



Molecular and carbon-based electronic systems

web	http://calame.unibas.ch/teaching
VV	lecture Nr. 37839-01
debit	attendance + 1 presentation
credit	2KP
where	seminar room 1.22, Physics Dpt, Klingelbergstrasse 82
when	Wednesday, 08h15-10h00

Michel Calame

Thilo Glatzel

Mo, Tu, Th: Empa, Dübendorf michel.calame@empa.ch Wed, Fr: Physics Dpt. & SNI, Uni Basel michel.calame@unibas.ch Physics Dpt., Uni Basel thilo.glatzel@unibas.ch

Assistant: Anton Vladyka

Physics Dpt., Uni Basel anton.vladyka@unibas.ch

Vorlesung Uni Basel, FS2017

Molecular and carbon-based electronic systems

goals

- provide background & fundamental aspects to anchor understanding
- discuss devices/applications where organic compounds are currently used

Tentative program

	1.	22.02	08:30	Introduction. Carbon from 0D to 3D: fundamental properties (mc)
	2	01.03	08:15	Single molecule deposition and properties on surfaces (tg)
	З.	08.03		No lectures 6.03-10.03 – Carneval
	4.	15.03	08:15	Molecule assemblies analysis and contacting on surfaces (tg)
	5.	22.03	08:15	Template structures for functional molecular junctions: nanoparticle arrays (AV)
	6.	29.03		Molecular junctions: formation mechanisms, transport basic (mc)
	7.	05.04		Molecular junctions: spectroscopy, light coupling (mc)
	8.	12.04		Insights in density functional theory for molecular junctions (MP)

fundamental aspects

towards applications/ devices workshop

Molecular and carbon-based electronic systems

goals

- provide background & fundamental aspects to anchor understanding
- discuss devices/applications where organic compounds are currently used

Tentative program

	9.	19.04	Thermal transport in junctions (BG, tbc)
	10.	26.04	Mechanical properties of carbon-based composite materials (CD, tbc)
	11.	03.05	Graphene for molecular electronics (mc)
	12.	10.05	Sensing (mc)
	13.	17.05	Diamond: production, nano-diamond, NV vacancies (tg)
	14.	24.05	Graphene oxide and applications (tg)
	15.	31.05	Workshop: talks by students

fundamental aspects

towards applications/ devices

workshop & preparing the talk: a few hints

- define topic, your main interest (see list by Anton) pre-screening work, basic topic understanding email to Anton by March 22nd anton.vladyka@unibas.ch
- structure the document
 what do you need / have ? What do you want to learn/con zy ?
- collect & select contents
 ⇒ main message, refine contents key publications & data checked & available
- identify supporting information background knowledge, backup information, context, impact



- **timing** review the above workflow and attribute a given nb of hours to each step - check back whether your prediction was appropriate
- help ask for feedback/discuss with Anton (topic, key papers, on what shall I focus)

obviously if you are not interested/convinced yourself, neither will your audience/readership be

CONTEXT

outline

electronics beyond Silicon

- other possible pathways for electronics

Carbon allotropes

- discovery

Carbon & molecular electronics

- brief historical account
- why molecules

molecular junctions

- how to contact nm-scale objects









transistor > 60 years old

1947, 24th December John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, William Schockley

ATT Bell Labs

first point contact transfer resistor Nobel 1956



6 DATE Dec 19 1947 CASH No. 38139-7 Tows paints an amface of this lease than to "apart 100 + 106 almo 1 curre 2 point 100 + 2×10° aluns very little unisticte Dec 24 1947 hving the ge inface the pare 197 N.B. 18194 and tap of the gold cantacto according B.A 240026 the fallen ing & circuit was set up to the above kung. D.C. value



Bell labs

Bell labs



⇒ Building blocks (transistors) at nm scale Volume reduced by 10¹²



planar geometry to 3D geometry fin-FETs & gate all-around (GAA) improvement of substreshold swing, higher switching speed, lower operation Voltage





