



# Modern Methods in Heterogeneous Catalysis Research



## Photoelectron Spectroscopy



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# Outline

Photoelectron Spectroscopy: General Principle

Surface sensitivity

Instrumentation

Background subtraction

PES peaks, loss features

Binding energy calibration

Chemical state

Peak fitting

Quantitative Analysis

High pressure XPS

examples

# Problem: What is the (chemical) composition of a surface

## Goal:

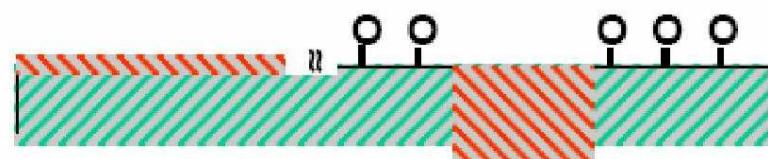
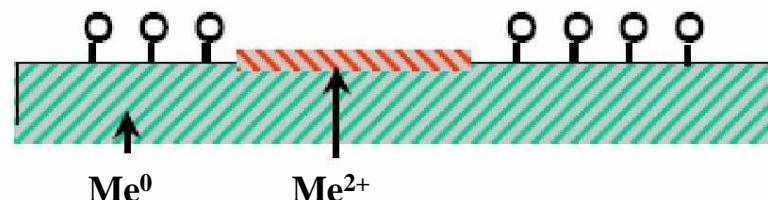
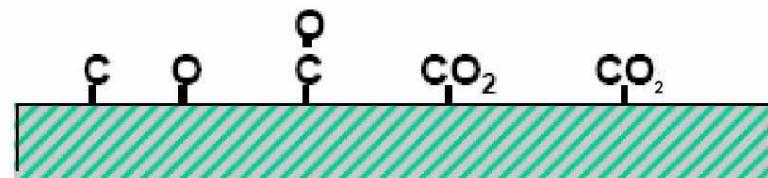
### **Elemental composition**

- Species of atoms on surface
- Concentration of surface atoms
- Vertical distribution
  - on surface (adsorbate)
  - near surface

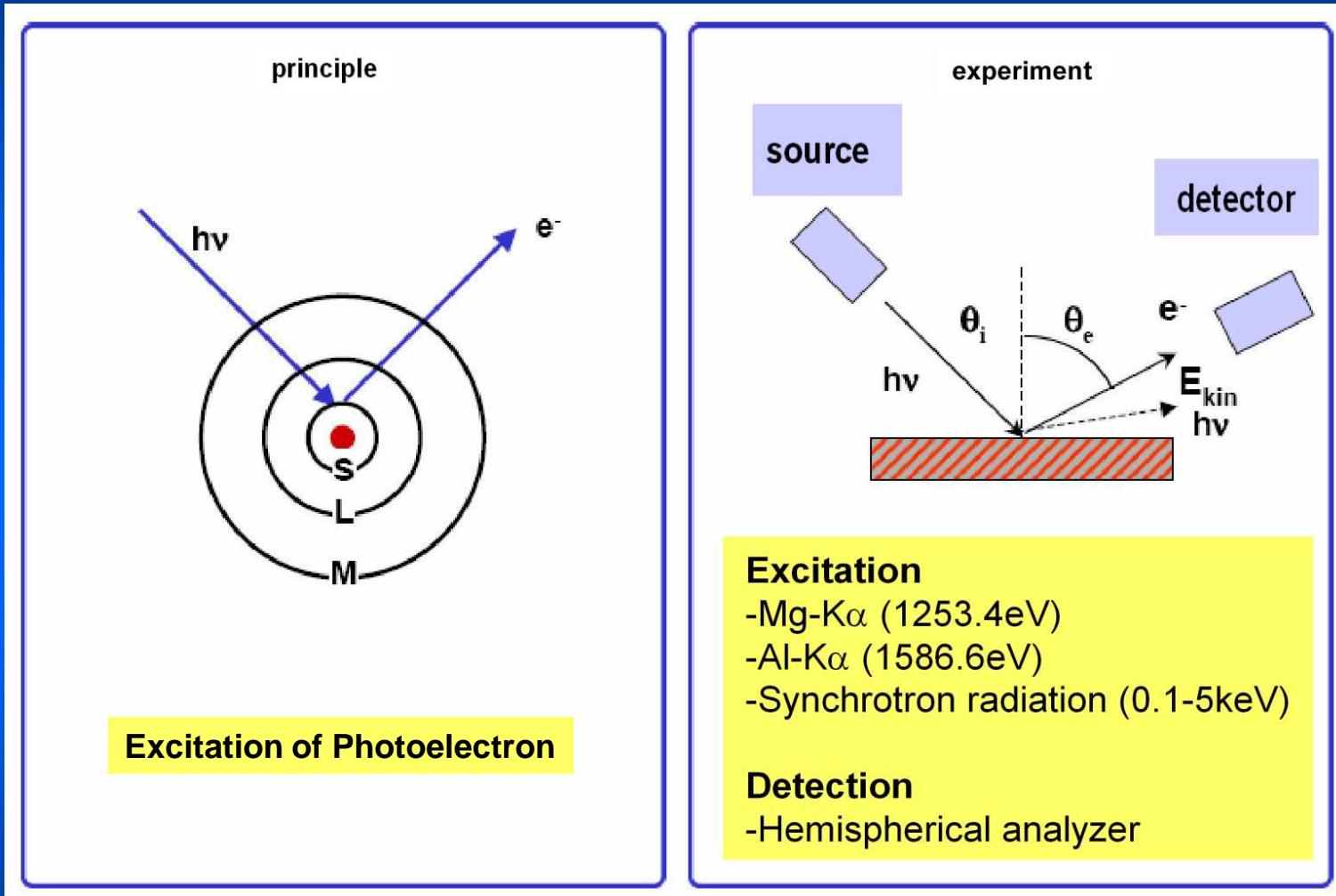
### **Molecular state of adsorbates**

### **Oxidation state of surface species**

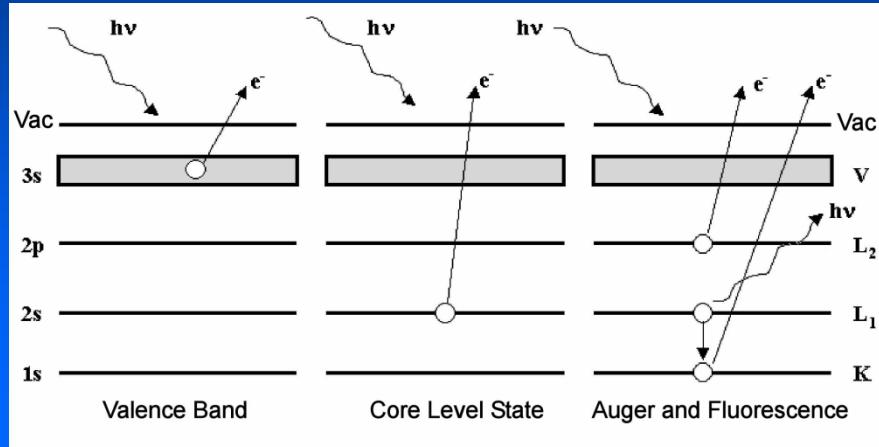
- $\text{Me}^0 \leftrightarrow \text{Me}^{n+}$



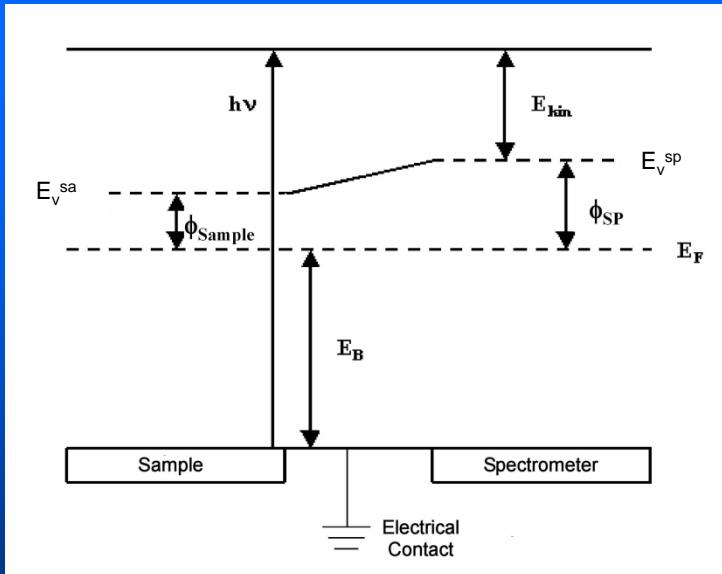
# Photoelectron Spectroscopy: General Principle



# General Principle



- Detection of photoelectrons from the valence band region and core levels
- Detection of Auger electrons and X-Ray Fluorescence



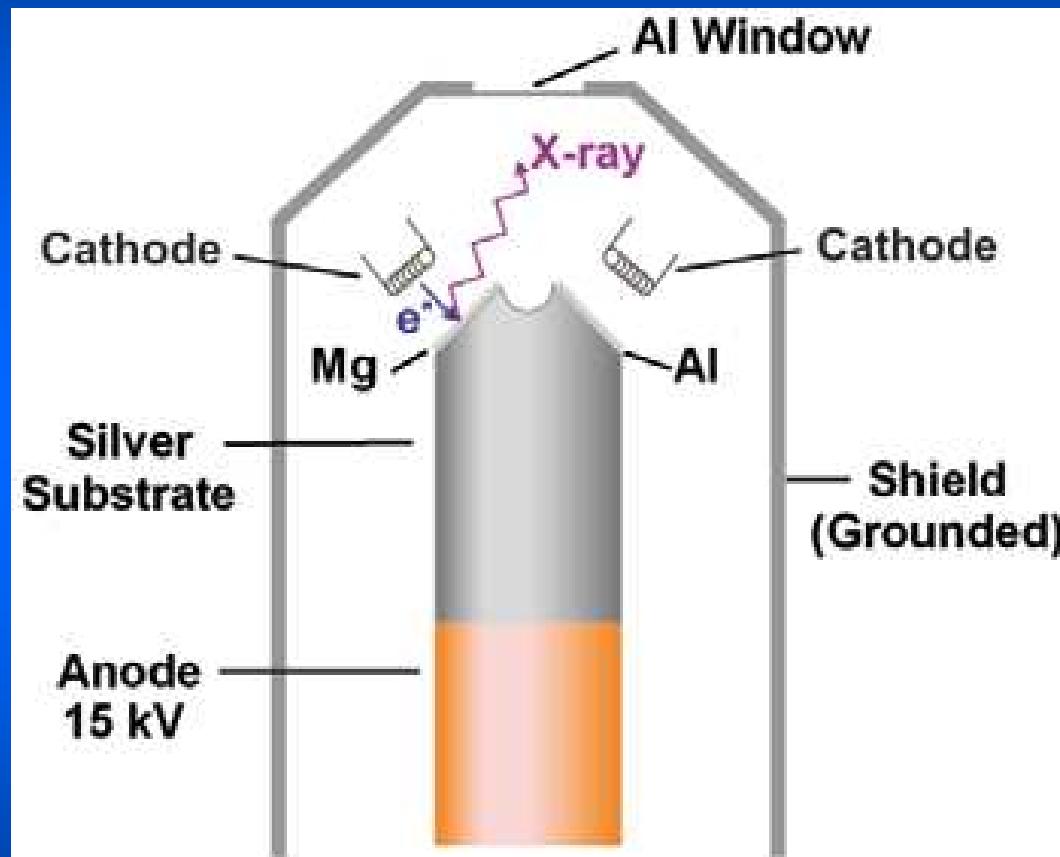
Binding Energy out of:

$$h\nu = E_v^{sp} + E_{kin}$$

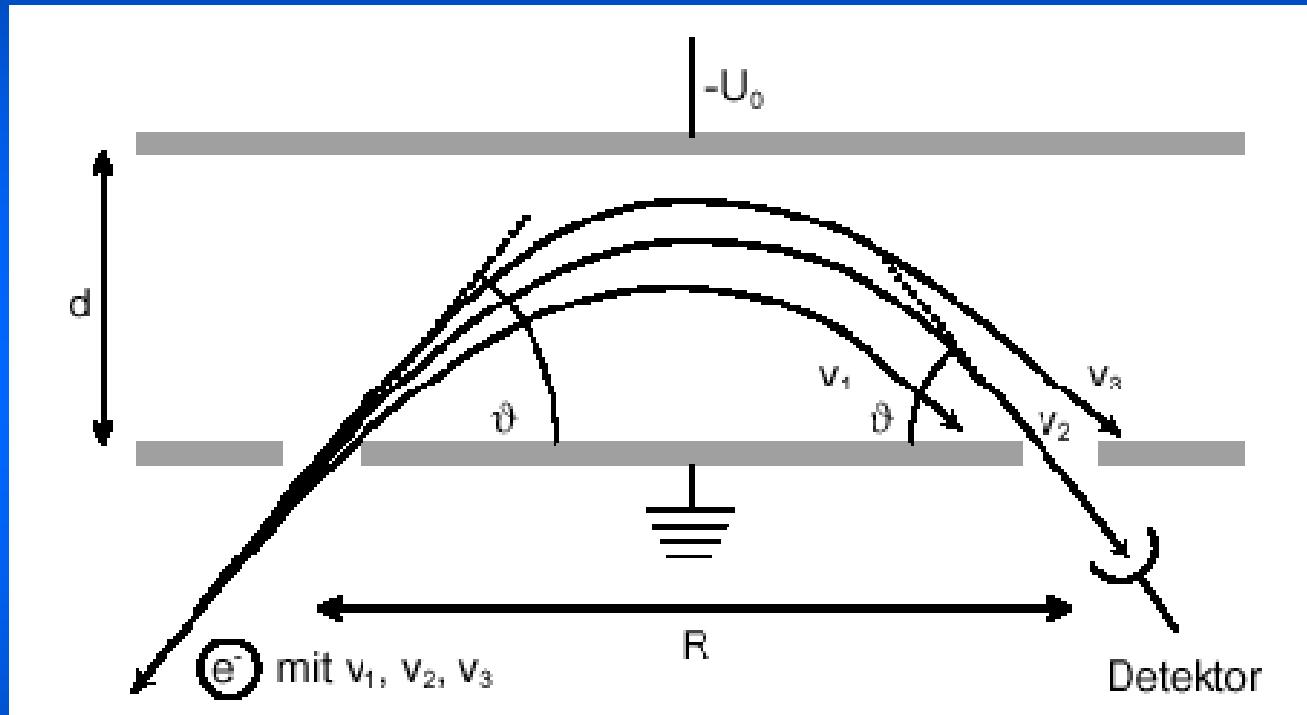
$$h\nu = E_{kin} + E_v^{sa} + \Phi_{sp} - \Phi_{sa}$$

$$h\nu = E_{kin} + E_F + \Phi_{sp}$$

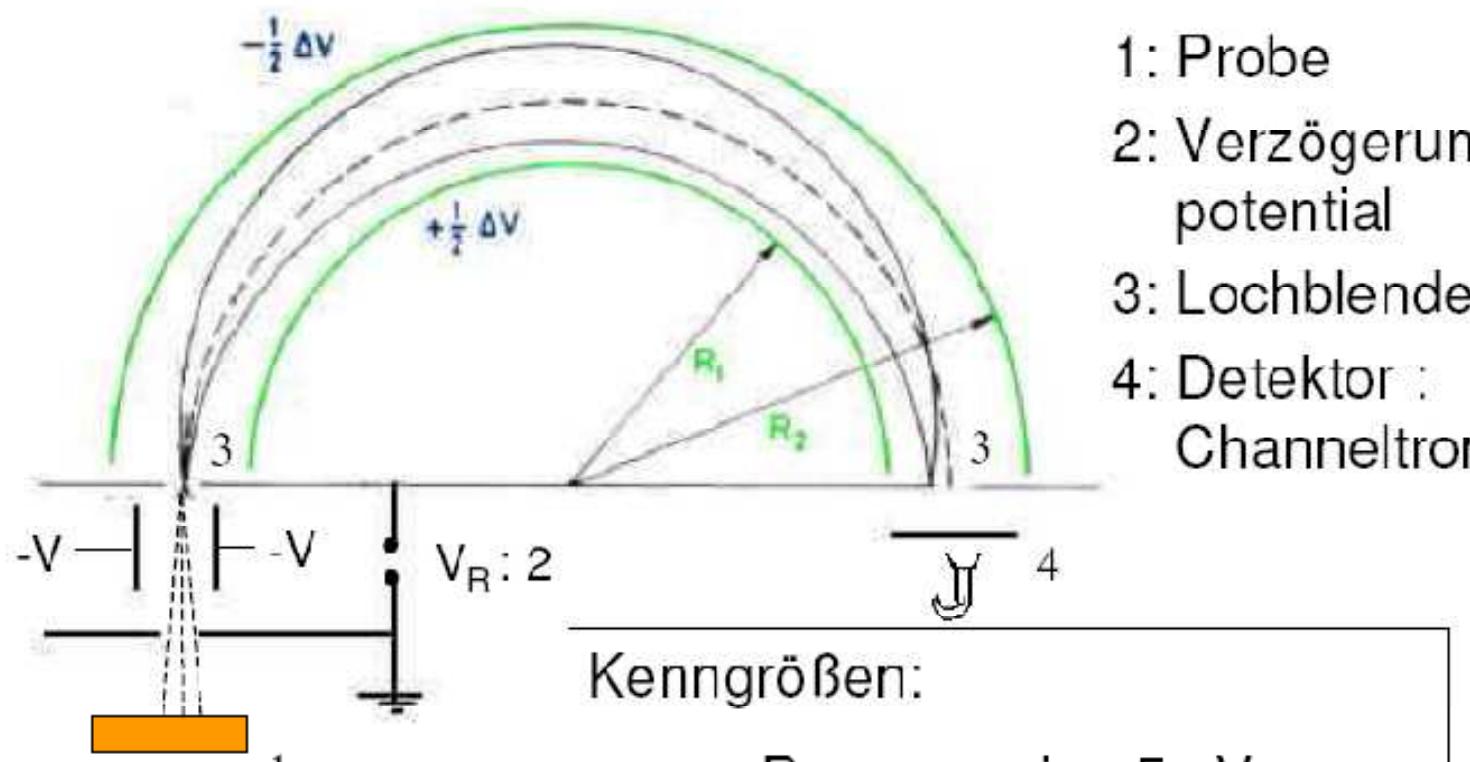
## X-ray twin anode



# Parallel plate mirror analyser



## Halbkugelanalysator



- 1: Probe
- 2: Verzögerungspotential
- 3: Lochblende
- 4: Detektor : Channeltron

Kenngrößen:

