

Proximity Effect in E-Beam Lithography

Overview and Agenda

Please note that this session will be recorded (may be discoverable in legal matters). By joining these webinar sessions, you automatically consent to such recordings. If you do not consent to being recorded, do not join the session.

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TRACER

Pro SEM

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Part	Subject	Date
1	Electron Scattering and Proximity Effect	07-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
2	Dose PEC Algorithm and Parameter	14-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
3	Optimization of Dose PEC Parameter	21-Oct-2020, 6:00pm CEST, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
4	Process Effect, Calibration and Correction	28-Oct-2020, 5:00pm CET, 12:00pm EDT, 9:00am PDT
5	Shape PEC – “ODUS” Contrast Enhancement	04-Nov-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST
	Break	11-Nov-2020 -- No Session
6	3D Surface PEC for Grayscale Lithography	18-Nov-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST
	Thanksgiving Week	25-Nov-2020 -- No Session
7	3D T-Gate and Edge PEC for multilayer resist	02-Dec-2020, 6:00pm CET, 12:00pm EST, 9:00am PST

- The webinar series will explain one of the most important techniques in advanced e-beam lithography. Modern E-beam systems are able to form small spot sizes in nm range. In principle this enables to achieve feature sizes in nm-range. In practice this is limited by physics, chemistry and tool limitations...

Proximity Effect in E-Beam Lithography

Part 6: 3D Surface PEC for
Grayscale Lithography



- Part 5 Summary: Shape PEC – ODUS Contrast Enhancement
- Introduction to 3D Lithography
- 3D-PEC for E-Beam Lithography
- 3D-PEC for Laser Lithography
- Summary

- Long Range (back-scatter) effect is compensated by dose
 - Back-scatter as a „dose error“ should be compensated by dose
- Short- and mid-range effects may be compensated by dose or shape
 - Dose : Higher contrast, more stable for complex shapes, not optimal for non-symmetric scenario (e.g. line end, different distance at edges)
 - Shape: Enables non-symmetric correction, BUT: typically lower contrast (without ODUS), limitation for complex curved shapes

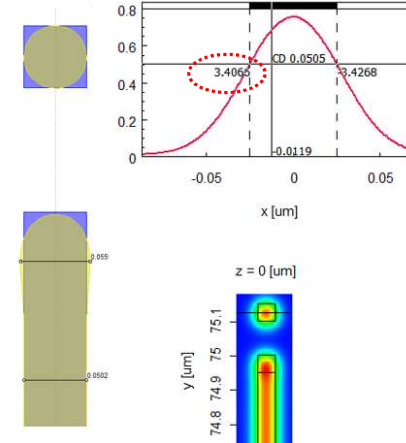
Dose vs. Shape PEC

SR – Dose PEC

1 Pick [um] X: -0.0023, Y: 0.0001, Z: 0.0250, E: 2.2389, A: 0.0500
BBox [um] LL (-0.0250, -0.0250, 0.0250, 0.0250)
/Layout_Engine_db_1: Rect (L:1(0), E:3.1091, A:0.0500)

2 Pick [um] X: 0.0001, Y: 0.0001, Z: 0.0250, E: 2.2389, A: 0.0500
BBox [um] LL (-0.0250, -0.0250, 0.0250, 0.0250)
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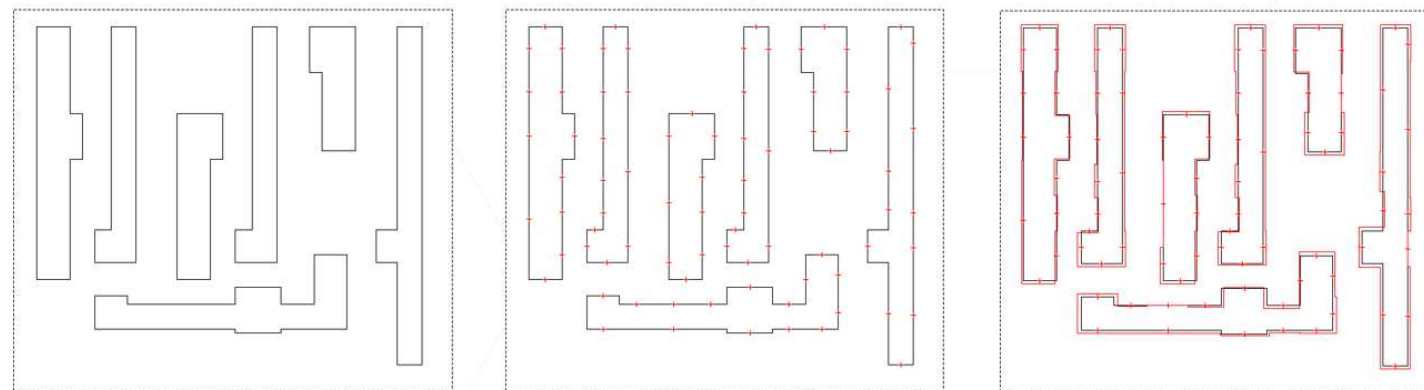
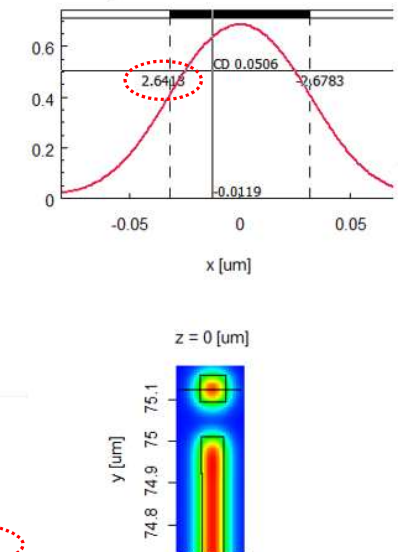
Dose = 2.23 – 3.1
CD = 50 nm



SR – Shape PEC

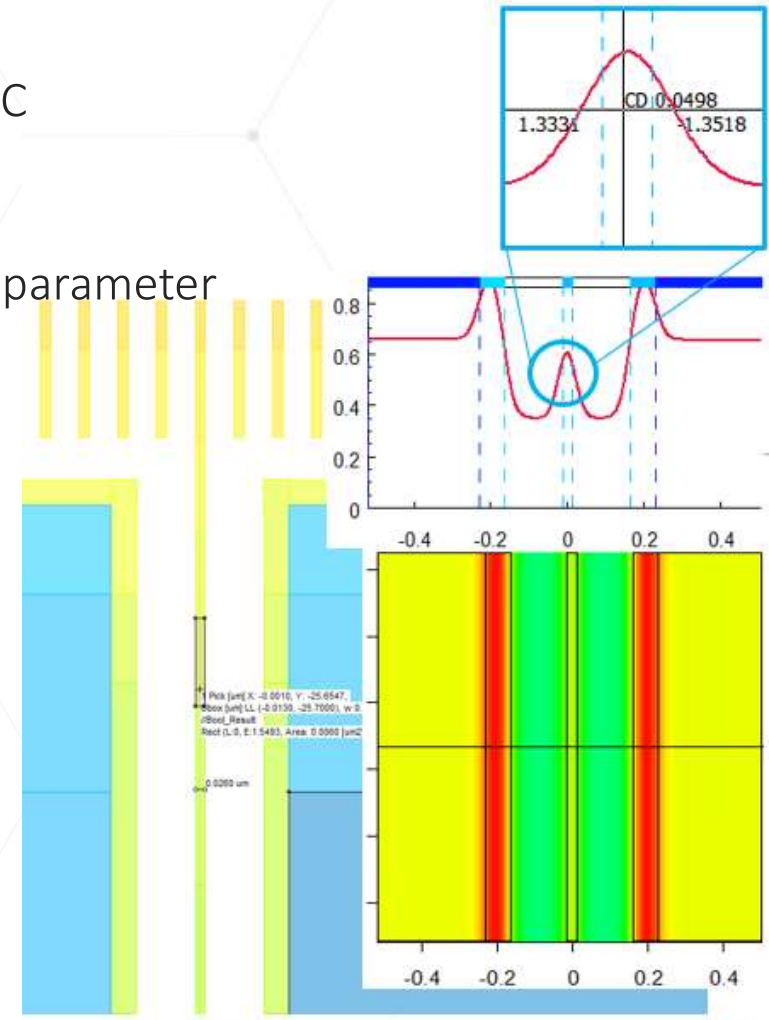
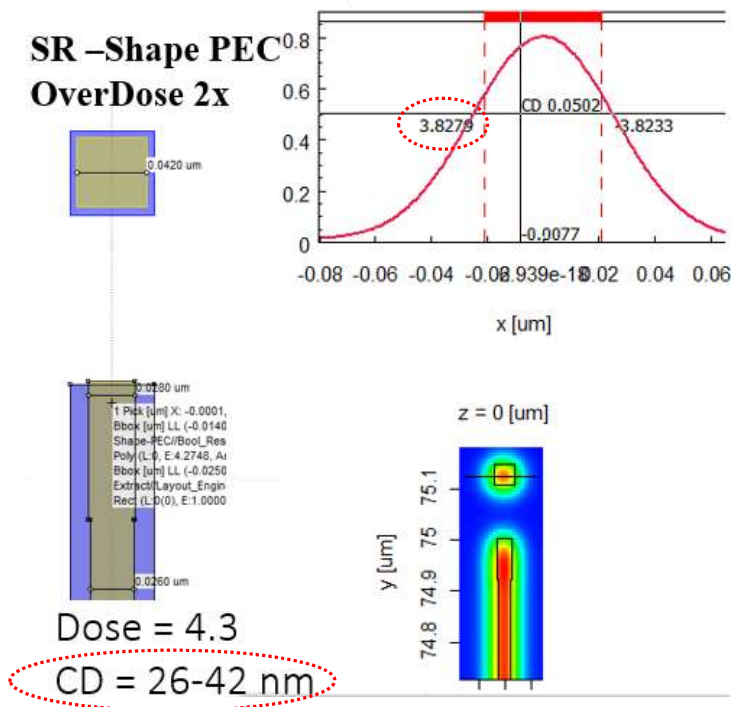
1 Pick [um] X: 0.0009, Y: 0.0001, Z: 0.0250, E: 2.15, A: 0.0500
BBox [um] LL (-0.0250, -0.0250, 0.0250, 0.0250)
Shape-PEC/Shape_Plan
Rect (L:0, E:2.1515, A:0.0500)

Dose = 2.15
CD = 52-64 nm



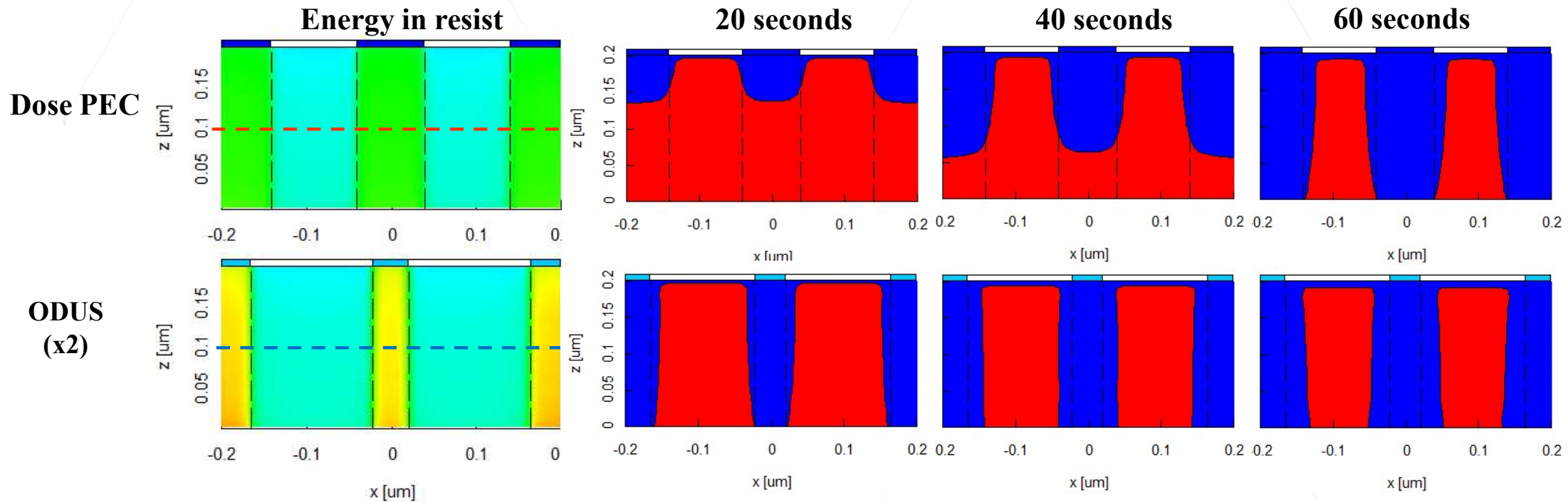
OverDose + UnderSize (ODUS)

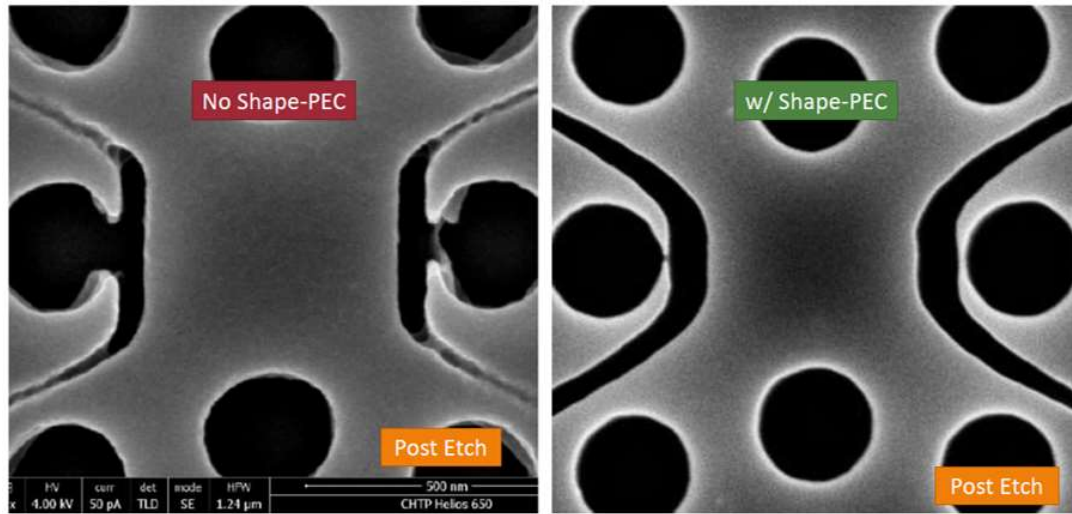
- Benefit 1: Better Image Contrast
 - Enables image contrast (litho quality) beyond Dose PEC
 - Higher edge quality, steeper resist profile
 - More stable process (larger process window)
 - Accurate correction requires Process Blur as essential parameter



OverDose + UnderSize (ODUS)

- Benefit 2: Resist Sidewall Angle
 - Higher development rates (from overdose) changes development dynamics
 - Undercut larger with thicker resists
 - Undercut larger with higher-Z materials (e.g. GaAs)

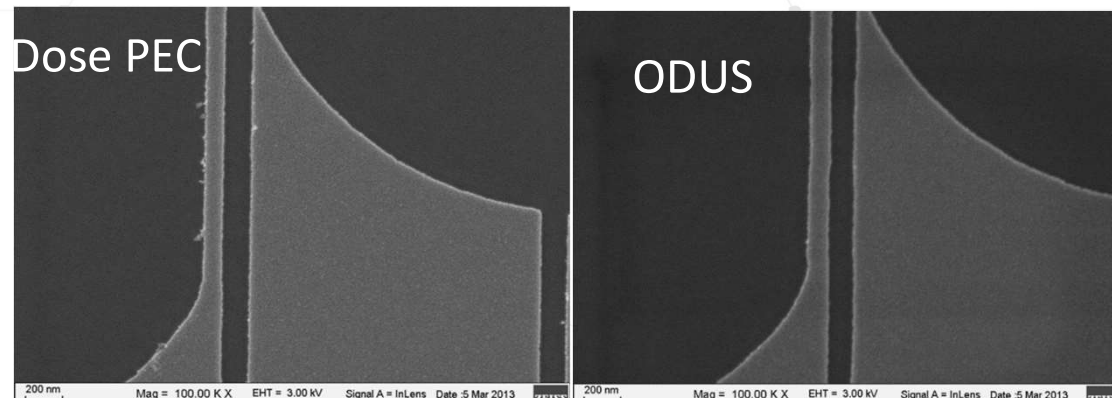
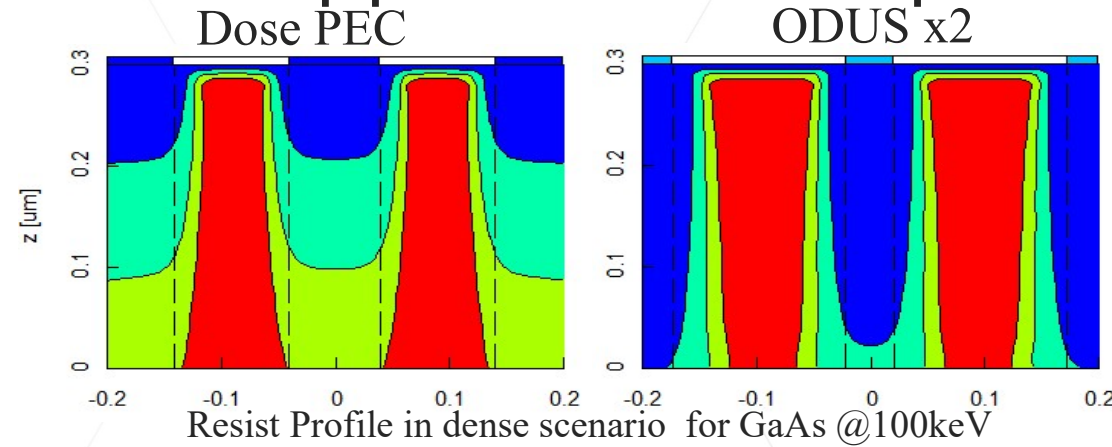




