

# Self-assembly and Nanotechnology 10.524

## Lecture 3. Self-assembled Monolayers (SAM)

Instructor: Prof. Zhiyong Gu (Chemical Engineering  
& UML CHN/NCOE Nanomanufacturing Center)

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

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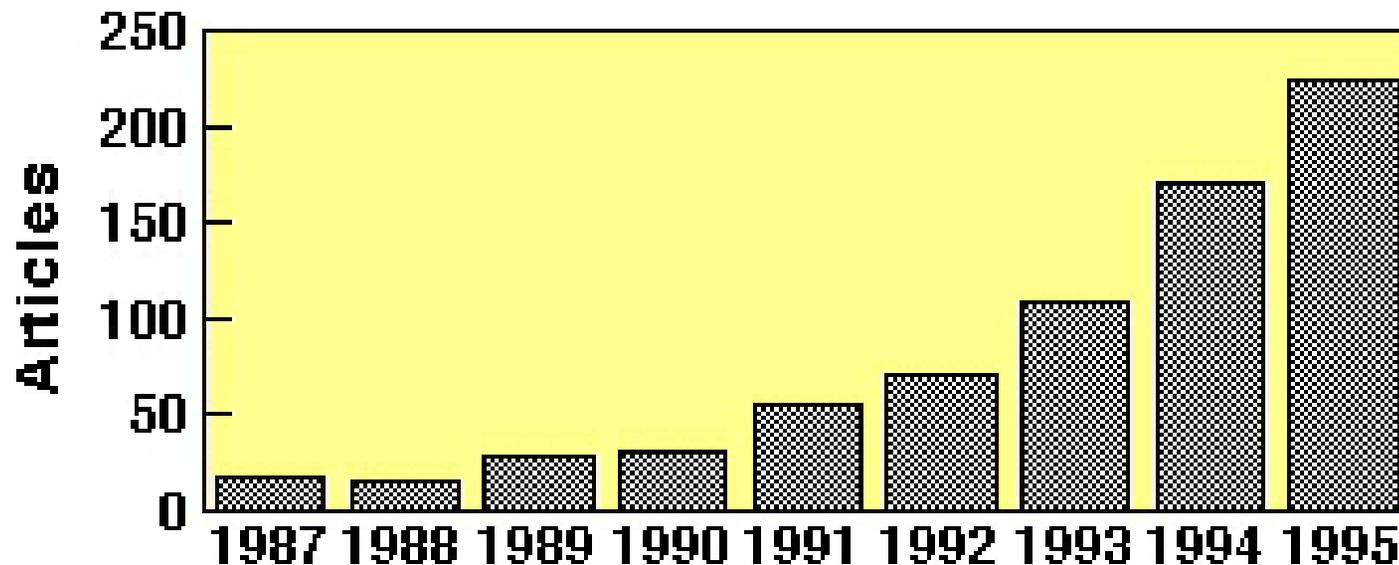
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- Definition of SAMs
- Structures & Properties
- Applications, including SAMs for nanofabrication and nanotechnology
- Case study: micro-contact printing

## Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

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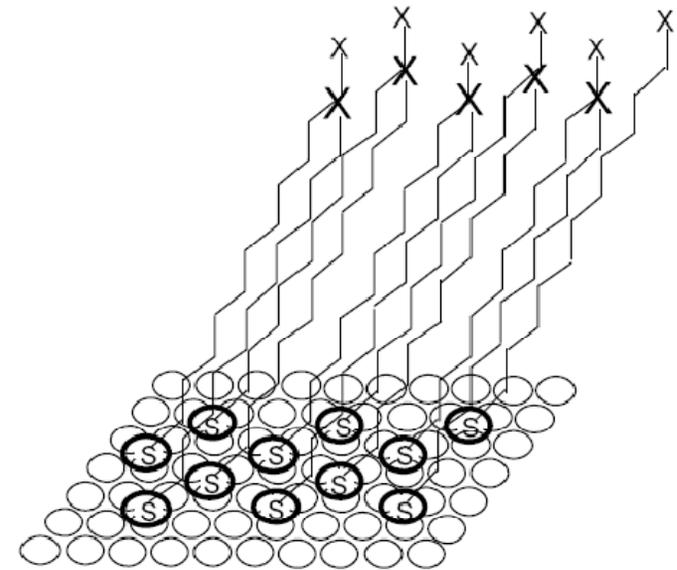
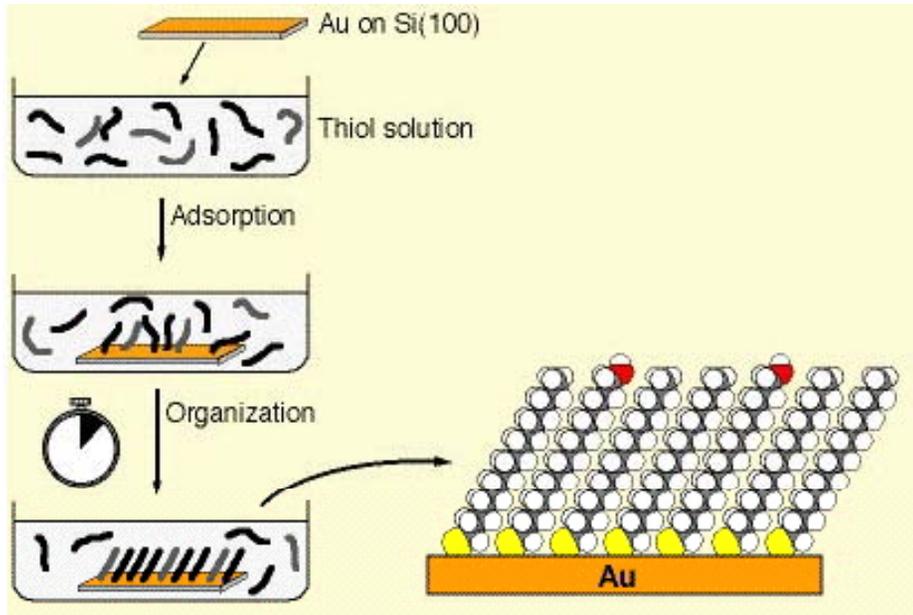
### Self-Assembled Monolayers



**Figure.** Number of published articles dealing with self-assembled monolayers per year, according to searches in the Chemical Abstracts and Science Citation Index databases