Passenergie : 5 eV

Winkelakzeptanz :  $1^\circ$

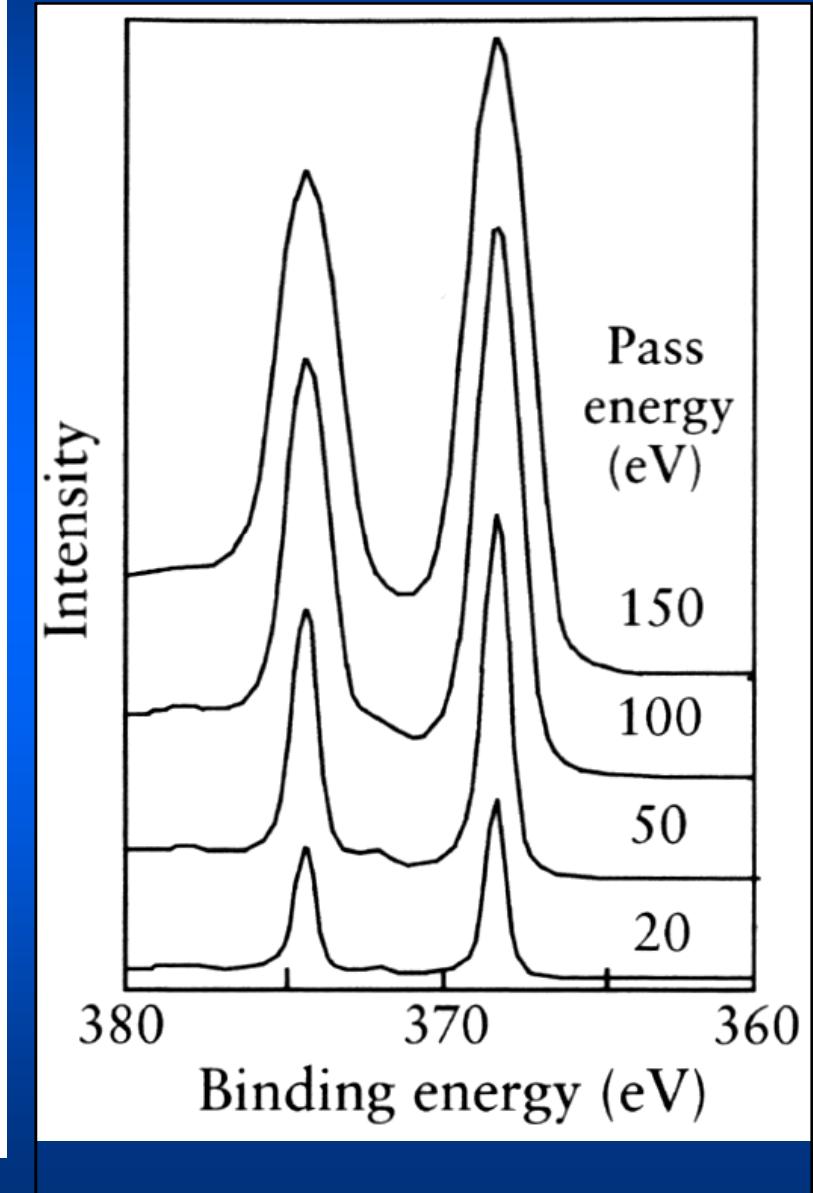
max. Rate : 30.000 /s

## Halbkugelanalysator

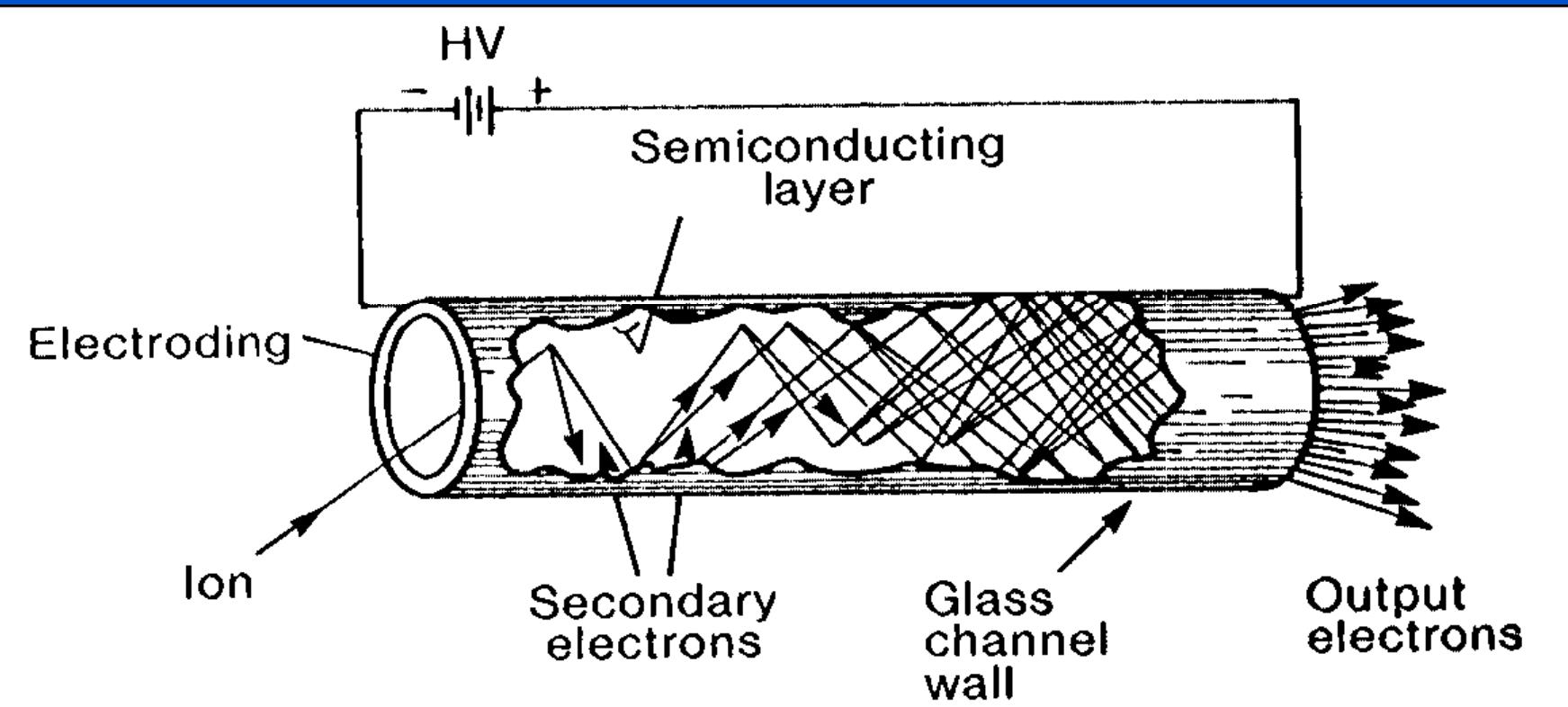
Elektronen werden zu-  
nächst um bestimmten  
Energiebetrag  
**abgebremst**

Nur Elektronen mit be-  
stimmter "**Passenergie**"  
können Detektor  
erreichen

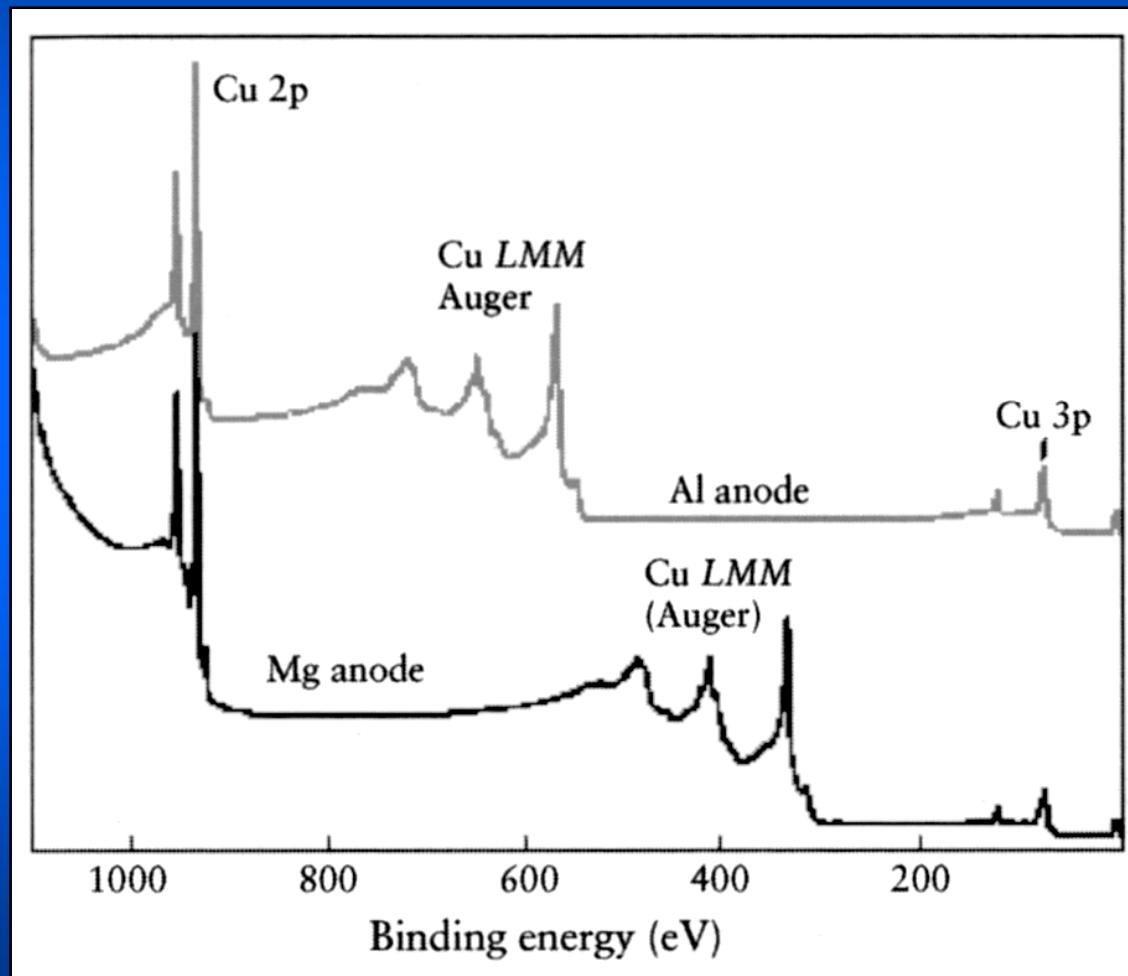
Je kleiner die "Passener-  
gie" desto genauer die  
Messung



## Detector: Channeltron



## XP spectra: two different anode materials

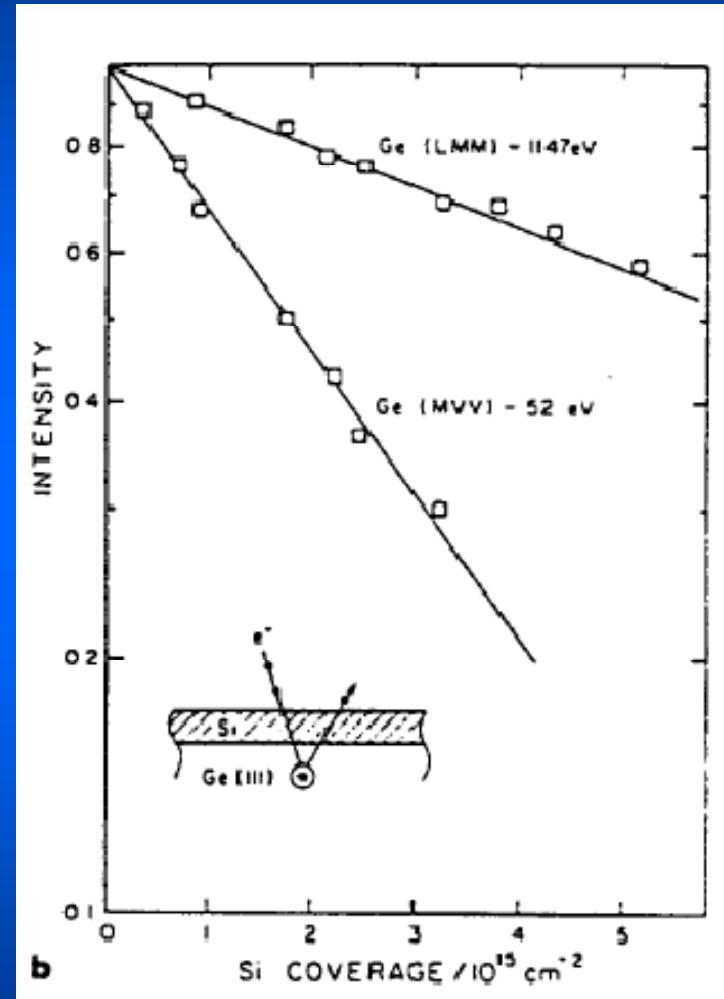


# Where do the electrons come from?

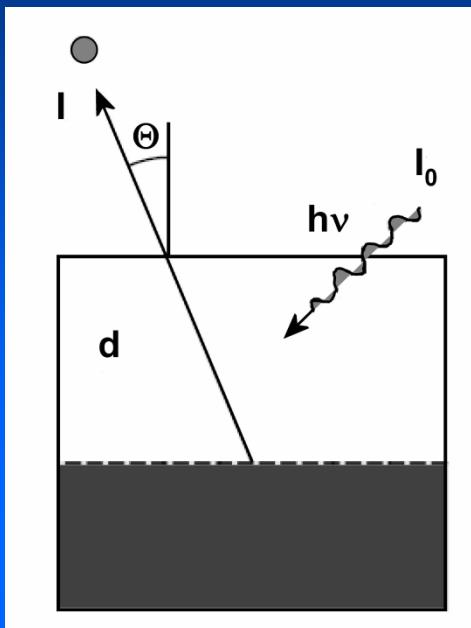
**Distance electron can travel in solids depends on:**

- Material
- Electron kinetic energy

→ Measure attenuation of electrons by covering surface with known thickness of element



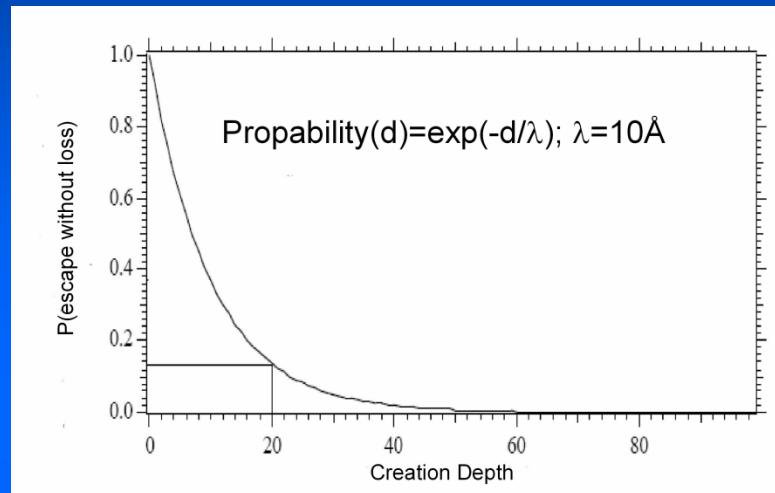
# Sampling Depth



Disregarding elastic scattering:

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{-d}{\lambda \cos \theta}\right)$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right) = -\frac{d}{\lambda \cos \theta}$$



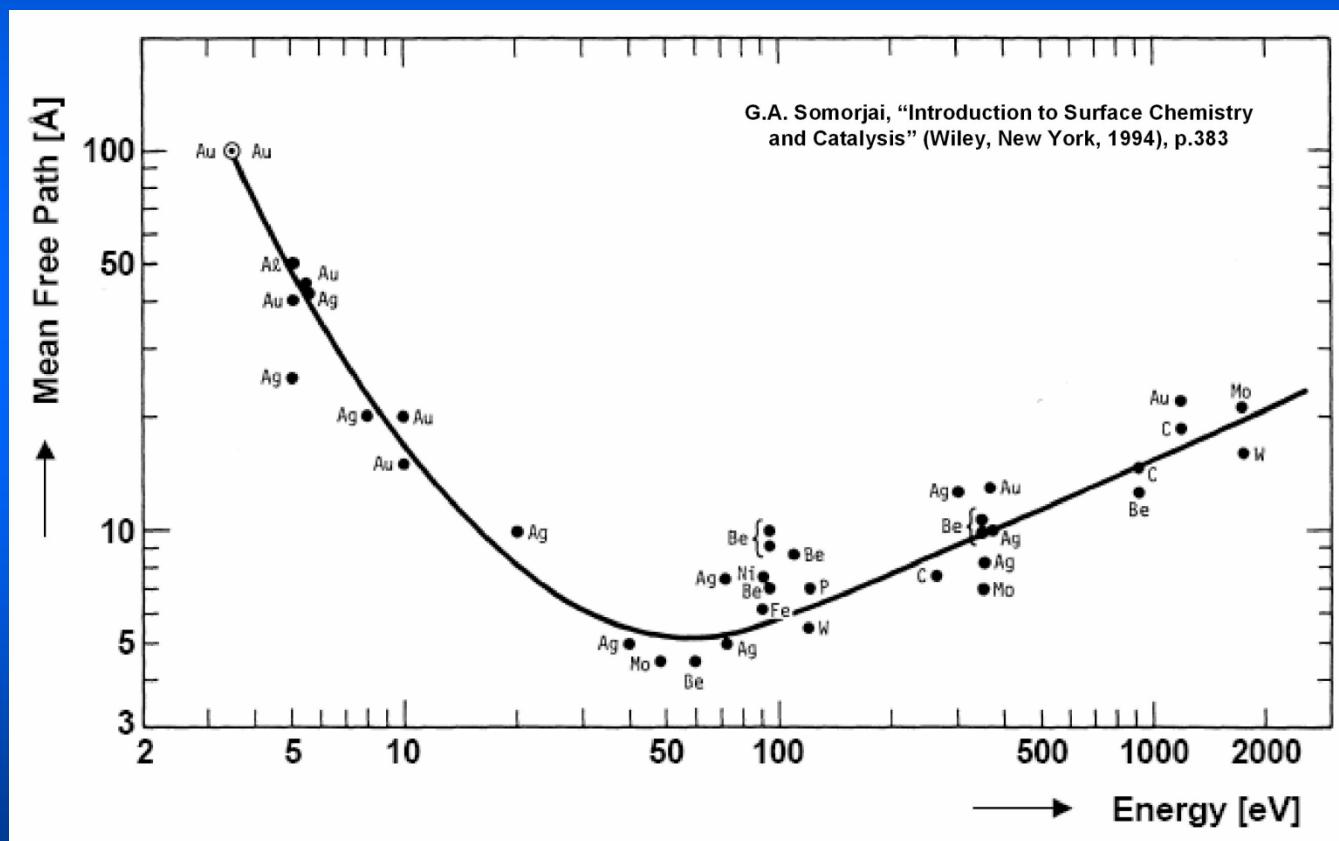
## Sampling depth:

For normal takeoff angle,  $\cos\theta=1$ :

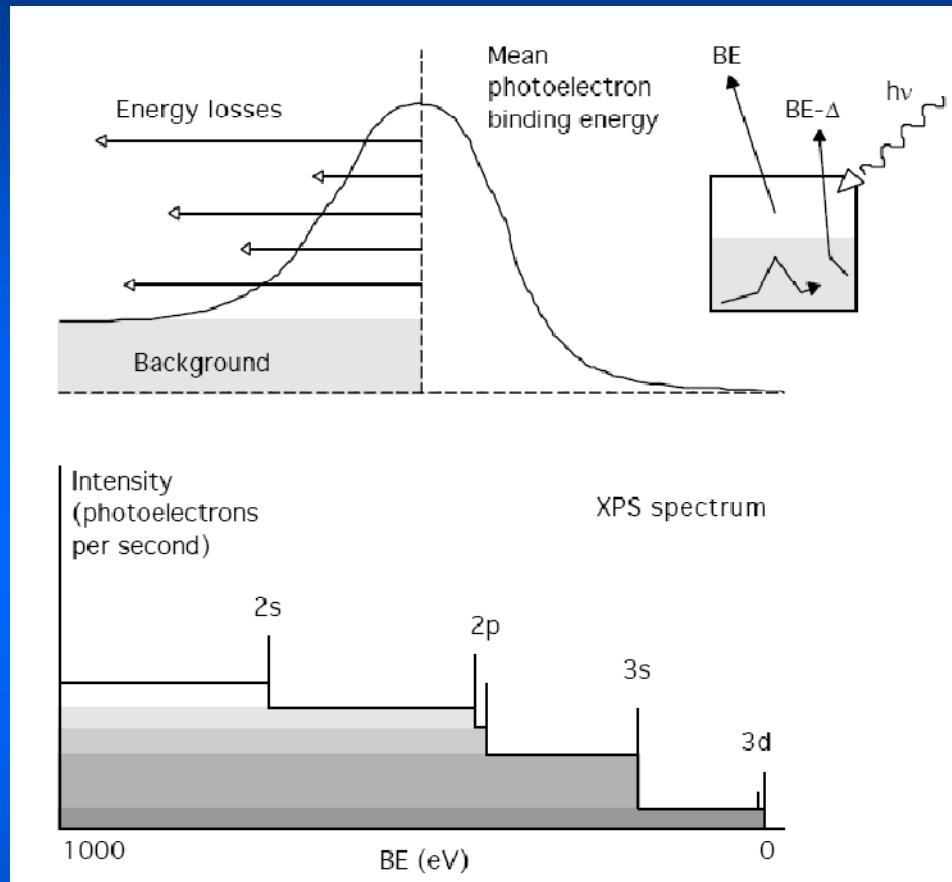
- When  $d=\lambda$ :  $-\ln(I/I_0)=0.367$ , i.e. 63.3% from within  $\lambda$
- When  $d=2\lambda$ :  $-\ln(I/I_0)=0.136$ , i.e. 86.4% from within  $2\lambda$
- When  $d=3\lambda$ :  $-\ln(I/I_0)=0.050$ , i.e. 95.0% from within  $3\lambda$

# Mean Free Path of Electrons in Solids

- IMFP is average distance between inelastic collisions
- Minimum  $\lambda$  of 5-10 Å for KE  $\sim$  50-100 eV
- Maximum surface sensitivity

