



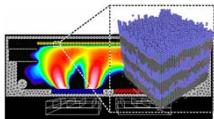
Modelisation of thin film deposition by KMC

Plathinium, Antibes, 9/2019

S. Lucas

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1.5 hours lecture

- Concepts
- Illustration of concepts with NASCAM (google NASCAM for info)
- You received either NASCAM or a link to download it
- It runs under windows and JAVA (32 or 64 bits)
- The licence key is valid for one month.
- You are welcome to request an extension of the licence.

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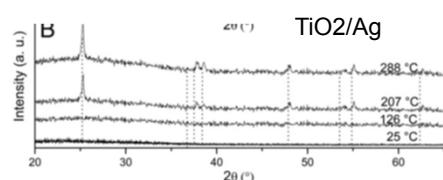
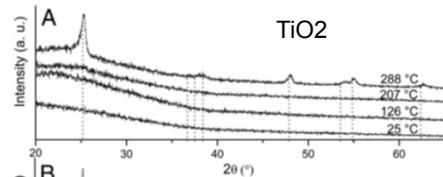


A little story (TiO_2 magnetron sputtering)

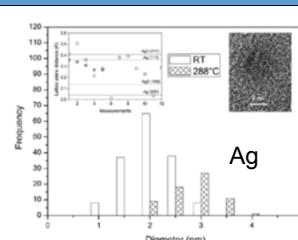
Superhydrophilicity and photocatalytic activity of TiO_2 are related to the crystallisation film in anatase structure

Heat, anneal

Lower the nucleation energy for a specific phase.



80 nm TiO_2



H. Limage, ... S. Lucas, Surf. And Coat. Techn., 2011 (206)3774

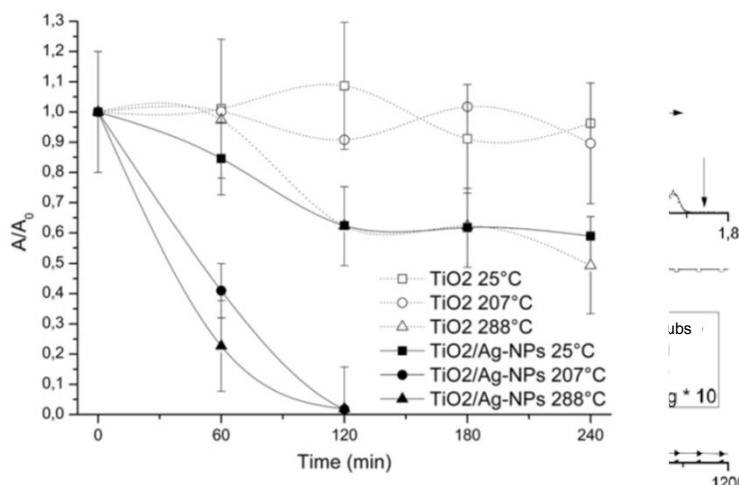
By Magn. Sputtering

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A little story



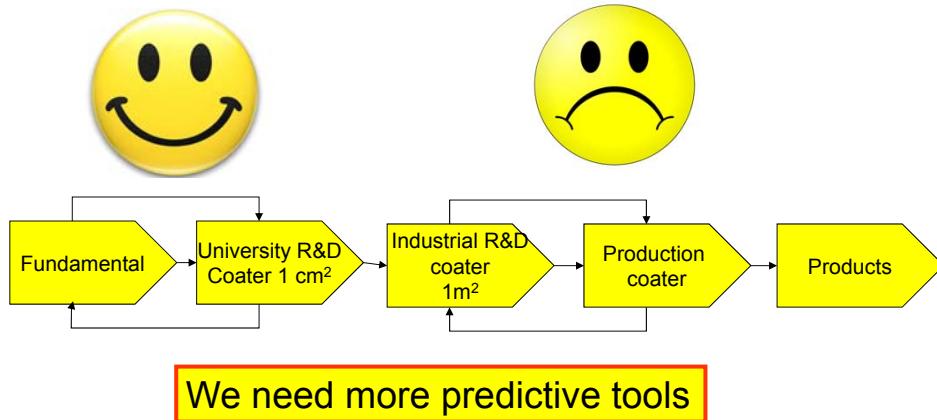
H. Limage, ... S. Lucas,
Surf. And Coat. Techn.,
2011 (206)3774

Fig. 7. Evolution of palmitic acid degradation as measured by absorbance ratio versus UV exposure time.

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A little story: paradigm

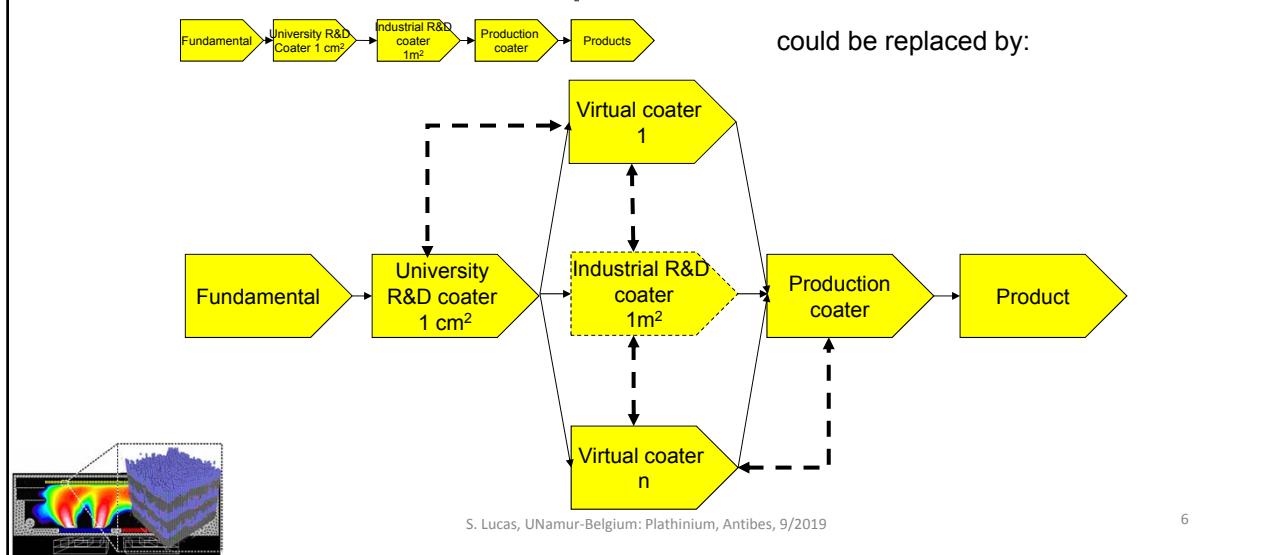


- Was it predictable ?
- Could we have guessed the upscaling parameters (coater setup) ?
- Is there only one suitable set of coater's parameters ?

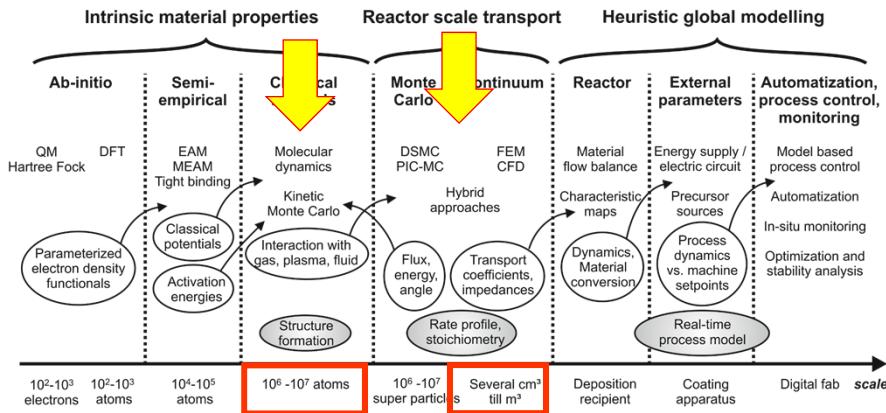
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Redefining the product development model



Multi scale simulation in thin film deposition Complementary modelling approaches and scales



Courtesy of A. Pflug, IST
 → Chapter „Deposition technology (thin films)“ in Georg Schmitz, Ulrich Prahl (Ed.):
Handbook of Software Solutions for ICME, Wiley VCH, in press (expected for 2016).

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Kinetic Monte Carlo method (kMC)

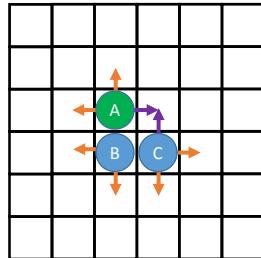
- kMC method was developed to mimic the time evolution of a system containing large number of atoms for a relatively long period of time
- The evolution of the system is driven by the probabilities of different “elementary” events (e.g. moves)
- The event rates are defined as $w = w_0 \exp(-U/kT)$, where w_0 can be estimated as $2kT/h \sim 10^{12}\text{-}10^{13}$, U – energy barrier for an atom for the movement, T – temperature, k – Boltzmann constant, h Planck constant
- At each time step an atom and the direction of its movement are chosen in accordance with the probability of such movement
- Time increment at each time step is equal to $\Delta t = (\sum w_i)^{-1}$, where it is necessary to sum over all possible “jumps” of atoms in the system

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Kinetic Monte Carlo method

Example:

$$N_{ev} = 8$$



Ea_detach (6) > Ea_nn_inc (2)

$$w_j = w_0 \exp(-E_j / k_B T),$$

Probability to have a j -kind event:

$$p_j = N_j w_j / R$$

diffusion directions

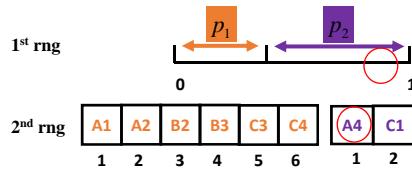


event 1: A1, A2, B2, B3, C3, C4

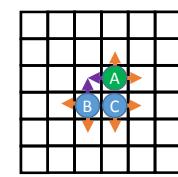
event 2: A4, C1

Nbre of possible jumps

Total rate



final configuration and corresponding new possible movements

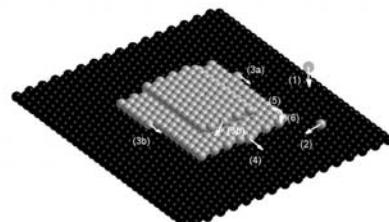


Example of calculation of event rate

$$T = 0,03 \text{ eV} = 0,03 * 11600 = 348 \text{ K} = 75^\circ\text{C}$$

$$Ea_diff = 0,5 \text{ eV}$$

$$W = W_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{Ea}{k_B \cdot T}}$$



$$W_0 = \frac{2 \cdot k_B \cdot T}{h} = 1,45 \times 10^{13} / \text{s}$$

$$W = W_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{Ea}{k_B \cdot T}} \approx 8 \times 10^5 / \text{s}$$



Some order of magnitude

Ea_diff,(eV): 0.51	- rate 5.78e+005 (1/s)	
Ea_nn_dec,(eV): 1.90	- rate 3.12e-015 (1/s)	
Ea_nn_inc,(eV): 1.90	- rate 3.12e-015 (1/s)	
Ea_detach,(eV): 1.95	- rate 5.90e-016 (1/s)	
Ea_up,(eV): 2.00	- rate 1.11e-016 (1/s)	
Ea_down,(eV): 2.00	- rate 1.11e-016 (1/s)	
Ea_detrap,(eV): 4.50	- rate 7.18e-053 (1/s)	Not required if deposition at RT
Ea_sub_evap,(eV): 4.50	- rate 7.18e-053 (1/s)	
Ea_lay_evap,(eV): 4.50	- rate 7.18e-053 (1/s)	

$$T = 0,03 \text{ eV} = 0,03 * 11600 = 348 \text{ K} = 75^\circ\text{C}$$

From literature

- MD simulations
- Bond counting

From experimentation, observation, knowledge

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....



