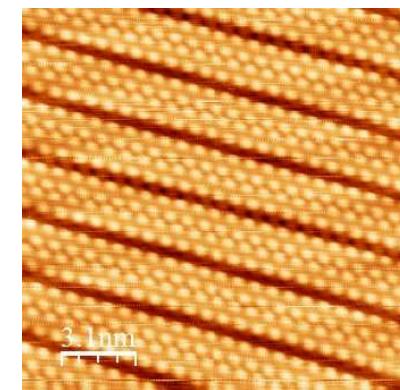
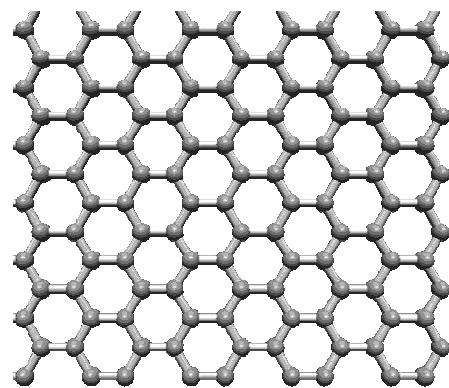
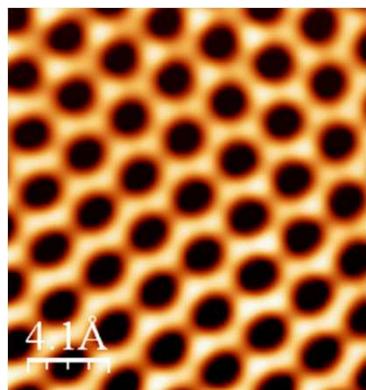




# SILICENE: The silicon counterpart of Graphene



Hamid Oughaddou

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Département de physique, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, 95000 Cergy-Pontoise, France*



# Introduction

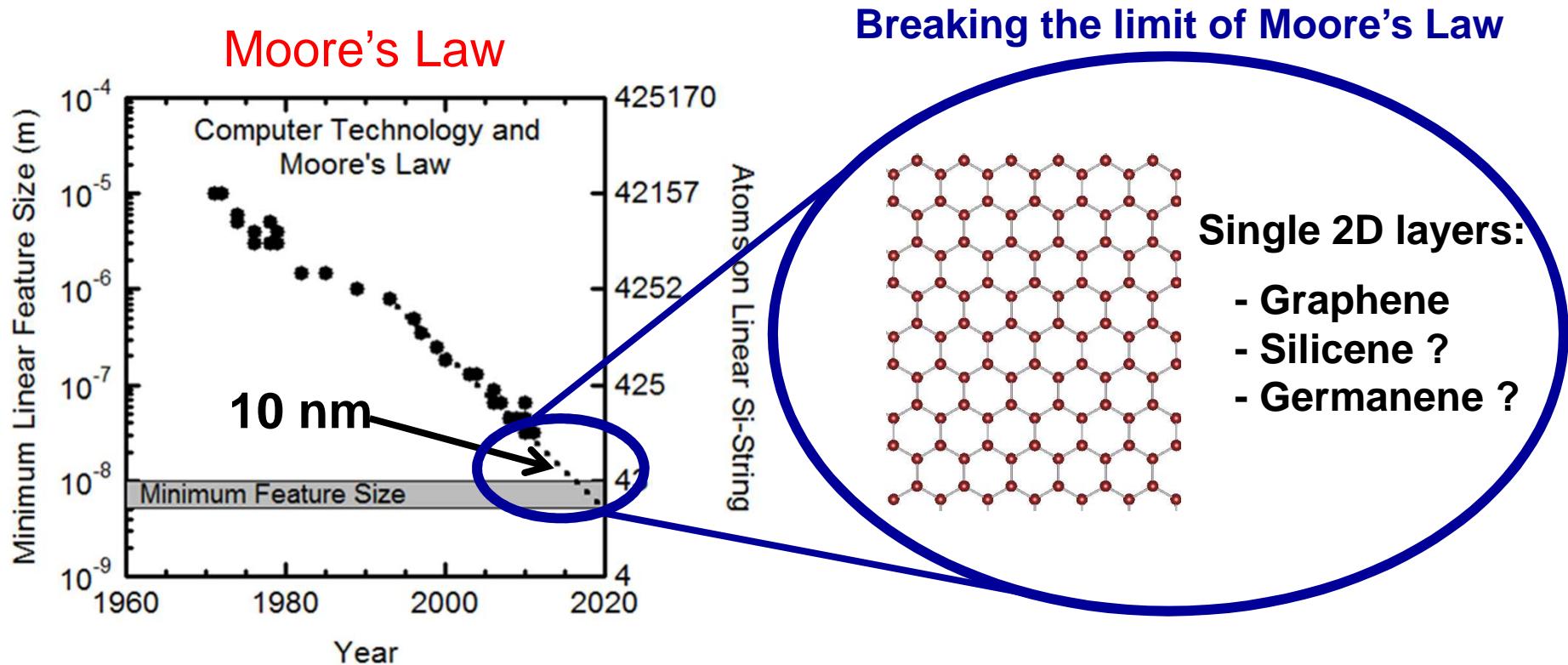
**“History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme”**

*Mark Twain*

Carbon  
Silicon  
Germanium

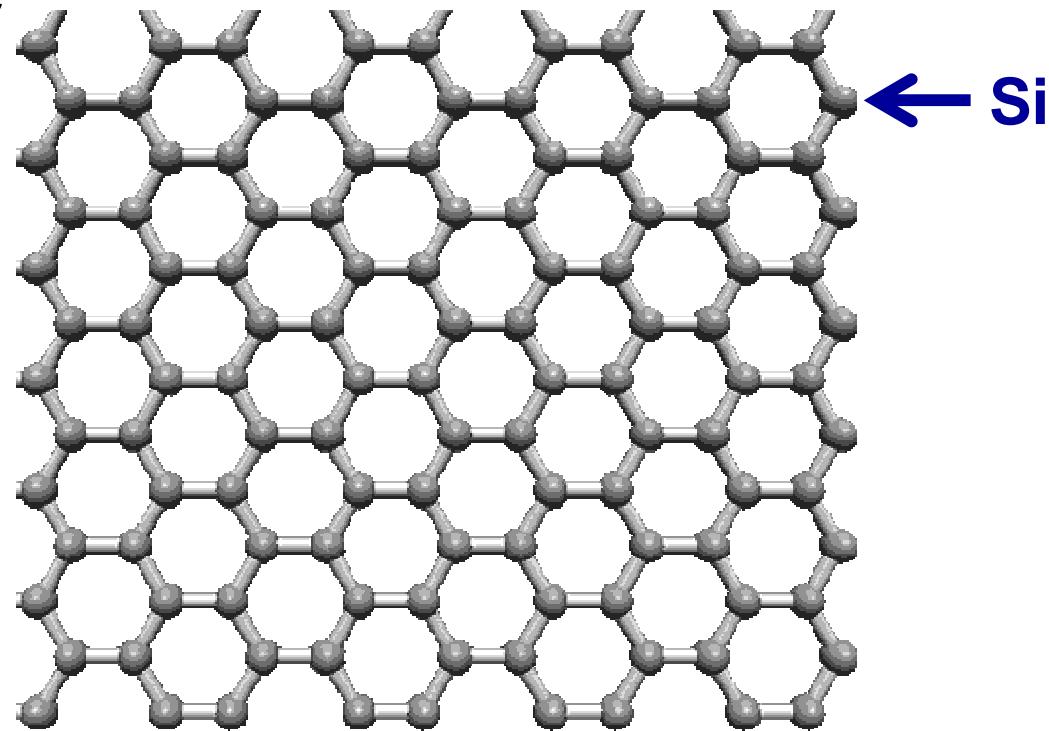


Graphene  
Silicene  
Germanene





# Silicene



Silicene Synthesis ? YES

Electronic properties ?

# Introduction

**Periodic Table of the Elements**

The Periodic Table of the Elements is a tabular arrangement of all known chemical elements. It consists of 18 groups (vertical columns) and 7 periods (horizontal rows). The table is color-coded by element type: Alkali Metals (light red), Alkaline Earth Metals (pink), Transition Metals (light blue), Basic Metals (orange), Semimetals (green), Nonmetals (yellow), Halogens (light orange), Noble Gases (light green), Lanthanides (light blue), and Actinides (pink).

**Groups:**

- 1 IA**: Hydrogen (H)
- 2 IIA**: Lithium (Li), Beryllium (Be)
- 3 IIIA**: Sodium (Na), Magnesium (Mg)
- 4 IVB**: Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca)
- 5 VB**: Rubidium (Rb), Strontium (Sr)
- 6 VIB**: Cesium (Cs), Barium (Ba)
- 7 VIIA**: Francium (Fr), Radium (Ra)
- 8 VIII**: Helium (He)
- 1 IA**: Lithium (Li)
- 2 IIA**: Beryllium (Be)
- 3 IIIA**: Sodium (Na)
- 4 IVB**: Potassium (K)
- 5 VB**: Rubidium (Rb)
- 6 VIB**: Cesium (Cs)
- 7 VIIA**: Francium (Fr)
- 8 VIII**: Helium (He)

**Periods:**

- Row 1: Hydrogen (H)
- Row 2: Lithium (Li), Beryllium (Be)
- Row 3: Sodium (Na), Magnesium (Mg)
- Row 4: Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca)
- Row 5: Rubidium (Rb), Strontium (Sr)
- Row 6: Cesium (Cs), Barium (Ba)
- Row 7: Francium (Fr), Radium (Ra)

**Lanthanide Series:** Lanthanum (La) through Lutetium (Lu)

**Actinide Series:** Actinium (Ac) through Lawrencium (Lr)

**Classification Labels:**

- Alkali Metal
- Alkaline Earth
- Transition Metal
- Basic Metal
- Semimetals
- Nonmetals
- Halogens
- Noble Gas
- Lanthanides
- Actinides



# Introduction

## Electronic configuration

### Carbon

[He]  $2s^2 2p^2$

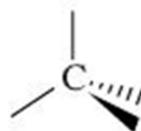
$$E_{C_{2s}} = 19.4 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_{C_{2p}} = 10.7 \text{ eV}$$

### Silicon

[Ne]  $3s^2 3p^2$

$$E_{Si_{3s}} = 15.0 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_{Si_{3p}} = 7.8 \text{ eV}$$

$$E_{C_{2s}} - E_{C_{2p}} = 8.7 \text{ eV} > E_{Si_{2s}} - E_{Si_{2p}} = 7.2 \text{ eV}$$



Diamond

$sp^3$   
Tetrahedral



Graphite

$sp^2$   
Trigonal planar



Acetylene



Silicon  
(Diamond)

$sp^3$   
Tetrahedral



Silicene ???

$sp^2$   
Trigonal planar

# Introduction

## Electronic configuration

### Carbon

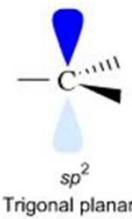
[He]  $2s^2 2p^2$

$$E_{C_{2s}} = 19.4 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_{C_{2p}} = 10.7 \text{ eV}$$



Diamond

$sp^3$   
Tetrahedral



Graphite

$sp^2$   
Trigonal planar



Acetylene

$sp$   
Linear

### Germanium

[Ar]  $4s^2 4p^2$

$$E_{Ge_{4s}} = 15.6 \text{ eV}$$
$$E_{Ge_{4p}} = 7.5 \text{ eV}$$

$$E_{C_{2s}} - E_{C_{2p}} = 8.7 \text{ eV} \quad > \quad E_{Ge_{4s}} - E_{Ge_{4p}} = 8.1 \text{ eV}$$



Germanium  
(Diamond)

$sp^3$   
Tetrahedral

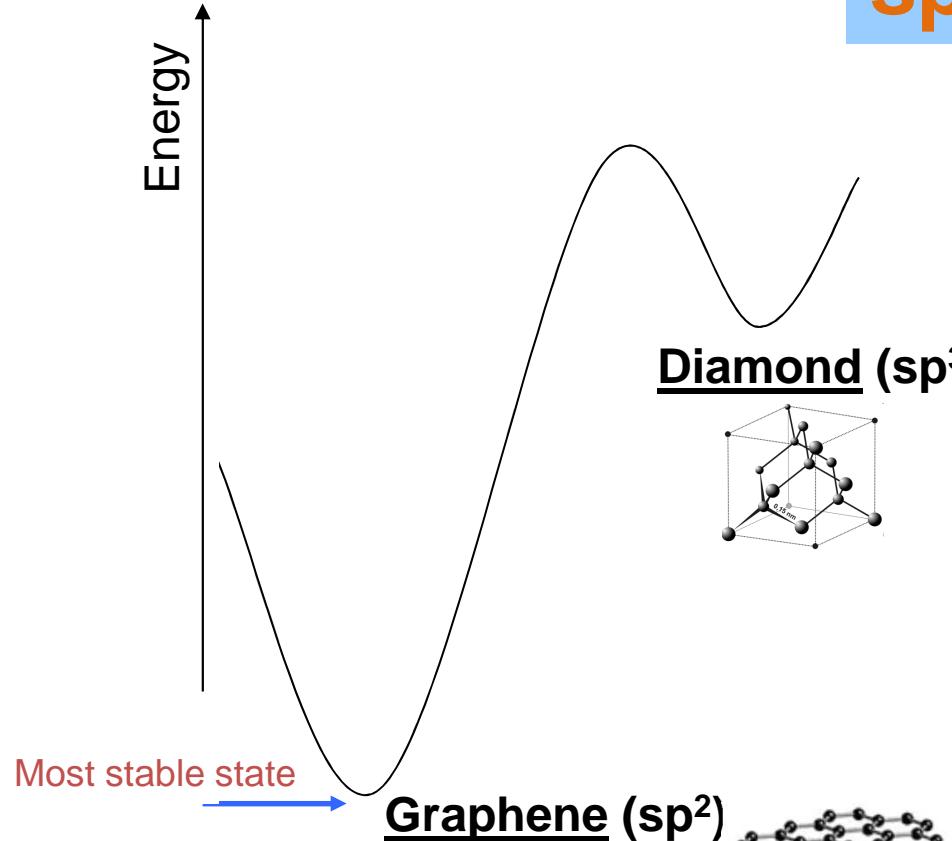


Germanene???

