

A Light for Science

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# Synchrotron-based nanocharacterization

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# Outline

## Introduction, Context, Background

## Some recent highlights

- Three-dimensional & multimodal imaging
- Coherent diffraction imaging
- Spectroscopy
- Strain studies

## Perspectives: ESRF upgrade





# Why this talk ?

#### Synchrotron usage

Was limited to macro and micro applications

#### Advent of nanosciences

- Efforts to improve resolution with x-rays
- More resolution=More photons in Smaller pixels
- Higher brilliance

#### • Go to synchrotrons !





# How does it work?



From http://www.esrf.eu







Image from http://www.srs.dl.ac.uk/SRWORLD/index.html



# The ESRF and CEA, LETI, MINATEC labs





## What can a synchrotron give ?

#### X-ray fluorescence

- Composition
- Quantification
- Trace elements mapping

#### X-ray diffraction

- Long range structure
- Crystal orientation
- Strain, stress and texture mappings



#### **Phase contrast**

- 2D/3D morphology
- High resolution
- Density mapping

#### X-ray spectroscopy

- Short range structure
- Electronic structure
- Oxidation state mapping



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Coupe

Cordon Wafer



# A routine technique : Microtomography

## How it works

- Parallel synchrotron beam (no focusing)
- Collection of radiographs while rotating the sample
- Scanning time [1s, 45min]
- Resolution  $\sim 1\mu m^3$  after 3D reconstruction







#### Goal

- 3D *direct* imaging at 10-20nm resolution
- Hard x-rays (around 20keV)
- Morphology, structural and chemical imaging

#### • Application fields

- Nanodevices
- Biology : cell imaging
- Materials science



Bleuet et al. App. Phys. Lett. **92**, 21311 (2008) Bleuet et al. Nature Mat. **7**, 468-72 (2008)



Two kinds of microscope: scanning & projection
Tomography → Rotation of the sample



Bleuet et al. Rev. Sci. Instr., May 2009.



# Assessment of the technique on a well-known object AFM (Pt, Ir) tip





ESRF, ID22NI

2D Fluorescence mapping (Pt signal) SEM micrograph (provided by Nanosensor Company)

Bleuet et al. Rev. Sci. Instr., May 2009.



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# Pushing the spatial resolution limits

#### High resolution <u>direct</u> imaging method

- Are all based on x-ray optics
  - Resolution limited by aberration and diffraction to d>0.61 $\lambda$ / NA
- Switch to lensless imaging using coherent diffraction



#### Inverse problem: find back the phase and perform inverse Fourier Transforms

• Ends up with "radiographs"



# Back to 2D surface analysis

- Exciting with X-rays and measuring outgoing x-rays
  - Depth-resolved imaging

#### • Exciting with x-rays and measuring outgoing photoelectrons

Surface imaging (first 10nm)

#### →X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)

- Low Z elemental composition
- Chemical state/binding
- Performances
  - Detection limit (in size): 5nm
  - Spatial resolution : 450nm



#### • Poster WE-025

• "X-Ray Photoelectron Spectromicroscopy of Doped Silicon Patterns"



# X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy principle

Laboratory source @ **MINATEC** 

Synchrotron Radiation





# Extending XPS to X-ray Photoelectron Emission Microscopy





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# **Goal & Applications**

#### Determine the local strain state

- Sub-micrometer scale
- Non-destructive testing
- Sample as fixed as possible

## Laüe diffraction with polychromatic x-rays

## Potential applications

- Electromigration in copper lines
- Ferroelectric materials







# Laüe microdiffraction

#### • Grain size ~ Beam size





# **Strain determination**

#### • Bragg law

$$\lambda = 2d_{hkl}\sin\theta$$





#### Measuring the shifts of white beam diffraction spots

Access to the (deviatoric) strain !









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## What's next?

- Main synchrotron limitation for nanocharacterization
  - Resolution, limited to tens of nanometers
- Need to go further in synchrotron developments
  - ESRF upgrade



#### A Light for Science

















# Conclusion

#### Opportunity to have a synchrotron so closed to nanotech center !

#### • 3D mentioned in many talks !

- $3D \rightarrow penetration depth \rightarrow X-rays$
- Synchrotron is 'spot-on' for 3D nanocharacterization
- ...and also for 2D !

#### Synchrotron

- Combination of techniques, in-situ
- Unprecedented way to observe 3D <u>embedded</u> micrometer-sized objects

#### Next step

Access to (10-20nm)<sup>3</sup> resolution with hard x-rays



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- CEA, LETI, MINATEC characterization team

#### Poster promotion

- Synchrotron related : WE-006, WE-025
- Tomography related : TH-021
- Others : WE-020, TH-014, TH-020

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