Intel 14nm node





electronics beyond Si



AAAS 2015 ANNUAL MEETING INNOVATIONS, INFORMATION, AND IMAGING

SAN JOSE, CA

Beyond Silicon: New Materials for 21st Century Electronics

Saturday, 14 February 2015: 8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Beyond Silicon: Carbon-Based Nanotechnology

Nathan P. Guisinger and Michael S. Arnold, Guest Editors

MRS Bulleting 2010 special issue

Looking Beyond Silicon

Science 2010 special issue



Industrial Physics Forum 2013: The future of electronics

What technologies will extend silicon's reign as the preeminent material for electronics? What materials will ultimately supplant silicon? **Charles Day,** December 2013



electronics beyond Si



materials

Oxides interfaces



LaAlO3-SrTiO3 heterostructures Mannhardt et al., Science 2013

III–V compound semic. transistors

NW tunnel FETs Riel et al., MRS Bulletin 2014

Transition metal oxides

charge, spin, orbital degrees of freedom for diversity of phases exploiting e-e correlation



Takagi et al., Science 2013



Transition metal dichalcogenides (2D) MoS₂, WS₂, ...



Strano et al., Nat. Nano 2012

Organic & inorganic materials with elastomeric substrates



Stretchable electronics Rodgers et al., Science 2013



carbon-based materials



"nano-carbons"

publications/year on nanocarbons



M.S. Dresselhaus

Data extracted from Science Citation Index searching for the words fullerene, nanotube, and graphene

NB: nanoribbons

carbon





outline

electronics beyond Silicon

- other possible pathways for electronics

Carbon allotropes

- discovery

Carbon & molecular electronics

- brief historical account
- why molecules

molecular junctions

- how to contact nm-scale objects









carbon-based materials



Nobel lectures, Geim & Novoselov, 2010

carbon allotropes discovery

























fullerenes

The Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 1996**







Robert F. Curl Jr. Prize share: 1/3

Sir Harold W. Kroto Prize share: 1/3

Richard E. Smalley Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1996 was awarded jointly to Robert F. Curl Jr., Sir Harold W. Kroto and Richard E. Smalley "for their discovery of fullerenes".









fullerenes C60, C70, ...

Buckminster Fuller dome, Montreal, 1967

carbon allotropes discovery



H.G. Güntherodt († 2014) & Harry W. Kroto († 2016) in Basel for the 10th Anniversary celebration of the NCCR Nanoscale Science



Sir Harold W. Kroto

- Research PhD program
- Teaching bachelor & master
- Tech. transfer
- Public outreach

www. nanoscience.ch



carbon allotropes discovery

Forerunners of carbon nanotubes

My studies on carbon fibers started in 1980 through a collaboration with Morinobu Endo in Japan:
 M. S. Dresselhaus, G. Dresselhaus, K. Sugihara, I. L. Spain, H. A. Goldberg, *Graphite Fibers and Filaments*, Springer (1988)



- The nanotube-fullerene connection was made by going from C₆₀→C₇₀→C₈₀→CNT in a public discussion with Richard Smalley (Dec. 1990) in Washington, D.C.
- This idea suggested that a single wall carbon nanotube (SWNT) would be interesting (August 1991 fullerene conference) and led to calculating the electronic structure of SWNTs before they were ever seen





2012 Kavli Prize in Nanoscience M. Dresselhaus

"for her pioneering contributions to the study of phonons, electron-phonon interactions, and thermal transport in nanostructures"

R. Saito, M. Fujita, G. Dresselhaus, M. S. Dresselhaus, APL 60:2204 (1992)

M.S. Dresselhaus, Cargèse, 2014

carbon nanotubes



Single-wall or multi-wall

Metallic or semiconducting

Diameter: 0.5 - 50 nm Length: < 100 mm



carbon nanotubes structure (wrapping vector)



n-m = 3*i: metallic n-m <> 3*i: semiconducting

carbon allotropes discovery

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2010





Photo: U. Montan Andre Geim Prize share: 1/2

Photo: U. Montan Konstantin Novoselov Prize share: 1/2

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2010 was awarded jointly to Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov *"for groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene"*







