



**SCHOOL *of* ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY *of* VIRGINIA**

# Ballistic transport of long wavelength phonons in superlattices and nanograined alloys



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# Acknowledgments and co-authors



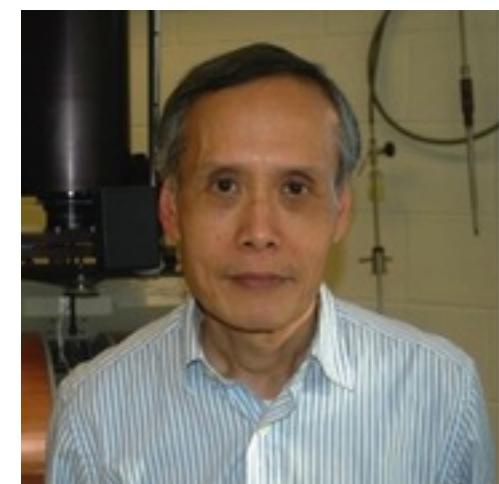
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(Gooch and Housego)



Prof. Ganesh  
Balakrishnan  
(UNM)

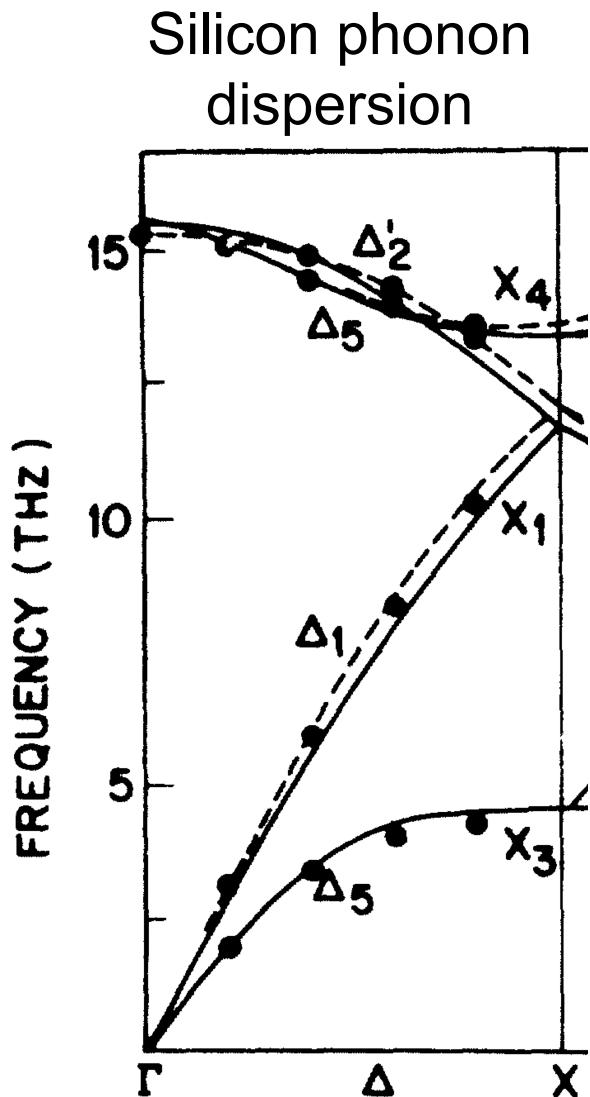


Prof. Avik Ghosh  
(UVA)



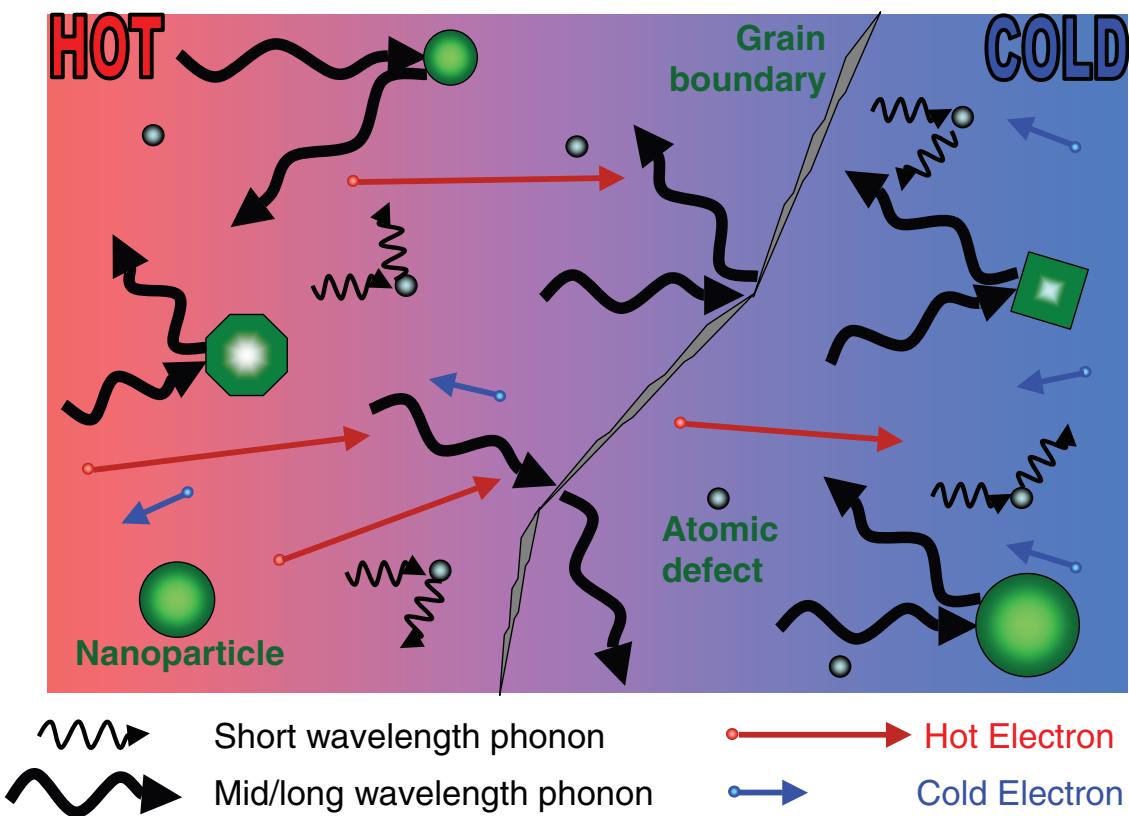
Prof. Joe Poon  
(UVA)

# Designing phonon transport on the nanoscale



from *PRB* **15**,  
4789 (1977)

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{3} Cv\lambda = \frac{1}{3} Cv_g^2 \tau$$



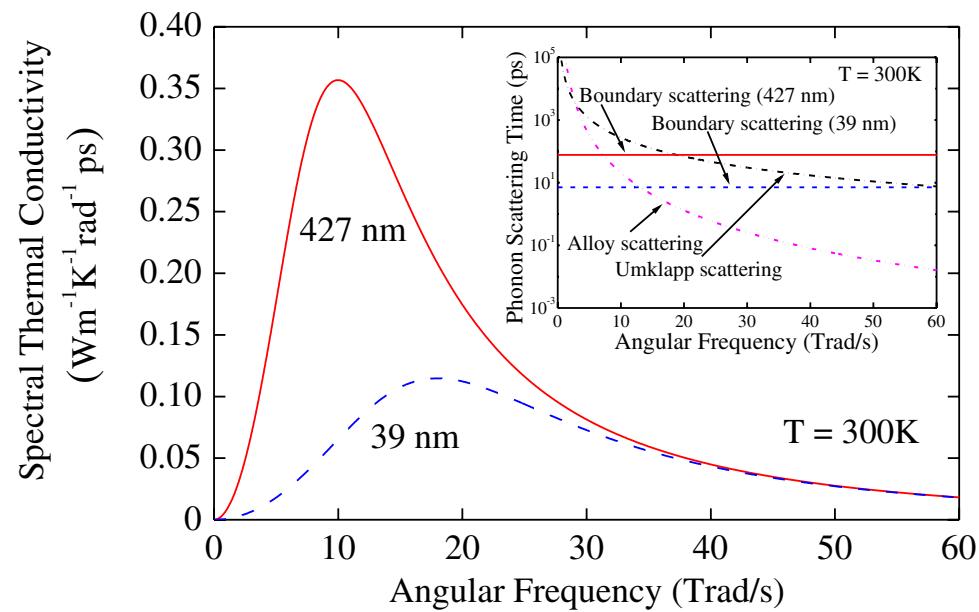
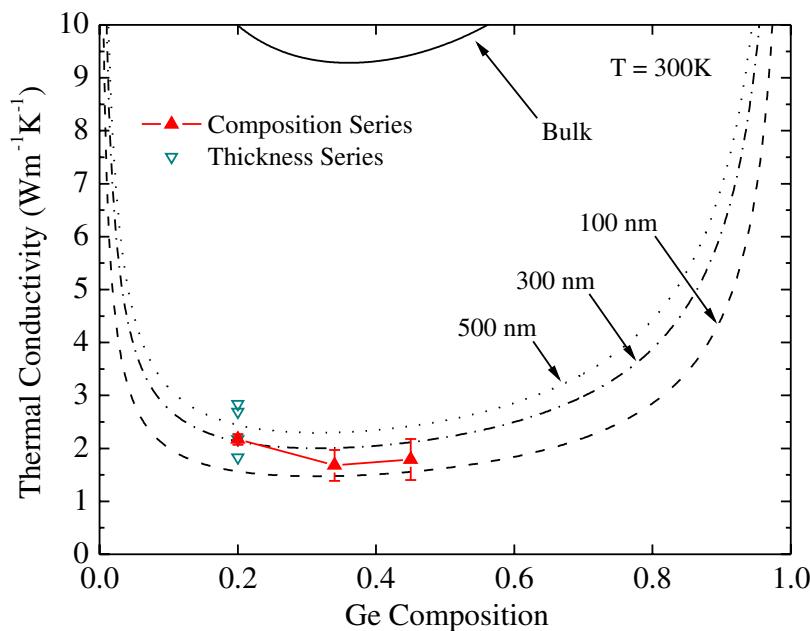
from *Adv. Mat.* **22**, 3970 (2010)

