# Immagazzinamento di idrogeno in materiali 2D e 3D basati su grafene

**Stefano Veronesi** 

NEST, Istituto Nanoscienze-CNR and Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa, Italy





### Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Chemisorption
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Physisorption
- New Materials



### Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydro Lt is conventionally accepted that the energetic threshold separating the binding energy of "physisorption" from that of "chemisorption" is about 0.5 eV per adsorbed species.

Source: Wikipedia



Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Chemisorption
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Physisorption
- New Materials



#### **Renewable Energies**





#### **Renewable Energies**

Renewable energy suffer from intermittency of supply

Wind Power does not allow electricity to be produced when it is most needed, i.e. when demand is highest.





Renewable energy suffers from intermittency of supply Wind Power does not allow electricity to be produced when it is most needed, i.e. when demand is highest

# Energy Storage in a safe and cheap way is a critical issue



Storage of Potential Energy (Water)





- Storage of Potential Energy (Water)
- Electrochemical Storage (Batteries)





- Storage of Potential Energy (Water)
- Electrochemical Storage (Batteries)
- Electrical Storage (Supercapacitors)





- Storage of Potential Energ
- Electrochemical Storage (I
- Electrical Storage (Superc
- Heat Storage (Water, Salt)



Latentwärmespeicher im Testbetrieb in Carboneras, Spanien (14 t NaNO3, Phasenwechsel bei 305 °C)



- Storage of Potent
- Electrochemical S
- Electrical Storage
- Heat Storage (Water 1998)



Chemical Storage (Hydrogen)





*Figure 1.* The weight and volume of various fuels and tank systems required for a 500 km range vehicle.

U. Eberle et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 6608.

### Why Hydrogen?





#### Hydrogen Storage in a safe and cheap way is a critical issue



#### Hydrogen-fuelled vehicles ....











#### ... since the 1970s ...





#### ... now for sale





#### **Trucks and Buses**







## Hydrogen-fuelled Train



Die Züge werden elektrisch angetrieben. Die elektrische Energie wird an Bord in einer Brennstoffzelle erzeugt und in Batterien zwischengespeichert.



# Hydrogen-fuelled Airplane







National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

29 September 2016



#### Airbus











Lateral naval architects @ 2019

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

https://sinot.com/



# Hydrogen & energy

As a fuel, hydrogen has advantages:

- Highest energy-to-mass ratio
- $H_2 + 1/2 O_2 \rightarrow H_2O$   $\Delta H = -2.96eV$
- Non-toxic and "clean" (product = water)
- Renewable, unlimited resource
- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emission
- Reduction of oil dependency

However, hydrogen is NOT an energy source: it must be produced e.g. by electrolysis, needing +2.96 eV, with zero balance with respect to energy production.



Hydrogen fuel cell



# Hydrogen & energy

Hydrogen is an energy carrier (such as electricity) and its advantages must be considered with respect to storage and transportation devices

- $\boldsymbol{\bigstar}$  High energy storage capacity  $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$
- ♦ Low dispersion (  $\checkmark$  )

◆Easy and practical use in standard conditions (✓)
◆Safety (✓)



Hydrogen fuel cell

Graphene has potentially all of these properties



#### ... but it better be safe



Hindenburg disaster, 1937, New Jersey (USA)

#### Hydrogen Storage





### Hydrogen Storage

A CONTRACT	to the second se					
Liquid hydrogen	Cryo- adsorption	Interstitial metal hydride	Compressed hydrogen	Alanate	Salt-like metal hydride	Water
LH2	Activated carbon	Laves Phase Comp./ FeTiH <sub>x</sub> / LaNi <sub>5</sub> H <sub>x</sub>	CGH2	NaAlH <sub>4</sub>	MgH <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O
100 mat.wt%	6.5 mat.wt%	2 mat.wt%	100 mat.wt%	5.5 mat.wt%	7.5 mat.wt%	11 mat.wt%
Operating temperature						
-253°C	> -200°C	0 - 30°C	25°C	70 - 170°C	330°C	>> 1000°C