University of British Columbia

Resolving feature & gap sizes on the order of the blur
ZEP 520A on Si @ 100keV
Courtesy: University of British Columbia

ODUS Application Examples

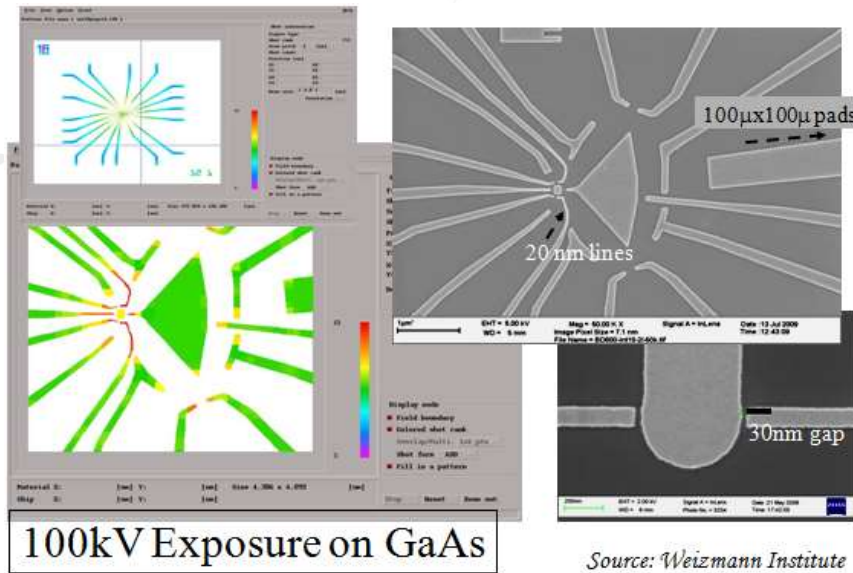


Single layer lift-off process, negative resist profile improvement
PMMA on GaAs @100keV
Courtesy: Weizmann Institute

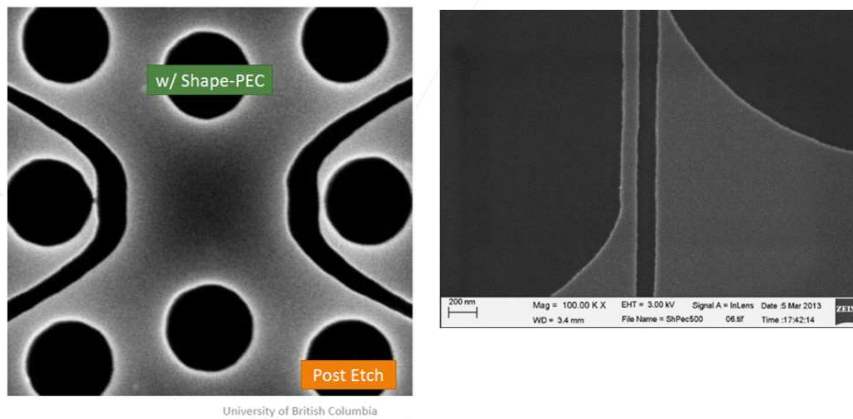
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2D Lithography (Earlier Webinars)

Dose PEC

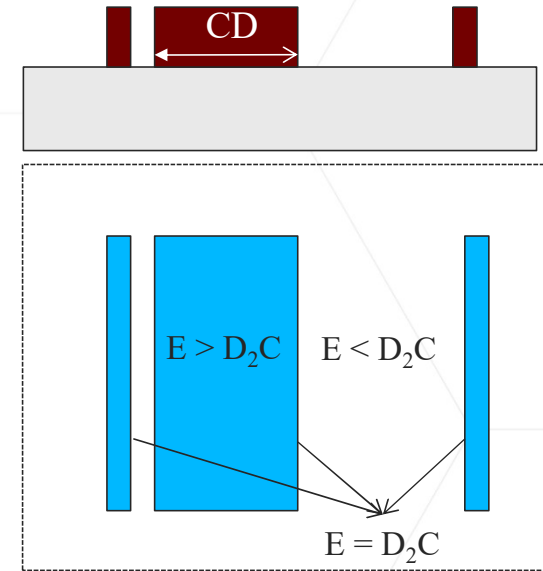
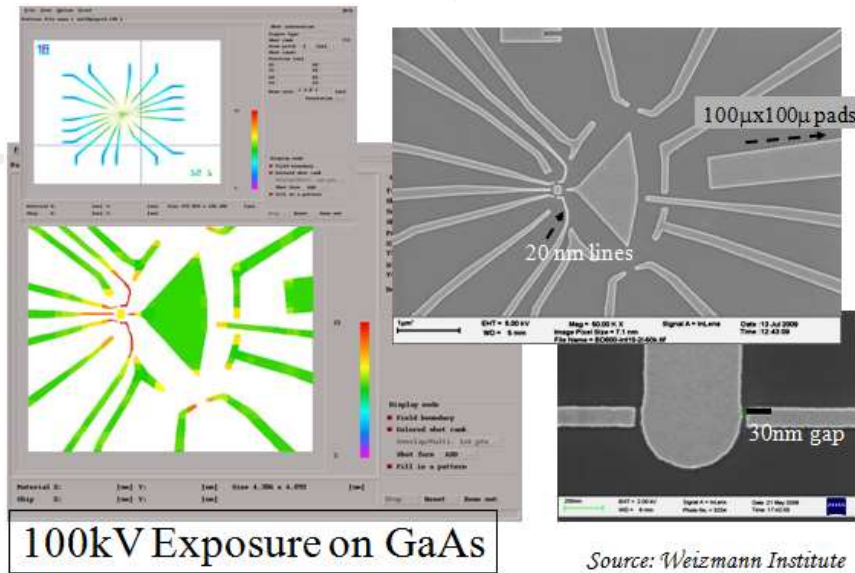


Shape PEC
ODUS

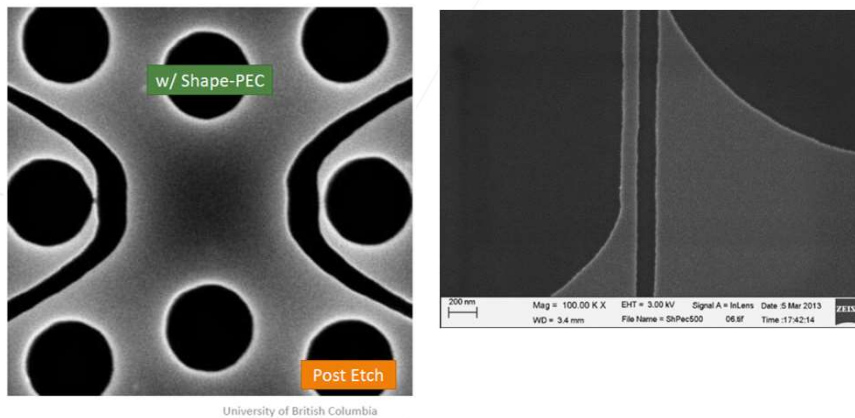


2D Lithography (Earlier Webinars)

Dose PEC



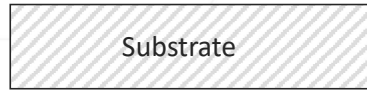
Shape PEC
ODUS



2D Correction Target:

- Require absorbed energy at all feature edges to have same value (Dose to Clear)
- Consequence
 - Absorbed Energy inside features $>$ Dose to Clear
 - Absorbed Energy outside features $<$ Dose to Clear

Preprocessing

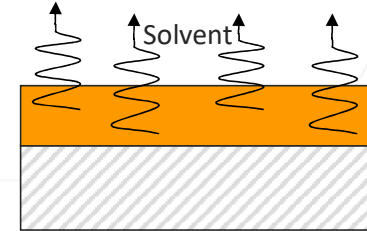


Cleaning, Baking,
Adhesion Promoter



Spin or Spray Coating

2D Litho vs. 3D Litho



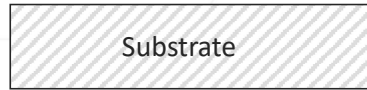
Softbake

2D Litho

3D Litho

2D Litho vs. 3D Litho

Preprocessing



Cleaning, Baking,
Adhesion Promoter

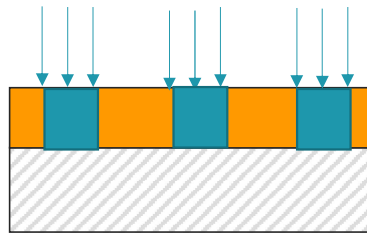


Spin or Spray Coating

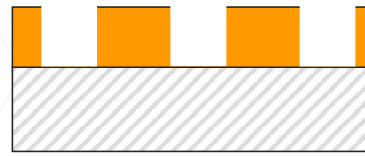


Softbake

2D Litho

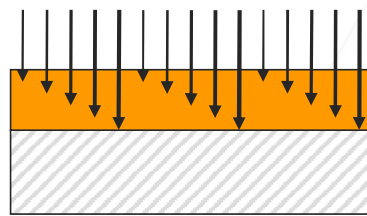


Exposure (binary)

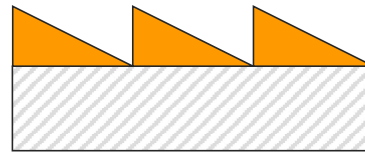


Development

3D Litho



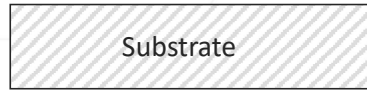
Exposure (Intensity Modulation)



Development

2D Litho vs. 3D Litho

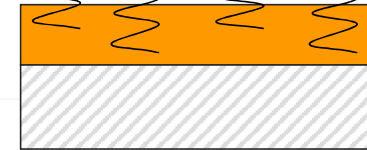
Preprocessing



Cleaning, Baking,
Adhesion Promoter

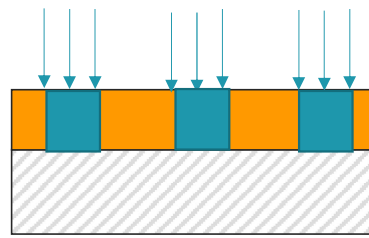


Spin or Spray Coating

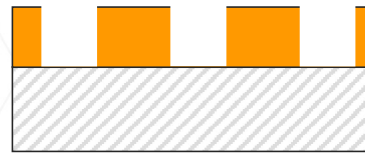


Softbake

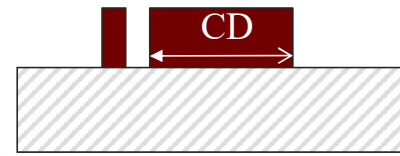
2D Litho



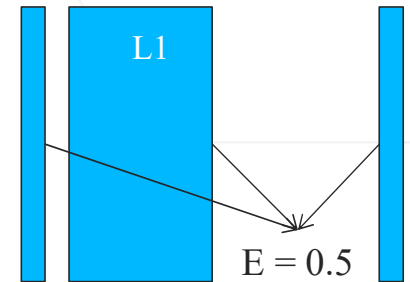
Exposure (Binary)



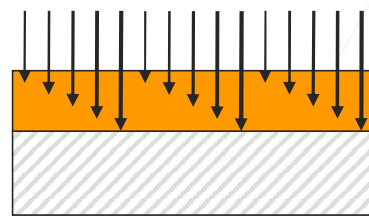
Development



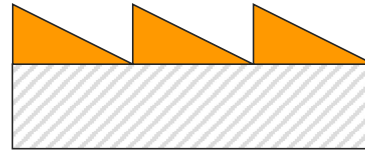
Correction Target



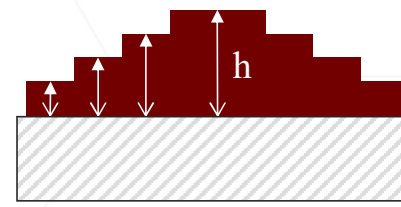
3D Litho



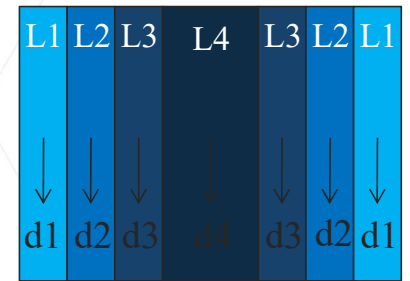
Exposure (Dose Modulation)



Development

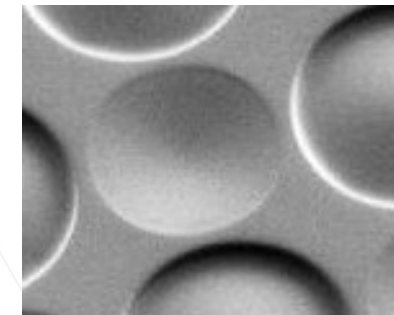
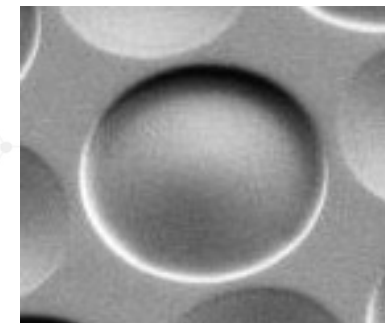
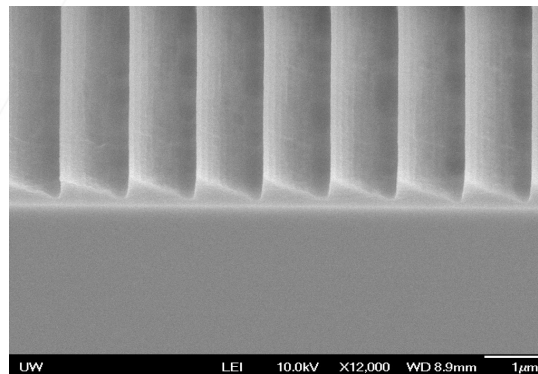
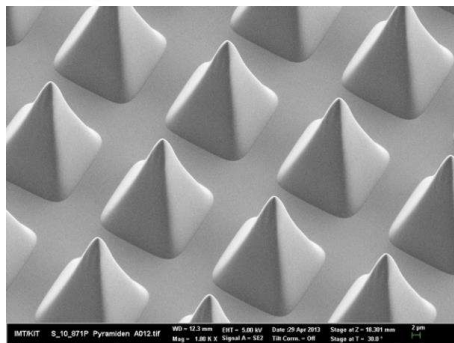
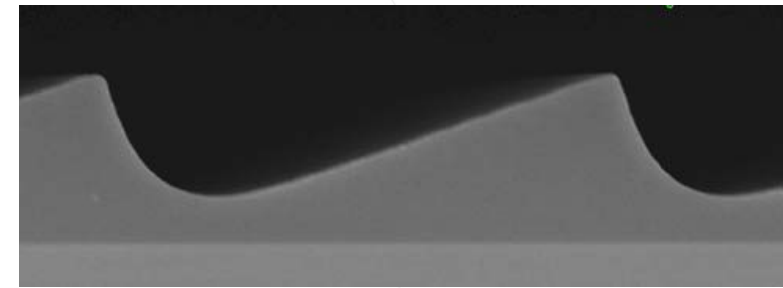
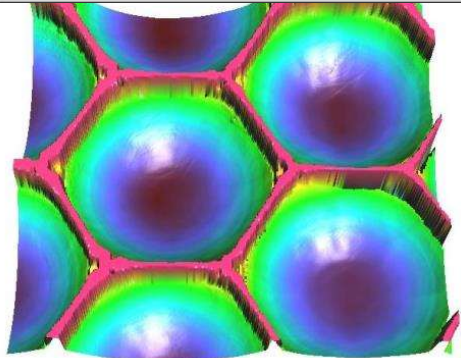
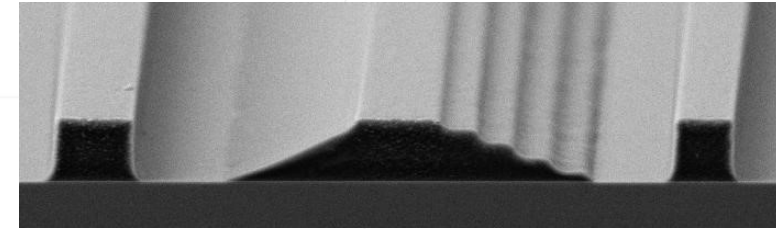
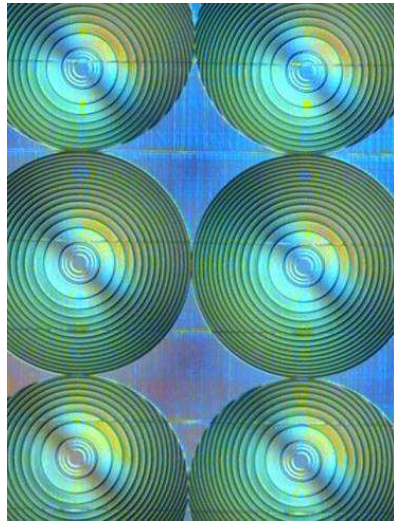
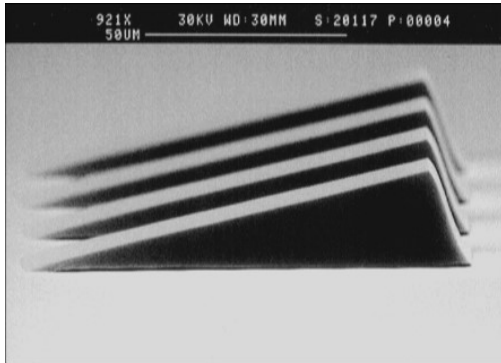


Correction Target



3D Grayscale Lithography

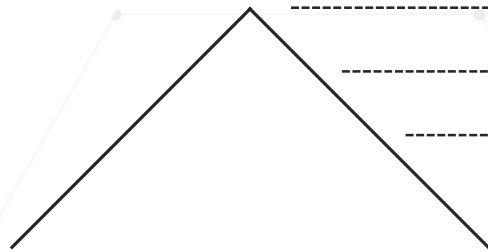
- Micro Lenses
- Lens Arrays
- Blazed Gratings
- Holograms
- Integrated Optics
- Prisms
- MEMS



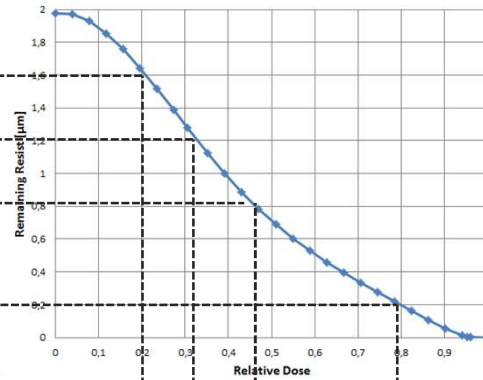
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Starting Point: Target Dose Assignment

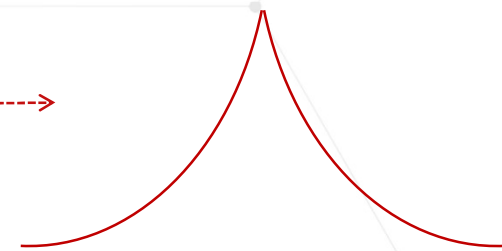
Target Shape



Contrast Curve



Dose Assignment

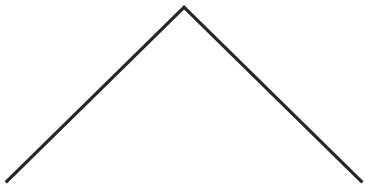


- Would this „starting point“ get us the desired shape?

