

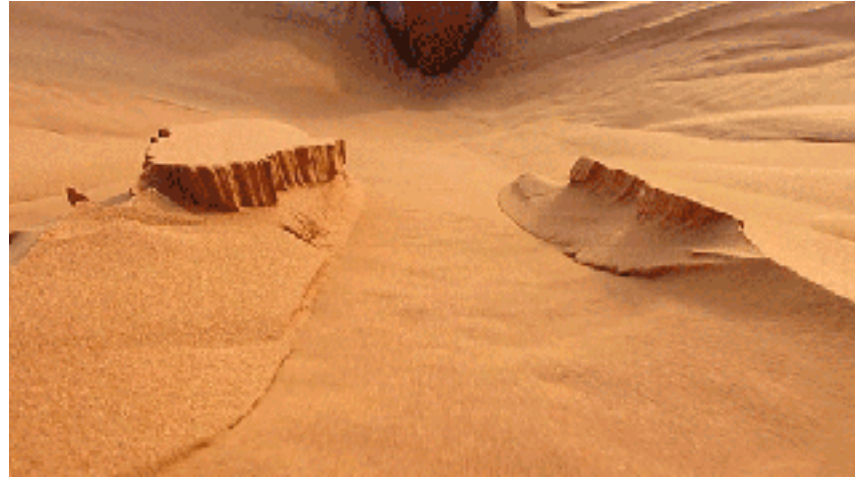
I'LL BE HONEST: WE PHYSICISTS TALK A BIG GAME ABOUT THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, BUT THE TRUTH IS, WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY ICE SKATES WORK, HOW SAND FLOWS, OR WHERE THE STATIC CHARGE COMES FROM WHEN YOU RUB YOUR HAIR WITH A BALLOON.



I'LL BE HONEST: WE PHYSICISTS TALK A BIG GAME ABOUT THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, BUT THE TRUTH IS, WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY ICE SKATES WORK, HOW SAND FLOWS, OR WHERE THE STATIC CHARGE COMES FROM WHEN YOU RUB YOUR HAIR WITH A BALLOON.



<https://xkcd.com/1867/>



<http://giphy.com/gifs/sand-sahara-low-drifting-l6Zn1293Bi3dK>

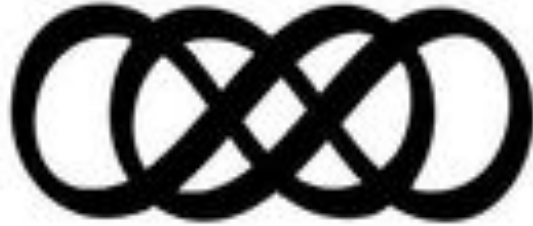
Part I:

What is Condensed Matter Physics?

Part II – at a later date:

Sand Flows (i.e. my research)

Three infinities in Physics



- Infinitely Big - cosmology
- Infinitely Small - particle physics
- **Infinitely Complex - Condensed Matter Physics.**

Source:

Marvin Cohen - Oppenheimer Lecture

<https://youtu.be/PtDa9tccDaw>

Essay: Fifty Years of Condensed Matter Physics, Marvin L. Cohen

<https://journals.aps.org/prl/edannounce/PhysRevLett.101.250001>

What do we mean by complex?

The collective behavior of many objects that cannot be easily guessed, even if we have complete knowledge of how the objects interact w/ each other

Scottie Pinwheel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDa0z0gEvl4>



What if my student asks how a cell phone works?



Its okay to say...

I don't know, lets find out!



What if my student asks how a cell phone works?



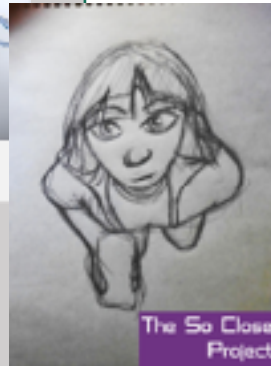
Web Resource (20 minute documentary and Interviews)

The So Close Project

<https://youtu.be/3De1rLxvzyU?t=139>



<http://www.uam.es/otros/soclose/>



The Wonders of Condensed Matter Physics

Condensed Matter Physics

So Close and Such a Stranger



Light Emitting Diodes



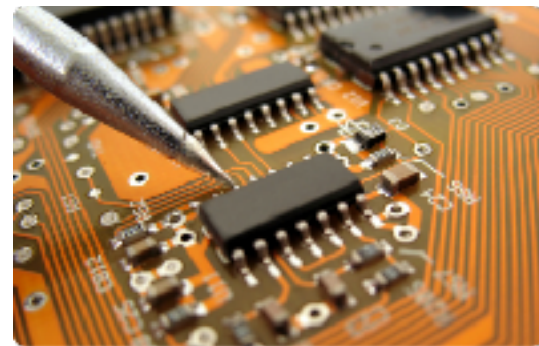
<http://en.wikipedia.org/>



Howstuffworks.com

Liquid
Crystal
Displays

Transistors



Jet.com

<http://lubricationtechnology.com/>

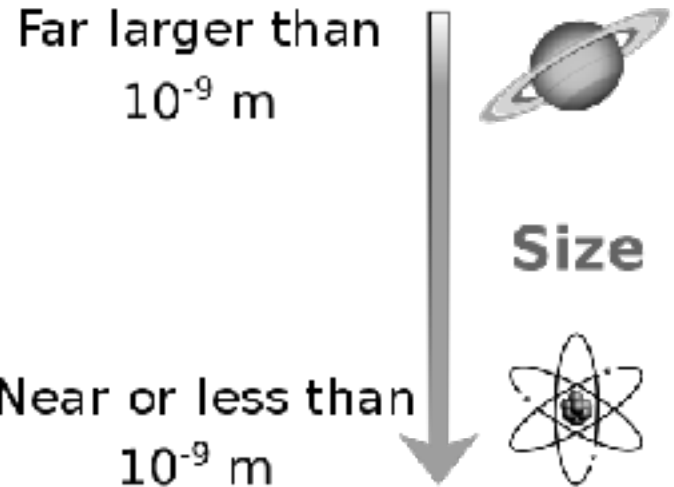
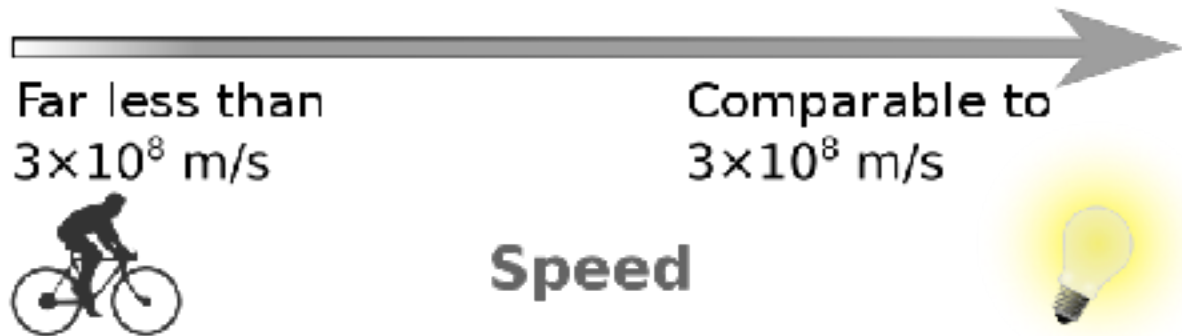


