Utilizing Engineered Carbon Surfaces – Fundamentals and Applications

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EH Yang Group Research











Outline of Presentation

I. Tunable Polymer Surface-based Microfluidics

II. Growth of CNTs on Graphene

Wetting

- Wetting: The ability of a liquid to maintain contact with a solid surface.
- The wettability is determined by a force balance between adhesive and cohesive forces.
- At the interface between a liquid and a gas, forces develop in the liquid surface that causes the surface to behave as if a "membrane" were stretched over it.



Water beads on a fabric that has been made non-wetting by chemical treatment.

Electrowetting on Dielectric



Electrowetting on Dielectric



Advanced Liquid Logic, Inc.

Advanced Liquid Logic powered by Digital Microfluidics	Home	Applications & Products	Technology	About Us	Contact Us	
Home Newborn Screening						

Newborn Screening

Advanced Liquid Logic has developed the LSD-100, an automated newborn screening system capable of rapidly and simultaneously performing 5 assays on 40 dried blood spot extracts along with 4 controls & 4 calibrators.

Components of the LSD-100 Newborn Screening System

The Newborn Screening Analyzer

- · A small form-factor (8"x13"x20") bench-top instrument
- Houses electronics, thermal components and optical detection
 systems
- Up to four instruments controlled from one PC, providing scalability



Digital microfluidic cartridge

- Capable of rapidly and simultaneously performing 5 assays on 40 dried blood spot extracts along with 4 controls & 4 calibrators
- Minimal hands on time for reagent loading
- Disposable under standard biohazard procedures
- Reagents for each assay type are formulated at Advanced Liquid Logic under controlled manufacturing practices.



- Quantitative analysis of DNA (qPCR) and RNA (RT-qPCR)
- Protein analysis using both enzymatic and immunoassay techniques
- DNA sequencing using a sequencing-by-synthesis method
- Sample preparation from many different sample matrices (blood, swabs, saliva, etc.)
 - Preparation of fragment libraries for next generation sequencing

http://www.liquid-logic.com/lsd-100

Electrostatic Charging



Water droplet displacement between plates of a plate condenser that were placed 10 mm apart (*with a voltage increase from 0 to 1,600 V*) in a digital microfluidic system.

Wetting on Smart Polymer

 Smart polymer (stimuli-responsive polymer) changes its property when triggered by an environmental stimulus temperature, humidity, pH, light, electrical or magnetic field.



Angew. Chem., Int.Ed., 2004, 43, 357

Polypyrrole (PPy)

- Conjugated polymers have alternating single- and doublebonds between carbon atoms on the polymer backbone.
- Chemical/electrochemical oxidation or reduction facilitates reversible doping.
- Low actuation voltage (<1V).
- High conductivity : ~220 S/cm.
- Changes in volume and roughness





Nano Lett., 2011, 11 (3), pp 1284–1288

PPy Actuators



Droplet Manipulation at Low Voltages (<1.5V)







- Low-cost, hand-held device (directly powered by a AAA battery) containing complex liquid handling assays.
- Elucidate the ion-surfactant-liquid interactions at the conjugated polymer surface and the wetting properties.



DBS doped PPy (PPy(DBS))



The reduced PPy has higher surface tension than the oxidized PPy.

Electropolymerization and Test Setup



Manipulating a Liquid Droplet



Dynamic Behavior



Possible Explanation





- DBS⁻ molecules are immobile in PPy
 - Matencio 1995 Synth. Met.
 - Smela 1999 J. Micromech. Microeng.
 - Bay 2001 J. Phys. Chem. B
 - Matencio 1994 J. Braz. Chem. Soc.
- DBS- molecules are released from PPy
 - Halldorsson 2009 Langmuir
 Oxidised PPy.DBS



DBS Molecules and Droplet Flattening

Direct application of DBS⁻ molecules

Non contact flattening, proving that DBS⁻ molecules are released from PPy surfaces



Release of DBS⁻ Molecules



Interfacial Tension



Reversible Change of Interfacial Tension



- Young-Dupré equation
- $W_a = \gamma (1 + \cos\theta)$
 - *W_a* is the work of adhesion of the liquid to the solid
 - γ is the interfacial tension
 - θ is contact angle
 - γ becomes smaller
 - θ becomes bigger (>90°), hence cosθ becomes smaller
 - Much smaller adhesion

The decrease of interfacial tension associated with the increase of contact angle results in an extremely low adhesion.

