

Correlation between morphology and transport properties of quasi-free-standing monolayer graphene (QFMLG)

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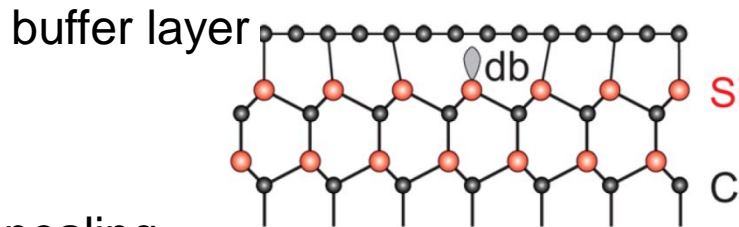
3 NTT Basic Research Laboratories, NTT Corporation, Japan

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology



Introduction

Graphene on silicon carbide (SiC) (0001)

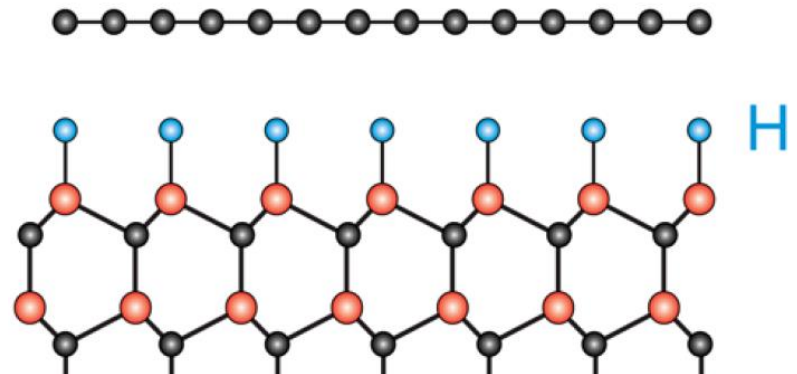
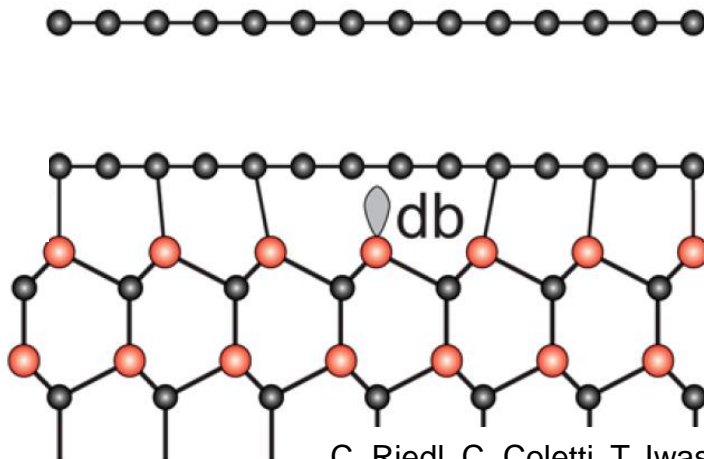


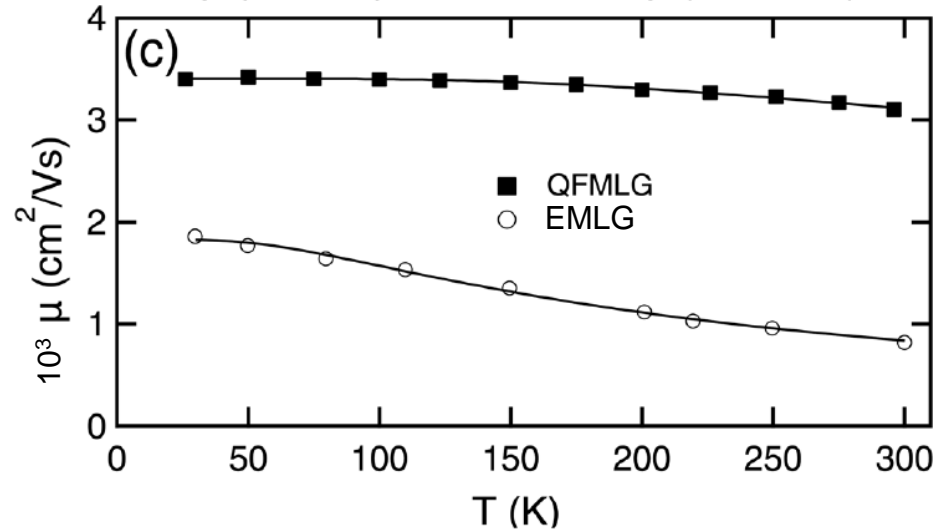
annealing

H intercalation

epitaxial monolayer
graphene (EMLG)

quasi-free-standing monolayer
graphene (QFMLG)

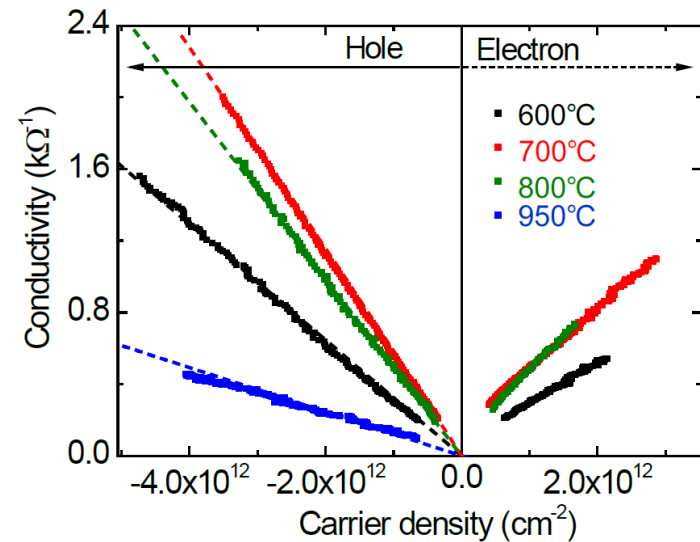
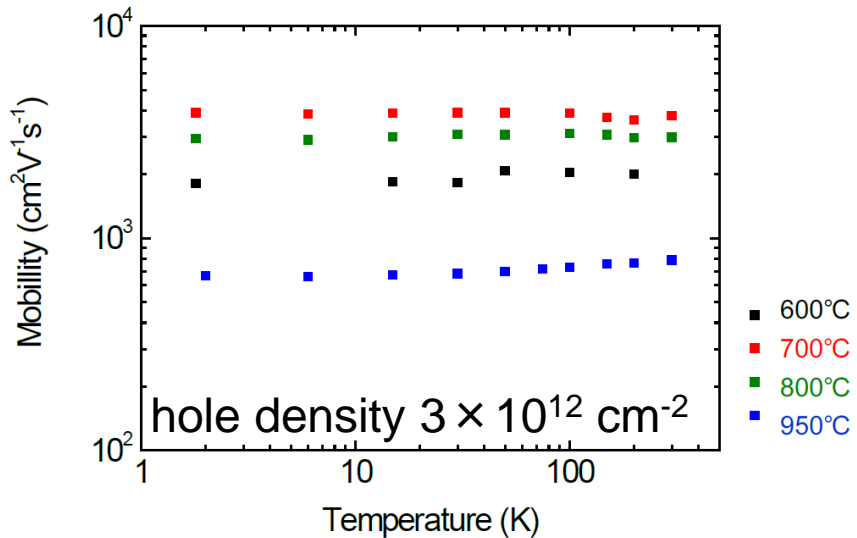




The carrier mobility of QFMLG shows less temperature dependence than EMLG, indicating less interaction between QFMLG and the SiC substrate.

