



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
— 1530 —

*Chaire de Physique de la Matière Condensée*

***Des oxydes supraconducteurs  
aux atomes froids  
- la matière à fortes corrélations quantiques -***

Antoine Georges

**Cycle 2009-2010  
Cours 5 – 2 juin 2010**

# Cours 5: Introduction à la structure et aux propriétés électroniques des oxydes de métaux de transition

## Séminaire:



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
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***Les nouveaux supraconducteurs au fer  
vus par photoémission résolue en angle***

# Why study transition-metal oxides ?

- TMOs (and materials with strong electronic correlations in general) do `BIG THINGS' !
- Many of these `big things' raise a number of intriguing fundamental questions
- Some of these `big things' may even be useful for applications...
- The structures are beautiful and have a certain degree of controllability, and the diversity of phenomena is amazing

# OUTLINE

- Some of the `big things' that oxides do...
- Some structures
- `Mott phenomenon' is of key importance
- Atomic orbitals. Why localized ? Crystal-field splitting.
- Some notions of electronic structure
- Interactions
- Mott and charge-transfer insulators

# Periodic Table of the Elements

## Transition Metals

1A 1 <b>H</b> hydrogen 1.008	2A 4 <b>Be</b> beryllium 9.012	3A 5 <b>B</b> boron 10.81	4A 6 <b>C</b> carbon 12.01	5A 7 <b>N</b> nitrogen 14.01	6A 8 <b>O</b> oxygen 16.00	7A 9 <b>F</b> fluorine 19.00	8A 2 <b>He</b> helium 4.003				
11 <b>Na</b> sodium 22.99	12 <b>Mg</b> magnesium 24.31	13 <b>Al</b> aluminum 26.98	14 <b>Si</b> silicon 28.09	15 <b>P</b> phosphorus 30.97	16 <b>S</b> sulfur 32.07	17 <b>Cl</b> chlorine 35.45	18 <b>Ar</b> argon 39.95				
19 <b>K</b> potassium 39.10	20 <b>Ca</b> calcium 40.08	21 <b>Sc</b> scandium 44.96	22 <b>Ti</b> titanium 47.88	23 <b>V</b> vanadium 50.94	24 <b>Cr</b> chromium 52.00	25 <b>Mn</b> manganese 54.94	26 <b>Fe</b> iron 55.85	27 <b>Co</b> cobalt 58.93	28 <b>Ni</b> nickel 58.69	29 <b>Cu</b> copper 63.55	30 <b>Zn</b> zinc 65.39
37 <b>Rb</b> rubidium 85.47	38 <b>Sr</b> strontium 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> yttrium 88.91	40 <b>Zr</b> zirconium 91.22	41 <b>Nb</b> niobium 92.91	42 <b>Mo</b> molybdenum 95.94	43 <b>Tc</b> technetium (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> ruthenium 101.1	45 <b>Rh</b> rhodium 102.9	46 <b>Pd</b> palladium 106.4	47 <b>Ag</b> silver 107.9	48 <b>Cd</b> cadmium 112.4
55 <b>Cs</b> cesium 132.9	56 <b>Ba</b> barium 137.3	57 <b>La*</b> lanthanum 138.9	72 <b>Hf</b> hafnium 178.5	73 <b>Ta</b> tantalum 180.9	74 <b>W</b> tungsten 183.9	75 <b>Re</b> rhenium 186.2	76 <b>Os</b> osmium 190.2	77 <b>Ir</b> iridium 192.2	78 <b>Pt</b> platinum 195.1	79 <b>Au</b> gold 197.0	80 <b>Hg</b> mercury 200.5
87 <b>Fr</b> francium (223)	88 <b>Ra</b> radium (226)	89 <b>Ac~</b> actinium (227)	104 <b>Rf</b> rutherfordium (261)	105 <b>Db</b> dubnium (262)	106 <b>Sg</b> seaborgium (263)	107 <b>Bh</b> bohrium (264)	108 <b>Hs</b> hassium (265)	109 <b>Mt</b> meitnerium (266)	110 <b>Ds</b> darmstadtium (271)	111 <b>Uuu</b> (272)	112 <b>Uub</b> (277)
			114 <b>Uuq</b> (296)		116 <b>Uuh</b> (298)		118 <b>Uuo</b> (?)				

- 3d transition metals
- 4d transition metals
- 5d transition metals

## Rare earths and Actinides

Lanthanide Series*	58 <b>Ce</b> [Xe]4f <sup>1</sup> 5d <sup>1</sup> cerium 140.1	59 <b>Pr</b> [Xe]4f <sup>3</sup> praseodymium 140.9	60 <b>Nd</b> [Xe]4f <sup>4</sup> neodymium 144.2	61 <b>Pm</b> [Xe]4f <sup>5</sup> promethium (147)	62 <b>Sm</b> [Xe]4f <sup>6</sup> samarium (150.4)	63 <b>Eu</b> [Xe]4f <sup>7</sup> europium 152.0	64 <b>Gd</b> [Xe]4f <sup>7</sup> 5d <sup>1</sup> gadolinium 157.3	65 <b>Tb</b> [Xe]4f <sup>9</sup> terbium 158.9	66 <b>Dy</b> [Xe]4f <sup>10</sup> dysprosium 162.5	67 <b>Ho</b> [Xe]4f <sup>11</sup> holmium 164.9	68 <b>Er</b> [Xe]4f <sup>12</sup> erbium 167.3	69 <b>Tm</b> [Xe]4f <sup>13</sup> thulium 168.9	70 <b>Yb</b> [Xe]4f <sup>14</sup> ytterbium 173.0	71 <b>Lu</b> [Xe]4f <sup>14</sup> 5d <sup>1</sup> lutetium 175.0
Actinide Series~	90 <b>Th</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>2</sup> thorium 232.0	91 <b>Pa</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> protactinium (231)	92 <b>U</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> uranium (238)	93 <b>Np</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> neptunium (237)	94 <b>Pu</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> plutonium (242)	95 <b>Am</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> americium (243)	96 <b>Cm</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> curium (247)	97 <b>Bk</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> berkelium (247)	98 <b>Cf</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> californium (249)	99 <b>Es</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> einsteinium (254)	100 <b>Fm</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> fermium (253)	101 <b>Md</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> mendelevium (256)	102 <b>No</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> nobelium (254)	103 <b>Lr</b> [Rn]7s <sup>2</sup> 6d <sup>1</sup> lawrencium (257)

# Electronic configuration of neutral isolated atom:



$[\text{He}]2s^2 2p^4$   
oxygen  
16.00

21

Sc

$[\text{Ar}]4s^1 3d^2$   
scandium

44.96

22

Ti

$[\text{Ar}]4s^1 3d^3$   
titanium

47.88

23

V

$[\text{Ar}]4s^1 3d^4$   
vanadium

50.94

24

Cr

$[\text{Ar}]4s^1 3d^5$   
chromium

52.00

25

Mn

$[\text{Ar}]4s^2 3d^5$   
manganese

54.94

26

Fe

$[\text{Ar}]4s^2 3d^6$   
iron

55.85

27

Co

$[\text{Ar}]4s^2 3d^7$   
cobalt

58.93

28

Ni

$[\text{Ar}]4s^2 3d^8$   
nickel

58.69

29

Cu

$[\text{Ar}]4s^1 3d^{10}$   
copper

63.55

30

Zn

$[\text{Ar}]4s^2 3d^{10}$   
zinc

65.39



Big things/1

# High- $T_c$ superconductivity !

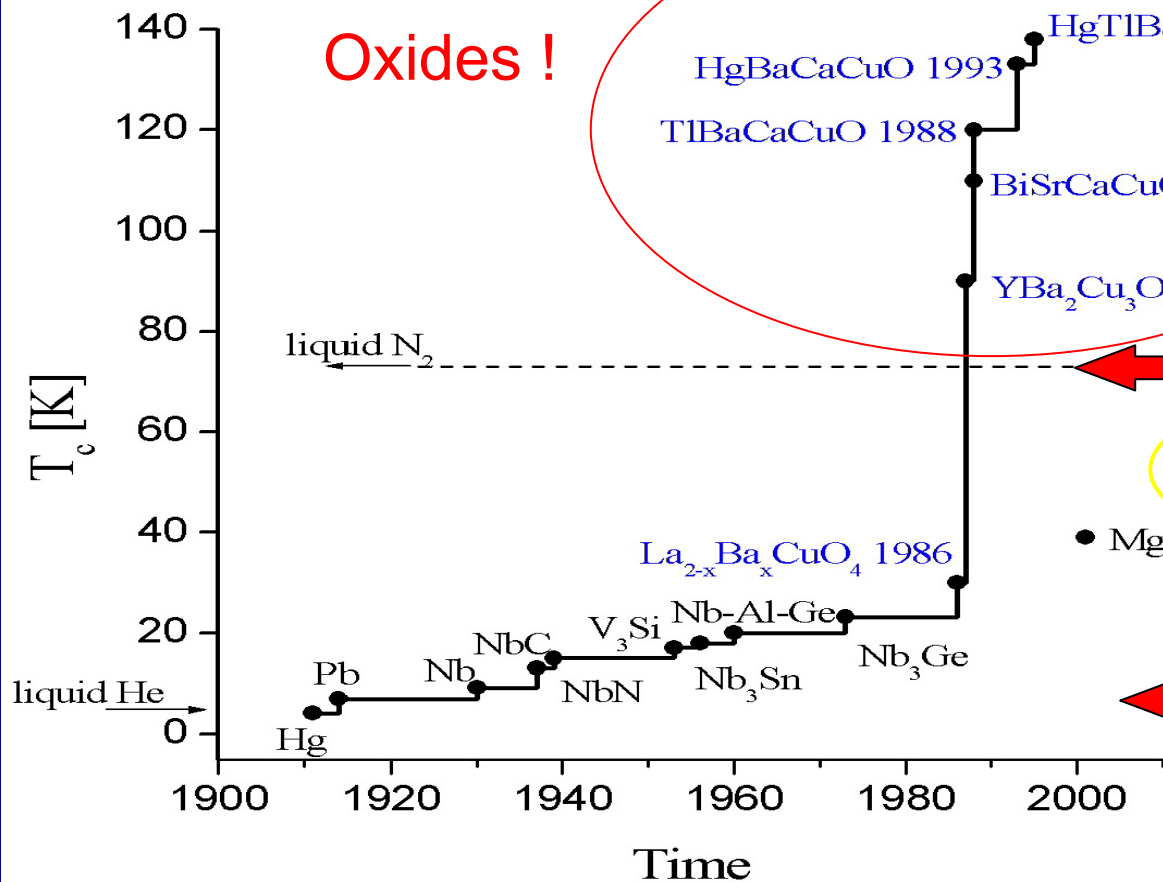


J.G. Bednorz



The Nobel Prize in Physics 1987

k-through in the discovery of superconductivity



Liquid nitrogen (77 K)

Liquid Helium (4 K)



Big things/2  
**METAL-  
 -INSULATOR  
 TRANSITIONS**



with pressure /  
 substitutions on V-site:  
 A time-honoured  
 Example  
 displaying a rich  
 variety of phenomena

