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NRC «Kurchatov Institute» -  
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NRC «Kurchatov Institute»  
Laboratory of luminescent and  
detector materials

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# Towards new production technologies: 3D printing of scintillators

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# Acknowledgments

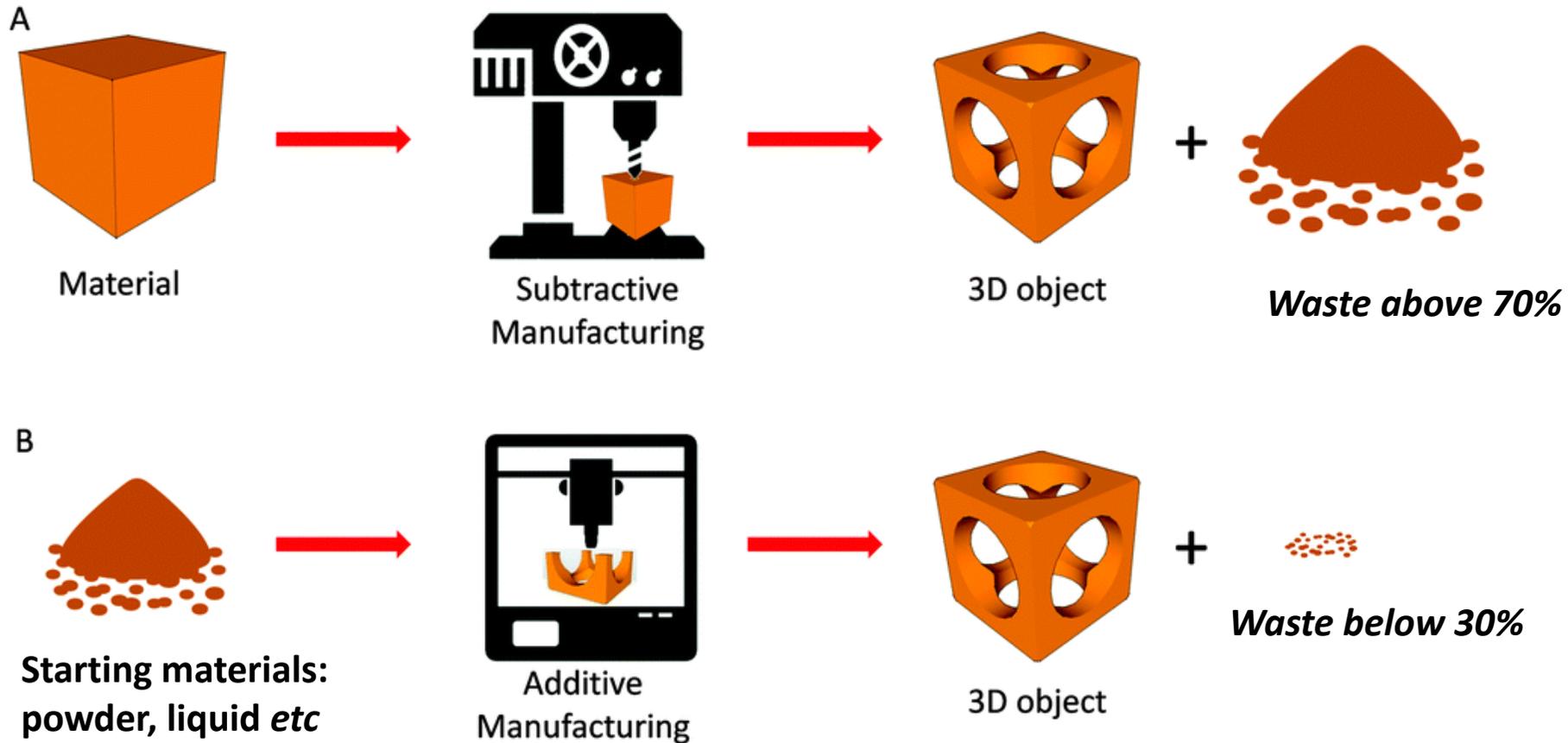
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# Introduction. Traditional manufacturing *versus* 3D printing



A. Ambrosi, M. Pumera, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2016, **45**, 2740-2755.

NOTE: Casting is not AM, because use some tools and patterns!

# Introduction. A brief historical review

## 1980s

The Birth of 3D printing and rapid prototyping as conception (makes three-dimensional parts layer by layer). First patents.



