



Aalto University
School of Chemical
Engineering

Characterization

CHEM-E5125 Thin Films Technology

2021

Jari Koskinen

Contents

- Thin film properties
- Wealth of methods – MATRIX
- Scattering
- Thickness - profilometry
- Composition – EDS, WDS, SIMS, RBS, ERDA, GDOES
- Microstructure –XRD, TEM
- Bonding – ESCA, RAMAN
- Topography - ADM
- Electrical conductivity – four point probe
- Mechanical properties - indentation
- Optical transmittance

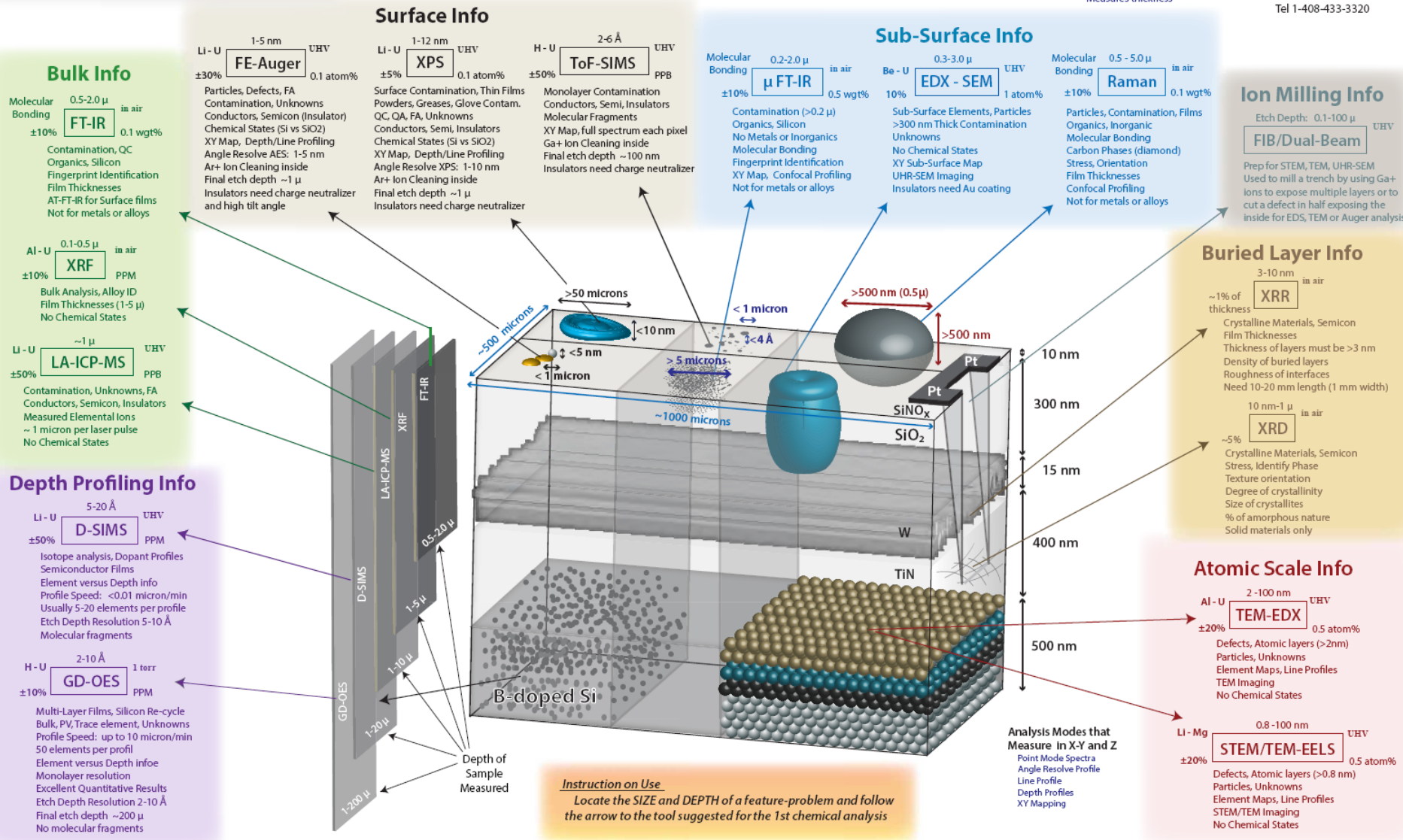
- SEM/EDX,WDS, kaikki osaa
- - XPS, Sami varmistaa Jouko Lahtiselta, opiskelija mittaa?
- - RAMAN Joonas Heikkinen
- - XRD/XRR (Jarkko Etula)
- - ellipsometry, Robin group, Micronova
- - reflectometry, Victor Ovchinnikov
- - contact angle (goniometer), Joksa
- - tribometer, Jari ryhmä
- - indentation, Trebala (mahdollisesti mikrokovuus)

Feature-Problem-Analysis-Tools

Visual Guide to Selecting Tools for Chemical Analysis*

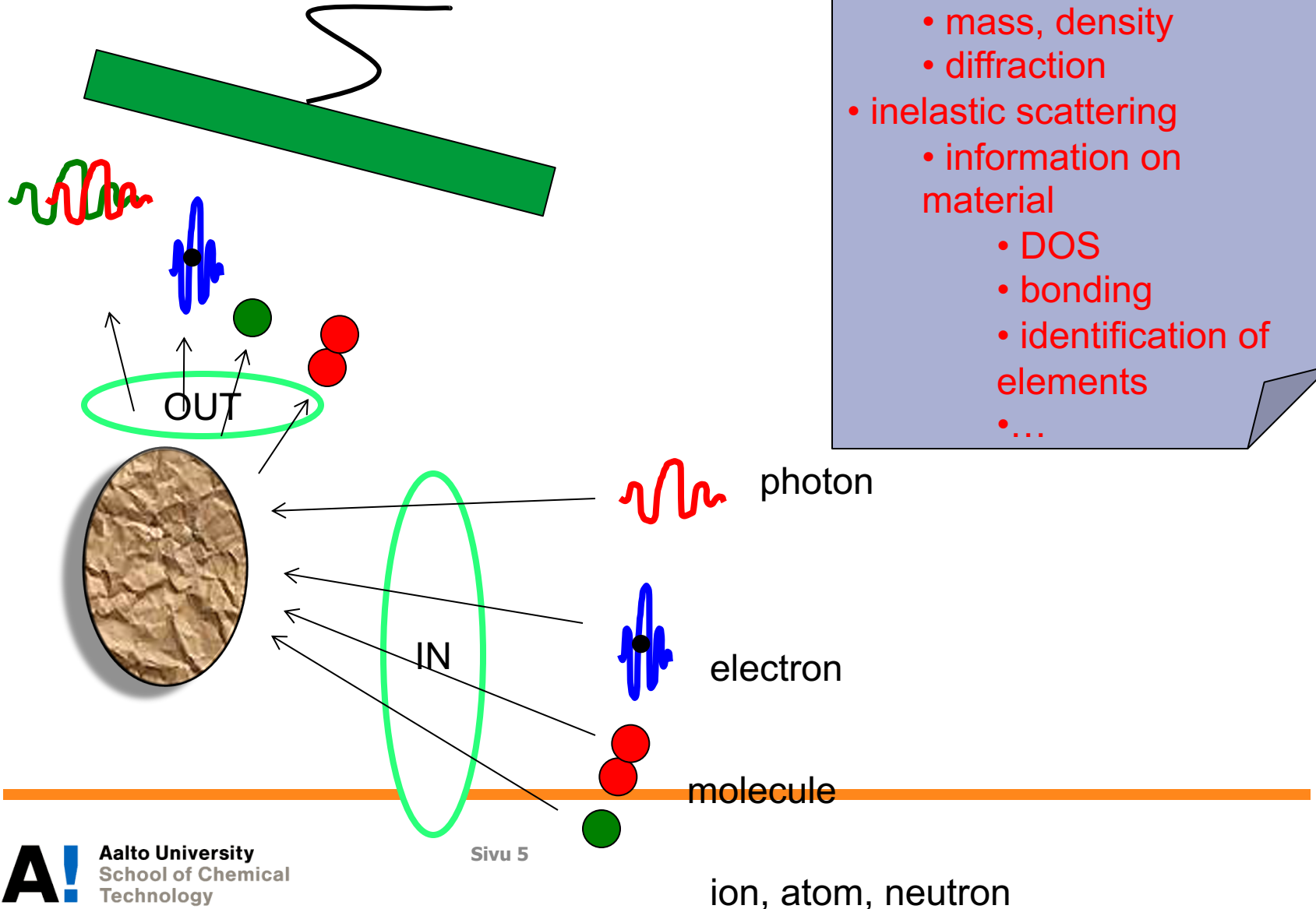
Legend for Tool
Major Applications
Type of Chemistry Info
XY Map, Profile or Angles
Other Applications
Not good for...
Chemical State (Yes/No)
Measures thickness

Legend
Range of Elements Detected
Depth of Info
Analysis in UHV or air
Ultimate Detection Limit
Quantification Accuracy
LI - U
1-5 nm
Tool
UHV
0.1 atom%



* This guide helps the user to select the first chemical analysis tool to analyze or measure the feature-problem. Additional analysis tools are often used to confirm or further understand the feature-problem.

Scattering experiment



- particles → in vacuum !!
- elastic scattering
 - mass, density
 - diffraction
- inelastic scattering
 - information on material
 - DOS
 - bonding
 - identification of elements
 - ...

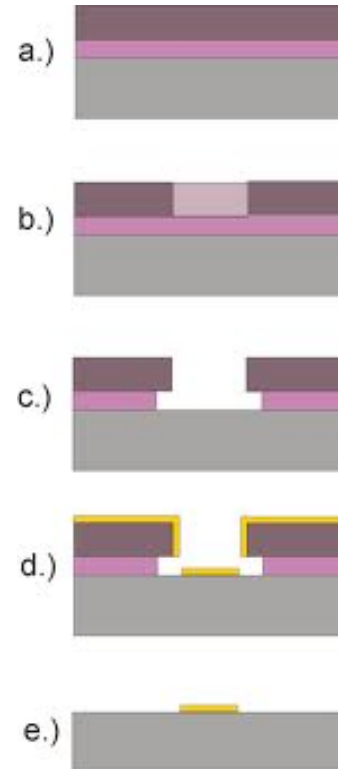
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- Optical transmittance- FTIR (???)

Film topography and thickness

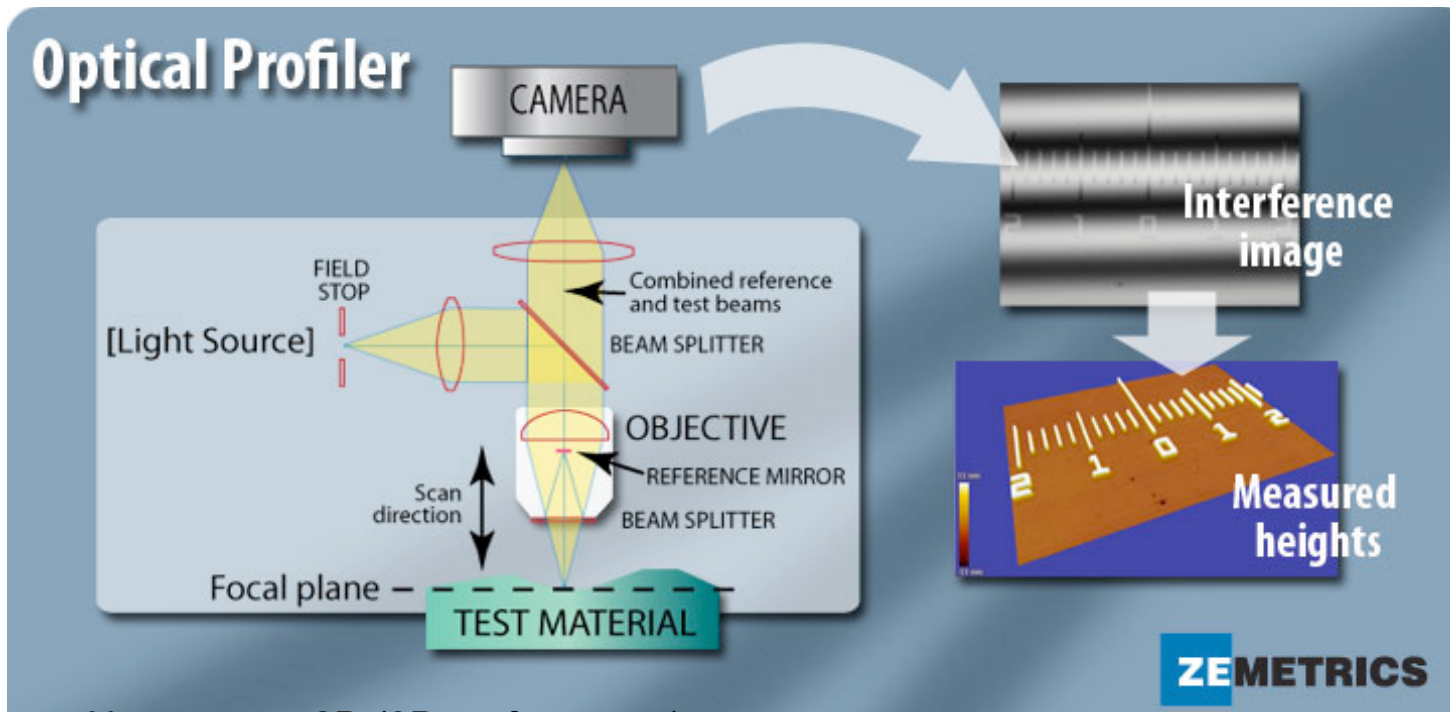
- Film thickness
 - direct measurement by definition
 - profilometer by using masked surface
 - cross section profile + microscopy
 - spectroscopy
- Contact profilometer
 - diamond tip with 1 – 50 mN load
 - tip radius 20 nm – 25 μm (12 μm)
 - depth sensitivity/range 0.5 nm/60 μm

Lift-off mask lithography and contact profilometry



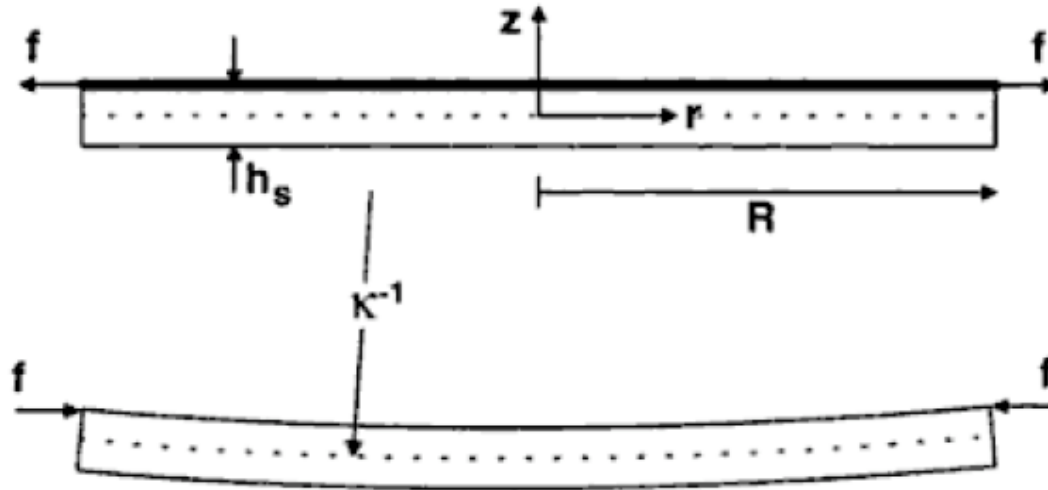
- Simple and reliable step height
- Reflecting surfaces problematic

Optical profilometer



- Non contact 2D (3D surface map)
- Fast
- Reflecting surfaces problematic

Internal stress of thin film-substrate curvature by profilometer



Stoney equation
substrate modulus

$$\sigma_m = \frac{M_s h_s^2}{6 h_f} \left\{ \frac{1}{\rho_2} - \frac{1}{\rho_1} \right\}$$

radius of curvature after
and initially

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Composition

- What elements present in the film
- Depth distribution
- Interface
- Often a direct feedback for deposition parameters
 - gas ratio, target composition etc.

SEM EDS and WDS

- Microanalysis [EDS and WDS](#) (material of an other course)

Excerpts from lectures in X-ray microanalysis

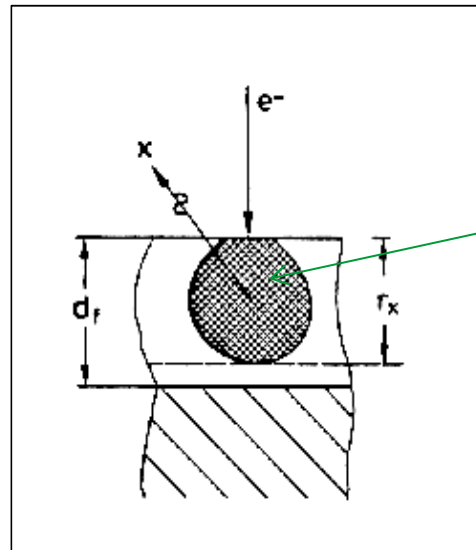
Thin surface layer analysis by SEM + x-ray microanalysis (EDS or WDS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfQ4VNpWN4M>

E. Heikinheimo

Aalto - Dept. of MS & E - 2011

Thin-film analysis (I)

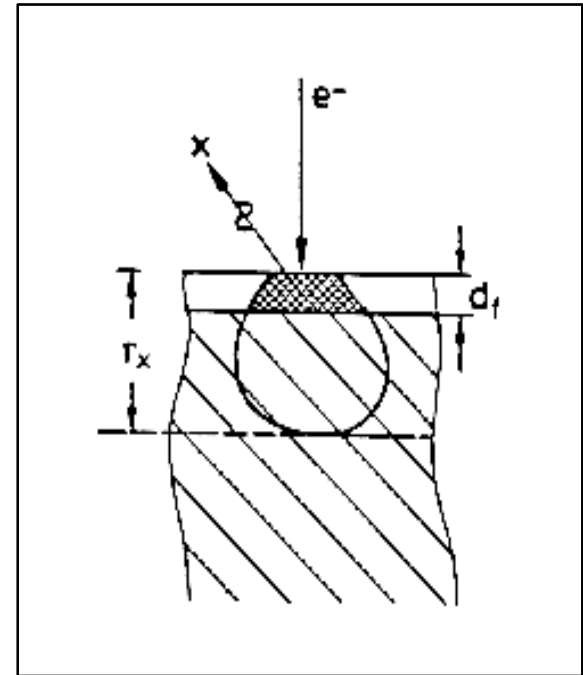


Excitation volume

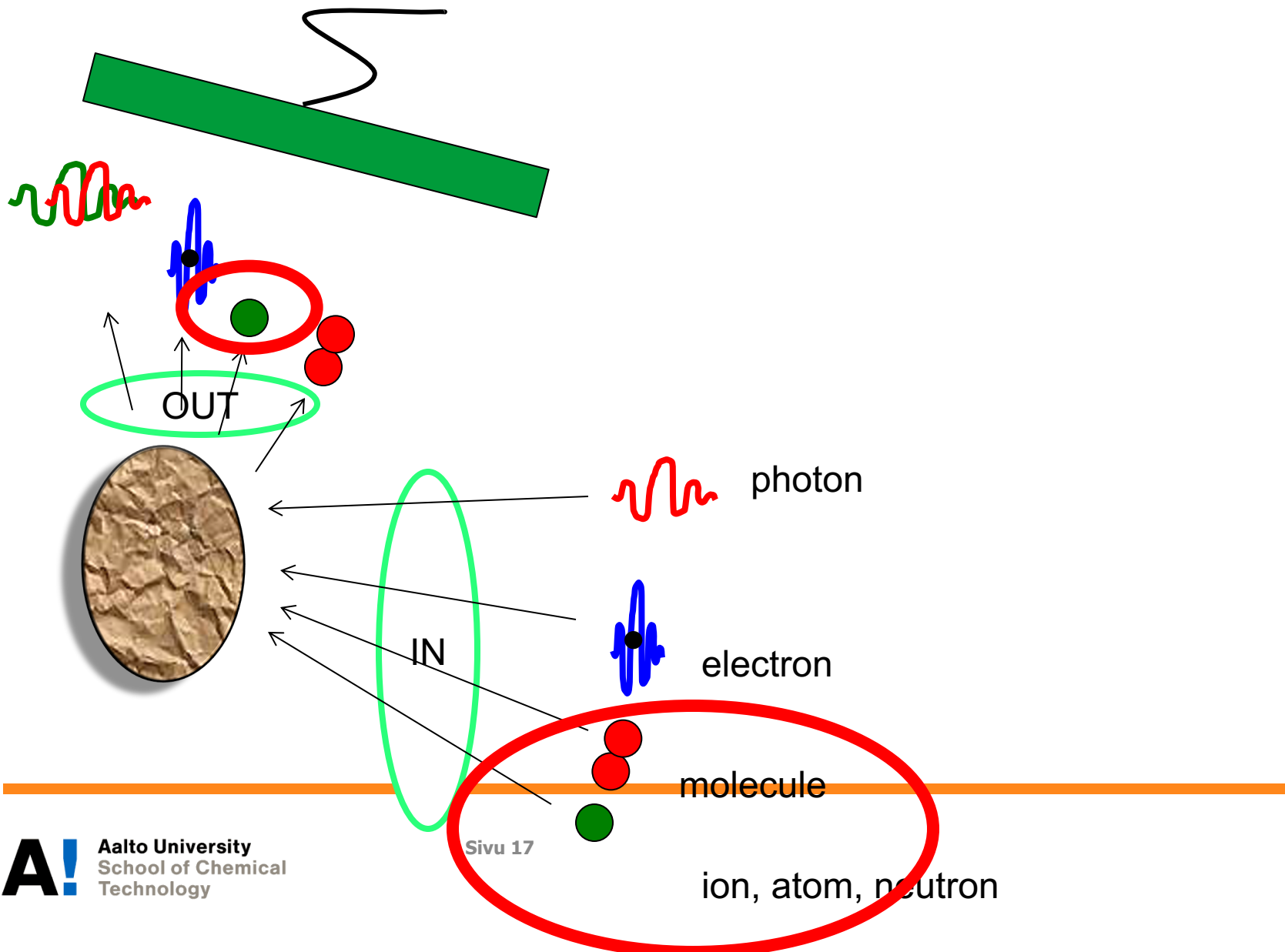
- * Thickness of surface film $d_f > r_x$, substrate does not influence
- * Film can be processed as bulk, with normal matrix correction program
- * $d_f = 0.2 \dots 2 \mu\text{m}$ (e.g. by adjusting beam energy)

Thin film analysis (II)

- $d_f \ll r_x, d_f > 1 \text{ nm}$
- Substrate signal is decisive
- There can be several films on top of each other: "sandwich structure"
- Thin-film software is needed, which is based on calculating $\Phi(\rho z)$ - function (amount of generated radiation) as function of depth; a hypothesis of studied film structure is needed
- In principle thickness and composition of film is obtained from both film and substrate signal (checking possibility).
- Non-destructive method, same sample can be analysed by other methods, e.g. RBS.

