

## Summer school on Epitaxy

**Speakers** 

Alberto Pimpinelli, Jean-Noël Aqua, Noëlle Gogneau, Alexandre Arnoult, Jean-Christophe Harmand,

Matthieu Jamet, Guillaume

Saint-Girons, Michele Amato,

Delphine Lagarde, Anne Ponchet, Ülrike Lüders, Julien Brault, Eric Tournier, Hélène Carrere, Clément Mercking

### Porquerolles June 22-27 2025



#### Organizing Committee

Mathieu Abel , Jean-Noël Aqua Thierry Baron , Hélène Carrere Ulrike Lüders, Laurence Méchin



Location

Hôtel Club IGESA - Rue de la Douane Île de Porquerolles - 83400 HYÈRES



Theoretical concepts Experimental description Characterization Properties of nanostructure Technological application



### **Registration** at:

Graphic conception: Cécile Duflot, INSP - © Frédéric Ducarme, INSP







	Monday 23rd	Tuesday 24th	Wednesday 25th	Thursday 26th	Friday 27th
8h30-10h	I.1 Crystal in and out of equilibrium Jean-Noël Aqua	III.1 Electronic and optical properties computation Michele Amato	I. 3 Growth on a stepped surface Alberto Pimpinelli	IV. 1 Electronic applications Julien Brault	IV. 2 Optical applications Fauzia Jabeen
10h-10h30 coffee break					
10h30-12h	II. 1 Instrumental epitaxy Noëlle Gogneau	III.3 Structural and chemical characterization in heteroepitaxy Philippe Venegues	IV.3 Oxides applications Clément Merckling	II. 7 Epitaxy of metals: concepts and comparisons Stéphane Andrieu	III.4 Novel properties of oxides Ulrike Luders
LUNCH					
14h-15h30	II. 2 In-situ monitoring Alexandre Arnoult	I.4 Growth modes Pierre Müller	OFF	II. 5 Epitaxial growth of 2D materials Matthieu Jamet	
15h30-16h coffee break					
16h-17h30	II. 6 Comparison of different epitaxy: oxides, semi- conductors, and oxides/semiconductors integration Guillaume Saint-Girons	Epitaxial growth of quantum nanostructures Frank Glas		III.2 Electronic, electric and optical properties: characterization Delphine Lagarde	
17h30-18h coffee break					
18h-19h30	I. 2 Nucleation and coarsening Alberto Pimpinelli	II. 3 Self-organization and surface structuration Noëlle Gogneau		round table : From fundamental reseach to industry Nicolas Vaissiere (3-5 Lab) Fabien Deprat (STMicro) Clément Merckling (IMEC)	
20h30-22h		POSTERS			

#### https://matepi2025.sciencesconf.org



## Crystals in and out of equilibrium

### Jean-Noël Aqua

- I. Crystal growth vs equilibrium
- II. Equilibrium
  - 1. Phase transition
  - 2. Phase separation
  - 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals
    - a. Gibbs-Curie-Wulff theorem
    - b. Wulff construction
    - c. Kaischew construction
    - d. Wulff today
    - e. Continuous shape
    - f. Continuous Wulff construction
    - g. Inverse Wulff construction
  - 4. Atomistic crystal shapes
  - 5. Step fluctuations on vicinal surfaces
  - 6. Roughening transition
    - a. Jackson model
    - b. Morphologies
    - c. Mean-field approach
    - d. Correlations
    - e. Renormalisation group
    - f. Experiments

- III. Out-of-equilibrium properties
  - 1. Ideal laws
  - 2. Kinetic Wulf theorem
  - 3. Kinetics-limited growth
    - a. Nucleation
    - b. Step growth
    - c. Noise induced roughening
    - d. Growth under constraint
  - 4. Theoretical tools for epitaxy

