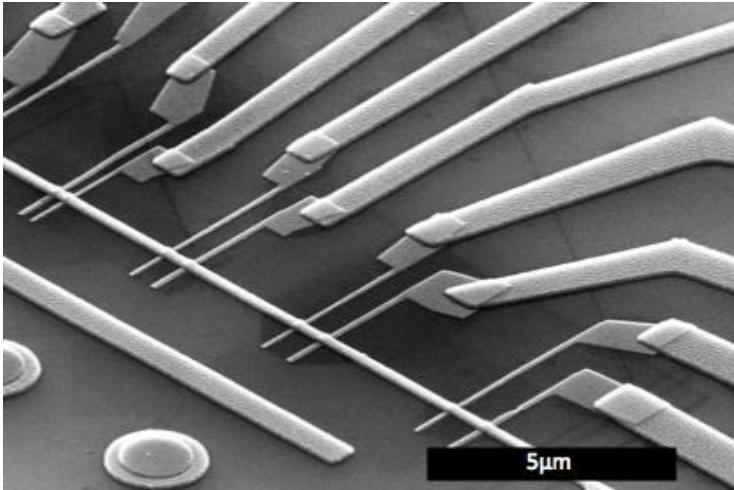
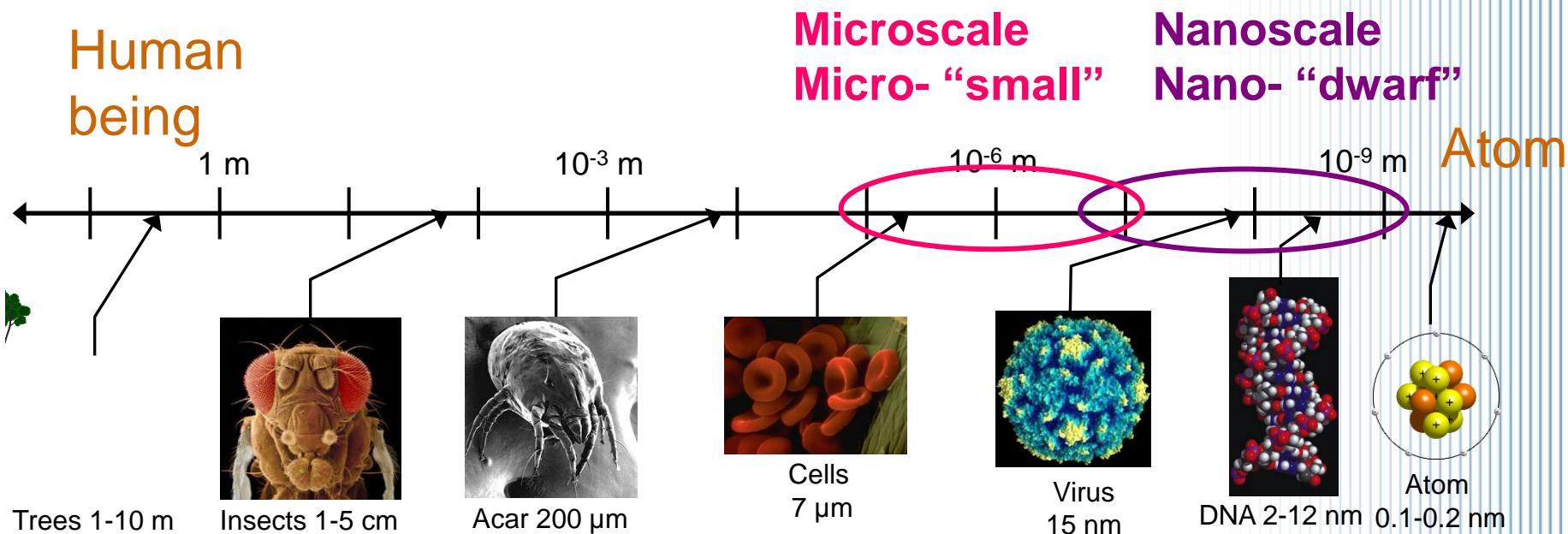


Electron-beam lithography and its applications to spintronics

Fèlix Casanova

Nanodevices group, CIC nanoGUNE, San Sebastian, Basque Country (Spain)







THE NANOSCALE

FIELD	PROPERTY	SCALE LENGTH
Electronics	Electronic Wavelength Inelastic mean free path Tunneling	10 - 100 nm 1 - 100 nm 1 - 10 nm
Magnetism	Domain wall Spin-flip scattering	10 - 100 nm 1 - 100 nm
Optics	Quantum well Evanescence wave decay length Metallic skin depth	1 - 100 nm 10 - 100 nm 10 - 100 nm
Superconductivity	Cooper pair coherence length Meissner penetration depth	0.1 - 100 nm 1 - 100 nm
Mechanics	Dislocation interactions Grain Boundaries Crack tip radii Nucleation/growth defect Surface corrugation	1 - 1000 nm 1 - 10 nm 1 - 100 nm 0.1 - 10 nm 1 - 10 nm
Catalysis	Surface topology	1 - 10 nm
Supramolecules	Kuhn length Secondary structure Tertiary structure	1 - 100 nm 1 - 10 nm 10 - 1000 nm
Inmunology	Molecular recognition	1 - 10 nm



NANOFABRICATION TECHNIQUES

Top down

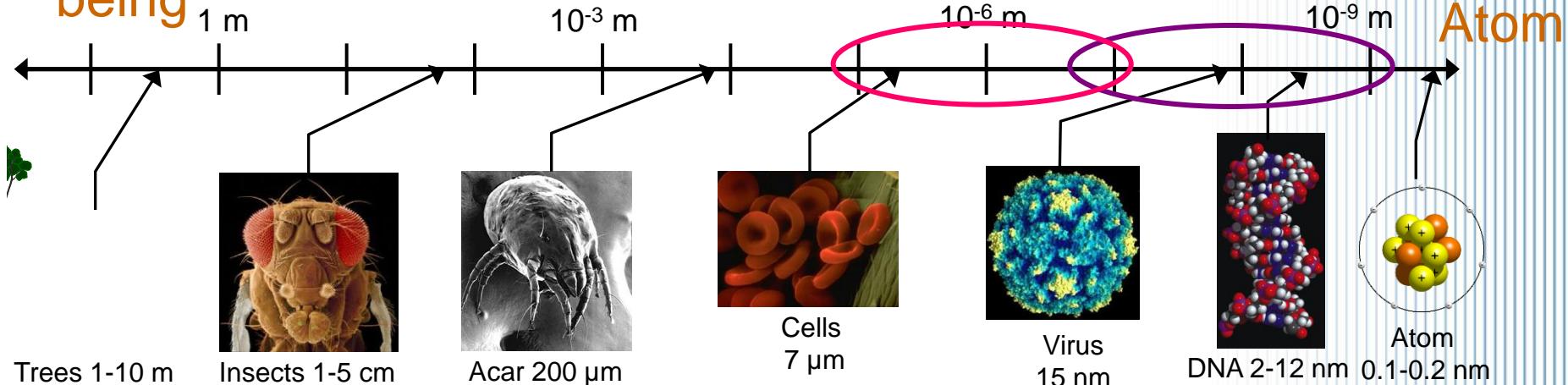
- Lithography
- Etching

- Deposition
- Self assembly

Bottom up

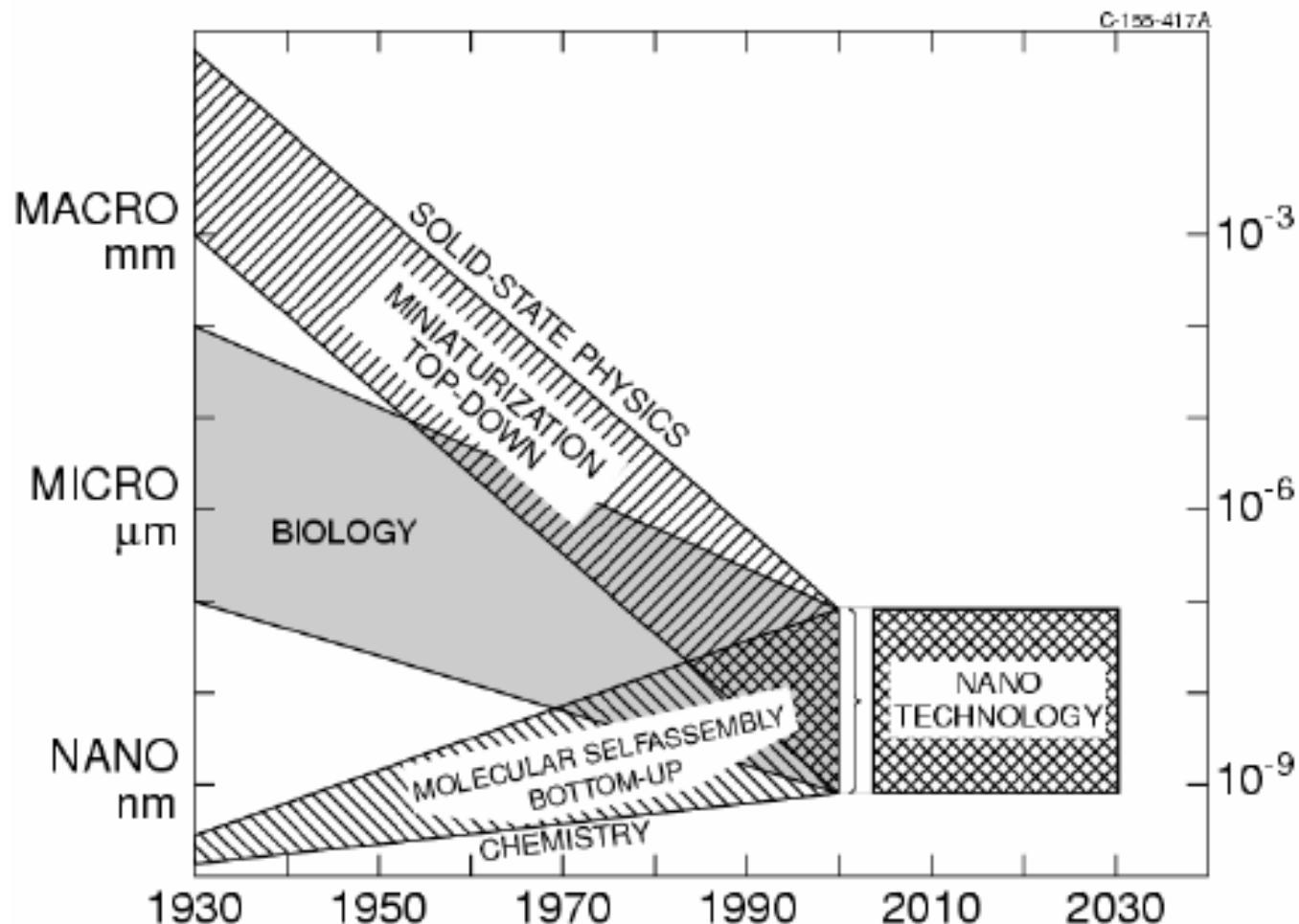


Human
being





NANOFABRICATION TECHNIQUES





OUTLINE

- Introduction to electron-beam lithography
 - Working principle
 - Complete process
 - Key parameters
 - Proximity effect
- Common problems
 - Sharp edges
 - Redeposition
 - Insulating substrates
- Spintronics applications
 - Lateral spin valve devices (for spin transport)
 - Spin absorption devices (for spin Hall effect)



OUTLINE

- Introduction to electron-beam lithography
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LITHOGRAPHY

Lithography (from Ancient Greek *λίθος* (*lithos*), meaning "stone", and *γράφειν* (*graphein*), meaning "to write") is a method of printing originally based on the immiscibility of oil and water. The printing is from a stone (lithographic limestone) or a metal plate with a smooth surface. It was **invented in 1796** by German author and actor **Alois Senefelder** as a cheap method of publishing theatrical works. Lithography can be used to print text or artwork onto paper or other suitable material.

From Wikipedia



Anasazi people, s. X-XI A.C.
Monument Valley (Arizona)



Nabatean people, s. III B.C.-II A.D.
Wadi Rum (Jordan)



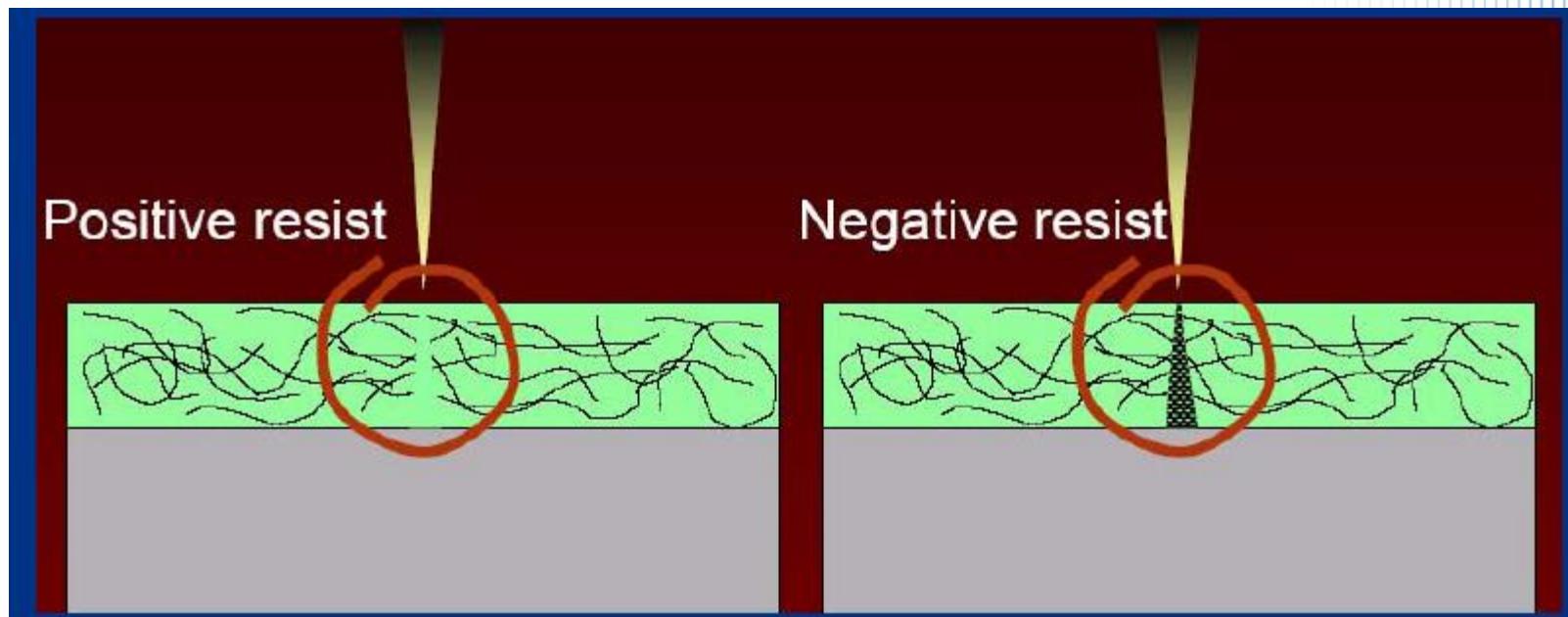
LITHOGRAPHY

- **Negative Resist**

Cross-linking: adjacent polymer chains cross-link to form complex 3D structures with higher molecular weight and, thus, lower solubility.

- **Positive Resist**

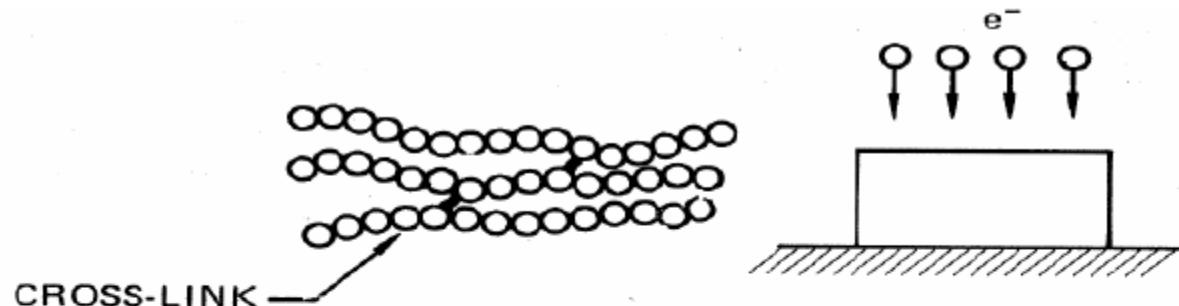
Chain-scission: polymer chains break to form chains with lower molecular weight and, thus, higher solubility



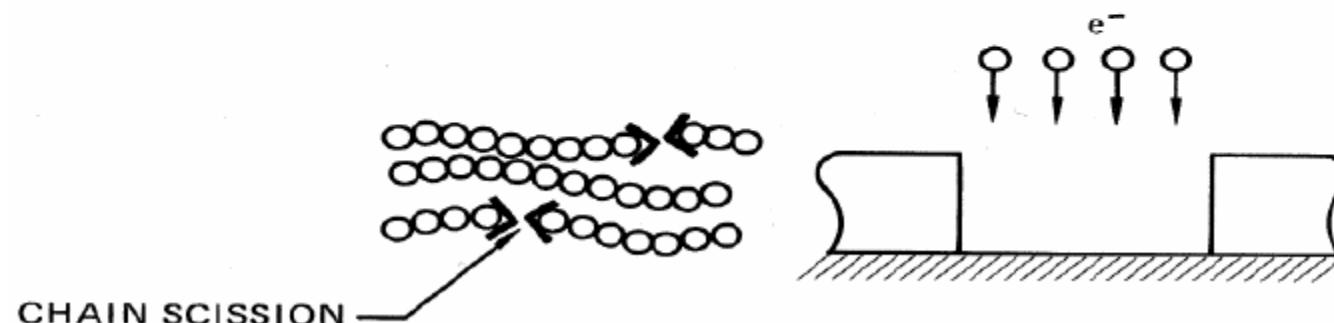


E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

Electron-sensitive resists



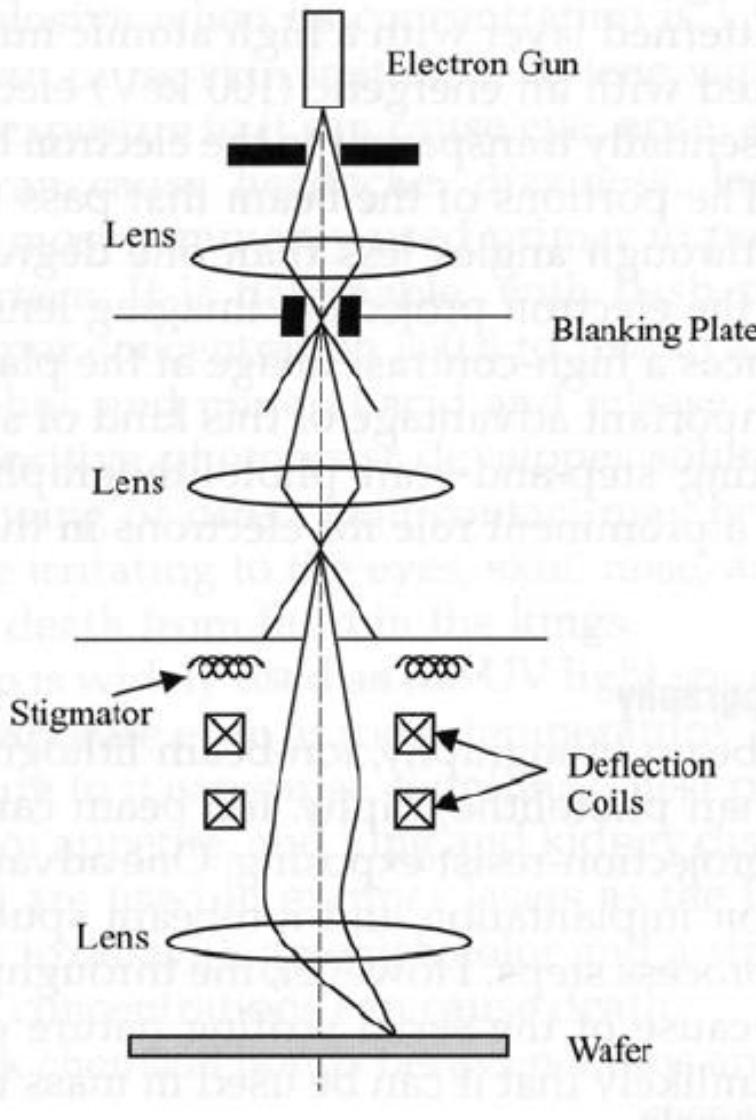
(a) NEGATIVE RESIST (e. g., PS)