Starting Point: Target Dose Assignment

- Unlikely to get the designed result:
 - Electron Scattering blurs the energy
 - Lateral Development shifts the feature edges

Target Shape



Contrast Curve Dose



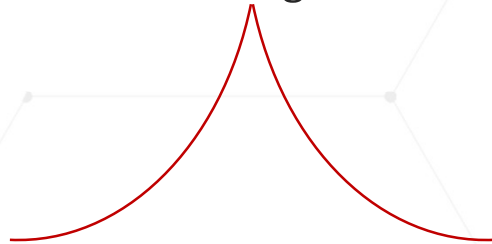
Resulting Profile



- Possible Paths:
 - Experimental: Iterate Exposure, Measure, Adjust Exposure, Repeat
 - Computational: Model Effects and Compute Compensation

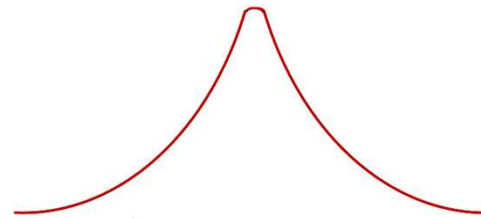
Blur & Scattering

Dose Assignment



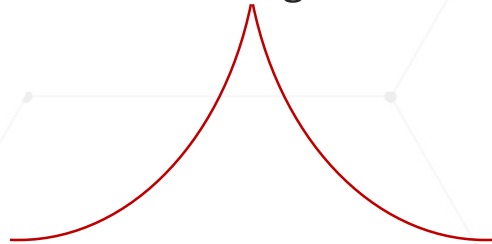
⇒
Blur / Beam Size

Absorbed Energy



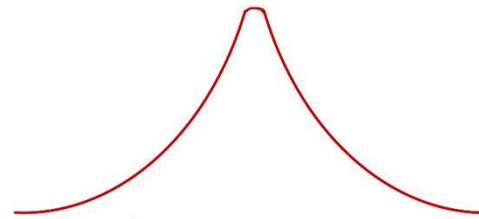
Blur & Scattering

Dose Assignment

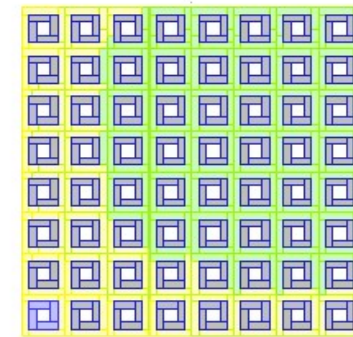
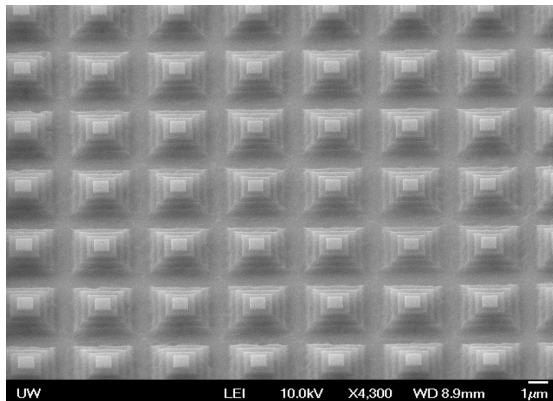


⇒
Blur / Beam Size

Absorbed Energy



Add Backscattering Compensation

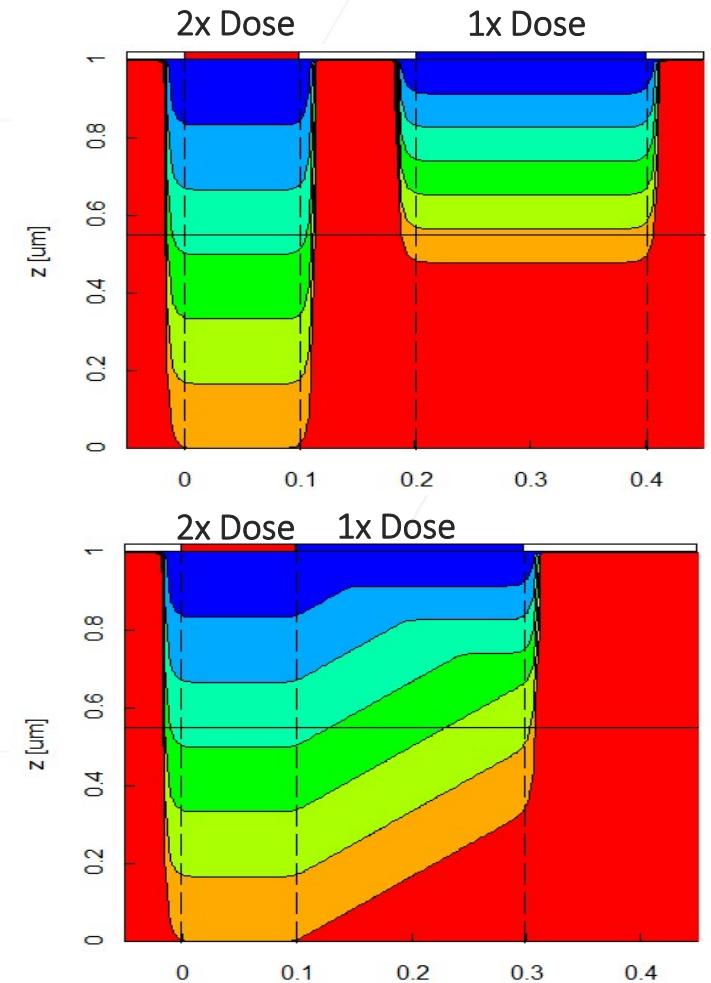


5 μm 1084 1564

Absorbed Energy is not what you expose / expect. PEC is necessary.

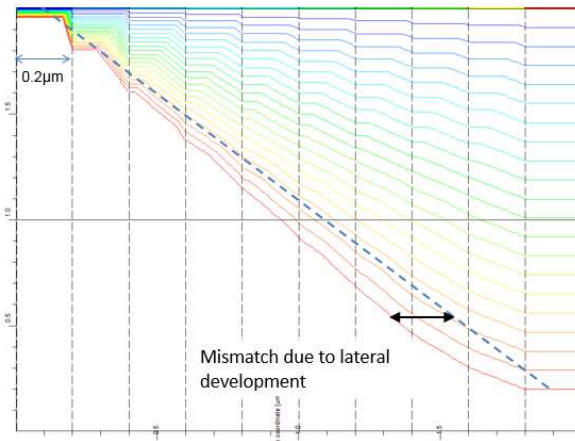
- Isolated shapes develop independently, with development rate depending on exposure dose
- When regions of different dose are adjacent, as in 3D lithography, the regions have a large interaction, and lateral development correction is essential if you want the correct height in each

Lateral Development

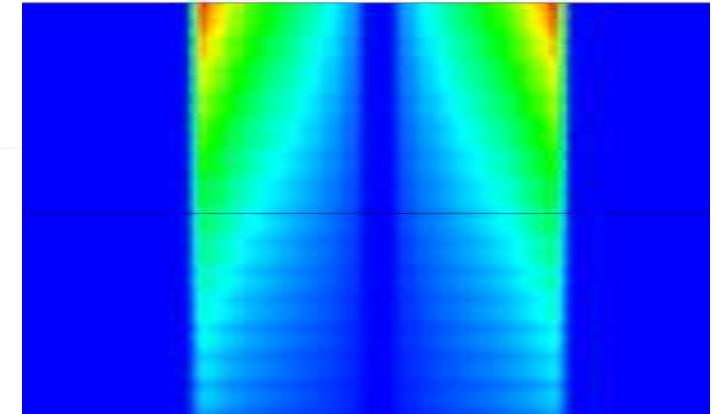


Absorbed energy defines dissolution rate

- The 3D development front over is modeled over development time
- Since there is absorbed energy “everywhere”
 - The development front does not stop

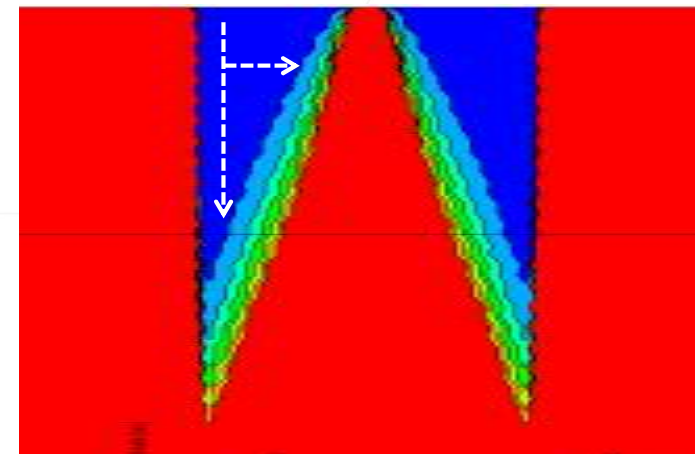


Lateral Development



x – z Absorbed Energy

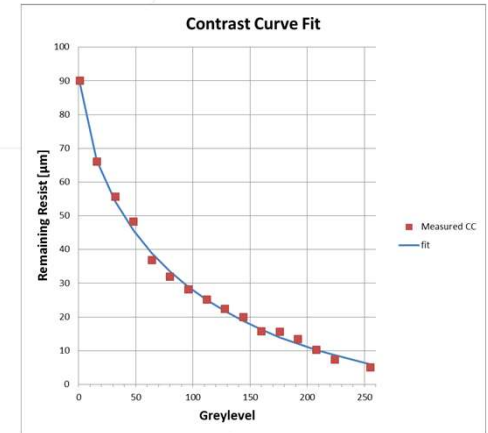
Development Front over time



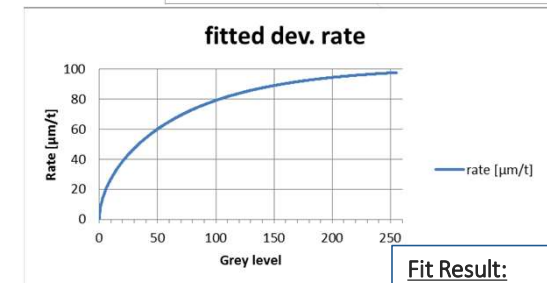
Lateral Development Correction

- 1st Step: fit a rate model to the measured contrast curve (CC)
 - The CC values are simulated by integrating the path from resist top to bottom ending with the development time completed

$$t_{dev} = \int_0^{depth} \frac{dz}{r(z)}$$



- The rate model used is a typical Mack 4 model

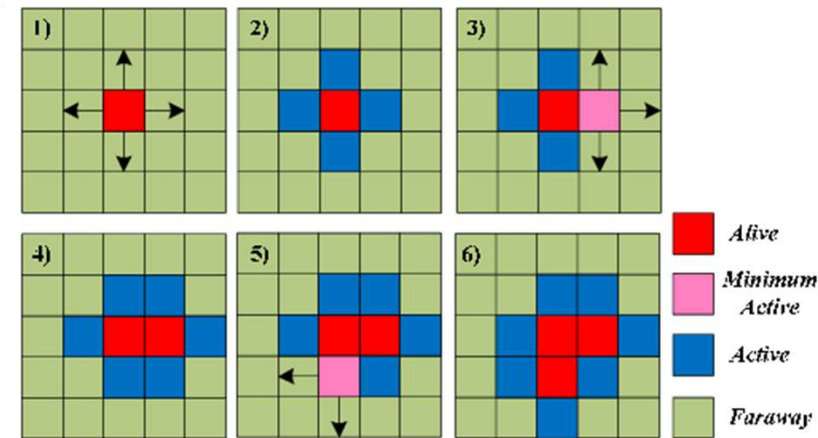


Fit Result:
 M_th = -1.00
 RateMax = 101.23
 RateMin = 0.00
 Slope = 0.5145

- 2nd step: PEC iteratively refines the applied dose values
 - Applied Dose + local rates $R(x,y,z)$ result in a (computed) depth
 - The difference “computed depth” to “target depth” is an indicator for the required change in dose

Iterative Applied Dose Optimization

- Lateral development is directed. It moves from pixels with higher resist removal to the adjacent pixels with lower rates.
 - Once a pixel is optimized it is not revisited
- Optimizing a pixel:
 - An exposure dose change @ position(x,y) causes a propagation rate(z) change.
 - Iteration finishes when the pixel height is on target
 - Lateral propagation from already visited neighbors is considered
- The performance of the algorithm is strongly pixel size dependent!



Schematic representation of a fast marching method



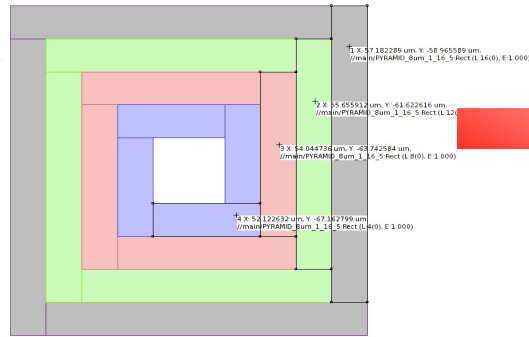
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E-Beam Example

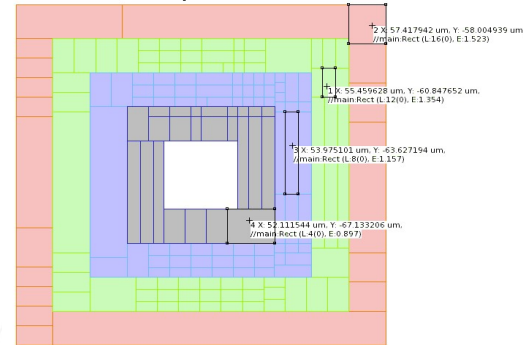
Cross-section Target



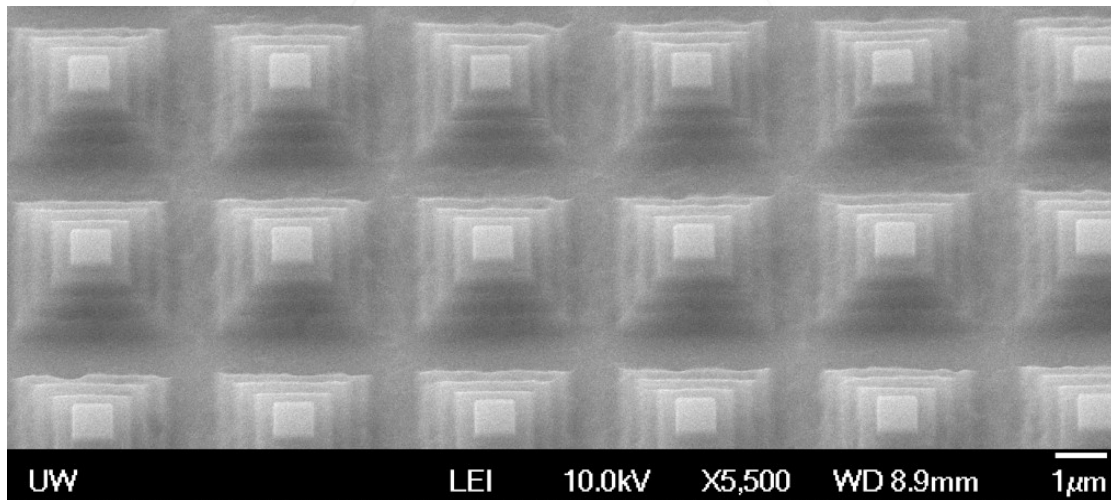
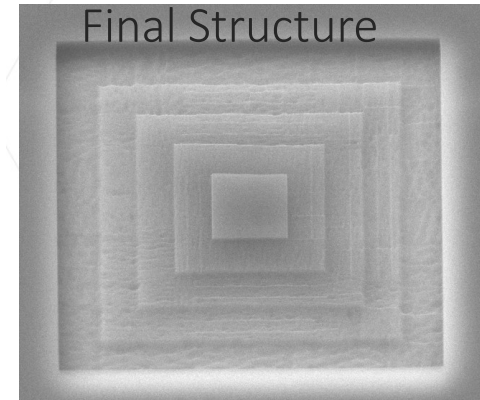
CAD Drawing,
Layer = Height



