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ION-BOMBARDMENT OF NICKEL (110) AT ELEVATED **TEMPERATURE**

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ION-BOMBARDMENT OF NICKEL (110) AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURE

BY

VIJAY KUMAR PEDDINTI

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE

IN

PHYSICS

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2015

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MASTER OF SCIENCE THESIS

OF

VIJAY KUMAR PEDDINTI

APPROVED:

Thesis Committee:

Major Professor David R. Heskett Ramdas Kumaresan Leonard M. Kahn Nasser H. Zawia DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this thesis is to study the behavior of ion-induced defects at the \overline{Y} point on the Ni (110) surface at elevated temperatures. The electronic structure of the surface is examined using inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES), and the geometric structure is observed using low energy electron diffraction (LEED). These measurements lead to a better understanding of the surface properties.

The clean Ni (110) surface exhibits a peak ~ 2.6 eV above the Fermi level, indicating an unoccupied surface state near the \overline{Y} point of the surface Brillouin zone (SBZ). Defects are induced by low energy ion bombardment at various temperatures, which result in a decrease of the peak intensity. The surface state eventually disappears when bombarded for longer times. We also observed that the surface heals faster when the crystal is being simultaneously sputtered and annealed at higher versus lower temperature. Finally the data for annealing while sputtering versus annealing after sputtering does not seem to exhibit much difference.

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I am grateful to my parents, and brother for their support. Their love and support is very much appreciated. I also would like to acknowledge Larry McLaughlin, Scott Lachance and their families for their love and support. This paragraph is dedicated to all those people who I could not mention due to space constraints and to all the experimental researchers.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to family and friends

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The goal of this thesis is to develop a better understanding of ion-induced surface defects at a higher temperature. Nickel is selected for the analysis as it exhibits clear distinct surface peaks in the unoccupied region as detected by inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES). Clean Ni (110) shows an unoccupied electronic surface state with energy ~ 2.6 eV above the Fermi level, near the \overline{Y} point of the surface brillouin zone (SBZ). In order to create surface defects the Ni sample is ion-bombarded at different elevated temperatures, followed by the electronic and geometric structure study. The thesis is organized as follows:

- Chapter [1](#page-14-0) provides a brief overview on the Nickel (110) surface and the techniques used for the surface analysis.
- Chapter [2](#page-22-0) provides a description of inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES) and low energy electron diffraction (LEED), two characterization tools used in the thesis. This chapter also discusses the experimental chamber setup.
- Chapter [3](#page-34-0) presents results and discussion, followed by a brief discussion of future work.

The surface structure is typically the starting point which leads to a wide range of understanding of surface phenomena [\[1\]](#page-20-3). Changes at the surface influence structural, vibrational, and magnetic properties among others. Surface electronic states and defects have been of considerable interest for decades. It is important to understand surface defects, as they are present while dealing with most real world surfaces, needed in developing advanced technologies. For example, surface defects are important to understand on semiconductors and electronics where the feature sizes are reducing dramatically. In some cases, we are dealing with 10-20 atoms (electrons) or less, and removing even two or three atoms could have a big impact.

This research work is an extension of prior work in Dr. Heskett's lab [\[2,](#page-20-4) [3,](#page-20-5) [4\]](#page-20-6). Prior work in the lab also includes surface analysis on Copper, Nickel and adsorption on metals. In the Cu (110) study, it was found that copper didn't show any decrease in surface state peak intensity at room temperature, however the peak decreased in intensity at 170 K [\[4\]](#page-20-6). This was attributed to self-annealing of Copper at room temperature. From a more recent study on Ni (110), B. Young found that at room temperature (300 K) Ni needed 10 times the sputtering dosage to generate similar results as at 170 K [\[5\]](#page-21-5). It was concluded that the Ni was exhibiting some (but not complete) self-annealing at room temperature (300 K) when compared to a lower temperature (170 K). Some of these results are shown in the appendix (Figure [A.1\)](#page-48-2). Along these lines, it would be interesting to see the temperature dependence of Nickel as well. Nickel was used for the study as it was readily available and also the Ni and Cu study is a good step before working with complex materials. Both Ni and Cu have a face centered cubic structure (FCC, shown in Figure [A.4](#page-50-1) in the appendix), and are d-band metals. The Nickel melting point is 1455 °C (1728 K); Copper's melting point is 1085 °C (1358 K).