Introduction to NASCAM

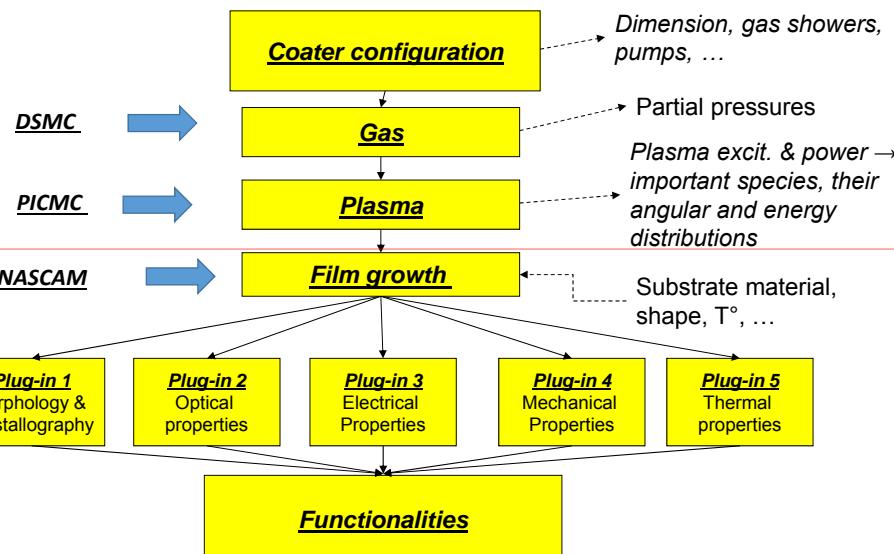
- Introduction and motivation
- Basis of NASCAM
- What we can do by NASCAM – examples
- Film growth simulation based on the input data from the EOSS simulation run
- Analysis of the optical properties of the film by NASCAM's plug-ins

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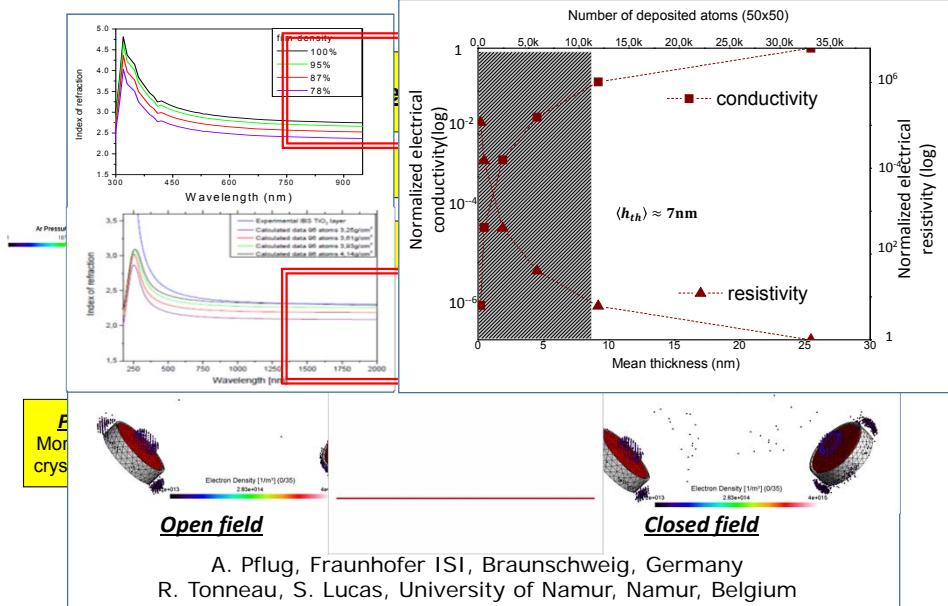
The concept of plasma VIRTUAL COATER™



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The concept of plasma VIRTUAL COATER™

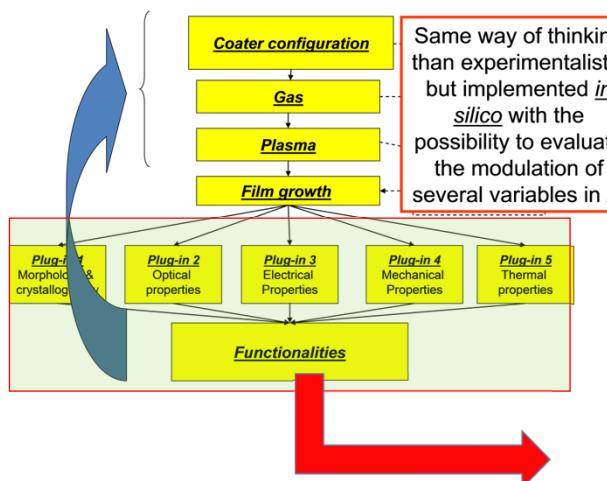


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The concept of plasma VIRTUAL COATER™

NASCAM as a part of VIRTUAL COATER™

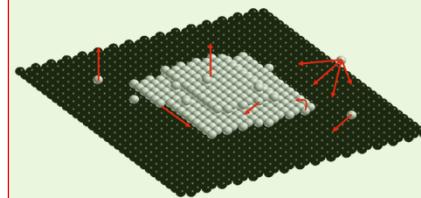
The concept of plasma VIRTUAL COATER™



Film growth model

We take into account

- Deposition
- Free diffusion
- Atom attachment
- Island formation and growth
- Evaporation
- ...



In order to get:

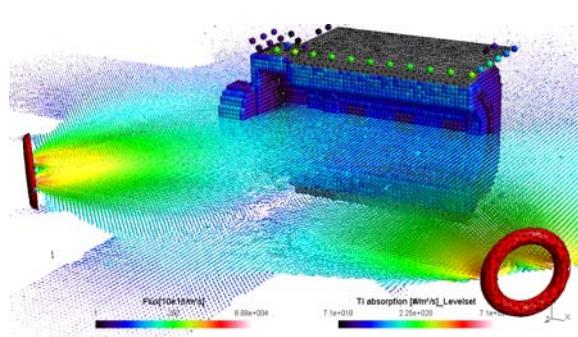
- Film structure
- Morphology
- Properties (roughness, hardness, optical properties, ...)

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Motivation: simulation of the entire plasma process + film deposition



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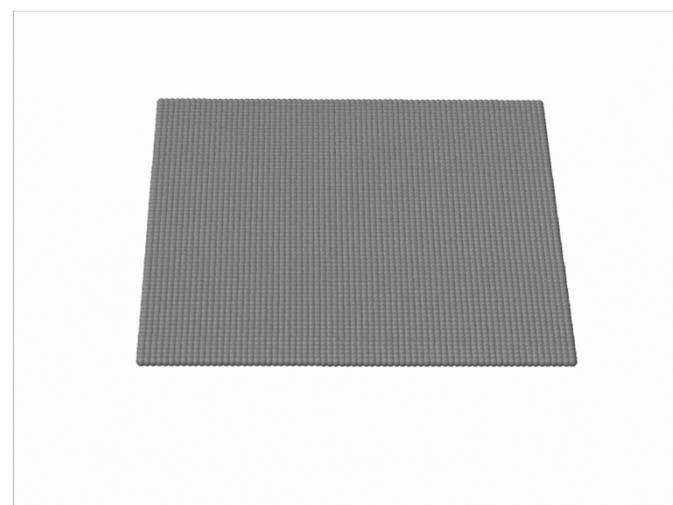
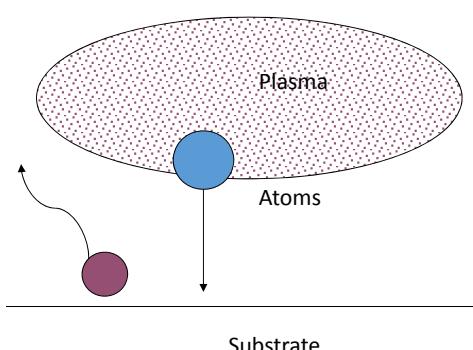
Description of the model

- Deposition of atoms, ions of different species,
- Each specie has its own energy and angular distribution,
- Deposited atoms can diffuse, forming islands, nano particles,
- Incident atoms can transfer energy and momentum to the film.
- Reaction on the surface, e.g. oxidation
- Growth of grains with different orientations -> for future

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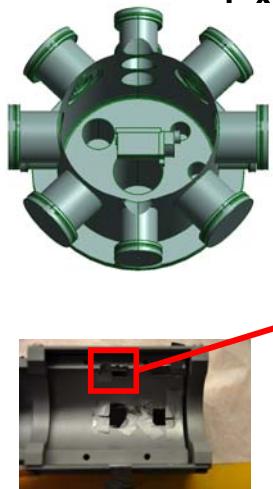
Example 1, Nucleation



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Example 2, columnar growth

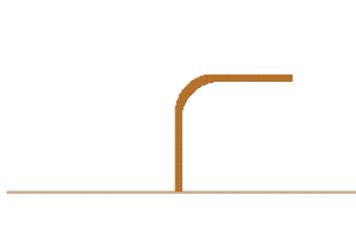


TiO₂ columnar structure growth

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Example 3. Deposition on non flat surfaces



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NASCAM V 4.7.X

- One or two metallic, one reactive (O, N, ...) and one neutral species
- TiO₂, SiO₂, Ta₂O₅, ... + multi layer structures
- Flat or corrugated substrate (can come from SEM pictures)
- More than 1e⁶ atoms to deposit
- Evaporation, sputtering, "CVD",
- Interface with gas/plasma simulation codes
- Plugins:
 - Optical, Porosity, Roughness,

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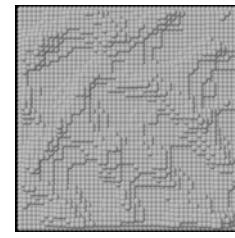
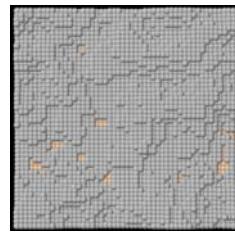
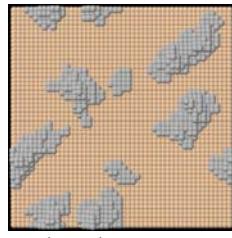
Nucleation studies

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Metal deposition: playing with E_a _up & down

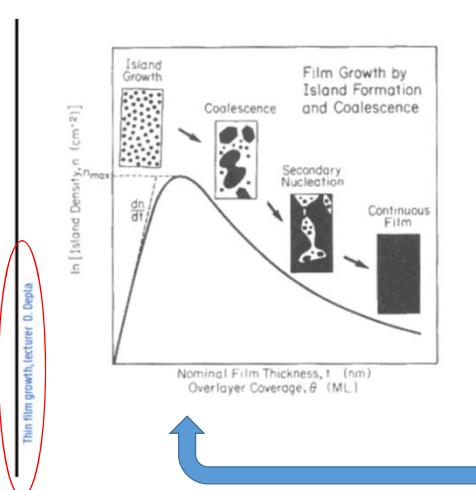
Metal deposition on insulators



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Nucleation



Can we tune this experimentally ?

