

**Mapping the electronic structure of each ingredient oxide  
layer of high- $T_c$  cuprate superconductors**

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# Acknowledgements

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**Leader : Qi-Kun Xue**

**Colleagues: Xu-Cun Ma, Lili Wang, Xi Chen, Ke He, Shuaihua Ji**

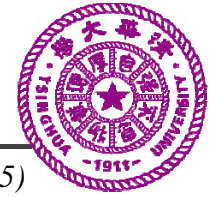
**Students: Yan-Feng Lv, Wen-Lin Wang, Jun-Ping Peng, Hao Ding,  
Yang Wang, Yong Zhong, Sha Han, Yi-Min Zhang...**

**Bi-2212 samples: Ruidan Zhong, John Schneeloch, Gen-Da Gu**

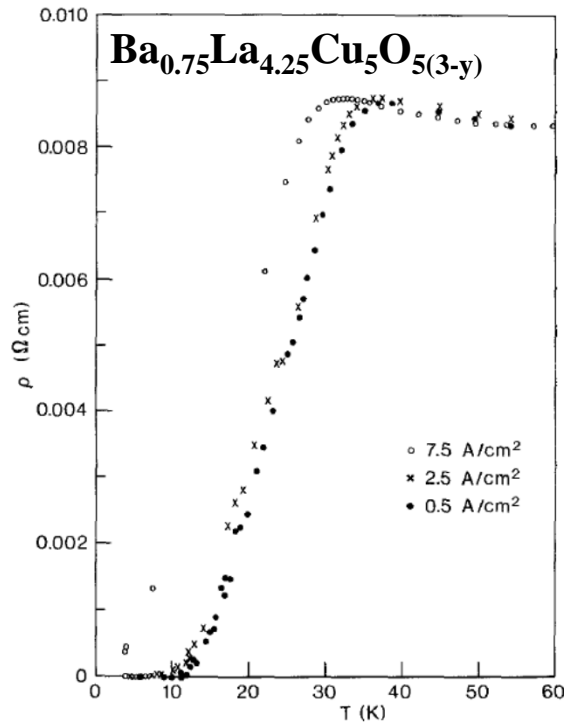
**Bi-2201 samples: Lin Zhao, Xing-Jiang Zhou...**

**\$\$\$: NSFC & MOST of China**

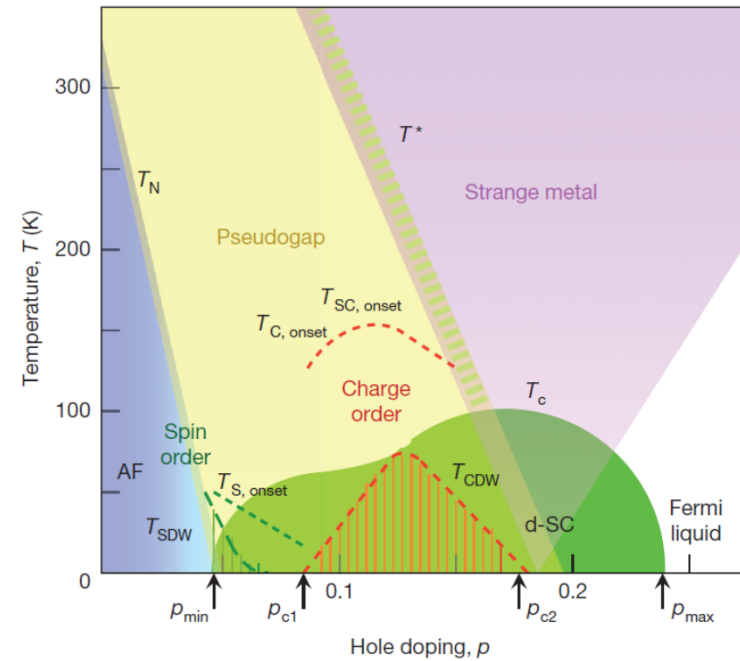
# High- $T_c$ Cuprate Superconductors



Bednorz and Müller, *Z. Phys. B* 64, 189 (1986)



Keimer, *Nature* 518, 179 (2015)

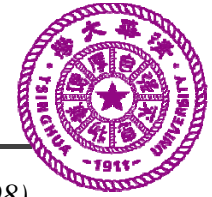


**Sophisticated phase diagram**

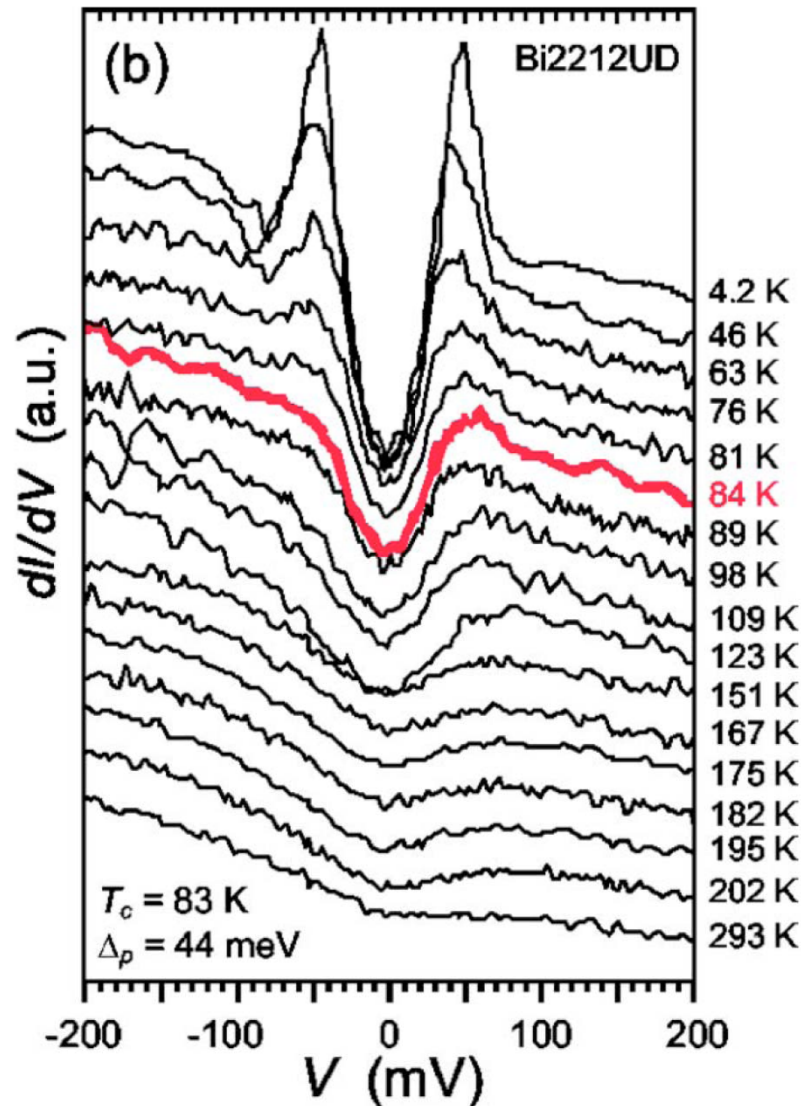
**Unsolved issues of high- $T_c$  superconductors:**

- 1) **Electron pairing mechanism: spin fluctuation?**
- 2) **Various sorts of charge orders and their interplay with superconductivity?**
- 3) **The nature of non-Fermi liquid behavior (strange metal)?**
- 4) **Pseudogap and its connection with superconductivity as well as broken-symmetry states?**

# Pseudogap of Cuprates by STM

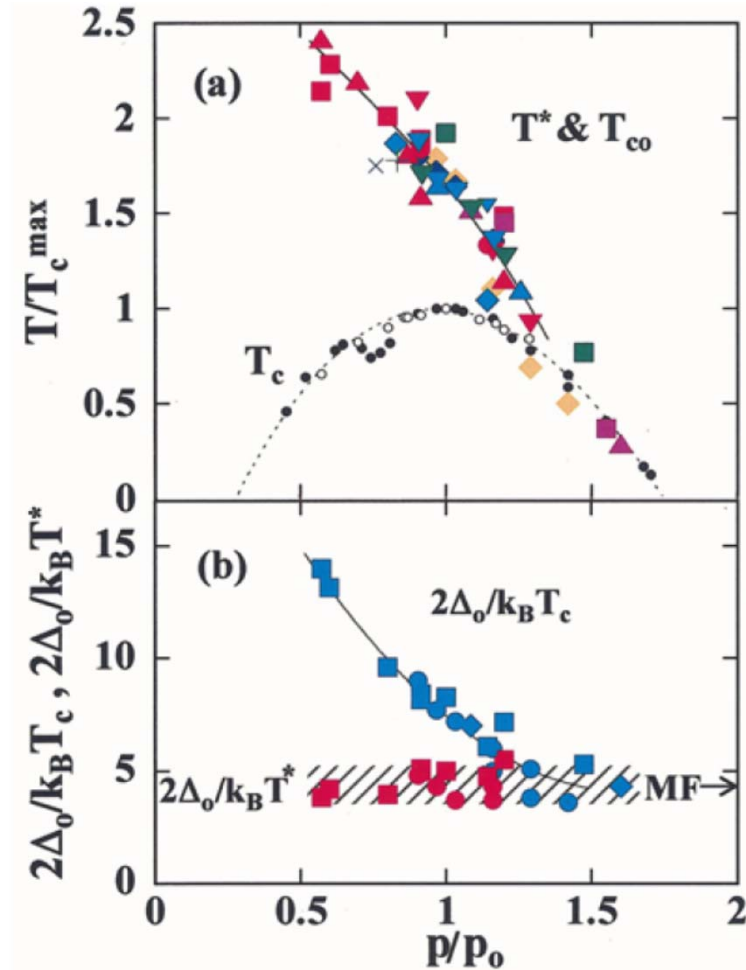


Renner, PRL 80, 149 (1998)



Spectral depletion at  $E_F$  above  $T_c$

Nakano, JPSJ 67, 2622 (1998)



