

Sustainable Global Energy Systems Based on Solar Power

R&D of ultra-high efficiency solar cells and GS+I's mission

Yoshiaki Nakano

RCAST, The University of Tokyo, Co-chair of GS+I

2012.9.28 UT-KFUPM Workshop @ ENEOS Hall, RCAST

Outline

- 1. GS+I Mission**
- 2. Potential of Sunlight Energy**
- 3. Solar Energy Harvesting: H or E?**
- 4. Current R&D Status of High-Efficiency PV Cells**
- 5. Solar Energy Storage and Transport**

Global Solar Plus Initiative

-Endowed Chair for Sustainable Global Energy System Driven by Sunlight



The University of Tokyo carries out innovative R&D projects in close cooperation with industries, universities and research institutes, both domestic and overseas, in the aim of establishing a global sustainable system by using the abundant solar energy.

LATEST NEWS

"First Regular Research Conference of GS+!" has been launched.
(1/21/2011)

Related article was published on Japanese Weekly Economist (Japanese text)
(1/4/2011)

Related article was published on Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Japanese text)
(1/3/2011)

PROJECT TOPICS

Renewable energy:
Mere Solutions for Future World



Professor Yoshiaki Nakano

PROJECT TOPICS

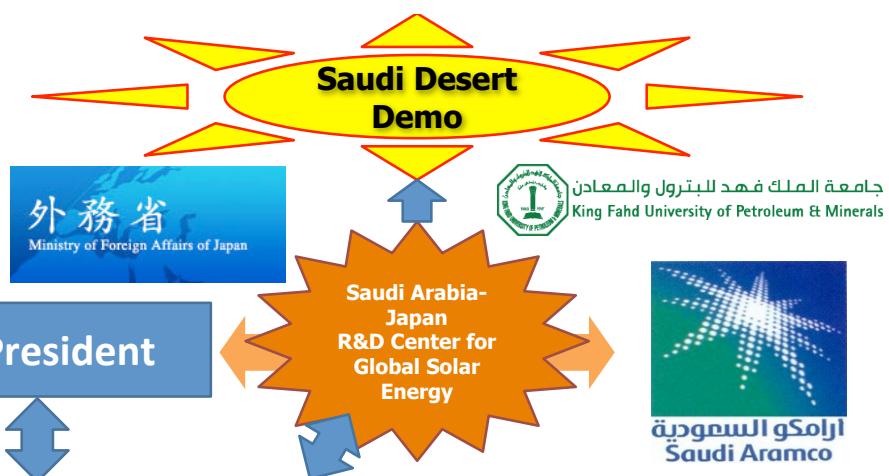
Growth Scenario for the 21st Century



Professor Gento Mogi



GS+I Structure



Global Solar+ Initiative President's Endowed Chair

GSI Study Group

Affiliated Companies



Department of Technology Management for Innovation



関東天然瓦斯開発株式会社
Kanto Natural Gas Development Co., Ltd.

SHARP

日揮株式会社 (JGC CORPORATION)



Center for Advanced Power and Environmental Technology



Collaborative Research Center for Energy Engineering

付1

Sustainable Global Energy System



Generation and Storage under Strong Sun
then Energy Shipping to Remote Location

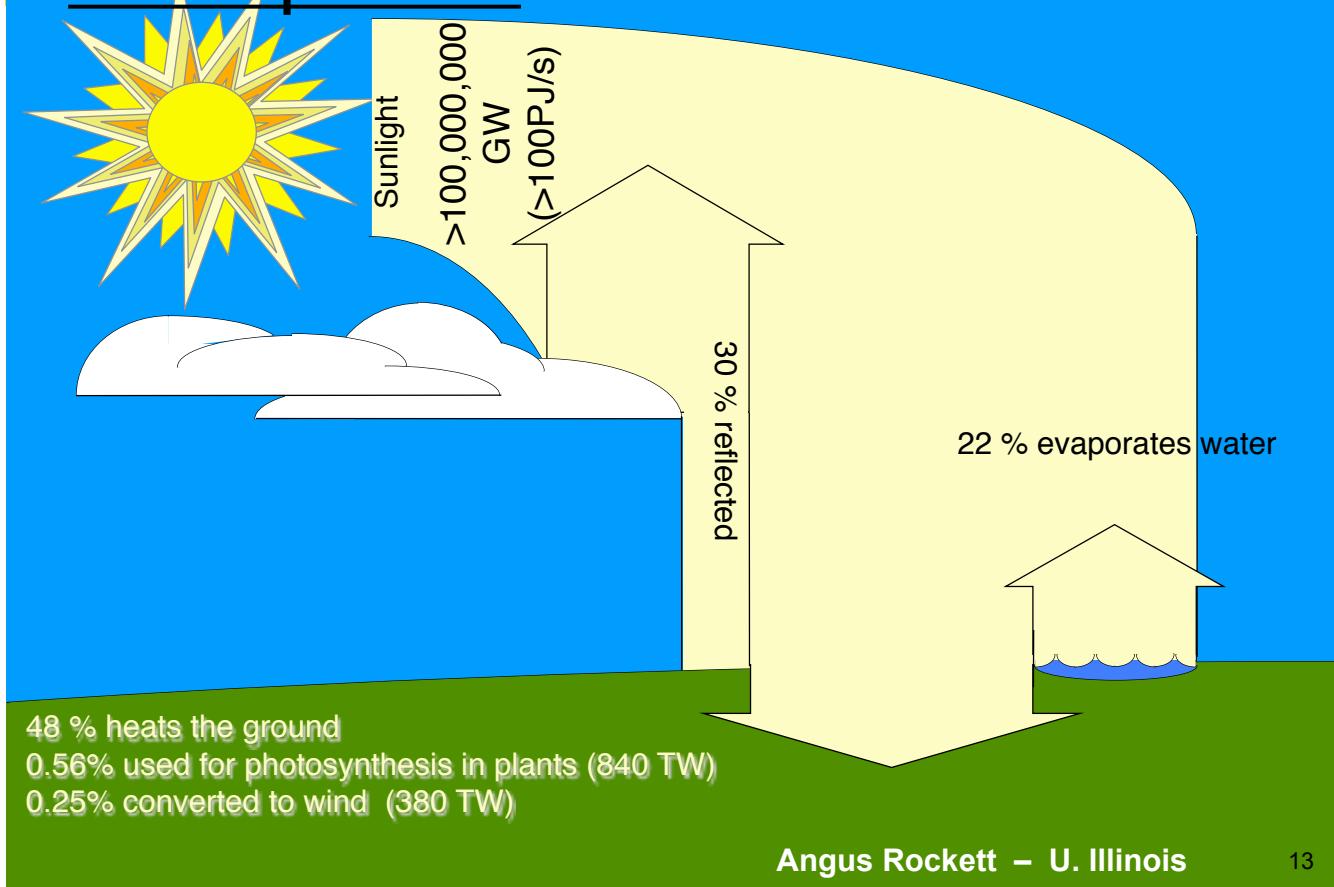
← High-efficiency PV/CPV/CSP
Energy Storage and Transportation

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Solar power:



The sun made all

Fossil Fuel
*-saved sunlight
 energy*



Petroleum



Coal



Natural Gas

Renewable Energy
-current sunlight energy
Indirect

Types of Biomass	
	Wood fuel
	Rubbish
	Alcohol fuels
	Crops
	Landfill gas

Biomass



Wind power



PV



Hydropower



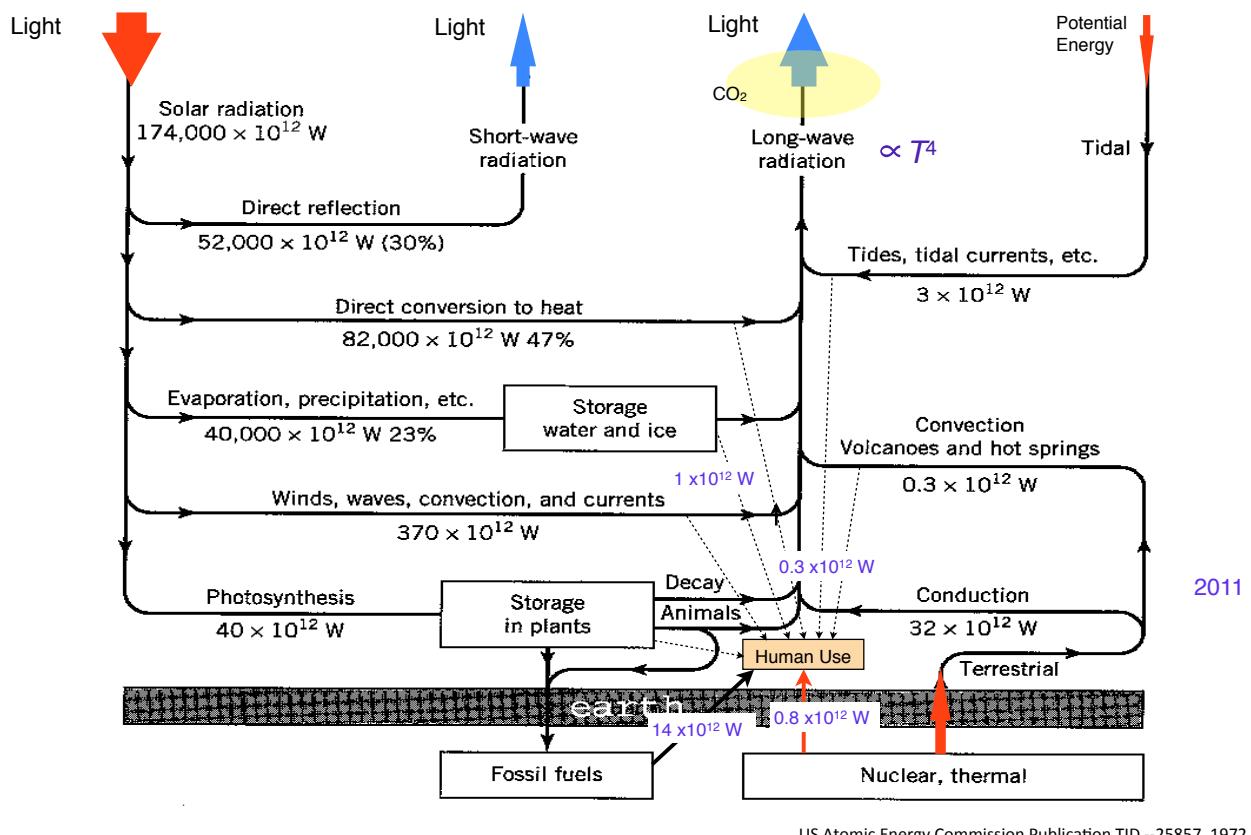
Wave power



Solar thermal

- Cost is very different from region to region
- Best mix also differs

Energy Flow on the Earth



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Barstow Scheme

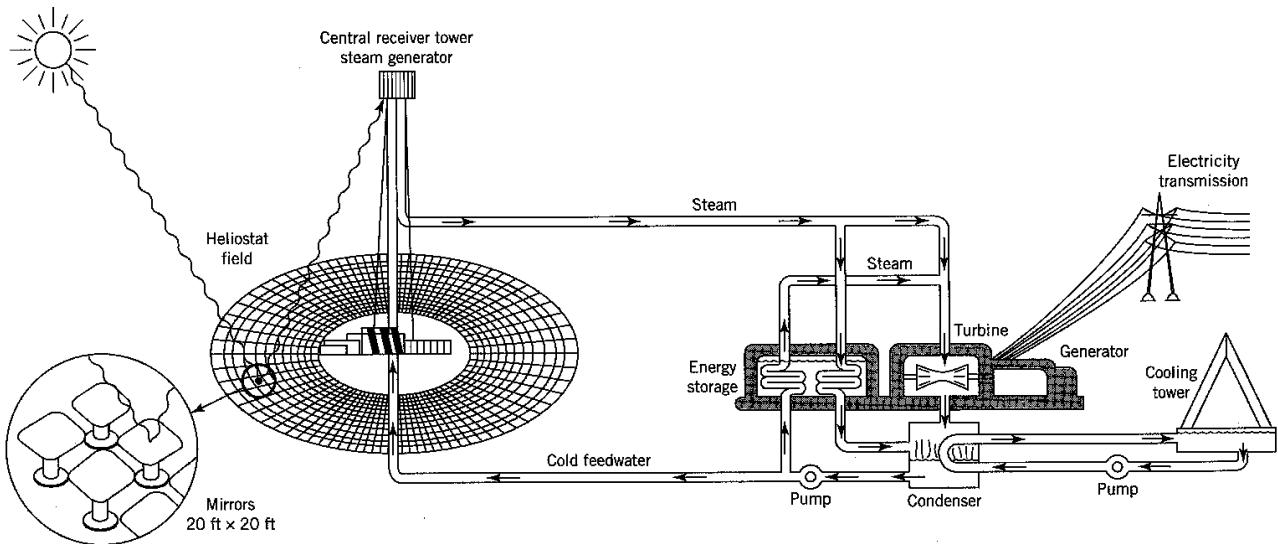
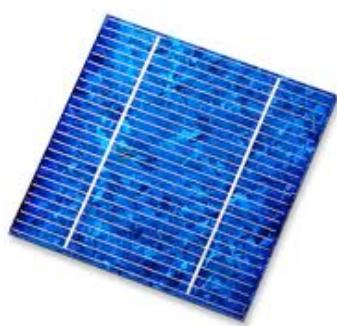


Figure 4.11 A schematic view of a 10 MW_e solar-thermal power plant near Barstow, California. The receiver and boiler that absorb the sunlight reflected from 1900 heliostats are at the top of a 90 meter tower. The heliostats are each steered by computer control to reflect the sunlight onto the receiver. The steam from the boiler can be either delivered directly to the turbine and generator or to storage. The storage system can provide steam for 4 hours of generation at a level of 7 MW_e without sunlight. (Figure supplied by the Solar Energy Research Institute.)

