

# Fast, Local, and In-situ Cure Rheology of Photo-processable Polymers using Atomic Force Microscopy



Dr. Callie Fiedler-Higgins  
*National Institute of  
Standards and Technology*

RadTech 2018 • 7 May 2018  
contact: [callie.higgins@nist.gov](mailto:callie.higgins@nist.gov)



# Motivation: *Additive Manufacturing*

## Rapid prototyping

Professional



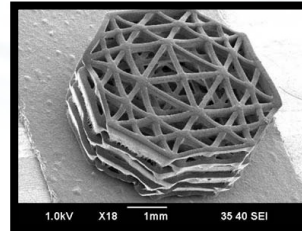
Personal



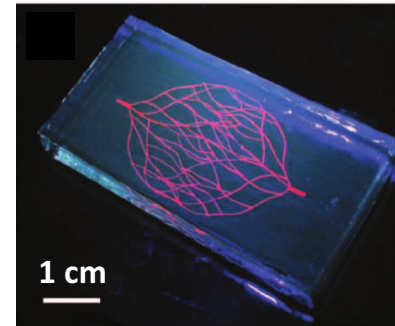
## Personalized Medicine

Regenerative medicine

*Bone-tissue scaffolds*



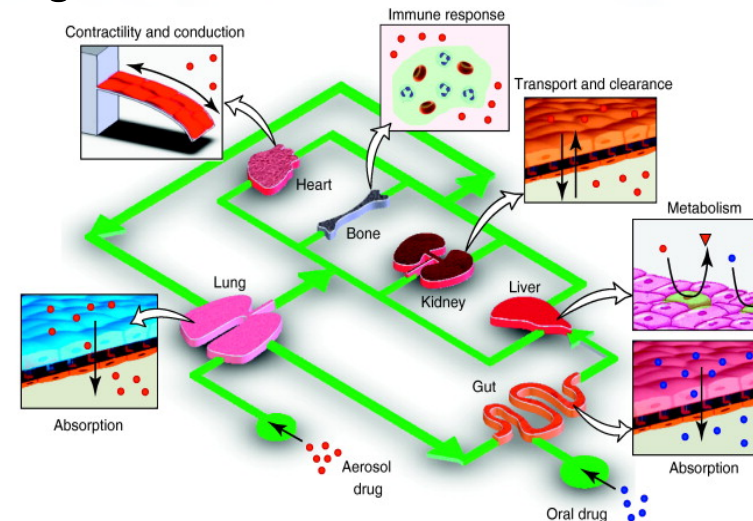
*Printed vasculature*



Pharmaceutical Testing

*Body-on-a-chip*

Patient-specific representative organoid structures in a microfluidic device for high-throughput drug screening