3D PEC Exposure Doses



Final Structure



Challenge: Resist Contrast

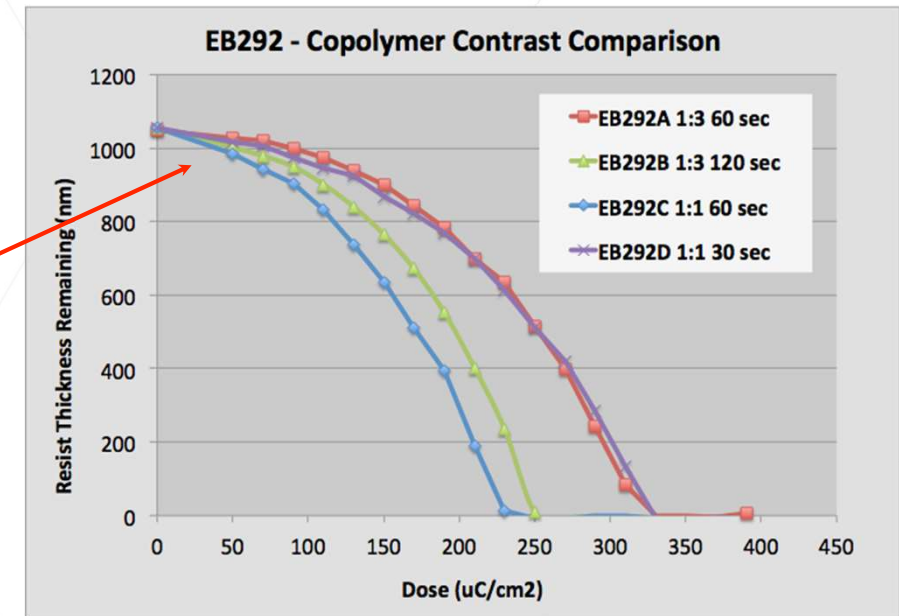
- Contrast depends on Resist Material & Process

- Need to choose carefully
- Must be experimentally measured

- Contrast Tradeoff

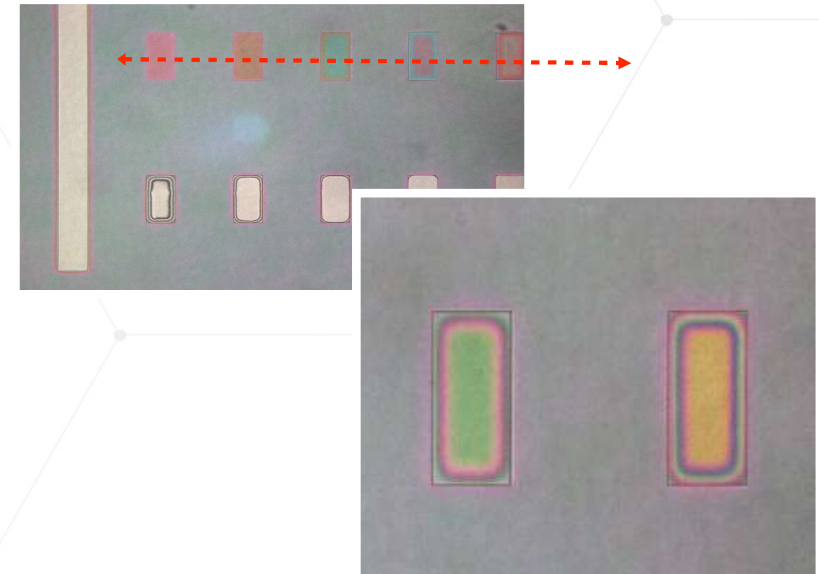
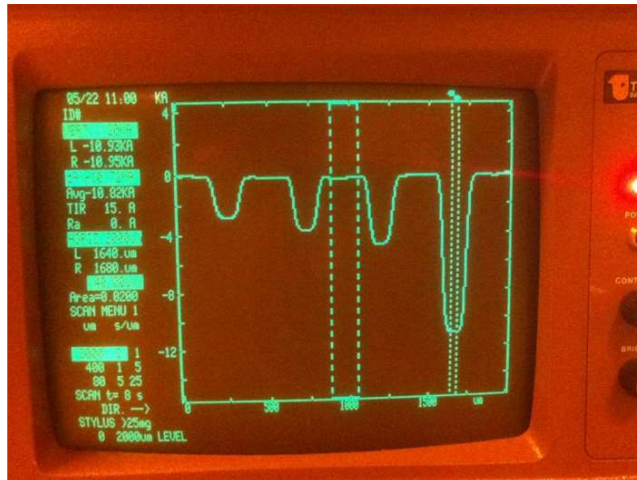
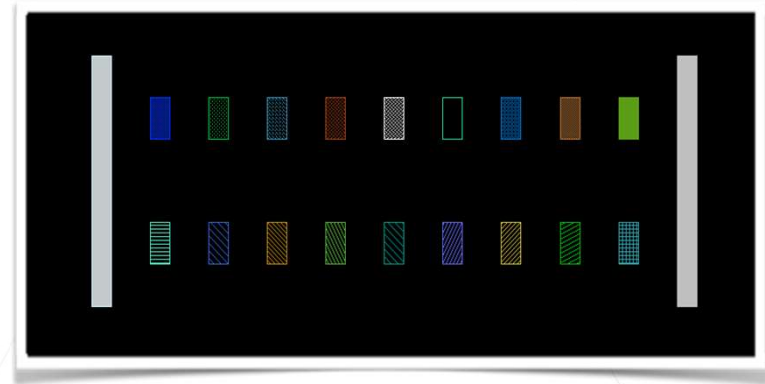
- Typically desired: lower contrast
 - Height less sensitive to dose fluctuations
- But, lowest dose is limited by hardware
 - Don't want too much sensitivity or you can't achieve shallow depths!

- Lower-contrast resist \Leftrightarrow strong lateral development, obscuring the dose assignments



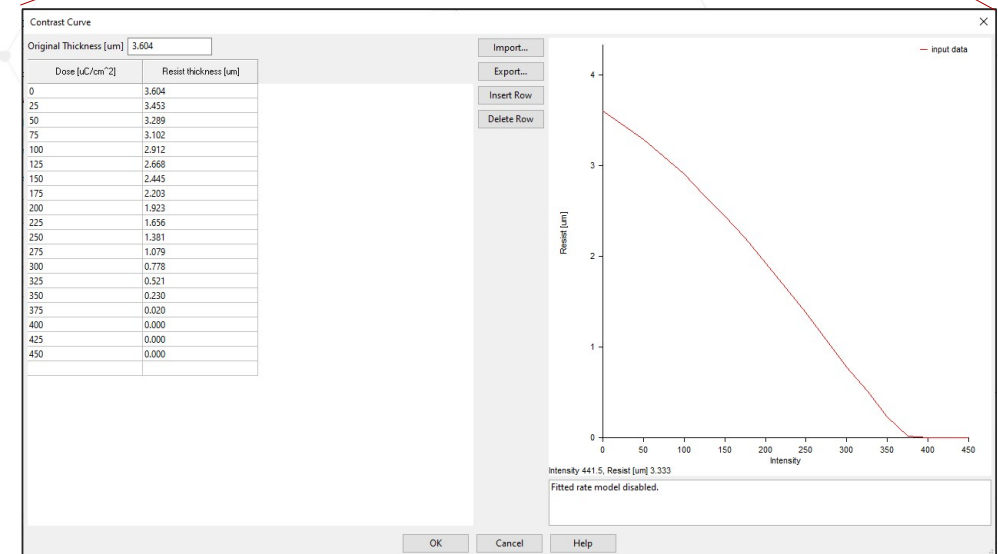
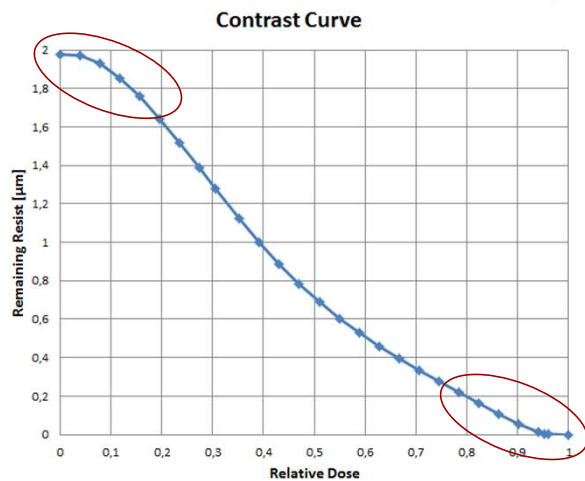
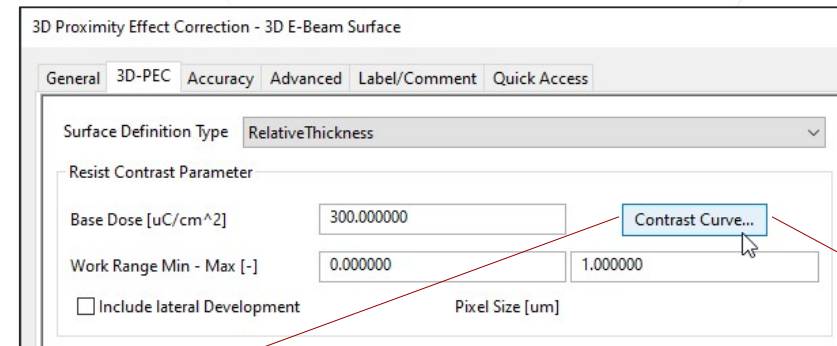
Measuring Resist Contrast Curve

- Expose pattern of shapes with varying dose
 - Width $> 3 \times \text{Beta}$ (want flat region)
 - Separated, so the shapes do not interact
 - Size easy to measure with profilometer, spectrophotometer, ellipsometer, AFM
 - This example, for 100 kV on Si, uses 150 μm x 300 μm rectangles



Contrast Curve into BEAMER's 3D-PEC

- The measured contrast curve is imported into BEAMER's 3D-PEC module
- Sampling of the Contrast curve needs to capture the start and tail with high accuracy if these depths are important



- The target height for each layer can be specified as:
 - Relative, to the resist thickness
 - Absolute thickness
 - Absolute from the layer name (eg. STL Import)
 - Dose direct assignment

Specifying Target Height

3D Proximity Effect Correction - 3D E-Beam Surface

General 3D-PEC Accuracy Advanced Label/Comment Quick Access

Surface Definition Type: **RelativeThickness**

Resist Contrast Parameter: **RelativeThickness**

Base Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]: 0.000000 1.000000

Include lateral Development Pixel Size [μm]

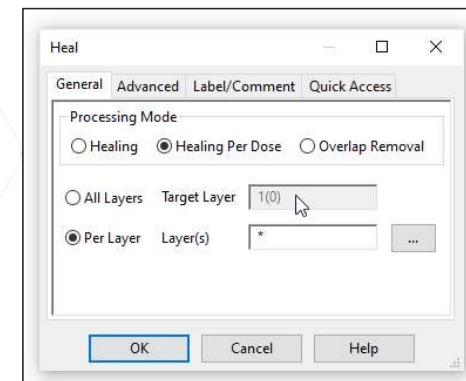
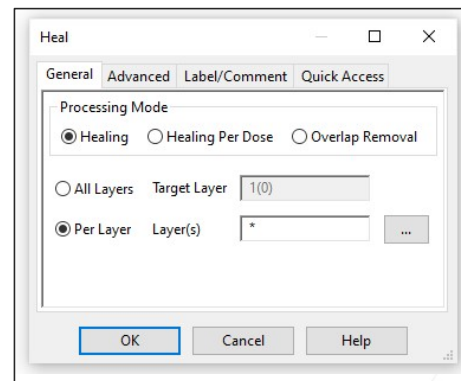
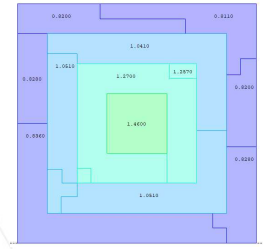
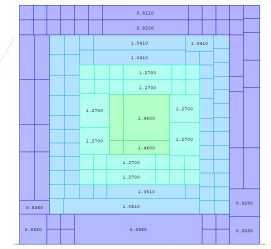
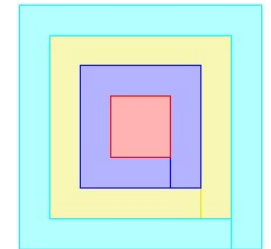
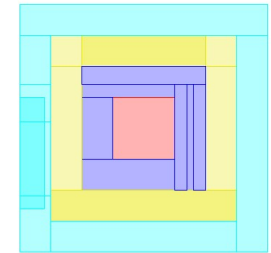
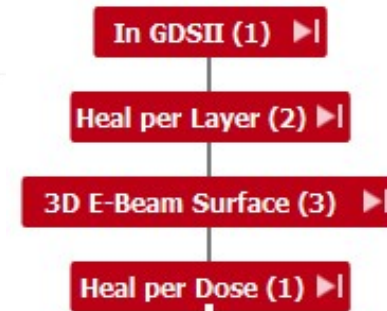
Layer Properties

Use Layer assignment file

Layer	rel. Height	Height [μm]	rel. Dose	Dose [$\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$]
1(0)	0	0	1.33333	400
2(0)	.25	0.901	0.965069	289.521
3(0)	.5	1.802	0.703218	210.966
4(0)	.75	2.703	0.403541	121.062

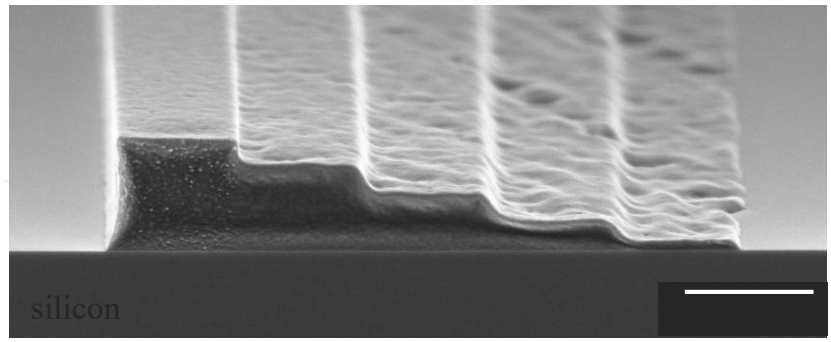
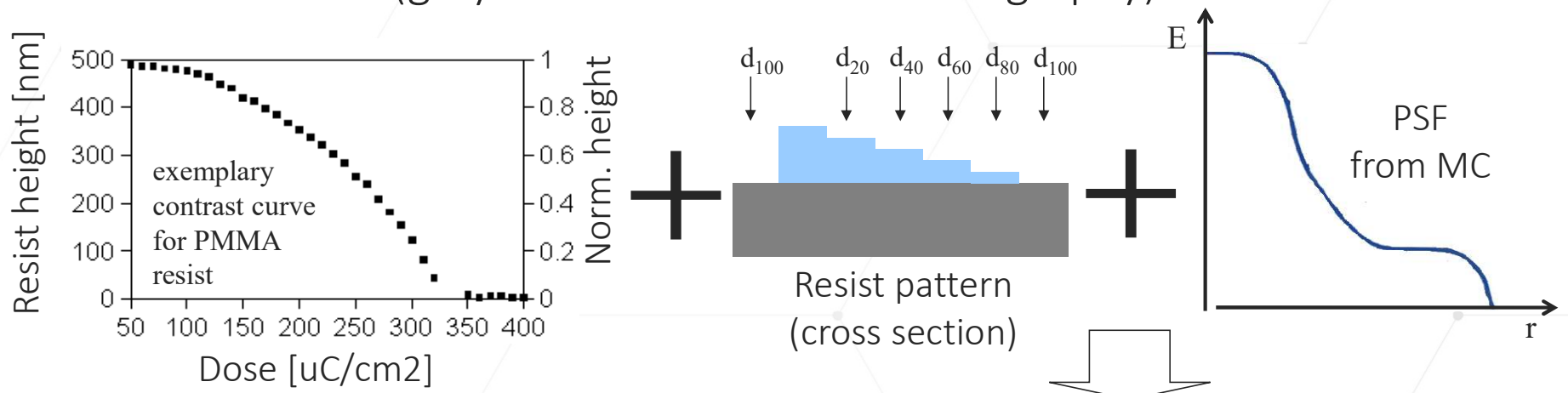
Some Design & Usage Guidelines

- Each target height is designed on a different CAD layer
- Do not want overlaps in the design – this creates an ambiguous height target
- Heal per Layer before the 3D-PEC removes unnecessary shape boundaries in the design
- Heal per Dose after the 3D-PEC removes unnecessary fractures

