

# Instability & Patterning of Thin Polymer Films

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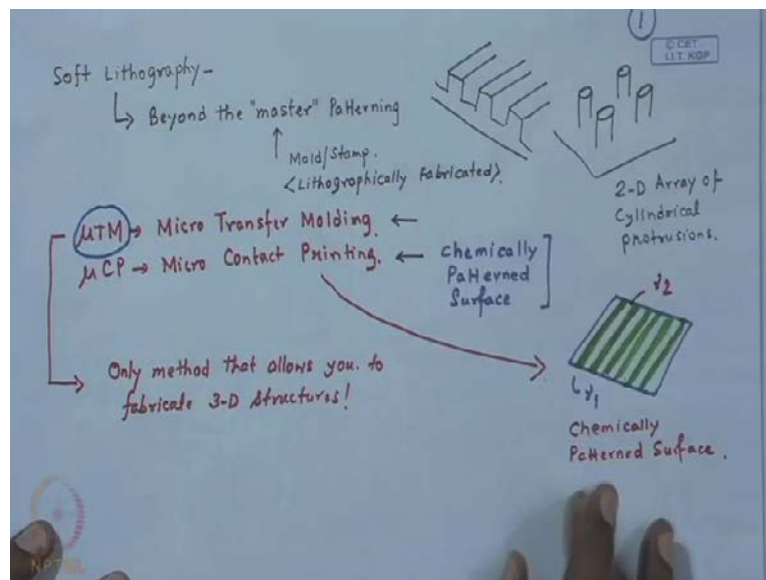
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Lecture No. # 21

Soft Lithography- IV

Welcome back, we will continue our discussion on soft lithography, we already have discussed about some of the techniques which include capillary forces lithography, micro molding in capillary, solvent assisted micro molding, and some such methods. The common thing about all the methods we have discussed so far had been the fact that all this method successfully generating topographically patterned surface. Now, right at the beginning of this course we have defined and discuss what is the different between a topographically pattern surface, and a chemically pattern surface.

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So, topographically pattern essentially, there is a physical contour along the surface on the surface its lets it can be something like this, this like a getting at the simplest form or more complex patterns. Now, the knowledge we have occurred. So far we understand that it is possible by almost all the methods, we have talk the soft lithography do for techniques as well as methods like to generate a perfective negative replica of a stamp

pattern. So, if we want to make complex pattern, let us say array of scrap pillars or secular pillar are something like this. Eventually, all you need to have, so may be **this** can be 2 d array of cylindrical protrusions.

So, what is necessary is that **you** have the approached of the desire stamp, which of course contains the negative replica of the final patterns you want to generate; however, we have also talked about the fact that soft lithography to some extent is limited by the availability of the procreates type of stamp, which in most cases as to be made by some other lithography technique which can be photo lithography are any one of the direct right methods.

So, these are some of the limitation of soft lithography and in the previews class, we also discussed there. So, called concept **which** is now becoming very popular, the concept of beyond the master patterning master eventually, here means the mold of the stamp available to you, which is lithographically fabricated and the ideas are very simple. So, let us say you have one stamp with simple grating what you try to generate structure which are no long the limited to a perfect negative replica, you can generate more complex patterns you can play around with the dimension, juncture line, width height what about. So, what it makes is that this really makes soft lithography a method which can be implemented are executed by non expects. Non expected hear I mean you people you do not have significant lithography it facility, because at **(( ))** if you look majority of the soft lithography methods are very simple to execute, but what happens is still are stock up, it sudden requirement hardware requirements like the stamp what about.

So, that those are some of the thinks we discussed, today we are going to talked quickly about two three more methods for generating topographic pattern all of which essentially make a perfect negative replica of a stamp, but there is to execute, but sudden cases they work with some specialize classes polymers are required, sub specialized type of stamps. And then we move on to two interesting aspects, one of them is we talk about micro transfer molding.

We have already talked about this method briefly in one of our previews classes and eventually we talked about micro contact printing though methods of sort of sound quiet similar there is some somewhat significant differences in **in** the final products what they finally, make and both are unique as compare to other methods, because of the farther

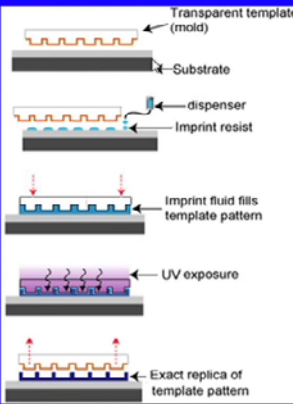
micro contact printing is probably the main stage of making a chemically patterned surface, majority of structures of which methods which make chemical patterns essentially, if you remember we have talked about what chemical pattern is. So, you do not have a topographic feature, but let us say we have a surface and you have different wettability regions are reasons on the surface.

So, let us say these green patches correspond to zones, which have surface energy let us say  $\gamma_1$  as compared to a background surface energy  $\gamma_2$  of the surface. So, this is a chemically patterned surface and the only method by which we can make such a surface is micro contact printing. Micro transfer molding is also wither unique in the sense that this is the only method that allows you to fabricate 3D structures while this is interesting, because of the fact that soft lithography are any other lithography technique we have talked about there all essentially surface pattern in techniques and therefore, their output are the patterns we generate two large extent limited to the two dimensional world but. It was also realized that it would be really good, if some of these methods can be extended for fabricating 3D structures and that essentially what it some limitation of course, micro transfer molding as sort of allows as to fabricate.

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**Step – Flash Imprint Lithography (SFIL)**

- Liquid monomer is dispensed on substrate
- Mold is pressed on the liquid which fills the voids in the mold
- Polymerized by UV exposure
- Pattern replicated in the polymer
- Transparent imprint template
- Aspect ratio subsequently enhanced by dry etching.