# Thin film alloys: short vs. long wavelength phonons

**Short wavelength phonons: defect scattering**

**Long wavelength phonons: limited by film thickness**

**Example: SiGe alloy thin films**

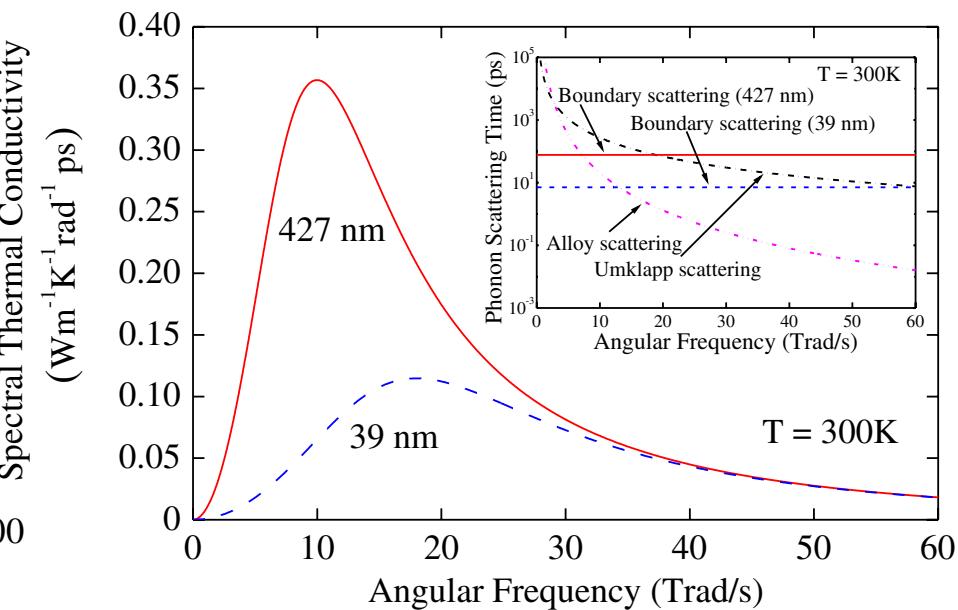
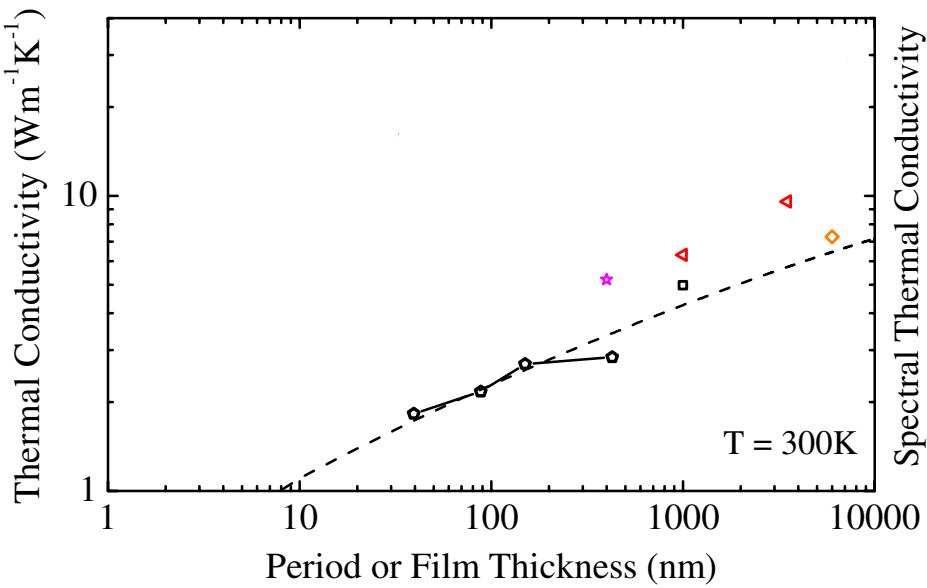


# Thin film alloys: short vs. long wavelength phonons

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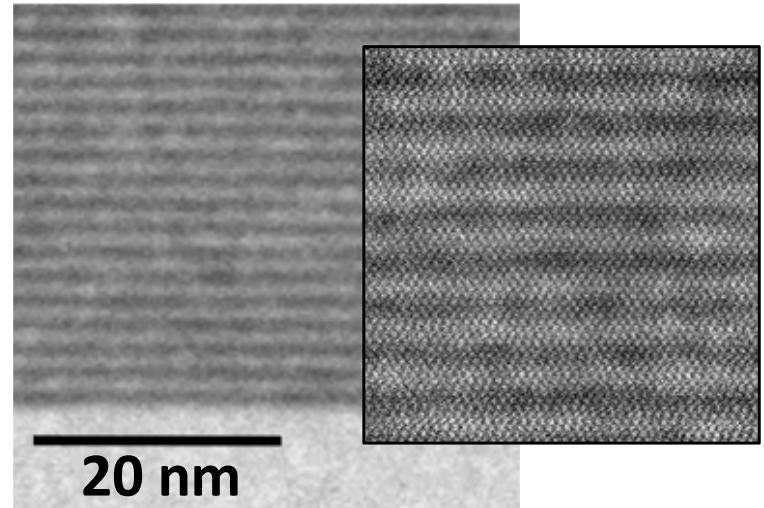
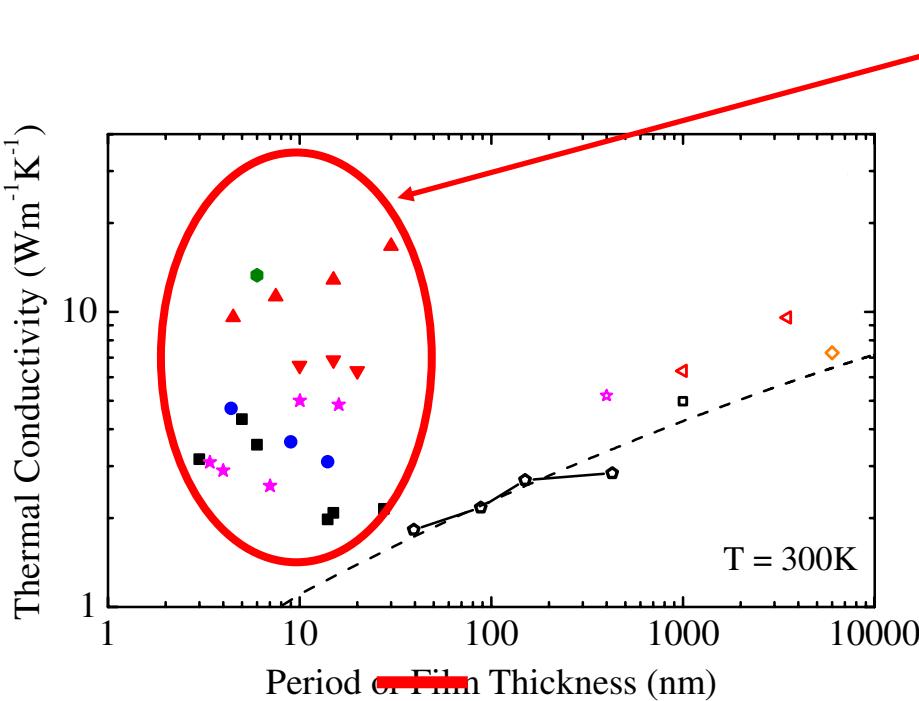


