



IN THE NAME OF GOD



**University of Esfahan**  
**Department of chemistry**  
**Nano chemistry division**

# SELF-CLEANING COATINGS

By  
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Instructor  
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# Outline

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- Introduction
- Self-Cleaning Effect
- Types of Surfaces
- Applications
- Conclusion
- References

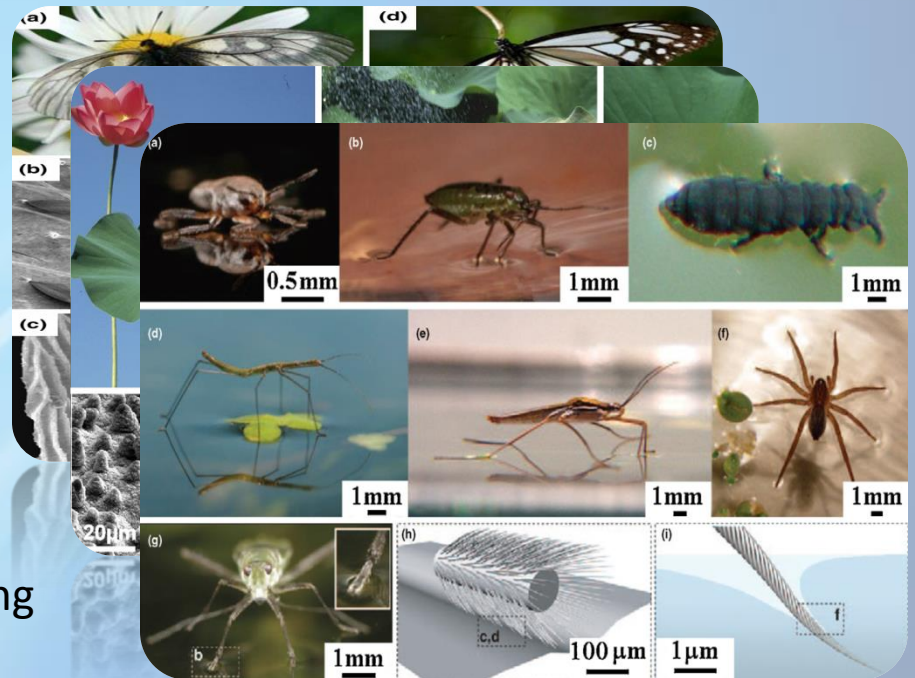
# Introduction

## ❖ The Inspiration of Nature: self-cleaning process

Transparent **butterfly wings** of *Parnassius glacialis* and a white translucent of *Parantica sita*

**Lotus leaf** is the best example of self cleaning surfaces

(a–f ) Images of different water-walking arthropods; (g–i) images of a leg at different magnifications





# Introduction

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## Applications:

Window glasses

Solar panels

Textile industry

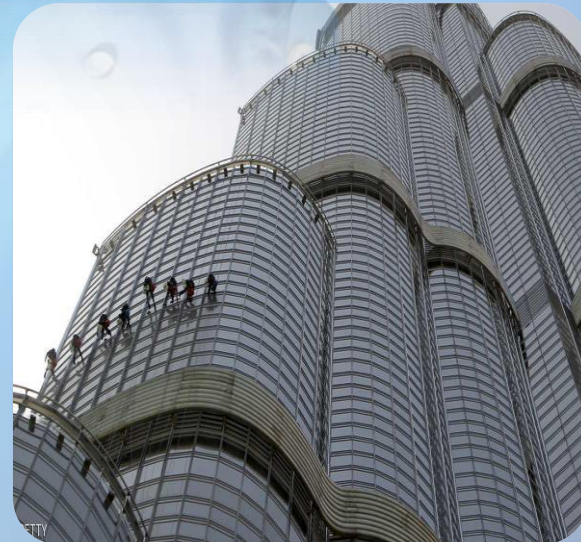


## Purposes:

Reduce maintenance costs

Increase the time needed to  
keeping equipment clean

Increase durability



# Introduction

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## Self-cleaning coatings categories:

### 1. Hydrophilic self-cleaning coatings

Water is spread over the surface

It can carry and eliminate dirt and contaminants

The advantage:

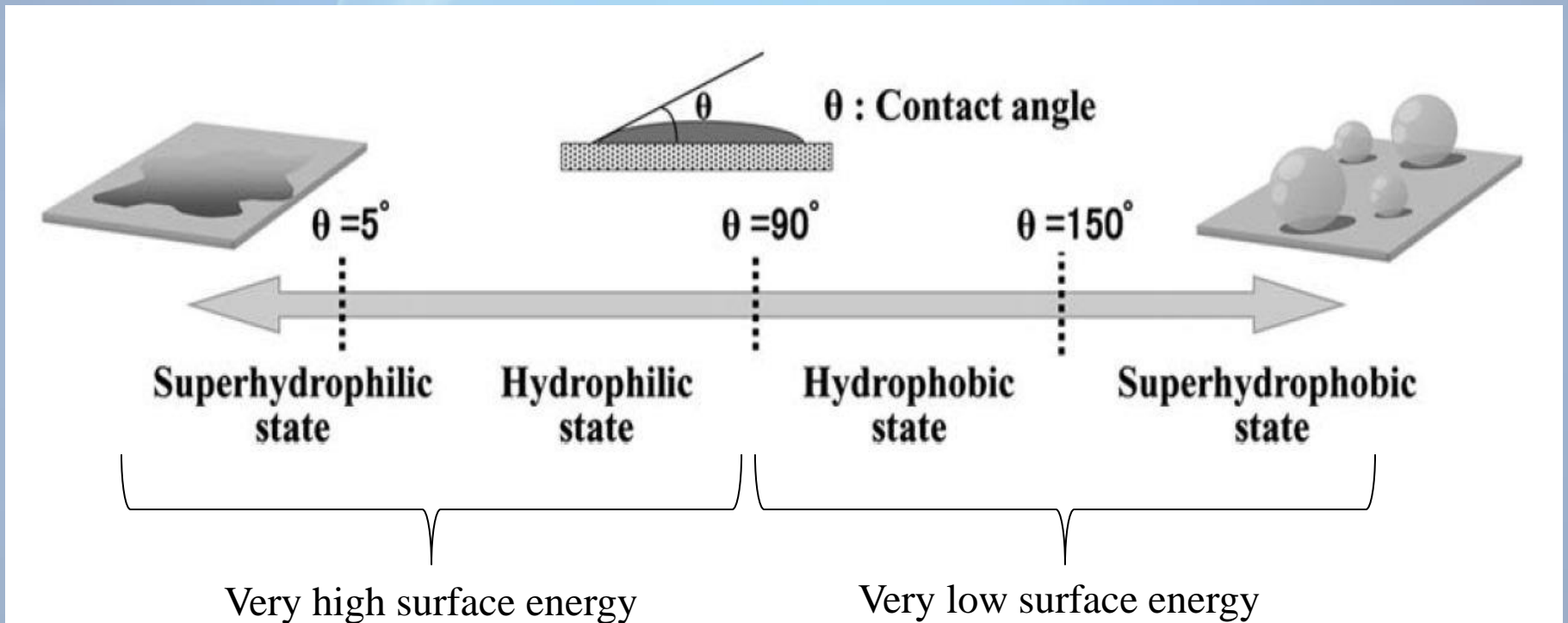
Using of appropriate metal oxides → by the sunlight → The destruction of the chemical structure of contaminants

### 2. Hydrophobic self-cleaning coatings

Droplets of water glides on the surface and clean it

# Self-Cleaning Effect

Depending on **Contact angle** with three phase interfaces (solid-liquid-gas)



# How measure the angle of contact ?

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For smooth surface “Young Equation”:

When a liquid drop is placed in contact with a solid, the equilibrium of the solid and liquid surfaces will be established at a certain angle called the static contact angle CA,  $\theta$ , given by the Young equation:

$$\cos\theta = \frac{\gamma_{SG} - \gamma_{SL}}{\gamma_{LG}}$$

where  $\gamma_{SG}$ ,  $\gamma_{SL}$  and  $\gamma_{LG}$  are the surface energies of the solid against air, solid against liquid and liquid against air, respectively.



