

# Characterization of Thin Films

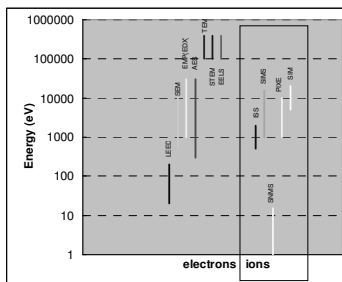
- Film thickness
- Surface morphology
- Film composition
- Film properties

Characterization methods are very diverse

- Size of equipment. Compare desktop interferometer with 2 m accelerator of RBS
- Cost. \$10<sup>1</sup> – \$10<sup>6</sup>
- Environment. Ambient – 10<sup>-10</sup> Torr
- Complexity. Scotch tape – SEM, TEM etc.

Primary beam	Energy range	Secondary signal	Acronym	Technique	Application
Electron	20 - 200 eV	Electron	LEED	Low-energy electron diffraction	Surface structure
	0.3 - 30 keV	X-ray	SEM	Scanning electron microscopy	Surface morphology
	1 - 30keV	Electron	EMP	Electron microprobe	Surface region composition
	500eV-10keV	Electron	(EDX) AES	Auger electron spectroscopy	Surface layer composition
	100 - 400 keV	Electron, X-ray	TEM	Transmission electron microscopy	High-resolution structure
Ion	100 - 400 keV	Electron, X-ray	STEM	Scanning TEM	Imaging, X-ray analysis
	100 - 400 keV	Electron	EELS	Electron energy loss spectroscopy	Local small-area composition
	0.5 -2.0 keV	Ion	ISS	Ion-scattering spectroscopy	Surface composition
	1 - 15 keV	Ion	SIMS	Secondary ion mass spectroscopy	Trace composition vs depth
	1-15 eV	Atom	SNMS	Secondary neutral mass spectrometry	Trace composition vs depth
Photon	11 keV and up	X-ray	PIXE	Particle-induced X-ray emission	Trace composition
	5-20 keV	Electron	SIM	Scanning ion microscopy	Surface characterization
	>1 MeV	Ion	RBS	Rutherford backscattering	Composition vs depth
	>1 keV	X-ray	XRF	X-ray fluorescence	Composition (1 μm depth)
	>1 keV	X-ray	XRD	X-ray diffraction	Crystal structure
>1 keV	Electron	ESCA, XPS	X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy	Surface composition	
Laser	Light	LEM	Laser emission microprobe	Composition of irradiated area	
				Laser microprobe	Trace element analysis

J.B. Bindel, in *VLSI Technol*, McGraw-Hill, NY88



## FILM THICKNESS

### Optical methods

#### Interferometry

- reflection
- spectral

#### Ellipsometry

- reflection
- spectral

### Mechanical methods

- Profilometry
- Quartz crystal microbalance
- Ultrasound

- elegant
- non-destructive
- high-resolution
- fast
- easy to implement

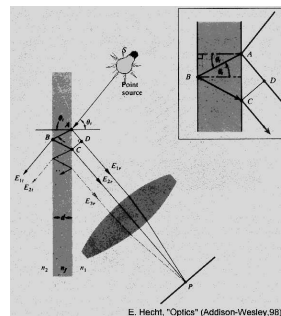
## FILM THICKNESS

### Optical methods

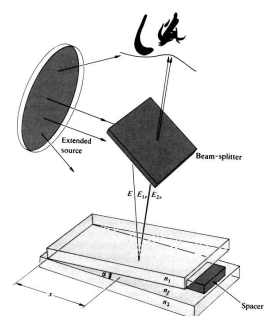
Method	Range (nm)	Characteristics (M = multiple)
Multiple beam interferometry (FET)	3 - 2000 ± 1-3	A step and reflective coating required ( $1\lambda, \theta = 90^\circ$ )
Multiple beam interferometry (FEKO)	1 - 2000 ± 0.5	A step, reflective coating, and spectrometer required; time consuming ( $M\lambda$ )
VAMFO (variable-angle monochromatic fringe observation)	80 - 1000 ± 0.02-0.05%	Transparent films on reflective substrate ( $1\lambda, M\theta$ )
CARIS (constant-angle reflection interference spectroscopy)	40 - 2000 ± 1 nm	Transparent films on reflective substrate ( $M\lambda, \theta = 90^\circ$ )
Ellipsometry	<0.1-	Transparent films and multilayers, uses polarized light, measures $d, n,$ and $k$ ( $1\lambda, \theta$ fixed)
Spectral reflectometry (unpolarized)	~ 30 - 2000 ± 1 nm	Transparent films and multilayers, fast, measures $d, n,$ and $k$ ( $\lambda = \sim 200-1000$ nm, $\theta = 90^\circ$ ) (polarized reflectometry is also performed at $1\lambda, M\theta$ )
Spectroscopic ellipsometry	<0.1-	Transparent films and multilayers, uses polarized light ( $M\lambda, \theta$ fixed) (multiple-angle ellipsometry is also performed at $1\lambda$ )