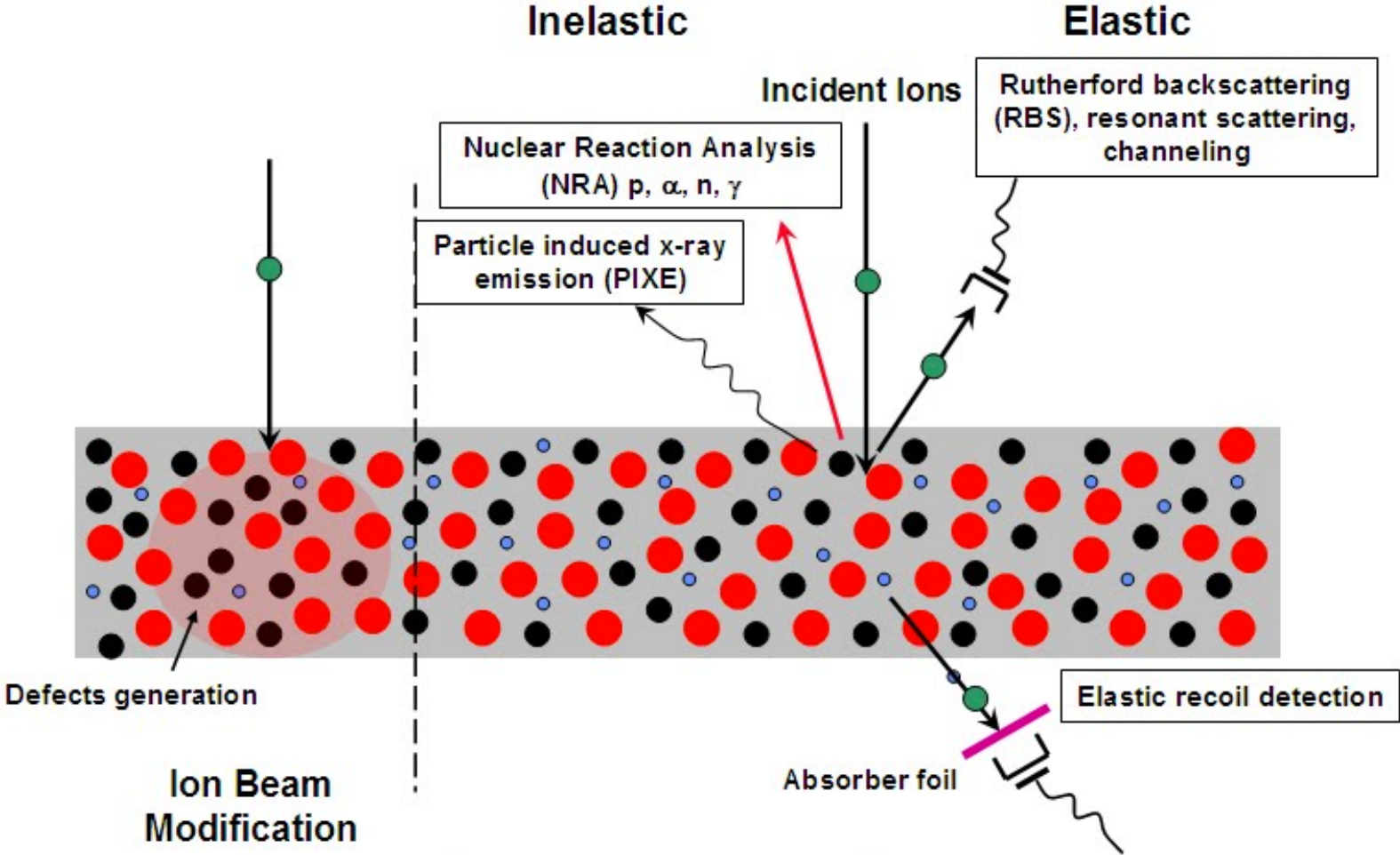


Scattering experiment – Ion in Ion out

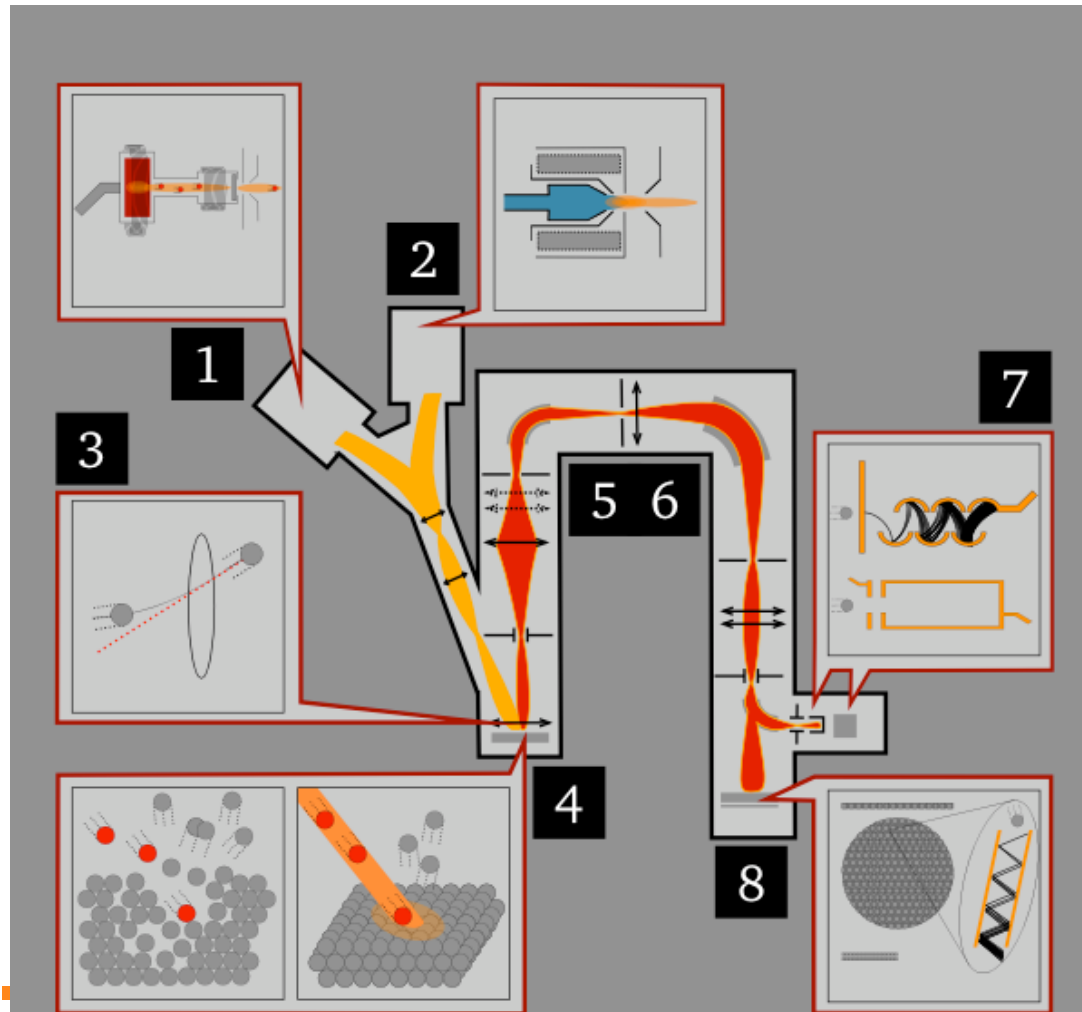


Ion Beam Analysis Techniques

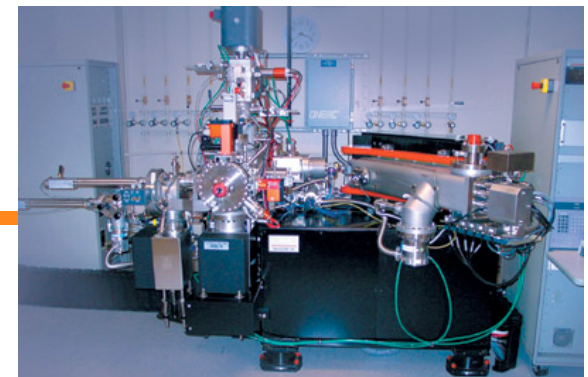
For a detail discussion on Ion Beam Analysis and the various techniques, please see [IBA lecture](#) by K. M. Yu.



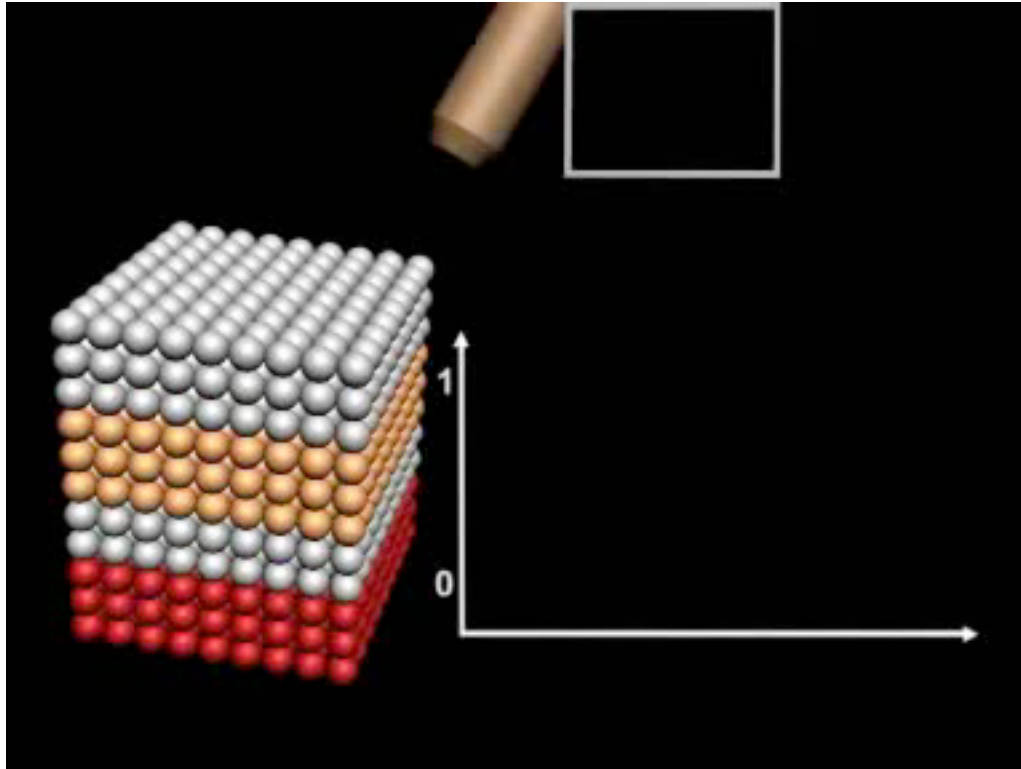
Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry - SIMS



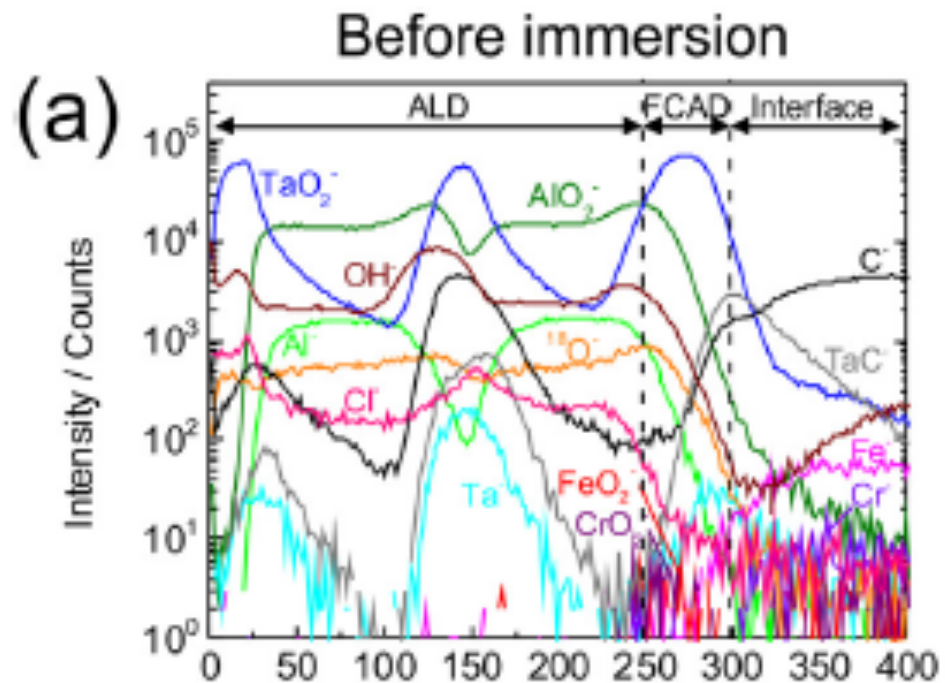
1. Cesium ion source
2. Duoplasmatron
3. Electrostatic lens
4. Sample
5. Electrostatic sector - ion energy analyser
6. Electromagnet - mass analyser
7. Electron multiplier / Faraday cup
8. Channel-plate / Fluorescent screen - ion image detector



SIMS



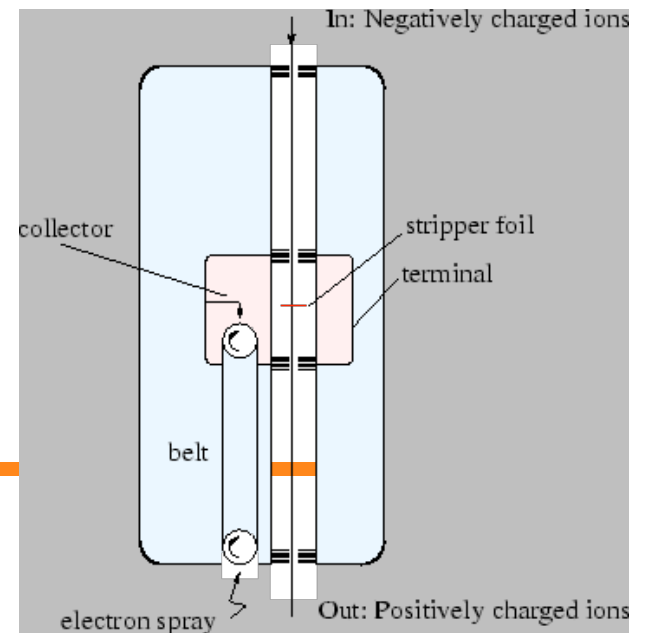
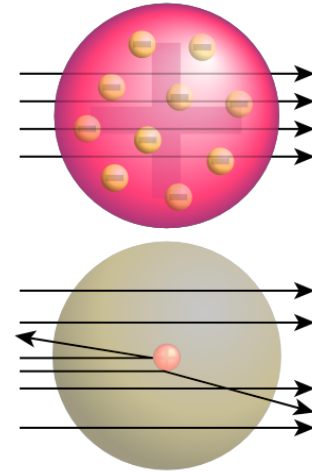
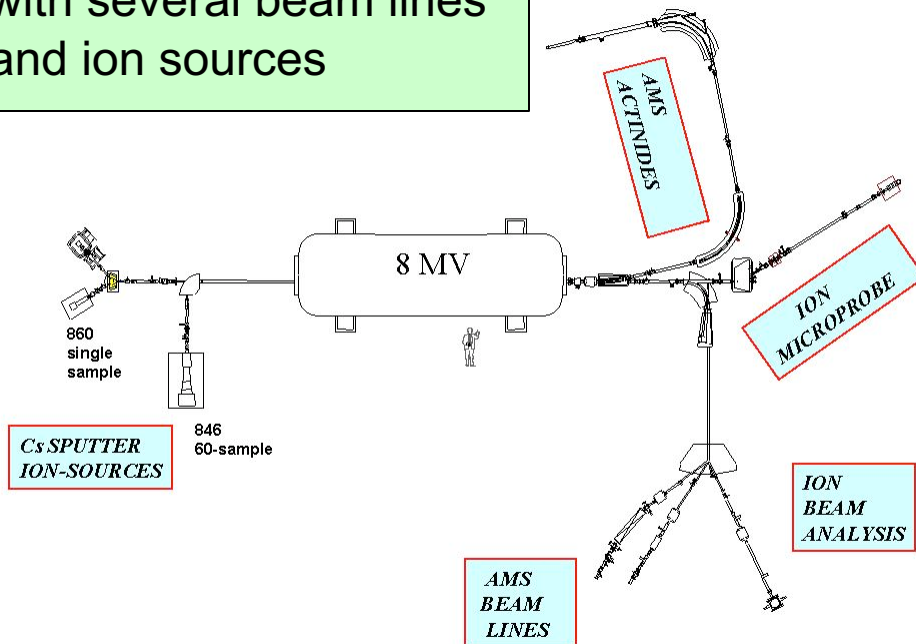
SIMS - also molecular ions



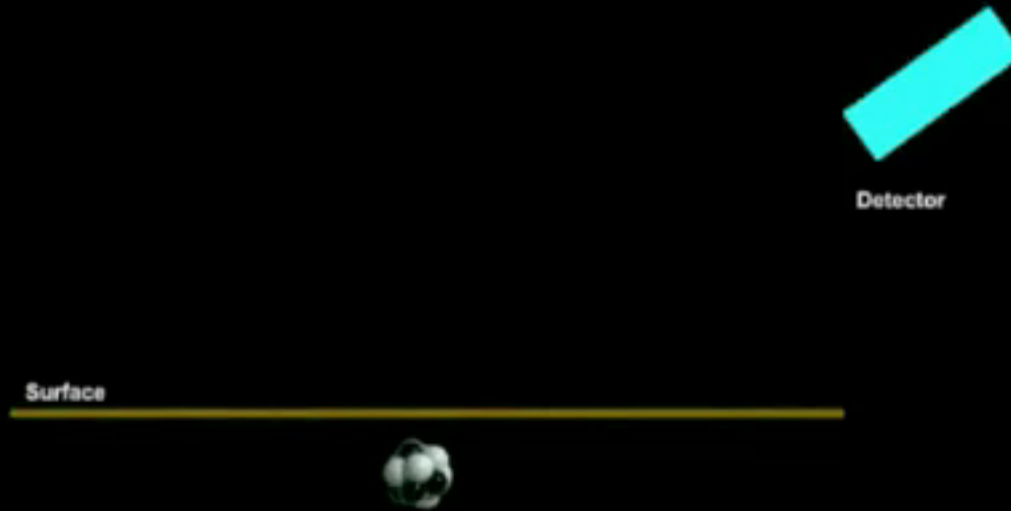
Ion beam analysis

- Backscattering spectroscopy

Ion beam accelerator with several beam lines and ion sources



Rutherford Backscattering (RBS)



Ion beam analysis

- Backscattering spectroscopy

recoil energy ->
what element

atomic mass of
element

Probability of recoil ->
amount of element

Kinetic energy loss
inside material –
stopping -> depth
scale

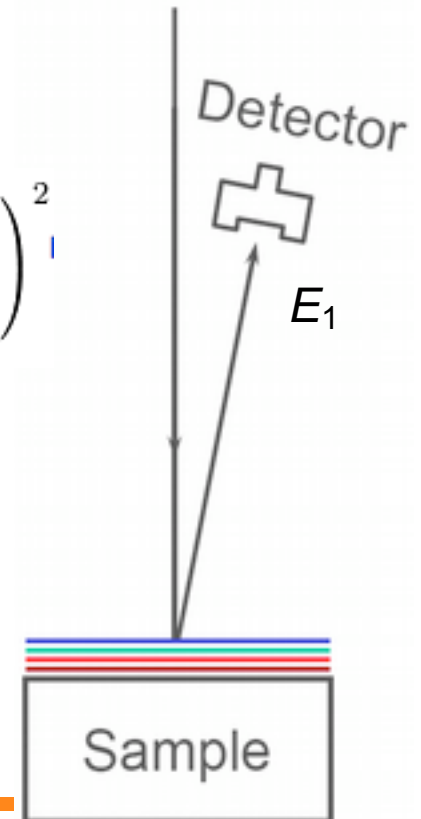
$E_0 = 2 \text{ MeV } ^4\text{He}$

$$E_1 = k * E_0$$

$$k = \left(\frac{m_1 \cos \theta_1 \pm \sqrt{m_2^2 - m_1^2 (\sin \theta_1)^2}}{m_1 + m_2} \right)^2$$

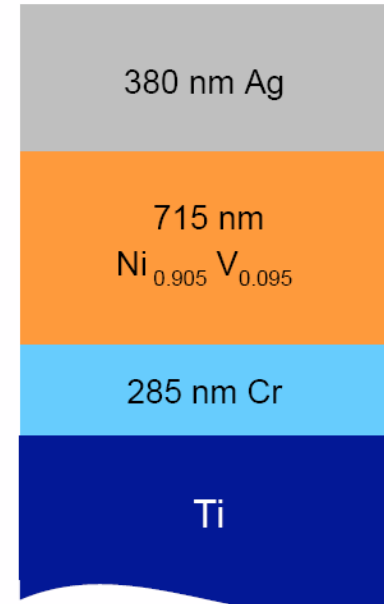
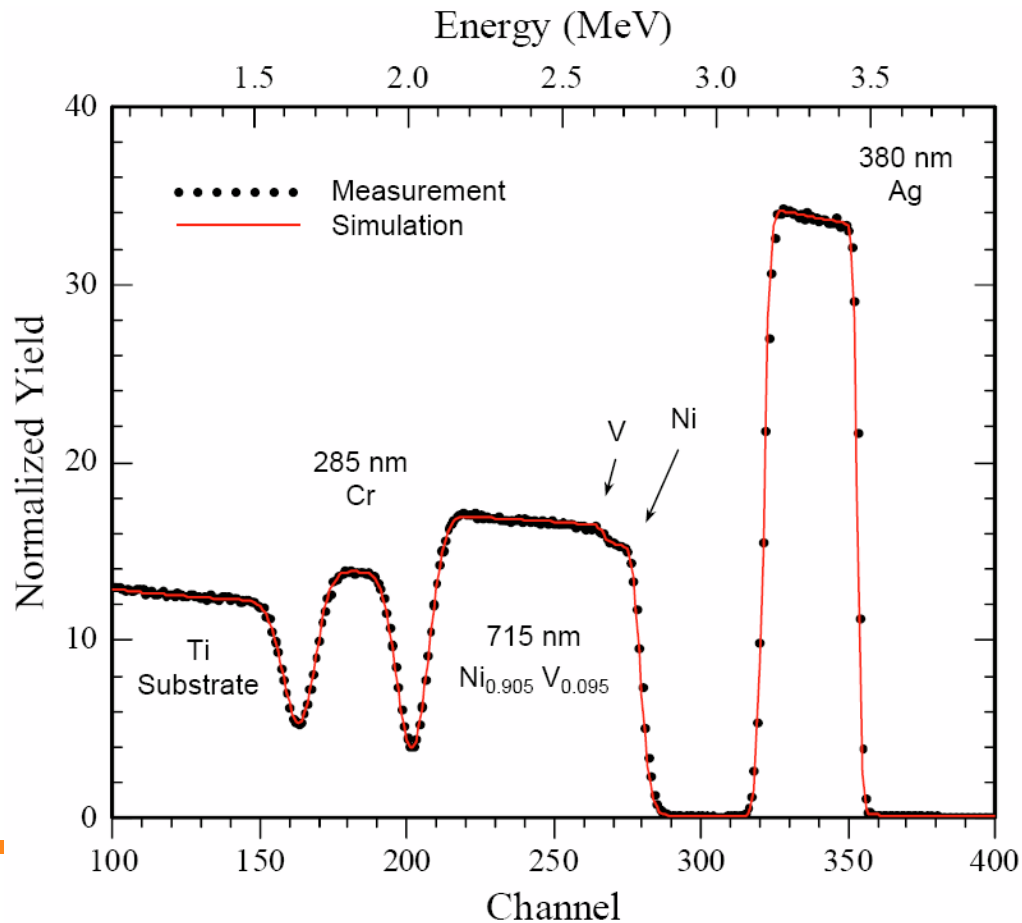
$$\frac{d\omega}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{4E_0} \right)^2 \frac{1}{(\sin \theta / 2)^4}$$

$$S(E) = -\frac{dE_1}{dx}$$



Ion beam analysis

- Backscattering spectroscopy



Forward Recoil Spectrometry (FRES)