(b) POSITIVE RESIST (e. g., PMMA)



E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

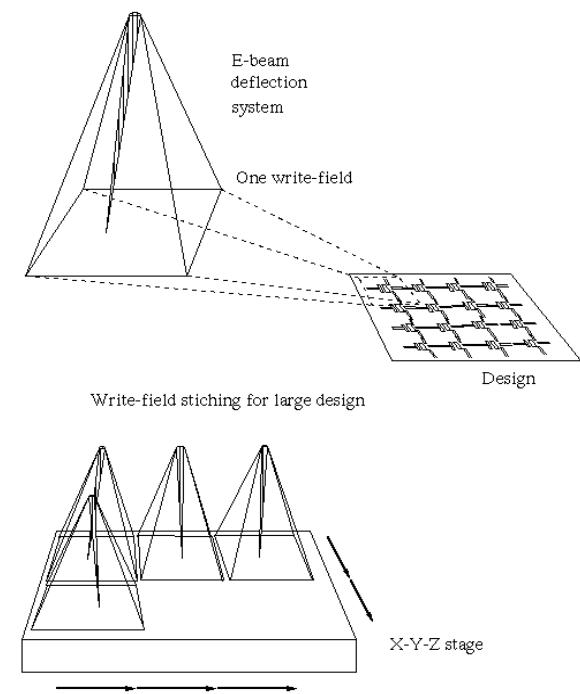


1) Scanning electron microscopy (SEM):

Electron beam column and optics

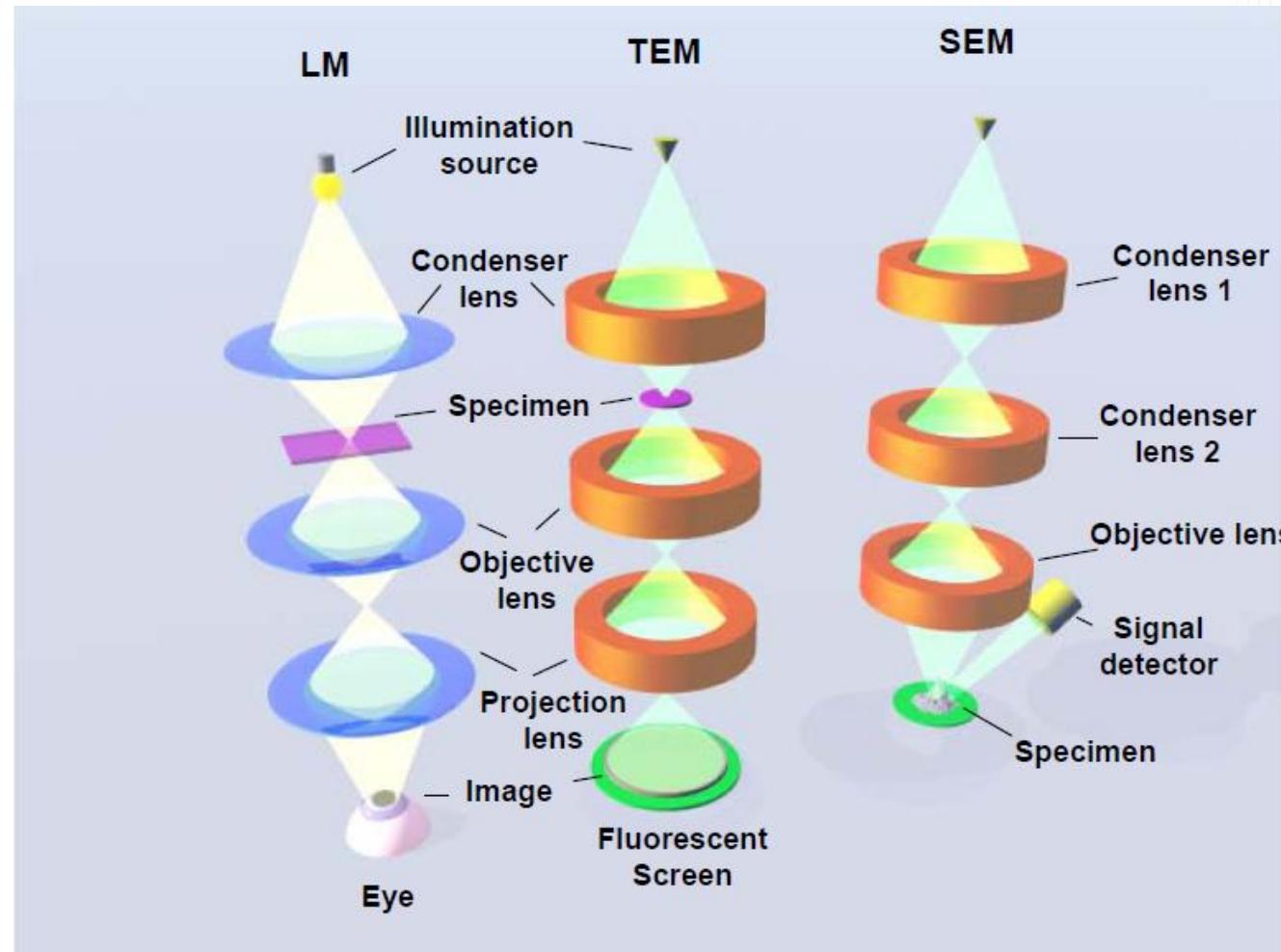
- Electron source Schottky field emitter ZrO/W.
- Beam energy range : 100 V to 30 kV in 10 V steps.
- Beam current range : selectable between approximately 5 pA – 20 nA.
- Beam size :
 - 2 nm at 20 kV at 3 mm working distance.
 - 4 nm at 1 kV at 3 mm working distance.
- Gaussian beam.

2) Laser interferometric stage





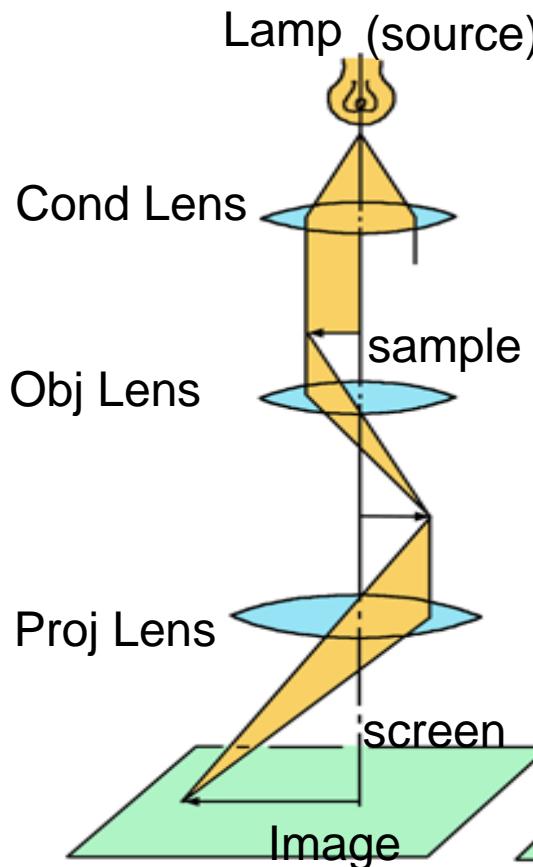
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY



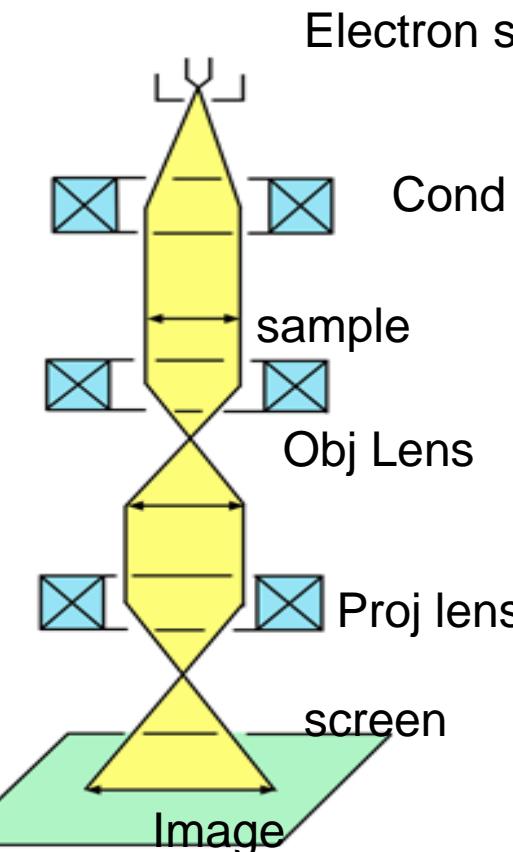
Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) studies the **inner structure** of objects
Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) visualizes the **surface** of objects



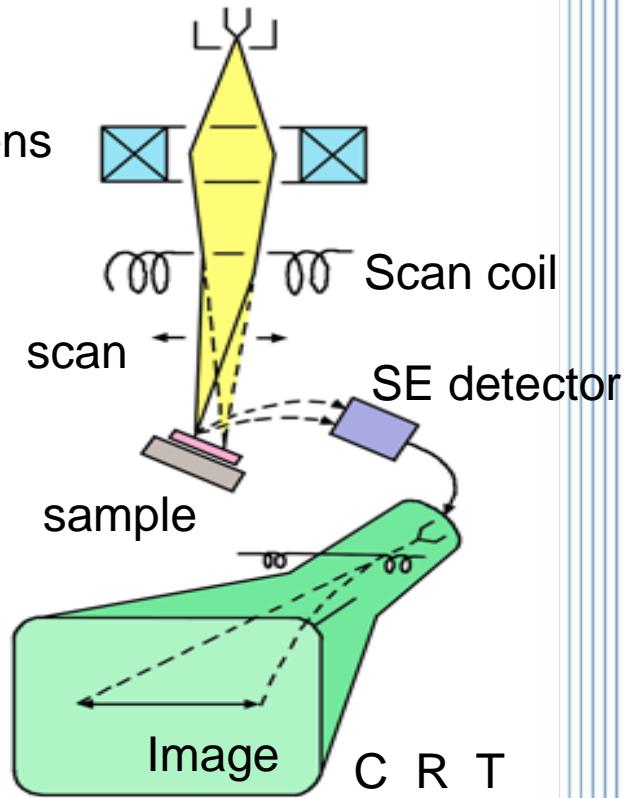
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY



Light microscopy (LM)



TEM



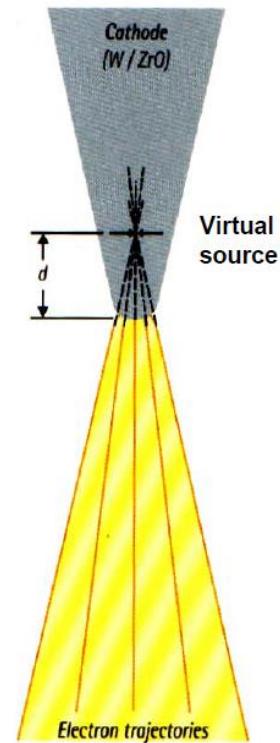
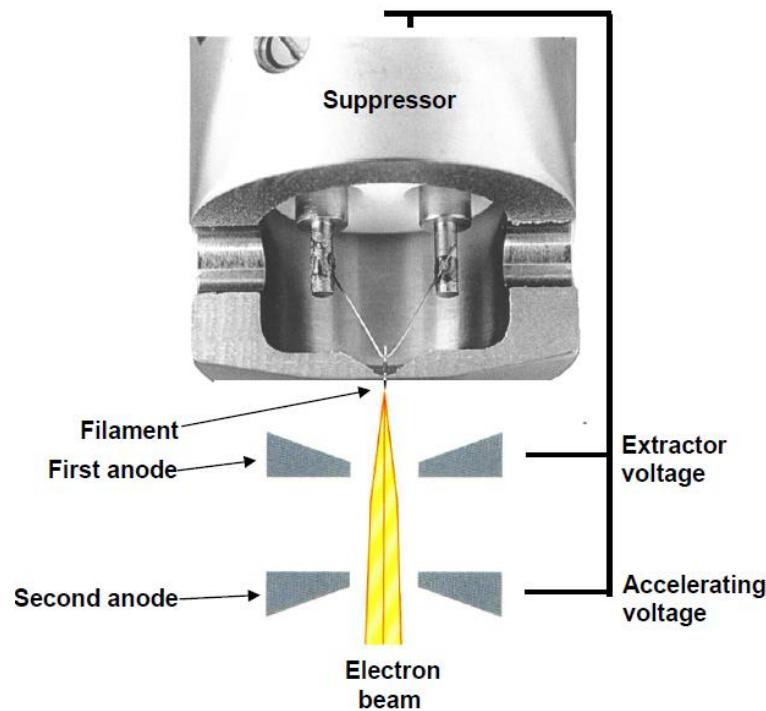
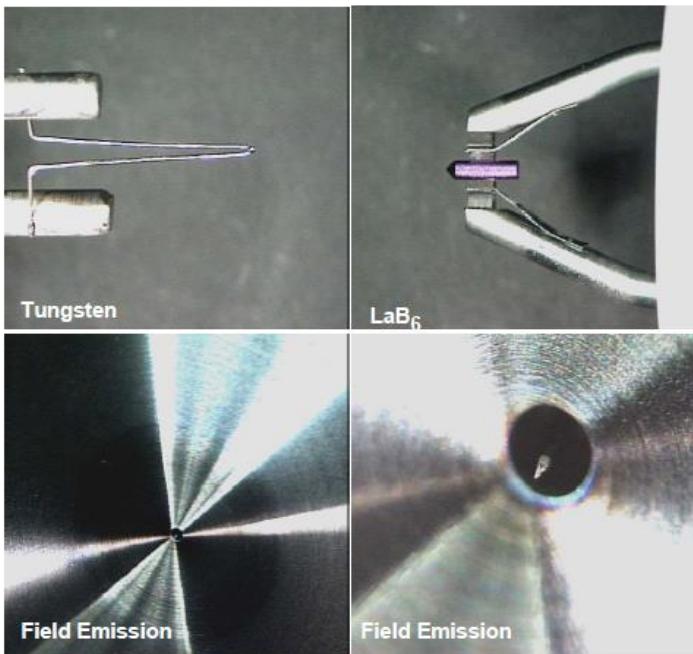
SEM

Difference between LM, TEM and SEM



Electron sources

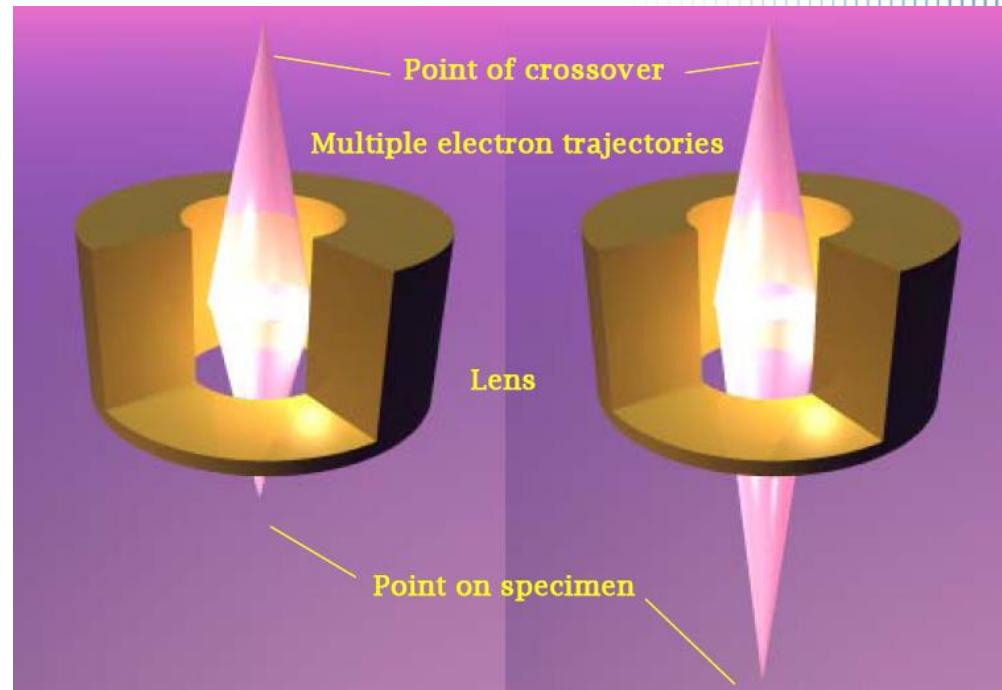
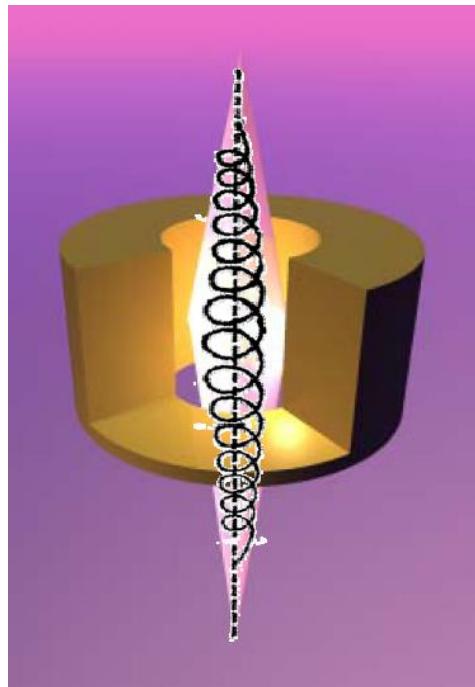
Filaments





ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Electromagnetic lenses



$$\mathbf{F} = -e (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{v})$$

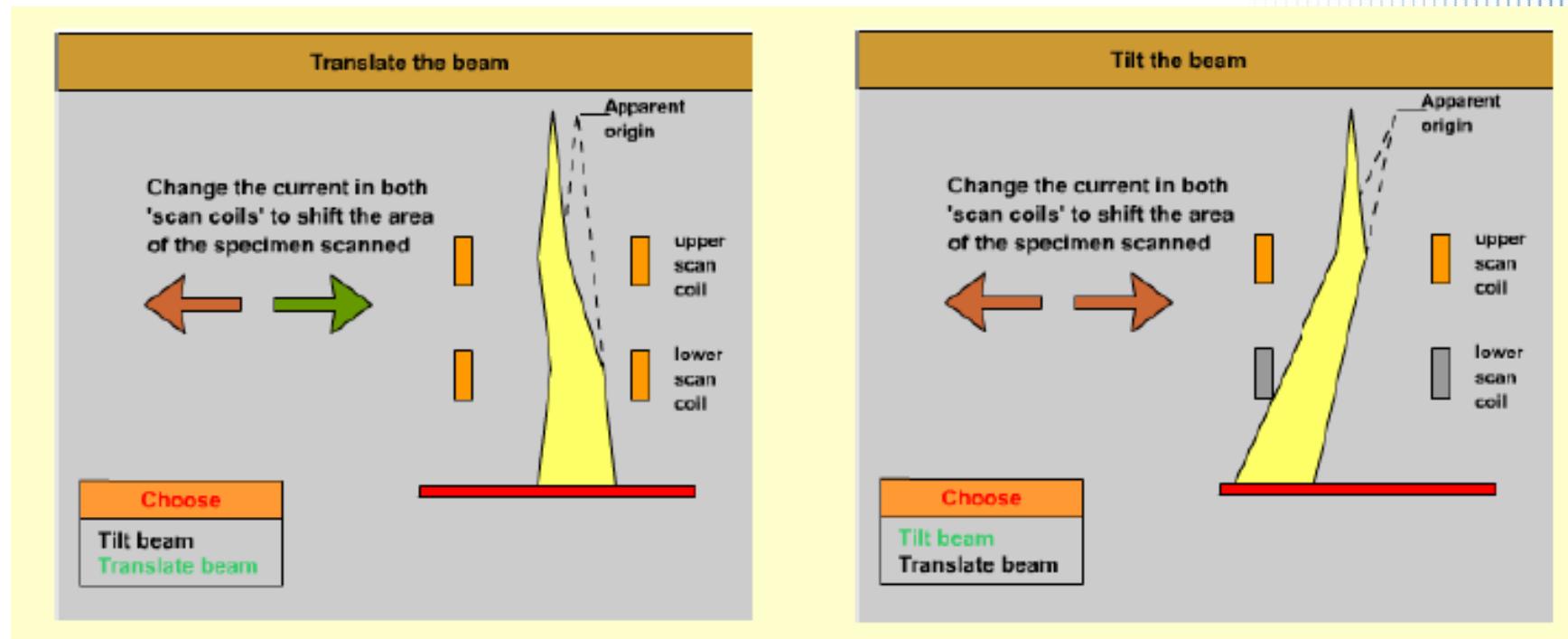
Electrons move through the lens in a helicoidal trajectory, not in a straight line

The focal length of the lens can be tuned with the DC current applied to the coils.



SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY (SEM)

Scanning

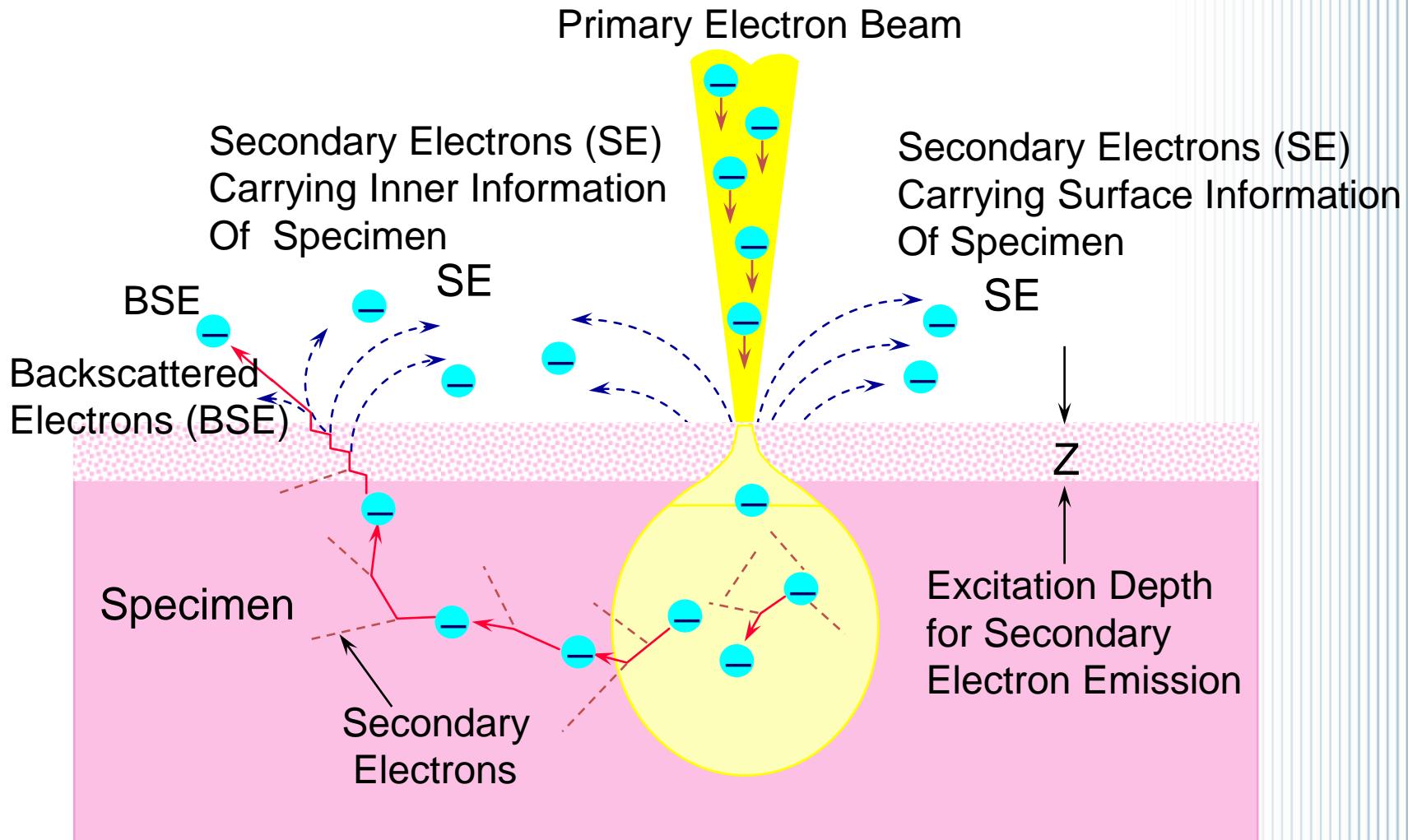


Double scanning coil set-up allows to:

- 1) Translate the beam without changing its angle
- 2) Tilt the beam without changing its position on the object



SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY (SEM)

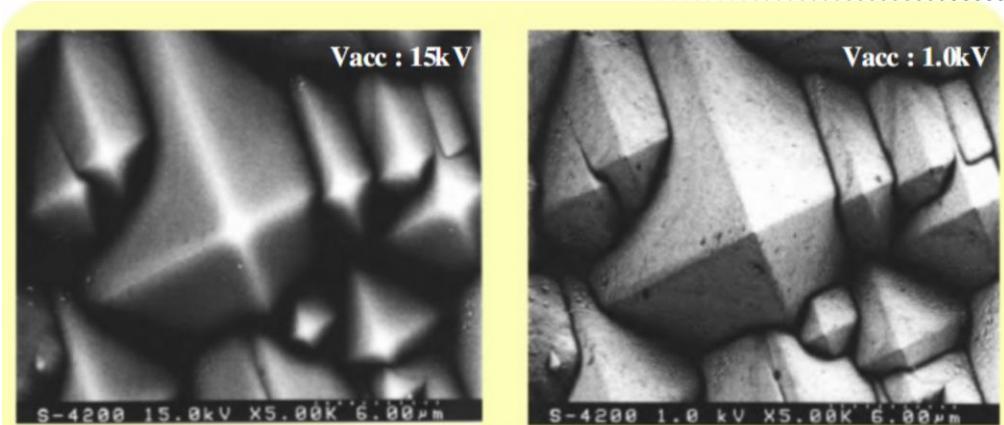
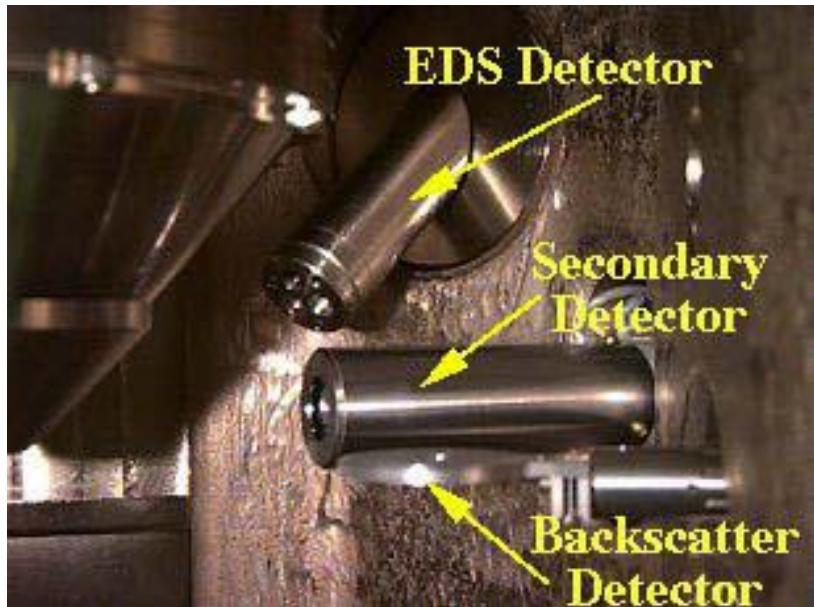


SE and BSE emitted from solid sample

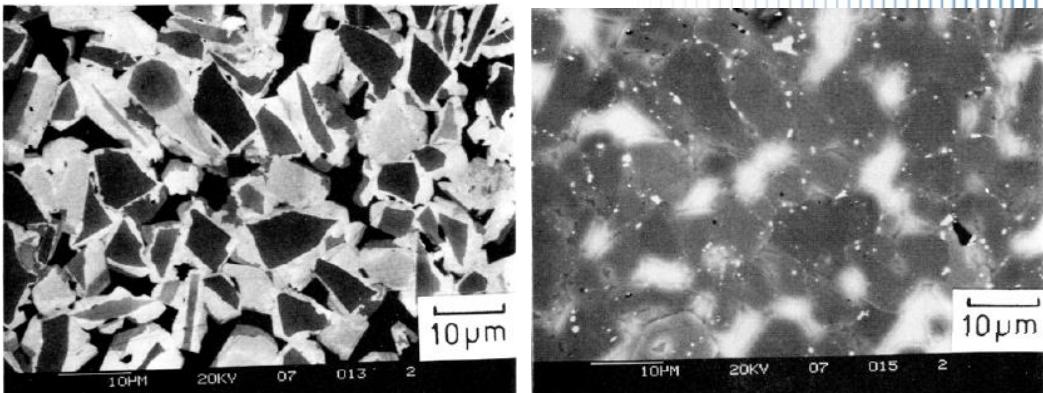
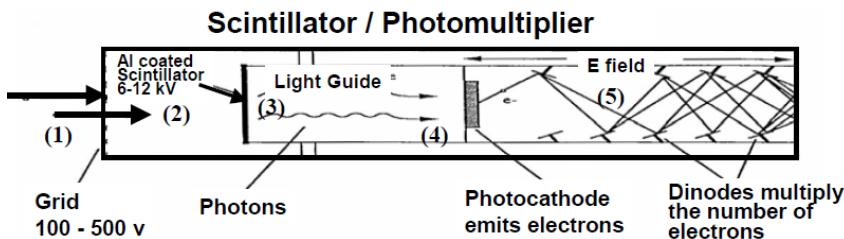


SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY (SEM)

Electron detectors



Secondary electrons: low energy, topographic information, + depth at + Vacc



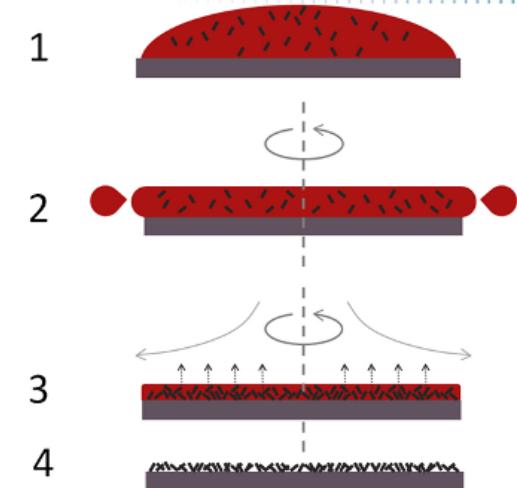
Backscattered electrons: high energy, topographic information and atomic number



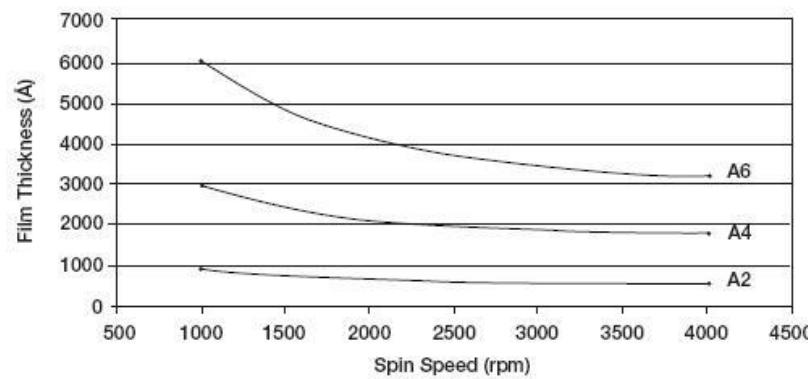
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

COMPLETE PROCESS:

- Spinning resist
- Exposing resist
- Develop resist
- Etch / Deposit
- Remove resist



495PMMA A Resists
Solids: 2% - 6% in Anisole

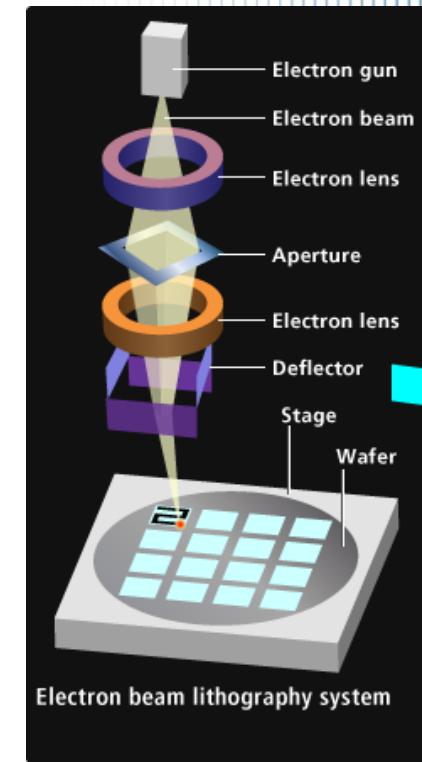




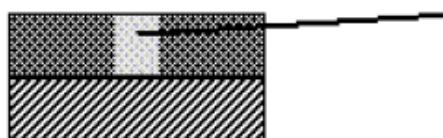
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

COMPLETE PROCESS:

- Spinning resist
- Exposing resist
- Develop resist
- Etch / Deposit
- Remove resist



Electron beam lithography system

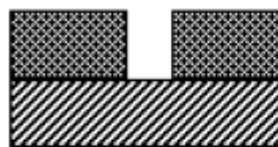


Photosensitive materials properties change only where exposed to radiation

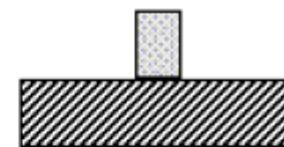


COMPLETE PROCESS:

- Spinning resist
- Exposing resist
- **Develop resist**
- Etch / Deposit
- Remove resist



a) Positive resist,
developer solution
removes exposed
material

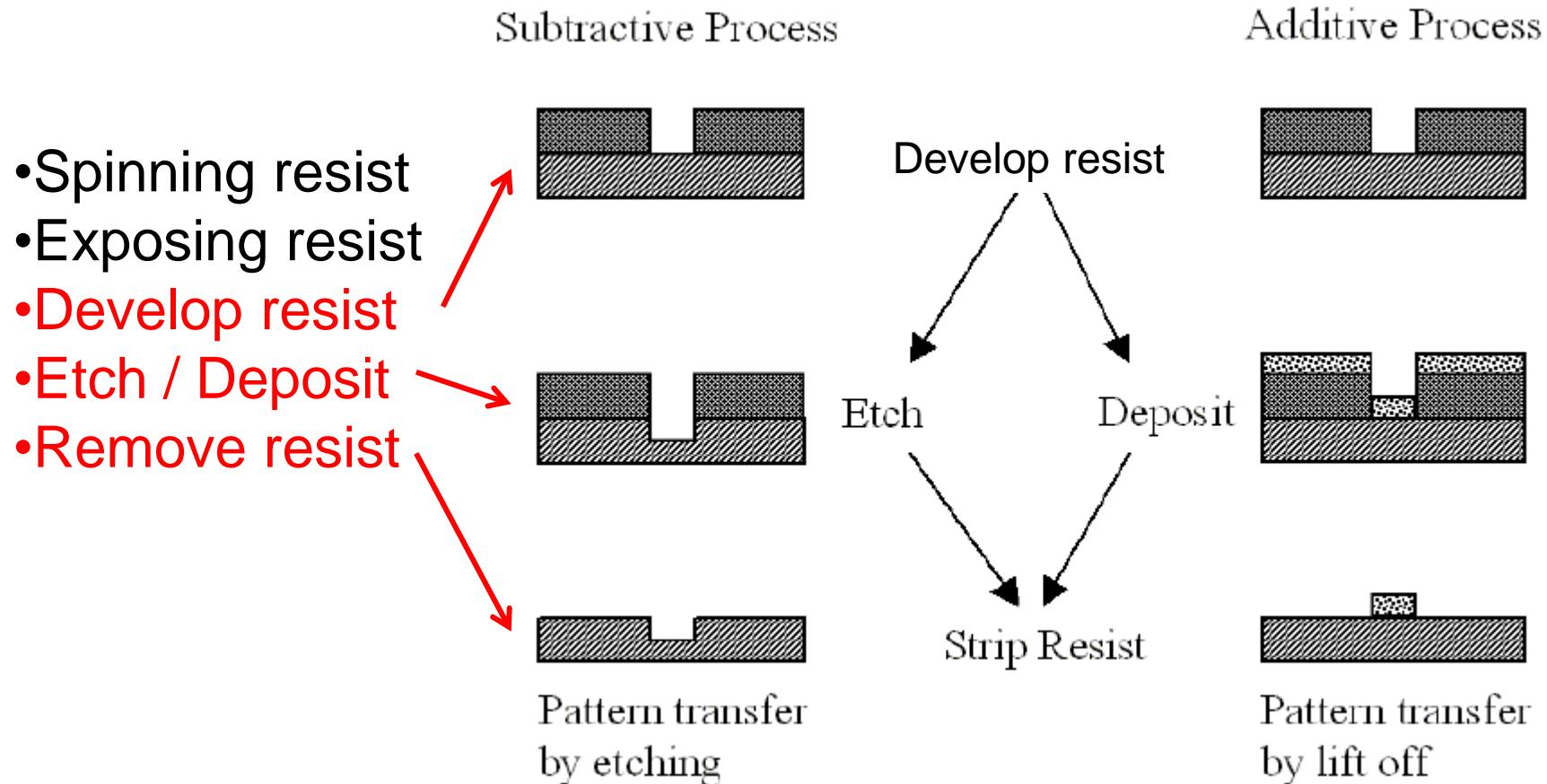


b) Negative resist,
developer solution
removes unexposed
material



E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

COMPLETE PROCESS: Example with positive resist





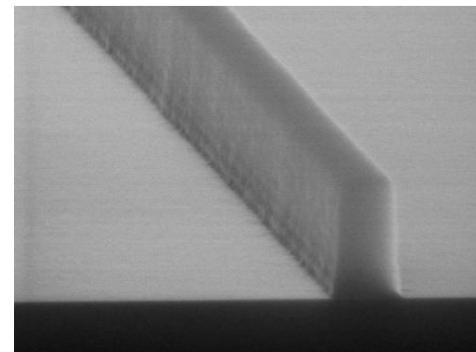
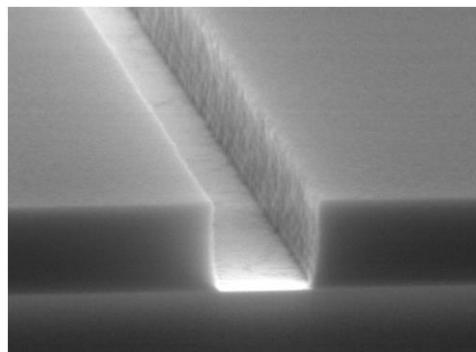
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