## FILM THICKNESS

### Multiple-beam reflection



Fringes of equal inclination



Fringes of equal thickness

### Interferometry: fringes basics

E. Hecht, Optics (Addison-Wesley, 98)

optical path difference  $A = n_f (\overline{AB} + \overline{BC}) - n_s \overline{AD}$

$\overline{AB} = \overline{BC} = d / \cos \theta_f \rightarrow A = n_f \frac{2d}{\cos \theta_f} - n_s \overline{AD}$

$\overline{AD} = \overline{AC} \sin \theta_s; \overline{AD} = \overline{AC} \frac{n_f}{n_s} \sin \theta_s; \overline{AC} = 2d \tan \theta_f$

$A = n_f \frac{2d}{\cos \theta_f} (1 - \sin^2 \theta_s) = 2dn_f \cos \theta_f$  due to reflections

relative phase shift  $\delta = k_f A \pm \pi = \frac{4\pi n_f}{\lambda_0} d \cos \theta_f \pm \pi$

$\delta = 2m\pi \rightarrow$

$d \cos \theta_f = (2m+1) \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_f}$  (maxima) Fringes of equal inclination

$d \cos \theta_f = (2m) \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_f}$  (minima)

### Interferometry: fringes basics

$d = x\alpha$ , and for small  $\theta_f$  :

$(m+1/2)\lambda_0 = 2n_f d_m$  or

$(m+1/2)\lambda_0 = 2\alpha x_m n_f$

$x_{m+1} - x_m = \frac{\lambda_0}{2\alpha n_f}$  = fringe spacing

$n_f \approx 1$  for air

Fringes of equal thickness (Fizeau fringes)

**FET**

Fizeau, Armand (1819-1896) (speed of light)

E. Hecht, Optics (Addison-Wesley, 98)

$\delta = 2m\pi \rightarrow$

$d \cos \theta_f = (2m+1) \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_f}$  (maxima)

$d \cos \theta_f = (2m) \frac{\lambda_0}{4n_f}$  (minima)

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Multiple-beam reflectometry: non-transparent films

Figure 3. Microinterferogram showing multiple-beam Fizeau fringes crossing a Calverley fibre immersed in a liquid with refractive index  $n_f = 1.5240$ .

$d = \frac{\Delta}{\text{Fringe spacings}} \frac{\lambda}{2}$

For highly reflective surfaces, the fringe width is  $\sim 1/40$  of  $\Delta$ , and  $\sim 1/5$  of that can be detected  $\rightarrow$  the resolution is about  $1/400$  of  $\lambda$ , i.e.  $\sim 15 \text{ \AA}$

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

#### Fizeau Fringes

[http://www.optics.arizona.edu/jcwyant/Short\\_Courses/Rochester/Part1.pdf](http://www.optics.arizona.edu/jcwyant/Short_Courses/Rochester/Part1.pdf)

For a given fringe the separation between the two surfaces is a constant.

Height error =  $(\lambda/2)(\Delta/S)$

2002 - James C. Wyant Part 1 Page 7 of 40

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Transparent films

Figure 10-2 Calculated variation of reflectance (on air side) with normalized thickness  $(n_f d/\lambda)$  for films of various refractive indices on a glass substrate of index 1.5. (From Ref. 3)

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Multiple-beam reflectometry ...with a scanner

fringes

glass disk in the scanner

fringes

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Spectral Reflectometry  
Transparent films and multilayers, fast, measures  $d$ ,  $n$ , and  $k$  ( $\lambda = \sim 200-1000$  nm,  $\theta = 90^\circ$ )  
<http://www.filmetrics.com/pdf/TMO.pdf>

simple reflectometer setup

Transmitted and reflected light

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Spectral Reflectometry  
<http://www.filmetrics.com/>

**Patterned-Wafer Thickness and Defect Mapper**  
The **STMapper** uses a new scanning technique to acquire millions of spectral reflectance data points on a 200mm wafer in less than five seconds. An entire cassette of wafers can be mapped in less than five minutes. It can be used to monitor multiple process parameters on patterned wafers, such as ILD thickness, metal residual, and scratches and defects. Available in integrated or stand-alone configurations.

