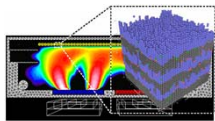


Modelisation of thin film deposition by KMC Plathinium, Antibes, 9/2019

S. Lucas

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Innovative Coating Solutions (ICS), slu@incosol4u.com



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1

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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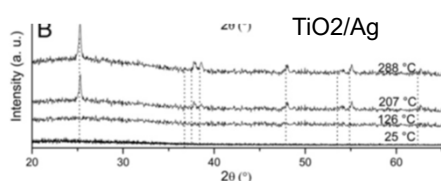
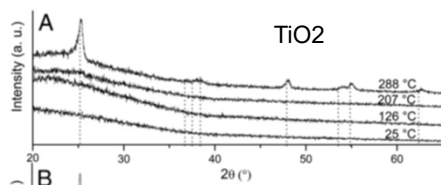
2

A little story (TiO₂ magnetron sputtering)

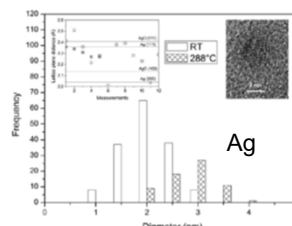
Superhydrophilicity and photocatalytic activity of TiO₂ are related to the crystallisation film in anatase structure

Heat, anneal

Lower the nucleation energy for a specific phase.



80 nm TiO₂



By Magn. Sputtering

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

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3

A little story

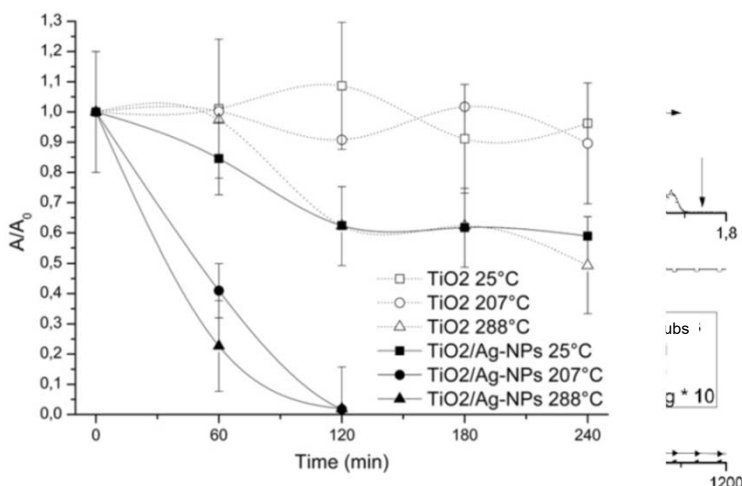
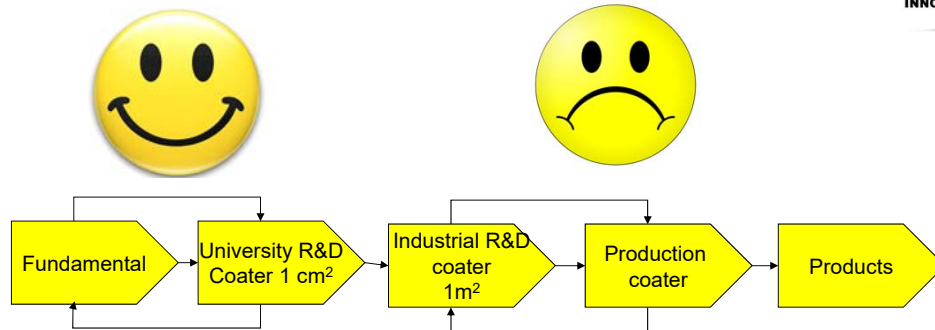


Fig. 7. Evolution of palmitic acid degradation as measured by absorbance ratio versus UV exposure time.

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

A little story: paradigm

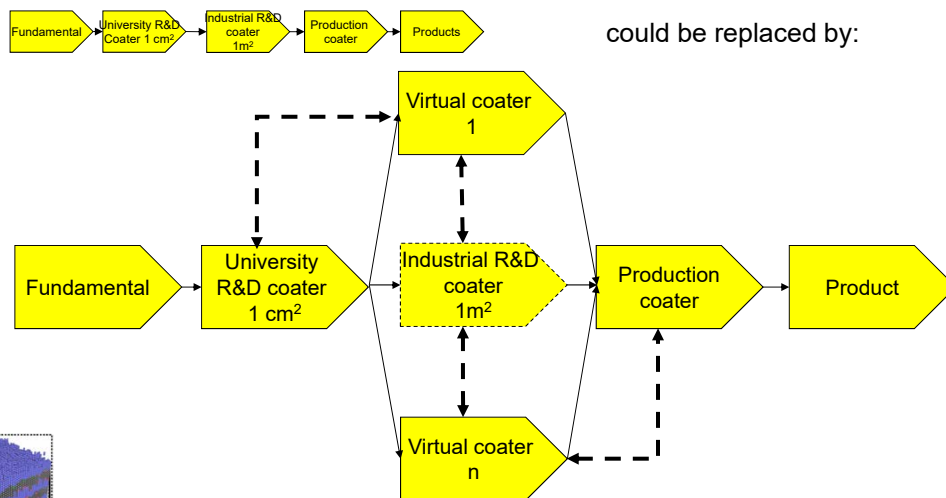


We need more predictive tools

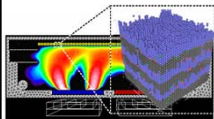
- Was it predictable ?
- Could we have guessed the upscaling parameters (coater setup) ?
- Is there only one suitable set of coater's parameters ?

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Redefining the product development model

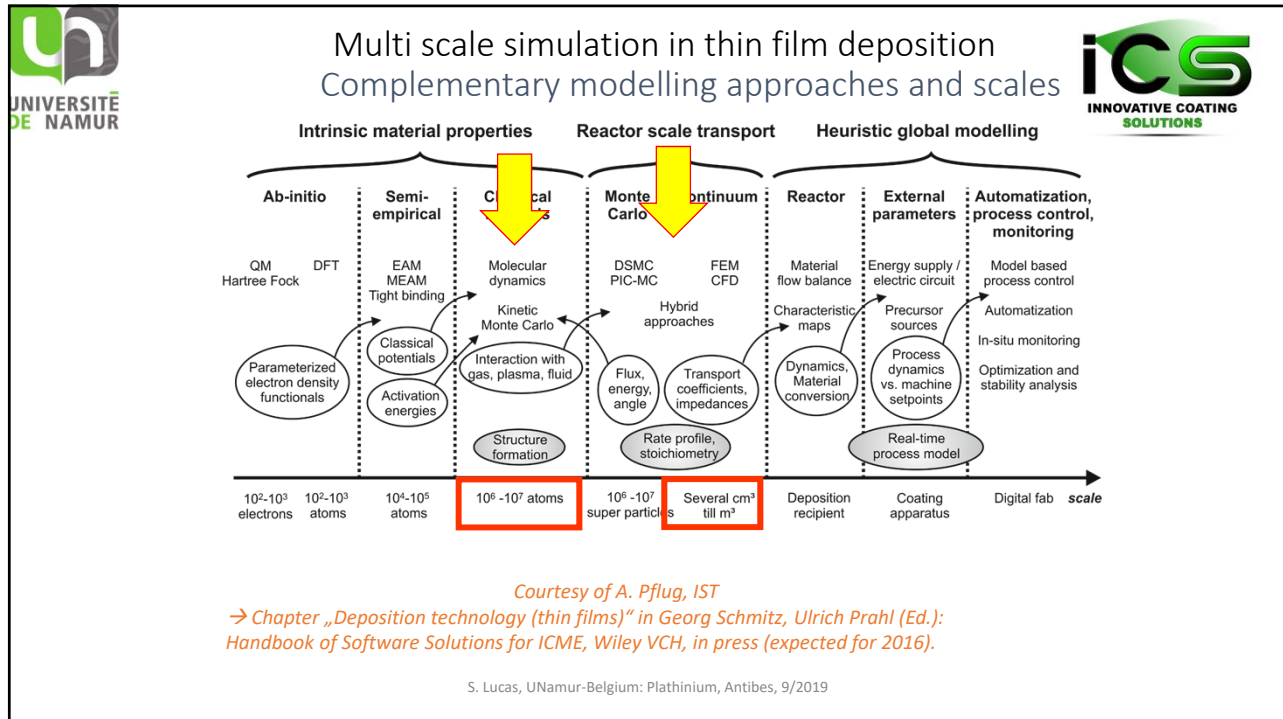


could be replaced by:



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6



Kinetic Monte Carlo method (kMC)

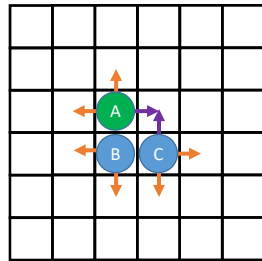
- kMC method was developed to mimic the time evolution of a system containing large number of atoms for a relatively long period of time
- The evolution of the system is driven by the probabilities of different “elementary” **events** (e.g. moves)
- The event rates are defined as $w = w_0 \exp(-U/kT)$, where w_0 can be estimated as $2kT/h \sim 10^{12}-10^{13}$, 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:

$$N_{ev} = 8$$

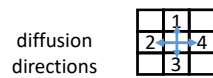


$$Ea_detach(6) > Ea_nn_inc(2)$$

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

Probability to have a j -kind event:

$$p_j = N_j w_j / R$$

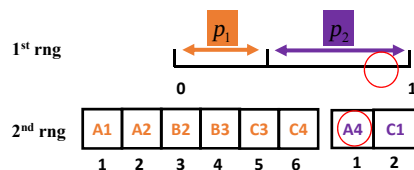


event 1: A1, A2, B2, B3, C3, C4

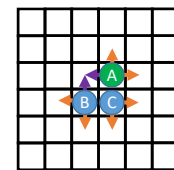
event 2: A4, C1

Total rate

Nbre of possible jumps



final configuration and corresponding new possible movements

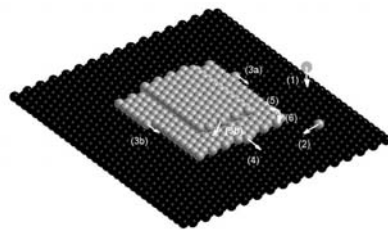


Example of calculation of event rate

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

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

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



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

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

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)
Ea_sub_evap,(eV): 4.50	- rate 7.18e-053 (1/s)
Ea_lay_evap,(eV): 4.50	- rate 7.18e-053 (1/s)