# How measure the angle of contact ?

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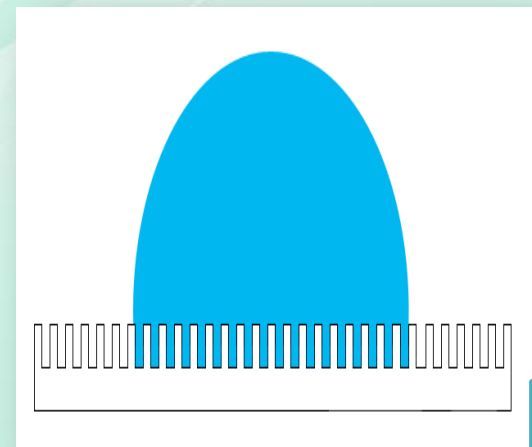
## Wenzel model:

He modified the Young equation as follows:

$$\cos \theta^* = r \left( \frac{\gamma_{SG} - \gamma_{SL}}{\gamma_{LG}} \right) = r \cos \theta$$

Where,  $r$  is the non-dimensional surface roughness factor, defined by the equation, ratio of the actual area of a rough surface,  $A_{SL}$ , to its flat projected area,  $A_f$ .

$$r = \frac{A_{sl}}{A_f}$$

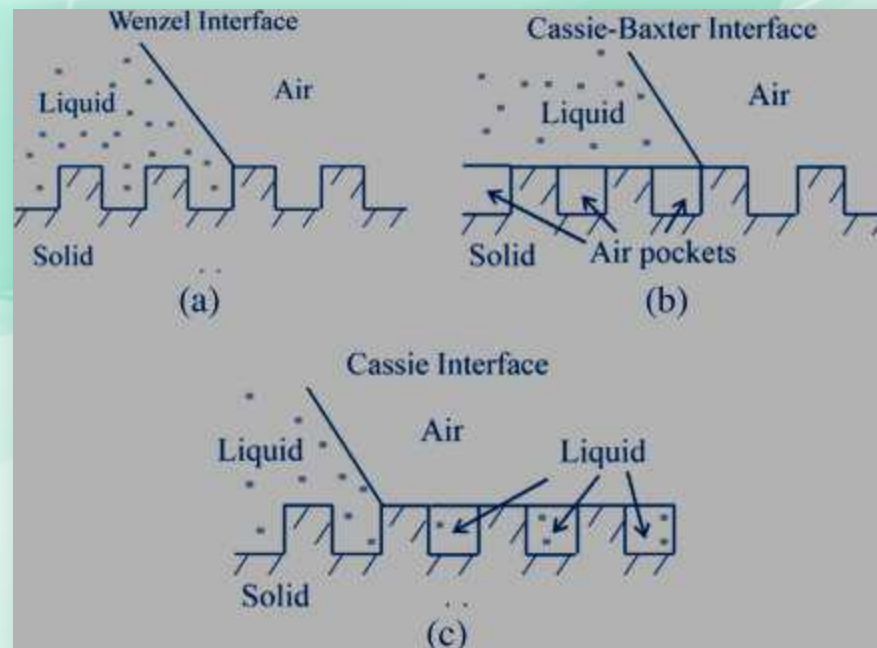


# How measure the angle of contact ?

## Cassie-Baxter:

Model for heterogeneous surfaces composed of two fractions, one with a fractional area  $f_1$  and contact angle  $\theta_1$  and the other with  $f_2$  and  $\theta_2$ , with  $f_1 + f_2 = 1$ .

The contact angle is thus given by equation:  $\cos\theta = f_1 \cos\theta_1 + f_2 \cos\theta_2$



# How measure the angle of contact ?

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## Cassie-Baxter:

A special case of this model

Show that  $\theta^*$  is depended on the percentage of the solid that is in contact with droplet

$\phi_s = \% \text{ of solid}$

$$\cos \theta^* = -1 + \phi_s (\cos \theta_E + 1)$$

If  $\phi_s \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$  the droplet sitted on more air

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta^* \rightarrow -1$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta^* \rightarrow 180^\circ$$

# Types of surfaces

## Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

Hydrophilic surfaces destroy the chemical structure of contaminants in the present of sunlight (photocatalysis)



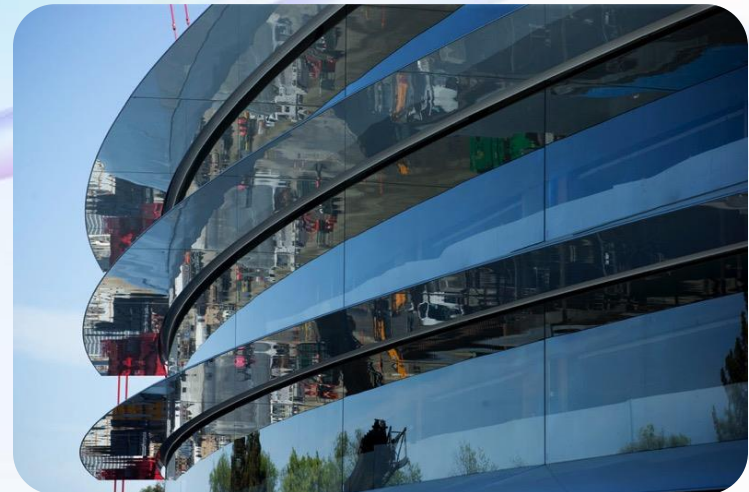
inspired from the photosynthesis



In 2001 The first group of self-cleaning coatings that were used commercially

These glasses were made of thin and transparent titanium dioxide

It cleanses through two separate mechanisms, photocatalysis and hydrophilicity





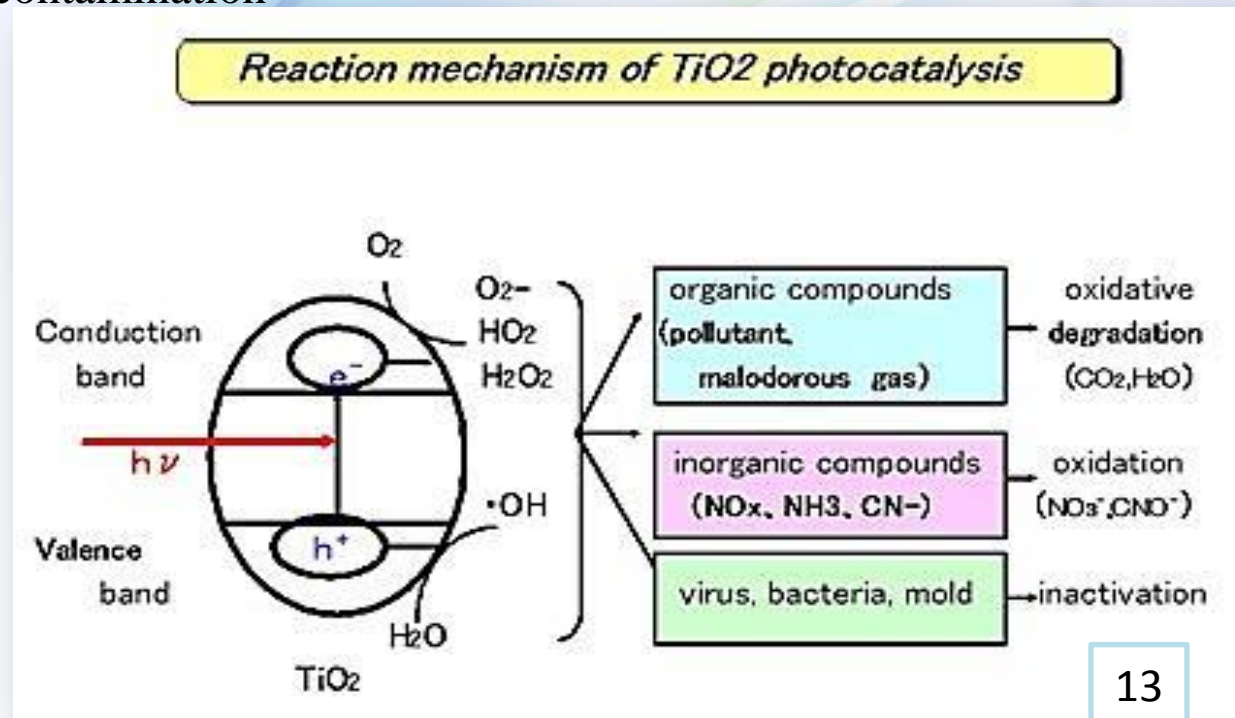
# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

