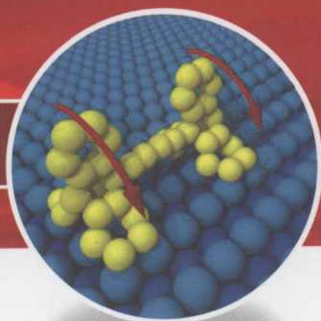




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材料科学与应用进展



Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings
Mechanical Properties

纳米结构的薄膜和涂层 力学性能

Sam Zhang



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导 读

薄膜及微细加工技术的应用范围极为广泛,从大规模集成电路、电子元器件、平板显示器、白光 LED 固体照明、信息记录与存储、MEMS、传感器、太阳电池到材料的表面改性等,涉及高新技术产业的各个领域。由于薄膜及微细加工涉及基础材料和基础工艺技术,因此,在国家经济增长模式转变和建设创新型社会,特别是高新技术产业化过程中,发挥着越来越大的作用。

由 Sam Zhang 组织世界前沿专家共同编写的 *Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings* 手册,由三分册组成:前两分册 (*Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings: Mechanical Properties*; *Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings: Functional Properties*) 涵盖了该领域最新的研究进展和薄膜及涂层技术在机械性能和功能性能方面的应用,第三分册 (*Organic Nanostructured Thin Film Devices and Coatings for Clean Energy*) 则讨论最前沿的用于生产清洁能源的有机纳米结构器件。

本书是该系列中的第一分册: *Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings: Mechanical Properties*, 内容集中讨论了薄膜的基本特性,例如硬度、韧性和附着力。本书在着重讨论制程和性能的同时,还提供了有关理论和尺寸效应的详细分析。

本书针对金刚石和金属中所含非晶态碳纳米结构涂层、过渡金属氮化物基纳米层化涂层以及作为新型超硬材料的纳米复合涂层等,进行了工业应用的展望。本书也包括等离子体聚合物薄膜,从纳米尺度的合成到宏观尺度的实用性。

几十年来,薄膜技术与薄膜材料之所以一直受到人们的关注,主要基于下面几个理由。

(1) 薄膜很薄(膜厚从微米到纳米量级,后者甚至薄到几个电子层),可以看成是物质的二维形态。薄膜技术是实现器件轻薄短小化和系统集成化的有效手段。

(2) 器件的微小型,不仅可以保持器件的原有功能并使之强化,而且随着器件的尺寸减小乃至接近电子或其他粒子量子化运动的尺度,薄膜材料或其器件会显示出许多全新的物理现象。纳米结构的薄膜(以及目前正大力开发的量子线、量子点等)技术是制备这类新型功能器件的有效手段。

(3) 薄膜气相沉积涉及从气相到固相的超急冷过程,易于形成非稳态物质及非化学计量的化合物膜层。因此,薄膜技术是探索物质秘密,制备及分析特异成分、组织及晶体结构物质的有力手段。

(4) 由于镀膜的气化方式很多(如电子束蒸发、溅射、气体源等),通过控制气氛还可以进行反应沉积,因此可以得到各种材料的膜层;可以较方便地采用光、等离子体等激发手段,在一般条件下,即可获得在高温、高压、高能量密度下才能获得的物质。

(5) 通过基板、镀膜、反应气氛、沉积条件的选择,可以对界面结构、结晶状态、膜厚等进行控制,还可制取多层膜、复合膜及特殊界面结构的膜层等;由于膜层表面精细光洁,故便于通过光刻制取电路图形;由于在 LSI 工艺中薄膜沉积及光刻图形等已

有成熟的经验,故易于在其他应用领域中推广。

(6) 易于在成膜过程中在线检测,检测动态过程并可按要求控制生长过程,便于实现自动化。

由 Sam Zhang 主编的 *Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings* 手册,汇集了近 20 年来薄膜技术与薄膜材料领域内的最新进展,并突破原来真空薄膜技术的局限,在下述几个方面增加内涵,扩大外延。

