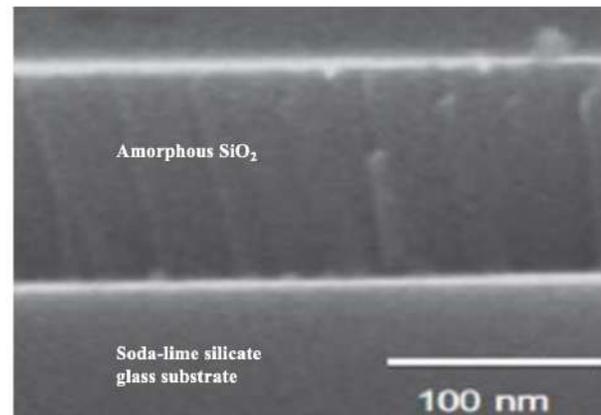


Comparaison structure du verre et couche mince amorphe

Laurent Cormier



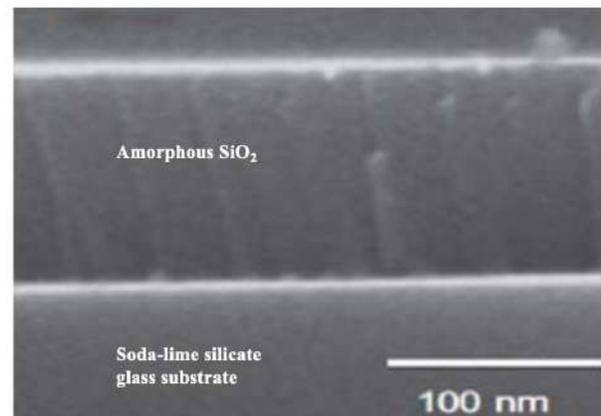
Comparaison structure du verre et couche mince amorphe

Laurent Cormier

Katia Burov

Hervé Montigaud

Sirine Ben Khemis



Basics of glass structure

Structure of the surface

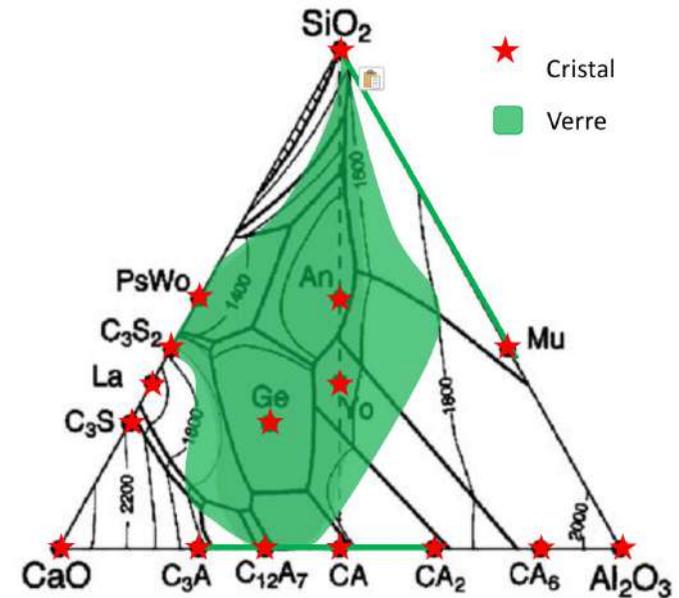
Structure of an amorphous thin film

Structure of a non-crystalline solid

- Non-crystalline solids do not have the long-range order (periodicity) of the crystal

Structural complexity:

- Compositions
 - Bonding (ionic, covalent, van der Waals)
 - History (quenching rate)
- Infinite primitive cell



Structure of a non-crystalline solid

- Non-crystalline solids do not have the long-range order (periodicity) of the crystal

Structural complexity:

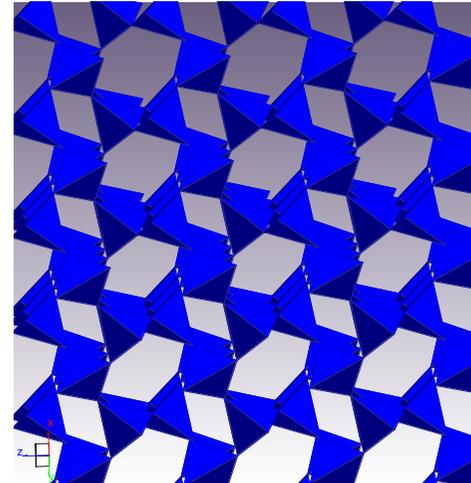
- Compositions
- Bonding (ionic, covalent)
- History (quenching rate)

- Infinite primitive cell

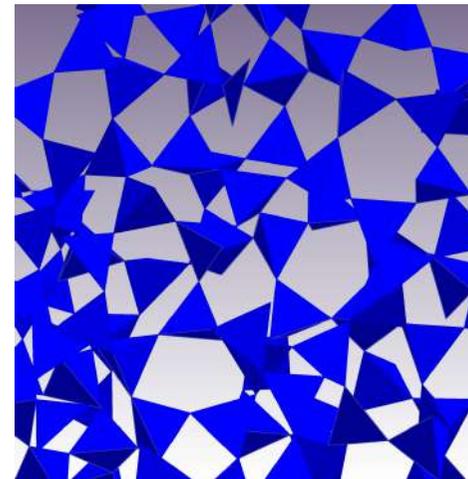
The structure of non-crystalline solids is not known precisely: structural models, numerical simulations

Non-uniqueness

Averaged information

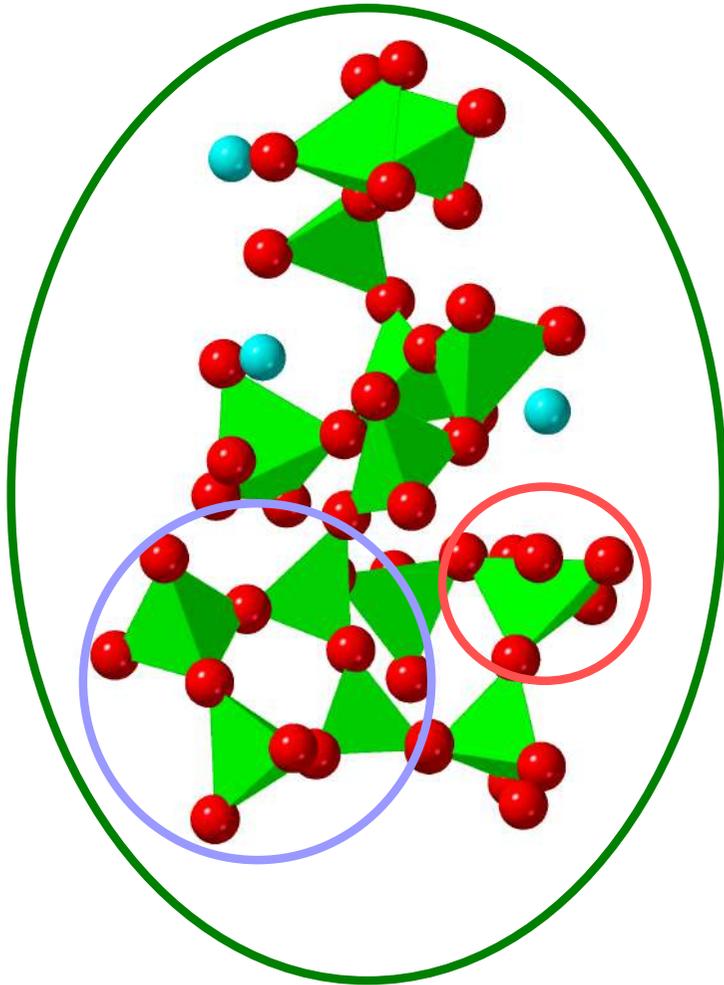


Crystal
SiO₂
Quartz
plan (110)



Glass
model SiO₂

Different structural ranges



Short range structure ($<3 \text{ \AA}$):

- coordination, bond lengths, bonding angles
- linkages homo (-Se - Se-, -C - C-, -As - As) vs. heteropolar (Si - O, B - O, Ge - S)

Medium range structure (3-15 \AA):

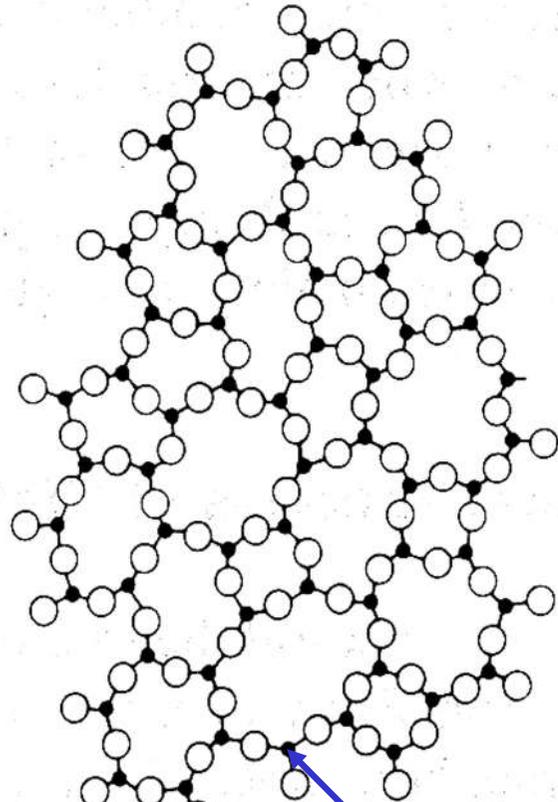
- angles between structural units
- connectivity between structural units (corner-, edge-sharing...)
- dimensionality, rings
- heterogeneities

Long range structure, almost absent (no periodicity!):

- phase separation

Structural models of covalent glasses

Continuous random network



oxygen

Network former: Si, Ge, P, B, ...

Oxyde glasses

Zachariasen model (1932)

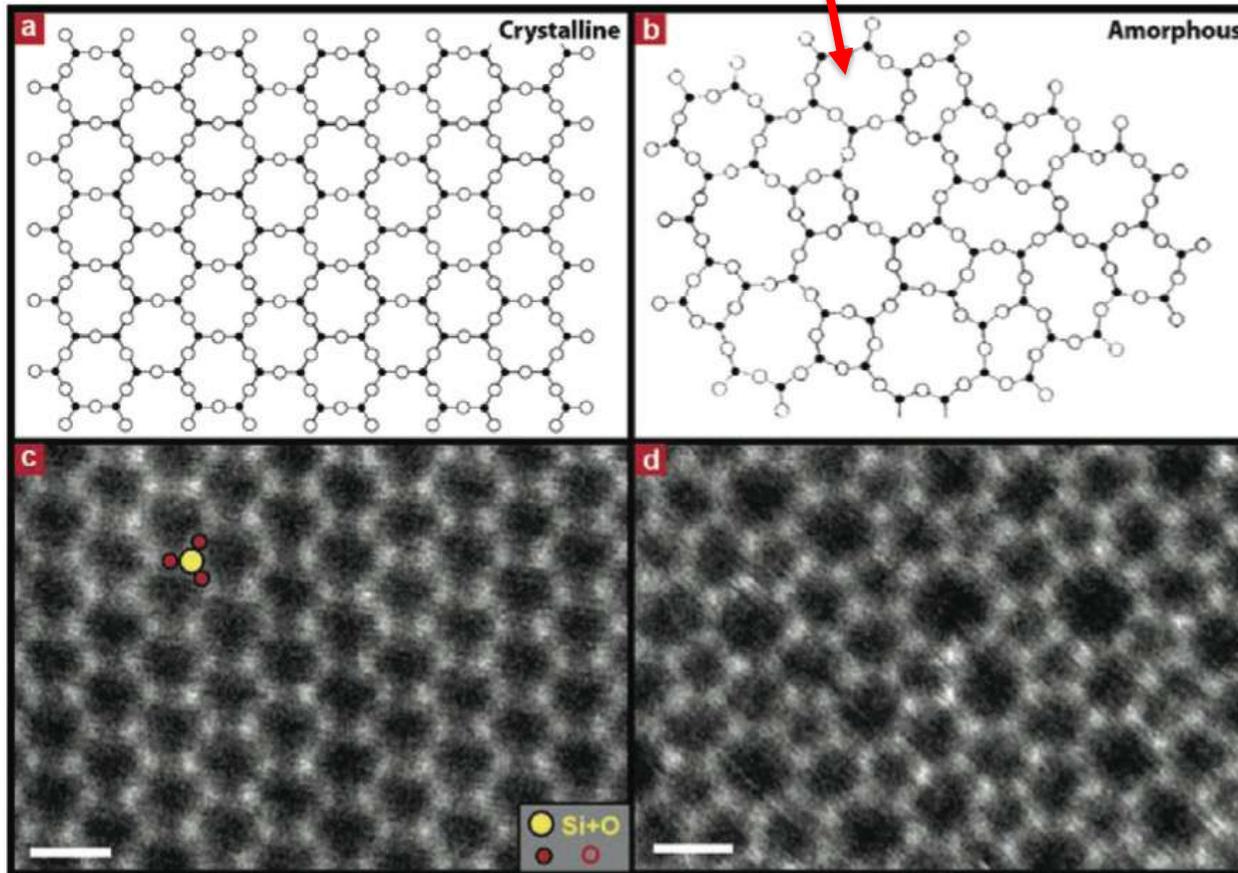
=> Define network formers

Rules for glass formation

1. No O atoms linked to more than 2 cations
2. Cation coordination is low (3, 4)
3. O polyhedra share corners, no faces or edges
4. For 3D networks, at least 3 corners must be shared

Zachariasen, W.H., 1932. The atomic arrangement in glass. J. Am. Ceram. Soc., 54,3841-3851.

Zachariasen model (1932)



c-SiO₂

a-SiO₂

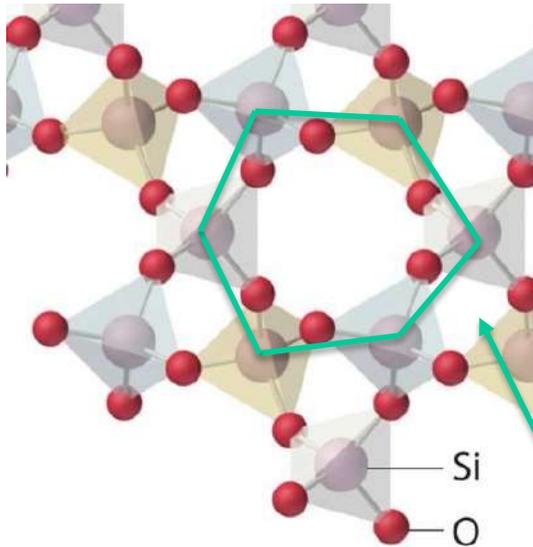
STEM images

Structure of silica glass

Silica glass

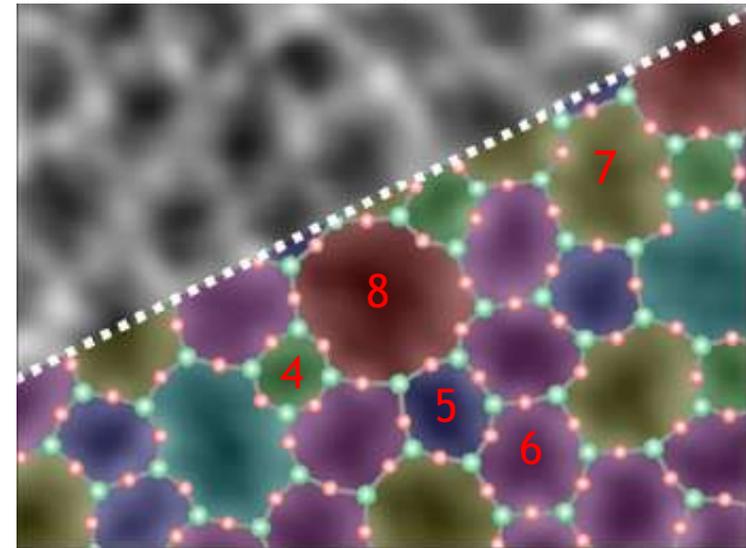
Amorphous material

Random network of SiO_4 tetrahedron



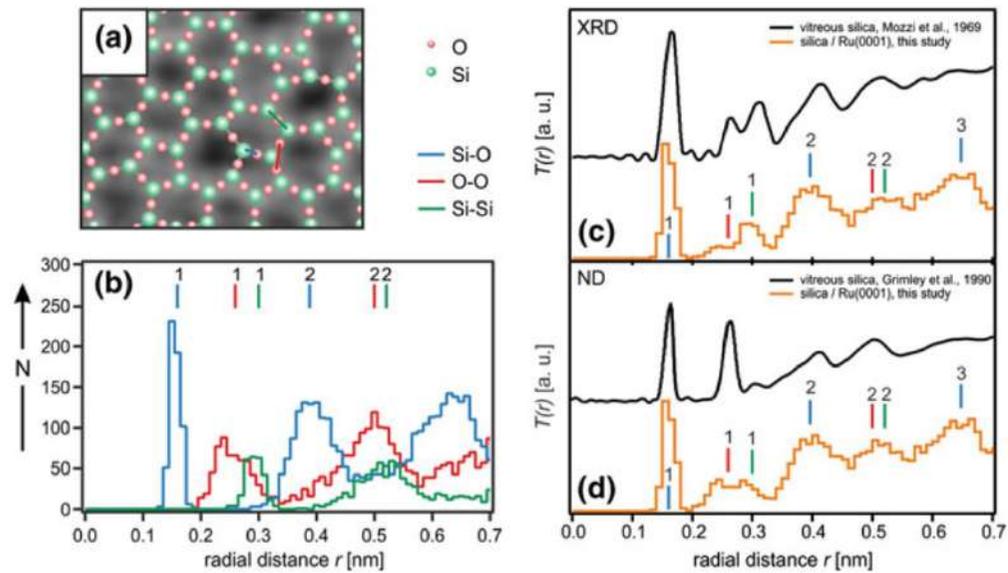
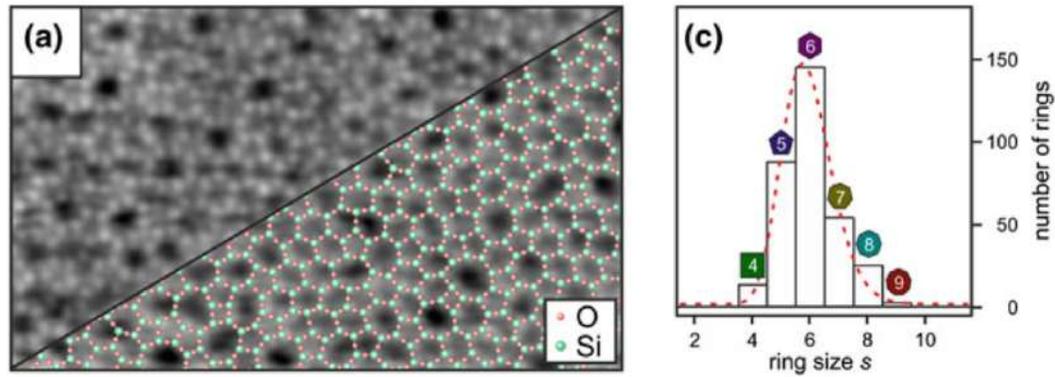
6-membered ring of SiO_4 tetrahedra