Not
required if
deposition
at RT

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

From literature

- MD simulations
- Bond counting

From experimentation, observation, knowledge

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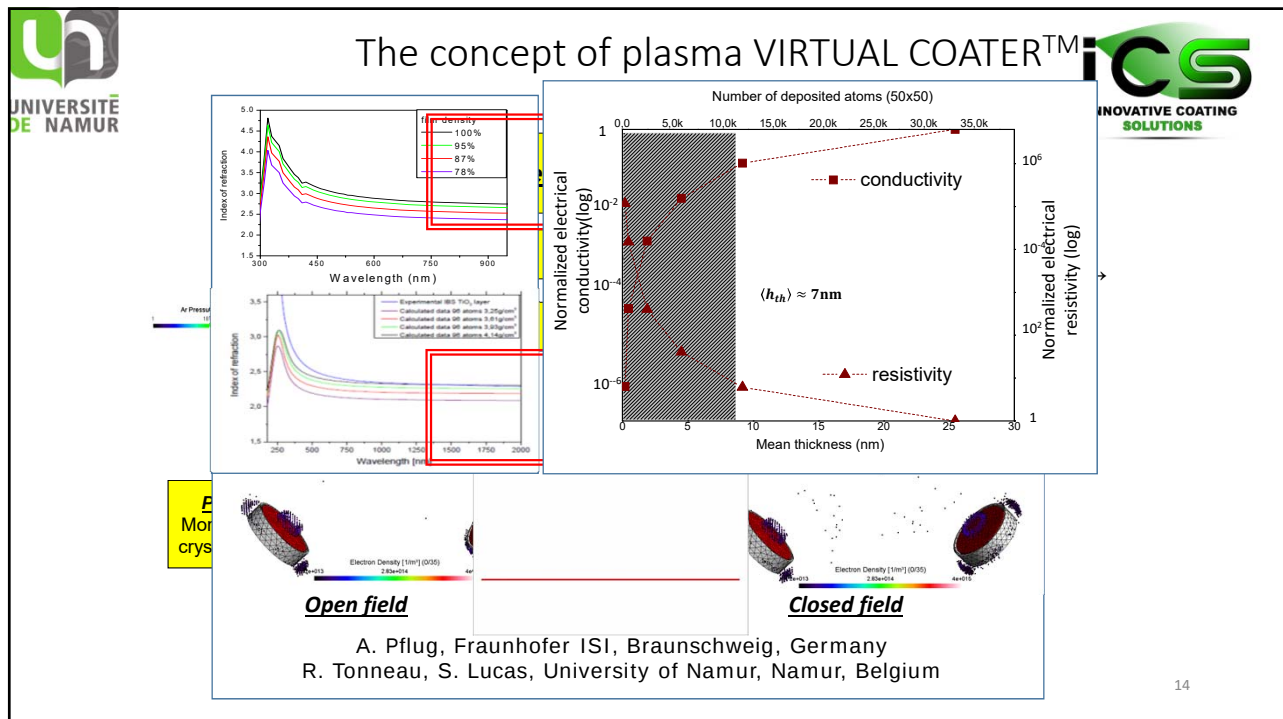
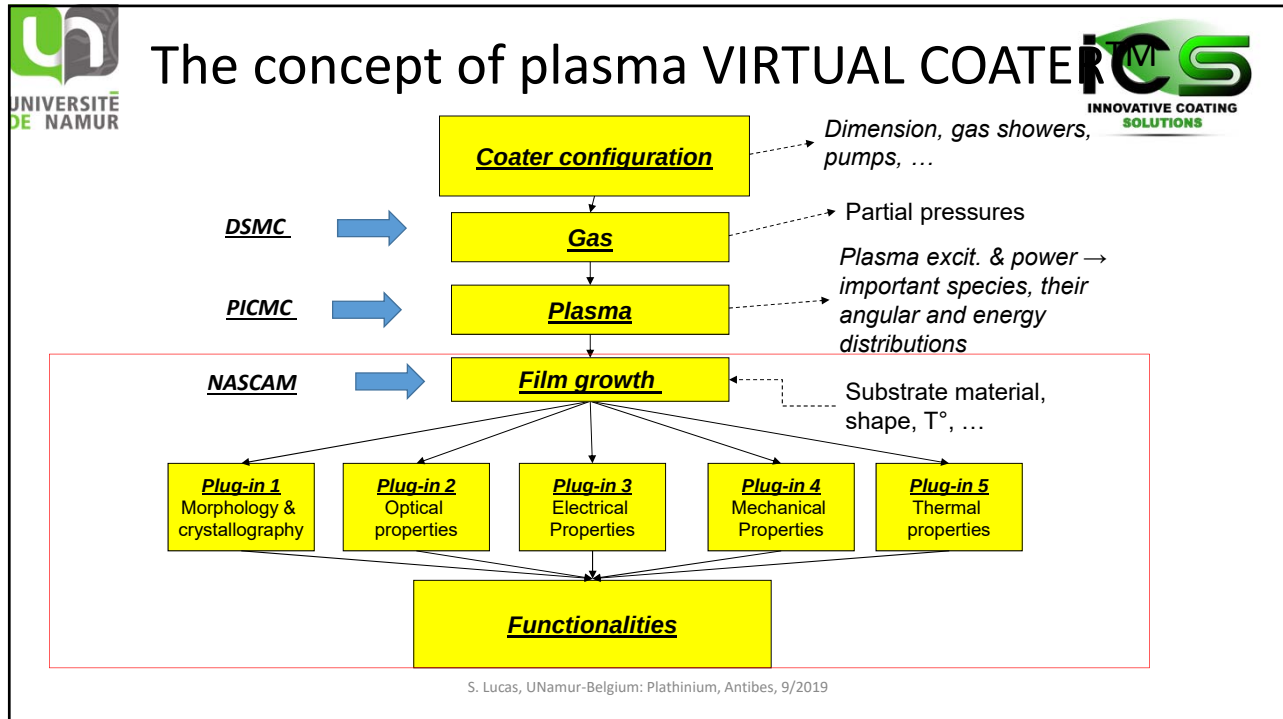
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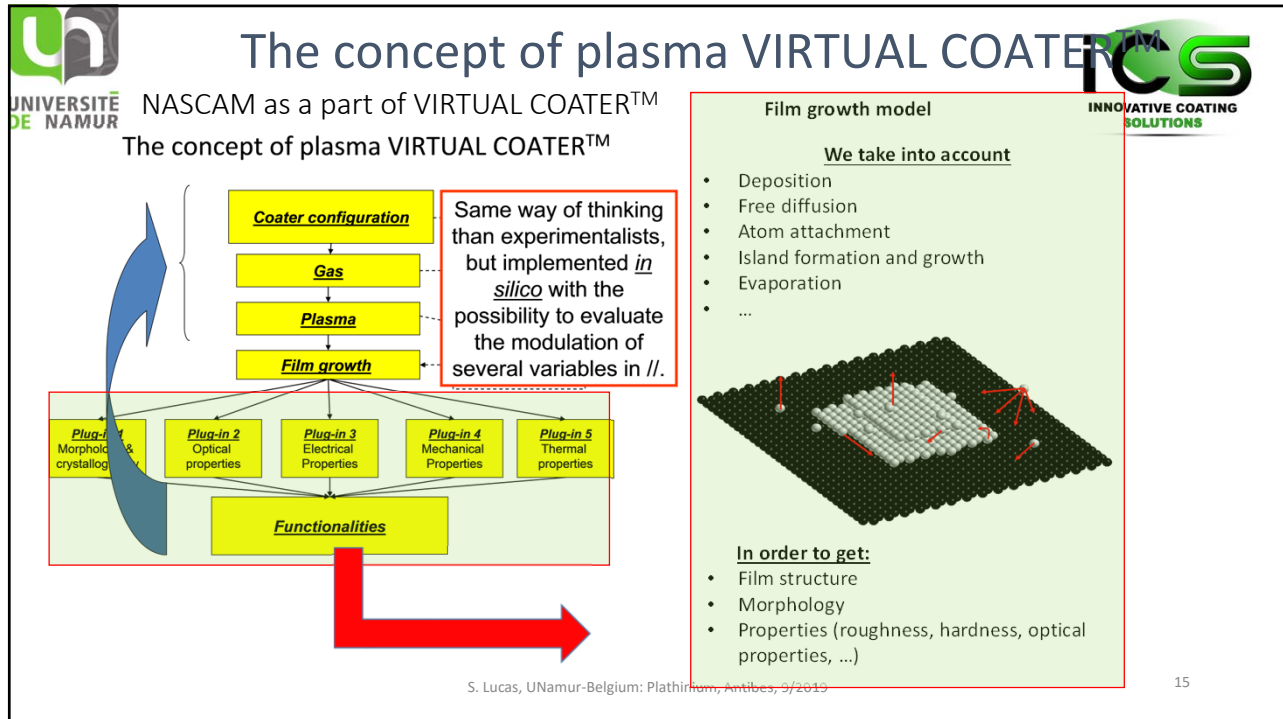
Introduction to NASCAM

- 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

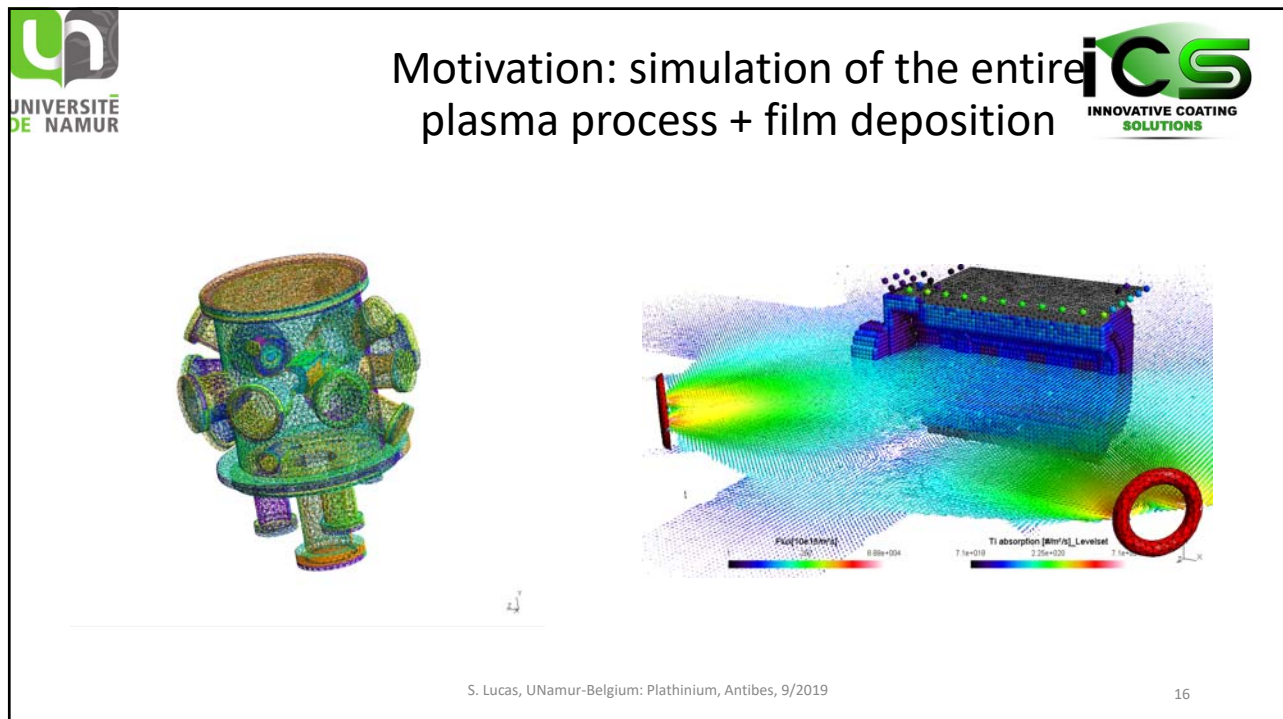
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15



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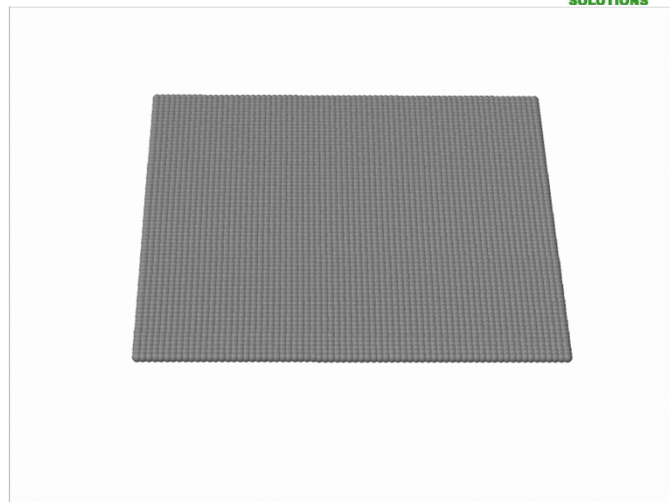
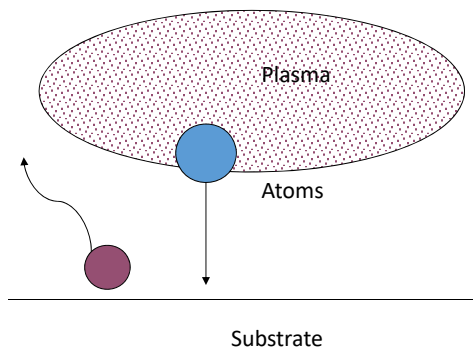
Description of the model