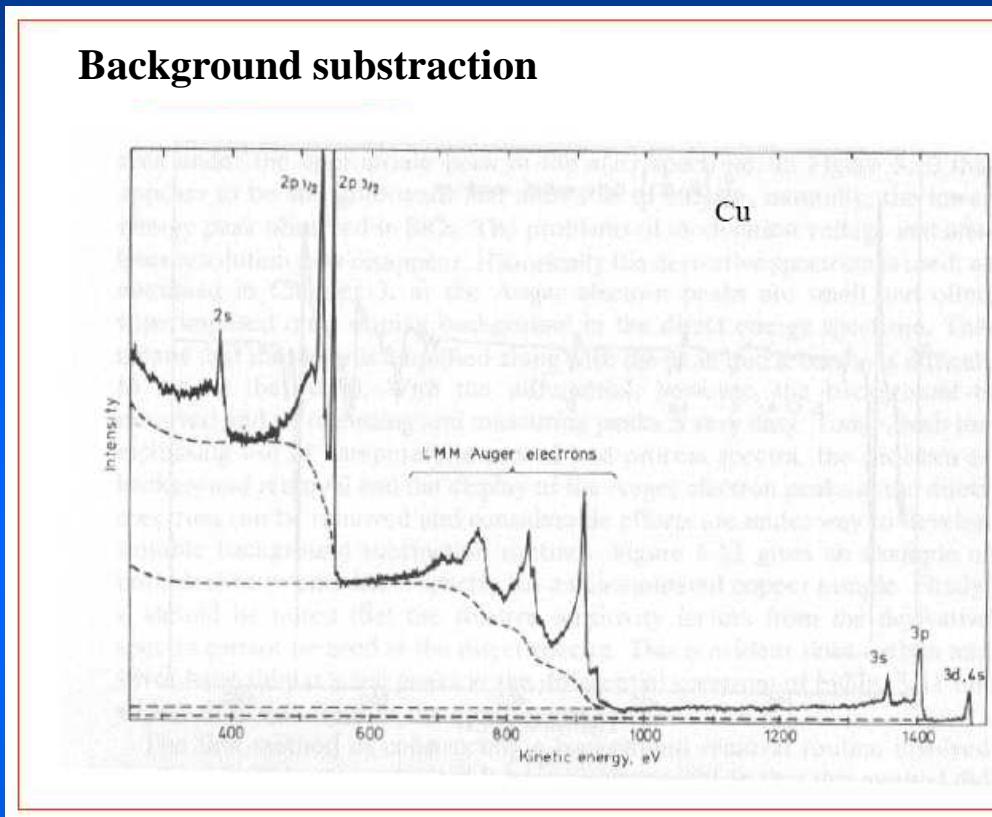


# Origin of background



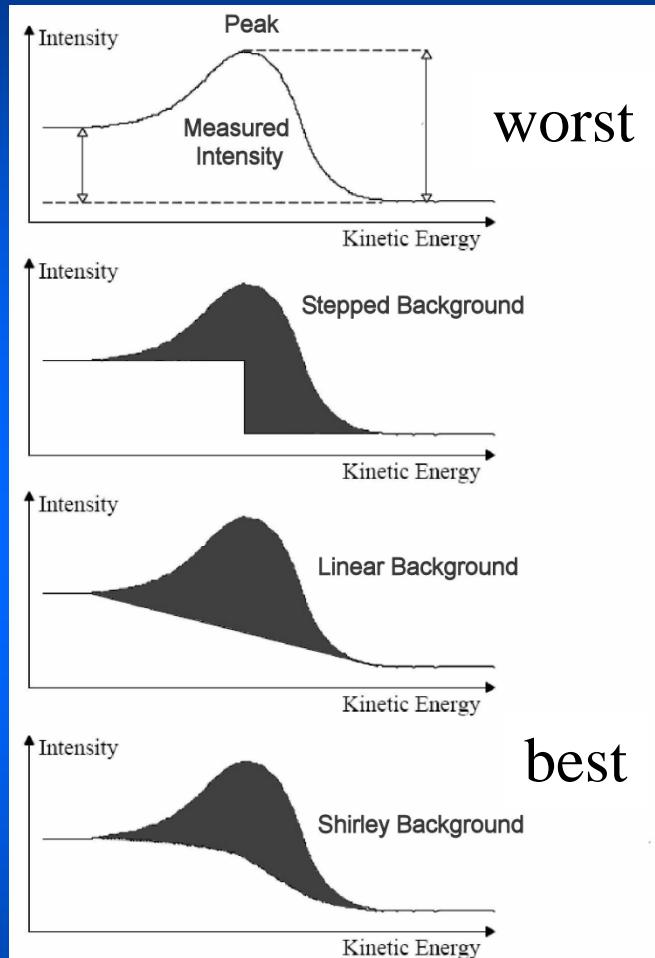
Background of scattered electrons due to limited IMFP  
→ Higher for low KE

# Background Correction



- Choose suitable energy range for subtraction
- Baseline on high KE side

# Background Correction



Several ways to subtract background:

- Stepwise
- Linear
- Method of Tougaard

→ Most common:

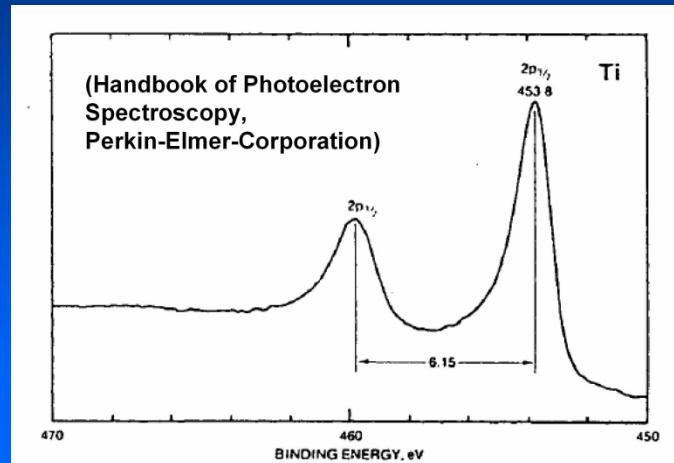
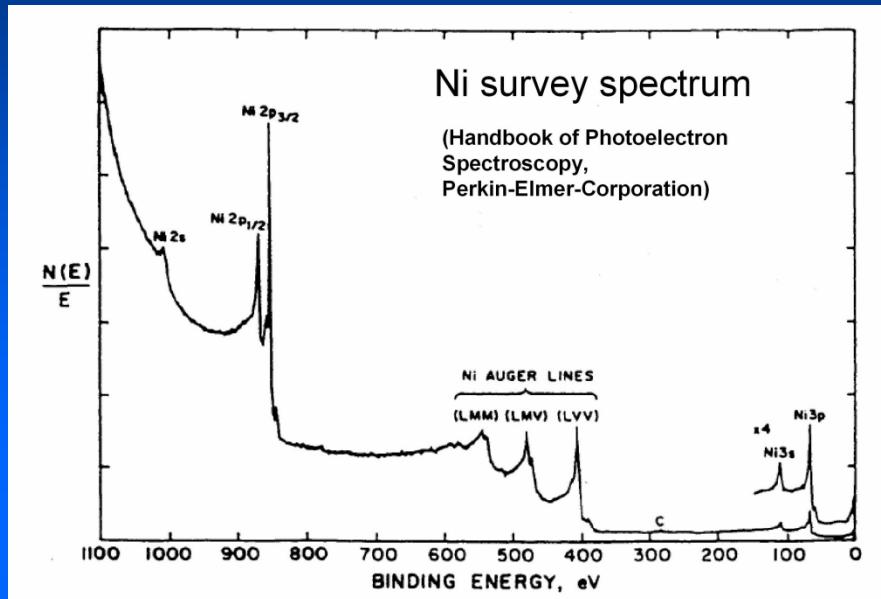
Method of Shirley et al.:

$$b_i = k \sum_{j=i+1}^N p_j$$

**Always use same background subtraction method for all peaks!**

D.A. Shirley, Phys. Rev. B, 5, S. 4709, 1972.

## Spectral features: PE Peaks

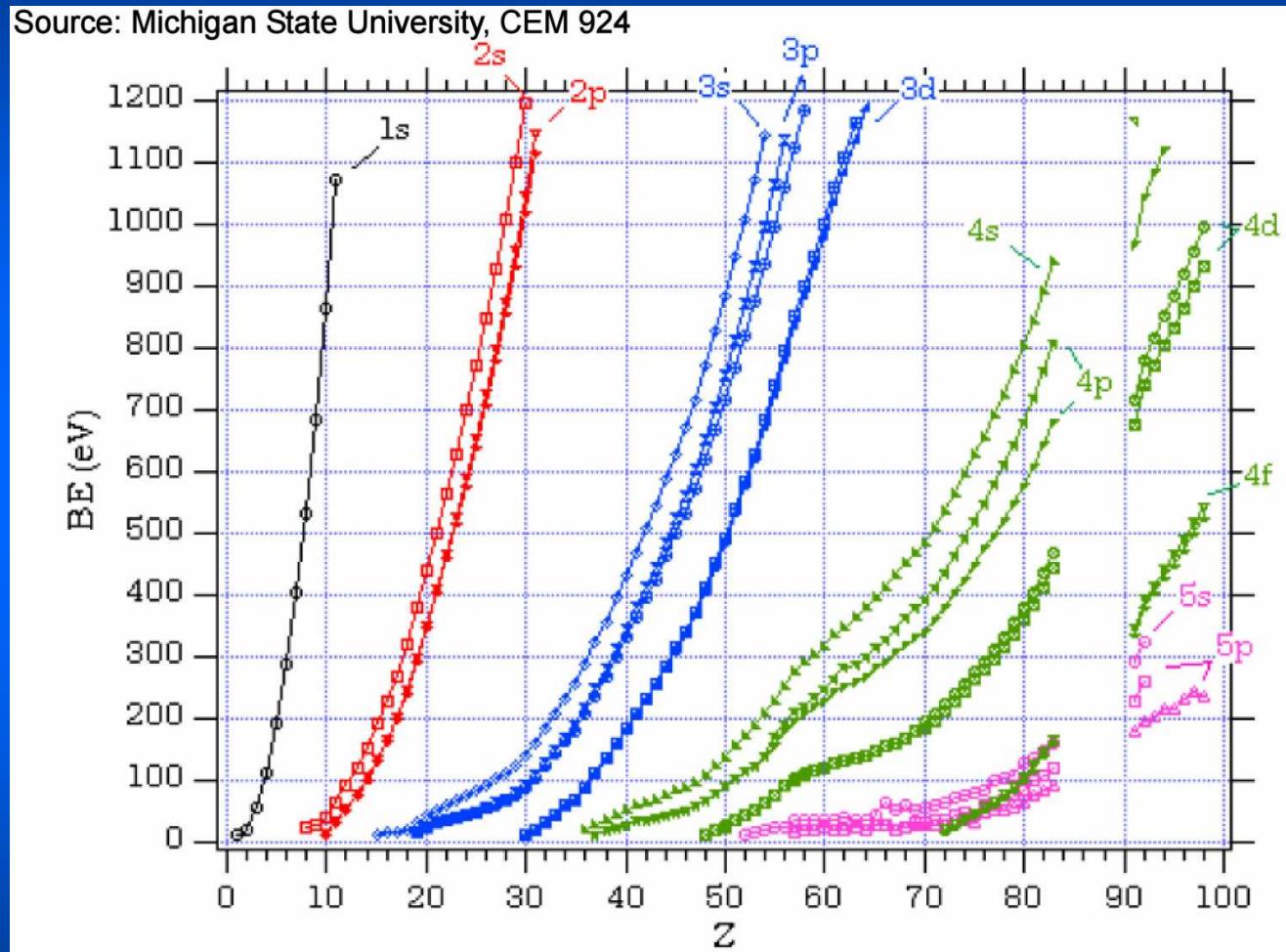


Orbital peaks used to identify different elements in sample

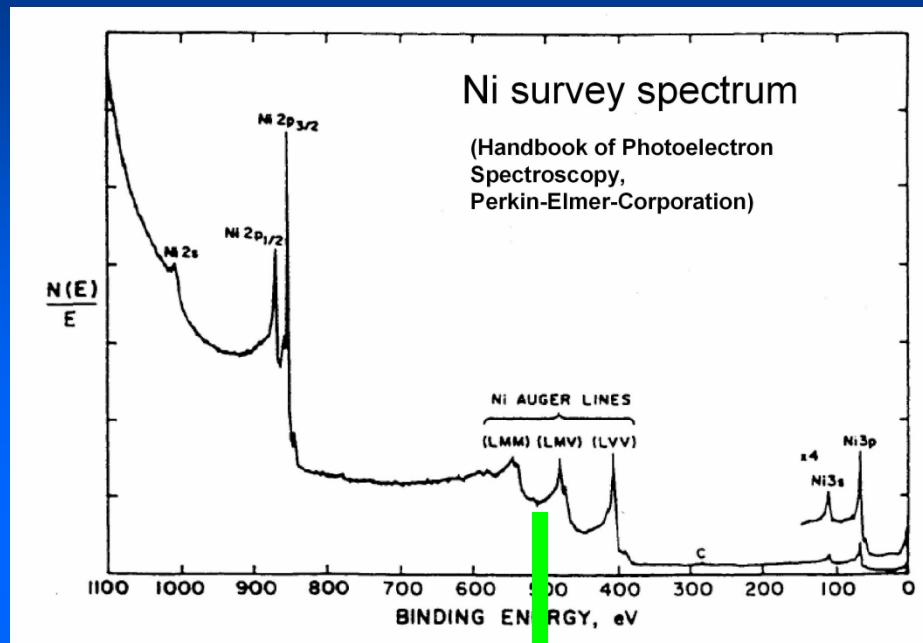
Observation:

- s orbitals are not spin-orbit splitted → singlet in XPS
- p, d, f.. Orbitals are spin-orbit splitted → doublets in XPS

## Spectral features: PE Peaks



# Spectral features: Auger Peaks



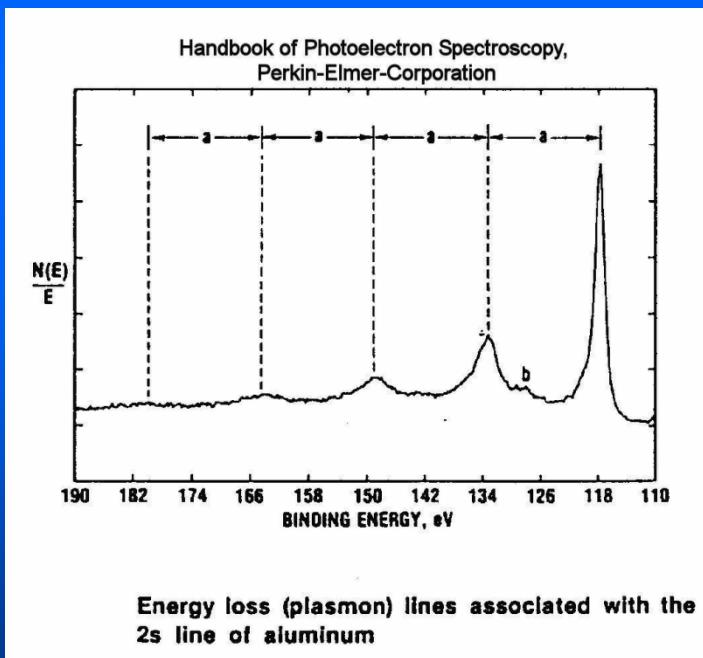
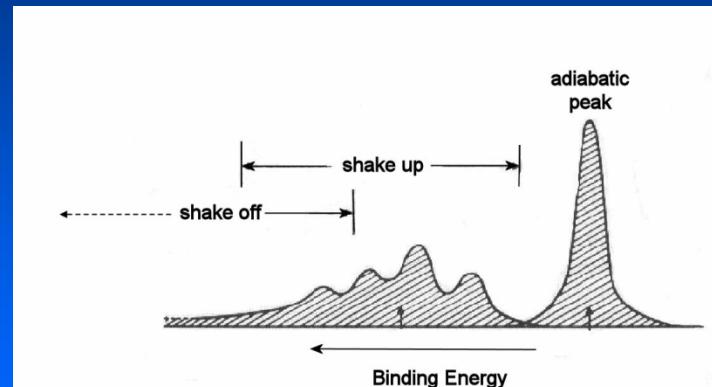
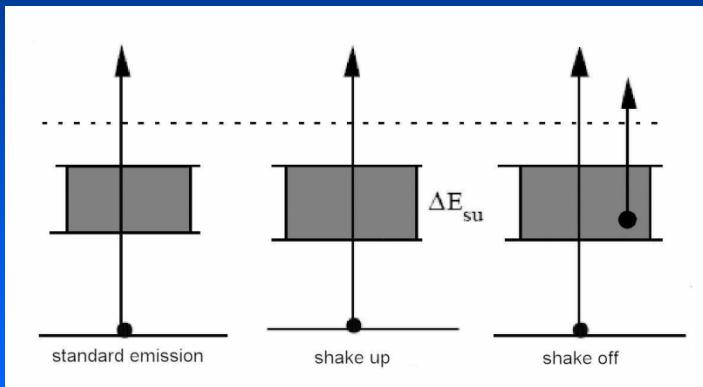
## Auger peaks:

Result from excess energy of atom during relaxation (after core hole creation)

- always accompany XPS
- broader and more complex structure than PES peaks

KE energy independent of incident  $h\nu$

# Spectral features: Loss Peaks



After Emission of PE the remaining electrons rearrange (Secondary peaks):

- Relaxation by excitation of valence electron to higher state (**shake up**)
  - loss of kinetic energy of PE leads to new peaks shifted in BE with respect to main peak
- Relaxation by ionisation of valence electron (**shake off**)
  - broad shoulder to main peak
- **Plasmon losses**

# Spectral features: Loss Peaks

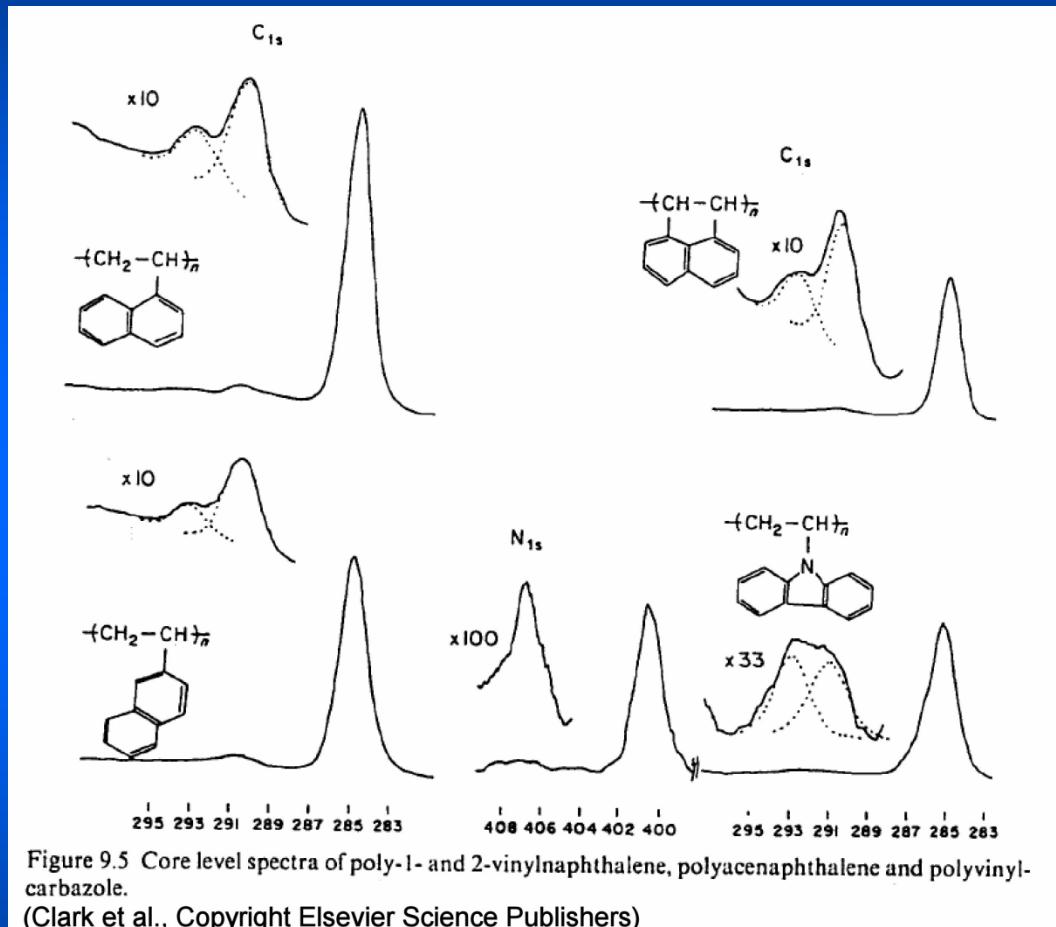
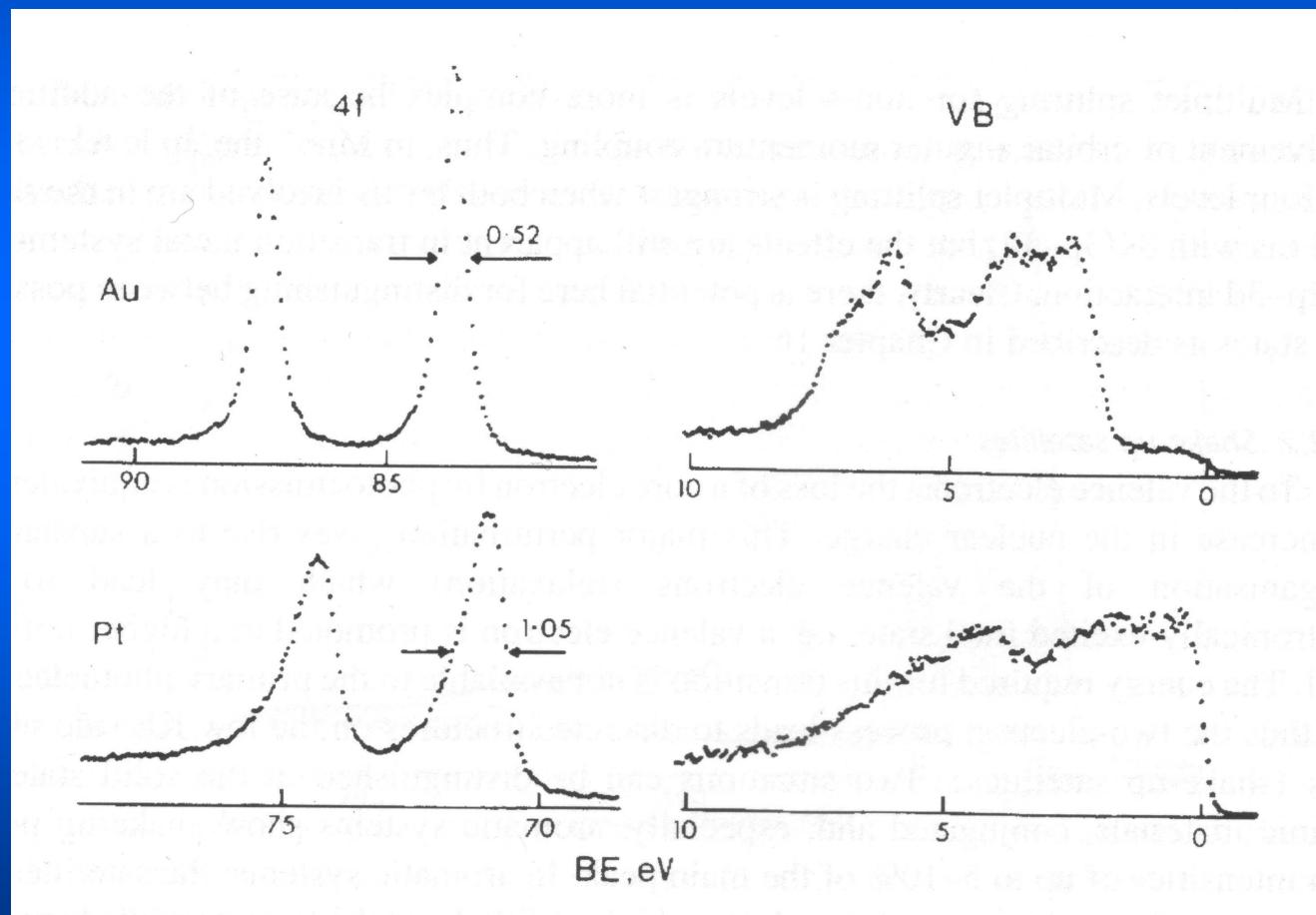