A clean Ni (110) surface exhibits a peak ~ 2.6 eV (\pm 0.2 ev [\[7\]](#page-21-4)) above the Fermi level, indicating an unoccupied state near the \overline{Y} point of the surface Brillouin zone (SBZ). Figure [1](#page-16-0) highlights this surface state, S_1 along \overline{Y} . In the plot S_1 and S_2 are surface states, while B_1 and B_2 represent bulk state transitions.

This surface state is in the projection of the $L_{2'} - L_1$ gap as highlighted in Figure [2,](#page-17-1) where (a) presents the Nickel (110) band between L and X (L - Γ - X)

Figure 1. Energy versus momentum (k) for Ni (110) showing the unoccupied region above E_f [\[6\]](#page-21-0). S_1 , S_2 are related to surface states and B_1 , B_2 corresponds to Bulk. Energy versus momentum band diagram for Nickel is shown in the appendix Figure [A.5.](#page-51-0)

and the $L_{2'} - L_1$ bandgap is highlighted, while (b) illustrates the bulk to surface projection. Even though theoretical analysis shows a continuous band in a metal by introducing a surface in a solid, the three dimensional symmetry is broken, giving rise to geometrical and electronic structure modifications [\[7\]](#page-21-4). These modifications result in different boundary conditions giving rise to otherwise forbidden electron states. Figure [2](#page-17-1) (a) highlights two such forbidden states between $L_{2'}$ to L_1 and $X_{4'}$ to X_1 . Unoccupied surface states are seen near the middle of these gaps [\[8\]](#page-21-6). These states are called Shockley surface states or crystal-induced states (where the gap is p-like at the bottom and s-like at the top; a detailed analysis is provided in [\[9,](#page-21-7) [8\]](#page-21-6) using the multi-reflection approach and near free electron analysis). The $L_{2'}$ - L_1 gap extends from ~ 0.9 eV to about + 6.5 eV. The surface state is around 2.8 eV. The projected gap at Y is derived from the $L_{2'} - L_1$ gap, and the X corresponds to $X_{4'} - X_1$ gap. It is interesting to note that the L bandgap can be also sampled from \overline{X} on the 100 plane and $\overline{\Gamma}$ on the 111 plane, as shown in Figure [3](#page-18-0) [\[7\]](#page-21-4).

Figure 2. (a) Nickel band structure between L and X [\[10\]](#page-21-1). The $E(k)$ parabola is for a free electron in a constant potential. (b) Nickel (110) surface brillouin zone (SBZ) projection to the bulk brillouin zone [\[11\]](#page-21-2). The notation follows the standard terminology, where Γ, W, L, U, corresponds to the bulk structure, and $\overline{\Gamma}$, \overline{Y} , \overline{X} , \overline{S} (with an overhead bar) corresponds to the surface. For an FCC (110) crystal Γ - origin, L - $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$ $(\frac{1}{2}), X - (100), W - (\frac{1}{2}, 1, 0)$ [\[12\]](#page-21-3).

The different techniques utilized in this thesis to study the Ni crystal are the following:

- Surface cleaning is performed by sputtering/ion bombardment and annealing.
- Surface characterization is by inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES) and low energy electron diffraction (LEED).

1.1 Sputtering/ion bombardment

In any surface characterization study, it is desirable to start with a clean crystal surface. Sputtering or ion bombardment is an important technique used for sample cleaning. It involves bombarding the sample with inert gas ions. Typically,

Figure 3. Bulk Brillouin zone projections for face centered cubic (FCC) structure [\[7\]](#page-21-4).

Argon or Neon is used as they do not bind with the surface during the process. High energy particles are used to remove the unwanted impurities from the surface, while low energy particles are used to induce defects in a controlled environment. In our system, Argon (Ar+ ions) is used for this procedure.

Figure 4. (a) illustrates a typical contaminated surface. (b) sputtering (to remove contamination) is illustrated.

Figure [4\(](#page-18-1)a) illustrates a typical surface with contamination, particles due to oxidation, moisture, carbon dioxide and so forth collect over time. A clean crystal surface is obtained by sputtering. During this process even though the contamination particles are removed, a few layers of the crystal are also eliminated and result in a uneven surface, as illustrated in Figure [5.](#page-19-0)

Figure 5. Sputtering removes the contamination particles, however it generates a rough surface.

