

A Flexible and Robust Sensor for Human Breath Detection

Muhammad Mujtaba, Kin Liao, Lianxi Zheng

Research & Innovation Center for Graphene and 2D Materials (RIC-2D), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi 127788, UAE

100063741@ku.ac.ae

Abstract

Flexible ionic conductors are interesting materials for next-generation electronics, but it's hard to make a single material that has high toughness, strength, and conductivity. This research presents a high-performance composite film composed of surface-functionalized, carbon-doped boron nitride and polyvinyl alcohol, synthesized using blade casting method. The optimized film has high ionic conductivity while maintain impressive mechanical performance. The high proton conductivity is attributed to the effective proton transport channels formed by optimized hydrogen bonding between functional groups. The film demonstrates an excellent sensing over a wide range of relative humidity, reaching 99.9% sensitivity. For practical application, we successfully showcased its use to track human breathing activity. These results reflect the potential of our device as a flexible, strong, and highly conductive platform that has a potential to be used in wide range of sensing applications.

References

- [1] Mo, F., Lin, Y., Liu, Y., Zhou, P., Yang, J., Ji, Z., & Wang, Y. (2025). Advances in ionic conductive hydrogels for skin sensor applications. *Materials Science and Engineering: R: Reports*, 165, 100989. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mser.2025>.
- [2] Zhang, S., Lin, J., Yu, C., Guo, Z., Tang, C., & Huang, Y. (2025). An ultra-high response humidity sensor based on porous boron nitride nanofibers: For respiratory monitoring and non-contact sensing. *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical*, 437, 137744. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.snb.2025.137744>.
- [3] Zhang, S., Lin, J., Yu, C., Guo, Z., Tang, C., & Huang, Y. (2025). An ultra-high response humidity sensor based on porous boron nitride nanofibers: For respiratory monitoring and non-contact sensing. *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical*, 437, 137744. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.snb.2025.137744>.
- [4] Chen, L., Hu, K., Lu, M., Chen, Z., Chen, X., Zhou, T., Liu, X., Yin, W., Casiraghi, C., & Song, X. (2024). Wearable Sensors for Breath Monitoring Based on Water-Based Hexagonal Boron Nitride Inks Made with Supramolecular Functionalization. *Advanced Materials*, 36(18). <https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.202312621>.

Figures

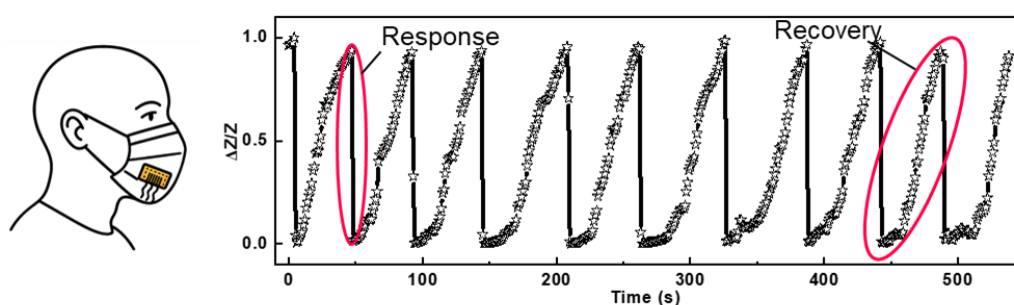


Figure 1: Human breath monitoring by observing the changes in impedance