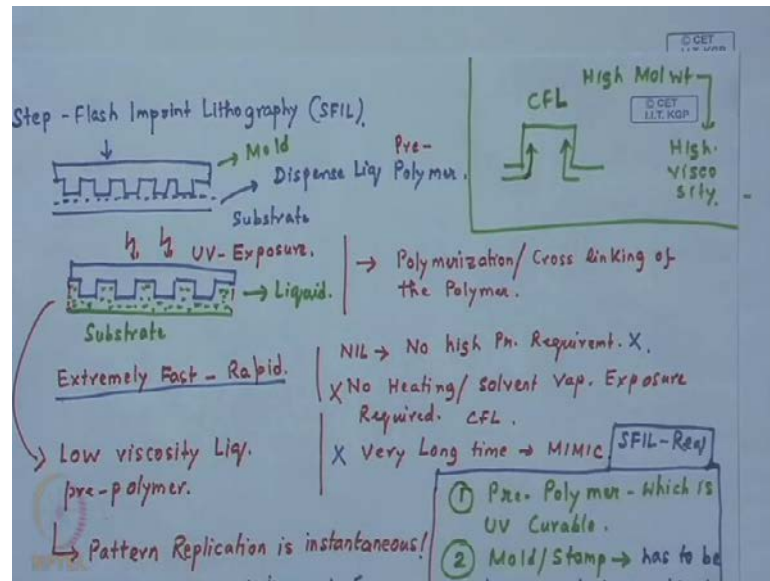
The diagram illustrates the five steps of Flash Imprint Lithography (SFIL):

- Step 1:** A transparent template (mold) is placed on a substrate.
- Step 2:** A dispenser dispenses an imprint resist (liquid monomer) into the mold.
- Step 3:** The imprint fluid fills the template pattern.
- Step 4:** UV exposure polymerizes the fluid.
- Step 5:** The final product is an exact replica of the template pattern.

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So, these are some of the methods we will be talking today. So, the first method we talk is essentially this goes by the name step and plash imprint lithography or SFIL.

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It is something very similar to it is a combination of imprinting and molding I would say so on. What is done is that you take a substrate you dispense a liquid polymer. So, this is a liquid stage. So, viscosity very low and then you begin a stamp are a mold and simply place it over it and apply a low pressure. So, what happens is you achieve mold filling with ease. So, this other advantage and this is please remember, this is in a liquid form. So, only problem is that you have to somehow some it is otherwise it is of no use, because what is going to happen, the moment you are going to withdraw the mold it goes to flat and out.

So, one is this consecration what is done in this method is that we do and UV exposure and this UV exposure needs to end, polymerization or cross linking of I would add the word pre polymer here of the polymer. So, this is a very simple method very fast also that is another disadvantage of SFIL, that it's extremely fast but it's rapid or unlike NIL or unlike NIL no high pressure requirement is there, no pre processing in the form of no heating solvent vapor exposure required like capillary force lithography I do not require that, we do not require high pressure, they we do not require very long time, like mimic. The biggest advantage is that you take a pre polymer which is at a freely flowing liquid condition.

So, it is a low viscosity liquid pre polymer and therefore once you bring in the mold and top of it may be just play photo liquid little amount of extramural pressure may be do

not put in any pressure, what happens is the pattern replication is instantaneous areas. It is the biggest advantage that pattern the limitation there are couple of material limitation that comes in with SFIL which as makes the method a little bit of specialize. There are actually if you have follow the flow sheet carefully you immediately realize that there are two specific material requirement and one additional hardware requirement. In comparison to something like capillary force lithography which is even more simple which is not confine are which not restricted wither requirement of these additional things.

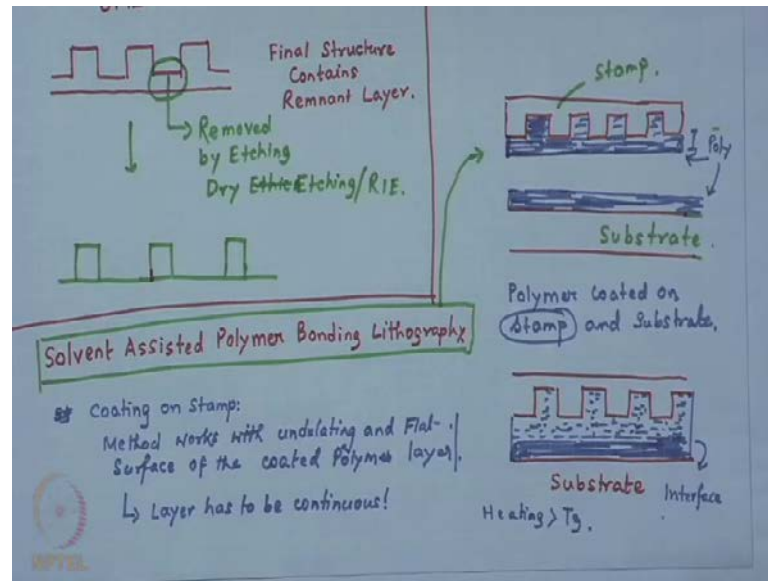
So, what are those requirements if you just k to think over a minute. The first requirement is that we need a pre polymer, which is UV curable. So, any liquid pre polymer won't work, because the way the method that has been designed it essential that your pre polymer is UV curable, the second requirement is the mold of the stamp this as to be transparent to UV light. So, if you just take a stamp let us say which is effect to UV then what is happen are u v exposure want reach the film an want reach the pattern liquid pre polymer film. So, it won not harden it won not cross link and therefore, the method will work you will get in see to pattern by placing the stamp, but we will fail to convert them in to into permanent structure.

So, this is the second requirement, the third requirement is off course you need to have a UV exposure system. So, these are the additional requirement of SFIL for perfect implementation are proper implementation of SFIL. However, still this method as quiet if you advantages. So, if you have this facilities and if you have the digger type of polymer, it is the easiest thing, it is the extremely fast and rapid and sins the mold filling is in liquid state and is with a low viscosity polymer, low viscosity pre polymer I would repeat. So, pattern replication is excellent it is excellent actually, because one is understand that if you compare this with capillary force lithography you add actually archiving the pattern replication with a polymer.

