

Surface Analysis by XPS & ToF-SIMS Basics, Strengths, and Limitations

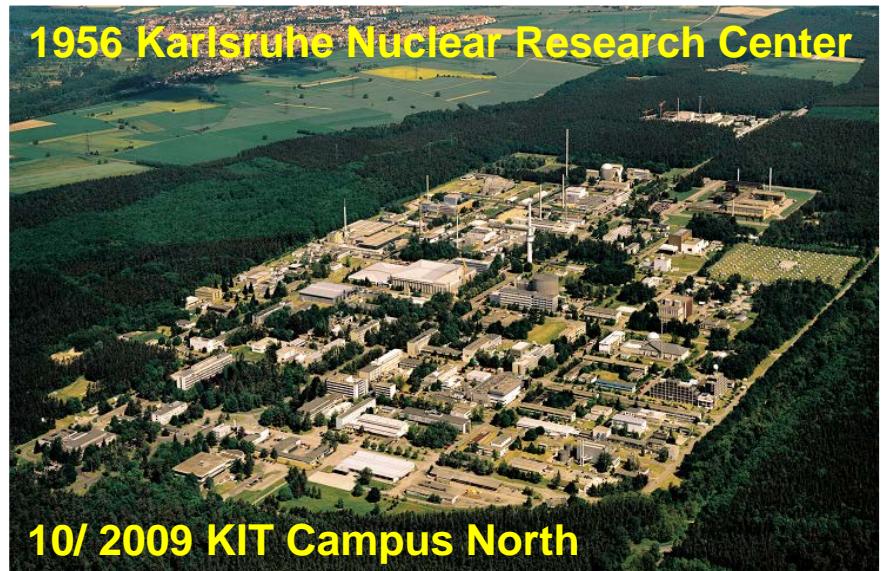
Michael Bruns

Institute for Applied Materials (IAM-ESS)

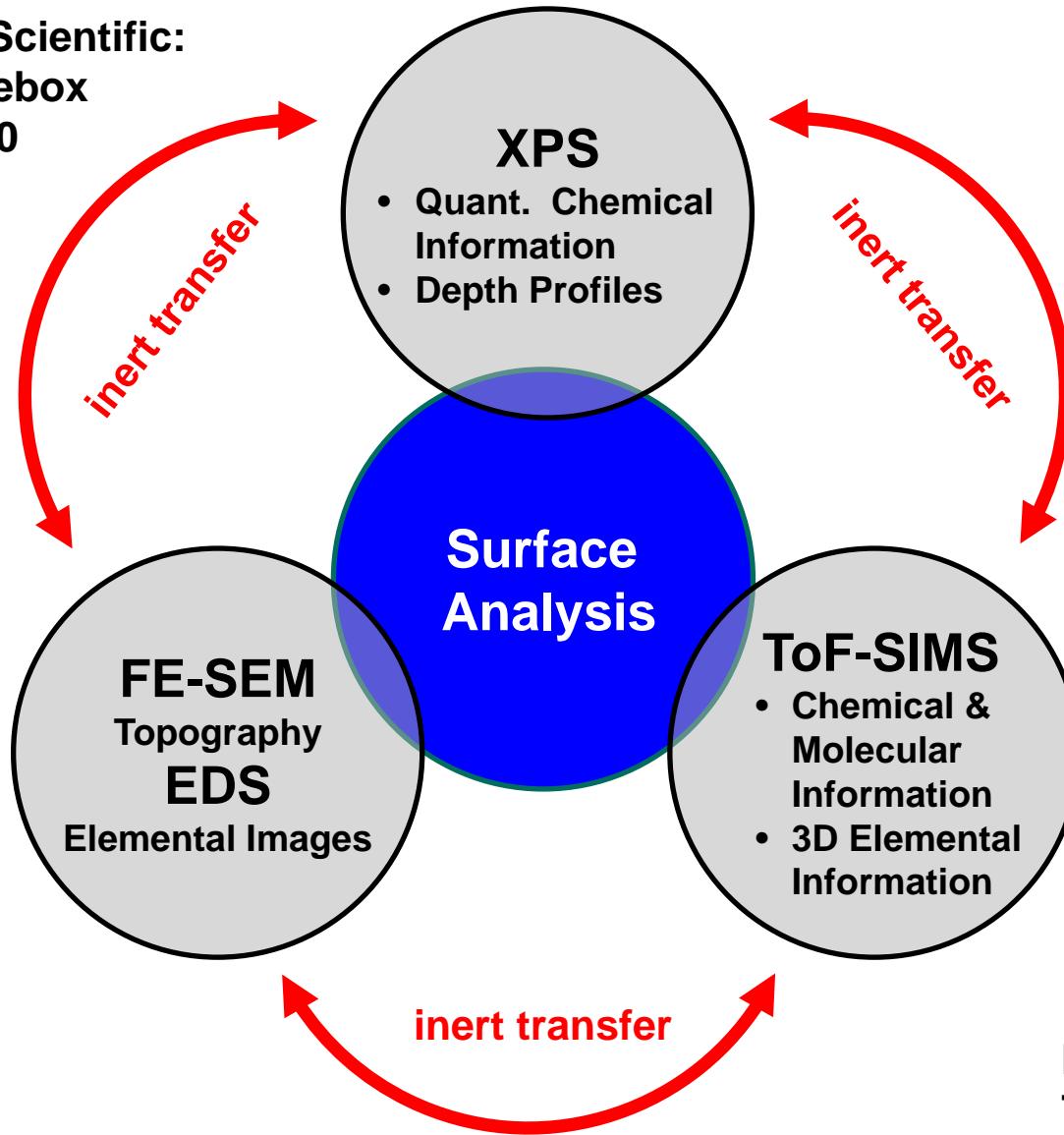
michael.bruns@kit.edu



The Merger of Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe and Universität Karlsruhe



Thermo Fisher Scientific:
K-Alpha & Glovebox
ESCA5/Alpha110



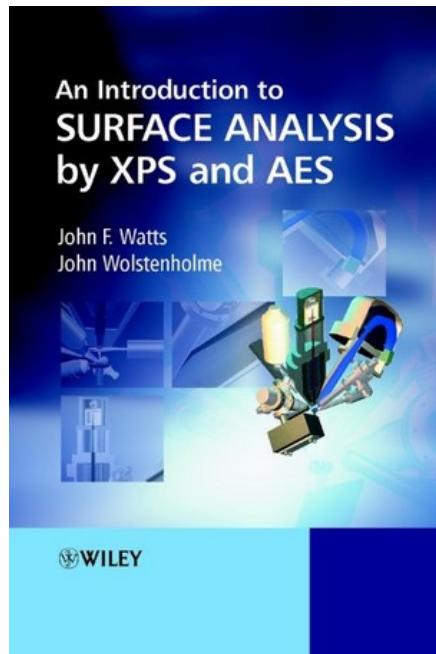
Zeiss GmbH:
Merlin

ION-TOF GmbH:
TOF.SIMS 5

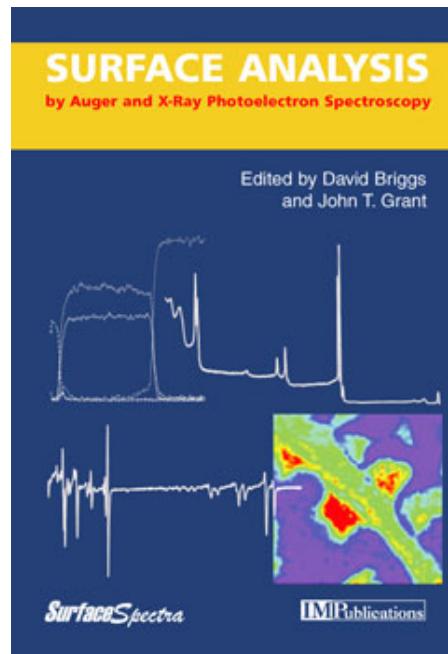
Textbooks

X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy
Auger Electron Spectroscopy
Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry

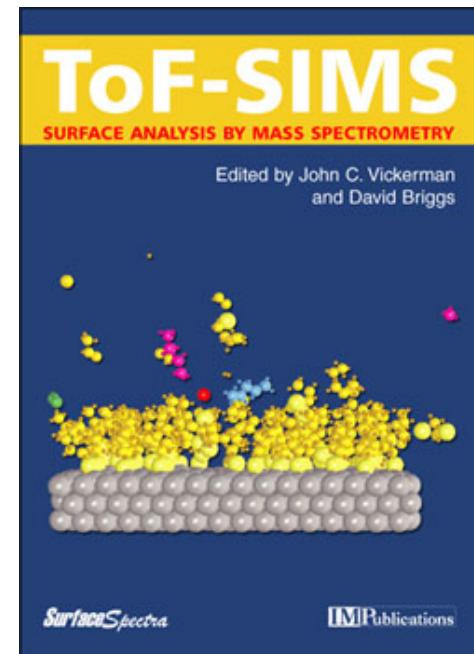
XPS
AES
ToF-SIMS



~ 60



~ 200 €



~ 200 €

→ www.xpssimplified.com

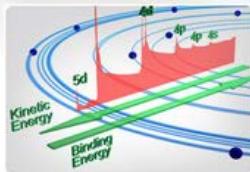


XPS

X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy

Analyzing surfaces and interfaces in ultra high vacuum conditions

[What is XPS? ▶](#)



What is XPS?

Collecting chemical information from the top 1–10nm of materials ranging from metals to polymers to organic thin films.

[Learn More ▶](#)



Knowledge Base

Explore our information-packed Knowledge Base of elemental properties and XPS analysis.

[Learn More ▶](#)



MAGCIS Dual Ion Beam

Dual ion source for monatomic and gas cluster depth profiling and sample cleaning.

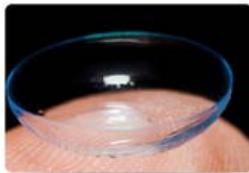
[Learn More ▶](#)



XPS Instrumentation

Learn how our line of XPS systems fits your application requirements.

[Learn More ▶](#)



XPS Features

Discover what features are available to solve your surface analysis problems.

[Learn More ▶](#)

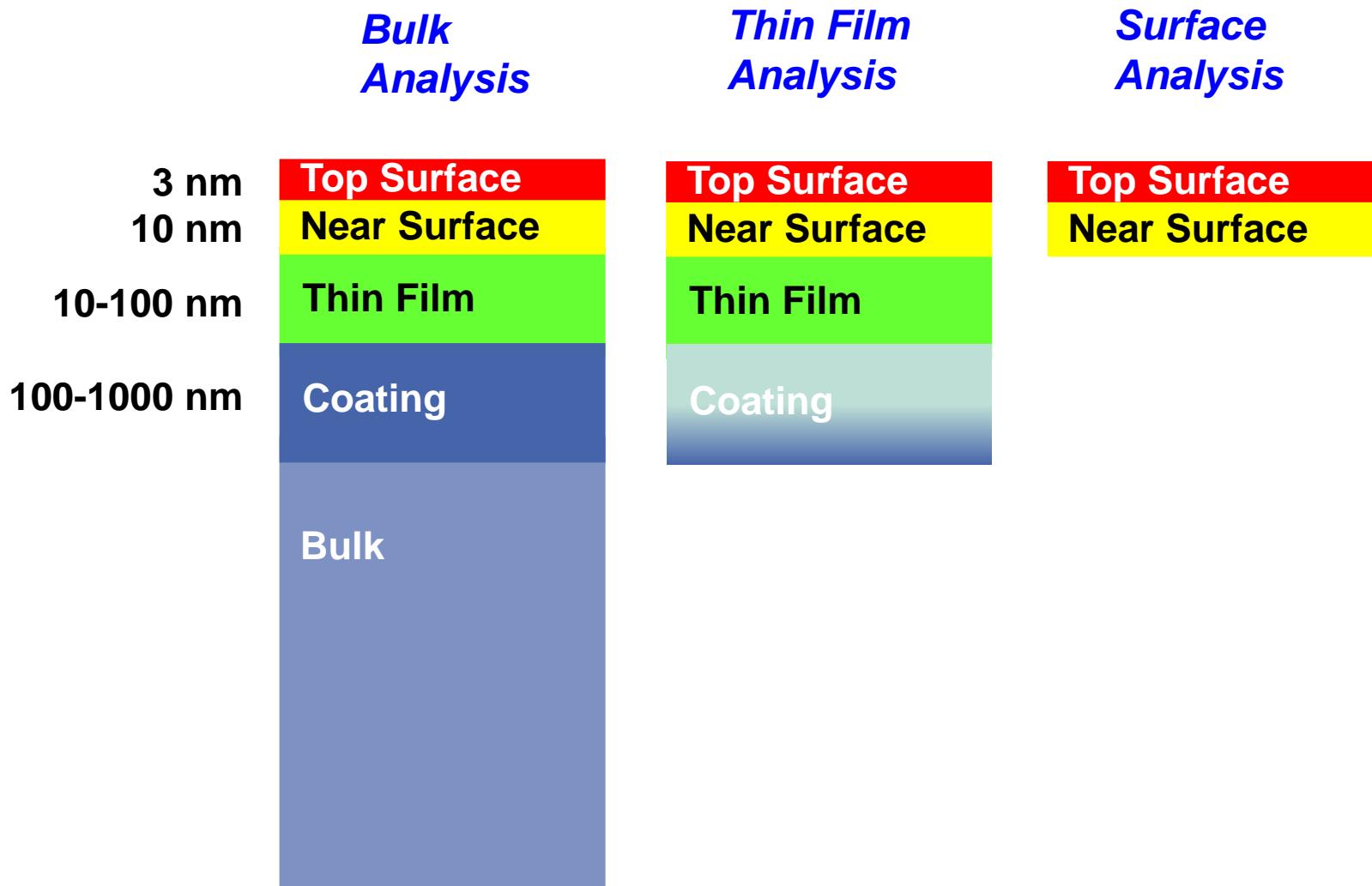


XPS Applications

To understand the chemical composition of surfaces and thin films, use XPS to analyze from 3 to 300 atomic layers.

[Learn More ▶](#)