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Light into Electricity: PV



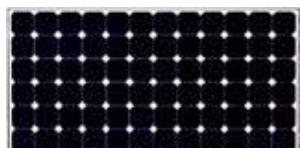
Poly-crystalline Si



Thin film Si



Dye-sensitized,
Organic



Single crystalline Si



Thin film compound

PV Technology Options



Flat plates

~94% of today's market

Crystalline silicon

- Single crystal
- Polycrystalline



Thin films

- CdTe
- Amorphous Si
- CuInGaSe₂



New technologies

- Organic
- Multiple others



Concentrators

Silicon

- Linear focus
- Point focus
- 2–200x



Multijunctions (III-Vs)

- Point focus
- 250 to >1000x



Individual Household



Mega Solar (PV Power Plant)



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Thailand
DC 73MW

Business operator : NED
Area : 190ha(1.9km²)
Installation location: onshore facility
Startup target : 2011 year-end

rendering

approx. 1km

approx. 2km

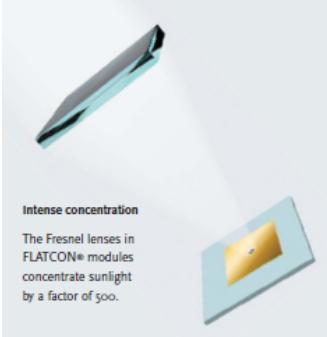
→GW/TW級大規模エネルギー源へと進化
エネルギーコスト(\$/J)が全て、グローバル

Under Construction

Sunlight Concentrator (lens)



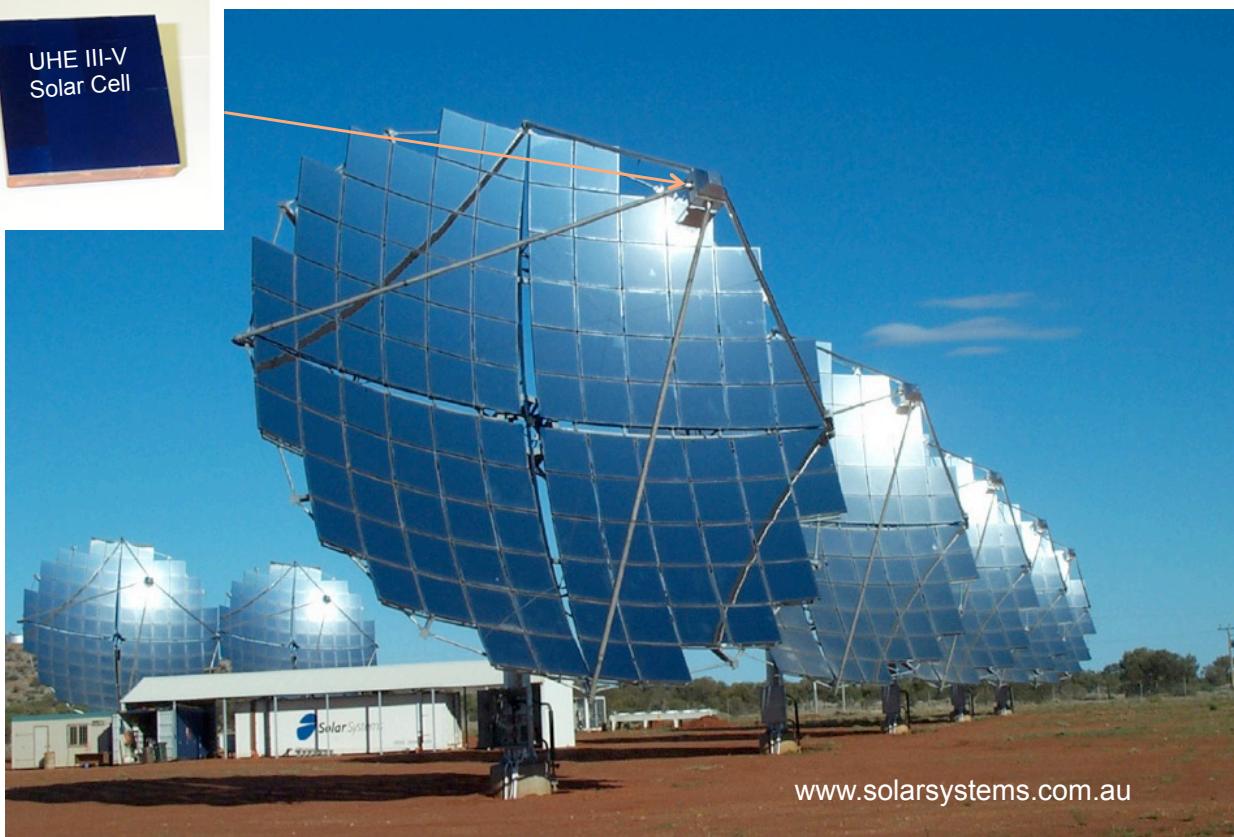
GSH



Puertollano and Seville (Spain)

www.concentrix-solar.de

Sunlight Concentrator (mirror)



Sunlight Concentrator (tower)



JFE Engineering



Merits of CPV



- PV conversion efficiency is the highest
- Cell cost reduced by factor of concentration
- Rare material usage reduced by a factor of concentration
- Copper wire usage very much reduced
- Energy Profit Ratio increased with concentration
- Easy to upgrade (optics and converter separated)
- Easy to maintain (optics and converter separated)

All are very advantageous for mega/giga solar plants



Area Needed for 1GW Power Gen



Power of Sunlight
1kW/m²



Nuclear Power
Plant

0.8 km sq.



Thin Film
Efficiency ~10%

3.2 km sq.



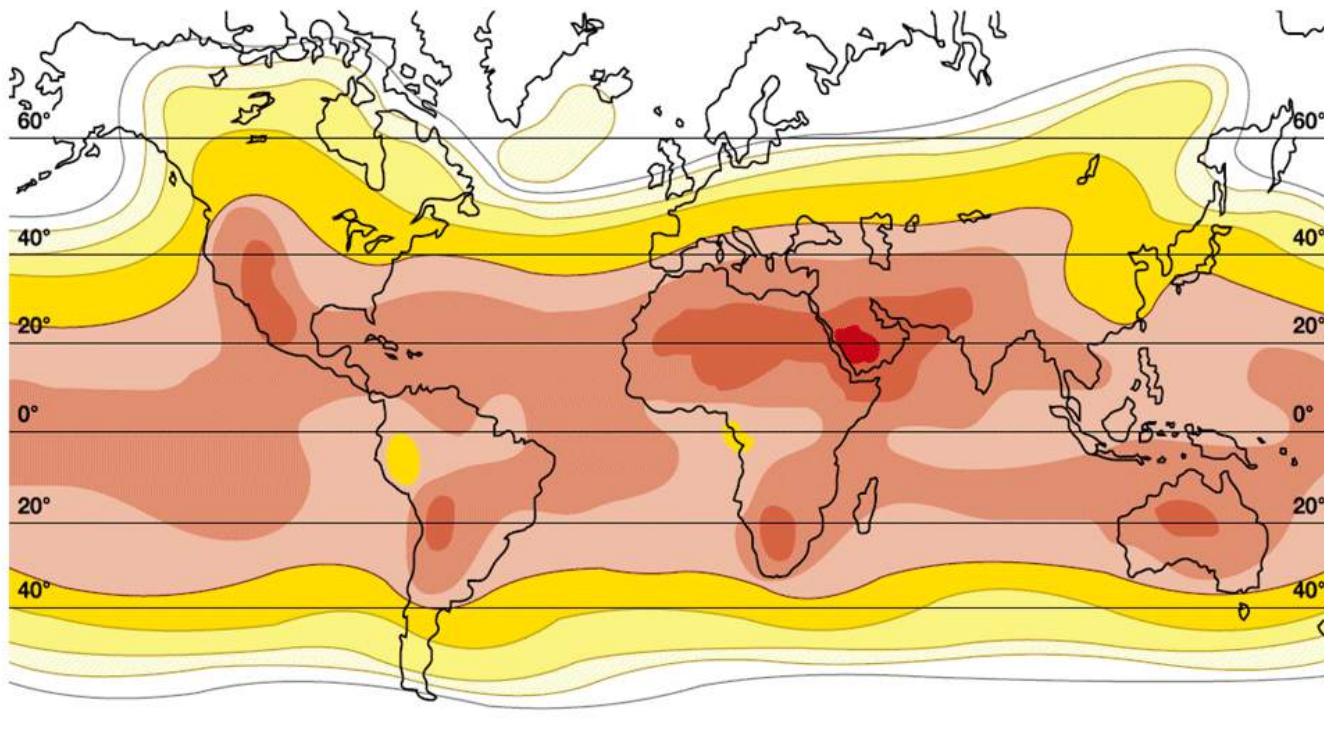
CPV
Efficiency ~40%

1.6 km sq.



*Utility area is not included

Global Insolation



■ 1 kWh/m² ■ 2 kWh/m² ■ 3 kWh/m² ■ 4 kWh/m² ■ 5 kWh/m² ■ 6 kWh/m² ■ 7 kWh/m²

Source : ABB Technical Application Papers No.10
Photovoltaik plants
unit:kWh/m²/day

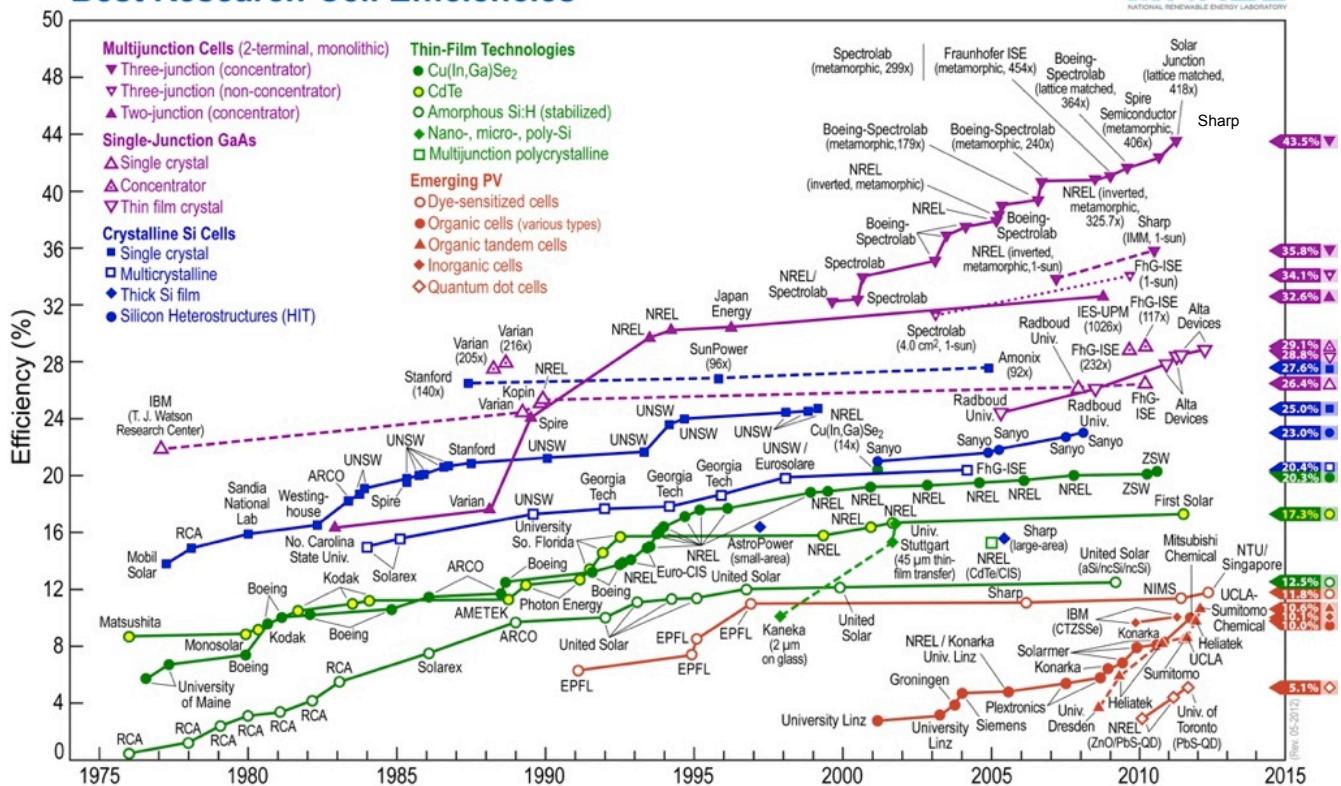
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Conversion Efficiency of Solar Cells