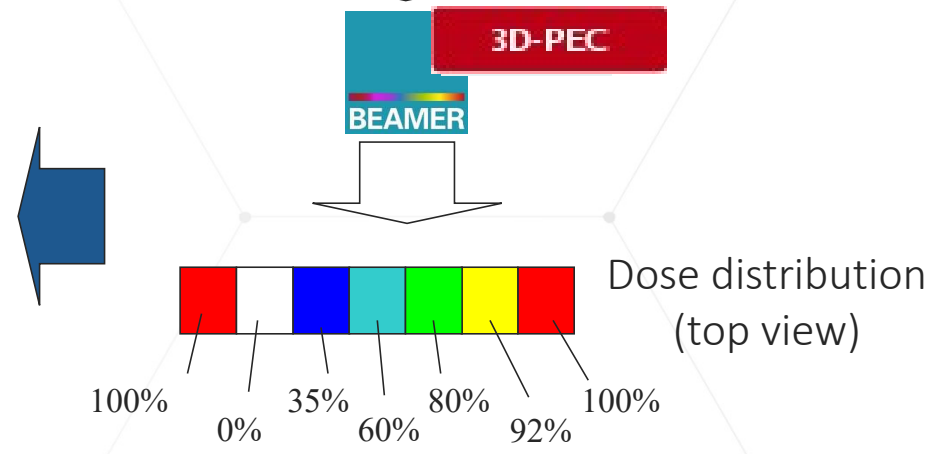


E-Beam Grayscale Correction

Process chain for multilevel resist pattern
(grayscale electron-beam lithography)

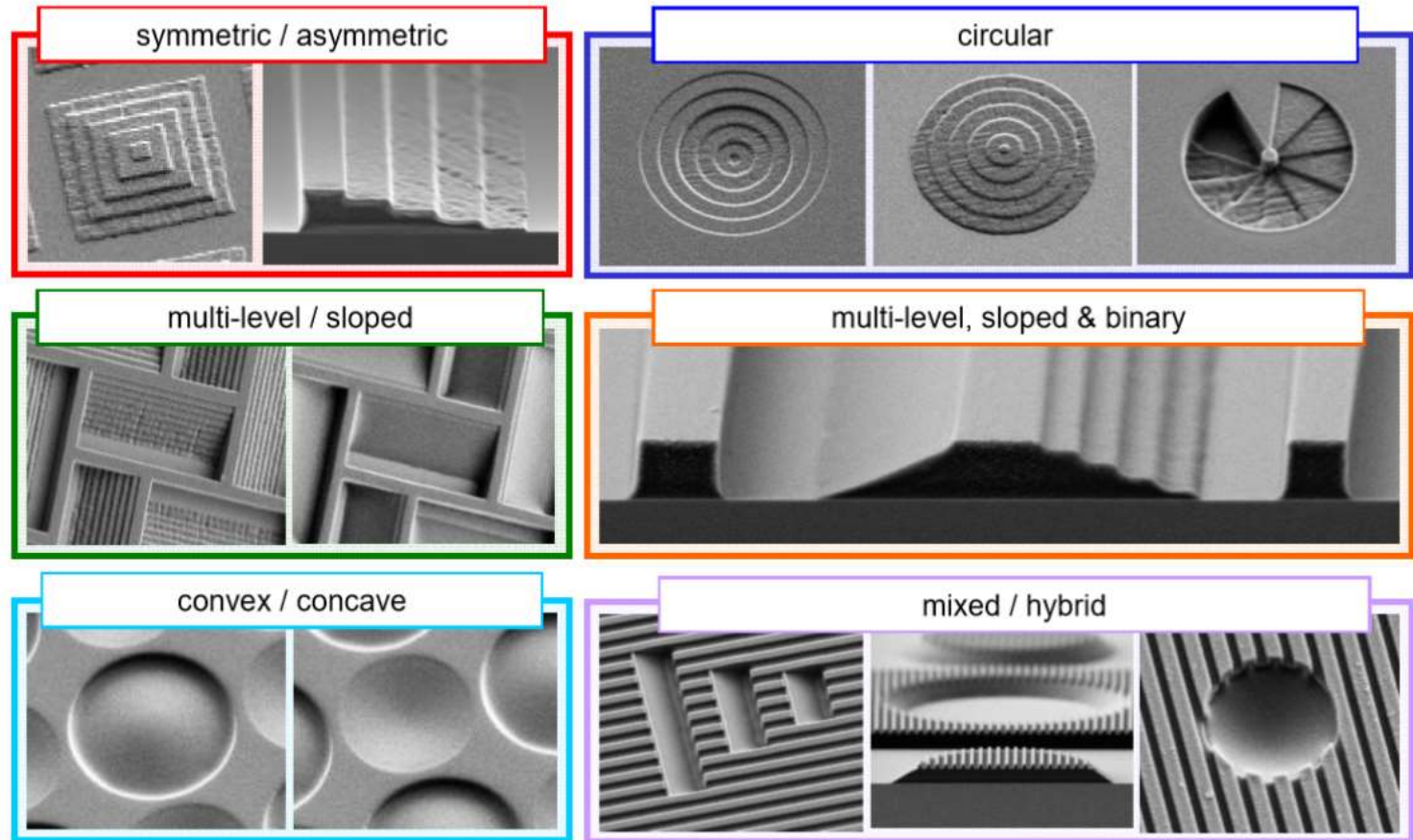


1050 nm high PMMA resist after development



Some more
3D samples
of E-BEAM

3D structures by hybrid nanomanufacturing processes

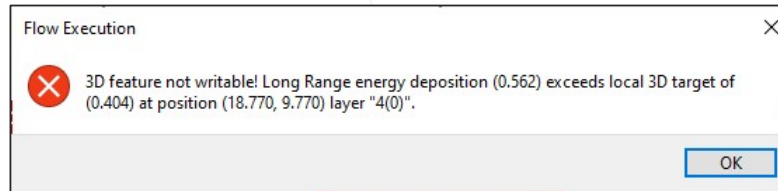


Courtesy of
PSI, Switzerland

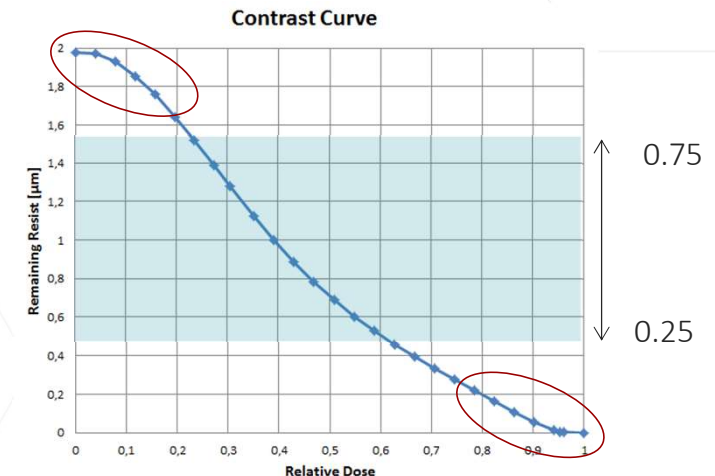
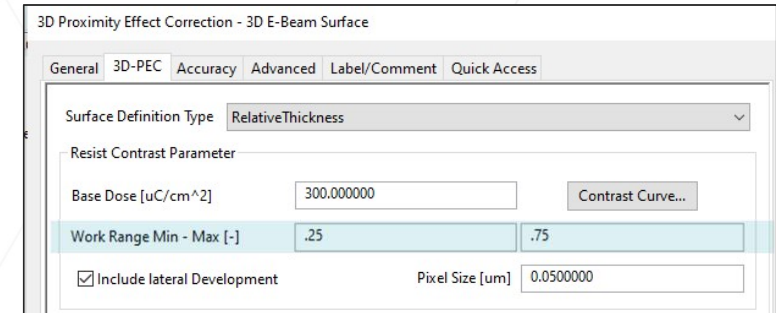
- Part 5 Summary: Shape PEC – ODUS Contrast Enhancement
- Introduction to 3D Lithography
- 3D-PEC for E-Beam Lithography
 - Dose Correction and Lateral Development
 - Implementation Details
 - Additional Effects and Corrections in E-Beam 3D-PEC
- 3D-PEC for Laser Lithography
- Summary

Work Range

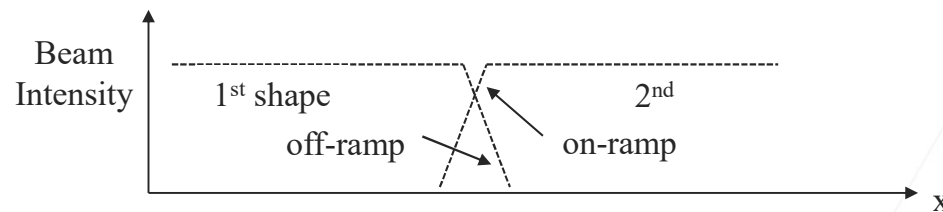
- The extreme shallow and deep portions of the contrast curve have complex behavior
- The extremely low doses required for the very shallow depths can exceed the hardware capabilities (maximum exposure clock rate) of e-beam tools
- Too much scattered energy can make some designs impossible



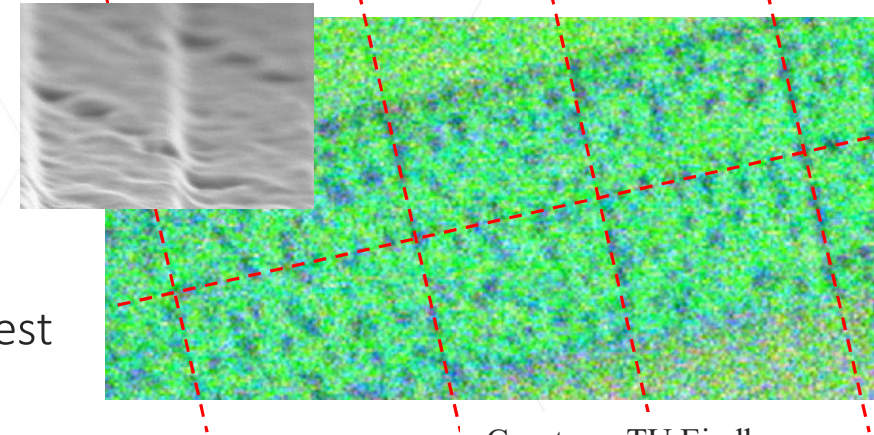
- Work Range shifts the relative target height assignments to the specified range, avoiding all of these issues
- You may need to use a thicker total resist thickness to achieve the same total height modulation



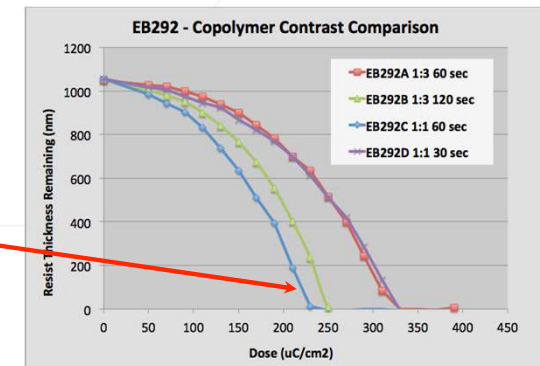
- Resist surfaces sometimes show roughness, holes, or bumps, often at regular spacing, indicating dosing issues at shape or sub-field borders
- Can be caused by tool calibration or timing issues
 - Optimal calibration for binary lithography may not be best for 3D. Tools may be calibrated for slight sub-field overlaps, to avoid unwanted gaps at boundaries.
 - Scanning/Blanking timing and synchronization may have tiny errors.
 - The slight dose changes are invisible in binary lithography, but give visible imperfections in 3D
 - The effect is more pronounced at higher doses, as the slope is steeper at higher doses



Exposure Issues

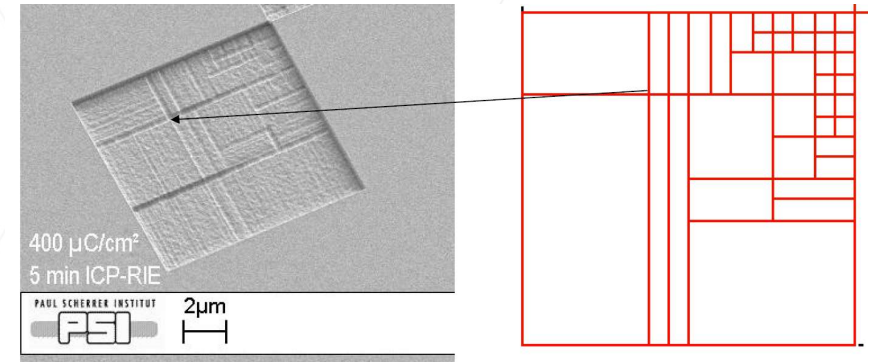


Courtesy: TU Eindhoven



Mitigation by Exposure Strategy

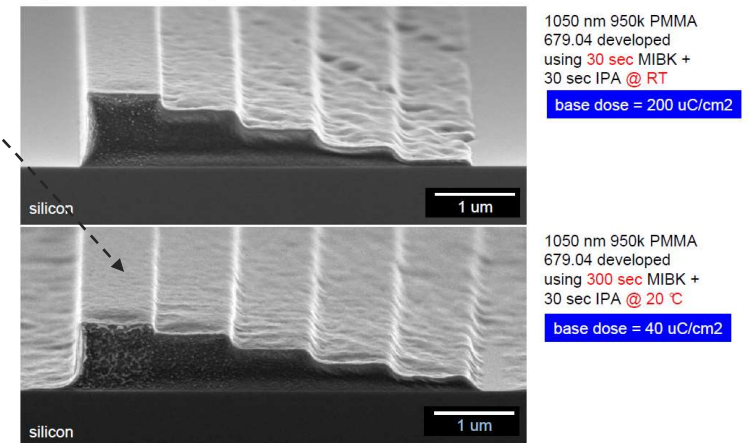
- Resist Process
 - Resist contrast impacts height sensitivity
- Amplifier Gain
 - Allow small gaps between shots
- Larger Spots
 - Blurs the Dose Non-Uniformities
- Multi-Pass, particularly with sub-field shift
 - Averages Dose Non-Uniformities
- Dose-sensitive Multi-Pass
 - Higher doses (lower heights in positive resists) are exposed multiple times; Lower doses exposed fewer times.
 - Improves throughput, by using Multipass with higher current while staying within machine maximum frequency
- Multi-Pass with Overlap Mode
 - Multiplex exposure by intentional overlaps



PSI Example, showing clear effects at fracture borders

Dose dependence of layer (surface) roughness

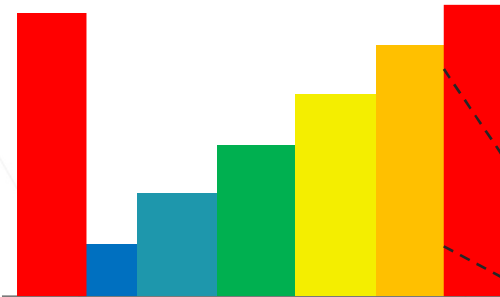
Exposure of standard test pattern using different contrast curve



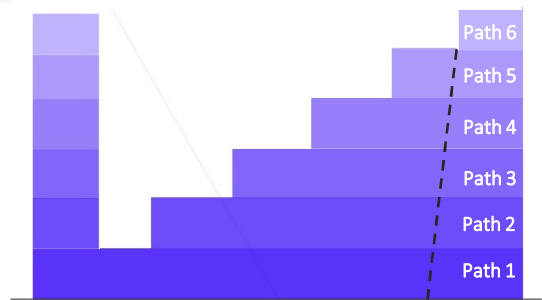
Multi-Pass with Overlap Mode

- Stacked shapes, with each adding incremental dose to the lower layer doses

Desired Dose Profile



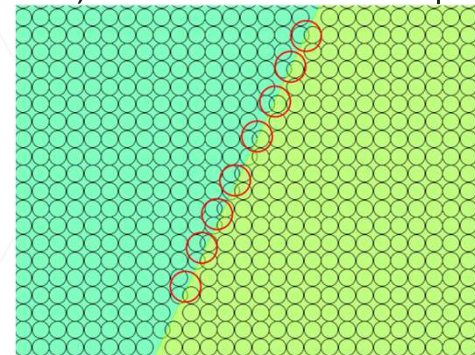
Overlap Mode Exposure Strategy



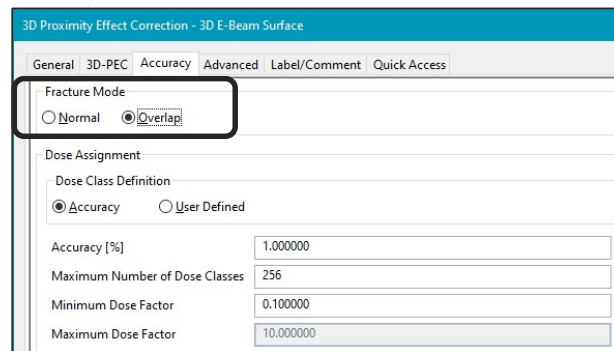
- Shape boundaries improved by avoiding gaps and overlapping shots at edges

