Raman Spectroscopy: a non-destructive, non-contact and simple technique to characterize carbon materials

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Characterization of carbon materials

Due to carbon’s three hybridization states (sp$_3$, sp$_2$, and sp), many carbon allotropes, such as graphite (sp$_2$), diamond (sp$_3$), fullerene (sp$_2$), carbon nanotube (sp$_2$), and graphene (sp$_2$), are synthesized.

There are still a large number of new forms of carbon to be discovered!

There are possibility to generate networks of combinations of sp$_2$ and sp, or sp$_3$ and sp hybridized carbons.
Graphyne is a half-hydrogenated graphene

Graphane is a fully hydrogenated form of graphene

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Why carbon allotropes are interesting?

Graphene has been recognized as promising candidates for use in next-generation electronic and optoelectronic devices.
Why Raman spectroscopy has been used?

Advantages of Raman spectroscopy

- Very small samples
- No special preparation of samples
- Ease of use
- Non-destructive and non-contact analysis
- Measurement of various types of samples (liquids, solids, powders, etc.)
- It can be used for studies of material properties under extreme conditions of high pressure and low temperature
- Depth analysis
## Information obtained from Raman spectra

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Raman Spectroscopy. History.

The Raman effect, the phenomenon of inelastic scattering of light (Raman scattering), was discovered by Dr. C.V. Raman in 1928.

The Raman spectroscopy is based on the Raman effect. In 1960s, Raman spectroscopy has been practically used due to the invention of Laser system.

In the late 1970s, Raman spectroscopy with optical microscope has been came to use for microanalysis in many fields. In 1990, the first confocal Raman scanning instrument demonstrated in 1998, a Raman 3D scanning confocal microscope (Nanofinder) was developed by SOLAR TII (SOL Instruments) jointly with Tokyo Instruments (TII) and NT-MDT.

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Instrumentation
3D Raman Confocal Microscope Confotec™

3D Raman Confocal Microscopes provide rapid, high sensitivity analysis.

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Raman Confocal System with NT-MDT AFM

http://www.ntmdt.ru/afm-raman/ntegra-spectra

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Confocal Raman Microscopy. Principles.

A typical Raman spectroscopy set-up is shown in the next Figure. A pinhole blocks the scattered light which is coming from the out-of-focus points. A suitable light source and efficient detection system are necessary for Raman measurements.
3D Raman Confocal Microscope Confotec™

Confocal Raman signal is collected only with a diffraction limited volume:

Focused spot diameter: $d \approx \frac{0.61 \lambda}{NA}$

Depth of focus: $\approx \frac{4 \lambda}{NA^2}$

Lateral resolution (XY)

Axial resolution (Z)
The next formula is used for axial resolution calculation

$$R_{Lateral} = \frac{0.61 \cdot \lambda}{NA}$$

(Rayleigh Criteria)

$$R_{Axial} = \frac{0.88 \cdot \lambda}{n - \sqrt{n^2 - (NA)^2}}$$

(n – refractive index of medium)

Thus, the spatial resolution is determined by the wavelength of light ($\lambda$), medium (n) and the lens numerical aperture (NA).
High speed mapping with 3D Raman Confocal Microscope Confotec™

Video:

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Carbon nanotubes

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have drawn much attention due to their unique structural, mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties.

Applications for nanotubes:
- Semiconductor devices
- STM/AFM tips
- New materials
- Battery additives
- Polymer composites

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Single walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNs). Raman spectrum.

The D (defect-activated)-mode peak is associated with the defects in the nanotube structure. The greater the relative intensity of this peak, the more defects in the structure appears.

The strong Raman peak at \( \sim 1582 \text{ cm}^{-1} \) is related to the tangential C-C stretching vibrations (G-band).

The RBM peak correspond to the radial breathing mode.

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SWNT on Si substrate

Single walled carbon nanotubes have been deposited on a Si substrate by spin casting of their solution in ethyl alcohol.

Raman image of a CN
532 nm laser, 100 x NA0.95 objective, scanning step is 40 nm

![Raman spectrum](image)
Carbon nanotubes in the bent state

AFM topography (NT-MDT NTEGRA Prima)

According to atomic force microscopy characterization, the carbon nanotube diameters is 1.7 nm
Raman spectroscopy of a bent SWCN (RBM mode)

The radial breathing mode (RBM) is very sensitive to the diameter of SWCN.

The diameter of the nanotube is 1.75 nm (approximately) according to the relation

$$\nu_{RBM} \text{(cm}^{-1}) = \frac{223.5}{d_t \text{(nm)}} + 12.5$$

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Raman microscopy of a bent SWCN (G and D modes)

The tangential stretching mode is highly sensitive to strain and the local structural changes in CNs. The local structural changes and strain may occur due to curvature effects.

In the place of the greatest curvature, a decrease in the G-band frequency is clearly observed. The G-mode shifts downward upon nanotube bending, and it attributed to the tensile stress.

Additionally, an increase of the D-band relative intensity at the given location of the carbon nanotube is also observed.

(The brighter the color corresponds to the higher frequency)
Graphene properties

- Hardness
- Significant thermal conductivity
- Significant electrical conductivity
- Optical transparency
- Chemical stability
- etc.

