Thursday Morning, November 1, 2012

Thin Film
Room: 10 - Session TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM

Nanostructuring Thin Films
Moderator: R.C. Davis, Brigham Young University

8:00am **TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM1 Plasma Effects in Nanostructuring Thin Films**, ***K. Ostrikov***, CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering, Australia **INVITED**

In this presentation, several examples of uniquely plasma-enabled nanostructuring of thin film materials for applications in energy conversion and storage, environmental monitoring, and bio-sensing. Strong emphasis is made on atom-, energy-efficiency, and environment-friendliness of plasma-based nanotechnologies.

1. Introduction: Atom- and energy-efficient nanotechnology is the ultimate Grand Challenge for basic energy sciences as has recently been road-mapped by the US Department of Energy. This ability will lead to the energy- and matter-efficient production of functional nanomaterials and devices for a vast range of applications in energy, environmental and health sectors that are critical for a sustainable future. Here we present examples related to atom- and energy-efficient nanoscale synthesis of advanced nanomaterials for energy conversion and storage, environmental sensing, and also discuss effective cancer cell treatment using low-temperature plasmas.

2. Atom- and energy-efficient nanostructure production for energy storage: Here we show an example of a recent achievement of a very low amount of energy per atom (~100 eV/atom) in the synthesis of MoO_3 nanostructures for energy storage (e.g., Li-ion battery) applications. This was achieved by using time-programmed nanosecond repetitive spark in open air between Mo electrodes. Highly-controlled dosing of Mo and O atoms was achieved through the controlled evaporation and dissociation reactions and maintaining reactive chemistry in air. These nanomaterials show excellent electrochemical and energy storage performance.

3. Environment-friendly, single-step solar cell production: Highly-efficient (conversion efficiency 11.9%, fill factor 70 %) solar cells based on the vertically-aligned single-crystalline nanostructures have been produced without any pre-fabricated p-n junctions in a very simple, single-step process of Si nanoarray formation by etching p-type Si wafers in low-temperature environment-friendly plasmas of argon and hydrogen mixtures. The details of this process and the role of the plasma are discussed.

4. Metal-nanotube/graphene environmental and bio-sensors: Plasma processing was successfully applied for the fabrication of hybrid nanomaterials based on metal-decorated carbon nanotubes and vertically aligned graphenes. The applications of these structures in environmental (gas) and bio-sensing (SERC/plasmonic) platforms are presented. The vertically-aligned graphene structures have been grown without catalyst and any external substrate heating, owing to the unique plasma properties.

8:40am **TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM3 Directed, Liquid Phase Assembly of Patterned Metallic Films by Pulsed Laser Dewetting**, ***Y. Wu***, University of Tennessee, *J.D. Fowlkes, M. Fuentes-Cabrera*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, *N.A. Roberts, P.D. Rack*, University of Tennessee

Self–assembly of materials offer the potential to synthesize complex systems by defining the *initial and bounding* conditions if the fundamental scientific principles guiding the assembly are known. Much work has been performed studying the assembly of continuous thin polymer and metal films which reveal interesting dewetting phenomenon. Less work has been devoted to the directed assembly and pattern formation of confined or patterned metallic thin films. Meanwhile, the synthesis of functional metallic nanomaterials via self-assembly has been an effective and low-cost approach to realize many critical applications of nanoscience and nanotechnology. In this study, the dewetting and nanopattern formation of nanolithographically pre-patterned thin films of various shapes via pulsed nanosecond laser melting were investigated to understand how initial boundary conditions facilitate precise assembly. Specifically we will show experimental and computational results (continuum and molecular dynamics) illustrating how so-called synthetic perturbations can vary the dispersion of the resultant nanoparticle size and shape distribution of pseudo-one-dimensional liquid metal wires. Furthermore, we will show how controlling the shape and size of bi-metallic nanostructures, the assembly of multifunctional nanoparticles can be assembled.

