Energy Resources & Infrastructure Research

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Interfacial Photochemistry

- **Dr. Jared P. Bruce**
- Assistant Professor
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Email: jared.bruce@unlv.edu
- Website: jpbruce.faculty.unlv.edu

Expertise

- Heterogeneous Photochemistry
- Electrocatalysis
- Photocatalysis
- Atmospheric Chemistry
- Surface Chemistry and Interfacial Characterization
- Near Ambient Pressure Photoelectron Spectroscopy

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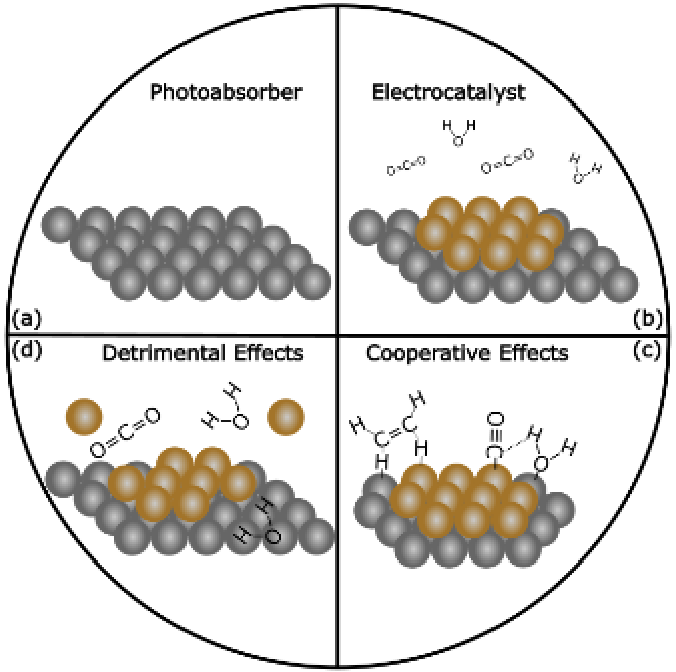
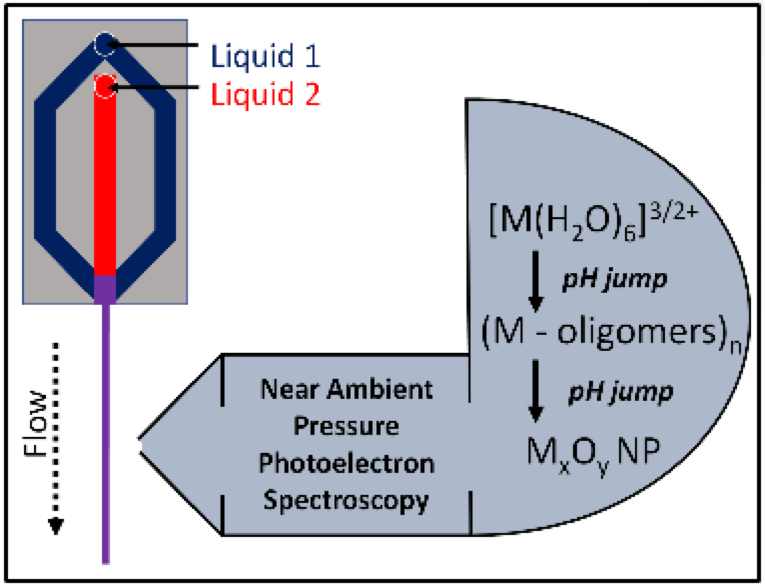
Hybrid Co-Catalyst/Photoabsorber Photochemical Interfaces



- Metals often make good electrocatalysts
- Semiconductors make good photoabsorbers
- The combination of the two create a new, complex interface that can be leveraged to increase the efficiency of co-catalyst/photoabsorber devices

Mixing Liquid Jet Photoelectron Spectroscopy



- Dynamic processes are tricky to study at the liquid surface
- A small liquid jet (20µm dia.) is used to investigate the liquid surface
- Microfluidic chips provide mixing chamber to induce chemical reactions

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Electronic and Magnetic Properties at High Pressure

Dr. Andrew Cornelius
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Phone (702) 895-1727

Expertise:

- Experimental high pressure measurements
- Magnetism
- Superconductivity

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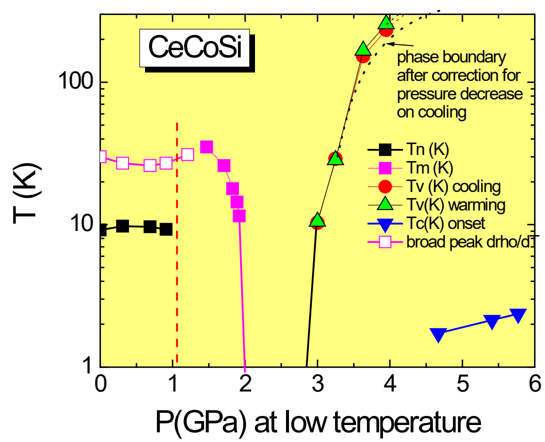
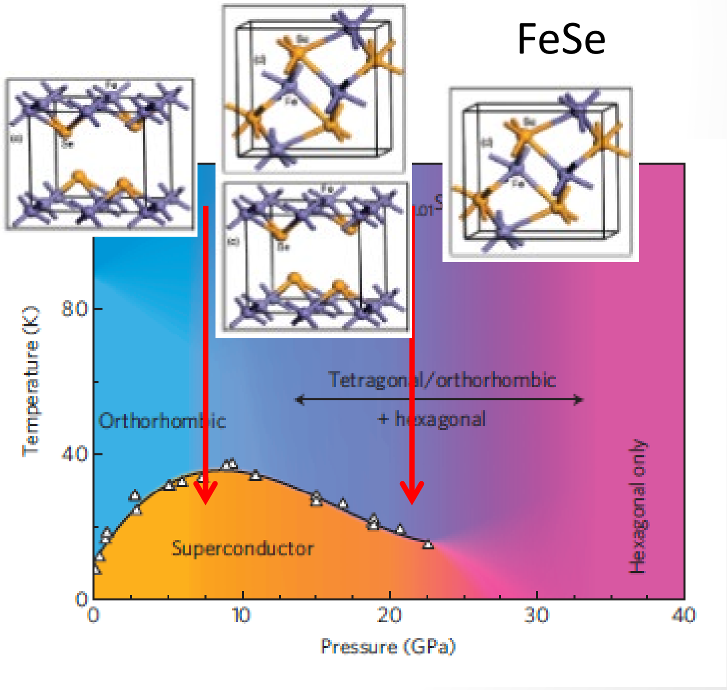
Superconductivity

Quantum Design PPMS at UNLV

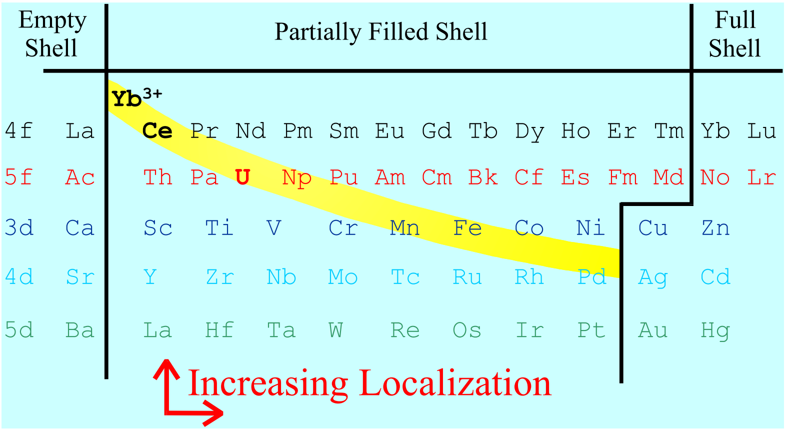
- Measurements from 0.3 K to 400 K
  - Heat capacity, electric and thermal transport, and AC/DC magnetization
- Pressure cells to measure electrical properties (clamp to 3 GPa and diamond anvil cell to >100 GPa)



Addition of high pressure synchrotron experiments (diffraction and X-ray absorption) allows mapping of complex superconducting phase diagrams

