

# Lecture 8

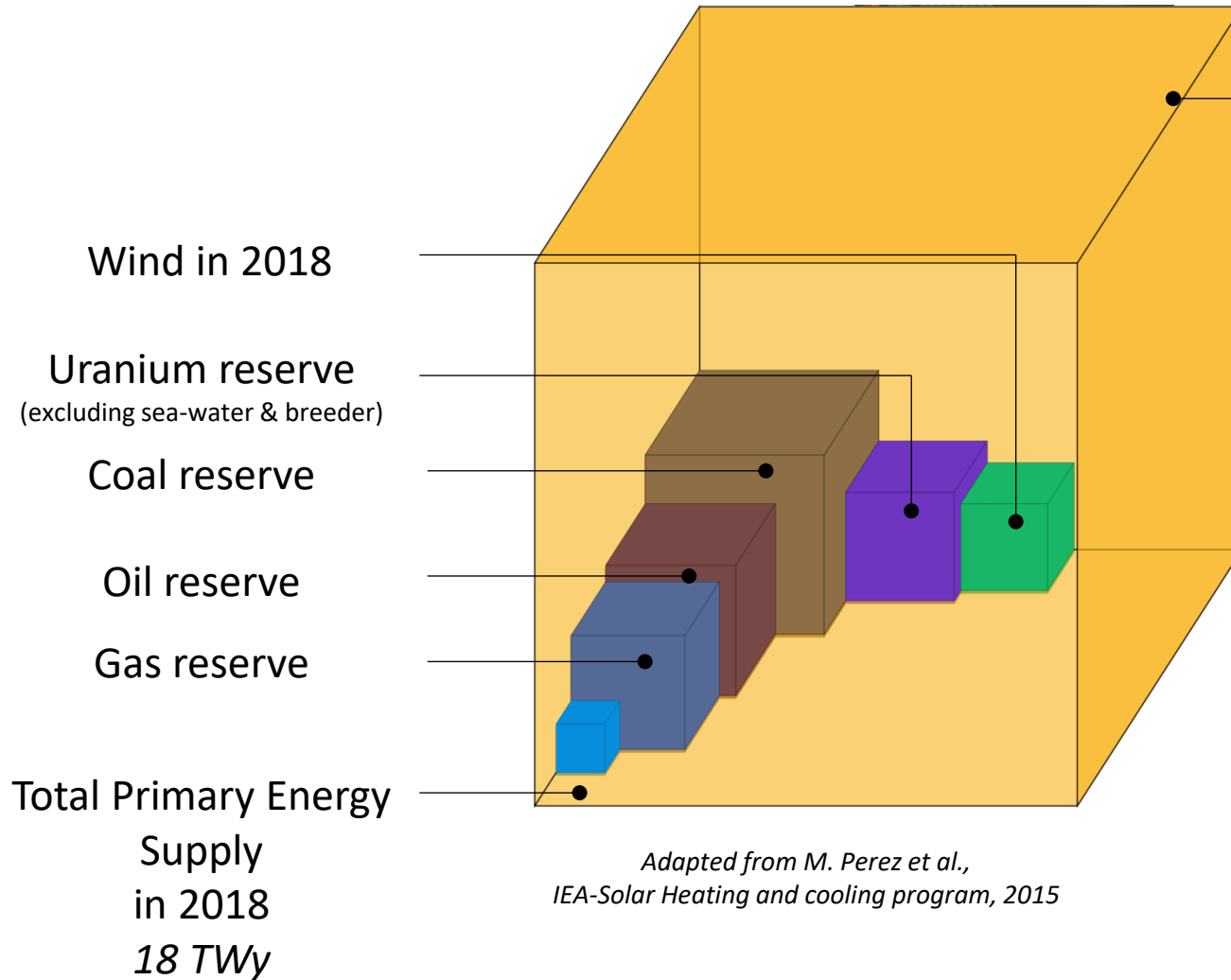
## Solar energy

PHY 555 – Energy & Environment

Erik Johnson, Mathieu de Naurois, Daniel Suchet

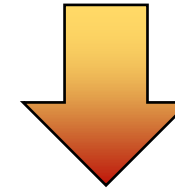


# Why solar?



Solar power in 2018  
 (land only, including weather)  
 23 000 TWy

In France,  
 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup> direct  
 150 W/m<sup>2</sup> on average  
 (day/night, clouds & rain...)



French electricity production in 2018  
 ⇔  
 15% of road surfaces  
 (including weather & efficiency)

Diffuse, intermittent... certainly !

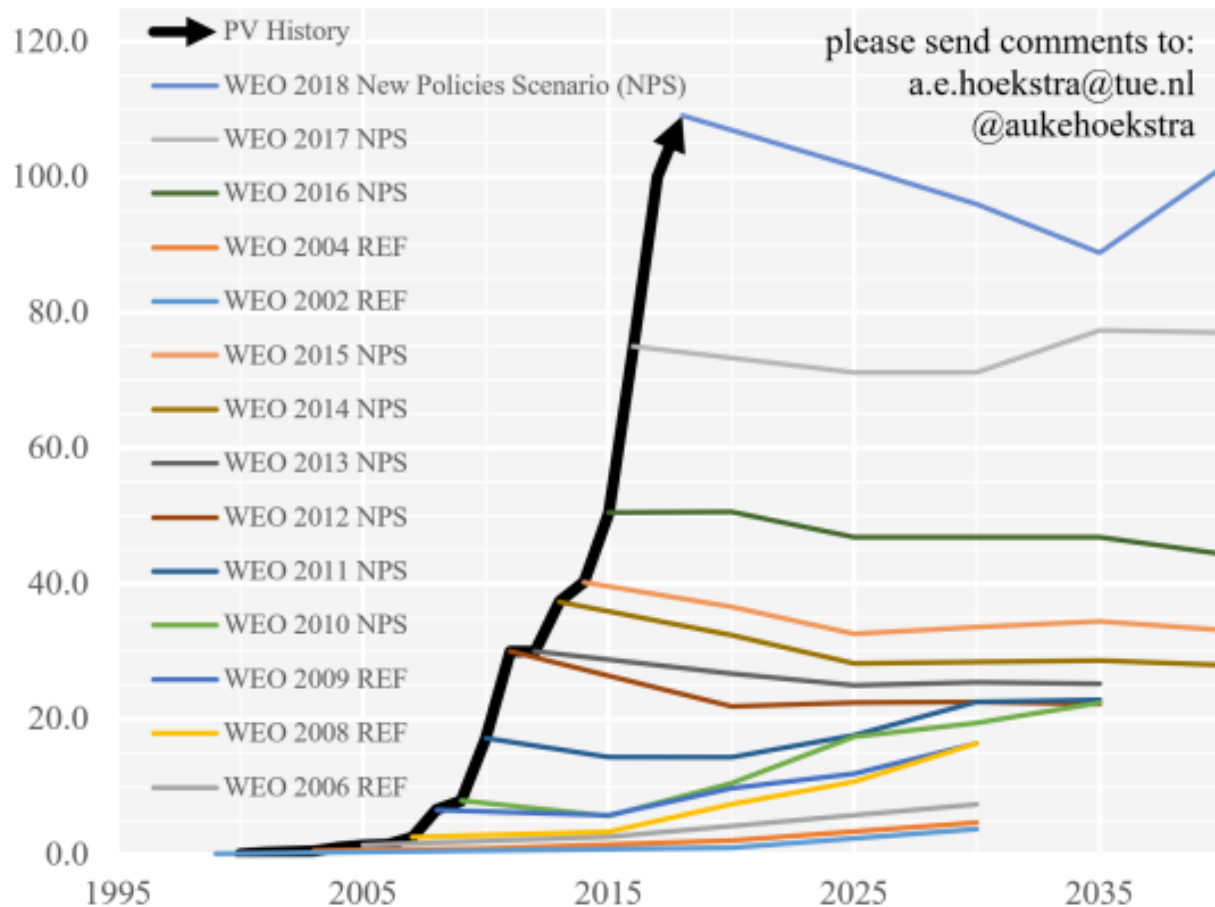
But still an energetic manna !



# The sky is the limit!

## Annual PV additions: historic data vs IEA WEO predictions

In GW of added capacity per year - source International Energy Agency - World Energy Outlook



2020 : 140 GWp installed !

IEA PVPS Global Market Snapshot 2021



Installed / nominal / nameplate / rated capacity  
=  
Maximal power when everything's ok

Actual production =  
Installed capacity  
x  
Load factor  
(PV 15%, wind 20%, thermal 80%)

Always check the units (power? energy?) and the definitions of a quantity under scrutiny !

# I. Solar energy resource

## II. Thermodynamics of solar energy conversion

A. Solar heating

B. Concentrated solar power

C. Photovoltaics

## III. Overview of the silicon PV technology

## IV. PV today and tomorrow



# Solar flux – the usual approach

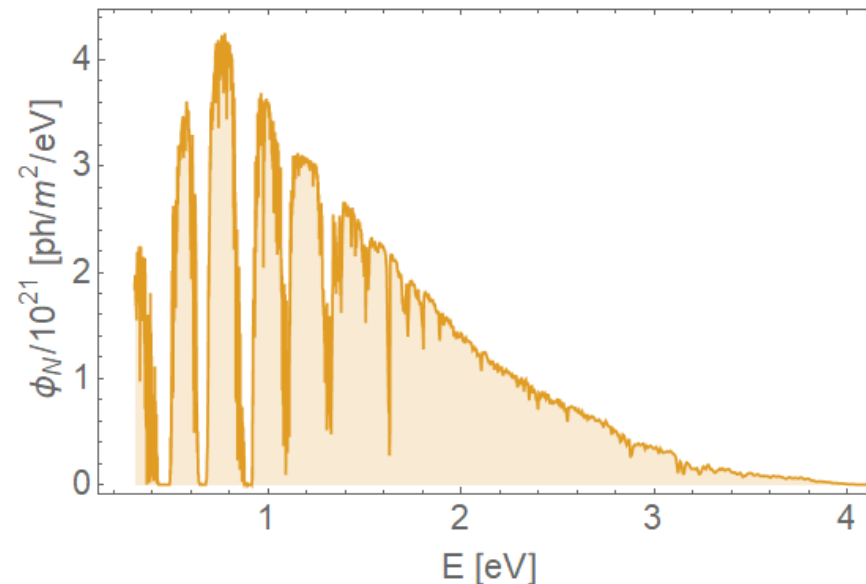
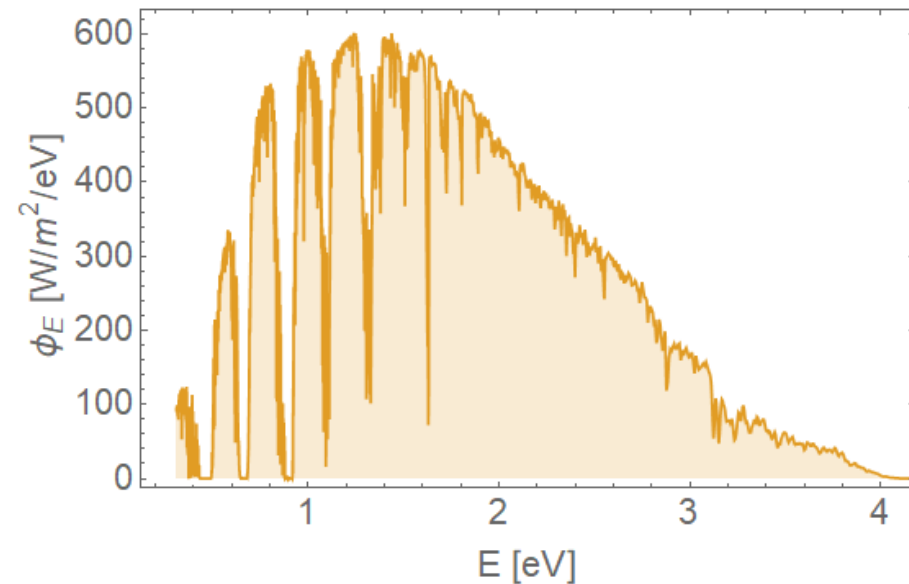
Surface temperature : 6000 K    Emitted power: *Stefan law*     $P_{\odot} = 4\pi R_{\odot}^2 \sigma T^4$

Intensity reaching the Earth :

$$G_{SC} = \frac{P_{\odot}}{4\pi D^2} = \frac{\Omega_{\odot}}{\pi} \sigma T^4 = 1360 \text{ W/m}^2$$

Photon flux reaching the Earth :

$$J_N = 4 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} = 700 \text{ A/q/m}^2$$



# Solar flux – a different approach

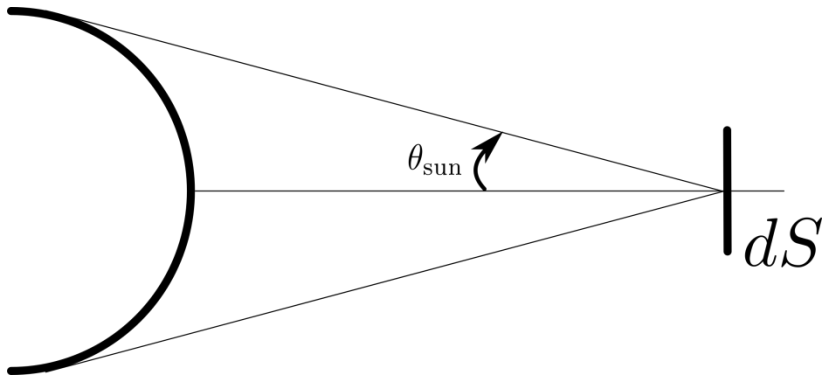
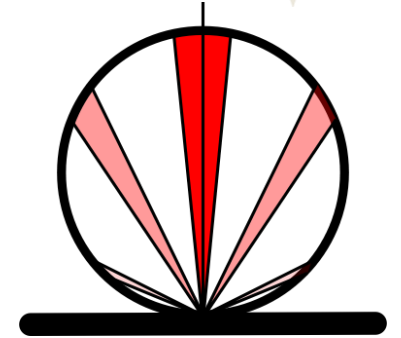


Emitted spectrum : *Planck law*

$$\phi_E(E, \Omega) = \frac{\cos \theta}{4\pi^3 \hbar^3 c^2} \frac{E^3}{\exp\left(\frac{E}{k_B T}\right) - 1}$$

Black body has a **Lambertian** emission

$$\phi_E(\Omega) = \int dE \phi_E(E, \Omega) = \frac{\cos \theta}{\pi} \sigma T^4$$



$$P = \frac{1}{\pi} dS \underbrace{\int \cos \theta d\Omega}_{\text{etendue}} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 = \sin^2 \theta_{\text{sun}} dS \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4$$

The power received by a surface depends on the **optical étendue** of the system

*Low concentration*

*High concentration*

$$\simeq \theta_{\text{sun}}^2 \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

$$\simeq \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

$$\simeq \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

# Solar flux – back on tracks

Surface temperature : 6000 K  $P = \frac{1}{\pi} dS \int \underbrace{\cos \theta d\Omega}_{\text{etendue}} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 = \sin^2 \theta_{\text{sun}} dS \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4$

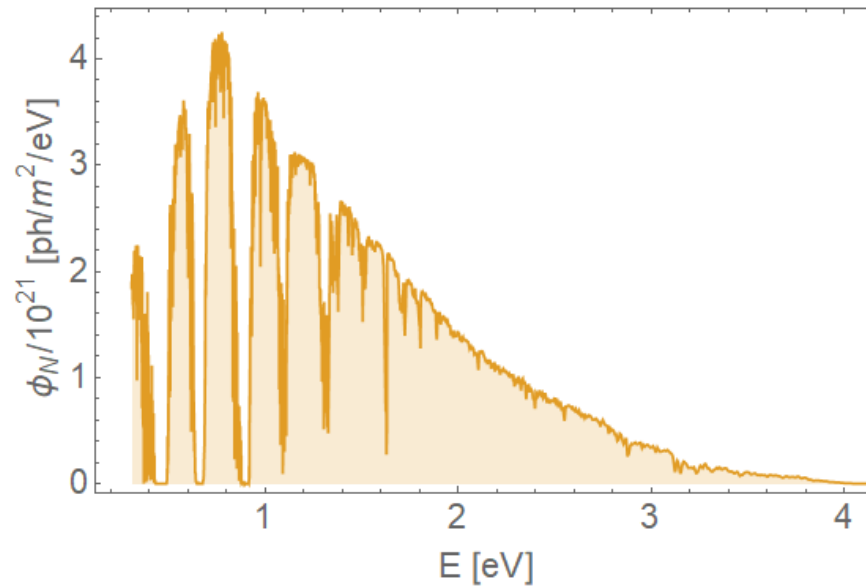
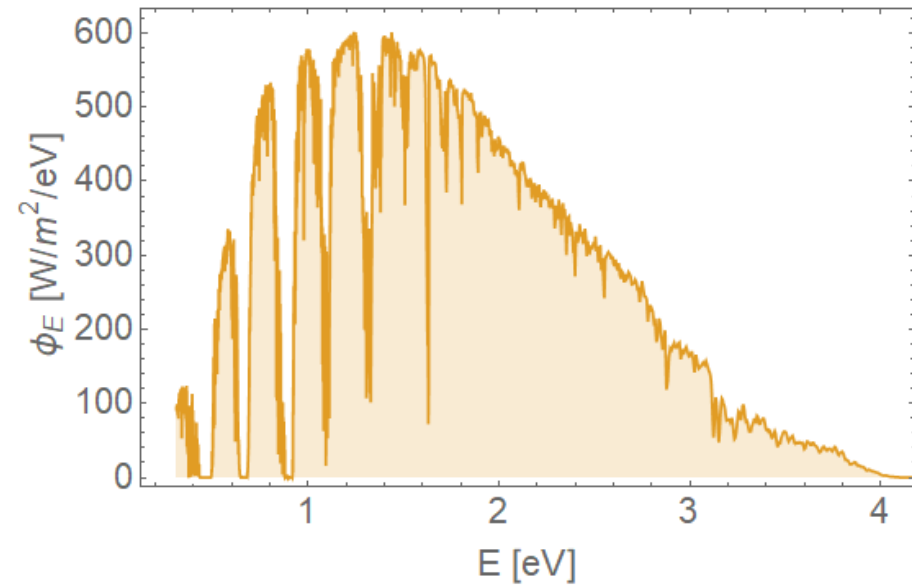
Angular diameter:  $2\theta_{\text{sun}} \simeq 2 \left( \frac{R_{\text{sun}}}{1 \text{ a.u.}} \right) = 0.52^\circ$

Intensity reaching the Earth :

$$G_{\text{SC}} = \sin^2 \theta_{\text{sun}} \times \sigma T^4 = 1360 \text{ W/m}^2$$

Photon flux reaching the Earth :

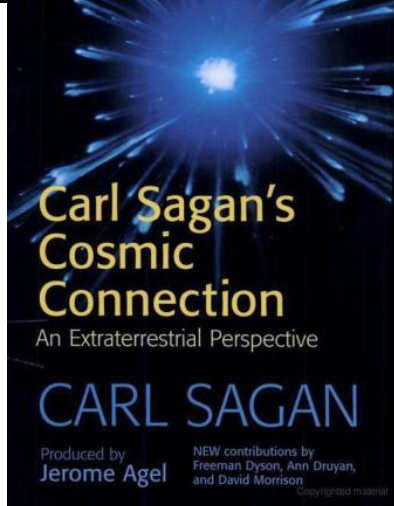
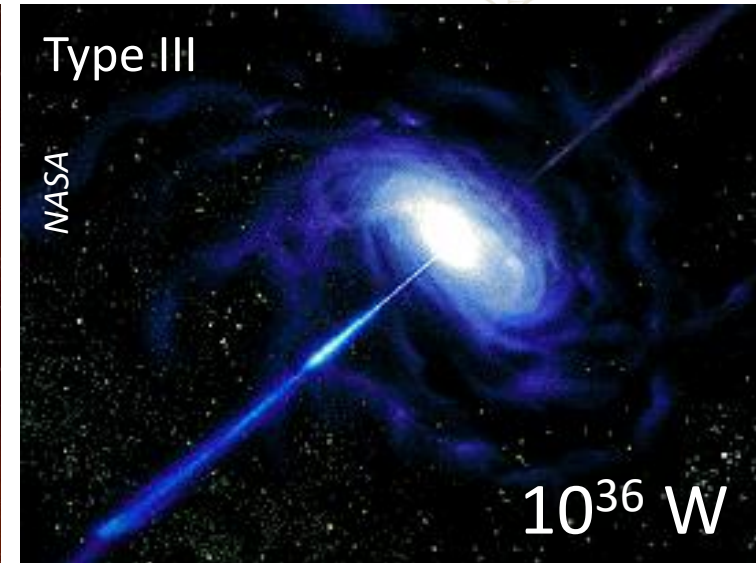
$$J_N = 4 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} = 700 \text{ A/q/m}^2$$



# A little bit of Sci-Fi



## Niklai's Kardashev scale (1964)



In 2015, world consumption  
 $10^{13}$  W

*Type 0.7...*



# Solar radiation on Earth

Intensity reaching the atmosphere :

$$G_{SC} = 1360 \text{ W/m}^2$$

Intensity transmitted through the atmosphere:

$$G_{AM1.5} = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$$

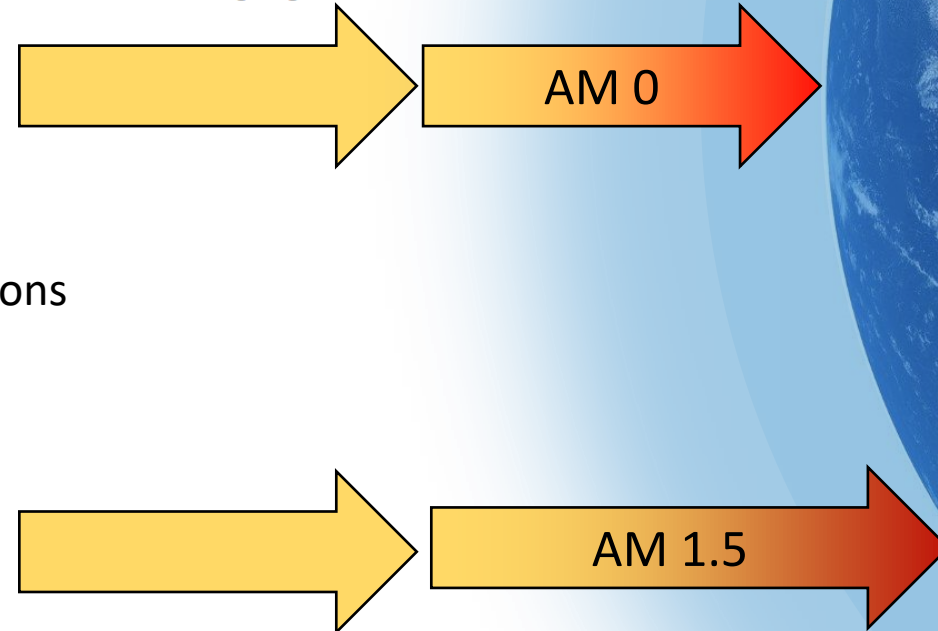
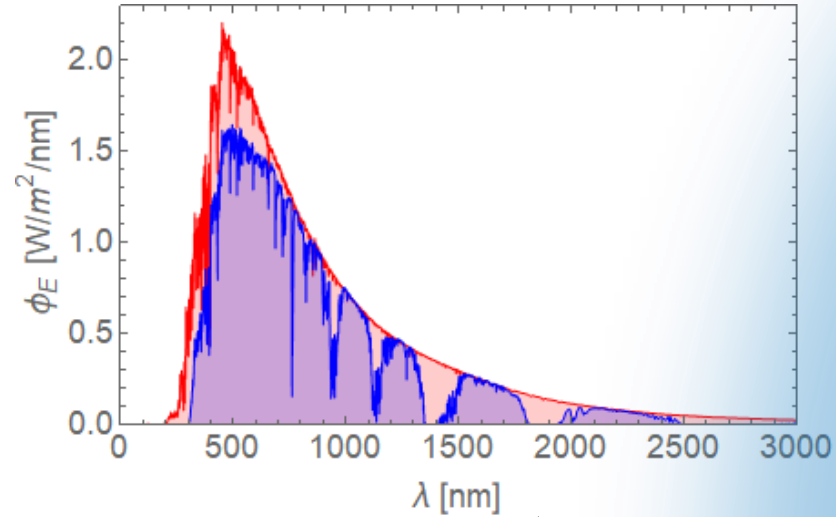
Influence of latitude,

Influence of seasons,

Influence of day-night cycles,

Influence of weather conditions

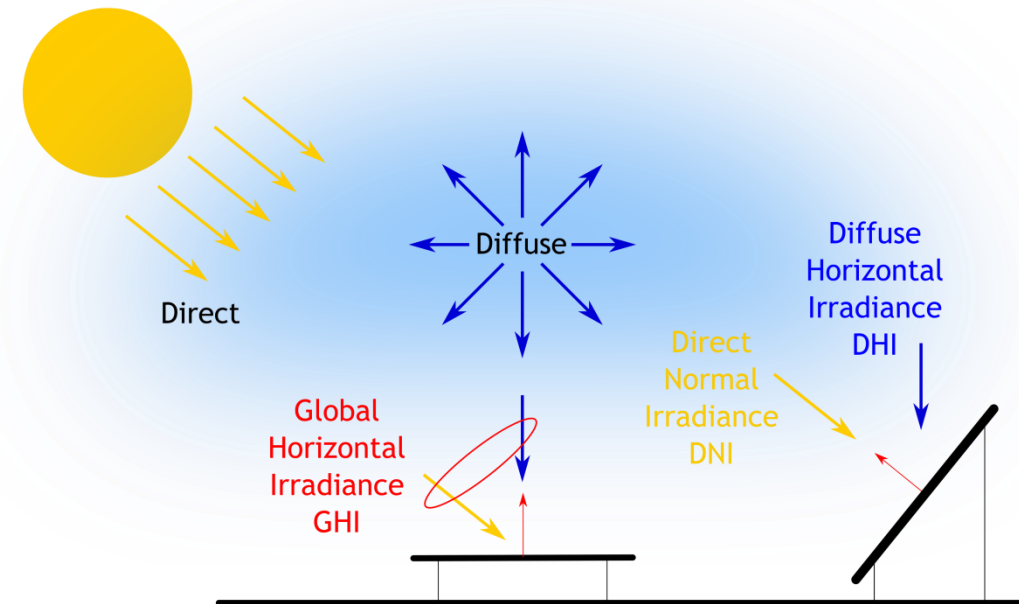
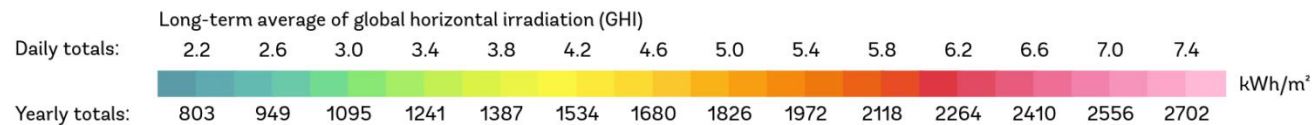
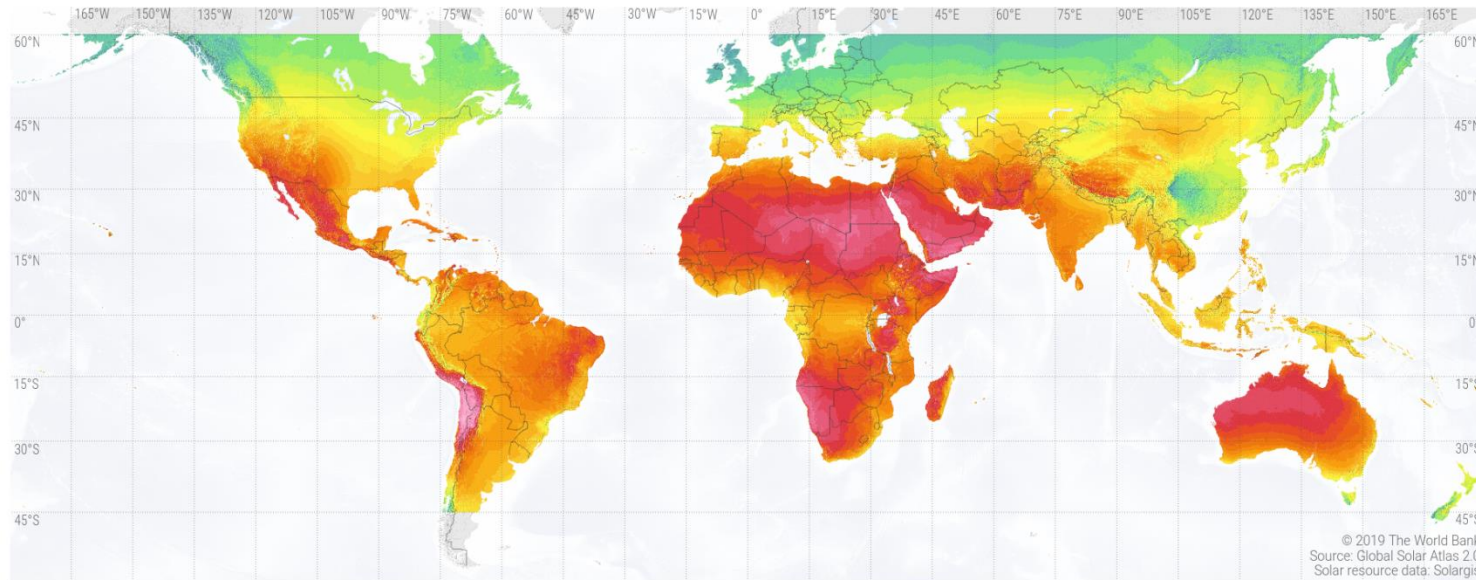
$$\bar{G}_{\text{France}} = 150 \text{ W/m}^2$$



