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Carbon nanotube thin films for wearable electronics application

Wearable healthcare devices have the potential to revolutionize preventive medical care and health promotion technologies. Carbon nanotube thin films are promising electronic materials for transistors and integrated circuits [1,2], biosensors [3], and other passive components to build flexible and stretchable devices with excellent wearability and performance because of the high-carrier mobility, mechanical flexibility, and biocompatibility. In the presentation, after reviewing recent progresses of carbon nanotube-based electron devices, our recent works on flexible integrated circuits and biosensors for wearable devices are introduced. A concept to design carbon nanotube-based analog integrated circuits, which are indispensable for sensor devices, is presented, with a demonstration of the first carbon nanotube differential amplifiers on a flexible plastic film. Energy harvesting technologies, which harvest electricity from small energy sources existing in environment, may be useful for the power source of wearable devices. The CNT-based transparent and stretchable triboelectric generators, utilizing the contact electrification and electrostatic induction, will be introduced. Some demonstrations such as driving 100 blue LEDs with a 5x5 cm² triboelectric generator, a generator-equipped gloves lighting with hand claps, and so on will be shown in the presentation.

References

- [1] D.-M. Sun et al., Nat. Nanotechnol. 6, 156 (2011).
- [2] D.-M. Sun et al., Nat. Commn. 4, 2302 (2013).
- [3] W. Harreither et al., Anal. Chem. 85, 7447 (2013)