(1) 强调纳米尺度和纳米结构。纳米科学和纳米技术包括对物质在极微小尺度上的研究和探索,包括零维的纳米点、一维的纳米线、二维的纳米膜、三维的纳米管以及球形颗粒、杆、梳状物、角状物,以及其他非特指的几何构造等。这在过去的十年里成为基础研究和应用研究中的前沿课题。纳米科学和纳米技术的一个重要特点是,它们在基础科学的原子和分子尺度与工程和制造的微观尺度之间,搭建起至关重要的尺度桥梁。

(2) 注重新机理的探索和新功能的发现。块体无机晶体材料拥有其本来的特征和特性,如颜色和熔点等,但在纳米尺度下,这些特性可以按人们的需求进行调整(裁剪)。例如,半导体量子点受到紫外光(UV)照射时发射出强荧光的波长,就受到量子点尺寸的强烈影响。尽管在这些纳米颗粒中有足够多的原子来保证固体物理中的概念,如电子能带,禁带宽度,电子、空穴有效质量等继续有效,但由于这些颗粒足够小,以至于被称为“人工原子”,它们的特性在于有明显的分离的电子能级以及分离的光子吸收、发射波长。这些纳米尺度材料的神奇特性预示着它们在各种领域中完全不同于以往的应用。越来越多的情况表明,薄膜表面结构被证实为影响薄膜性质及材料分类的重要因素之一。

(3) 涉及的材料范围宽。本书突破原来真空薄膜技术主要涉及金属及合金等薄膜的限制,将薄膜和涂层的范围扩充至包括无机材料在内的所有材料领域。无机材料在光学、光电子学、磁学、电学、热学、电化学、光电化学、力学,以及催化性质等方面,代表最普通、最多变、分类最多的材料。如此多样的性质和低维纳米材料许多特殊效应的结合,使新颖的无机纳米结构的研究变成极其重要的科研和开发领域,这无论从基础科学还是从工业应用的角度讲都是如此。例如,通过发挥分级组装的强大功能,藉由连接、集成零维量子点和一维纳米线及纳米管,通过薄膜完成功能性网络,还有多维阵列等,对于开发和操作实用性纳米器件具有重要意义。由于它们的独特设计、构筑和物理性能,以及使纳米世界和外部宏观世界相连接的能力,这些未来的器件将会使材料科学与工程发生巨大变革。其中也涉及所有的研究领域,包括药理学、物理学、工程学和化学等。

(4) 更强调化学制程。对纳米结构薄膜合成方法的需求不仅复兴了许多传统的化学合成方法,而且激发了新方法的继续开发。开发合成技术的基本目标是制作具有可控纳米构筑的薄膜,用于纳米结构制作的化学战略的关键点在于各种化学反应的灵活应用。化学反应可以在固态、液态、气态和非均匀态中进行。反应物是一种元素或多组元化合物,可以是固体、液体、气体任意状态的组合。化学合成方法是用来合成方便的和可重复形状控制的纳米结构功能薄膜的一种极其强大的工具,这是因为这种方法允许产物在纳米尺度范围内进行大小、形状的精细调控,藉由对原子和分子的操作,用于材料合成,而且便于制作大尺寸产品。

(5) 工艺简单, 便于批量生产。除了传统的物理气相沉积之外, 还重点讨论了溶胶凝胶、溶液浸渍、电镀等工艺方法。这些方法因为材料和基板的表面形态和尺寸灵活多变且便宜, 具有很大优势。溶胶凝胶法是基于湿化学制程的一种化学合成方法, 用来在相对低的温度下合成玻璃或陶瓷材料, 特别是复合材料。它已经被用来以各种各样的形式生产多种类合成物(大多是氧化物), 包括涂层、薄膜、单片、复合材料、多孔型膜片、粉体及纤维。薄膜和涂层代表了到目前为止溶胶凝胶法在产品中最重要的应用, 因为在薄膜涂层生产中, 这种方法的优势相对容易“扬长”, 而不足之处可以“避短”。