# Spatial distribution of the solar resource

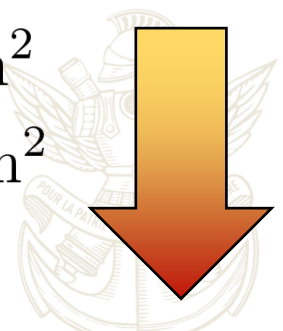


## SOLAR RESOURCE MAP GLOBAL HORIZONTAL IRRADIATION



# Energy transformation

$$\bar{G}_{\text{mean}} = 150 \text{ W/m}^2$$
$$G_{\text{max}} = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$$



To biomass  
**Photo-synthesis**  
1% efficiency



To heat  
**Solar heating (and cooling)**  
80% efficiency

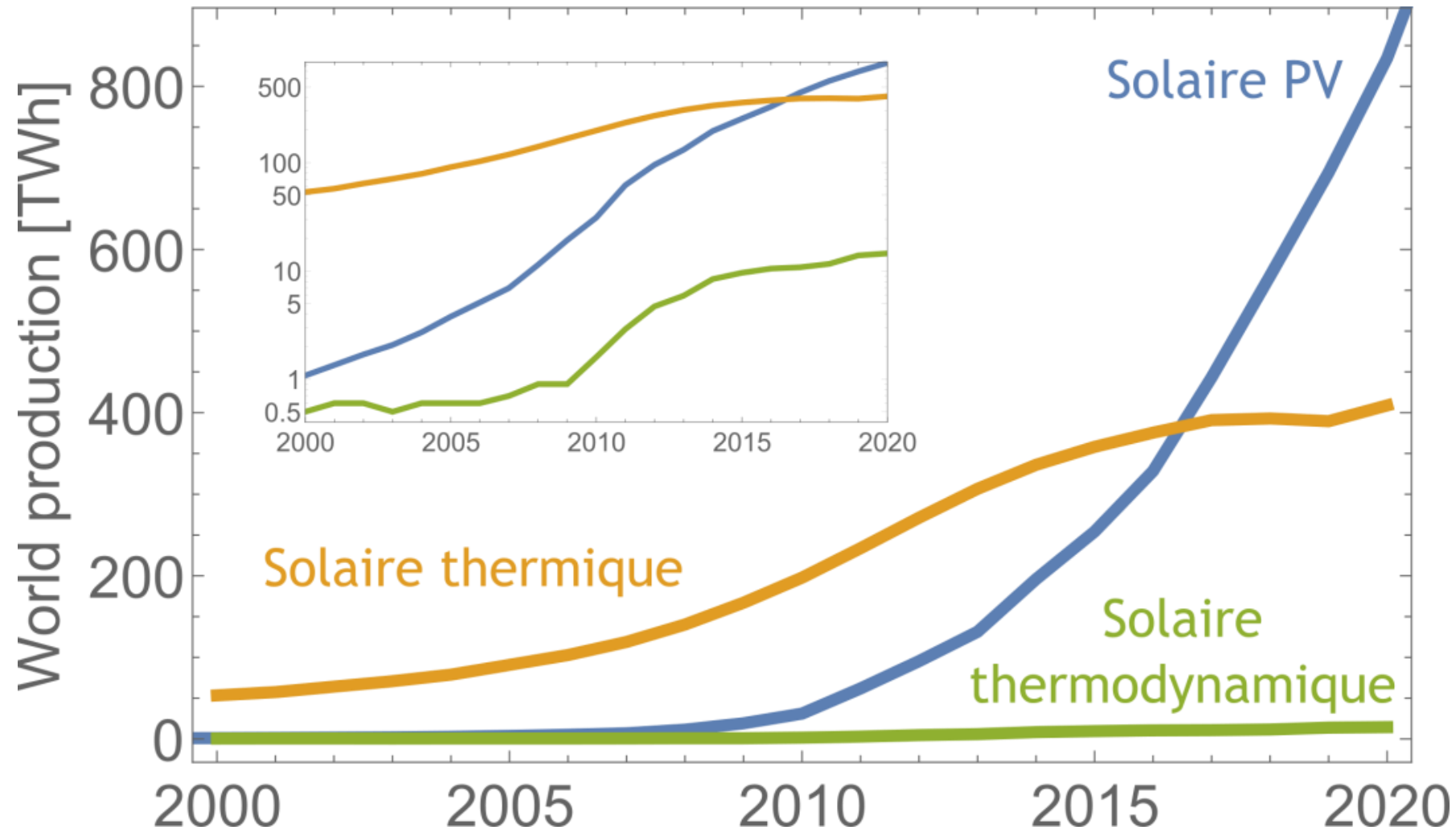


To heat then electricity  
**Concentrated Solar Power(CSP)**  
20% efficiency



To electricity directly  
**Solar Photovoltaics (PV)**  
20% efficiency

# Spoiler alert



Data : IEA, BP statistics

I. Solar energy resource

II. Thermodynamics of solar energy conversion

A. Solar heating

B. Concentrated solar power

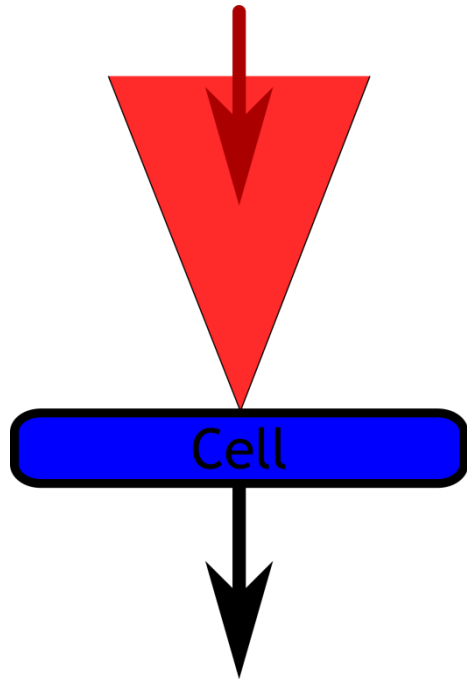
C. Photovoltaics

III. Overview of the silicon PV technology

IV. PV today and tomorrow



# Solar heating



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

Power absorbed from the Sun

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 dS$$

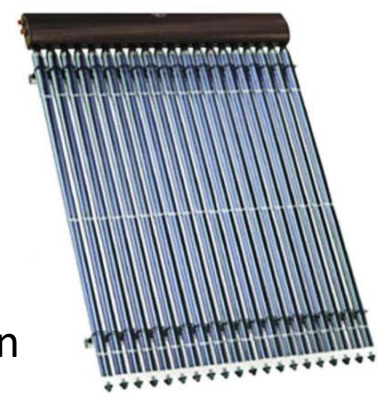
Power radiated by the absorber

Steady state temperature

$$T_{\text{cell}} \leq \left( \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \right)^{1/4} T_{\text{sun}}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{rad}}$$

The remaining power is used for heating



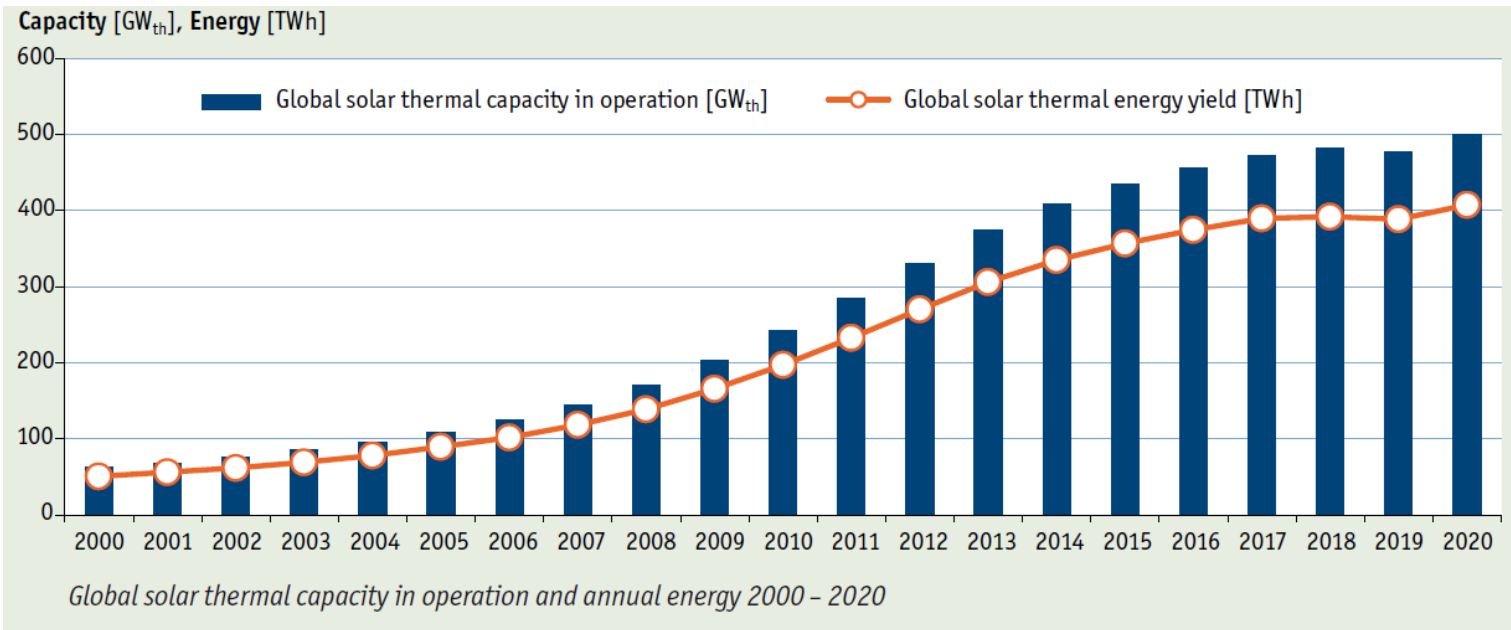
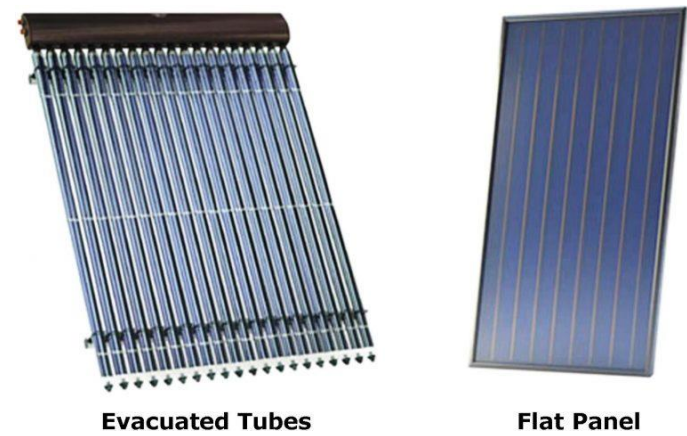
Evacuated Tubes



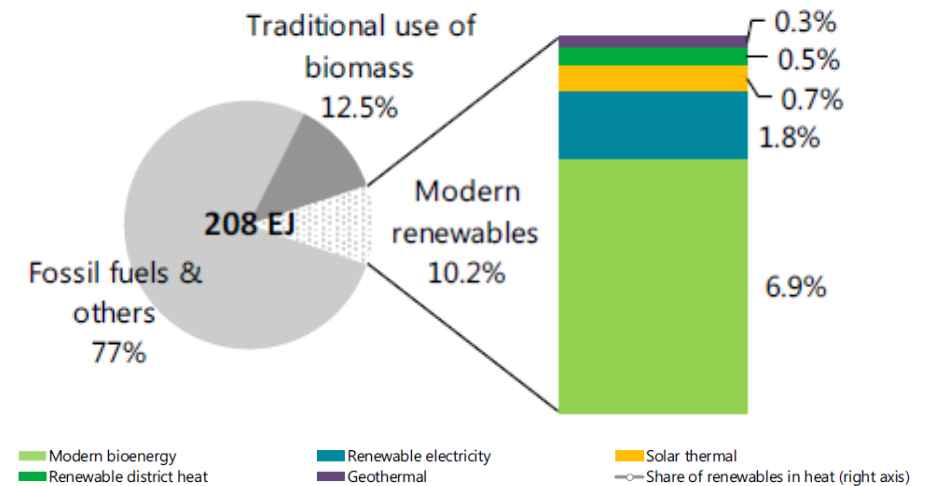
Flat Panel

See PC 8

# Solar heating



Energy source shares in global heat consumption, 2018

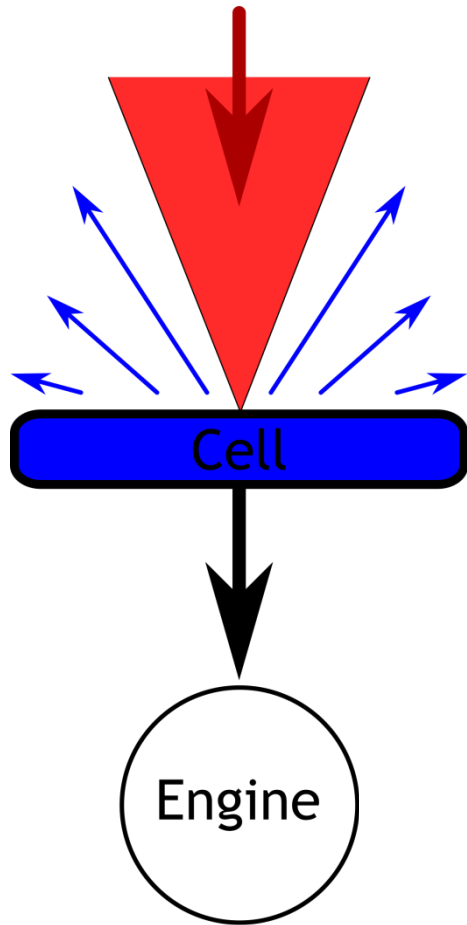


90% used for Domestic Hot Water

IEA (2019). All rights reserved.



# From light to work: the Müzer engine



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

Power absorbed from the Sun

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 dS$$

Power radiated by the absorber

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{rad}}$$

The remaining power is provided to a Carnot Engine

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{out}} = \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \dot{Q}_{\text{in}}$$

Heat must be expelled such that  $S_{\text{in}} = S_{\text{out}}$

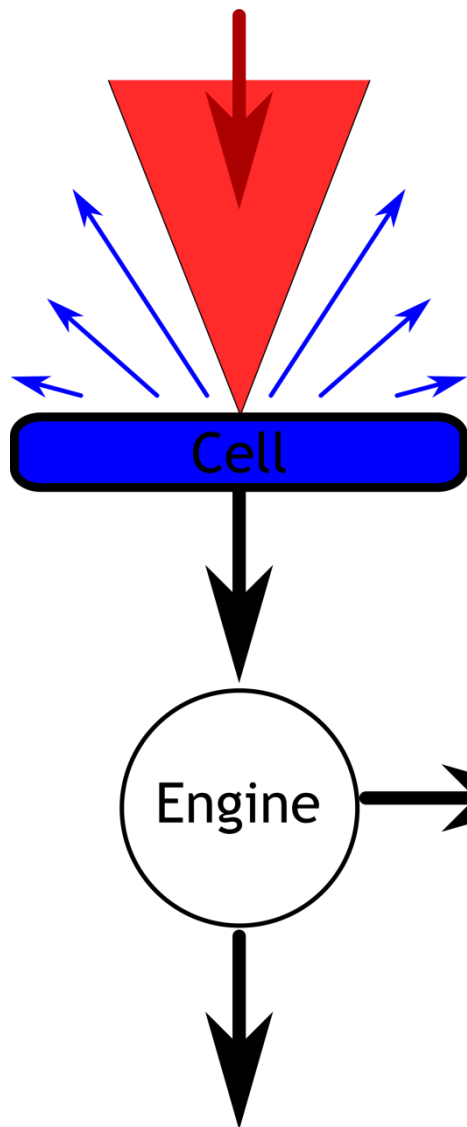
$$\dot{W} = \dot{Q}_{\text{in}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{out}}$$

The remaining power can be converted into work





# From light to work: the Muzer engine



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

Ideal absorber (blackbody) + ideal converter (Carnot) = Muzer engine

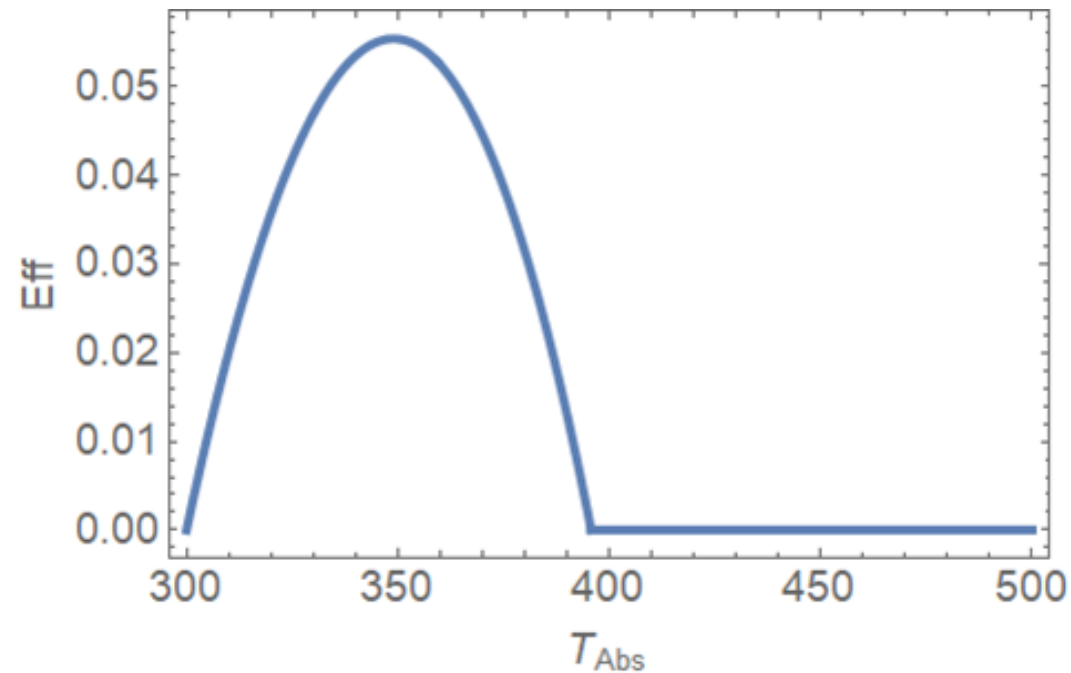
$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 dS$$

$$\frac{\dot{W}}{\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}}} = \left( 1 - \frac{\pi}{\Omega_{\text{sun}}} \frac{T_{\text{cell}}^4}{T_{\text{sun}}^4} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \right)$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{rad}}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{out}} = \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \dot{Q}_{\text{in}}$$

$$\dot{W} = \dot{Q}_{\text{in}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{out}}$$



Bad trade off !

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**B. Concentrated solar power**

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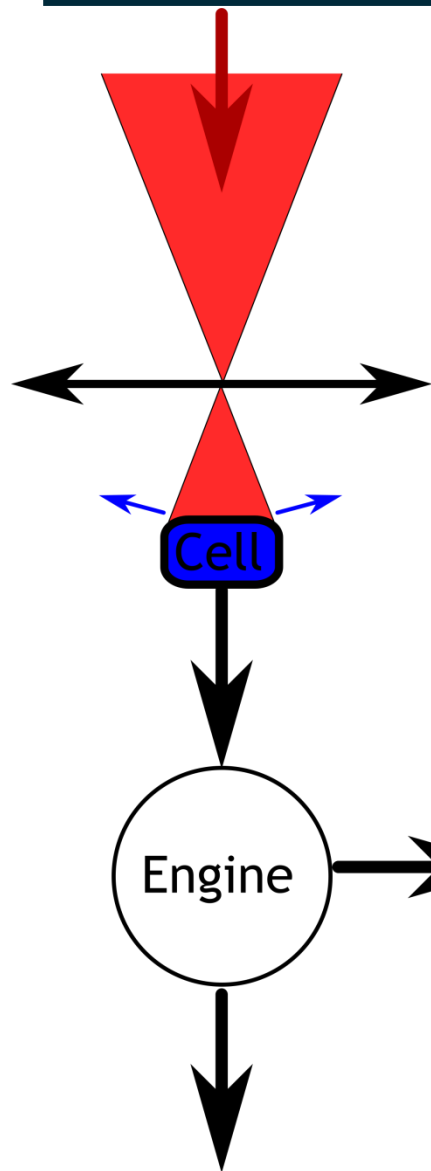
III. Overview of the silicon PV technology

IV. PV today and tomorrow





# Option 1: light concentration



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

Size of the lens

Same power coming from the sun

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 ds$$

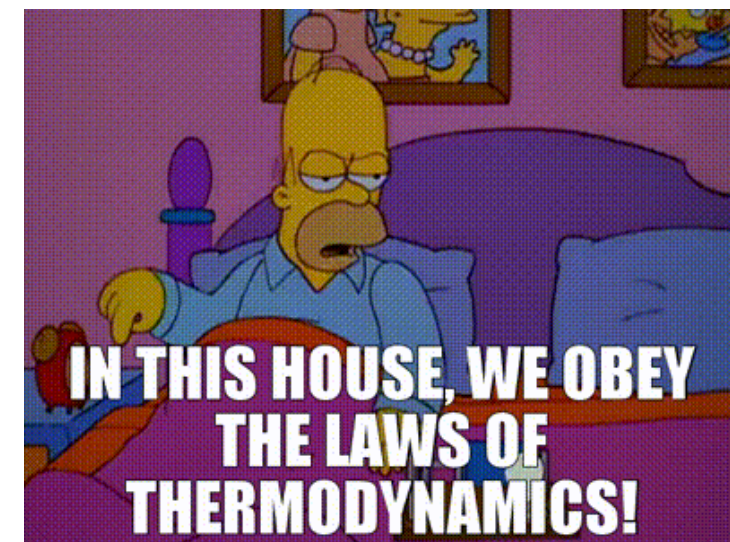
Size of the cell

Smaller absorber  $\rightarrow$  less emission

Size of the cell = size of the image of the Sun through the lens  $ds = f^2 \Omega_{\text{sun}}$

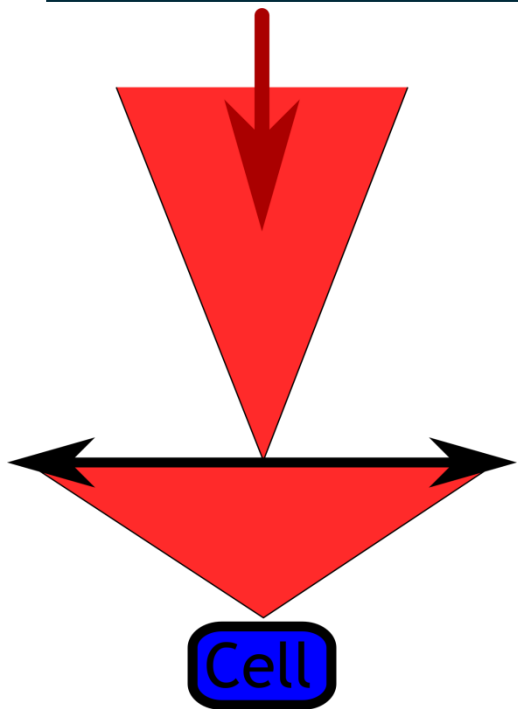
Steady state temperature

$$T_{\text{cell}} \leq \left( \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \frac{dS}{ds} \right)^{1/4} T_{\text{sun}} = \left( \frac{dS}{\pi f^2} \right)^{1/4} T_{\text{sun}}$$





# Optical concentration - solution



You can't make an arbitrarily small image because optical étendue is conserved (or increased) but never reduced

$$\text{étendue} = \sin^2 \theta_{\text{sun}} dS = \text{cste} = \sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}} ds$$

$$ds = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}/\pi}{\sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}}} dS$$

Low concentration

$$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}} \sim \frac{r_{\text{lens}}^2}{f^2}$$

$$ds = f^2 \Omega_{\text{sun}}$$

Large concentration

$$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}} \sim 1$$

$$ds = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} dS$$



## what if?

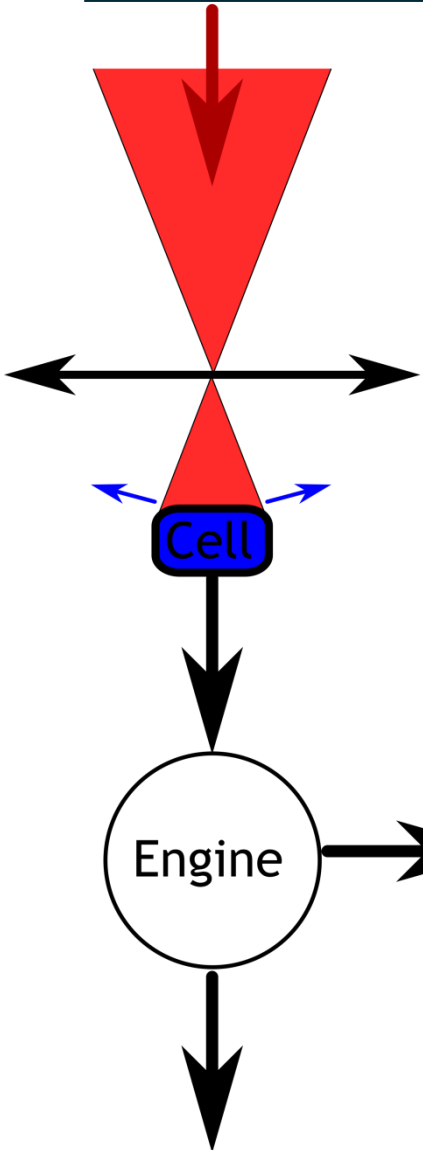
Can you use a magnifying glass and moonlight to light a fire?

$$T_{\text{cell}} \leq \left( \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \frac{dS}{ds} \right)^{1/4} T_{\text{sun}} = (\sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}})^{1/4} \times T_{\text{sun}} \leq T_{\text{sun}}$$

$$\text{Concentration factor} \quad 1 \leq \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta_{\text{lens}}} \leq \frac{\pi}{\Omega_{\text{sun}}} = 46\,000$$



# Optical concentration



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

Power absorbed from the Sun

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 ds = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 \frac{dS}{C}$$

Power radiated by the absorber

$$1 \leq C \leq \frac{\pi}{\Omega_{\text{sun}}} = 46\,000$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{rad}}$$

The remaining power is provided to a Carnot Engine

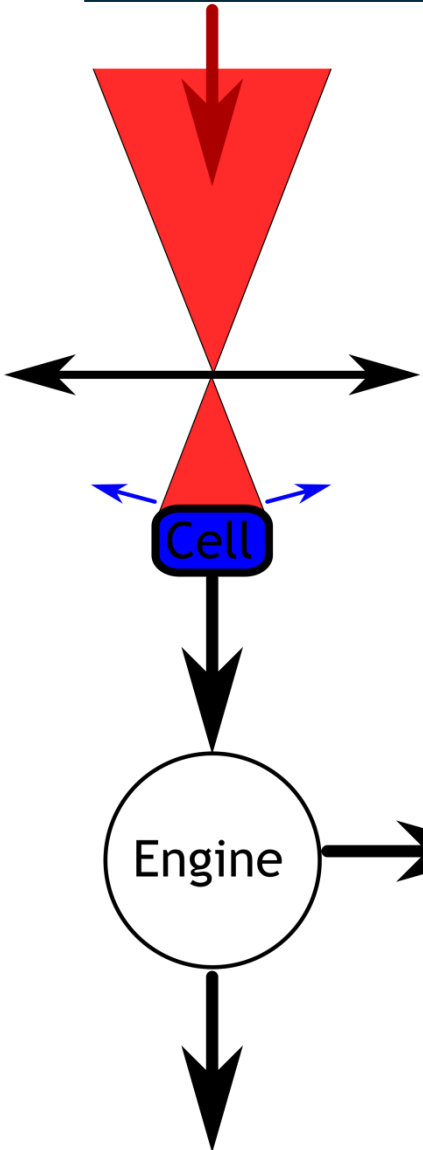
$$\dot{Q}_{\text{out}} = \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \dot{Q}_{\text{in}}$$

Heat must be expelled such that  $S_{\text{in}} = S_{\text{out}}$

$$\dot{W} = \dot{Q}_{\text{in}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{out}}$$