Rings of different size

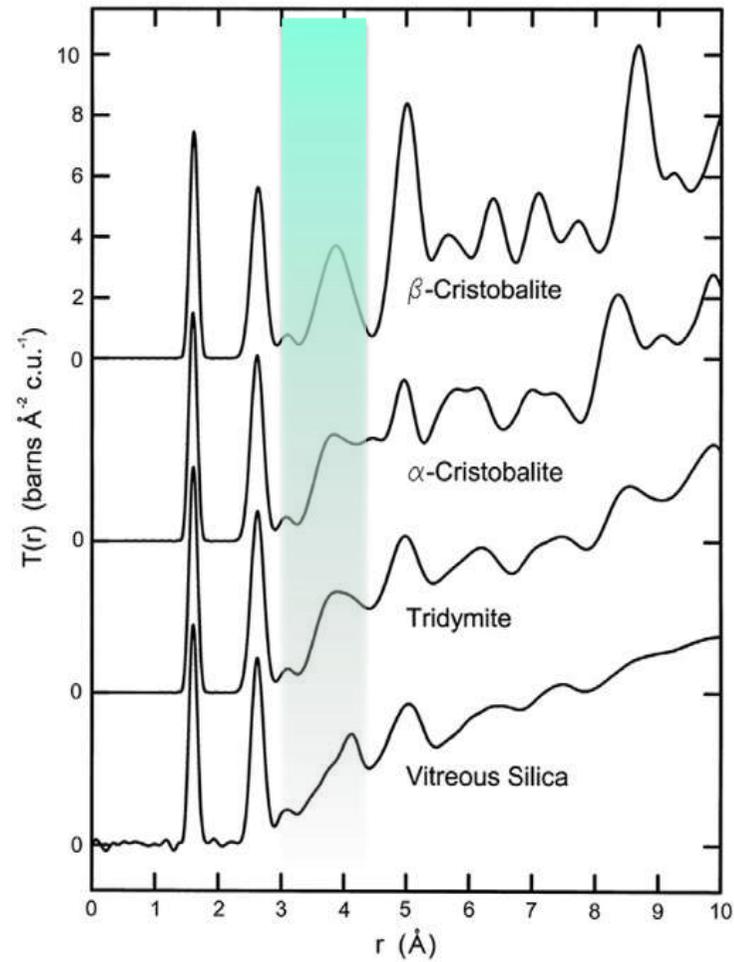


Lichtenstein et al., J. Phys. Chem. C 116 (2012) 20426

Structure of 2D silica glass

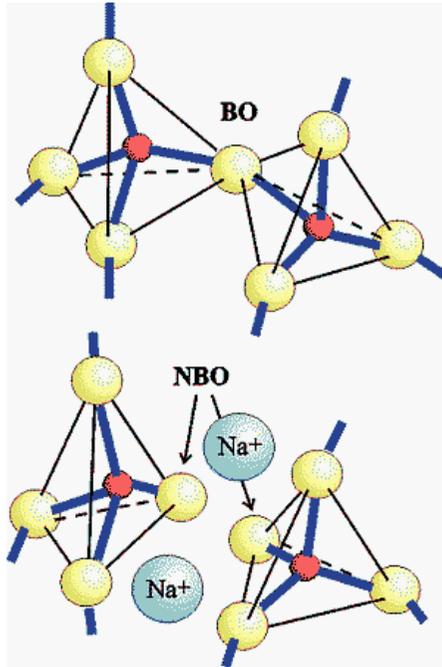


Structure of fused silica glass



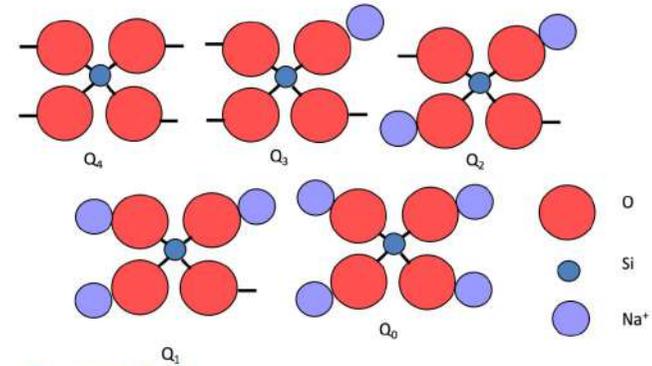
Multicomponent oxide glasses

Alkali silicate glasses



Non-network former cations (alkali, alkaline-earth, transition elements) depolymerize the network by forming **non-bridging oxygens**

Network modifiers



Q_n species

n = number of bridging oxygens by tetrahedra

The modifying elements

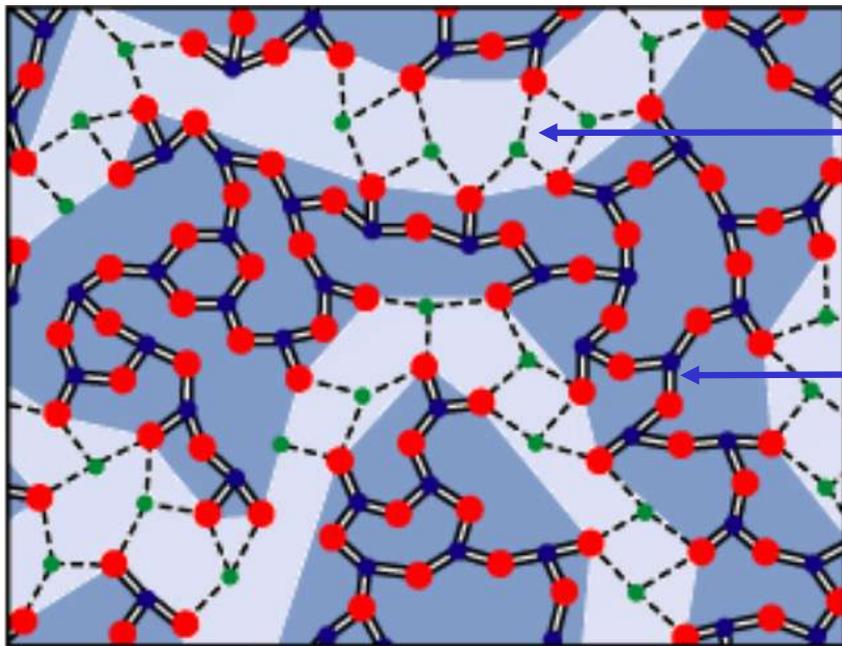
- higher coordination
- non-homogeneous distribution in glass

Structural models of covalent glasses

Modified random network model (Greaves, 1985)

=> Extension of the Zachariassen's model with regions rich in network formers and regions rich in modifiers

Deduced from EXAFS, neutron scattering data



Regions rich in modifiers

Regions rich network former
(polymeric network)

Relationships with conduction properties, alteration...

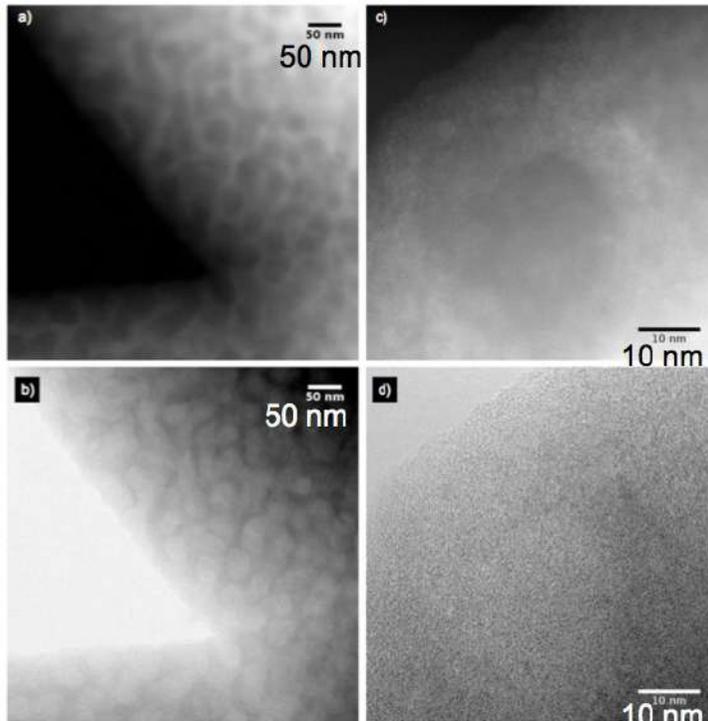
Glass may have heterogeneities (at the nanometer scale)

Amorphous-amorphous separation (A-A)

Glass MAS+Zr+Zn

⇨ Macroscopic A-A separation

STEM
HAADF



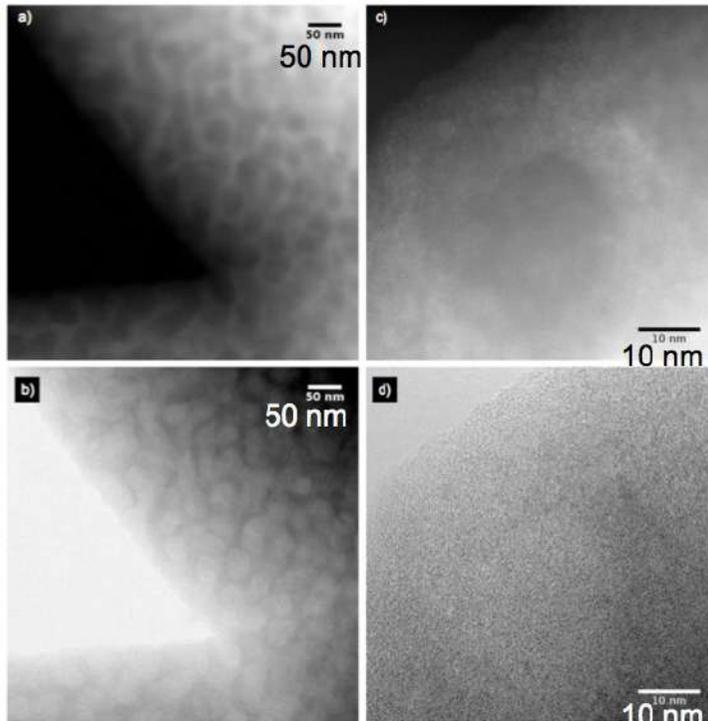
Dargaud et al., JNCS 358, 1257 (2012)

Amorphous-amorphous separation (A-A) and heterogeneities

Glass MAS+Zr+Zn

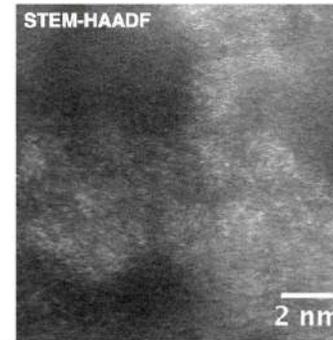
⇒ Macroscopic A-A separation

STEM
HAADF

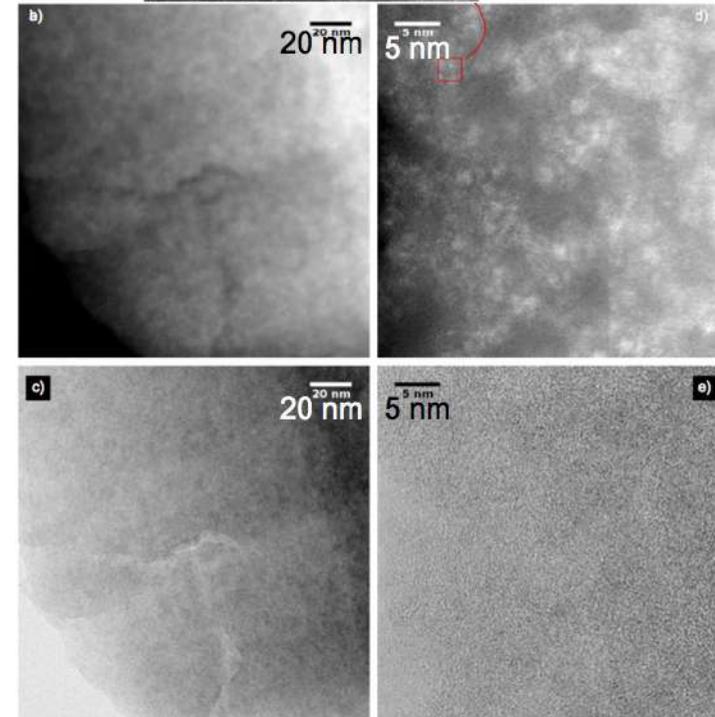


STEM

Dargaud et al., JNCS 358, 1257 (2012)



⇒ No macroscopic
A-A separation



STEM
HAADF

STEM

⇒ Heterogeneities visible even without
macroscopic A-A separation

⇒ At which scale is there an A-A separation?

*Kirchner et al., Chem. Rev. 123
(2022) 1774*

Surface of a silicate glass

Is it the same than the structure of the bulk glass ?

Structure at the surface of an oxide glass differs from that of the bulk glass

Layer at the surface depend on a large number of factors

- interdiffusion coefficients between the glass elements and the environmental elements
- possibility of secondary phase precipitation on the surface, depending on the elements available

Important for

- crack propagation
- surface dissolution or atmospheric alteration
- ion exchange

Surface of a silicate glass

MD Simulations

(Zeitler & Cormack, 2022,

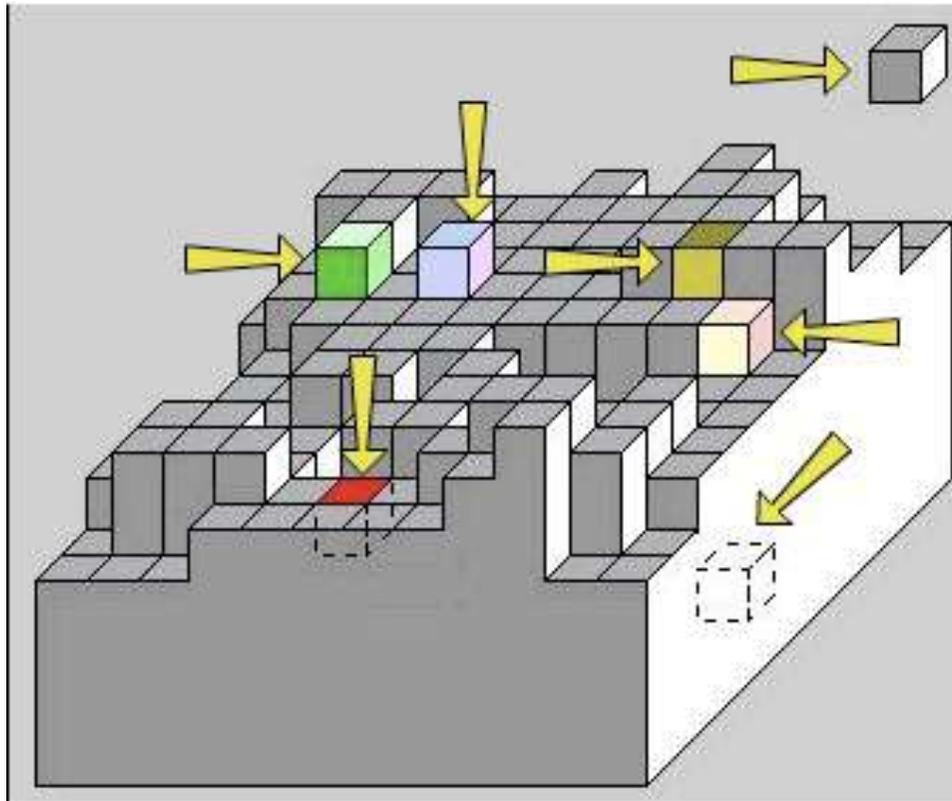
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781118939079.ch14>)

Surface of a silicate glass

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(Zeitler & Cormack, 2022,

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781118939079.ch14>)



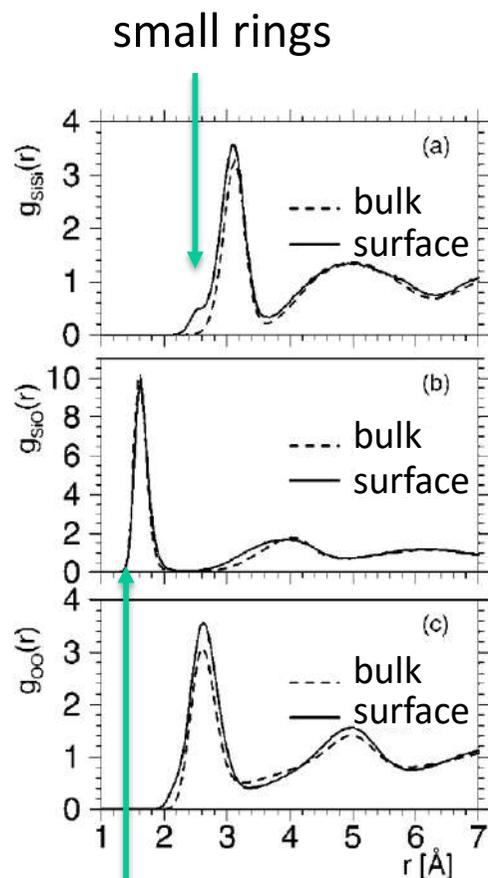
Energetically frustrated bonds at the surface

Surface of a pure SiO₂ glass

Defects (top ~3Å surface) :

