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# Understanding the UV luminescence of $\text{Zn}_2\text{GeO}_4$ : The role of native defects



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# Introduction: Defects

AAAS Become a Member

Science

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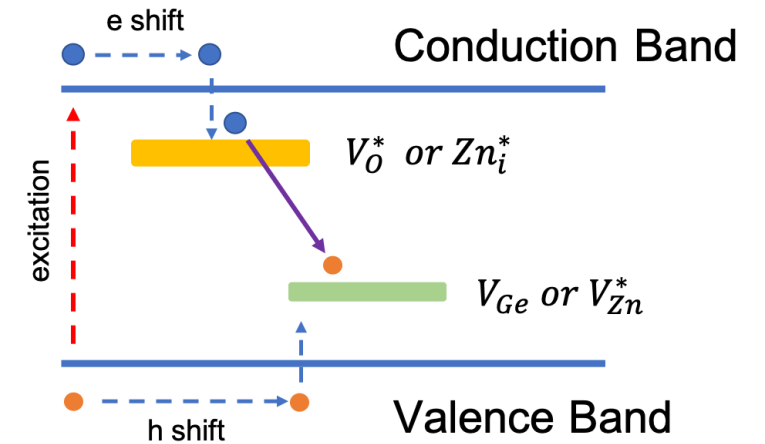
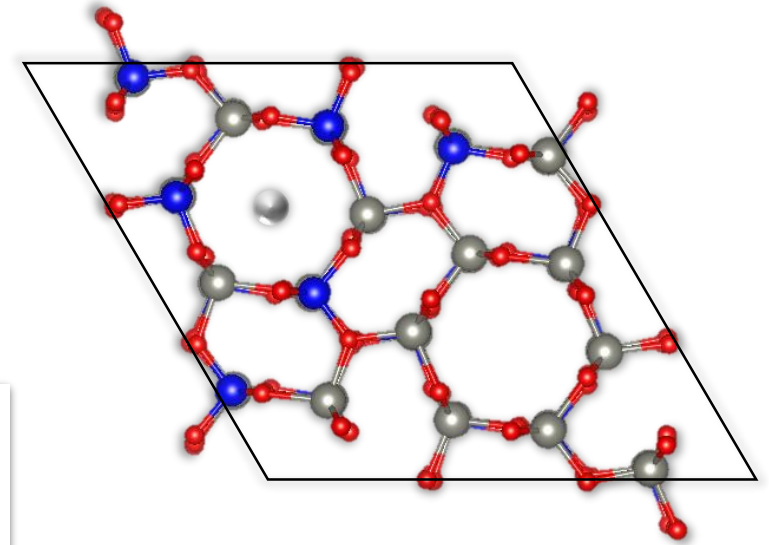
eLetters

Defects bring to mind imperfection and blemish, but for materials, what might be considered a defect may lead to dramatic performance improvements over the "ideal" material. Certainly,

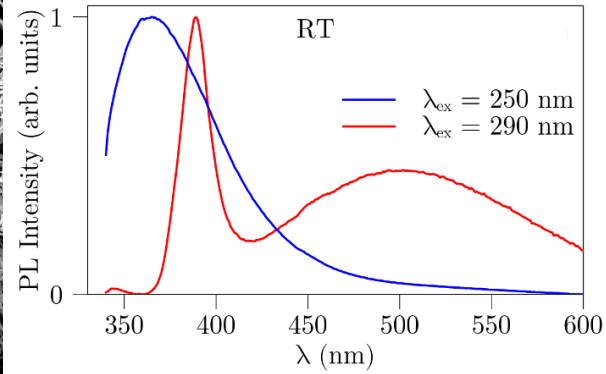
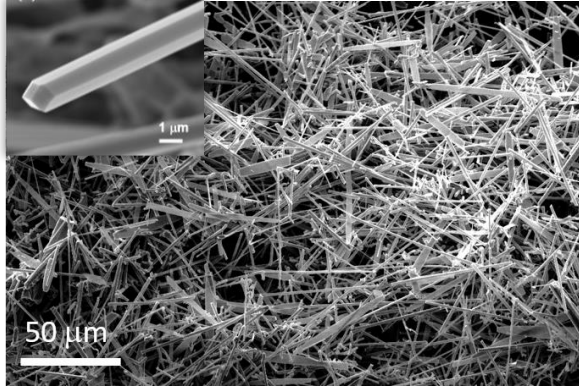
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/281/5379/939>