- New in BEAMER v6.1

„Hard“ dose boundary always there, even with multi-pass

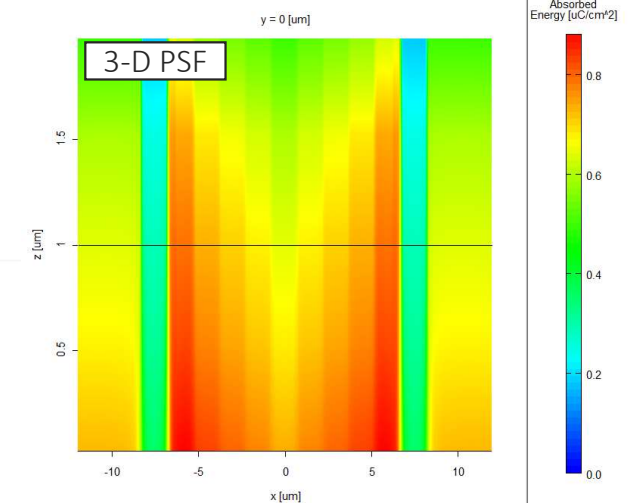
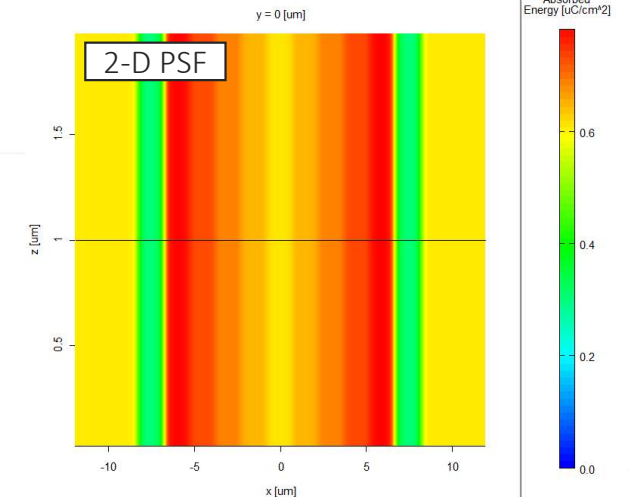
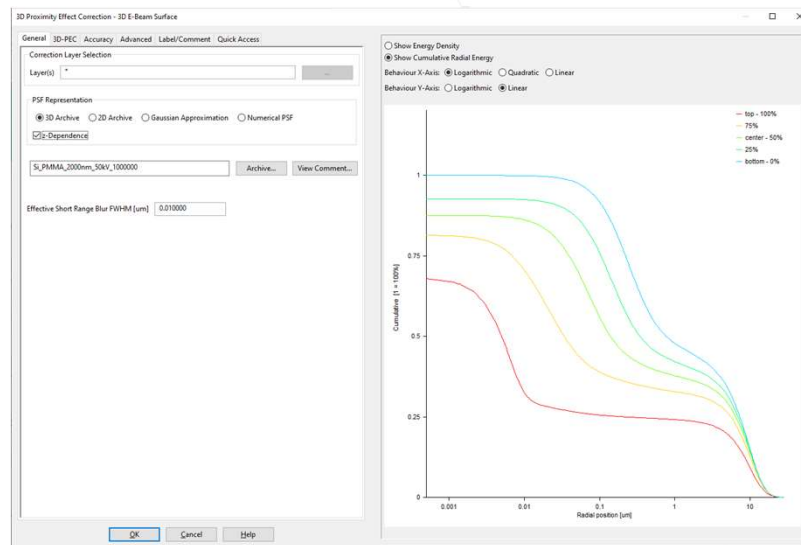


Dose boundary only in top exposure

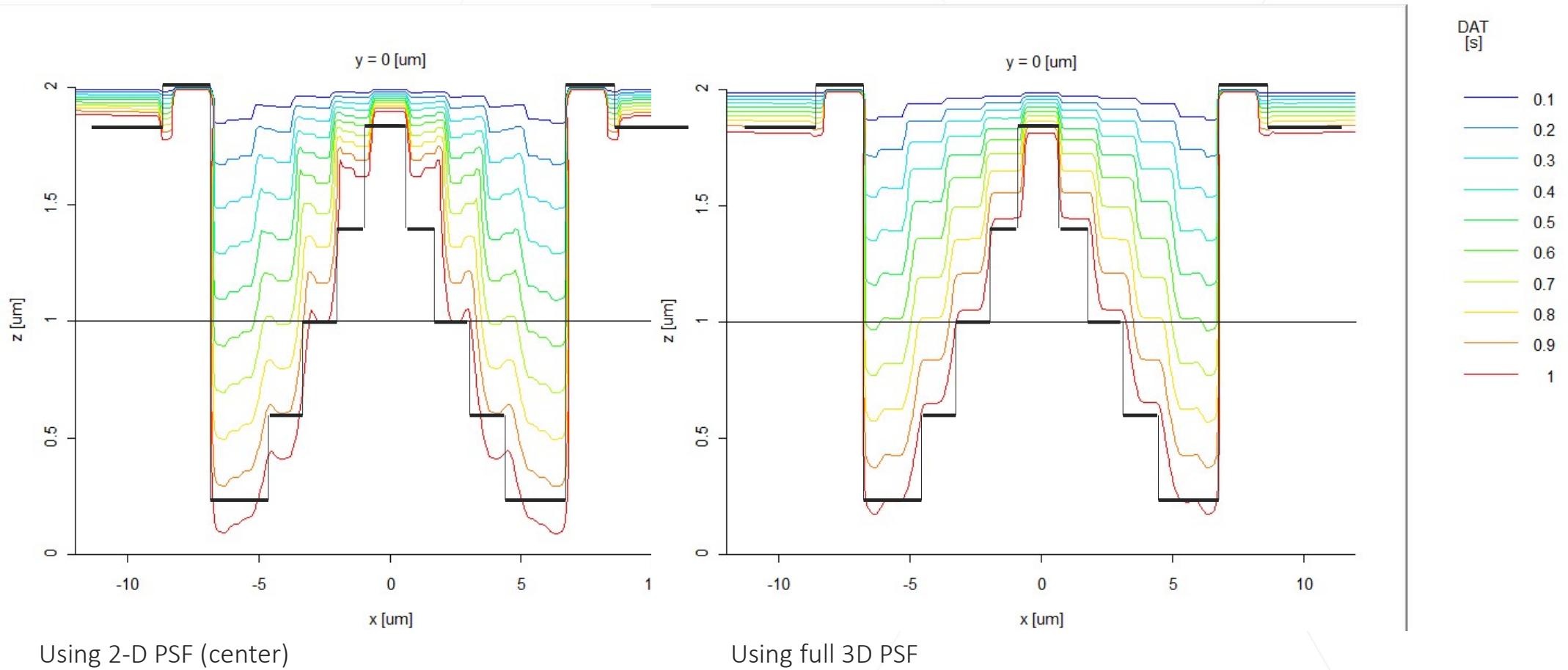


New Improvement: 3-D PSF

- So far, we have used a 2-D PSF for PEC
- But absorbed energy will vary with Z position within the resist layer, especially in thicker layers
- A new extension to 3D-PEC is the ability use a 3D-PSF

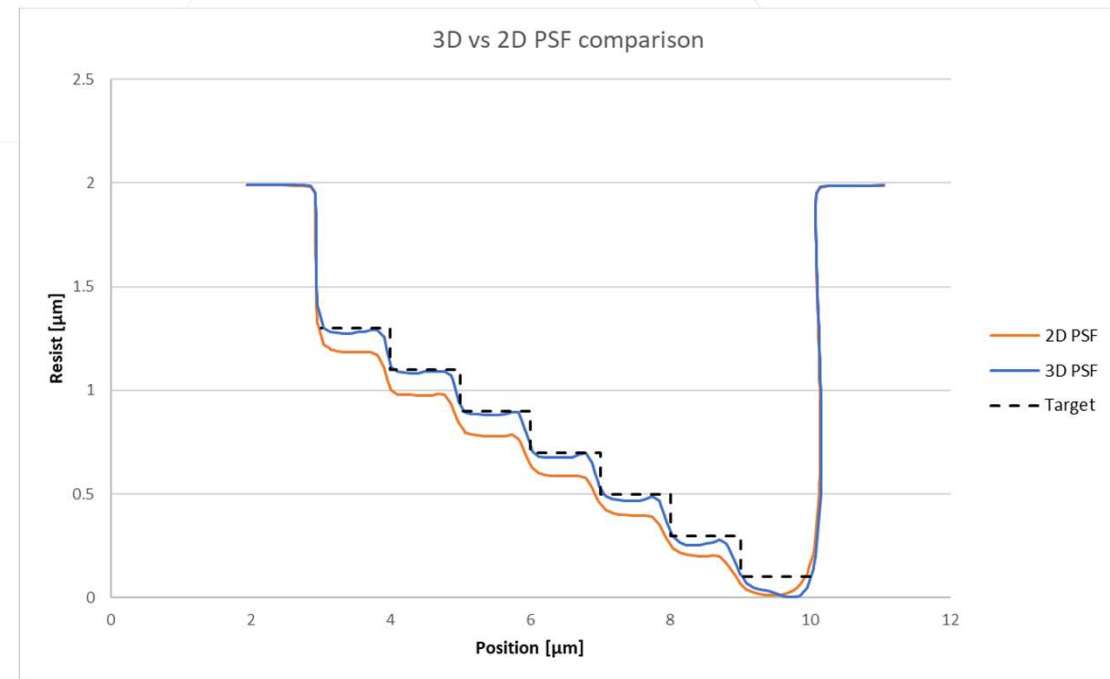
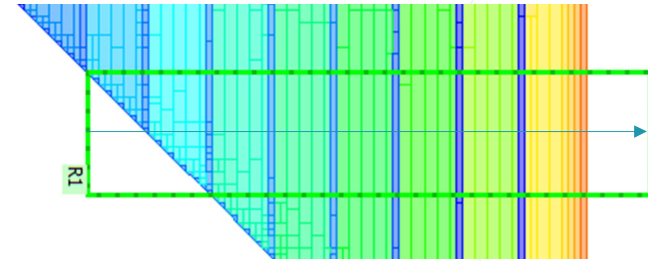


Impact of 3D PSF, Development Profiles



Impact of 3D PSF: Height Targets

- This new feature improves the accuracy of the 3D-PEC, yielding resist thicknesses closer to the target
- Higher accuracy, but more computationally intensive
- Available in BEAMER v6.1



Advanced Example: Multiple Process

2x exposure (different contrast curves) on single substrate

1050 nm 950k PMMA 679.04 with two-step development
14.5 min + 0.5 min MIBK @ 20 °C

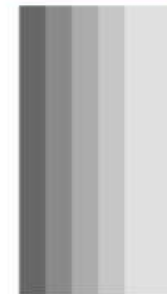
2nd exposure (pattern A)



$d_{\text{base}} = 360 \text{ uC/cm}^2$

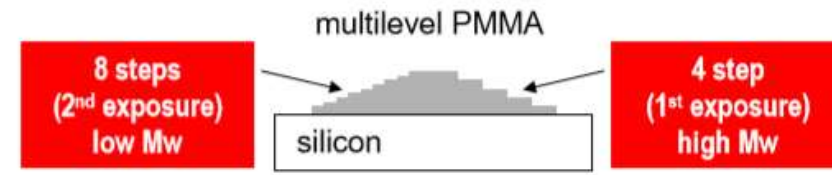
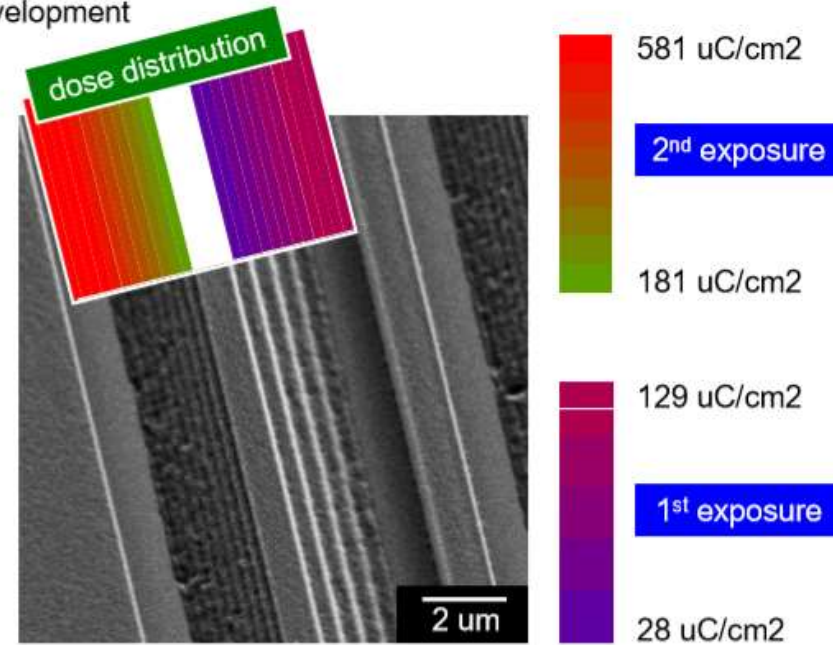
clock times:	0.62
	0.68
	0.71
dose2clear	0.76
~ 500	0.82
uC/cm2	0.91
	1.10
	1.28
	1.99

1st exposure (pattern B)



$d_{\text{base}} = 53 \text{ uC/cm}^2$

clock times:	0.41
	0.48
	0.59
dose2clear	0.87
~ 100	1.89
uC/cm2	

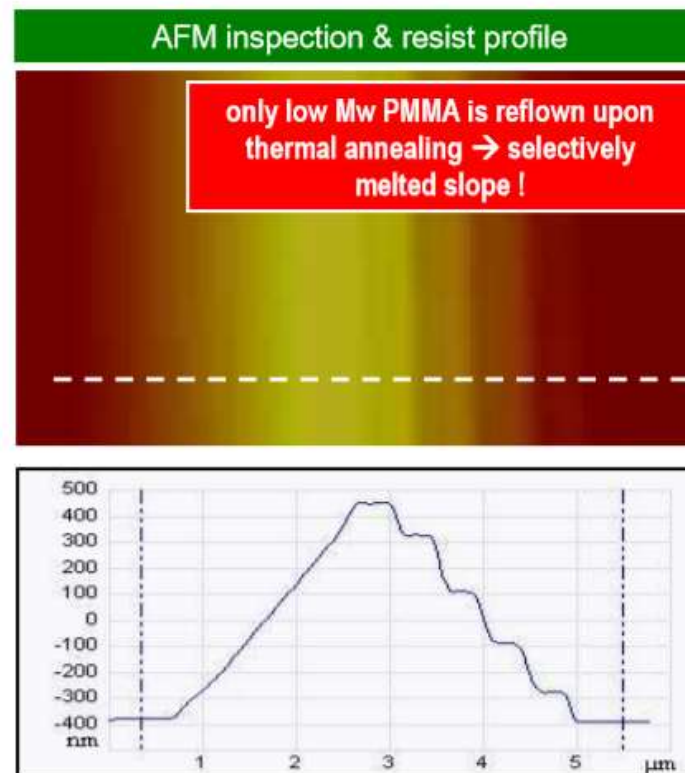
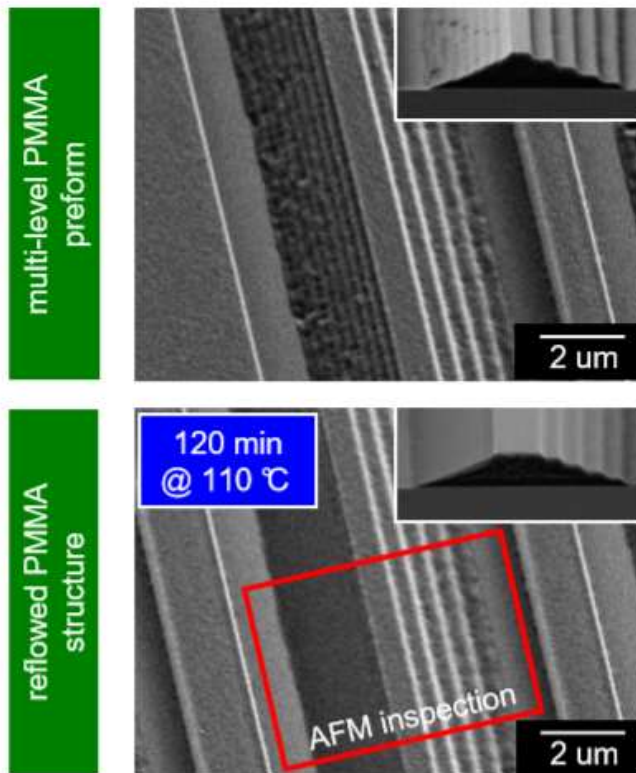


Courtesy of
PSI, Switzerland

Advanced Example: Resist Reflow

Multi-level and continuous resist profiles

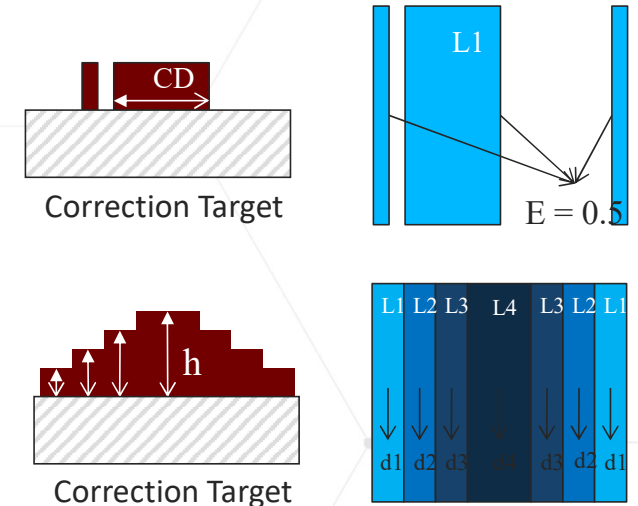
Thermal annealing applied to EBL patterned multi-level PMMA



