

Graphene is an allotrope (form) of carbon consisting of a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in an hexagonal lattice.

It can be considered as an indefinitely large aromatic molecule, the ultimate case of the family of flat polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

The material was rediscovered, isolated, and characterized in **2004** by **Andre Geim** and **Konstantin Novoselov** at the University of Manchester.

This work resulted in the two winning the **Nobel Prize in Physics in 2010** "for groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene".



Andre Geim



Konstantin Novoselov



highly oriented pyrolytic graphite (HOPG)

tinkering for >10 years with the following idea



"Graphene" is a combination of "graphite" and the suffix -ene, named by Hanns-Peter Boehm, who described single-layer carbon foils in 1962.

Graphene can be considered an "infinite alternant" (only six-member carbon ring) polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon



nanoscale corrugation

Electric Field Effect in AtomicallyThin Carbon Films200

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We describe monocrystalline graphitic films, which are a few atoms thick but are nonetheless stable under ambient conditions, metallic, and of remarkably high quality. The films are found to be a two-dimensional semimetal with a tiny overlap between valence and conductance bands, and they exhibit a strong ambipolar electric field effect such that electrons and holes in concentrations up to 10^{13} per square centimeter and with room-temperature mobilities of ~ 10,000 square centimeters per volt-second can be induced by applying gate voltage.



Fig. 1. Graphene films. (A) Photograph (in normal white light) of a relatively large multilayer graphene flake with thickness ~ 3 nm on top of an oxidized Si wafer. (B) Atomic force microscope (AFM) image of 2 μ m by 2 μ m area of this flake near its edge. Colors: dark brown, SiO₂ surface; orange, 3 nm height above the SiO₂ surface. (C) AFM image of single-layer graphene. Colors: dark brown, SiO₂ surface; brown-red (central area), 0.8 nm height; yellow-brown (bottom left), 1.2 nm; orange (top left), 2.5 nm. Notice the folded part of the film near the bottom, which exhibits a differential height of ~0.4 nm. For details of AFM imaging of single-layer graphene, see (15). (D) Scanning electron microscope image of one of our experimental devices prepared from FLG. (E) Schematic view of the device in (D).

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Field effect



Fig. 2. Field effect in FLG. (A) Typical dependences of FLG's resistivity ρ on gate voltage for different temperatures T = 5, 70, and 300 K for top to bottom curves, respectively). (B) Example of changes in the film's conductivity $\sigma =$ $1/\rho(V_{a})$ obtained by inverting the 70 K curve (dots). (C) Hall coefficient R_{\perp} versus V_{a} for the same film; T = 5 K. (D) Temperature dependence of carrier concentration n_0 in the mixed state for the film in (A) (open circles), a thicker FLG film (squares), and multilayer graphene ($d \approx 5$ nm; solid circles). Red curves in (B) to (D) are the dependences calculated from our model of a 2D semimetal illustrated by insets in (C).



THERMODYNAMIC STABILITY



graphene: thermodynamically unstable for <24,000 atoms or size < 20 nm

Shenderova, Zhirnov, Brenner Crit Rev Mat Sci 2002

graphene sheets should scroll

Kaner *Science* 2003 Braga *et al Nanolett* 2004



THERMODYNAMICALLY UNSTABLE does not mean IMPOSSIBLE -JUST METASTABLE-

WHY THIS PAPER IMPORTANT

- observation of large isolated graphene crystals
- simple and accessible method for their isolation



CONTROL ELECTRONIC PROPERTIES ambipolar electric field effect

ASTONISHING ELECTRONIC QUALITY



ballistic transport on submicron scale under ambient conditions

NOT JUST AN OBSERVATION OF GRAPHENE:

GRAPHENE REDISCOVERED IN ITS NEW INCARNATION

DISCOVERY OF GRAPHENE digging through old literature

Benjamin Brodie *Phil Trans*. 1859

"carbonic acid"

"Graphon 33"

suspension of graphene oxide crystallites



TEM studies of the dry residue Ruess & Vogt 1948; Boehm & Hofmann 1962 remained the best observation for over 40 years!