14

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Ellipsometry:  
• reflection ellipsometry  
• multiple angle of incidence  
• spectroscopic ellipsometry

in situ measurements

complex reflection coeff.  
 $\rho = \tan \psi \exp(i\Delta)$

A typical experimental setup in ellipsometry

15

### FILM THICKNESS- Optics

Ellipsometer - Rudolph AutoEL-II

in situ measurements

complex reflection coeff.  
 $\rho = \tan \psi \exp(i\Delta)$

A typical experimental setup in ellipsometry

16

### FILM THICKNESS

Spectroscopic ellipsometry

Figure 10-8 Experimental trajectory of  $\Delta$  and  $\psi$  for the growth of an amorphous  $\text{Si}_{3.4}\text{Ge}_{0.2}\text{H}$  film deposited by PECVD methods. Predicted trajectories for layer (Model A) and island growth (Model B) mechanisms are also indicated. (Courtesy of Instruments SA, Inc. Reprinted with permission.)

in situ measurements during thin film growth

17

### FILM THICKNESS- Mechanics

Profilometry (one-shot AFM)

deflection measurements (interferometry, capacitance, etc.)  
resolution:  $\sim 1\text{\AA}$

deflection ( $\text{\AA}$ )

lateral distance ( $\mu\text{m}$ )

thin film



substrate

spring  
0.1-50 mg

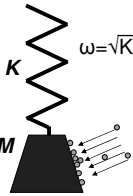
- tip angle 45 or 60°
- tip radii 0.2-25  $\mu\text{m}$

- scratching of thin film
- substrate roughness
- vibrations

**FILM THICKNESS- Mechanics** **Quartz Crystal Microbalances**

clock crystals



$$\omega = \sqrt{K/M}$$

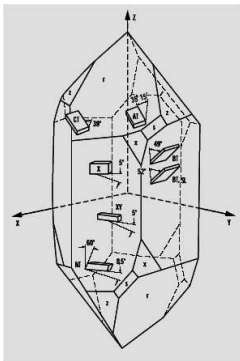
$$\delta f = -\frac{f^2 \delta m}{C \rho_s A} = -\frac{f^2 d}{C}$$

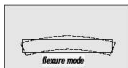
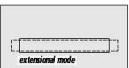

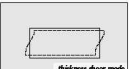
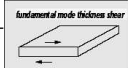

C=1656 kHz mm (AT cut)

Ametist 13.9 x 10.6 x 8.3 cm<sup>3</sup>, ~1 kg

19

**FILM THICKNESS- Mechanics** **Quartz Crystal Microbalances**



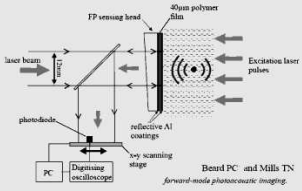
	
	
	

AT

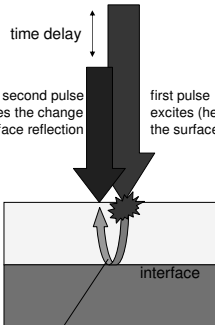
- f = 6 MHz typical (AT cut, thickn. shear)
- temperature sensitive (-)

20

**FILM THICKNESS- Acoustics** **Ultrasonic methods**



local heating → local sudden expansion → acoustic wave pulse → change of reflection at the surface



time delay

second pulse probes the change in surface reflection

first pulse excites (heats) the surface

ultrasound reflected from the interface<sub>21</sub>

21

**FILM THICKNESS- Acoustics** **Ultrasonic methods**

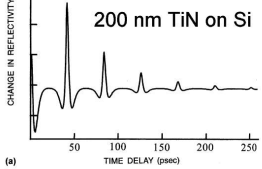
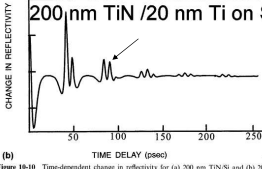
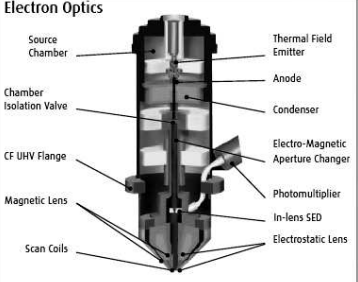



