

PROF. MAURIZIO DE CRESCENZI

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Maurizio De Crescenzi was born in 1951 in Rome (Italy). Thesis "cum laude" in Solid State Physics (November 1975) at University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Italy). He is full professor from 1990 and from 2001 he has a chair of Structure of Matter at University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (Italy). His research activity has been focused on the study of the structural and electronic properties of clean surfaces, chemisorbed species on surfaces, metallic clusters and of metal/semiconductor interfaces by using spectroscopic techniques such as Auger, LEED, XPS and Energy Loss. He has worldwide known for the development of the EELFS (Extended Energy Loss Fine Structure) electron technique which allows the local structural investigation of surface and chemisorbed atoms. He has investigated the growth of nanostructures of Germanium/Silicon and Fe/Cu/Si ultrathin magnetic films through Molecular Beam Epitaxy process. Recently he has synthesized nanotubes of carbon and other nanomaterials and they have been investigated through STM and TEM microscopy and photocurrent measurements. He has demonstrated that carbon nanotubes can be used as efficient photon sensitive devices and solar cells. He has assessed for the first time the existence of silicon single wall nanotubes. In collaboration with R. Rosei and ISM researchers, he has assessed the formation and the structural properties of a single layer of graphite (graphene) on Ni(111) surface. This happened thirty years before of the assignment of the Nobel prize to Geim and Novoselov (2010) for the several properties and applications of graphene. They have recognized this discover in their Nobel laureate speech done at Stockholm in 2010.

He has participated to several European Projects (Esprit, Science, Galileo, Vigoni, Human Capital and Mobility) to develop new nanosized materials. He is co-author of about 290 international publications (his H index is 41), one book on electron and structural spectroscopies and several books on nanostructures acting as guest editor. He has organized as chairman several National (Nanotubes & Nanostructures 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, Nanocose 2003, 2005) and International Conferences on surfaces and self-assembled nanostructures as co-chairperson with Isabelle Berbezier, from CNRS (France) (NanoSEA2006, NanoSEA2008, NanoSEA2010, NanoSEA2012, NanoSEA2014, NanoSEA2016). He is (or he has been) in the board of editors of four international Reviews (Nature: Scientific Reports, Journal of Electron Spectroscopy, Journal of Physics (Condensed Matter), Surface Review and Letters). He has acted twice (for 2006 and 2007) as international referee for the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) (France) as European expert in nanotechnology. In November 2009 he has received the title of Doctor "Honoris Causa" in Material Science awarded by the

University of Aix-Marseille (France). From 2010 is “associated researcher” at ISM-CNR and this is testified by several publications and requests of national and international funds.

Detailed Curriculum Vitae et studiorum of prof.M.De Crescenzi

Born in Rome 6 June 1951.

Thesis "summa cum laude" in Solid State Physics (November 1975) at the University "La Sapienza" of Rome (Italy), defending the work: "Magnetoluminescence and reflectance of the biexcitonic molecules in CdS". The thesis has been performed under the scientific direction of prof. A.Frova and prof.F.Evangelisti.

From 1976 (November) to 1979 (February) he has been postdoctoral fellow at Laboratoire d'Optique des Solides, Paris VI University, Paris (France), under the scientific direction of prof.F.Abeles and dr.Marie Luce Theye. He has studied optical and electronic properties in the visible and ultraviolet range of ultrathin noble metallic films using synchrotron radiation at Laboratory LURE, Orsay (France).

From 1979 at present his research activity has been focused on the study of the:

- optical properties of ultrathin films,
- structural, electronic and magnetic properties of condensed matter,
- surfaces (clean and interacting with chemisorbed species),
- metal/semiconductor interfaces and of carbon nano-materials by means of spectroscopic techniques such as Auger, XPS and Energy Loss in reflection and STM (Scanning Tunneling Microscopy) microscope.
- synthesis and characterization of Silicon single wall nanotubes.
- synthesis and photocurrent measurements of Carbon nanotubes as active transparent electrodes for solar cells and other nanomaterials to be used as renewable energies.
- synthesis, structural and electronic characterization of 2D materials (Graphene, Silicene).

Main scientific results:

During 1980-1983 years, he has contributed actively to the development of electronic spectroscopies for the determination of the electronic properties, the interatomic distance and the local structure of atoms located on a surface of a solid. The most important spectroscopic technique, recognized to prof.De Crescenzi, has the acronym of EELFS (Extended Energy Loss Fine Structure) and it consisted in the measurement of the features detected in an energy loss spectrum above a core level ionization performed in the reflection mode. The analysis of this fine structure has given the radial distribution function around the ionized atom and it has allowed clarifying some fundamental aspects of metallic surfaces, of interface metal-semiconductor and of chemisorption of carbon and oxygen on solid surfaces down to the atomic scale. Thanks to this technique prof. R.Rosei, researchers of CNR-ISM (dr.P.Perfetti and dr.C.Quaresima) and M.De Crescenzi have assessed for the first time the formation and the structural properties of a single layer of graphite (graphene) on Ni(111) surface (Physical Review B27, 1161 (1983)). This happened about thirty years before of the assignment of the Nobel Prize to Geim and Novoselov (2010) for the several properties and applications of graphene. They have recognized the original assessment performed by Rosei and coworkers in their Nobel laureate speech done at Stockholm in 2010. Nowadays the importance of EELFS technique in the field of surface science has been world wide recognized. In particular the technique has been cited by Ertl (Nobel prize for Chemistry 2007) and Küppers in their book on the electronic spectroscopies in which they reported the several techniques used for characterizing the surfaces, the thin films and in general the local structure around a specific surface atom. For illustrating the principles and applications of the EELFS technique Maurizio De Crescenzi has been invited at several international conferences and seminars on surface science and nanomaterials.