- 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



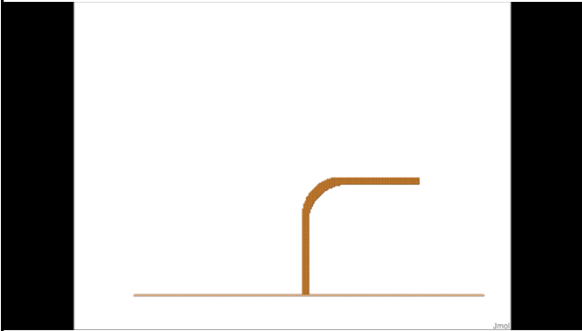
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Example 3. Deposition on non flat surfaces





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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 that 1e⁶ atoms to deposit
- Evaporation, sputtering, “CVD”,
- Interface with gas/plasma simulation codes
- Plugins:
 - Optical, Porosity, Roughness,

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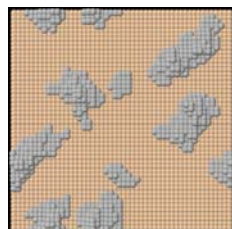
Nucleation studies

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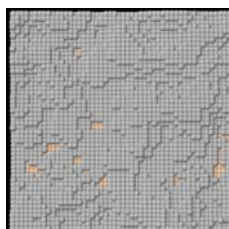
22

Metal deposition: playing with Ea_up & down

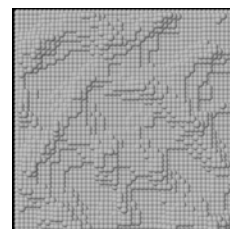
Metal deposition on insulators



Volmer-Weber



Frank-Van der Merwe



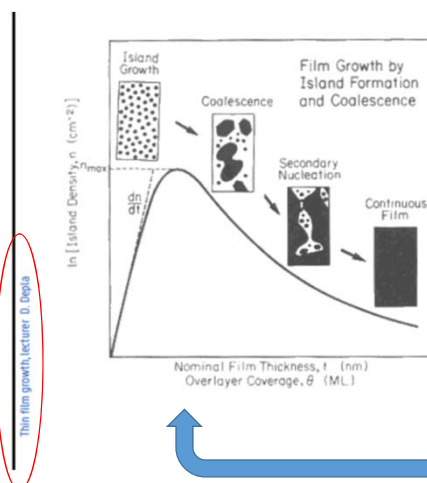
Stranski-Krastanov



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Nucleation



- Can we tune this experimentally ?
- Can we predict the influence of deposition parameters

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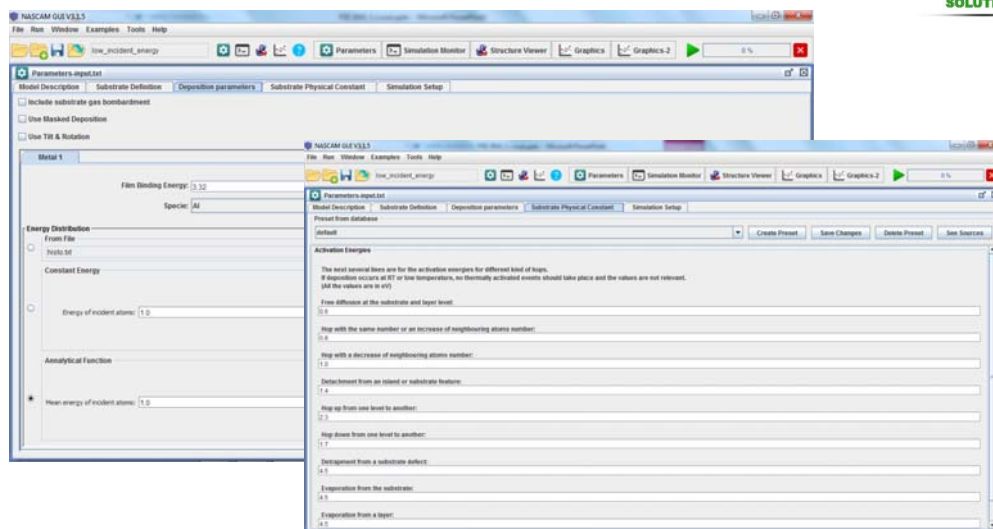
24

Case 1: effect of deposition rate

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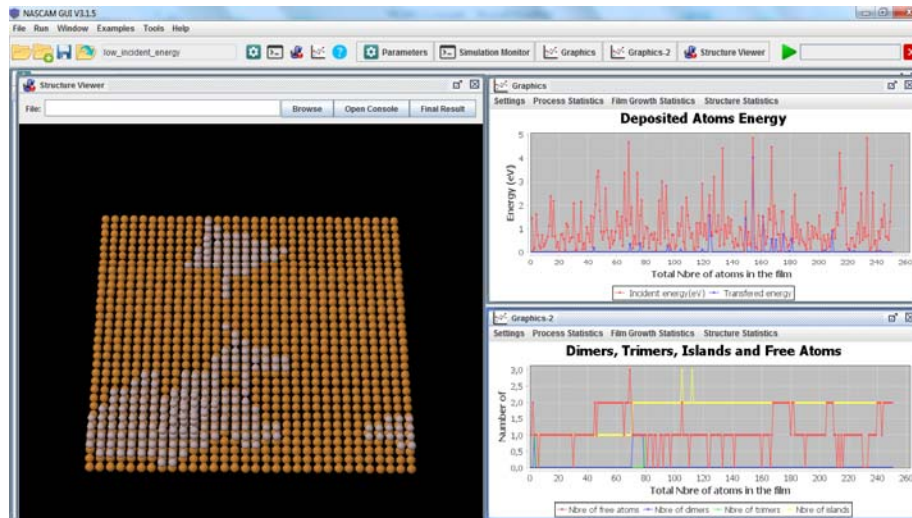
Low energy (1 eV on average)



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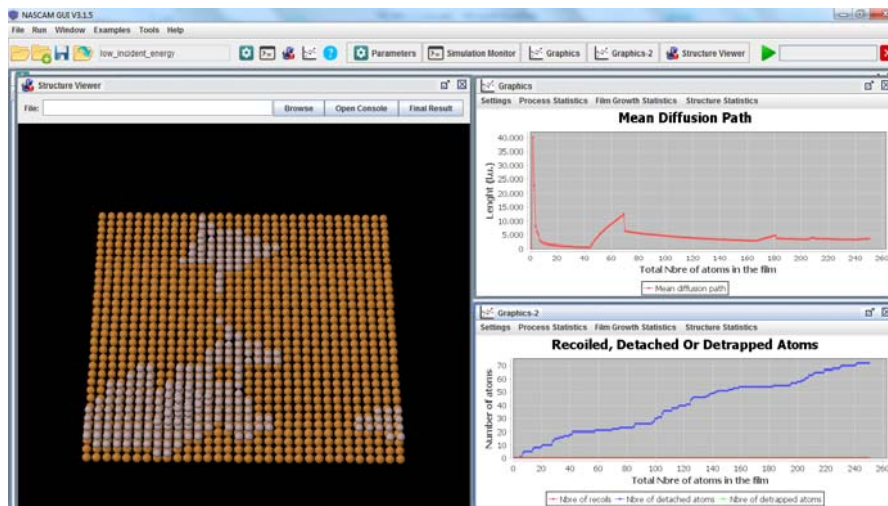
26

Low energy (1 eV on average)



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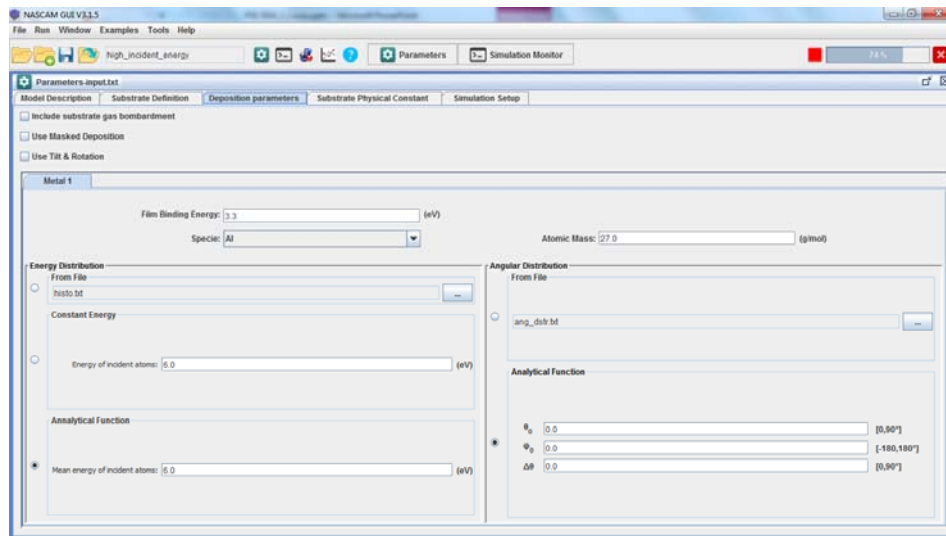
Low energy (1 eV on average)



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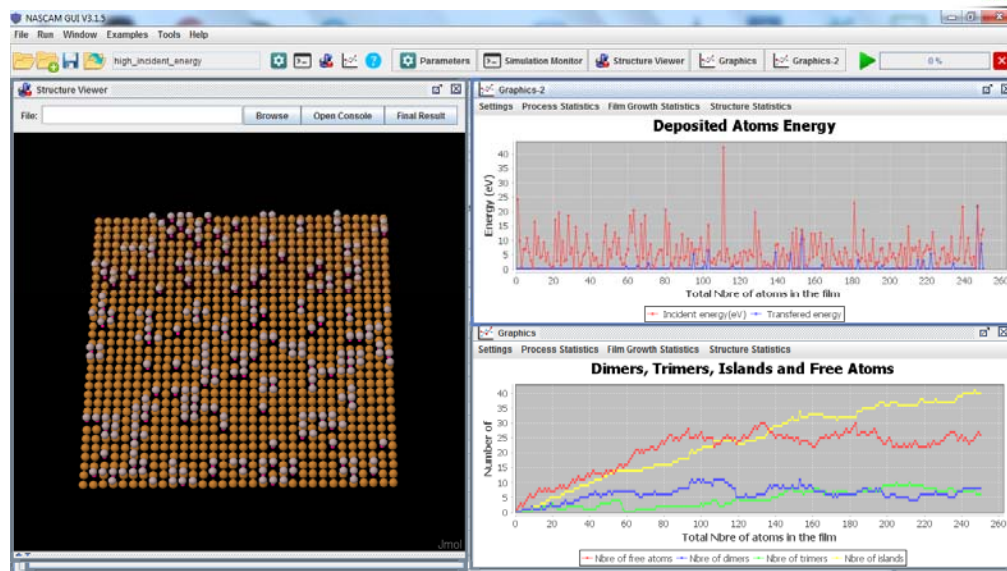
28

High energy (6 eV on average)