Figure 18-10 Time-dependent change in reflectivity for (a) 200 nm TiN/Si and (b) 200 nm TiN/20 nm Ti/Si. (Courtesy of G. J. Collins, Radpho Technologies Inc. From Ref. 17)


22

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION SEM**

**Electron Optics**



- Source Chamber
- Chamber Isolation Valve
- CF UHV Flange
- Magnetic Lens
- Scan Coils
- Thermal Field Emitter
- Anode
- Condenser
- Electro-Magnetic Aperture Changer
- Photomultiplier
- In-lens SED
- Electrostatic Lens




23

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION SEM**


MC2's SEM **SEM**

JEOL JSM-6301F SEM  
 Installed: 1994  
 Funded by: Wallenberg  
 Max sample size: 100 mm  
 resolution 1.2 nm specified  
 Acc. voltages 0.5kV - 30kV  
 Source: Cold Field Emission

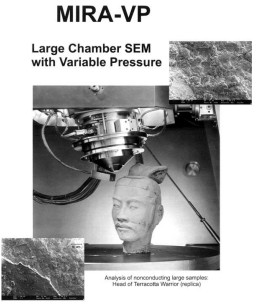


24

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION Large SEM**



**MIRA-VP**  
Large Chamber SEM with Variable Pressure



Analysis of reconstructing large terraces  
Bust of Terence Warburton (optical)

25

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION Jeol SEM**



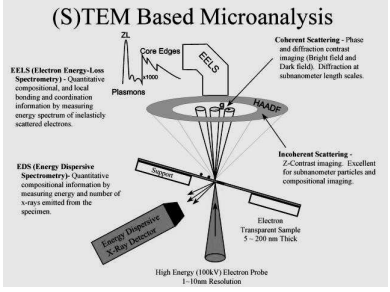
Integrated circuit bond pads ---2.5kV--- 500X

Chemical vapor deposited copper oxide---5kV---100X

<http://www.jeol.com/sem/gallery>

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION TEM**

**(S)TEM Based Microanalysis**



**TEM modes:**

- Bright-field imaging
- Dark-field imaging
- Lattice imaging
- Diffraction
- X-ray spectroscopy
- Electron energy loss spectroscopy
- Lorentz microscopy

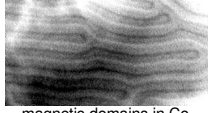
27

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION TEM**

125 – 300 keV (up to 1 MeV) → short wavelength  
100 keV → 0.035 Å

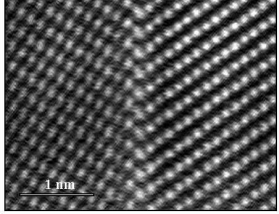
<http://www.fzu.cz/~vystav/TEMPage.html>

**TEM cross sections**



magnetic domains in Co

**HRTEM: of coherent twin in molybdenum**  
Microscope: JEOL 4000EX  
(CEA/DRFMC Grenoble)  
<http://www.fzu.cz/~vystav/TEMPage.html>

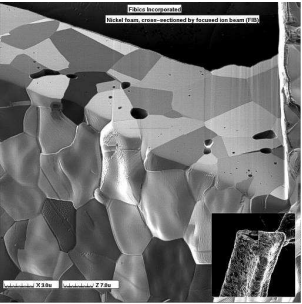


**TEM modes:**

- Bright-field imaging
- Dark-field imaging
- Lattice imaging
- Diffraction
- X-ray spectroscopy
- Electron energy loss spectroscopy
- Lorentz microscopy

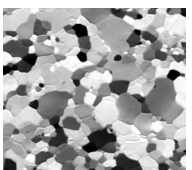
28

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION FIB microscopy**



**FIB microscopy**

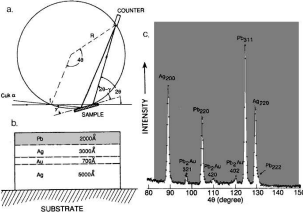
- Voltage contrast: insulators look dark while conductors are bright
- Materials contrast: differences in yield of secondary particles
- Crystallographic orientation contrast (channeling contrast)



A grain-size distribution can be deduced !

**STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION X-ray diffraction**

Monitoring of interdiffusion in thin films



Epitaxial thin films

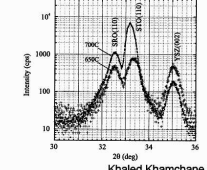


Figure 6.11: The  $\theta - 2\theta$  scans of  $SrO/STO/CoO_3/YSZ$  films grown at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  and  $700^\circ\text{C}$  on Si substrate.