NREL
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

Best Research-Cell Efficiencies



The Solar Spectrum

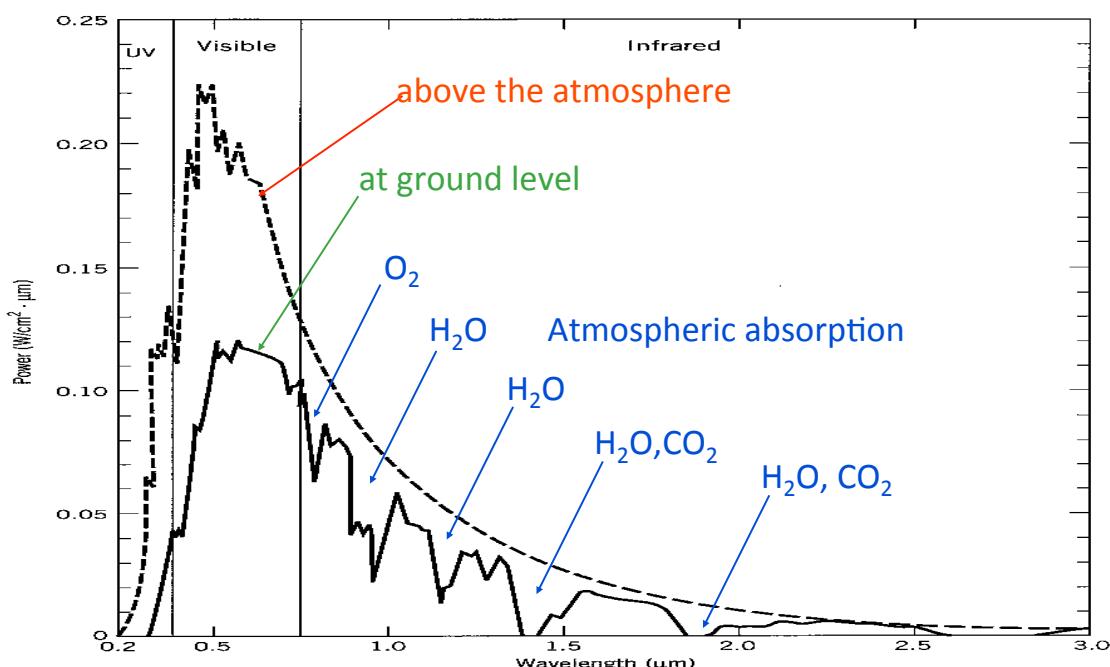
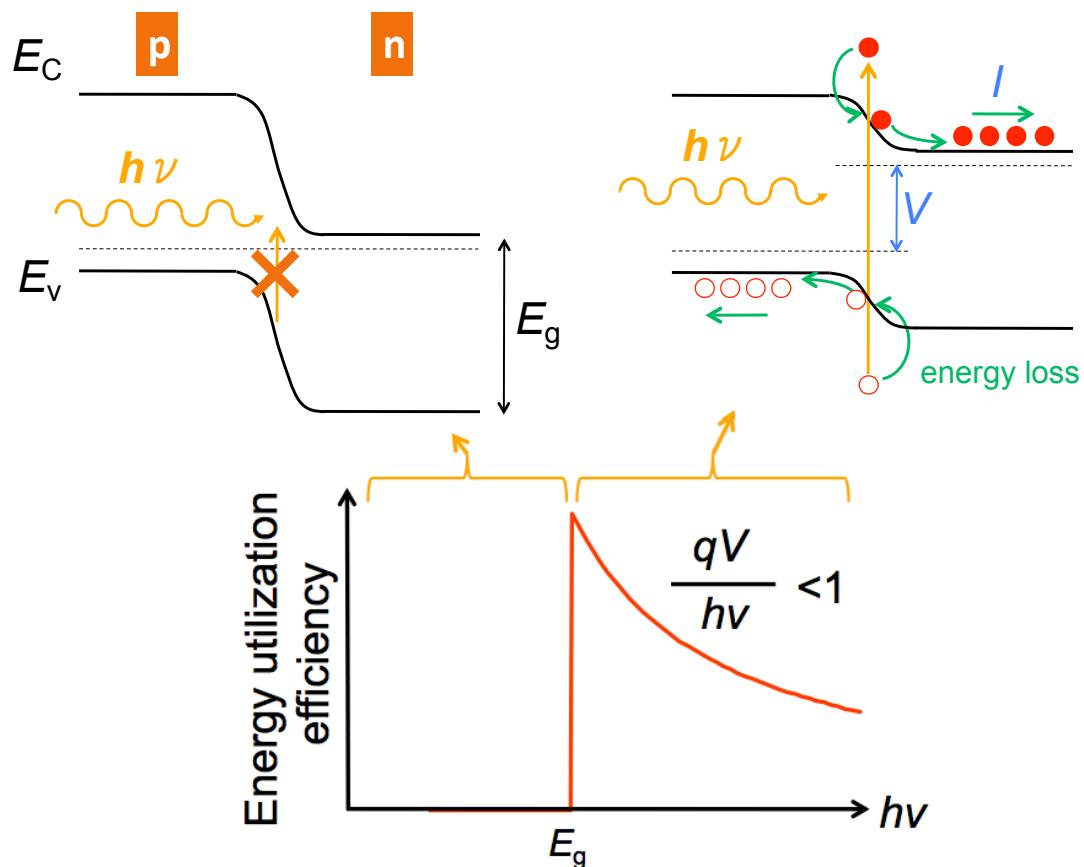


Figure 4.1 The wavelength distribution of solar radiation above the atmosphere (dashed line) and at the earth's surface (solid line). The Solar Constant is given by the area under the dashed curve. The sharp dips in the solid line are due to absorption of certain wavelengths by various atmospheric gases, including water vapor and carbon dioxide. (Adapted from *On the Nature and Distribution of Solar Radiation*, Watt Engineering, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, Department of Energy HCP/T2552-01, 1978.)

Fundamental energy losses in solar cells

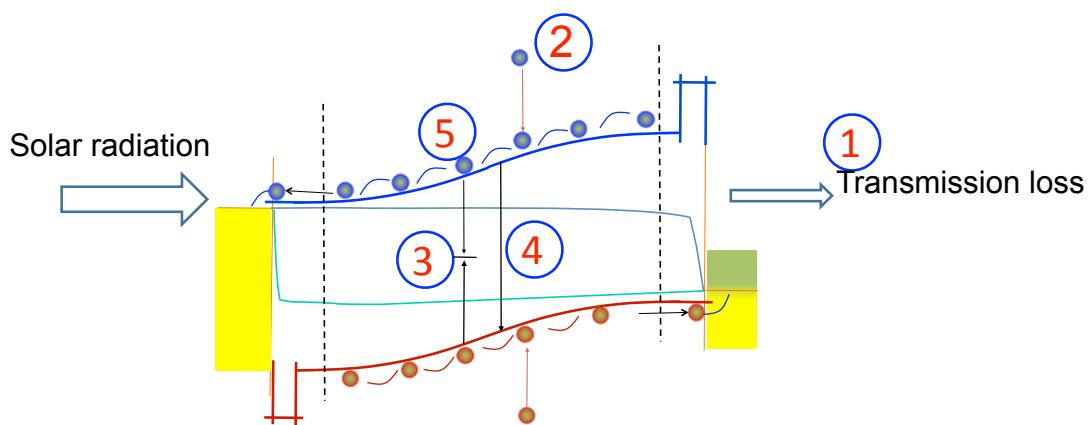


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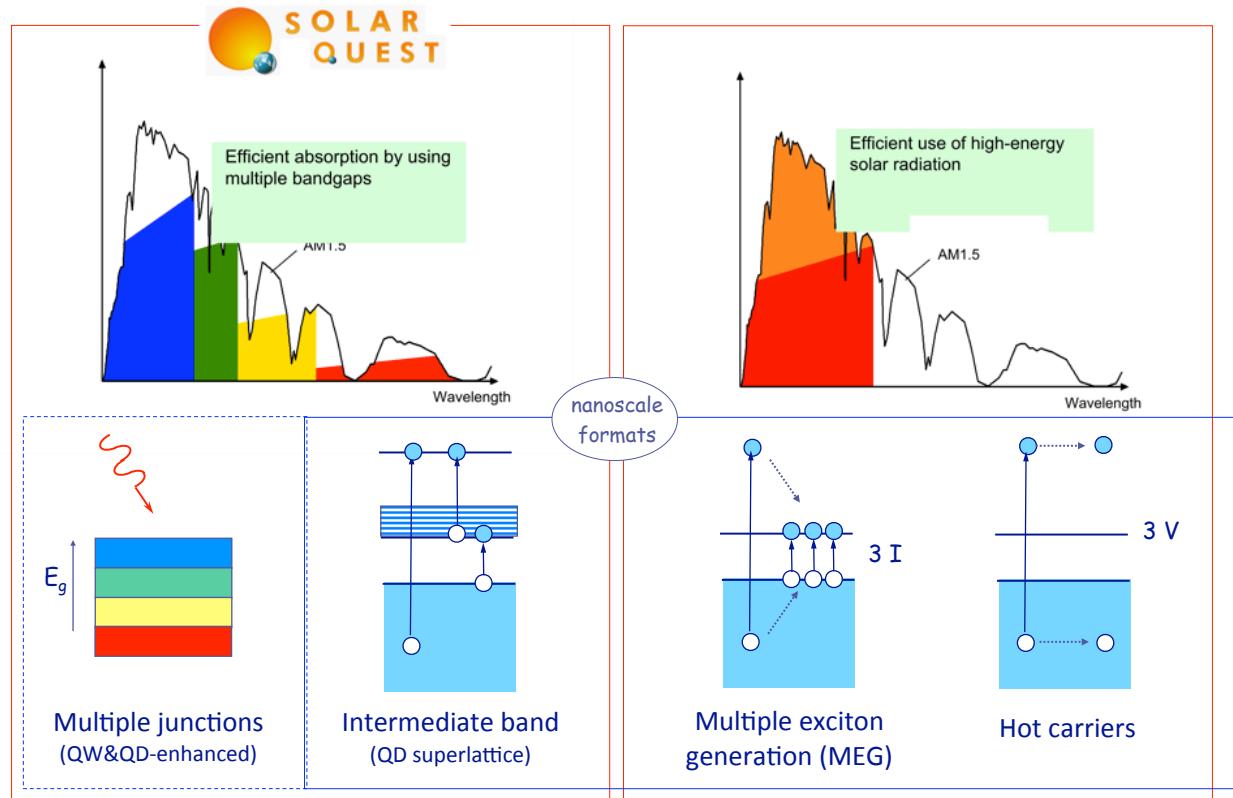
Major Loss Mechanisms



- ① Transmission loss
- ② Thermalization loss ($h\nu_{\text{average}} \rightarrow E_g + kT$)
- ③ Nonradiative recombination loss (SRH, Auger)
- ④ Radiative recombination loss (Photon recycling and coupling)
- ⑤ Spatial relaxation loss ($E_g + kT \rightarrow qV_m$)