Agua 13 : J.-N. Agua et al, Phys. Rev. Lett 110 (2013) 096101 Balibar 05 : S. Balibar et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 77 (2005) 317 Barmparis 15 : G.D. Barmparis et al, Beilstein J. Nanotechnol 6 (2015) 361 Bermond 95 : Bermond, Métois et al, Surf Sci 330 (1995) 48 Bouvala 21 : Boukouvala et al. Nano Convergence 8 (2021) 26 Bru 03 : Bru et al, BioPhys J. 85 (2003) 2948 Cherepanov 02 : V. Cherepanov, B. Voigtlander, Appl. Phys. Lett. 81 (2002) 4745 De Boer 18 ; J. P. De Boer et al. J. Chem. Phys. 149 (2018) 194107 Facsko 99 : Facsko, et al, Science 285 (1999) 1551 Glas 10 : F. Glas et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010) 135501 Heiss 13 : M. Heiss et al, Nature Mat. 12 (2013) 439 Heyraud 87, J.C. Heyraud, J.J. Métois, J. Cryst. Growth 82 (1987) 269 Hevraud 99 : J.C. Hevraud et al, Surf Sci 425 (1999) 48 Hoogeman 99 : M.S. Hoogeman et al, Phys. Rev. Lett 82 (1999) 1728 Hoogeman 00 : M.S. Hoogeman, J.W.M. Frenkel, Surf. Sci. 448 (2000) 155 Hwang 91 : R.Q. Hwang, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 67 (1991) 3279 Jeong 99 : H.-C. Jeong, E.D. Williams, Surf. Sci. Rep. 34 (1999) 171 Lagally 90 : M. Lagally, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett., 65 (1990) 1913 Lanzoni 24 : D. Lanzoni et al, APL Mach. Learn. 2 (2024) 036108 Leamy 74 : Leamy, Gilmer, J. Cryst. Growth, 24/25 (1974) 499 Medeiros 98 : G. Medereiros-Ribeiro et al, Science 279 (1998) 353 Métois 87 : Métois, Heyraud, Surf. Sci. 180 (1987) 647 Misbah 10 : C. Misbah, et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 82 (2010) 981 Mo 91 : Y.W. Mo, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 66 (1991) 1998 Ozaydin 08 : Ozaydin et al, J. Appl. Phys. **103** (2008) 033512 Picasso : Le taureau 1945 Rottman : Craig Rottman Phys Rev B 24 (1981) 6274 Saito 96 : Yukio Saito, Statistical Physics of Crystal Growth, World Scientific Sangiovanni 18: D.G. Sangiovanni, Appl. Surf. Sci. 450 (2018) 180 Sun 08 : Q. Sun, J. Appl. Phys. 104 (2008) 093523 Tran 16 : Tran et al. Scientific Data 3 (2016) 160080 Willams 94 : E.D. Williams, Surface Science 299/300 (1994) 502 Woods 14 : C.R. Woods et al, Nat. Phys. 10 (2014) 451 WulffPack: https://wulffpack.materialsmodeling.org/ Zhang 16 ; Q. Zhang et al. J. Mech. Phys. Sol., **91** (2016) 73 Ziberi 05 : Ziberi et al, Phys. Rev. B 72 (2005) 235310

## I. Crystal growth vs equilibrium

Crystalline forms result from growth processes and their proximity (or not) to equilibrium.



gypsum







<sup>4</sup>He



Cs



 $H_2O$ 



Cu<sub>2</sub>O

> NEED to understand **both** equilibrium and out-of-equilibrium physics

Crystalline forms are usually \*not\* at equilibrium but metastable (with a long lifetime) states







**Self-organization** (self-assembly) : *in out-of-equilibrium systems, a spontaneous order arises from local interactions between smaller parts of an initially disordered system. The process can be spontaneous when sufficient energy is available, not needing control by any external agent. It is often triggered by seemingly random fluctuations, amplified by positive feedback. cf Wikipedia* 

... Order arises from disorder in out-of-equilibrium

Related to theory of chaos and non-linear analysis

Ex : crystallization, thermal convection of fluids, chemical oscillation, animal swarming ...



➡ NEED to understand **complex** systems

# Crystals in and out of equilibrium

I. Crystal growth vs equilibrium

### II. Equilibrium

### **1.** Phase transition

- 2. Phase separation
- 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals
  - a. Gibbs-Curie-Wulff theorem
  - b. Wulff construction
  - c. Kaischew construction
  - d. Wulff today
  - e. Continuous shape
  - f. Continuous Wulff construction
  - g. Inverse Wulff construction
- 4. Atomistic crystal shapes
- 5. Step fluctuations on vicinal surfaces
- 6. Roughening transition
  - a. Jackson model
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  - d. Correlations
  - e. Renormalisation group
  - f. Experiments

- III. Out-of-equilibrium properties
  - 1. Ideal laws
  - 2. Kinetic Wulf theorem
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At equilibrium, at given P and T one has to minimize  $G = U - T S + P V = \mu N$ 

 $\checkmark$  at low *T*, energy dominates :  $\mu_S < \mu_L$ 

the solid is the equilibrium state

 $\checkmark$  at high *T*, entropy dominates : the fluid wins

Phase separation occurs when  $G_L(T_M, P) = G_S(T_M, P)$ 

One defines the latent heat :  $L = T_M \Delta S$ 

$$\left. \frac{\partial G_L}{\partial T} \right|_P - \left. \frac{\partial G_S}{\partial T} \right|_P = -\frac{L}{T_M}$$

first order phase transition : discontinuity in the first derivative of the thermodynamic potential