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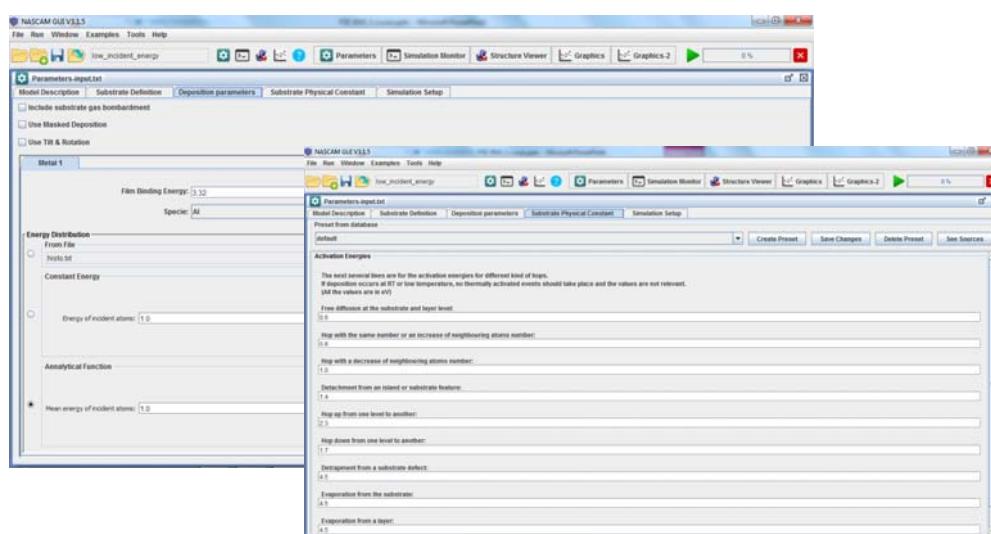
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Case 1: effect of deposition rate

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Low energy (1 eV on average)

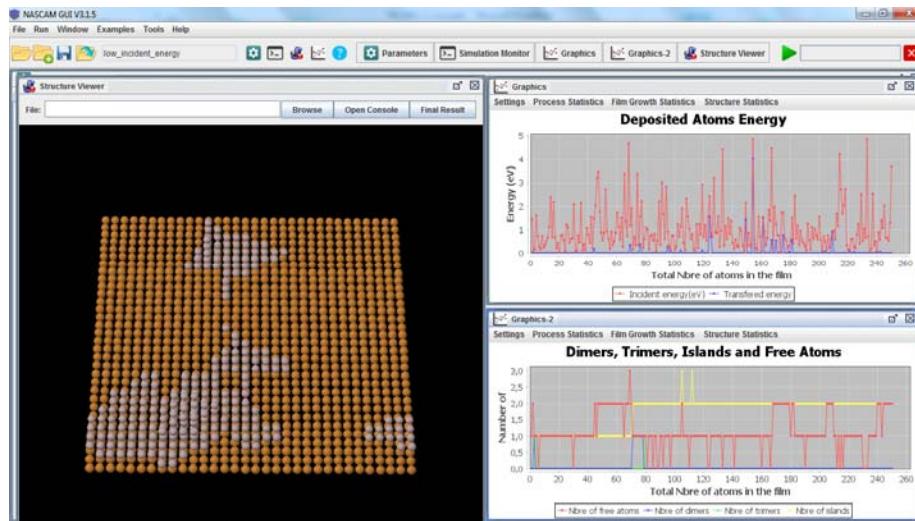


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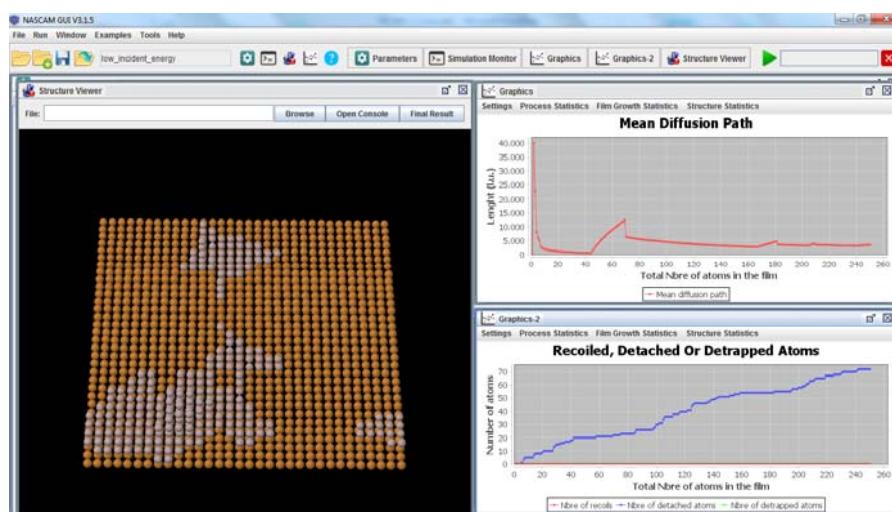
Low energy (1 eV on average)



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Low energy (1 eV on average)

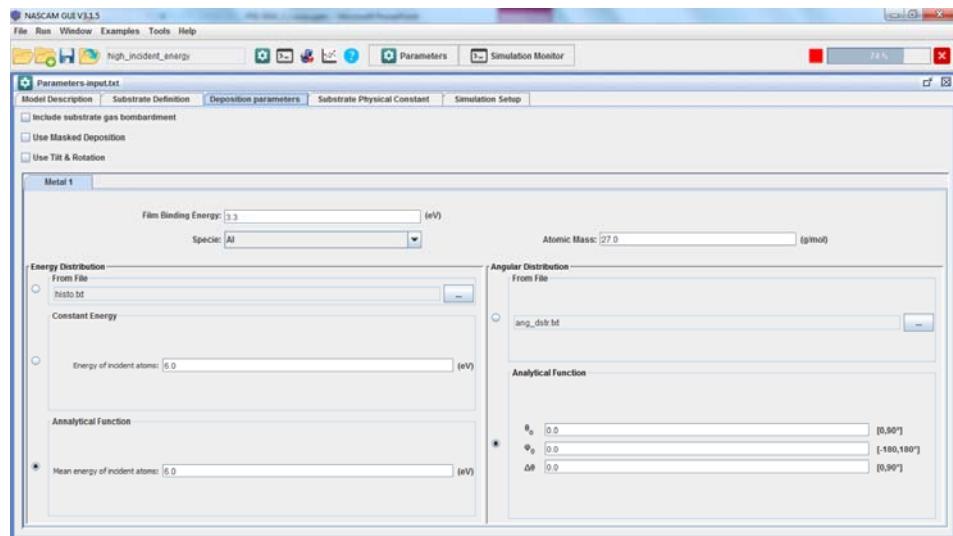


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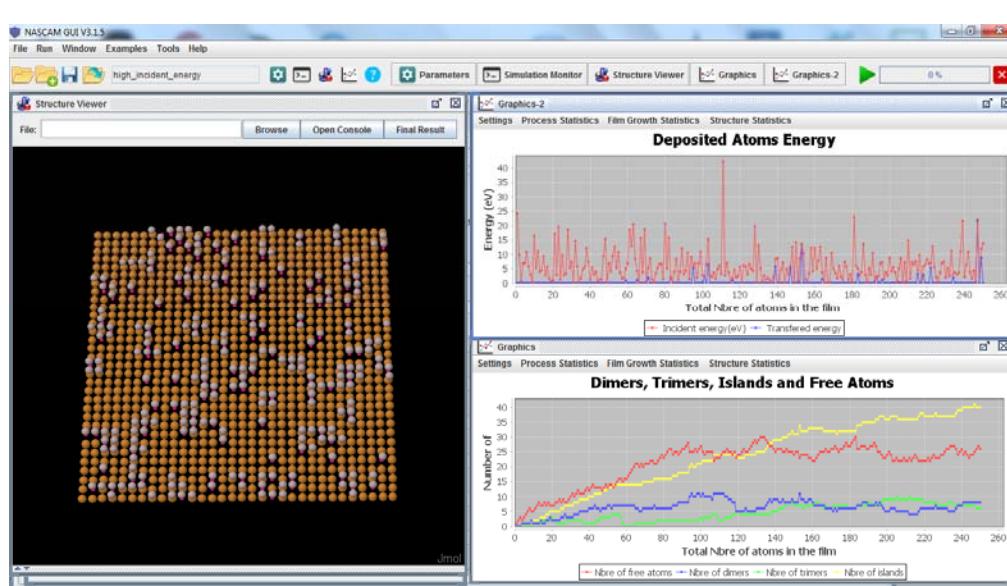
High energy (6 eV on average)



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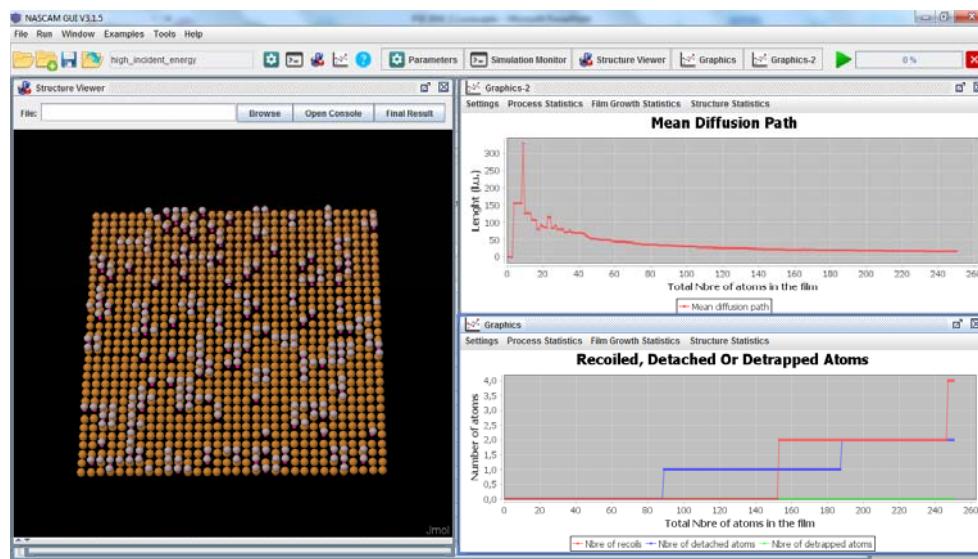


High energy (6 eV on average)

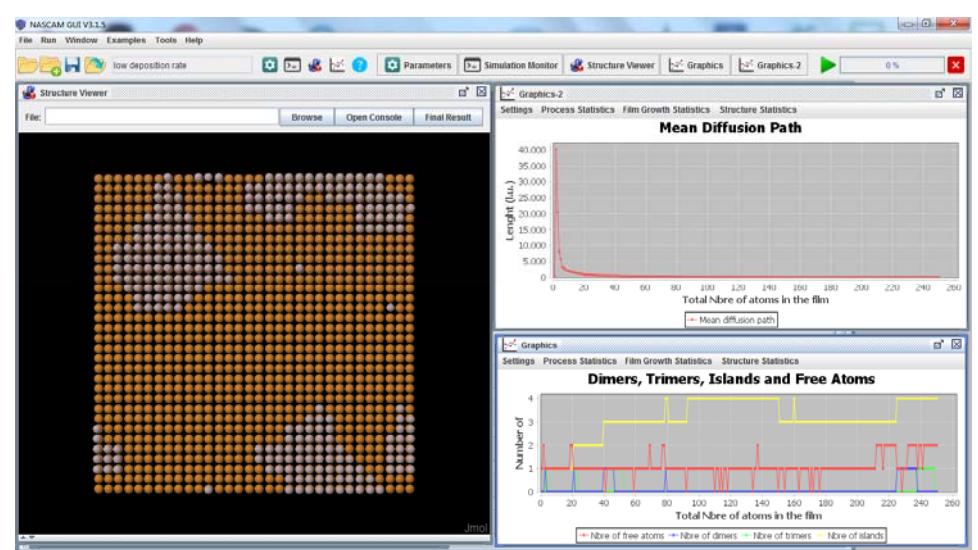




High energy (6 eV on average)

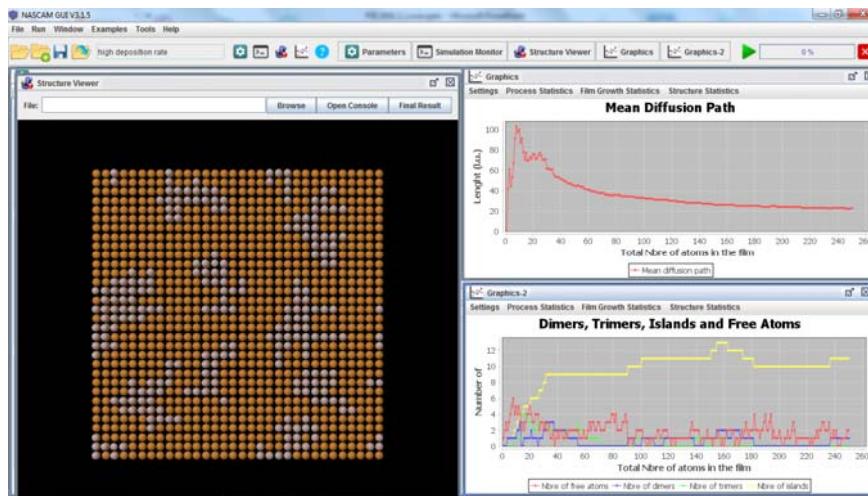


Low deposition rate (0.002 ML/s)



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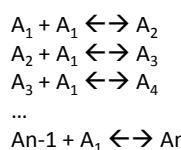
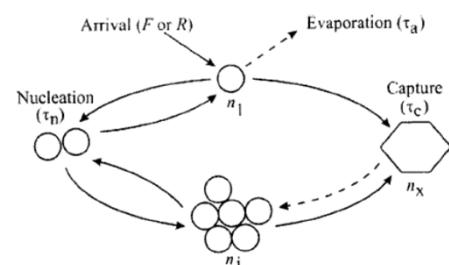
High deposition rate (2 ML/s)



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Nucleation is a complex process of capturing of adatoms by clusters(islands) and of exchange of atoms between clusters

Important assumption! There exist a critical cluster size i^* : all clusters with a smaller size are unstable and quickly dissolve after formation; all clusters with a large sizes are stable.