However, the mobility of QFMLG ($\sim 3000 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$) is still lower than exfoliated graphene on SiO_2 or free standing graphene.

F. Speck, J. Jobst, F. Fromm, M. Ostler, D. Waldmann, M. Hundhausen, H. B. Weber, and Th. Seyller, Appl. Phys. Lett. **99**, 122106 (2011)



S. Tanabe, M. Takamura, Y. Harada, H. Kageshima, and H. Hibino, Jpn. J. Appl. Phys. **53**, 04EN01 (2014).

The QFMLG mobility depends on T_H , the substrate temperature during H intercalation

highest mobility by $T_H = 700^\circ\text{C}$

Purpose :

to observe the morphology of QFMLG formed at different T_H and investigate the relationship with transport property

conductivity – carrier density

- linear for $T_H = 600\text{-}800^\circ\text{C}$ - charged impurity
- sublinear for $T_H = 950^\circ\text{C}$ - additional scattering by defect

Experiment

sample: 4H or 6H-SiC(0001)

cleaning anneal at 1500°C for 5 min in H₂ of 33 mbar

buffer layer growth

anneal at 1650°C for 5 min in Ar of 800 mbar

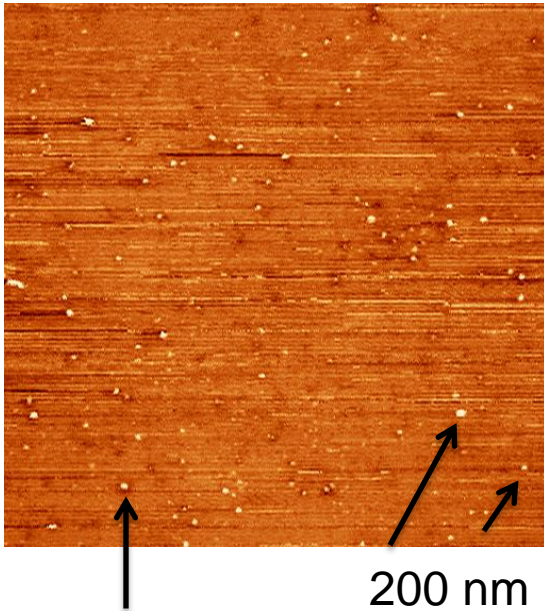
H intercalation

anneal at 600 - 1200°C for 1 hour in H₂ of 1 atm

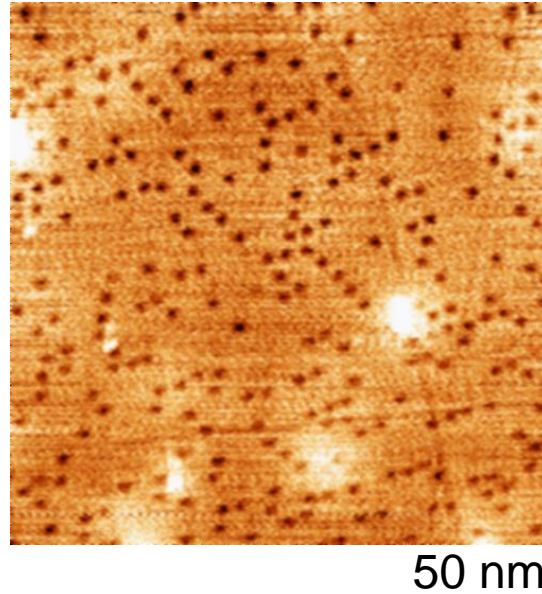
characterization

- STM in ultra-high vacuum (1×10^{-10} mbar)
- AFM in air
- TEM

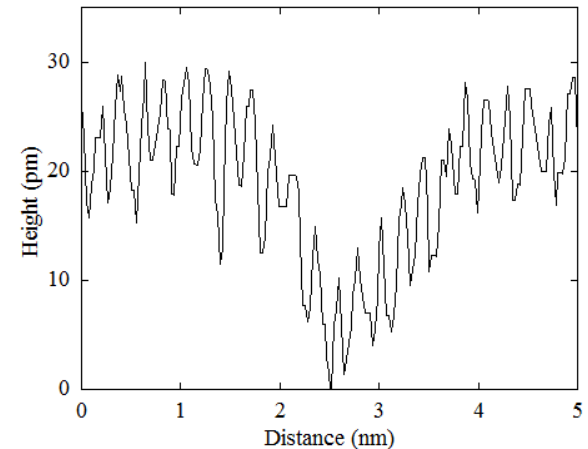
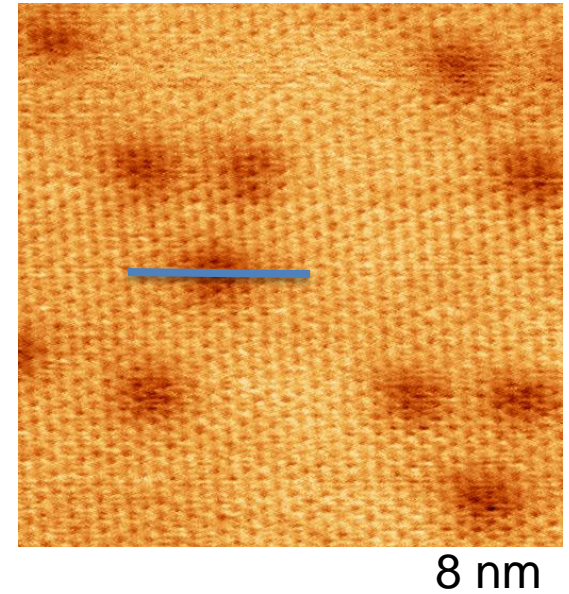
STM $T_H = 600^\circ\text{C}$



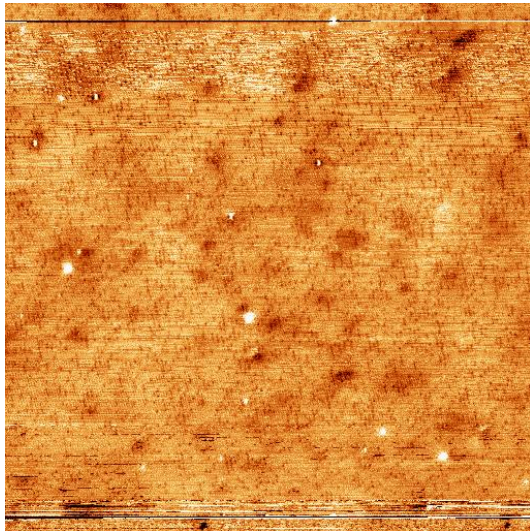
- bright spots
width: 2-3 nm
height: 50 pm