## II. Equilibrium properties 1. Phase transition

Phase transition between solid/liquid/gas

At given *T* and *P*, one defines the **supersaturation** 

 $\Delta \mu(T, P) = \mu_v(T, P) - \mu_c(T, P)$ μ  $= [\mu_v(T, P) - \mu_v(T, P_{eq})] - [\mu_c(T, P) - \mu_c(T, P_{eq})]$  $\simeq \int_{P}^{P} \frac{\partial \mu_{v}}{\partial P} dP - \int_{P}^{P} \frac{\partial \mu_{c}}{\partial P} dP = \int (v_{v} - v_{c}) dP \simeq \int v_{v} dP$  $\simeq k_B T \ln \frac{P}{P_{eq}}$ assuming an ideal gas  $P_{eq}$  $\Delta \mu \simeq k_B T \ln \frac{F}{F}$  with  $F_{eq} = P_{eq} / \sqrt{2\pi m k_B T}$  $\Delta \mu = 2.5\,\mathrm{eV}$  for Si at  $T = 600\,\mathrm{K}$  with  $P_{eq} = 1.3\,10^{-32}\,\mathrm{atm}$  and  $F = 1\,\mathrm{ML/s}$ Growth from vapor « very far »  $\Delta \mu = 1.2 \,\mathrm{eV}$  for Si at  $T = 1000 \,\mathrm{K}$ from equilibrium  $\Delta \mu = -0.2 \,\mathrm{eV}$  for Si at  $T = 1400 \,\mathrm{K}$ **Cf Markov**  $\Delta \mu_l = 0.003 \,\mathrm{eV}$  for growth from liquid  $T - T_{melt} = -10 \,\mathrm{^{\circ}C}$ 

Liquid

Gas

Т

Crystal

## 2. Phase separation

There can be an equilibrium between **two** phases with non-flat **interfaces** 







2

1

Φ2

(a)

For a single phase, one has to minimize  $G = U - T S + P V = \mu N$ 

For 2 phases, one needs to consider the « cost » of the interface that is the excess quantity of the grand potential

$$G_{tot} = \mu_1 N_1 + \mu_2 N_2 + \int \gamma \, dS$$
  
Bulk quantities  
Surface energy  
Excess quantity



The surface energy  $\gamma$  can also be seen as the « cost » of the broken bonds at the surface (still with respect to the bulk case)



**Nozieres** 

## 2. Phase separation

Liquid / gas coexistence at given **total** *V* **and** *T* for a **spherical** nucleus *R* 

mechanical equilibrium

 $dF_{tot} = -P_v dV_v - P_l dV_l + \gamma dS$  $\Rightarrow P_l - P_v = \gamma \frac{dS}{dV_l} = \frac{2\gamma}{R}$ 

Laplace equation

More generally, with local curvatures

$$P_l - P_v = \gamma \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}\right)$$

One finds typically  $\Delta P = 1.5$  bar

for a water droplet of 1  $\mu {
m m}$  with  $~\gamma \sim 0.075 \, {
m J} \, {
m m}^{-2}$ 







### II. Equilibrium properties

## 2. Phase separation

Liquid / gas coexistence at given P and Tfor a spherical nucleus

thermodynamic equilibrium

 $dG_{tot} = \mu_v \, dN_v + \mu_l \, dN_l + \gamma \, dS$   $\Rightarrow \quad \mu_v - \mu_l = \gamma \frac{dS}{dN_l} = \frac{2\gamma\Omega}{r}$ Gibbs-Thomson equation  $\Omega$  atomic volume



gas - liquid

gas - solid

 $T < T_c$ 

gas

 $(\mu_v - \mu_l) \, \delta N = (P_l - P_v) \, \delta V$  is the work done to transfer  $\delta N$  particules from vapor to liquid With  $\Delta \mu(T, P) \simeq k_B T \ln \frac{P}{P_{eq}}$ , one gets  $P_{eq,R} = P_{eq,\infty} \exp\left(\frac{2\gamma\Omega}{R\,k_B T}\right)$ For a 1  $\mu$ m water droplet,  $P_{eq,R}/P_{eq,\infty} = 1.001$ For a 1 nm water droplet, "3.3

## 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals

Crystal / fluid coexistence at given V and Tfor a crystalline nucleus

Anisotropy of the surface energy

 $\gamma(\mathbf{n}) \quad \gamma( heta,\phi) \quad \gamma( heta)$ 



Usually, crystals shapes are faceted

What is the equilibrium shape of the crystal ??