Walton equation : $\Omega n_{i^*} \sim (\Omega n_1)^{i^*} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{i^*}}{kT}\right)$, Ω is a lattice site area, n_{i^*} and n_1 are number of critical clusters and adatoms, i^* is a size of a critical cluster, E is a formation energy of a cluster

n_1, n_{i^*}, N : surface density of adatoms, critical islands, and stable islands, units - $1/m^2$
 L - characteristic diffusion length, m,
 F - deposition flux, $1/(m^2/s)$,
 D - diffusion coefficient of adatoms, m^2/s ,
 Ω : lattice site area, units - m^2 .



Calculation of number of clusters. 2D case

Number of islands grows because critical islands (n_{i^*}) capture adatoms (n_1) :

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \sigma_{i^*} D n_1 n_{i^*},$$

σ_{i^*} is a capturing capability, D is a diffusion coefficient of adatoms

Evolution of adatoms is governed by the same equation – income due to the deposition, lost because of capturing by critical islands and other islands:

$$\frac{dn_1}{dt} = F - \sigma_{i^*} D n_1 n_{i^*} - \bar{\sigma} D n_1 N; \quad \text{in steady state regime } F = \bar{\sigma} D n_1 N$$

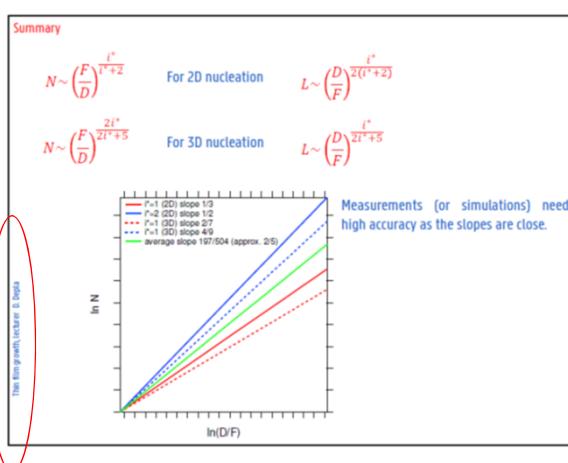
These three equations + Walton equation $\Omega n_{i^*} \sim (\Omega n_1)^{i^*} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{i^*}}{kT}\right)$ give us number of islands:

$$N \sim \left(\frac{F}{D}\right)^{\frac{i^*}{i^*+2}} \quad \text{or characteristic diffusion length } L \sim N^{-0.5} \sim \left(\frac{D}{F}\right)^{\frac{i^*}{2(i^*+2)}}$$

Characteristic diffusion length is defined as the typical length adatoms can diffuse before they are capture by existing islands or form a new nucleus



Calculation of the nucleation density based on the kinetic modelling

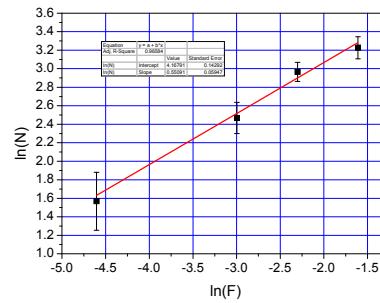
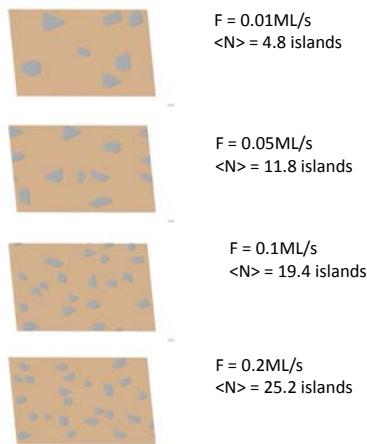


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2D nucleation, simulation by NASCAM

Substrate 200x200, 4000 atoms;
 Deposition rates: from 0.01 to 0.2 ML/s
 $E_{\text{diffusion}} = 0.45 \text{ eV}$, $T = 0.03 \text{ eV} = 100 \text{ C}$
 No detachment



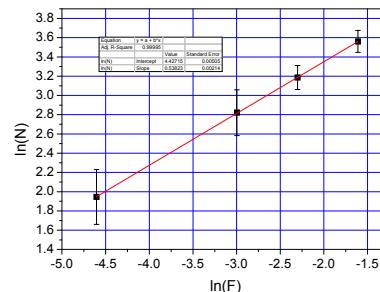
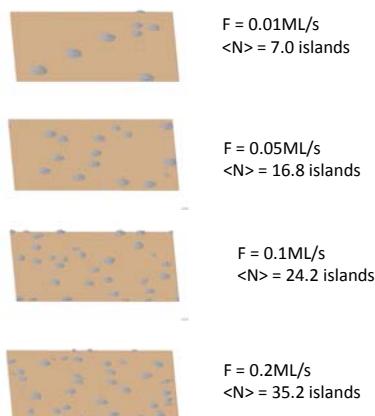
5 simulations for each case;
 Slope = 0.55
 Critical size = 2.4 atoms

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3D nucleation, simulation by NASCAM

Substrate 200x200, 4000 atoms;
 Deposition rates: from 0.01 to 0.2 ML/s
 $E_{\text{diffusion}} = 0.45 \text{ eV}$, $T = 0.03 \text{ eV} = 100 \text{ C}$
 No detachment



5 simulations for each case;
 Slope = 0.54
 Critical size = 2.9 atoms

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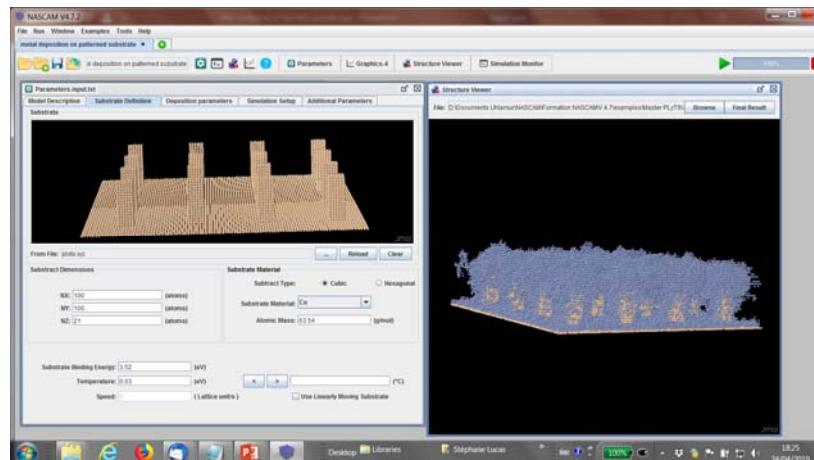
Case 2:

Substrate defect creation and deposition on a patterned substrate

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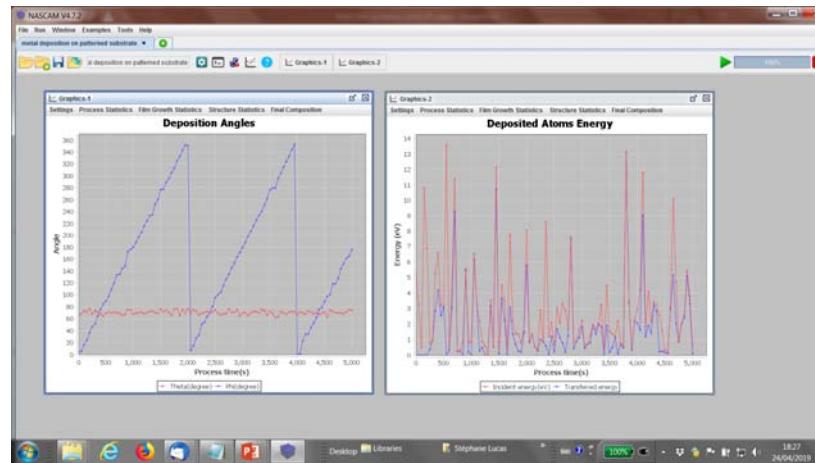
Deposition on a patterned substrate



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Deposition on a patterned substrate



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Film growth studies

- Grain growth
- Shadowing
- GLAD: metal and oxide

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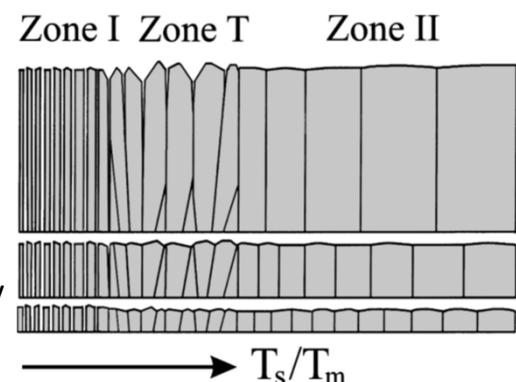
Grain, growth: structure Zone Model - SZM

B. A. Movchan, A. V. Demchishin; J. A. Thornton; P. A. Barna; A. Anders; I. Petrov; ...

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Zone descriptions (zone numbering changes from author to author)

- Zone I – no atom mobility. Columnar structure, a lot of pores, $T_s/T_m < 0.2$
- Zone T – surface diffusion, no grain boundary mobility. Dense columnar structure, V-shape due to competitive growth , $0.2 < T_s/T_m < 0.4$
- Zone II - surface diffusion, grain boundary mobility. Recrystallization , $T_s/T_m > 0.4$
- Zone III (see the next slide) – impurities at the interfaces



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Film growth - stages

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- Nucleation: randomly located randomly oriented grains appear
- Growth of individual grains
- Grains touch each other
 - Zone I: continuous vertical growth of the grains
 - Zone T: competitive growth, grains with orientation providing the fastest vertical growth rate overgrowth others
 - Zone II: grain growth by (i) coalescence – recrystallization due to energy minimization; (ii) due to the mobility of the grain boundaries
- Zone III: defects and impurities prevent the mobility of grain boundaries

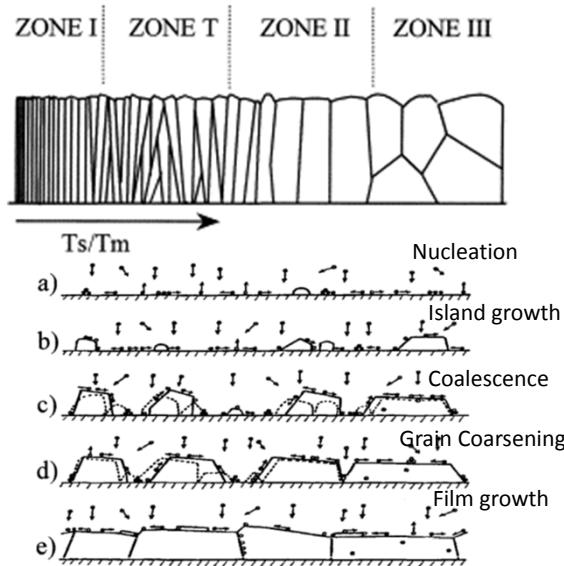


Fig. 1. Growth stages of polycrystalline film formation. a: nucleation; b: crystal growth; c: coalescence; d: growth by filling of the channels; e: thickness growth of the continuous film. Dark circles mark adatoms; light circles impurity species; crystals before coalescence are marked by dashed line.

