

Research on single-crystal graphene



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Graphene is very promising for future micro- and nanoelectronic systems, because of its outstanding properties. Now, our main research interest is "graphene on SiC". We can fabricate 10 mm-sq single-crystal mono-layer graphene using super-RTA (rapid thermal annealer). The high-quality and uniform epitaxial graphene was grown on controlled step structures of 4H-SiC (0001) substrate. Graphene properties were evaluated using various kinds of nano-metrology tools. By using scanning probe microscopy (SPM), contact conductance between nanoprobe and graphene was measured. The contact resistance value was estimated to be the order of $10^{-9} \Omega$ cm². The novel phenomena of graphene nanomembrane with bistable contact conductance states was observed. This electro-mechanical bistability of atomic layer switch could represent a new path to nano-electro-mechanical systems. A final goal of our graphene research will be new functional devices for the post-Si era.

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