Figure 9.5 Core level spectra of poly-1- and 2-vinylnaphthalene, polyacenaphthalene and polyvinylcarbazole.  
(Clark et al., Copyright Elsevier Science Publishers)

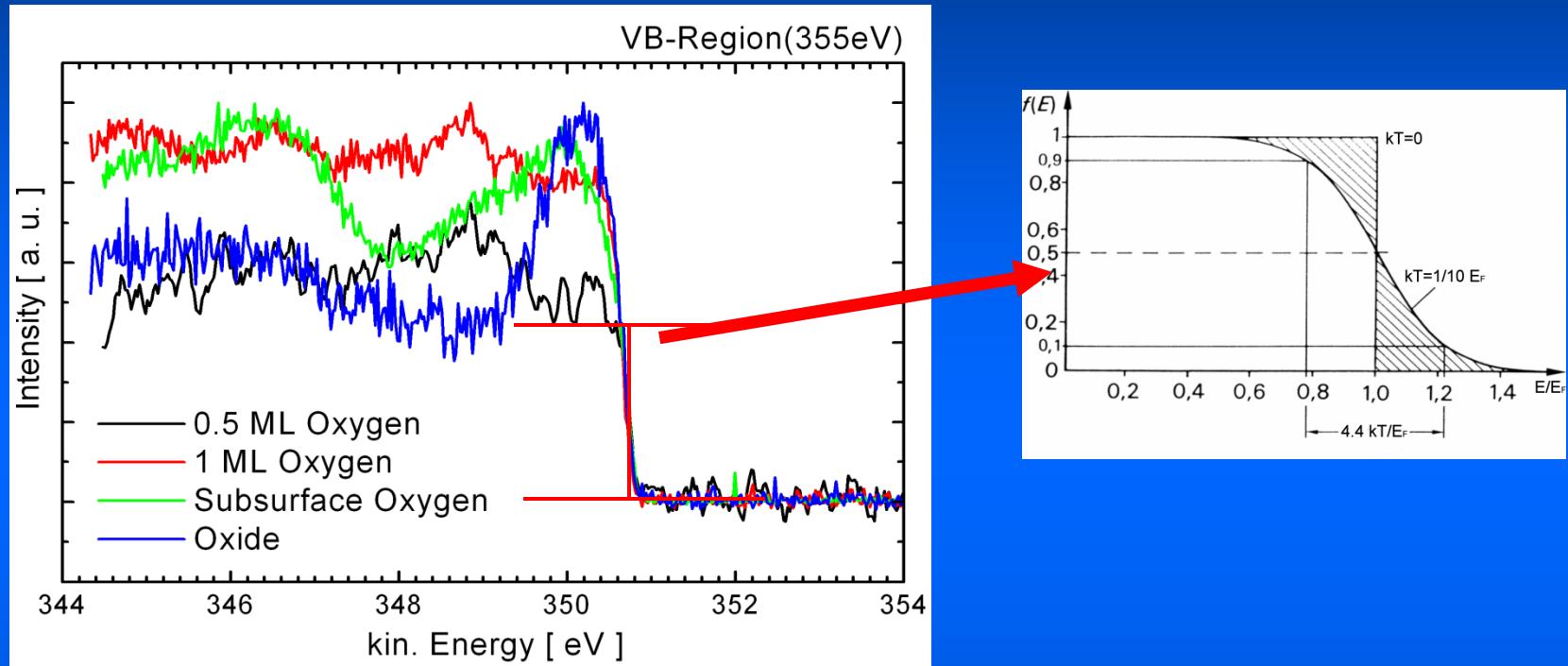
**Loss peaks** can be used to identify chemical composition

**Problem:**  
References needed  
(theoretical or experimental)

# Relationship between the degree of core level asymmetry and the density of states at the Fermi level (BE=0)



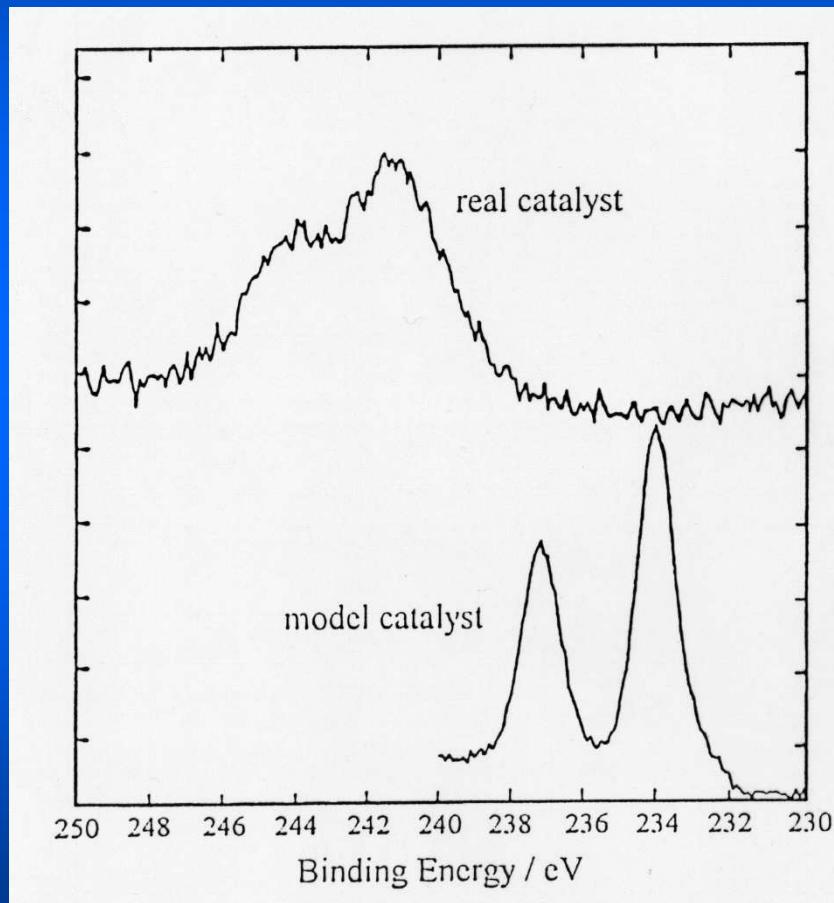
## Analyzing the data: Calibration of Binding Energies



### Identification of FE:

Easy for high density of states near  $E_F$ , but  
may be ambiguous for samples with low  
DOS near  $E_F$ , band gap or charged samples

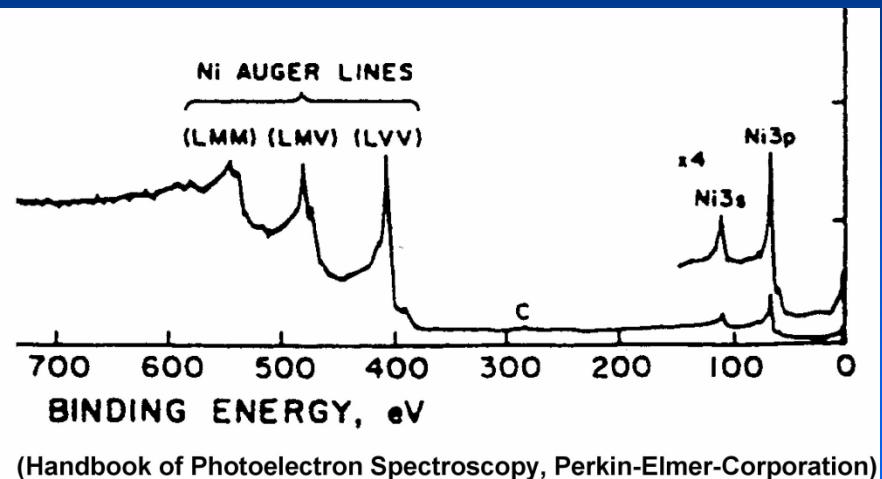
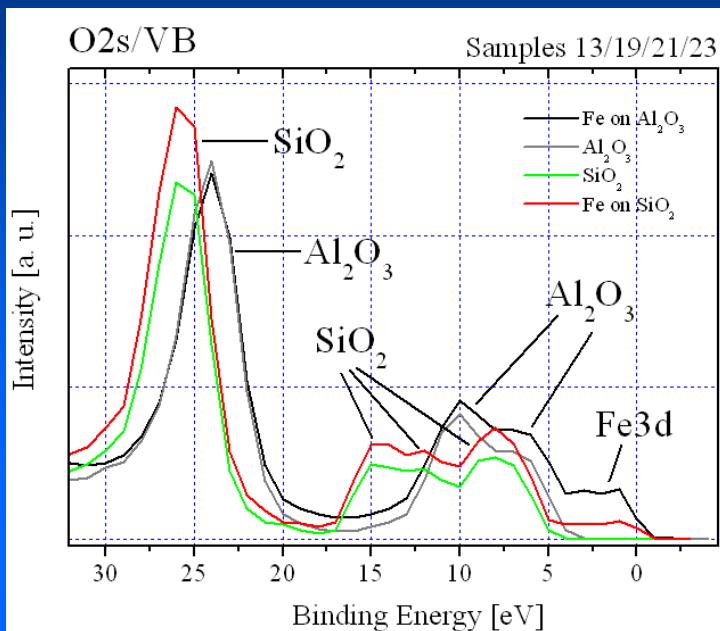
# Line profile modification by charging



Mo oxide on silica

real catalyst is powder  
sample after impregnation  
and calcination.

# Analyzing the data: Calibration of Binding Energies



(Handbook of Photoelectron Spectroscopy, Perkin-Elmer-Corporation)

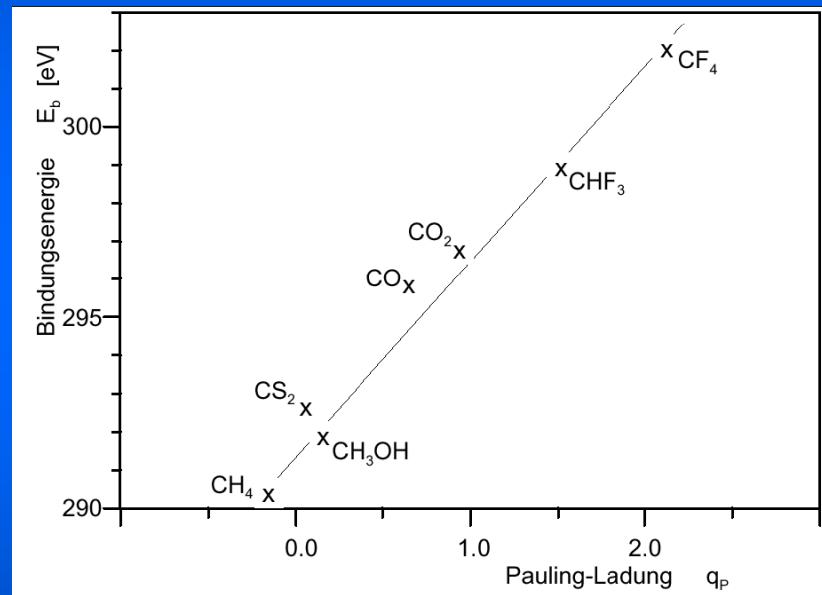
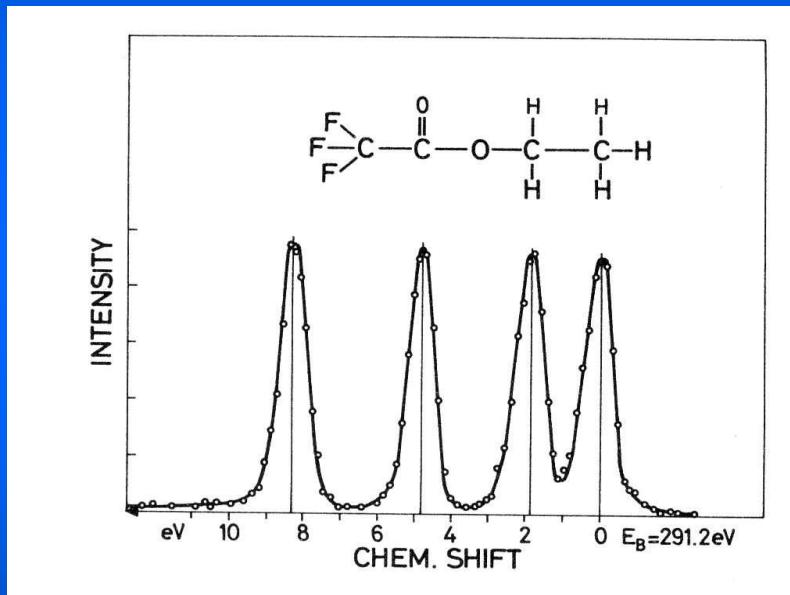
## Identification of FE:

In case of low DOS near E<sub>F</sub>, band gap or charged samples (spectrum will move in this case!)

- Look for reference peaks with known BE (be sure about that!!!)
- Works for any PE or Auger peak, e.g. peaks originating from substrate

# Chemical Shift

**BE of core electrons depends on the electron density of the atom (screening of the core electrons), affected by the electronegativity of neighboring atoms**

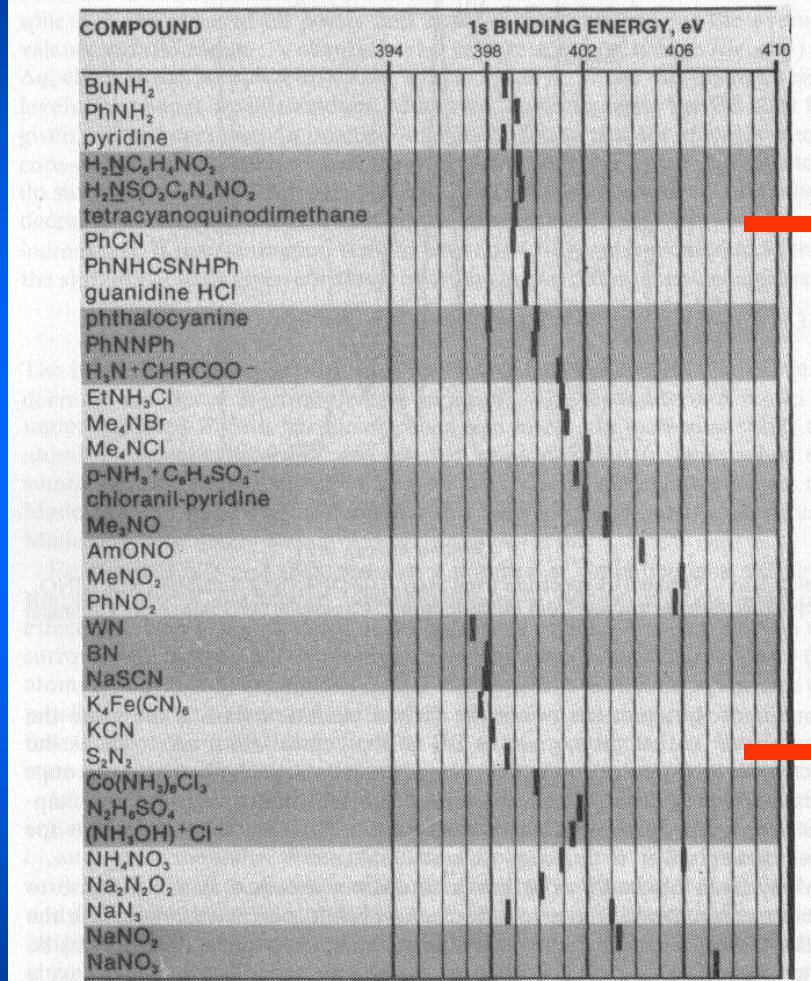


For unknown BE:

- Calculation of Pauling's Charge (easy, but not always true)
- More elaborate calculations (theorists, also not always true)

# Analyzing the data: Chemical States

Table 3.6 N 1s binding energies. (Reproduced from Wagner *et al.*<sup>27</sup> by permission of Perkin-Elmer Corporation)

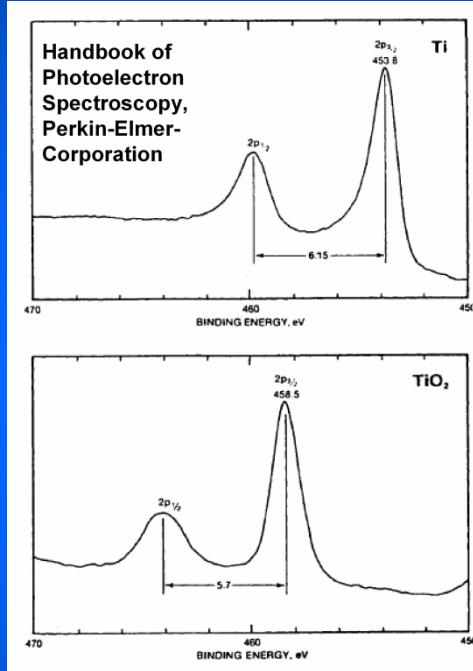


## References:

- Use of data bases (NIST, Handbook of Photoelectron Spectroscopy etc.\*)
- Clean materials (pure metals, well defined substrates, „untreated“ samples etc.)
- Literature about similar topics

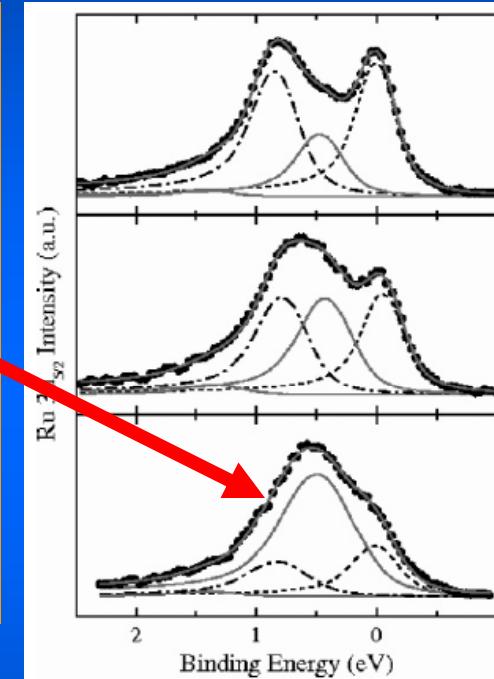
\* „Handbook of Photoelectron Spectroscopy“, Perkin-Elmer, 1992  
G. Ertl, J. Küppers;  
„Low Energy Electrons and Surface Chemistry“; VCH Verlag, 1985  
S. Hüfner; „Photoelectronspectroscopy“; Springer, 1995.  
D. Briggs, M.P. Seah;  
„Practical Surface Analysis“, Vol. 1; Wiley + Sons, 1990.

# Analyzing the data: Peak Fitting



## Several influences on peak shape:

- Broadening mainly due to exciting light (natural), structural and thermal effects
- Asymmetry due to final state effects
- Species with similar BE



These effects have to be considered when fitting by reasonable chemical/physical model of the sample!!!