$T^*$  versus  $p$ : linear behavior

$T_c$  versus  $p$ : dome-shaped behavior

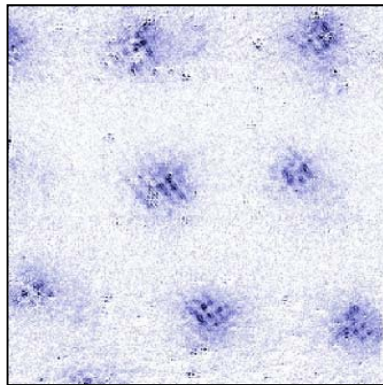
# Possible Origin for Pseudogap



1) Precursor pairing

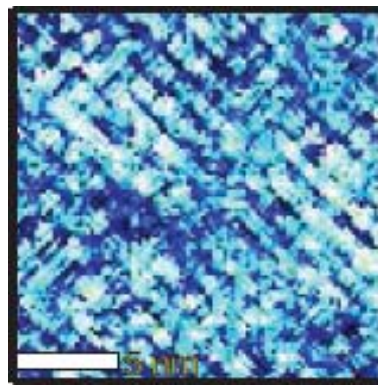
2) A non superconducting related pseudogap, e.g. various broken-symmetry states

**Checkerboard**

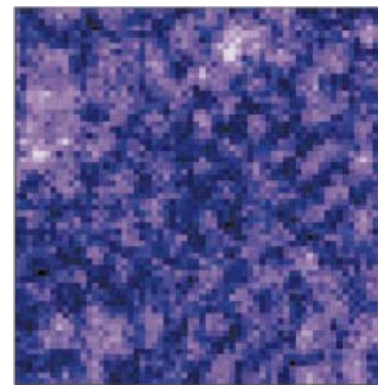


*Hoffman, Science 295, 466 (2002)*

**Fluctuating Stripes** **Static Striped DOS**

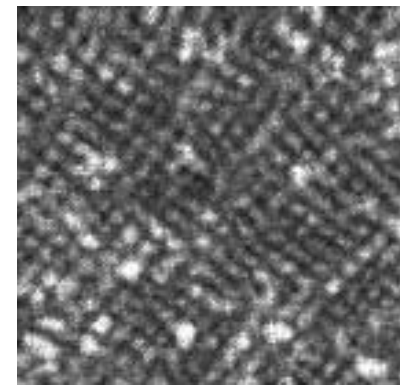


*Parker, Nature 468, 677 (2010)*



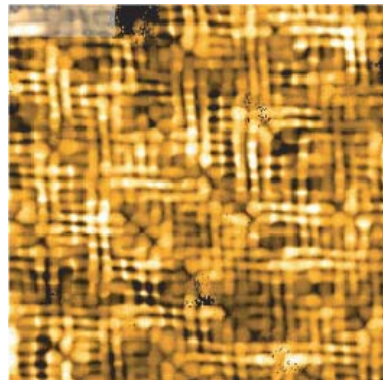
*Howald, PRB 67, 014533 (2003)*

**CDW**



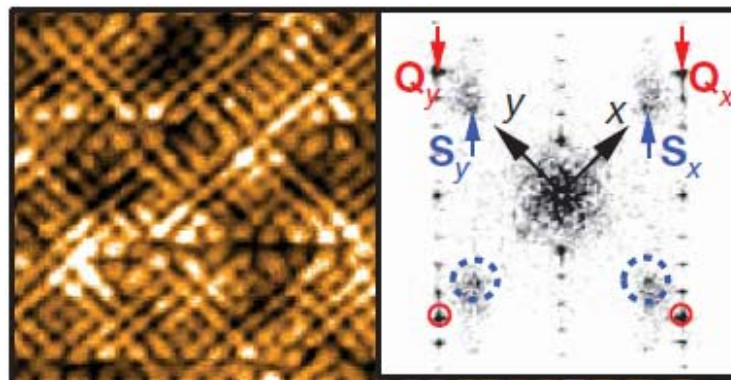
*Wise, Nat Phys. 4, 696(2008)*

**Electronic cluster glass**



*Kohsaka, Science (2007)*

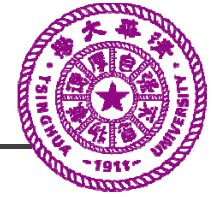
**“Nematic” and “Smectic”**



*Lawler, Nature 466, 7304 (2010)*

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# Challenges and Opportunity



◆ Strongly correlated electron systems

◆ Structural complexity

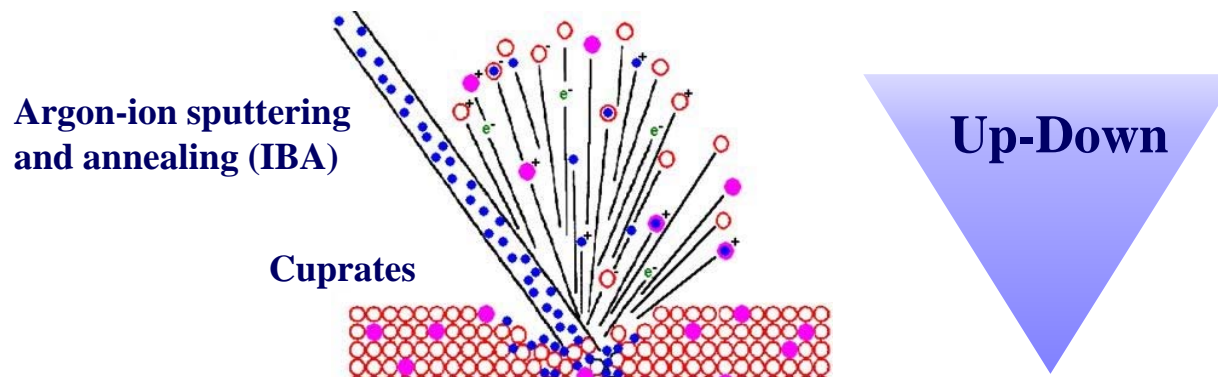
Superconducting  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer, charge reservoir building layer (for example,  $\text{BiO}/\text{SrO}$  in Bi-2212)

◆ Unattainable  $\text{CuO}_2$  layers

Surface-sensitive measurements on the vacuum cleaved  $\text{BiO}$  planes: the properties of superconducting  $\text{CuO}_2$  planes?