simple method of isolation of large crystals







largest known flat hydrocarbon: 222 atoms or 37 benzene rings (K. Müllen 2002)





hydrogenation of graphene



Science 2009





fluorographene

Small 2010

Graphene Field Effect Transistors



Mass Production of Graphene



breaking strength of ~ 40 N/m

Record values for room temperature **thermal conductivity** (~5000 W m–1 K–1) and **Young's modulus** (~1.0 TPa)

Graphene can be stretched elastically as much as 20%, more than any other crystal

Chemistry of graphene

The associated strain and curvature can markedly influence local reactivity.

reagents can attach to both graphene faces

Covalent Functionalization Strategies for Graphene

many of the strategies already used for fullerenes or CNT may be applied to covalently decorate graphene

Exfoliation strategies

use of solvent to disrupt Wan der Waals interactions



use of surfactants

- electrochemical esfoliation
- Supercritical fluid exfoliation

Esfoliation of graphene



Schematic representation of the liquid-phase exfoliation (LPE) process of graphite in the absence (top-right) and presence (bottom-right) of surfactant molecules.

N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP, 40 mN/m), N,N'-dimethylformamide (DMF, 37.1 mN/m), γ -butyrolactone (GBL, 35.4 mN/m), and ortho- dichlorobenzene (o-DCB, 37 mN/m), are the best media for the exfoliation of graphite

SCHEME 5. Synthesis of Water-Soluble Graphene

Graphite +
$$O_{C-O-O} O_{C} O_{C-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O-O} O_{C-O} O_{C-O}$$

Mechanism of Graphene Oxide Formation



Schematics of conversion of bulkgraphite into GO with corresponding micrographic images or sample appearances at each phase. The three steps signify formation of the two intermediate products (stage-1 GIC and PGO) and the final GO product. The solid black lines represent graphene layers; dotted black lines represent single layers of GO; wide blue lines represent H_2SO_4/HSO_4 intercalant; wide purple lines represent a layer of the mixture of H_2SO_4/HSO_4 intercalant with the reduced form of oxidizing agent.

Prato's reaction



Schematic representation of various 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of azomethine ylides for the functionalization of graphene sheets. a) i) Exfoliation using o-DCB, ii) sarcosine, porphyrin-CHO, 160 °C, 7 days ;

b) i) Exfoliation using DMF, ii) BocNHCH₂CH₂NHCH₂COOH, HCHO, 130 °C, 3 days, iii) TFA, 12 h, iv) PAMAM dendrons, EDC, DMAP, HOBt, 12 h;

c) i) Exfoliation using NMP, ii) BocNH(CH₂CH₂O)₂CH₂CH₂NHCH₂COOH, HCHO, 125 °C, 5 days.



Nitrene radical addition

Insertion and addition reactions of singlet perfluorophenylnitrene generated from photolysis or thermolysis of PFPA

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by Universita Studi di Trieste on 14/01/2018 20:30:39.

Immobilization of graphene films and patterned structures

PFPAs derivatized with silane, disul- fide and phosphate

View Ar

Solution-phase functionalization of pristine graphene with PFPAs.

Nucleophilic addition to an alkene.

The driving force for the addition to alkenes is the formation of a nucleophile X– that forms a covalent bond with an electron-poor unsaturated system -C=C- (step 1). The negative charge on X is transferred to the carbon – carbon bond.

Ordinary alkenes are not susceptible to a nucleophilic attack. Perfluorinated alkenes (alkenes that have all hydrogens replaced by fluorine) are highly prone to nucleophilic addition,

nucleophilic addition of primary amines to carbon nanostructured materials

Raman spectra of pristine graphite (black), exfoliated graphene (gray), and ZnPc–graphene hybrid material 2 (red), obtained at λ exc = 514 nm.

Bingle Cyclopropanation NH2 NH2 Benzylamine Sonication ~NH2 ____NH2 ____NH2 ____NH2 formation in situ of alfa-bromo 1 or 2 CBr_{4,} DBU, MW irradiation derivative of malonic ester <u>م</u> Ö Ö \cap R O R_O 0 1 <u>ک</u> 0-R-O ŚŚŚ Ö Ô S -CH₂CH₃ **G1** 2 R: x S√S G2 s_́s

Aryl diazonium salt reaction

Diazonium salt functionalization processes on graphene. a) i) Exfoliation using SDS, azide, 8 h, ii) Azide-(dPEG)₄-acid, sodium ascorbate, CuSO₄, THPTA, 18 h;

b) i) Exfoliation using NaK, 3 days, ii) 4-tert-butylphenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate;

c) i) Dispersion of expanded graphene using $HCISO_3$, ii) $NaNO_2$, cat. AIBN, bromoaniline, iii) sonication in DMF.