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

## Definition of monolayers

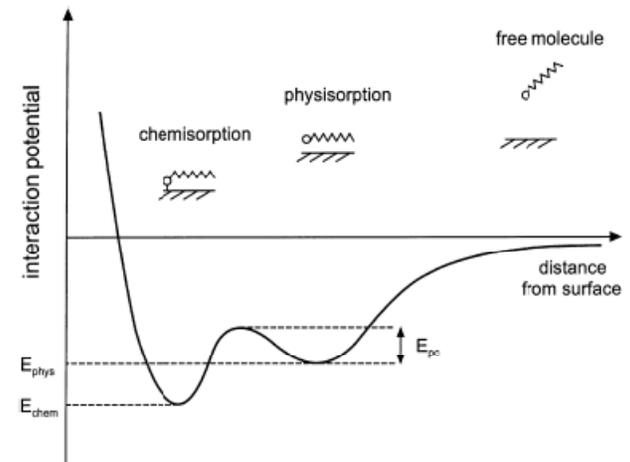
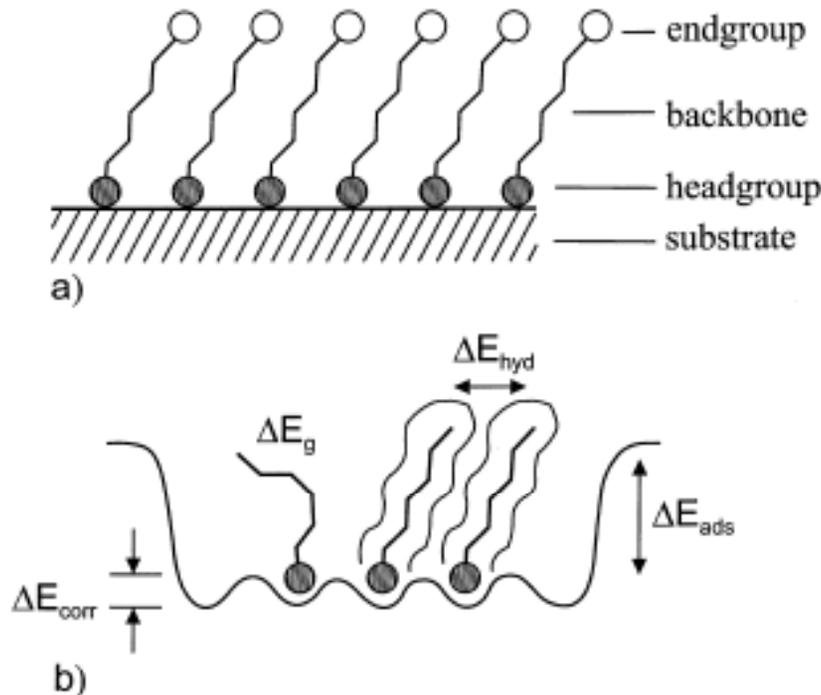


*“SAMs are ordered molecular assemblies formed by the adsorption of an active surfactant on a solid surface” (or other surfaces such as liquid)*

Abraham Ulman, *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, 96, 1533-1554

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

## Schematic of monolayers



Schematic of interaction potential between decanethiol and bare Au (111) surface as function of distance

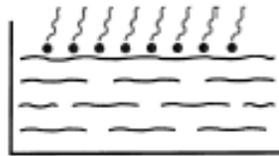
Fig. 2. (a) Schematic of SAM. Shaded circle indicates chemisorbing headgroup and open circle endgroup, which can be chosen from variety of chemical functionalities. (b) Schematic of different energies.  $\Delta E_{\text{ads}}$  stands for adsorption energy,  $\Delta E_{\text{corr}}$  corrugation of substrate potential experienced by molecule,  $\Delta E_{\text{hyd}}$  van der Waals interaction of (hydrocarbon) tails, and  $\Delta E_{\text{g}}$  energy of gauche defect (or, generally, deviation from fully stretched backbone).

F. Schreiber, *Progress in Surface Science* **2000**, 65, 151-256

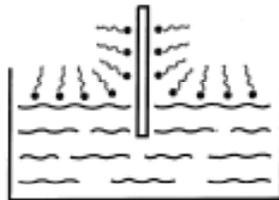
# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

## Preparation of monolayers

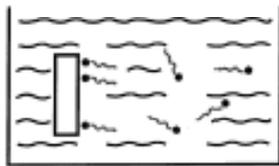
- Langmuir Films  
amphiphilic molecules  
at liquid/gas interface



- Langmuir-Blodgett Films  
Langmuir films  
transferred onto solid substrate



- Self-Assembled Monolayers  
grown from solution



- Self-Assembled Monolayers  
grown from vapor



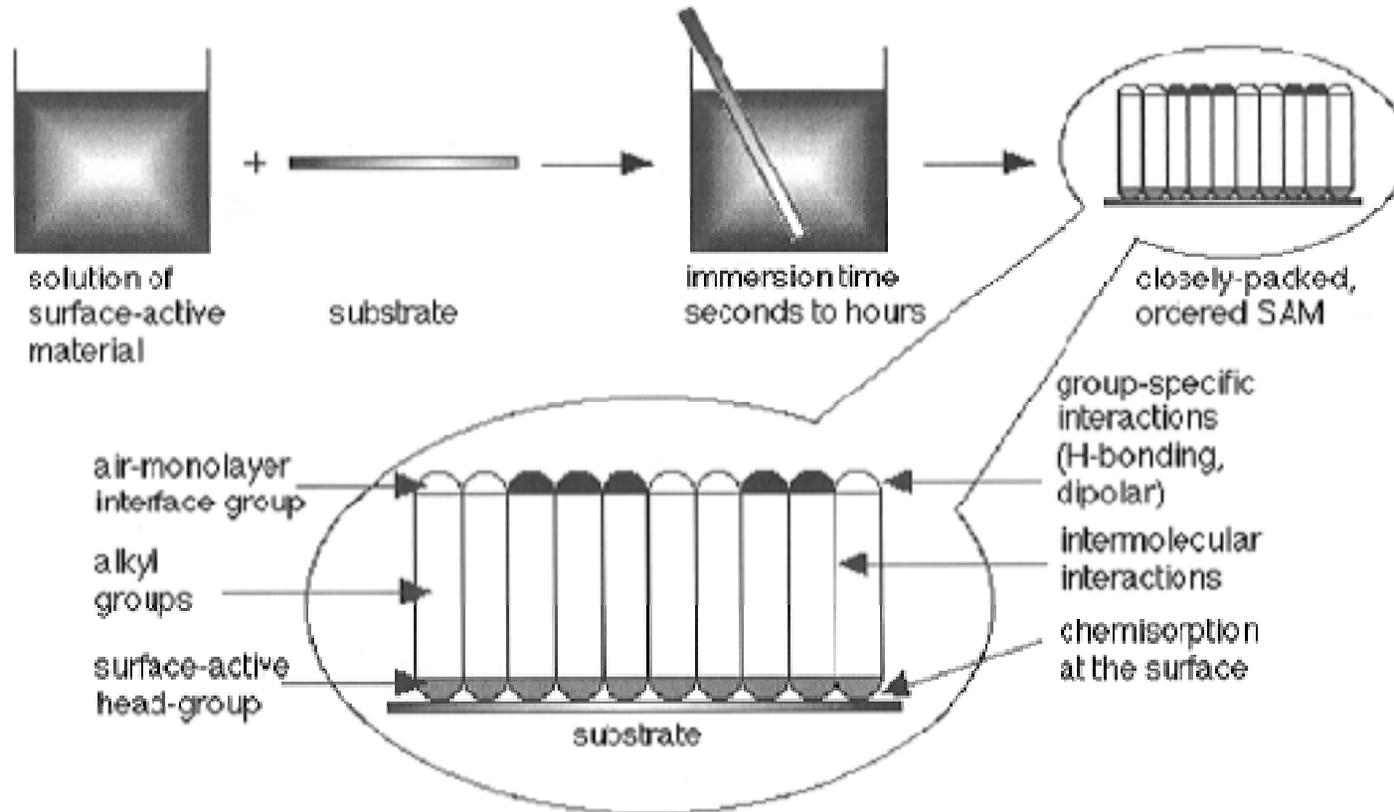
- Organic Molecular Beam Epitaxy  
similar to inorganic MBE



