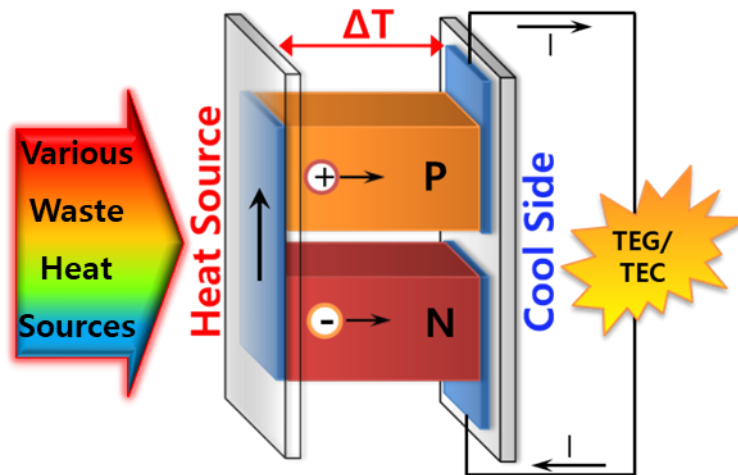


# Introduction to Thermoelectrics



Soonil Lee

School of Materials Science and Engineering, Changwon National University, Korea

01

Introduction of Thermoelectric Effect

02

Introduction of Thermoelectric Materials

03

Thermoelectric Materials Engineering

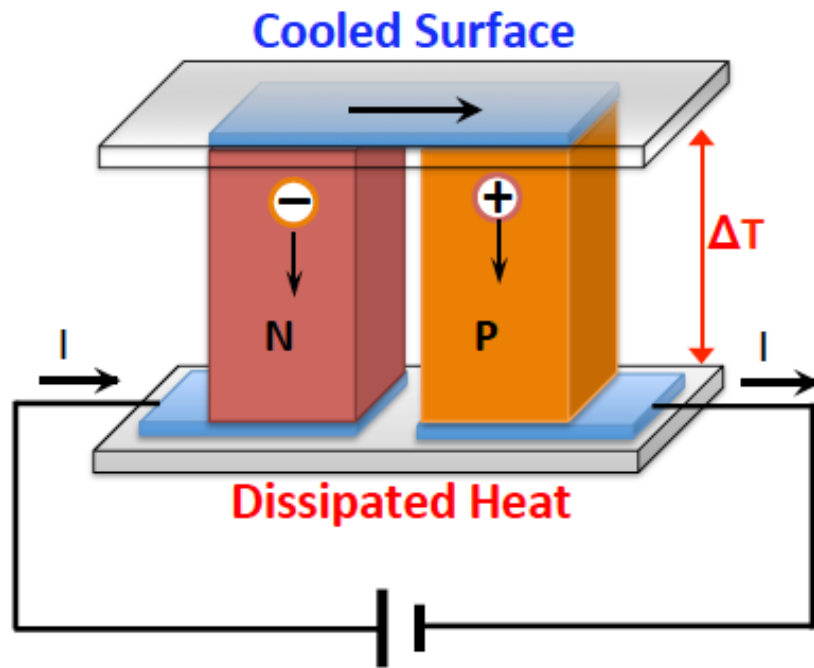
04

Thermoelectric Modules Engineering

# Thermoelectric Effect

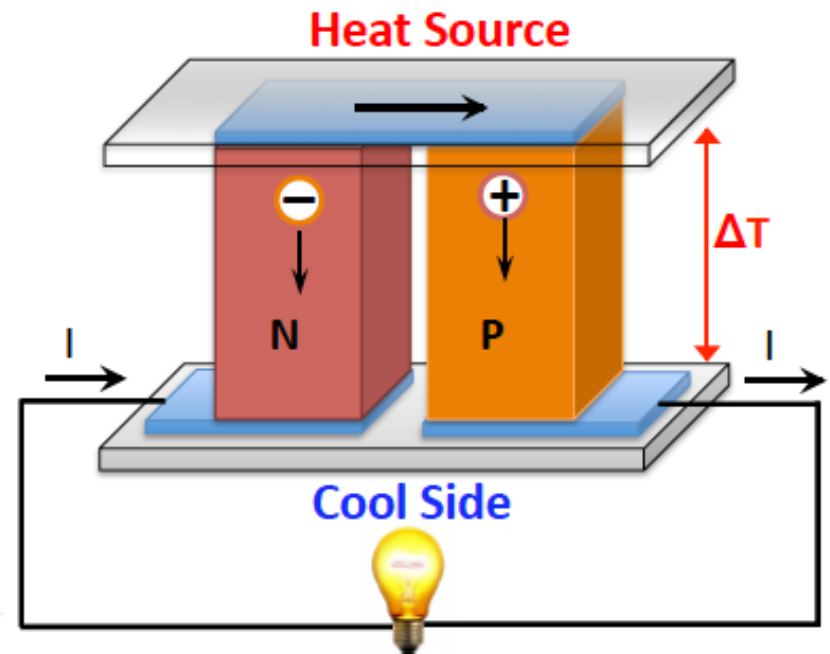
**Thermoelectric Effect:** direct conversion of temperature differences to electric voltage and vice versa (Seebeck effect, Peltier effect, Thomson effect)

## The Peltier effect



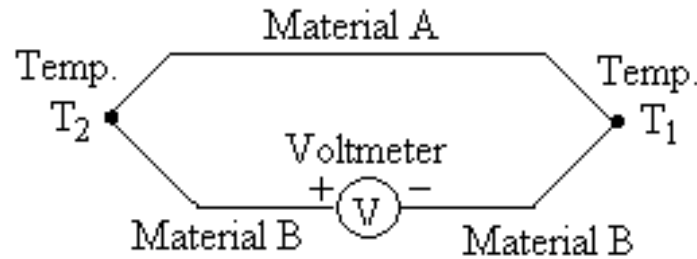
## Thermoelectric Cooler

## The Seebeck effect



## Thermoelectric Power Generator

# Thermoelectric Coefficients



1) **Seebeck coefficient** (Thermopower, thermoelectric power, thermal EMF coefficient):

$$S_{AB} = \frac{V}{\Delta T}$$

2) **Peltier coefficient ( $\pi$ )**: how much heat is carried per unit charge

$$\pi_{AB} = \frac{q}{I} \quad q: \text{rate of heating or cooling at each junction}$$

**Kelvin (Thomson) relation:**

$$\pi_{AB} = S_{AB}T$$

3) **Thomson coefficient ( $\tau$ )**: a spatial gradient in temperature can result in a gradient in the Seebeck coefficient

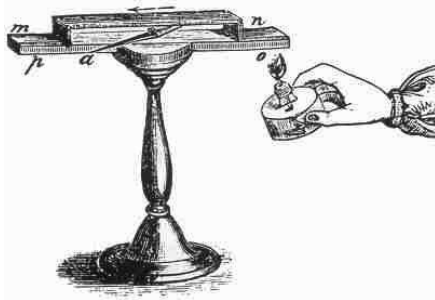
$$\tau_A - \tau_B = T \frac{dS_{AB}}{dT}$$

# Brief History of Thermoelectrics

## Seebeck Effect (1821-3)



Thomas Johann Seebeck



## Peltier Effect (1834)

In 1834, **Jean Charles Athanase Peltier** found that an electrical current would produce heating or cooling at the junction of two dissimilar metals.



In 1851 **Gustav Magnus** discovered the Seebeck voltage does not depend on the distribution of temperature along the metals between the junctions an indication that the thermopower is a thermodynamic state function.

Gustav Magnus **Basis for thermocouple**



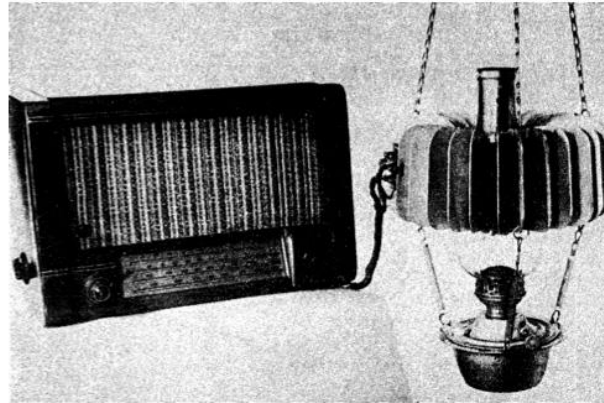
## Thomson Effect (1851)

In 1851, **William Thomson (later Lord Kelvin)** issued a comprehensive explanation of the Seebeck and Peltier Effects and described their interrelationship (known as the **Kelvin Relations**).

<http://www.thermoelectrics.caltech.edu/thermoelectrics/history.html>

# Brief History of Thermoelectrics

## Figure of Merit, ZT (1949)



In 1949 [Abram Fedorovich Ioffe](#) developed the modern theory of thermoelectricity using the concept of the 'figure of merit'  $zT$ .

One of the first demonstrations of 0 C cooling was by [H. Julian Goldsmid](#) in 1954 using thermoelements based on  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3$ , and one of the first to utilize the thermoelectric quality factor, identifying the importance of high mobility and effective mass combination and low lattice thermal conductivity in semiconductors



In 1995, [Glen Slack](#) summarized the material requirements succinctly in the "phonon-glass electron-crystal" concept.

<http://www.thermoelectrics.caltech.edu/thermoelectrics/history.html>

# Thermoelectric Refrigeration

## Electric Voltage (Current) → Temperature Difference

Electric Current,  $I$  :

$$I = \frac{\sigma VA}{L}$$

Rate of Heat Flow,  $q$  :

$$q = -\frac{kA\Delta T}{L}$$

Cooling Power,  $q_1$  :

$$q_1 = (S_p - S_n)IT_1 - (T_2 - T_1)(K_p + K_n) - I^2(R_p + R_n)/2$$

Coefficient of Performance, COP,  $\Phi$ :

$$\Phi = \frac{(S_p - S_n)IT_1 - (T_2 - T_1)(K_p + K_n) - I^2(R_p + R_n)/2}{(S_p - S_n)I(T_2 - T_1) + I^2(R_p + R_n)}$$

Current for the maximum cooling power,  $I_q$ :

$$I_q = (S_p - S_n)T_1/(R_p + R_n) \Rightarrow \Phi_q = \frac{ZT_1^2/2 - (T_2 - T_1)}{ZT_2T_1}$$

For maximum COP,

$$I_\Phi = \frac{(S_p - S_n)(T_2 - T_1)}{(R_p + R_n)\{(1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} - 1\}} \quad \Phi_{max} = \frac{T_1 \left\{ (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} - \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right) \right\}}{(T_2 + T_1)\{(1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} + 1\}}$$

# Thermoelectric Refrigeration

## Electric Voltage (Current) → Temperature Difference

Figure of Merit,  $Z$  :

$$Z = \frac{(S_p - S_n)^2}{(K_p + K_n)(R_p + R_n)} \rightarrow \text{This should be as small as possible.}$$

So, the form factors satisfy the relation

$$\frac{L_n A_p}{L_p A_n} = \left( \frac{\rho_p k_n}{\rho_n k_p} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$Z = \frac{(S_p - S_n)^2}{\left\{ (k_p \rho_p)^{1/2} + (k_n \rho_n)^{1/2} \right\}^2}$$

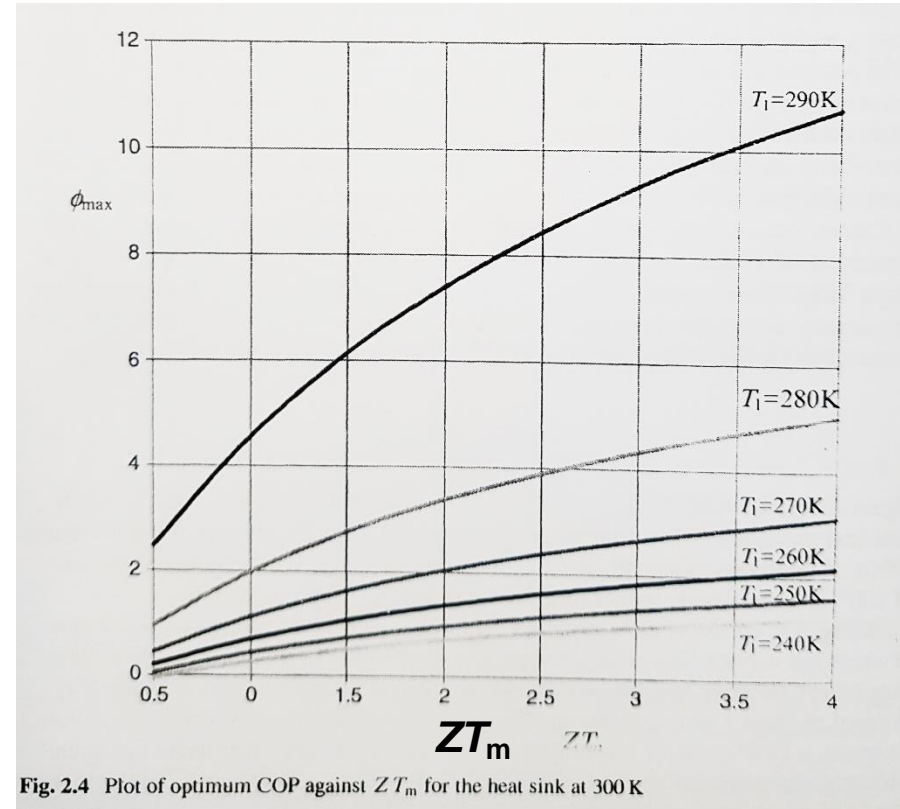
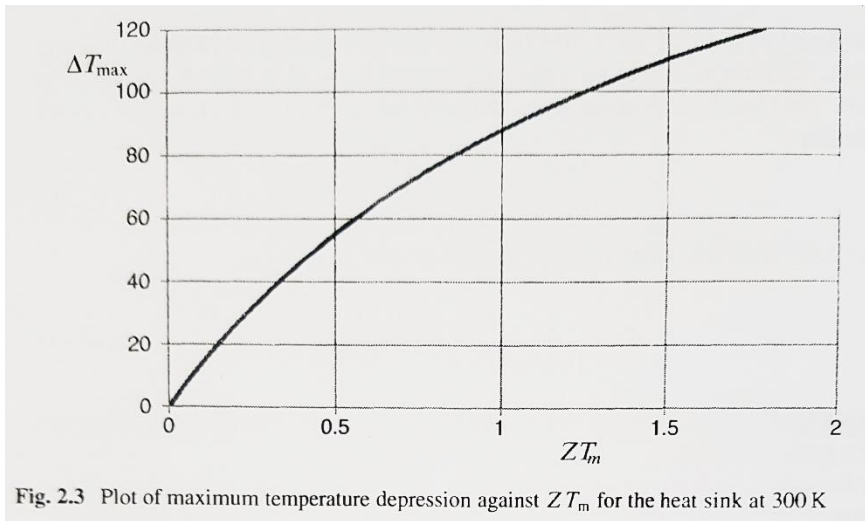
The maximum temperature depression,  $\Delta T_{\max}$ , is reached when the cooling power and, thus, the COP fall to zero.

$$\Delta T_{\max} = \frac{1}{2} Z T_1^2$$



# Thermoelectric Refrigeration

Electric Voltage (Current) → Temperature Difference



$$\phi_{\max} = \frac{T_1 \left\{ (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} - \left( \frac{T_2}{T_1} \right) \right\}}{(T_2 + T_1) \left\{ (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} + 1 \right\}}$$

Julian H. Goldsmid, *Introduction to Thermoelectricity*, Springer (2010)

# Thermoelectric Generation

## Temperature Difference → Electric Voltage (Current)

Thermal EMF,  $E_{emf}$ :  $E_{emf} = (S_p - S_n)(T_h - T_c)$

Electric Current,  $I$ :  $I = \frac{(S_p - S_n)(T_h - T_c)}{R_p + R_n + R_L}$

Power delivered to the load,  $w$ :  $w = I^2 R_L = \left( \frac{(S_p - S_n)(T_h - T_c)}{R_p + R_n + R_L} \right)^2 R_L$

Total rate of heat flow from the source,  $q_1$ :

$$q_1 = (S_p - S_n)IT_1 + (K_p + K_n)(T_h - T_c)$$

Efficiency,  $\eta$ :  $\eta = w/q_1$

\*An increase in the load resistance reduces the power output but increases the efficiency.

