

# Why Surface Physics ?

- Objects are contacted via their surface.
- Chemical reactions: Catalysis, electrodes of batteries
- Friction and Lubrication
- Nanotechnology is Surface Physics



"Gott schuf das Volumen,  
der Teufel die Oberfläche."

(verm. Wolfgang Pauli)

# Surface Physics – Since When?

1805, 1806: Discussion of surface tension by T. Young  
and P.S. de Laplace

1830: C.F. Gauss introduces concept of surface energy

1833: Döbereiner's Feuerzeug

1874: K. F. Brauns Gleichrichter

1877: Thermodynamics by W. Gibbs, including surfaces

1906/32: I. Langmuir, PhD / Nobel prize (surface chemistry)

1927: Electron diffraction by C.J. Davisson & L. Germer

Nobel laureates 1937

1932: Electronic surface states predicted by I. Tamm

## Johann Wolfgang Döbereiner 1780–1849

Seit 1780: Fürstenberger Feuerzeug:  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{Zn} > \text{H}_2 + \text{Funken}$

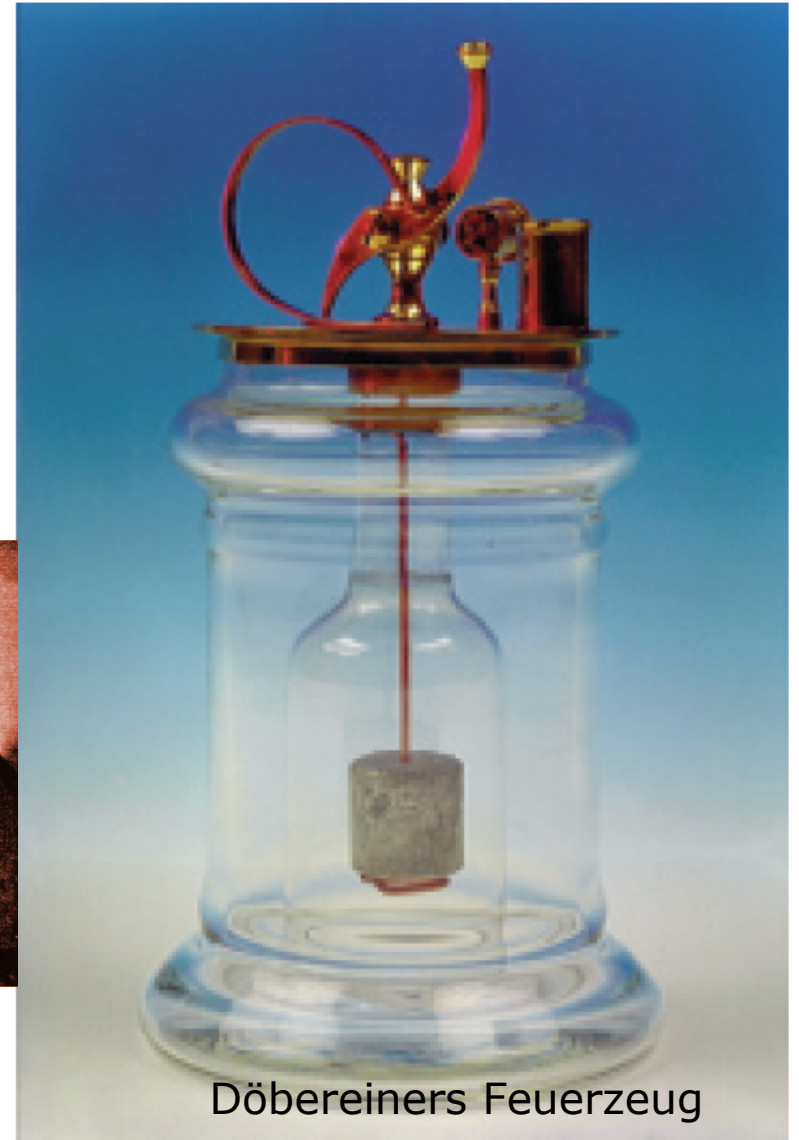
1810 *Außerordentlicher* Professor für Chemie, U Jena

1823  $\text{H}_2$  entzündet sich selbst bei Durchströmen von Pt-Pulver, Pt weißglühend

Später Katalyse benannt (durch Berzelius); Feuerzeug vertrieben in D & GB, 1827 - 1880