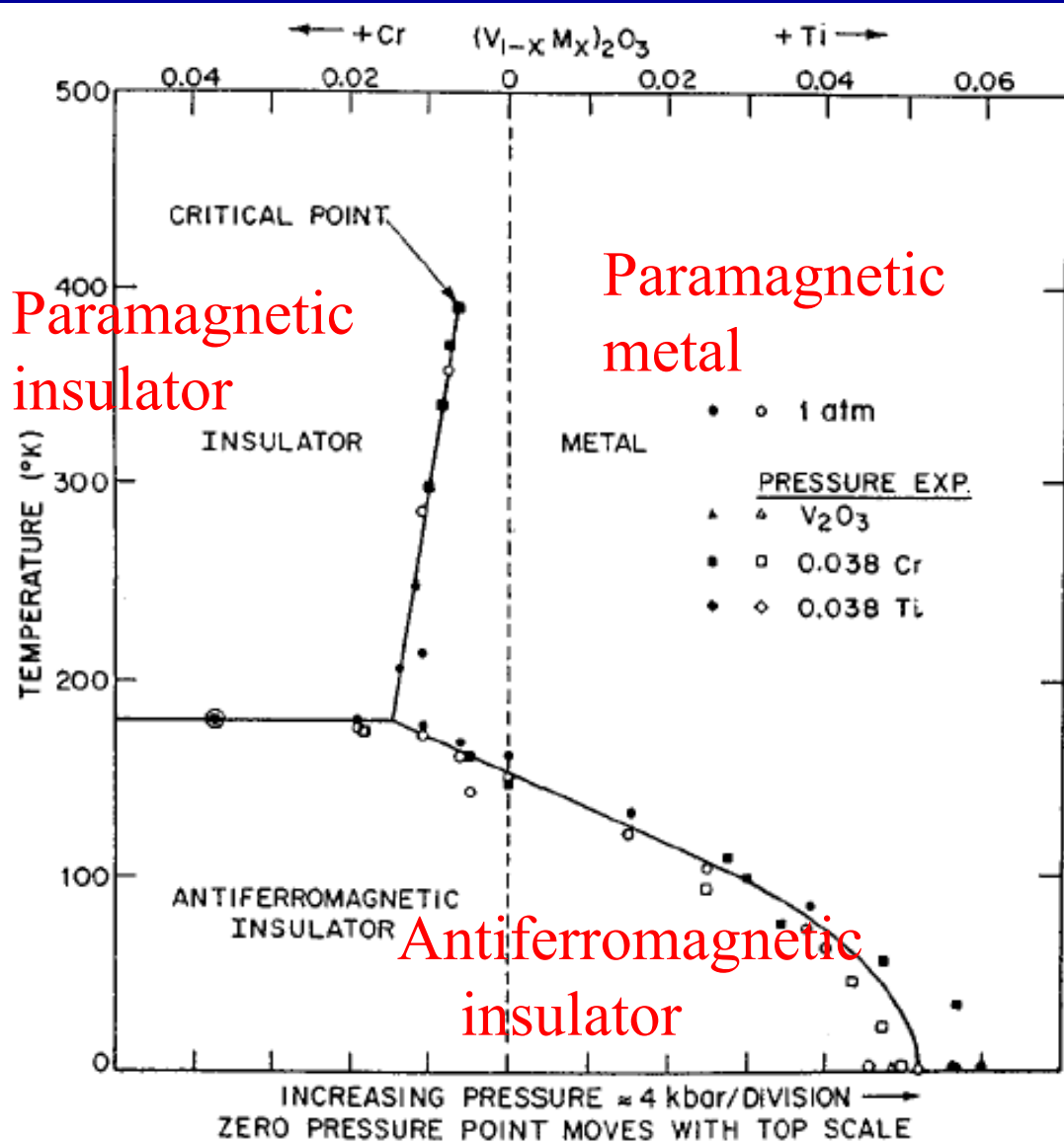


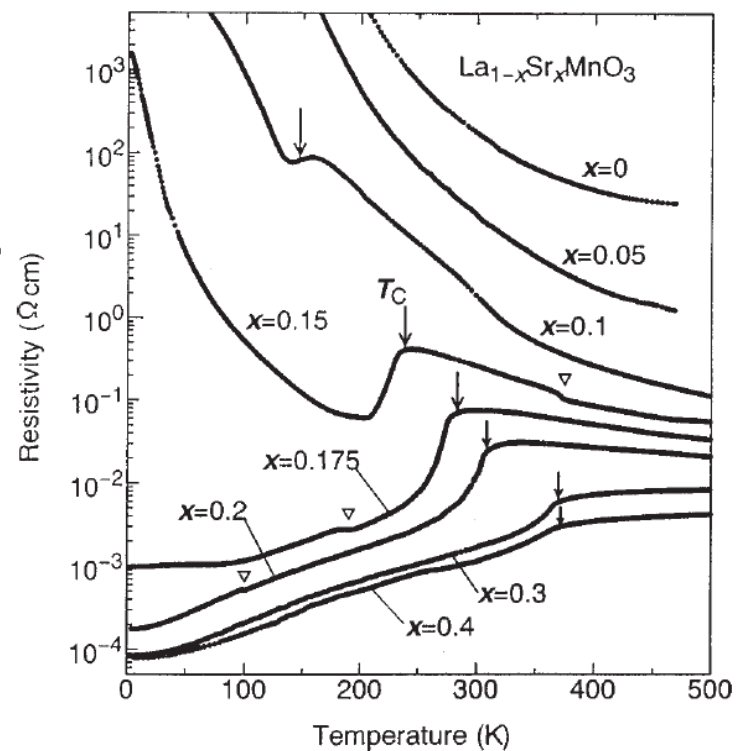
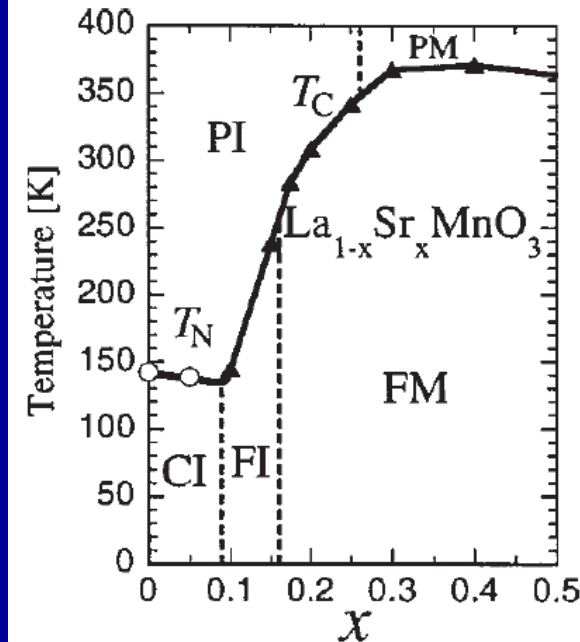
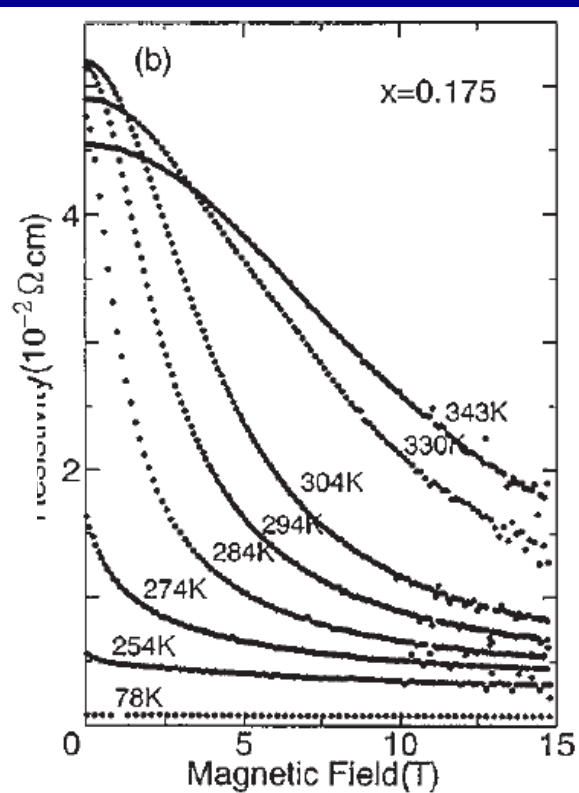
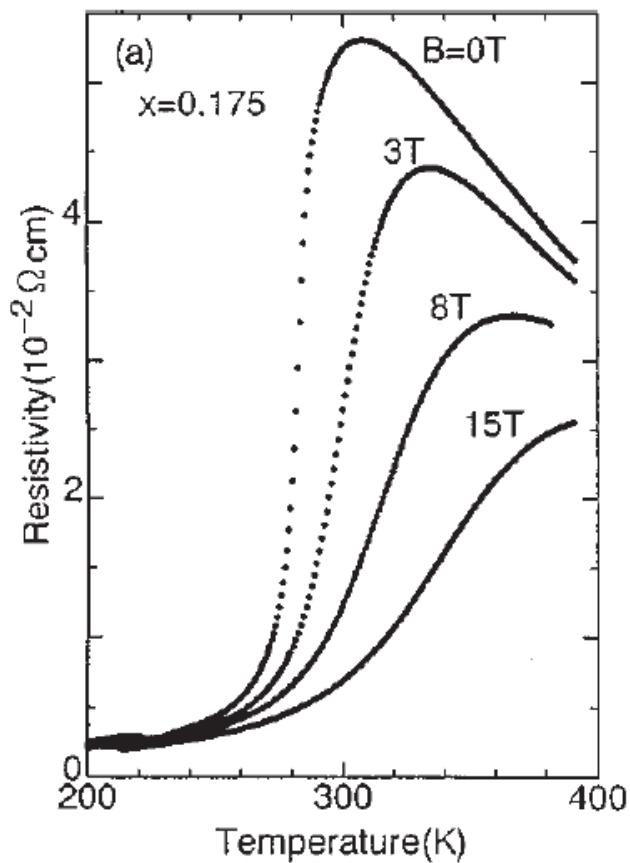
FIG. 70. Phase diagram for doped V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> systems,  $(V_{1-x}Cr_x)_2O_3$  and  $(V_{1-x}Ti_x)_2O_3$ . From McWhan *et al.*, 1971, 1973.



# Big things/3

## "Colossal" Magnetoresistance:

### $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{MnO}_3$ !



Big things/4

Large thermopower  
(Seebeck coefficient)  
of cobaltates, etc...

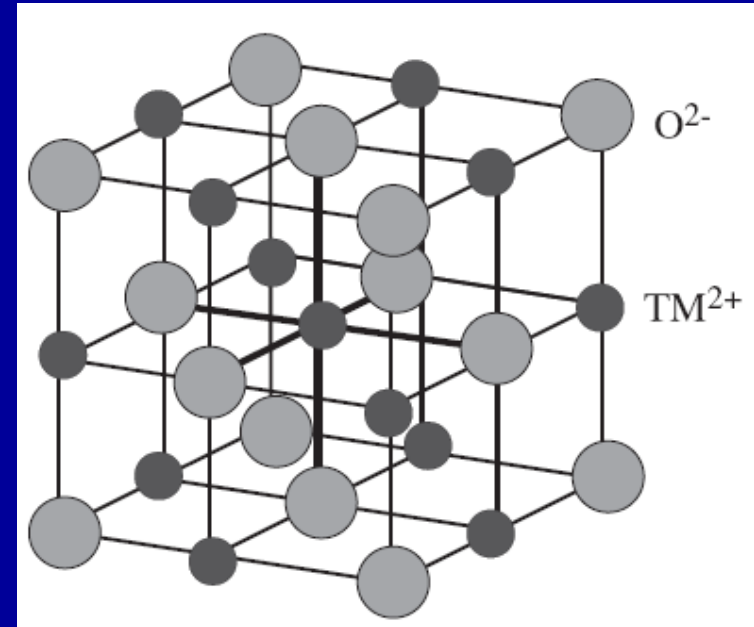
# 2. Structures

## 2.1 Monoxides **MO**: not much controllability...

NaCl structure

Nominal valences:  
(quite ionic)

- Oxygen takes 2 electrons
- M gives out two electrons:  
→  $M^{2+}$



**TiO, VO: ~ metals (O-deficient)**

**MnO, CoO, NiO: Mott (or charge-transfer) magnetic insulators**

– see below

(historic example: NiO)