Ion beam analysis

$^4\text{He}^+$ ion

$^4\text{He}^{++}$ Ion Beam

Recoiled ^1H and ^2D

Energy Detector

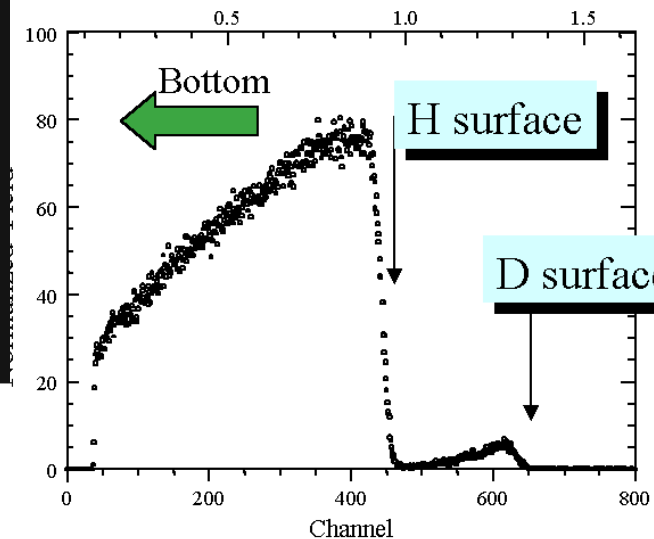
dPS-PVP~15nm

hPS-PVP~1 μm

Si substrate

Anneal

measures Depth-Concentration Profile of ^2D
Energy (MeV)



Elastic Recoil Detection Analysis (ERDA)

Detector

Substrate

Surface

$^{63}\text{Cu}^+$ ion

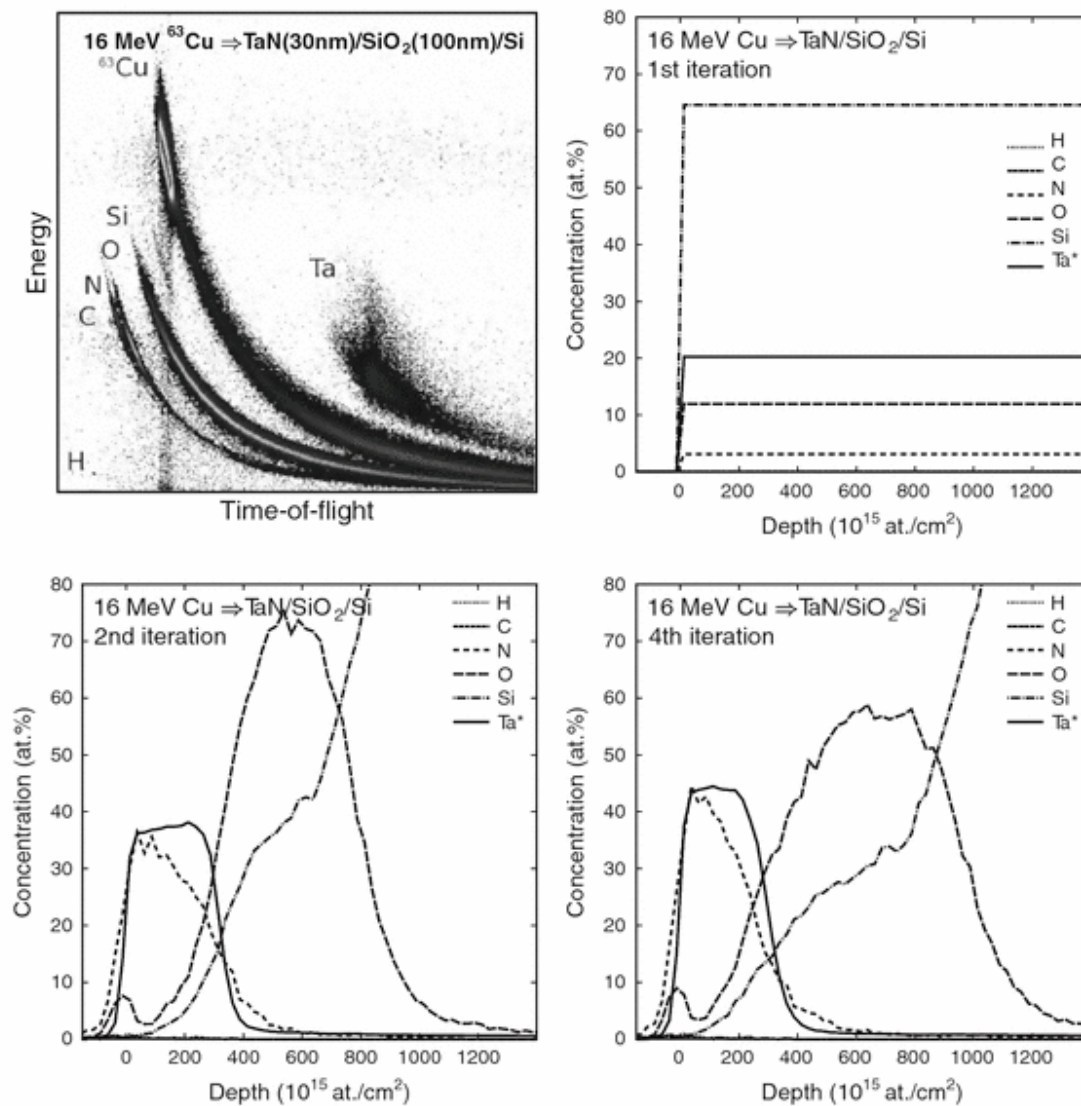
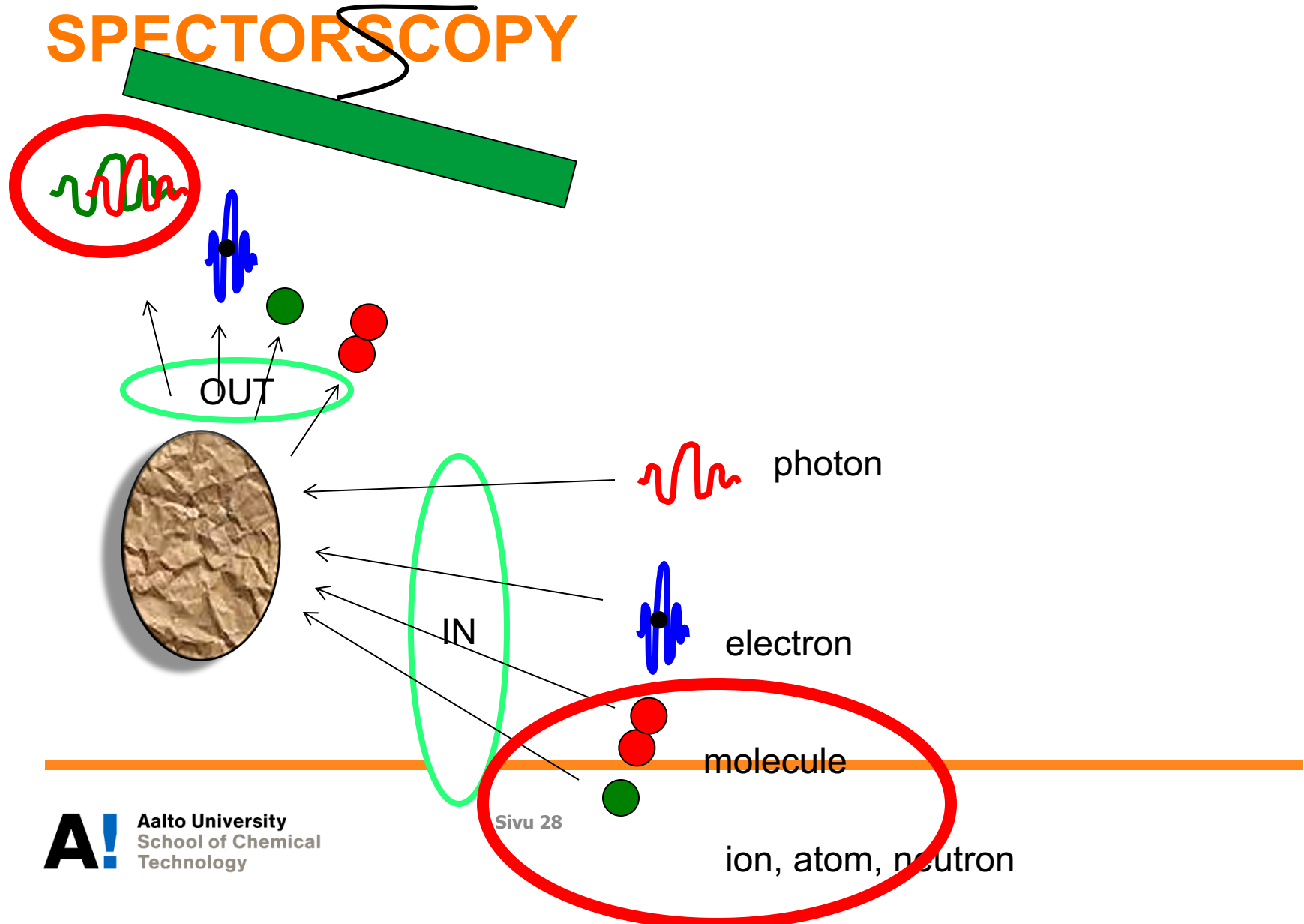


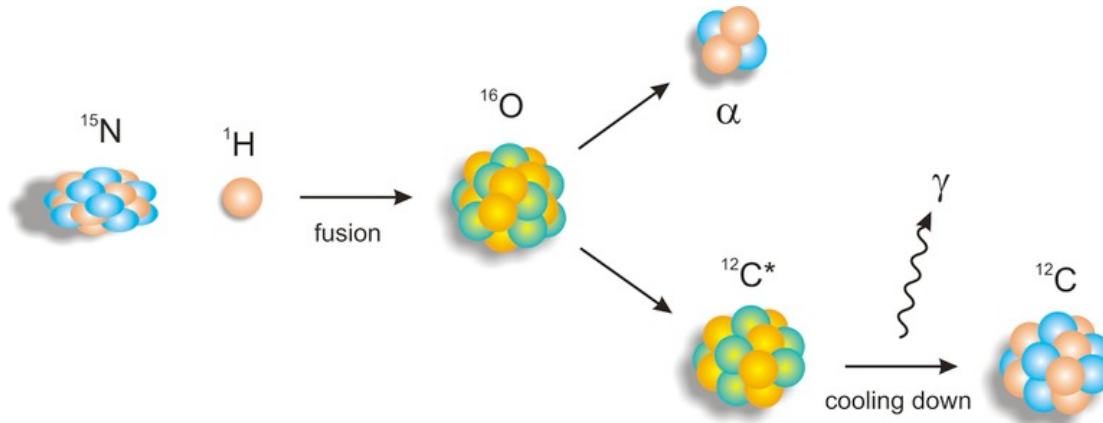
Fig. 5 Iterative procedure for analysis of a HI-ERDA measurement without prior knowledge of the sample structure. See the text for a detailed description of the analysis

Scattering experiment – ION SPECTROSCOPY



Ion beam analysis

- Nuclear Reaction Analysis NRA
Detection of **hydrogen** – depth distribution in surface



$$E_{\text{res}} = 6.385 \text{ MeV}$$



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Microstructure

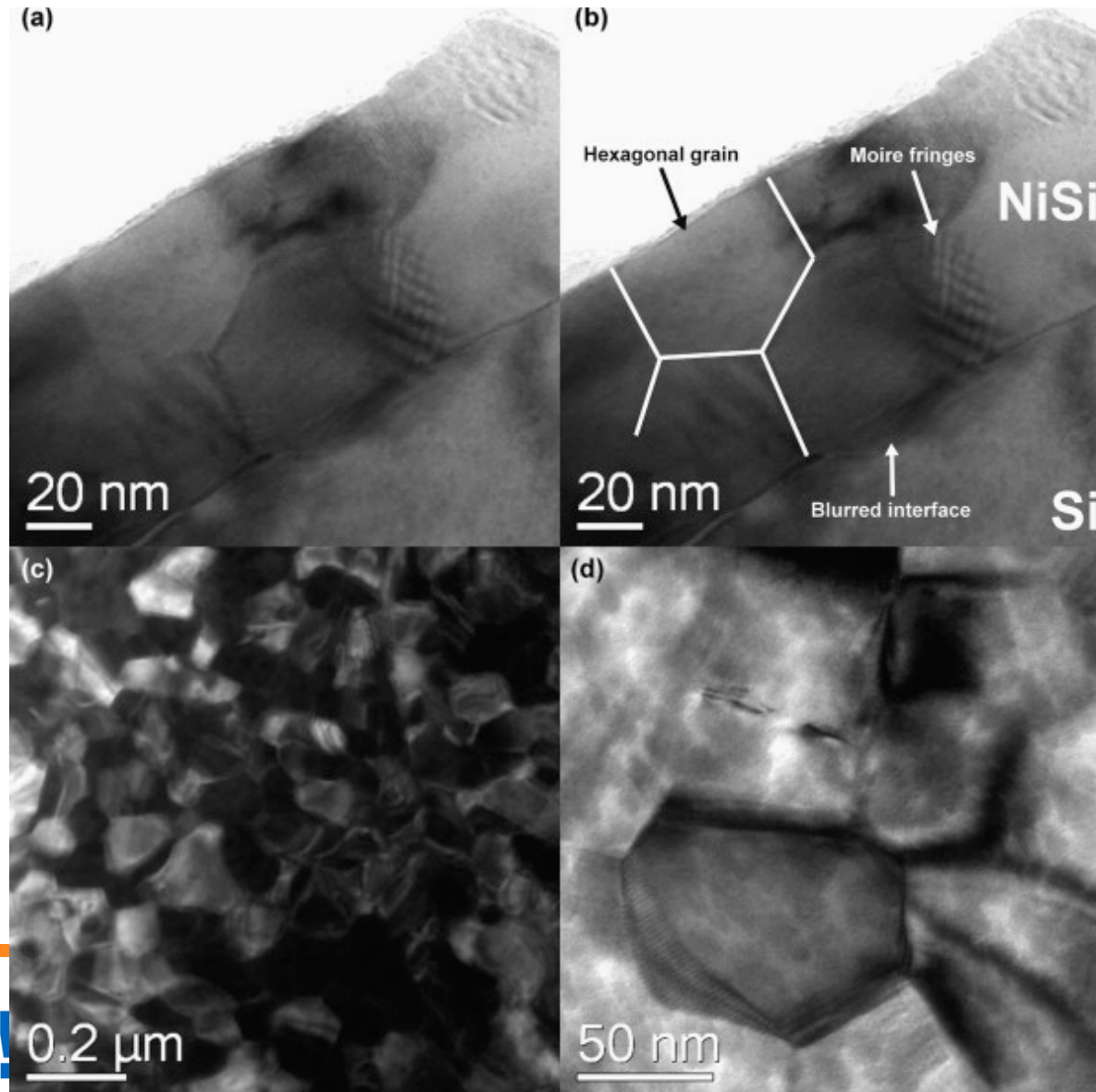
- Crystallinity
- crystal size
- orientation – texture
- Defects

Transmission electron microscopy TEM

Atomic level
resolution
0.7 Å



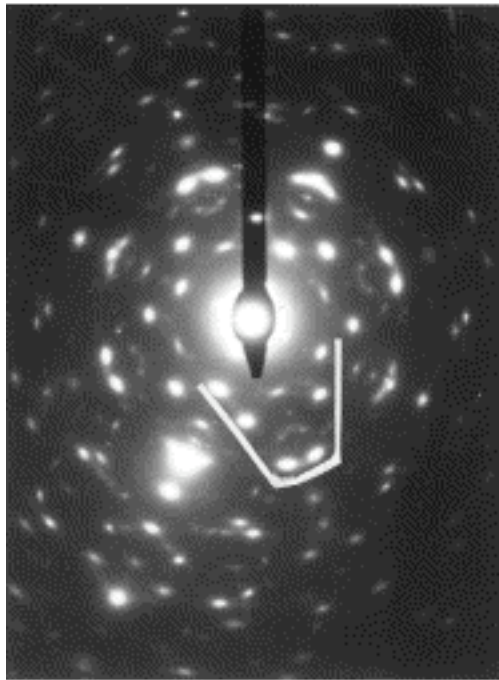
NiSi thin film



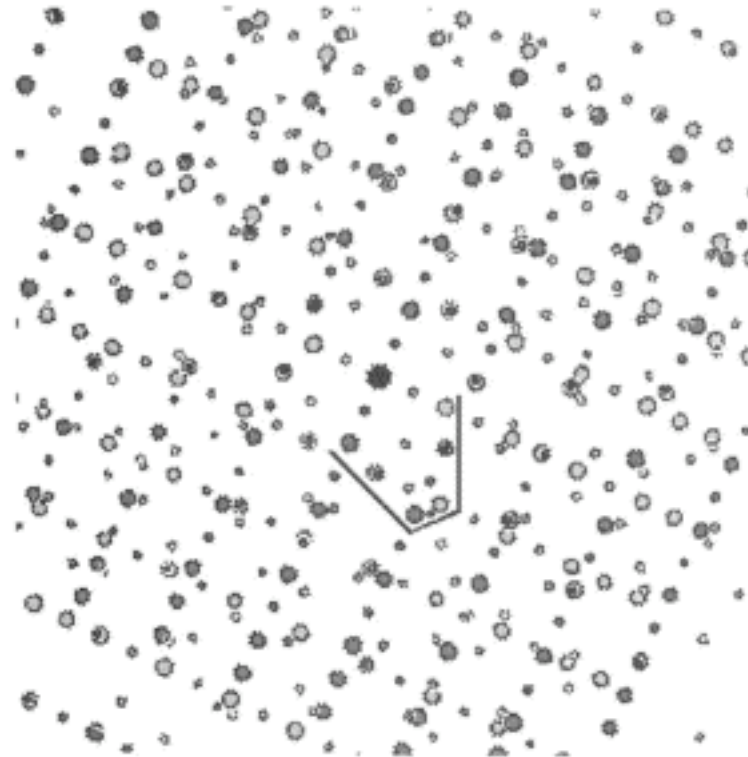
Results from TEM analysis of NiSi thin films: (a) XTEM highlighting equiaxed grains in the NiSi film in which Moiré (interference) fringes due to orientation differences between grains can be observed; (b) notable features in the as-obtained image (a) are indicated; (c) plan view, elastic hollow cone dark field image of the film, highlighting individual grains with diameters of 60–200 nm; and (d) plan view TEM image showing polygonal NiSi grains.

A 0.2 μm

Electron diffraction



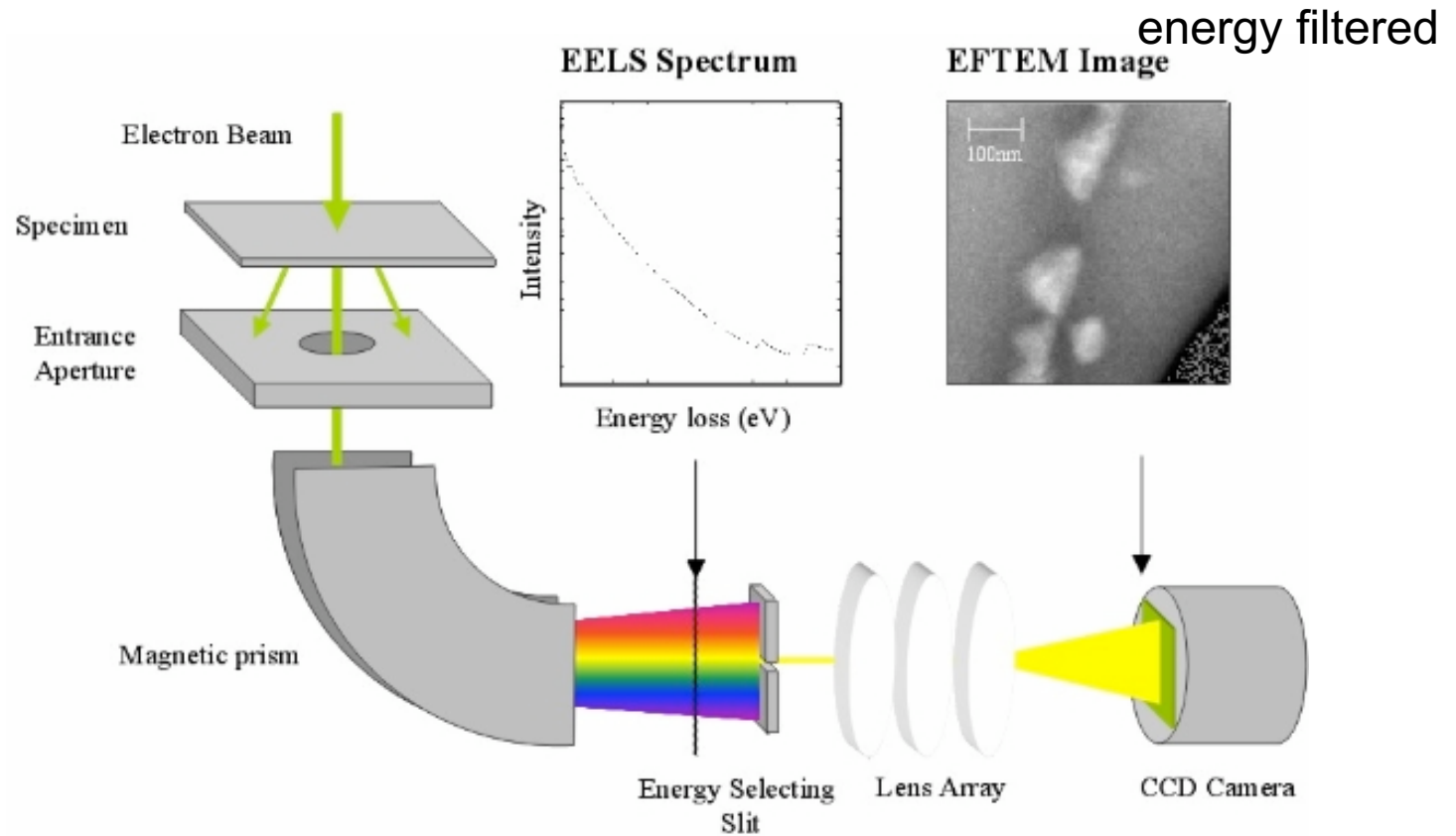
a



b

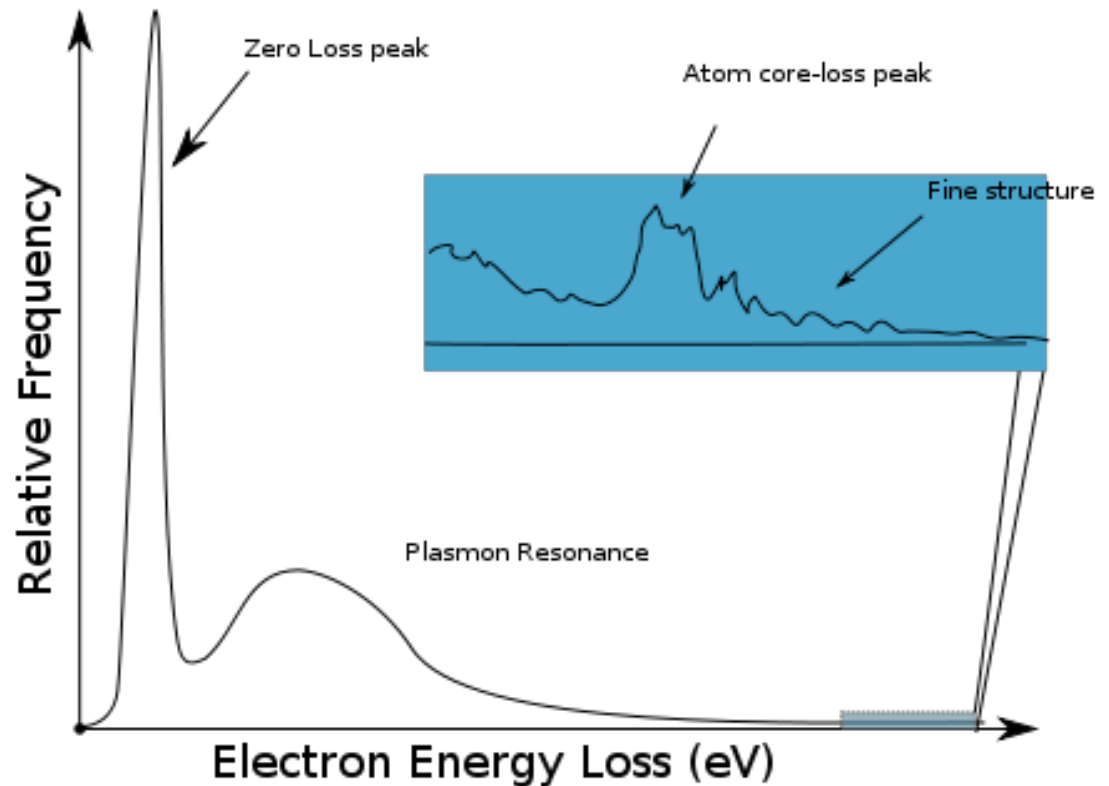
Measured diffraction pattern of a plan-view prepared $\text{ReSi}_{1.75}$ film on Si (100) (—— guiding line for orientation); (b) theoretical diffraction diagram of $\text{ReSi}_{1.75}$ with zone axis $[0\ 1\ 0]$ and four superposed patterns, each turned around 45° .