## NATIVE DEFECTS

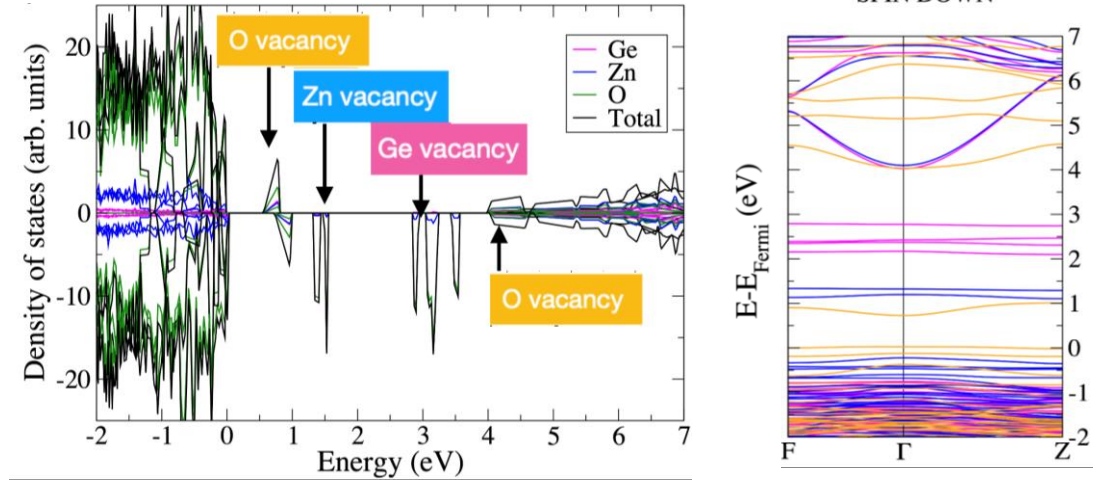
The proposed native defects responsible for the luminescence properties in undoped  $\text{Zn}_2\text{GeO}_4$  are oxygen vacancies ( $V_{\text{O}}$ ) and interstitial zinc ( $\text{Zn}_i$ ), with a **donor character**, and zinc vacancies ( $V_{\text{Zn}}$ ) and germanium vacancies ( $V_{\text{Ge}}$ ) **as acceptors**.