The three simple defects produced by sputtering are vacancies or Schottky defects, interstitials and Frenkel defects, as shown in Figure [6.](#page-19-1) The first is missing atoms or vacancies, where atoms acquire energy from the incident energy particles and leave an interior lattice site to reach the crystal surface. These vacancies are also called Schottky defects. The second type is called interstitials: they are created when the atoms come to rest interstitially and perturb the lattice. The third one is referred as Frenkel defects, where the incident energy atoms generate vacancies and interstitials in the process. Hence these are also called Frenkel pairs [\[13,](#page-21-8) [12\]](#page-21-3). Among these defects, surface vacancies are the most common defects generated by sputtering at low ion energies and small doses [\[14\]](#page-21-9).

Figure 6. Different surface defects (a) Schottky (b) interstitial (c) Frenkel defects [\[12\]](#page-21-3).

1.2 Annealing

After sputter cleaning, the sample is heated to a high temperature, approximately half the melting point, to remove the surface defects/vacancies. As illustrated in Figure [5,](#page-19-0) sputtering results in vacancies (surface defects) and an uneven surface. By annealing, most of these vacancies (surface defects) are healed by diffusion, thus resulting in a smooth, clean and healed surface. Figure [7](#page-20-2) illustrates the surface after annealing.

Figure 7. A smooth Ni surface is obtained by annealing.

Now we can study the properties of the sample. In this thesis, the two techniques used to study the crystal structure are inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES) and low energy electron diffraction (LEED). These techniques are discussed in the next chapter.

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CHAPTER 2

Experimental

This chapter presents an overview of the two surface characterization techniques used to study the Ni (110) surface: inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES) and low energy electron diffraction (LEED). In addition the experimental setup is also discussed in this chapter.

2.1 Inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES)

IPES provides information about the unoccupied or empty states between the Fermi level and vacuum levels in solids. In IPES, the sample is bombarded with a beam of electrons of known energy, E_{kin} . Some of these incident electrons make a transition to a lower empty state above the Fermi level and a photon is emitted in the process. A spectrum is obtained by sweeping the electron beam energy E_{kin} and monitoring the emerging photons of fixed energy, $\hbar\omega$ [\[1\]](#page-33-8). The resulting plot mirrors the unoccupied density of states, as illustrated in figure [8.](#page-22-2)

Figure 8. IPES spectrum schematic of the unoccupied density of states [\[2\]](#page-33-1).

Figure 9. Energy level diagram of photoemission (PES) and inverse photoemission (IPES) [\[3\]](#page-33-2).

Figures [9](#page-23-0) and [10](#page-24-0) show a comparison between photoemission and inverse photoemission. Photoemission provides information about the occupied states, whereas IPES measures the unoccupied states. Hence, these two techniques complement each other.

IPES is also known as bremsstrahlung isochromat spectroscopy (BIS), and in-fact, it is still referred as BIS when working in the x-ray region [\[2\]](#page-33-1). IPES gained popularity when BIS was reformed to use low energy $(\leq 1 \text{ keV})$ electrons and produce UV light, instead of using high energy electrons (on the order of 10 keV) and record X-rays. This modification enabled IPES to study surfaces [\[4\]](#page-33-3); in this sense BIS laid the foundation for IPES.

The key requirements of IPES are an electron source (also referred as an electron gun) and a photon detector. IPES can be operated in two modes: 1. Isochromat mode: where the incident electron beam energy, E_{kin} , is varied, and the emitted photons at a constant energy, $\hbar\omega$, are detected. 2. Spectrograph mode: in this mode the incident electron energy, E_{kin} , is fixed and the emitted photons are collected over a range of energies [\[1\]](#page-33-8). In this thesis, IPES is operated in the

Figure 10. A different illustration of photoemission (PES) versus inverse photoemission (IPES) [\[4\]](#page-33-3). A result showing the complementary nature of PES and IPES for Co is shown in the appendix (figure [A.6\)](#page-51-1).

isochromat mode.