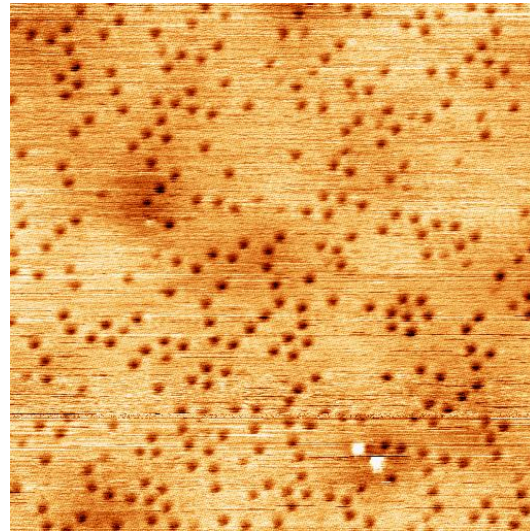
- small dark spots
width: 1.5 nm
depth: 15-25 pm



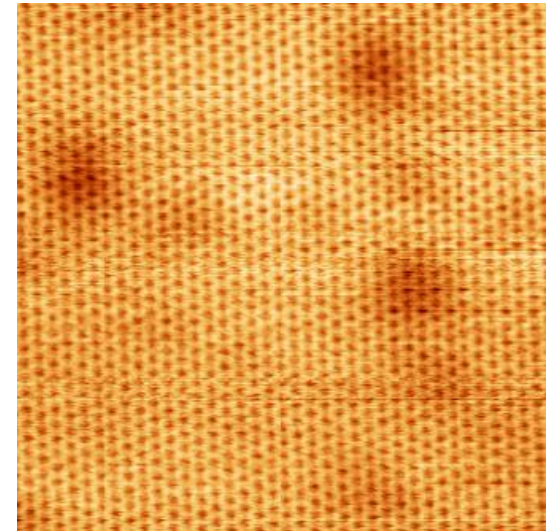
STM $T_H = 800^\circ\text{C}$



200 nm



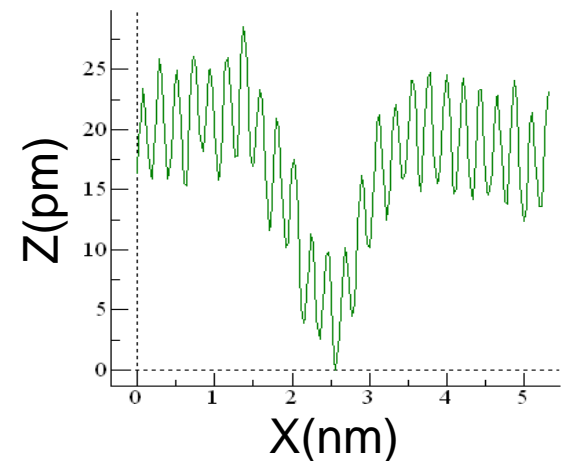
50 nm



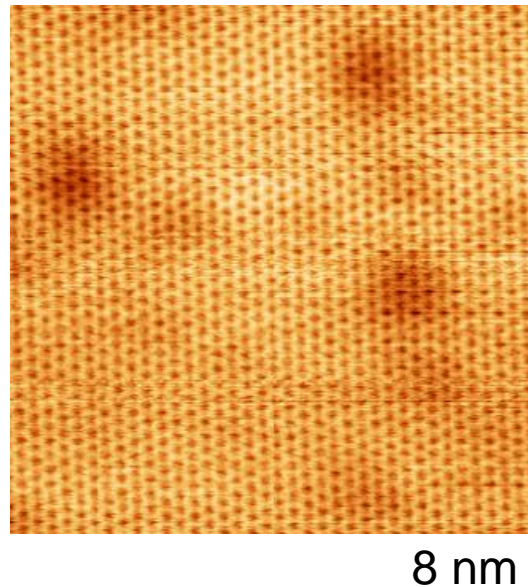
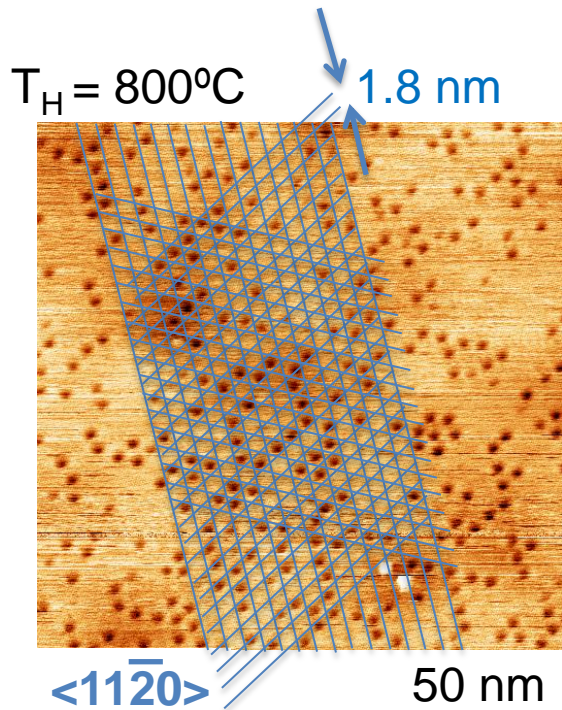
8 nm

- small dark spots
- bright spots

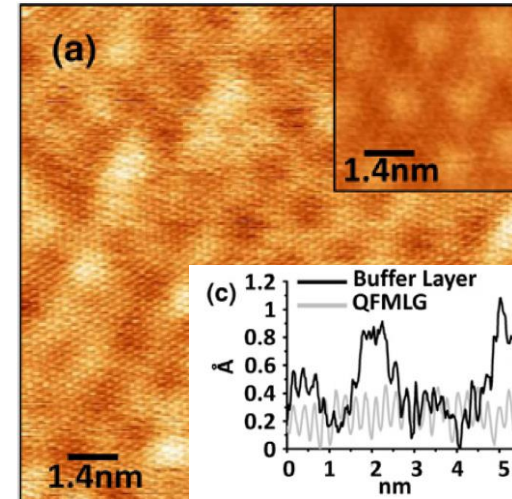
almost same morphology as $T_H = 600^\circ\text{C}$



Small dark spots



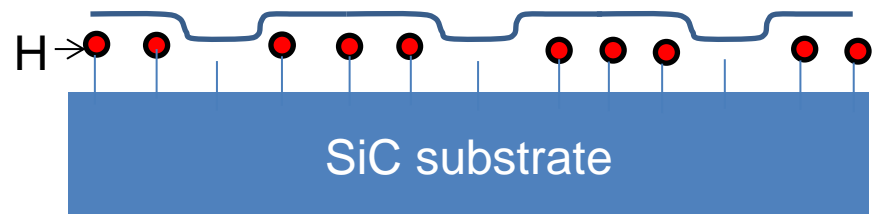
STM of a buffer layer corrugation – 60 pm