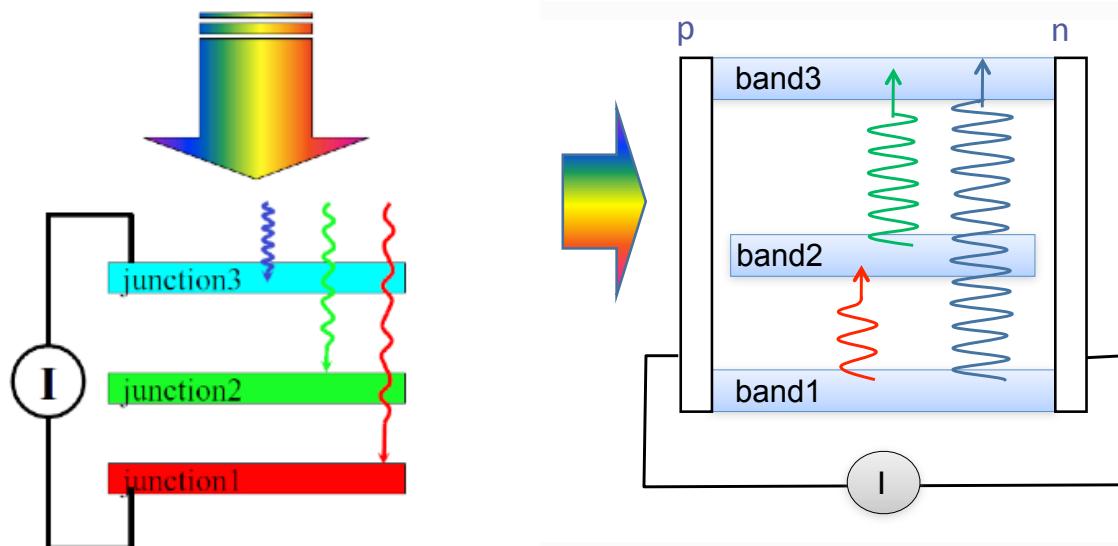


Innovative PV : > 50% Efficient Solar Cells



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High Efficiency Structures



Tunnel junctions not necessary

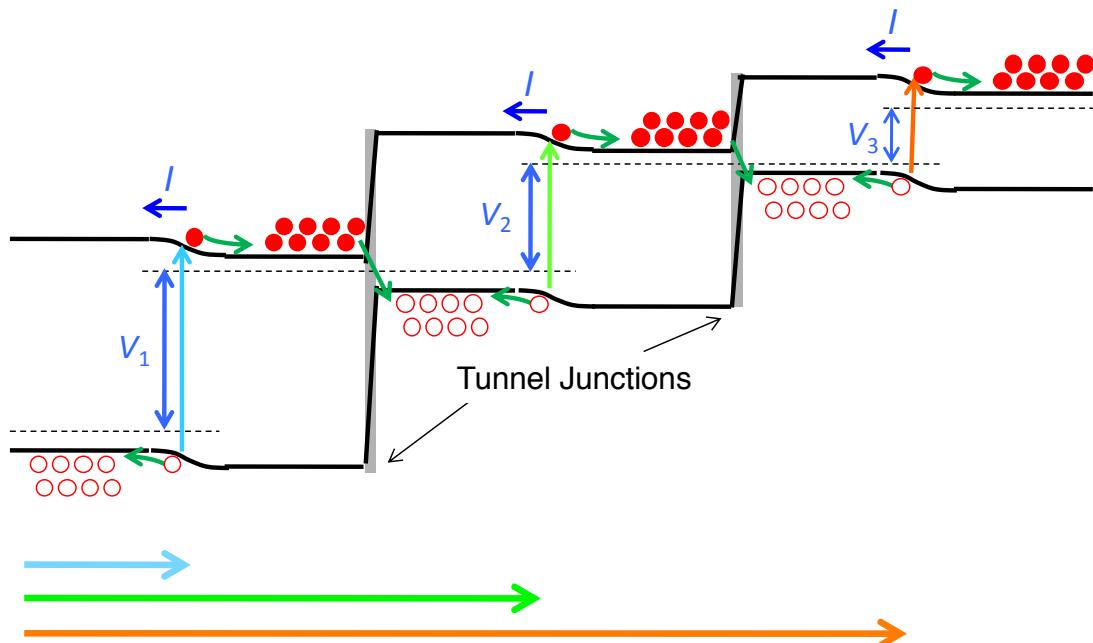
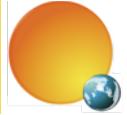
Multi-junction

- Single gap (two bands) each junction
- N junctions \Rightarrow N absorptions
- Efficiency ~30-40%

Multi-band

- Single junction (no lattice-mismatch)
- N bands \Rightarrow $N \cdot (N-1)/2$ gaps \Rightarrow $N \cdot (N-1)/2$ absorptions
- Add one band \Rightarrow add N absorptions

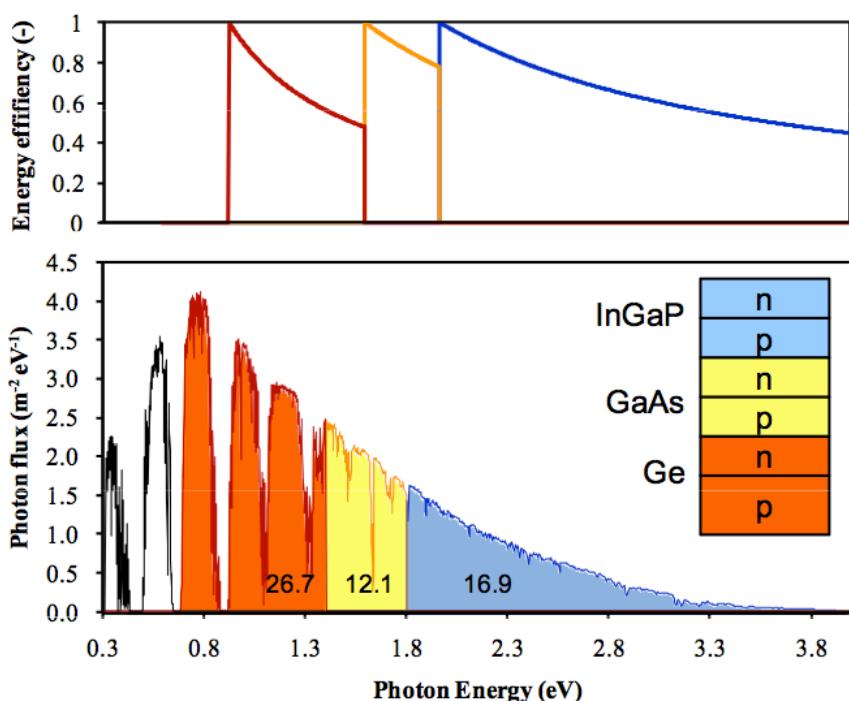
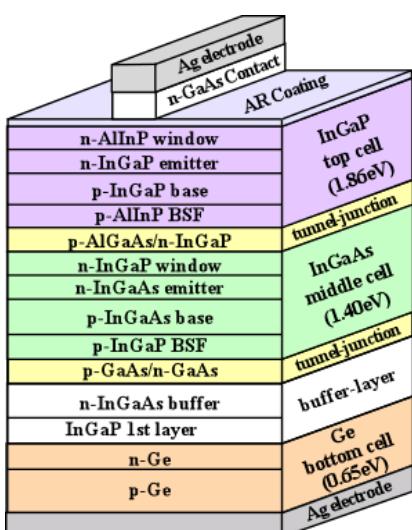
Band Diagram of Multijunction Cell



High energy (and thus short wavelength) photons are absorbed first

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Multi-junction solar cells for high efficiency



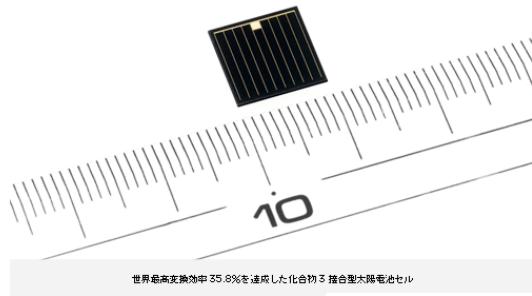
M. Yamaguchi et al.,
Solar Energy 79 (2005) 78-85

Photon collection up to lower energies

Smaller photon energy loss by multi-step bandgaps

- Current from the middle cell limits the total current output.

化合物3接合型太陽電池で実現
太陽電池セルで世界最高変換効率35.8%を達成



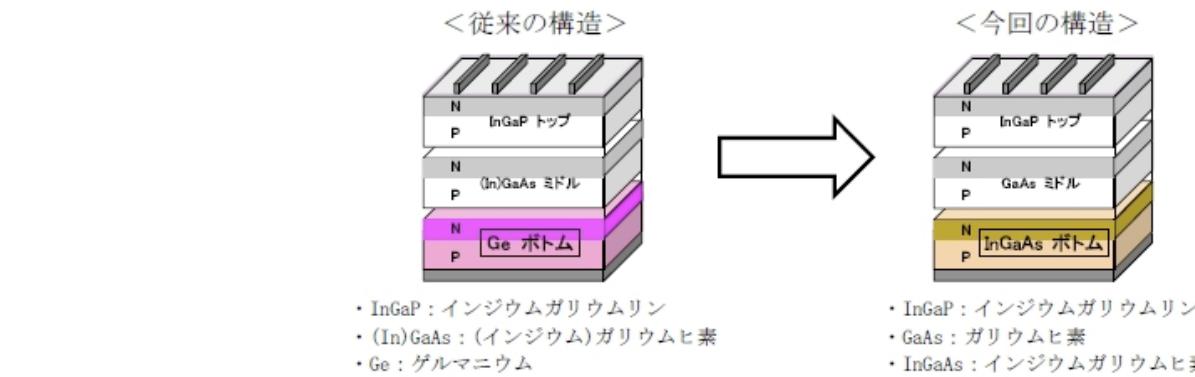
Press Release by

SHARP
SHARP Corp.

on October 22, 2009

New World Record of
Conv. Efficiency : **35.8%**
(w/o concentration)

42.1%@280x (IEEE PVSC 2010)



Achieving 1 sun conversion efficiency world record



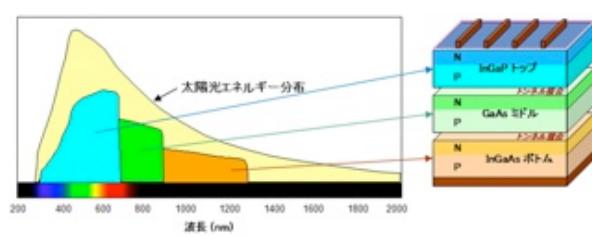
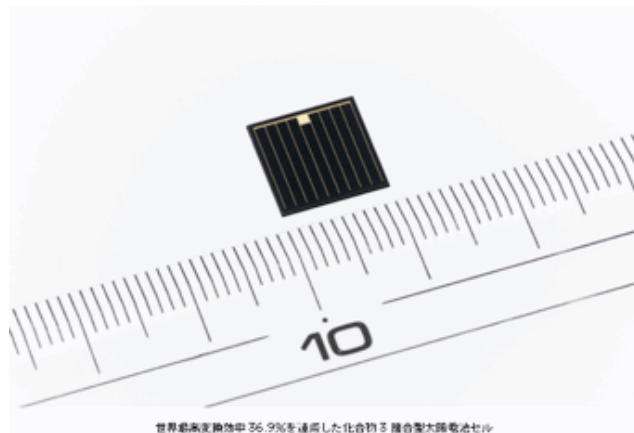
▶ ニュースリリースの検索はこちら

News Release

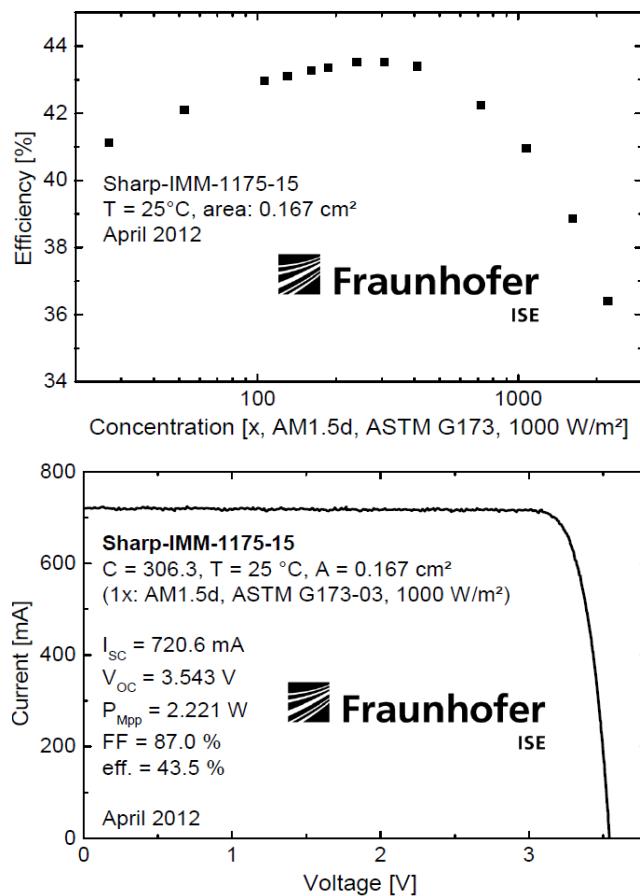
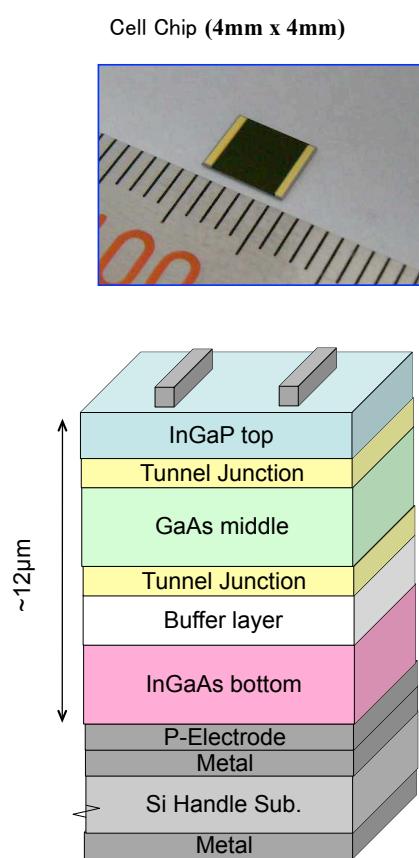
2011年11月4日