In our setup, we use a home built electron gun based on an Erdman-Zipf design [\[5\]](#page-33-9) and a Geiger-M¨uller (GM) Tube, which is a popular choice as an isochromat photon detector. The GM counter is one of the oldest and a low cost radiation detector introduced by Geiger and Müller in 1928 [\[6\]](#page-33-10). Hans Geiger originally developed the principle; later Walther Müller collaborated to extend the detection to several types of radiation, such as alpha particles, X-rays, gamma rays to name a few. Figure [11](#page-25-0) shows a typical GM construction and setup. It is a stainlesssteel tube typically $(25 \text{ mm} \sim 1)$ " in diameter) filled with Iodine and Helium. One

end is sealed with a calcium fluoride (CaF_2) or strontium fluoride (SrF_2) window. The CaF_2 (or SrF_2) window provides the high energy cutoff, while the Iodine gas gives the low energy cutoff $[7]$. The combination of $CaF₂$ window with Iodine provides detectable photon energy of 9.7 eV and a bandwidth of 0.8 eV. Using a $\rm SrF_2$ window reduces the detectable photon energy to 9.5 eV with a bandwidth of 0.4 eV, as illustrated in figure [12,](#page-25-1) which is a plot of the detectable photon energy range for CaF_2/SrF_2 windows.

Figure 11. A typical IPES seup with a Geiger-Müller Tube [\[2\]](#page-33-1).

Figure 12. Comparison of the detectable photon energy range for the $CaF₂$ and $SrF₂$ windows [\[8\]](#page-33-4).

The wall of the GM tube acts as a cathode and the wire in the center of the tube acts an anode. The GM tube uses Townsend avalanche to detect the radiation. The avalanche starts with a single electron, which gives rise to several excited gas molecules within a few nanoseconds. These excited molecules emit a photon when returning to the ground state, which generates free electrons by re-absorption or by hitting the cathode. The free electrons accelerated by the potential difference between the cathode and anode ionize the Iodine by collisions and the whole process repeats. The multiplication stops when a huge positive ion space charge is formed in the chamber, resulting in a reduced potential difference which cannot accelerate the free electrons. Another method to moderate these multiplications is to use a quencher, such as Helium [\[6\]](#page-33-10). The pressure of Helium should be moderated so it doesn't generate too many nor too low collisions.

Electrons of energy E_{kin} from an electron gun are incident on the sample at an angle θ . The final energy state in terms of initial state energy is given by assuming bulk direct transitions [\[2,](#page-33-1) [9\]](#page-33-11), and using the principle of conversation. We can write E_f as the following

$$
E_f = E_i - \hbar\omega
$$

= $E_{kin} + \phi - \hbar\omega$
 $E_{kin} = E_f + \hbar\omega - \phi$ (1)

Where E_f is the final energy state,

 ϕ is the work function (the minimum energy required to remove an electron from the Fermi energy of a solid),

 E_{kin} is the Kinetic energy of the incident electron, and

 $\hbar\omega$ is the detected photon energy.

The parallel component of momentum is conserved and the only relevant component. It can be computed using $E_{kin} =$ $\hbar^2\overline{\mathbf{k}}^2$ 2m , from which the momentum parallel to the surface can be obtained.

$$
k_{\parallel} = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \left(E_{kin} \right)} \sin(\theta) = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \left(E_f + \hbar \omega - \phi \right)} \sin(\theta) \tag{2}
$$

Where θ is the angle of the electron incidence (or, in other terms, it is the angle between electron beam and sample normal).

2.2 Low energy electron diffraction (LEED)

Low energy electron diffraction (LEED) is one of the most common techniques used to probe the geometric structure of a crystal surface. It involves using a collimated beam of low energy electrons whose wavelength is close to the inter-atomic spacing of the crystal. When these electrons hit the surface, some of them backscatter and form a Fraunhofer diffraction pattern, which is the Fourier transform of the surface atom arrangement [\[10,](#page-33-12) [11\]](#page-33-5). A clean surface displays a good periodic pattern.

Figure 13. Schematic of a low energy electron diffraction (LEED) system [\[11\]](#page-33-5).

A typical LEED setup is shown in figure [13.](#page-27-1) Low energy electrons are emitted from the electron gun, and a small fraction of them back-scatter and reach grid

 G_1 . Only the elastically back-scattered electrons reach the second grid G_2 , which finally excites the fluorescent screen S. A detector, shown on the right, records this diffraction pattern. A popular LEED system manufactured by Omicron is shown in figure [14.](#page-28-0) The grids G_1 and G_2 can be seen on the top of the setup, where the fluorescent screen S is present, and the electron gun is located in the center.

Figure 14. A commercial low energy electron diffraction (LEED) apparatus manufactured by Omicron (image reference: [\[12\]](#page-33-6)).