Hideo Kodama SLA



Chuck W. Hull SLA



Carl R. Deckard SLS



Scott S. Crump FDM

## 1990s

The first SLA (stereolithographic apparatus), SLS (selective laser sintering) and FDM (Fused Deposition Modelling) machines. The production of a some **plastic, wax or even metal** objects.

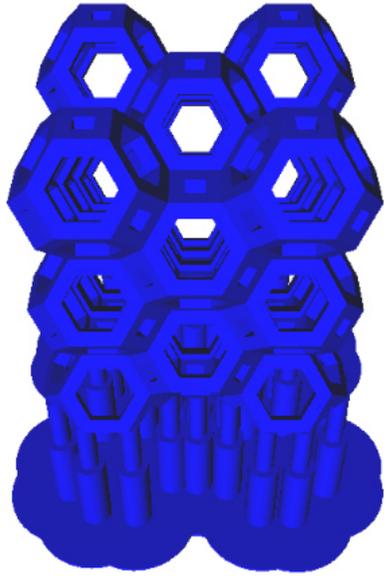
## 2000s

Open-source and open-ware movement. Democratization and cheapening. Expanding the range of available materials.

## 2010s

Lapse of key «hystorical» patents. Mass scale of inventive activities and common availability of desktop 3D printers. A lot of small start-up companies found funding through crowdfunding platforms (KickStarter *etc*).

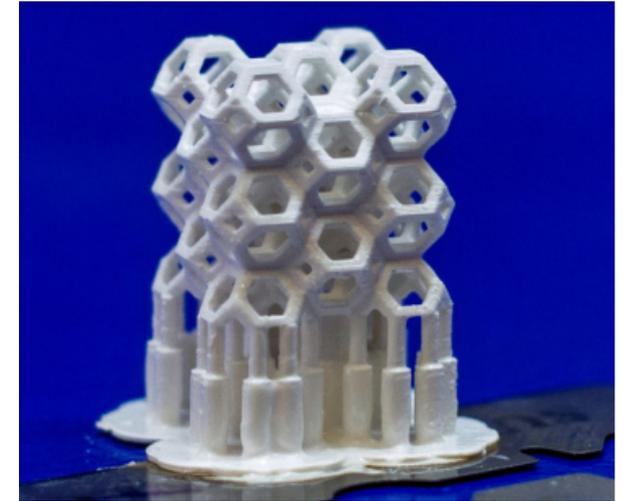
# Classification of 3D printing techniques. Basic steps



Using  
materials



Formation  
method



1 Digital 3D (CAD) model,  
usually STL-format file

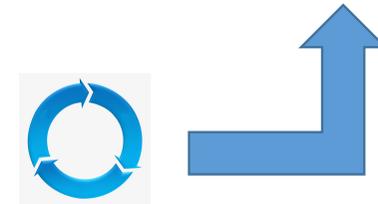
2. Slicing the model into  
many layers and generate  
computer code