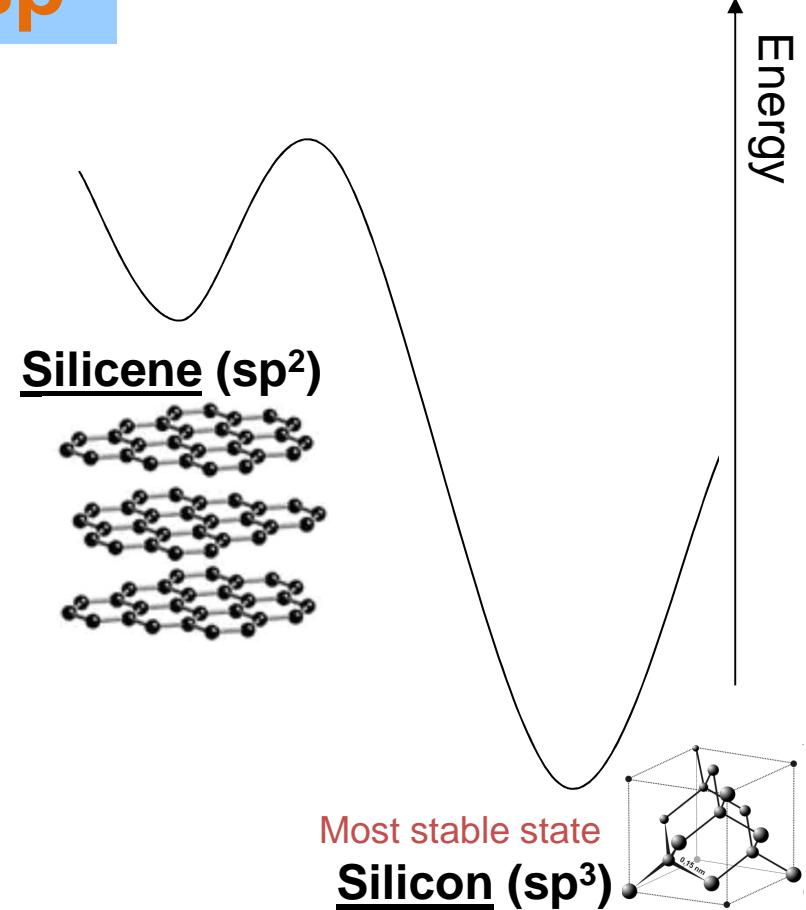
$sp^2$   
Trigonal planar



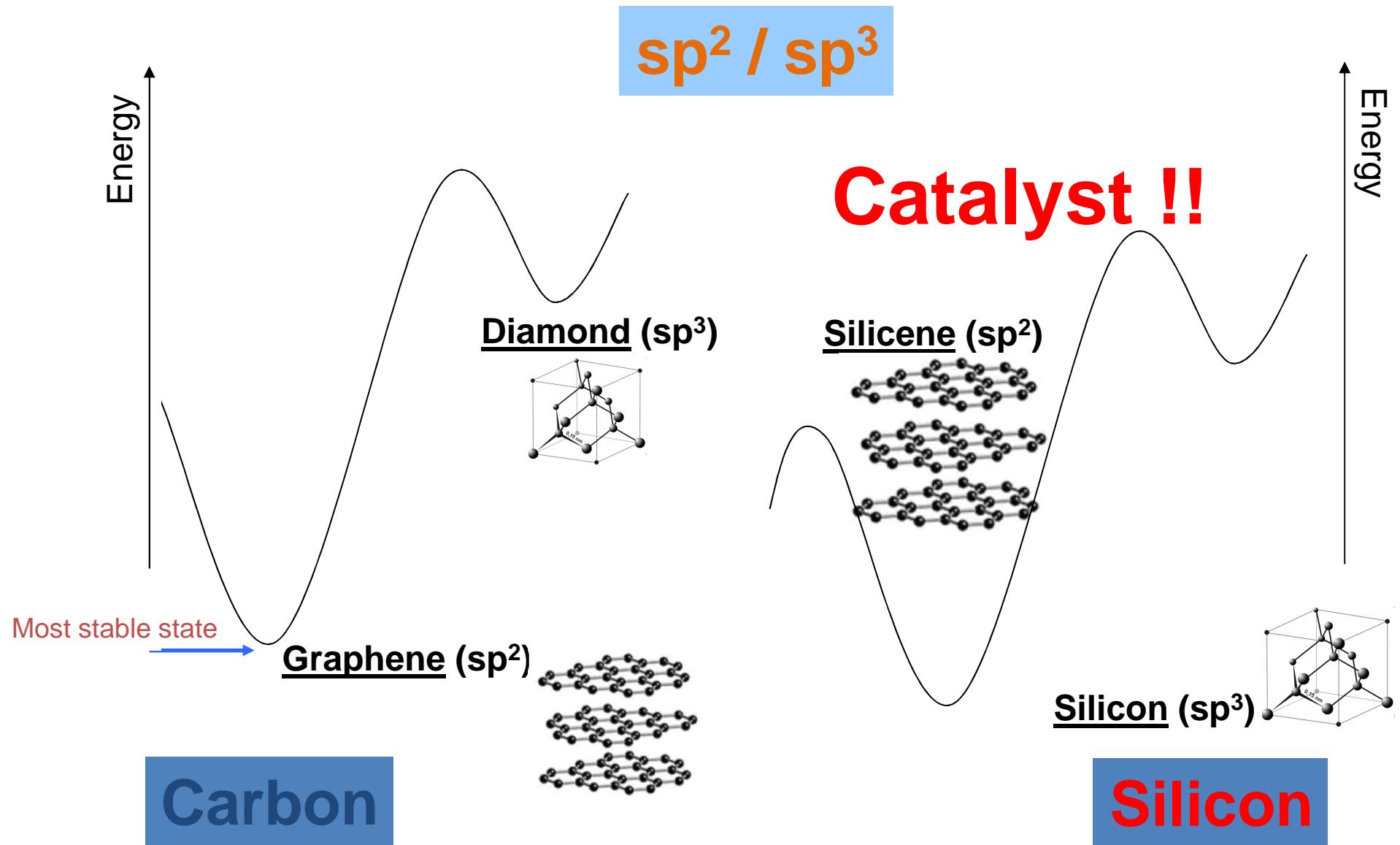
$sp^2 / sp^3$



Carbon



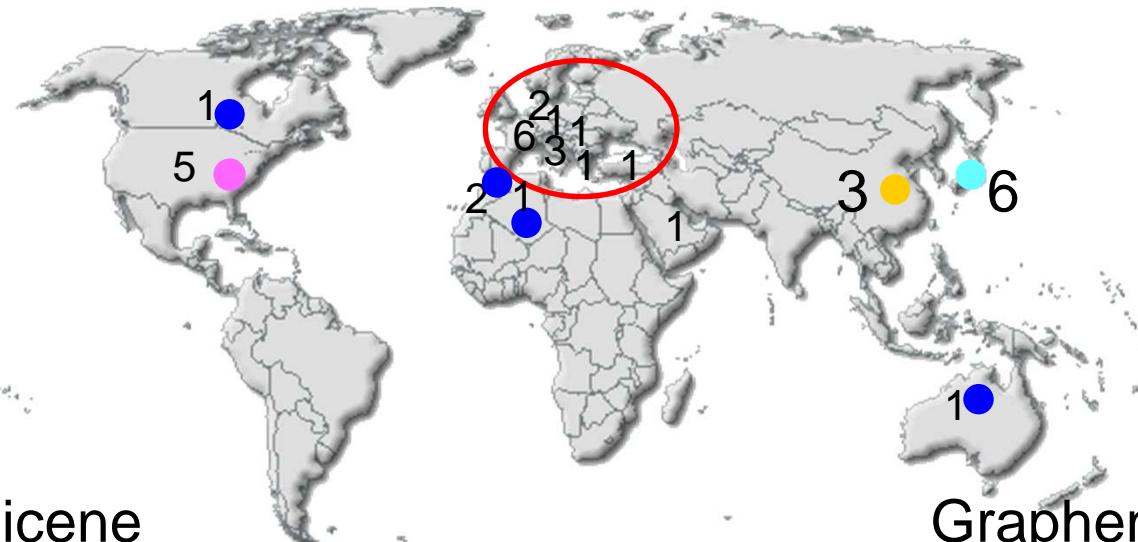
Silicon



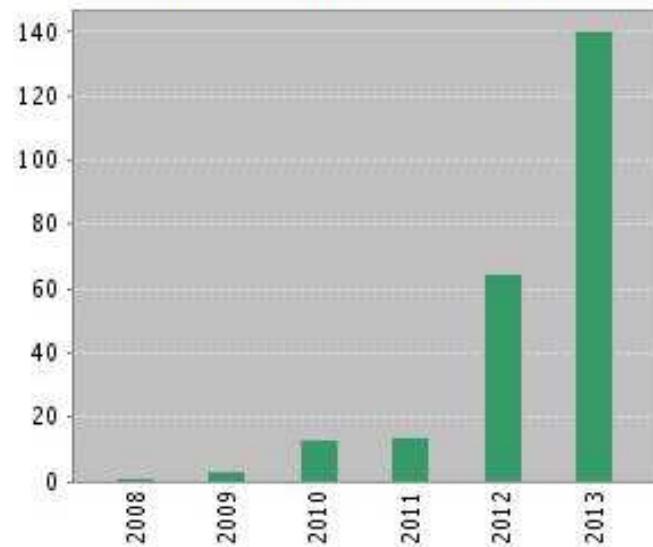


# Silicene across the World

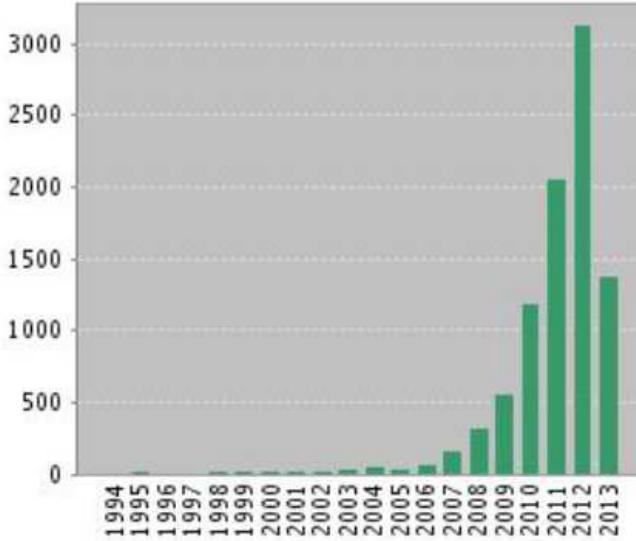
## Worldwide contributions



Published Items in Each Year



Published Items in Each Year





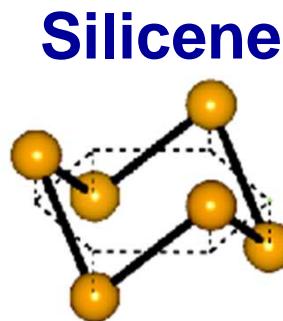
# Quick history

## Theoretical study

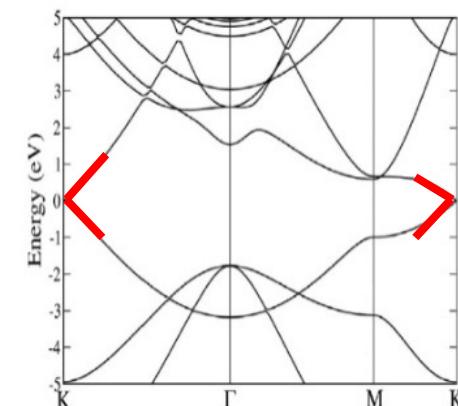
### Stability and electronic properties :

- (TB) G. Guzmán-Verri, et al, Phys. Rev. B 76, 075131 (2007)  
(DFT) S. Lebègue et al, Phys. Rev. B 79 115409 (2009)  
(DFT) Cahangirov et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 236804, (2009)

- Silicene is a buckled layer



- Silicene has intrinsic stability and an electronic structure similar to the one of graphene.

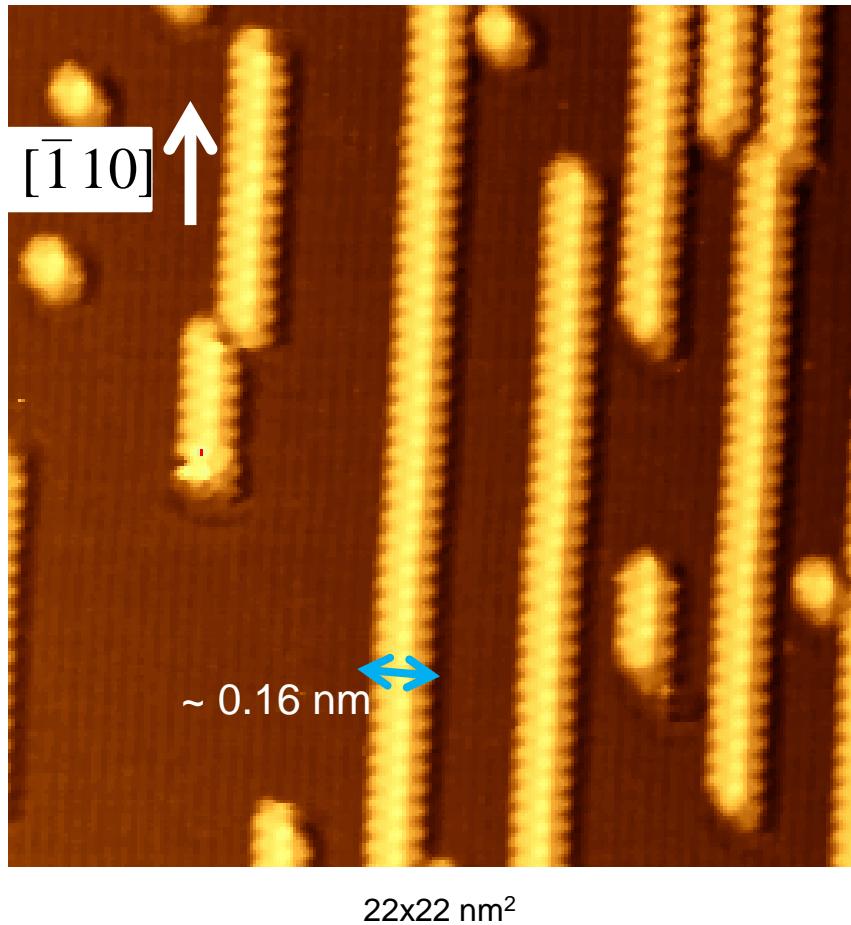


S. Lebègue et al, Phys. Rev. B 79 115409 (2009)



## Si/Ag(110) at RT

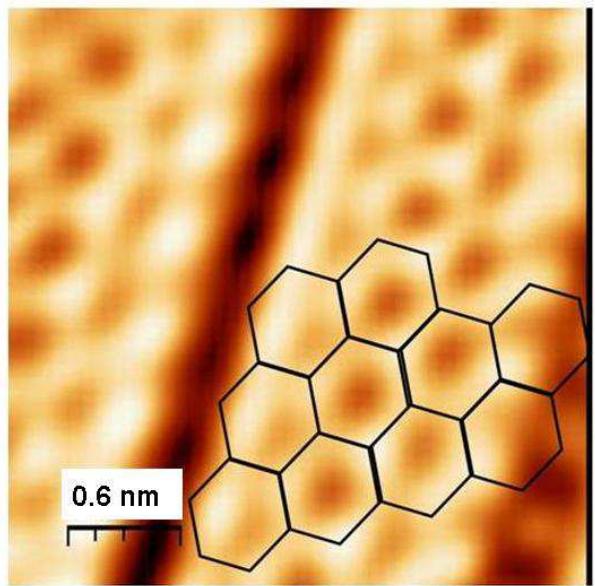
Ordered Si Nanoribbons with the same width (0.16 nm)