(6) 展示了广阔的应用前景。在过去几十年中, 微/纳米结构薄膜, 即由微米、纳米或微/纳米复合结构组成的薄膜, 因为其新奇的表面性质和潜在的重要应用而吸引人们愈来愈大的关注, 这些潜在应用包括催化、传感器、电池、表面增强拉曼散射(SERS)、数据存储、超疏水性或超亲水性薄膜、光子晶体、光电子学、微电子学、光学器件、电化学电解质等。开发这种薄膜在某些器件, 如染料敏化太阳电池, 锂离子电池和电化学超级电容器, 储氢器件, 以及化学、气体、生物传感器中新的应用更是人们梦寐以求, 并始终为之奋斗的目标。

Sam Zhang Shanyong, 常被称为 Sam Zhang, 1982 年于东北大学(中国 沈阳)获得材料工程学士学位, 在 1984 年于钢铁研究总院(中国 北京)获得材料工程硕士学位, 在 1991 年于威斯康星大学(麦迪逊, 威斯康辛州)获得陶瓷博士学位。他从 2006 年开始, 任职南洋理工大学(新加坡)机械和航空工程学院的全职教授。

Zhang 教授现在是美国 Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Letters 杂志的总编辑, 还是美国 Journal of Materials Research 期刊的主要编辑, 同时受委托作为许多国际期刊编辑。他在过去 20 年中主要专攻领域是薄膜制程和表征及表面涂层等, 他感兴趣的研究方向包括硬化涂层和生物涂层, 包括电子薄膜和能量薄膜及涂层等。

本书各章的作者来自世界各地: 比利时、中国、捷克共和国、埃及、德国、印度、韩国、新加坡、荷兰、英国和美国。作为研究领域前沿的顶尖级研究人员, 他们所涉足的领域、从事的研究、得出的结论都具有重要的参考价值。这本手册的内容十分全面, 不仅包含适合新入门者的对于细节的解释, 也包括适合专家的最新前沿研究进展及资料。书中涵盖宽广范围的有关机械的及功能的技术, 包括其在清洁能源领域的应用。书中也包含大量图、表、图片等, 这将有助于研究并便于专业人员对这一迅速发展的领域有全面的了解和把握。

这套丛书的最大特点在于, 作者写作时同时考虑了新入门者和专家的需要: 对于新入门者来说, 这套手册可以用作绪论和释疑解惑、顿开茅塞的垫脚石; 对于专家来说, 这套手册通过图、表、图片等, 提供有助于他们研究工作的最新信息。

人们都说, 21 世纪是纳米技术的世纪。从某种意义上讲, 的确是这样。科学和技术的发展已经跨入这样一个阶段, 使得“微观”一词难以胜任确切描述或者描写一个科学现象或技术过程。随着纳米科学和纳米技术的进步, 世界科技情况的变化不仅影响着科学工作者做研究、技术工作者做开发和工程人员制造产品的方式, 也影响着普通人的日常生活, 其中涉及如纳米制药、手机、受控药物传输、无痛手术、太阳电池驱动的小型器具等。薄膜和涂层在所有这些领域当中, 起着非常重要和不可替代的作用。这套包

括三分册的丛书汇集了与纳米科学和纳米技术相关的领域，薄膜和涂层的最新发展。本书的出版提供了一套时新的手册系列，供研究人员参考和初学者学习，必为国内相关领域的发展做出贡献。

田民波

清华大学材料科学与工程系

前言

人们都说, 21 世纪是纳米技术的世纪。从某种意义上讲, 的确是这样。科学和技术的发展已经跨入这样一个阶段, 使得“微观”一词难以胜任确切描述或者描写一个科学现象或技术过程。随着纳米科学和纳米技术的进步, 世界科技情况的变化不仅影响着科学工作者做研究、技术工作者做开发和工程人员制造产品的方式, 也影响着普通人的日常生活, 其中涉及如纳米制药、手机、受控药物传输、无痛手术、太阳电池驱动的小型器具等。薄膜和涂层在所有这些领域当中, 起着非常重要和不可替代的作用。这套包括三分册的丛书的目的是汇集在与纳米科学和纳米技术相关的领域, 薄膜和涂层的发展, 以便提供一套时新的手册系列, 供研究人员参考和初学者学习, 并为科技发展尽微薄之力。