In our setup, low energy electron diffraction (LEED) is performed using a 120 eV beam energy. In LEED, low energy electrons are used to obtain an image of the surface reciprocal lattice (figure [15\)](#page-29-1) to reveal the geometric structure. These images provide accurate information on the atomic positions, symmetry, and degree of order of the surface.

For the surface pattern electrons, approximately 20-500 eV is used. To compute the energy corresponding to the wavelength, let us start with the de Broglie relation $\lambda =$ h p = h mv , where h is the Plank's constant, $m =$ mass of the electron,

 $p =$ momentum. Using kinetic energy $E_K =$ 1 2 mv^2 , we can write $mv =$ √ $\overline{2mE_{K}}$. By substituting all the values in the de Broglie relation, λ in terms of Angstrom Å, can be expressed as $\lambda(\AA) =$ $\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$ $\overline{}$ 150 $E(eV)$ 1 . At an energy of 20-500 eV, λ is on

the same scale as the atomic distance.

Figure 15. A LEED pattern for Cu FCC (110) lattice [\[7\]](#page-33-7), for Ni would be 0.89 \AA^{-1} and 1.2607 \AA^{-1} .

Figure [15](#page-29-1) shows the relationship between the real and reciprocal lattice or k-space for copper. The k-space dimensions for Ni would be 0.89 $Å^{-1}$ and 1.26 \AA^{-1} .

2.3 Experimental Setup

Figure [16](#page-30-0) shows the experimental setup. All the measurements are conducted at a base pressure of 7×10^{-11} Torr in the ultra-high vacuum (UHV) chamber. As a comparison, atmospheric pressure is 760 Torr. The chamber has two sections: in the top section sputtering and LEED are performed, while IPES is performed in the bottom part of the chamber. The chamber is equipped with a home-built angleresolved inverse photoemission spectrometer, Physical Electronics' LEED and ion source apparatus. In addition, the chamber is equipped with the standard pumps: turbo-molecular, ion, diffusion and roughing pumps. The turbo-molecular pump is ideal for pumping out gases such as Argon used for sputtering, while the ion pump primarily maintains the ultra high vacuum pressure. The pressure is sensed using an ionization gauge.

Figure 16. Lab ultra-high vacuum (UHV) chamber.

The sample is suspended in the chamber using a sample holder, as shown in figure [17,](#page-31-0) which is shown in the IPES position. On the right is the electron gun, and the left side is the photon detector. The photon detector is positioned to be within 2 cm of the sample surface at 45° relative to the sample normal. The sample holder is a tantalum foil folded around tungsten wires, which are attached to the copper posts as shown in the figure. A high current is passed through the tungsten wires to heat the sample. The temperature is measured by a type-K thermocouple, which is spot-welded to the back of the sample holder. The entrance window of the detector is a 2.5 mm thick SrF_2 disc with a diameter of 1", which allows detection of photons of 9.5 eV and a bandpass of approximately 0.4 eV. The detector is filled with helium to 30 Torr (uncorrected pressure read by an N_2 -calibrated Convectron gauge), before opening a valve to iodine crystals which are allowed to equilibrate. More details of the setup are explained in D. Tang's thesis [\[13\]](#page-33-13), and the IPES setup and the data collecting are further discussed in B. Young's thesis [\[14\]](#page-33-14).

Figure 17. Sample mounted in the chamber using a sample holder, which is made with a tantalum foil folded around tungsten wires.

To generate a single inverse spectrum using IPES, the electron energy is varied from 6.5 to 10.5 eV in steps of 0.1 eV, and each step is held for 250 ms. 50 scans are performed to generate one spectrum. The resulting spectrum illustrates the normalized counts (normalized to the average current developed across the sample) as intensity on the y-axis versus the electron energy supplied by the electron gun on the x-axis.

The sample co-ordinates are selected to focus on the \overline{Y} point on the SBZ, and the angle of the electron incidence, θ , can be obtained using equation [\(2\)](#page-27-2). The parallel, perpendicular co-ordinates can be obtained by observation and later refined.

$$
k_{\parallel} = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \left(\hbar \omega + E_f - \phi\right)} \sin(\theta) \tag{3}
$$

Where the final energy state is E_f ,

 ϕ is the work function, for Nickel it is 5.01 eV, emitted photon energy, $\hbar\omega$ is 9.5 eV, m is the mass of electron = 9.1×10^{-31} Kg, $h = 6.582 \times 10^{-16}$ eV-sec, where 1 eV = 1.602 ×10⁻¹⁹ J = 1.602 ×10⁻¹⁹ $\frac{Kg - m^2}{2}$ \sec^2 k_{\parallel} corresponds to the \overline{Y} point, which is about ~ 0.93 \AA^{-1} (figure [1\)](#page-16-0), and corresponds to an angle of the electron incidence, θ is $\sim 45^{\circ}$.

