IMPROVED SUBSURFACE AFM USING PHOTOTHERMAL EXCITATION

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SUBSURFACE SCANNING PROBE MICROSCOPY





Amplitude

Phase

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OUTLINE

- Quantifying SPM
 - contrast mechanism
 - > measurables
- Photothermal actuation
- Improved cantilevers
- Frequency tracking
- Conclusions



QUANTIFYING SSPM

- > How to obtain Critical Dimensions from SSPM data?
 - > Combine Finite Element Modeling with quantifiable measurements



Amplitude

Phase

Euler Bernoulli beam equation:

$$rac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}\left(EIrac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}
ight)=-\murac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2}+q(x)$$







QUANTIFYING SSPM





QUANTIFYING SSPM









PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATION









PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATION



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PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATION

> With tip-sample contact



NOMI

PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATION

Initial imaging results



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IMPROVED CANTILEVERS: THICKER GOLD COATING

- 1- mechanical: increased bilayer effect
- 2- opto-thermal: increased absorption





IMPROVED CANTILEVERS





FREQUENCY TRACKING



Amplitude





CONCLUSIONS

- Photothermal Actuation
 - > provides clean excitation spectrum
 - > enables frequency tracking
 - > ensures optimal SNR
 - > enables quantitative analysis of subsurface signals





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