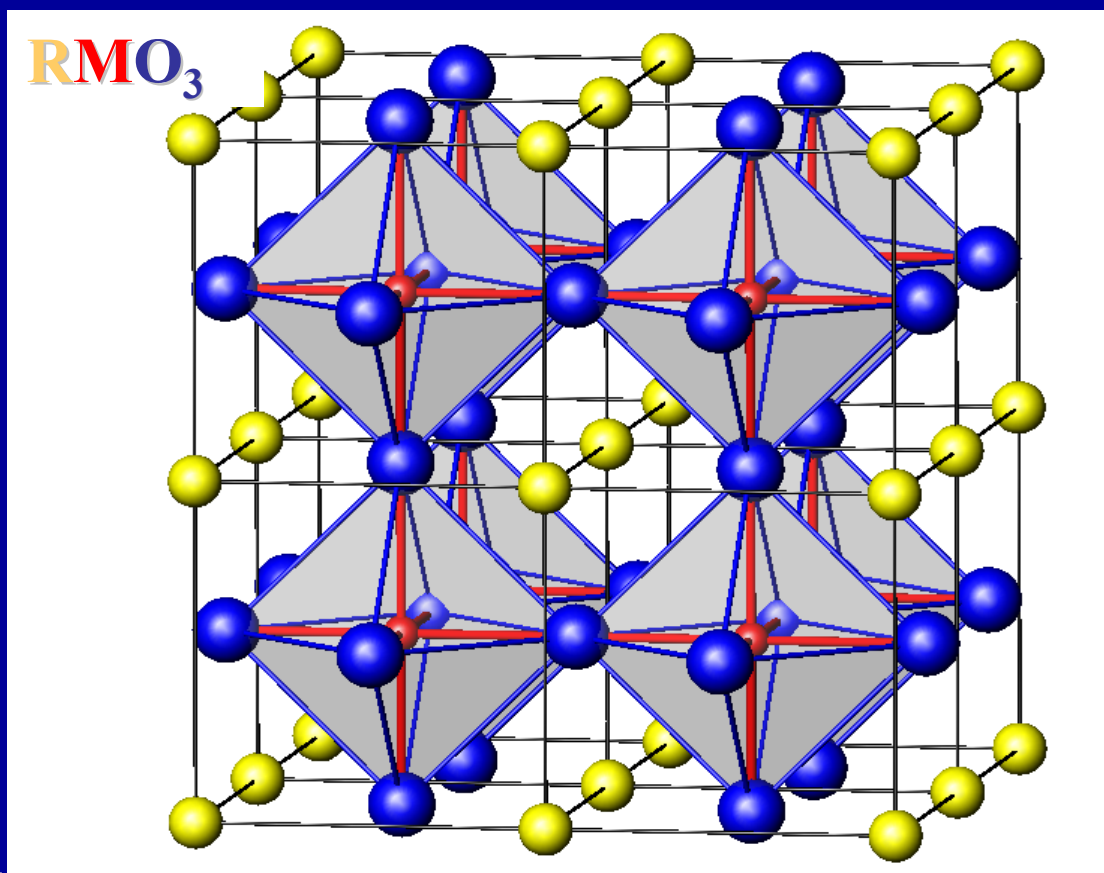
Oxide	Electronic Configuration		Insulating gap (eV)	Néel Temperature (K)
	O <sup>2-</sup>	TM <sup>2+</sup>		
MnO	[He] 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	[Ar] 3d <sup>5</sup>	3.6–4.2 <sup>a</sup>	118 <sup>d</sup>
CoO	[He] 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	[Ar] 3d <sup>7</sup>	2.5–6 <sup>b</sup>	289 <sup>d</sup>
NiO	[He] 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	[Ar] 3d <sup>8</sup>	3.1–4.3 <sup>c</sup>	523 <sup>d</sup>

# Ternary compounds (and more): the simple (and beautiful, too) perovskite structure and its descendants...

For example:  $\text{SrVO}_3$

## Perfectly cubic perovskite $\text{RMO}_3$ :

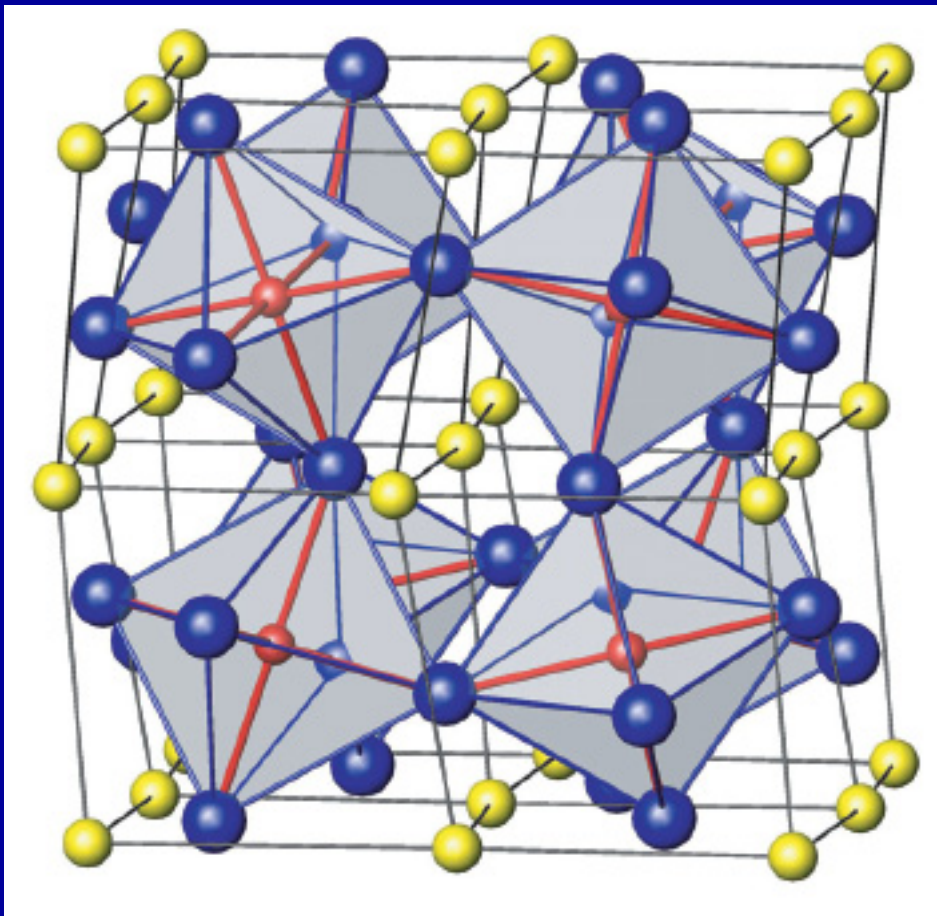
- transition-metal  
Ion  $M$  at center of  
oxygen octahedra  
→  $\text{MO}_6$  structural units
- e.g. rare-earth ions  $R$   
form simple cubic lattice



[L.A Perovski 1792-1856  
Ural mountains  
discovery of  $\text{CaTiO}_3$  G.Rose, 1839]

# Distorted perovskites

Depending on the ionic radii of the 3 ions, the material often adopts a structure which breaks perfect cubic symmetry and can be viewed as a distorted perovskite.



## Example:

### 'GdFeO<sub>3</sub>' distortion

- Octahedra remain perfect (no or very small Jahn-Teller)
- Rotation of octahedra along [010] and [001]
- Orthorhombic symmetry
- 4 M-atoms per unit cell, all equivalent by symmetry
- M-O-M angle becomes  $\pi - \theta$

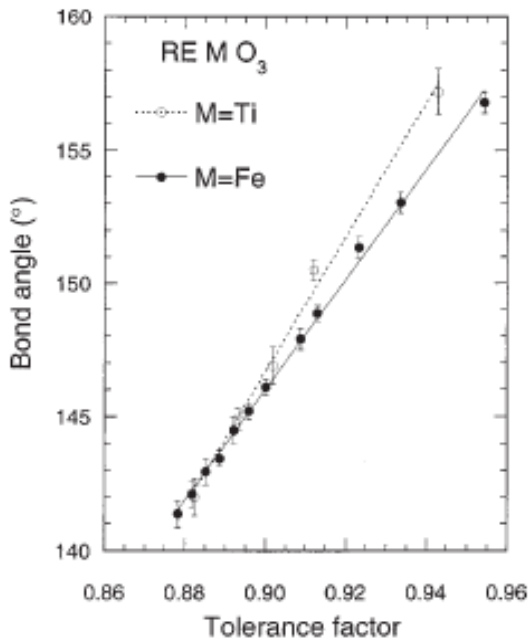
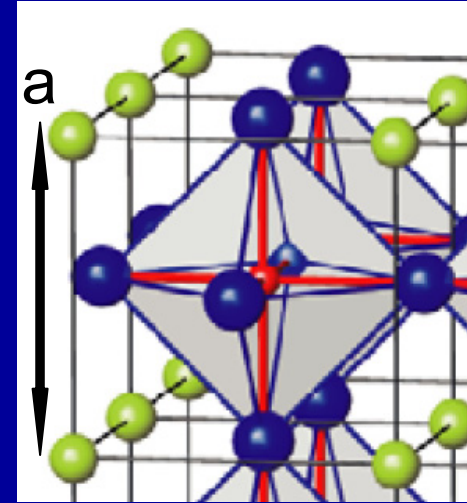
### Other possible distortions

e.g rhomboedric, rotation [111]

# RMO<sub>3</sub> : “tolerance factor”

- Consider close packing by hard spheres of radii  $r_R$ ,  $r_M$ ,  $r_O$  (ionic radii)
- Call  $a$  length of cubic cell

$$d(O - R) = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad d(O - M) = \frac{a}{2}$$



- Ideal packing will have:

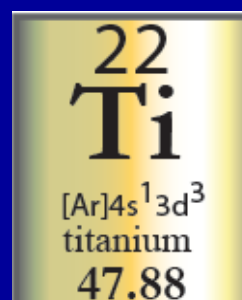
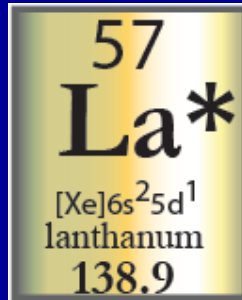
$$t \equiv \frac{r_R + r_O}{\sqrt{2}(r_M + r_O)} = 1$$

- \*  $t=1$ : ideal cubic perovskite
- \*  $t < 1$ : deforms to rhomboedral, then orthorombic
- \*  $t$  too small ( $< 0.86$ ): unstable

FIG. 62. The metal-oxygen-metal bond angles in an orthorhombically distorted perovskite (GdFeO<sub>3</sub>-type) as a function of tolerance factor.

# All this offers control on the material:

- Substitutions on R-site allow for a control of the (nominal) valence of M-ion
- e.g:  $\text{LaTiO}_3 \rightarrow \text{La}^{3+} [\text{Xe}], \text{Ti}^{3+} : [\text{Ar}]3d^1$  config.
- $\text{SrTiO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Sr}^{2+} [\text{Xe}], \text{Ti}^{4+} : [\text{Ar}]3d^0$  config.
- Iso-valent substitutions on R-site allow for a control of the distortion, hence of:
  - Bandwidth (see below)
  - And importantly of the splitting between d-levels





# Controlling dimensionality: the Ruddlesden-Popper series $R_{n+1}M_nO_{3n+1}$ ('layered perovskite')

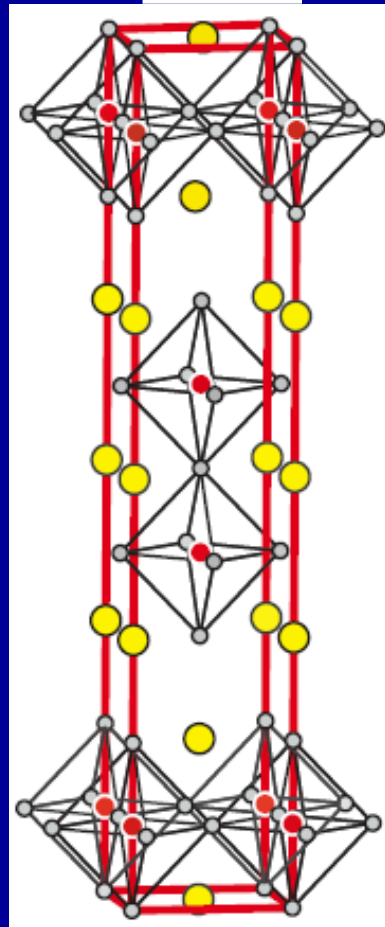
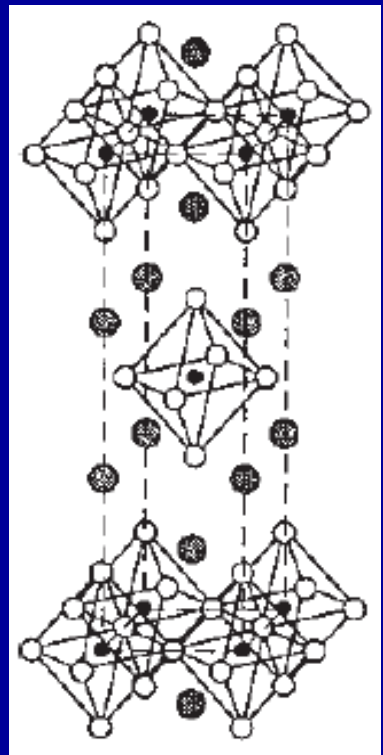
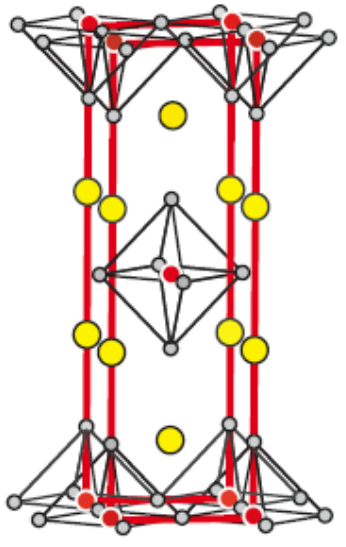
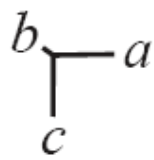
Unit-cell

