



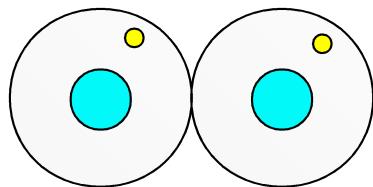
# **Insulator to metal transitions and resistive switching in the chalcogenide Mott insulator compounds $AM_4X_8$**

**Benoît Corraze, Etienne Janod, Laurent Cario,**

***Benoit.corraze@cnrs-imn.fr***

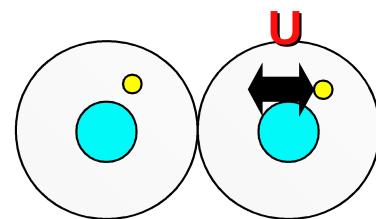
# Mott Insulator

Metal

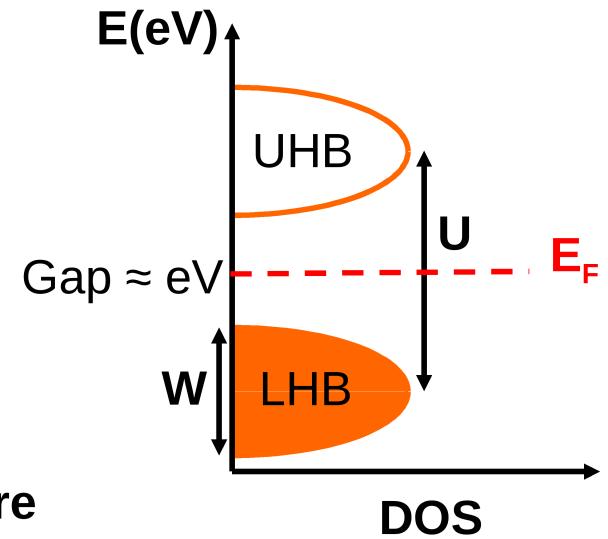
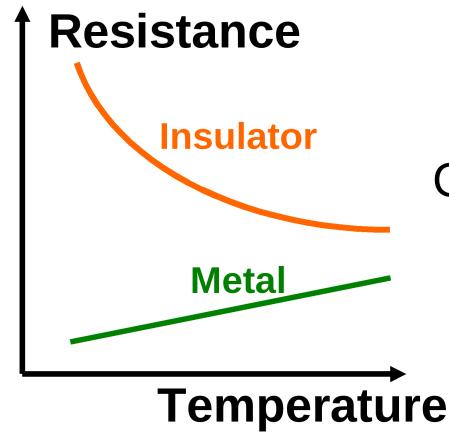
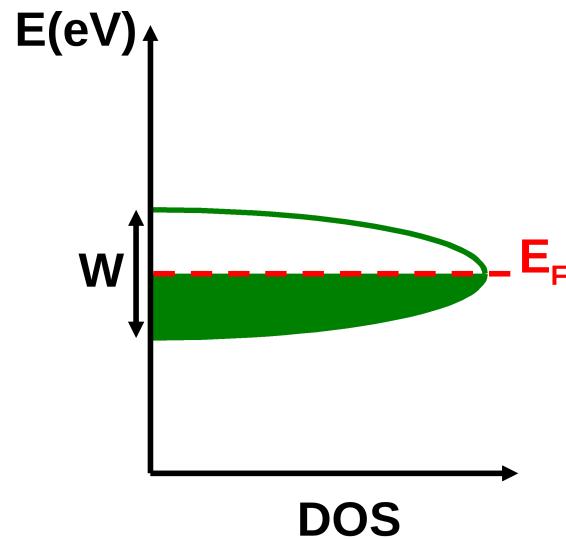


$$U \ll W$$

Mott Insulator

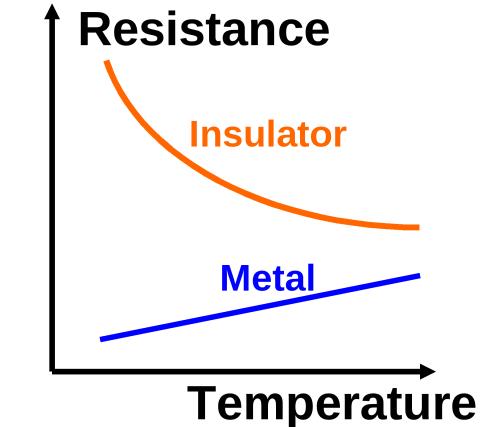
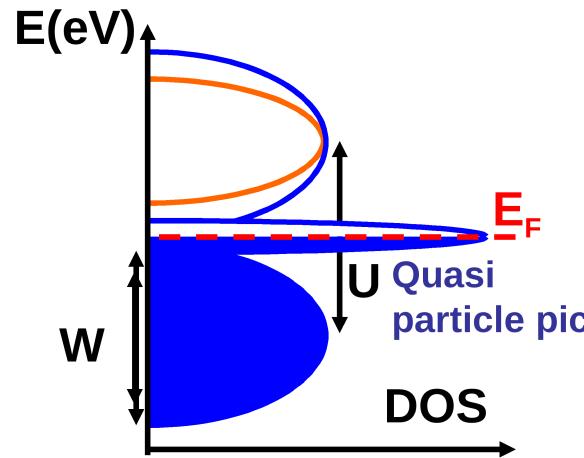
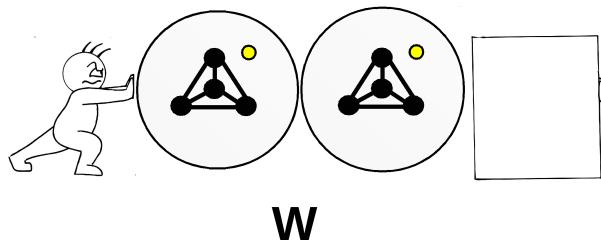


$$U \gg W$$

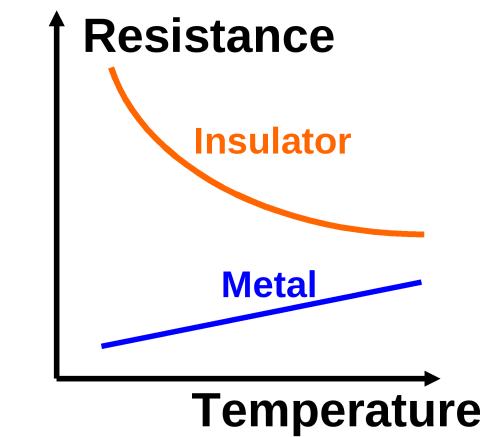
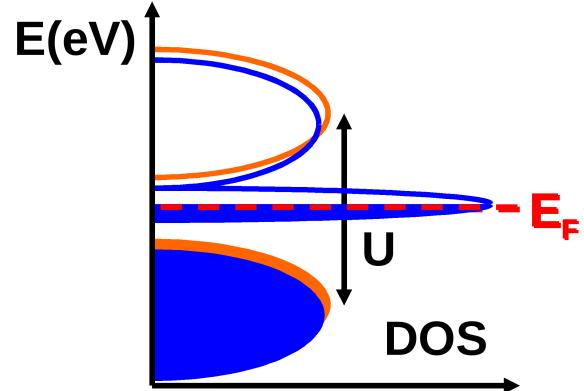
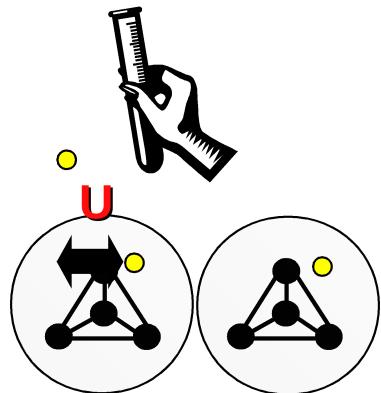


# Bandwidth and filling control Insulator to Metal Transition

Pressure



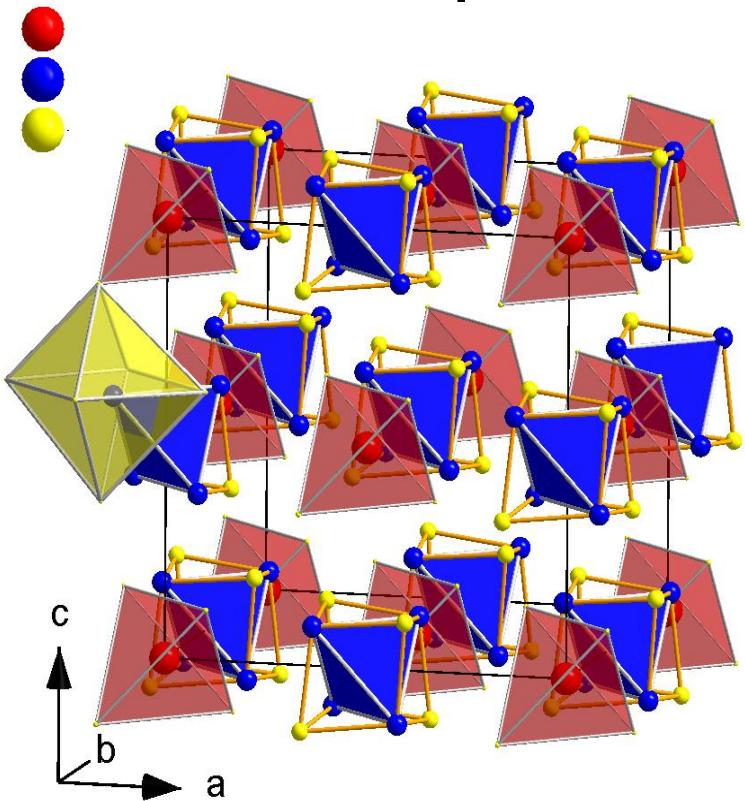
Doping  $x$



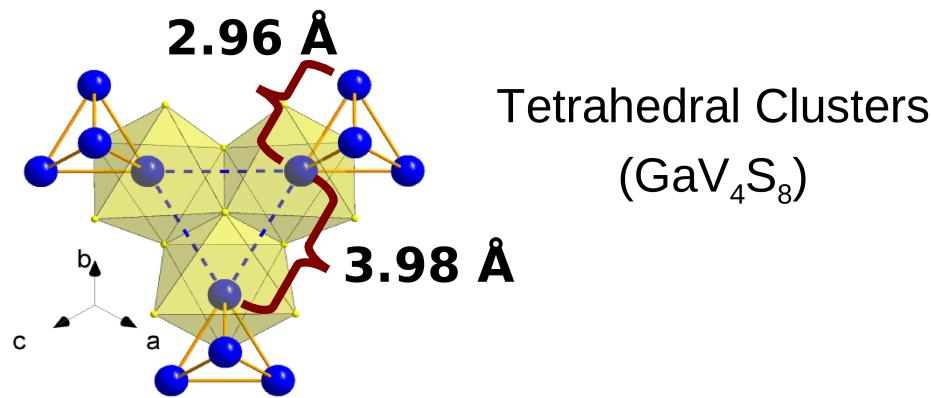
Exotic properties at the (Mott) insulator to metal

# The Mott Insulator compounds $AM_4X_8$

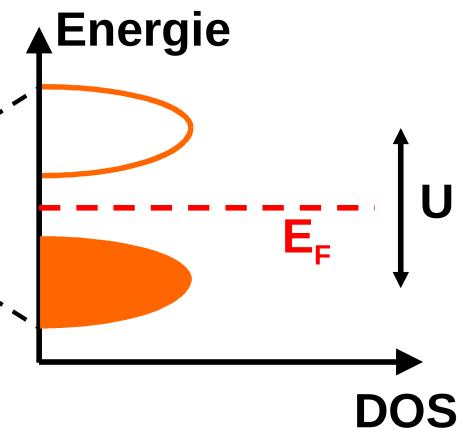
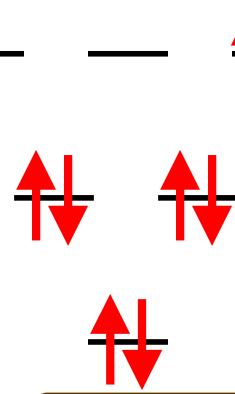
Clustered lacunar spinel structure :



$\text{A} = \text{Ga, Ge}$   
 $\text{M} = \text{V, Nb, Ta}$   
 $\text{X} = \text{S, Se}$



Molecular Orbitals



Gap  $\sim 0.25$  eV

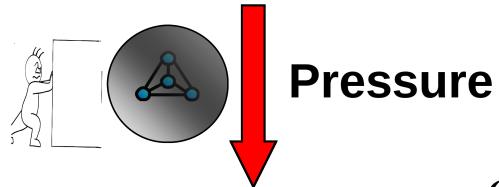
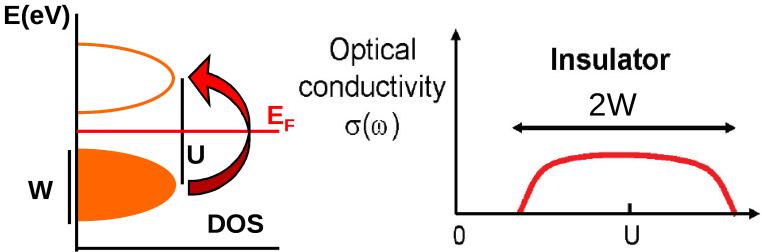
Ben Yaich, H.; Jegaden, J. C.; Potel, M.; Sergent, M.;  
Rastogi, A. K.; Tournier, R.  
*J. Less-Common Met.* **1984**, 102, 9.

**$AM_4X_8$  : Narrow Gap Mott Insulators**

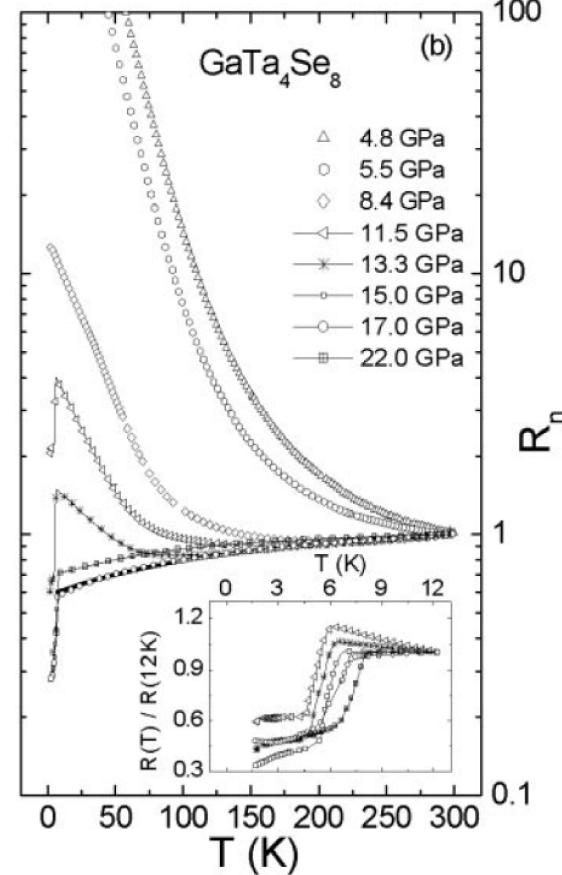
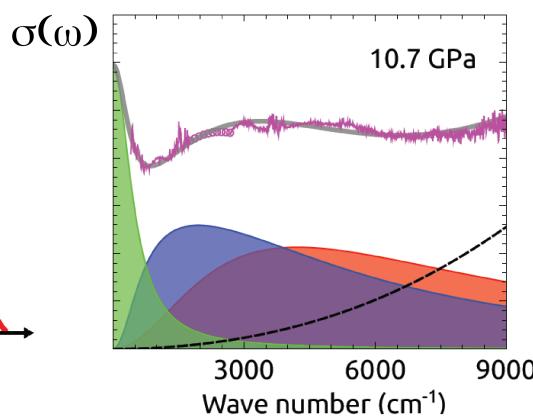
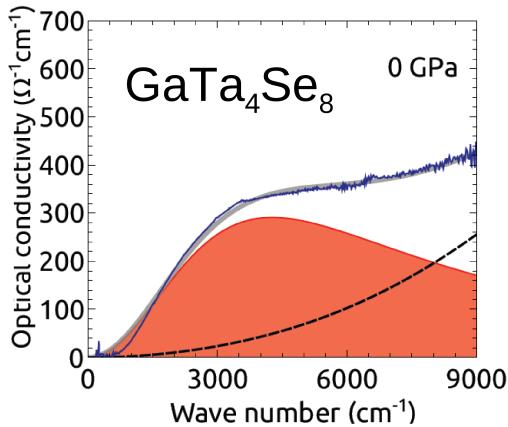
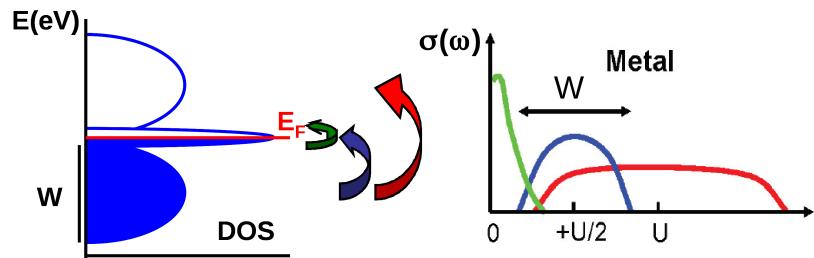
Pocha, R. et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **127**, 8732 (2005)