KEY PARAMETERS:

- Resist tone
- Resist performance
- Resist thickness
- Acceleration voltage

Positive or negative: depends on which will give a minimum area to be exposed

Positive resist (trench) Negative resist (line)





E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

KEY PARAMETERS:

- Resist tone
- Resist performance
- Resist thickness
- Acceleration voltage

Resist performance with respect to:
resolution, sensitivity, etching stability

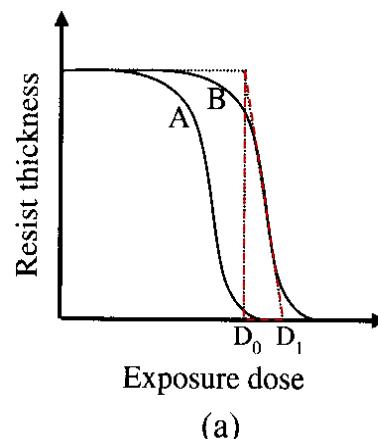
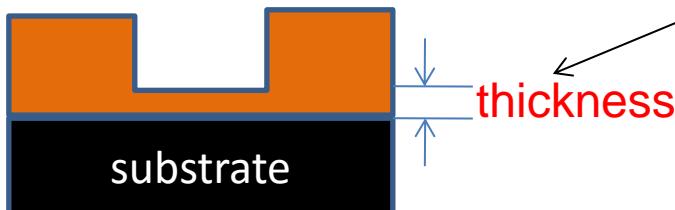
Table-3.8. Conventional e-beam resists and properties

	resist tone	resolution / nm	sensitivity *	developer
More popular ones	PMMA	+	10	MIBK:IPA
	ZEP-520	+	10	xylene : p-dioxane
	ma-N 2400	-	80	MIF726
	EBR-9	+	200	MIBK:IPA
	PBS	+	250	MIAK: 2-pentanone 3:1
	COP	-	1,000	MEK : ethanol 7:3

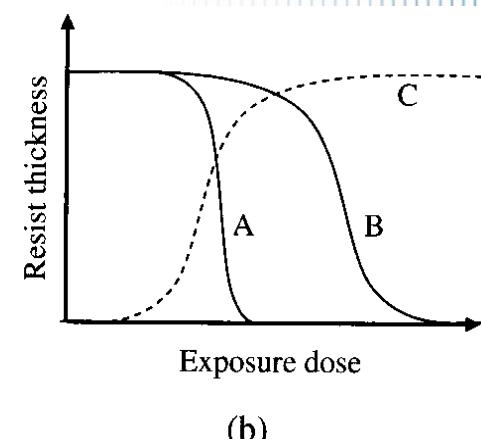
* sensitivity measured at 20 keV beam energy, unit: $\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$.

Resist development curves:

- (a) Resist A is of higher sensitivity than B.
- (b) A is of higher contrast than B; C is negative resist.



(a)



(b)



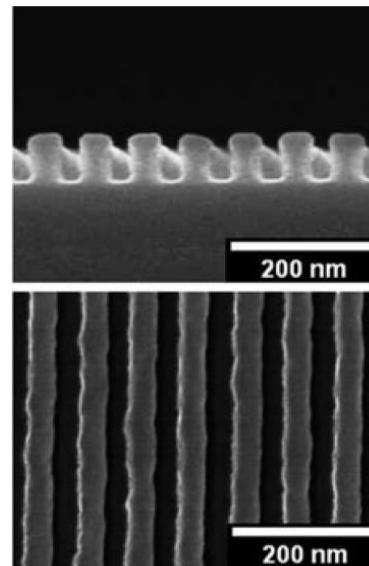
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

KEY PARAMETERS:

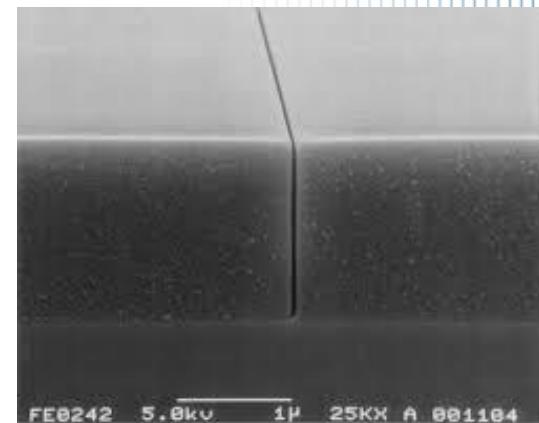
- Resist tone
- Resist performance
- **Resist thickness**
- Acceleration voltage

-**Thinner resist**: will give you higher lateral resolution (polymer size limits aspect ratio)

-**Thicker resist**: if a thick metal or a long etching is needed



PMMA (aspect ratio 3:1)



ZEP 520 (aspect ratio 30:1)



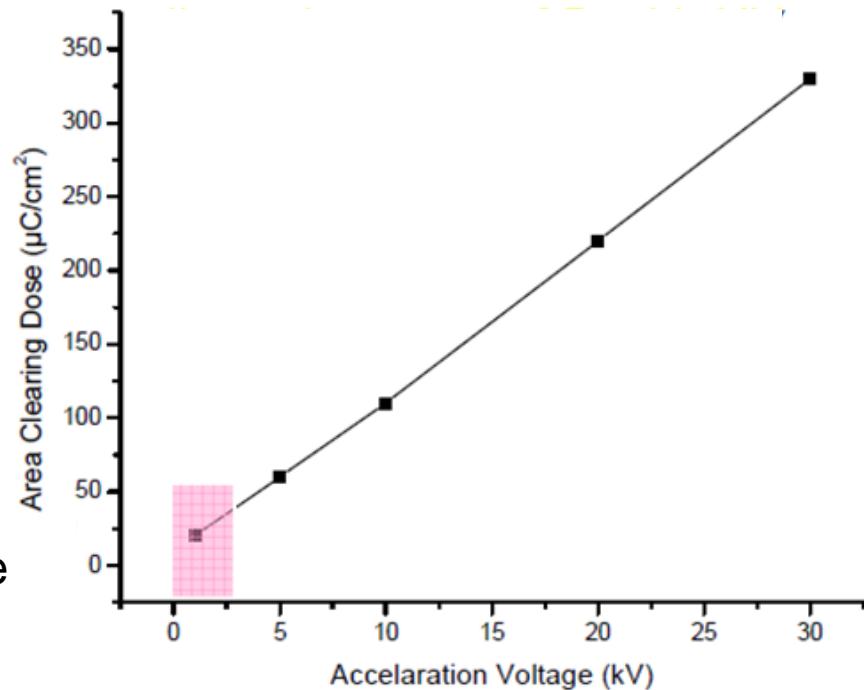
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

KEY PARAMETERS:

- Resist tone
- Resist performance
- Resist thickness
- Acceleration voltage

- Higher voltage gives higher resolution
- Higher voltage requires higher exposure dose (and therefore more time)

Linear increase of exposure dose with the acceleration voltage (for all resists)





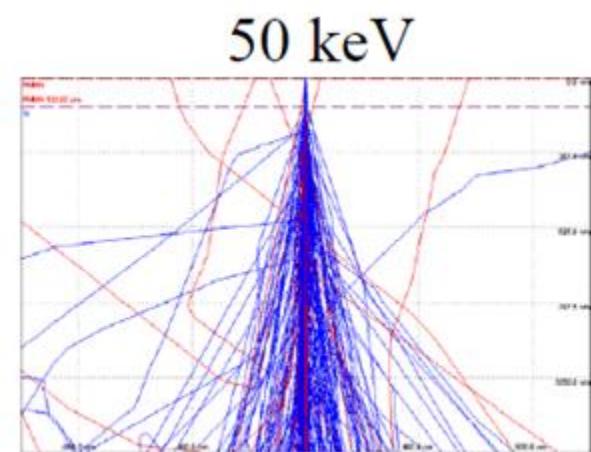
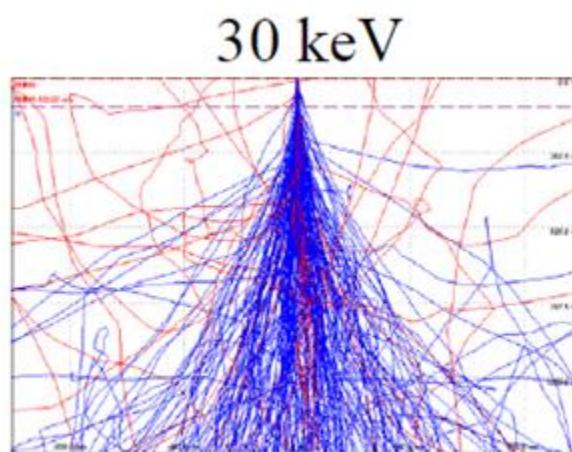
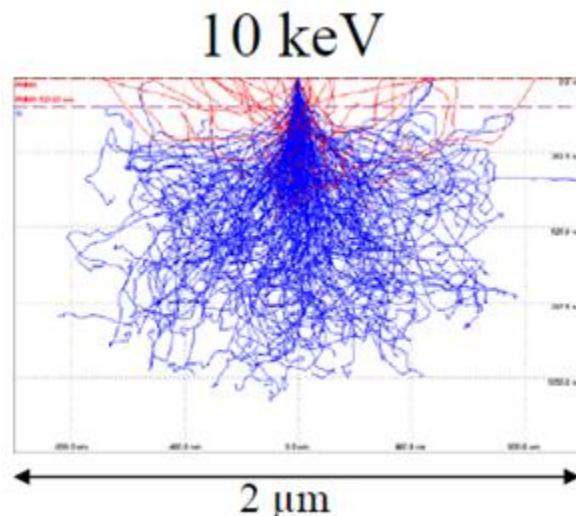
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

KEY PARAMETERS:

- Resist tone
- Resist performance
- Resist thickness
- Acceleration voltage

Linear increase of exposure dose with the acceleration voltage (for all resists)

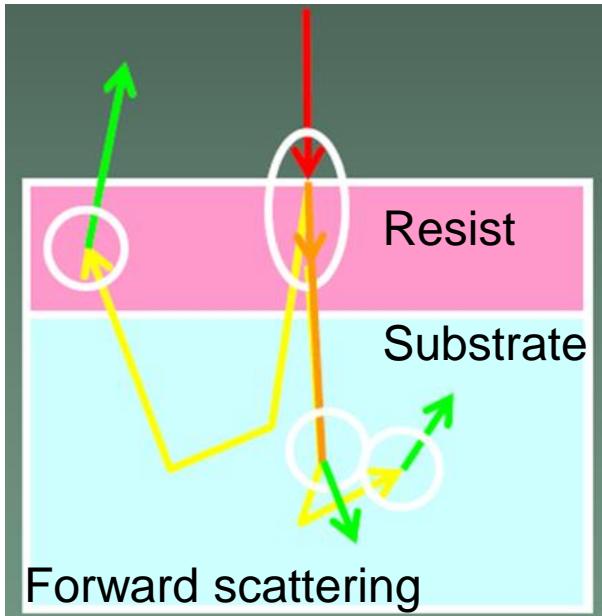
Secondary electrons (created by forward scattering) are the ones that mainly interact with the resist.



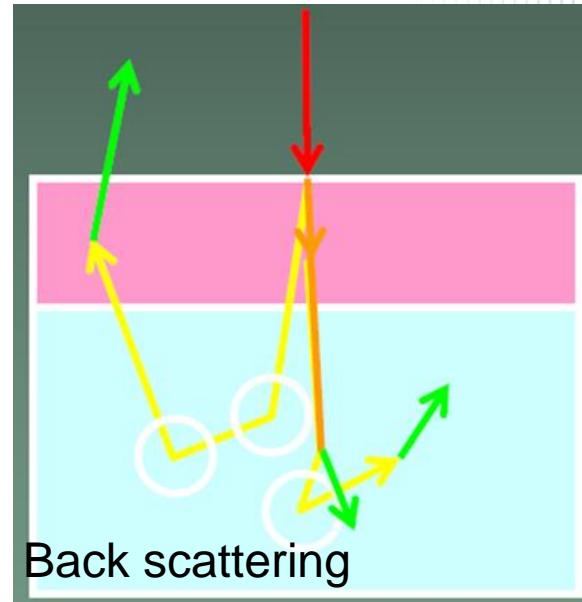


E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

Scattering: spreading of the beam, loss of resolution



Forward scattering



Back scattering

Properties:

- Very often
- Small angle
- Very inelastic (i.e. lose energy)
- Generation of SE with low energy.

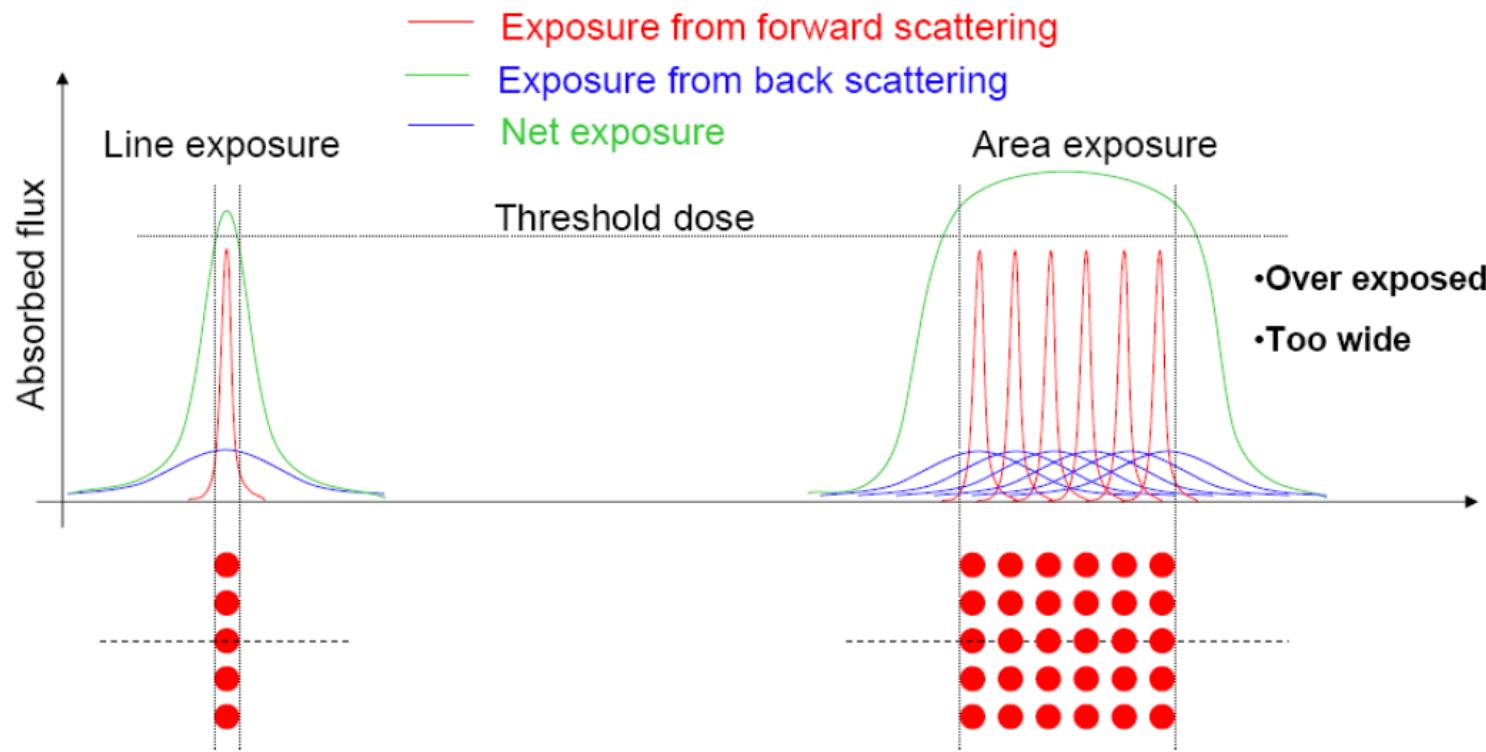
Properties:

- Occasionally (collision with nucleus)
- Large angles, thus mainly elastic
- High energy, same range as primary electrons.
- Large travel length, cause proximity effect.

SE with few eV are responsible for most resist exposure. Such SE diffuses laterally few nm.
Backscattering is responsible for resist exposure far from incidence (proximity effect).



PROXIMITY EFFECT



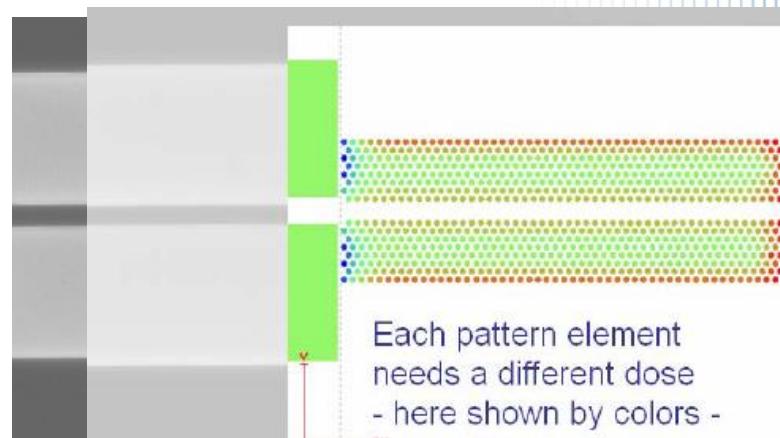
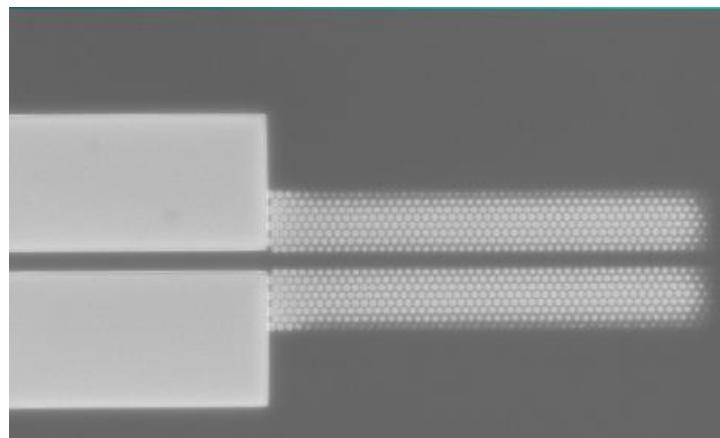
- Proximity effect is negligible for isolated/sparse fine features.
- It is good for *areal* exposure (e.g. pad $>> 1\mu\text{m}$), since pixel can be much larger than beam spot size (right figure). E.g., beam step size (pixel) of 50nm is usually enough even with a beam spot size only 5nm.
- Proximity effect is worst for dense and fine patterns, such as grating with sub-50nm pitch.