The remaining power can be converted into work

# Concentrated Solar Power = Solar Thermal Electricity



$$\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{sun}}}{\pi} \times \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{rad}} = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 ds = \sigma T_{\text{cell}}^4 \frac{dS}{C}$$

$$1 \leq C \leq \frac{\pi}{\Omega_{\text{sun}}} = 46\,000$$

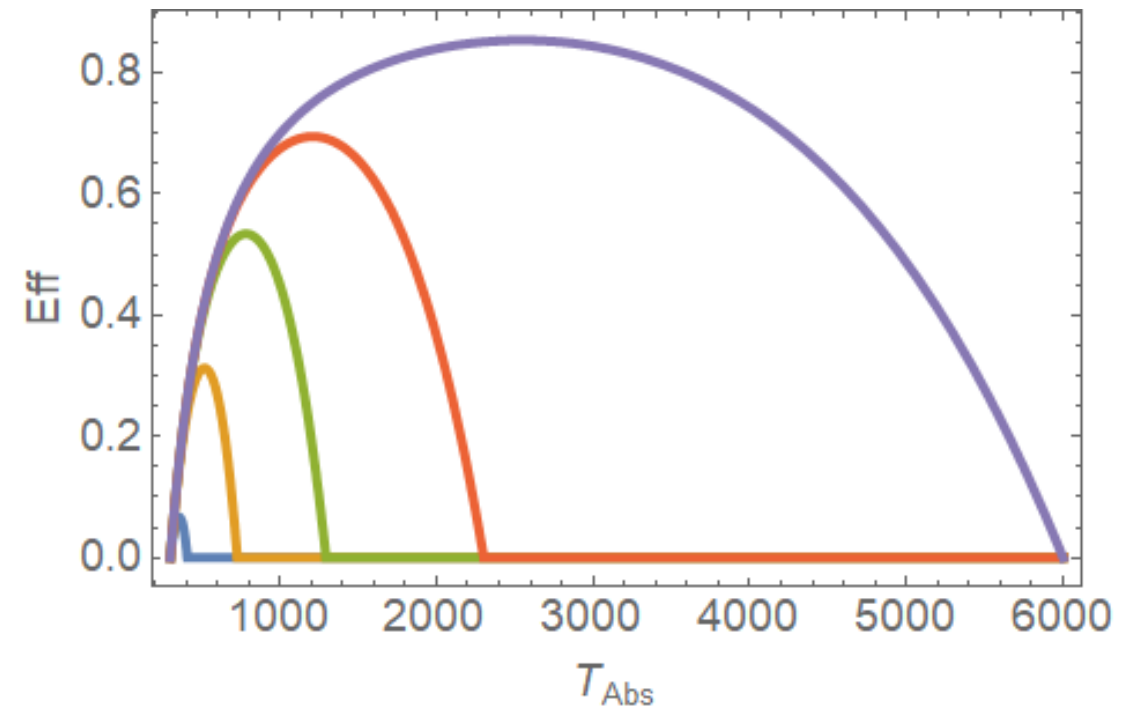
$$\dot{Q}_{\text{in}} = \dot{Q}_{\text{sun}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{rad}}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{\text{out}} = \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \dot{Q}_{\text{in}}$$

$$\dot{W} = \dot{Q}_{\text{in}} - \dot{Q}_{\text{out}}$$

Muzer engine under concentration

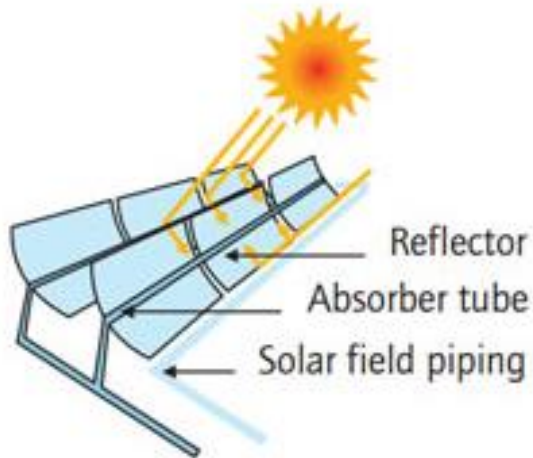
$$\frac{\dot{W}}{\dot{Q}_{\text{sun}}} = \left( 1 - C \times \frac{\pi}{\Omega_{\text{sun}}} \frac{T_{\text{cell}}^4}{T_{\text{sun}}^4} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{T_{\text{atmo}}}{T_{\text{cell}}} \right)$$



# Concentrators technologies

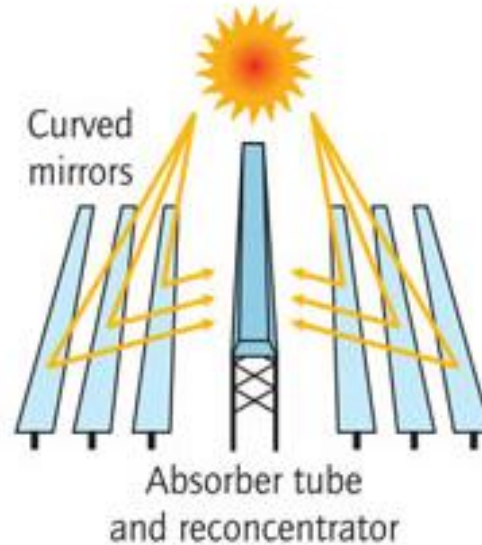


Parabolic trough



$C = 30 - 80$

Linear Fresnel reflector



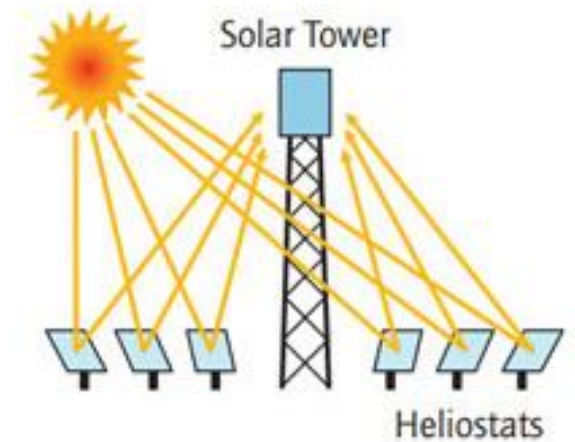
$C = 30 - 80$

Parabolic dish



$C = 1000 - 3000$

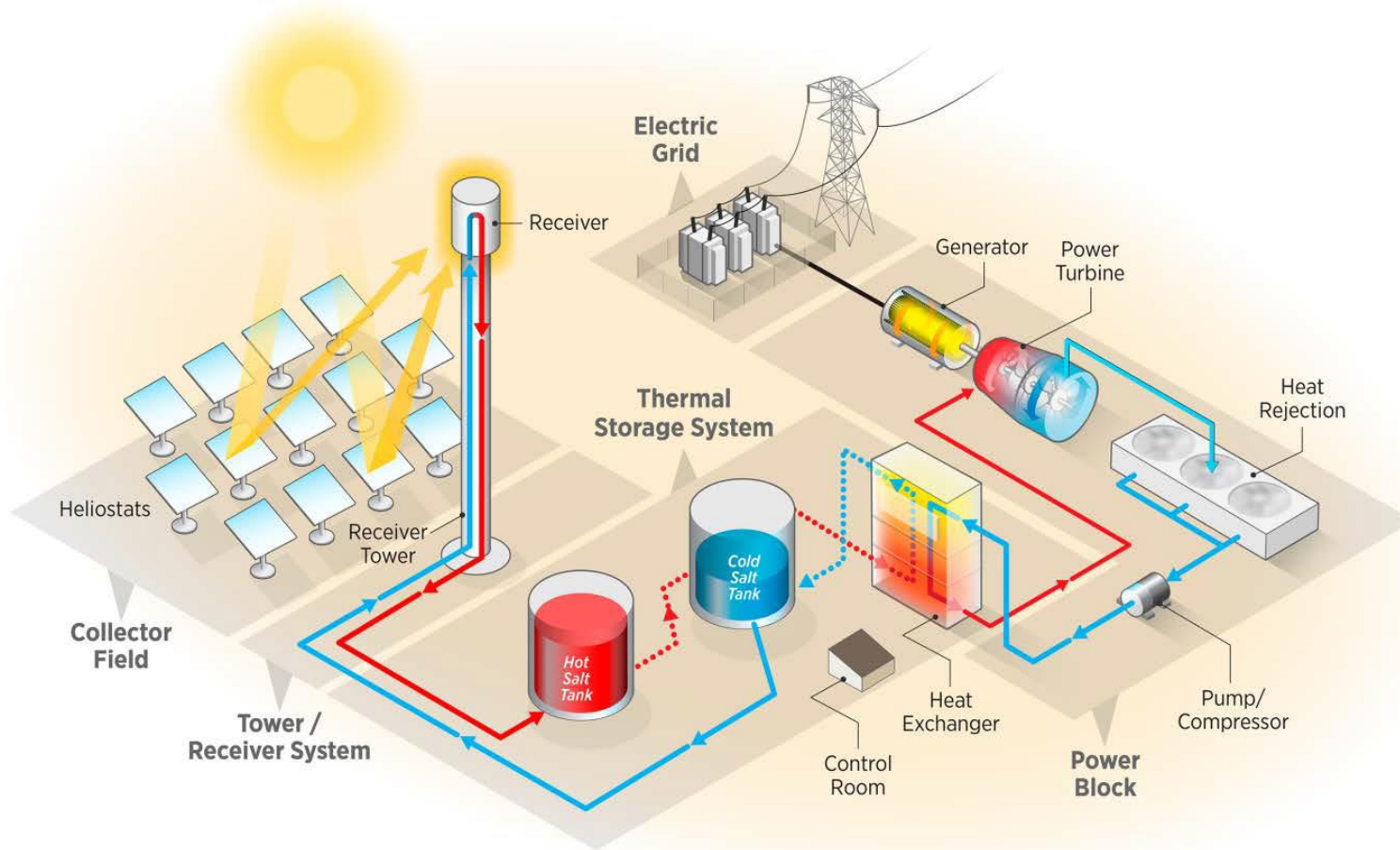
Central receiver



$C = 200 - 1000$

Historical installations : parabolic trough, with no thermal storage  
Current projects : solar tower, with thermal storage

# Concentrated solar power plant



NREL

Built in energy storage (thermal)

No high-tech materials involved  
(mirrors, pipes, turbine, generator)

Pretty impressive powers

Require direct illumination  
(can't concentrate diffuse light)

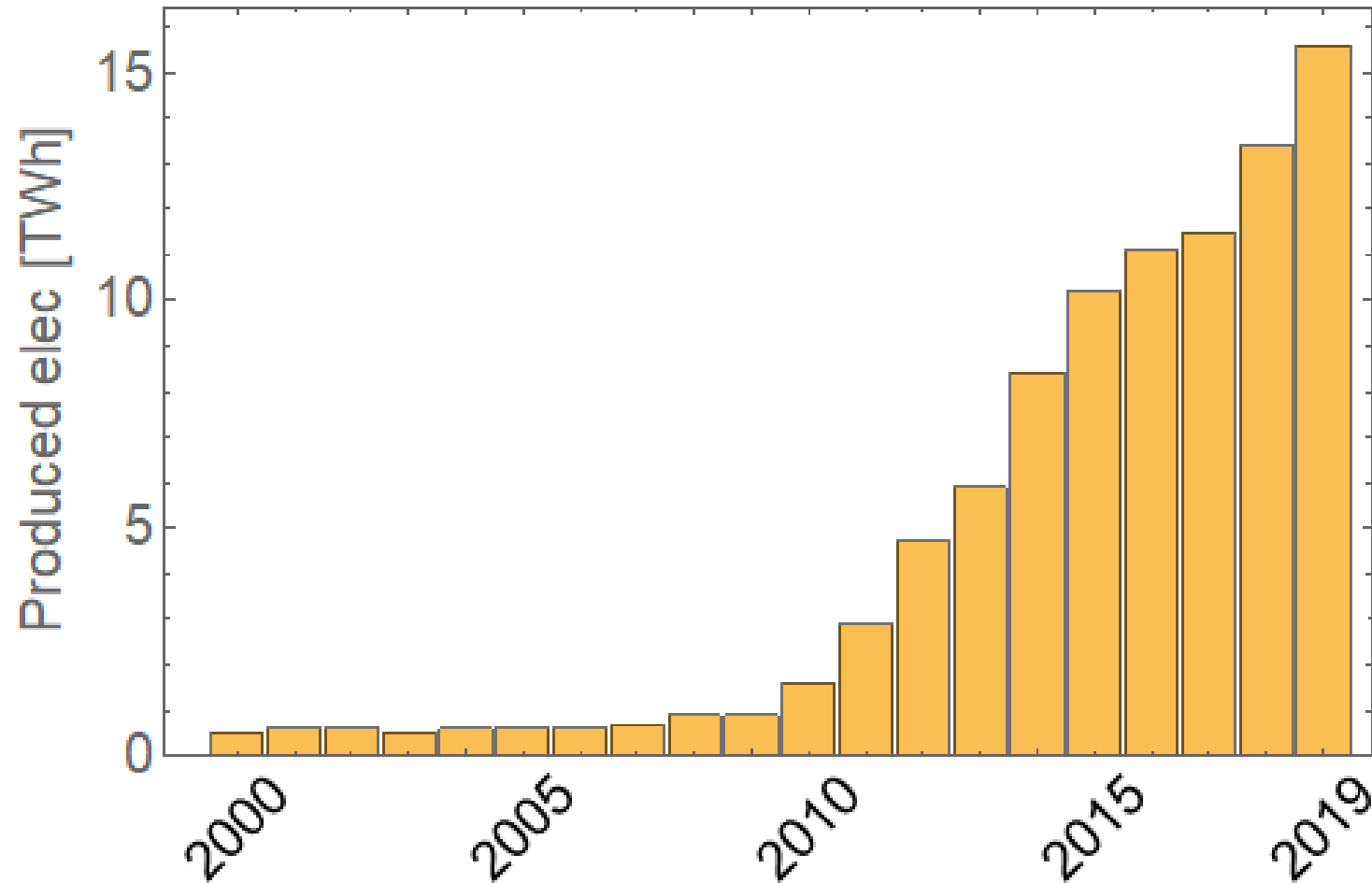
Need tracking (mechanics)

More expensive than solar PV  
(storage **not** included)

Need large installations to optimize infrastructures



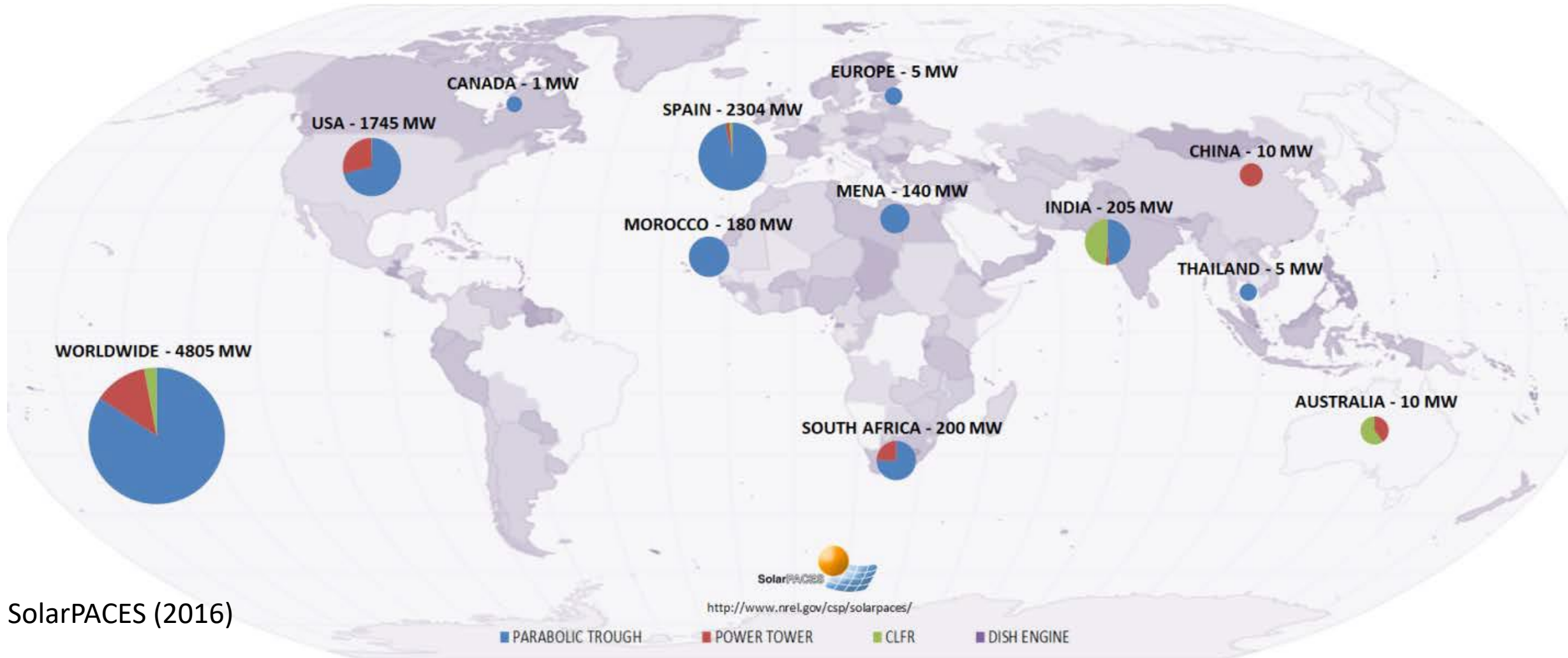
# CSP production



World electricity in 2019 = 26 000 TWh  
Solar electricity = 700 TWh  
CSP = 16 TWh

Installed capacity = 5 GW  
Load factor =  $16/5 * 8.76 = 25\%$

# CSP today



SolarPACES (2016)

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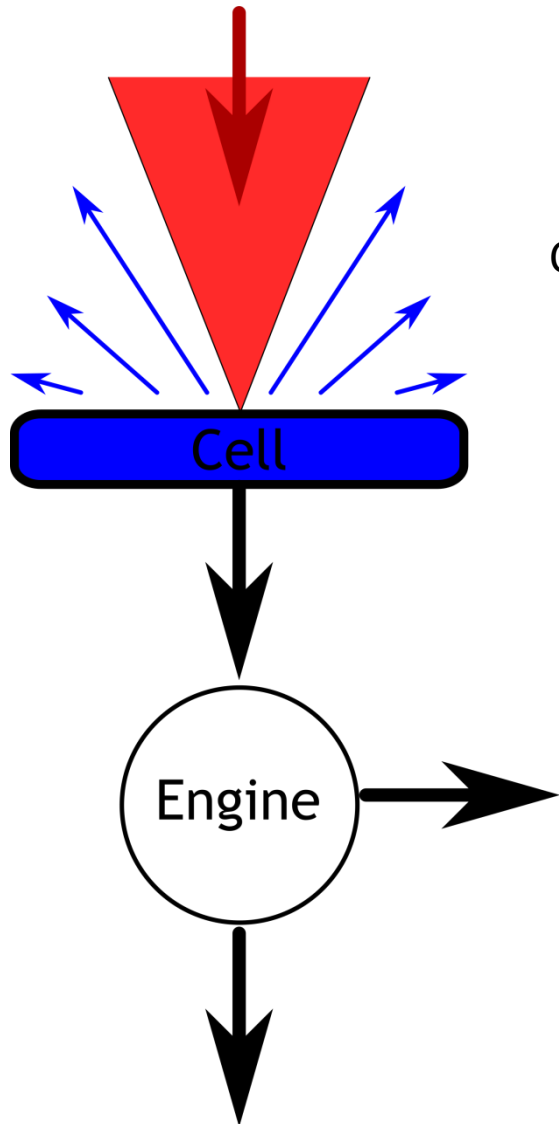
**C. Photovoltaics**

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# Option 2: introduce a gap



Back to the Muzer problem

Can we prevent the cell from emitting radiations ?

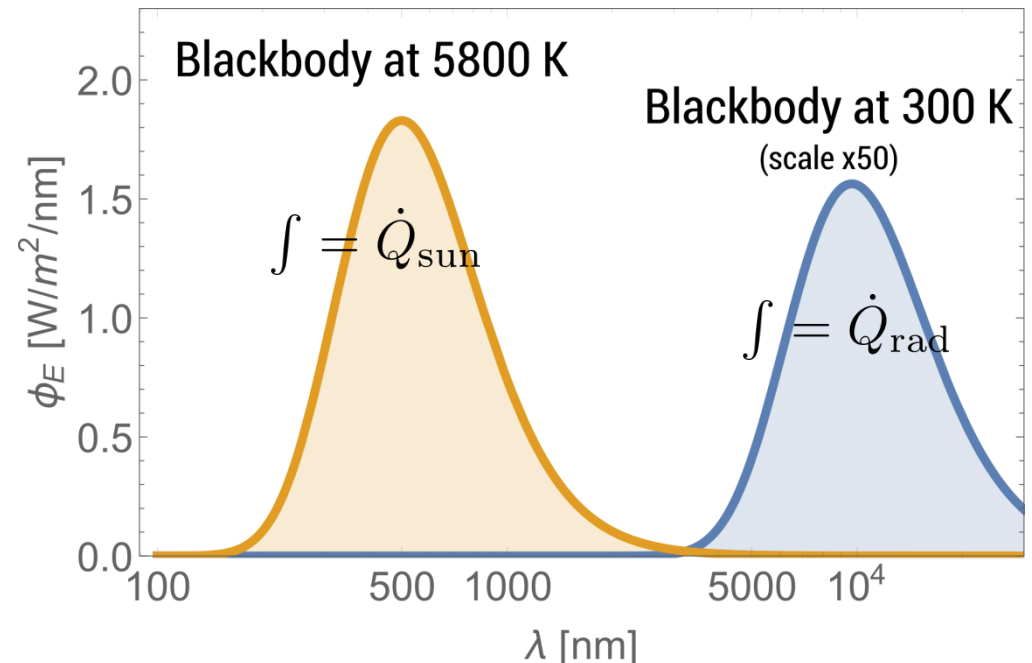
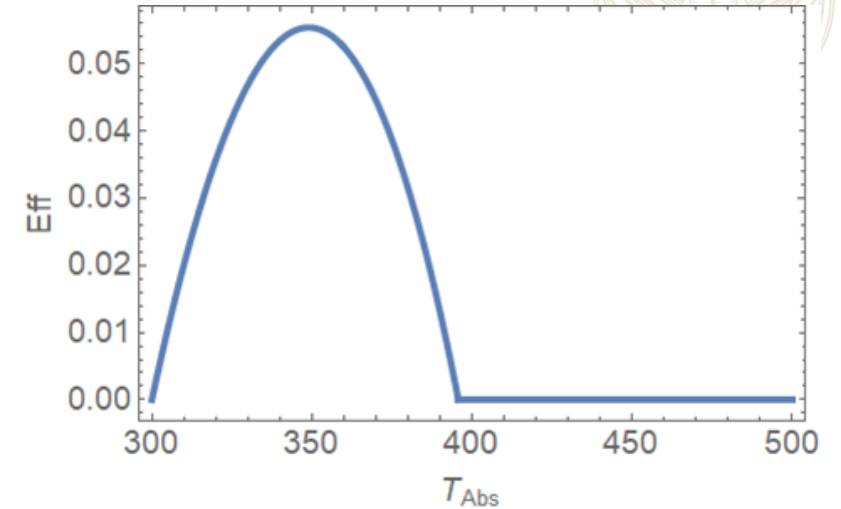
Kirchhoff: absorptivity = emissivity  
at each wavelength

But well distinct spectral regions !

Introduce a gap

If  $h\nu < E_g$ ,  $A = 0$

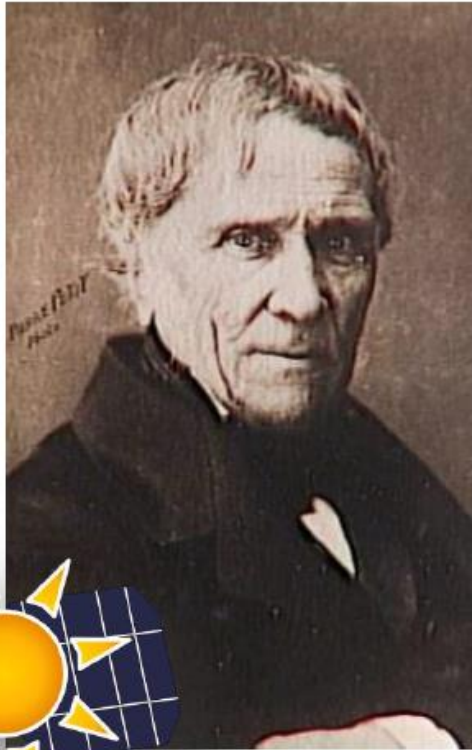
If  $h\nu > E_g$ ,  $A = 1$



# Solar cell : the origins



The photovoltaic effect was discovered in 1839 by the Frenches Antoine and Alexandre Edmond Becquerel (father and son respectively)



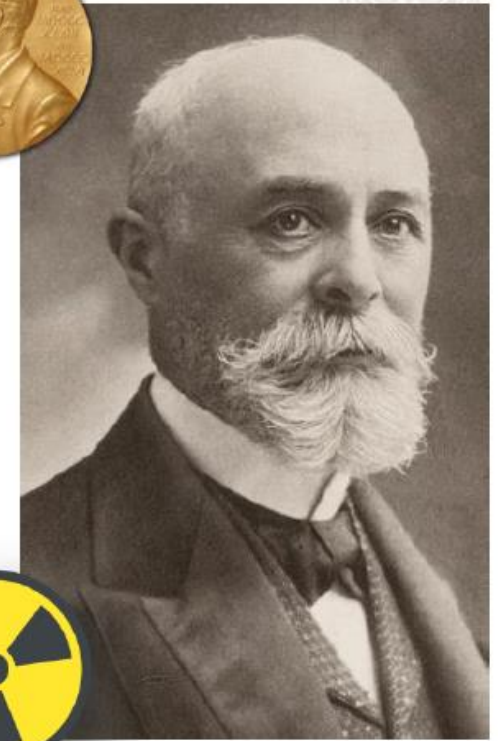
**Antoine César Becquerel**  
**[1788-1878]**



**Alexandre Edmond Becquerel**  
**[1820 -1891]**

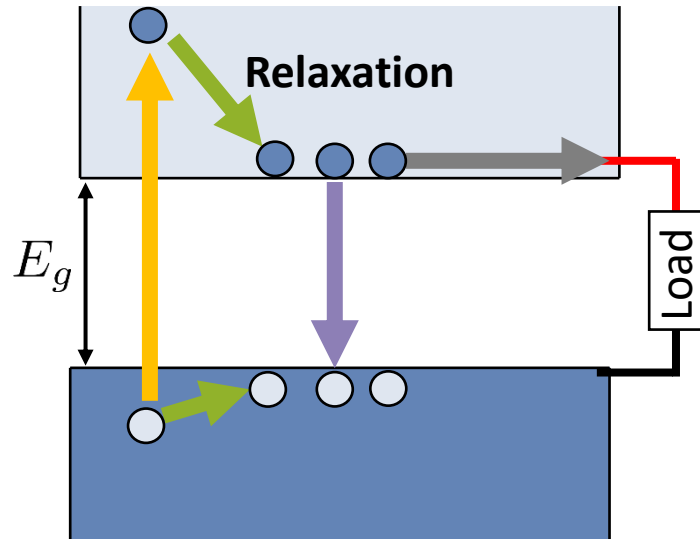
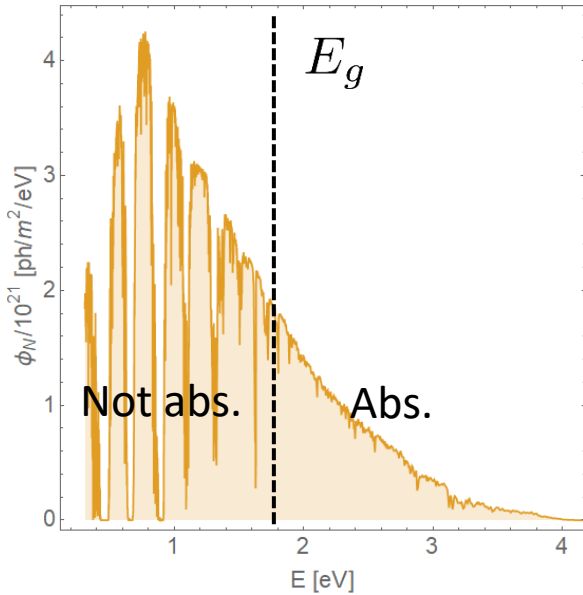


Nobel Prize in Physics (ft P&M Curie)



**Antoine Henri Becquerel**  
**[1852-1908]**

# What do you need to make a solar cell?



4 key functions :