## During the photocatalysis process:

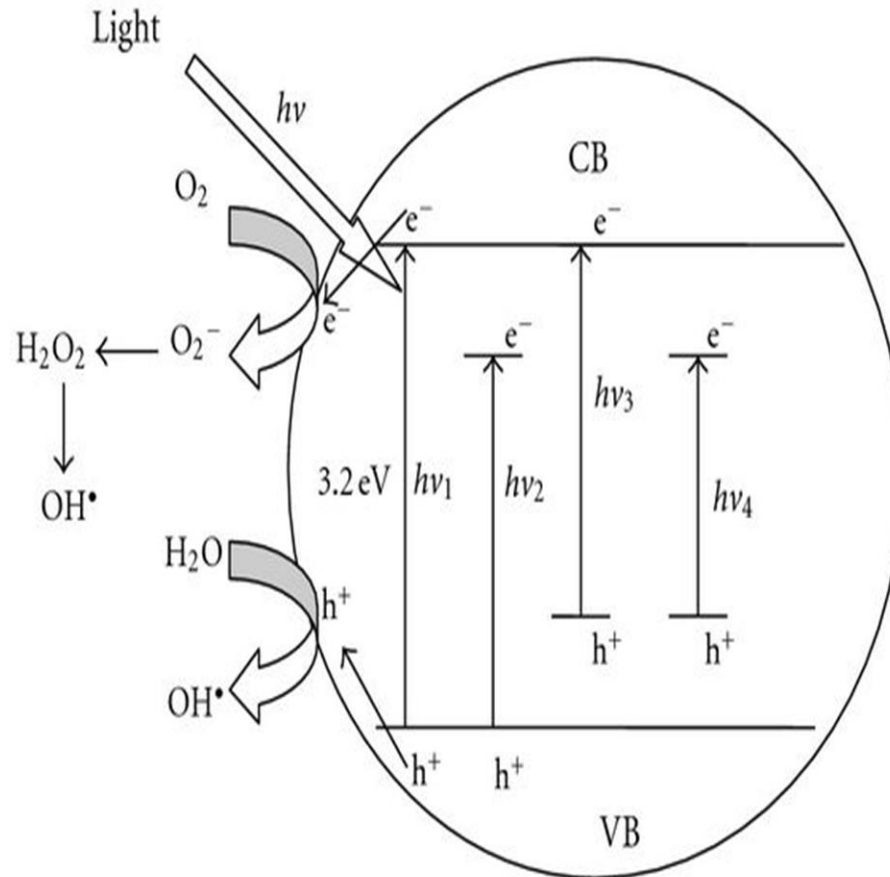
The chemical structure of organic pollutants and other impurities on the coating is broken down by absorbing sunlight

The surface hydrophilicity also reduces the contact angle  
layers of water are covered on the surface that eliminates contamination

## In normal conditions:



# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces



**Scheme 1:** Schematic representation of the mechanism of photocatalytic titanium dioxide particles ( $TiO_2$ :  $h\nu_1$ , Fe- $TiO_2$ :  $h\nu_2$ , N- $TiO_2$ :  $h\nu_3$ , Fe-N- $TiO_2$ :  $h\nu_4$ ).

# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

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Titanium dioxide superhydrophilicity  
induced by sunlight

**Holes** that are caused by optical stimulation in titanium dioxide  
Takes electron from  $O_2$  on the surface and leading to oxidized form of  $O_2$

**FreeRadical oxygen** is created on the surface, which allows hydrogen bonding

By forming a bond between oxygen and hydrogen radicals, hydroxide groups are formed on the surface that reduce the contact angle.

Other self-cleaning surfaces:  $ZrO_2$  ,  $ZnO$  ,  $CdS$  ,  $WO_3$

# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

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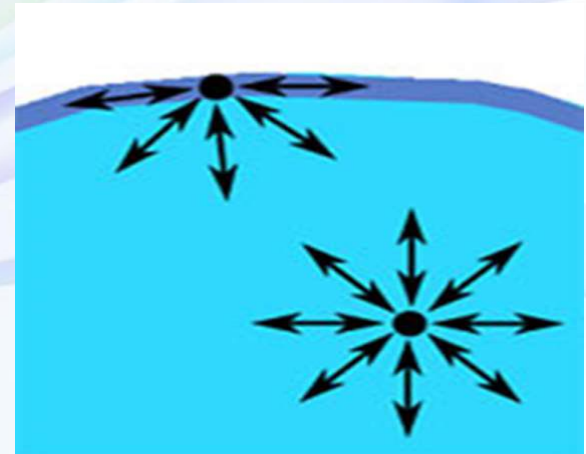
Since the surface properties of the material is different from its bulk

Because atoms and molecules adjacent to the material's surface are less bonded to the atoms in the substance and are **thermodynamically more unstable**

This instability increases the energy of matter

Levels of energy are quantized in the surface

while within the material, these levels become compressed and create a band structure of energy





# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

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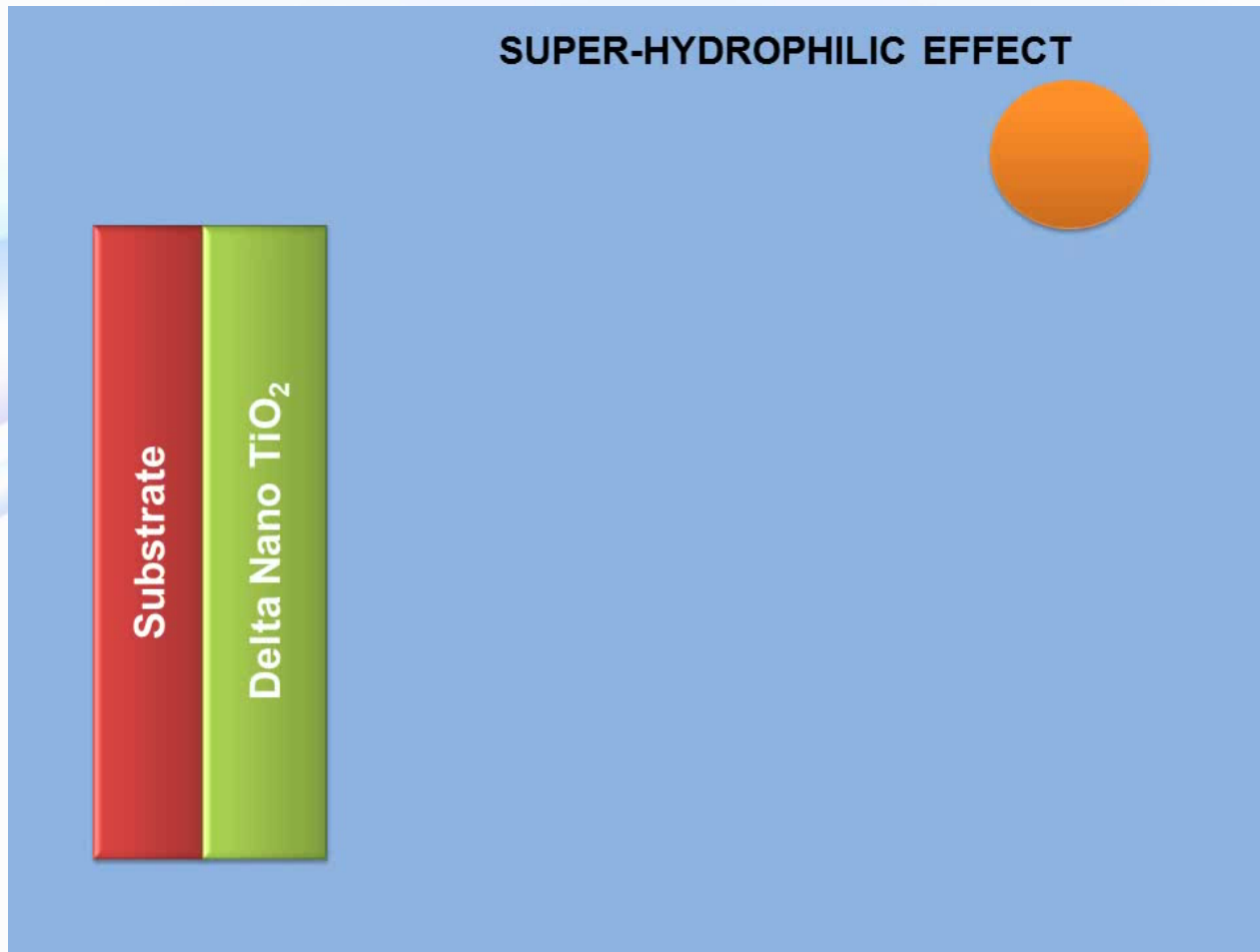
In the nanoscale, **the surface-to-volume ratio** increases, and the possibility of creating holes in the surface and decomposition of the chemical composition of contaminants increases.

