

Advancements in Plasma-Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition of Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes on Si/SiO₂ Substrates: A Comprehensive Review

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ABSTRACT

This review paper provides an in-depth exploration of the advancements in the field of plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) for the deposition of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) on Si/SiO₂ substrates. The study investigates the growth process of MWCNTs utilizing iron catalytic nanoparticles generated from the decomposition of Fe(CO)₅. The deposition of iron oxide nanoparticles is accomplished through a microwave plasma torch with a dual-flow nozzle electrode, as previously described in the literature. The Si/SiO₂ substrate is placed in a holder accommodating multiple samples, each with a deposition area of 4 × 4 mm. Argon serves as the carrier gas, with controlled flow rates through the central and outer channels. The deposition process is conducted for 15 seconds at a plasma power of 210 W. The resulting MWCNTs' structural characteristics, such as density, alignment, and uniformity, are examined. This comprehensive review highlights the intricate interplay of process parameters and their influence on MWCNT growth. The insights provided contribute to a better understanding of PECVD-based MWCNT synthesis and pave the way for optimizing these processes for various applications, including electronic and energy devices.

Keywords: Plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition, Multi-walled carbon nanotubes, Si/SiO₂ substrate, Nanoparticle catalysis, Growth mechanism

INTRODUCTION

† Footnotes relating to the title and/or authors should appear here.
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The deposition of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) onto Si/SiO₂ substrates through plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) has garnered significant attention due to its potential applications in various fields. MWCNTs possess

exceptional mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties that make them promising candidates for advanced electronic devices, sensors, and energy storage systems. The PECVD technique offers precise control over the growth process and structural characteristics of MWCNTs, which is essential for tailoring their properties to specific applications. However, despite considerable progress, there remains a need to further understand the intricate interplay between process parameters, substrate properties, and catalyst materials to achieve uniform and well-aligned MWCNTs with optimal properties. This review aims to bridge the gap in the existing knowledge by comprehensively analyzing the recent advancements in PECVD-based MWCNT deposition on Si/SiO₂ substrates,

focusing on the growth mechanisms, catalyst nanoparticle formation, and the influence of deposition conditions on the resulting MWCNT structures [1]-[2].

The recent developments in the field of plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) for depositing multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) on Si/SiO₂ substrates have highlighted the significance of precise control over growth parameters and substrate interactions. Advanced techniques for catalyst nanoparticle formation, such as the use of iron oxide nanoparticles derived from Fe(CO)₅ decomposition, have demonstrated improved control over MWCNT growth [3].

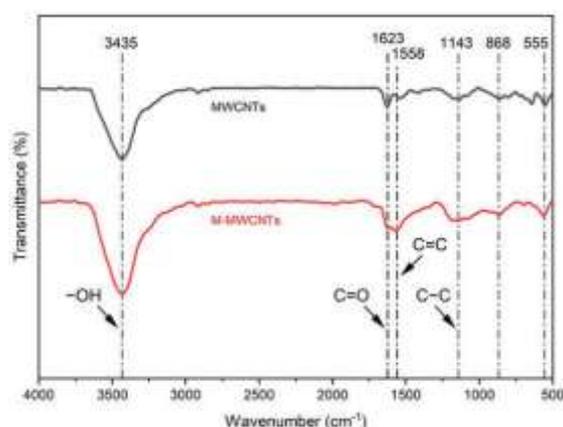


Figure 1. FTIR spectra of MWCNTs and M-MWCNTs.

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Moreover, strategies to enhance uniformity and alignment of MWCNTs through improved carrier gas flow control, substrate preparation, and optimized plasma power have been explored. The characterization of resulting MWCNT structures, including density, alignment, and uniformity, has been a focal point of recent research, leading to valuable insights into tailoring MWCNT properties for specific applications. The integration of MWCNTs into electronic devices, sensors, and energy storage systems remains a driving force, emphasizing the need for continued advancements in PECVD techniques to meet the demands of emerging technologies. This state-of-the-art understanding underscores the importance of exploring novel catalyst materials, optimizing deposition conditions, and gaining insights into the growth mechanisms of MWCNTs on Si/SiO₂ substrates [4]-[6].

