

University of Ioannina Department of Materials Science & Engineering Computational Materials Science



Ηλεκτρικές και οπτικές και ιδιότητες γραφενίου

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Carbon-based materials



Graphene

• a one-atom-thick planar sheet of sp²-bonded carbon atoms



Graphene applications



Picture from: A.K. Geim and K.S. Novoselov, "The rise of graphene", Nat. Mater. 6, 183 (2007)

Graphene roadmap



Some of graphene's optoelectronic applications

Great properties for optoelectronics

- High mobility - optical transparency - flexibility - environmental stability



Growing graphene



How does graphene look like?

A single graphene layer of thickness d=0.335 nm is visible to the naked eye!!



Images by Silvia Milana, Univ. Cambridge (2013)



Graphene electronic structure: p_z orbitals



Graphene: a 2D hexagonal lattice with a basis

Graphene <u>mic</u> structure



Tight-binding approach

• Eigenvalue problem $\langle \Phi_{R} | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle = E \langle \Phi_{B} | \Psi \rangle$ $\langle \Phi_{_{A}} \, | \, \hat{H} \, | \, \Psi \rangle = E \langle \Phi_{_{A}} \, | \, \Psi \rangle$



- Integrals
- $\langle \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} | \hat{H} | \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{B}} \rangle e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{A} \mathbf{r}_{B})} = t \cdot e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{d}}$ if \mathbf{r}_{A} and \mathbf{r}_{B} are neighbors, otherwise = 0 $\left\langle \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} \mid \hat{H} \mid \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} \right\rangle e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{A} - \mathbf{r}_{A'})} = t' \cdot e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \quad \text{if } \mathbf{r}_{A} \text{ and } \mathbf{r}_{A'} \text{ are neighbors, otherwise} = 0$ $\langle \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} | \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{B}} \rangle e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{A} - \mathbf{r}_{B})} = 0$ $\langle \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} | \phi_{\mathbf{r}_{A}} \rangle e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{A} - \mathbf{r}_{A})} = 1$ if $\mathbf{r}_A = \mathbf{r}_{A'}$, otherwise = 0 • We get *t*, *t*' from experiment

 $\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = c_A \Phi_A(\mathbf{r}) + c_B \Phi_B(\mathbf{r})$

 $\Phi_A(\mathbf{r}) = \sum e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_A}\phi(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_A)$

 $\Phi_{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{a}^{\mathbf{r}_{A}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{B}} \phi(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_{B})$

- t ≈ 3 eV t' ≈ 0.1 eV t'<<t, thus we only assume $r_A \leftrightarrow r_B$ hopping

Graphene band structure

Relation between wavevector k (momentum) and energy E



Tight-binding approach

• Eigenvalue problem $\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = c_A \Phi_A(\mathbf{r}) + c_B \Phi_B(\mathbf{r})$ $\langle \Phi_{A} | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle = E \langle \Phi_{A} | \Psi \rangle$ $\langle \Phi_A | H | \Psi \rangle = E \langle \Phi_A | \Psi \rangle$ $\langle \Phi_B | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle = E \langle \Phi_B | \Psi \rangle$ $\Phi_B(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}_A} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_A} \phi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_A)$ $\Phi_B(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}_B} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_B} \phi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_B)$ $t \cdot \left(\mathrm{e}^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} + \mathrm{e}^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} + \mathrm{e}^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} \right) \cdot c_B = E \cdot c_A$ $t \cdot \left(e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} + e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} + e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} \right) \cdot c_A = E \cdot c_B$ $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & t \cdot f(\mathbf{k}) \\ t \cdot f^*(\mathbf{k}) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_A \\ c_B \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} c_A \\ c_B \end{pmatrix}$ Solution to the eigenvalue problem



set $f(\mathbf{k}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3}$

$$\begin{vmatrix} -E & t \cdot f(\mathbf{k}) \\ t \cdot f^*(\mathbf{k}) & -E \end{vmatrix} = 0 \implies E = \pm t \cdot |f(\mathbf{k})|$$
$$|f(\mathbf{k})| = \sqrt{3 + 2\cos(\sqrt{3}k_y a) + 4\cos(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}k_y a)\cos(\frac{3}{2}k_x a)}$$