Khaled Khamchane, Lic 2003

30

### STRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION

#### STM

<http://www.fysik.dtu.dk/stm/instrument.htm>

STM allows manipulation of individual atoms

Crommie, Lutz & Eigler in <http://www.almaden.ibm.com/>

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

- SEM/EDX (energy dispersive X-ray)
- AES (Auger electron spectroscopy)
- XPS (X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy)
- RBS (Rutherford backscattering)
- SIMS (Secondary-ion mass spectroscopy)

capable of detecting almost all elements of the periodic table

Summary of Major Chemical Characterization Techniques				
Method	Elemental sensitivity	Detection limit (at.%)	Lateral resolution	Effective probe depth
Scanning electron microscope/energy dispersive X-ray (SEM/EDX)	Na-U	~0.1	~1 $\mu\text{m}$	~1 $\mu\text{m}$
Auger electron spectroscopy (AES)	Li-U	~0.1-1	500 $\text{\AA}$	15 $\text{\AA}$
X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)	Li-U	~0.1-1	~100 $\mu\text{m}$	15 $\text{\AA}$
Rutherford backscattering (RBS)	He-U	~1	1 mm	~200 $\text{\AA}$
Secondary-ion mass spectrometry (SIMS)	H-U	$10^{-4}$	~1 $\mu\text{m}$	15 $\text{\AA}$

32

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

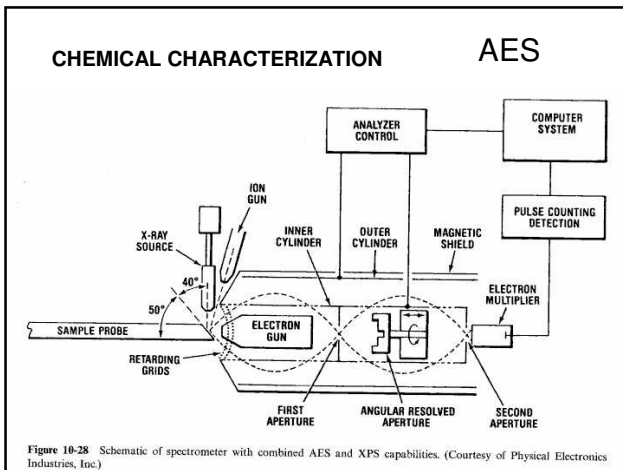
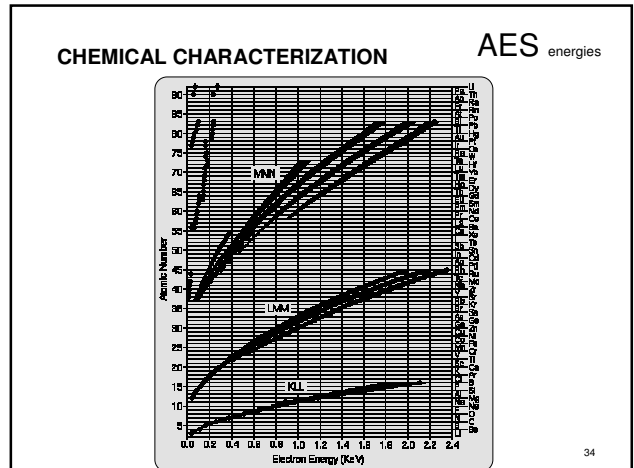
these can be collected and analyzed (XPS or AES)

**X-ray or primary electron (10keV)**

**Ejected core electron**

**Auger electron**

Initial state, Intermediate state, Final state



### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

these can be collected and analyzed

**X-ray or primary electron (10keV)**

**Ejected core electron**

**X-ray photon**

Initial state, Intermediate state, Final state

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

**Auger Electron Spectroscopy (AES)**

- The sample is irradiated with a high energy primary electron beam (2 - 10 keV).
- Backscattered, secondary, and Auger electrons can be detected and analyzed. These can also be used for imaging purposes similar to that in SEM.
- The Auger electrons are emitted at discrete energies, that are characteristic of the elements present on the sample surface (the peak positions are used to identify the elements and their chemical states) All elements in the periodic table, except hydrogen and helium, can be detected, and
- The depth of analysis is 3 - 5 nm
- In the scanning mode, the secondary electrons yield information on the surface topography. Excellent spatial resolution (0.5 μm).
- Top layers can be sputtered with ions and depth profiles can be measured.