## Possible path to address the challenges

### Atomic-layer-resolved spectral study of cuprates



# MBE + LT STM/STS + magnetic field + IBA



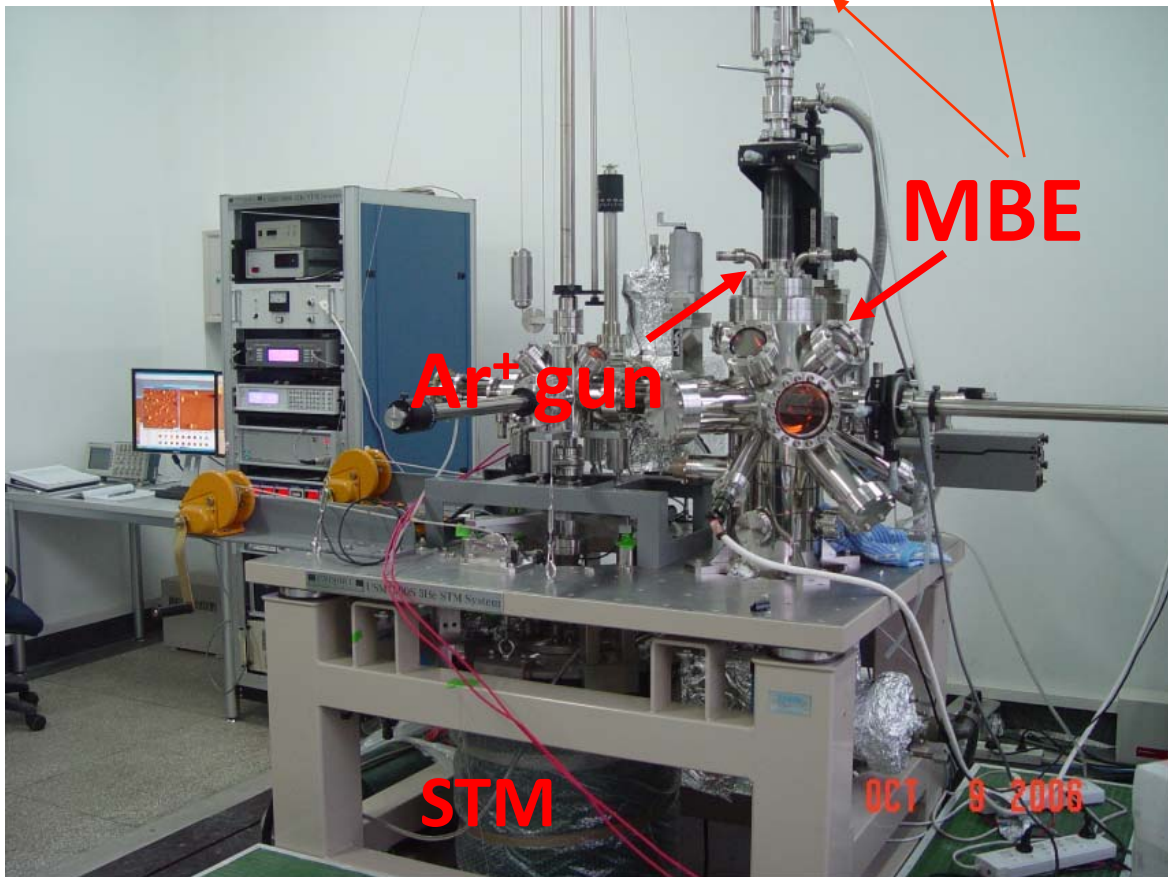
A precise control of growth flux

Metal sources (99.999%) :  
evaporated from standard Knudsen cells

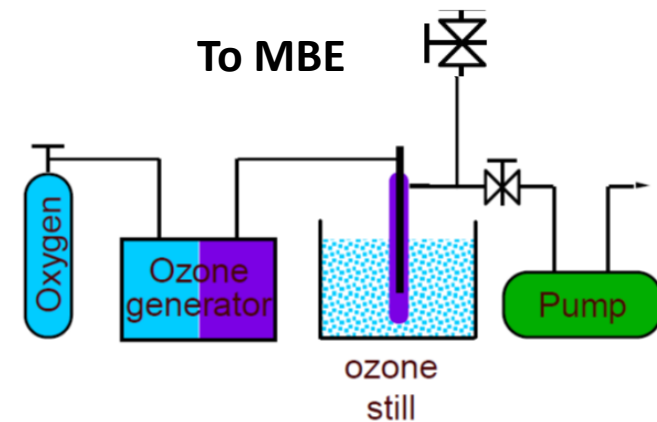
STM/STS: 0.4 K, 4.3 K, 78K

Magnetic field: 11 T

Vacuum:  $5 \times 10^{-11}$  Torr



## Ozone-assisted MBE

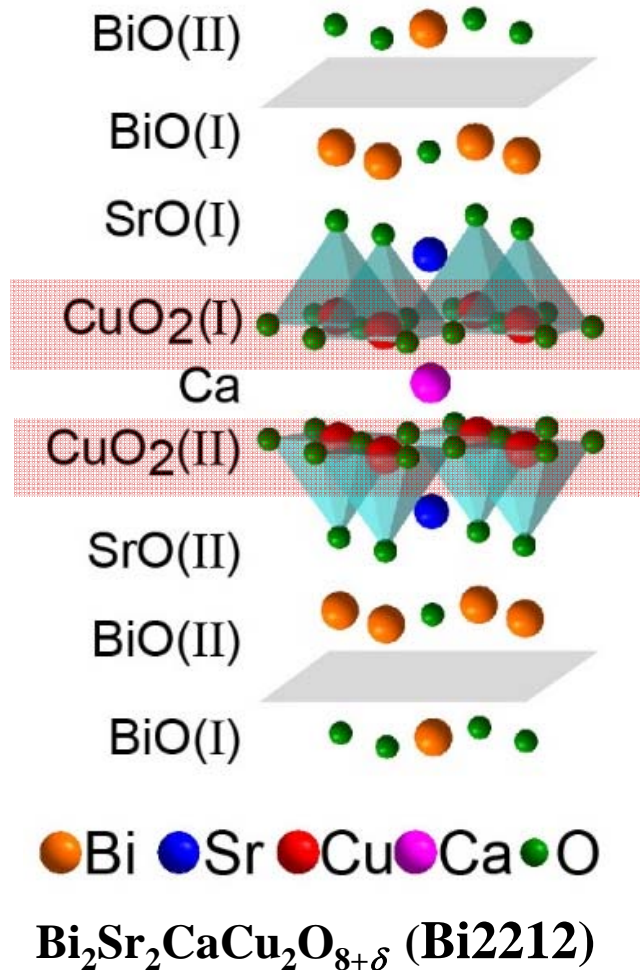


Ozone system  
(Fermi Instruments)

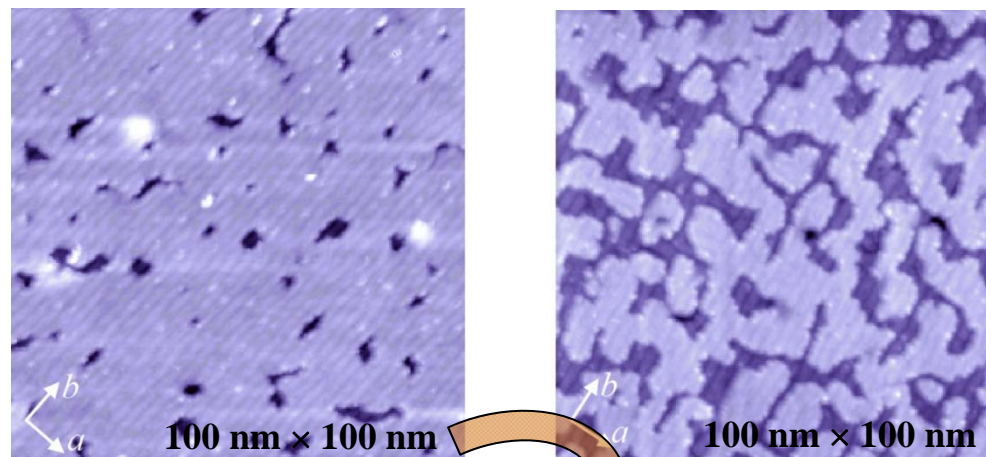


# IBA on Bi-2212

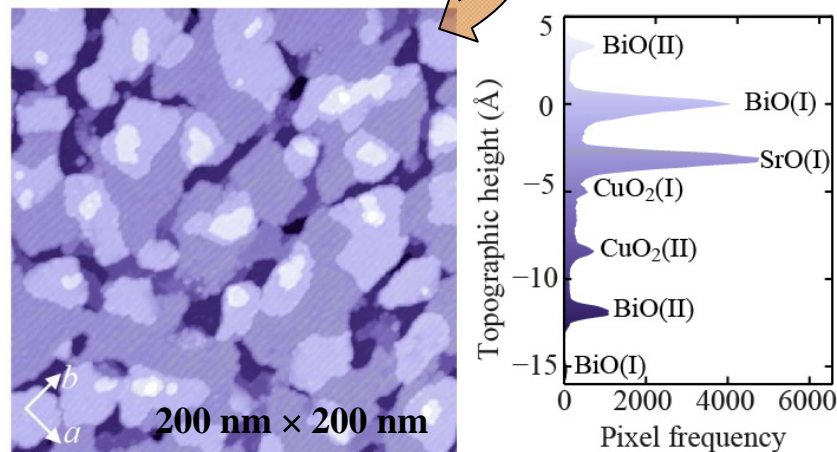
## Multilayerd structure



## IBA



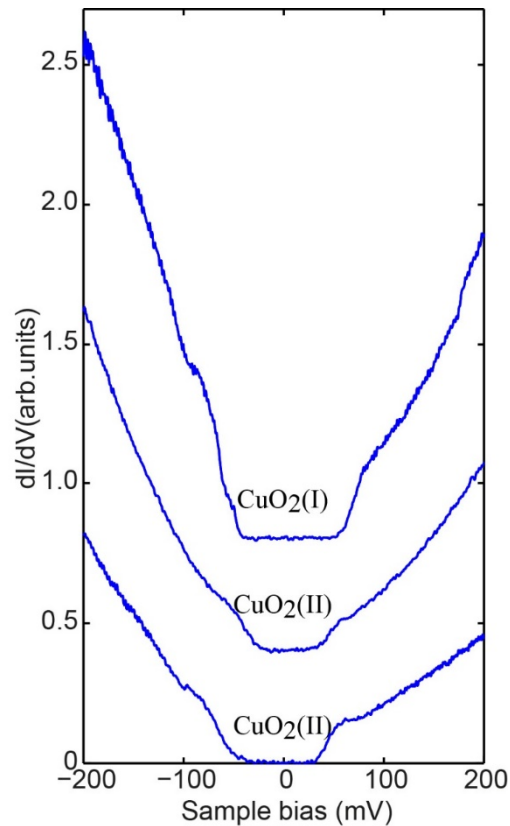
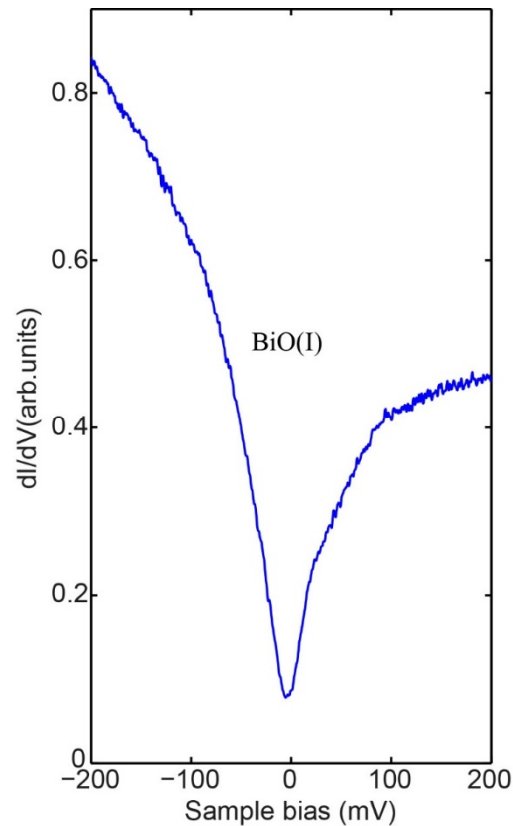
Increasing IBA cycles



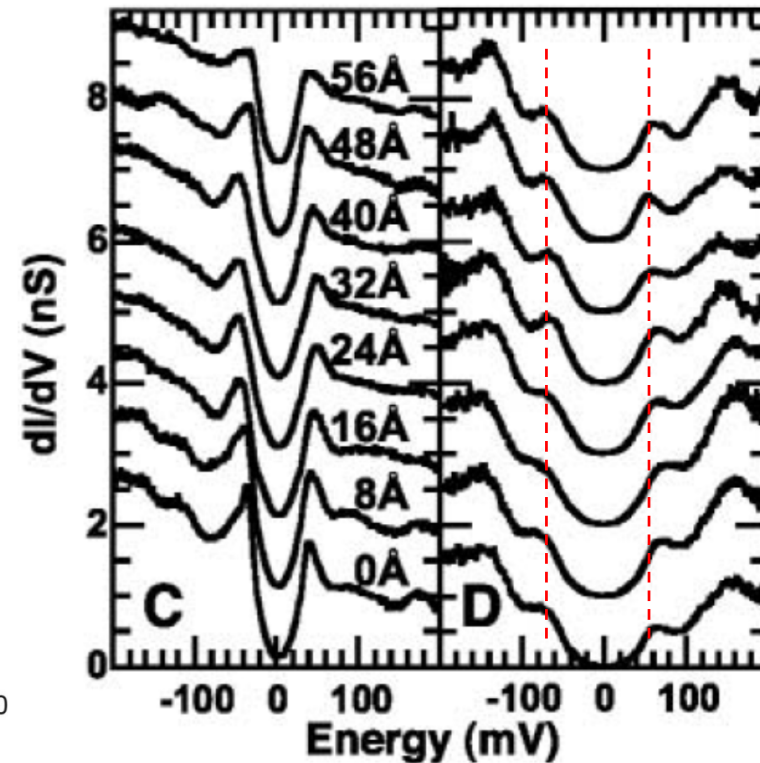
Deeper and deeper atomic layers of Bi-2212 are exposed with increasing IBA.