For the maximum efficiency:

$$M = \frac{R_L}{R_p + R_n} = (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2}$$

Maximum Efficiency,  $\eta$ :

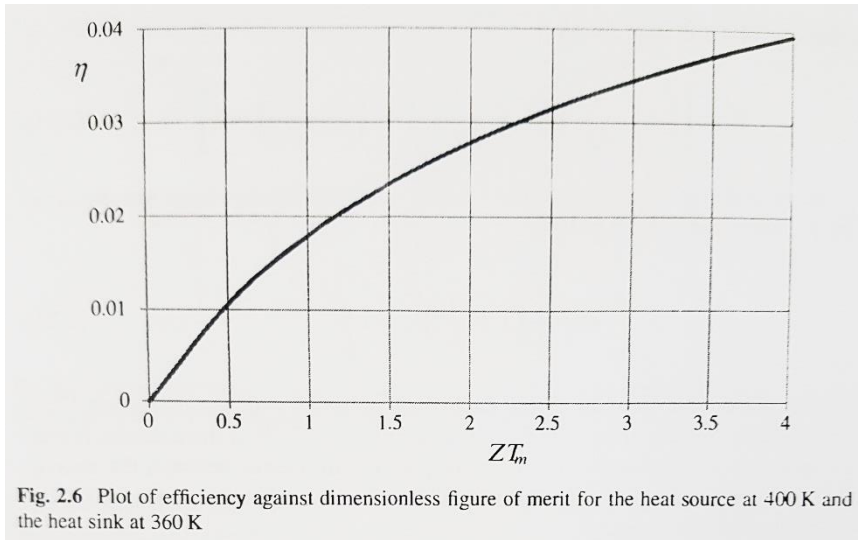
$$\eta = \frac{(T_h - T_c)(M - 1)}{T_h \left( M + \frac{T_c}{T_h} \right)}$$

\*If  $ZT_m$  were much greater than unity,  $M$  would also be very large and the efficiency would approach  $(T_h - T_c)/T_h$ , which is the value for the Carnot cycle.

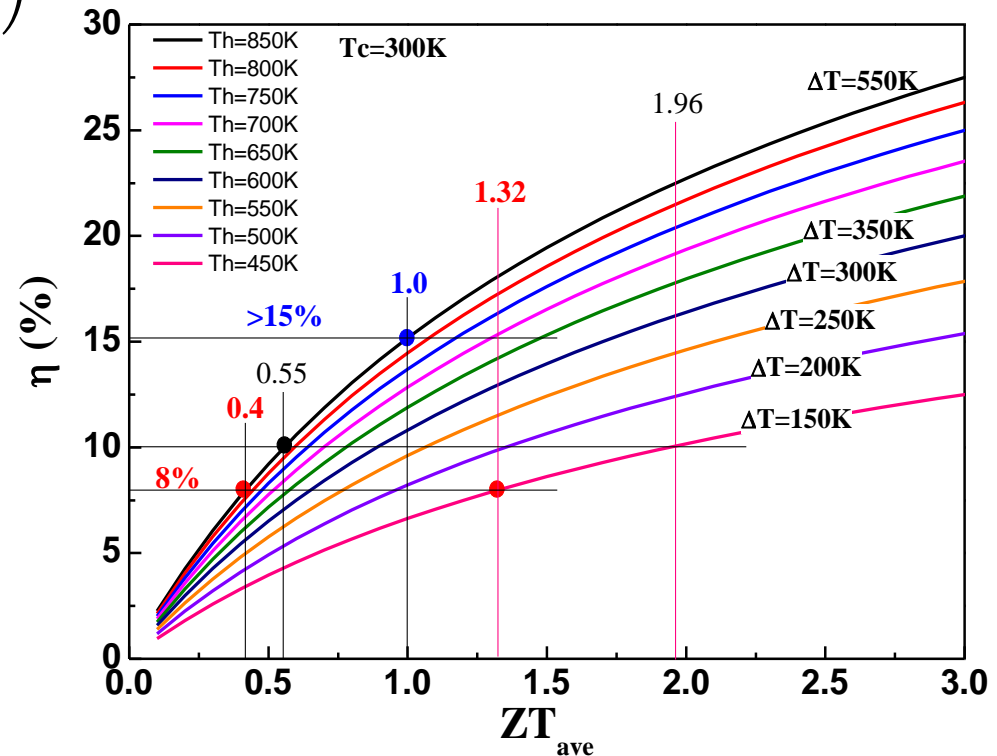
# Thermoelectric Generation

Temperature Difference → Electric Voltage (Current)

$$\eta = \frac{(T_h - T_c) \left( (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} - 1 \right)}{T_h \left( (1 + ZT_m)^{1/2} + \frac{T_c}{T_h} \right)}$$

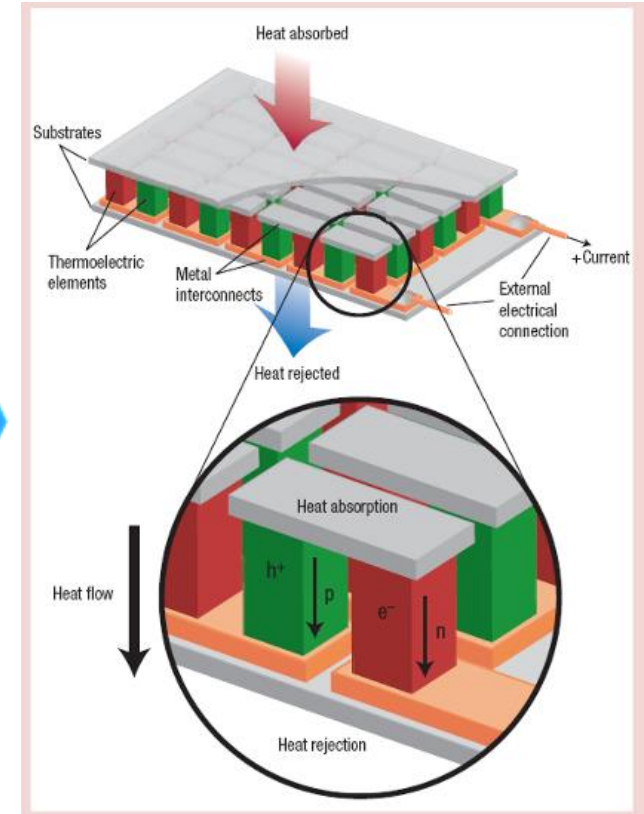
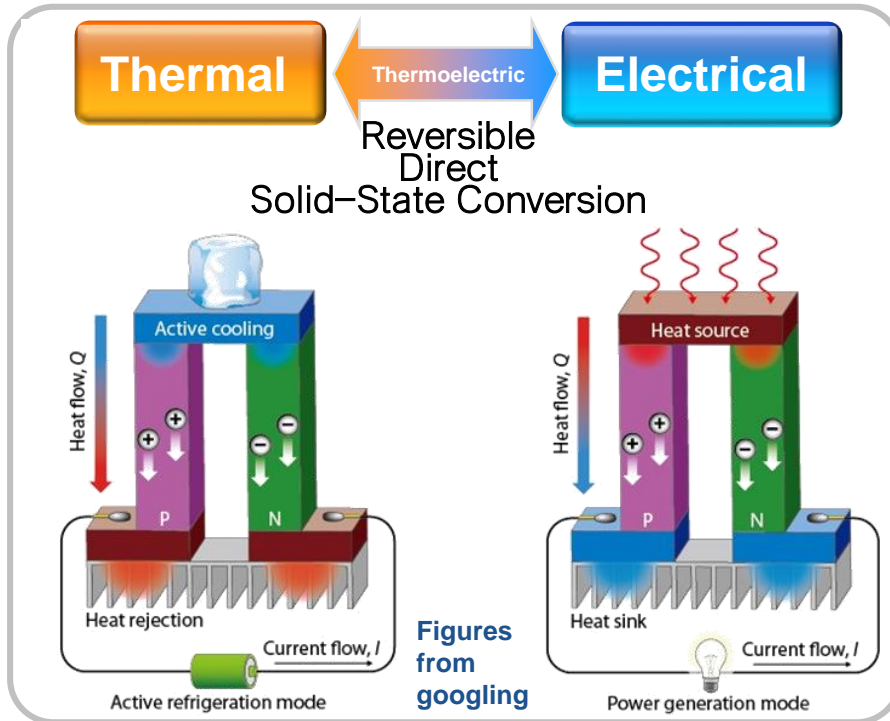


Julian H. Goldsmid, *Introduction to Thermoelectricity*, Springer (2010)



# Thermoelectric Applications

Thermoelectric : simple structure and high reliable



Snyder et al., *Nature* (2008)

## Thermoelectric Cooling (Peltier Effect)

- Refrigerant-free cooling
- No-noise
- Precise temp. control
- Fast response
- Long life time
- Small local cooling

## Thermoelectric Generation (Seebeck Effect)

- $CO_2$ -free
- Recycle waste heat energy
- High reliability, No maintenance
- Stable output power (24h operation)
- DC/Micro/Independent power generation

# TEC Applications

Development of Materials Technology

3.0

Common Facilities  
(Air Conditioner, Refrigerator, etc.)



2.0



1.5

Conditioning System, Small Cooler

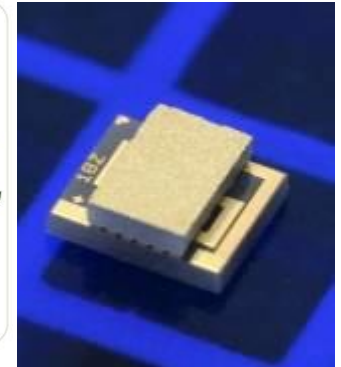
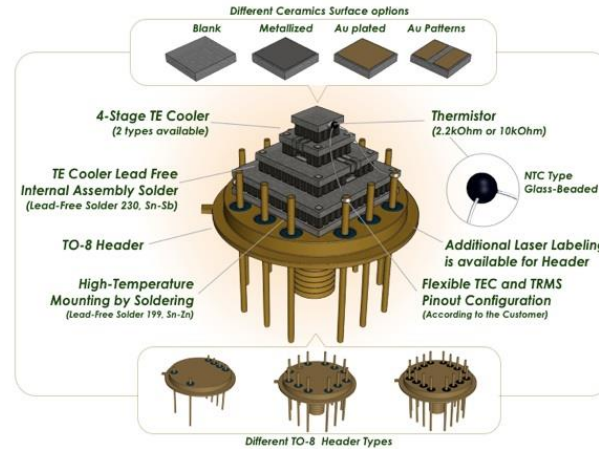
1.0

Chip cooling  
Automobile, Special cooling

(ZT)

$$Z = \frac{\alpha^2 \sigma}{\kappa}$$

## Chip cooling

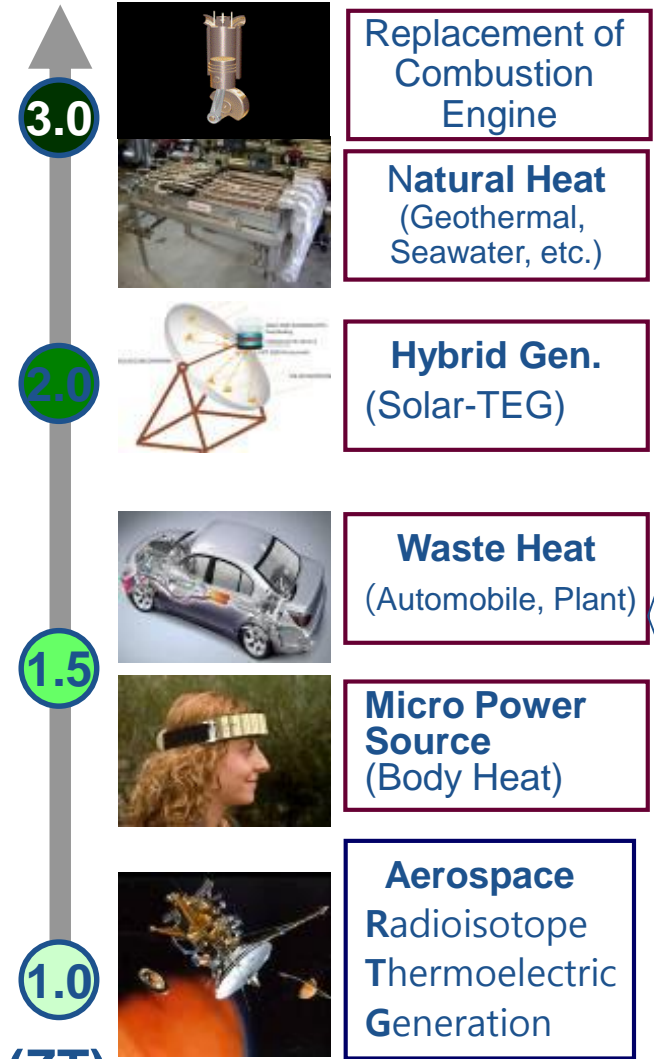


## Automobile/Special Cooling



# TEG Applications Using Waste Heat

Development of Materials Technology



(ZT)

$$Z = \frac{\alpha^2 \sigma}{\kappa}$$

**Z** : figure of merit  
**α** : Seebeck coefficient  
**σ** : electrical conductivity  
**κ** : thermal conductivity

- Automobile TEG**
  - BMW, GM, Volkswagen
  - 10% Fuel Efficiency Increase
- Industrial TEG**
  - Incineration Plant
  - Industrial facilities

# TEG Applications Using Waste Heat

## Industry Waste Heat



Power Plant-TEG



Plant WH-TEG



Incinerator-TEG

## Transport Waste Heat



Automobile WH-TEG

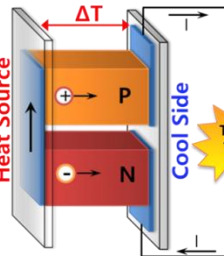


Ship WH-TEG



Aircraft WH-TEG

**TEG**



Various Waste Heat Sources

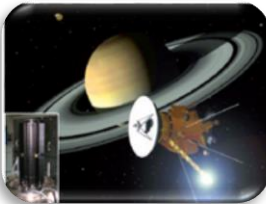


Geothermal-TEG

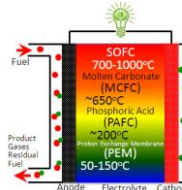


Front-view of solar collector with 100 Fresnel lens and 2 PV-units for tracking driving power

Solar Heat-TEG

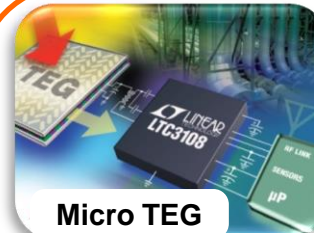


RTG

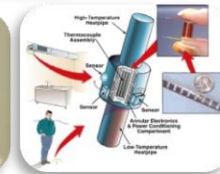


Fuel Cell-TEG

## Natural WH / Convergence



Micro TEG



## Body Heat / Micro Heat

# TEG Applications



Portable TEG for outdoor



# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

The maximum efficiency of a thermoelectric material for both power generation and cooling is determined by its figure of merit ( $zT$ ):

$$\text{Device: } \eta_{\max} = \frac{\Delta T}{T_h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1+zT} - 1}{\sqrt{1+zT} + T_c/T_h} \quad \frac{\Delta T}{T_h} : \text{Carnot efficiency}$$

$$\text{Material: } zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma}{k} T$$

