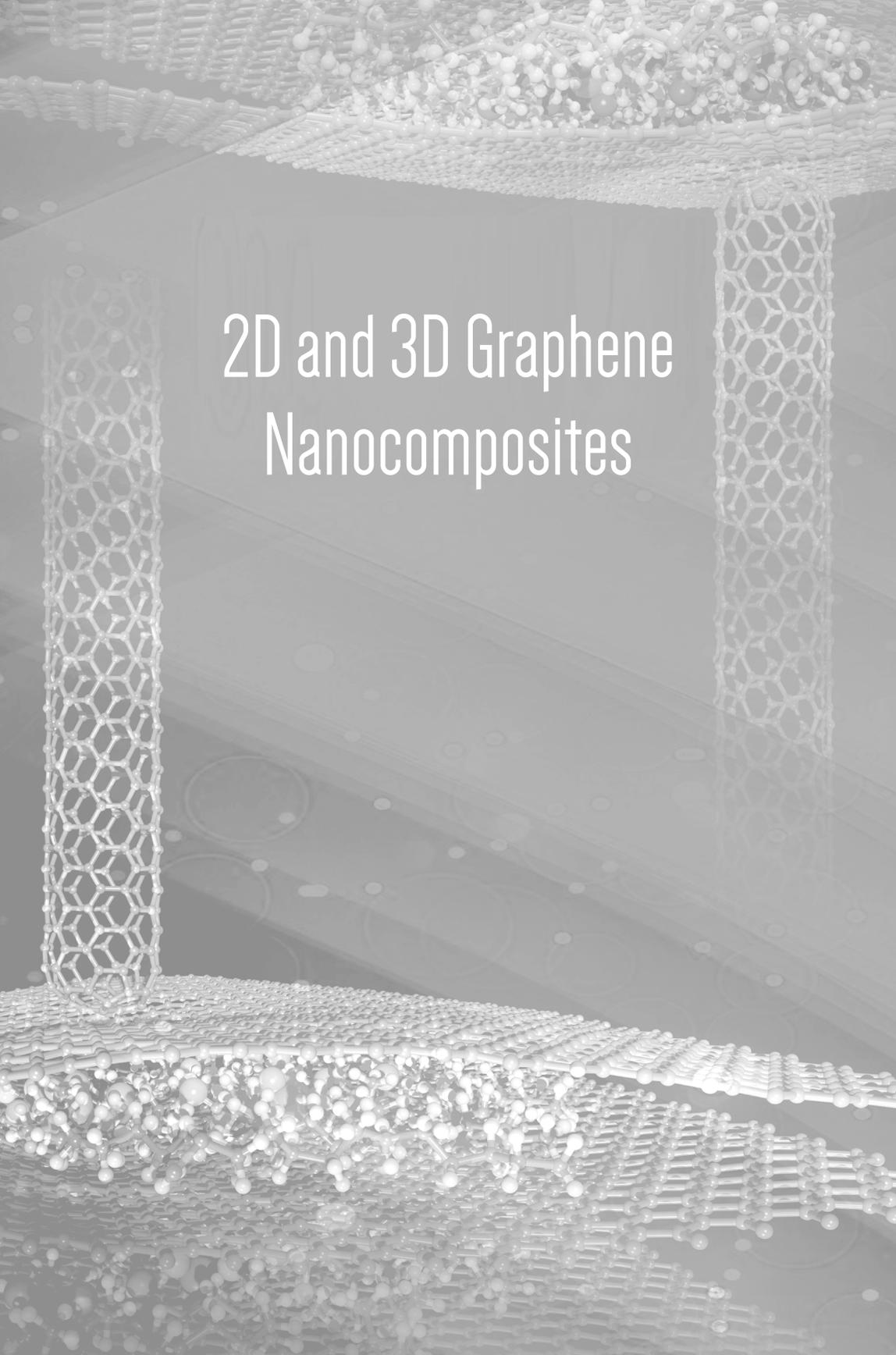


2D and 3D Graphene Nanocomposites

Fundamentals, Design, and Devices

edited by **Olga E. Glukhova**



A 3D molecular model illustrating the structure of 2D and 3D graphene nanocomposites. The image shows a layered structure of carbon atoms (represented by spheres) and bonds (represented by sticks). The top layer is a flat, hexagonal lattice of carbon atoms. Below it, two vertical cylindrical structures are shown, each composed of a hexagonal lattice of carbon atoms. The bottom layer is a more complex, multi-layered structure of carbon atoms and bonds, showing a 3D arrangement. The entire structure is rendered in a light gray color against a dark gray background.