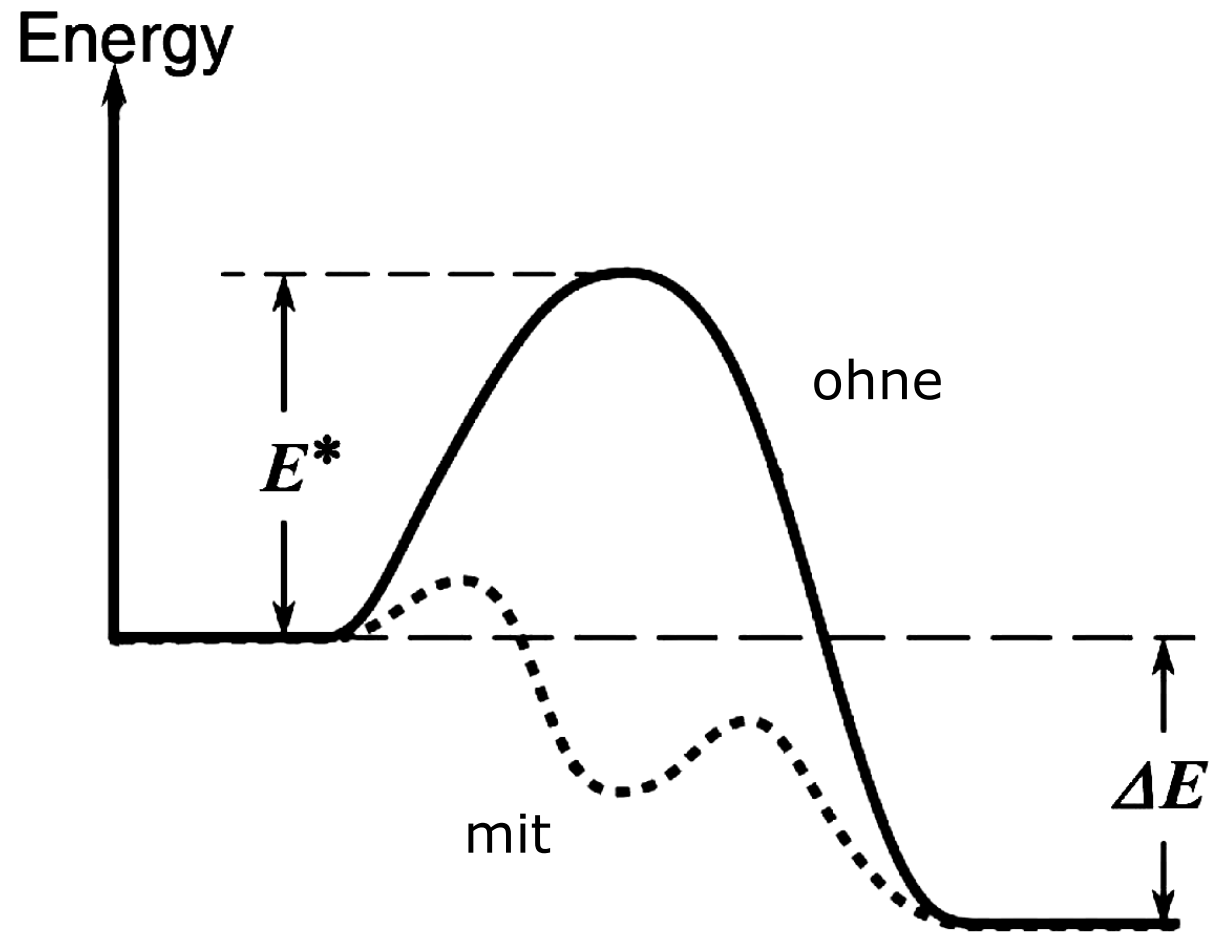


Jöns Jakob  
Berzelius



Döbereiners Feuerzeug

# Wirkprinzip eines Katalysators



## 1874 Karl Ferdinand Braun

Stapel aus C und FeS weicht von ohmschem Gesetz ab

Vermutung: dünne Oberflächenschichten relevant

Gleichrichtung



## Irving Langmuir

\* 31 January 1881, Brooklyn, NY, USA

+16 August 1957, Falmouth, MA, USA

From: [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

Dissertation 1906 bei Nernst, Göttingen

Gasdissoziation an heißem Platindraht

3 Jahre später erfindet er  $N_2$ -Leuchtstoffröhre (bei GE)

Grundlagenarbeiten zu

Adsorption, Katalyse, Austrittsarbeit

1932 Nobelpreis dafür

Folgende Seiten nach Sommerschule in Santa Barbara, 2006:

*Techniques of Surface Science and Catalysis*

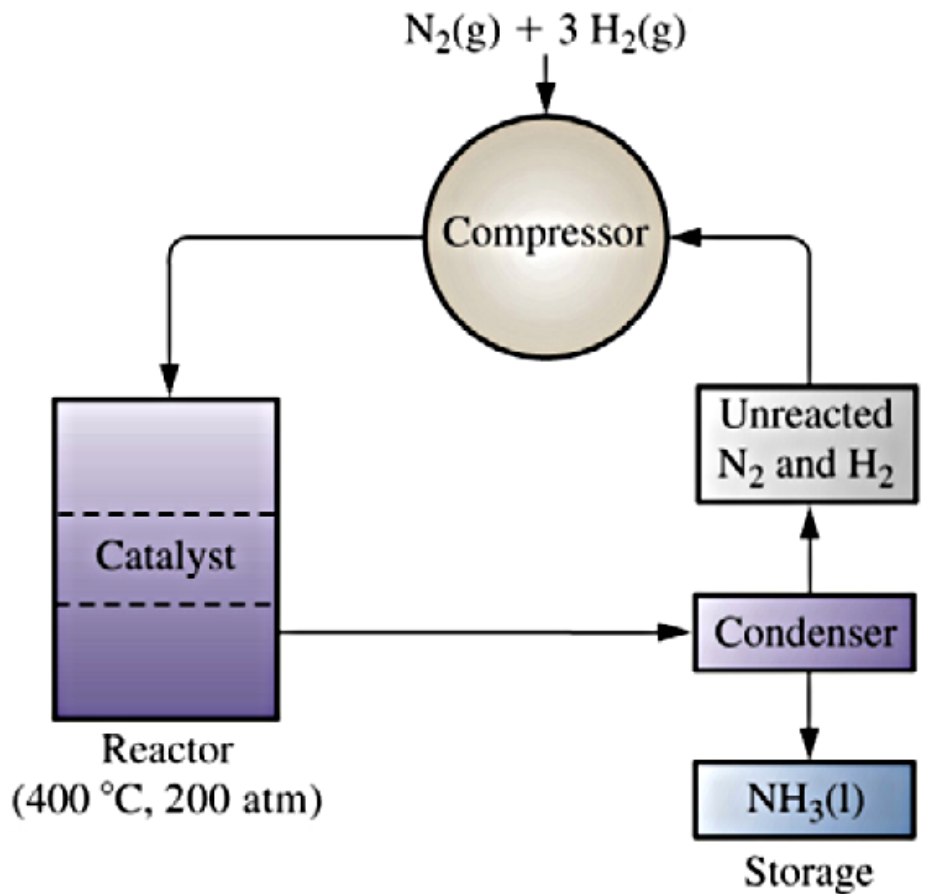
Goals of catalysis research:

- Finding special conditions that speed speed-up normally slow reactions
- Convert cheap and abundant chemicals into useful, high-value ones
- Convert noxious chemicals to harmless ones e.g.  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  to  $\text{NH}_3$



# “Air to Food Food” - The greatest scientific discovery of last century

- At moderate T and high p,  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$  (from thin air) will form  $\text{NH}_3$ .
- One century after invention, applied all over the world:  
     $5 \times 10^8$  t/a of fertilizer sustaining 40% of the worlds population Nature 427 (2004) 498
- 1% of the world's energy budget used for a single reaction Science 297 (1654) 2002
- TWO NOBEL PRIZES FOR ONE REACTION!