# Boundary scattering in superlattices

**Short wavelength phonons: defect scattering**

**Long wavelength phonons: limited by film thickness**

**What about superlattices?**



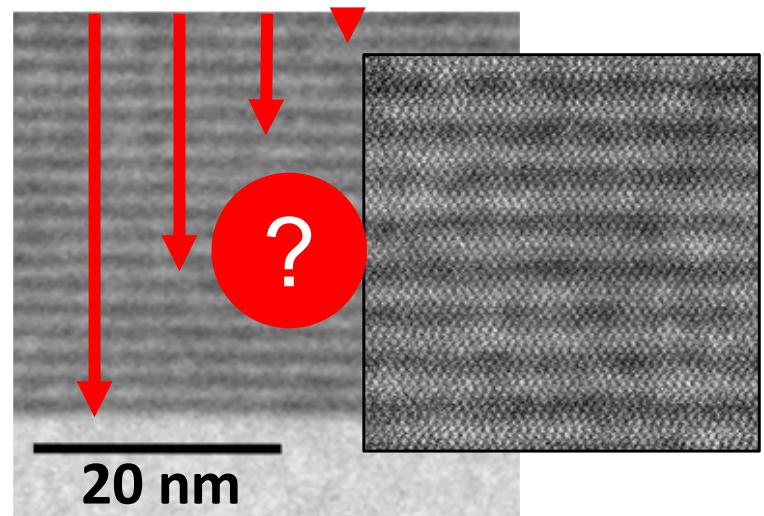
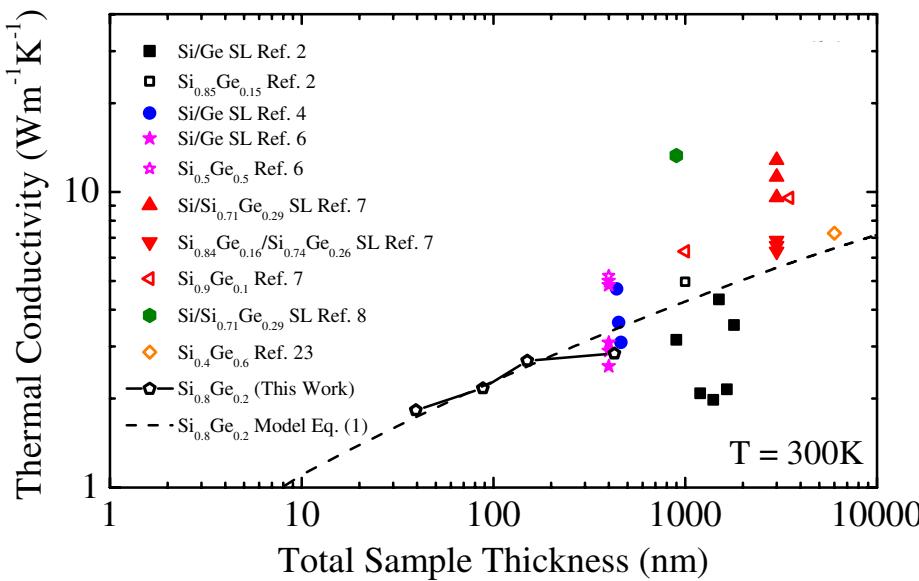
$$d_{\text{SL}} = 2 \text{ nm}$$

# Boundary scattering in superlattices

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**Long wavelength phonons: limited by film thickness**

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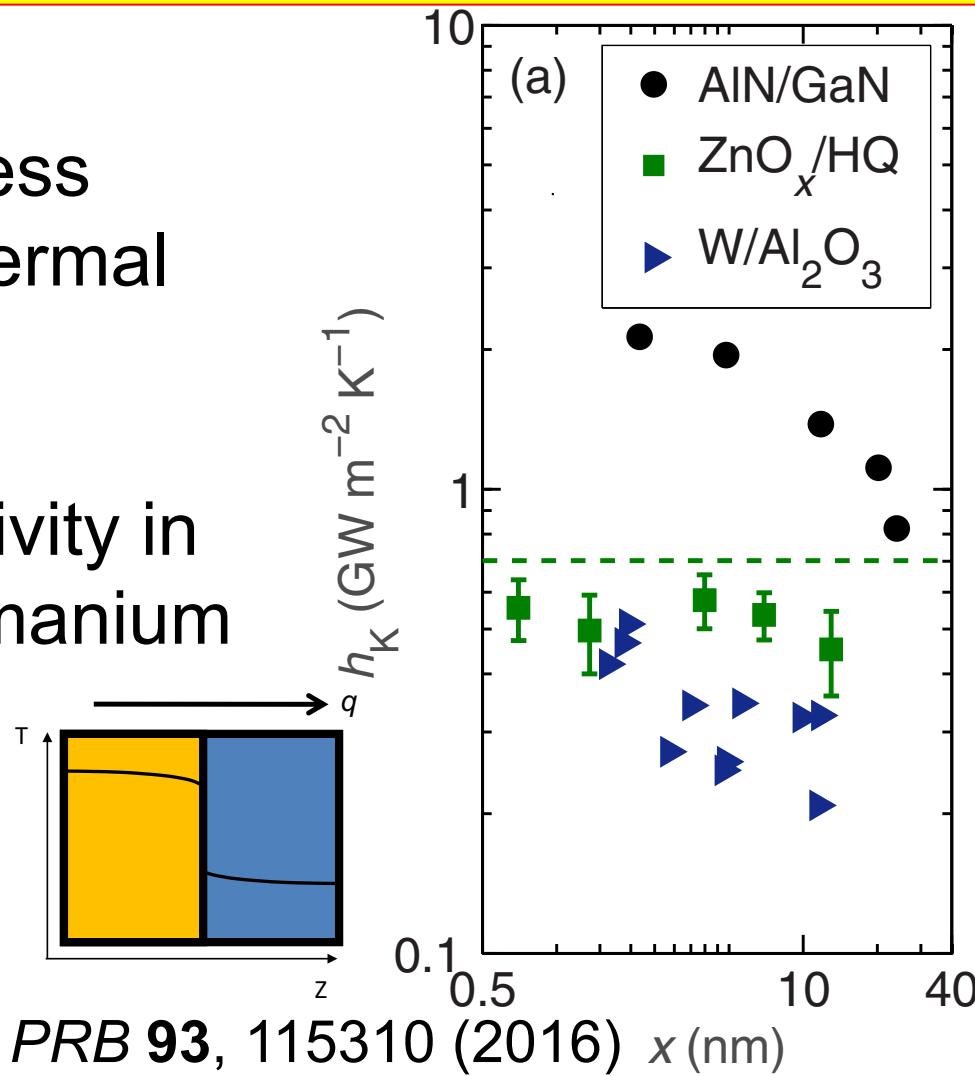
$$d_{\text{SL}} = 2 \text{ nm}$$