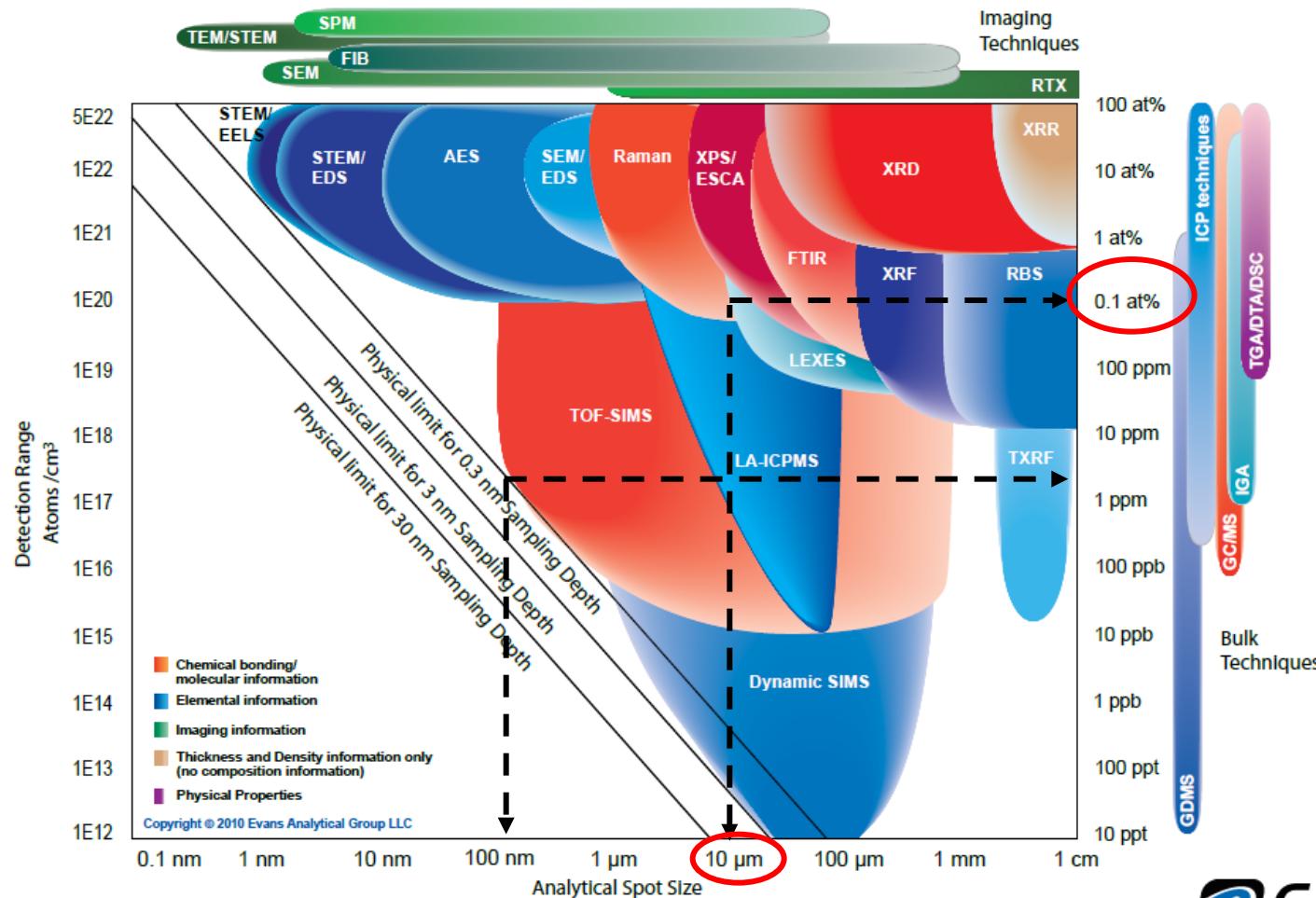
Surface Analysis



Surface Analysis

Analytical Resolution Versus Detection Limit

The EAGLABS™ Bubble Chart

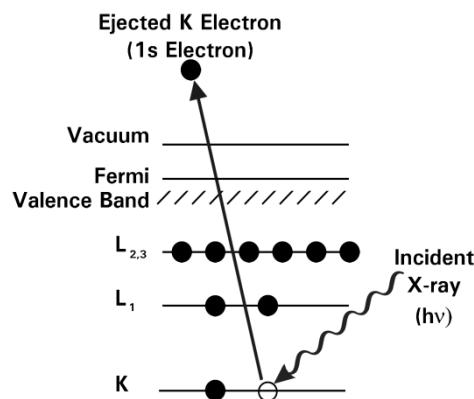


WWW.EAGLABS.COM

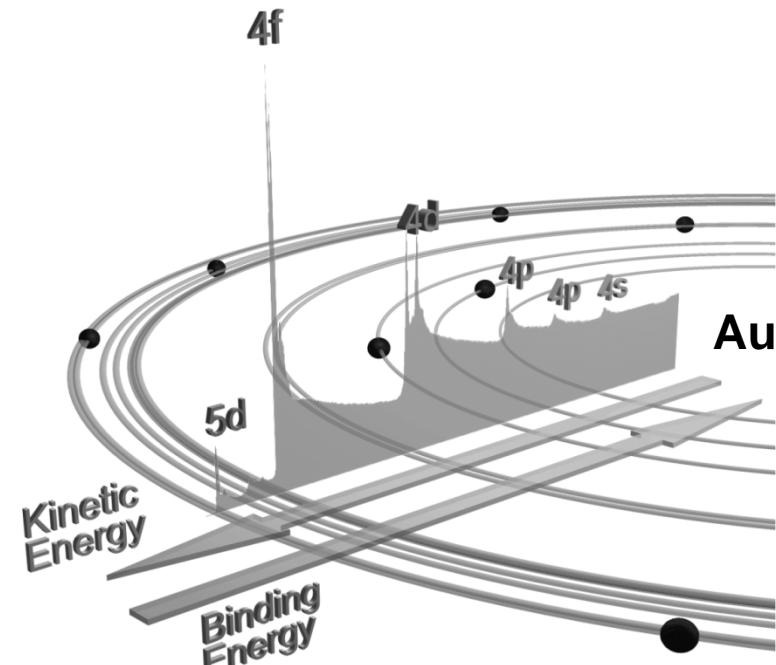
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X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)

Relationship to Electronic Structure



$$E_B = h\nu - E_K - \omega$$



(mono) Al K α 1486.6 eV
Mg K α 1253.6 eV

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| s | singlet |
| p | doublet (3/2 & 1/2) |
| d | doublet (5/2 & 3/2) |
| f | doublet (7/2 & 5/2) |

John F. Watts, John Wolstenholme, *An Introduction to Surface Analysis by XPS and AES*, Wiley & Sons, Chichester, UK, 2003

XPS Characteristics

- Depth of analysis 5nm
- All elements except hydrogen
- Readily quantified
- All materials (ultra high vacuum compatible)
- Depth profiling by angle resolved XPS or sputtering
- Analysis area mm² to 30 micrometres
- Chemical images



VG ESCA5 & Thermo Fisher
Alpha 110 Analyzer

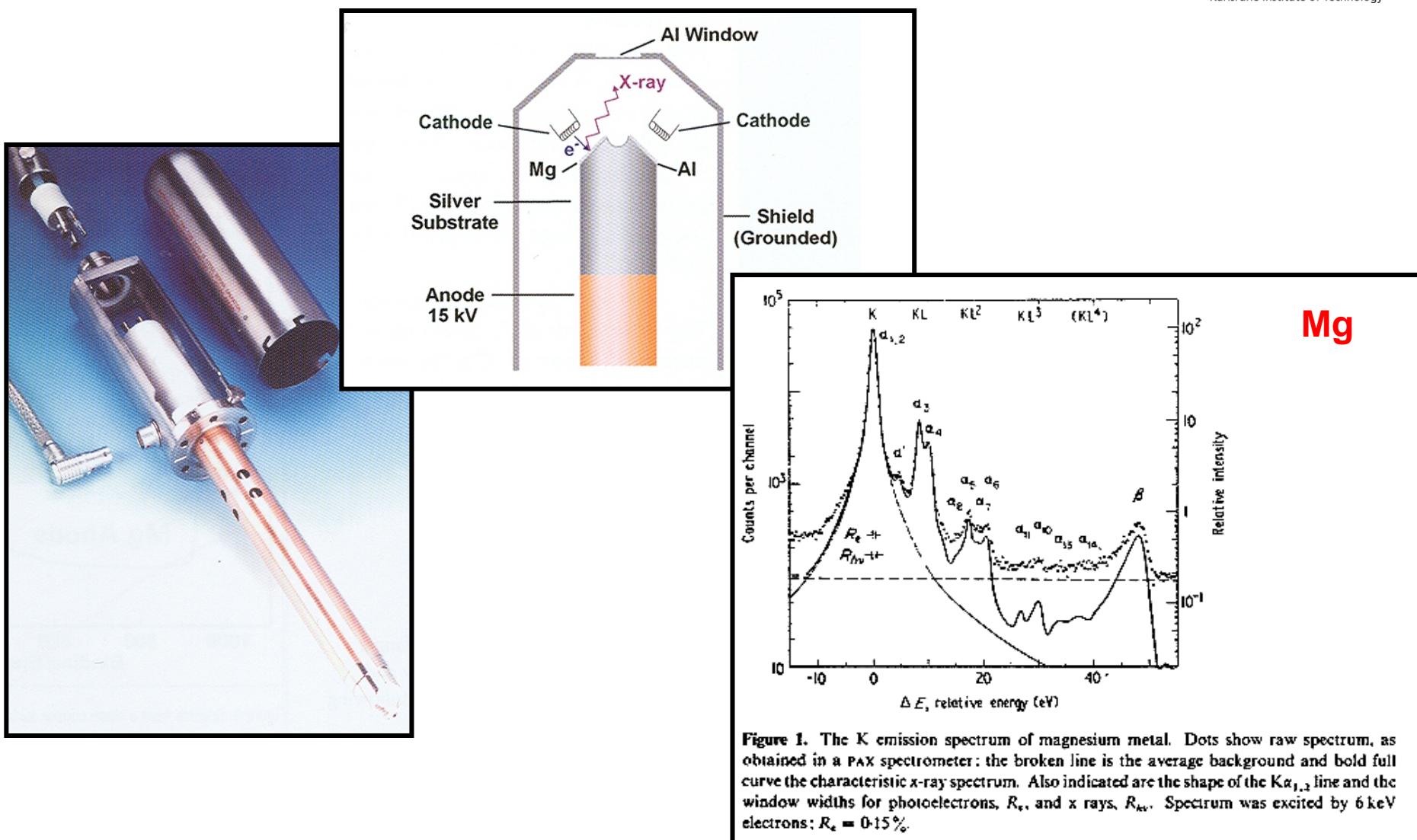


Thermo Fisher K-Alpha

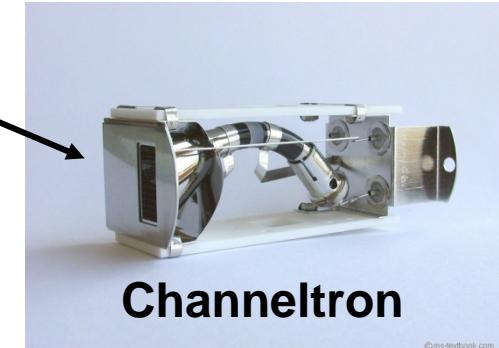
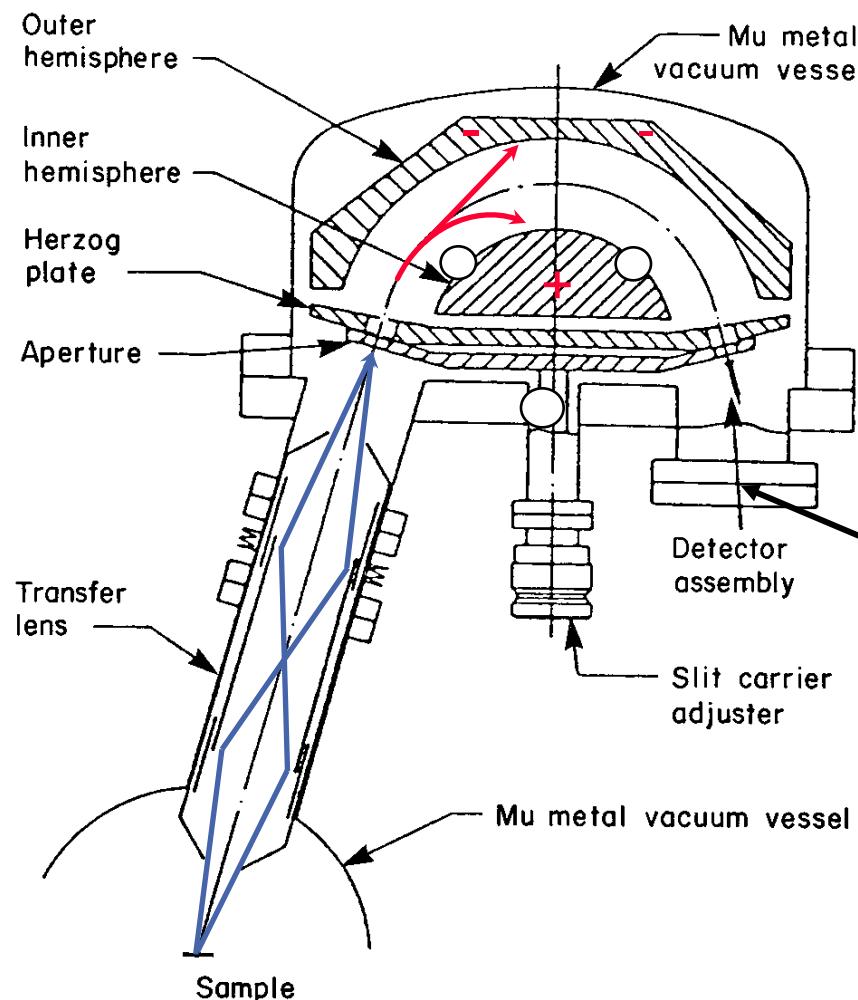
Complementary Methods