F. Schreiber, *Progress in Surface Science* **2000**, 65, 151-256

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

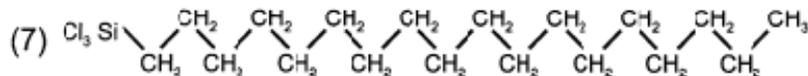
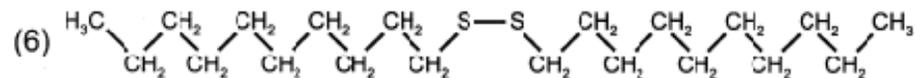
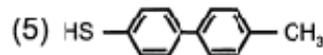
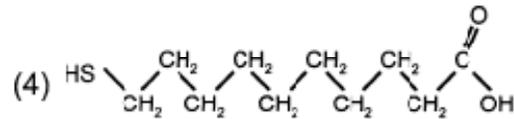
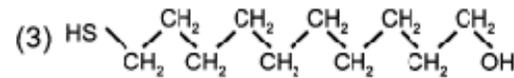
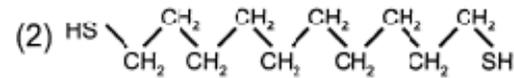
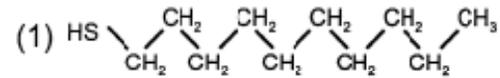
## From solution: immersion technique



Abraham Ulman, *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, *96*, 1533-1554

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

## Some frequently used monolayers



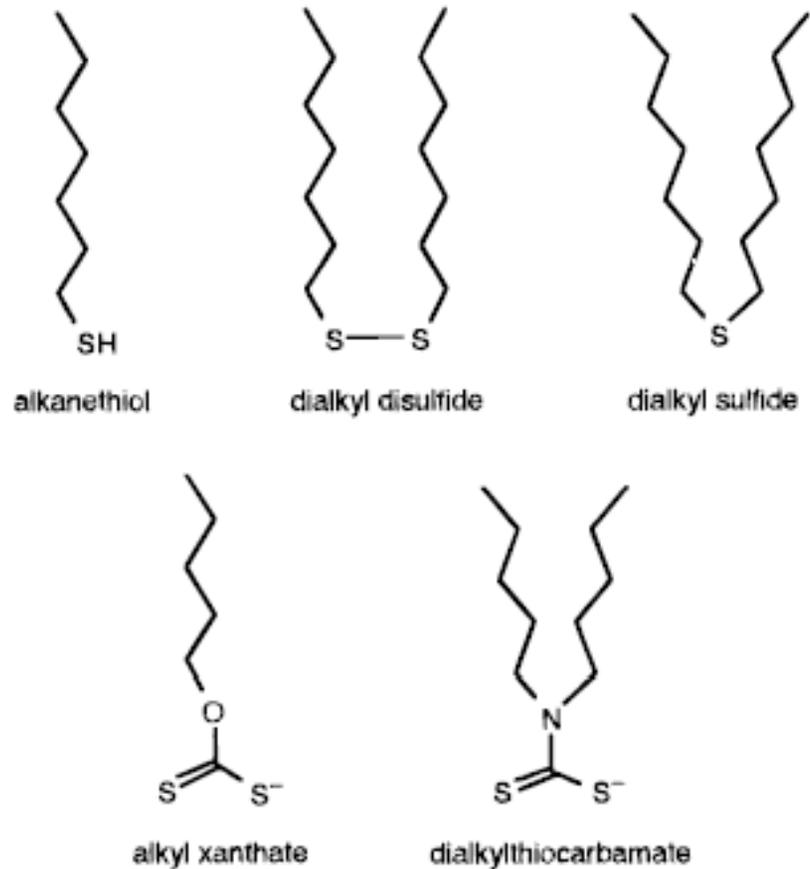
F. Schreiber, *Progress in Surface Science* **2000**, 65, 151-256



# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

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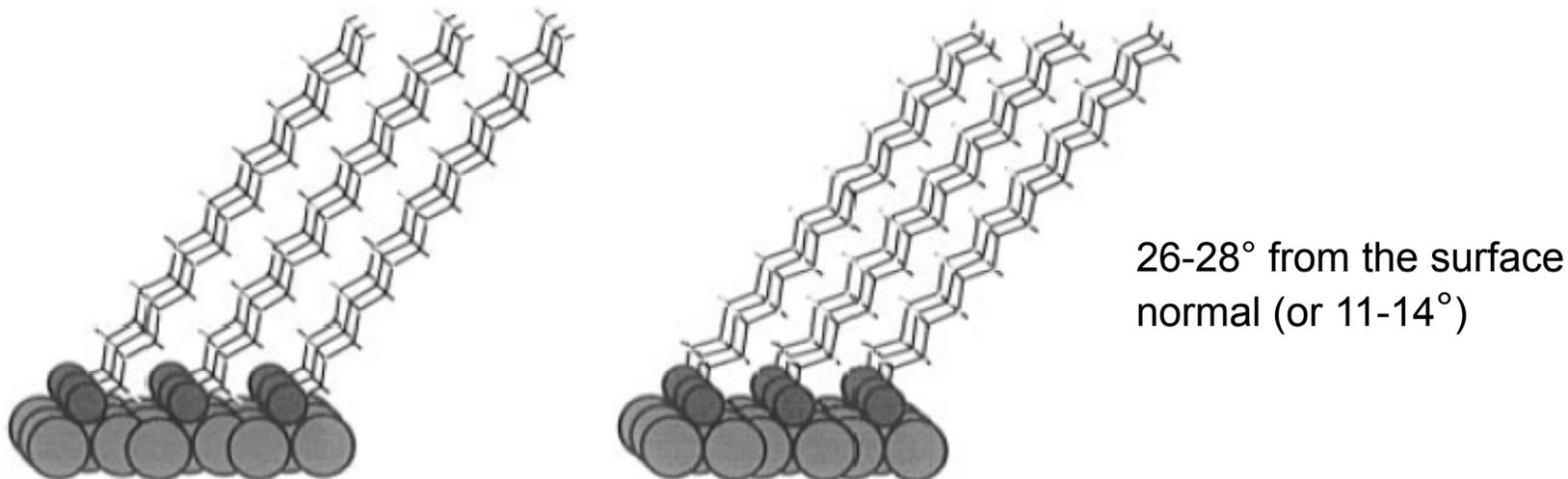
## Surface-active organosulfur compounds on gold



Abraham Ulman, *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, 96, 1533-1554