Electron energy loss spectroscopy EELS



Electron energy loss spectroscopy EELS

- Elemental analysis
 - light elements C
 - 3d transition metals Sc, Zn
- chemical bonding e.g carbon sp^2/sp^3



Electron energy loss spectroscopy EELS

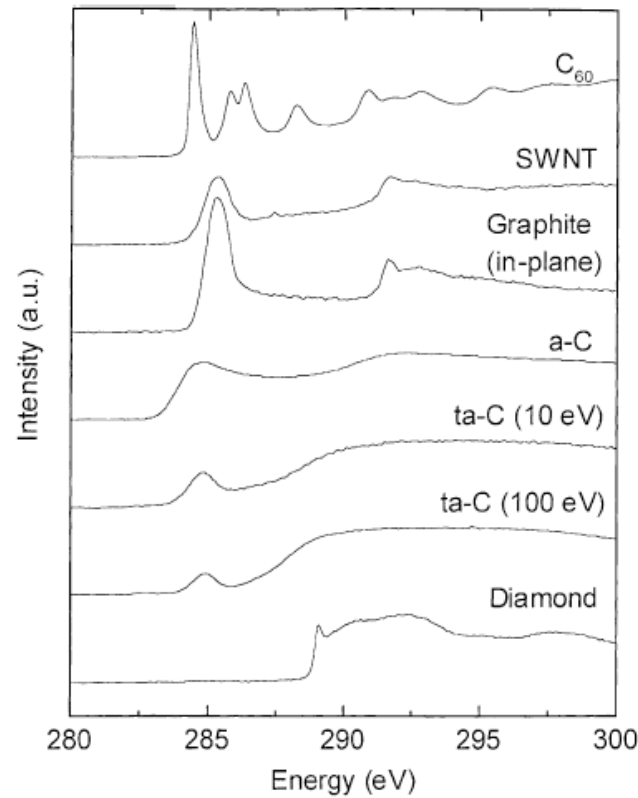


Fig. 29. Carbon K edge electron energy loss spectra of various carbon phases, after Waidmann et al. [196].

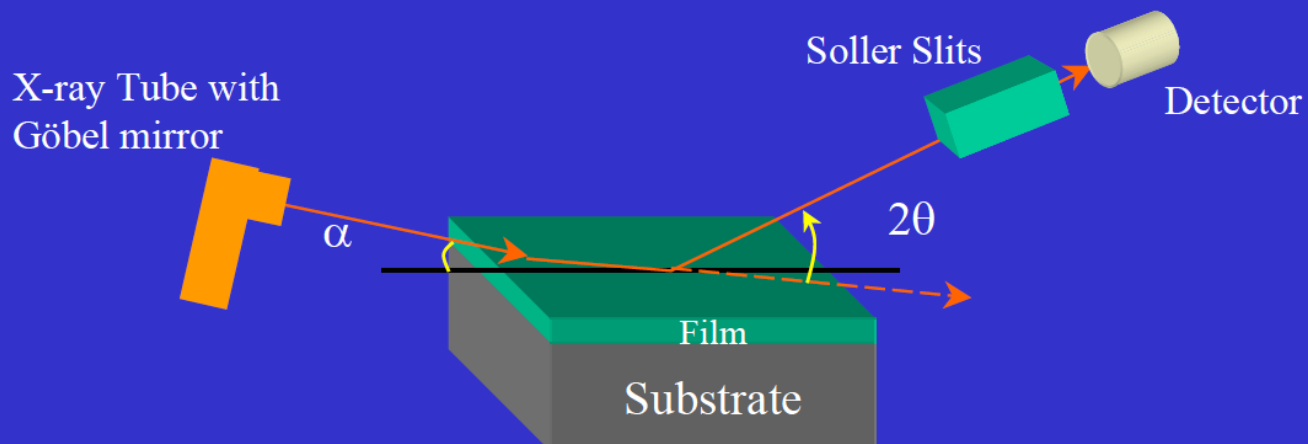
Glancing Angle X-ray Diffraction (GAXRD)

- In the x-ray diffraction pattern of thin films deposited on a substrate, contribution from substrate to the diffraction can sometimes overshadow the contributions from thin film.
- *GAXRD is used to record the diffraction pattern of thin films, with minimum contribution from substrate.*
- Non-destructive surface sensitive technique

www1.chm.colostate.edu/Files/GAXRD.pdf

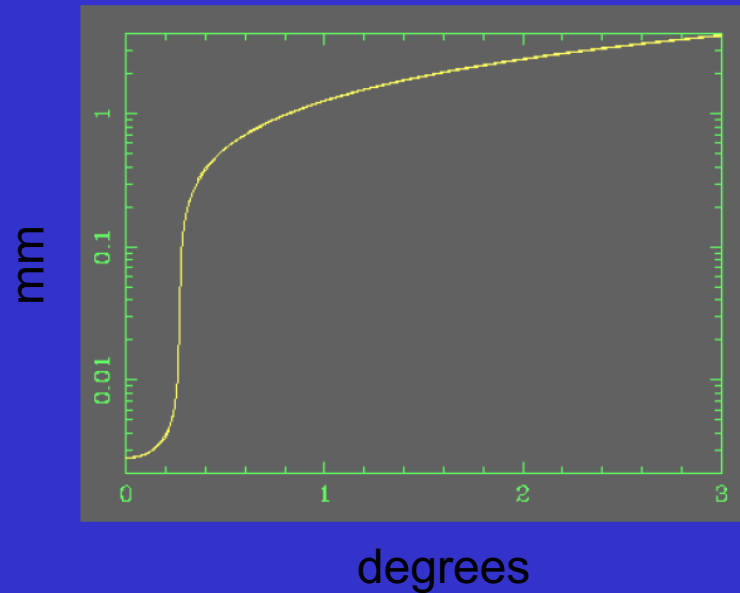
Technique

- Parallel, monochromatic X-ray beam falls on a sample surface at a fixed angle of incidence (α_T) and diffraction profile is recorded by detector only scan.



www1.chm.colostate.edu/Files/GAXRD.pdf

Penetration Depth Vs Angle of Incidence

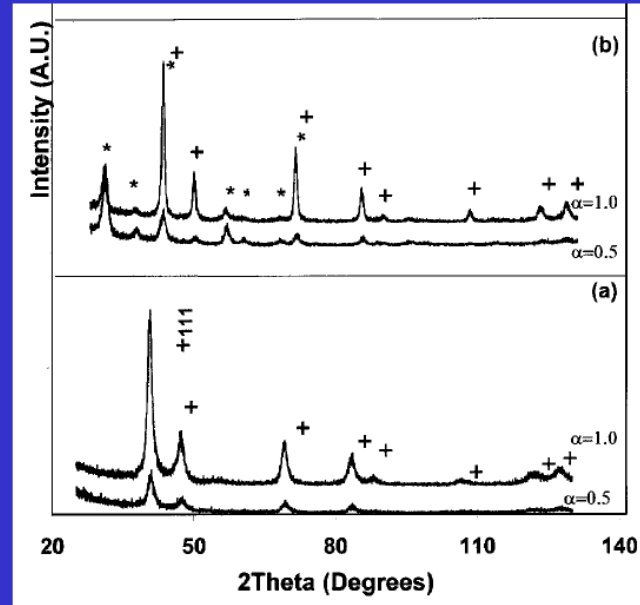


This figure shows penetration depth as a function of incident angle for Si_3N_4 for CuK_α ($\lambda=0.154$ nm) radiation

www1.chm.colostate.edu/Files/GAXRD.pdf

GAXRD: Example

- (a) As deposited 20 nm Ir metal film deposited on Si wafer. XRD curve for $\alpha=0.5^\circ$ and 1.0° shows the peaks for cubic iridium metal phase represented by (+)
- (b) Ir film annealed at 873K for 1hr. XRD curve for $\alpha=0.5^\circ$ shows the presence of the dominating IrO₂ phase (*). As α was increased to 1.0° , the contribution from the underlying layer of Ir metal increased and the Ir peaks dominated the XRD curve. The results indicate the presence of an overlying oxidized layer of Ir metal



X-Ray Reflectivity XRR

- Thin Film
 - thickness
 - density
 - roughness
 - roughness of interface

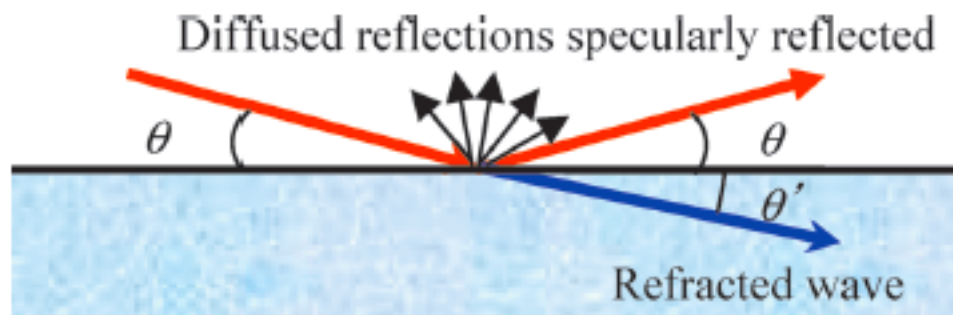
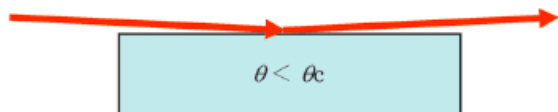


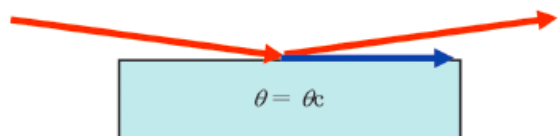
Fig. 1. Reflection and refraction of X-rays on material surface.

Miho Yasaka, The Rigaku Journal, 26(2), 2010

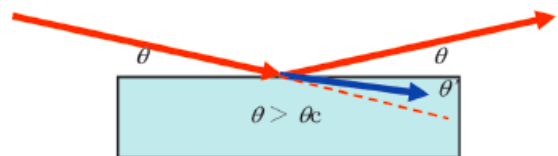
X-Ray Reflectivity XRR



- A) Incident angle $<$ Total reflection critical angle
All incident X-rays are reflected.



- B) Incident angle = Total reflection critical angle
Incident X-rays propagate along the sample surface.



- C) Incident angle $>$ Total reflection critical angle
Incident X-rays penetrate into the material by refraction

Fig. 3. Reflection and refraction of X-rays at material surface with the changes in the grazing angle.

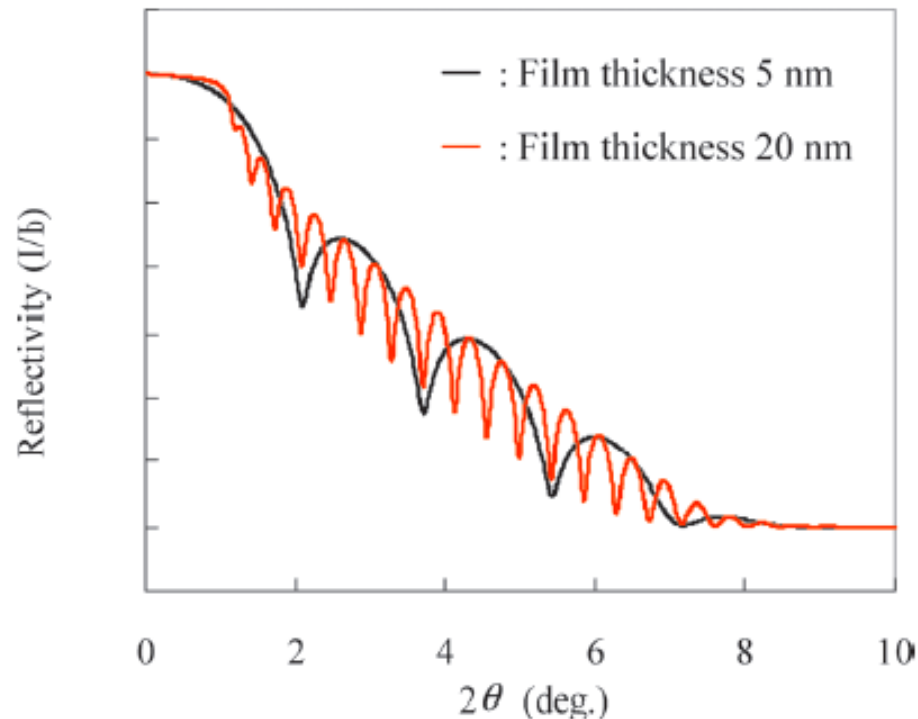


Fig. 4. Reflectivity of Au film on Si substrate.

X-Ray Reflectivity XRR

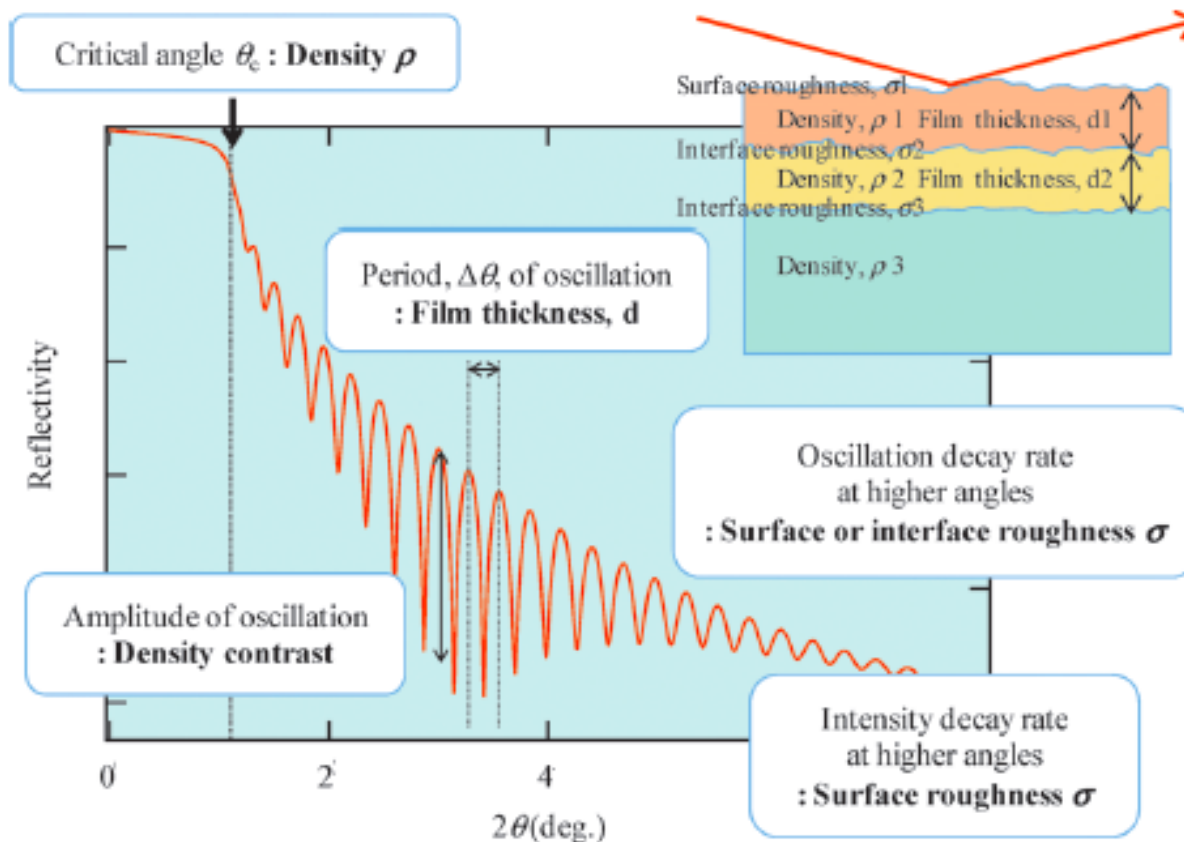


Fig. 8. Information provided by X-ray reflectivity profile.

X-Ray Reflectivity XRR

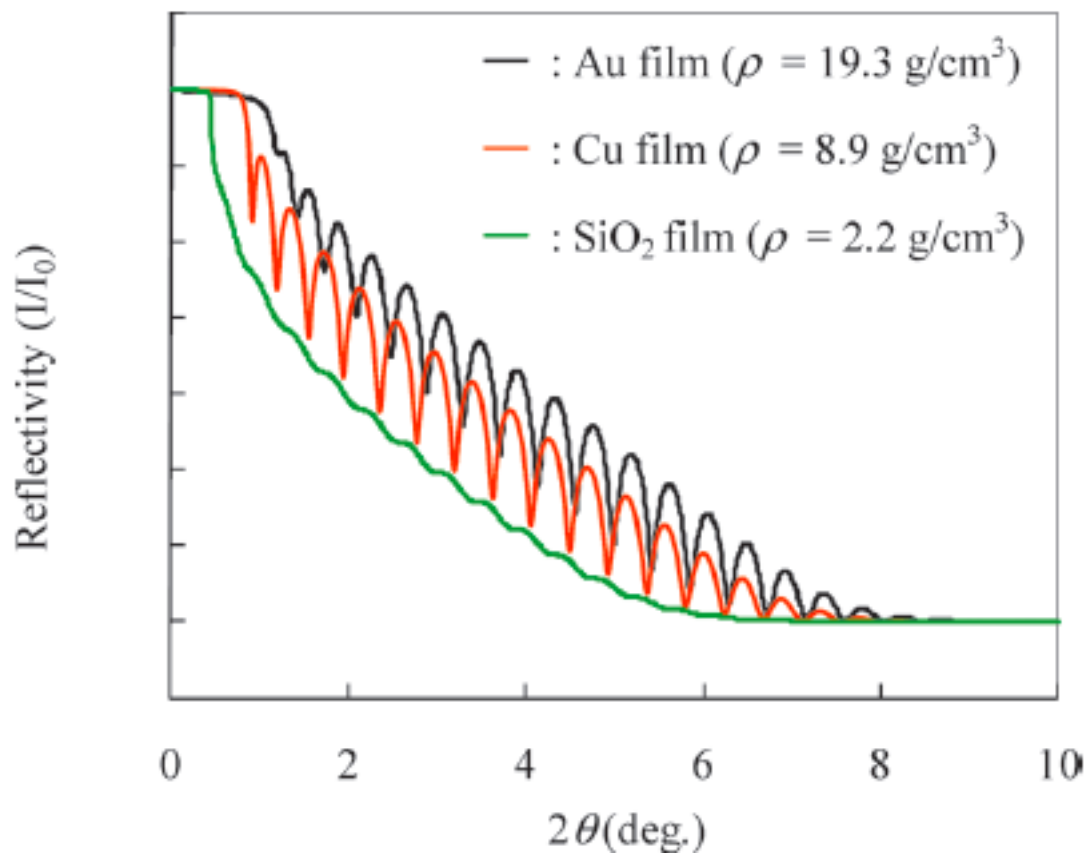


Fig. 5. X-ray reflectivity curves of Au, Cu and SiO₂ film on Si substrates (film thickness is 20 nm).

 **SmartLab**
X-RAY DIFFRACTOMETER



Symmetric "coupled" scanning

 **Rigaku**
Leading With Innovation

X-ray Reflectivity (XRR)

Fe-doped carbon films

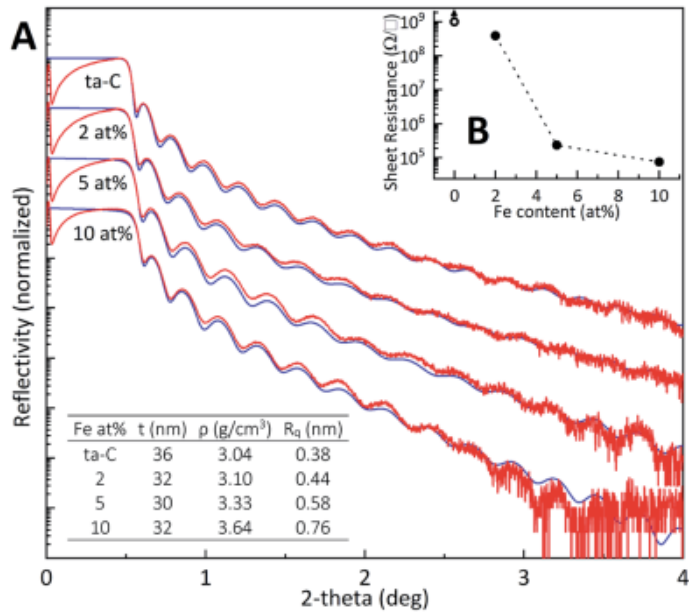
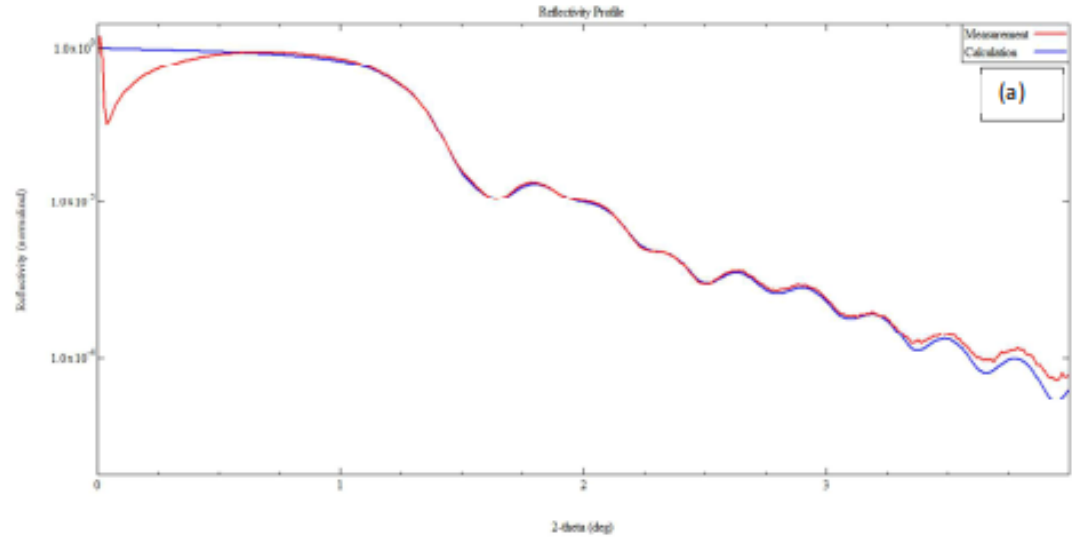


Fig. 1 (A) X-ray reflectivity scans showing experimental and simulation data in red and blue, respectively. Fitted parameters thickness (t), density (ρ), and roughness (R_q) presented in the inset table were calculated from the simulated curve. (B) Four-point probe average sheet resistances and standard deviations ($N = 10$) plotted as a function of Fe at%. Error bars are smaller than their respective dots. The reference ta-C, represented with an open circle, was too resistive to be measured.

