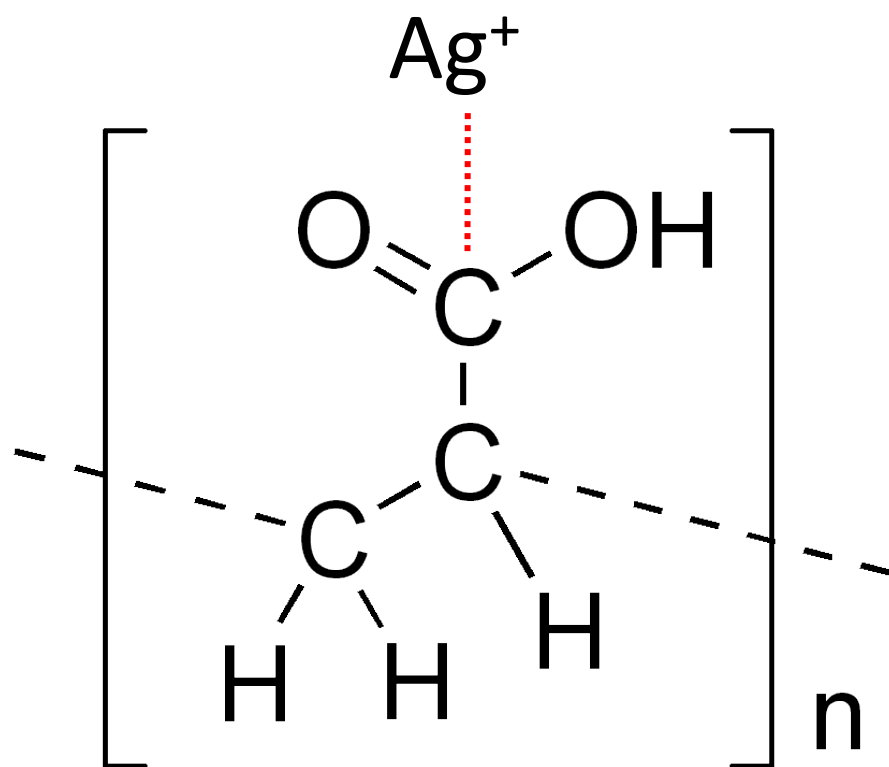
*Ag: $1.59 \mu\Omega\text{-cm}$

Polyacrylic acid as a polymer matrix

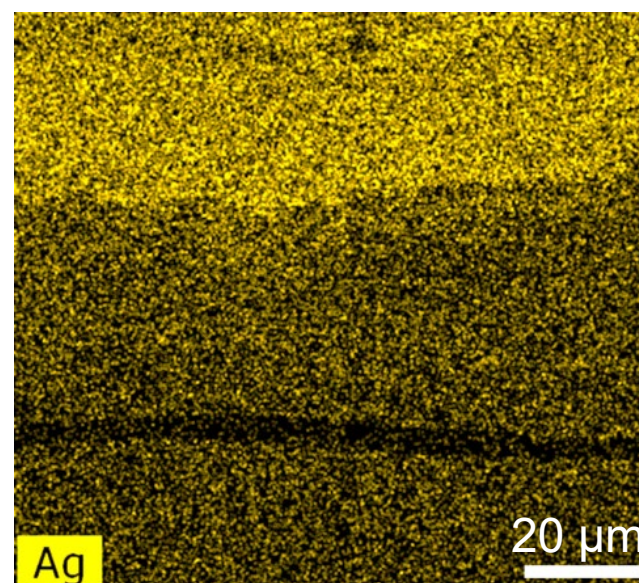
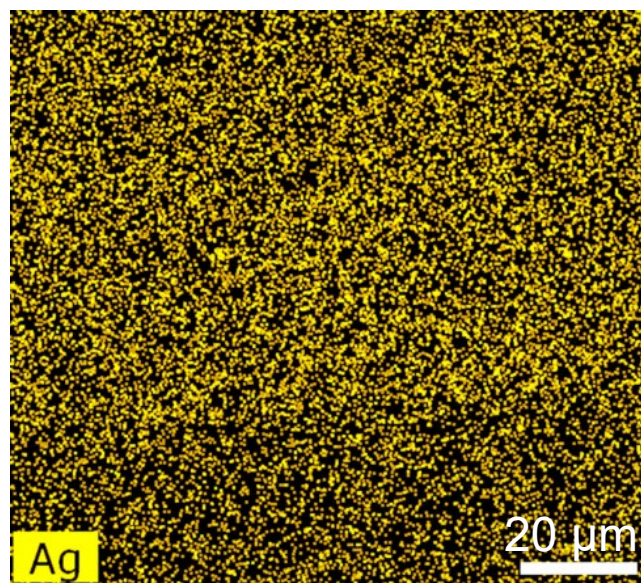
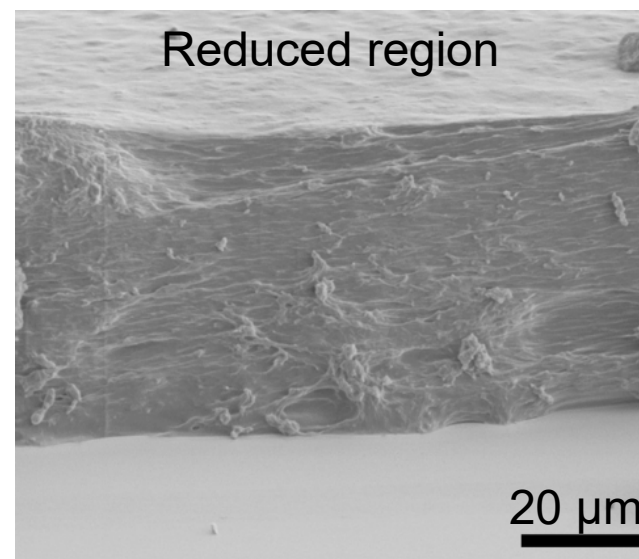
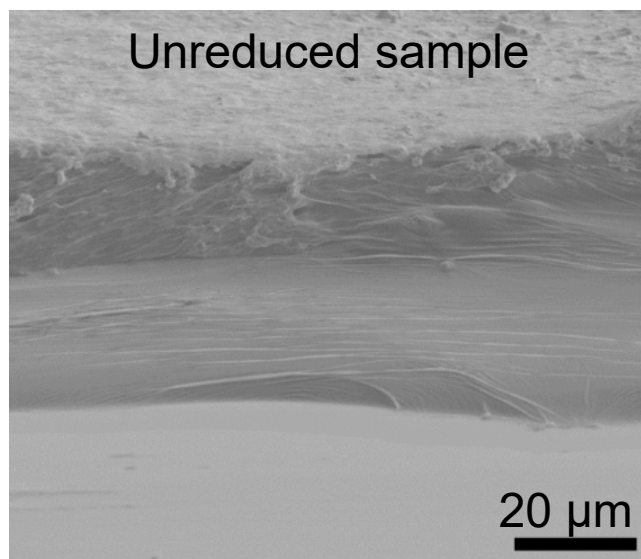
$$\text{PAA}_r:\text{Ag}^+ = 1:0.32$$



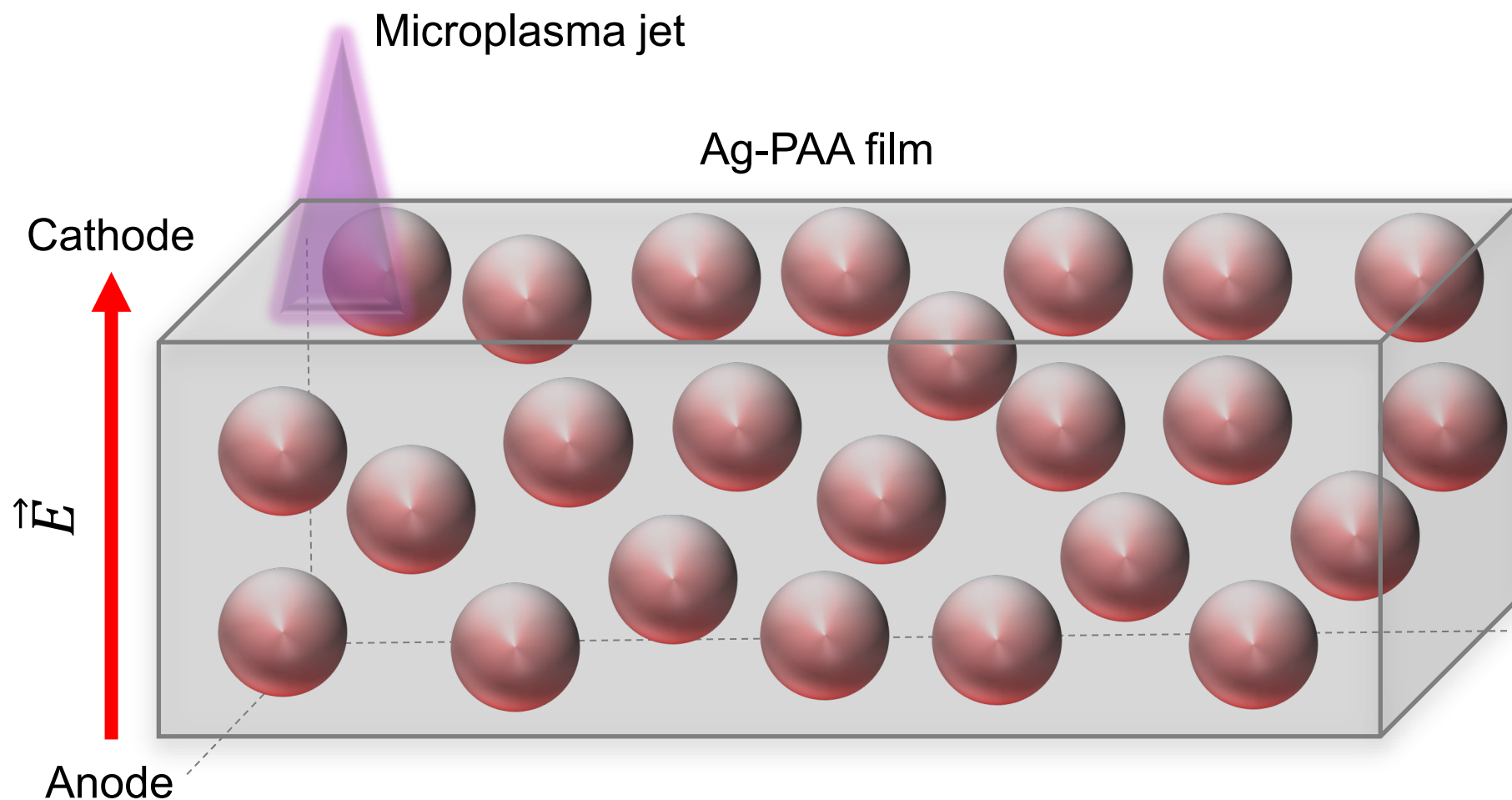
Polyacrylic acid as a polymer matrix



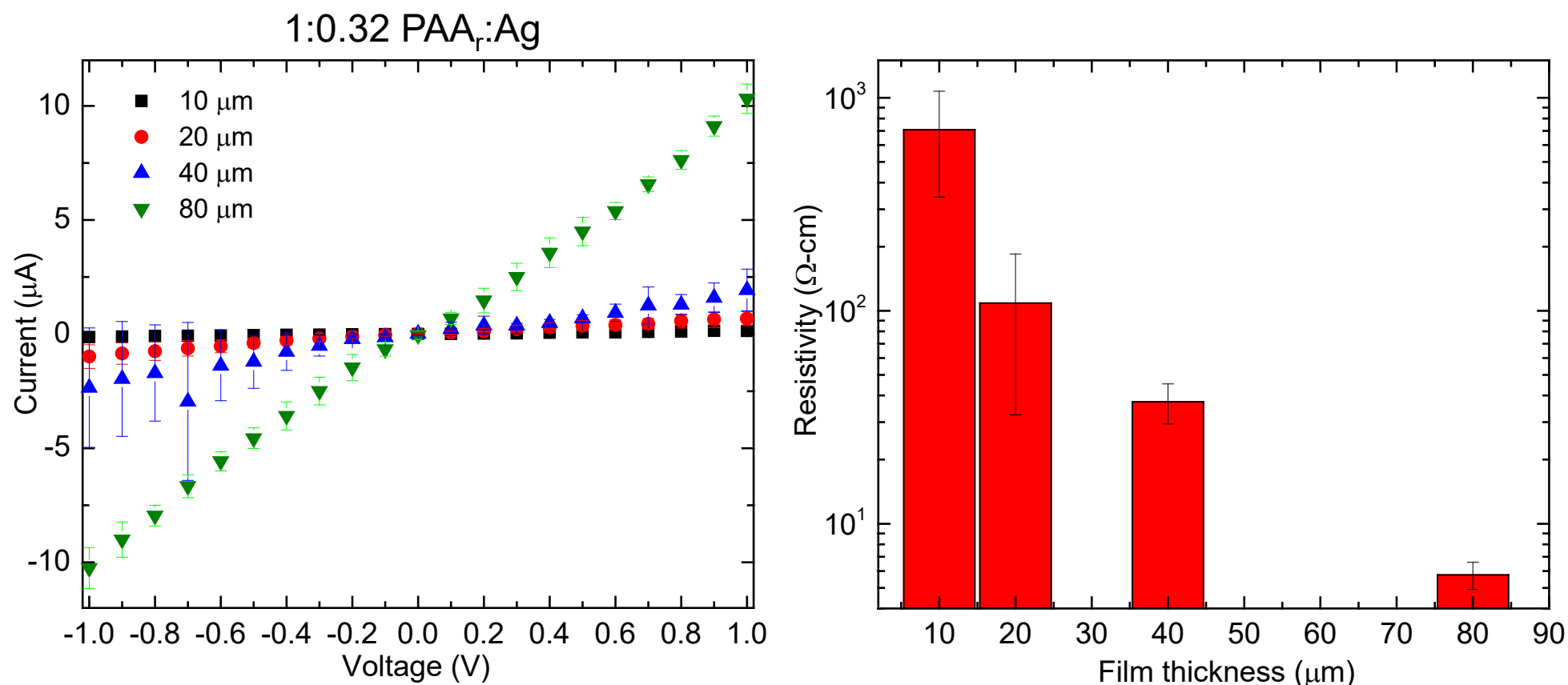
Cross-sectional EDS of microplasma-reduced Ag-PAA films



Proposed electric migration mechanism for surface-rich Ag layer



Electrical conductivity depends on initial film thickness



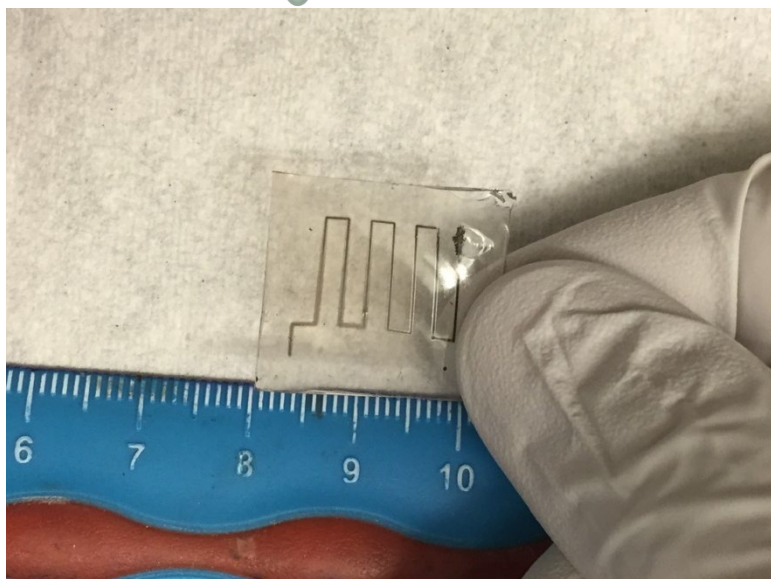
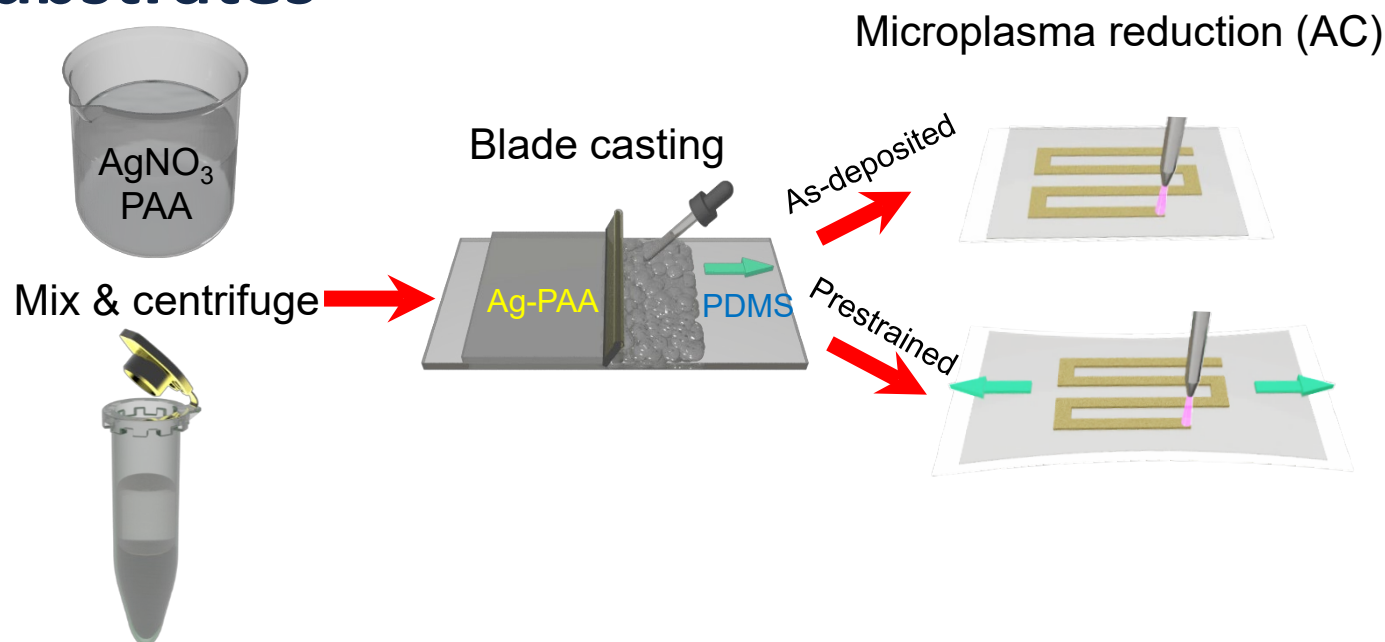
Film acts as a “reservoir” for the reduction and formation of Ag at the surface.