### 3.a Gibbs - Curie - Wulff theorem

For a given V and T  $dF_{tot} = -P_v dV_v - P_c dV_c + \sum_n \gamma_n dS_n$  $= -(P_c - P_v) dV_c + \sum_n \gamma_n dS_n = 0$ 

We assume a polyhedron crystalline nucleus, made of pyramids with a common apex

$$V_c = \frac{1}{3} \sum_n h_n S_n$$
  
$$\implies \quad dV_c = \frac{1}{3} \sum_n (S_n dh_n + h_n dS_n)$$

Up to first order  $dV_c = \sum_n S_n dh_n$ 

$$\Rightarrow dV_c = \frac{1}{2} \sum_n h_n dS_n$$
$$\Rightarrow \sum_n \left[ \gamma_n - \frac{1}{2} (P_c - P_v) h_n \right] dS_n = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow P_c - P_v = 2\frac{\gamma_n}{h_n}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad rac{\gamma_n}{h_n} = cst \qquad ext{Gibbs - Curie - Wulff theorem}$$





## 3.b Wulff construction

Polyhedra form  $\frac{\gamma_n}{h_n} = cst$ 

the distances of the crystal faces from a point within the crystal are proportional to the faces surface energies



- draw vectors normal to all possible crystallographic faces from an arbitrary point
- distances proportional to the surface energies  $\gamma_n$  are marked on the vectors
- planes normal to the vectors are constructed through the marks
- the resulting closed polyhedron is the equilibrium shape
- crystal faces which only touch the apexes of this polyhedron or are situated even further do not belong to the equilibrium form



Miller index of (a) 3 and (b) 1.

II. Equilibrium properties 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals

## **3.c Kaishew construction**



в

Crystal in contact with a substrate

- consider the interfacial energy
  - to build 2 interfaces  $2U_{int} = U_{AA} + U_{BB} 2U_{AB}$
  - with  $\gamma_{hkl} = U_{hkl}/2S_{hkl}$   $\gamma_{int} = U_{int}/S_{AB}$ adhesion energy  $\beta = U_{AB}/S_{AB}$
  - Duprey relation  $\gamma_{int} = \gamma_A + \gamma_B \beta$

Equilibrium condition  $dF = -P_v dV_v - P_c dV_c + \sum_{n \neq m} \gamma_n dS_n + (\gamma_{int} - \gamma_{sub}) dS_m = 0$ 





 $h_1$ 

hm



Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>

## 3.d Wulff today

Nanoparticles : size and shape matters for their properties

... renewed interest for the Wulff construction



Cf Tran 16

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 kinetic growth, alloys, supported nanoparticles, twinned crystals etc Cf Boukouvala 21

✓ self-contained packages for predicting

crystal shapes





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8

nm

## **3.e Continuous shape**

For a given *P* and *T*, crystal / gas coexistence for an arbitrary shape

$$G[h(x,y)] = N_c \mu_c + N_l \mu_l + \int \gamma(\mathbf{n}) \, dS$$
$$G^{vol} = -\frac{\Delta \mu}{m} \int h(x,y) \, dx \, dy + c^{st}$$

$$G^{surf} = \int \gamma(\mathbf{n})\sqrt{1+\nabla h^2} \, dx \, dy) \equiv \int f(h_x, h_y) \, dx \, dy$$

At equilibrium  $\delta G = 0$ ,  $\forall \delta h(x, y)$ 

$$\delta G^{surf} = \int dx \, dy \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_x} \delta h_x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_y} \delta h_y \right]$$
$$= -\int dx \, dy \, \delta h \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_y} \right) \right]$$

The equilibrium solution satisfies  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial h_x} = -\frac{\Delta \mu}{2\Omega}x$  idem for y With the Legendre transformation,  $g(x,y) = f - h_x \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_x} - h_y \frac{\partial f}{\partial h_y} = \frac{\Delta \mu}{2\Omega}h(x,y)$   $\Rightarrow \frac{2\Omega}{\Delta \mu}\gamma = \frac{h - xh_x - yh_y}{\sqrt{1 + \nabla h^2}} = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}$  generalized Gibbs-Curie-Wulff theorem With the local approximate  $z = -\frac{x_1^2}{2R_1} - \frac{x_2^2}{2R_2}$  and surface stiffness  $\tilde{\gamma}_{ij} = \gamma \delta_{ij} + \frac{\partial^2 \gamma}{\partial \theta_i \partial \theta_j}$   $\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta \mu}{\Omega} = \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_{11}}{R_1} + \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_{22}}{R_2}$  Herring formula Cf Saito



#### II. Equilibrium properties 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals

## **3.f Continous Wulff construction**

Polyhedra form

 $\frac{2\Omega}{\Delta\mu}\gamma = \mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{n}$ 

- draw vectors normal to all possible directions
- mark distances proportional to the surface energies  $\gamma$
- construct through the marks planes normal to the vectors
- the envelop of the perpendicular planes

gives the equilibrium shape

Ex : the 2d Isina model 
$$\gamma(\theta)/k_BT = \cos\theta |\sinh^{-1}(\alpha |\cos\theta|)$$
  
 $\mathcal{H} = -\frac{J}{2} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} S_i S_j$   
 $\frac{k_BT_c}{J} = \frac{1}{\ln(\sqrt{2}+1)}$   
cf Rottman  
 $p = \frac{2 \sinh 2K}{\cosh^2 2K}$   
 $\frac{K = J/k_BT}{\frac{K = J/k_BT}{2}}$ 