Teaching and academic activity:

M.De Cresenzi has been:

PhD position from November 1976 to November 1979 at CNRS (France) and at University of Paris VI, Paris (France).

Assistent Professor of Electromagnetic Waves at Calabria University, Cosenza (Italy) (1979-1983), Associated Professor of Physics Laboratory at L'Aquila University, L'aquila (Italy) (1984-1985)

Associated Professor at University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Roma (Italy) (1985-1990). During this period he has been appointed as member of the Administration Council of the University from 1987 to 1989.

In 1990 he has been appointed Full Professor of Solid State Physics at the Physics Department of the Camerino University, Camerino (Italy). During this period he has been nominated as chairman for the "Corso di Laurea in Fisica" and as a member of the Administration Council of the Camerino University (2004-2010).

In his laboratory he has developed a Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) to grow germanium nanostructures deposited on silicon and he has been involved in the investigation of the structural and magnetic properties of ultra thin iron layers investigated by STM and MFM (Magnetic Force Microscopy).

From 2001 he has moved as Full Professor in Solid State Physics at Physics Department of University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (Italy). He is at present the head of a Laboratory of Nanoscience with three permanent researchers (prof.Paola Castrucci, dr.Manuela Scarselli and dr.Matteo Salvato), three PhD students and one research contract position.

Under his scientific and technical supervision more than 70 students have defended their thesis in Physics (five Doctorate in Physics) at the several Italian Universities. Most of them entered in the world of the research and are now diffused in Italy and in several parts of the world (Canada, Saudi Arabia, Australia, France, Denmark, etc).

He has been appointed (from 2011 until 2016) as the responsible of the Doctorate in Physics at the University of Roma "Tor Vergata".

During the last twenty years, he has participated to Commissions of numerous competitive examinations for research, associated and full professor positions in several Italian Universities (Lecce, Camerino, Padova, Roma Tor Vergata, Roma La Sapienza, Roma TRE, Cosenza, Torino Politecnico, Trieste).

Scientific experience and achievements:

From November 1975 to November 1976

He has collaborated with prof.A.Frova and prof.F.Evangelisti to the analysis of the data obtained by the thesis work.

He has collaborated with prof.E.Tosatti of SISSA and ICTP (Trieste, Italy) and Dr.G.Harbeke, of Laboratory RCA, Zurich (Switzerland) for studying the effects of spatial dispersion in the dielectric function of excitons and semiconductors.

From November 1976 to November 1977

He has obtained a fellowship of CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) under the direction of prof.F.Abeles (University of Paris VI, France) and Dr.Marie Luce Theye to investigate the optical properties of surfaces and interfaces through synchrotron radiation at LURE, Orsay, France. The experiences of reflectivity of thin films of Cu, Au and Cu(x)Au(1-x) alloys, deposited under ultra-high-vacuum conditions, have been performed in the spectral range 15-35 eV.

During the same period, he has collaborated with Dr. Wanda Andreoni (IBM, Zurich, Switzerland) and prof. E. Tosatti (SISSA, Trieste, Italy) to the interpretation of the excitonic lineshape of rare solid gases.

From November 1977 to February 1979:

Prof. De Crescenzi has obtained the following scholarships:

- Stage de Haut Niveau Scientifique assigned by the French Embassy at Roma, Italy (1 year),
- CEA (Centre Nucleaire pour L'Energie Atomique) (1 year),
- CNR (contributo per le relazioni internazionali) (3 months).

Such scholarships have been used to investigate optical measurements of ultrathin films of Silver and Gold near the plasma frequency. The aim was to study the effects of spatial dispersion in solid thin layers deposited in ultra vacuum conditions. The research activity has been developed at Laboratoire d'Optique des Solides of Paris VI (France) in collaboration with prof. F. Abeles and Dr. Marie Luce Theye.

From February 1979 to November 1979

He has obtained a fellowship of Centro Ricerche FIAT (CRF, Orbassano, Torino, Italy) to perform EXAFS (Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure) structural measurements through the synchrotron radiation of PULS-Frascati laboratory on sample of technological and metallurgical interest. He has investigated steels after high power laser treatment, ferritic and martensitic steels and amorphous metallic glasses. The experience has been done in collaboration with dr. U. La Malfa (of CRF Torino, Italy) and prof. A. Balzarotti (Roma Tor Vergata University, Italy). The analysis of the EXAFS spectra has allowed to investigate the radial distribution function of the several metallic alloys and to establish the degree of the local disorder in metallic glasses.

