Ion Scattering Techniques for Material Analysis

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Outline

- 1. History
- 2. Energetic ion interaction with matter
- 3. Equipment
- 4. Other ion scattering techniques
- **5. Basic RBS theory**
- 6. RBS on-line demonstration using Uppsala tandem accelerator and internet





Au foil

"It was quite the most incredible event that ever happened to me in my life. It was as incredible as if you fired a 15 inch shell at a piece of tissue paper and it came back and hit you." **Ernest Rutherford, 1911**



Student



KTH Information and Communication Technology

Stopping of He in silicon



Electronic stopping

Energy given up to the lattice electronic system. No permanent damage (in conducting matter).

Nuclear stopping

Elastic collisions between incoming ion and screened lattice nuclei. Occurs predominantly towards the end of the ion track, where the material will be permanently damaged.

Typical energy ranges for IBA

•Secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) Primary ion energy: 5 < E < 20 keV

•Rutherford backscattering spectrometry (RBS) Primary ion energy: 1 < E < 5 MeV

•Medium energy ion scattering (MEIS) Primary ion energy: 50 < E < 500 keV



Energy loss

Electronic stopping is known and roughly constant for small depths

Depth of the collision can be estimated

Rutherford scattering

Rutherford calculated the probability for scattering $\sigma = \sigma(\Theta, Z_1, Z_2, E_0)$

The yield of backscattered particles can be estimated

Typical scattering chamber

Backscattering geometry





Uppsala 5 MV Pelletron tandem



6 beamlines of which 5 are used for analysis



Scattering chamber used for RBS and ERDA

RBS example: 2.0 MeV He on SiC



Resulting spectrum



Data analysis by simulation of spectra http://www.rzg.mpg.de/~mam/



RBS (random) applications and limitations

- MeV random RBS (RBS-r) for thin film analysis
 - Surface composition
 - Trace impurity concentration
 - Element identification (heavy element in light matrix)
 - Depth profile within ~ μ m of target surface
- Probing depth: ~ a few μm
- Detection sensitivity: more sensitive to the heavy element due to larger differential recoil cross section,
 - ~10⁻⁴ monolayers for ²⁰⁷Pb on ¹²C, ~2×10⁻² monolayers for ⁷⁵As on ⁶⁵Zn,
- Depth resolution: / ~ 30 nm
- Mass resolution: ~3% at M₂=100



Other IBA varieties

•Rutherford backscattering spectrometry (RBS)

•Secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS)

•Elastic recoil detection analysis (ERDA)

•Channeling RBS (RBS-C)

•Nuclear reaction analysis (NRA)

Medium energy ion scattering (MEIS)

Typical scattering chamber Recoil detection geometry Target Accelerated ions, E₀, M₁ Θ Recoils Start **Time-of-flight** detector Stop MCA **E** detector

Typical ERDA spectrum Probing beam: ¹²⁷I Target: Cu sample



C/Co/Cr/Ni-P/Al multilayer structure from a standard hard disc



ERDA applications and limitations

- Signals from elements with overlapping energy distributions can be resolved (e.g., Si in Al_xGa_{1-x}As).
- Depth profiles of heavy and light elements can be measured simultaneously (e.g., the Pd/InP system).
- Probing depth: ~ a few μm
- Detection sensitivity: almost constant. When M₁>M₂, the cross section is almost independent of recoil
- Element sensitivity: /0.1%
- Depth resolution: / 20 nm
- Elemental separation power: $\Delta M/M / 5\%$ at medium mass elements

RBS Channeling mode

Probe beam aligned with a crystal axis



Channeling RBS

Beam aligned with SiC (0001) direction



Channeling RBS

Mapping of Si(100) surface



Scan: $\pm 3.8^{\circ}$ in 0.1° interval by 2.4 MeV ⁴He⁺

Channeling RBS

Implantation damage in ZnO



Channel no

Nuclear Reaction Analysis NRA





Conclusions

- Ever since Rutherford discovery, energetic ions beams have been used to probe matter.
- Standard RBS makes it possible to investigate elemental content, composition and element depth profiles of thin films.
- The technique is quantitative since the following are well known:
 - **Kinematics**
 - **Energy loss**
 - **Rutherford cross section (probability for scattering)**

Many varieties of IBA exists.

