



**COVALENT  
METROLOGY**

Welcome

# FAST CHARACTERIZATION OF NANOMETER THIN TO THICK COATINGS USING PULSED-RF GLOW DISCHARGE OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROMETRY

SPEAKER:

**Philippe Hunault**

Technical Sales Elemental  
Analysis Specialist,  
HORIBA Scientific

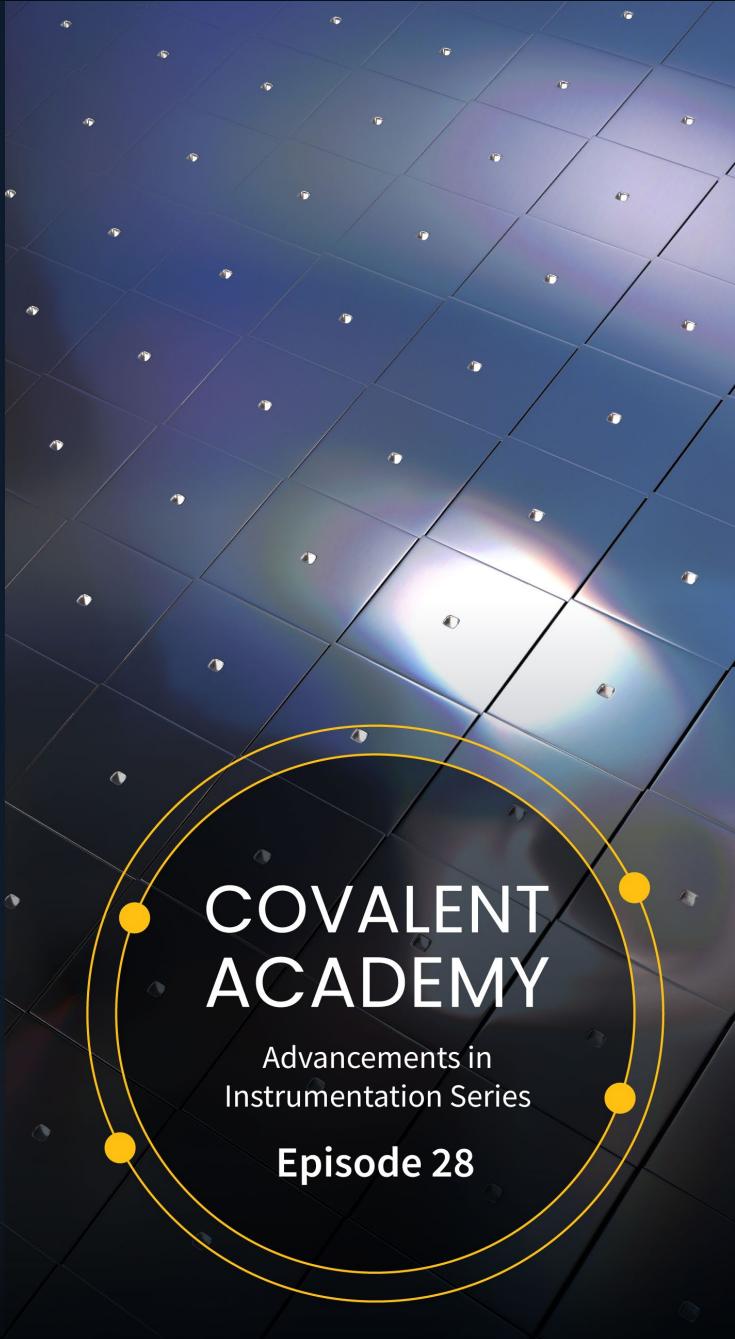
December 2, 2021 | 11am PT

**HORIBA**

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COVALENT  
METROLOGY





# COVALENT METROLOGY

Silicon Valley-based analytical labs and platform delivering quality data and expert analysis for advanced materials and device innovation



## Comprehensive Solutions Stack

50+ cutting-edge instruments, offering 100+ Techniques

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Analytical Services

---

Advanced Modeling

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Method Development

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Temp. Staffing Solutions



## Affordable and Fast

Fast Turnaround Times, No Expedite Fees

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Volume Savings

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Instant Access to Data and Reports in Secure Portal



## Flexible Business Model

Custom Consulting Solutions and Certified Onsite Support

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Training and Certification on Instrumentation

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Co-op and Tool-Share Opportunities

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Laboratory Audits



## Rich Network of Partnerships

Partner to World's Leading Instrument Manufacturers and Labs

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Expanding Instrumentation, Lab Connections and Learning



## Who We Are, Who We Serve

500+ Clients, 40-60 Added / Quarter

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50+ People, 14 PhDs

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Cutting-edge Analytical Capabilities

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Lab Location: Sunnyvale, CA

# Covalent Technical Groups and Organization



4

## PCBA, Semiconductor, and Electronic Device Metrology & Failure Analysis

- DPA / Mechanical Cross-section
- Dye & Pry Test
- EBIC / OBIC failure analysis
- Hot Spot Detection
- IR Imaging / Emission Microscopy
- NIR Imaging
- Root-Cause Failure Analysis

## Electron Microscopy and Scanning Probe Microscopy

- AFM & Advanced AFM Modes (EFM, KPFM, MFM, PFM)
- Scanning Acoustic Microscopy (SAM)
- SEM (+ EDS)
- FIB-SEM (+ EDS)
- S/TEM (+ EDS / + EELS)
- Nano-indent / Nano-scratch

## Optical Microscopy & Spectroscopy

- Chromatic Aberration
- Digital Optical Microscopy
- FTIR and ATR-FTIR
- Laser Scanning Confocal Microscopy
- Spectral Ellipsometry
- UV-Vis-NIR Spectroscopy
- White Light Interferometry

## X-Ray Characterization

- X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)
- X-Ray Reflectometry (XRR)
- Micron-spot ED-XRF
- WDXRF
- Micro-computed X-ray Tomography (Micro-CT)
- 2D X-ray Inspection & X-ray Radiography

## Elemental / Chemical Composition Analysis

- EPMA
- GD-OES
- GC-MS
- ICP-MS and LA-ICP-MS
- Raman Microscopy & Spectroscopy
- NMR (1D or 2D; solid / liquid)

## Particle Analysis

- Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)
- Laser Diffraction Particle Size Analysis (PSA)
- Particle Zeta Potential

## Material Property Characterization

- DSC
- DMA & TMA
- Rheometry
- TGA
- Surface Zeta Potential
- Porometry / Porosity
- Gas Adsorption
- Gas Pycnometry
- Foam Density
- Tap Density

## Surface Spectroscopy Analysis

- Dynamic-SIMS
- ToF-SIMS (Static-SIMS)
- Ion Scattering Spectroscopy (ISS)
- Ultraviolet Photoelectron Spectroscopy (UPS)
- X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)

# HORIBA Scientific

- **HORIBA Scientific North American Demonstration Lab** opened in August at Covalent's Silicon Valley headquarters
  - Installed **HORIBA GD Profiler 2 Glow Discharge Optical Emission Spectrometer**
    - Designed for high-speed, quantitative analysis of all elements of interest, including nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen and chlorine
    - An ideal tool for thin and thick films characterization and process studies
  - Showcases HORIBA's top-of-line spectroscopy solutions
  - Bolsters mutual efforts to develop new methods for chemical analysis applications

## Other Covalent Partners



**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC



**KEYENCE**



**PVA TePla**

**ASYLUM**  
**RESEARCH**  
an Oxford Instruments company



**TELEDYNE**  
CETAC TECHNOLOGIES  
Everywhere you look™

## Philippe Hunault

Technical Sales Elemental Analysis Specialist,  
HORIBA Scientific

- Received Instrumentation Engineer degree in France in 1979
- Involved in Alpha, Beta and Gamma Spectroscopy at the beginning of his career
- Joined HORIBA Jobin Yvon in 1985 as the Glow Discharge Optical Emission Spectrometry product manager
- After promoting GD-OES worldwide for 12 years, joined the HORIBA team in the United States
- Spent the past 17 years helping to promote HORIBA Elemental analyzers in North America





# HORIBA

Scientific



Covalent – HORIBA Webinar  
December 2, 2021  
Tutorial on GD-OES

## Fast Characterization of nm Thin to Thick Coatings using Pulsed-Rf Glow Discharge Optical Emission Spectrometry

Philippe Hunault , HORIBA Scientific, Piscataway, NJ

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Scientific

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Automotive Test Systems | Process & Environmental | Medical | Semiconductor | Scientific

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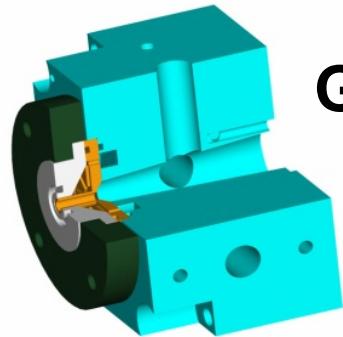
**HORIBA**

# Topics of the Presentation

- Introduction to Rf GD-OES
- GD PROFILER 2 Instrument
- Various Applications
  - ✓ Hard Disk, DVD, Media
  - ✓ Li Ion Batteries
  - ✓ Photovoltaic
  - ✓ Semi Conductor
  - ✓ Thin and Thick Oxides
- DIP the latest innovation in GD-OES technique...
- Conclusion

# From the sample...

# ...to the Result



Glow Discharge  
Light Source



## Spectrometer

(Optical Emission Spectrometer / OES)



## Signal Processing

Chemical  
Composition



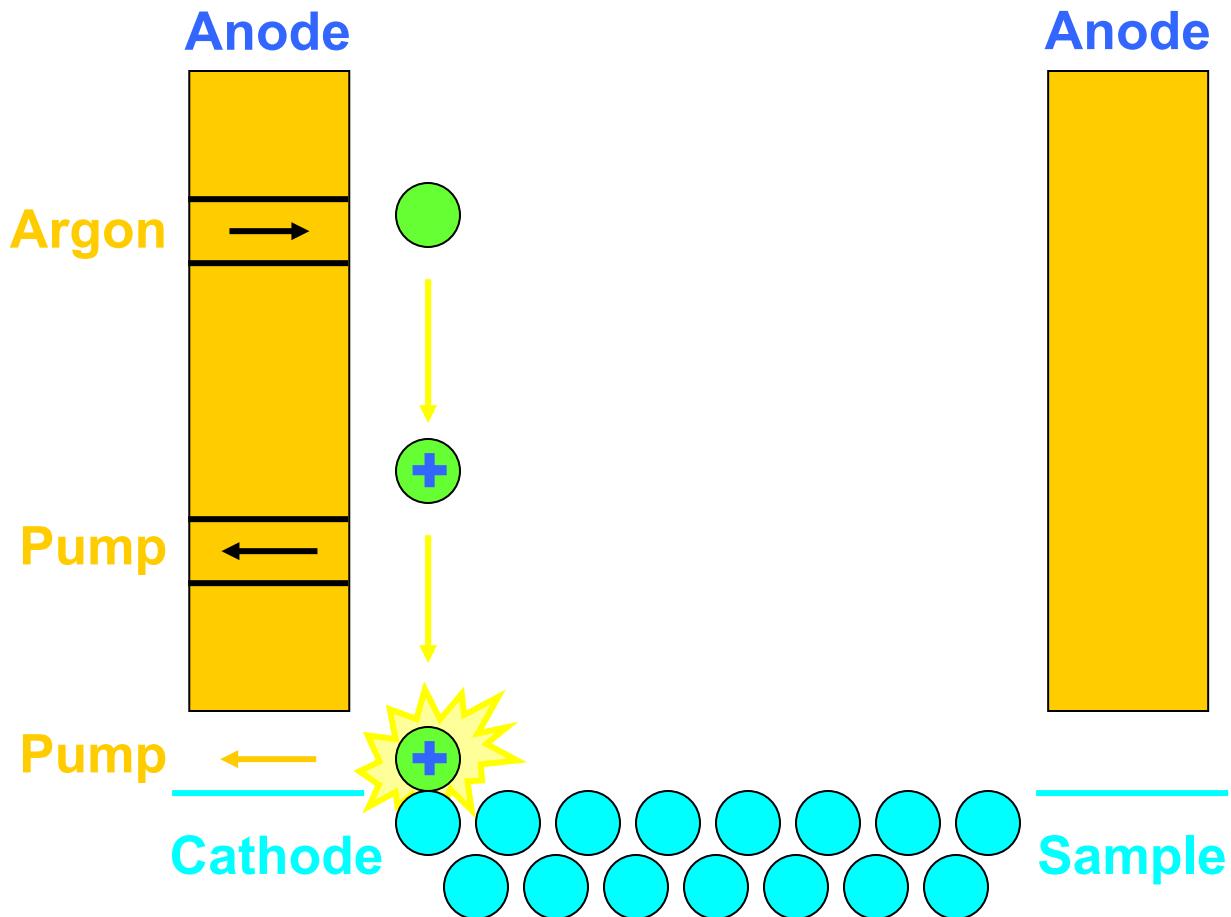
Data Processing



# Introduction to Rf GD-OES

# Excitation Mechanism

Anode - Cathode  
Cathode = Sample  
Vacuum  
Argon Filling  
HV Applied  
Ar Ionization  
Ionic Bombardment