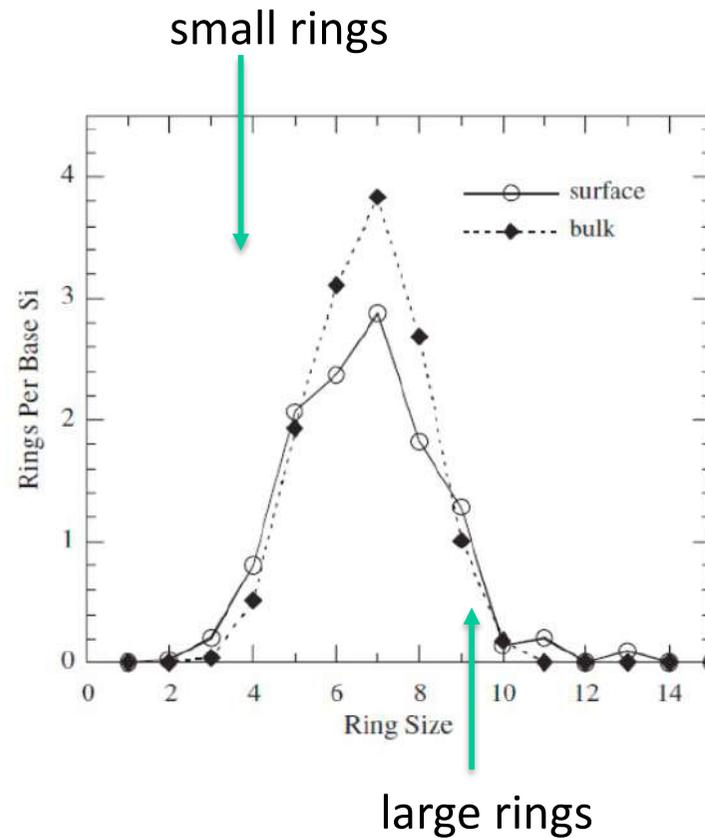
More NBO => enrichment of O at the surface and increased concentration of Si under the surface

under coordinated Si (artefact from MD simulation ?), small-membered rings (2-membered rings)



NBO

undercoordinated Si

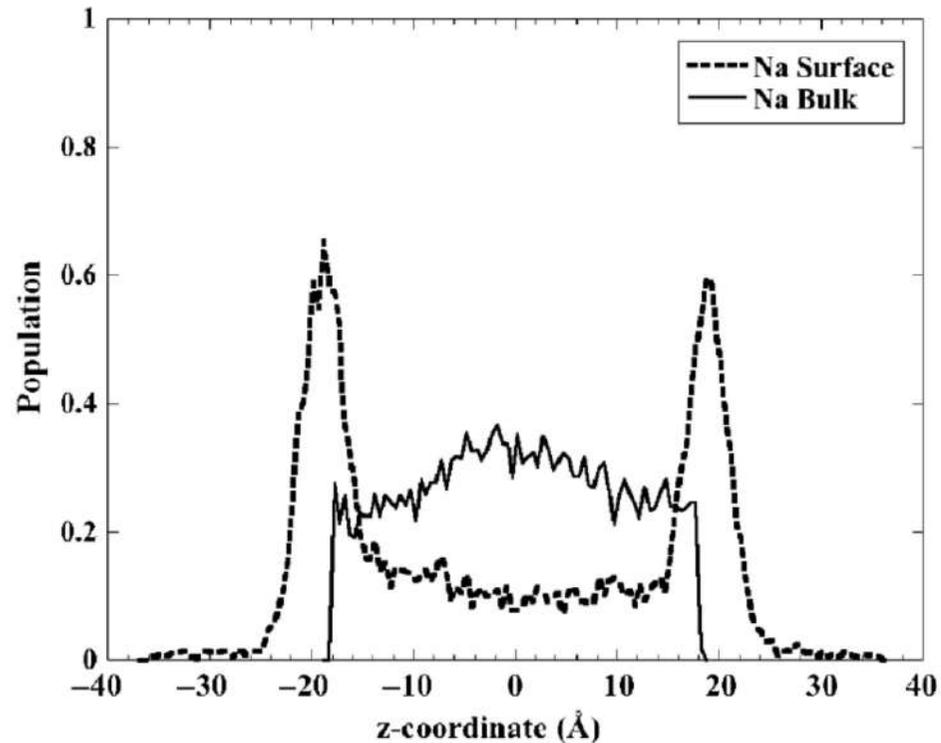


Zeitler & Cormack, J. Chem. Phys. (2022)

Surface of a (soda-lime) silicate glass

Surface concerns ~100 nm:

Enrichment of alkalis (Na and K but not Li) and NBO, depolymerization leading to larger surface rings



MD simulations
Zeitler & Cormack, 2022

Surface of a (soda-lime) silicate glass

Surface concerns ~50-100 nm:

Enrichment of alkalis (Na and K but not Li) and NBO, depolymerization leading to larger surface rings

Depletion of Na in the subsurface

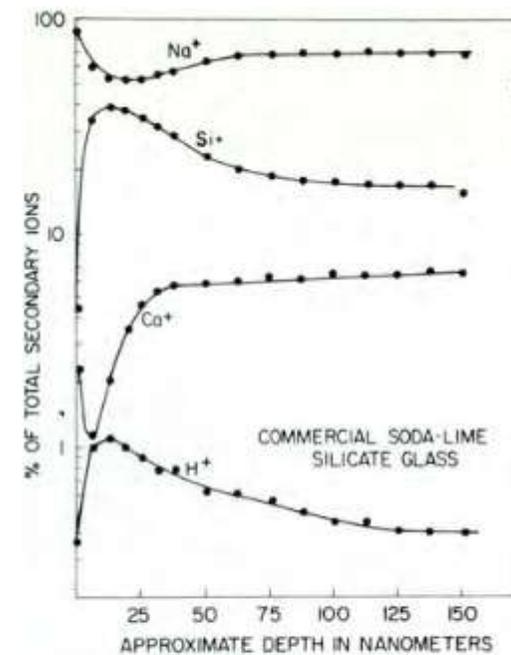
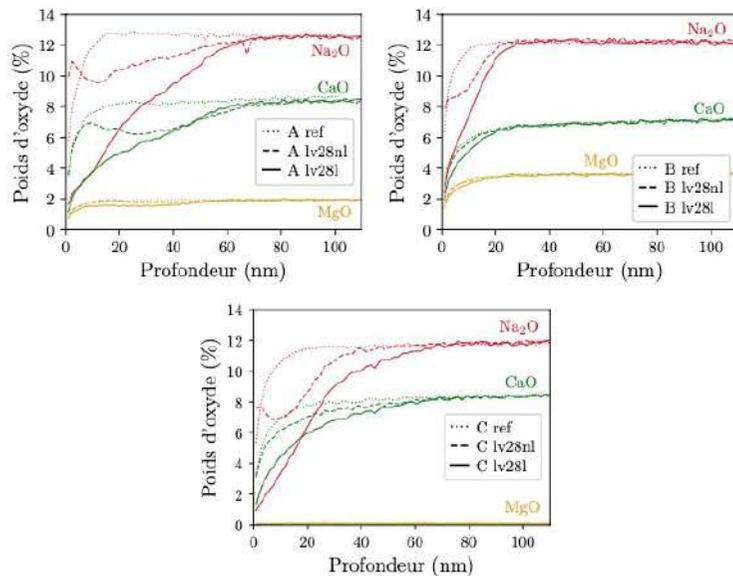


Fig. 5. SIMS depth profiles for commercial soda-lime silicate glass (1500 eV Ne at 10 $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$).

Surface of a (soda-lime) silicate glass

Surface concerns ~100 nm:

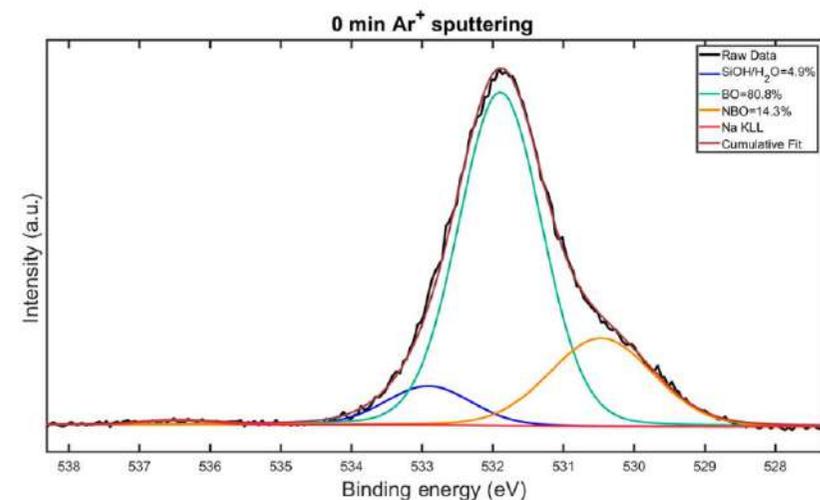
Enrichment of alkalis (Na and K but not Li) and NBO, depolymerization leading to larger surface rings

Depletion of Na in the subsurface

free oxygen O^{2-} / Si-OH bonds

O 1s XPS spectra

Roy et al., Int. J. Appl. Glass Sc. 14(2023)229



Surface of a (soda-lime) silicate glass

Surface concerns ~100 nm:

Enrichment of alkalis (Na and K but not Li) and NBO, depolymerization leading to larger surface rings

Depletion of Na in the subsurface

free oxygen O^{2-} / Si-OH bonds

Less migration of Na in aluminosilicate glasses

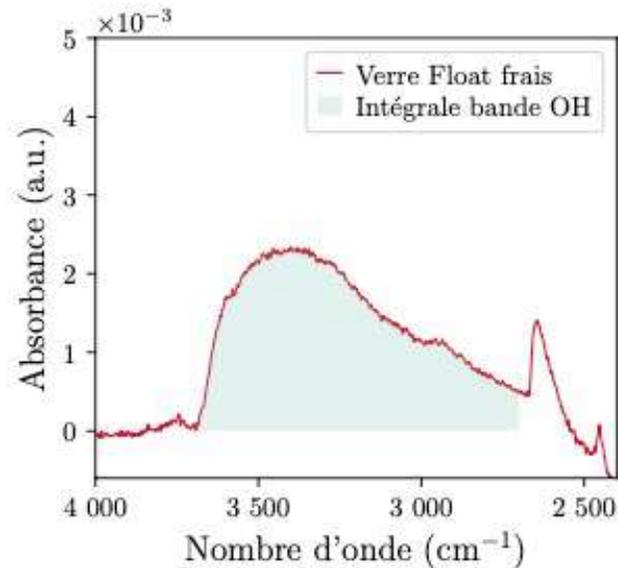
More BO_3 units

affect crack initiation and leaching behavior

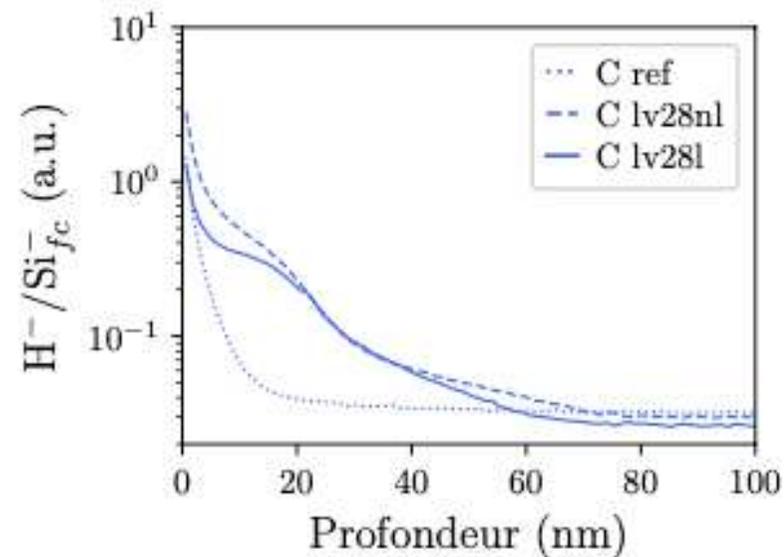
Surface of a (soda-lime) silicate glass

Always water on the surface => water molecules or hydroxyls present
can be studied by vibrational spectroscopies, ion beam analysis (ERDA), TOF-SIMS, IR-ATR

IR-ATR



TOF-SIMS

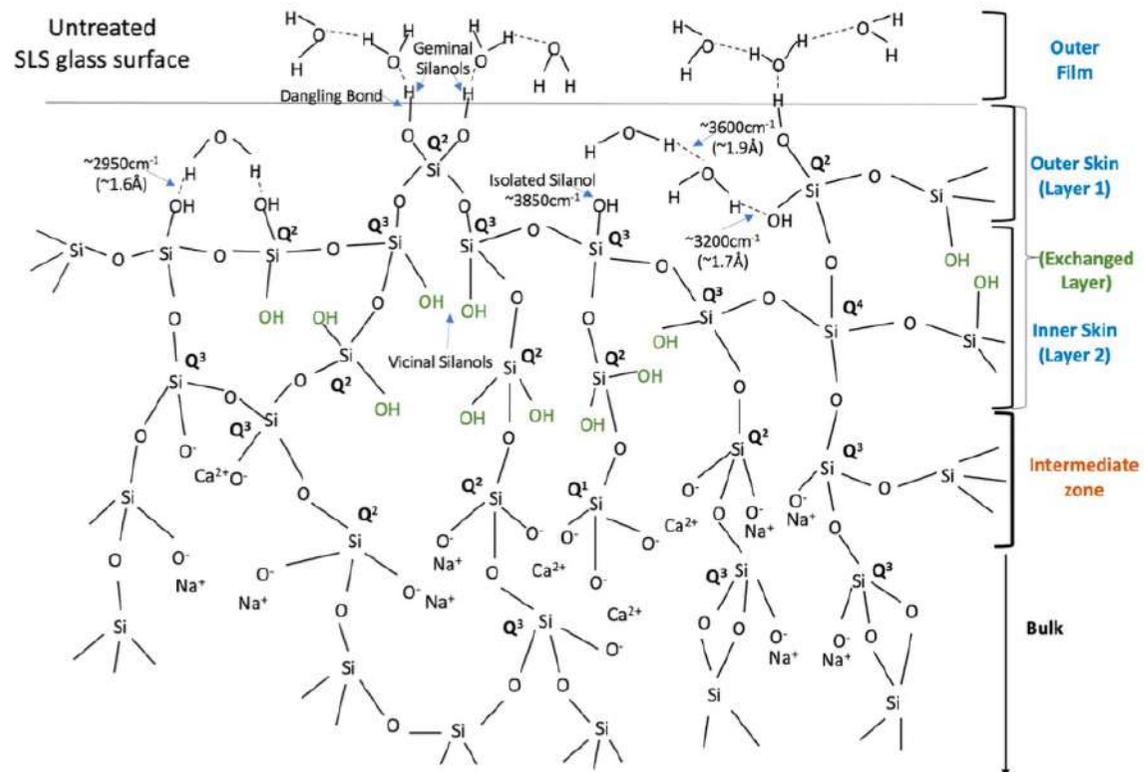


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Silanol bonds Si-OH

Modifying cations could have a sphere of solvation

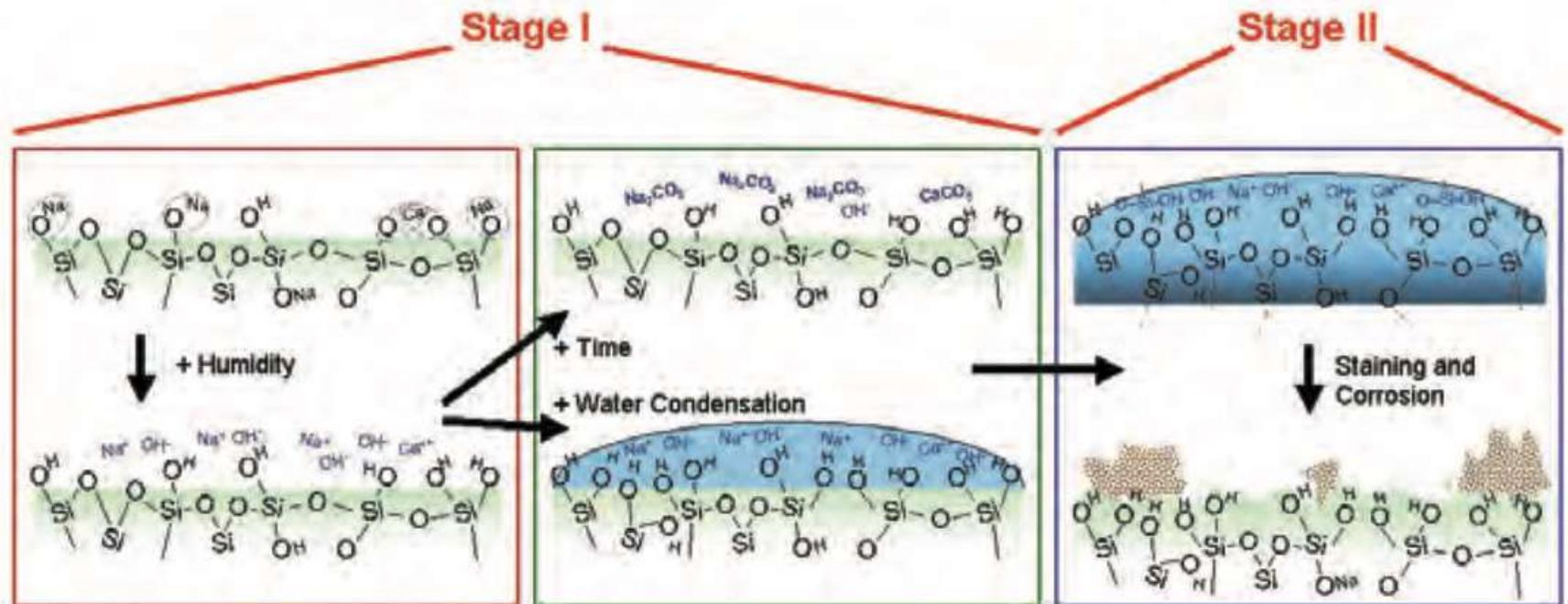


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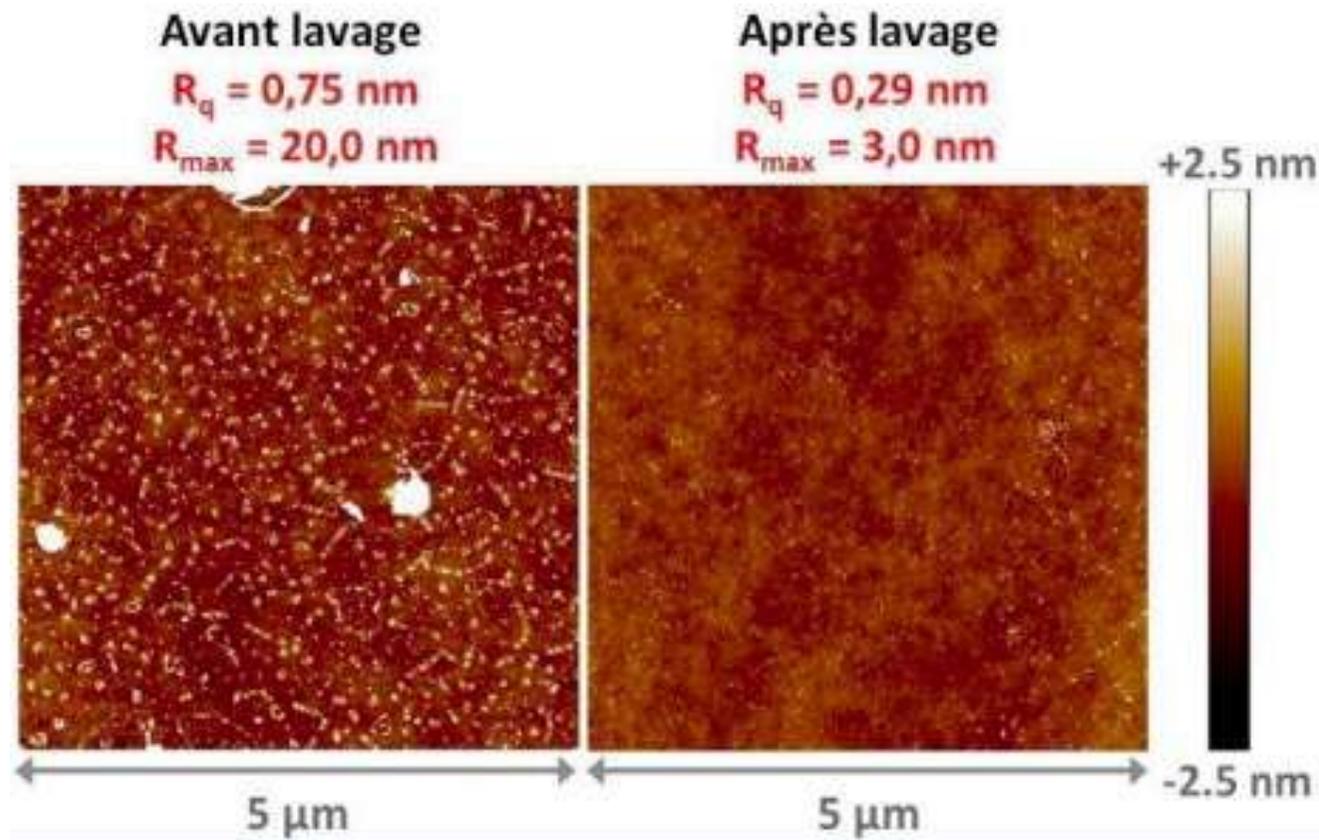


Surface of a silicate glass

Surface morphology

rugosity of the surface (optical profilometer, AFM)

=> Reduced surface roughness, with mean square value (R_q) less than nanometer



How to determine the amorphous structure of thin films?