- ✓ ToF-SIMS
- ✓ LEIS
- ✓ RBS
- ✓ FE-SEM & EDS
- ✓ TEM

XPS Instrumentation: X-Rays

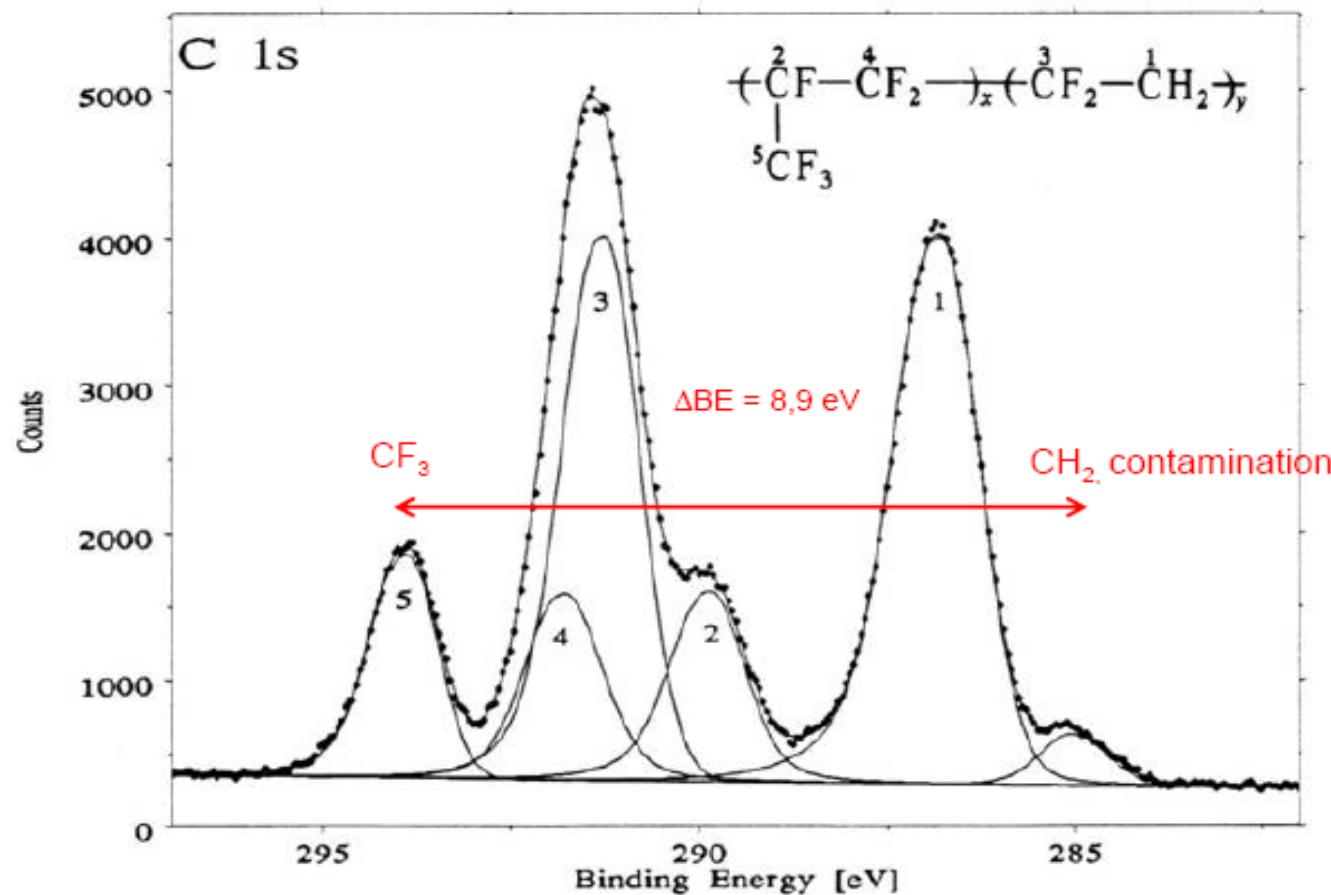


XPS Instrumentation: Concentric Hemispherical Analyzer

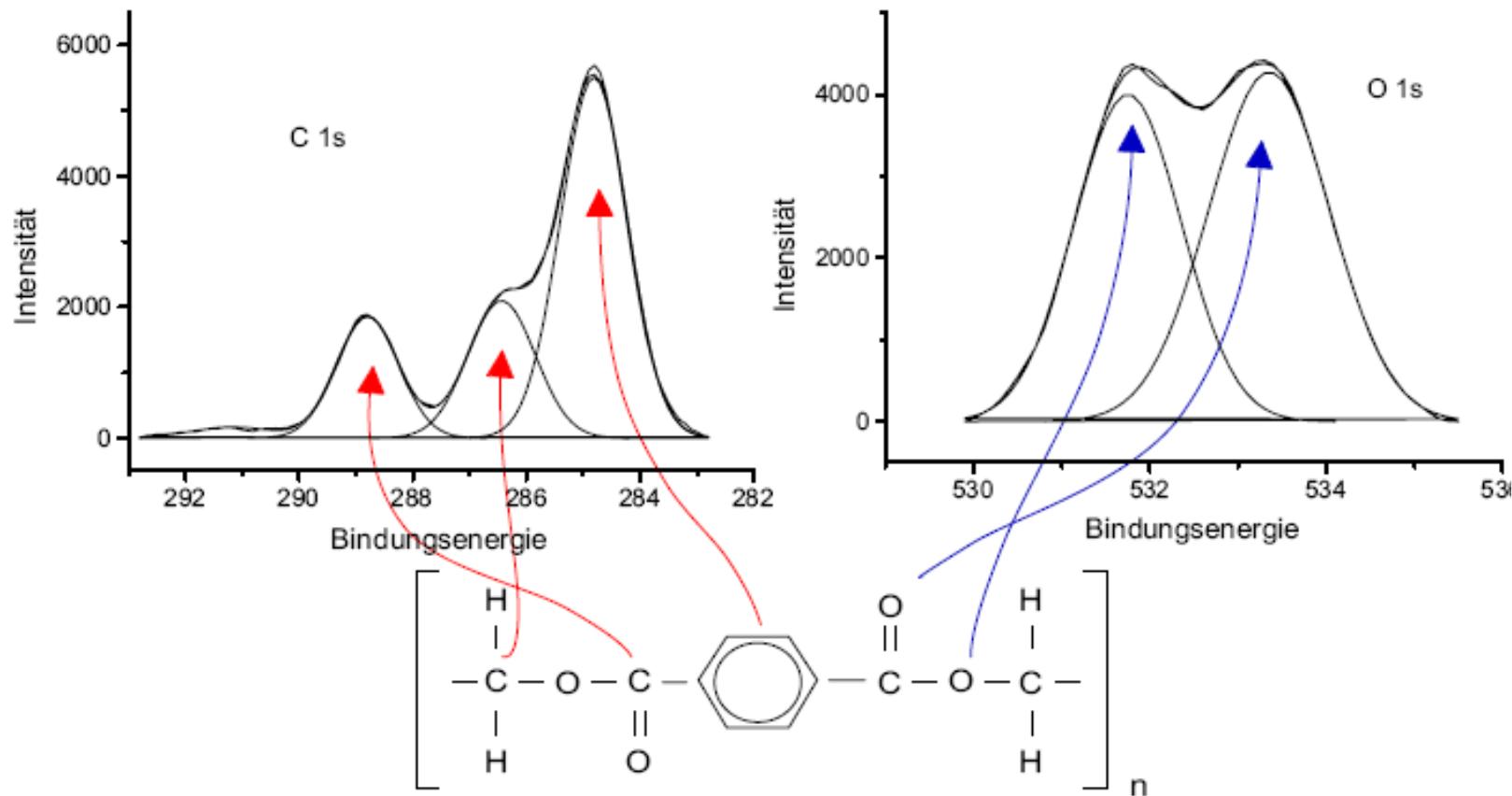


Mu-Metal:
Ni 81/Fe19 - Alloy

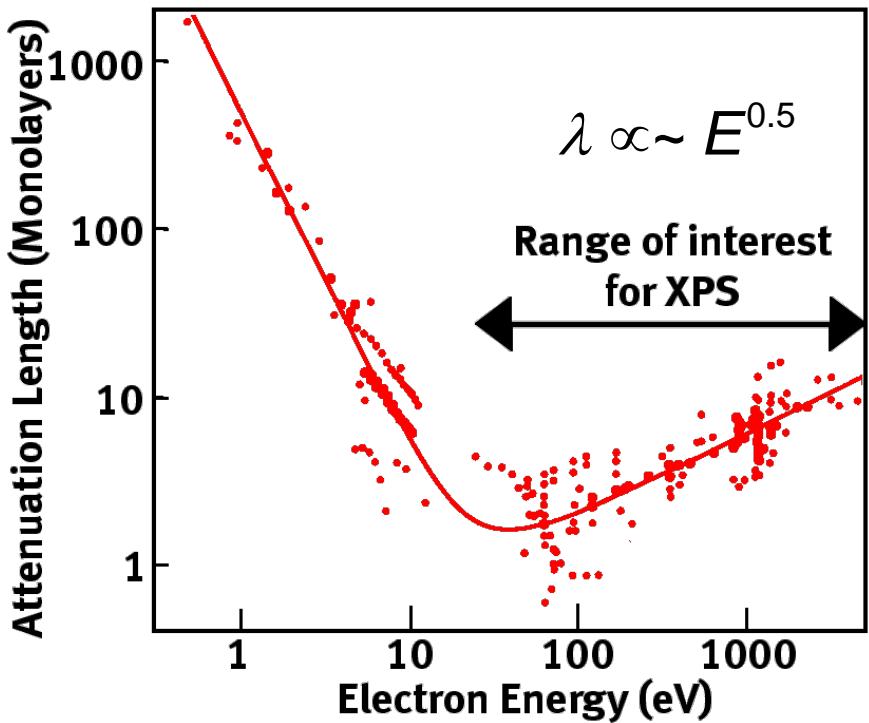
Speziation / Chemical Shift



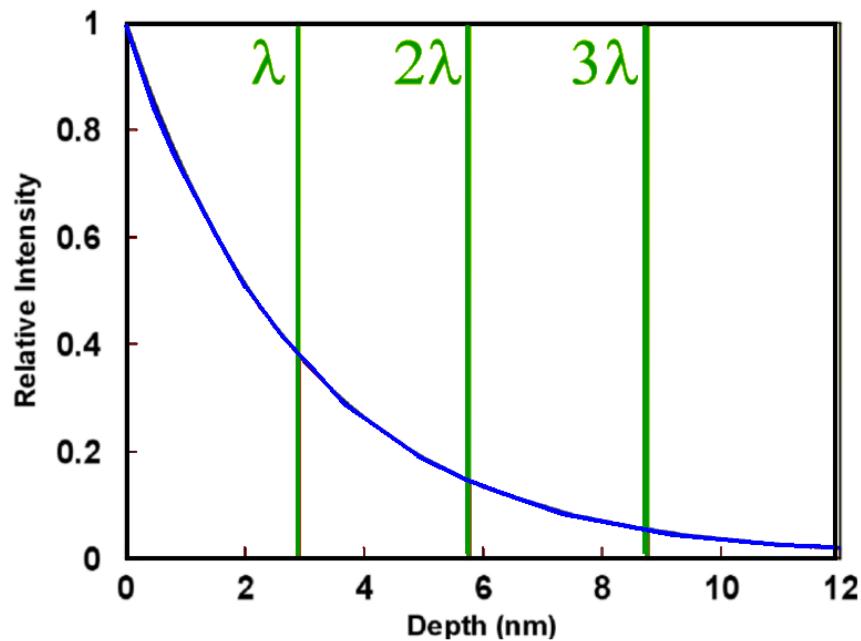
Speziation – Chemical Shift



XPS: Depth of Analysis



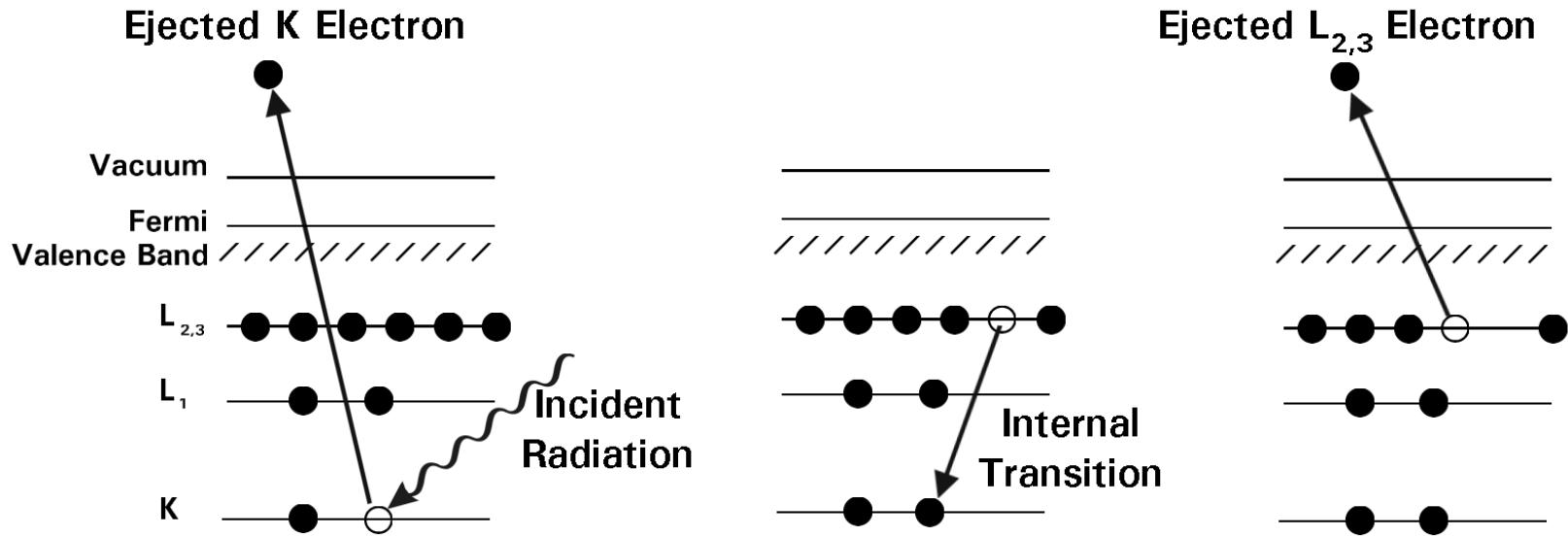
$$\lambda = a_M \left(\frac{2170}{E_{kin}^2} + 0.55 \sqrt{a_M E_{kin}} \right)$$



Intensity as a function of depth

- 65% of the signal from $< 1\lambda$
- 85% from $< 2\lambda$
- 95% from $< 3\lambda$

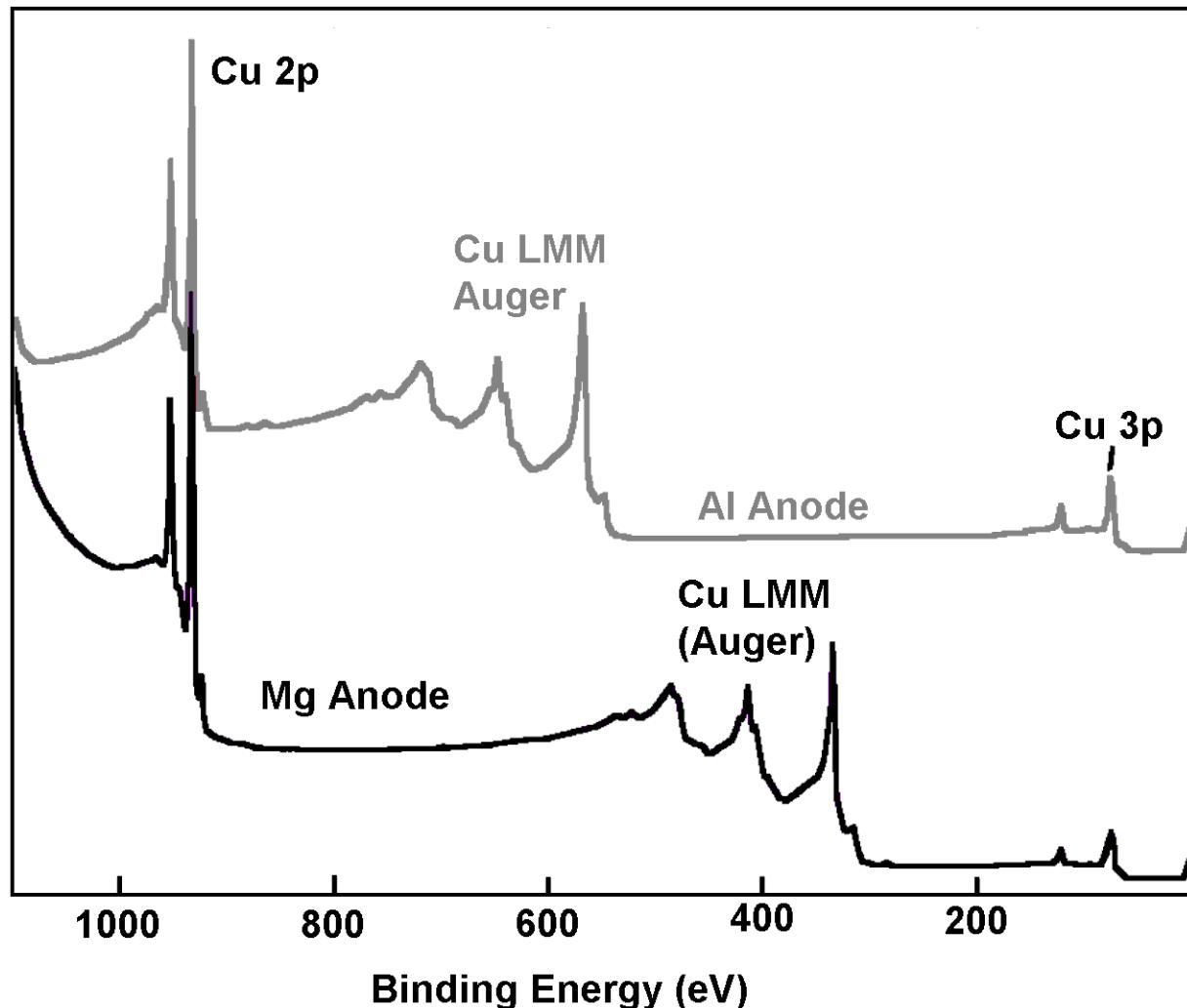
X-Ray Induced Auger Emission



$$E_{KL2,3L2,3}(Z) = E_K(Z) - [E_{L2,3}(Z) + E_{L2,3}(Z + 1)]$$

$MgK\alpha$ vs. $AlK\alpha$ X-Rays

1253.6 eV 1486.6 eV

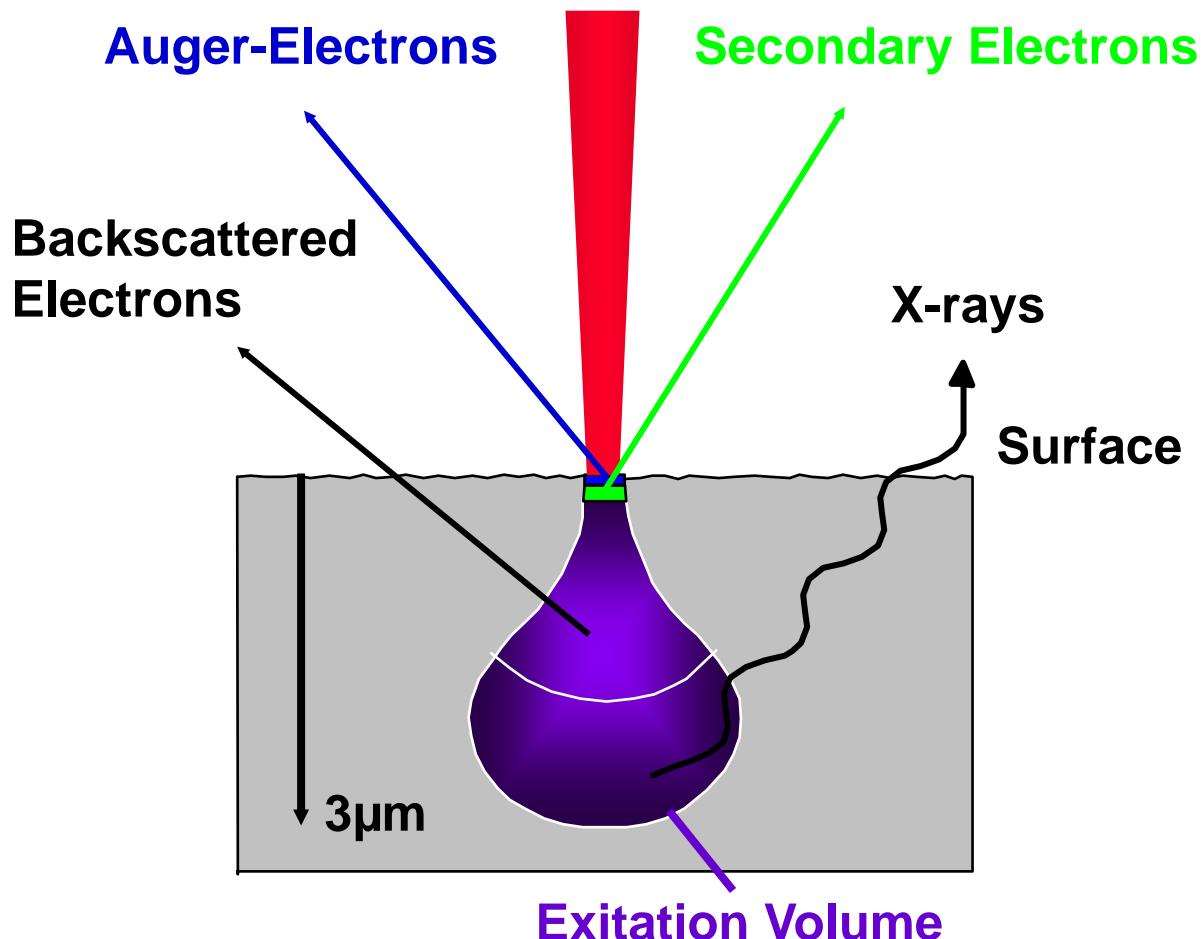


- XPS and Auger peaks

Electron Spectroscopy (AES)