Graphene: scotch tape


graphene discovery



carbon-based materials and devices

graphene : the missing 2D system in carbon allotropes

1947	Graphene first studied as a limiting case for theoretical work on graphite by Phillip Wallace
1966	First attempts to grow multilayer graphite Hess W M and Ban L L also Karu A E and Beer M
1984	Massless charge carriers in graphene pointed out theoretically by Gordon Walter Semenoff , David P. DeVincenzo and Eugene J. Mele
1987	Name "graphene" first mentioned by S. Mouras and co-workers
2004	Graphene isolated in free form by Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov
2004	Observation of graphene's ambipolar field effect by Geim & Novoselov
2005	Anomalous quantum hall effect detected showing massless nature of charge carriers in graphene Geim, Novoselov and Kim , Zhang
2006	Quantum Hall effect seen at room temperature by Novoselov et. al.
2007	first detection of a single molecule adsorption event by Schedin et. al.
2008	Measurements of extremely high carrier mobility by Bolotin et. al.
2010	Nobel prize in physics to Geim & Novoselov

from http://www.graphene.manchester.ac.uk

graphene: why it may have taken so long ...

Here, however, the following reservation is necessary. The result obtained, strictly speaking, means only that the fluctuational displacement becomes infinite when the size (area) of the two-dimensional system increases without limit (so that the wave number may be arbitrarily small). But, because of the slow (logarithmic) divergence of the integral, the size of the film for which the fluctuations are still small may be very great.[†]

fluctuations "kill" a 2D crystal

Let us note first of all that, when T = 0, a two-dimensional lattice of any size could exist: the divergence of the integral (137.11) is due to the thermal fluctuations ($T \neq 0$).

Landau & Lifschitz, Statistical Physics,

3rd ed., 1980, Part I, §137 & 138, pp435-436



"According to the so-called Mermin–Wagner theorem¹, longwavelength fluctuations destroy the long-range order of 2D crystals. Similarly, 2D membranes embedded in a 3D space have a tendency to be crumpled². These fluctuations can, however, be suppressed by anharmonic coupling between bending and stretching modes meaning that a 2D membrane can exist but will exhibit strong height fluctuations."

graphene



Flexible conductor may replace ITO



High charge mobility: electrical applications



reminder: energy bands



graphene electronic structure



1 extra electron / p orbital \Rightarrow half-filled π band

Kane, Princeton

graphene electronic structure



graphene electronic structure



Normal (free electrons), particles with mass:

Massless particles, photons

Graphene:

 $E = \frac{mv^2}{2} = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$

 $E = h\nu = \hbar ck$

 $E = \hbar v_F k$



At the Fermi energy the spectra are linear, hence the electrons are here massless.

"Normal" materials



where v_{F} , Fermi velocity is \approx c/300

Dirac electrons in graphene mimic the physics of quant. electrodynamics for massless Fermions Relativistic effects can be seen in graphene

Castro Neto et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 2009; Das Sarma et al., Rev. Mod. Phys 2011

graphene roadmap



graphene roadmap



graphene-flagship.eu/

graphene roadmap



graphene-flagship.eu/

adding a gap: graphene ribbons structure



graphene "surface" (edges) states: two types of edges



- Always metallic
- Presence of localized edge states at the Fermi level



Nakada et al., PRB 54:17954 (1996)

Metallic for N=3M-1 (M integer) Semiconducting for N=3M and 3M-2 Examples: *Metallic for N=5 and Semiconducting for N=4, 6*



Dresselhaus, Cargèse, 2014

other 2D systems for electronics



Dresselhaus, Cargèse, 2014

Transition Metal Dichalcogenides (TMDs)



Many possibilities for this materials system

Chhowalla et al., Nat. Chem. (2013); Dresselhaus, Cargèse, 2014

Table 1 | Electronic character of different layered TMDs²⁵.