# Analyzing the data: Peak Fitting

Most fitting programs provide useful tools:

Levenberg-Marquardt  
algorithm to minimize  
the  $\chi^2$

$$\chi^2(p) = \frac{1}{N-P} \sum_i \left[ \frac{M(i) - S(i; p)}{\sqrt{M(i)}} \right]^2$$

M: measured spectrum  
N: energy values  
S: synthesized spectrum  
P: parameter values

Asymmetric Peak  
shapes modeled by  
Doniach-Sunjic  
functions (convoluted  
with Gaussian profiles)

$$DS(E) = \beta \cdot \frac{\cos\left\{\pi \frac{\alpha}{2} + (1-\alpha)\arctan\left[\frac{E-E_0}{\beta}\right]\right\}}{\left[(E-E_0)^2 + \beta^2\right]^{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}}$$

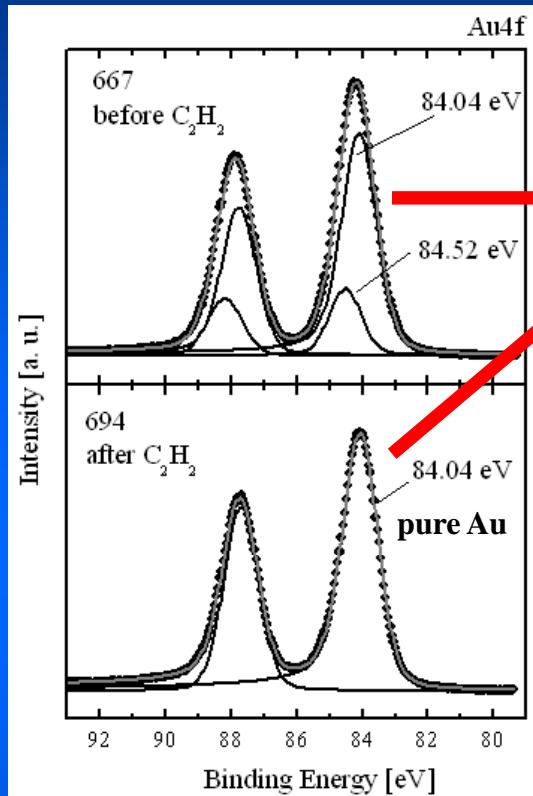
$\beta$ : peak parameter  
M: mixing ratio  
 $\alpha$ : asymmetry parameter  
h: peak height  
 $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ : Lorentzian profile

Convolution of  
Lorentz (or D.S.)  
Gaussian profiles  
suited best!!

$$f(E) = f(L * G) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} L(E') G(E - E') dE'$$

→ Voigt function

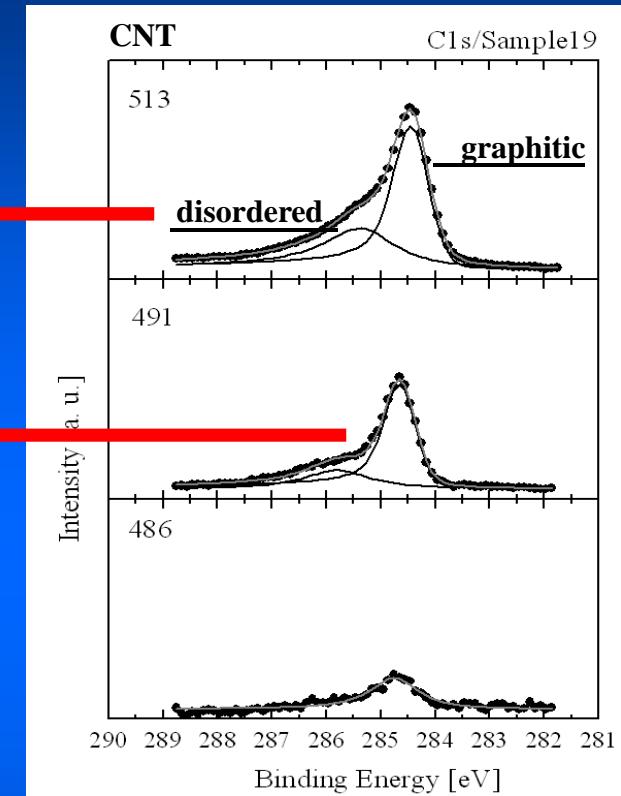
# Analyzing the data: Peak Fitting



## Strategy:

- Use of references for asymmetry and broadening
- Reasoning of most likely chemical composition

Peak broadening and asymmetry *should* be the same for same component in different spectra



But: both may differ for different components  
→ discrepancy for different peaks should always be based on physical reasons

# Quantitative Analysis

## Goal:

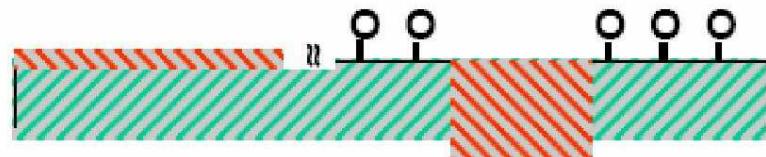
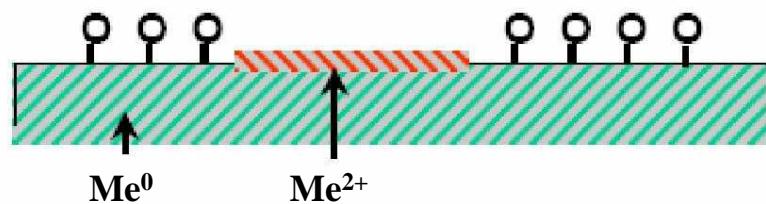
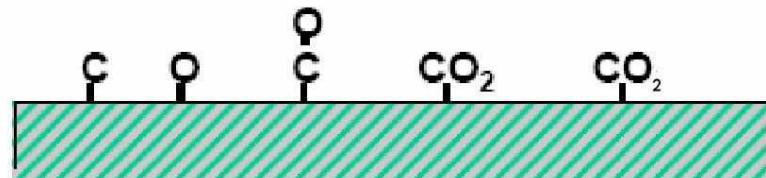
### **Elemental composition**

- Species of atoms on surface
- Concentration of surface atoms
- Vertical distribution
  - on surface (adsorbate)
  - near surface

### **Molecular state of adsorbates**

### **Oxidation state of surface species**

- $\text{Me}^0 \leftrightarrow \text{Me}^{n+}$



# Quantitative Analysis: First Steps

In general:

$$I_X = B \times \sigma \times \lambda_{\text{tot}} \times T \times n_X$$

B: *all instrumental contributions*

$\sigma$ : ionisation cross section for given photon energy

$\lambda_{\text{tot}}$ : total escape depth

T: transmission through surface

$n_X$ : atomic density of analyzed species in sample

$$\sigma = \sigma_{\text{tot}} \times f(X, \alpha)$$

$$\text{with } f(X, \alpha) = 1 + (\beta(X)/4) (1 - 3\cos^2 \alpha)^*$$

$\sigma_{\text{tot}}$ : total ionisation cross section

f: form function accounting for asymmetry of peak

$\beta$ : asymmetry parameter

$\alpha$ : angle between photon beam and emitted electron  
(different for standard x-ray source and synchrotron)

\*Yeh and Lindau, Atomic data nucl. data tables 32(1985)1

$$\lambda_{\text{tot}} = E(X) \times 1/a [\ln(E(X)-b)^*$$

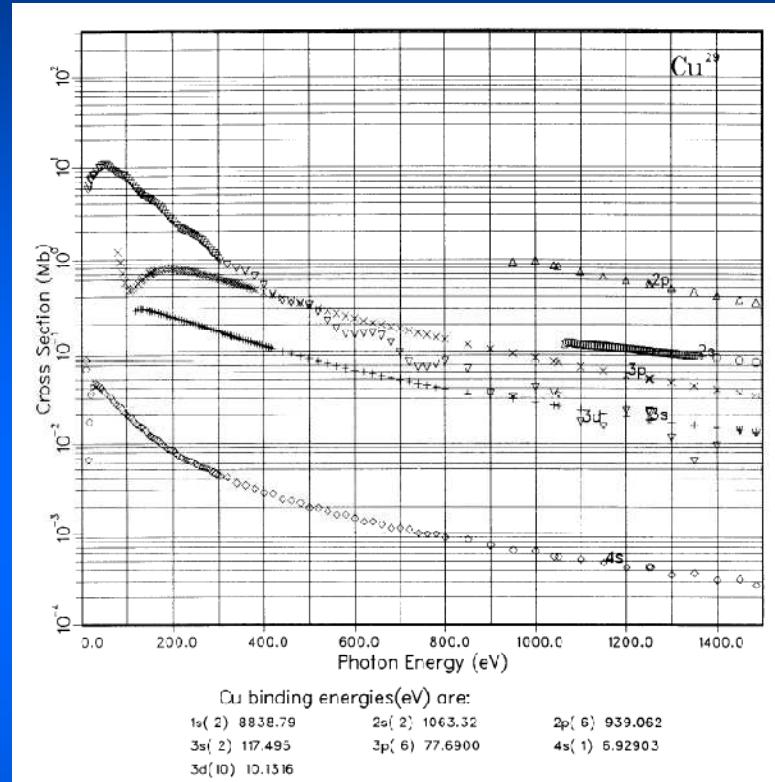
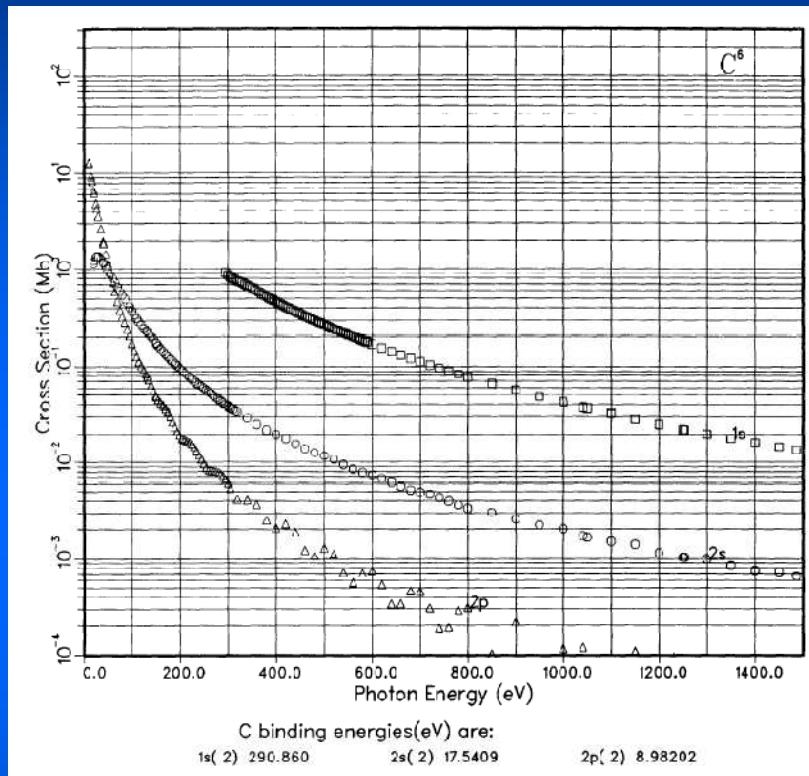
E: KE of electron

a, b: parameters dependent on dielectric function and concentration of host

\*Penn, J.of Electr.Spectr. And Rel. Phen. 9(1976)29

Cross section changes with energy  
of incident beam!!!

# Quantitative Analysis: Cross Section



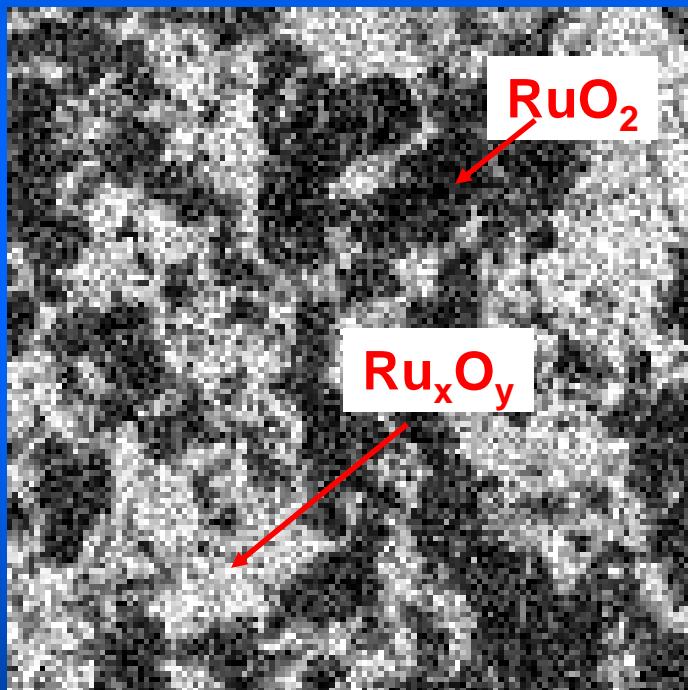
Calculated changes of Cross section beam energy

(Yeh, Lindau; Atomic data and nuclear data tables 32 (1985) 1)

## Quantitative Analysis

In most cases the sample surface is quite heterogeneous

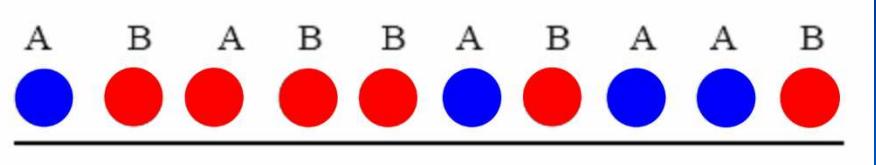
→ Need of *models* to extract an accurate approximation of composition out of spectral intensities



Ru 3d5/2-map of the chemical states on Ru(0001)  
after pre-treatment with O  
performed with Scanning Photoelectron  
Microscopy (ELETTRA):

# Quantitative Analysis: Useful Examples

## A. Heterogeneous mixture (e.g. alloy):



with the formulas  
above follows

$$\frac{I_A}{I_B} \cdot \frac{I_B^0}{I_A^0} = \frac{N_A}{N_B} \cdot \frac{N_B^0}{N_A^0} \cdot \frac{\lambda_{AB}(E_A)}{\lambda_{AB}(E_B)} \cdot \frac{\lambda_B(E_B)}{\lambda_A(E_A)}$$

and

$$\lambda_A = 0.41 \cdot a_A^{1.5} \cdot E_A^{0.5}$$

$$\frac{N_A}{N_B} \cdot \frac{N_B^0}{N_A^0} = \frac{X_A}{X_B} \cdot \left( \frac{a_A}{a_B} \right)^3$$

$a_A$ : „radius of A“

→ Mol fraction

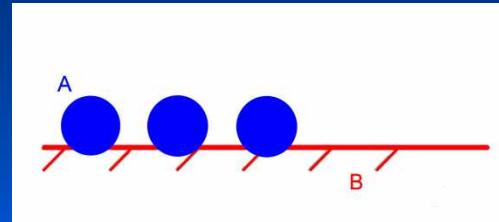
follows

$$\frac{X_A}{X_B} = \left( \frac{a_B}{a_A} \right)^{1,5} \cdot \frac{I_A / I_A^0}{I_B / I_B^0}$$

$I_{A,B}^0$ : reference of  
clean material

## Quantitative Analysis: Useful Examples

B. Partial Coverage (e.g. adsorbate):



**Contribution of B:**

$$I_B = I_B^0 \text{ (direct)} + I_B^0 \text{ (attenuated by A)}$$
$$= (1 - \Theta_A) I_B^0 + I_B^0 \Theta_A \exp\left(-\frac{a_A}{\lambda_A \cos \Theta}\right)$$

**$\Theta$ : angle between surface normal and emitted electron**

**For signals of A and B follows**

$$I_B = I_B^0 \left[ 1 - \Theta_A + \Theta_A \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{a_A}{\lambda_A \cos \Theta}\right) \right]$$

**$\Theta_A$ : coverage of A on B**

$$I_A = I_A^0 \cdot \Theta_A$$

**Which gives**

$$\frac{I_A}{I_B} = \frac{I_A^0}{I_B^0} \cdot \frac{\Theta_A}{1 - \Theta_A \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{a_A}{\lambda_A \cos \Theta}\right) \right]}$$

**$I_{A,B}^0$  : reference of clean material**

# Quantitative Analysis: Useful Examples

## C. Thin layer of A on B (e.g. oxide):

Contribution of B:

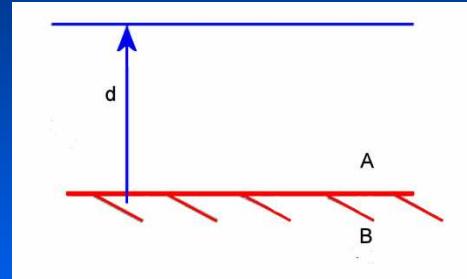
$$I_B = I_B^0 \exp\left(-\frac{d_A}{\lambda_A(E_B)} \cdot \cos\Theta\right)$$

Contribution of A:

$$I_A = I_A^0 \exp\left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{d_A}{\lambda_A(E_A)} \cos\Theta\right)\right]$$

Which gives

$$\frac{I_A}{I_B} = \frac{I_A^0}{I_B^0} \cdot \frac{1 - \exp\left(-\frac{d_A}{\lambda_A(E_A)} \cos\Theta\right)}{\exp\left(-\frac{d_A}{\lambda_A(E_B)} \cos\Theta\right)}$$



→ Special case:

$$\lambda_A(E_A) \sim \lambda_A(E_B) \quad \text{i.e.} \quad E_A \sim E_B$$

follows

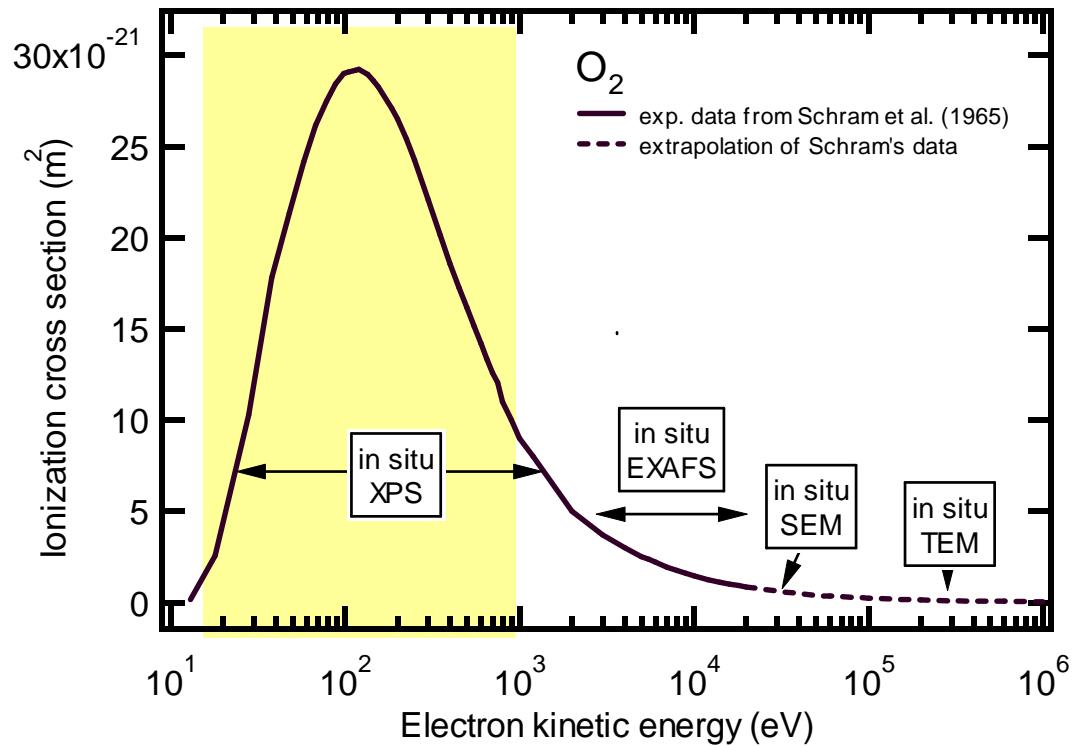
$$d_A \approx \frac{\lambda_A}{\cos\Theta} \cdot \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{I_A}{I_B} \cdot \frac{I_B^0}{I_A^0} \right]$$

General problem here:  
proper background subtraction

# In situ XPS: obstacles

Fundamental limit:

elastic and inelastic  
scattering of electrons  
in the gas phase

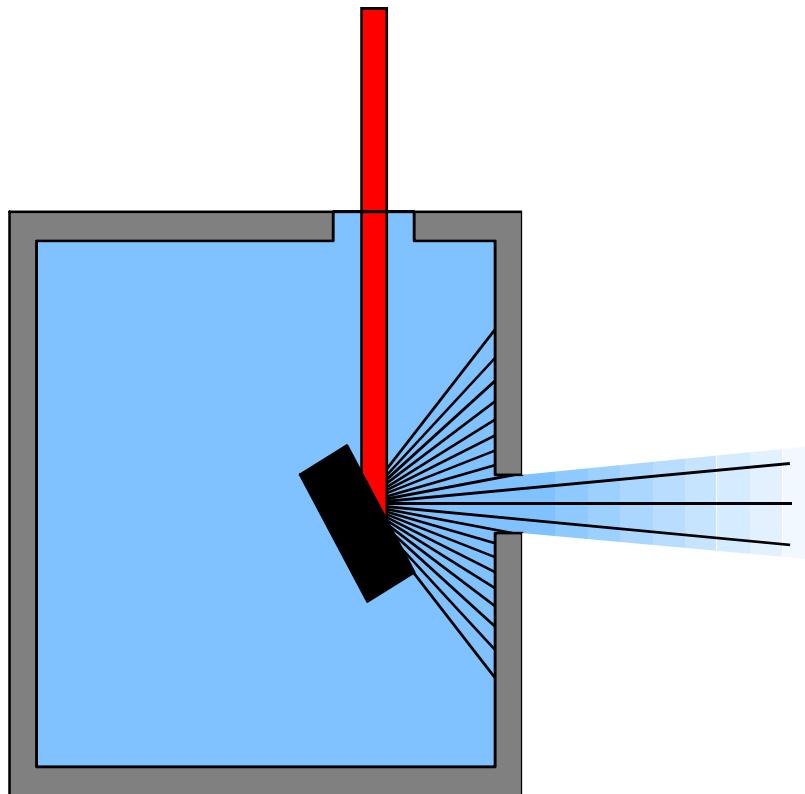


Technical issues:

- Differential pumping to keep analyzer in high vacuum
- Sample preparation and control in a flow reactor