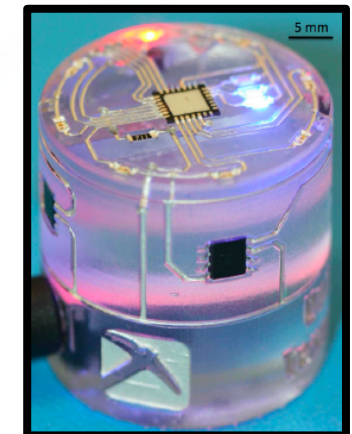


## Industry

High-performance parts

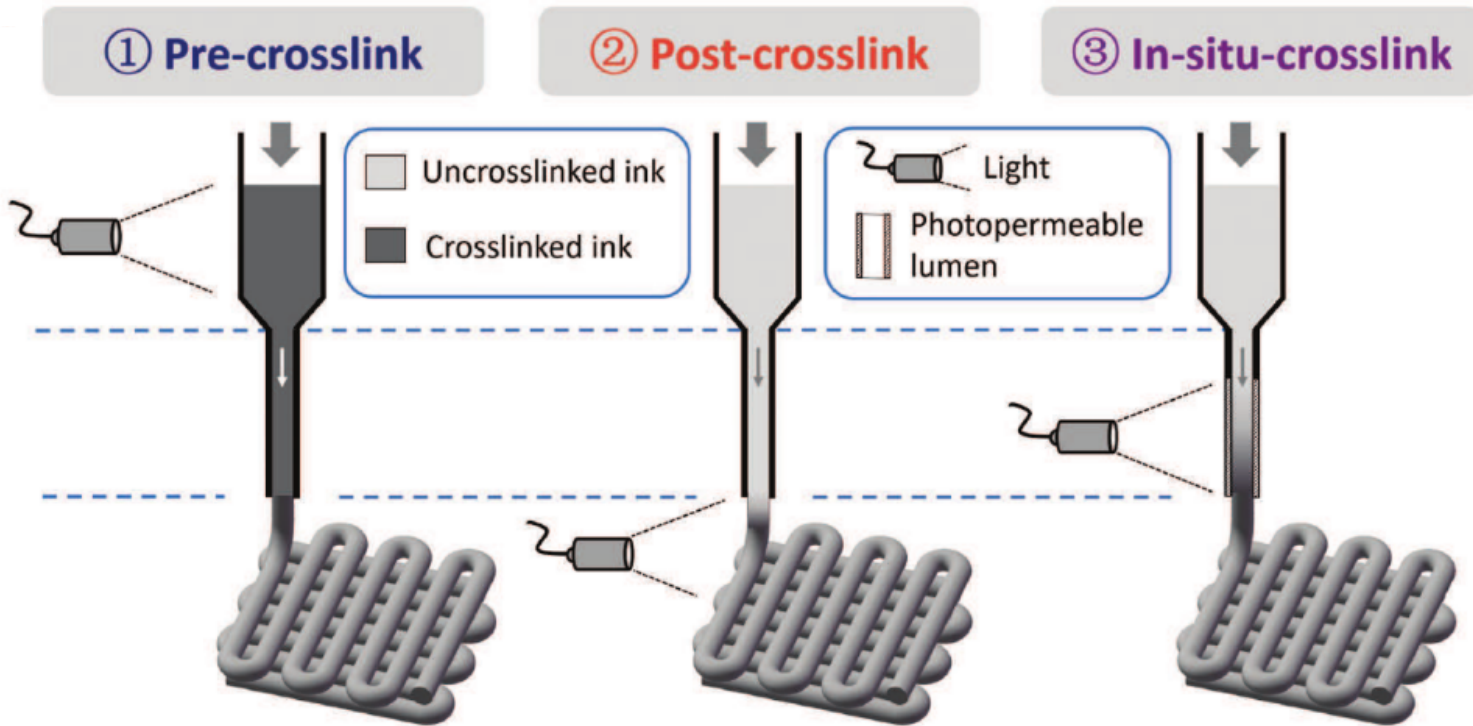


Complex circuitry

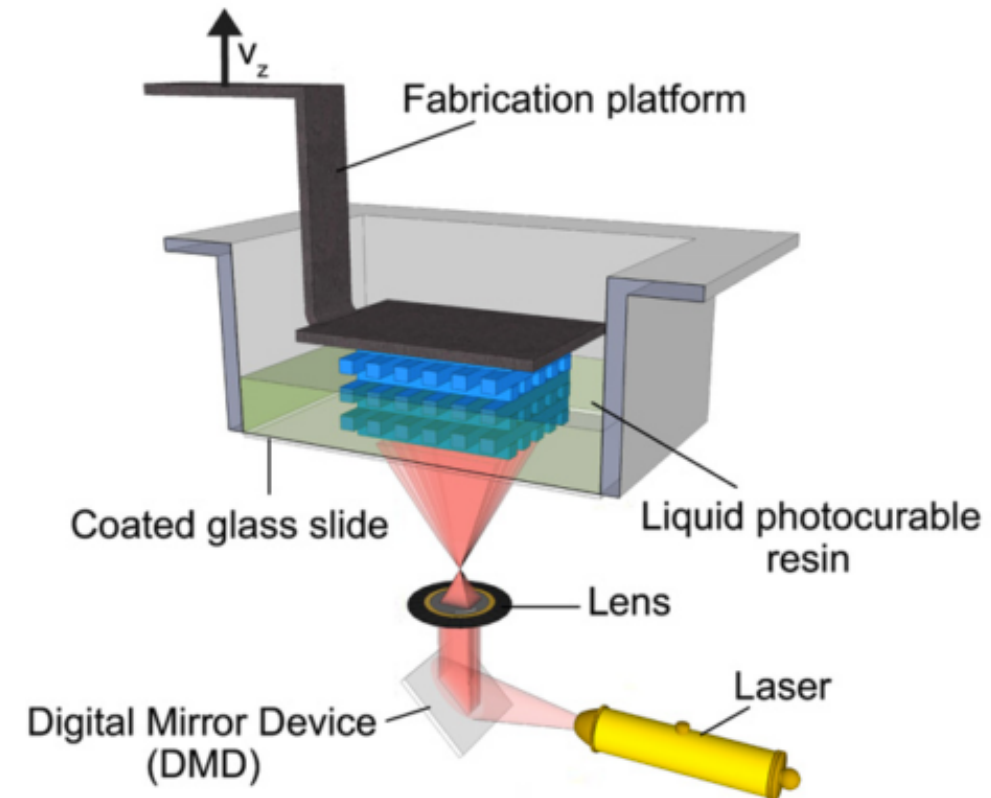


# 3D Printing: *Light-induced*

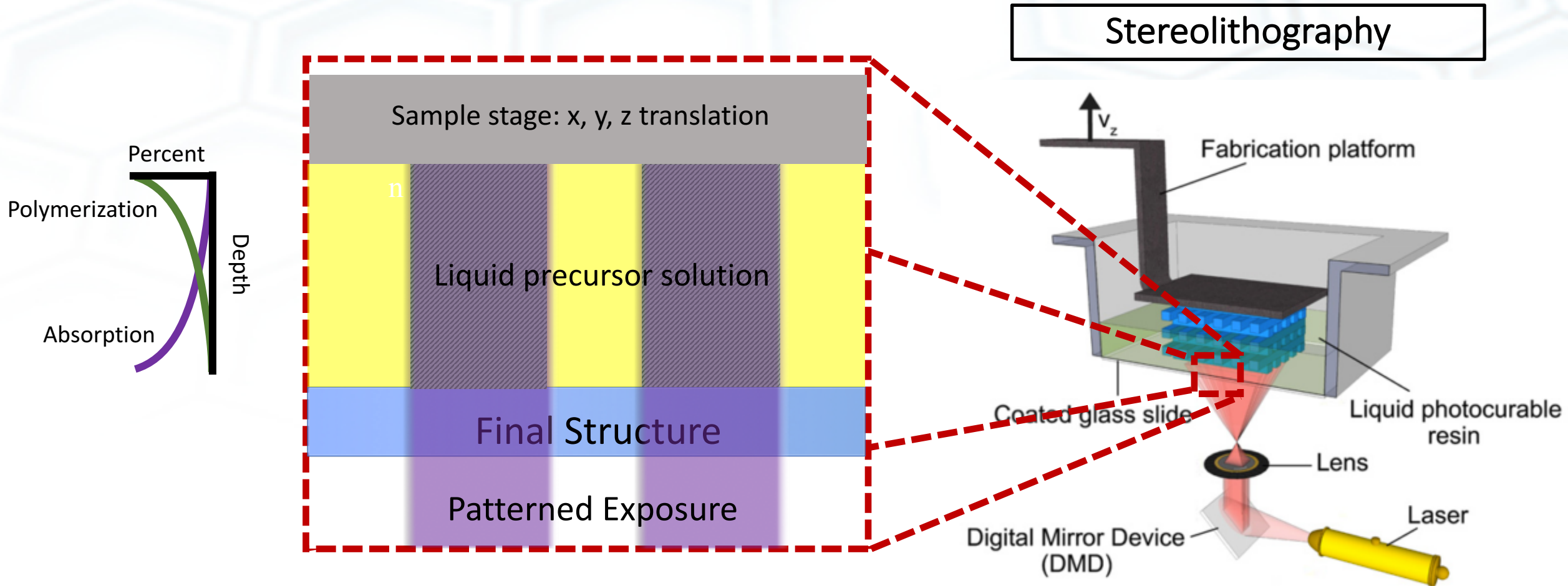
## Nozzle-based printing



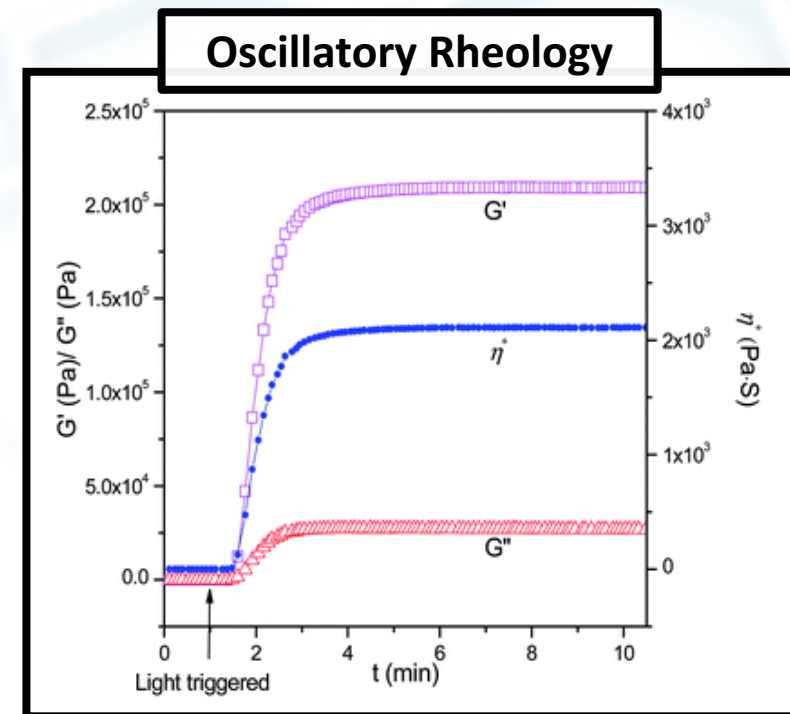
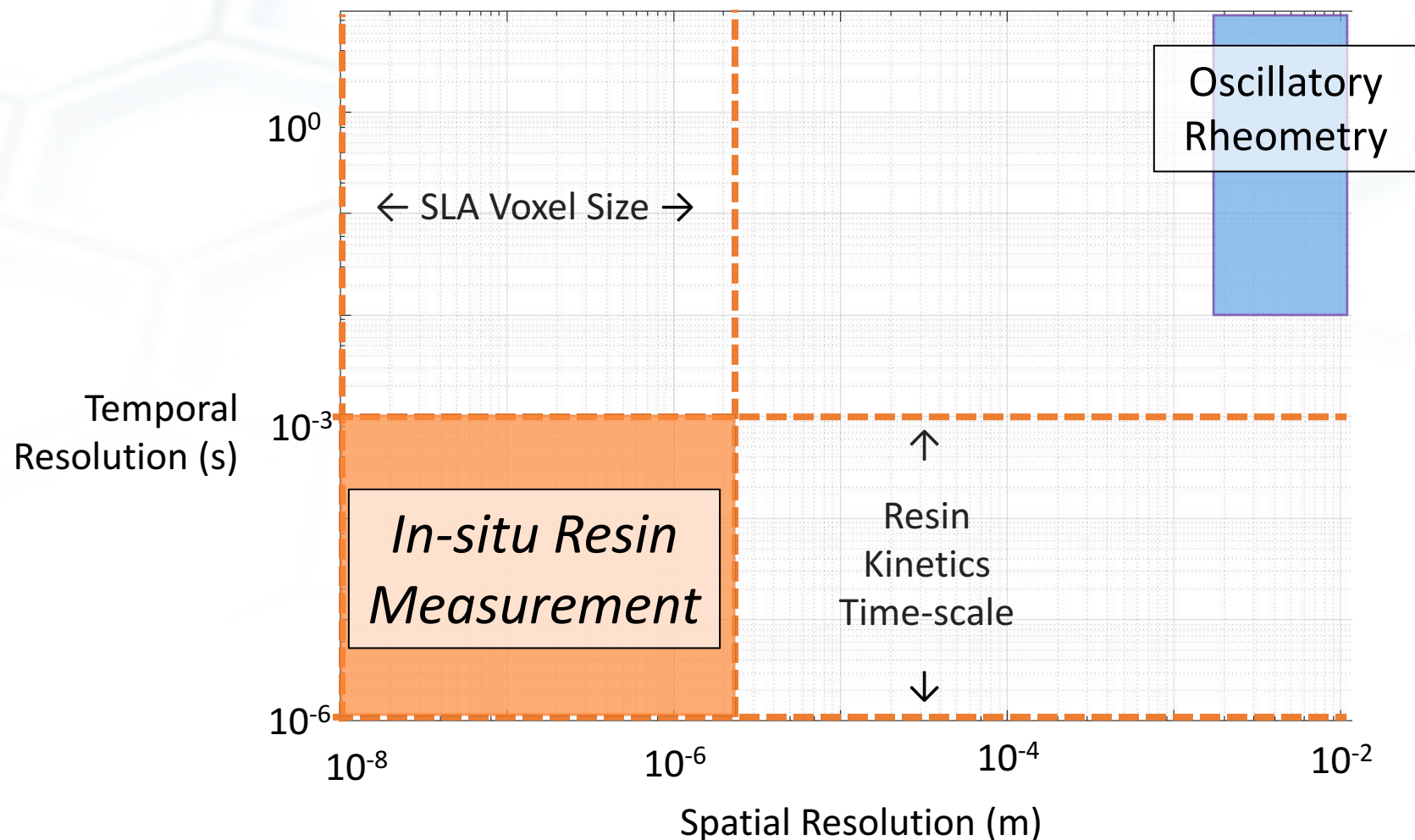
## Stereolithography



# 3D Printing: *Light-induced*

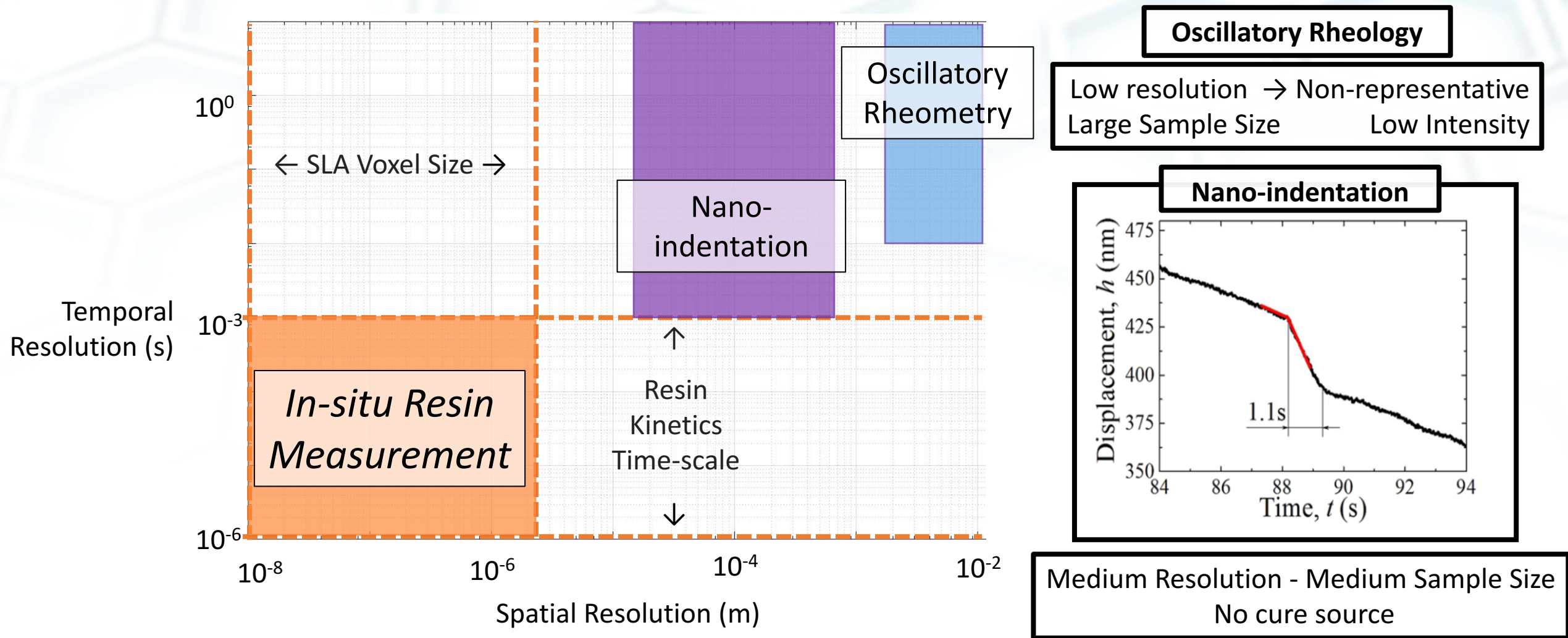


# In-situ Characterization: *State-of-the-art*

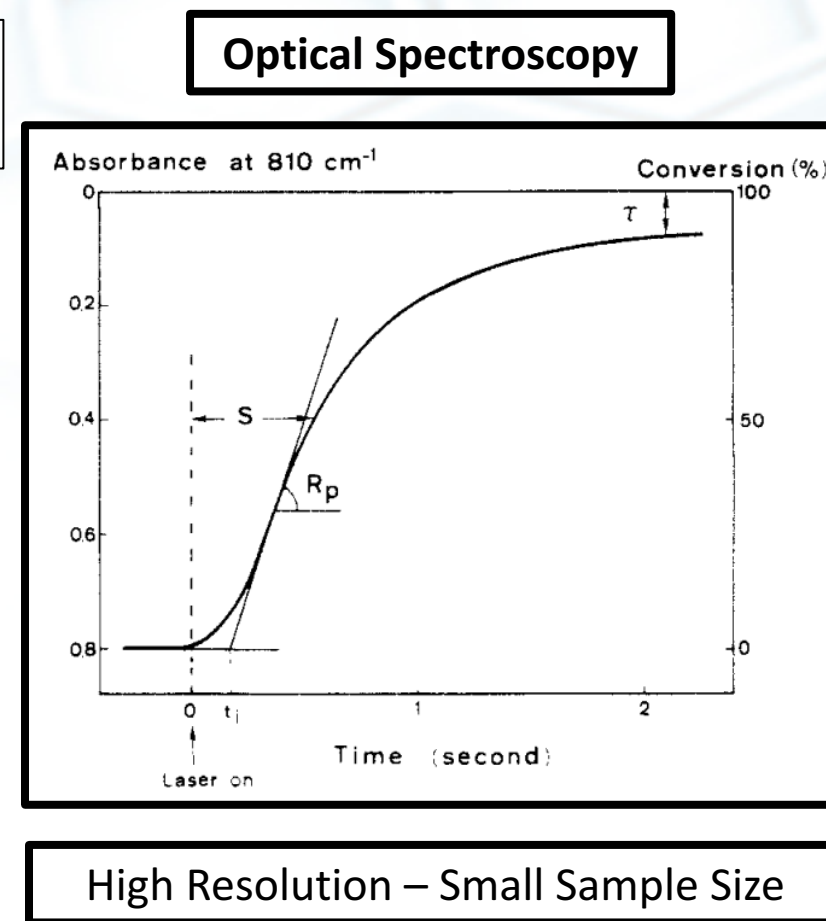
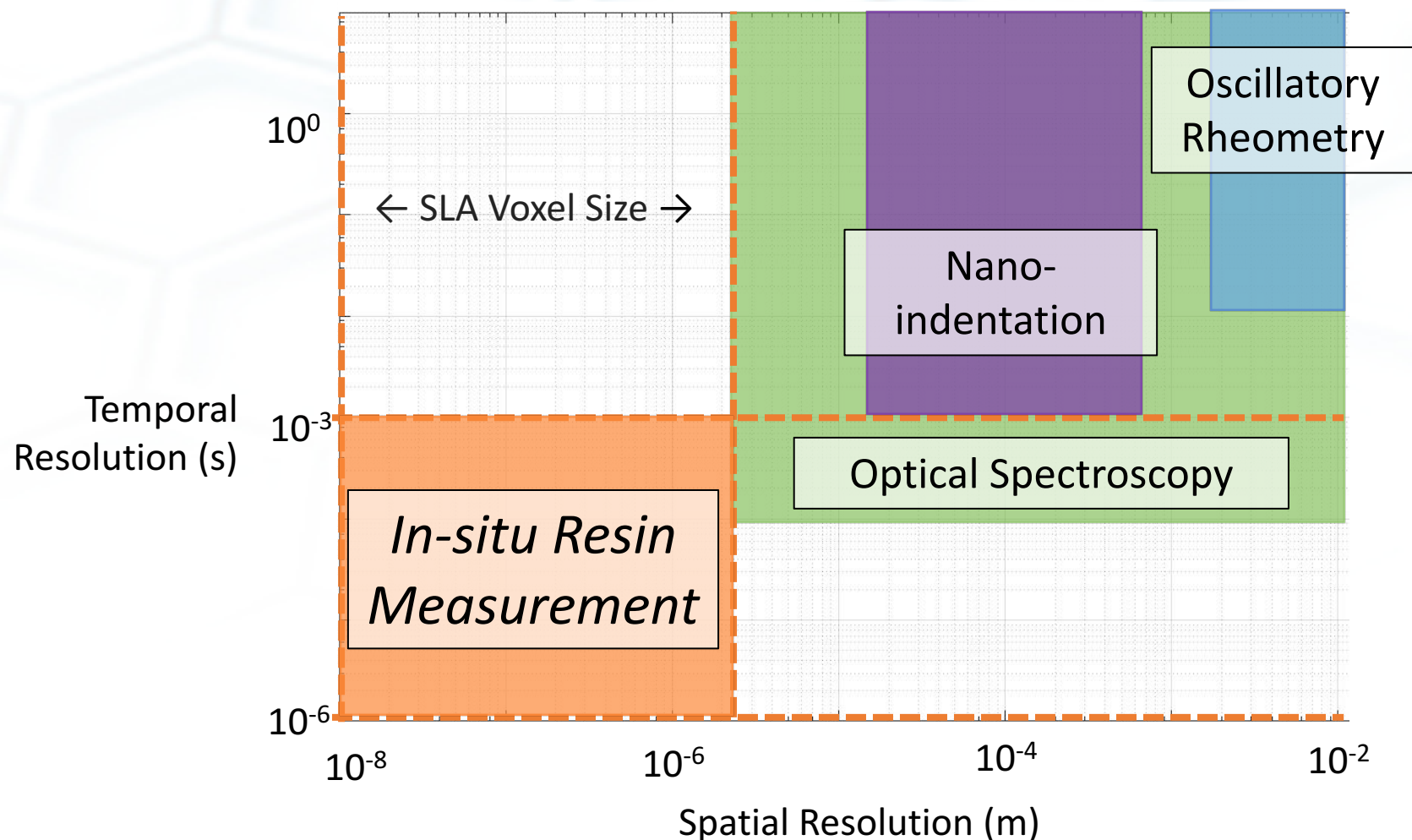