$n=2$

$n=3$

$Sr_3Ru_2O_7$

$I4/mmm$



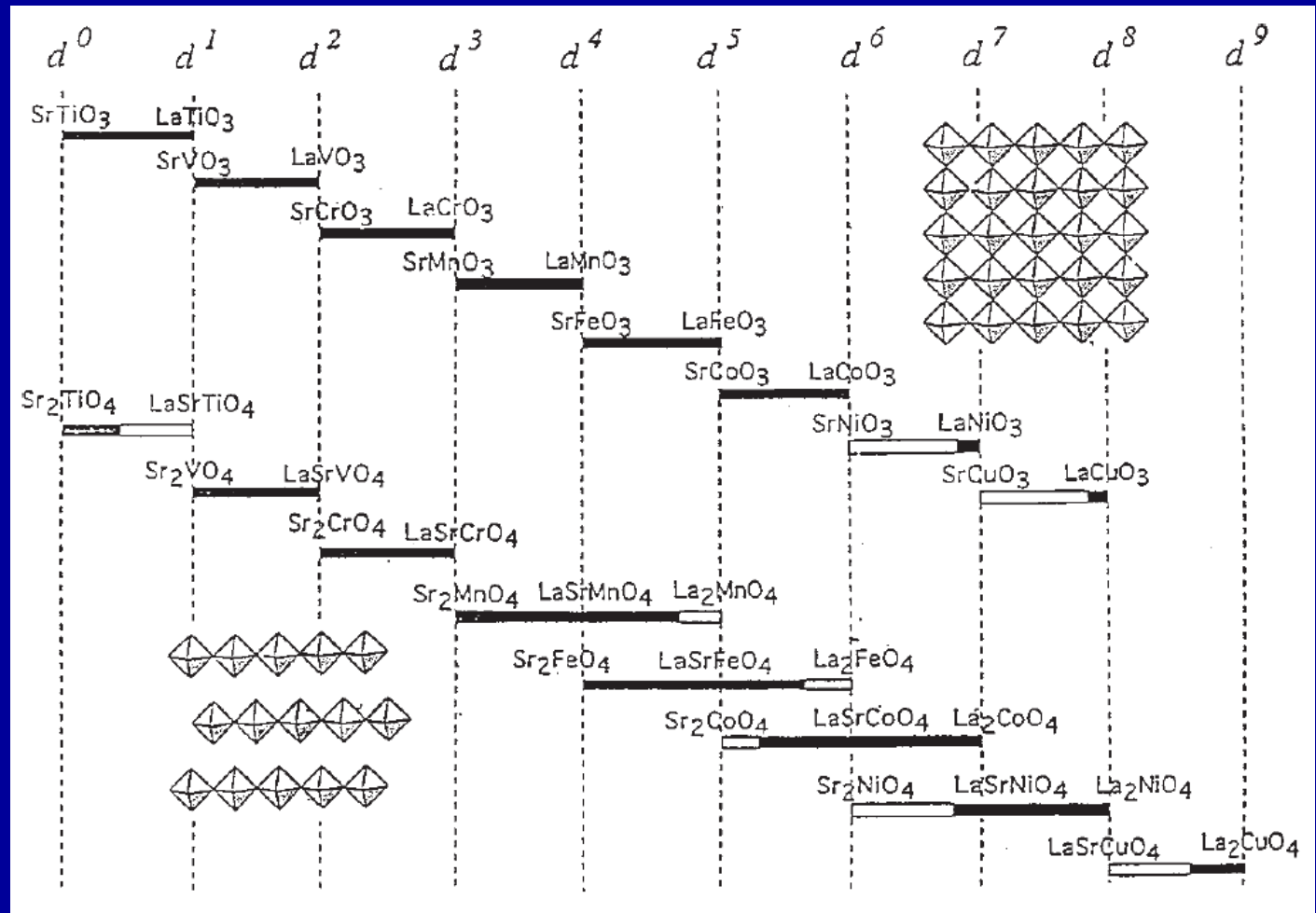
$I4/mmm$   
 $Sr_2RuO_4$

Increasing  $n$  : "from  $d=2$  to  $d=3$ "  
Usual perovskite  $RMnO_3$  corresponds to  $n \rightarrow \text{infinity}$

$MO_2$  layer  $\rightarrow$

$MO_2$  layer  $\rightarrow$

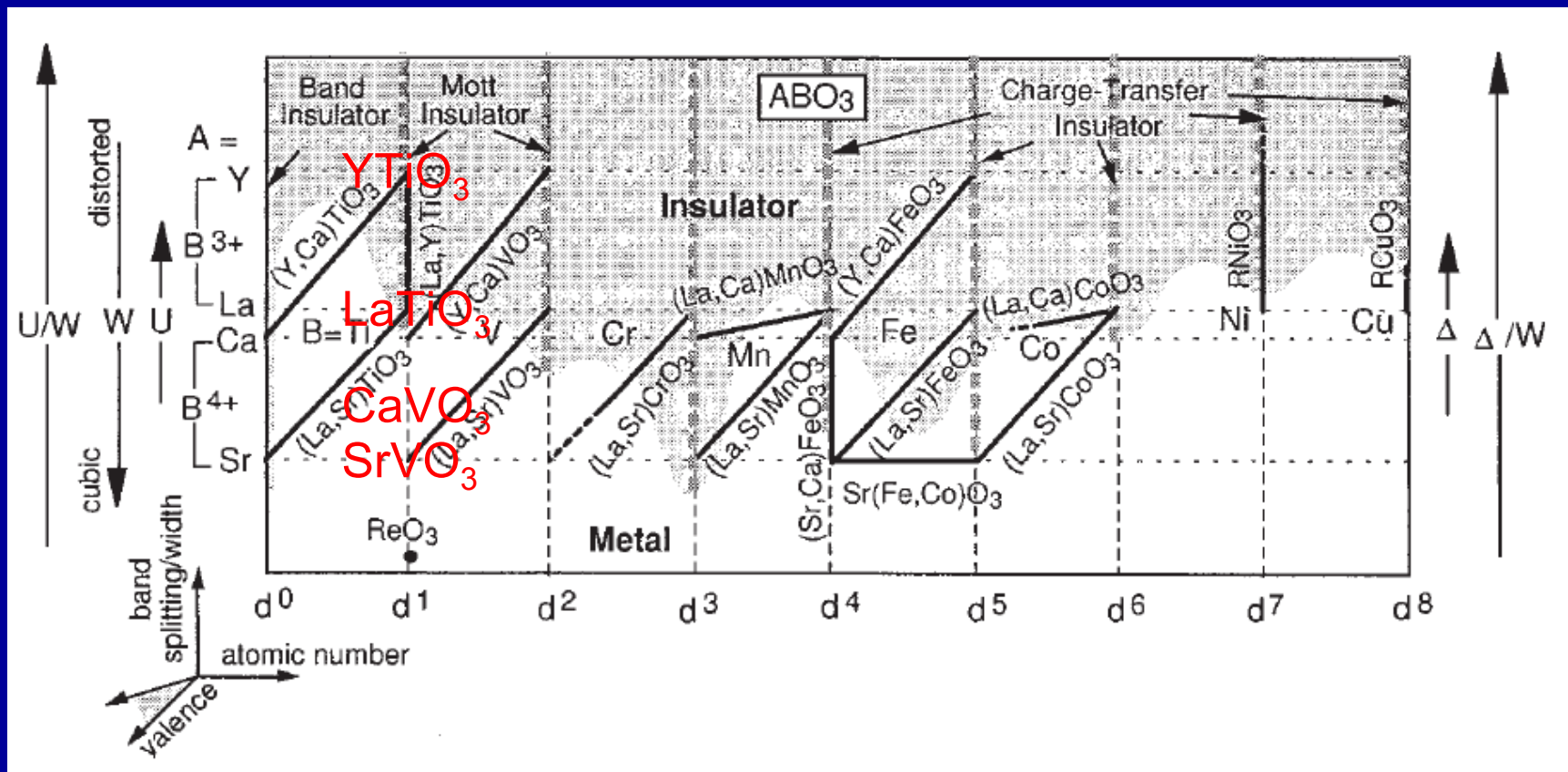
Some examples:  
alloying  
on R-site  
changes  
nominal  
valence  
of M



$\text{Sr}_{n+1}\text{M}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ :  $2(n+1)+4n-2(3n+1)=0 \rightarrow \text{M}$  remains 4+ for all n  
e.g. M=Ti 3d<sup>1</sup> shell (titanates); M=Ru 4d<sup>4</sup> shell (ruthenates)

$\text{La}_{n+1}\text{M}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ :  $\text{La}^{3+} \rightarrow$  nominal valence of M is  $(3n-1)/n +$   
e.g. (La,Ba)<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> first discovered hi-Tc SC

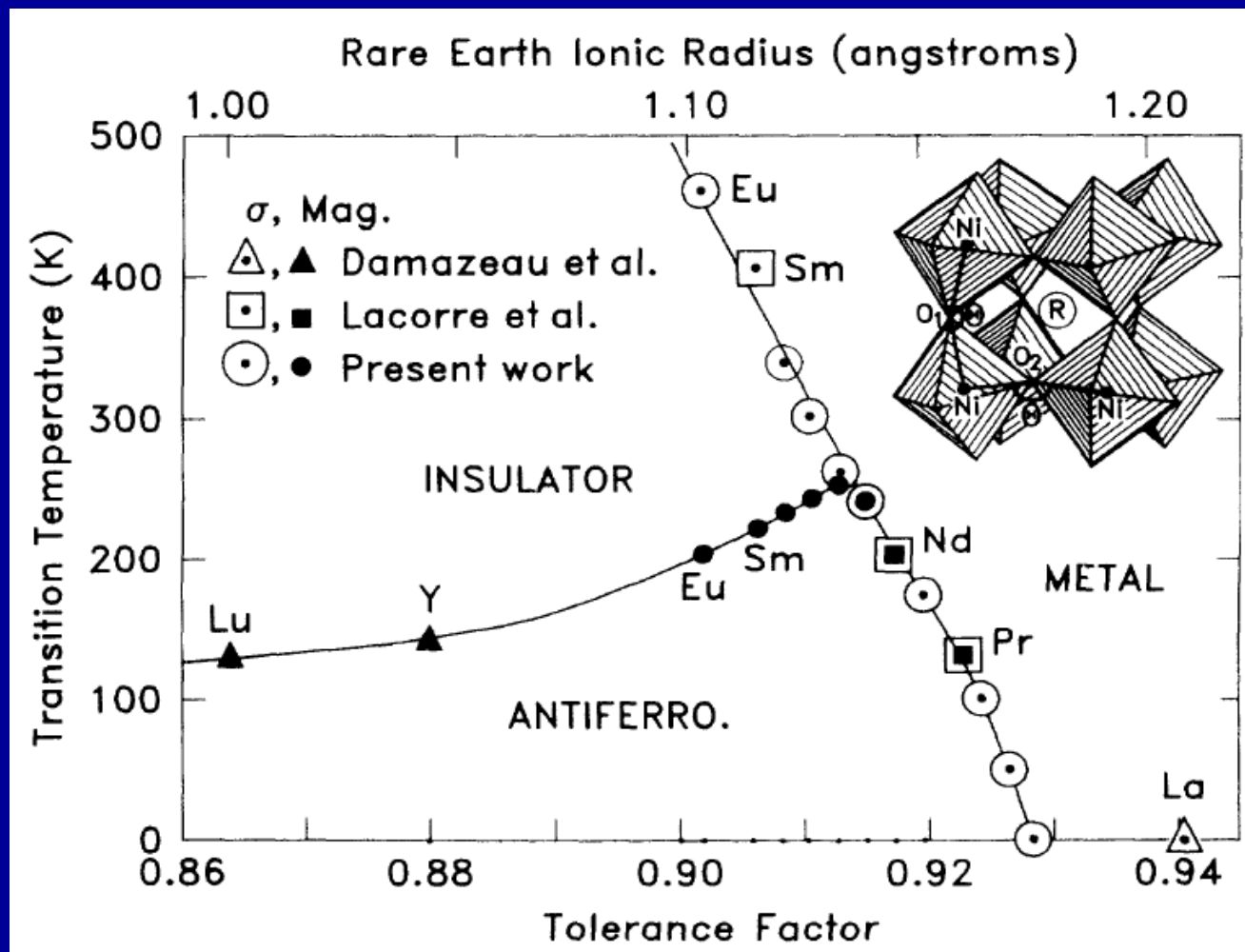
# 3. The Mott phenomenon plays a key role