这套由三分册组成的丛书, 《纳米结构的薄膜和涂层》, 共包括 25 章。其中, 第一分册有 11 章, 集中讨论薄膜和涂层的力学性能(硬度、韧性、附着力等), 包括工艺、性能、特性, 以及详细的理论分析和尺寸效应等。每章介绍如下: 第 1 章, 硬质和超硬质纳米复合材料及异质结构的基础; 第 2 章, 薄膜硬度和模量的检测确定; 第 3 章, 薄膜断裂韧性和界面附着强度: 压痕和刮痕试验及分析; 第 4 章, 硬质纳米复合材料涂层材料的韧性及韧化; 第 5 章, 由混杂溶胶凝胶法得到的纳米复合材料涂层的制程及力学性能; 第 6 章, 使用纳米力学优化用于切割刀具的涂层; 第 7 章, 纳米复合材料涂层的电化学沉积: 制程、性能和应用; 第 8 章, 金刚石涂层: 从工业的视角; 第 9 章, 非晶态碳涂层; 第 10 章, 过渡金属氮化物基的纳米多层涂层以及作为新型超硬材料的纳米复合涂层; 第 11 章, 等离子体聚合物薄膜: 从纳米尺度的合成到宏观尺度的实用性。

第二分册共有 8 章, 聚焦于功能特性, 如光学、电子学和电学性能, 以及相关的器件和应用: 第 1 章, 利用化学途径藉由纳米构筑实现功能薄膜的大尺度制作与加工; 第 2 章, SiC 纳米结构/纳米复合材料薄膜的制备和表征; 第 3 章, 低维纳米复合材料的制备和应用; 第 4 章, 嵌入 SiO₂ 基体中的硅纳米晶的光学和光电子学特性; 第 5 章, 嵌入非晶态 SiO₂ 薄膜中的硅纳米晶的电学性能; 第 6 章, 溶胶凝胶法得到的纳米结构薄膜的性质和应用: 光学领域; 第 7 章, 可控微/纳米结构薄膜和器件; 第 8 章, 微系统应用的薄膜形状记忆合金。

第三分册集中讨论用于清洁能源的有机纳米结构薄膜和涂层, 共包括 6 章, 分别讨论用于清洁能源的有机薄膜、器件、涂层的制程及性质。第 1 章, 基于采用多晶薄膜材料的薄膜太阳电池; 第 2 章, 阳极化处理的二氧化钛纳米管阵列及其在染料敏化太阳电池中的应用; 第 3 章, 硅纳米晶材料光伏应用的进展及挑战; 第 4 章, 用于净化环境的半导体纳米复合材料薄膜; 第 5 章, 薄涂层技术及其在高温固体氧化物燃料电池中的应用; 第 6 章, 用于信息存储的纳米尺度有机分子薄膜。

这套丛书的最大特点在于, 作者写作时同时考虑了新入门者和专家的需要: 对于新入门者来说, 这套手册可以用作绪论和减少困惑、轻装上阵的垫脚石; 对于专家来说,

这套手册通过图、表、图片等，提供有助于他们研究工作的最新信息。我衷心希望此书能完成这一使命。

本书各章的作者来自世界各地：比利时、中国、捷克共和国、埃及、德国、印度、韩国、新加坡、荷兰、英国和美国。作为处于所从事研究领域前沿的顶尖级研究人员，这些作者自然都是非常忙碌的。作为主编，我十分感谢他们及时而尽责地完成各自章节的编写。我尤其感谢那些接受我的邀请，屈尊审阅此书所有章节的审稿人——由于此书的写作风格同时兼顾新入门者和专家，许多章节都无可避免地显得冗杂。为了保证这些章节的最高质量，超过 50 位审稿人（至少每章两位）十分用心地校阅了全部章节，并给出了中肯而无保留的批评建议，这些建议使各个章节更加完善。尽管我无法一一列出所有这些审稿人的尊姓大名，但我非常想借此机会向所有参加者表示衷心的感谢。最后，我想感谢 CRC 出版社的许多员工，特别是 Taylor & Francis 组的 Allison Shatkin 和 Jennifer Ahringer，正是他们珍贵的协助，使我坚持不懈能够让此书顺利出版发行。