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Graphene Production

Graphene has been obtained by mechanical exfoliation of graphite and transferred it onto Si/SiO$_2$ or gold substrates.
Relative Intensity of G band enhances with the number of layers. Identification of single, bi or many layers can be done with 2D line.
Raman spectroscopy of Graphene Layers

Yellow color corresponds to a single layer, red color - 2 layers, blue color – 3 layers and more.

G-band Raman Intensity Map of a graphene flake

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C-band

The interlayer shear Raman mode of few layer graphene (C-band) can be observed from 44 cm\(^{-1}\) (in bulk graphene) to 32 cm\(^{-1}\) (in bilayer graphene).

P.H. Tan, *The shear mode of multi-layer graphene*
Raman Map of Graphene (2D band position)

Yellow color corresponds to a single layer, red color - 2 layers, blue color – 3 layers and more.

E. Kuznetsov, S. Timofeev, P. Dorozhkin, NT-MDT
Local friction of graphene is smaller than of the gold substrate. Friction decreases monotonically with increasing number of layers.
Surface potential increases monotonically with increasing number of layers. Surface potential difference is about 80 mV between single layer and bi-layer and it is about 20 mV between bi-layer and triple layer.
Properties and applications of Graphite
(a crystalline form of carbon):

- High thermal stability and electrical conductivity
- Graphite are used to construct the anode of all major battery technologies
- Pencils (the ability to leave marks on paper)
- Neutron moderator
- etc.

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Amorphous (microcrystalline) graphite is used in many lubricant products especially greases.
Properties of Carbon Fibers

Carbon (graphite) fiber is a new material consisting of fibers about 5–10 μm in diameter and composed mostly of carbon atoms. Carbon fibers are produced from Polyacrylonitrile (PAN) commonly.

The properties of carbon fibers, such as high stiffness, high tensile strength, low weight, high chemical resistance, high temperature tolerance and low thermal expansion, make them very popular in aerospace, civil engineering, military, and motor sports, etc.

Carbon fibers are usually combined with other materials to form a composite.
Applications

1. Composite materials
Carbon fiber is most notably used to reinforce composite materials. The increasing use of carbon fiber composites is displacing aluminum from aerospace applications in favor of other metals because of galvanic corrosion issues.

2. Textiles
Carbon fiber filament yarns are used in several processing techniques: the direct uses are for prepregging, filament winding, pultrusion, weaving, braiding, etc.

3. Microelectrodes
Carbon fibers are used for fabrication of carbon-fiber microelectrodes.

4. Catalysis
PAN-based nanofibers can efficiently catalyze the first step in the making of synthetic gasoline and other energy-rich products out of carbon dioxide.

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Carbon fibers

The specific strength is a material's strength (force per unit area at failure) divided by its density. It is also known as the strength-to-weight ratio.

Comparison of carbon fiber properties with other engineering materials

- Carbon fibers (T1000GB)
- Carbon fibers (AS4)
- Spider silk
- Carbon-epoxy composite
- Titanium
- Stainless steel
- Nylon
- Brass
- Copper
Carbon fibers. Raman Microscopy

G peak (1580 cm\(^{-1}\)): Graphite structure
D peak (1380 cm\(^{-1}\)): Disorder

680 x 680 x 30 µm (250 x 250 x 70 points)

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Raman imaging with G band (vibration mode of graphite structure) of carbon fibers can be used for the structural characterization of fibers and their graphitization level.

21 x 21 x 7 µm (250 x 250 x 70 pixels), total imaging time is 90 sec (4,375,000 acquisitions)

Raman imaging with G band (vibration mode of graphite structure) of carbon fibers can be used for the structural characterization of fibers and their graphitization level.

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Properties and applications of Diamond

- Hardness
- Pressure resistance
- Significant thermal conductivity
- Significant electrical conductivity
- Optical transparency
- Chemical stability
- Color (gem diamonds)
- etc.
Raman spectroscopy

Raman spectra (peak position and peak FWHM) are sensitive to the diamond structure quality.

Luminescent peak at 575 nm (NV peak)

NV center structure
Diamond coating tools. Optical image

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A Diamond coating tool. Raman microscopy

Peak intensity

Peak position

FWHM

Luminescence
Diamond-like carbon (DLC)

Diamond-like carbon (DLC) is a class of amorphous carbon material that displays some of the typical properties of diamond.

DLC is usually applied as coatings to other materials.
Amorphous carbon. Raman spectroscopy

Amorphous carbon (DLC) has been extensively used in the hard disk drive industry as a wear and corrosion protective overcoat on the magnetic layer.

A peak known as the D-peak appears at 1350 cm\(^{-1}\), possibly inherent in the carbon on the boarder of a graphite crystallite.

Another peak known as the G-peak appears near 1570 cm\(^{-1}\), inherent in the planar vibration of the graphite.

Both peaks superpose on the broadband fluorescent component.
Hard Disk Platter

The size of defects varied around an average value of 1 – 2 µm.

Magnetic structures on the disk Platter (MFM measurements)

Analysis of DLC quality on base of Raman spectroscopy

In a completely sp3 network the $I_D/I_G$ ratio will tend to zero
Summary

Raman spectroscopy and microscopy provide:

- Non-destructive tool useful in the study of different materials
- Powerful tool for characterizing carbon materials with the high spatial resolution
- Raman is particularly well suited to detect changes in structural morphology of carbon nanomaterials
- The method allows study of physical properties at the submicron level
Thank you very much for your attention!

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