"Nothing happens till something moves" Challenges in modeling of non-equilibrium and time-dependent material systems

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# "Nothing happens till something moves"





#### **Non-equilibrium Systems**

#### National Academies Report (1999)

The term "nonequilibrium physics" means "the study of physical systems that are not in mechanical and thermal equilibrium with their surroundings.....

Time dependence of physical systems imply properties changing with time



# **Non-Equilibrium and Time Dependence**

#### Electronic Switching



#### **Non-Equilibrium and Time Dependence**

#### Chemical Reactions in *Synthesis*



H. Simka et.al

#### Conductance in Nanostructures



# **Non-Equilibrium and Time Dependence**

Electron *Transport* and Atomic *Migration* = *Electromigration* 



A. Bower et.al



#### **ITRS 2007 Emerging Research Vectors**

#### **Five research vectors \***

- 1. Energy > Computational state variables other than electronic charge
  - **Noise** > Non-equilibrium systems
- Interconnection > Novel energy transfer mechanisms
- 4. Heat >Nanoscale thermal management
- Manufacturing cost > Directed self assembly

\*Adopted by the Nanoelectronics Research Initiative (NRI), And International Technology Roadmap for Silicon (ITRS)

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# Detour: Nanotechnology and Moore's Law



#### Nanotechnology is...

Research and technology development at the atomic, molecular or macromolecular levels, in the length scale of approximately 1 - 100 nanometer range."

M. Roco, National Science and Technology Council, February 2000



# **Moore's Law - 1965**



#### **Moore's Law – 2009**



# **Materials World**





#### **Elemental Revolution**



#### **Elemental Revolution**

#### **Future Technology**



La Ce Pr Nd Pm Sm Eu Gd Tb Dy Ho Er Th Yb

# ~ 70 elements But only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the story



#### **Material Revolution**





# **Changing Paradigm**



#### **Predictive Materials Modeling**

# Synthesis: PrecursorSynthesis: SubstrateStructures and<br/>CompositionImage: Synthesis: PrecursorImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: PrecursorImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: PrecursorImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: Synthesis: Synthesis: SubstrateImage: Synthesis: SubstrateImag

Four major components on Synthesis, Structure & Composition, Probe interactions, and Properties

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100 150 Film Thickness (nm) 200

#### **Complexity – A Brief Detour**

Complex Systems are systems that comprise many interacting parts with the ability to generate a new quality of macroscopic collective behavior the manifestations of which are the spontaneous formation of distinctive temporal, spatial or functional structures

-From System Complexity to Emergent Properties, Springer (2009)

- Materials modeling (and hence *design of materials* for practical applications) of realistic structures is different than simple applications seen in literature and its "complexity" is determined by
  - Need to predict what is being measured
  - Need to address all convolutions that contribute to measurement





# Materials Modeling Complexity (continued)

#### Multi-property optimization

- Interactions
- Multi-structures



Multi-structures and

e-Photon Interactions

hetero-interfaces

Complexity

e-Plasmon

Interactions

Strong Correlation VI Domain Dynamics Spin-Orbit Interactions

e-Phonon Interactions Atomic Diffusion IV Time Dependence

(intel)

#### To Si or Not to Si is the question.....

Materials technology is a key player moving forward

According to Intel (Mark Bohr, May 2007), "We are now in an era where we have to continue to innovate with new materials and structures. New materials have been introduced at a higher pace than a few years ago."



In-Stat June 2007







# **Materials Design**



#### **Materials Design**

Combination of quantum methods and atomistic simulations for designing materials with desired characteristics



Quantum chemistry modeling applied to identify reactivity and fundamental mechanism for Cu ALD/CVD growth, not available experimentally => Contributed to first-of-a-kind 300mm ALD of pure, conformal, ultra-thin Cu



Atomistic Simulations developed and applied for engineering polymers => patent filed for tougher designed polymers with optimal thermal and mechanical properties



#### **Classical Non-equilibrium**



# **Quantum Non-equilibrium**



# Reference: A. Bower, P. Ho, S. Shankar (MRS, 2007, IOP, 2009)

# Classical Non-equilibrium: Electromigration



# Problem

#### Challenges

• Cu Damascene structures are heterogeneous due to interconnect morphology and materials

•Voids nucleation and evolution are system dependent;

- •Different material properties
- •Hetero-material interfaces
- •Triple boundaries
- •Current and mass transport
- •Stress effects

#### **Void Nucleation**

- Caused by stress induced debonding at interfaces
- Occurs early

#### **Void Evolution and Growth**

Caused by stress and electric current induced mass transport
Dominant part of sisterotranect life





#### Void nucleation/growth in 2 level structure





#### **Void-grain boundary interactions**

#### **Fast diffusion**



# Void nucleation, growth and evolution



Animation showing close-up of void. Note rapid failure after void meets grain boundary

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# **Comparison with experiments**



Hauschild et al (Proc AIP stress workshop, 2004)

- Void formation at interface.
- Void evolution at interface towards cathode end.