3 Print first 2D slice and supports

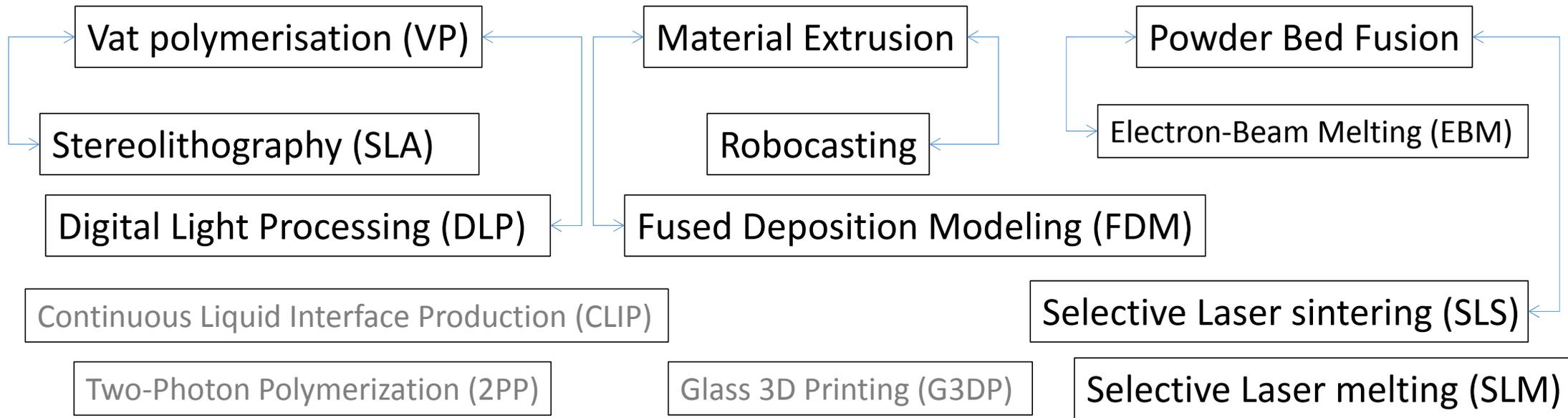
4 Increment height and print next layer

6 Physical body after 3d printing (SLA)

5 Post process treatment (if needed)



# Classification of main techniques in 3D printing



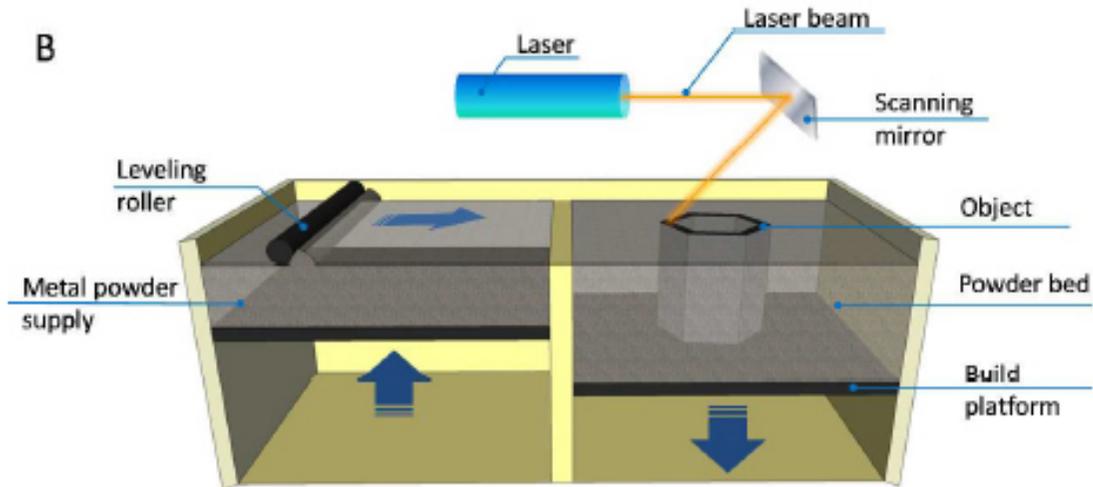
**Liquid** monomers (oligomers),  
light-activated resin .

**Paste, Slurry, Clay,**  
Food, Composite,  
Polymers (ABS, PLA)

**Powder:** typically metals,  
nylon/polyamide,  
some ceramics,  
some glasses

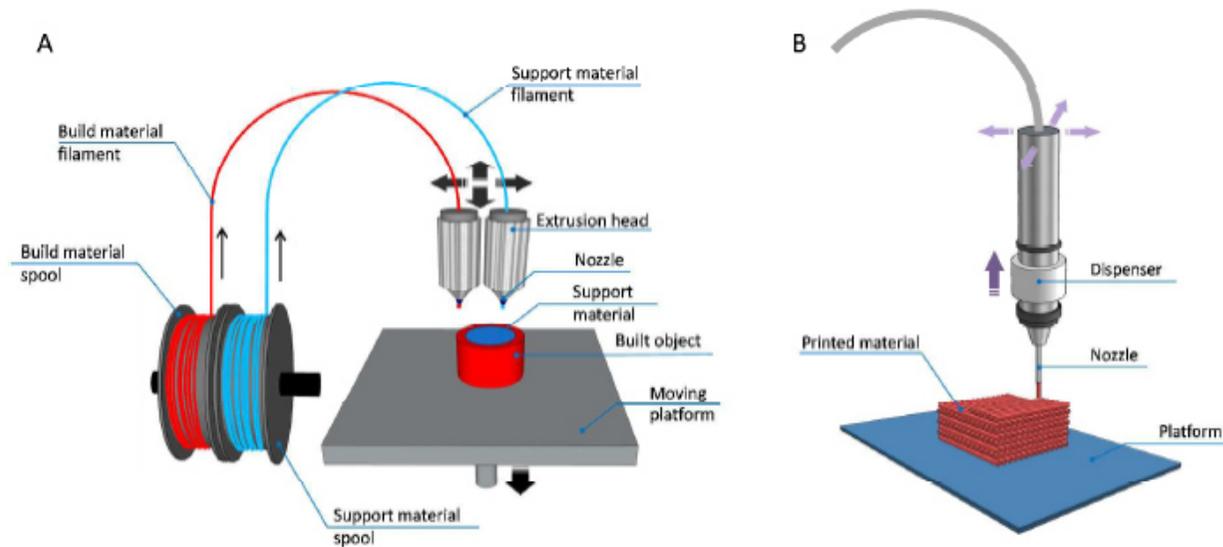
Binder/Material Jetting  
Directed Energy Deposition