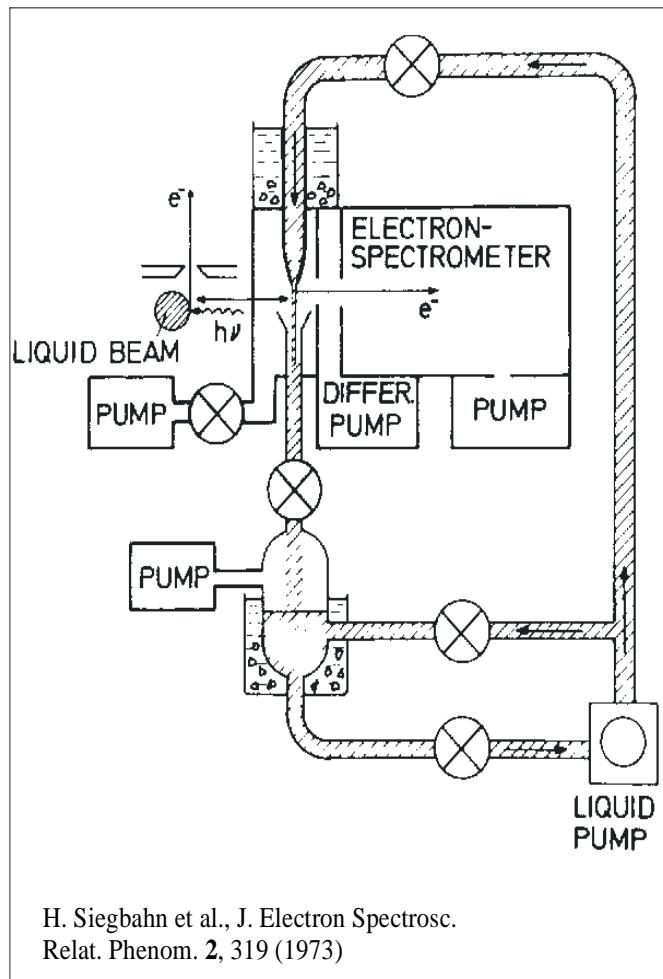
## In situ XPS: basic concept

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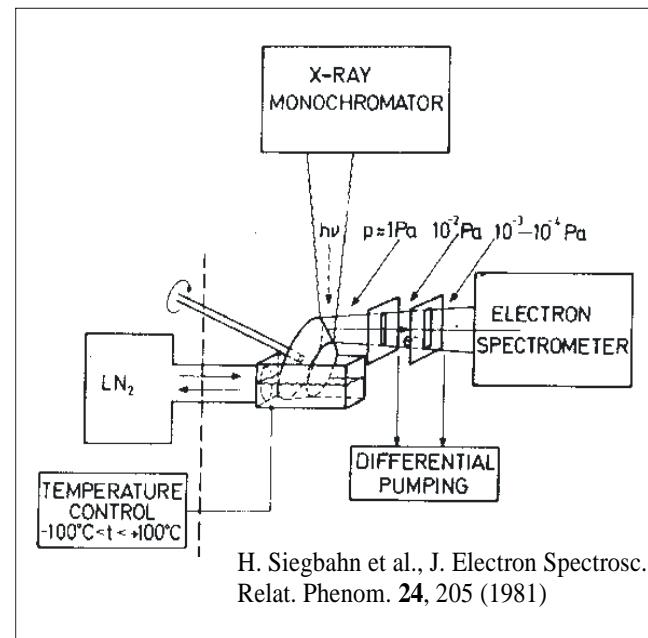


- Photons enter through a window
- Electrons and a gas jet escape through an aperture to vacuum

# In situ XPS instruments: previous designs

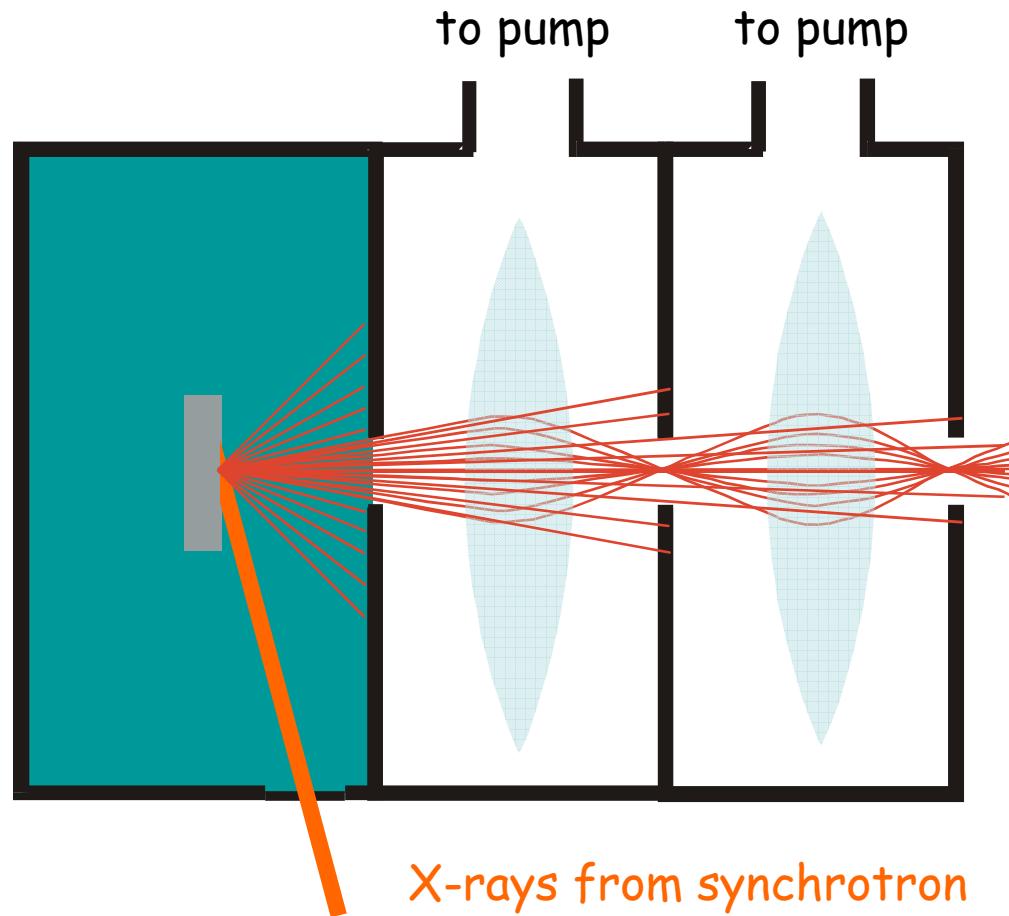


- H. Siegbahn et al. (1973- )
- M.W. Roberts et al. (1979)
- M. Faubel et al. (1987)
- M. Grunze et al. (1988)
- P. Oelhafen (1995)

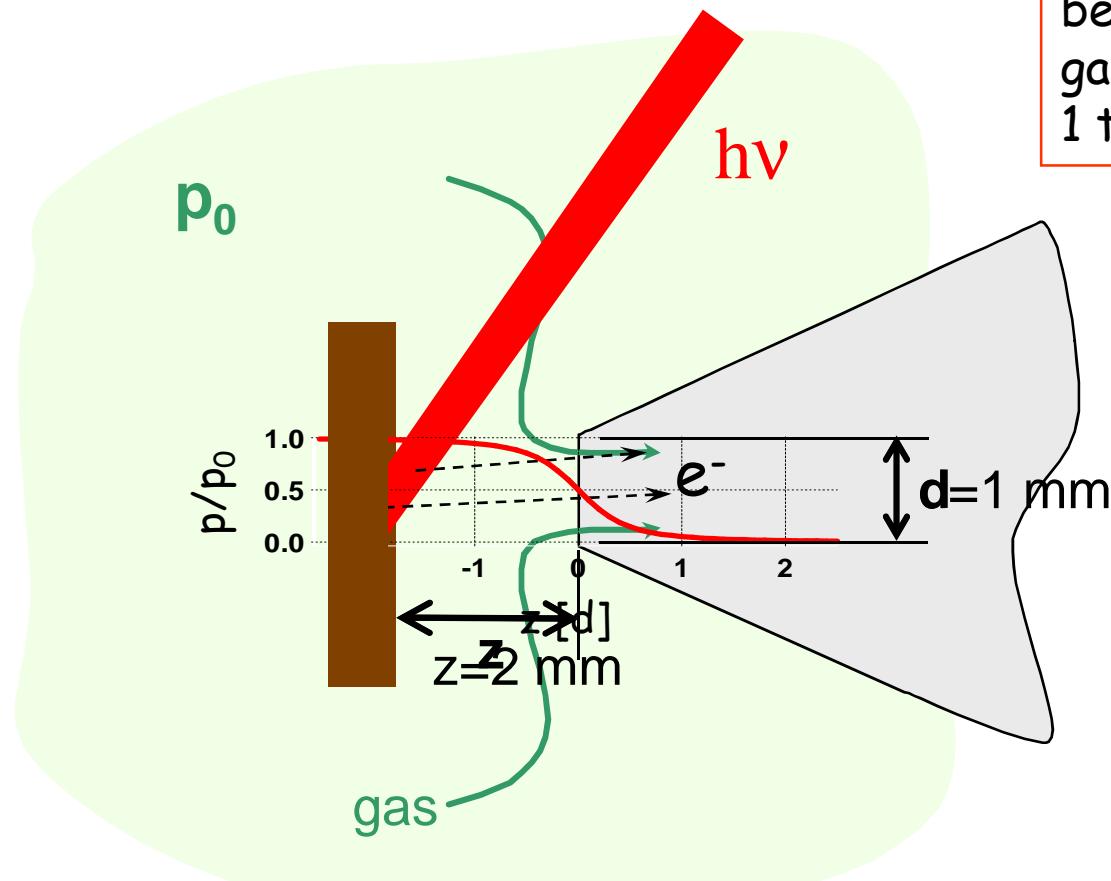


## In situ XPS using differentially pumped electrostatic lenses

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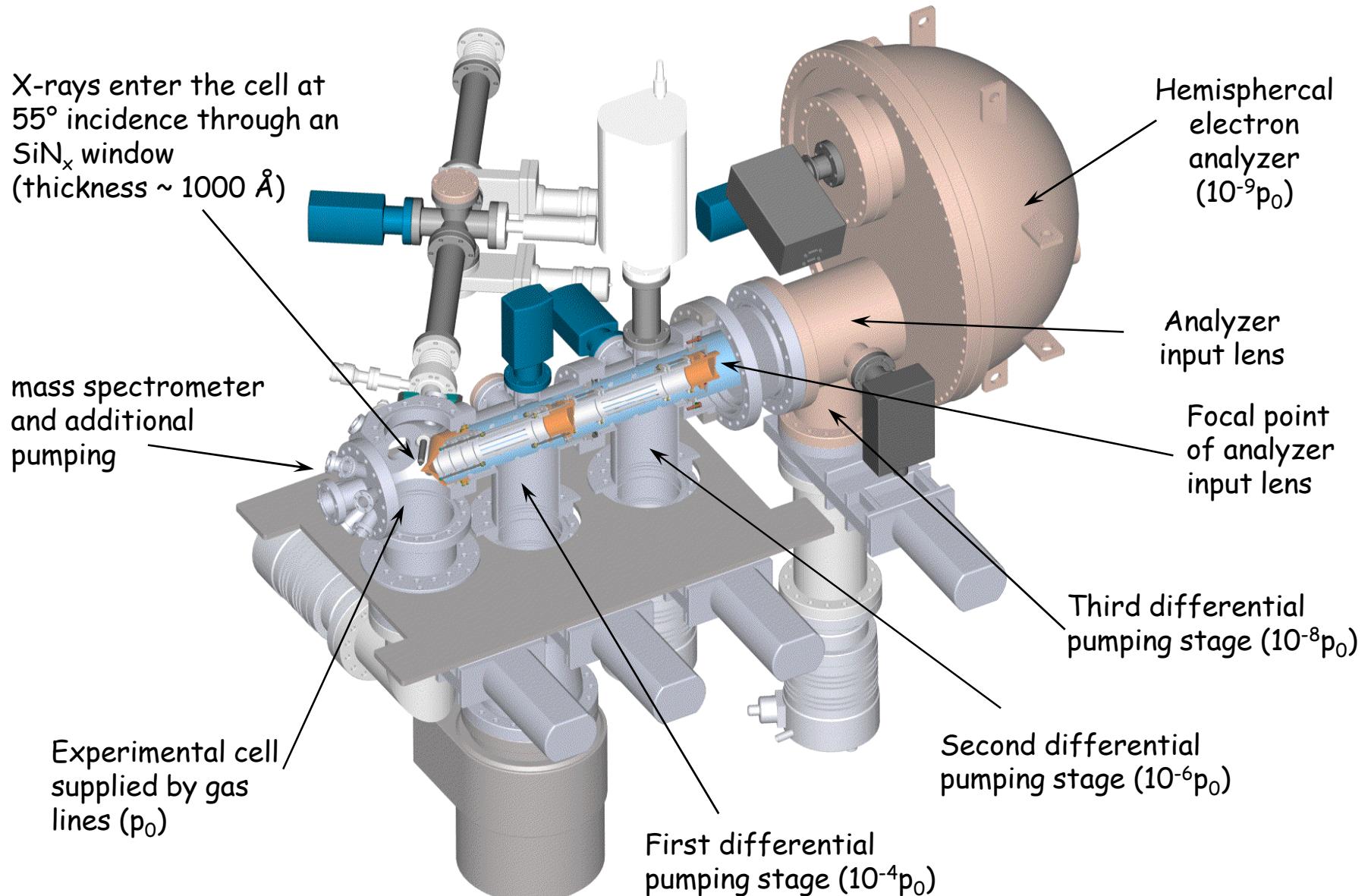


## Close-up of sample-first aperture region

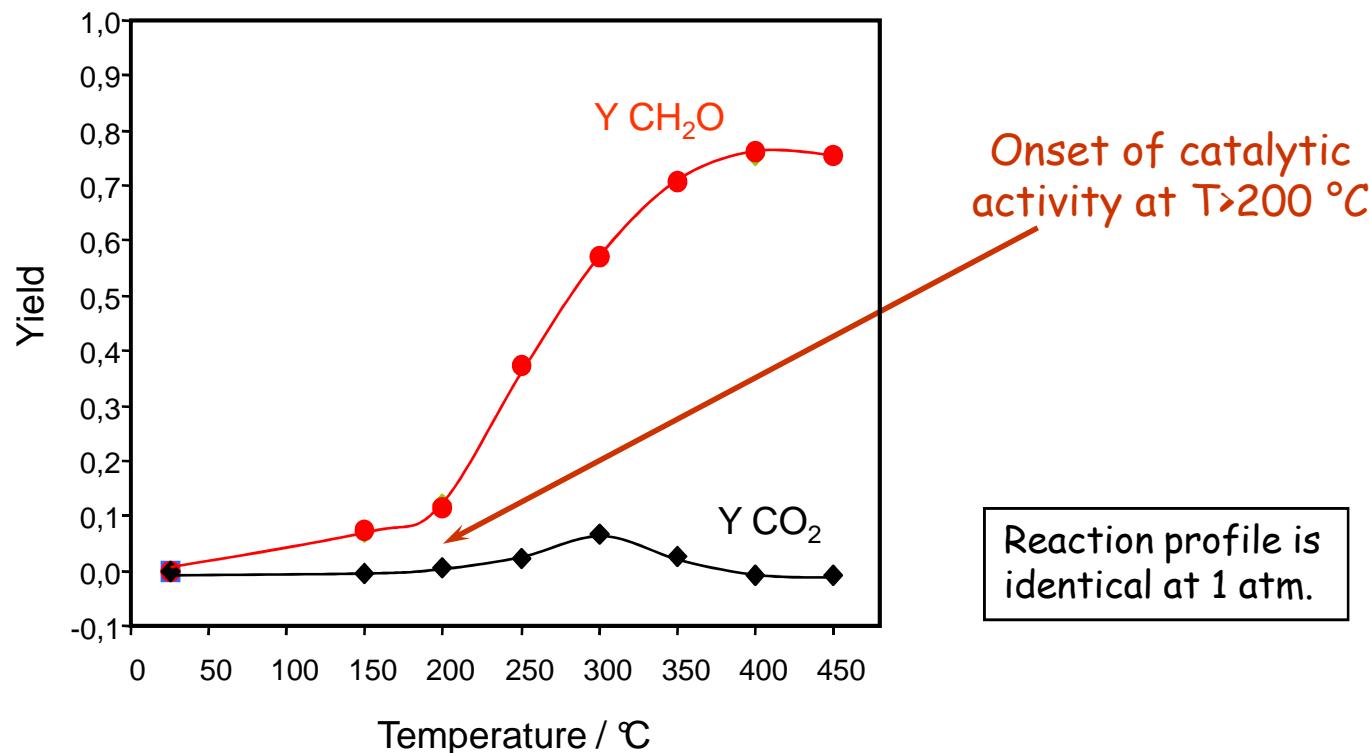
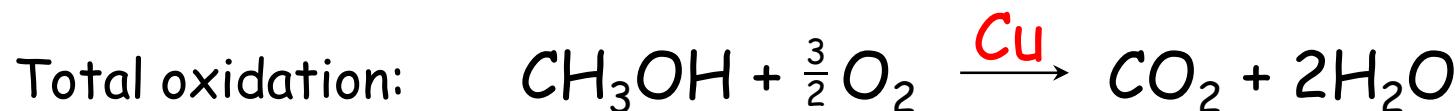
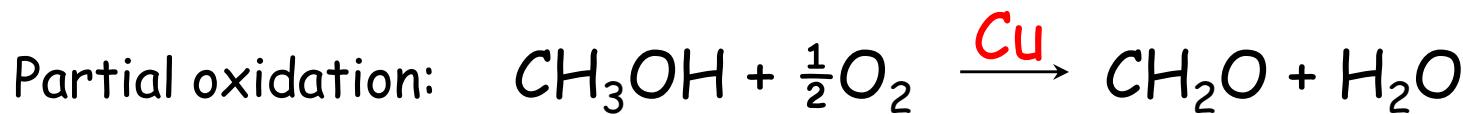


Gas phase composition can  
be measured by XPS.  
gas phase signal:  
1 torr·mm ~ a few monolayers

# In situ XPS system



## Application of in situ XPS to catalysis: methanol oxidation on Cu

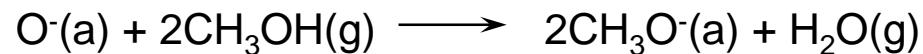


What is the state of the surface under reaction conditions?

# Partial oxidation of methanol

## UHV XPS

I.E. Wachs & R.J. Madix, *Surf. Sci.* 76, 531 (1978); A. F. Carley et al., *Catal. Lett.* 37, 79 (1996).



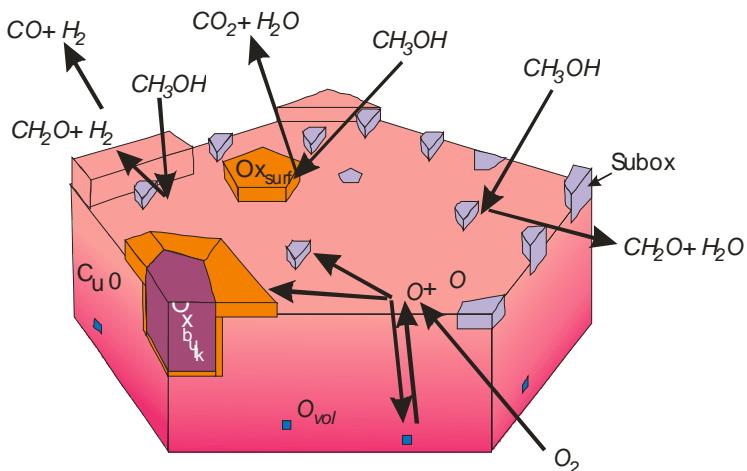
## In situ NEXAFS

A. Knop-Gericke et al., *Topics Catal.* 15, 27 (2001).

$\text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{O}_2 \sim 0.5 \text{ mbar}$

suboxide phase:

- only present in situ



Questions for in situ XPS:

- Quantitative analysis of surface species
- Carbon species on the surface
- Depth-dependent analysis

# Experimental conditions

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sample: polycrystalline Cu foil

Variations of mixing ratios:  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH} : \text{O}_2 = 1:2, 3:1, 6:1$ ;  $T = 400^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $p = 0.6 \text{ mbar}$