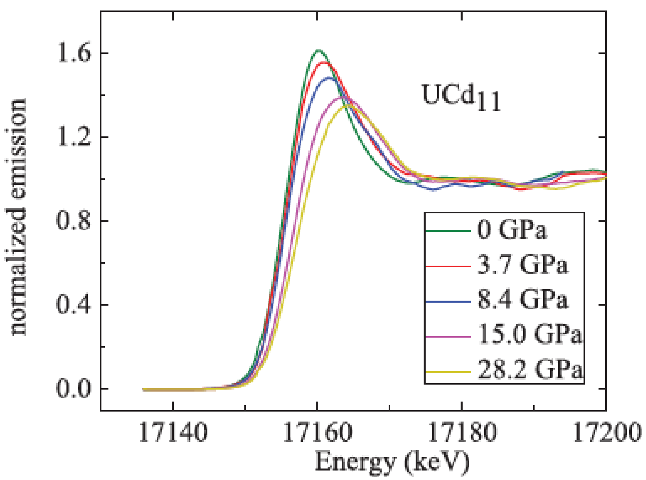


Correlated-Electron Systems

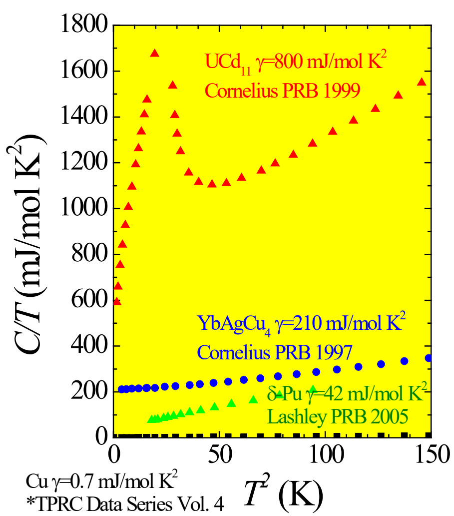


Modified periodic table

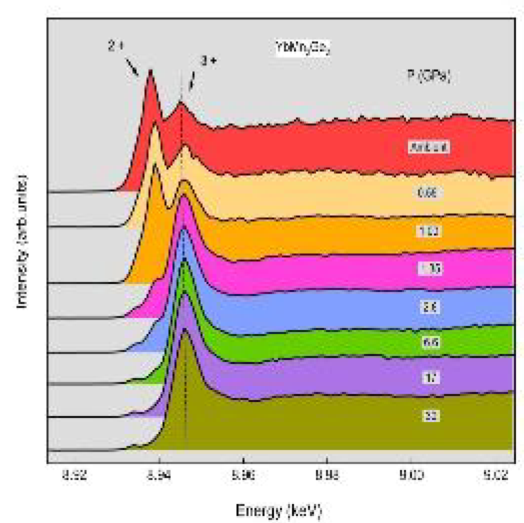
- Going from localized to delocalized electrons one often finds strong electron-electron correlations
- Correlated electron systems can yield interesting behavior: fluctuating valence, superconductivity, non-Fermi liquid, heavy fermion and many more



f-electron delocalization
X-ray absorption



Heavy fermions
Heat Capacity



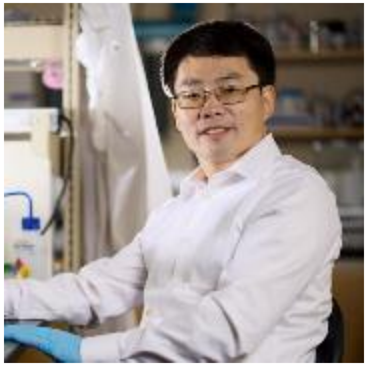
Fluctuating valence
X-ray fluorescence

Electrochemistry for Energy Storage, Environmental Remediation, and Biomedical Applications

- **Dr. Zhange Feng**
- Assistant Professor
- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Email: zhange.feng@unlv.edu
- Website: https://zfeng.faculty.unlv.edu/

Expertise

- Water and soil remediation
- Rechargeable batteries
- Electrocatalysis
- Electrosynthesis
- Electrochemical Manufacturing
- Electrical neural stimulation



A combination of electrochemistry, *in situ* spectroscopy, and theoretical calculations to study electrified interfaces

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Surface and Interface Characterization of Materials for Energy Conversion

Dr. Clemens Heske

Professor

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

heske@unlv.nevada.edu

Expertise

- Electronic and Chemical Structure of Energy-Conversion Materials
- Surface and Interface Characterization
- Soft x-ray and Electron Spectroscopy
- Scanning Probe Microscopy
- Synchrotron Radiation

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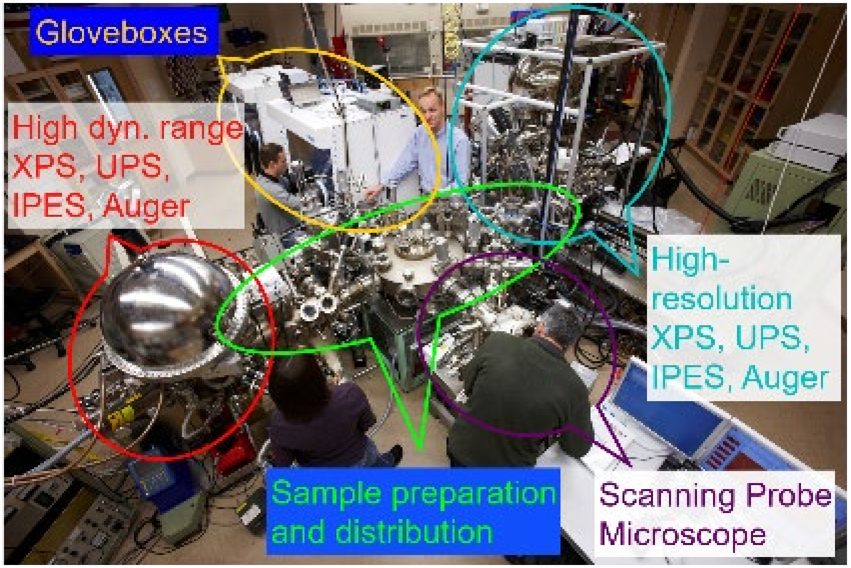
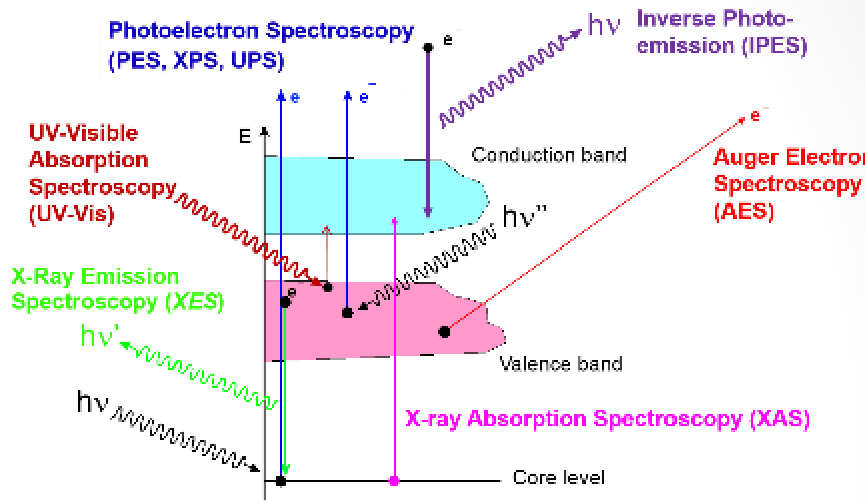
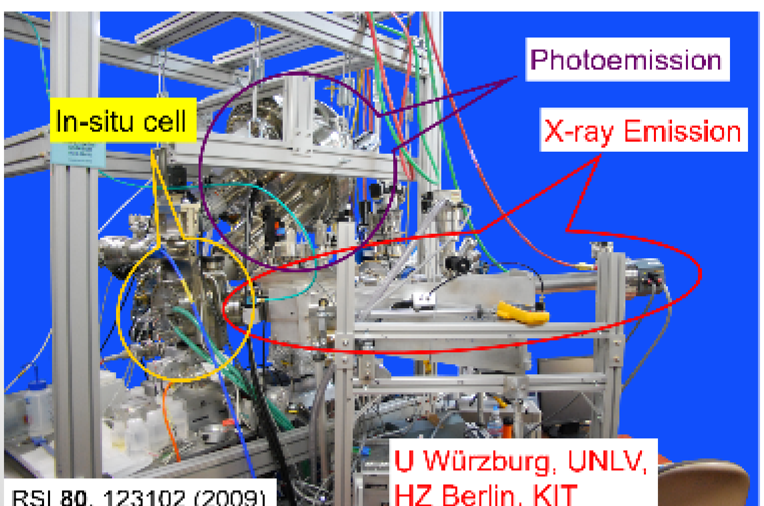
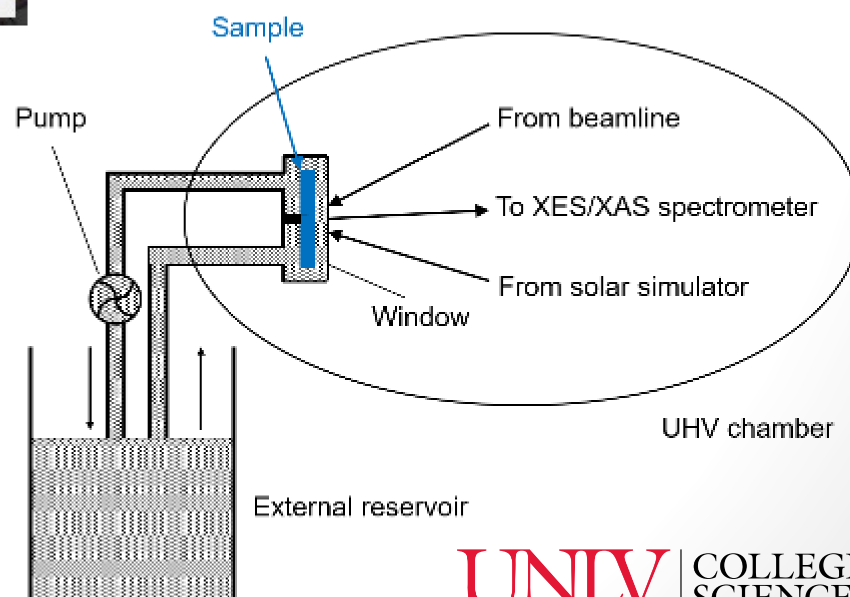
Surface and Interface Characterization