Seebeck coefficient

Electrical conductivity

Thermal conductivity

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

$$zT = \frac{S^2 S}{k} T = S^2 n_i \left( \frac{m_i}{k_e + k_l} \right) q T$$

**Pisarenko Relation**

$$S = \frac{8\rho^2 k_B^2}{3eh^2} \left( \frac{\rho}{3n} \right)^{2/3} m_d^* T$$

DOS  
 $m^*$

**Good friendship**

$\lambda$  : mean free path

$$k = \frac{n \langle n \rangle / c_V}{3N_A}$$

**Thermo electric**

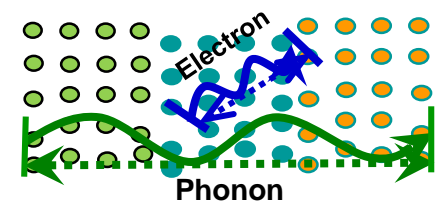
$n, \mu$

$\sigma$

**Wiedemann-Franz Law**

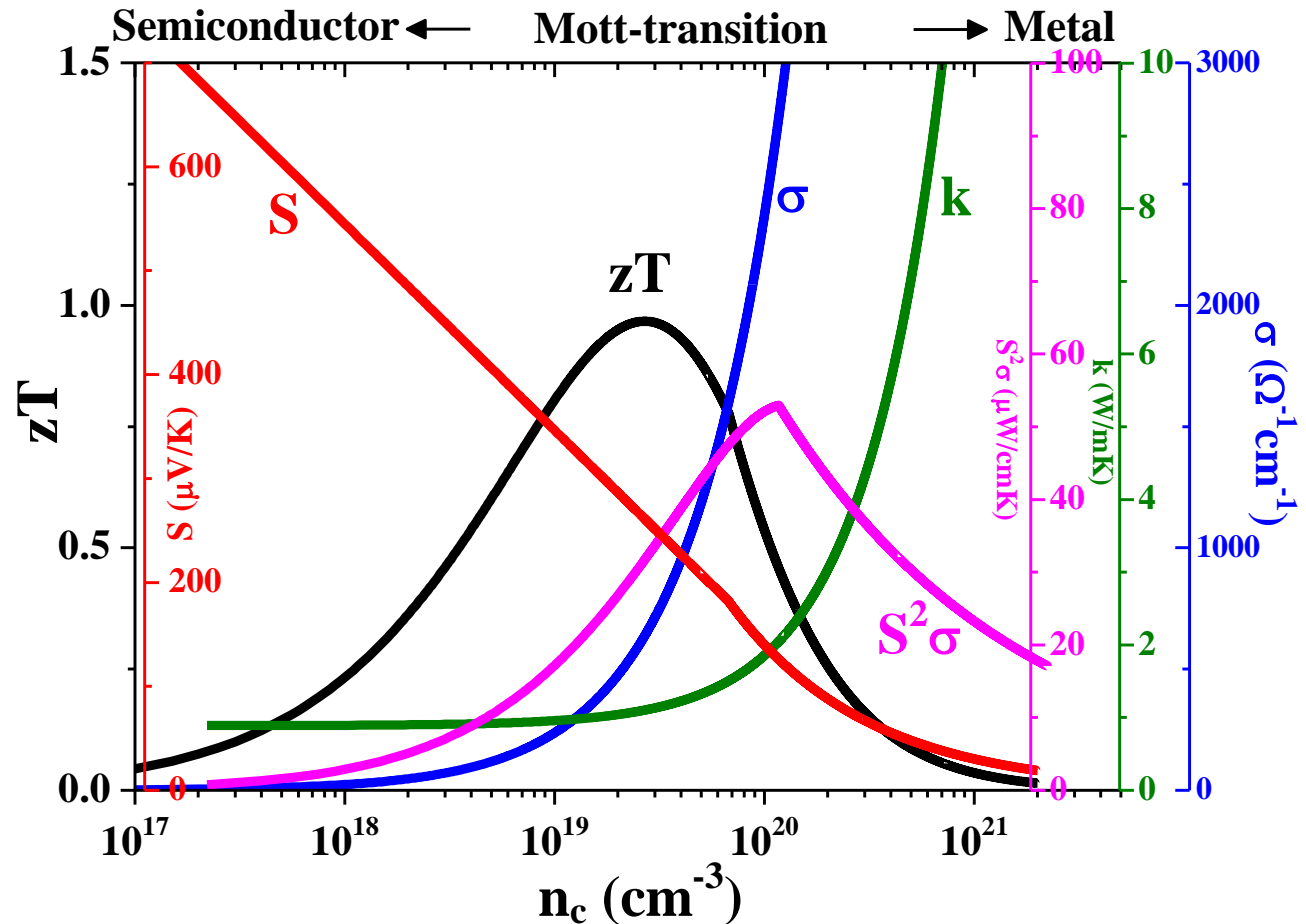
$$\frac{k}{S} = LT$$

**PGEC**



# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

$$zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma}{k} T$$



S. Lee *et al.*, JECS 32 (2012)

**Mott-criterion (metal-insulator transition):**

$$n_e^{1/3} a_0 \sim 0.25$$

## Coupling

Pisarenko Relation

$$S = \frac{8\pi^2 k_B T}{3qh^2} \cdot m_d^* \left( \frac{\pi}{3n} \right)^{2/3}$$

Wiedemann-Franz Law

$$\frac{k_e}{\sigma} = LT$$



Breaking  
the law

## Decoupling

PGEC (Phonon-Glass  
Electron-Crystal)

Quantum Confinement  
Carrier Filtering

Hierarchical Structuring  
(defects)

PGEC without cages

.....

Phonon Scattering

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

$$zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{k}$$

Higher Seebeck coefficient (S)  
Higher electrical conductivity ( $\sigma$ )  
Lower thermal conductivity (k)

Engineering Decoupling

**Glasses** have low lattice thermal conductivity but low Seebeck coefficient.  
**Crystals** have high electrical conductivity but high thermal conductivity.

➔ **“Phonon-glass electron-crystal (PGEC)”**

G. A. Slack, in CRC Handbook of Thermoelectrics (ed. Rowe, M.) 407-440 (CRC, Boca Raton, 1995)

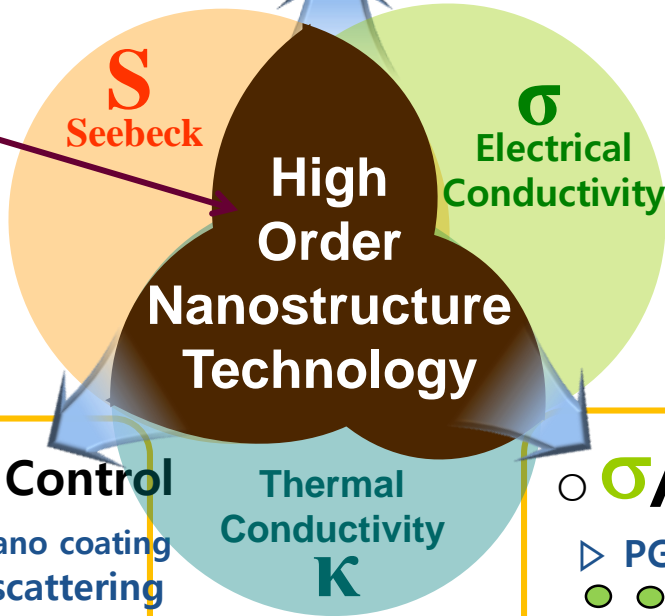
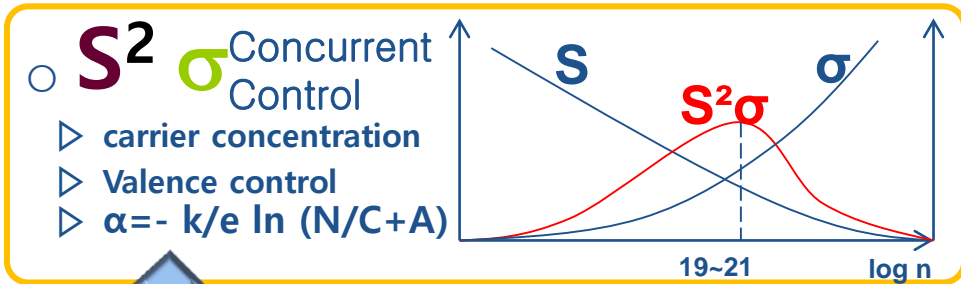
Original Paper:

A. F. Ioffe, S. V. Airapetiants, A. F. Ioffe,  
N. V. Kolomoets and L. S. Stil'bans,  
*Dokl. Akad. Nauk. SSSR* 106,981 (1956).

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

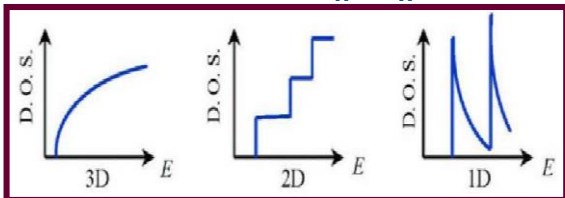
$$Z = \frac{S^2 \sigma}{\kappa}$$

Implementation Technology for Development



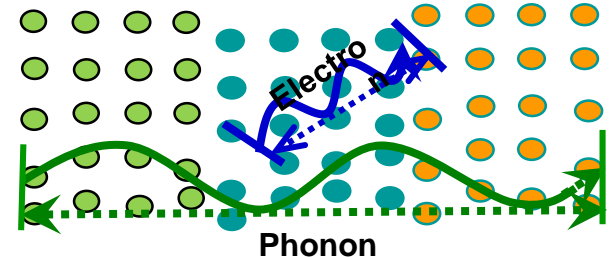
○ **S/κ** Concurrent Control

- ▷ Nano Block, Nano Wire, Nano coating
- ▷ DOS control, phonon scattering
- ▷  $DOS(E) = m^*/\pi \hbar d_{wr}$   $d_w$ : quantum well



○ **σ/κ** Concurrent Control

- ▷ PGEC(Phonon Glass-Electron Crystal)



# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

## • Seebeck Coefficient

$$zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{k}$$

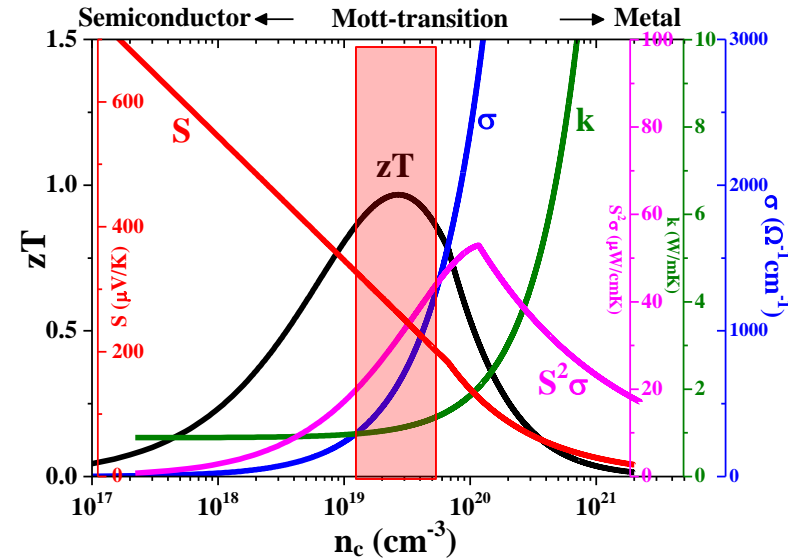
## • Electrical Conductivity

$$\sigma = en\mu$$

Mott relation for degenerate statistics,

$$S = \frac{\pi^2}{3} \cdot \frac{k_B}{e} \cdot k_B T \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{g(E)} \cdot \frac{\partial g(E)}{\partial E} + \frac{1}{\mu(E)} \cdot \frac{\partial \mu(E)}{\partial E} \right]_{E=E_F}$$

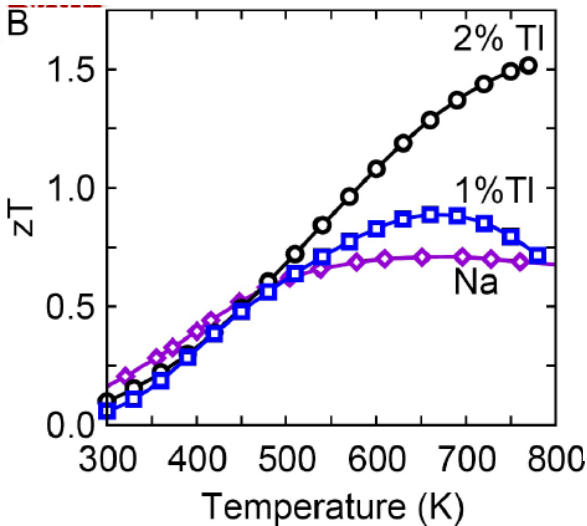
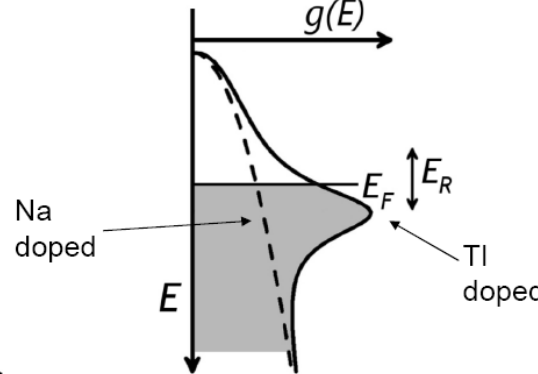
$$S = \frac{8\pi^2 k_B T}{3qh^2} \cdot m_d^* \left( \frac{\pi}{3n} \right)^{2/3}$$



S. Lee *et al.*, J ECS 32 (2012)

- Doping
- Nonstoichiometry
- Reduction
- Crystal Anisotropy
- Etc.

## Na or Tl-doped PbTe

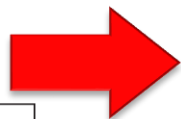


Heremans *et al.* Science 321, 554 (2008)

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

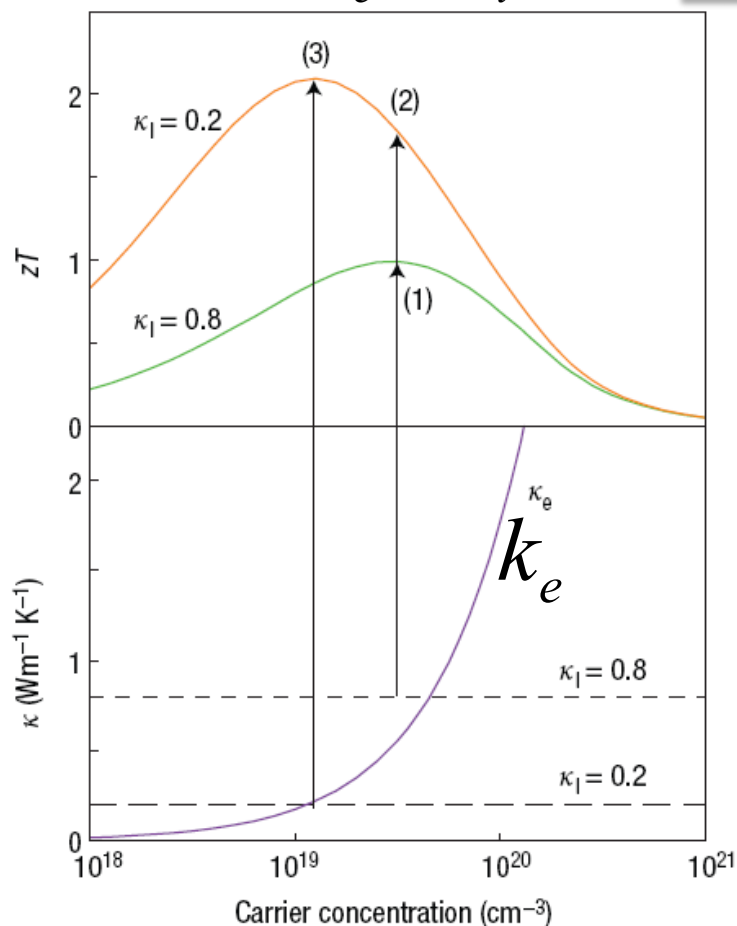
## • Thermal Conductivity

$$k = k_e + k_l$$



## Phonon Scattering

$$zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{k}$$



- Complex Structure Multiple Sites
- Large Unit Volume
- Heavy Atoms
- Random Vacancies
- Local Lattice Distortion
- Low Symmetry
- Complex Compositions (Alloying, Solid Solutions)
- Rattling Ions
- Segregation of Chemistry-Second Phases
- Nanostructures
- Intrinsic Localized Modes (ILM)
- Etc.