“Atsushi Fujimori’s map of RMO<sub>3</sub> perovskites”  
 J.Phys Chem Sol. 53 (1992) 1595

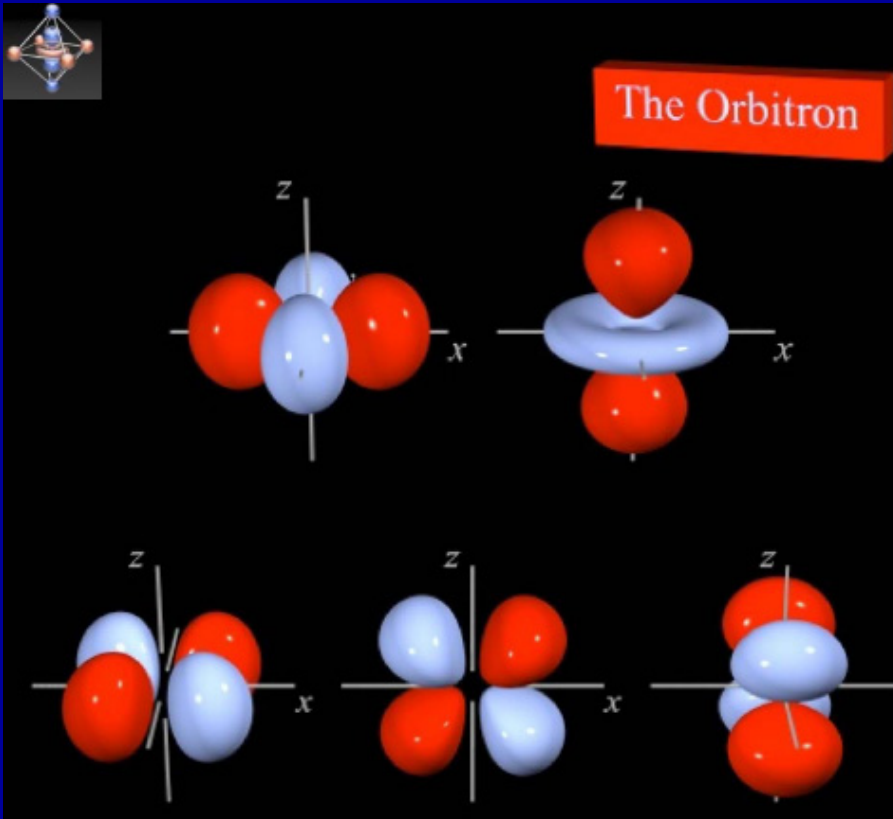
Partially filled d-shells... and yet often insulators

# The $RNiO_3$ $3d^7$ compounds



# 4. Orbitals: from the isolated atom to the solid - crystal-field splitting – (Bethe, van Vleck)

Cubic-symmetry adapted  
3d-orbitals:



3d orbitals are quite localized:

- No nodes in radial part
- Large centrifugal barrier  $l(l+1)/r^2$

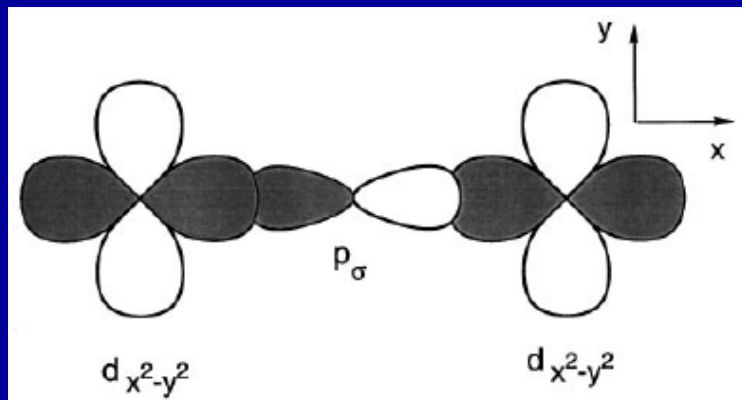
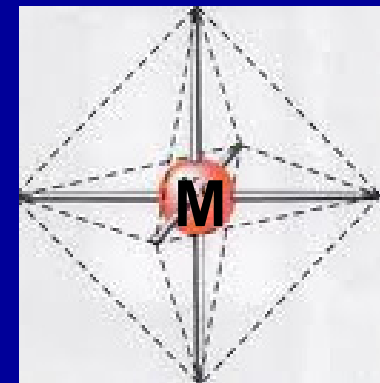
$$d_{x^2-y^2}, d_{3z^2-r^2}$$

→ The  $e_g$  doublet

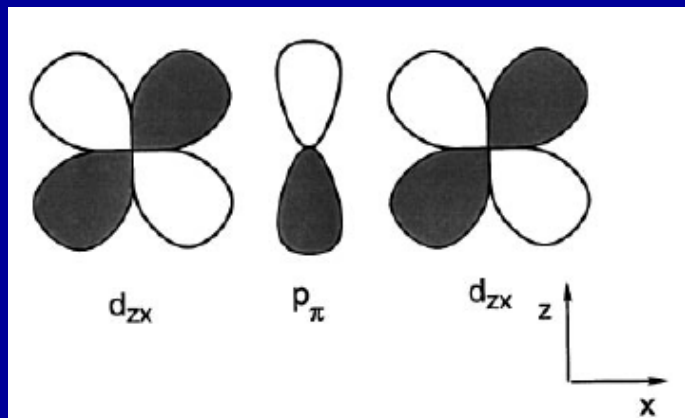
$$d_{xy}, d_{xz}, d_{yz}$$

→ The  $t_{2g}$  triplet

# Crystal-field splitting in octahedral environment :



eg orbitals point towards oxygen atoms (sigma-bonding)  
 → feel larger Coulomb potential  
 → pushed to higher energy



t<sub>2g</sub> orbitals point away from oxygen atoms (pi-bonding)  
 → feel smaller Coulomb potential  
 → lower energy than eg

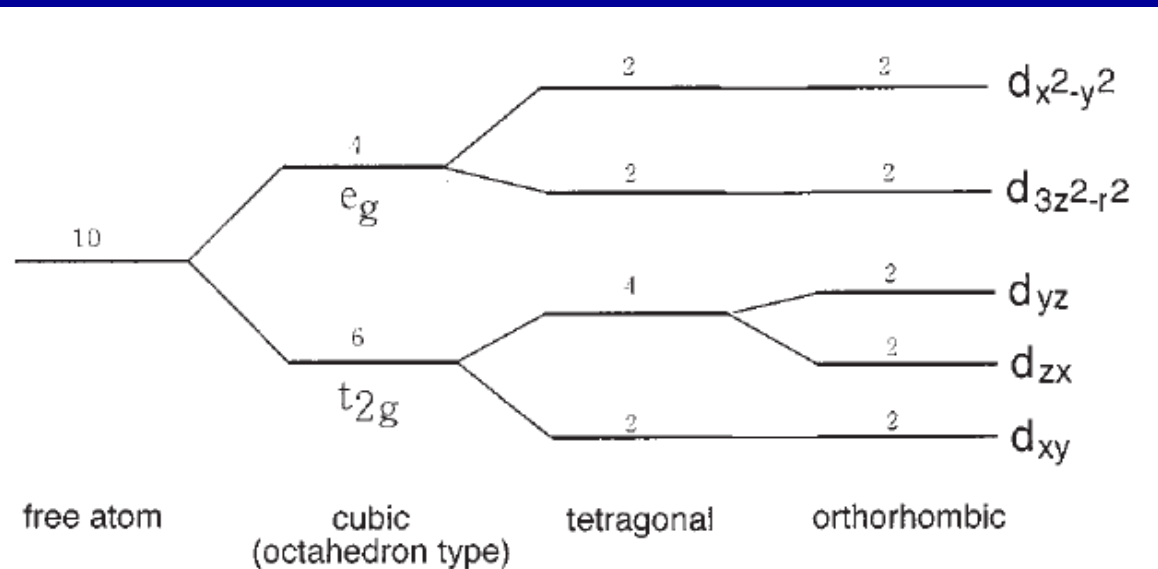


FIG. 2. Crystal-field splitting of 3d orbitals under cubic, tetragonal, and orthorhombic symmetries. The numbers cited near the levels are the degeneracy including spins.

Lowering further the crystal symmetry (distort from cubic)  
Induces additional lifting of degeneracy

Tetrahedral environment ( $MO_4$ ):  
eg has lower energy, t2g higher



# A crystal-field theory primer...

Hydrogen atom wave-functions with  $l = 2$  ( $d$ -shell). Spherical coordinates:  $\vec{r} = r (\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)$ .

$$\psi_m(\theta, \phi) = R(r) Y_2^m(\theta, \phi)$$

with:

$$Y_2^0 \sim 3 \cos^2 \theta - 1, \quad Y_2^{\pm 1} \sim \sin 2\theta e^{\pm i\phi}, \quad Y_2^{\pm 2} \sim \sin^2 \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$$

Cubic harmonics, transforming under irreducible representations of cubic group:

$$xy : \chi_{xy}(\theta, \phi) \sim \frac{xy}{r^2} \sim \sin \theta \cos \phi \sin \theta \sin \phi \sim \sin^2 \theta \sin 2\phi \sim Y_2^{+2} - Y_2^{-2}$$

Similarly:

$$\chi_{xz} \sim Y_2^{+1} + Y_2^{-1}, \quad \chi_{yz} \sim Y_2^{+1} - Y_2^{-1}, \quad \chi_{x^2-y^2} \sim Y_2^{+2} + Y_2^{-2}, \quad \chi_{3z^2-r^2} \sim Y_2^0$$

**MO<sub>6</sub> octahedron:** Potential created by point charge on O-sites at center of cube,  $d$  being distance to center:

$$V(\vec{r}) \equiv \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{1}{\|\vec{r} - \vec{R}_i\|} \quad (3.1)$$

Expand:

$$\frac{4\pi\epsilon_0}{Ze^2} V(r) = \frac{6}{d} + \frac{7\sqrt{\pi}}{3} \frac{r^4}{d^5} \left[ Y_4^0(\theta, \phi) + \sqrt{\frac{5}{14}} (Y_4^4(\theta, \phi) + Y_4^{-4}(\theta, \phi)) \right] + \dots \quad (3.2)$$

Treat second term as perturbation  $\delta V(r, \theta, \phi)$ : breaks spherical symmetry.  
Because of proper choice of cubic orbital above:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_m | \delta V | \chi_{m'} \rangle &= \Delta_t \delta_{mm'} \text{ for } m = xy, xz, yz \\ &= \Delta_e \delta_{mm'} \text{ for } m = x^2 - y^2, 3z^2 - r^2 \end{aligned}$$

with:

$$\Delta_e - \Delta_t = 1.67 \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d^5} \int_0^\infty r^4 R(r)^2 r^2 dr \equiv "10Dq"$$

As is well-known, this explains e.g. why ruby is red/violet... Cf e.g: <http://www.chm.davidson.edu/vce/CoordChem/CFT.html>



Ruby

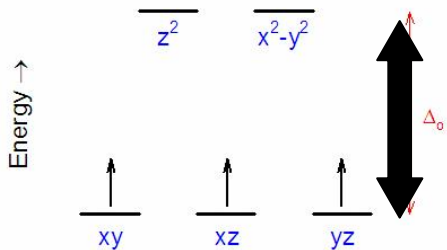
Ruby: small amount Of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  impurities Substituting  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (corundom), a large-gap transparent insulator