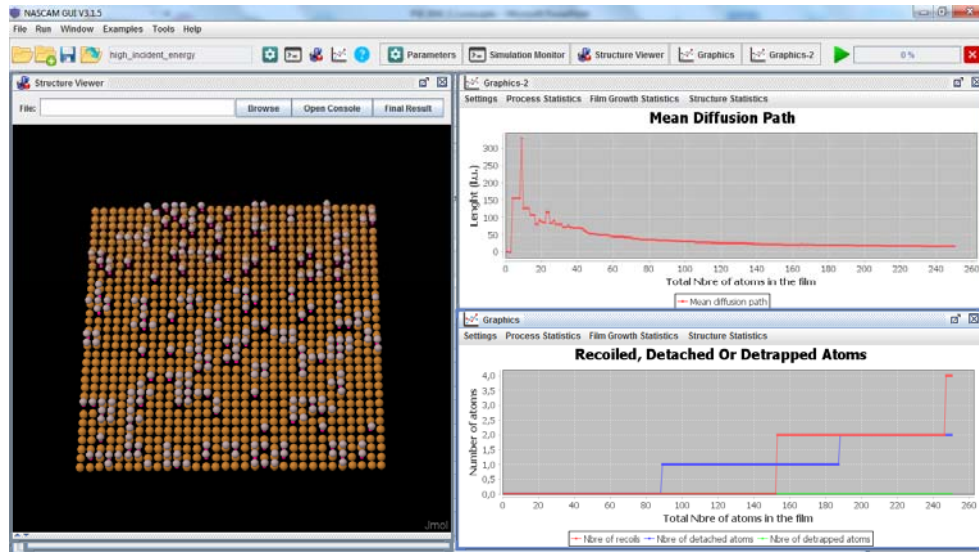


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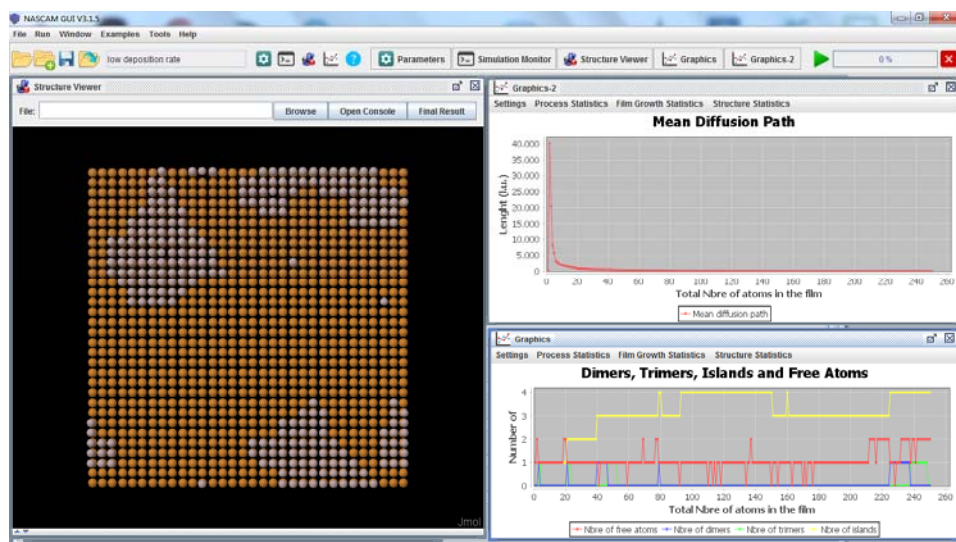
High energy (6 eV on average)



High energy (6 eV on average)

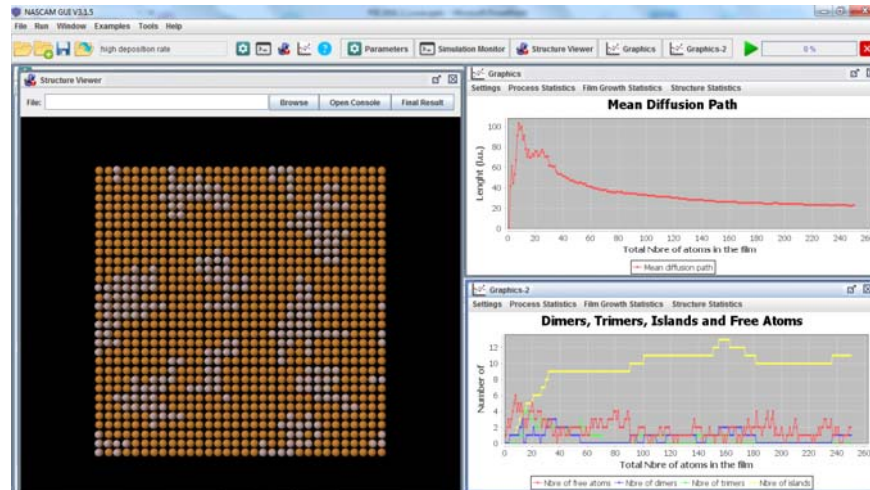


Low deposition rate (0.002 ML/s)



32

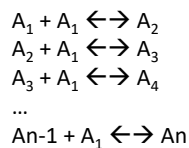
High deposition rate (2 ML/s)



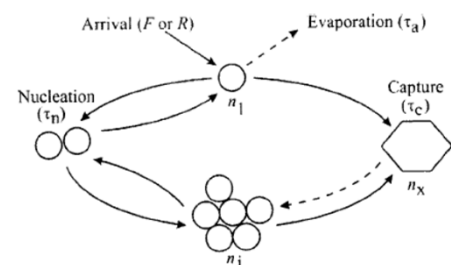
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Nucleation is a complex process of capturing of adatoms by clusters (islands) and of exchange of atoms between clusters

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, $1/(m^2 \cdot s)$,
 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:

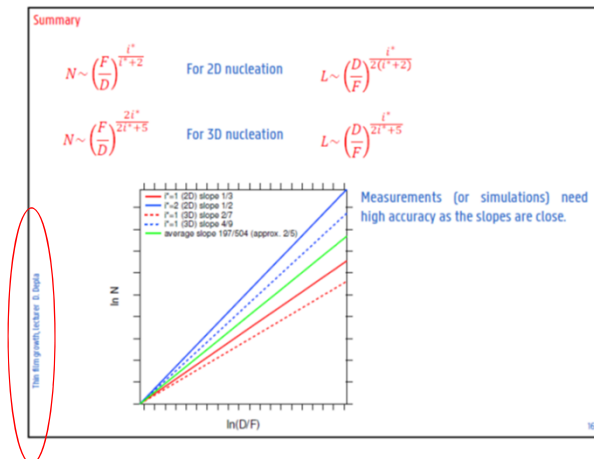
$$\frac{dn_1}{dt} = F - \sigma_{i^*} D n_1 n_{i^*} - \bar{\sigma} D n_1 N; \quad \text{in steady state regime } F = \bar{\sigma} D n_1 N$$

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



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



$F = 0.01 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 4.8 \text{ islands}$



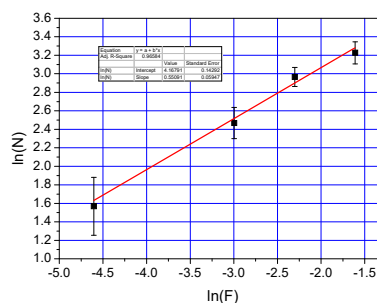
$F = 0.05 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 11.8 \text{ islands}$



$F = 0.1 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 19.4 \text{ islands}$



$F = 0.2 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 25.2 \text{ islands}$



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



$F = 0.01 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 7.0 \text{ islands}$



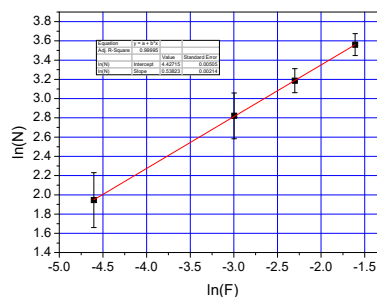
$F = 0.05 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 16.8 \text{ islands}$



$F = 0.1 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 24.2 \text{ islands}$



$F = 0.2 \text{ ML/s}$
 $\langle N \rangle = 35.2 \text{ islands}$



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

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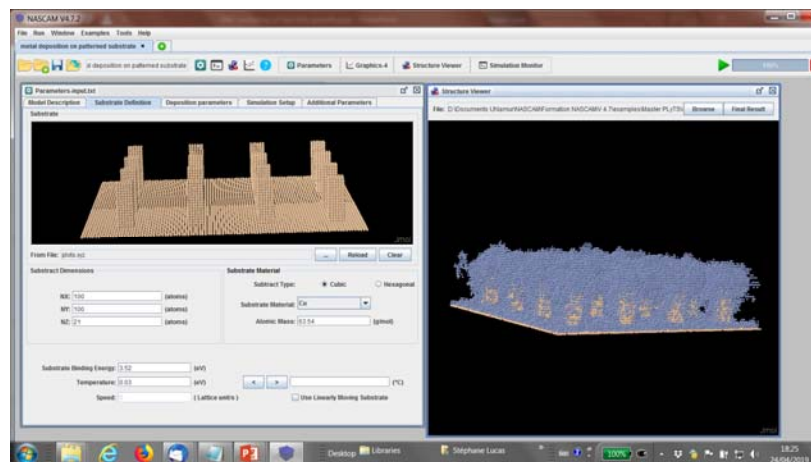
38

Case 2: Substrate defect creation and deposition on a patterned substrate

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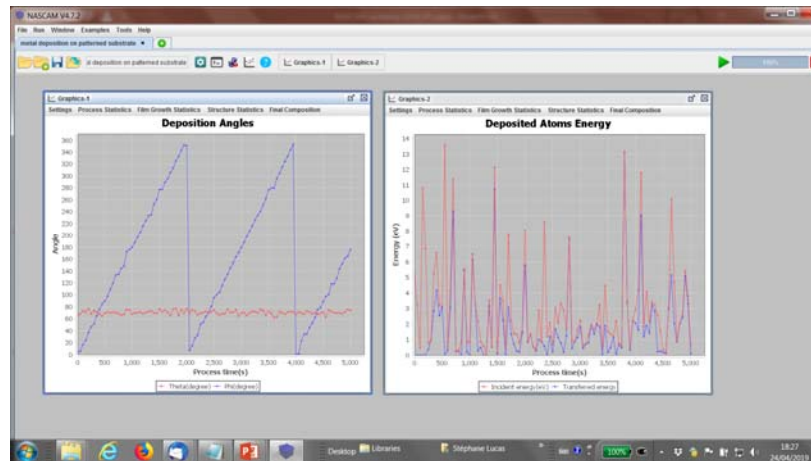
Deposition on a patterned substrate



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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

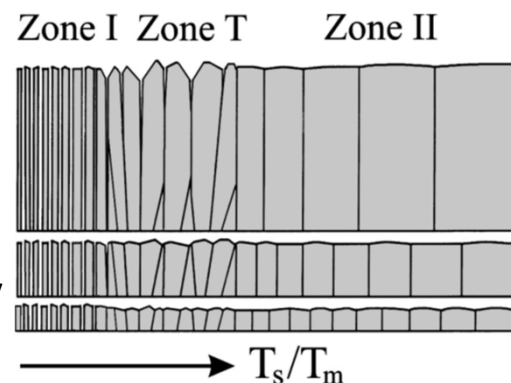
B. A. Movchan, A. V. Demchishin; J. A. Thornton; P. A. Barna; A. Anders; I. Petrov; ...

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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

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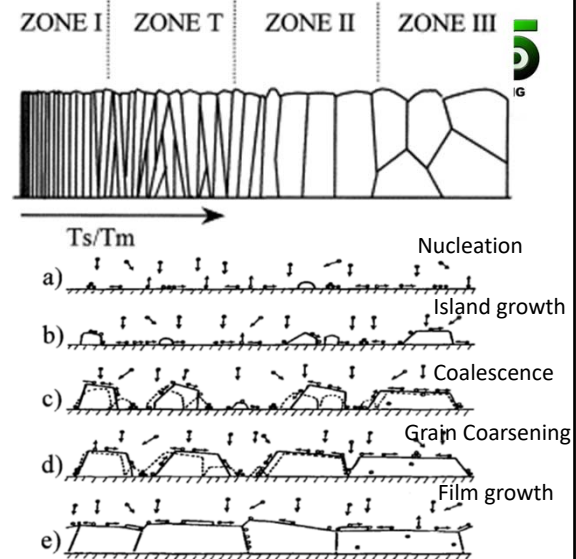


Fig.1. Growth stages of polycrystalline film formation. a: nucleation; b: crystal growth; c: coalescence; d: growth by filling of the channels; e: thickness growth of the continuous film. Dark circles mark adatoms; light circles impurity species; crystals before coalescence are marked by dashed line.