Absorb light

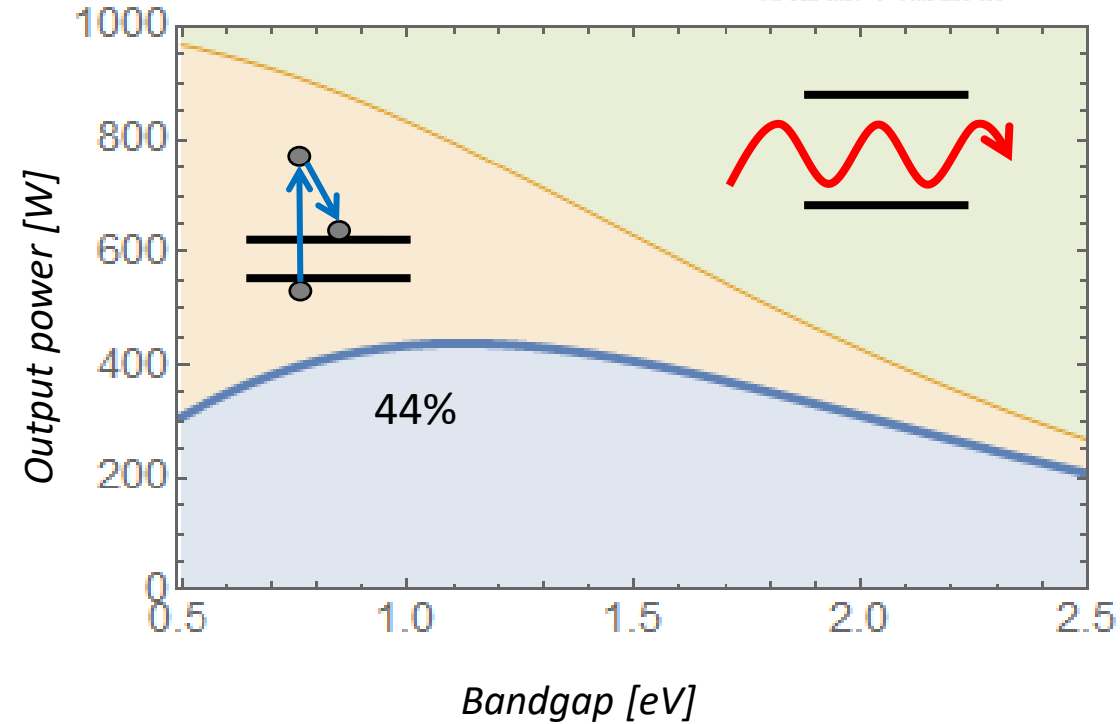
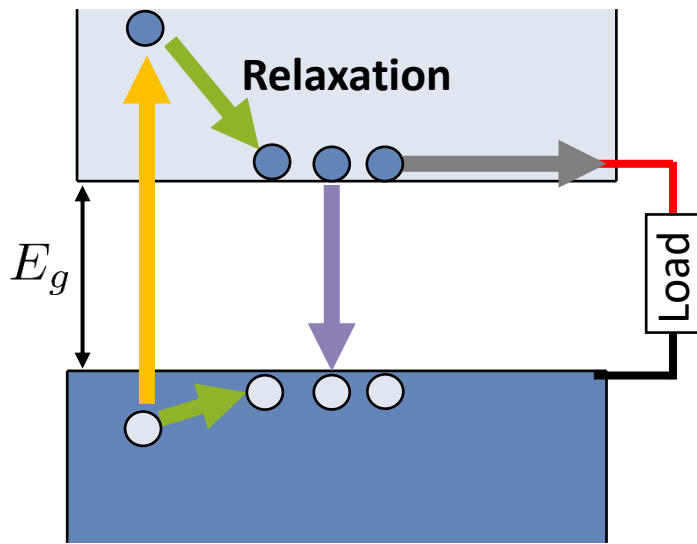
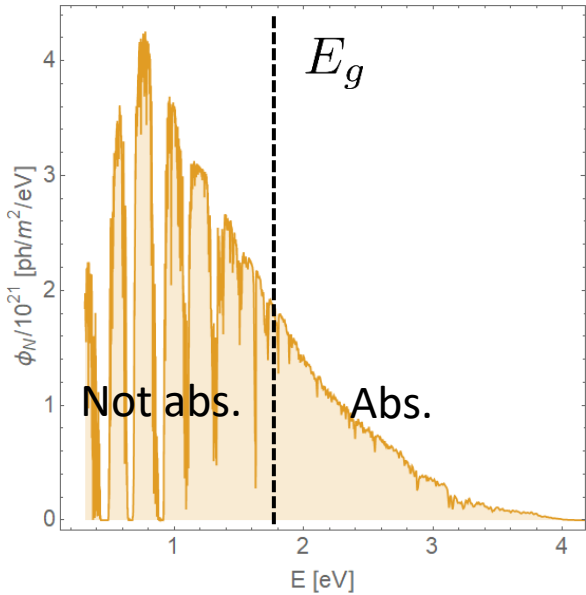
Prevent electrons from recombining

Transport carriers to the contacts

Provide carrier selectivity



# The handwaving approach



Nb of electrons generated / sec

$$I \propto q \int_{\hbar\omega \geq E_g} \phi_{\text{sun}}(\hbar\omega) d\omega$$

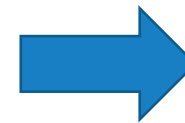
Energy per electron

$$\sim E_g$$

Out power :

$$P = \int_{\hbar\omega \geq E_g} \phi_{\text{sun}}(\hbar\omega) d\omega \times E_g$$

Rolle's theorem: there has to be an optimal gap !

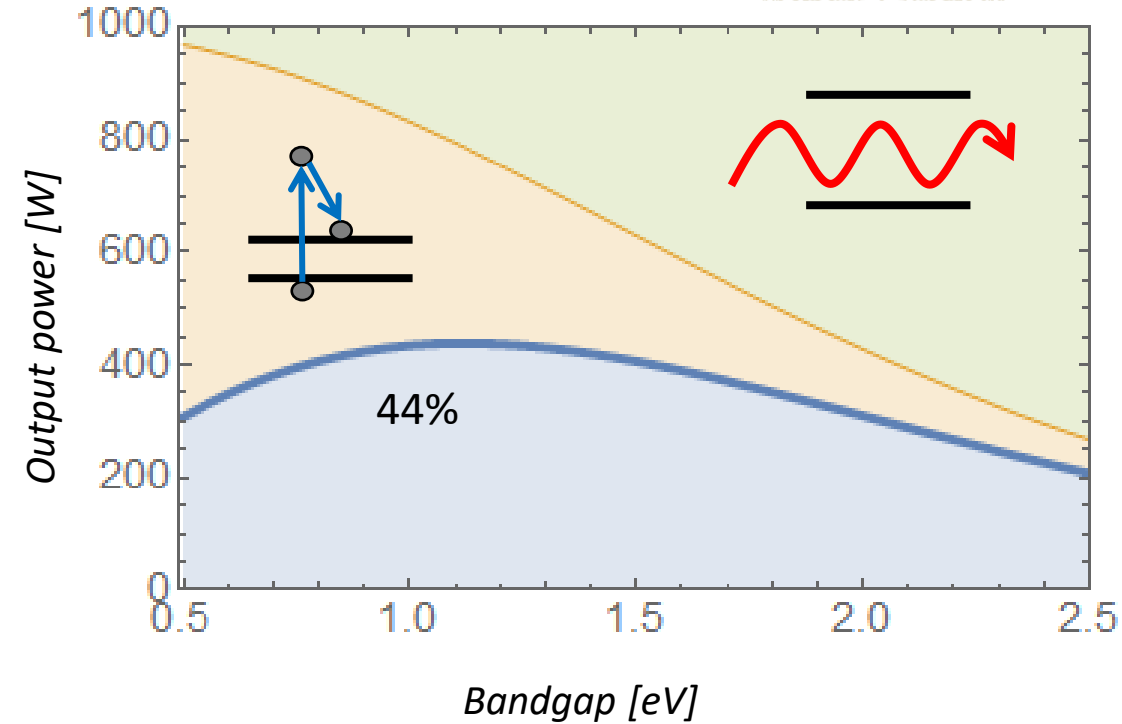
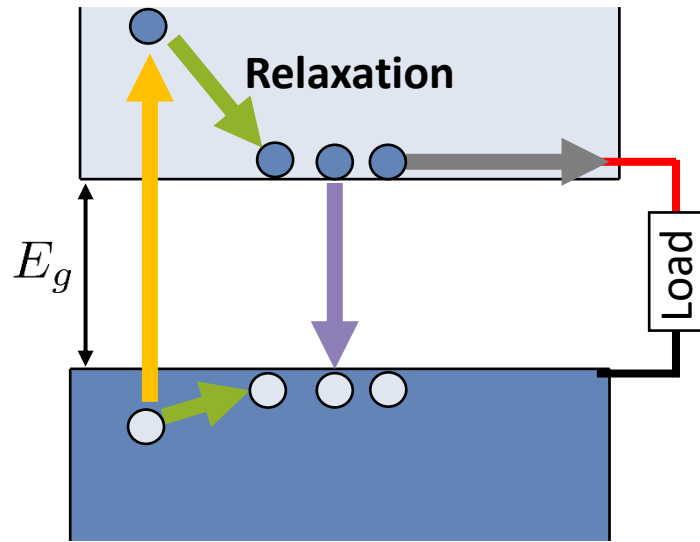
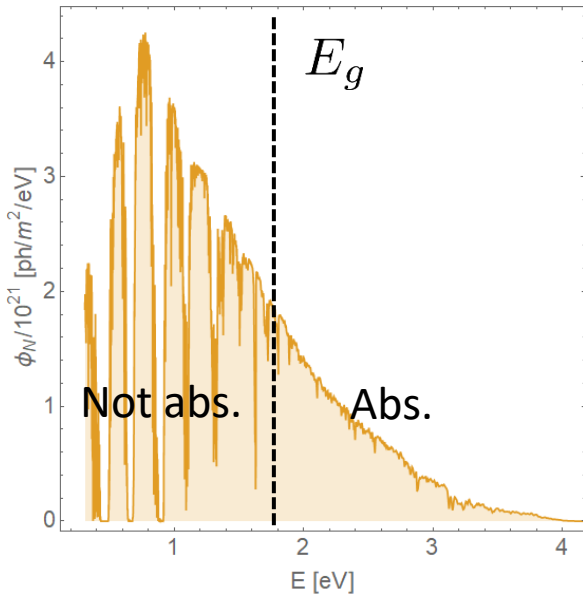


First trade off  
between absorption and energy  
Leads to optimal gap

See PC 8



# Thermo's back !



**WAIT !** PV : not just total output power! Output *useful, electrical* power.

Extracted energy

$$\dot{E} = \dot{N} \times E_g$$

Electrical power

$$P = I \times V$$

Thermodynamics

$$\Delta E = W + Q$$





# Chemical potentials (again !)

1/ At thermal equilibrium, a population is entirely defined by two quantities

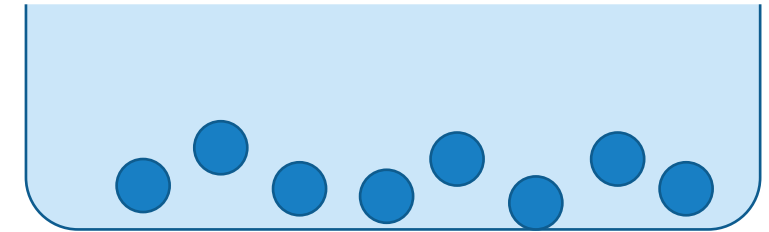
Temperature (T), chemical potential ( $\mu$ )

Average energy per electron  $\sim \frac{3}{2}k_B T$

Number of electrons  $\sim N_C \exp\left(\frac{\mu - E_C}{k_B T}\right)$

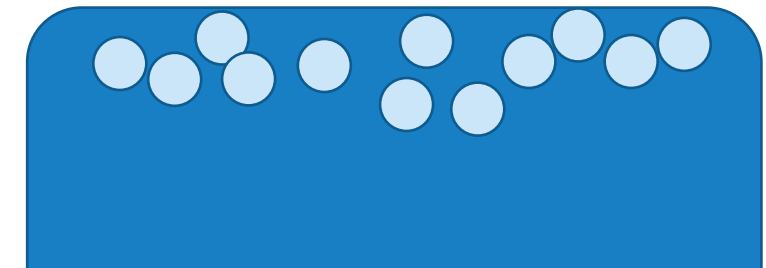
2/  $\mu$  = variation of the free energy when adding/removing 1 particle

$$\mu_e = \left. \frac{\partial F}{\partial N_e} \right|_{T, V, N_h}$$



$\mu_e$

$\mu_h$



Change in free energy = maximal amount of work recoverable over the transformation !

Transformation = remove 1 electron from CB, add 1 electron to VB

$$W_{\text{out}} = \Delta F = \mu_e - \mu_h$$

$$qV = \Delta\mu$$

# The thermodynamic approach



PV : not just total output power! Output **useful** power.

Electrical engineering :

$$P = I \times V$$

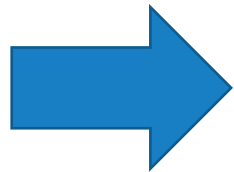
Thermodynamics:

$$\Delta E = W + Q$$

$$W = \Delta\mu = qV$$

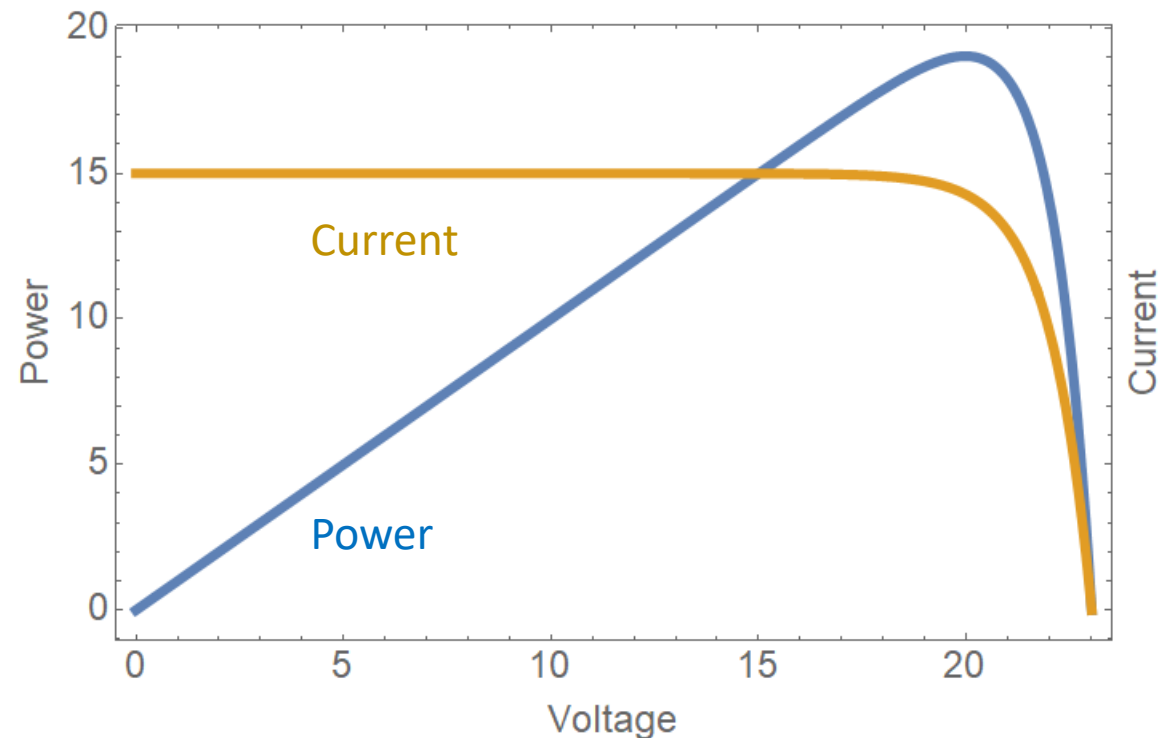
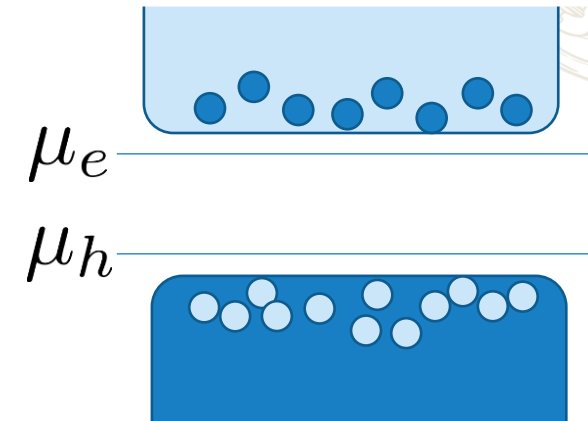
More particles  $\rightarrow$  Larger  $\Delta\mu \rightarrow$  More V, no I

Extract particles  $\rightarrow$  Decrease  $\Delta\mu \rightarrow$  More I, Less V



Second trade off  
between voltage and current  
Leads to maximal power point

See PC 8





# The thermodynamic approach (contd.)

Extracted energy

$$\dot{E} = \dot{N} \times E_g$$

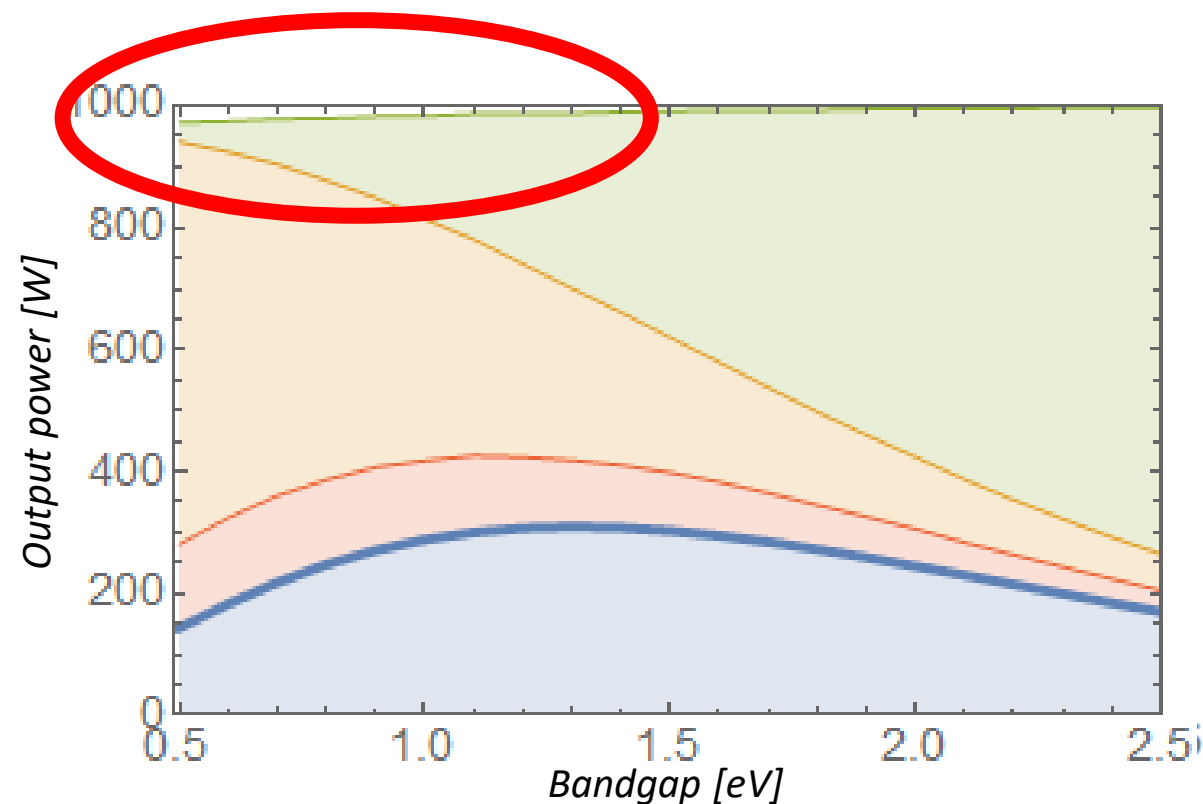
Electrical power

$$P = I \times V$$

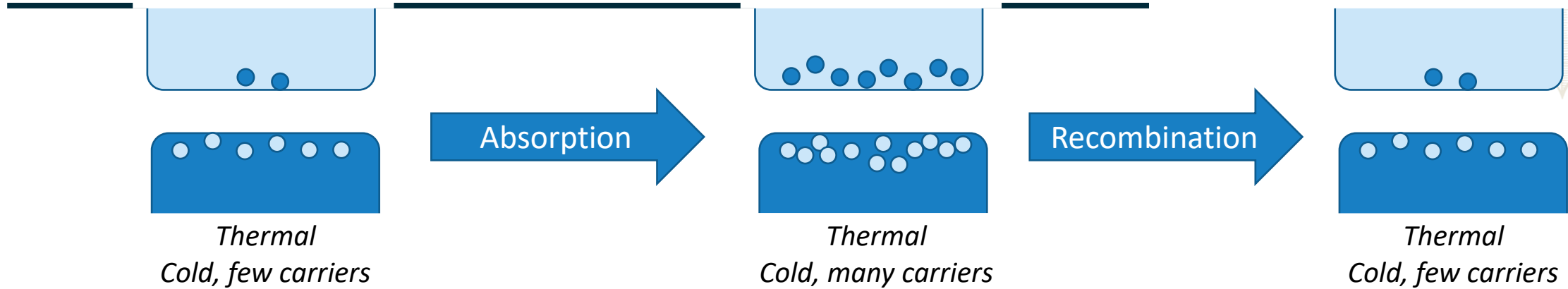
Thermodynamics

$$\Delta E = W + Q$$

$$P = \dot{N} \times \Delta\mu$$



# The detailed balance approach



How much energy is actually radiated by the converter ?

$$R \propto n \times p \propto \mathcal{E}(E) \frac{E^2}{\exp\left(\frac{E - \Delta\mu}{k_B T}\right) - 1}$$

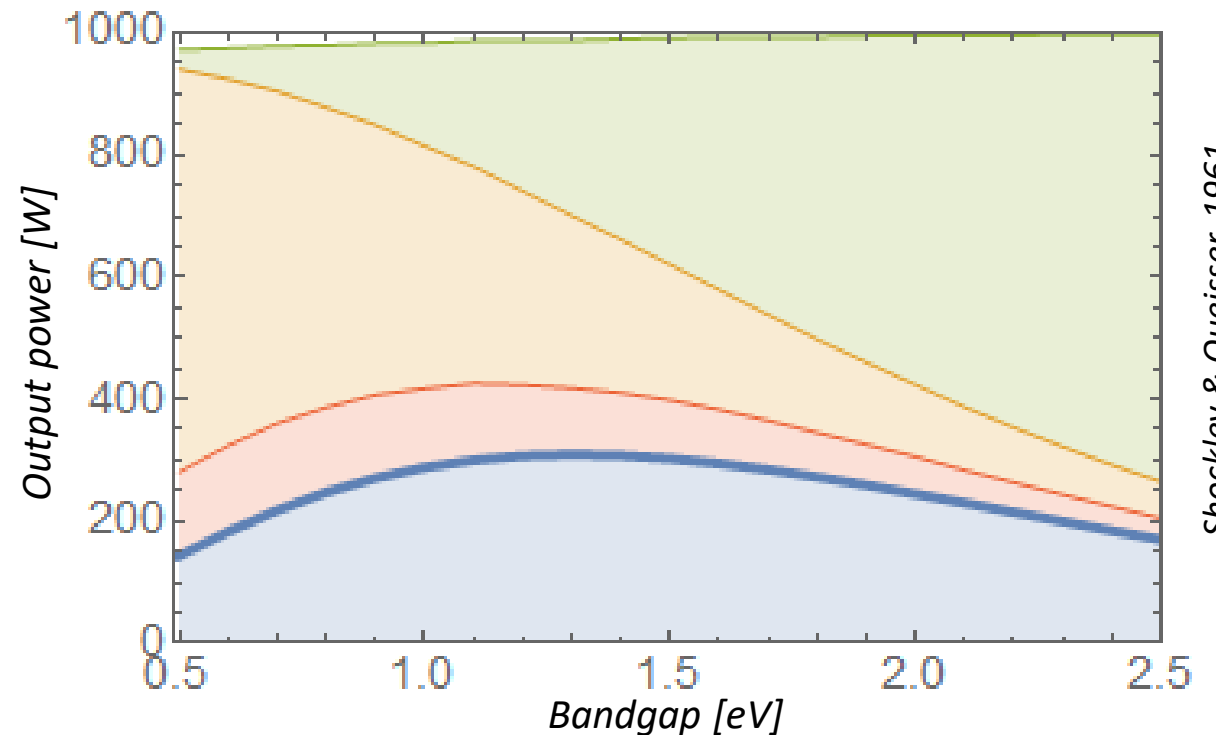
**Kirchoff's law :**

If a system can absorb a radiation at wavelength  $\lambda$ , it can also emit a radiation at the same wavelength.

$$\mathcal{E}(E) = \mathcal{A}(E)$$

Detailed balance

Transitions *to* a band = Transitions *from* the band



Shockley & Queisser, 1961



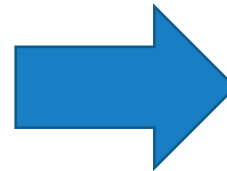
# The limits of Shockley-Queisser

---

Underlying assumption:

**Full absorption**

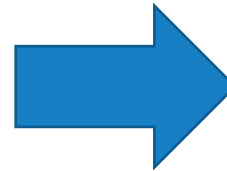
Step like absorptivity



No light management  
(ARC, texturing, back mirror...)

**Ideal transport**

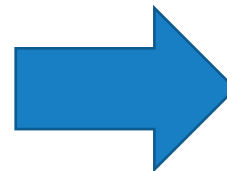
Infinite mobility



No thickness  
(ultra thin films...)

**Perfect contact**

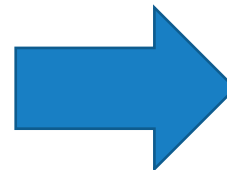
Flat band & selective



No interface optimization  
(series resistance, passivation...)