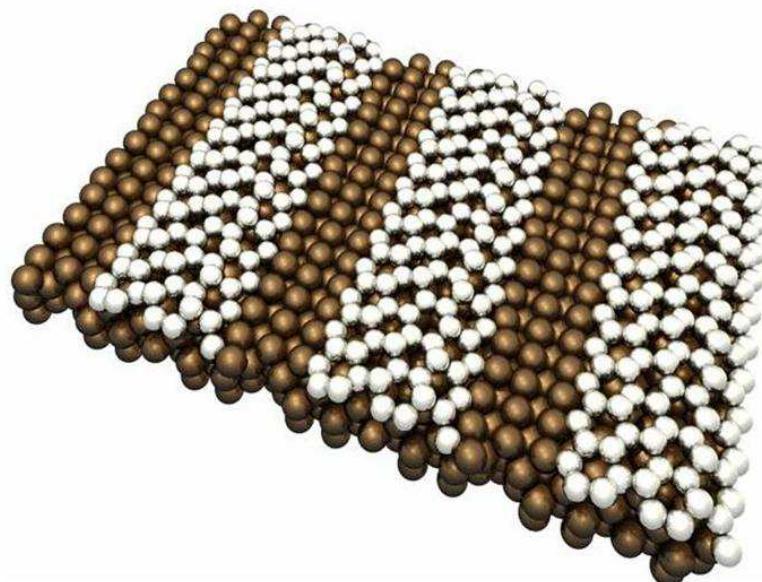


## Si/Ag(110)

STM



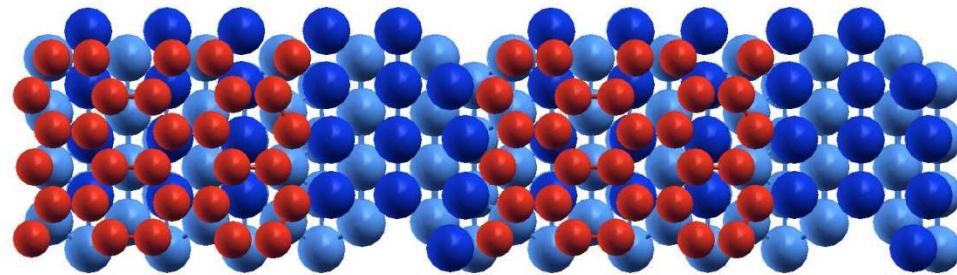
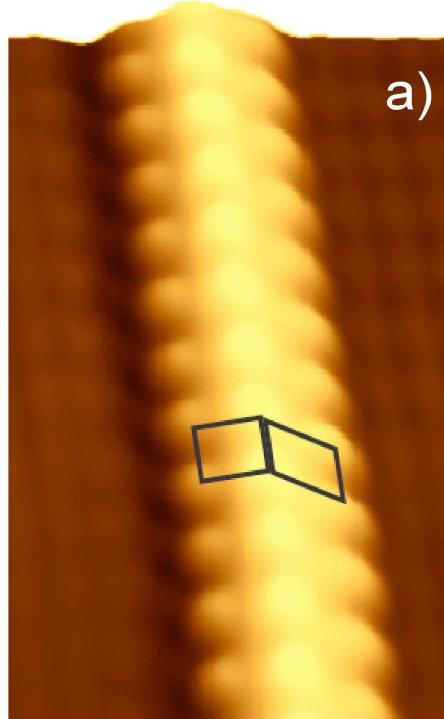
calculations



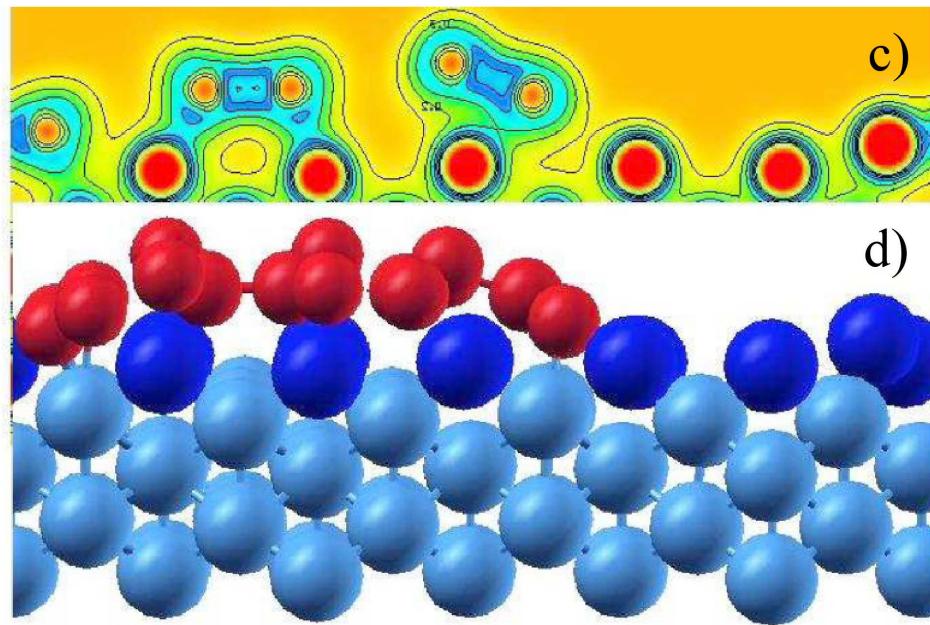
B. Aufray et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 96, 183102 (2010)  
A. Kara et al. Surf. Sci. Reports, 67, 1–18 (2012)

# Silicene NRs on Ag(110) : Growth at RT

STM



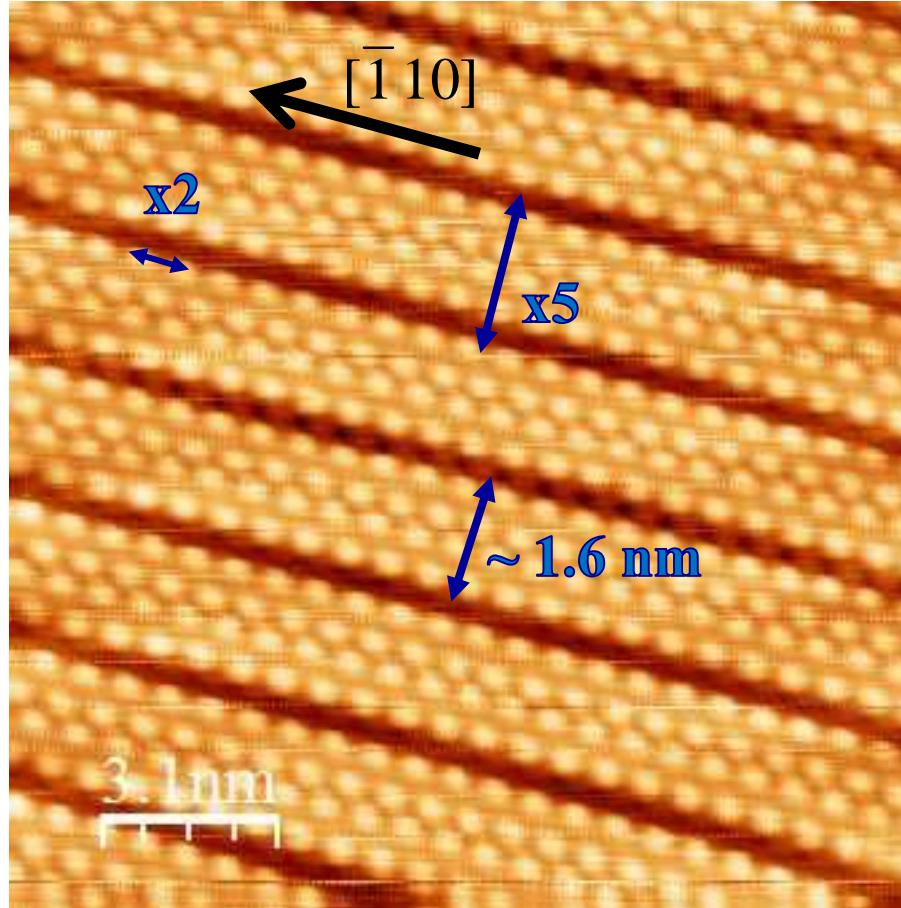
Ab initio calculations



# Silicene NRs on Ag(110) : Growth at 220°C

Deposition at 220°C: 1 ML of Si/Ag(110)

STM

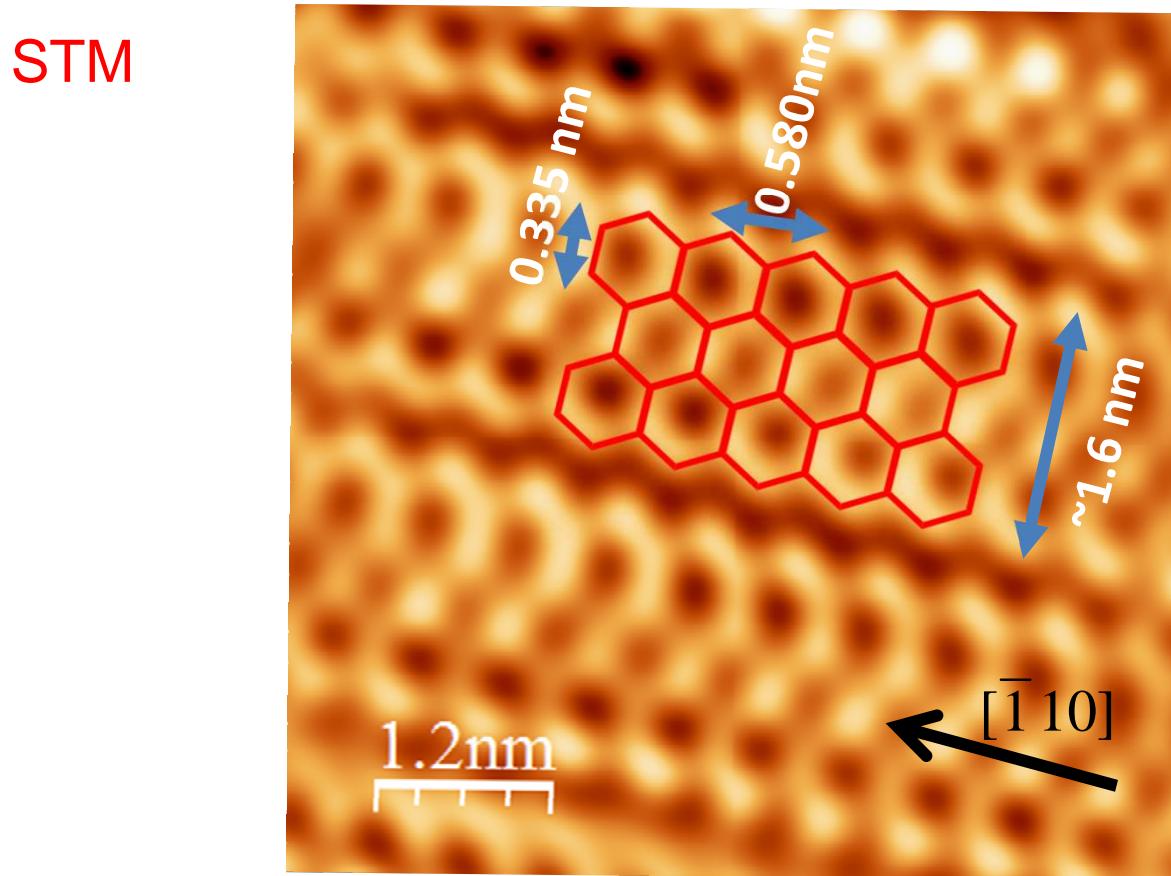


2x5 superstructure

15x15 nm<sup>2</sup> , V = -0.9 V ; I = 0.5 nA

# Silicene NRs on Ag(110) : Growth at 220°C

Deposition at 220°C: 1 ML of Si/Ag(110)