9:00am **TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM4 Nanosphere Lithography for Bit Patterned Media**, ***A.G. Owen***, *H. Su, A.M. Montgomery, S.M. Kornegay, S. Gupta*, University of Alabama

Nanosphere lithography1-4 has been used to pattern perpendicular magnetic anisotropy Co/Pd multilayers into nanopillars for the first time for bit-patterned media applications. A multilayer stack of Pd10/[Co0.3Pd1]9/Pt5 nm nanolayers was deposited onto a bare silicon wafer. The nanospheres were spin-coated into a uniform monolayer and then reduced in size by plasma ashing in oxygen. The Co/Pd multilayer films were subsequently ion milled into nanopillars using the reduced nanospheres as masks. We tested two ranges of nanosphere sizes, one at about 100 nm, and the other at about 1000 nm. In order to optimize the ashing of the nanospheres, response surface methodology (RSM) was performed to optimize the ashing power and time. It was seen that ashing at low powers of less than 100 W for longer times was more effective than higher powers for short times in shrinking the nanosphere masks without damage. The subsequent ion milling of the Co/Pd films was performed at a near-perpendicular angle to minimize shadowing by the nanospheres. We will discuss some of the complex shapes the nanospheres were patterned into after ashing, and how they translated into variously sized and shaped nanopillars of Co/Pd multilayers after ion milling. Magnetometry was used to characterize the films before and after patterning, showing an improvement in the coercivity and squareness of the media after patterning with nanospheres that were shrunk, but not damaged, by ashing. Micromagnetic simulations using Object Oriented Micromagnetic Framework (OOMF) have been carried out to produce a simulated hysteresis loop which is then compared with the experimental results.

Acknowledgements

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9:20am **TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM5 Effects of Nanometer Scale Periodicity on the Self-Propagating Reaction Behaviors of Sputter-Deposited Multilayers**, ***D. Adams***, *R. Reeves*, Sandia National Laboratories

Nanometer-scale, vapor-deposited multilayers are an ideal class of materials for systematic, detailed investigations of reactive properties. Created in a pristine vacuum environment by sputter deposition, these high-purity materials have well-defined reactant layer thicknesses between 1 and 1000 nm, minimal void density and intimate contact between layers. If designed appropriately, these energetic materials can be ignited at a single point and exhibit a subsequent, high-temperature, self-propagating formation reaction. The nanometer-scale periodicity set through design tailors the effective diffusion length of the subsequent self-propagating reaction.

With this presentation, we describe effects of the nanometer-scale, multilayer periodicity on i) the reactivity of multilayers in different surrounding gaseous environments and ii) the reaction front morphology as viewed in the plane of the multilayer. We show that nickel/titanium and titanium/boron multilayers are affected by the surrounding gaseous environment, and describe how the magnitude of average propagation speed depends on multilayer periodicity. Fine multilayer designs are characterized by fast reaction waves, and there is no difference in average propagation speed when reacted in air (atm. pressure) versus vacuum (1 mTorr). Coarse multilayer designs are generally slower and are affected by secondary oxidation reactions when conducted in air. These thick multilayer designs are affected by the pressure of the surrounding gaseous environment with enhanced propagation speeds owing to the highly exothermic reaction of Ti with O. Regarding the effects of nanometer-scale multilayer periodicity on reaction front morphology, we show that reactive multilayers often have a smooth reaction front when layer periodicity is small. However, multilayers having larger periodicity (and hence larger effective diffusion lengths) exhibit reaction front instabilities and complex reaction front morphologies.

In this talk, we also stress how the propensity to oxidize and the propensity to form reaction front instabilities (as affected through nanometer-scale design) impact final properties of the multilayers for applications such as localized joining.

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9:40am **TF+EM+SE+NS-ThM6 Ag Nanoparticles Supported by (111) Facets on Biaxial CaF_2 Nanoblades**, *M. Auer*, ***D. Ye***, Virginia Commonwealth University

Silver nanoparticles of different diameters were grown in an effort to study methods of preferentially orienting the geometry of metal nanoparticles. Arrays of calcium fluoride nanorods were grown on silicon substrates using oblique angle deposition at 75° incident angle. A method was then developed to grow silver nanoparticles exclusively on the (111) facet of the calcium fluoride tips. Cross sectional scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy imaging was used to verify that the nanoparticles adhered exclusively to the desired facet of the tip. Using selected area diffraction and dark field in the TEM, it was shown that the nanoparticles did grow at a [111] orientation at the interface between them and the calcium fluoride rods. Different thicknesses and diameters of nanoparticles were then grown to determine what an ideal size was to achieve the most [111] orientation of the nanoparticles.

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