

Fundamentals of atomic layer deposition: an introduction (“ALD 101”)

Riikka L. Puurunen

Aalto University School of Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering

Many of the images used in this “ALD 101” tutorial—also used in Refs. 1 and 2—are available in Wikimedia Commons for easy and free reuse by others. Examples are given in Figures 1 and 2.

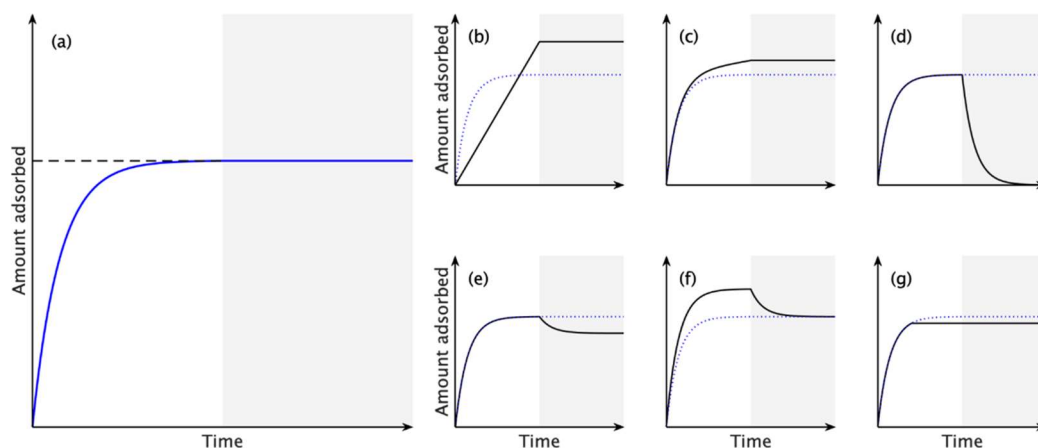


Figure 1: Illustration of various time-dependencies of the amount adsorbed vs. time in gas-solid reactions during reactant exposure (white background) and a following purge/evacuation (grey background): (a) saturating, irreversible reaction (chemisorption); (b) non-saturating continuous reaction; (c) a combination of saturating, irreversible reaction and a continuous reaction component; (d) fully reversible adsorption (either chemisorption or physisorption); (e) partly reversible chemisorption; (f) a combination of saturating, irreversible chemisorption and reversible physisorption; and (g) saturating, irreversible reaction where reactant feed is stopped before saturation occurs. Panel (a) corresponds to ideal atomic layer deposition (ALD). R.L. Puurunen, J.R. van Ommen (own work, 2020), Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Various_dependencies_for_adsorption_vs._time_in_ALD_and_other_cases.png

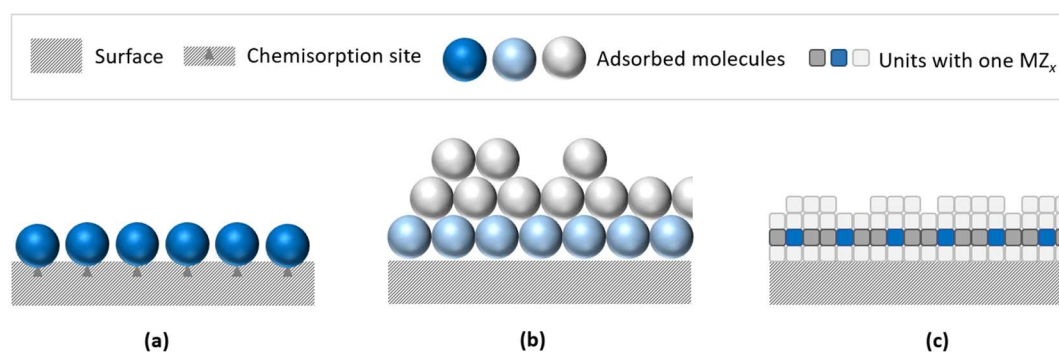


Figure 2: Schematic side-view illustration of three monolayer concepts relevant to atomic layer deposition (ALD): (a) chemisorbed monolayer, which is the basis of ALD growth; (b) physisorbed monolayer, with adsorbed molecules closely packed and with multilayer adsorption on top (can serve as a reference for the maximum obtainable ALD growth per cycle); and (c) a “bulk” monolayer of the ALD-grown MZ_x material (every third MZ_x unit highlighted with blue). Riikka Puurunen (own work, 2020), Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Three_monolayer_concepts_relevant_to_atomic_layer_deposition.png

[1] J.R. van Ommen, A. Goulas, R.L. Puurunen, Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia on Chemical Technology, submitted.

[2] Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) in Aalto OpenLearning

<https://openlearning.aalto.fi/course/view.php?id=100>