For this reason, Titanium dioxide nanoparticles are commonly used as superhydrophilicity surfaces.

By reducing the particle size, the percentage of photocatalytic activity increases

# Hydrophilic and superhydrophilic surfaces

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# Types of surfaces

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## Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

Ward and colleagues observed for the first time that the lotus leaf was completely clean in the swamps and that no contamination was observed.

In the 1960s, studies done by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) showed that surfaces that are completely smooth in macroscopic look are rough in microscopic scale

When a surface has a texture in a micrometer or nanometer scale, **the interface between air and water increases in a drop that is placed on the surface**, and the capillary strength between the droplets and the surface is severely reduced.

# Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

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Therefore, the drop of water forms a spherical shape and flows freely and particles of pollution and dust are connected to it

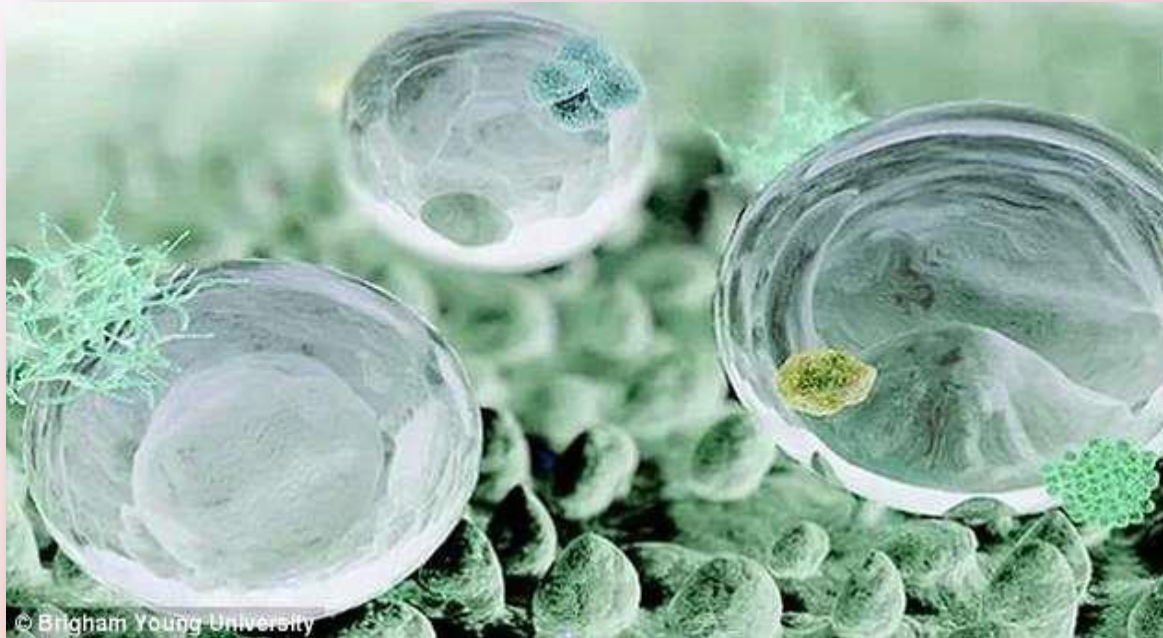


Image of a droplets of water on a lotus leaf; contaminants stick to the water droplet and detach from the surface

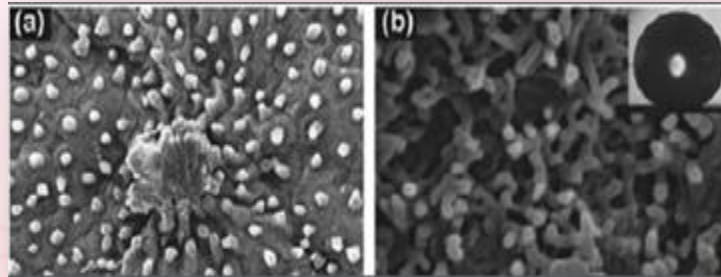


# Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

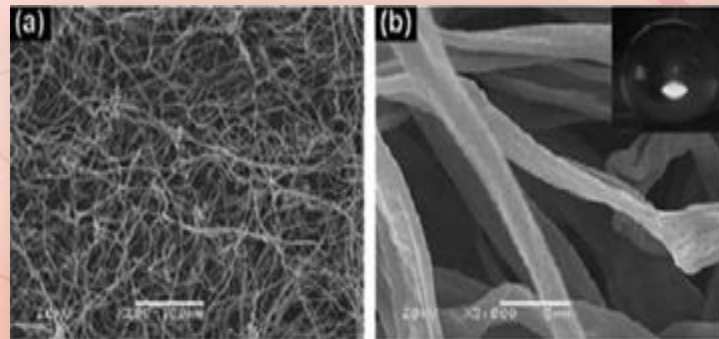
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The results of research by Guo and colleagues showed that there are two categories of surface microstructure in the leaves of the trees:

**Hierarchical micro and nano structures** : The lotus leaf in figure has a hierarchical structure The leaves of this plant have grooves of 3 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in size, and particles in a size of 100 nm are spread across the grooves.



**Unitary fine lines structures**: the figure is image of the back of a ramee with a smooth structure, in which fibers with a diameter of 1 to 2 micrometers are seen across the surface.



# Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

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Developing methods for superhydrophobe surfaces preparation by imitation of existing surfaces in nature

Many researchers around the world have tried to produce surfaces that have **very low surface energy** and can control surface micro-level and nanoscale morphology, and thus reach a superhydrophobe surface.

Research shows that it is almost impossible to create a contact angle of more than 120 degrees on a flat surface, only by relying on the hydrophobic chemical structure of that surface, without any tissue in the micro or nanoscale.

# Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

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Therefore, to create superhydrophobe surface, there must be two surface **roughness** and a **hydrophobic chemical structure** (low surface energy)

The contact angle of the water at the surfaces with low energy increases with increasing porosity and surface roughness.

The effect of surface roughness can be expressed with the aid of the Wenzel equation

The Wensel equation predicts that if the molecular level is rough, it shows more hydrophobia.

# Hydrophobic and superhydrophobic coatings

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The methods used to fabricate hydrophobic and superhydrophobic surfaces can be divided into two general categories:

1. Fabricate a rough surface from a low surface energy material

2. Modifying a rough surface with a low surface energy material

Generally, the combination of the two methods is commonly used to create such surfaces.

# Fabrication of Self-Cleaning Surfaces

Types of surfaces



Hydrophilic & Superhydrophilic surfaces

Hydrophobic & Superhydrophobic coatings

TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, CdS, WO<sub>3</sub>



Spin coating

Dip coating

Spray coating

Electrochemical deposition

Electroless deposition

Layer-by-layer (LBL)  
method

Lithography

Sol-gel method

Polymerization reaction





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## Surface & Coatings Technology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/surfcoat](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/surfcoat)



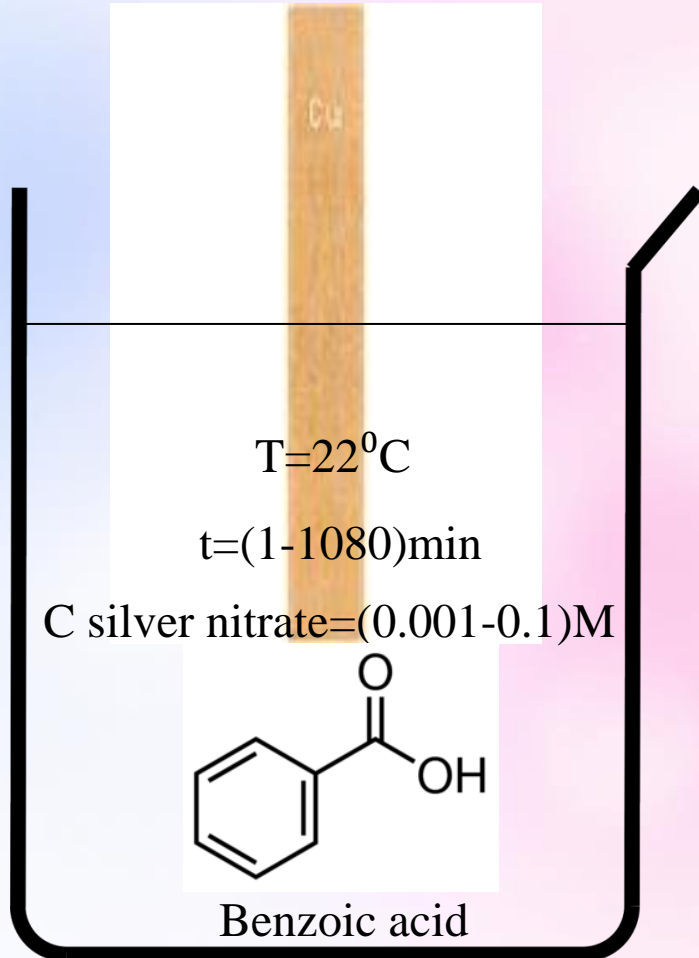
### One-step fabrication process of superhydrophobic green coatings