*Ag: 1.59 μΩ-cm

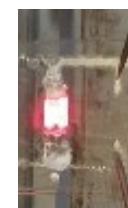
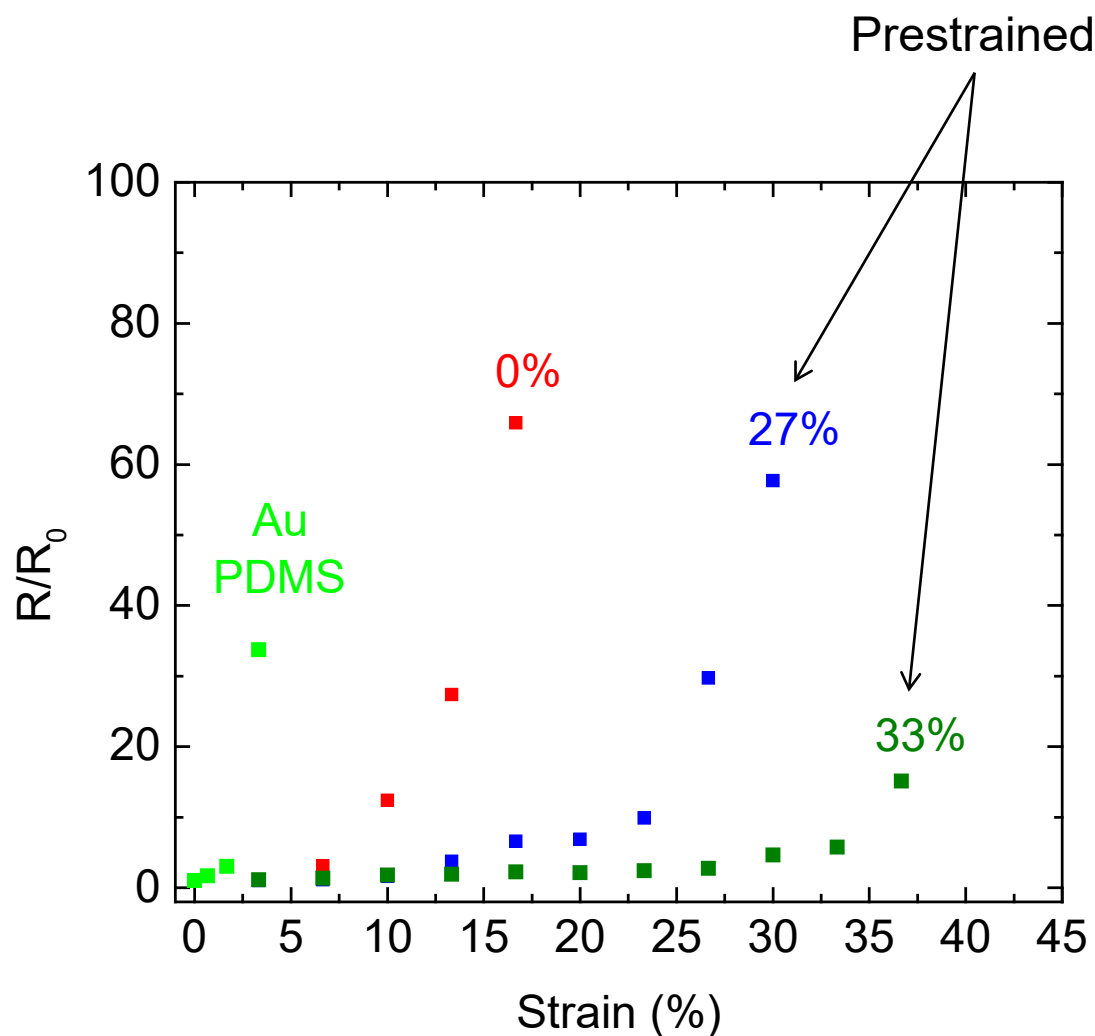
*ITO: 0.1 Ω-cm

*Ag NP inks: 5 μΩ-cm-10 Ω-cm

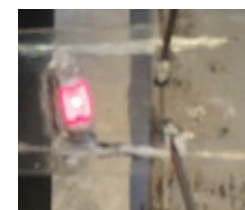
Integration of reduced Ag-PAA films with elastomeric PDMS substrates



Conductivity as a function of strain in Ag-PAA on PDMS films



15%

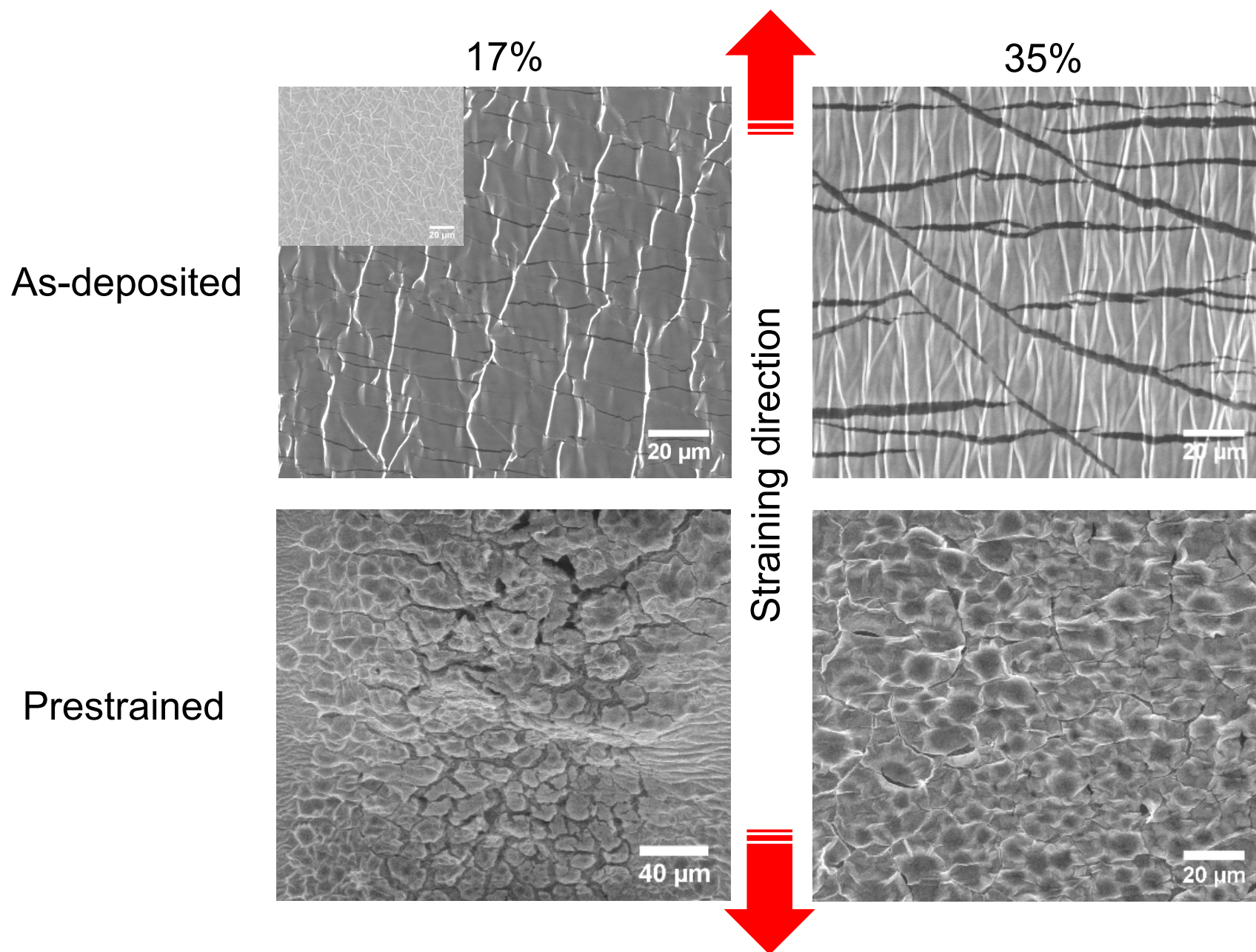


27%



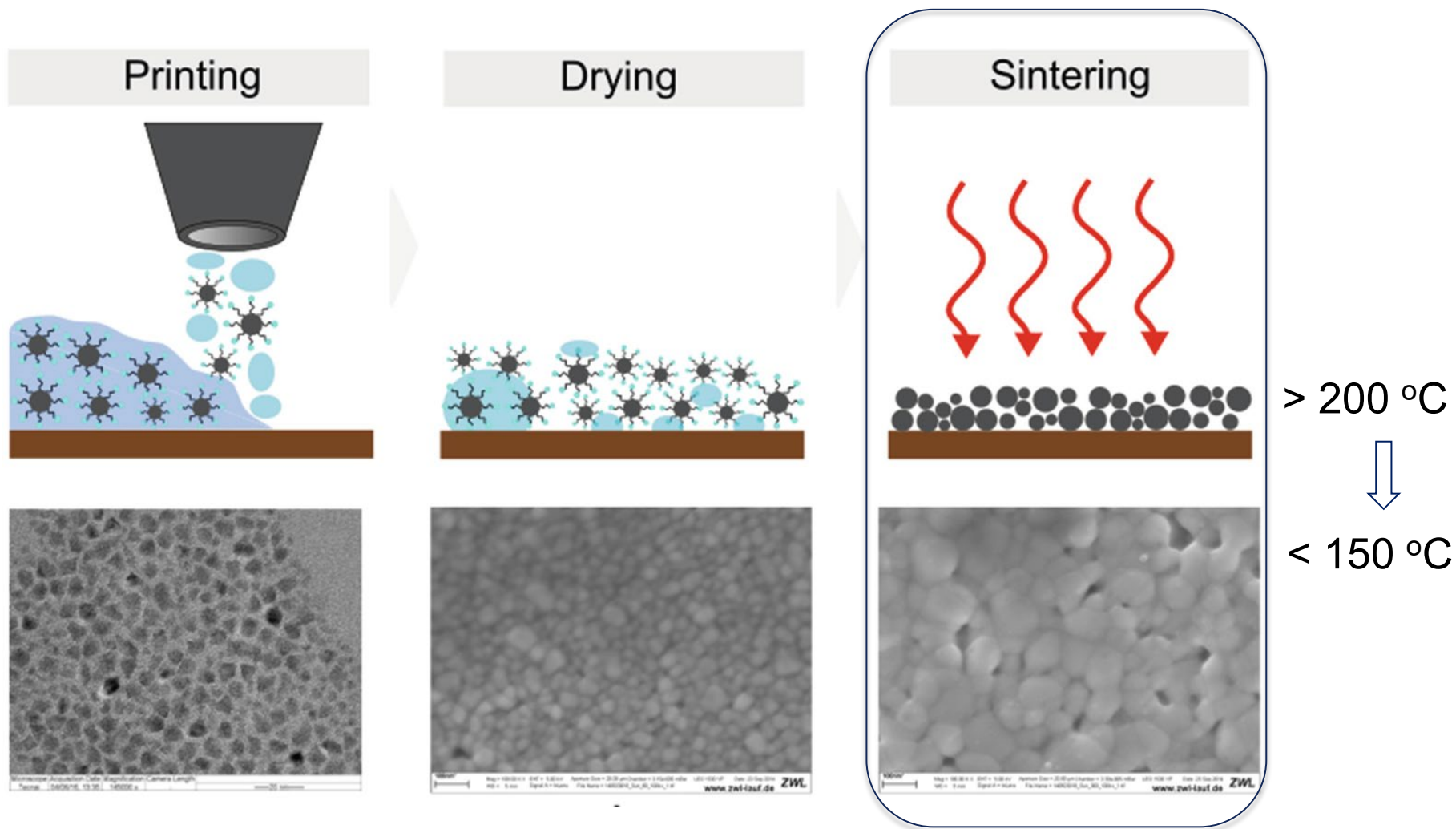
33%

SEM analysis of microstructure during straining



- I. Direct write
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Need for sintering of printed nanoparticle inks



Plasma sintering

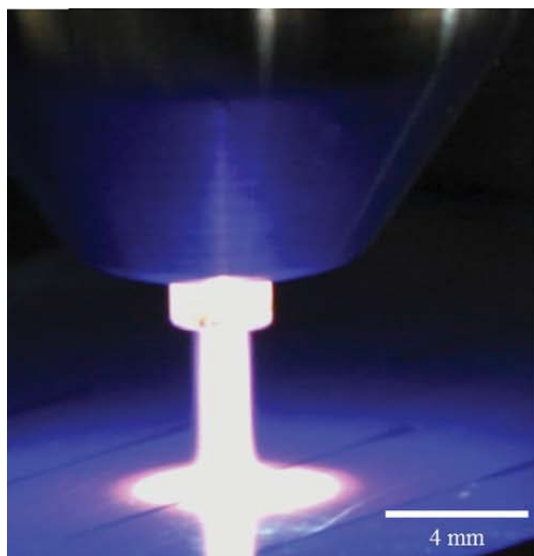
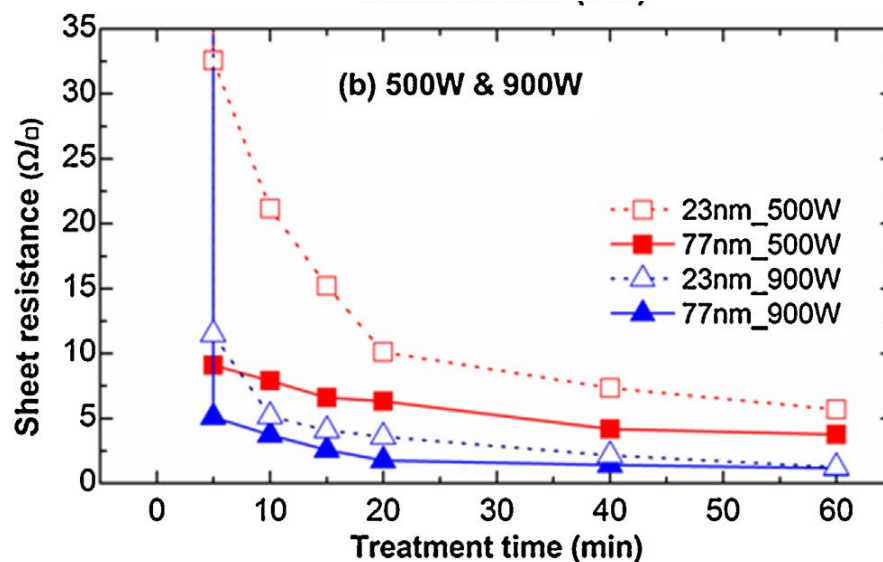
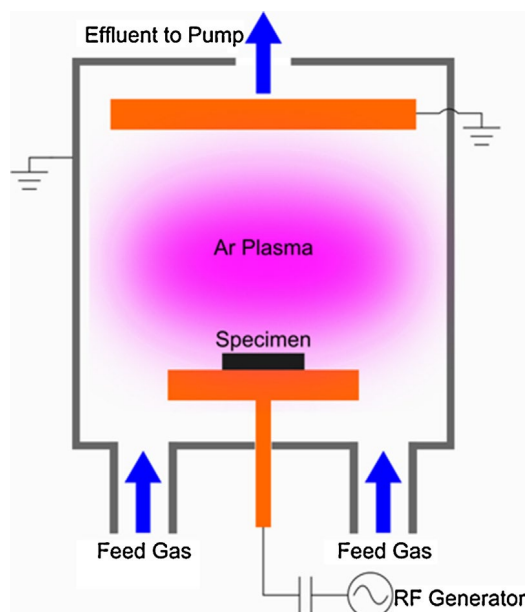


Table 1 Resistivity (ρ) of three inkjet printed silver NP inks after argon plasma sintering at atmospheric pressure and low pressure; resistivity values after thermal sintering according to data sheets (commercial inks) and experimental results (custom ink), respectively

	Cabot CCI-300	Harima NPS-J	Custom ink
	$\rho/\mu\Omega\text{ cm}$	$\rho/\mu\Omega\text{ cm}$	$\rho/\mu\Omega\text{ cm}$
Atm. p plasma (2 min)	16.1	25.4	13.0
Low p plasma (2 min)	3.6×10^4	5.0×10^5	207
Low p plasma (60 min)	91.5	13.4	15.2
Thermal (2 min)	18.8 ^a	Not conductive ^b	Not conductive ^a
Thermal (60 min)	14.0 ^a	3.0 ^b	4.6 ^a

^a A sintering temperature of 150 °C was used. ^b A sintering temperature of 230 °C was used.