# Excitation Mechanism

Anode - Cathode

Cathode = Sample

Vacuum

Argon Filling

HV Applied  
Ar Ionization

Ionic Bombardment

Sample Sputtering  
Atoms Ejected

Anode

Argon

Pump

Cathode

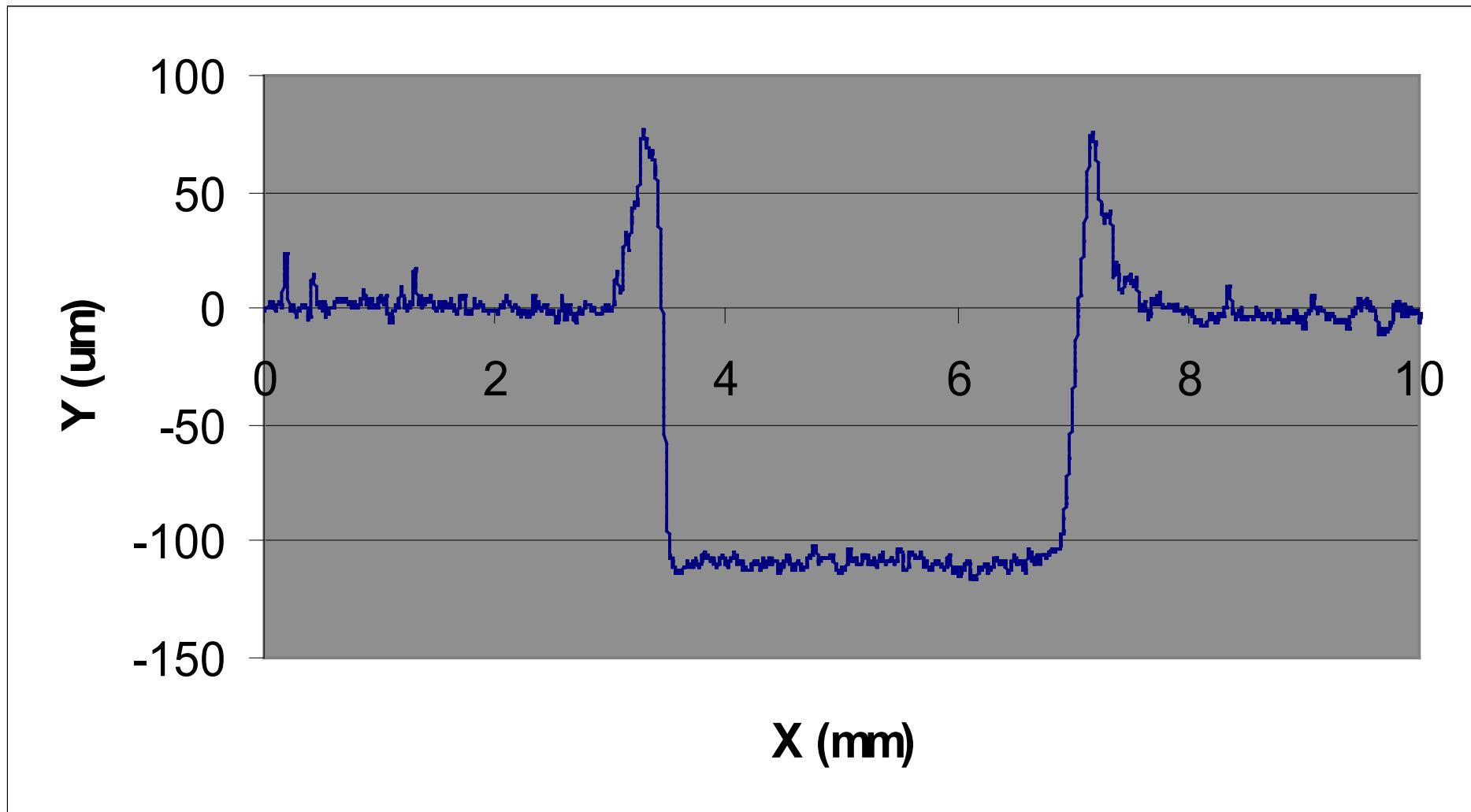
Anode

Sample

Atoms  
Excitation

Light Emission  
Wavelength

# Typical Rf Crater in Steel



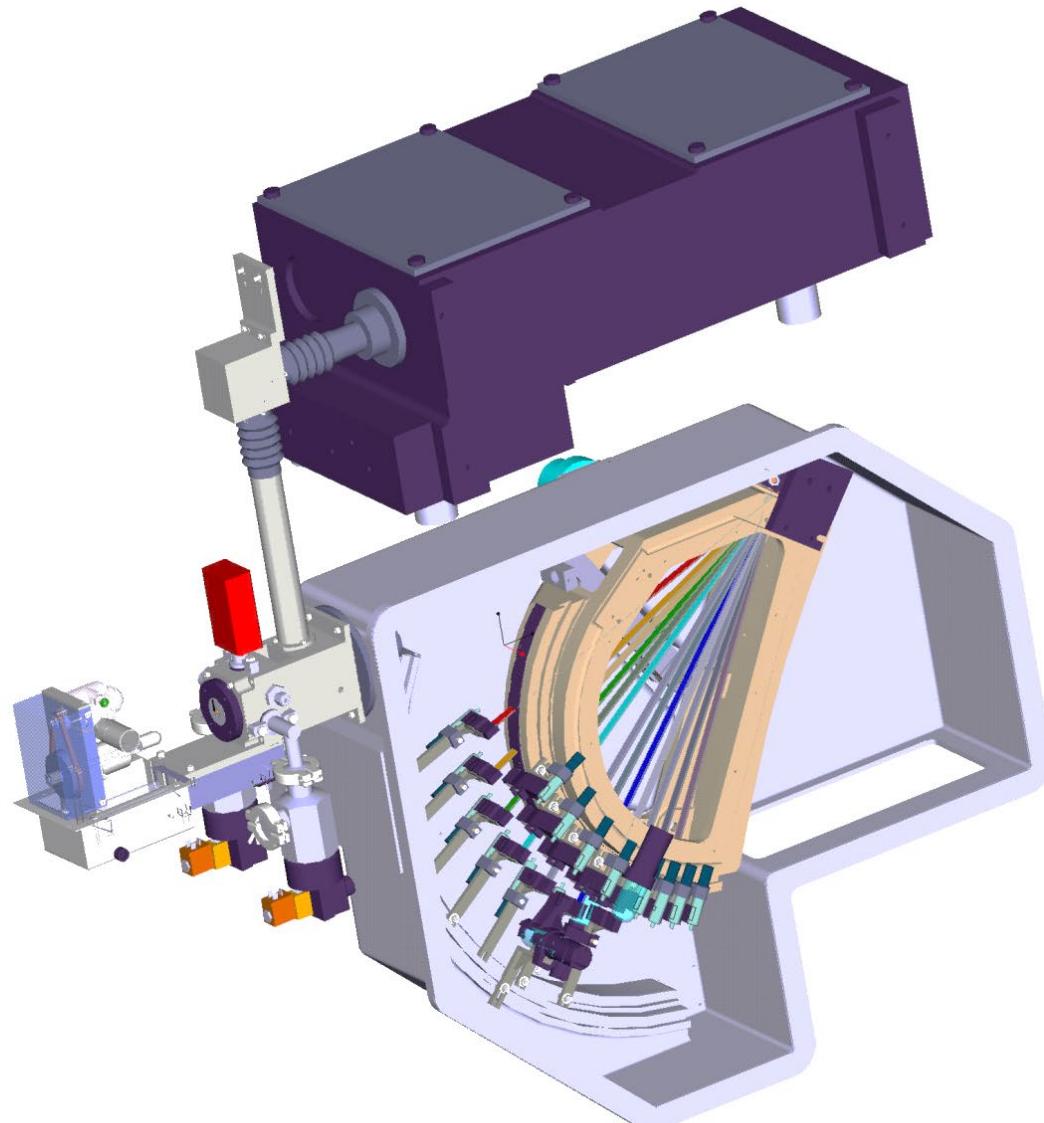
# Operating Conditions

Argon Pressure: 1-10 Torr

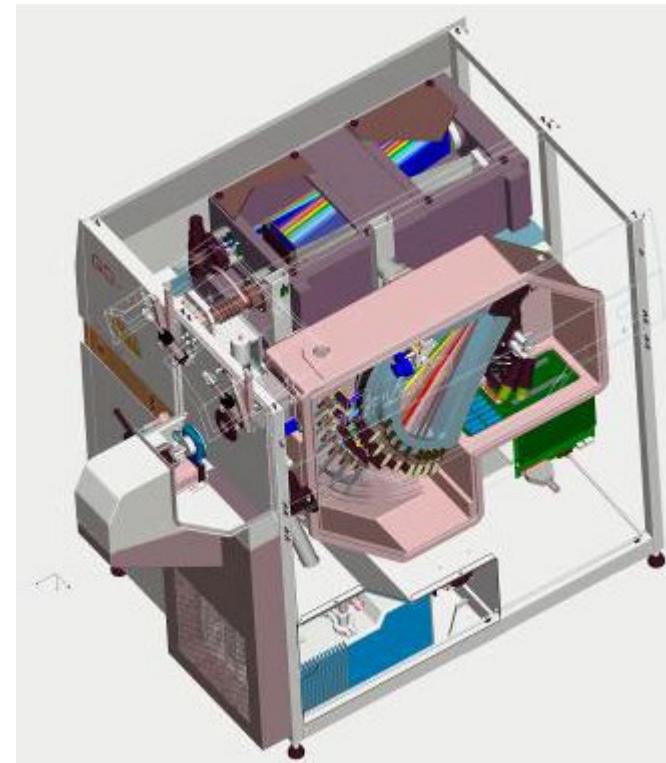
RF Power: 20-80 W

⇒ Fast sputtering rate  
10-150 nm/s  
(microns/min)

# GD Profiler 2 Optics



# GD Profiler 2

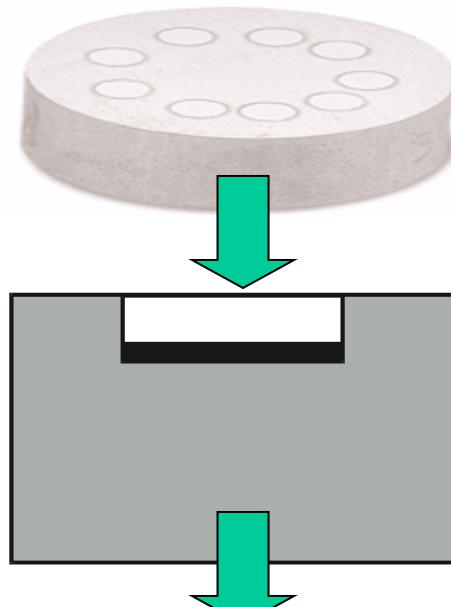


All elements measurable

Spectral range from H 121nm to  
**Li 670nm & K 766nm**

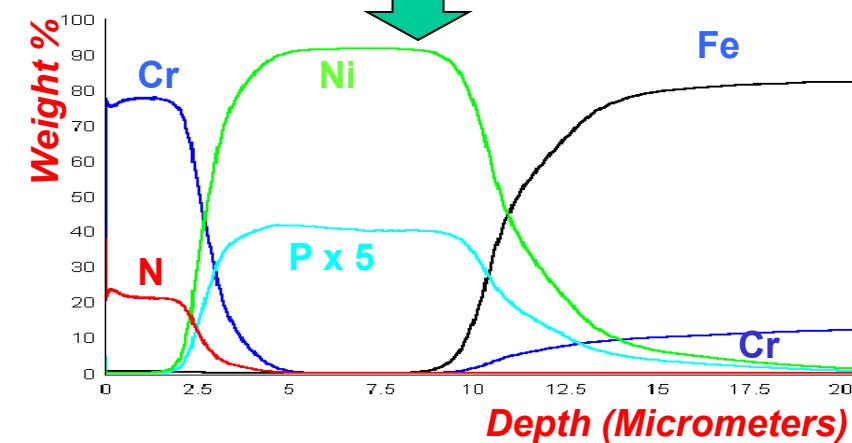
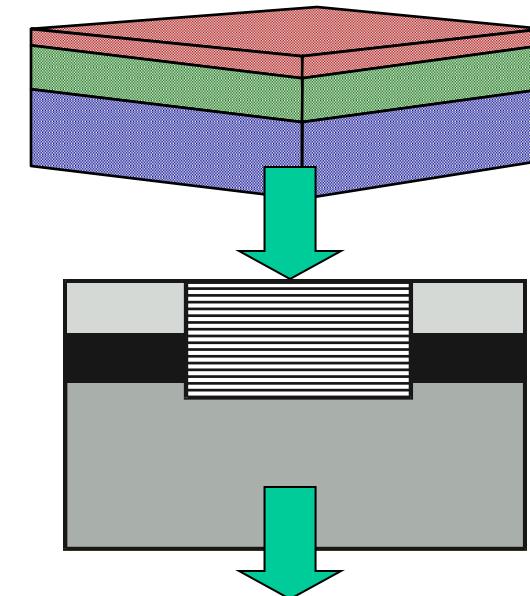
# GD-OES Applications

## Bulk Analysis

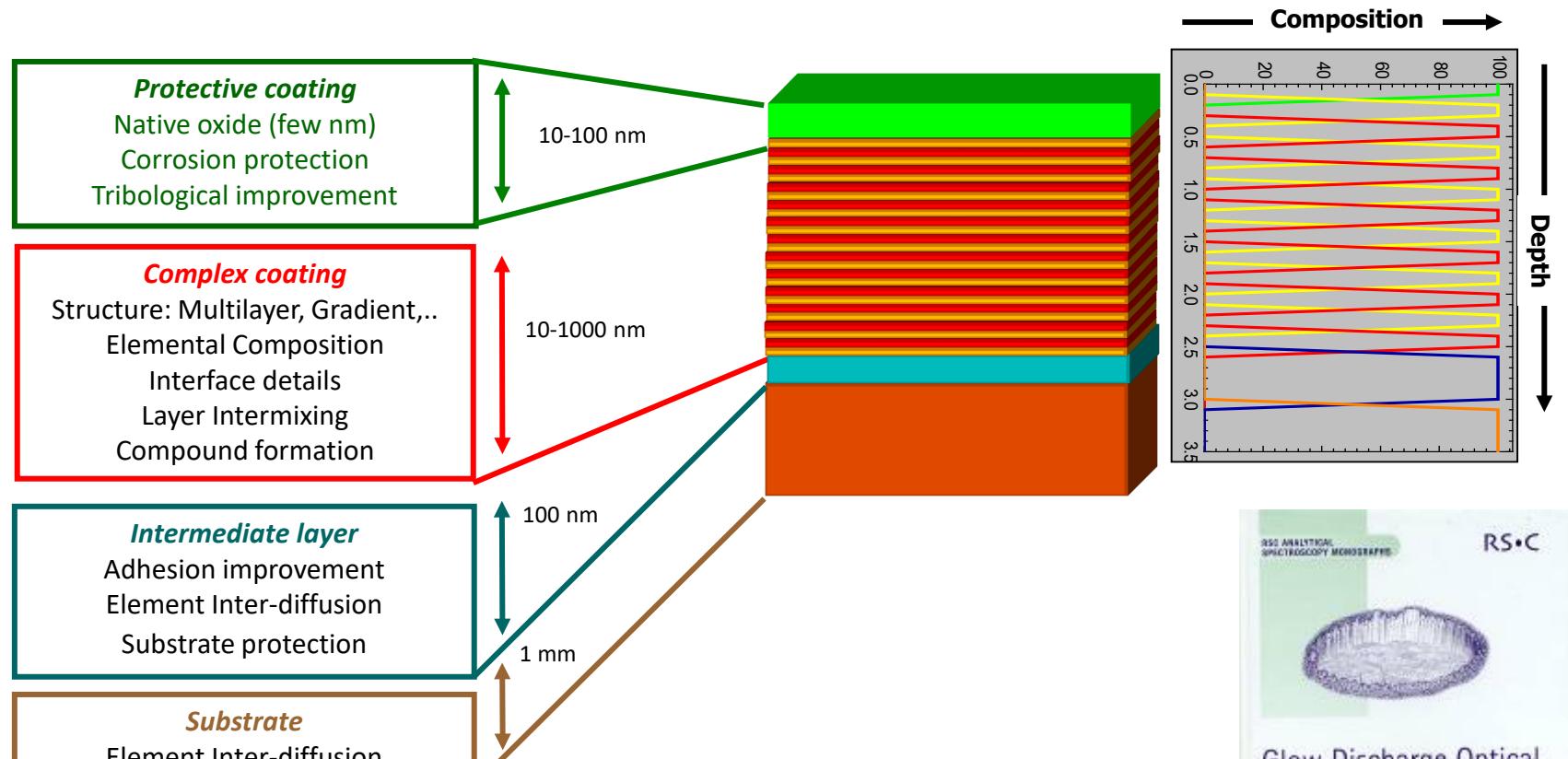


	Burn 1	Burn 2	AVG
C	0.159	0.160	0.160
P	0.00469	0.00470	0.00470
S	0.00451	0.00466	0.00460
Si	0.0112	0.0113	0.0112
Mn	0.0287	0.0286	0.0286