# STS spectra on as-sputtered Bi-2212



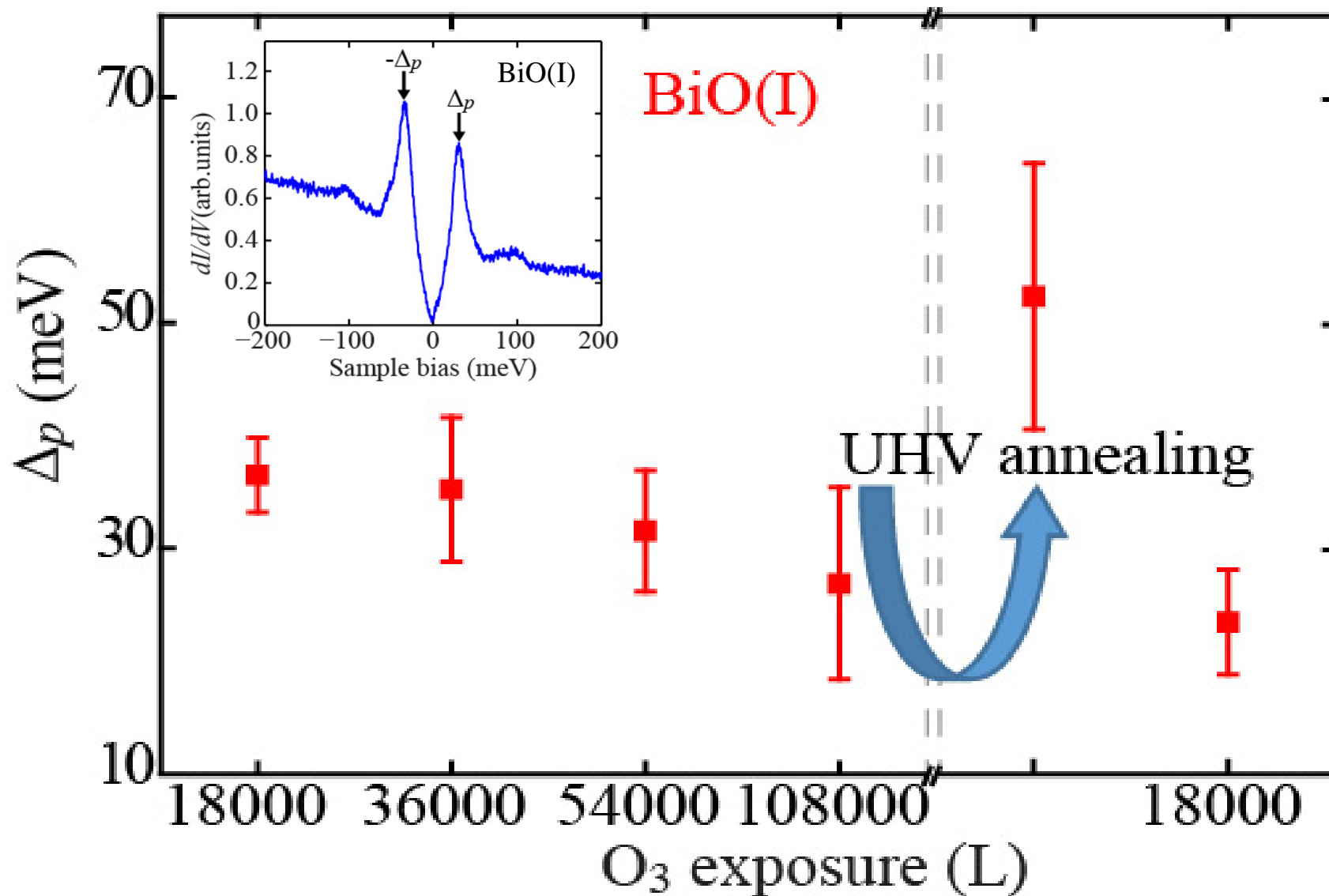
Misra, PRL. 89, 087002 (2002)



- **Contrasting spectral feature between BiO and CuO<sub>2</sub>**
- **A substantial loss of near-surface oxygen dopants during IBA**
- **Asymmetric gap of CuO<sub>2</sub> planes, neither superconducting gap nor pseudogap**



# Post-anneal under Ozone Flux

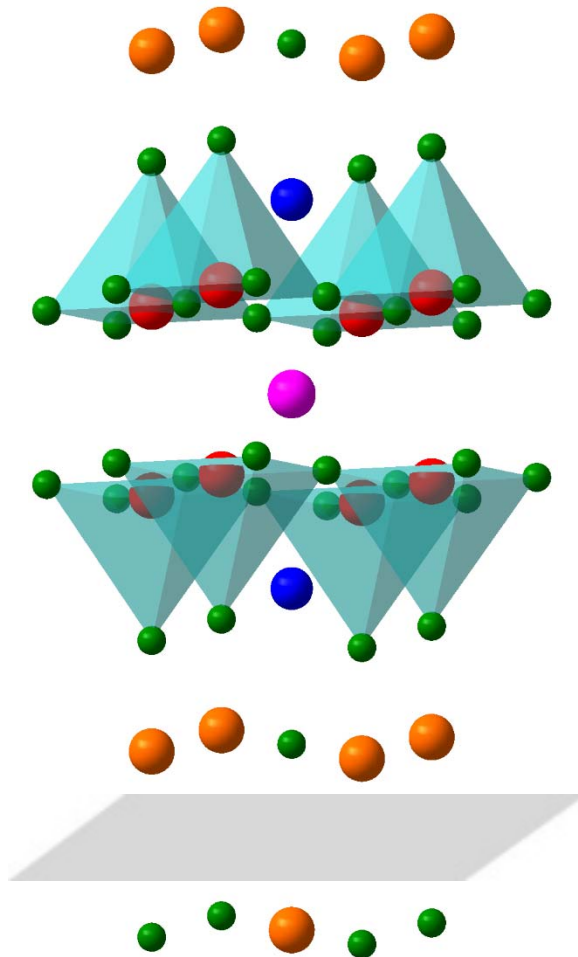


**A precise control of oxygen stoichiometry!**

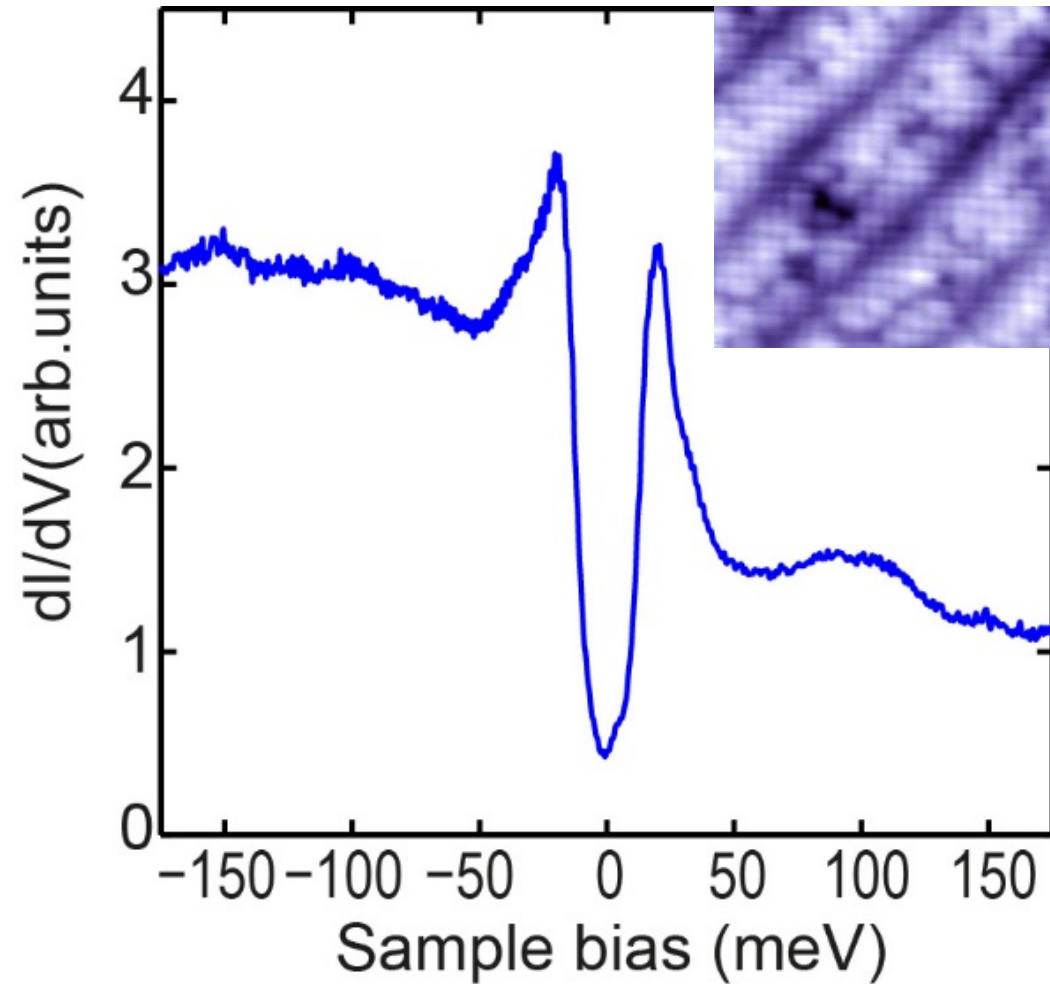
# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212