Low resolution → Non-representative  
Low Intensity

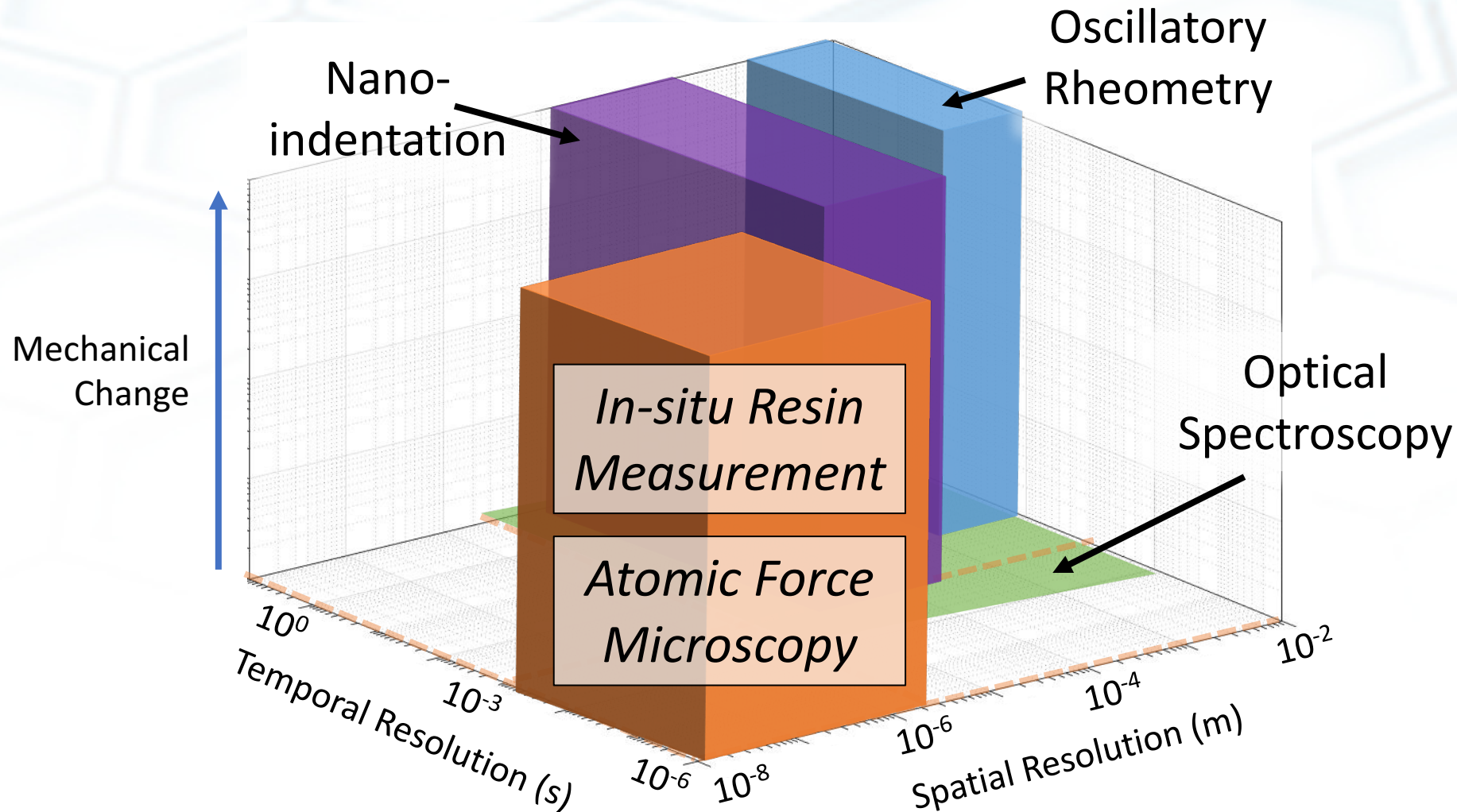
# In-situ Characterization: *State-of-the-art*



# In-situ Characterization: *State-of-the-art*

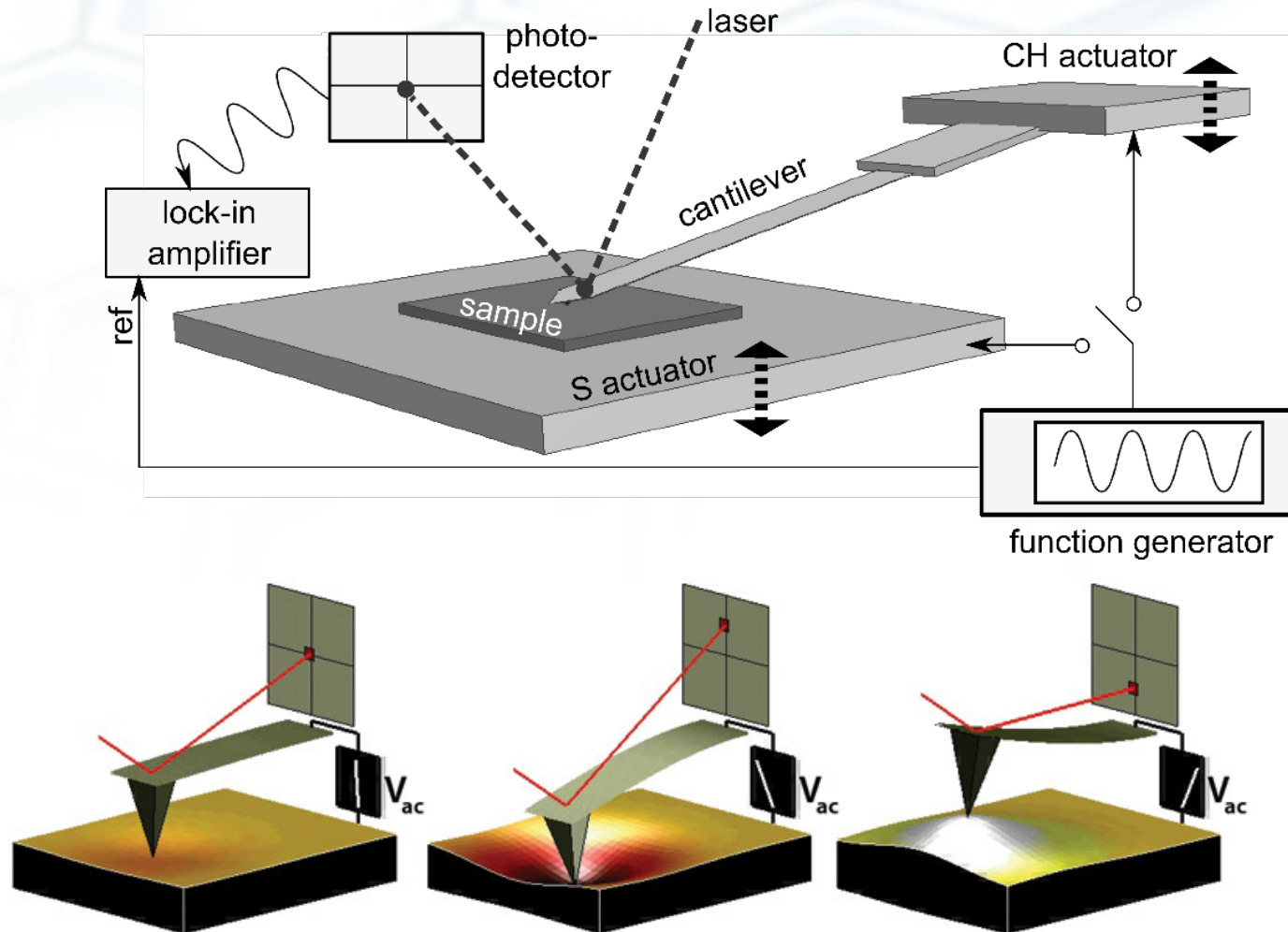


# In-situ Characterization: *State-of-the-art*

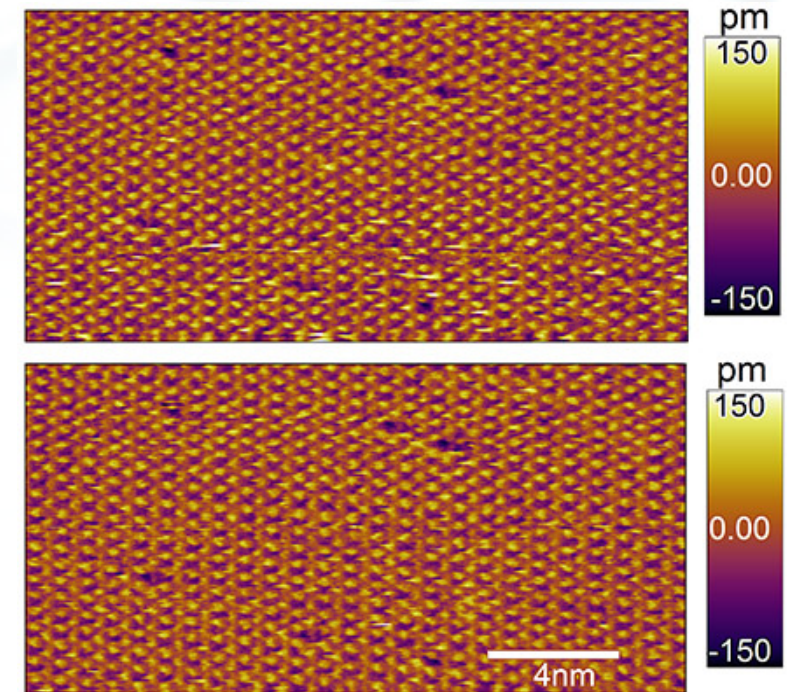




# Atomic Force Microscopy



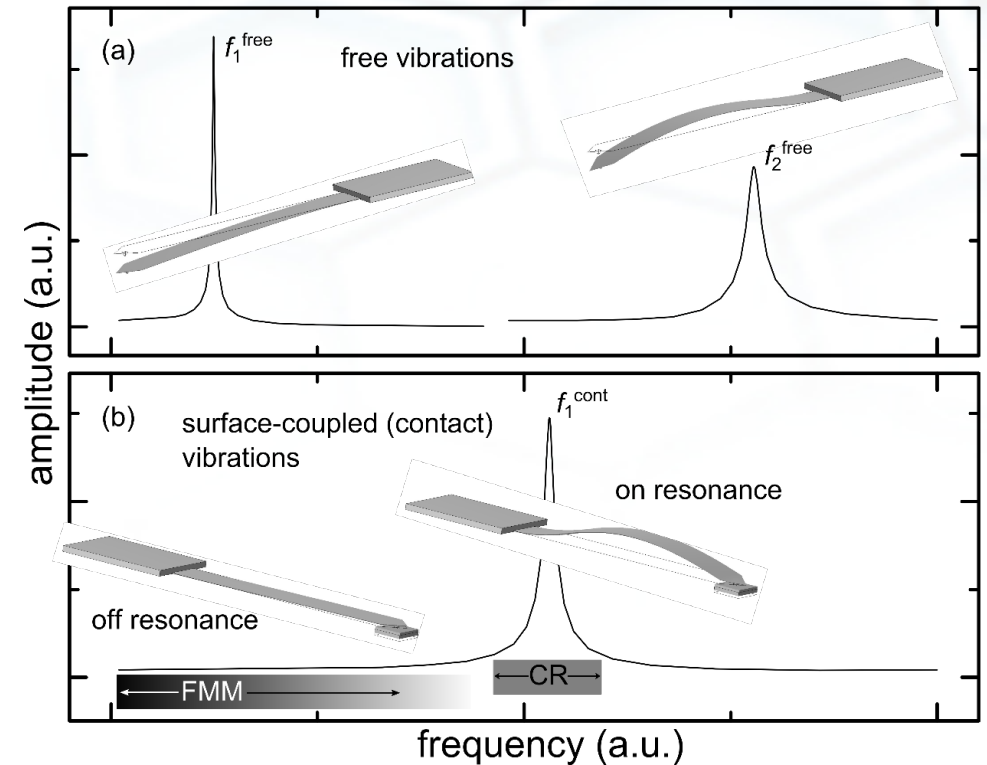
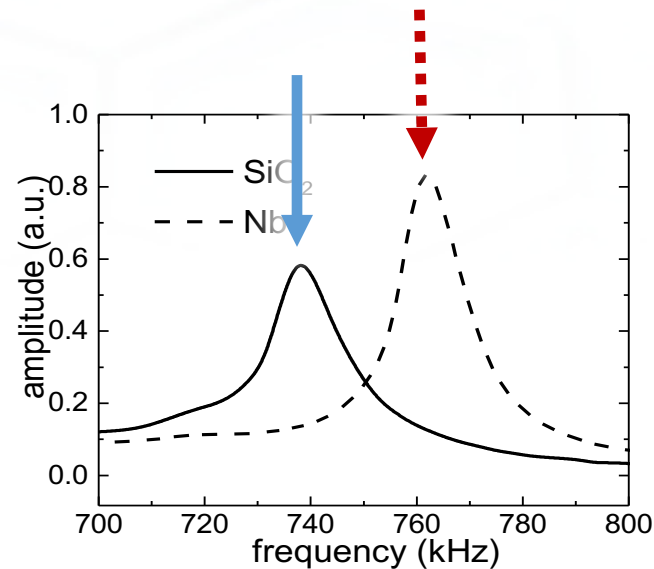
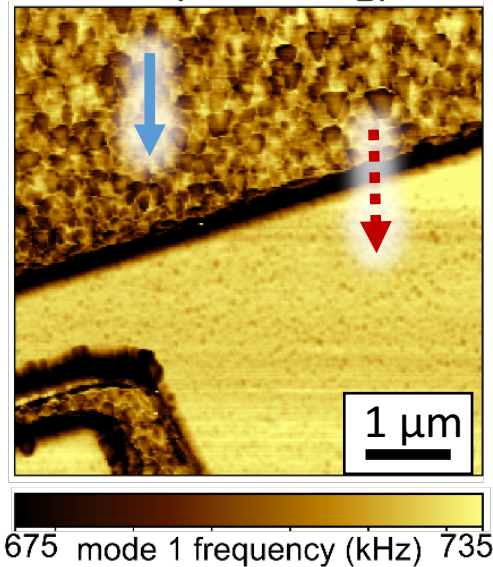
Single-atom calcite defects