Singular orientation give flat facets





### **3.g Inverse Wulff construction**

The correspondance between the crystal shape and surface energy allows to 'measure' surface energy ratios



II. Equilibrium properties 3. Equilibrium shape of crystals

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### 4. Atomistic crystal shapes

- 5. Step fluctuations on vicinal surfaces
- 6. Roughening transition
  - a. Jackson model
  - b. Morphologies
  - c. Mean-field approach
  - d. Correlations
  - e. Renormalisation group
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### 4. Atomistic crystal shapes

From an atomistic point of view, one can divide crystal surfaces in three groups

- ✓ F (flat) : parallel to at least 2 most dense rows of atoms
- ✓ S (stepped) : parallel to at most 1 dense rows of atoms
- $\checkmark$  K (kinked) : not parallel to any dense rows of atoms

For a cubic crystal, F : (001) ; S (110) ; K (111)

• Less broken bonds in F < S < K ...  $\gamma_F < \gamma_S < \gamma_K$ 



• K faces offer more kink sites ... they grow faster than S faces ... that grow faster than F faces (for low enough supersaturation to prevent nucleation, F faces do not grow)

For a vicinal surface



### 5. Step fluctuations on vicinal surfaces

At equilibrium, atomic microscopy (AFM, STM, SEM...) reveals step fluctuations as a function of T.



These step fluctuations allow to 'measure' step energetics.

Fluctuations are introduced thanks to the increase in entropy vs cost in energy G = U - T S + P V

the balance between the two is a function of temperature

### 5. Step fluctuations on vicinal surfaces



The kink density is continous, as all its derivative at  $T_R \langle |n_i| \rangle = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(1/T - 1/T_R)J/k_B}}$ 



(N-1)a

Cf Saito

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## 6. Roughening transition

> The roughening transition occurs when a crystalline interface changes from a smooth to a rough state at some temperature  $T_R$ 

- $T < T_R$  the surface is made of flat facets
- $T > T_R$  the surface is rough and may be curved

This transition is a smooth, infinite order transition !

It is belongs to the Berezinskii - Kosterlitz - Thouless universality class

 $\gamma$ 

First demonstrated for vicinal surfaces by Burton-Cabrera-Franck

$$\frac{\gamma(\theta)}{|\cos \theta|} = \gamma_0 + (\beta_0/a) |\tan \theta| + (\beta_2/a) |\tan^3 \theta|$$
  
step energy  

$$\beta_0 \neq 0 \quad \gamma(\theta) \simeq \gamma_0 + \beta_0/a |\theta| + \mathcal{O}(\theta^2)$$
  
Cusp singularity in  $\gamma$   
 $\gamma_0 \stackrel{\theta}{\gamma}(\theta)$   
 $\gamma_0 \stackrel{\theta}{\gamma}(\theta)$ 





<sup>4</sup>He Balibar 05

 $eta_0=0\quad \gamma( heta)\simeq \gamma_0+\gamma_2 heta^2+\mathcal{O}( heta^3)$ 



No singularity in  $\gamma$ 

no facet in the equilibrium shape

### **II.** Equilibrium properties

### 6.a Jackson model

Simplify model :

- ✓ the interface is made of a single layer, divided into a 2D lattice, where each site is either occupied or empty
- ✓ each of the *N* sites has  $z_s$  neighbor sites
- $\checkmark$  cohesive energy J between neighboring crystal atoms

The broken bond Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left[ n_i (1 - n_j) + (1 - n_i) n_j \right] + \Delta \mu \sum_i n_i$$





with  $n_i = 0, 1$ , is equivalent to the Ising model  $\mathcal{H} = -\frac{J}{2} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} S_i S_j - H \sum_i S_i$  with  $S_i = +1, -1, H = \Delta \mu/2$  ... there exists a phase transition

**Mean-field** treatment  $E_{coh} = z_s J N_s (1 - N_s/N)$  where  $N_s$  is the number of atoms There are  $\Omega = \binom{N}{N_s}$  possible states and  $S = k_B \log \Omega$   $\dots F = E - T S = J N z_s \left[ x(1 - x) + \frac{T}{2T_R} \left( x \log x + (1 - x) \log(1 - x) \right) \right]$ with  $x = N_s/N \& T_R = J z_s/2k_B$  $T < T_R \quad x \simeq 1/2$  rough interface