# Fritz Haber 1905



1918

Haber-Bosch-Verfahren

Phosgen

Clara

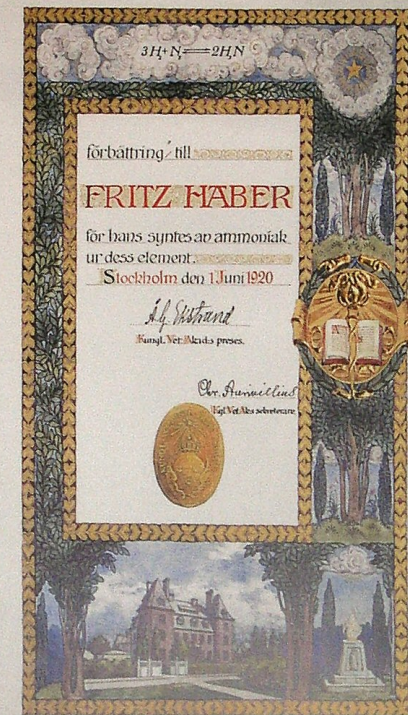
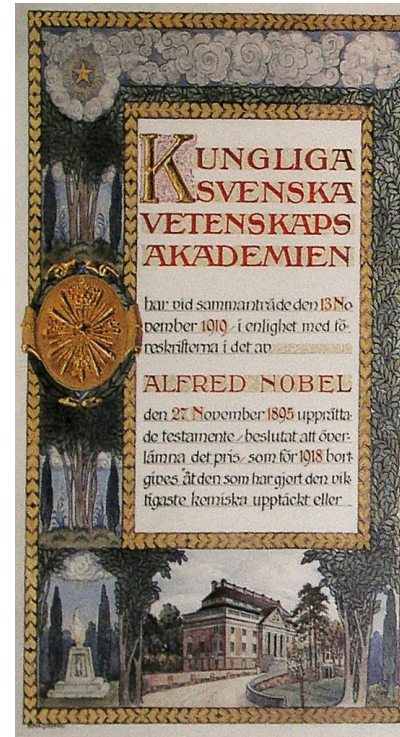
emigrierte 1933 nach Cambridge

Haber-Bosch-Verfahren

Nobelpreise für Chemie

1918 Fritz Haber

1931 Carl Bosch (mit Friedrich Bergius)



# Modern Catalysis – New opportunities and challenges

## Nano-catalysis

*Preparation of supported Au catalysts by gas-phase grafting of Au acetylacetonate for low-T oxidation of CO and H<sub>2</sub>*, Okumura, Tsubota, Haruta, J. Mol. Catal. (2003)      *"When Gold is not noble"*

## Photocatalysis

## First-principles approach to Catalysis

*Optimal Catalyst Curves: Connecting DFT Calculations with Industrial Reactor Design and Catalyst Selection*  
Jacobsen, Dahl, Boisen, Clausen, Topsoe, Logadottir, Nørskov, J. Catal. (2002)

## **Progress is a by by-product of Science I**

*But no scientist, no matter how aware he may be of these fruits of his science, cultivates his work, or refrains from it, because of arguments such as these.*

*No scientist can hope to evaluate what his studies, his researches, his experiments may in the end produce for his fellow men, except in one respect – if they are sound, they will produce new knowledge.*

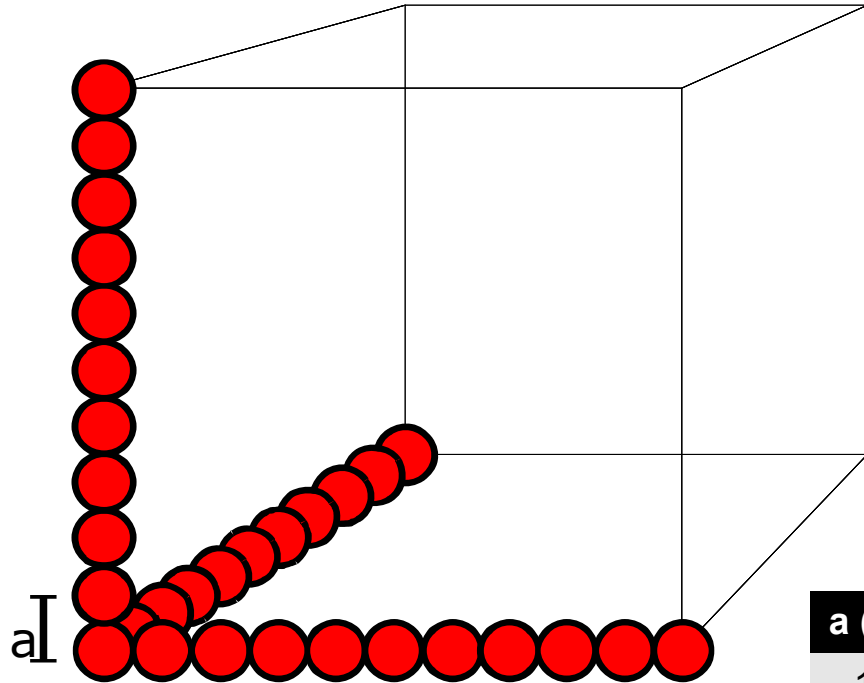
J. Robert Oppenheimer lecturing at MIT on November 25, 1947

## **Progress is a by by-product of Science II**

à la Richard Feynmann, Nobel Laureate in Physics 1965

*Physics [science] is like sex,  
surely it leads to many useful outcomes,  
but that is not why we do it.*