Dirac point

• Expand around K-point $\mathbf{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{q}$ K $k_x = \frac{2\pi}{3a} + q_x \qquad k_y = \frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3a}} + q_y$ **|q**|

$$\mathbf{X} = \frac{2\pi}{3a} \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right)$$

$$|f(\mathbf{k})| \cong \frac{3}{2}a$$

• Energy around K-point

$$E \cong \pm \frac{3}{2} t \cdot a |\mathbf{q}| = \pm \hbar \upsilon_F |\mathbf{q}|$$
$$\upsilon_F = \frac{3}{2} \frac{t \cdot a}{\hbar} \approx 10^6 \text{ m/s}$$

$$E = \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4} \qquad \begin{cases} m = 0\\ c = \upsilon_F \end{cases}$$



Massless Dirac fermions



Dirac density of states

• 2D density of states

$$D(k)dk = 4\frac{2\pi k \cdot dk}{\left(2\pi\right)^2}$$

Change into energy

$$E = \hbar v_F k$$

$$D(E)dE = \frac{2E \cdot dE}{\pi \hbar^2 v_F^2}$$

- The joint density of states is DOS at $\hbar \omega/2$

$$D\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right) = \frac{\hbar\omega}{\pi\hbar^2 \upsilon_F^2} = \frac{\omega}{\pi\hbar \upsilon_F^2}$$



Optical properties



Optical properties

- Direct optical transitions
 - transition rate (Fermi's golden rule)

$$\eta = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |M|^2 D\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right)$$

- transition matrix element

$$|M|^2 = I \frac{\pi e^2 v_I^2}{2c\omega^2}$$

- Dirac density of states

$$D\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right) = \frac{\omega}{\pi\hbar\upsilon_F^2}$$

- absorption coefficient $A = \frac{\eta \hbar \omega}{I} = \pi \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} = \pi \alpha$



Graphene optical transmission



Light absorption = $1-R-T = \pi a$

Light absorption = 1-R-T = πa • universal absorption πa per graphene layer $\pi \alpha = \frac{3.14159...}{137.035...} \approx 0.023 = 2.3\%$

- Universal optical conductance
- Real part of conductivity

 $\Re \sigma(\omega) = \frac{\pi e^2}{\omega} |\mathbf{v}(\omega)|^2 D(\omega)$ $|\mathbf{v}(\omega)|^2 \propto v_F^2$ $D(\omega) \propto \frac{\omega}{\pi \hbar v_F^2}$

$$\Re \sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar}$$

Dielectric constant . $\varepsilon(\omega) = 1 + i \frac{4\pi\sigma(\omega)}{\omega^{d}}$



Graphene optical transmission

• Experimental verification of $\pi \alpha$ absorption per layer experiments on graphene suspended in air 100 white light ideal %¹⁰ **Dirac fermions** (%) light transmittance 2.3% transmittance 98 number of layers bilayer theory: 3 4 graphene air 96 (%) light В 94

400

500

25 50 distance (µm)

wavelength λ (nm) Nair et al., Science 320, 1308 (2008)

600

 $\frac{\pi e^2}{\hbar c} = \pi \alpha$

- 5

700





Graphene visibility

- If graphene does not reflect, how come it is visible?
 - only in specific substrates due to interference
 - choose a substrate with small initial reflection
 - graphene's effect is then maximal
- Condition for small reflection: antireflection
 - spacer thickness = $\lambda/4$ -
 - spacer index = $\sqrt{\text{substrate index}}$

Experimental verification





Dark field visibility • In dark field mode, only the edges of graphene "light up" Numerical simulations and theory predict this behavior $|\Delta E|^2 / |E_0|$ $\times 10$ SLG $\times 10^{-}$ observation <u>(a</u> ------SiO

Rayleigh scattering in the "flatland" $I(\theta) \propto k^{\alpha} \rho^{\alpha-2} t^2 |\varepsilon_r - 1|^2 \sin^2 \theta$





Conductance at finite temperature and doping

vavelength (nm)

700

Fermi-Dirac distribution function

 $f(E) = \frac{1}{e^{(E-\mu)/k_BT} + 1}$ $\mu: \text{ chemical potential (due to doping)}$ T: temperature (K) $k_B: \text{ Boltzmann constant}$

Interband transitions in the Dirac cone

$$\Re \sigma_{\text{inter}}(\omega) = \frac{\pi e^2}{\omega} |\mathbf{v}(\omega)|^2 D(\omega) \left[f\left(-\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right) - f\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right) \right]$$
$$\approx \frac{e^2}{8\hbar} \left[\tanh\left(\frac{\hbar\omega + 2\mu}{4k_BT}\right) + \tanh\left(\frac{\hbar\omega - 2\mu}{4k_BT}\right) \right]$$