Temperature series: gas mixture at room temperature:  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH} : \text{O}_2 = 3:1$ ;  
 $p = 0.6 \text{ mbar}$ ; temperature:  $25^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow 450^\circ\text{C}$

flow rates: 10 ... 20 sccm

## XPS measurements

Beam line U49/2-PGM1 at Bessy

Energy range 100...1500 eV

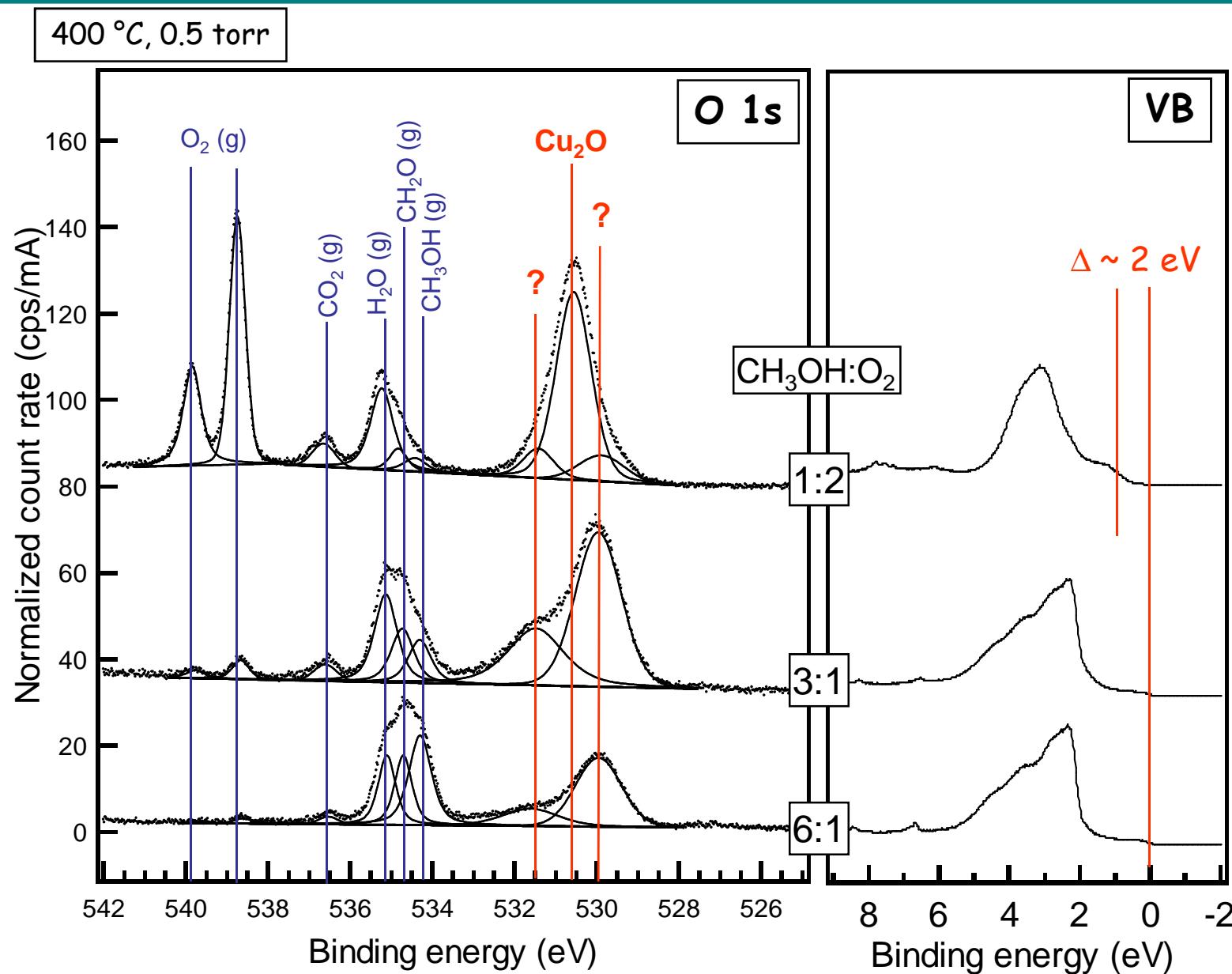
total spectral resolution 0.1 eV @ 500 eV

O 1s, C 1s, Cu 3p, Cu 2p: KE  $\sim 180 \text{ eV}$

Valence Band: KE  $\sim 260 \text{ eV}$

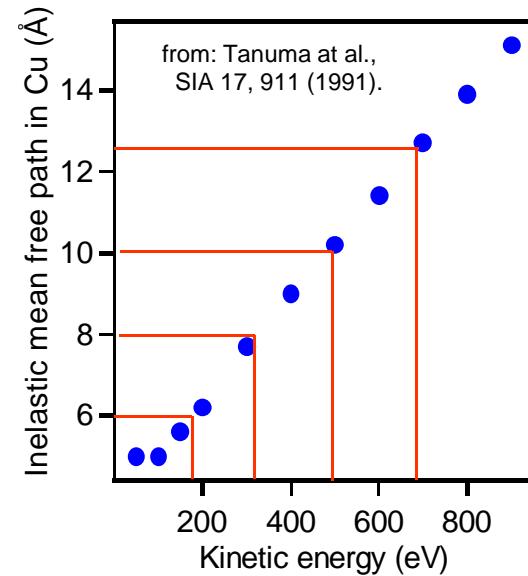
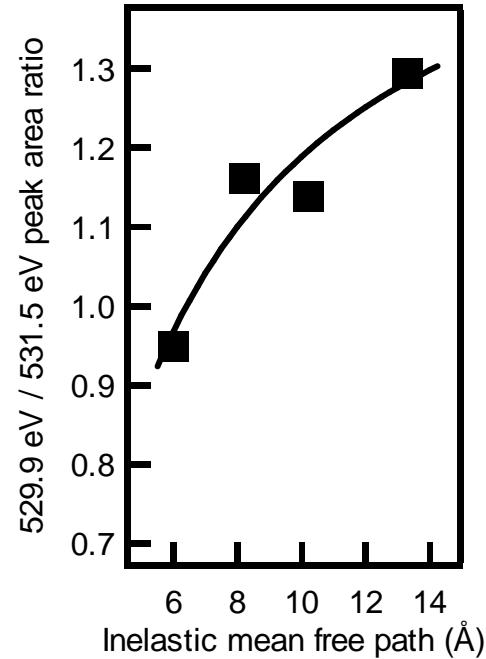
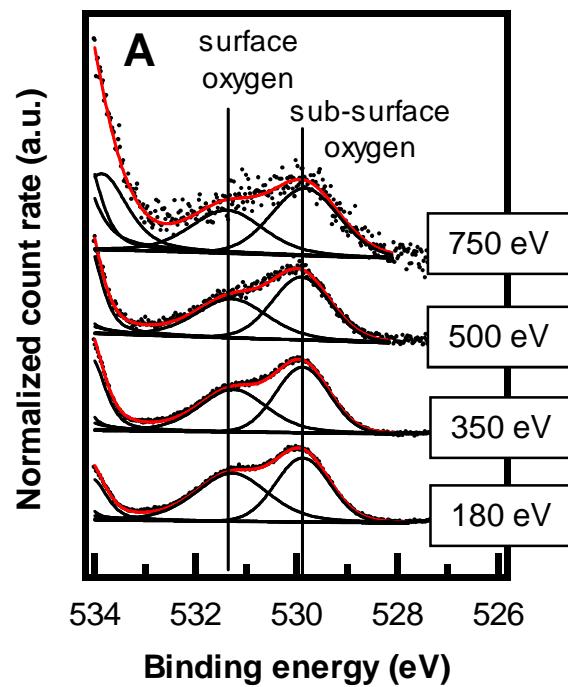
Depth profiling with KEs 180 eV, 350 eV,  
500 eV, 750 eV

# Methanol oxidation on Cu: O<sub>1s</sub> spectra



# O1s depth profiling

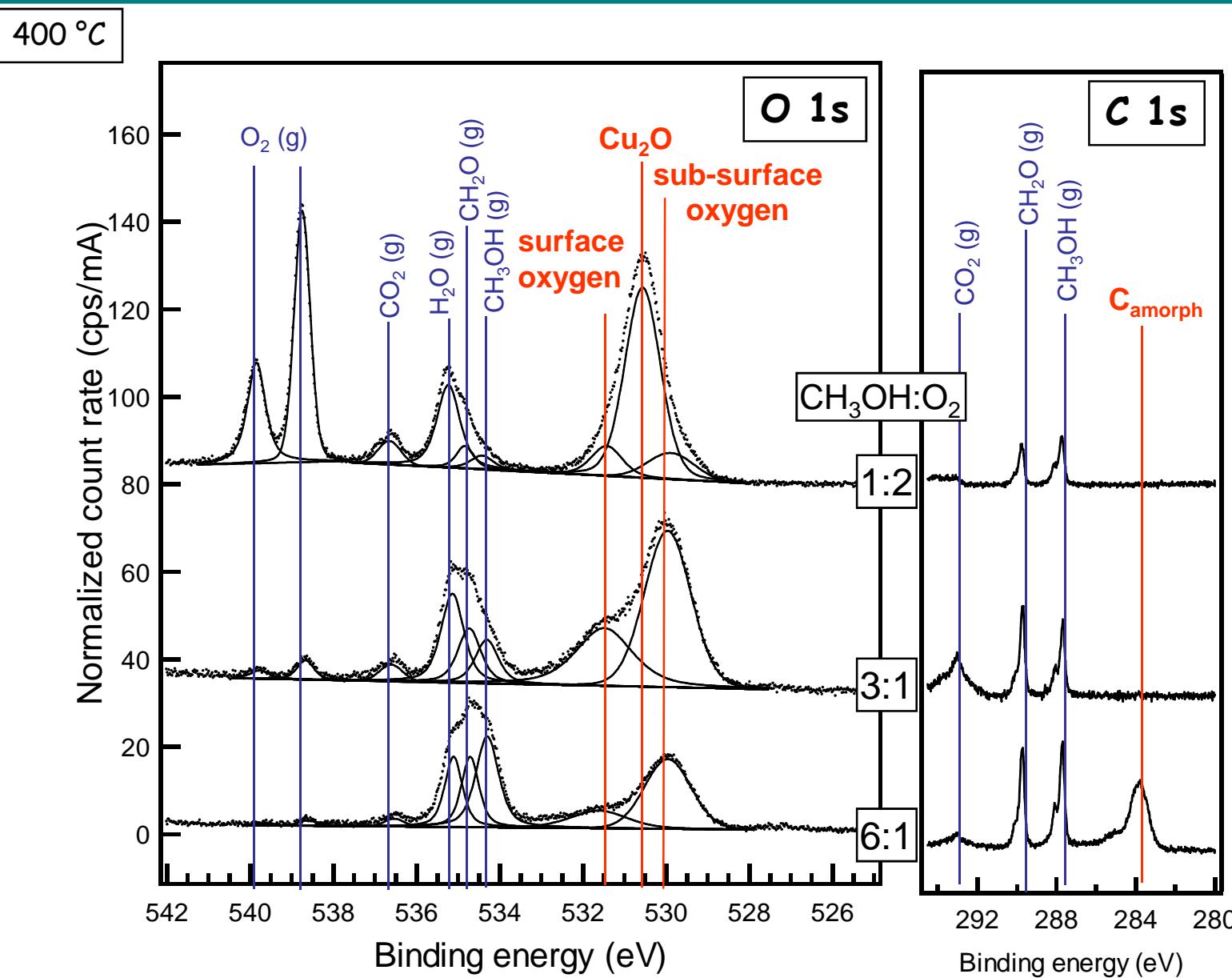
$\text{CH}_3\text{OH} : \text{O}_2 = 3:1$



$$I_{529.9}/I_{531.5} = n_{529.9}/n_{531.5} \cdot \exp[-(z_{531.5} - z_{529.9})/\lambda]$$

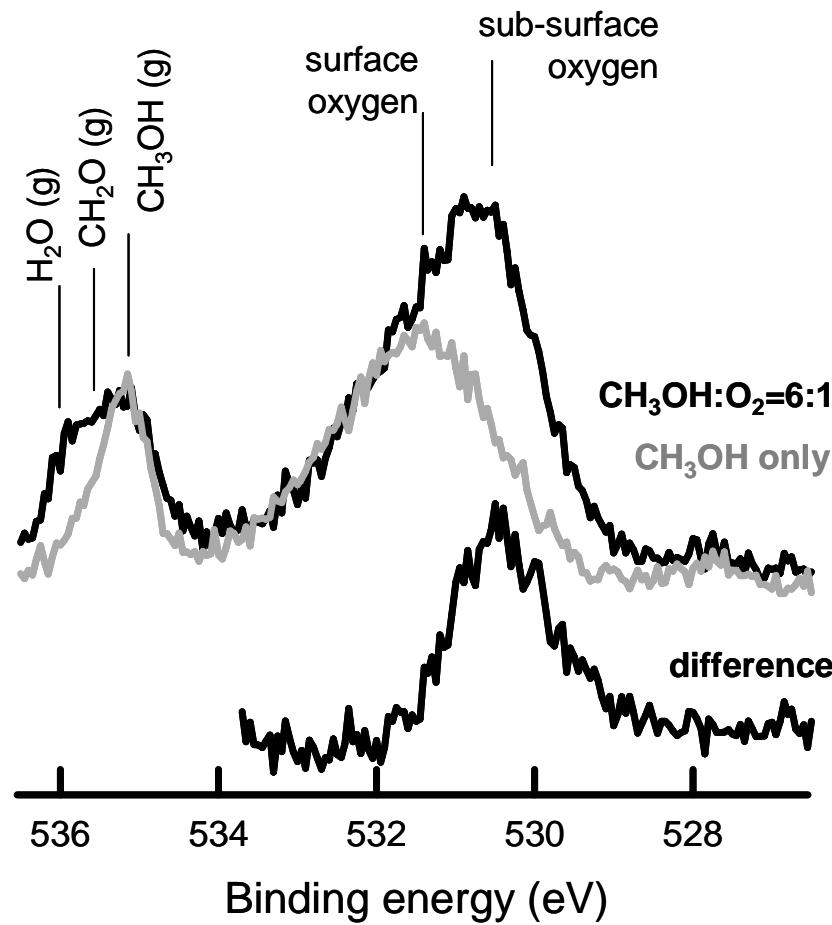
$$\Delta z = 3 \text{ Å}, \quad n_{529.9}/n_{531.5} = 1.6$$

# Methanol oxidation on Cu: C1s spectra



# Metastability of the Sub-Surface Oxygen

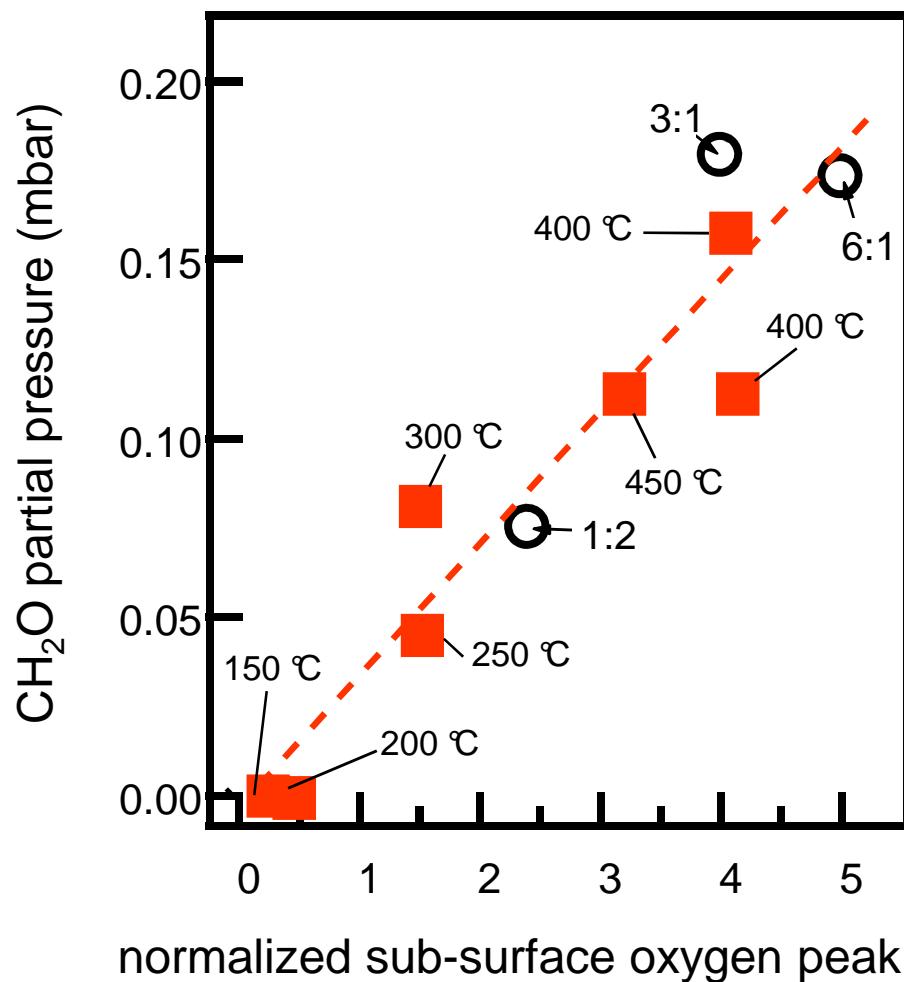
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## Correlation of catalytic activity and surface species

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CH<sub>2</sub>O yield vs sub-surface oxygen peak area



mixing ratio series  
(T = 400 °C)

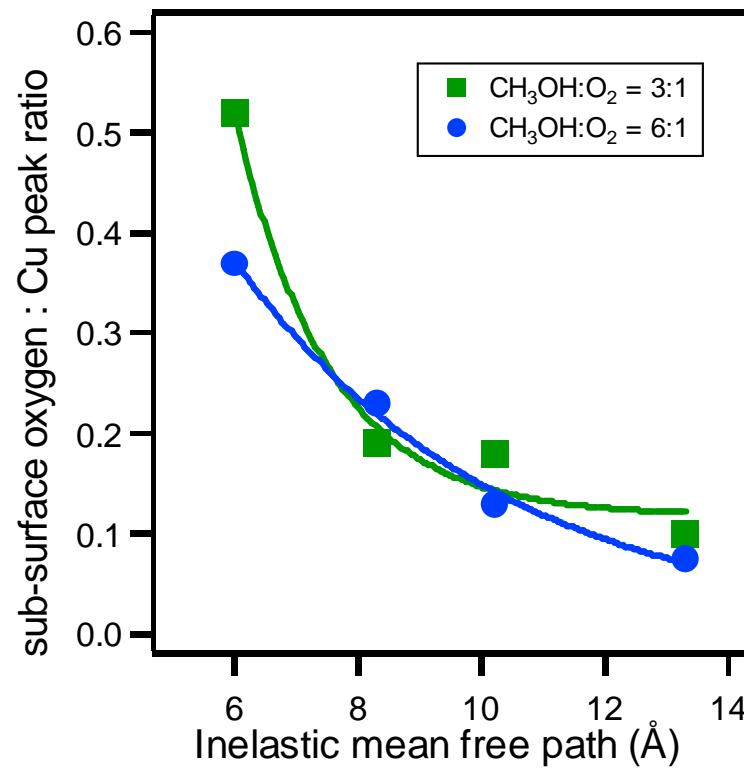
temperature series  
(CH<sub>3</sub>OH:O<sub>2</sub> = 3:1)

Open questions:  
What is the nature of the sub-surface oxygen species?  
What is its role in the catalytic reaction?

# Depth profiling

(calculated from Cu 3p and sub-surface O 1s)

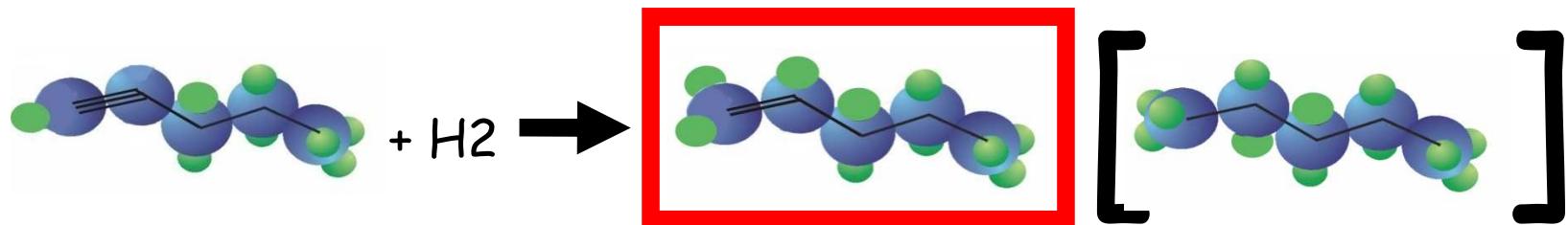
## Reducing conditions



Open questions: What is the nature of the sub-surface oxygen species?  
What is its role in the catalytic reaction?