Sam Zhang

新加坡

编 者

Sam Zhang Shanyong, 常被称为 Sam Zhang, 1982 年于东北大学 (中国 沈阳) 获得材料工程学士学位, 在 1984 年于钢铁研究总院 (中国 北京) 获得材料工程硕士学位, 在 1991 年于威斯康星大学 (麦迪逊, 威斯康辛州) 获得陶瓷博士学位。他从 2006 年开始, 任职南洋理工大学 (新加坡) 机械和航空工程学院的全职教授。

Zhang 教授现在是美国 *Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Letters* 杂志的总编辑, 还是美国 *Journal of Materials Research* 期刊的主要编辑, 同时还受委托作为许多国际期刊编辑。他在过去 20 年中主要专攻领域是薄膜制程和表征及表面涂层等, 他感兴趣的研究方向包括硬化涂层和生物涂层, 包括电子薄膜和能量薄膜及涂层等。他已经编著和合著经同领域研究者严格审查过的国际期刊文章 200 余篇, 不同书籍中 14 章的内容, 同时也编过 *Surface and Coatings Technology and Thin Solid Films* 中 9 册的期刊。连同这本手册在内, 他已经著有或编辑出版了六本书 (另外五本书的书名如下): *CRC Handbook of Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Vol. 1, Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Mechanical Properties*; *Vol. 2, Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Functional Properties*; *Vol. 3, Organic Nanostructured Film Devices and Coatings for Clean Energy, and Materials Characterization Techniques* (由 Sam Zhang, Lin Li, Ashok Kumar 编著, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group 于 2008 年出版); *Nanocomposite Films and Coatings—Processing, Properties and Performance* (由 Sam Zhang 和 Nasar Ali 编写, 英国的 Imperial College Press 于 2007 年出版), 和 *CRC Handbook of Biological and Biomedical Coatings* (CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group 于 2010 出版)。

Zhang 教授是英国材料、矿物以及采矿研究所的一名研究员, 是中国科学院固体物理所的一名荣誉教授, 同时也是浙江大学和哈尔滨技术学院的客座教授。他在 2007 年第 1 版的 *Who's Who in Engineering Singapore* 中被提到过、也在第 26 和第 27 版的 *Who's Who in the World* 中被提到过。从 1998 年开始, Zhang 教授就经常被日本、美国、法国、西班牙、德国、中国、葡萄牙、新西兰以及俄国等国家邀请在各种重要国际会议上做特邀报告。他也经常应邀去新加坡、马来西亚、葡萄牙、美国以及中国的企业和大学进行短期讲学、研讨班讲座等。

Zhang 教授组织过多次国际会议, 他曾作为 10 次会议的主席、12 次会议的组织委员会成员和 6 次会议的学术委员会成员。由 Zhang 教授发起并在他的组织带领下, *Thin Films* 会议系列 (一个关于薄膜及表面涂层技术进展的国际性会议) 参与成员从 2002 年的 70 人达到了 2008 年的 800 人。现在该会议作为新加坡每两年的例行活动。

Zhang 教授现在是中国一个城市政府的顾问, 并且担任中国和新加坡许多工业组织的顾问。Zhang 教授也在新加坡、以色列、爱沙尼亚、中国、文莱以及日本等许多研究评价/顾问委员会中任职。更多关于 Zhang 教授科研以及出版物方面的资料可以参阅他的个人主页: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/msyzhang>。