# Lecture 3: Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)

## Chain tilting in SAMs of thiolates on Au(111)

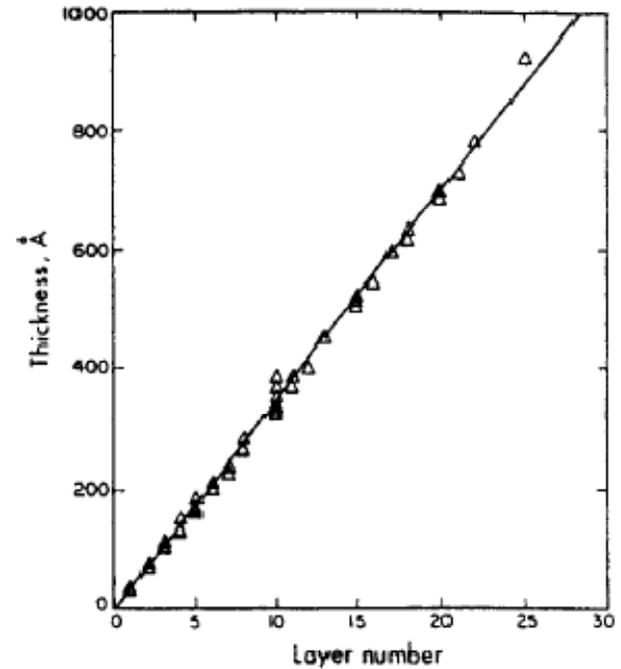
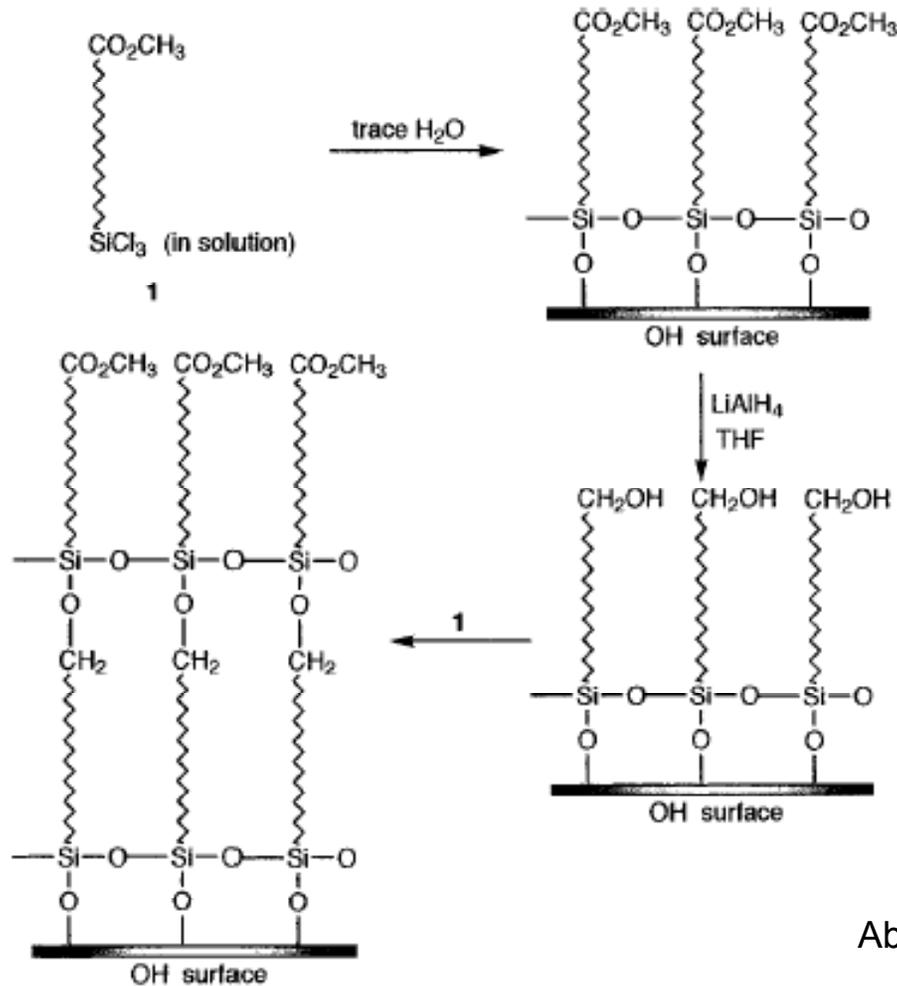


**Figure 11.** A view of the tilt in a nine-molecule section of a fully covered  $\text{SC}_{16}\text{H}_{33}$  monolayer on Au(111) minimized with a modified MM2 force field including the  $\text{sp}^3$  chemisorption parameters (left, calculated stabilization energy  $-23.29 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) and with the  $\text{sp}$  chemisorption parameters (right, calculated stabilization energy  $-22.25 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ ). The gold atoms are shown in light gray having their full van der Waals radii. The sulfur atoms are shown in dark gray and are not drawn to scale.

- This tilt is a result of the chains reestablishing VDW contact in an assembly with  $5 \text{ \AA}$  S ••• S distance, larger than the distance of  $4.6 \text{ \AA}$ , usually quoted for perpendicular alkyl chains in a close packed layer.

Abraham Ulman, *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, 96, 1533-1554

# Self-assembled Multilayers



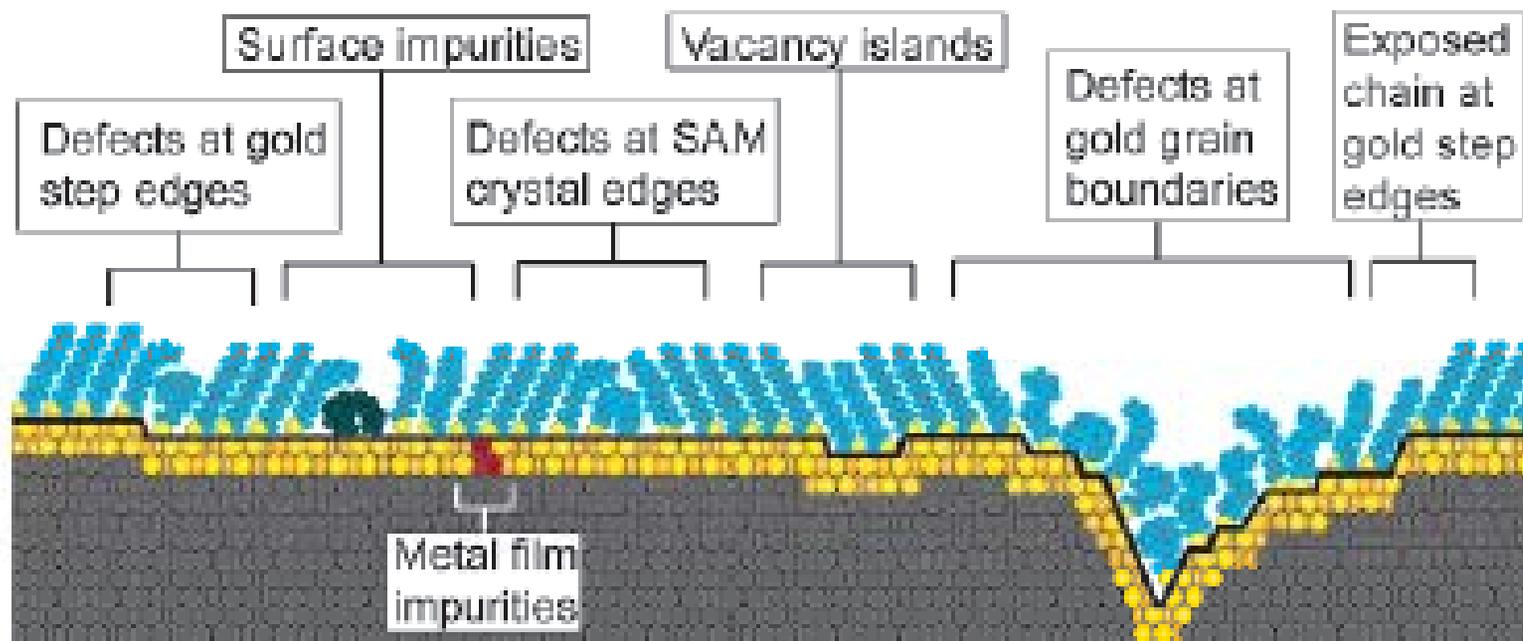
Film thickness vs layer number

Abraham Ulman, *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, *96*, 1533-1554

