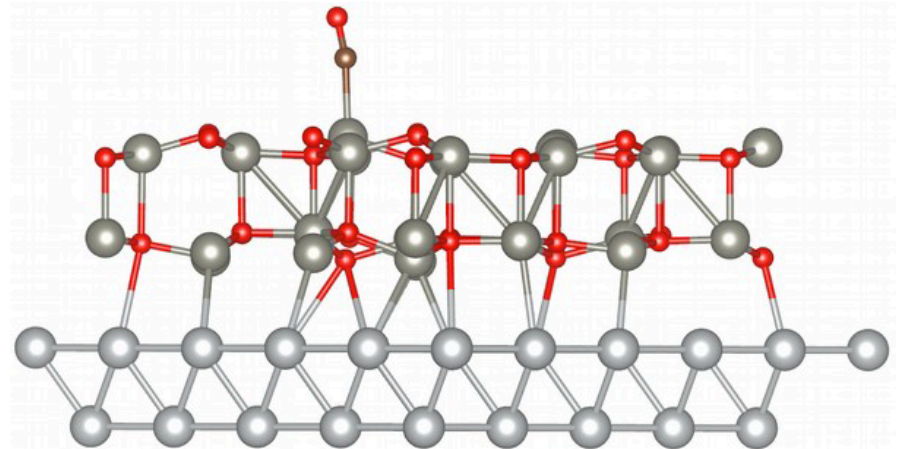
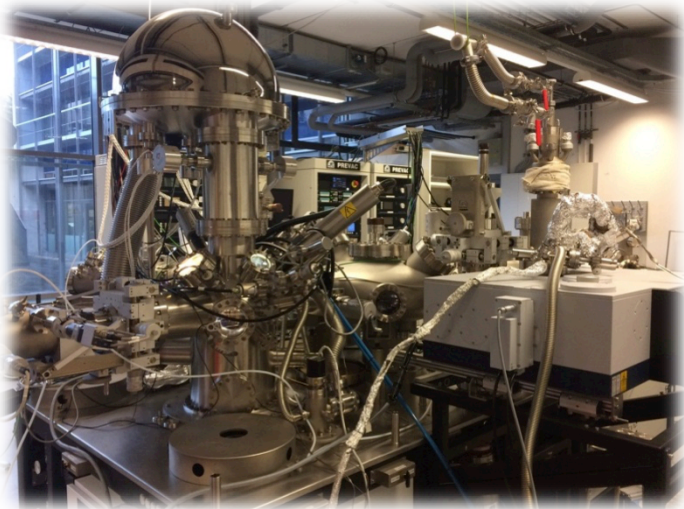


# Structure of ultra-thin ZnO films supported on Zn/Ag alloy characterized by XPS/IR spectroscopy

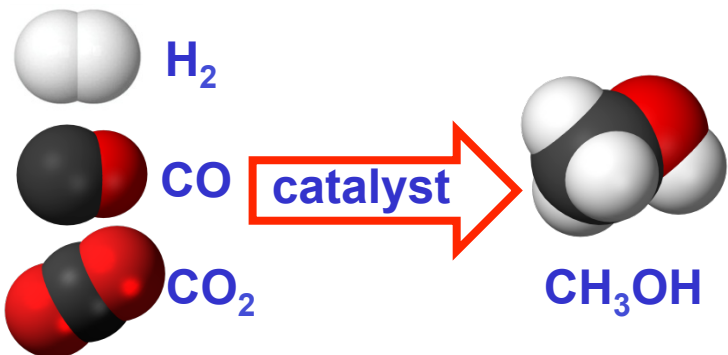
Xiaojuan Yu, Alexei Nefedov, Yuemin Wang, Christof Wöll

Institute of Functional Interfaces, Chemistry of oxydic and organic Interfaces



# Introduction

Catalyst :  $\text{Cu/ZnO/Al}_2\text{O}_3$



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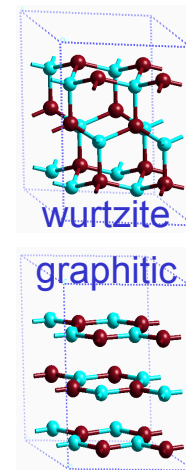
S. Kuld et al., Science. **2016**, 352, 969.