Grazing incidence Wide angle X-ray scattering
ultra-thin (<10 nm) SiO₂ films formed on Si substrates

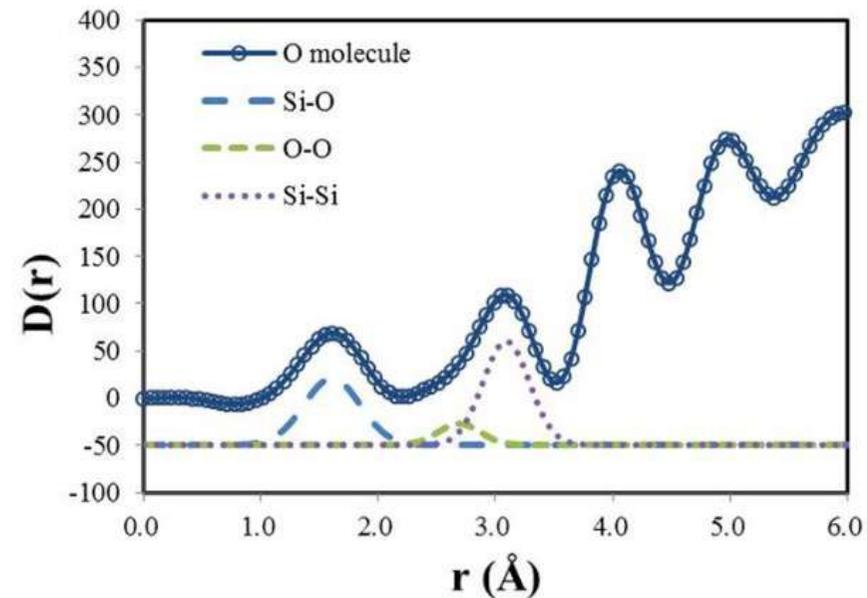
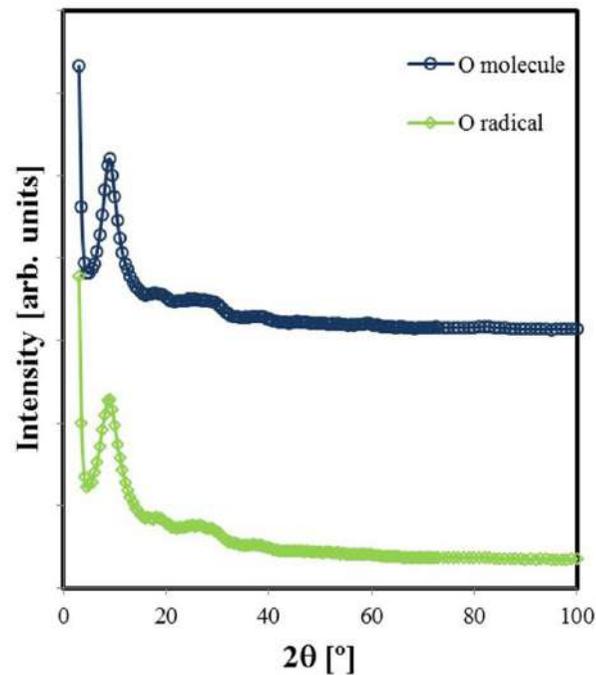
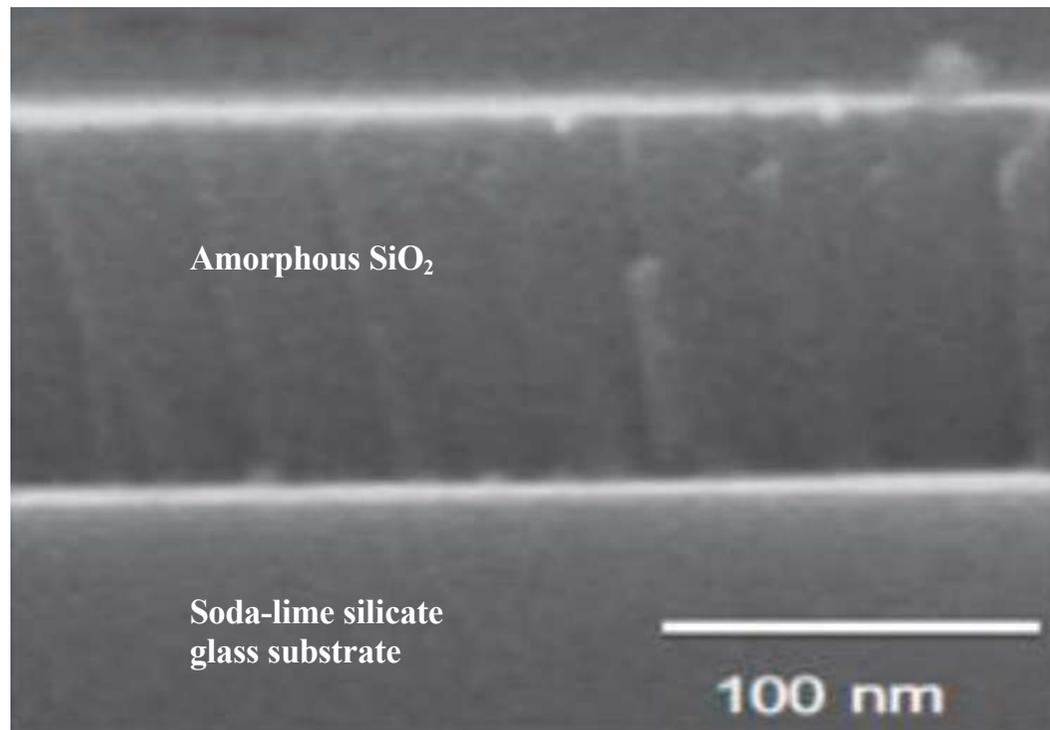


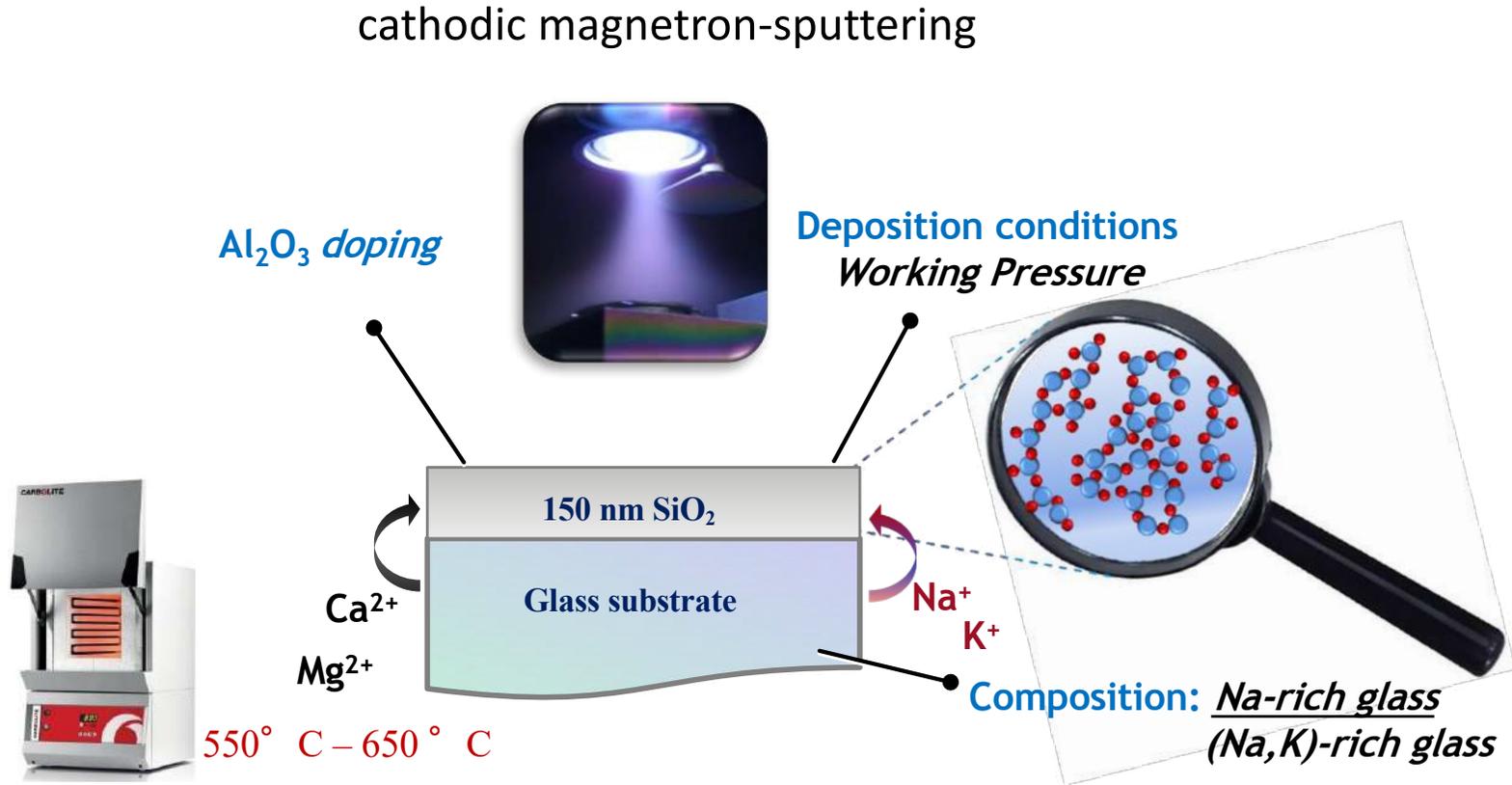
TABLE I. SRO parameters estimated from GI-WAXS measurements.

	Bond angle (°)		Distance (Å)			FWHM (Å)		
	Si-O-Si	O-Si-O	Si-O	O-O	Si-Si	Si-O	O-O	Si-Si
O molecules	148.7	113.8	1.60	2.69	3.09	0.56	0.42	0.47
O radicals	146.3	91.42	1.60	2.29	3.07	0.62	0.55	0.70

How to determine the amorphous structure of thin films?



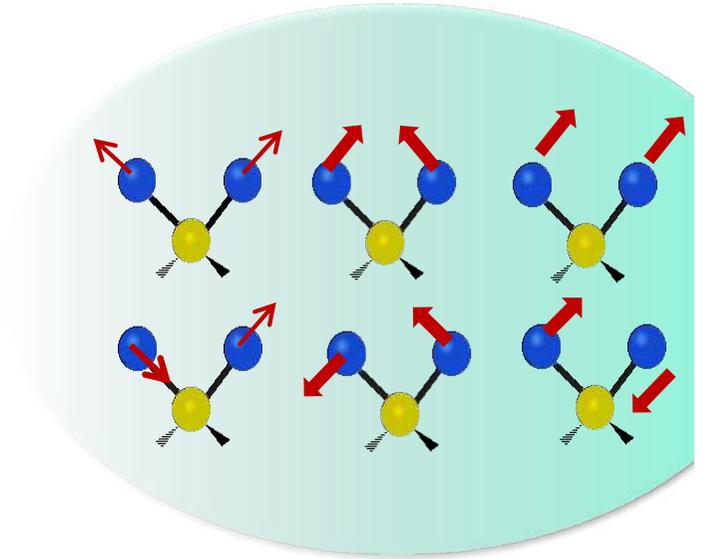
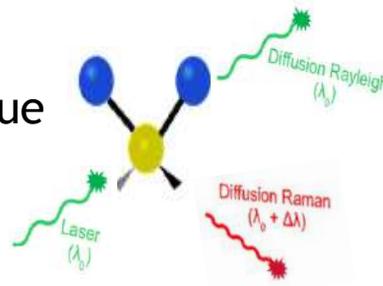
How to determine the amorphous structure of thin films?



Raman structural characterization of the fused silica glass

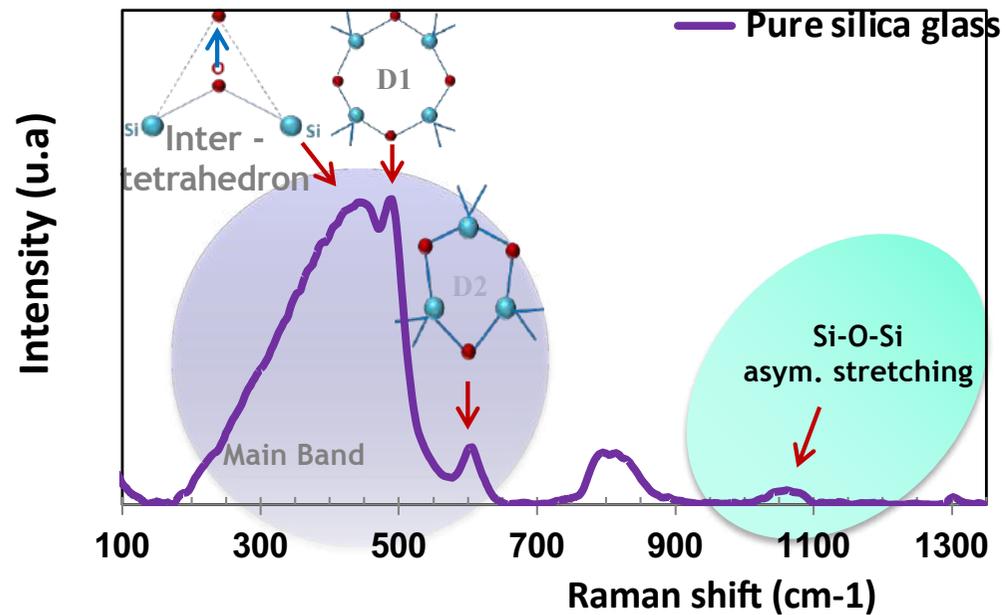
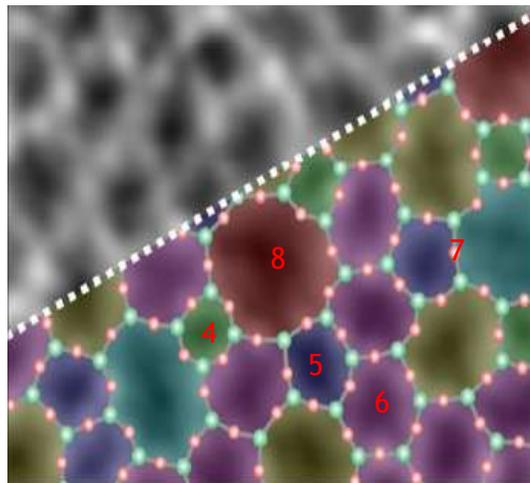
➤ Raman spectroscopy

Raman is a light scattering technique



Si-O-Si bending

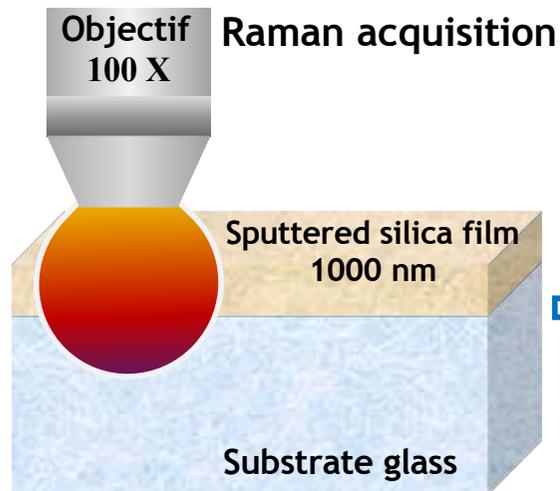
Fused Silica glass



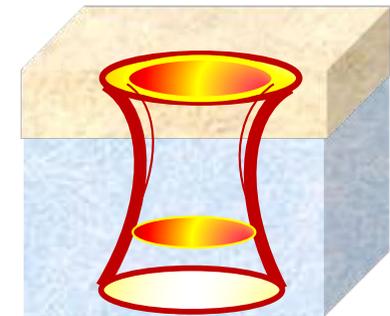
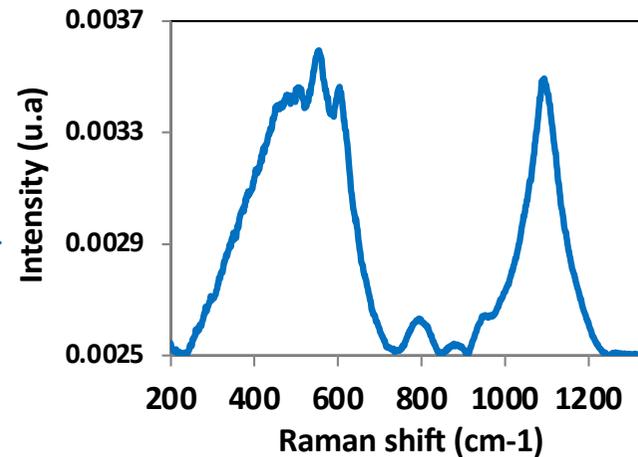
Raman structural characterization of the sputtered silica films

Aim:

- ✓ Investigate the medium range characterization of a sputtered silica film



Mixing of the both signatures of the silica film and the substrate!!!