Preface

The twenty-first century is said to be the century of nanotechnologies. In a way, it is. The development of science and technology has come to a stage where “microscopic” is no longer enough to properly describe or depict a scientific phenomenon or a technological process. With the advance of nanoscience and nanotechnology, the world technological landscape changes not only affect the way scientists do research, technologists carry out development, and engineers manufacture products, but also the way ordinary people go about their daily life, through, for instance, nanomedicine, cell phones, controlled drug delivery, no-pain operations, solar cell-powered gadgets, etc. Thin films and coatings play a very important and indispensable role in all of these. This three-volume book set aims to capture the development in the films and coatings area in relation to nanoscience and nanotechnology so as to provide a timely handbook series for researchers to refer to and for newcomers to learn from, and thus contribute to the advancement of the technology.

The three-volume book set, *Handbook of Nanostructured Thin Films and Coatings*, has 25 chapters where 11 chapters in volume 1 concentrate on the mechanical properties (hardness, toughness, adhesion, etc.) of thin films and coatings, including processing, properties, and performance, as well as a detailed analysis of theories and size effect, etc., as listed here: Chapter 1, The Fundamentals of Hard and Superhard Nanocomposites and Heterostructures; Chapter 2, Determination of Hardness and Modulus of Thin Films; Chapter 3, Fracture Toughness and Interfacial Adhesion Strength of Thin Films: Indentation and Scratch Experiments and Analysis; Chapter 4, Toughness and Toughening of Hard Nanocomposite Coatings; Chapter 5, Processing and Mechanical Properties of Hybrid Sol-Gel-Derived Nanocomposite Coatings; Chapter 6, Using Nanomechanics to Optimize Coatings for Cutting Tools; Chapter 7, Electrolytic Deposition of Nanocomposite Coatings: Processing, Properties, and Applications; Chapter 8, Diamond Coatings: The Industrial Perspective; Chapter 9, Amorphous Carbon Coatings; Chapter 10, Transition Metal Nitride-Based Nanolayered Multilayer Coatings and Nanocomposite Coatings as Novel Superhard Materials; and Chapter 11, Plasma Polymer Films: From Nanoscale Synthesis to Macroscale Functionality.

Volume 2 contains eight chapters focusing on functional properties, i.e., optical, electronic, and electrical properties, and the related devices and applications: Chapter 1, Large-Scale Fabrication of Functional Thin Films with Nanoarchitecture via Chemical Routes; Chapter 2, Fabrication and Characterization of SiC Nanostructured/Nanocomposite Films; Chapter 3, Low-Dimensional Nanocomposite Fabrication and its Applications; Chapter 4, Optical and Optoelectronic Properties of Silicon Nanocrystals Embedded in SiO₂ Matrix; Chapter 5, Electrical Properties of Silicon Nanocrystals Embedded in Amorphous SiO₂ Films; Chapter 6, Properties and Applications of Sol-Gel-Derived Nanostructured Thin Films: Optical Aspects; Chapter 7, Controllably Micro/Nanostructured Films and Devices; and Chapter 8, Thin Film Shape Memory Alloy for Microsystem Applications.

Volume 3 focuses on organic nanostructured thin-film devices and coatings for clean energy with six chapters discussing the processing and properties of organic thin films, devices, and coatings for clean energy applications: Chapter 1, Thin Film Solar Cells Based on the Use of Polycrystalline Thin Film Materials; Chapter 2, Anodized Titania Nanotube Array and its Application in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells; Chapter 3, Progress and Challenges of Photovoltaic Applications of Silicon Nanocrystalline Materials; Chapter 4, Semiconductive Nanocomposite Films for Clean Environment; Chapter 5, Thin Coating Technologies and Applications in High-Temperature Solid Oxide Fuel Cells; and Chapter 6, Nanoscale Organic Molecular Thin Films for Information Memory Applications.