M. Behrens et al., Science. **2012**, 336, 893.

**ZnO thin films**

S. Tusche et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **2007**, 99, 026102.

C. L. Freeman et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **2006**, 96, 066102.

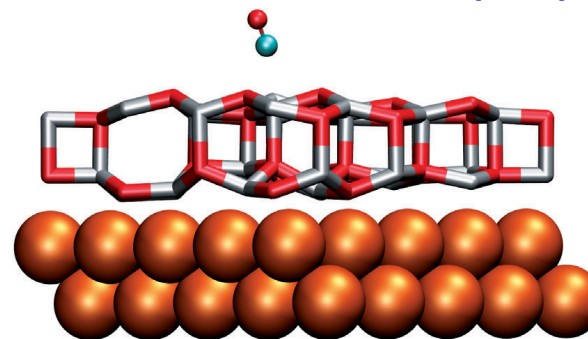


**IRRAS: ZnO on Zn/Ag alloy**

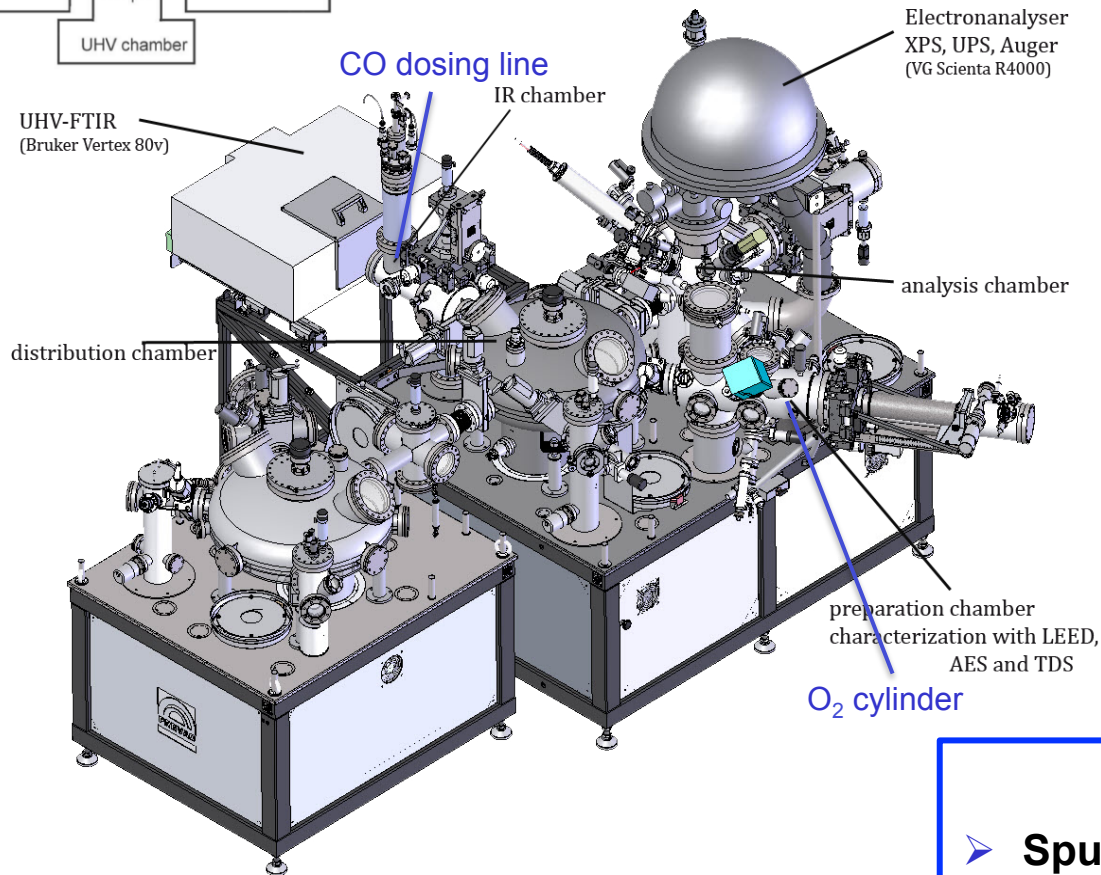
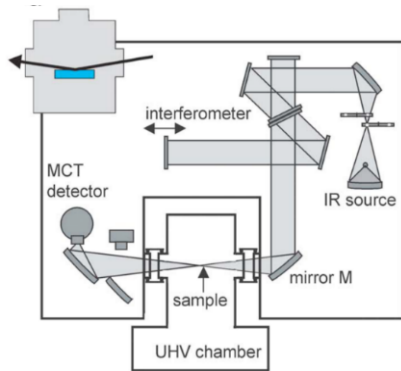
ZnO thin films

Zn/Ag alloy single crystal

**IRRAS: ZnO/brass(111)**



V. Schott et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2013**, 52, 11925.



## IRRAS-Measurements

- Pressure:  $< 1 \times 10^{-10}$  mbar
- Reflection mode
- Grazing Incidence ( $80^\circ$ )
- $T_{\text{sample}}$ : down to 55 K (LHe)

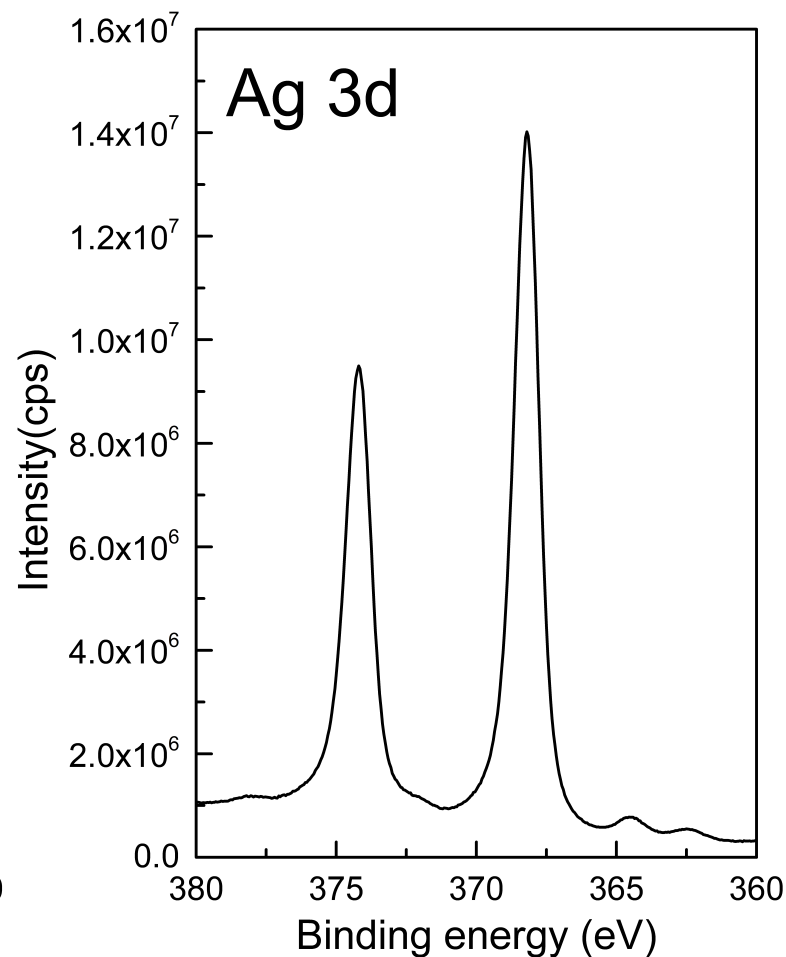
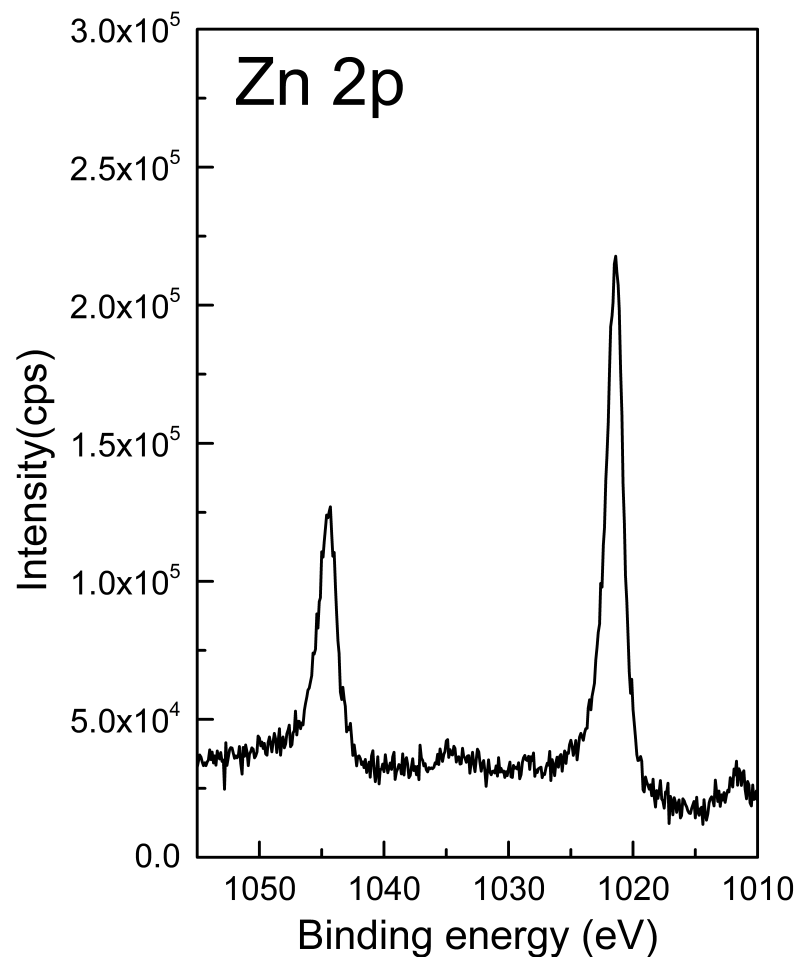
## Experiments