From November 1979 to November 1983:

He has collaborated with the Group of "Electronic Spectroscopies of Surfaces" directed by prof. R. Rosei at Cosenza University (Italy). He has used electronic analytical tools such as Auger, Energy Loss and X-ray Photoemission spectroscopy and LEED for the study of clean surfaces and upon interaction with different chemisorbed species such as Oxygen and Carbon. The use of the Energy Loss spectroscopy in reflection mode has allowed clarifying some new aspects of the interaction of the electrons with the solid matter. In particular, it has to be mentioned that for the first time from the analysis of an Energy loss spectrum from a core level, it has been possible to measure fine structure very similar to those reported in the EXAFS (Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure) spectra, which are detected by means of X-rays. The study of these features has been interesting for the structural analysis of clean surfaces and in the determination of the atomic distances from the chemisorbed species and the substrate. This type of measure has been the subject of a publication on the review Physical Review Letters. Useful application of this spectroscopic technique has been the structural determination of a graphitic layer deposited epitaxially on the Ni(111) surface after dissociation of CO at high temperature. This continuous carbon mono-layer showed the same structural properties of graphite and the EELFS measurement (Physical Review B **27**, 1161 (1983)) was one of the very first assessment of the graphene which has been awarded in 2010 with the Noble prize assigned to Geim and Novoselov for the several applications of this nanostructure.

In the same period, he has collaborated with prof. A. Balzarotti (University of Roma Tor Vergata) for the study of intermetallic alloys Ti-Fe, TiN and TiC alloys with the EXAFS spectroscopy.

He has collaborated with prof. S. Nannarone (University of Modena (Italy)) to the structural study of materials such as Pd₂Si and Ni₂Si of relevant technological and applicative interest.

Prof.M.De Crescenzi has collaborated with prof.M.Piacentini (University of Roma “La Sapienza”) and Dr.F.Antonangeli of Laboratory PULS-INFN (Frascati (Italy)) to investigate the electronic and structural properties of pure metallic iron after high power laser treatment with the aim to obtain amorphous iron at room temperature.

From November 1983 to November 1985:

He has collaborated with the group of prof. P.Picozzi of L’Aquila University (Italy) to investigate the electronic and structural properties of metallic nano-aggregates (Cu, Au, Ag, Pd, etc.) deposited on inert substrates (graphite).

He has performed Auger, XPS and Energy Loss measurements to evidence the evolution of the electronic and structural properties of few isolated atoms up to the formation of a continuous film.

Prof.M.De Crescenzi has collaborated with prof.J.Derrien at Grenoble University (France) to perform structural surface measurements of ultra-thin Cobalt film deposited on clean Silicon surfaces through the EELFS (Extended Energy Loss Fine Structure) technique. The depositions and the measurements have been performed at room temperature and as a function of the several thermal treatments.

From November 1985 to November 1990:

He has collaborated with prof.A.Balzarotti (University of Roma “Tor Vergata”, Italy) to equip an Ultra-High-Vacuum machine to perform X-ray photoemission measurements (XPS) and inverse photoemission (BIS, Bremsstrahlung Isochromat Spectroscopy) and other several spectroscopic techniques to characterize the materials and the surfaces. He has performed Auger and XPS measurements on magnetic semiconductors (CdMnTe) and on the high-Tc superconductors such as YBaCuO and BISCO, under the form of sinterized samples as well of thin solid films.

He has performed BIS and XPS measurements on small Palladium clusters, in collaboration with prof.A.Balzarotti and prof.M.Cini to clarify the modification of the electronic properties as a function of the cluster size and of the interaction with the substrate.

He has collaborated with prof.J.Derrien of Marseille University (France) to develop the analysis of the fine structures detected in the Auger spectra (EXFAS technique) to obtain the radial distribution function in the nearest of the deposited atom on the surface.

He has collaborated with prof.A.P. Hitchcock, at the Mc Master University (Canada), to investigate the structural properties of few monolayers of Copper deposited on Silver surface with the technique performed at grazing incidence to enhance the signal coming from the outer layers.

He has collaborated to an ESPRIT project funded by European Community, Basic Research Action, for the study the iron silicides grown on silicon surfaces, in collaboration with prof.J.Derrien (Marseille University, Marseille, France). Prof.De Crescenzi has equipped the apparatus, operating at Roma Tor Vergata University, Italy, with an STM (Scanning Tunneling Microscope) for the structural investigation of surfaces with atomic resolution. He has investigated the Silicon clean surface, reconstructed 7×7 , and covered with several iron layers to form iron silice in the semiconductor and metallic phases. In collaboration with prof.A.Balzarotti and prof.M.N.Piancastelli (University of Paris VI, Paris, France), he has investigated the chemisorption of ethylene on clean Si(111), (7×7) reconstructed surface to investigate the atomic environment of the adsorption sites.