# Surfaces become increasingly important as dimensions shrink



Simple cubic lattice

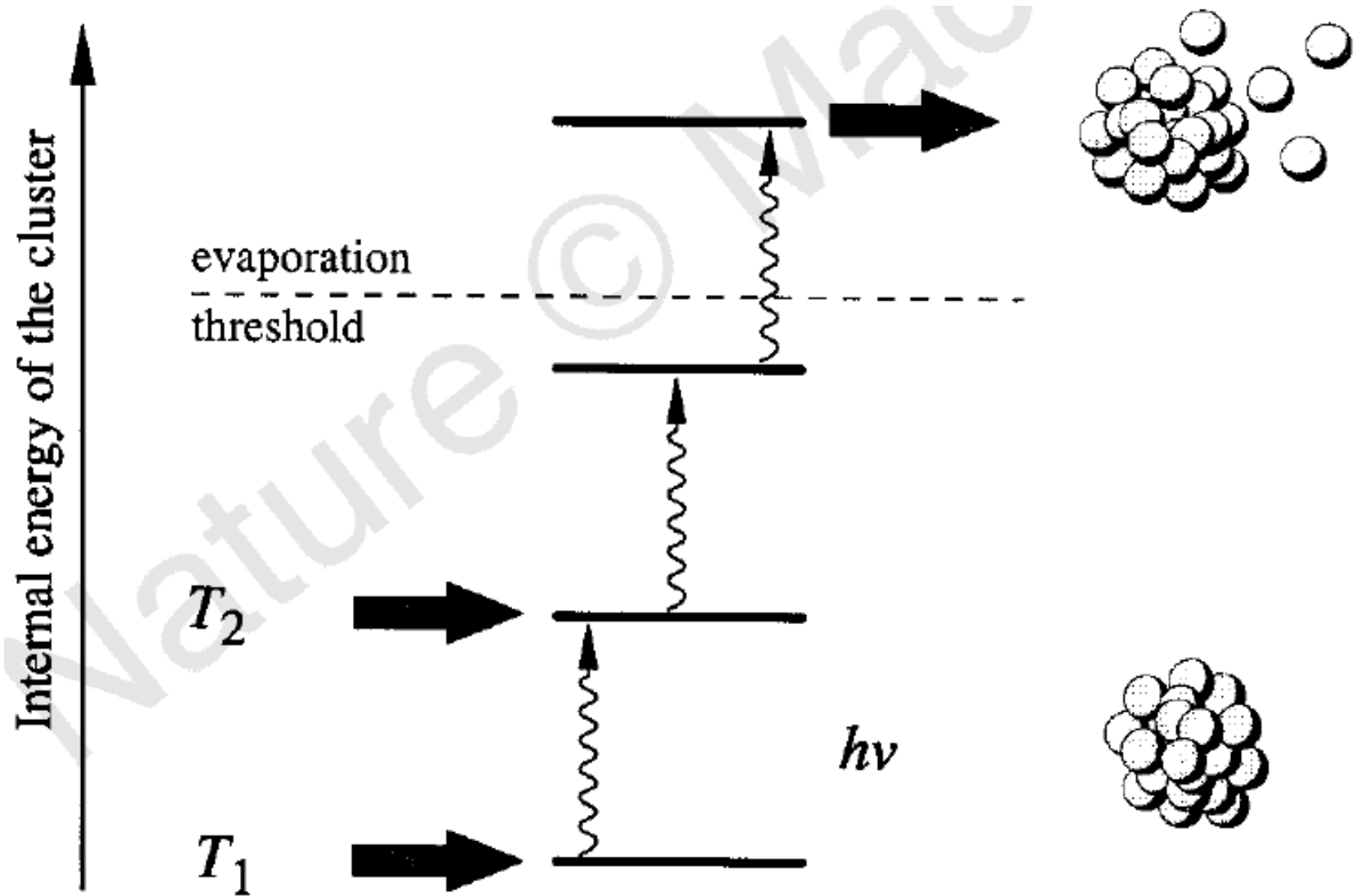
with lattice constant  $a$

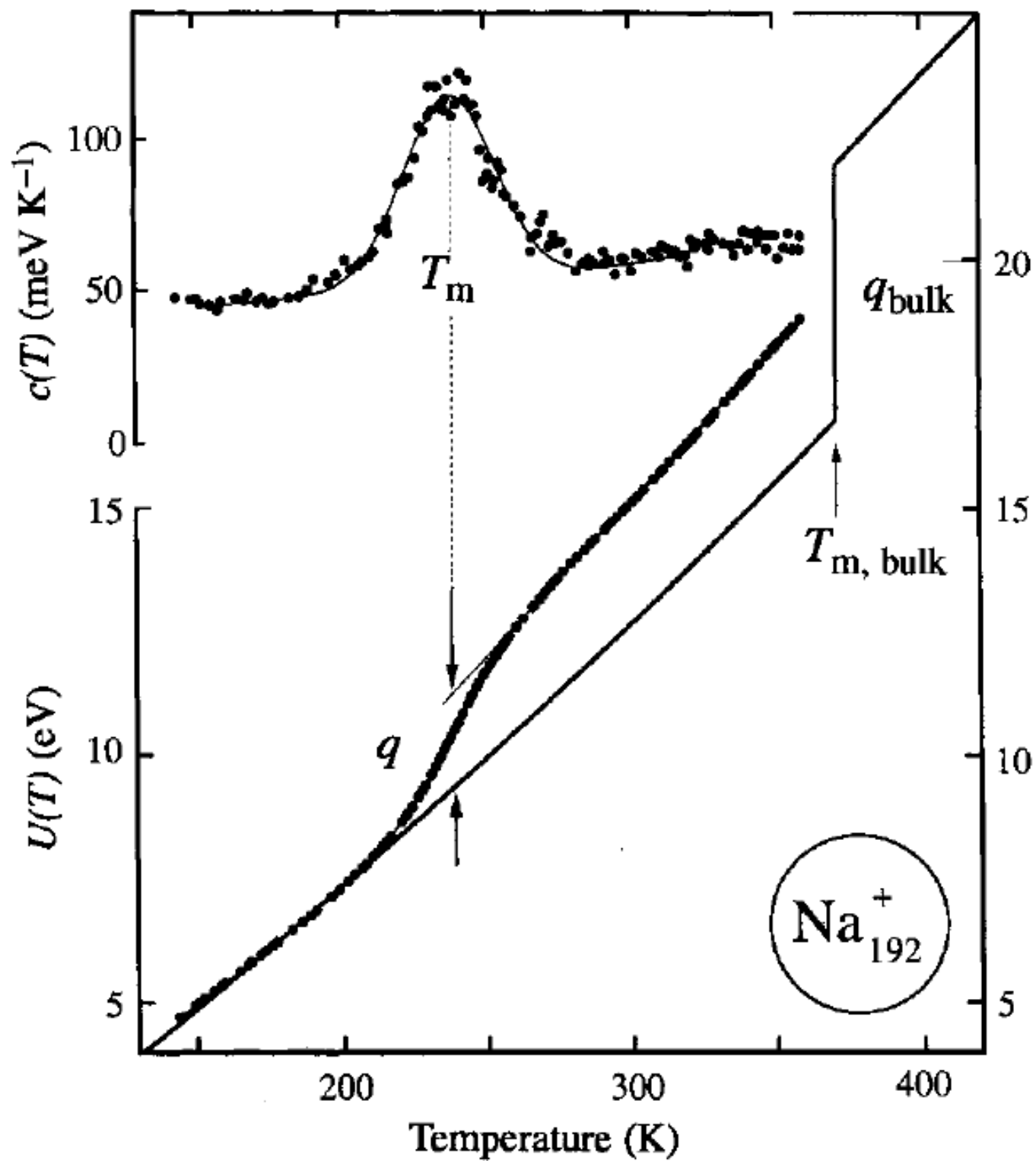
$a$ (nm)	atome/kante	Atome insg.	Atome an OF	OF/gesamt
1.000	3.333	37.037.037.037	66.626.675	0,18%
500	1.667	4.629.629.630	16.646.675	0,36%
100	333	37.037.037	662.675	1,79%
50	167	4.629.630	164.675	3,56%
10	33	37.037	6.275	16,94%
5	17	4.630	1.475	31,85%
1	3	37	35	93,60%