# Outline

## Question: Do phonons “see” interfaces spectrally in superlattices and nanocomposites?

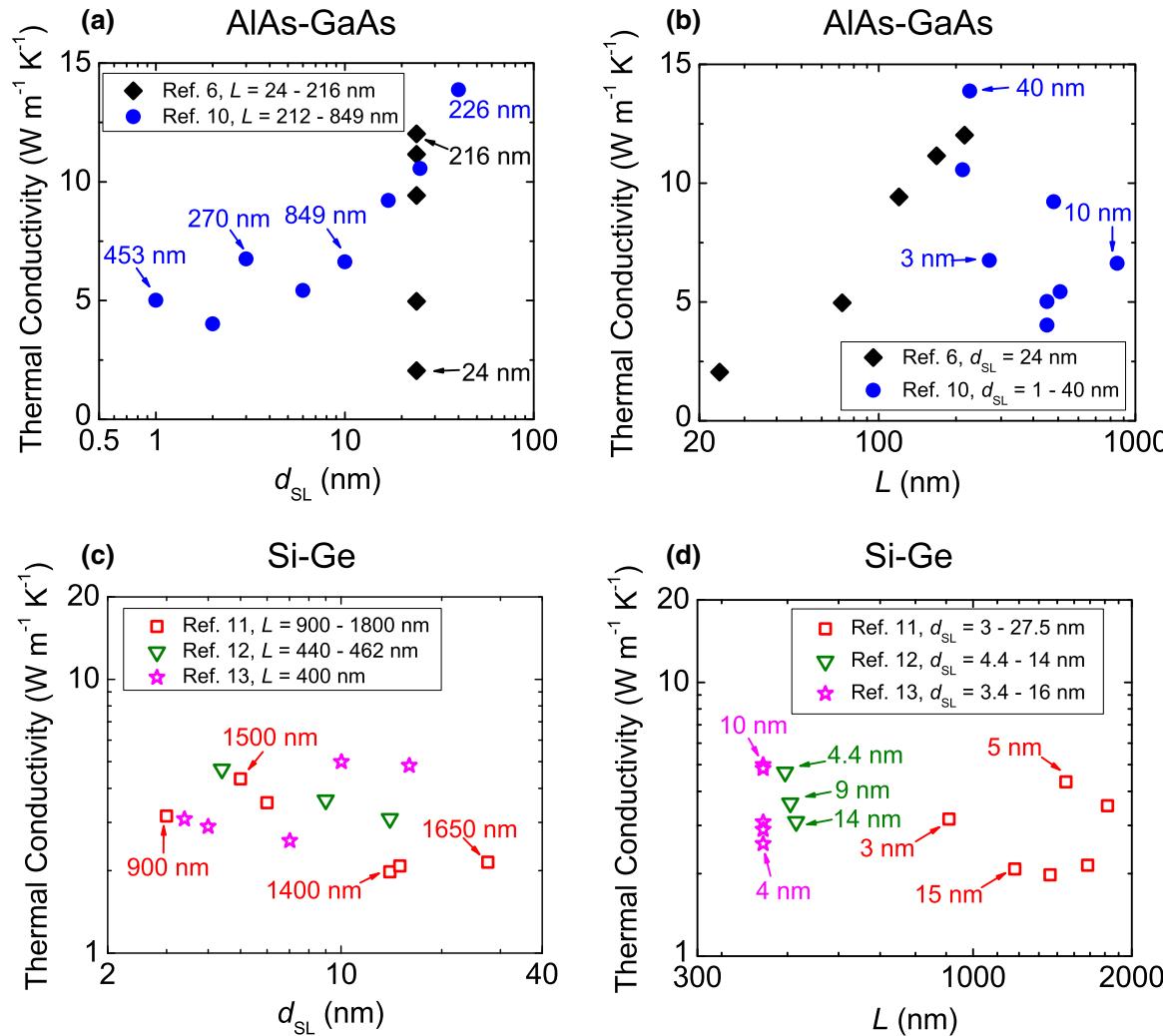
### Outline

- Period vs. sample thickness boundary scattering in thermal conductivity of SLs
- Spectral thermal conductivity in nano-grained silicon-germanium



# Superlattices: Period vs. sample thickness effects

Why has this not been observed before?  
Inconsistent comparisons, must control sample and period

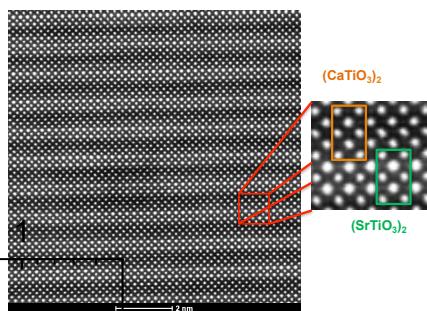
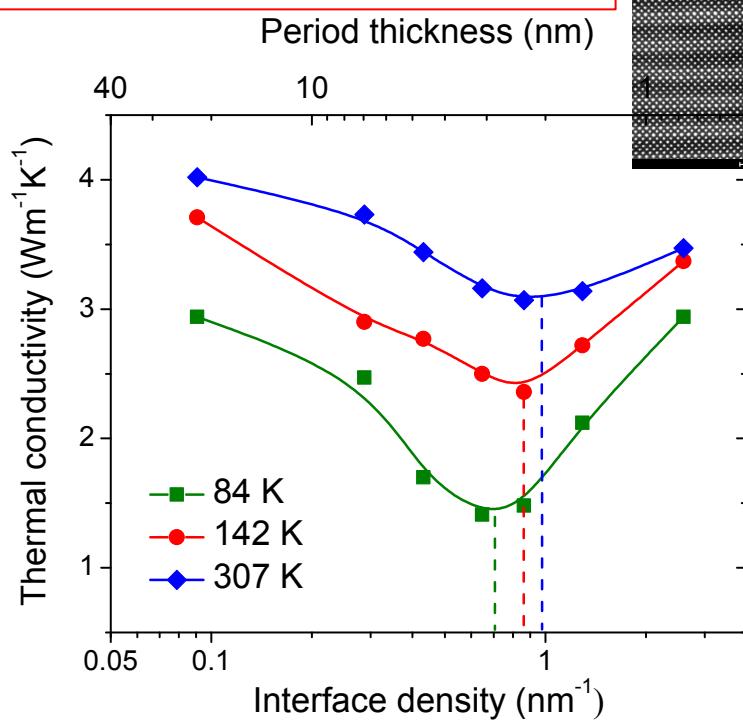


# Superlattices: Period vs. sample thickness effects

Must study both to understand novel phonon transport mechanisms: e.g., coherent vs. ballistic vs. incoherent

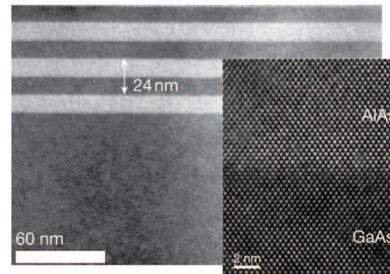
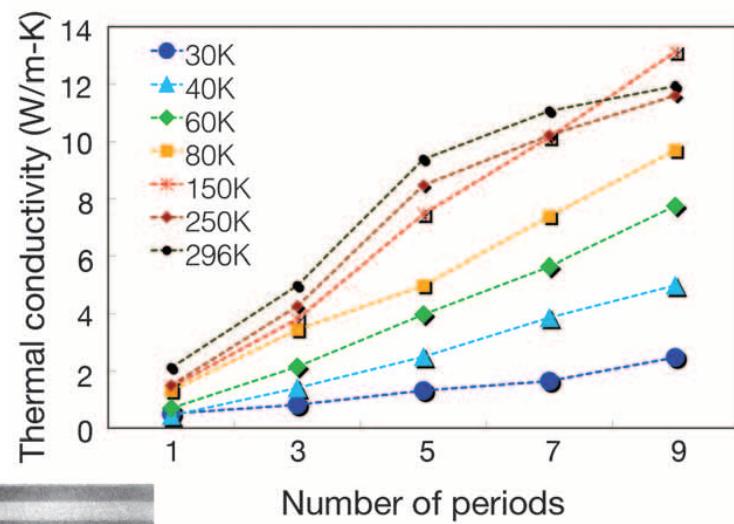
## CTO/STO