From "Growth mechanisms of polycrystalline thin films" by P.Barna and M.Adamik

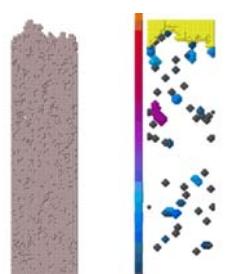
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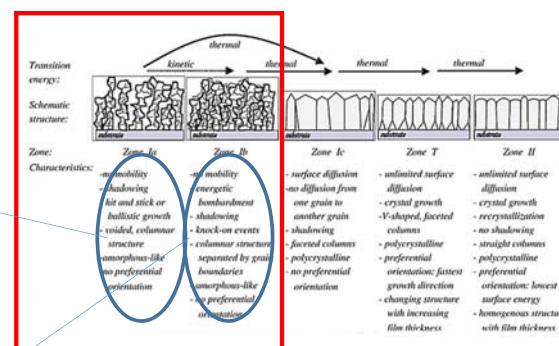
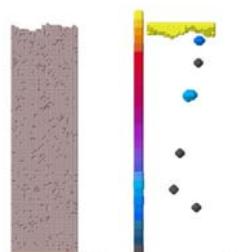
Zone I – low T, no thermal activated mobility

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Low energy deposition



High energy deposition



From "Biaxial alignment in sputter deposited thin films" by S. Mahieu, P. Ghekiere, D. Depla, R. De Gryse

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Zone T (transition) – thermally activated surface diffusion

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- Grains/crystallites with different orientation grow with different vertical rate because:
- Faces with the higher surface diffusion rate grow slower, as the adatoms migrate from these faces to the faces with lower mobility
- Competitive growth : when different crystallites touch each other during the growth, only crystallites with the highest vertical growth rate survive → V-shapes
- Diameter of the columns is more or less equal to the initial diameter because of no coalescence → narrow columns



Same as above, but at high temperature → no pores (one crystallite)

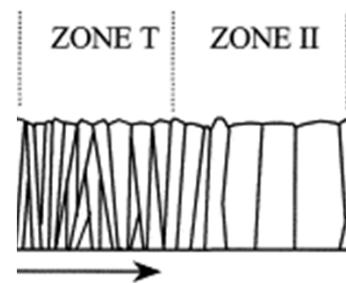
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Zone II – thermally activated bulk diffusion

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- Coalescence of the crystallites:
 - To minimize total energy
 - Because of the grain boundary mobility
- Wide columns because of the coalescence



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A final structure of the film depends on

- Substrate temperature → thermally activated atom mobility $\sim \exp(-U/kT)$
- Energy of deposited particles (depends on material, pressure, voltage etc) → kinetically activated atom mobility, depends on deposited energy per atom (EPA)
- Impurities,
- ...

All these factors influence the surface mobility of deposited atoms, grain mobility, bulk mobility

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Case 3: GLAD with TiO₂

IOP Publishing

J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 51 (2018) 195202 (17pp)

Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6463/aabb72>

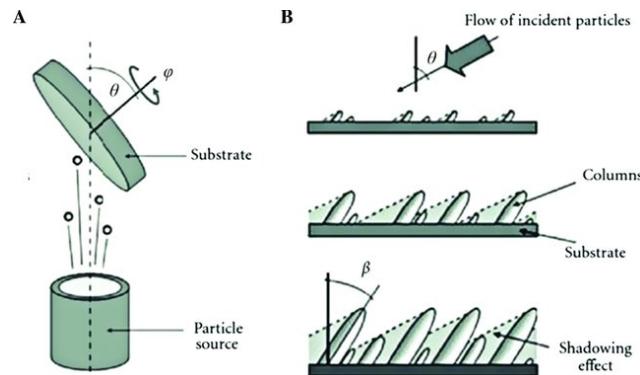
TiO_x deposited by magnetron sputtering: a joint modelling and experimental study

R Tonneau¹✉, P Moskovkin¹, A Pflug² and S Lucas¹

S. Lucas, UNamur-Belgium: Platinium, Antibes, 9/2019

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Glancing Angle Deposition (GLAD)

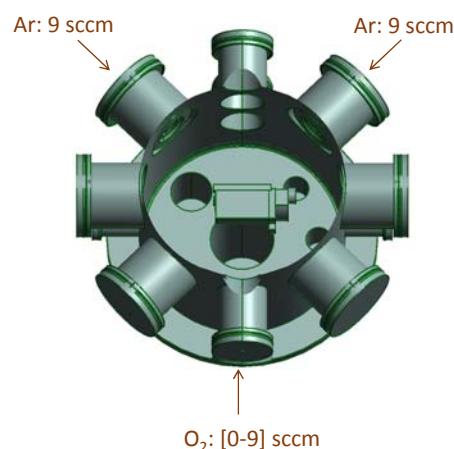


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RSD: a well known story...

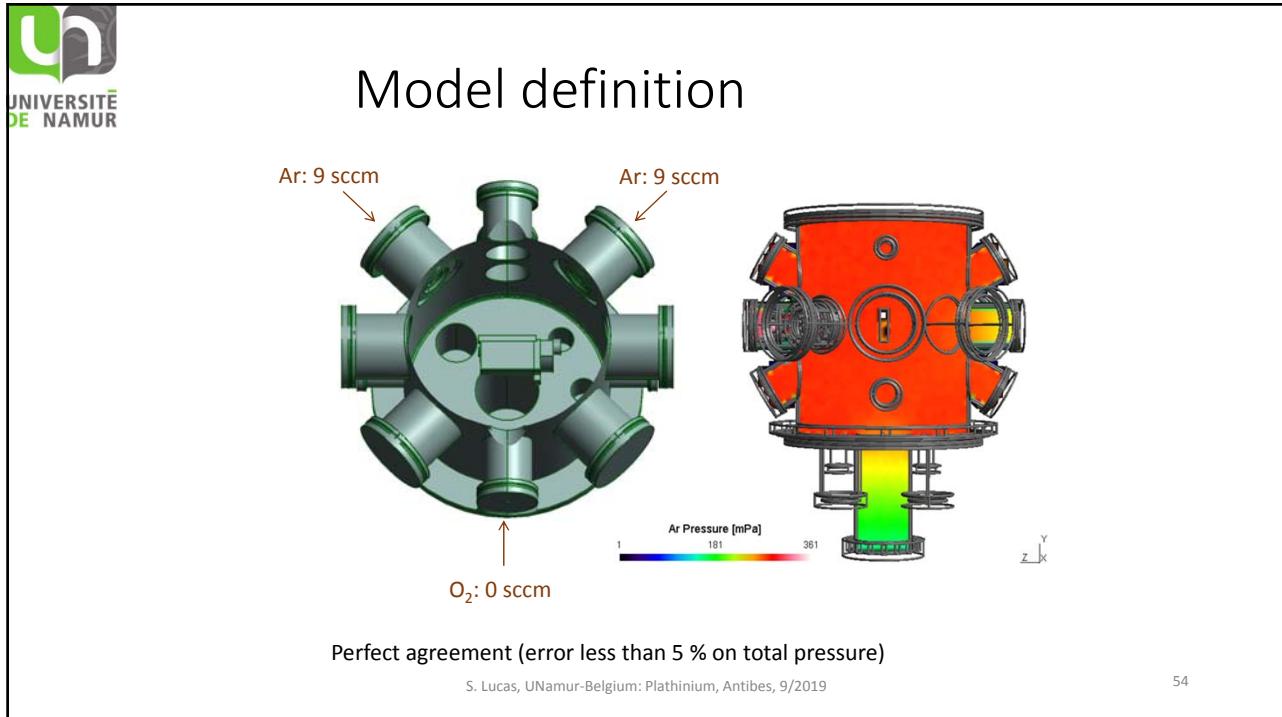
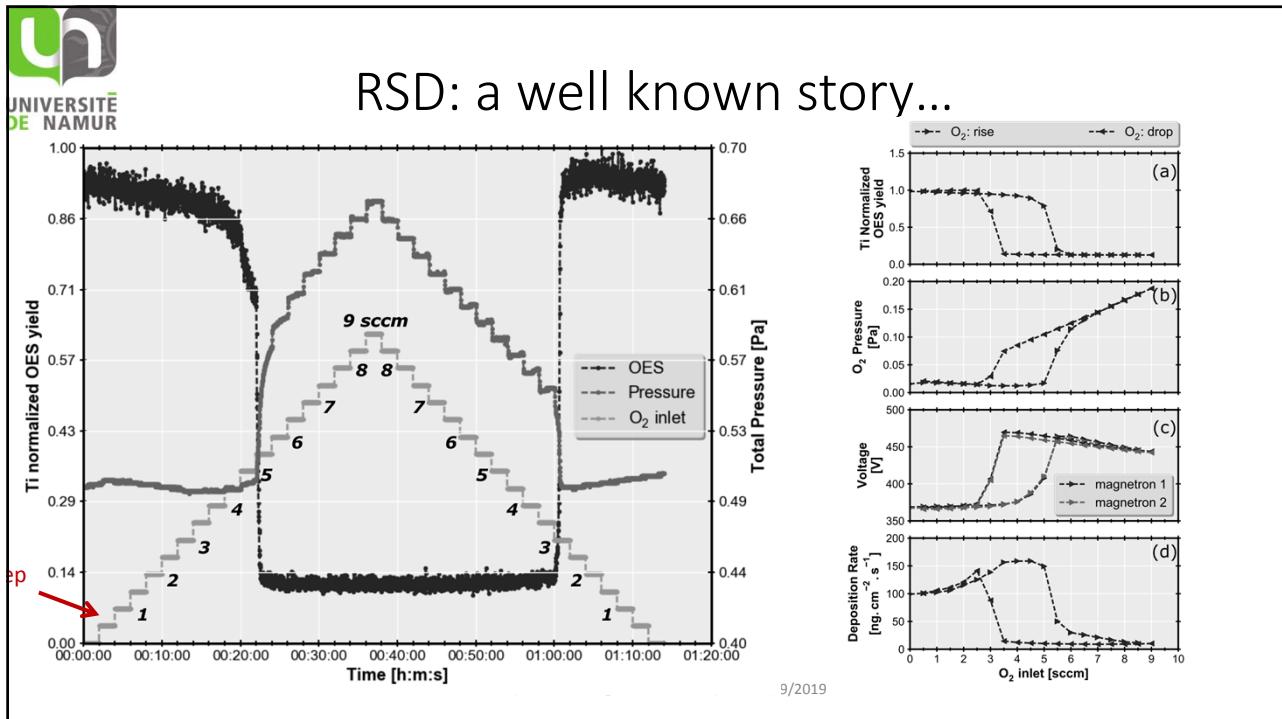
→ Let's buy a vacuum chamber with 2 magnetrons and 2 Ti Targets



View of Mantis Coater (University of Namur)

