# A new approach to materials design

## Mechanical Properties of Materials under Extreme Environments

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But really it's the work of Andrew T. Jennings, Ju-Young Kim, Dongchan Jang, Shelby Hutchens, and Mingyuan Huang

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# Why do materials matter for Titan?

- Material properties change significantly with temperature
- Variation can be very non linear
- Many materials are unsuitable for low temperature use
- Large amounts of contraction can occur at cryogenic temperatures.
- Successful design requires attention to property variation
- Extensive literature on low-temperature material properties



=> Impact on alignment => Development of interferences between dissimilar materials => Increased strain and possible failure => Impact on wiring

# **Conventional materials for low-T**

#### Acceptable

- Austenitic stainless steels (304, 316, 321)
- Al alloys (6061, 6063, 1100)
- Cu (OFHC, ETP)
- Brass
- Fiber reinforced plastics (G –10, 11)
- Nb and Ti (used in superconducting RF systems)
- Invar (Ni /Fe alloy) (low  $\alpha$ )
- In (used as an O ring material)
- Kapton and Mylar (insulation)
- Quartz (used in windows)

#### Unacceptable

Martensitic stainless steels -Undergoes ductile to brittle transition when cooled down. Carbon steels – also becomes brittle. Rubber, Teflon and most plastics

Conventional bulk materials may pose limitations need to develop new paradigm of material design => META-MATERIALS



# **Materials and Length Scales**

"We are leaving the age of reductionism and entering the age of emergence... "

-from "A Different Universe" R. B. Laughlin (Nobel Laureate, Physics 2005)



In nanocrystals (quantum dots, nanowires, nanotubes, etc.) size modification tunes a variety of properties: optical, electronic, plasmonic, thermal, acoustic, etc. which brings into question material structural integrity



## I. Fundamental Mechanical Properties of Materials: Variety of materials, mainly metals...

#### **Fabrication Method: Focused Ion Beam (FIB)**



## **Protective Applications: Carbon Nanotube Foams**

#### **Energy Absorbing Protective Layers**



Cao, A., et al. *Science* (2005) Pathak, S., et al. *Carbon* (2009)

Yang, Z.-P., et al. Nano. Lett. (2008)

- **<u>CNT foam characteristics</u>**
- => CNTs appear vertically aligned at lower magnification
- => Individual tubes are intertwined at higher magnification

#### **MEMS devices**



e.g. contact thermal switch materials

Cho, J., et al. J Mcrmech Mcreng (2008)

# Light Absorbing Coatings Darkest Man-Made Material, 0.045% reflectance

Low Vacuum Field Emission Sources



e.g. cold cathode array

Manohara, H. M., et al. J Infrared Milli TeraHz Waves (2009)













## Insights into deformation mechanisms: TEM

Wait, but how do we TEM the same nano-pillars before and after deformation???



We test them directly on TEM grid!



# **TEM Analysis of Deformed Pillars**

#### **Post-compression Copper**



#### Niobium



Complex dislocation network, junctions, straight parallel segments

g•b condition => Burgers vector = [1-21]

Dislocations observed only in planes with no resolved shear stress!



Jennings, A. T., et al Phys Rev Lett 104, 135503 (2010) (2010)

## II. Fundamental Mechanical Properties of Materials: Amorphous Metallic Glasses

- Basic plasticity units: shear transformation zones (STZs)
- collective atomic rearrangement
- -~100 atoms (~5 atoms in each direction)
- Macroscopic plastic deformation governed by spatial and temporal distribution of STZs
- uniform distribution → homogeneous
  deformation (high T & low σ)



## Uniaxial tension of nano-pillars: D=200nm + Generally fail by catastrophic failure due

to shear band formation and propagation





## **Summary and Acknowledgements**

- Single metallic crystals at nano-scale exhibit strong size effects in uniaxial compression and tension: SMALLER IS STRONGER
- 100nm metallic glasses exhibit enhanced strength and ductility at nano-scale
- Carbon nanotube (CNT) foams can be used in protective application due to their superior energy absorption
- Band gap in graphene might be induced by mechanical perturbation

## For details/publications: http://www.jrgreer.caltech.edu/



## **Cryogenic module construction**

Ring-shaped contact between cryogenic "finger" (77K) and sample stage

Thermally-insulated cryogenic "finger"

To liquid nitrogen bath through vacuum flange

Electrical wire connecting sample holder to sample stage to ensure e<sup>-</sup> dissipation Diamond tension/ compression indenter tip

"Nano-pillar" sample

Sample stage interior containing cryogenic temperature sensor and heater for temperature monitoring and control

Bottom parts of sample stage anodized to maximize thermal insulation

Stainless-steel sample stage in SEMentor

**Figure 13.** (not to scale) Schematic of cryogenic cooling configuration showing sample stage, sample holder (sample on top), ring-shaped contact between cryogenic finger and sample, conducting wire to dissipate electrons from e-beam, and indenter tip.

## FIB-less fabrication: E-beam Litho => Electroplating

1. E-beam patterning



M.J. Burek and J.R. Greer Nano Lett 10, 69-76 (2009)



Great need for experimental techniques testing mechanical deformation at nano-scale *without* strain gradients!







#### **Mathematical model:**

**Graphene deflection:** 

$$P = \frac{8wE^{2D}x_1^3}{l^3} - \frac{8w\sigma_r^{2D}x_1^3}{l^3} + \frac{8w\sigma_r^{2D}x_1}{l}$$
(1)

**Electrode deflection:**  $P = 2Kx_2$ 

Where K is estimated by beam deflection:

$$K = \frac{4E_g w_g h_g^3}{L_g^3} \approx 1 \times 10^2$$

Instrument measures total displ:  $x = x_1 + x_2$ 

To obtain load vs. displacement, the electrode deflection is subtracted from gross displacement:  $x_1 = x - x_2$ 

**Stiffness:** 

$$\frac{dP}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dP}{dx_1} \frac{dP}{dx_2}}{\frac{dP}{dx_1} + \frac{dP}{dx_2}} = \frac{(Ax_1^2 + B)2K}{2K + Ax_1^2 + B}$$



## **Electromechanical results: I-V curve**



**Resistance Change** 

