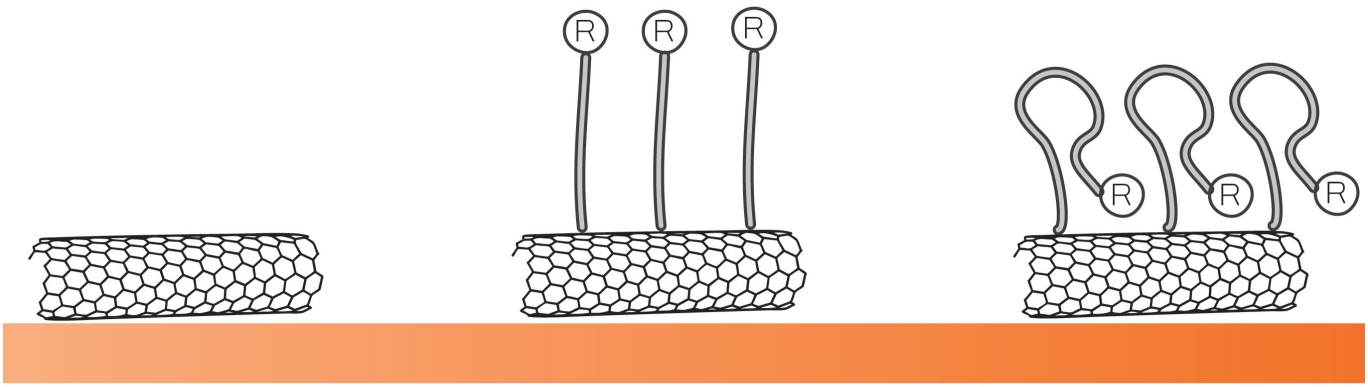
BioNavis

ÅNGSTRÖM RESOLUTION FOR YOUR COATINGS!

Reliable measurements of thickness and refractive index of nanolayers and surface interactions with high precision.



Thin solid films are typically applied as coatings (nanolayers) to provide functionality to everyday products from electronics and batteries, through solar cells and packaging to automotive components and door knobs. Over recent years, the manufacturing processes have improved tremendously saving amount of material needed to form a uniform coating. Therefore, thinner and thinner layers of coatings have to be analyzed and that often hits the limit of traditional methods.

BioNavis applies plasmonics to provide reliable measurement of thickness and refractive index of nanolayers, their plasmonic properties and surface interactions.

KEY QUESTIONS MP-SPR CAN ANSWER IN THIN SOLID FILM RESEARCH:

- What is the quality of the coating?
- How to select the best barrier (non-stick / antireflective / moisture) coating?
- How thin can the nanolayer be and still provide desired functionality?
- Which solvent is the most effective?
- What are the ideal pH, electric potential and flow-rate conditions for the process?
- How good is the plasmonics of metal layer?

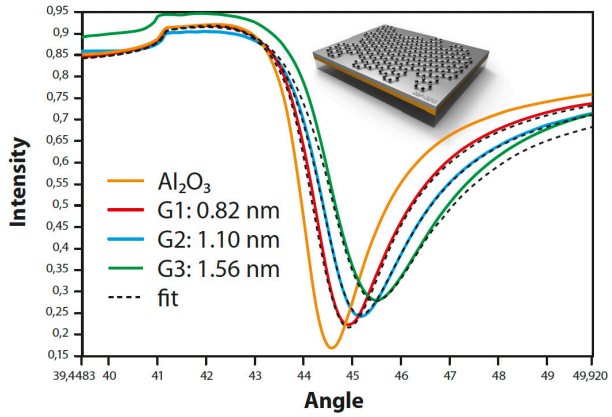
WHY CHOOSE MP-SPR FOR CHARACTERIZATION OF THIN SOLID FILMS?

