# **Carbon at the Nanoscale**



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# **Talk Outline**







- Carbon at the Nanoscale
- Modern nanodiamond (ND) particles
- ND of dynamic synthesis (using explosives)
  - size, morphology
  - N state
- Recent advances in detonation ND



# **Facts about Carbon**

- "Carbon" comes from Latin carbo, coal
- Carbon is the 4-th most abundant element in the universe by mass (after H, He, O)
- Carbon is abundant in the Sun, stars, comets, atmospheres of most planets and meteorites (nanodiamond)
- Carbon forms more compounds than any other element (~ten million organic compounds described to date)
- Carbon is the 2-nd most abundant element in the human body by mass (about 18.5%) after oxygen



# **Carbon Chemistry**







# **Carbon Nanotubes**

<u>Total number of publications on</u> <u>Nanocarbons (in ISI):</u>

- nanodiamonds: 2,524 papers
- fullerenes: 12,872
- carbon nanotubes: 46,568
- graphene: 6,539



• Most cited fact of discovery of SWNT: 1991 by Iijima, but there are reports on earlier discoveries

#### <u>SWNT:</u>

- Diameter: typical 1-10nm
- Range of diameters: 0.3-100 nm
- The thinnest carbon nanotube is armchair (2,2) CNT with a diameter of 3 Å. )
- Length range 10 nm -50 um
- The longest: 18 cm (as of 2010)
- The shortest: cycloparaphenylene





# **Carbon Nanotubes**

#### Methods of production:

- arc discharge (1991 Iijima), SWNT & MWNT
- laser ablation, (w/catalyst), SWNT
- chemical vapor deposition (CVD) (w\catalyst), SWNT & MWNT
  - high pressure CO conversion (HiPco), SWNT
- water-assisted CVD (supergrowth) Manufactured ~100s of tons per year (Bayer and Showa Denko)



#### <u>Properties:</u>

- Band gap of SWNT: from zero to ~2 eV
- electrical conductivity of SWNTcan show metallic or semiconducting behavior
- tensile strength: ~100GPa
- (specific strength of up to 48,000 kN·m·kg<sup>-1</sup> vs. 154 kN·m·kg<sup>-1</sup> for steel)
- thermal conductivity along SWNT axis ~3500 W·m<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup> (~2000 for diamond)

#### <u>Cost:</u>

- \$1500 per gram of SWNT as of 2000
- retail prices of around \$50 per gram of as-produced
- (40-60% by weight) SWNTs as of 2010



# Fullerenes (buckyballs)





- Smallest: C20
- Most abundant: C60 (buckminsterfullerene)
- endohedral fullerenes have ions inside the cage atoms

#### Carbon onions

- Outer diameter: 10nm-1 um
- Inner diameter: 0.7-1 nm (~C60)
- Discovered in 1985 (laser vaporization of carbon in an inert atmosphere)
- Using arc to vaporize graphite in 1990, macroscopic quantities (Kratschmer and Huffmann)
- Arc discharge method in 1991 (Smalley group), mass production
- Nobel Prize in chemistry for 1996 (Curl, Kroto, Smalley)
- Have been detected in outer space (2010)
   <u>Properties:</u>
- superconductivity (33K for Cs<sub>2</sub>RbC<sub>60</sub>)
- C60 molecules compose a solid of weakly bound molecules (fullerites)
- C60 is well soluble in many organic solvents



# Graphene



- Produced in 2004 (scotch tape graphite exfoliation)
- Shown in 2005 ballistic transport of charges, large quantum oscillations, anomalous quantum Hall effect, etc. ("exotic" physics)
- Nobel Prize in physics for 2010 (Geim, Novoselov)

#### Structural features\properties:

- "Rippling" of the flat sheet (amplitude ~1nm)
- The thinnest and the strongest material
- As a conductor of electricity it performs as well as silver
- As a conductor of heat it outperforms all other known materials
- It is almost completely transparent
- Sheets as wide as 70cm have been fabricated



# Graphene

### Production:

- Drawing method (mechanical exfoliation of graphite by cohesive tape)
- Epitaxial CVD growth on a substrate: SiC, metals (Ir, Ni, Cu, etc)
- Graphite oxide reduction (Boehm, 1962)
- Growth from metal-carbon melts (Ni)
- Cutting of open nanotubes (graphene ribbons)
- others