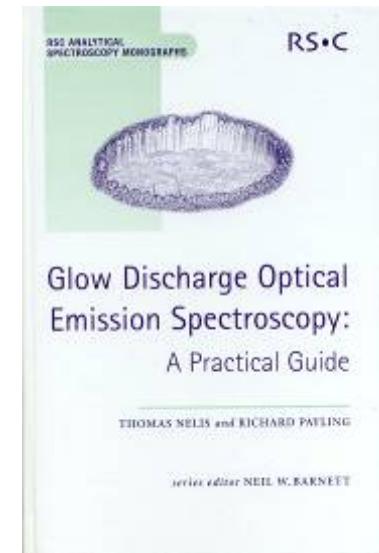
## Depth Profiling



# Variety of Applications



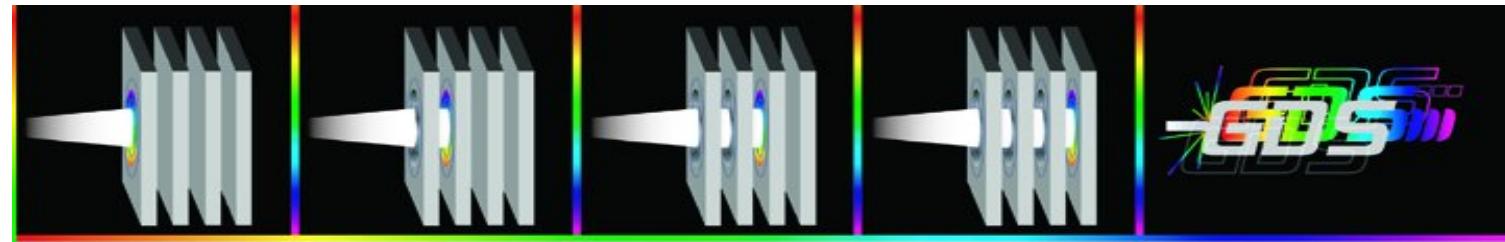
Thin/thick films



# Applications of Depth Profiling by GD-OES

- Steel Industry (Galvanization, Anti corrosion coating...)
- Automobile (Engine, Body, Windscreen...)
- Aeronautic (Light materials, Ti, special alloys...)
- Li ion Batteries
- Semi Conductors (Wafers...)
- Photo Voltaic, Solar Cel (CIGS, CdTe, Ga As...)
- Heat Treatment (C, N at the surface)
- Plating, Electro plating...
- PVD, CVD coating (TiN, CrN, ...)
- Glass (coating on glass)
- Organic coatings
- New Materials
- Failures and Defects Analysis
- Process Control

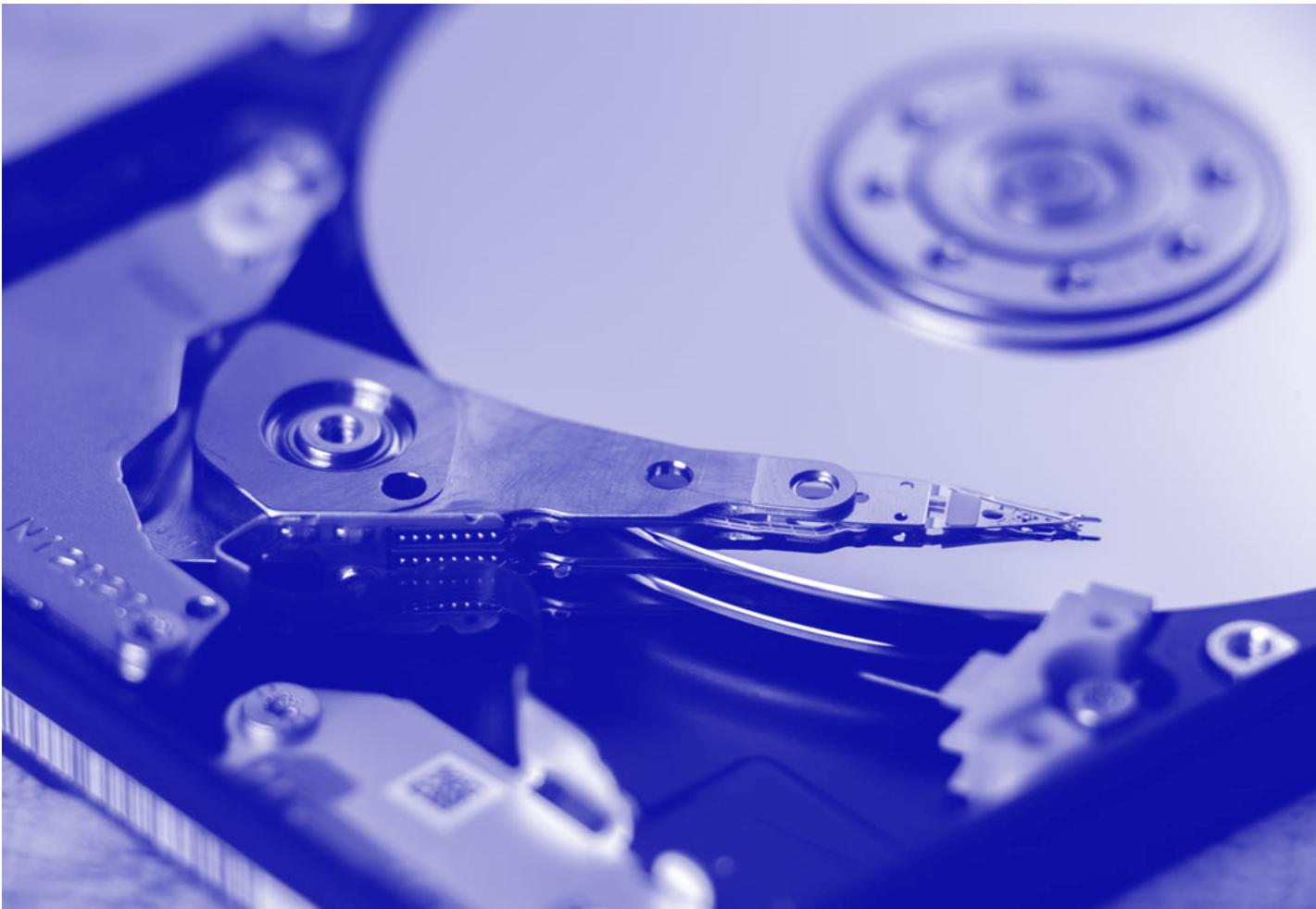
# Glow Discharge – Optical Emission Spectroscopy



- Direct Elemental Analysis of Solid Samples (no sample prep.)
- Bulk analysis and Depth Profile Analysis
- Conductive and non conductive materials/layers
- Detection Limits 1-10ppm
- Concentration Dynamic: LOD – 100%
- Depth Dynamic: below nm to 150 Microns+
- In-depth resolution: below nm depending on roughness
- Simultaneous analysis of almost all elements including O, N, H, Cl, F, Li...
- Fast sputtering rate – Rapid analysis
- Easy and fast sample mounting (sample NOT in vacuum)
- Affordable price compared to SIMS, XPS...

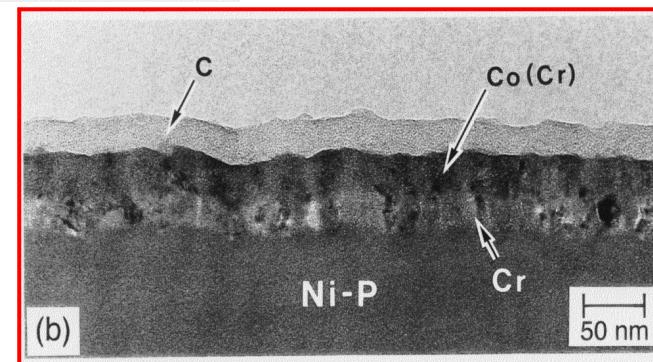
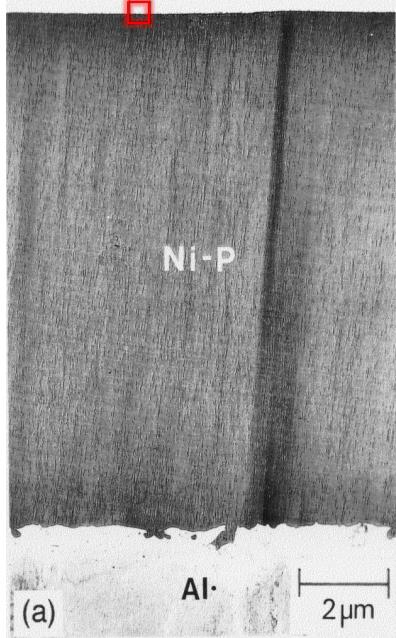
# Pulsed Rf - GD-OES Applications

# Hard Discs, DVD... Thin & Thick Layers



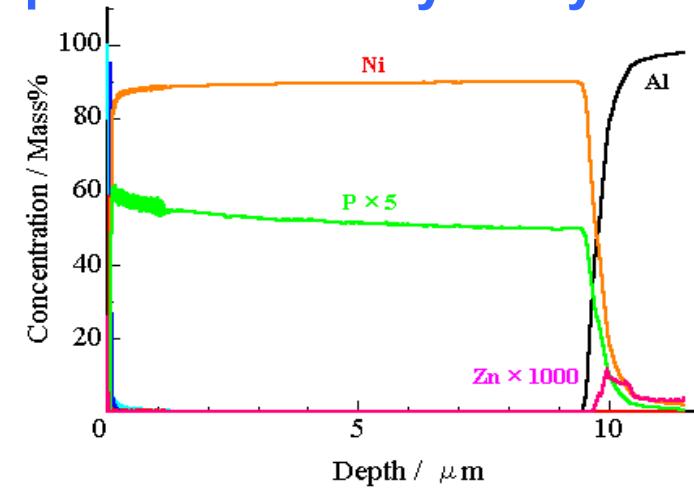
# Hard Disc Analysis

TEM Picture of the sample

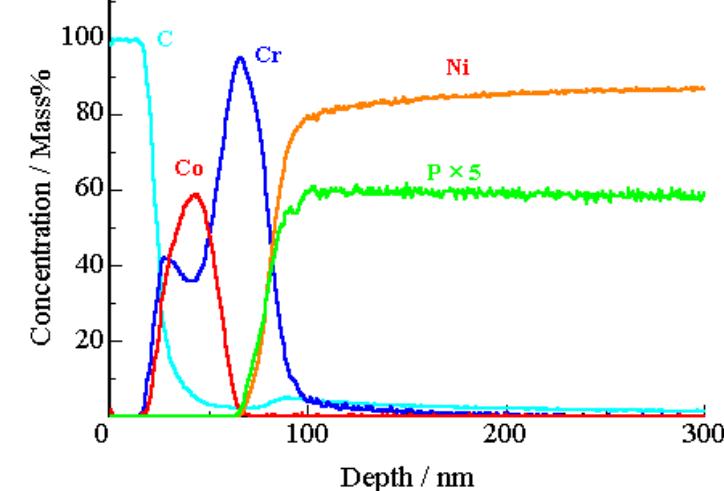


Zoom at the surface

Depth Profile Analysis by GD-OES

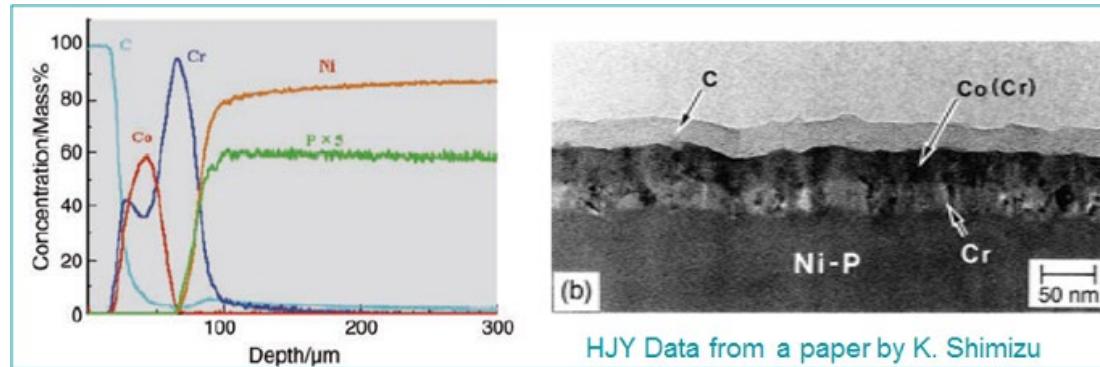


Zoom at the surface



# Hard Discs Revolution – From 1<sup>st</sup> GD Application to Now

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation longitudinal media before 1996
  - 4 layers, each layer about > 20 nm thick



- 7<sup>th</sup> generation perpendicular media in 2012
  - As many as 18 layers, total thickness < 100 nm
- Thinnest layer < 1 nm



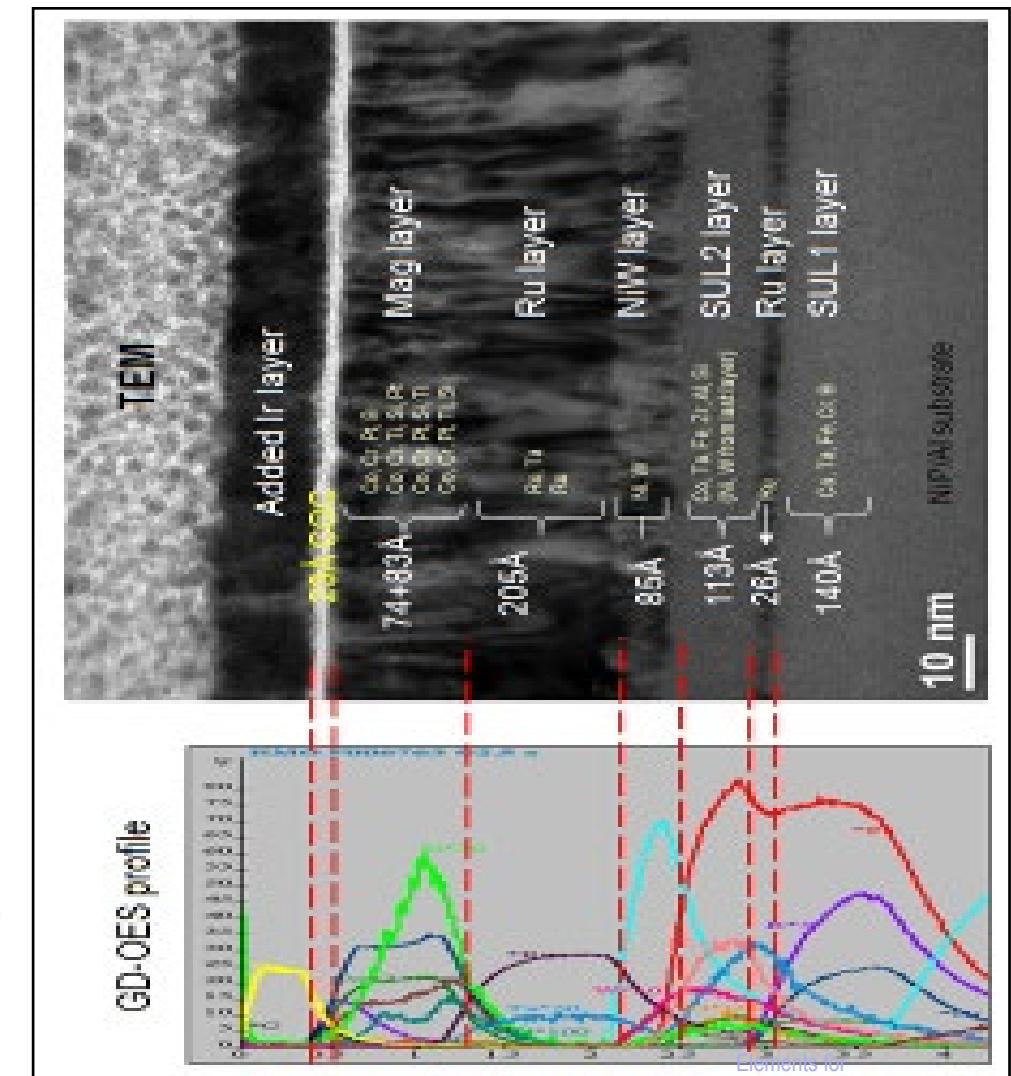
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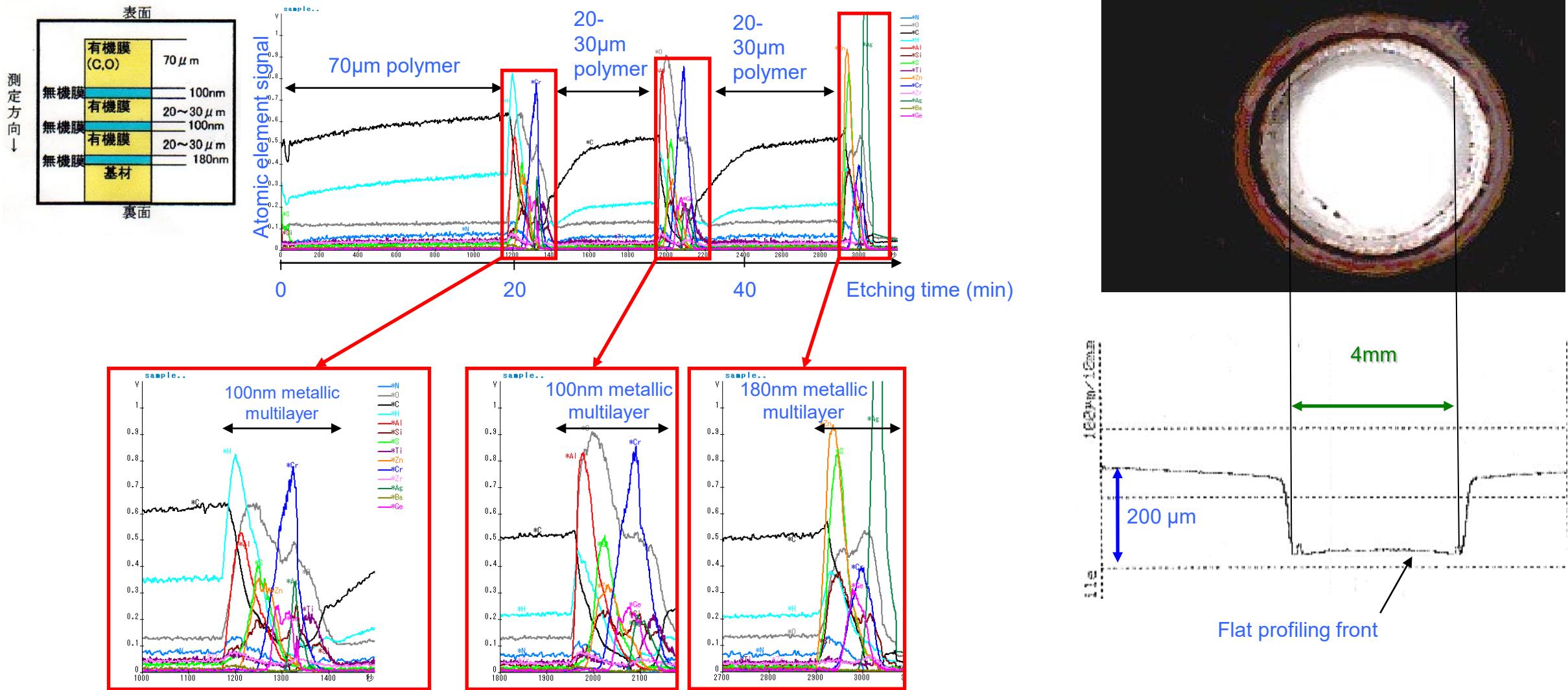
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Seagate