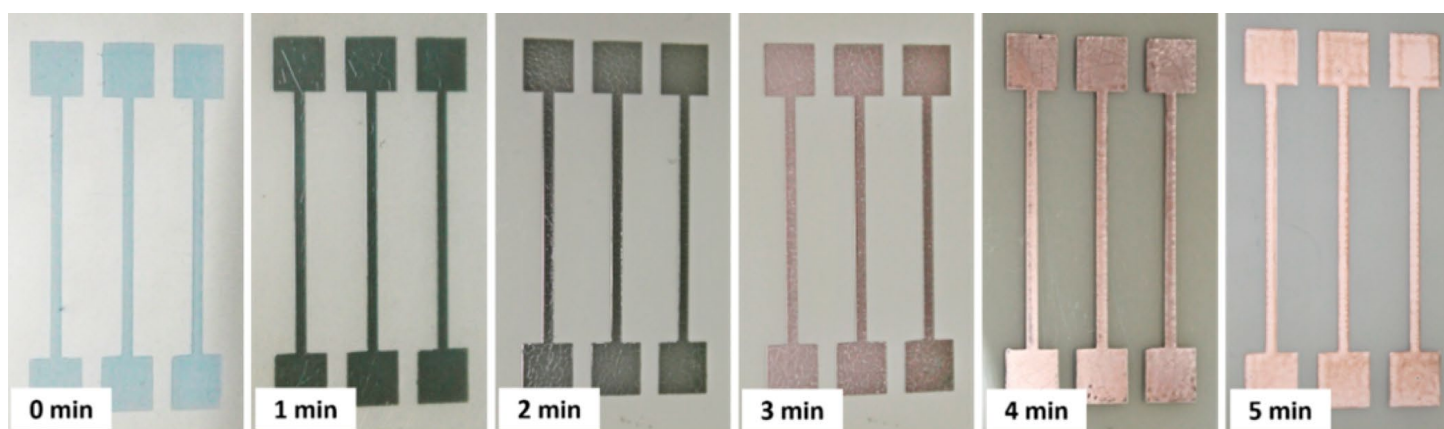
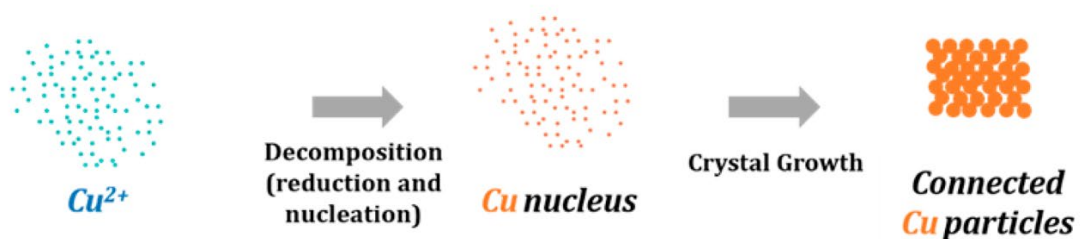
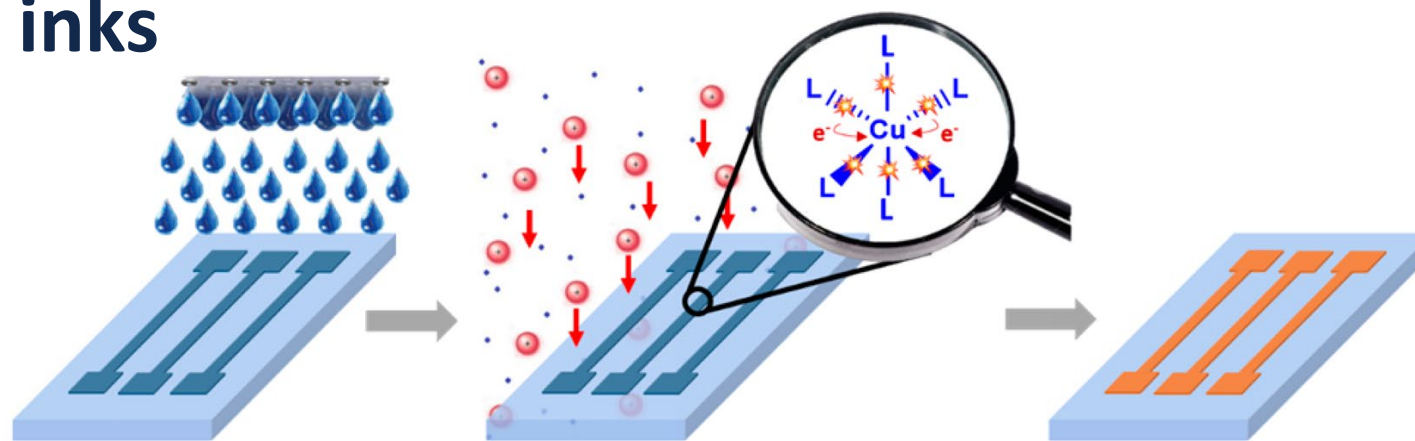
S. Wunscher *et al.*, *J. Mater. Chem.* **22**, 24569 (2012).



S. Ma *et al.*, *Appl. Surf. Sci.* **293**, 207 (2014).

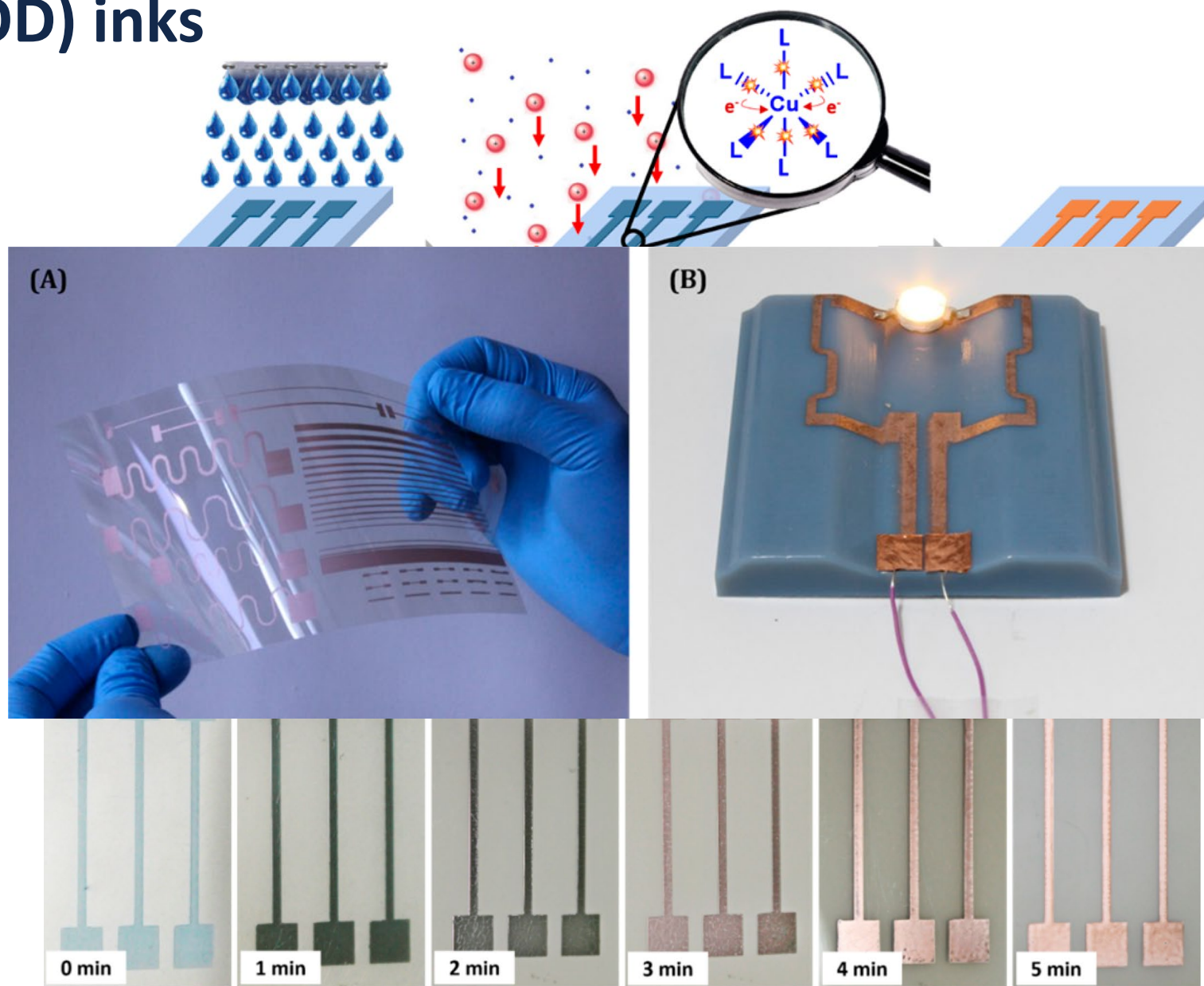
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Plasma conversion: Metal-organic decomposition (MOD) inks

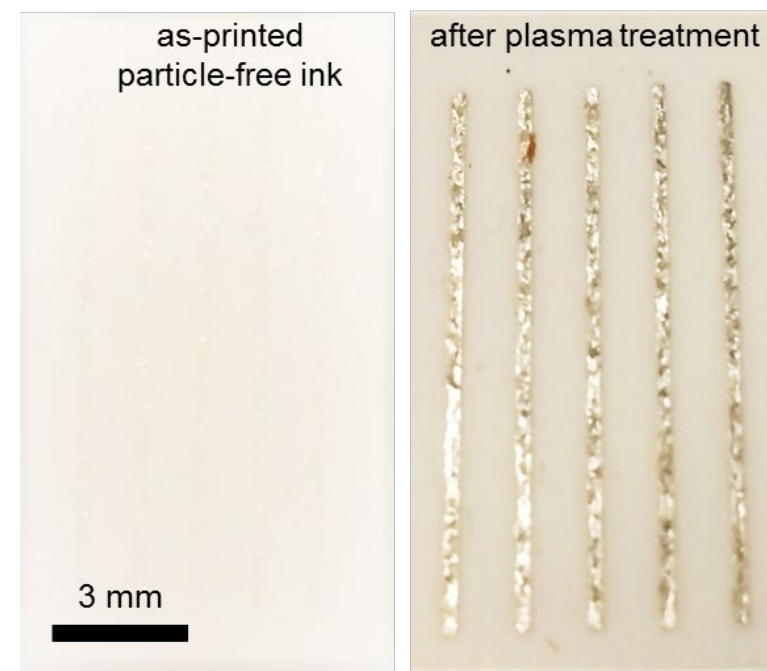
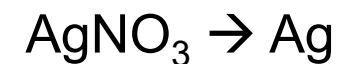
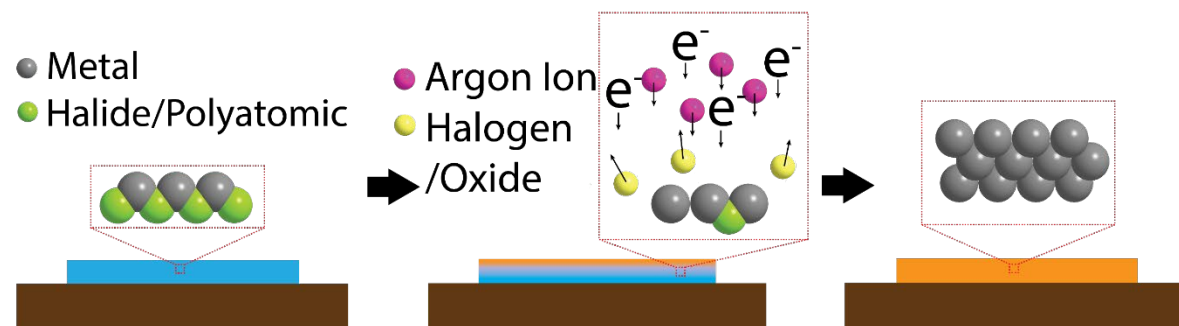
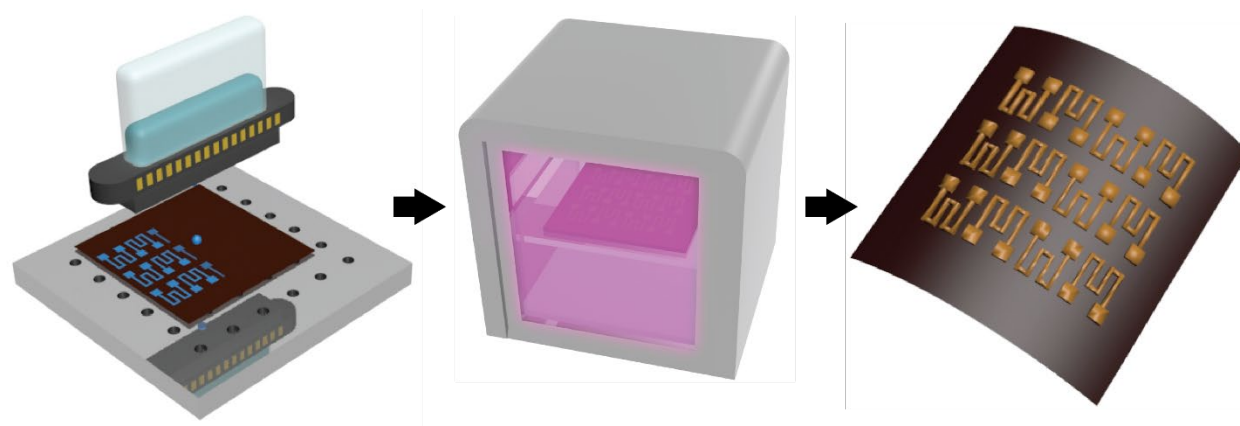


< 60 °C

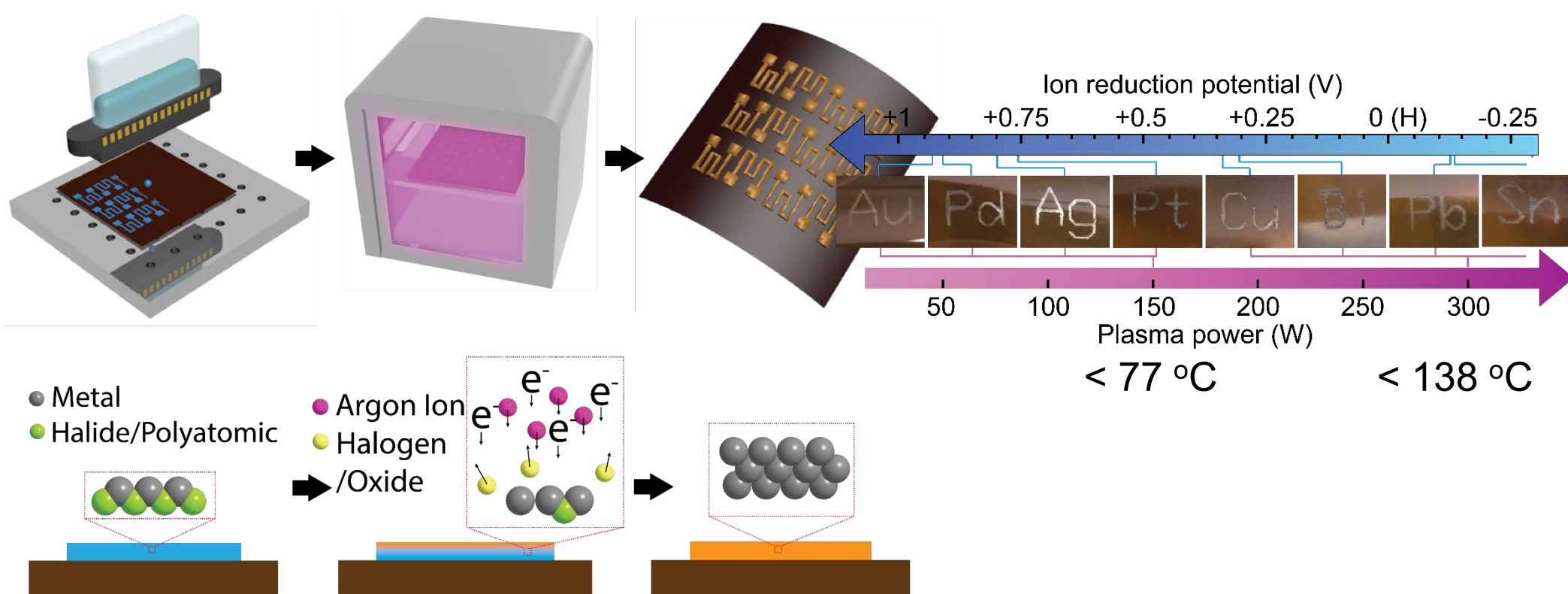
Plasma conversion: Metal-organic decomposition (MOD) inks



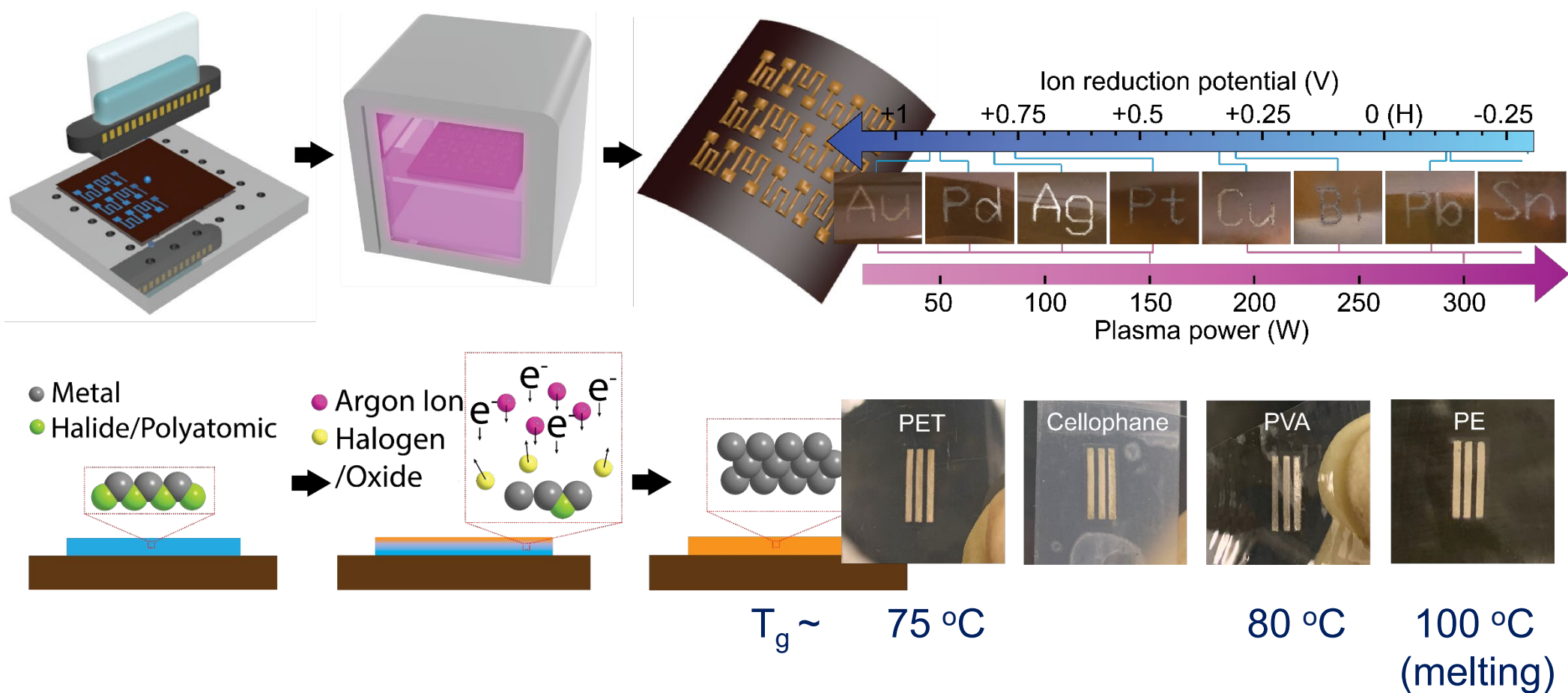
Plasma conversion: Metal salts dispersed in aqueous solutions