37

### FILMS

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

**X-RAY PHOTOELECTRON SPECTROSCOPY (XPS)**  
also Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA)

- The sample is irradiated with soft X-rays photons (1-2 keV) which induces direct emission of photoelectrons.
- The energy of photoelectrons is characteristic of the material.
- Depth 2-20 atomic layers.
- Peak position and area are used to study the composition. The peak shape give information about the chemical bonds of the elements.

**Modes of Operation**

- Energy spectrum. Survey spectra (0-1000 eV) - to estimate the composition, while high-resolution spectra (10-20 eV) - information about the chemical bonds.
- Mapping. Choosing a single peak and scanning the focal point across the sample gives information on the lateral distribution of species on the surface.
- Imaging with high spatial resolution (<10-15 μm) and high sensitivity.

38

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

**XPS vs AES (are complimentary to each other)**

- Give similar information.
- The Auger spot size is smaller than the XPS.
- The XPS spectra are well-documented -> study of surface chemical bonding through the use of tabulated chemical shifts. The Auger chemical shifts are weaker.
- X-rays produce less damage to the surface compared to the primary electrons of AES.

39

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

**Secondary Ion Mass Spectroscopy (SIMS)**  
The most sensitive method for detection of elements.

- masses up to 10<sup>4</sup> mass units can be detected;
- separation of isotopes can be made;
- chemical information can be obtained by identifying sputtered ions;
- detection limits of 1 ppm of a monolayer;
- surface sensitivity < 1nm; depth resolution < 1nm; lateral resolution 100 nm.

**Modes of operation:**

- Surface analysis – (Static SIMS) - low primary ion densities to prevent surface destruction
- Imaging. Focused ion beam scanning over the surface produces images of the surface (recall FIB !)
- Depth profiling (Dynamic SIMS) - high primary ion dose densities to remove the surface layer by layer. Spectra taken during the sputtering can give the thickness distribution of elements

40

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/magnetic/maspec.html>

The mass spectrometer is an instrument which can measure the masses and relative concentrations of atoms and molecules.

It makes use of the magnetic force on a moving charged particle.

41

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

## SIMS

**Figure 10-35** Schematic of the ion optical system in the Cameca double-focusing mass spectrometer. 1, Cs ion source; 2, duoplasmatron source; 3, primary beam mass filter; 4, immersion lens; 5, specimen; 6, dynamic transfer system; 7, transfer optical system; 8, entrance slit; 9, electrostatic sector; 10, energy slit; 11, spectrometer lens; 12, spectrometer; 13, electro-magnet; 14, exit slit; 15, projection lens; 16, projection display and detection system; 17, deflector; 18, channel plate; 19, fluorescent screen; 20, deflector; 21, Faraday cup; 22, electron multiplier. (Courtesy Cameca Inc., Stamford, Connecticut.)

42

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION RBS

Easiest to understand: two-body elastic scattering

**Rutherford backscattering** is an analytical technique in which a high energy beam (2 - 4 MeV) of low mass ions ( $\text{He}^{++}$ ) is directed at a surface. A detector collects particles which scatter from the sample at close to a 180 degree angle.

- The energy of scattered ions depend on their incident energy and on the mass of the sample atom which they hit. The energy of scattered ions therefore indicates the chemical composition of the sample.
- RBS can be used to perform a depth profile of the composition of a sample. This is especially useful in analysis of thin-film materials.

43

### CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION RBS

**Figure 10-31** (a) Geometry of scattering and notation of energies at the front and back surfaces of a 900 Å thick P-Si film. (b)  $^4\text{He}^+$  ion energy as a function of film depth due to scattering from P and Si. Schematic RBS spectrum shows rotated by 90° (From W. K. Chu, J. W. Mayer, M. A. Nicolet, T. M. Bush, G. Amel, and F. Eisen, *Thin Solid Films* 17, 1 (1983), with permission from Elsevier Sequoia S.A.)

$$E_1 = \left[ \frac{\sqrt{M^2 - M_0^2 \sin^2 \theta} + M_0 \cos \theta}{M_0 + M} \right]^2 E_0$$

$$E_1 = K_M E_0$$

44

### Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties Methods

**Figure 12-1** Methods for mechanical testing of thin films: (a) tensile testing, (b) bulge testing, (c) indentation (micro or nano) hardness testing, (d) deflection of microbeams. (Adapted from Ref. 7.)