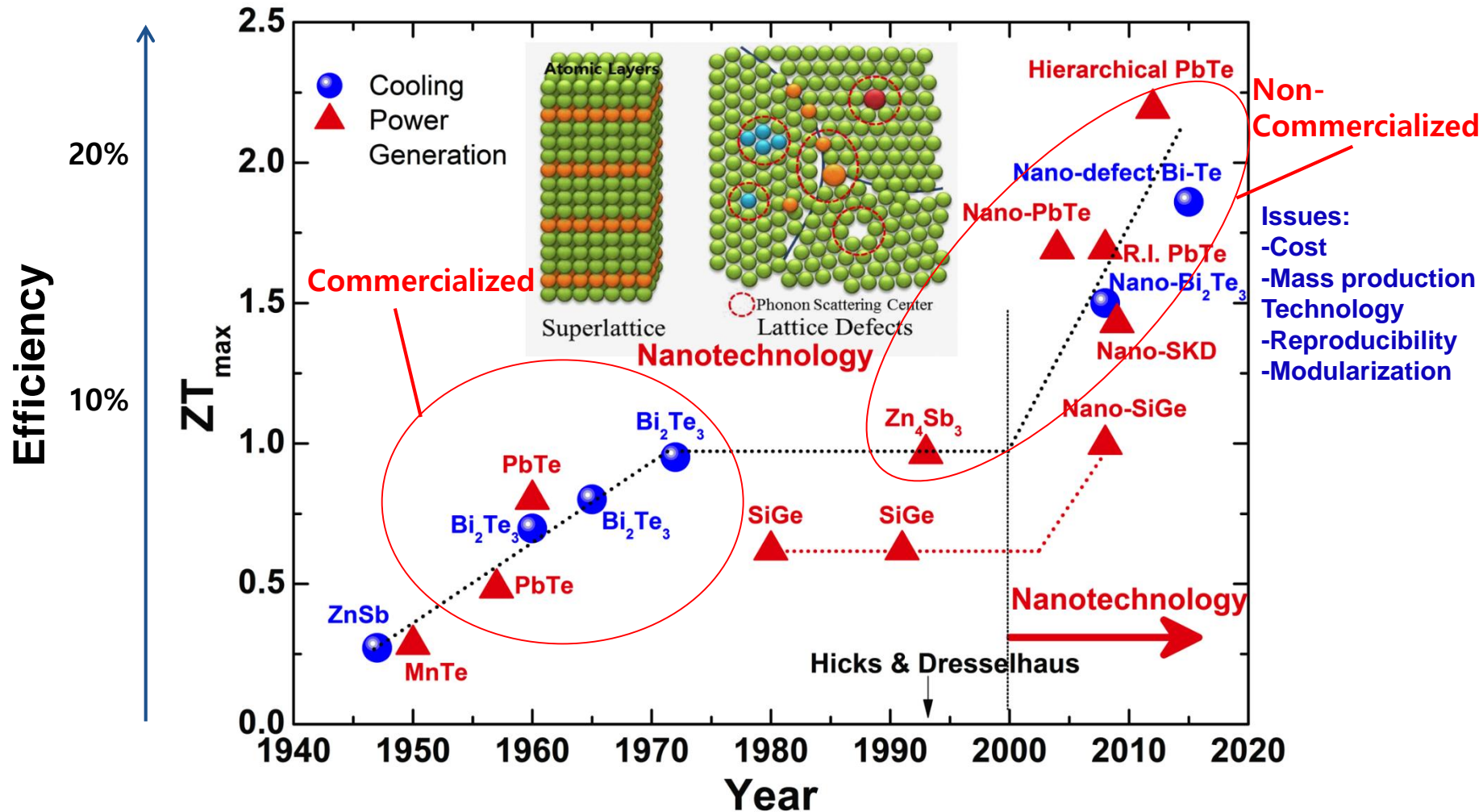


**Need to control nanoscale**

G. J. Snyder & E. S. Toberer, Nature Mater., 7, 105-114 (2008).



# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials



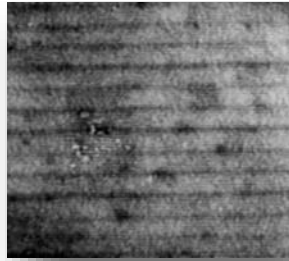
Ref. : J. P. Heremans, et al. Nature Nanotechnology 8, 471–473 (2013)  
 Soonil Lee and W. S. Seo, Ceramist, 18[4] (2015)

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

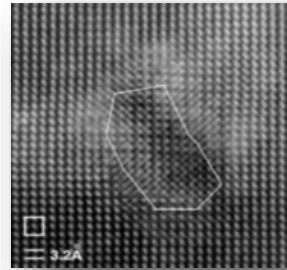
Harman *et al.*,  
*Science* **297**, 2229 (2002)  
**PbSeTe/PbTe Quantum dot superlattices**



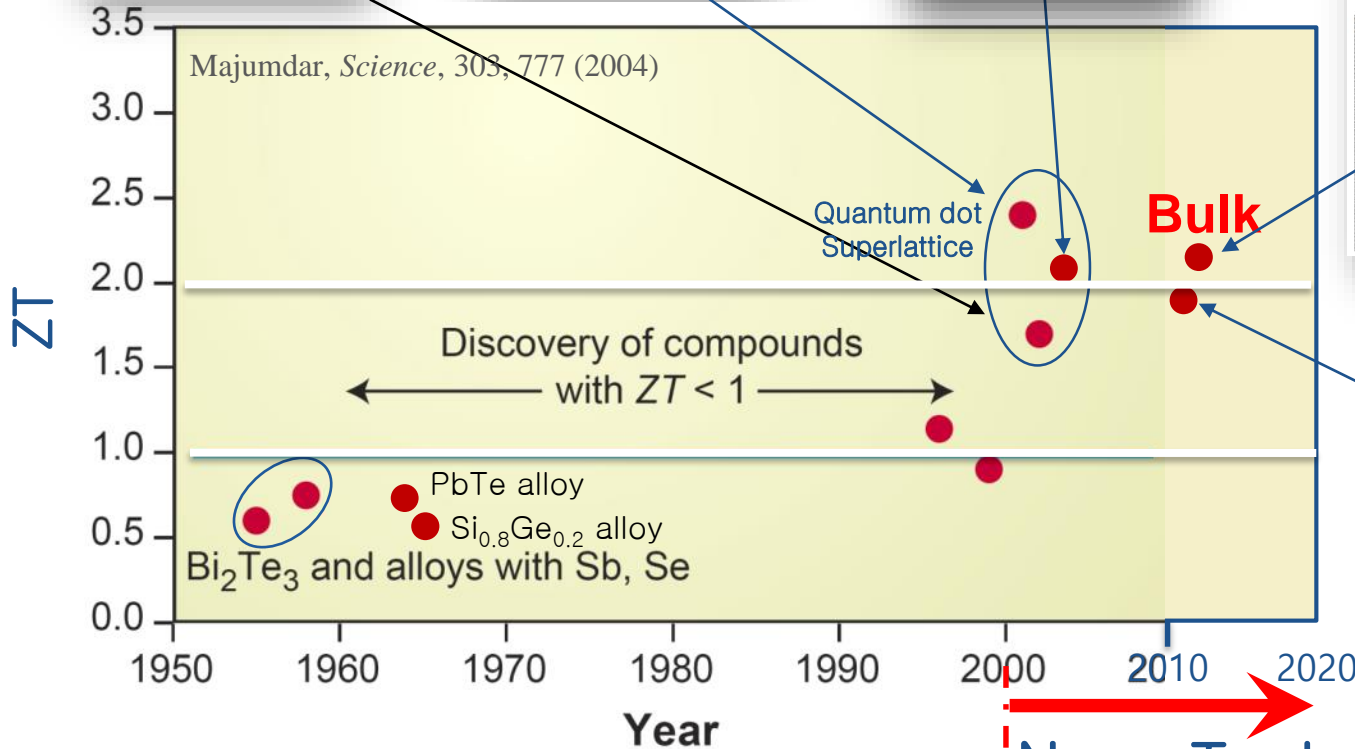
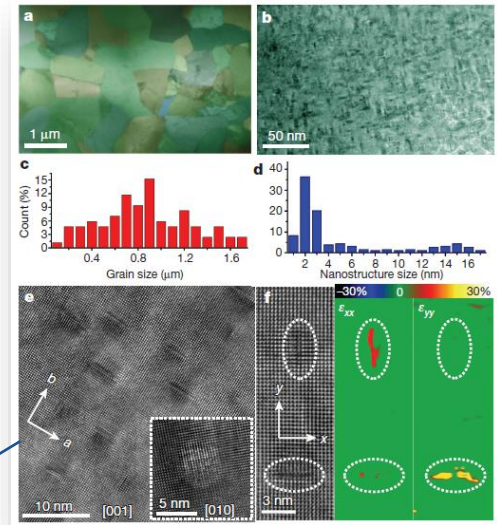
Venkatasubramanian *et al.*  
*Nature* **413**, 597 (2001)  
**Bi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>/Sb<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>**



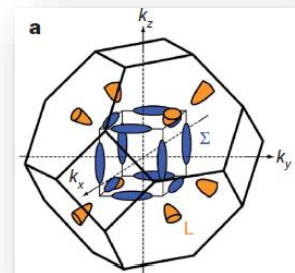
Kanatzidis *et al.*  
*Science* **303**, 818 (2004)  
**AgPb<sub>m</sub>SbTe<sub>2+m</sub>**



K. Biswas *et al.*  
*Nature* **489**, 414 (2012)  
**PbTe + 4 mol% SrTe + 2 mol% Na**



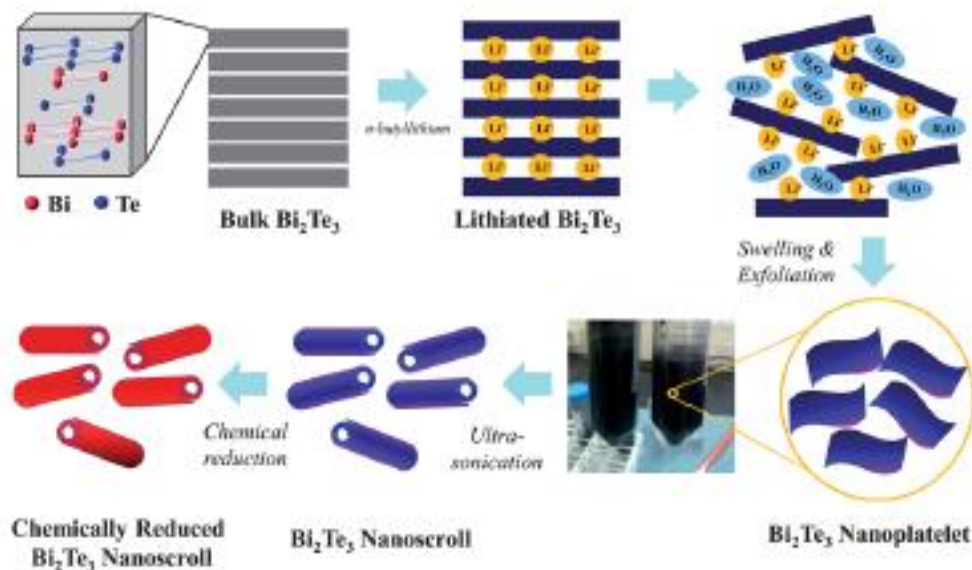
Y. Pei *et al.*  
*Nature* **473**, 66 (2011)  
**PbTe<sub>1-x</sub>Se<sub>x</sub> + 2 at.% Na**



**Nano Technology**

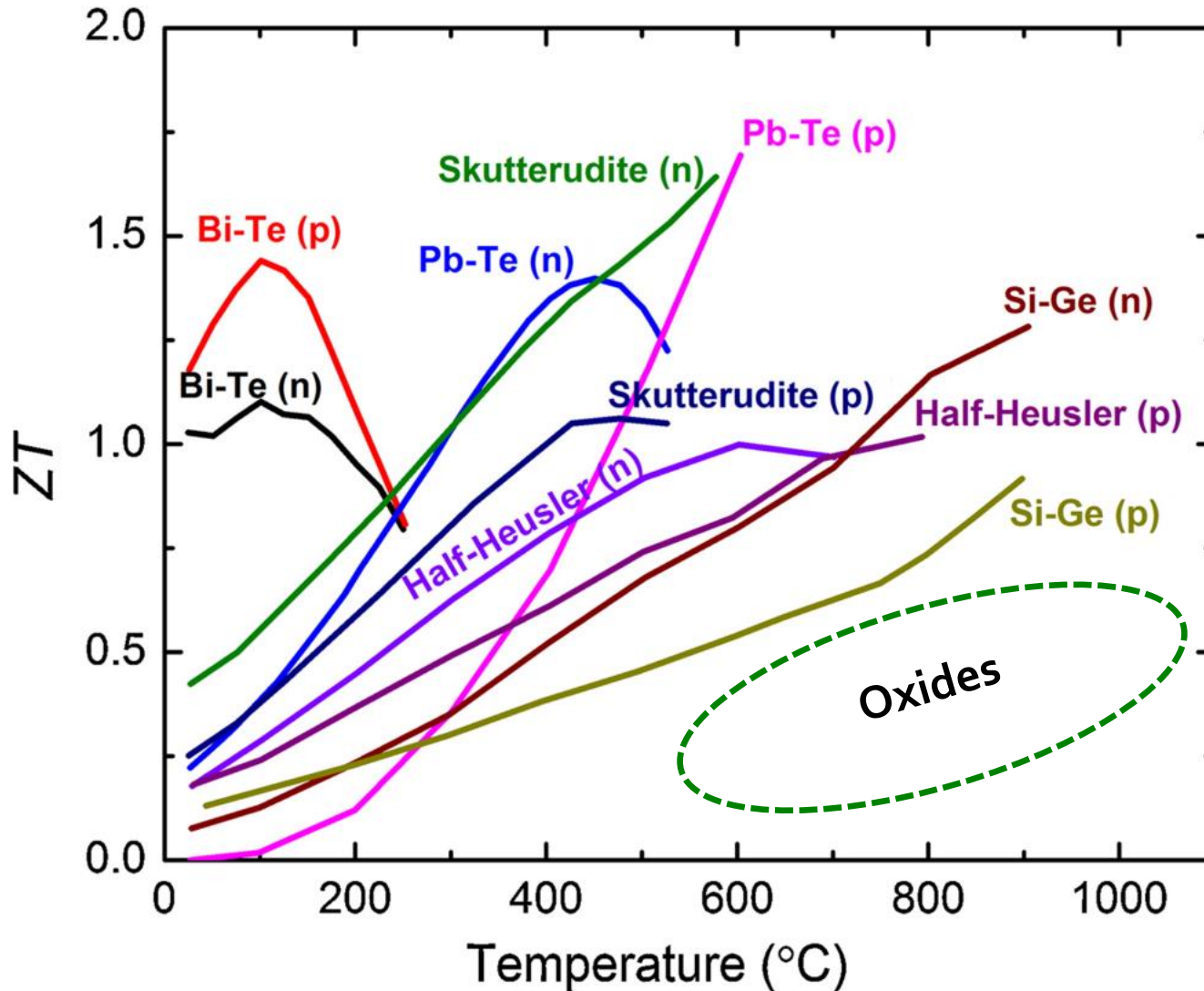
## Chemical Exfoliation of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3$

- Lithium Intercalation:  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3 + x (\text{n-BuLi}) \Rightarrow \text{Li}_x\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3 + x/2 \text{ octane}$
- Exfoliation :  $\text{Li}_x\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3 + x\text{H}_2\text{O} \Rightarrow \text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3 \text{ (exfoliated)} + x\text{LiOH} + x/2\text{H}_2 \uparrow$



J. Y. Kim et al. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2013

# Thermoelectric Materials



Mid-High Temp.  
Thermoelectrics:

Pb-Te,  
Silicides,  
Skutterudites,  
Half-Heuslers  
Si-Ge,  
Oxides,  
etc.

Shuo Chen and Zhifeng Ren, Materials Today, 16[10], 387 (2013)

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

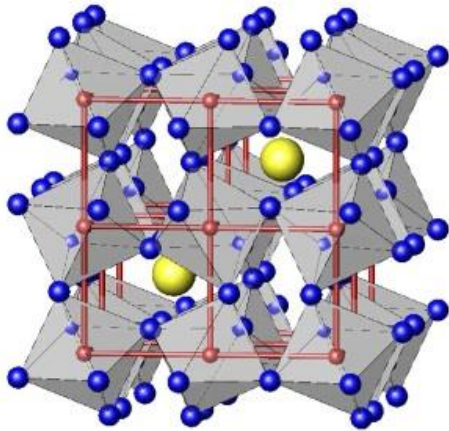
- **Thermal Conductivity (PGEC concept)**

$$k = k_e + k_l$$



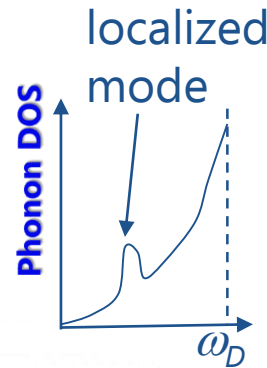
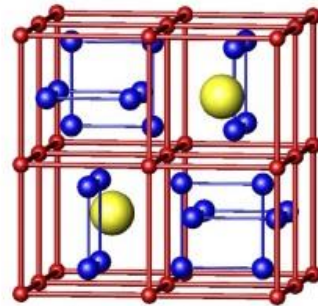
Phonon Scattering

$$zT = \frac{S^2 \sigma T}{k}$$

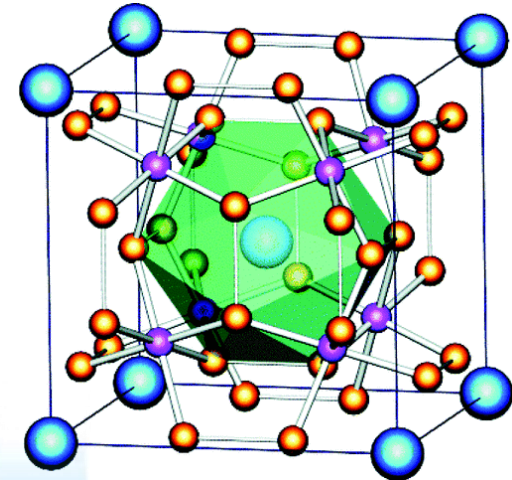


Filled Skutterudite

M.M. Koza *et al.*, PRB 81,174302 (2010)