Targets for **transport applications** not reached yet:

 $\rho_{\rm m}$  > 5.5 wt%

 $\rho_{\rm V}$  > 50 kg H<sub>2</sub> /m<sup>3</sup>

 $P_{eq} \approx 1 bar at T < 100 °C$ 

#### Compressed H<sub>2</sub>:

High pressure and heavy container to support such pressure

#### Solid State:

Physisorption Chemisorption

#### Liquid H<sub>2</sub>:

Liquefation needs energy and consumes more than 20% of the recoverable energy



## Hydrogen Storage

#### Mean distance between hydrogen molecules



#### Mean distance between hydrogen atoms

Conventional metal hydrides

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{0.21 nm Westlake Criterion} \\ 10.7 \times 10^{22} \\ atoms \ cm^{-3} \end{array}$ 



National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

R. v. Helmolt, U. Eberle: J. Power Sources 165, 833 (2007).



#### Hydrogen storage On-Board a Vehicle







*Fig. 1 Primitive phase diagram for hydrogen<sup>46</sup>. Liquid hydrogen only exists between the solidus line and the line from the triple point at 21.2 K and the critical point at 32 K.* 

#### A. Zuettel, Materials Today, 09/2003, p. 24



# Storing hydrogen as a gas



PISA NE

CNRNANO

*Fig. 1 Primitive phase diagram for hydrogen*<sup>46</sup>. *Liquid hydrogen only exists between the solidus line and the line from the triple point at 21.2 K and the critical point at 32 K.* 



Fig. 2 Volumetric density of compressed hydrogen gas as a function of gas pressure, including the ideal gas and liquid hydrogen. The ratio of the wall thickness to the outer diameter of the pressure cylinder is shown on the right hand side for steel with a tensile strength of 460 MPa. A schematic drawing of the pressure cylinder is shown as an inset.

#### A. Zuettel, Materials Today, 09/2003, p. 24



# Liquid hydrogen storage





• T = 21.2 K

- Ambient pressure
- Energy consumption to liquefy hydrogen:
  - Theo 3.23 kWh/kg
  - Technical 15.2 kWh/kg
  - 50% of hydrogen energy density
- Boil-off < 0.4% per day

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

#### A. Zuettel, Materials Today, 09/2003, p. 24



# Physisorption of hydrogen



Fig. 3 Reversible amount of hydrogen adsorbed (electrochemical measurement at 298 K) versus the surface area (red circles) of a few CNT samples including two measurements on high surface area graphite (HSAG) samples together with the fitted line. Hydrogen gas adsorption measurements at 77 K from Nijkamp et al.<sup>19</sup> (black squares) are included. The dotted line represents the calculated amount of hydrogen in a monolayer at the surface of the substrate.

- Carbon nanomaterials
- Nanoporous materials (zeolites)
- Metal-organic frameworks
- Amount of adsorbed hydrogen proportional to specific surface area
- Low pressure, low cost, simple design
- Low temperatures (77K) required
- Low gravimetric and volumetric density

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

#### A. Zuettel, Materials Today, 09/2003, p. 24



# Physisorption of hydrogen



Fig. 3 Reversible amount of hydrogen adsorbed (electrochemical measurement at 298 K) versus the surface area (red circles) of a few CNT samples including two measurements on high surface area graphite (HSAG) samples together with the fitted line. Hydrogen gas adsorption measurements at 77 K from Nijkamp et al.<sup>19</sup> (black squares) are included. The dotted line represents the calculated amount of hydrogen in a monolayer at the surface of the substrate.

- For storage at 77K:
- Heat of adsorption is
   ~2 MJ per kg of H<sub>2</sub>.
- Store 5 kg of H<sub>2</sub>: heat of 10 MJ is produced.
- Needs ~70 kg of LN<sub>2</sub> for cooling.