 $T > T_R$   $x \simeq 0$  ou 1 smooth face



## **6.b Morphologies**

### experiments on <sup>4</sup>He



Balibar 05

### Monte-Carlo simulations of the SOS model



Leamy 74

 $k_B T_R / 2 J = 0.632 J$ 

## 6.c Mean-field approach

- Crude estimate of the free energy cost to create a monolayer island
- Consider an island enclosed by a step loop of length L



$$\Rightarrow F_{step} = [J - k_B T \ln(z_s - 1)](L/a) = \beta_0(L)L$$

- At  $T_R = J/k_B \ln(z_s-1)$ , the step free energy vanishes  $eta_0 = 0$
- ✓  $T < T_R, \beta_0 > 0$ , *F* is minimum at *L*=0, no island, flat
- ✓  $T > T_R, \beta_0 < 0$ , *F* is minimum at  $L = \infty$ , many islands, rough



trerace step

kink,

 $F_{step}$ 



### 6.d Correlations

For a rough continuum surface (above  $T_R$ ):

$$F^{surf} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} \,\tilde{\gamma}(0) [\nabla h(\mathbf{r})]^2 = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \tilde{\gamma}(0) k^2 |h(\mathbf{k})|^2 \implies |h(\mathbf{k})|^2 = \frac{k_B T}{\tilde{\gamma} k^2} \quad \text{(equipartition)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad G(\mathbf{r}) = 2 \int \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \langle |h(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle (1 - \cos \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \sim \int_{1/r}^{\pi/a} \frac{k dk}{\pi} \frac{k_B T}{\tilde{\gamma} k^2}$$

$$\frac{G(\mathbf{r}) \sim \frac{k_B T}{\pi \tilde{\gamma}} \ln(r/a) + c^{st}}{\pi \tilde{\gamma}} \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\to} \infty}{\chi h^2} \qquad (equipartition)$$

On a flat surface (below  $T_R$ ), an island free energy is  $\Delta F = 2\pi r \beta_0$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  Small islands  $r \leq \xi = k_B T / \beta_0$  are thermally excited



✓ between two points separated by  $r \le \xi$ , heights behave like on a rough surface  $G(r) \sim \ln r$ ✓ Fo  $r \ge \xi$ , islands are separated, G(r) should saturate  $G(r) \sim \ln \xi$ 



II. Equilibrium properties 6. Roughening transition

## 6.e Renormalisation group

For a rough interface with a crystallographic potential

$$\left\langle \cos(2\pi h/a) \right\rangle \sim \left\langle 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2\pi h}{a}\right)^2 \right\rangle \sim \exp\left(-2\pi^2 \frac{\langle h^2 \rangle}{a^2}\right)$$

scaling analysis  $\langle V \rangle \sim V L^2 \exp\left(-2\pi^2 \frac{\langle h^2 \rangle}{a^2}\right) \sim V L^{2-\pi k_B T/\tilde{\gamma} a^2}$ 

If  $T > T_R \equiv 2\tilde{\gamma}a^2/\pi k_B$ , the crystallographic potential vanishes during renormalization ... behaves as before with  $G(r) \sim \ln r$  at large r: rough surface

- If  $T < T_R$ , the potential diverges upon coarse-graining ... the surface is pinned to the crystallographic orientation,  $G(r) \sim \ln \xi$  at large r: flat surface The correlation length is  $\xi \sim e^{\frac{c}{\sqrt{T_R - T}}}$
- At  $T_R$ , the line energy vanishes as  $k_B T/\xi$ , as do all its derivatives !
- ✓ infinite order transition, in the universality class as Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless transition
- $\checkmark$  no order parameter, no symmetry breaking
- $\checkmark$  no singularity at the transition, no latent heat
- Analogous to the phase transition in
  - superfluid/normal fluid
  - superconductor/metal
  - conductor/isolator in 2D charged fluids
  - XY model of ferromagnet

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \tilde{\gamma}(0) (\nabla h)^2 + V \cos(\frac{2\pi z}{a}) \right]$$

### **6.f Experiments**

Above  $T_R$ , the interface is rough, the growth rate is linear in  $\Delta \mu$ 

Below  $T_R$ ,  $V \propto \Delta \mu \exp(-K_2/\Delta \mu)$ 

At  $T_R$ , the step ener energy vanishes  $\sim e^{-\sqrt{T_R - T}}$ 





Silicium : (110)  $T_R = 1340 \text{ °C}$ ; (113)  $T_R = 1370 \text{ °C}$ ; (111) no transition up to 1400 °C; (001) always rough Heyraud 99

# Crystals in and out of equilibrium

- I. Crystal growth vs equilibrium
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### III. Out-of-equilibrium properties

- 1. Ideal laws
- 2. Kinetic Wulf theorem
- 3. Kinetics-limited growth
  - a. Nucleation
  - b. Step growth
  - c. Noise induced roughening
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- 4. Theoretical tools for epitaxy

## III. Out-of-Equilibrium 1. Ideal laws

Ge growth on Si(001)



Cf Medeiros 98

### Ge equilibrium shape



 $\neq$ 

... need for the description of growth

Energy barrier for nucleation of a nanocrystal  $\Delta G = -\Delta \mu \frac{V}{\Omega} + \sum_{n} \gamma_n S_n$  &  $\frac{\gamma_n}{h_n^*} = \frac{\Delta \mu}{2\Omega}$ For a dilatation  $h_n = \alpha h_n^*$ ,  $S_n = \alpha^2 S_n^*$ ,  $V = \alpha^3 V^*$ 