$d_{\text{atom}}$

0,3

# Melting Point of Size-Selected Clusters

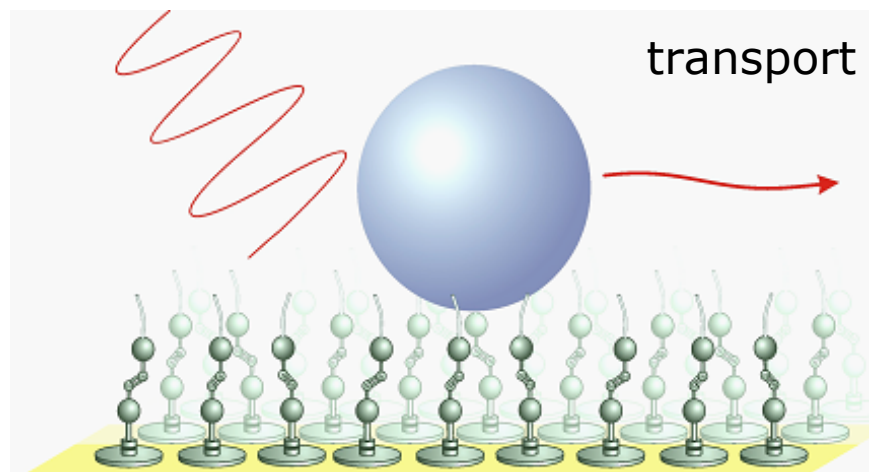
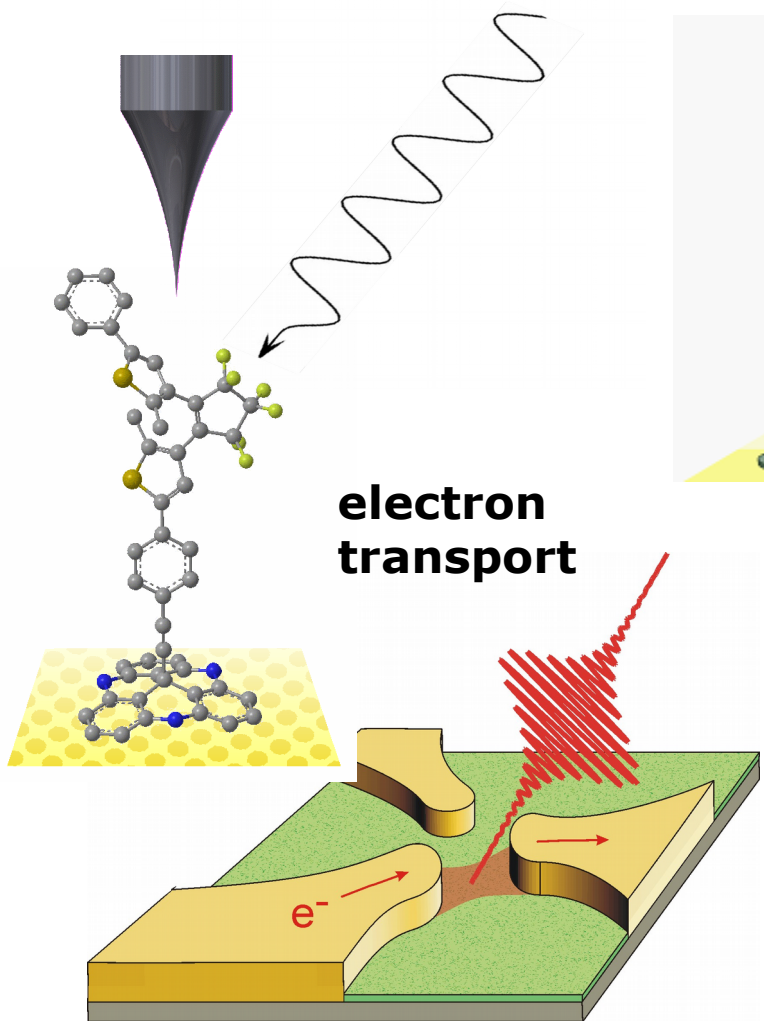




