## **ToF-SIMS or XPS ?**



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# Time of Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS)



### Not ToF MS (laser, solution)

## X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)





## Modes of SIMS



- Material removal
- Elemental analysis
- Profiling



- Ultra surface analysis
- Elemental or molecular analysis
- Analysis complete before significant fraction of molecules destroyed

## **Secondary Ion Sputtering Process**





Atomic Emission

**Small Molecule Emission** 



## **Definition of Static SIMS**

When 'dose' of primaries is <u>low</u>: each ion strikes a *new* area of the surface = Static SIMS



TOF-SIMS analysis optimized in this regime

## **Exceeding Static SIMS**

'Dose' of primaries is increased: significant chance of striking a previously sampled area, loss of high molecular weight information



Atomic surface density  $\sim 10^{15}$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> Dose equivalent to  $\sim 10^{13}$ -10<sup>15</sup> atoms/cm<sup>2</sup>

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## **STM Before & After Static SIMS**



Si surface



## Si surface exposed to 3 x $10^{12}$ ions/ cm<sup>2</sup>

H.J.W. Zandvliet et al. in SIMS VIII Proceedings

## **Basic Principles**



- · Each pulse of primary ions creates a pulse of secondary ions
- Secondaries of different masses within a single 'cycle' arrive at the detector at different times according to the relation: K.E.  $=\frac{1}{2}$  mv<sup>2</sup>

## **Modes of Operation**

### Surface Spectroscopy

Elemental and molecular information Unlimited mass range ppm/ppb sensitivity Mass resolution > 10,000



Spatial Dimension

### Surface Imaging

Parallel mass detection Lateral resolution < 100 nm

### **Depth Profiling**

Depth resolution < 1nm Thin layers from 1 nm to microns Parallel mass detection



depth

## Positive spectrum of MoS<sub>2</sub> monolayer



## Images of AI Metal Matrix Composite Heat Treatment: 500°C, 6 hr.







## **TOF-SIMS Imaging of PET-Biotin**

Biotin CN<sup>-</sup> m/z 26



Biotin C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>⁺ m/z 227

## Depth profiling



## **Comparison of Analyzed Volumes**



Dynamic SIMS (1 Element)



## Boron Implant Depth Profile





Depth profile of a Cr/Ni multi-layer standard using a 2 nA, 15 kV Ga<sup>+</sup> beam in the one-beam phase depth profiling mode. At this impact energy of 12 keV, the layers are not resolved beyond the second Ni layer.



Depth profile of a Cr/Ni multi-layer standard using a 2 nA, 5 kV Ga<sup>+</sup> beam in the one-beam phase depth profiling mode. At this impact energy of 2 keV, the layers are well resolved throughout the entire structure.

## Post analysis with raw data



## Advantage of ToF-SIMS

- Detection of All Elements H, He, Li, etc.
- Isotopic Detection 2H, 3H, 18O, 13C, etc.
- Trace Sensitivity ppm to ppb range
- High Spatial Resolution
- –Typical Lateral Resolution < 100nm
- Parallel Detection of All Masses
- Detailed Molecular Information organic or inorganic
- Molecular Imaging
- 3D profiling
- Analysis of All Materials conductor, semiconductor, insulator

## Disadvantages

- Secondary ion yields are often highly dependent on the matrix
- Secondary ion yields vary by more than six orders of magnitude across the elements
- Destructive
- Well-characterized reference standards that are as close as possible to the matrix of the samples of interest are needed for quantification
- Qualitative
- Data interpretation could be difficult.

# Time of Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS)



## X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)



## What is X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)?



- Surfaces are composed of atoms of different elements.
- Electrons surround the nucleus of an atom, occupying orbitals at different energies (e.g., 1s, 2s, 2p, ... etc.).
- In XPS, the sample surface is irradiated with X-rays from a photon source (typically Al Kα: 1486.6 eV).
- The X-rays cause electrons having lower binding energy to be ejected (photoelectrons) from the topmost surface (≤ 10 nm) of the sample material.
- The kinetic energy (KE) of the photoelectrons is measured by an analyzer to create an energy/intensity spectrum.
- The original binding energy (BE) of the photoelectrons is deduced from the measured kinetic energy and the X-ray photon energy by the following equation:

#### BE = hv - KE

- The photoelectron binding energy depends upon:
  - Element of origin.
  - Orbital from which electron was ejected.
  - Chemical state of the element.

## High Resolution C 1s and O 1s XPS Spectra: PET



· High resolution chemical state results were consistent with the structure of PET.



#### Peak Fit for the Pd 3d XPS Spectrum: 10% Pd/Activated Carbon Catalyst



http://xps-simplified.com



## Depth profiling by Ion Sputtering



Ar Ion

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## XPS Sputter-Cleaning and Depth Profiling

### XPS sputter-cleaning and depth profiling

- How can we access deeper layers for analysis?
  - By progressively removing material from the surface and doing XPS analysis at each step.
  - Monatomic argon ion (Ar<sup>+</sup>) beam etching is the most common method.
  - XPS data is collected in the etch crater after each time period of ion sputtering.
  - Ar<sup>+</sup> ion etching damages some inorganic and most organic/polymeric materials.
  - Recently, argon cluster ion sources have been developed for "soft" depth profiling of beam sensitive materials, which maintains the chemical state information in XPS.





# XPS Depth Profile Analysis of a 10-Layer Low-E Glass Coating (Example-3)



Variation in Sampling Depth with Angle-Resolved XPS (ARXPS)



### Angle-Resolved XPS (ARXPS): Variation of Collection Angle

- By changing the electron collection angle, the XPS information depth varies.
- This variation gives a measured intensity:

 $I = I^{\infty} \exp(-d/\lambda \cos\theta)$ 

- Electrons acquired at a grazing ("surface") angle come exclusively from a shallow region of the sample.
- Electrons acquired at a near-normal ("bulk") angle may come from deeper into the sample.
- Spectra acquired from thin films on substrates are affected by the collection angle.





## Ultraviolet Photoelectron Spectroscopy (UPS)



XPS

UPS



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## Valence Electrons





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electron intensity [cts]

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## Comparison table

	XPS	ToF-SIMS	SEM-EDX
In	X-ray	Ion beam such as Ga, Au cluster, or Bi cluster	Electron beam
out	Photoelectron	Secondary ion	X-ray
Sampling depth	Up to 10 nm	Up to 5 nm	0.5 to 3um
Information	Elemental analysis except for H and He Chemical state	Elemental analysis for all elements	Elemental analysis above carbon
Quantitative or qualitative	Quantitative ±5%	Semi-quantitative	Quantitative ±15%
Detection limit	0.1 at%	ppm to ppb	0.5 weight%
Elemental mapping spatial resolution	>3 um	<1 um	0.3 um
Analysis spot size	20 um to 900 um	1 um to 800 um	10 nm
Depth profiling	Yes	Yes	No
Insulating sample	Yes	Yes	Need Au coating
Data interpretation	Easy	Difficult	Easy
Surface damage	Non-destructive	Destructive	Non-destructive

### Which instrument should be chosen for analysis?

- 1. Mapping MoS<sub>2</sub> flakes?
- 2. Check Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> ratio?
- 3. Concentration change along the depth?
- 4. Measure work function of a metal film?
- 5. Detect nitrogen or sulfur for monolayer molecular film?
- 6. Identify unknown spot?
- 7. Gel or solution sample?

## Thank you!