SALSA: Solid And Liquid Spectroscopic Analysis





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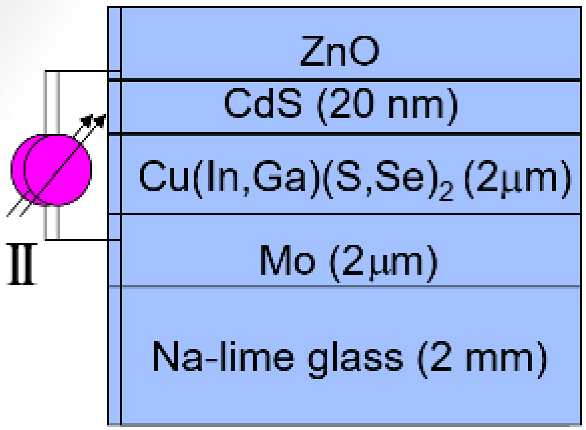
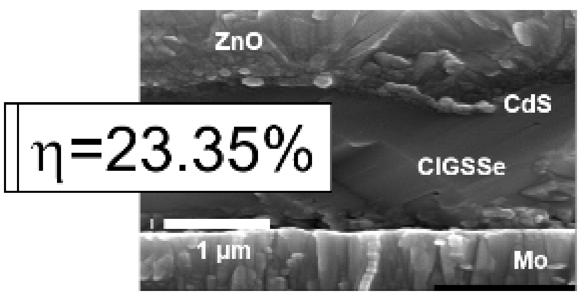
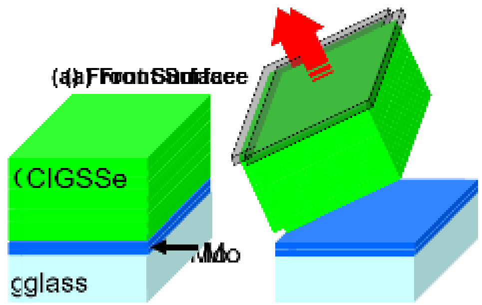
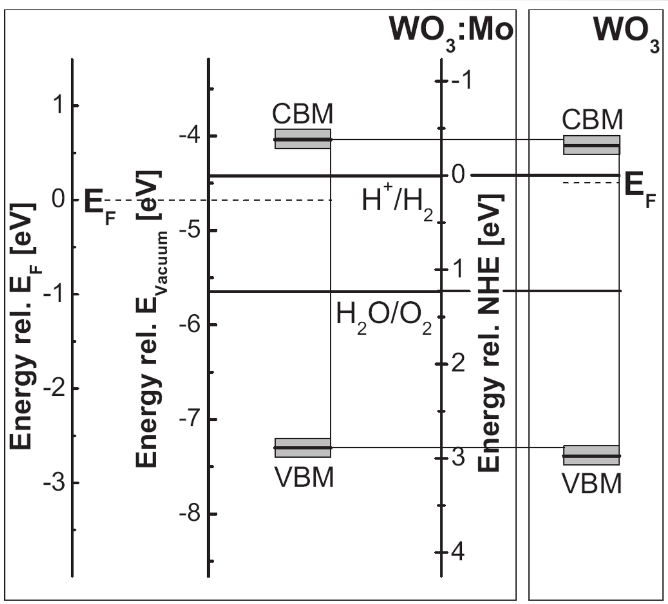
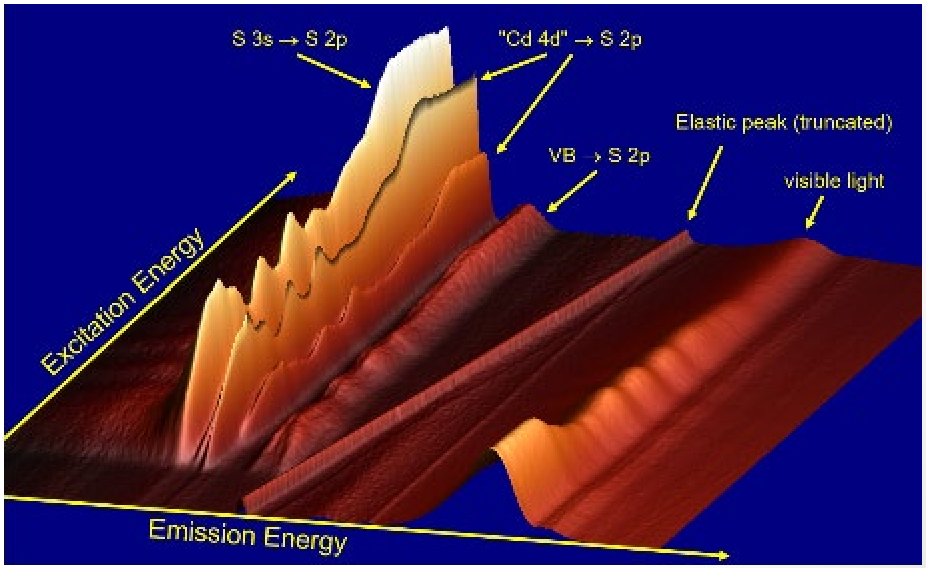
Materials for Energy Conversion

