

Contents

1	History of APT and LEAP	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Ancestry of the Local Electrode Atom Probe	2
1.2.1	Early History and the Field Electron Emission Microscope (~1935)	3
1.2.2	Field Ion Microscope: The First Images of Atoms (1955)	4
1.2.3	Atom Probe Field Ion Microscope (1967)	6
1.2.4	The Advent of Atom Probe Tomography	7
1.2.5	The Position-Sensitive Atom Probe (1988)	8
1.2.6	Electron Beam Pulsed Atom Probe	10
1.2.7	The Scanning Atom Probe	10
1.2.8	The Local Electrode Atom Probe (2001)	10
1.3	The State of Instrumentation	14
1.3.1	The Growth of the Local Electrode Atom Probe	14
1.3.2	Laser Pulsing	15
1.3.3	Fundamental Considerations for Design of Instrumentation	17
1.3.4	Reflectron-Based Instruments	18
1.4	FIB-Based Specimen Preparation	19
1.5	Concluding Remarks	19
	References	20
2	Specimen Preparation	25
2.1	Introduction	25
2.2	Electropolishing	25
2.3	Needles Versus Microtips	29
2.4	Electrostatic Discharge Considerations	30
2.5	Focused Ion Beam Methods	32
2.5.1	Capping Considerations and Damage	33
2.5.2	Standard Lift-Out Process	36

2.5.3	Sharpening Process	38
2.5.4	FIB Deprocessing	40
2.5.5	Cross-Section Preparation	40
2.5.6	Backside Preparation	43
2.6	Hybrid Transmission Electron Microscopy/Atom Probe Tomography	45
2.6.1	Preparation and Holders	47
2.7	Summary	49
	References	50
3	Design and Instrumentation	55
3.1	Introduction	55
3.2	How Atom Probes Work	55
3.3	LEAP Performance Parameters	58
3.3.1	Field of View	58
3.3.2	Mass Resolving Power	59
3.3.3	Data Collection Rate	60
3.3.4	Model Comparison	61
3.4	Instrumentation of the LEAP	61
3.4.1	Local Electrode	61
3.4.2	Detection and Imaging	66
3.4.3	Transfer and Storage of Consumables	69
3.4.4	Field Evaporation Systems	72
3.4.5	Ancillary Systems	73
3.5	Summary	75
	References	76
4	Data Collection	79
4.1	Introduction	79
4.2	Data Quality Considerations	80
4.3	Analysis Yield Considerations	81
4.4	Experimental Parameters	85
4.4.1	Pulse Rate	86
4.4.2	Base Temperature	86
4.4.3	Detection Rate	89
4.4.4	Pulse Fraction (Voltage Mode)	89
4.4.5	Laser Pulse Energy (Laser Mode)	90
4.4.6	LEAP Parameter Ranges	90
4.5	How to Start Your Investigation of Any New Material	91
4.6	Brief Overview of LEAP Operation: Data Collection	92
4.6.1	Voltage Acquisition	93
4.6.2	Laser Acquisition	98
4.6.3	Now You Are Atom Probing	105
	References	107
5	Data Processing and Reconstruction	109
5.1	Introduction	109
5.2	A Word on Data Files and Work Flow	110

