

Confocal laser scanning microscopy as a real-time quality-assessment tool for industrial graphene synthesis

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Introduction

For the industrial quality control (QC) of the chemical vapor deposition (CVD) graphene, it is essential to develop a method to screen out unsatisfactory graphene films as efficiently as possible. However, previously proposed methods based on Raman spectroscopy or optical imaging after chemical etching are unable to provide non-invasive and fast analysis of large-area graphene films as grown on Cu foil substrates. Here we report that the reflection mode of confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) provides a high-contrast image of graphene on Cu, enabling the real-time evaluation on the coverage and quality of graphene. The reflectance contrast, R_C, was found to be dependent on the incident laser wavelength, of which the maximum was obtained at 405 nm. In addition, R_C decreases with increasing defect density of graphene. The dependence of R_C on the graphene's quality and laser wavelengths were explained by the tight-binding model calculation based on the Fresnel's interference formula. Thus, we believe that the reflection mode CLSM would be a very powerful quality-assessment tool for the mass production of CVD graphene films grown on Cu.

Motivation





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Results & Discussion



Fig. 1 | Concept of *in-situ* monitoring of the as-grown CVD graphene on Cu using CLSM. (a) The concept of monitoring the as-grown CVD graphene on Cu foil during the continuous roll-to-roll synthetic process using the reflective mode CLSM. (b)-(d) The CLSM images of the CVD graphene with various coverage from sub-monolayer to fully covered on Cu foil controlled by growth time of 10, 13, and 30 min, respectively. Scale bar: 10µm





Fig. 2 | Comparison of BF, DF and CLSM images of CVD graphene on Cu. The images of CVD-grown graphene on Cu foil with coverage of sub-monolayer in the same region obtained by (a) bright field microscope, (b) dark filed microscope, and (c) CLSM. The morphology of graphene domains on Cu foil was measured by AFM, as shown in (d). The height profile in the right, which is taken at a red dotted line in (d). Scale bar: 10µm.

Fig. 3 | Dependence of CLSM images on the incident laser wavelength. The CLSM images of the CVDgrown graphene on Cu foil obtained under four different laser wavelengths of (a) 405, (b) 488, (c) 504, and (d) 633 nm, respectively. The grayscale histograms in (e)-(f) were obtained in the area indicated by the red box in each CLSM image above. The black and red Gaussian curves in the grayscale histogram correspond to dark Cu and bright graphene, respectively.





 $\sigma = \sigma_{\text{intraband}} + \sigma_{\text{interband}}$



 $\sigma_{\text{interband}} = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \{ \theta(\hbar\omega - |2\mu|) \} + i \frac{1}{\pi} \log \left| \frac{\hbar\omega + |2\mu|}{\hbar\omega - |2\mu|} \right|$

Fig. 4 | Measured and calculated reflectance contrast with optical conductivity. (a) The real and imaginary parts of the optical conductivity of graphene were drawn according to Eqn. (3) and (4) as a function of wavelength. (b) The calculated and measured Rc of graphene on Cu were compared at four laser wavelengths of 405, 488, 543, and 633 nm, respectively.

Fig. 5 | Raman analysis and reflectance contrast of CVD graphene grown at different temperature. (a) The Raman spectrum of CVD graphene grown on Cu foil at different temperature of 700, 800, and 1000 °C, respectively. (b) The FWHM of 2D peak and the intensity ratio of D/G peak obtained from the Raman spectrum of (a) are compared with the growth temperature. (c) The carrier mobility and the statistical analysis of RC of CVD graphene are compared with the growth temperature.

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