J. Etula, N. Wester, S. Sainio, T. Laurila and J. Koskinen, DOI:10.1039/c8ra04719g.

Platinum/ta-C/Ti/Si films



No.	Layer name	Thickness(nm)	Density(g...	Roughne...	Depth dis...	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	Pt	8.38352	22.0088	0.563942	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	Pt + aC	0.274786	3.20843	1.19581	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	taC	4.93845	3	0	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	TiCx	8.84105e-006	4.93[-]	0.599974	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Ti (sputtered)	16.1898	4.13378	3.90669e...	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	SiO2	0.0220998	0.352924	0.151561	No distrib...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	Si(single)	0.0[-]	2.32919[-]	1.11942e...	No distrib...

T. Laurila, S. Sainio, H. Jiang, N. Isoaho, J. E. Koehne, J. Etula, J. Koskinen and M. Meyyappan, *ACS Omega*, 2017, 2, 496–507.

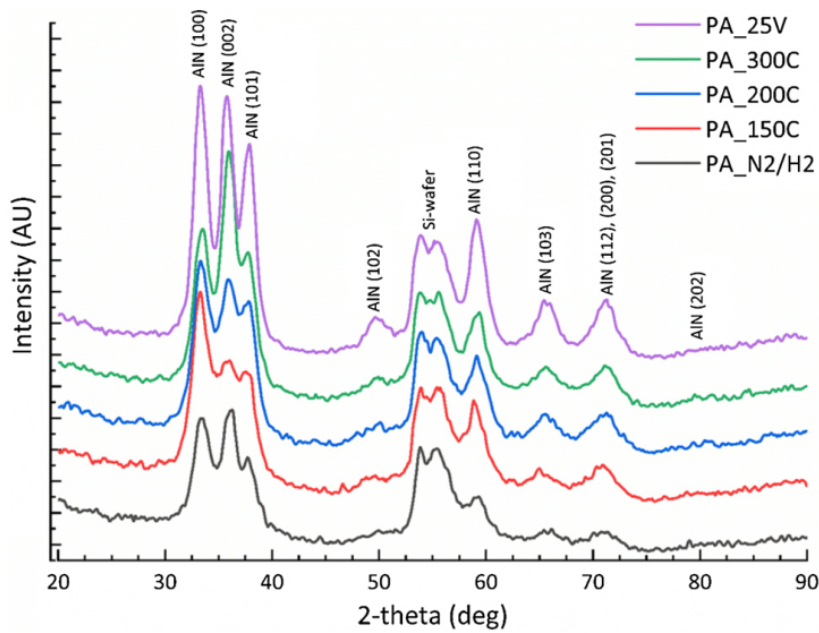
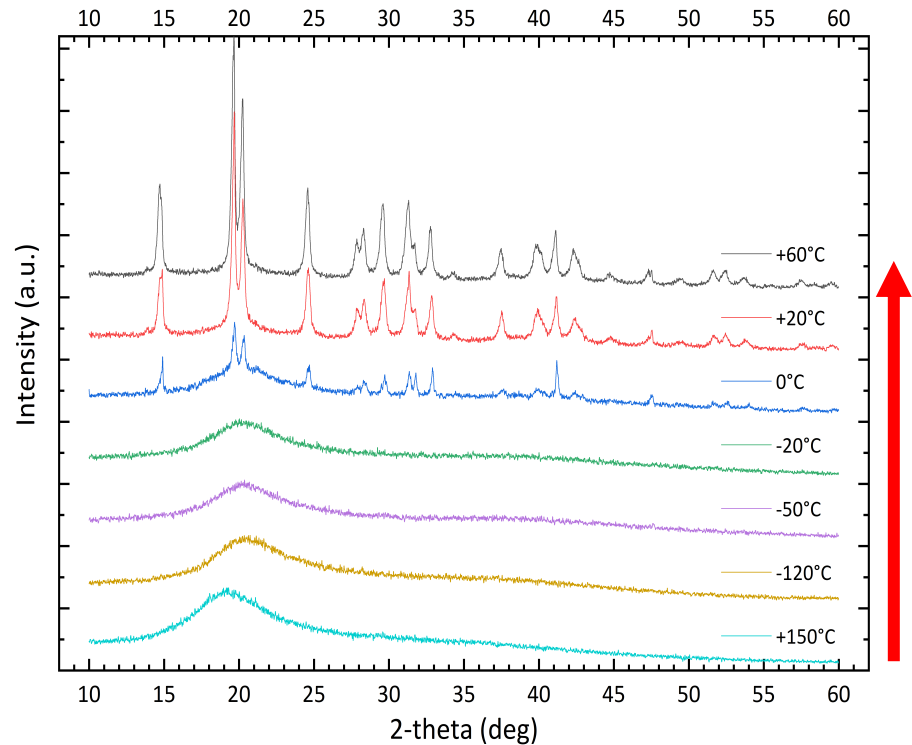


FIG. 3. As-measured GIXRD patterns with constant offset of the PEALD AIN samples at 0.4° incidence angle and with AIN planes indexed.

P. Sippola, A. P. Perros, O. M. E. Ylivaara, H. Ronkainen, J. Julin, X. Liu, T. Sajavaara, J. Etula, H. Lipsanen and R. L. Puurunen, *Cit. J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A*, 2018, **36**, 51508.



In-situ XRD spectra of heated/LN2-cooled energy storage material: Rapid freezing from +150C to -120C inhibits crystallization. Subsequent warming from -120C to 0C induces crystallization and heat release.

Grazing angle (GIXRD) and normal theta/2theta X-ray Diffraction using Rigaku Smartlab

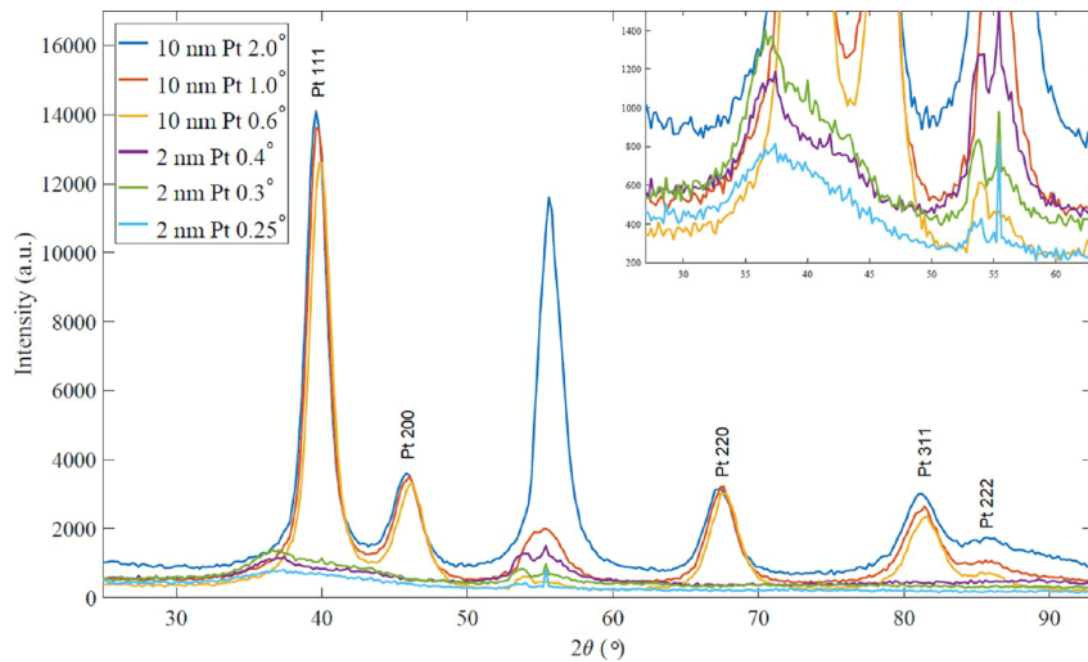
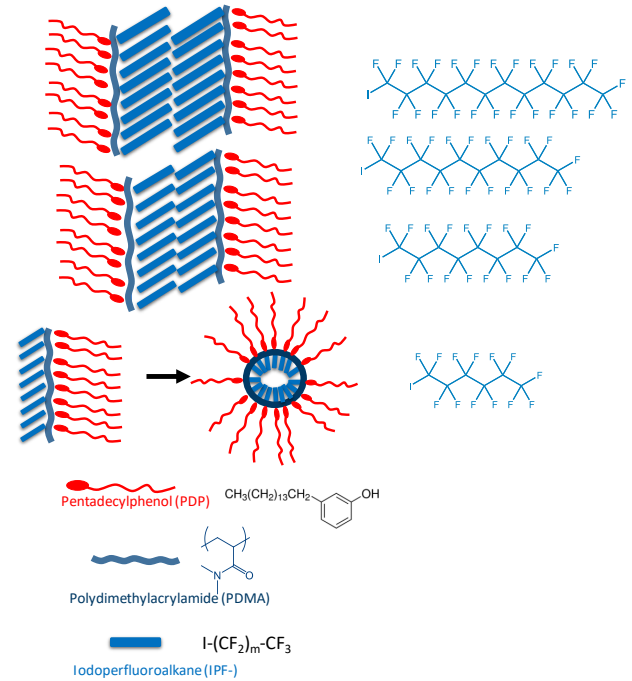
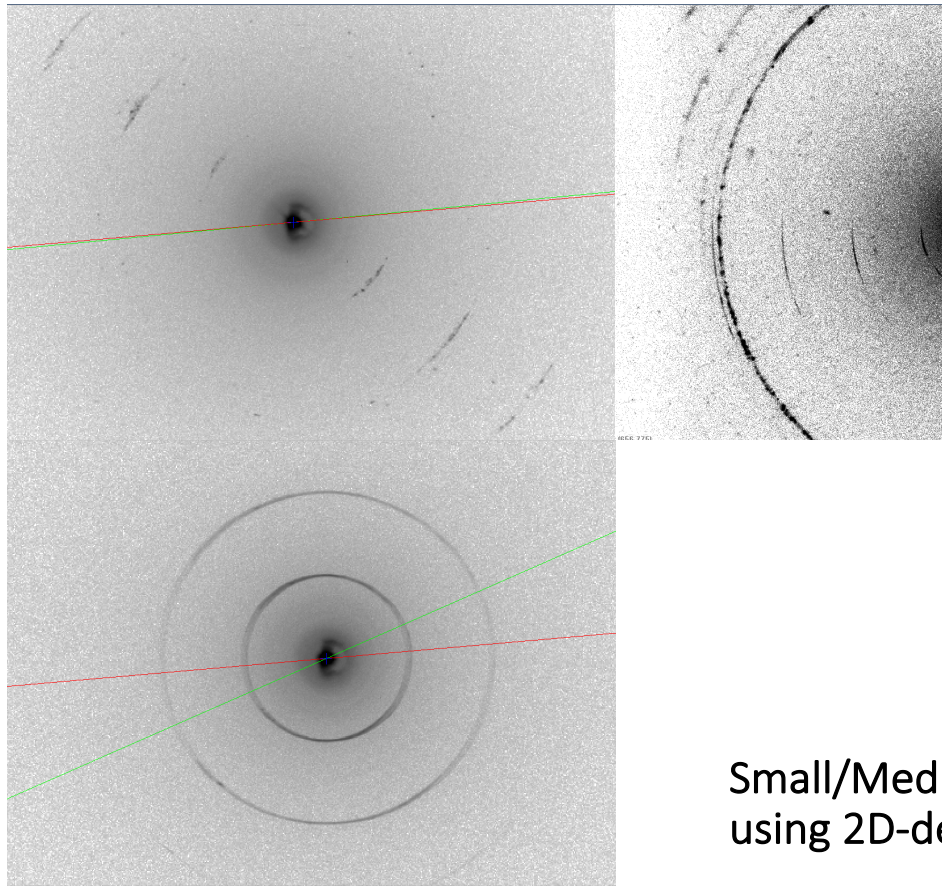


Figure 6. GIXRD spectra from the Si/Ti/ta-C/Pt (10 nm) and Si/Ti/ta-C/Pt (2 nm) samples. The inset shows the magnified view from the region between 30 and 60° (2θ). Note that the peak around 50° could be indexed both to Ti and Si and has therefore been left unindexed. Peaks' locations are based on the data from refs 26–28.

T. Laurila, S. Sainio, H. Jiang, N. Isoaho, J. E. Koehne, J. Etula, J. Koskinen and M. Meyyappan, *ACS Omega*, 2017, **2**, 496–507.

Grazing angle X-ray Diffraction (GIXRD) using Rigaku Smartlab
 - Ultra-sensitive detection of 8.4 nm Pt film crystallinity



Small/Medium Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS/MAXS) using 2D-detector (Rigaku Smartlab)

- Formation of **periodic supramolecular lamellar structures** from polymers

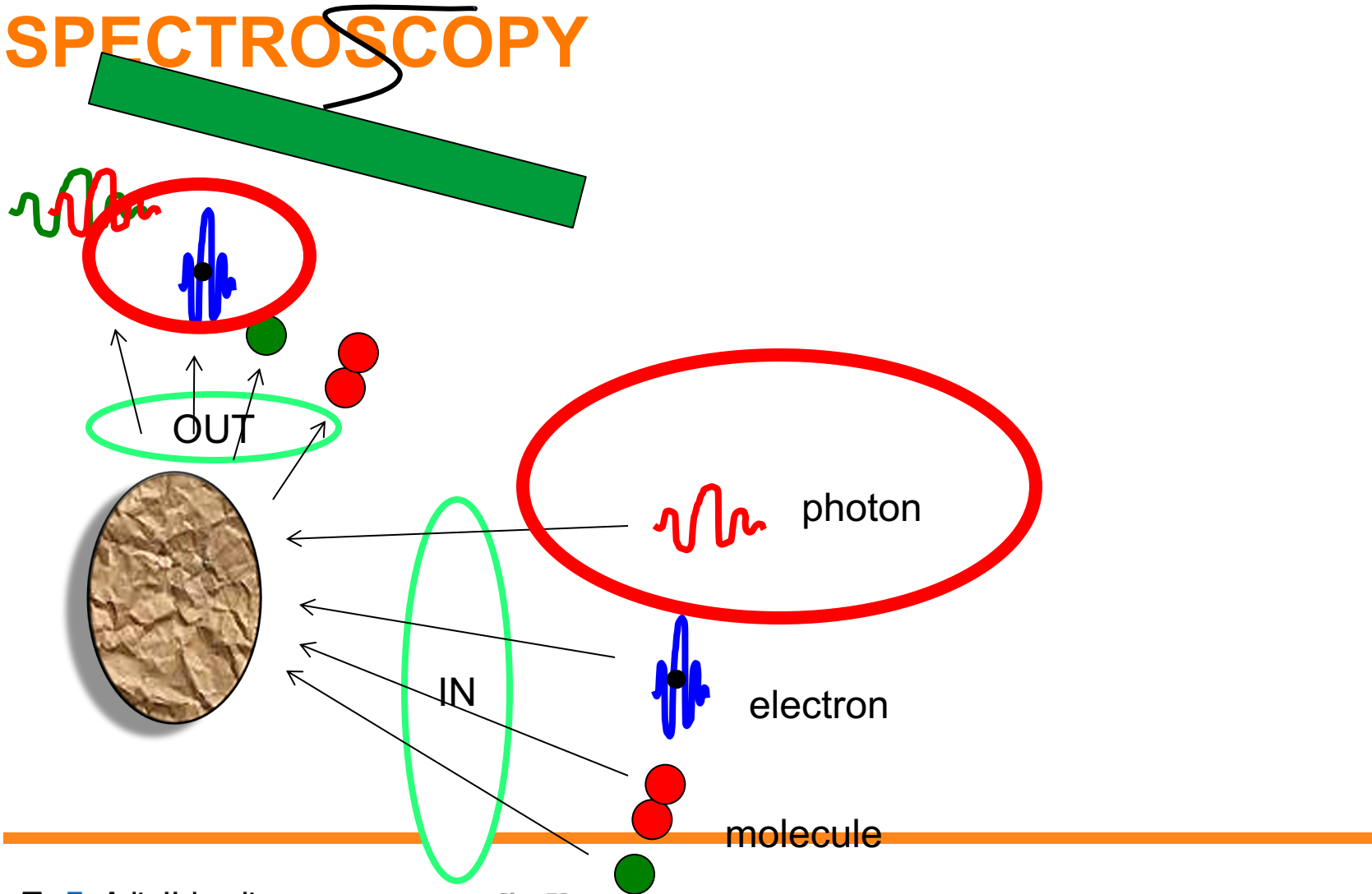
Contents

- Thin film properties
- Wealth of methods – MATRIX
- Scattering
- Thickness - profilometry
- Composition – EDS, WDS, SIMS, RBS, ERDA, GDOES
- Microstructure –XRD, TEM
- **Bonding – ESCA=XPS, RAMAN**
- Topography - ADM
- Electrical conductivity – four point probe
- Mechanical properties - indentation
- Optical transmittance- FTIR (???)

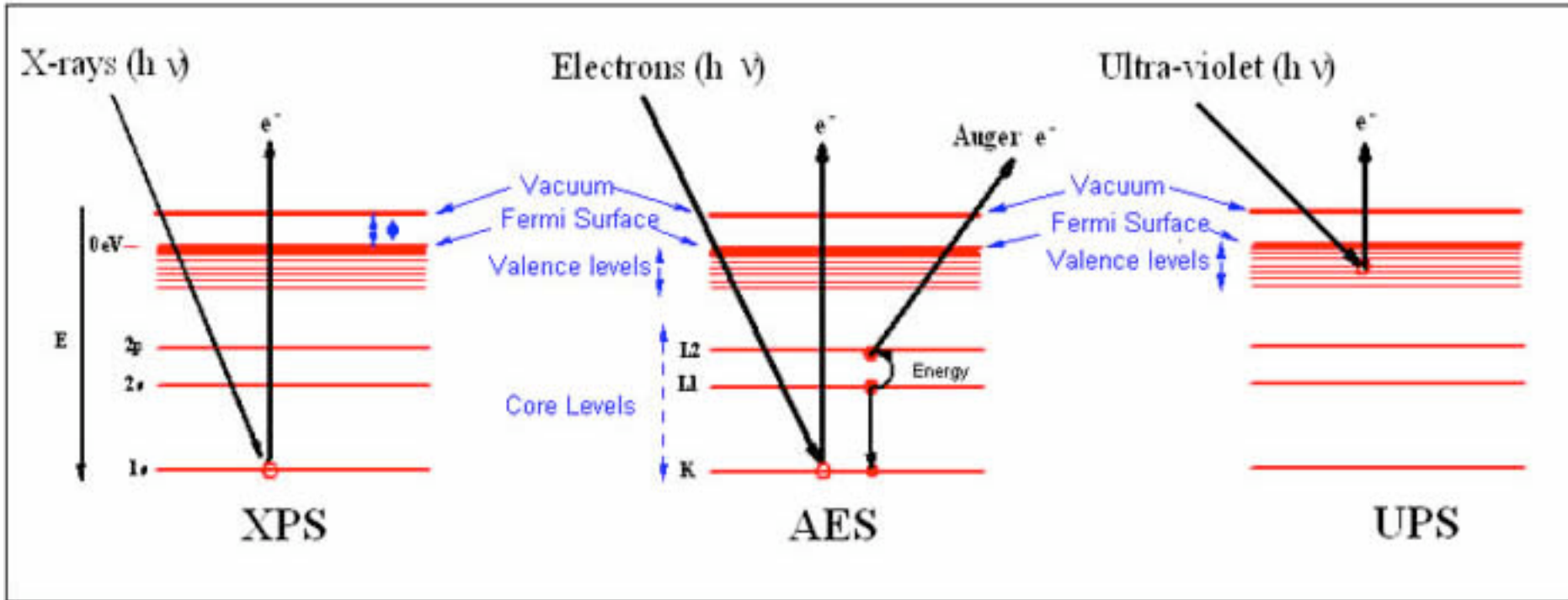
Bonding

- Chemical reactions particularly on surface
- Chemical bonding in amorphous thin films (oxides, carbon, some metals)
- Contaminations
- Methods used also to determine composition

Scattering experiment ELECTRON SPECTROSCOPY



Photoelectron spectroscopy techniques



X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy -

Auger electron spectroscopy

Ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy

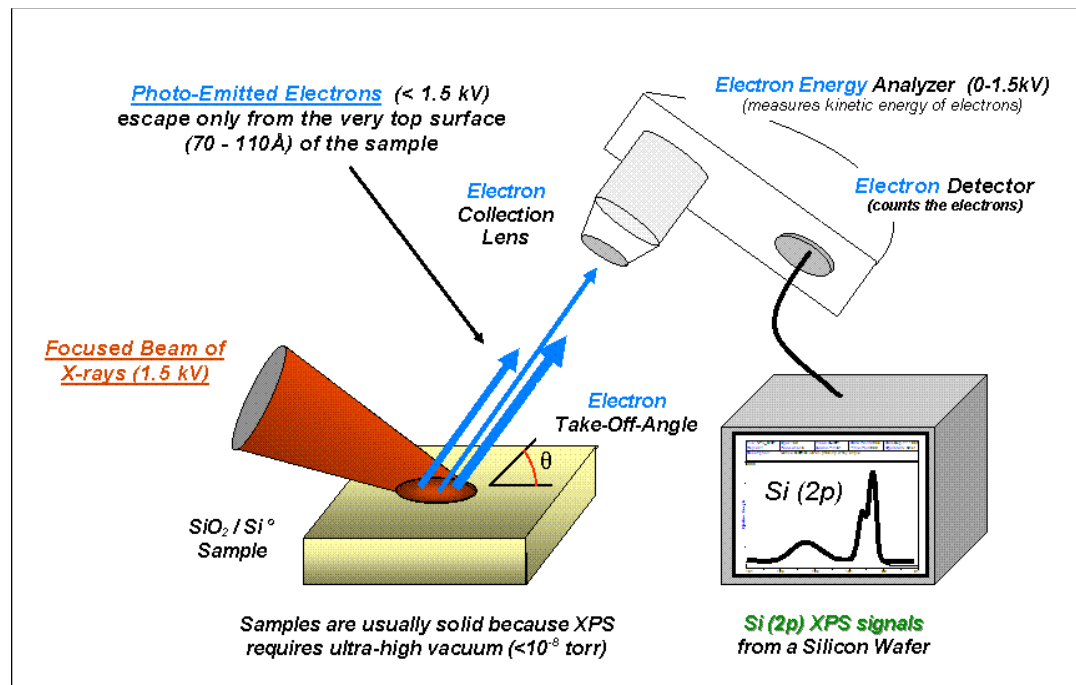
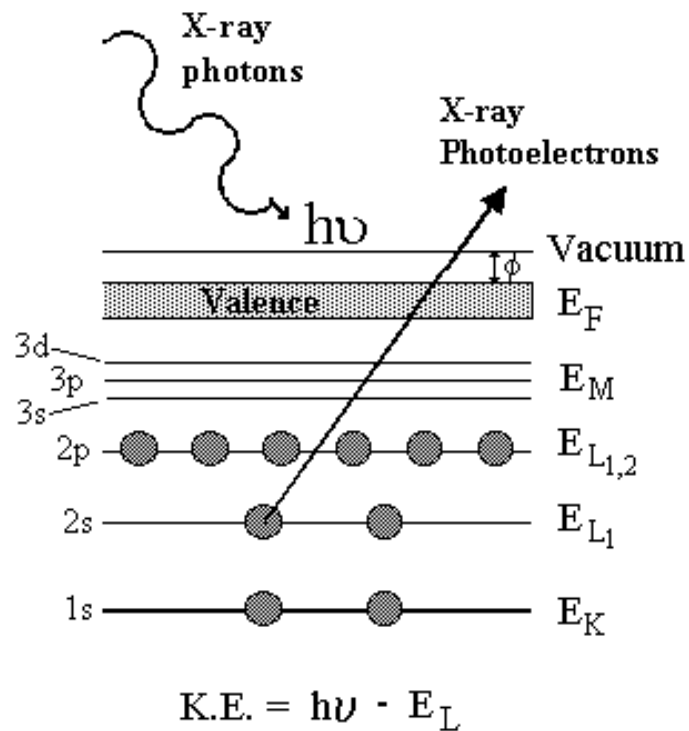
Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis **ESCA**