Chemical Modification of Epitaxial Graphene: Spontaneous Grafting of Aryl Groups

The reaction (below) is due to spontaneous electron transfer from the graphene layer and its substrate to the diazonium salt.

Schematic illustration of grafting a diazonium salt with functional group R and counterion X to a graphene sheet. Two carbon atoms (in the A and B sublattices) make up the unit cell (gray diamond) of the graphene sheet (with lattice vectors a and b). Thermodynamically favored lattice positions for further functionalization are marked with black triangles.

Covalent Electron Transfer Chemistry of G

Characterization of functional graphene

AFM TEM TGA Raman spectroscopy Non covalent functionalization of graphene

all the strategies seen for CNT

Graphene: applications

Reinforced plastics

Opto and electronic applications

Sensing application at atomic level, Field effect transistors

Biomedical applications

Graphene: applications

The exceptional electron and thermal transport, mechanical properties, barrier properties and high specific surface area of graphene and combinations thereof make it a potentially disruptive technology across a raft of industries. In 2010, there were over 400 patents issued on graphene and 3,000 research papers published.

The European Union is funding a 10 year 1,000 million euro coordination action on graphene.

Graphene Flagship

South Korea is set to spend \$350 million on commercialization initiatives and the United Kingdom has announced investment of £50million in a new commercialization hub.

The following information refers to end user markets graphene companies are targeting their products to, by percentage. This information was accrued from a comprehensive survey of graphene companies.

In the area of biomedical applications, graphene is especially involved in drug delivery, biosensing and tissue engineering, with strong contributions to the whole nanomedicine area.

mechanical properties Biocompatibility Transparency Electrical conductivity

graphene is the ideal component for **flexible** biomedical electronic devices or implants, acting as a structural reinforcement or as an integral element.

In addition, graphene possesses **broadband absorption** and **high transparency** in the visible range (2.3% absorption for single-layer graphene), which grants a unique role in medicine enabling optoelectronic stimulation.

The **electronic properties** of graphene are very important for medical purposes (e.g. 2 x 10⁴ cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ carrier mobility and 10¹³ cm² carrier density for mechanically Exfoliated graphene), in particular to act as conducting component, electrode or support in bioelectronic devices, exceedingly outperforming current silicon and noble metal analogues.

Graphene materials as platforms for drug delivery

Chem. Soc. Rev., 2017, 46, 4400--4416

rGO = reduced graphene oxide

Few-Layer Graphene Kills Selectively Tumor Cells from Myelomonocytic Leukemia Patients

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 3014 –3019

FLG dispersions have a specific

killing action on monocytes, displaying neither toxic nor activation

effects on the other immunocompetent cells.

This therapeutic

activity of graphene was applied against an aggressive form of cancer, namely the myelomonocytic leukemia, where the monocytes are in a malignant form.

In this work it was demonstrated that FLG has the unique ability to cause specifically the necrosis of monocytic cancer cells.

Impact of FLG on different immune cell populations. A) Relative percentage of the different immune cells either incubated for 24 h with 50 mgmL@1 FLG or left untreated. Statistical significance compared to untreated cells (Student's T-test) is indicated by **=p<0.01. B) Relative morphological dot plots out of at least three experiments of total peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMCs) treated with FLG or left untreated. The gate on monocytes was done looking at the CD14 positive events (red dots). The other immune populations are left in green.

the comparison between FLG and a common chemotherapeutic drug confirmed the specificity and higher toxicity of FLG on cancer cells, evidencing the absence of toxicity on other immune cell populations.

Graphene-based bioanalytical devices

The sensing mechanism is produced by the change of the electronic properties of GFET induced by the interactions with the target element

Ex situ bioanalytical sensing *In situ* sensing implants