## BiO(I)



● Bi ● Sr ● Cu ● Ca ● O

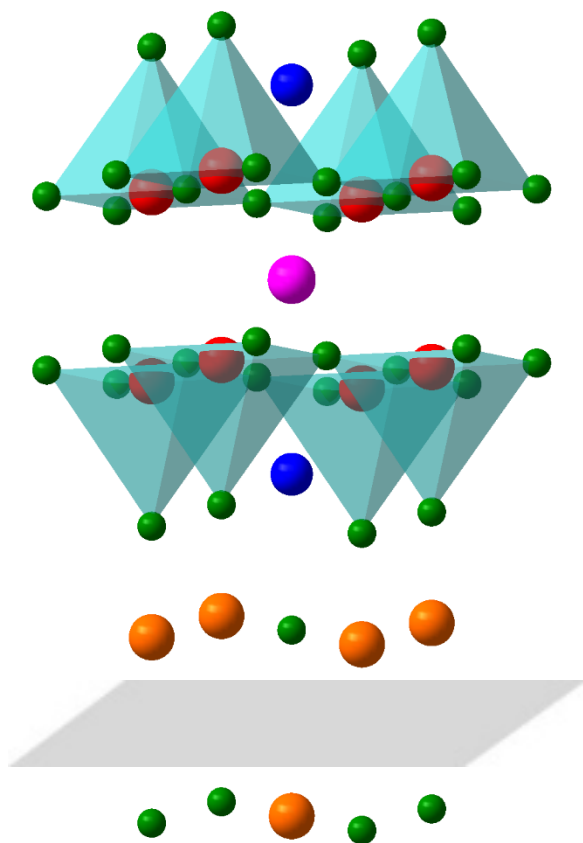


**Single dominant pseudogap**

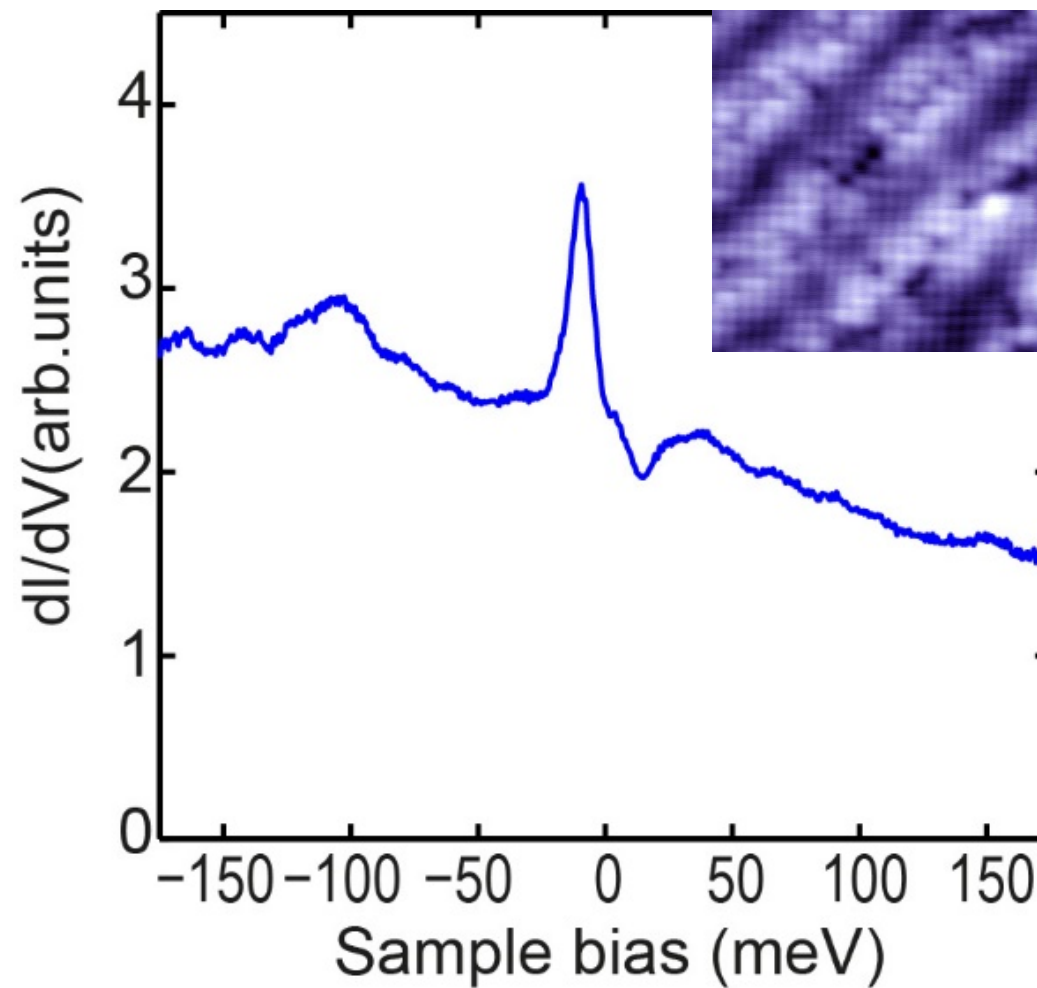
# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212