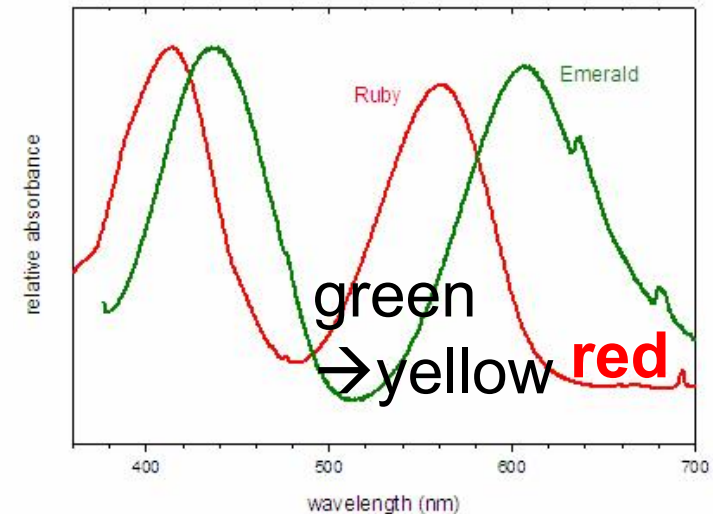
corundom

$\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $3d^3$ ) 3 electrons in  $t_{2g}$  shell

$$\Delta_0 = 2.21 \text{ eV} \rightarrow \lambda \simeq 561 \text{ nm}$$



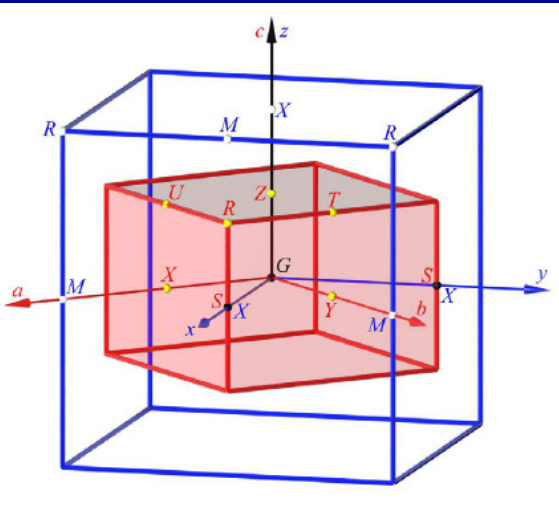
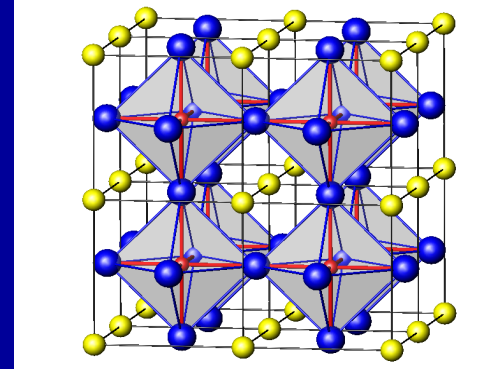
absorption of most visible wavelength beyond red



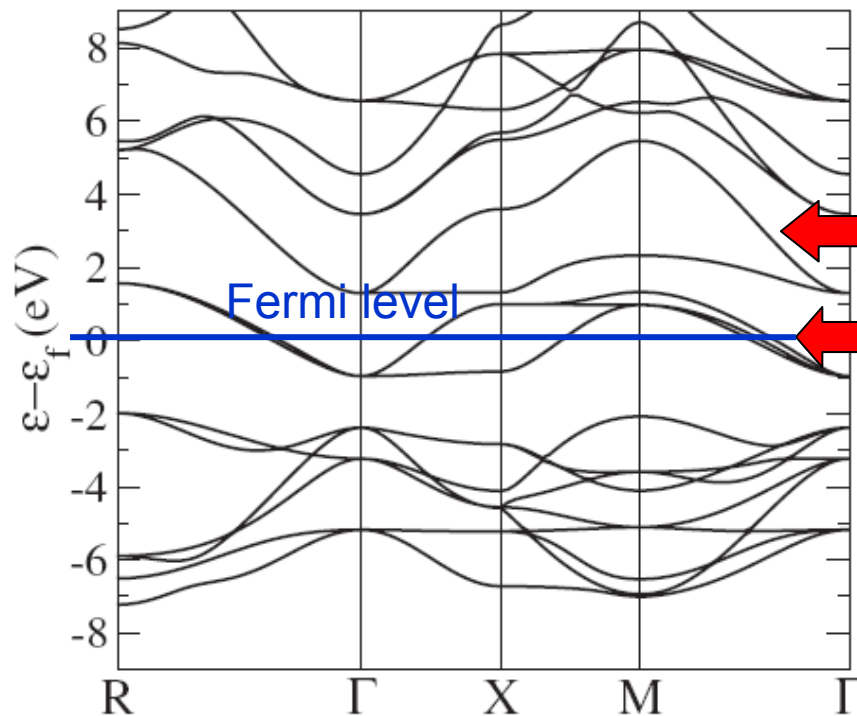
# 5. From the atom to the full solid: energy bands of oxides

(or: how to make sense of a plate of spaghettis...)

A simple case: cubic  $\text{SrVO}_3$



Pavarini et al.  
PRL 92 (2004) 176403  
New J.Phys 7 (2005) 188  
Amadon et al.  
PRB 77 (2008) 205112

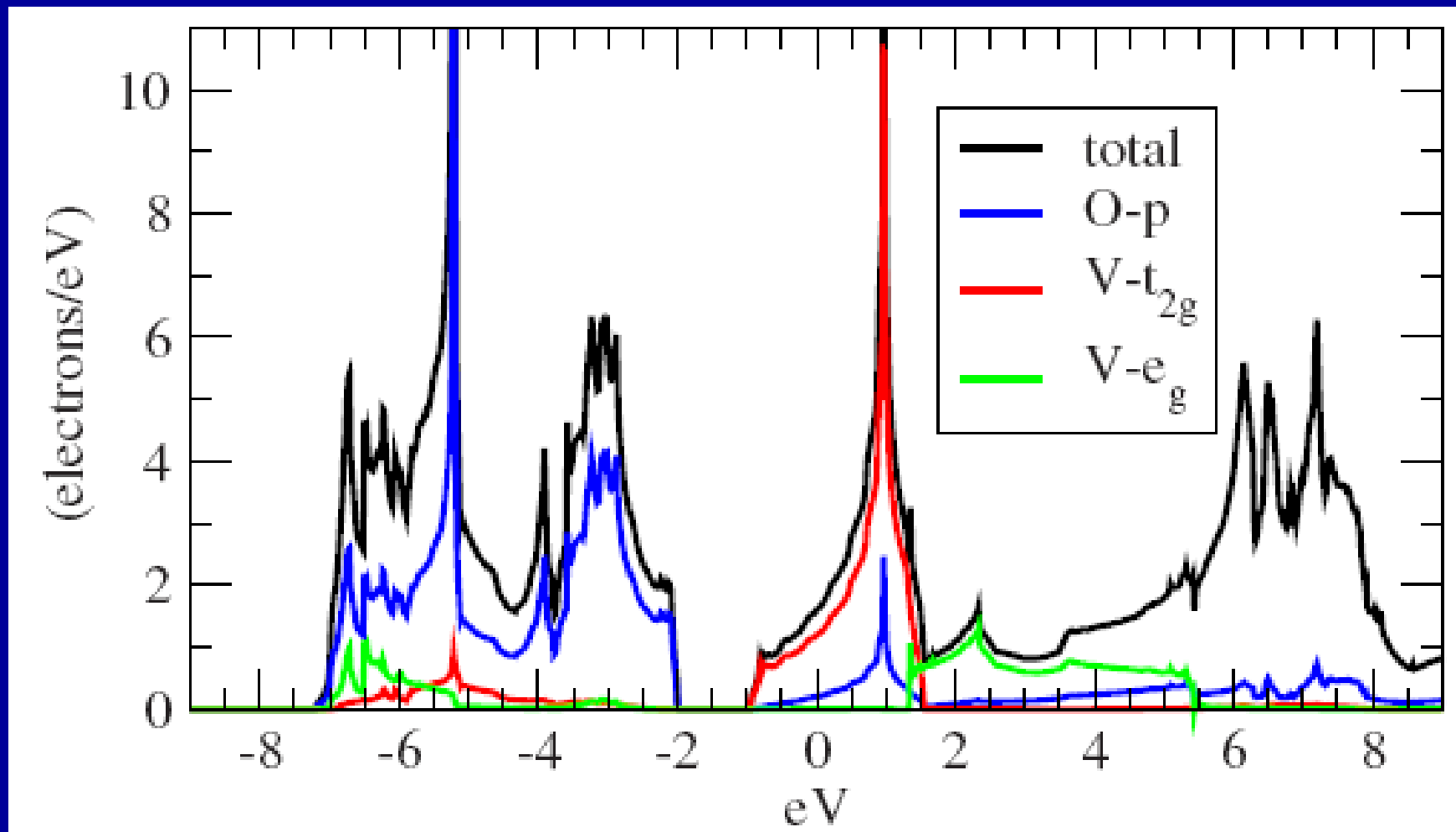


Sr 5s and 4d  
2 V-eg bands  
3 V-t2g bands  
9=3\*3  
Oxygen  
bands

FIG. 1. LDA band structure for  $\text{SrVO}_3$ .

## Density of states:

(orbitally-resolved, i.e projected on  $\sim$  atomic orbitals)

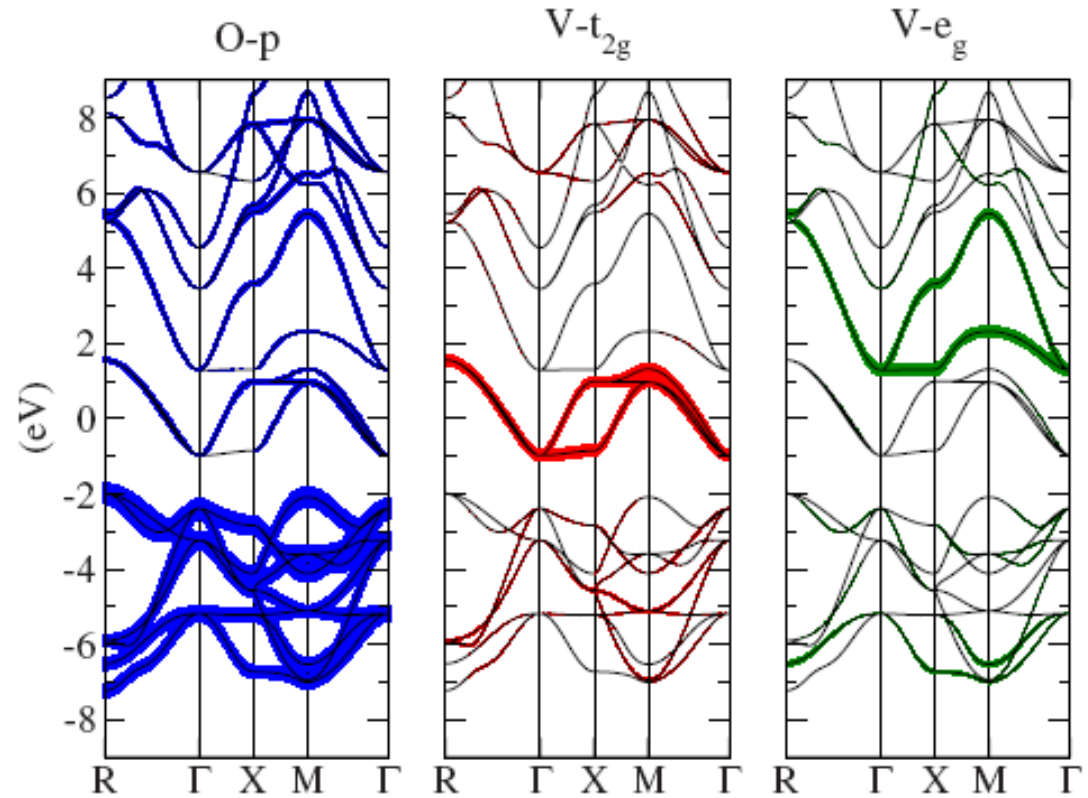


Strong mixing of V-eg states with oxygen

t<sub>2g</sub> bandwidth  $\sim$  2.6 eV

## To understand orbital character better, plot 'fat bands':

Project Bloch functions onto atomic-like orbitals and plot matrix element at each k-point:  $|\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}\nu} | \phi_{lm} \rangle|^2$



Mixing of oxygen with d-states obvious, especially for e<sub>g</sub>

FIG. 3. (Color online) LDA band structure for SrVO<sub>3</sub> computed in PAW, with “fatbands” to show the amplitude of the projection of each band on a given atomic orbital (O *p*, V *t*<sub>2g</sub>, and V *e*<sub>g</sub>).