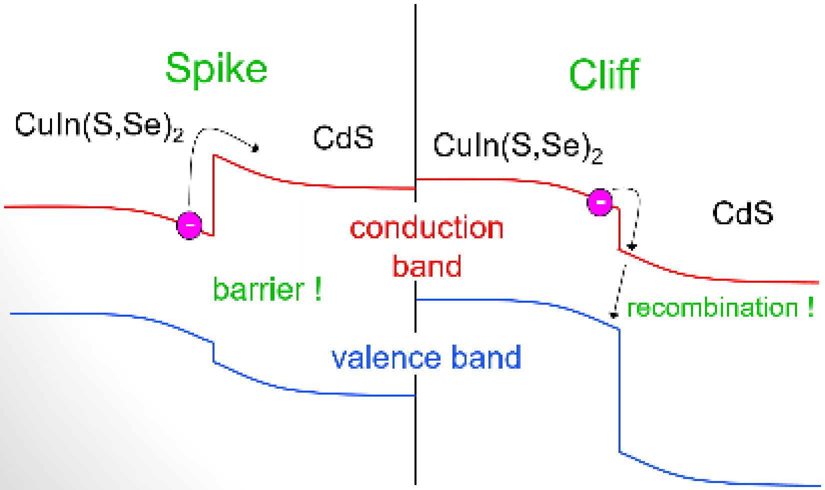












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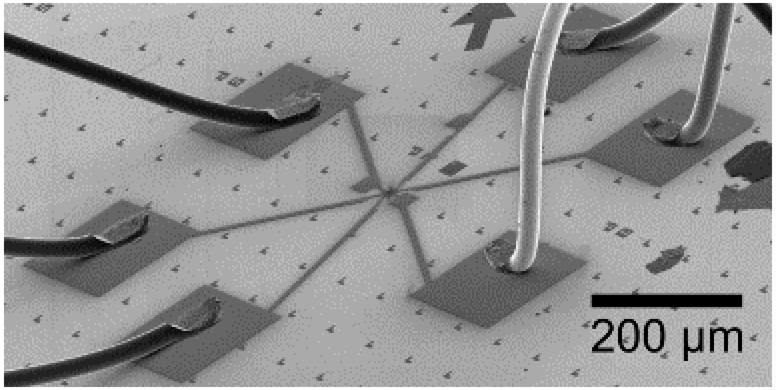
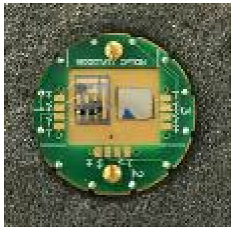
Island – Quantum computing, quantum sensing

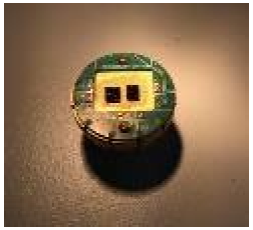
The Nanoscale Physics Group @ UNLV

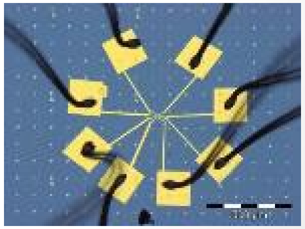
Areas of Research

- Nanotechnology, device physics
- Photodetection and quantum sensing
- Quantum computing, topological qubits
- Non-equilibrium, driven systems
- Superconductivity, proximity effects
- Low dimensional materials









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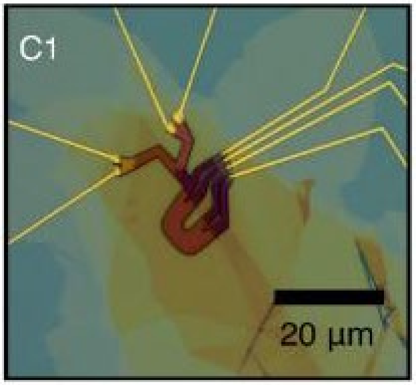
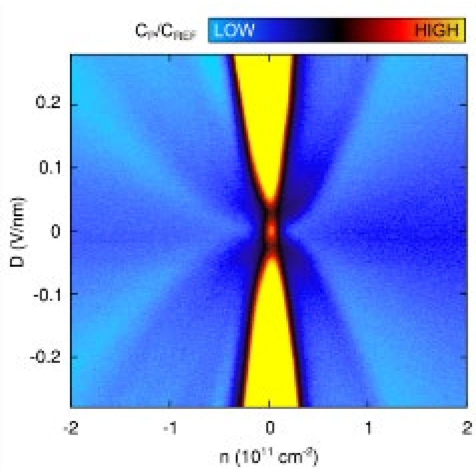
Island's Lab website

Island – Quantum computing, quantum sensing

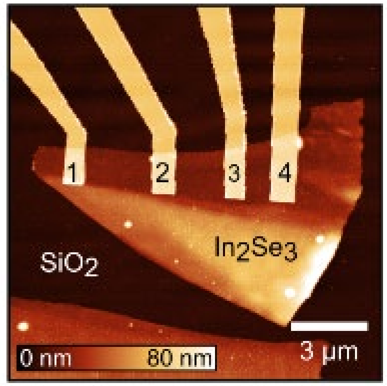
Quantum computing: Topological phases for fault-tolerant, universal quantum computing.

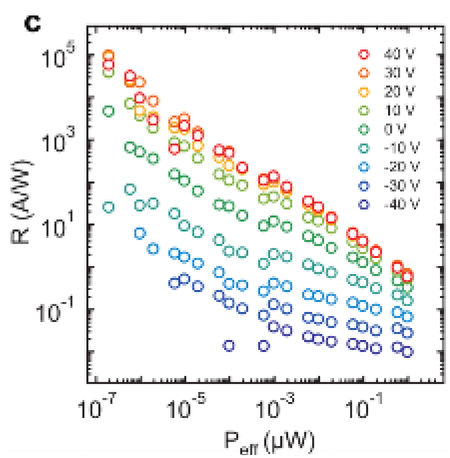




Island, J. O., et al. *Nature* **571** (2019): 85–89.

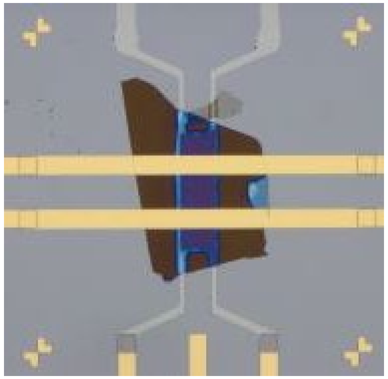
Industry-disruptive photodetectors: Ultra-sensitive phototransistors designed with 2D materials and heterostructures.

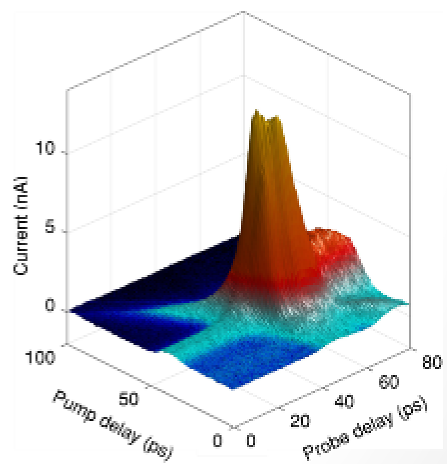




Island, J. O., et al. *Nano Letters* **15** (2015): 7853-7858.

Transient phases of driven systems: Non-equilibrium response of pumped nanomaterials below the diffraction limit.





Island's Lab website

Island – Quantum computing, quantum sensing

Journal publications:

Spin-orbit-driven band inversion in bilayer graphene by van der Waals proximity effect
J.O. Island, X. Cui, C. Lewandowski, J.Y. Khoo, E.M. Spanton, H. Zhou, D. Rhodes, J.C. Hone, T. Taniguchi, K. Watanabe, L.S. Levitov, M.P. Zaletel, A.F. Young, Nature, **571**, 85-89 (2019). (arXiv)

Enhanced superconductivity in atomically thin TaS2
E. Navano-Moiatalla*, J.O. Island*, S. Manas-Valero, E. Pinilla-Cienfuegos, A. Castellanos-Gomez, J. Queieda, G. Rubio- Bollinger, L. Chirolli, J.A. Silva-Guilin, N. Agrat, G.A. Steele, F. Guinea, H.S.J. van der Zant, E. Coronado, Nature Communications, **15**, 7853 (2016). (arXiv)

Proximity-induced Shiba states in a molecular junction
J. O. Island, R. Gaudenzi, J. de Bruijckere, E. Burzuri, C. Franco, M. Mas-Torrent, C. Rovira, J. Veciana, T. M. Klapwijk, R. Aguado, H.S.J. van der Zant, Physical Review Letters, **118**, 117001 (2017). (arXiv)

T1S3 transistors with tailored morphology and electrical properties
J.O. Island, M. Barawi, R. Biele, A. Almazan, J.M. Clamagirand, J.R. Ares, C. Sanchez, H.S.J. van der Zant, J.V. Alvarez, R. D'Agosta, I.J. Ferrer, A. Castellanos-Gomez, Advanced Materials, **27**, 2595 (2015). (arXiv)

Environmental instability of few-layer black phosphorus
J.O. Island, G.A. Steele. H.S.J. van der Zant, and A. Castellanos-Gomez, 2D Materials, **2**, 011002 (2015). (arXiv)