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CHAPTER 3

Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the experimental results, and discussion followed by a summary and future work. For this study three types of analysis were performed: 1. Room temperature investigation. 2. Annealing the sample while sputtering. 3. Comparing the effect of annealing the sample while sputtering to sputtering followed by annealing the sample (as two different steps).

3.1 Results and Discussion

In this thesis a typical experiment involves the following steps:

- Step-1: 30 minute sputtering at 0° relative to the sample normal with 500 eV Ar+ ions at a 5×10^{-5} Torr pressure and an emission current of 20 mA. This step generates a clean yet disordered surface. For sputtering the chamber is back-filled with pure argon to the desired pressure. Once the sputtering is complete the argon is evacuated using the turbo-molecular pump and the chamber is allowed to recover back to $\sim 10^{-10}$ Torr.
- Step-2: Sputtering is followed by a 5 minute anneal, where the Ni crystal is heated to approximately 1000 K to form a clean and smooth crystal surface.
- Step-3: LEED and IPES measurements are performed on the clean surface. A LEED image is typically taken right away, whereas the sample is allowed to cool for a few minutes (by monitoring the thermocouple reading) before an IPES measurement.
- Step-4: Later surface defects are induced depending on the requirements, such as 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr, followed by LEED and IPES measurements.

3.2 Inverse photoemission spectroscopy (IPES) Results

Some of the inverse spectra are analyzed in IGOR and are presented below. Figure [18](#page-36-0) illustrates two spectra after sputtering (without annealing, result of step-1 outline in the above procedure), and after annealing (step 2). In all the plots, the solid lines are the smoothed counterparts of the data shown by the markers alone. The annealed spectrum (blue line), typically referred to as the clean spectrum, exhibits a peak around 2.6 eV. This corresponds to the surface state (S_1) shown in Figure [1.](#page-16-0) The red line (bottom line) corresponds to a spectrum after 30 minute sputtering at 5×10^{-5} without annealing, which does not exhibit any significant peak as sputtering degraded the crystal, by creating surface vacancies. When the crystal is annealed, most or all of these defects are healed after annealing. The other peak ∼ 0.3 eV is primarily caused by the transition to the vacant d-band [\[1\]](#page-47-2) (B1 as shown in Figure [1\)](#page-16-0).

Figure [19](#page-37-0) shows two intermediate sputtering steps along with the clean and 30 minute sputter plots. The two steps are: 5 minute sputter at 1×10^{-6} Torr, followed by an additional 5 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr. The bottom plot still corresponds to 30 minute sputtering at 5×10^{-5} without annealing.

In IGOR, the data is smoothed by choosing the "Binomial" algorithm, and a smoothing factor of 2. In all the plots, the solid lines are the smoothed counterparts of the data shown by markers alone. To compare the decrease in surface peak intensity, the area around 2.6 eV (2 and \sim 3.2 eV) is computed after smoothing and subtracting a linear background, then the remaining curves are fitted to a Gaussian peak with a bandwidth of 0.3 eV.

Figure [20](#page-37-1) presents another example of the decrease in the surface state intensity as a function of time. Here the sputtering performed was: $2\frac{1}{2}$ minute - $2\frac{1}{2}$ minute - $2\frac{1}{2}$ minute - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (a total of 4 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ sputtering), followed by an additional

Figure 18. The plot presents an inverse photoemission spectra after sputtering (with and without annealing). The x-axis is energy in eV, with 0 being the the Fermi edge E_f and normalized counts (normalized to the average current developed across the sample) on the y-axis. The annealed crystal shows a clean peak around 2.6 eV, whereas the unannealed spectrum does not exhibit any such peak. The other peak ~ 0.3 eV is primarily caused by transitions to the vacant d-band [\[1\]](#page-47-2). Also, the solid lines are the smoothed counterparts of the data shown by markers alone.