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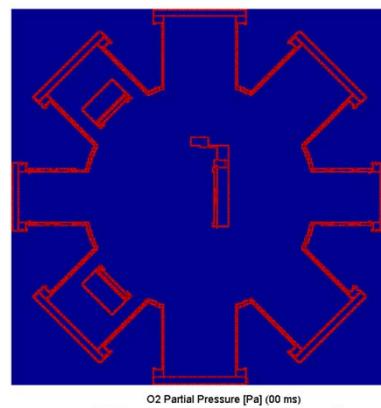
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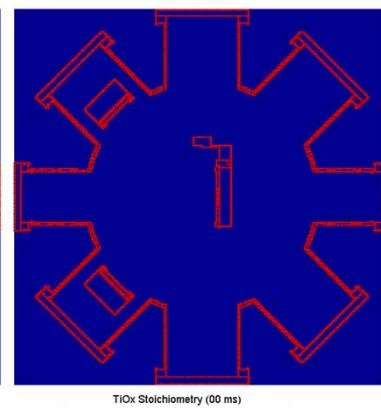


Time evolution of O₂ partial pressure & surface coverage

O₂ inlet : 2 sccm



8 sccm



O₂ Partial Pressure [Pa] (00 ms)

0.0005 0.02 0.5

TiO_x Stoichiometry (00 ms)

0.1 1 2

Values on walls only

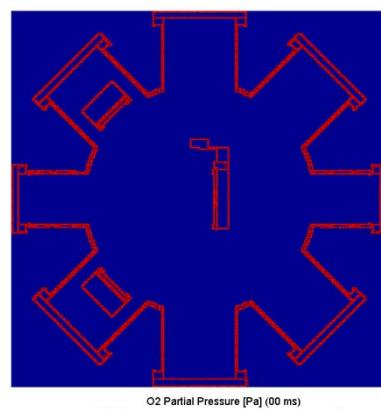
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⁵⁵

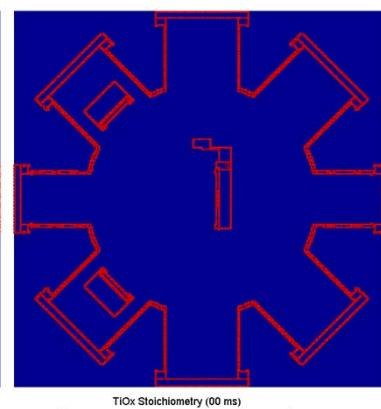


Time evolution of O₂ partial pressure & surface coverage

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8 sccm



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TiO_x Stoichiometry (00 ms)

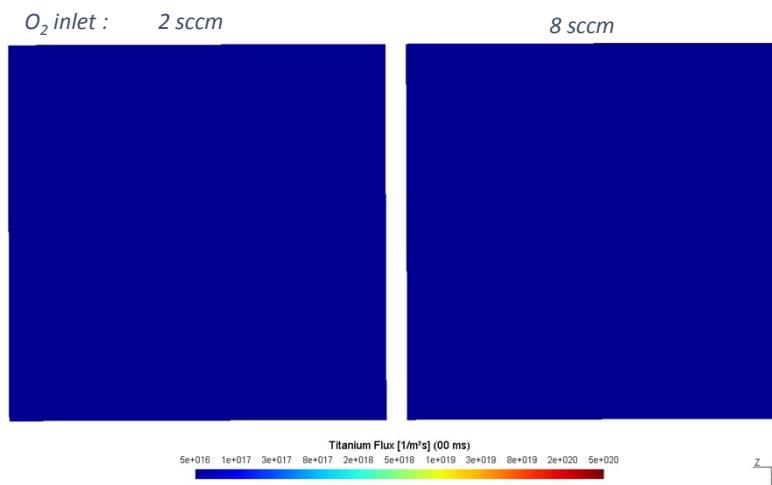
0.1 1 2

Values on walls only

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⁵⁶

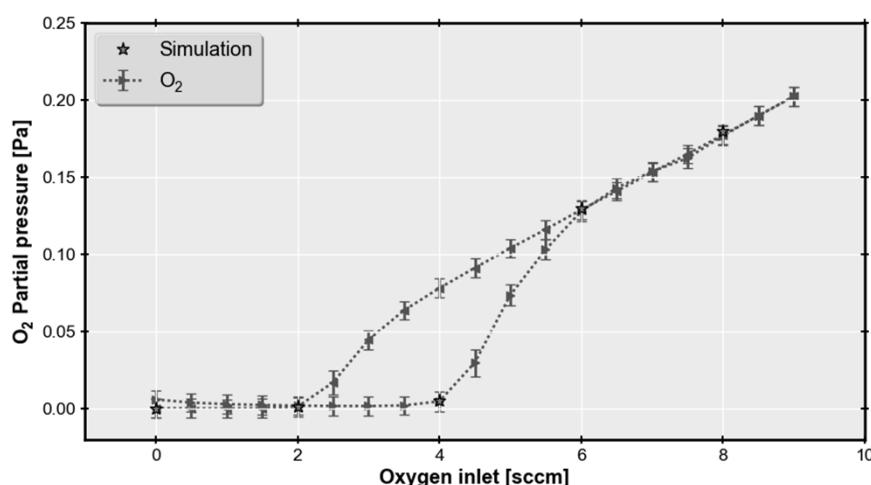
Time evolution of Titanium flux



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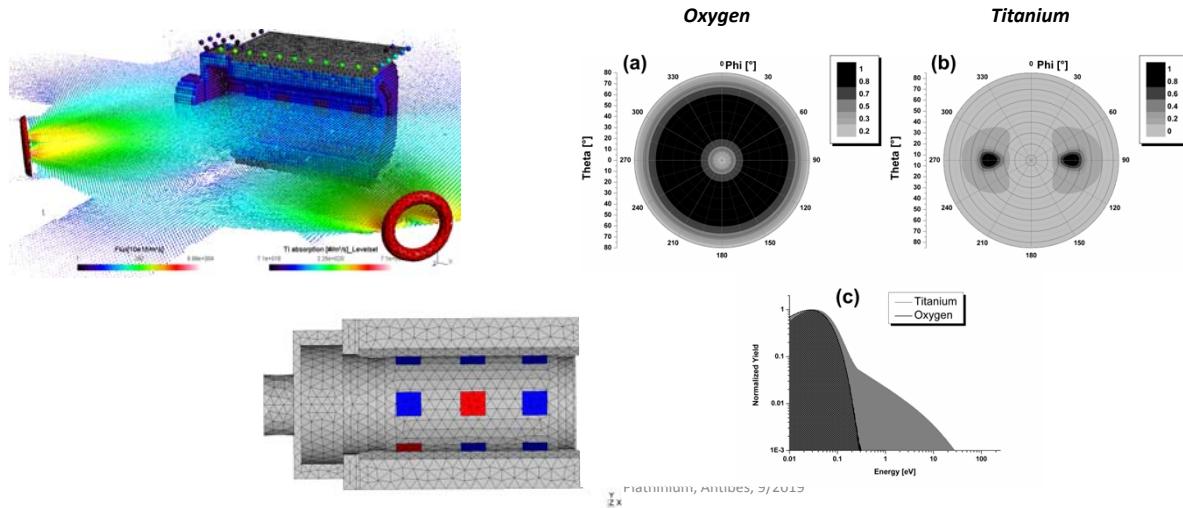
Comparison with experiment



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Focus on substrate

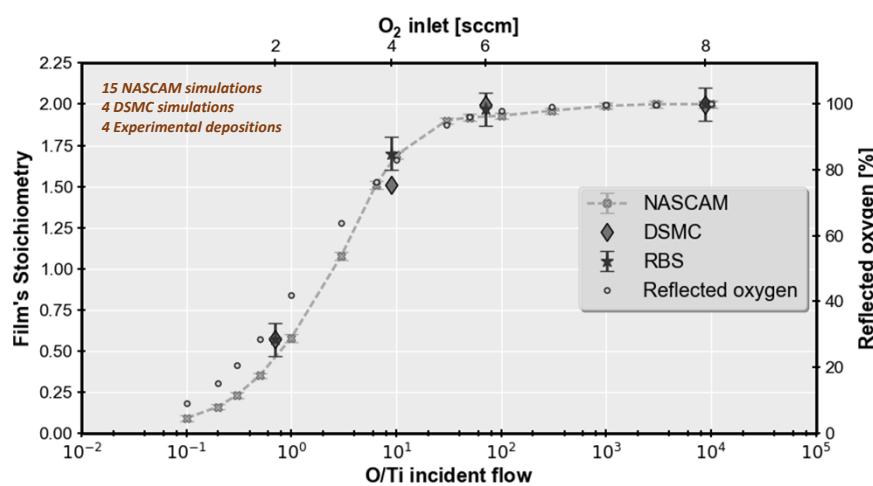
→ Angular and energy distributions



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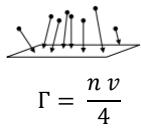
Focus on substrate

→ Let's vary flux ratio O/Ti



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O/Ti order of magnitude in RSD



$$\Gamma = \frac{n v}{4}$$

v = average velocity
 Γ = particle flux
 n = particle density

$$\rightarrow \Gamma_{reactive} = \frac{p_{O_2}}{(2\pi mkT)^{1/2}} [part. s^{-1} m^{-2}]$$

$$\Gamma_{metal} = S \cdot t \cdot D_R \cdot \rho_{TiO_2} \cdot M_{TiO_2}^{-1} \cdot N_A \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$$

N_A : avogadro number

S : substrate surface

t : deposition time

D_R : deposition rate

M_{TiO_2} : molar mass of titania

$$D_R = 0.1 \text{ Å s}^{-1}$$

$$\Gamma_{reactive} = 4.843 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ part. s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

$$\rho_{TiO_2} = 4.23 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

$$\Gamma_{metal} = 1.062 \cdot 10^{13} \text{ part. s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

$$M_{TiO_2} = 79.86 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\Gamma_{reactive}}{\Gamma_{metal}} \cong 10^4$$

$$p_{O_2} = 0.18 \text{ Pa}$$

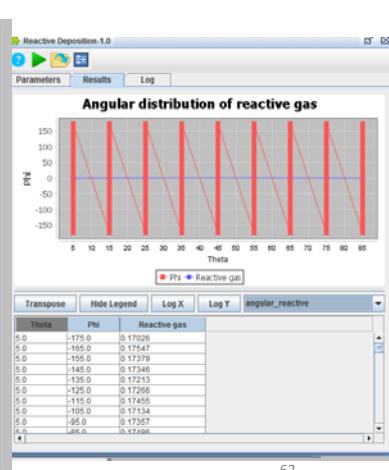
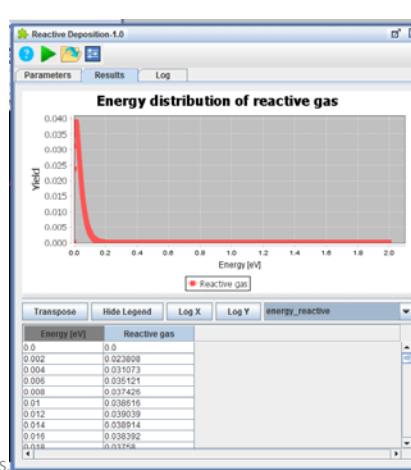
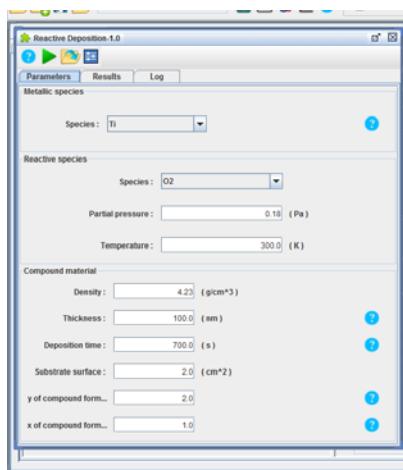
$$T = 300 \text{ K}$$

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At least 2 orders of magnitude difference !