Ultrahigh photoresponse of few-layer TiS3 nanoribbon transistors
J.O. Island, M. Buscema, M. Barawi, J.M. Clamagirand. J.R. Ares, C. Sanchez, I.J. Ferrer, G.A. Steele, H.S. J van der Zant, and A. Castellanos-Gomez, Advanced Optical Materials, **2**, 641 (2014). (arXiv)

Gate controlled photocurrent generation mechanisms in high-gain ln2Se3 phototransistors
J.O. Island*, S.I. Blanter*, M. Buscema, H.S.J. van der Zant, and A. Castellanos-Gomez, Nano Letters, **15**, 7853(2015). (arXiv)

Precise and reversible band gap tuning In single-layer MoSe2 by uniaxial strain
J.O. Island, A. Kuc, E.U. Diependaal, H.S.J. van der Zant, T. Heine, and A. Castellanos- Gomez, Nanoscale, **8,** 2589 (2016). (arXiv)

Island's Lab website

Main-Group and Organometallic Chemistry

- **Dr. Arumugam Jayaraman**
- Assistant Professor, Inorganic Chemistry
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Email: arumugam.jayaraman@unlv.edu
- Website: https://jayaramangroup.faculty.unlv.edu/

Expertise

- Chemistry of Low-valent Boron, Carbon and Phosphorus Compounds
- Antiaromatic and Aromatic Main-Group Heterocyclic Materials
- Sustainable Transformation of Burnt Fossil Fuels to Chemical Feedstock
- Green Catalysis and Technology Transfer to Fine-Chemical Industry
- Synthetic Inorganic Antibiotics
- Computational Organometallic Chemistry of *p*- and *d*-block compounds
- Single-Crystal X-ray Crystallography

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Selected Publications

1) *Olefin π-coordination chemistry at low-oxidation-state boron*, M. Michel, M. Weber, A. Jayaraman, R. D. Dewhurst, I. Krummenacher, C. Voigt, M. Härterich, A. Vargas, H. Braunschweig, Nature Chem., 2025, in press.
2) *Formation and metallomimetic reactivity of a transient dicoordinate alkylborylene*, Y. Konrad, A. Jayaraman, I. Krummenacher, H. Braunschweig, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2025, e202423669
3) *Straightforward formation of borirenes from boroles and dialkynes*, P. H. R. Oliveira, M. O. Rodrigues, C. D. G. Da Silva, J. L. Bohlen, M. Arrowsmith, A. Jayaraman, L .Lubczyk, F. Fantuzzi, E. N. da Silva Júnior, H. Braunschweig, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2025, e202423391
4) *Intermolecular 1,2-aminoboration of alkynes and the critical role of electron-rich alkynes*, S. Dotzauer, A. Jayaraman, D. Reinhart, H. Braunschweig, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2024, 63, e202413370
5) *Experimental observation of a terminal borylene-dinitrogen adduct via cleavage of a 1,2,3,4,5-diboratriazoline* A. Jayaraman, B. Ritschel, M. Arrowsmith, C. Markl, M. Jürgensen, A. Halkić, Y. Konrad, A. Stoy, K. Radacki, H. Braunschweig, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2024, 63, e202412307
6) *Full electron delocalization across the cluster in 1,12-bis $BMes_2$-p-carborane radical anion*, L. Wu, X. Zhang, M. Moos, I. Krummenacher, M. Dietz, A. Jayaraman, R. Bertermann, Q. Ye, M. Finze, C. Lambert, H. Braunschweig, L. Ji, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2024, 146, 17956–17963
7) *An unsymmetrical, cyclic diborene based on a chelating CAAC ligand and its small-molecule activation and rearrangement chemistry*, W. Lu, A. Jayaraman, F. Fantuzzi, R. D. Dewhurst, M. Härterich, M. Dietz, S. Hagspiel, I. Krummenacher, K. Hammond, J. Cui and H. Braunschweig, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2022, 61, e202113947
8) *Palladium-catalyzed homocoupling of highly fluorinated arylboronates: studies of the influence of strongly vs weakly coordinating solvents on the reductive elimination process* Y. Budiman, A. Jayaraman, A. Friedrich, F. Kerner, U. Radius, T. B. Marder J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2020, 142, 6036–6050
9) *Practical and scalable synthesis of borylated heterocycles using stable precursor of metal-free Lewis pair catalysts*, A. Jayaraman, L. C. Misal Castro, F.-G. Fontaine, Org. Process Res. Dev., 2018, 22 (11), 1489–1499
10) *Metal-free borylation of heteroarenes using ambiphilic aminoboranes: on the importance of sterics in frustrated Lewis pair C-H bond activation*, J. L. Lavergne, A. Jayaraman, L. C. Misal Castro, É. Rochette, F.-G. Fontaine, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017, 139 (41), 14714-14723
11) *A potent synthetic inorganic antibiotic with activity against drug-resistant pathogens*, S. Hubick, A. Jayaraman, S. Reid, J. Alcorn, J. Stavrinides, B. T. Sterenberg, Sci. Rep. (Nature), 2017, 7, 41999