So, we have capillary liege. So, I just revered back to CFI for a minute you have the deigned capillary riles that the capillary rise is of a material which is in a liquid form, but it is a polymer. So, it has long change molecules the molecular weight is high and high molecular weight would in variable need to higher viscosity. So, the dynamic will be in ardently slow, in come fast hear in SFIL we are working with a pre polymer. So, the material as not a polymerize the change have not cross linking they have they are sort of

pre flow in liquid like and in many cases the polymers you work with for SFIL their more in a straight like simple water. So, always do is the moment you place the stamp on top of this pre polymer layer, you immediately have a sort of a pattern replication taking place and you get. So, very fast replication as well as the **think** important think is the fidelity of the structure is very good.

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So, this is in an action your SFIL of course, you must understand that SFIL could be leaving behind structures with a remnant layer, because you have dispensed a liquid like this. So, you have a polymer both over the values and the patricians of the pattern layer. So, the final structure contains remnant layer, and therefore these as to be removed by some etching technique, dry etching or reactive etching. So, eventually that way with combination of etching you can get pre standing polymer structure and also compare to this pattern aspect ratio of the structures we will also go.

The second method that like to talk about is what is known as, the solvent assisted polymer bonding lithography this is simple method all we do is that we take a stamp and we coated with a layer of polymer. So, this is your stamp are the mold and this is let us say your substrate. So, these we are discussing hear. So, this is your substrate which can be any standard substrate like silicon wafer or glass or whatever this is your stamp and you can work with PDF stamp hear again and like in SFIL, where in you required a specialized UV transparent stamp.

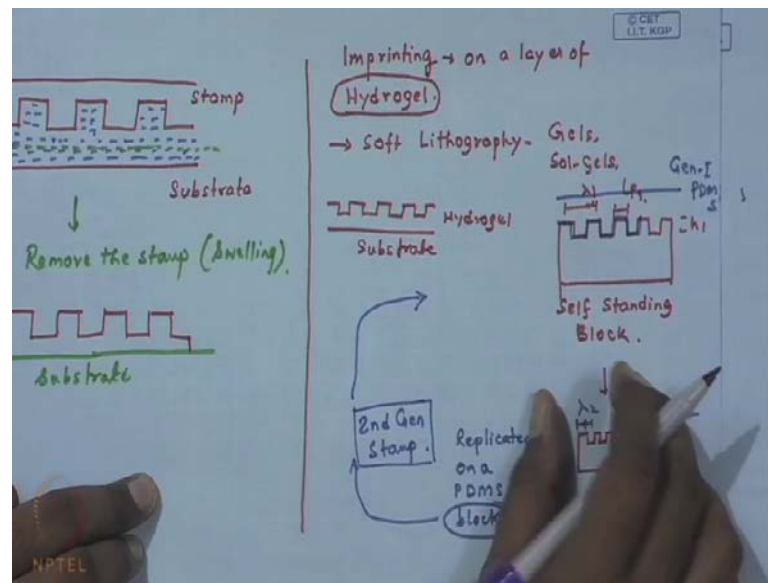
So, so while we do here is we coat the substrate as well as the stamp with the layer of polymer and in the previous class. We have talked that where you try to coat a pattern substrate are topographically pattern substrate with a liquid by spin coating, what happens you may get this continuous structure may get continuous structure with undulating top surface or you can get a continuous structure with flat surface. The key that if you structure if this height of liquid layer significant larger than the feature height then it becomes flat.

So, what you have you start off with a layer of polymer and which is coated both on the stamp and substrate, important thing to remember that coated on coating on stamp this will work with both undulating and flat surface of the coated polymer layer. We are talking about little just remain, we are talking about this layer please refer to previous this class lecture 20 on soft lithography of soft lithography lecture 5, when we talked what can be the likely consequence morphology. If you coated directly coated a polymer layer on a topographically structure surface and let me remain the this method works for either this layer to be perfectly flat or even.

If it is undulating key requirement is that the layer has to be continuous with a with the first situation want we talked to the concentration is too low and we have isolate structure then it of course, does into what and once we have these layer coated all we do is we bring the two in contact. So, this is your stamp now, this your substrate and you simple bring then in contacts. So, this is where the interface lies. So, this part of the polymer was coated on the substrate, this part was coated on the film and once you bring then you contact you can do several thing in you can press them hot, we can heat them hot if it is a linear change polymer what we will happen that by heating no on  $T_g$  it will be liquid like form.

So, eventually we what will happen this interface, we will disappears interface between the two polymer layer one coated on the substrate on one coated on the stamp.

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So, interface disappears and what you will be left with is a single layer of polymer. On a single layer of polymer, which is now this simple cohesive bonding cohesive attachment. So, this where let us say we have the interface and let us say we have heated it up they on the gas transition temperature and. So, it is all liquid its single moment single block of the polymer. So, is it into do be to cool it down again room temperature. So, that the whole mask now solid if and then just remove the stamp, which can be archive by let us say something like swelling or something like that and then if you remove the stamp, we have the substrate and we are left with the polymer layer.

So, this is what solvent assistant polymer bonding lithography, it is one of the simplest methods very easy to execute not material specific at all and you virtually required know hardware other then the stamp there is another. So, some extension of these methods can be a nice work I just thought that I will. So, it is imprinting are replicating it is very close to all the concept of SFIL or simple imprinting also, imprinting on a hydro gel and we talked in the previews class we give some examples of pattern behind the master. So, this is another example of that now, while introducing to you soft lithography we did talk that soft lithography works very well for different types of material like, not only polymer, but gels in organic sol gels etcetera.



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So, we can just check out this hydro gel this is a soft solvent polymer network, which contained a lot of water. So, if you remove the water in a controlled fashion, we observe a significant amount of shrinkage of this hydro gel layer. So, in this particular method what was done is that. So, soft lithography has been pretty routine in the use for patterning hydro gels not a great deal, but typically people use soft lithography to pattern a thin layer of hydro gel.