Electron Solid Interactions

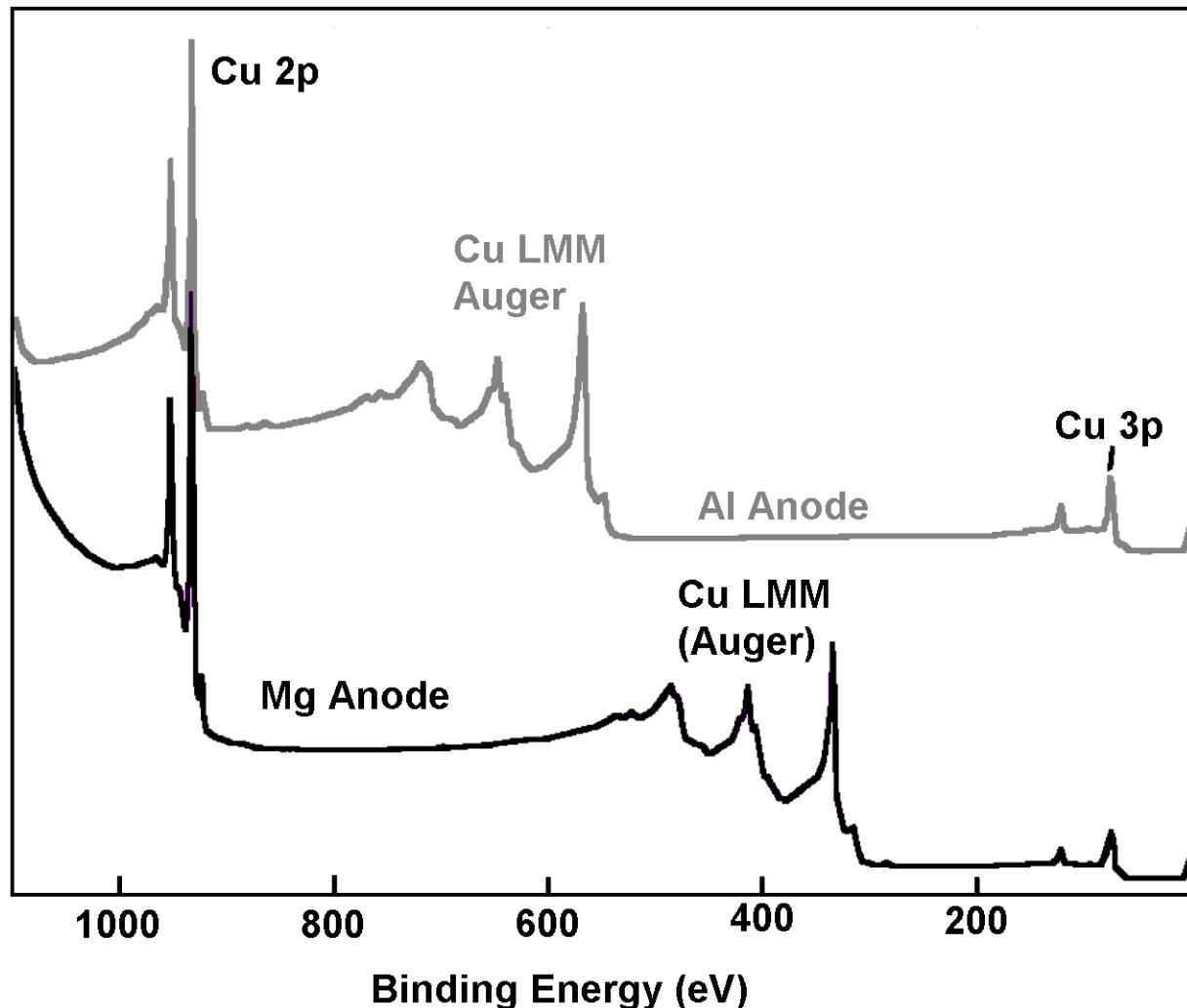
Primary Electron Beam



- All elements $Z > 2$
- Conducting and semi-conducting surfaces
- Spatial resolution $< 10\text{nm}$
- Detection limit $> 0.1\text{at.\%}$
- Quantitative elemental information

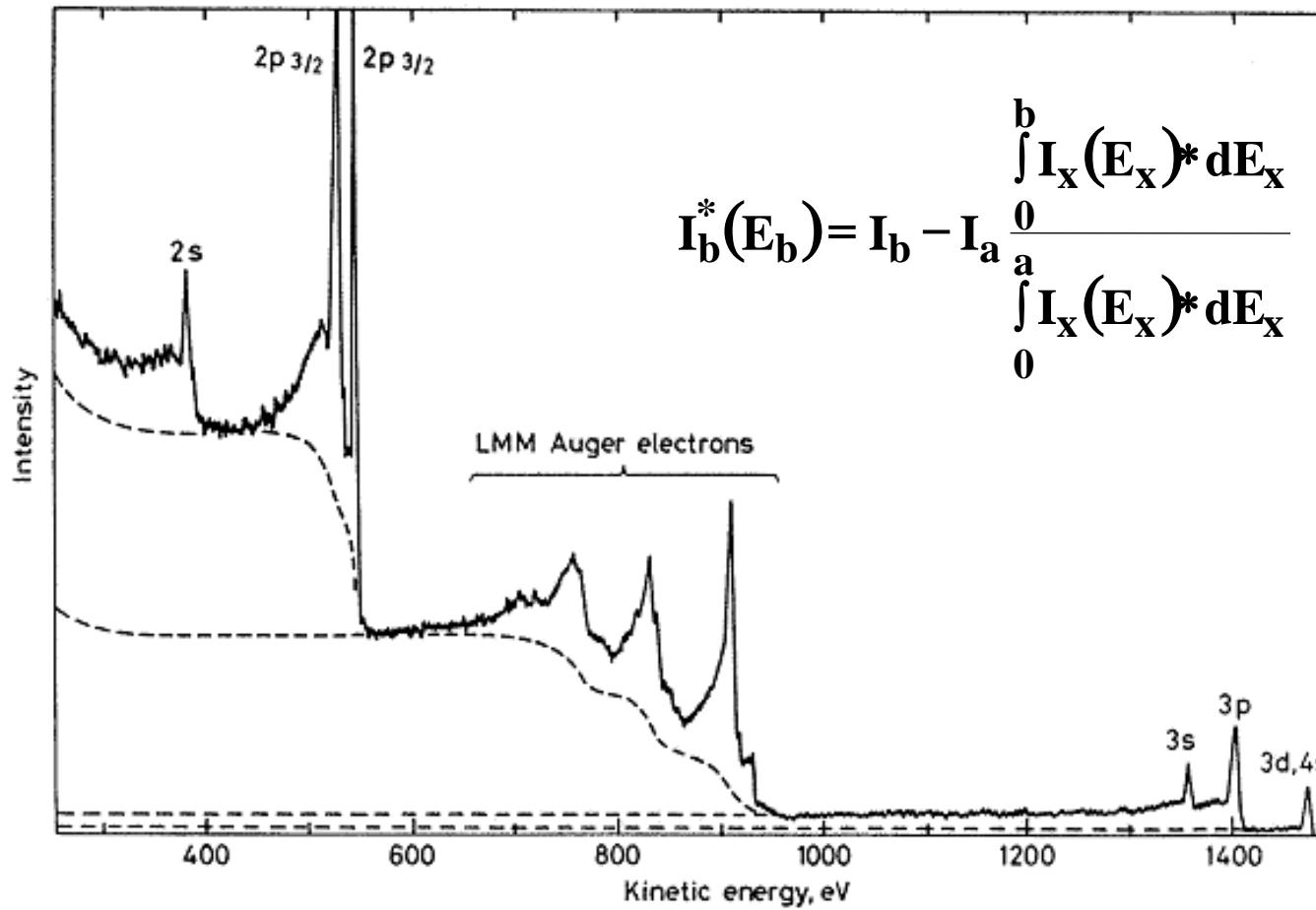
$MgK\alpha$ vs. $AlK\alpha$ X-Rays

1253.6 eV 1486.6 eV



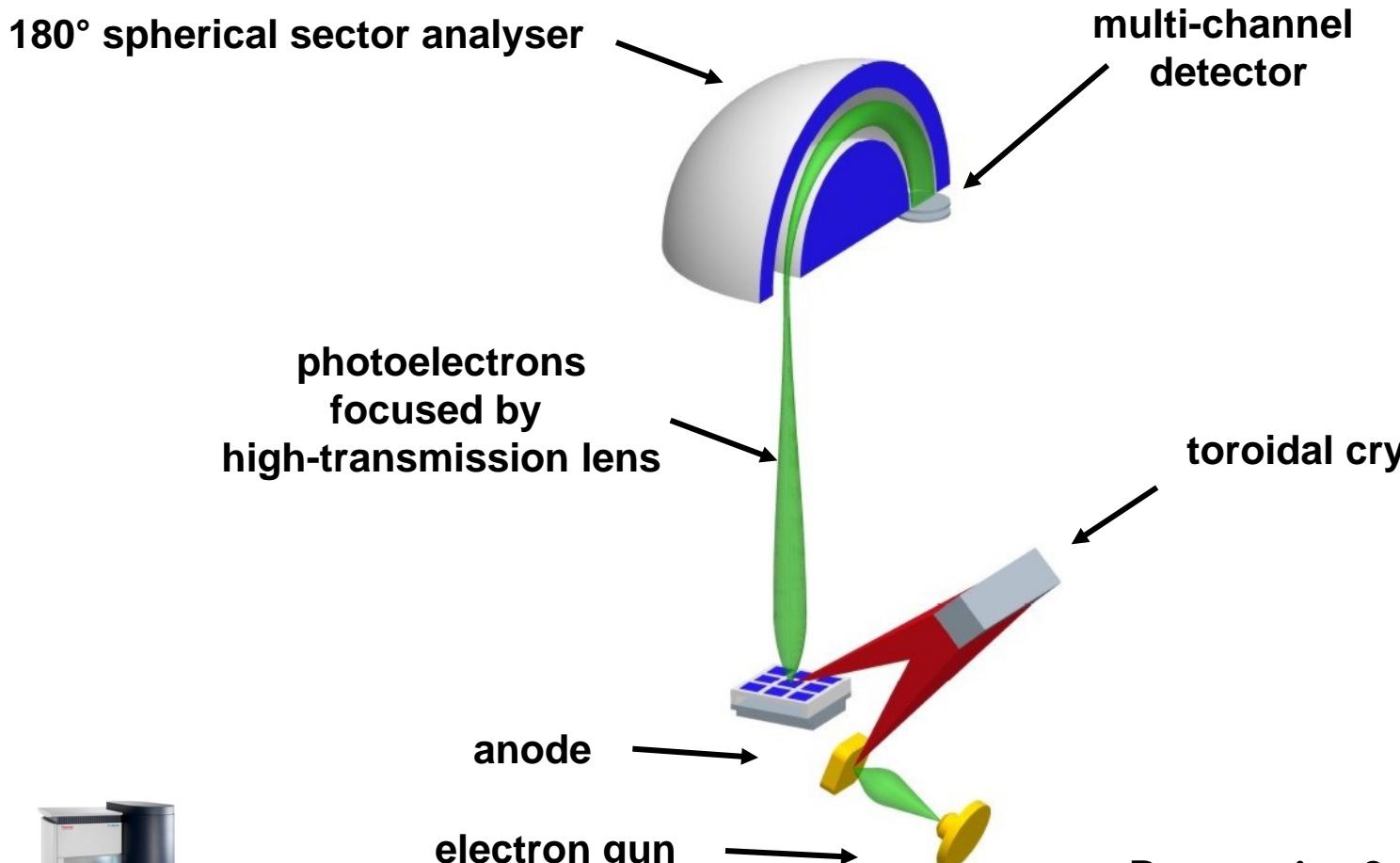
- XPS and Auger peaks
- Shake-up/off satellites
- X-ray satellites
- Background
- Surface charging

Shirley Type Background



Monochromatic AlK α X-Rays

FWHM 0.85 → 0.26 eV

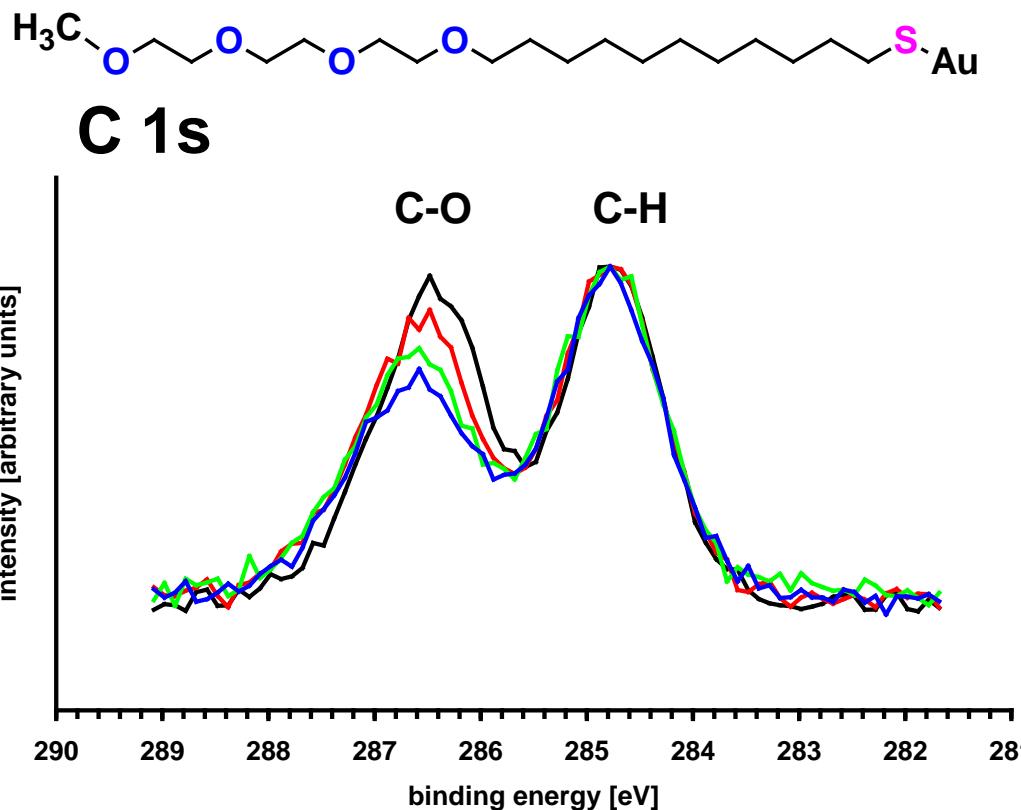


$$\text{Bragg: } n\lambda = 2d \sin\theta$$
$$\theta = 78.5^\circ, \text{AlK}\alpha \Leftrightarrow \text{Quartz 1010}$$



Speciation: SAMs for Biological Applications

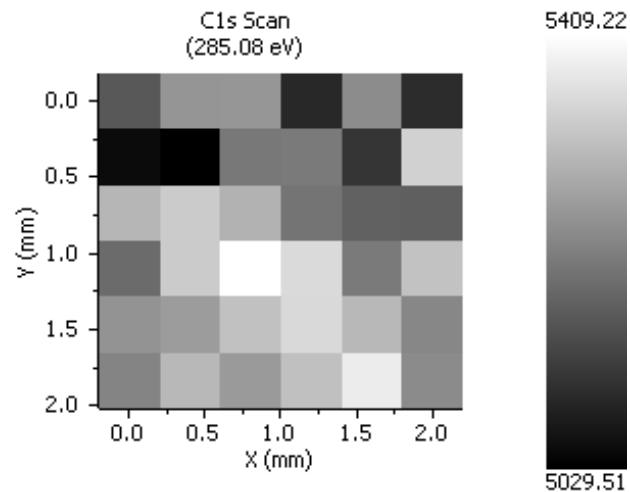
X-Ray Induced Damage



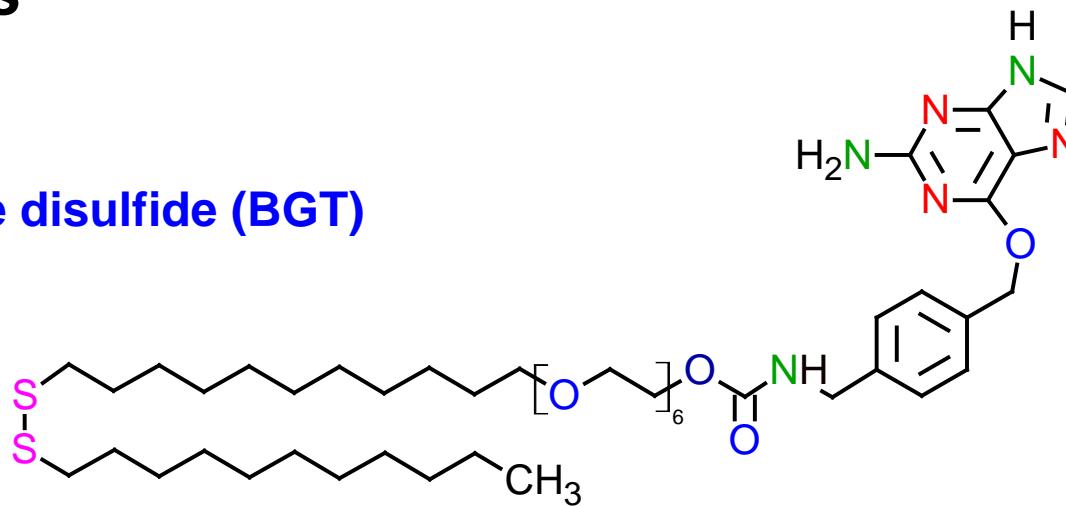
SAM alteration dependant on the X-ray exposure time (— as received, - - 9 min., - - 21min., - - 27 min.).