Intraband transitions of free carriers

 $\sigma_{\text{intra}}(\omega) = e^2 \int 4 \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{4\pi^2} \frac{\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k})}{1/\tau - i\omega} \left(-\frac{\partial f}{\partial E}\right)_{E=E(\mathbf{k})}$ $=e^{2}\frac{2k_{B}T}{\pi\hbar^{2}}\ln\left(2\cosh\frac{\mu}{2k_{B}T}\right)\frac{1}{1/\tau-i\omega}$





20 30 40 50 60 70 80 Angle 0 (deg)

Electric field effect: doping by gating

- Graphene/oxide/semiconductor system
 - Conductor/dielectric/conductor \Rightarrow capacitor
 - Field applied by bottom gating with voltage V_a

$$Q = C_g \cdot V_g \Longrightarrow n = C_g \cdot V_g / c$$

- The scaled capacitance Cg/e was measured for graphene $n^{-1}V^{-1}$

$$C_g / e_{(300 \text{ nmSiO2/Si})} = 7.2 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}$$

- So we can use

 $n\left[10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}\right] = 7.2 \times \frac{300}{t[\text{nm}]} \frac{\varepsilon_r}{3.9} V_g[\text{V}]$ t: spacer thickness ε_r : spacer dielecric constant





Electric field effect: Fermi level shift

• Number of charges in Fermi level (at T=0)



Doping by direct contact



- Local shift of graphene's Fermi level
- Creation of a lateral "Schottky" junction

$$\int_{M_{m}}^{\infty} \int_{M_{m}}^{\infty} \int_{M_{m}}^{\infty}$$

0.6 AI

Ag Cu Au

Pt

Graphene's free charges

• The free carrier conductance

$$\sigma_{\text{intra}} = e^2 \frac{2k_B T}{\pi \hbar^2} \ln \left(2 \cosh \frac{\mu}{2k_B T} \right) \frac{1}{1/\tau - i\omega}$$

At high doping (large Fermi energy E_F or chemical potential μ), the free carrier conductance becomes temperature independent. So we use the T=0 approximation:

$$= e^{2} \frac{2 R_{B}T}{\pi \hbar^{2}} \ln \left(2 \cosh \frac{\mu}{2k_{B}T} \right) \frac{1}{1/\tau - i\omega}$$

$$= e^{2} \frac{2 R_{B}T}{\pi \hbar^{2}} \ln \left(2 \cosh \frac{\mu}{2k_{B}T} \right) \frac{1}{1/\tau - i\omega}$$

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μ=0.1

0.10

- These carriers have an effective mass $E_F = v_F p_F = m^* v_F^2 \Rightarrow m^* = E_F / v_F^2$
 - The mobility μ^* is related to the relaxation time τ from the Drude formula: $\mu^* = \frac{e\tau}{m^*} \Rightarrow \tau = \frac{\mu^* E_F}{e O_x^2}$
 - Typical mobility values $\mu^* > 10000 \text{ cm}^2 / \text{V} \cdot \text{s}$ or higher. For $\text{E}_{\text{F}}=0.1 \text{ eV}$ we get $\tau > 10^{-13} \text{ s}$

typical values for noble metals are $\tau \approx 10^{-14} \ {
m s}$

- Graphene very promising for IR plasmonics!!

Graphene plasmonic applications



$E'_{x} = E_{x}$ $H'_{x} = H_{x} + I_{x}$ • General SPP condition $\frac{\kappa}{\varepsilon} + \frac{\kappa'}{\varepsilon'} = \frac{-i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0\omega}$ - If $k_{\parallel} >> \varepsilon \omega^2 / c^2 \Longrightarrow \kappa = \kappa' \approx k_{\parallel}$ then $k_{\parallel} \approx \varepsilon_0 \frac{\varepsilon + \varepsilon'}{2} \frac{2i\omega}{\sigma}$



Surface Plasmon Polaritons



SPP conditions

Dielectric function

-20

-40

-60

1.0

We get two different SPP relations

typical metal/dielectric SPP

typical dielectric/graphene/dielectric plasmon





Camparison between SPPs



Excitation of SPPs

- Surface plasmon polaritons exist below the light-cone
 - momentum conservation does not allow direct excitation
 - special care is needed to excite them



In grating excitation:



Measuring graphene plasmons





Z. Fei et al., Nature 487, 82 (2012)