

Materials Analysis by Ion Channeling

SUBMICRON CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

Leonard C. Feldman

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Submicron Crystallography

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To Our Wives and Children

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PREFACE

Nuclear physicists have developed the art of producing energetic ion beams; solid state physicists have developed the art of producing single-crystal solids. These two disciplines come together in the “world” of channeling. Channeling is defined as the influence of a crystal lattice on the trajectories of energetic particles. The major applications of channeling concern the crystallographic structure of the near surface region (sub-micron depths) of solids.

The historical evolution of channeling and its application to materials studies is typical in science. The idea that a crystal lattice could influence an energetic ion trajectory was suggested as early as 1912 by Stark and then essentially forgotten. The actual “discovery” of the channeling effect occurred in the period 1960–1965. At least two stories suggest that it may have been an accidental discovery. In one instance it was found that computer simulations of ion ranges in solids took an extraordinarily long time when the incident ion was directed along a major crystallographic direction of the crystal model (within the computer). This was eventually explained as an enhanced penetration along these channeling directions. In another case, scientists developing thin, single-crystal particle detectors for nuclear physics applications observed a relatively small, anomalous behavior in the energy lost by the ion in traversing the crystal. The “anomaly” was found to be strongly dependent on the orientation of the crystal. The pursuit of this small effect resulted in one of the early demonstrations of the channeling behavior of mega-electron-volt ions.

Once established, the channeling phenomenon was studied in detail through experiments primarily aimed at testing the evolving channeling theory. Suggestions for application of the channeling effect to problems in

nuclear physics, atomic physics, and materials science quickly followed.

The applications to materials have been the most extensive. This is probably the result of the coming together of a number of interests. The advent of ion implantation as a technological process required a probe of crystal structure sensitive in the first 0.1 micron of the solid. Furthermore, in the backscattering mode, channeling is a mass-dispersive structure probe so that the crystallographic site of the implanted impurity as well as the host crystal could be explored. In recent years, the ability to detect the lattice position of impurities has been extended to many other problems of interest in materials science. Ion implantation is no longer the sole driving force for channeling studies; the realm has extended to the general problem of the lattice position of impurities in crystalline solids.

The characterization and use of thin films is another area of materials science that has grown increasingly important in the past fifteen years. Such films, either crystalline or amorphous, are ideal structures for study by channeling techniques. Crystalline films can be grown by a variety of deposition techniques; the unique aspect of the channeling/backscattering methods is the ability to analyze these films in depth without layer removal. Using these techniques one can characterize interfacial solid-solid reactions, determine crystal structure at buried interfaces, and analyze for extended defects that may arise in growth procedures. This book focuses on the methods involved in these structural analyses.

The book is organized into two parts: Chapters 1–5 emphasize the fundamental channeling principles necessary for materials analysis. Chapters 6–9 give a broader view of materials science applications of the channeling technique. In the first part Chapter 1 includes descriptions of the interaction of an ion beam at the surface of a solid and the use of these interactions in investigations of the structure of surfaces. Channeling within the bulk of the solid is described qualitatively in Chapter 2 and quantitatively in Chapter 3. The influence of defects and crystal imperfections on the channeling process is discussed in Chapter 4, while in Chapter 5 use is made of the results to show how channeling can yield the depth profile of defects. Each of these first chapters contains a materials application to illustrate the concepts discussed within the chapter.

The second part of the book contains examples of the channeling technique as a materials science tool. Chapter 6 is concerned with clean surface applications and the question of the atom positions in the first monolayer of a solid. Chapter 7 has a description of the use of channeling in thin film and interface analysis with examples from metal silicide formation and Si/SiO₂ stoichiometry and structure determinations. Epitaxial thin film structures are discussed in Chapter 8. These examples come from molecular beam epitaxy, from a heteroepitaxial system, Si on sap-

phire, and from solid phase epitaxial growth of silicon and silicides. The chapter includes examples of the study of regrowth of damaged layers by laser or furnace annealing. Chapter 9 describes the use of channeling determinations of the lattice location of impurities in a metallic solid in studies of impurity interactions with crystal defects. Such defects can be created by the ion beam itself, and a discussion of beam-induced defect production is also given in this chapter of the book.

Appendix A is a brief review of the fundamentals that govern ion scattering in solids. It provides background information for understanding ion scattering in crystals. The essentials of channeling as they were presented in a graduate course on modern materials analysis are given as course notes in Appendix B. The Bibliography includes conference proceedings reviews, books, and papers that are primarily concerned with applications of channeling to solid state science.

Our intention has been to write a book that would be useful to people with a variety of levels of interest in this subject. Clearly it should be useful to both graduate students and workers in the field. We have attempted to bring together many of the concepts used in channeling beam analysis with an indication of the origin of the ideas within fundamental channeling theory. The level of the book is appropriate to senior undergraduates and graduate students who have had a modern physics course and some solid state physics. A second audience is those scientists who work in related areas of materials science and wish to learn more about the “channeling” probe, its strengths, weaknesses, and areas of further potential application. To them we hope we have explained this apparent paradox of using mega-electron-volt ions to probe solid state phenomena that have characteristic energies of electron volts.

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