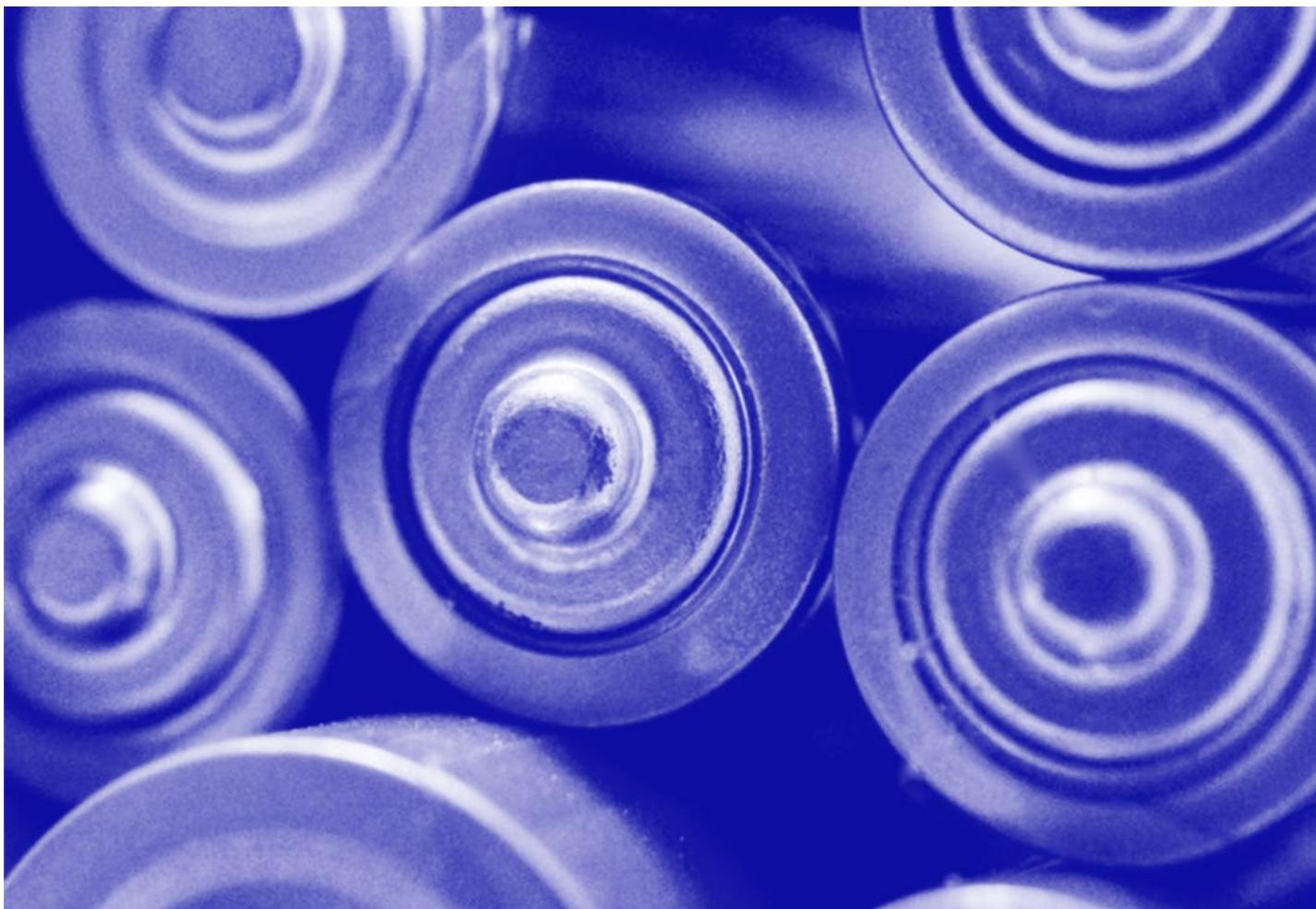


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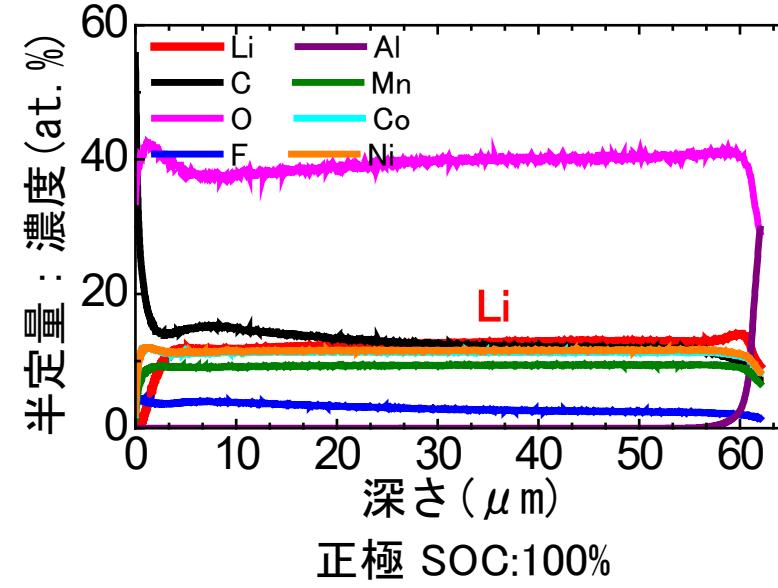
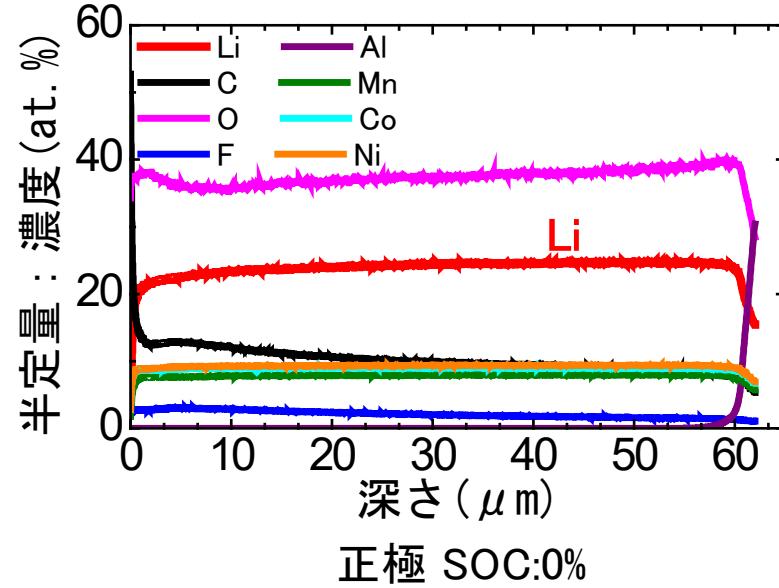
# DVD – Ultra Fast Sputtering UFS



# Li Ion Batteries



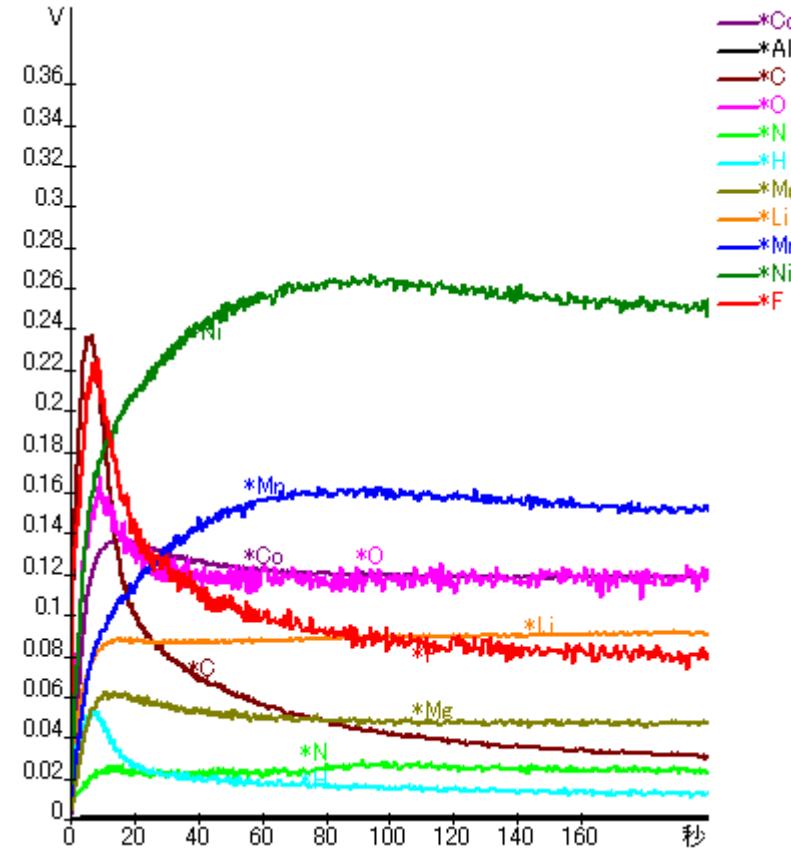
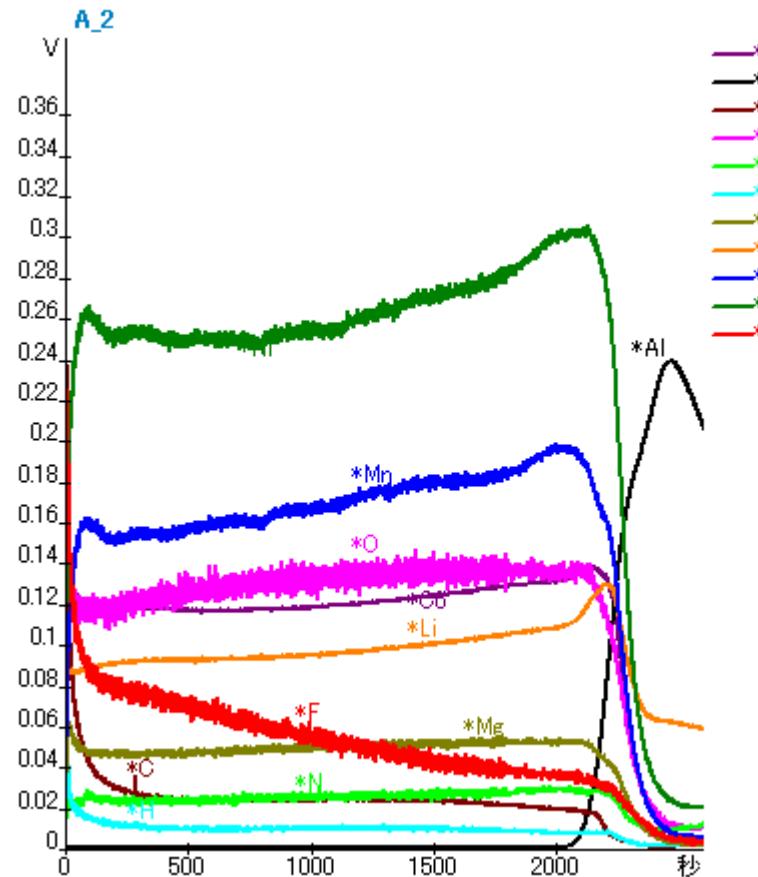
# Depth Profile – Li Ion Battery Electrode



Comparison of 2 samples with different  
State of Charge: 0% and 100%

Ref: Kobelco GD day

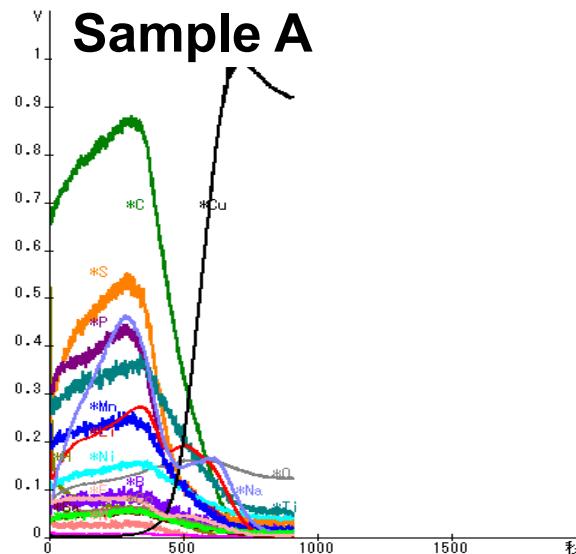
# Depth Profile on Li Ion Battery Electrode



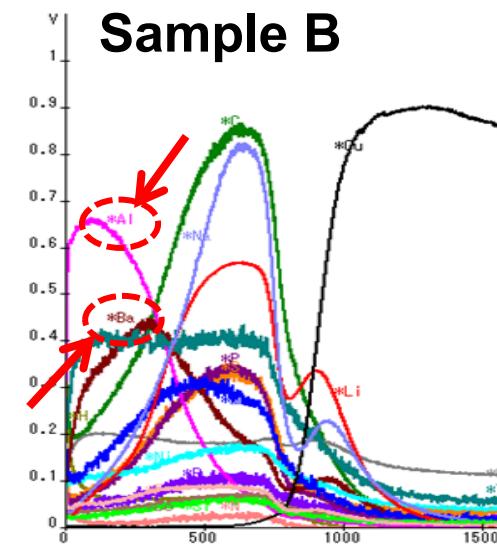
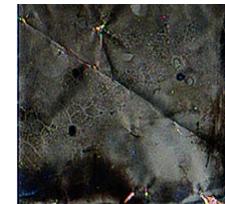
Uses Ne as main plasma gas to excite  
F along with other elements

