

Reference-free XRF and GIXRF analysis

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- analytical challenges for nanotechnologies
- reference-free x-ray spectrometry
- surface contamination and nanolayer characterization
- depth profiling at grazing incidence
- chemical speciation at buried interfaces
- towards in-situ speciation of bulk-type films
- high-resolution spectrometry



- dozens of new nanoscaled materials appear every month
- technology R&D cycles for new materials down to 4 months
- need for correlation of material properties with functionality
- requirements on sensitivity, selectivity and information depth
- most analytical methodologies rely on reference materials or calibration standards but there are only few at the nanoscale
- usage of calibrated instrumentation and knowledge on atomic data enables reference-free techniques such as SR based XRS

Challenges for nanotechnologies – nano-scaled reference materials



X-ray and IR spectrometry

Nanoscaled Reference Materials (in line with ISO/TC 229 Nanotechnologies)

,Reference materials are the key to guaranteeing realiability and correctness for results of chemical analyses and technical measurements.

Categories:

- flatness
- film thickness
- single step , periodic step, step grating
- lateral X-Y-axis, 1-dim
- lateral X-Y-axis, +2-dim,
- critical dimensions
- 3-dimensional
- nanoobjects/nanoparticles/nanomaterial
- nanocrystallite materials
- porosity
- depth profiling resolution

Every month several tens new nanoscaled materials appear.

The number of nanoscaled reference materials is considerably lower.

Reference-free / first principles

based methodologies can address

this increasing gap.

www.nano-refmat.bam.de/en/

X-ray spectrometry methodologies:

reference-based versus reference-free approaches

reference material related technique based on well known calibration specimens or reference materials





X-ray spectrometry methodologies:

reference-based versus reference-free approaches



reference material related technique based on well known calibration specimens or reference materials reference-free technique based on calibrated instrumentation and fundamental parameters



Synchrotron radiation based x-ray spectrometry





Determination of L-shell photoionization cross sections



X-ray and IR spectrometry

PRL 113, 163001 (2014)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 17 OCTOBER 2014

Experimental Verification of the Individual Energy Dependencies of the Partial L-Shell Photoionization Cross Sections of Pd and Mo

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An experimental method for the verification of the individually different energy dependencies of L_1 -, L_2 -, and L_3 - subshell photoionization cross sections is described. The results obtained for Pd and Mo are well in line with theory regarding both energy dependency and absolute values, and confirm the theoretically calculated cross sections by Scofield from the early 1970 s and, partially, more recent data by Trzhaskovskaya, Nefedov, and Yarzhemsky. The data also demonstrate the questionability of quantitative x-ray spectroscopical results based on the widely used fixed jump ratio approximated cross sections with energy independent ratios. The experiments are carried out by employing the radiometrically calibrated instrumentation of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt at the electron storage ring BESSY II in Berlin; the obtained fluorescent intensities are thereby calibrated at an absolute level in reference to the International System of Units. Experimentally determined fixed fluorescence lines. The relevant fundamental parameters of Mo and Pd are also determined experimentally in order to calculate the subshell photoionization cross sections independently of any database.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.113.163001





Comparison of different PCS data for Mo

Determination of L-shell photoionization cross sections



X-ray and IR spectrometry



Phys. Rev. Lett 113, 163001 (2014)

Tuning the analytical sensitivity and information depth by means of appropriate operational parameters



X-ray and IR spectrometry



- E_0 = photon energy of excitation radiation
- **E**₁ = photon energy above absorption edge
- **E**_f = photon energy of fluorescence radiation

XSW = X-ray Standing Wave field

JAAS 23, 845 (2008)

How can a method (rows) help another method (columns) to improve or complement the results