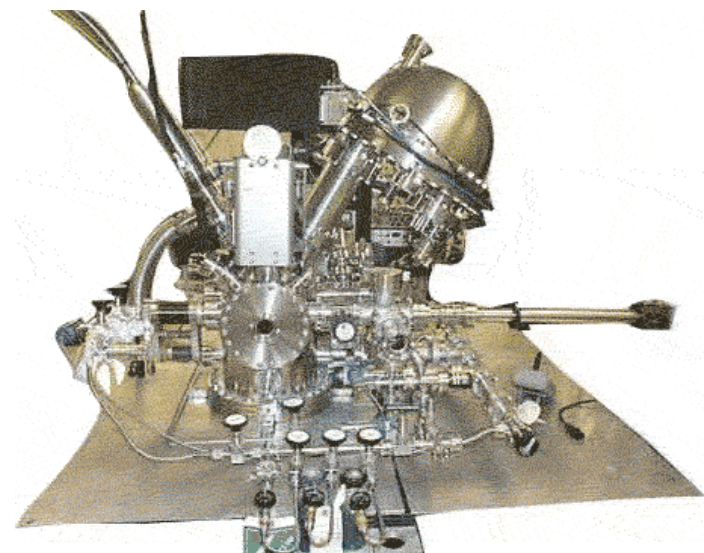
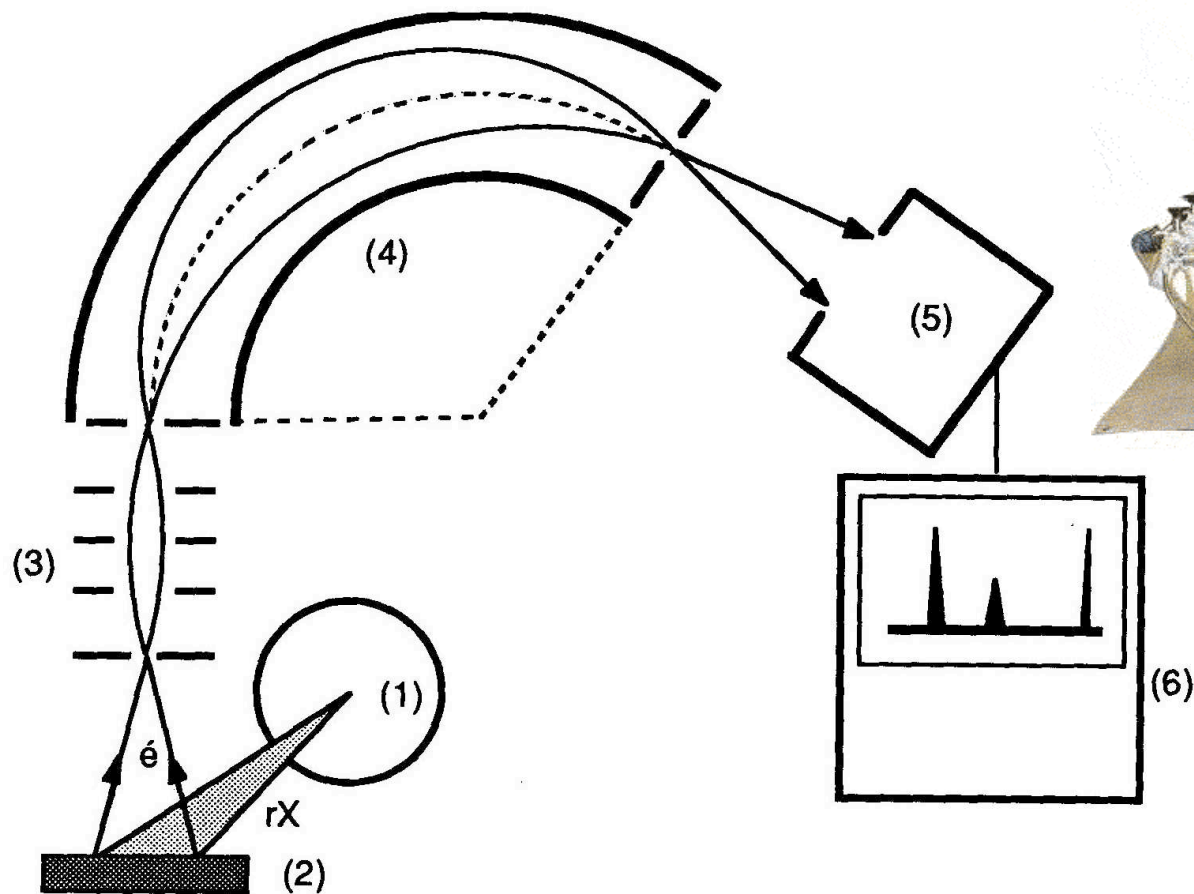
Sivu 54

XPS by Leena-Sisko Johansson

XPS

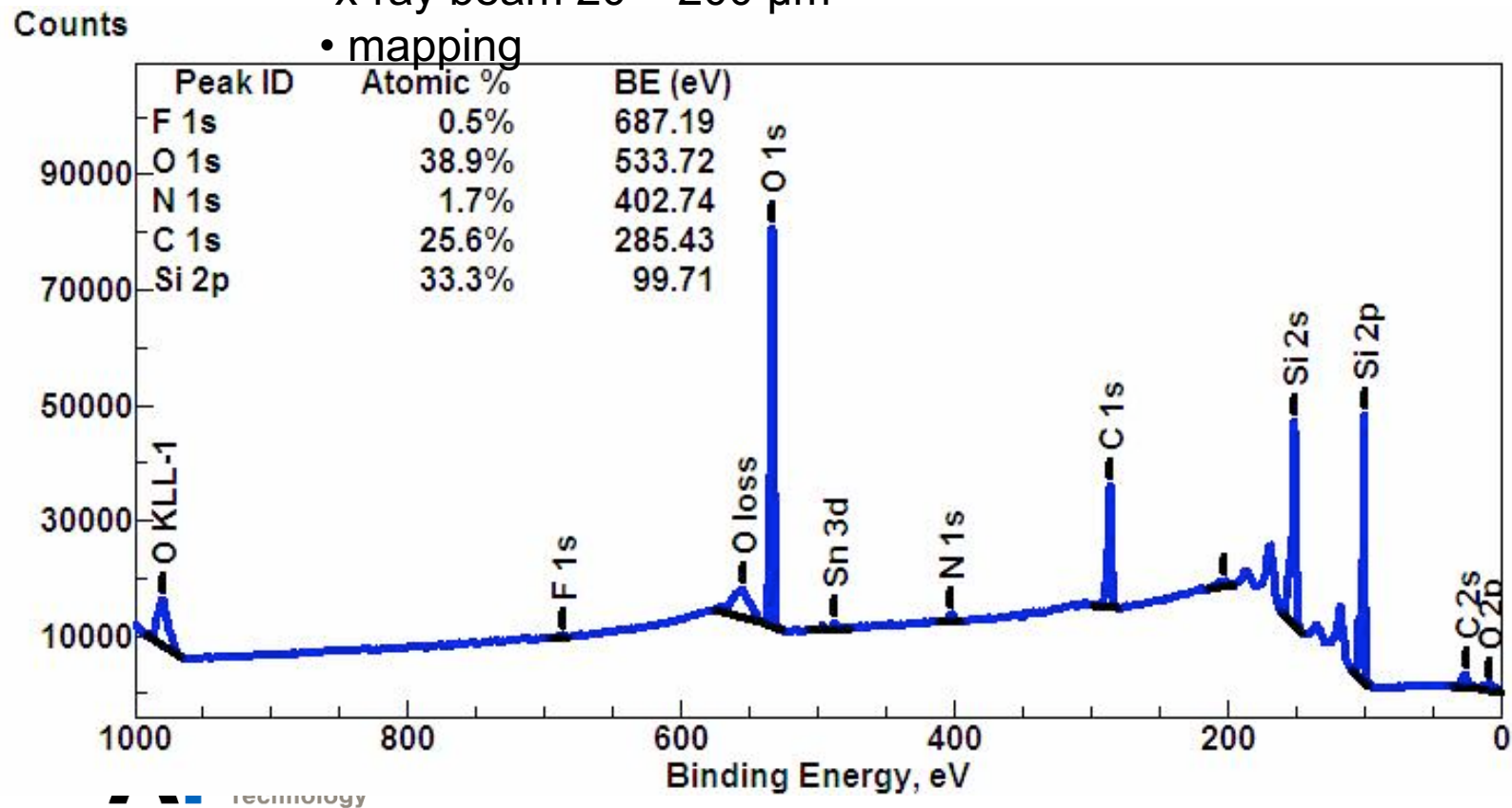


XPS



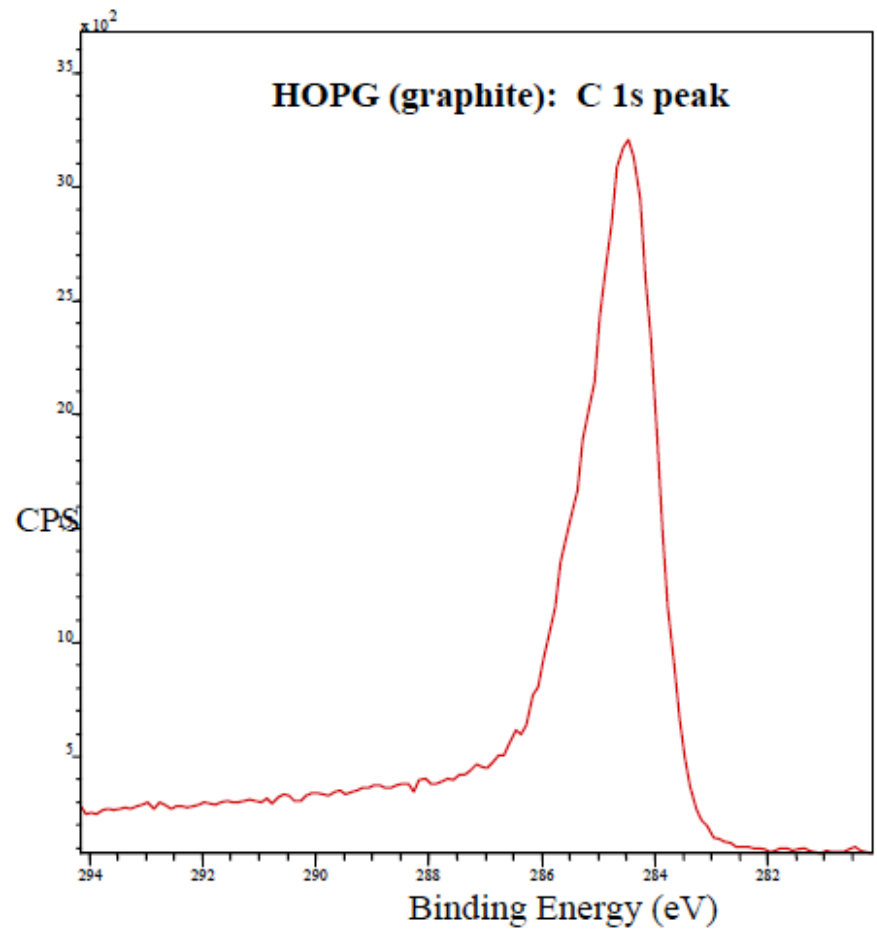
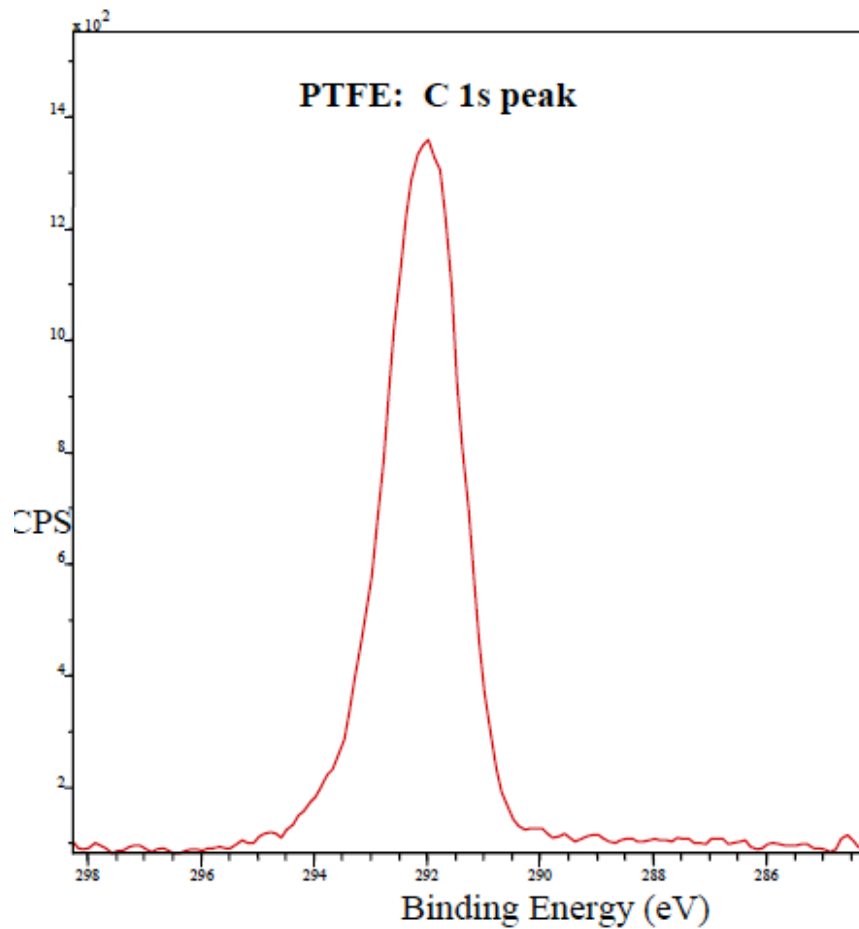
XPS

- used for elemental analysis
- all elements $Z > 2$
- detection limit 1/1000
- 1 – 10 nm depth
- x-ray beam 20 – 200 μm
- mapping

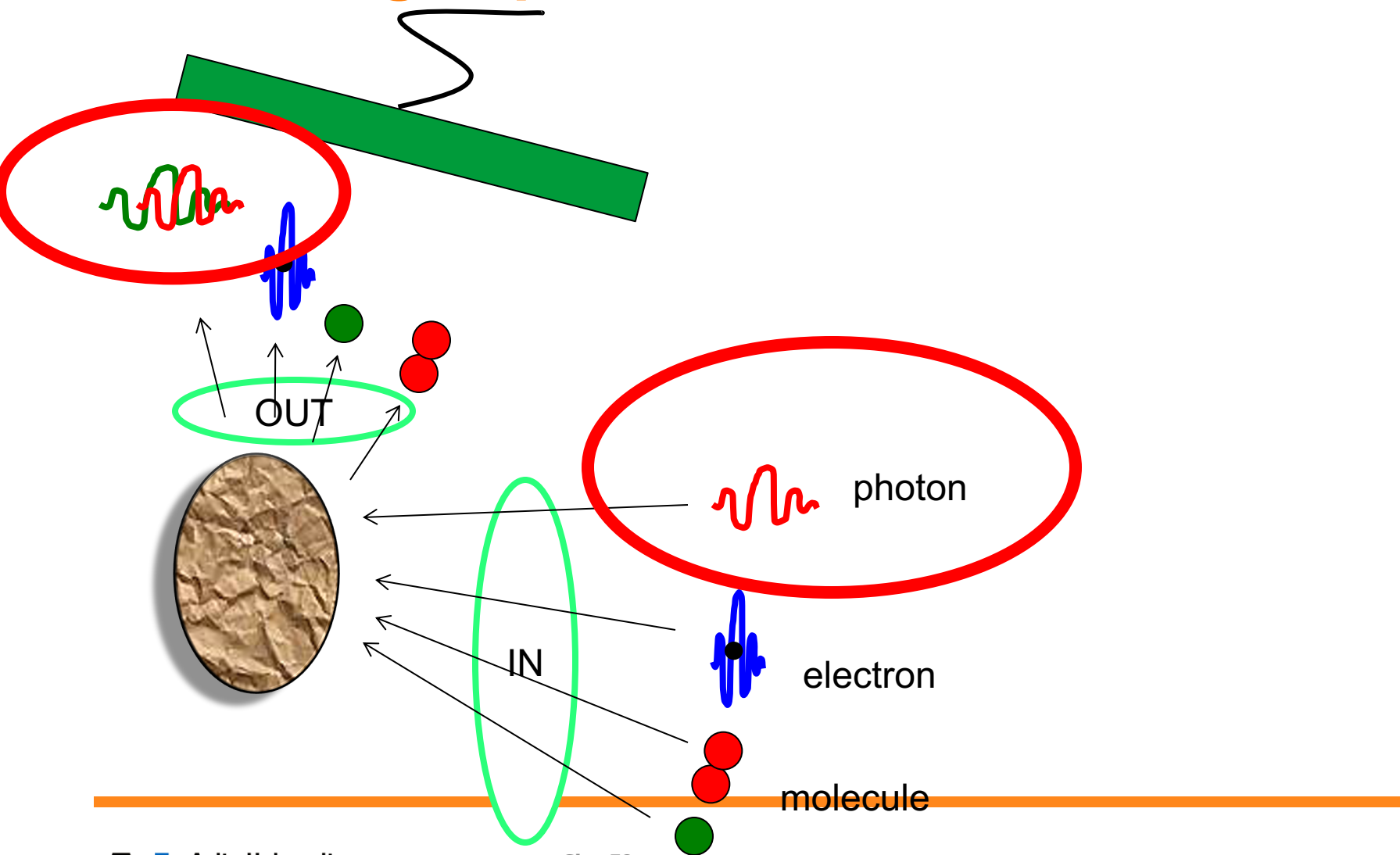


XPS

sensitive to chemical bonding, e.g. type of bonding of carbon

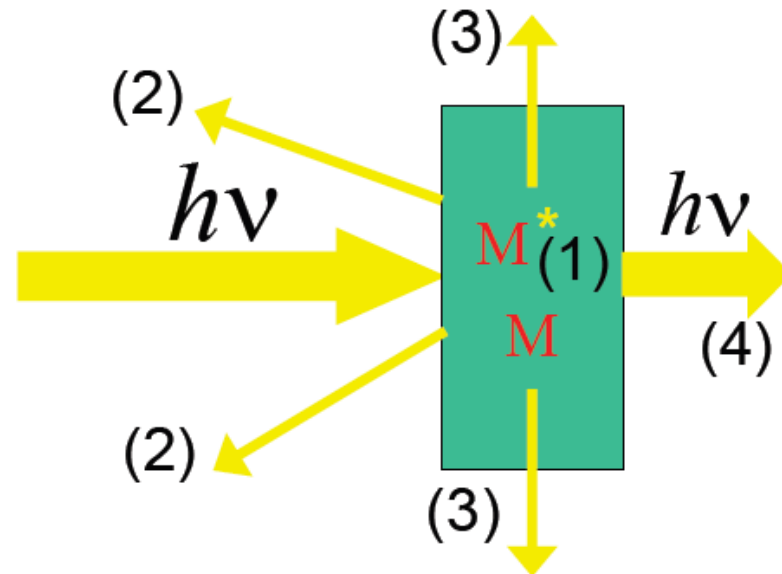


Scattering experiment - OPTICAL



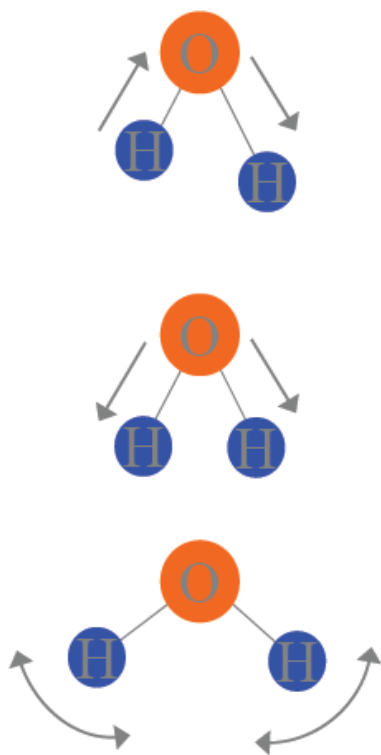
When electromagnetic radiation passes through matter, it interacts with the matter and can be:

- absorbed (1)
- reflected (2)
- scattered (3)
- transmitted (4)
- depending upon:
 - its **frequency**
 - the **structure of molecules** of the matter it encounters.



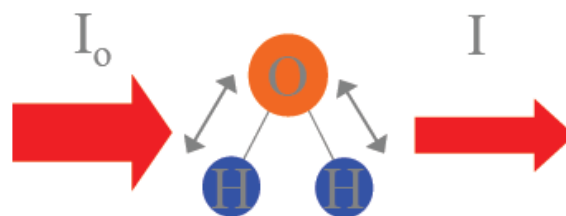
- **Vibrational Spectroscopy**

Vibrational spectroscopy is a method of chemical analysis where the sample is illuminated with incident radiation in order to excite molecular vibrations. Vibrational excitation is caused by the molecule absorbing, reflecting or scattering a particular discrete amount of energy. There are two major types of vibrational spectroscopy: Infrared (IR) and Raman.



IR Light *Absorption* Measurement.

- Light energy absorbed by increasing vibrations between atoms in a molecule.
- Energy (wavelength) absorbed related to strength of bond.
- Strength of bond related to molecular structure and environment.
- Amount of light absorbed related to concentration and *absorptivity* constant.