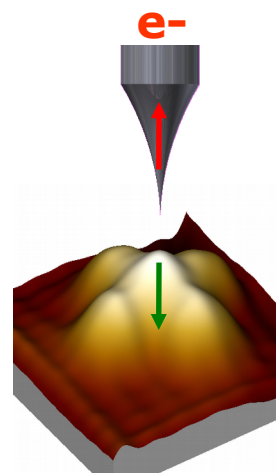


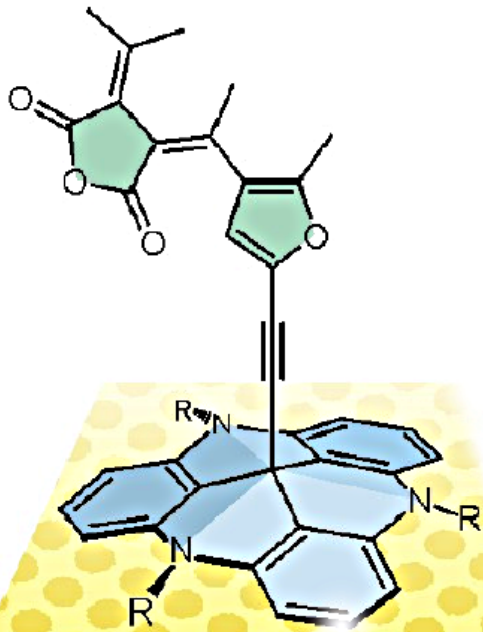
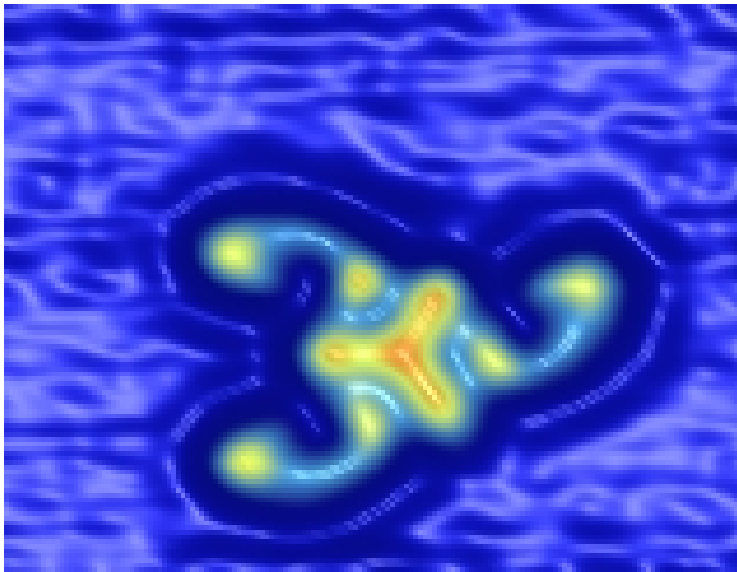
Richard Berndt

