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Publication Date
2001-04-23
Single ion impact effects on semiconductor and insulator surfaces induced by slow, very highly charged ions

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The interaction of slow (<5 keV/u), very highly charged ions, such as Xe\textsuperscript{44+} and Au\textsuperscript{69+}, with solid surfaces is dominated by the deposition of potential energy, rather than the kinetic energy of the ions \cite{1, 2}. For Au\textsuperscript{69+}, the sum of the binding energies of the electrons that were removed when forming the ion is 170 keV. This energy is deposited into a nanometer scale area within about 10 fs when an Au\textsuperscript{69+} ion impinges on a surface \cite{3}. In our presentation we will report on the characterization of undoped silicon after exposure to low doses ($\sim 10^{11}$ cm\textsuperscript{-2}) slow, highly charged ions. We recently observed strong photoluminescence at $\sim 565$ nm from irradiated silicon surfaces \cite{4}. Possible microscopic mechanisms for this effect will be discussed. We will compare atomic force microscopy data from surface defects induced by single ion impacts on mica, self-assembled monolayers and silicon in light of model descriptions of the materials response to the impact of slow, highly charged ions.

Acknowledgements:
This work is supported by the Director, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC03-76SF00098. Part of this work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under contract No. W-7405-ENG-48.

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