- XPS : oxidation procedures
- IRRAS : CO adsorption

## Sample Preparation

- Sputter-Anneal-Cycles
- XPS: sample cleanliness/oxidation

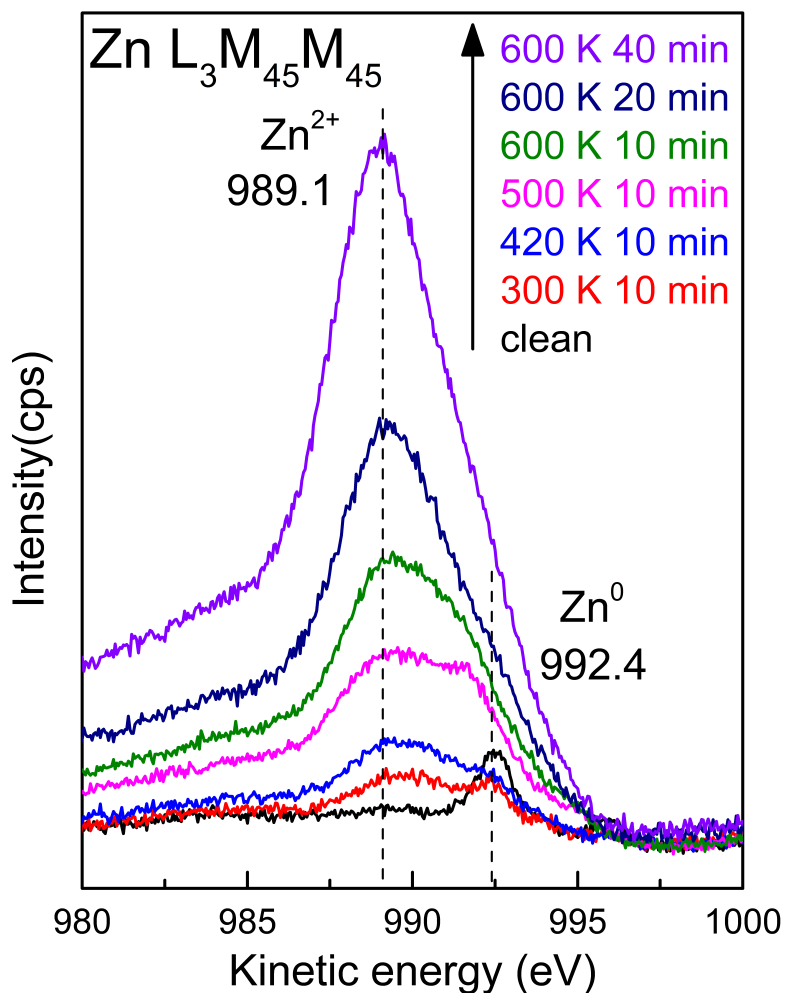
## XPS data of Zn/Ag alloy: clean surface



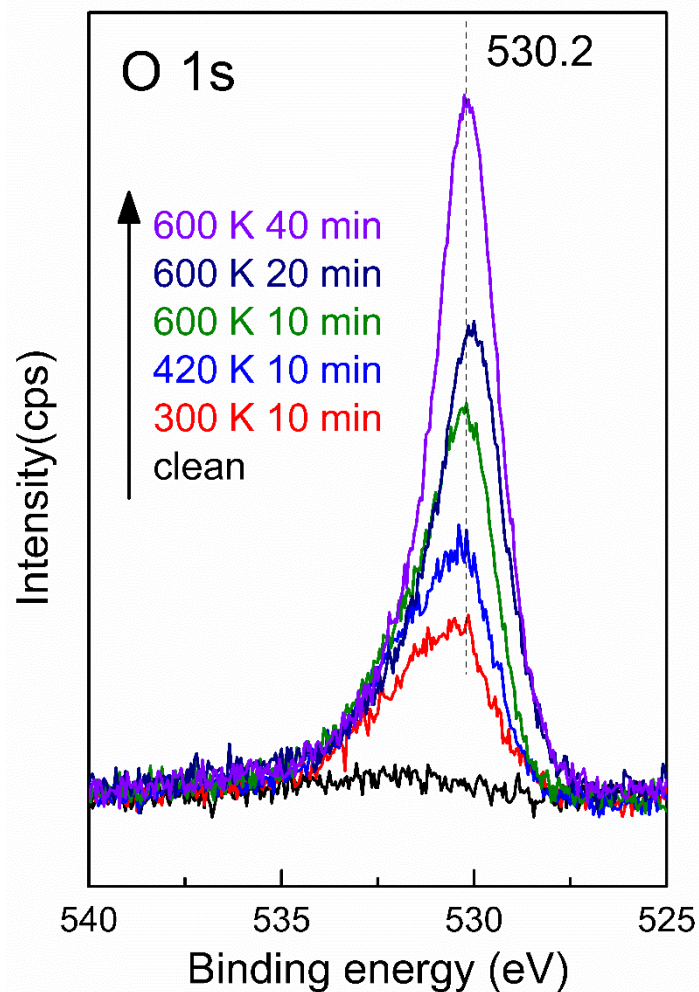
For the clean alloy surface, the concentration of Zn atom is lower than 2 % .