Group	М	х	Properties	
4	Ti, Hf, Zr	S, Se, Te	Semiconducting ($E_g = 0.2 - 2 eV$). Diamagnetic.	
5	V, Nb, Ta	S, Se, Te	Narrow band metals ($\rho \sim 10^{-4} \Omega.cm$) or semimetals. Superconducting. Charge density wave (CDW). Paramagnetic, antiferromagnetic, or diamagnetic.	
6	Mo, W	S, Se, Te	Sulfides and selenides are semiconducting $(E_g \sim 1 \text{ eV})$. Tellurides are semimetallic $(\rho \sim 10^{-3} \Omega \text{ cm})$. Diamagnetic.	
7	Tc, Re	S, Se, Te	Small-gap semiconductors. Diamagnetic.	
10	Pd, Pt	S, Se, Te	Sulfides and selenides are semiconducting $(E_g = 0.4 \text{eV})$ and diamagnetic. Tellurides are metallic and paramagnetic. PdTe ₂ is superconducting.	

ρ, in-plane electrical resistivity.



Table 1 | Electronic character of different layered TMDs²⁵.

Group	Μ	х	Properties
4	Ti, Hf, Zr	S, Se, Te	Semiconducting ($E_g = 0.2 - 2 \text{ eV}$). Diamagnetic.
5	V, Nb, Ta	S, Se, Te	Narrow band metals (ρ ~10 ⁻⁴ Ω .cm) or semimetals. Superconducting. Charge density wave (CDW). Paramagnetic, antiferromagnetic, or diamagnetic.
6	Mo, W	S, Se, Te	Sulfides and selenides are semiconducting $(E_g \sim 1 \text{ eV})$. Tellurides are semimetallic $(\rho \sim 10^{-3} \Omega \text{ cm})$. Diamagnetic.
7	Tc, Re	S, Se, Te	Small-gap semiconductors. Diamagnetic.
10	Pd, Pt	S, Se, Te	Sulfides and selenides are semiconducting $(E_g = 0.4 \text{eV})$ and diamagnetic. Tellurides are metallic and paramagnetic. PdTe ₂ is superconducting.

ρ, in-plane electrical resistivity.

Chhowalla et al., Nat. Chem. (2013)



Martel, Szkopek, Cargèse, 2014

outline

electronics beyond Silicon

- other possible pathways for electronics

Carbon allotropes

- discovery

Carbon & molecular electronics

- brief historical account
- why molecules

molecular junctions

- how to contact nm-scale objects









carbon-based electronics



materials

	Electron Mobility (cm² V ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	Bandgap (eV)	Thermal Conductivity (W cm⁻¹ K⁻¹)
Si	1600	1.12	1.5
Ge	3900	0.66	0.6
GaAs	9200	1.42	0.46
InAs	4×104	1.34	0.27
Diamond	2200	5.45	22
Carbon Nanotubes	1×10 ⁵	(0 to 1)	30
Graphene	1×10^4 to 2×10^5	(0 to 0.5)	40

MRS Bulleting 2010 special issue

carbon-based electronics

Nanotechnology Carbon-based electronics

Paul L. McEuen



Nature 1998, news&views

doi:10.1038/nature09979

FROM THE JULY/AUGUST 2013 ISSUE

Graphene and Nanotubes Will Replace Silicon in Tomorrow's Nano-Machines

Physicist and novelist Paul McEuen says one day nanobots will carry medicine through your bloodstream and rebuild your brain's circuitry.

By Doug Stewart | Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Discovery magazine 2013

NB: novel (Spiral)



Paul McEuen, professor of physics at Cornell University and director of the Kavli Institute at Cornell for Nanoscale Science.