# Molecular conductors and switches at surfaces

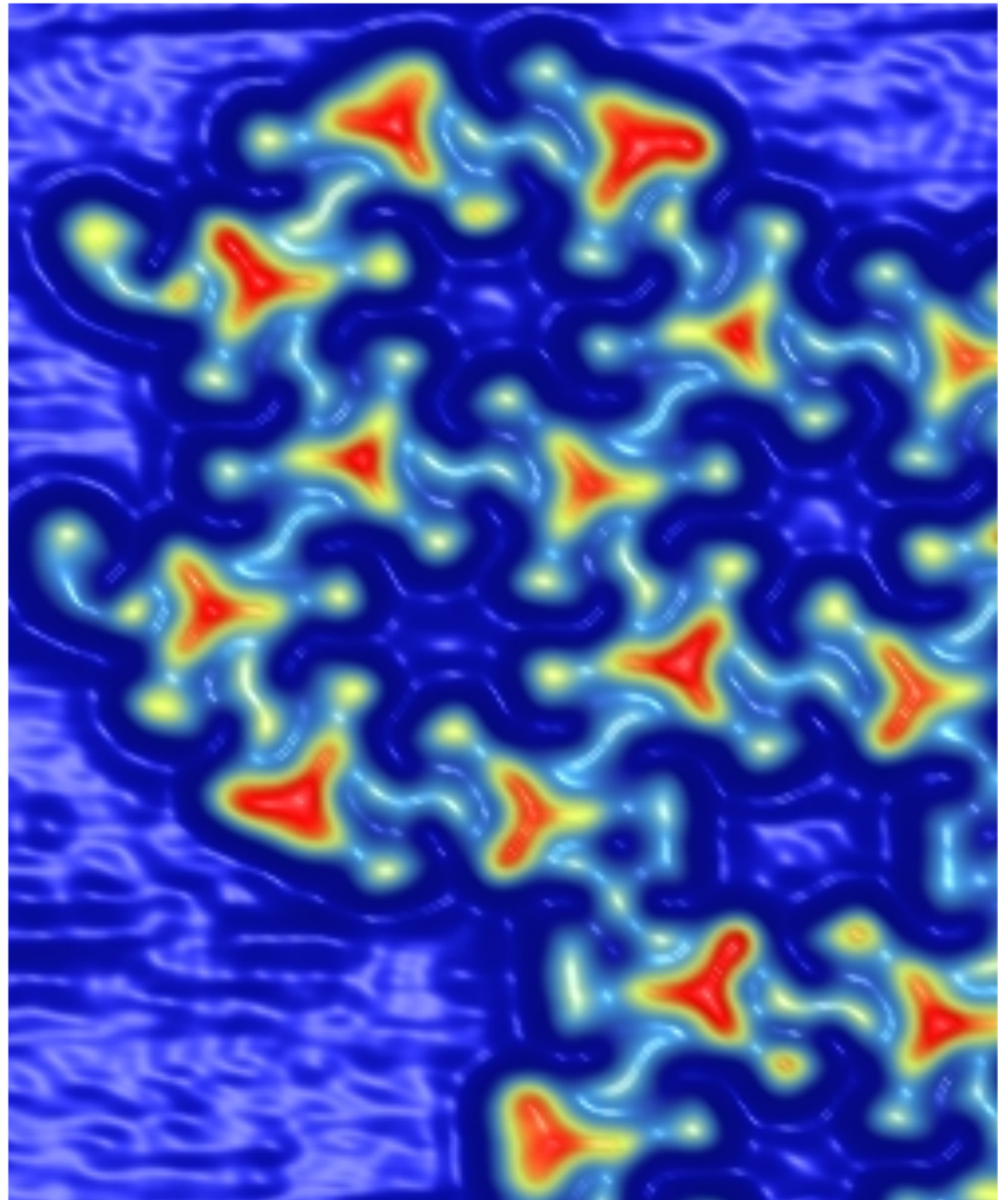


magnetic moment

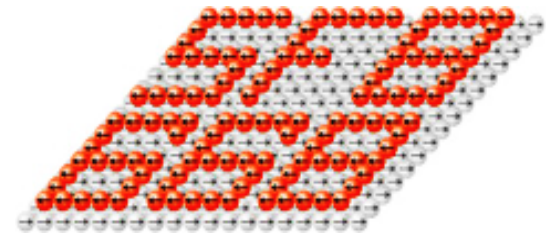




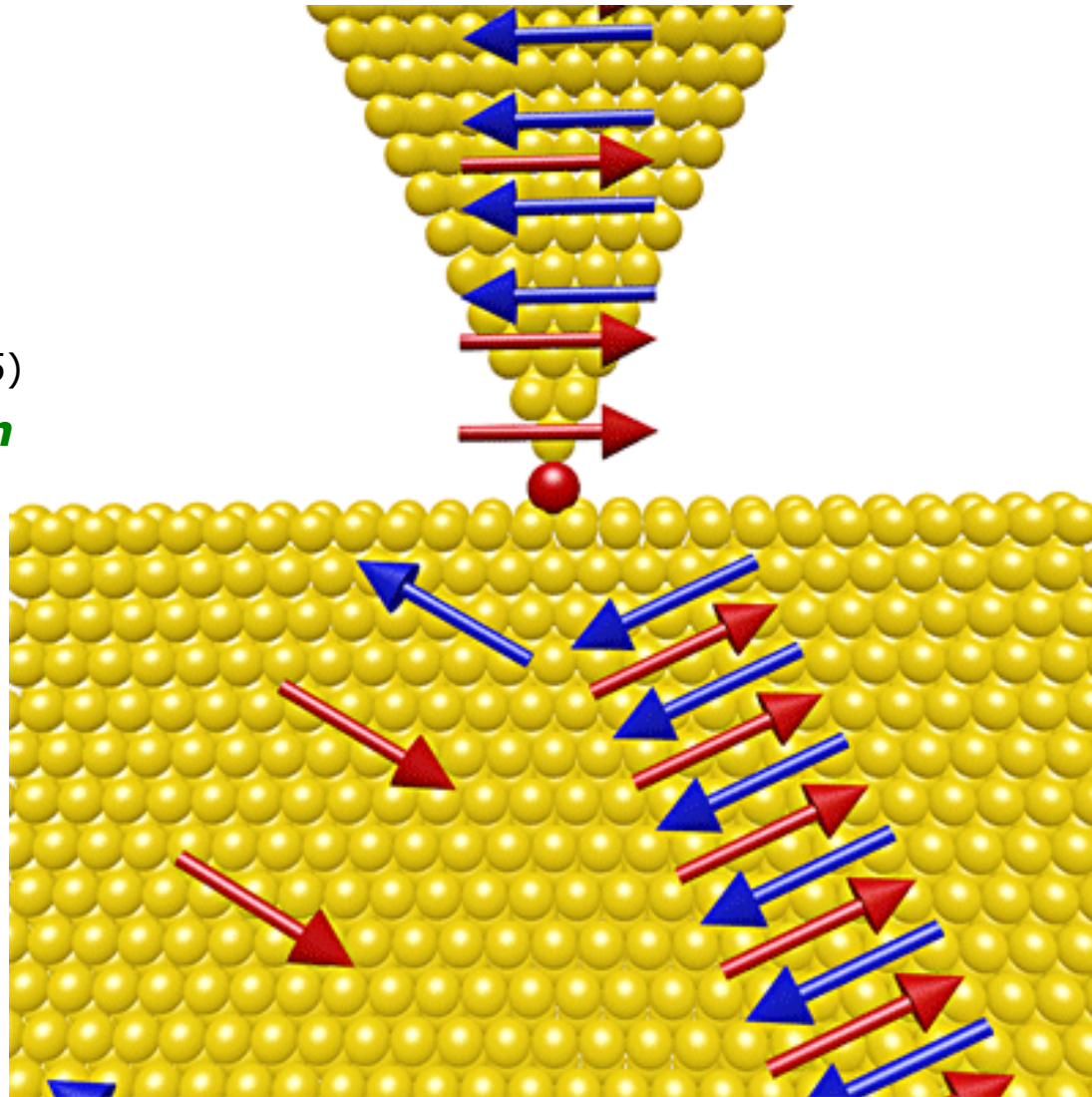
**TATA platform**

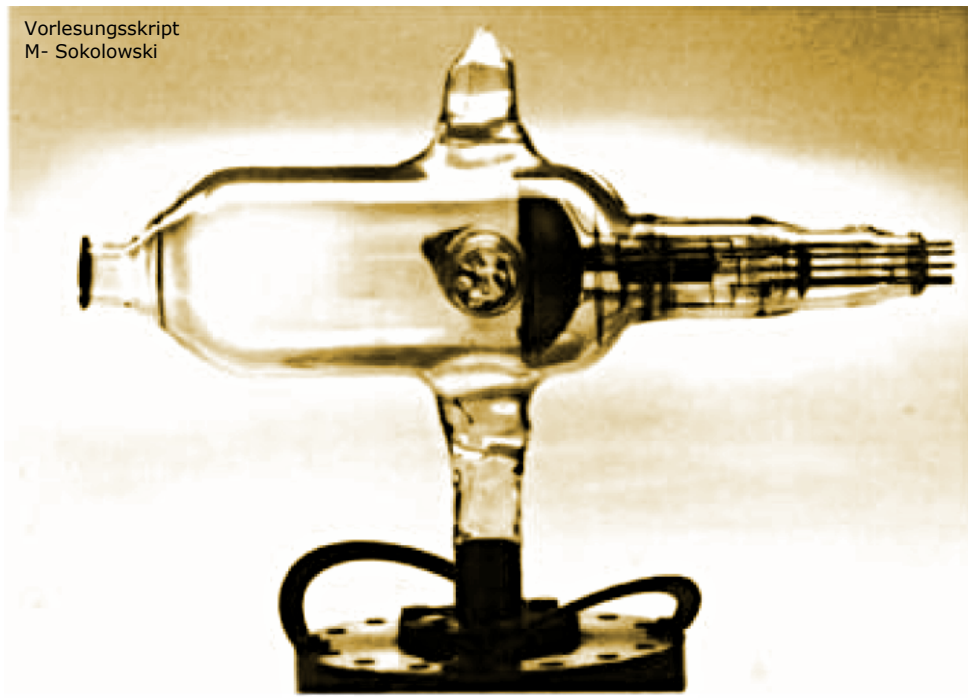


Gopakumar, unpublished



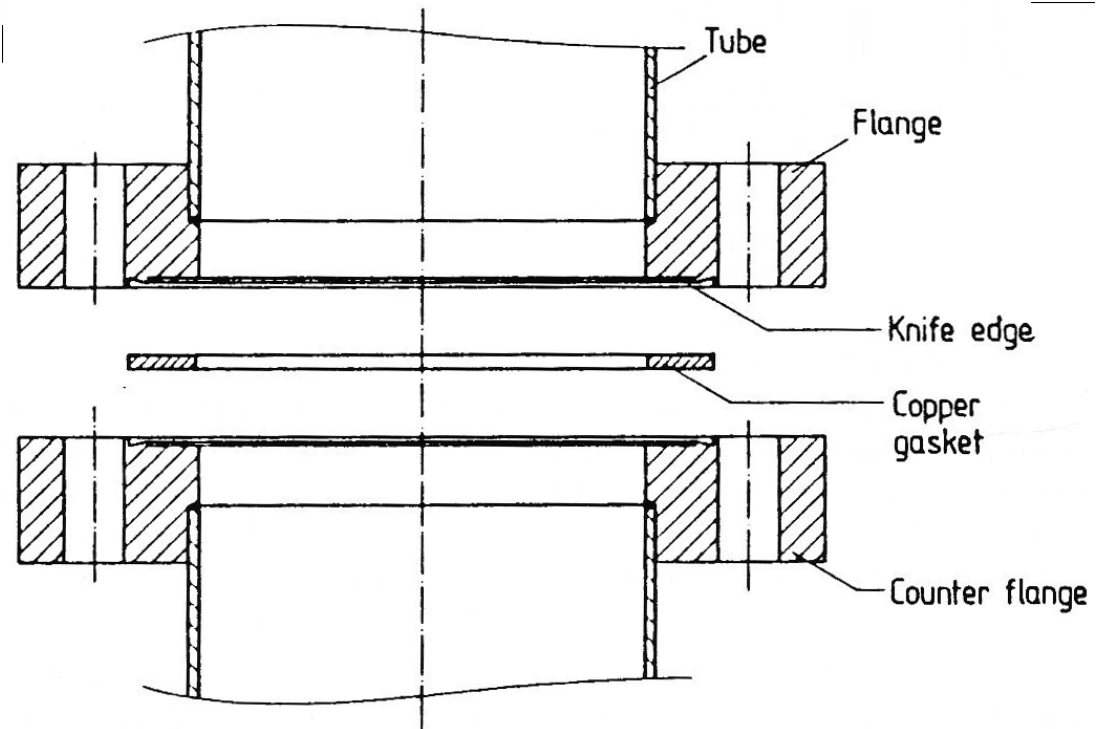
Burtzloff, Weismann,  
Brandbyge, Berndt,  
PRL **114**, 016602 (2015)  
*Editors' Suggestion*