# Li Ion Batteries

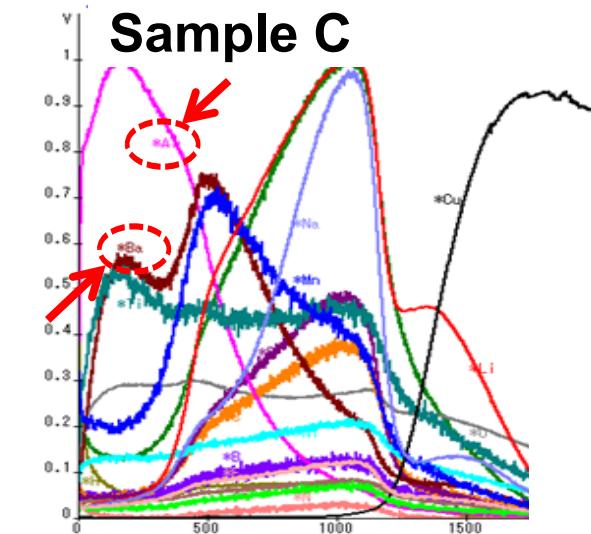
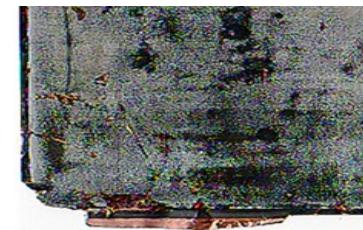
- Degradation evaluation of cathode material
  - Dissolution of anode collector
  - Possible reaction with cathode active material



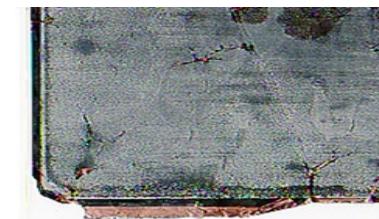
Sample A  
No damage



Sample B  
Moderate damage



Sample C  
Most damage

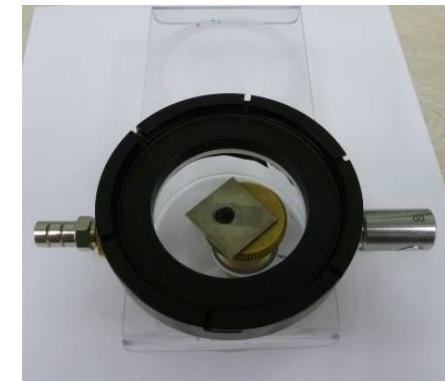


# Accessory: Li bell

- For flammable and air sensitive samples
- Preparation inside glove box (under inert atmosphere)



« Li bell »  
Transfer chamber to the GD  
instrument

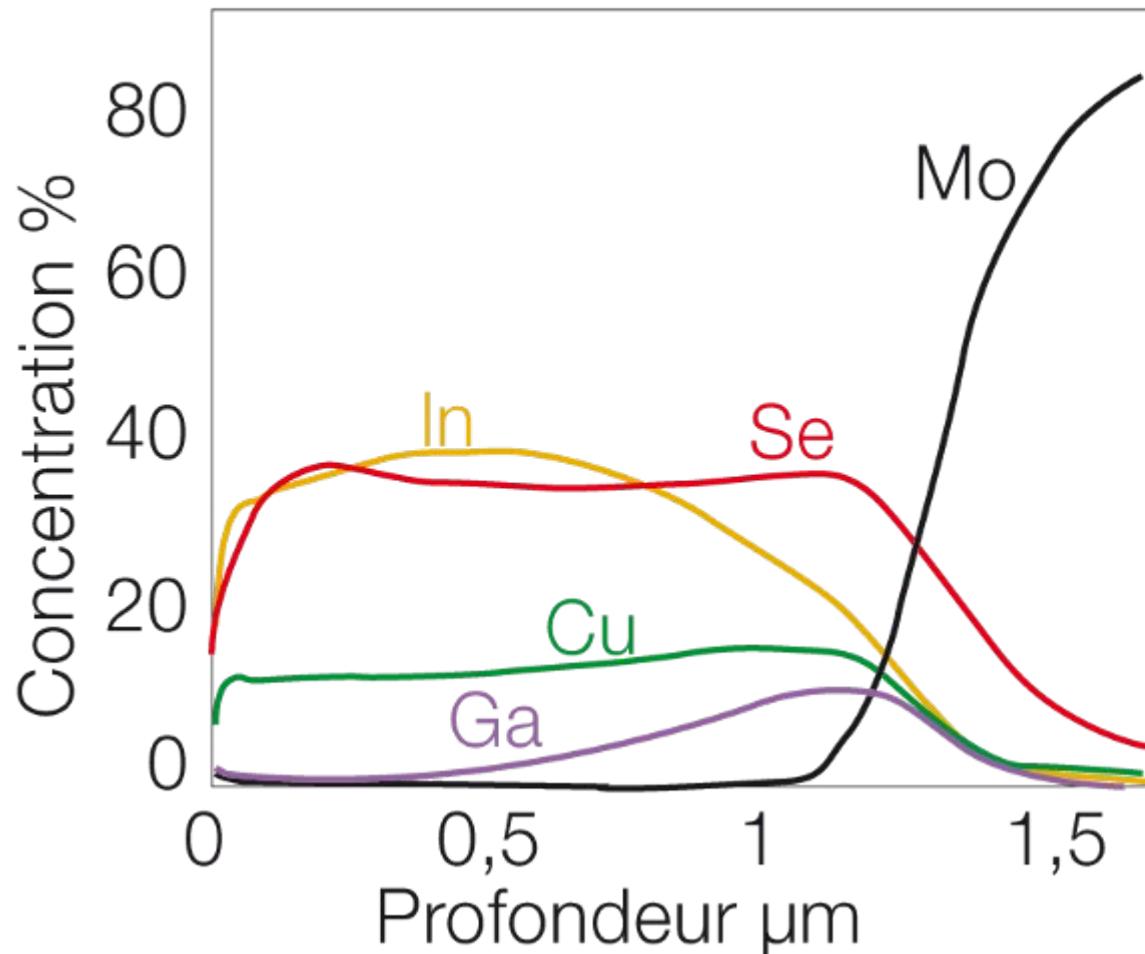


Patent : P 2001-197308

# Photovoltaics, Solar Cells

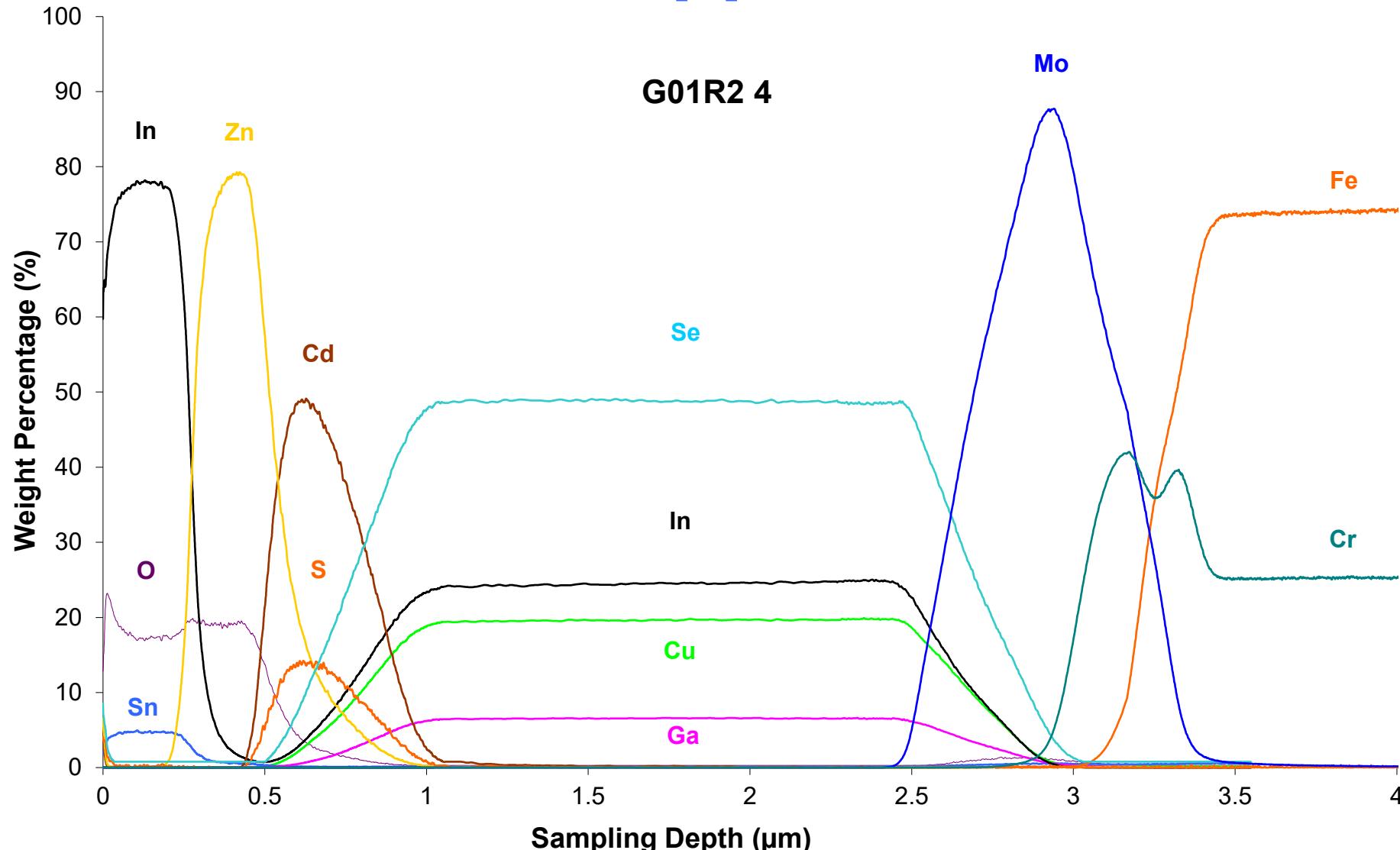


# CIGS: Quantified Depth Profile with pulsed Rf GD-OES

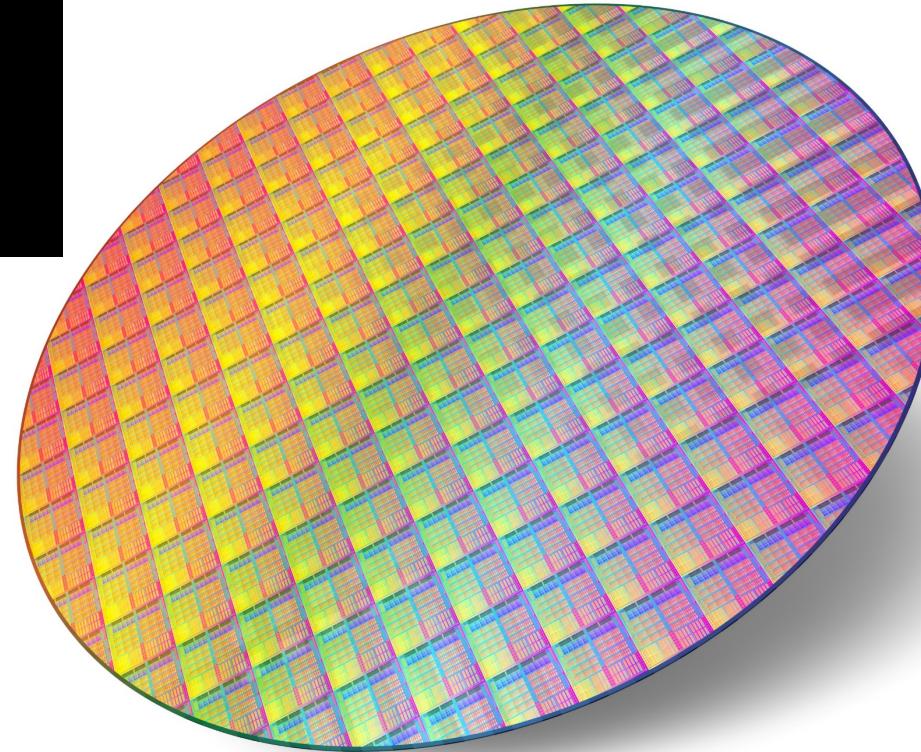


**Analysis time:  
2 minutes**

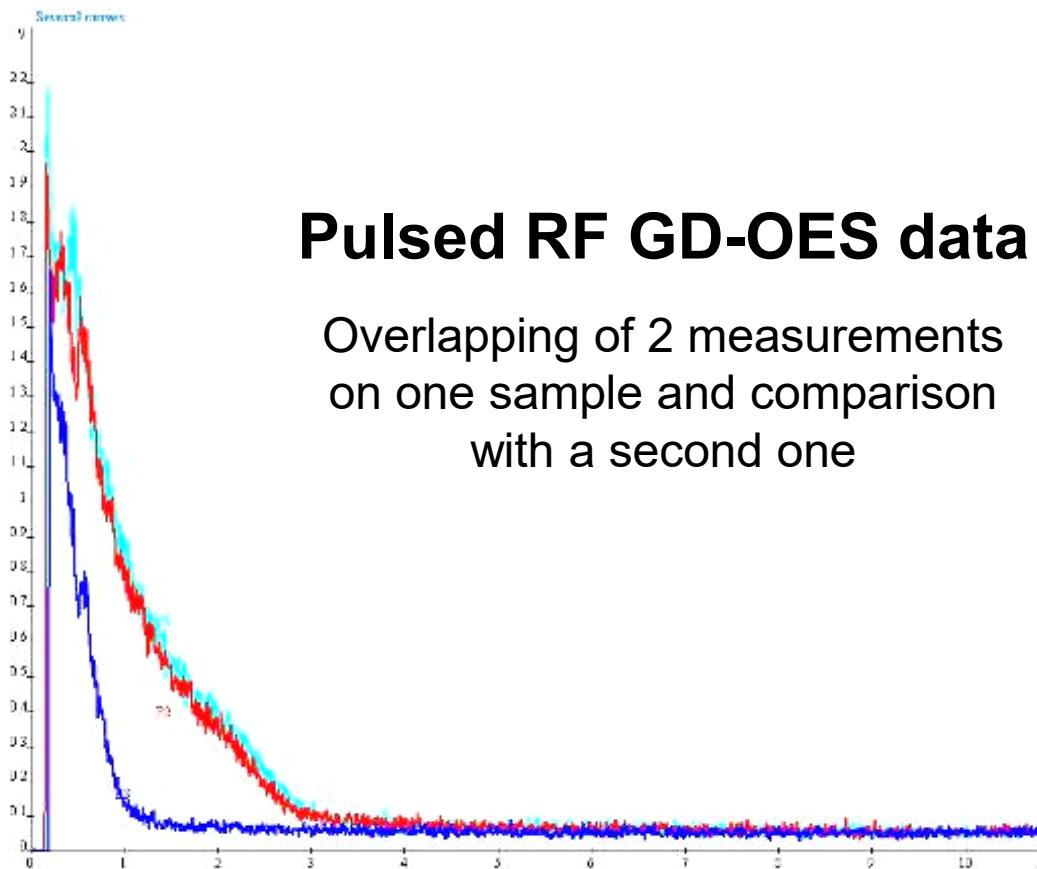
# CIGS Application



# Semiconductors, Wafers, LEDs



# P Doping in Si



## Pulsed RF GD-OES data

Overlapping of 2 measurements  
on one sample and comparison  
with a second one

5 seconds vs  
2 hours !