MRI &
Superconducting
Magnets

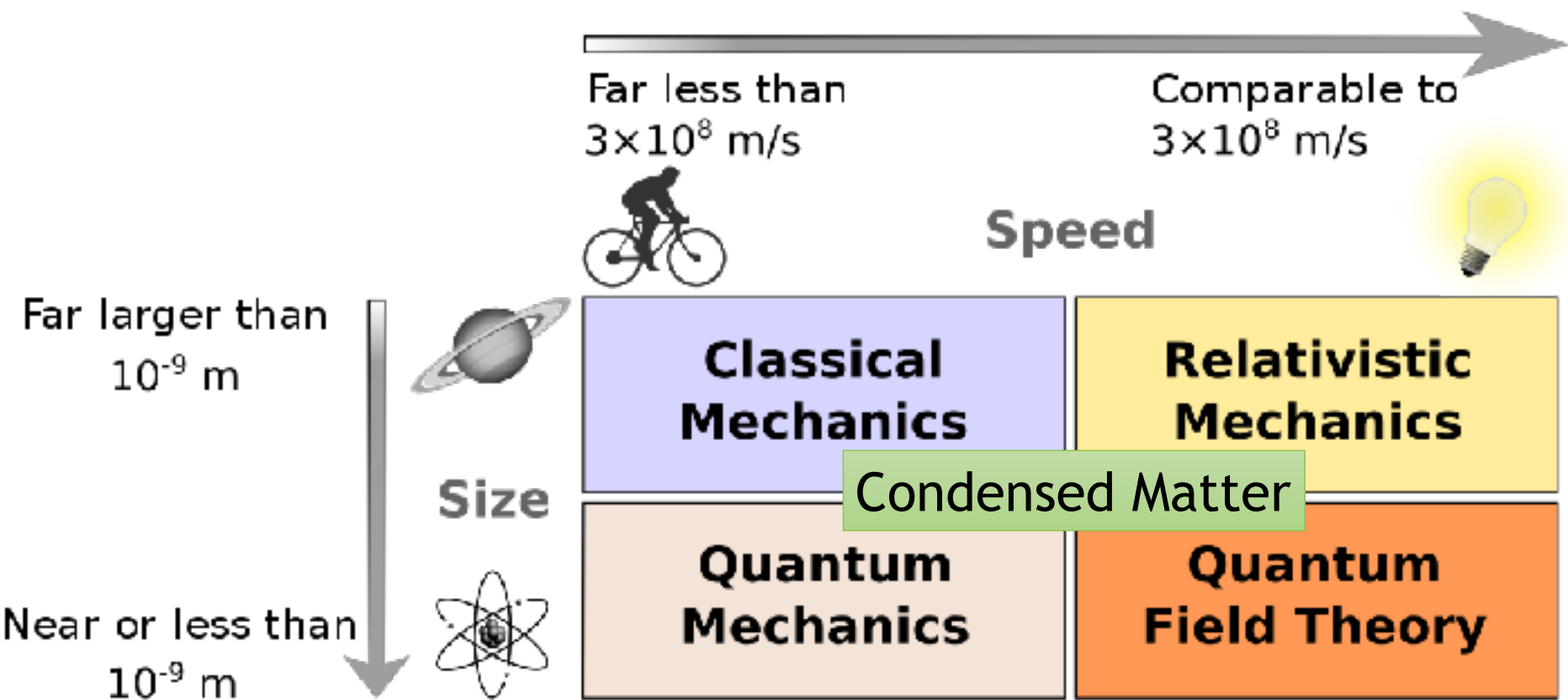
What is Condensed Matter Physics?

The study of everything larger than a few atoms and smaller than a star.

Where is Condensed Matter?



Classical Mechanics	Relativistic Mechanics
Quantum Mechanics	Quantum Field Theory



Thinking about Size w/ Powers of 10 (1977 and beyond)



Web Resources

<http://www.eamesoffice.com/the-work/powers-of-ten/> (1977)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEuEx1jnt0M> (Simpsons)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfSNxVqprvM> (Apple Cosmic Eye)

Thinking about Size w/ Powers of 10 (1977 and beyond)



Web Resources

<http://www.eamesoffice.com/the-work/powers-of-ten/> (1977)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEuEx1jnt0M> (Simpsons)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfSNxVqprvM> (Apple Cosmic Eye)

POWERS OF TEN

Natural phenomena occur on many scales. The fine details tend not to affect the large-scale workings, making it hard to test quantum theories of gravity such as string theory. But cosmic inflation allows the absurdly small to affect the astronomically big.

10^{26} meter:
Observable universe



10^{-10} meter:
Atom



10^{21} meter:
Milky Way galaxy



10^{-15} meter:
Atomic nucleus



10^{13} meter:
Solar system



10^{-18} meter:
Smallest distance probed by particle accelerators



10^7 meter:
Earth



10^{-18} to 10^{-35} meter:
Typical size of fundamental strings and of extra dimensions



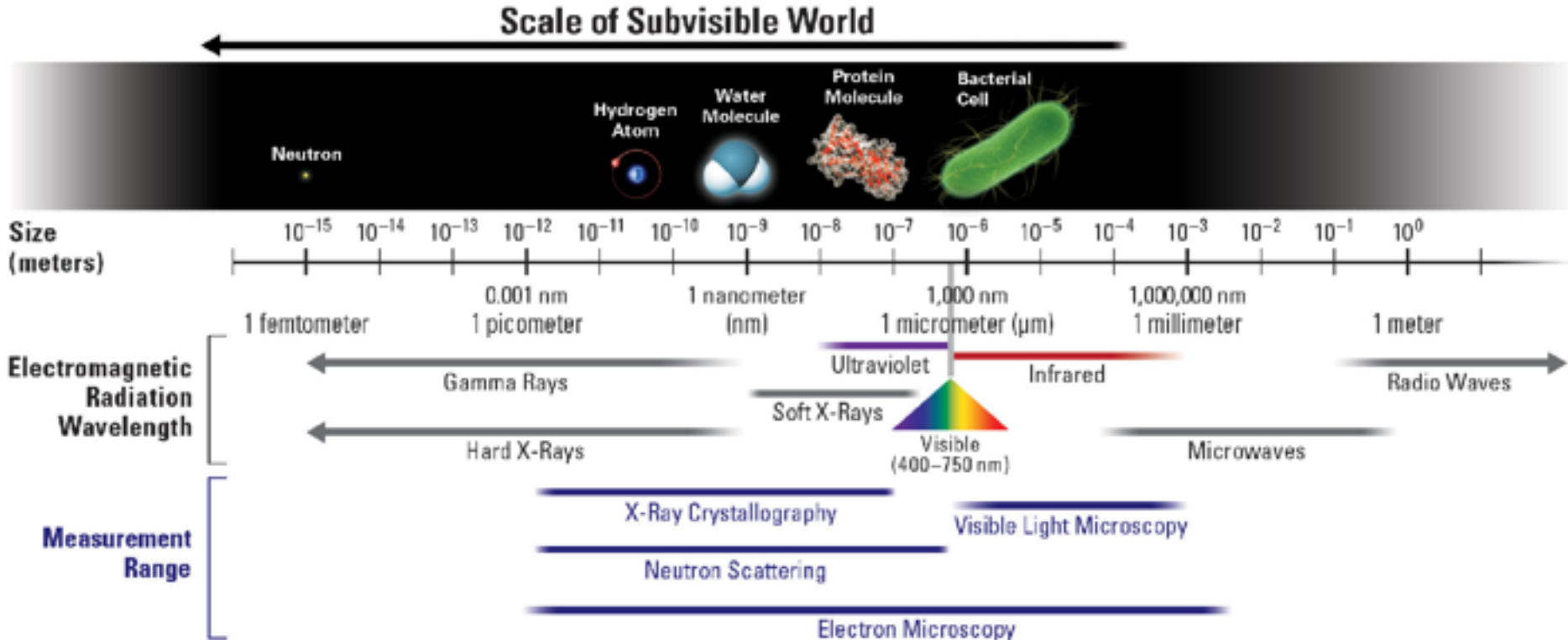
10^{-2} meter:
Insect



10^{-35} meter:
Minimum meaningful length in nature



We know about this from scattering (imaging)



Lesson on Scattering/Microscopy

Similar concept to [Rolling for Rutherford](#)

Teachers collect data from their black box.



Teachers build a 3D model of their landscape.



How Can We "See" What We Can Not See?

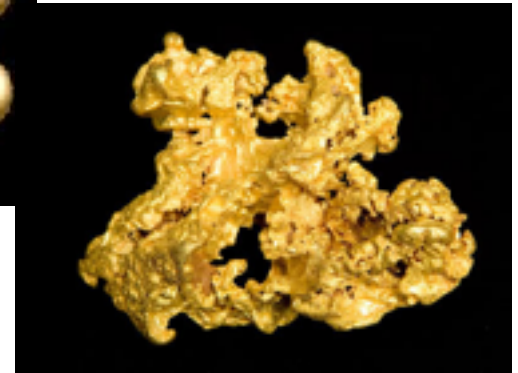
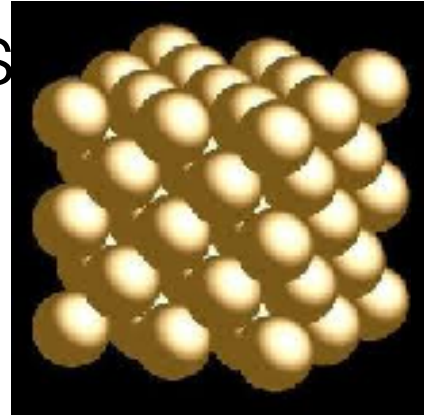
<http://education.mrsec.wisc.edu/modules/MiddleSchool/SPM/index.html> - and lots more!