→ microfocused X-rays

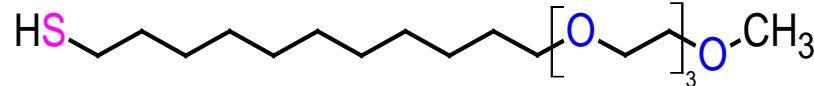
1. Multi-point analysis with short acquisition time
2. Collapse data set to one single spectrum



Benzylguanine disulfide (BGT)



EG3OMe thiol



Methoxy-capped tri(ethylene glycol) undecanethiol

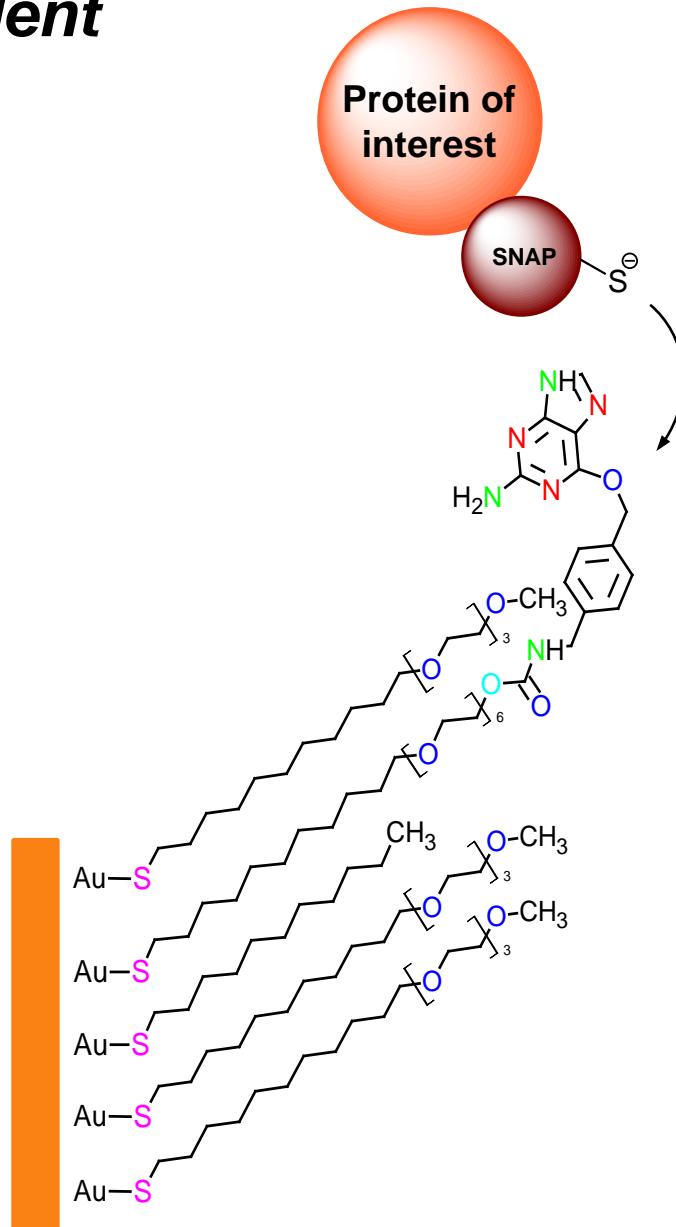
1. S. Engin, V. Trouillet, C. M. Franz, A. Welle, M. Bruns, and D. Wedlich, *Langmuir* 26 (2010) 6097-6101.
2. M. Bruns, C. Barth, P. Brüner, S. Engin, T. Grehl, C. Howell, P. Koelsch, P. Mack, P. Nagel, V. Trouillet, D. Wedlich, R. G. White, *Surf. Interface Anal.* 44 (2012) 909–913.

SNAP-tag system for covalent immobilization of proteins

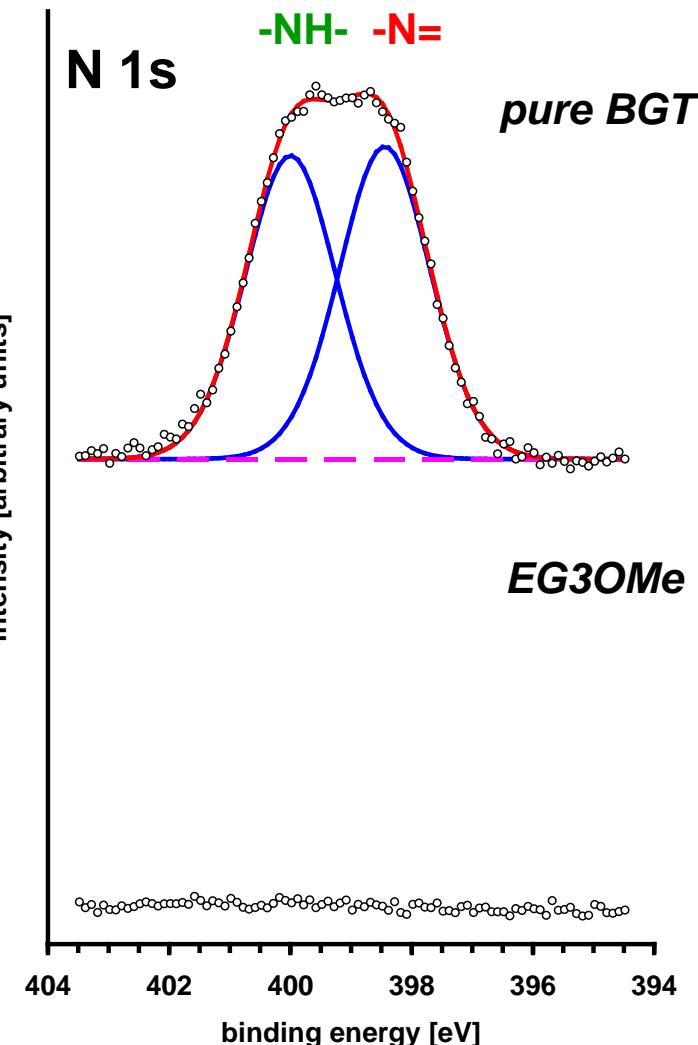
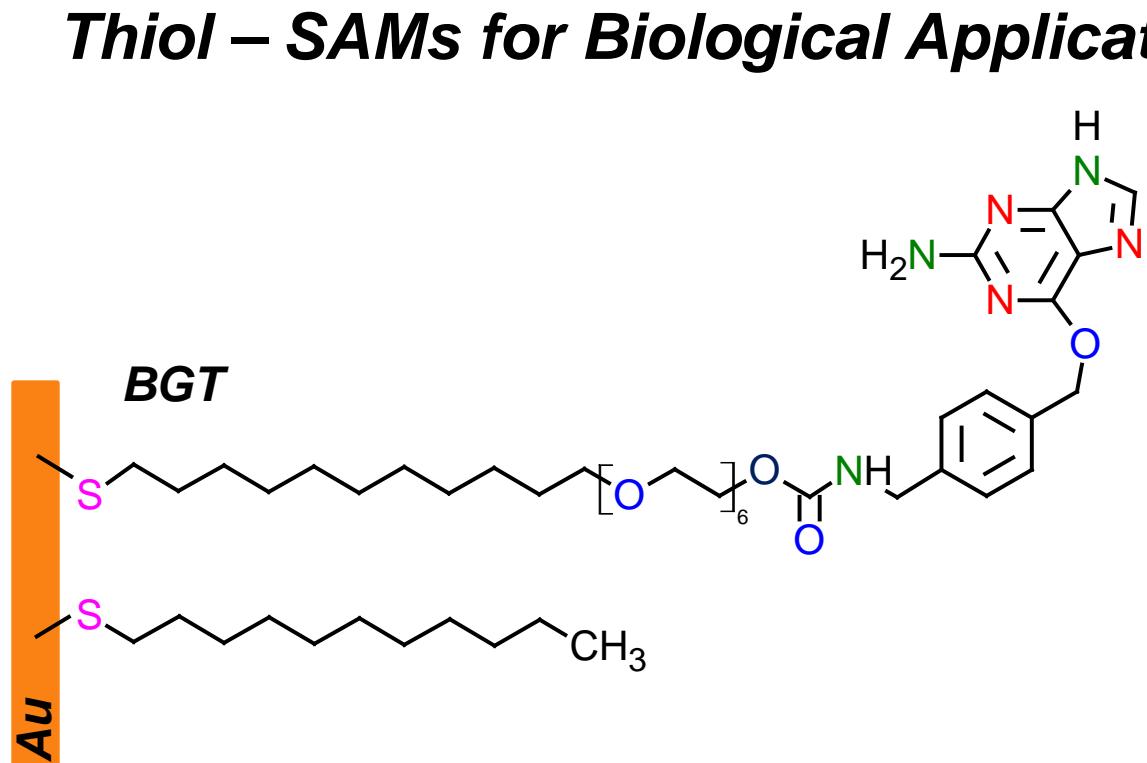
Applications

- **cell culture:** cell adhesion, migration, differentiation
- **biosensors in diagnosis,**
- **lab-on-chip technology,**
-

**SNAP-tag system:
genetically modified
 O^6 -alkylguanin-DNA alkyltransferase**

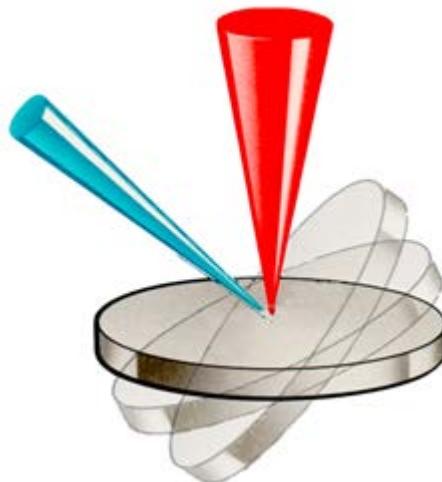
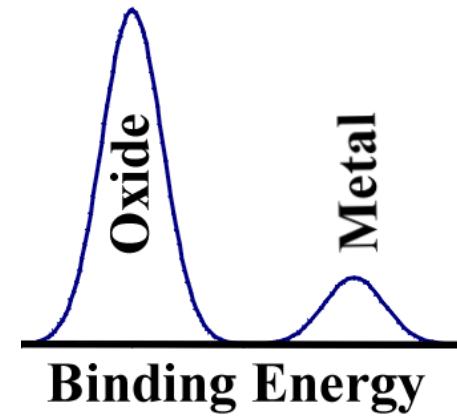
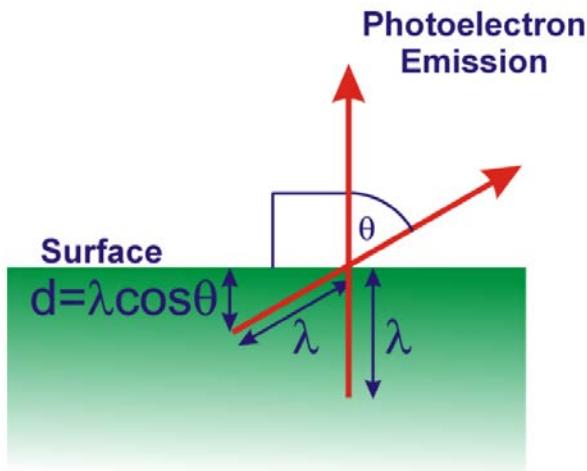
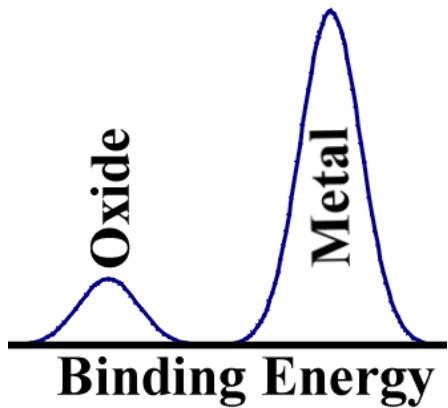


Thiol – SAMs for Biological Applications

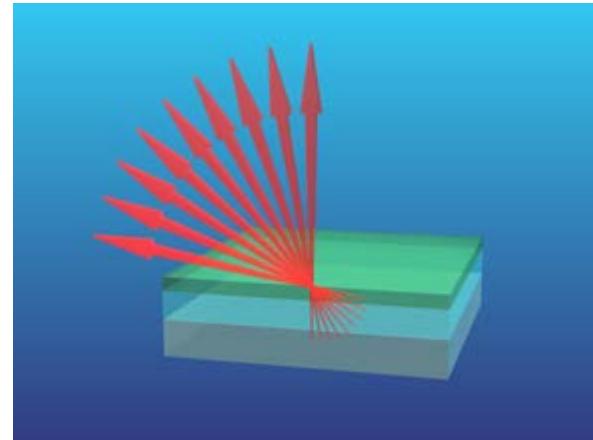
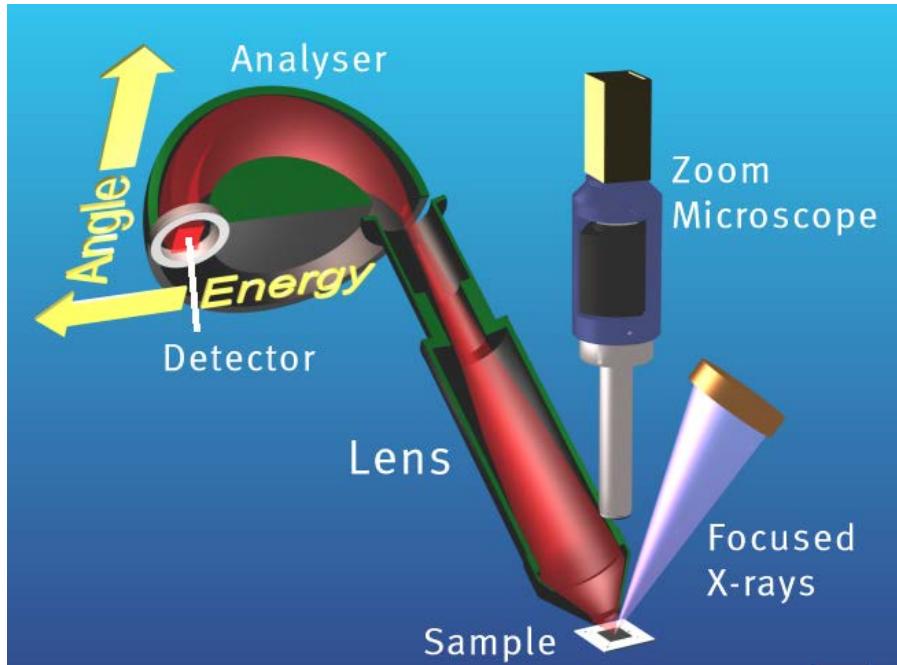