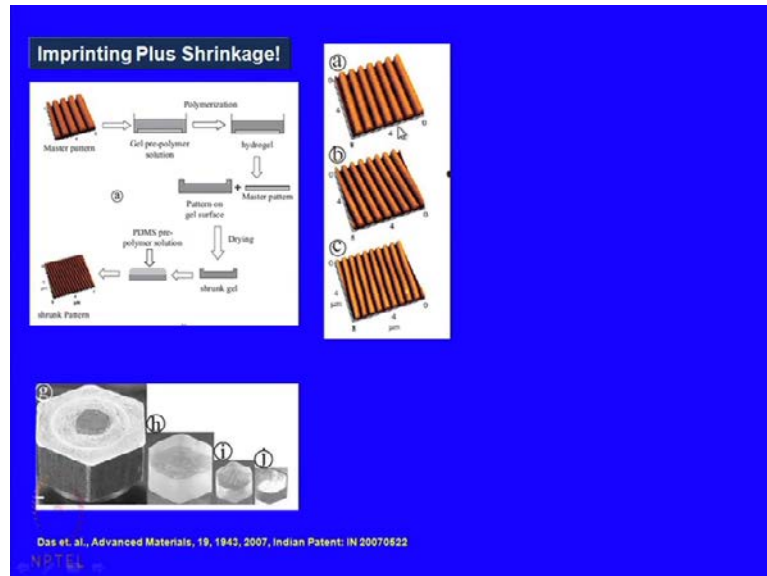
So, this is let us say, the substrate and this is the hydro gel layer can be done by any of the soft lithography techniques. We can very easily get a replica of the stamp in this particular method, what was done that instead of a thin layer a block of hydro gel was patterned, the self-standing block. It is simple replica molding; we can say hydro gel is liquid like at room temperature you sort of place the stamp get in a replica and then you do, what about done. So, after this layer was patterned it was now, allowed to shrink with the evaporation of water. Now, the moment water starts striking there significant volume reduction which can be the order of the 16, 17 are even 90 percent depending on the initial water content.

Now, the idea was as this block of hydro gel shrank the surface features present on the surface of the gel block also shrank. So, we started off with something like this, we do a controlled evaporation and you get a block size like this. So, what is the advantage we have stated of? Let us say with a feature dimension of let us say  $\lambda_1$  height of  $8\lambda_1$  are line width of  $1\lambda_1$  let us say and, because of the shrinkage, you have now reduced to  $\lambda_2$ ,  $1\lambda_2$  and  $h_2$ , each one of them is smaller than the dimension and the original master.

Now, this is what was subsequently done was this pattern and the hydro gel surface was reproduced all this was now replicated on PDMS block. So, we now have a negative replica of this structure on a PDMS block which now becomes the second generation stamp. So, you have a PDMS block which contains the negative replica of this structure which was the. So, this is the PDMS stamp generation one stamp, you imprint with that a block of hydro gel we shrink it, this shrank hydro gel layer now the structure on top of that is replicated, on another PDMS block. So, that becomes a second generation stamp and you just continue the same process. So, now, you use this second generation

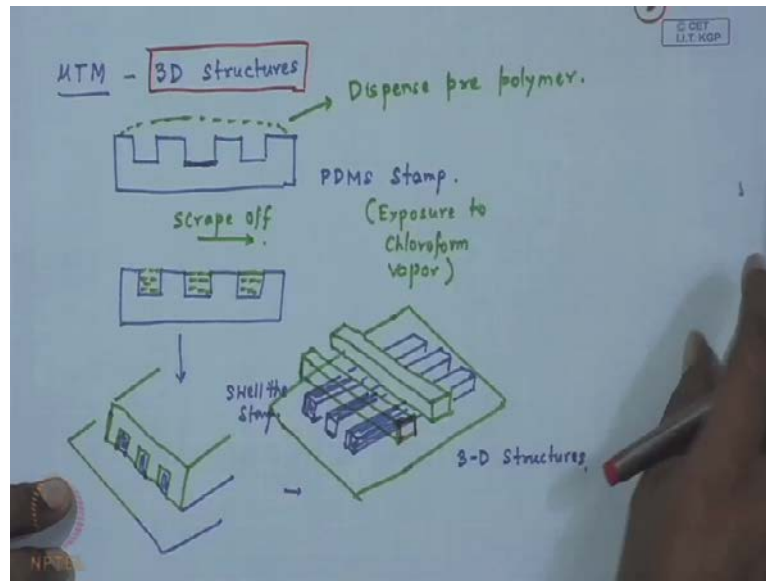
stamp to pattern another block of hydro gel again archive controlled shrinkage of give operation and then you can get even smaller future size.

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So, you see here that starting off with a layer a, b which is let us say periodicity city one and of micron. In the second generation you archive now, raffle 40 percent shrinkage periodicity as now, drop to about micron you can measure that here you have it micron and you all most have it strips here you raffle six and this now. So, this is now second generation stamp, you re imprint another block of hydro gel with this one to get a third generation stamp, which as even small a future height these very unique concept, where a combination of imprinting plus shrinkage has been sort of used to archive pattern switch as smaller, in future the mention as compare to the original stamp size.

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Now, this brings now to micro transfer molding, which is as I have already point out slightly unique in the fact, that this is a method by which we can make three dimensional structures. So, let us again very simply to execute all we do he is you initially PDMS stamp and cote it dispense a liquid pre polymer. We have already talked about pre polymer in case surface SFIL which not polymerized, we dispense a pre polymer and then what you do you sort of strips it off from the top. So, you are left with a structure like this. So, you moles are field up with you pre polymer and then do in situ polymerization.

So, scrap off do a in situ polymerization and then what you do, you just turn it somehow swell this stamp this PDMS stamp we can be easily swell by a exposure to chloroform vapor its swells. So, this way if you turn it down. So, what happens is if this is let us say, getting structure. So, these are individual sort of strips of this polymer. So, he turn it down keep it in a substrate. So, here is a substrate here you bring in the, this is now contains the polymerized strips this is now, turn hear.