LETTER

High-frequency, scaled graphene transistors on diamond-like carbon

Yanqing Wu¹, Yu-ming Lin¹, Ageeth A. Bol¹, Keith A. Jenkins¹, Fengnian Xia¹, Damon B. Farmer¹, Yu Zhu¹ & Phaedon Avouris¹





Nature 2011

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12502

Carbon nanotube computer

Max M. Shulaker¹, Gage Hills², Nishant Patil³, Hai Wet⁴, Hong-Yu Chen⁵, H.-S. Philip Wong⁶ & Subhasish Mitra⁷



Nature 2013

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature12952

Exceptional ballistic transport in epitaxial graphene nanoribbons

Jens Baringhaus¹*, Ming Ruan²*, Frederik Edler¹, Antonio Tejeda^{3,4}, Muriel Skot³, AminaTaleb-Ibrahimi⁴, An-Ping Ll⁵, Zhigang Jiang², Edward H. Conrad², Claire Berger^{2,6}, Christoph Tegenkamp¹ & Walt A. de Heer²

when macro meets nano: molecules



carbon-based electronics



electronics with molecules ?



Nature Nanotech. 2013

Does molecular electronics compute?

The field of molecular electronics originally set out to build computers, but silicon-based technology is unlikely to be replaced anytime soon. Nevertheless, the field has developed into a highly interdisciplinary endeavour, which could have a variety of ramifications that extend beyond computing.

electronics with molecules



editorial

Does molecular electronics compute?

The field of molecular electronics originally set out to build computers, but silicon-based technology is unlikely to be replaced anytime soon. Nevertheless, the field has developed into a highly interdisciplinary endeavour, which could have a variety of ramifications that extend beyond computing.

electronics with molecules

FOCUS | FEATURE

Visions for a molecular future

Leading researchers in molecular electronics discuss the motivation behind their work and what they consider to be the grand challenges for the field.

Molecular electronics has been around for more than 40 years, but scientists have only recently really begun to explore the properties and opportunities of single molecules. This collection of 12 features from researchers from a variety of backgrounds provides an overview of the different directions the field is going in.



The phonon modes of a carbon nanotube set between two electrodes can control the spin states of a molecule. Image reproduced with permission from C. Grupe/KIT.

electronics with molecules

devices. Hopefully, this technical limitation will be overcome with enough focus, innovation and resources.

Mark Reed is at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA. email: mark.reed@yale.edu

Molecular junctions are a formidable test bed for investigating structure– function correlations in charge-transport phenomena at the nanometre scale. Various aspects of electron–electron and electron–phonon interactions are currently being explored including spin-mediated charge transport, molecular ferroelectricity, and light-coupled interactions in metal– molecule–metal junctions. Making electronic devices that use molecules as the active element, however, requires atomic-scale precision fabrication and long-term stability. Also, the complexity of such systems still limits our predictive understanding of charge and energy transport at the interface of hybrid organic–inorganic systems. Despite these difficulties, it is striking to notice that organic electronic devices are nowadays finding their way into consumer electronics. At the industrial level, molecular fabrication processes are progressing fast and reaching an unprecedented accuracy.

Remarkably, we haven't yet really made the most out of the molecules' potential and specificity. Molecules are not simply quantum dots that can be fabricated at a large scale; they can undergo conformational changes and interact with neighbouring molecules. These aspects however do not easily translate into conventional electronics paradigms and the intrinsic functionality of molecules have been barely explored so far. But exploiting molecular properties may result in alternative ways to process information. Here, hybrid devices integrating molecular functionalities for massively parallel *in vivo* information processing together with more conventional electronic circuits for signal post-processing could open fascinating perspectives, for instance in the development of neuroprosthetic devices. It is time to put molecules to work, so they can do what they do best.

Michel Calame is at the Department of Physics and Swiss Nanoscience Institute, University of Basel, Klingelbergstrasse 82, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland. email: michel.calame@unibas.ch

Nature Nanotech. 2013

electrically contacting molecules ...?

a brief (personal) historical perspective



Robert S. Mulliken concept of donoracceptor charge transfer complexes



Albert Szent-Gyorgi proteins "might not be insulators"

Eley and Spivey

Trans. Faraday Soc., 1962

"It seemed therefore reasonable to suppose that a DNA molecule might behave as a 1D aromatic crystal and show a p-electron conductivity down the axis."

"...if it should prove possible to measure a single fiber..."

Feynman *There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom*, 1959

B. Mann and H. Kuhn *J. Appl. Phys.* 1971 1st reproducible transport

meas. through organic layers



FIG. 1. Idealized potential barrier between similar electrodes separated by a fatty acid monolayer with a biased voltage.

