Introduction to Nanomaterial and Nanotechnology

Graduate Seminar 730
Lei Wang
11/11/2011
Outline

1. What’s nanomaterial?
2. Why do we research nanomaterial?
3. How to research nanomaterial?
“The principles of physics, as far as I can see, do not speak against the possibility of maneuvering things atom by atom.”

"Put the atoms down where the chemist says, and so you make the substance."

- Richard Feynman (1959)

There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom
1. What is nanomaterial?

Nanoscale: generally refers to the size scale of 1 – 100 nm in at least one dimension.

1 nanometer (nm) = $10^{-9}$ m
How small is 1 nanometer?
**Nanomaterial**: refers to the matter whose length scale, in any dimension, is approximately 1 to 100 nanometers.
Nanomaterials can be metals, ceramics, polymeric materials, or composite materials.
2. Novel properties

What has happened when reduced to the nanoscale?

- **Small size effect (Quantum size effect)**
  - Quantum Mechanics
    - Contain very small number of atoms (molecules)
    - Electromagnetic forces are dominant.
    - Wave particle duality. The electrons exhibit wave behavior.
    - Quantum confinement.
    - Discrete energy levels
Large surface effect:

--The vastly increased ratio of surface area to volume.

The total volume remains the same, the collective surface area is greatly increased.

Catalysis properties
2.2 Novel property

A piece of gold is golden in color.
A colloid of gold nanoparticles is ruby red in color.
200 times stronger than steel of the same diameter.

**Space elevator** its principle is through a 100,000km long super-human strength of the cable into space, one end of the cable located on the earth, one end located on satellite.
Nano-electronics

- Moore’s law
  If the number of chips keeps on increasing, more heat, excessive leakage current.

  nanomaterial electronics, molecular electronics.

- Excellent conductors of electricity and heat much smaller, lower power consumption, faster calculation.
Nanomedicine can detect the cancer cells and deliver the toxin in a controlled, time-released manner.
3. How to research nanomaterial?

3.1 Preparation

- Top-down  
  (Physical method)

  Mechanical attrition: Break the particles into nanostructures

  High energy mill,
- **bottom-up**
  (chemical method)

1. Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD)

2. Self Assembly

*Directed by Van der Waals force*
*Hydrogen bonding....*
3.2 Characterization

(1). Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM)

Works by sensing the tunneling current between the sharp tip and the conducting surface when the tip is brought close to the surface.
(2). Atomic Force Microscope
Measure the Van der Waals Force

tungsten
references

- Applied nanotechnology. Jeremy Ramsden
- Processing and synthesis techniques for the preparation of nanomaterials
Thank you!