TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents vi
List of Figures ix
List of Tables xi
List of abbreviations xii
Abstract xiii
1. Introduction 2

1.1 Historical background 2
1.2 Surface instabilities 5
1.3 Surface instability utilized to pattern surfaces 5
1.3.1 Dewetting 5
1.3.2 Phase separation of block copolymers and polymer blends 6
1.3.3 Template guided structuration 6
1.3.4 Electrohydrodynamic patterning 6
1.3.5 Surface patterning due to Thermal-gradient 7
1.3.6 Breadth figures 7
1.3.7 Water-ions induced nanostructuration 7
1.3.8 Nanobubble assisted nanopatterning 8
1.3.9 Reaction-diffusion surface patterns 8
1.3.10 Growth processes: crystal growth and aggregation 8
1.3.11 Surface wrinkling 9
1.4 Patterning of surfaces with polymer 9
1.4.1 Top-down polymer patterning techniques 9
1.4.1.1 Mask based patterning technique 10
1.4.1.2 Printing and writing techniques 10
1.4.1.3 Molding Techniques 11
1.4.2 Bottom-up patterning techniques 11
1.4.2.1 Macromolecular Assembly 12
1.4.2.2 Polymeric nano/microparticle assembly 12
1.4.2.3 Layer by layer assembly 13
1.5 Dewetting 16
1.5.1 Reason for polymer to be chosen for film formation 17
1.5.2 Necessary condition for film to become unstable 18
1.6 Motivation 19
1.7 Research objectives 19
1.8 Structure of the thesis 20
References

2. The effect of dewetting liquid composition on the dewetting of polystyrene thin film. 30
Abstract 31
2.1 Introduction 31
2.2 Materials and methods 36
2.2.1 Materials and chemicals 36
2.2.2 Equipments 36
2.2.3 Glasswares 36
2.2.4 Methods 37
2.2.4.1 Cleaning of silicon wafers 37
2.2.4.2 Spin coating 37
2.2.4.3 Dewetting procedure 38
2.3 Result and Discussion 41
2.3.1 Dewetting studies 41
2.3.1.1 Effect on instability wavelength(λ) 46
2.3.1.2 Effect on droplet diameter(d) 47
2.3.1.3 Polymer is not soluble in dewetting mixture 48
2.4 Conclusion 51
References 52

3. The effect of surface properties on the length-scales of dewetting. 58
Abstract 58
3.1 Introduction 58
3.1.1 The lotus effect 62
3.1.2 Surface Models and Characterization 64
3.1.2.1 Surface models 64
3.1.2.2 Wetting behaviour 65
3.1.3 Conventional fabrication of hydrophobic surface 66
3.1.3.1 Creating a surface rough on hydrophobic material 67
3.1.3.2 Modifying a rough surface with hydrophobic coating 67
3.1.4 Chemical modification with silane 68
3.1.4.1 Formation of silane monolayer 68
3.1.4.2 Silane coupling agents 69
3.2 Materials and methods 70
3.2.1 Materials and chemicals 70
3.2.2 Equipments 70
3.2.3 Glasswares 70
3.2.4 Methods 71
3.2.4.1 Cleaning of Silicon wafers 71
3.2.4.2 Silanization 71
3.2.4.3 Dewetting procedure 72
3.3 Result and Discussion 72

3.4 Conclusion 79
References 79

4. The formation of aligned droplets by dewetting of electrospinned Polystyrene nanofibers and its comparison with Rayleigh Plateau Instability 86
Abstract 87
4.1 Introduction 87
4.1.1 Basic theory and mechanism 87
4.2 Material and method 89
4.2.1 Materials and Chemicals 89
4.2.2 Equipments 90
4.2.3 Glasswares 90
4.2.4 Methods 90
4.2.4.1 Cleaning of glass slides 90
4.2.4.2 Deposition of electrospinned Polystyrene fiber 91
4.2.4.3 Dewetting procedure 92
4.3 Results and Discussion 93
4.3.1 Deposition of fibers on unsilanized substrates and annealed at lower temperature(60^{o}C) 96
4.3.2 Deposition of fibers on silanized substrate and annealed at lower temperature (60^{o}C). 98
4.3.3 Deposition of fibers on unsilanized substrate and annealing at a higher temperature (120^{o}C). 100
4.3.4 Deposition of fibers on silanized substrate and annealing at a higher temperature (120^{o}C) 102
4.3.5 Comparison with Rayleigh-Plateau instability model 104
4.3.6 Multiple times dewetting 105
4.4 Conclusion 105
References 106

5. Conclusions and Future directions 109
5.1 Conclusion 109
5.2 Future directions 112

List of Publications 114