



Crystal structure analysis of nano graphene with XRD

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Keyword : Carbon nanowalls, chemical vapour deposition, crystal structure, grazing angle incident diffraction

1. Background and research purpose

Recently, two-dimensional graphene sheets which are self-organized graphite nano-structures have attracted great interest in the next-generation electronic devices [1-2]. Carbon nanowalls (CNW) is a unique structure in which stacking of few graphene sheets with high preferential orientation stands vertically on the substrate. These sheets form a self-supported network with wall thickness ranging from few nanometers to few tens of nanometers. Its high aspect ratio, large surface area and large current carrying capability makes it promising carbon material for energy storage, catalyst support material, and various device applications. Therefore, it is important to investigate the crystal structure of CNWs, but it is difficult to evaluate such highly oriented and highly porous structure by conventional or laboratory equipments. Therefore, a high-intensity synchrotron radiation with high-resolution X-ray diffraction is required to measure and analyze CNW crystal structure.

2. Experiment content

The CNWs were grown on copper coated silicon substrate using Radial Injection Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapour Deposition (RI-PECVD) in CH₄/H₂ plasma. The substrate temperature was 700 °C and the gas flow rates for H₂ and CH₄ were 50 and 100 sccm, respectively.

Synchrotron x-ray diffraction measurements were carried out on the beamline BL8S1 of the Aichi synchrotron radiation center, Japan. The wavelength of the x-ray was $\lambda = 1.355 \text{ \AA}$ corresponding to 9.15 KeV. At this beamline coaxial (θ - 2θ) and grazing incidence angle (GID)) and non-coaxial (inplane $2\theta/\varphi$) XRD measurements were performed for CNWs grown on Cu/Si substrate and Cu foil. The GID and inplane measurement were performed to analyze the crystal structure of the thin layer (1 μm) of CNW, which possesses high preferential orientation in the vertical direction.

3. Results and Discussion

The diffraction patterns for in-plane measurements with glancing angle ω (0.05°, 0.1°, 0.3°, and 0.5°) are plotted in Figure 1(a), where a diffraction peak corresponding to the (002) diffraction plane of graphite was observed at 22.9°. The prominent peak was observed at a glancing angle 0.1°. The diffraction from C (002) plane was not observed with the grazing incidence angle of 1° (Fig. 1(b)). This condition may be very close to out-of-plane measurement condition so that only diffraction peaks related to copper could be observed. In the inset (Fig. 1(b)), two slightly broadened peaks related with C (004) and an overlap of Cu (111) and C (101)/(100) was confirmed. From these experimental results, we got clear insight of CNW crystal structure which has strong preferential orientation.

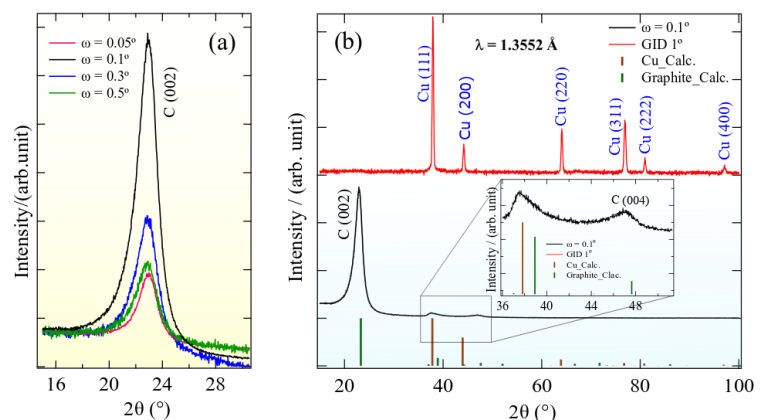


Figure 1 X-ray diffraction patterns of (a) in-plane measurements with glancing angle ω (0.05°, 0.1°, 0.3°, and 0.5°) and (b) in-plane measurement ($\omega = 0.1^\circ$), grazing incidence measurement (1°), and along with the calculated plots of copper and graphite.

References

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