D.K. Sarkar\*, N. Saleema

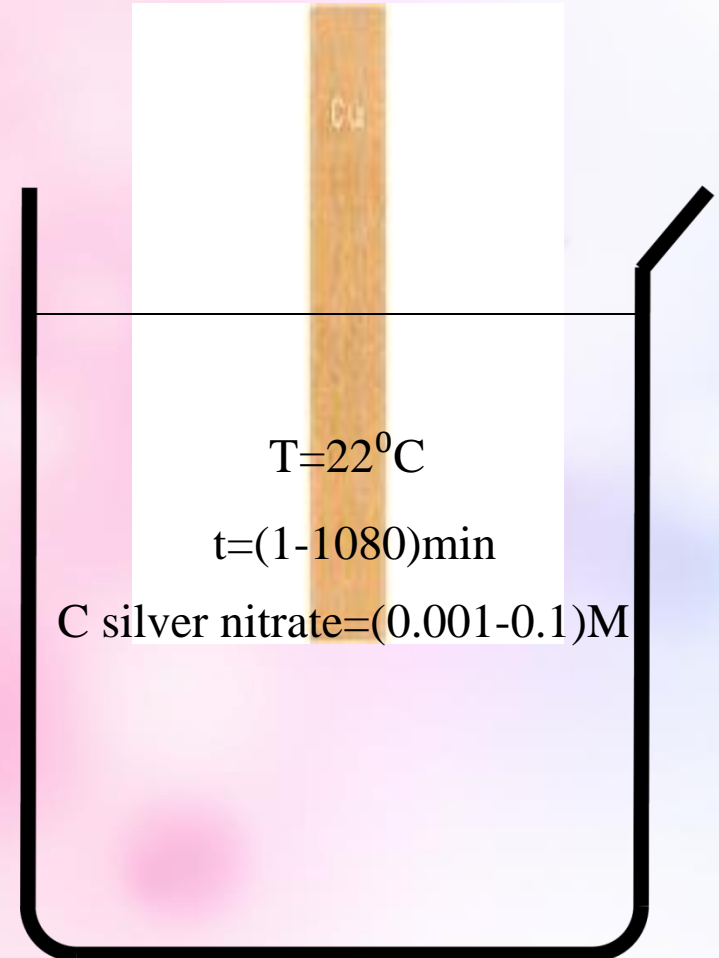
*Centre Universitaire de Recherche sur l'Aluminium (CURAL), L'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, 555 Boulevard de l'Université, Chicoutimi, Québec, Canada G7H 2B1*

# Electroless deposition

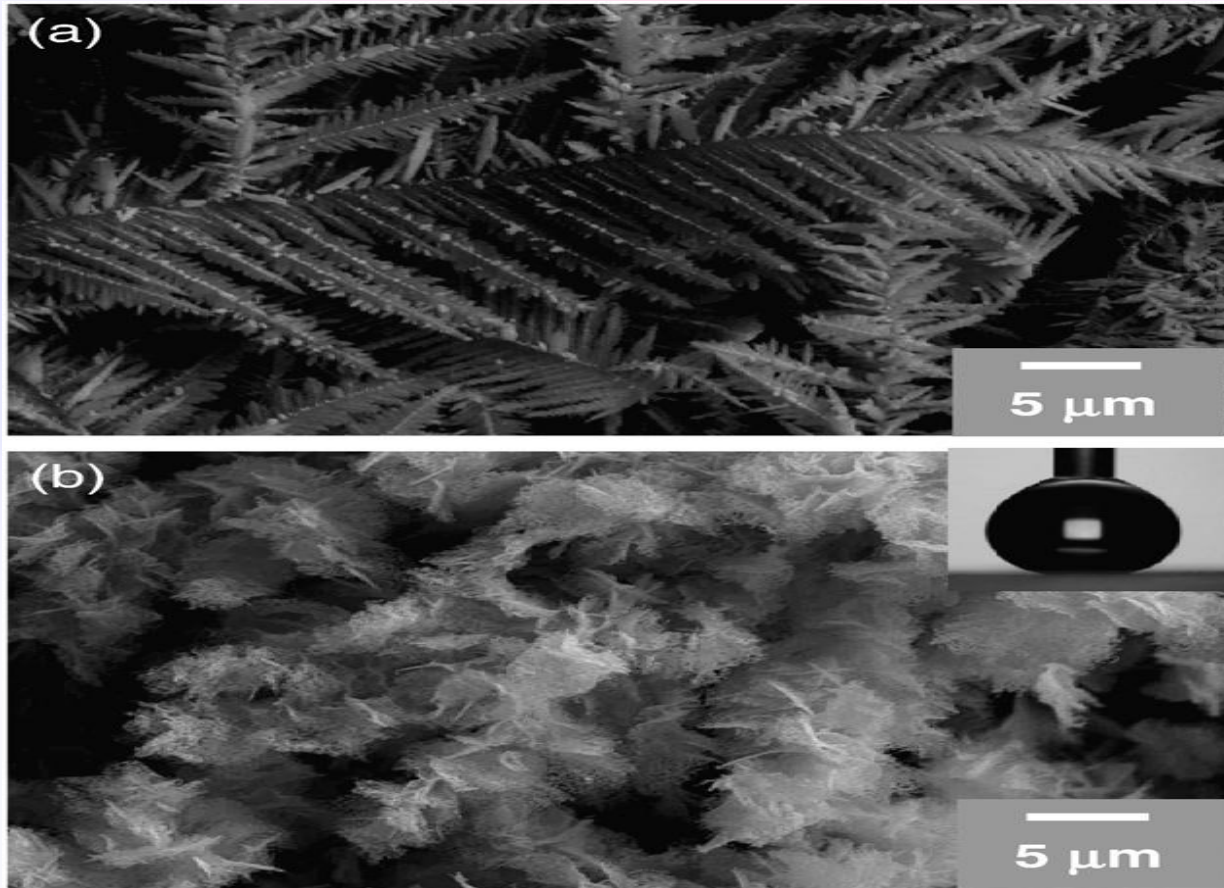
Experimental :