E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

PROXIMITY EFFECT How to beat it?

- Use small energy beam
 - Backscattered distance below 100 nm
 - Resolution limited by forward scattering : only for thin resist layer
- Use high energy beam
 - Dilution of proximity effect on large area
- Dose correction
 - Optimization of the dose for regular array of small objects
 - Empirical correction (higher doses for smaller structures)
 - Simulation of proximity effect and software dose optimization





E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

RESOLUTION LIMIT

beam:

- Thick resists (forward scattering)
- Thin resists (~ 0.5 nm by diffraction, de Broglie wavelength)
- SE range (5-10 nm)

resist:

- Polymer size (5-10 nm)
- Chemically Amplified Resists (acid diffusion ~ 50 nm)

**In practice, best achievable resolution:
in polymer resists ~ 20 nm**

(in inorganic resists, currently impractical, ~ 5 nm)



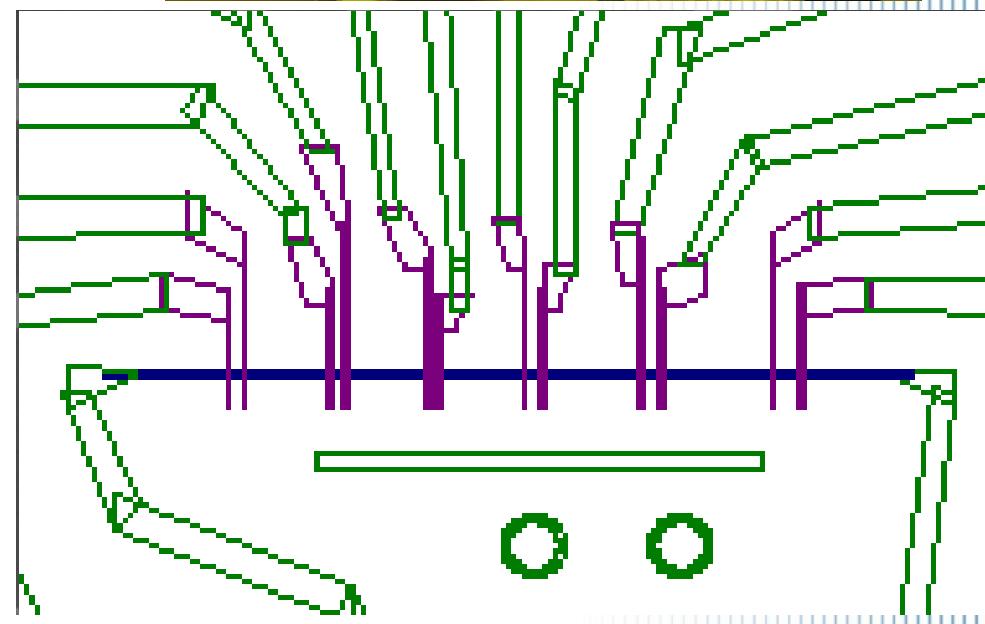
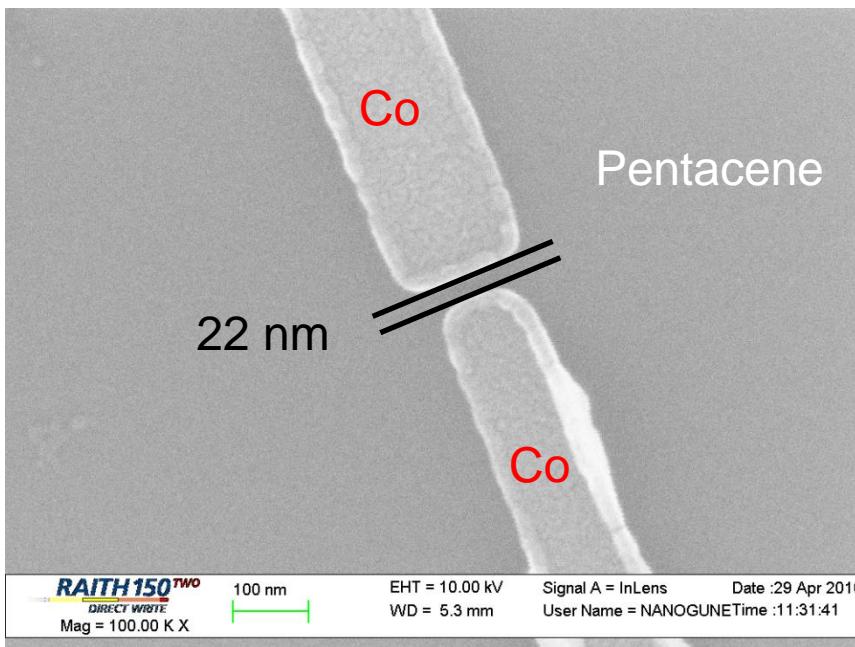
E-BEAM LITHOGRAPHY

Pros:

- Resolution ~10-20 nm
- Easy to change pattern (ideal for research)
- Multiple steps for complex nanostructures

Cons:

- Low throughput (the beam writes continuously)





OUTLINE

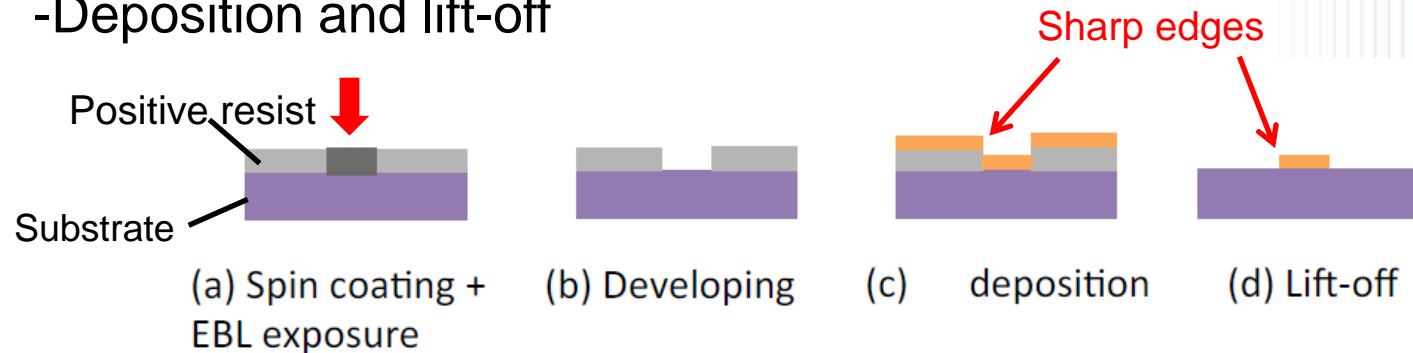
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COMMON PROBLEMS

After e-beam lithography:

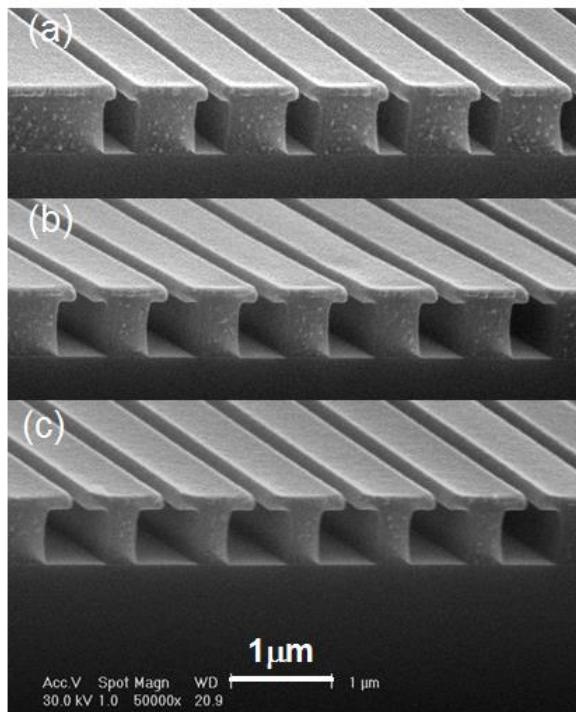
-Deposition and lift-off



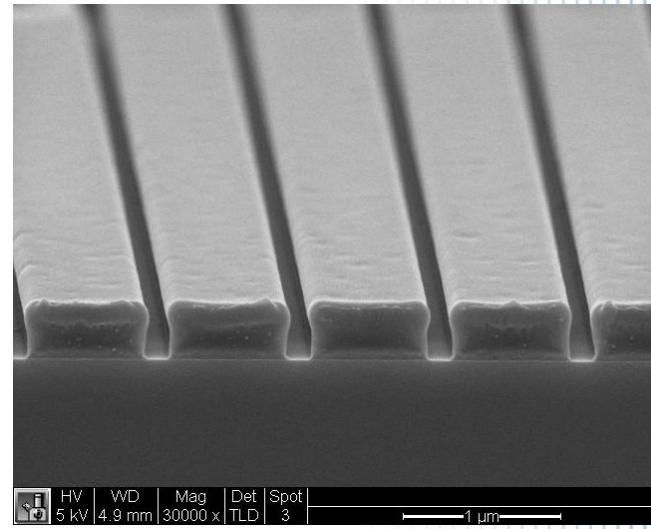
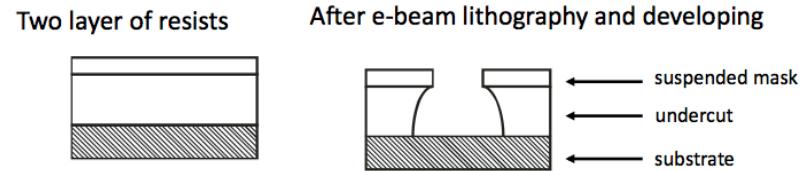


COMMON PROBLEMS: sharp edges

- Appearance of sharp edges depends on:
 - Hardness of material to deposit (Au vs. magnetic materials)
 - Single layer resist vs. Double layer resist



LOR / 950 PMMA A2



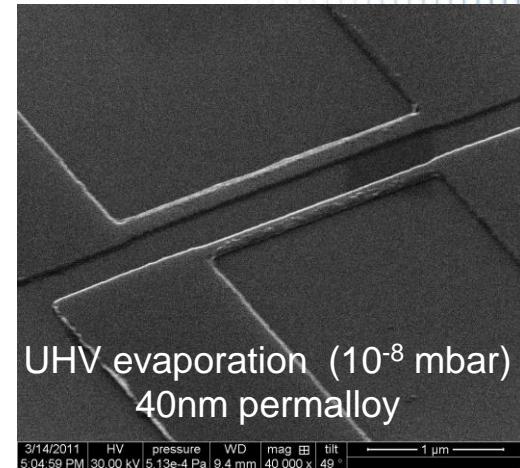
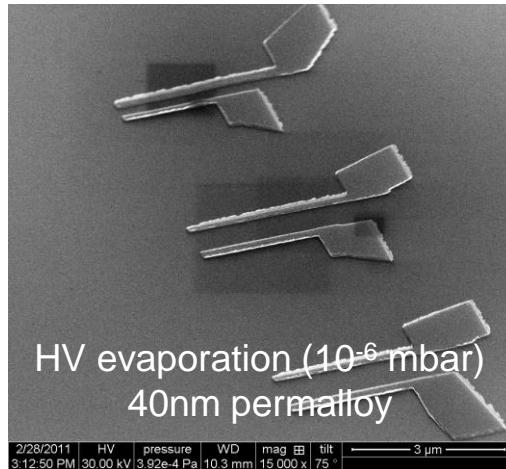
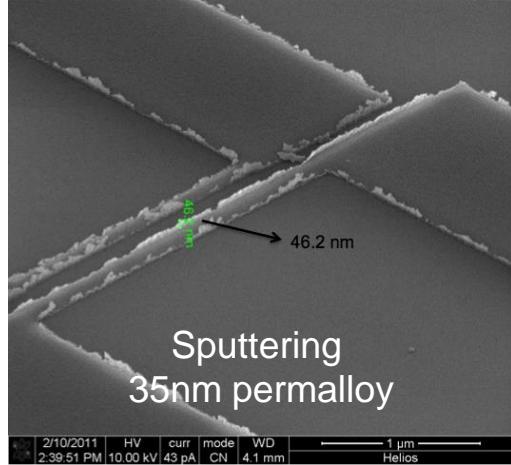
495 PMMA A2 / 950 PMMA A2



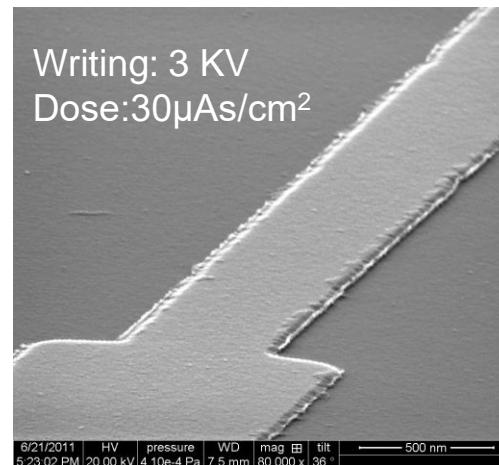
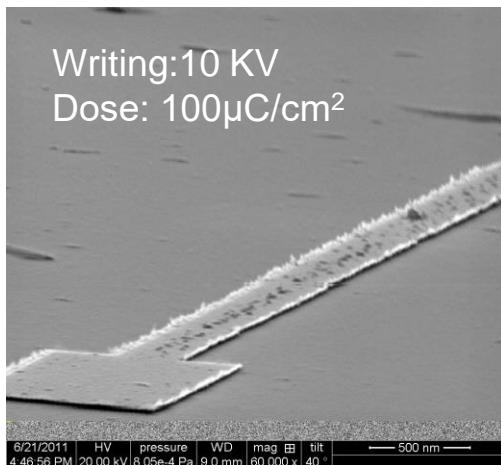
COMMON PROBLEMS: sharp edges

-Deposition type (sputtering vs. evaporation)

Writing: 20kV and \approx 50pA
Dose: 100-475 μ C/cm 2



-E-beam exposure conditions



HV evaporation (10^{-6} mbar)
20nm permalloy



COMMON PROBLEMS: sharp edges

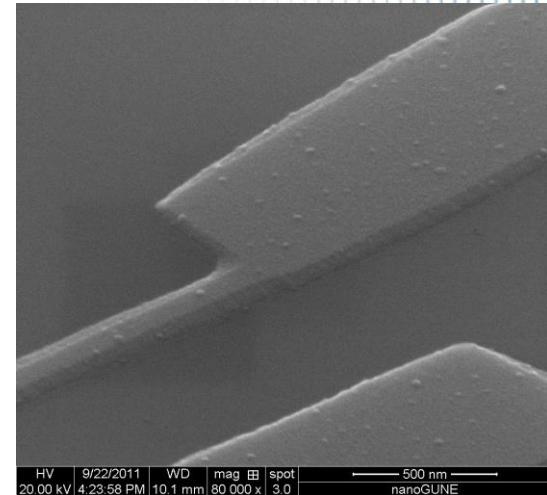
- Combination of resists

Double PMMA (495/950)

- same developer and remover
- small undercut
- cleaner

LOR /PMMA

- 2 developers and 2 removers
- large undercut
- dirtier

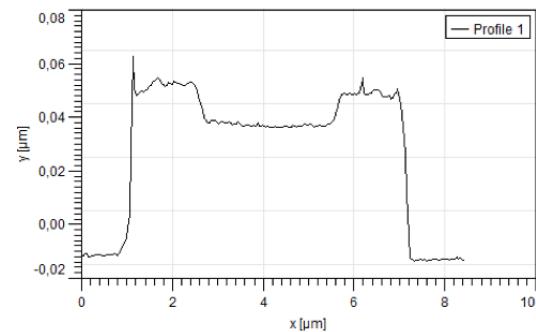
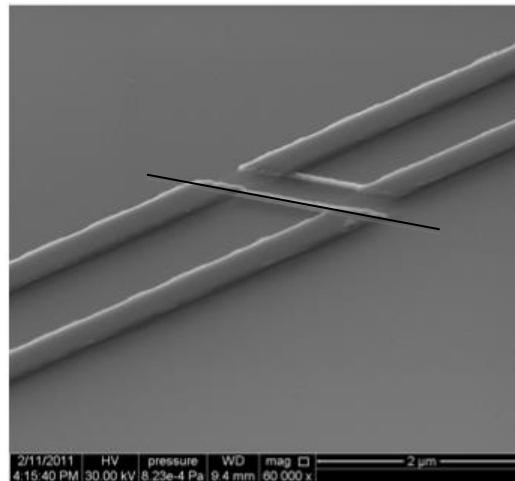


- Can be improved with subsequent Ar-ion milling

Ar⁺



- Parameters: ion energy, etching time
- Not useful if edges are too tall
- Narrower regions are more etched!