X-ray and IR spectrometry

Methods	TXRF	GIXRF	XRF	XRR	XRD	GISAXS
TXRF		surface contamination	information on surface contamination	information on surface contamination	information on surface contamination	nanoparticle composition
GIXRF	absolute angle calibration		validation measurands	near surface depth profiles	near surface depth profiles	nanoparticle composition
XRF	validation measurands	validation measurands		information on material composition	information on material composition	nanoparticle composition
XRR	layer thickness and roughness for modelling	layer thickness and roughness for modelling	contaminations/ spectral diffrac- tion artefact		layer thickness, roughness, density	substrate surface layer
XRD	information on material morpho- logy, artefacts	information on material morpho- logy, artefacts	information on material morpho- logy, artefacts	information on material morphology		information on material morphology
GISAXS	particle size distribution	particle size distribution		particle size distribution	particle size distribution	

J. Anal. At. Spectrom. 28, 549 (2013)

Typical characteristics and properties of

x-ray analytical and metrology techniques



X-ray and IR spectrometry

	TXRF	GIXRF	XRF	XRR	XRD	GISAXS
Applications	surfaces	nanolayers, elemental depth profiles, implantation profiles	bulk materials	nano layers	thin layers	nano structured surfaces, thin films
Properties to be measured	mass density in the range of the elements B to U	mass density, concentration, depth profile in the range of the elements B to U	mass density in the range of the elements B to U	layer thickness, roughness, density	layer thickness, orientation	particle size
Detection limit	app. 10^{10} atoms/ cm ²	app. 10^{12} atoms/ cm ²	app.10 ¹³ atoms/ cm ²	2 nm – 5 nm	3 wgt.%, 2 nm	2 nm
Range	$10^{10} \text{ atoms/ cm}^2 - 10^{15} \text{ atoms/ cm}^2$	$10^{12} \text{ atoms/ cm}^2 - 10^{17} \text{ atoms/ cm}^2$	ppb-%	5- 500 nm	0.1 nm – 10 nm	2 nm – 1µm
Accuracy (and reproducibility) (*reference free)	0.15* / 0,05 (0.02)	0.2*/0.05 (0.03)	0.2*/0.05 (0.03)	0.02 (0.01)	0.05 (0.02)	0,.15 (0.02)
Spatial resolution	$1 \text{ mm}^2 \text{-} 1 \text{ cm}^2$	0.5 mm^2 - 0.5 cm^2	to 1 mm ²	to 1 mm ²	0.5 mm ² -0.5 cm ²	0.5 mm ² -0.5 cm ²
Measurement speed	50 s – 1000 s/ pt	2000 s – 5 h	100 s – 1000 s	1000 s – 5 h	1000 s – 5 h	10 min/frame

J. Anal. At. Spectrom. 28, 549 (2013)

Novel XRS instrumentation for advanced materials characterizations with synchrotron radiation



X-ray and IR spectrometry

PTB XRS intrumentation at BESSY



9-axis manipulator and chamber ensuring

- the entire TXRF, GIXRF and XRF regime
- polarization-dependent speciation by XAFS
- combined GIXRF and XRR investigations
- movable aperture system for reference-free XRF and atomic FP determinations

Transfer of modified instrumentation to

- TU Berlin for a laboratory plasma source
- LNE/CEA-LNHB for SOLEIL storage ring
- IAEA (UN) for ELETTRA storage ring





Rev. Sci. Instrum. 84, 045106 (2013)

Quantitation in SR-TXRF routine analysis on Si wafers



TXRF spectra deconvolution

including Si(Li) detector response functions, RRS, and bremsstrahlung contributions.

reference-free TXRF quantitation: known incident flux, detector efficiency and solid angle.



spin-coated wafer with 10¹² cm⁻² of various transition metals



Phys. Stat. Sol. B 246,1415 (2009)



$$\frac{m_i}{F_I} = \frac{-1}{\mu_{tot,i}} \ln \left\{ 1 - \frac{P_i}{P_{0,Wsurf} \tau_{i,E_0} Q \frac{\Omega_{det}}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sin \psi_{in}} \frac{1}{\mu_{tot,i}}} \right\}$$

photon energy of the incident (excitation) radiation

radiant power of the incident radiation

signal of the photodiode measuring the incident radiation

spectral responsitivity of the photodiode



 $P_0 = S_0 / \sigma_{diode, E_0}$

 E_0

 S_0

 $\sigma_{{\scriptscriptstyle diode},E_0}$



$$\frac{m_i}{F_I} = \frac{-1}{\mu_{tot,i}} \ln \left\{ 1 - \frac{P_i}{P_{0,Wsurf} \tau_{i,E_0} Q \frac{\Omega_{det}}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sin \psi_{in}} \frac{1}{\mu_{tot,i}}} \right\}$$