45

### Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties Deflection of microbeams

also resonance frequency of induced oscillations

<http://asm.mit.edu/caiwei/papers/EncycMater/Kraft-mechtest.pdf>

### Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties Indentation (micro and nano)

Nano indentation test can be used in the analysis of organic and inorganic soft and hard coatings. Examples are thin and multilayer PVD, CVD, PECVD, photoresist, and many other types of films. Substrates can be hard or soft, including metals, semiconductors, glass, and organic materials.

47

### Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties Bulge testing

A Novel Experimental Technique for Testing Thin Films and MEMS Materials  
<http://cfton.mech.northwestern.edu/~sp8505a/Papers/SEM001.pdf>

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$$P = \frac{4dh}{r^2} \left( \sigma_0 + \frac{2}{3} \frac{E}{1-\nu} \frac{h^2}{r^2} \right)$$

$\sigma_0$  - residual stress  
 $h$  - dome height  
 $r, d$  - radius and thickness



Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties

### Measurements of Internal Stresses

49

Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties

### Adhesion Tests

50

<http://polymers.msel.nist.gov/uploads/chianqm0503.pdf>

Properties of Thin Films Mechanical Properties

### Improving ADHESION

- Low-energy pre-sputtering
- Ion-beam-assisted deposition
- Reactive ion implantation
- Ion-beam stitching (disorder)
- Chemical etching/cleaning

51

Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties

### Electrical resistivity

electrical current:  $J = nev$   
 $v = \mu E$  ( $\mu$  - mobility)  
 $J = ne\mu E = \sigma E = \frac{E}{\rho}$   
 (Ohm's law)

What makes thin films different from bulk :

- Size effects (thin films are thin indeed)
- Deposition methods (substrate T, etc.) may lead to differences in scattering, traps
- Film continuity (island structure)
- High electrical-fields are easily attainable
- High chemical reactivity (aging, time-dep. properties)

52

Properties of Thin Films Electrical & Magnetic Properties

### Electrical resistivity measurements

If Probe spacing is:

- Larger than film thickness
- Small than distance to edge of film

$R_s = 4.53 V/I$  and  
 $\rho = R_s t$  where t is thickness

Using a four point approach is a standard technique for eliminating the effects of contact resistance

53

Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties

### Electrical resistivity: T-dependence

54

### Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties

## Electrical resistivity: T-dependence

alloys

as small T dependence as possible for resistor application

Material	Resistivity $\mu\Omega/\square\text{-cm}$	TCR ppm/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$	TCR Range $^{\circ}\text{C}$
Pd-Ag	38	$\pm 50$	0 to 100
Ni80/Cr20	110	$\pm 85$	-55 to 100
Ni76/Cr20/Au2/Fe2	133	$\pm 5$	-65 to 250
Ta ( $\alpha$ -BCC)	25-50	+500 to +1800	-
TaN*	$\sim 250$	-	-100
Cr-SiO <sub>2</sub> (10)	$\sim 400$	-300	200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$
In <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> :Sn	$\sim 10^3$ - $10^4$	-	-
Cr-SiO <sub>2</sub> (40)	$\sim 3500$	-300	200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$
SiO <sub>2</sub> (undoped)	$\sim 10^8$	-400 to -900	-
SiO <sub>2</sub> (doped)	$\sim 10^3$ - $10^4$	-	-

\*Values depend strongly on composition. From Ref. 11.

### Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties

## Electrical resistivity: T-dependence

When the mean-free path becomes larger than the thin-film thickness, the film boundaries take over the scattering of electrons. Size effect.

J.C. Harwell et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 54, 1940 (1985)

### Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties: size effect

$\lambda_F = 5 \text{ \AA}$  for Cu, but  $\lambda_F = 400 \text{ \AA}$  for Bi (!)

specular reflection

#### 10.5 Electron Energies

Free electron model (FEM)  
Radius of Fermi sphere  
 $\lambda_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$

$\lambda_F = 2\pi / k_F$

$n = \frac{N}{V} = \frac{N_A}{V_A}$  = number of free electrons per volume

Fermi energy (Fermi level)  
 $E_F = \frac{\hbar^2 k_F^2}{2m_e} = k_B T_F$

$k_B$  = Boltzmann constant  
 $T_F$  = Fermi temperature. See Sec. 9.6

The topology of the Fermi surface is important in understanding the electronic properties of materials.