Atomic Force Microscopy profile



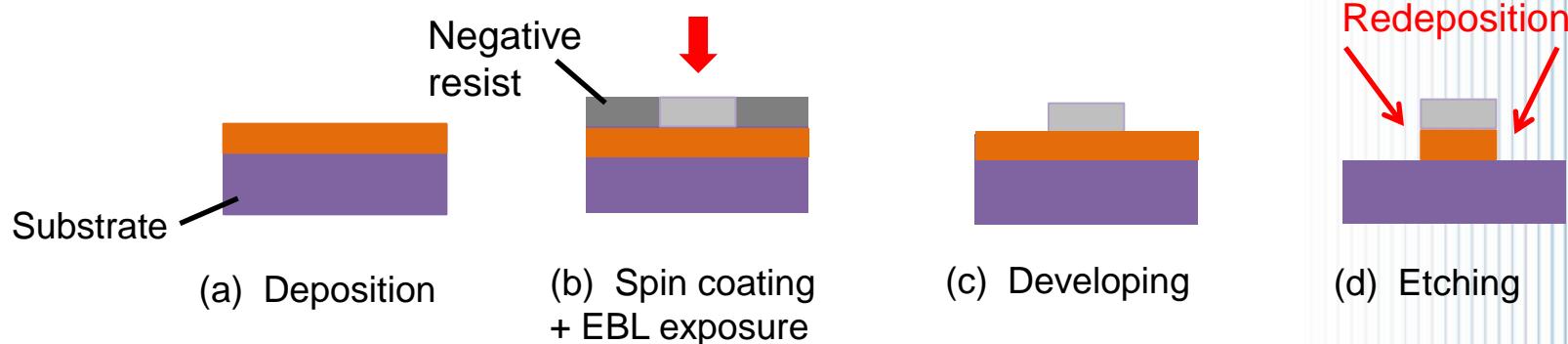
COMMON PROBLEMS

After e-beam lithography:

-Deposition and lift-off



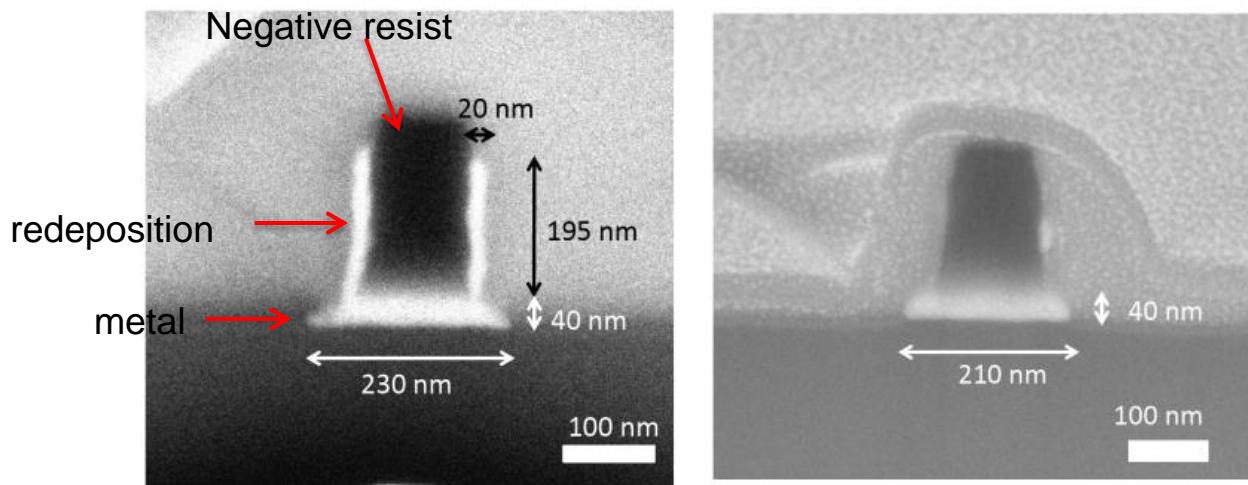
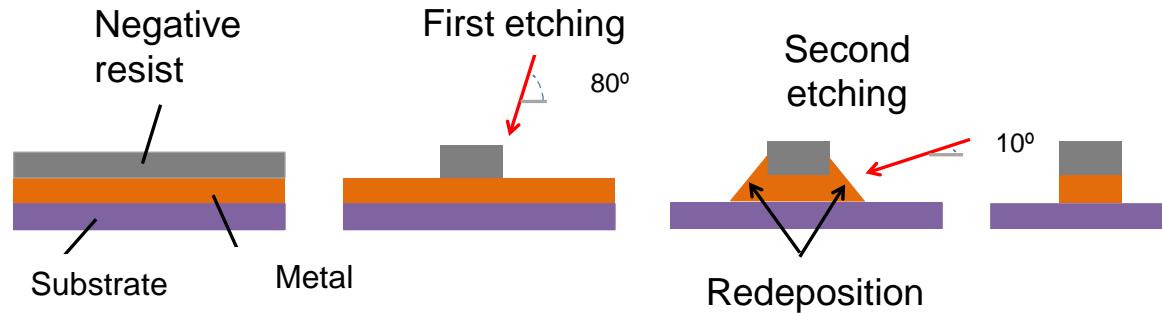
-Etching





COMMON PROBLEMS: redeposition

- Redeposition during etching:



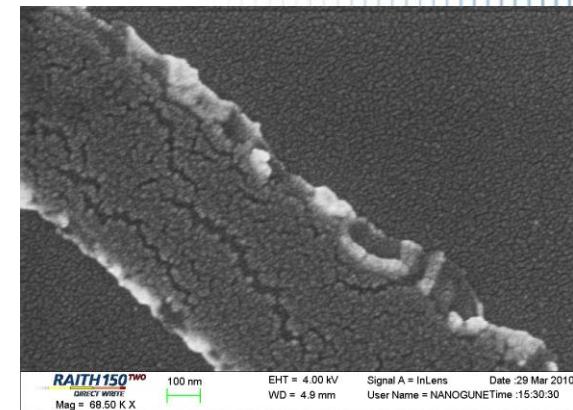
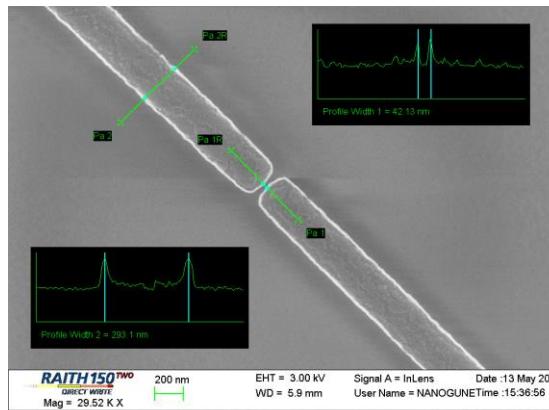
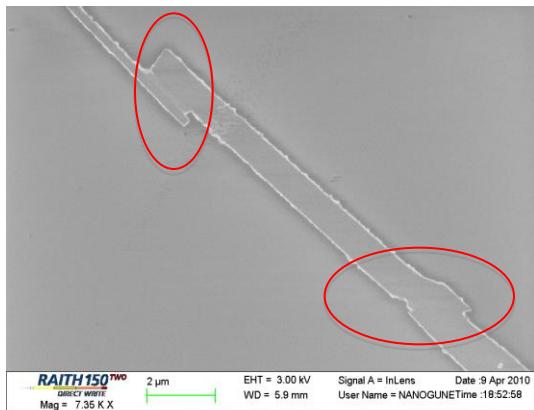


COMMON PROBLEMS: insulating substrates

Problem: Substrate gets negatively charged and deflects e-beam

Solution: Optimization of conductive overlayers (typically Au) on PMMA for charge dissipation

- 1) Au deposition (1.5 nm) by sputtering on top of PMMA before e-beam exposure
- 2) Au etching with KI + I₂ (aq) before development



No Au

1.5 nm Au

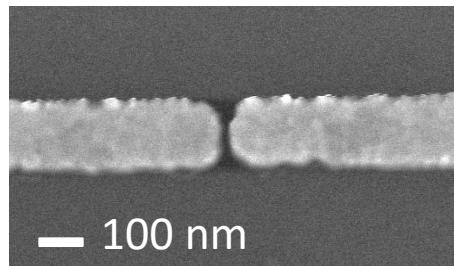
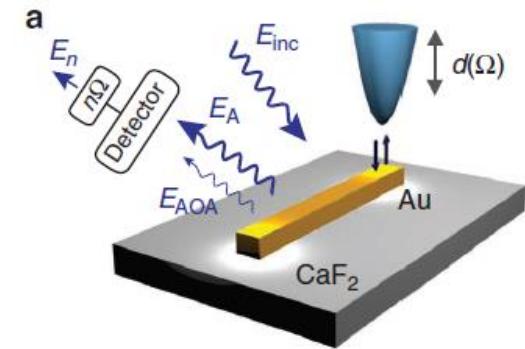
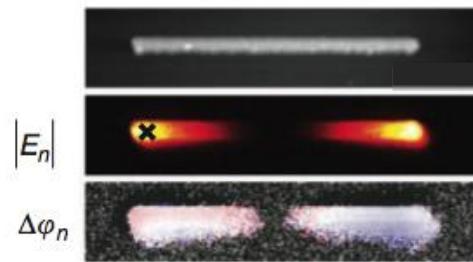
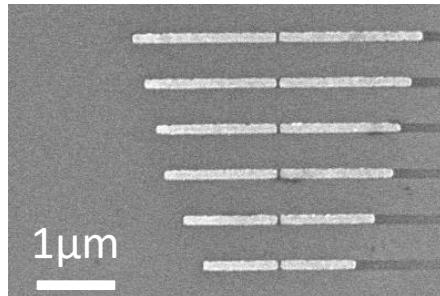
3 nm Au



EXAMPLES: Nano-optic devices on insulating substrates

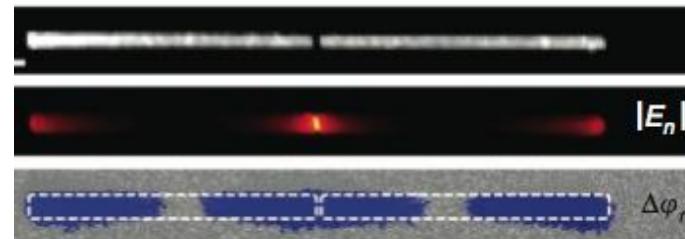
✓ Application: nano-optics, plasmonic nanoantennas

Need of regular arrays of elements on insulating substrates (CaF_2 , glass)



Resonance modes appear
when nanorod length = $\lambda/2$

Measured with s-SNOM



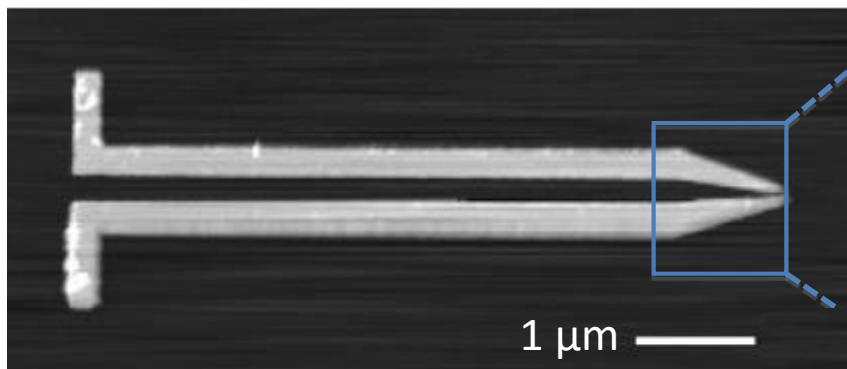
Enhanced hot spots in nanogaps



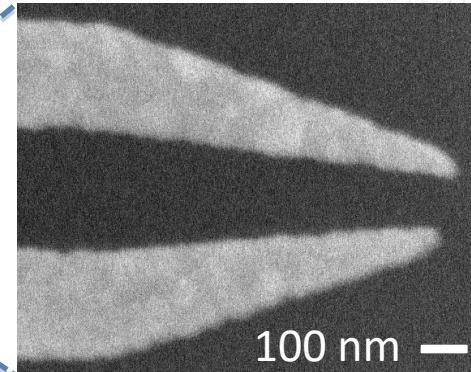
EXAMPLES: Nano-optic devices on insulating substrates

✓ Application: nano-optics, infrared waveguides

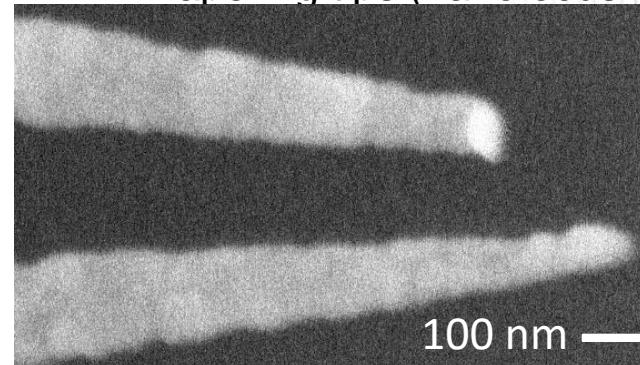
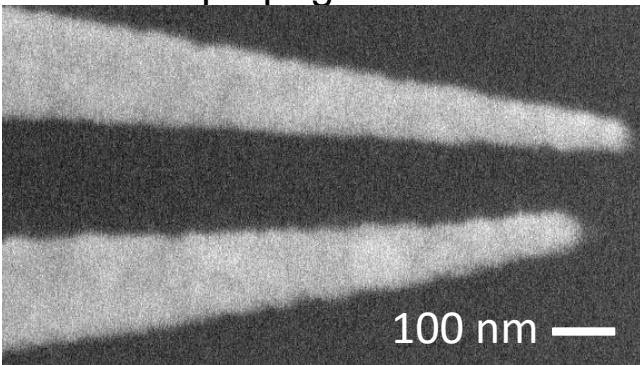
Need of combination of very different feature sizes on insulating substrates (CaF_2 , glass)



Resonance and propagation of the E field



Tapering tips (nanofocusing of E field)



M. Schnell et al., Nature Photonics 5, 283 (2011)
P. Sarriugarte et al., Optics Comm. 285, 3378 (2012)

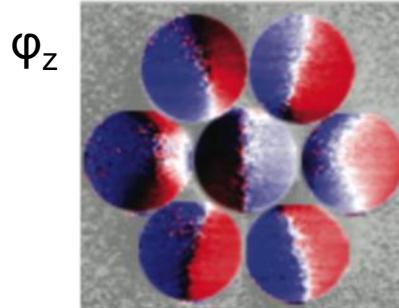
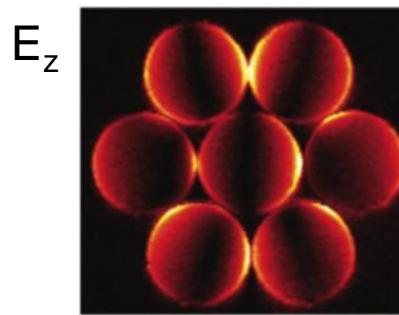
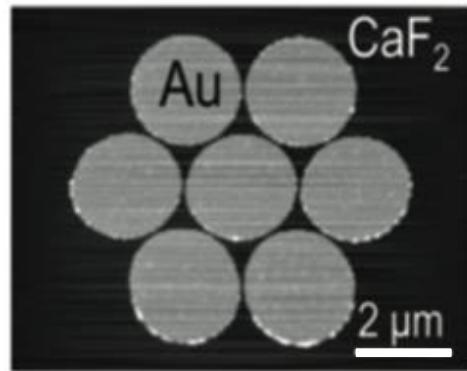
Control of evaporation angle!



EXAMPLES: Nano-optic devices on insulating substrates

✓ Application: nano-optics, heptamers

Need of structures with large area/small separation on insulating substrates (CaF_2 , glass)



Playing with dose and distance –
proximity effect corrections not used

Observation of the interference of resonance modes



OUTLINE

- Introduction to electron-beam lithography
 - Working principle
 - Complete process
 - Key parameters
 - Proximity effect
- Common problems
 - Sharp edges
 - Redeposition
 - Insulating substrates
- Spintronics applications
 - Lateral spin valve devices (for spin transport)
 - Spin absorption devices (for spin Hall effect)



MOTIVATION

Moore's law

nature International weekly journal of science

Home | News & Comment | Research | Careers & Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio & Video | For Authors

Archive > Volume 530 > Issue 7589 > News Feature > Article

NATURE | NEWS FEATURE

عربي

The chips are down for Moore's law

The semiconductor industry will soon abandon its pursuit of Moore's law. Now things could get a lot more interesting.

M. Mitchell Waldrop

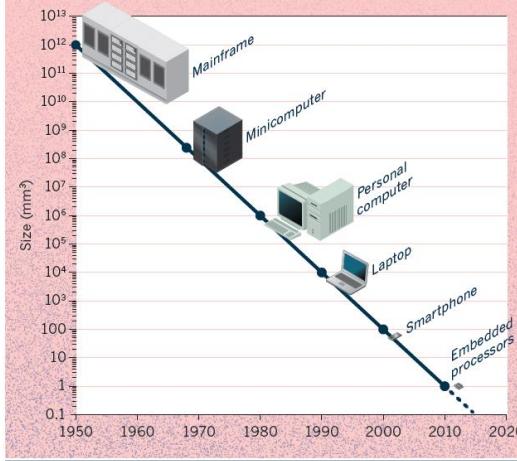
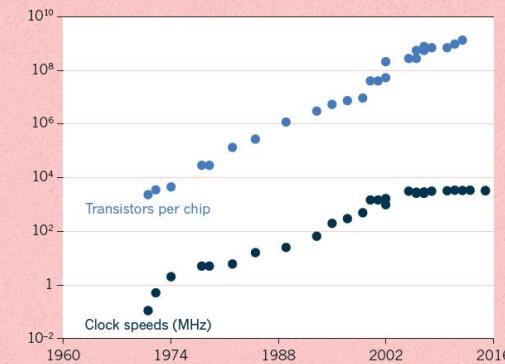
09 February 2016

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This block contains a screenshot of a Nature news article from February 2016. The article discusses the end of Moore's law and the resulting technological challenges. It includes links to the journal's navigation, a sidebar with a language selector, and download options for the article.

MOORE'S LORE

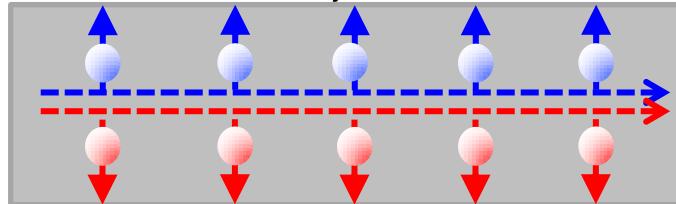
For the past five decades, the number of transistors per microprocessor chip — a rough measure of processing power — has doubled about every two years, in step with Moore's law (top). Chips also increased their 'clock speed', or rate of executing instructions, until 2004, when speeds were capped to limit heat. As computers increase in power and shrink in size, a new class of machines has emerged roughly every ten years (bottom).