Inspiring Excellence

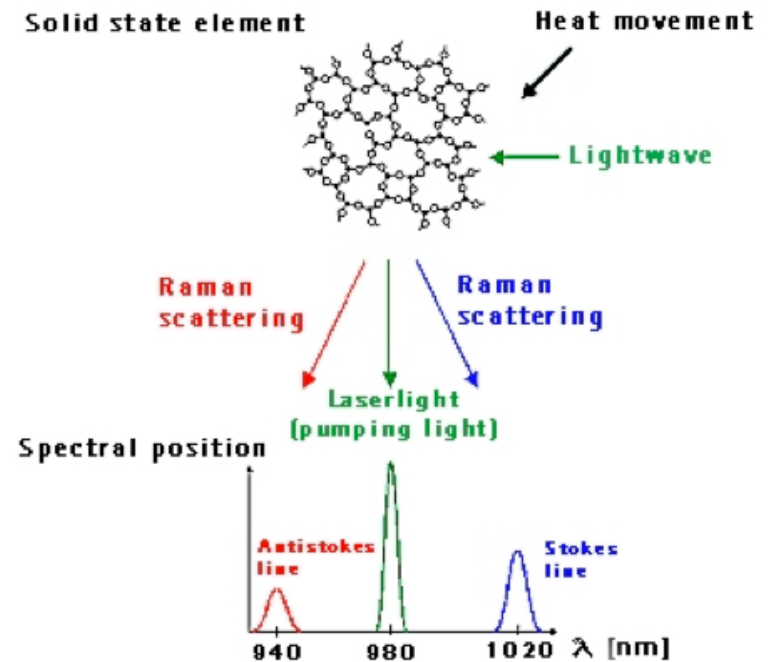
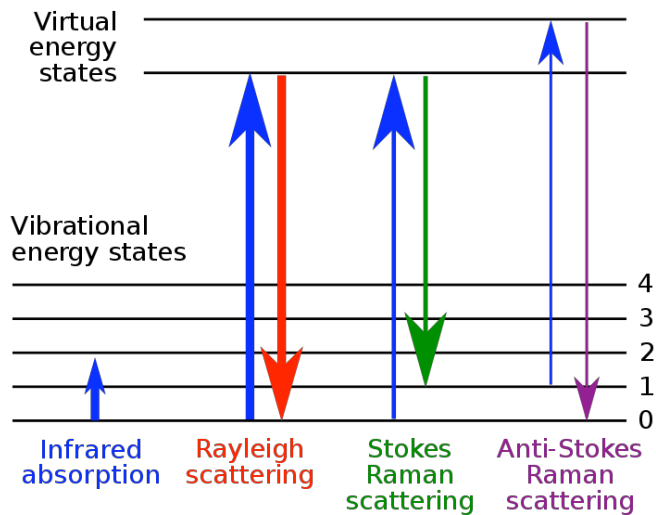
Infrared

- Absorption
- Requires a dipole moment change (O-H, N-H, C=O)
- Sample preparation or accessory usually necessary
- Short optical pathlength required
- Non-aqueous samples

Raman

- Emission of scattered laser light
- Requires polarizability change (C=C, aromatics)
- Little or no sample preparation necessary
- Measure through transparent packaging
- Aqueous samples

RAMAN



RAMAN example carbon

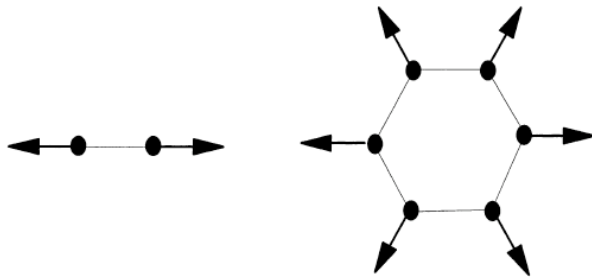


Fig. 34. Eigenvectors of the Raman G and D modes in graphite and amorphous carbons.

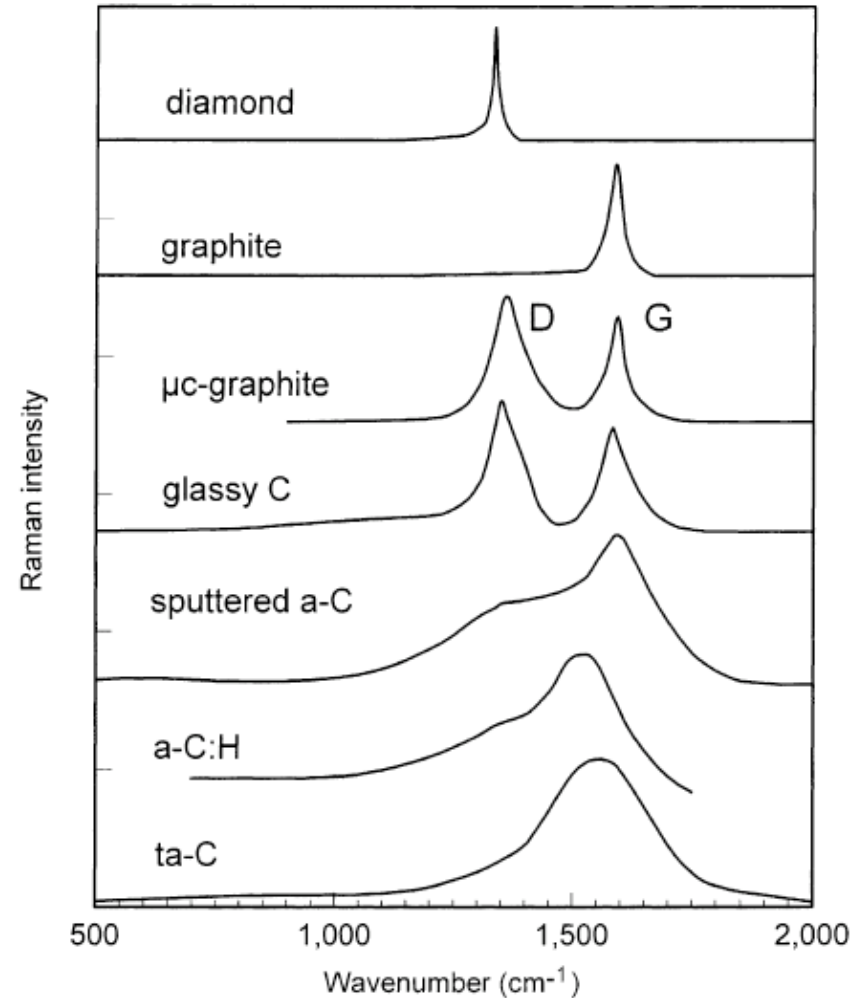
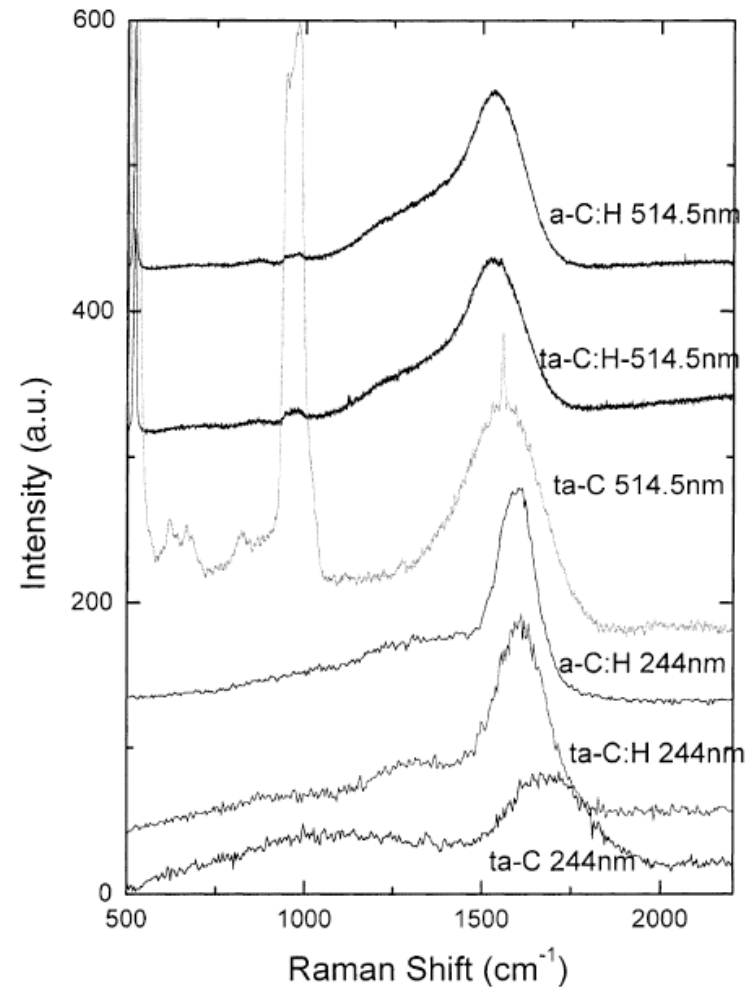


Fig. 33. Comparison of typical Raman spectra of carbons.

RAMAN

example carbon

- amorphous materials
- finger print of different bonds (materials)
- mapping



Mapping

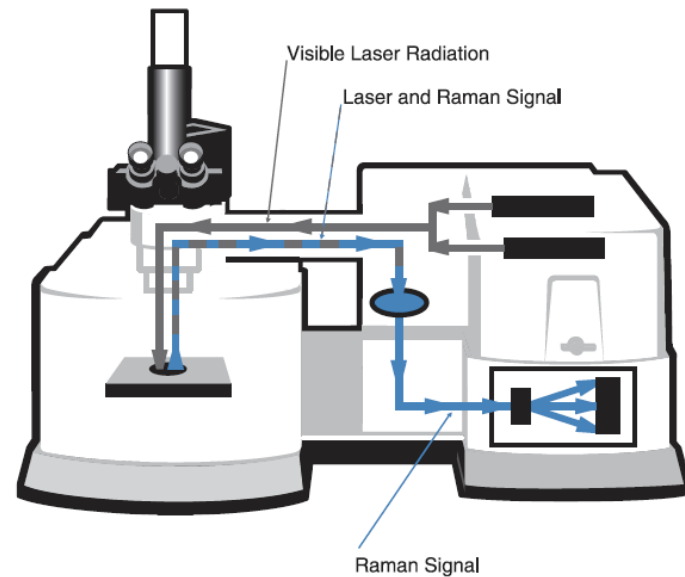
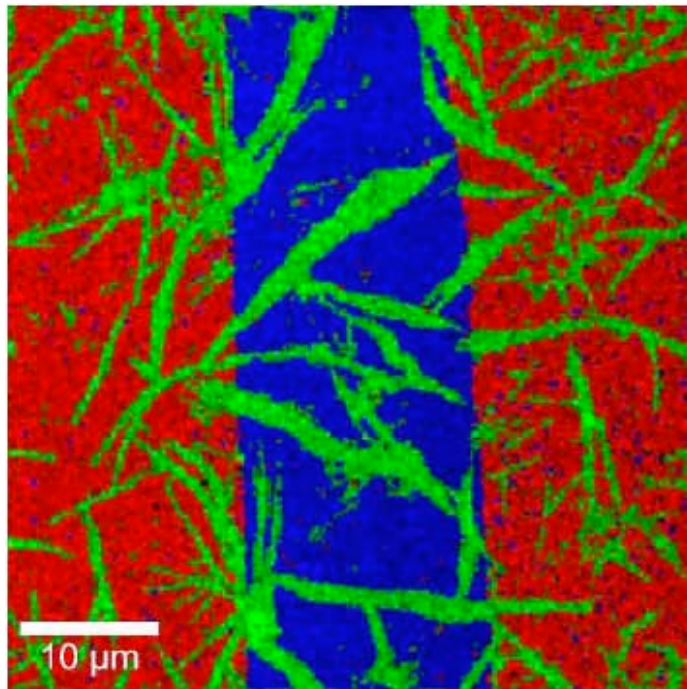
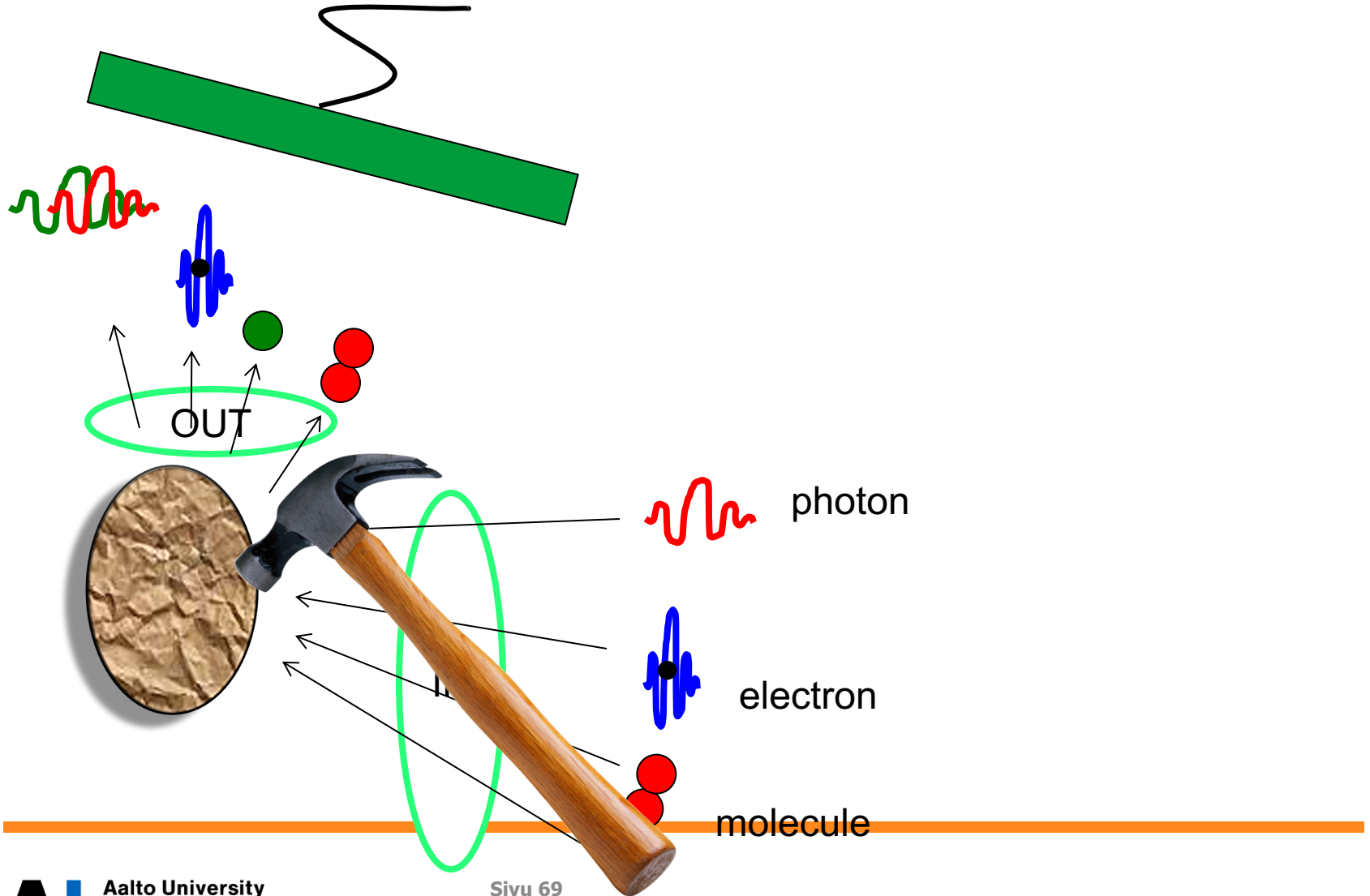


Figure 4. Color-coded confocal Raman image of a 7.1 nm PMMA layer (red) and a 4.2 nm contamination layer (green) on glass (blue). 200 x 200 spectra, 7 ms integration time/spectrum. Total acquisition time 5.4 minutes.

Contents

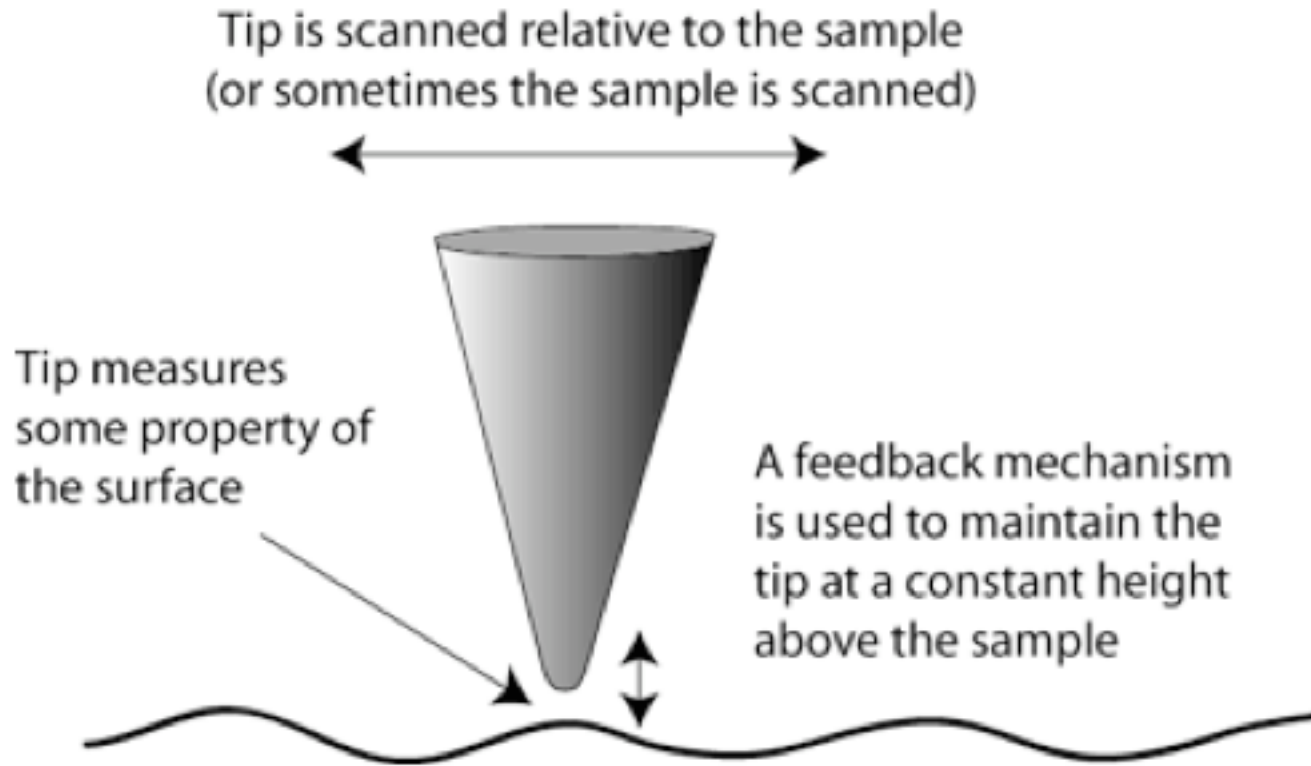
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Scattering experiment- Mechanical

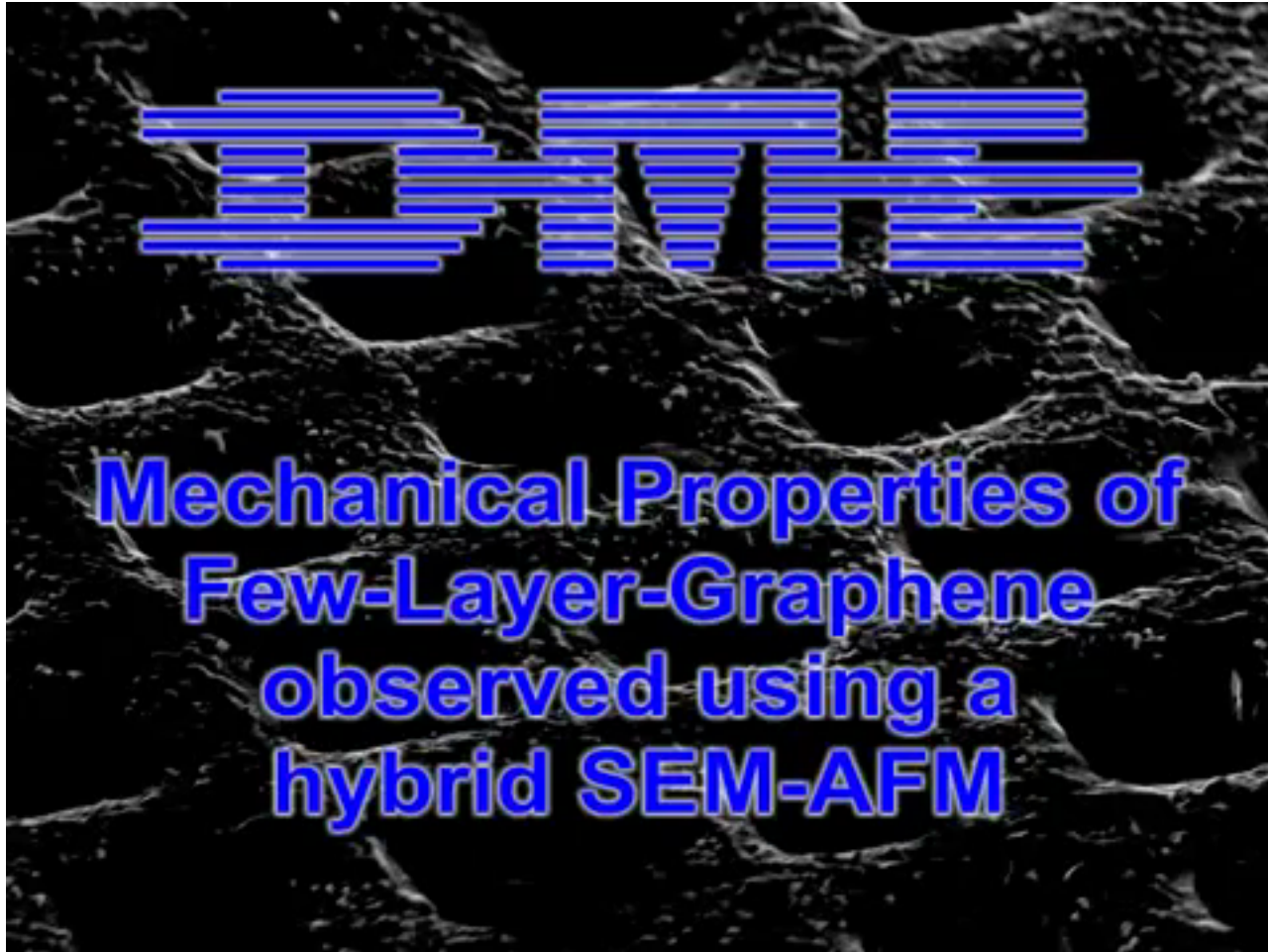


Scanning Probe Microscopy

Basic idea of scanned probe techniques:



nanoScience Inc.



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- Electrical conductivity – four point probe
- **Mechanical properties - indentation**
- Optical transmittance- FTIR (???)