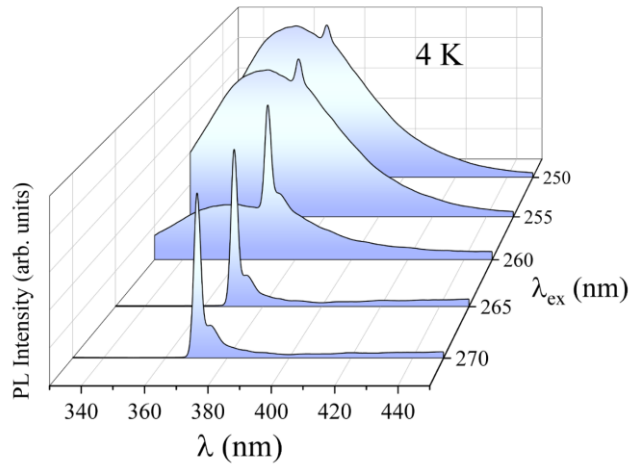
# Defects & Luminescence



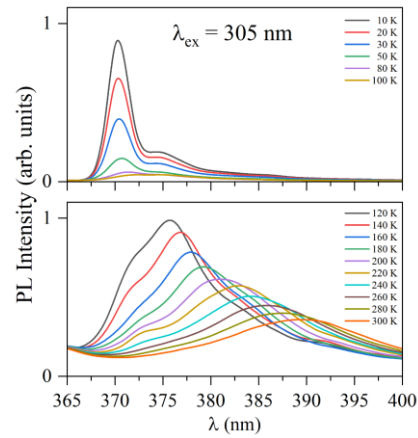
## First-principles calculations



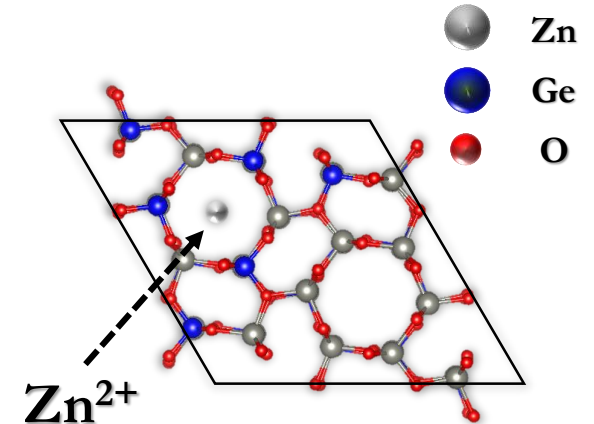
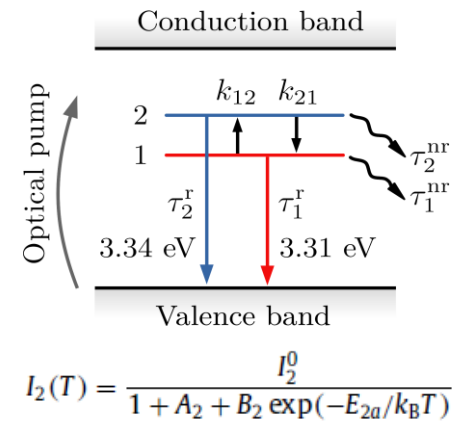
## Excitation Energy



## Temperature

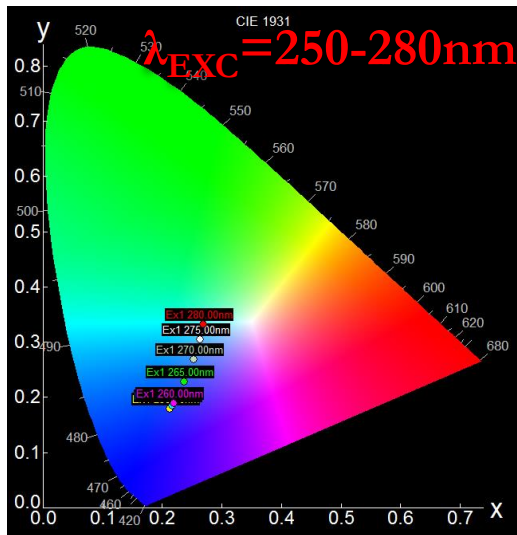


## Kinetics luminescent processes



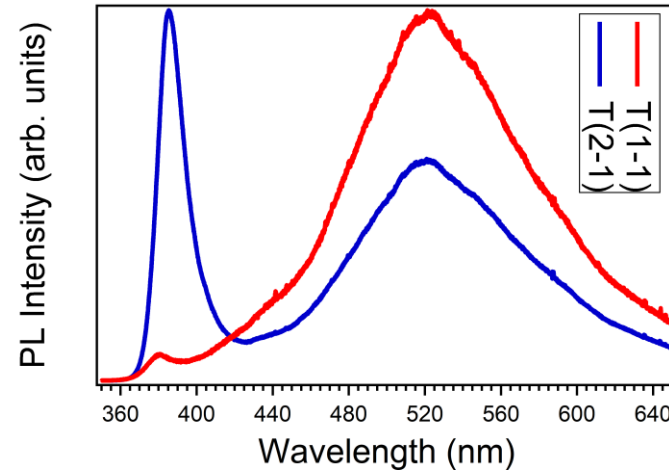
# What for?

## UV Detector

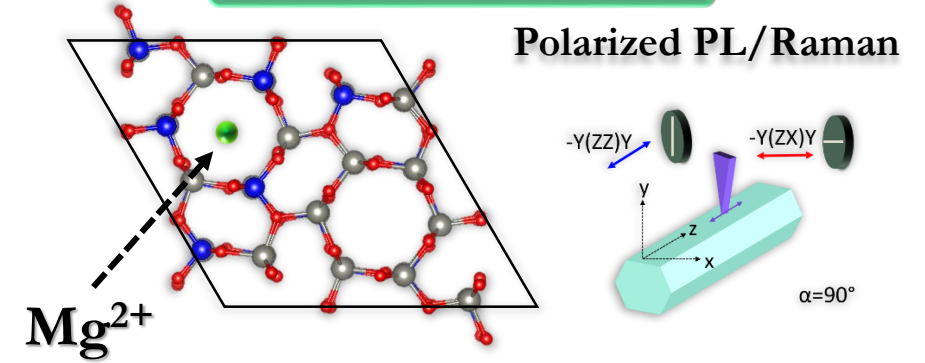


UV-C	UV-B	UV-A
100–280 nm	280–315 nm	315–400 nm
Dangerous Rays	Burning Rays	Tanning Rays

## White-light emission



## Energy storage



Potential **solar cell candidate** because it is UV-blind.

Changes in temperature or surface cause changes in luminescence: **Sensing applications.**

Larger numbers of separated electrons and holes might lead to higher **photocatalytic** efficiency.