SHARP

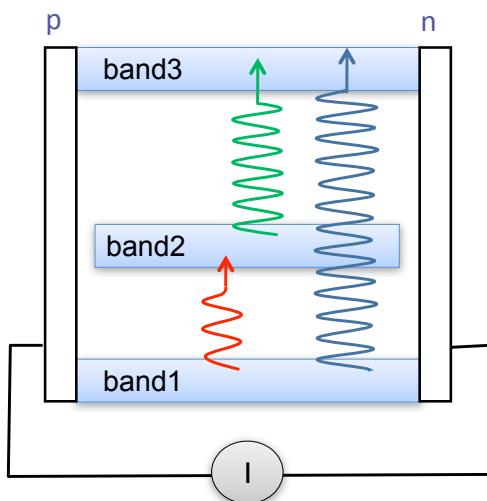
化合物3接合型太陽電池で実現
太陽電池セルで世界最高変換効率36.9%を達成



Achievement of World Highest Efficiency of 43.5% @306 Sun

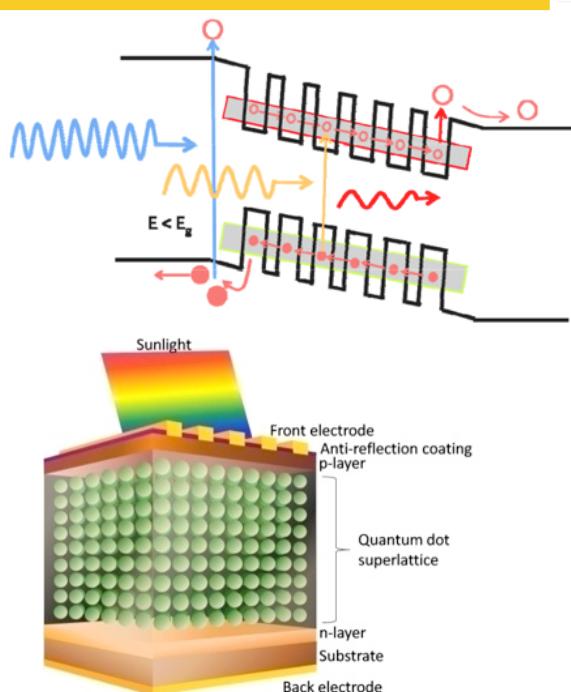


Intermediate-band solar cell



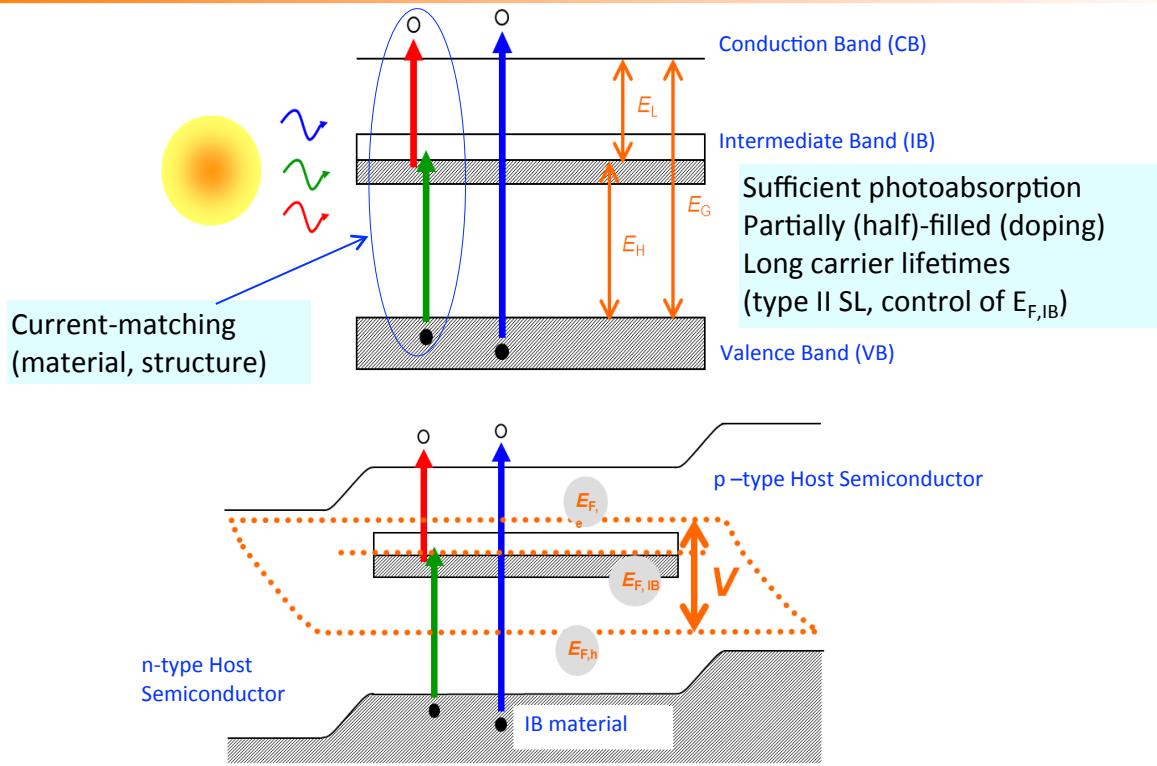
- Single-junction
- Multiple-wavelength absorption
- Energy up-conversion by multi-step excitation

Theoretical efficiency >60%



- Multi-band implementation
→ Mini-bands
by quantum-dots superlattice

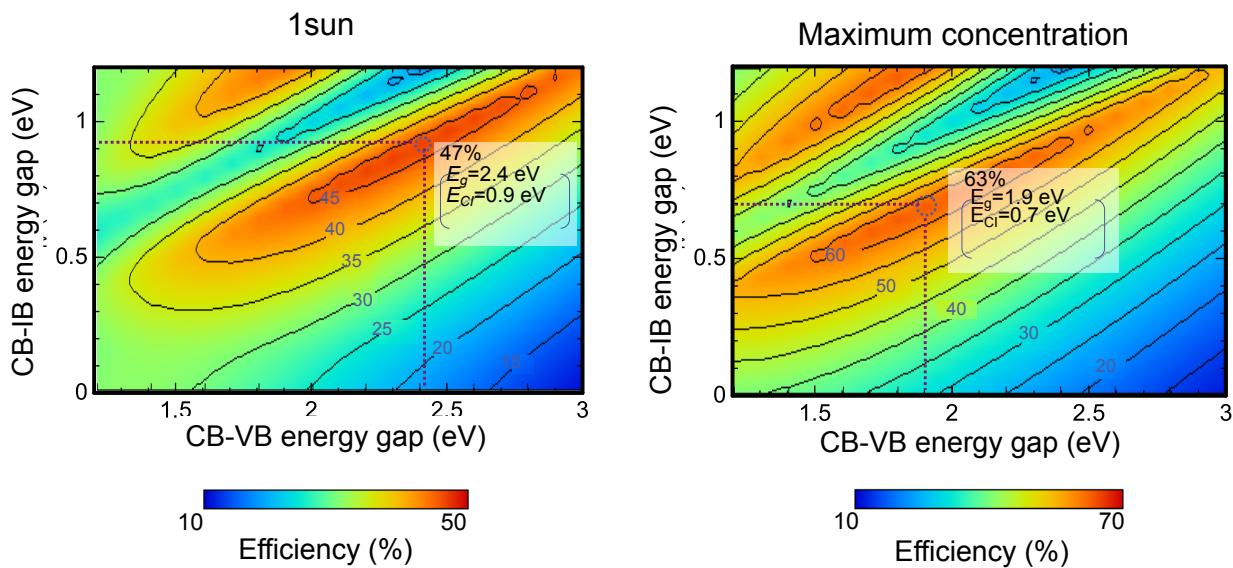
Intermediate Band Solar Cell : Operation Principle



A. Luque and A. Martí, Phys. Rev. Lett. **78**, 5014 (1997)

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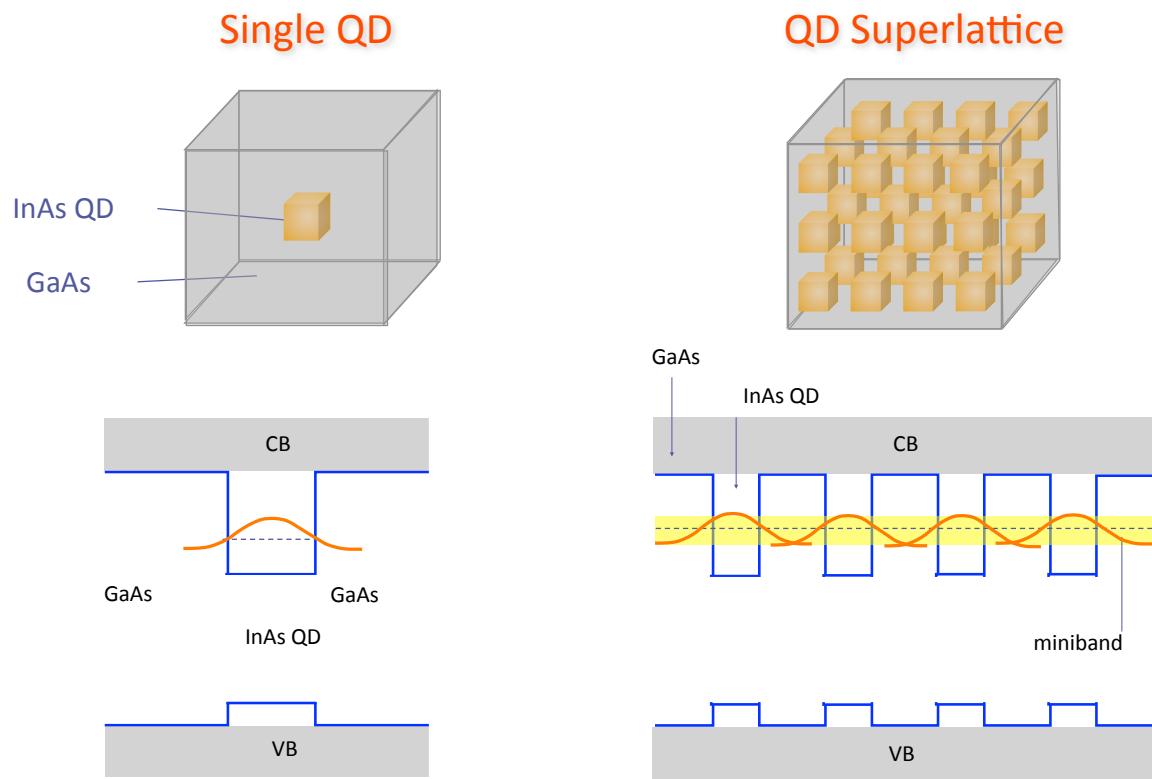
Intermediate Band Solar Cell : Theoretical Efficiencies



$$\eta = 47\% \text{ (1sun)}$$

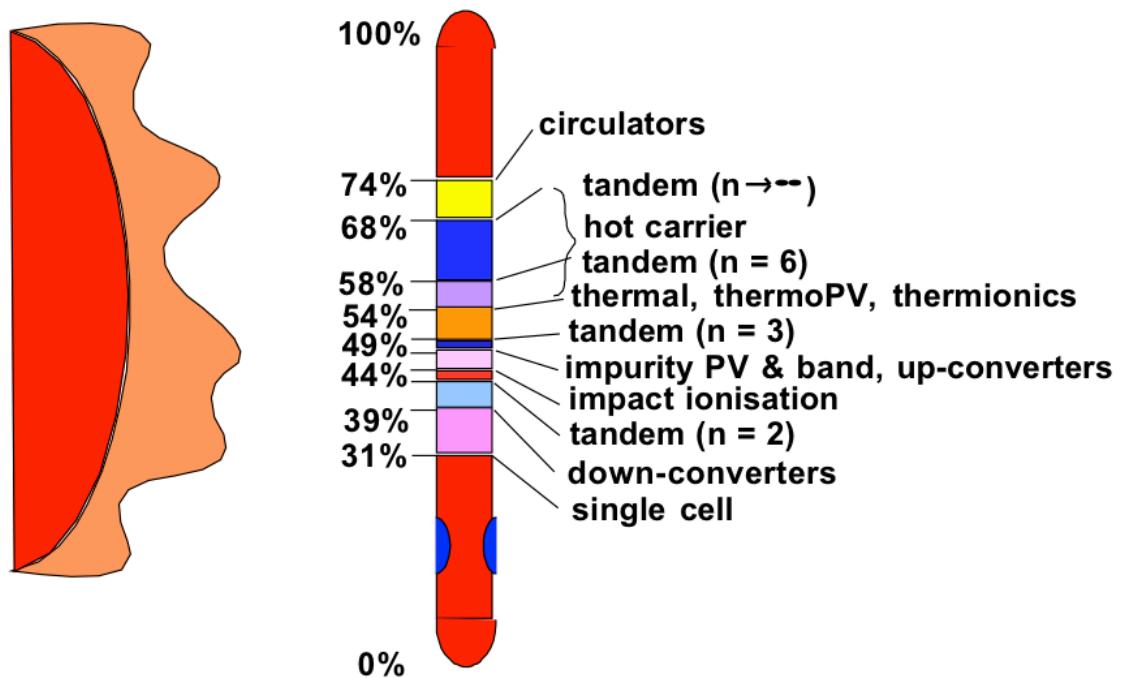
$$\eta = 63\% \text{ (Maximum concentration)}$$

Intermediate Band Realized with Quantum dot Superlattice



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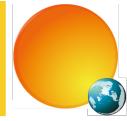
Theoretical Conversion Efficiency Limits



by courtesy of M. Green (UNSW)

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Post-Silicon Ultra-High Efficiency Solar Cell Development Project



Leader: Prof. Yoshiaki Nakano, The University of Tokyo, RCAST
Vice leaders: Prof. Masafumi Yamaguchi, Toyota Technological Institute
 Prof. Takashi Tomita, The University of Tokyo, RCAST



Team 1: Super high efficiency concentrator multi-junction solar cells

Leader: Prof. Masafumi Yamaguchi,
 Toyota Technological Institute



SHARP

SHARP Corp.