## Grazing XPS data : different oxidation procedures

exposure to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mbar  $O_2$

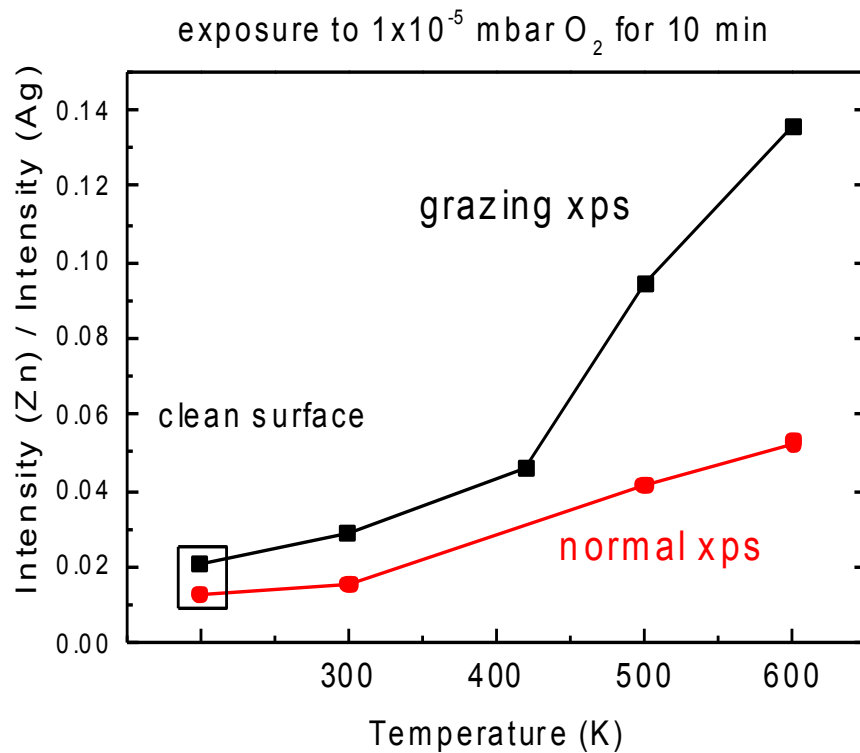


exposure to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mbar  $O_2$

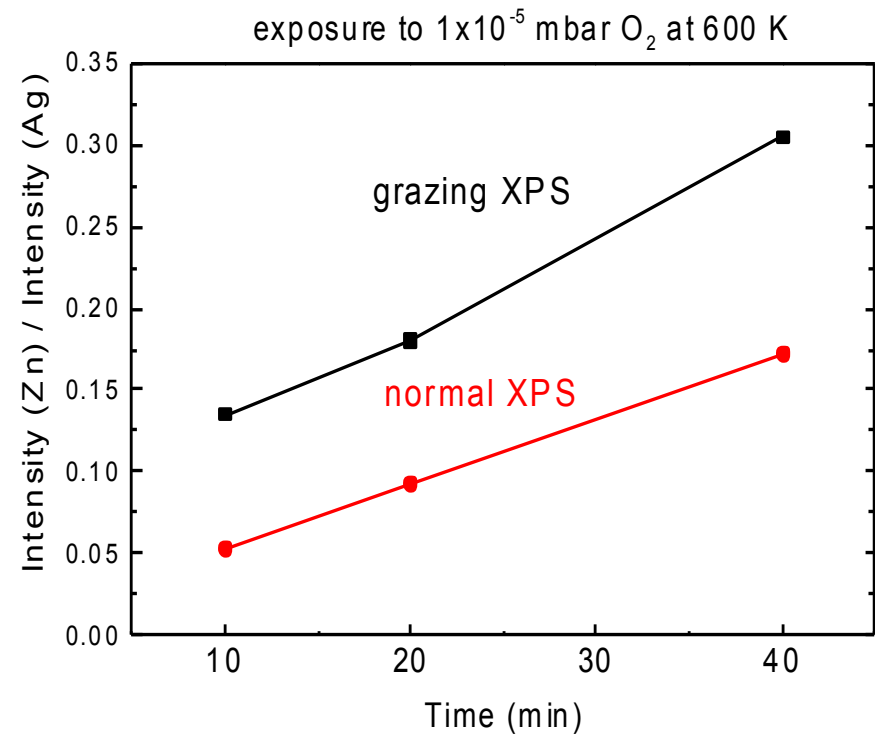


## Growth of ZnO thin layers on the surface

### Temperature



### Time



## Thickness of the thin ZnO layers

$$\frac{I_A}{I_S} = \frac{T_A \times \sigma_A \times n_A \times \lambda_A(E_A)}{T_S \times \sigma_S \times n_S \times \lambda_S(E_S)} \times \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{d}{\lambda_A(E_A)}}}{e^{-\frac{d}{\lambda_A(E_S)}}} \quad [1]$$

$T_{A/S}$  : the detector efficiency at  $E_{kin,k}$ ;

$I_{A/S}$  : the intensities of the adsorbate (Zn) and substrate (Ag) signal;

$\frac{\sigma_A}{\sigma_S}$  : the photoionization cross-section;

$\frac{n_A}{n_S}$  : the atomic density of the analyzed species;

$\lambda_A(E_A)$ ,  $\lambda_S(E_S)$  and  $\lambda_A(E_S)$  : the mean free paths of the photoelectrons.