A striking feature of these books is that both novice and experts have been considered while they were written: the chapters are written in such a way that for newcomers in the relevant field, the handbooks would serve as an introduction and a stepping stone to enter the field with least confusion, while for the experts, the handbooks would provide up-to-date information through the figures, tables, and images that could assist their research. I sincerely hope this aim is achieved.

The chapter authors come from all over the globe: Belgium, China, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, India, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Being top researchers at the forefront of their relevant research fields, naturally, all the contributors are very busy. As editor, I am very grateful that they all made special efforts to ensure timely response and progress of their respective chapters. I am extremely indebted to many people who accepted my request and acted as reviewers for all the chapters—as the nature of the writing is to cater to both novice and experts, the chapters are inevitably lengthy. To ensure the highest quality of the chapters, more than 50 reviewers (at least two per chapter) painstakingly went through all the chapters and came out with sincere and frank criticism and suggestions that helped make the chapters complete. Though I am not able to list all the names, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of them. Last but not least, I would like to convey my gratitude to many CRC Press staff, especially Allison Shatkin and Jennifer Ahringer at Taylor & Francis Group, for their invaluable assistance rendered to me throughout the entire endeavor that made the smooth publication of the handbook set a reality.

Sam Zhang
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Editor



Sam Zhang Shanyong, better known as Sam Zhang, received his BEng in materials in 1982 from Northeastern University (Shenyang, China), his MEng in materials in 1984 from the Central Iron and Steel Research Institute (Beijing, China), and his PhD in ceramics in 1991 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wisconsin). Since 2006, he has been a full professor at the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore).

Professor Zhang serves as editor in chief for *Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Letters* (United States) and as principal editor for the *Journal of Materials Research* (United States), among other editorial commitments for international journals. He has been involved in the fields of processing and characterization of thin films and coatings for the past 20 years, his interests ranging from

hard coatings to biological coatings and from electronic thin films to energy films and coatings. He has authored/coauthored more than 200 peer-reviewed international journal articles, 14 book chapters, and guest-edited 9 journal volumes in *Surface and Coatings Technology* and *Thin Solid Films*. Including this handbook, he has authored and/or edited 6 books so far: *CRC Handbook of Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Vol. 1, Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Mechanical Properties*; Vol. 2, *Nanocomposite Films and Coatings: Functional Properties*; Vol. 3, *Organic Nanostructured Film Devices and Coatings for Clean Energy*, and *Materials Characterization Techniques* (Sam Zhang, Lin Li, Ashok Kumar, published by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group, 2008); *Nanocomposite Films and Coatings—Processing, Properties and Performance* (edited by Sam Zhang and Nasar Ali, Published by Imperial College Press, U.K., 2007), and *CRC Handbook of Biological and Biomedical Coatings* (scheduled for a 2010 publication by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group).

Professor Zhang is a fellow at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (U.K.), an honorary professor at the Institute of Solid State Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a guest professor at Zhejiang University and at Harbin Institute of Technology. He was featured in the first edition of *Who's Who in Engineering Singapore* (2007), and featured in the 26th and 27th editions of *Who's Who in the World* (2009 and 2010). Since 1998, he has been frequently invited to present plenary keynote lectures at international conferences including in Japan, the United States, France, Spain, Germany, China, Portugal, New Zealand, and Russia. He is also frequently invited by industries and universities to conduct short courses and workshops in Singapore, Malaysia, Portugal, the United States, and China.

Professor Zhang has been actively involved in organizing international conferences: 10 conferences as chairman, 12 conferences as member of the organizing committee, and 6 conferences as member of the scientific committee. The Thin Films conference series (The International Conference on Technological Advances of Thin Films & Surface Coatings), initiated and, since, chaired by Professor Zhang, has grown from 70 members in 2002 at the time of its inauguration to 800 in 2008. It has now become a biannual feature at Singapore.

Professor Zhang served as a consultant to a city government in China and to industrial organizations in China and Singapore. He also served in numerous research evaluation/advisory panels in Singapore, Israel, Estonia, China, Brunei, and Japan. Details of Professor Zhang's research and publications are easily accessible at his personal Web site: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/msyzhang>.

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