Infinite Complexity

The collective behavior of many objects that cannot be easily guessed, even if we have complete knowledge of how the objects interact w/ each other

Collective Behaviors

- Structure
- Dynamics
- Phases
- Scattering (imaging)



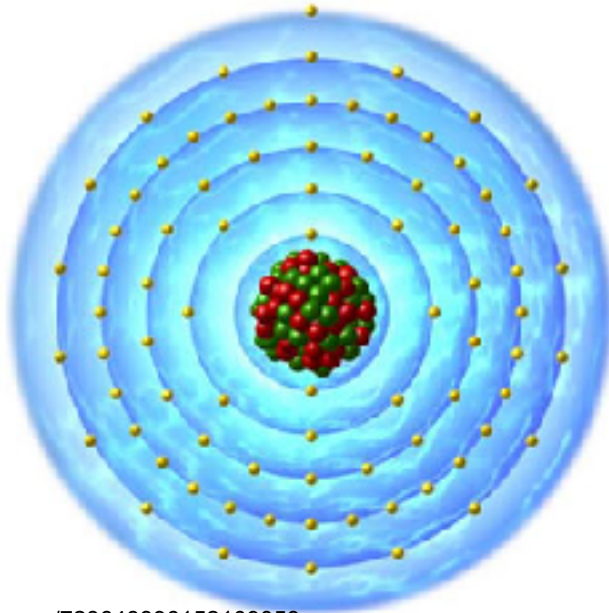
Let's set the stage by talking about

Defining Structure, Dynamics, & Phases

gold

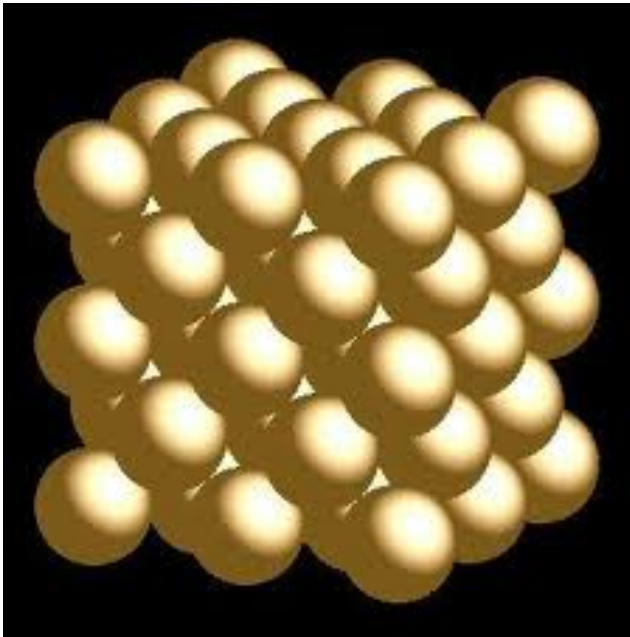


A single atom is already a complicated object, just ask a particle physicist.

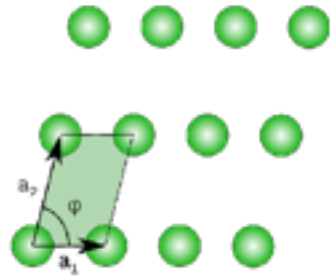


Defining Structure

Structure: many gold atoms create a symmetric crystal

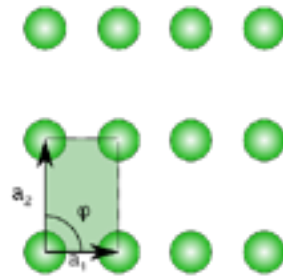


Two-Dimensional (2D) Crystal Lattices



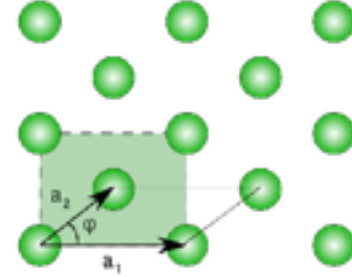
$$|a_1| \neq |a_2|, \phi \neq 90^\circ$$

1



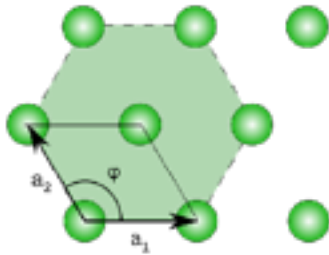
$$|a_1| \neq |a_2|, \phi = 90^\circ$$

2

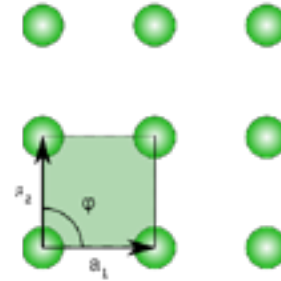


$$|a_1| \neq |a_2|, \phi \neq 90^\circ$$

3



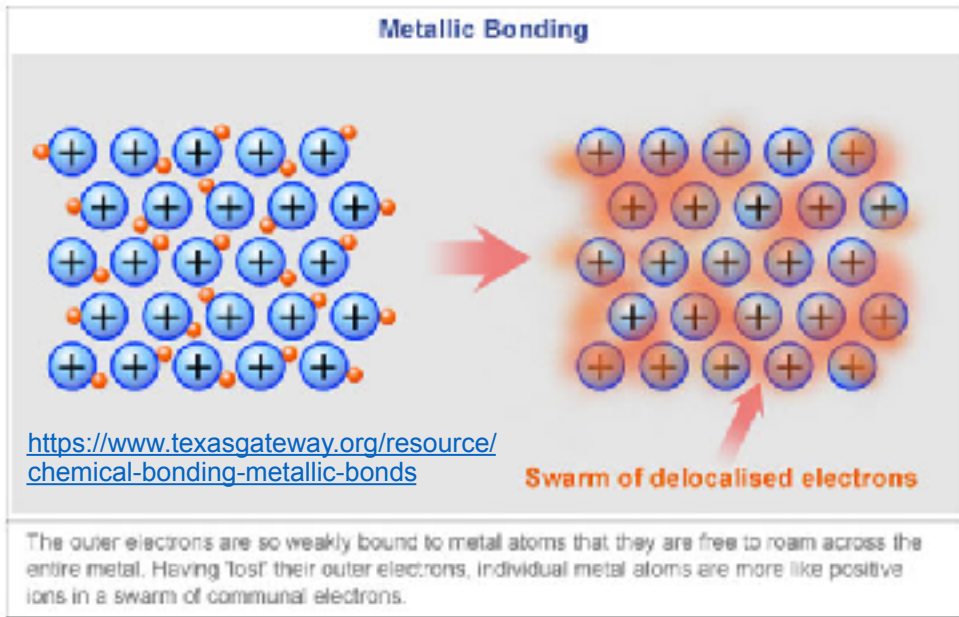
$$|a_1| = |a_2|, \phi = 120^\circ$$



$$|a_1| = |a_2|, \phi = 90^\circ$$

Defining Structure & Dynamics

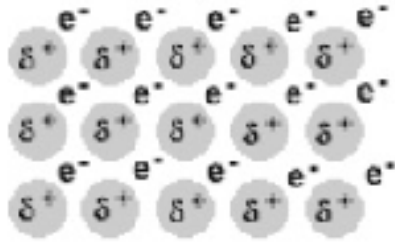
*Crystalline gold forms metallic bonds.
Electrons flow creating a current.*



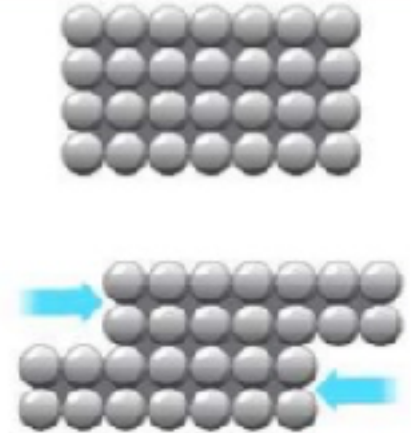
Defining Structure, Dynamics, & Phases

In its purest form, gold is a bright, slightly reddish yellow, dense, soft, malleable, and ductile metal.