5 minute sputter at 2×10^{-6} Torr. Again Figure [21](#page-38-0) shows the decreasing trend. These results follow the observations made by B. Young which indicate that longer sputtering intervals decrease the surface peak intensity [\[2\]](#page-47-3).

A plot summarizing data from Figures [19](#page-37-0) and [20](#page-37-1) is illustrated in Figure [21.](#page-38-0) The plots shows the ratio of the surface area with respect to the clean surface on the y-axis; the area of the clean surface is normalized to 1. On the x-axis is the cumulative sputtering time. The data shows a clear decrease in the surface peak intensity with cumulative sputtering.

The cumulative time scale is computed as follows: all the sputter "times" are calculated assuming a 1 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr. As an example, a 15 minute sputter at 2×10^{-6} Torr can be thought as a 6 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

Figure 19. Inverse spectra for intermediate sputtering. The plots correspond to: clean, 5 minute sputter at 1×10^{-6} Torr, 5 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr, and 30 minute sputter.

Figure 20. Inverse spectra for sputtering at 2.5 - 2.5 - 2.5 - 2. 5 - 5 minute intervals at 2×10^{-6} . The plots correspond to: clean, 2.5 minute sputter, 2.5 and 5 minute sputter.

Figure 21. The plots shows the ratio of the surface area with respect to the clean surface on the y-axis; the area of the clean surface is normalized to 1. On the x-axis is the cumulative sputtering time. The plot shows the decrease in the surface peak intensity as a function of cumulative sputter time.

As a next area of study, the sample was annealed while sputtering. Some of the data is illustrated in Figures [22](#page-40-0) and [23,](#page-40-1) and a few other spectra are presented in the appendix (Figures [A.7](#page-52-1) and [A.8\)](#page-52-2).

Figure [22](#page-40-0) illustrates the spectra when the sample is being annealed while sputtering for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr. For the green (top) spectrum the sample is heated to 59 $°C$ (332 K), whereas the blue (bottom) spectrum corresponds to 35°C (308 K). It can be observed that the surface peak $\sim 2.6 \text{ eV}$ is higher when the sample is annealed at a higher temperature, when compared to annealing at lower temperature.

Similar observation are illustrated in Figure [23.](#page-40-1) Here the sample is annealed at 47 °C (320 K), 71 °C (344 K), 132 °C (405 K) for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr. The green (top) peak corresponds to 132 °C (405 K), followed by 71 °C (344 K) and the red (bottom) corresponds to 47 $°C$ (320 K). Again the surface peak is higher in intensity when the sample is annealed at a higher temperature. Supplemental data corresponding to annealing at 296.15 K, 313.15 K, 344.15 K, 325.15 K is illustrated in the Appendix, and all the data follows the same trend.

Figure [24](#page-41-0) illustrates the effect of annealing while sputtering, by summarizing data from the Figures [22,](#page-40-0) [23,](#page-40-1) [A.7](#page-52-1) and [A.8.](#page-52-2) The plot presents temperature on the x-axis, and the surface peak area as a ratio with the 405 K peak area. When the sample was sputtered and annealed at 132 °C (405 K), there is little change in the surface peak intensity. The surface peak is close to the same level as the clean spectrum. The increasing trend seems to indicate that the with annealing at higher temperature, a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr has little impact, in other words, annealing the sample at a higher temperature while sputtering has a healing effect. As anticipated, the sample heals faster at higher temperature for the same amount of sputtering. This is shown in the Figure [24](#page-41-0) as an increase in

Figure 22. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at 35 ◦C (308 K) and 59 °C (332 K) while sputtering for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

Figure 23. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at 47 ◦C (320 K), 71 ◦C (344 K), 132 °C (405 K) for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

the intensity of the surface peak as a function of increasing temperature. There are a few outliers, however the trend seems to agree with the statement.

Figure 24. The plot presents temperature on the x-axis, and the ratio of the surface peak intensity with respect to 132 °C (405 K) for a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

As a third analysis, a comparison between (1) annealing the sample while sputtering for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr and (2) a 10 minute anneal after a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr was carried out. For this case, Figure [25](#page-42-0) illustrates the inverse spectra at 35◦C (308 K). Similarly Figures [26](#page-43-0) and [27](#page-43-1) illustrate the inverse spectra for 23 $\rm{^{\circ}C}$ (296 K) and 29 $\rm{^{\circ}C}$ (302 K) temperatures respectively. There seems to be some difference when the sample was prepared at 35◦C (308 K) as illustrated in Figure [25.](#page-42-0) The peak is higher for annealing while sputtering versus annealing after sputtering. However at 23◦C (296 K) and 29 ◦C (302 K) the Ni crystal did not show any difference in the surface peak intensity (area).