## SrO(I)

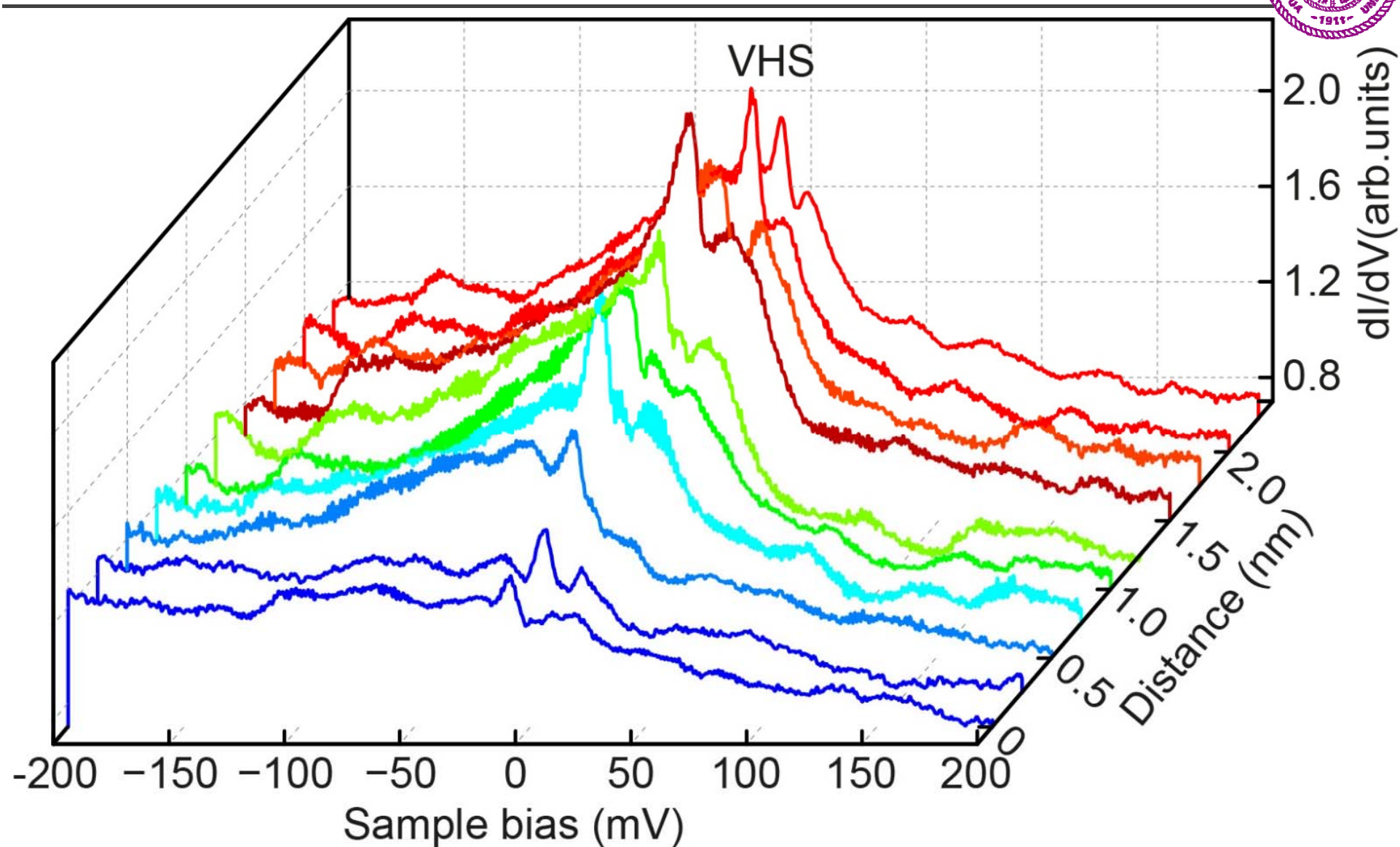


● Bi ● Sr ● Cu ● Ca ● O



**Van Hove singularity**

# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212

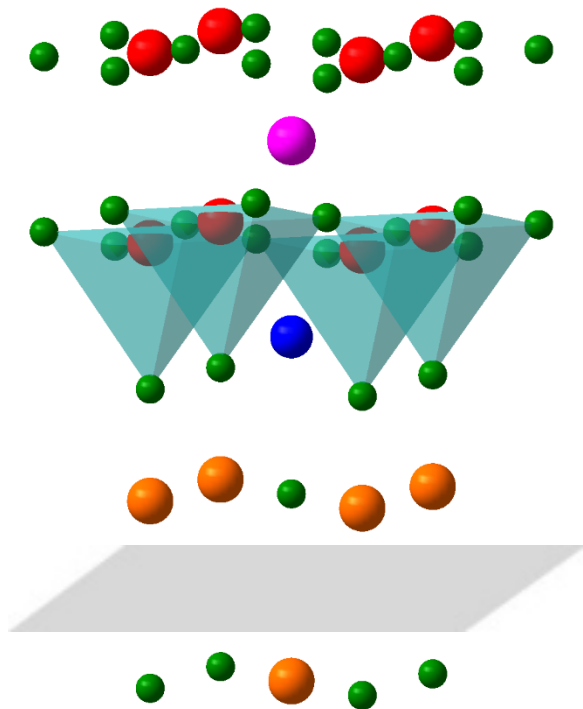


**Robust VHS on SrO planes!**

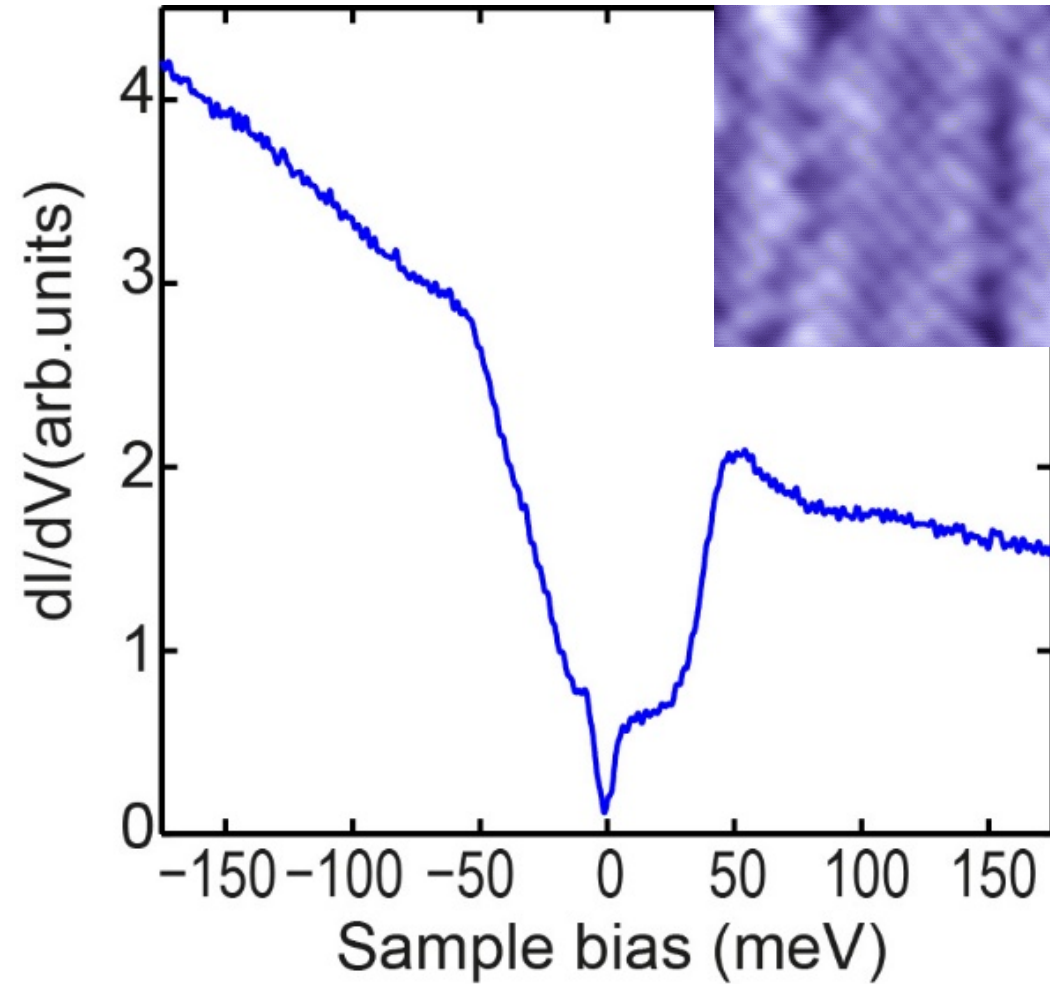
# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212



## $\text{CuO}_2(\text{I})$

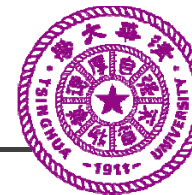


● Bi ● Sr ● Cu ● Ca ● O

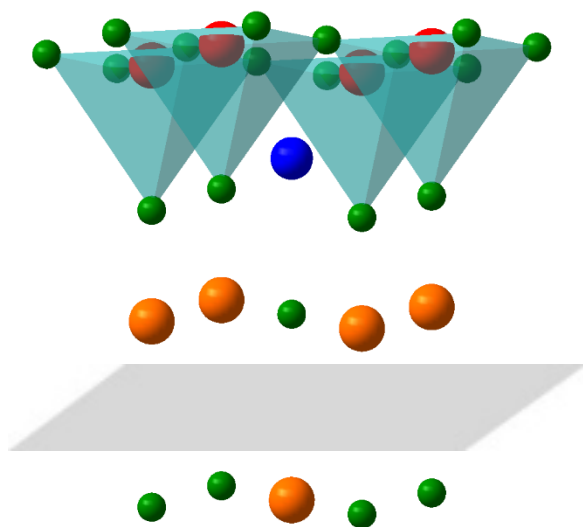


**Two-gap spectral feature**

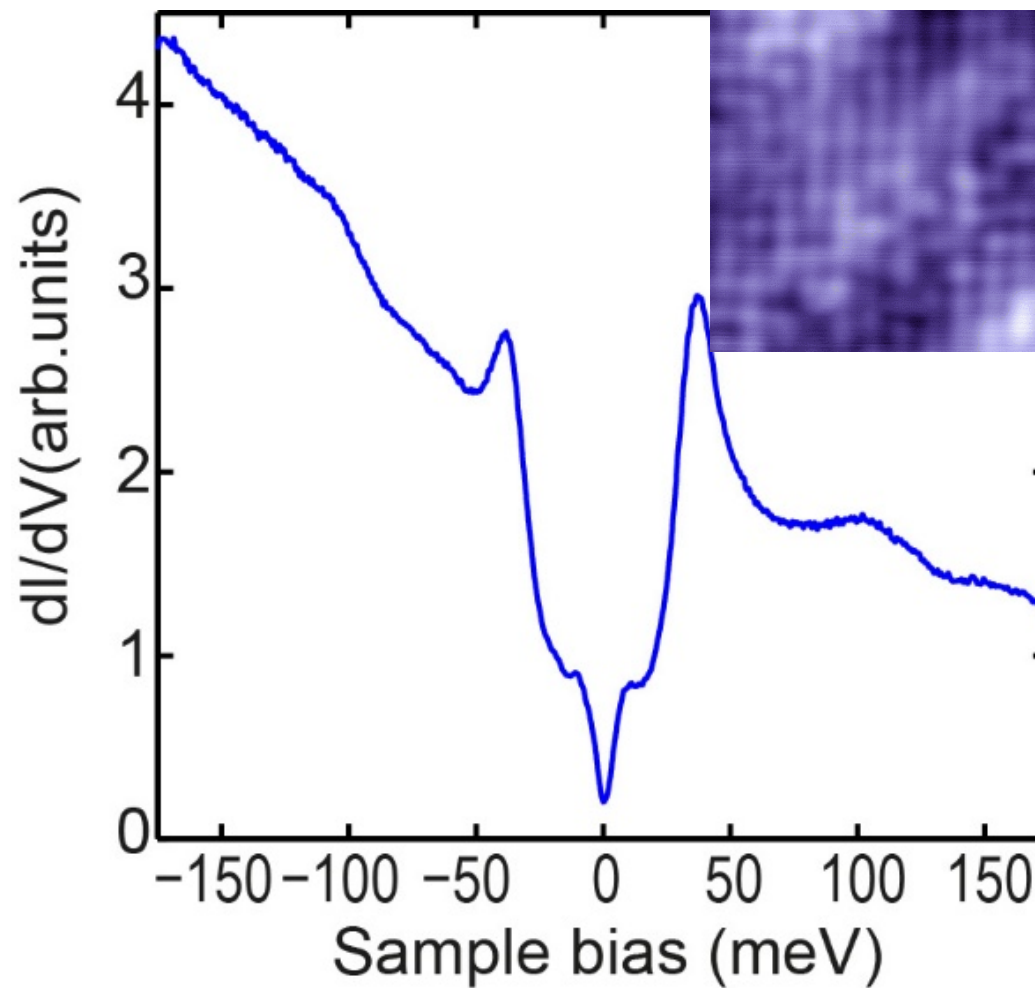
# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212