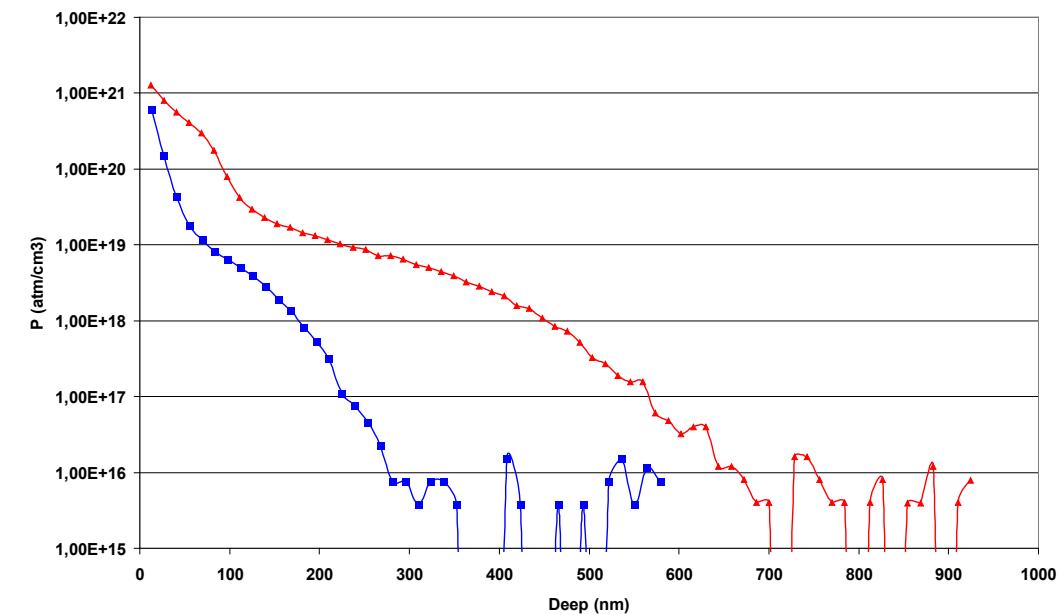
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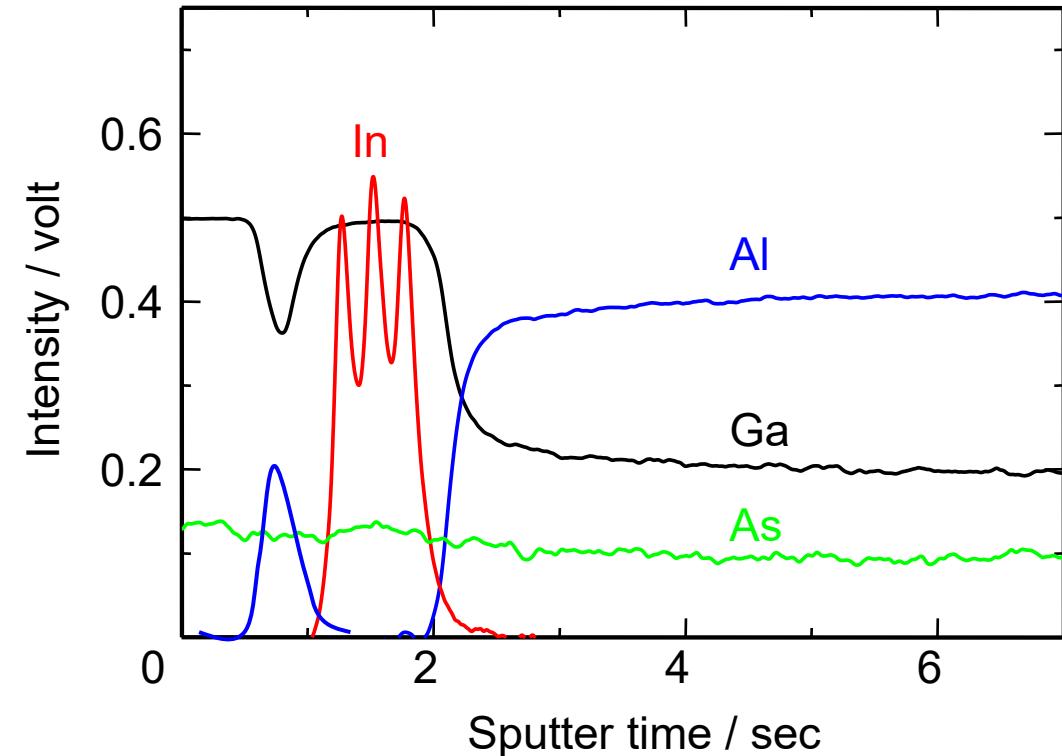
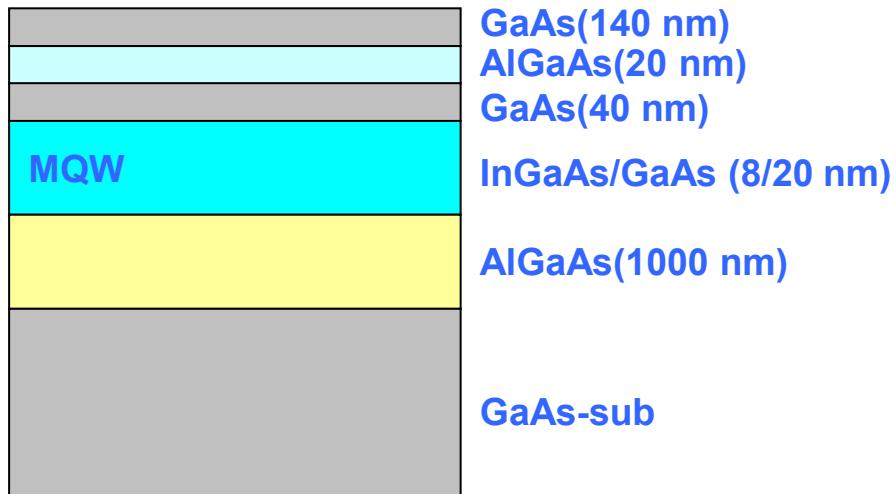


## SIMS Comparison



# Blue LED Structure

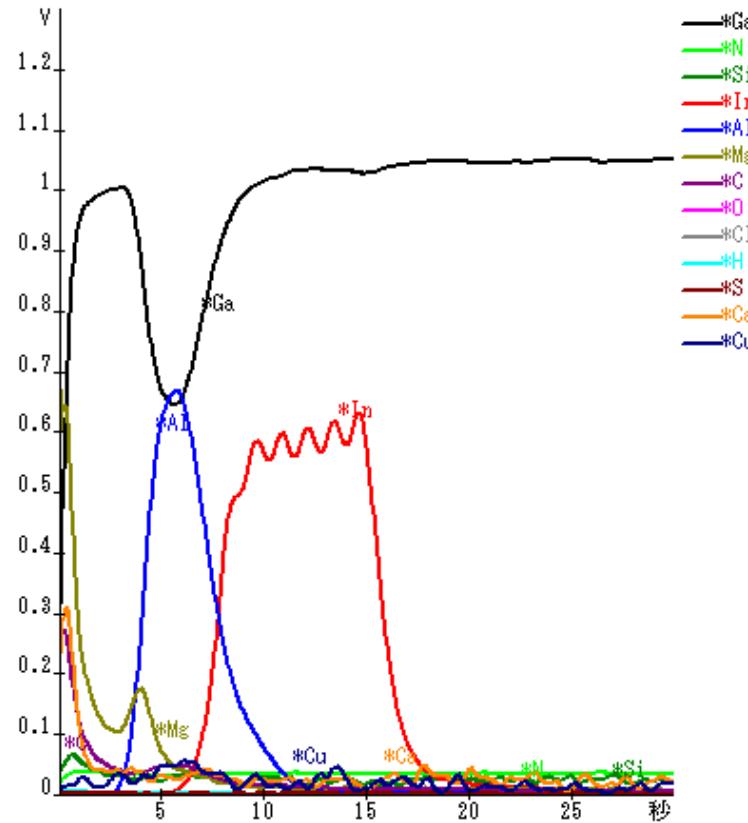
## Sample Structure



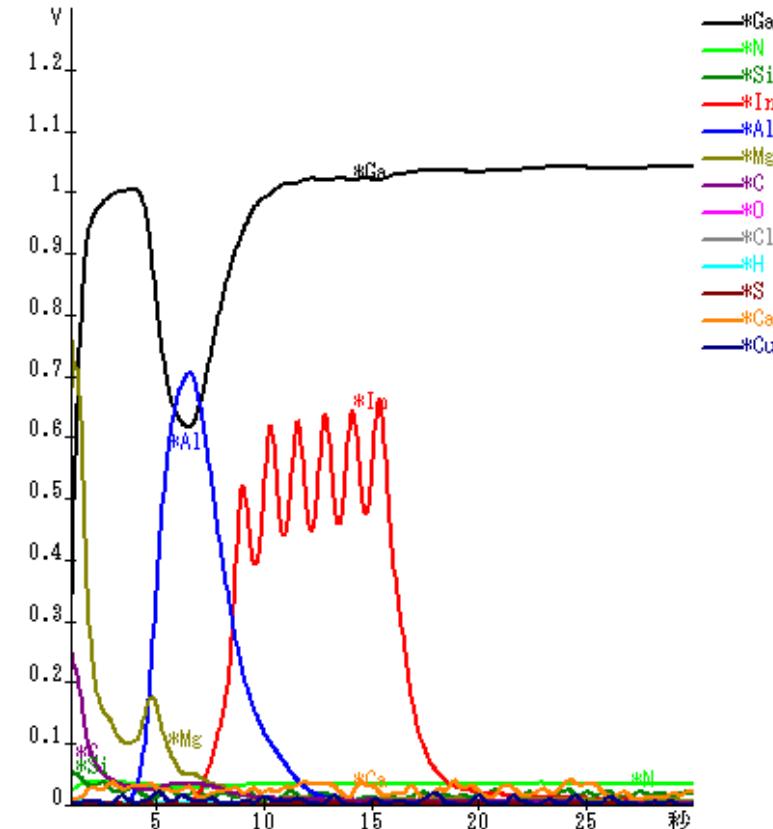
Rf GD-OES provides a result in only 10 seconds.

# Blue LED

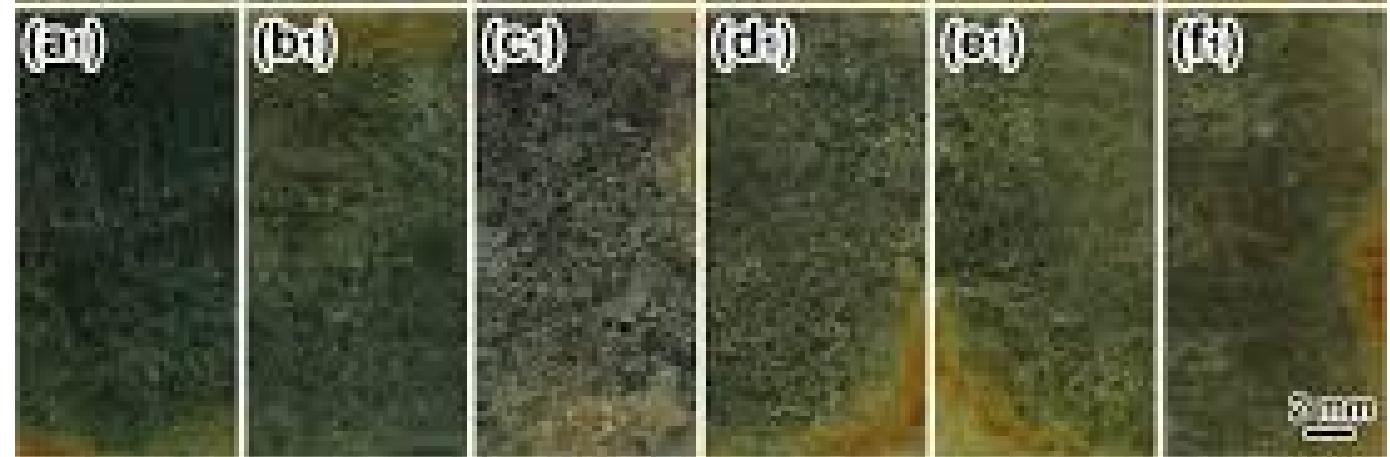
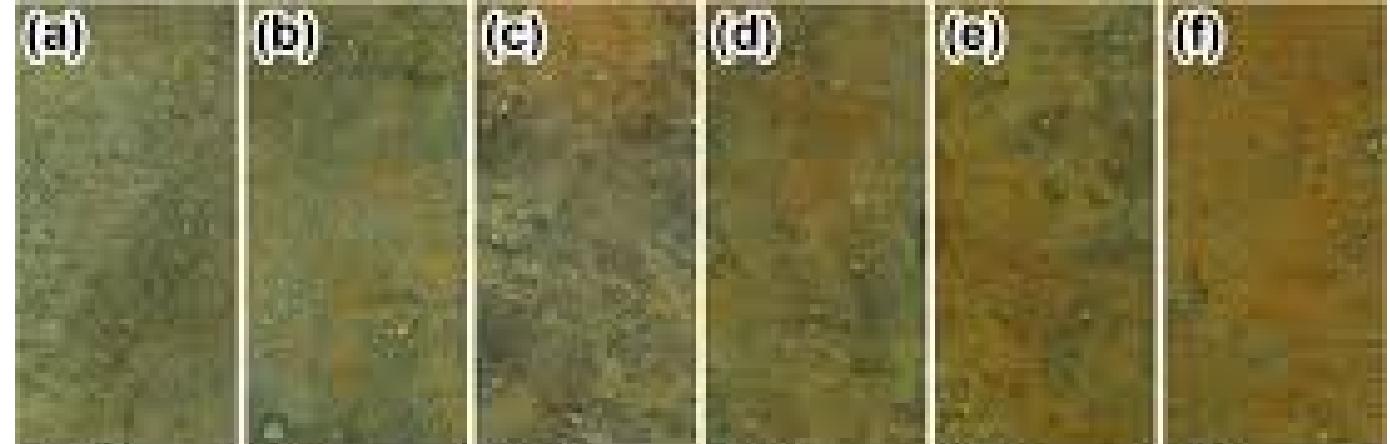
Bad LED