Submitted

Lubricant-Impregnated Surface (MIT)



Switching of Adhesive Properties



- Capturing the droplet by oxidization (no need to apply any potential)
- Releasing the droplet by reducing the PPy.

Hilton Head Workshop, Hilton Head Island, SC, 2014

On-Demand Switching: Sticky to/from Slippery



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Lateral Diffusion of Cations



Lab Chip, 13, 302 (2013)

Lateral Diffusion of Cations



The contact angle decreases when a reductive potential is applied for over 10 seconds, where the cations gradually diffuses out through the PPy(DBS) layer and the reduction is propagated laterally.

Droplet Transportation from One Electrode to Another



An organic droplet moves from the reduced electrode to the oxidized electrode due to a surface wettability gradient and lateral diffusion of cations.

Transducers, Barcelona, Spain 2014

Droplet on Tunable Electrodes (1)







Droplet on Tunable Electrodes (2)





Au/Cr

Si

SiO₂

Droplet on Tunable Electrodes (3)







Transportation Dynamics



 PPy(DBS) electrodes exhibit extremely low friction during the movement of a droplet evident by a small contact angle hysteresis.

Future Applications



Future Applications



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II. Growth of CNTs on Graphene

Graphene

- Graphene is composed of carbon atoms arranged in tightly bound hexagons just one atom thick.
- In 2004, Geim and Novoselov demonstrated that single layers could be isolated, resulting in the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010.
- It is a good thermal and electric conductor.
- Experiments have shown it to be incredibly strong.



Carbon Nanotubes

- Carbon nanotubes are sheets of graphene rolled into cylinders.
- The diameter of the tubes are typically of nanometer dimensions, while the lengths are typically micrometers.
- This huge aspect ratio leads to unusual electrical transport.
- Some tubes behaving as metals and others as semiconductors.
- The band structure of graphite was first calculated by Wallace in 1947, but it was not until 1991 that multi-walled nanotubes were discovered.



(n,n) armchair





Material Properties

Property	Graphene	CNT	Compare to	
Elastic Modulus	1060 GPa	~1000-5000 GPa	1220 GPa (Diamond)	
Intrinsic Fracture Strength	130 GPa	13-53 GPa	6.8 GPa (UH-MW- Polyethylene)	
Charge Mobility	2,000-200,000 cm²/V-s	100,000 cm²/V-s	8,500 cm²/V-s (GaAs) or 1,000 cm²/V-s (Si)	
Resistivity	10 ⁻² -10 ⁻⁸ Ω-cm	~10 ⁻² Ω-cm	1.59 x 10 ⁻⁸ Ω-cm (Ag)	
Thermal Conductivity	5000 W/m-K	>3000 W/m-K (MWNT)	400 W/m-k (Cu)	
SSA	2630 m²/g	50-1315 m²/g	XX	
Permeability	Impermeable	N/A	XX	
Transmission	97.7%	N/A	85-92% (ITO)	

Utilizing the Surface Area



- Structured materials: 39.1% 5-yr CAGR, from \$17.5 million in 2015 to \$91 million in 2020.
- **Graphene in displays**: This segment will reach \$43.8 million in 2020.
- Graphene-based photovoltaics (PV): 36.1% 5-yr CAGR, from \$7.5 million in 2015 to \$35 million in 2020.