Courtesy of
PSI, Switzerland

E-Beam 3D Surface PEC Summary

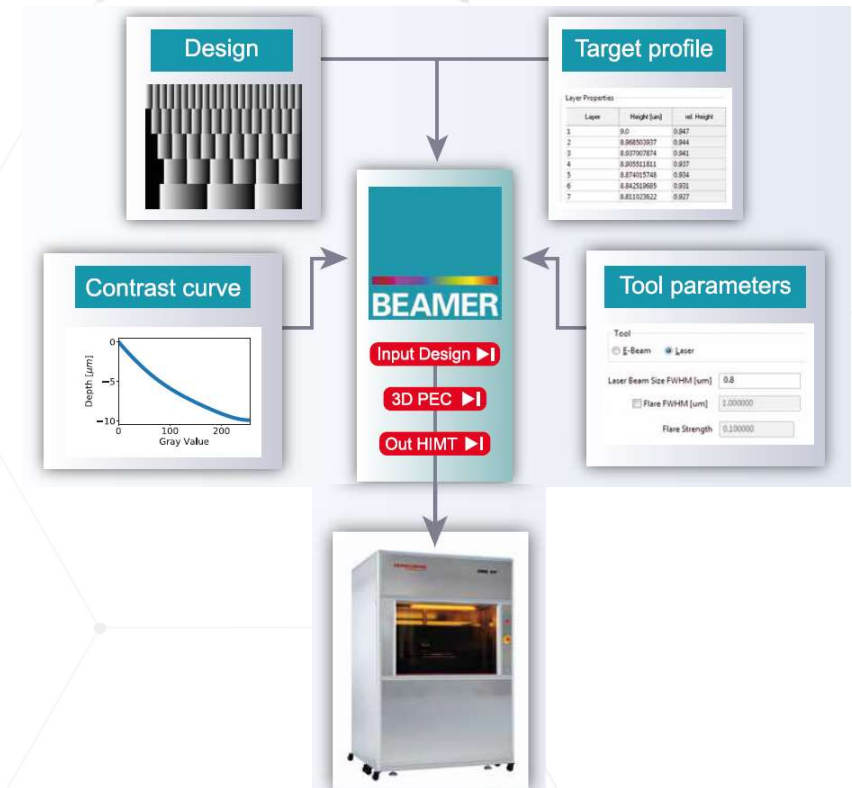
- Computation aims to match the height of the resist surface to the defined target.
 - The height of a resist layer can be controlled by adjusting the dose
- Basic 3D Surface PEC takes into account:
 - Blur and Backscattered Energy in the resist
 - Lateral Development
- Additional options for mitigation other effects:
 - Multipass, Including dose-selective
 - Stacked Overlap Mode (new)
 - 3D-PSF for improved accuracy in thicker layers (new)



- Part 5 Summary: Shape PEC – ODUS Contrast Enhancement
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- 3D-PEC for Laser Lithography
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Laser Grayscale Correction

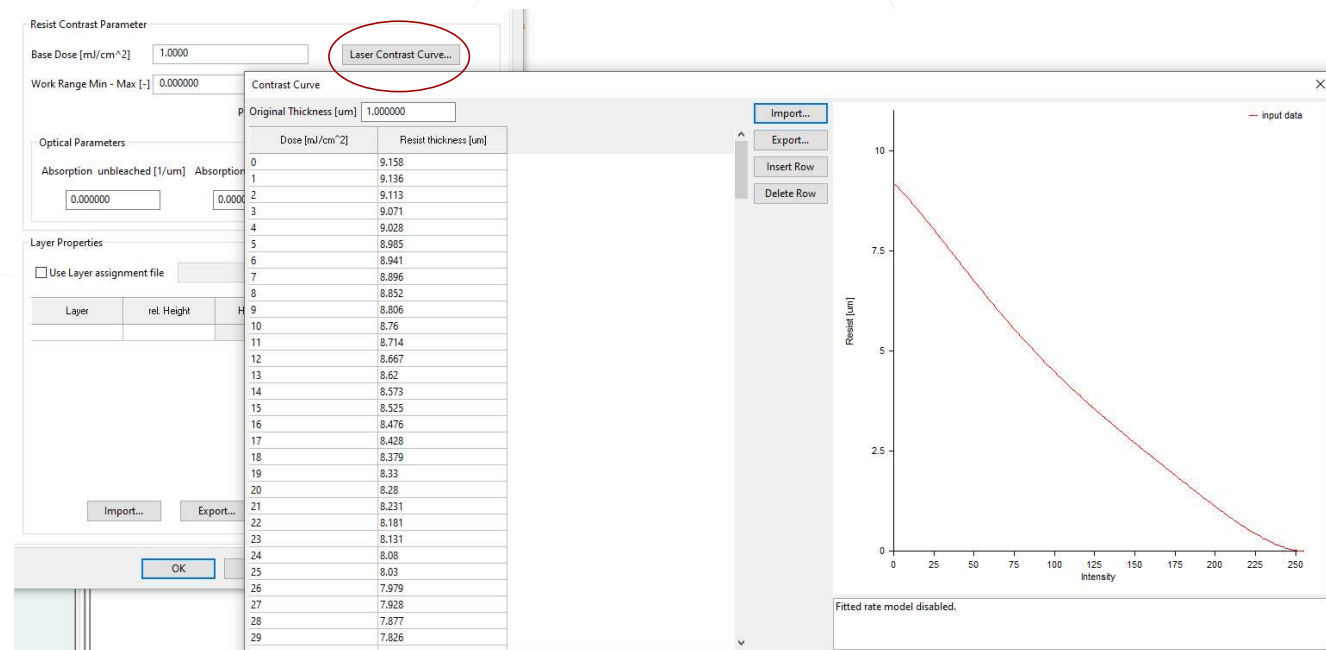
- 3D Surface PEC can also be applied to optical exposure by laser
- Similar basics, additional effects
 - More complex resist response
 - Absorption, Bleaching



3D-PEC for Laser

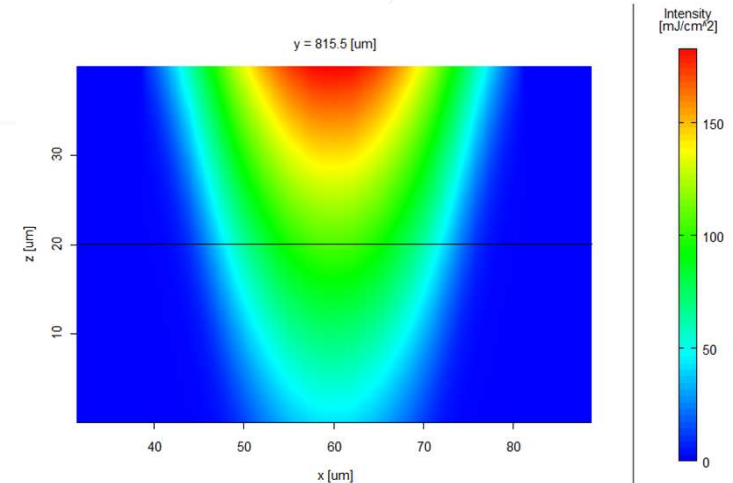
- The basis of the 3D-PEC is still Development Rate, from the Contrast Curve

- Measured by experiment
- Entered into BEAMER



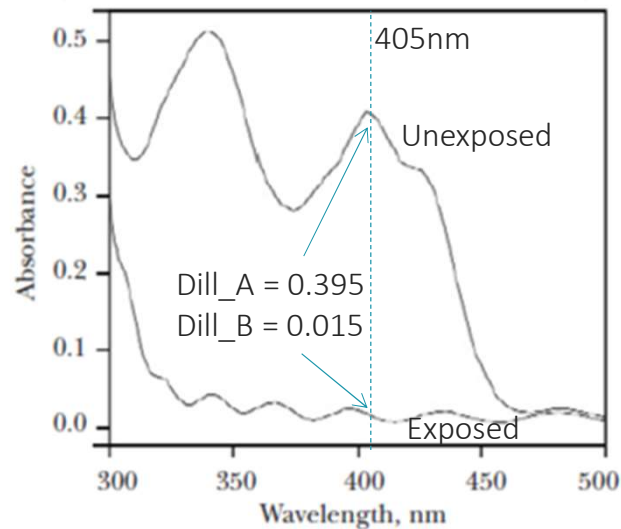
Laser 3D Lithography Challenges

- Energy Absorption
 - Blur
 - Laser Beam Size blurs the energy
 - Energy Variation in Z
 - Absorption, Bleaching, Depth of Focus
- Development
 - Lateral Development
 - Surface Inhibition
 - Z-dependent Development Rates, especially with thicker resist

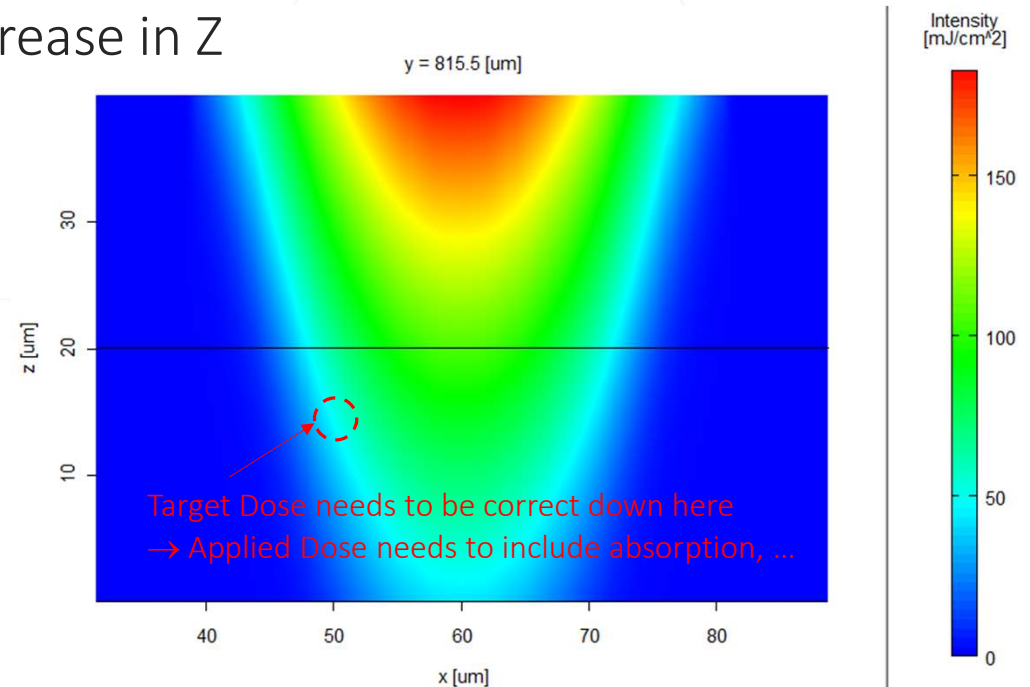


Z-dependent Exposure Effects

- Additional resist parameters are needed
 - Absorption and bleaching affect the z-dependent absorbed dose (x,y,z)
 - Intensity and development rate decrease in Z



Absorbance Curves for SPR220 Resist

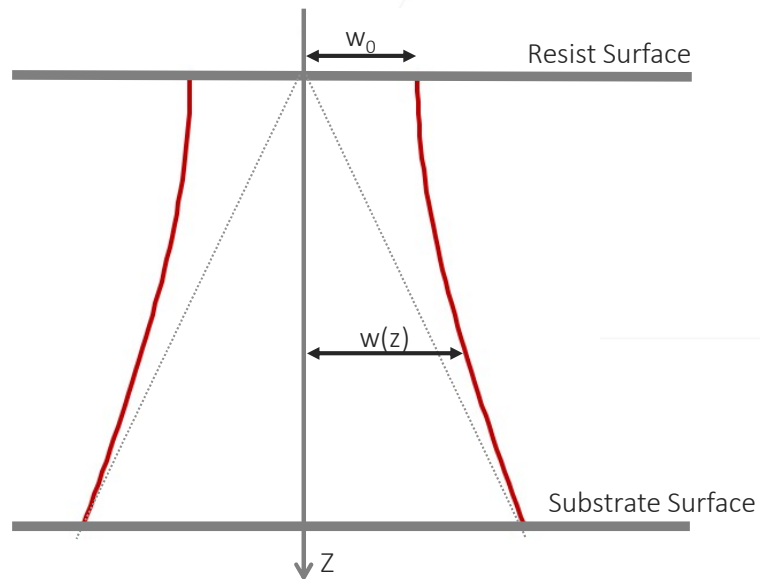


Sample dose profile in a 40µm thick resist

Accurate modeling of absorbed energy is essential for 3D PEC

Beam Divergence

- Spot size varies through the resist

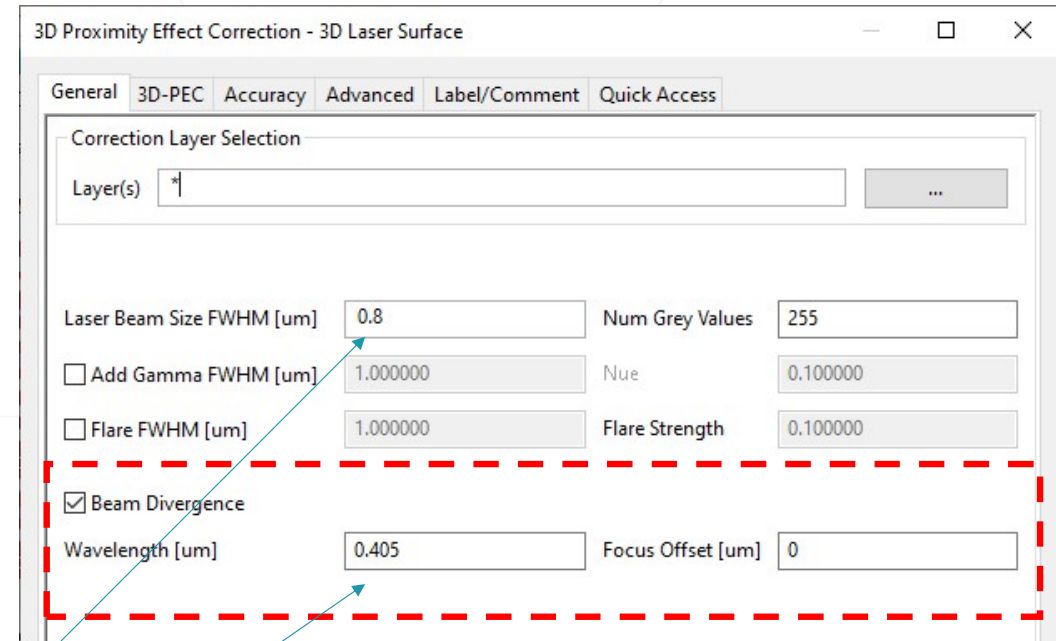


$$z_R = nw_0/NA.$$

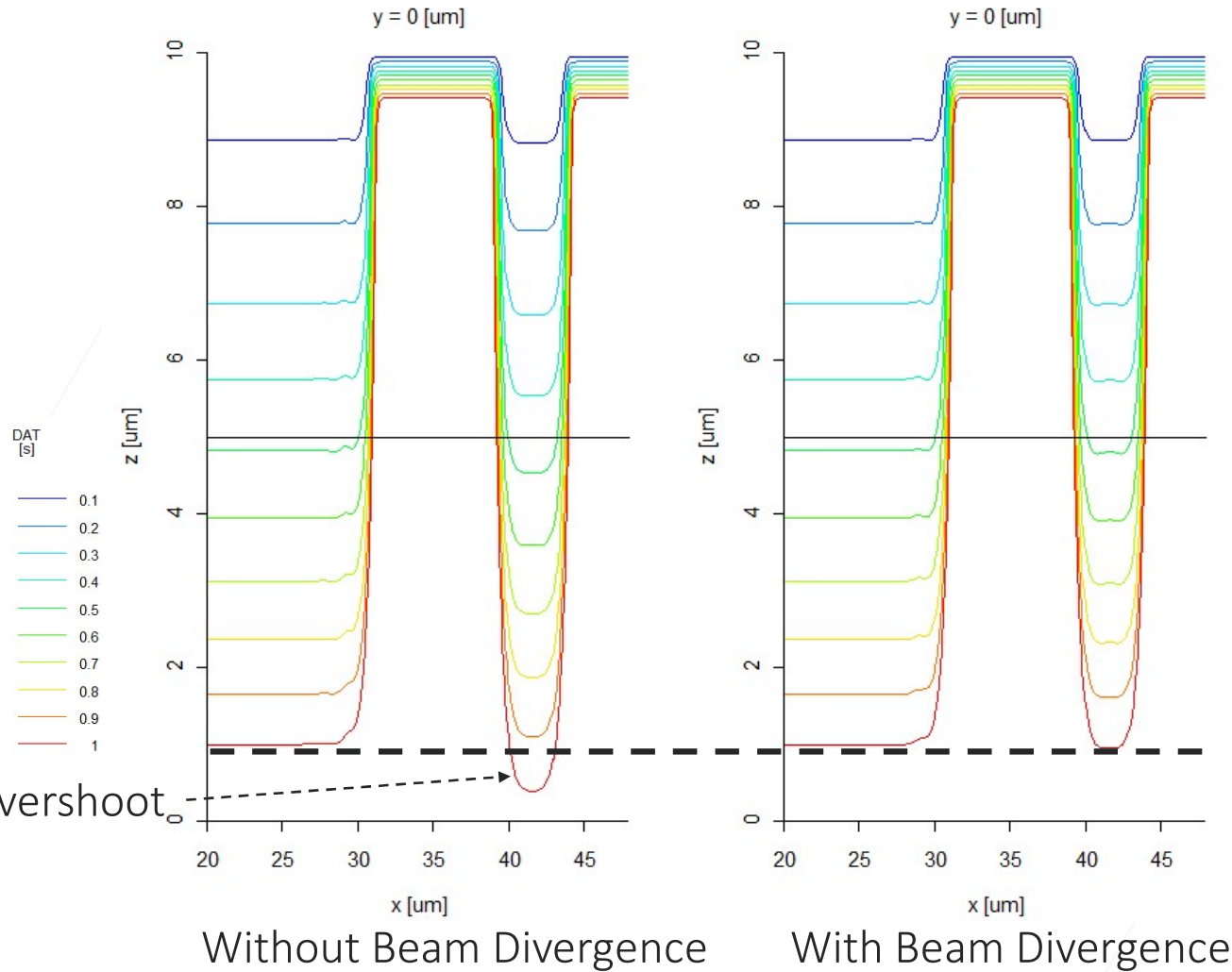
$$w_0 = \frac{FWHM}{2\sqrt{\ln 2}}$$

$$w(z) = w_0 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_R}\right)^2},$$