6.3 Special Solutions of the Schrödinger Equation  
Free particle in one-dimensional box

Physics Handbook

limited motion of electrons perpendicular to the thin-film plane  $\rightarrow$  a quantum box

Fermi sphere for free electrons in a 3D box ( $K_x, K_y, K_z$ )

### Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties: size effect

quantization of momentum  
 $|p_x| = \frac{\pi \hbar}{a} n, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$\mathcal{E}(p_x, p_y) = \mathcal{E}$

density of states

quantization of energy  
 $\mathcal{E} = \frac{p_x^2}{2m_x} + \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m_y a^2} n^2$   
 $\Delta \mathcal{E}_{n,n+1} = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m_y a^2} (2n+1)$

density of states vs. Bi-film thickness

Allowed states for quantum size effect

### Properties of Thin Films Magneto-Electric Properties: GMR

<http://uw.physics.wisc.edu/>

#### GMR Spin Valve Reading Head

Read Current, Write Current, Track Width, Stray Field, Magnetization, Read Element, Induction, Write Element, Recording medium

### Properties of Thin Films Electrical Properties

## Superconductivity

Discovered in 1911 by Kamerlingh Onnes: superconductivity of Hg

Element	$T_c$ (K)	$H_c$ (Oe)	Alloy or Compound	$T_c$ (K)	$H_c$ (Oe)**
Al	1.19	98.8	V <sub>3</sub> Ge	14.8	$25 \times 10^4$
In	3.41	283	V <sub>3</sub> Si	16.9	$24 \times 10^4$
La(β)	5.9	1000	Nb <sub>3</sub> Sn	18.3	$28 \times 10^4$
Nb	9.2	2,000*, 3,000**	Nb <sub>3</sub> Ga	20.2	$34 \times 10^4$
Pb	7.18	800	Nb <sub>3</sub> Ge	22.5	$38 \times 10^4$
Re	1.70	200	PbMo <sub>6</sub> S <sub>6</sub>	14.4	$60 \times 10^4$
Sn	3.72	308	NbN	15.7	$15 \times 10^4$
Ta	4.48	825	YBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	93	—
Tc	8.22	—	BiSrCaCuO	107	—
Th	1.37	161	TlBaCaCuO	120	—
Tl	2.39	170	—	—	—
V	5.13	1290*, 7000**	—	—	—

Properties of Thin Films      Electrical Properties

### Superconductivity

Bulk and room-temperature deposited Bi-films are semi-metallic

quench-condensed Bi thin films are metallic and superconducting!

FIG. 1. Insulator-superconductor transition for a set of Bi films quench condensed at 15 K on quartz substrates predeposited with a 15 Å Ge underlayer.

PHYSICAL REVIEW B, VOLUME 44, NO. 16, 1991

Effect of granularity on the insulator-superconductor transition in ultrathin Bi films

© G. Güntherodt, K. De Groot, and S. Chakravorty

61

Properties of Thin Films      Electrical Properties

### Superconductivity and tunneling

Fig. 4.3 The  $I-V$  characteristic of an Al-Pb junction (Al normal) after Giaever [44]. Curve 1: Pb normal, Curve 2: Pb superconducting.

62

Properties of Thin Films      Electrical Properties

### High-T<sub>c</sub> Superconductivity

$\sim 10 \text{ MA/cm}^2$        $< 100 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  Bio-magnetometry; NDE

Superconducting motor      <http://www.tip.csiro.au/ISEC2003/talks/IMo1.pdf>

High-T<sub>c</sub> wire

**The SQUID**  
SQUID: Superconductor Quantum Interference Device

**The SQUID is a flux-to-voltage transducer**

(a)  $I$  vs  $\Phi$  characteristic, (b)  $V$  vs  $\Phi$  at constant bias current, (c)  $V$  vs  $\Phi$  at constant bias current.

D. Winkler    I780, 18-20-19-20, Oral Session VII, Thursday, 10/7/03, SQUID: The key to measurement 2, 6/11/03

63

Properties of Thin Films      Electrical Properties

$< 100 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  Bio-magnetometry; NDE

[www.fz-juelich.de/fgs/fsg2/fsg2-sh/squid.htm](http://www.fz-juelich.de/fgs/fsg2/fsg2-sh/squid.htm)

FIG. 8. Peak amplitudes (arrows) and spectral densities of fields due to typical biomagnetic and noise sources.

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[medes.m.u-tokyo.ac.jp/research/MFG\\_i.html](http://medes.m.u-tokyo.ac.jp/research/MFG_i.html)

64