Overlapping of the Raman signal of the substrate and the silica film

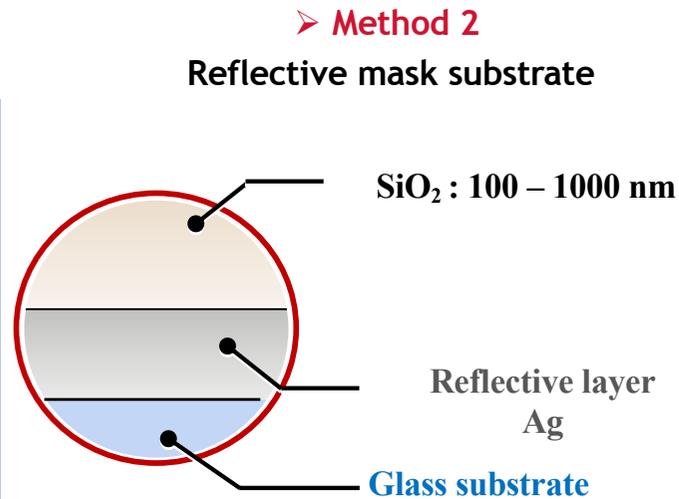
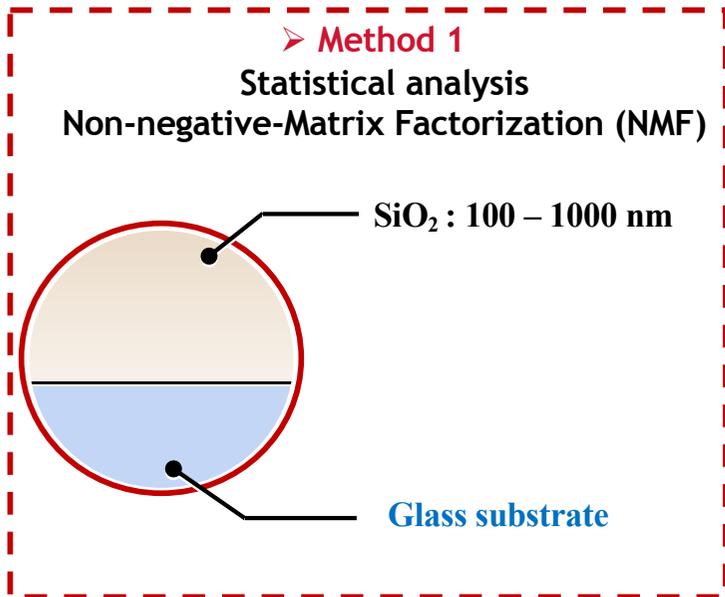
Difficulties

- × Thin amorphous film → Small signal to noise ratio
- × Raman signal of the substrate and silica

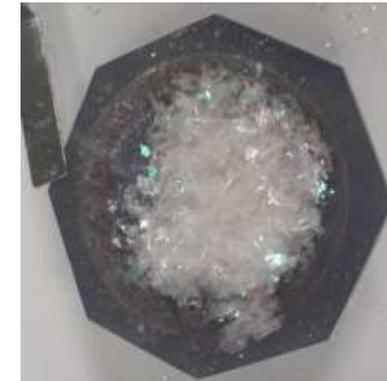
Raman structural characterization of the sputtered silica films

Solution:

- ✓ Developing of different processes for extracting the Raman signature of silica film



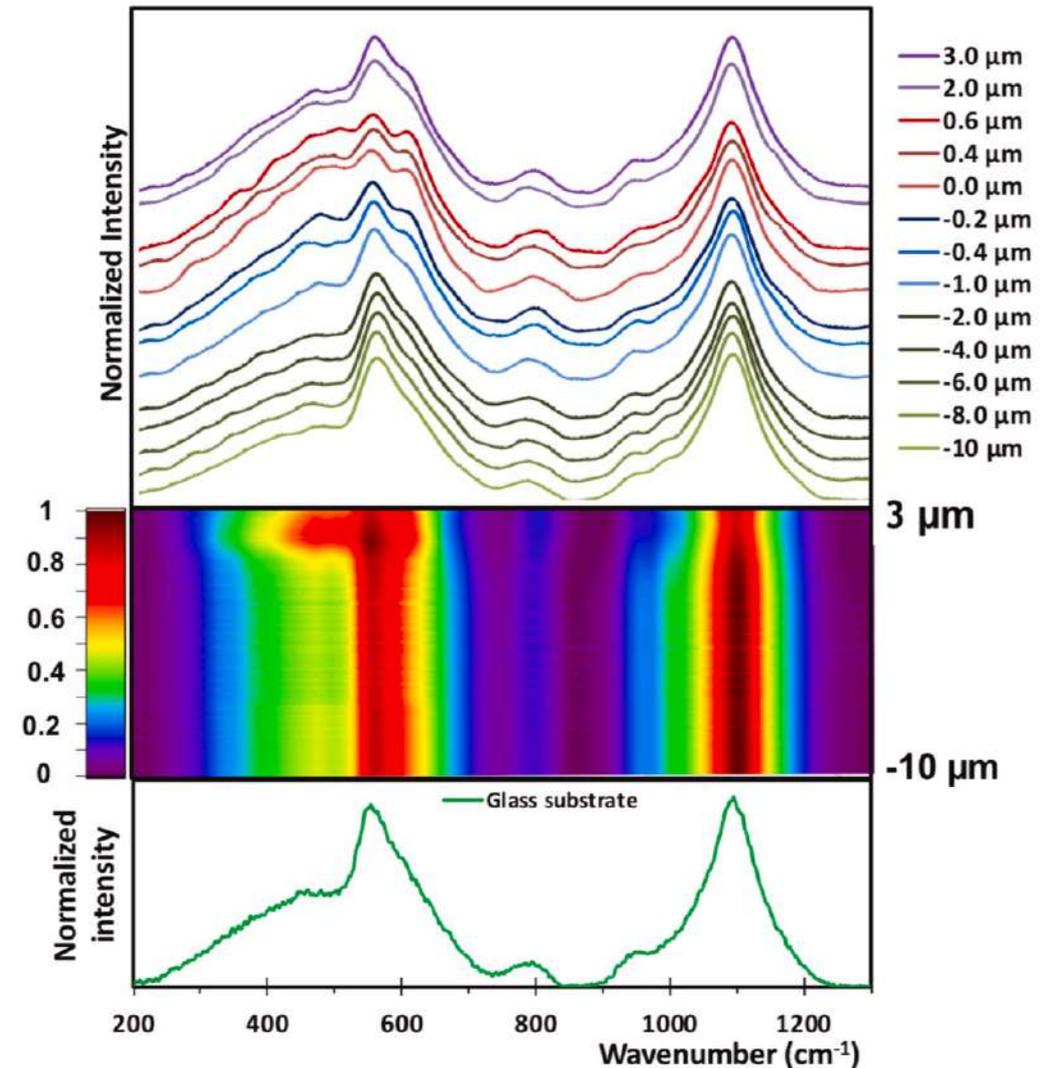
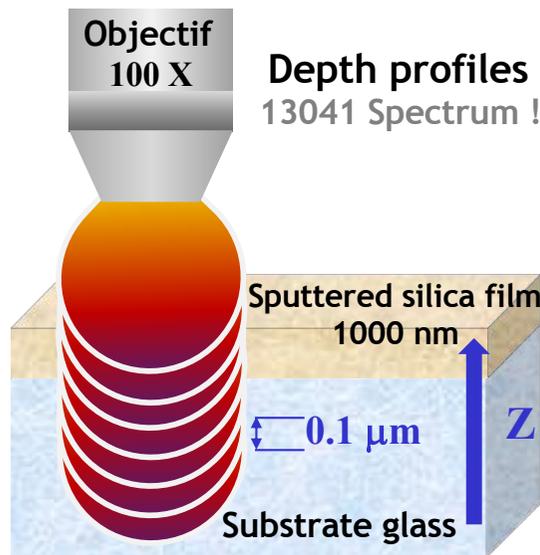
➤ **Method 3**
Delamination of the silica film



Depth Raman profiles of the sputtered silica films

Challenges:

- ✓ Extract the Raman signature of the amorphous silica film



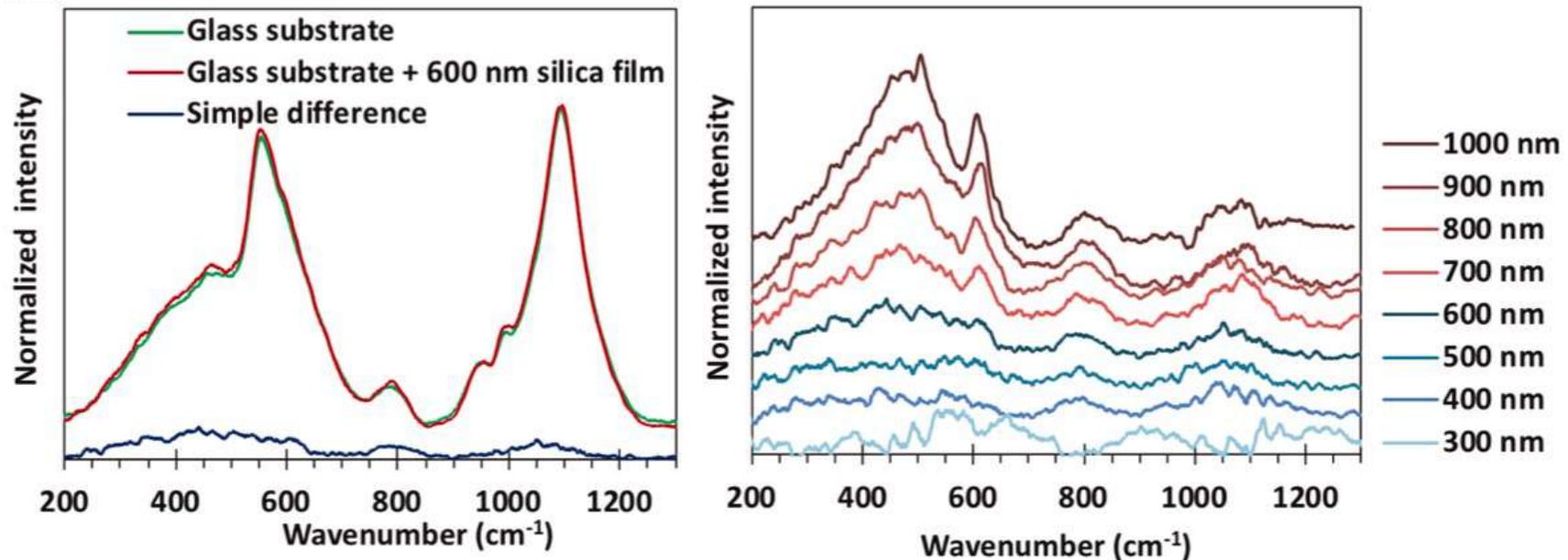
Signal variations during a depth profile

=> Mixing of the silica film Raman signal with those of the substrate

Depth Raman profiles of the sputtered silica films

Challenges:

- ✓ Extract the Raman signature of the amorphous silica film



between 300 nm to 600 nm, no discernible signal from the thin film

subtraction method of an arbitrary fraction of the glass substrate signal is an uncertain and inaccurate analysis protocol

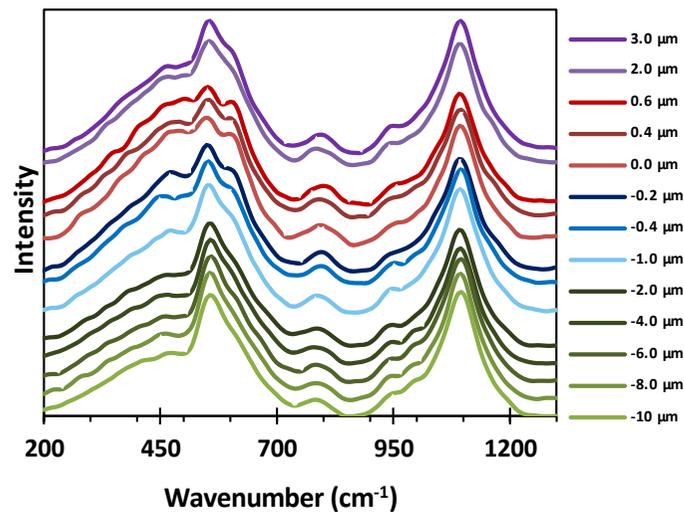
Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)

Decompose a set of Raman spectra as a weighted sum of characteristic components

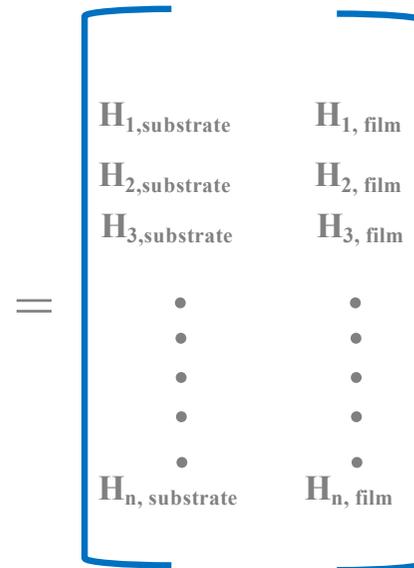
$$\Leftrightarrow \text{Solve } \min_{H,X} ||Y-HX||$$

$$Y_i = \sum H_i X_i = H_{\text{substrate}} X_{\text{substrate}} + H_{\text{film}} X_{\text{film}}$$

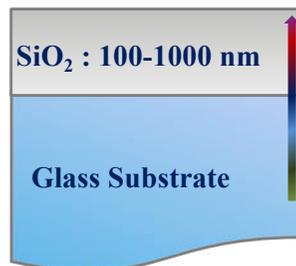
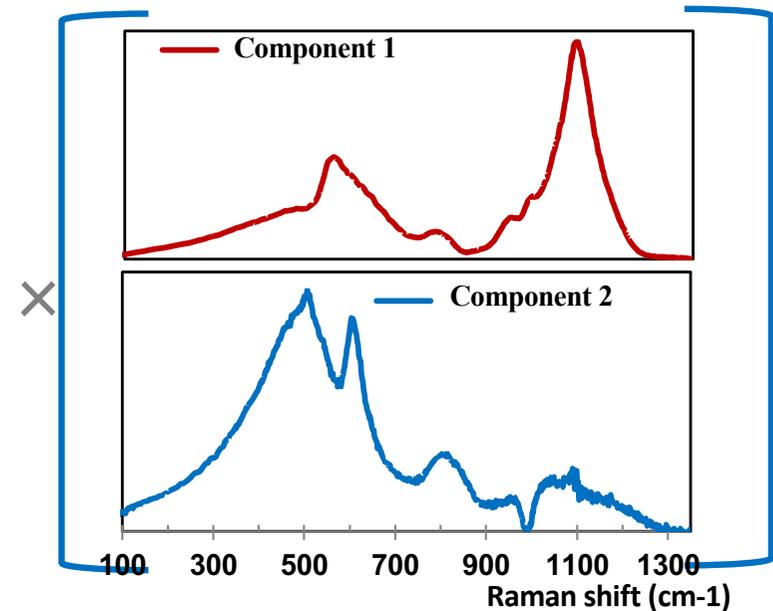
Raman depth spectra Y
Experimental data



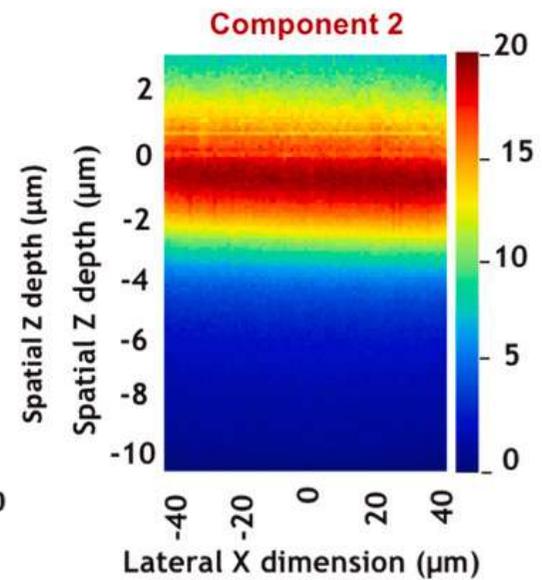
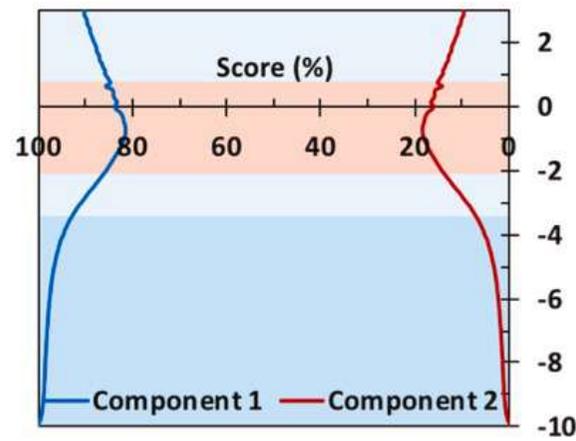
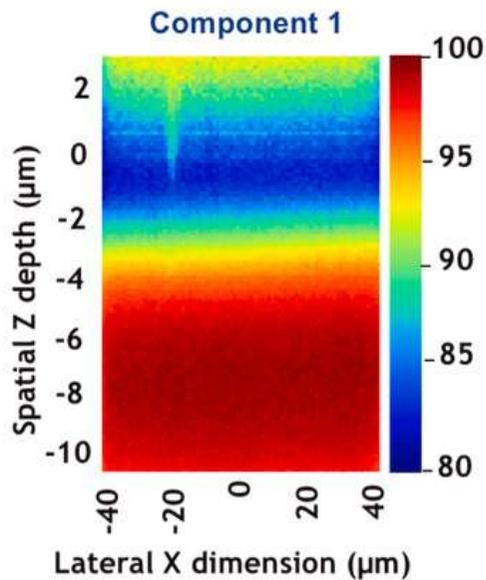
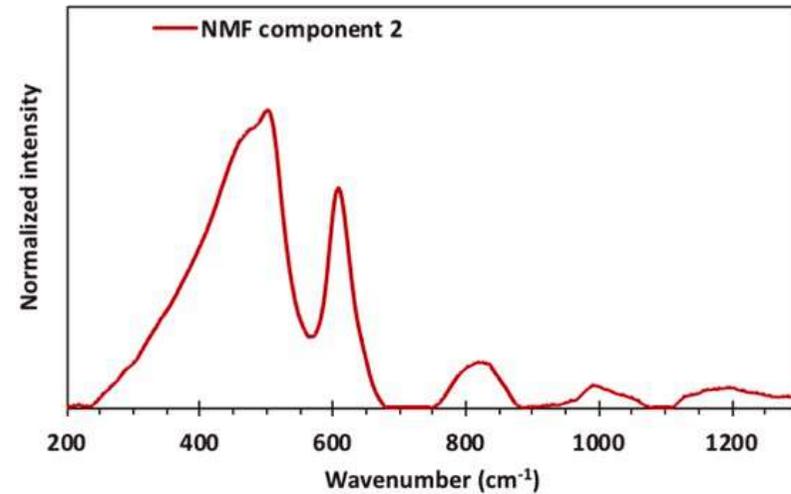
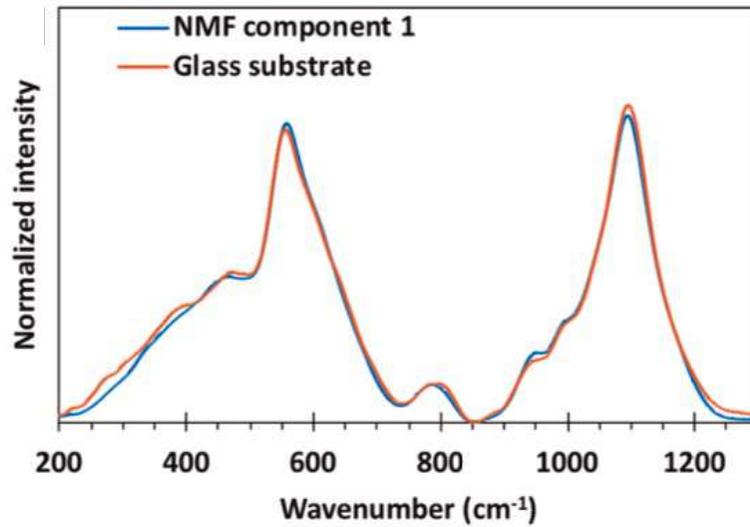
Contributions H
Weight of the component