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

U. Eberle et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 6608.

#### Graphene for Hydrogen Storage





# Graphene for hydrogen storage

- Graphene is lightweight, inexpensive, robust, chemically stable
- Large surface area (~ 2600 m<sup>2</sup>/g)
- Functionalized graphene has been predicted to adsorb up to 9 wt% of hydrogen



Yang et al., PRB 79 (2009) 075431



- To store 4 kg of H<sub>2</sub>, assuming  $\rho_m = 10$  wt%, we need 40 kg of graphene.
- Graphene surface area: ~  $2600 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .
- 40 kg of graphene cover  $\sim 10^8$  m<sup>2</sup> or 10 km x 10 km.
- Assuming a layer distance of 1 nm, we can put 10<sup>9</sup> graphene layers in a stack of 1 m height.
- Then in 1 m<sup>3</sup> we have 10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>2</sup> graphene.
- Thus, 40 kg of graphene would fit into a 100 liter tank.



## H storage in graphene



♦ Molecular hydrogen chemi(de)sorption has high barrier (theoretical estimate ~eV)  $\Rightarrow$  chemisorbed H is stable for transportation etc, but catalytic mechanisms are necessary in the loading-release phases



### Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Chemisorption
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Physisorption
- New Materials



#### **Control of Graphene's Properties** by Reversible Hydrogenation: Evidence for Graphane

D. C. Elias,<sup>1</sup>\* R. R. Nair,<sup>1</sup>\* T. M. G. Mohiuddin,<sup>1</sup> S. V. Morozov,<sup>2</sup> P. Blake,<sup>3</sup> M. P. Halsall,<sup>1</sup> A. C. Ferrari,<sup>4</sup> D. W. Boukhvalov,<sup>5</sup> M. I. Katsnelson,<sup>5</sup> A. K. Geim,<sup>1,3</sup> K. S. Novoselov<sup>1</sup>†

Science 323 (2009) 610

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 75, 153401 (2007)

#### Graphane: A two-dimensional hydrocarbon

Jorge O. Sofo,<sup>1,2</sup> Ajay S. Chaudhari,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> and Greg D. Barber<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, USA <sup>2</sup>Materials Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, USA (Received 25 January 2007; published 10 April 2007)



Theoretical (max.) hydrogen storage capacity:

1 H atom per 1 C atom

= 1 / (12+1) = 7.7 wt%



### Graphene Curvature

 Exploit graphene curvature for hydrogen storage at room temperature and pressure



V. Tozzini and V. Pellegrini: J. Phys. Chem. C 115, 25523 (2011).



### Graphene Curvature

- Exploit graphene curvature for hydrogen storage at room temperature and pressure
- The hydrogen binding energy on graphene is strongly dependent on local curvature and it is larger on convex parts



National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

V. Tozzini and V. Pellegrini: J. Phys. Chem. C 115, 25523 (2011).



## Graphene Curvature

- Exploit graphene curvature for hydrogen storage at room temperature and pressure
- The hydrogen binding energy on graphene is strongly dependent on local curvature and it is larger on convex parts
- Atomic hydrogen spontaneously sticks on convex parts; inverting curvature H is expelled



National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

V. Tozzini and V. Pellegrini: J. Phys. Chem. C 115, 25523 (2011).

#### **Experimental Demonstration**

#### Part I: Site-selective adsorption of hydrogen on convex regions



#### H-dimers and tetramers



Para-dimer

Ortho-dimer

Tetramer

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

S. Goler et al.: J. Phys. Chem. C 117, 11506 (2013).



### Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Chemisorption
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Physisorption
- New Materials



# Functionalized Graphene

(c)

- Functionalized graphene has been predicted to adsorb up to 9 wt% of hydrogen
- Modify graphene with various chemical species, such as calcium or transition metals (Titanium)