Localized Vibration



Filled Skutterudite

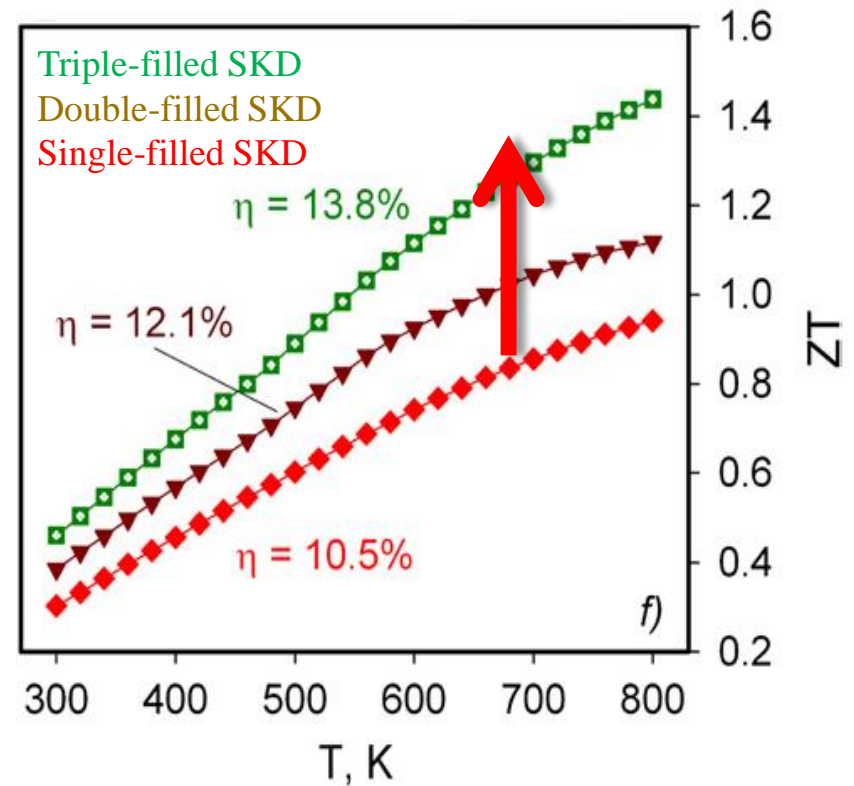
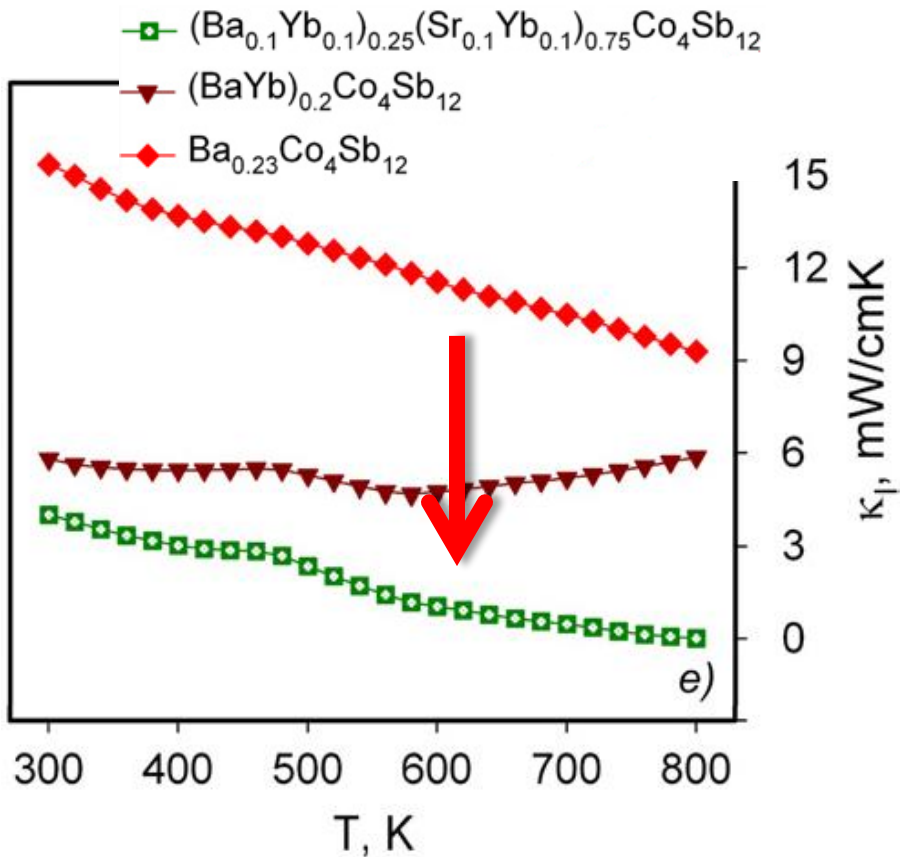
V. Pardo *et al.*, PRB 85, 214531 (2012)

Weak coupling of “Rattling filler” with the SKD.

**Decoupling: High Electrical Conductivity and low Thermal Conductivity**

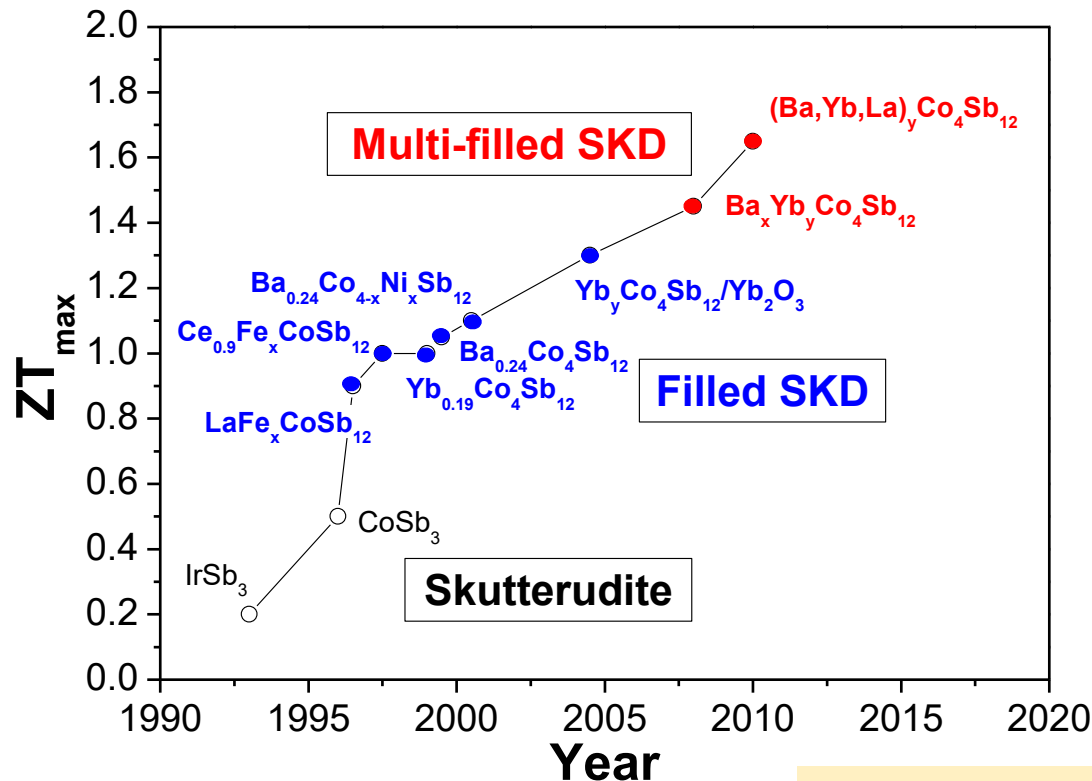
# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Filled Skutterudites

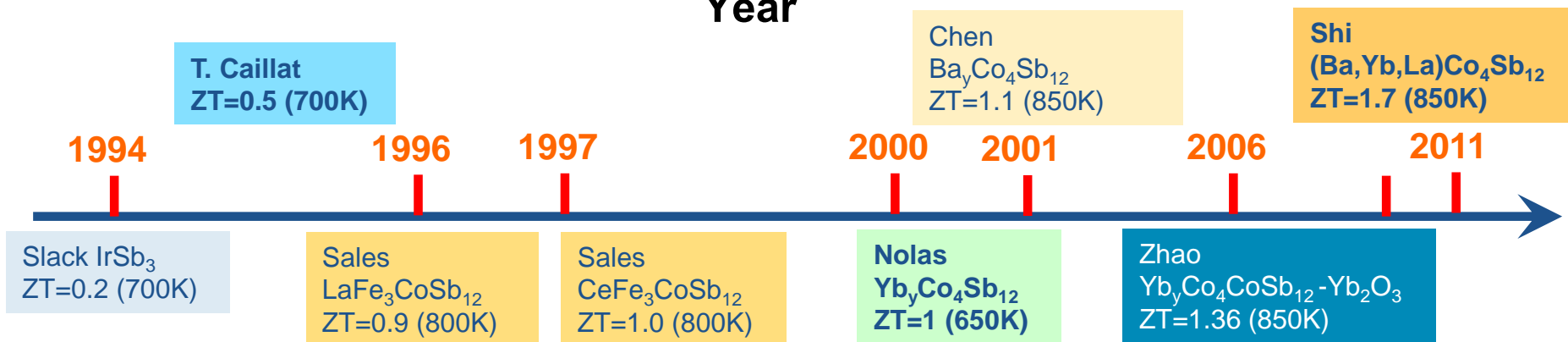


Xun Shi, et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, 133, 7837–7846

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials



\*Ref.: ICT 2014



# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Broad Spectrum of Localized Modes

TABLE II. Spring constant  $k$  and resonance frequency  $\omega_0$  in the [111] and [100] directions of  $R_{0.125}Co_4Sb_{12}$ , where  $R = La, Ce, Eu, Yb, Ba, Sr, Na, \text{ and } K$ .

		[111]		[100]	
R	Mass ( $10^{-26}$ Kg)	$k$ (N/m)	$\omega_0$ ( $cm^{-1}$ )	$k$ (N/m)	$\omega_0$ ( $cm^{-1}$ )
La	23.07	36.10	66	37.42	68
Ce	23.27	23.72	54	25.18	55
Eu	25.34	30.16	58	31.37	59
Yb	28.74	18.04	42	18.88	43
Ba	22.81	69.60	93	70.85	94
Sr	14.55	41.62	90	42.56	91
Na	3.819	16.87	112	17.18	113
K	6.495	46.04	141	46.70	142

1. J. Yang, W. Zhang, S. Q. Bai, Z. Mei, and L. Chen, Appl. Phys. Lett. **90**, 192111 (2007)



# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Electronegativity Rule for SKD Filler

→ 원자 반지름 감소 → 이온화 에너지 증가 → 전기음성도 증가

주기	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	H 2.20																	He
2	Li 0.98	Be 1.57											B 2.04	C 2.55	N 3.04	O 3.44	F 3.98	Ne
3	Na 0.93	Mg 1.31											Al 1.61	Si 1.90	P 2.19	S 2.58	Cl 3.16	Ar
4	K 0.82	Ca 1.00	Sc 1.36	Ti 1.54	V 1.63	Cr 1.66	Mn 1.55	Fe 1.83	Co 1.88	Ni 1.91	Cu 1.90	Zn 1.65	Ga 1.81	Ge 2.01	As 2.18	Se 2.55	Br 2.96	Kr 3.00
5	Rb 0.82	Sr 0.95	Y 1.22	Zr 1.33	Nb 1.6	Mo 2.16	Tc 1.9	Ru 2.2	Rh 2.28	Pd 2.20	Ag 1.93	Cd 1.69	In 1.78	Sn 1.96	Sb 2.05	Te 2.1	I 2.66	Xe 2.6
6	Cs 0.79	Ba 0.89	*	Hf 1.3	Ta 1.5	W 2.36	Re 1.9	Os 2.2	Ir 2.20	Pt 2.28	Au 2.54	Hg 2.00	Tl 1.62	Pb 2.33	Bi 2.02	Po 2.0	At 2.2	Rn
7	Fr 0.7	Ra 0.9	**	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo
라타넘족	*	La 1.1	Ce 1.12	Pr 1.13	Nd 1.14	Pm 1.13	Sm 1.17	Eu 1.2	Gd 1.2	Tb 1.1	Dy 1.22	Ho 1.23	Er 1.24	Tm 1.25	Yb 1.1	Lu 1.27		
악티늄족	**	Ac 1.1	Th 1.3	Pa 1.5	U 1.38	Np 1.36	Pu 1.28	Am 1.13	Cm 1.28	Bk 1.3	Cf 1.3	Es 1.3	Fm 1.3	Md 1.3	No 1.3	Lr		

$$DC = C_{Sb} - C_i \geq 0.8 \quad i: \text{electropositive guests}$$

$$C_i \leq 1.25$$

\*Ga & In are stabilized by self-compensation.

$$DC = |C_{Sb} - C_j| \geq 0.8$$

j: electronegative guests

i: K, Ba, Sr, La, Yb, Na, Ce, etc.

폴링 척도에 의한 전기음성도 주기율표  
각 원소에 관한 내용은 주기율표 참조

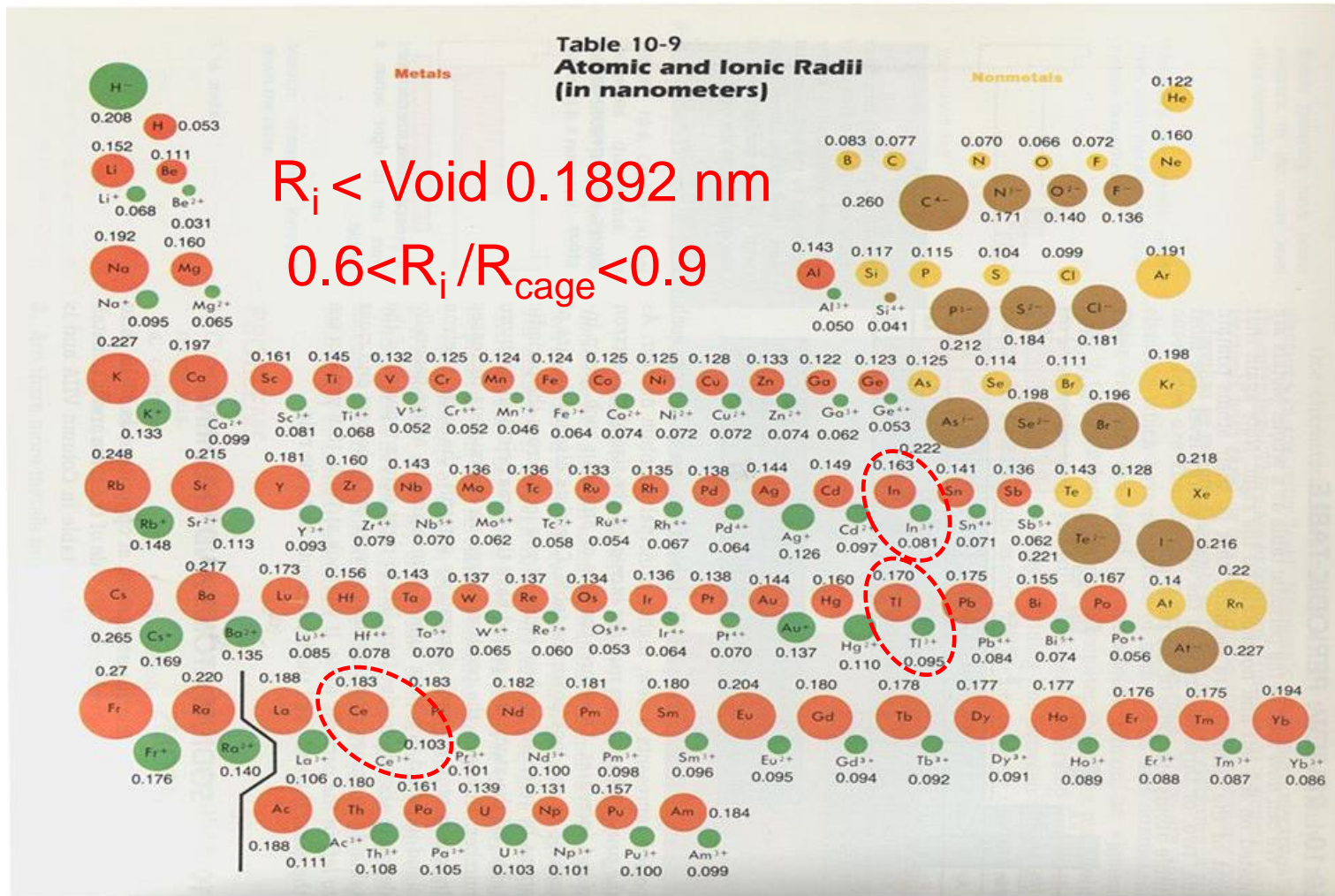
j: Br, Cl, Se, S, etc.