Manufactured ~tons per year (Segal M. Nature Nanotech. 4, 612–614, 2009)



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VORBECK MATERIALS
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Largest PAH:

10 benzene rings across

Applications: transistors, touch screens, solar panels, composite materials, etc

Nanographene: nanoplatelets, nanoribbons, etc

#### Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH): molecular cousins



coronene



ovalene

pentacene



# Nanocarbon in Space

Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech



#### In the interstellar medium (ISM)



Image credit: T.Daulton, NRL

- Optical properties of ISM depend on the existence of silicate grains & diverse populations of carbon-based molecules:
- Amorphous aliphatic hydrocarbon dust
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
- Carbon onions (multishell fullerenes)
- Nanodiamonds (C-H vibrational emission bands from ND)

#### In meteorites

- Nanodiamonds found in meteorites (Lewis, 1987)
- Up to 1400ppm of ND in primitive chondritic meteorites (T.Daulton, 2006)
- They are pre-solar grains (based on isotopic anomaly analysis) (Lewis, 1987)
- Isotopically anomalous Xe and Te in NDs are associated with supernovae
- Meteoritic ND are possibly formed by low pressure C condensation similar to the CVD
- Astrophysical nanodiamonds are ~2.6 nm or less
- Diamondoids (H-terminated surface) or bucky diamonds?



#### **Nanocrystalline Diamond Particles**

Range of primary particle sizes: 10-100 nm



#### Monocrystalline:

- Natural (grinding)
- -Synthetic HPHT (grinding)
- Microwave plasma torch

#### Polycrystalline (Poly-ND):

-Shock wave compression of graphite (DuPont process) -Detonation synthesis using carbon precursors/explosives (10-15nm grains)

#### **Ultrananocrystalline** Diamond Particles

Range of primary particle sizes: 1-10 nm



- -Detonation synthesis (carbon containing explosives)
- vapor grown
- chlorination of carbide
- ion irradiation of graphite
- laser irradiation of carbon
- HPHT (2009)

#### Highest diamondoids

#### Hydrogenated molecules 1-2 nm



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### **Nanodiamond of Dynamic Synthesis**





# Factors influencing nitrogen content and state





Shenderova et al., J.Phys.Chem.C, 2011



# Nanodiamond produced by a shock wave conversion of graphite

**Mypolex**<sup>™</sup>

- Fraction 25nm (DLS)
- N<0.5wt% (from CHN analysis)</li>
- Presence of graphite
- Presence of lonsdaleite
- Crystal size from XRD: 8nm (44°, Diam), 2.4nm(42.5°,Lonsd.)







### Nanodiamond from graphite\hexogen



50nm fraction (DLS)

- N <0.5wt% (from CHN analysis)
- Crystal size from XRD: 14.8nm (<111>), 9.6nm(<110>)
- Crystal size from SAXS: 35nm





### **Detonation Nanodiamonds Synthesis**

 $\frac{\text{trinitrotoluene (TNT)}}{C_6H_2(NO_2)_3CH_3}$ 



cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine (hexogen or RDX)



**Explosion chambers:** 

- Capacity 1-20 m<sup>3</sup>
- Explosives 0.5-10 kg

max capacity (experimental): 300m<sup>3</sup>, 140kg (water coating)

#### Yield:

- 5-10wt% of soot
- 35-70% DND in soot



# **Detonation Nanodiamond Formation**



V.V.Danilenko (2005)



# **Detonation Nanodiamond**



- N ~2.4 wt% (CHN analysis) from TNT\RDX (21at% of N in 50\50)
- N <1 wt% (CHN analysis) from TNT\HNS (hexanitrostilbene) (15at% of N)





# Pulse EPR studies of N<sub>s</sub> in Nanodiamond



- W-band mode (93.99 GHz) at room T and T=200K
- Pulse:  $\sim 00 T 2\pi/3 \tau 2\pi/3$ , (4-3000-96-300-96 ns)