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
1 Graphene and Graphene Nanomesh-Based Platforms for Sensing, Transparent Electrodes, and Catalysis Templates	1
<i>Ahmed A. Maarouf and Amal Kasry</i>	
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Graphene in Biosensing Applications	2
1.2.1 Graphene Surface Modification	4
1.2.2 Graphene as a Strong Fluorescence Quencher	9
1.3 Graphene as a Transparent Electrode	16
1.3.1 Graphene Nanomeshes as TCE Materials	17
1.3.2 Graphene/Nanotube Hybrid as TE Materials	30
1.4 Graphene Structures as Templates for Catalytic Nanoparticles	37
2 Essential Properties of Fluorinated Graphene and Graphene Nanoribbons	47
<i>Duy Khanh Nguyen, Ngoc Thanh Thuy Tran, Thanh Tien Nguyen, Yu-Huang Chiu, and Ming-Fa Lin</i>	
2.1 Introduction	48
2.2 Computational Methods	50
2.3 Results and Discussions	51
2.3.1 Fluorinated 2D Graphene	51
2.3.2 Fluorinated 1D Graphene Nanoribbons	57
2.3.3 Experimental Measurements	71
2.4 Concluding Remarks	73

3 Perspectives of New 2D Films Based on Covalently Bonded Graphene and Carbon Nanotubes for Electronic Applications	79
<i>Gang Zhang and Olga E. Glukhova</i>	
3.1 Introduction	80
3.2 “Method of Magnifying Glass” for Constructing Atomic Models of New Composite Nanomaterial CNT/Graphene Supercells with Covalent Bonds	82
3.2.1 First Step	83
3.2.2 Second Step	84
3.2.3 Third Step	85
3.2.4 Fourth Step	86
3.3 Electronic Properties of CNT/Graphene Composite	89
3.4 Electrophysical Parameters of CNT/Graphene Composite	96
3.5 Conclusion	101
4 Control of the Emission Properties of Pillared Graphene	107
<i>Olga E. Glukhova and Dmitry Shmygin</i>	
4.1 Introduction	107
4.2 Emission Properties of Pillared Graphene without Potassium Atoms	110
4.3 Emission Properties of Pillared Graphene at Different Mass Fraction of Potassium Atoms	114
4.4 Conclusion	131
5 Application of 3D Porous Graphene in Emission Electronics: New Atomistic Model and Numerical Estimations	135
<i>Olga E. Glukhova and Michael M. Slepchenkov</i>	
5.1 Introduction	135
5.2 Atomistic Model of 3D Structure and Film	137
5.2.1 3D Structure	137
5.2.2 Film	142
5.3 Electronic Structure of Glassy Carbon	144
5.4 Oxidation of 3D/2D Glass-Like Carbon	146
5.5 Functionalization by Potassium	148
5.6 Conclusion	157

6	Atomistic Structure and Electrical Conductivity of Pillared Graphene Films	161
	<i>Olga E. Glukhova and Dmitry Shmygin</i>	
6.1	Introduction	161
6.2	Atomistic Structure of Pillared Graphene	164
6.3	Atomic Structure of Pillared Graphene Films	167
6.4	Transmission Function of Pillared Graphene Films	169
6.5	Regularities of Electrical Conductivity for Various Models of Mono- and Bilayer Films of Pillared Graphene	183
6.6	Conclusion	188
7	Electro-conductive Properties and Applications of Graphene-DNA Nucleotide Complex	193
	<i>Dmitry Shmygin and Olga E. Glukhova</i>	
7.1	Introduction	193
7.2	Method	197
7.3	Results and Discussion	198
8	Structural and Electronic Properties of a New Multilayer Graphene/Graphane Material	203
	<i>Olga E. Glukhova, Vladislav V. Shunaev, and Michael M. Slepchenkov</i>	
8.1	Introduction	203
8.2	Construction of Graphene/Graphane Atomic Model	205
8.3	Electronic Properties	207
8.4	Conductive Properties	209
8.5	Conclusion	212
9	New Physical Effects in Graphene/C₆₀ Hybrid Systems	215
	<i>Olga E. Glukhova, Vladislav V. Shunaev, Vadim V. Mitrofanov, and Michael M. Slepchenkov</i>	
9.1	Introduction	216
9.2	Computational Details	217
9.3	Behavior of Fullerene C ₆₀ on Graphene with Local Hydrogenation of the Atomic Grid Segment	218
	9.3.1 Graphene Fragment with a Single Hydrogen Atom	218

