



# SOME THOUGHTS ON NANOTECHNOLOGY

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# "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom"



The stability of nanostructures questioned for some time



### **PRINCIPAL LIMITS (1)**

### \*ONE ATOM = ONE BIT IN A MASS-MEMORY

### \*ONE IMPURITY ATOM IN A TRANSISTOR (probably a

few atoms, due to physical principles)

### **\*THE RESOLUTION OF THE FINEST MACHINING**

### **TECHNOLOGIES APPROACH THE DIAMETER OF**

ATOMS (see the AFM and STM technologies)









## **PRINCIPAL LIMITS (2)**



INFORMATION(transfer): PHYICAL QUANTITY
THEREFORE IT HAS ENERGY CONTENT
R. Feynman: To transfer 1 bit information irreversibly in a computational network (at T temperature with
v frequvency on d distance, based on thermodynamical

consideration, this energy is

E = kTdv/c

(in 1sec , with 1W power, at room temperature, 10\*18 bit information can be transferred to 50nm distance)



# FUNDAMENTAL GOALS IN NANORESEARCH

- THE MANIPULATION OF INDIVIDUAL ATOMS
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF "ASSEMBLERS"



programmed nanoscopic machines to manipulate single atoms or molecules

• THE DEVELOPMENT OF "REPLICATORS"

programmed nanoscopic machines to build assemblers

NEW TYPE OF DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS NEEDED! (scattering experiments, EM, STM, AFM,...)

### Why Is nanotechnology so interesting?



Bulk Gold mp = 1064° C Color = gold





Large surface/volume ratio ⇒ enhanced surface effects





### CARBON NANOTUBES

### AND GRAPHENE!!!

CNT is a tubular form of carbon with diameter as small as 1 nm. Length: few nm to microns.

CNT is configurationally equivalent to a two dimensional graphene sheet rolled into a tube.

STRIP OF A GRAPHENE SHEET ROLLED INTO A TUBE





CNT exhibits extraordinary mechanical properties: Young's modulus over 1 Tera Pascal, as stiff as diamond, and tensile strength ~ 200 GPa.

CNT can be metallic or semiconducting, depending on chirality.



### **TOWARDS THE QUANTUM LIMIT**



## The Lycurgus Cup (glass; British Museum; 4<sup>th</sup> Century A. D.)



When illuminated from outside, it appears green. However, when illuminated from within the cup, it glows red. Red color is due to very small amounts of gold powder (about 40 parts per million) in glass.



## **ELECTRIC FIELD OF SURFACE PLASMONS** Surface plasmons Ez~e-kzzz E Vacuum ε2' ε Ez Metal Χx

#### From Maxwell's equations

1



SURFACE PLASMON POLARITONS are a

### "NEW TYPE OF LIGHT", they are

- **1.BOUND TO THE (METAL) SURFACE;**
- 2.HAVE SPECIFIC DISPERSION PROPERTIES;
- 3.THE DIFFRACTION LIMIT DOES NOT APPLY;
- 4. MAY BE GUIDED ON THE SURFACE;
- **5.REPRESENT VERY HIGH ELECTRIC FIELDS;**
- 6.MAY BE LOCALIZED (e.g. to nanospheres or surface irregularities);
- 7.MAY HAVE A BANDGAP;
- 8.MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF NONLINEAR PROCESSES;
- 9.SHOW NON-CLASSICAL PROPERTIES.
  - A POTENTIAL BASIS OF FUTURE PLASMONICS (applications) NONLINEAR EFFECTS AT LOWER LASER POWERS THAN IN NONLINEAR OPTICS!

### NEAR FIELD STM [with topographic(a), SPO(b) and thermal(c) images]





### TRANSPARENCY WITH VERY SMALL HOLES



#### PARADIGM SHIFT SIMILAR TO THE SHIFT FROM SHIPS TO AIRPLANES IN TRANSPORT OR FROM VACUUM TUBES TO TRANSISTORS IN ELECTRONICS

# Litography









### SURFACE PLASMON LIGHTGUIDE





38590+92 4000x4000nm Gold images Cut from 5000x5000nm images



#### **ENERGY GAP OF SURFACE PLASMONS**





#### OptiCAL transistors might be built





# Efficient Self-Similar Nanolens of Nanospheres



#### **HOLES BEHAVE SIMILARLY !**

### Plasmonic toolbox: $\omega$ , $\varepsilon(\omega)$ , d - Engineer $\lambda(\omega)$

Plasmonic integrated circuits



Plasmonic multiplexer



Plasmonic concentrator



Plasmonic lens



And much more .....



### Au+Au STM tip Topography and SPO near field STM image







#### **NEGATIVE SIGNALS!**







# NANO-STRUC-TURES





### MANIPULATION OF ATOMS



#### BOTTOM UP!







### **CHEMICAL SELF-ORGANISATION**



SUBSTRATE



MOLECULES IN SOLUTION

SOLUTION

SFLF-ASSEMBLY occurs SF1F-ASSEMBLY occurs spontaneously as molecules with a specially chosen "end group" (yellow) attach themselves to a substrate material. Typically the mole-cules do not end up perpendicular to the sub-strate. The scanning tunneling microscope image (*lower right corner*) shows an overhead view of a lay-er of alkanethiol molecules on gold. The cracklike ridge reflects a grain boundary on the underlying gold substrate.



SELF-ASSEMBLED MONOLAYER



ACTUAL SELF-ASSEMBLED MONOLAYER







- Plasmonics: convert optical energy into electronic oscillations
- Spintronics: devices that exploit electron spin rather than charge



• Can we merge the advantages of both fields?

Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 133901 (2007)

# Why is nanotechnology important for industry?

1 Analysts estimate that the market for products based on nanotechnology could rise to hundreds of billions by 2010 and exceed one trillion after



### **Technological evolution**

### **Exponential Growth**



Triumph of Light - Scientific American. George Stix, January 2001

# Market size for application



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

### HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES









