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Nanoscale Chemical Imaging by Photo-induced Force Microscopy (PiFM)

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Atomic Resolution Elemental Mapping on SrTiO3 crystal by Super X EDS (EDX) system on Titan 80-300 Aberration Corrected Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope



Image credit: North Carolina State Univ. Analytical Instrumentation Facility https://www.aif.ncsu.edu/tem-lab/

Elemental mapping of a device structure by EDS (EDX)



Image credit: Nanolab Techologies http://www.nanolabtechnologies.com/TEM-STEM-EELS-EDS

- Advanced capability for elemental mapping (but not for organics)
- Atomic-scale resolution in certain circumstances



Chemical Mapping of Molecular Materials via X-Rays, Neutrons

- X-ray Techniques
 - Wide-Angle X-ray Scattering (WAXS)
 - Small-Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS)
 - Resonant Soft X-ray Scattering (r-SoXS)
- Neutron Techniques

Scanning Transmission X-ray Microscopy (STXM)



Image credit: Watts, B.; McNeill, C. R.; Raabe, J. Synth. Met. 2012, 161, 2516.

- Polymers prone to damage to X-ray
- Synchrotron sources are not easily accessible

FTIR: Infrared Absorption "Chemical Fingerprint" Spectrum

FTIR apparatus



Detailed absorption spectrum – chemical "fingerprint" $\nu_{as}\,\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ stretching $v_{as} PO_2^{-1}$ 0.020 A 2917 cm⁻¹ 1240 cm⁻¹ b $v_{as} CH_3$ v_{as} CO-O-C stretching stretching **s** 0.015 1168 cm⁻¹ v_{s} CH₂ stretching 2965 cm⁻ 0 2850 cm⁻¹ $v_{s} PO_{2}$ r 1092 cm⁻¹ 0.010 b CH₂ scissoring C=O $v_{as} N^+ (CH_3)_3$ a 1737 cm⁻¹ 1468 cm⁻¹ 972 cm⁻¹ **n** 0.005 С e 0.000 3200 3000 2800 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 Wavenumber (cm⁻¹)

Image credit: Wikipedia

Image credit: Mudunkotuwa et al., Analyst 139, 870-881 (2014).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier_transform_infrared_spectroscopy#/media/File:FTIR_Interferometer.png

- Detailed spectra for analysis and identification of molecular materials
- Spatial mapping resolution limited by optical diffraction limit (~ 1 μm)



Existing IR-NF Probe Techniques: Optical vs. Mechanical Detection



Photothermal imaging (PTIR)

D. Nowak thesis

- Interaction region confined by enhanced fields at sharp tip
- Far-field collection of scattered photons (low efficiency/sensitivity)
- Smooth samples preferred (background scattering concern)

Lu, Jin, and Belkin, Nature Photonics 8, 307-312 (2014)

- Material specific λ-selective absorption
- Local sensing of thermal expansion
- Tip in hard contact with sample
- ~100 nm resolution
- Strongly affected by sample thickness and substrate



Photo-induced Force Microscopy (PiFM)

- Mechanical detection
- Dipole-dipole forces between sample and tip

Photo-induced Force Microscopy (PiFM)

APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS 97, 073121 (2010)

Image force microscopy of molecular resonance: A microscope principle

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(Received 3 June 2010; accepted 12 July 2010; published online 20 August 2010)

We demonstrate a technique in microscopy which extends the domain of atomic force microscopy to optical spectroscopy at the nanometer scale. We show that molecular resonance of feature sizes down to the single molecular level can be detected and imaged purely by mechanical detection of the force gradient between the interaction of the optically driven molecular dipole and its mirror image in a platinum coated scanning probe tip. This microscopy and spectroscopy technique is extendable to frequencies ranging from radio to infrared and the ultraviolet. © 2010 American Institute of Physics. [doi:10.1063/1.3480608]



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Origin of the Photo-Induced Force (Image Force)



PiFM Apparatus



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The Instrument: "Vista IR"



- sSNOM option available
- Controlled atmosphere or low vacuum
- Multiple optical ports provided for customization of research



PiFM Results

Point Spectroscopy with PiFM (Homopolymers)





Nowak et al., Science Advances Vol. 2, no. 3, e1501571 (2016)



- PiFM spectra on 30 nm thick homopolymer films on Si, with no special preparation. (~20 sec acquisition time)
- FTIR absorption curve on bulk samples of polymers
- Significant correlation to FTIR
- Selection rules and water vapor providing additional peak structure (per discussion with Warren Vidrine)

PiFM of PS-*b*-PMMA Block Copolymer: ~10 nm Lateral Resolution

(40 nm pitch "fingerprint" patterns)



Publication: "Nanoscale chemical imaging by photoinduced force microscopy," D. Nowak et al., *Science Advances* 25 Mar 2016: Vol. 2, no. 3, e1501571 DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1501571

Is PIFM responding to AFM Phase?