Sample constant  
Period variable

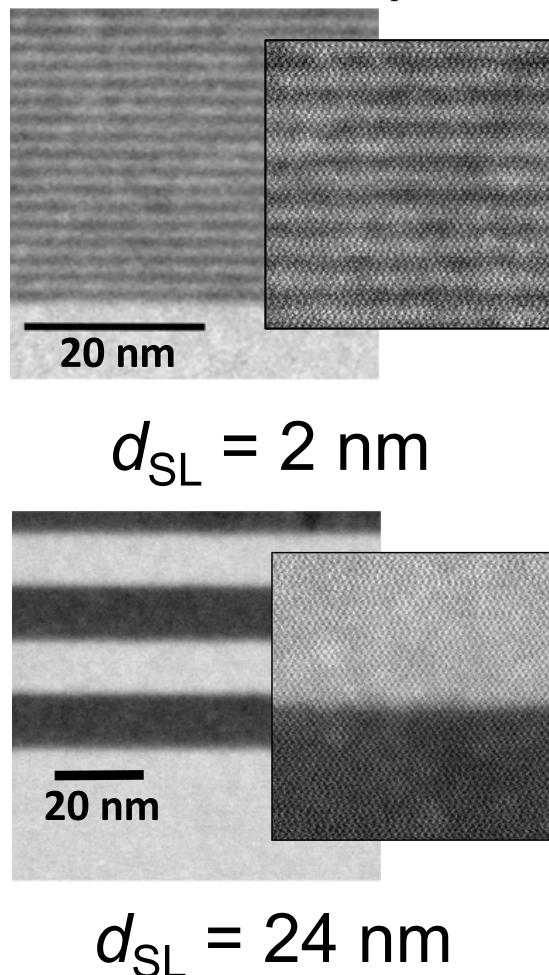
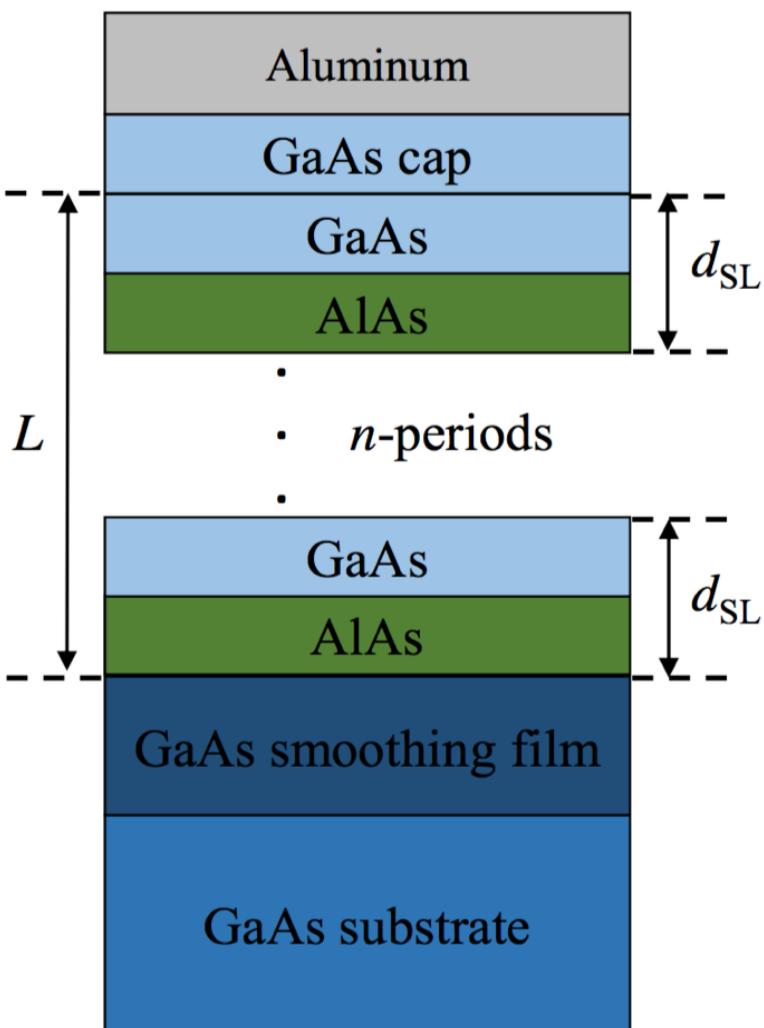