Team 2: Novel materials and structures for multi-junction solar cells

Leader: Prof. Yoshiaki Nakano,
 The University of Tokyo, RCAST



SHARP

SHARP Corp.



Nagoya Univ.

名城大学

Meijo Univ.



University of Hyogo

Team 3: Quantum-dot multi-band solar cells

Leader: Prof. Yoshitaka Okada,
 The University of Tokyo, RCAST



Team 4: Advanced photon management and nano/micro fabrication technology

Leader: Prof. Kenjiro Miyano
 The University of Tokyo, RCAST

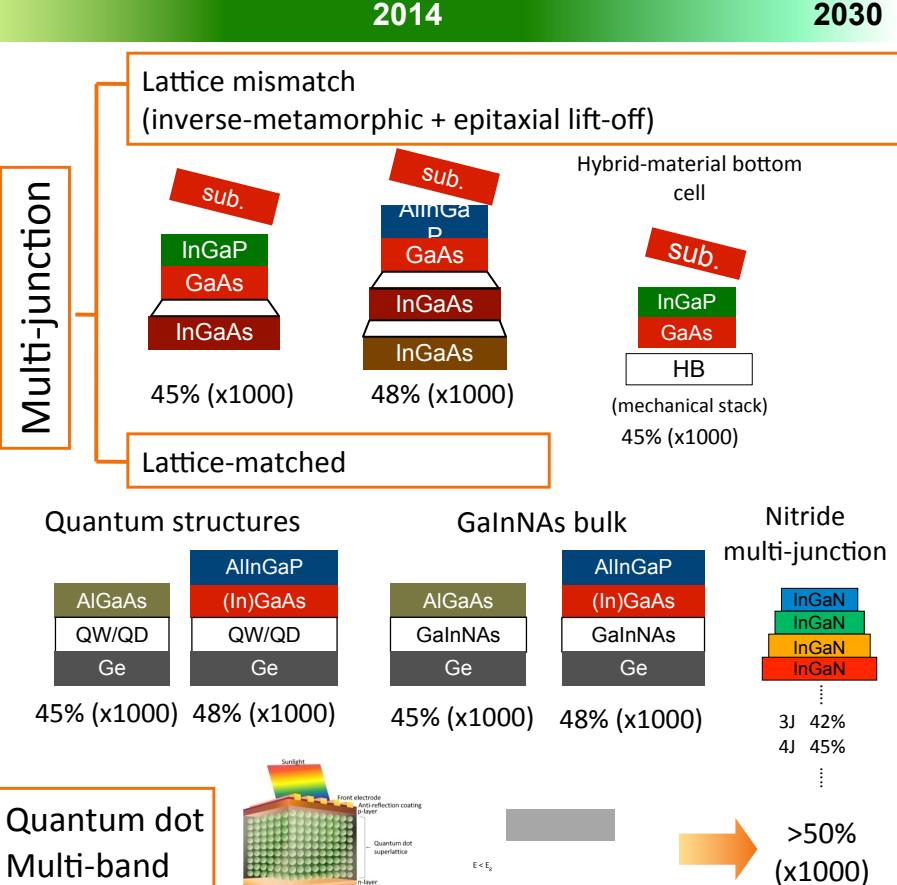


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Targets

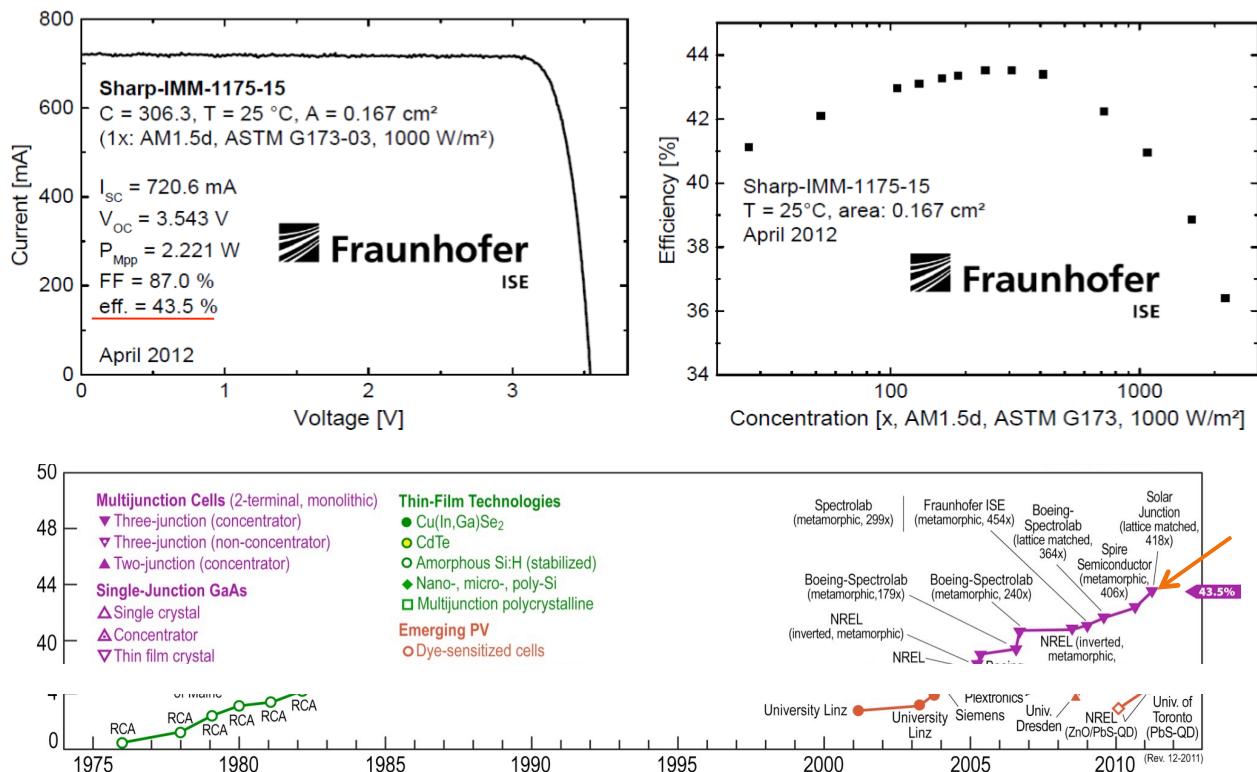
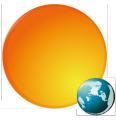


III-V semiconductor ultra-high efficiency cell ($\eta=48\%$) under high concentration



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43.5% Cell @304 suns



SHARP

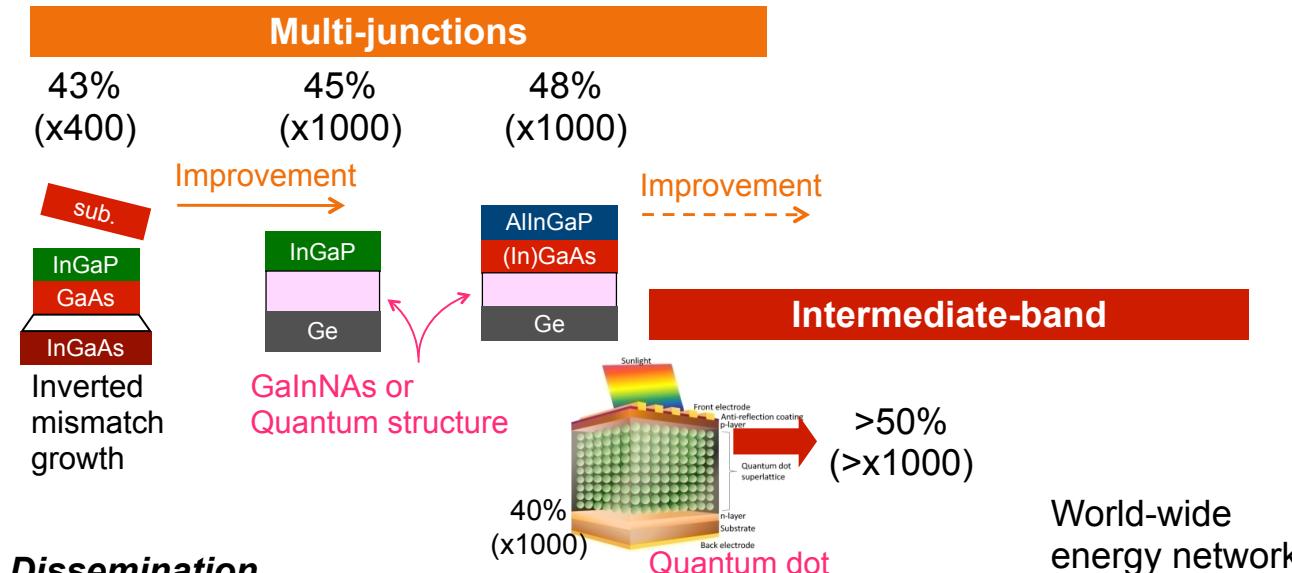
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Roadmap of concentrator photovoltaics



2012 2015 2030

Conversion efficiency (cell)



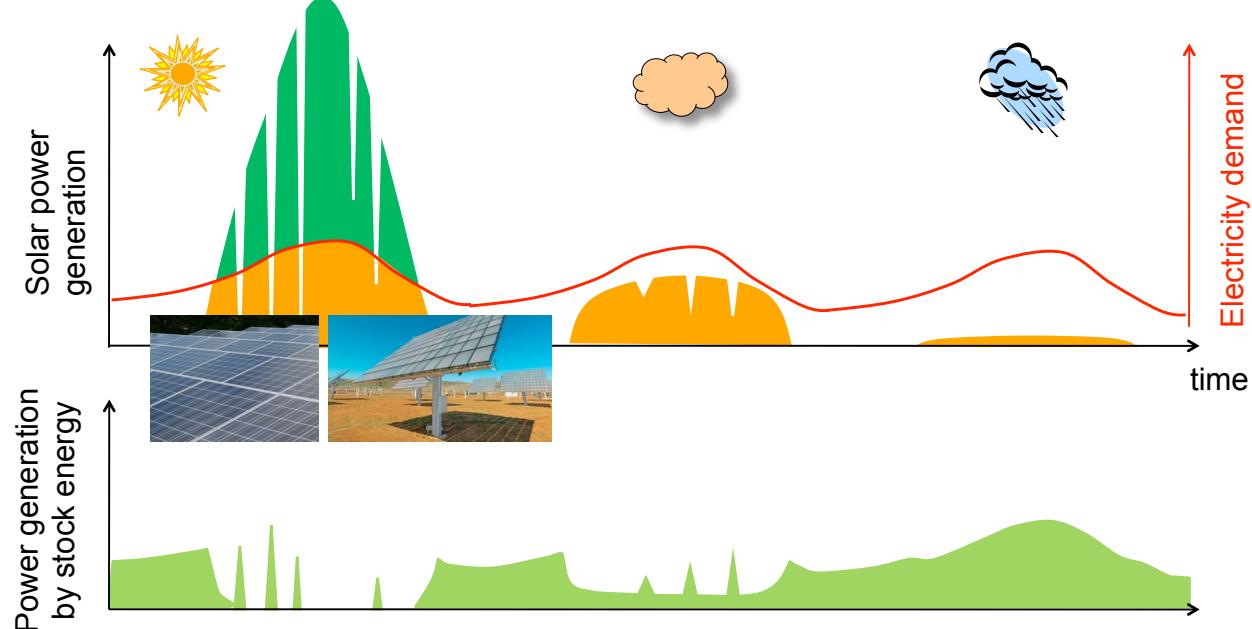
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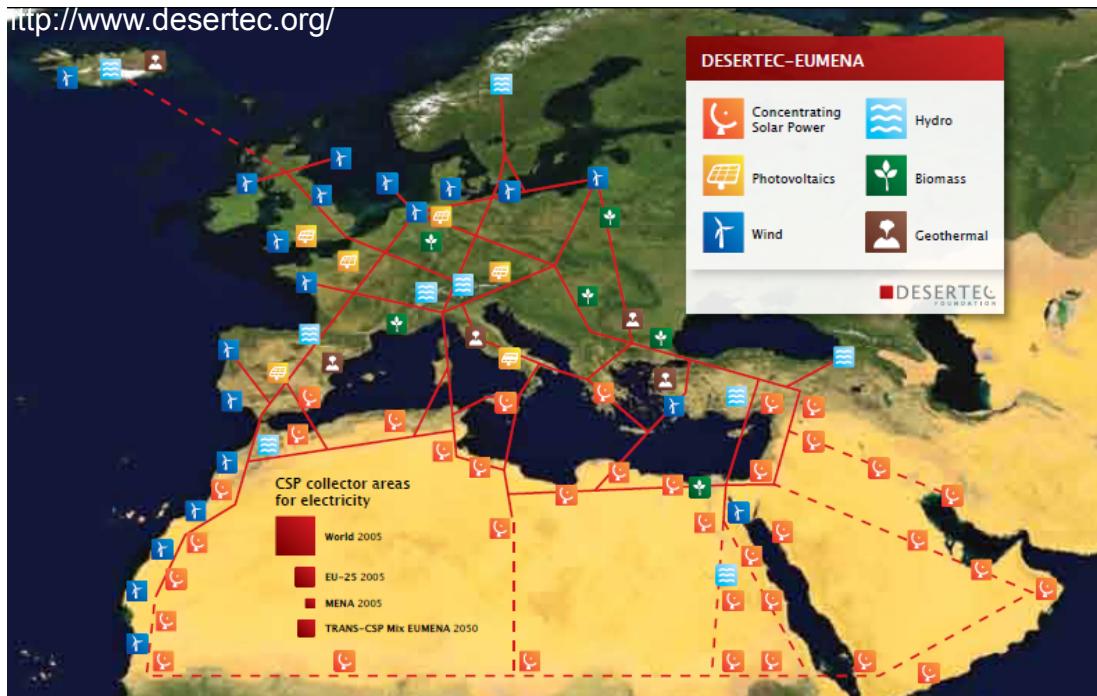