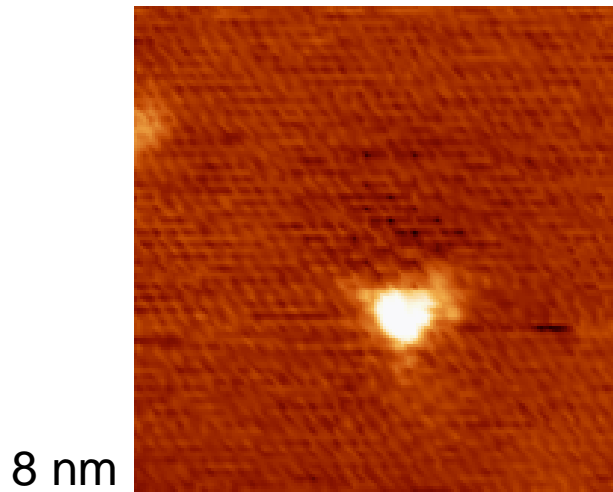
Goler, Carbon **51**, 249 (2013)

- width: 1.5 nm
- depth: 15-25 pm
- honeycomb inside, no defect
- align along SiC $\langle 11\bar{2}0 \rangle$
- periodicity: 1.8 nm = SiC-6 × 6

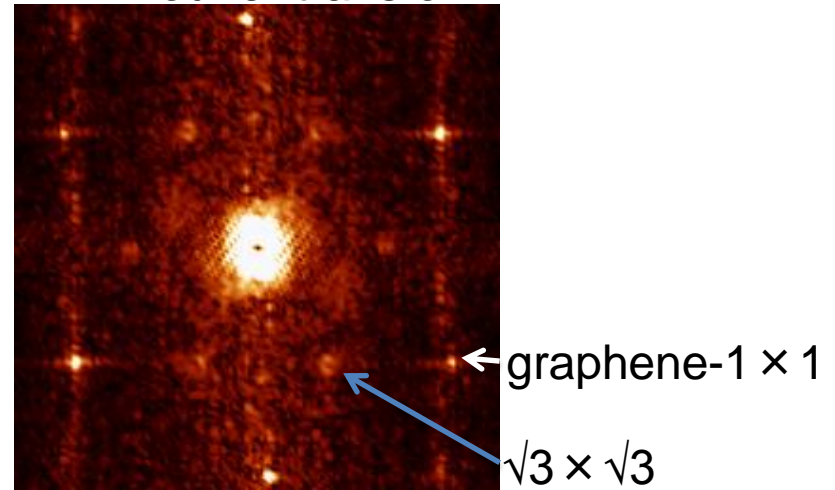
incomplete H intercalation
– Si dangling bond at interface