(40 nm pitch "fingerprint" patterns)





Photo-induced force imaging is completely unrelated to AFM phase imaging



Surface Sensitivity: PiFM of PS-b-PTMSS Block Copolymer

slands

Holes

Horizontal lamellae – quantized thickness "island / hole" formations PiFM - PS @1493cm⁻¹ PiFM - PTMSS @ 1599cm⁻¹ Topography 5.00 🗘 5.5 nm 3.75 11 nm 2.50 1.25 Wafer **PS-PTMSS** 5.00 3.75 2.50 1.25 Wafer Sample: M. Maher, G. Willson – U. Texas 2.50 1.25 2.50 1.25 2.50 1.25 5.00 3.75 0 5.00 3.75 0 5.00 3.75 μm μm μm

Surface material has stronger response – penetration depth is several nanometers

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DNA Origami



"Hyperspectral" Image of 2D Perovskite

"Hyperspectral" or "hyPIR" image = full spectrum at every pixel

Topography:



Sample: David Ginger, Raj Giridharagopal, Alex Jen - Univ. of Washington

Hyperspectral image video:





Hyperspectral Image of 2D Perovskite



1761 cm⁻¹



1529 cm⁻¹

1467 cm⁻¹



1463 cm⁻¹





1566 cm⁻¹



1474 cm⁻¹



1387 cm⁻¹



1466 cm⁻¹





PBMA/PLMA/Dexamethasone (Pharmaceutical Composite)

Sample provided by: Greg Haugstad (PhD), Characterization Facility -University of Minnesota

In collaboration with: Dr. Klaus Wormuth, Surmodics, Inc.

Spin-coated PBMA / PLMA / dexamethasone (43.5:13:43.5)



Environmental Atomic Force and Confocal Raman Microscopies in Pharmaceutical Science

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Dexamethasone PiFM Mapping (5 x 5 μ m Image)





PBMA/PLMA/Dexamethasone (Pharmaceutical Composite)





μm

Li_xFePO₄ Battery Electrode Material





pubs.acs.org/NanoLett

Dependence on Crystal Size of the Nanoscale Chemical Phase Distribution and Fracture in Li_xFePO₄

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FTIR of Li_xFePO₄ from Literature



FTIR spectra of the three Li_xFePO₄ samples defined by their concentration of x in lithium

Absorption lines: 1048, 1137, and 1237 wavenumbers are of particular interest, as they vary the most based on lithium concentration.

Spectrochimica Acta Part A 65 (2006) 1007–1013

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PiFM of Li_xFePO₄



Based on the FTIR information for Li_xFePO₄ we believe that the blue channel (1235 cm⁻¹) are areas of lowest Li_x concentration, green channel (1047 cm⁻¹) the highest concentration, and the red channel (1135 cm⁻¹) is in between.



BNNT Surface Phonon Polaritons (SPhP) - Background



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BNNT SPhP: 1603 – 1365 cm⁻¹



- ~100 nm diameter MWBNNT
- Absorption resonance at 1365 cm⁻¹ (per literature)
- IR frequency-dependent crest/node patterns at frequencies above resonance
- Response similar to that observed by sSNOM (Xu et al.)



Hexagonal Boron Nitride (damaged by processing)



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PiFM: A New Standard Chemical Mapping Technique

Analytical Resolution versus Detection Limit



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PiFM: A New Standard Chemical Mapping Technique

Analytical Resolution versus Detection Limit



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Photo-induced Force Microscopy: Summary

PiFM generates IR spectra with nm-scale spatial resolution

- Robust, high-SNR technique for nm-scale IR spectroscopy (easy!)
- Ideal for chemical mapping of molecular materials, including organics
- Mechanical detection of dipole forces eliminates background scattering effects
- Resolution unaffected by sample thickness or thermal properties
- A significant step forward in IR spectroscopic microscopy
- Hyperspectral imaging is a powerful PiFM mode which generates and stores a full spectrum at each image pixel
 - Individual chemical species "light up" at specific wavelengths, depending on each material's IR absorption spectrum
- Sample results shown here include:
 - Chemical mapping of self-assembled block copolymer patterns
 - Chemical mapping of three-component pharmaceutical composite
 - Viewing of wavelength-dependent surface phonon polariton crest/node patterns on boron nitride nanotube
- PiFM may become a standard analytical chemical mapping technique for use in industry/academia