.... 
$$G = G_{max}(3\alpha^2 - 2\alpha^3)$$
 with  $G_{max} = \frac{\Delta\mu}{2\Omega}V^*$ 

with thermal fluctuations

a nucleus with *V*<*V*\* melts back a nucleus with *V*>*V*\* grows



### 1. Ideal laws

For a **supercooled liquid** :

- atomic vibrations  $\nu \sim 10^{13}\,{
  m s}^{-1}$
- liquid --> crystal events  $\nu e^{-\beta E_d}$
- crystal --> liquid events  $\nu e^{-\beta(E_d + \Delta \mu)}$



The crystallisation front advances at the speed  $v = a\nu \left[e^{\beta E_d} - e^{-\beta(E_d + \Delta\mu)}\right]$ 

The growth rate is  $v = K \left[ 1 - e^{-\beta \Delta \mu} \right]$  Wilson-Frenkel ideal law for growth from a liquid For small undercooling  $\Delta \mu = \frac{l}{T_M} \Delta T$ , linear dependance  $v = K_T \Delta T$ 

### 1. Ideal laws

Growth from vapor

• velocity distribution in a perfect gas  $\rho(\mathbf{v}) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi k_B T}\right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\beta \frac{1}{2}m\mathbf{v}^2\right)$ 

• during dt,  $\int dv_x dv_y \int_{-\infty}^0 dv_z \rho(\mathbf{v}) Sv_z dt n = S dt \sqrt{\frac{k_B T}{2\pi m}} n$  particles hit the surface

- assuming perfect sticking, adsorption enforces the advance of the crystallisation front by  $v_{+} = a a^{2} dt \frac{P}{\sqrt{2\pi m k_{P} T}}$
- desorption balances adsorption at saturation vapour pressure  $v_{-} = -a a^2 dt \frac{P_{eq}}{\sqrt{2\pi m k_B T}}$

Ideally, the growth rate for growth from a gas  $v = \frac{a^3}{\sqrt{2\pi m k_B T}}(P - P_{eq})$  Hertz-Knudsen law For an ideal gas,  $\Delta \mu \simeq k_B T \ln \frac{P}{P_{eq}}$  $\Rightarrow v = K(e^{\beta \Delta \mu} - 1) \approx \beta K \Delta \mu$  ideal law (rough interface, no transport issue in the gas ...)

 $\Omega P_{rr}$ 



According to the ideal laws, but also to the linear response theory  $V(n) = K(n) \Delta \mu$ 

For a facet with given orientation,  $h(\mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \int_{0}^{t} dt V(\mathbf{n}) = V(\mathbf{n}) t = K(\mathbf{n}) \Delta \mu t$ 

 $\Rightarrow \text{ kinetic Wulff theorem } \frac{K(\boldsymbol{n})}{h(\boldsymbol{n})} = \frac{1}{\Delta \mu t} = c^{st}$ similar to the equilibrium Wulff theorem  $\frac{\gamma(\boldsymbol{n})}{h(\boldsymbol{n})} = \frac{\Delta \mu}{2\Omega}$ 





- ✓ Growth shapes are dominated by the slowest faces
  ✓ Melting shapes are dominated by the fastest faces



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similar to the equilibrium Wulff theorem  $\frac{\gamma(n)}{h(n)} = \frac{\Delta \mu}{2\Omega}$ 





✓ Growth shapes are dominated by the slowest faces✓ Melting shapes are dominated by the fastest faces

### Ex: GaN

complex growth phenomena can be explained by kinetic Wulff plots





Sun 08

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### 3. Kinetics-limited growth

Beyond ideal laws, we need to understand the atomistic processes that govern growth



### 3. Kinetics-limited growth

Beyond ideal laws, we need to understand the atomistic processes that govern growth



### **3.a Nucleation**

Thermodynamic theory of nucleation





### Rate theory of aggregation/desorption

$$\underbrace{n}_{w_{\bullet}(n+1)} \underbrace{w_{\bullet}(n)}_{w_{\bullet}(n+1)} \underbrace{\partial c(n)}_{\partial t} = w_{+}(n-1)c(n-1) - w_{-}(n)c(n) + w_{-}(n+1)c(n+1) - w_{+}(n)c(n)$$

... growth rate  $v_z \propto e^{-G_c/k_BT}$ 

### Below the roughening transition



## **3.b Step growth**

Coarse-grained approach with steps and diffusion equation on terraces Burton-Cabrera-Frank model

$$\frac{\partial c_n}{\partial t} = F - \frac{c_n}{\tau} + D_s \Delta c_n$$
Si (001)  
 $\alpha$ -amylase protein  
 $\psi_z \propto \xi^2 \tanh(\xi_0/\xi)$   
 $\xi = e^{\Delta \mu/k_B T} - 1$ 