Malleability

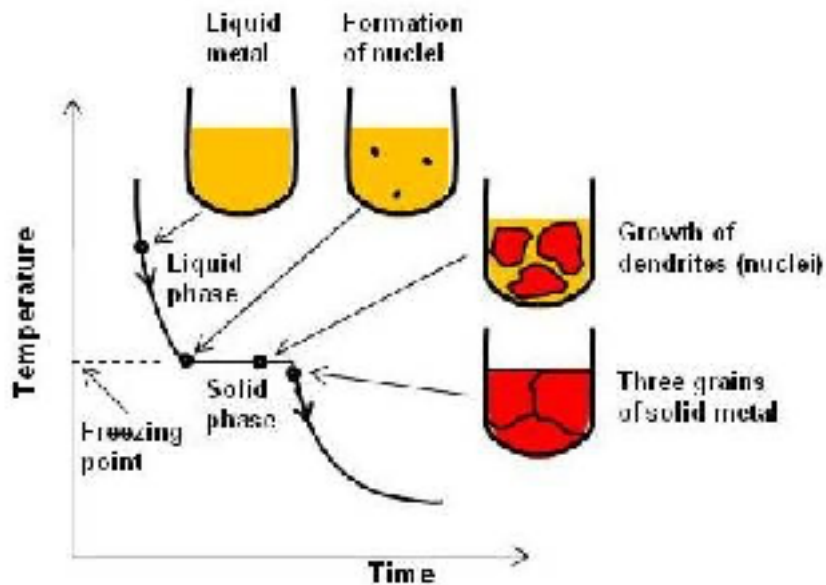


Ductile



Phases

Some phases of gold: liquid to solid

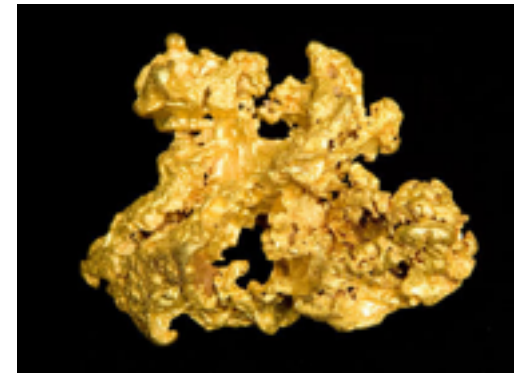


Cooling Curve for a Pure Metal

<http://practicalmaintenance.net/?p=1176>



<http://www.dw.com/en/gold-mining-in-drc-from-the-ore-to-the-bar/>



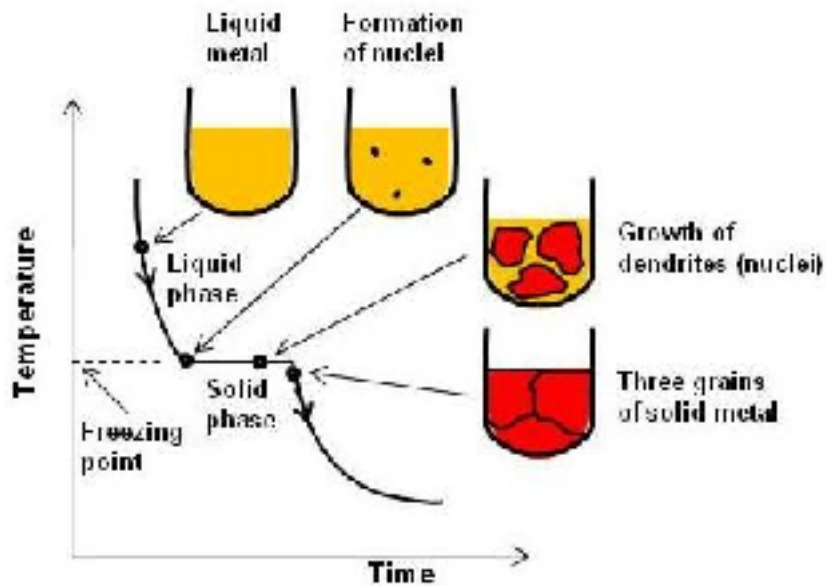
Classroom Activity: Hand Warmer (Phase Changes)



<https://www.acs.org/content/dam/AACT/high-school/energy-thermodynamics/exothermic-endothemic/lesson-modelinghandwarmers.pdf>

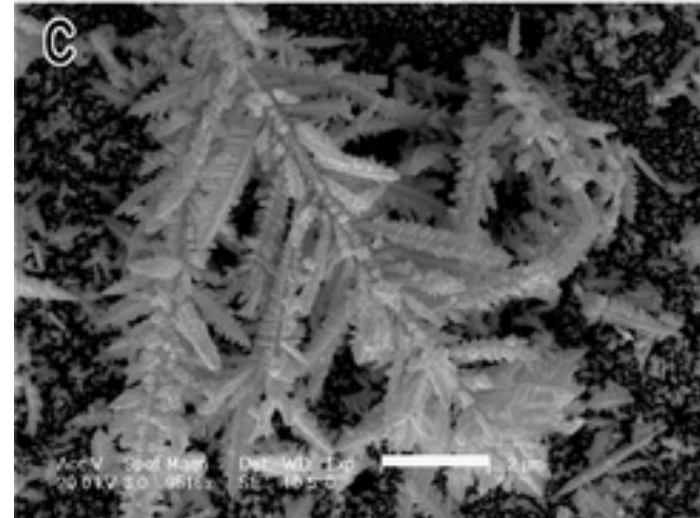
Phases

gold dendrites



Cooling Curve for a Pure Metal

Source: practicalmaintenance.net



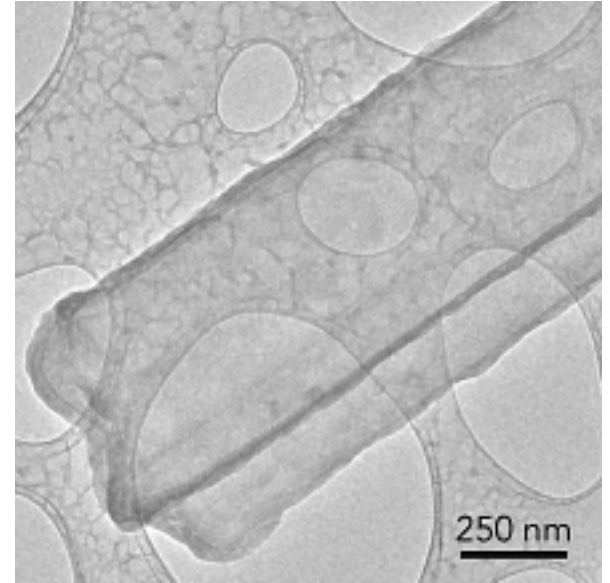
SEM images of the dendritic gold nanostructure

A new Condensed Matter result

Scientists Get First Close-ups of Finger-Like Growths that Trigger Battery Fires

Remarkable cryo-EM images of dendrites show details down to the individual atom, and will yield new insights into why high-energy batteries fail*

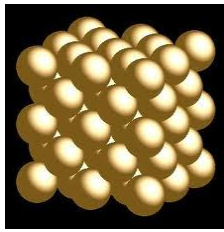
[Y. Li et al., Science, 27 October 2017 \(10.1126/science.aam6014\)](https://www6.slac.stanford.edu/news/2017-10-26-scientists-get-first-close-ups-finger-growths-trigger-battery-fires.aspx)



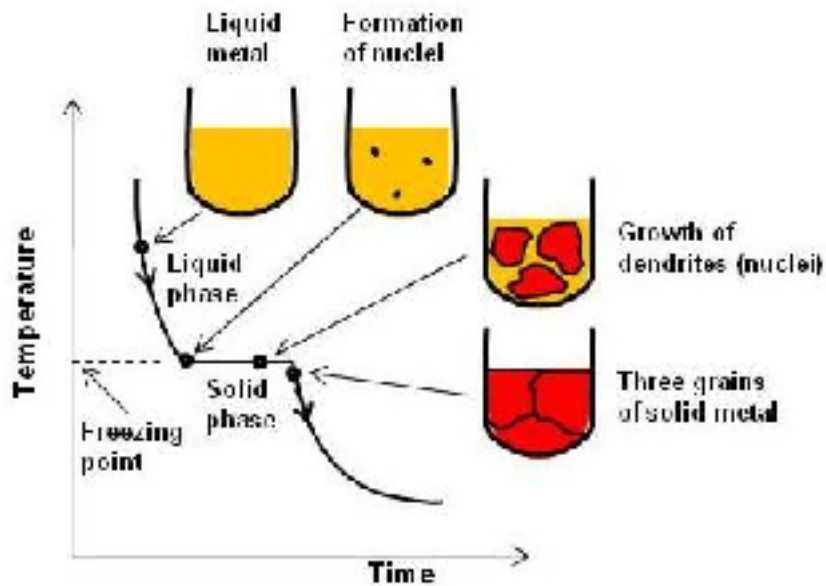
<https://www6.slac.stanford.edu/news/2017-10-26-scientists-get-first-close-ups-finger-growths-trigger-battery-fires.aspx>

*cryo Electron Microscopy won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Phases