LEED-optics 1960, Prof. Dr. K. Müller, Lehrstuhl für Festkörperphysik, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg.

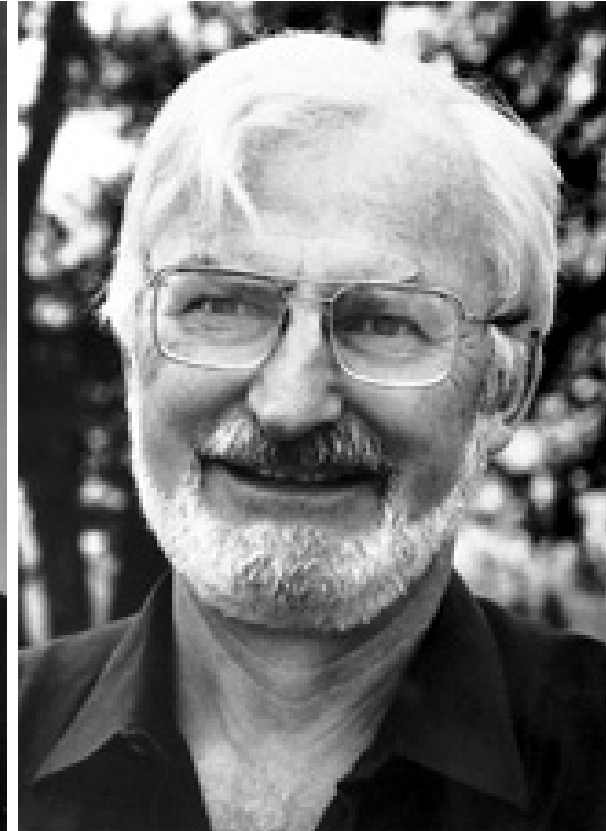
## A Breakthrough for Surface Science: Ultra-High Vacuum ( $\geq 1960$ )



# Nobel Prizes: Physics



Kai M. Siegbahn  
Nobel Prize 1981  
Development of ESCA



G. Binnig, H. Rohrer  
Nobel Prize 1986  
Development STM



Gerhard Ertl  
Nobel Prize 2007 – Chemistry  
*Surface Chemistry*



Albert Fert & Peter Grünberg  
Nobel Prize 2007 – Physics  
*Interfaces*