

Electronic Supplementary Information

The ratio between the energy loss and the depth is calculated with the algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_i^{\text{in}} &= E_{i-1}^{\text{in}} - \frac{\Delta d}{\cos(\theta + 12^\circ)} \cdot \text{Sp}(E_{i-1}^{\text{in}}) \text{ with } i = 1 \text{ to } n \\
 E_0^{\text{in}} &= E_0 \\
 d &= n \cdot \Delta d \\
 E_0^{\text{in}} &= k_1 \cdot E_n^{\text{in}} - Q_{\text{in}} \\
 E_j^{\text{out}} &= E_{j-1}^{\text{out}} - \frac{\Delta d}{\cos(\theta)} \cdot \text{Sp}(E_{j-1}^{\text{out}}) \text{ with } j = 1 \text{ to } n
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where

E_0 : primary energy of the projectile

E_i^{in} : energy of the projectile after passing the i th layer on the way into the bulk

Δd : thickness of the n layer

d : depth

E_0^{out} : energy of the projectile after back scattering

k : kinematic factor of the energy loss during back scattering⁷

E_i^{out} : energy of the projectile after passing the j th layer on the way back to the surface

Sp : stopping power

θ : angle between the surface normal and the direction to the detector, where $78^\circ - \theta$ is the angle between the direction of the impinging ions and the surface, *the angle of incidence*