\*The j guests show strong covalent bonding, leading to cluster vibration which decreases thermal conductivity

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

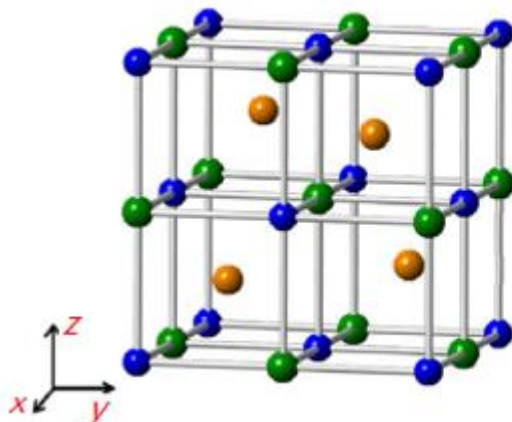
## ● Ionic Size Rule for SKD Filler

### Ionic Radii vs Atomic Radii



# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Half-Heusler



**Half-Heusler ABX**

- A, (1/2, 1/2, 1/2)
- B, (1/4, 1/4, 1/4)
- X, (0, 0, 0)

High power factor, but high thermal conductivity

Liu WS, Yan X, Chen G et al., *Nano Energy* 1:42–56 (2012)

- ❖ Heavily alloy A site with large mass contrast (AA'NiSn)

A:  $\text{Ti} \rightarrow \text{Zr}_x\text{Hf}_y\text{Ti}_{0.5}$

$\kappa$ : 9.3 W/mK  $\rightarrow$  3-6 W/mK

By mass fluctuation  
(phonon-phonon scattering)

- ❖ Lightly dope on the X site to introduce carriers (AA'NiSn:Sb)

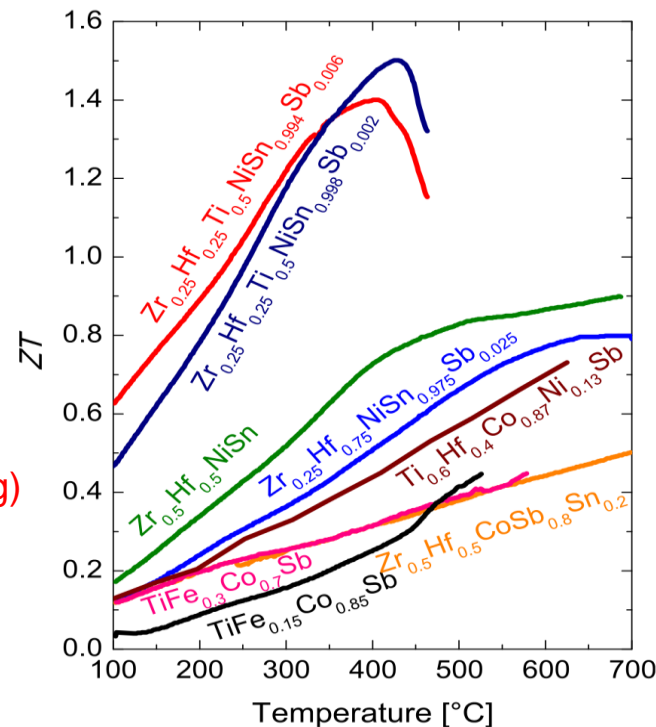
X:  $\text{Sn} \rightarrow \text{Sn}_{1-\delta}\text{Sb}_\delta$

$\sigma$ : 100 S/cm  $\rightarrow$  1200 S/cm

Values from: H. Hohl et al, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* 11 (1999) 1697-1709.

P-type : A = (Hf, Zr, Ti), **B = Co**, X= Sb

**N-type: A = (Hf, Zr, Ti), B = Ni, X=Sn**

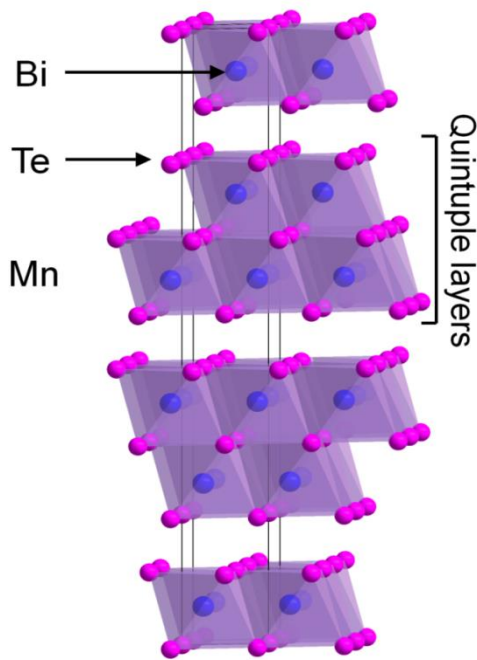


T.Graf et al, *Prog. Solid State Chem.* 39 (2011) 1-50



# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

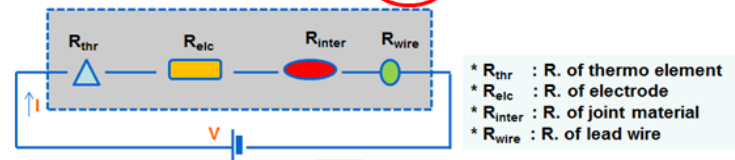
## Charge Transport in $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3$ System



- $\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_3$  is a unique thermoelectric material which can be used around room temperature.
- It can be used for both cooling and power generation applications.
- But it has weak Van der Waals bonding.  $\rightarrow$  need powder processing

### Necessity of Charge Transport Study

$$Q_C = \alpha_{ab} T_c I - \frac{1}{2} R I^2 - K \Delta T$$



To minimize Joule loss,  
Over 1000 S/cm is required

$$\sigma(T) = q n(T) \mu(T)$$

Need to control the charge transport

- Carrier concentration control by **Sb substitution** (p-type)
- Carrier concentration control by **Cu doping** (n-type)
- Mobility enhancement by studying scattering centers

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## For non-degenerate semiconductor thermoelectrics

$$ZT = \frac{[\eta - (r + 5/2)]^2}{(\beta \exp(\eta))^{-1} + (r + 5/2)}$$

$\eta$ : Fermi energy  
 $r$ : scattering parameter  
 $\beta$ : materials parameter

$\beta$  was first introduced by Chasmar and Stratton,

$$\beta = \left(\frac{k_B}{e}\right)^2 \frac{\sigma_0 T}{k_L} \quad \sigma_0 = 2e\mu \left(\frac{2\pi m^* k_B T}{h^2}\right)^{3/2}$$

$$\beta \propto \left(\frac{\mu}{k_L}\right) \left(\frac{m^*}{m}\right)^{3/2}$$

\*Although  $ZT$  equation holds only for a non-degenerate semiconductor, the materials parameter,  $\beta$ , remains useful when the material is partly or completely degenerated.

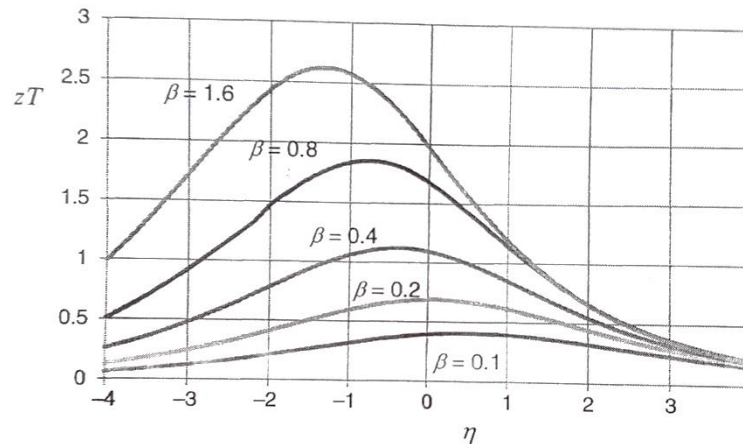
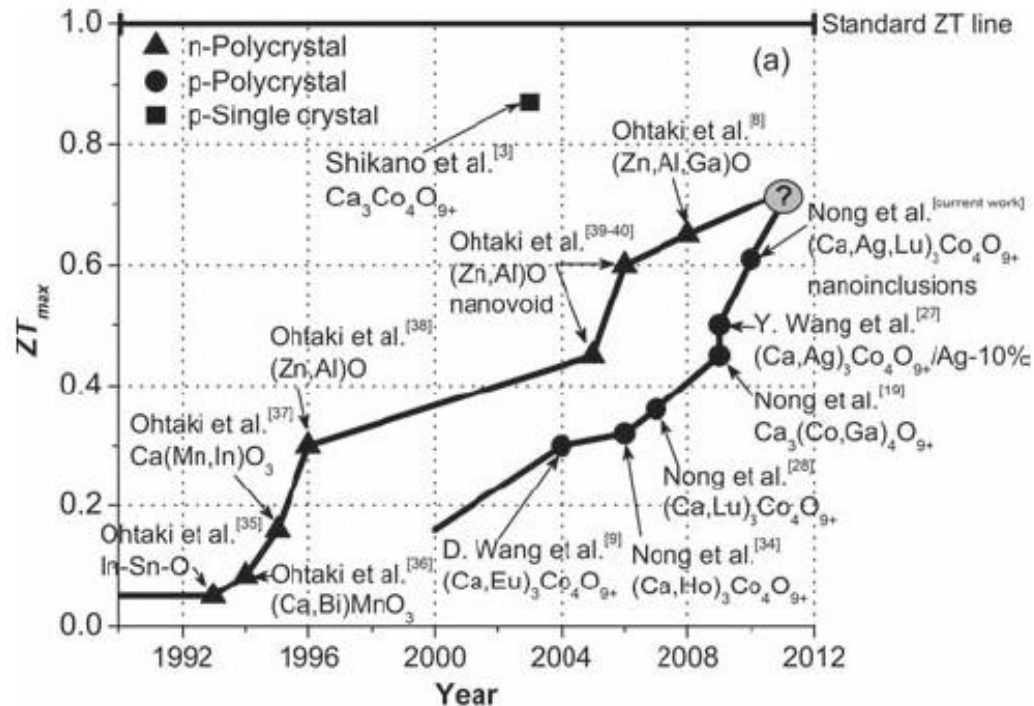
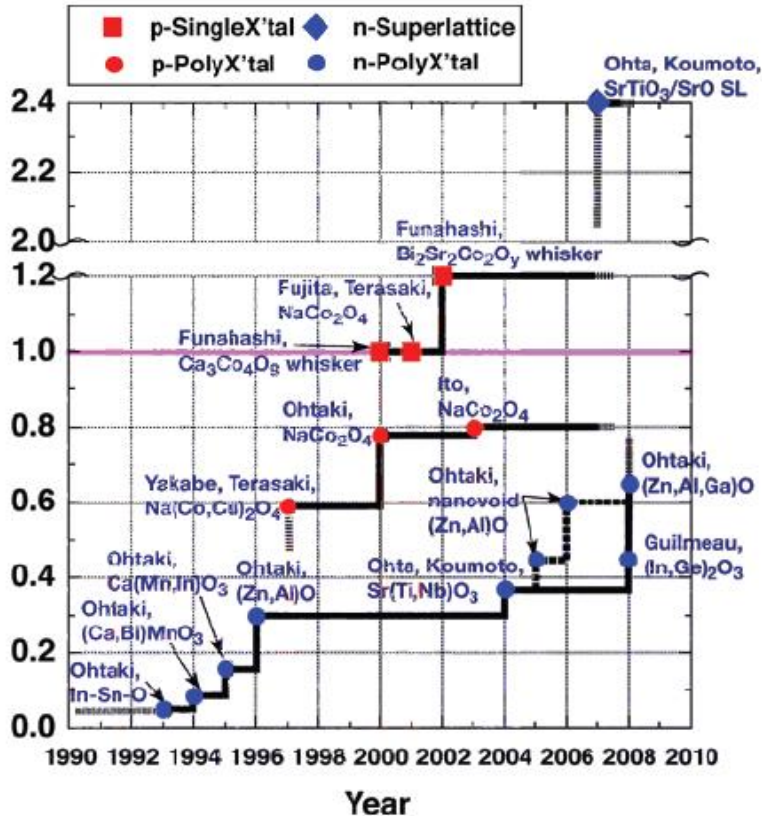


Fig. 4.2 The dimensionless figure of merit plotted against the reduced Fermi energy for different values of the parameter  $\beta$ . The scattering parameter  $r = -1/2$

Julian H. Goldsmid, *Introduction to Thermoelectricity*, Springer (2010)

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Oxide Thermoelectric Materials



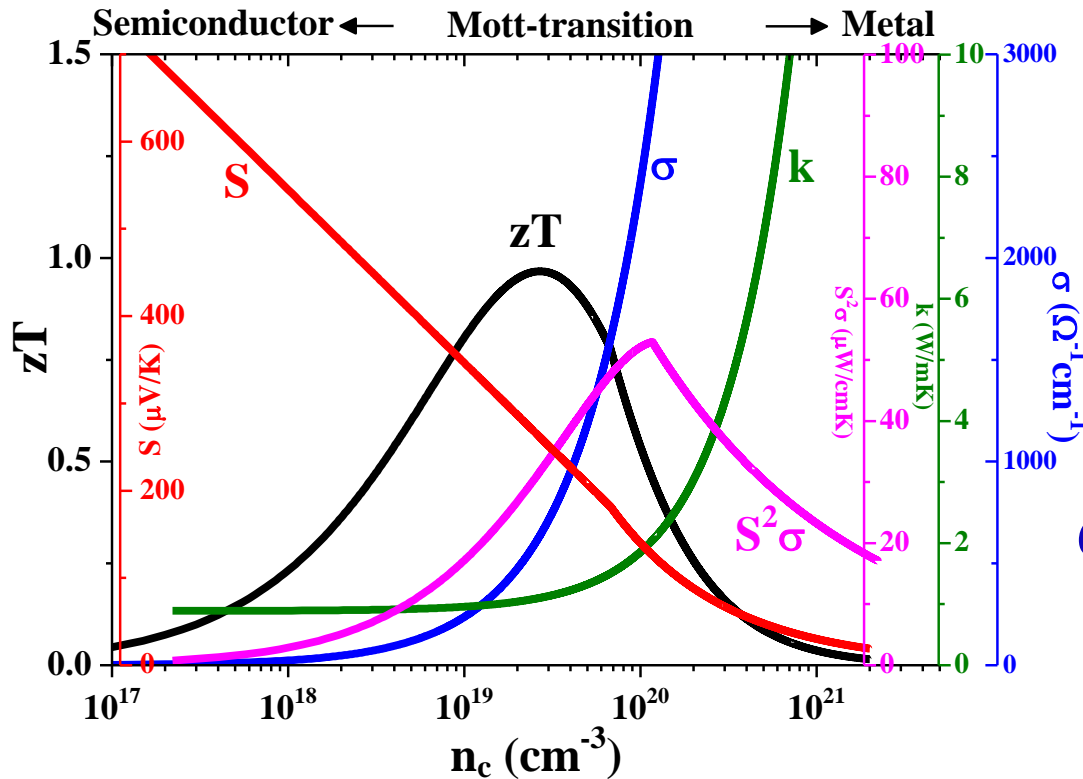
M. Ohtaki, Global COE Program Novel Carbon Resources Sciences Newsletter, 2010. 05.

N. V. Nong et al., Adv. Mater. 23, 2484 (2011)

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

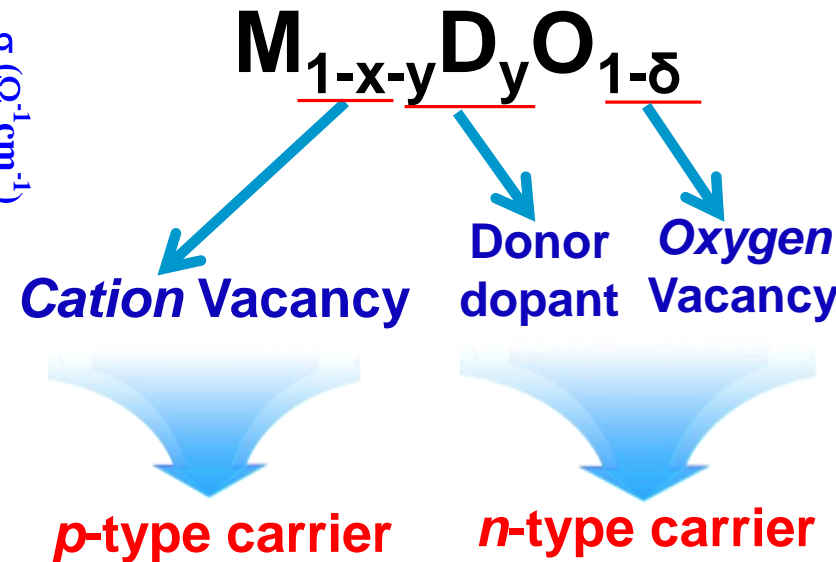
## Oxide Thermoelectric Materials

How to create charge carriers in oxides?



## Defect Engineering:

Oxide: Metal + Oxygen



Mott-criterion

(metal-insulator transition):  $n_e^{1/3} a_0 \sim 0.25$



S. Lee et al., JECS 32 (2012)

# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

## ● Oxide Thermoelectric Materials

How to generate the defects?