I_{Wsurf}

 Ψ_{in}

 E_i

relative intensity of the X-ray standing wave field¹ at the wafer surface

 $P_{0,Wsurf} = P_0 I_{Wsurf}$

1 software package IMD: D. Windt, Computers in Physics 12, 360-370 (1998)

angle of incidence with respect to the wafer surface

photon energy of the fluorescence line l of the element i





$$\frac{m_i}{F_I} = \frac{-1}{\mu_{tot,i}} \ln \left\{ 1 - \frac{P_i}{P_{0,Wsurf} \tau_{i,E_0} Q \frac{\Omega_{det}}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sin \psi_{in}} \frac{1}{\mu_{tot,i}}} \right\}$$

detected count rate of the fluorescence line l of the element i

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{det,E_i}$$

 R_i

detection efficiency of the Si(Li) detector at the photon energy E_i



contamination

effective solid angle of detection



$$\frac{m_i}{F_I} = \frac{-1}{\mu_{tot,i}} \ln \left\{ 1 - \frac{P_i}{P_{0,Wsurf} \tau_{i,E_0} Q \frac{\Omega_{det}}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sin\psi_{in}} \frac{1}{\mu_{tot,i}}} \right\}$$

 Ψ_{out} angle of observation which equals 90 ° in a typical TXRF geometry τ_{i,E_0} photo electric cross section of the element *i* at the photon energy $\mu_{i,E}$ absorption cross section of the element *i* at the photon energy *E*

$$\mu_{tot,i} = \mu_{i,E_0} / \sin \psi_{in} + \mu_{i,E_i} / \sin \psi_{out}$$

$$\overset{\text{XSW}}{=} \underbrace{\overset{\text{E}_0}{\overset{\text{E}_1}{\overset{\text{E}_1}{\overset{\text{E}_1}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2}{\overset{\text{E}_2}}{\overset{\text{E}_2$$



$$\frac{m_i}{F_I} = \frac{-1}{\mu_{tot,i}} \ln \left\{ 1 - \frac{P_i}{P_{0,Wsurf} \tau_{i,E_0} Q \frac{\Omega_{det}}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sin\psi_{in}} \frac{1}{\mu_{tot,i}}} \right\}$$

$$Q = \omega_{Xi} g_{l,Xi} (j_{Xi}-1) / j_{Xi}$$

Analysis of contamination on novel materials
(Ge, SOI, InGaAs, ...) or of nanolayered
systems (buried interfaces – photovoltaics)
→ calculation of the x-ray standing wave field



Total-reflection X-ray Fluorescence (TXRF) analysis:

- non-consistent results from round robin tests (differences up to a factor of ten)
- reason: problems with employed calibration samples (droplet depositions)



contamination Solid State

Solid State Phenomena 145-146, 97 and 101 (2009)

Assessment of TXRF calibration samples for Ni surface contamination



X-ray and IR spectrometry





<u>Reason for deviations in contamination results</u>: inhomogeneities and absorption saturation of TXRF calibration droplets
 → "slicing" and "angular scanning" of calibration droplets by reference-free TXRF as validation technique
 M. Müller Solid State Phenomena 187, 291 (2012)

Reference-free XRF and grazing-incidence XRF of buried nanolayers - layer composition and thickness





design of samples: total-reflection of the incident beam at silicon or at the metal

occurrence of the XSW in boron carbide layer

objective: determination of the boron carbide layer composition and thickness

comparison of XRF and GIXRF quantification

Anal. Chem. 83, 8623 (2011)