## GaAs/AlAs

Sample variable  
Period constant

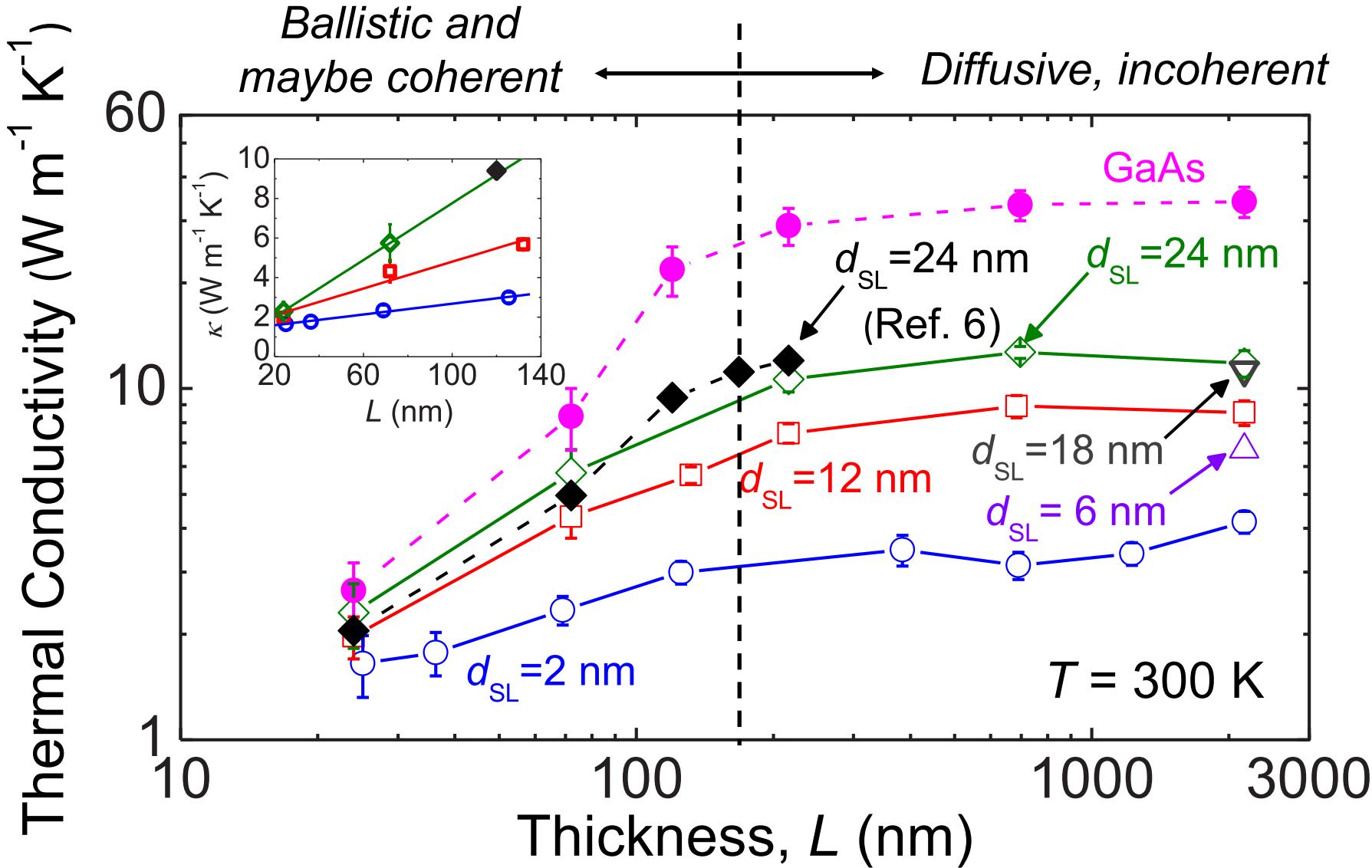


# Sample matrix of GaAs/AlAs superlattices



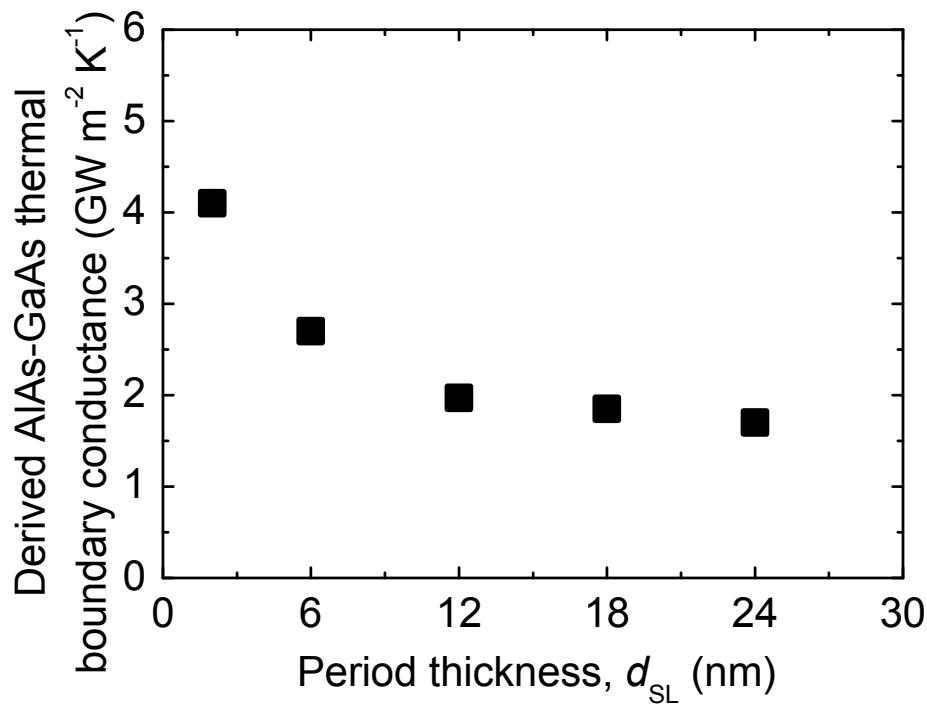
Sample Code	$d_{SL}$ (nm)	$L$ (nm)
Superlattices:		
R13-20	2	20.1
R13-25	2	31.3
R13-24	2	64
R13-21	2	120.5
R13-27	2	384
R13-22	2	685.4
R13-23	2	1,220
R13-26	2	2,160
R14-125	12	24
R14-126	12	72
R14-127	12	132
R14-128	12	216
R14-129	12	684
R13-111	12	2,160
R14-121	24	24
R14-122	24	72
R14-123	24	216
R14-124	24	696
R13-109	24	2,160
R13-112	6.0	2,160
R13-110	18.0	2,160

# Thermal conductivity of GaAs/AlAs SLs

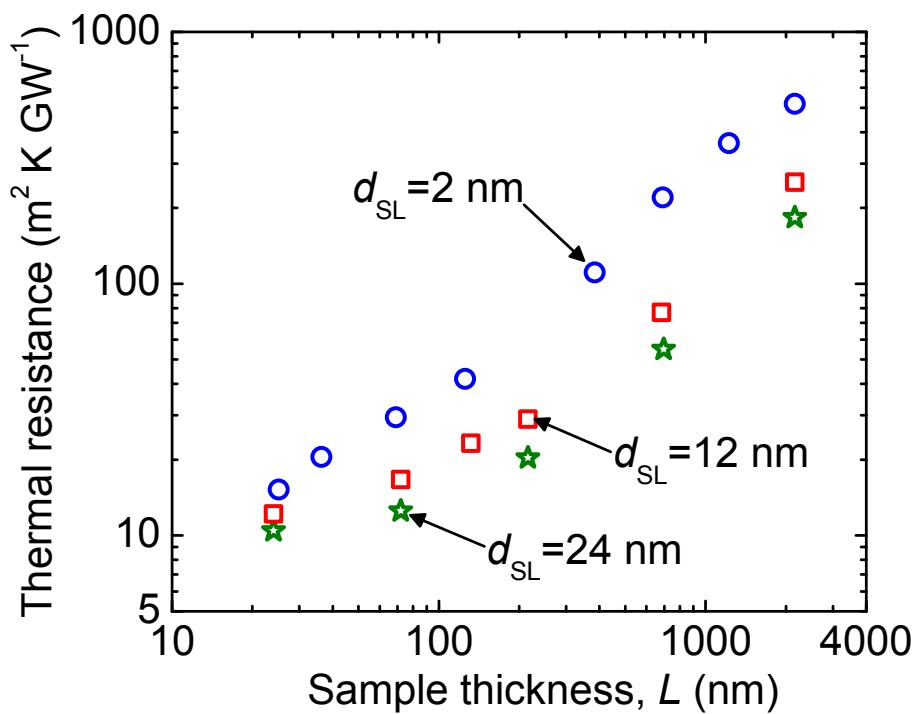


Known: can control thermal resistance with  $L$  and  $d_{SL}$

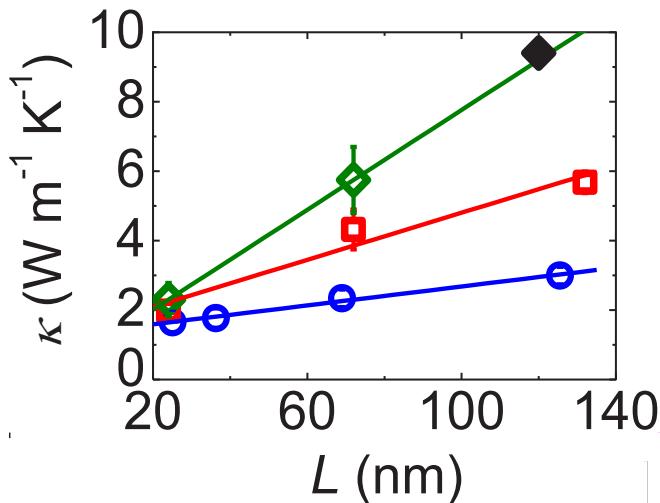
Long and short wavelength phonons “see” boundaries differently, based on length scale and wavelength



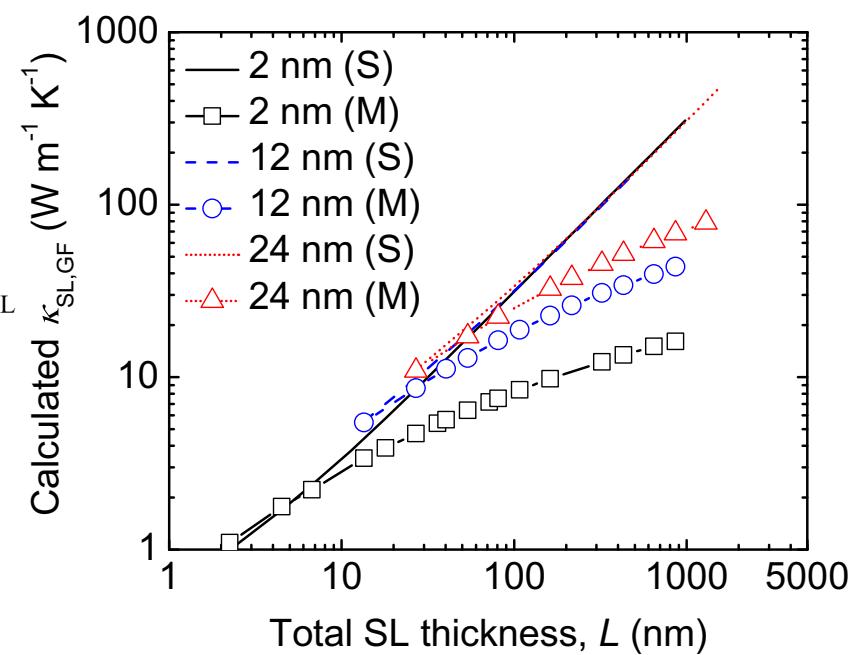
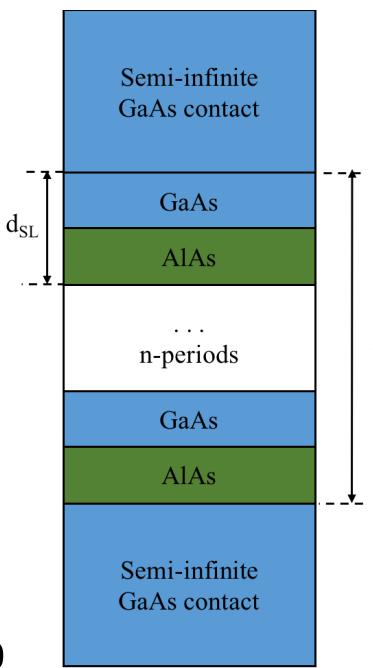
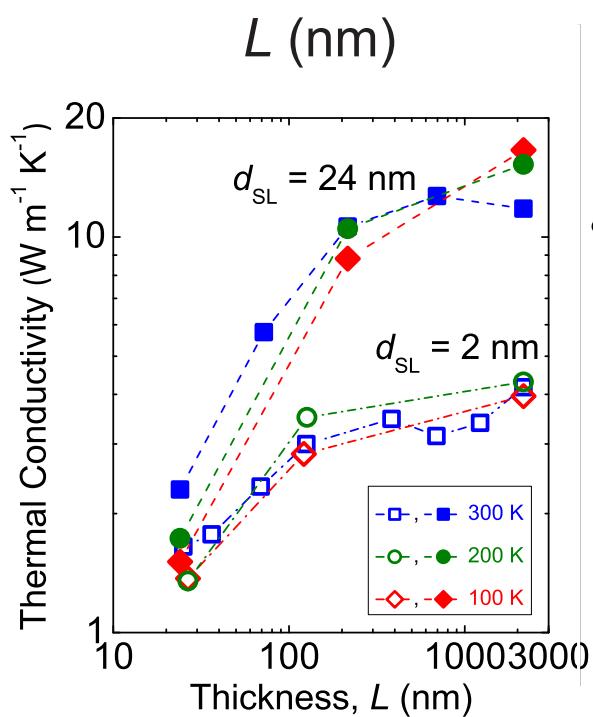
Total resistance (related to temperature rise in device) can be controlled based on selection of  $L$  and  $d_{SL}$