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

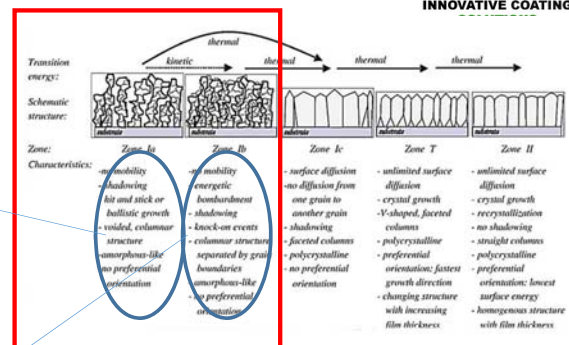
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Zone I – low T , no thermal activated mobility

ICS
INNOVATIVE COATING

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

- 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

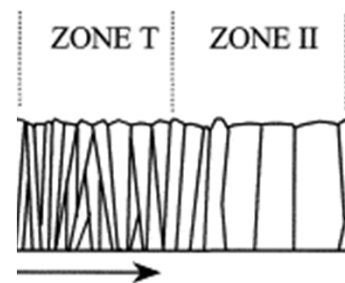


Same as above, but at high temperature → no pores (one crystallite)

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Zone II – thermally activated bulk diffusion

- 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 $\rightarrow$ thermally activated atom mobility $\sim \exp(-U/kT)$
- Energy of deposited particles (depends on material, pressure, voltage etc) $\rightarrow$ 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>

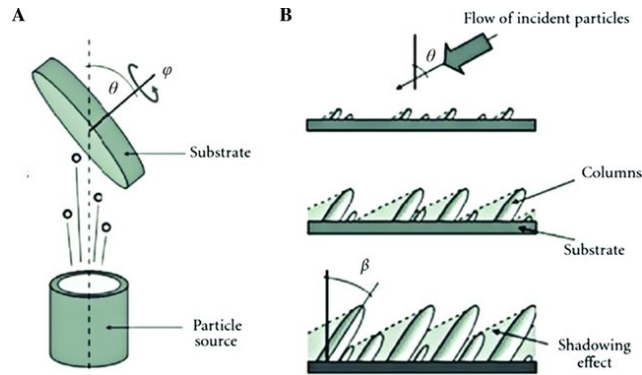
TiO_x deposited by magnetron sputtering: a joint modelling and experimental study

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)

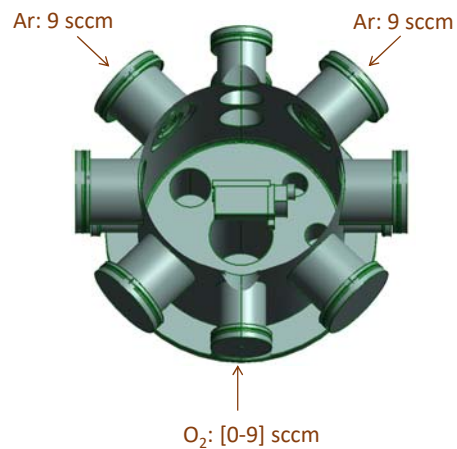


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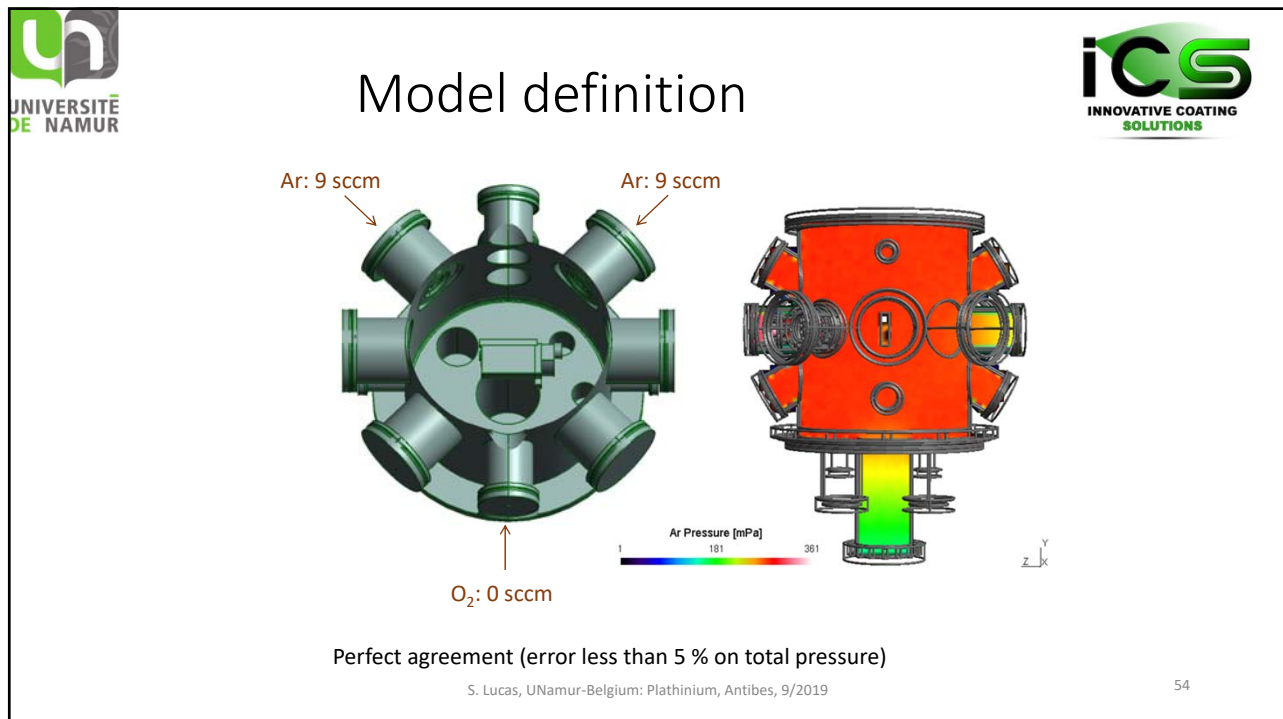
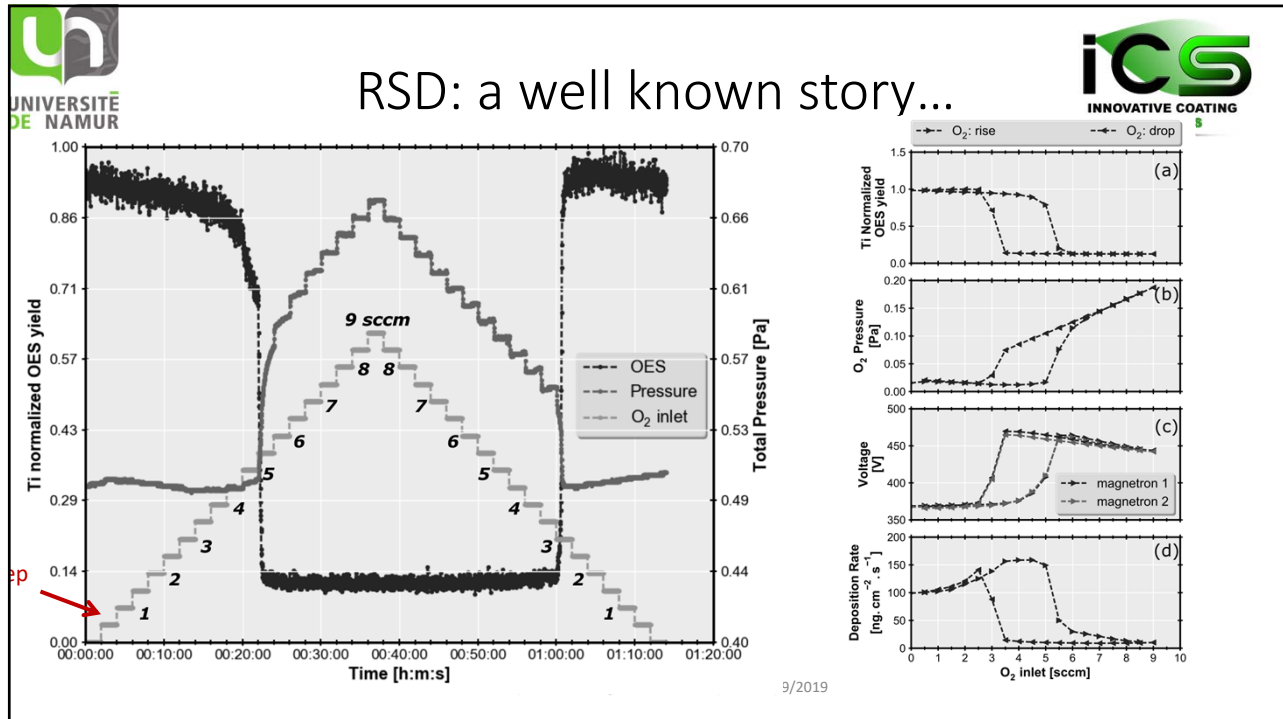
RSD: a well known story...

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



View of Mantis Coater (University of Namur)

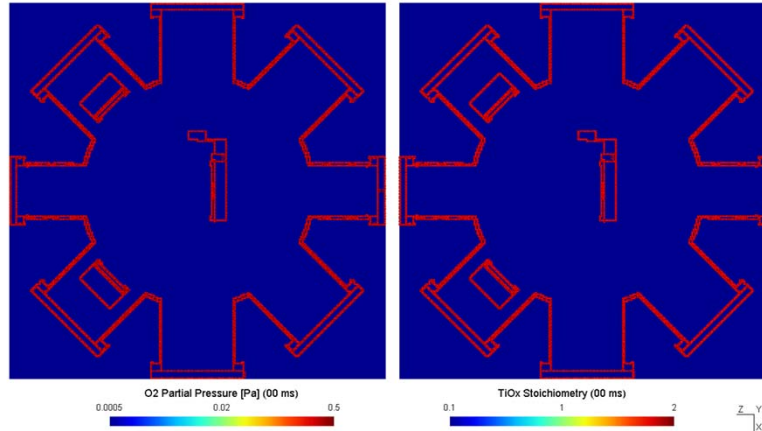
S. Lucas, UNamur-Belgium: Platinium, Antibes, 9/2019



Time evolution of O₂ partial pressure & surface coverage

O₂ inlet : 2 sccm

8 sccm



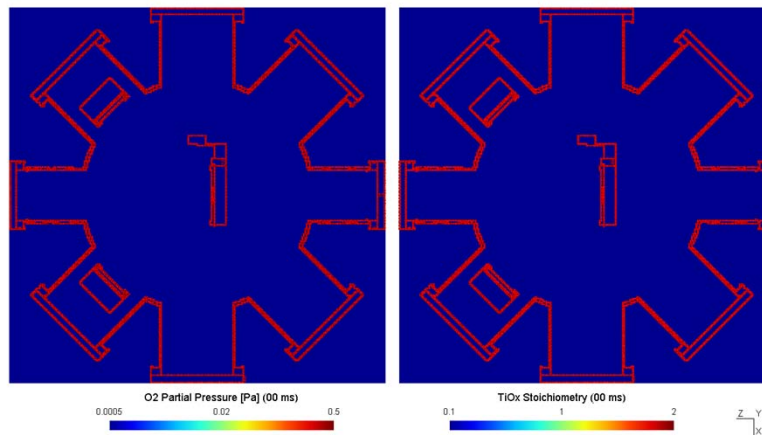
Values on walls only

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Time evolution of O₂ partial pressure & surface coverage