# Atomic Force Microscopy

## Dynamic Contact Sensing: Contact Resonance

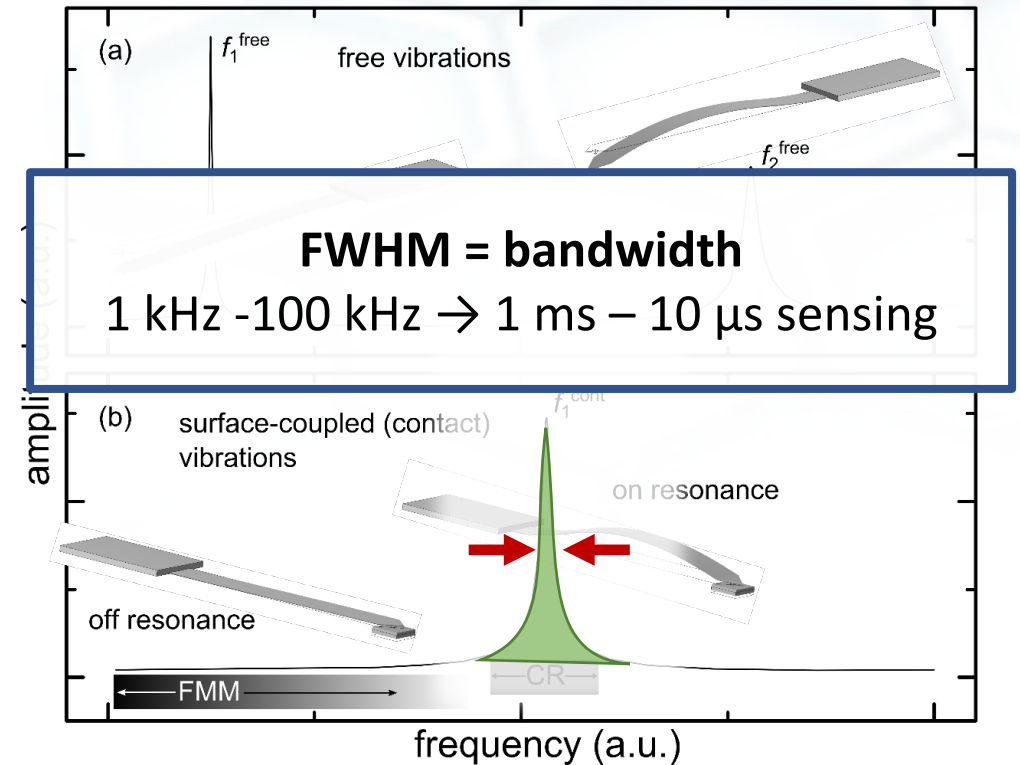
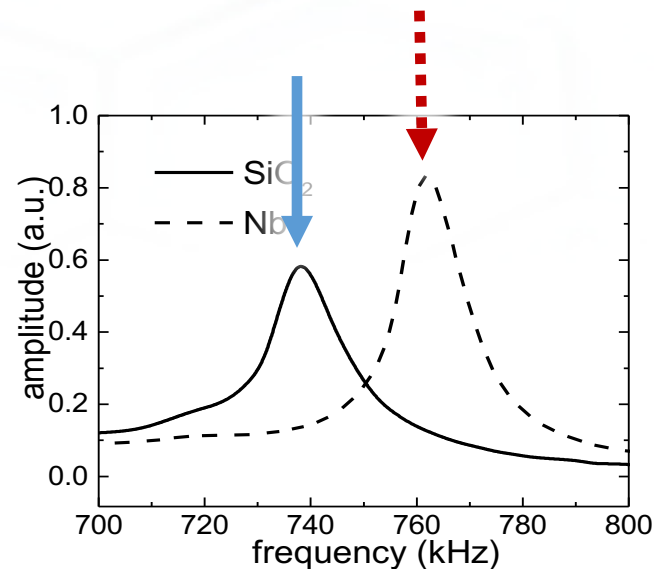
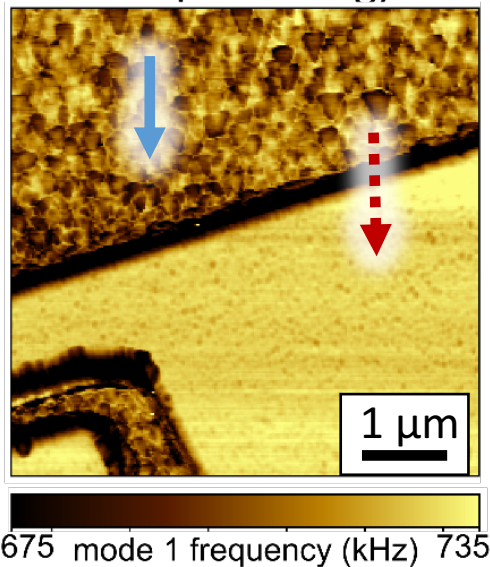
- Shift in frequency proportional to stiffness
- Viscoelasticity obtained from Q-factor ( $f_r/\Delta f_r$ )
  - Quantitative evaluation of storage modulus, loss modulus,  $\tan \delta$  via Elastic Beam model
- Fast sensing capability (bandwidth (1 kHz -100 kHz  $\rightarrow$  1 ms – 10  $\mu$ s sensing))



# Atomic Force Microscopy

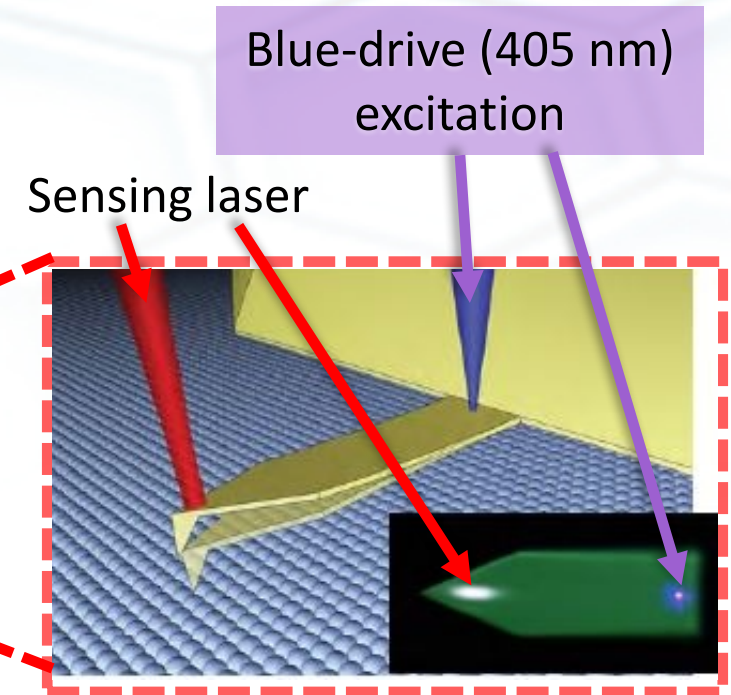
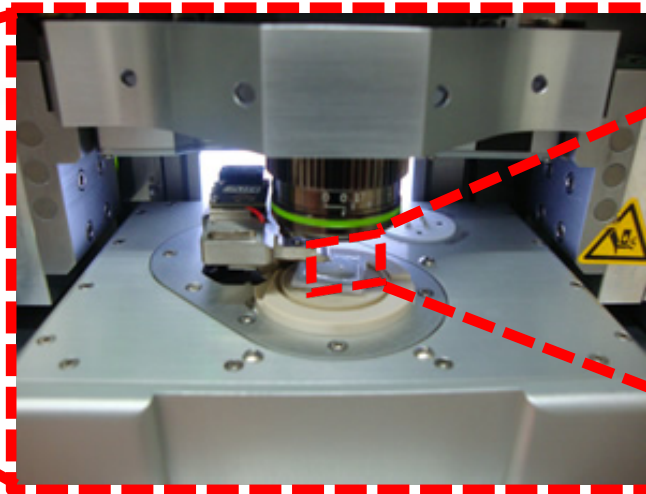
## Dynamic Contact Sensing: Contact Resonance

- Shift in frequency proportional to stiffness
- Viscoelasticity obtained from Q-factor ( $f_r/\Delta f_r$ )
  - Quantitative evaluation of storage modulus, loss modulus,  $\tan \delta$  via Elastic Beam model
- Fast sensing capability (bandwidth (1 kHz -100 kHz  $\rightarrow$  1 ms – 10  $\mu$ s sensing)

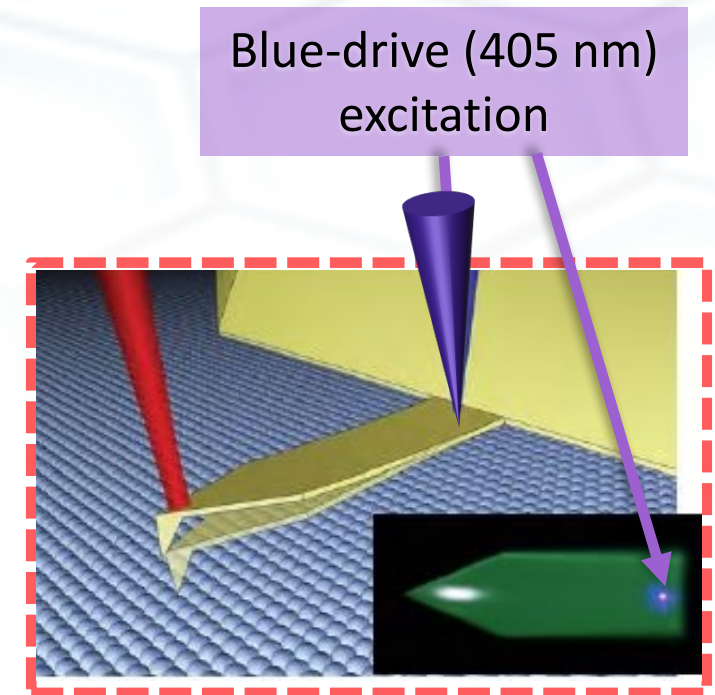
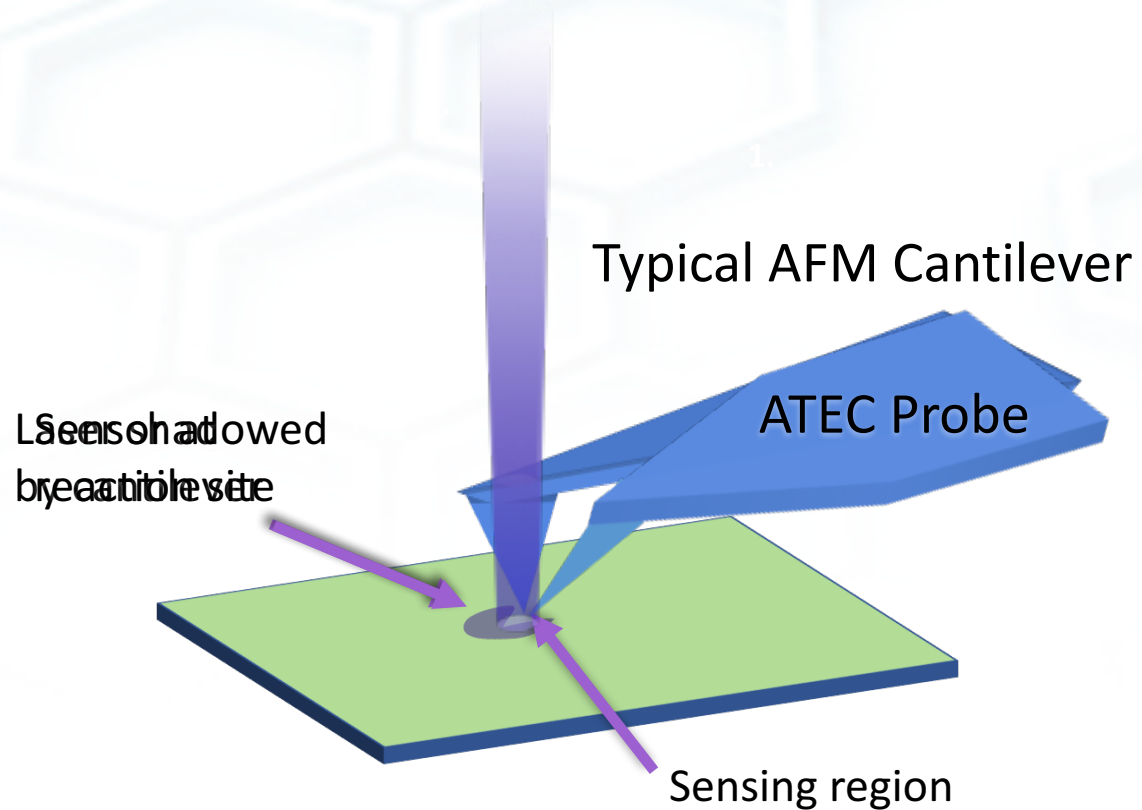