# Predicted: Can not conclude coherent transport from $\kappa \sim L$

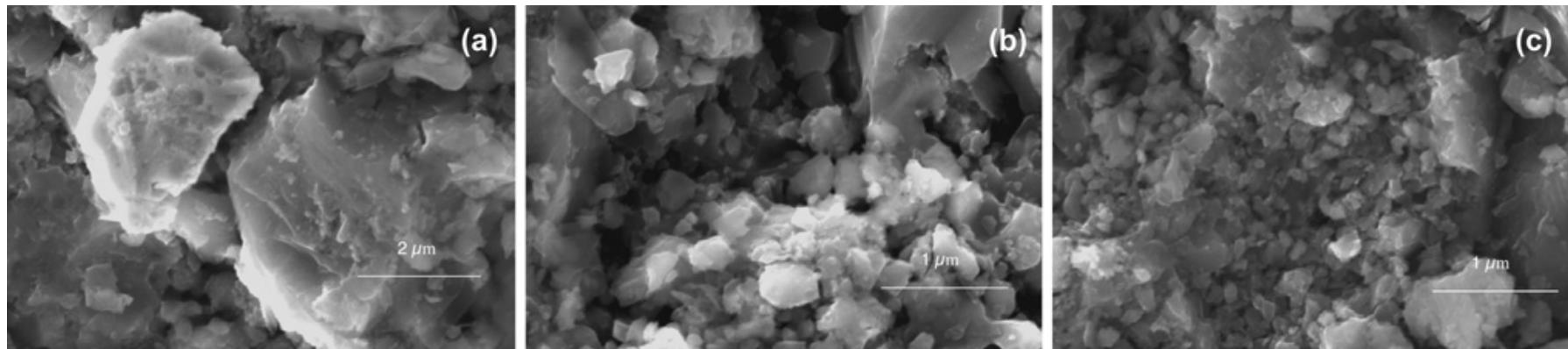


- The linear relationship between  $\kappa$  vs.  $L$  does not imply coherence in SLs?
- Can predict linear  $\kappa$  vs.  $L$  in AGF simulations with and w/o phase destroying mixing at interfaces

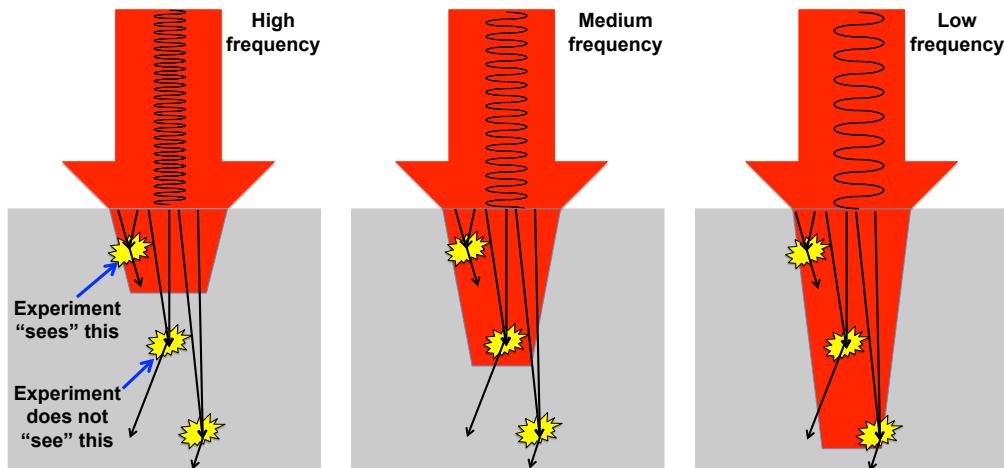


# Can this be extended to nanograined systems?

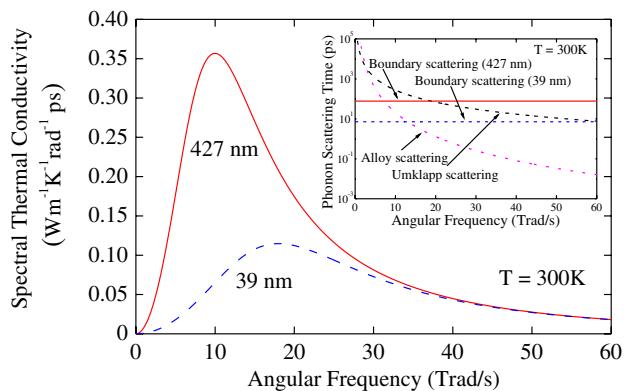
- Known: Long wavelength phonons may not “see” interfaces if interface density is high enough
- Predicted: Even at incoherent interfaces, long wavelength phonons can ballistic traverse interfaces
- Investigate at nanograined silicon germanium alloys
- **Do long wavelength phonons see boundaries if  $\Lambda \gg$  grain size?**