# Summarize key infos from band-structure, in this (quite) simple case:

- $t_{2g}$  manifold of 3 bands well-separated from oxygen (below) and  $e_g$  bands (above)
- $t_{2g}$  bands occupied by 1 electron in total (as requested)
- $t_{2g}$  bandwidth around 2.6 eV
- Distance between center of  $t_{2g}$  and center of oxygen band: about 6.5 eV (only 1eV from top of O to bottom of  $t_{2g}$  though)  $\rightarrow$  'charge-transfer energy' is large
- Bandstructure (LDA) is that of a METAL
- Effective mass (from specific heat) is found to be roughly a factor of 2 larger than the one from LDA



# More on the bandwidth: hopping is via oxygen

- Each Vanadium is in a cage of 6 oxygens
- Direct d-d hopping is difficult, hence direct  $t_{dd}$  is small (*this is one of the two main differences between a pure Transition metal and its oxide, the other one being that the 4s orbital is empty in the oxide → oxides have narrow bands*)
- Hopping of electrons on V-sites occurs through hybridization between O p-orbitals and V d-orbitals, with amplitude  $t_{pd}$
- Roughly, when the charge-transfer energy  $\Delta$  is large, the amplitude of the effective d-d hopping is of order:

$$t_{\text{eff}}^{dd} \sim t_{pd}^2 / \Delta$$

## Hence, theorist's model of an oxide:

(1 electron part of the hamiltonian, for interactions, see later)

$$-t_{pd} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (d_i^\dagger p_j + \text{h.c.}) + \Delta \sum_i (d_i^\dagger d_i - p_i^\dagger p_i) + p - p \text{ hoppings} + \dots$$

p-d hopping

Charge-transfer  
energy

Other stuff

**Here, I didn't write orbital indices, which are of course crucial in the real world !**

For large  $\Delta$ , and  $t_{pp}=0$ , we may even want to 'integrate out' the oxygens to get a tight-binding model for the d-bands only:

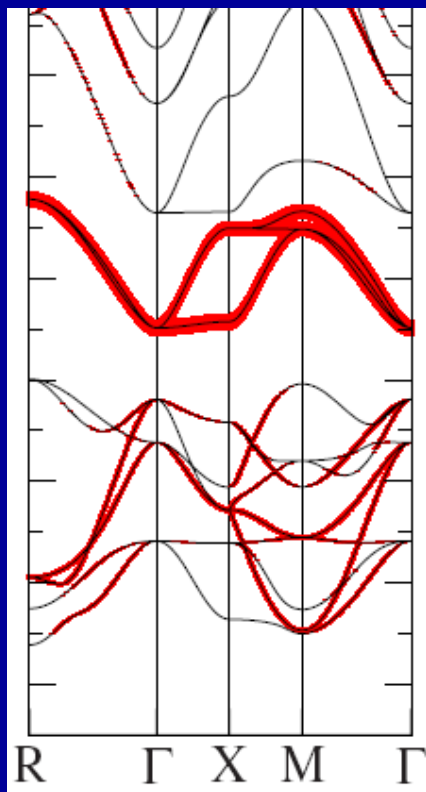
$$-t_{dd}^{\text{eff}} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (d_i^\dagger d_j + \text{h.c.})$$

$$t_{\text{eff}}^{dd} \sim t_{pd}^2 / \Delta$$

# To give a realistic meaning to this, use Wannier functions:

1) Decide for which bands (or rather: for which energy window) an effective model will be constructed

V- $t_{2g}$  states only  
(3 bands)

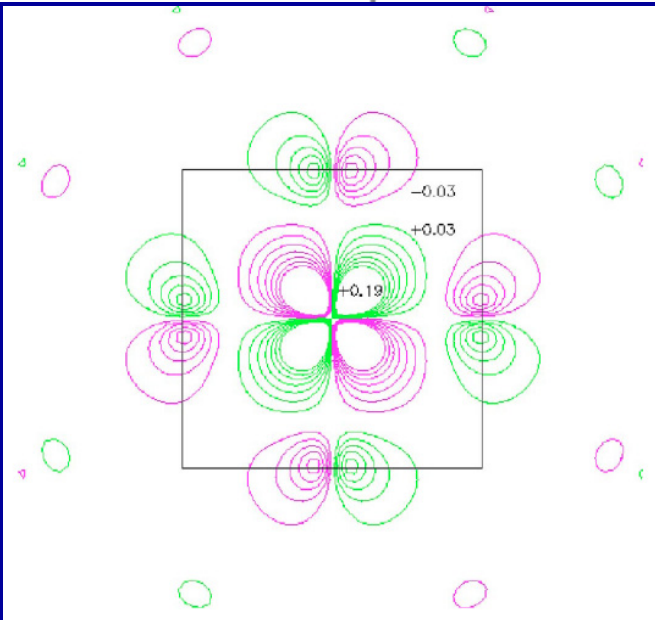
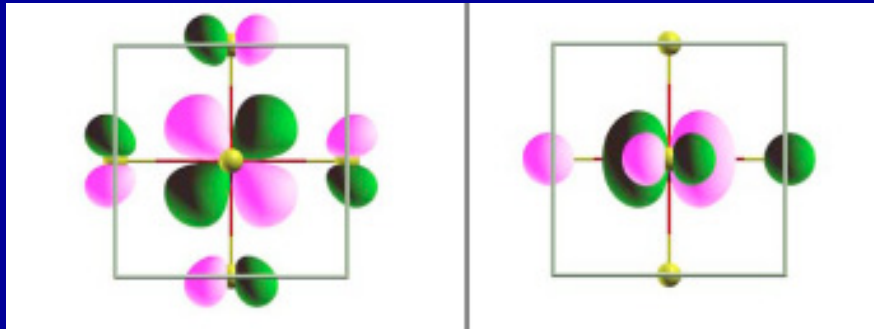
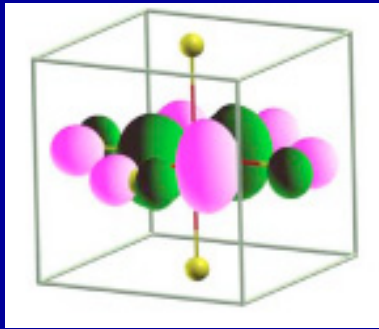


V- $t_{2g}$  and eg states  
And O -states  
(14 bands)

Large energy window  
→ Wannier functions  
are quite localized  
and atomic-like

Small energy window  
→ Wannier functions  
will leak on oxygen  
sites to capture  
V-O hybridization

## t2g only: extended Wanniers



## V t2g+eg and O: localized Wanniers

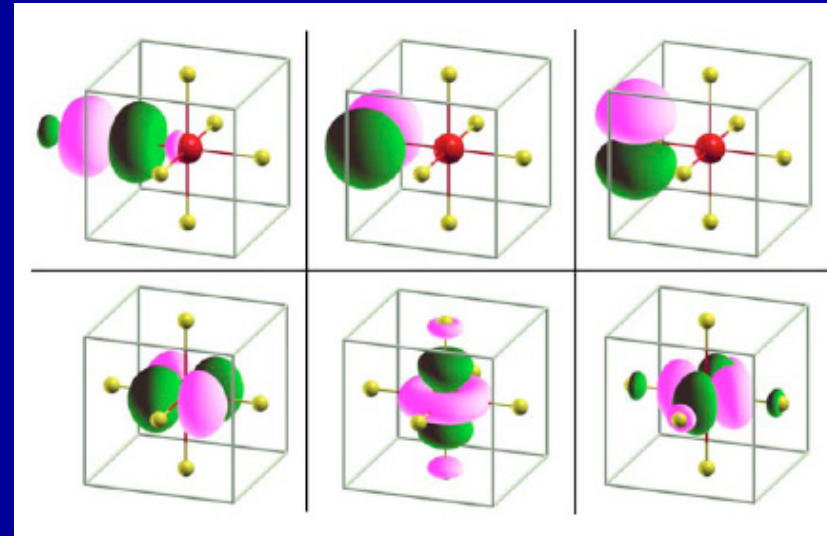


FIG. 7. (Color online) Distinct WFs for SrVO<sub>3</sub> obtained from the MLWF construction using the MBPP code. First row: O( $p_x$ ), O( $p_y$ ), and O( $p_z$ ) for a chosen oxygen site. Second row: V( $t_{2g}, xy$ ) as well as V( $e_g, 3z^2 - r^2$ ) and V( $e_g, x^2 - y^2$ ). The contour value for each of the MLWFs was chosen as 0.05 (a.u.)<sup>-3/2</sup>.

F. Lechermann et al.  
Phys Rev B 74 (2006) 125120

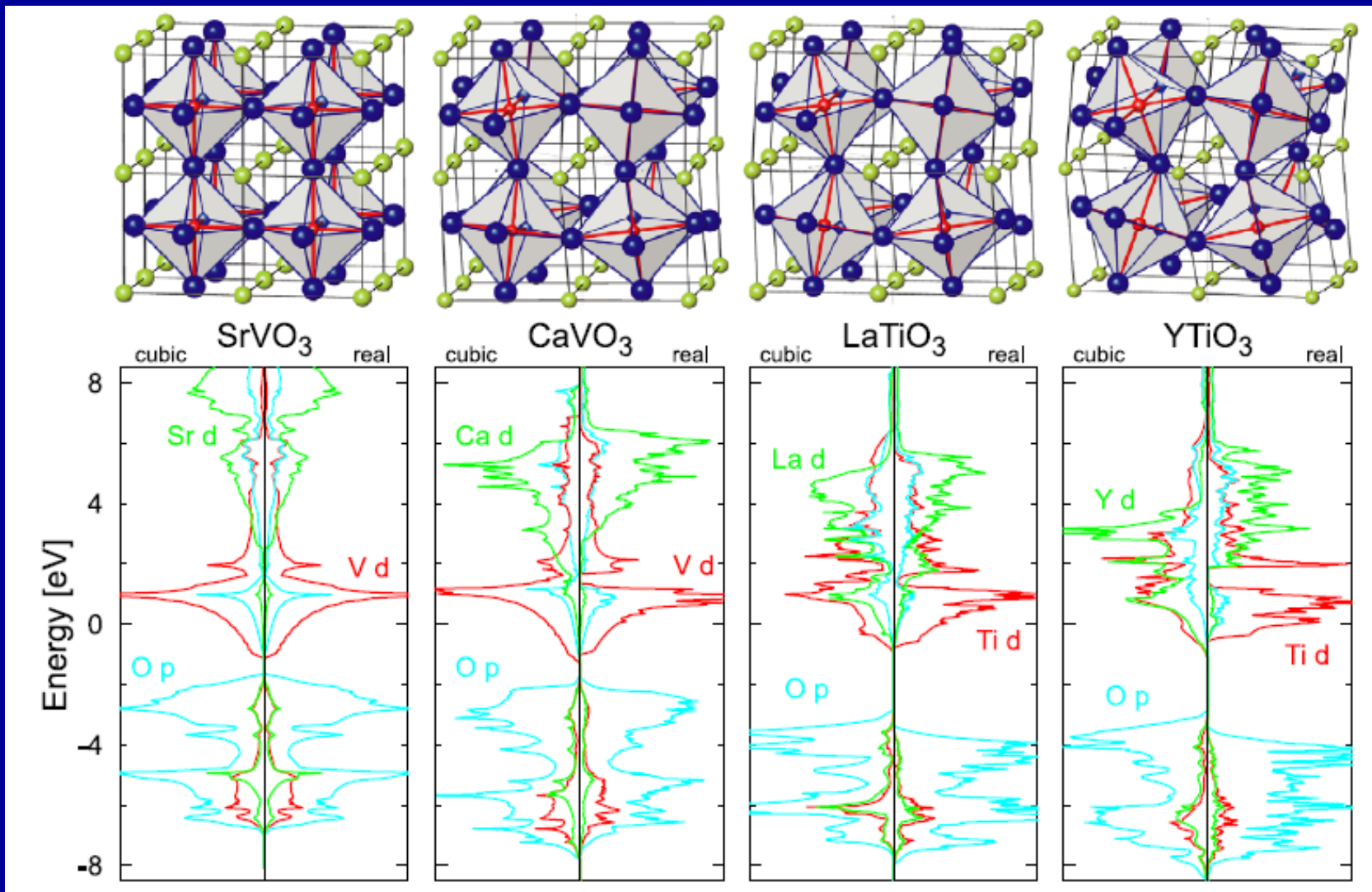
# Hopping integrals between Wannier functions (ab-initio tight-binding description)