**Radiative regime**

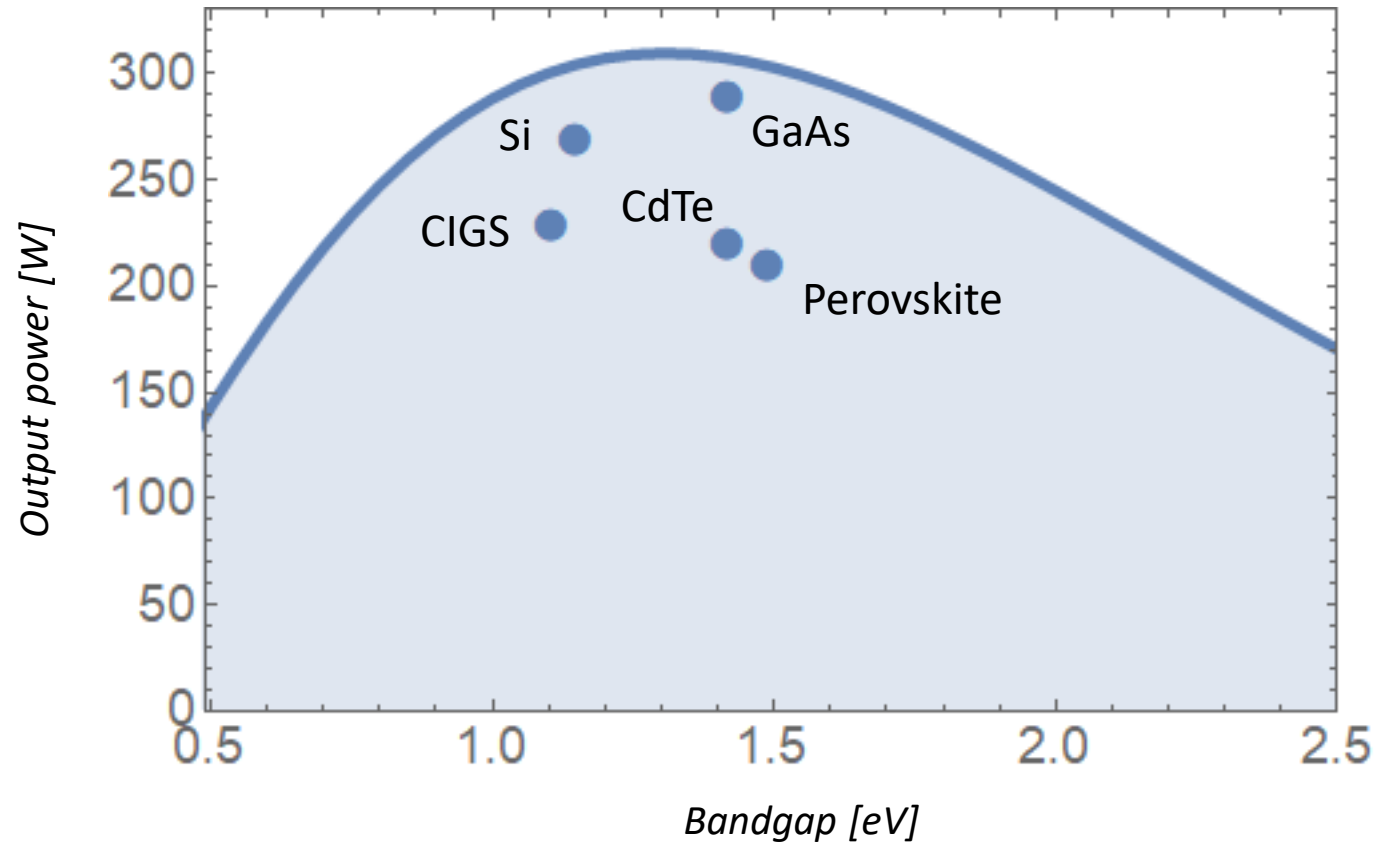
Radiative recombination only



No defects,  
No interactions between carriers

# A very simple mode, and yet...

---



- I. Solar energy resource
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# Conversion efficiencies



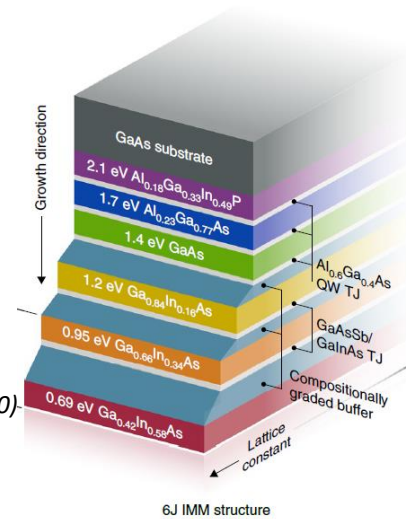
nature energy ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED: 20 MARCH 2017 | VOLUME: 2 | ARTICLE NUMBER: 17032

**Silicon heterojunction solar cell with interdigitated back contacts for a photoconversion efficiency over 26%**

Kunta Yoshikawa\*, Hayato Kawasaki, Wataru Yoshida, Toru Irie, Katsunori Konishi, Kunihiro Nakano, Toshihiko Uto, Daisuke Adachi, Masanori Kanematsu, Hisashi Uzu and Kenji Yamamoto

Silicon record  
(Yoshikawa et al., Nature Energy (2017))

Overall record (multijunction)  
Geisz JF, Nature Energy (2020)



nature energy ARTICLES  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-020-0598-5>  
Check for updates

**Six-junction III-V solar cells with 47.1% conversion efficiency under 143 Suns concentration**

John F. Geisz\*, Ryan M. France, Kevin L. Schulte, Myles A. Steiner, Andrew G. Norman, Harvey L. Guthrey, Matthew R. Young, Tao Song and Thomas Moriarty

Commercial systems

0%

22

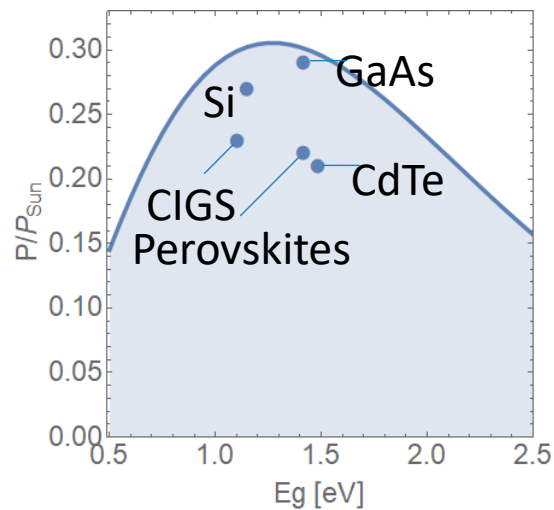
27

30%

47%

86%

100%



Theoretical limit for single junctions  
(*limite de Shockley Queisser*)

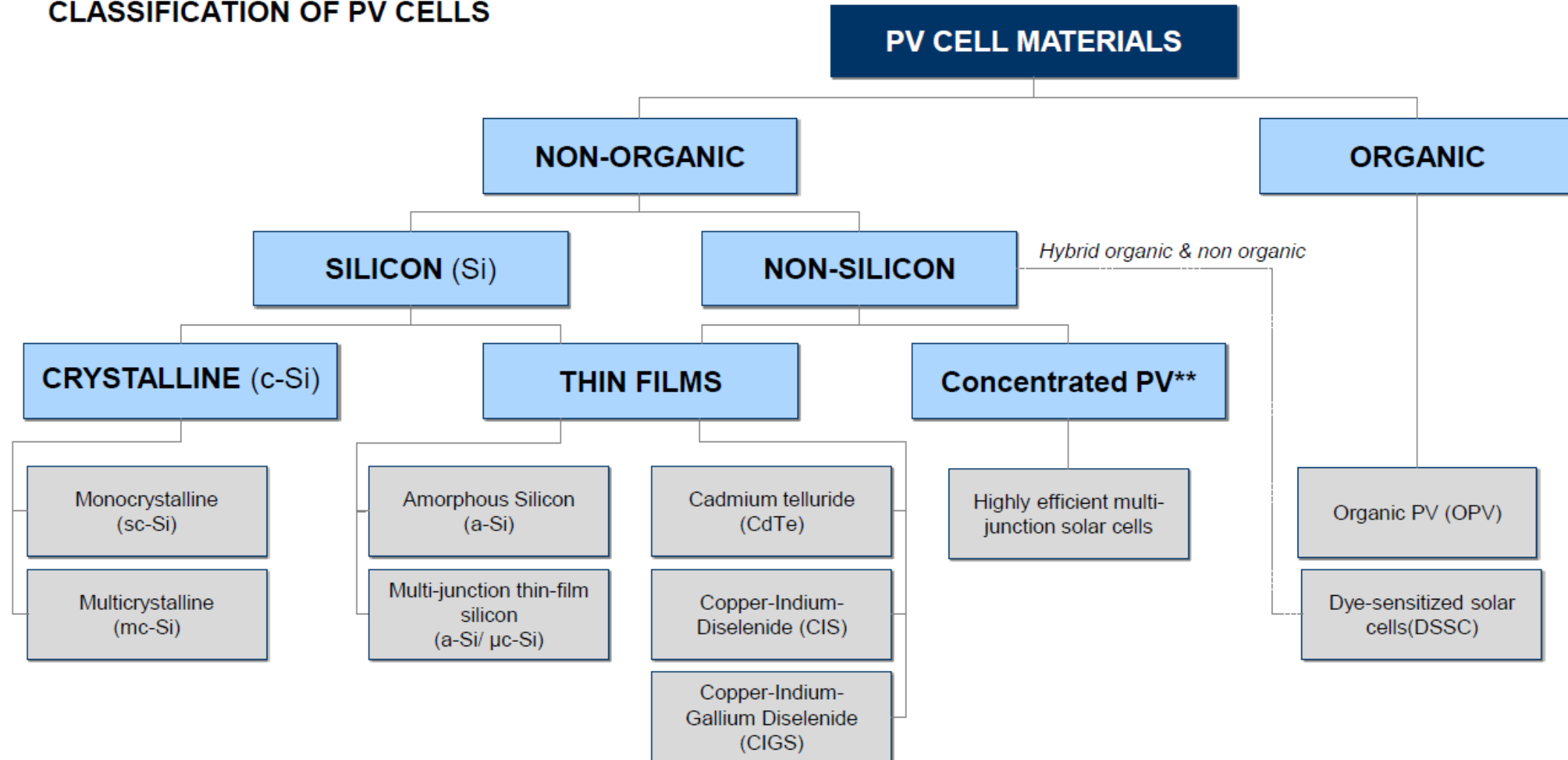
Thermodynamic upper bound



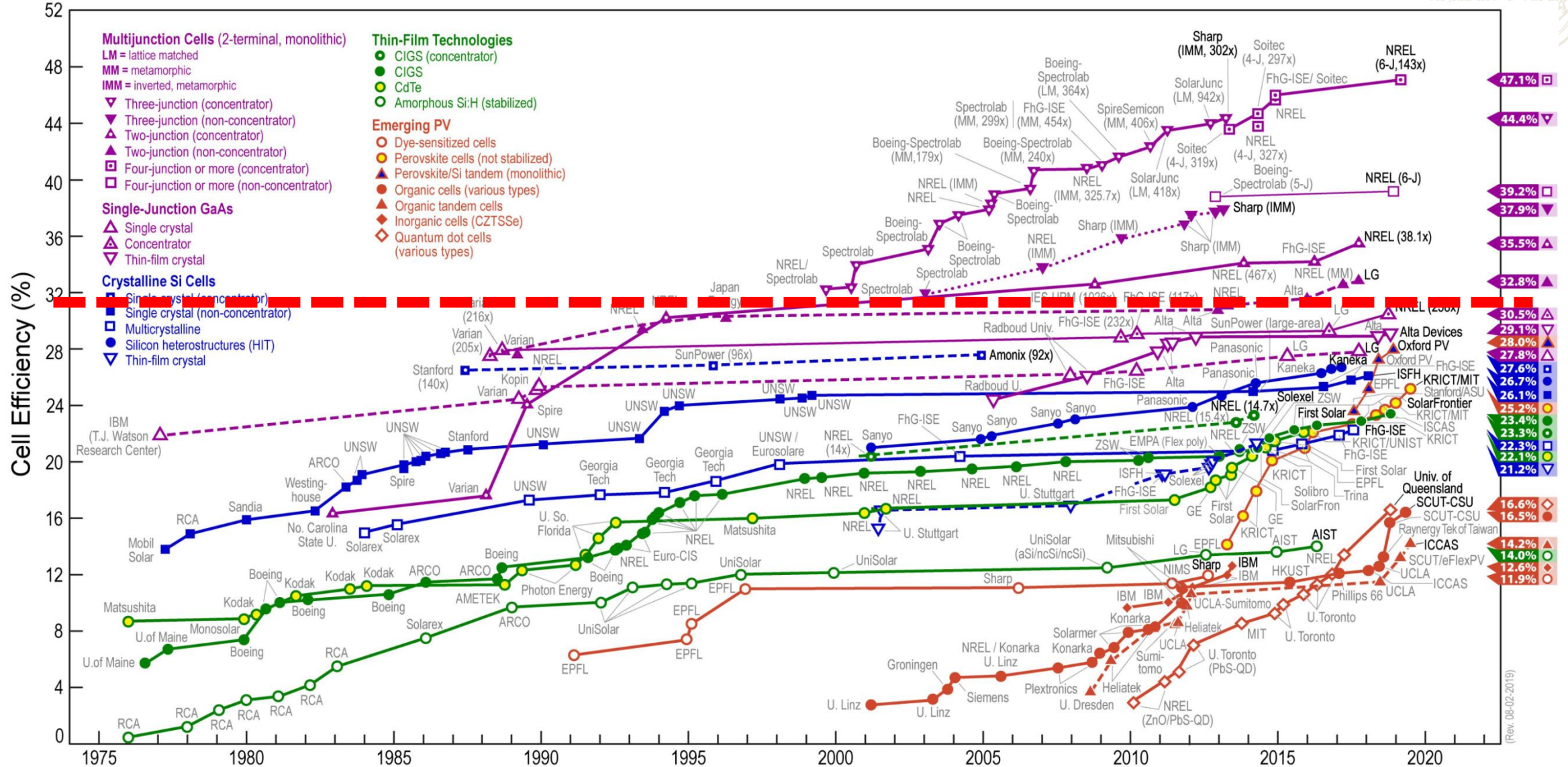
# PV technologies



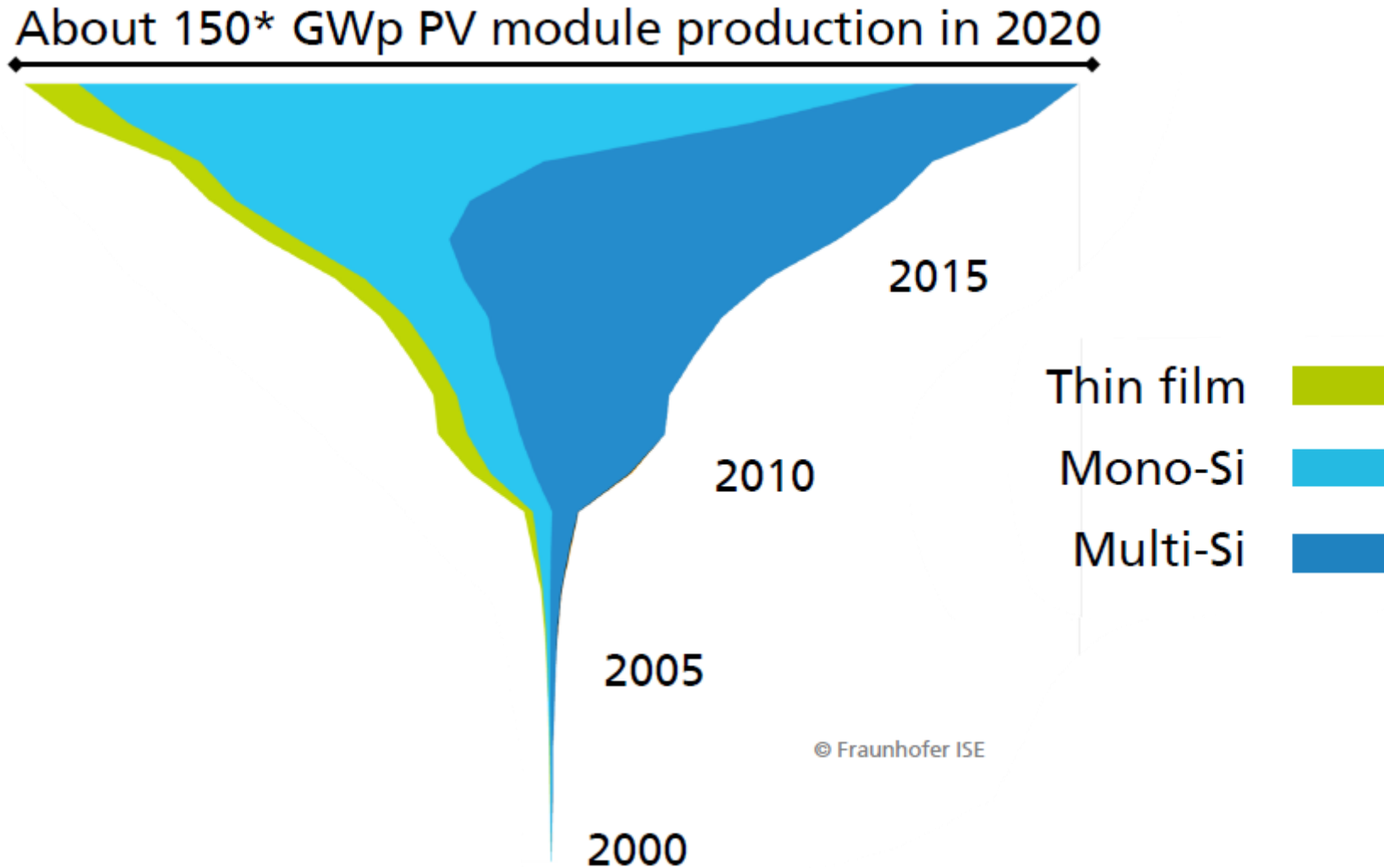
## CLASSIFICATION OF PV CELLS



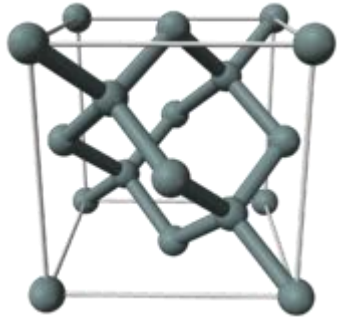
# Welcome to the jungle



# 1st order: PV = silicon technologies



# Techno overview: silicon



Silicon is the historical backbone of PV

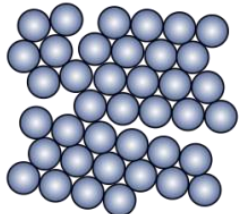
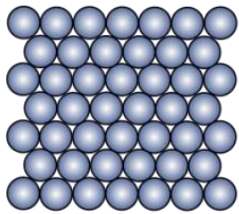
1954 : First cell >6% efficiency

1960s' : First commercial systems

(actually, two types of crystals, very similar behavior)

Monocrystalline

Polycrystalline



**c-Si** [Crystalline Silicon]

**multi/poly-Si** [multi/poly crystalline Silicon]

Silicon PV originates in the electronics industry.

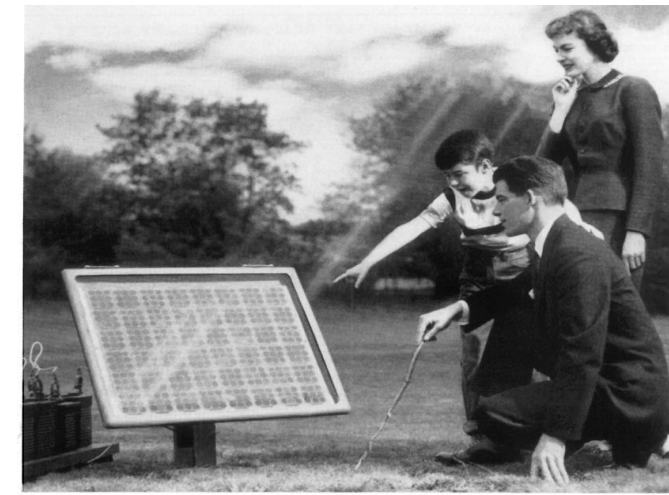
Excellent electronic properties (mobility, lifetime),

Not so good optical properties, but ideal gap

Benefitted from the experience curve of electronics

“Silicon shortage” in 2006 – 2010

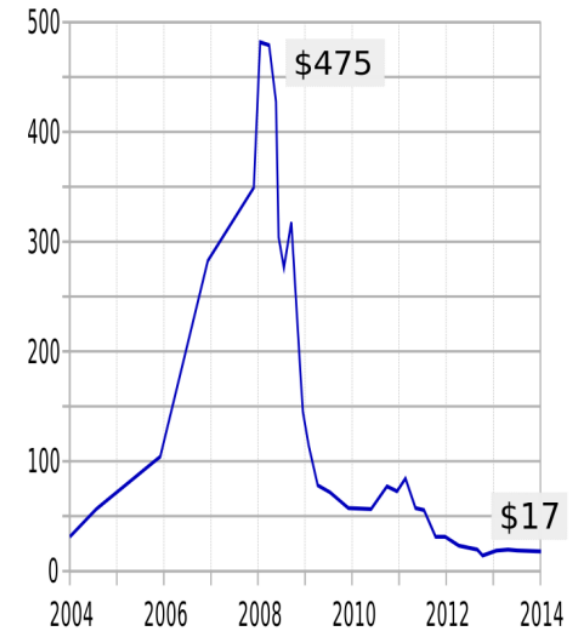
→ emergence of a dedicated market



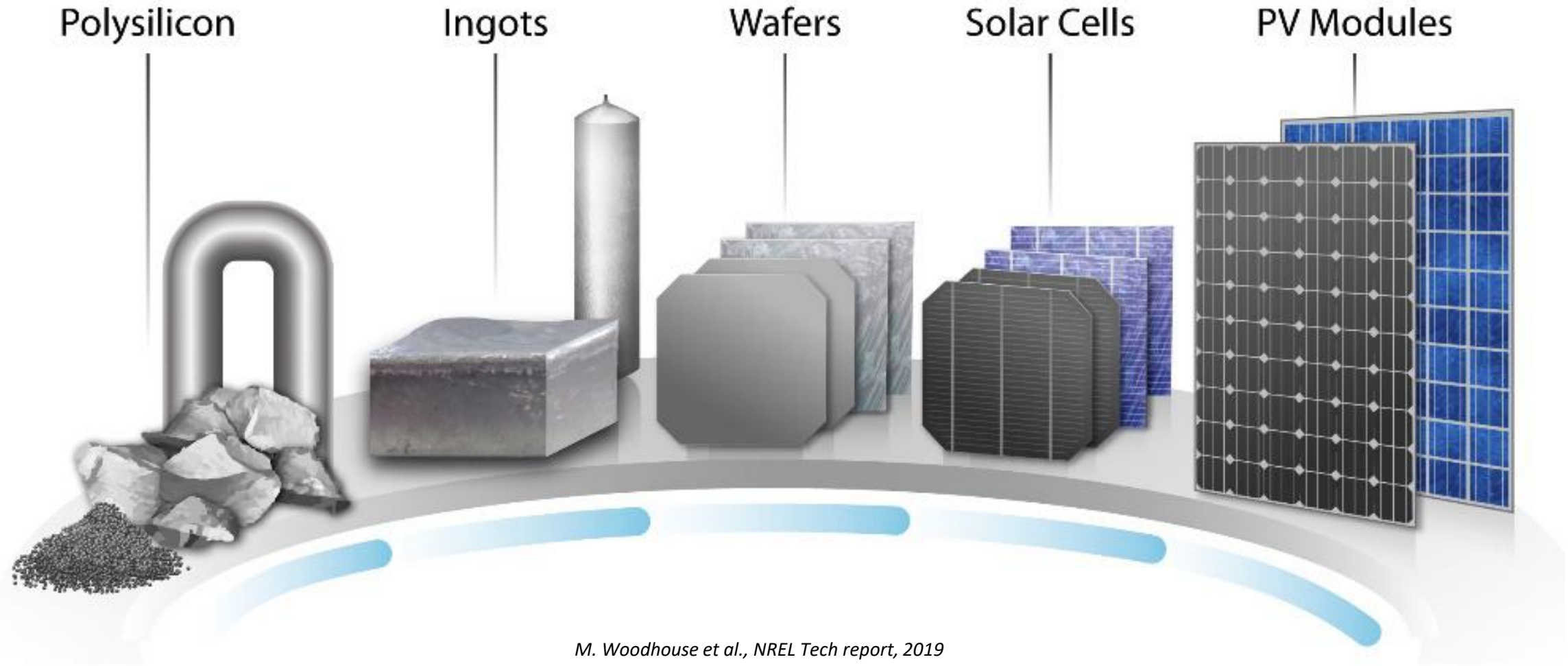
Something New Under the Sun. It's the Bell Solar Battery, made of thin discs of specially treated silicon, an ingredient of common sand. It converts the sun's rays directly into usable amounts of electricity. Simple and trouble-free. (The storage batteries beside the solar battery store up its electricity for night use.)

Bell System Solar Battery Converts Sun's Rays into Electricity!

Polysilicon Prices \$/kg



# From quartzite to pure silicon



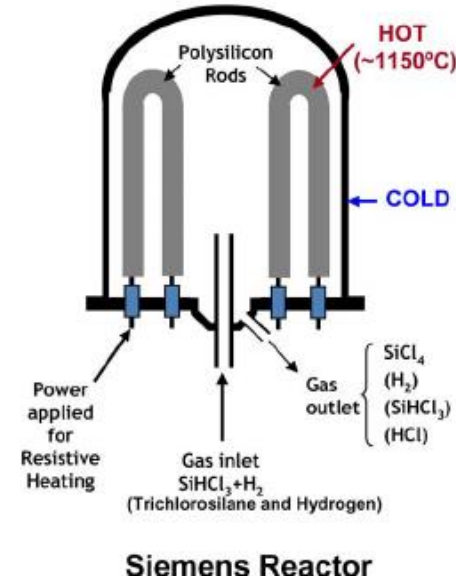
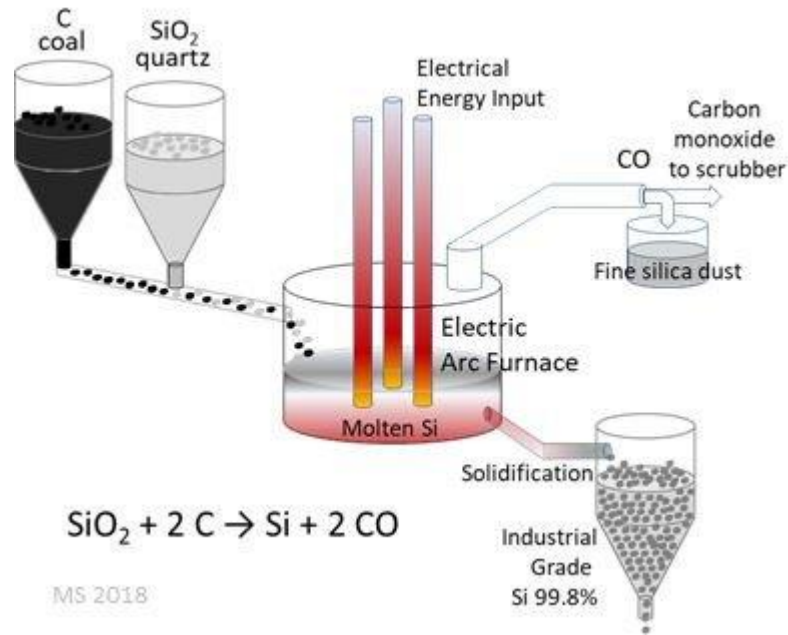
*M. Woodhouse et al., NREL Tech report, 2019*



# From quartzite to pure silicon



SiO<sub>2</sub> - quartzite



Electronic grade poly-Si

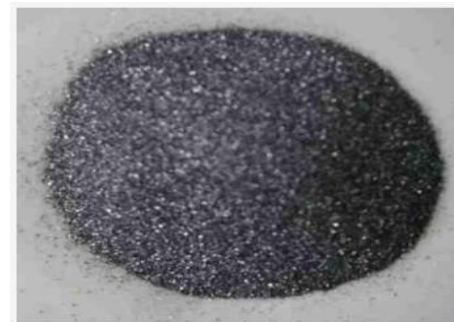
(9N) 99.9999999%

(4.5N) 99.995%



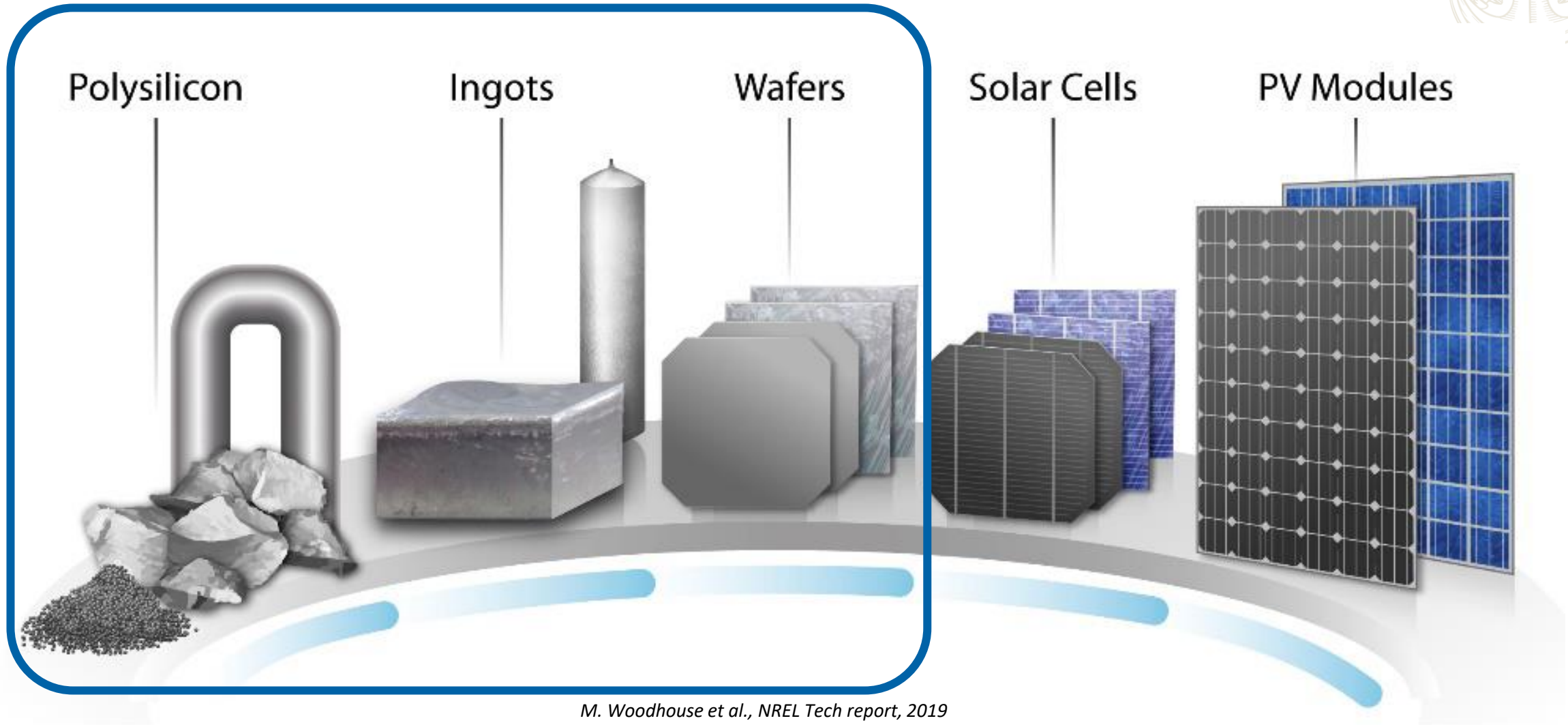
Electronics  
Solar cells

Aluminium  
Steel  
Silicone  
...