Good LED

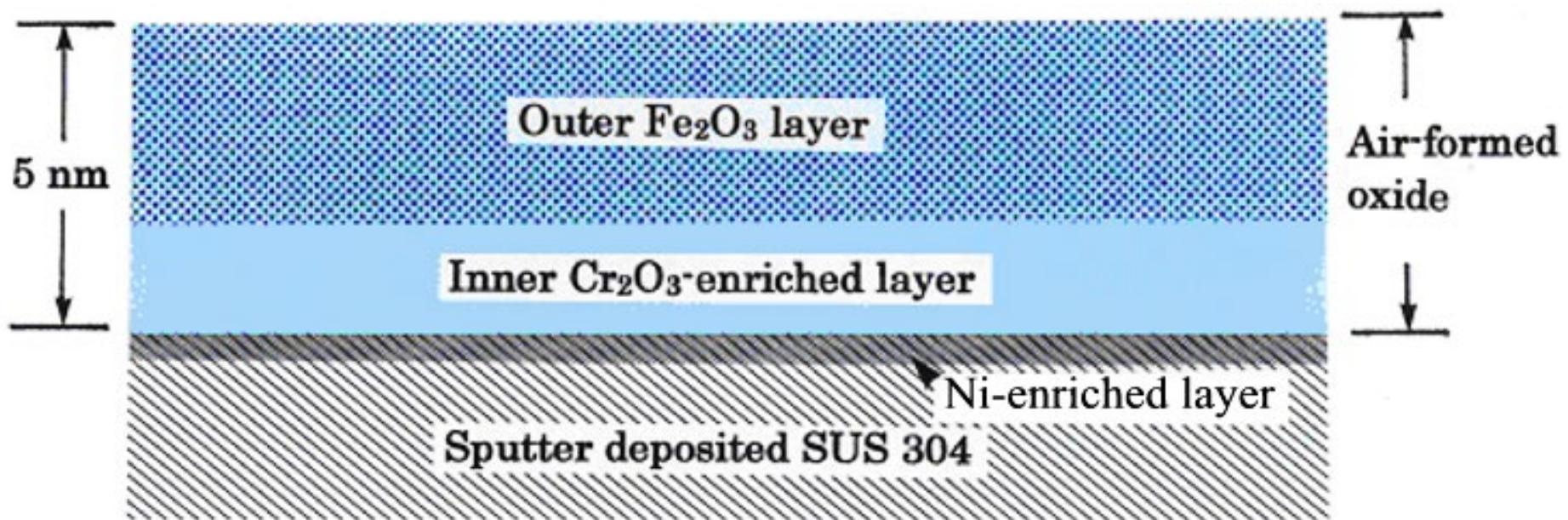


# Thin and Thick Oxides: From nm to several microns

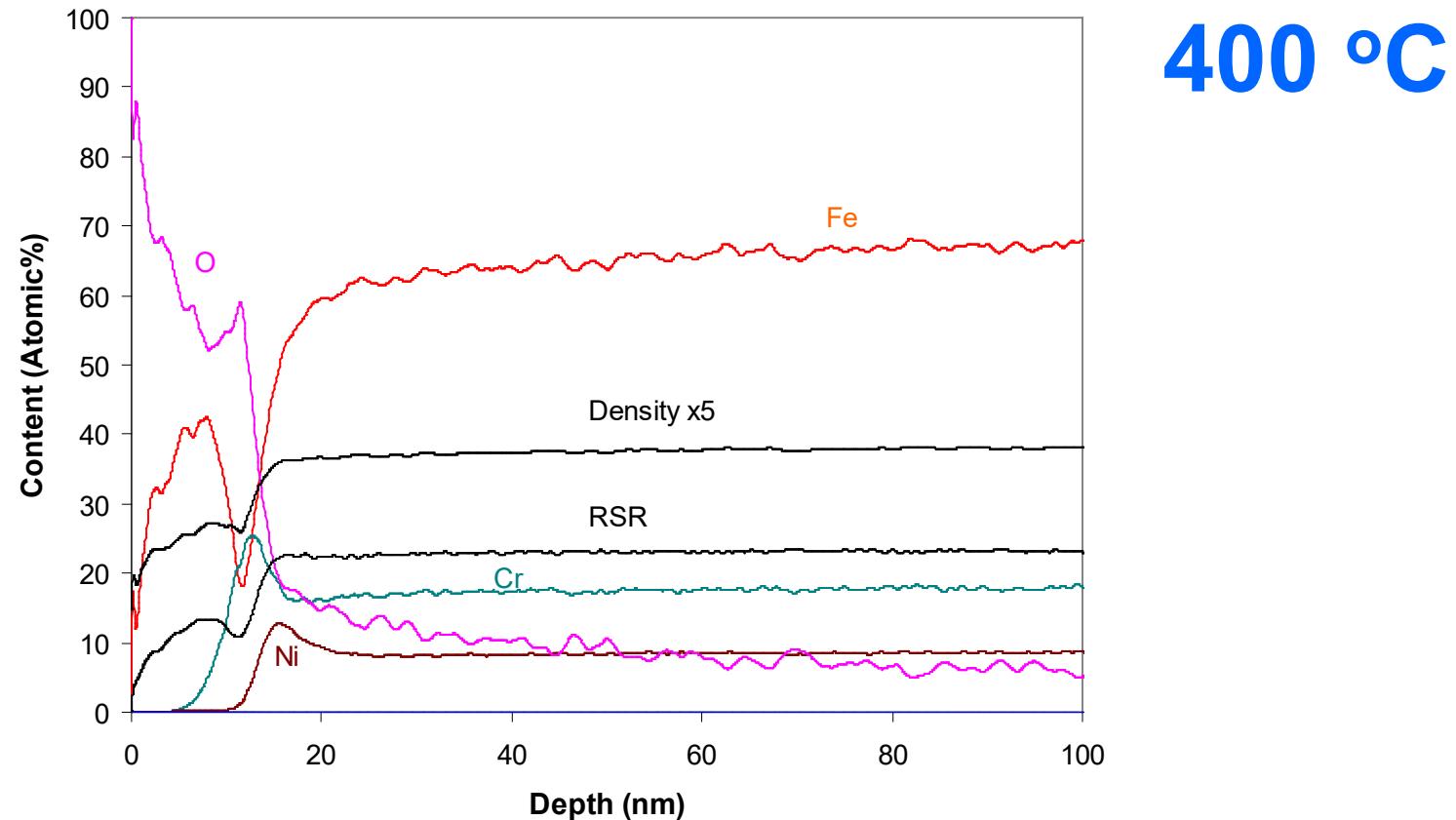


# Thin Oxide Layers

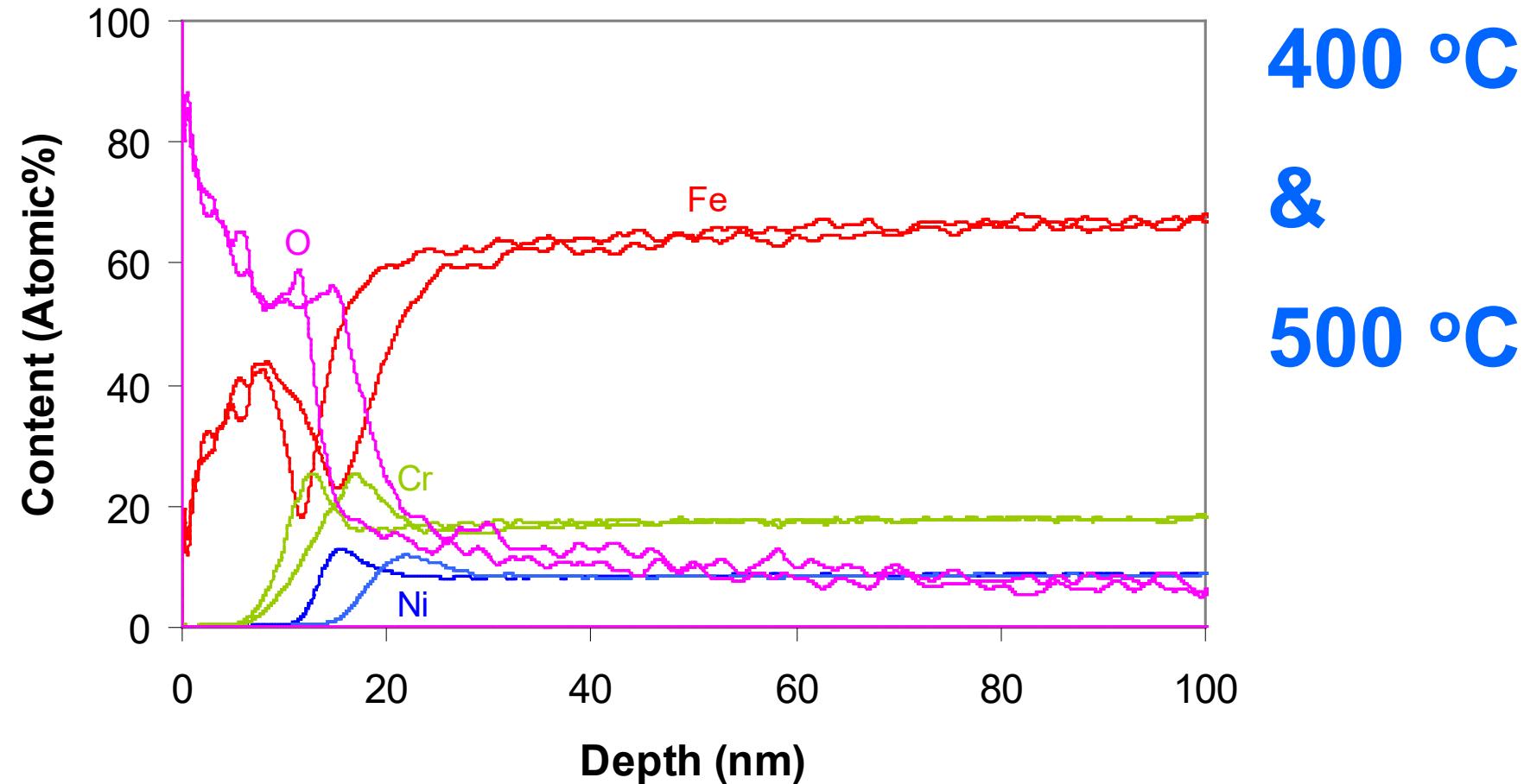
## (Stainless Steel)



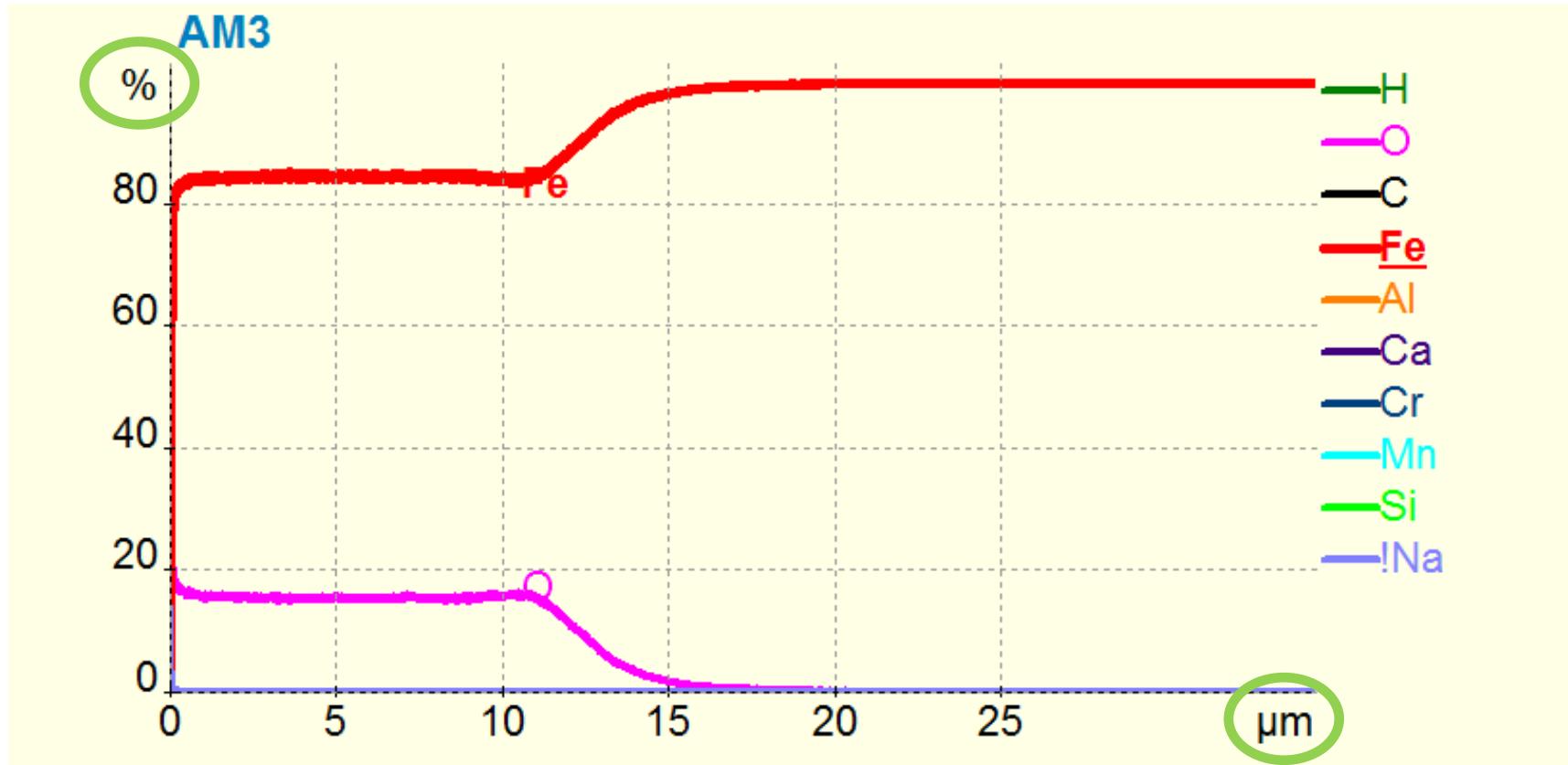
# Stainless Steel, polished: Quantified

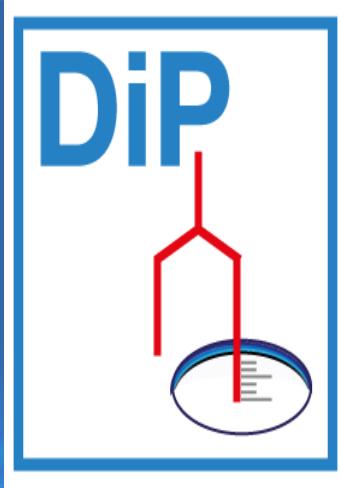


# Stainless Steel, polished: Quantified



# Thick Iron Oxide





# Differential Interferometry Profiling

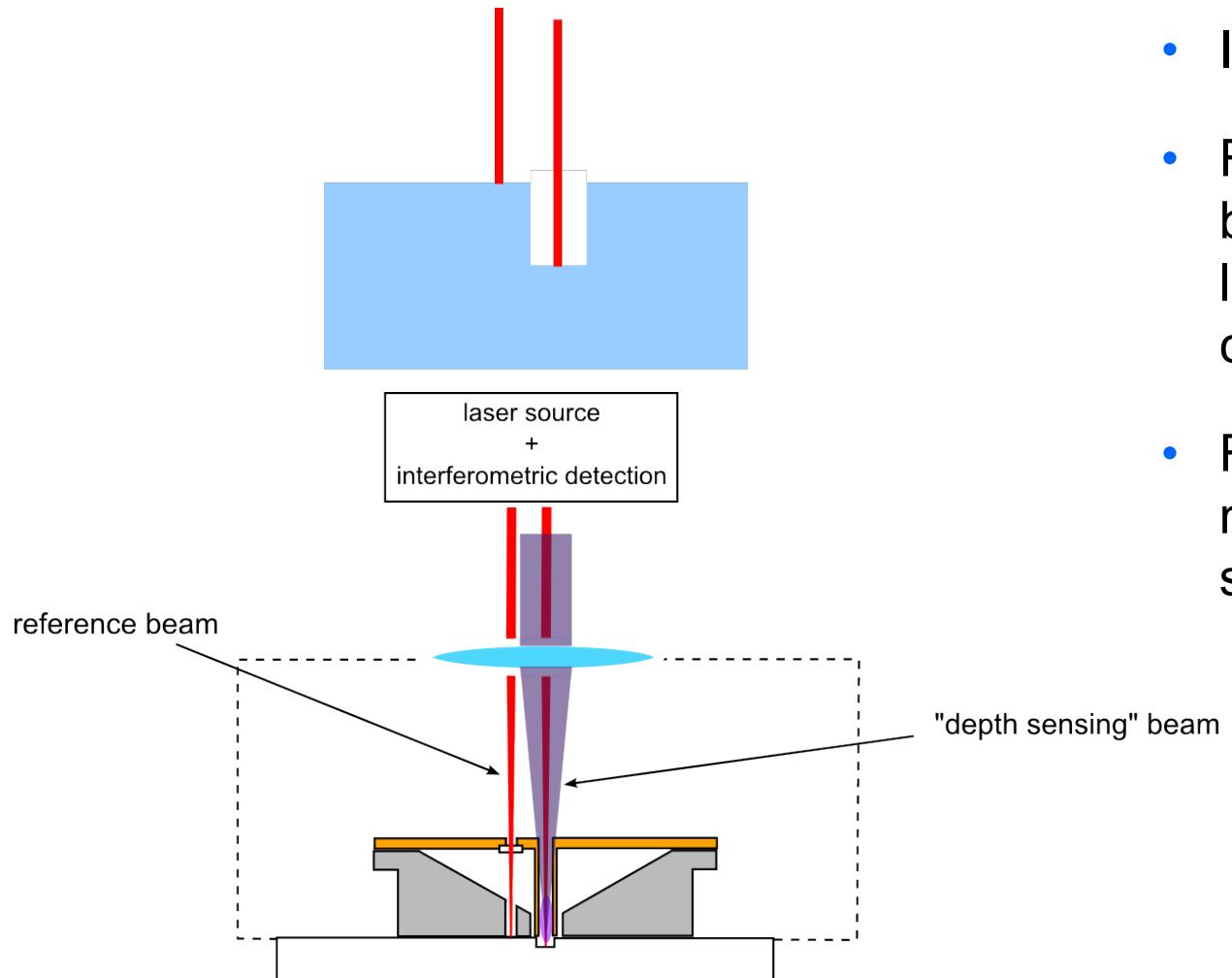
A new function in GDOES:  
Direct layer thickness and crater depth  
measurement