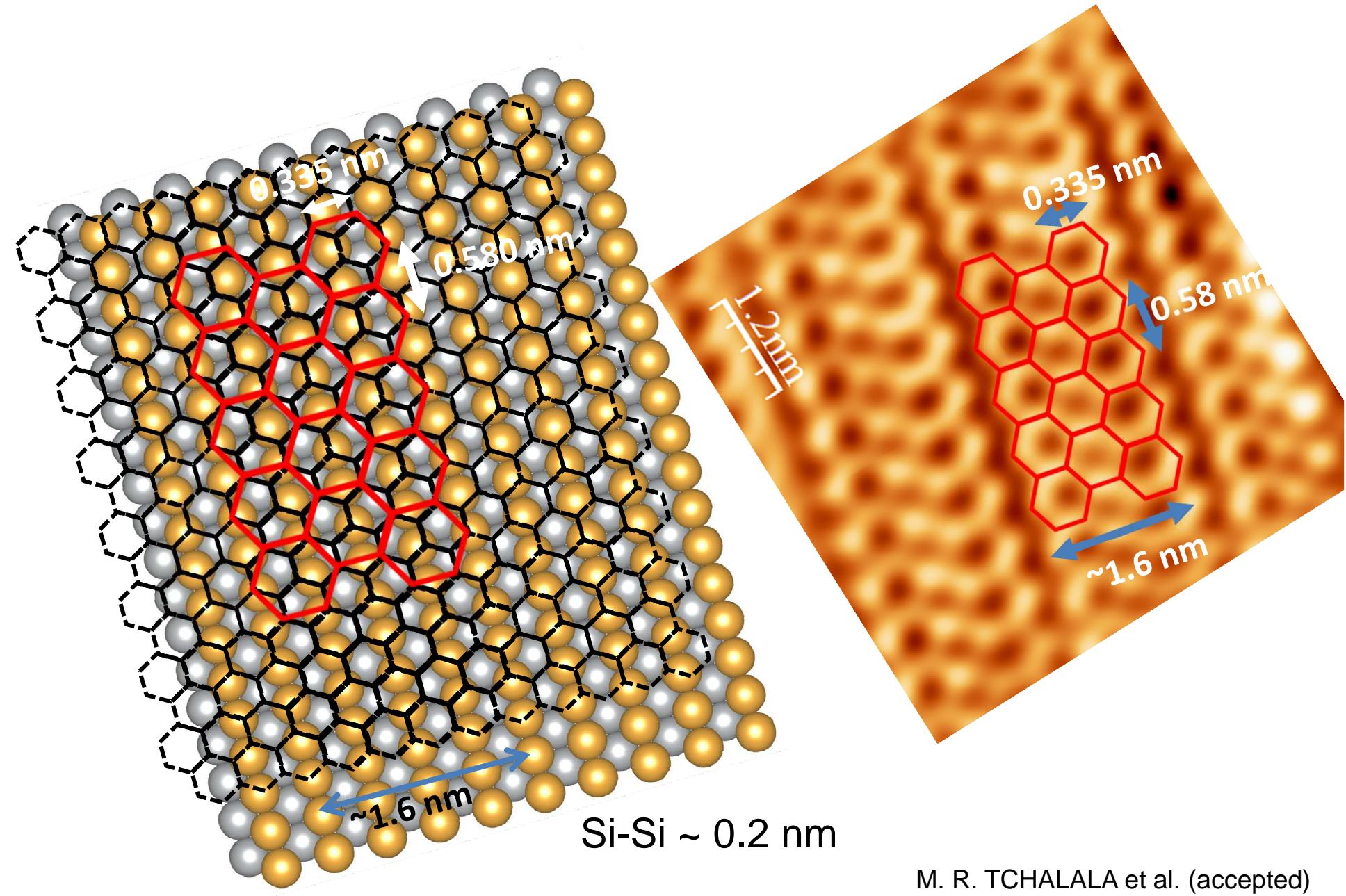


8x8 nm<sup>2</sup> , V = -1.6 V ; I = 3.2 nA

**Self-assembled Si NRs**

M. R. TCHALALA et al. (accepted)

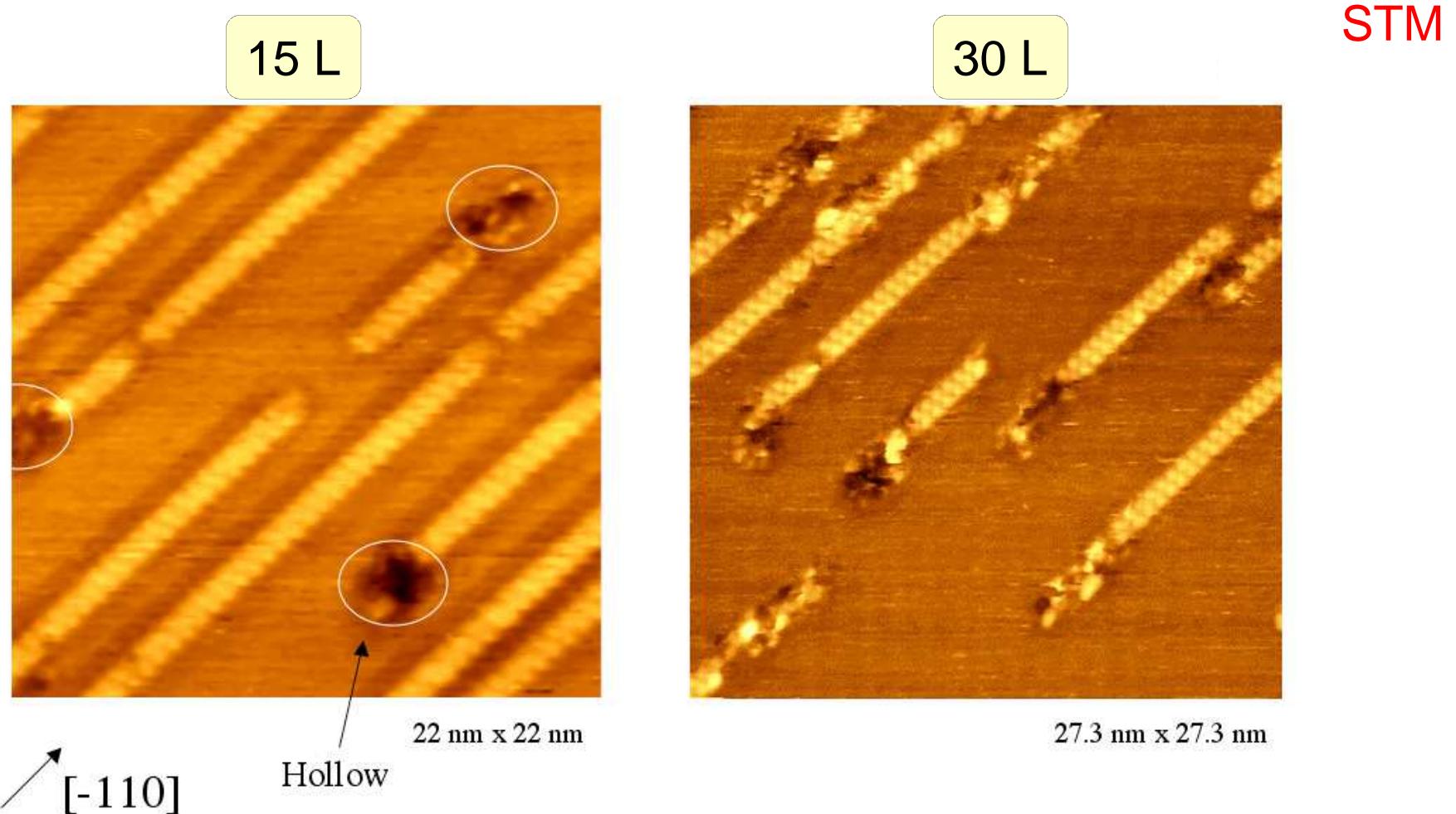
# Silicene NRs on Ag(110) : Growth at 220°C



M. R. TCHALALA et al. (accepted)

# Isolated Silicene NRs: molecular oxidation

## Chemical reactivity toward O<sub>2</sub>



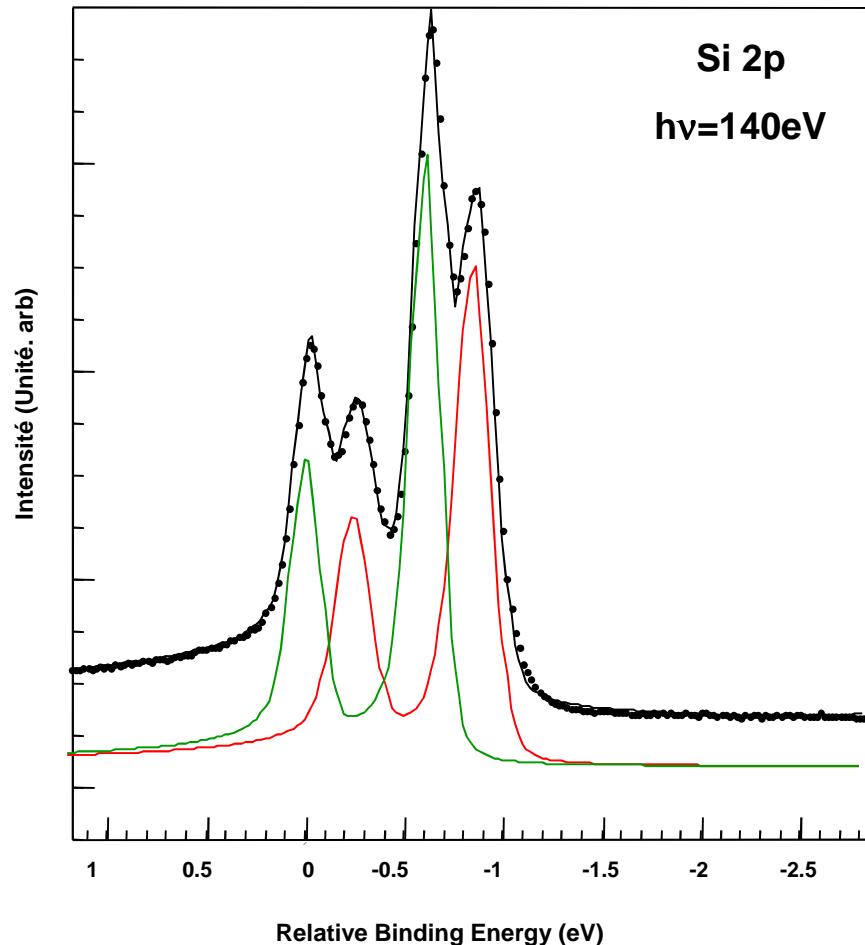
Oxidation starts from the NRs extremities



## Core Level Photo-Electron Spectroscopy (Synchrotron radiation)

PES

$\theta \approx 0.5 \text{ ML}$



Two components :

two well-defined Si environments:

Narrowest Si 2p core-levels

Atomically perfect Si nano-ribbons!

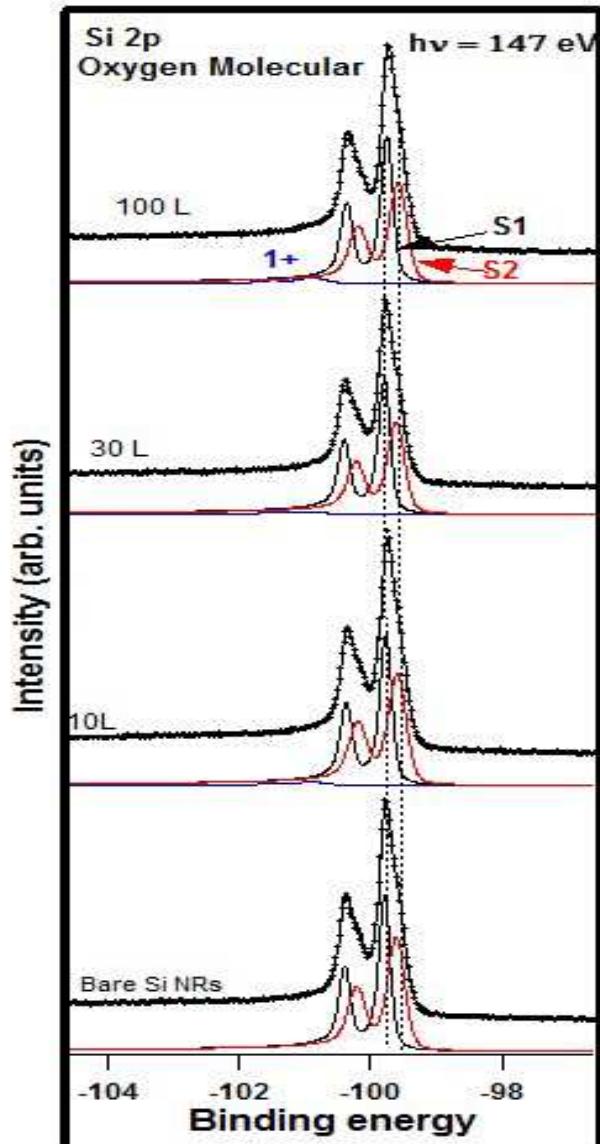
asymmetry : 0.12

Metallic character

C. Leandri *et al.* Surf. Sci., **574**, (2005) L9  
 De Padova *et al.*, Nano Letters **8** (2008) 271  
 De. Padova *et al.* Appl. Phys. letters, **96**, 261905 (2010)

# Assembled silicene NRs: molecular oxidation

Core Level Photo-Electron Spectroscopy (Synchrotron radiation) PES



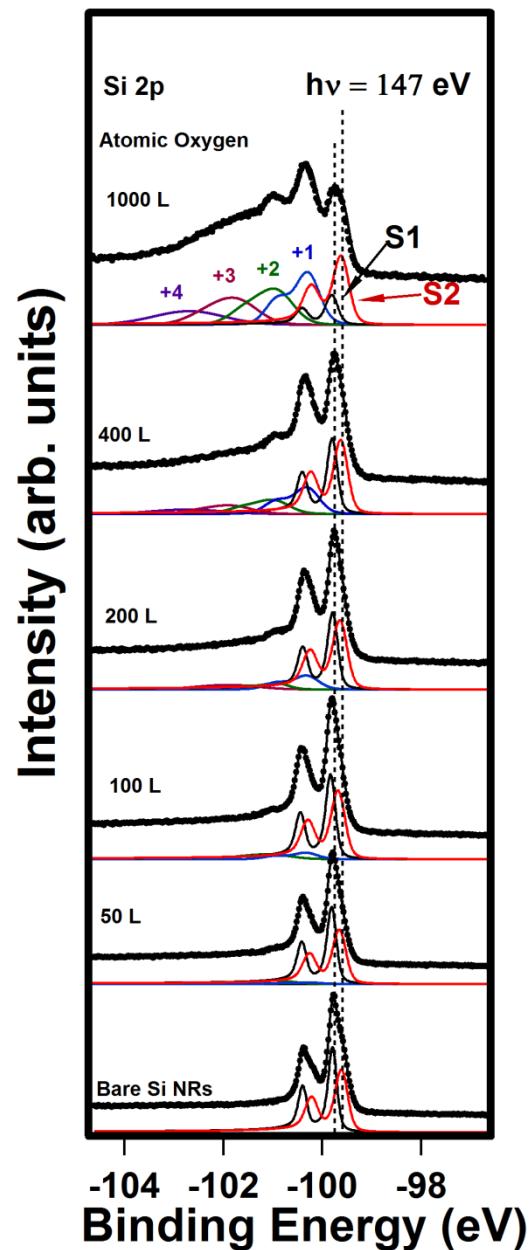
Silicene NRs are not reactive  
to molecular Oxygen



## Assembled silicene NRs: Atomic oxidation

Core Level Photo-Electron Spectroscopy (Synchrotron radiation)

PES



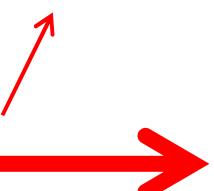
Silicene NRs are more reactive  
to atomic Oxygen

Reactivity toward oxygen

Graphene

Silicene

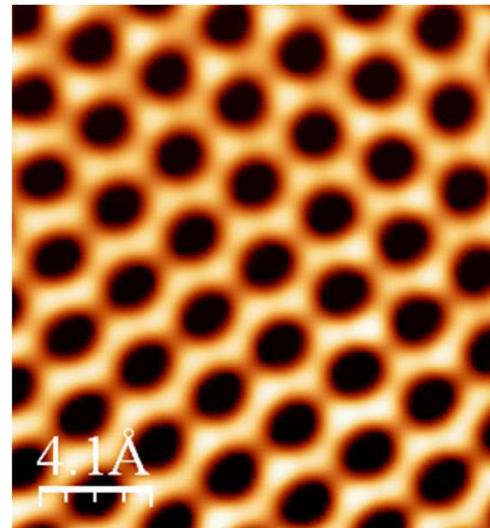
Silicon ( $sp^3$ )



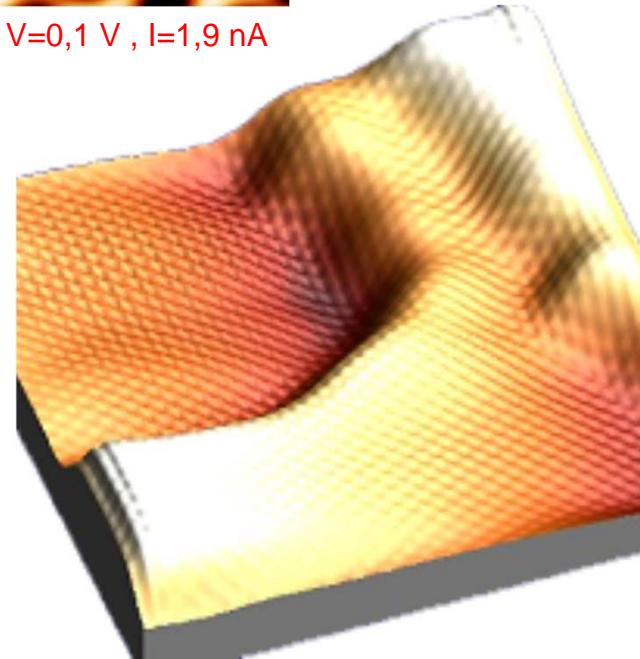
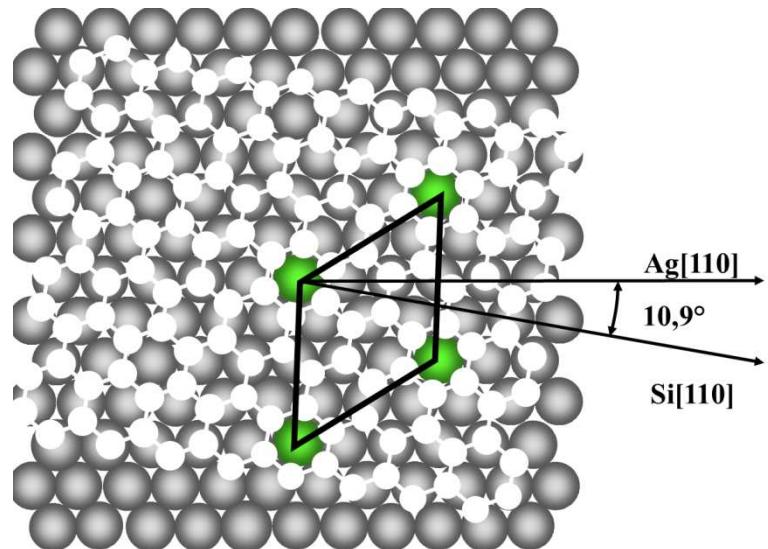