From November 1990 to November 2001:

Prof. De Crescenzi has won a chair of Structure of Matter, as a full professor, and he has moved to Camerino University (Italy). He has collaborated with prof. I.Davoli to form a group of electron spectroscopy of surfaces. In particular, from 1991 to 1994 he has interested to experiences of diffusion of photoelectrons from surfaces and interfaces of monocrystals such as MgO (oriented 100). In 1993 he has obtained a financial grant, funded by MURST (funds for “Grandi apparecchiature”), to realize

an apparatus for MBE (molecular beam epitaxy) for the growth of hetero-structures of Germanium deposited on Silicon wafers, their alloys and their electronic and structural characterization. In these years, he has interested to grow superlattices of semiconductors for possible applications as optoelectronic devices.

He has received a grant of 350 MLire from INFN, through a PRA (Progetto di Ricerca Avanzato) project, to equip an STM apparatus in ultra-high-vacuum to measure the magnetic surface domains of iron ultrathin films deposited on Silicon clean surfaces.

He has collaborated with prof.F.Rochet (University of Paris VI, Paris, France) and prof.R.Gunnella (University of Camerino, Camerino, Italy) to investigate the chemisorption of acetylene on clean Silicon surfaces and the formation of silicon carbide layers. The structural measurements have been performed by using the photodiffraction of electrons (XPD technique).

From November 2001 at present:

He has investigated several aspects of the interaction of hydrocarbon molecules with silicon surfaces to form ordered and epitaxial film of silicon carbide. He has synthesized by CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition) method carbon nanotubes both single and multiwall. The atomic and electronic characterizations have been performed through STM, SEM, TEM and Raman techniques. He has collaborated actively with prof.M.Ali El Khakani and prof.F.Rosei (INRS, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada) to investigate the electronic and structural properties of single wall carbon nanotubes obtained by laser ablation and measured by STM with atomic resolution.

In collaboration with prof. S.V.Bhoraskar (Pune University, Pune, India) he has assessed with STM and TEM the possibility for Silicon to synthesize under the form of single wall nanotube. This experience has demonstrated that physical systems with sp³ coordination can, in particular growth conditions, synthesize as sp² without showing any oxidation process. The work has been quoted and discussed on the web site Wikipedia at the link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon_nanotubes#External_links.

He has demonstrated the ability of multiwall carbon nanotubes to generate photocurrent in the near ultraviolet and visible spectral range using electrochemical photocurrent measurements. This result is of particular relevance in the field of photovoltaic nanodevices and for solar energy conversion applications. The solar cells obtained by depositing few tens of nanometers of Carbon nanotubes on Silicon surfaces have shown a PCE (Photocurrent efficiency) of about 13% and and EQE (External quantum efficiency) of 90%. More recently, he has demonstrated that carbon nanotubes deposited on amorphous silicon produced a sizeable photocurrent in the visible energy range. The measured external quantum efficiency showed a spectral behavior depending on the SWCNT network optical transparency, presenting a maximum up to 40% at a wavelength of about 460 nm. Ultrathin network of SWCNTs acts as semitransparent electrode and forms Schottky barrier with amorphous silicon, enabling new generation low cost amorphous silicon based solar cells. In collaboration with prof.N.Motta, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane (Australia), prof.De Crescenzi has investigated with STM and high resolution TEM the interaction of Poly(3-hexyl-thiophene) with carbon nanotubes. The structural techniques have assessed an interesting coiling of the polymers around the carbon nanostructures. These investigations are important to enhance the electron current produced in solar cells.

More recently he has been involved in the synthesis and characterization of multi-walled carbon nanotubes grown by CVD method without the use of metallic catalyst directly on stainless steel. The experiences have been done in close collaboration with prof.Serge Lefrant (IMN-CNRS, University of Nantes, France). At present, he has been interested in the synthesis and structural characterization of new 2D nanomaterials such as silicene, that would mimic the structure of graphene, with the aim of better integration into the nanoelectronic industrial circuitry based on silicon technology.

International invited positions:

He has been invited in 1985 to spend several research periods as a "visiting professor" at the "Fourier" University in Grenoble (France) and at University of Marseille, Marseille (France), in collaboration with prof. J.Derrien, to investigate some structural aspects of the deposition (growth, interaction and alloy formation) of transition-metals nanostructures deposited on clean silicon surfaces. He has spent three months in 1987 at the McMaster University (Hamilton, Canada) in collaboration with prof. A.P.Hitchcock to study of the growth mechanisms of metallic monolayers epitaxially evaporated on metals with the help of EELFS and EXFAS electron spectroscopies. He has been invited in 1995 at the University Paris VI, Paris (France) (one month) to study the interaction of carbon-based molecules with silicon surfaces in collaboration with prof.F.Rochet. More recently (2004-2009) he has been invited, as invited professor and invited CNRS researcher, at the laboratory L2MP-CNRS and then at IM2NP-Aix Marseille University, Marseille (France) to collaborate with Dr.Isabelle Berbezier to investigate several chemical and physical properties of the of Germanium quantum dots deposited on silicon oxide layers and 2D nanomaterials such as silicene.