Figure 25. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at 35◦C (308 K) during a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr, compared to a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr followed by a 10 minute anneal at 35◦C (308 K).

Figure 26. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at 23◦C (296 K), during a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr, compared to a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr followed by a 10 minute anneal at 23° C (296 K).

Figure 27. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at 29 $°C$ (302 K), during a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr, compared to a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr followed by a 10 minute anneal at 29 $°C$ (302 K).

3.3 LEED results

For all LEED measurements, a 120 eV electron beam energy and emission current of 1 mA was used. The phosphor screen voltage was set to 5 keV. LEED images were acquired with a home-built CCD camera located on the opposite side of the LEED phosphor screen.

Figures [28](#page-44-1) to [30](#page-45-1) show the LEED patterns for: (1) sputtered for 30 minutes. (2) after 5 minutes of annealing to 1000 K. (3) after a 10 minute sputter at 5 $\times10^{-6}$ Torr. (4) 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr while annealing at 35°C (308) K). (5) after a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr followed by a 10 min anneal at 35◦C (308 K). The annealed surface does show a clearer spot pattern compared to a surface without annealing and a sputtered surface.

Figure 28. LEED image without annealing after a 30 minute sputter at 5×10^{-5} Torr.

Figure 29. LEED image after a 5 minute annealing.

Figure 30. LEED image after a 10 minute sputter at 5 $\times 10^{-6}$ Torr.

Figure 31. LEED image after a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr while annealing at at 35◦C (308 K).

Figure 32. LEED image after a 10 minute sputter at 5×10^{-6} Torr followed by a 10 min anneal at 35° C (308 K).

3.4 Summary and Future work

The behavior of ion-induced defects on the $Ni(110)$ surface at elevated temperatures was examined using inverse photoemission spectroscopy and low energy electron diffraction.

The clean Ni (110) surface exhibits a peak ~ 2.6 eV above the Fermi level, indicating an unoccupied surface state near the \overline{Y} point of the surface Brillouin zone (SBZ). Defects are induced by low energy ion bombardment at various temperatures, which result in a decrease of the peak intensity. The surface state eventually disappears when bombarded for longer times. We also observed that the surface heals faster when the crystal is being simultaneously sputtered and annealed at higher versus lower temperature. Finally the data for annealing while sputtering versus annealing after sputtering does not seem to exhibit much difference.

The next step would be to model a Monte Carlo based simulation of the IPES data to draw further observations. From the data presented for annealing while sputtering and annealing after sputtering for the same conditions doesn't seem to have a major effect. However more data is required.

The spots from the LEED data show some qualitative differences due to annealing after ion bombardment, however to get a better idea of temperature dependence a quantitative study is necessary. This includes digitizing the LEED spots and determine their intensities.

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APPENDIX

Additional reference material

In this appendix supplemental material is included.

A.1 Ni sputtering result at 170 and 300 K [\[1\]](#page-53-0)

Figure A.1. B. Young's Ni (110) results for 170 and 300 K [\[1\]](#page-53-0)

A.2 Face centered cubic (FCC) lattice

Figure A.2. FCC lattice showing the (100), (110), (111) faces and unit cells [\[2\]](#page-53-2)

Figure A.3. Ni (110) surface brillouin zone (SBZ) projection to the bulk brillouin zone [\[3\]](#page-53-3)

Figure A.4. FCC lattice showing the 110 face and unit cell [\[3\]](#page-53-3)

Figure A.5. Energy versus momentum band diagram for Nickel [\[4\]](#page-53-4)

Figure A.6. Band mapping of photoemission (PES) versus inverse photoemission (IPES) for Co(0001) sample (Cobalt). For the same conditions, in IPES shows the unoccupied states corresponding to the minority 3d bands, whereas the PES provides information about the majority spin states [\[5\]](#page-53-5).

A.3 Other IPES results

Figure A.7. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at $23 °C$ (396 K) and 40 °C (413 K) for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

Figure A.8. Inverse spectra when the sample is annealed at $71 °C$ (444 K) and 52 °C (425 K) for 10 minutes at 5×10^{-6} Torr.

Figure A.9. inverse spectra for different detection angles

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