Supercapacitor



Graphene-CNT Composites/Structures



Reticular Branch Structures



- 1. Cheng et al, Joural of Power Sources 2013;
- 2. Wimalasiri et al, Carbon 2013;
- 3. Kong et al, Carbon 2014;
- 4. Zhao et al, Materials Chemistry and Physics 2013;
- 5. Cheng et al, Sci. Technol. Adv. Mater. 2014

Graphene-CNT Composites, CNTs acts as "Pathway"



Self-aggregation issue

Graphene Etching vs. CNT Growth



Graphene Week 2010, College Park, MA, USA 2010

Hydrogenation Reaction



The reaction equilibrium between the source hydrocarbon decomposition and carbon saturation into and precipitation from the catalyst nanoparticles shifts toward either CNT growth or graphene etching.

Campos et al, Nano Letters 2009

Seamless Graphene-CNT Architectures



- Continuous Structure
- Charge carrier paths well aligned
- No aggregation
- High surface area-volume ratio

CVD Graphene Growth



CVD Graphene Growth



Domain Study

- CVD graphene \rightarrow Polycrystalline
- Electronic and mechanical properties affected by presence of grain boundaries.
- Key challenge \rightarrow control of domain
 - Shape
 - Orientation
 - Size

- 1 Vlassiouk et al, ACS Nano 2011 2 Gao et al, Nature Comm 2012
- Cu/graphene interface influences domain growth mode









Cu Grain Effect on Graphene Domain Shape



Growth of 2-lobed symmetrical curvilinear graphene domains specifically on Cu{100} surface orientations \rightarrow directly influenced by surface energy anisotropy stemming from electron density correlations between the Cu lattice directions (4-fold symmetry) and the graphene fast growth axes (6-fold symmetry).

2-lobed Symmetrical Curvilinear Graphene Domains



$$v(\theta) = (1+r) + (1-r)\cos(\theta)$$

- *v*. growth velocity
- *θ*: angle between the edge normal and slow growth direction
- *r*: ratio of the velocities in the slow and the fast directions and is *the anisotropy factor for the 4-fold symmetric Cu(100) surface*.

The observed shape of a curvilinear lobe fits well to the function describing the angular dependence of the fast growth velocity to surface anisotropy. The distinctive shape of the graphene lobes on Cu{100} emerges from a growth velocity, dependent on surface anisotropy.

Graphene - Annealing Effect



- Impact of polymer removal by annealing on the doping, strain, and morphology of graphene.
 - Annealing-based processes create morphological changes and directly influence doping and strain

Pre-Annealing



Oxygen annealing

Carbon, (64), 35, (2013)

Graphene Micro Ribbons for Photodetectors

Photoelectric (PE) effect $\rightarrow I_{PE} \propto P_{opt}$

Thermoelectric (PE) effect $ightarrow I_{TE} \propto (P_{opt})^{2/3}$



The fully-suspended CVD graphene is dominated by the faster photoelectric effect.
 → Promising towards fabrication of graphene photodetectors with high cut-off frequencies.

Transfer of Large-area Nanopatterned Graphene



Wafer-Scale Nanopatterned Graphene



Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology B, 6(32), 2166-2746 (2014)

Growth of CNTs on Graphene



Two competing reactions. 1. carbon growth out of metal catalyst islands. 2. hydrogenation (the reaction of ambient H_2 with the carbon growth in the presence of catalyst to form methane gas), resulting in an etching of the graphene substrate.

Graphene-CNT Composites/Structures

CNTs in-plane on fewlayer graphene Graphene-CNT composite

Graphene-CNT network



CNTs on reduced graphene oxide

CNTs on few-layer graphene



Hunley et al, ACS Nano 2011
 Lee et al, Adv Mater, 2010
 Kim et al, J Mater Chem 2012
 Zhu et al, Nature Comm, 2012
 Paul et al, Small 2010

7. Wimalasiri et al, Carbon 2013;

8. Kong et al, Carbon 2014;

9. Cheng et al, Sci. Technol. Adv. Mater. 2014

Reaction Equilibrium: Growth of CNTs on Graphene

Graphene-CNTs multi-stack nanostructures may achieve an extremely high *active* surface area with well aligned charge carrier paths.