National and International Research Projects:

Prof.De Crescenzi has received the following research funds:

-International Research Contact CNR for 1984-1987.

prof.De Crescenzi and his collaborators have performed Energy loss measurements in grazing incidence at Service de Physique des Atomes et des Surfaces of C.E.A. (Centre pour l'Energie Atomique) of Saclay (France) in collaboration with prof.J.Lecante.

-Research Contract CNR n.86.02642.02 assigned in 1986 (35 MLire) to investigate electronic and structural measurements of surfaces and interfaces at Roma Tor Vergata University (Italy).

-Research Contract CNR n.87.02557.02 assigned in 1987 (50 MLire) for the development of the project: "Electronic and structural properties of ceramic materials" at Roma Tor Vergata University (Italy).

-International bilateral Contract CNR Italy-France1988.

Prof.De Crescenzi has collaborated with prof.J.Derrien (University of Marseille, France) to investigate the growth of ultrathin films of Cobalt deposited on clean Silicon surface through Auger spectroscopy.

"Action des Stimulation" of European Economic Community 1988.

He has been the Italian PI of a bilateral project among the Laboratory LEPES of Grenoble, France, in collaboration with prof.C.Schlenker, and the Physics Department of Roma Tor Vergata University, Italy. Prof.De Crescenzi has received a financial support of 90 MLire for the spectroscopic characterization of super-conductors thin films.

"Esprit Basic Research Action" N.3026 of CEE 1989.

In collaboration with prof.J.Derrien and other european resaerch laboratories, prof.M.De Crescenzi has received a financial support of 200 MLire for the acquisition at Roma Tor Vergata University, Italy, of a Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM) apparatus for characterize with atomic resolution heterostructures of layers of metal deposited on clean Silicon surfaces.

In 1993 he has obtained a financial grant, funded by MURST (funds for “Grandi apparecchiature”), of 800 MLire, to realize at Camerino University an apparatus for MBE (molecular beam epitaxy) for the growth of hetero-structures of Germanium deposited on Silicon surfaces.

In 1996 he has obtained from CNR a financial support of 30 MLire to perform resistivity measurements and electronic characterizations of ultrathin films of Lead deposited on clean Silicon surfaces to investigate possible superconductor behaviour. The measurements have been done in collaboration with prof.A.Bianconi University of Roma “La Sapienza”, Roma Italy).

In 1997 he has obtained from INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Struttura della Materia) a financial contract of 350 MLire through a PRA (Progetto di Ricerca Avanzato called SIMBRIS) in collaboration with Ferrara University (Italy) and Perugia University (Italy) for the acquisition at Camerino University, Italy, of a STM and MFM (Magnetic Tunneling) microscope operating in ultra-high-vacuum. The project has been focused to the characterization of the magnetic domains of ultrathin films of Iron and Nickel deposited on clean Silicon surfaces.

In 1998 he has obtained 100 MLire, with a project PAIS of INFN (acronym SICSAF) in collaboration with Modena University (Italy), prof. U.Del Pennino, for the development of growth techniques of epitaxial films of SiC deposited on clean Silicon surfaces.

In 2000 he has received a financial support of 220 MLire from MURST, PRIN2000 (Progetto di Ricerca di Interesse Nazionale), in collaboration with the Ferrara University (Italy), project directed by prof. F.Nizzoli and with Perugia University (Italy). Prof.De Crescenzi has acquired an electron analyzer to perform photodiffraction measurement to characterize ultrathin magnetic films and their electronic properties.

In 2000 he has obtained a financial support from INFN of 100 MLire, with a project PAIS (called SiMag) for characterize the growth of magnetic nanodots deposited on Silicon clean surfaces with STM and MFM spectroscopies.

He has received from Italian Ministry of Research a PRIN2005 of 210.000 € to synthesize carbon nanotubes for photovoltaic applications. The growth apparatus for CVD method was operative at Roma Tor Vergata University, Roma (Italy).

He has been appointed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a bilateral project 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 in collaboration with prof.M.Ali El Khakani (INRS, Montreal, Canada). Project title: "Photovoltaic application of carbon nanotubes", 120000 €, focused on the area of photoinduced electron transfer, which are expected to make important contributions for the construction of efficient photovoltaic devices. This project has been awarded by the Chamber of Commerce of Quebec with “Venice 2010” prize.

He has received funds by ISPELS and Italian Ministry of Health, 2008-2009, for a project: "Innovative methodologies for risk exposure to carbon nanotubes and other nanomaterials", 70000 €.

He has been awarded from INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Italy) with the project SinPhoNIA (Single Photon Nanotechnology Innovative Approach), under the direction of Dr.M.Ambrosio (Section INFN-Napoli, Italy), in 2008 and 2009, with 20000 € to investigate new detectors for high-energy physics.

prof. De Crescenzi has received funds (250.000\$) from Queensland Government (Australia) in collaboration with prof. Nunzio Motta (QUT University, Brisbane, Australia), through a NIRAP project, to investigate new carbon nanotubes detectors working in harsh environments.