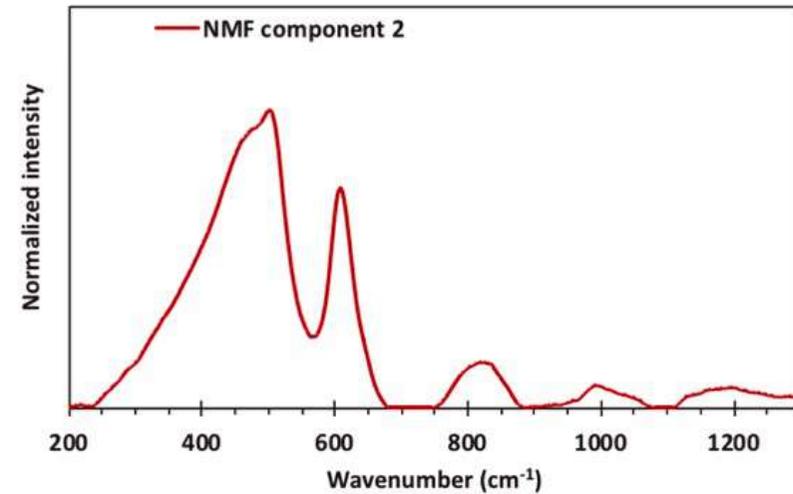
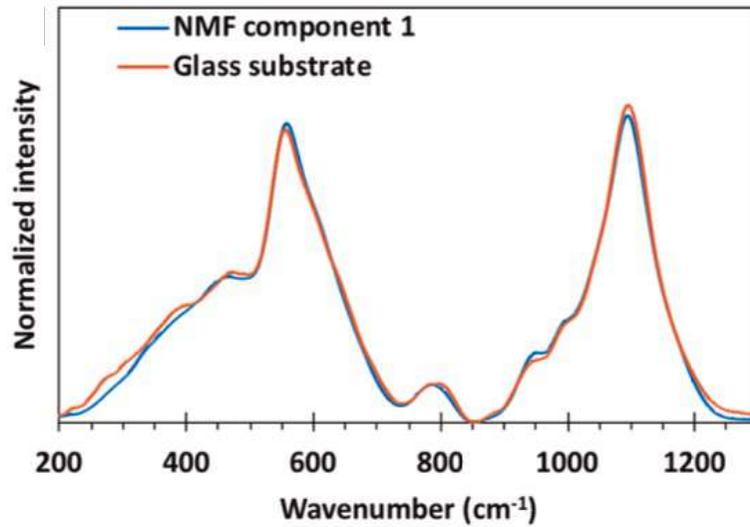
Component X
Raman spectra of each species



Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)



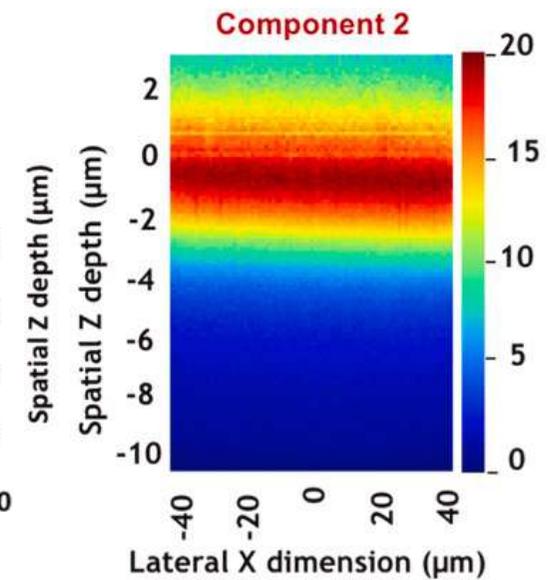
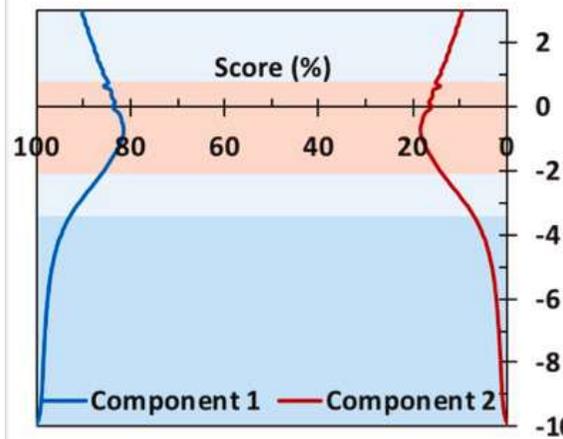
Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)



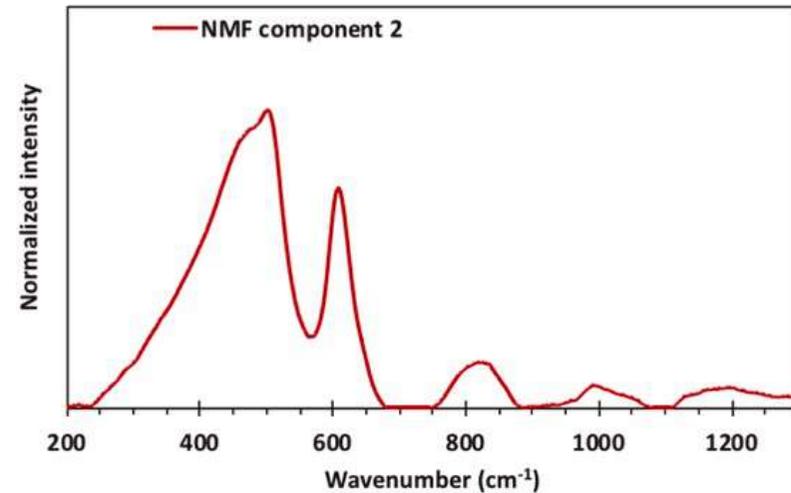
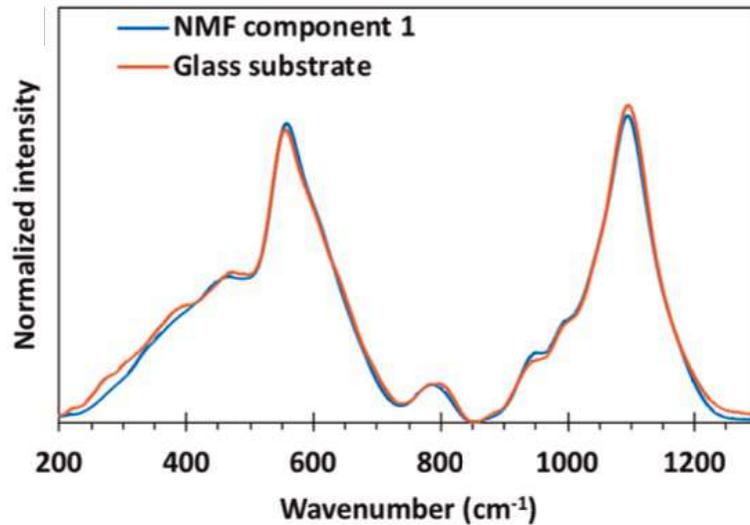
Principal component 1



- ✓ Raman signal of the soda-lime silicate glass substrate



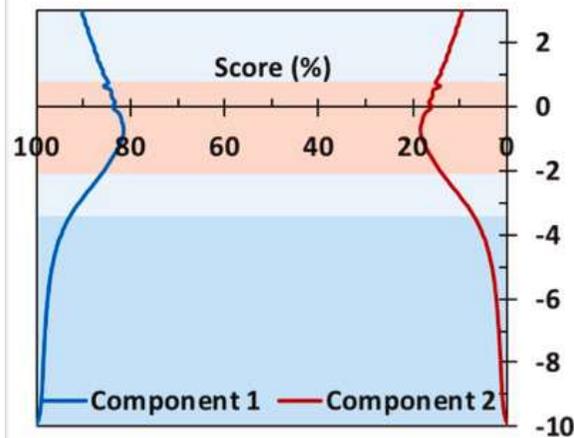
Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF)



Principal component 1



✓ Raman signal of the substrate



Principal component 2



✓ Raman signal of silica film

Reliability of this component ?

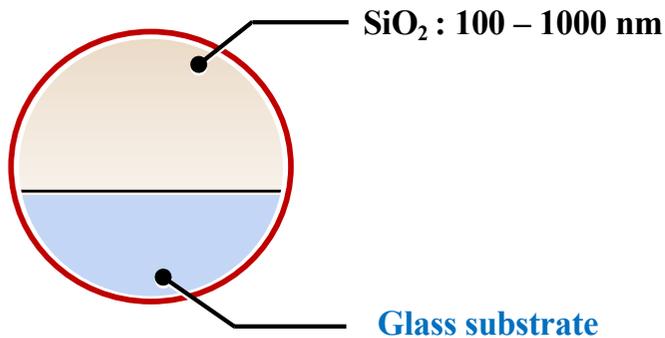
Raman structural characterization of sputtered silica films deposited on a reflective silver underlayer

Solution:

- ✓ Developing of different processes for extracting the Raman signature of silica film

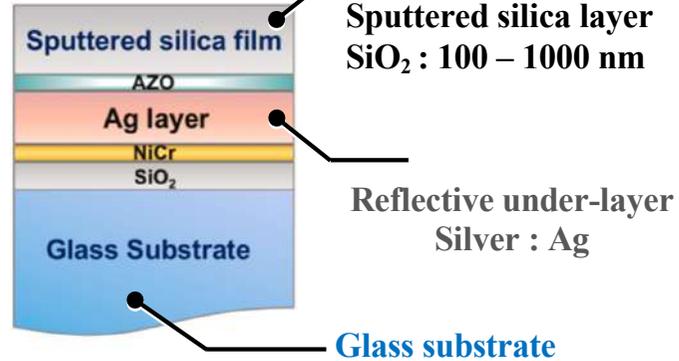
➤ Method 1

Statistical analysis
Non-negative-Matrix Factorization (NMF)



➤ Method 2

Reflective mask substrate



➤ Method 3

Delamination of the silica film

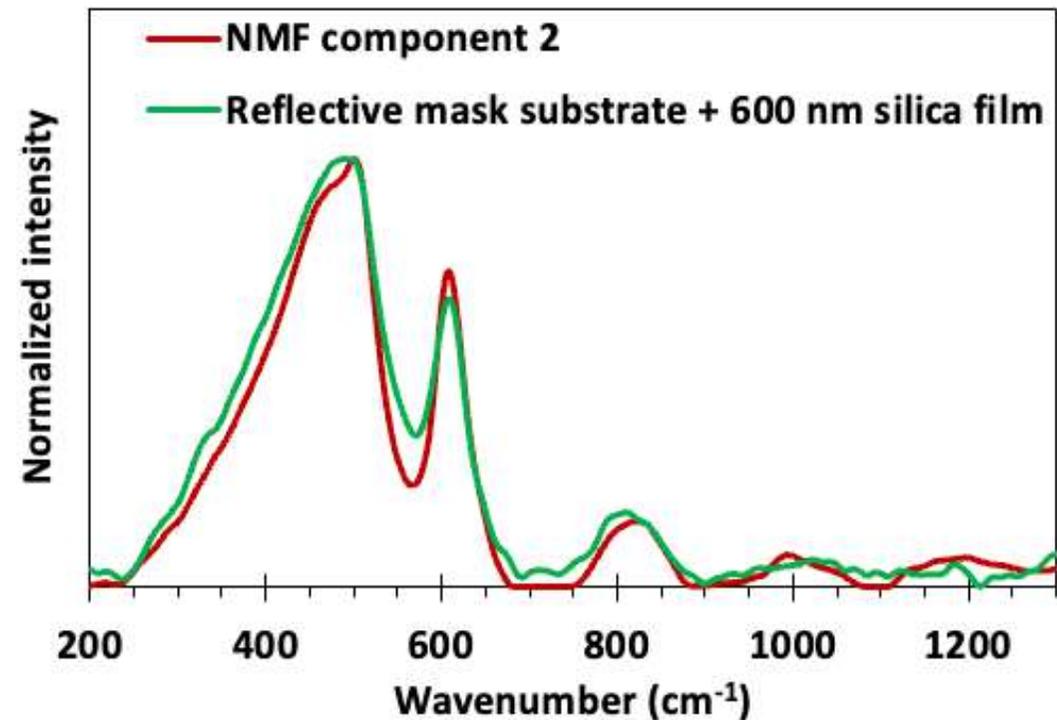
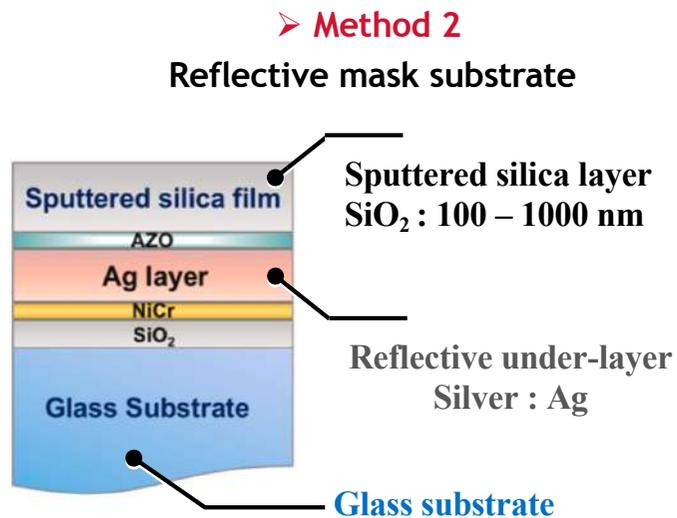


Silver under-layer :

- ✓ Reflective coating mask the glass substrate

Raman structural characterization of sputtered silica films deposited on a reflective silver underlayer

Deposit of silver under-layer



- ✓ Confirmation of the effectiveness of NMF approach
- ✓ An efficient approach for Raman signal extraction of a film material,

But not applicable for other structural characterization analysis (NMR, PDF...)

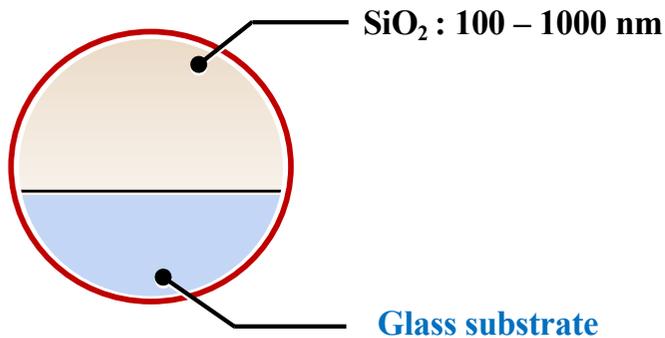
Raman structural characterization of recovered sputtered silica films

Solution:

✓ Developing of different processes for extracting the Raman signature of silica film

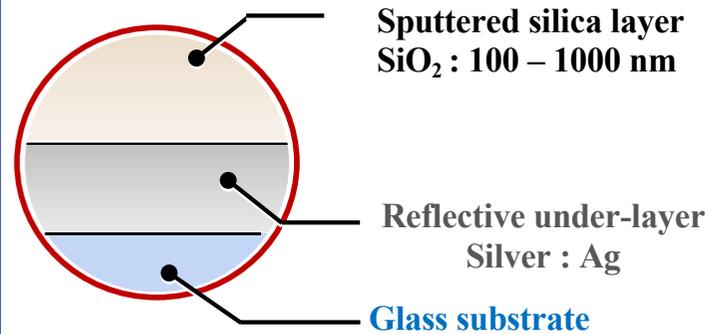
➤ Method 1

Statistical analysis
Non-negative-Matrix Factorization (NMF)



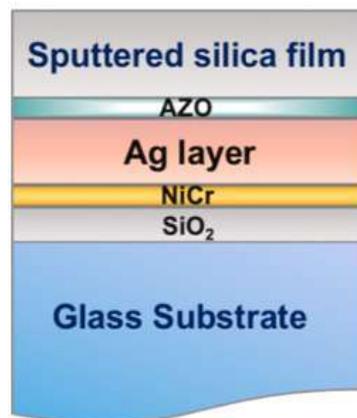
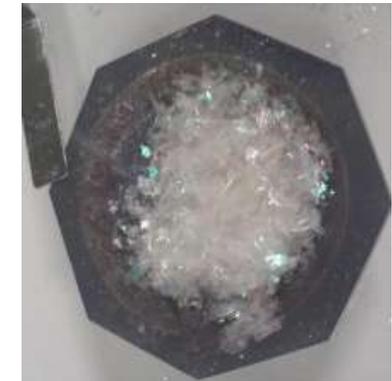
➤ Method 2

