# Soft X-ray Spectromicroscopy

- Concept of x-ray spectromicroscopy
- Instrumentation in spectromicroscopy
- Transmission spectromicroscopy examples
  - Polymers and polymer composites
  - Wet cell studies of bio-inorganic interfaces
- Photoemission spectromicroscopy examples
  - Transition-metal silicides
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- X-ray Absorption surface spectromicroscopy examples
  - Magnetic materials
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# What is an X-ray microscope?



Ultra-smooth grazing incidence mirrors

#### The Concept of Spectro-Microscopy



### **Micro-organisms at inorganic interfaces**



### Four types of x-ray spectromicroscopy

(a) TXM (transmission x-ray microscopy)



Microscopy)

Improvement in resolution over time: X-ray photoemission spectromicroscopy (nano-ESCA)



# **Micro Zone-Plate Optics**



# Scanning Transmission X-ray Microscope (STXM)



at BL 7.0.1

#### STXM of poly-acrylonitrile fibres (bond-type imaging)



- air furnace heating to 200-300°C
  —> two-phase structure
- Model:
  - Exothermic oxidation reaction at the outer edge accumulates heat in the core
  - Fiber center melts and loses orientation order of C≡N bonding along the fiber



- Jun Kikuma, B. P. Tonner, H. Shin, J. Denlinger, J. Zhang, A. Warwick, 1997

### Wet-cell Soft X-ray Spectromicroscopy



#### MnOOH (manganite) mineral particles and micro-organisms



646 eV





517 eV

# The Marine Bacillus, strain SG-1



#### Chemical Oxidation of Mn(II) in the Presence of Water, O<sub>2</sub>, and Catalytic Iron (Hydr)Oxide Particles



from: Wehrli, B.: *Aquatic Chemical Kinetics (Ed.:* W. Stumm), 1990, p 311ff, data from: Diem, D., Stumm, W., Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 52,1984, 1571 and Davies, S. & Morgan, J., J. Colloid. Interface Sci., 129, 1989, 63

# Spore Incubation: Stagnant Batch



Pecher, K. et al. (2001) Quantitative charge state analysis of manganese biominerals in aqueous suspension using Scanning Transmission X-ray Microscopy (STXM) submitted to Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta



#### Surface and bulk composition of Fe-oxide nanoparticles



Figs. A and B compare total electron yield (TEY) XANES and STXM  $\mu$ -XANES of two iron oxide minerals. Magnetite which also contains structural Fe(II) seems to be oxidized within a surface near region compared to its bulk composition. In addition, the bulk Fe(II)/Fe(III) ratio varies among single particles of magnetite.

# Zone-plate X-ray Photoemission Microscope: SPEM





#### Future Prospects for X-ray Spectromicroscopy

**Opportunities for PhD research** 

- Improved spatial resolution by understanding the physics of imaging
  - Zone-plates slowly improve to 10-20 nm
  - Electron imaging using aberration correction to 5 nm
  - Near-field and other scanning probe techniques to 1 nm
- Increased use in applied science and technology
  - Micro and nano-electronics development
  - Environmental applications
  - Biomedical research
- Novel experiments in basic research
  - Time and space domain; kinetics of surface reactions
  - Nonlinear optical effects
  - "Nano-spectroscopy"; quantum effects in objects of small size