Exposure to 40 min O<sub>2</sub> at 600 K

wurzite structure: 1.7 Å

graphitic structure: 2.1 Å

Exposure the sample to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mbar of O<sub>2</sub> at 600K for 40 min:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| $I_{Zn2p\ 3/2} = 1.84 \times 10^6$   | $I_{Ag3d\ 5/2} = 1.11 \times 10^7$                  |
| $\sigma_{Zn2p\ 3/2} = 18.92$ [2]   | $\sigma_{Ag3d\ 5/2} = 10.66$ [2]                    |
| $n_{ZnO} = 4.89 \times 10^{-2}$ atoms/Å <sup>3</sup> (wurzite) [3,4]<br>$n_{ZnO} = 4.08 \times 10^{-2}$ atoms/Å <sup>3</sup> (graphitic) [3,4] | $n_{Ag} = 5.89 \times 10^{-2}$ atoms/Å <sup>3</sup> |
| $\lambda_{Zn}(Zn\ 2p\ 3/2) = 11.96$ Å [5]<br>$\lambda_{Zn}(Ag\ 3d\ 5/2) = 27.28$ Å [5]   | $\lambda_{Ag}(Ag\ 3d\ 5/2) = 15.2$ Å [6]            |



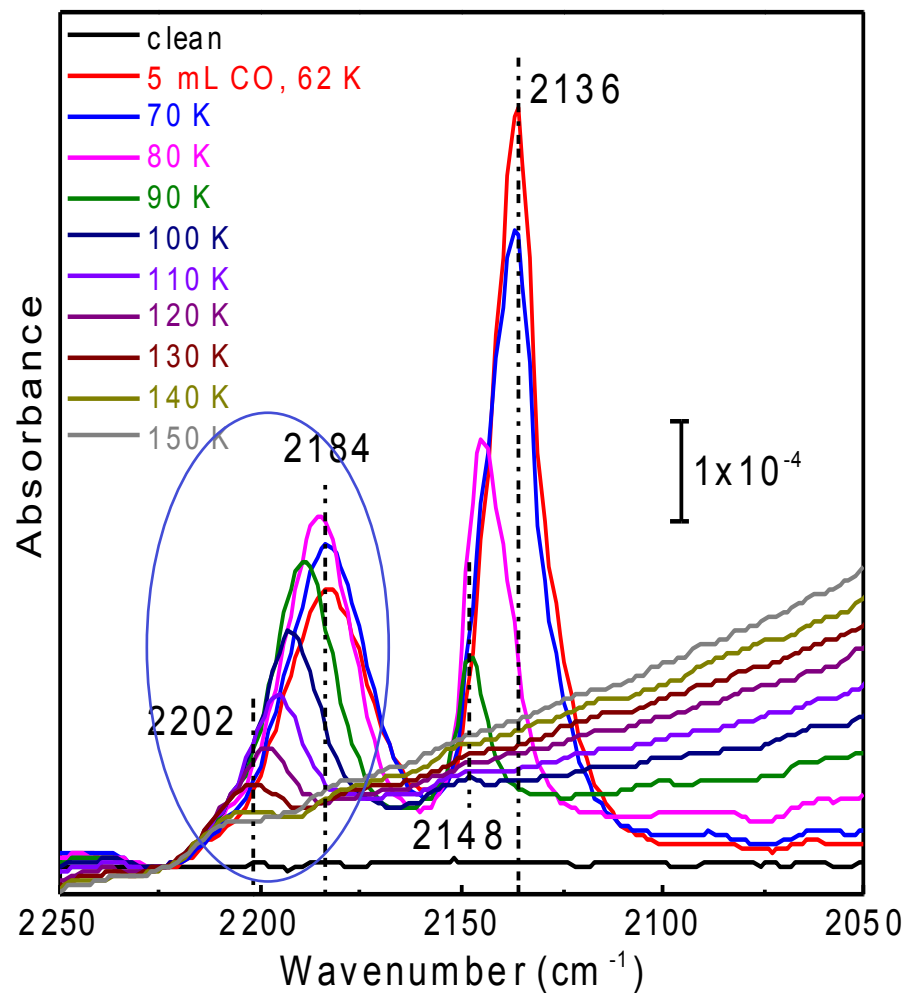
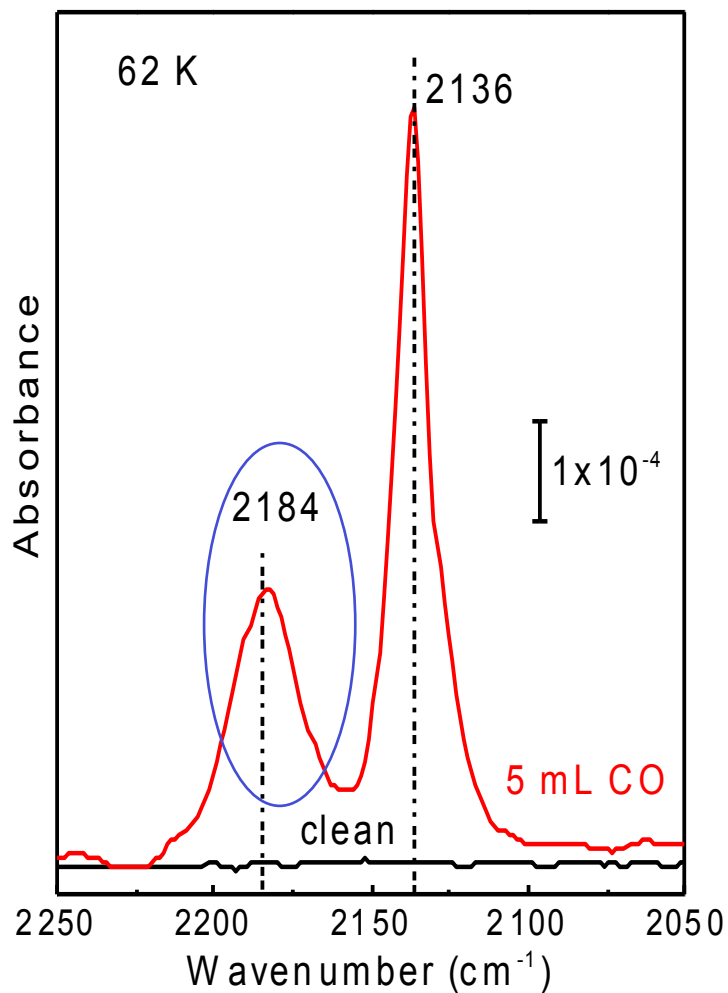
thin film: bilayer

[1] S. V. Merzlinkin et al., Surf. Sci. 602, 755-767 (2008). [2] J. H. Scofield, J. Electron. Spectrosc. Relat. Phenom. 8, 129-137 (1976).