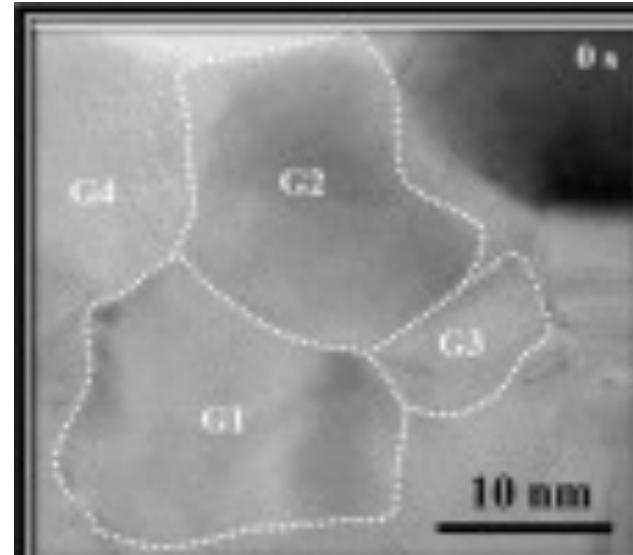
gold crystalline grains



Cooling Curve for a Pure Metal

<http://practicalmaintenance.net/?p=1176>

transmission electron microscope



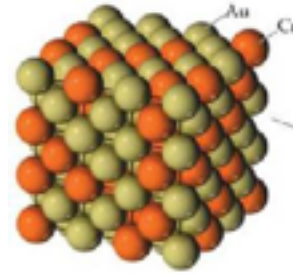
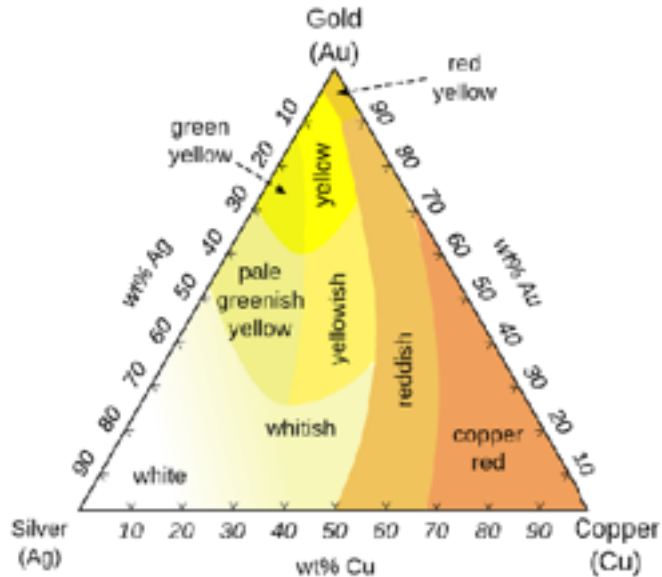
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1359646217301173>

Phases

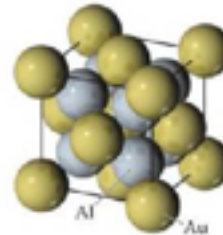
gold alloys



Phase diagram from gold alloys

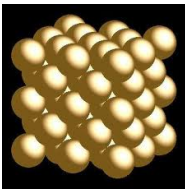


14-karat red gold, a substitutional alloy marked with a red dot in Figure 12.15



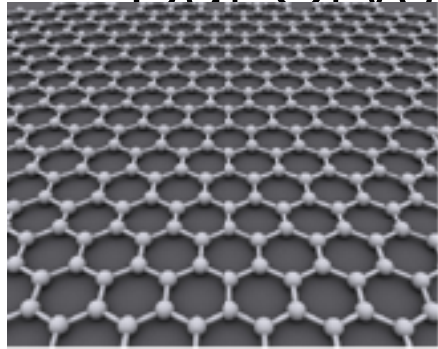
Purple gold, the intermetallic compound $AuAl_2$

Structure

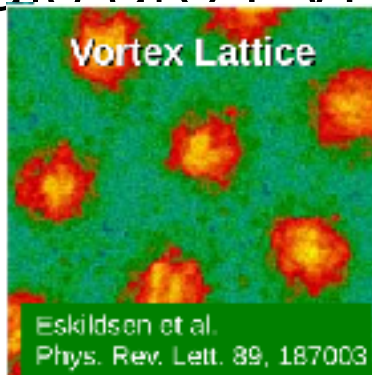


Studying solid gold is a traditional hard condensed matter topic formerly known as solid state physics.

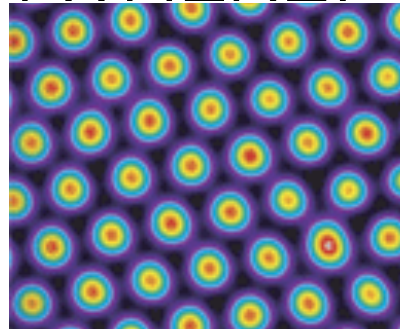
But Crystals are EVERYWHERE!



Graphene



Superconductors



Colloids



Solar Panels

Teaching activities to explore crystals:

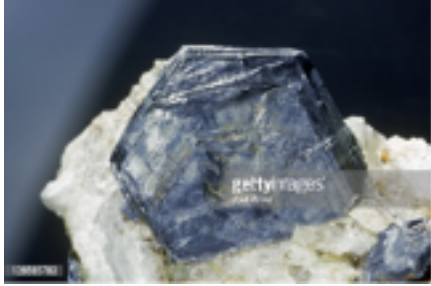
Stacking Stuff – tennis balls in a clear container



Figure 2 Image of a transparent box with tennis balls stacked inside in an orderly manner forming a type of crystal structure. The structure formed is bcc in this case.

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/teachingacademy/article/mastery-learning-in-the-context-of-university-education/>

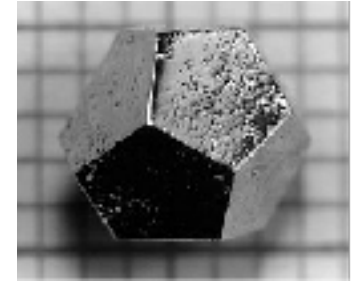
Crystals and Platonic Solids



Molybdenite,
molybdenum sulfide



[pyrite \(FeS₂\)](#)



A Ho-Mg-Zn
icosahedral quasicrystal



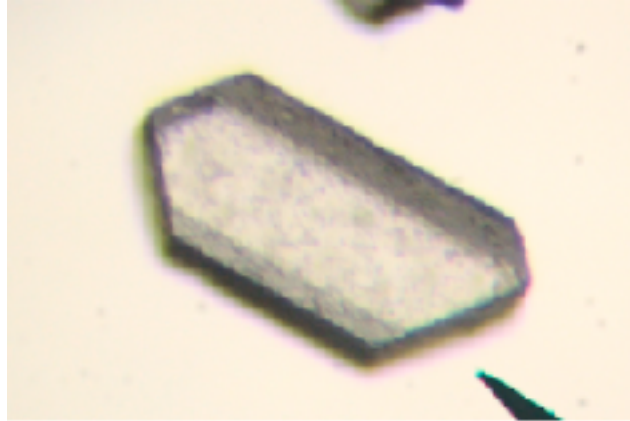
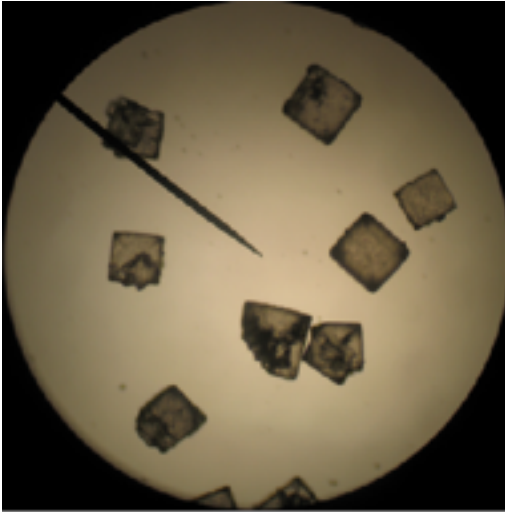
<http://www.suniltanna.com>, wikipedia.org,

Beryl is a ring silicate



Teaching activities to explore crystals:

Salt vs. Sugar in a microscope



<http://montessorimuddle.org/2011/04/24/salt-and-sugar-under-the-microscope/>

What if you don't have a microscope?

Cheap Microscope – 3mm glass bead

(w/ 3D Printed Holder): <http://www.pnnl.gov/news/release.aspx?id=1071>

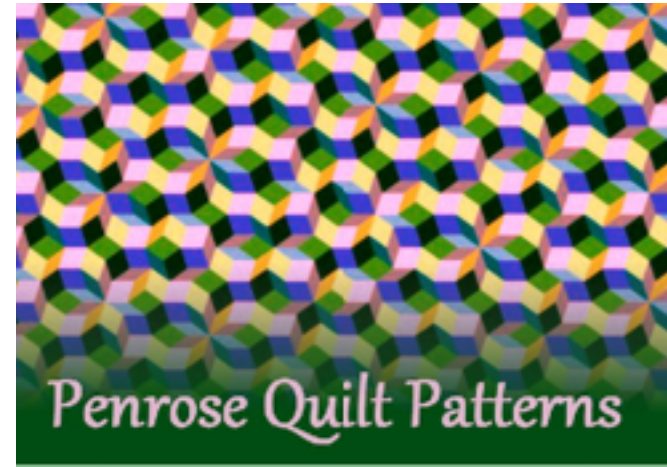
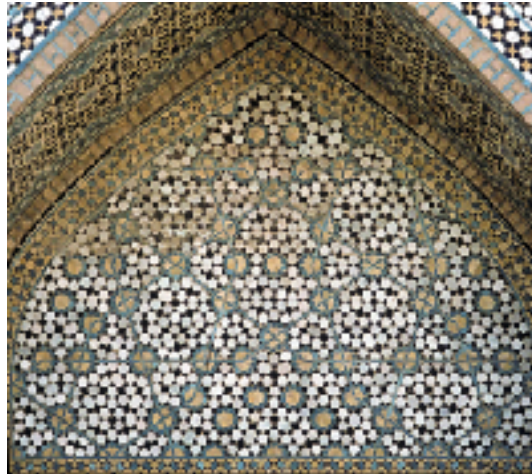


Pentrose Tiles & Quasicrystals

THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2011

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2011/press.html

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2011/popular-chemistryprize2011.pdf

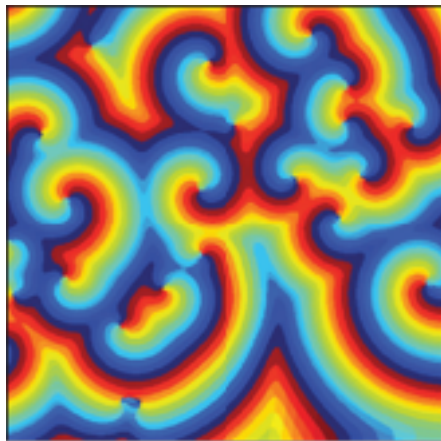


Penrose Quilt Patterns

Games/Coloring

(for Outreach or Elementary School)

- Education Section on nobelprize.org
- Coloring Book
<http://www.physicscentral.org/explore/pictures/color-charge-bz.cfm>



What's Going On Here?