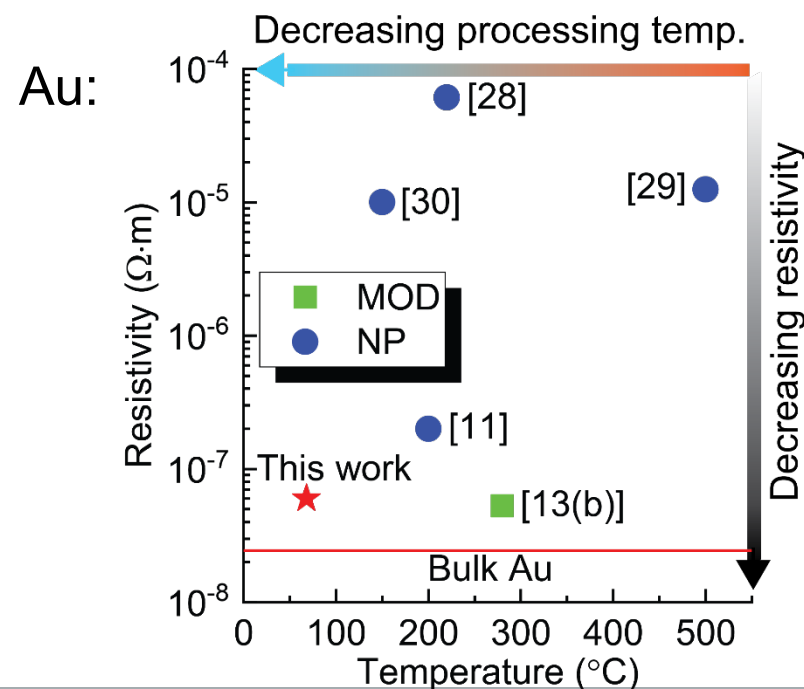
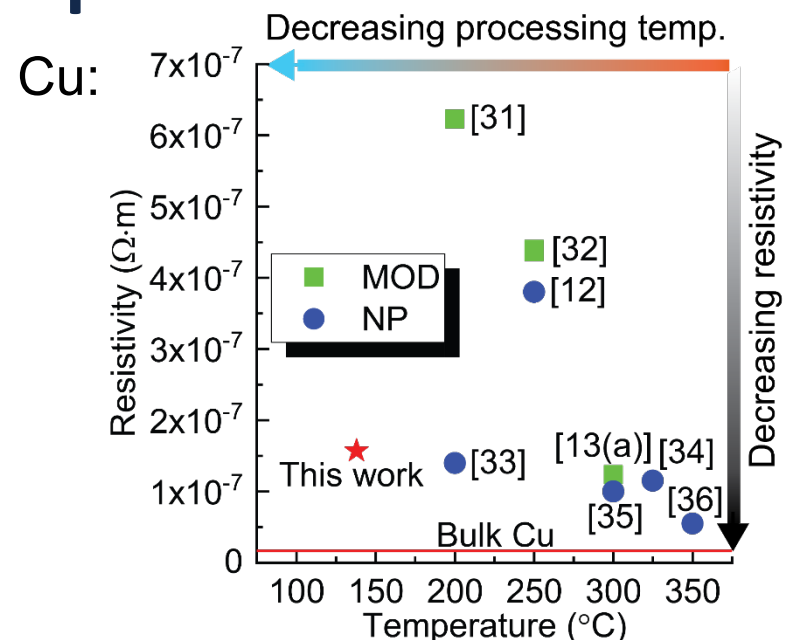
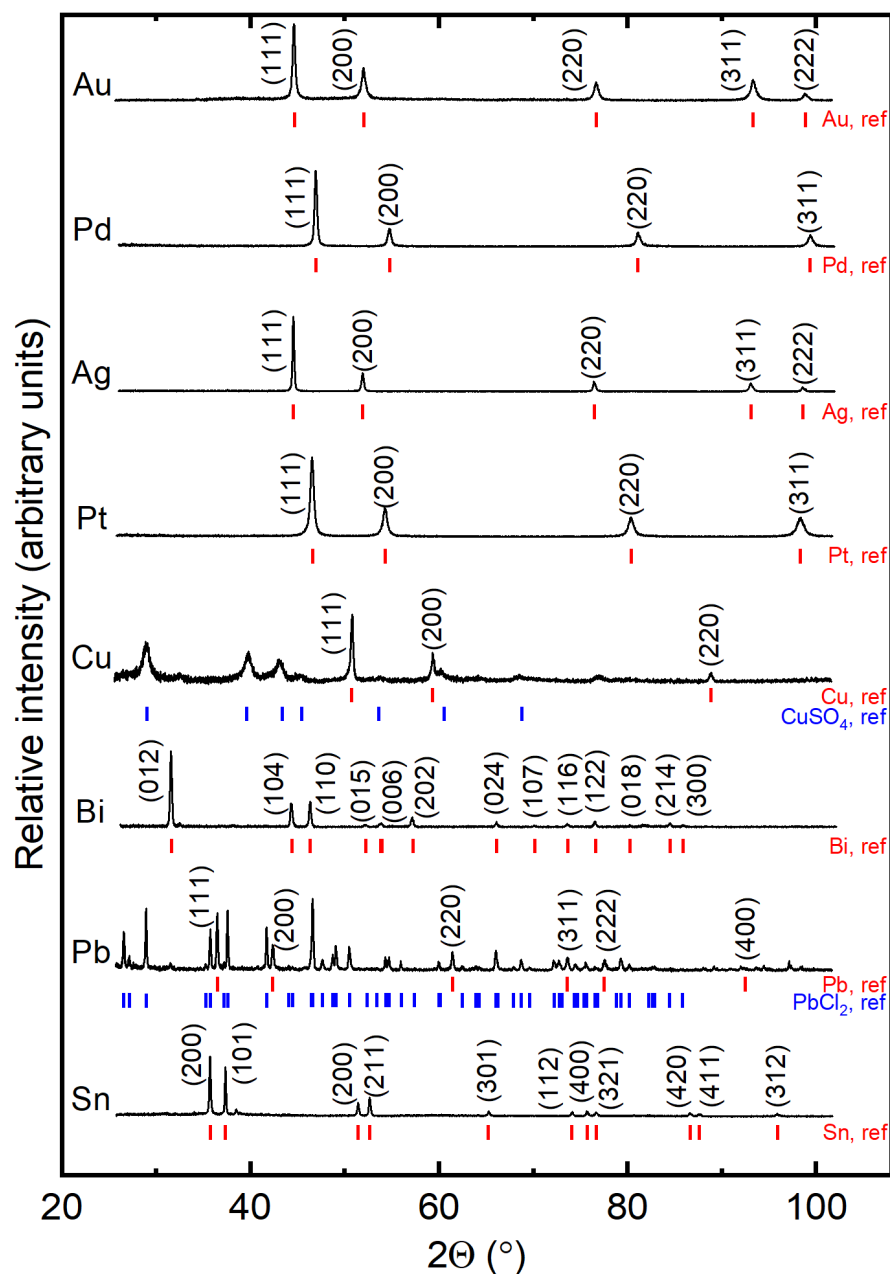
Plasma conversion: Metal salts dispersed in aqueous solutions



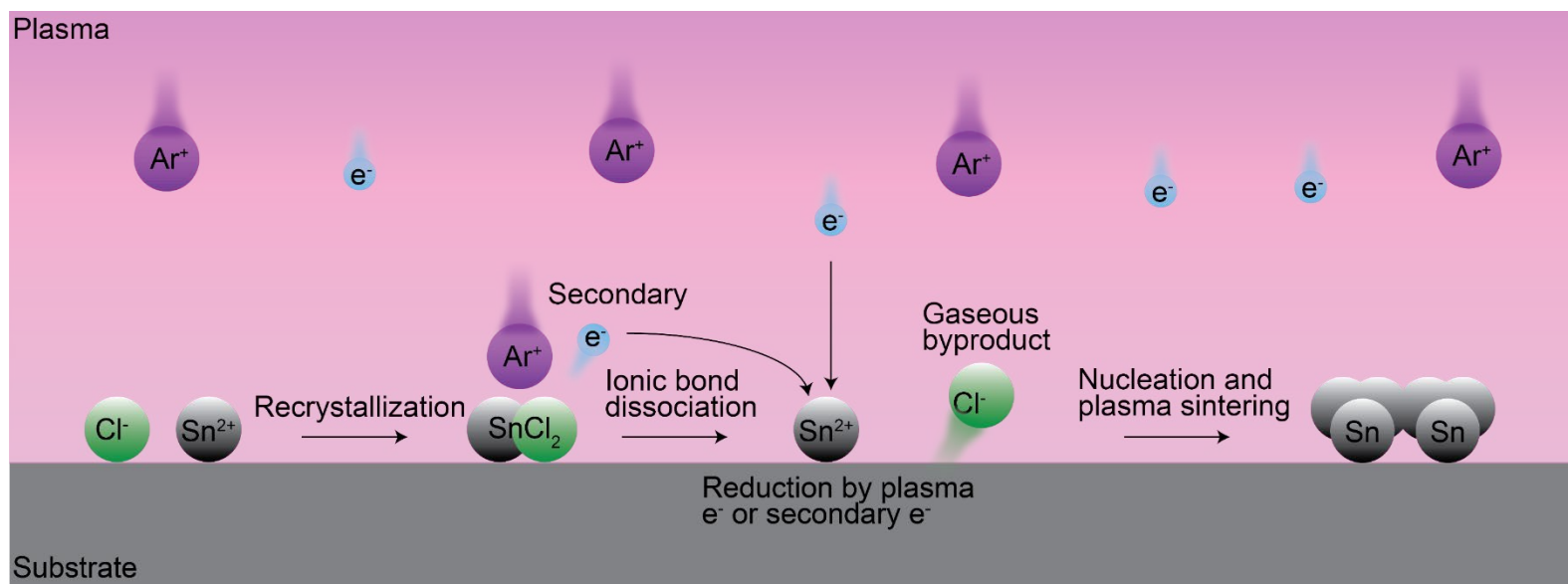
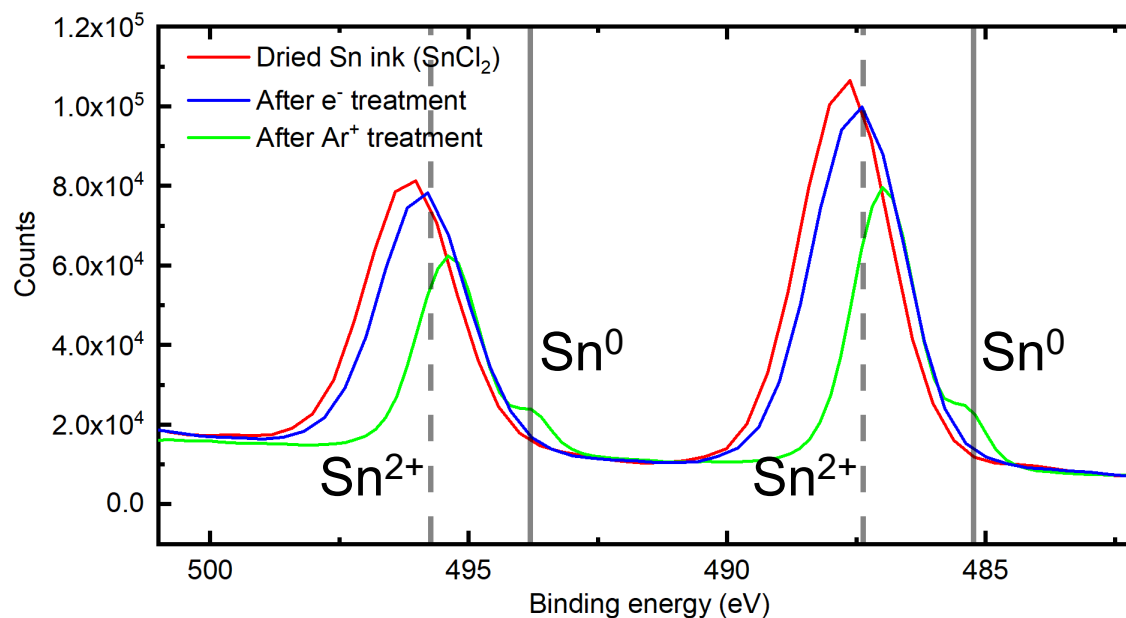
Plasma conversion: Metal salts dispersed in aqueous solutions



Characterization of printed and plasma converted metals

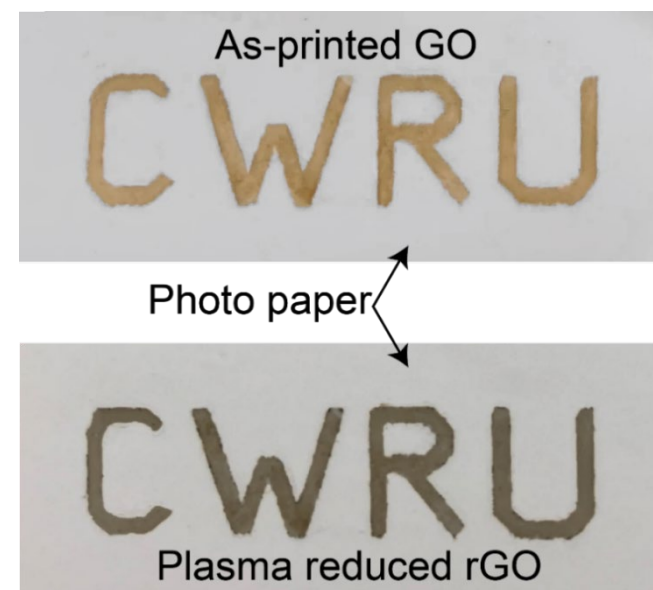
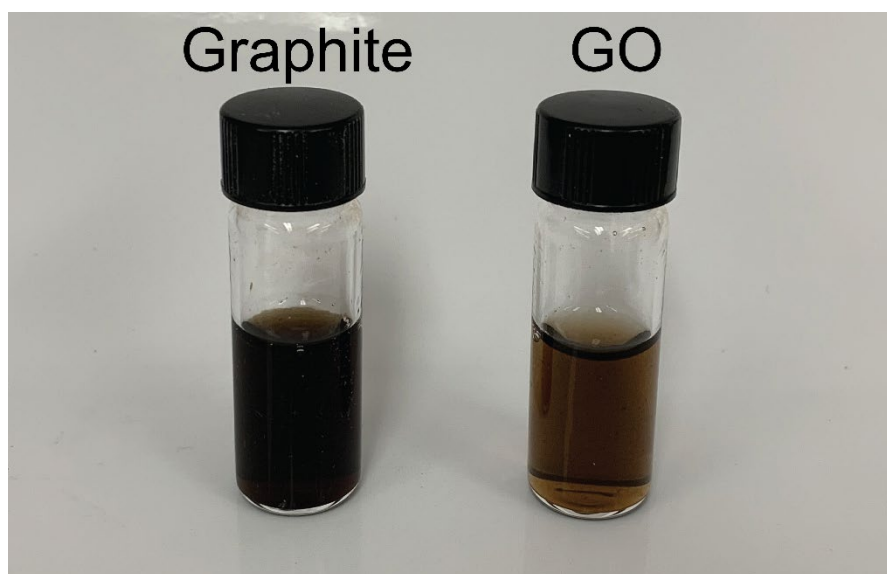
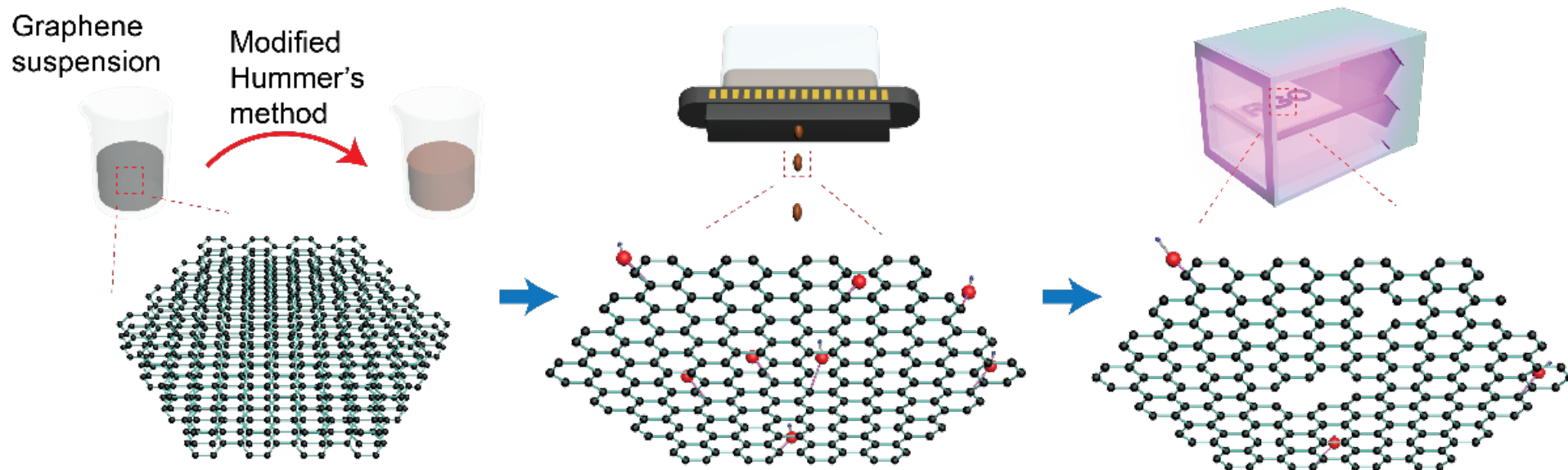


