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## What do we need ?

### A proper calibration of the AFM and the probe

- scanner, photodetector sensitivities : approach-retract curve on stiff sample (silicon, sapphire, ...) probe: spring constant, resonance frequency, quality factor, tip geometry and dimension (electron microscopy or tip shape reconstruction). •

A suitable contact mechanics model • DMT model, JKR model, Sneddon model, ...



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- A signal giving access to the tip-surface contact stiffness "slope" of force-curve in the contact region, modulated cantilever vibration, phase-shift in AM-AFM,

- contact resonance frequency, higher harmonics vibration amplitude, .
- In phase and quadrature signals, ...
- REMISOL





### Solid-state deformations

Several classes of deformations in elastic materials are the following:

Elastic: The material recovers its initial shape after deformation.

Anelastic: if the material is close to elastic, but the applied force induces additional time-dependent resistive forces (i.e. depend on rate of change of extension/compression, in addition to the extension/compression).

Viscoelastic: If the time-dependent resistive contributions are large, and cannot be neglected. Rubbers and plastics have this property, and certainly do not satisfy Hooke's law. In fact, elastic hysteresis occurs.

Plastic: The applied force induces non-recoverable deformations in the material when the stress (or elastic strain) reaches a critical magnitude, called the yield point.

Hyperelastic: The applied force induces displacements in the material following a strain energy density function.

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# Sub Resonance Tapping

aka PeakForce Tapping, Jump Mode, Hybrid^{TM}, Pinpoint^{TM}, QI^{TM}, « Ringing » Mode AFM, ...





С	Comparing various modes when imaging of soft materials with AFM				
		Contact	Tapping	Sub- resonance	
	Contact area	Unstable contact	Small but hard to control	Small	
	Lateral Resolution	Low	Good*	Good*	
	Friction artifacts	Stick-slip	Minimum to none	Minimum to none	
	Sample safe	Potentially destructive	Non-destructive	Non-destructive	
	Force control	Excellent	Hard to control	Good	
	Quantitative physical info	Yes (force- volume mode)	No	Yes**	
-31	Depends on material   Accuracy is yet to be verified				



































Ringing Mode Why Ringing mode?				
	Contact/DC	Tapping/AC	Sub-resonance	Ainging
# of channels	3	3/4	6	6+8
Description	Height, error, friction	Height, amplitude, Phase (deflection)	Height, error, adhesion, Stiffness, Visc. Losses, Deformation	All sub- resonance + 8 more
Physical channels to unambiguously characterize materials	2	1	5	5+7
	6-1			


























































































# Intermodulation AFM

# The methodology



























# Some results









































































# **DVA Inner layer**



The inner liner is an extruded rubber sheet compounded with additives that result in low air permeability. The inner liner assures that the fire will hold high-pressure air inside, without the air gradually diffusing through the rubber structure.

The inner layer of the tire is made with DVA (Dynamically Vulcanized Alloy, ) a technology developed by ExxonMobil Chemical, to increase the IPR (Inflation Pressure Retention – used to measure of tire air pressure loss over time), more efficiently that regular tires.

The sample used in this study is a DVA of rubber domains (Brominated Poly(Isobutylene-co-p-Methylstyrene), BIMSM) dispersed in a polyamide (PA, also referred to as nylon) continuous phase.

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The sample was cryomicrotomed.

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How to measure Frequency & Q ?

Methods	What it does	Benefits	Disadvantages
Fixed frequency <sup>2</sup>	The cantilever response is measured at a fixed frequency, which varies as the contact resonance frequency shifts.	Simple to implement and produces elastic contrast images.	Produces only qualitative results since the frequency shift itself is not measured Contrast is lost if the peak shifts too far from the selected frequency.
PLL frequency tracking <sup>1</sup>	A phase-locked loop (PLL) uses the phase of the cantilever response to track the contact resonance frequency.	The actual contact resonance frequency is tracked.	Difficult to tune the PLL to achieve stable frequency tracking due to spurious phase shifts in the response. Does not measure the Q of the resonance.
Frequency sweep (chirp) <sup>3,4,5</sup>	A frequency sweep (chirp) is done at each point. The cantilever response is Fourier analyzed to recover the full frequency response.	Measures the entire frequency response, so both the frequency and Q are obtained. Additional analysis is possible based on more complex models.	Mapping is quite slow when collecting large numbers of pixels. Each sweep must be done slowly enough for the cantilever to respond (rate limited by Q).
DART <sup>6,7,8</sup> (DRFT)	The amplitude and phase response at two frequencies (bracketing the contact resonance) is measured, which enables the contact resonance to be tracked.	Provides both the contact resonance frequency and Q. The tracking is extremely fast, so DART imaging can be done at normal imaging rates.	The full response is not measured, so analysis is more limited than frequency sweep or band excitation methods.
Band Excitation <sup>8,9</sup>	A continuous band of frequencies is excited. The cantilever response is Fourier analyzed to recover the full frequency response.	The entire frequency response is measured. By exciting the entire band at once, it is much faster than other full spectrum techniques (e.g. sweep).	Data transfer bandwidth limitations make the current implementation significantly slower than DART. Future speed improvements are possible.











Contact Resonance	
Difficult task or not !!!	



# Recent developments in data processing ... Big, Deep, Smart Data !!! Recent modes further expand these capabilities by enabling the acquisition of multidimensional data cubes. For materials scientists and engineers, this breaks long-standing efficiency and characterization barriers. These new capabilities provide simultaneous capture of nanometer-scale mechanical (and electrical) characteristics in high-density data cubes, previously impossible to attain in a single measurement.

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Data processing .	
	Mechanical Properties
Techniques	Benefits
DataCube Mode	Multidimensional data cube Soft and fragile matter Correlation to mechanical properties
PeakForce Tapping	Soft and fragile matter Correlation to mechanical properties
Tapping Mode	First technique available
Contact Mode	First technique available
- REMISOL	Adapted from Bruker 110 Université de Mo















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# Conclusions

SPM is a powerful characterization tool for polymer science, capable of revealing surface structures with high resolution and provides useful information on the morphology of polymeric materials ... complementary to other techniques.

Force distance curve analysis allow multiple material properties to be decoupled and measured independently ... even of very soft materials !

For instance, record maps in parallel to possible with quantite

New methods (such map the mechanico scale due to the processes.

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ormation and adhesion d phase images is now

are able to « rapidly » erties at the nanometer cquisition and analysis

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# Conclusions

- Combined, AFM measurements with non-resonant modes and resonant modes can provide
  - Huge range of properties covered
  - FV based Contact Resonance for stiff samples at higher frequencies FV force curves for soft samples at low frequencies
  - FV and PFT cover wide range of ramp rates for time-temperature studies
- Understanding the relative contribution of the various error sources allows us to prioritize improvements to address them Spring constant and tip shape are key parameters for all of the methods Force Volume can have faitly high accuracy if k and R are well known, PFT is not quite as accurate, but is often worth using for resolution and speed
  - PFT is not quite as accurate, but is often worth using for resolution and speed Contact resonance has a lot of parameters that need to be calibrated, making 'relative' measurements more practical than 'absolute' Appropriate modeling is required to quantify the modulus depending on the sample and measurement conditions

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# Conclusions

Multifrequency methods are extremely promising but also need some (new) models to provide quantitative parameters. Data-driven materials development and design (Machine learning, AI) are most probably the key issue to achieve this goal.

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