Reference-free XRF and grazing-incidence XRF of buried nanolayers - layer composition and thickness



X-ray and IR spectrometry

sample: nominal 2.5 nm SiO₂ / 5 nm B-C / Si-substrate



quantification reliability better for XRF



Anal. Chem. 83, 8623 (2011)

Reference-free XRF and grazing-incidence XRF of buried nanolayers - layer composition and thickness



X-ray and IR spectrometry



Reference-free XRF and grazing-incidence XRF of

buried nanolayers - layer composition and thickness



X-ray and IR spectrometry

B-layer thickness	without Ti/Ni-layer /nm	with 10nm Ti-layer /nm	with 10nm Ni-layer /nm	
nominal 0.8 nm B	0.9 ± 0.3 0.9 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.2 0.8 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.4 1.0 ± 0.3	GIXRI XRF
nominal 2.5 nm B	2.5 ± 0.8 2.6 ± 0.7	2.4 ± 0.7 2.5 ± 0.7	2.0 ± 1.0 2.7 ± 0.7	
nominal 4.2 nm B	4.0 ± 1.2 4.2 ± 1.1	3.9 ± 1.2 4.0 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 1.8 4.3 ± 1.1	

determined thicknesses at 510 eV excitation in line with nominal values deviations

relevant influence of XSW and surface carbon contamination



Anal. Chem. 83, 8623 (2011)





X-ray and IR spectrometry



GIXRF analysis of **B** and As implantation profiles



X-ray and IR spectrometry

SIMS

Comparison of GIXRF results to SIMS

Comparison of GIXRF results on arsenic samples to SIMS, MEIS and STEM



XRR enhanced GIXRF depth profiling



X-ray and IR spectrometry

- GIXRF can be used to depth profile gradient (e.g. ion implants) or nanolayered samples
- iterative calculation of the XSW using
- X-ray reflectivity data for reliable modeling



XRR not matching reference-free GIXRF





Combining XRR and GIXRF improves result

J. Anal. At. Spectrom. 27, 1432 (2012)

P. Hönicke

Speciation of buried nanolayers by GIXRF-NEXAFS



X-ray and IR spectrometry



ightarrow composition and speciation of buried nanolayers

 \rightarrow higher information depth (>> 5nm) than XPS

 \rightarrow parallel variation of incident angle and photon energy





B. Pollakowski

Phys. Rev. B 77, 235408 (2008)

Anal. Chem. 85, 193 (2013)

speciation of buried Ti oxide nanolayers
(the degree of oxidation scales with indices)



X-ray and IR spectrometry

Further developing GIXRF-NEXAFS for interfacial speciation

- Nickel layer deposited with PVD technique, B_xC_yN_z with CVD technique
- Variation of the temperature in the CVD process





B. Pollakowski

Anal. Chem. 85, 193 (2013)



Speciation of buried interfaces by GIXRF-NEXAFS

X-ray and IR spectrometry



- Criterion: percentage of the maximum intensity
- Variation of the angle of incidence depending on the temperature for the interface analysis

interface speciation

B. Pollakowski Anal. Chem. **85**, 193 (2013)



Speciation of buried interfaces by GIXRF-NEXAFS

X-ray and IR spectrometry



Comparison between a shallow and a steep angle
 Interface observable: Ni-C, Ni-N or Ni-Si bonds possible
 B. Pollakowski Anal. Chem. 85, 193 (2013)



Quantitative characterization of nanoelectronics



Optimization of high-k nanolayer fabrication 3 nm Al₂O₃ on S passivated INP substrate 1.2 high-k (Al₂O₃) ec 1.0 interface norm. count rate ~0.3 nm S А 0.8 InP wafer 0.6 0.4 Quantification of the ALD growth rate P (Substrat) 0.2 Al_O_@InP (H_S) Al_O_@InP (no H_S) Al mass deposition / $ng cm^{-2}$ 0.0300 linear Fit 3 2 gracing angle /° 200 linear growth on S passivated InP substrate after the 3rd ALD cycle contamination 100 J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A 30, 10 20 0 nanolave 01A127 (2012) **ALD** cycles M. Müller