# SLS & SLM - Selective laser sintering (melting)



Core principle	Advantages	Disadvantages
Layer formation occurs as a result of local sintering of polymer or metal powders	High mechanical characteristics; there is no need for supporting structures; manufacturing of metal products; the minimum element size is 30–100 $\mu\text{m}$	High temperatures upon sintering; high roughness of the surface; high cost; need to use powders with narrow particle size distribution; need to use protective atmosphere; need the post-treatment; need large amount of powder to work

# FDM - Fused deposition modeling



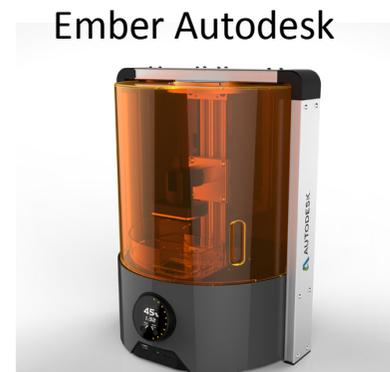
Core principle	Advantages	Disadvantages
Forming a material layer by a filament obtained by extrusion of a thermoplastic polymers (composites) through a nozzle	Simple; Versatile; Low cost of the materials; minimal amount of wastes; possibility of obtaining composite structures	Quite low print resolution (the minimum element size is limited by the diameter of the extruder opening and is 150–700 $\mu\text{m}$ ; layer thickness is 20–370 $\mu\text{m}$ ); anisotropy of mechanical properties; using a supporting structure is necessary

# SLA - Stereolithography. Plastics

Core principle	Advantages	Disadvantages
Polymerization of liquid monomers upon light irradiation.	High resolution (the layer thickness is 20–100 $\mu\text{m}$ ; the minimum element size it is 50–100 $\mu\text{m}$ ); high speed; possibility of using a large amount of material as a photopolymer filler (up to >50% of ceramic powder); possibility of using experience on formation of phase composition and microstructure accumulated in the ceramic technology.	Restricted number of photopolymers in use; Single material; high cost; using a supporting structure is necessary; light scattering on ceramic particles; high suspension viscosity;



FormLab Form 1 & 2 desktop SLA printer high-resolution 3D printer for professional. Funding about **3 000 000 \$** via kickstarter.com on 2014. Current price ~ 10 000 \$