And



# Electroless deposition



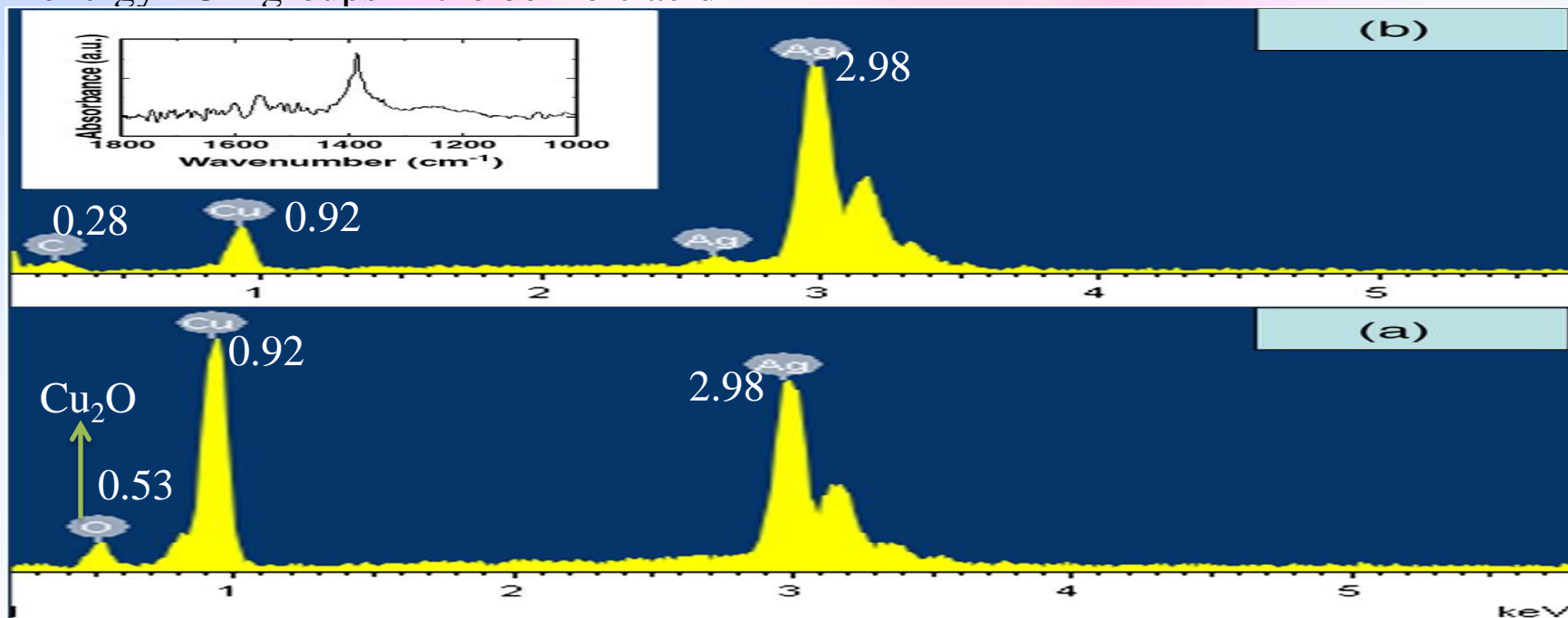
SEM images of silver films deposited on copper substrates by galvanic exchange reaction in the silver nitrate solution: (a) leaf-like surface morphology without benzoic acid and (b) flower-like structure (composed of micro-nano patterned) with benzoic acid. Inset shows the drop of 8 μl water on the silver surface prepared with benzoic acid molecules.

# Electroless deposition

The high water contact angle and water repellency is attributed to

1. the rough flower-like morphological features of this film
2. the low surface energy of benzoic acid incorporated into these films

The low surface energy of benzoic acid arises from the presence of the low surface energy  $-CH$  groups in the benzoic acid



EDX spectra of silver films prepared in (a) silver nitrate solution and (b) silver nitrate solution with benzoic acid molecules. Inset shows the FTIR spectra of silver powder collected from the silver films prepared with the benzoic acid molecules.



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## Surface & Coatings Technology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/surfcoat](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/surfcoat)



# A facile process for preparing superhydrophobic nickel films with stearic acid

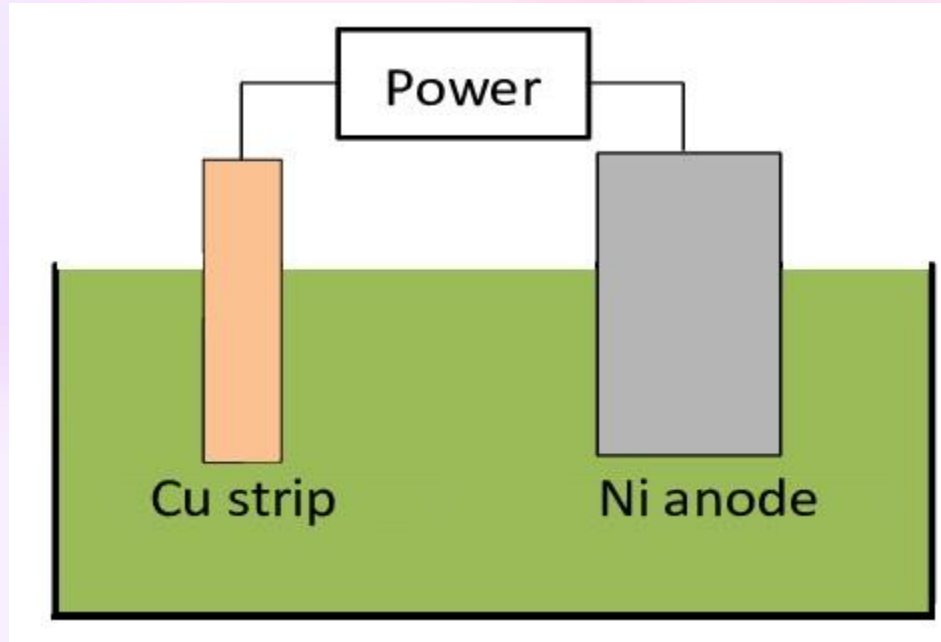
Zhuo Chen <sup>1</sup>, Feifei Tian <sup>2</sup>, Anmin Hu <sup>\*</sup>, Ming Li <sup>3</sup>

*The State Key Laboratory of the Metal Matrix Composites, Key Laboratory for Thin Film and Microfabrication Technology of the Ministry of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, No. 800, Dongchuan Road, 200240, Shanghai, P.R. China*



# Electrochemical deposition

Nickel surface with nanocone array structure was fabricated by electrodeposition



1.5 mol/L ethylenediamine dihydrochloride as a crystal modifier

1 mol/L  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

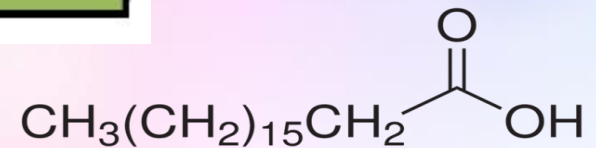
0.5 mol/L  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$