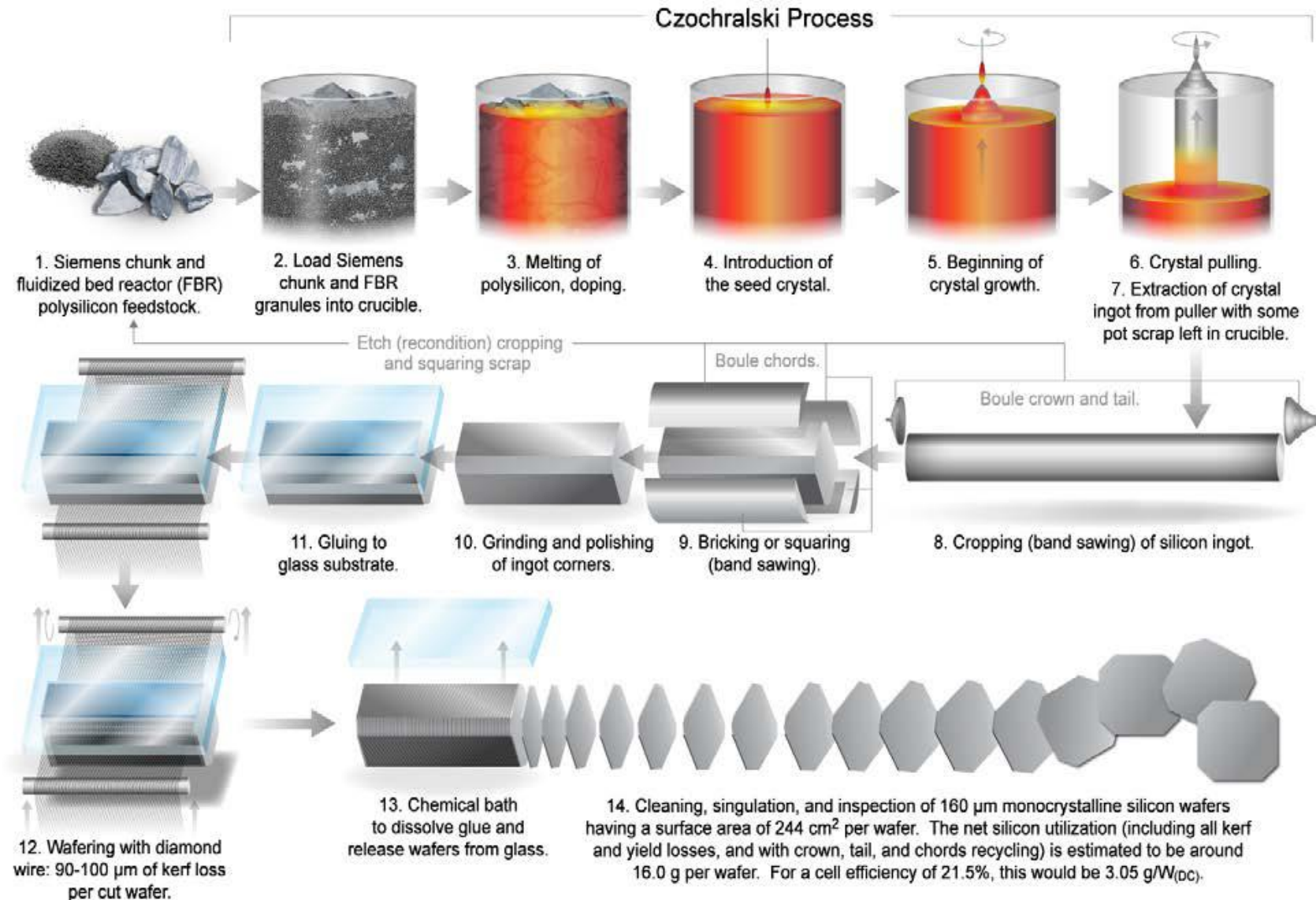
Metallurgic grade  
98.5-99.5%

# From silicon to wafers



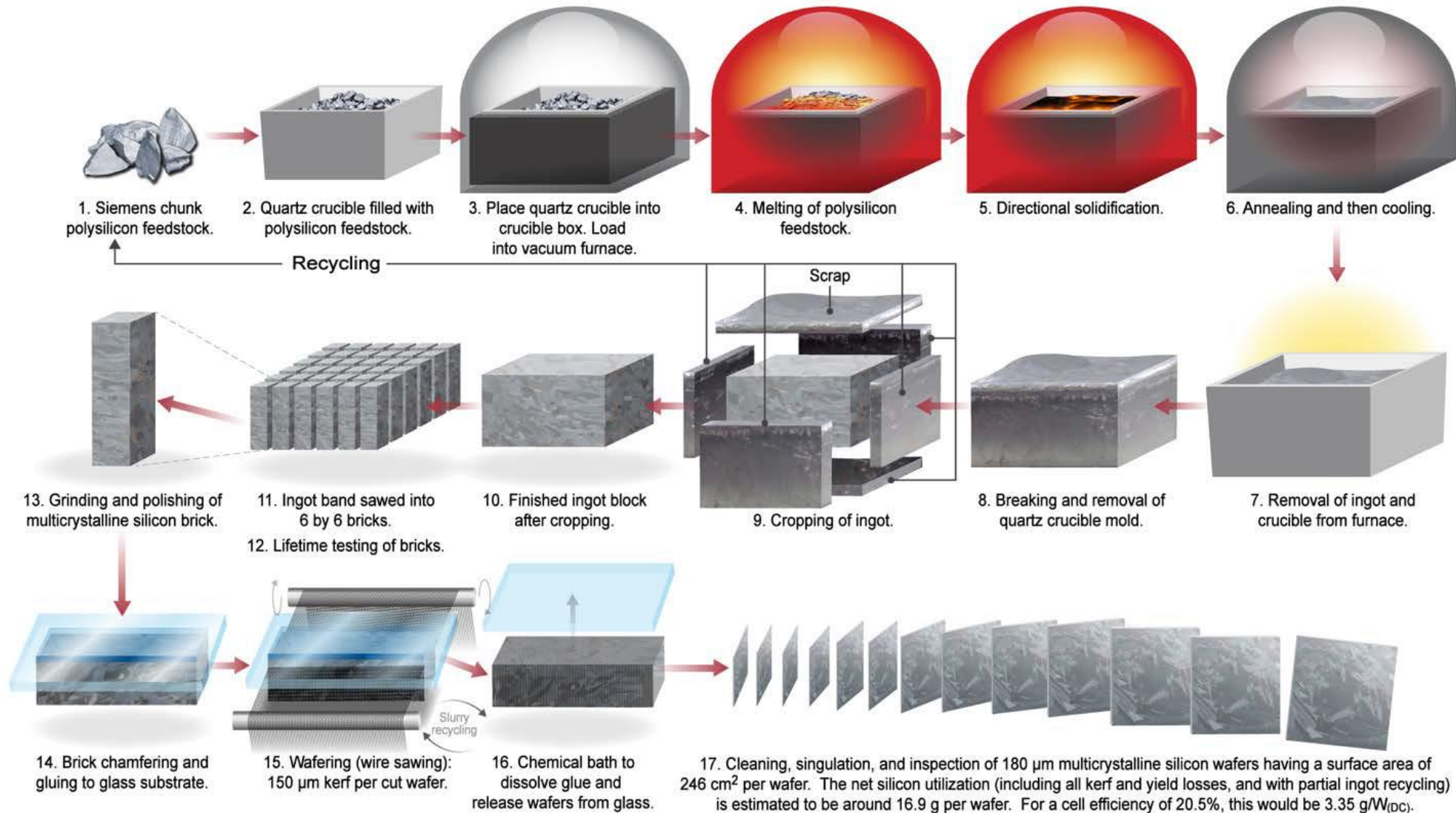
*M. Woodhouse et al., NREL Tech report, 2019*

# Monocrystalline wafers



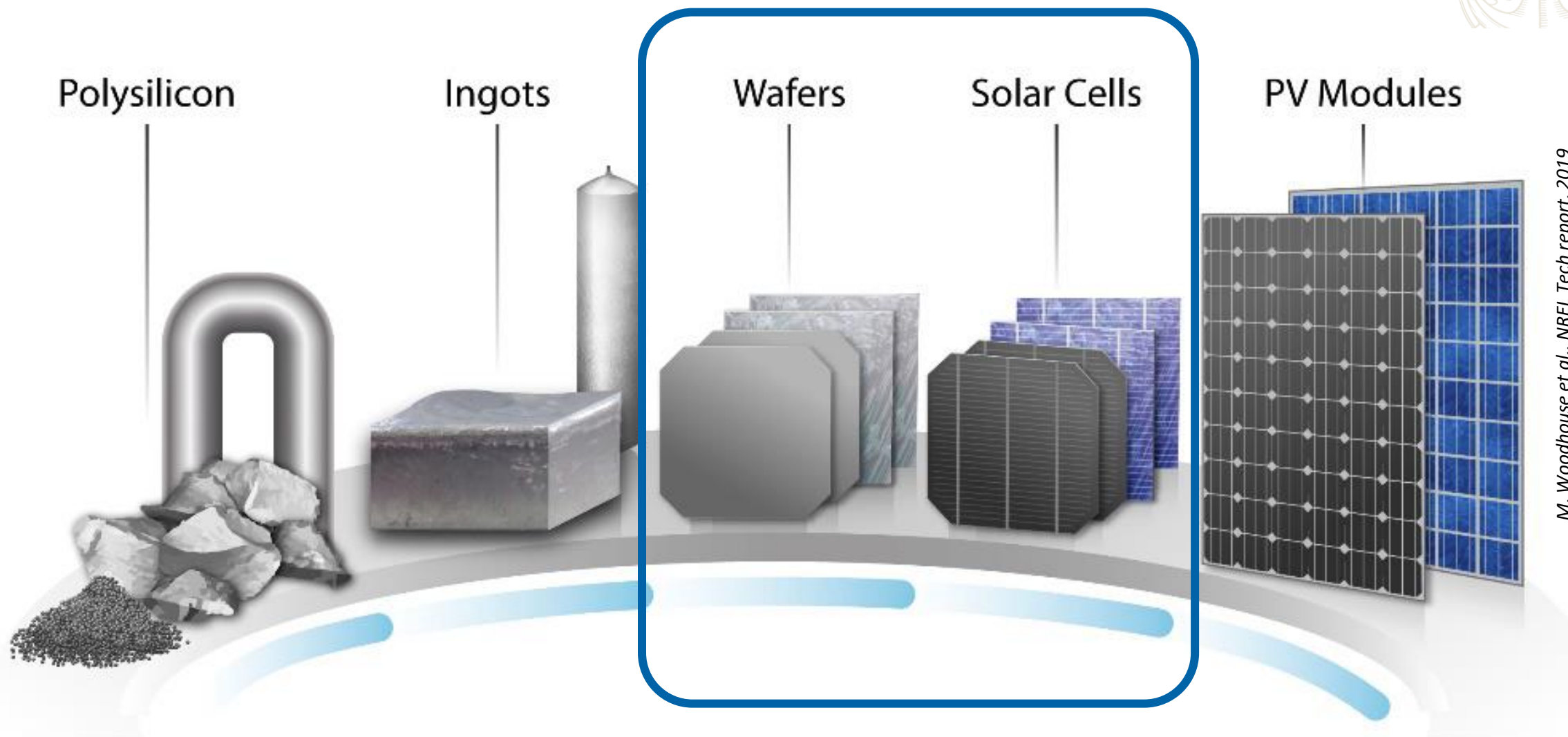


# Multi-crystalline wafers



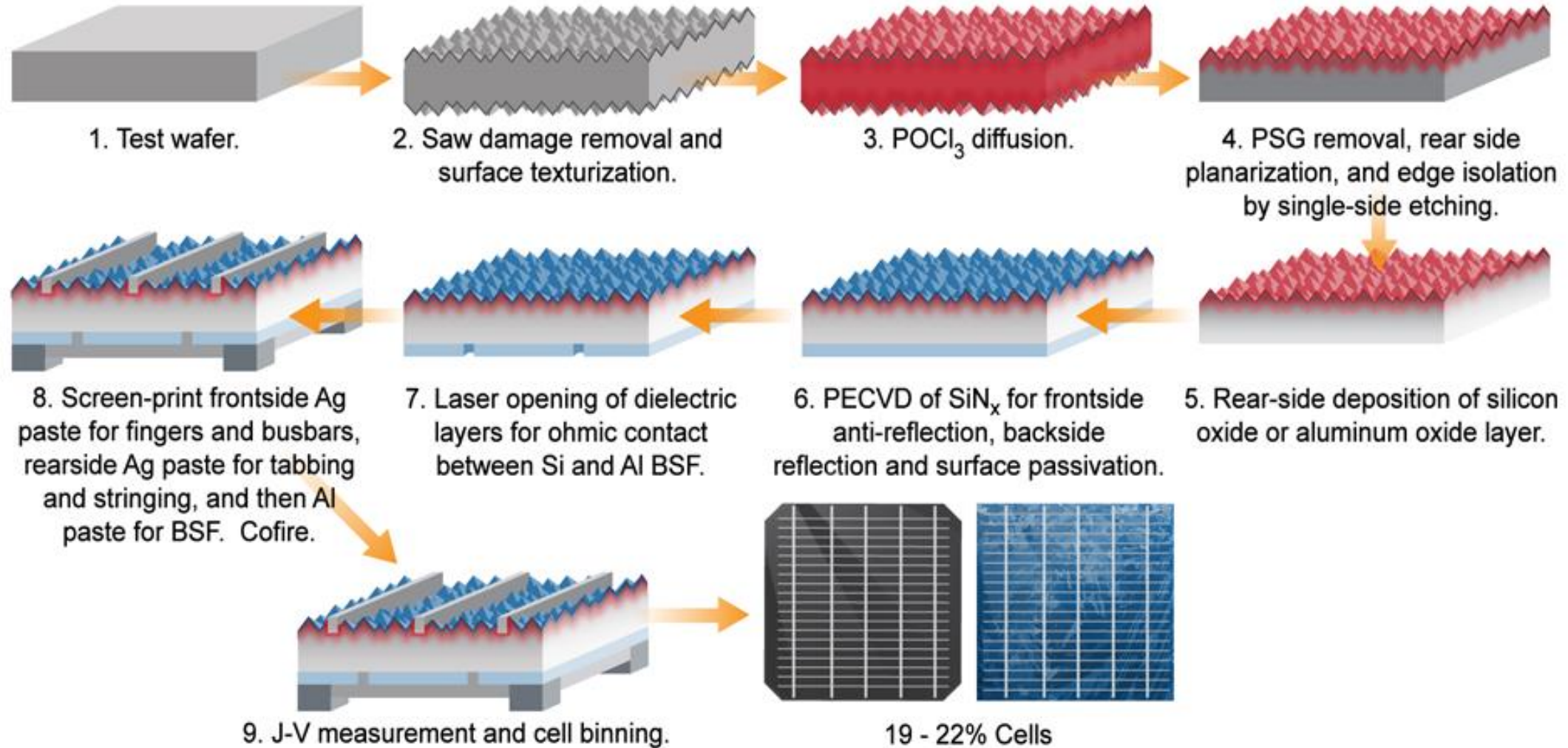


# From wafers to cells

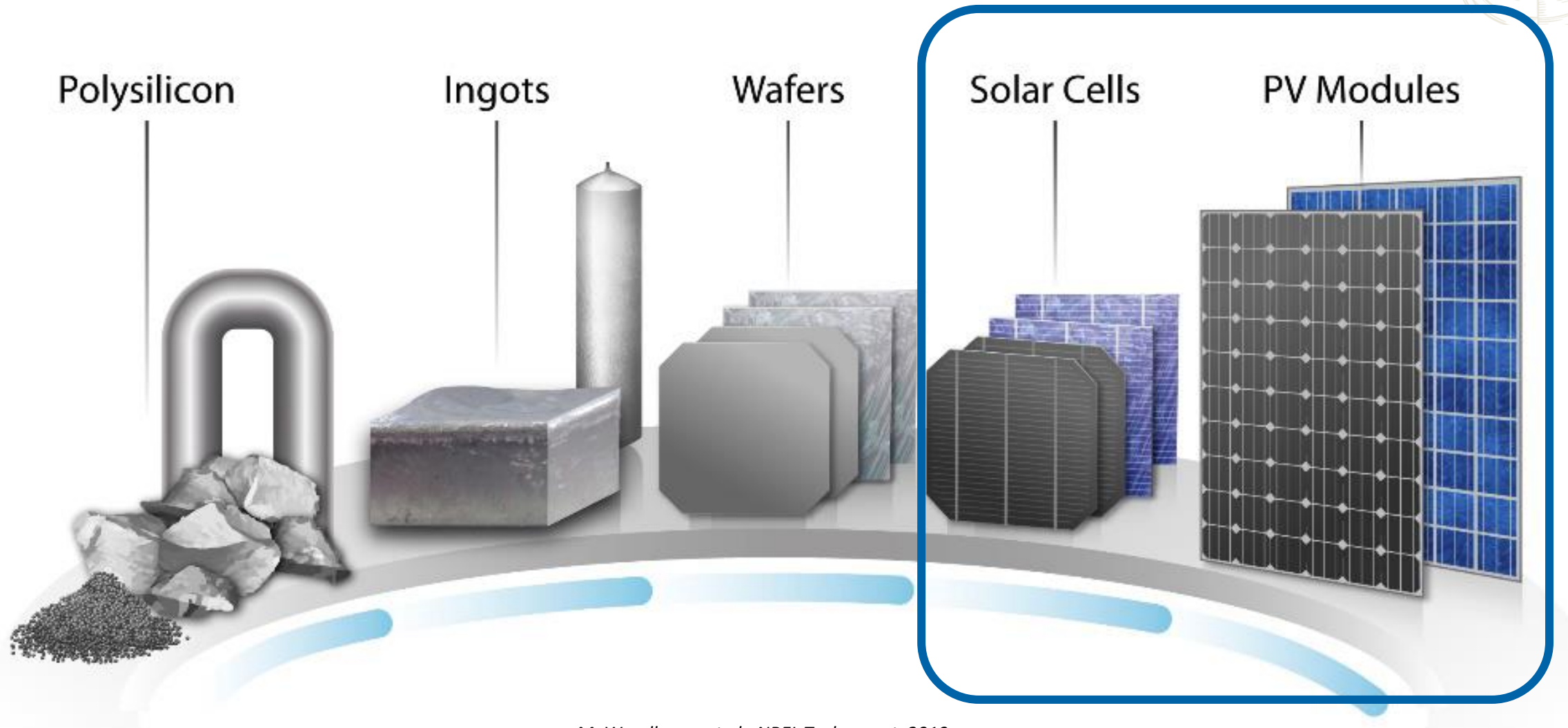


M. Woodhouse et al., NREL Tech report, 2019

# Inside a solar cell



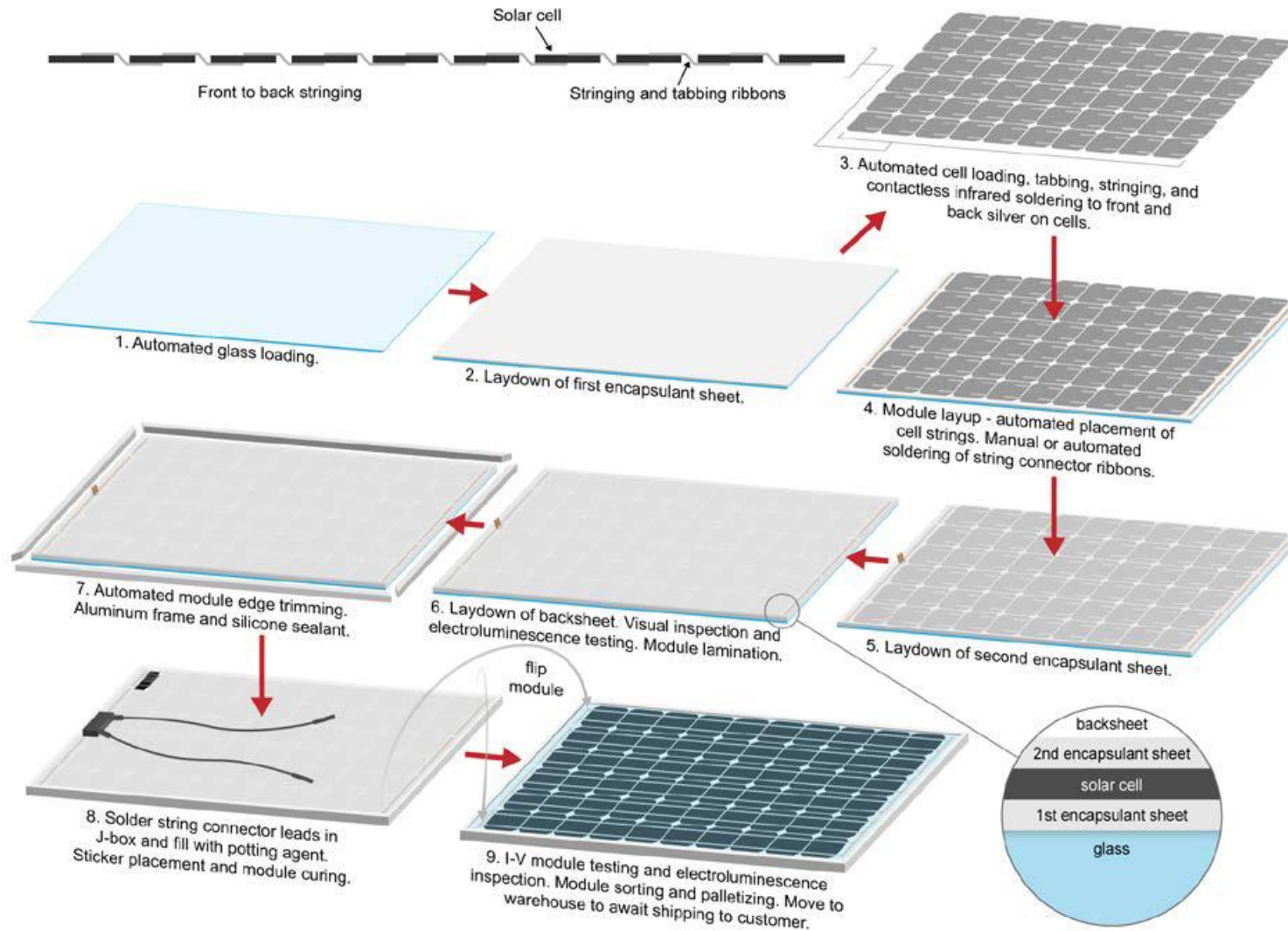
# From cells to modules



# Moduling



M. Woodhouse et al., NREL Tech report, 2019



# Solar cell shopping list



Poids en gramme	par m <sup>2</sup>	par Wc efficacité : 20%	par kWh ensoleillement 1700 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /an facteur de perf. 85% 25 ans, -0.5%/an
Silicium	600	3	0.1
Gallium	0.000 2	0.000 001	0.000 000 003
Argent	4	0.02	0.000 6
Aluminium	1 600	8	0.24
Plastique	1 700	8.5	0.25
Verre	8 000	40	1.2
Cuivre	900	4.5	0.14
Béton	12 000	60	1.8
Acier	14 000	70	2.1
CO <sub>2</sub>	50	1 000	30
Energie primaire [MJ]	3 000	15	0.45

# Recycling

## Europe's first solar panel recycling plant opens in France

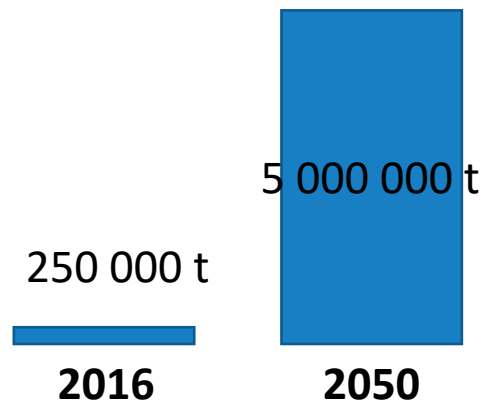
Geert De Clercq

3 MIN READ



*"This is the **first** dedicated solar panel recycling plant in Europe, possibly **in the world**," Gilles Carsuzaa, head of electronics recycling at Veolia, told reporters.*

*G. De Cleerq, Reuters, June 2018*



End of life management, IEA – IRENA, 2016

Recycling  
Or downcycling ?

Recycling of  
non-Si  
techno ?



<https://www.greenmatch.co.uk/>

# Lecture 6 – solar energy

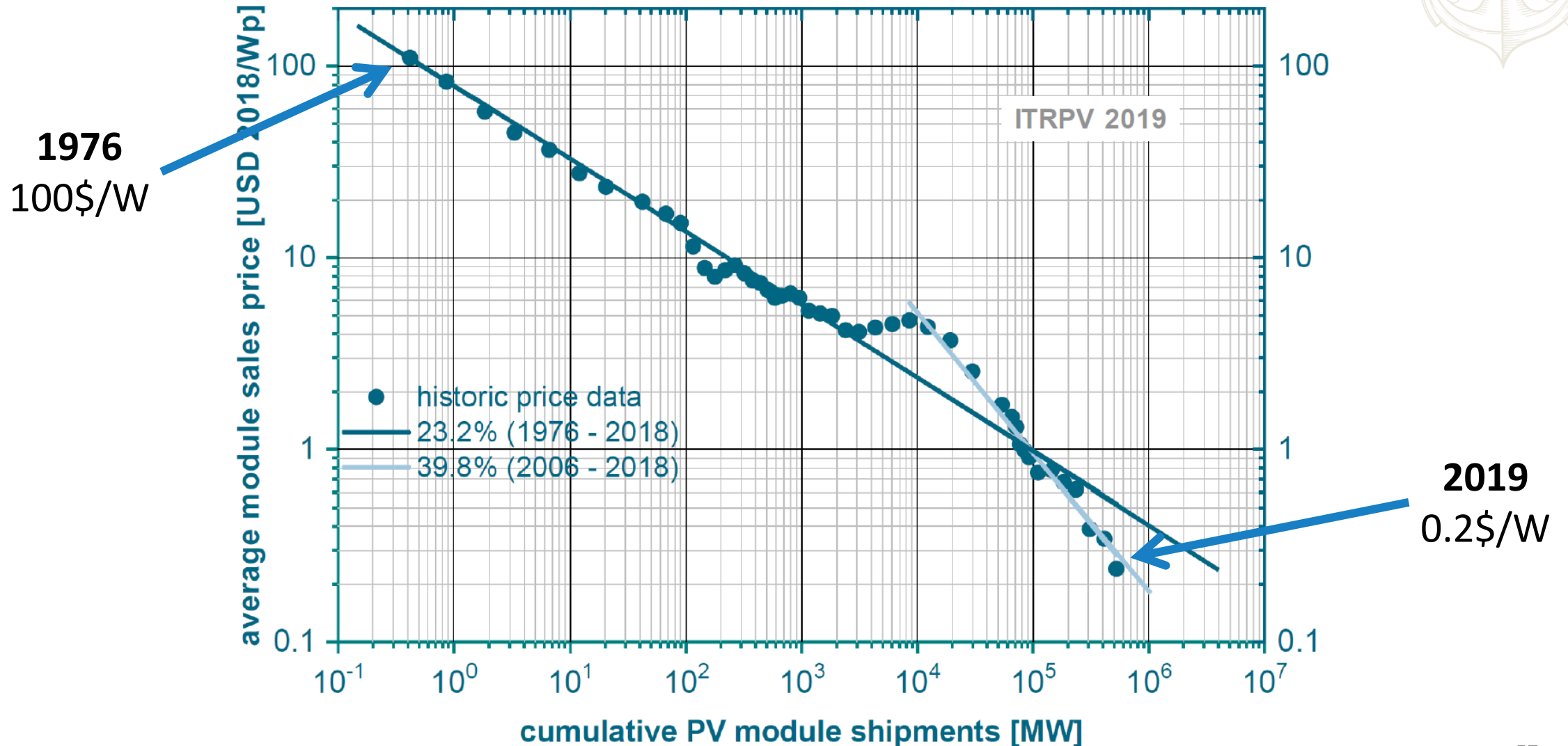
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- I. Solar energy resource
  
- II. Thermodynamics of solar energy conversion
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  - B. Concentrated solar power
  - C. Photovoltaics
  