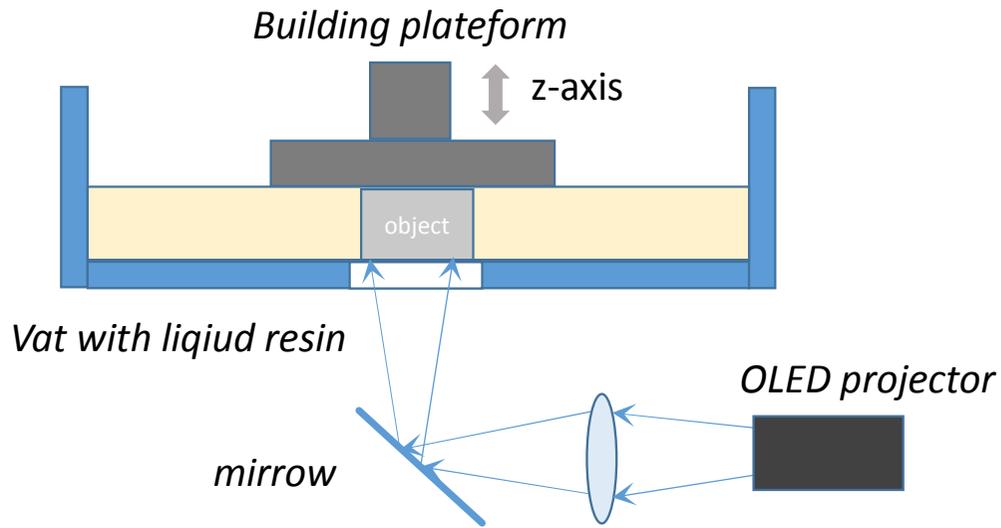
price ~ 8000 \$



price < 3000 \$

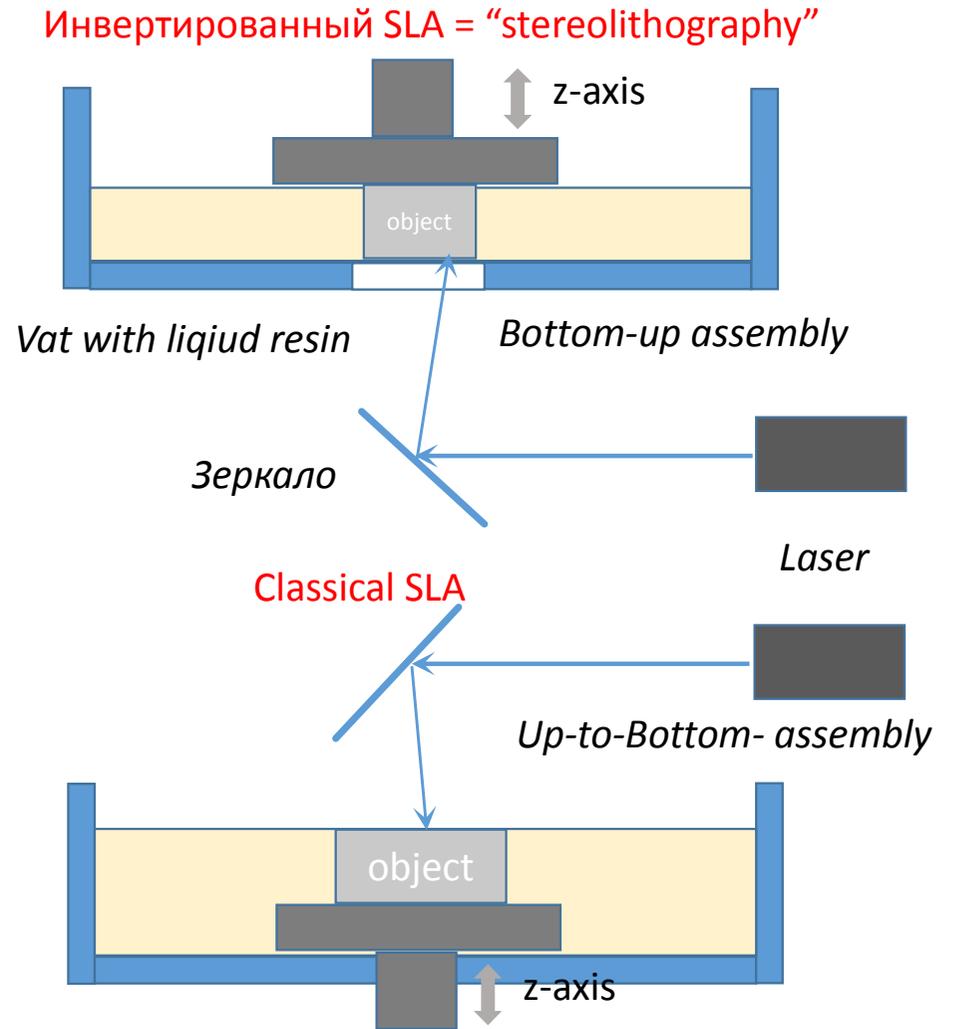
milkshake3d

# SLA - Stereolithography. Plastics

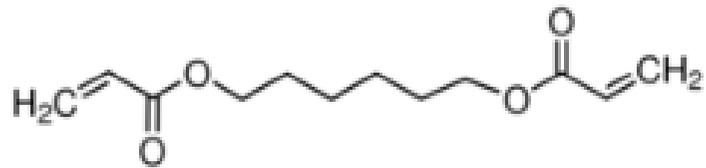


DLP = "digital light processing"