### Equilibrium Concentration of Point Defects

Equilibrium Concentration varies with  
**temperature** and **atmosphere**:

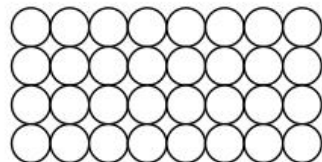
No. of defects

$$\frac{N_V}{N} = \exp\left(\frac{-Q_V}{k_B T}\right)$$

Activation energy  
(required for formation  
of vacancy)

Temperature

No. of potential  
defect sites



Each lattice site  
is a potential  
vacancy site.

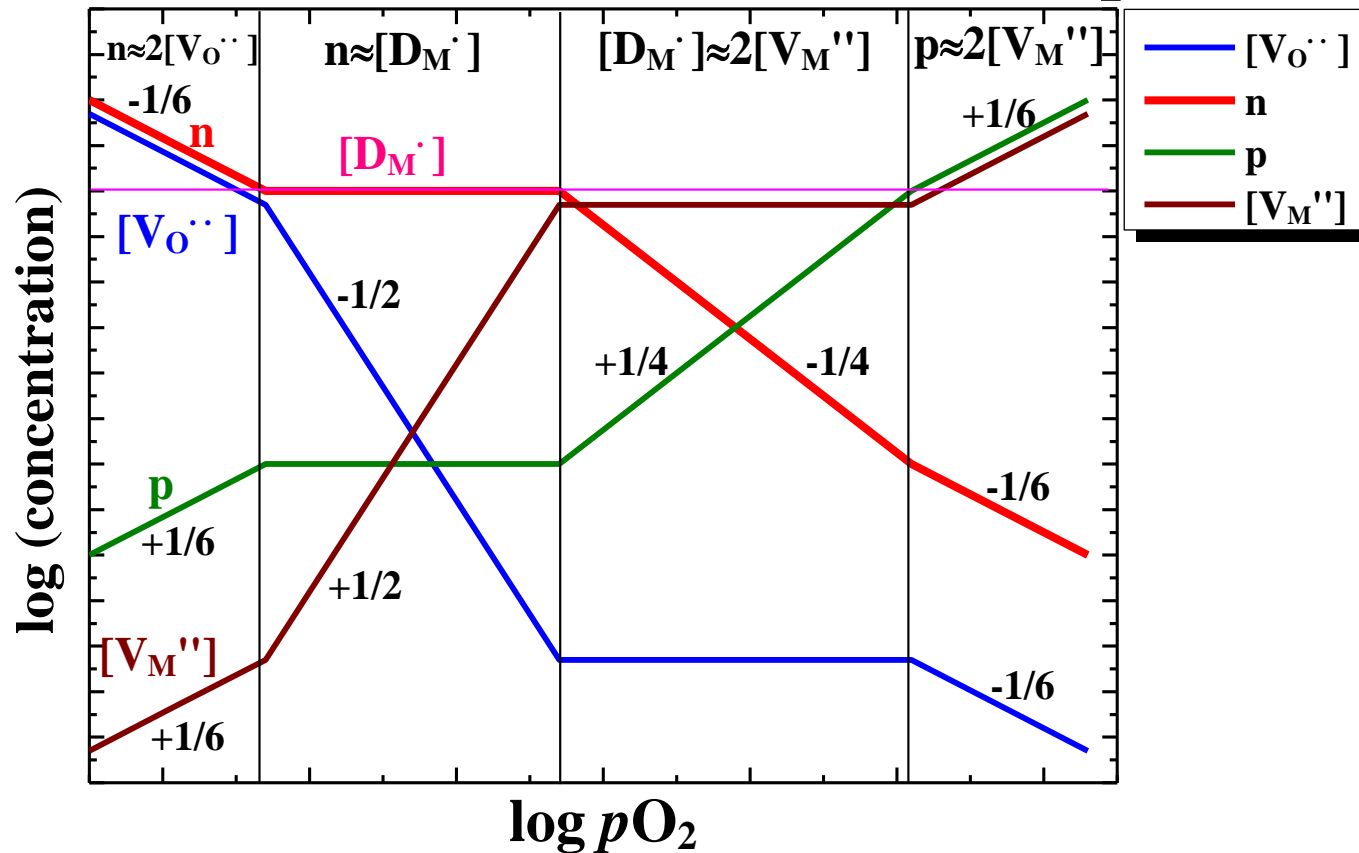
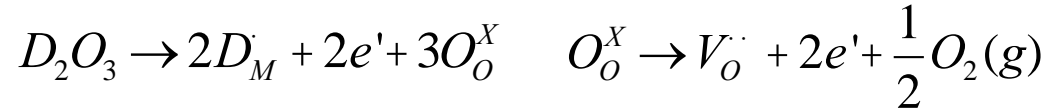


# Engineering Thermoelectric Materials

## ● Oxide Thermoelectric Materials

How to generate the charge carriers?

**For n-type: Donor-doped MO / Reduced MO**

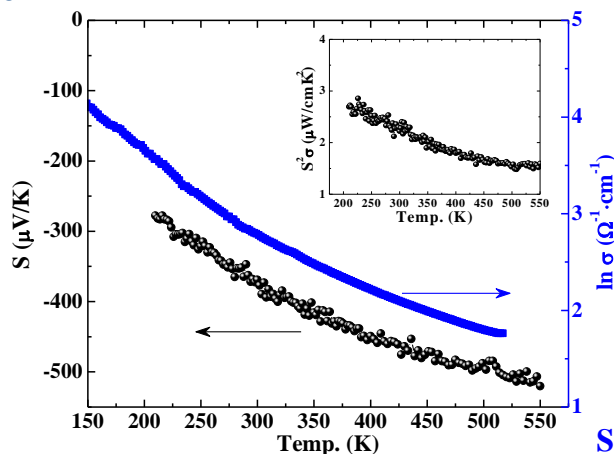
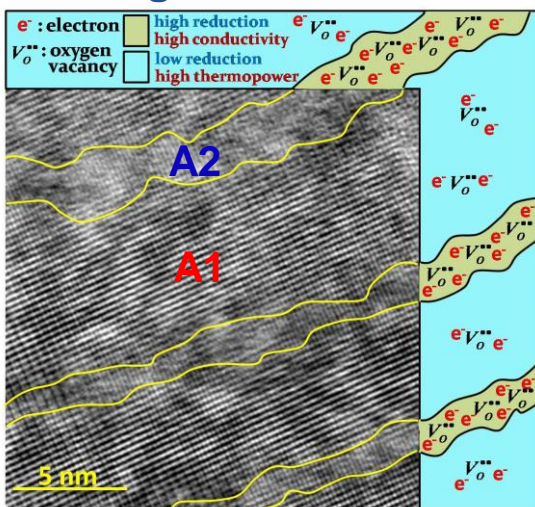


# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## Oxide Thermoelectric Materials

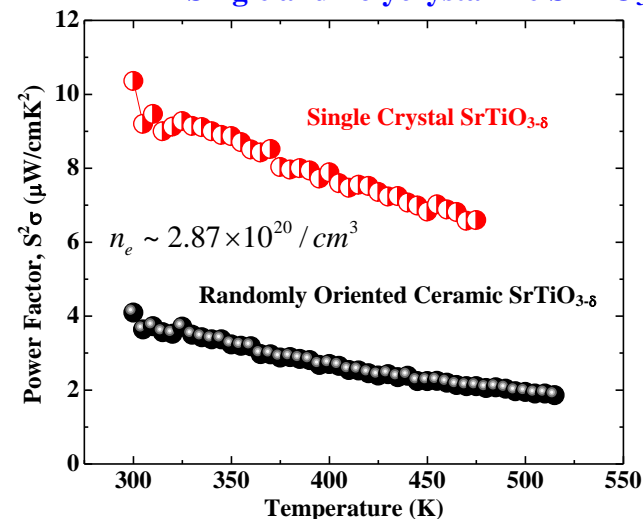
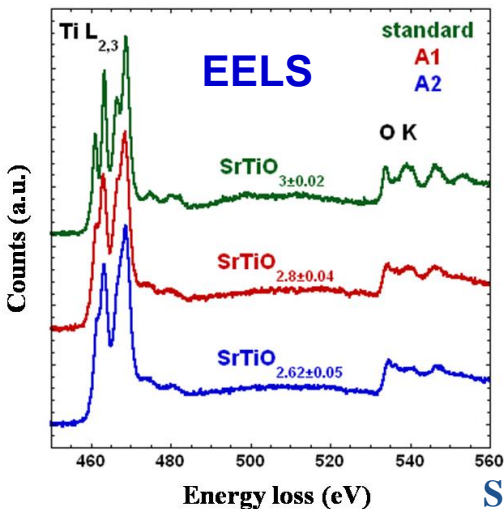
### Decoupling between $\sigma$ and $S$

TEM image of Reduced SrTiO<sub>3</sub>



- Conductivity: metallic
- Thermopower: semiconducting

Single and Polycrystalline SrTiO<sub>3-8</sub>

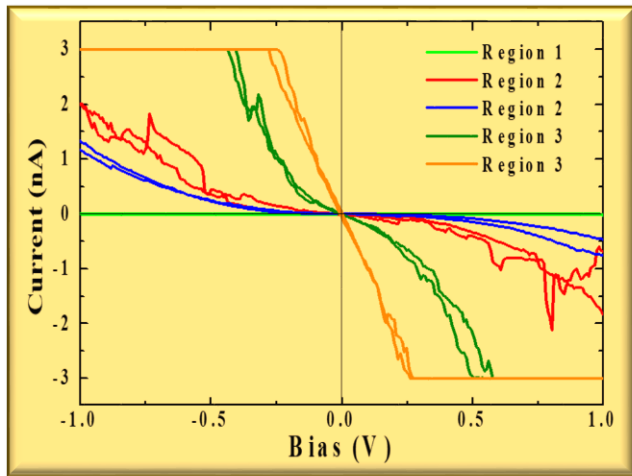
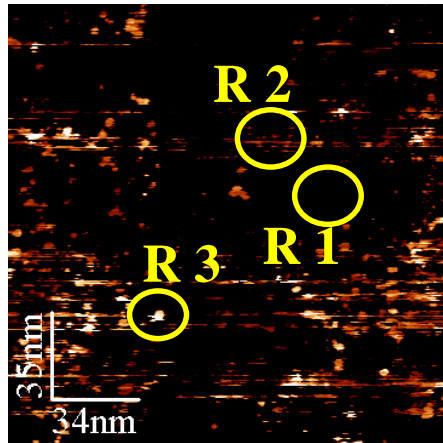


S. Lee *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B 79, 134110 (2009)

# Development of Thermoelectric Materials

## ● Oxide Thermoelectric Materials

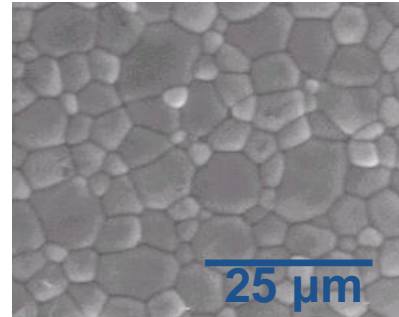
### • Quantum Confinement Effect



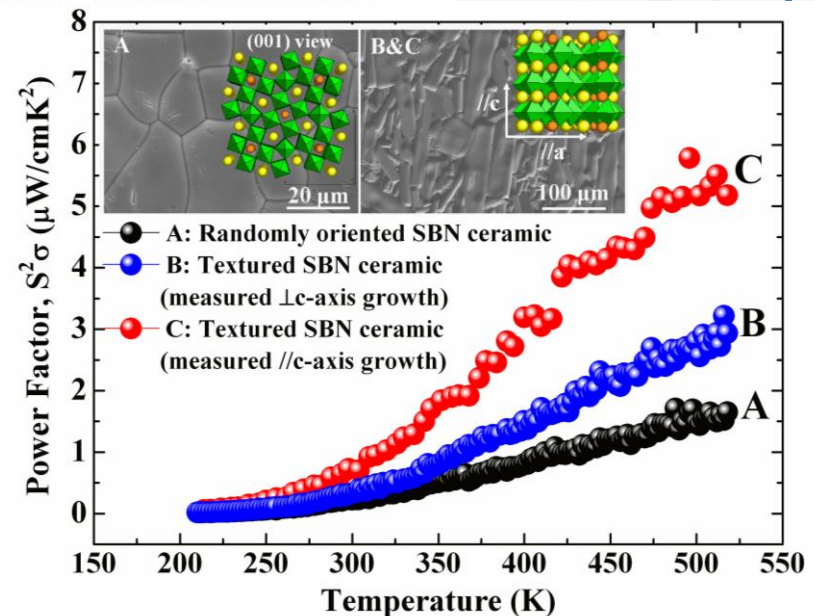
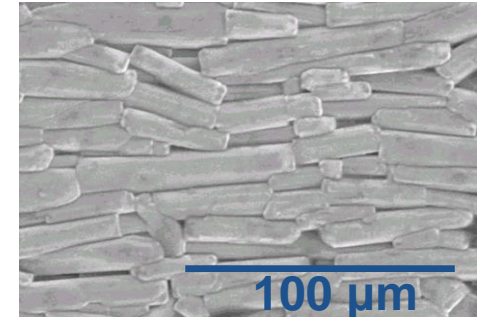
Conductive AFM

### • Textured Ceramic

Randomly Oriented SBN

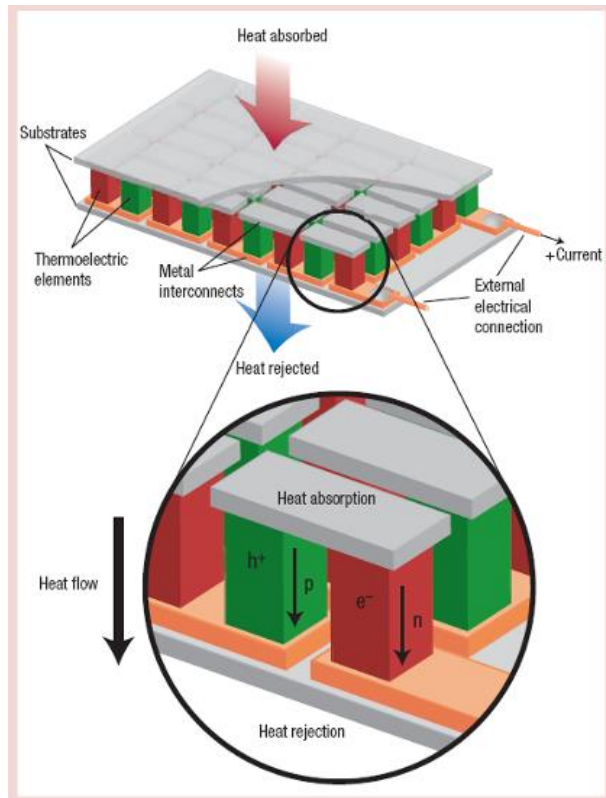


[001] Textured SBN

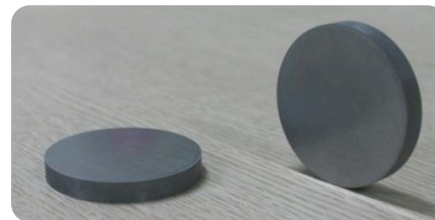
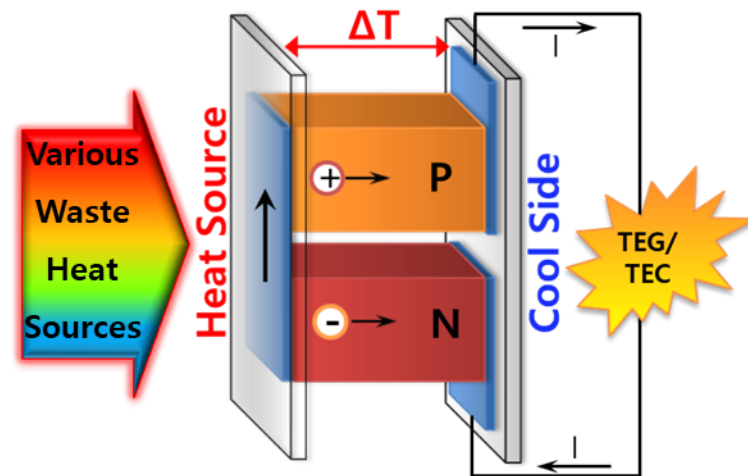


S. Lee *et al.*, JMR 26[1], 26-30 (2011)

## Thermoelectric Module



Snyder et al., *Nature* (2008)



# Engineering Thermoelectric Modules

High Efficiency ( $\eta$ ) = Material Figure of Merit (ZT)

+ Modularization + System Design

## Conversion Efficiency

$$\eta = \frac{T_h - T_c}{T_h} \cdot \frac{M - 1}{M + (T_c / T_h)}$$

$$M = \sqrt{1 + Z(T_h + T_c)/2}$$

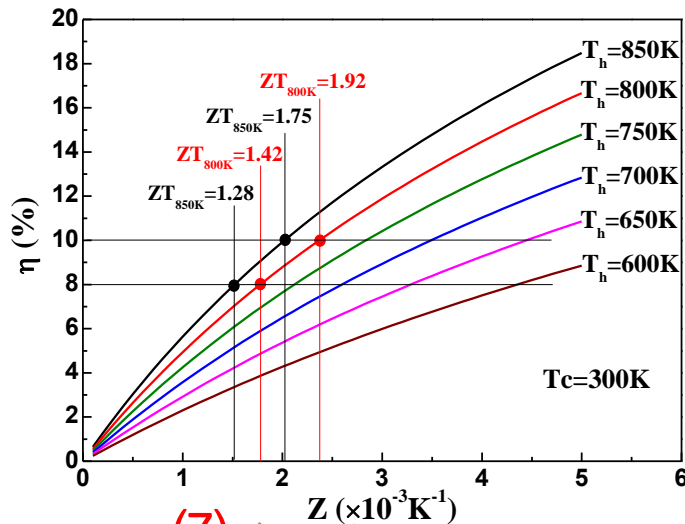


Figure of Merit (Z)  $\uparrow$  Efficiency ( $\eta$ )  $\uparrow$   
 Temp. (T)  $\uparrow$

## Material ZT

$$ZT = \frac{a^2 S T}{k}$$

Z : Figure of Merit  
 $\alpha$  : Seebeck Coeff.  
 $\sigma$  : Electrical Cond.  
 $\kappa$  : Thermal Cond.  
 T : Absolute Temp.