# Adapting Current System

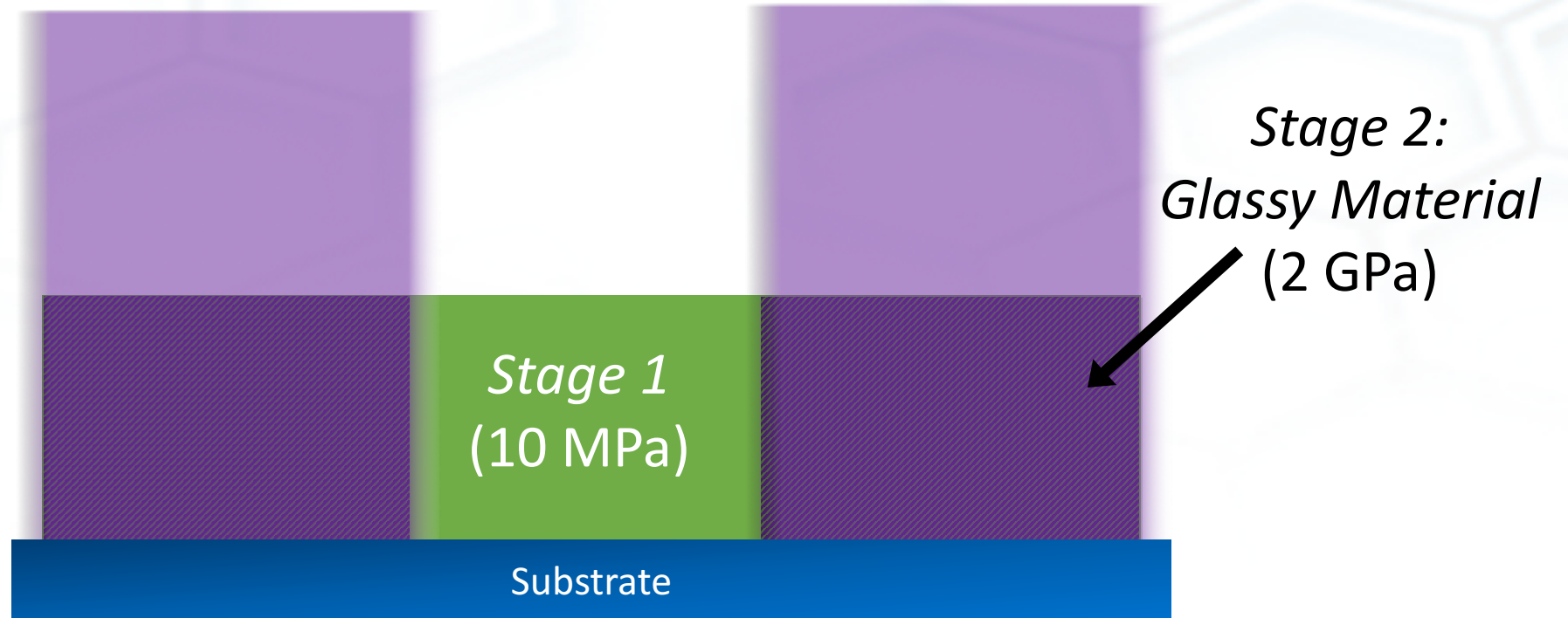
## *Commercial AFM*



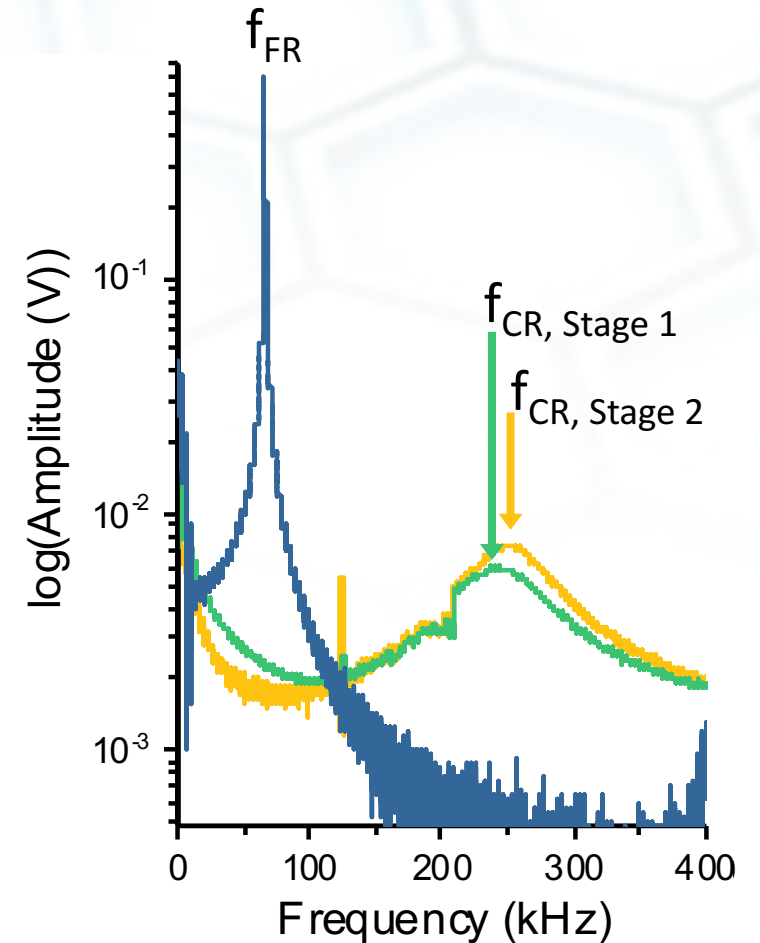
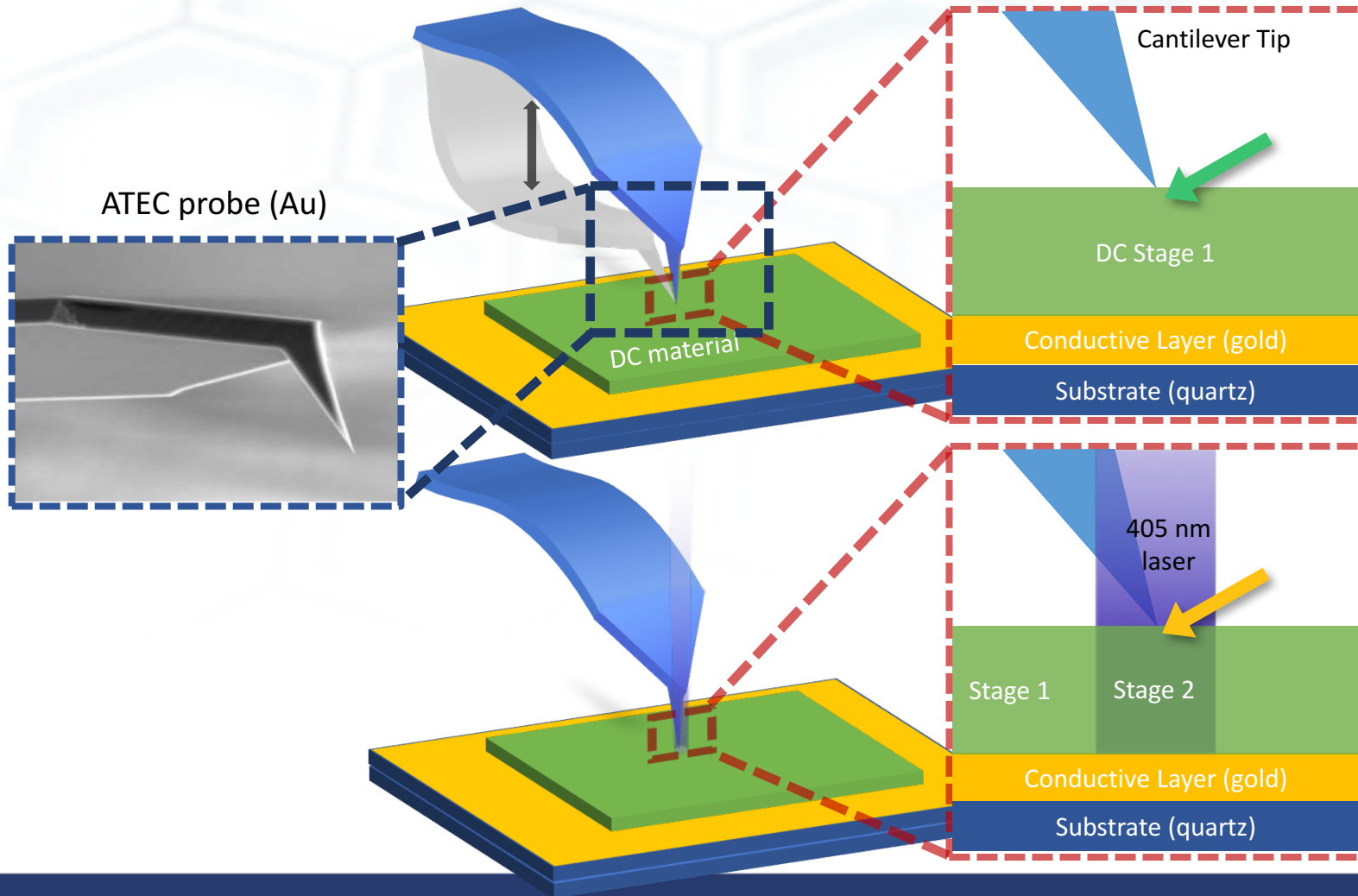
# Adapting Current System



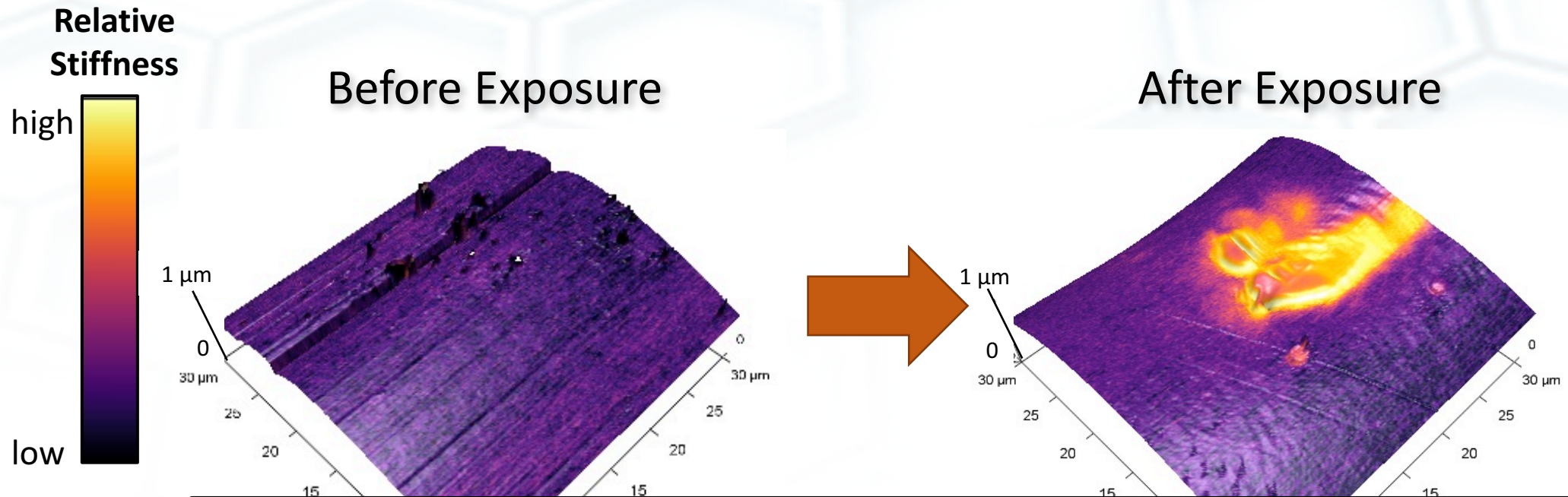
# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*



# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*



# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*



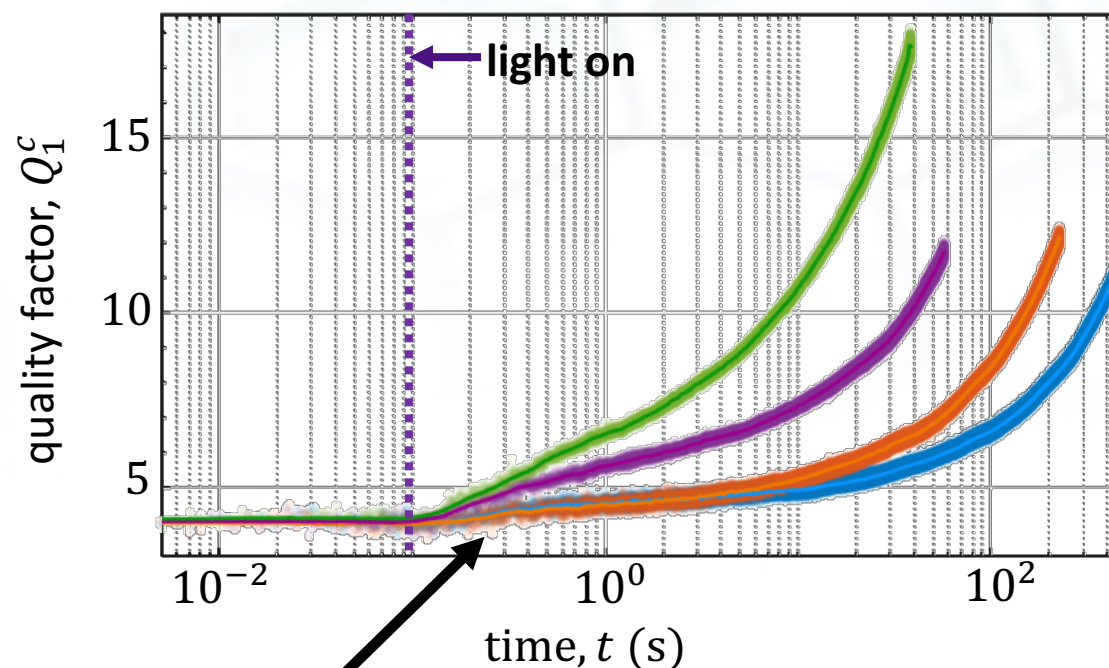
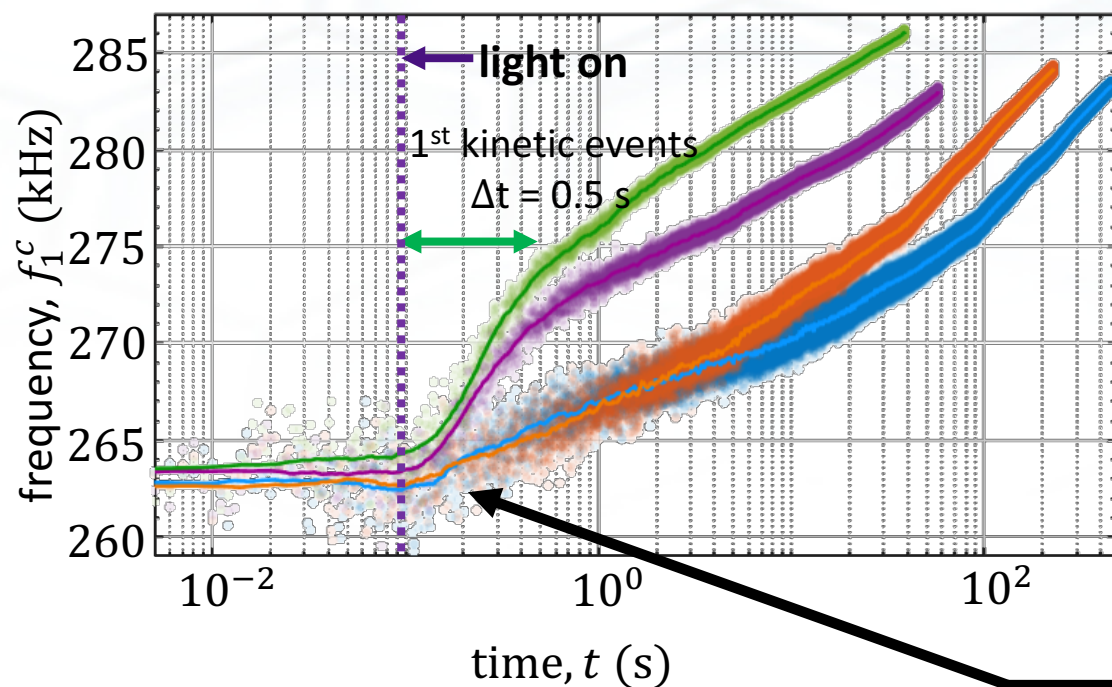
***What locally occurs during exposure?***



# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*

*Varied exposure power, constant dose*

$$\text{energy dose (mJ)} = \text{power (mW)} \times \text{exposure time (s)}$$



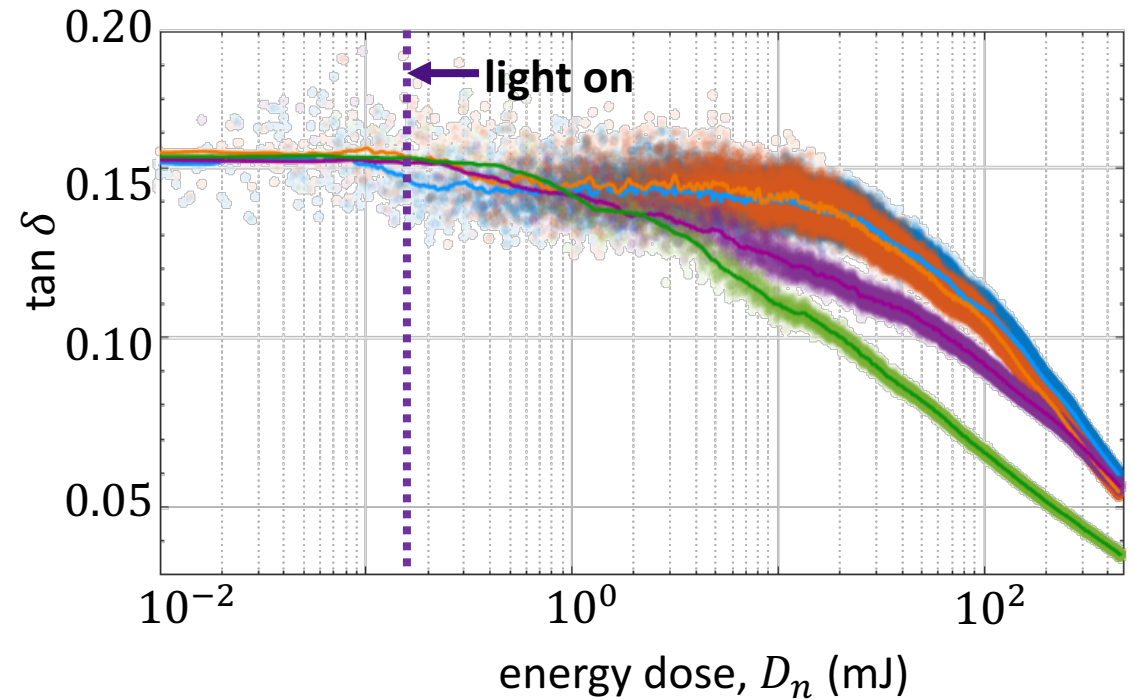
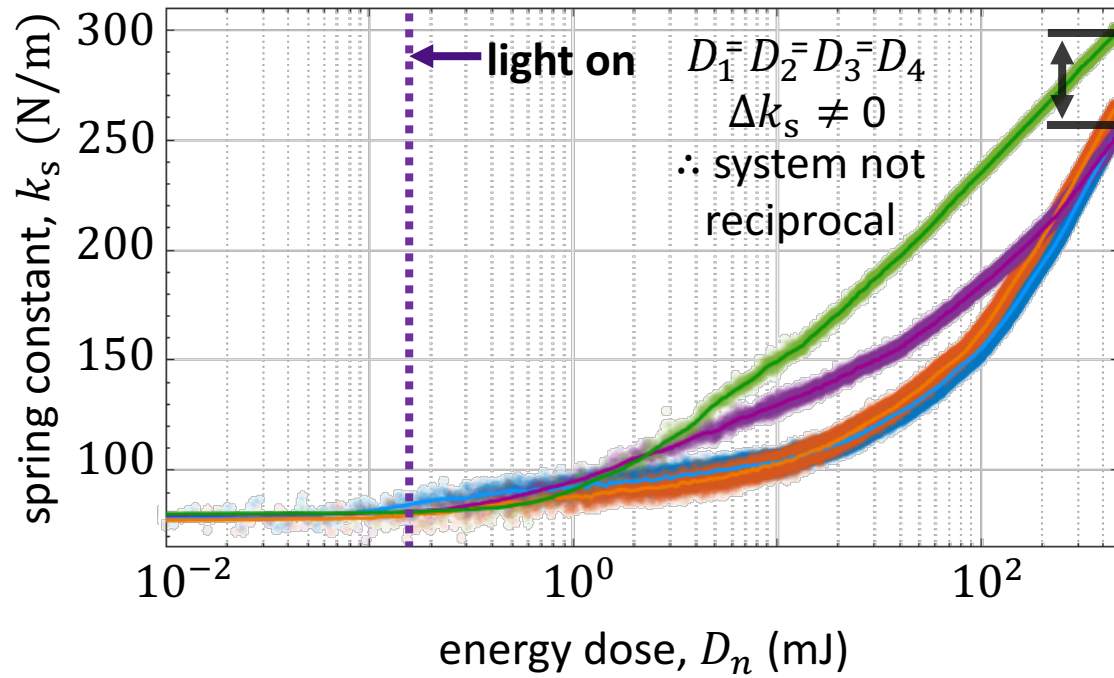
● 1 mW    ● 2 mW    ● 8 mW    ● 12 mW

*Capturing <1 ms kinetic events*

# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*

*Varied exposure power, constant dose*

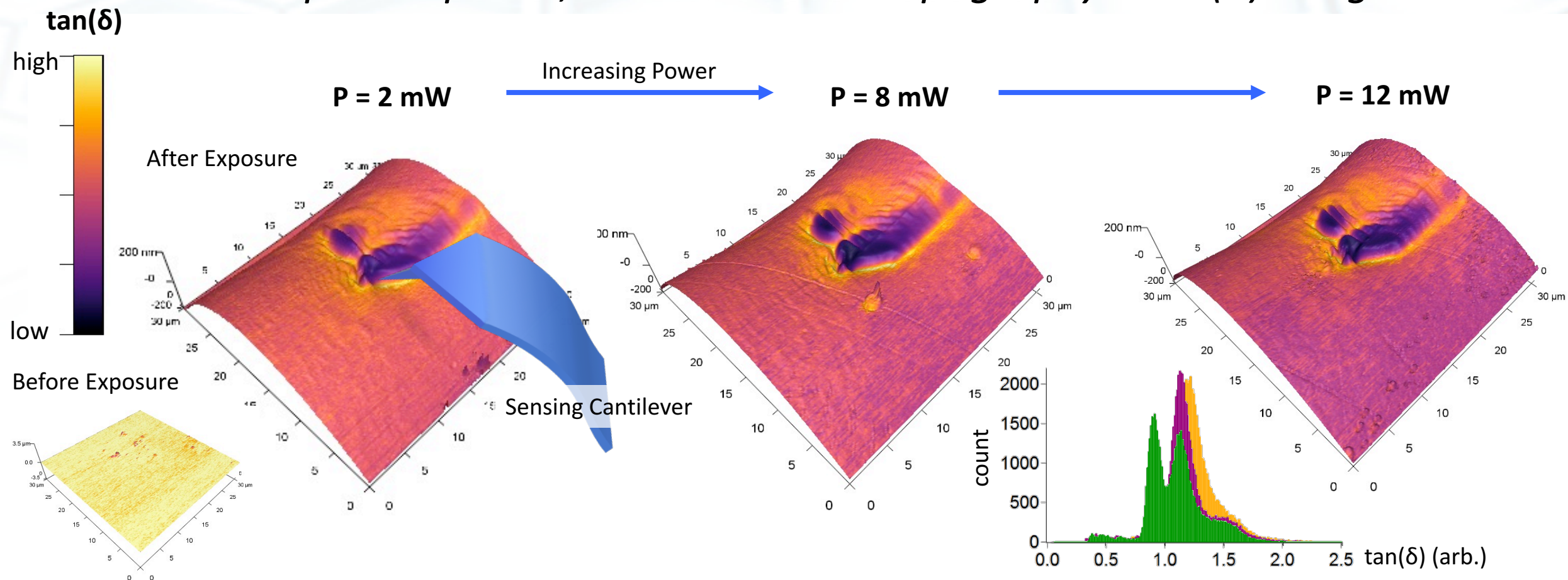
energy dose (mJ) = power (mW) x exposure time (s)