# Why Si-Ge nanograined alloys?

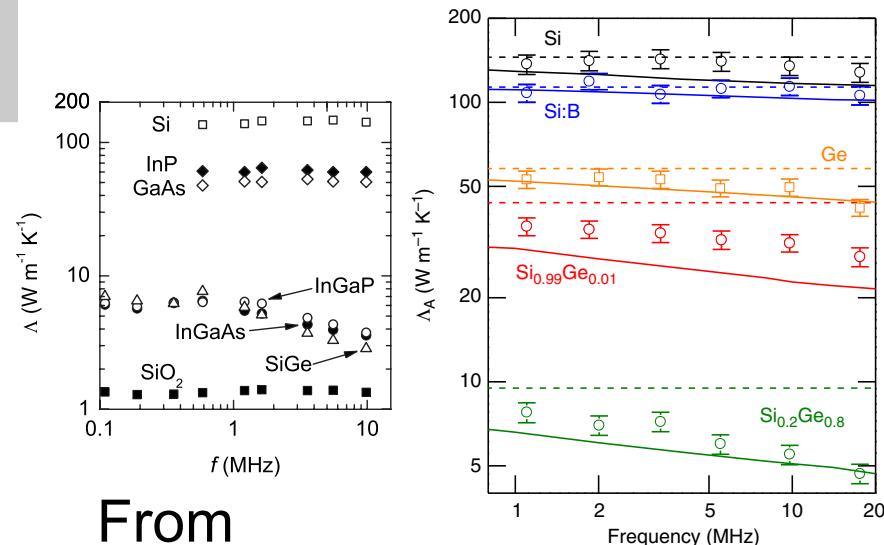


**Long wavelength phonons carry most of the heat**

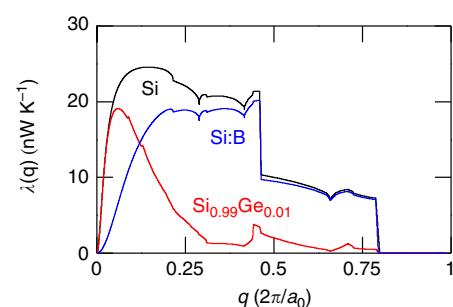


*Cheaito et al, PRL 109, 195901 (2012)*

**Frequency dependent TDTR can be used for MFP spectroscopy**

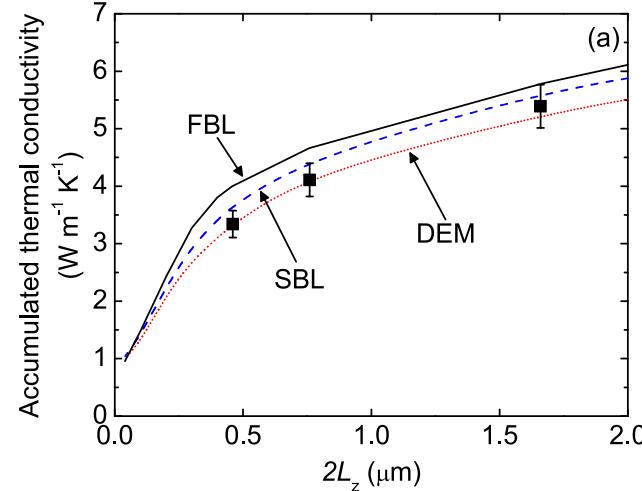


From  
*PRB 76, 075207 (2007)*  
*Nat. Comm. 5, 5075 (2014)*

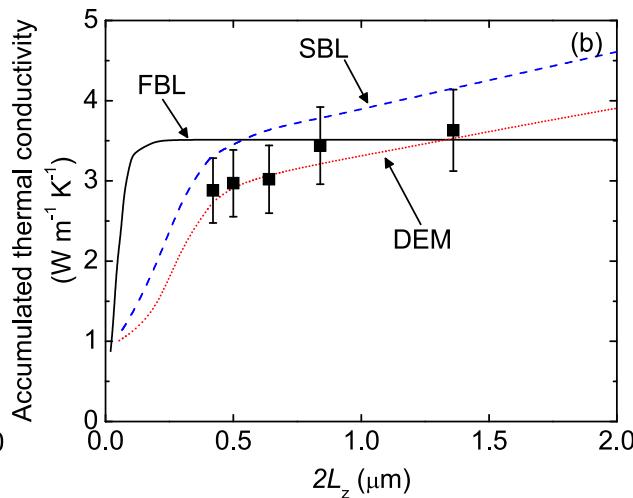


# Phonons don't "see" grain boundaries if $\Lambda$ is long enough

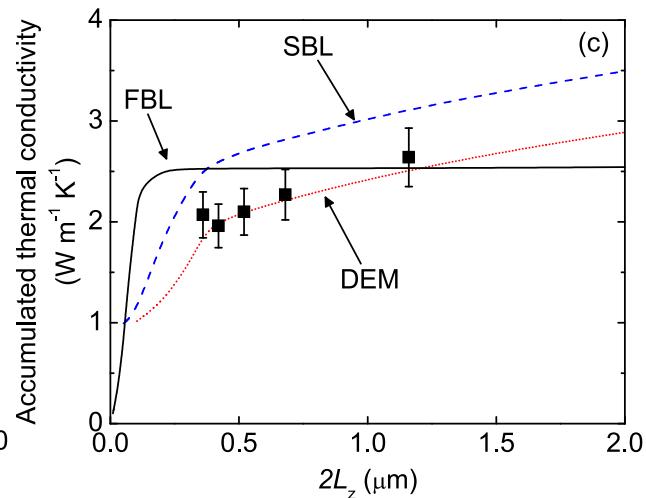
2  $\mu\text{m}$  grain



110 nm grain



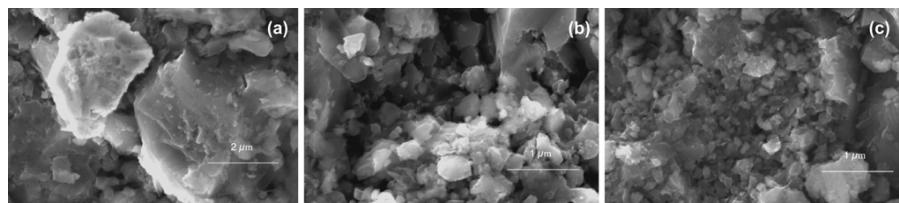
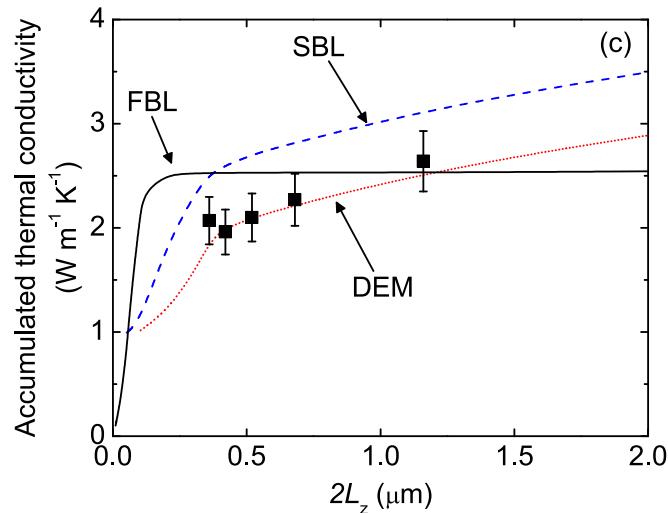
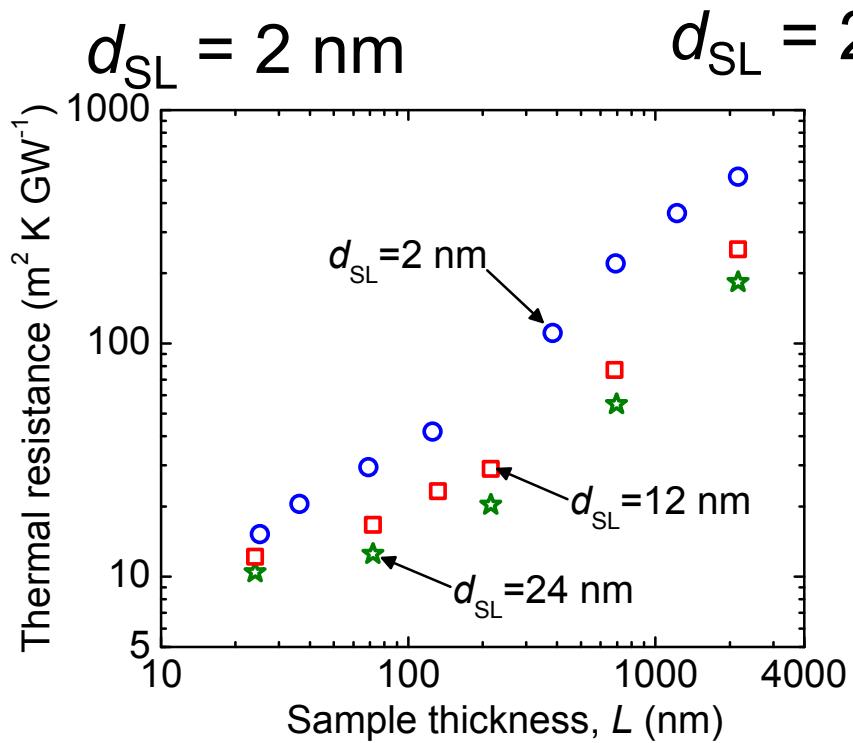
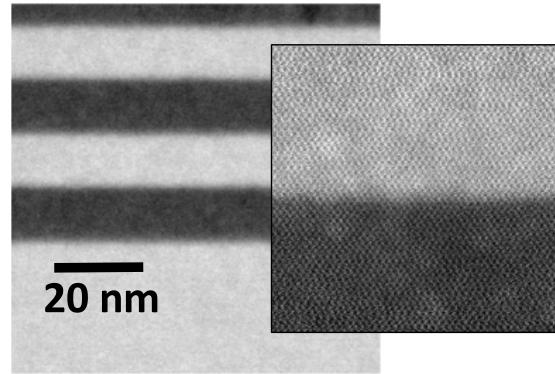
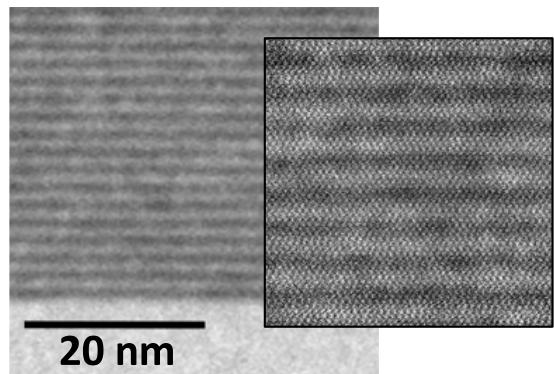
73 nm grain



## Models

- FBL: all phonons scatter at boundary
- SBL: phonons with wavelengths  $\gg$  grain size do not scatter at boundary (consider scattering cross sections)
- DEM: SBL + differential effective medium

# Summary/outlook – boundaries for selective phonon filters



# Summary/outlook – boundaries for selective phonon filters

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **97**, 085306 (2018)

## Interplay between total thickness and period thickness in the phonon thermal conductivity of superlattices from the nanoscale to the microscale: Coherent versus incoherent phonon transport

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## Ballistic transport of long wavelength phonons and thermal conductivity accumulation in nanograined silicon-germanium alloys

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