# What is DIP?

- Direct sputter rate, layer thickness and crater depth measurement
- Real Time
- No calibration
- Online interferometer built in the GD instrument
- An additional tool for GD-OES calibration

# Technical Solution

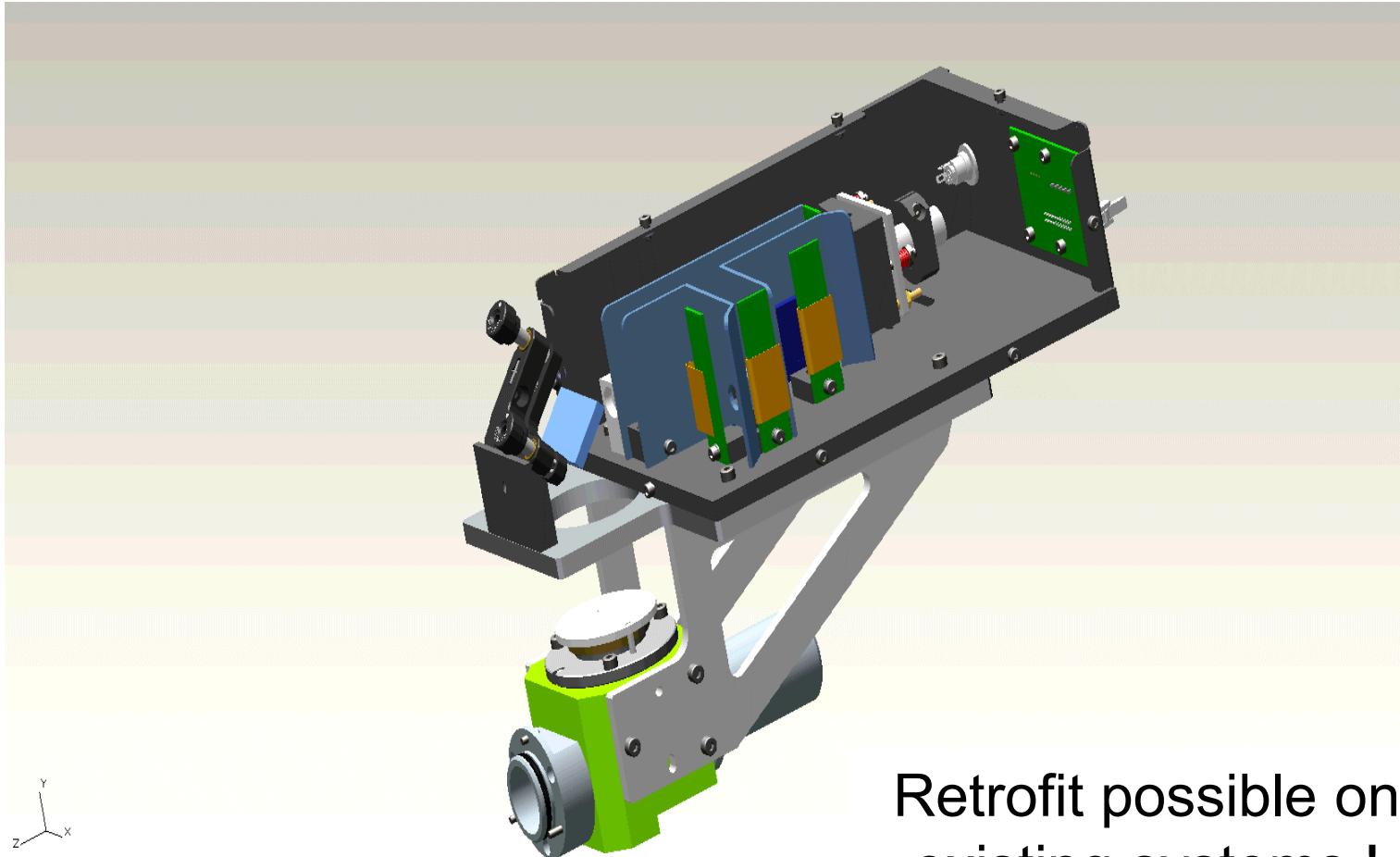


- Interferometric method
- Relative depth measurement between the crater and a reference location on the sample nearby the crater.
- Red diode laser ( $\sim 635\text{nm} \pm 5\text{nm}$ ), no emission line of interest in this spectral region)

# Modified Anode / Cathode

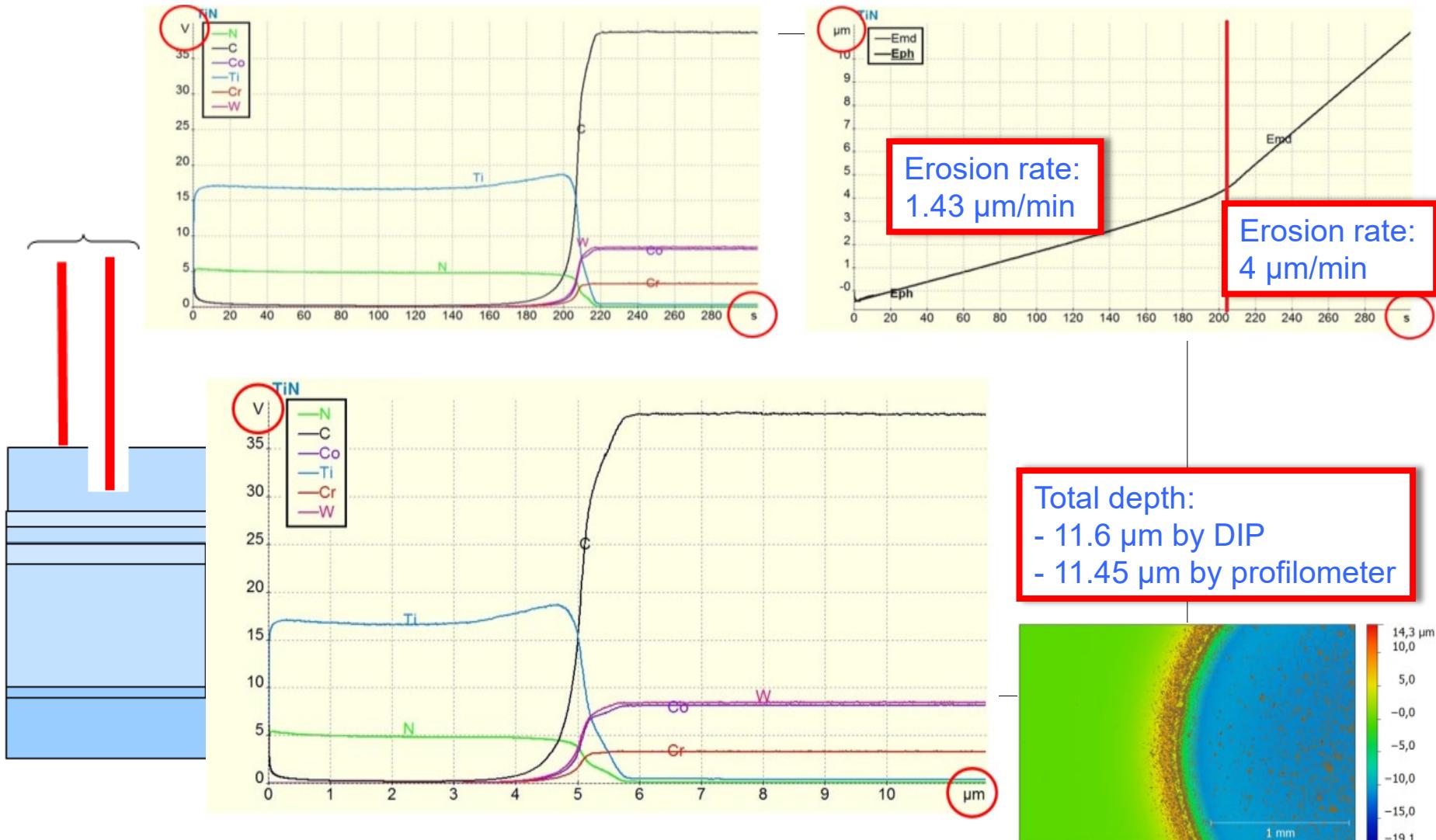


# Smart and Compact Design



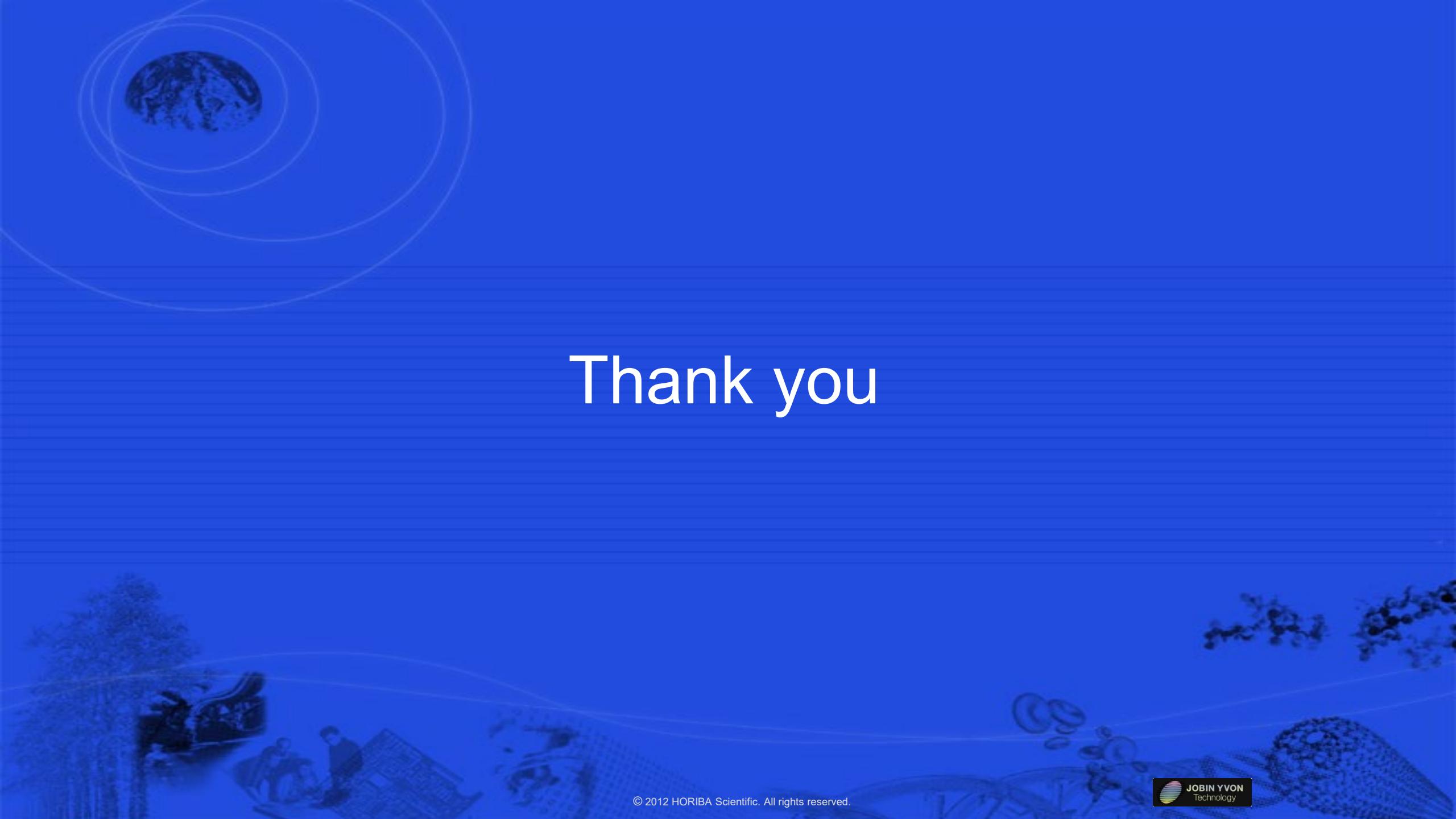
Retrofit possible on  
existing systems !

# DiP Application: TiN Coating on WC



# Conclusion

- Pulsed Rf GD-OES for conductive and non-conductive materials
- Unique patented features are essential to obtain valuable depth profile on a large variety of materials (Pulsed Rf, UFS, Li Bell...)
- Handling strategies and operating procedures have been developed for numerous applications
- Layers from nm to 150 microns and more...
- From ppm to 100%
- Complementary to SIMS, XPS...
- Affordable, robust, and fast



# Thank you

# Coming Up...



65

ADVENTURES IN  
WAVELENGTH  
DISPERSIVE X-RAY  
FLUORESCENCE  
(WDXRF): FLEXIBLE  
ELEMENT ANALYSIS  
FOR THIN FILMS  
PIONEERS

SPEAKER:

**Meredith Beebe**

Semiconductor X-ray  
Metrology Specialist,  
Rigaku

January 27, 2022 | 11am PT



LASER ABLATION  
INDUCTIVELY  
COUPLED PLASMA  
MASS  
SPECTROSCOPY:  
NOT JUST ROCKS

SPEAKER:

**Lucas Smith**

Director of Business Development  
for the Americas,  
Teledyne CETAC

February 10, 2022 | 11am PT



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Schedule your Appointment Now with Calendly  
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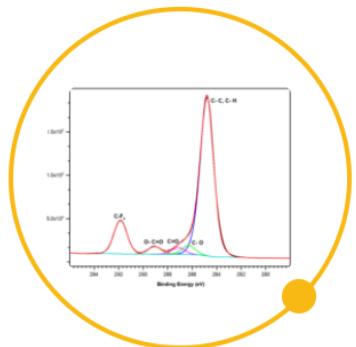
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## Access Covalent Portals

### Customer Access to Data & Community Content



The DATA PORTAL is used by Customers and Lab Partners for uploading and downloading data. It requires two-factor authentication and advanced password protection. Data Portal users have complete access through their home page on the portal to all Community content, and do not require a separate Community account.

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### Community Content Access for All Other Users



The COVALENT COMMUNITY PORTAL requires password entry. It contains webinar and other metrology and characterization-related content that we believe would be useful and educational for the materials science innovation community. It does not provide access to any customer data and should only be used by individuals that are not Covalent customers or lab partners.

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# Q & A Session



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Thank you