3.5 mmol/L **Stearic acid** in ethanol as surface modifier

$T=60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$\text{pH}=4.0$

Current density =  $2\text{ A/dm}^2$  and  $t=8\text{ min}$



# Electrochemical deposition

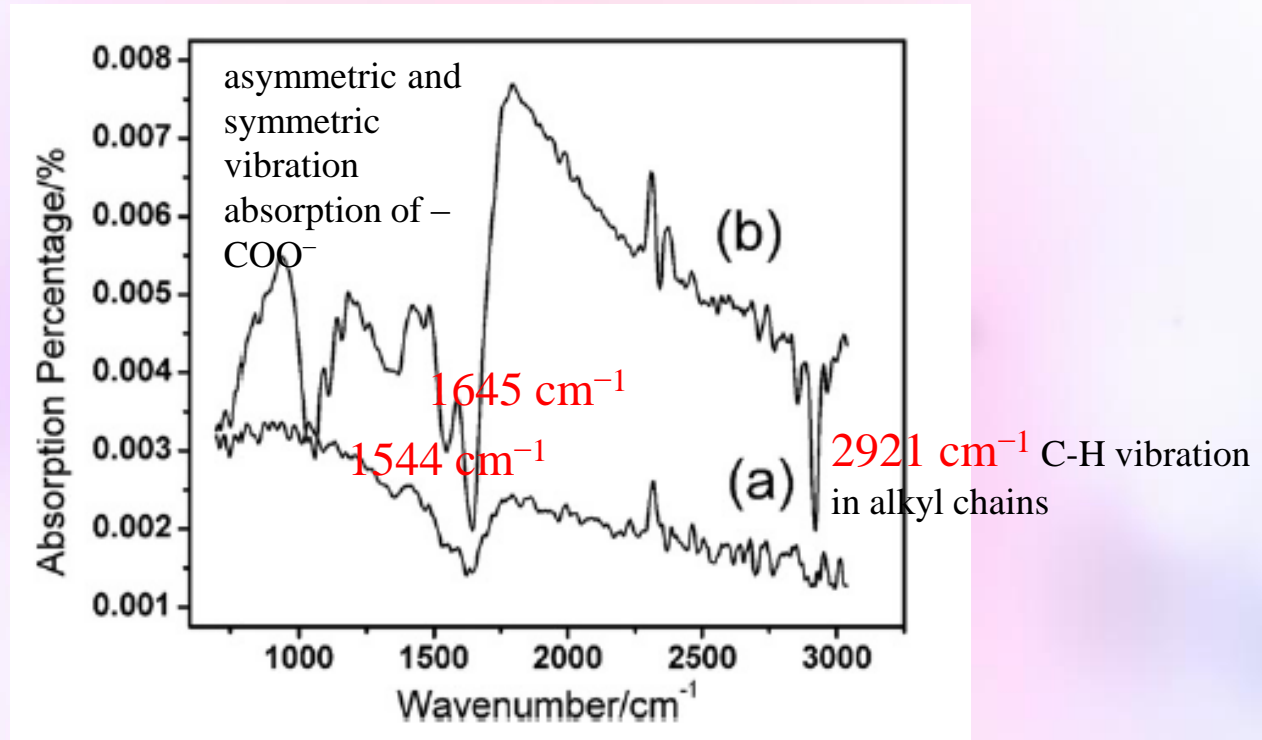
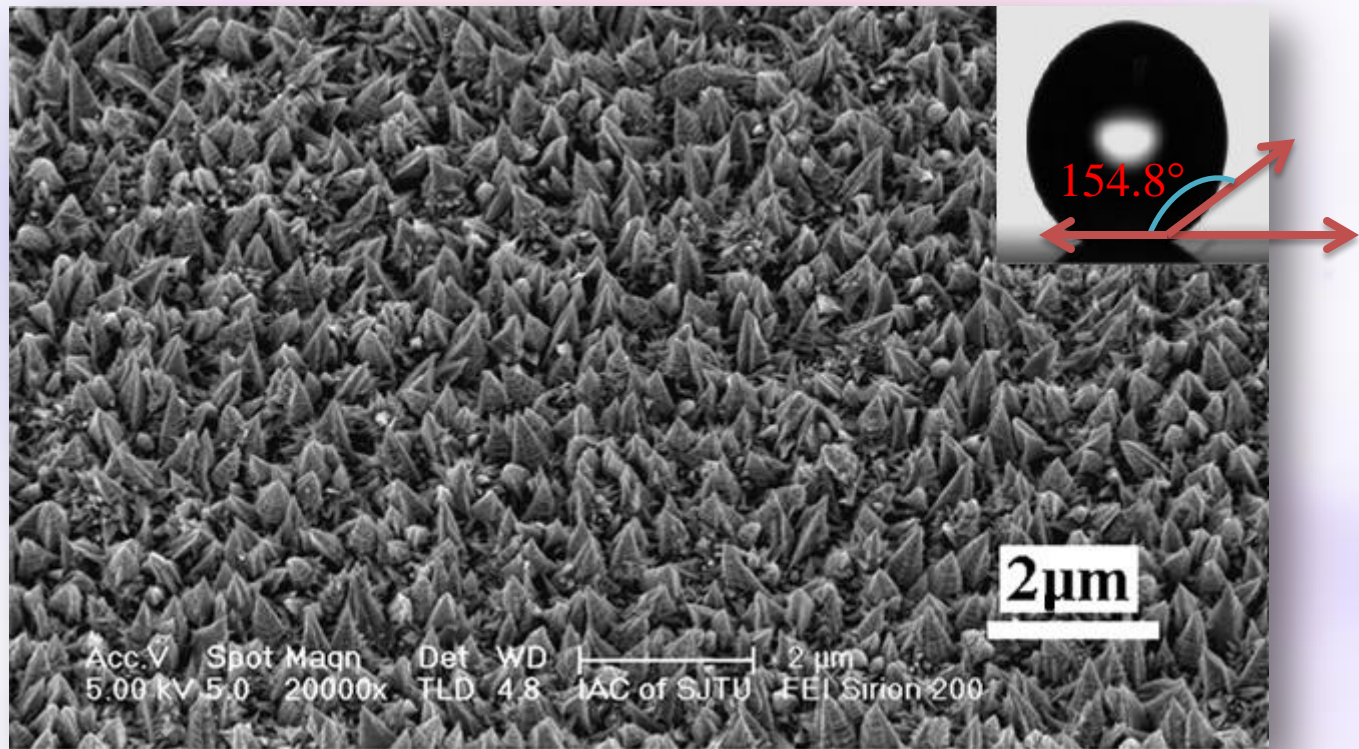


Fig. 2. FTIR-ATR spectra of nickel surfaces fabricated at  $2 \text{ A/dm}^2$  for 8 min (a) before modification, (b) after modification with stearic acid.

# Electrochemical deposition

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SEM images of nickel nanocone arrays  
water contact angle was  $154.8^\circ$  and the sliding angle of  $4.7^\circ$



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## Applied Surface Science

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apsusc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apsusc)



# A stable superhydrophobic and superoleophilic Cu mesh based on copper hydroxide nanoneedle arrays

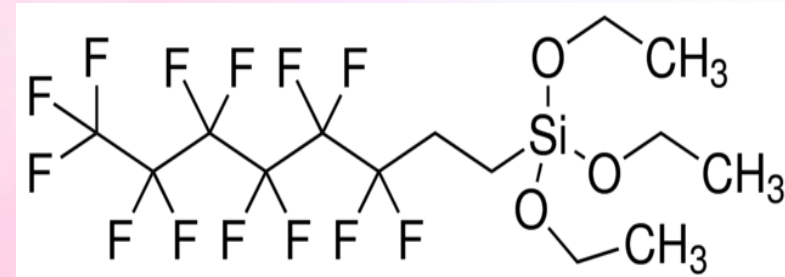
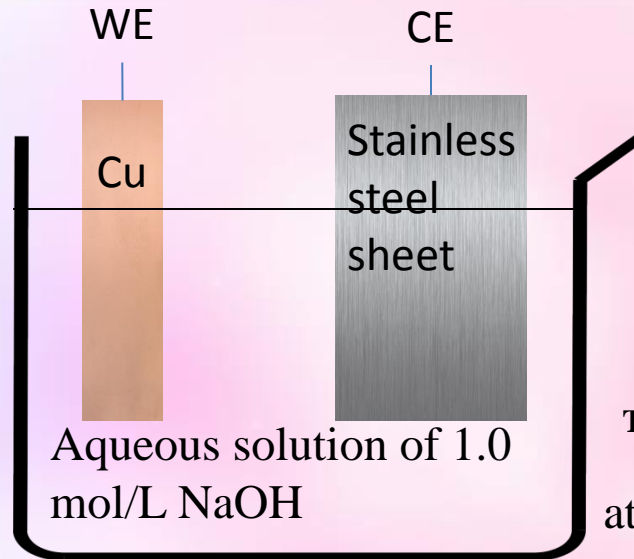
Duc-Duong La<sup>a</sup>, Tuan Anh Nguyen<sup>a</sup>, Sungho Lee<sup>b</sup>, Jeong Won Kim<sup>c</sup>, Yong Shin Kim<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Graduate School of Bio-nano Technology, Hanyang University, Ansan 426-791, South Korea

<sup>b</sup> Manufacturing Convergence Technology R&D Department, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology, Ansan 426-171, South Korea

<sup>c</sup> Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science, Daejeon 305-340, South Korea

# Electrochemical deposition



Triethoxy(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoro-1-octyl)silane

at room temperature

$\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  films were electrochemically grown at a constant current density of  $2\text{mA}/\text{cm}^2$  with a typical reaction time of  $600\text{ s}$

Rinsed twice with DI water and then dried in air

The silanization process

**Surface modification** was performed by dipping samples into an ethanol solution of 0.5% 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane for 24 h

Followed by washing with ethanol and drying in an oven at  $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h

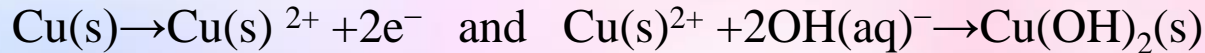
FAS-modified  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  nanoneedles



# Electrochemical deposition

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The formation of  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  nanoneedles was previously interpreted with an electrochemical oxidation process:



