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Facile Catalyst Deposition Using Mist for Fluidized-Bed Production of Sub-Millimeter-Long Carbon Nanotubes

Abstract

Fluidized-bed chemical vapor deposition (FBCVD) has enabled mass-production of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) [1]. By using spherical ceramic beads as catalyst support and depositing Fe/Al₂O₃ catalyst on them, we have realized semi-continuous production of sub-millimeter-long CNTs [2,3]. To improve the controllability over catalysts, a new method of catalyst deposition on ZrO₂ beads in fluidized bed by feeding water or organic catalyst mist is reported. In the water system, low-cost Fe(NO₃)₃ and Al(NO₃)₃ aqueous solutions mist is supplied and deposited on the beads. CNTs of 5-10 nm in diameter, triple-wall on average, 0.6 mm in length are synthesized with a yield of 16.6 mg_{CNTs}/g_{Beads} (Figures. 1 and 2). These results benefit from the uniform catalysts realized by mist-deposition and proper amount of Al, which is considered to play an important role in controlling the diffusion and aggregation of Fe atoms (Figure. 2). Besides, quick deposition of catalysts are realized by feeding aluminium isopropoxide and ferrocene ethanol solution mist. CNTs with 0.5 mm in length are synthesized with a yield of 17.0 mg_{CNTs}/g_{Beads}. These results indicate that mist deposition to be a facile and effective method toward high-yield production of CNTs.

References

- [1] Q. Zhang, et al., ChemSusChem, 7 (2011) 864.
- [2] D. Y. Kim, Carbon, 6 (2011) 1972.
- [3] Z. Chen, et al., Carbon, (2014) 339.

Figures

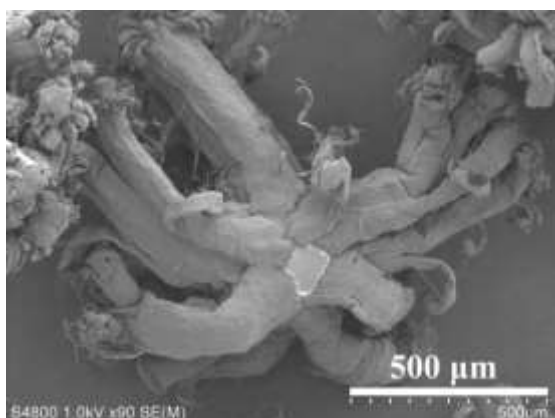


Figure 1: SEM image of CNTs on the beads.

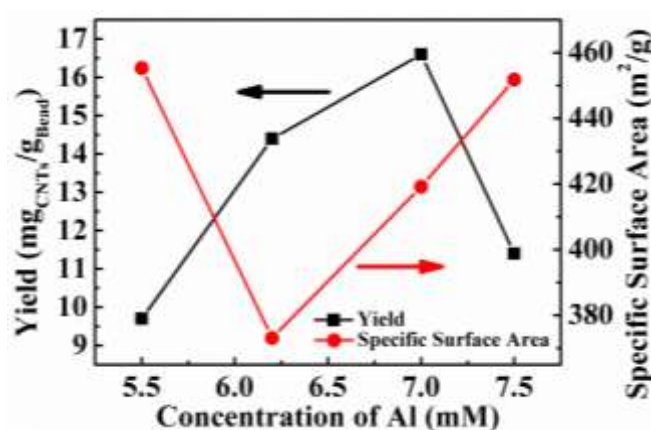


Figure 2: Effect of Al source concentration on the yield and specific surface area of CNTs.