 Continuous void growth along the line with some growth into the via increasing the sigma value of void areas.

Conclusion – simulation predictions very similar to experiment. Minor differences are caused by discrepancy of grain boundaries between simulations and experiments

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# Quantum Non-equilbrium: Single-walled metallic CNT

Reference: S. Park, M. Haverty, K.J. Cho, H. Dai, S. Shankar (submitted)



#### Introduction

#### Experimental observations

- SWCNT conductance on metal electrodes < the ideal value of 4 e<sup>2</sup>/h
- Contact resistance depends on electrode metal type
- Conductance of SWCNT on Pd electrodes depends on CNT diameter

#### Objectives

• Understand cause of contact

resistance and determine the optimum metal for electrodes.

• Understand diameter dependence of contact resistance





#### **Transport Simulations for metallic CNT on Pd**

#### Simulation Details

- Single contact system
- Extended CNT structure on metal to vacuum
- Infinitely long metal contact

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#### **Conductance of CNT on Metal**

Three possible factors for the non-ideal (reduced) conductance

- Tunneling barrier between CNT and metal (red arrow)
- CNT conductance on metal: π bond disturbance due to metal (yellow)
- Conductance between the deformed CNT at the metal contact and un-deformed CNT in vacuum/insulator (green arrow)



#### **Tunneling Barriers Effects**

Simulated tunneling barrier from Fermi level and Electrostatic potential (see backup)

Influence of Metal Electrode Type

 Au tunneling barrier is high; Pd and Ti have no barrier (negative)

Influence of CNT Diameter

 Tunneling barriers becomes more negative as CNT diameter decreases



#### **CNT Conductance on Metal**

CNT Conductance simulation with underlying metal

- CNT on metal relaxed with ab initio simulations
- (5, 5) and (9, 0) on Au, Pd, and Ti,  $V_{ds} = 1V$ .
- Varied diameter of armchair and zigzag CNT on Pd

Conductance drop depends on type of metal and conductance increases with CNT diameter





# **Deformation of CNT on Metal**

#### Diameter in Vacuum

- CNT (5, 5): 6.83 Å
- CNT (9, 0): 7.09 Å

#### CNT on metal

- Au: small deformation
- Pd: egg-shape
- Ti: large deformation



#### **Interaction strength vs. conductance**

Tunneling barrier and Interaction strength is correlated.

• Strong interaction: Low tunneling

CNT conductance on metal and interaction strength is correlated.

• Strong interaction: Low CNT conductance

Interaction strength between CNT and metal determines conductance

- Weak interaction: high tunneling barrier & high CNT conductance
- Strong interaction: low tunneling barrier & low CNT conductance

However, good contact needs low tunneling barrier + high CNT conductance



# What about Future ?



#### Nanotechnology – Two major paradoxes

Size in nano dimensions, but

- Interfaces/bulk ratio >>1, interfaces modulate behavior (e.g pinning, voiding)
- Non-local effects manifest
  - Density of states modulated by neighboring materials and structures
- New structures or thin films which are chemically different, are integrated
  - High-k/Metal gate
  - Polymer ILD

Metrology unable to characterize precise specific effects, especially "buried" surfaces

Use modeling to deconvolve measurement



#### Material Dimensions falls between Molecules and Structures



#### **Existing Gaps**



Number of atoms a state of the art density functional theory algorithm can deal with:

 1985
 1990
 1995
 2000
 2005
 2010
 2015

 2
 >10
 >50
 500
 1,000
 ???

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# **Summary for Materials Modeling**

Identify specific areas need further research and development

#### Theory Development

 Examples: Extension of density functional theory-based techniques, low concentration defects, time-dependent systems, lanthanide elements and complex compounds (ternary and quaternary)

#### Algorithm Development

- Bridging time scales to simulate fully dynamical systems
  - E.g. Molecular dynamics of reactions, Transport of finite systems, Quantum Monte Carlo
- Bridging length scales for integrated systems
- Software Development
  - Scalability and Productization
- Not sure whether multi-scale techniques can be self-consistent
- We are trying to put together focus group in US for getting a common industry-academic platform for Computational Materials
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#### **Lessons for Complex System Modeling**

Complex system modeling is addressed by reductionism; other holistic approaches may need to be evaluated

Identify common simulation platform

- Each research group has its own set of codes and libraries
- Evolutionary change in technique development
- Targeting niche markets, expensive software with system requirements

Semiconductor Research Corporation is evaluating functional diversification

Integration of heterogeneous components including biological systems