[3] F. Claeysens et al., J. Mater. Chem. 15, 139-148 (2005). [4] C. L. Freeman et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 066102 (2006).

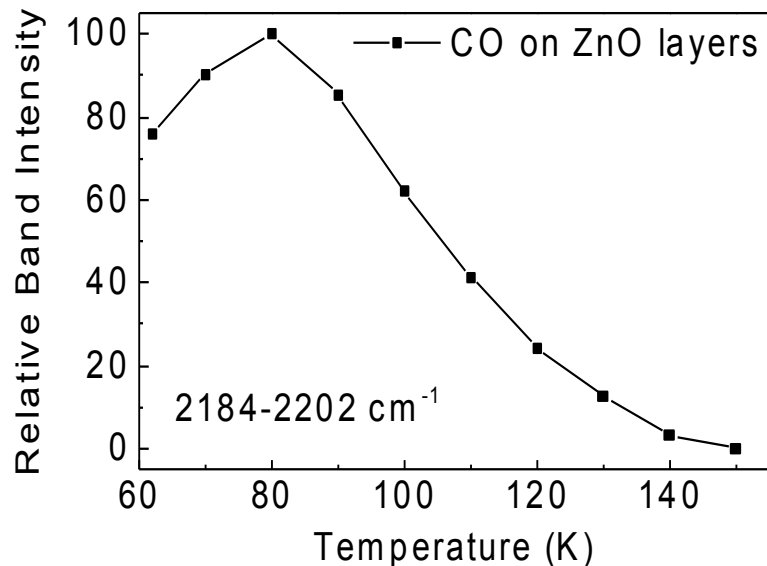
[5] A. Akkerman et al., Physica Status Solidi B-Basic Research. 198, 769-784 (1996). [6] S. Tanuma et al., Surf. Interface Anal. 11, 577-589 (1988).

## IRRAS data of CO adsorption on ZnO layers





## IRRAS thermal desorption data



BE = 0.33 eV (31.9 kJ/mol):  
CO on ZnO layers

2143  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  : gas phase CO

2170-2192  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : CO on ZnO(10-10)

2169-2192  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : CO on ZnO(11-20)

2178  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : CO on Zn-ZnO(0001)

2184-2202  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : CO on ZnO layers

Binding energy (BE):

0.32 eV: CO on ZnO(10-10)

0.28 eV: CO on Zn-ZnO(0001)

0.18 eV: CO on O-ZnO(000-1)

0.33 eV: CO on ZnO layers

Y. Wang et al., *Angew. Chem.* 46, 7315 (2007)

M. Buchholz et al., *Surf. Sci.* 652, 247-252 (2016)

C. Wöll, *Prog. Surf. Sci.* 82, 55-120 (2007)

V. Schott et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 52, 11925 (2013)

CO adsorbs weakly at  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$

## Structure of ZnO thin layers on Zn/Ag alloy

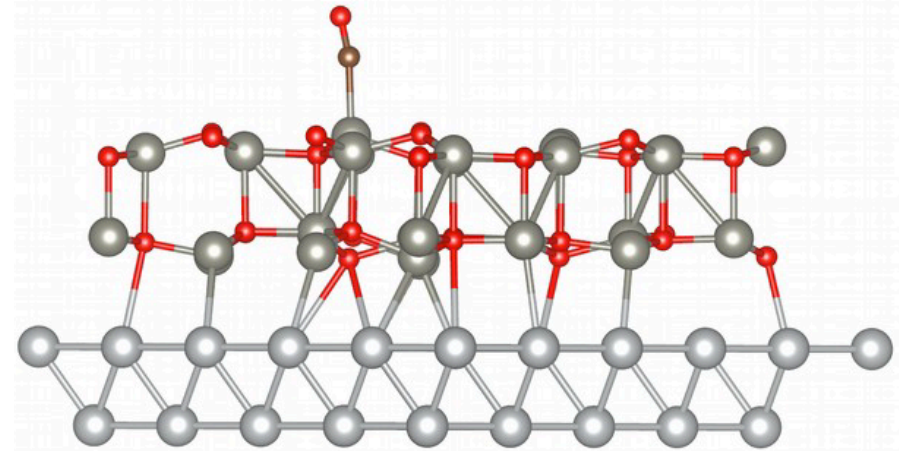
### IRRAS results

2184 - 2202  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  : CO on ZnO layers

Binding energy : 0.33 eV (31.9 kJ/mol)

2143  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  : gas phase CO

### CO on ZnO/Ag(111)



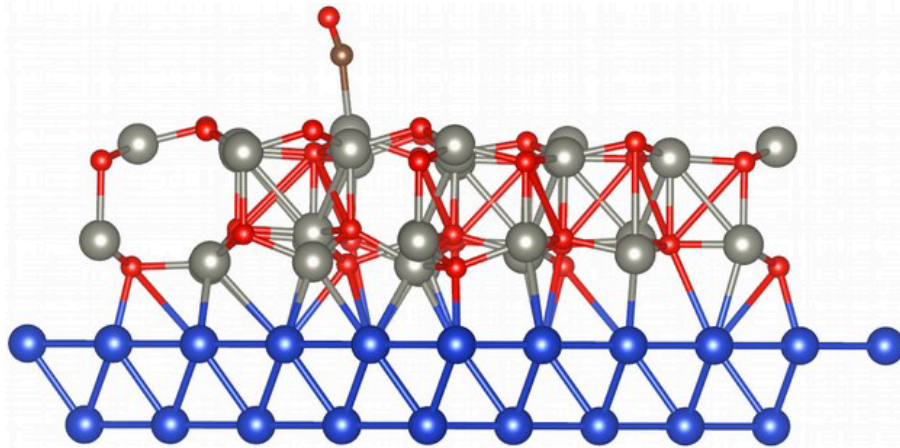
color code: oxygen = red, zinc  
= dark gray, silver = light gray