MOTIVATION

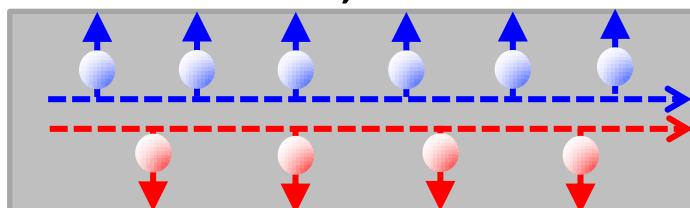
$$I_c \neq 0, I_s = 0$$



$$I_c = I_{\uparrow} + I_{\downarrow}, \quad I_s = I_{\uparrow} - I_{\downarrow}$$

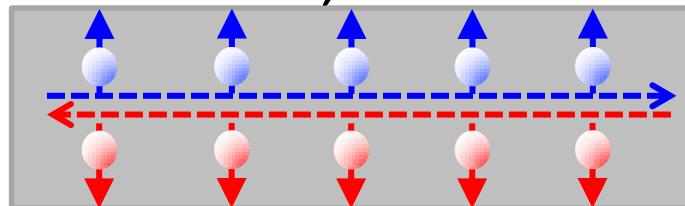
Charge current

$$I_c \neq 0, I_s \neq 0$$



Spin polarized current

$$I_c = 0, I_s \neq 0$$

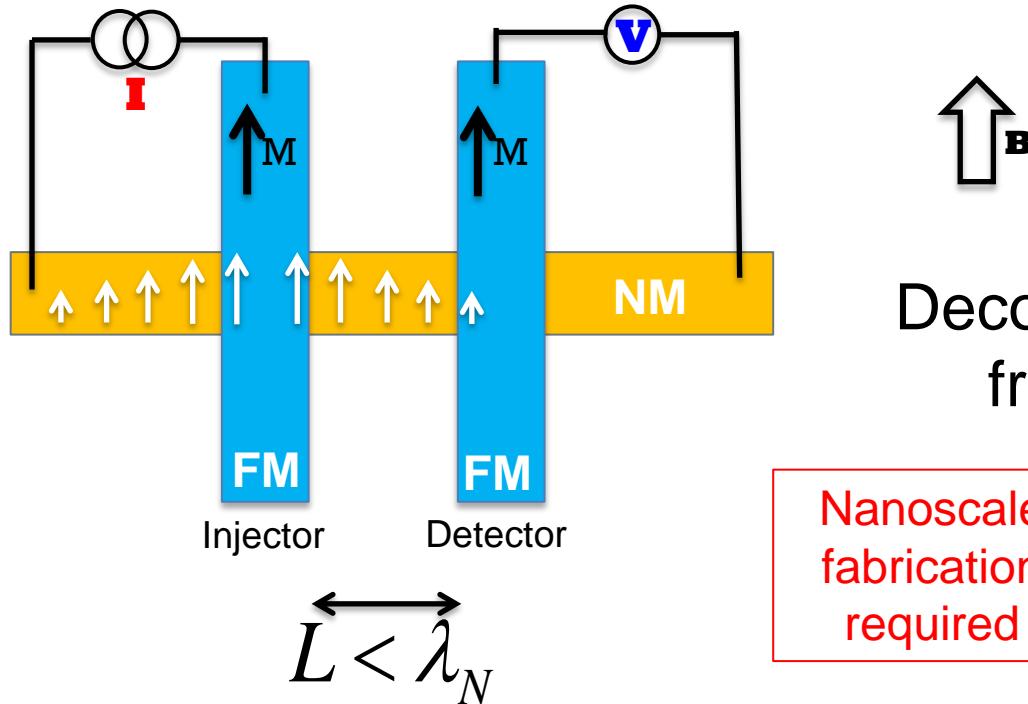


Pure spin current



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Non-local measurement



Decoupling of spin current
from charge current

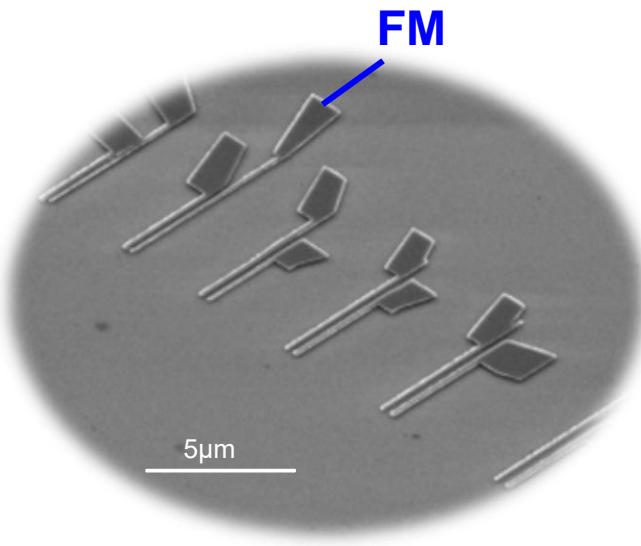
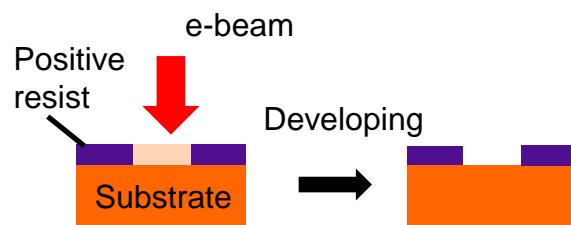
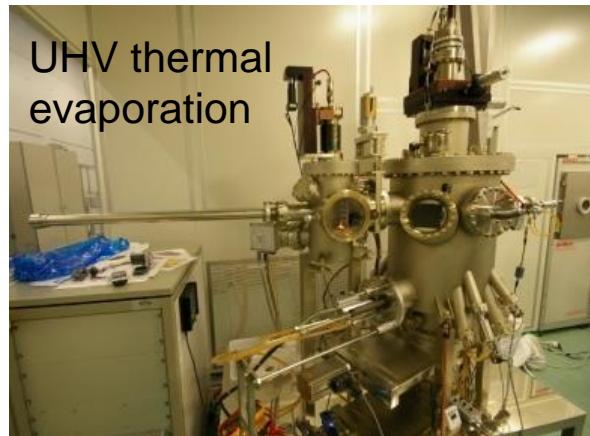
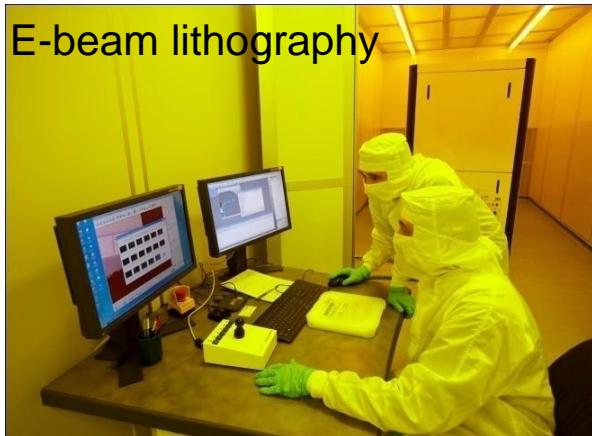
Nanoscale
fabrication
required

- F. J. Jedema et al., Nature **410**, 345 (2001)
S. O. Valenzuela et al., APL **85**, 5914 (2004)
T. Kimura et al., PRB **72**, 014461 (2005)
Y. Ji et al., J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. **40**, 1280 (2007)
F. Casanova et al., PRB **79**, 184415 (2009)
P. Laćzkowski et al., APEX **4**, 063007 (2011)



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

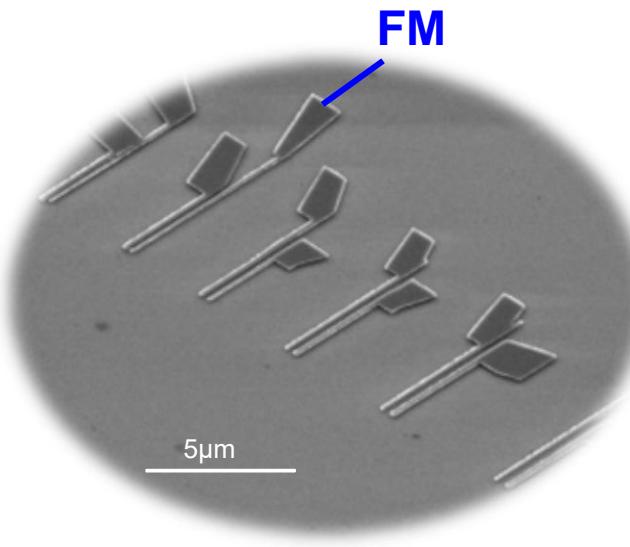
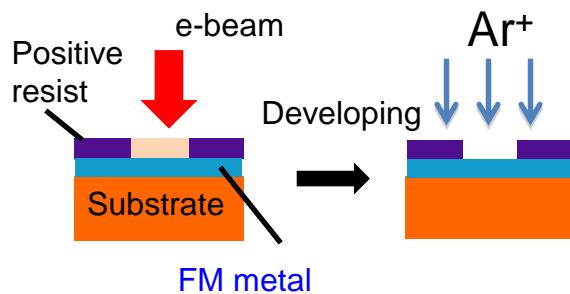
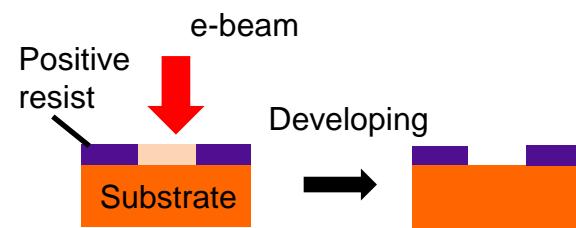
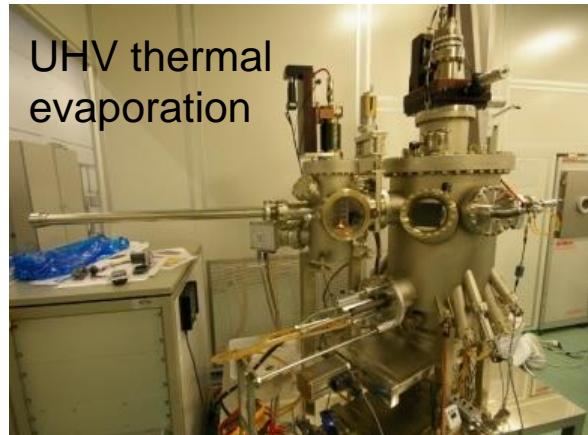
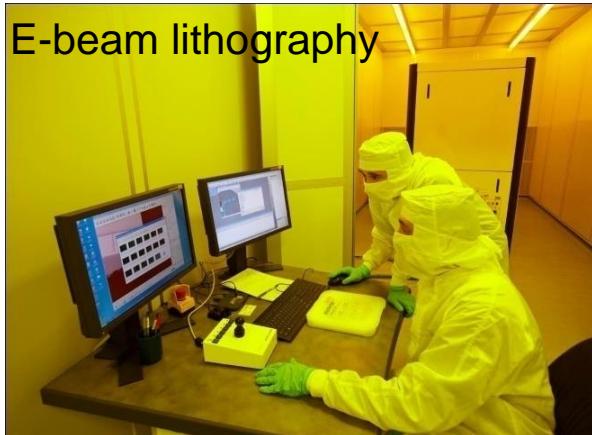
Two-step lithography and deposition process





SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Two-step lithography and deposition process

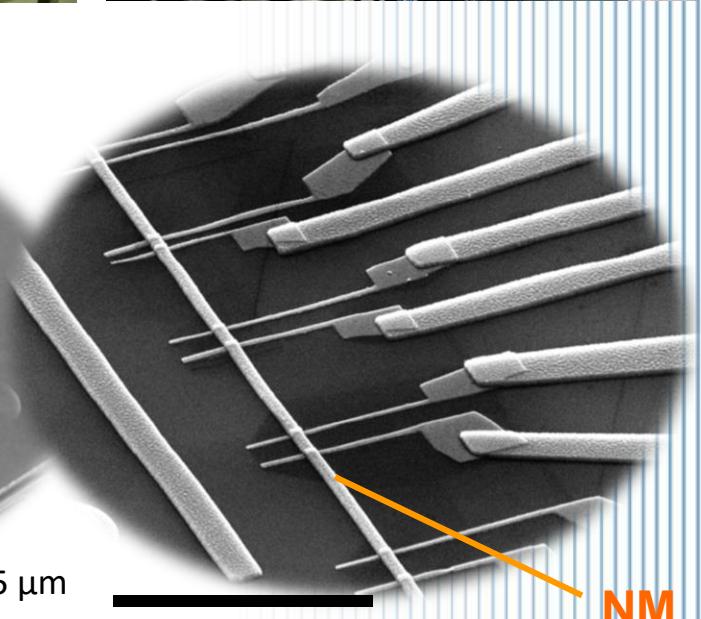
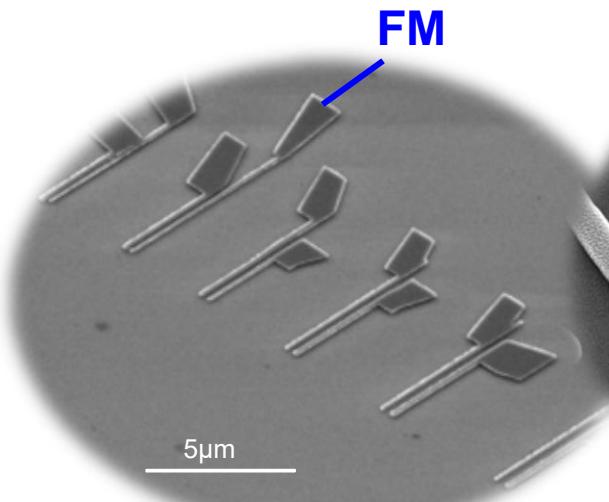
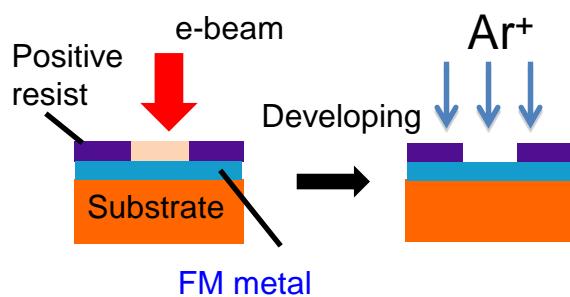
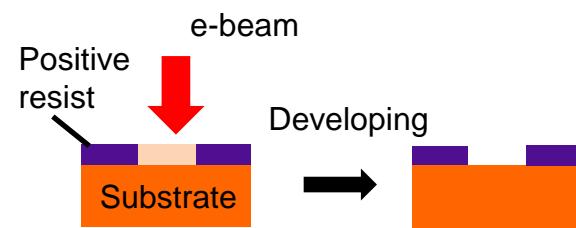
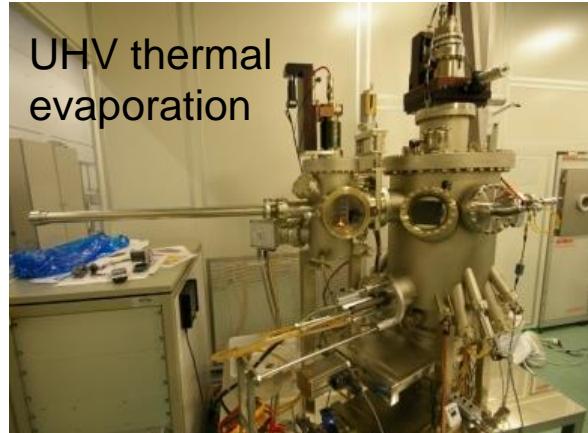
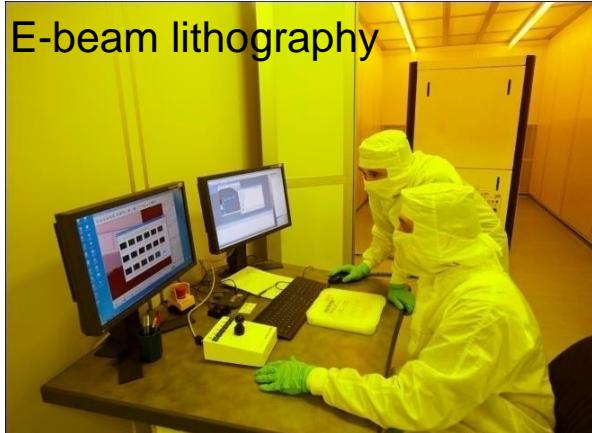


Need of clean and smooth metal-metal interfaces for an efficient spin injection



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Two-step lithography and deposition process





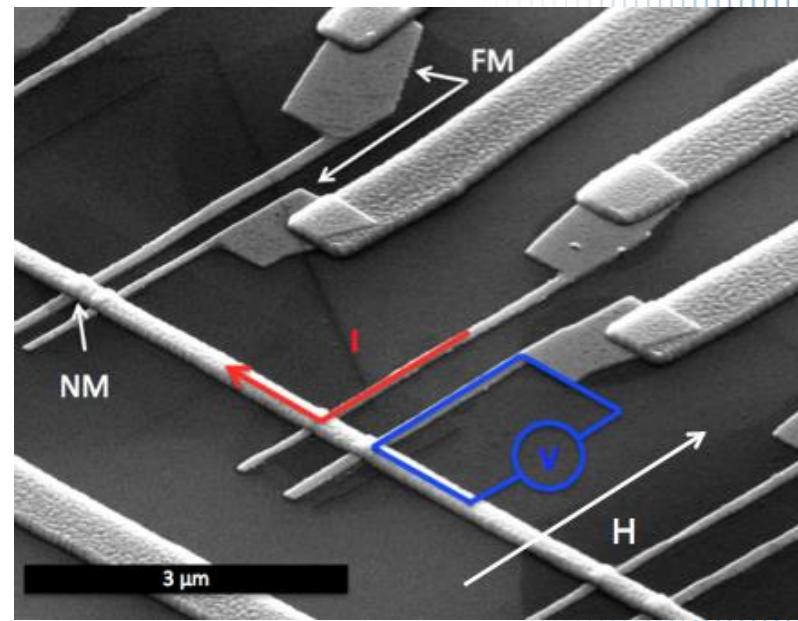
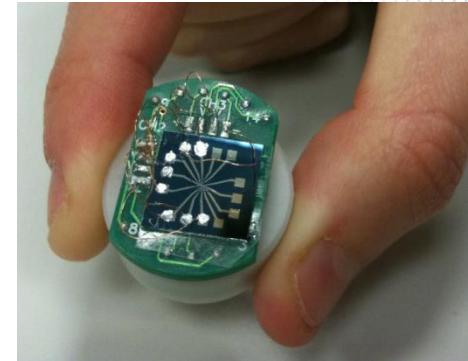
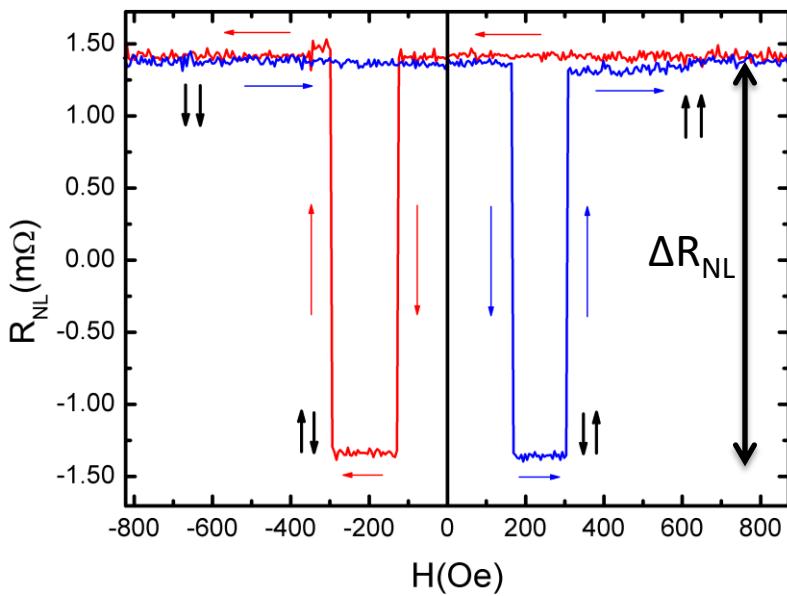
SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Non-local measurement