# Bandwidth-controlled MIT in the $AM_4X_8$

## Mott Insulator



## Correlated Metal

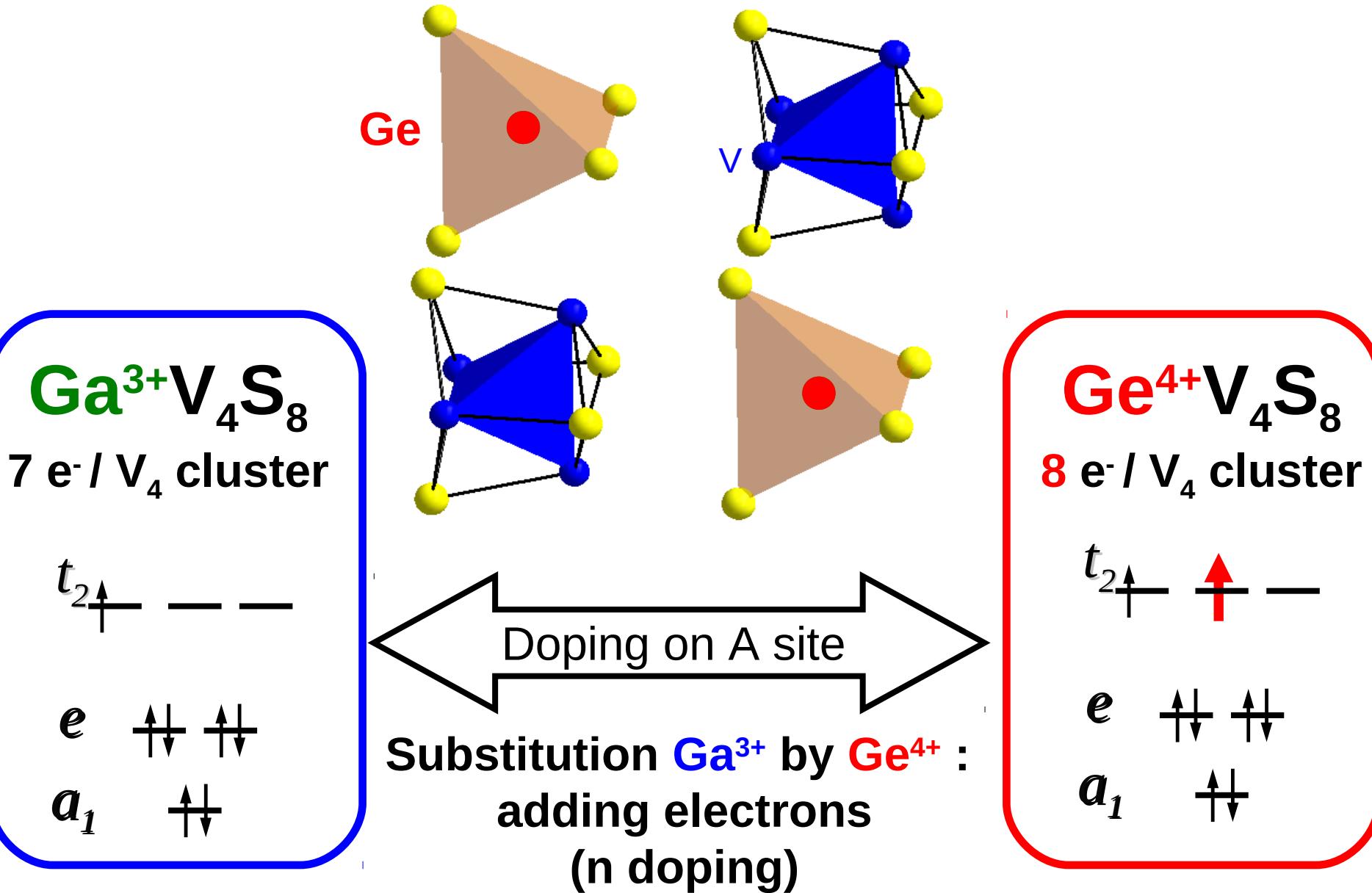


Abd-Elmeguid et al.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 126403 (2004)  
R. Pocha *et al.*,  
J. Am. Chem. Soc. **127**, 8732 (2005)

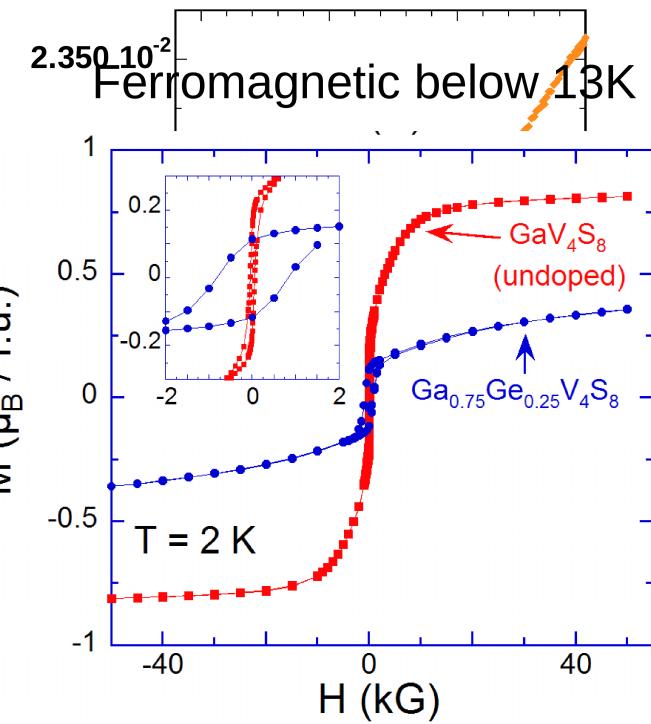
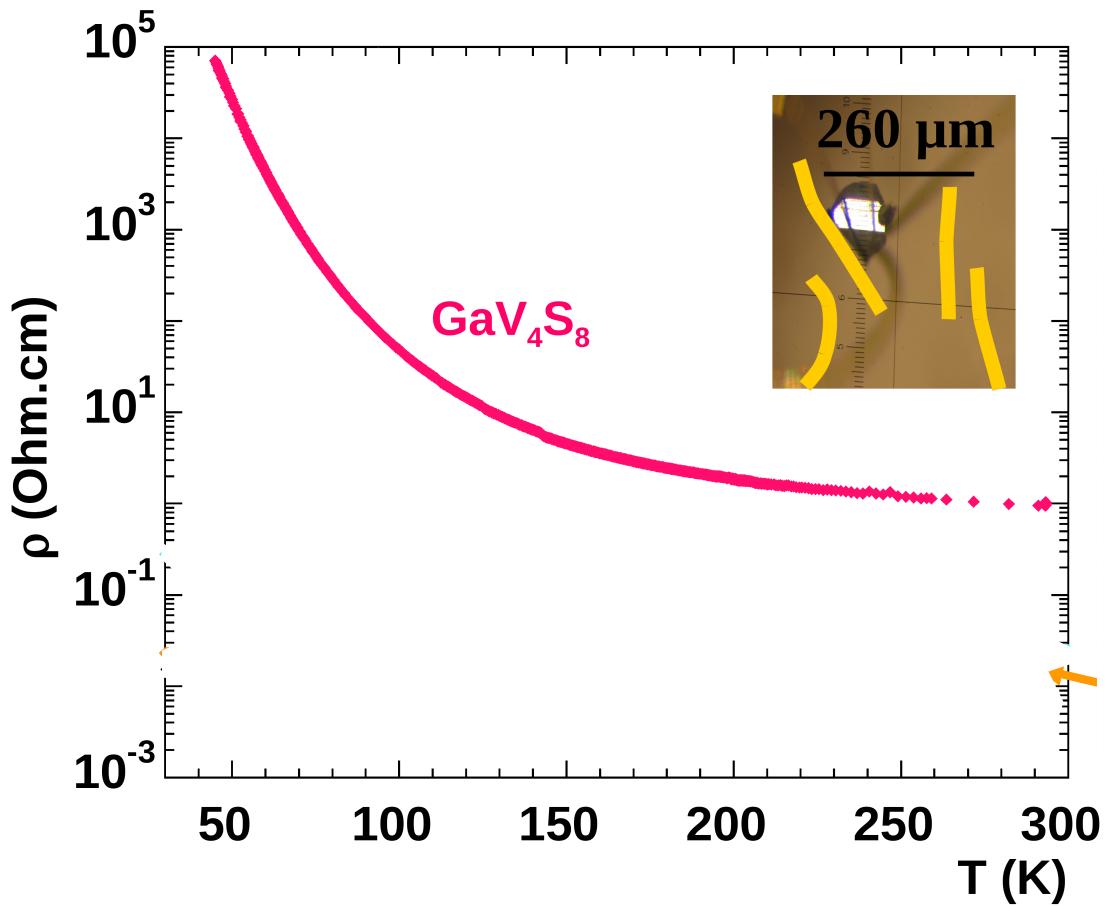
Collaboration Vinh Ta Phuoc (V. Ta Phuoc *et al.*, accepted)

**GaTa<sub>4</sub>Se<sub>8</sub> : canonical Mott Insulator to Metal  
Transition under pressure (+ superconductivity)**

# Filling-controlled MIT in the $AM_4X_8$ compounds ?



# Insulator to Metal Transition in the FM Mott Insulators $\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$

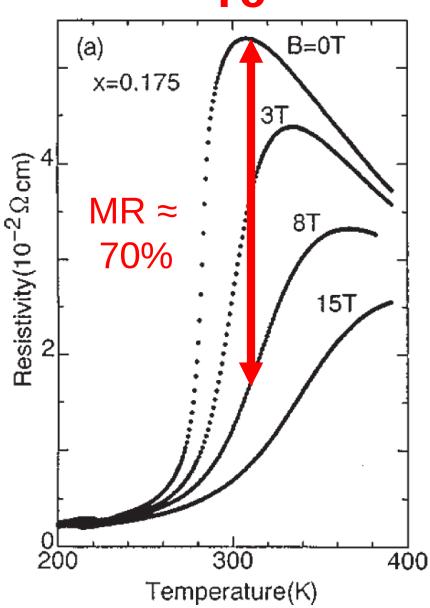


$\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$  a Mott transition in a Ferromagnetic

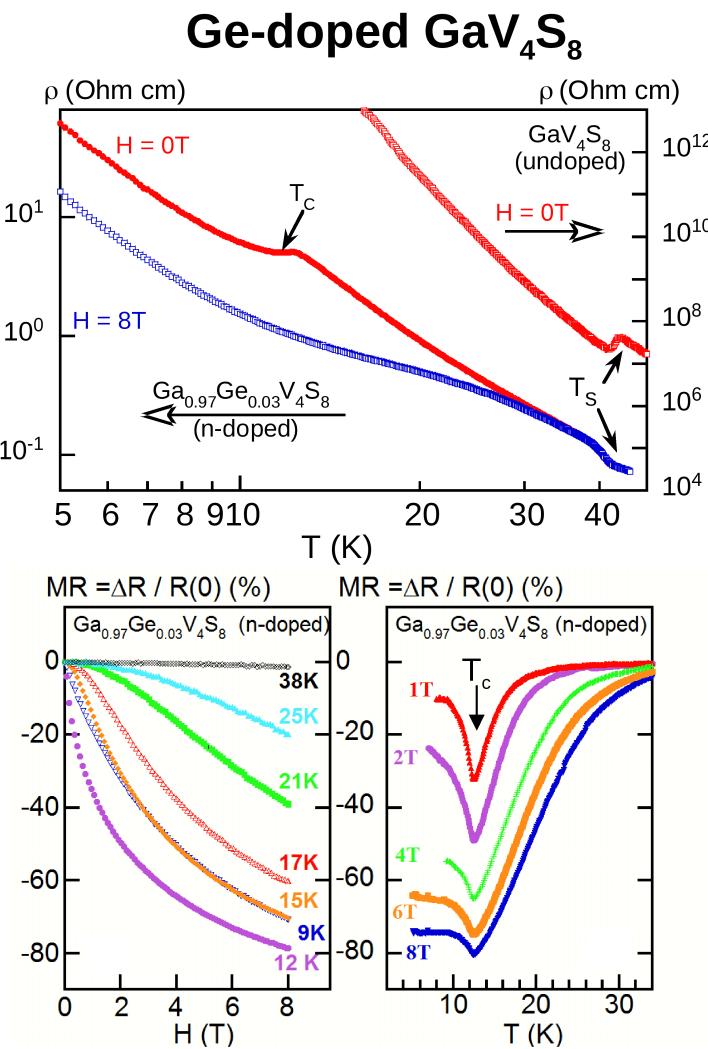
# Negative CMR in the ferromagnetic $\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$

## Manganites

→ negative CMR



$\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$  ( $x = 0.175$ ) crystal  
Tokura et al.,  
J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **63**, 3931  
(1994)



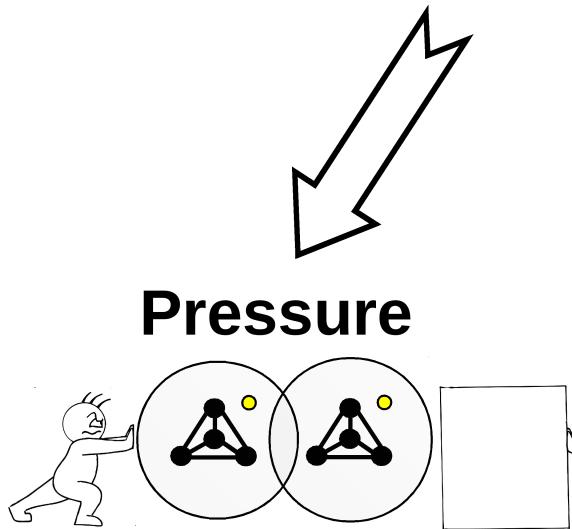
Colossal MagnetoResistance in (n-doped)  $\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$