XPS Information Depth

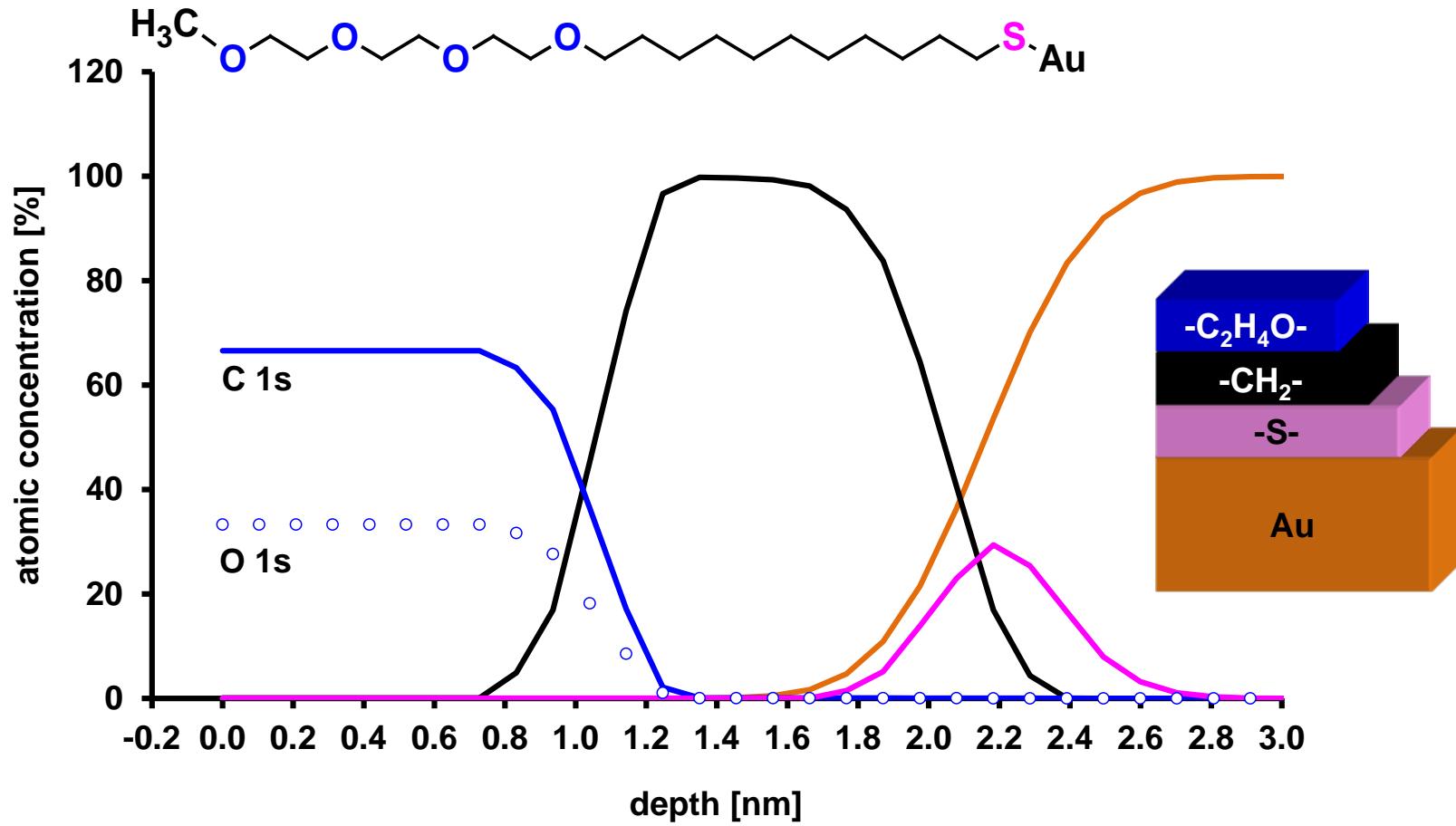
... Depends on Electron Emission Angle



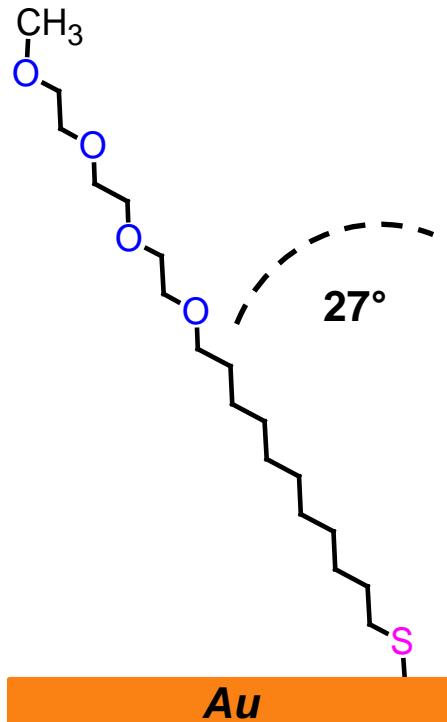
Parallel ARXPS: non-Destructive Depth Profile



Parallel ARXPS: EG3OMe SAM non-Destructive Depth Profile



High-sensitive Low Energy Ion Scattering SAM Thickness

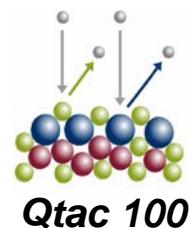


Projectile: 3 keV ${}^3\text{He}^+$

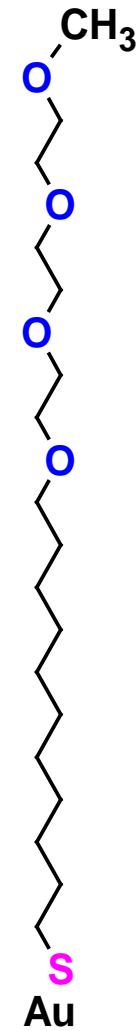
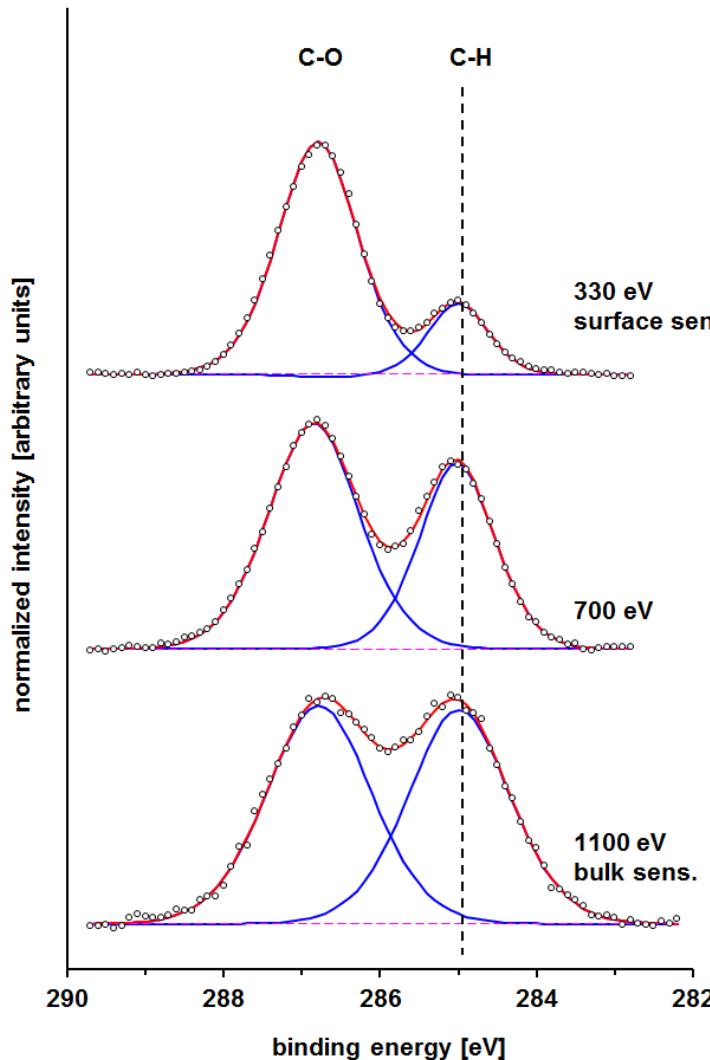
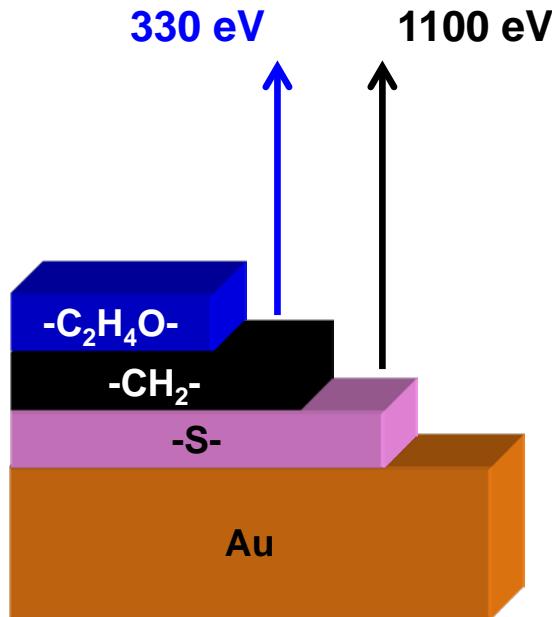
Au peak onset energy shift:

- ✓ EG3OMe = 200 eV → 2.2 nm SAM thickness
→ well-ordered SAM

Reliable estimation of the SAM thickness is prerequisite for the reconstruction of non-destructive elemental depth profiles from parallel ARXPS data.

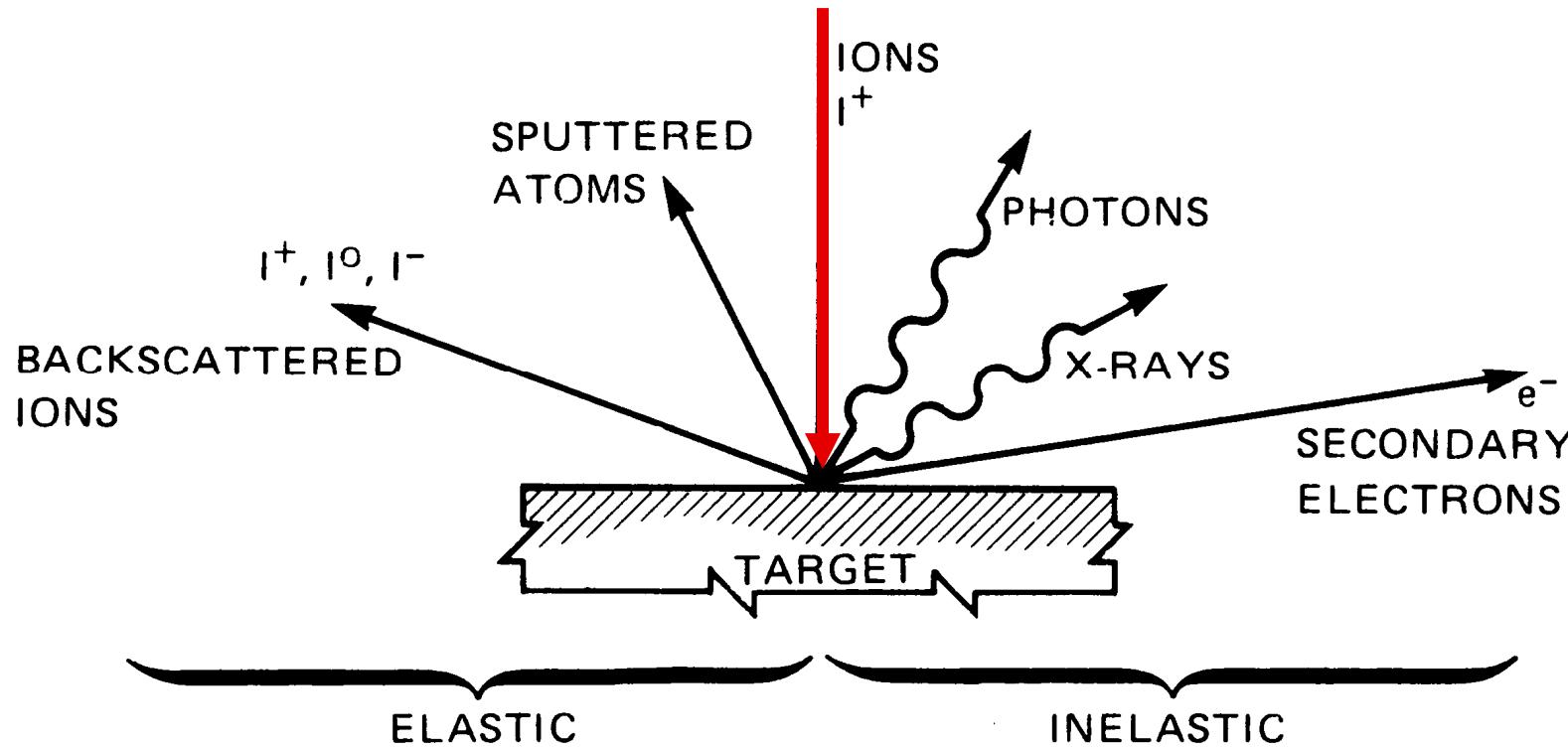


ER PES: EG3OMe SAM non-Destructive Depth Information



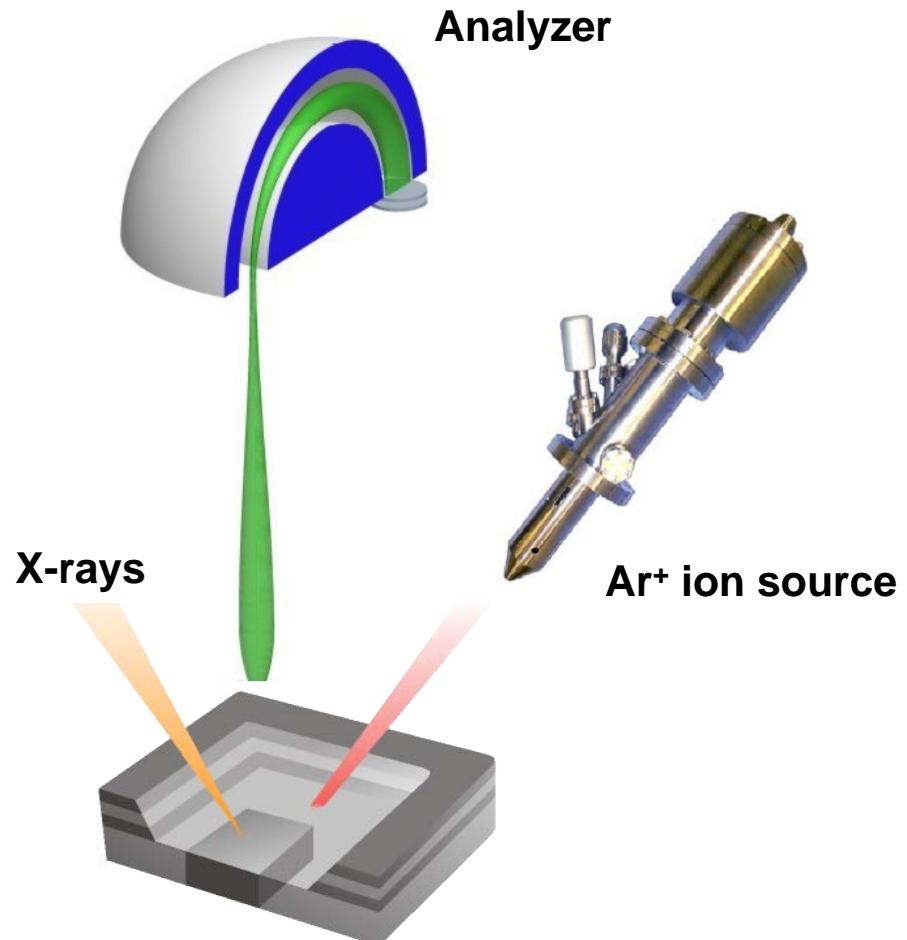
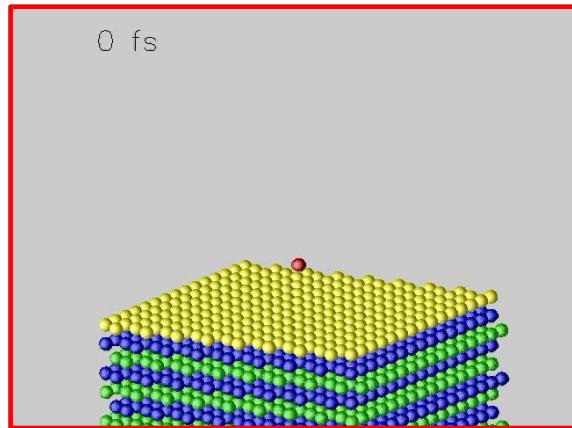
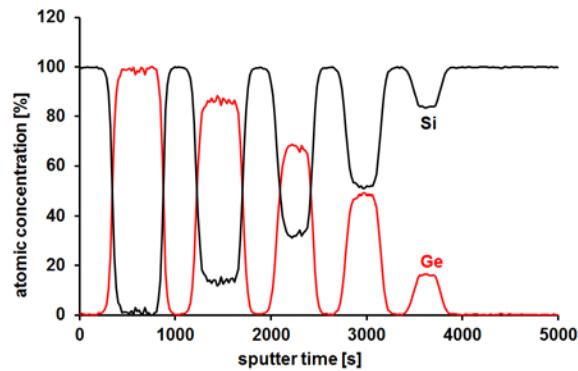
Sputtering