An example (!):  $\text{CaVO}_3$  – slight distortion from cubic symmetry

**Table 2.**  $H_{t_{2g}}^{LDA}$  in meV for  $\text{CaVO}_3$  [43].

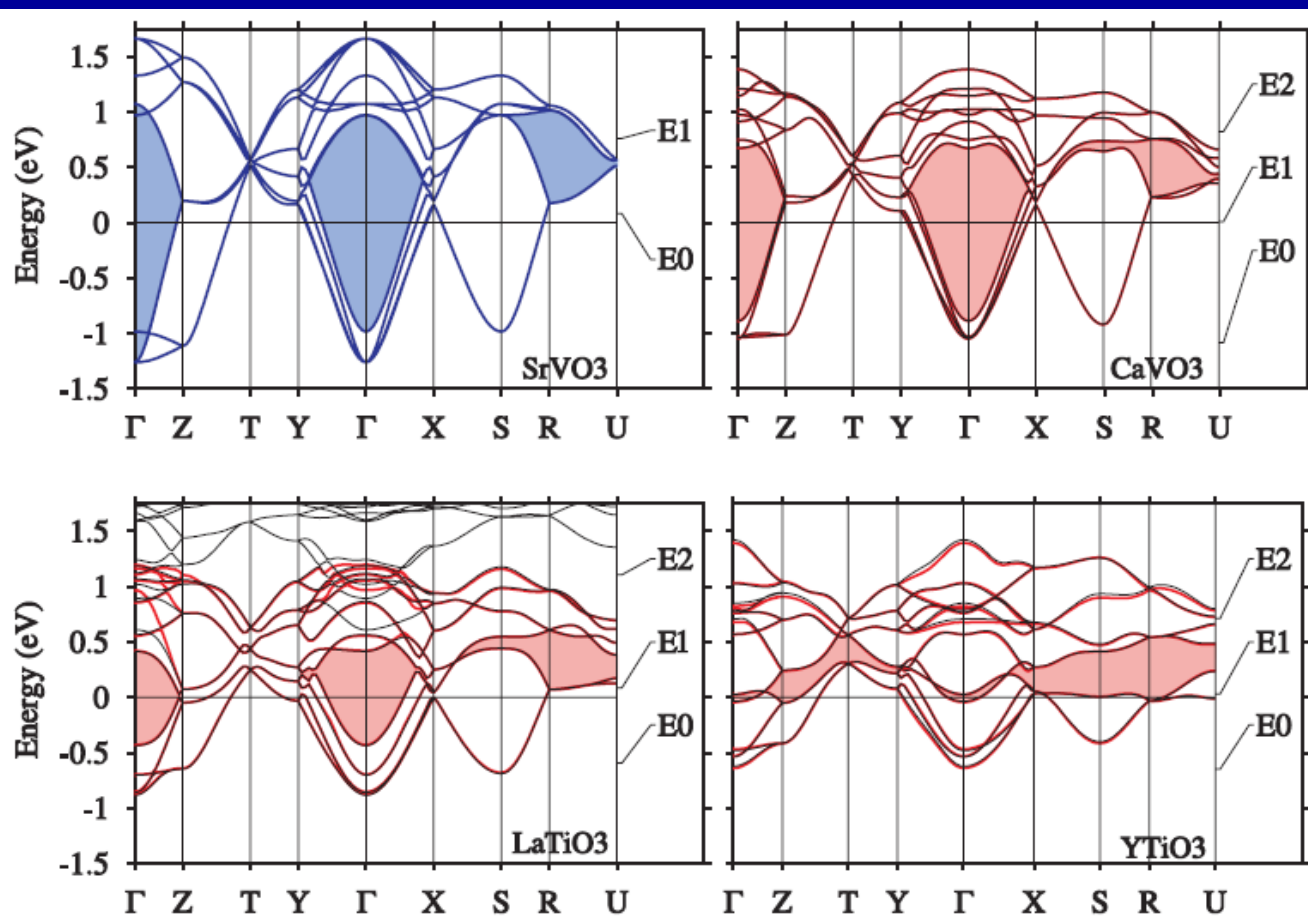
$xyz$ $m', m$	000	001	010	100	011	01 $\bar{1}$	101	10 $\bar{1}$	110	1 $\bar{1}$ 0	111	11 $\bar{1}$	$\bar{1}$ 11	$\bar{1}$ $\bar{1}$ 1
$yz, yz$	620	-240	-223	-17	-91	-90	6	10	2	10	-8	-8	-3	-3
$xz, xz$	612	-249	-17	-223	10	6	-90	-91	3	3	-2	-2	-7	-7
$xy, xy$	542	-23	-231	-231	6	7	7	6	-98	-85	-2	-2	-3	-3
$yz, xz$	4	-21	45	45	6	22	22	6	8	-2	-1	0	0	0
$xz, yz$	4	-21	-33	-33	-20	-1	-1	-20	8	-2	0	-1	0	0
$yz, xy$	-17	-36	-17	-25	-2	13	8	-4	-17	5	-5	-4	-2	-5
$xy, yz$	-17	36	-34	33	11	-5	0	-11	-17	5	4	5	5	2
$xz, xy$	-4	25	33	-34	11	0	5	-11	15	-1	8	0	4	2
$xy, xz$	-4	-25	-25	-17	4	-8	-13	2	15	-1	0	-8	-2	-4

# Effects of the orthorhombic distortion: $\text{SrVO}_3$ , $\text{CaVO}_3$ , $\text{LaTiO}_3$ , $\text{YTiO}_3$ (all $d^1$ , ALL METALS in LDA!)



Left panels: hypothetical cubic; Right panel: real structure

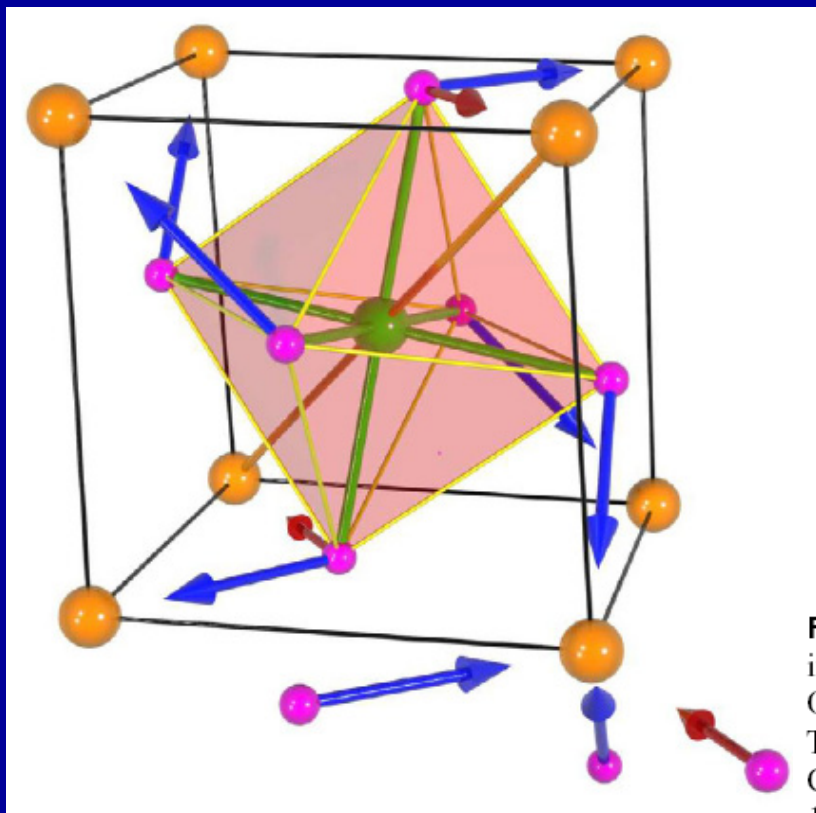




**Figure 10.** Low-energy LDA bandstructures of  $\text{SrVO}_3$ ,  $\text{CaVO}_3$ ,  $\text{LaTiO}_3$ , and  $\text{YTiO}_3$ . The cubic bands for  $\text{SrVO}_3$  (figure 3) have been folded into the orthorhombic BZ (figure 9). The black bands were obtained with a large NMTO basis, while the coloured ones were obtained with the truly-minimal B  $d(t_{2g})$  basis. The two are indistinguishable, except for  $\text{LaTiO}_3$  where the bottom of the La 5d-band overlaps the top of the Ti  $t_{2g}$ -band because the older structural data [44] was used here. With the recent, slightly more distorted structure [12], O-A covalency removes this overlap as discussed in section 2 and figure 1, and as shown in figures 4, 12, and 17. In order to emphasize the development of the bandstructure along the series, the gap between the lower 1/3 and the upper 2/3 of the bands has been shaded.



# Distortion: covalency between O and cation (Sr,La)



**Figure 7.** Schematic representation of the O-A covalent bonds shown for  $\text{LaTiO}_3$  in figures 5 and 6: O1 binds to *two* while O2 binds to *one* of the four A-neighbours. One of the two O1-A bonds is relatively weak and is indicated by a short, red arrow. The resulting  $\text{GdFeO}_3$ -type distortion shortens the O-A bonds correspondingly. In  $\text{CaVO}_3$ ,  $\text{LaTiO}_3$ , and  $\text{YTiO}_3$ , the shortest O1-A bond is shortened by respectively 10, 17, and 28% with respect to the average, the 2nd-shortest O1-A bond by respectively 4, 11, and 23%, and the shortest O2-A bond by respectively 12, 16, and 22%. The oxygen coordination of the A-ion is reduced from 12 to 4, with two of the near oxygens being in the horizontal, flat face of the distorted A-cube, and the two others in *one* of the vertical, buckled faces. The A-B-A diagonal (orange bar) lying in the plane of the short, red arrows is shortened by respectively 3, 7, and 9% of the average. The unit shown is the front bottom left one (subcell 1) seen in e.g. figure 2.

# The two effects of distortion:

- 1) Reduction of total  $t_{2g}$  bandwidth:

**Table 8.**  $t_{2g}$  edge-to-edge ( $W_{t_{2g}}$ ) and rms ( $W$ ) bandwidths in eV.

	SrVO <sub>3</sub> [42]	CaVO <sub>3</sub> [43]	LaTiO <sub>3</sub> [44]	LaTiO <sub>3</sub> [12]	YTiO <sub>3</sub> [20]
$W_{t_{2g}}$	2.85	2.45	2.09	1.92	2.05
$W$	2.85	2.39	2.18	2.08	1.87

This is because the O-M-O bond is no longer straight  
→ pi-bonding less efficient

## -2) Splitting between $t_{2g}$ orbitals (lifting of orbital degeneracy)

(140,200) meV for LaTiO<sub>3</sub> ; (200,330) meV for YTiO<sub>3</sub>

→ **Both effects** are responsible for the Mott insulating state of LaTiO<sub>3</sub> and YTiO<sub>3</sub>

# (Some) Bibliography

- John B. Goodenough (1973). *Les oxydes des metaux de transition*. Gauthier-Villiers, Paris. [*Metallic oxides*, Pergamon Press, 1971]
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- N.Tsuda et al. *Electronic conduction in oxides*, Springer 2000
- N.F. Mott *Metal-insulator transitions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Taylor&Francis 2000
- M.Imada, A.Fujimori and Y.Tokura, *Metal-insulator transitions*, Rev. Mod. Phys. 70 (1998) 1039.
- W.A. Harrison *Electronic structure and the properties of solids*, Dover, 1989

**Next week (lecture 6) :**

**More on the Mott transition in oxides  
(theory and experiments) ...**