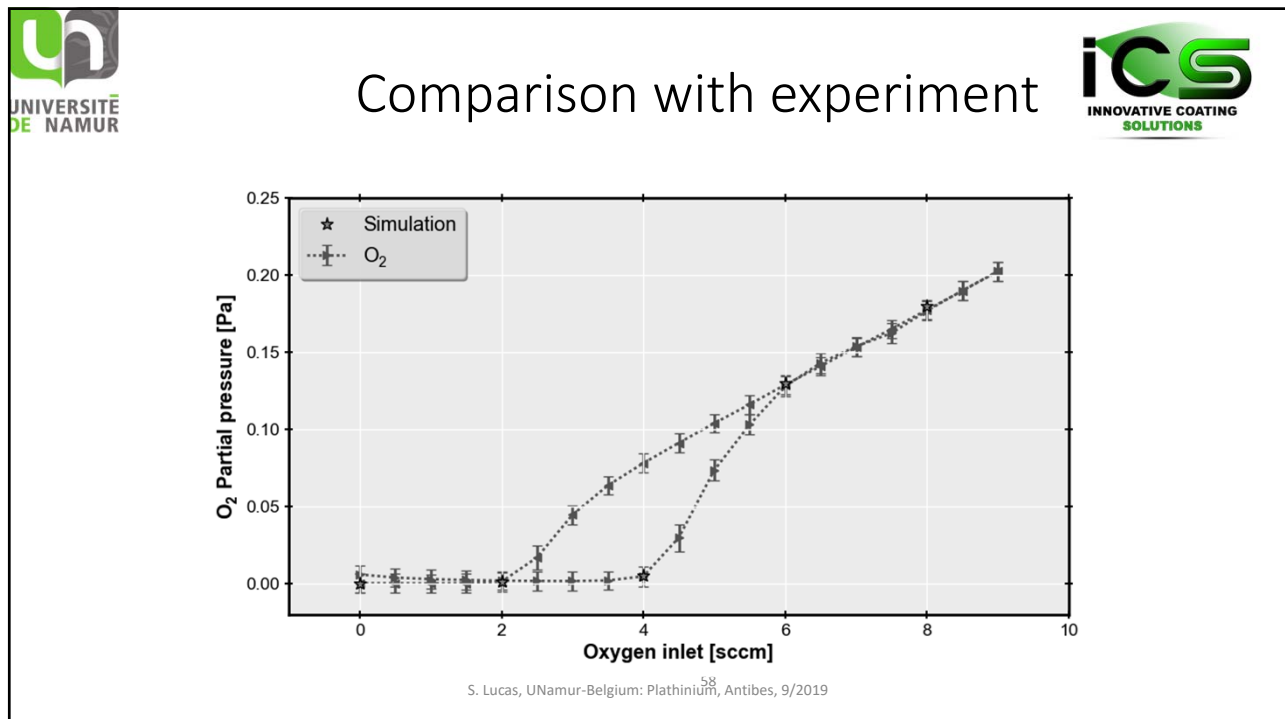
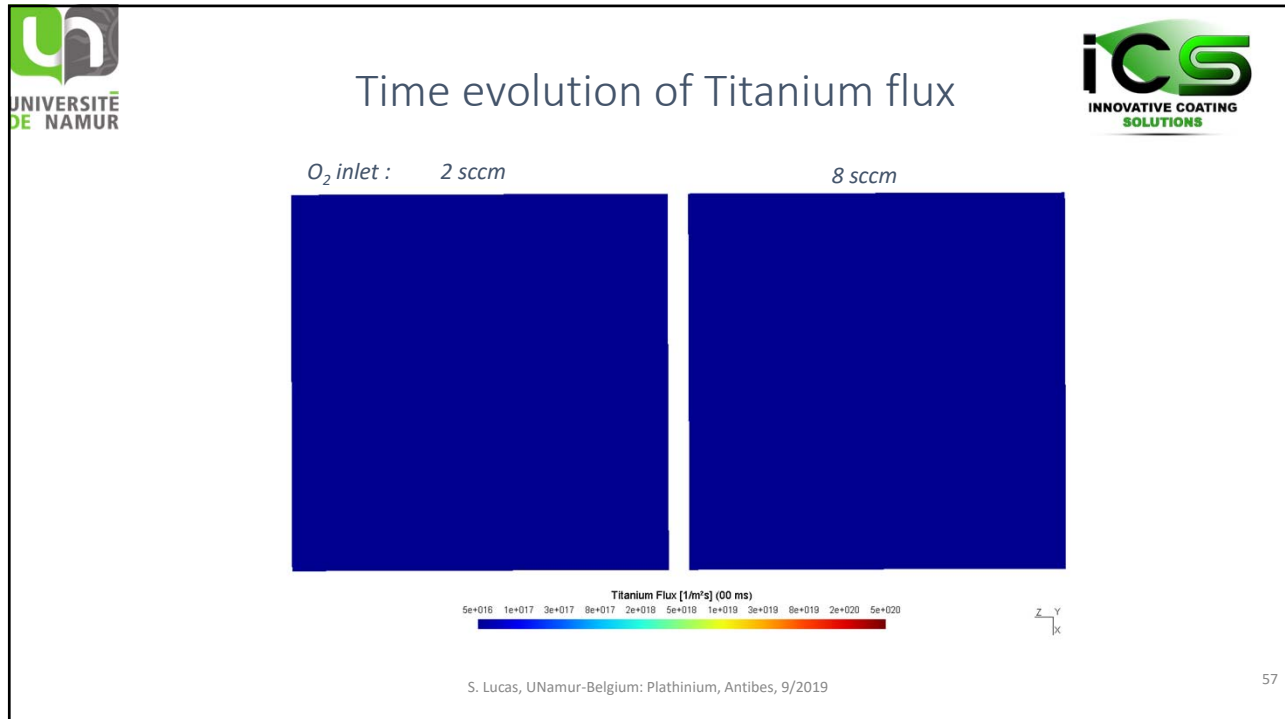
O₂ inlet : 2 sccm

8 sccm



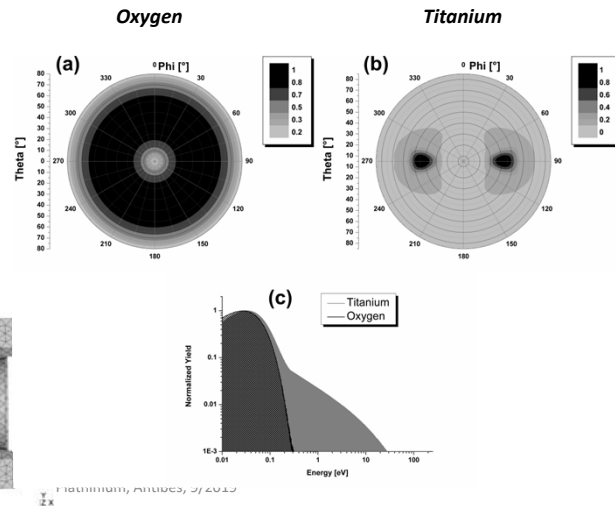
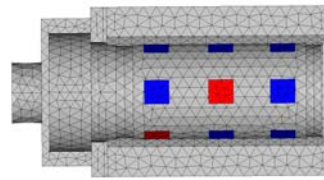
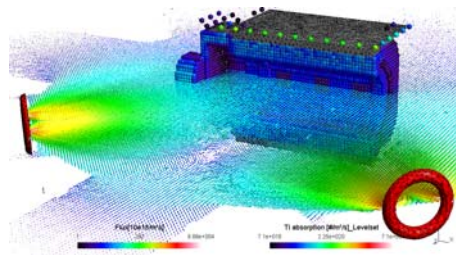
Values on walls only

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Focus on substrate

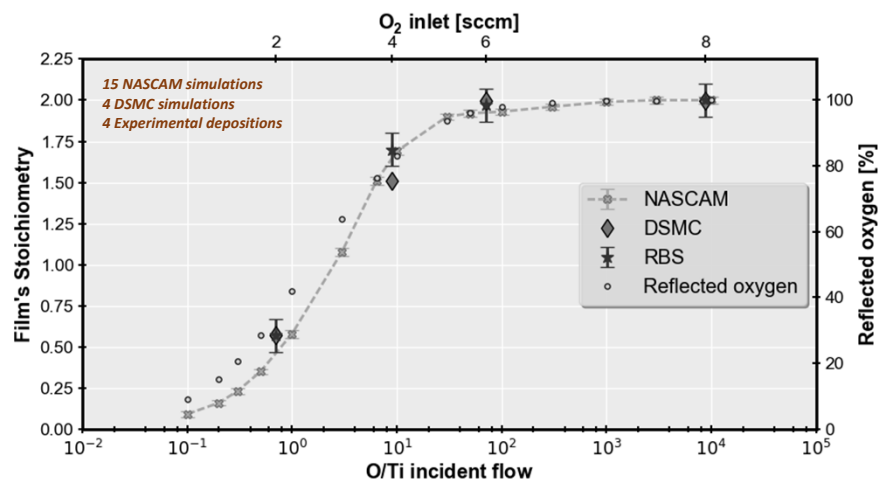
→ Angular and energy distributions



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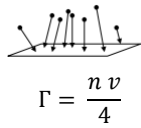
Focus on substrate

→ Let's vary flux ratio O/Ti



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O/Ti order of magnitude in RSD



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

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

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

N_A : avogadro number

S : substrate surface

t : deposition time

D_R : deposition rate

M_{TiO_2} : molar mass of titania

$$D_R = 0.1 \text{ Å s}^{-1}$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

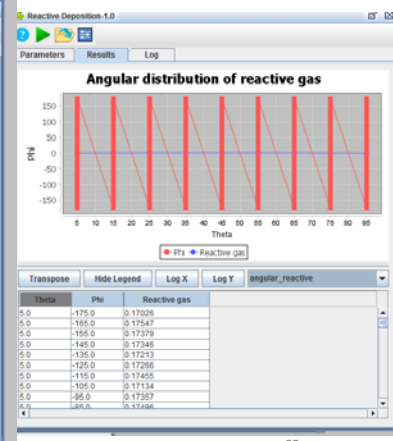
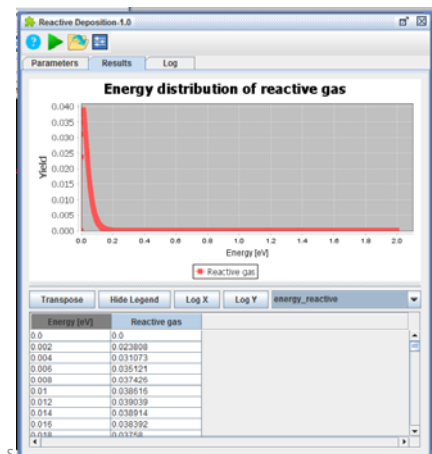
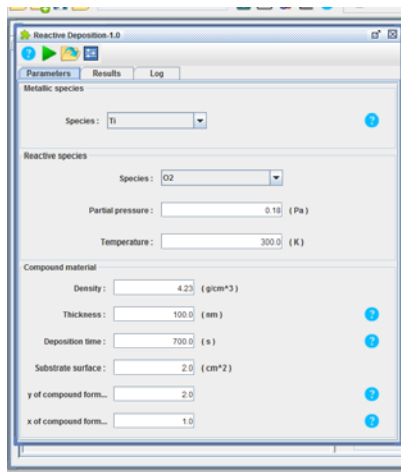
$$\frac{\Gamma_{\text{reactive}}}{\Gamma_{\text{metal}}} \cong 10^4$$

S. Lucas, UNamur-Belgium: Platinum, April 9/2019

At least 2 orders of magnitude difference !