### DFT calculations: blue shift

I. Demiroglu et. al, J. Phys. Condens.  
Matter 28, 224007 (2016)

## Structure of ZnO thin layers on Zn/Ag alloy

CO on ZnO/Cu(111)



color code: oxygen = red, zinc  
= dark gray, copper = blue

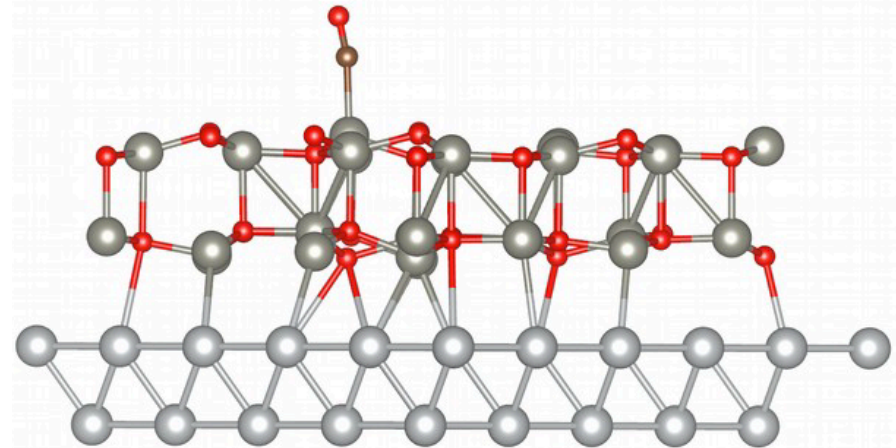
DFT calculations: red shift

$2116 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , BE = 0.54 eV

V. Schott et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 52, 11925 (2013)

Strong interaction between  
ZnO and Cu substrate

CO on ZnO/Ag(111)



color code: oxygen = red, zinc  
= dark gray, silver = light gray

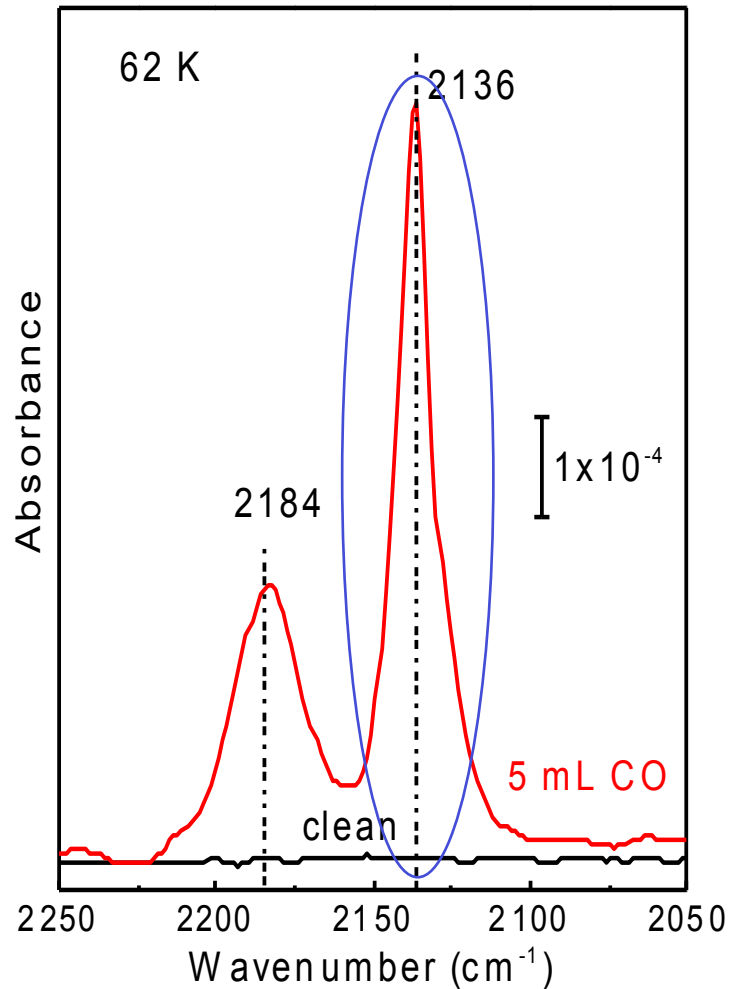
DFT calculations: blue shift

I. Demiroglu et. al, J. Phys. Condens.  
Matter 28, 224007 (2016)

$2184\text{-}2202 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , BE = 0.33 eV