$\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$

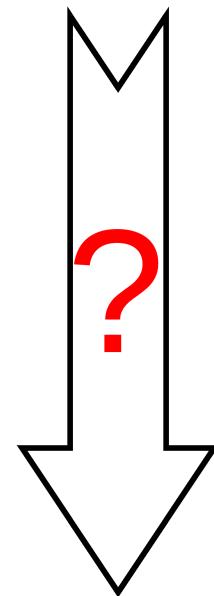
E. Janod et al. Submitted 2012

# Mott insulators and microelectronic applications : towards "Mottronics" ?

## Breaking the Mott Insulating State of $AM_4X_8$



Pressure



Doping



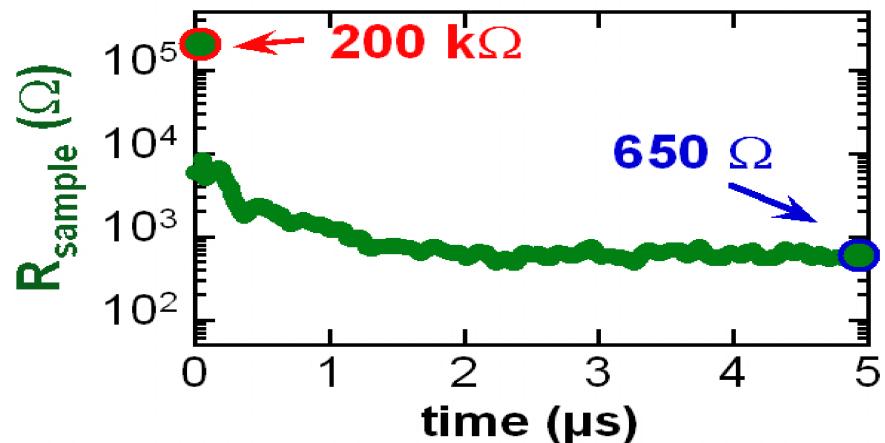
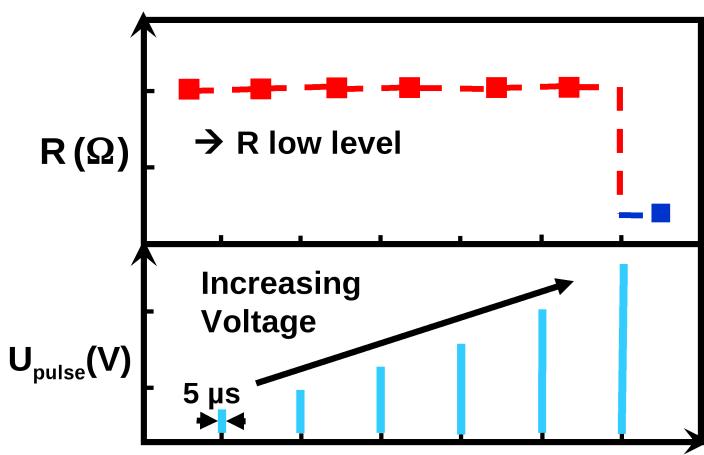
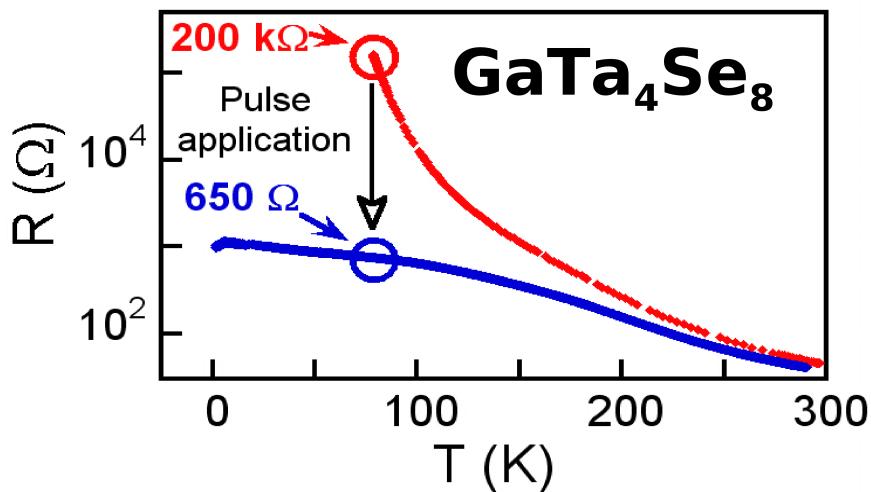
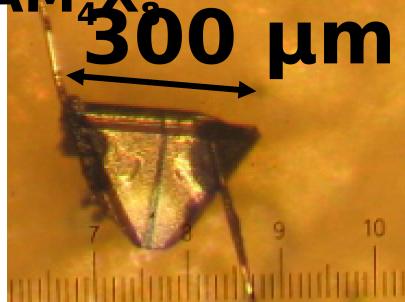
I-M transition under electric Field



# Resistive Switching in the $\text{AM}_4\text{X}_8$

Single crystal

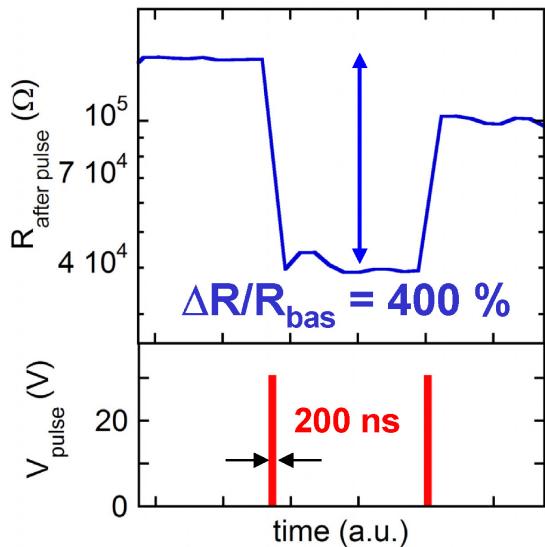
$\text{AM}_4\text{X}_8$



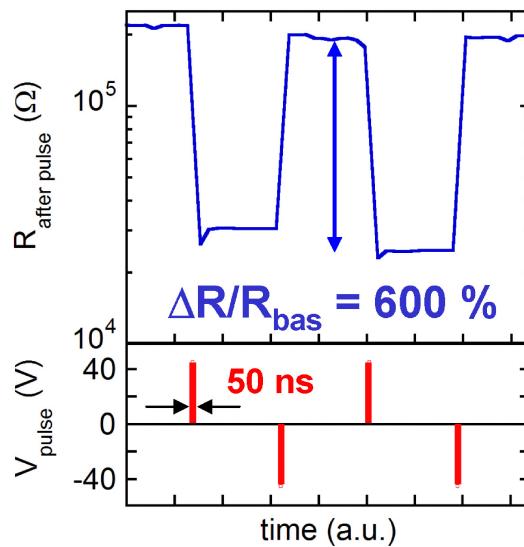
Non Volatile Resistive Switching,  $t < 100$   
ns

# Resistive Switching in the $AM_4X_8$

(a)  $GaV_4S_8$ , 90 K

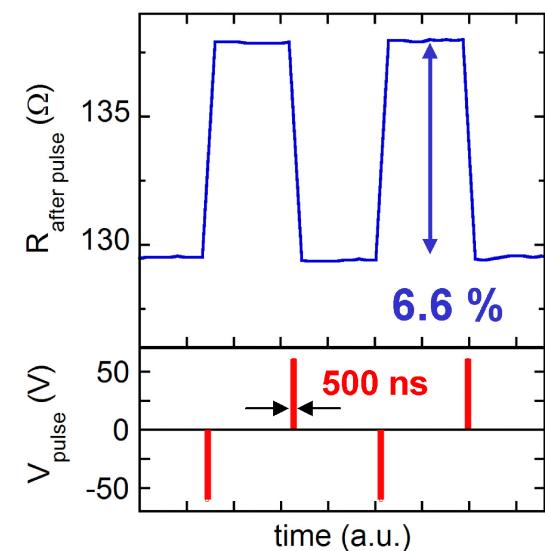


(b)  $GaV_4S_8$ , 90 K

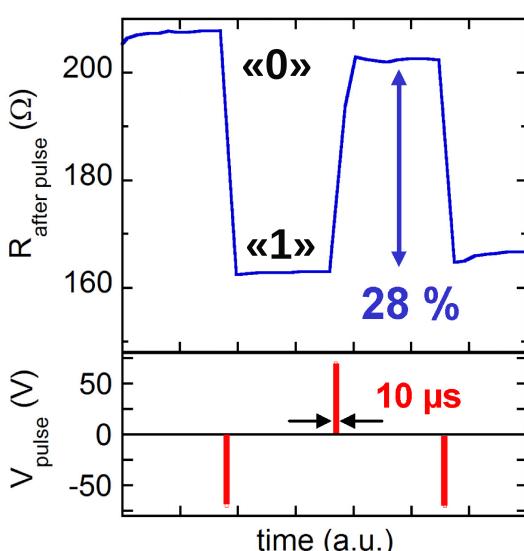


→ Resistive  
Switching  
→ REVERSIBLE  
Cycle at Room Temp.

(c)  $GaV_4S_8$ , 300 K



(d)  $GaV_4S_8$ , 300 K



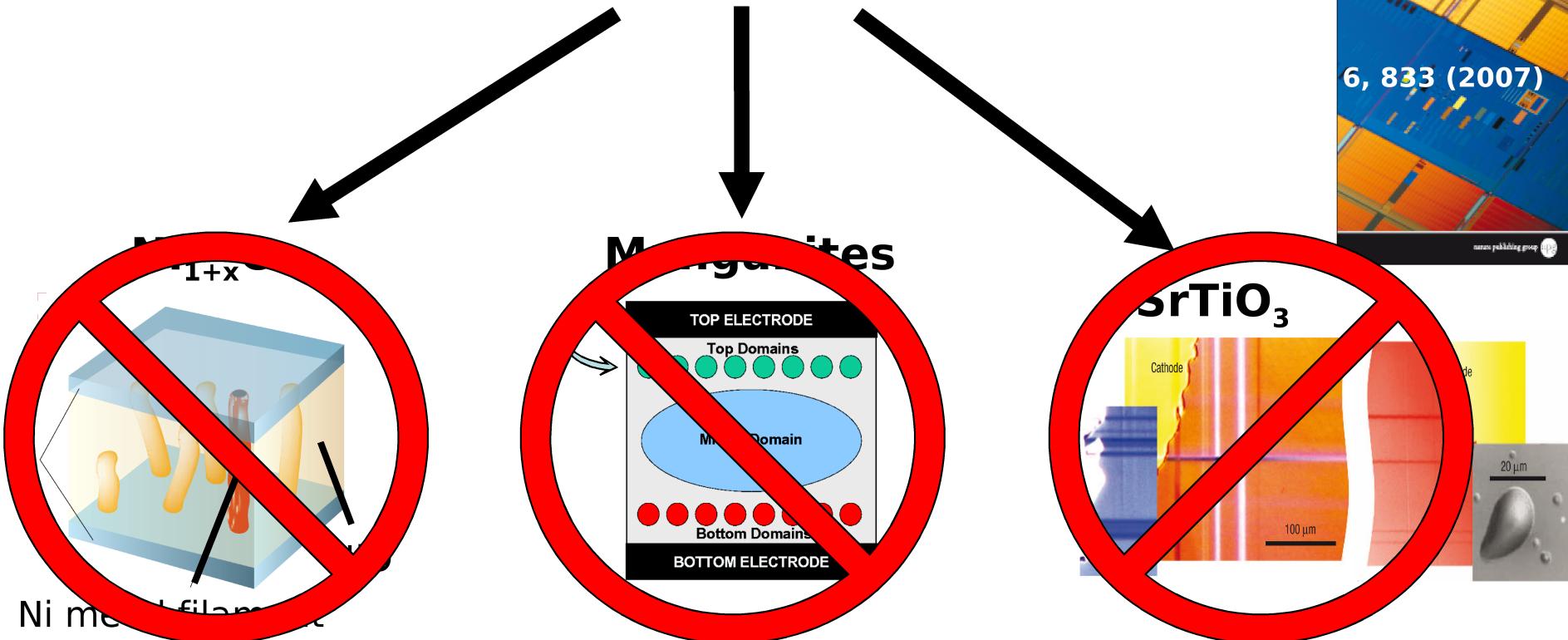
$AM_4X_8$  =  
Good candidate  
for RRAM memories

L. Cario et al., Adv. Mater. **22**, 5193 (2010)

L. Cario et al. - Patent CNRS -  
Université de Nantes

# $AM_4X_8$ : already known mechanism ?

## Proposed mechanisms for RRAM



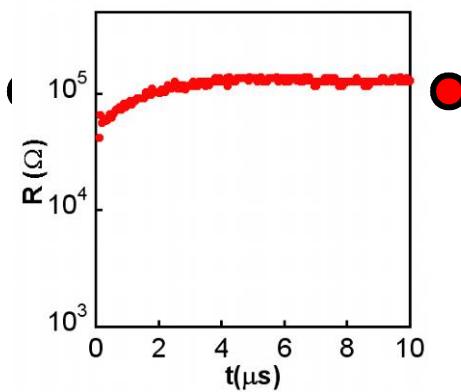
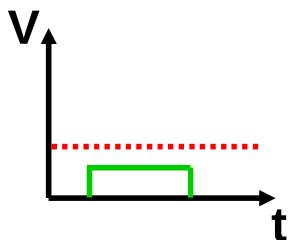
New mechanism of resistive switching  $\neq$  other  
RRAM



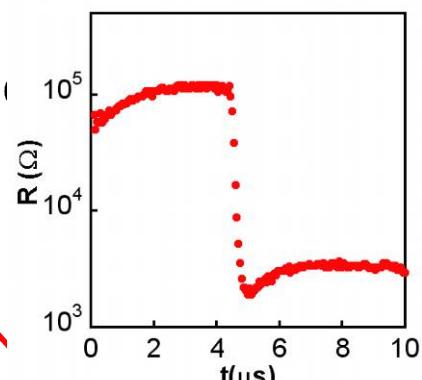
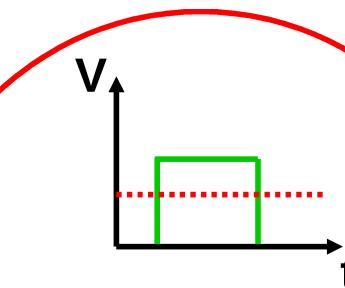
2011, Emerging  
Research Devices

# Resistive switching in the $\text{AM}_4\text{X}_8$ compounds

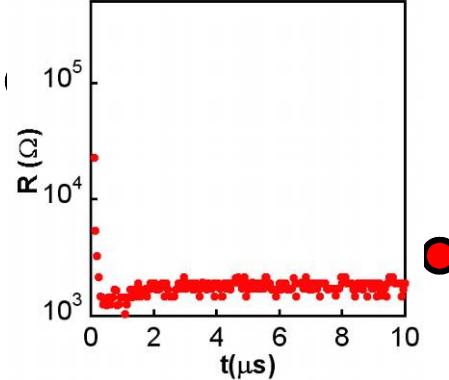
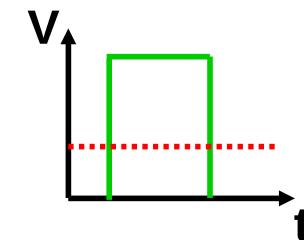
$\text{GaTa}_4\text{Se}_8$  77 K