He has been the Italian responsible of the bilateral (French-Italian) project Galileo (2008-2010) "New Solar cells with carbon nanotubes" in collaboration with prof. Serge Lefrant of University of Nantes (France).

He has been the Italian responsible of the bilateral project (Italian-German) Vigoni: "Epitaxial growth of organic layers on semiconductors" (2010-2012) in collaboration with prof. Patrick Vogt of TU of Berlin (Germany).

Prof. M. De Crescenzi has received funds in 2010 from EOARD ((European Office of Aerospace Research and Development) through Air Force Office of Scientific Research Material Command, USAF, for developing new solar cells based on carbon nanotubes: "Development of new photovoltaic research & hybrid devices based on multiwall carbon nanotubes and metal nanoparticles" Grant FA8655-11-1-306,

2010-2012 Project NIRAP "Solar Program and powered nano-sensors for data acquisition and surveying in remote areas ", funded by the Queensland State and QUT University (Australia), PI of the Italian node, to investigate new carbon nanotubes detectors working in harsh environments.

2010-2011 Project GALILEE Università Franco-Italiana UIF "Optoélectroniques des systèmes hybrides basés sur les nanotubes de carbone et nanoparticules métalliques", principal investigator "Nanotubes reconnaissance chimique: études par photoémission temps réel".

2012 Project GALILEE, Università Franco-Italiana UIF, Principal Investigator of the project: "Nanotubes reconnaissance chimique: études par photoémission temps réel".

2013-2015 EOARD-USAF, (USA): "3D carbon nanotube networks as mechanical, electrical and photovoltaic transducer and super-hydrophobic filter" Grant FA9550-14-1-0047.

2015 European Project CoExAn (Collective Excitations in Advanced Nanostructures), MSCA-RISE-2014, experimental Project Investigator of the Italian node.

2016 Regional project "Nanopoli" funded by the Lazio Region (Italy) for the development of new materials obtained by mixing carbon nanotubes with different polymers.

Organization of Conferences and scientific events:

He has organized several National and International Conferences on surfaces and nanostructures. In particular from 2000 to 2003 he has initiated the international workshop and the school N&N (Nanotubes and Nanostructures) (<http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2000/>, [/2001/](http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2001/), [/2002/](http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2002/), [/2003/](http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2003/)) in collaboration with Dr. S. Bellucci (INFN, Frascati, Italy) and two editions of the Italian National Meeting on Nanostructures "Nanocose" (<http://nanocose.roma2.infn.it/>) sponsored by INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica della Materia). He has organized, in collaboration with Dr. Isabelle Berbezier (CNRS, Marseilles, France), the International Conference NanoSEA2006 (Nano-Structures Self-Assembling), Aix-en-Provence (France), 2-6 July 2006. He has organized, in collaboration with Dr. I. Berbezier, the Symposium: "Nanoscale Self-assembly and Patterning" which has been held in Strasbourg (France) within the E-MRS Spring Meeting, May 28 to June 1, 2007. He has organized as co-chairperson, in collaboration with Dr. Isabelle Berbezier, the International Conferences

“NanoSEA2008” (held in Rome, 7-10 July 2008), NanoSEA2010 (Cassis, France) and NanoSEA2012 (Sardinia, Italy) (<http://nanosea.roma2.infn.it/>). He has organized the national meeting : ”Structure and Surfaces” held in October 2009 in Roma “Tor Vergata University”, in occasion of the 70th birthday of prof.A.Balzarotti. He has organized as co-chairman, in collaboration with dr.Isabelle Berbezier, NanoSEA2014 and NanoSEA2016.

He has organized as chairman the International Workshop: “Ligth on Surfaces” held in Villa Mondragone (Frascati, Italy) in July 2010 in occasion of the 70th birthday of prof.Renzo Rosei.

He has been the chairman, together of prof.N.Motta, of the international workshop Nano3E held in Brisbane (Australia) in September 2009 and in the following edition of September 2011.

Papers, peer reviewed works, editorial and internation committee and referee action:

His Hirsch factor is 41 and his works have been cited more than 5400 times.

He is author and coauthor of more than 280 international publications with peer review and of a book: "Electron Scattering and Related Phenomena", World Scientific, Singapore 1996, written in collaboration with prof. M.N. Piancastelli, on electronic and structural properties of the surfaces and applications of electron scattering.

In 1995, he has written a review paper published on Surface Science Reports on the EELFS electron spectroscopy that he has actively developed during his research activity.

He has been the guest Editor of several books and special issues of reviews on nanostructures and surface physics appeared on Journal of Physics (Condensed matter) (three special issues), Surface Science in 2007, Superlattices and Microstructures in 2009 and Thin Solid Films (2013). Beilstein Journal of nanotechnology (2015) and Beilstein Journal of Nanotechnology (2017). He has written the prefaces of all these books.