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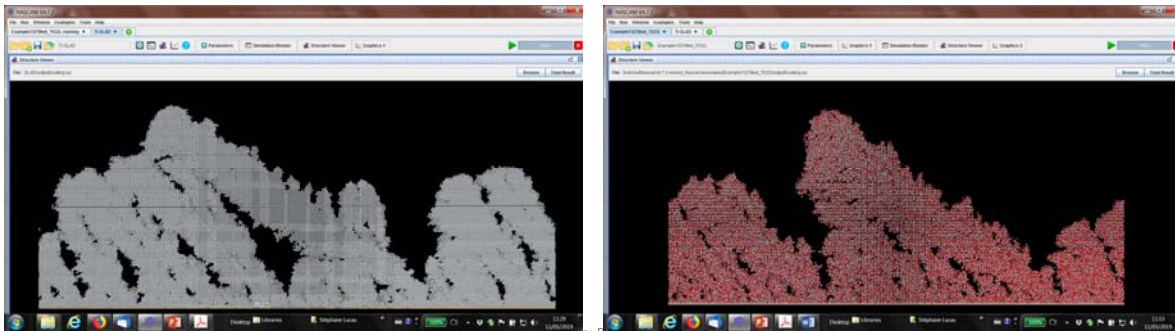
O2 Angular and energy distribution



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Let's now simulate film growth
Ti by GLAD versus TiO₂ by GLAD

70 °



S. Lucas, Université de Namur - Belgium: Platinum, *Antides*, 9/2019

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KMC morphology's results
versus experimental data

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

R Tonneau *et al*

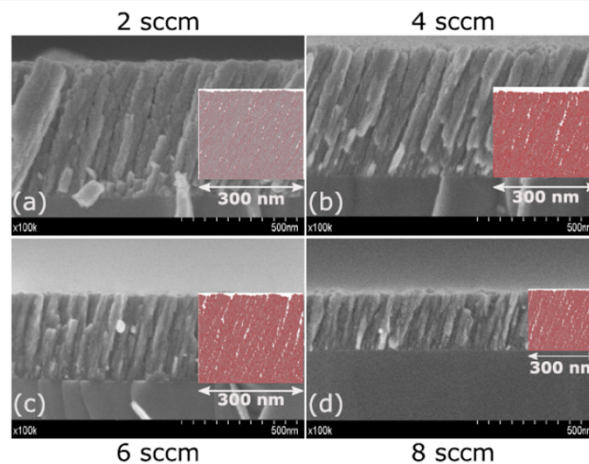
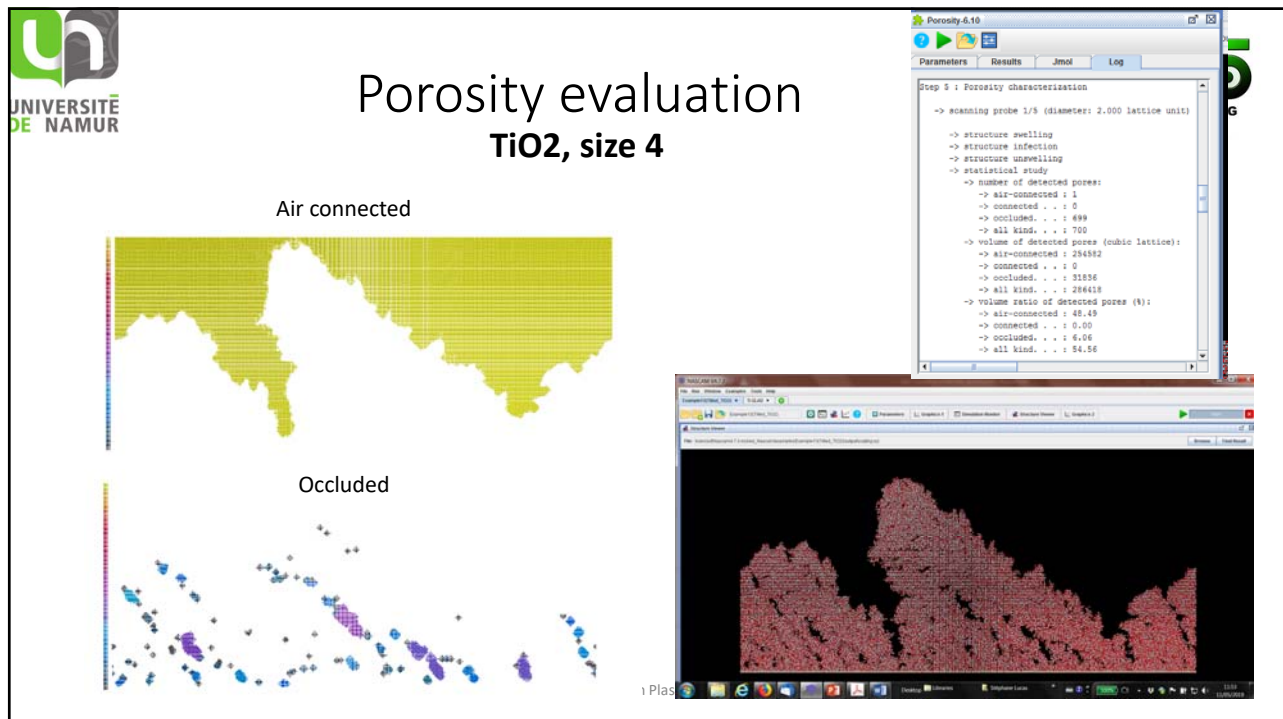
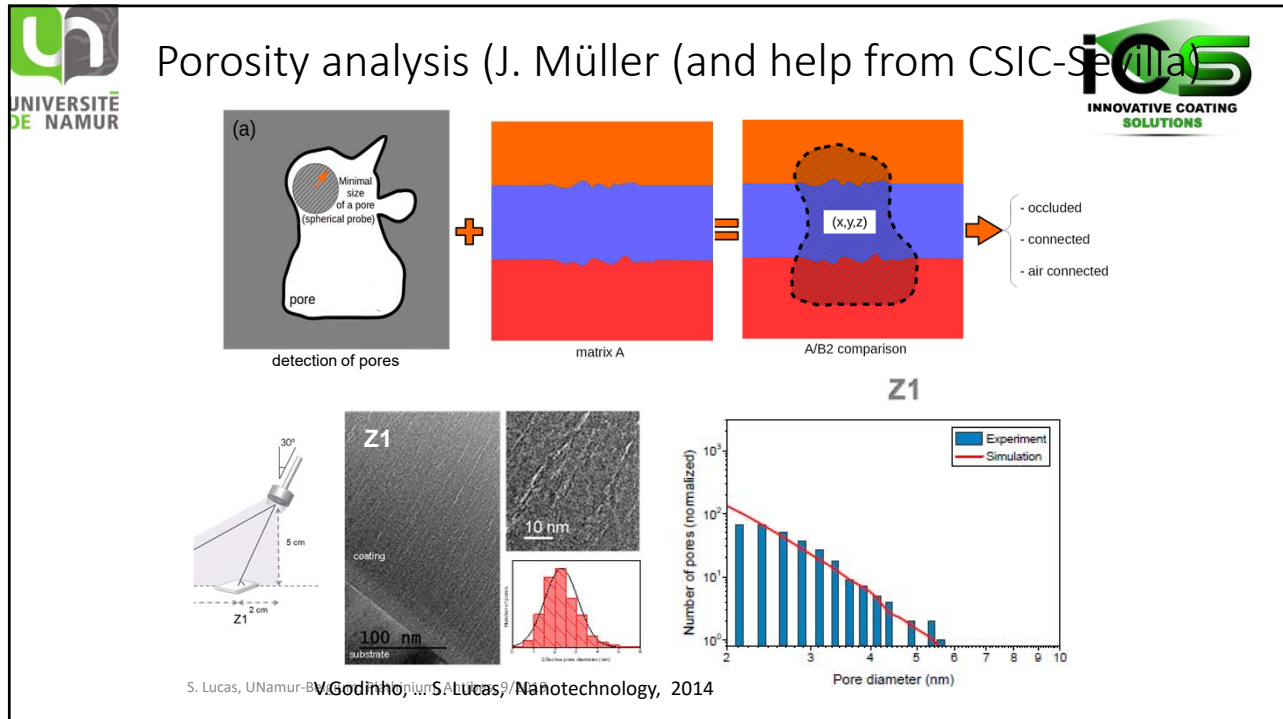
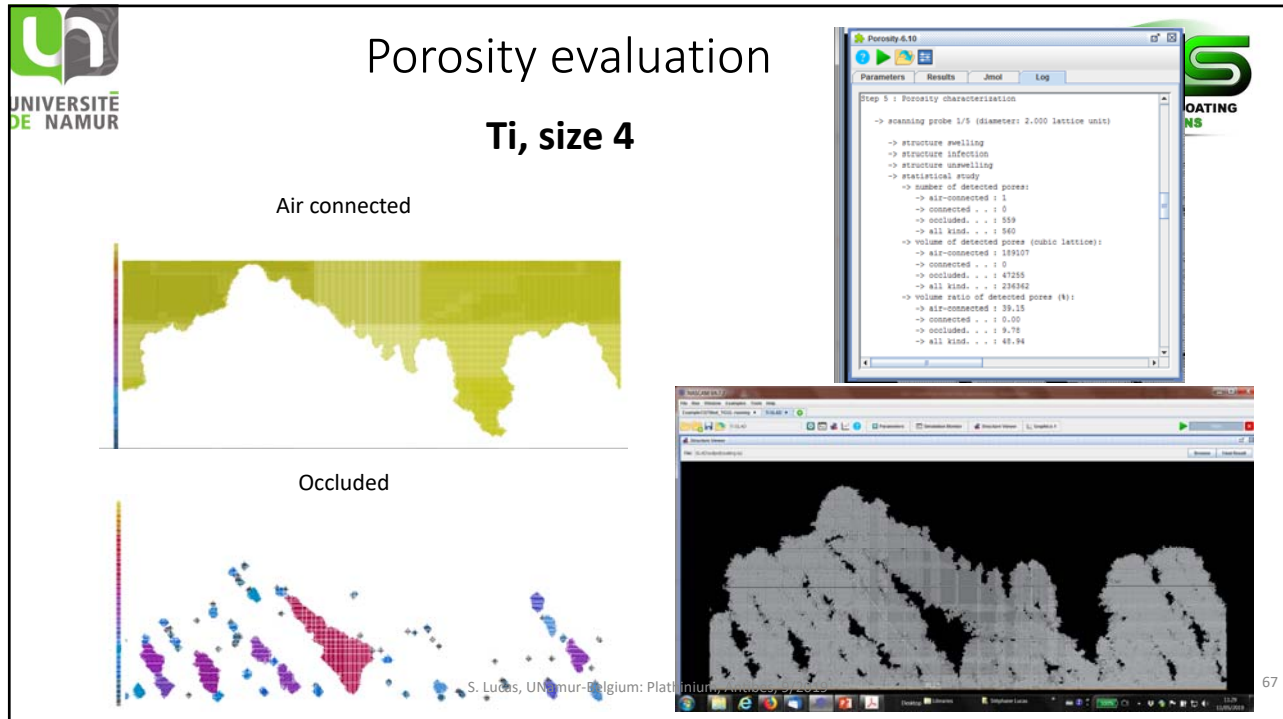


Figure 14. Comparison of the film's structure between SEM analyses and NASCAMS simulations for the corner sample located along the hysteresis curve.