Necessity of “energy storage”



Strategy 1: Word-wide grid connection

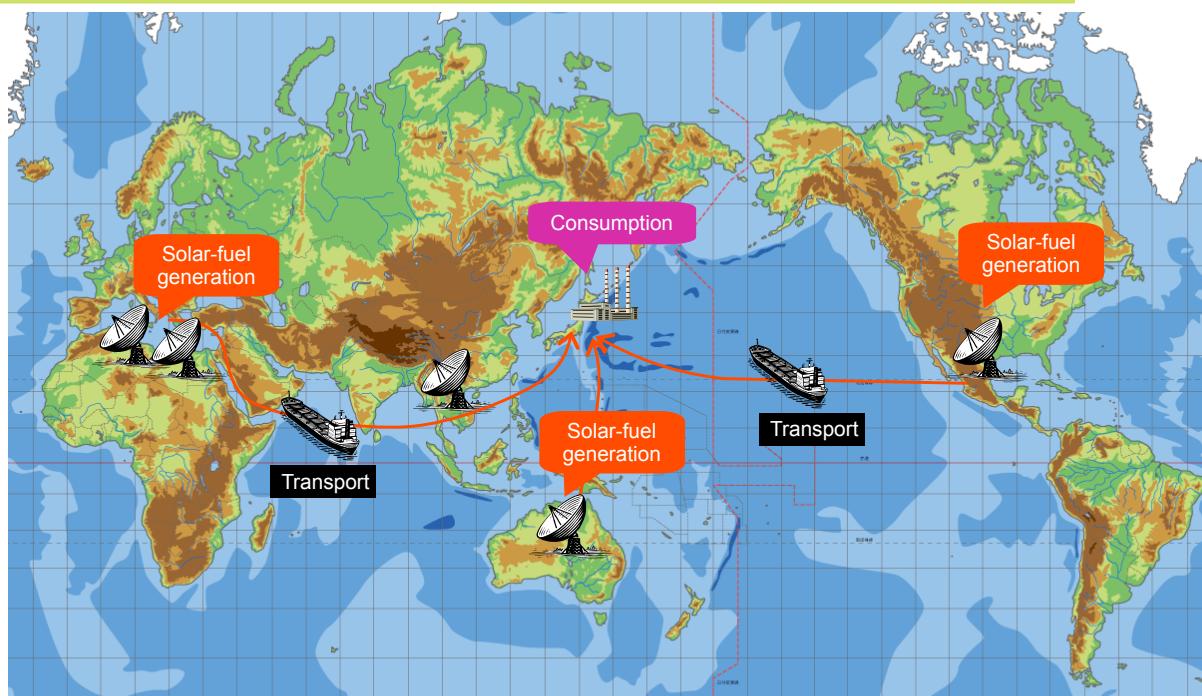
<http://www.desertec.org/>



- Overcoming fluctuation in renewable power generation by a large-area grid and multiple methodology.

7

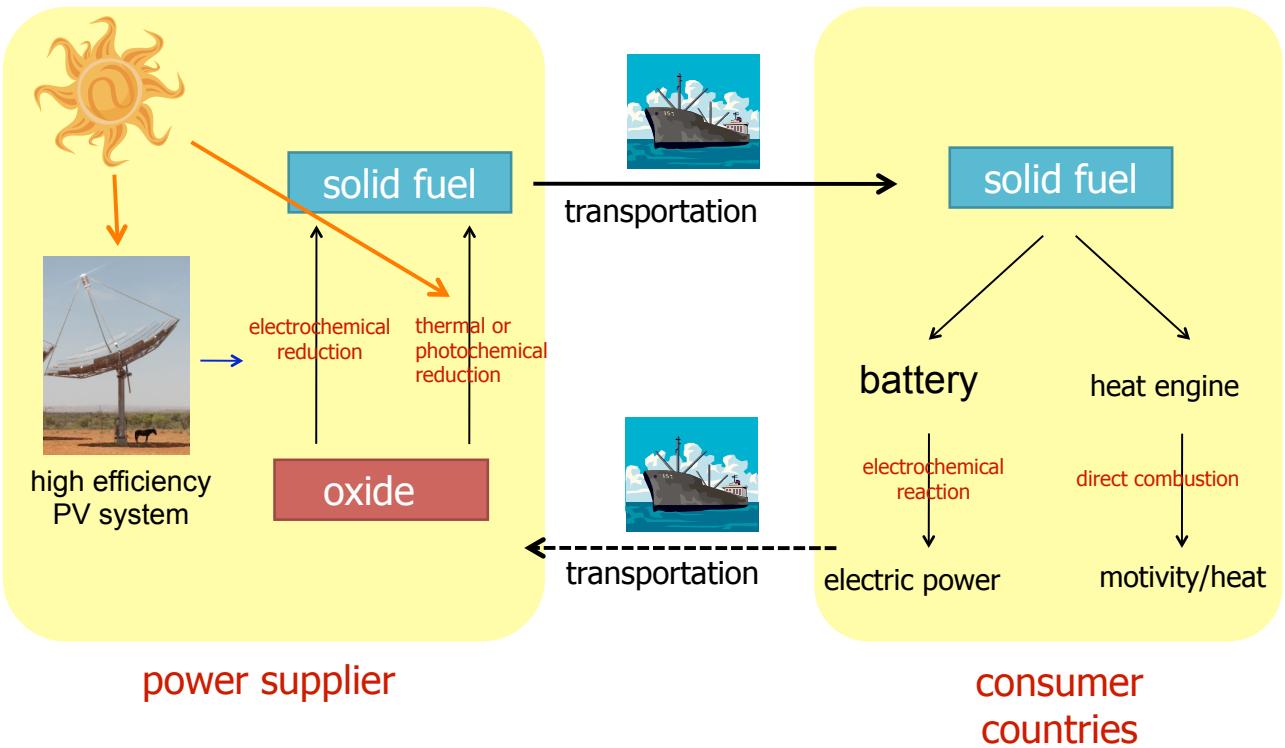
Strategy 1': Word-wide energy transport



- Energy “delivery” to isolated countries.
- Storage media required: high energy density & stability

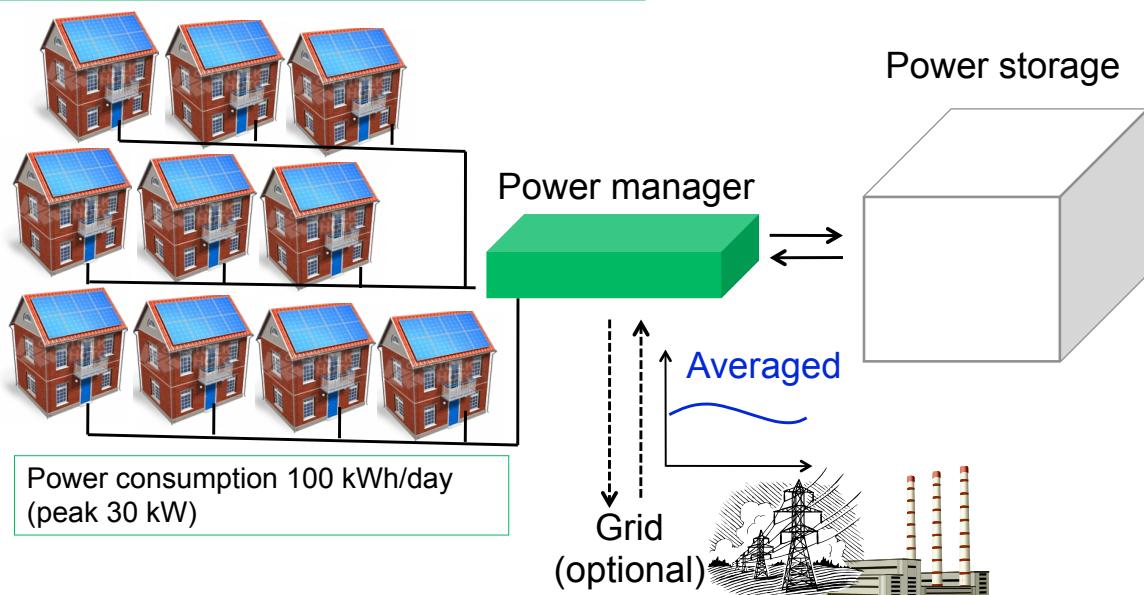
8

Energy transportation



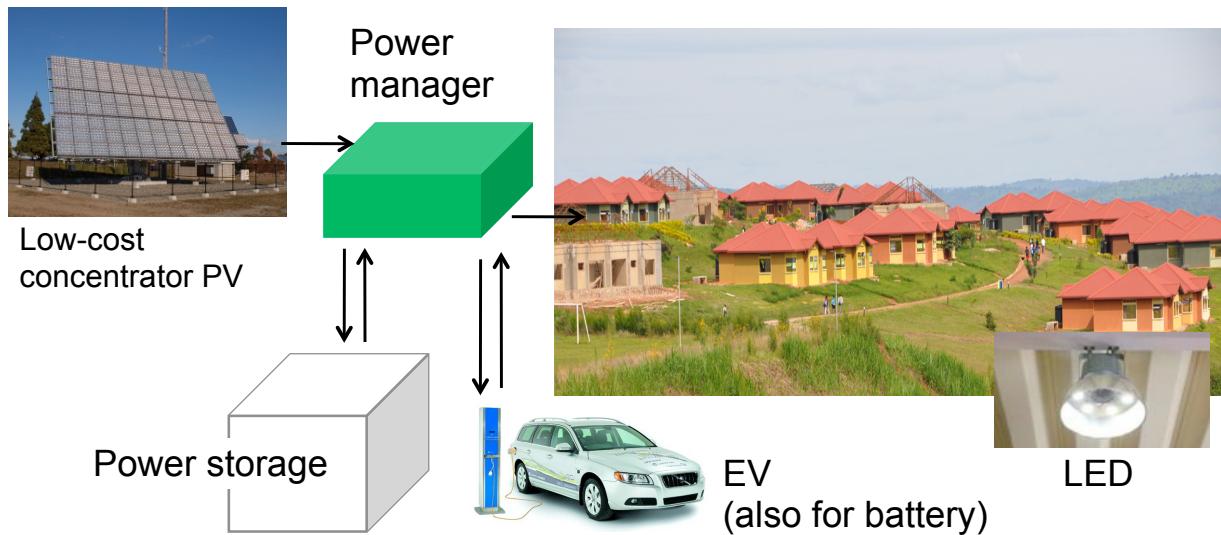
Strategy 2: Autonomous distributed system

Solar cell 270 m², efficiency 15%
Power generation 120 kWh/day (peak 40kW)



- Small-scale autonomous power grid
 - Minimized fluctuation in power in/out from/to larger grid.

Strategy 2': New infrastructure in developing countries

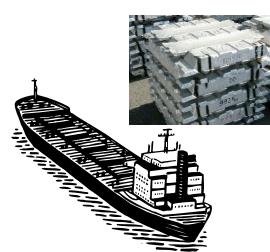


- New electricity infrastructure
 - PV + DC power storage + LED + EV: all DC system
 - Low-cost, autonomous system: no need for grid

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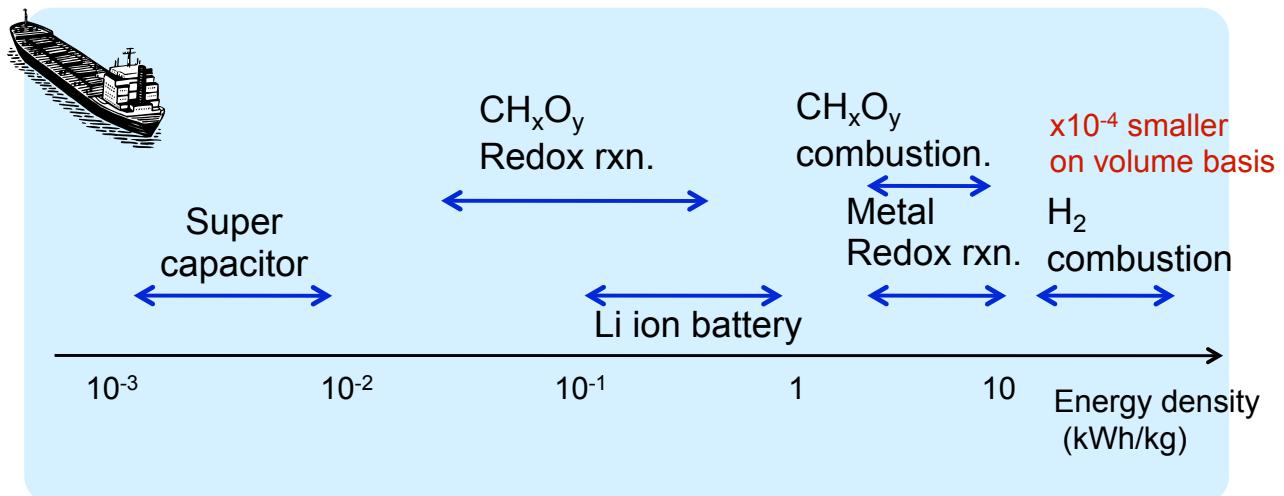
Requirements to energy-storage media

- Global scale
 - High-energy density
 - Easy to transport
- Miniature scale
 - Medium-high energy density
 - Safety in stockade
 - Easy to handle



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Energy density in various storage media

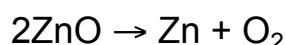
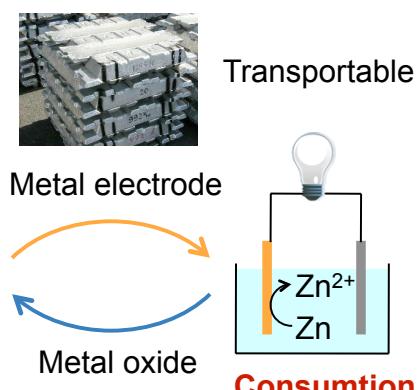


- Metal redox reaction
 - High energy density, ready for transport
- Hydrocarbon combustion
 - The same as existing fossil fuels
 - Solar synthesis of hydrocarbons is highly demanded.