● 1 mW    ● 2 mW    ● 8 mW    ● 12 mW

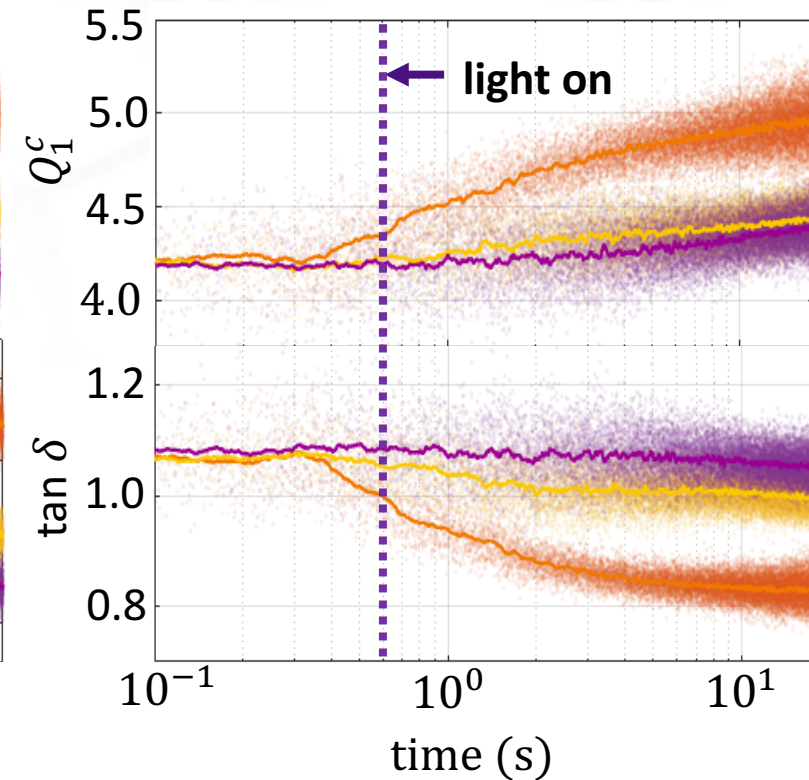
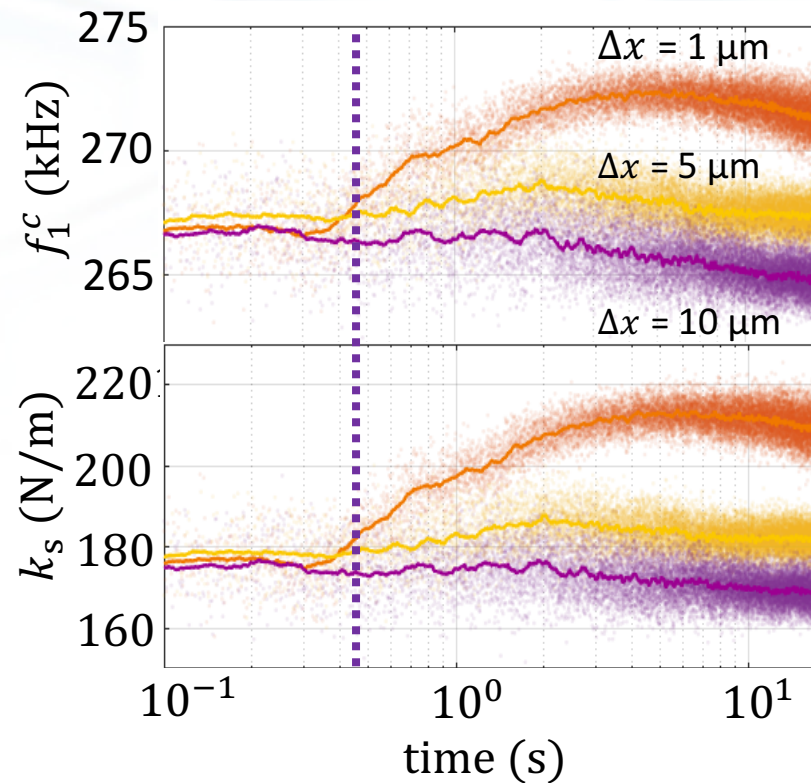
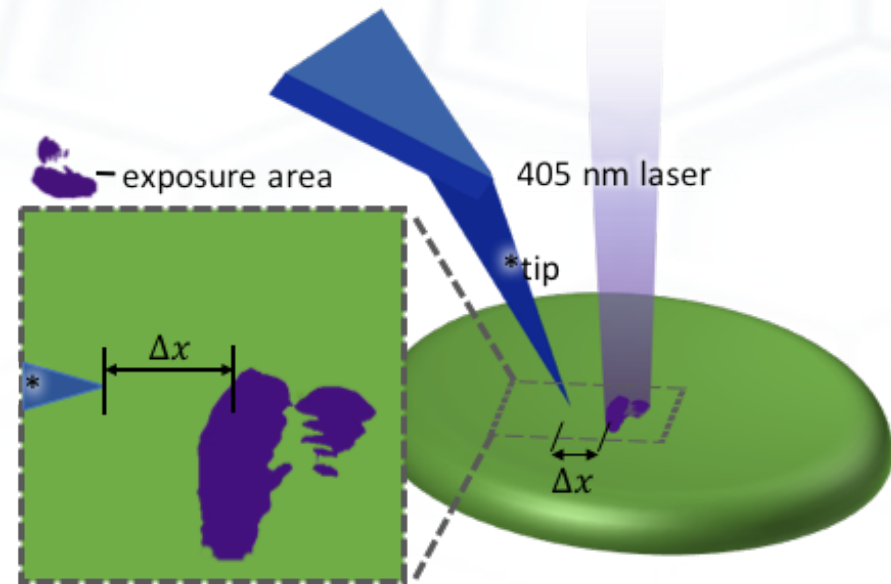
# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*

*Varied exposure power, constant dose : Topography +  $\tan(\delta)$  image*

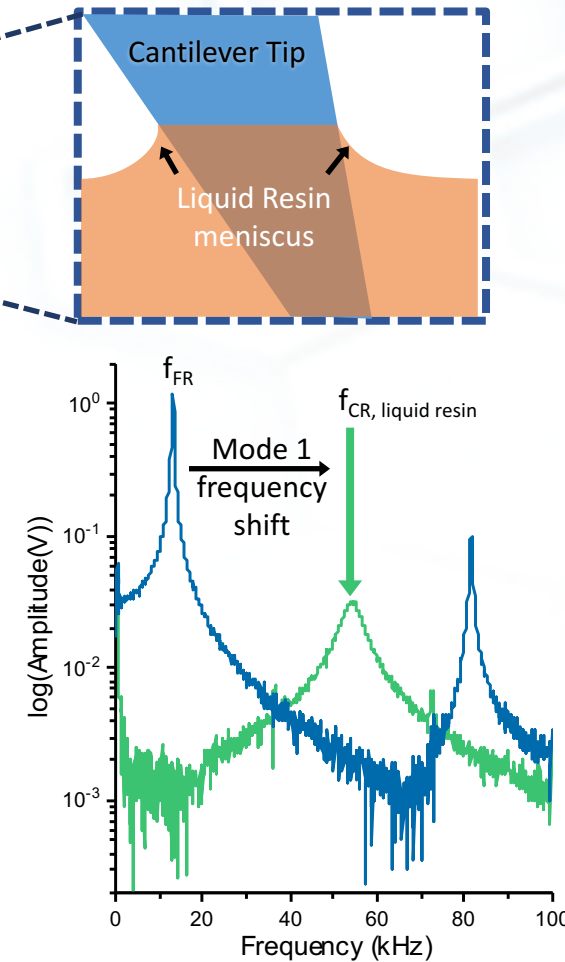
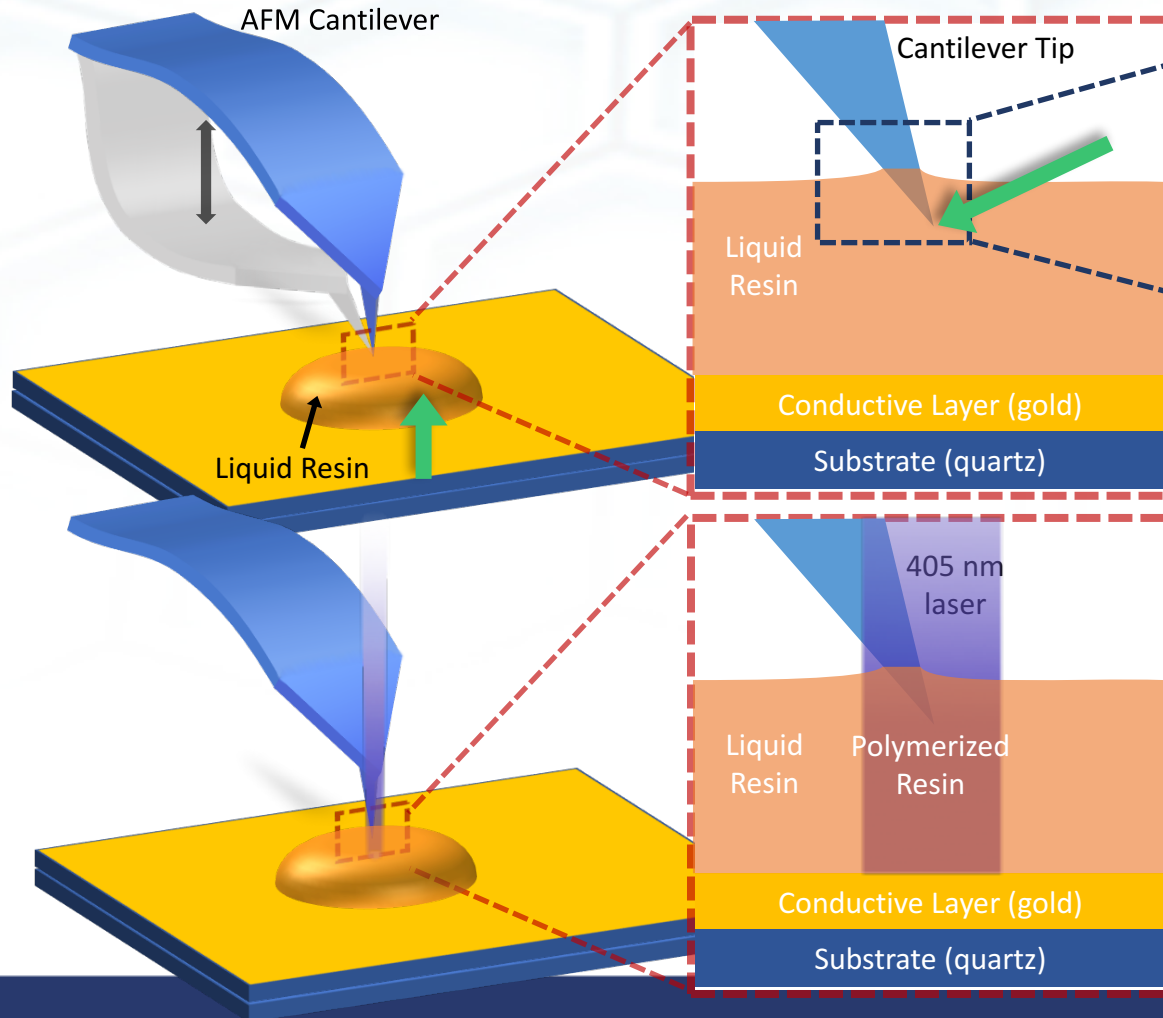


# In-situ cure: *Dual-cure material*

*Exposure spatial dependence : damping ( $Q$ ) and stiffness ( $f_0$ )*

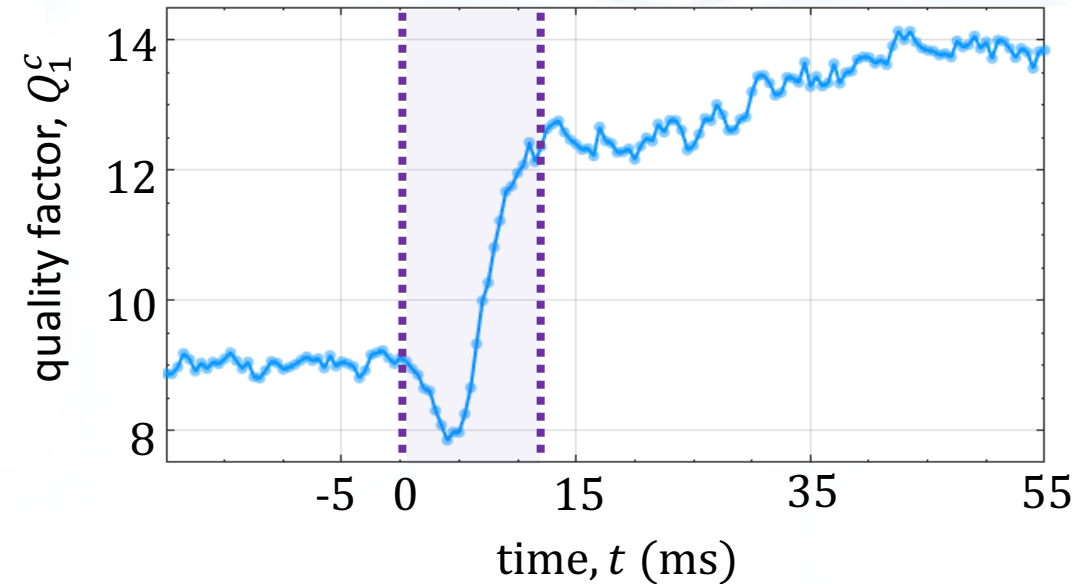
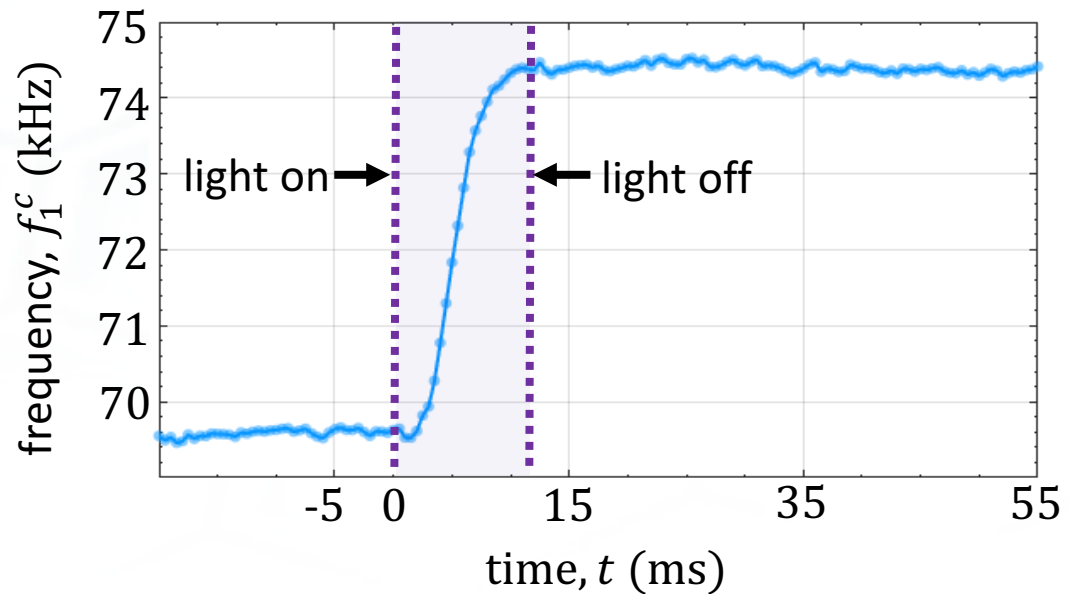