Potential mechanism for plasma conversion of printed metal salt films

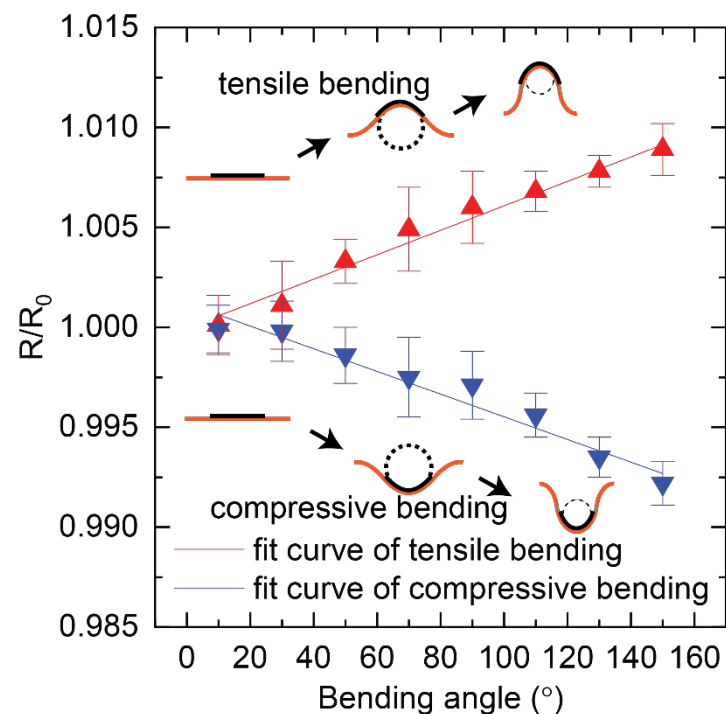
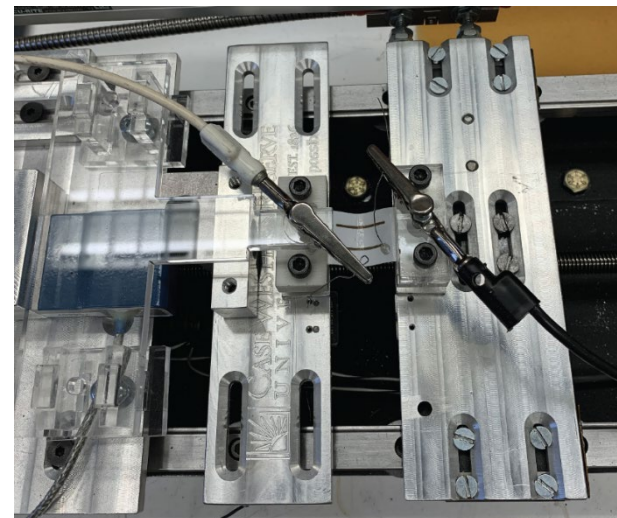
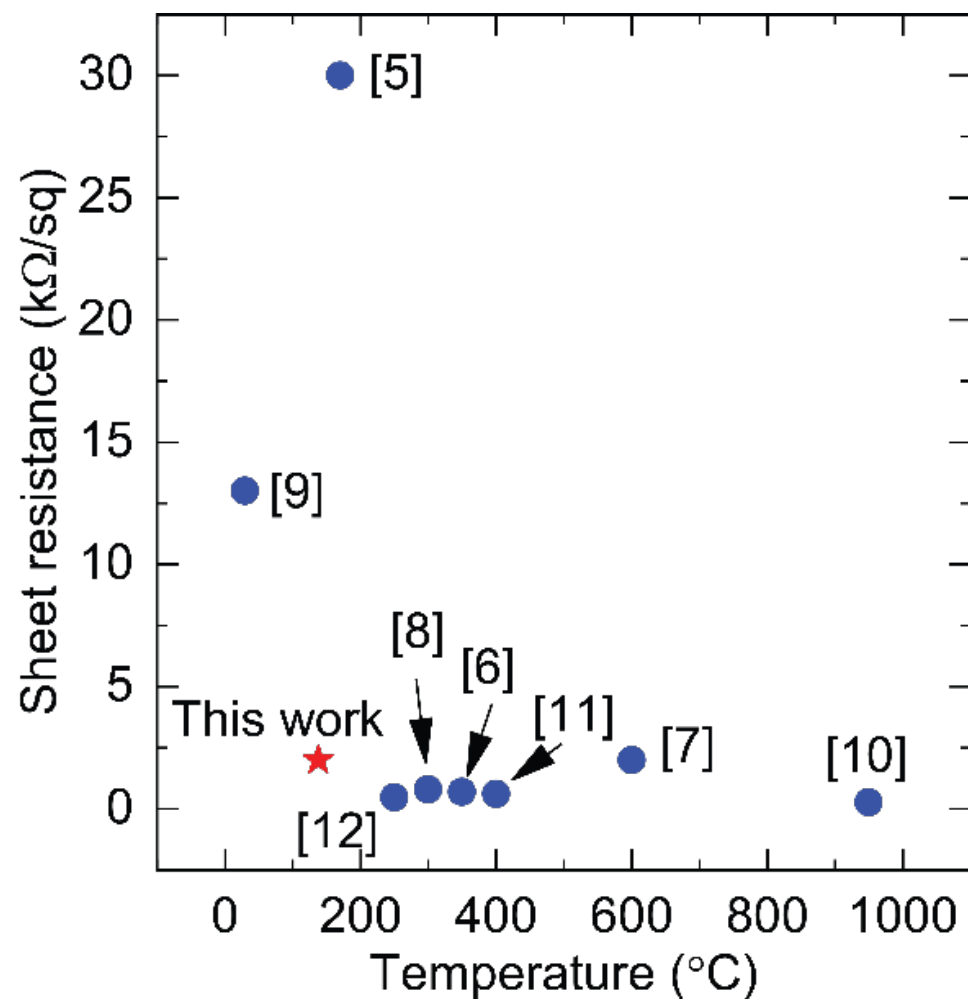


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 - c. **Beyond metals**

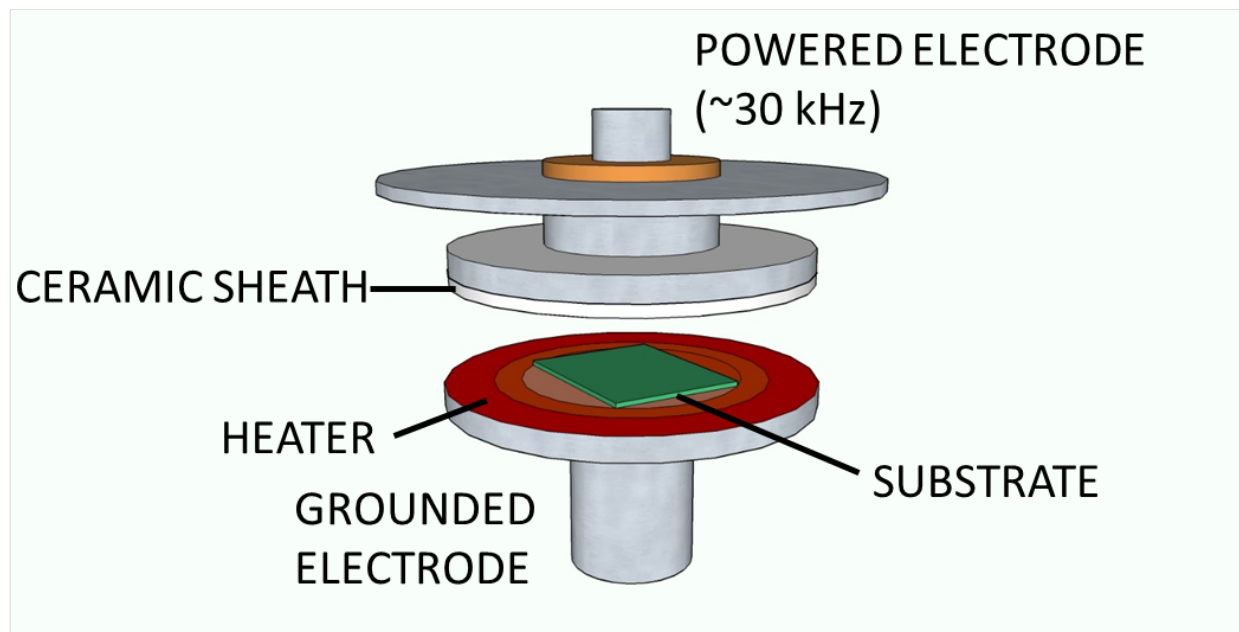
Plasma conversion (reduction) of graphene oxide



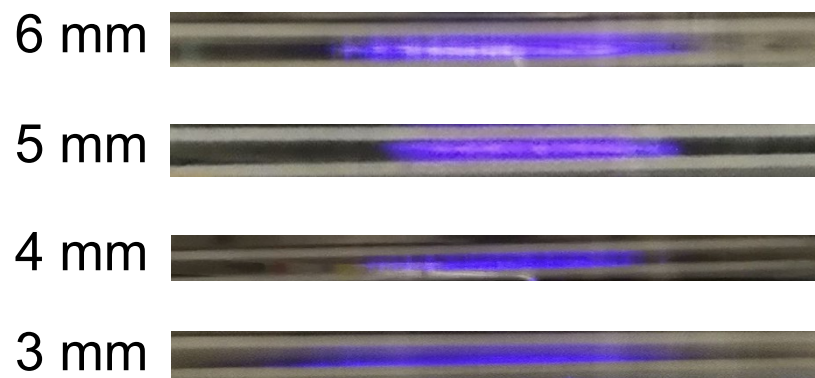
Characterization of plasma-converted rGO



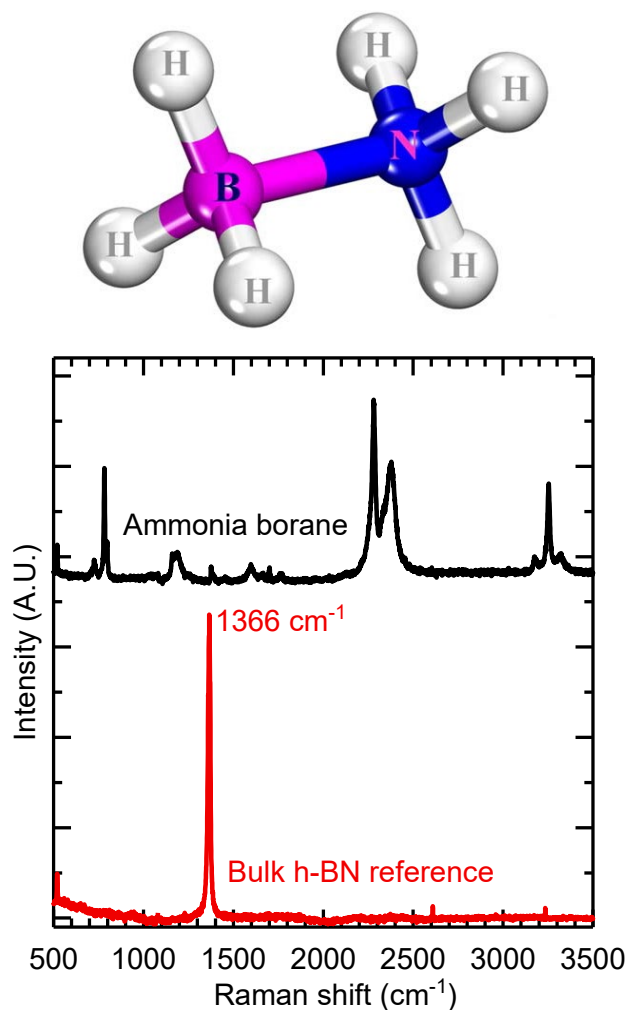
Atmospheric-pressure dielectric barrier (DBD) reactor with cold wall substrate heater



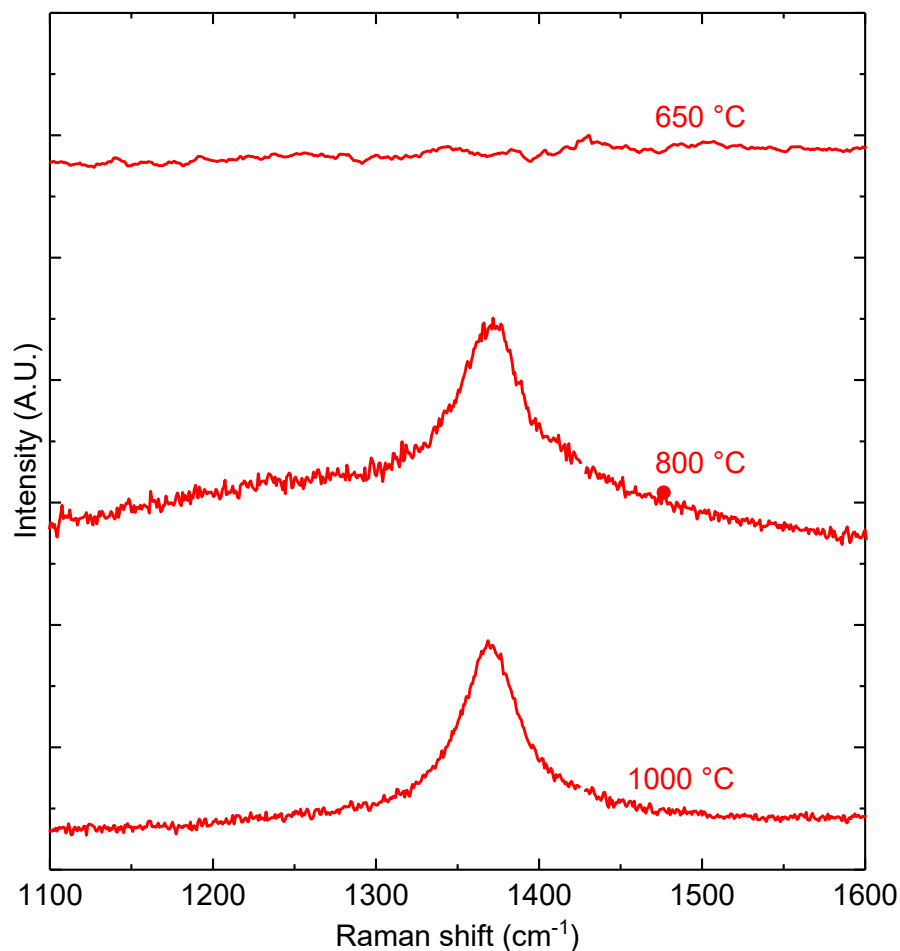
Electrode gap



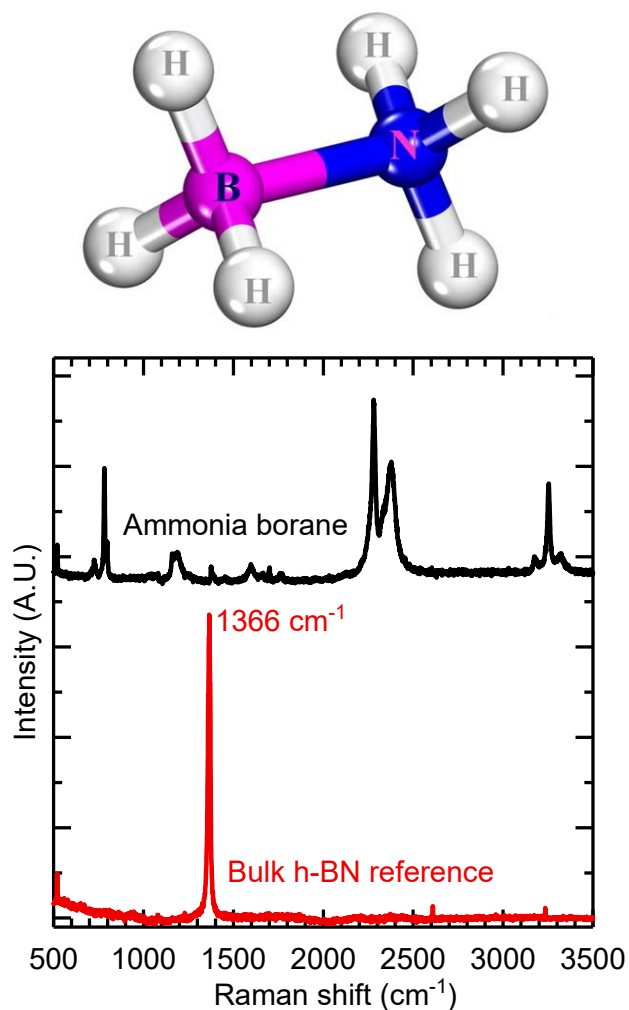
Plasma conversion of spin-coated ammonia borane to h-BN thin films (Ar only)