✓ no transition

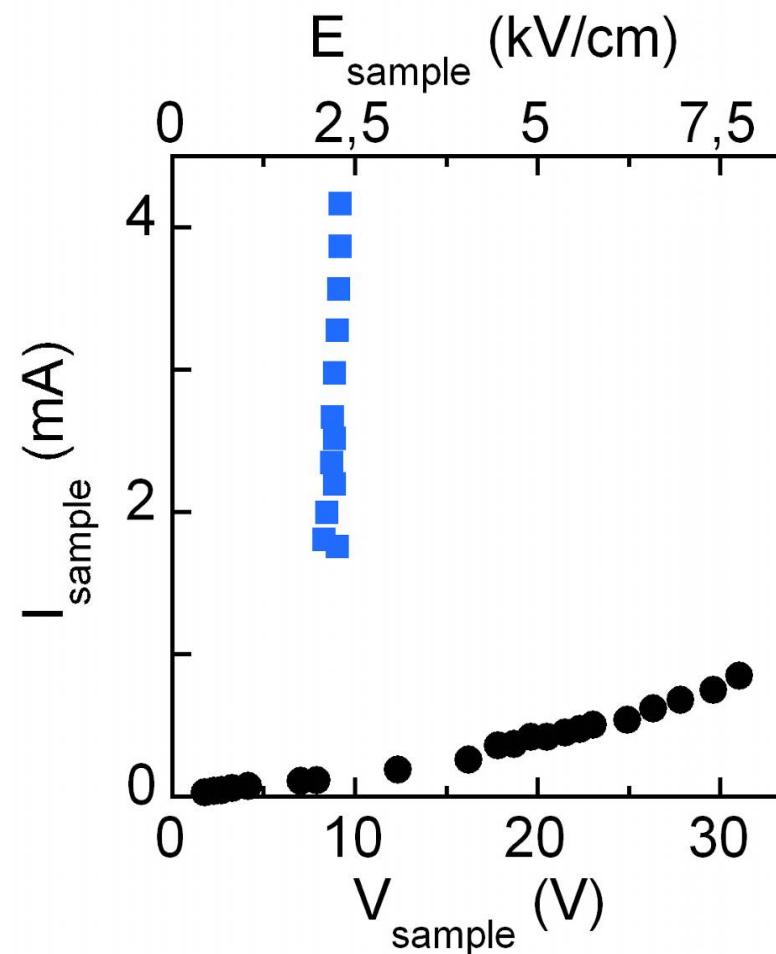
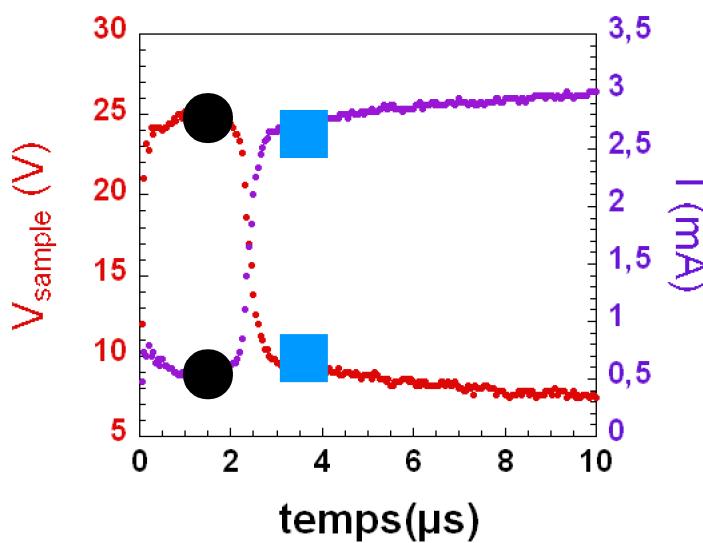
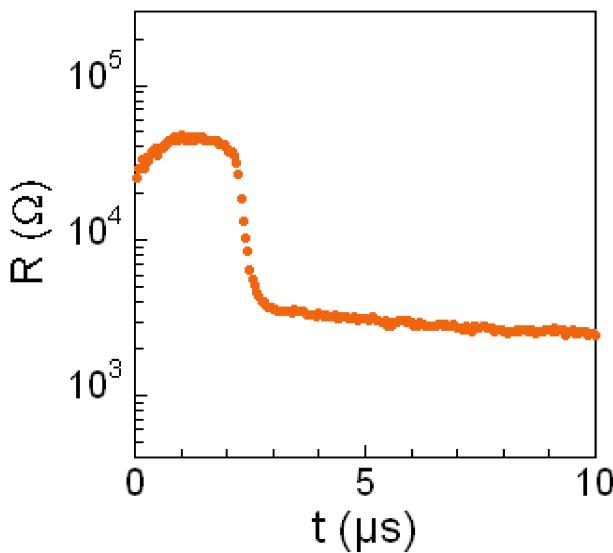


✓ volatile  
Resistive  
switching



✓ non-volatile  
Resistive  
switching

# Electric field controlled electronic phenomena

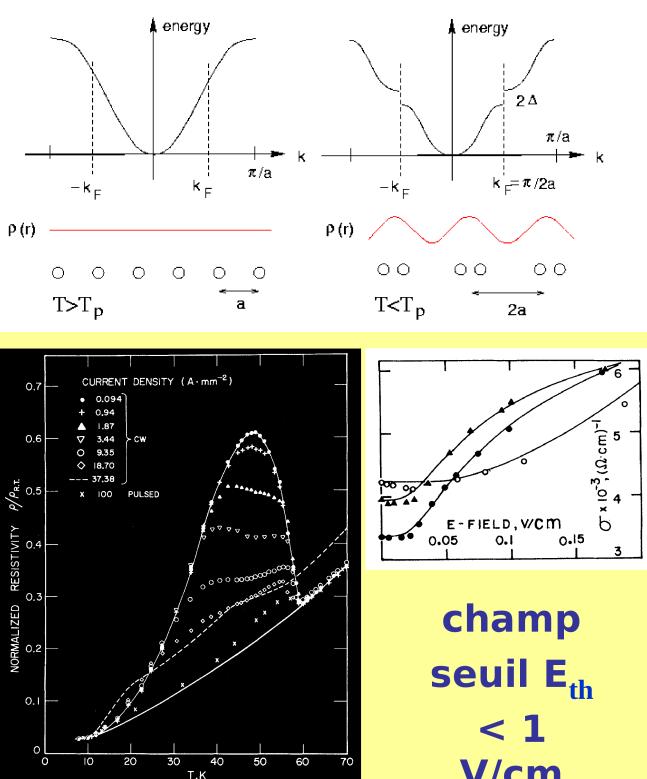


**Electric field effect !**

# Non linéarités électriques avec champ seuil

## les modèles existants

### Décrochage d'une Onde de Densité de Charge (ODC)



Monceau et al.,  
PRL 37, 602 (1976)

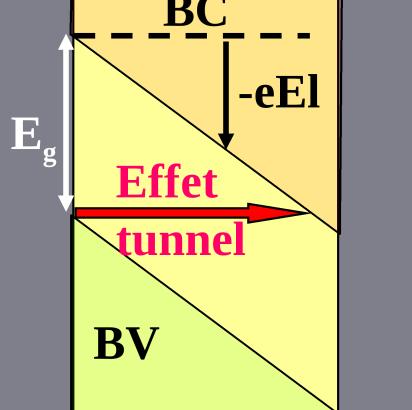
### Effet Zener

$$E_{th} = E_g / el \text{ avec } l \approx 1 \text{ nm}$$

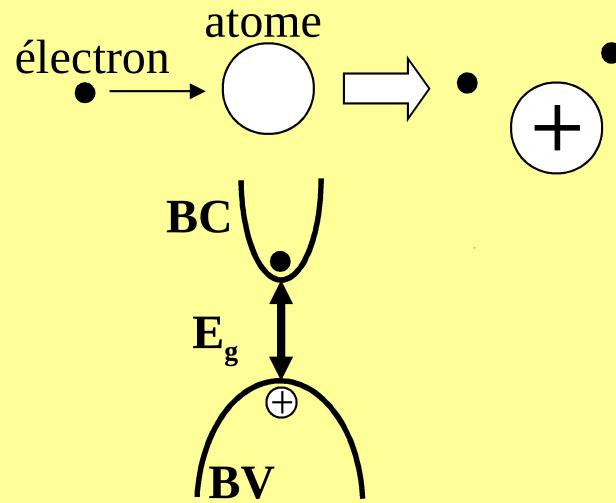
champ seuil  $E_{th} > MV/cm$

$$> MV/cm$$

**BC**



### Avalanche



champ seuil  $E_{th}$   
pour Si 100 kV/cm  
pour InSb 1 kV/cm

Levinshtein et al.

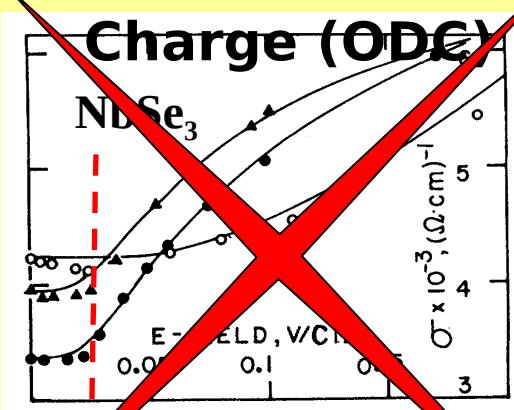
Breakdown phenomena in semiconductors and semiconductor devices  
Selected Volume in electronics and systems Vol 36 World Scientific (2005)

# Non linéarités électriques dans les $\text{AM}_4\text{X}_8$ : comparaison avec les modèles existants

**Effet Zener**

champ seuil  $E_{\text{th}} >$   
 $\text{MV/cm}$

**Décrochage  
d'une Onde de  
Densité de  
Charge (ODC)**

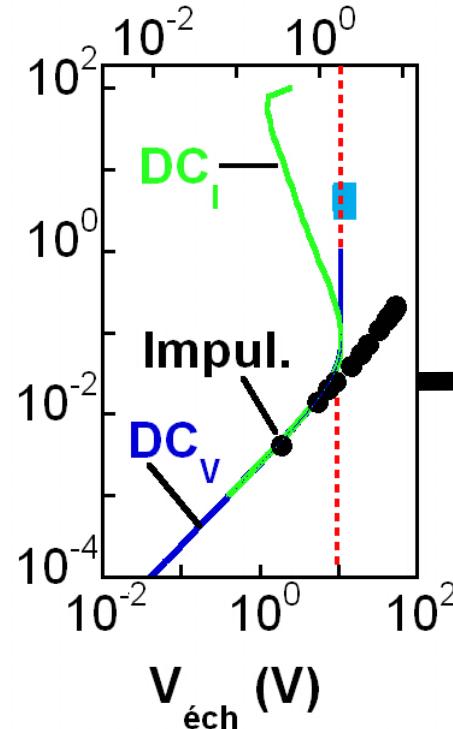


Monceau et al.,  
PRL 37, 602 (1976)

Champ seuil  $E_{\text{th}} < 1$   
 $\text{kV/cm}$   
 $I(V)$  différent

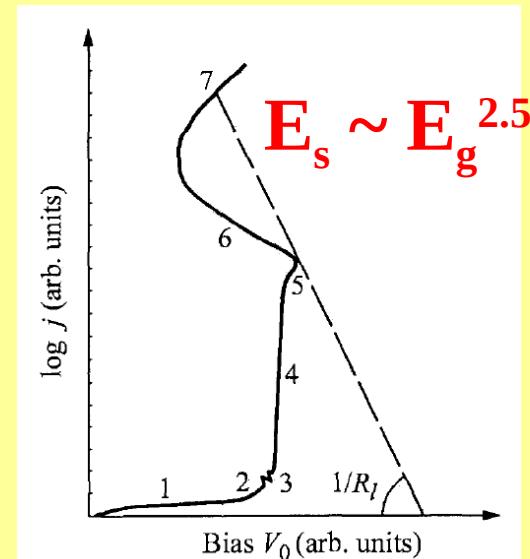
$E_{\text{éch}}$  (kV/cm)

$I$  (mA)



$E_{\text{seuil}} \approx 1-10$   
 $\text{kV/cm}$   
 $\text{Gap} \sim 0.2 \text{ eV}$

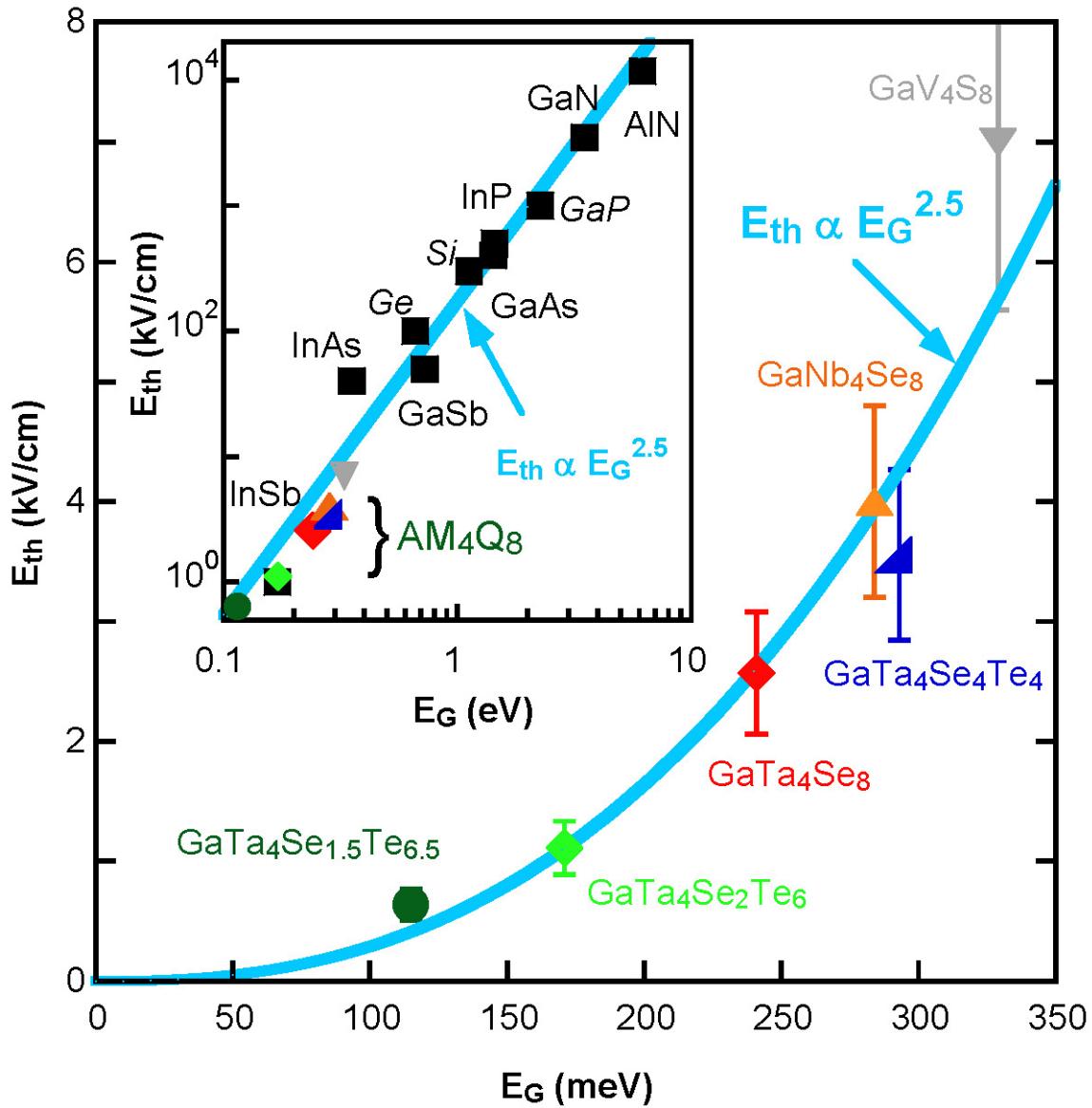
**Avalanche**



champ seuil compatible  
 $E_{\text{th}} \approx 1-100 \text{ kV/cm}$

**Mécanisme  
Possible !!!**

# Transition résistive dans les isolants de Mott



Avalanche validée

L. Cario et al., accepted  
*Nature Communication*

MAIS

t délai ?