## $\text{CuO}_2(\text{II})$



● Bi ● Sr ● Cu ● Ca ● O

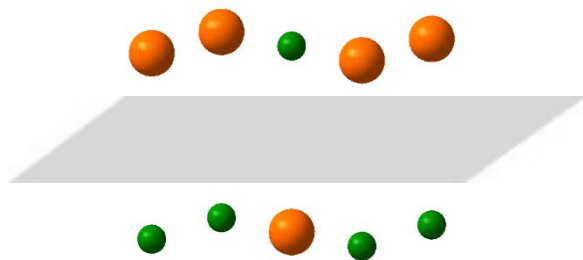


**Two-gap spectral feature**

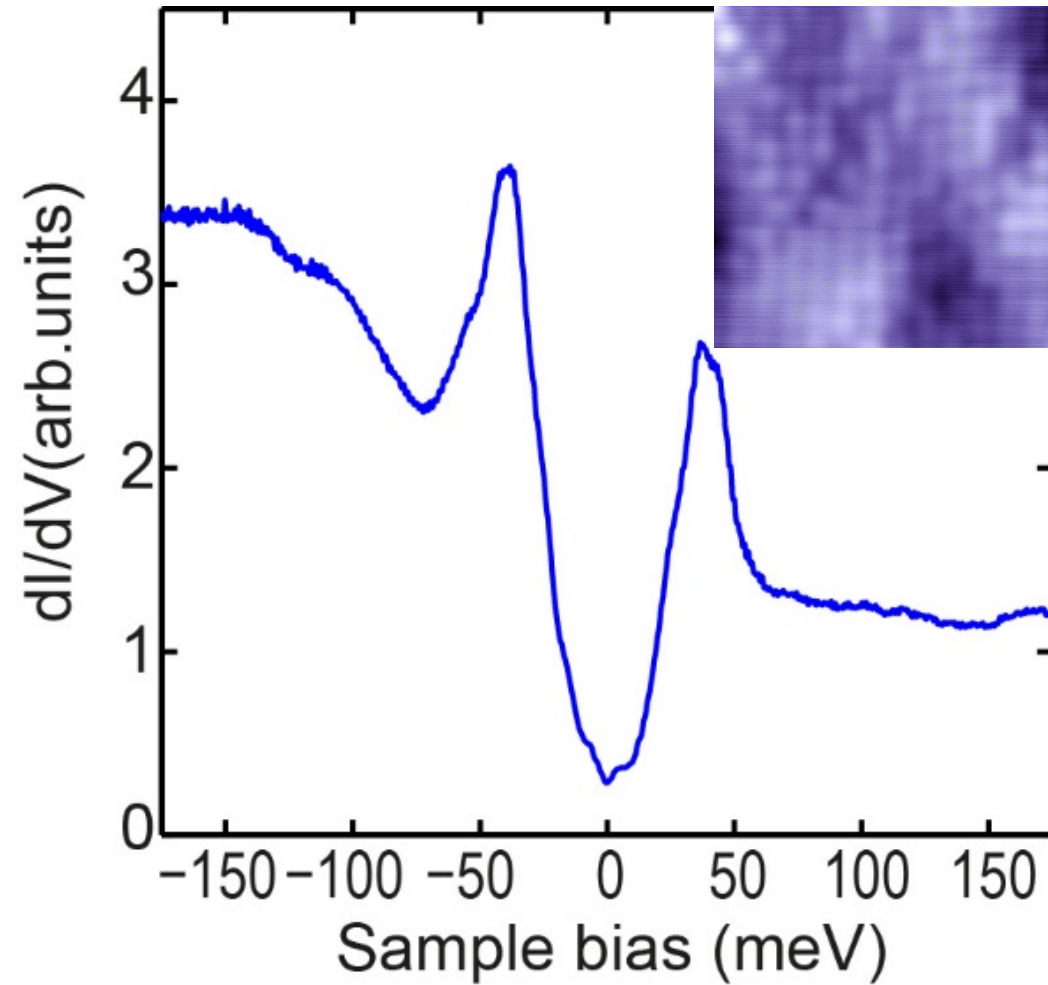
# Atomic-Layer-Resolved Spectra of Bi-2212



## BiO(II)



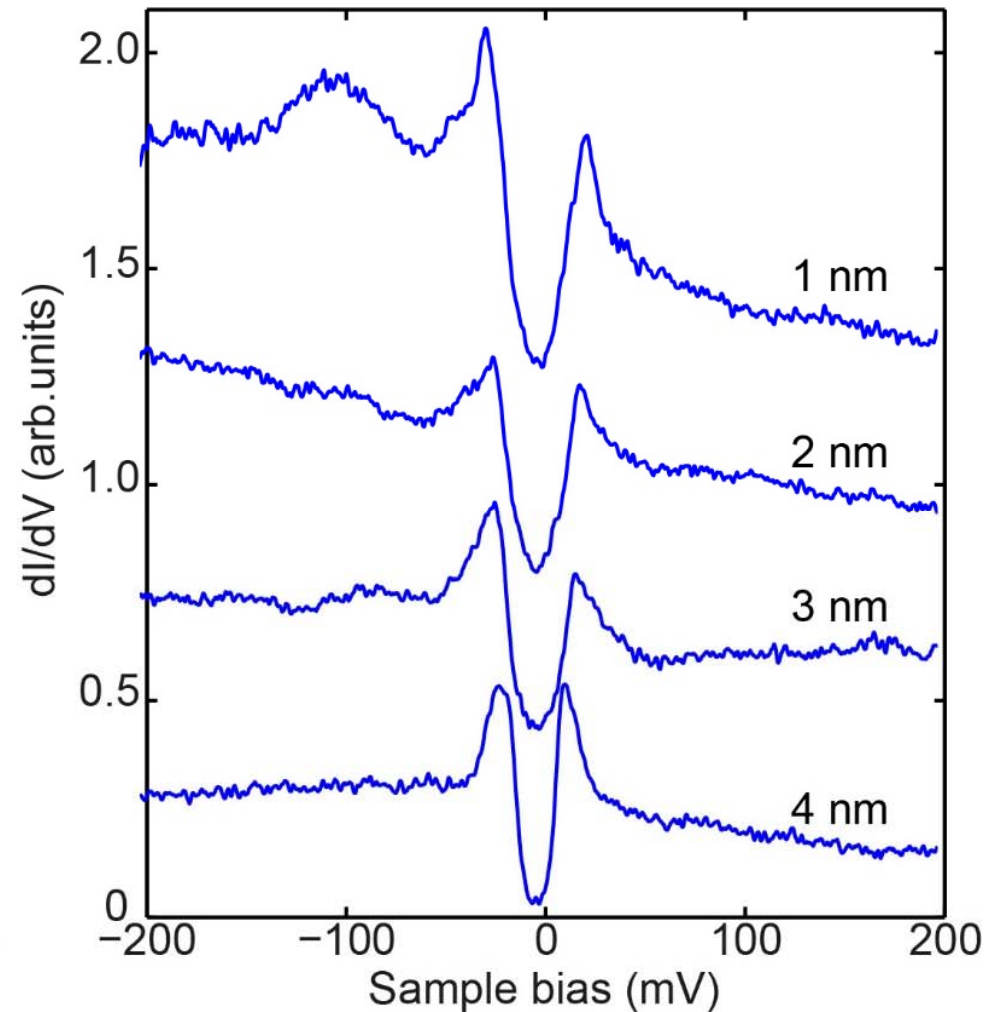
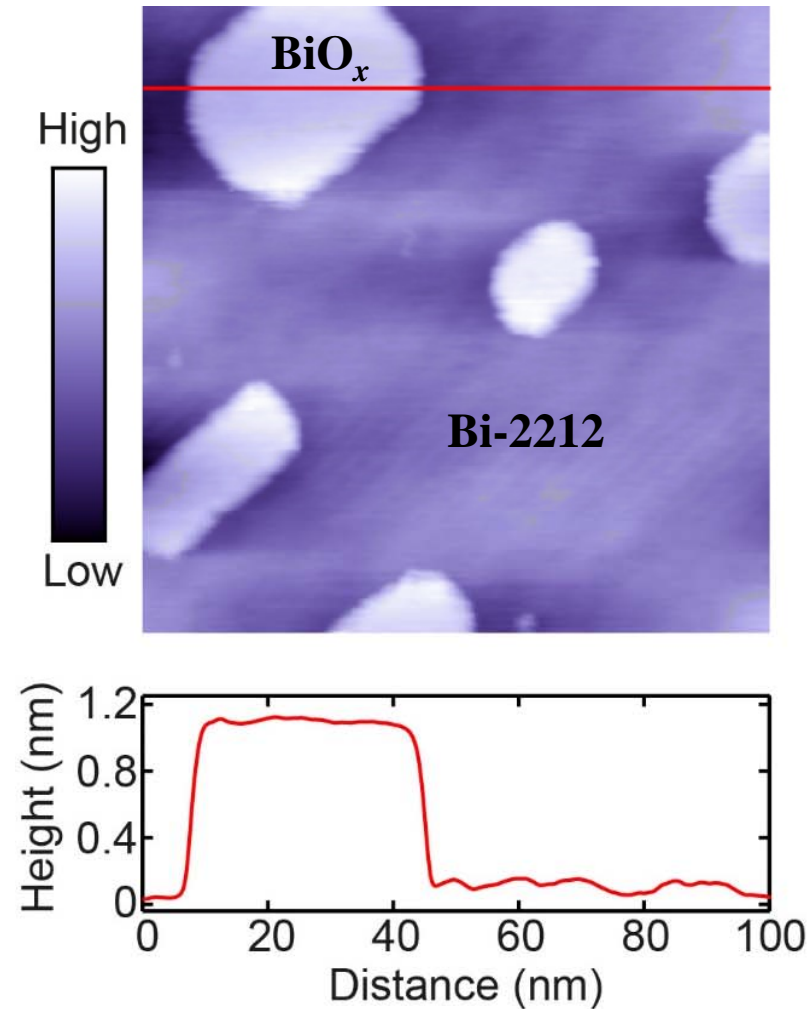
● Bi ● Sr ● Cu ● Ca ● O