Organic Materials Chemistry

Dong-Chan Lee, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

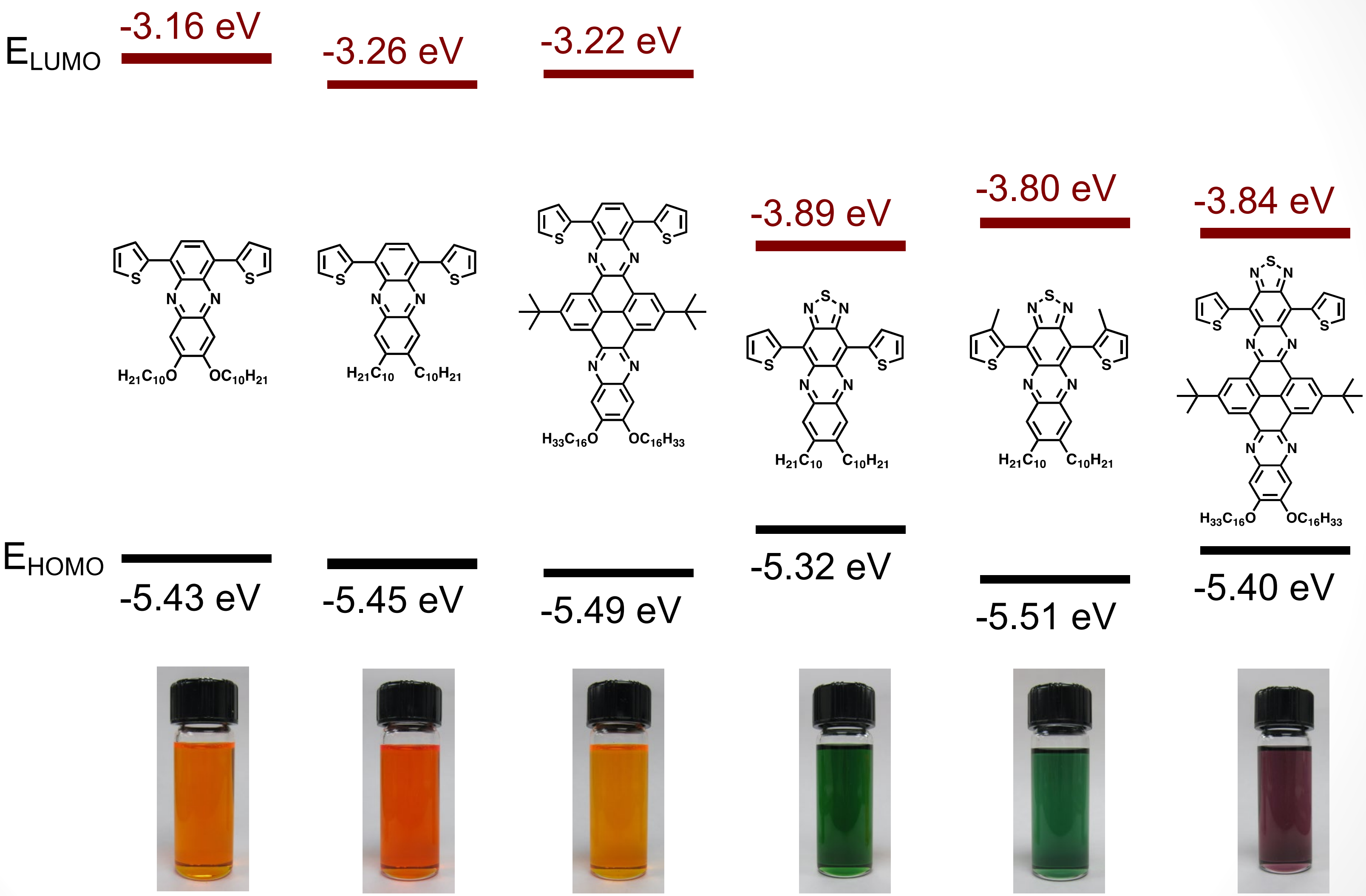
Phone: 702-895-1486

Email: dong-chan.lee@unlv.edu

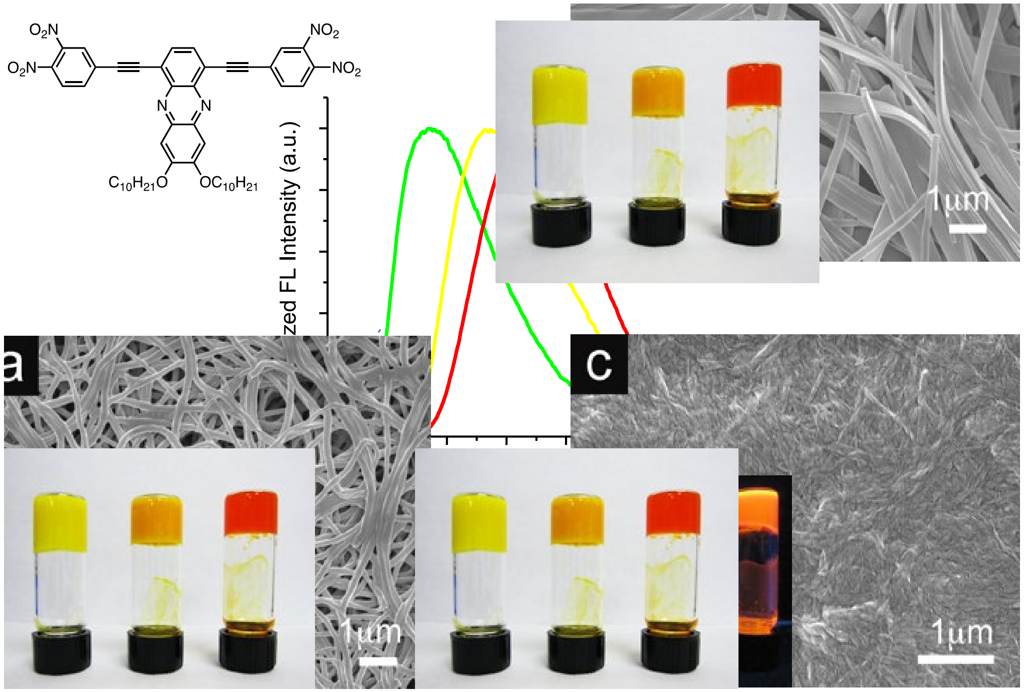
Expertise

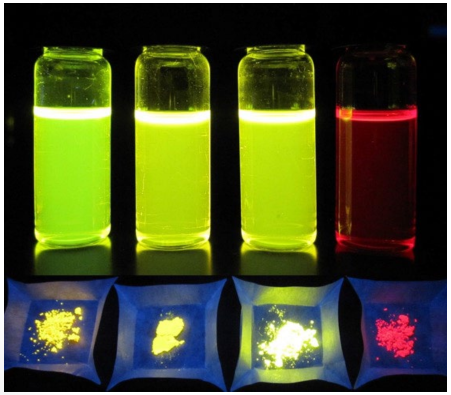
- Organic semiconductors with tunable electronic properties
- Self-assembly (nanomaterials, organogels, etc.)
- All organic room-temperature phosphors
- Materials development for solid-state emission with high quantum yield

Electronic-Property Tuning with Smart Molecular Design

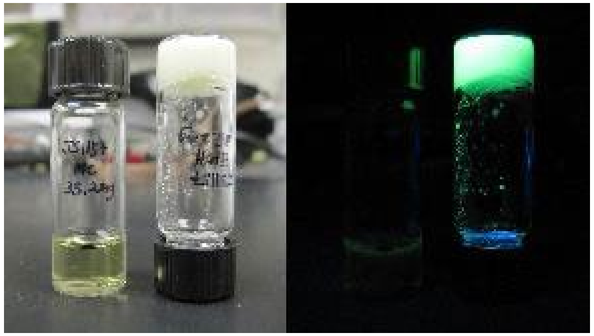


Solvent-Dependent Morphology Control through Organogelation





Solid-State Emission with High Quantum Yield



Gel-Induced Room Temperature Phospho-rescence

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Economic Geology Research Group

- **Dr. Andrew Martin**
- Assistant Professor
- School of Geoscience
- Email: andrew.martin@unlv.edu

Expertise

Geochemical Research: Studying hydrothermal mineral deposits using mineralogy, geochemistry and stable isotopes.

Temporal Tracking: Expertise in in situ microanalysis of sulfide minerals.

Integrated Methods: Combining mineral-scale observations with bulk-rock geochemistry, mineralogy and field mapping.

Specialization: Expertise in critical metals, volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS), seafloor massive sulfide (SMS) deposits and Carlin-type Au mineralization.

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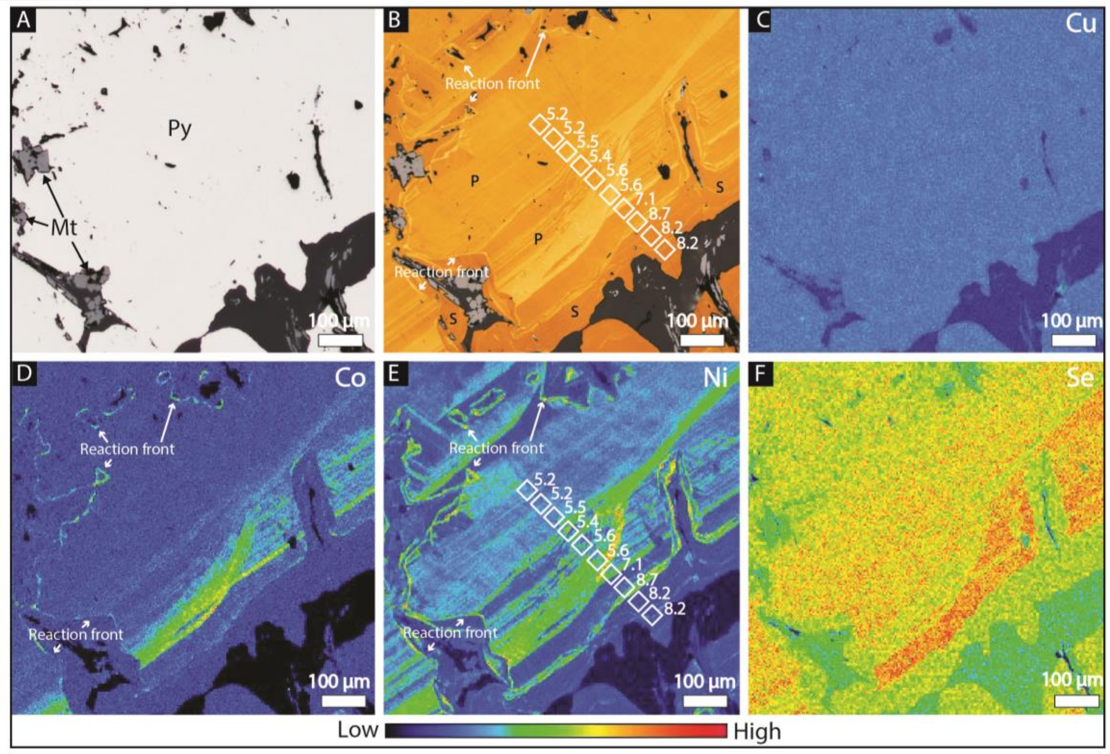
Understanding evolving metal and sulfur sources in mineral deposits



- As minerals grow they record changes - just like rings on a tree.
- My research group combines mineralogy with geochemical and isotopic studies to understand how these changes relate to the formation of an ore deposit.
- Above is an example from deep below the ocean, this sample was collected from the Semenov vent field on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