Bright spots

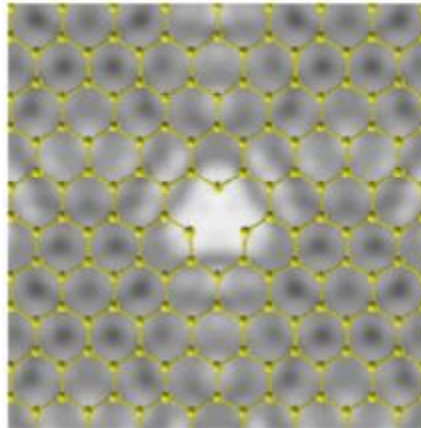


2D Fourier transform

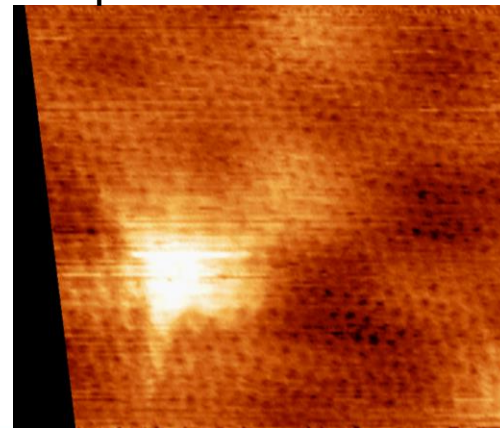


electron scattering at defect

defect of EMLG

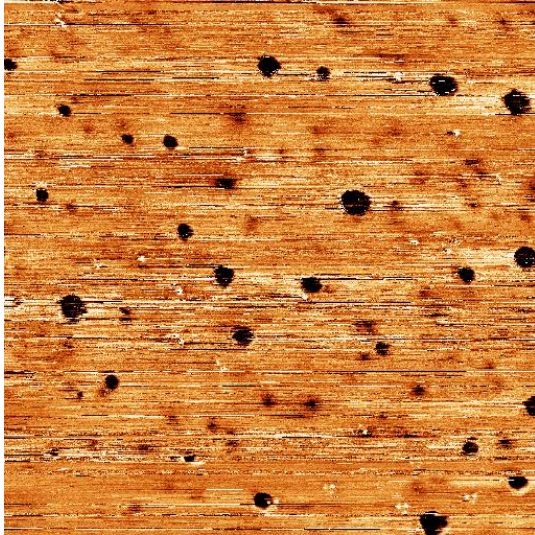


N-sputtered EMLG

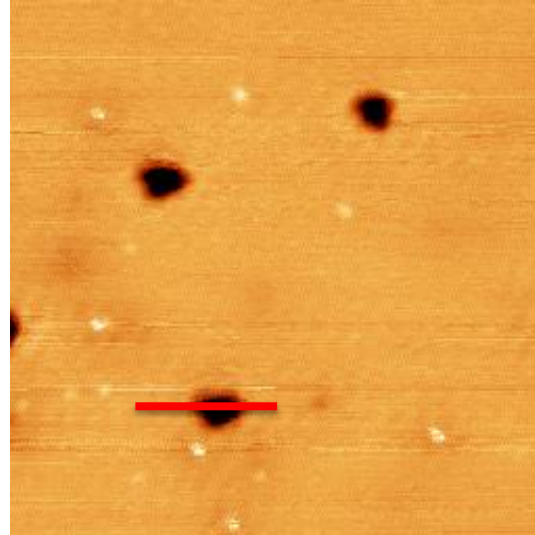


Mashoff, et.al.,
arXiv:1410.2741

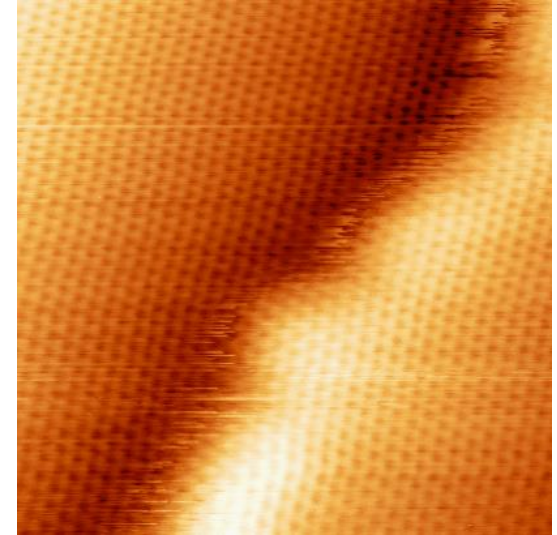
STM $T_H = 1000^\circ\text{C}$



200 nm

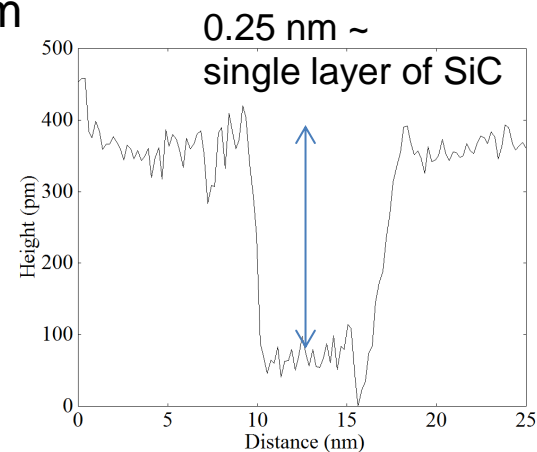


50 nm

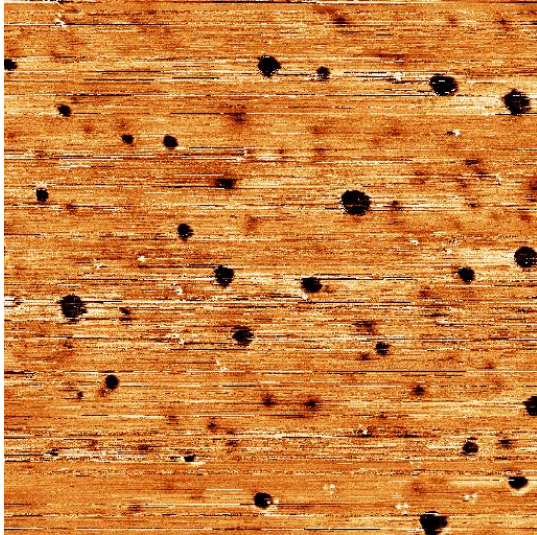


8 nm

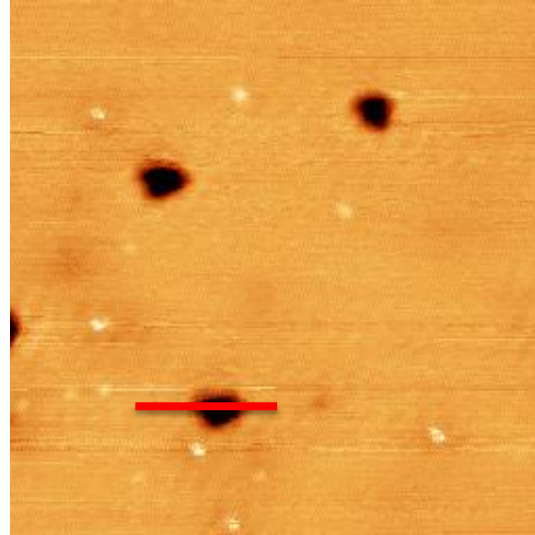
- large dark spots (width: 4-10 nm, depth: 0.25-0.3 nm)
- small dark spots (width: 1.5 nm, depth: 15-25 pm)
- bright spots



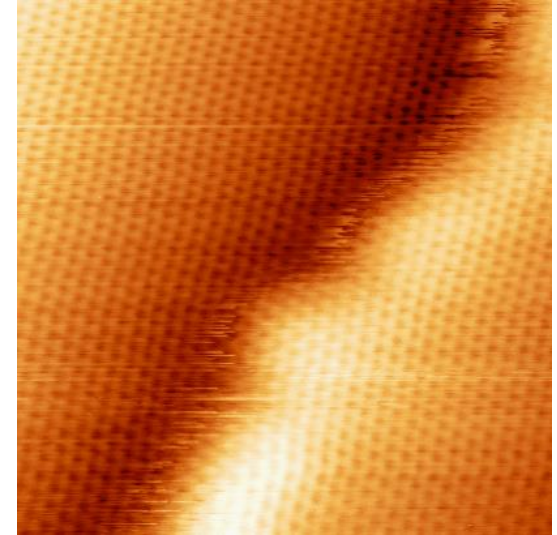
Large dark spots



200 nm



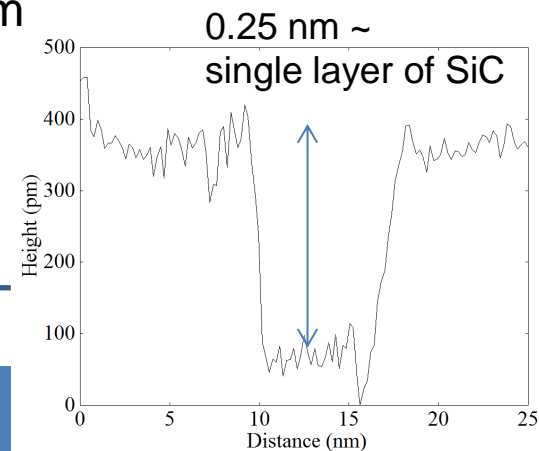
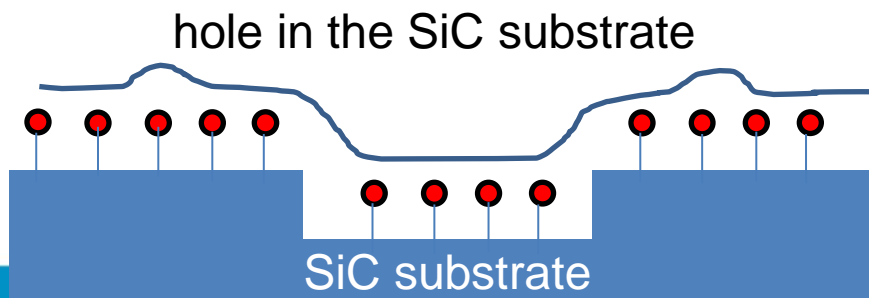
50 nm