- III. Overview of the silicon PV technology
  
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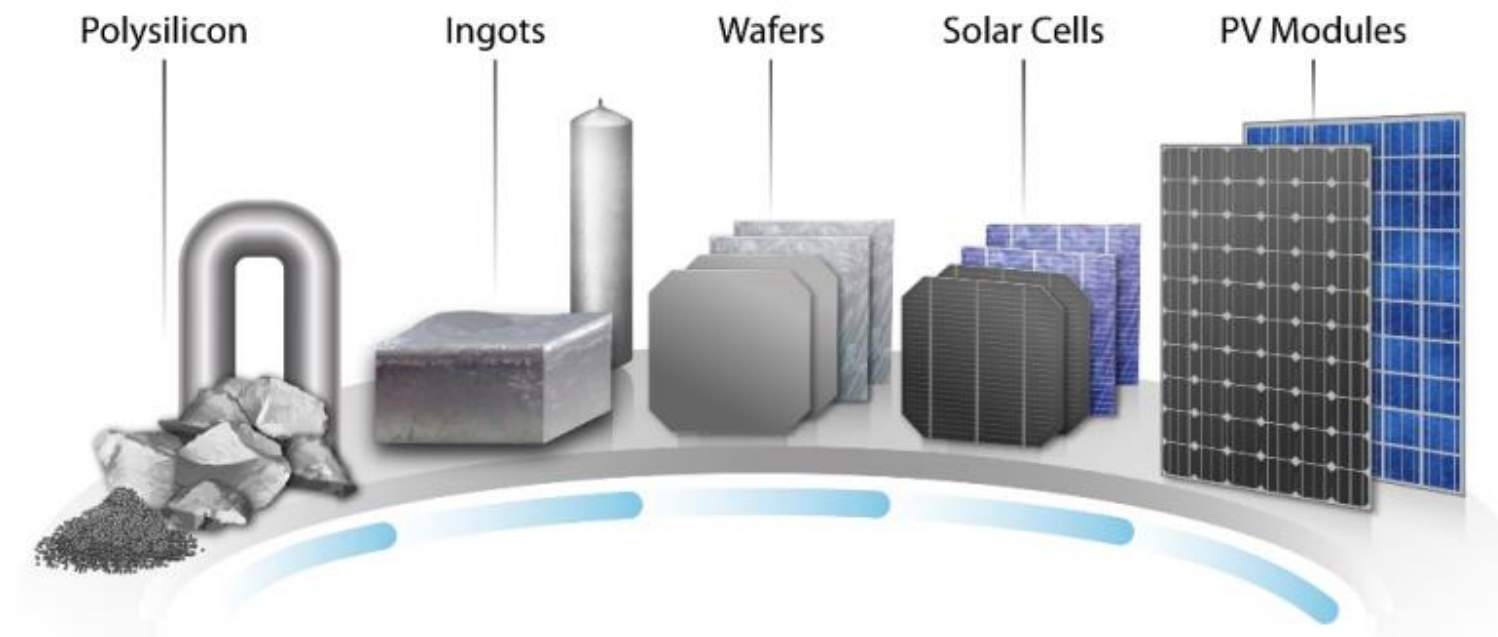
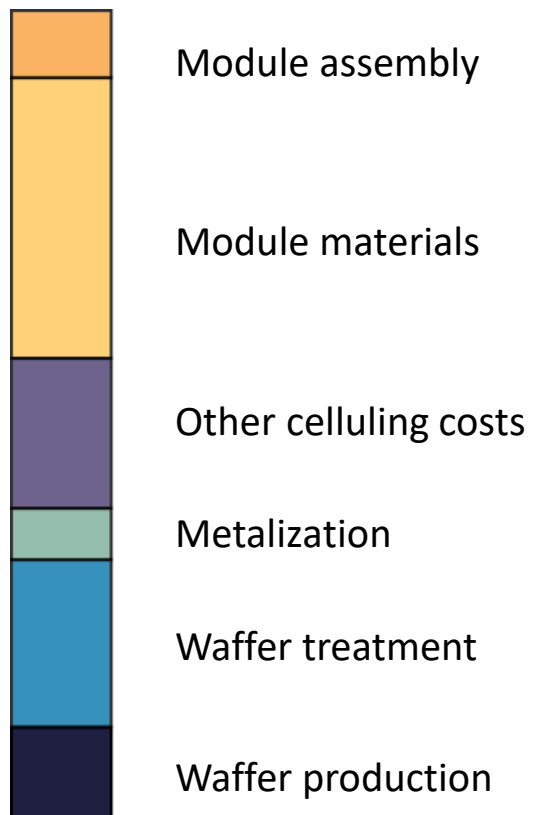
# Cost evolution





# Module cost

## Module cost



**0.24 \$/W**

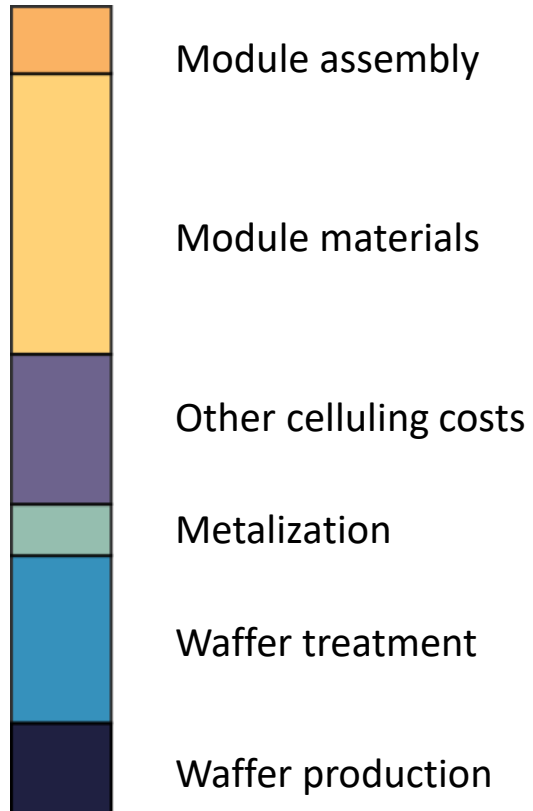
NREL (2019)

*M. Woodhouse et al., NREL Tech report, 2019*

# Installed cost



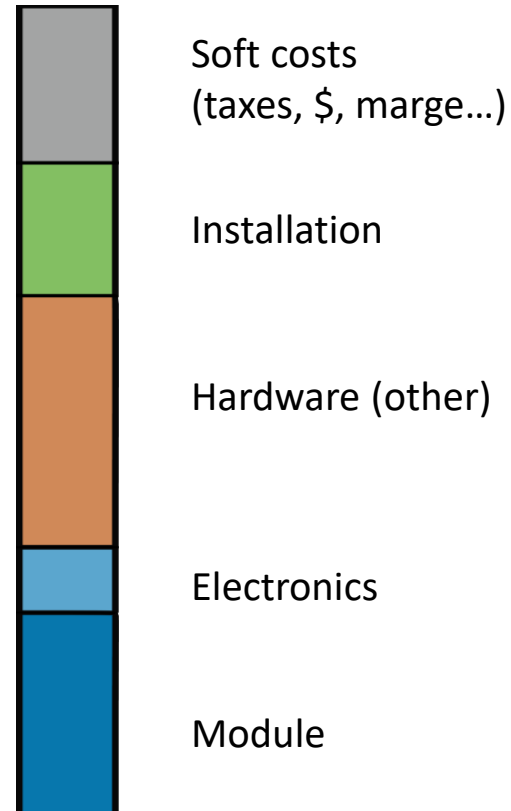
## Module cost



**0.24 \$/W**

NREL (2019)

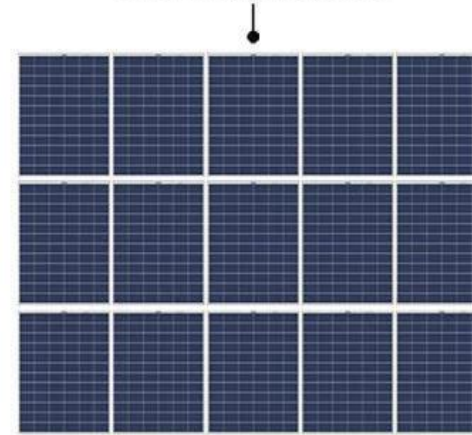
## Installed cost



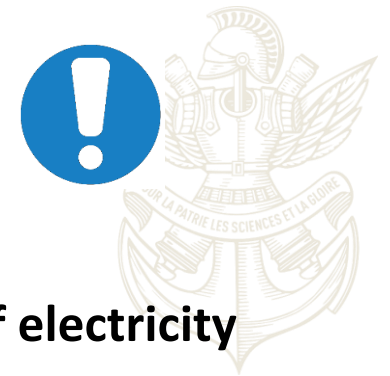
**1.07\$/W**

IRENA (2019)

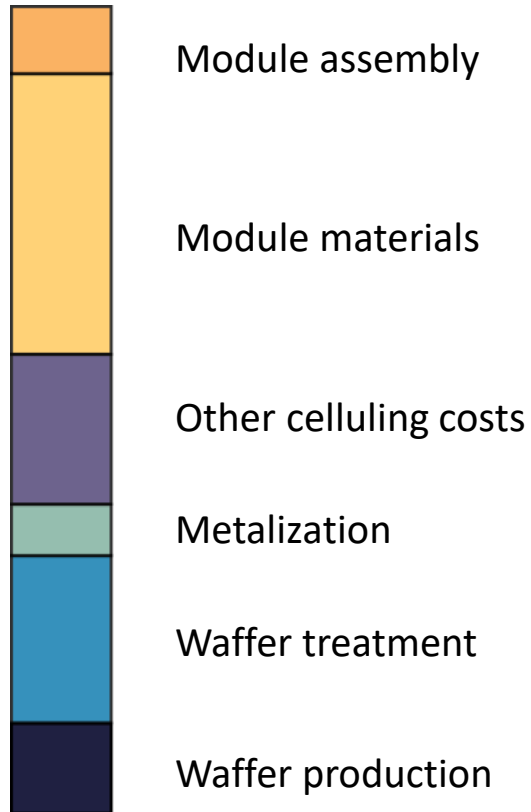
Fifteen 335 watt Solar Panels



# Levelized cost



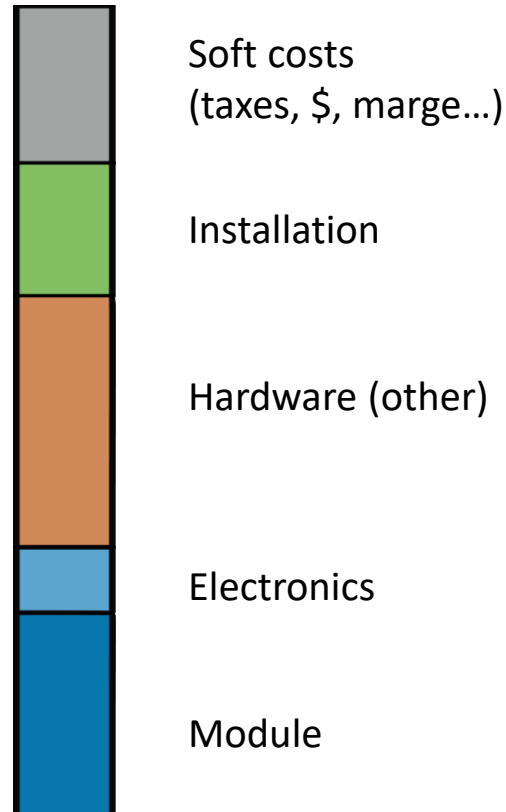
## Module cost



**0.24 \$/W**

NREL (2019)

## Installed cost



**1.07\$/W**

IRENA (2019)

## Levelized cost of electricity

About 1/3 of electricity bills (J. Percebois)

### Maintenance



### Illumination



### Degradation



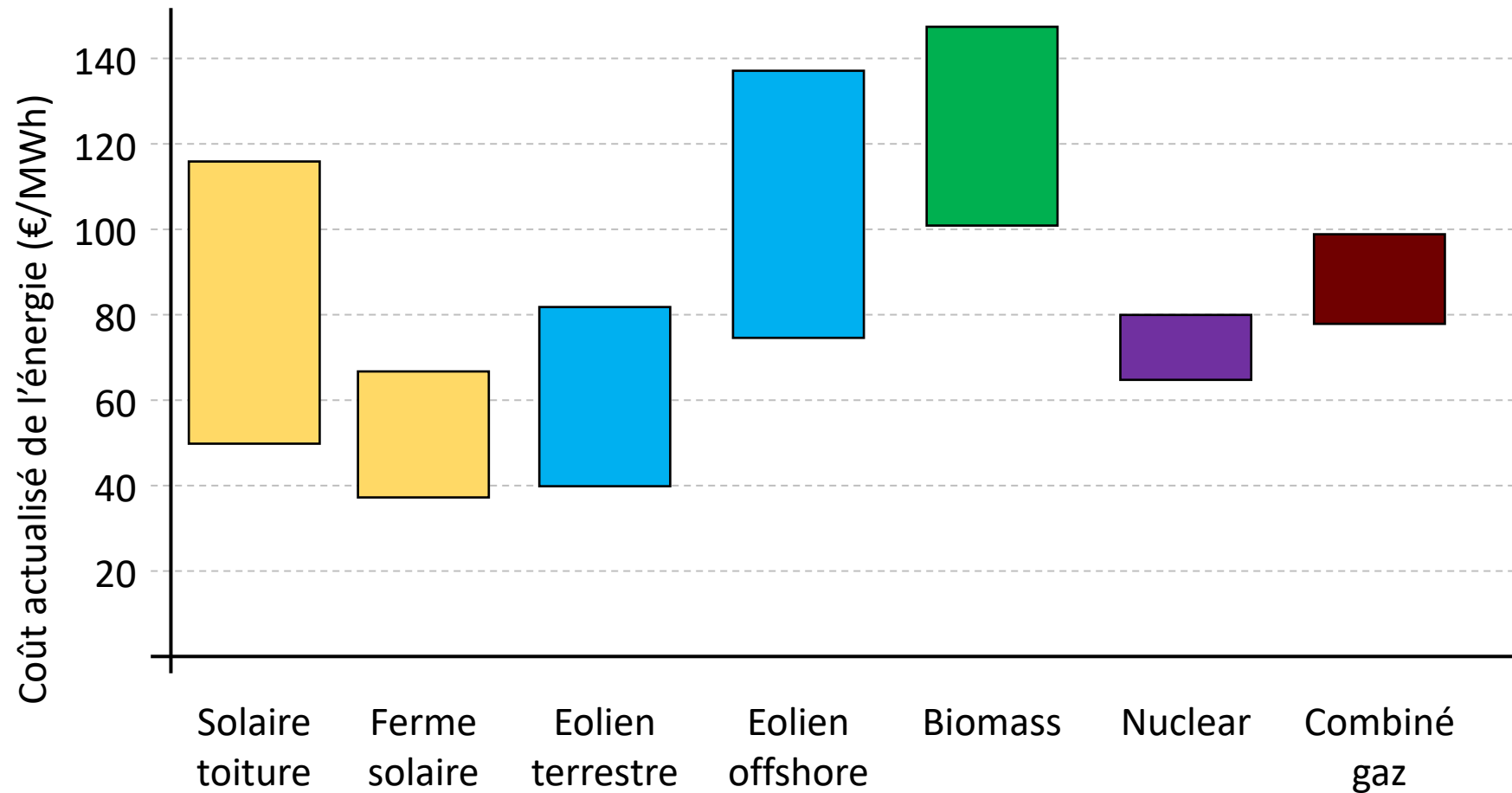
-0,5% /an

**Efficiency: 20% → 17%  
in 30 yrs**

**40-60 \$/MWh**

ITRPV (2019)

# Levelized cost (continued)



Fraunhofer ISE, Levelized cost of electricity – renewable energy technologies (2018)

EIA, Levelized Cost and Levelized Avoided Cost of New Generation (2019)

# Energy pay back



Progress in PHOTOVOLTAICS  
 PROGRESS IN PHOTOVOLTAICS: RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS  
*Prog. Photovolt: Res. Appl.* (2014)  
 Published online in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com). DOI: 10.1002/pip.2548

ARTICLE  
 Received 2 Feb 2016 | Accepted 28 Oct 2016 | Published 6 Dec 2016  
 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms13728 OPEN

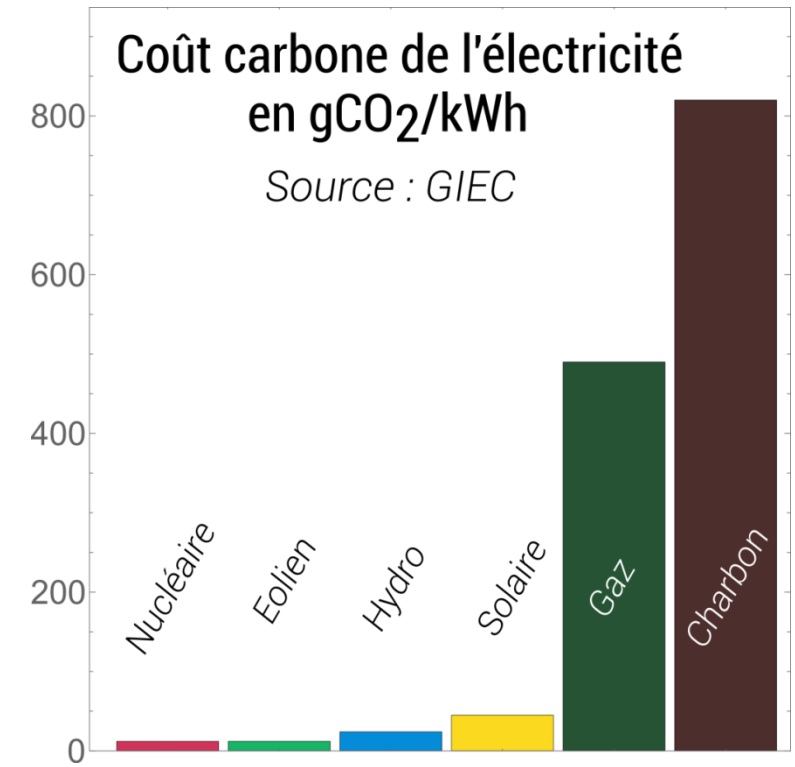
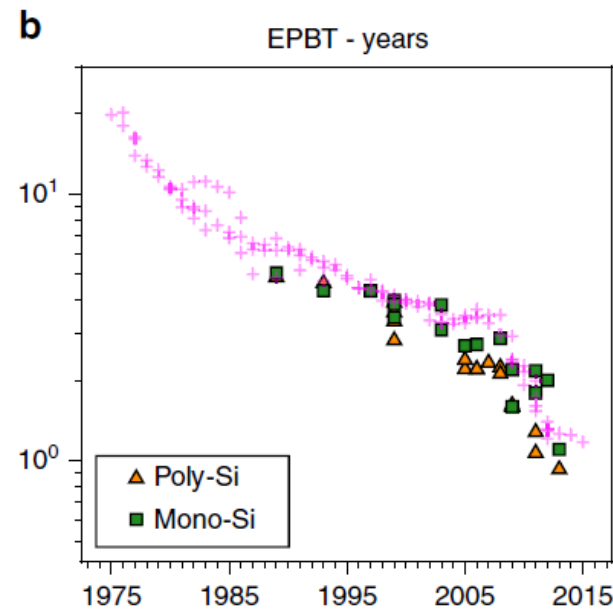
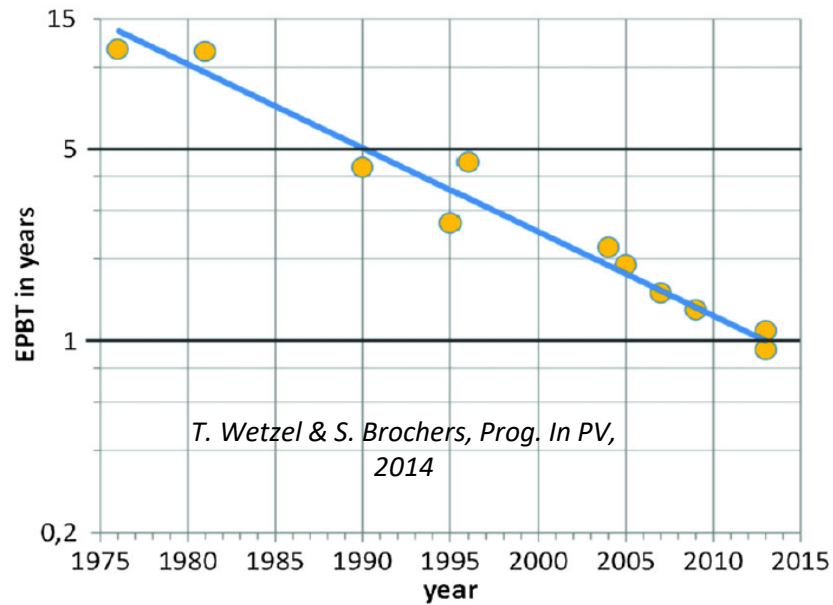
## Re-assessment of net energy production and greenhouse gas emissions avoidance after 40 years of photovoltaics development

Atse Louwen<sup>1</sup>, Wilfried G.J.H.M. van Sark<sup>1</sup>, André P.C. Faaij<sup>2</sup> & Ruud E.I. Schropp<sup>3</sup>

BROADER PERSPECTIVES

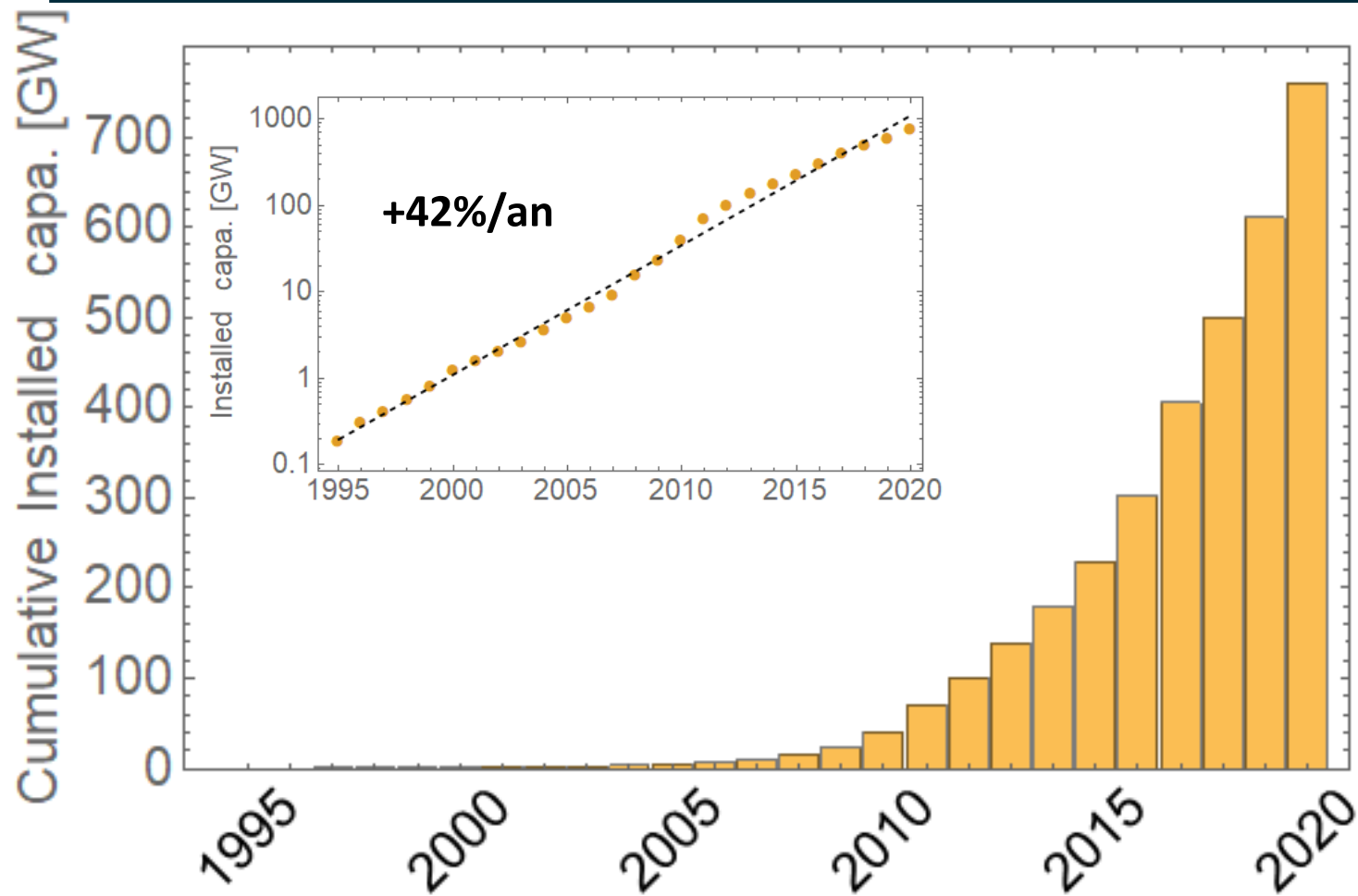
### Update of energy payback time and greenhouse gas emission data for crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules

Thomas Wetzel\* and Stephanie Borchers





# Installed PV capacity



BP (2015) & IEA-PVPS (2019)

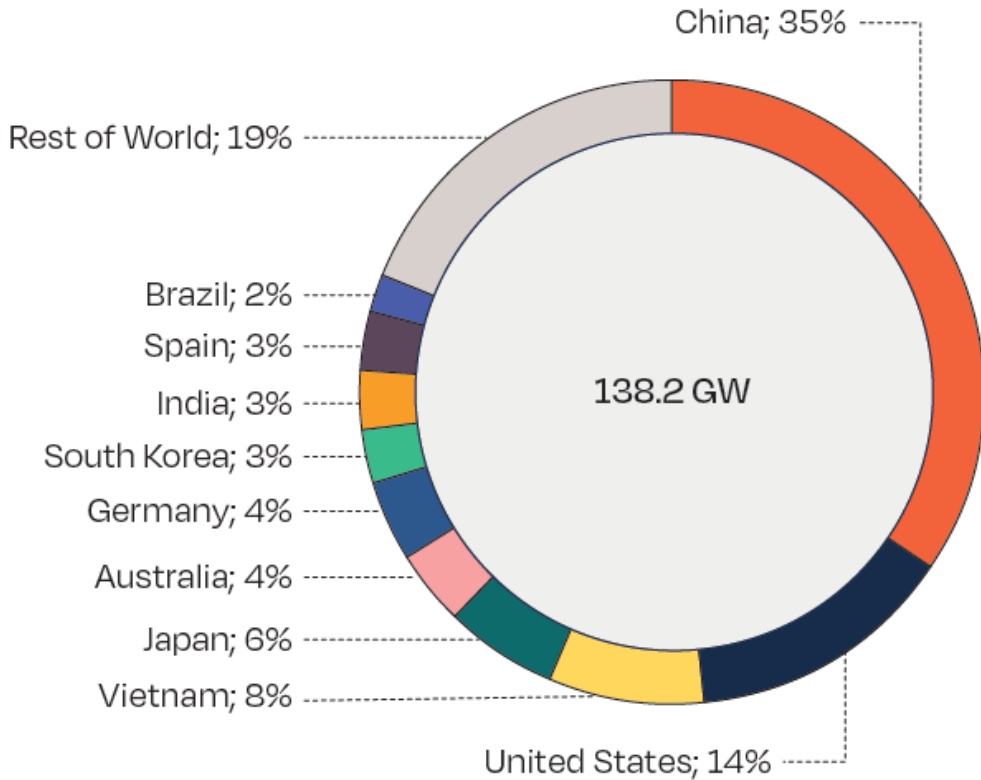
In 2018,  
World :  
500GW installed  
650 TWh actually produced  
(=2.5% of the world production)

France :  
8.5 GW installed  
10 TWh actually produced  
(= 2% of the French production)