Construction of self-assembled multilayers

*Self-assembly and Nanotechnology*

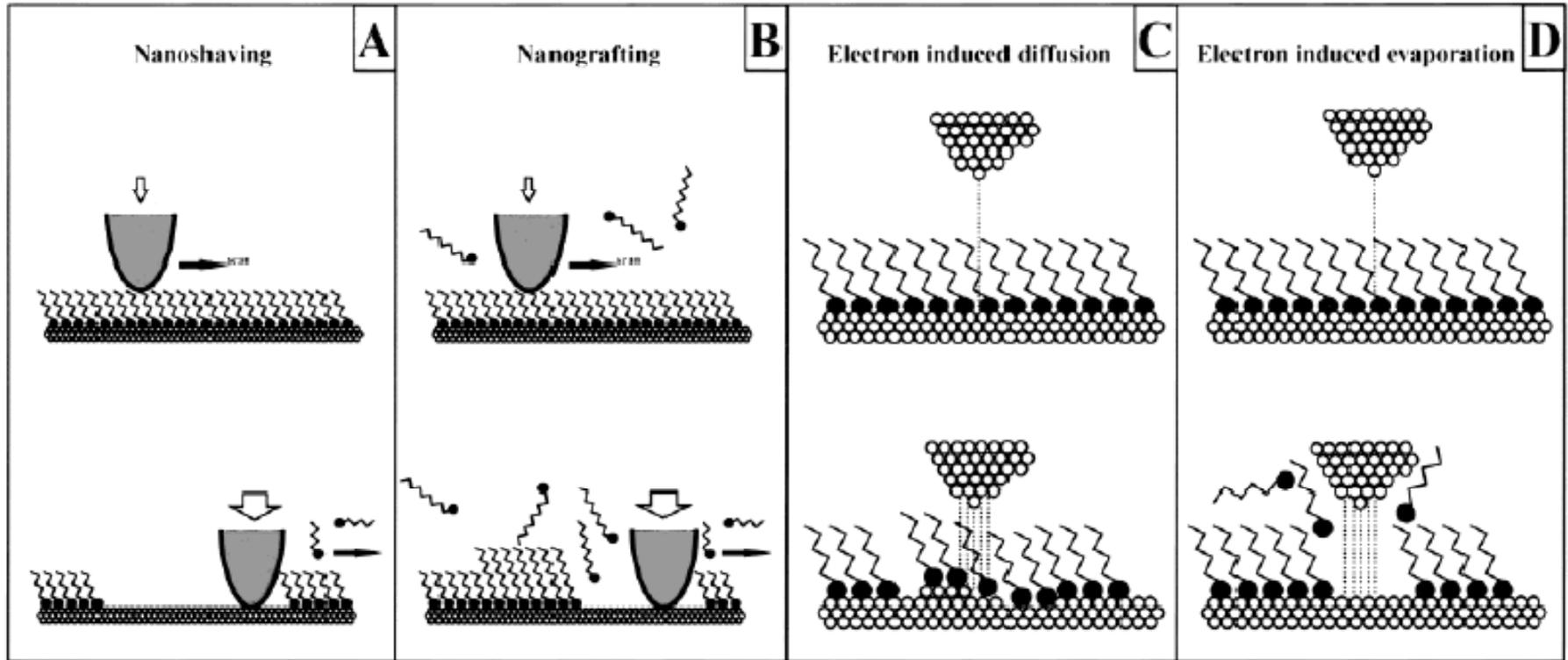
## Defects in Self-assembled Monolayers (SAMs)



Schematic illustration of some of the intrinsic and extrinsic defects found in SAMs formed on polycrystalline substrates. The dark line at the metal-sulfur interface is a visual guide for the reader and indicates the changing topography of the substrate itself.

Love et al., *Chem. Rev.* **2005**, *105*, 1103-1169

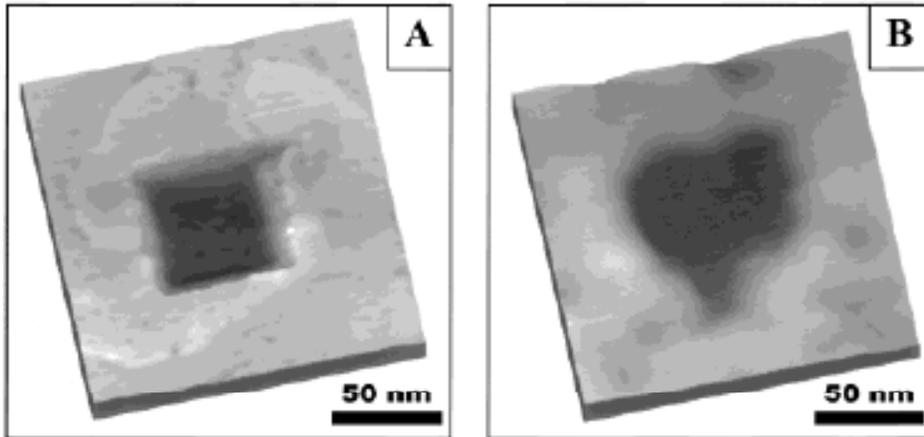
# Scanning Probe Lithography Nanofabrication of SAMs



Schematic diagrams of four basic manipulation mechanisms using AFM (A and B) and STM (C and D). The imaging and fabrication modes are depicted in the top and bottom rows, respectively.

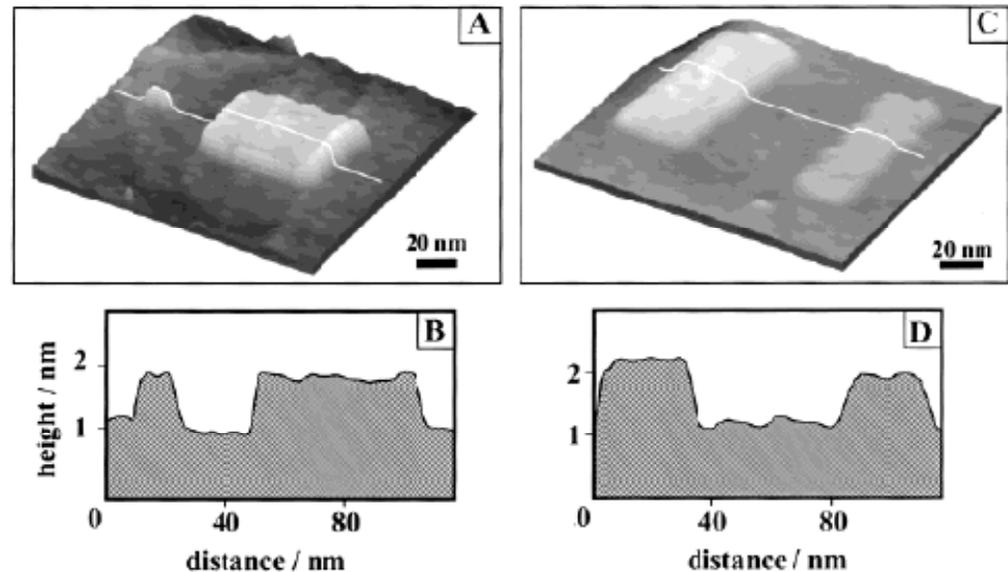
Liu, Xu, Qian. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2000**, 33, 457-466

# Scanning Probe Lithography Nanofabrication of SAMs



(A) 160-160 nm<sup>2</sup> topographic images of C18S/Au(111) with the thiols shaved away from the central 50-50 nm<sup>2</sup> square.  
(B) 160-160 nm<sup>2</sup> topographic images of OTE/mica containing a heart-shaped pattern produced using nanoshaving.