Si/Ag(111)

$(2\sqrt{3} \times 2\sqrt{3})R30^\circ$



22x22 nm<sup>2</sup> , V=0,1 V , I=1,9 nA

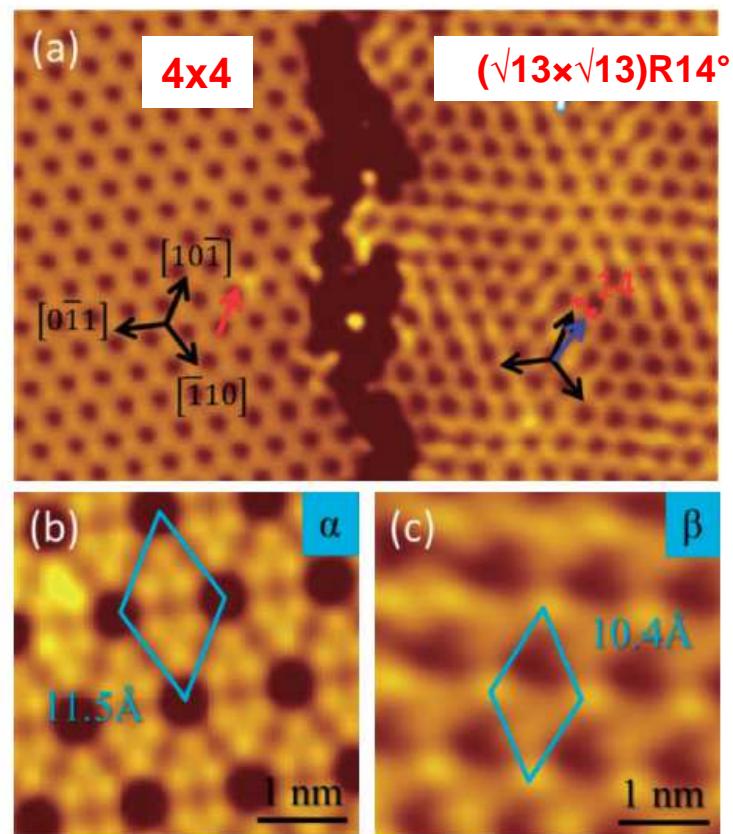


B. Lalmi et al, APL, 97, 223109 (2010)



Si/Ag(111)

STM

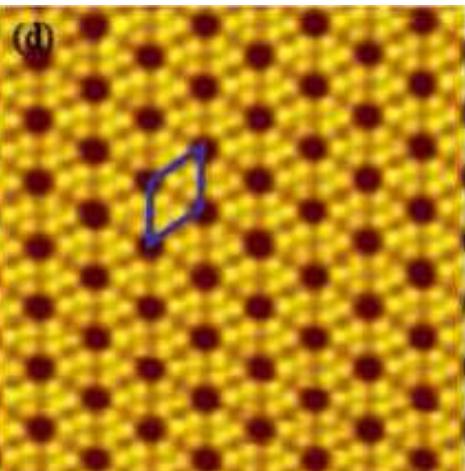
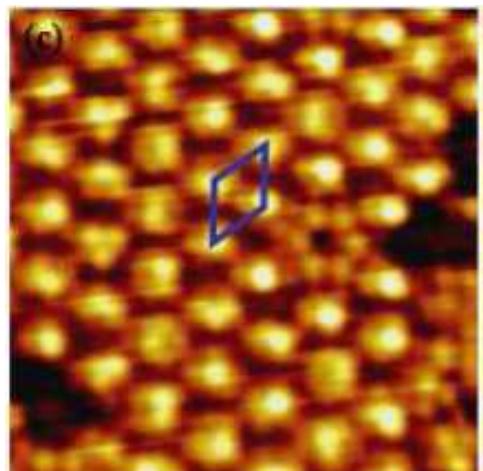


**Fig. 1.** (a) Topographic STM image ( $22.7 \times 15.1 \text{ nm}^2$ ) of silicene on Ag(111) taken at 6 K with the tunneling current ( $I$ ) of 0.2 nA and sample bias ( $V$ ) of  $-0.7 \text{ V}$ . The red and blue arrows show the direction of a unit vector of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  structures, respectively. The black arrows show three highly symmetric axes of Ag(111). Highly resolved topographic images of (b)  $\alpha$  ( $I = 0.2 \text{ nA}, V = 0.5 \text{ V}$ ) and (c)  $\beta$  ( $I = 0.3 \text{ nA}, V = -0.02 \text{ V}$ ) phases taken at 6 K. Both image sizes are  $3.8 \times 3.8 \text{ nm}^2$ .

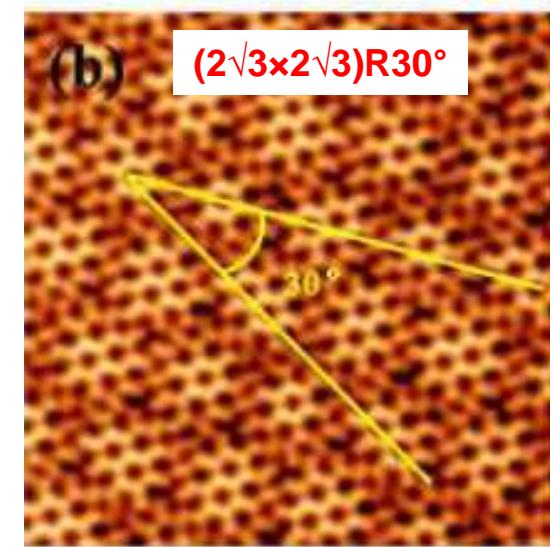


Si/Ag(111)

4x4

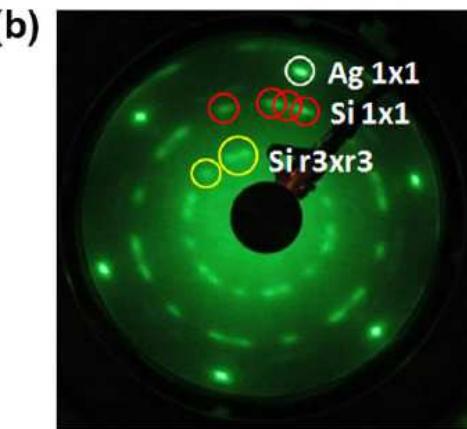
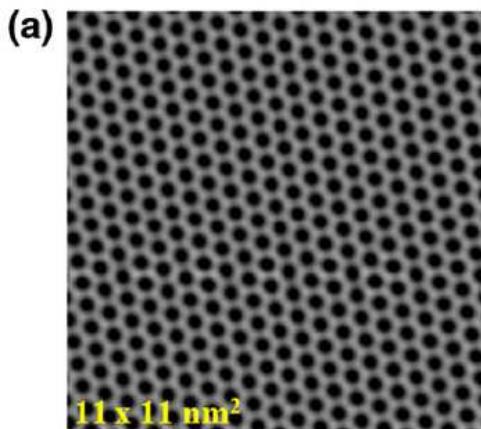


480 K



single layer of silicene

STM



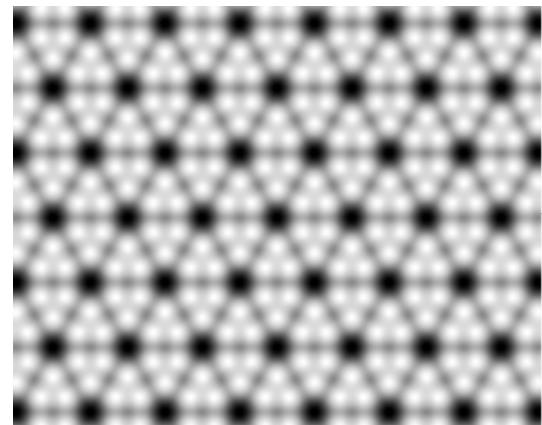
$(\sqrt{3}\times\sqrt{3})R30^\circ$

Lan Chen et al, Phys. Rev. Lett., 110, 085504 (2013)

Baojie Feng et al, Nano Lett., 12 (7), 3507 (2012)

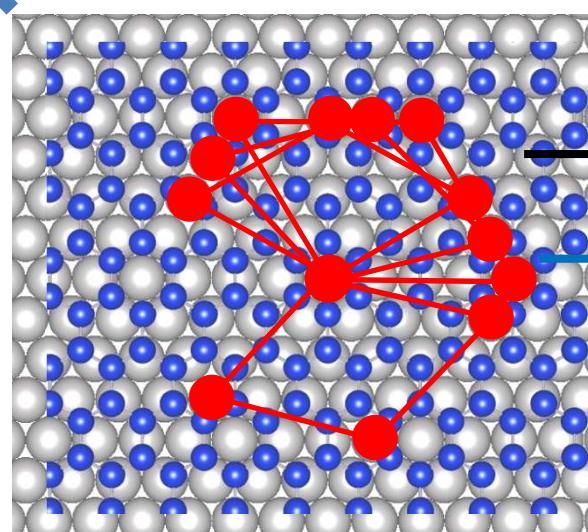


Si/Ag(111)

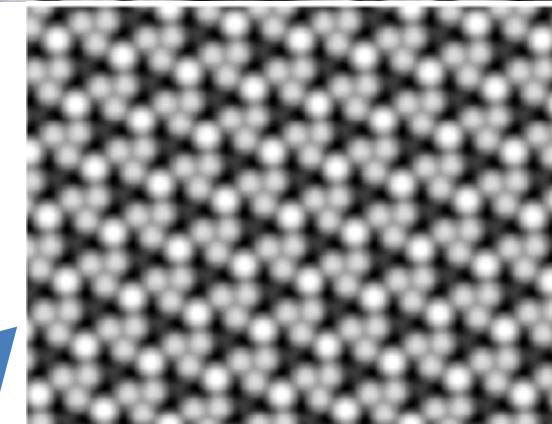


4x4

R0°



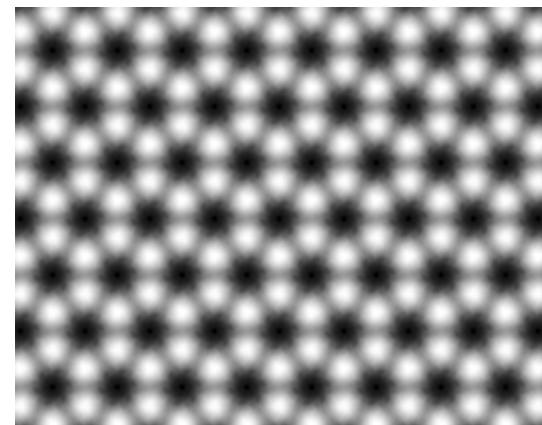
R5.2°



$(\sqrt{13} \times \sqrt{13})R^{\circ}13.9$

Ag [110]

Si [110]