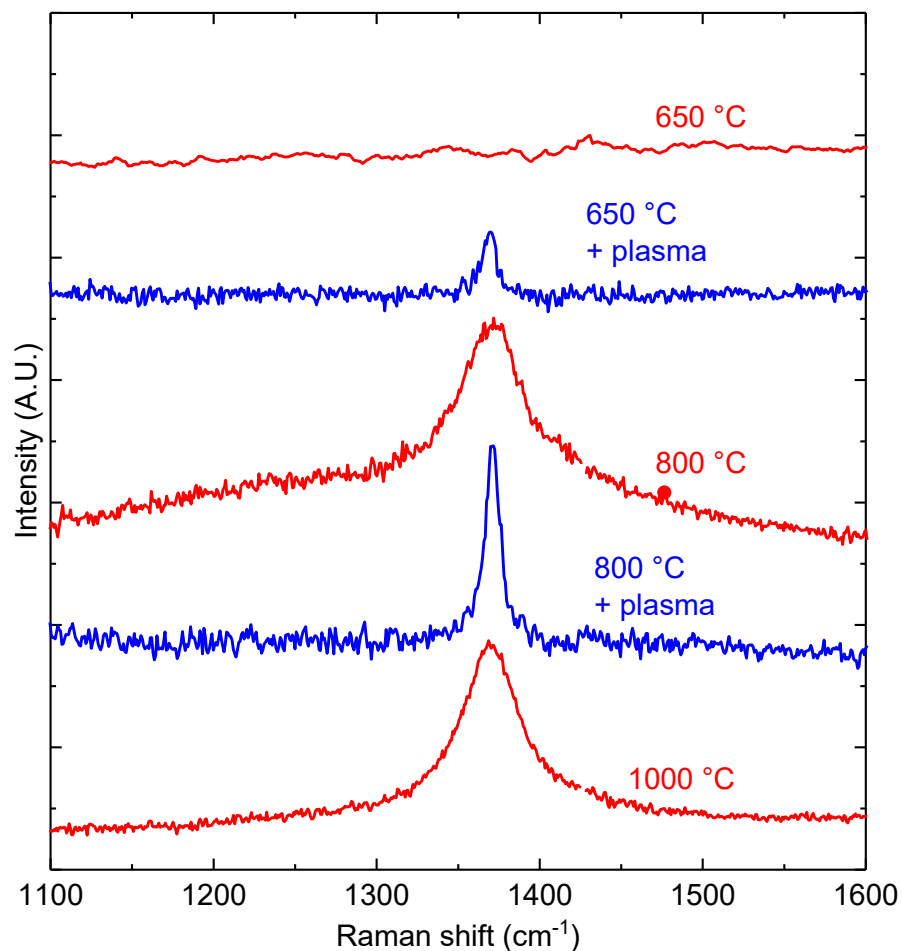
Micro Raman spectroscopy:



Plasma conversion of spin-coated ammonia borane to h-BN thin films (Ar only)

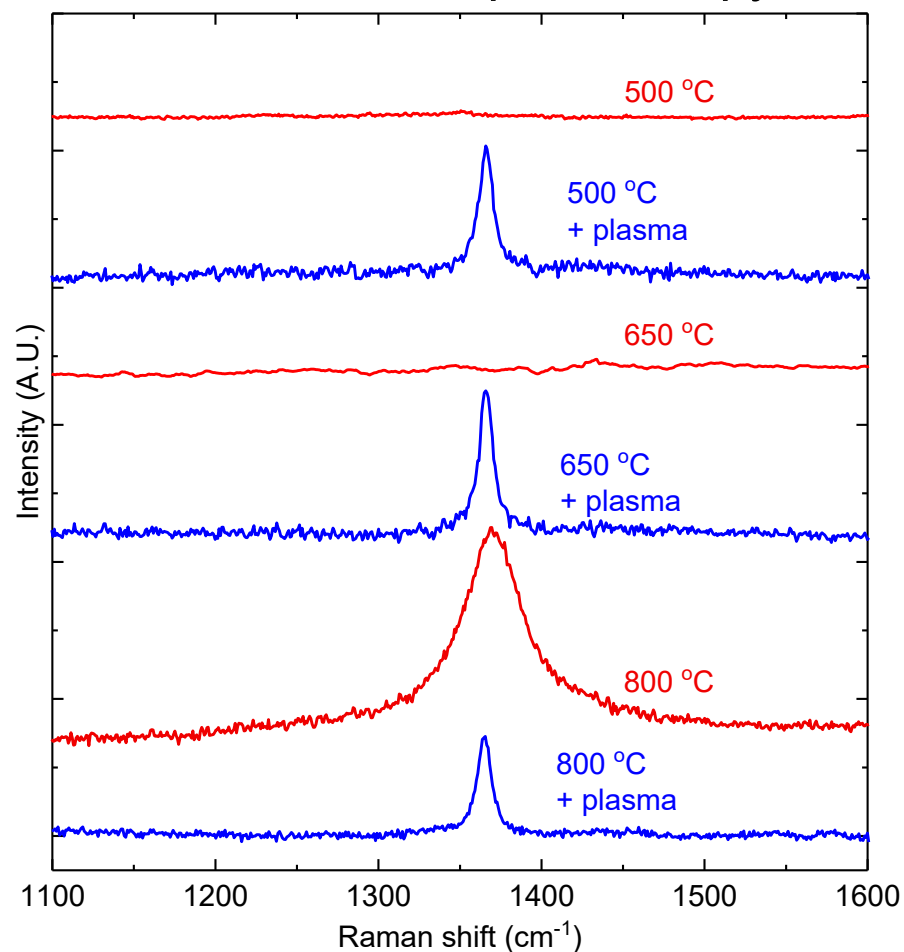


Micro Raman spectroscopy:

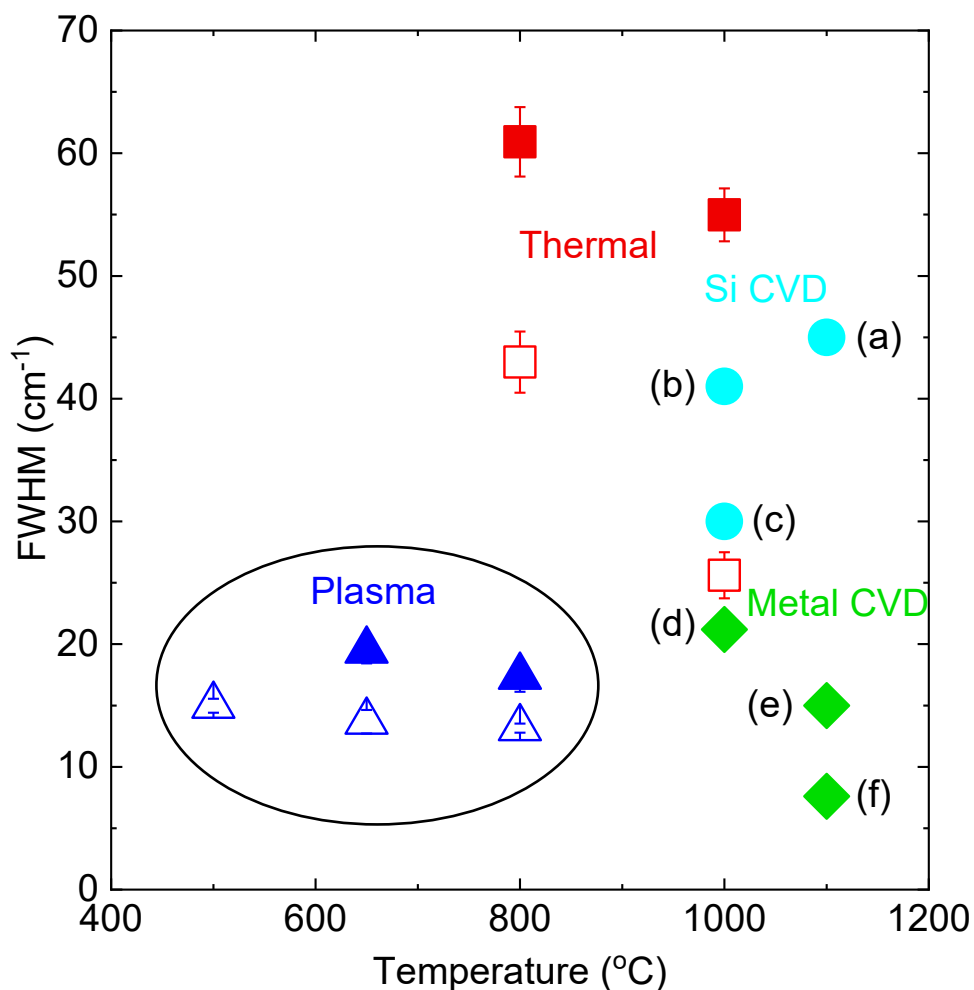


Plasma conversion of spin-coated ammonia borane to h-BN thin films (Ar + H₂)

Micro Raman spectroscopy:



Assessment of film crystallinity by Raman analysis



FWHM ($\Gamma_{1/2}$) is inversely related to crystalline domain size (L_a):

$$L_a = \frac{1417}{\Gamma_{1/2}} - 8.7^*$$

*R. Nemanich *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. B* **23**, 6348 (1981).

(a) S. Behura *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **137**, 13060 (2015).

(b) S. Behura *et al.*, *ACS Nano* **11**, 4985 (2017).

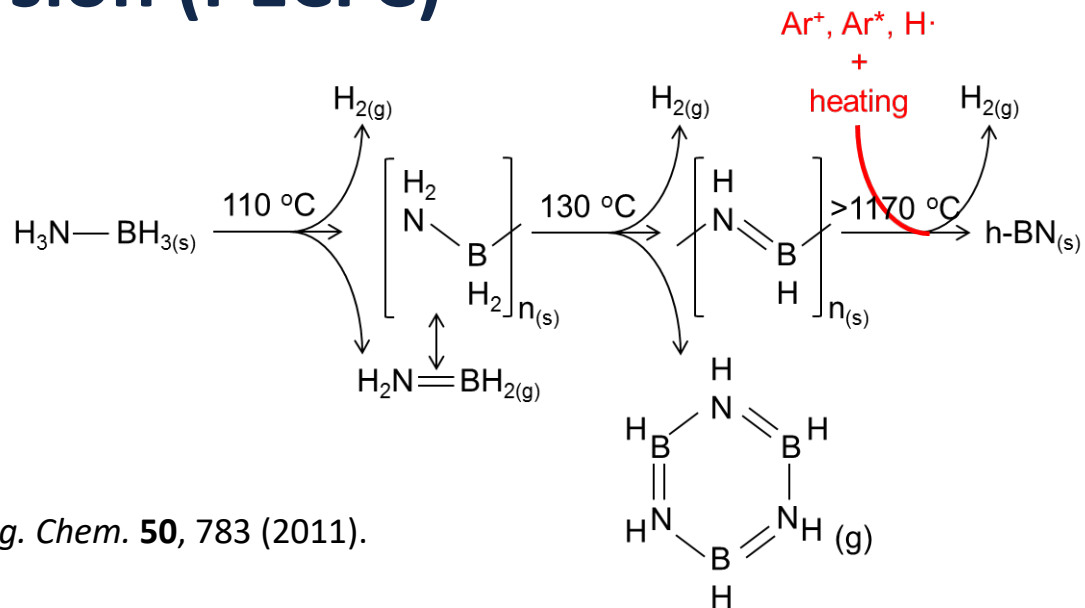
(c) R. Y. Tay *et al.*, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **106**, 101901 (2015).

(d) L. Song *et al.*, *Nano Lett.* **10**, 3209 (2010).

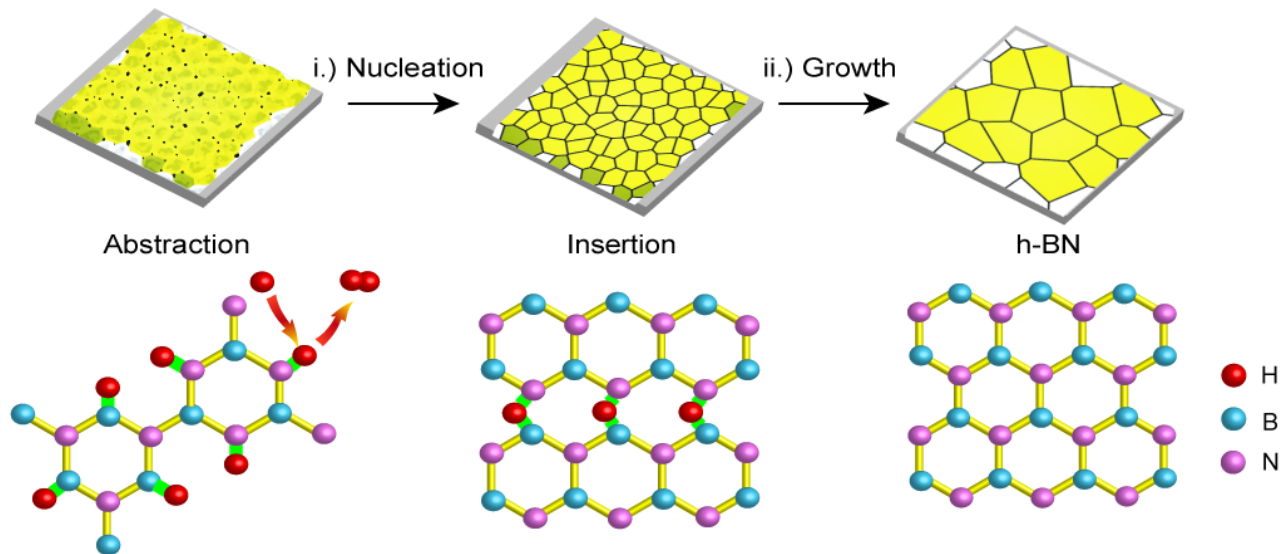
(e) J-H. Park *et al.*, *ACS Nano* **8**, 8520 (2014).

(f) S. M. Kim *et al.*, *Nat. Comm.* **6**, 8862 (2015).

Proposed mechanism for plasma-enhanced chemical film conversion (PECFC)

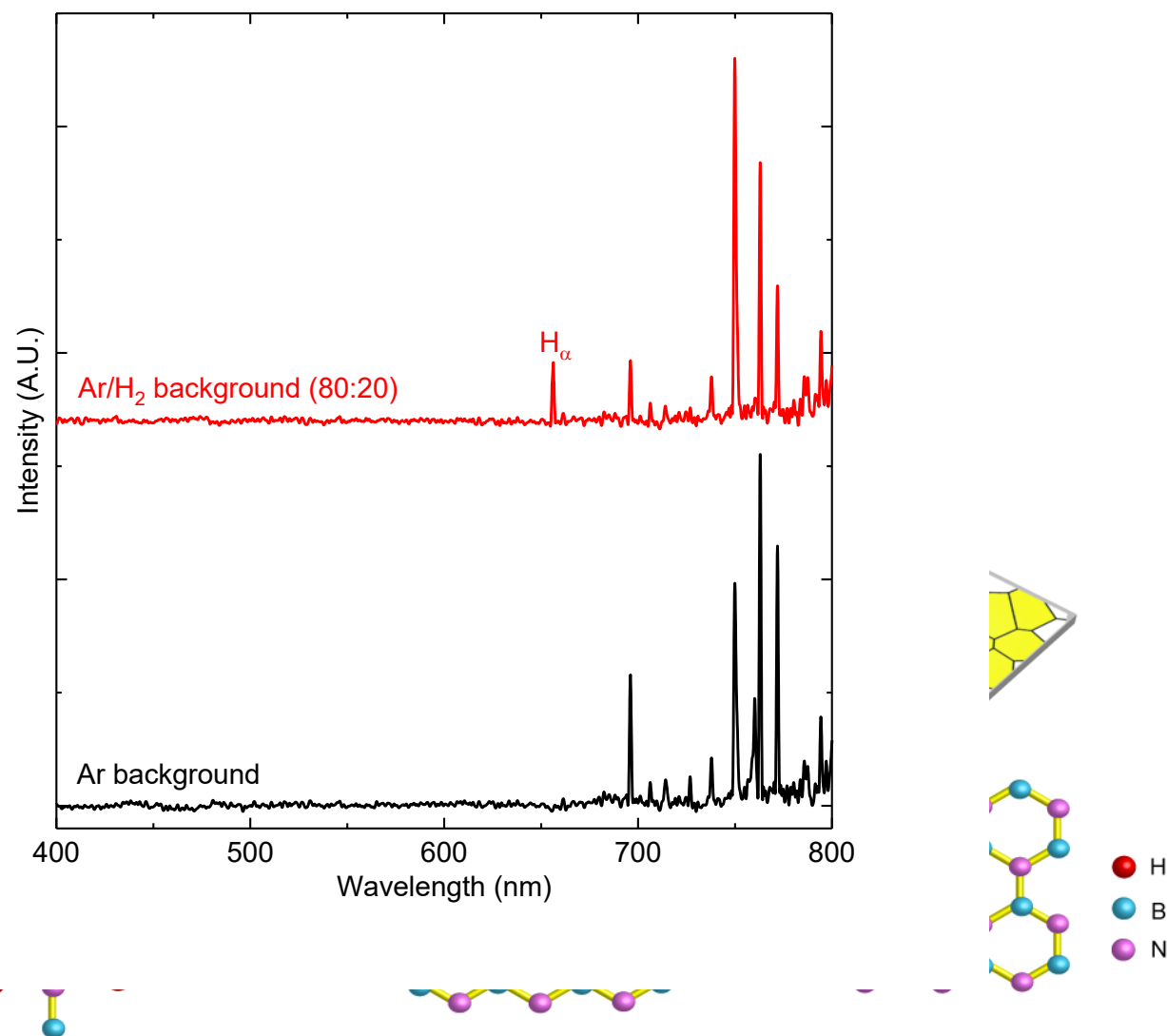


S. Frueh *et al.*, *Inorg. Chem.* **50**, 783 (2011).

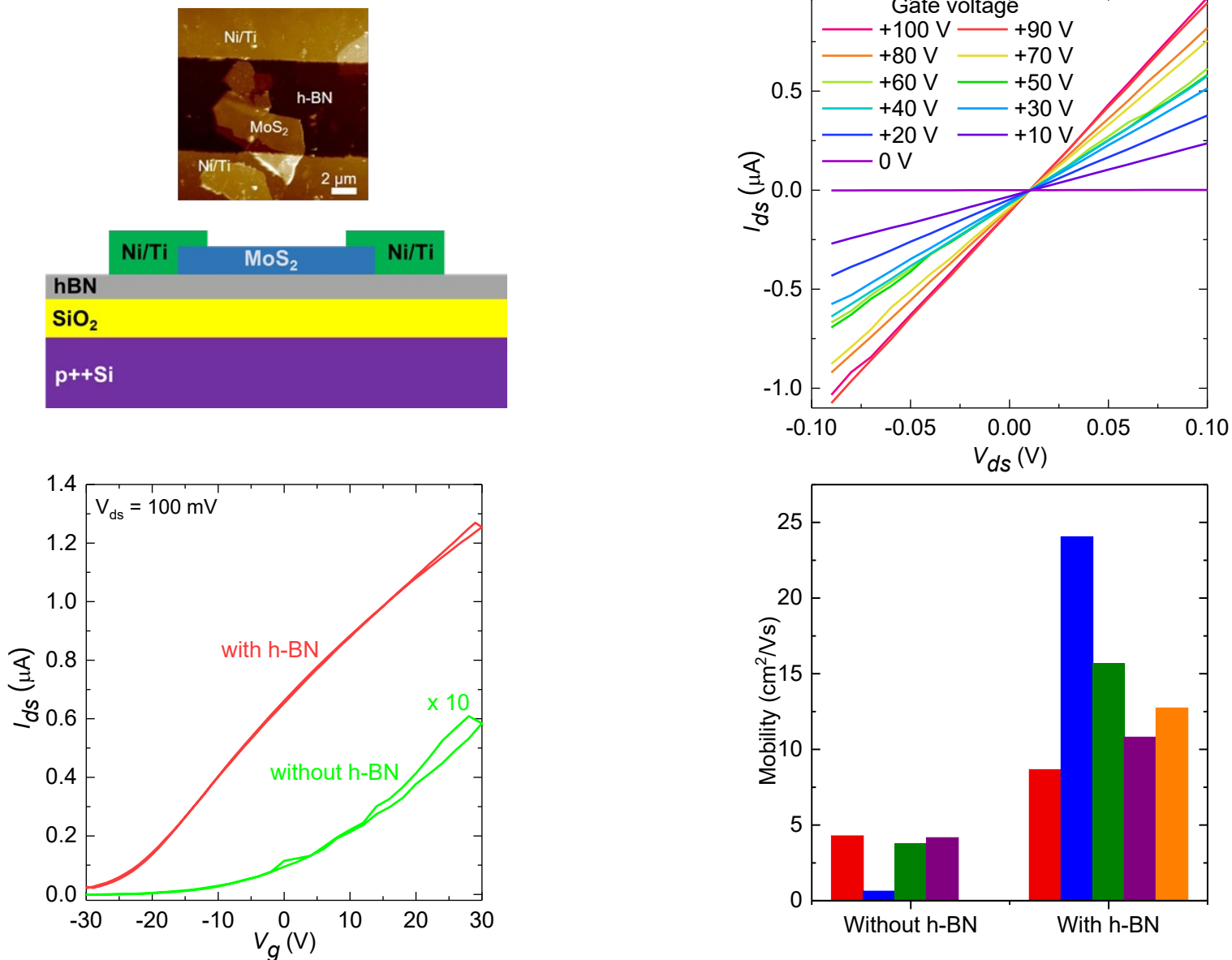


Proposed mechanism for plasma-enhanced chemical film conversion (PECFC)