A Belousov-Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction is a complex bit of chemistry that involves atoms losing electrons, gaining them back, and losing them again.

LIQUID CRYSTALS **CRYSTALLITE** LIQUID CRYSTALS

HOW TO PLAY

ROTATE AND ORIENT THE YELLOW LIQUID CRYSTAL, SO THAT IT ALIGNS WITH THE PATTERN OF THE OTHER MOLECULES, AND PLACE IT IN THE GAP. IF YOU SUCCEEDED, ANOTHER ROW IS BUILT UPON THE LAST ONE. IF YOU FAIL YOU LOOSE POINTS.

1. → 2. → 3. → 4. →

FILL THE GAME AREA UP TO THE GREEN LINE TO ENTER THE NEXT LEVEL. YOU HAVE FIVE TRIES TO REACH LEVEL 6.

MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE
ROTATE
SPACEBAR
DROP!
OK!
ABORT GAME

Back to cell phones



Nobelprize.org

The Official Web Site of the Nobel Prize

The Transistor

Transistors are devices that control the movement of electrons, and consequently, electricity. They are the major component in all digital circuits, including computer microprocessors which contain millions of microscopic transistors.

→ [The Transistor in a Century of Electronics](#)

Great online resource!

Condensed matter claims 28 physics Nobel prizes - *and a few in chemistry*



The Transistor

Transistors are devices that control the movement of electrons, and consequently, electricity. They are the major component in all digital circuits, including computer microprocessors which contain millions of microscopic transistors.

[→ The Transistor in a Century of Electronics](#)



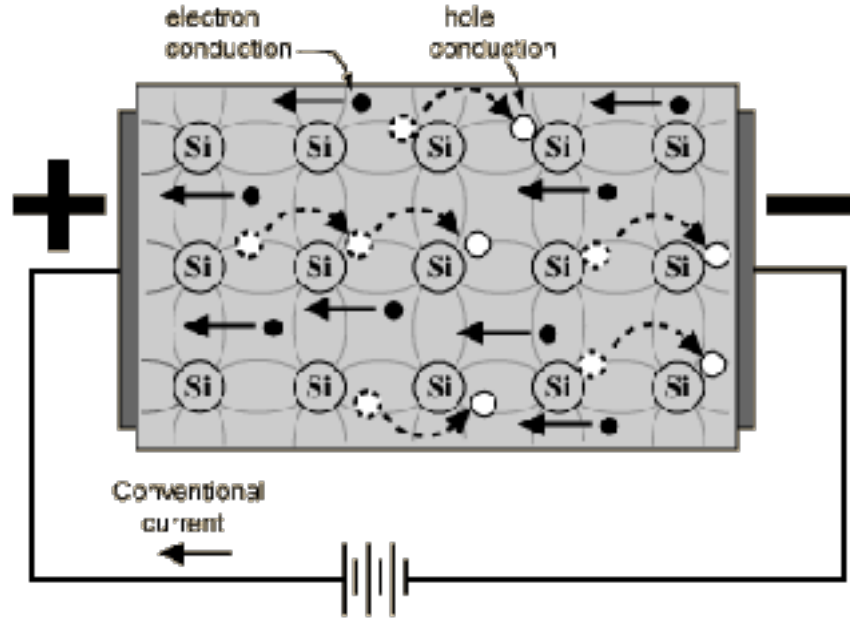
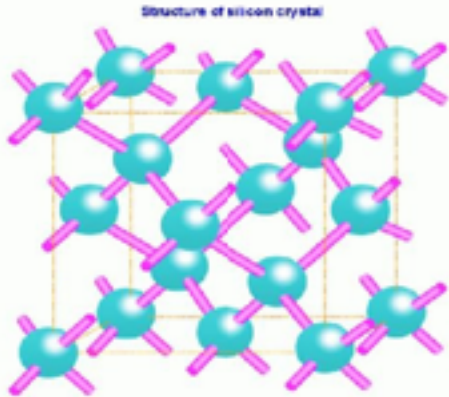
Inventors

William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain were awarded the 1956 Nobel Prize in Physics for the invention of the transistor in 1947. John Bardeen is the only person awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice.

[→ More about the Laureates](#)

Structure & Dynamics: Semiconductors

Silicon

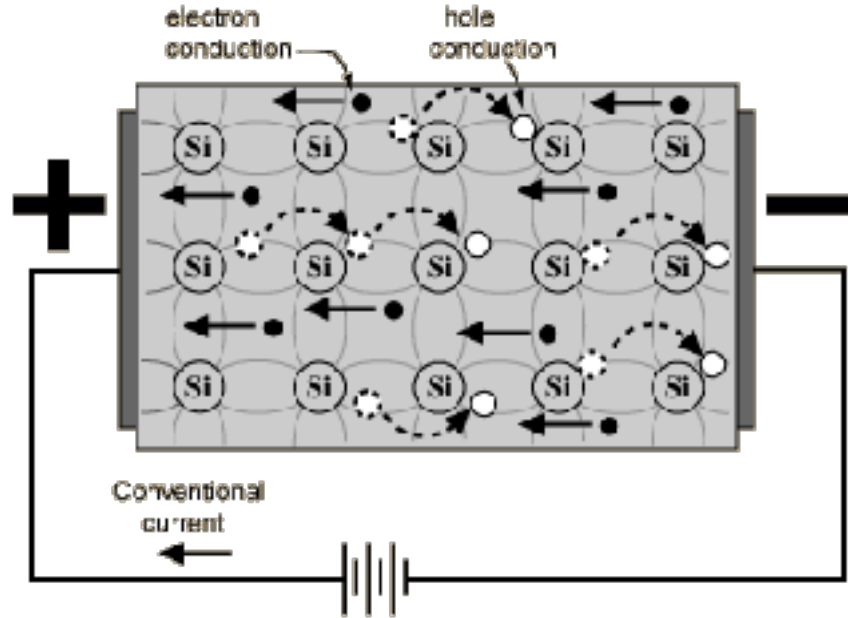
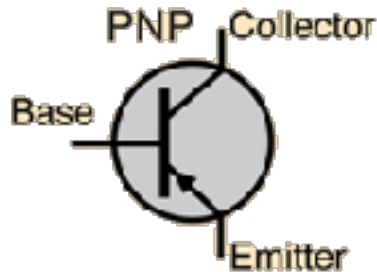
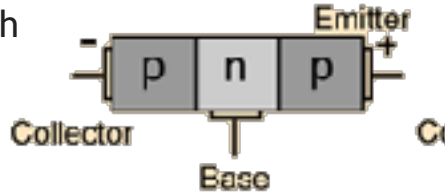


<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/Solids/intrin.html>

Structure & Dynamics: Semiconductors

Transistor:

3 chunks of doped semiconductors that are either electron rich or hole rich

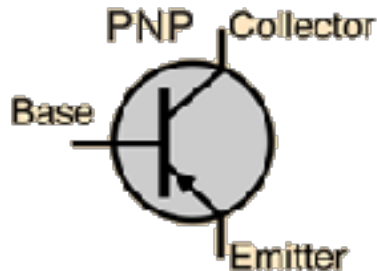
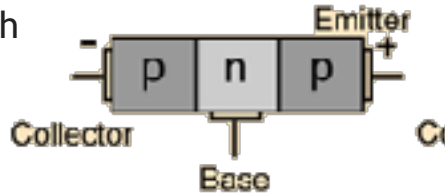


<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/Solids/intrin.html>

Structure & Dynamics: Semiconductors

Transistor:

3 chunks of doped semiconductors that are either electron rich or hole rich



How it works

apply some input voltage, and the internal workings of the transistor provide a different output depending on the input.