Reflective mask substrate



➤ Method 3

Delamination of the silica film



Ag film
dissolution



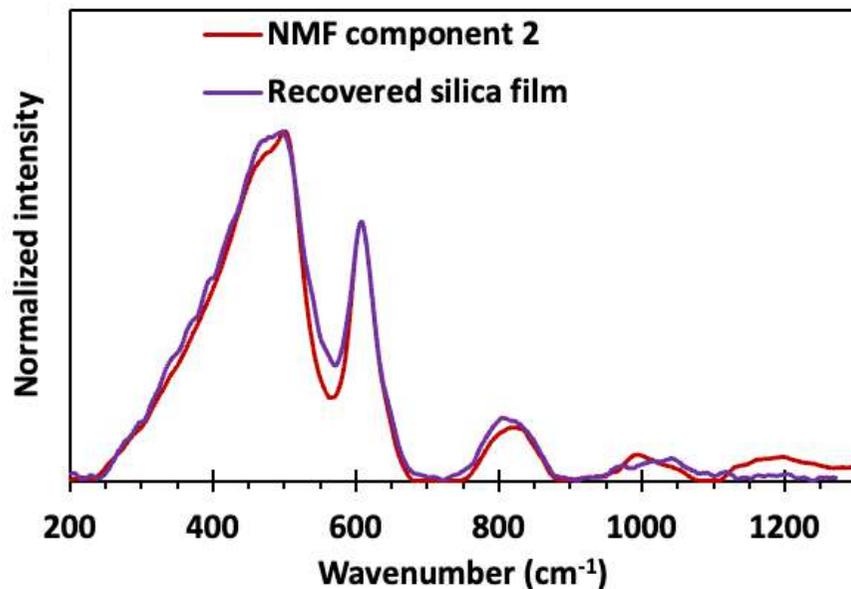
washing



Drying



Raman structural characterization of recovered sputtered silica films

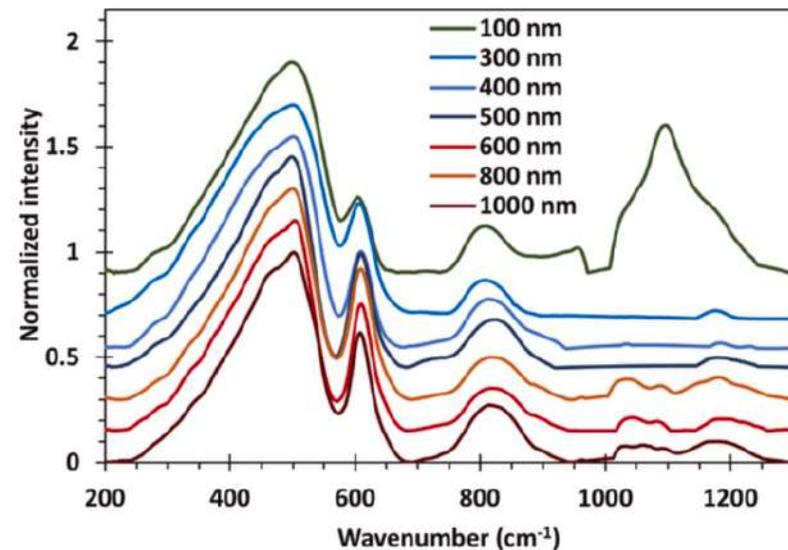
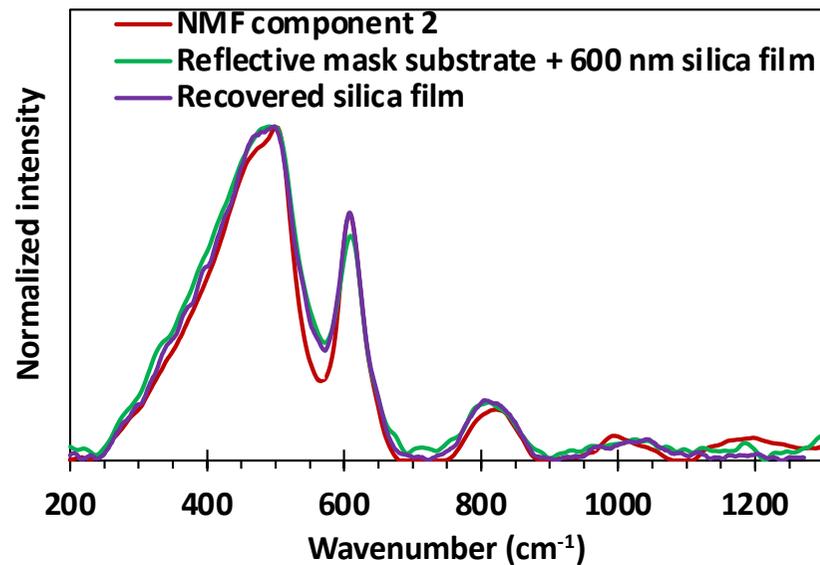


- ✓ Similar Raman signal of the silica film deposited or silver layer and the recovered silica film.
- ✓ No alteration of the structural characterization of the silica film by the acid attack

➔ **The acid attack does not impact the structural features of the recovered silica film**

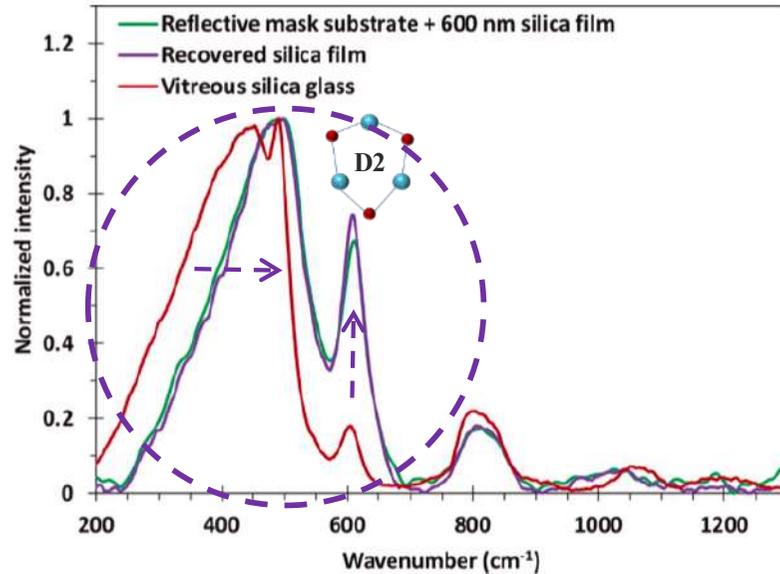
Raman structural characterization of recovered sputtered silica films

- ✓ Similar Raman signal of the silica film deposited on silver layer and the recovered silica film.
- ✓ No alteration of the structural characterization of the silica film by the acid attack



Revealing the local structural properties of silica film

➤ Thin silica film versus bulk material



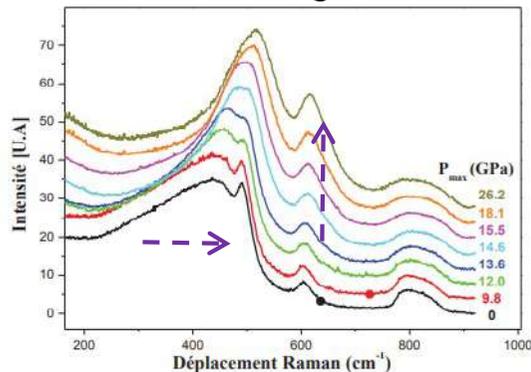
Shift of the main band

=> Decrease of the Si-O-Si intertetrahedral bond (θ)

Increase of D2 band

=> Increase in the number of the threefold-membered rings

➤ Compressed silica glass
Densified glass



➔ By magnetron sputtering deposition, the deposited silica film is a dense material

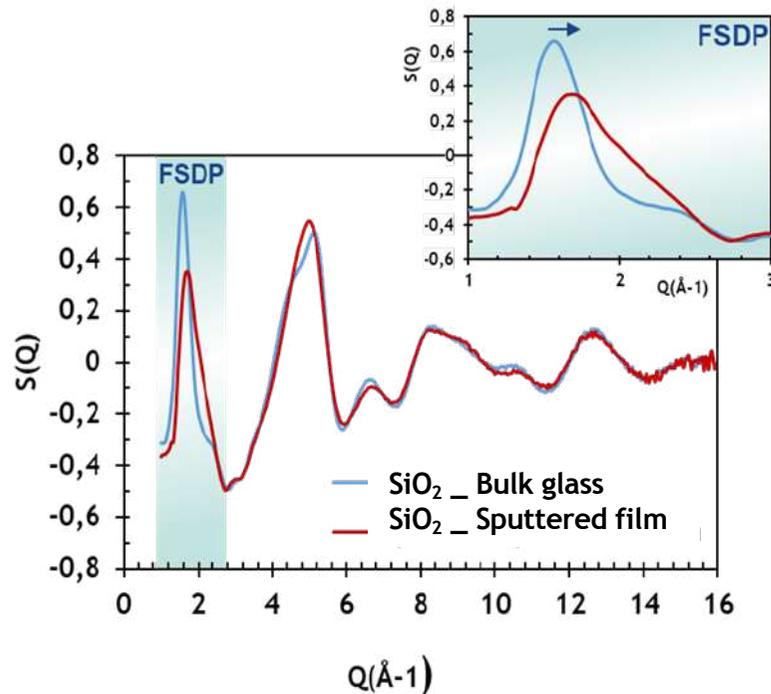
➔ Densification confirmed by XRR

$$Density_{film} = 2.35 \text{ g.cm}^{-3} \gg \gg Density_{fused} = 2.2 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$$

Determination of Pair Distribution Functions (PDF)

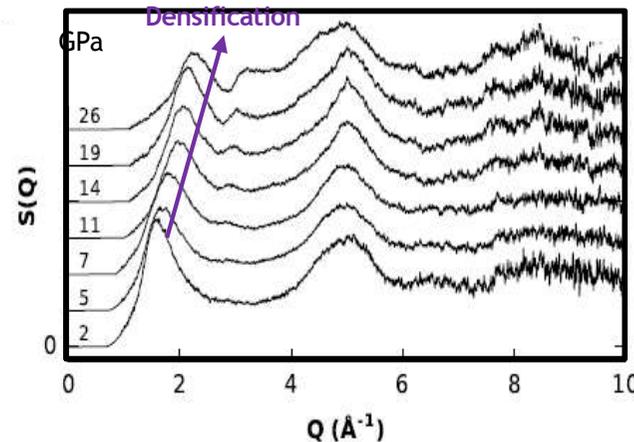


X-ray scattering structure factor $S(Q)$



Sputtered silica film:

- No/little change in the range of large Q ($Q > 4 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$)
↔ **Short-range order is mostly preserved**
- Significant evolution of FSDP ↔ **Medium-range order is modified**

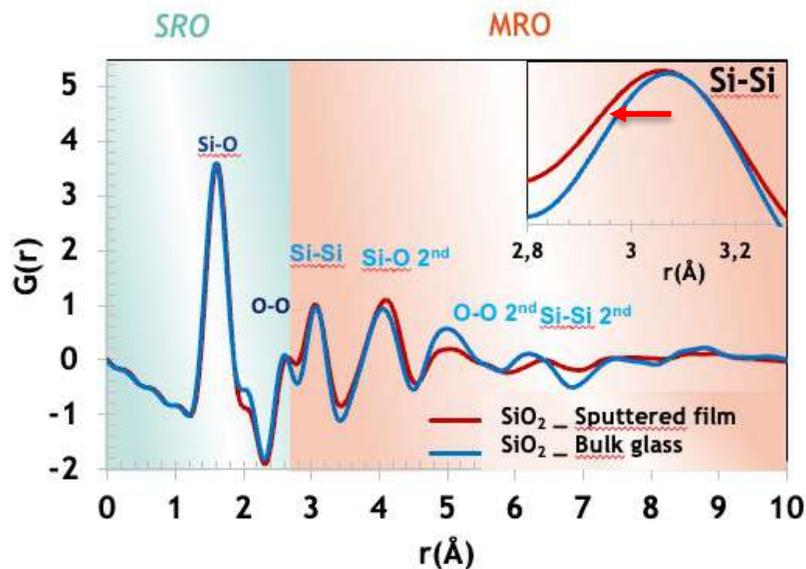


Y Inamura *et al* 2007

➔ **Permanently densified sputtered silica film**

Determination of Pair Distribution Functions (PDF)

➤ Interatomic distances



Sputtered silica film:

➤ Preservation of the short-range order

➤ Evolution of the medium-range order:

* Shortening of Si-Si distance \Leftrightarrow **a denser packing at MRO**

* Quick vanishing of PDF \Leftrightarrow **More pronounced disordered structure at the medium-range scale**

➤ **Sputtered silica film : denser structure with a less organized network**

Sputtered silica film compared to densified silica glass

1

Sputtered silica film
Density 2.35 g.cm^{-3}



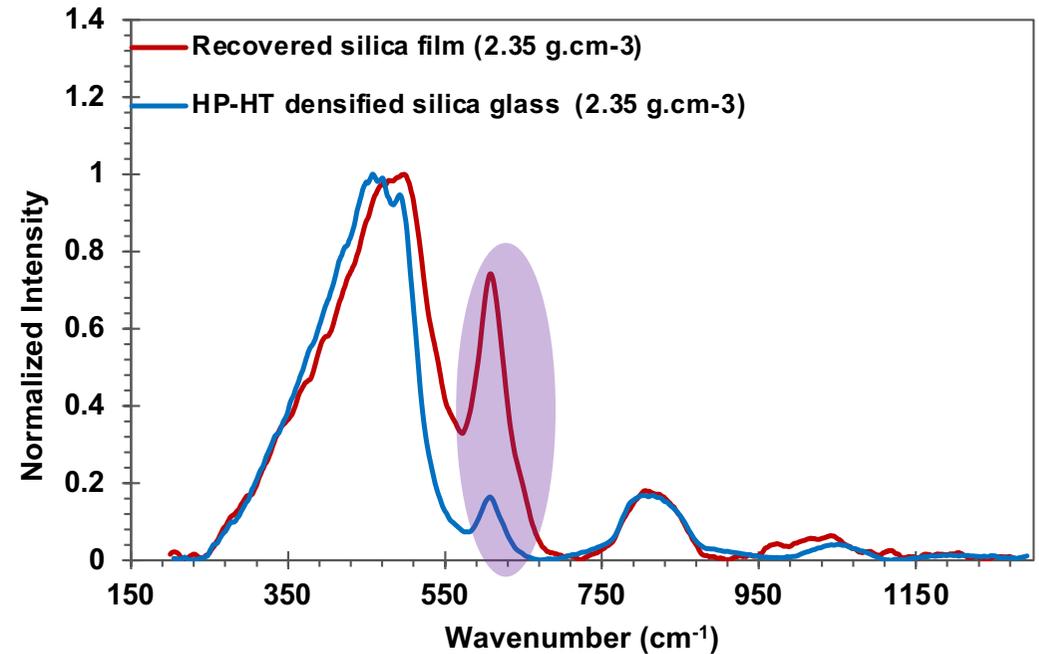
*Magnetron sputtering
deposition*

2

Densified silica glass
Density 2.35 g.cm^{-3}



*Multi-anvil cell
4 GPa - 550° C*



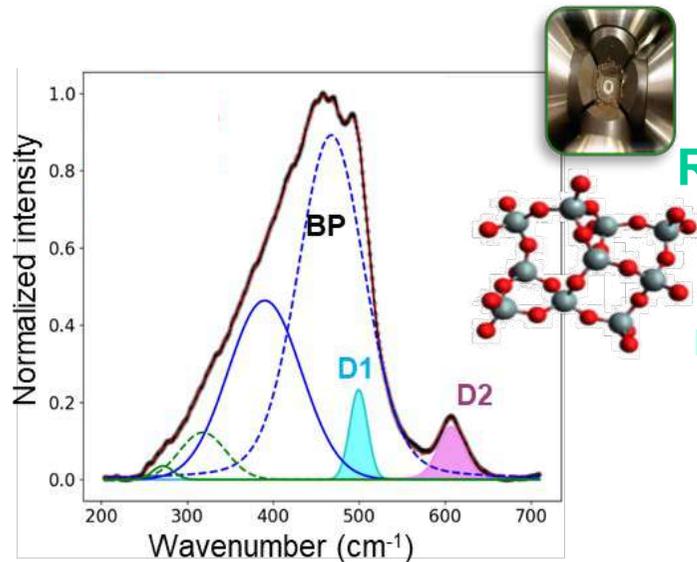
→ Different Raman features ⇔ Different microscopic organization.