Ultrathin films from thickness of a few Ångströms

BioNavis has been involved in industrial projects where atomic layer deposition (ALD) and chemical vapor deposition (CVD) were used to produce ultrathin layers of graphene, metals and metal oxides. Resulting nanolayers from 3.7 Å (graphene) up to hundred nanometers were studied for their thickness, optical properties and plasmonics. The MP-SPR method is sensitive to metal thickness, roughness and grain structure, because these properties affect the plasmonic fingerprint that MP-SPR measures.

Thickness and refractive index solved simultaneously

Thanks to our multiple wavelength configuration with scanning angular range of nearly 40 degrees, MP-SPR is capable of acquiring enough information to solve thickness and refractive index of the layer simultaneously using LayerSolver™. This is possible even for nanolaminates.



Application Note #146

Air, water and solvent compatible

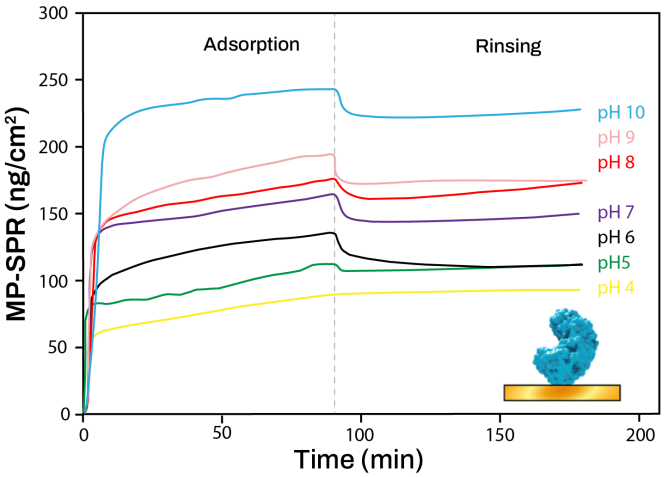
MP-SPR works in both air and liquid thanks to the goniometric configuration. Besides water, 2-channel instruments enable working with many solvents, e.g. ethanol, acetone, isopropanol. Special prism configuration allows also measurements in toluene.

MP-SPR measurements do not require vacuum

MP-SPR measurements can be performed at different pH, temperature (15 to 45 °C), electric potential. The measurements do not require vacuum.

The most sensitive instrument for real-time adsorption kinetics on surfaces

Due to its plasmonic principle, MP-SPR is the most sensitive measurement for kinetics on surfaces. This is important in real-time measurements of molecules and nanoparticles adsorption kinetics, swelling and release.



Protein adsorption on gold studied in various pH.
Komorek et al., Bioelectrochemistry, 2020

Cross-validation with microscopy and modelling is possible

MP-SPR with electrochemistry, fluorescence or another specialty flow cell allows for validation of measurements *in situ*. Thanks to its oil-free operation, the same sample can be measured *ex situ* with AFM, SEM or other techniques. Results from MP-SPR are absolute and therefore can be directly related to physical properties, validated by established theoretical models, and can be confirmed also analytically.

Diffusion coefficient for battery research

The diffusion coefficient is a crucial parameter for evaluating charging and discharging efficiency in batteries. With a simple setup modification, MP-SPR can measure electrolyte diffusion.

Further reading

AN#171 Optical dispersion modelling of thin layers with multiwavelength MP-SPR

AN#146 Characterizing single-sheet CVD prepared graphene

AN#142 Real-Time Monitoring of Metal Stripping and Deposition with EC-MP-SPR

AN#140 Self-assembly of gold nanoparticles measured with MP-SPR

AN#133 Characterization of atomic layer deposited metal films and nanolaminates

Selected publications

CVD-graphene monolayer
(Hasnain et al., Advanced Healthcare Materials, 2025)

Diffusion Coefficient of water-soluble conducting polymer
(Regueiro-Pschepiure et al., Journal of Power Sources, 2024)

Single-wall Carbon Nanotube functionalized sensor
(Pascuel et al., Sensors & Diagnostics, 2025)

Biolubrication additives on copper and DLC
(Hakala et al., Tribology International, 2015)

Thickness and refractive index characterization by MP-SPR
(Granqvist et al., Langmuir, 2013)

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