8 nm

- width: 4-10 nm, depth: 0.25-0.3 nm
- distribute randomly
- honeycomb inside

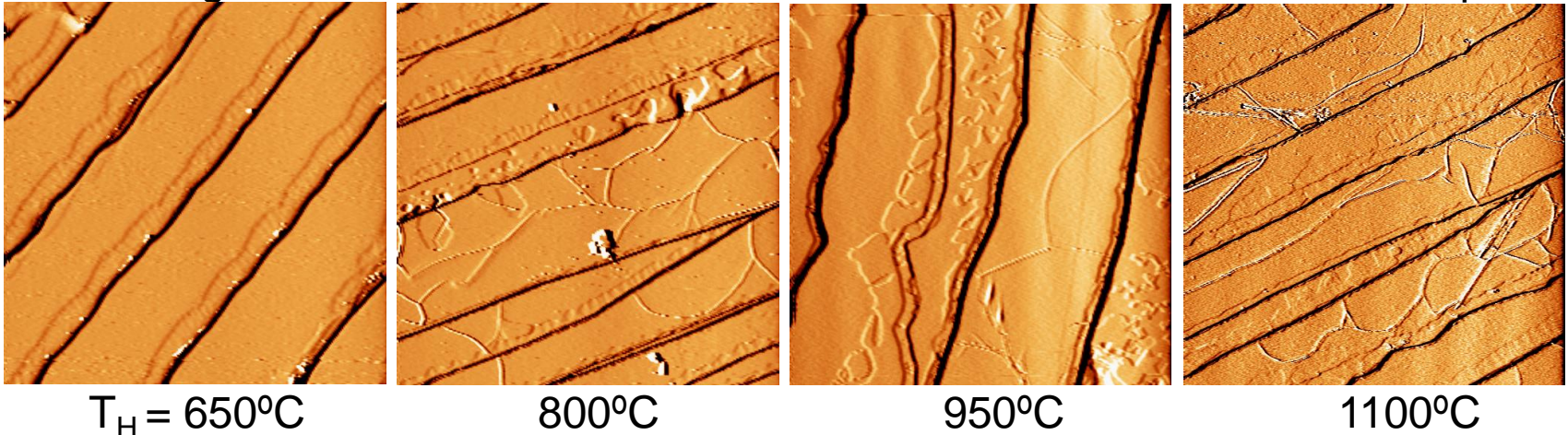
etched at high T_H



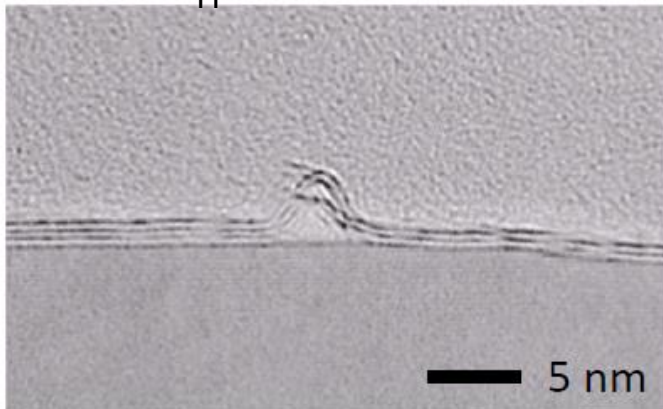
Wrinkles of graphene

AFM images differentiated in horizontal axis

14 μm



TEM $T_H = 1200^\circ\text{C}$



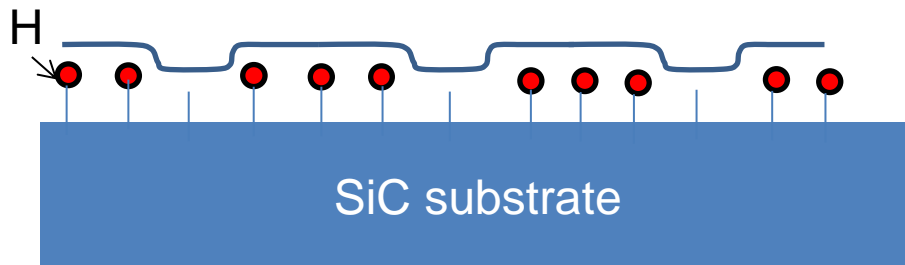
wrinkles appear at $T_H > 800^\circ\text{C}$

more pronounce at $T_H > 1100^\circ\text{C}$

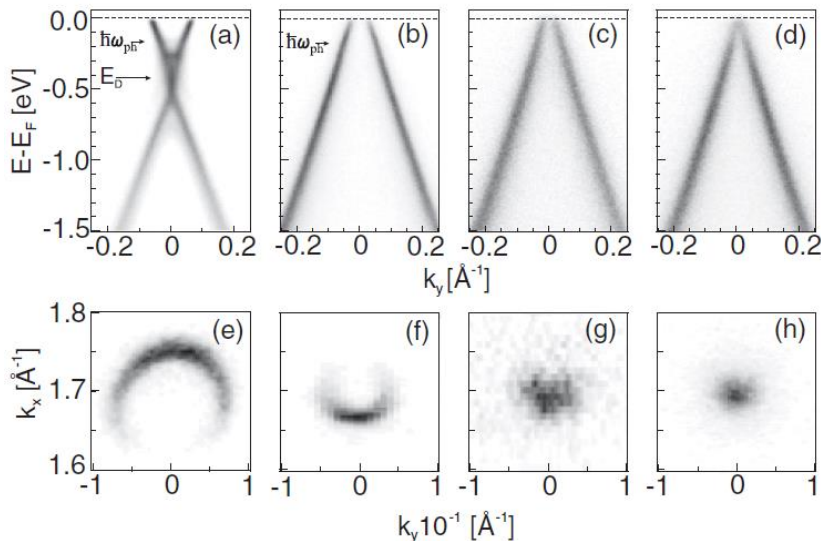
the difference in thermal expansion coefficients between graphene and SiC

Morphology and transport

$T_H = 600-800^\circ\text{C}$



- small dark spots
- incomplete H intercalation
- Si dangling bonds



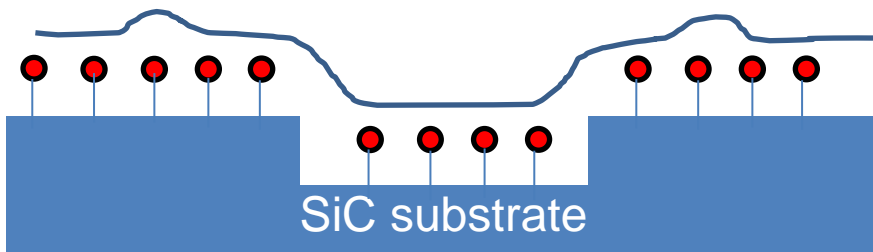
ARPES Forti, et.al., Phys. Rev. B 84, 125449 (2011).

annealing QFMLG in vacuum

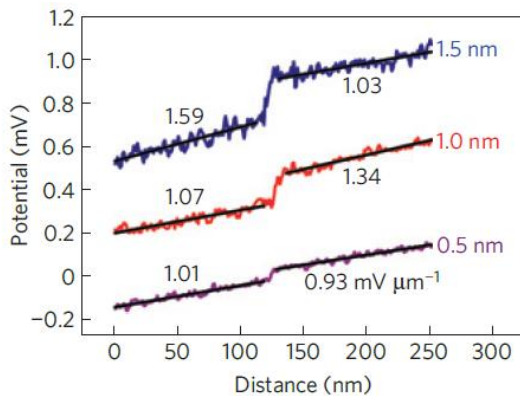
- H atoms desorb
- Si dangling bonds donate charge to graphene and act as charged scattering centers.