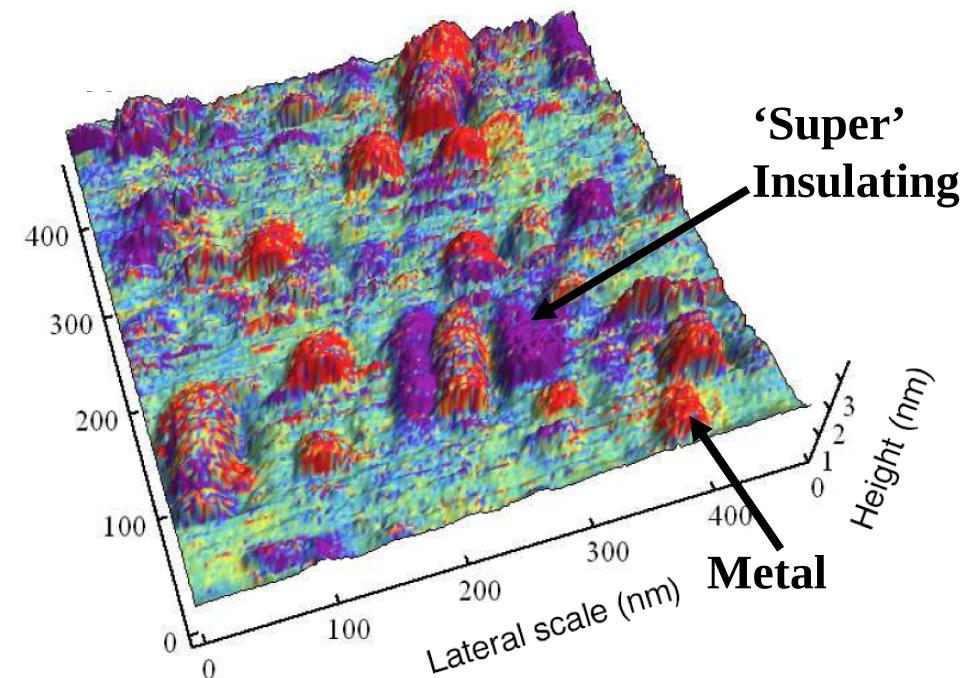
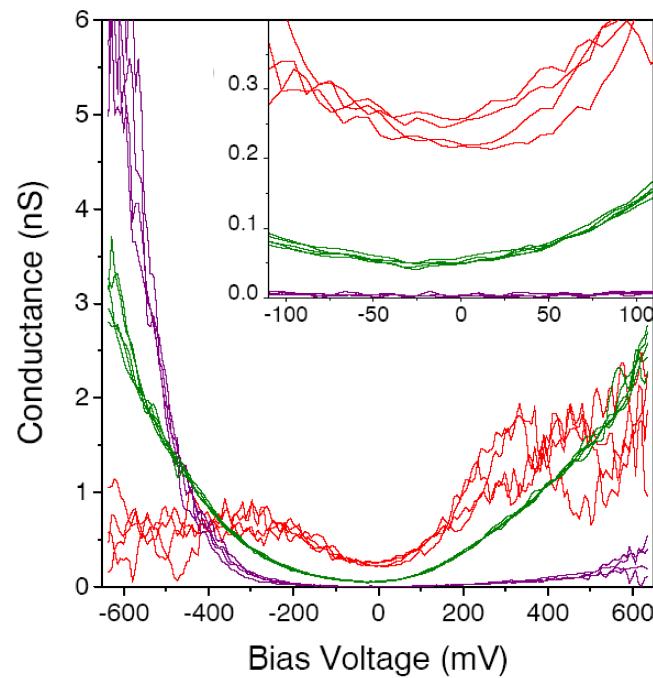
Transition non  
volatile ?

# Non-volatile resistive switching

**STS study**



V. Dubost, F. Debrontreider, T. Cren, D. Roditchev



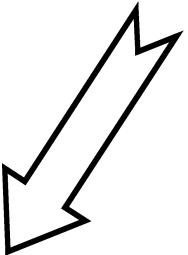
**electronic phase  
separation**

**electromechanical  
coupling**

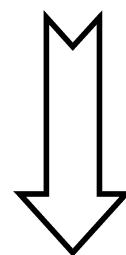
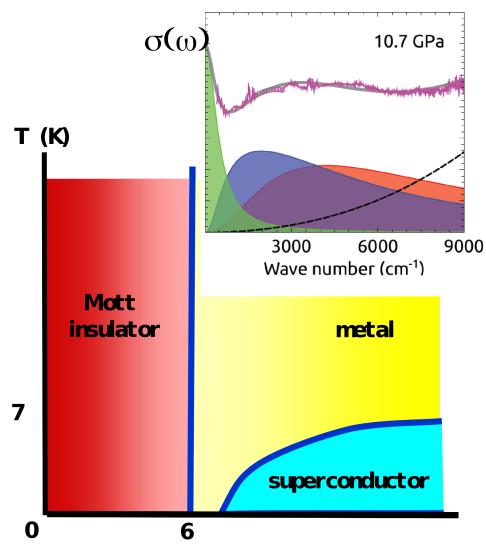
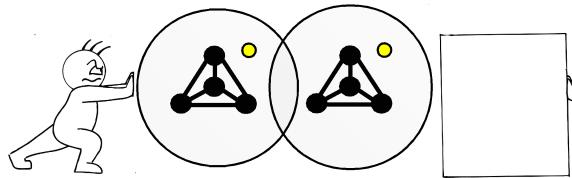
**non-volatile Resistive  
switching**

# Conclusion

## IM transition in the $AM_4X_8$ Mott Insulator



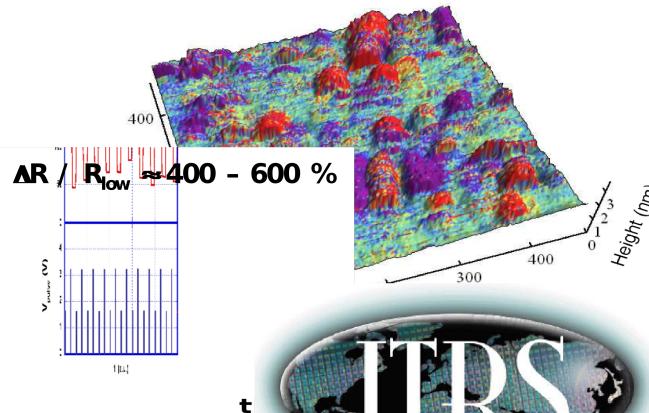
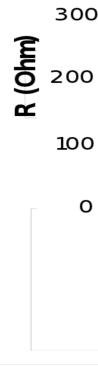
Pressure



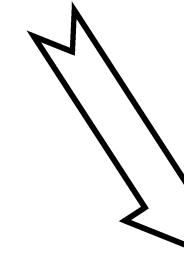
Electric Field



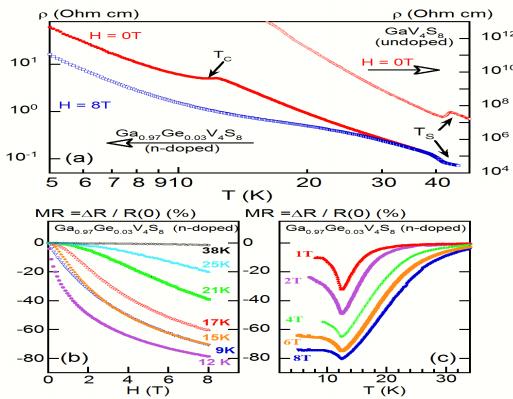
Avalanche effect



Mott Memory



Doping



2011, Emerging  
Research Devices

# Acknowledgments

## SCR & IPR Rennes

S. Cordier, M. Potel,  
M. Guilloux-Viry,  
E. Collet, M. Lorenc



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S. Salmon, J. Tranchant,  
P. Moreau, L. Lajaunie,  
M.P. Besland, B. Corraze,  
E. Janod, L. Cario

Financial support:



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Debontridder, T. Cren, D.



M. Rozenberg, P.  
Stolar

## Cluj University

E. Dorolti, V. Pop

## NC St. Univ.

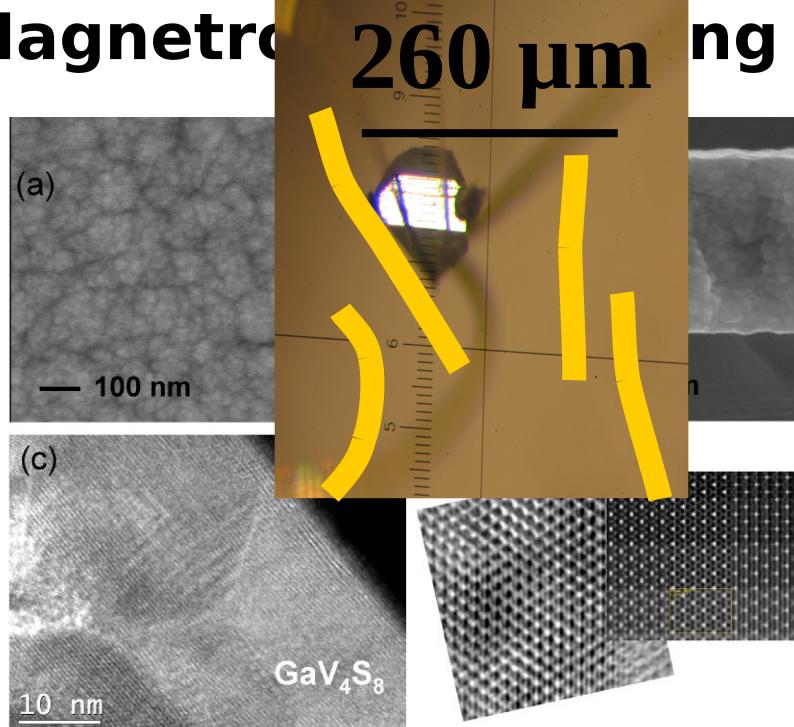
H. Koo, E. Kan, M. Whangbo

ANR NV-CER (2005-08)  
ANR NanoMott (2009-12)  
ANR Mott-RRAM (2012-14)

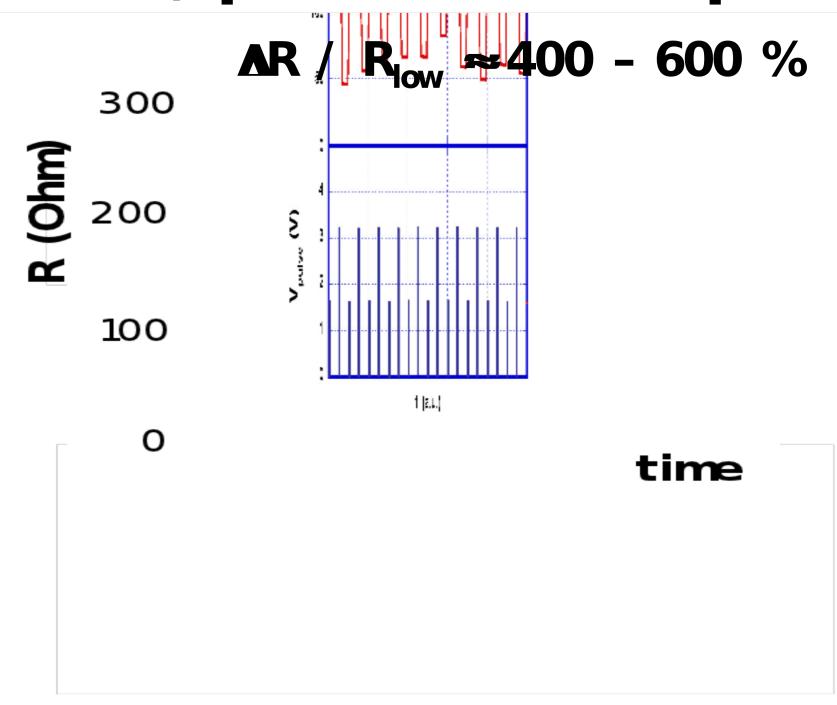


# From the functionality to the device : $\text{GaV}_4\text{S}_8$ thin films

From RS on single crystal  $\rightarrow$  RS on thin films



MIM, pad size  $2 \times 2 \mu\text{m}^2$

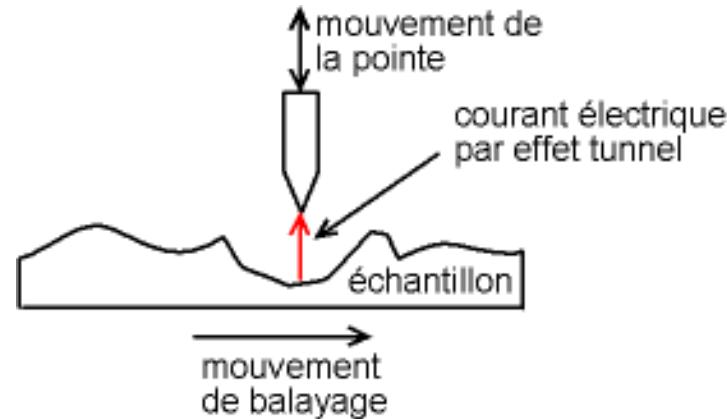
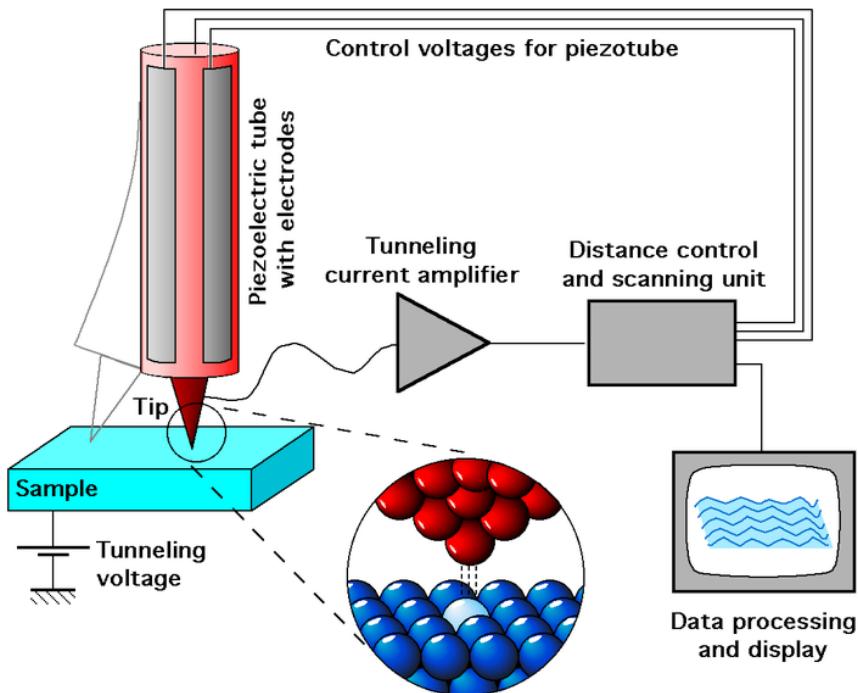


E. Souchier et al., PSS-RRL 5, 53 (2011)

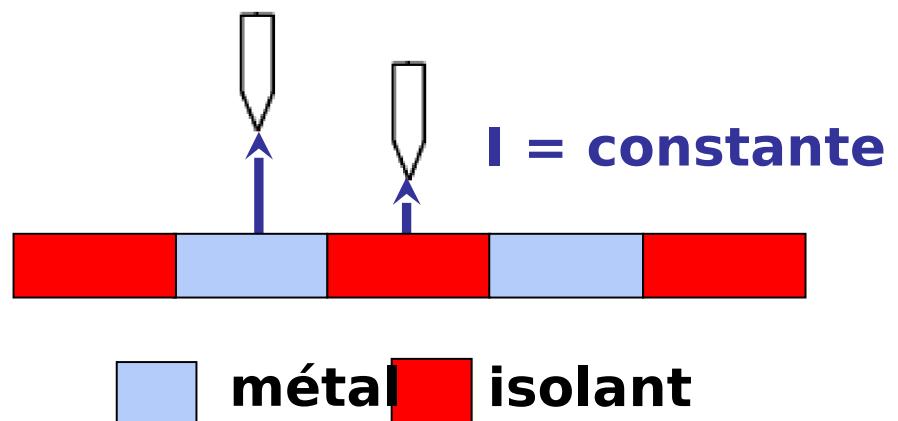
Towards the non-volatile “Mott memories”

# Etude des AM4X8 par microscope à effet tunnel

## Scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM)



**Différente hauteur pour  
le même courant tunnel !!**

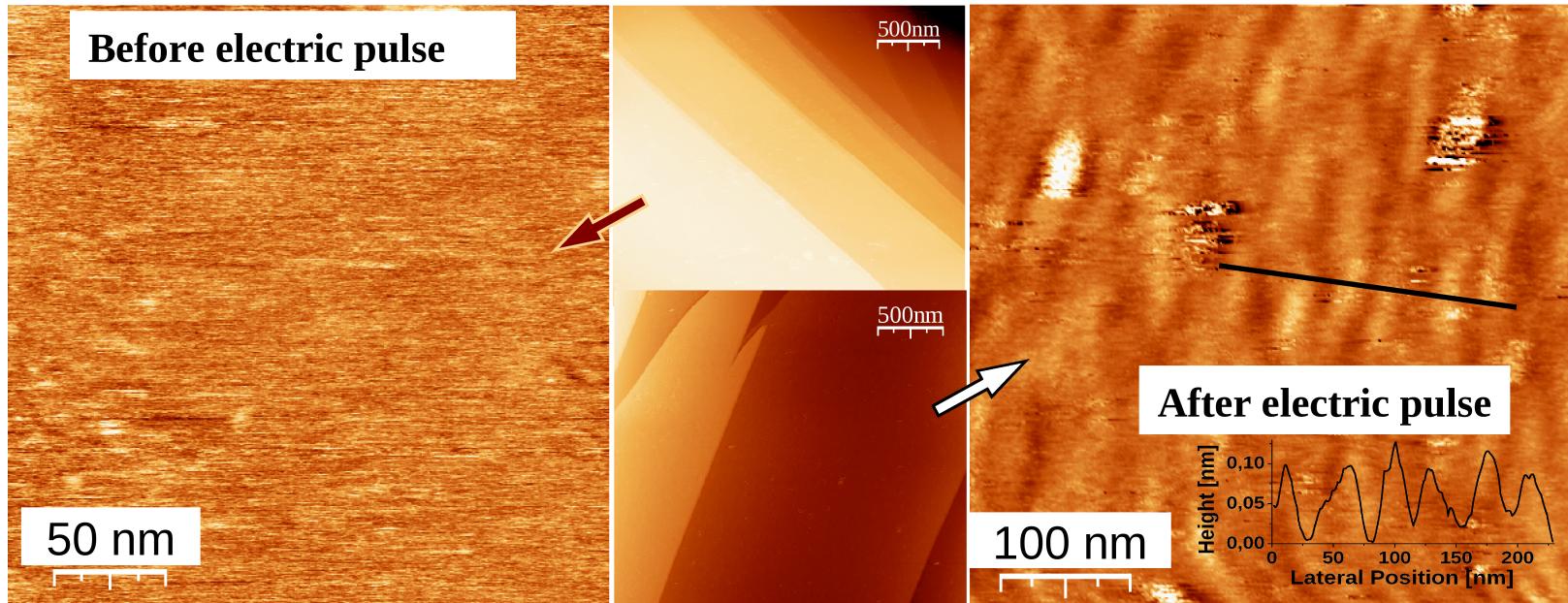


# Non-volatile resistive switching : electronic phase separation

STM study of  $\text{GaTa}_4\text{Se}_8$



V. Dubost, F. Debrontreider,  
T. Cren, D. Roditchev



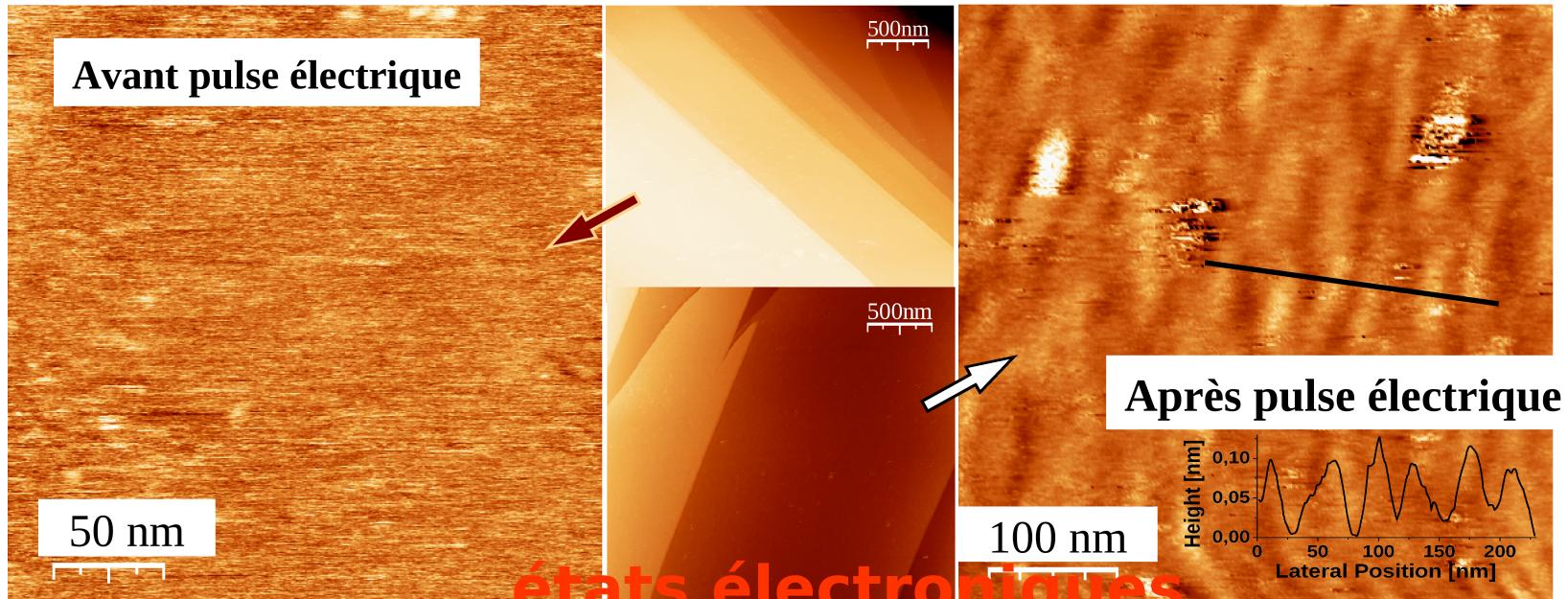
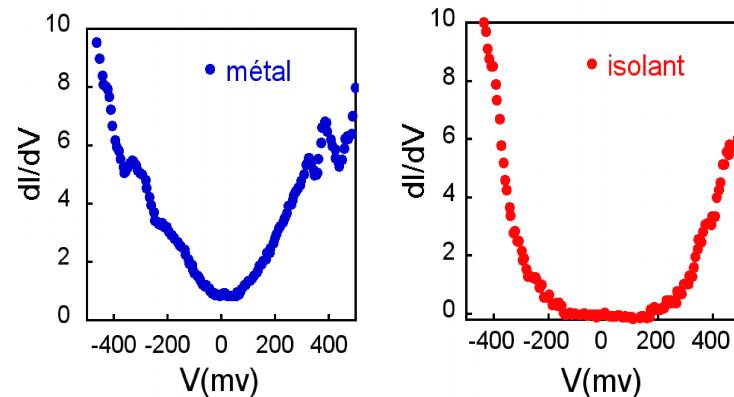
electronic phase separation

# Séparation de phase électronique, STM\*

**GaTa<sub>4</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>**

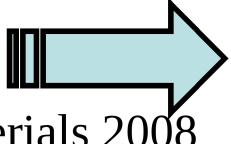


\* D. Roditchev, T. Cren, V. Dubost INSP-Paris



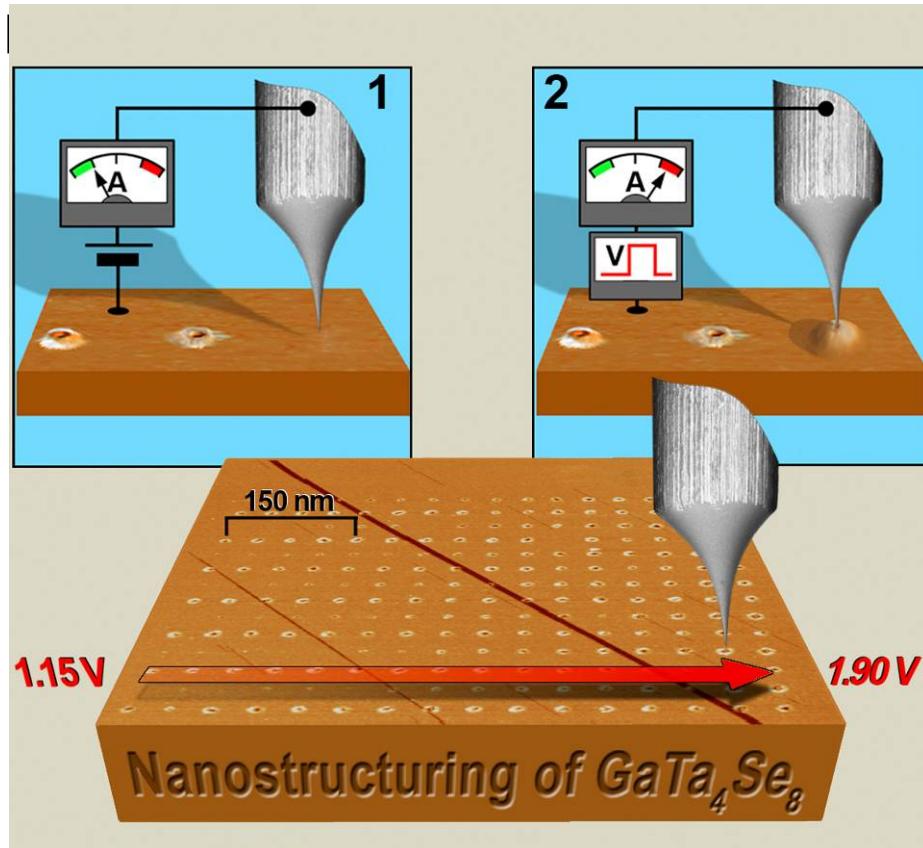
**états électroniques  
inhomogènes  
zones métalliques et isolantes**

C. Vaju, et al.

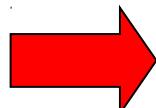


Advanced Materials 2008

# Pulse application through the STM tip: electro-mechanical coupling

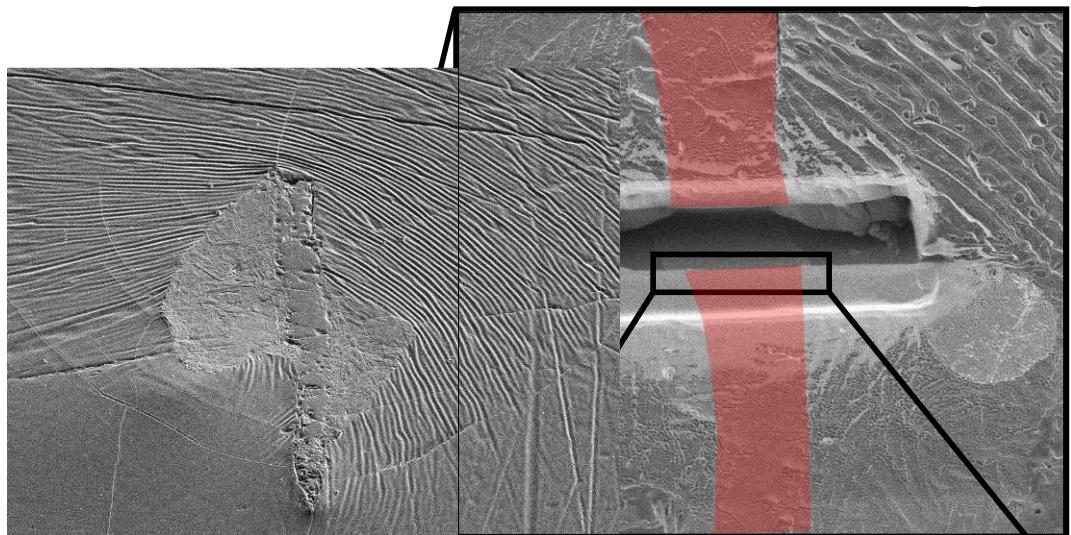


Nano-writing : 1 Tdots / cm<sup>2</sup> !

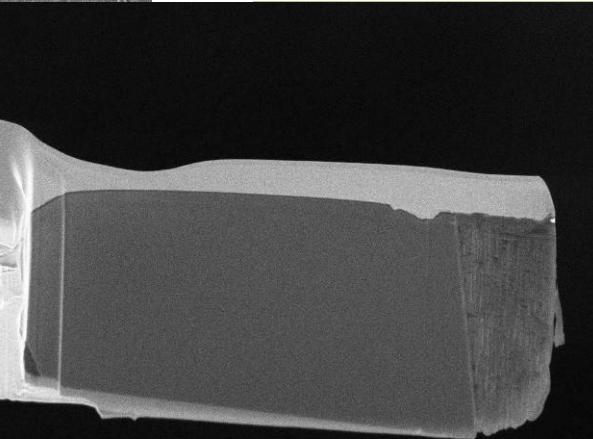
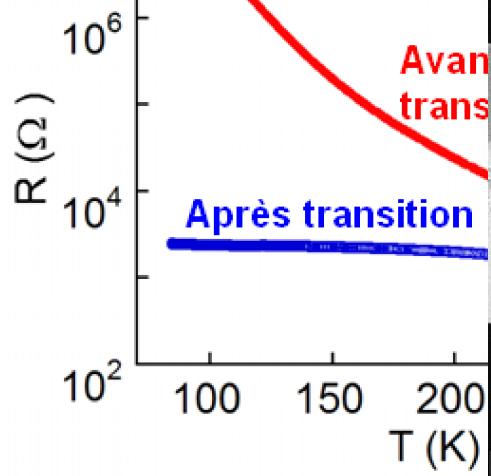


**Gigantic electro-mechanical  
Effect**

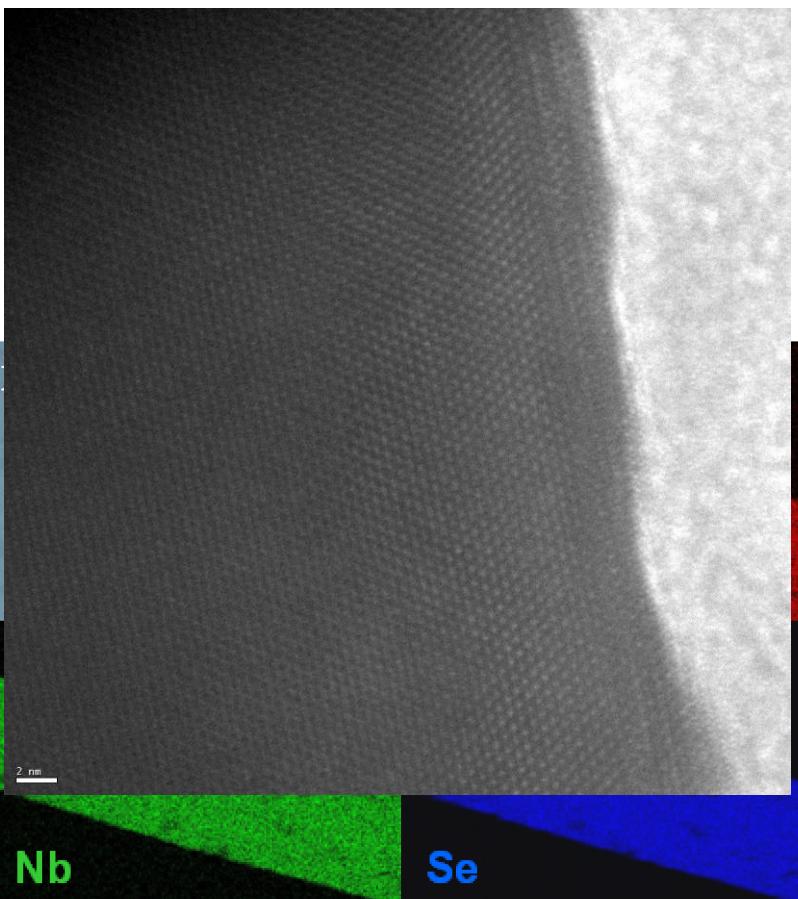
# Thermal effect : chemical or structural change ?



E-Beam | Spot 3 | Det SED | Mag 2.00 kX | FWD | Scan 3.00 kV | 5.310 | H 11.77 s



E-Beam | Spot 3 | Det TLD-C | Mag 20.0 kX | FWD | Scan 3.00 kV | 5.293 | H 11.77 s | I.E.M.N. | 2 μm

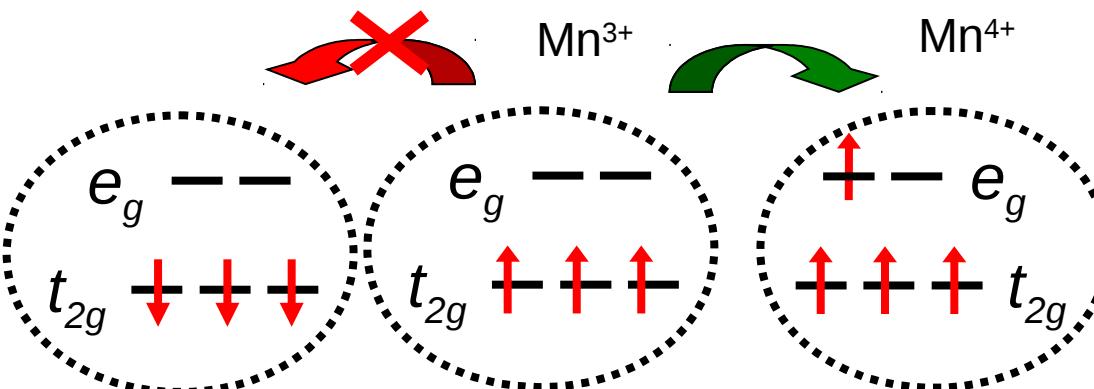


« Transited » crystal  
**Gav<sub>1</sub>S<sub>8</sub>**  
TEM Images P. Moreau  
& L. Lajaunie (IMN)

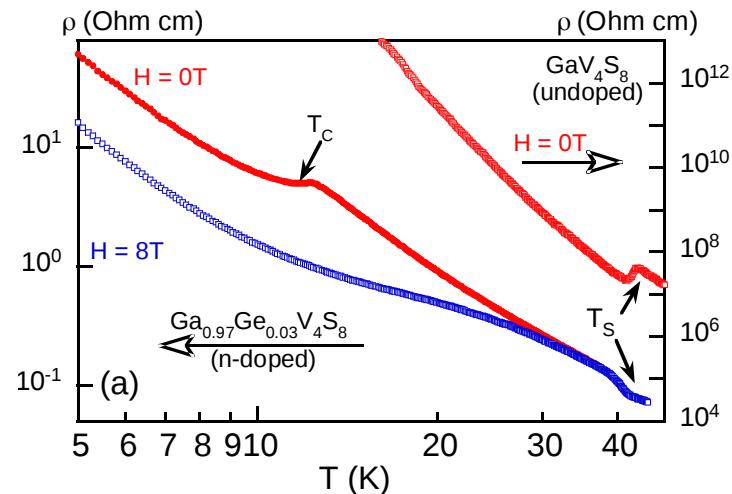
✓ no chemical or structural change (< 10-1000 nm)

# Mechanism of negative CMR

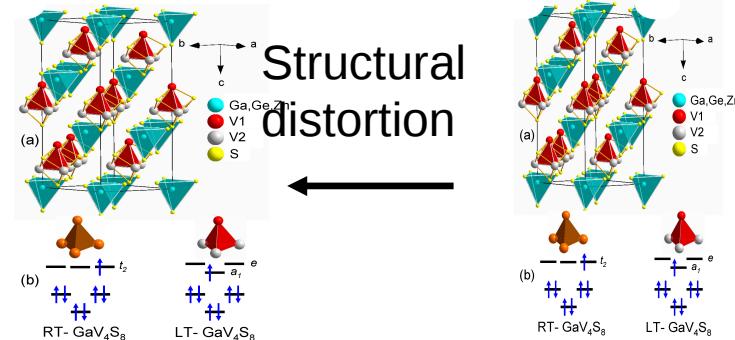
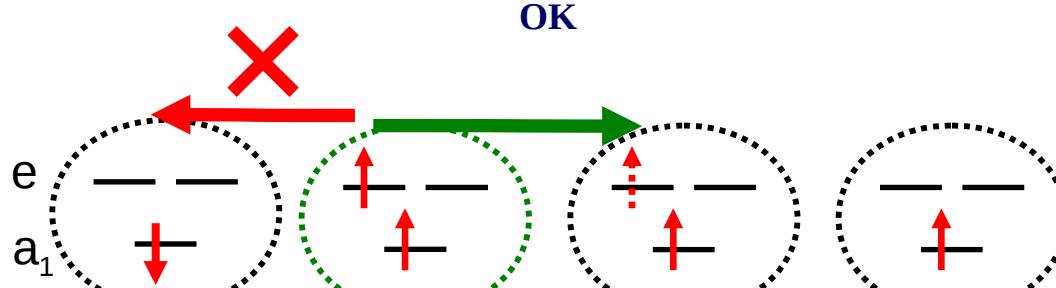
## Manganites



## Ge-doped $\text{GaV}_4\text{S}_8$



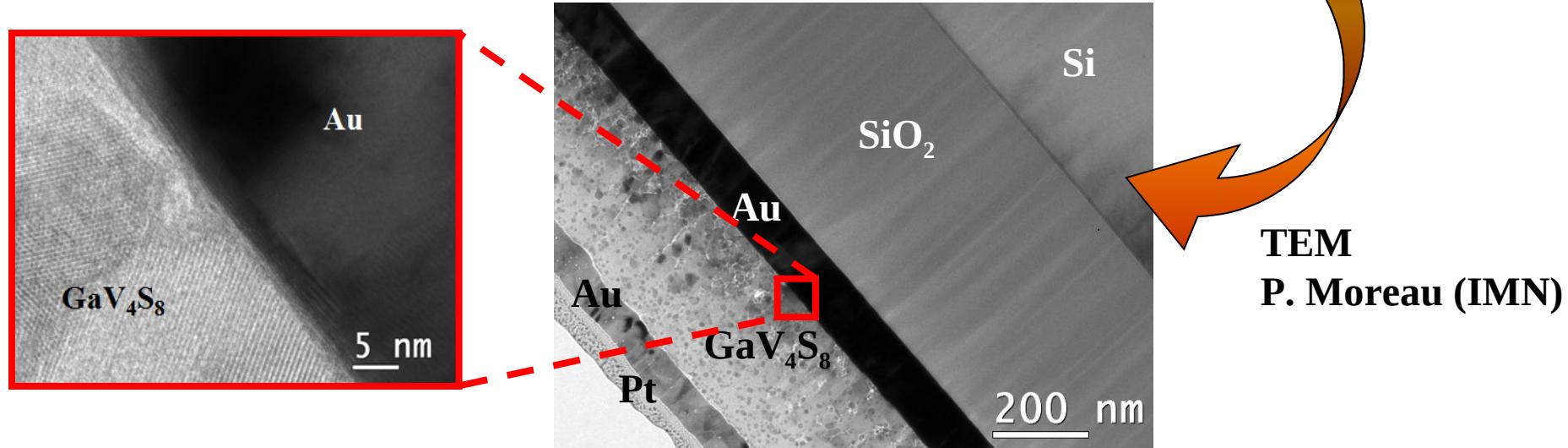
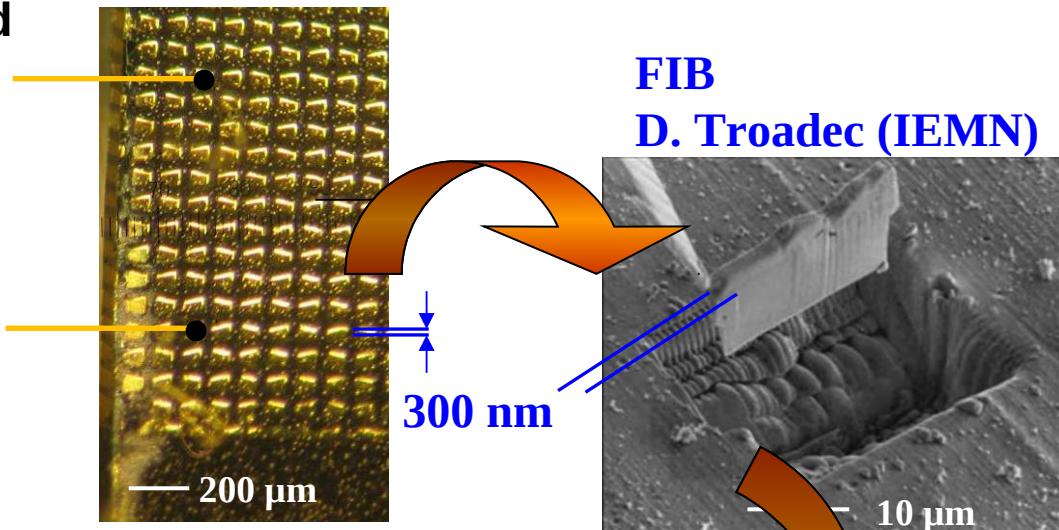
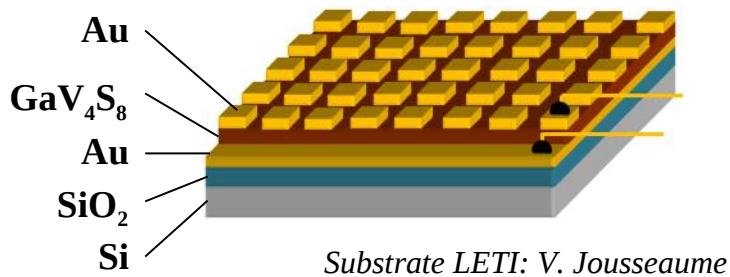
$\text{GaV}_4\text{S}_8$  n-doped  
→ negative CMR



H. Müller, W. Kockelmann  
and Dirk Johrendt,  
*Chem. Mater.* **2006**, *18*, 2174.

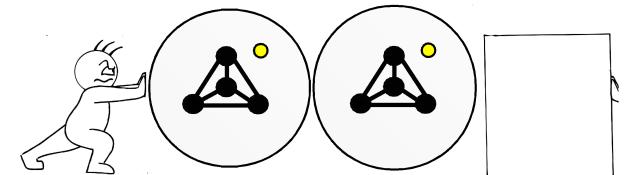
# Metal / Insulator / Metal (MIM) Structure

J. Tranchant, M.-P. Besland

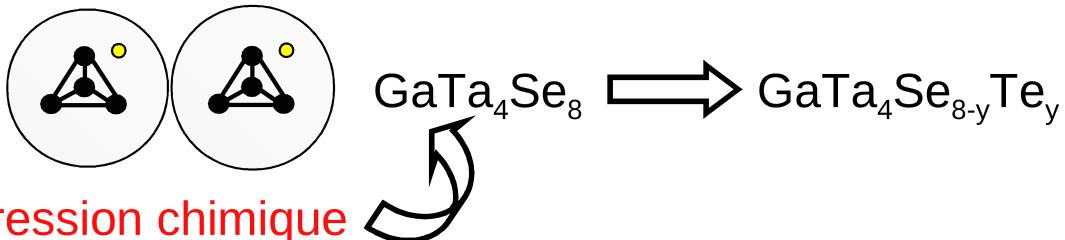


# Solution solide $\text{GaTa}_4\text{Se}_{8-y}\text{Te}_y$ ( $y = 0$ à 6.5)

## Faire varier le gap par pression chimique

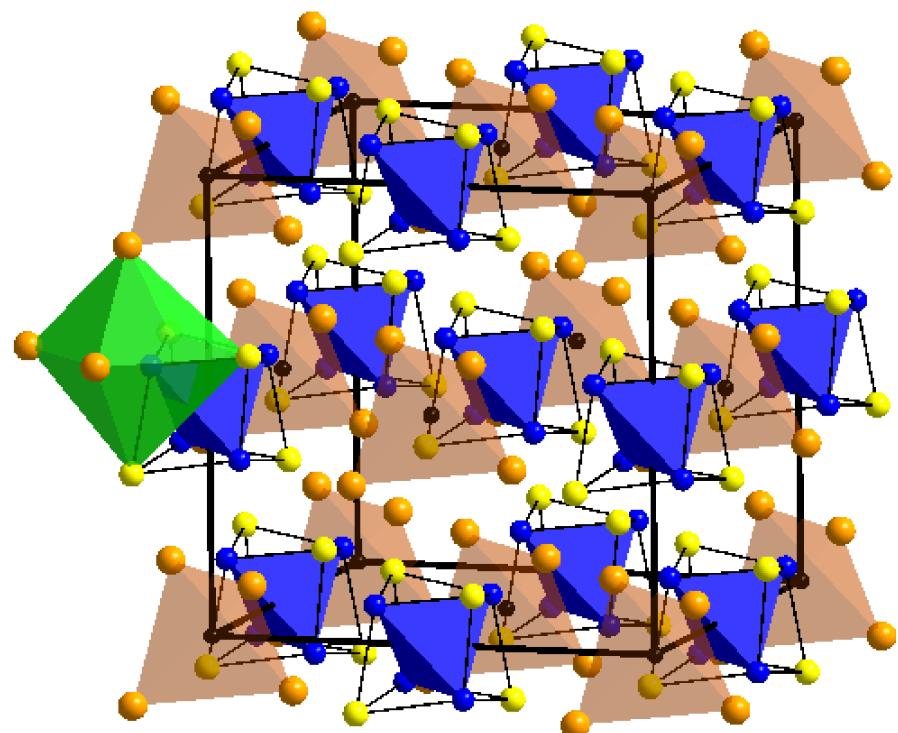


Pression physique

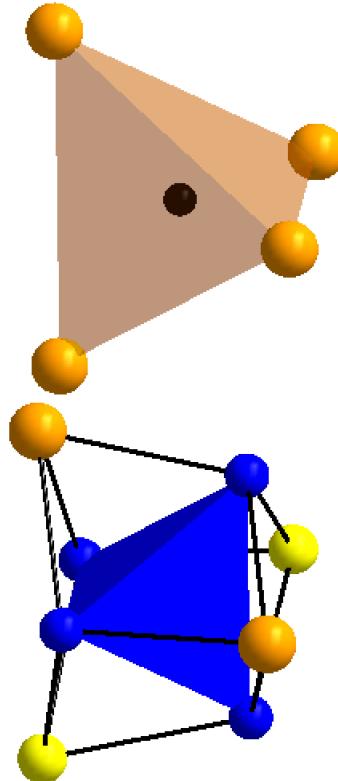


Pression chimique

● Ga ● Ta ● Se ● Te

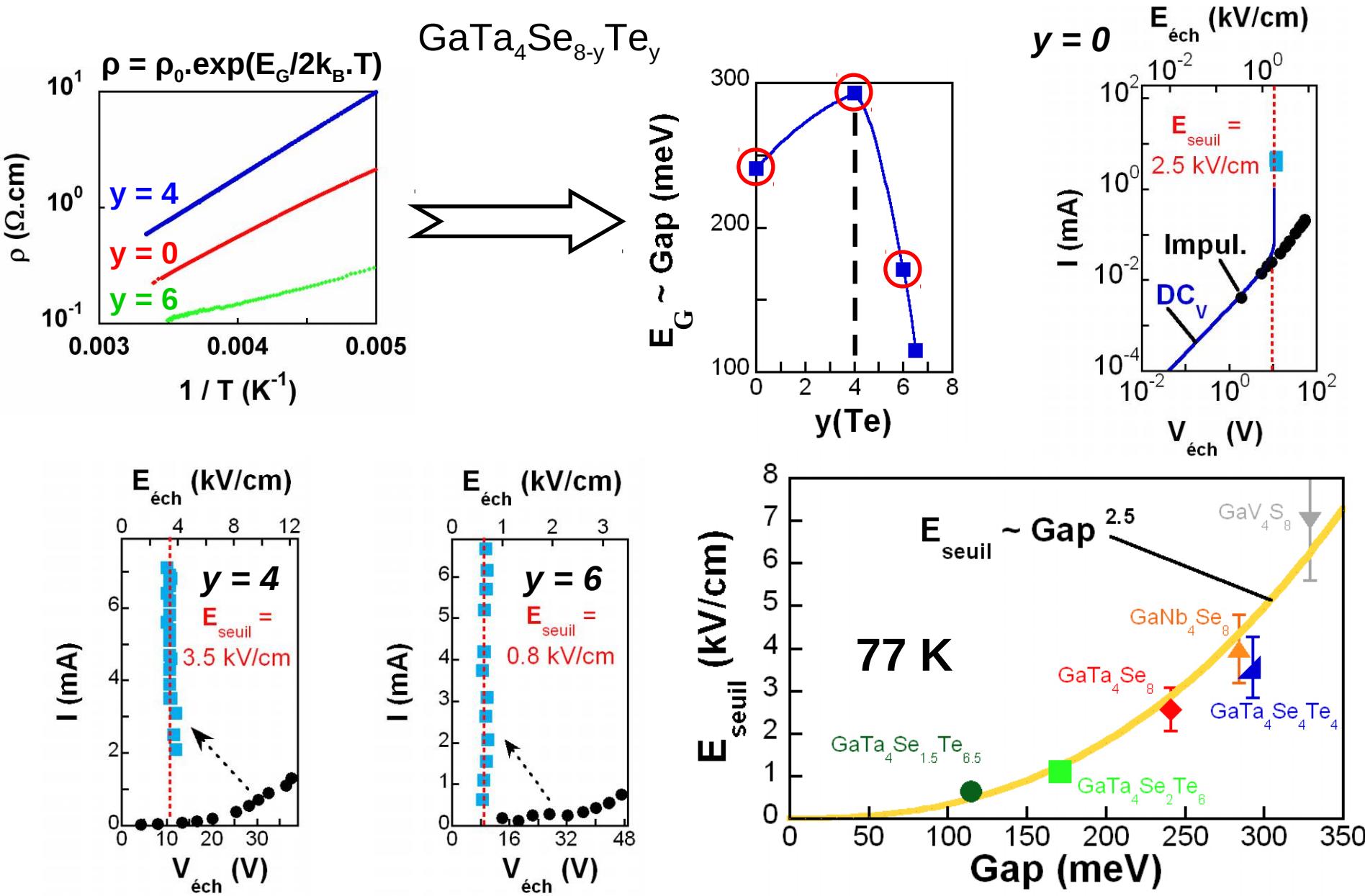


$\text{GaTa}_4\text{Se}_4\text{Te}_4$

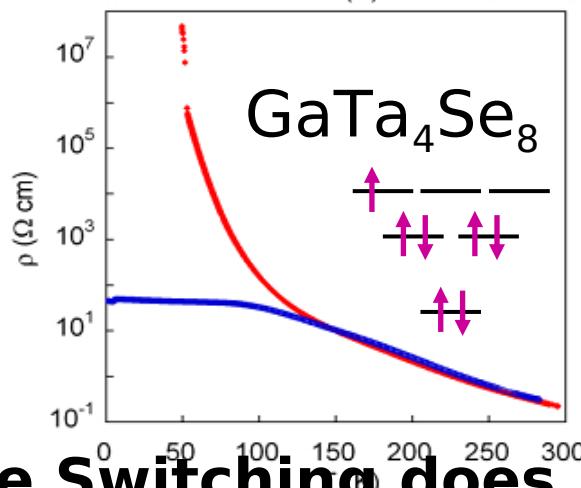
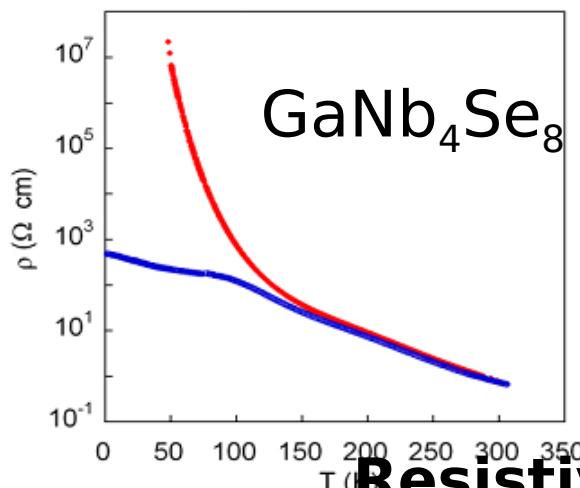
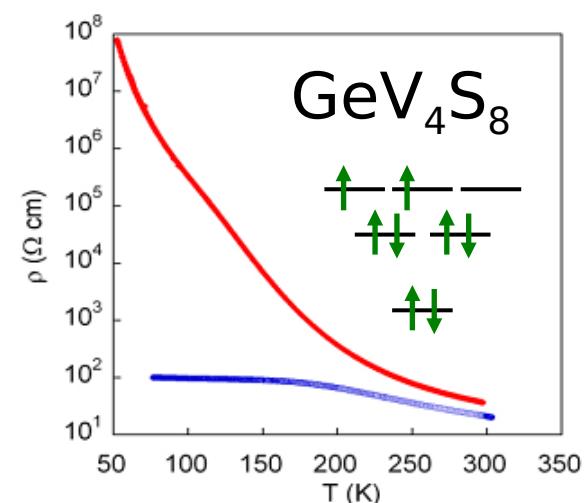
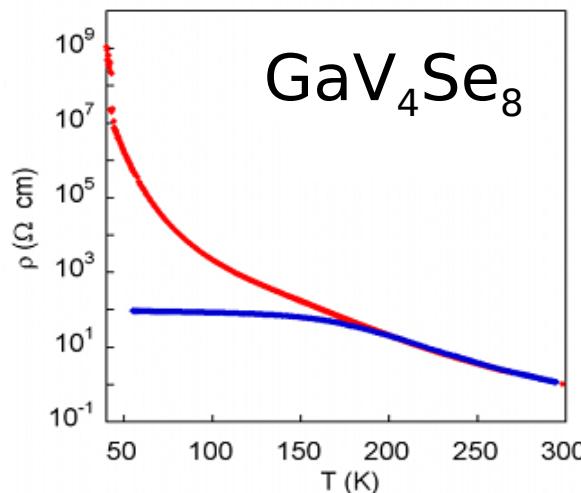
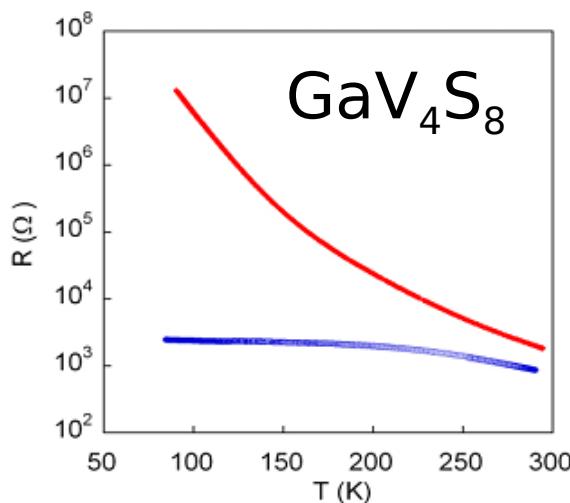


$\text{GaTa}_4\text{Se}_2\text{Te}_6$

# Evolution du champ seuil avec le gap



# Resistive Switching in the $AM_4X_8$



High  
resistanc  
e

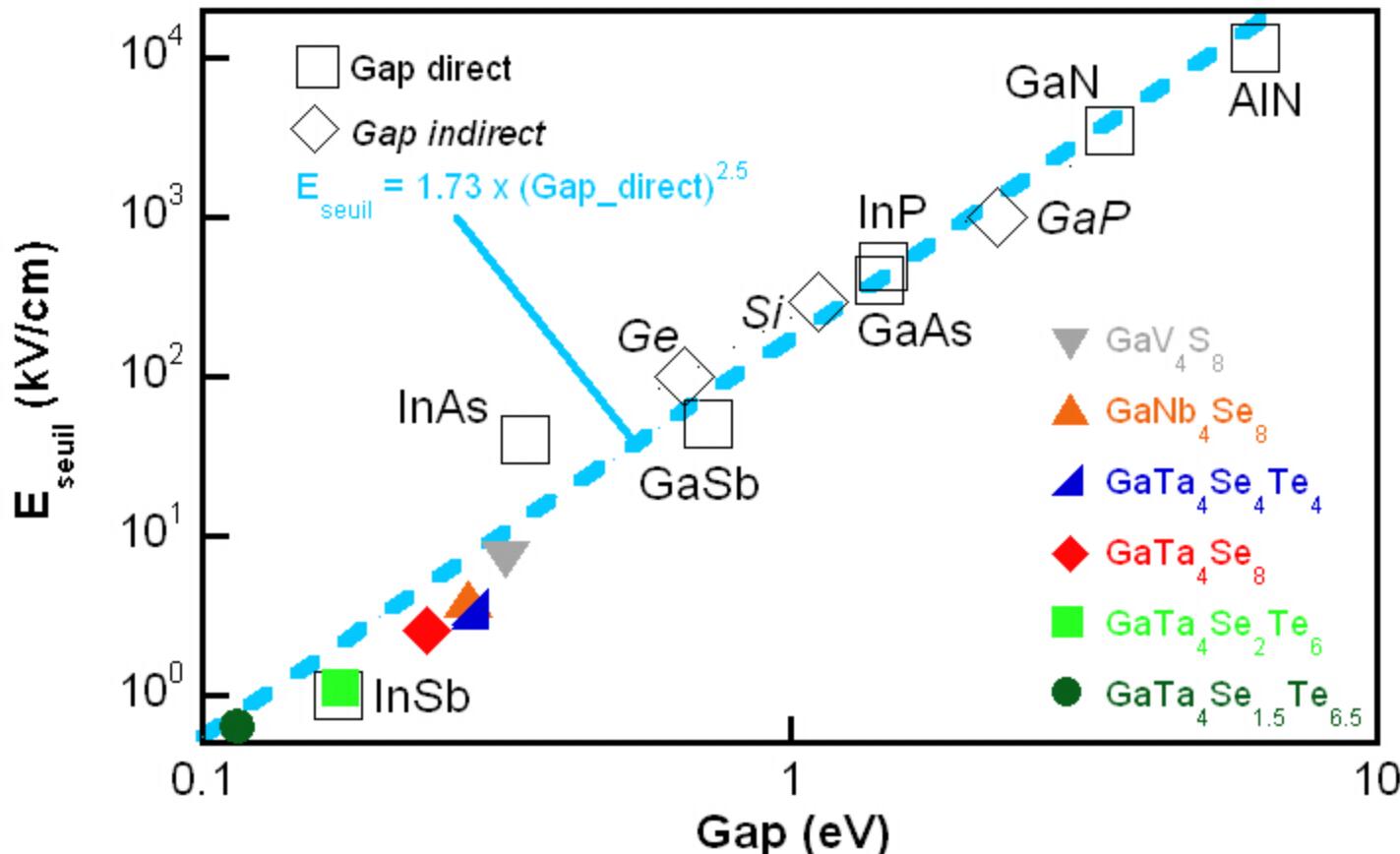
?

Low  
resistanc  
e

**Resistive Switching does not depend on :**

- **Chemical elements**
- **Clusters filling**

# Lien champ seuil - gap

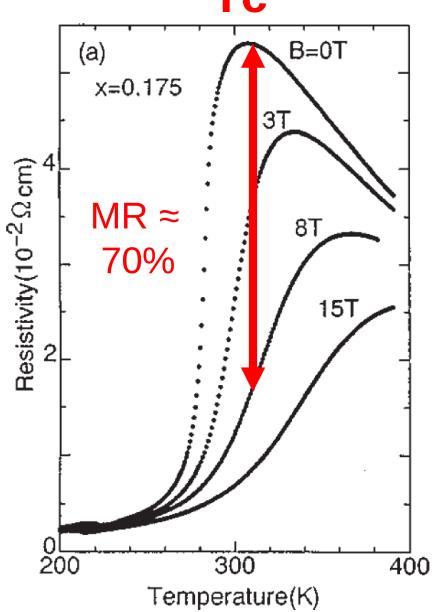


**Forte évidence de la validité d'un phénomène d'avalanche dans des isolants de Mott à faible gap !!!**

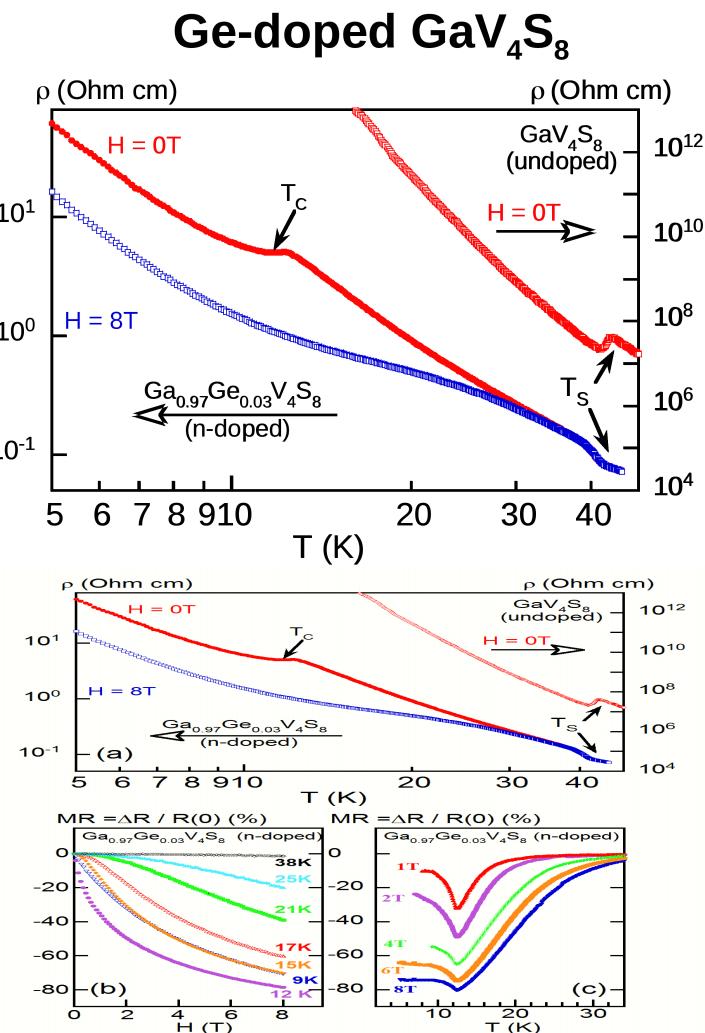
# Negative CMR in the ferromagnetic $\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$

## Manganites

→ negative CMR



$\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$  ( $x=0.175$ ) crystal  
Tokura et al.,  
J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **63**, 3931  
(1994)



Colossal MagnetoResistance in (n-doped)  $\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{V}_4\text{S}_8$