$(2\sqrt{3} \times 2\sqrt{3})R^{\circ}30$

R10.9°

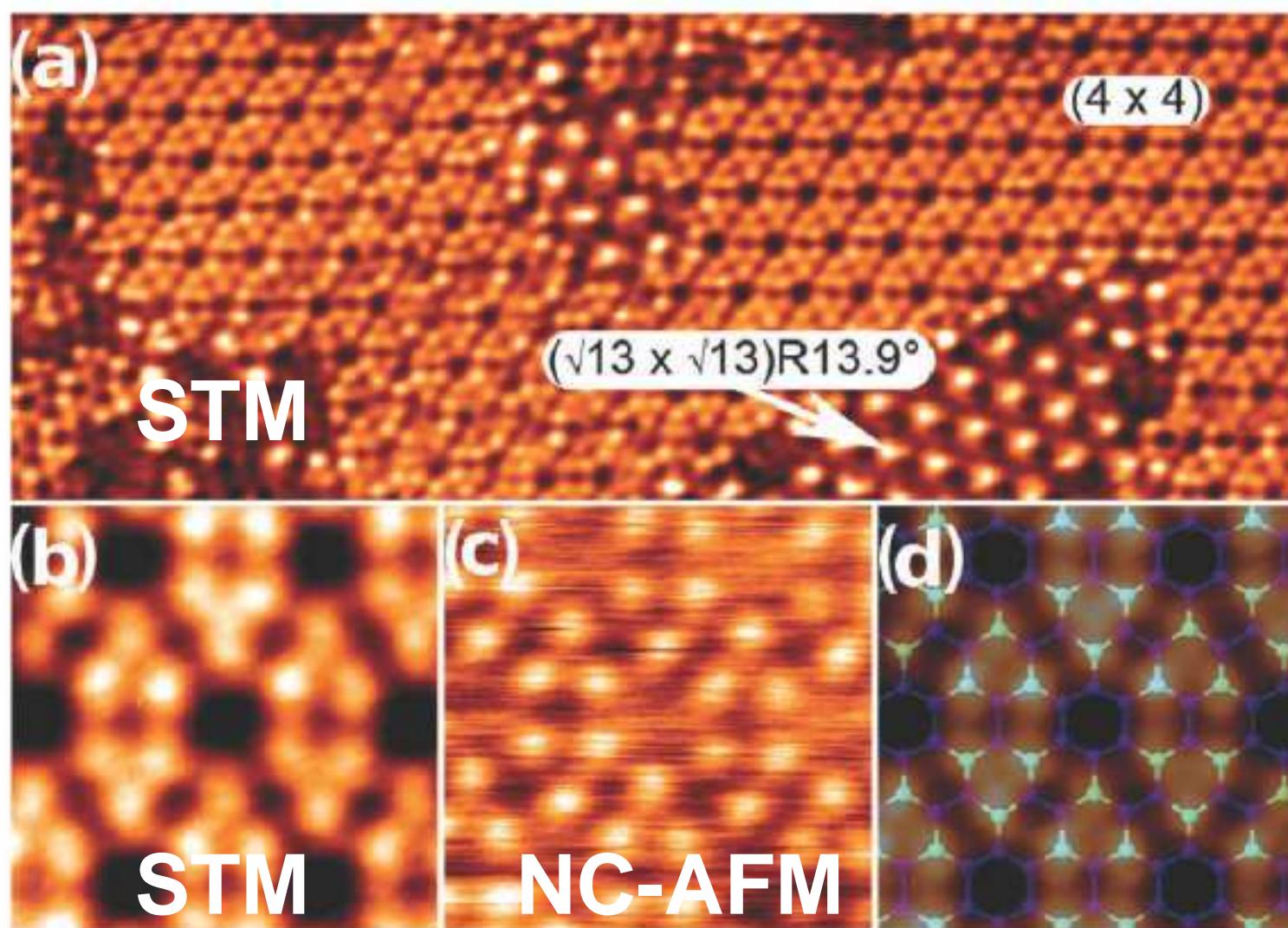


$(\sqrt{13} \times \sqrt{13})R^{\circ}13.9$



Silicene sheet

## Si/Ag(111) : STM and nc-AFM





## Si/ZrB<sub>2</sub> (0001)

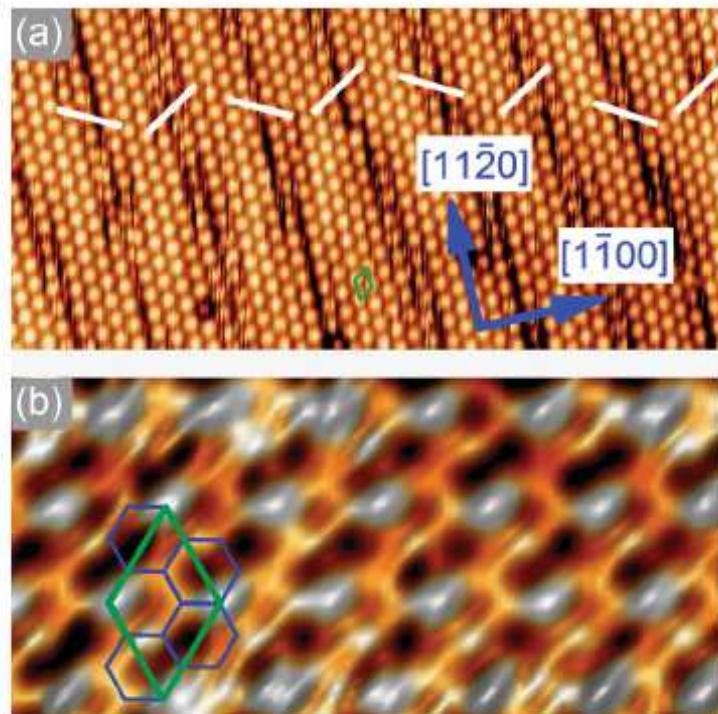
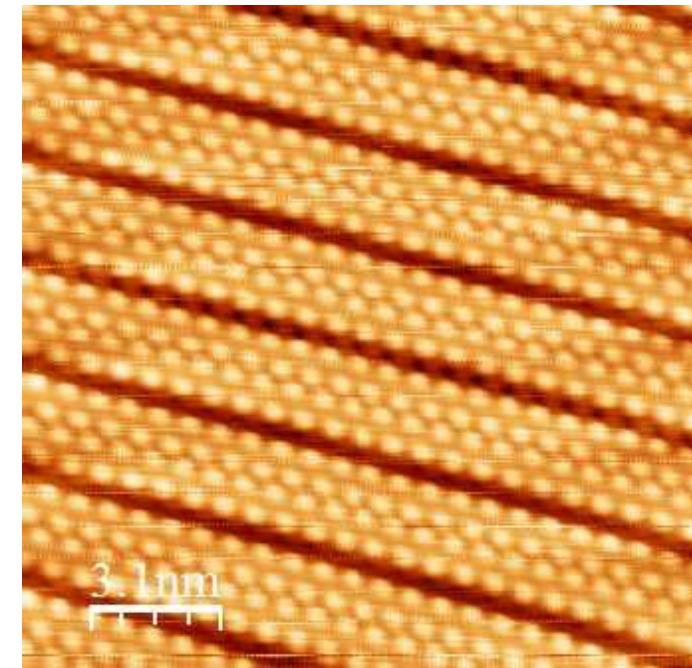


FIG. 1 (color). STM images of the  $(2 \times 2)$ -reconstructed  $\text{ZrB}_2(0001)$  surface with different length scales: (a)  $20 \text{ nm} \times 9.5 \text{ nm}$ ,  $I = 55 \text{ pA}$ ,  $V_s = 700 \text{ mV}$ , (b)  $4.2 \text{ nm} \times 2 \text{ nm}$ ,  $I = 600 \text{ pA}$ ,  $V_s = 100 \text{ mV}$ . The white lines emphasize the direction of offsets between successive domains. The  $(2 \times 2)$  UC and the honeycomb mesh are emphasized by green and blue solid lines, respectively.



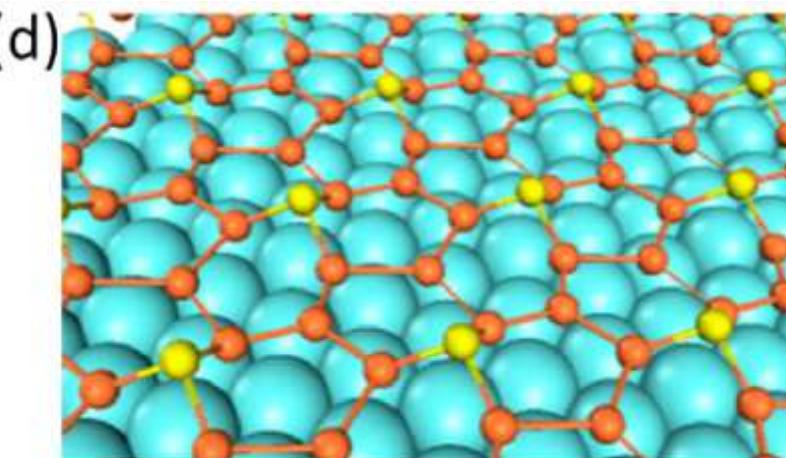
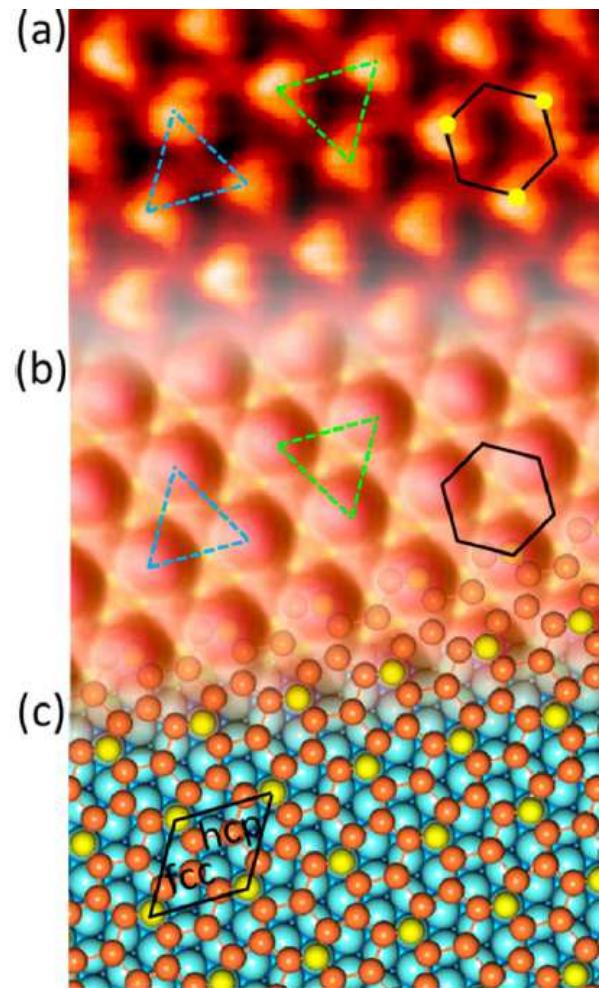
$15 \times 15 \text{ nm}^2$ ,  $V = -0.9 \text{ V}$ ;  $I = 0.5 \text{ nA}$

## Silicene on Ag(110)



## Silicene sheet

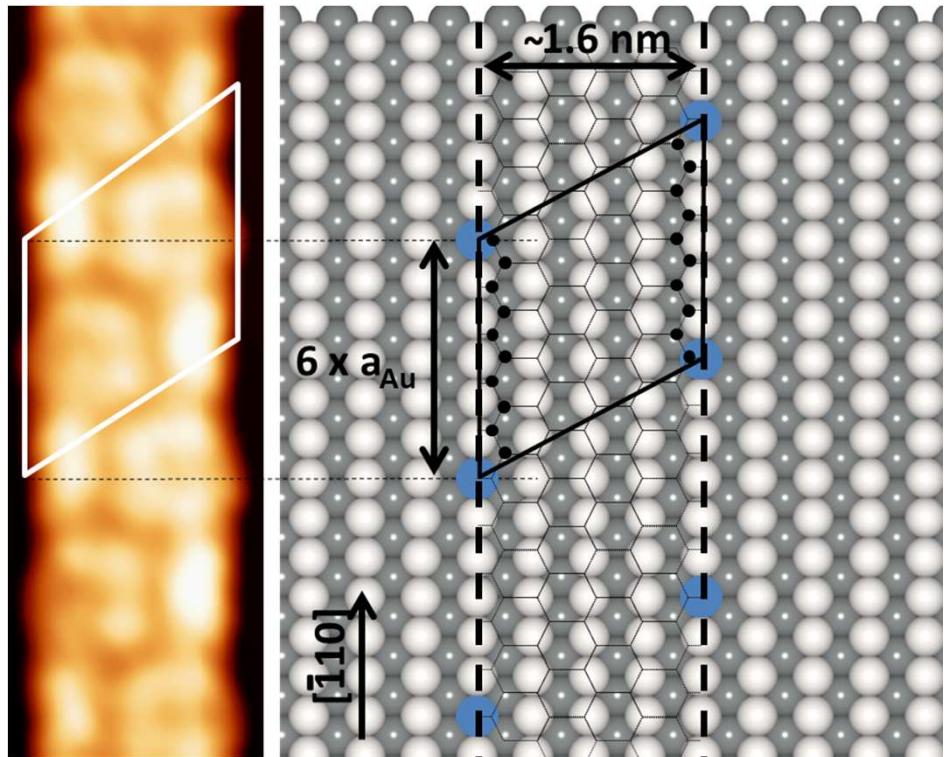
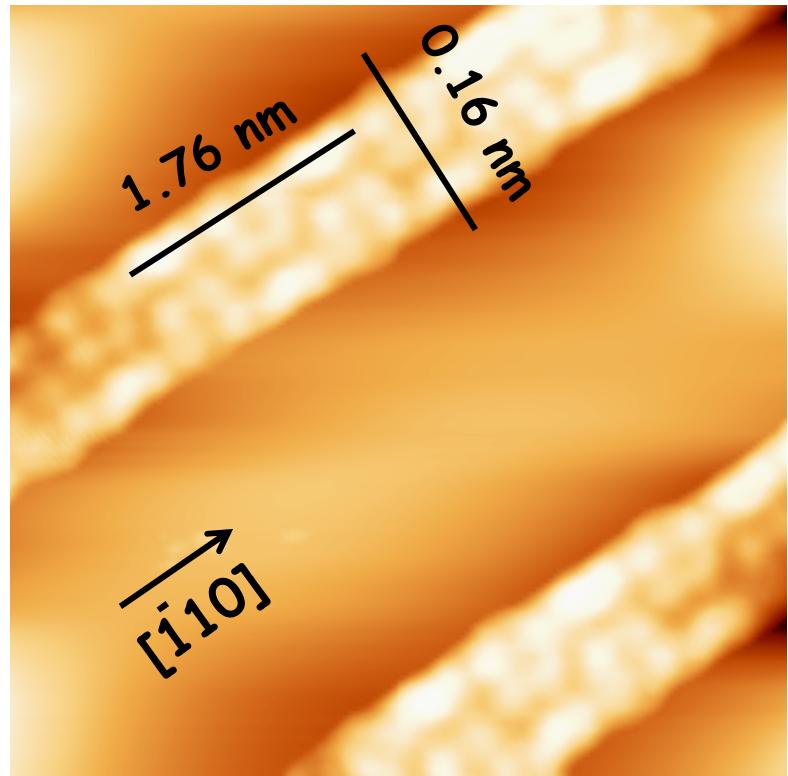
Si/Ir(111)

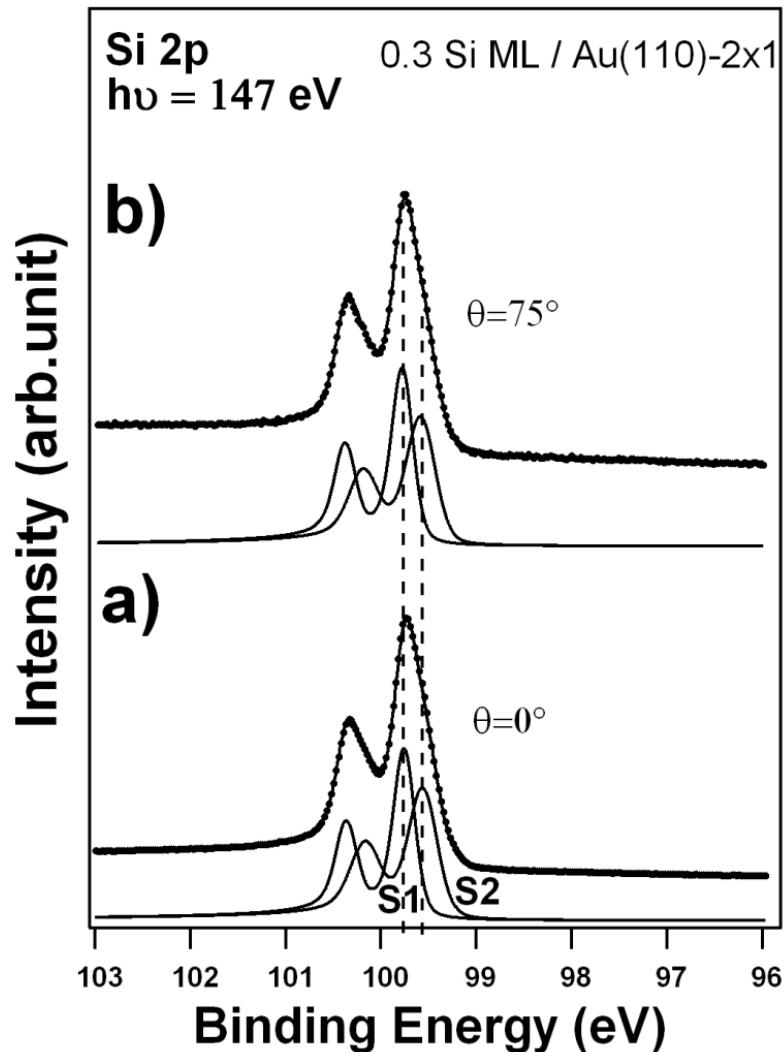


**Figure 3.** (a) Zoomed-in STM image of the silicon layer. Besides the brightest protrusions, two other regions showing different contrast are indicated by the upward and downward triangles. The honeycomb feature is indicated by the black hexagon. (b) Simulated STM image, showing features identical with the experimental results in the same triangles and hexagons. (c) Top view of the relaxed atomic model of the  $(\sqrt{3}\times\sqrt{3})$ silicene/ $(\sqrt{7}\times\sqrt{7})$ Ir(111) configuration. (d) Perspective view of the relaxed model in c, showing an undulated silicene on Ir(111) surface.