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ICS
INNOVATIVE COATING SOLUTIONS

Case 4 (from literature):
Heat reflector

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

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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 2016
Accepted: 23 December 2016
Published: 05 February 2016

Goutam Kumar Dalapati¹, Saeid Masudy-Panahi², Sing Teng Chua³, Mohit Sharma⁴, Ten It Wong⁵, Hui Ru Tan⁶ & Dongzhi Chi⁷

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 $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Cu}/\text{TiO}_2$ multilayer thin film on glass substrate is investigated in detail. Significant enhancement of transmittance in the

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Heat reflector

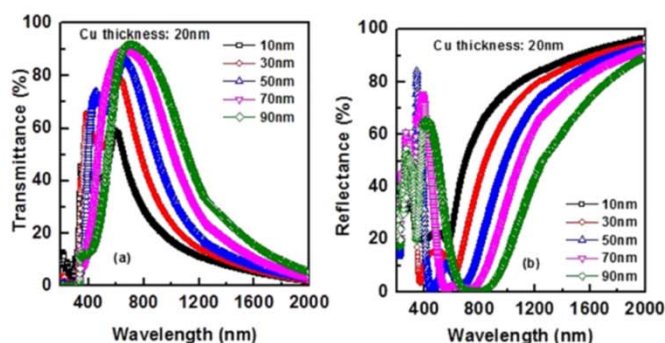
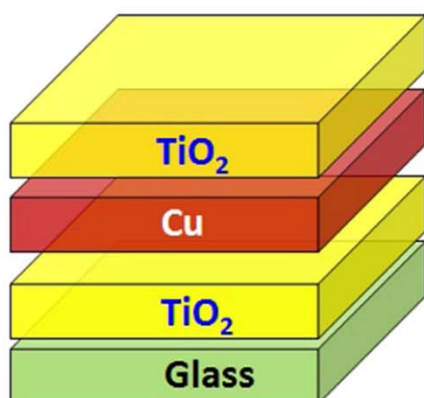
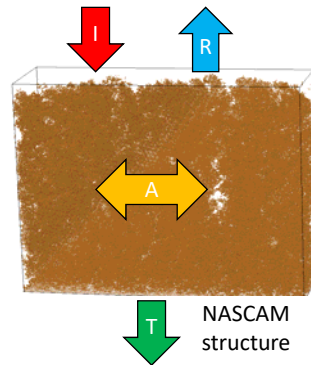


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of transparent heat reflector (THR) using symmetrical dielectric (TiO_2) and identical thickness over and below Cu layer.

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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

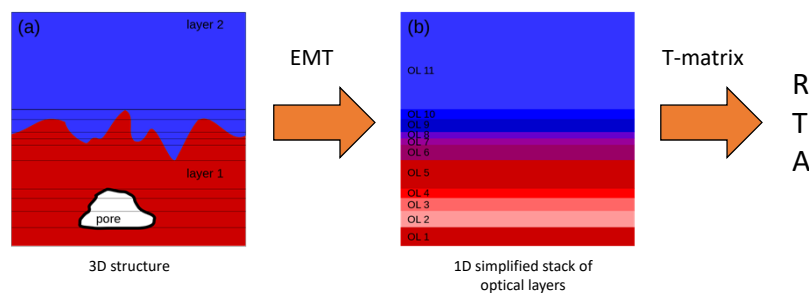


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Plugin: Optics algorithm

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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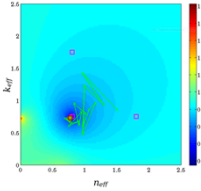
Effective medium theory

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

the effective index has to be computed for each optical layer and each wavelength!

- the **Maxwell-Garnett method**: $\frac{\epsilon_{eff} - \epsilon_h}{\epsilon_{eff} + \gamma \epsilon_h} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_h}{\epsilon_i + \gamma \epsilon_h}$
- 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)



$$\epsilon_{eff} = (\epsilon_{eff} + j \cdot k_{eff})^2$$

$$Fitness = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_{eff}}{\epsilon_i + 2\epsilon_{eff}}$$

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 $\lambda=100nm$)

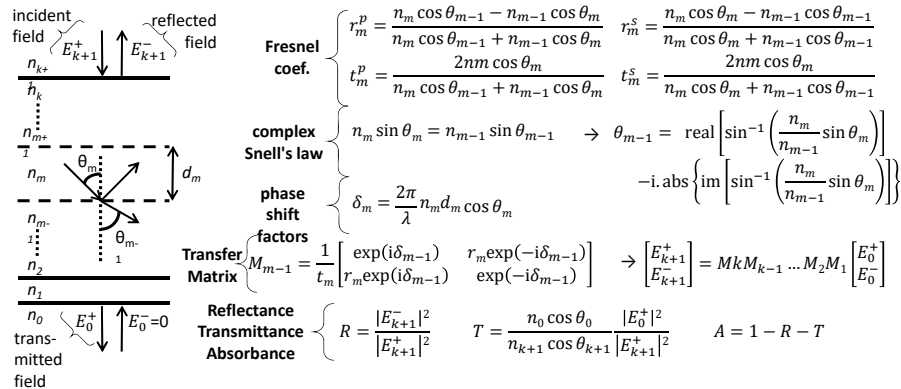
- hybrid method**: based on the Maxwell-Garnett and the Bruggeman models. The choice of the model is function of the volume ratio of each material in an optical layer

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T-Matrix method

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

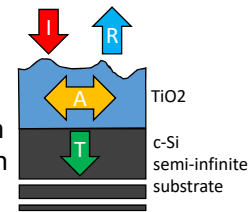


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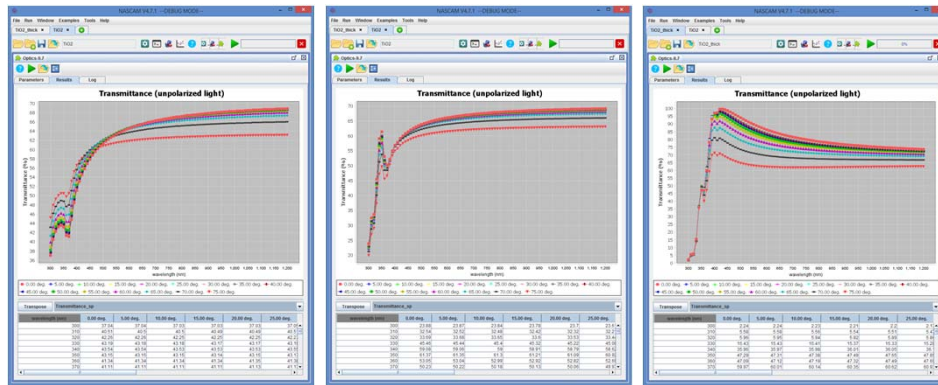
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Plugin: Optics algorithm

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



transmittance of TiO₂ layer on c-Si substrate



no TiO₂

TiO₂: 13.5nm

TiO₂: 48nm

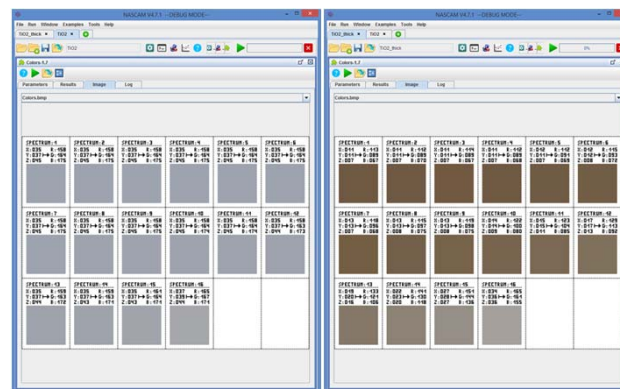
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Plugin: Colors algorithm (J. Müller)

Colors simulation

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



RGB color (no TiO₂)

RGB color (TiO₂: 48nm)

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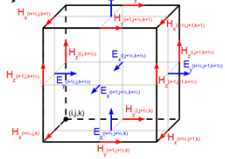
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Optics 2.0 → FDTD

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WP2 iCS INNOVATIVE COATING SOLUTIONS

- Maxwell equations discretized by finite difference:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} & \nabla \times \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} &= \rho & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{D} &= \epsilon \mathbf{E} & \mathbf{B} &= \mu \mathbf{H} \end{aligned}$$
- Yee cell used to discretize the structure:
 

Incident light spectrum in the frequency and time domains

Incident medium

Incident plane wave measurement plane (reflection)

structure

TiO₂ optical index fitted by 2 modified Lorentz

substrate

measurement plane (transmission)

CPML

periodic boundary conditions

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

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WP2 iCS INNOVATIVE COATING SOLUTIONS

50 nm TiO₂:

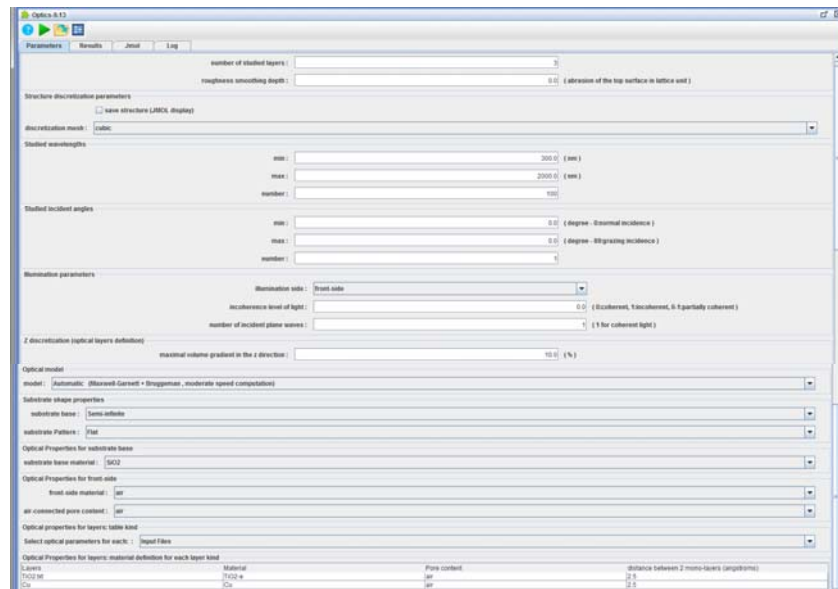
- $D_{\text{average}} = 2.5 \text{ \AA} = 0.25 \text{ nm}$.
- 50 nm = 200 layers roughly.
- 200 × 20 × 20 = 80.000 atoms to be deposited if fully stacked.
- If 80 % density, roughly 65000 atoms to be deposited

Cu:

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

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

$d_{110} = \frac{3.61 \times 10^{-10}}{\sqrt{2}} = 2.55 \times 10^{-1}$



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Heat reflector as simulated with by KMC (NASCAM)

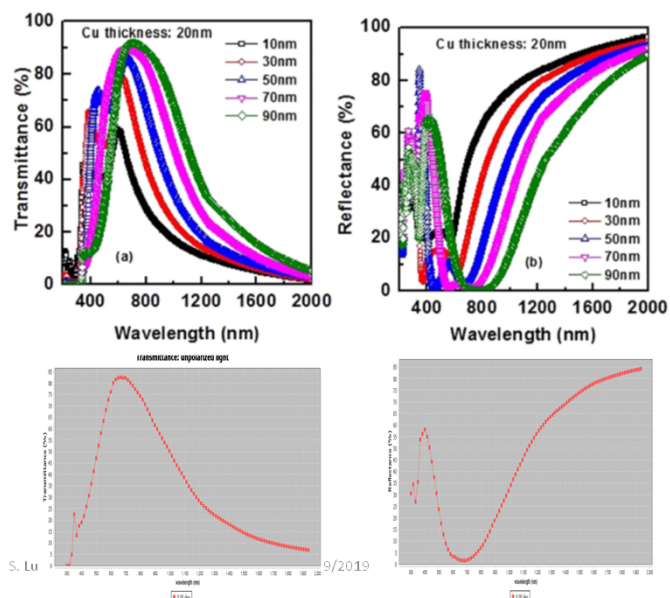
SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

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

Received: 20 June 2020
Accepted: 23 November 2020
Published: 05 February 2021

Gurpreet Kumar Dhillon¹, Saeed Masoudy Parvizi², Sing Teng Chien,
Mehdi Shamsi, Tan W. Wong, Hui-Ru Tan & Dongshu Chi



S. Lu

9/2019

50 nm TiO2

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End for 2019