A. Aviram, M. A. Ratner molecular rectifier, 1974 (theory)

from molecular conduction to molecular electronics



osphorus

Carbon in sugar-phosphate "backbone"

lydroger

Oxyger

a brief (personal) historical perspective

Long-Range Photoinduced Electron Transfer Through a DNA Helix

C. J. Murphy, M. R. Arkin, Y. Jenkins, N. D. Ghatlia, S. H. Bossmann, N. J. Turro, J. K. Barton*

Molecular computation of solutions to combinatorial problems

L. Adleman, Science (1994)

1981 STM 1982 Atomic resolution 1985 AFM 1987 Atomic resolution 1986 Nobel with E. Ruska (SEM)



Gerd Binnig Heinrich Rohrer



A STREET BETWEEN TWO CITIES IS THE COMPLEMENTARY 20-BASE STRAND THAT OVERLAPS EACH CITY'S STRAND HALFWAY. THIS STREET LITERALLY JOINS THE TWO CITIES. A MULTICITY TOUR BECOMES A PIECE OF DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA, WITH THE CITIES LINKED IN SOME ORDER BY THE STREETS. A HULTICITY TOUR BECOMES A PIECE OF DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA, WITH THE CITIES LINKED IN SOME ORDER BY THE STREETS. A HULTICITY TOUR BECOMES A PIECE OF DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA, WITH THE CITIES LINKED IN SOME ORDER BY THE STREETS. A HULTICITY TOUR BECOMES A PIECE OF DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA, WITH THE CITIES IN DNA, C ALWAYS PAIRS WITH & AND T ALWAYS PAIRS WITH A. SO IN CLOSE-UP IT LOOKS LIKE THIS:

molecular recognition

computing with molecules - in solution - is highly parallel

different aspects to molecular computing: electronic, chemical and biochemical e.g. Libermann, Cell as a molecular computer, 1972



a brief (personal) historical perspective



1980

Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM)

1990

perspective



TV display 40" OLED (EPSON, 2004)



press release, Nobel prize 2000

(...) In the future we will be able to produce transistors and other *electronic components consisting of individual molecules* - which will dramatically increase the speed and reduce the size of our computers. A computer corresponding to what we now carry around in our bags would suddenly fit inside a watch ...

Low-cost organic electronics on plastic Forrest, Nature (2004)



context



perspective



 \Rightarrow at the level of a few or even a single molecule ?



reviews, e.g.: Liljeroth (2010), de Boer et al., (2008); Ratner et al; (2008); Cahen et al., (2008)

molecules: pros & cons

- molecules are **small**: typ. 1-100 nm
- molecules have extended pi systems

provides thermodynamically favorable electron conduit: molecules as "wires"

- molecules have **discrete energy levels** better confinement of the charges as in Si devices
- molecules can be designed/tailored

by choice of composition and geometry, the transport, optical and geometrical properties can be adjusted

• molecules are identical

chemists synthesize 1mmol of (identical) molecule at a time, not one device

molecules can be active and provide novel functions

stereochemistry (distinct stable geometric structures – isomers), mechanical flexibility (rotation axis),
photochemistry (photochromism), electrochemistry (redox reactions)
(self-)assembly (building of structures) and molecular recognition (switching, sensing)

- reliable connection to the micro/macro-scopic world (contacts) and characterisation of a single molecule ?
- limited thermal and electrical stability
- what about the reproducibility of molecular devices ?
- how to fabricate/integrate many devices (upscaling) ?

outline

electronics beyond Silicon

- other possible pathways for electronics

Carbon allotropes

- discovery

Carbon & molecular electronics

- brief historical account
- why molecules

molecular junctions

- how to contact nm-scale objects









How to hook up crocodile clips to a 10⁻⁹m object?