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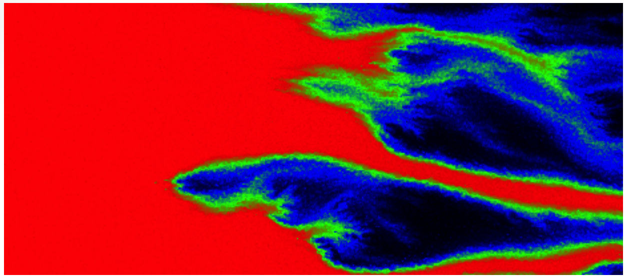
Hydrology

Dr. Michael Nicholl
Department of Geoscience
Phone: (702) 895-4616
Email: michael.nicholl@unlv.edu

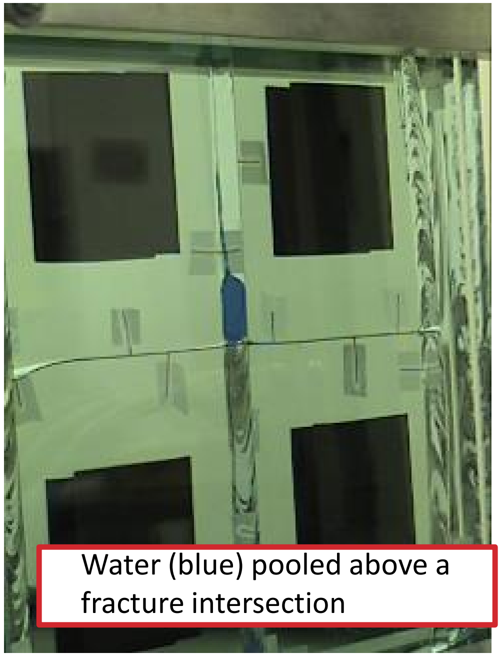
Expertise:
Unsaturated zone hydrology
Fractured rock hydrology
Environmental fluid mechanics

Fractured Rock Hydrology



False color image of a miscible displacement experiment in a single fracture

Field mapping of fracture networks
blue dye (right foreground) is from an infiltration test



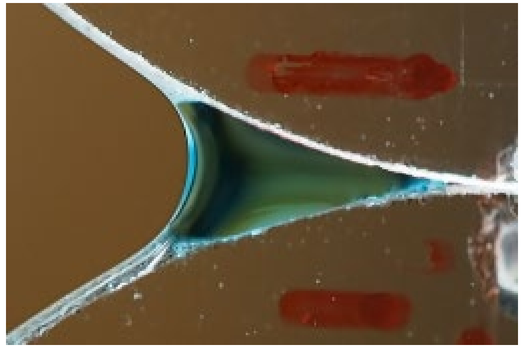
Water (blue) pooled above a fracture intersection

Isothermal flow across a single rock fracture (matrix-to-matrix flow)

- Two-phase flow and transport in fractured rock
- Laboratory experimentation, field mapping, numerical simulations
- Contaminant transport, geothermal energy, enhanced petroleum recovery

Unsaturated Porous Media

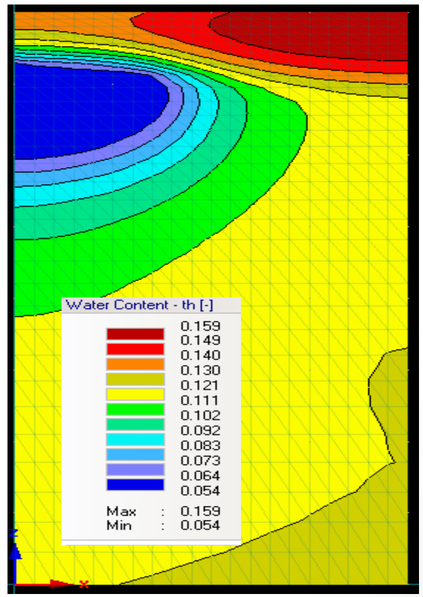
Seepage through gravel-sized capillary barrier materials



Millimeter-scale transport experiment

Sampling Chloride as a proxy for root-driven horizontal flow

Hydraulic conductivity of a rock slab



2D simulation of root-driven transport

- ❑ Challenging existing conceptual models for unsaturated and two-phase flow
- ❑ Design and execution of critical laboratory/field/numerical experiments

Climate Change; Renewable Energy; Astronomy

Dr George Rhee
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Phone: (702) 895-4453
email: grhee@physics.unlv.edu

"Expertise:"

Observational Astronomy/Cosmology

Renewable Energy

Colorado River flow projections

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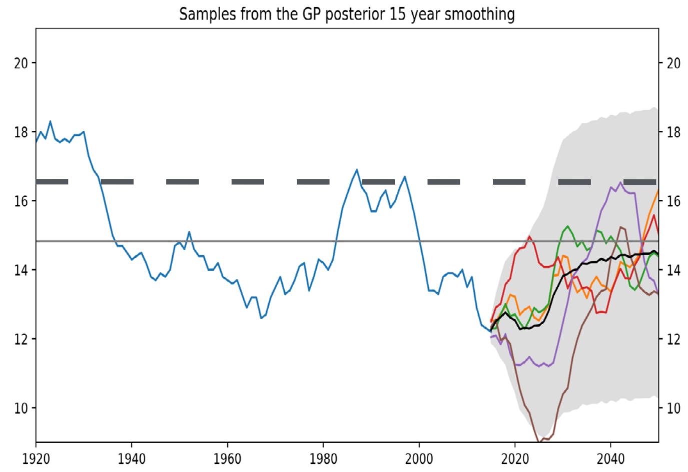
Climate Change

River flow projections using statistics from tree ring data from the upper Colorado River Basin. Gaussian processes with known covariance can be used to predict properties of river flows. Figure shows predictions for Colorado river flow 2015-2050.



Astrophysics

Interested in:

Dark matter distribution in galaxies inferred from the rotation of neutral hydrogen gas in disks

Properties of galaxies in extreme low density environments (voids)

Measuring the masses of black holes using the variability of the central region in Seyfert galaxies and quasars. spectral and brigtness measurements

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Renewable Energy

Created an online calculator allowing the user to choose supply and demand options to make plans to zero out emissions in Nevada by 2050.
http://nv2050.physics.unlv.edu/. I

Interview on KPNR and writeup describing the idea:
https://knpr.org/desert-companion/2018-12/do-math

Supply Choices

Nuclear Energy	no nuclear energy ever
Wind energy	add two new wind farms by 2050
Hydroelectric power	Lake Mead dries up by 2030 and generation stops
Geothermal Energy	increase generation by 3% per year
Rooftop Solar power	keep rooftop solar at its 2015 value
Solar PV power plants	solar PV increases by 10 percent a year to 2050
Concentrating Solar Power	build one new Tonopah plant every ten years
Solar Thermal (hot water)	increase to 10% of demand by 2050
Electricity imports	keep electricity imports at 0.15 GW
Carbon Capture and Storage	no CCS, business as usual

Demand Choices

International aviation	factor of three increase in international visitors by 2050
Nevada transport	electrify transport completely by 2050
Nevada freight	business as usual freight travels by road
Industry growth	energy demand increases by 1.5% per year
Commercial heating and cooling	5% increase in efficiency
Commercial light and appliances	energy demand increases by 25% by 2050
Home heating and cooling	energy demand increases by 1.5% per year
Home lighting and appliances	electricity demand increases by 70% from 2015 to 2050
Home insulation	no extra effort on home insulation
Average home temperature	no thermostat adjustment