Used as:

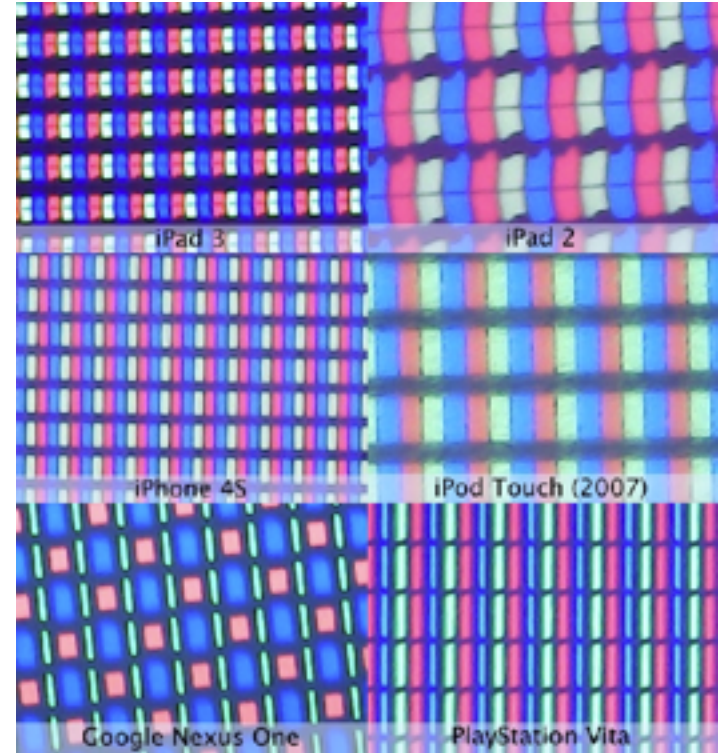
Current Amplifier & Switch (1/0)

Microscope Activity: Have a look at your phone screen



Probably an LCD display

Read more about display technology
<https://www.techbead.com/which-mobile-phone-display-technology-is-best/>



<https://www.extremetech.com/computing/122725-what-the-ipad-3s-retina-display-looks-like-under-a-microscope>

Phase Changes in Liquid Crystals

Crystalline Solid



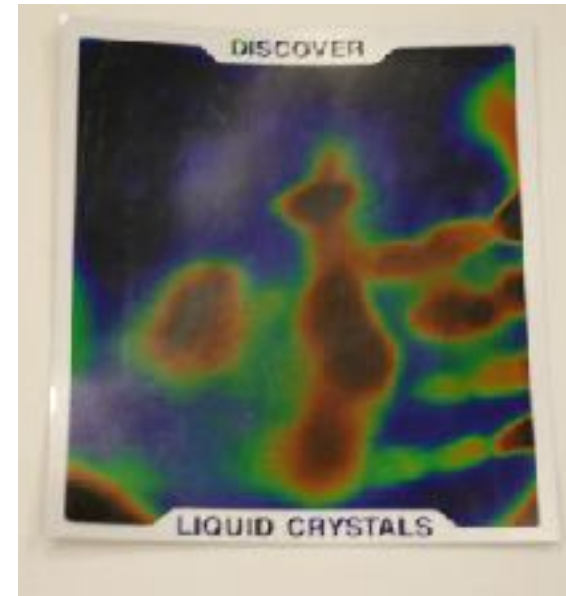
Liquid Crystal



Isotropic Liquid

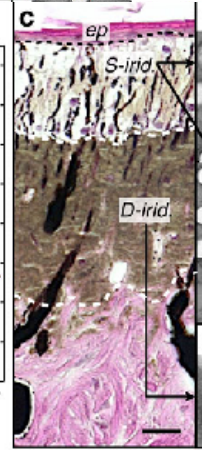
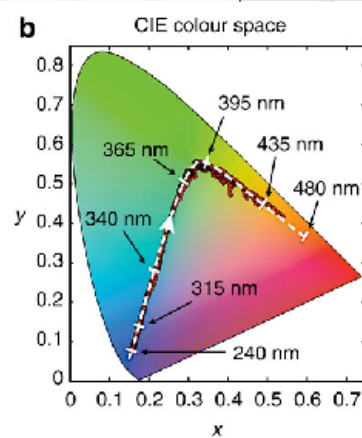
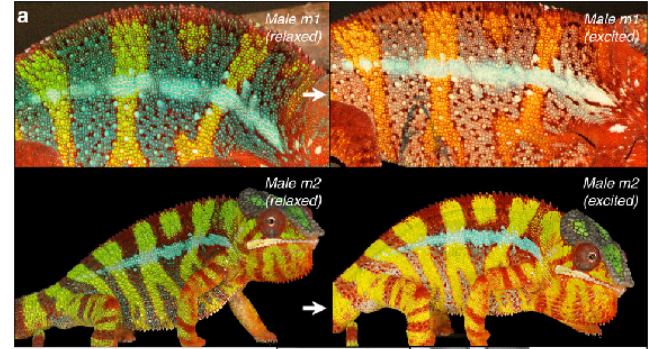
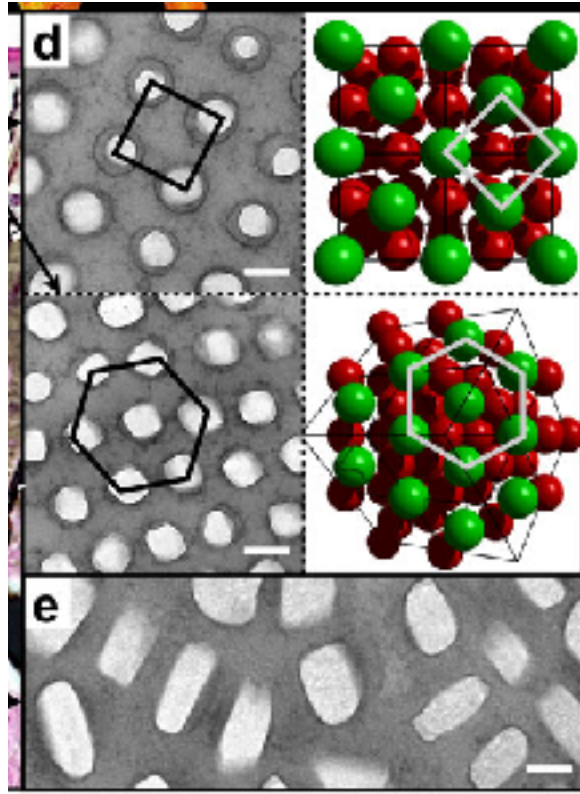


COOL DEMOS! https://www.arborsci.com/cool/liquid_crystal_demos/



Phase Changes

Photonic crystals cause active color change in chameleons



The study of everything larger than a few atoms and smaller

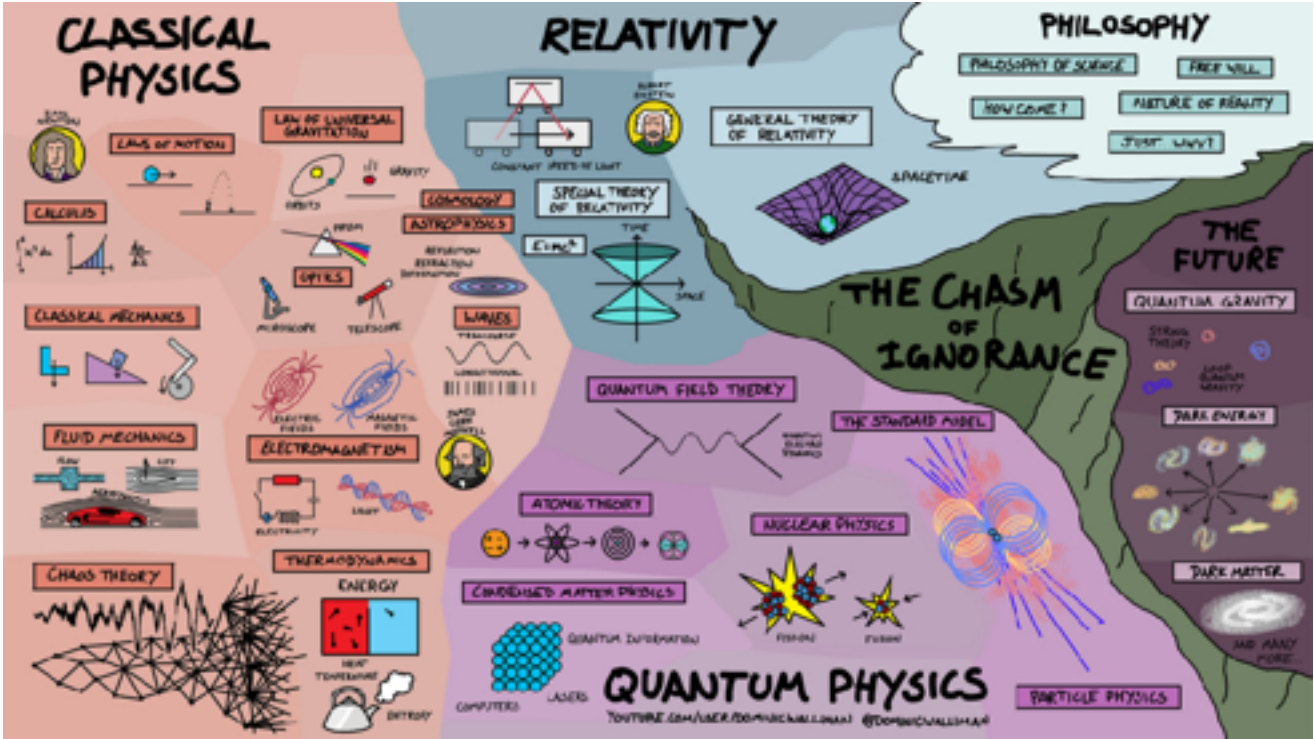
Condensed matter physics

In a nutshell:

whole > Σ (*parts*)