O₂ Angular and energy distribution

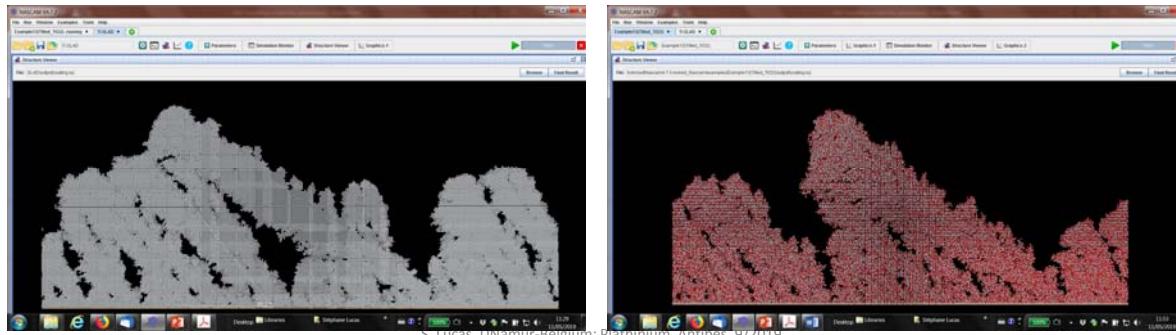


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Let's now simulate film growth

Ti by GLAD versus TiO₂ by GLAD

70 °



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KMC morphology's results versus experimental data

J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 51 (2018) 195202

R Tonneau et al.

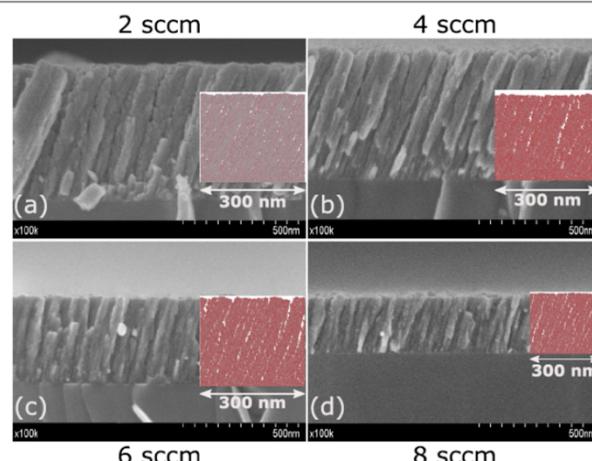
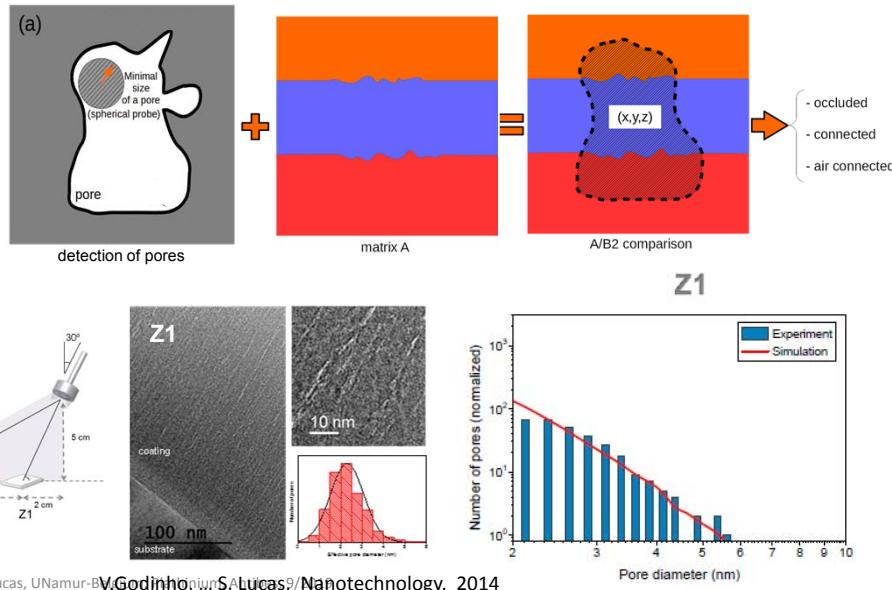


Figure 14. Comparison of the film's structure between SEM analyses and NASCAM simulations for the corner sample located along the hysteresis curve.

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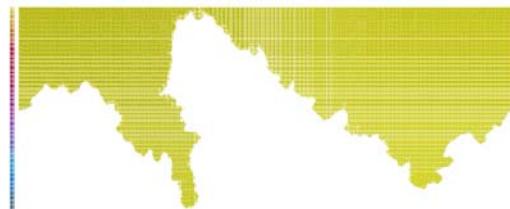


Porosity analysis (J. Müller (and help from CSIC-Sevilla))

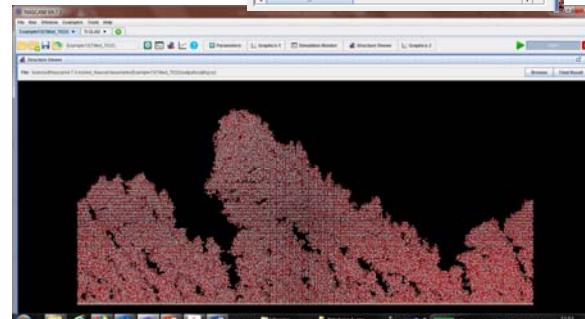
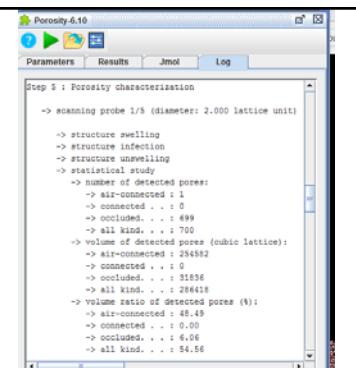
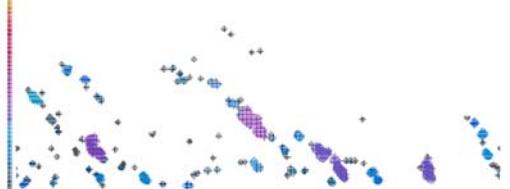


Porosity evaluation TiO₂, size 4

Air connected



Occluded





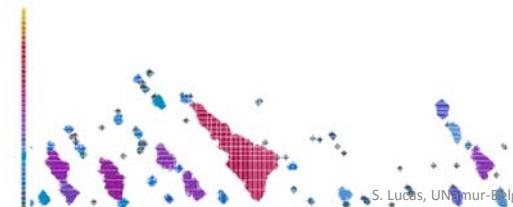
Porosity evaluation

Ti, size 4

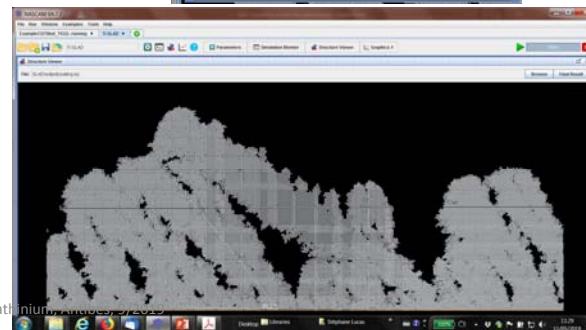
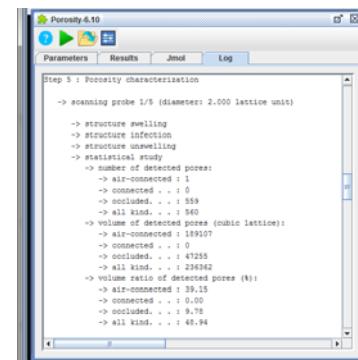
Air connected



Occluded



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Case 4 (from literature):
Heat reflector

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Heat reflector

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

Color tunable low cost transparent heat reflector using copper and titanium oxide for energy saving application

Received: 19 June 2015

Accepted: 23 December 2015

Published: 05 February 2016

Goutam Kumar Dalapati¹, Saeid Masudy-Panah¹, Sing Teng Chua,
Mohit Sharma, Ten It Wong, Hui Ru Tan & Dongzhi Chi

Multilayer coating structure comprising a copper (Cu) layer sandwiched between titanium dioxide (TiO_2) were demonstrated as a transparent heat reflecting (THR) coating on glass for energy-saving window application. The main highlight is the utilization of Cu, a low-cost material, in-lieu of silver which is widely used in current commercial heat reflecting coating on glass. Color tunable transparent heat reflecting coating was realized through the design of multilayer structure and process optimization. The impact of thermal treatment on the overall performance of sputter deposited $TiO_2/Cu/TiO_2$ multilayer thin film on glass substrate is investigated in detail. Significant enhancement of transmittance in the

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Heat reflector

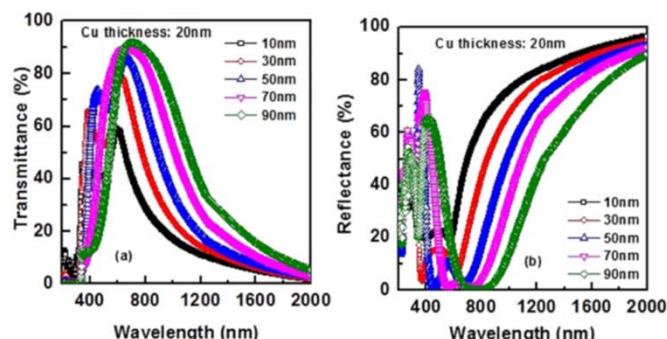
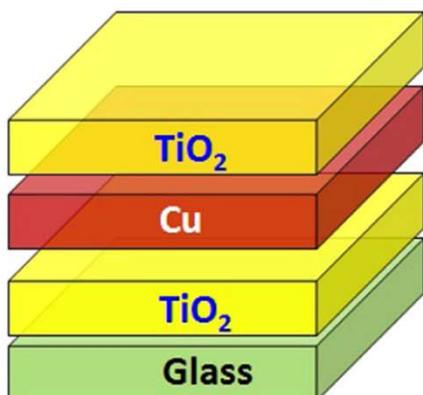


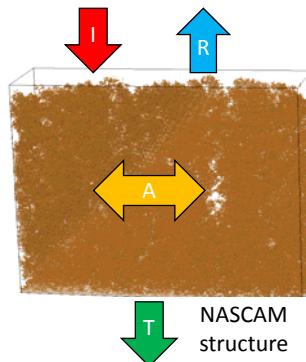
Figure 1. Schematic diagram of transparent heat reflector (THR) using symmetrical dielectric (TiO_2) and identical thickness over and below Cu layer.