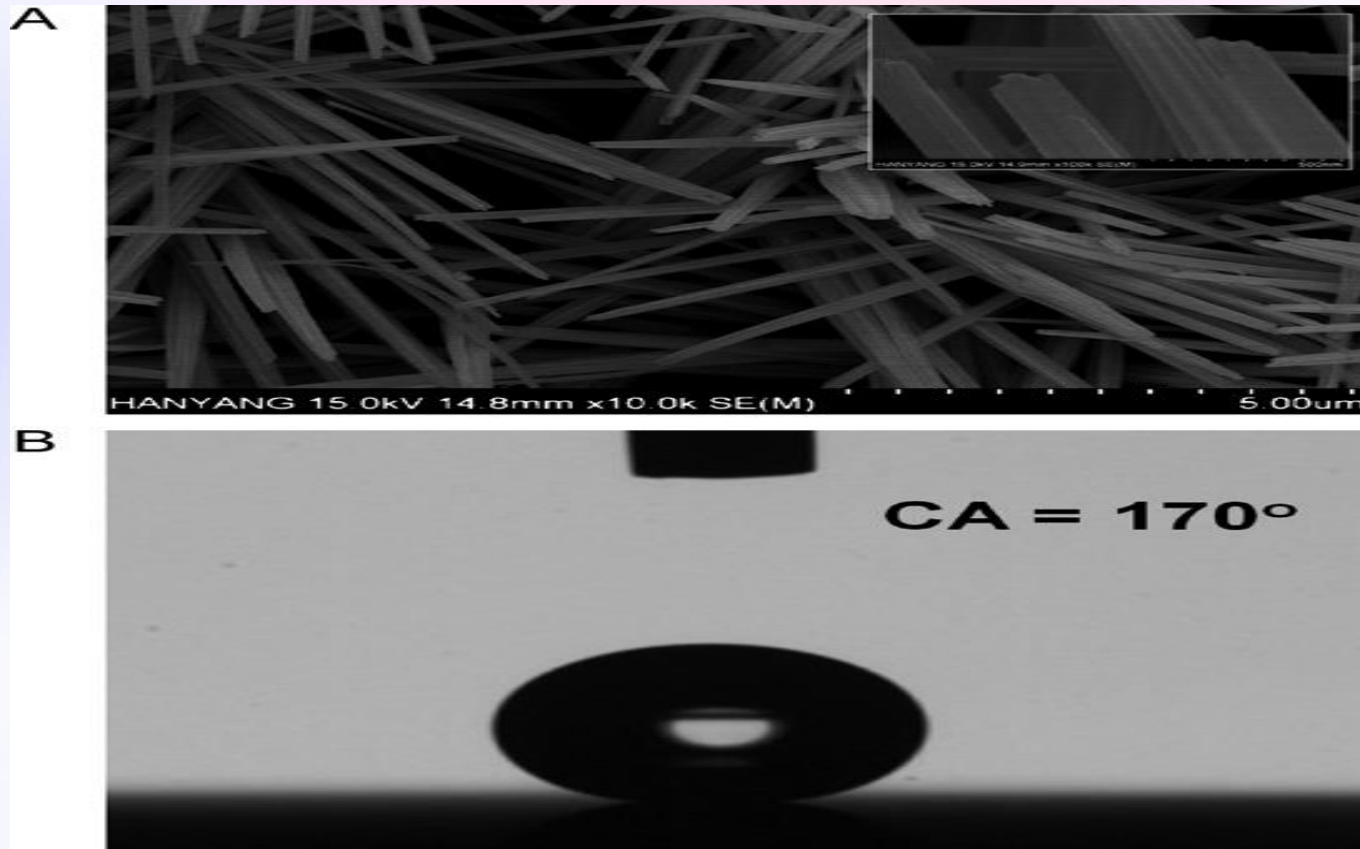
these results indicated that orthorhombic  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  nanoneedle arrays were uniformly produced over a large area through electrochemical anodization

Unmodified  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  nanoneedle films were observed to have a very low CA close to  $0^\circ$  due to hydrophilic OH functional groups

The CA of FAS-modified samples promptly increased and then reached a steady-state value around  $170^\circ$  after 2 h while the Si content gradually increased as silanization time increased

Slide angle is less than  $5^\circ$

# Electrochemical deposition



(A) An SEM image of FAS-modified  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$  nanoneedle arrays and (B) a cross-sectional optical image of a water droplet on the modified surface.

# Applications

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**Self-cleaning surfaces are used in a variety of fields:**

Textile industry(Self-cleaning clothes)

Automotive industry(Self-cleaning glasses, car body, and mirrors)

Optical industries(Cameras, sensors, lenses, telescopes)

Shipbuilding industry(Anticorrosive coatings)

Windows

Paints

Solar panels

# Applications

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## Self-cleaning commercial products:

The Pilkington Group has commercialized a self-cleaning glass for the first time



The German lotus company (Lotusan) produces self-cleaning paints



Cardinal glass industry in Europe and Saint-Gobain



PPG industry



Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company (1883–1968)

# Conclusion

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## Self-cleaning coatings technology used to:

Increase durability

Reduction in costs

Reduce the time needed to maintain equipment

Dividing into two categories with the relative similar set up to Prevent Sediment Pollutions They are used as coverings on different surfaces

## Applications in various fields such as:

Textile industry

Automotive industry

Aircraft industry

Optical industries

Many commercial products have come into production using this technology



# References

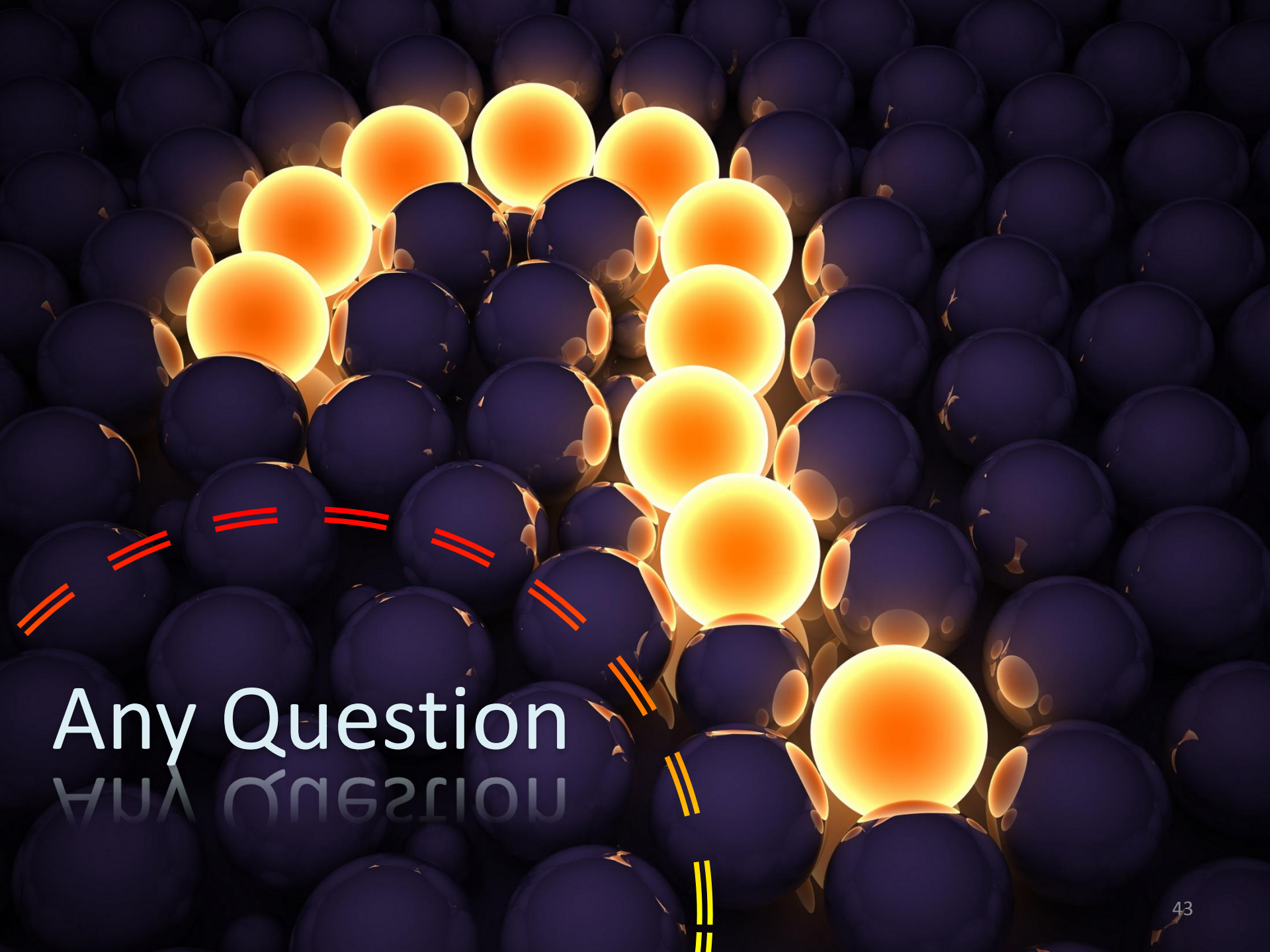
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Thank you!

ευχαριστώ





Any Question

ANY QUESTION