## Module/System

$$P_{\max} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{(a_{pn} \Delta T)^2}{R_L}$$

( $P_{\max}$  @  $R_L = r_{pn}$ )

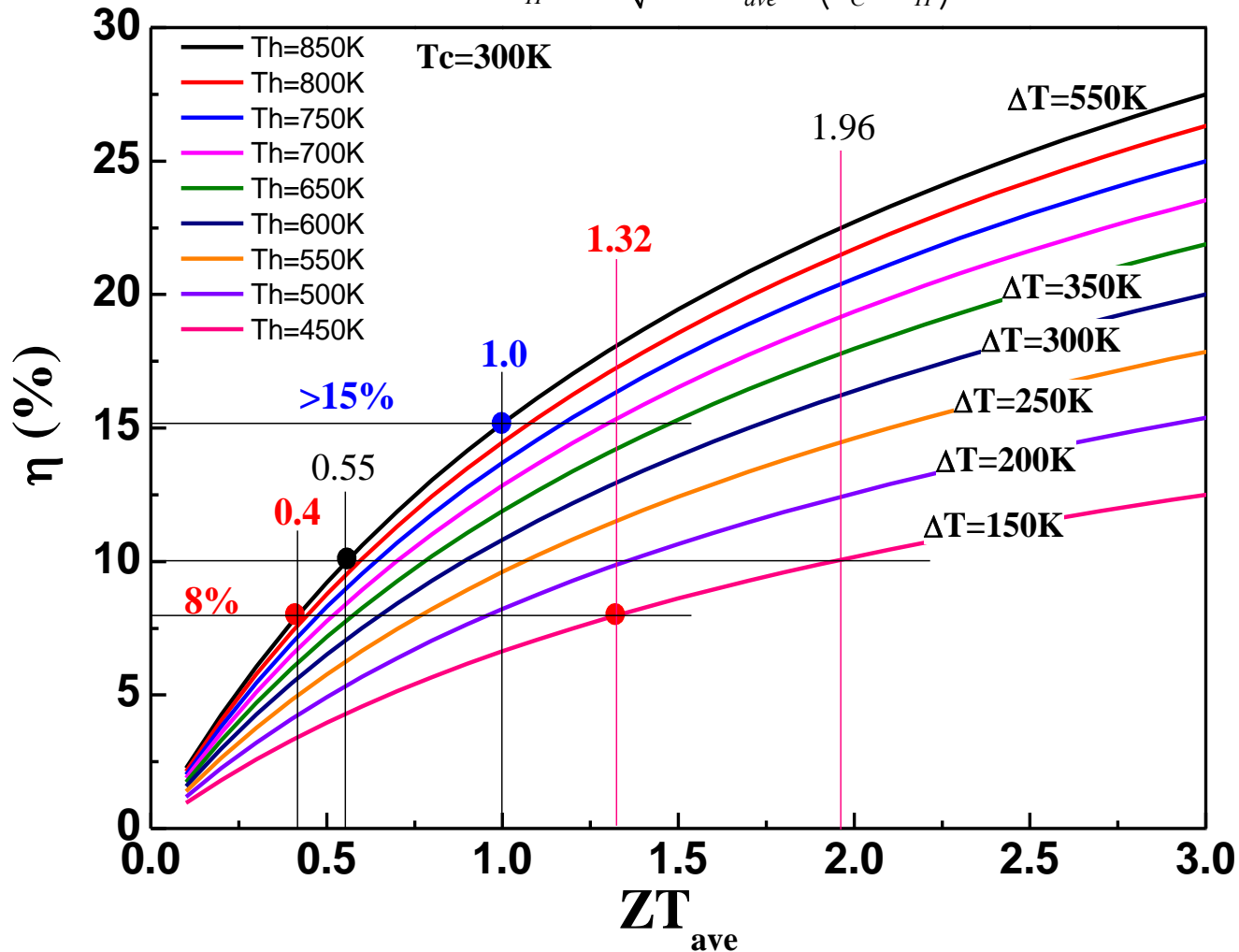
$P_{\max}$ : Maximum Power  
 $\alpha_{pn}$ : pn Seebeck  
 $\Delta T$ : Temp. Difference  
 $r_{pn}$ : Internal Resistance  
 $R_L$ : External Resistance

To commercialize

Z  $\uparrow$ ,  $R_{L-pn}$   $\downarrow$ ,  $\Delta T$   $\uparrow$   
 Material    Module    System

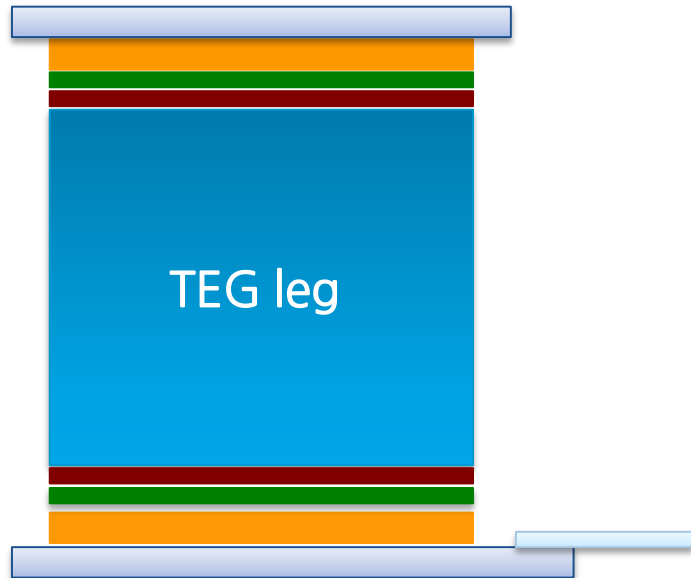
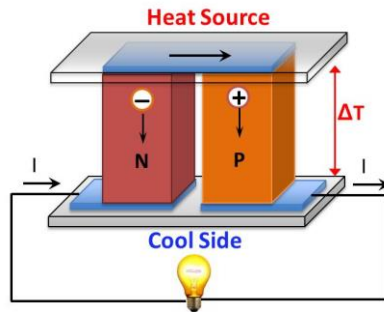
# Engineering Thermoelectric Modules

$$\eta = \frac{(T_H - T_C)}{T_H} \times \frac{\sqrt{1 + ZT_{ave}} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + ZT_{ave}} + (T_C / T_H)}$$



# Engineering Thermoelectric Modules

## Bottleneck of TEG Module for Mid-High Temperature Applications



- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Substrate         | Thermal Cond., Thermal Expansion   |
| Electrode         | Electrical Cond., Thermal Expansion, Bonding Strength, Thermal Cond.               |
| Brazing           | Ohmic contact, Thermal Expansion, Bonding Strength/conditions, Durability          |
| Diffusion Barrier | Ohmic contact, Thermal Expansion, Bonding Strength, forming conditions, Durability |
| TEG leg           | ZT, High Temperature Stability, Mechanical Strength, Machinability,                |
| Lead Wire         | Ohmic contact, Electrical Conductivity   |

# Development of Thermoelectric Modules

## Diffusion Barrier Material and Process Design

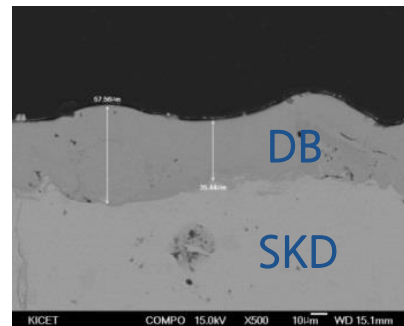
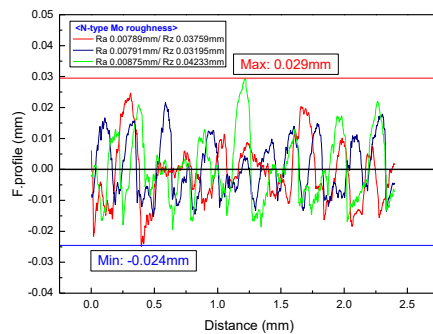
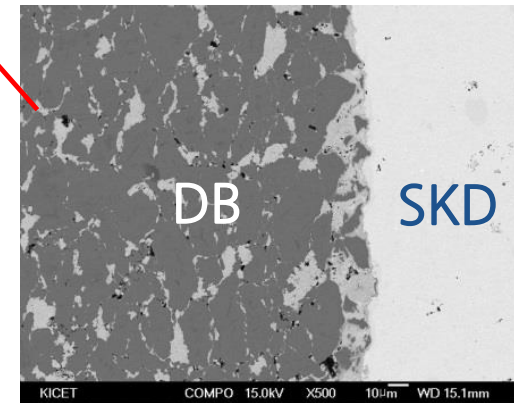
- Development of Diffusion Barrier (DB) Materials
- Development of DB Process

DB by TS



DB layer

DB by SS



86~111 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>

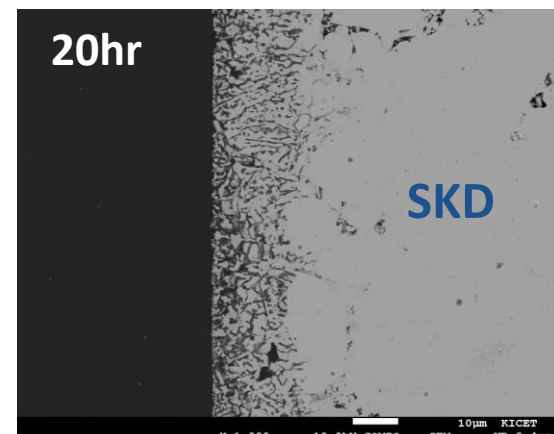
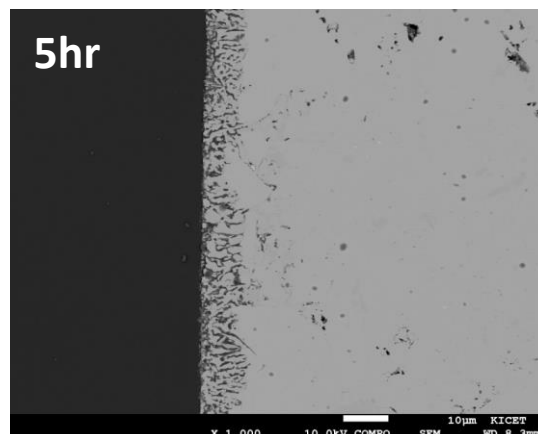
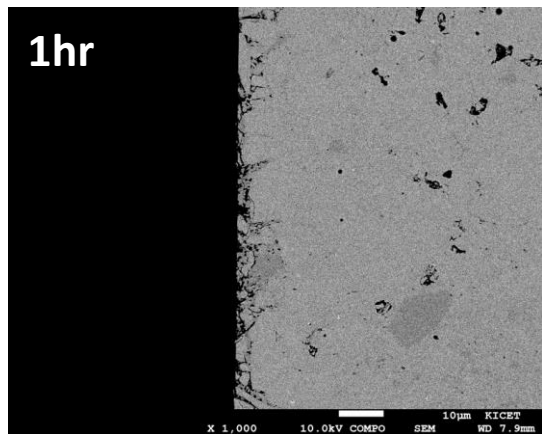
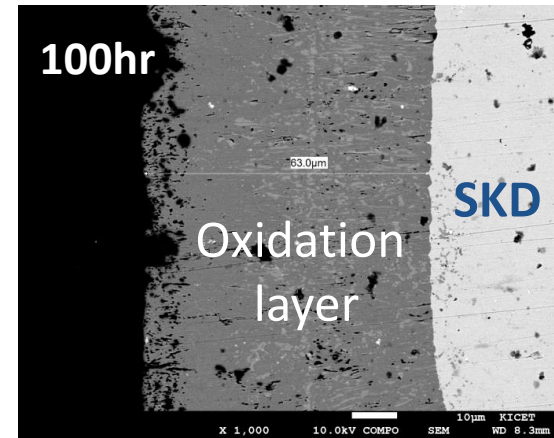
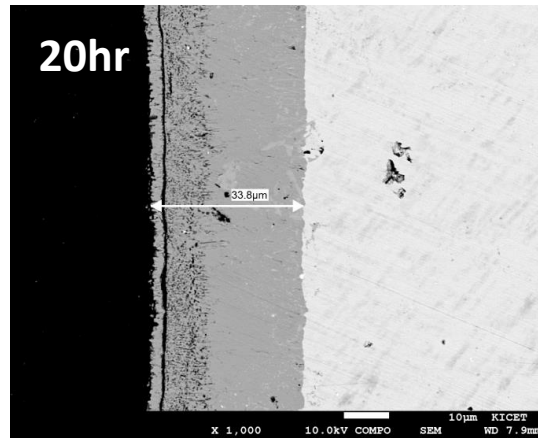
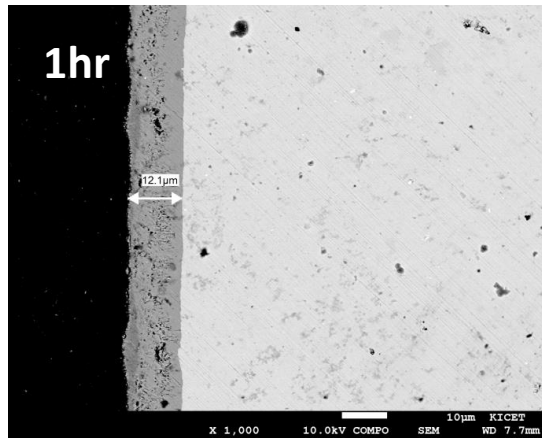
DB roughness:  $\lt \sim 50 \mu\text{m}$



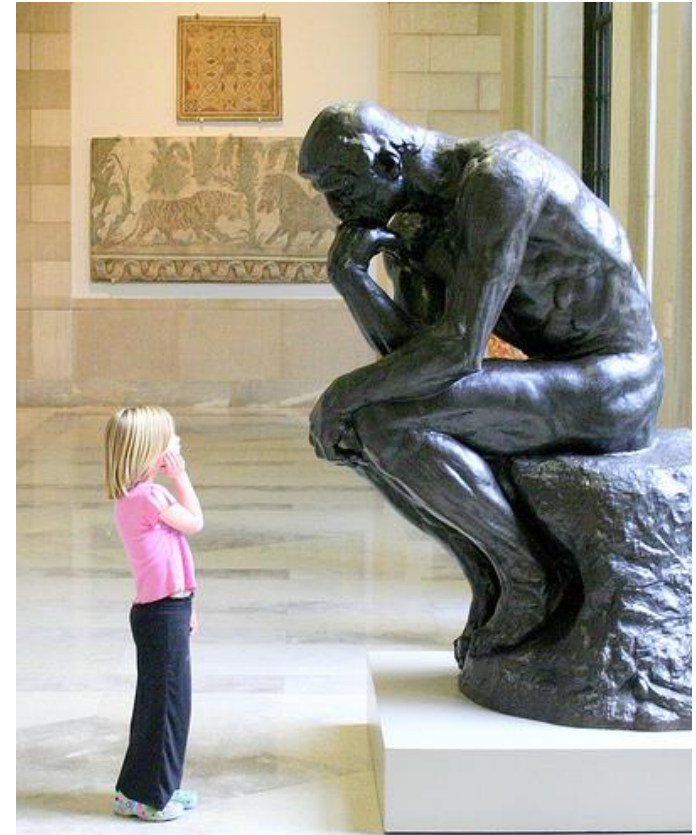
# Development of Thermoelectric Modules

## High Temperature Stability

- Enhancing Technology of high temperature stability (Oxidation, Evaporation)
- Module Packaging Technology



# Conclusion



**Thank you for your  
attention!**