Ion Solid Interaction

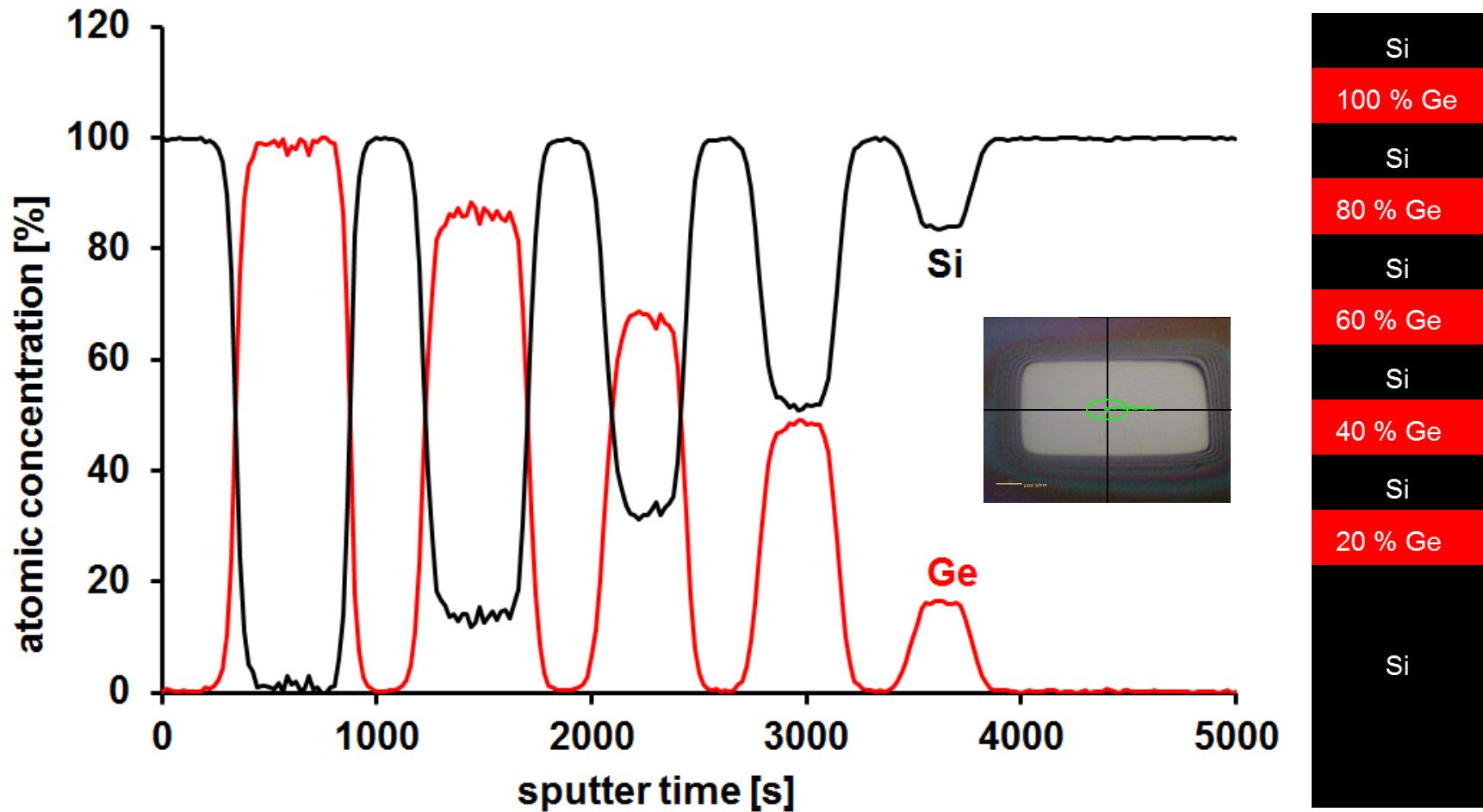


Implantation

Depth Information via Sputter Depth Profiles



XPS Sputter Depth Profiles



Collaboration: Tascon GmbH, Heisenbergstr. 15, D-48149 Münster, Germany

XPS Sputter Depth Profiles

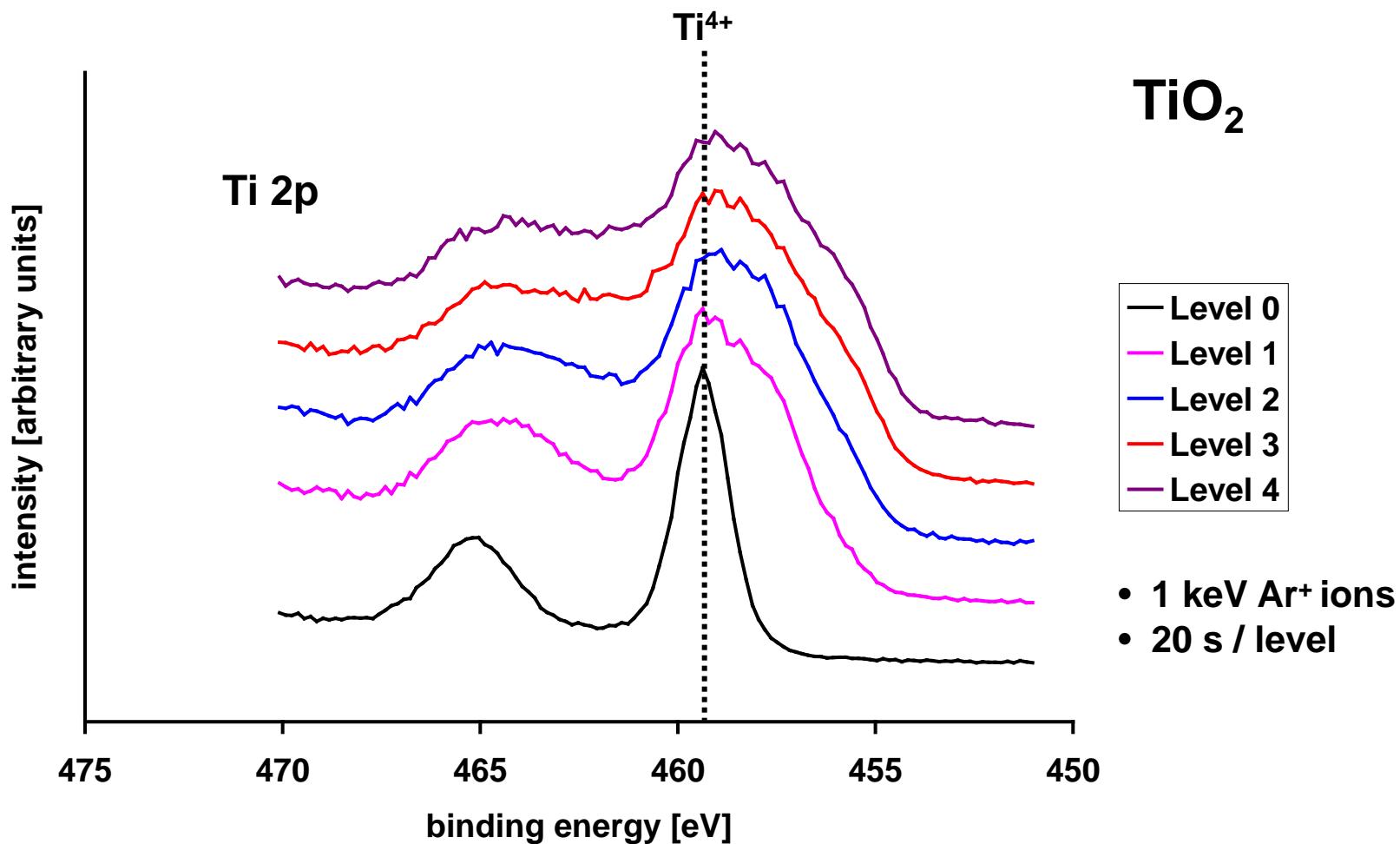
Time-to-Depth Conversion

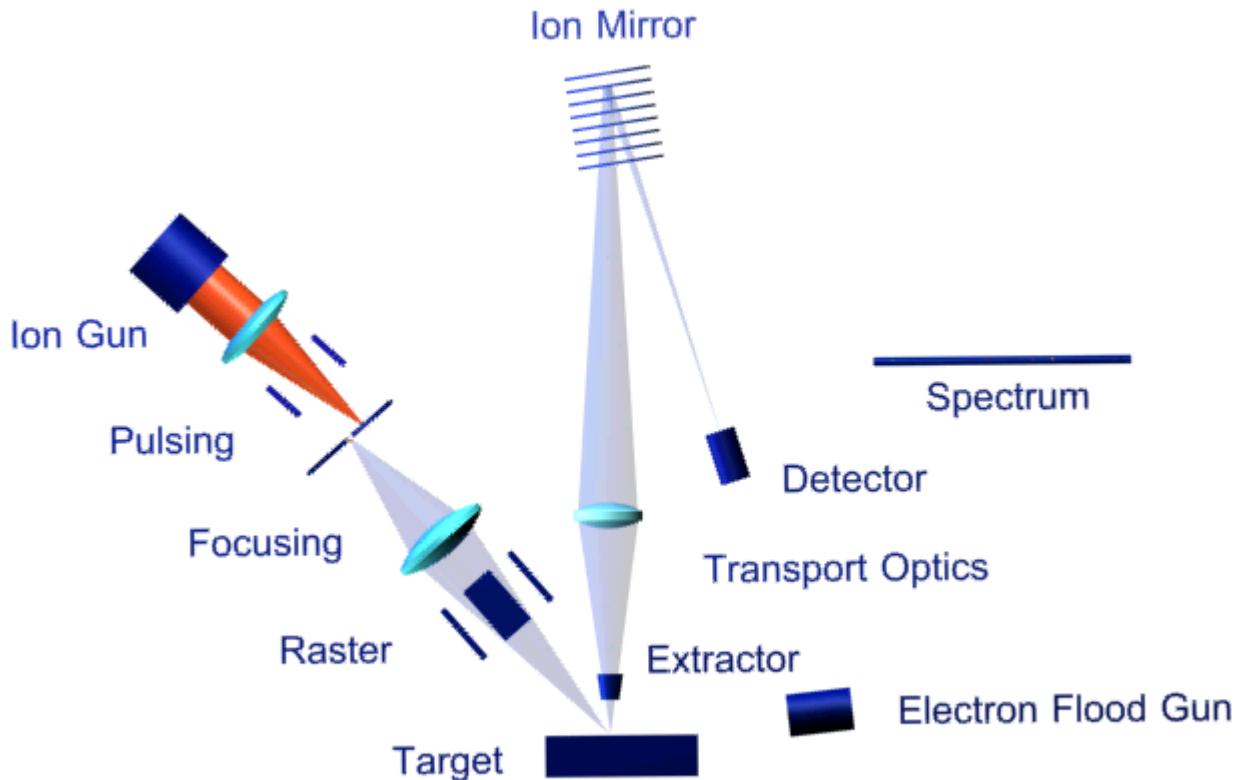
$$z(t) = \frac{j_P \cdot Y_i \cdot M_i \cdot t}{N_A \cdot e_0 \cdot \rho_i}$$

- j_P** = Ion beam density
- N_A** = Avogadro constant
- e₀** = Elementary charge
- t** = Sputter time
- Y_i** = Sputter yield
- M** = Molecular weight
- ρ_i** = Density

XPS Sputter Depth Profiles

Loss of Chemical Information





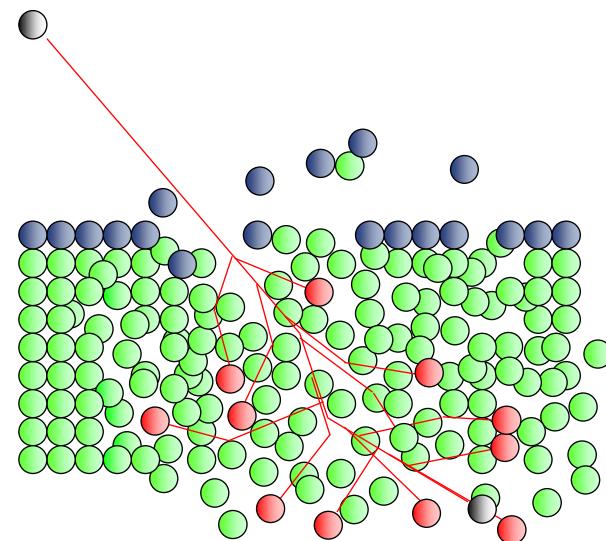
© ION-TOF GmbH

- A short-pulsed ion beam defines the starting point of the time-of-flight measurement.
- All secondary ions are accelerated to the same kinetic energy: the time-of-flight for a given drift path varies as the square root of mass.
- Time focusing devices (i.e. electrostatic fields) for good mass resolution.

Excitation

Bombardment with primary ions, energy: 5-25 keV
(Ga^+ , Au^{n+} , Bi^{n+} , O^{2+} , Cs^+ , Ar^+ , Xe^+ , ...)

→ Collision cascade in solid



Results

Desorption of neutrals (95%), electrons, and **secondary ions** (+/-).

- ❖ area 5-10 nm diameter
- ❖ depth of origin 1-2 monolayers

- Implantation of primary ions
- Atoms relocation (mixing)
- Damaging of organic molecules

ToF-SIMS

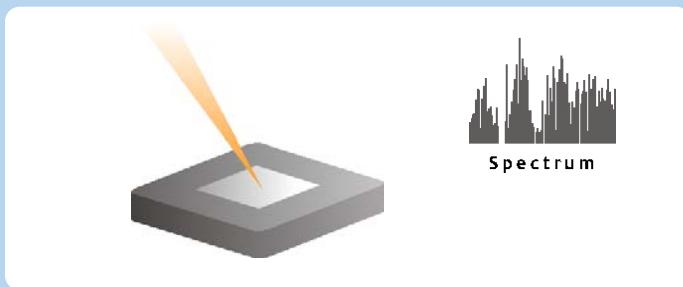
Characteristics

- + detection of all elements
- + isotope sensitivity
- + chemical information
- + low detection limit
- + small information depth
- + high depth resolution
- + high lateral resolution
- + high mass resolution
- + high mass range
- + parallel mass detection
- molecules, clusters
- ppm - ppb
- first 1-3 monolayers
- <1 nm
- <100 nm
- > 16000
- up to 10000 u
- quantification limited
(requires standards)
- /+ destructive
- typical ion yield $10^{-1} - 10^{-5}$
- strong influence of chemical environment

Modes of Operation



Surface Spectroscopy



Surface Imaging



Depth Profiling



3D Analysis

Quasi non-destructive surface analysis of the outer monolayers

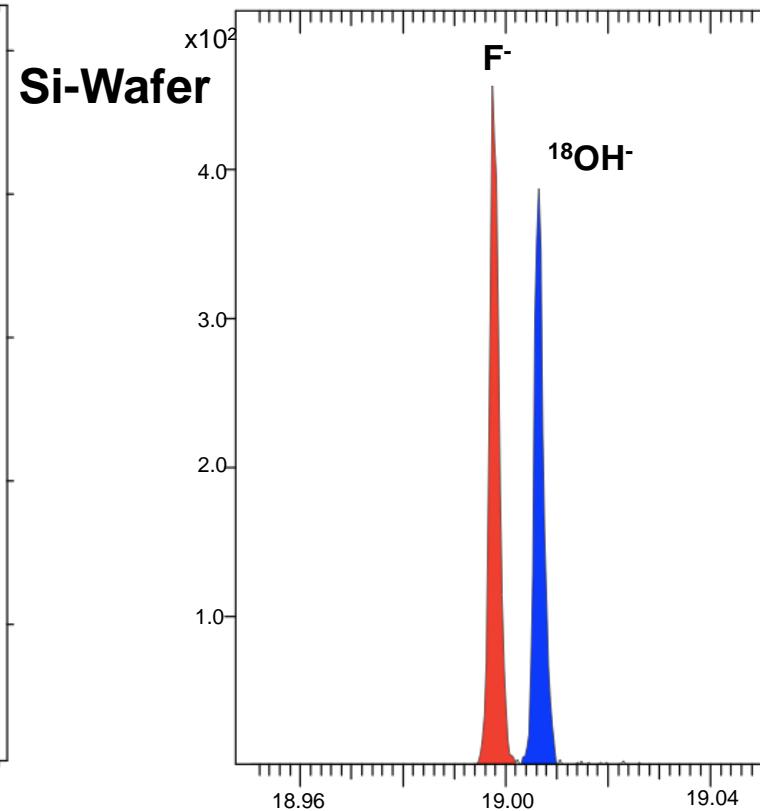
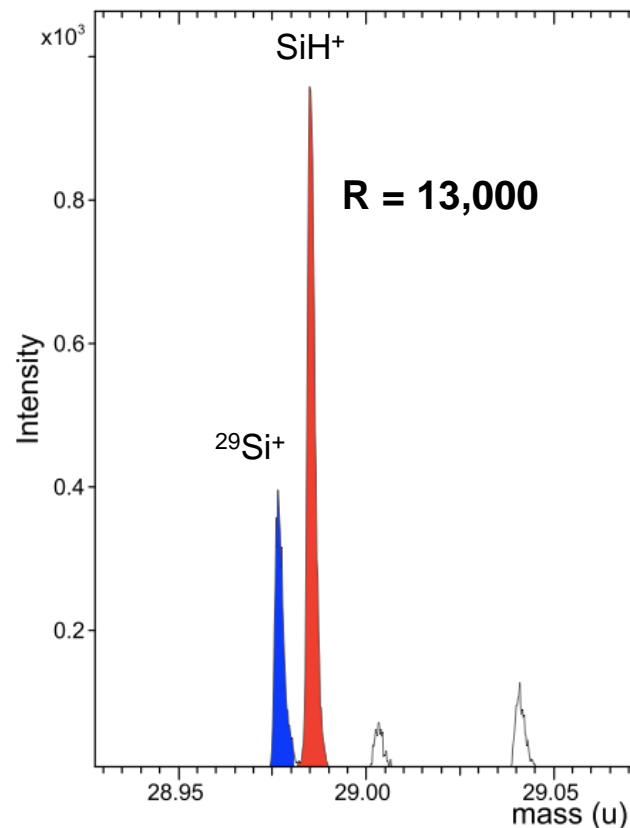
Features:

- elemental and molecular information
- ppm/ppb sensitivity
- suited for insulators

ionTOF

Surface Spectroscopy

High Mass Resolution in Positive and Negative Polarity



Mass Calibration

$$E = \frac{m}{2} v^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \propto \sqrt{m}$$