**Si/Au(110)**





S1 → Silicon within the NRs  
S2 → Silicon at the NRs edges

Two well defined components  
Asymmetry : 0.09

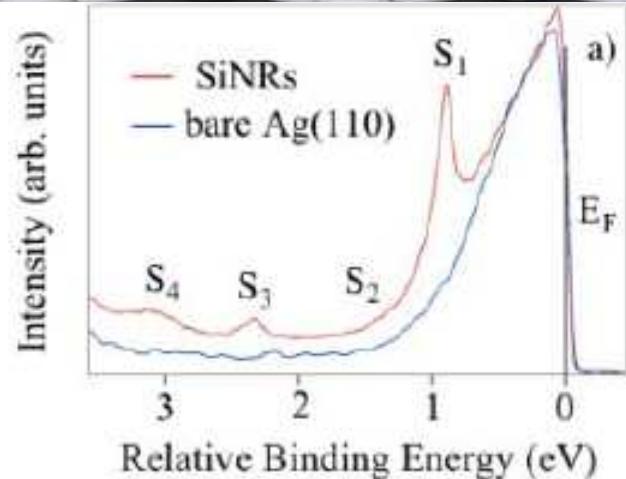
↓  
Two Si environments



**Silicene sheet:**

**Electronic properties**

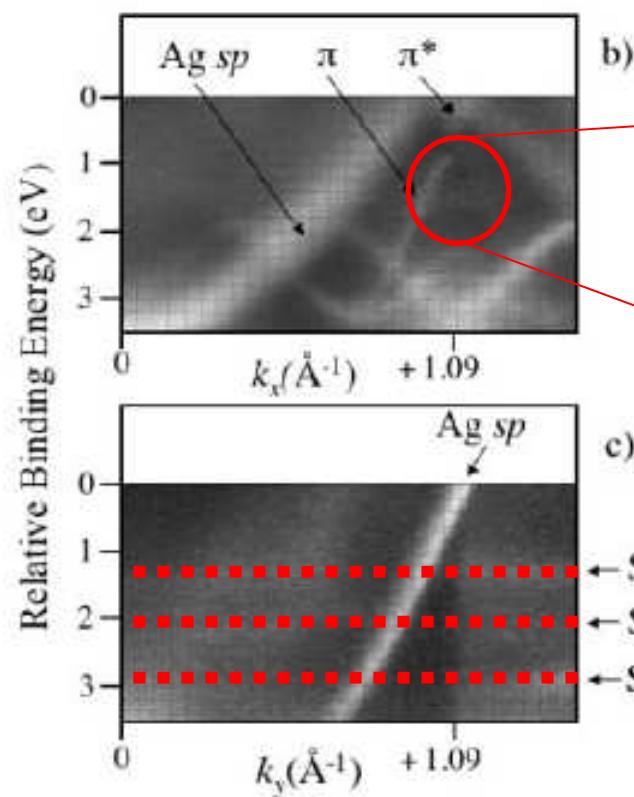
**Dirac cone or no Dirac cone**



New electronic states  
→ Quantum Confinement

**Si/Ag(110)**

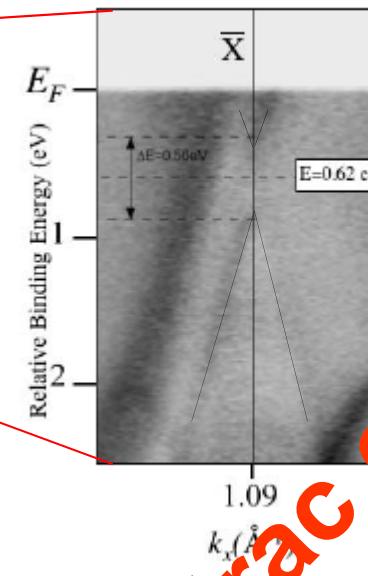
The silicon band dispersion along the direction of the nano-ribbons shows the Dirac cone like graphene



Dispersion along the nanoribbons

Dispersion perpendicular to the nanoribbons

← S1  
← S2  
← S3



De. Padova et al. Appl. Phys. letters, 96, 261905 (2010)

Dirac cone



Si/Ag(111)

## Electronic properties (HRPES)

(4x4) superstructure

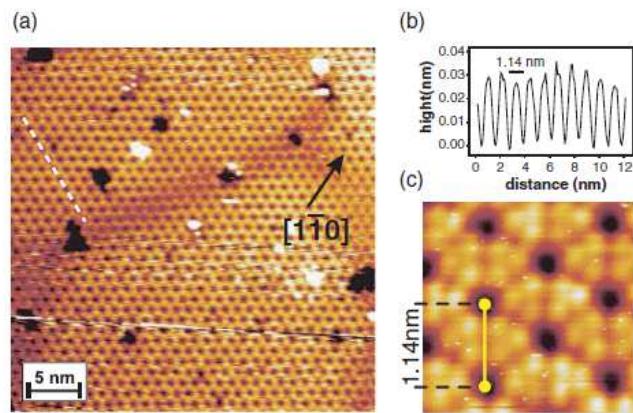
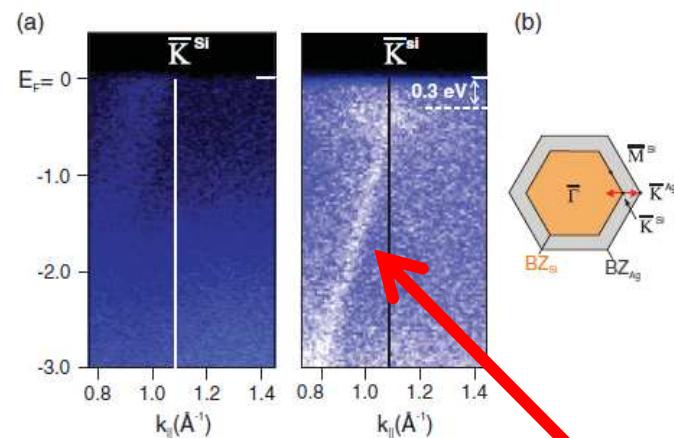


FIG. 2 (color). (a) Filled-states STM image of the 2D Si layer on Ag(111)-(1×1) ( $U_{\text{bias}} = -1.3$  V,  $I = 0.35$  nA). Clearly visible is the honeycombed structure. (b) Line profile along the dashed white line indicated in (a). The dark centers in the STM micrograph are separated by 1.14 nm, corresponding to twice the Ag(111) lattice constant, in agreement with the (4×4) symmetry. (c) High-resolution STM topograph (3×3 nm,  $U_{\text{bias}} = -1.3$  V,  $I = 0.35$  nA) of the Si adlayer.

Dirac cone

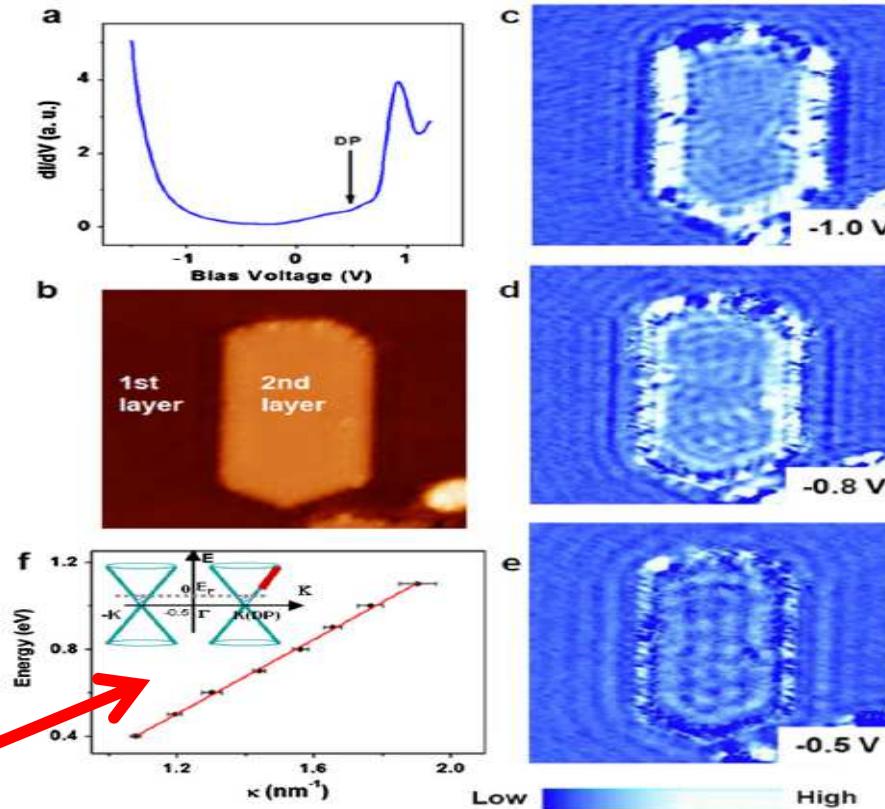


Linear dispersion



**Si/Ag(111)**

**Electronic properties (STS)**



**Linear dispesion**

FIG. 4 (color online). (a)  $dI/dV$  curves taken at 77 K. The position of the DP is labeled. (b) The STM image ( $40 \text{ nm} \times 40 \text{ nm}$ ) of the 1 ML silicene surface containing an island of second layer taken at tip bias  $-1.0 \text{ V}$ . (c), (d), and (e)  $dI/dV$  maps of the same area as (b) taken at tip bias  $-1.0$ ,  $-0.8$ , and  $-0.5 \text{ V}$ , respectively. (f) Energy dispersion as a function of  $\kappa$  for silicene determined from the wavelength of QPI patterns. The inset shows a schematic drawing of the overall band structure, with the relative location of the DP,  $E_F$ , and our data points [red (thick gray) line].

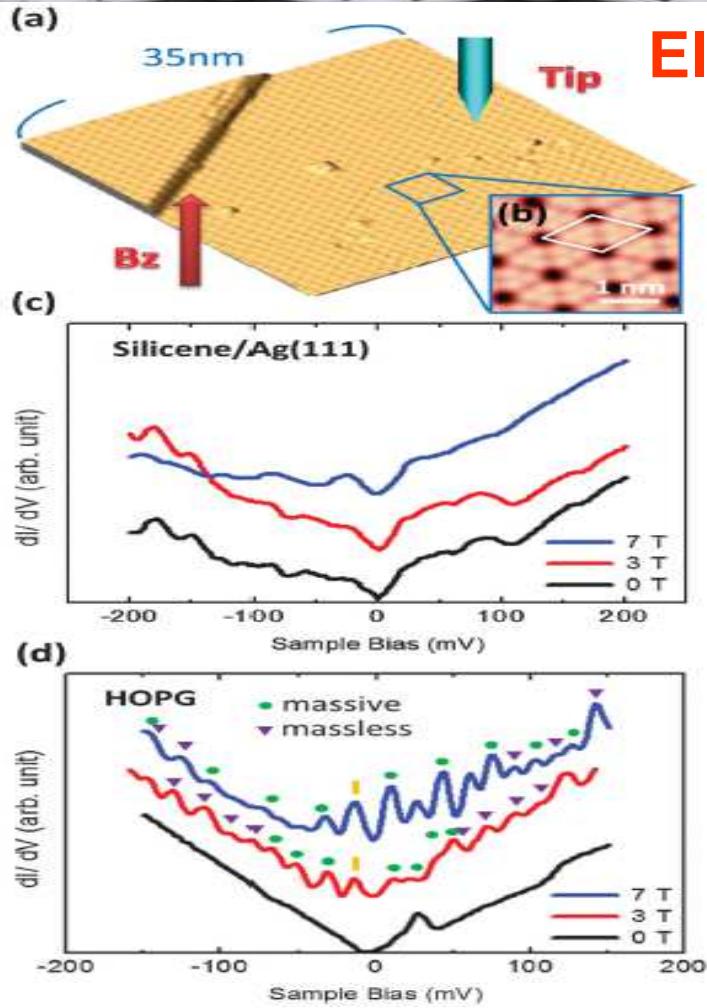
**Dirac Cone**



**Si/Ag(111)**

**Silicene sheet:**

**Electronic properties (STS)**



**Dirac cone**

FIG. 1 (color). (a) STM image of large area of silicene (sample bias voltage  $V_s = -0.70$  V and tunneling current  $I_t = 0.19$  nA. The image size is  $35 \times 35$  nm $^2$ .) (b) High resolution STM image of the  $4 \times 4$  silicene ( $V_s = +0.50$  V and  $I_t = 0.30$  nA,  $3.65 \times 3.65$  nm $^2$ ). The unit cell is shown by the white rhombus. (c) The STS spectra of silicene for various magnetic fields perpendicular to the sample surface,  $B_z$ . (d) The STS spectra of HOPG for various  $B_z$ . The purple triangles and green circles show the peaks originating from the LLs of massless and massive Dirac fermions, respectively. The  $n = 0$  LL is marked by the yellow star and the  $n = 1$  LL of massive Dirac fermions is not clearly resolved in 3 T due to low magnetic field.

**No linear dispersion !!!**



# Silicene sheet:

**Si/Ag(111)**

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 87, 245430 (2013)

## Absence of a Dirac cone in silicene on Ag(111): First-principles density functional calculations with a modified effective band structure technique

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We investigate the currently debated issue of the existence of the Dirac cone in silicene on an Ag(111) surface, using first-principles calculations based on density functional theory to obtain the band structure. By unfolding the band structure in the Brillouin zone of a supercell to that of a primitive cell, followed by projecting onto Ag and silicene subsystems, we demonstrate that the Dirac cone in silicene on Ag(111) is destroyed. Our results clearly indicate that the linear dispersions observed in both angular-resolved photoemission spectroscopy [P. Vogt *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **108**, 155501 (2012)] and scanning tunneling spectroscopy [L. Chen *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **109**, 016804 (2012)] come from the Ag substrate and not from silicene.