**Single dominant pseudogap again**

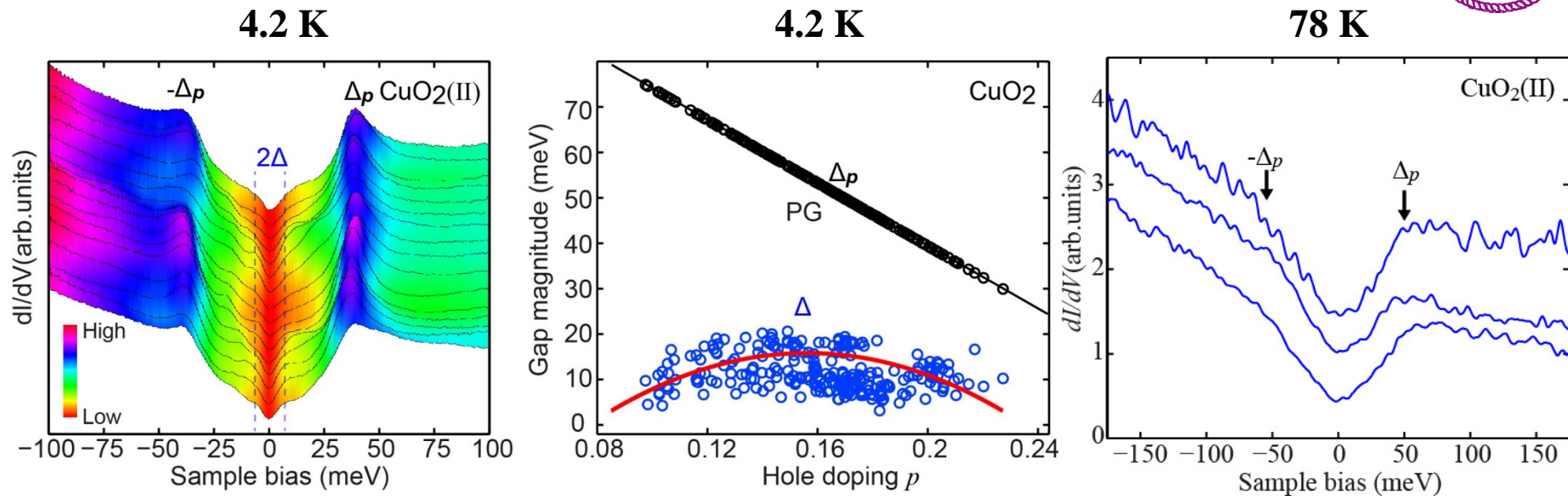
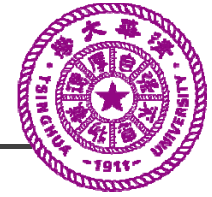


# Pseudogap: a property of BiO



**Pseudogap on MBE-grown BiO<sub>x</sub> islands**

# Spectra of superconducting $\text{CuO}_2$ layers



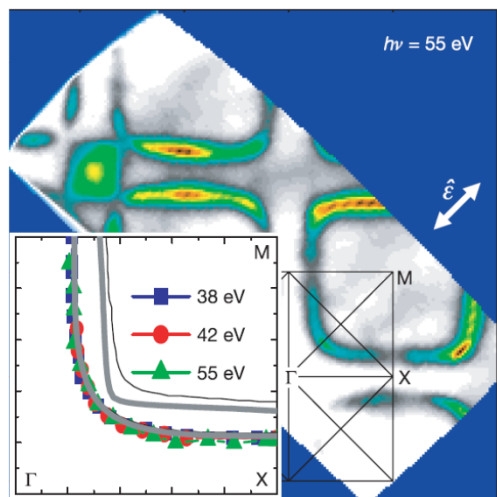
- Robust two-gap feature on  $\text{CuO}_2$
- The smaller gap becomes invisible near  $T_c$
- $\Delta$  follows a dome-shaped behavior, like  $T_c$
- $2\Delta/k_B T_c = 3.8 \pm 1.0$

**Preparation and direct measurements of  $\text{CuO}_2$  Superconducting layers are so essential!!!**

# *d*-wave Pseudogap in Noncuprate Compounds

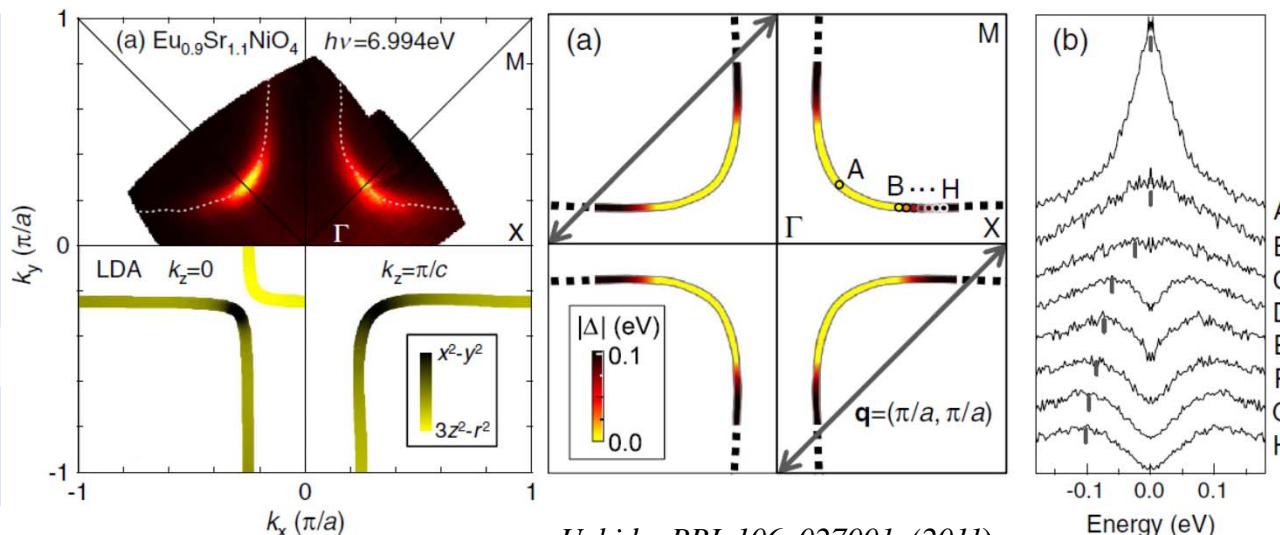


$\text{La}_{1.2}\text{Sr}_{1.8}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$  manganites



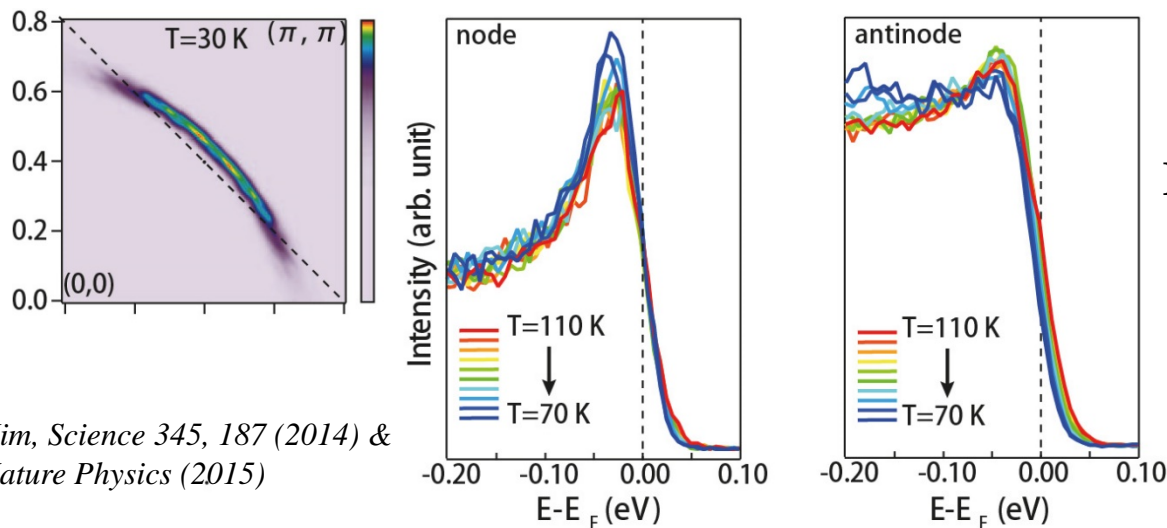
Shen, *Nature* 438, 474 (2005)

Meatlic nickelate  $\text{R}_{2-x}\text{SrNiO}_4$  (R=Nd, Eu)



Uchida, *PRL* 106, 027001 (2011)

Alkali-metal doped  $\text{Sr}_2\text{IrO}_4$



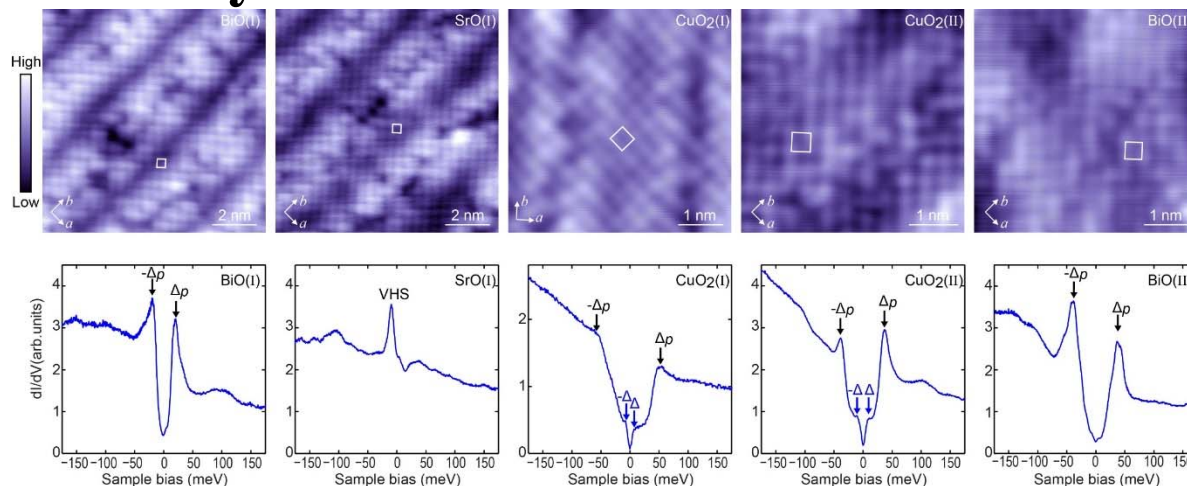
Kim, *Science* 345, 187 (2014) & *Nature Physics* (2015)

**Fermi arc and *d*-wave gap are not unique to cuprates**



# Summary and Perspective

## ➤ Atomic-layer-resolved electronic structures of cuprates



**Pseudogap and VHS: possibly a property of oxygen-doped oxides**  
**Real superconducting gap in  $\text{CuO}_2$  layer**  
**SrO/BiO: VHS and acts carrier reservoir for  $\text{CuO}_2$**

## ➤ Bottom-Up (MBE) & Top-Down (IBA) strategies

# Thank You Very Much!