# In-situ cure: *Commercial, liquid AM resin*



Commercial Resin

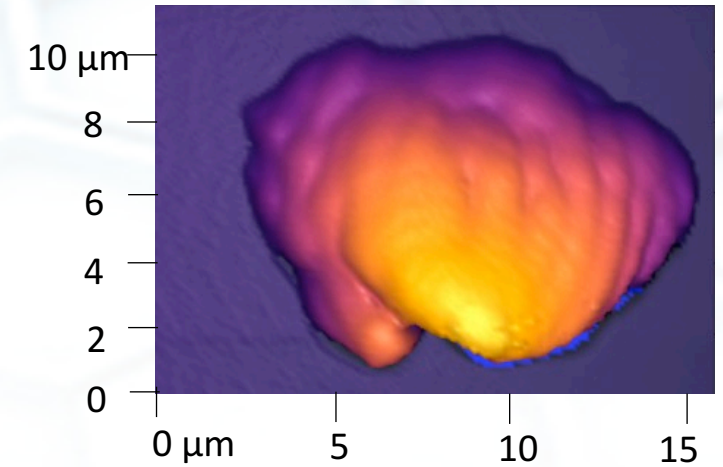
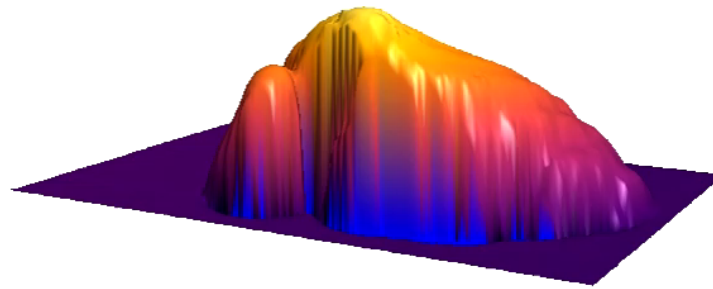
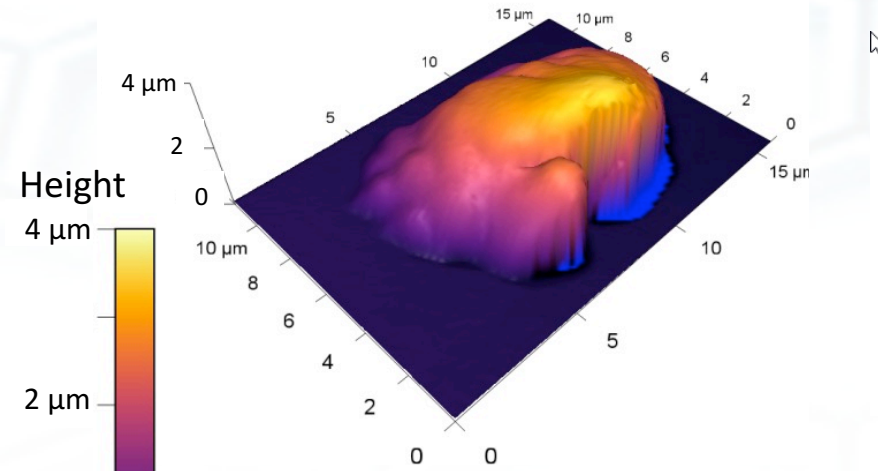
# In-situ cure: *Commercial, liquid AM resin*



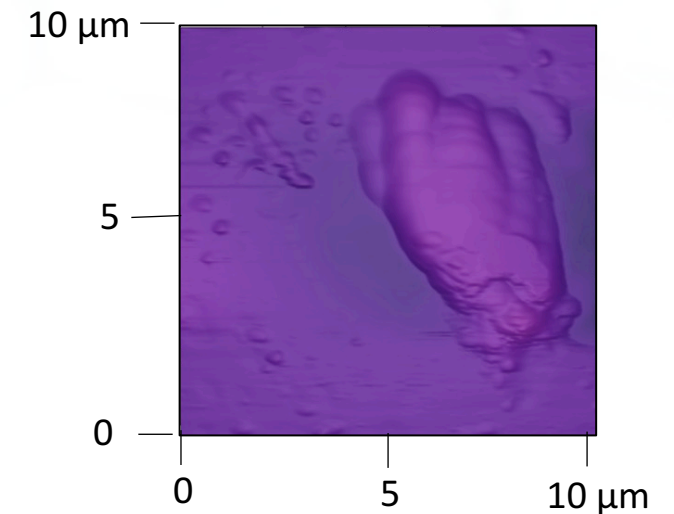
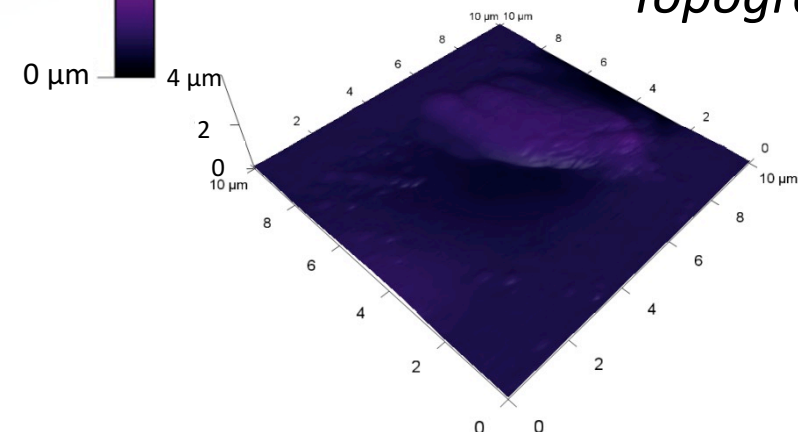
*Capturing polymerization event of **commercially available resin** at the **relevant intensities and spatiotemporal resolution***

# In-situ cure: *Commercial, liquid AM resin*

*Topography: in resin*

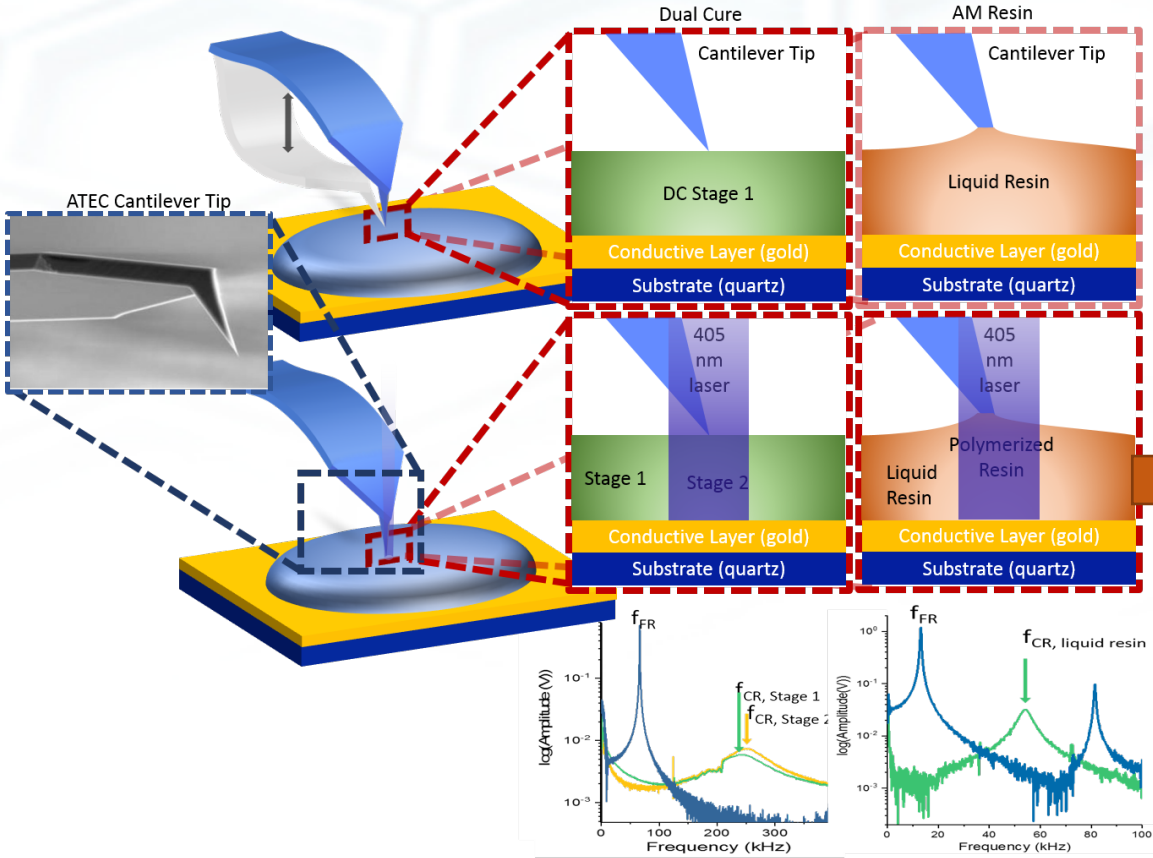


*Topography: after rinse*

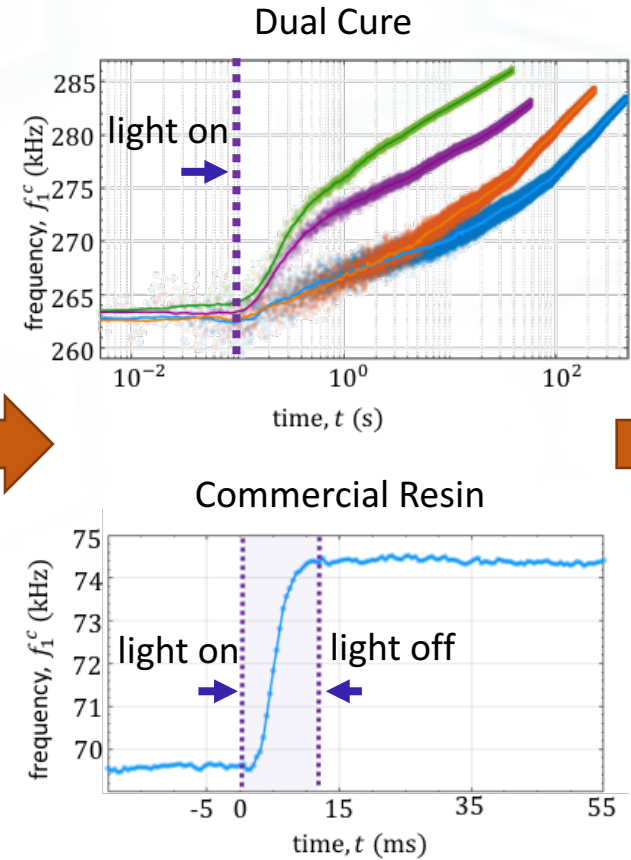


# Summary

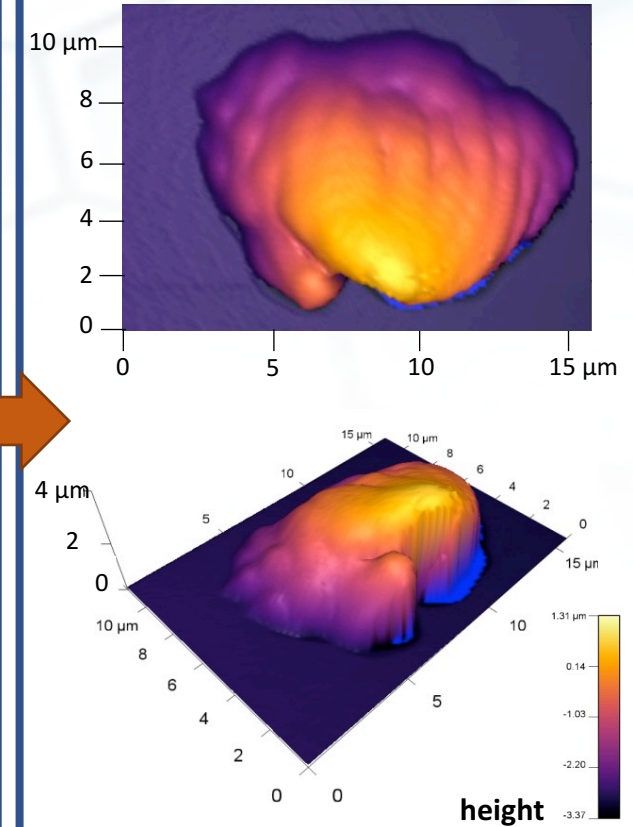
## In-situ Contact Resonance



## In-situ mechano-rheology



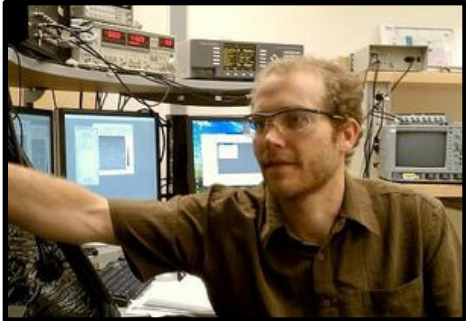
## Voxel Imaging





# Acknowledgements

contact: [callie.higgins@nist.gov](mailto:callie.higgins@nist.gov)



**Dr. Jason Killgore**

Dr. Lewis Cox

Dr. Ben Caplins



*Thank you! Questions?*