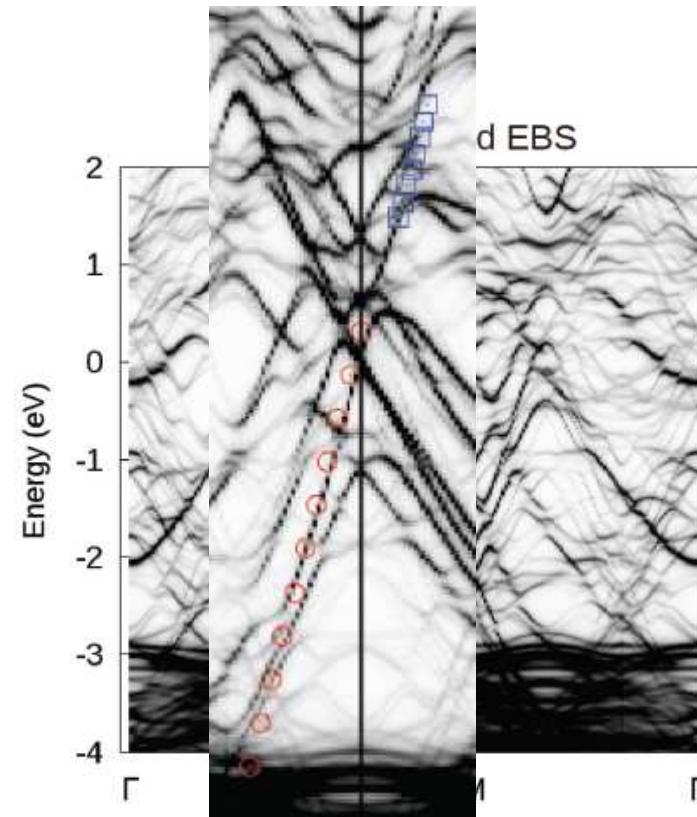
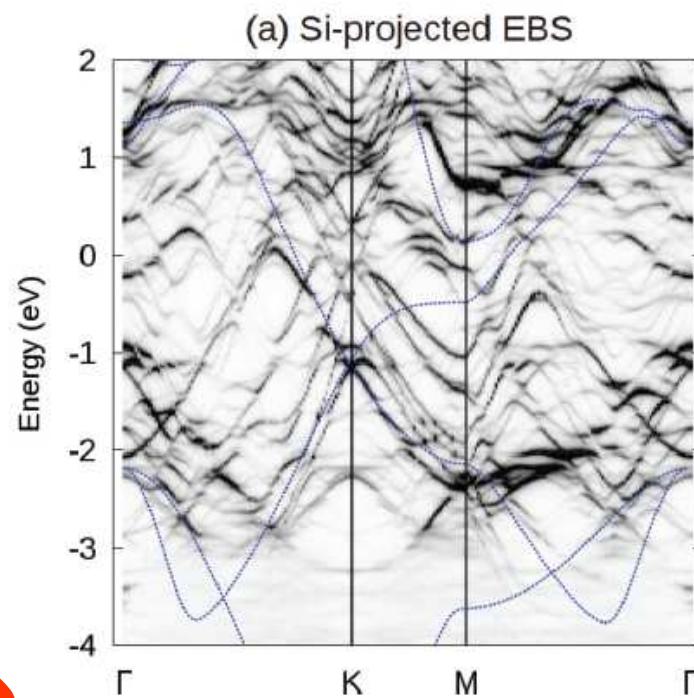
No Dirac cone

Y. Peng *et al.* Phys. Rev. B. 87 245430 (2013)



# Silicene sheet:

**Si/Ag(111)**

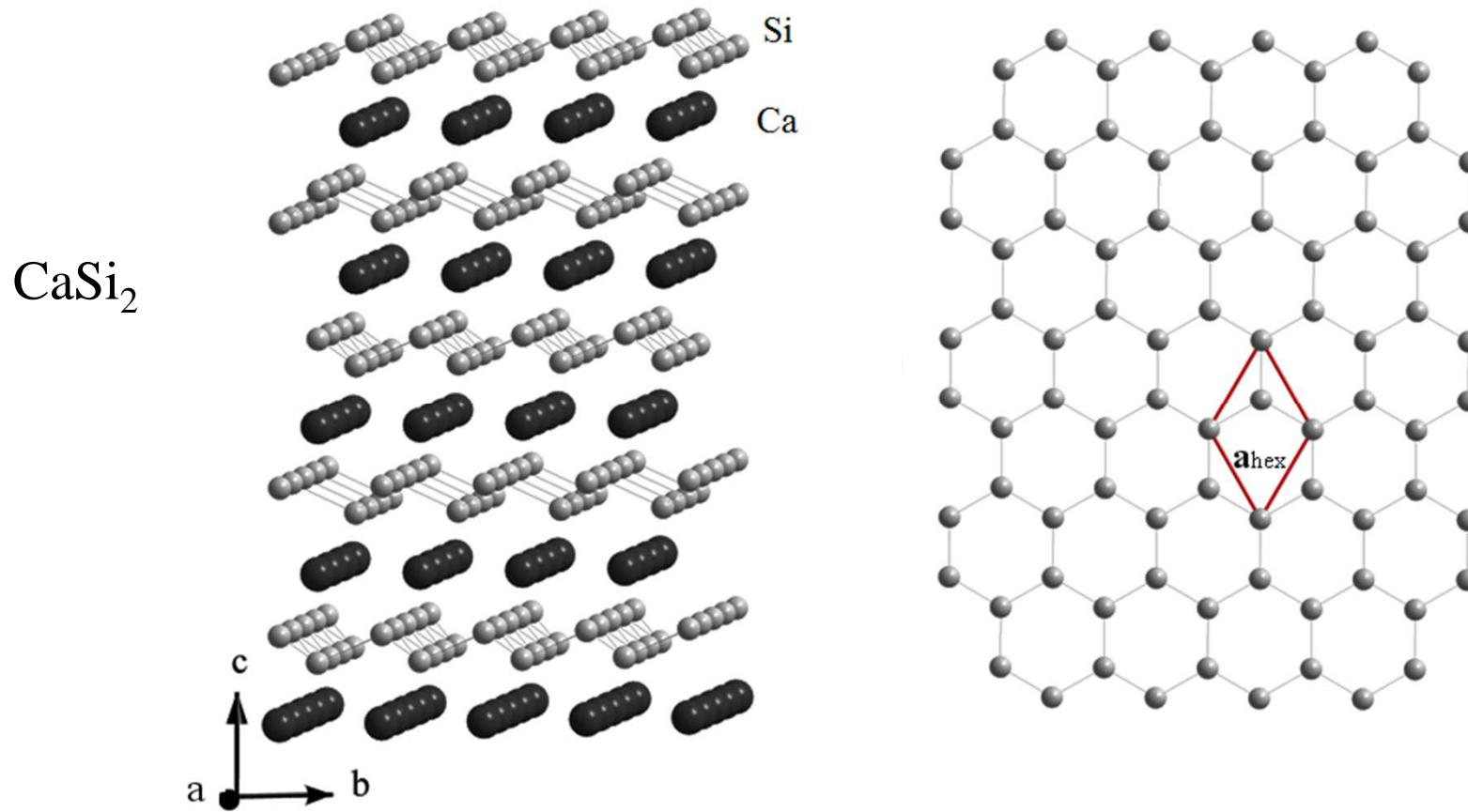


**NO Dirac cone**

FIG. 2. (Color online) Si- and Ag-projected effective band structure (EBS) of the silicene-Ag system. (a) Si-projected effective band structures, with band structure of standalone low-buckled silicene plotted as blue dashed lines. Note that the band structure of low-buckled silicene was shifted downward by 1.1 eV. (b) Ag-projected effective band structures with experimental observed linear dispersions (red circles: measurements from Ref. 7, blue squares: measurements from Ref. 8).



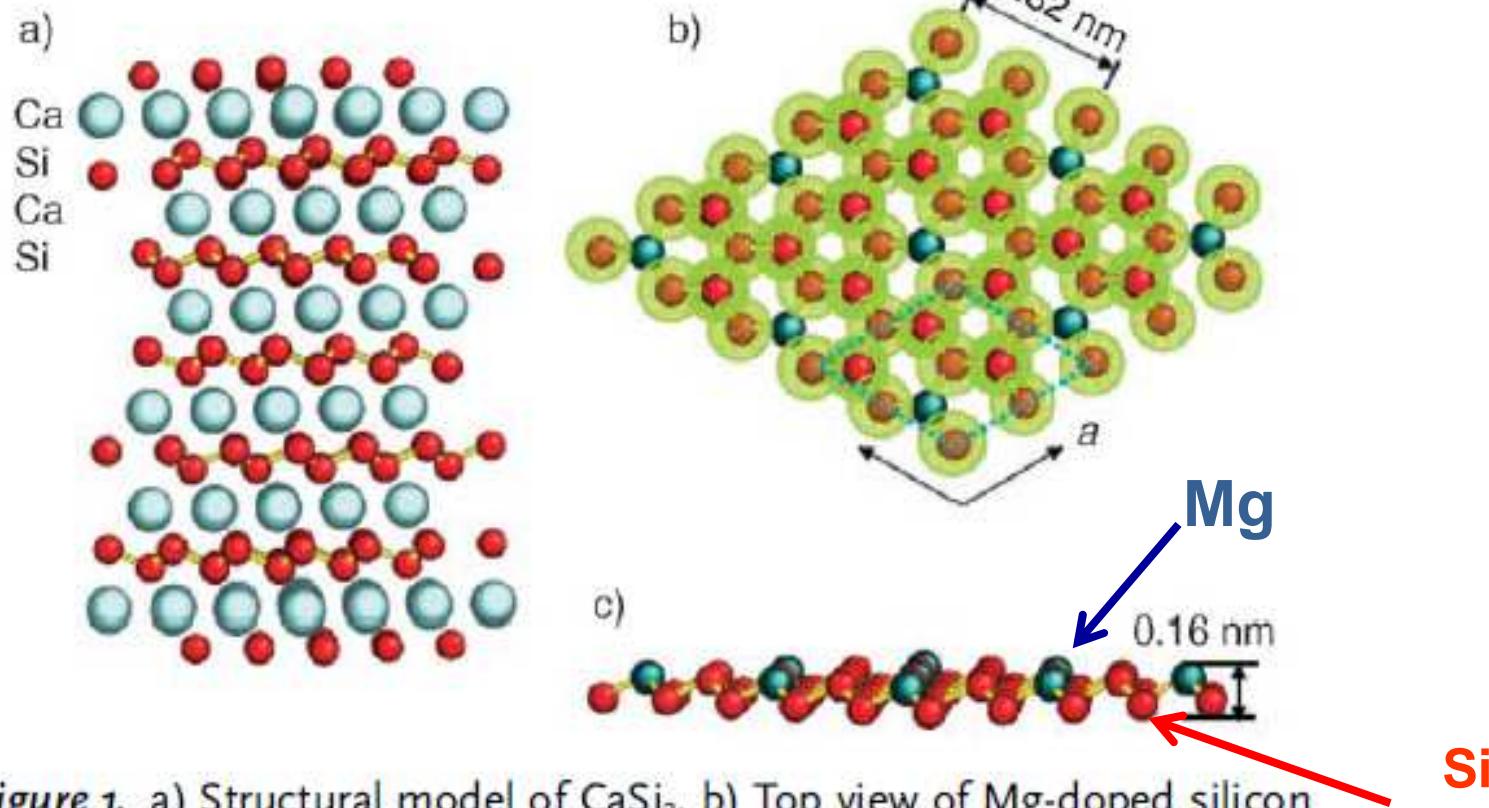
## Chemical Synthesis





# Future challenges

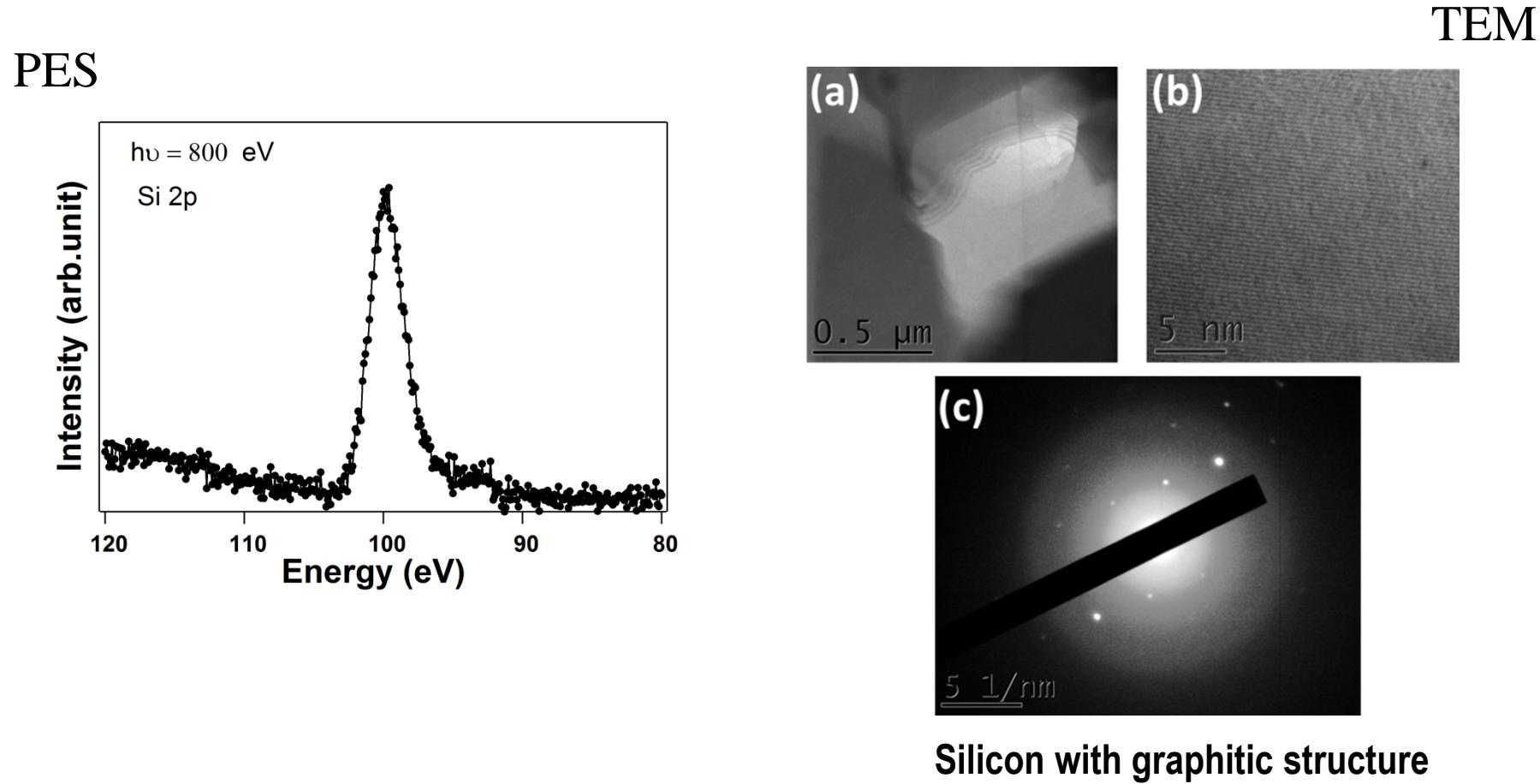
## Chemical Synthesis



*Figure 1.* a) Structural model of  $\text{CaSi}_2$ . b) Top view of Mg-doped silicon sheet capped with oxygen; the axis notation follows that for the hexagonal crystal structure of the parent layered silicon. c) Side view of the core of the silicon sheet; the large yellow-green circles represent oxygen atoms, small red (Si) and green (Mg) circles represent the  $\text{Si}(111)$  plane in the layer below.



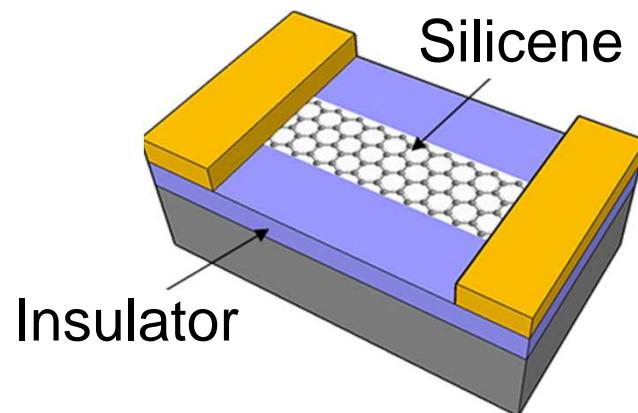
## SILICON SHEETS BY REDOX ASSISTED CHEMICAL EXFOLIATION





## Silicene growth and transferability

- How to grow silicene on large scale-area on insulators ?
- Can we control the interaction of silicene with its supporting substrate for transferability ?
- Synthesis by chemical methods ?





- Experimental evidence of Silicene on different substrates (Nano-ribbons and sheet)
- Electronic properties of silicene still under debate



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