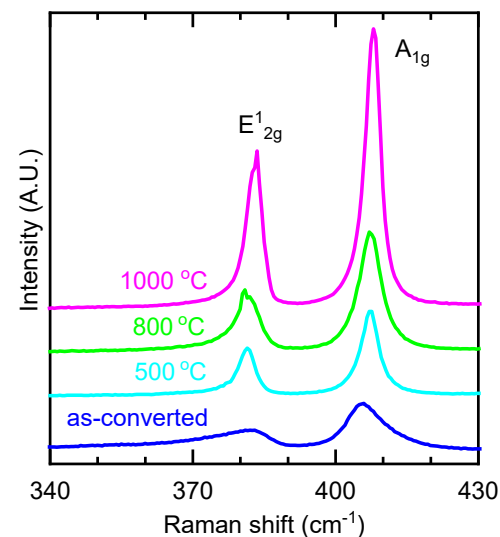
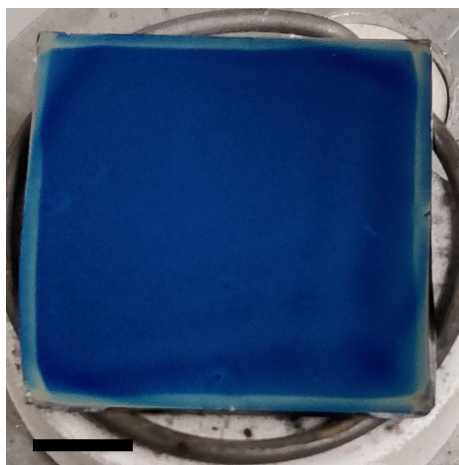
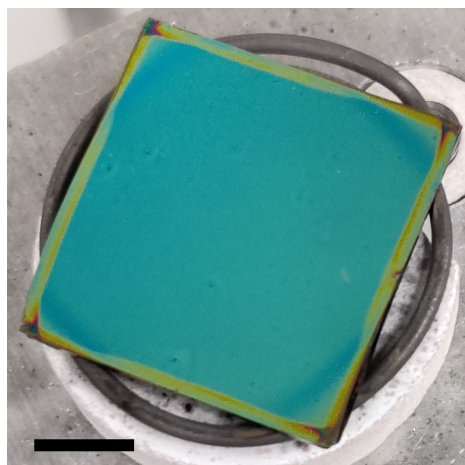
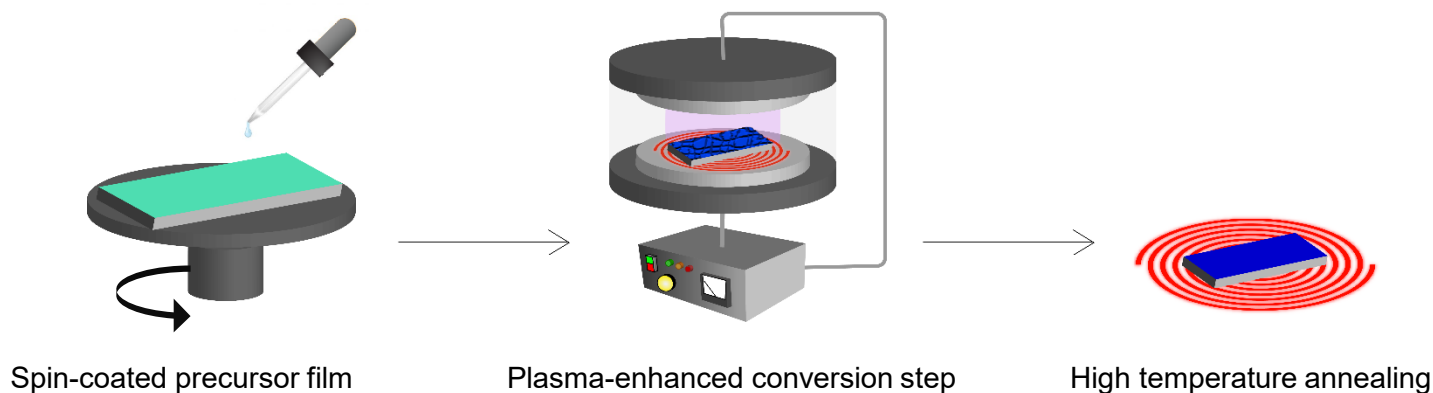
S. Frueh *et al.*, *Inorg*



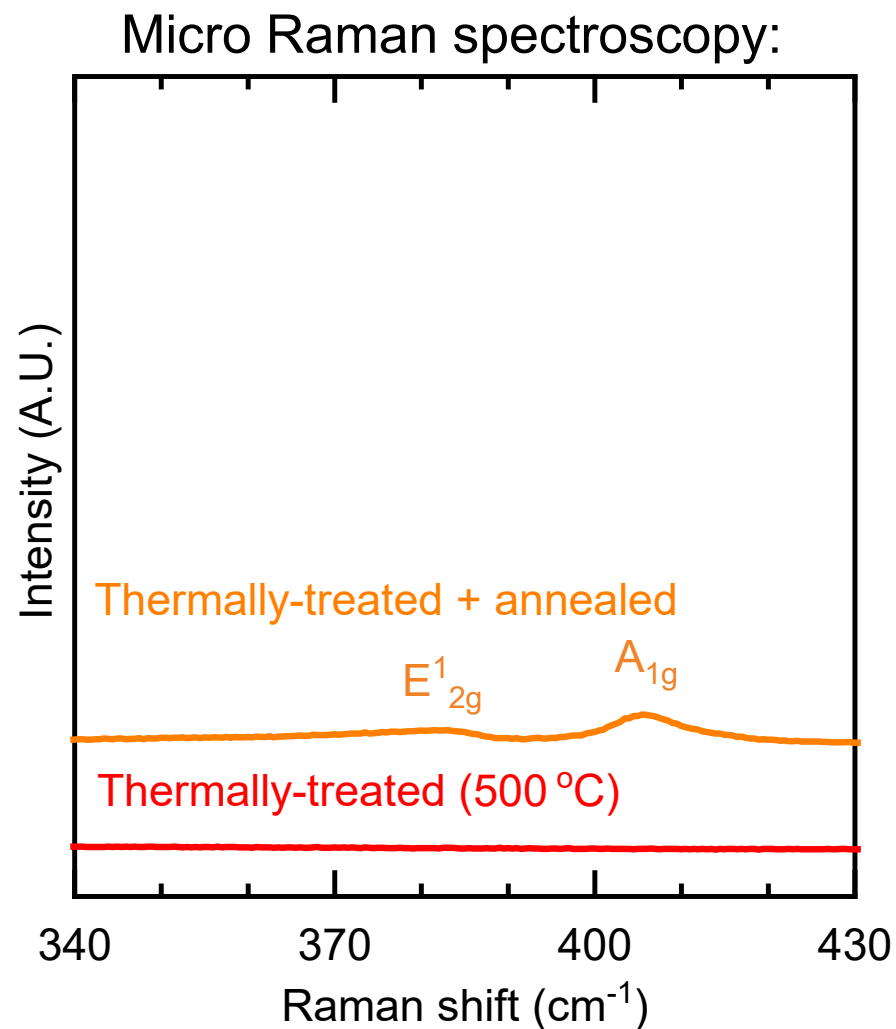
Demonstration of h-BN films as gate dielectric in 2D device



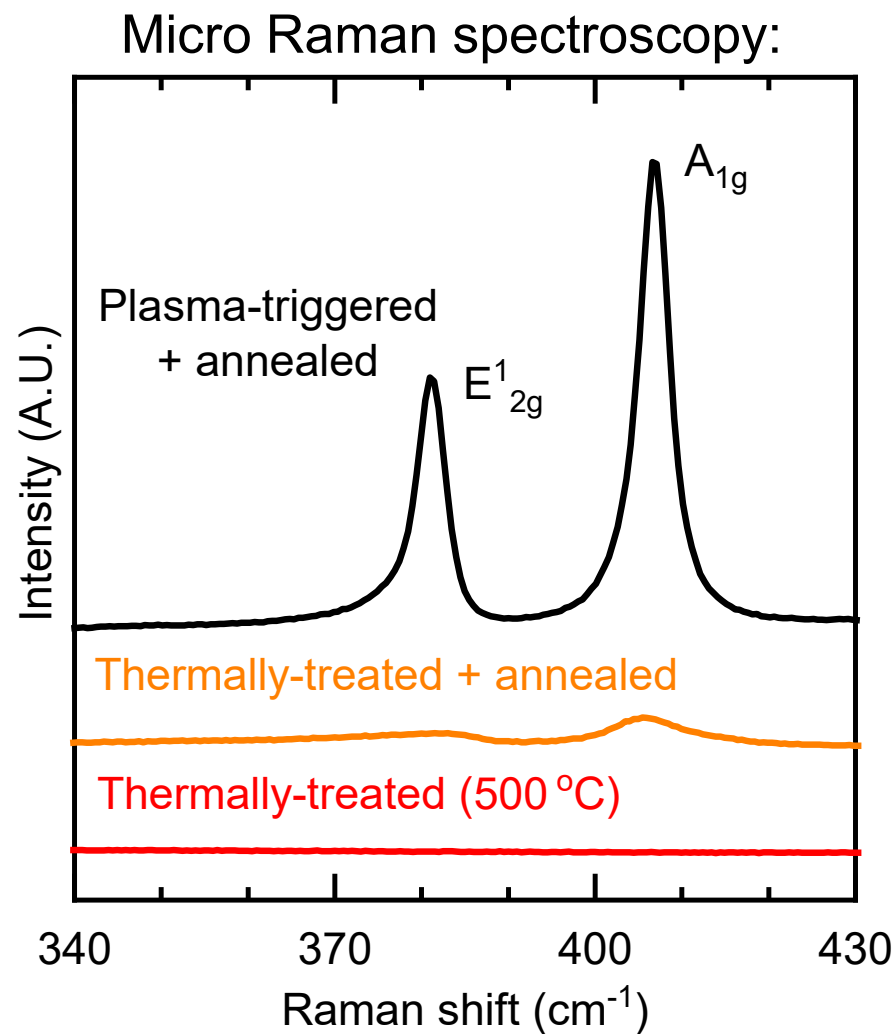
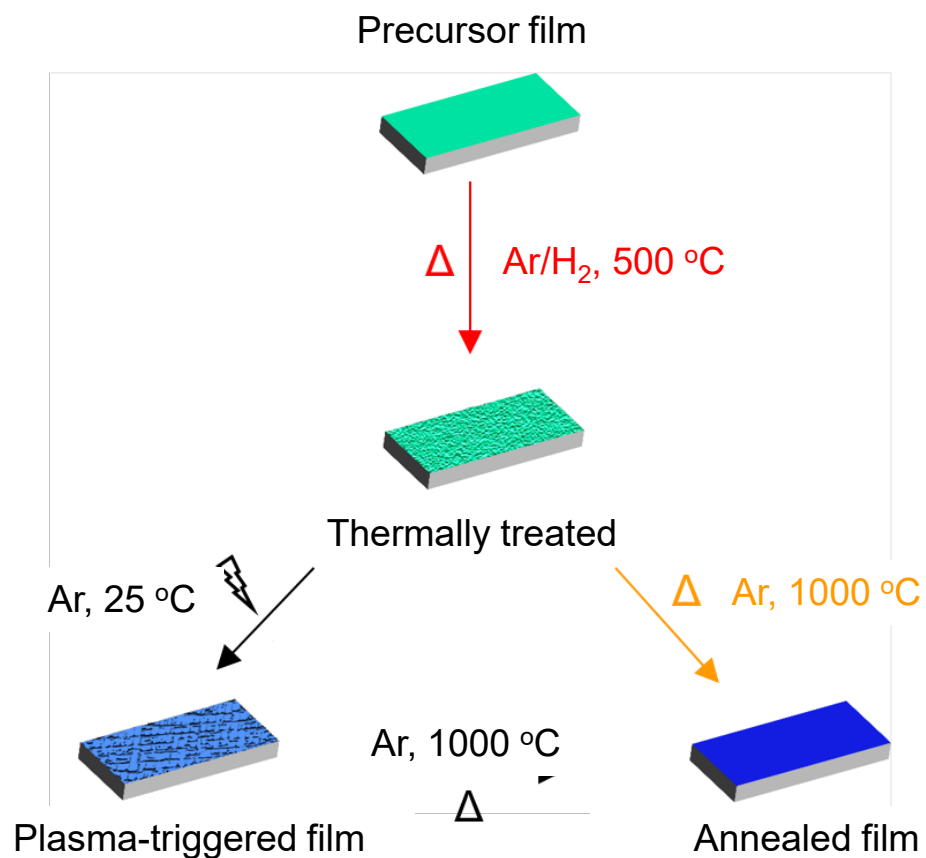
Extending PECFC to other layered materials: MoS₂ from (NH₄)₂²⁺MoS₄²⁻ (ATM)



Plasma *induces* nucleation, growth, and crystallization

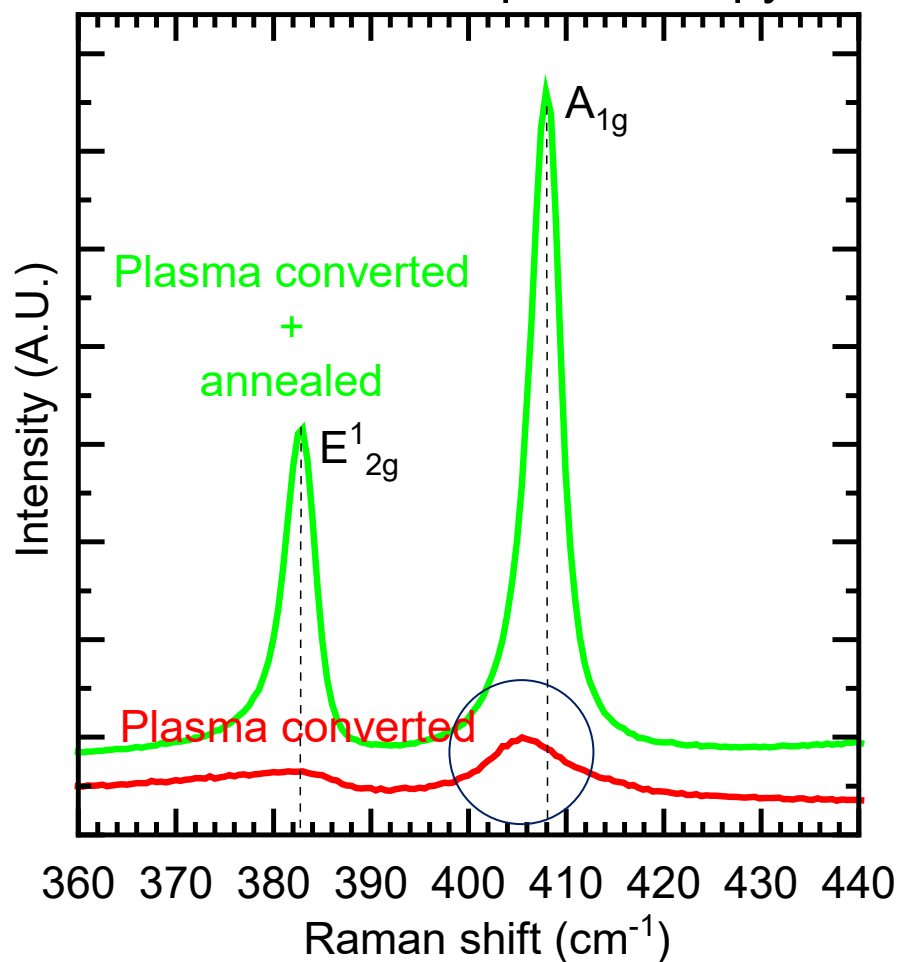


Plasma *induces* nucleation, growth, and crystallization

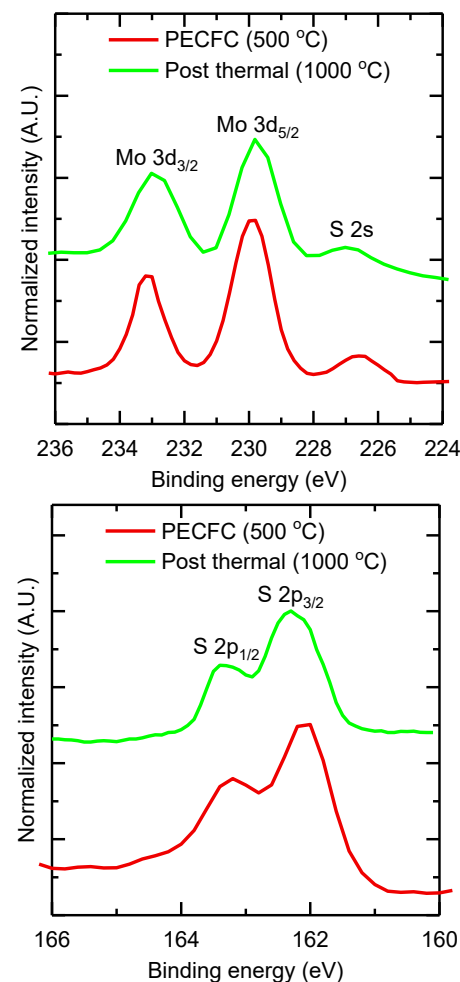


Strain generation in MoS₂ films

Micro Raman spectroscopy:

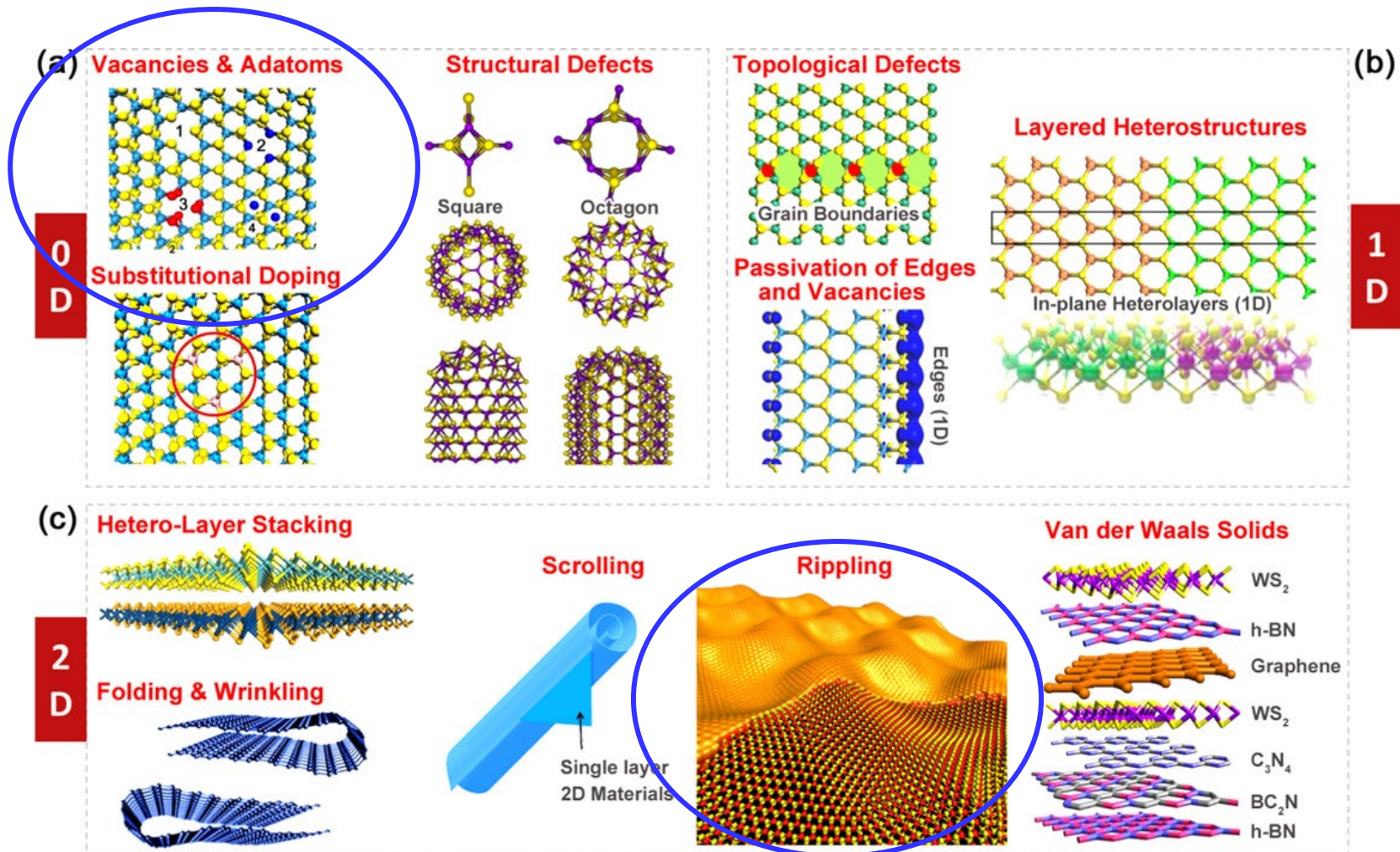


X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy:



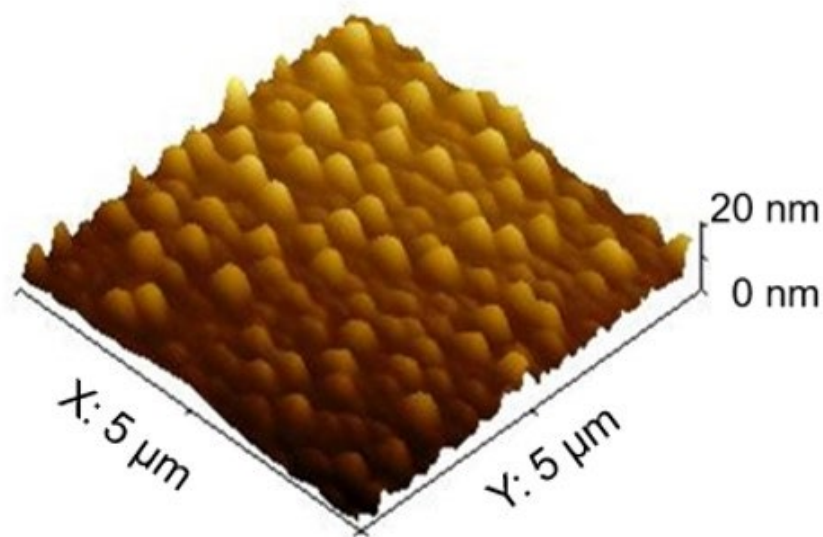
S:Mo ratio is constant!

Types of defects in MoS₂



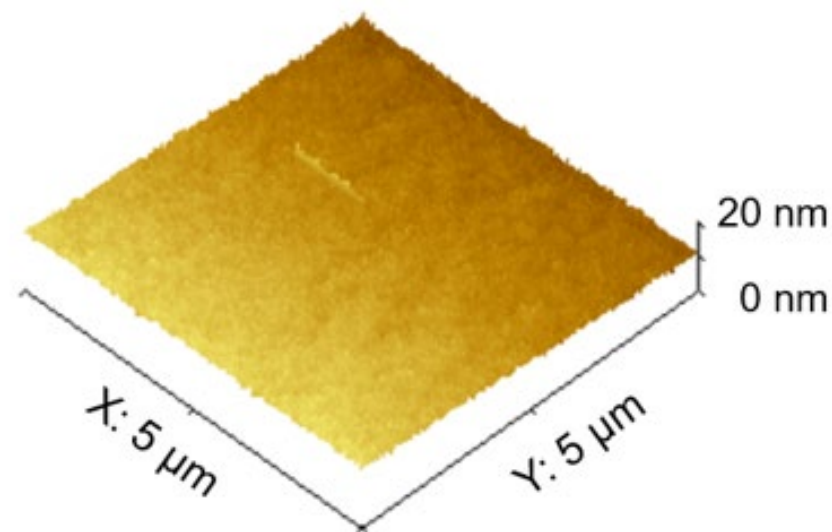
AFM characterization of plasma converted MoS₂ films: evidence for rippling

PECFC (500 °C)



RMS roughness: 1.7 nm

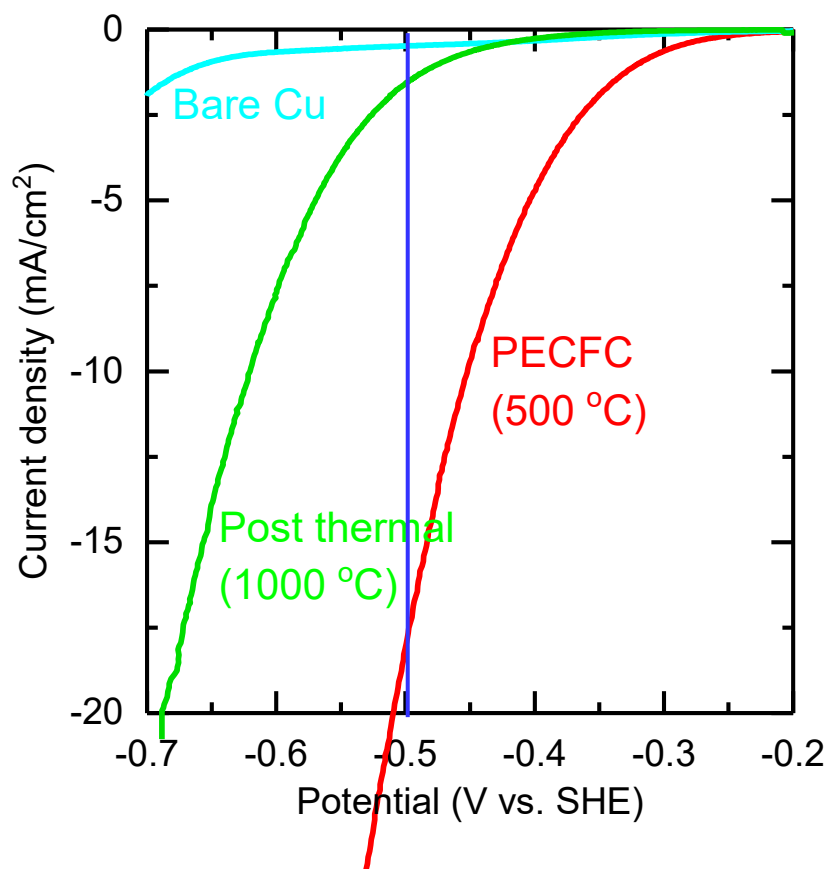
Annealed (1000 °C)



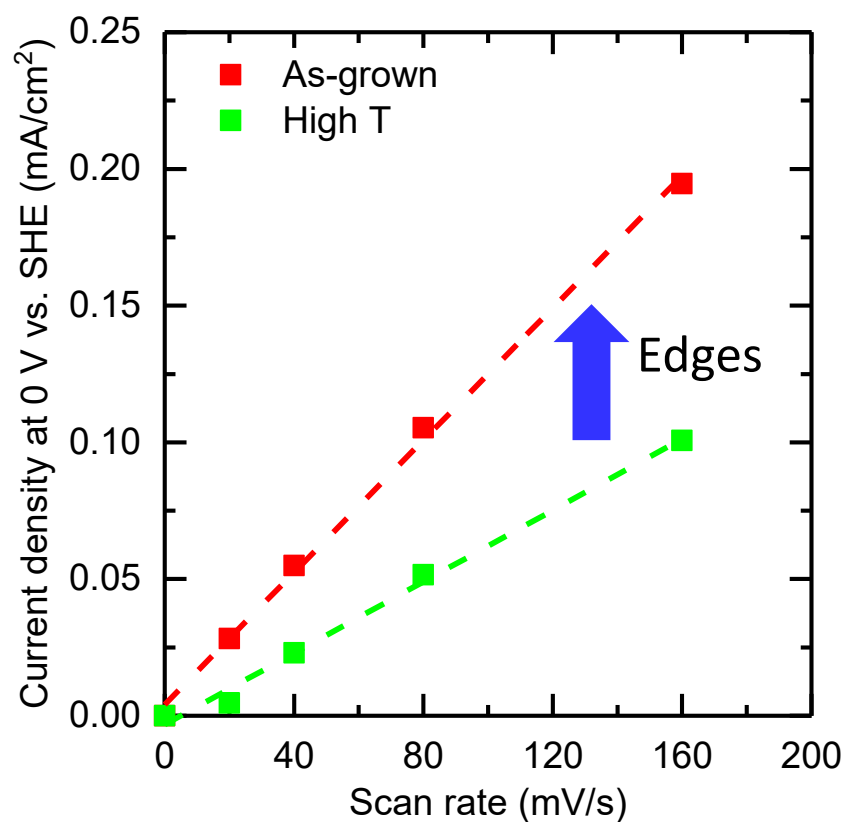
RMS roughness: 0.5 nm

Plasma converted MoS₂ as catalyst for hydrogen evolution reaction (HER)

Polarization curves in 0.5 M H₂SO₄:



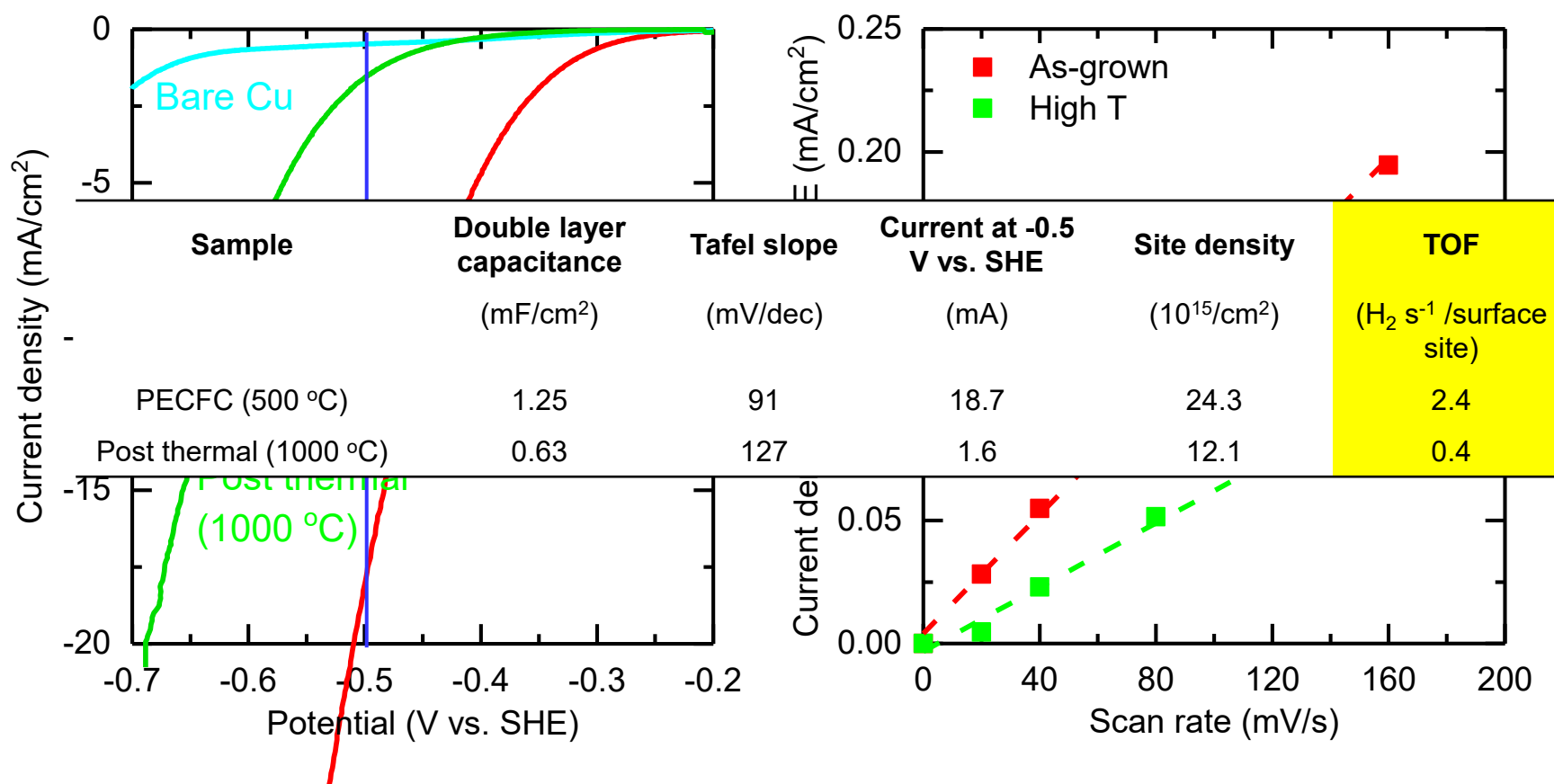
Double layer capacitance:



Plasma converted MoS₂ as catalyst for hydrogen evolution reaction (HER)

Polarization curves in 0.5 M H₂SO₄:

Double layer capacitance:



Take home messages

Unique features of plasmas for AM:

- Ability to *chemically* convert, not just heat/sinter
- Gas-phase species for nucleation/growth and crystallization
- Charged species for low-temperature dissociation, electric migration, and defect generation

Challenges to overcome for AM:

- Lower processing temperatures even further for materials beyond metals
- Decrease resolution for direct write
- Integrate with existing tools for 3D fabrication

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Alumni

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Current group members

- **Souvik Bhattacharya (Ph.D. candidate)**

Collaborators

CWRU

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- Craig Virnelson
- Prof. C.C. Liu
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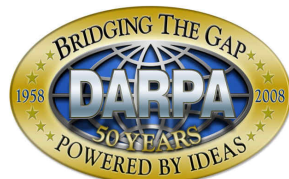
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- Dr. Jonathan Cowen
- Dr. Danqi Wang

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science:

- **Dr. Yongkun Sui (University of Colorado Boulder)**
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