9.4	Graphene Fragment with a Local Segment Containing 19 Hydrogen Atoms	219
9.5	Graphene Fragment with a Local Segment Containing 44 Hydrogen Atoms	223
9.6	Controlling the Shape of the C_{60} Trajectory by Varying the Topological Pattern of the Arrangement of Hydrogen Atoms on Graphene	226
9.7	Conclusion	231
10	Graphene/Carbon Nanotube Hybrid Material as an Element Base of Optical Nanodevices	237
	<i>Igor S. Nefedov and Olga E. Glukhova</i>	
10.1	Introduction	238
10.2	Computational Details	238
10.3	Results and Discussion	242
10.4	Conclusion	251
	<i>Index</i>	255

Preface

The discovery of graphene by A. K. Geim and K. S. Novoselov in 2004 divided the modern history of materials science into *before* and *after*. The research boom that began after the release of the first publication on graphene has affected many strategically important high-tech industries: energy conversion and energy storage, environmentally friendly technologies, medicine, electronics, and space applications. One of the new stages in the development of graphene materials science is associated with the study of composite materials based on graphene and other carbon nanostructures, including carbon nanotubes and fullerenes. A large number of scientific papers are devoted to theoretical and experimental studies of composite materials based on 2D graphene and 1D carbon nanotubes. There are several topological types of graphene-carbon nanotube composites that vary in the method of joining nanotubes and graphene as well as their mutual orientation. 3D pillared vertically aligned carbon nanotube-graphene composites and graphene-carbon nanotube composite films with horizontally aligned nanotubes are of most interest to researchers. The reason for such increased attention to graphene-carbon nanotubes composite materials is the improvement of their properties compared with conventional carbon materials due to the synergistic effect of nanotubes and graphene. The first results of research of new carbon composite structures showed their superiority over individual nanotubes and graphene in electrical, optical, and electrochemical properties, which opens up new ways to develop promising practical applications based on these materials.

Hybrid carbon nanosystems consisting of C_{60} fullerene films deposited on a monolayer graphene have broad prospects. Reports about this material began to appear in scientific papers only a

few years ago, however, it is already predicted that electronic nanodevices, including photovoltaic devices, will be developed on the basis of graphene/ C_{60} hybrid systems. It is predicted that a new promising direction in electronics will be the development of sensitive graphene-based sensors of single biomolecules, in particular, the DNA molecule. An important task in this area is to study the electronic energy and electrically conductive properties of graphene/DNA nucleotide molecular complexes from the standpoint of identifying the greatest sensitivity of graphene for the efficient operation of a DNA sensor.

An interesting and promising kind of graphene material is glass-like carbon, which is called an intermediate carbon material between layered graphene and fullerenes. This material has an irregular highly porous structure and a highly developed surface. There are two topological types of glass-like carbon: graphitized type—a material from multi-layered graphene flakes forming layers, and non-graphitized type—a material consisting of randomly distributed curved layers of graphene flakes and fragments of layered fullerenes, which form numerous nanopores. The presence of a porous structure makes this material suitable for filling with atoms of various chemical elements in order to control its characteristics in a wide range of values.

Numerous 2D graphene-like materials have already been distinguished into a separate class of materials, in the structure of which either carbon atoms in the lattice sites are replaced by atoms of a different chemical type or various adsorbed atoms are present. One of the main purposes of such modifications is the opening of the band gap in graphene, the value of which can be controlled, for example, by varying the concentration of adsorbed atoms. In particular, the functionalization with hydrogen and fluorine atoms leads to the appearance of a band gap in graphene. The new graphene modifications obtained in this way—hydrogenated graphene (graphane) and fluorinated graphene (fluorographene)—are intensively investigated by many scientific groups.

The progress achieved in the research of graphene and graphene-based composite materials to date would not be possible without computer simulation methods that significantly complement the results of full-scale experiments and in some cases can replace them

due to the special complexity or impossibility of performance. With the emergence of new structural varieties of graphene, the physical and mathematical apparatus is also being developed for their study.

This book covers the fundamental properties of new 2D/3D composite materials based on graphene and its modifications and discusses their potential application areas. It provides an interpretation of interesting physical effects discovered for the first time for graphene materials under consideration. It contains a description of the experimental methods for obtaining and characterizing samples of chemically modified graphene and the conceptual foundations of popular methods for computer modeling of graphene nanostructures as well as original computational techniques developed by the authors of the book chapters. The book is a result of the joint work of many highly qualified specialists in the field of experimental and theoretical research of graphene and its derivatives. The book will be useful for a wide audience, including students, graduate students, and researchers in academic institutions and also specialists in industrial engineering.

Olga E. Glukhova

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