- Performed in a liquid He cryostat under an applied external magnetic field

- Non-local resistance is measured: $R_{NL} = \frac{V}{|I|}$

- Spin signal: $\Delta R_{NL} = \frac{V_p - V_{AP}}{|I|}$



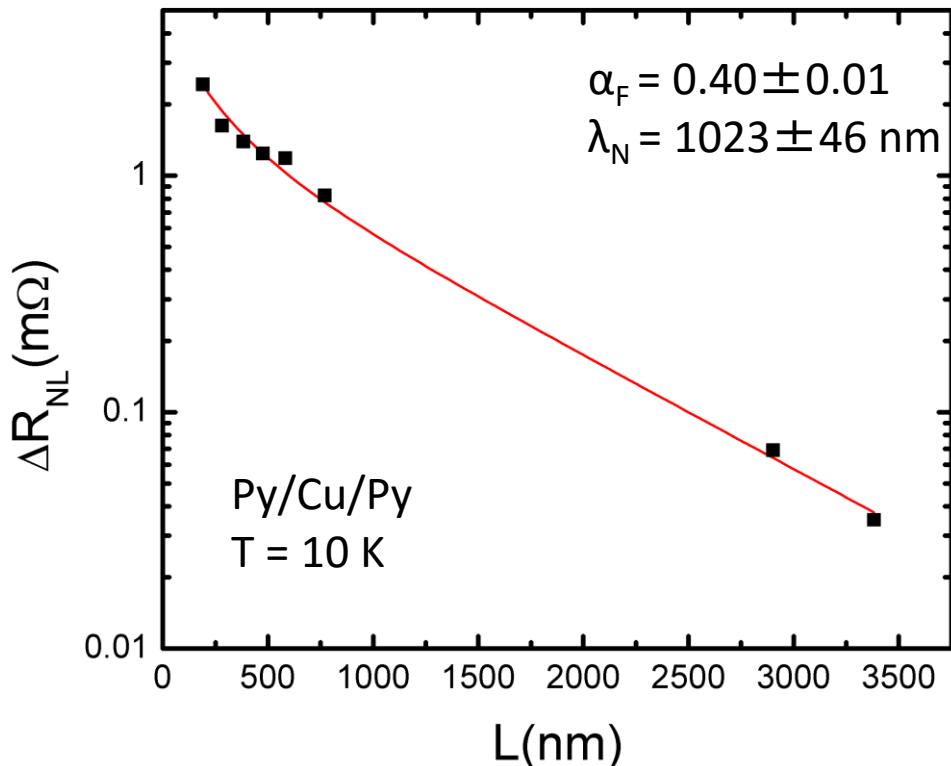
E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **87**, 094417 (2013)



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

From the one dimensional
spin-diffusion model:

$$\Delta R_{NL} = \frac{\Delta V}{|I|} = \frac{\alpha_F^2 R_N}{\left(2 + \frac{R_N}{R_F}\right)^2 e^{L/\lambda_N} - \left(\frac{R_N}{R_F}\right)^2 e^{-L/\lambda_N}}$$



$\alpha_F \rightarrow$ Spin polarization of **FM**
(Spin injection)

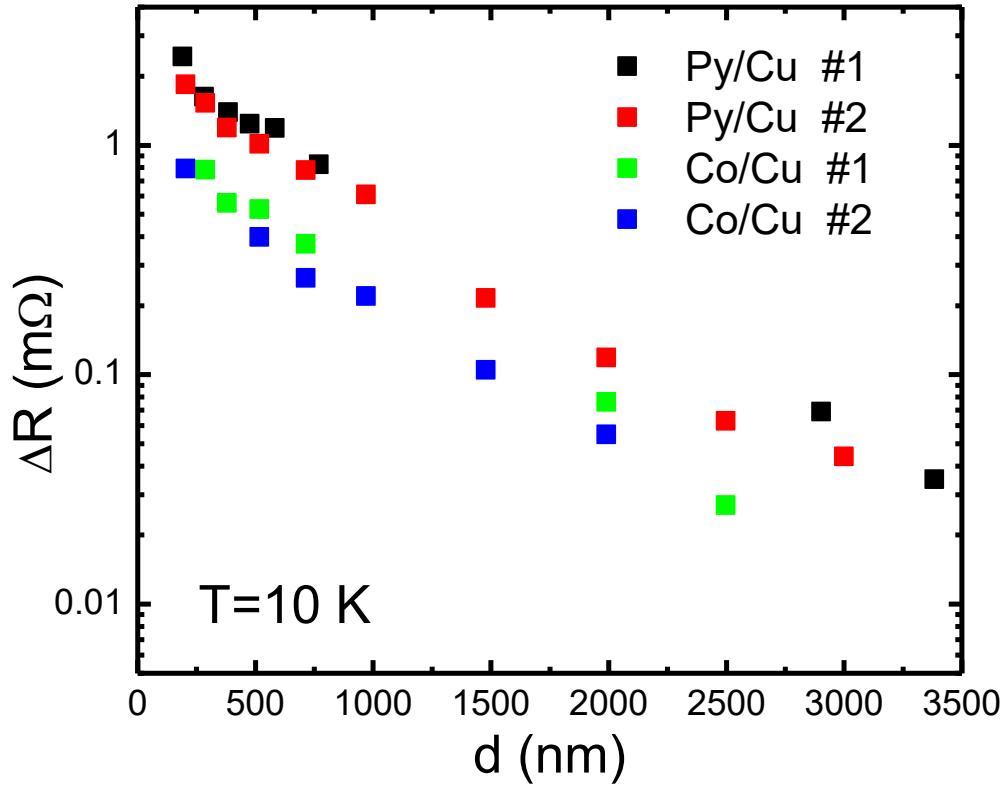
$\lambda_N \rightarrow$ Spin diffusion length of **NM**
(Spin transport)

$L \rightarrow$ Distance between **FM**
injector and detector

E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **87**, 094417 (2013)
E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **88**, 184411 (2013)



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves



High reproducibility:

- Same α_F for the same FM and milling time
- Different α_F for a different FM (Py vs Co)
- Same λ_N for the same NM channel (Cu) and different FM

Large dispersion in the literature:

- Interface quality (α_F)
- NM channel purity (λ_N)

E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **87**, 094417 (2013)
E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **88**, 184411 (2013)



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

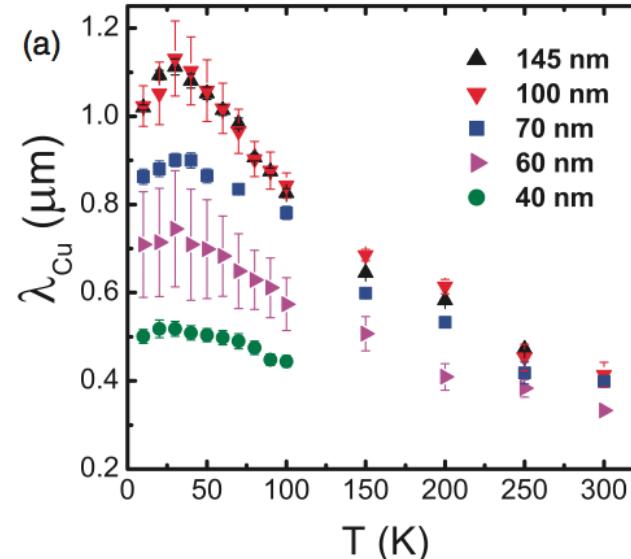
Long spin diffusion length in Cu, Ag, Al

Enhance the spin transport properties controlling **spin relaxation** mechanisms

- **Grain boundaries**
- Impurities
- Phonons
- Surface

Control the Ag growth:

- Epitaxial Ag
- Polycrystalline Ag



G. Mihajlovic *et al.*, PRL **104**, 237202 (2010)

Y. Fukuma *et al.*, Nature Mater. **10**, 527 (2011)

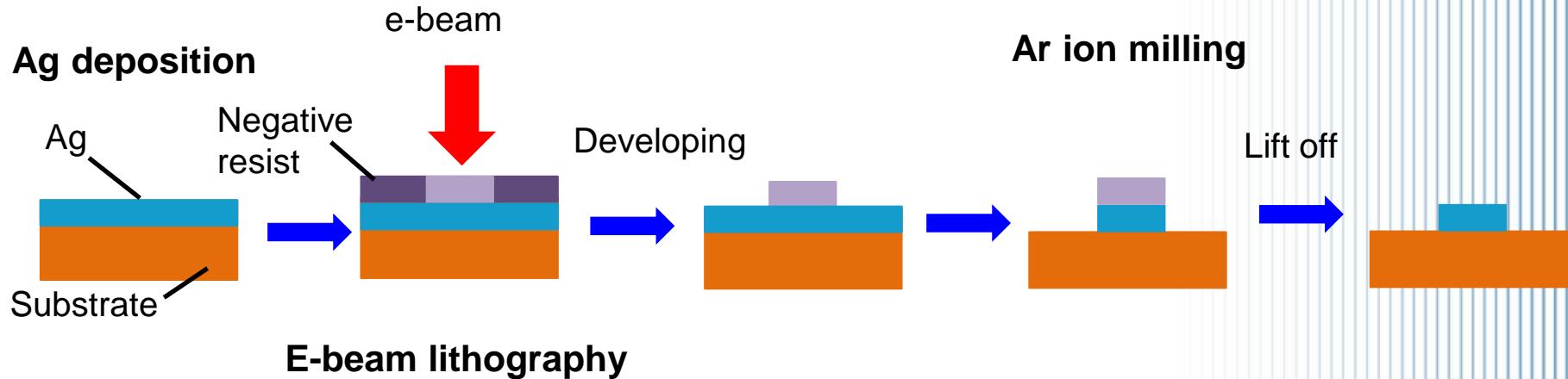
E. Villamor *et al.*, PRB **87**, 094417 (2013)



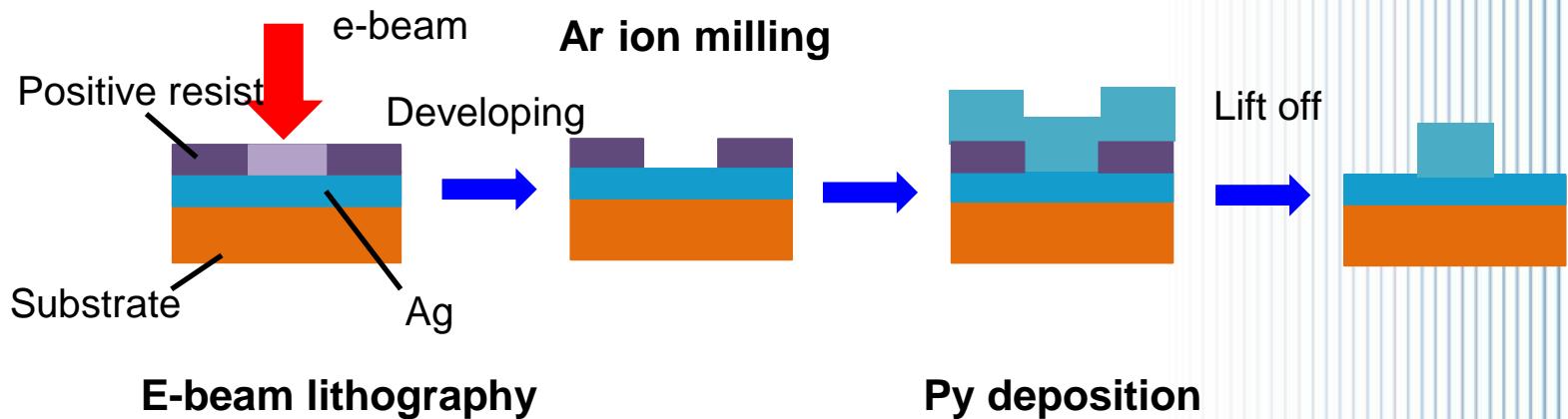
SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Alternative two-step lithography process

- 1st step: NM channel



- 2nd step: FM electrodes

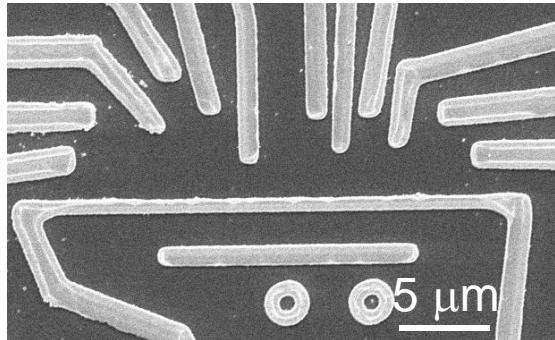




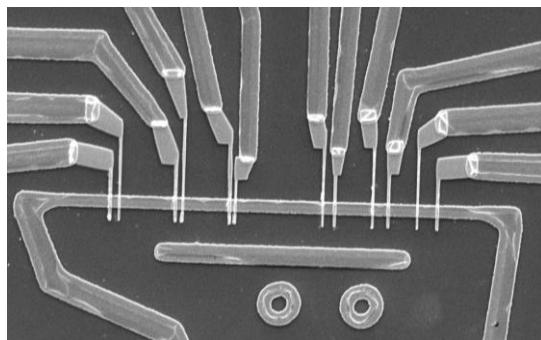
SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Alternative two-step lithography process

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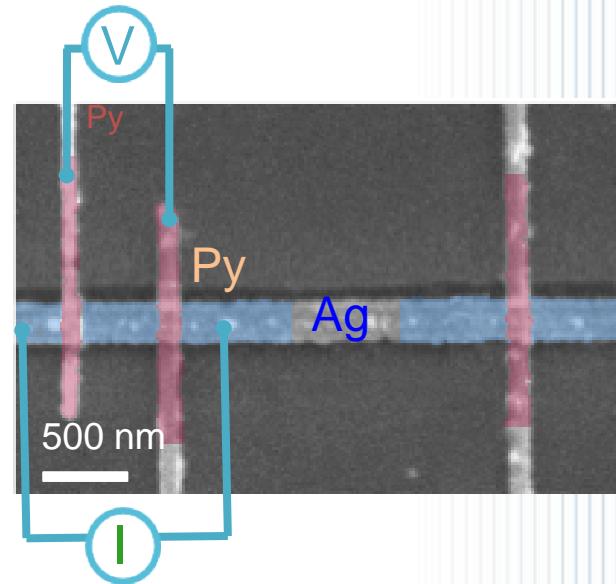
- 2nd step: FM electrodes





SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Electrical measurements



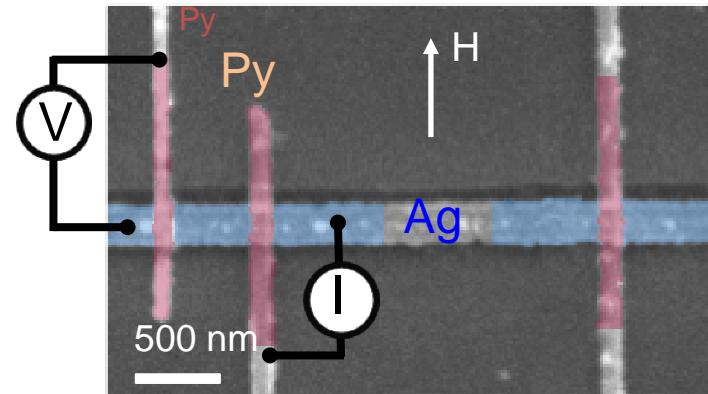
Resistivity

- $\rho_{\text{epitaxial}} = 1.06 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$
- $\rho_{\text{polycrystalline}} = 2.22 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$



SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

Electrical measurements

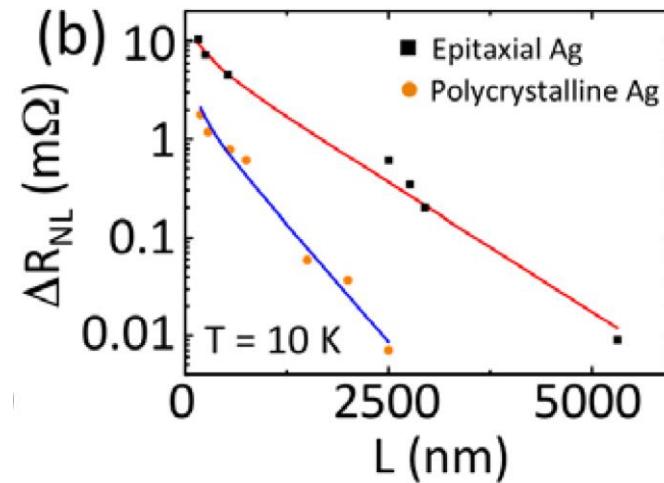


Resistivity

- $\rho_{\text{epitaxial}} = 1.06 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$
- $\rho_{\text{polycrystalline}} = 2.22 \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$

Spin transport properties

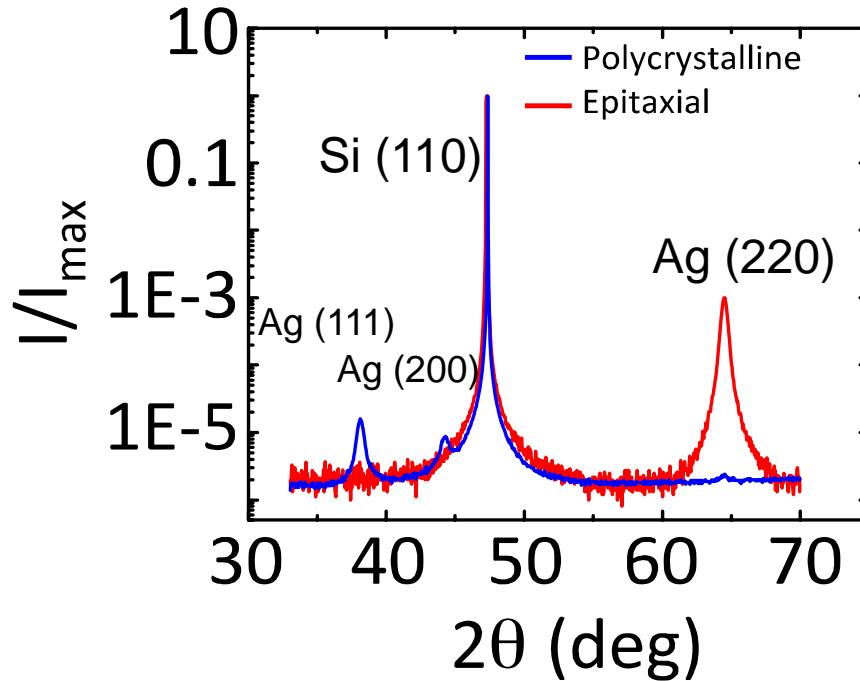
- $\lambda_{\text{epitaxial}} = 823 \pm 59 \text{ nm}$
- $\lambda_{\text{polycrystalline}} = 449 \pm 30 \text{ nm}$





SPINTRONICS: Metallic lateral spin valves

XRD measurements



Epitaxial Ag

- Grain size = 41 ± 4 nm
- Less grain boundaries

Polycrystalline Ag

- Grain size = 19 ± 6 nm
- More grain boundaries

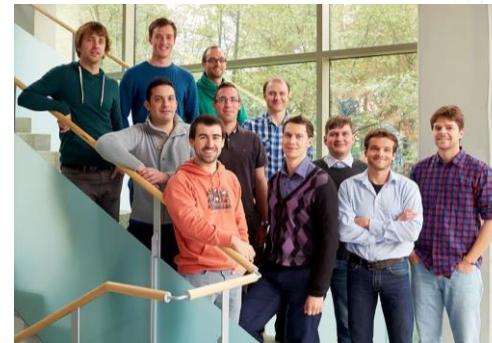


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

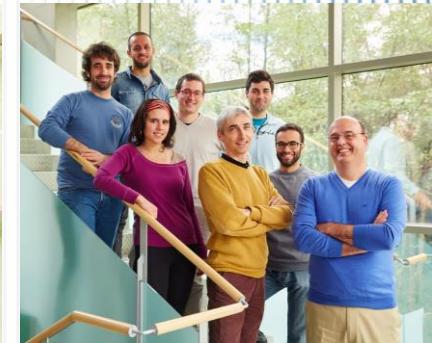
Nanodevices



Nano optics



Nanomagnetism



FUNDING:

ikerbasque
Basque Foundation for Science