Centers	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	concentration
<b>N</b> ⁰	590 ns	8.0 µs	6*10 <sup>16</sup> spin/g (1.2 ppm); ~1-4Nº /particle
Surface centers	190 ns	50 µs	7*10 <sup>20</sup> spin/g (14000 ppm)

• X-band mode (9.6 GHz) at room T



### **Raman & PL Spectra of Nanodiamonds**





S. Turner, et al. Adv. Funct. Mater. 2009, 19, 2116–2124

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### Nitrogen state in "large" particles of DND Spatially resolved EELS



# **Nitrogen-Vacancy Centers in Detonation ND**



Intense and stable emission from NV centers of large DND crystallites (>20-30 nm)



I. Vlasov, et al., Small, 2010

# Nitrogen-Vacancy Centers in ND from graphite\RDX

**F.Zelezko** University of Stuttgart, Germany

Fraction 35nm (DLS)

#### AFM





Luminescent <50% of particles Other work: Bradac et.al., Nature, 2010 1% of 5nm DND have NV; blinking (25%) 26

# Nitrogen-Vacancy Centers in ND from graphite\RDX

#### **F.Zelezko**

University of Stuttgart, Germany

Photon antibunching

#### Decay of Hahn echo (Magnetic resonance measurements on single NV)



- ~ 3 NV centers in a particle
- stable (no blinking) emission from NV centers
- Luminescence lifetime ~10ns
- In ND produced from graphite (Mypolex) NV were also observed
- For ND from TNT\RDX NV centers were observed in ND of wet synthesis but not in ND of dry synthesis

# **Conclusionson N in ND:**

• By varying carbon source material in production of ND of dynamic synthesis, it is possible to control N content and state

ND	N total	N <sub>s</sub> (EPR)	NV
graphite\RDX	<0.5 wt%	~1.2ppm	in <50% particles of ~30nm
Detonation	1÷2.5 wt%	weak	<ul> <li>absent in some types of DND</li> </ul>

- <u>as-produced</u> ND from graphite\hexogen contain NV centers in a noticeable fraction of particles (no irradiation needed!)
- $T_2$  (spin-spin relaxation time) of NV centers is about  $2\mu s$ , large enough to be useful for applications

• Up to 1%! of nitrogen-vacancy defects can form in DND after sintering at T = 800 °C and p=6 GPa (*P.Baranov, et al. Small (2011) DOI: 10.1002/smll.201001887*)



### **Trends in Detonation Nanodiamond**





### **Result of Fractionation & Deagglomeration of DND**



#### Raman spectra (excitation 442nm)

- Can be dried and re-suspended in DI water
   with similar size
- Well purified from sp2 carbon phase
- Carboxylic groups prevail (zeta potential in DI water is -45mV)
- Size cutoff less than 30nm



Raman shift, cm<sup>-1</sup>



### **Detonation Nanodiamond Model** (theory and experiment)



(image by V.Mochalin, O.Shenderova)



#### Detonation Nanodiamond & Onion-like Carbon: Applications in Composites

<u>Structural polymer nanocomposites</u>



- Transparentarmor
- Photonic structures





• Paints, coatings



- UV protection, EMI shielding
- Wear resistant paints
- Improved thermal properties
  - Improved adhesion
    - <u>ND-CNT functional coatings</u>



Motor oil additives
 Solid lubricants



Fuel efficiencyLubricant for airspace appl.

Metal nanocomposite coatings



- Hexavalent Cr replacement with Ni-ND
- x8 times improvement in wear



### Nanodiamond photonic structures











### Changing angle of view





V.Grichkoet al., *Nanotechnology* 19, 22, 225201 (2008)



## Nanodiamond photonic structures









#### **Important:**

- Nanoparticles of similar sizes
- Deionization of the suspension (high surface charge on nanoparticles)

#### Unusual features: Irregular shapes



#### **Applications: chem- and biodetectors**





# **Conclusions/Future Outlook**

• Based on unique electronic structure of C, new carbon allotropes can be discovered

• Carbon nanotubes and graphene are produced at a large scale and find broad applications, while fullerenes and nanodiamond particles are not

Further studies of ND synthesis is required
 Doping of DND with other elements during synthesis is a perspective direction

Reduction of DND cost is needed



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