Morphology and transport

$T_H = 1000^\circ\text{C}$



- dark spot – hole in SiC substrate
- wrinkle of graphene



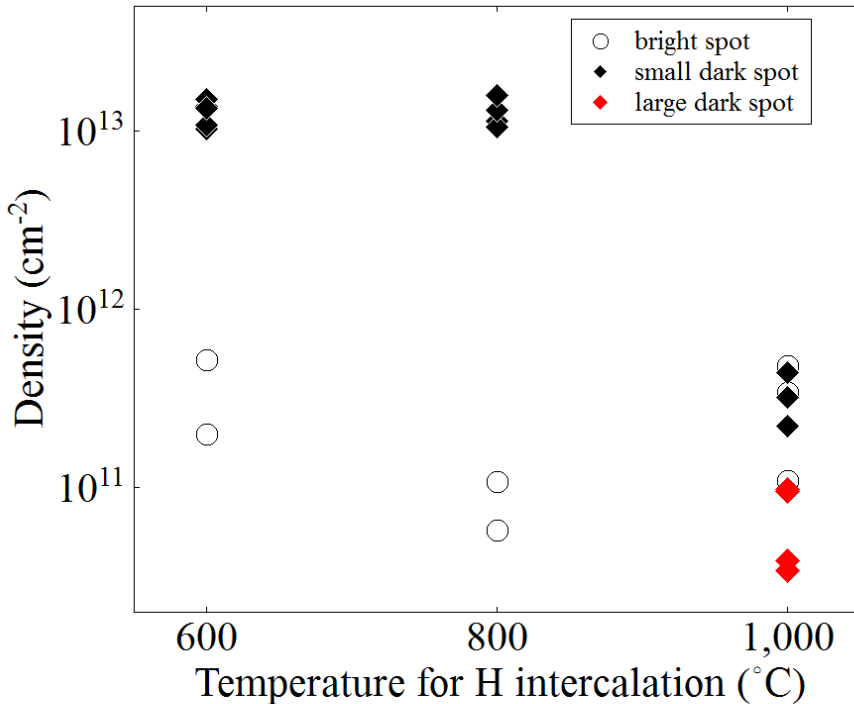
Scanning tunneling potentiometry

Ji, et.al., Nature Materials 11, 114 (2012)

resistance of EMLG increases over SiC substrate steps

- π - σ hybridization by curvature of graphene
- strain of graphene
- reduced doping due to a larger distance at the interface

Morphology and transport

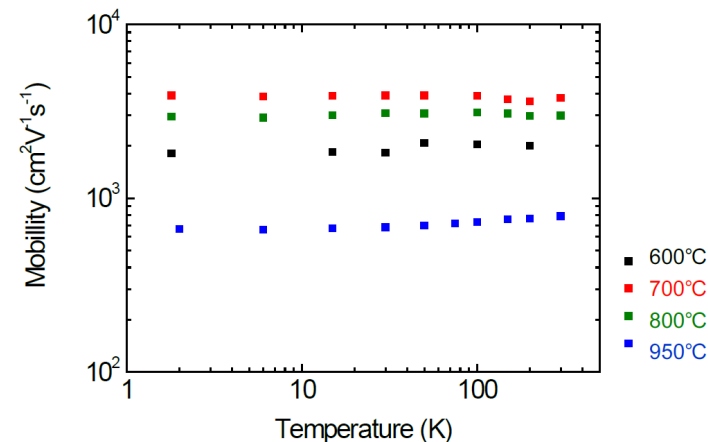


The formation of holes and wrinkles has a larger influence on the QFMLG mobility than increased H intercalation.

- bright spot – constant at any T_H

As T_H increases from 600-800 to 1000°C,

- small dark spot decreases.
-more H intercalation
- hole in SiC substrate and wrinkles of graphene appear



Conclusion

- We investigated the morphology of QFMLG formed at several temperatures by H intercalation with STM, AFM, and TEM.
- We found that Si dangling bonds due to incomplete H intercalation at the graphene-substrate interface cause carrier scattering as charged impurities in QFMLG at $T_H = 600$ and 800°C .
- At $T_H = 1000^\circ\text{C}$, holes in the SiC substrate and wrinkles of graphene appear and decrease the mobility of QFMLG, despite a better H intercalation.
- In order to obtain a higher mobility of QFMLG, we need to optimize the H intercalation condition to intercalate more H, below the temperature at which holes and wrinkles appear.

Thank you for your attention!

Funding:



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



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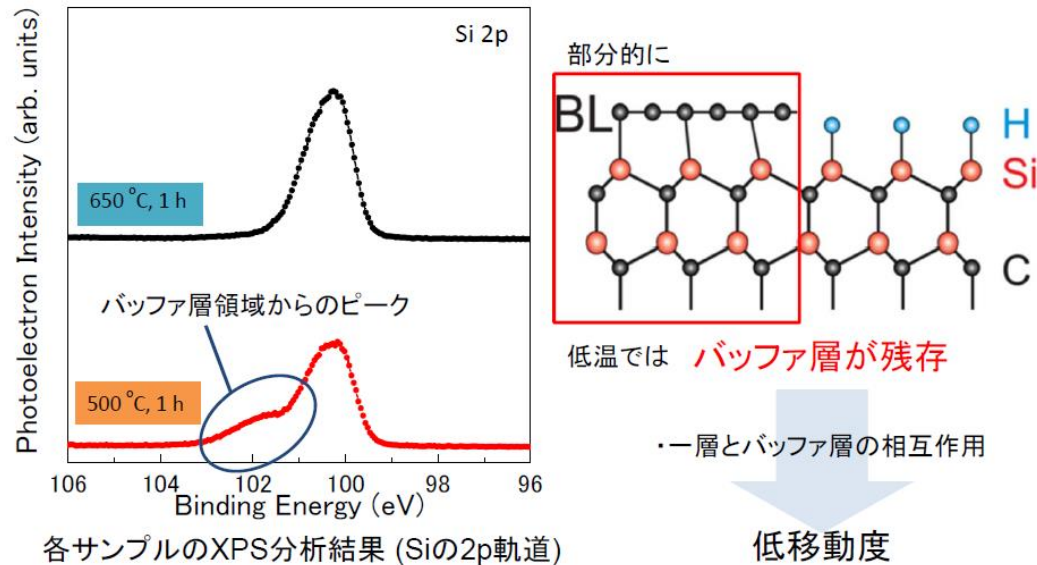