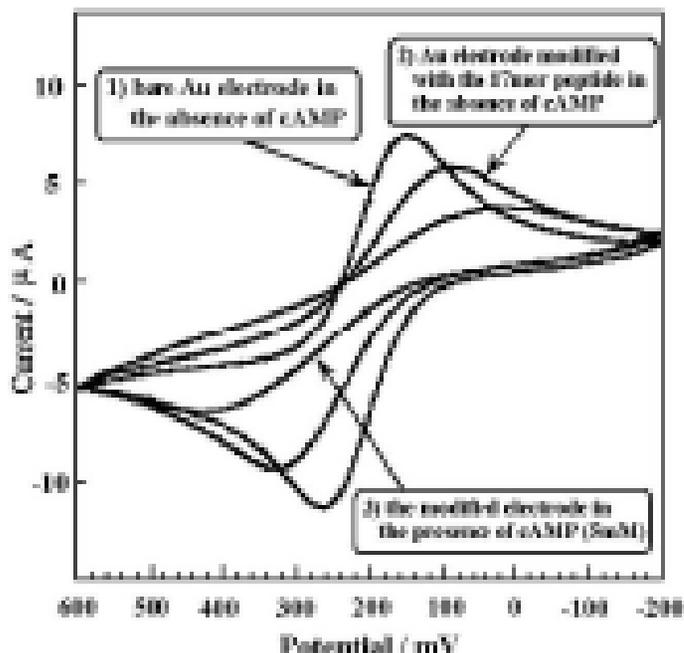
- (A) Fabrication of two C18S nanoislands (3 - 5 and 50-50 nm<sup>2</sup>) in the matrix of a C10S monolayer using nanografting.  
(C) Fabrication of multicomponent patterns using nanografting.



Liu, Xu, Qian. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2000**, 33, 457-466

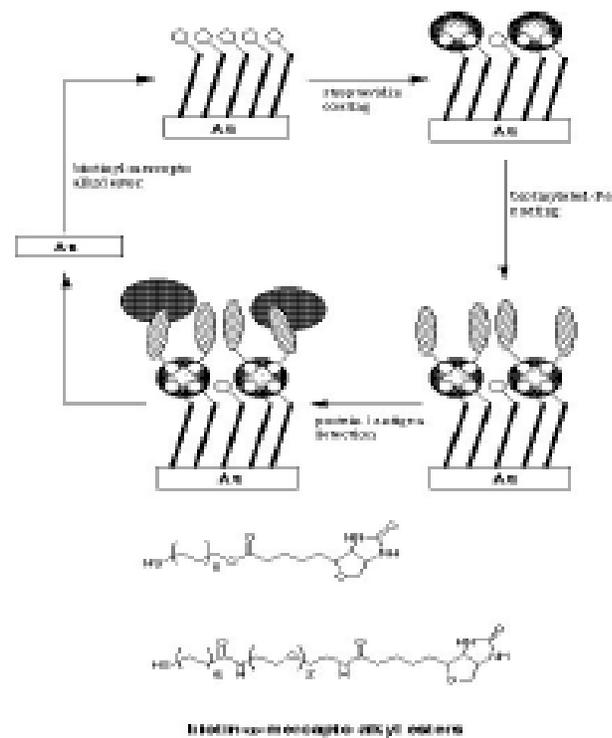
# Sensing and Proteins Binding on SAMs-modified Electrodes

## Electrochemical sensing by SAMs modified electrodes



Cyclic voltammogram of Au electrode modified with 17-mer peptide in the absence and presence of cAMP

## Electrochemical studies of proteins on SAMs-modified electrodes



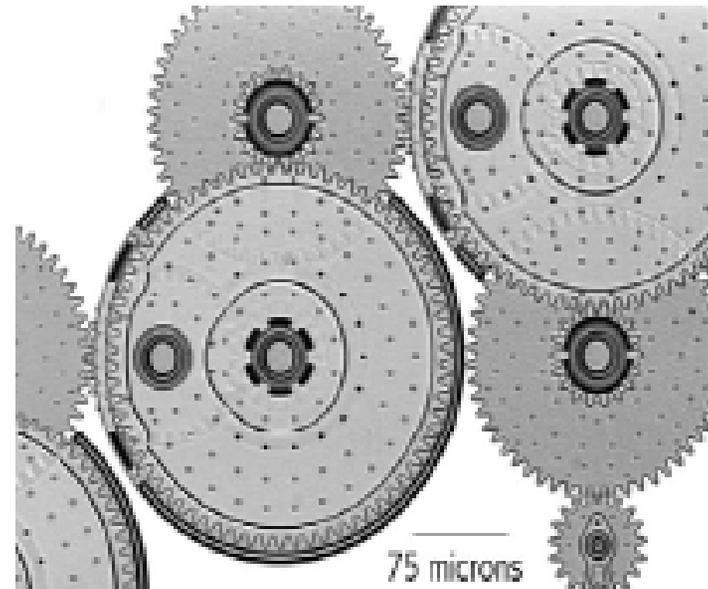
Reversible formation of a protein triple layer on SAM using biotinylated alkanthiols

# Self Assembled Monolayers(SAMs) in MEMS Devices

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## Common Failure Mechanisms in MEMS

- **Fracture**
- **Creep**
- **Stiction**
- **Electromigration**
- **Wear**
- **Degradation of dielectrics**
- **Delamination**
- **Contamination**
- **Pitting of contacting surfaces**
- **Electrostatic discharge (ESD)**