Weak interaction between ZnO and Ag substrate

## IRRAS data of CO adsorption on ZnO layers



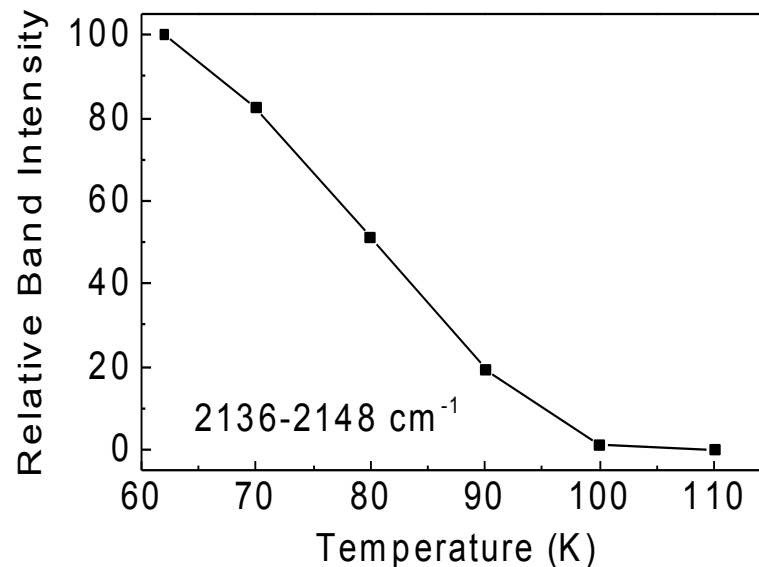
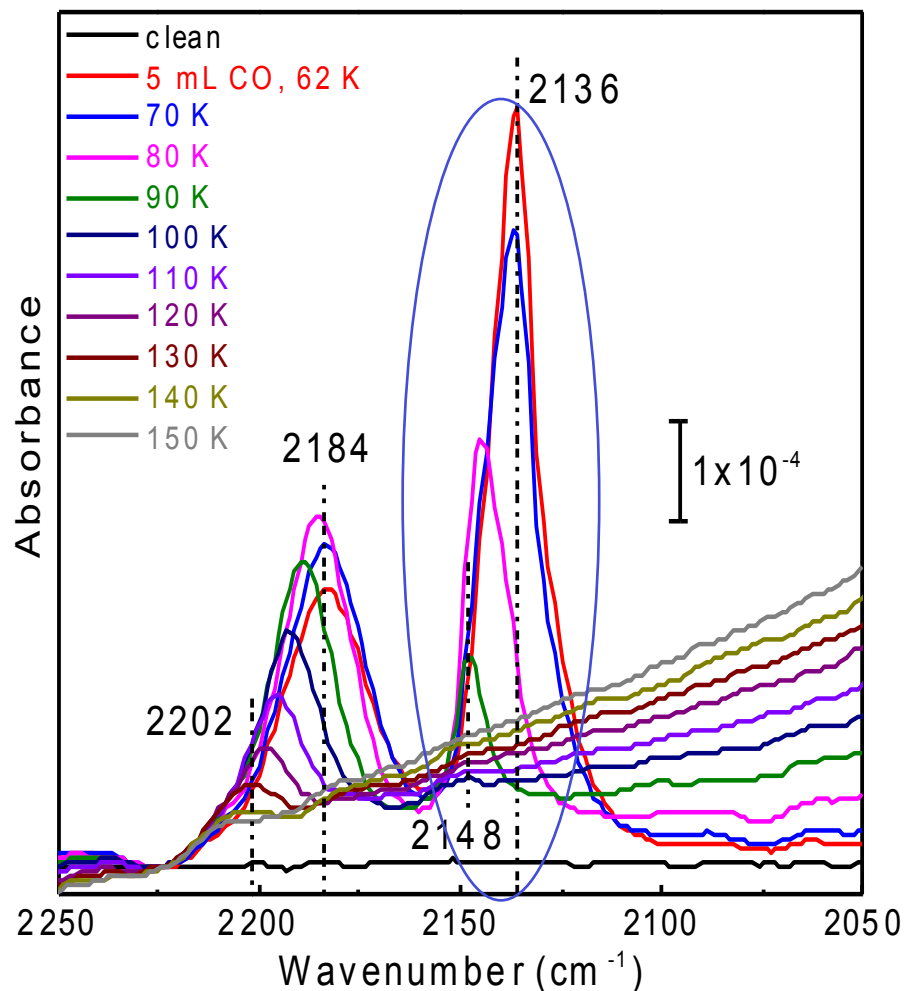
2136 cm<sup>-1</sup> ?

CO is only physisorbed on Ag(111) at surface temperatures below 48 K

K. Jacobi et al., Surf. Sci. 253, 1-12 (1991)

L. Fleck et al., J. Chem. Phys. 106, 3813 (1997)

## IRRAS data of CO adsorption on ZnO layers



Binding Energy : 0.24 eV (23 kJ/mol)

Complete desorption at 100 K.

CO weakly bound to surface OH groups ?

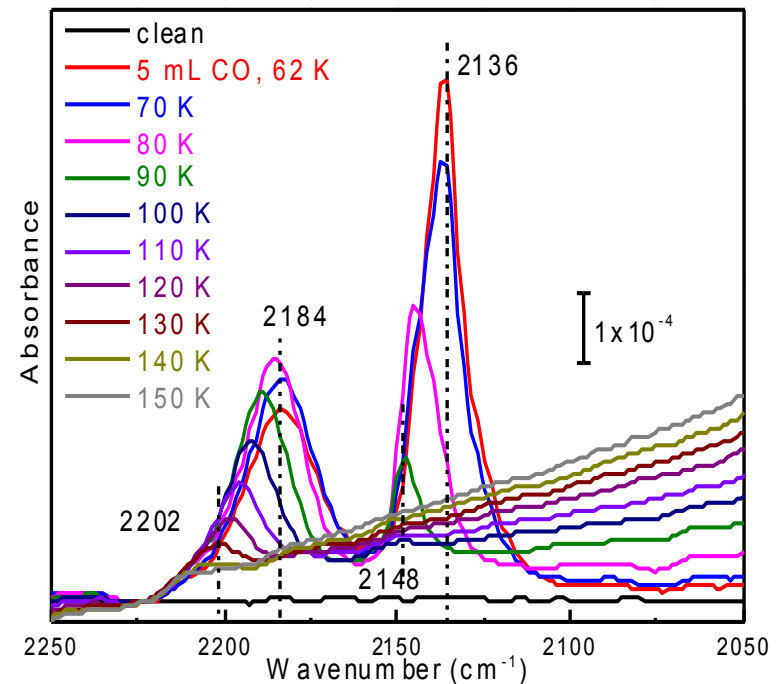
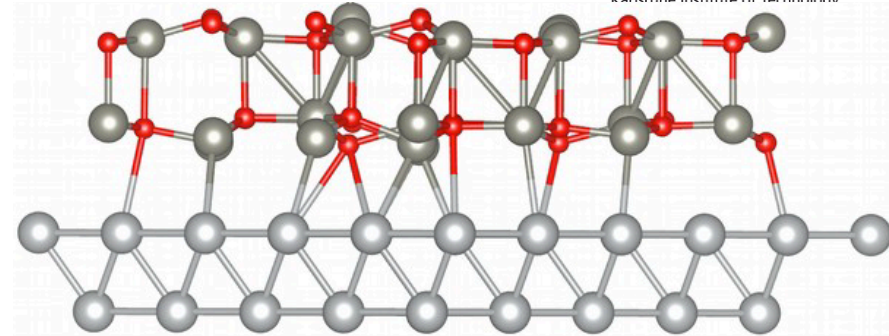
# Conclusions

- Exposure the Zn/Ag alloy to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mbar of  $O_2$  at 600 K for 40 min yields ZnO thin layers (**2.1 Å, bilayer**).
- ZnO thin layers adopt a distorted structure in between the ideal wurtzite and the planar graphitic structure.

$\nu(C-O)$ : 2184-2202  $cm^{-1}$

Binding energy: 0.33 eV (31.9 kJ/mol)

- CO adsorbs weakly at  $Zn^{2+}$
- Weak interaction between ZnO thin layers and Ag substrate.



# Thank you for your attention!