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Plugin: Optics algorithm within NASCAM (J. Müller)

- **Goal:** optical characterization of a nano-structured stack provided by NASCAM.
- **Method:** computation of the absorptance, the reflectance and the transmittance by using the effective medium theory and the T-Matrix method



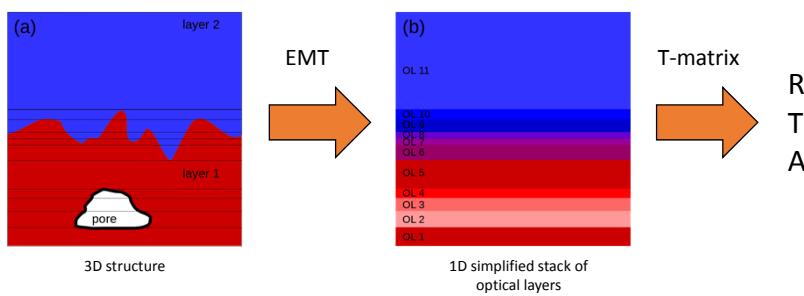
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Plugin: Optics algorithm

Principle of effective medium theory

- conversion of 3D porous structure to 1D uniform optical layers
- the optical layer thickness is based on the volume fraction for each material of the structure.
- computation of an effective optical index for each optical layer and each wavelength (5 effective medium models available)
- calculation of the reflectance, transmittance and absorptance by T-matrix



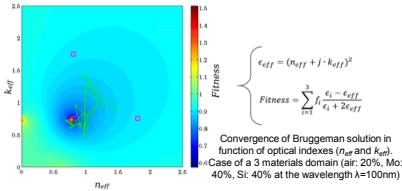
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Effective medium theory

Five optical models (for a n-material optical layer) are available:

- the **Maxwell-Garnett method**: $\frac{\epsilon_{eff} - \epsilon_h}{\epsilon_{eff} + y\epsilon_h} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_h}{\epsilon_i + y\epsilon_h}$
 - the **Lorentz-Lorentz method**: $\frac{\epsilon_{eff} - 1}{\epsilon_{eff} + 2} = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - 1}{\epsilon_i + 2}$
 - the **Volume Average method**: $\epsilon_{eff} = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \epsilon_i$
 - the **Bruggeman method**: $\sum_{i=1}^n f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_{eff}}{\epsilon_i + 2\epsilon_{eff}} = 0$
NB: The optimization method used to solve the Bruggemann equation is the bounded Nelder-Mead method (or downhill simplex method)
 - **hybrid method**: based on the Maxwell-Garnett and the Bruggeman models. The choice of the model is function of the volume ratio of each material in an optical layer
- the effective index has to be computed for each optical layer and each wavelength!



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \epsilon_{eff} = (n_{eff} + j \cdot k_{eff})^2 \\ \text{Fitness} = \sum_{i=1}^3 f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_{eff}}{\epsilon_i + 2\epsilon_{eff}} \end{array} \right\}$$

Convergence of Bruggeman solution in function of optical indexes (n_{eff} and k_{eff})

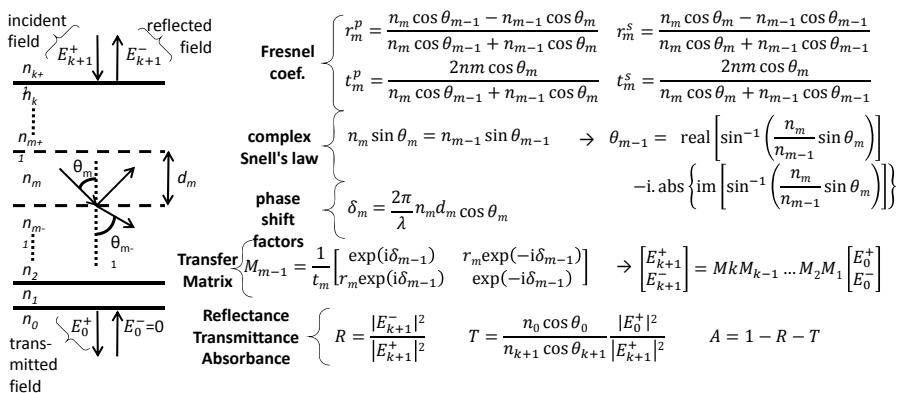
Case of a 3 materials domain (air: 20%, Mo: 40%, Si: 40% at the wavelength $\lambda=100\text{nm}$)

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T-Matrix method

- calculation of the reflectance, transmittance and absorptance by T-matrix:



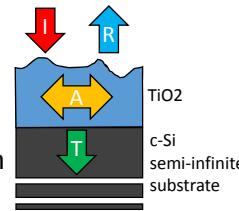
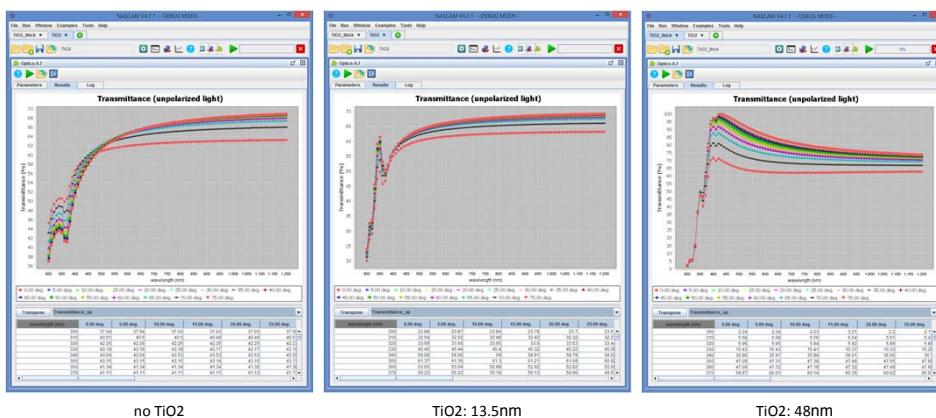
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Plugin: Optics algorithm

- TiO₂ deposition on c-Si substrate
 - TiO₂ thickness: 0nm, 13.5nm, 48nm
 - transmittance/reflectance calculation

transmittance of TiO₂ layer on c-Si substrate

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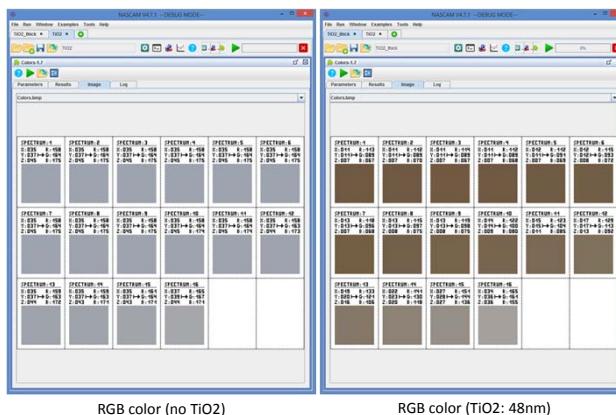
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Plugin: Colors algorithm (J. Müller)

Colors simulation

- application to the light reflected by the sample c-Si/TiO₂



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Optics 2.0 → FDTD

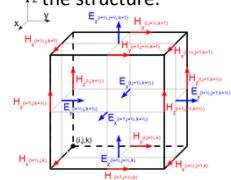
WP2

- Maxwell equations discretized by finite difference:

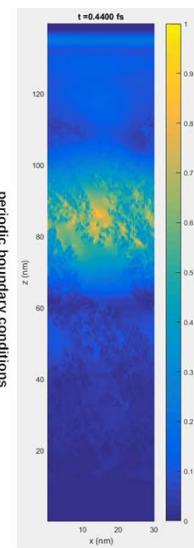
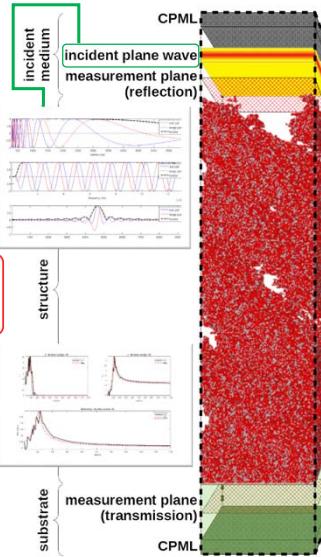
$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} & \nabla \times \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{J}_s + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} &= \rho & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{D} &\propto \mathbf{E} & \mathbf{B} &\propto \mathbf{H} \end{aligned}$$

$$\epsilon_{i,j+1,k+1} [E_x^{(n+1)} - E_x^{(n-1)}] = \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y} [H_z^{(n+1),k+1} - H_z^{(n-1),k+1}] + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z} [H_y^{(n+1),k} - H_y^{(n-1),k}]$$

- Yee cell used to discretize the structure:



Incident light spectrum in the frequency and time domains



TiO₂ optical index fitted by 2 modified Lorentz

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cost: 10GB and 7 hours! BUT it's possible to reduce that! With a space step 2 times bigger → 1.25GB and 25 min.

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Some info for this case

50 nm TiO₂:

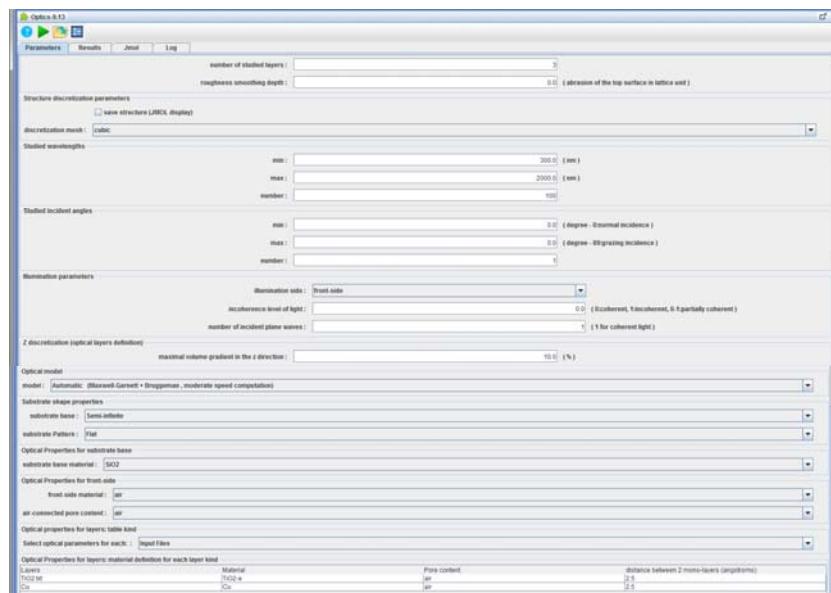
- $D_{\text{average}} = 2.5 \text{ Å} = 0.25 \text{ nm}$.
- $\rightarrow 50 \text{ nm} = 200 \text{ layers roughly}$.
- $200 \times 20 \times 20 = 80.000 \text{ atoms to be deposited if fully stacked}$.
- If 80 % density, roughly 65000 atoms to be deposited

Cu:

- Interplanar spacing of {110} planes: $D_{\text{average}} = 2.55 \text{ Å}$

$$(b) d_{hkl} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{h^2 + k^2 + l^2}}$$

$$d_{110} = \frac{3.61 \times 10^{-10}}{\sqrt{2}} = 2.55 \times 10^{-10}$$



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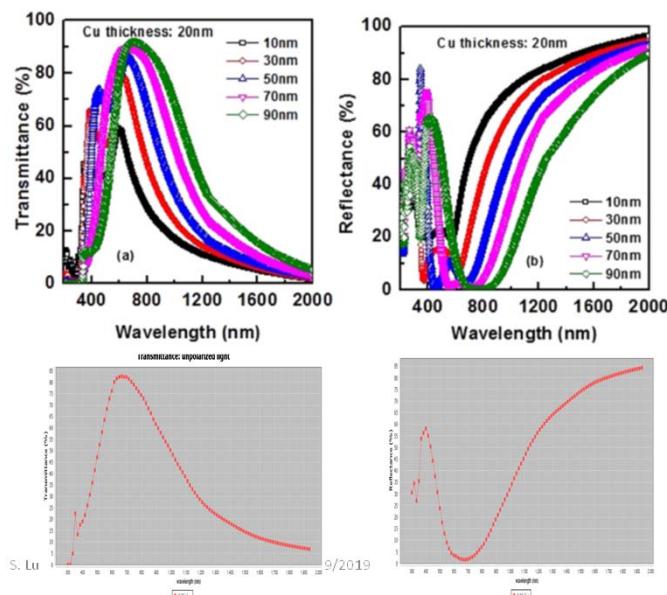
Heat reflector as simulated with by KMC (NASCAM)

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN | Color tunable low cost transparent heat reflector using copper and titanium oxide for energy saving application

Received: 18 June 2018
Accepted: 02 December 2018
Published: 05 February 2019

Goutam Kumar Dey^{1*}, Saeid Mousavi-Panah², Sing Teng Chua,
Mohit Sharma, Ten H Wong, Hui-Ru Tan & Dongchi Chi





End for 2019

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