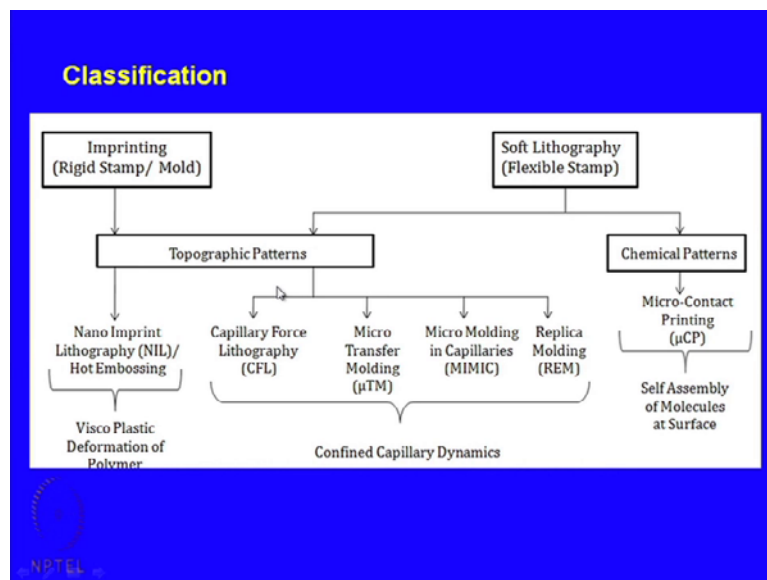
So, now you what you do is you swell the stamp, so that it detaches and withdraw the stamp, you if behind isolated strip was the material on the substrate.

So, this is fine you have some nice strips like this, but what is the advantage? Advantage is you can repeat this processes again, you can take another stamp scraper filled up with dispense polymer script of do the polymerization there and now suppose bring in that

stamp and place it over here swell it. So, in the places now you can place this you steps of strips like this. So, you have let us say these steps over here and. So, this way you can go on building in away layer by layer and go on adding the different layer. So, again third layer can coming like this.

So, this sort of gives the ability to create two 3 d structure, the examples I it up is up understanding is of course limited to the fact that you have taken a grating stamp, that you can start off with more complex stamp and can have heretical future other type of future by micro transfer molding, but this is please remember this is probably the only soft lithography method that allows you fabricate structures which are with full are two 3 d capable.

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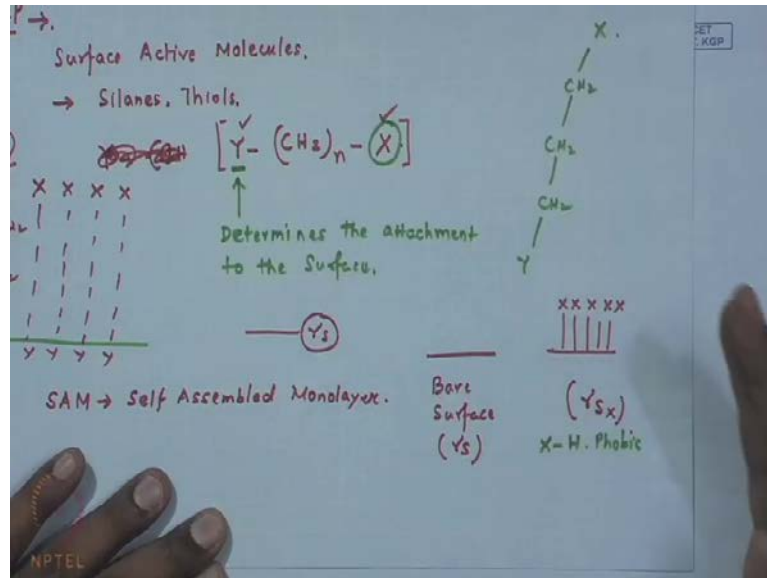


That brings to micro contact printing thing eventually, let us have a quick look at the classification again what are the things we have discussed. So, we have already discussed the NIL group of method. So, imprinting group of techniques with in stamp are mold then you have significant discuss the soft lithography group of methods which use flexible stamp. So, have we do wither conform the part of the table to discussing about topographic patterns and now, you see most of the names of that which is here we will make sensitive you.

So, CFL you understand, micro molding in capitalizing you understand, replica molding you understand, you have also talked about methods likes some in. So, we have talked

about like polymer bonding lithography and you just talked about micro transfer molding and the last part offered discussion and soft lithography we will now focus on how to make chemical patterns, we already understand what we mean by a chemically pattern substrate.

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So, essentially we have you have a surface like this where you have different wettability resumes and this is archive by the method of micro contact printing interesting, this is the first soft lithography method that was develop way back in early 90s and this realize and what is known as self assembly of molecules at surface. So, we will discuss that.

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### Micro-contact Printing

- Micro-contact printing has been used to produce patterned self-assembled monolayers with sub-micrometer features on surfaces.
- Possible due to the ability of an elastomeric stamp to conform to a non-planar substrate with minimum distortion of the pattern on its surface.
- In this technique a patterned elastomeric stamp (typically PDMS) is inked with an alkanethiol and brought into contact with a gold surface.
- A self-assembled mono-layer of alkanethiolates forms at the stamp surface substrate interface.

Gold (99.999%) supported on 10 nm Ti adhesion layer. The thickness of the alkanethiolate layer is 1.2 nm.

So, it is everyday simple method essentially, you use some special type of molecules surface active molecules.

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The presence of a ligand ( $Y(CH_2)_nX$ ) which is reactive toward the surface ensures the attachment of the silane molecules with the substrate. The surface properties of the SAM surface (primarily if the SAM coated surface is hydrophobic or hydrophilic) depends on the nature of the head group, X. On the other hand, the binding of the SAM molecules to the surface is determined by the group Y. Some surfaces like gold or silver show excellent binding ability towards the silane molecules such as alkanethiolates. Alkylsiloxanes on hydroxyl-terminated surfaces such as Si/SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, glass etc. also exhibit good attachment properties.

Now, these molecules are primarily of Alknethiolates, some example we one going to the chemistry. So, these are like silane of thiols, this class of molecules and they have a generic structure.

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So, these are again launch in hydro carbon, but they have the two legends y and x at the two ends this out of this to lagans y is the one the detriments. So, essentially what you have is a launch and molecule like this and this y end of the molecules determines the attachment to the surface. We have long time back in the initially few lectures talked about surf act in the molecules about surfactants.

So, in away if you have a surface and you simple inverse it forget about micro contact printing are anything inverse it. In a solution of this surface active molecules are silane what is going to happen is, that this y is going to tag itself to the surface and then the molecule we will take a shape like this. So, if the surface is now fully covered you this type of molecules like this. What will happen suppose, if  $\gamma_s$  was the original surface tension of the surface energy of the substrate, some layer are coated a silane layer coated surface. We will exited a completely different surface energy and the surface energy and that we will be the surface energy corresponding to the legend x.