Lee et al., Nano Lett. 10 (2010) 793

Durgen et al., PRB 77 (2007) 085405



#### THE JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

#### Investigation of Spillover Mechanism in Palladium Decorated Hydrogen Exfoliated Functionalized Graphene

Vinayan Bhagavathi Parambhath,<sup>†,‡</sup> Rupali Nagar,<sup>†</sup> K. Sethupathi,<sup>‡</sup> and S. Ramaprabhu<sup>†,\*</sup>

<sup>+</sup>Alternative Energy and Nanotechnology Laboratory (AENL), <sup>1</sup>Nano Functional Materials Technology Centre (NFMTC) <sup>‡</sup>Low Temperature Physics Laboratory, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600036, India

Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Porous activated carbon or nanostructured carbon materials have a promising future as hydrogen storage media. The hydrogen storage capacity of nanostructured carbon materials can be further enhanced by spillover of atomic hydrogen from a supported catalyst. In the present work, both of these factors have been put to test to study the hydrogen storage capacity of palladium (Pd) nanoparticles dispersed over the surface of functionalized hydrogen-exfoliated-graphene (Pd/*f*-HEG). The high-pressure



hydrogen storage measurements of HEG and Pd/*f*-HEG show a hydrogen storage capacity of 0.5 and 1.76 wt % respectively at 25 °C and 2 MPa pressure. Functionalization of graphene facilitates uniform dispersion of Pd nanoparticles, which result in an increased hydrogen storage capacity of graphene by 69%. Heats of adsorption have been calculated for HEG and Pd/*f*-HEG that are consistent with the theoretical calculations from literature and provide an experimental evidence for the spillover effect.

Experiment: V. B. Parambhath et al., J. Phys. Chem C **115** (2011) 15679. Hydrogen *spill-over* effect





#### Experiments





### Titanium on graphene





ML graphene on SiC(0001) with reconstruction

#### After deposition of Ti at RT

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

T. Mashoff et al.: Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 013903 (2013)



### Titanium on graphene



T. Mashoff et al.: Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 013903 (2013)



### Titanium island growth



6% Coverage



16% Coverage



29% Coverage



53% Coverage



79% Coverage





### Titanium island growth



6% Coverage



16% Coverage



29% Coverage



53% Coverage



79% Coverage



oTechnology



#### Thermal desorption spectroscopy

- Deposition of different amounts of Titanium
- Offering Hydrogen (D<sub>2</sub>)
- (1x10<sup>-7</sup> mbar for 5 min)
- Heating sample with constant rate (10K/s) up to 550° C
- Measuring masssensitive desorption with a mass spectrometer



Spectra for different Ti-coverages

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

T. Mashoff et al.: Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 013903 (2013)



#### Thermal desorption spectroscopy



K. Takahashi et al.: J. Phys. Chem. C 120, 12974 (2016).



# N<sub>2</sub> - sputtering of the graphene surface

Clean graphene surface



10x10 nm<sup>2</sup>, 1V, 0.8nA

Sputtered 150s @100eV



10x10 nm², 1V, 0.8nA

Defects in the graphene film are expected to reduce the mobility of Ti-atoms and to lead to a larger number of smaller islands.

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

T. Mashoff et al.: Appl. Phys. Lett. 105, 083901 (2015).



#### Average Number of Islands per 100 nm<sup>2</sup>





# Higher number of defects leads to smaller Ti islands





### Outline

- Introduction to Hydrogen Storage
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Chemisorption
- Hydrogen Storage on Graphene by Physisorption
- New Materials

#### Beyond 2D





(a)

UHV

SiC

#### Silicon Carbide (SiC) porosification



oScience and nanoTechnology



#### Epitaxial Graphene growth on porous SiC

and a second and a second second









#### Pores analysis by electron tomography



S. Veronesi et al.: Carbon 189, 210 (2022).





#### H-storage in 3D graphene arrangement





# Physisorption in 3D graphene arrangement





# Functionalization of 3D graphene with gold nanoparticles







 $M_{ad} = 58.25 K X$ 



#### People



