*Bottom-up assembly*

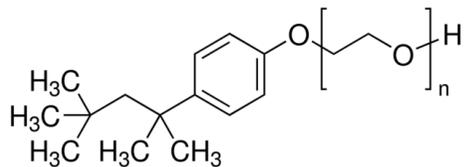
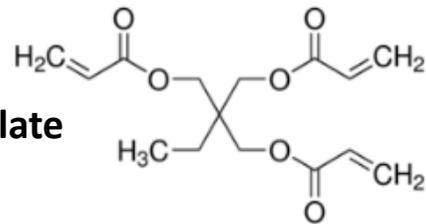


# SLA - Stereolithography. Ceramics (YAG & ZrO<sub>2</sub>)

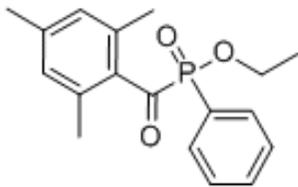


1,6 Hexanediol diacrylate

Trimethylolpropane triacrylate

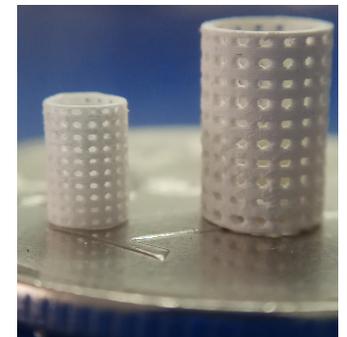
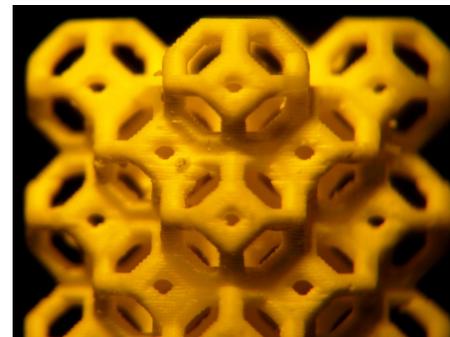
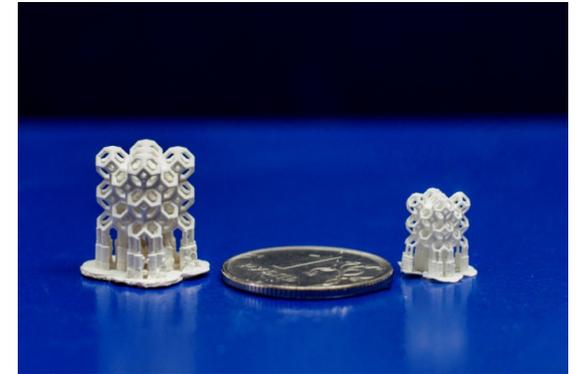
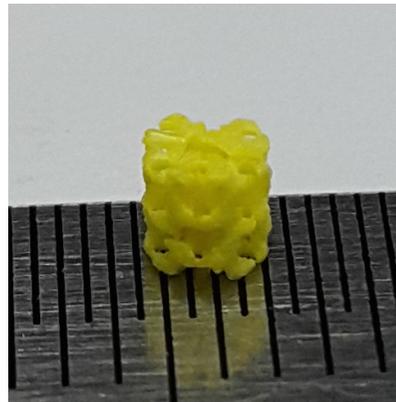


Triton X-100



- + Inert diluent
- + Dye
- + Light absorber
- + Inhibitor of polymerisation
- + *Very fine ceramic powder*

Photoinitiator - Ethyl (2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl) phenylphosphinate



# 3D printing of scintillators

Inorganic polycrystalline oxide materials with complex shape - **YES**

Some plastics and inorganic glasses - **VERY POSSIBLE**

Single crystal - **NO**

+

Not direct application of new approaches:

may be create some tooling, tooling inserts *etc.*

# Conclusions

- 3D printing is a high-tech toy with a good perspective, which allow to create the complex shape parts (details) from many materials
- 3D printing allow to complement a traditional opportunities
- 3D printing allow small lab (or just for one researcher!) to make some complex part(s) with outstanding properties

Thank you for your kind attention. Questions?