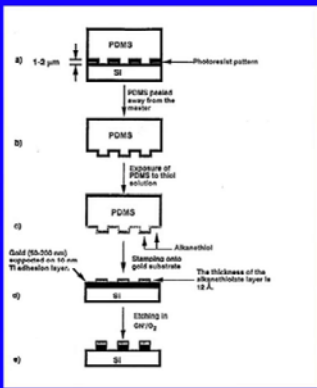
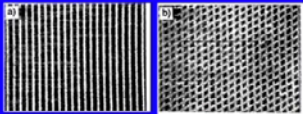
So, what is Sam? Sam this refer to layer of self assemble mono layer. So, this molecules for all particular purpose behave some sort of a surfactant the moment you moment you defect surface which of course as the ability to bind to y the y and of the molecules we will come and by into the surface and the whole surface we will get covered we this molecules. So, eventually the future height of course it looks very long these are one molecules the damnation. So, which is sub Nano meter may be couple of hang strums. So, virtually there will be no change in the future height are whatever, but effectively. So, you have these bare surface and now with coated with this layer of Sam, let us say bare surface and let us say a surface energy  $\gamma_s$  this win for all practical proposes have surface energy of  $\gamma_s x$ .

Now, please do not confused that if you cote a surface with Sam layer its go in to be hydrophilic or hydro phobic it is not like that wither the surface energy increases are not what will be. The generic nature of the Sam coated surface depends on the nature of the x. So, if the legend x is hydrophobic then what is going to happen this the whole coated surface will beaver as a low energy hydrophobic surface and other hand, if x is hydrophilic then after coating you can sort of get a more wet table type of surface.

So, here is the formal statement the present of a ligand which is reactive to the surface ensures the attachment of the silane molecules with the substrate. The surface properties of the Sam surface, if the Sam layer coated surface is or hydrophilic hydrophobic depends on the nature of the head group x. On the other hand the binding of the Sam molecules to the surface is determined by the group y. Some surfaces like gold or silver show excellent binding ability. So, this is important much time you have to coated surface with gold or silver, because the show excellent binding ability towards the silane molecules which are alknethiolates. Alkylsiloxanes on hydroxyl terminated surfaces etcetera glass also can be used.

### Micro-contact Printing

- Micro-contact printing has been used to produce patterned self-assembled mono-layers with sub-micrometer features on surfaces.
- Possible due to the ability of an elastomeric stamp to conform to a non-planar substrate with minimum distortion of the pattern on its surface.
- In this technique a patterned elastomeric stamp (typically PDMS) is inked with an alkanethiol and brought into contact with a gold surface.
- A self-assembled mono-layer of alkanethiolates forms at the stamp surface substrate interface.

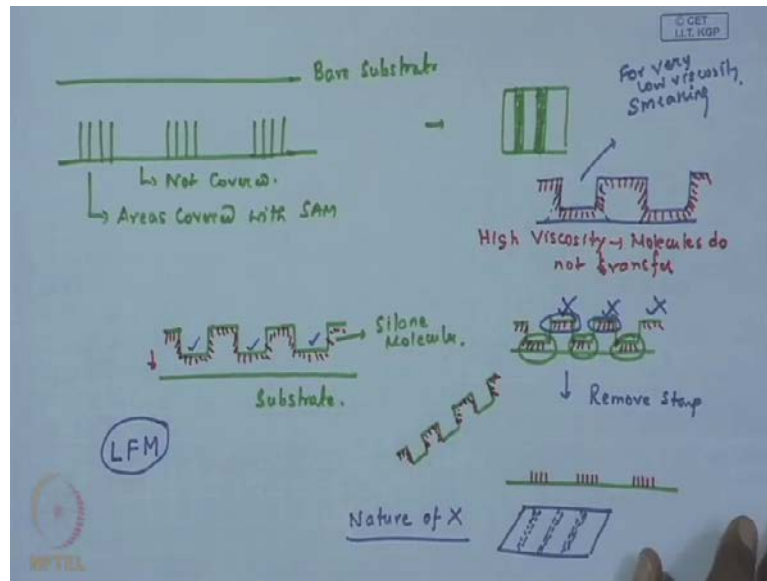



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Now, the idea is that is show after we understand this concept of self assemble mono layer.

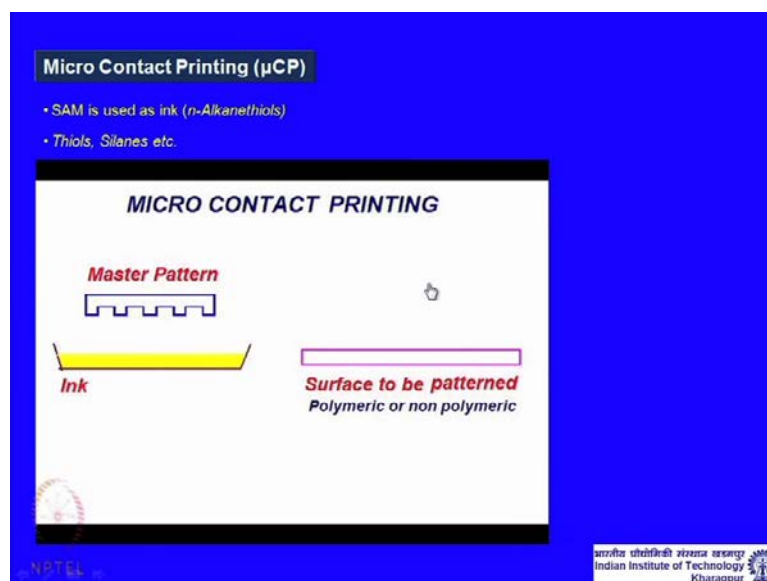


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The idea of generating a chemically patterned surface essentially, is to control spatially the attachment of these molecules. So, suppose you have a bare surface and instead of covering it fully with this SAM layer coated molecules, if you can somehow do something, so that only parts of the surface get covered with these molecules, then effectively what we will see is different chemical patterns corresponding to this. So, these are areas covered with SAM, not covered, if you dip a substrate into a SAM solution, of course, this is not ideal, because everything we get covered with the SAM.