Dr. Lior Kogut, University of Western Ontario

# Self Assembled Monolayers(SAMs) in MEMS Devices

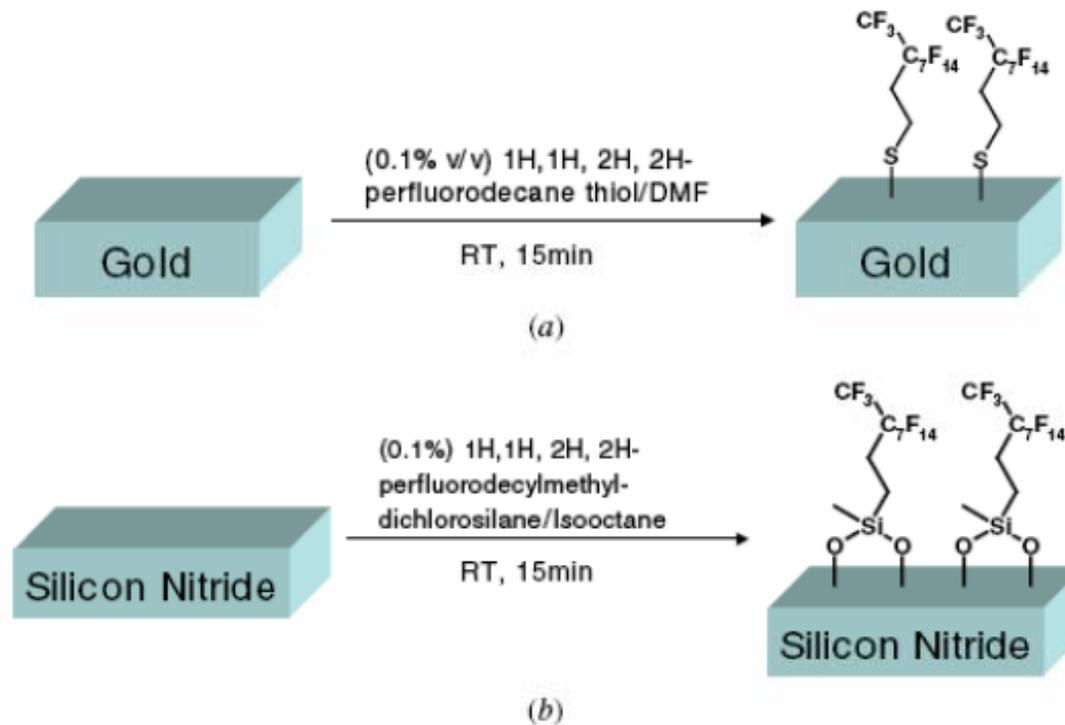
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## Advantages of SAMs in MEMS

- (a) Eliminate release stiction by effectively reversing the shape of the water meniscus;
- (b) Reduce in-use stiction by three to four orders of magnitude with respect to the conventional oxidized release process;
- (c) Eliminate the need for large input signals or mechanical probing in the start-up phase in microengines;
- (d) Reduce friction in microengines static friction value of 0.08 vs. 2.3 for oxide-coated surfaces;
- (e) Reduce wear significantly over 40 million operation cycles have been achieved in touch-mode electrostatic actuators;
- (f) Survive packaging environments thermally stable to 4000C in various, including oxygen containing, environments.

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# Self Assembled Monolayers(SAMs) in MEMS Devices



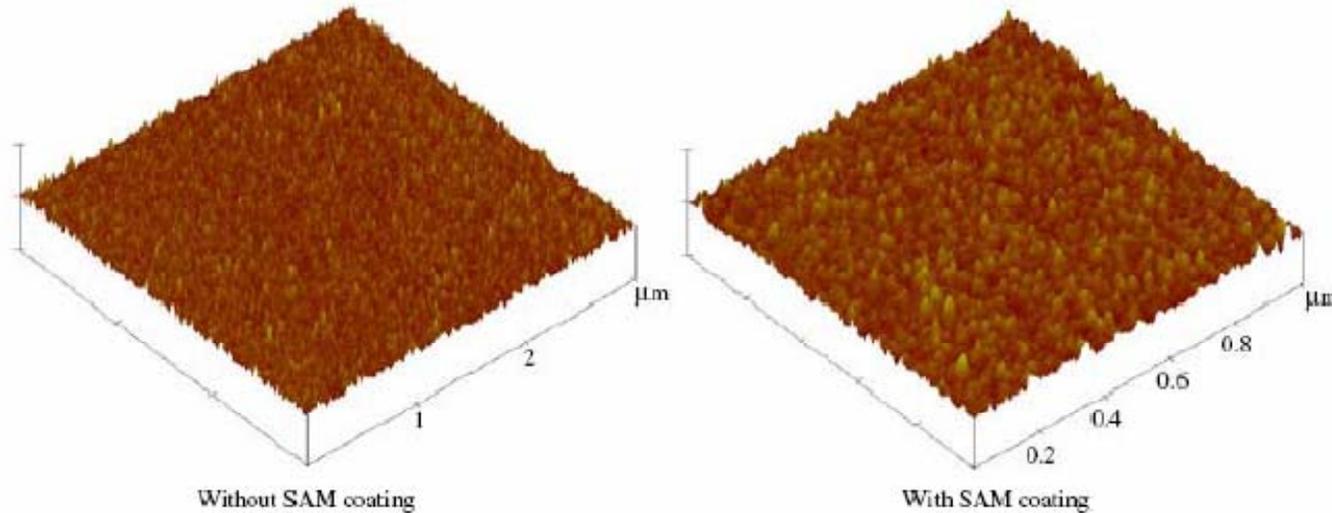
Contact angles of water droplets

	Without SAM coating	With SAM coating
Gold	70.6°	112.6°
Silicon nitride	36.7°	115.8°

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# Self Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) in MEMS Devices

## AFM images and roughness data of Silicon nitride surface

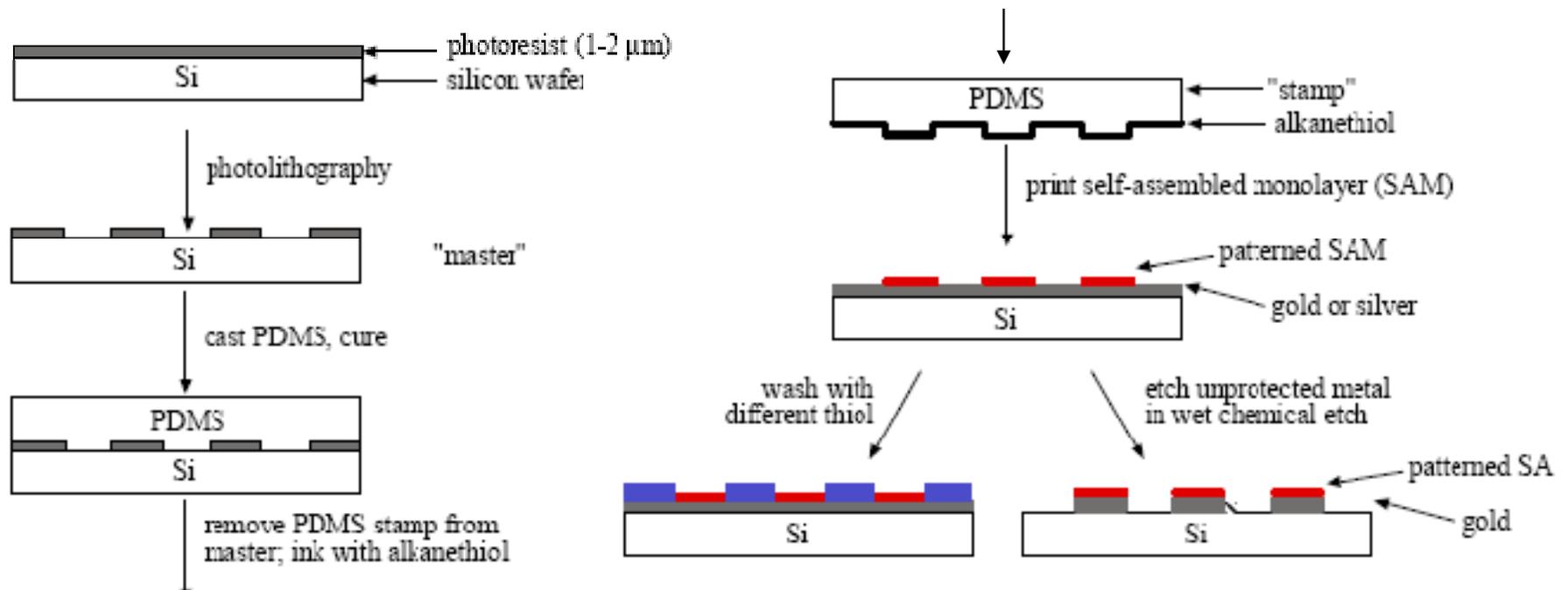


	Without SAM Coating	With SAM Coating
Roughness rms	0.542 nm	0.671 nm
Roughness peak to peak	5.274 nm	6.027 nm