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Solar thermal reduction of metals

Energy storage system by metal reduction using direct heating



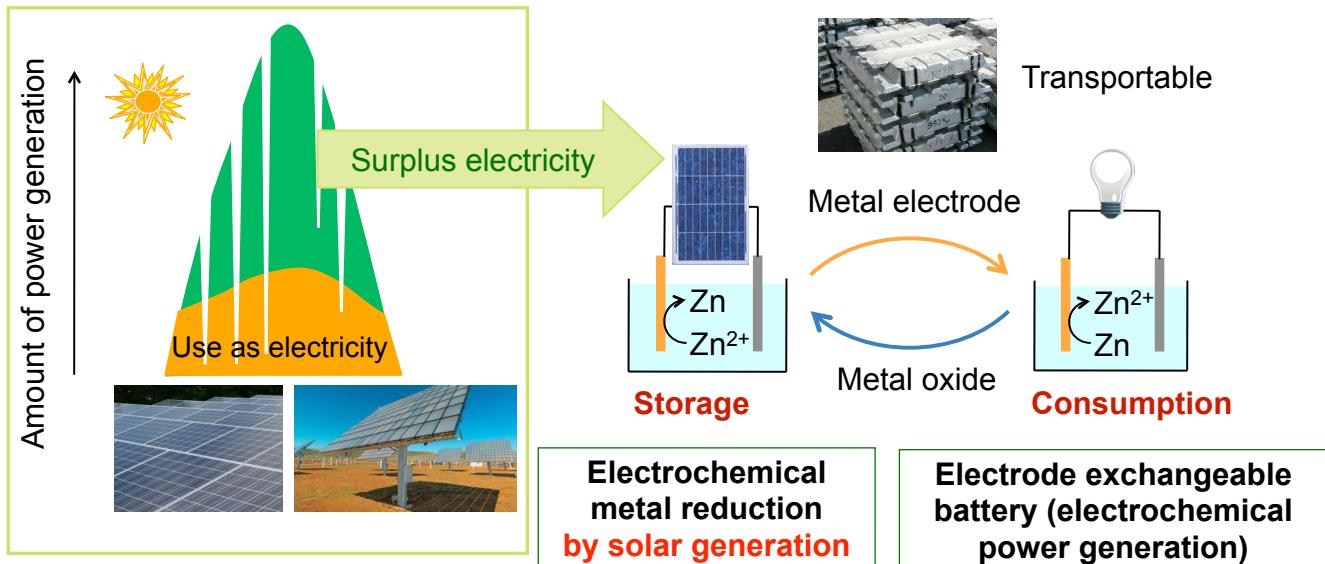
heat

Direct transition by heating

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Solar-electrochemical metal reduction

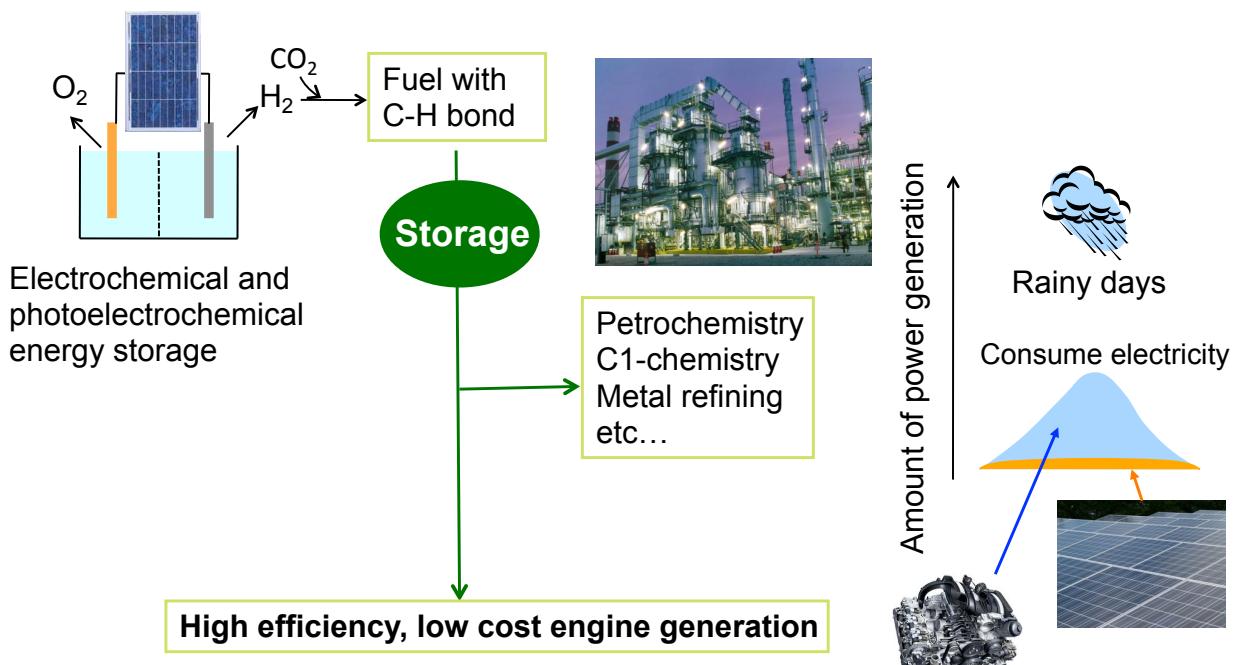
Energy storage system by metal oxidation and reduction using electricity



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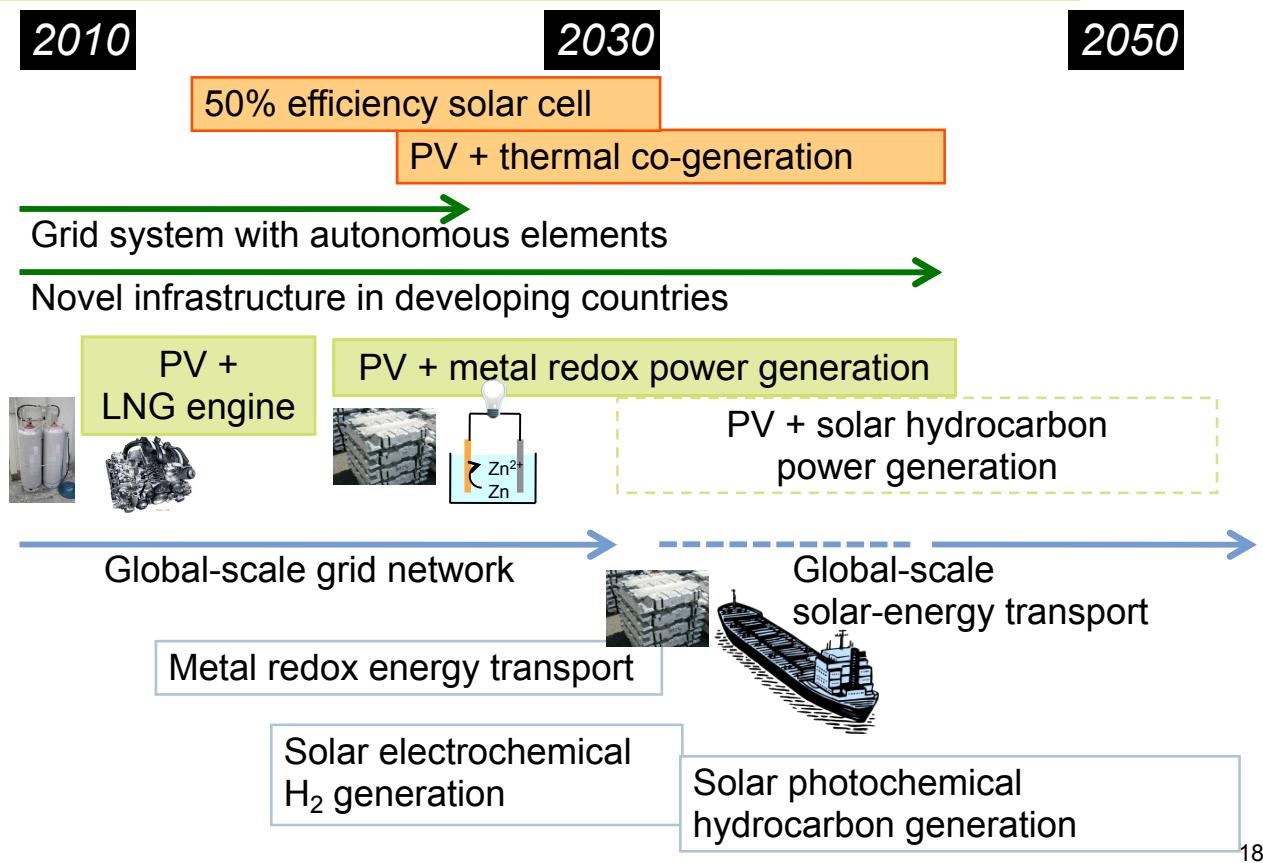
Photochemical hydrocarbon generation

Energy storage system using direct conversion from sunlight to C-H chemicals



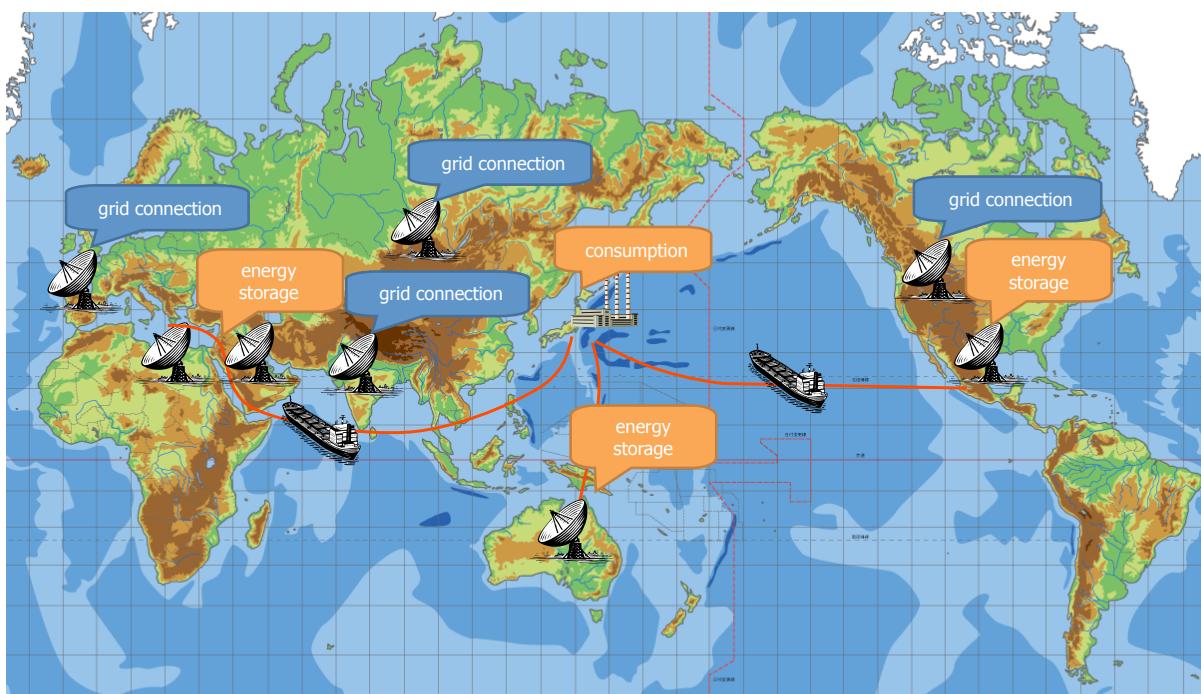
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Our Future Vision



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OUR GOAL: Carbon-free, clean, and fully-recyclable global energy system based on large-scale PV plants





SOLAR QUEST
GS+I



Thank you very much!



Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST)
The University of Tokyo