He has been in the board of editors of the following international reviews:

- Journal of Physics (Condensed Matter) from 2000 to 2004
- Surface Review and Letters (at present)
- Journal of Electron Spectroscopy (until 2010)
- Nature: Scientific Reports (from 2011 at present).

International Referee: He has been in the board of evaluation of the ANR (Agence Nationale de Recherche) (France) in 2006 and 2007 (P-Nano) as european expert on nanostructures and nanotechnology.

He has been involved several international Committees for synchrotron radiation (ESFR, Grenoble), Lure and SuperACO (Orsay, France) and Elettra (Trieste, Italy).

He has acted as referee of papers submitted to several international Journals: Surface Science, Journal of Electron Spectroscopy, Journal of Physics, Physical Review B, Superlattices and Microstructures, Thin Solid Films, Applied Surface Science.

International recognition:

Prof.M.De Crescenzi has partecipated in the Committee of a number of Thesis defended in European and over-sea Universities (Grenoble, Paris VI, Marseille, Lausanne, Berlin, Montreal)

He has acted twice (for 2006 and 2007) as international referee for the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) (France) as European expert in nanotechnology.

He has been nominated in 2007 as international expert to evaluate the research activity of the CNRS-IMN Laboratory at Nantes (France).

The project "Photovoltaic application of carbon nanotubes", done in collaboration with prof.M.Ali El Khakani (Montreal University, Canada), has been awarded by the Chamber of Commerce of Quebec with "Venice 2010" Prize.

In November 2009 he has been awarded of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa in Physics at the University of Marseille (France). He has received this international recognition for his important contributions given on the field of research on nano-materials and on electronic characterizations.

Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence - Ten career-best research outputs of M.De Crescenzi

The publications of Prof.M.De Crescenzi on international reviews have obtained, until 2018, more than 5564 citations and a Hirsch factor is 41, according Google Scholar at:
<https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=TC-mI00AAAAJ&hl=it> .

The following list of publications has been chosen to show the constant and considerable contribution given by the candidate in the field of synthesis and characterization of surfaces, structure of matter and nano-materials.

The following list is not necessarily based on the total citation numbers, but also to the general relevance and past/expected impact of the work in the scientific community.

1) First demonstration of graphene on Ni(111) 25 years before the discovery by Geim and Novoselov

R Rosei, M De Crescenzi, F Sette, C Quaresima, A Savoia, P Perfetti "Structure of graphitic carbon on Ni (111): A surface extended-energy-loss fine-structure study" Physical Review B 28, 1161 1983. (Impact factor (IF) 3.5, Cited 208 times)

This paper demonstrates the formation and the structural properties of a single layer of graphite (graphene) deposited on a metallic Ni(111) surface through a new electron spectroscopy. This happened thirty years before of the assignment of the Nobel Prize to Geim and Novoselov (occurred in 2010)

2) Electronic and structural properties of metallic clusters

M.Cini, **M.De Crescenzi**, F.Patella, N.Motta, M.Sastry, F.Rochet, R.Pasquali, A.Balzarotti, C.Verdozzi, "Palladium clusters on graphite : evidence of resonant hybrid states in the valence and conduction bands" Physical Review B41(9), pp. 5685-5695 (1990). (IF 3.5, Cited 83 times).

We have investigated the electronic and structural properties of small metallic Pd clusters deposited on inert graphite substrate. The theory has explained the energy shifts observed in the valence band, empty states above the Fermi level, Auger spectra and core levels as a function of the cluster size with a unique model which accounted of the interaction between cluster atoms and the substrate.

3) **STM Investigation of surfaces and chemisorbed species on clean surfaces**

M.N.Piancastelli, N.Motta, A.Sgarlata, A.Balzaroti, **M.De Crescenzi**, "Topographic and spectroscopic analysis of ethylene adsorption on Si(111) 7x7 STM and STS", *Physical Review B* 48(24), 17892-17896 (1993). (IF 3.5, cited 73 times)

We have reported the adsorption of ethylene C₂H₄ on Si(111) by STM and scanning tunneling spectroscopy. The spatial distribution of the surface reaction has been visualized on an atom-by-atom basis. Reacted and unreacted sites of Si have been selectively imaged.

4) **Growth of Germanium layers on Silicon substrates**

N.Motta, A.Sgarlata, R.Calarco, Q.Nguyen, J.Castro Cal, F.Patella, A.Balzarotti, **M.De Crescenzi**, "Growth of Ge/Si(111) epitaxial layers: intermixing, strain relaxation and islands formation", *Surface Science* 406(1), 254-263 (1998). (IF 2.5, cited 85 times).

We have followed by scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) the growth of thin Ge films obtained by reactive deposition epitaxy on Si(111) substrates kept at 500° C. Several surface reconstructions and different Ge clusters have been visualized.

5) **Growth and characterizations of films of Silicon carbide**

G.Dufour, F.Rochet, F.C.Stedile, Ch.Poncey, **M.De Crescenzi**, R.Gunnella, M.Froment, "SiC formation by reaction of Si(100) with acetylene: electronic and growth mode", *Physical Review B* 56(7), 4266-4282 (1997). (IF 3.5, cited 89 times).