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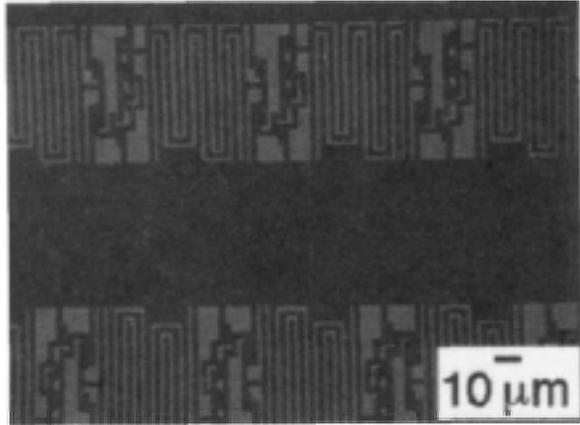
# Case Study: Microcontact printing ( $\mu$ CP)

## Schematic of microcontact printing ( $\mu$ CP)

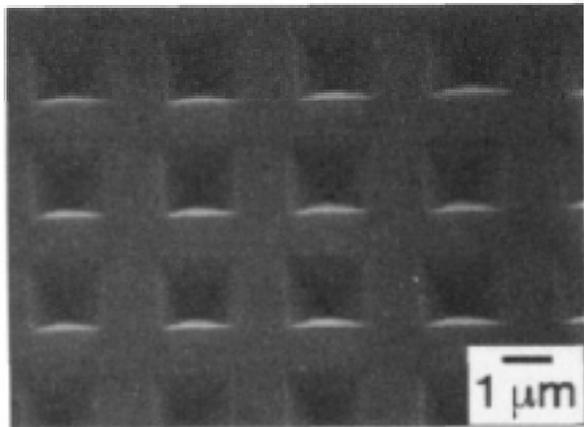


Kumar, Whitesides, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **1993**, 63, 2002

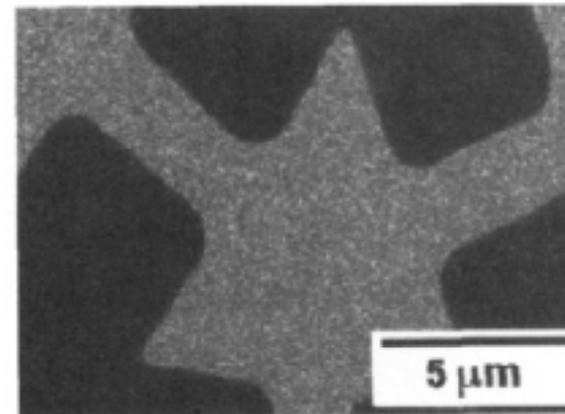
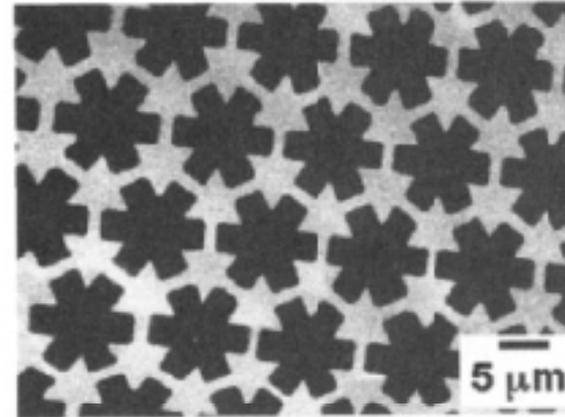
## Case Study: Microstructures fabricated using $\mu$ CP



Gold structures generated by pCP and etching



Etched silicon structure produced through anisotropic etching of silicon (in KOW2-propanol) using a mask of gold produced through pCP and etching in a solution of cyanide ion.

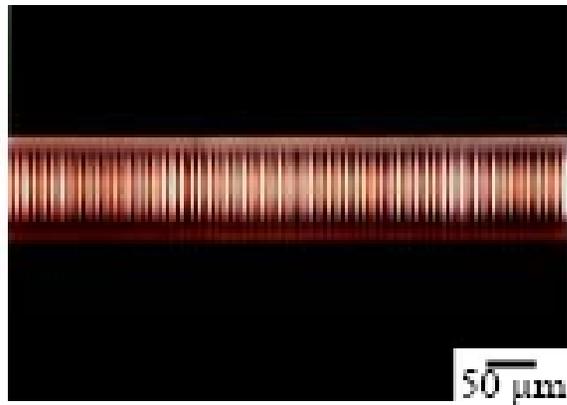


AFM image of a series of alternating hydrophobic and hydrophilic lines and an electron micrograph of a corresponding region.

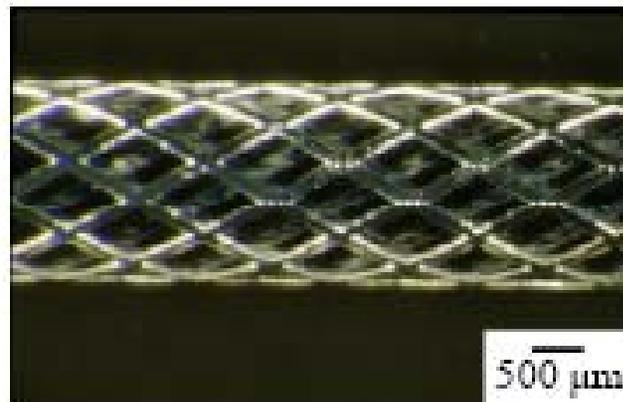
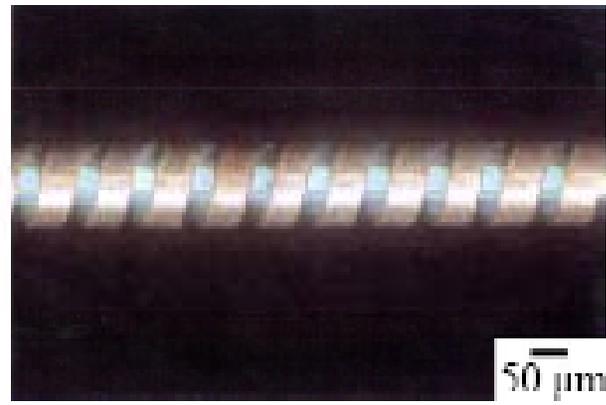
## Case Study: Microstructures fabricated using $\mu$ CP

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Gold bands (3  $\mu\text{m}$ ) on an optical fiber



Copper coils (50  $\mu\text{m}$ ) on glass capillary



Free-standing silver mesh cylinder (~2 mm diameter)