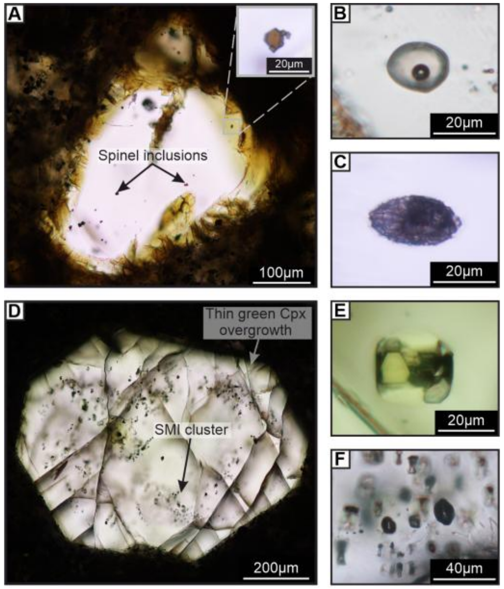
Fluids and Magmas in Ore Systems

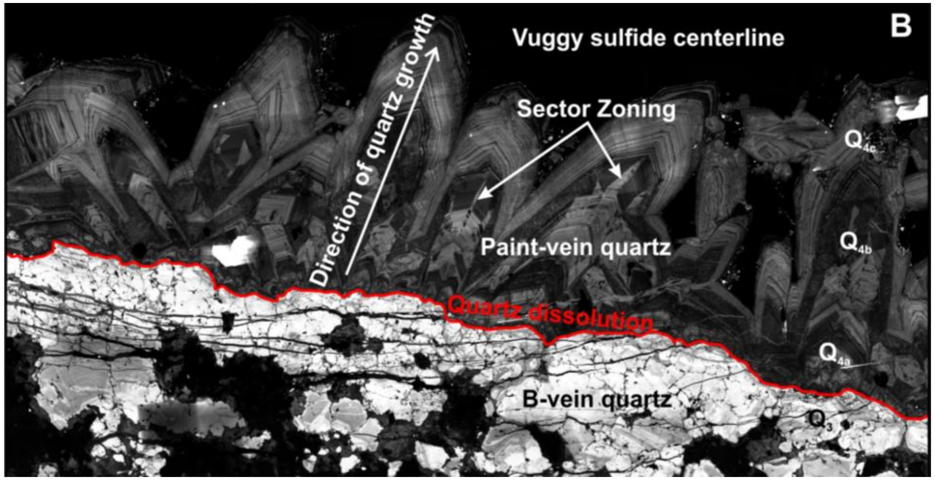
- **Dr. Michael Schirra**
- Assistant Professor
- Department of Geoscience
- Email: michael.Schirra@unlv.edu

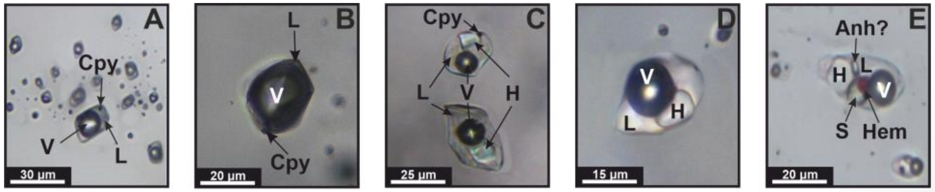
Expertise

- Economic Geology (with focus on porphyry Cu-Au, epithermal Au, intrusion-related Pb-Zn-Ag deposits)
- Fluid and Melt Inclusion Petrography and Micro-Analysis
- Igneous Petrology (with focus on magma ore-fertility)
- Mineral Exploration (vector minerals for mineralization)
- LA-ICP-MS analyses and method development

Understanding ore-forming processes at the translithospheric scale with the help of inclusions







Inclusions are the only way to directly sample paleo-fluids and –melts that have produced ore deposits. By integrating detailed petrography, state-of-the-art micro-analysis techniques and geochemical modelling, my research group investigates the fundamental principles of ore deposit formation.

Advanced Numerical Methods for Moving Domain/Interface Multi-Physics Problems

Dr. Pengtao Sun
Professor
Department of Mathematical Sciences
Email: pengtao.sun@unlv.edu ; URL: https://faculty.unlv.edu/sun/

Expertise

- Numerical Solutions of Partial Differential Equations (PDE)
- Numerical Analysis (Well-posedness, Stability, Convergence)
- Finite Element/Volume/Difference Methods
- Scientific and Engineering Computing
- Fluid-Structure Interaction (FSI) Modeling and Simulation
- Fuel Cell Dynamics, Fluid Dynamics, Electrohydrodynamics

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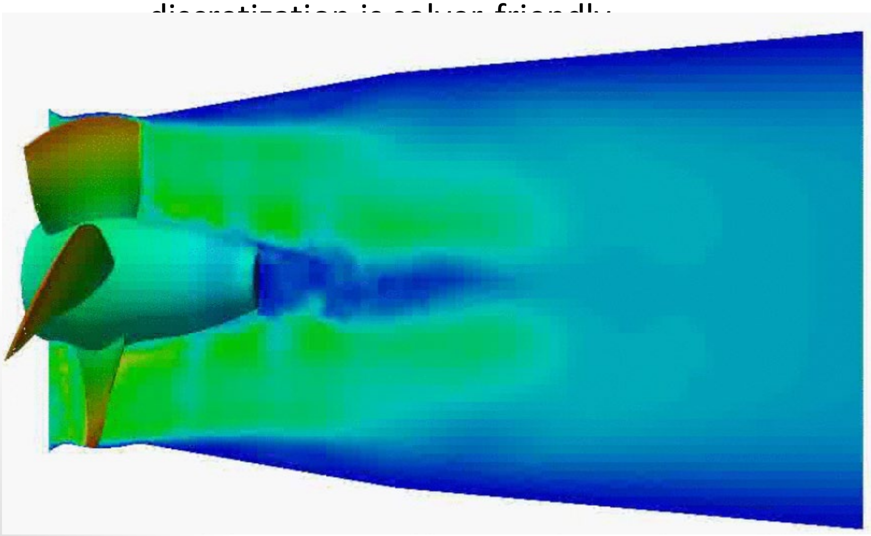
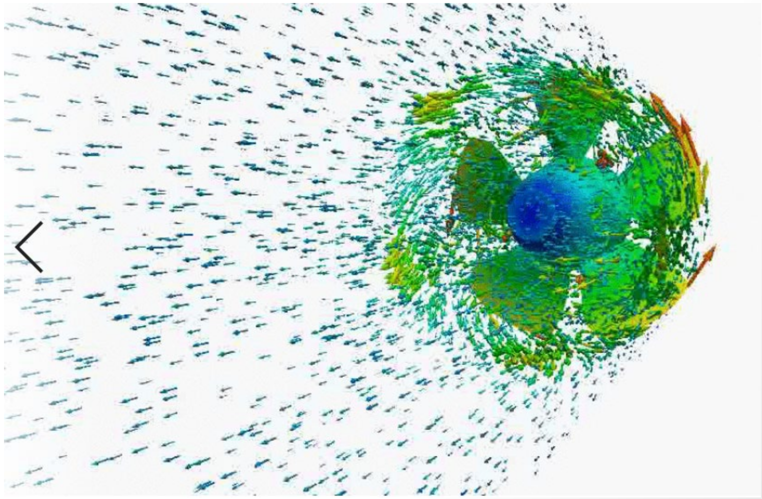
Fluid-Hydro Turbine Interaction Problems

- Hydroelectric power generating system produces renewable energy and remains crucial for society and industry. The most significant part of this system is the hydro turbine interacting with the water flow, which involves elastic solid materials and viscous fluids and belongs to the category of fluid-structure interaction (FSI). The developments of mathematical models and numerical methodologies are critical in practice for efficient simulations of the hydro turbine, which in turn guides the design and evaluation.
- We approach the challenges in different aspects. First, based on the observation that the hydro turbine, although exhibiting large rotations, has relatively small deformation, we develop linearized elasticity equations that alleviate the burden on nonlinear solver and improves the well-posedness of spatial discretization. Second, we propose a new approach to solve the arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian mesh motion for rotating structure. Moreover, we analyzed the well-posedness and convergence of the finite element discretization and demonstrated the discretization is solver friendly.





Hemodynamic Fluid-Structure Interaction (FSI) Problems

- FSI simulation has become the most promising solution method to solve the hemodynamic problem existing in the clinical cardiovascular system. However, the complexity of cardiovascular environment, the artificial heart pump model, the vascular rupture, the aneurysm progression and the aortic dissection cause the deficiency of the existing FSI simulation package towards the clinical demands.
- We devoted our research to the new modeling and numerical techniques for the bloodstream-vascular-stent graft/artificial heart pump interaction problems, aiming at overcoming numerical difficulties and challenges, and developed advanced numerical methodologies to improve the efficiency and accuracy of corresponding FSI simulations. and to deliver more instructive numerical results to medical professionals for helping out patients on an efficient and accurate diagnosis and treatment.