Quantitative interface characterization and speciation

X-ray and IR spectrometry

XAFS speciation of the **S** passivated interface as treated and for two high k cap layer



GIXRF-NEXAFS at thin-film Si photovoltaics: probing the chemical state of buried interfaces



X-ray and IR spectrometry



GIXRF-NEXAFS at thin-film Si photovoltaics: probing the chemical state of buried interfaces





interface speciation

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J. Appl. Phys. 113, 044519 (2013)

Elemental depth profiling of CIGS photovoltaics by GIXRF using calibrated instrumentation



X-ray and IR spectrometry



• inhomogeneous element depth distribution of In and Ga influences the efficiency



Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 113904 (2013)

Elemental depth profiling of CIGS photovoltaics by GIXRF using calibrated instrumentation



X-ray and IR spectrometry



C. Streeck

Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 113904 (2013)

Comparison of in-depth resolving techniques





D. Abou-Ras (HZB) et al.

Microscopy & Microanalysis **17**,728-751, (2011)

Elemental depth profiling of CIGS photovoltaics by GIXRF using calibrated instrumentation



X-ray and IR spectrometry

Pilot-study CCQM-P140

CCQM-P140

SURFACE ANALYSIS

Measurement of atomic fractions in Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ Films

Composition / at.%	Certified values KRISS Even Research Institute of Remodersh and J dense	Reference-free GIXRF
Cu	$\textbf{23.8} \pm 0.6$	$\textbf{24.0} \pm 1.3$
In	$\boldsymbol{19.1} \pm 0.6$	$\boldsymbol{19.3} \pm 1.1$
Ga	6.6 ± 0.3	$\textbf{6.3}\pm0.4$
Se	$\textbf{50.6} \pm 1.5$	$\textbf{50.4} \pm 2.8$
d / µm	ca. 2	$\textbf{2.06} \pm 0.09$



C. Streeck

Metrologia, in print (2014)

Directed development of new energy storage materials: towards in-operando XAFS speciation of cathode films



X-ray and IR spectrometry

First step: No ambient air exposure

Employing a thin window argon cell for transport and x-ray spectrometric measurements.

- NEXAFS measurements at different states of charge (not in-operando so far)
- Formation of lithium polysulfides during discharge observed
- Polysulfides disappear during recharge
- After several recharge cycles some of the polysulfides remain



M. Müller

Calibrated Wavelength-Dispersive Spectrometer (WDS)



X-ray and IR spectrometry Rowland circle radius R≈2490 mm entrance slit entrance slit CCDhorizontal $\beta(\lambda_2)$ detector energy range: knives α 75 eV to 1760 eV energy resolution $E/\Delta E$: reflection grating 150 to 400 curvature radius $R_0 = 2R$

calibration \longrightarrow allows for the determination of fundamental parameters disadvantage: \longrightarrow low efficiency, moderate detection limit, long integration time

Phys. Rev . A 79, 032503 (2009)



X-ray and IR spectrometry



- titanium (buried) measurable
- boron K α (180 eV) detectable, despite a minimal sensitivity of the CCD
- lower limit of detection is in both cases (B and Ti) about 0.4 nm
- access to thin films and buried nanolayers

R. Unterumsberger, M. Müller



Spectrochim. Acta B 78, 37 (2012)



- Reference-free analysis of contamination on Si and on novel materials
- Quantitative characterization of nanostructured and gradient systems (~2 μm)
- Depth profiling (~500 nm) and interfacial speciation of advanced materials
- Novel XRS instrumentation available at PTB, TUB, LNE-LNHB, IAEA/ELETTRA
- Calibrated high-resolution soft (and hard) x-ray emission spectrometer

Further information on reported activities and instrumentation

at EMRP IND07 and NEW01 at www.EURAMET.org



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ALTECH 2014 - 'Analytical techniques for precise characterization of nanomaterials' symposium at the E-MRS spring meeting 2014 (www.european-mrs.com), France