# Introduction

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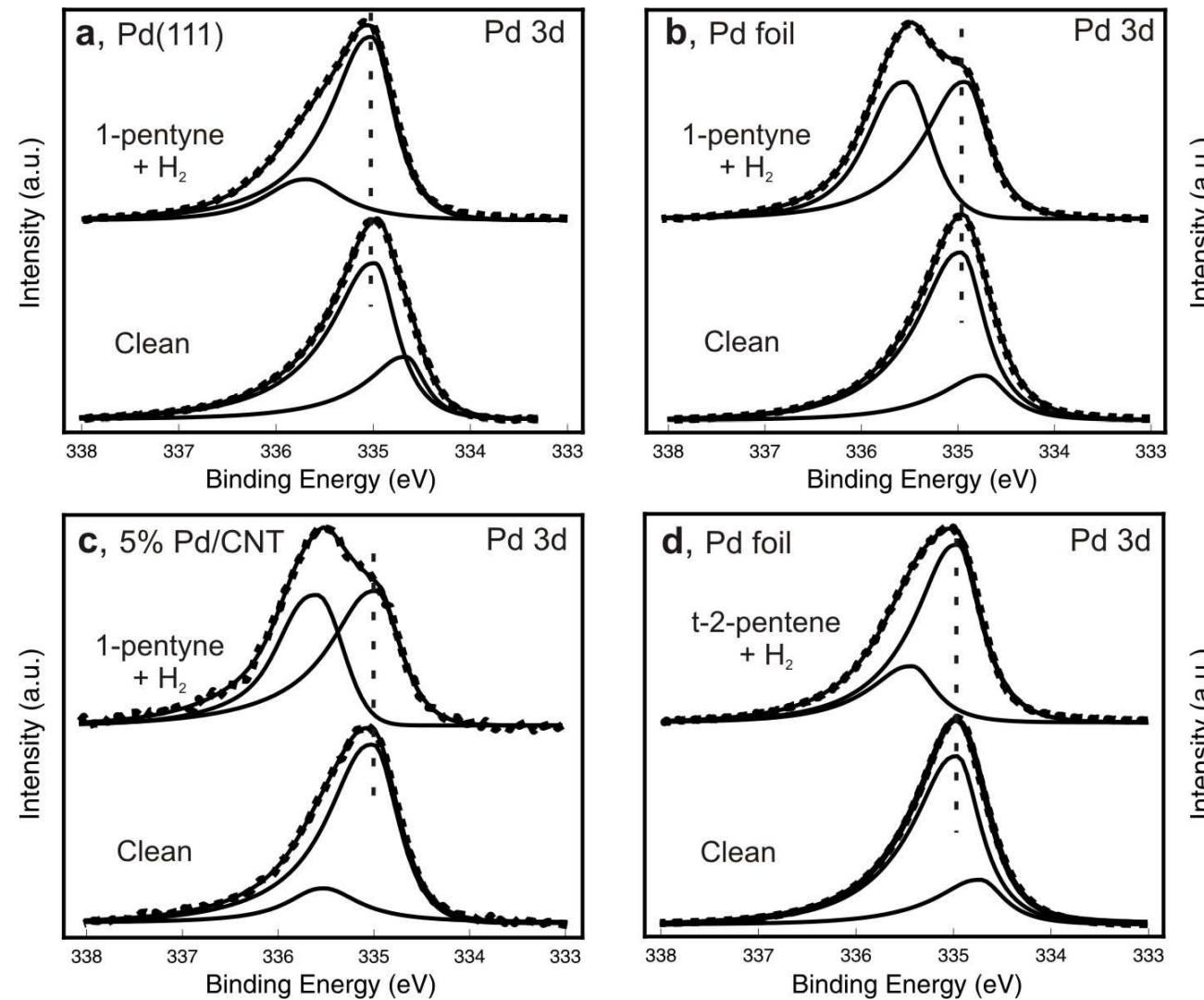
## Literature

carbon laydown  $\longrightarrow$  selective hydrogenation

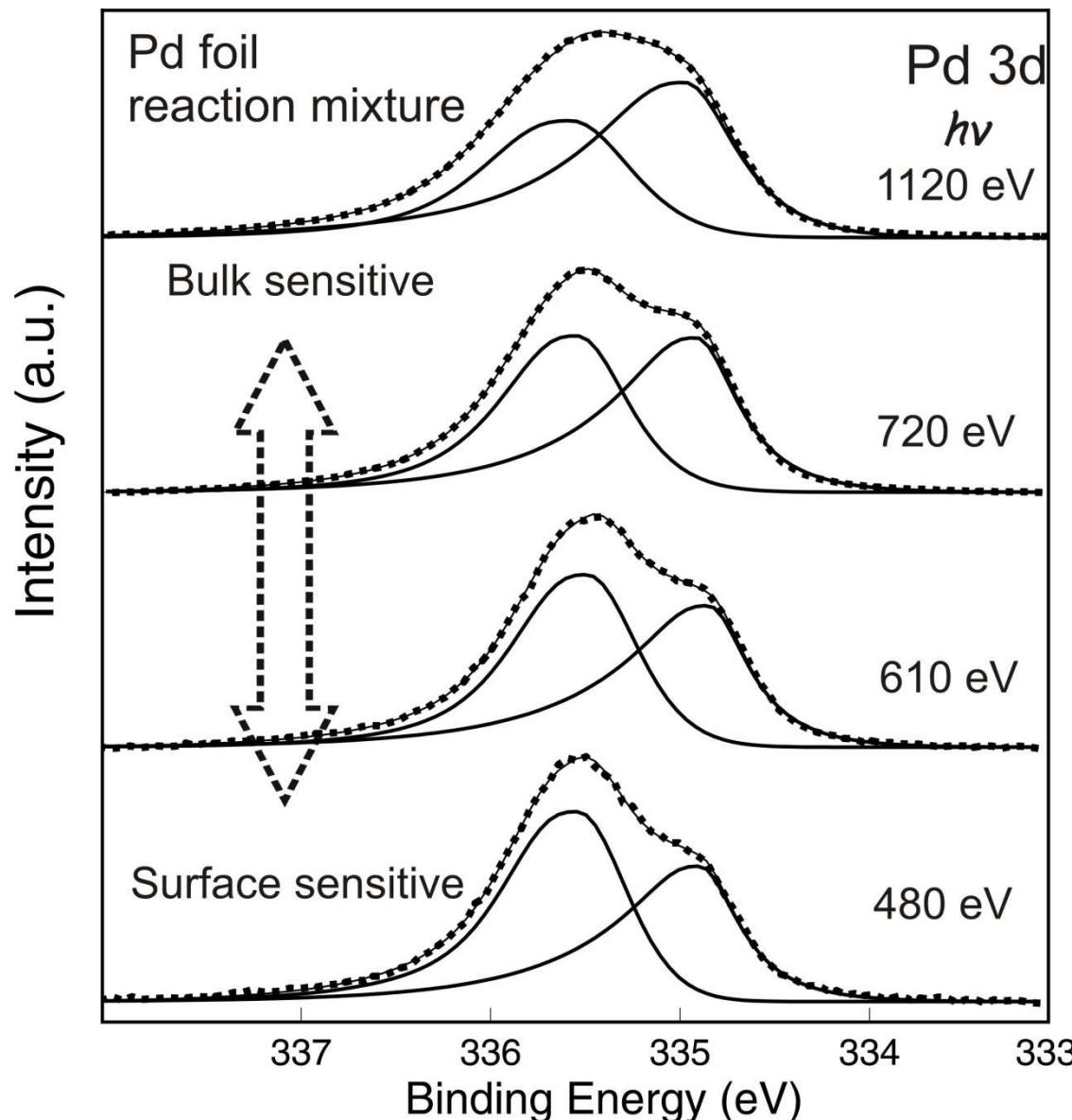
"similar" catalysts  $\longrightarrow$  different activity & selectivity  
(structure sensitivity?)

Selectivity issue: what defines selectivity?

# In-situ XPS: Pd 3d ( $h\nu$ : 720 eV)

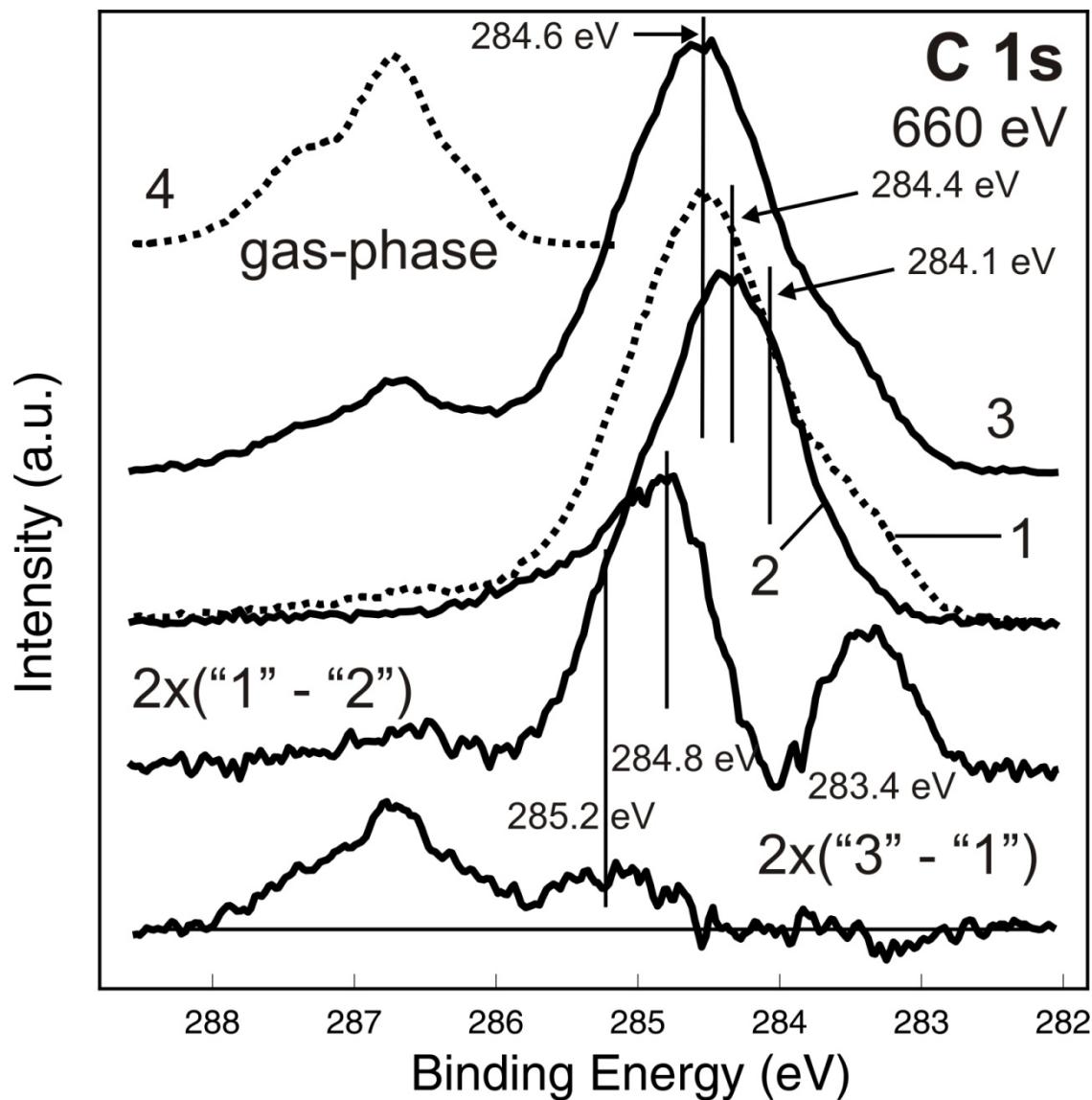


# In-situ XPS: Pd 3d depth profiling



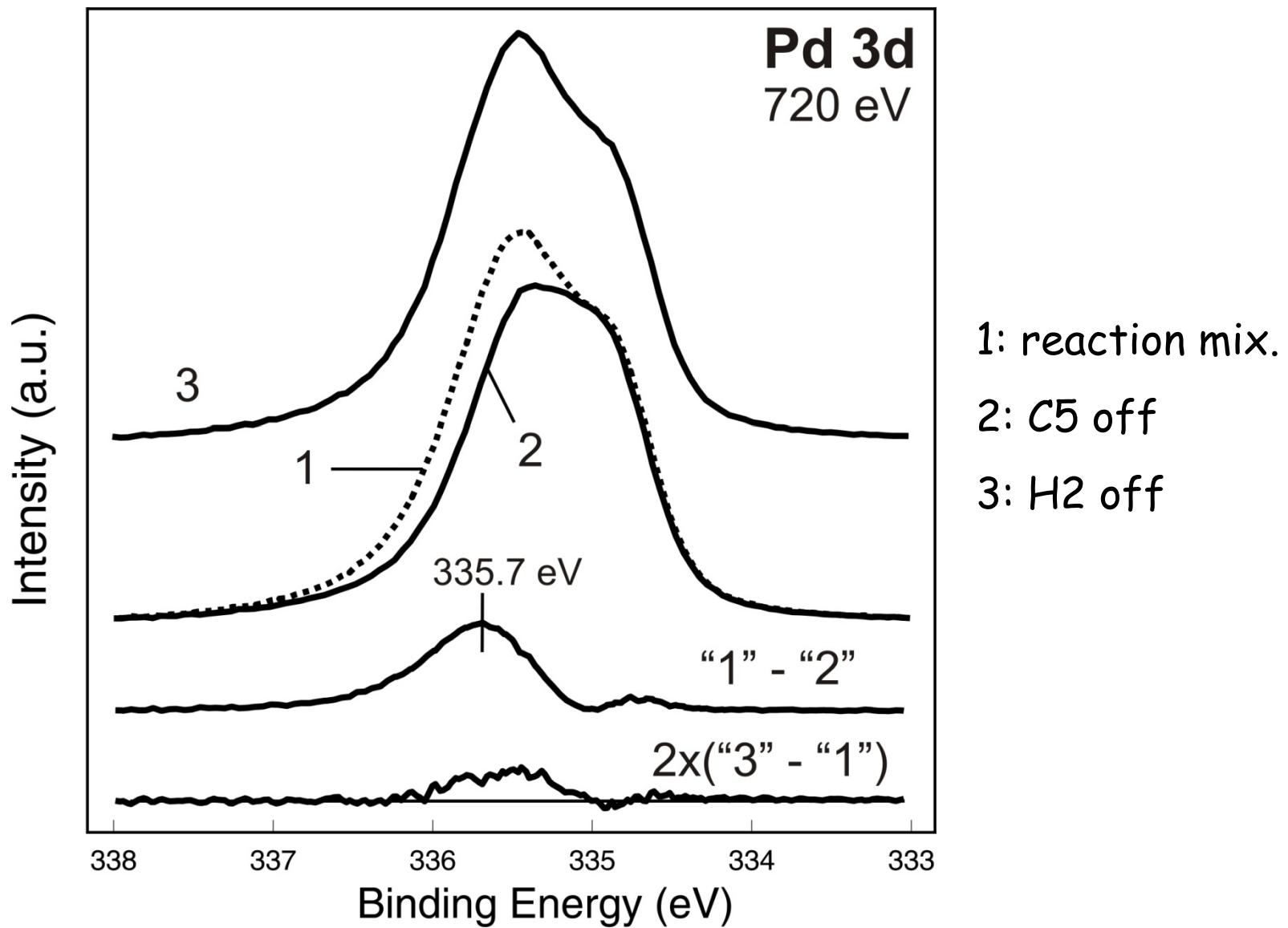
Not only  
adsorbate-induced  
surface core level  
shift !  
But on-top location!

# In-situ XPS: C1s (Switching off experiments)



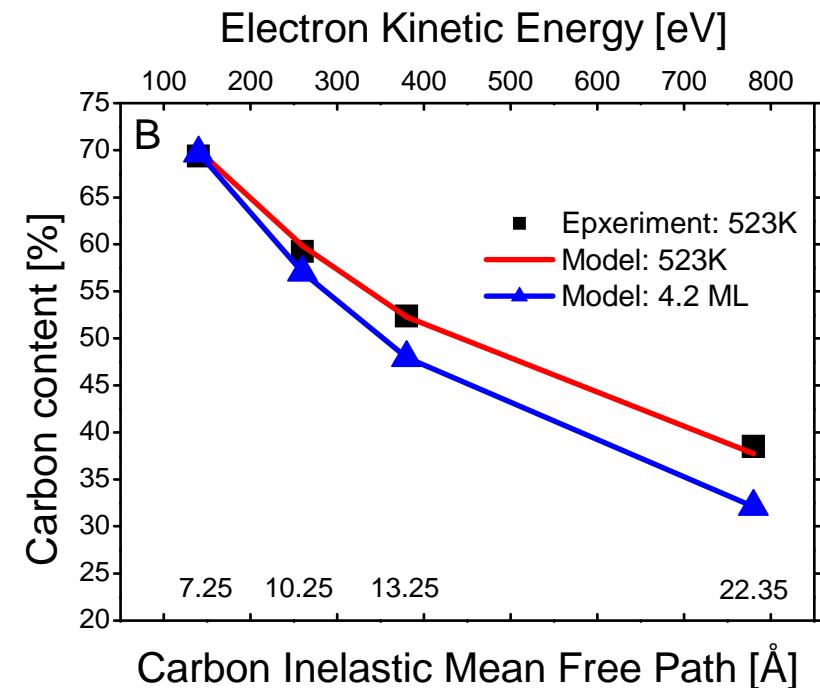
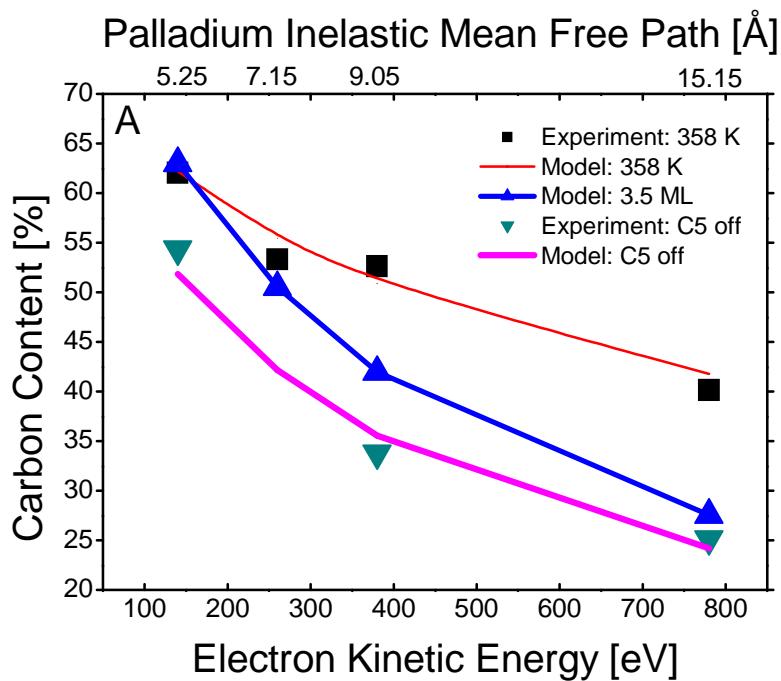
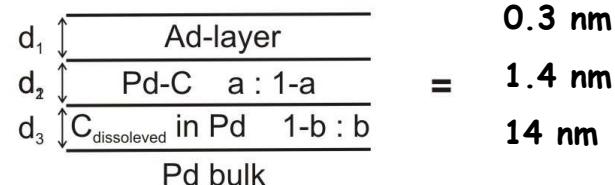
- 1: reaction mix.
- 2: C5 off
- 3: H2 off
- 4: C5 gas-phase

# In-situ XPS: Pd 3d (Switching off experiments)



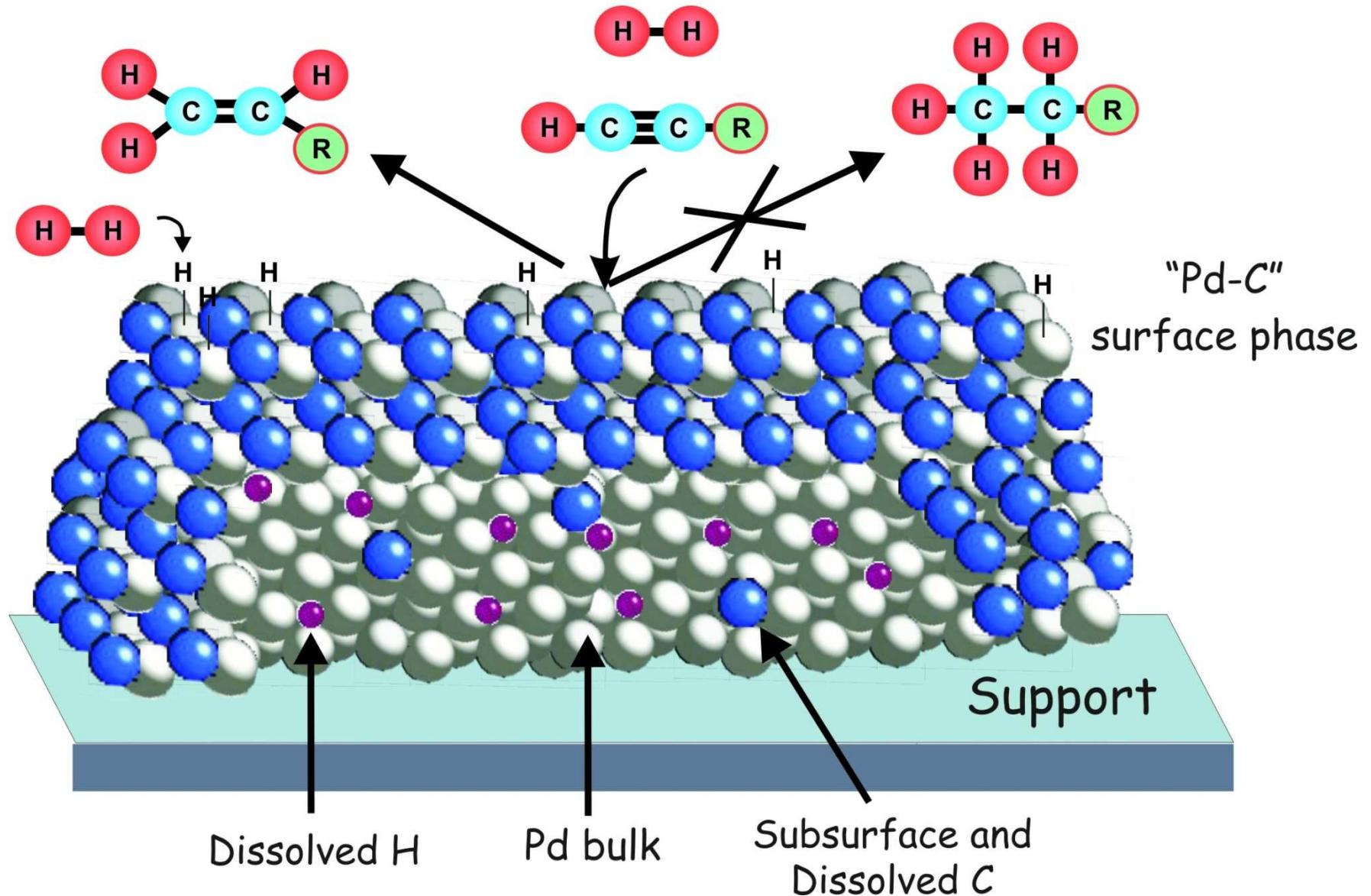
# In-situ XPS: Pd vs. C depth profiling

Model



# Model

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## Summary

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core states  
atom specific  
quantitative  
complex final state effects  
chemical shift concept  
theoretically difficult accessible  
can be applied in the mbar range  
surface sensitive  
depth profiling

## Literature

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11. D. Briggs and J. T. Grant: ***Surface Analysis by Auger and Photoelectron Spectroscopy***, Surface Spectra and IM Publications 2003