break junctions: a draw bridge at the atomic scale


break junctions: forming atomic contacts





hand-made notched Au wire



Moreland & Ekin, J. Appl. Phys, (1985); Ruitenbeek et al., Phys. C (1992); Reed et al., APL (1995)

break junctions



break junctions



elongation: $d= 6thz/L^2$ reduction factor: $r=\Delta d/\Delta z \approx (1.6 - 4) \cdot 10^{-5}$ $\Rightarrow \Delta Z = 10 \mu m \Leftrightarrow \Delta d \sim 3 \text{ Å}$

vertical speed: v_z=30µm/s ⇒ 0.5 - 1.2 nm/s electrodes separation speed

atomic-scale metallic contacts with well controlled sub-nm gap in liquid



Moreland & Ekin, J. Appl. Phys, (1985); Ruitenbeek et al., Phys. C (1992); Reed et al., APL (1995)

molecular junction



nanometer and molecular-scale junctions

- structural disorder
- interactions
- fluctuations

electrodes and junction geometry anchoring, self-assembly, polymerization mobility of (surface) atoms, molecular distortions, multiple local energy minima

molecular junction



nanometer and molecular-scale junctions

- structural disorder
- interactions
- fluctuations

electrodes and junction geometry anchoring, self-assembly, polymerization mobility of (surface) atoms, molecular distortions, multiple local energy minima

- ⇒ junction formation (and breaking up): dynamic process, variability
 - time scale(s)
 - local environment effect
 - local geometry and structure effect

G(t), force, current, optical spectroscopy

controlling junction formation



drifting molecules, stochastic anchoring, ⇒ clustering

> drifting surface atoms, metal protrusions

undefined junction geometry & conductance

undefined ⇒ electrostatic landscape

⇒ variability, low-yield and lack of control in key electrical parameters

controlling junction formation



drifting molecules, stochastic anchoring, ⇔ clustering

> drifting surface atoms, metal protrusions

undefined junction geometry & conductance

undefined ⇒ electrostatic landscape

variability, low-yield and lack of control in key electrical parameters

Carbon-based contact materials as electrodes:

FLG	vd Zandt et al., Nano Lett. 2011
SWNT	Krupke et al., Nat. Nanotech. 2010
C-fiber tips	Agrait et al., Nanoscale Res. Lett. 2012

⇒ monolayer graphene ...?

paradigm shift for molecular electronics



Lörtscher, Nat. Nano 2013

FP7 ITN MOLESCO; see also Focus issue Nat. Nanotech 2013

nanometer and molecular-scale junctions



"playground " for

fundamental aspects

- electro-mechanical properties (e.g.: atomic, molecular switch)
- transport at µs, ns, ps, ...
- e-e and e-ph interactions
- heat flow (atomic & molecular level)
- spin dependent transport & selectivity
- exciton generation, separation
- interaction with EM field (plasmonics)
- coherence aspects only indirect evidence to date

device aspects

- control of molecule-electrode interface
- reliable 2-terminal switches (V-driven) conformational change, interference
- few molecules devices and monolayers, pores & crossbars (Sony, HP, NIST, IBM)
- carbon-based electronics
- upscaling, programmability NB: variability, tunneling, power dissipation, cost, are current issues in CMOS tech.

Molecular and carbon-based electronic systems

context

assembly of nanoscale objects?



upscalability 450mm fab / 10¹⁰ US\$ 300mm fab / 10⁹ US\$



Caption: 14nm polystyrene lines on 28nm pitch after PMMA removal fabricated by DSA using 193nm immersion based 84nm pitch pre-pattern (left) and demonstration of the ability to repair a 200nm gap in the pre-pattern (right).

Molecular and carbon-based electronic systems

going 3D...?

- artificial neural networks
- connectivity
- non-von Neumann architectures



hybrid interfaces

sensing (chemical, biochemical) and beyond, e.g.: ion sensitive interfaces for cells, prosthetic interfaces at single molecule level

Viewpoint in "Visions for a molecular future" mc , Nat.Nano (2013)

> Zrenner, McLaren et al., Retinal implants to restore sight in blind people (2013)

Direction of i



-Nerve block

Moritz et al., Direct control of

paralysed muscles by cortical

neurons, Nature (2008)