Indentation

- $H = \text{constant} \cdot \text{load} / (\text{indentation area})$
- Thin film/substrate: composite hardness
- Coating hardness: $h < \text{film thickness}$
- Very thin coatings: hardness by modelling (FEM, MD)

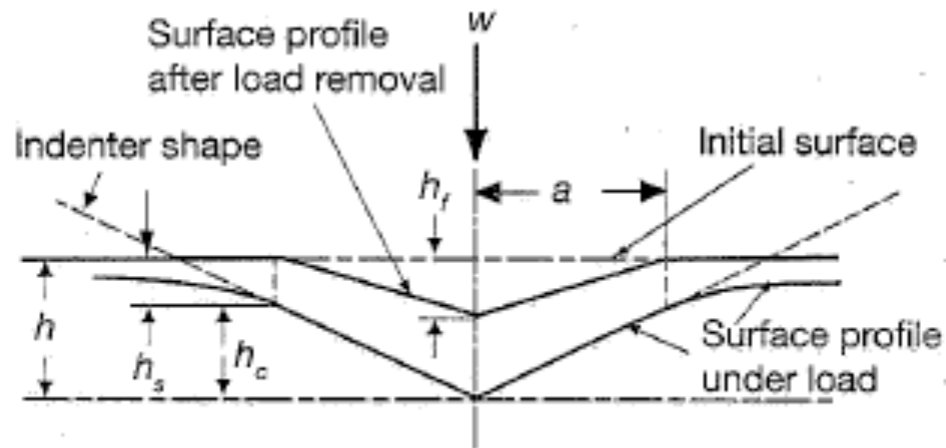
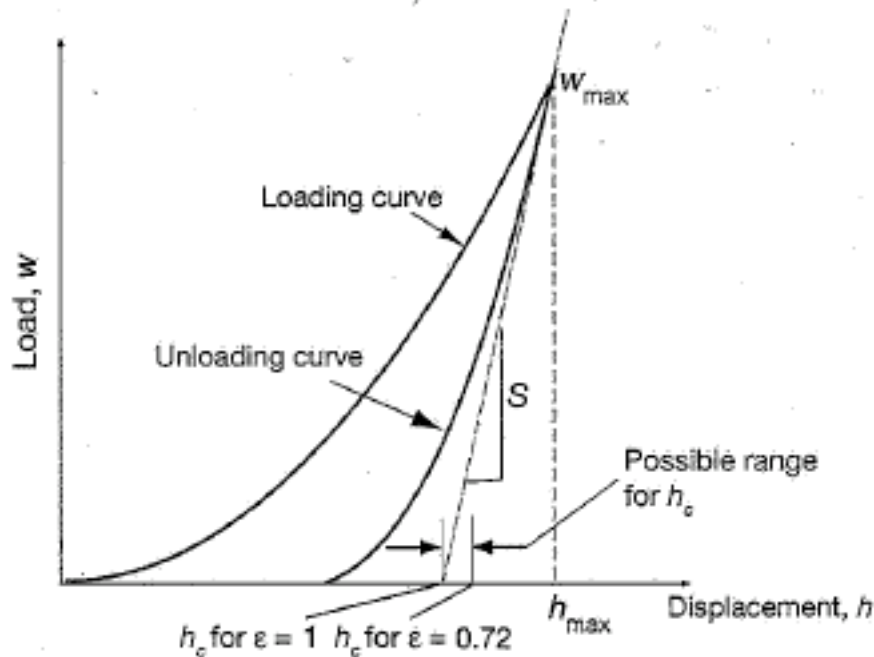


Fig. 5.9. Schematic representation of a section through an indentation using a conical indenter. h_c = contact depth, h_s = sink-in depth and h_f = final depth.

Elastic modulus E from loading - unloading curve



$$E_r = \frac{\sqrt{\pi \cdot S}}{2 \cdot \sqrt{A}}$$

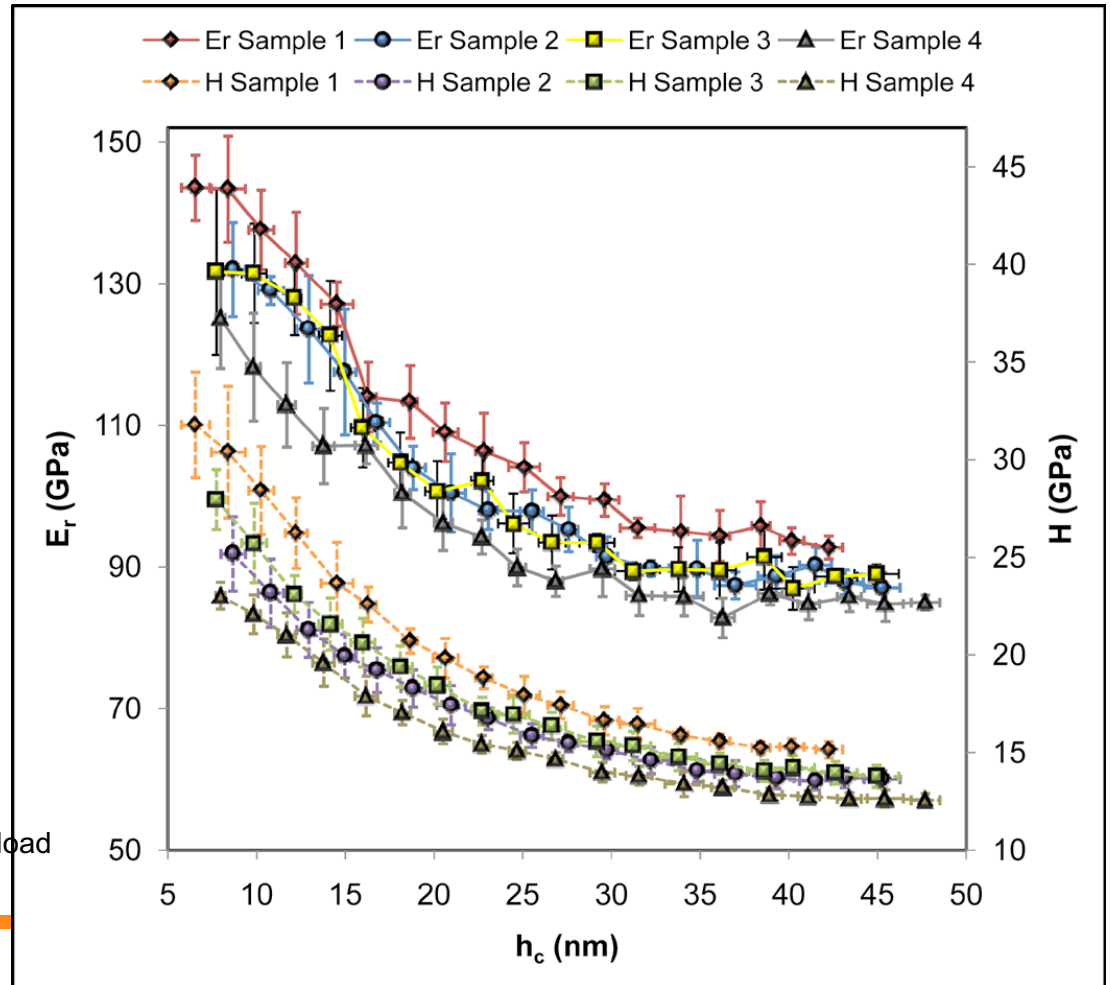
$$h_c = h_{\max} - \varepsilon \cdot w_{\max} / S$$

$$\frac{1}{E_r} = \frac{1 - \nu_i^2}{E_i} + \frac{1 - \nu^2}{E}$$

Fig. 5.10. A typical load-displacement indentation curve.

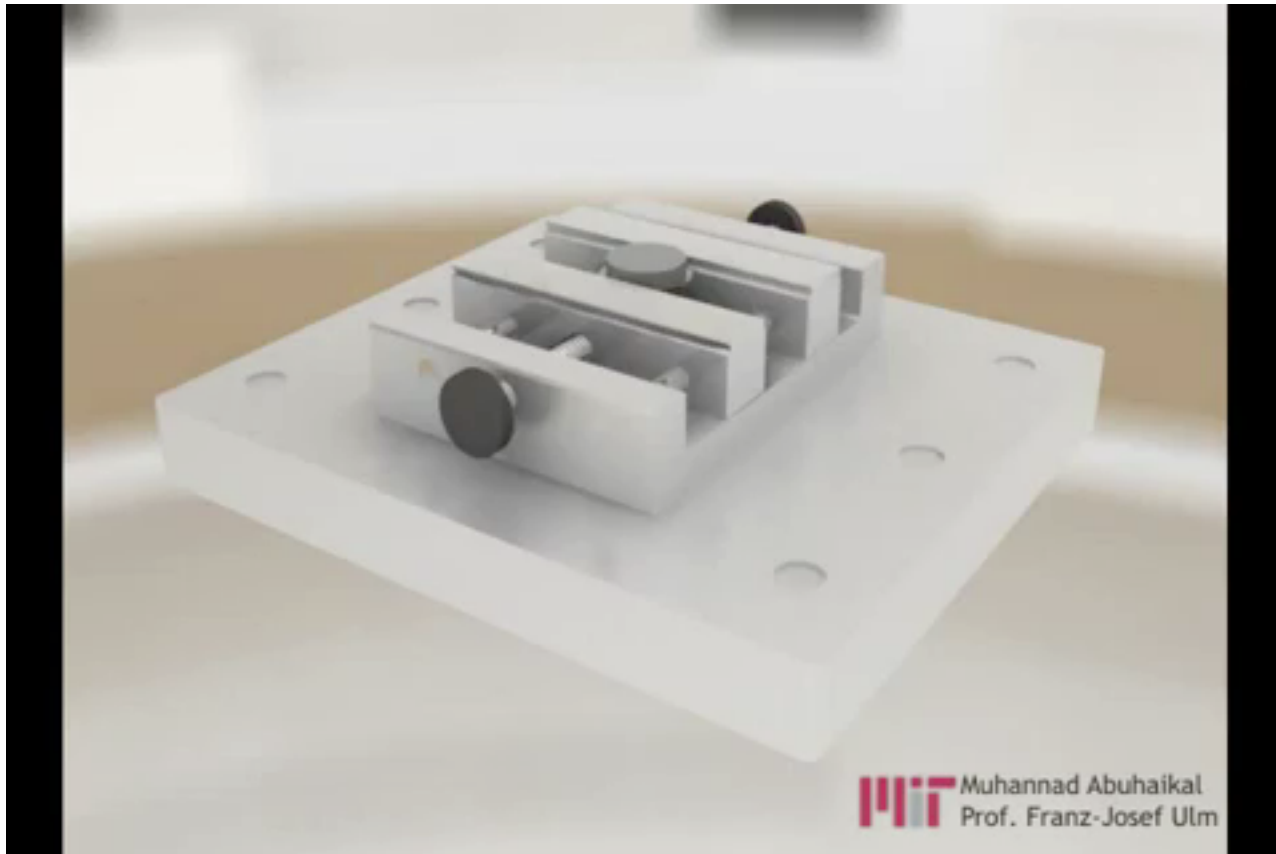
- $h < 1/10$ film thickness
- Very thin coatings: E by modelling (FEM, MD)

Hardness and E as a function of indentation depth



Depth profiles of Er and H data from 200 μN partial-unload nanoindentation tests on 50 nm TiN thin film samples. www.hysitron.com

Indentation test



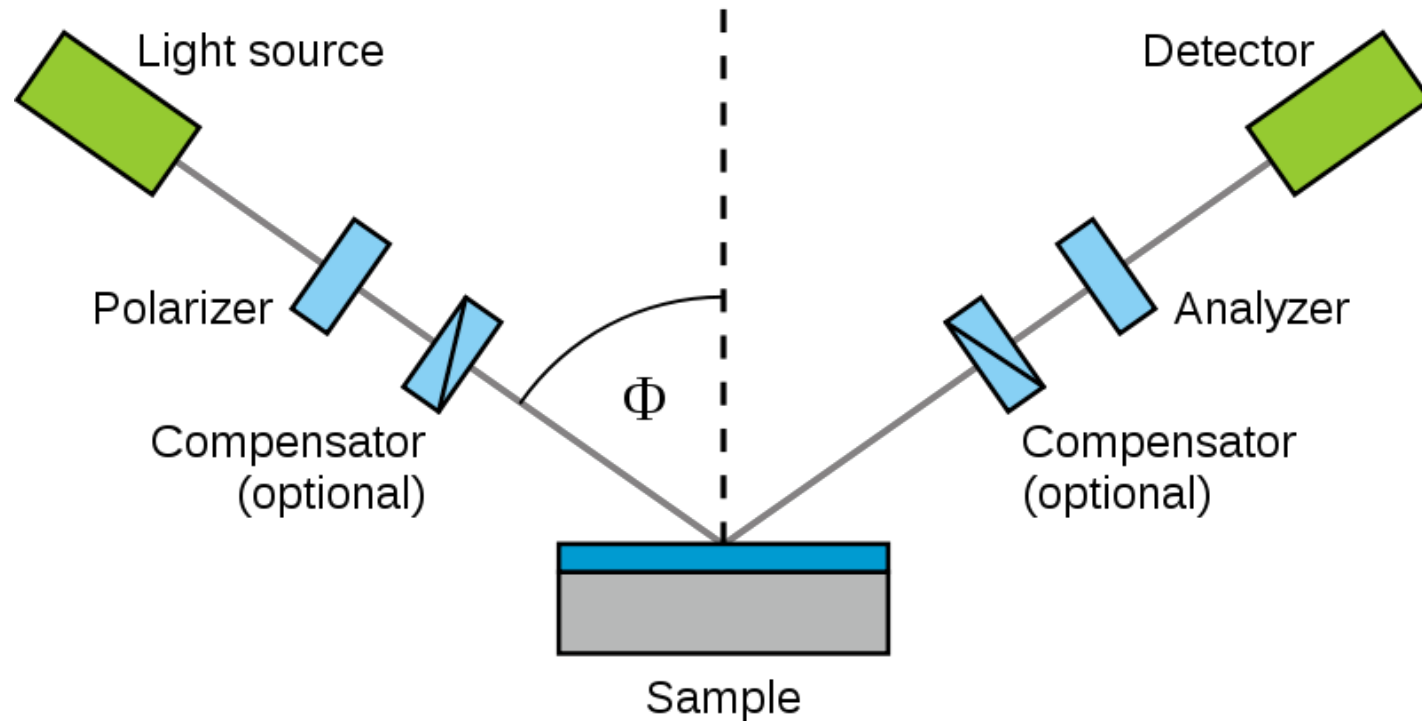
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- **Optical properties**

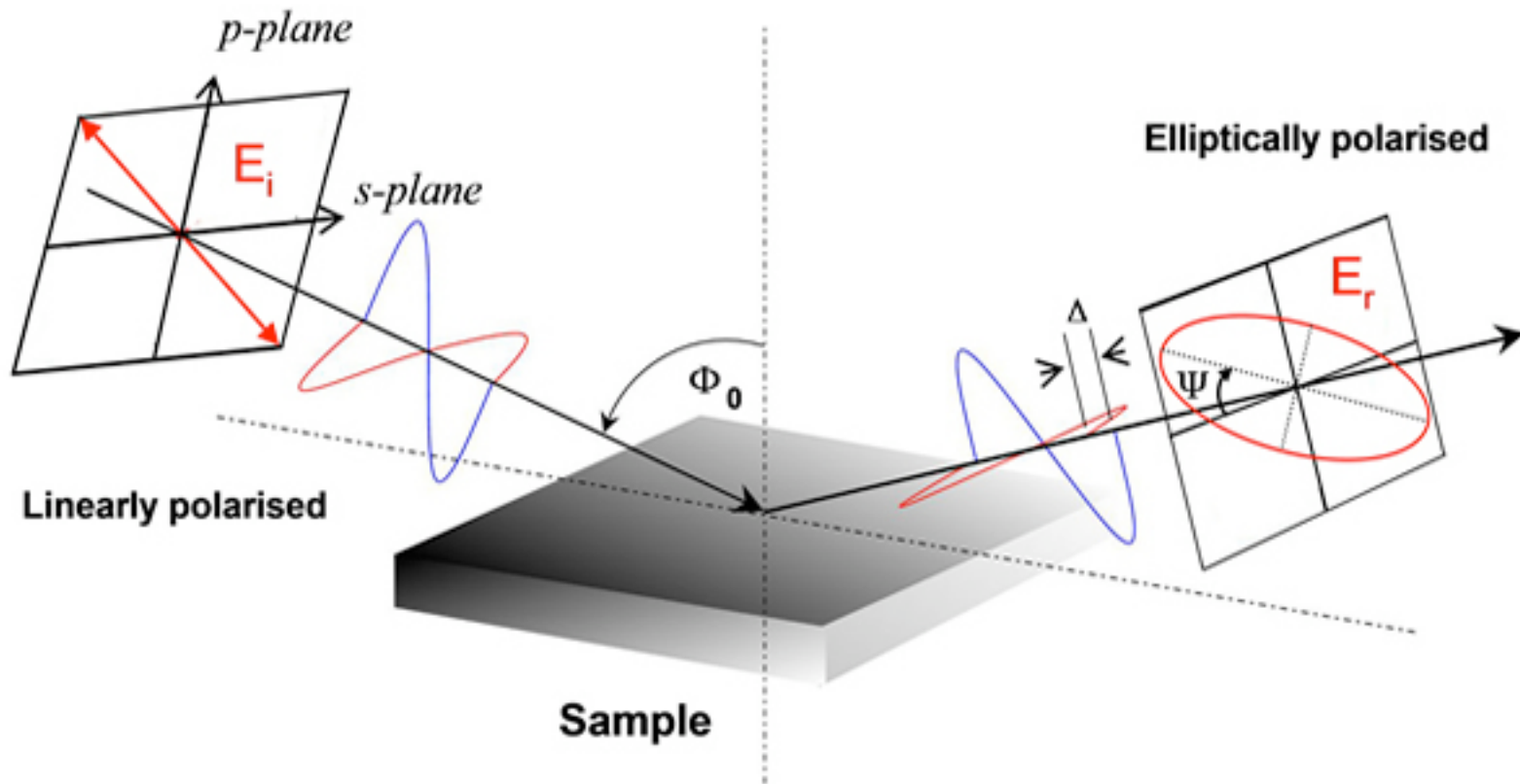
Optical coatings

- Control of reflectance and emission
 - Lenses
 - Photo voltaic
 - Solar thermal
- Protective optical coatings
- Self-cleaning or easy to clean films on optical surfaces
- Measuring thin dielectric film properties

Ellipsometry



Ellipsometry

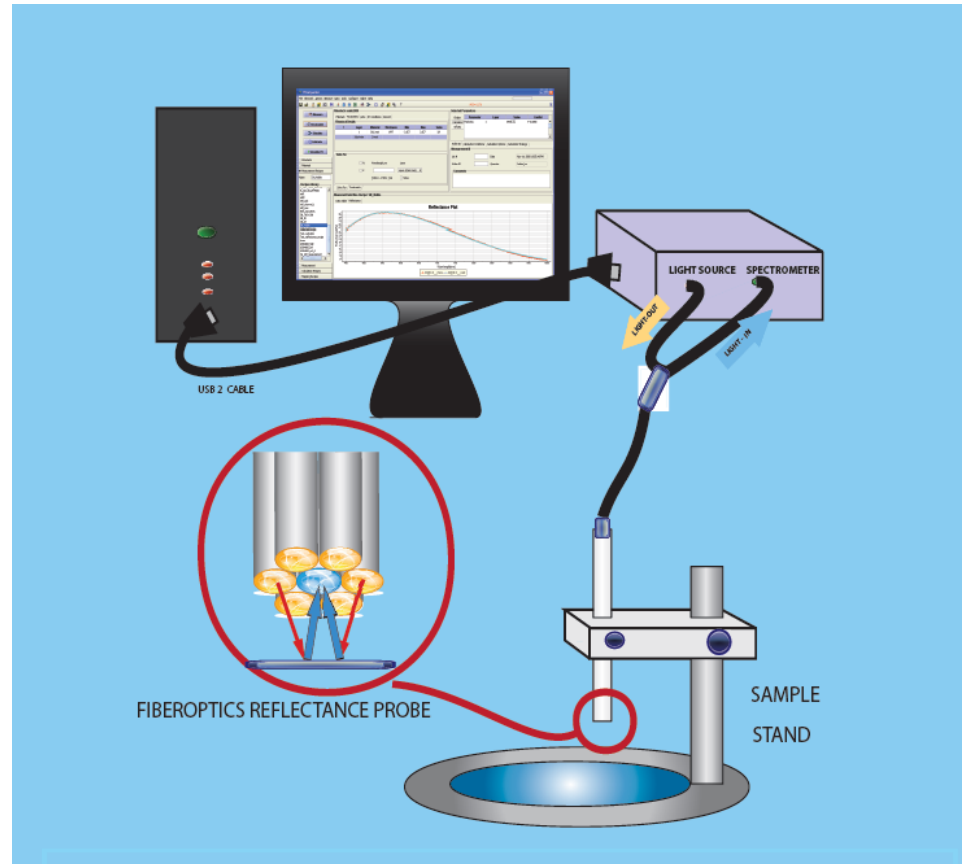
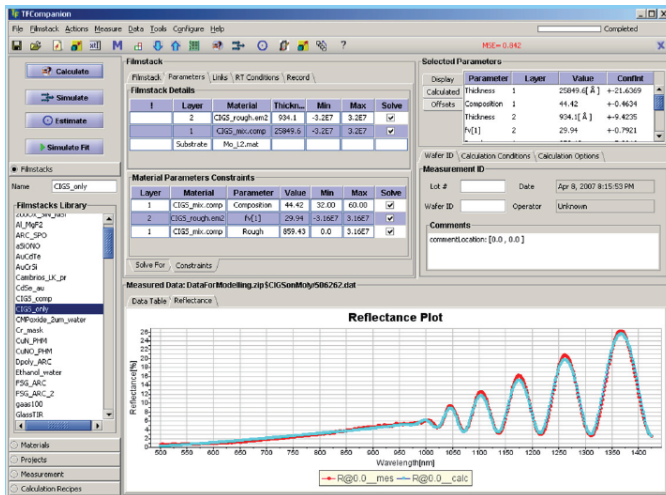


Ellipsometry

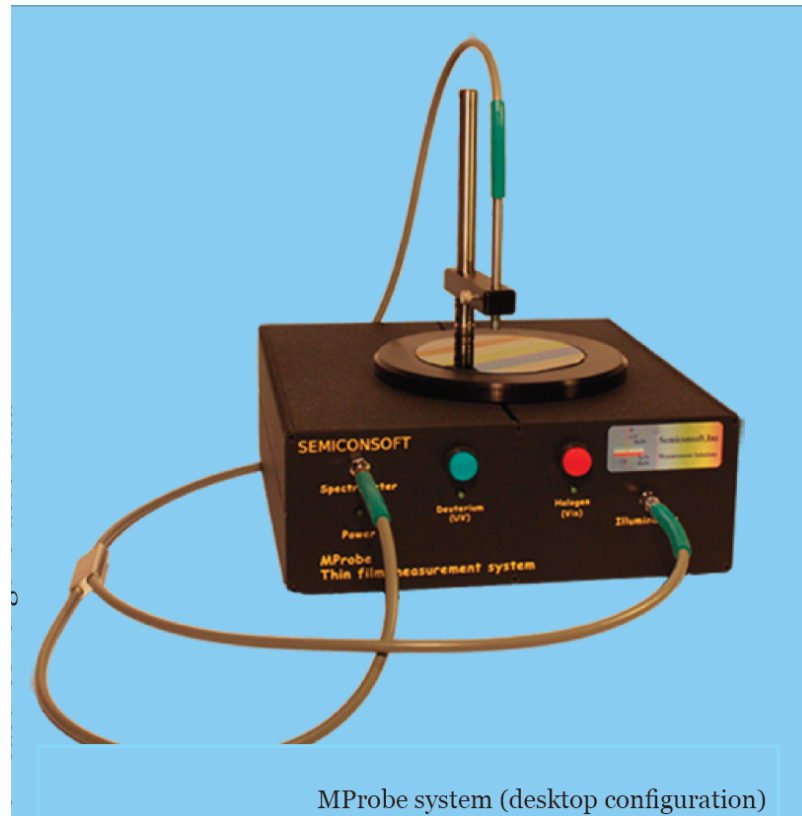
- real part (refractive index), $n(\lambda)$
 - imaginary part (extinction coefficient), $k(\lambda)$
 - complex refractive index, of a material, $N(\lambda) = (n(\lambda) + ik(\lambda))$, where λ
-
- If $N(\lambda)$ known film thickness
 - measure of phase shift \rightarrow very thin films can be measured $< 1\text{nm} - \text{several } \mu\text{m}$
 - multilayer films may be measured when using numerical models

Reflectometry

- Film thickness
 - 3 nm -> 200 μm
- n and k values
- multilayers



Reflectometry



MProbe system (desktop configuration)

And there is whole lot more...But one can get an idea with simple methods:

- interference colors: thickness, absorption
- reflection: metals identification
- Scotts Tape Test: adhesion
- electrical conductivity
- scratching by a tip: hardness, adhesion, friction
- shine light tangent to surface: impurities, particles on film
- breathe moisture (no slime!): surface energy, hydrophilicity, adhesion (try only on your own samples)