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So, this is achieved by very simple method and we can sort of look at this movie. So, what we have is a master pattern are a stamp which can be PDMF stamp which is the PDMF stamp and ink is nothing, but a silane solution, the solution of the surface active molecule and this is the surface to be patterned. So, that the substrate what we do you take this stamp you dip it. In the solution it's not as the inking process of course it's not possible to ink like this typically one dip in the solution and then this stamp is carried back and is simply placed and the pattern surface on the surface to be patterned.

So, what happens is the stamp which was in a silane solution now, contains silane molecules as the thin waiting layer around it and when this stamp is placed. So, these are the silane molecules. When this stamp is got and placed on their substrate, which is at desired level of the reactivity with the substrate and you simply place it. So, we bring it in and over the zones where the stamp and the surface are in direct contact. The silane molecules get transferred and get attached to the surface; however, over the other areas where there is no direct contact between these areas.

So, there is no direct contact between the stamp and the substrate. So, these molecules remain stationary on the stamp itself. So, and they cannot get transferred on to the surface. So, now, when you remove the stamp, it's only over the areas which were in direct contact with the protruded areas of the stamp the silane molecules get transferred on to the surface and the stamp now looks something like this. So, the silane molecules which are over these areas remain attached to the stamp, but only the molecules over these zones, which came in direct contact during the contact processes over here as we can see get transferred to the surface. So, what happens, these now if you look at it in 3D view? So, suppose if you have a grating over this entire length of the substrate we have self-assembled monolayer on the surface, which now has different wettability regions depending on the nature of the grating.

So, this is one of the simplest methods very easy to execute of course, there are critical issues in valve lets me get quick detail. So, the viscosity of the silane, the solution is extremely important, because though it is the preferential attachment, that eventually guides the self-assembly of these molecules on to the surface. One has to understand that if this waiting layer is too dry or the viscosity is too high then what will happen even during contact these molecules may fail to transfer from the stamp to the surface. On the other hand if it is too wet, if it is very dilute then not only these

areas the molecules we get transfer, but it might actually form a meniscus and you might have a wider zone over which the molecules may transfer, which can lead to the effect of what is known as smearing for very low viscosity.

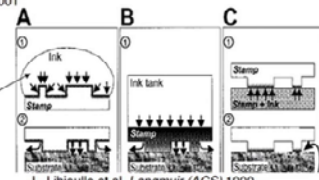
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CH 6202

### Methods of Applying Alkanethiols (Resist) on Stamp

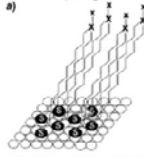
- Alkanethiol molecules form self-assembled monolayer (SAM) on surface of noble metals (Au, Ag)
- These monolayers allow control over wettability, adhesion, chemical reactivity, electrical conduction, and mass transport to underlying metal
- Linear alkanethiols with various molecular weights
  - 158 g mol<sup>-1</sup> (dodecanethiol, DDT)
  - 258 g mol<sup>-1</sup> (hexadecanethiol, HDT)
  - 314 g mol<sup>-1</sup> (eicosanethiol, ECT)

B. Michel *et al.*,  
IBM J. Res. & Dev. 2001



Ethanol solution of a thiol

L. Libouille *et al.*, *Langmuir (ACS)* 1999



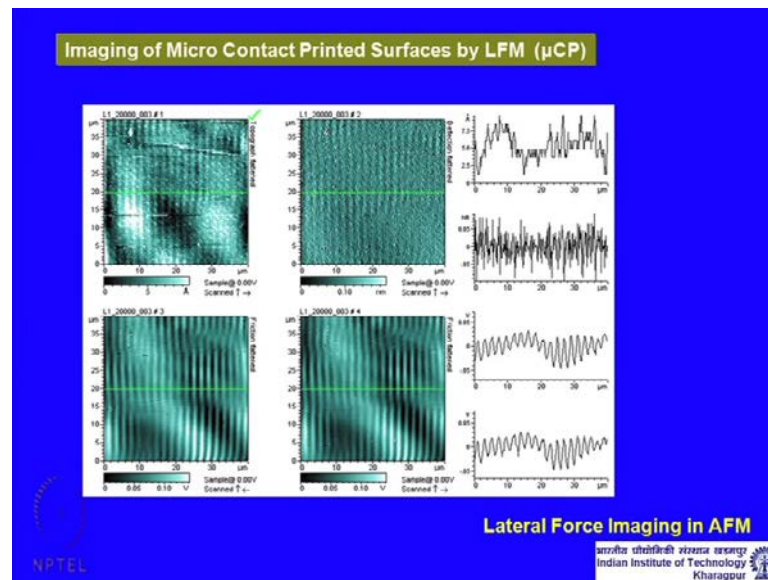
G. Whitesides *et al.*, *Ann. Rev. Biomed. Eng.*, 2001

**Mold is Soft:**  
Most Cases it is a patterned Sylgard 184 block (Cross Linked PDMS) 19

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So, this incentive viscosity is something as that controlled in experiment and in many cases, it is sort of archive by drying the stamp after it has been withdrawn from the linking process are from the Sam solution. So, these are some critical experiment, we show this is what it is. So, this how looks like it is attach to the surface and to these finally, the effective wettability of surface of Sam layer coated, I think layer is determine by the interdiction are for the nature of the ligand x.

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So, other important aspect you is, we will take it off in the subsequent lectures of we will talk about it is there, what is known as the lateral force microscopy which is important to image micro contact printing surfaces. So, this is just sort of a quick trial I would like to give you hear by talking about atomic force microscopy which is next topic we are going to take up, we will talk about a lesson and we will revise this particular image there and how it is important in one see in specifically, imagine micro contact printed are chemically pattern surfaces.