Mass Resolution

$$\frac{\Delta m}{m} = \frac{\Delta E}{E} + \frac{2(\Delta t_p + \Delta t_R)}{t}$$

ionTOF

ToF-SIMS

Detection Limits

| Element | detection limits (atoms / cm ²) | | detection limits (atoms / cm ²) |
|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| ⁷ Li | 1E7 = 0.4 ppt | ⁵² Cr | 1E8 |
| ¹¹ B | 5E7 | ⁵⁵ Mn | 1E9 |
| Na | 1E7 | ⁵⁶ Fe | 2E8 |
| ²⁴ Mg | 2E7 | ⁵⁸ Ni | 1E9 |
| Al | 2E7 | Co | 2E8 |
| ³⁹ K | 1E7 | ⁶³ Cu | 3E8 |
| ⁴⁰ Ca | 3E7 | ⁶⁹ Ga | 1E9 |
| ⁴⁸ Ti | 2E8 | * As | 3E9 |
| ⁵¹ V | 2E8 | ⁹⁸ Mo | 6E9 |



1 Monolayer = 1.5E¹⁵ atoms/cm²), the error is estimated to be within a factor of 2-3.

Modes of Operation



Surface Spectroscopy



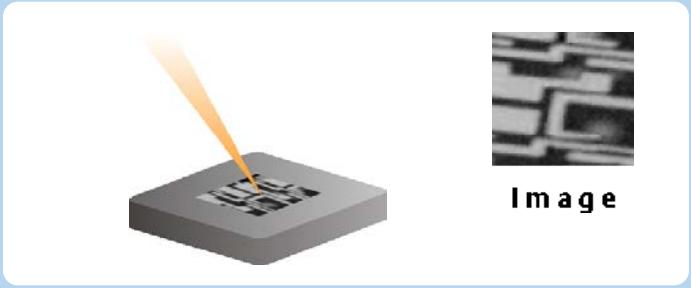
Surface Imaging



Depth Profiling



3D Analysis



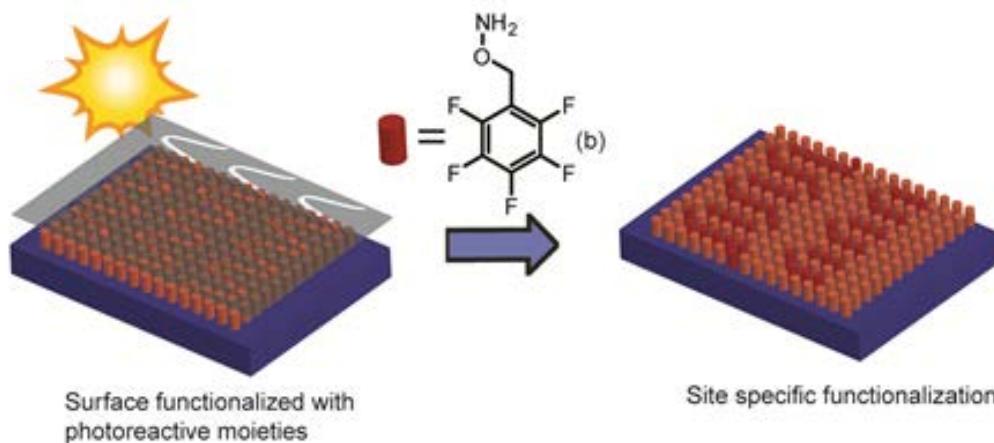
Chemical Mapping of the surface

Features:

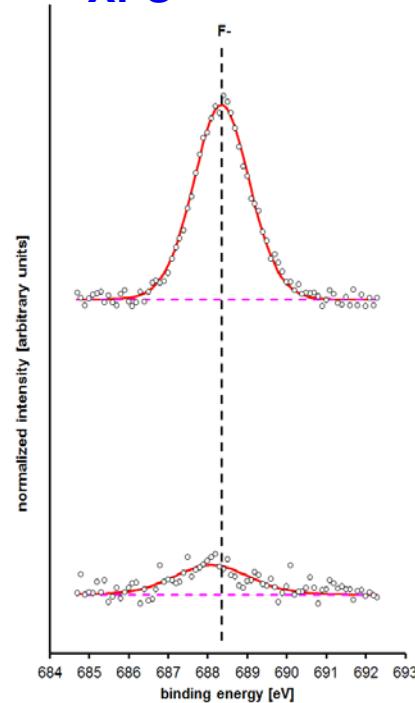
- **lateral distribution of elements and molecules**
- **lateral resolution down to 60 nm**
- **parallel acquisition of all images**

ionTOF

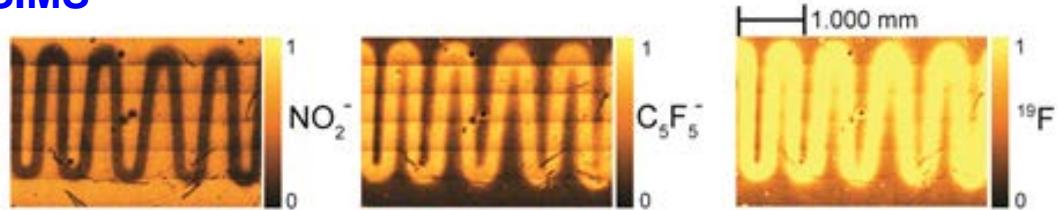
(Bio)Molecular Surface Patterning by Phototriggered Oxime Ligation via shadow-mask techniques



XPS



ToF-SIMS

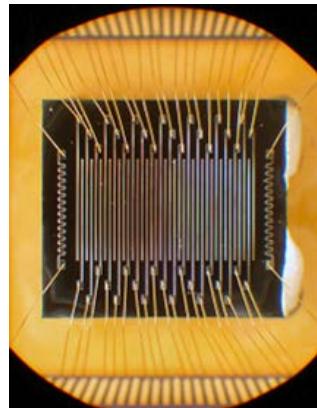
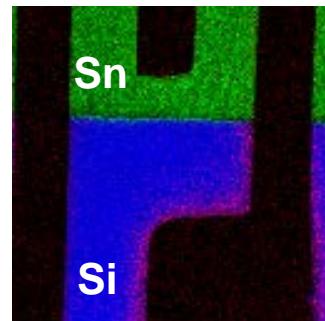
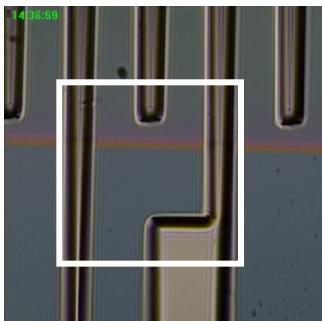


T. Pauloehrl, G. Delaitre, M. Bruns, M. Mei β ler, H. G. Börner, M Bastmeyer, and C. Barner-Kowollik,
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 51 (2012) 9181 –9184.

ToFSIMS vs. XPS

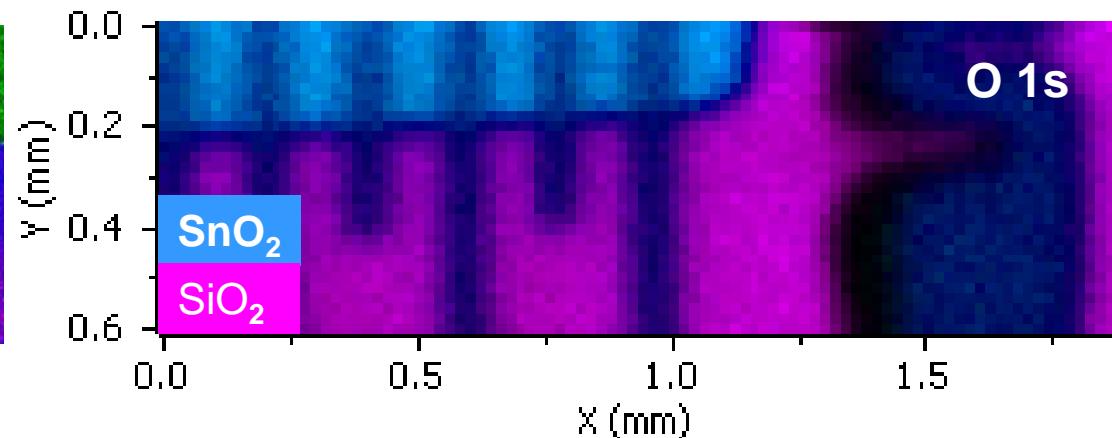
Chemical Image

ToFSIMS (1 min acquisition time)



! Different positions !

XPS (> 3000 min acquisition time)



XPS chemical images are very time consuming
→ Parallel imaging using Thermo Scientific
ESCALAB 250 Xi

Modes of Operation



Surface Spectroscopy



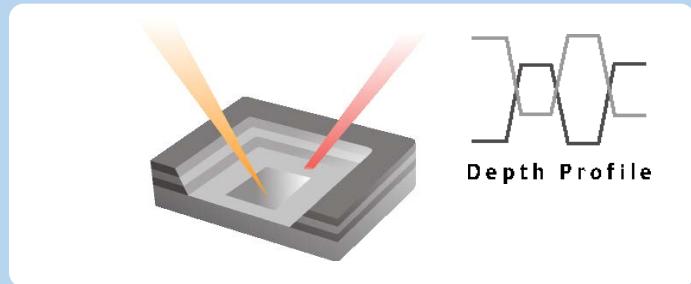
Surface Imaging



Depth Profiling



3D Analysis



Analysis of the in-depth distribution of elements and molecules

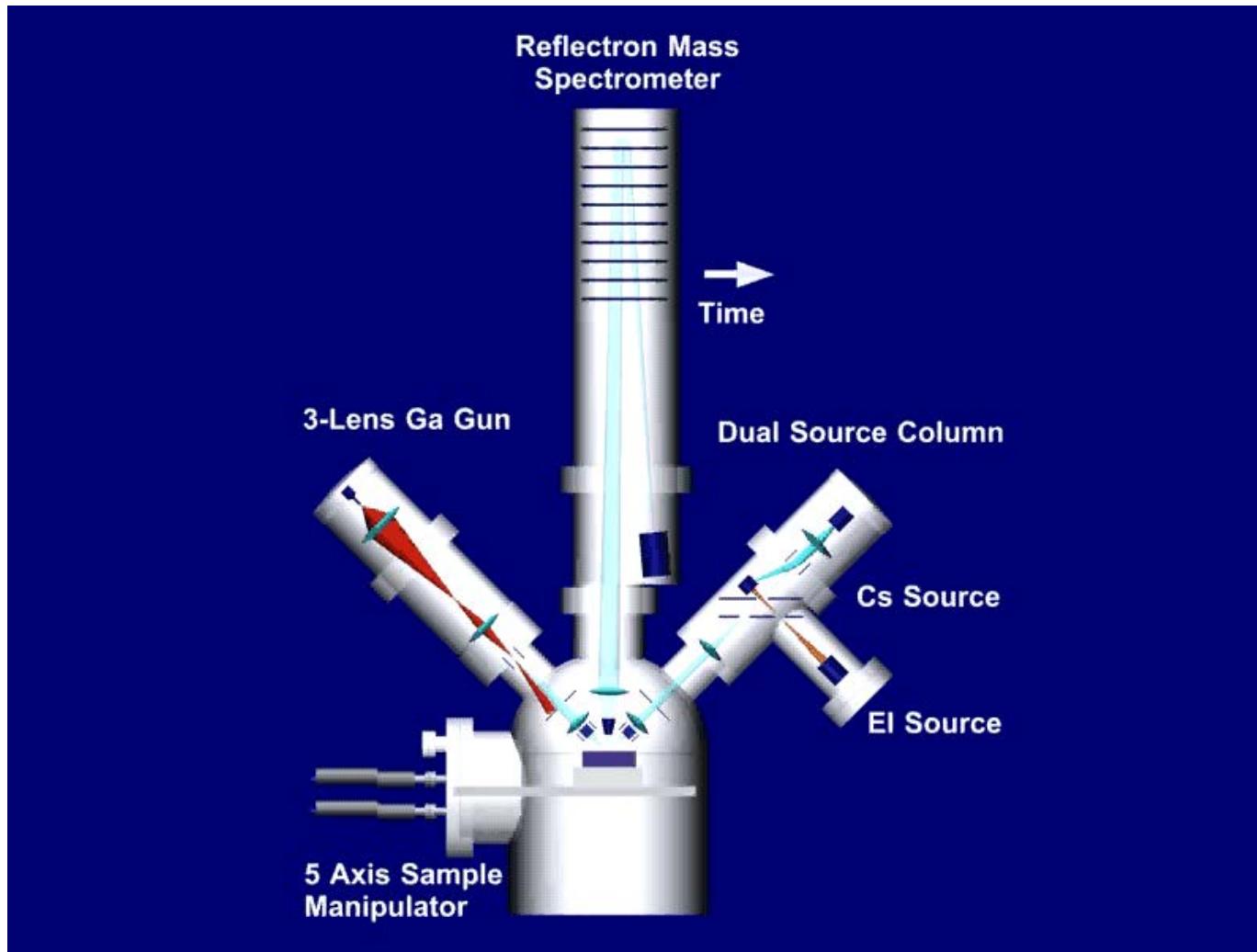
Features:

- elemental and cluster information
- depth resolution < 1 nm
- thin layers from 1 nm to > 10 µm

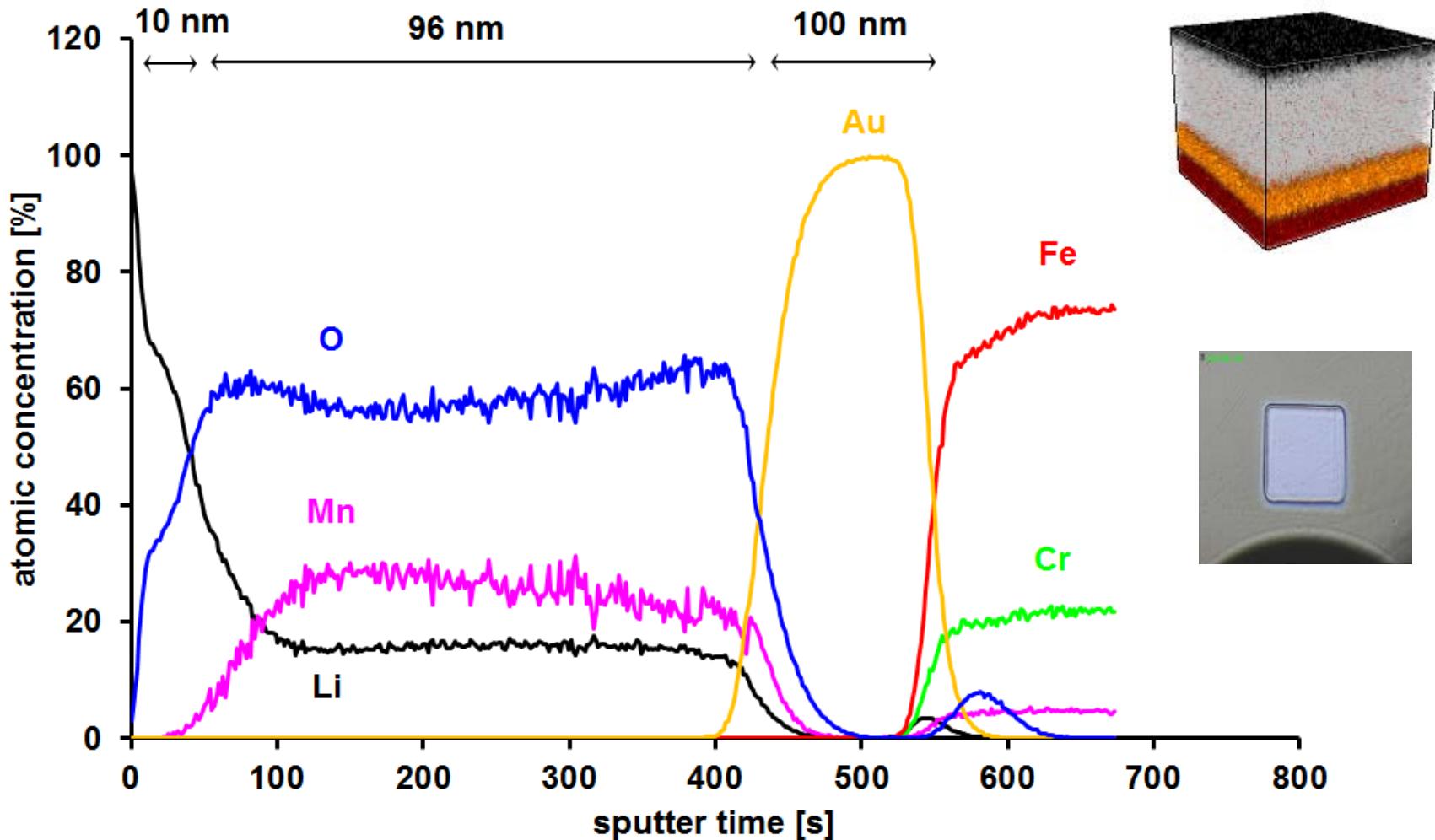
ionTOF

ToFSIMS Sputter Depth Profiling

Dual Beam Mode



ToF-SIMS Sputter Depth Profile of a R.F. Magnetron Sputtered Li-Mn-O Thin Film calibrated by XPS



ECASIA 2013, Cagliari, Italy

Thank you!