5.3	Conversion from Detector Space to Specimen Space Coordinates	110
5.3.1	Selection of Depth and Areal Regions	111
5.3.2	Spectral Calibration	112
5.3.3	Chemical Identification & Ranging	117
5.3.4	Spatial Reconstruction: Projection and Depth Scaling	120
5.3.5	Wide-Angle Reconstruction Protocols	121
5.3.6	Tangential Discontinuity	127
5.3.7	Reconstruction Explorer	128
5.3.8	Creation of ROOT and POS Files	130
5.4	Discussion of Spatial Resolution and Spatial Positioning	131
5.4.1	Spatial Resolution	131
5.4.2	Spatial Positioning (Non-specimen Dependent)	131
5.4.3	Spatial Positioning (Specimen Dependent)	134
5.5	A Word on Density Relaxation	142
5.6	Reconstruction Case Study: NIST Standard Reference Material 2134	145
5.6.1	Reconstruction Parameter Discussion	145
5.6.2	Experiment and Analysis Details	149
	References	159
6	Selected Analysis Topics	163
6.1	Introduction	163
6.2	Spectral Analysis	164
6.2.1	Ranging	164
6.2.2	Practical Considerations for Detection Levels	166
6.2.3	When Is the Signal Level Statistically Significant (Critical Level) for a Peak?	167
6.3	Concentration Space Analyses	173
6.3.1	Gridding, Voxels, and Delocalization	173
6.3.2	Interface Creation and Interfacial Roughness	175
6.3.3	Effects of Delocalization on Planar Surfaces	176
6.3.4	The Proximity Histogram	178
6.4	Solute Analysis: Cluster Detection Method	180
6.4.1	Description of the Technique	180
6.4.2	Example of Cluster Detection	182
6.5	Spatial Distribution Maps	185
6.5.1	The SDM Defined and Important Properties	186
6.5.2	Methods Similar to the SDM	186
6.5.3	Understanding Basic SDMs	187
6.5.4	Calculating SDMs in IVAS	188
6.5.5	Visualizing Tungsten SDMs with IVAS	189
6.6	Application of Spatial Distribution Maps	191
6.6.1	Finding the Crystal Lattice	191
6.6.2	Using SDMs to Calculate Efficiency	192
6.6.3	Ordered Structures and Site Occupancy	195
6.6.4	Ordering in Al ₃ Sc Precipitates	195

6.6.5	FeCr Precipitates in a NiAlFeCr Alloy	195
6.6.6	Site Occupancy of Nb in TiAl	196
	References	197
7	Applications of the Local Electrode Atom Probe	201
7.1	Metals	202
7.1.1	Ordered Alloy	202
7.1.2	Site Occupancy in Precipitates in Aluminum Alloys . . .	203
7.1.3	Imaging Nanovoids	203
7.1.4	Intergranular Attack in Ni-Base Superalloy	204
7.2	Catalytic Materials	207
7.2.1	Ex Situ Analysis of CoCuMn Nanoparticles	207
7.2.2	In Situ Analysis of Pd–Rd and Pt–Rh–Ru Catalysts . . .	209
7.3	Ceramic and Geological Materials	210
7.3.1	CeO ₂ as a Model for Nuclear Fuel	210
7.3.2	Zircons	213
7.3.3	Extrasolar Nanodiamonds	214
7.3.4	Ferroelectrics/Piezoelectrics	216
7.4	Semiconductor Materials	218
7.4.1	Group IV Semiconductors (Silicon and Germanium) . . .	218
7.4.2	Compound Semiconductors	222
7.5	Organics and Biological Materials	227
7.5.1	Synthetic Polymers	230
7.5.2	Chiton Teeth	231
7.5.3	Ferritin	232
7.6	Composite Structures/Devices	233
7.6.1	Metal–Oxide Interfaces	234
7.6.2	MOSFET Structures	234
7.6.3	FinFET Structures	235
7.6.4	Commercial Devices Analysis; Intel i5	237
7.7	Conclusions	241
	References	241
	Appendix A: Data File Formats	249
	Appendix B: Field Evaporation	257
	Appendix C: Reconstruction Geometry	267
	Appendix D: Mass Spectral Performance	281
	Appendix E: Additional Considerations for LEAP Operation	289
	Glossary	305
	Index	315

<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4614-8720-3>

Local Electrode Atom Probe Tomography

A User's Guide

Larson, D.J.; Prosa, T.J.; Ulfig, R.M.; Geiser, B.P.; Kelly,
Th.F.

2013, XVII, 318 p. 164 illus., 54 illus. in color.,

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-8720-3