The carbonization process of Si(001) exposed to acetylene has been studied by x-ray photoemission spectroscopy, x-ray photoelectron diffraction, reflection-electron energy loss spectroscopy and low-energy electron diffraction.

6) **Third generation of solar cells by using hybrid system with thin carbon nanotubes**

P. Castrucci, F. Tombolini, M. Scarselli, E. Speiser, S. Del Gobbo, W. Richter, **M. De Crescenzi**, M. Diociaiuti, E. Gatto, M. Venanzi, "Large photocurrent generation in multiwall carbon nanotubes", *Applied Physics Letters* 89(25), 253107 (2006). (IF 4.5, cited 62 times).

We demonstrated, for the first time, the ability of multiwall carbon nanotubes to generate photocurrents in the near ultraviolet and visible spectral ranges by using electrochemical photocurrent measurements.

7) **New 2D nanomaterials with sp² configuration: silicon nanotubes**

M.De Crescenzi, P.Castrucci, M.Scarselli, M.Diociaiuti, P.S.Chaudari, C.Balasubramanian, T.M.Bhave, S.V.Bhoraskar, "Experimental images of silicon nanotubes", *Applied Physics Letters* 86, 231901-3 (2005). (IF 4.5, cited 129 times).

We have reported for the first time experimental evidence of the synthesis of clean silicon nanotubes showing a very thin wall. The TEM and EELS spectra performed on each single nanotube showed that non-oxidized silicon atoms constitute them.

8) **3D meshes of carbon nanotubes guide neuronal reconnections**

S. Usmani, E.R.Aurand, M.Medelin, A.Fabbro, D. Scaini, J. Laishram, F. B Rosselli, A. Ansuini, D. Zoccolan, M. Scarselli, **M. De Crescenzi**, S. Bosi, M. Prato, L.Ballerini "3D meshes of carbon nanotubes guide functional reconnection of segregated spinal explants" *Science Advances* 2 (7), e1600087 (2016) DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1600087. (cited 28 times).

In modern neuroscience, significant progress in developing structural scaffolds integrated with the brain is provided by the increasing use of nanomaterials. We showed that a multiwalled carbon nanotube self-standing framework, consisting of a three-dimensional (3D) mesh of interconnected, conductive, pure carbon nanotubes, could guide the formation of neural webs in vitro where the spontaneous regrowth of neurite bundles is molded into a dense random net. This morphology of the fiber regrowth shaped by the 3D structure supports the successful reconnection of segregated spinal cord segments.

9) **Record efficiency of air-stable multi-walled carbon nanotube/silicon solar cells** F.DeNicola, M.Salvato, C.Cirillo, M.Crivellari, M. Boscardin, M. Scarselli, F.Nanni, I.Cacciotti, **M.De Crescenzi**, P.Castrucci "Record efficiency of air-stable multi-walled carbon nanotube/silicon solar cells" *Carbon* 101 (2016) 226-234 (IF 6.45, cited 16 times).

Multi-walled carbon nanotube (MWCNT) films form efficient heterojunction solar cells with n-type crystalline silicon (n-Si), due to their superior optical and electrical properties. We reported air-stable photovoltaic devices with world record photoconversion efficiency of 10%. We realized thin films consisting of MWCNTs arranged in semitransparent random networks deposited on n-Si substrates by a simple, rapid, reproducible, and inexpensive vacuum filtration process at room temperature. Such heterojunctions favor high and broadband carrier photogeneration, extending the Si spectral response from near infrared to near ultraviolet range. These results not only pave the way for low-cost, efficient, and broadband photovoltaics, but also are promising for the development of MWCNT-based optoelectronic applications.

10) **New 2D nanomaterials with sp² configuration: epitaxy of silicene on graphite** **M.De Crescenzi**, M.Scarselli, P.Castrucci P, M.Abbarchi, F.Jardali, A.Ronda, I.Berberzier, H.Vach," Formation of Silicene Nanosheets on Graphite", *ACS Nano* 10(12),11163–11171 (2016). (IF 13.94, cited 10 times).

We deposited silicon on a chemically inert graphite substrate at room temperature. Based on atomic force microscopy, scanning tunneling microscopy, and ab initio molecular dynamics simulations, we revealed the growth of 2D silicon nanosheets with honeycomb configuration and where the substrate–silicon interaction is minimized. Similar to the carbon atoms in graphene, each of the

silicon atoms has, in fact, three nearest and six second nearest neighbors, thus demonstrating its dominant sp^2 configuration. This is a new form to synthesize silicon that for its own nature prefers to crystallize in the sp^3 configuration like diamond.

Publications on International Journals with peer review of prof.Maurizio De Crescenzi

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F.Evangelisti, M.Capizzi, M.De Crescenzi, A.Frova, G.Baldacchini,
Solid State Communications **18**, 795 (1976).

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W.Andreoni, M.De Crescenzi, E.Tosatti,
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(Great Britain) 1978, 855-860.

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