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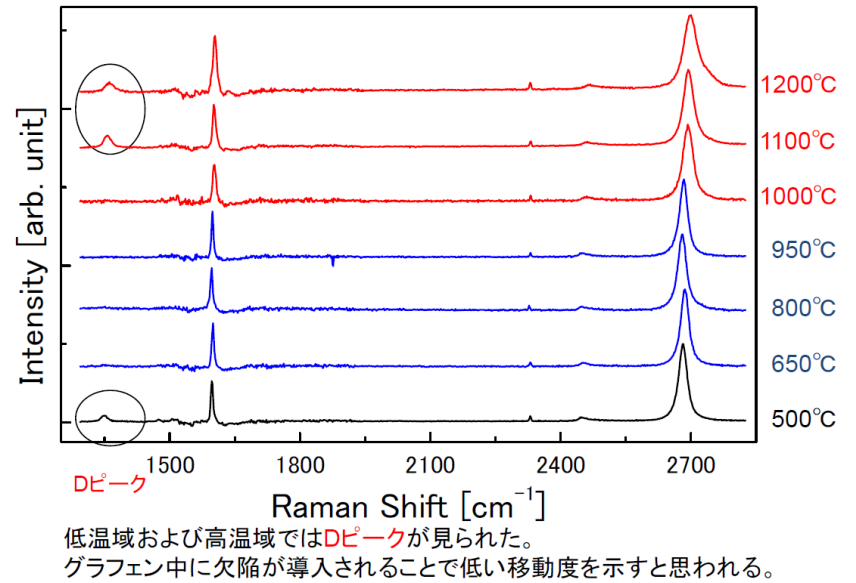
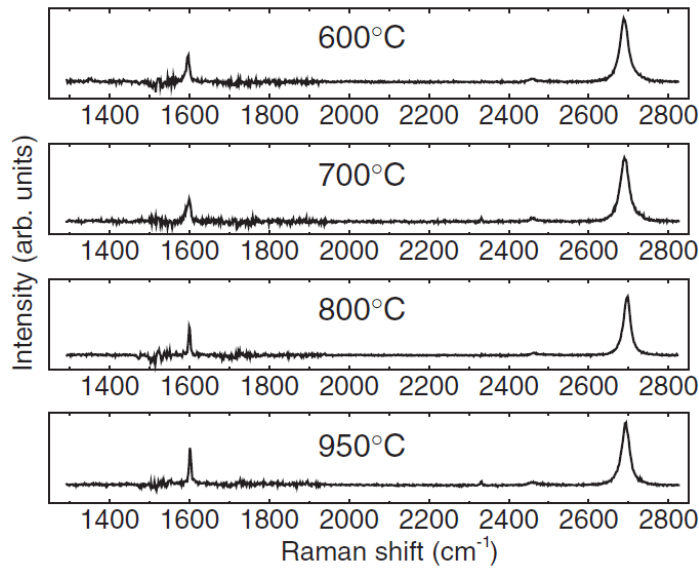
GRAPHENE FLAGSHIP

XPS

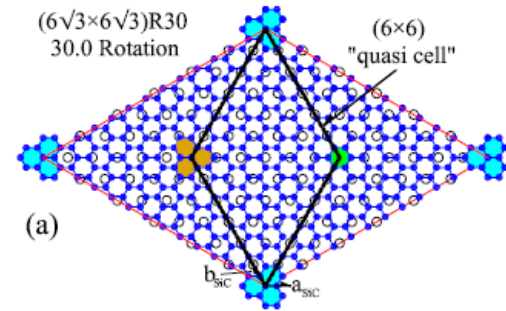


The signal from buffer layer was obtained at T = 500C, but not at 650C.

Raman

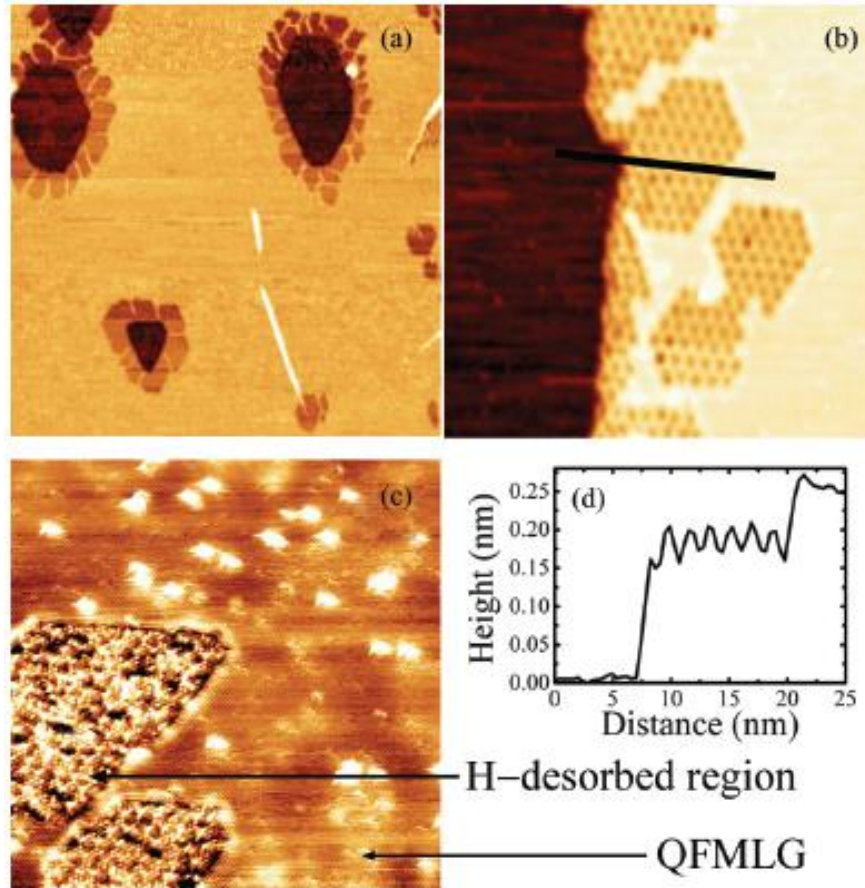


D peak at 600C, 500C and > 1100C



A buffer layer (SiC(0001)1x1) has 1.22×10^{15} Si atoms cm^{-2} .

The density of small dark spots is $< 1.4 \times 10^{13}$ cm^{-2} ($\sim 1\%$ of Si atoms).



PHYSICAL REVIEW B 86, 045453 (2012)

binding energy of chemisorbed H on graphene = 1.18 eV
 binding energy of H₂ on graphene ~ 0.1 eV

formation energy of QFMLG = -2.9 eV
 H intercalation is energetically favorable

energy barrier for diffusion of an H atom through a graphene layer = 3.73 eV

energy barrier for diffusion of an H atom through a buffer layer = 4.7 eV

energy barrier for diffusion of an H atom and H₂ molecules through a buffer layer with defects

	Pristine	SW	V ₂	V ₄
H	2.55	1.52	0.13	0.23
H ₂	...	6.89	3.64	0.69

barrier for migration of an H atom at the interface between a buffer layer and SiC = 0.6 eV
 barrier for migration of a H₂ molecule at the interface between QFMLG and SiC = 0.3 eV