Lagally 90

... step-bunching and step-meandering instabilities

Si (111)



Jeong 99





Misbah 10

v





 $f/f_{\rm eq} - 1 = \exp(\Delta \mu/k_{\rm B}T) - 1$ 

Cf Alberto Pimpinelli Wednesday 8h30

## **3.c Noise induced roughening**

Coarse-grained approach with steps and

Mass evolution : 
$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = G[h; x, t] + \eta(x, t)$$





Edwards-Wilkinson  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = F + \nu \Delta h + \eta(x, t)$ 

Kardar-Parisi-Zhang  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \nu \Delta h + \frac{\Lambda}{2} \nabla h^2 + \eta(x,t)$ 

... self-similar solutions and dynamical exponents





#### III. Out-of-equilibrium 3. Growth dictacted by kinetics

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### 4. Theoretical tools useful for epitaxy

Need for dynamical modelization

What do you see ?



Picasso

A line that makes you **think** of a bull : simple enough realistic enough ...but **not** a bull

Modelization :

skips irrelevant details to derive a simple enough model includes enough features to get a realistic description

Need a description that do the splits

- > From nm to  $\mu$ m ... cm
- from picoseconds to hours











III. Out-of-equilibrium

### ✓ Continuum equations

enable to describe

- macroscopic length scales
- macroscopic time scales
- a dynamical framework





Ex.: Can be implemented with deep-learning methods to integrate costly finite element methods integration

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = M\sqrt{1+{h'}^2}\frac{\partial^2\mu}{\partial s^2} + f,$$





Lanzoni 24

### ✓ Continuum equations

### ✓ Phase-field methods

Replace a sharp interface problem by a continuous field with fast local variations and a free energy

$$F[e,arphi] = \int d{f r} \left[ K |
abla arphi|^2 + h_0 f(arphi) + e_0 u(arphi)^2 
ight] \, .$$



Χ

Ex.: Used to investigate epitaxial kinetics and the sub-monolayer aggregation

φ**↑** 

0



2

3

(a)

### 4. Theoretical tools useful epitaxy

G G<sub>c</sub>

0

 $n_c$ 

✓ Continuum equations

- ✓ Phase-field methods
- ✓ Nucleation theory

kinetics of crossing an energy barrier, out-of-equilibrium statistical physics

$$J \propto Zw_+(n_c)c_\infty \exp(-G_c/k_BT)$$







n



### 4. Theoretical tools useful epitaxy

- ✓ Continuum equations
- Phase-field methods  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Nucleation theory
- Local thermodynamics  $\checkmark$ 
  - mass conservation  $u_n = -\Omega \nabla_s \cdot \mathbf{J}_s + f_n$ •
  - linear response (Onsager)  $\mathbf{J}_{s} = -M\nabla_{s}\mu \ vs \ K\Delta\mu$ •
  - appropriate free energy ...  $\mu$



Ex: GaAs/AlGaAs nanowires with quantum dots the growth shapes can lead to complex structures ... that can be reproduced by a generalization of the kinetic Wulff shapes with a facet thermodynamics



 $u_n$ 



Heiss 13





#### III. Out-of-equilibrium

- ✓ Continuum equations
- ✓ Phase-field methods
- ✓ Nucleation theory
- ✓ Local thermodynamics
- ✓ Kinetic Monte-Carlo
- ✓ Ab-initio molecular dynamics

- Solve Schrödinger equation with controlled approximations for the electronic part (with/without deep learning)
- $\hat{H} = \hat{T}_n(\{\mathbf{R}\}) + \hat{T}_e(\{\mathbf{R}\}) + \hat{V}_{nn}(\{\mathbf{R}\}) + \hat{V}_{ne}(\{\mathbf{R}\}, \{\mathbf{R}\}) + \hat{V}_{ee}(\{\mathbf{r}\})$
- ... then solve the classical dynamical equation for the ions  $m \mathbf{a}_n = \sum \mathbf{F}_n$

Ex: diffusion coefficient and nucleation of Cu on TiN(001)

Sangiovanni 18





- ✓ Continuum equations
- ✓ Phase-field methods
- ✓ Nucleation theory
- ✓ Local thermodynamics
- ✓ Kinetic Monte-Carlo

 $\checkmark$ 

. . .

✓ Ab-initio molecular dynamics



## **Other topics**

### Coarsening







0

0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

0 0

0 0  $A_0 \hat{n}_0$ 

00



Williams 94

$$\langle N(t) \rangle \sim t^{\zeta} , \quad \zeta = \frac{d}{3+d-D}$$



Commensurate/inconmensurate







Woods 14



0

0



cf **Stéphane Andrieu** Pierre Müller Alberto Pimpinelli