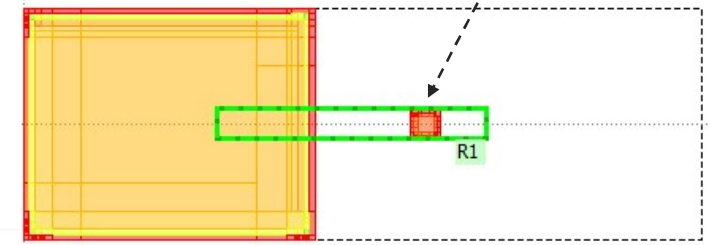
$$z_R = \frac{n \cdot \pi \cdot w_0^2}{\lambda_0}$$



Beam Divergence Impact

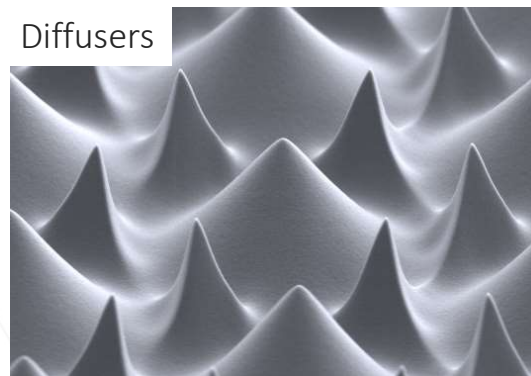
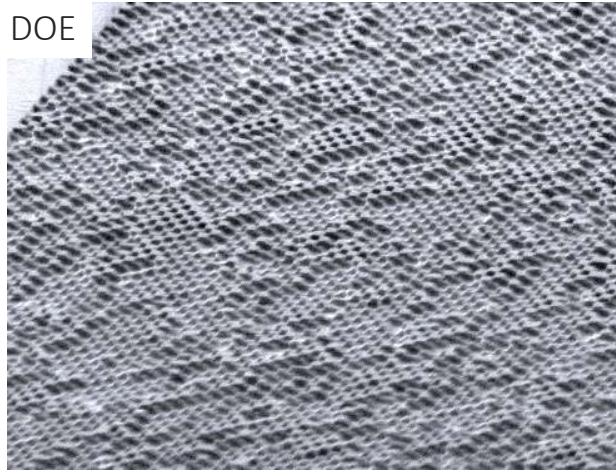


The depth of focus compensation makes a difference for narrow features where dose is blurred to the sides

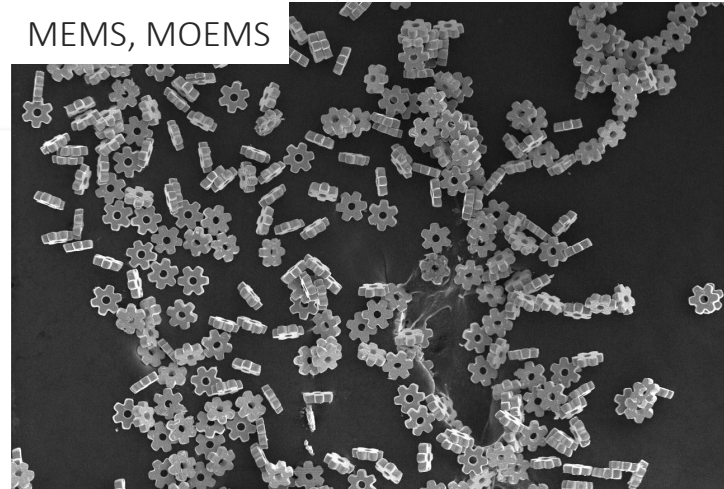


Laser Grayscale Applications

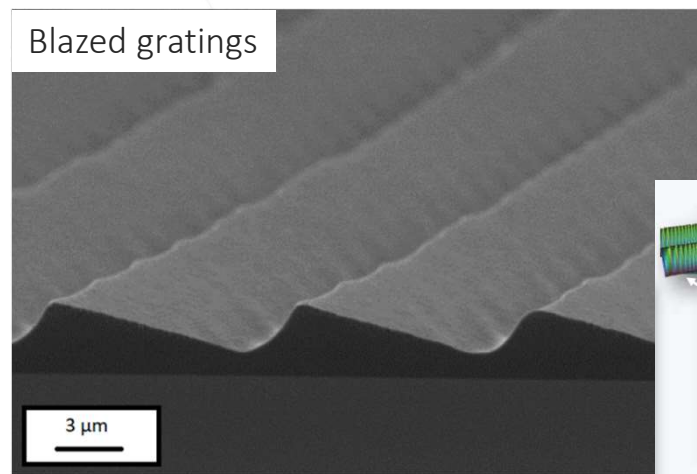
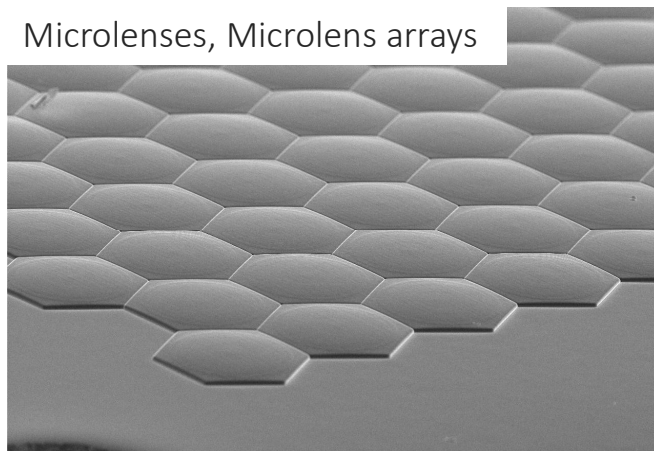
- Many applications require 3-D Lithography



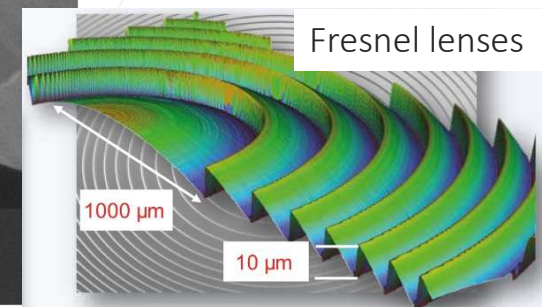
Courtesy of IGI



Courtesy of Kuraray

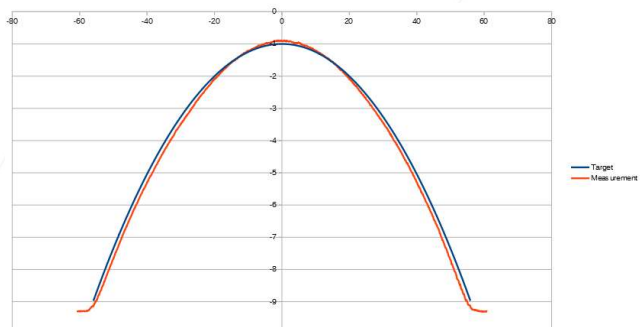


Courtesy of IMS

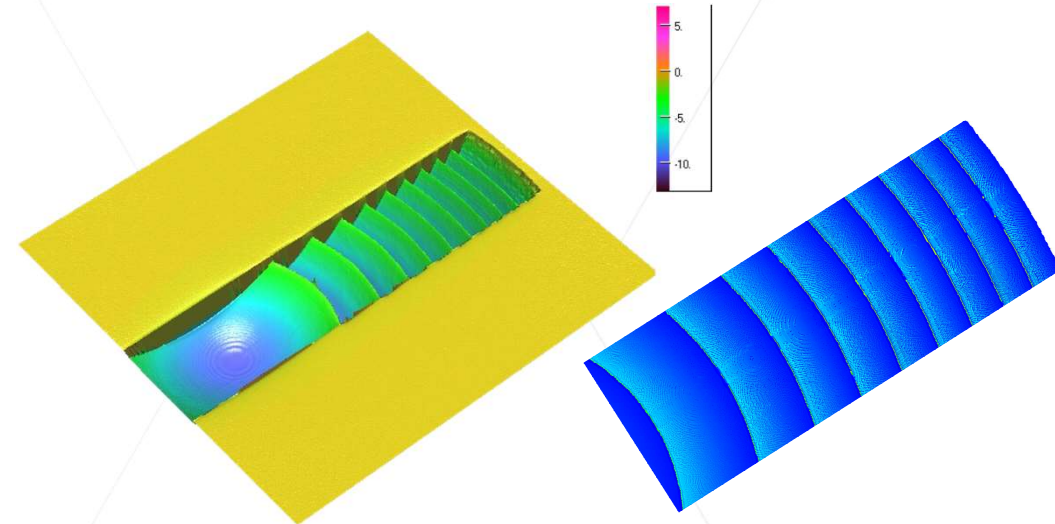
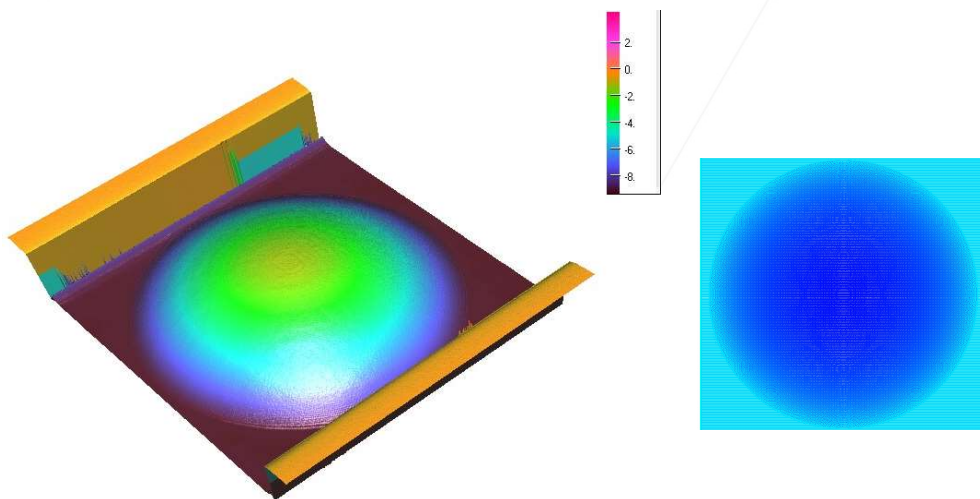
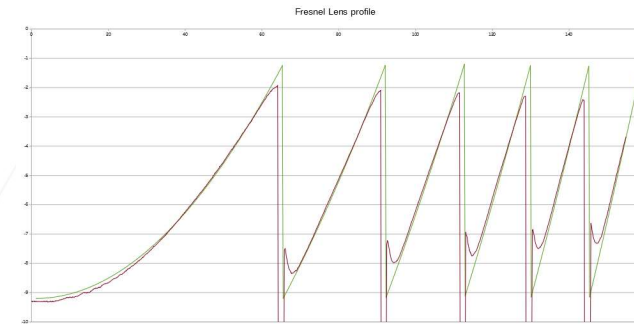


Optical Lenses

Convex Lens



Fresnel Lens

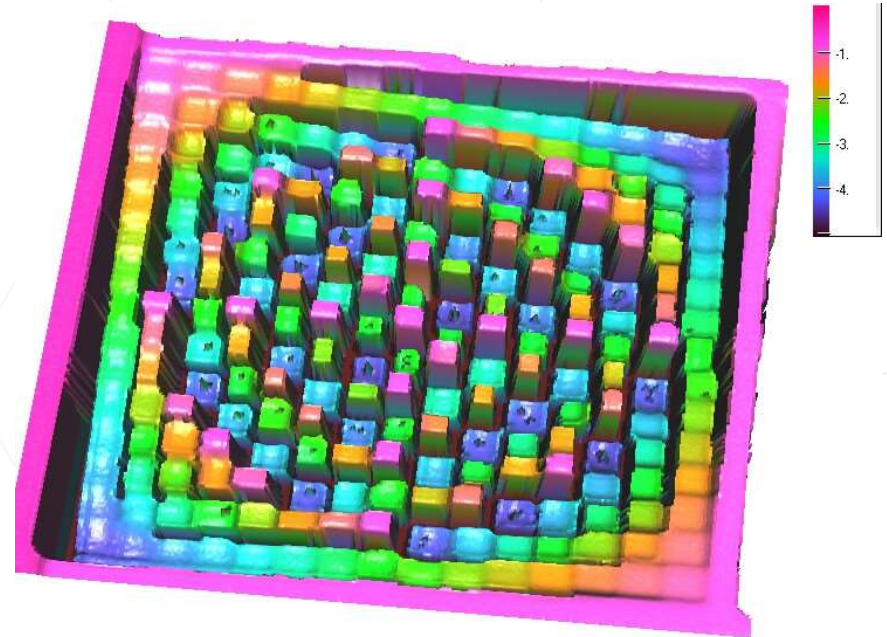


Courtesy of HIMT, Germany

Diffractive Optical Element



6.4 μm Squares/Pixels

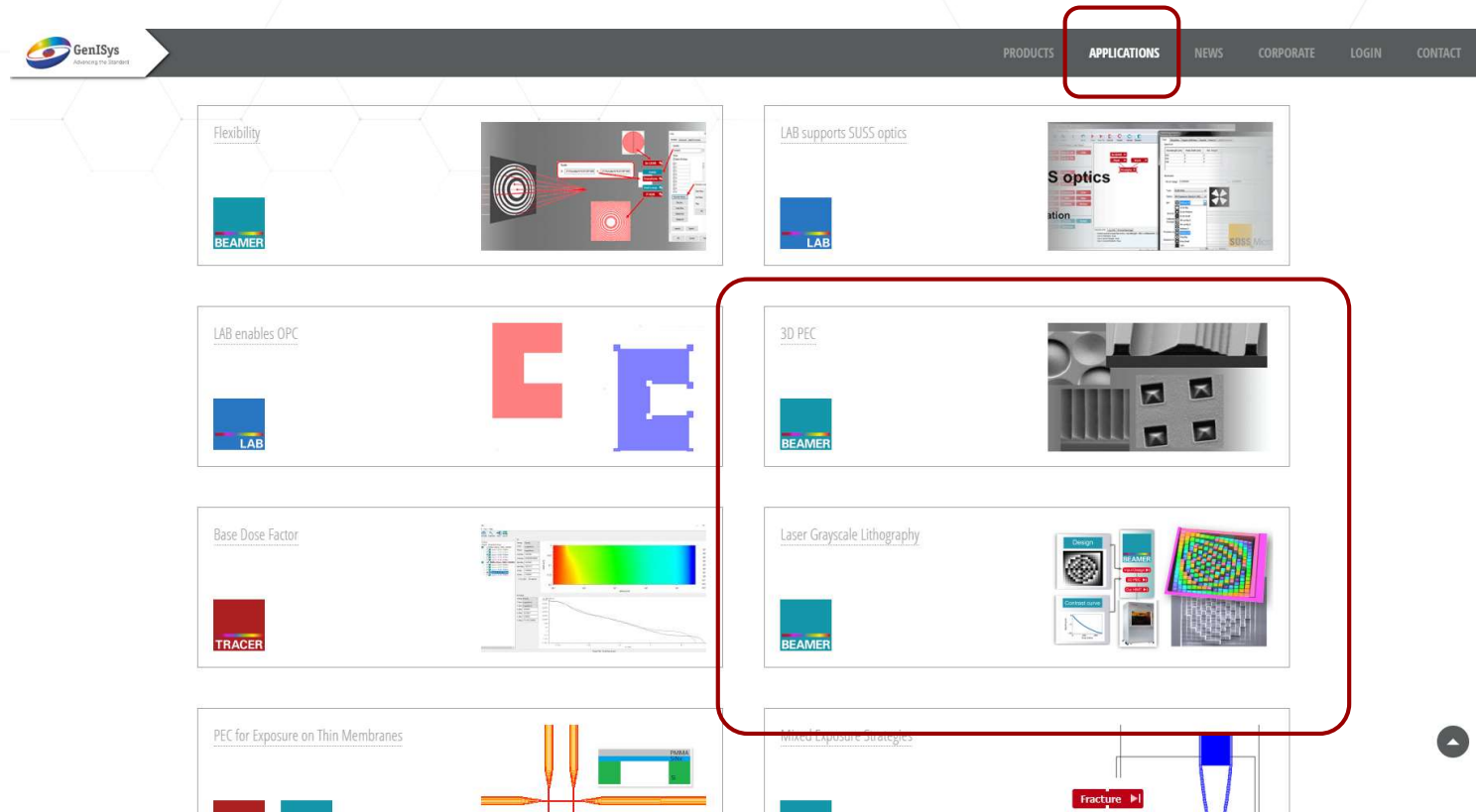


3.2 μm Squares/Pixels

Courtesy of HIMT, Germany

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GenISys website: www.genisys-gmbh.com



- 3D Surface PEC enables 3D Lithography with precise resist height control
 - computes effects of energy blur and scattering
- Selection of resist and process is important
- Additional effects to be considered & corrected include:
 - Tool and exposure effects
 - Multipass, Dose-Selective Multipass, and Overlap modes can reduce the impacts
 - PSF variation inside the resist
 - Using a 3D-PSF further improves accuracy to height targets
- With optimized correction, complex 3D structures can be fabricated
- This also applies to 3D-Laser exposures
 - Requires additional consideration of complex resist responses (surface inhibition, bleaching, focus variation)