→ Strong impact of synthesis process on the glass structure especially the intermediate-range order

Quantification of the densification

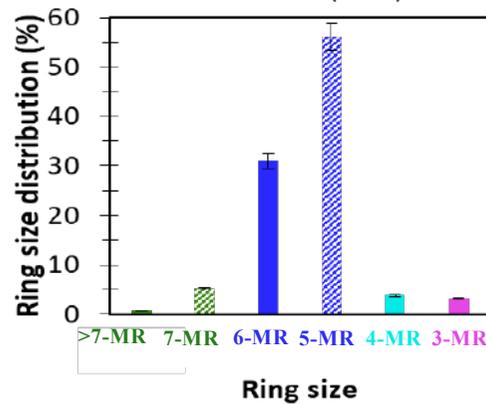
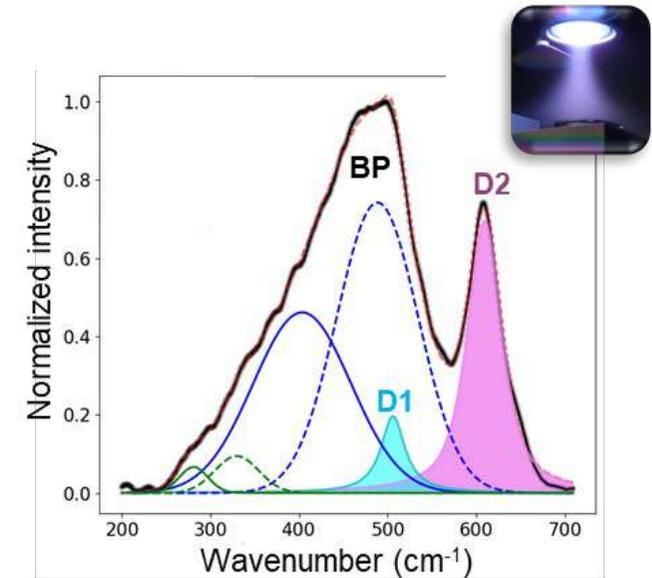
Densified silica glass 2.35 g.cm^{-3}

Silica film 2.35 g.cm^{-3}

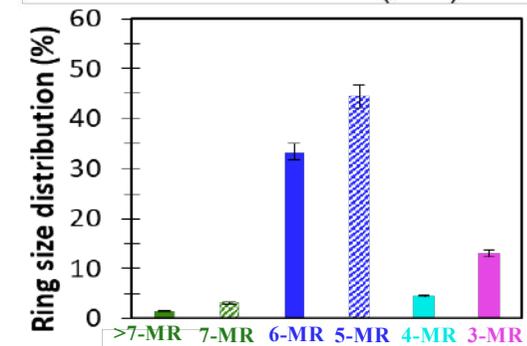


Rings size decrease

Rings deformation

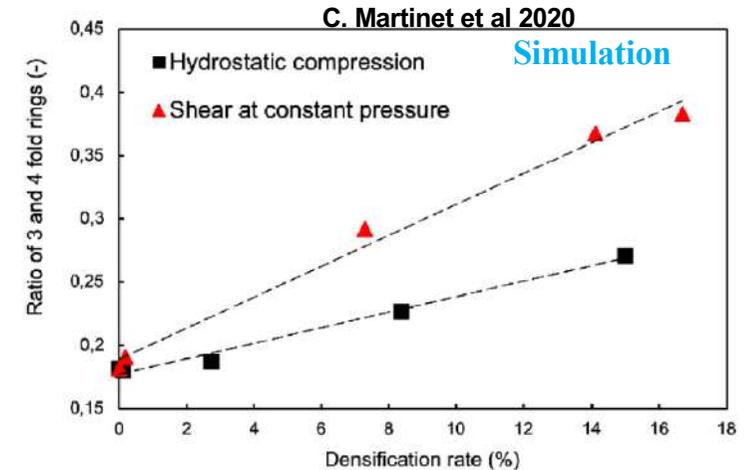
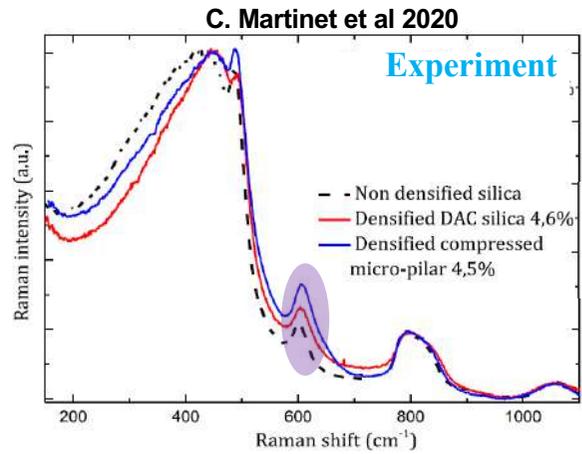
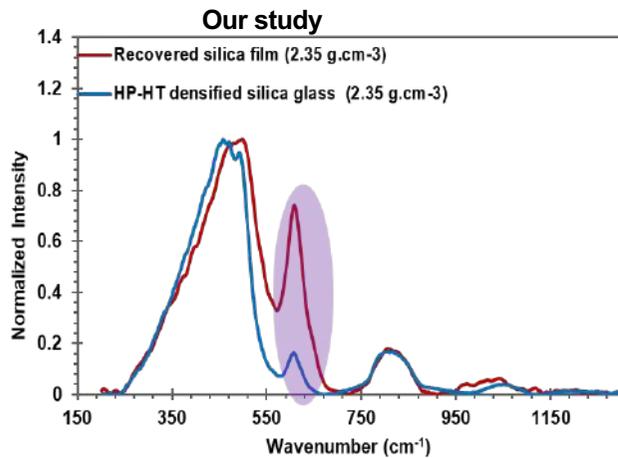


Similar density \neq Similar structure



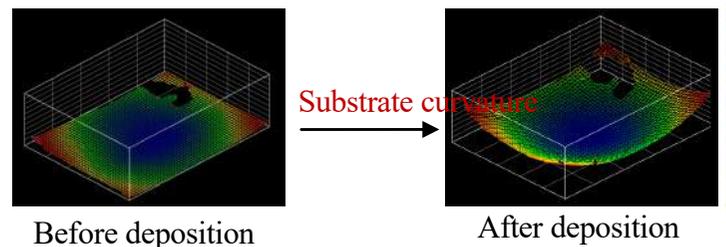
Sputtered silica film compared to densified silica glass

impact of shear strain



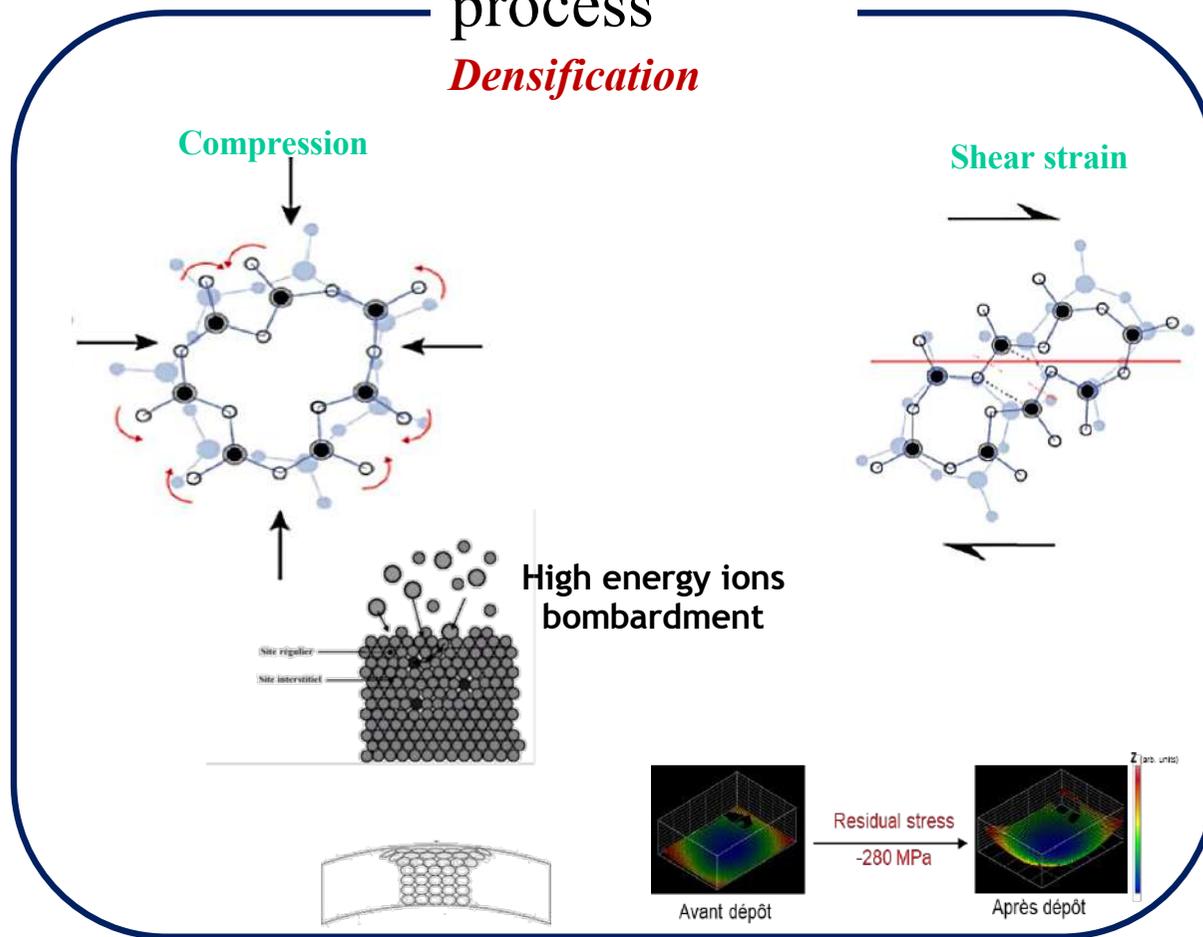
Martinet et al., J. Non-Cryst. Solids 533 (2021) 119898

D2 increase \Leftrightarrow Impact of the shear stress
 Shear stress \Rightarrow Three-membered rings



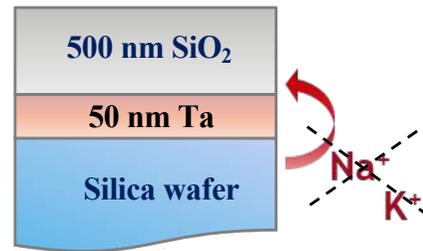
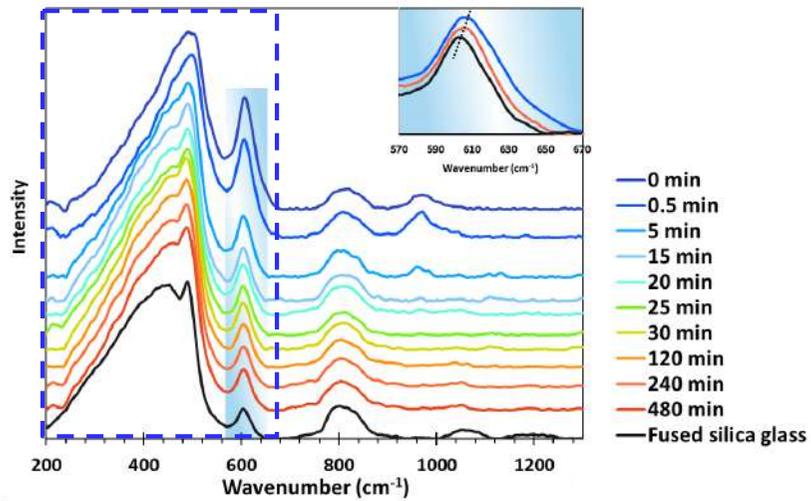
Specificity of the silica film structure

Deposition
process
Densification

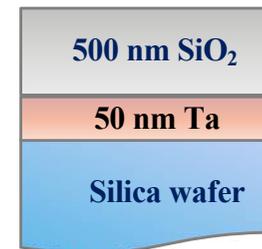


Structure evolution under thermal treatment 650° C

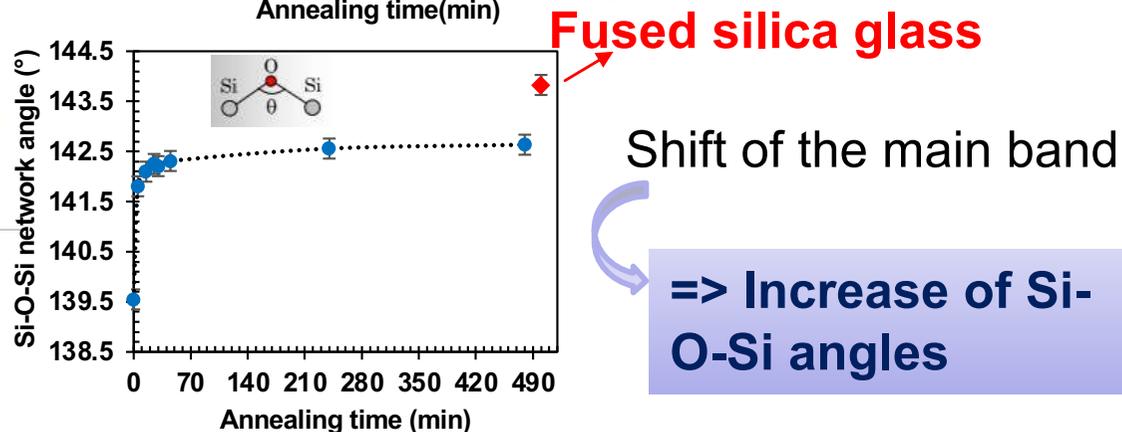
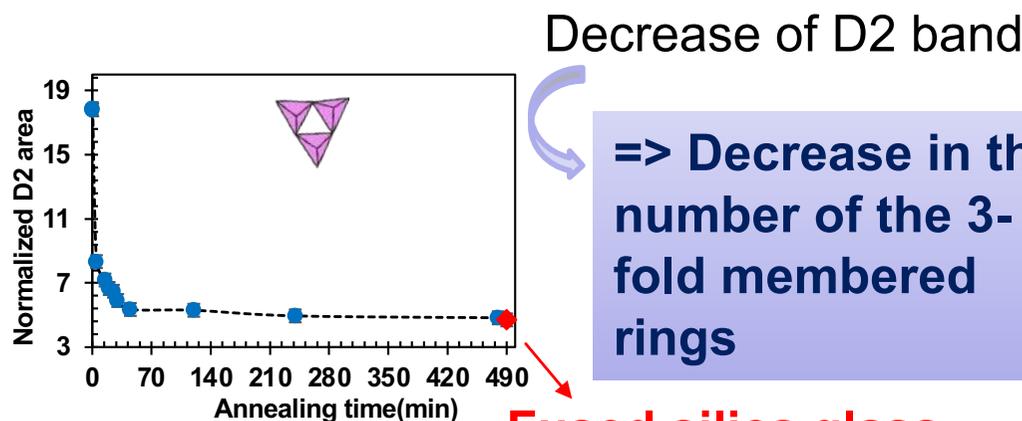
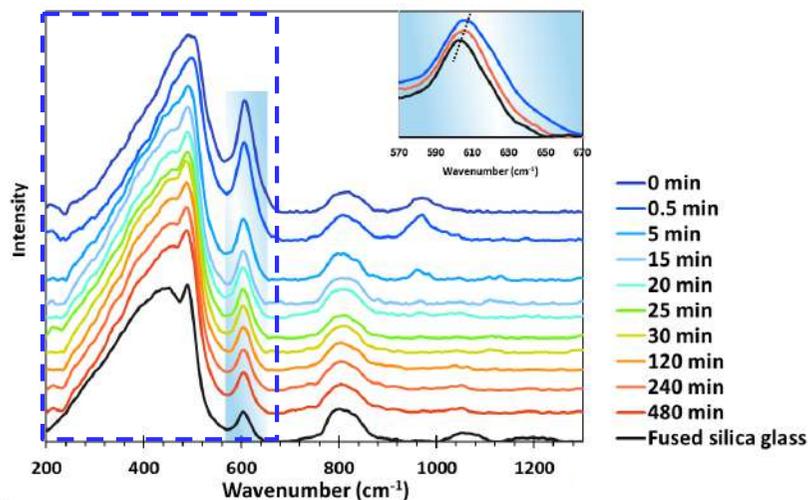
Raman spectroscopy



Structure evolution under thermal treatment 650° C



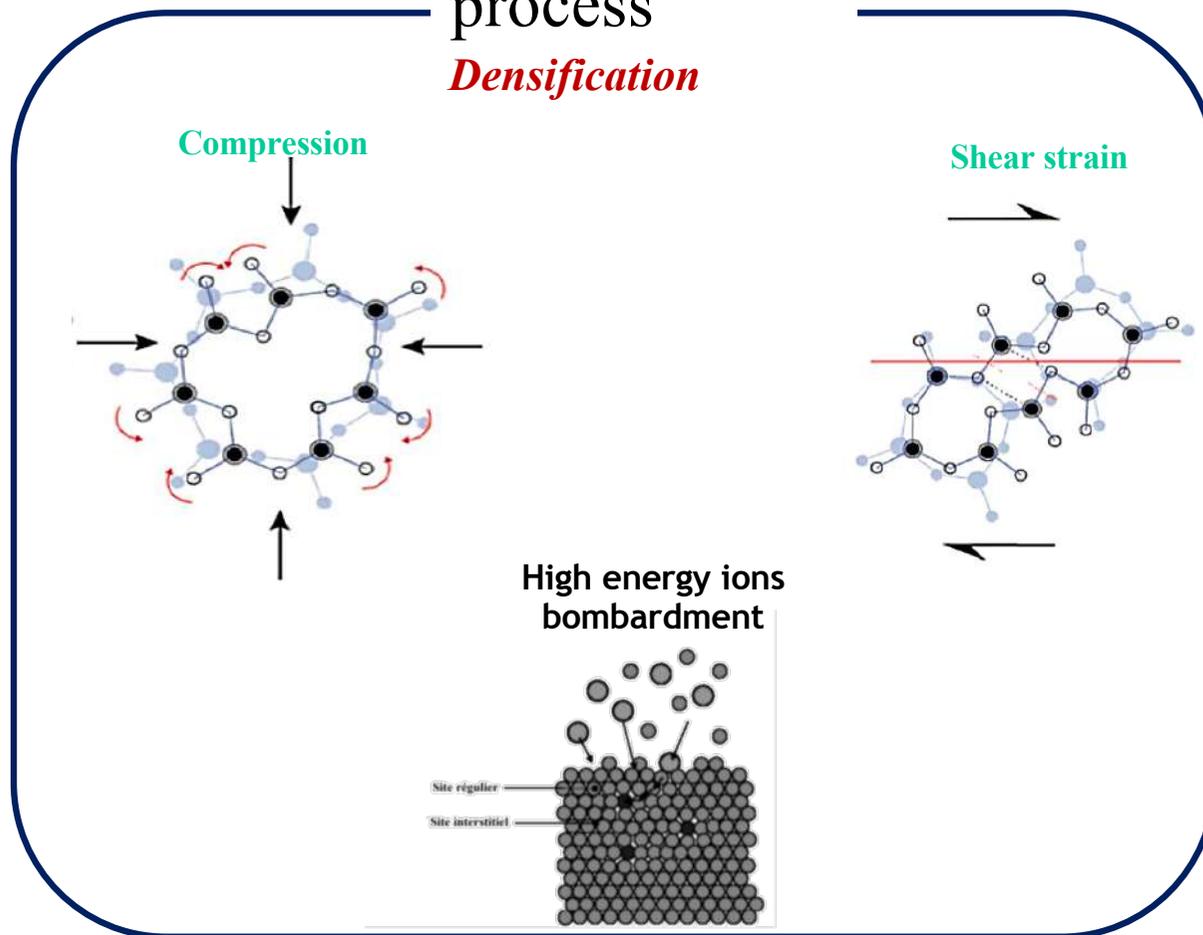
Raman spectroscopy



→ Partial relaxation of the sputtered silica film : 70 %

Specificity of the silica film structure

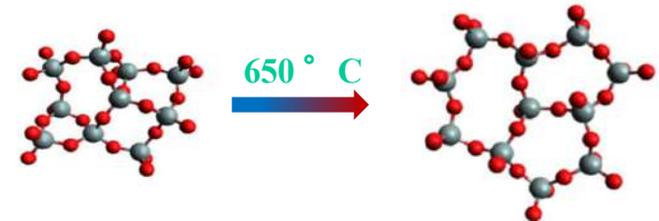
Deposition
process
Densification



Thermal
treatment

Increase of
Si-O-Si angles

Decrease of the small
rings proportion



Conclusion

→ Efficiency of the different developed approaches for Raman signal extraction of the sputtered silica film

→ Strong impact of synthesis process on the glass structure especially the intermediate-range order

⇒ *By magnetron sputtering deposition, the deposited silica film is permanently densified*

Short-range transformation:

Decrease of the Si-O-Si
intertetrahedral angles

Medium-range evolution:

Change in the ring statistics favoring
the formation of smaller rings