- The full utilization of a graphene-CNT construct requires maintaining the integrity of the graphene layer during the CNT growth step.
- Successful growth occurs when the reaction equilibrium is *shifted towards suppression* of hydrogenation reaction.

CNT Catalysts: Thermal Treatment

800°C









Ar/H₂ (400/50 sccm)

800°C

Low density nanoparticles Hydrogenation active

700°C

High density nanoparticles Hydrogenation suppressed

Growth: C₂H₄

Thermal Treatment: 800°C *CNT Growth:* 800°C





Two stage growth

Bottom Side

- 1. C_2H_4 and graphene \rightarrow bottom side
- 2. $C_2H_4 \rightarrow \text{top side}$

 $Ar/H_2/C_2H_4 = 400/50/50$ sccm

Carbon Feedstock: C₂H₄

Thermal Treatment: 700°C Thermal Treatment: 700°C CNT Growth: 800°C CNT Growth: 700°C $\mu = 24 \pm 3 \text{ nm}$ Bottom side CNTs **Bottom side** Top side SiO₂ Enlarged etched pits in 400 nm graphene 100 µm

- Nanoparticles are non-mobile during growth step
- At high temperatures, H₂ from C₂H₄ contributes to hydrogenation: results in the primary growth of etched pits and lines.

Suppressed Graphene Etching During CNT Growth



(a) intact graphene substrate and (b) without graphene (etched away)

Using C_2H_4 gas as a hydrocarbon source under low temperature (700°C) and controlled gas ratio conditions \rightarrow Catalytic hydrogenation reaction suppressed to avoid etching of graphene during the CNT growth process.

Chemistry of Materials, 25(19), 3874–3879 (2013)

CNFs vs. CNTs





Our growth: The graphene planes within the yellow region are parallel to the tube growth axis, verifying that CNTs have been grown.

Raman Spectra of CNT/Graphene



Although the G band of graphene is sharp and symmetric, it is broad and asymmetric in the CNTs only and graphene-CNT sample because of a smeared splitting effect from the G^+ and G^- components.

The G⁻ (~1570 cm ⁻¹) component arises from vibrations along the circumferential direction of the CNTs, whereas the G ⁺ (~1610 cm ⁻¹) component arises from vibrations along the tube growth axis.

Seamless Growth of CNTs from Graphene



The blue color indicates the CNT walls extending from the graphene support, and the white color further highlights the root region.

Multi-stack Increases Surface Area





The seamless growth of CNTs from graphene with suppressed graphene etching permits multistack CNTgraphene architectures.

Conclusions

□ Tunable Wetting on Conjugated Polymer Surfaces

- We studied controlled switching of adhesive properties and their relationship with ion-surfactant-liquid interactions.
- The decrease of interfacial tension associated with the increase of contact angle yields an extremely low adhesive property.
- This tunable wetting technology is a pathfinder for next generation lab chip, oil separation, and antimicrobial engineering applications.

Growth of CNTs on Graphene

- The full utilization of a graphene-CNT construct requires maintaining the integrity of the graphene layer during the CNT growth.
- We studied optimized CNT growth process to exhibit graphene-CNT hybrids with continuous, undamaged structures.
- With further improvement in growth techniques, we pursue energy storage and sensing applications.

Acknowledgement

Current Group Members:

Smart Polymer μ-fluidics W. Xu, J. Xu, E. Cook, L. Shultz, (Y.-T. Tsai) *Nanofabrication* J. Ding, X. Wang, G. Hader, S. Fu, A. Palumbo, R. Mcilraith *Graphene and 2D materials* K. Kang, K. Godin (K. Kumar, V. Patil, Y. Kim)



Collaborators in microfluidics and CNT/Graphene: Strauf, Choi, Fisher





Photocurrent Generation Process



- **Substrate-Supported**: Carriers relax due to substrate scattering effects and low mobility resulting in a limited contribution from the photoelectric effect.
- **Fully Suspended**: Carriers experience a slow-down in relaxation due to absence of substrate scattering and enhanced mobility/heat-conduction, resulting in a lager contribution of the photoelectric effect.