# PV distribution

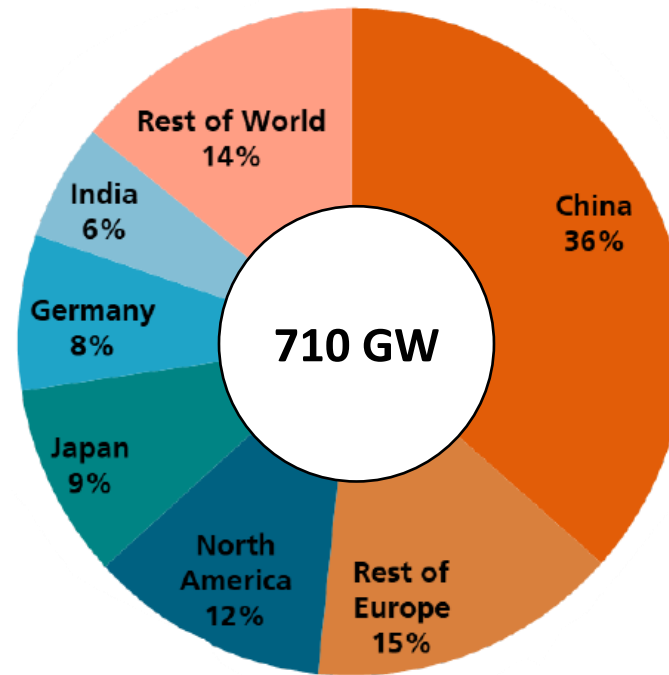


Installed power in 2020

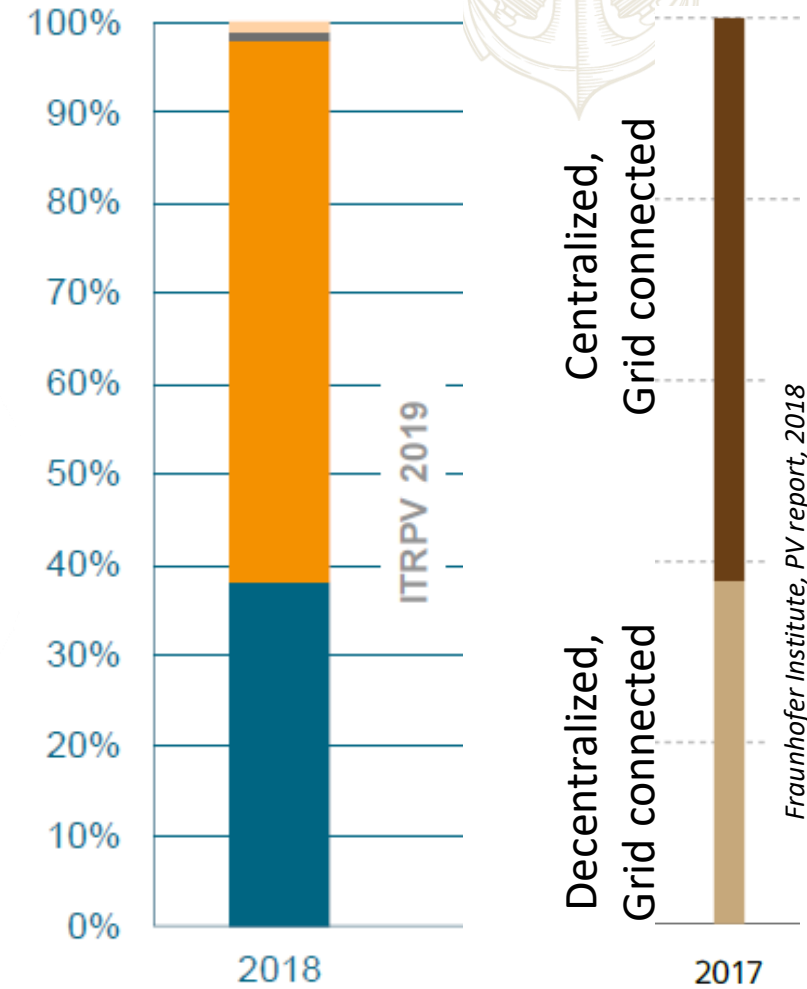


SOLARPOWER EUROPE 2021

Cumulative installed power until 2020



IRENA 2021  
Fraunhofer 2021

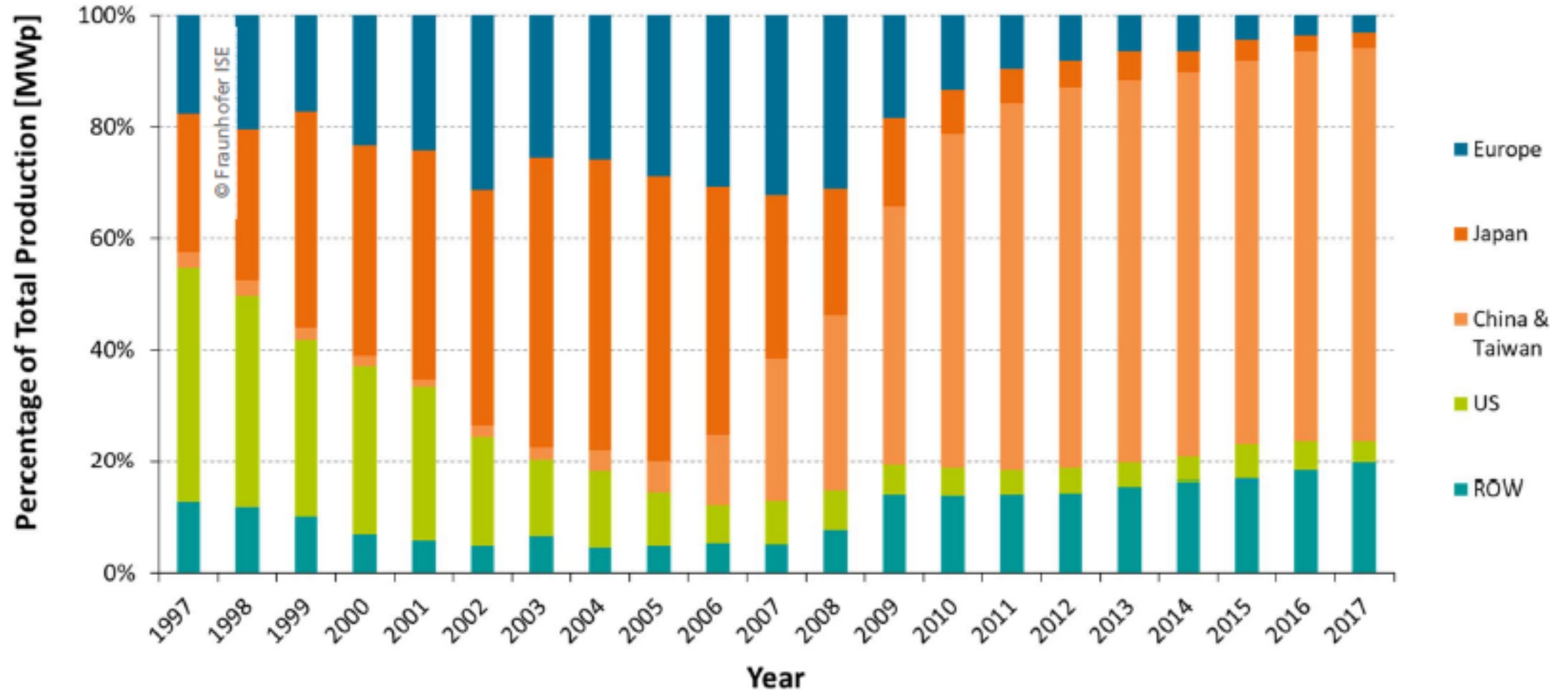


Fraunhofer Institute, PV report, 2018

■ roof top   ■ power plant   ■ building integrated   ■ floating

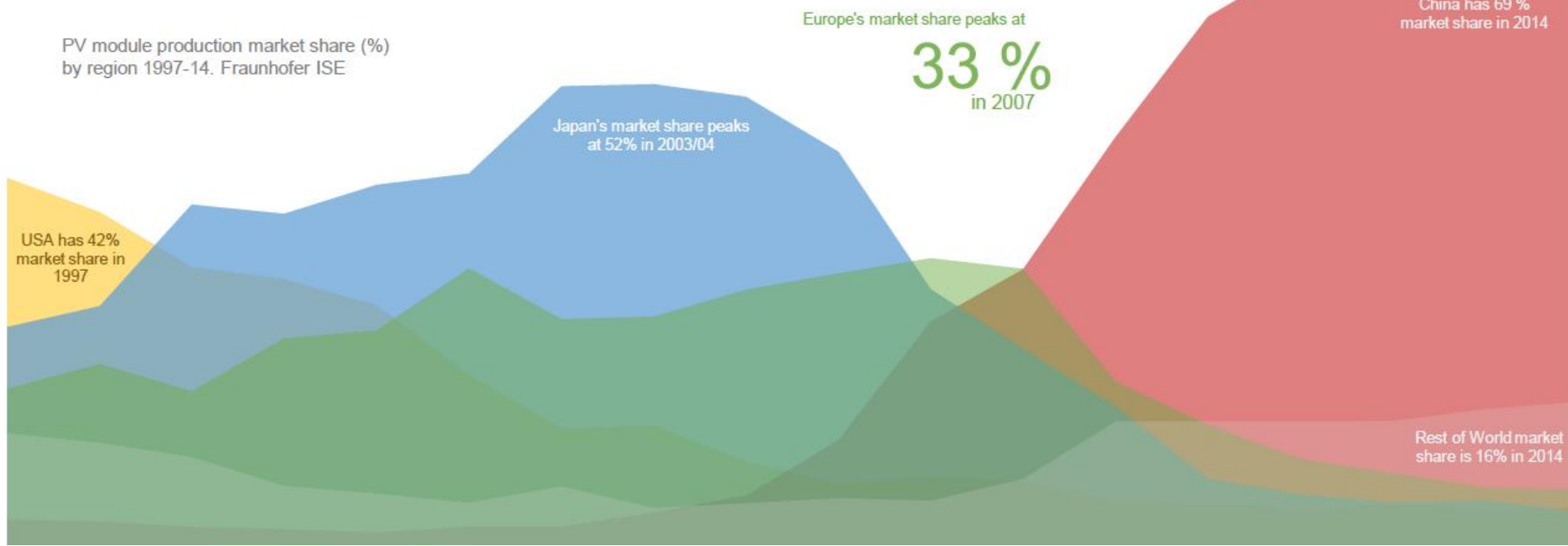
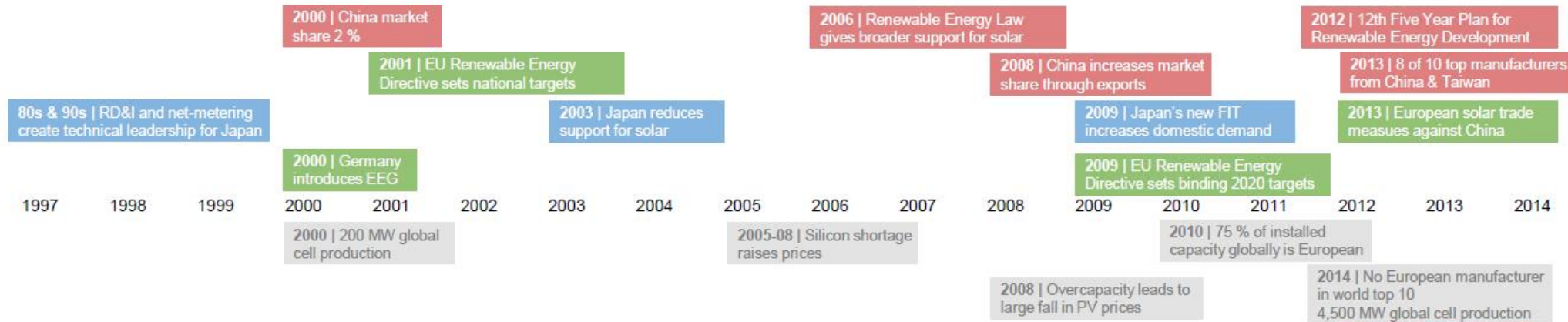


# Solar module production





# Timeline of PV in Europe



Assessment of Photovoltaics European Commission (2017)

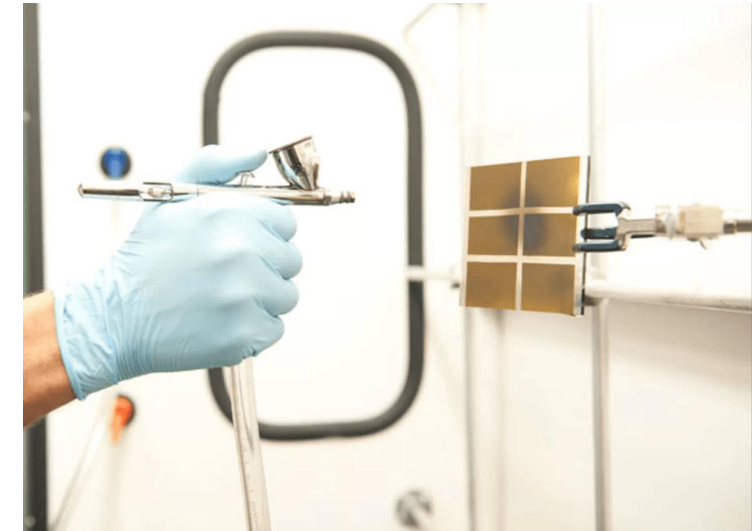
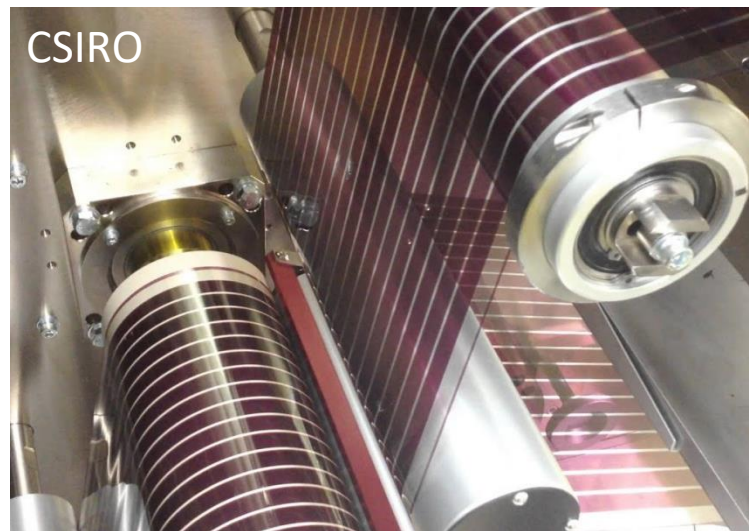
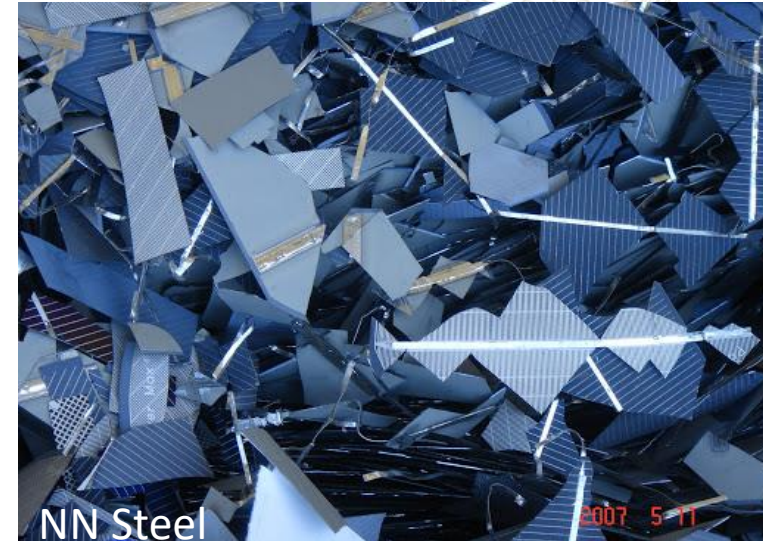
# Industrial processes



Scale up (european)  
production capacities  
(aiming at TW scale)

Paving technologies  
→  
Coating technologies ?

Consider end-of-life at  
conception stages



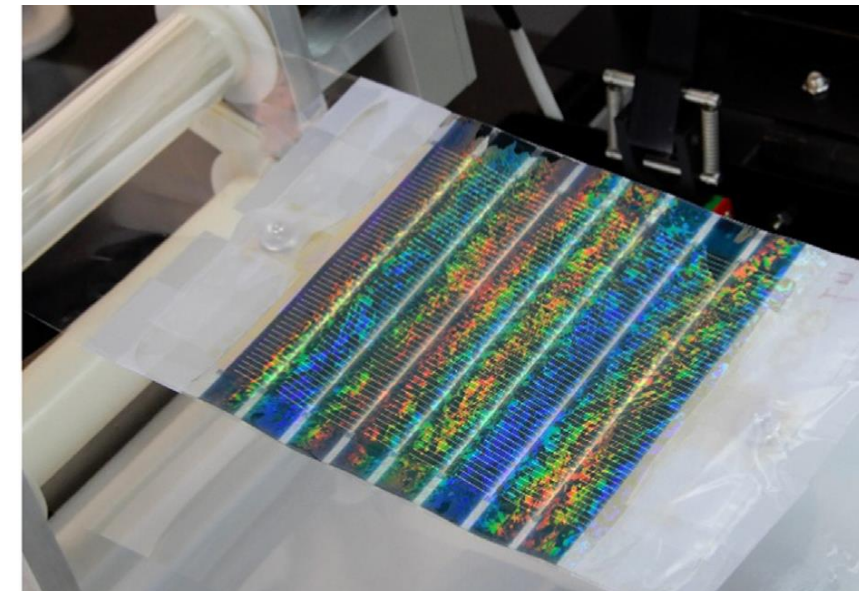
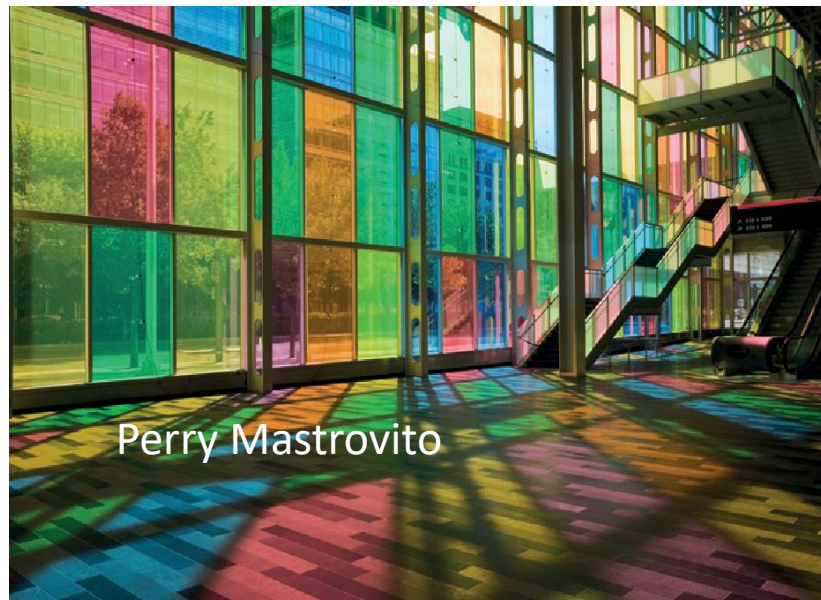
# Broader applications



## *Mechanical properties*



## *Optical properties*

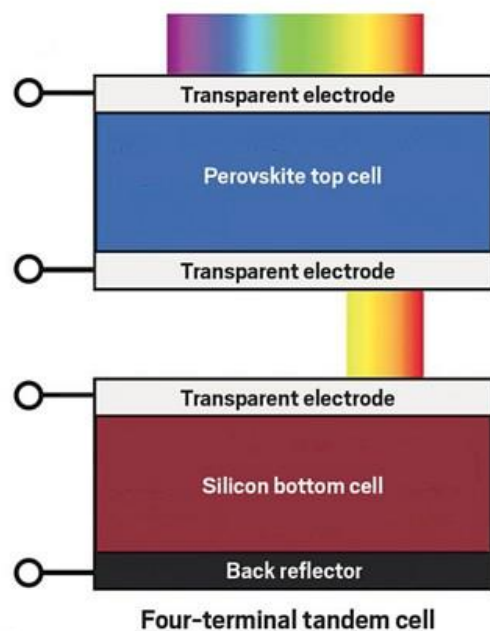




# The quest for high efficiencies

How to overcome the 30% Shockley-Queisser limit and aim at much higher efficiencies?

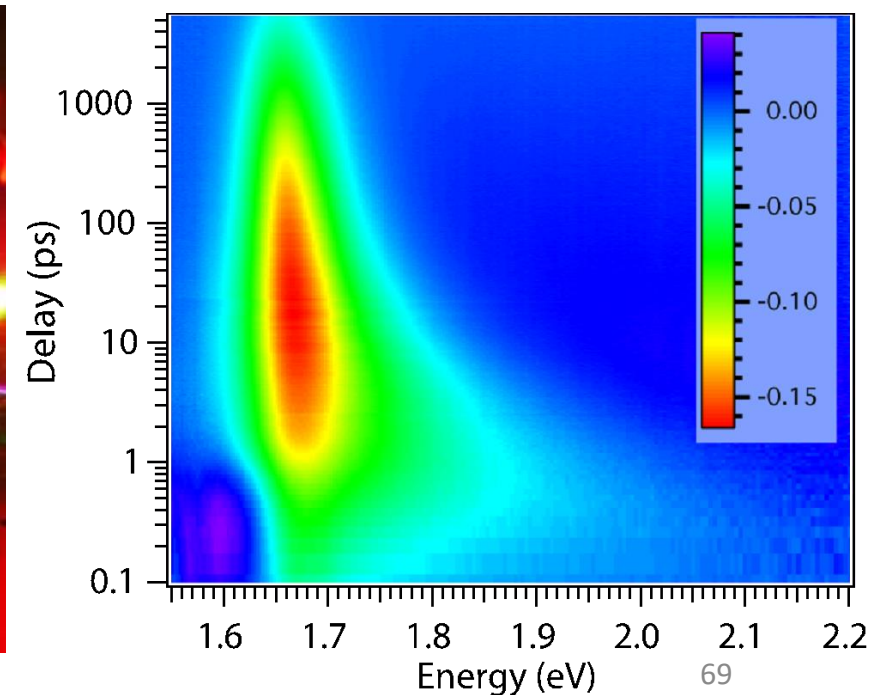
Architecture



Light



Carriers

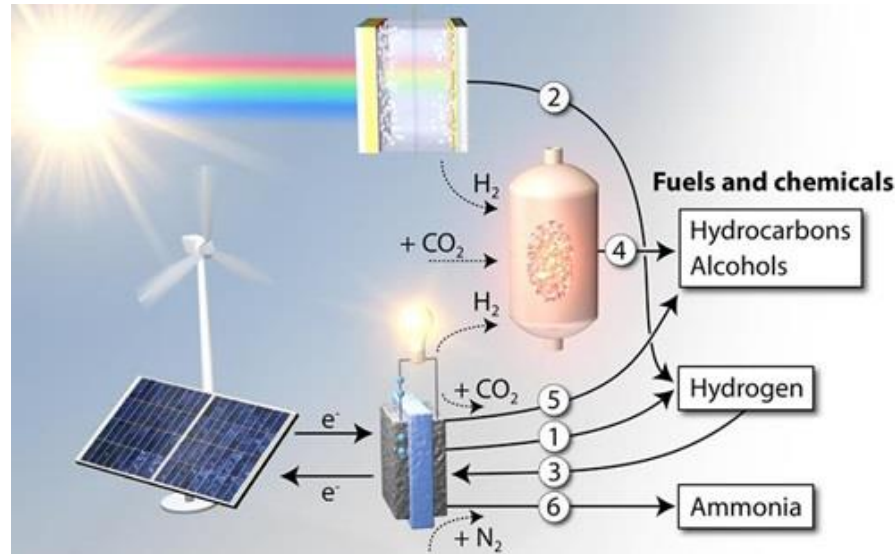


# Grid integration



## Multi-vectors

Solar  
↓  
Chemical (H<sub>2</sub> ...)



Solar  
↓  
Thermal



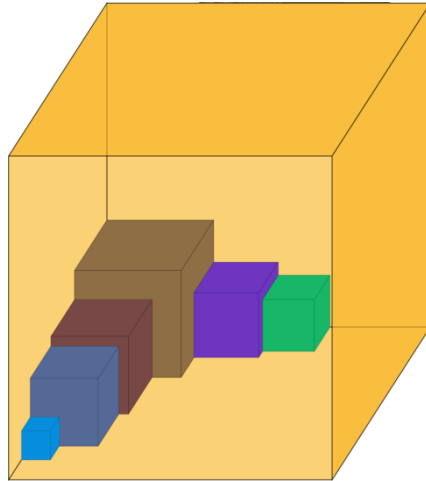
## Match supply and consumption



# Take home message



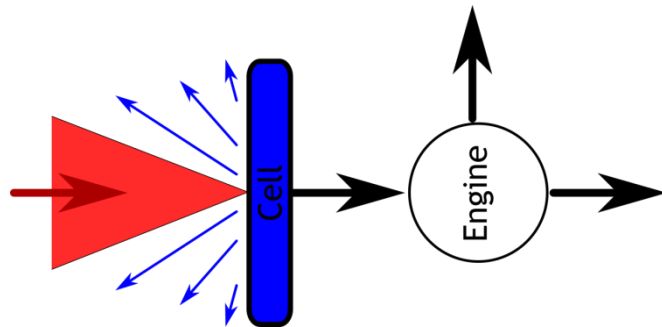
Orders of magnitude



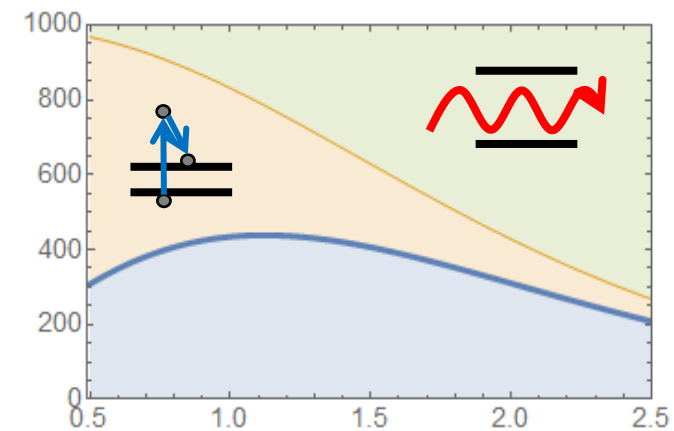
Different ways to convert solar energy

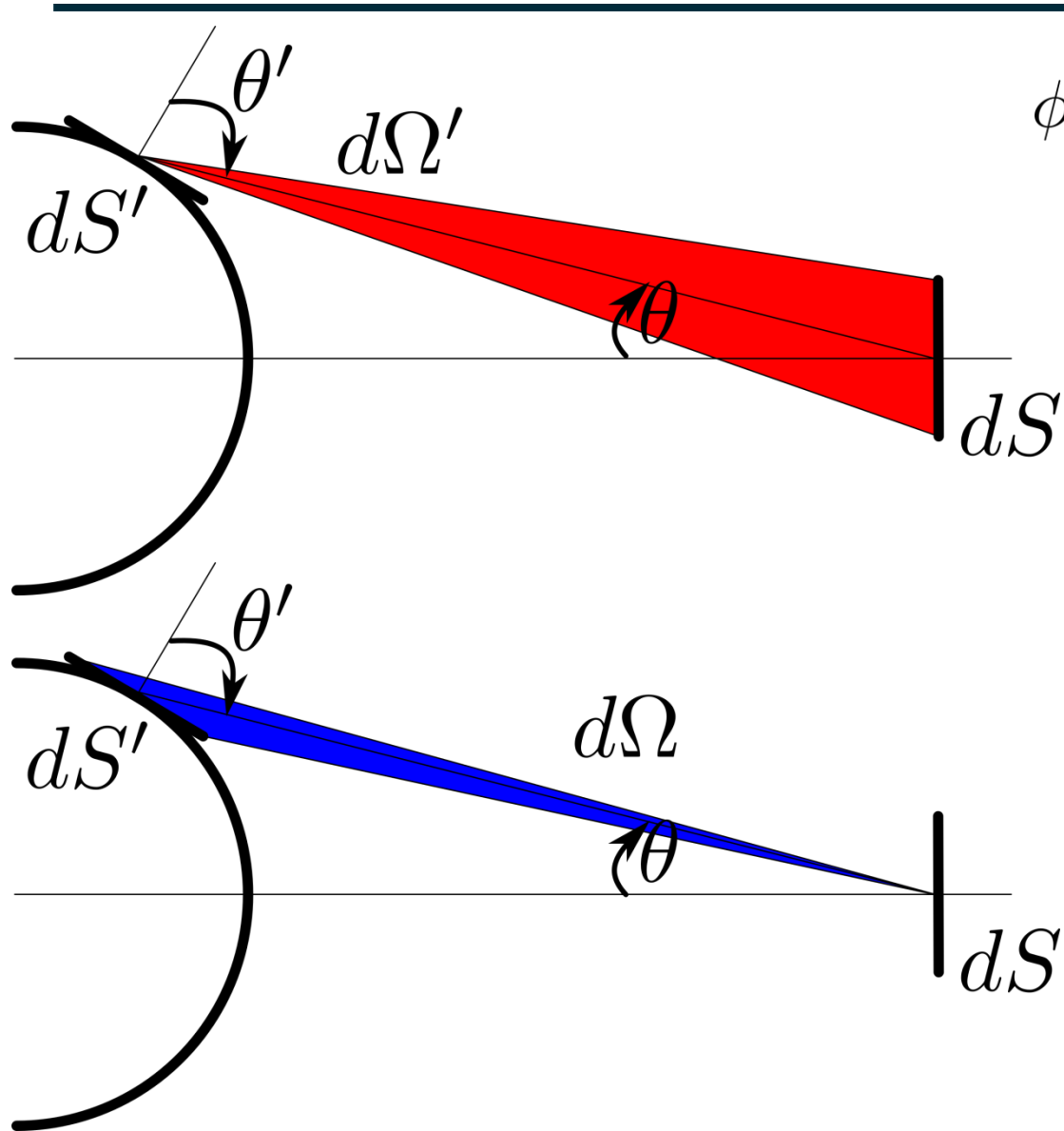


Thermodynamics with radiative heat exchange



Basic solar cell physics





$$\phi_E(\Omega) = \int dE \phi_E(E, \Omega) = \frac{\cos \theta}{\pi} \sigma T^4$$

$$\begin{aligned} dI &= \frac{\cos \theta'}{\pi} \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS' d\Omega' \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta'}{\pi} \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS' \frac{dS \cos \theta}{D^2} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{\pi} \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS \frac{dS' \cos \theta'}{D^2} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{\pi} \sigma T_{\text{sun}}^4 dS d\Omega \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int \cos \theta d\Omega \times \sigma T^4 \\ &= \sin^2 \theta_{\text{sun}} \times \sigma T^4 \end{aligned}$$