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### Advantages of Soft Lithography

- Convenient, inexpensive, accessible to chemists, biologists, and material scientists
- Basis in self-assembly tends to minimize defects
- Many soft lithographic processes are additive and minimize waste of materials
- Readily adapted to rapid prototyping
- Isotropic mechanical deformation of PDMS mold or stamp provides routes to complex patterns
- No diffraction limit; features as small as 30 nm have been fabricated
- Nonplanar surfaces (lenses, optical fibers, and capillaries) can be used as substrates

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So, that sorts things to the end of our discussion on soft lithography soft lithography techniques. So, I will quickly revise it this classification like again and you. Now, see that we understand based on the classic lectures, we have then the different aspects of the different types of soft lithography methods. We now understand about this imprinting as well as the soft lithography group of techniques and we also understand then the different methods available for topographic patterning as well as for generating chemical patterns of course, this method is likely unique in since, that he one able to cannot this one micro transfer molding. We are able to generate 3 d structure is micro contact printing allows due to make chemically pattern structure and other once most of the other once make gives you the flexibility to make topographic features.

A quick look at some of the advantages of soft lithography, so it is convenient, inexpensive, accessible to all most everyone, people most importantly it was non expose to lithography. The basis of the most of the methods is self assembly of some sort of the other which tends to minimize defects. So, other than mechanical processes are motion like photo lithography for example, because here to be large it relive and pattern replication, on the forces like capillarity when also surface on the etcetera. Many of the soft lithographic processes are additive and therefore, the minimize wastage of material, we really do not going for processing like archive, we do not required that which essentially is nothing, but wastage of materials.

So, it can be the methods can readily adapted rapid prototyping. Isotropic mechanical deformation of PDMS mold provides routes to complex patterns. So, there is no diffraction. So, this is extremely important it. So, photo lithography is significant limited by the diffraction of the wave length of the light so, your using.

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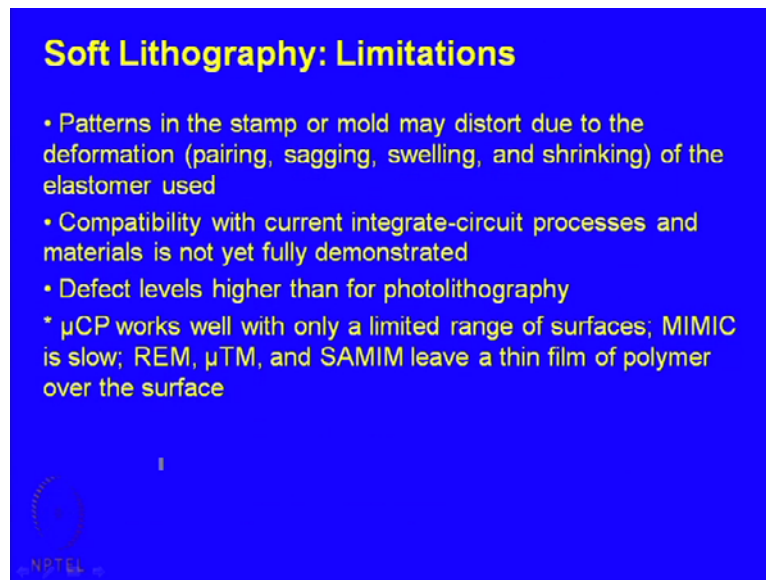
**Advantages of Soft Lithography**

- Generation and replication of three-dimensional topologies or structures are possible
- Optical transparency of the mask allows through-mask registration and processing
- Good control over surface chemistry, very useful for interfacial engineering
- A broad range of materials can be used: functional polymers, sol - gel materials, colloidal materials, suspensions, solutions of salts, and precursors to carbon materials, glasses, and ceramics
- Applicable to manufacturing: production of indistinguishable copies at low cost
- Applicable in patterning large area

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And 30 Nano meter, not even 30 Nano meter it futures as no assent Nano meter as be archive to a back in 2005 itself use of a flexible stamp allows you to pattern of film coated on non planer surfaces. So, lenses optical fiber capillaries etcetera, can be used as substrate generation and replication of three dimensional topographic or possible micro transfers molding. We have already talked, optical transparency is gives you to allows through mask registration and processing in some methods like we have talked about this SFIL. Good control over surface chemistry which is extremely useful for inter facial engineering. A broad range of material can be we pattern functional polymer solution, gel colloidal materials, suspensions, solution, because of the carbon material glass and ceramics etcetera, it is not limited to only one sort of material like photo resist, which is the case with photo lithography applicable to manufacturing.

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**Soft Lithography: Limitations**

- Patterns in the stamp or mold may distort due to the deformation (peeling, sagging, swelling, and shrinking) of the elastomer used
- Compatibility with current integrate-circuit processes and materials is not yet fully demonstrated
- Defect levels higher than for photolithography
- \*  $\mu$ CP works well with only a limited range of surfaces; MIMIC is slow; REM,  $\mu$ TM, and SAMIM leave a thin film of polymer over the surface

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So, indistinguishable copies can be made at low cost, patterning in the large area can be achieved. Some practical limitations are patterns in the stamp or mold may distort due to the deformation we show peeling, sagging, swelling and shrinking etcetera. You have already talked about the fact that soft lithography is largely limited by the availability of type of a stamp which is of course a limitation one of us to understand. Its effects are being made to make it compare with current IC processing technology.

So, this time extent that the soft lithography group of methods can be extended to the microelectronic **paradigm**. Microelectronic industry defect levels are of course higher than photolithography and therefore, which makes it infeasible for the microelectronic industry. Micro contact printing has some material restrictions for some of the methods. Some examples: micro contact printing works well on limited range of surfaces, it is like gold or silver coated surface, as we already talked about because the surface has to offer good binding with the whole legend. Mimic is slow, because it is capillary driven processes done over long lengths, replica molding, micro transfer molding and SAMIM in level thin of polymer or remnant layer we have already highlighted.

So, which as to be removed reactive areas are things like that, but still soft lithography is a very exciting area, a very advancing area of such the lot of research still going on different aspects materials, they are on the master pattern and things like that and it is sort of a, it can be implemented without significant inform structure, which is absolutely magnitude,

in photo lithography soiled strongly encourage looking in to do soft lithography key word, and like is the soft lithography as the names of the technique. You have understudy and sort of argument whatever, you have learned to in this course on soft lithography thank you.