More Resources

The Map of Physics

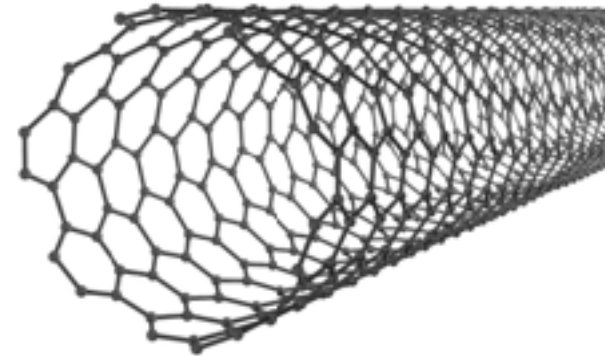
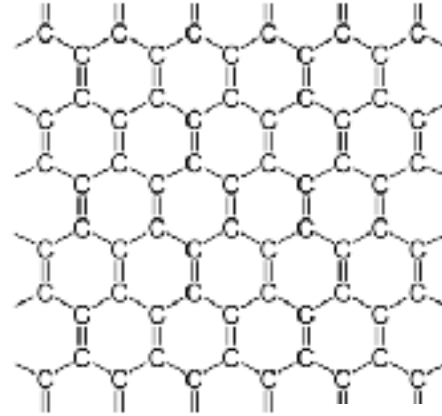
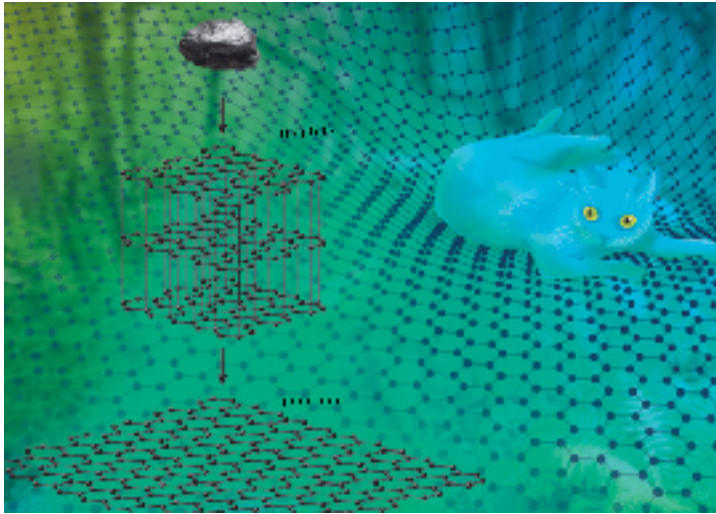


Web resource
(aimed at middle school)



Structure & Dynamics: Graphene

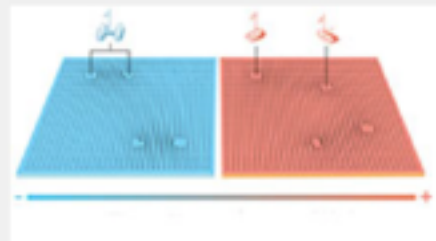
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2010
Andre Geim, Konstantin Novoselov



https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2010/

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphene>

2016 Physics Prize



Phase transition. Ill: J. Järneström/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

They Revealed the Secrets of Exotic Matter

The [Nobel Prize in Physics 2016](#) was awarded with one half to [David J. Thouless](#), and the other half to [F. Duncan M. Haldane](#) and [J. Michael Kosterlitz](#).

[➔ More about the 2016 Physics Prize](#)



"The basis of this year's prize is really exotic"

Professor Thors Hans Hansson, member of the Nobel Committee for Physics, explains the pioneering work of the 2016 Physica Laureates in the unknown world of matter.

[➔ Watch the interview](#)



"Quantum mechanics is so much richer than we dreamed"

Read or listen to an interview with F. Duncan M. Haldane following the announcement of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics.

[➔ Interview with F. Duncan M. Haldane](#)



"A little bit odd getting this news in an underground carpark outside Helsinki"

J. Michael Kosterlitz in an interview following the announcement of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics.

[➔ Interview with J. Michael Kosterlitz](#)

Nobel Prize Lessons

- <http://nobelcenter.se/education/teachers-resources/>

Nobel Prize in Physics 2017

Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne

“for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves

Nobel Prize Lessons in Physics

↓ Teacher's Guide

Teachers_guide_NobelPrizeLessons_2017.pdf

↓ Speaker's Manuscript

Speakers_manuscript_Physics_NobelPrizeLessons_2017.pdf

↓ Slideshow

Slideshow_Physics_NobelPrizeLessons_2017.pdf

↓ Text for Pupils

Text_for_pupils_Physics_NobelPrizeLessons_2017.pdf

Division of Condensed Matter Physics

Governance

Newsletters

Meetings

APS Fellowship

Prizes & Awards

Careers

Outreach

Image Gallery

Resources

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<https://www.aps.org/units/dcmp/outreach/>

Outreach

[On the History of Superconductivity](#)

[Physics for the 21st Century](#)

[Condensed Matter and Materials Research: New Developments and Opportunities](#) 

[An Emergent Universe](#)

[The Future of Condensed Matter and Materials Physics](#) 

[Music of the Quantum](#)

[Teacher Resources @ Molecular Expressions](#)

Resources/Readings

- NobelPrize.org (28 Condensed Matter Physics Prizes)
- Quanta Magazine: <https://www.quantamagazine.org/tag/condensed-matter-physics/>
- National Magnetic Field Lab <https://nationalmaglab.org/news-events>
- Feynman, There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom & Tiny Machines
 - http://web.pa.msu.edu/people/yang/RFeynman_plentySpace.pdf
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eRCygdW--c>
- [The Joy of Condensed Matter Physics](#), [Inna Vishik](#), Assistant Professor of Physics at UC Davis, on [Quora](#)

Activities + Demos

- Oobleck (cornstarch + water = non-Newtonian fluid) <https://ww2.kqed.org/quest/2009/09/08/try-these-at-home-2-sure-fire-science-demo-classics/>
- Granular Experiments (jamming, sorting, Brazil Nut effect)
- Funsized Physics: <https://funsizedphysics.com/funsized-classroom/>
- Crystal Physics Game: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1046878110378704>
- High School Lessons (from U Wisconsin RET) <http://education.mrsec.wisc.edu/modules/index.html>
- More Polymer Activities (K-12): <http://polymerambassadors.org/activities/>
- NSF Chemistry Classroom Resources: <https://nsf.gov/news/classroom/chemistry.jsp>
- <http://faraday.physics.uiowa.edu/outreach.html>
- <https://science.energy.gov/bes/community-resources/>

Hands-on Activity: Exploring Acceleration with an Android

Contributed by: IMPART RET Program, College of Information Science & Technology, University of Nebraska Omaha

www.teachengineering.org

[Home](#) > [Browse](#) > [Activities](#) > Exploring Acceleration with an Android



Setting up the Android acceleration "track."
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Summary

Students conduct an experiment to study the acceleration of a mobile Android device. During the experiment, they run an application created with MIT's App Inventor that monitors linear acceleration in one-dimension. Students use an acceleration vs. time equation to construct an approximate velocity vs. time graph. Students will understand the relationship between the object's mass and acceleration and how that relates to the force applied to the object, which is Newton's second law of motion. *This engineering curriculum meets Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).*

Engineering Connection

Students apply engineering concepts to mathematical and scientific problems. During the activity, students complete an experiment that requires a specific process and analysis of the results. Engineers perform this same type of experimentation and data collection in their fields every day. For example, engineers gather acceleration data during car safety crash tests, and acceleration data is a useful measure of racing vehicle performance during competition. Software engineers create applications and software, as well as work on programs to collect and analyze data. Engineers from other disciplines, such as civil, electrical and aerospace, continually measure, record and analyze data as part of the design process

Quick Look

Grade Level: 11 (9-12)

Time Required: 70 minutes

Expendable Cost/Grp ⓘ: US \$0.00

This activity requires the use of some non-expendable (reusable) items such as computers and Android smartphones or tablets; see the Materials List for details.

Group Size: 3

Activity Dependency ⓘ: [Android Acceleration](#)

Subject Areas: [Computer Science](#)
[Data Analysis and Probability](#)
[Physics](#)

 [Print this activity](#)