

The Effects of Plasma Treatment on the Field Emission Characteristics of Carbon Nanotubes

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ABSTRACT

In this work, thermal chemical vapor deposition was utilized to grow carbon nanotubes (CNTs). Silane was the main source for carbon, and argon was used as the carrier gas. CNTs were synthesized from carbon atoms obtained from catalytic thermal decomposition of silane. CF₄ gas and Ar gas plasma treatment was utilized for carbon nanotubes (CNTs). Raman spectroscopy, SEM, EDS and TEM were employed to study the structural properties of CNTs after plasma treatments. From experimental results, it is found that the shape of the tips of CNTs was modified, and amorphous carbon was removed by plasma treatment. These factors can cause an increase in the field emission density. Observed from field emission results, after 2min of CF₄ plasma treatment, the emission current density reach 9.5mA/cm², whereas the emission current density is only 3.0mA/cm² after 2min of Ar plasma treatment. This large difference can be attributed to the conglomeration found in the CNTs after CF₄ plasma treatment which can provide lots of additional emission site.

Keywords : carbon nanotubes (CNTs) ; field emission ; thermal chemical vapor deposition (thermal CVD)

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