

Modelling the interaction between graphene surfaces and metallic nanoclusters

Isabel Lado-Touriño

Arisbel Cerpa Naranjo
Mariana P. Arce

*School of Architecture, Engineering and Design,
Universidad Europea de Madrid, c) Tajo s/n,
28670 Villaviciosa de Odón (Spain)*

misabel.lado@universidadeuropea.es

Abstract

The overuse of antibiotics has led to the flourishing of antibiotic-resistant bacteria [1] and consequently to the need to develop new, more efficient pharmacological compounds. Several advanced materials are being studied, among which are metallic nanoparticles and certain graphene oxides (GO) modified with polyethylene glycol (PEG) [2-4]. In this work, molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of the adsorption of small Ag and Cu clusters on pristine graphene and PEGylated graphene oxide (GO_PEG) surfaces were carried out. The results are presented as a function of nanoparticles concentration, adsorption energies, mean equilibrium distances between nanoparticles and graphene surfaces (figure 1), radial distribution functions and diffusion coefficients of the metallic nanoclusters. These preliminary results show that PEGylation of the surface is critical to strengthen the interaction between the surfaces and the metallic clusters, which, in turn, is a key factor for improving the efficacy of these compounds.

References

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Figures

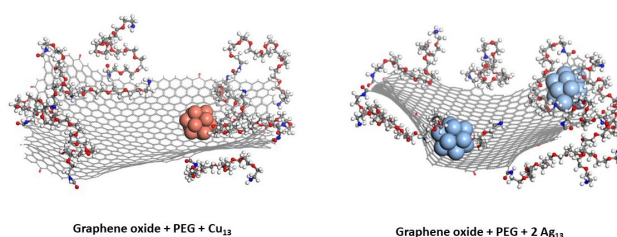


Figure 1: Final position of one Cu₁₃ cluster and two Ag₁₃ clusters on a PEGylated graphene oxide surface after 3 ns of simulation time.