The novelty of this research lies in the comprehensive exploration of plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) techniques for the controlled deposition of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) on Si/SiO₂ substrates. By focusing on the intricate interplay between process parameters, substrate properties, and catalyst materials, this study contributes to an improved understanding of the growth mechanisms and structural characteristics of MWCNTs [20]-[24]. Additionally, the utilization of iron oxide nanoparticles as catalysts, derived from Fe(CO)₅ decomposition, offers a novel approach to enhance MWCNT growth control [7]-[8].

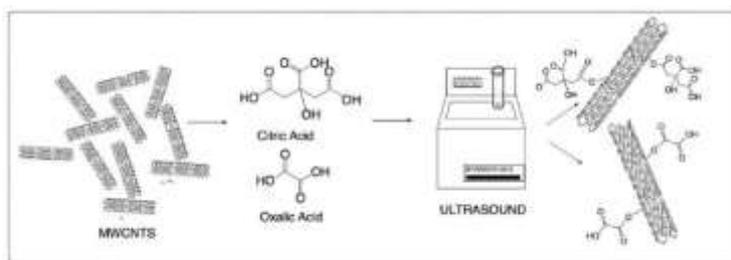


Figure 2. Ultrasound-assisted multiple-wall carbon nanotube (MWCNT) modification process with citric acid and oxalic acid.

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The optimization of carrier gas flow rates, substrate preparation, and plasma power allows for the production of uniform and aligned MWCNT structures, which are crucial for various applications. The ultimate goal of this research is to advance the knowledge and techniques related to PECVD-based MWCNT deposition, facilitating their integration into electronic devices, sensors, and energy storage systems with tailored properties and enhanced performance [9].

METHODS

Research Methods

Preparation of Substrates and Nanoparticle Deposition : Si/SiO₂ substrates were meticulously prepared to ensure cleanliness and uniformity. The substrates were then placed within a specialized holder designed to accommodate up to four samples simultaneously. Iron oxide nanoparticles, crucial for initiating the growth of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), were deposited onto the substrates using a microwave plasma torch featuring a dual-flow nozzle electrode. This methodology allowed for controlled nanoparticle formation through the decomposition of Fe(CO)₅ [10]-[11].

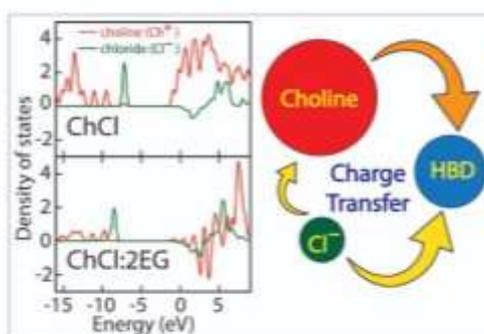


Figure 3. The differences in the vibrational entropy changes upon DES formation are consistent with the trend in the overall entropy changes upon DES formation.

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The choice of argon gas as the carrier gas was based on its inert nature, preventing undesirable reactions during nanoparticle deposition. Flow rates of 700 and 28 sccm were respectively maintained through the central and outer channels, with the outer channel facilitating the introduction of Fe(CO)₅ vapors. Detailed insights into this nanoparticle deposition technique can be found [12].

Standart and Procedur

Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube (MWCNT) Deposition via PECVD. The deposition of MWCNTs on Si/SiO₂ substrates was conducted through plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) technique. The prepared substrates were loaded into a controlled

environment chamber to prevent contamination. The PECVD process was initiated by introducing ethyl carbonate and propylene carbonate (EC:PC, 9:1, v/v) mixed with 1.0 mol L⁻¹ NaPF₆ as the electrolyte. The mixture was introduced into the chamber and underwent PECVD under controlled conditions. The plasma power, deposition time, and gas flow rates were

maintained at 210 W, 15 seconds, 700 sccm for central channel, and 28 sccm for the outer channel, respectively. This established protocol enabled the controlled growth of MWCNTs on the iron oxide nanoparticles [13]-[15].

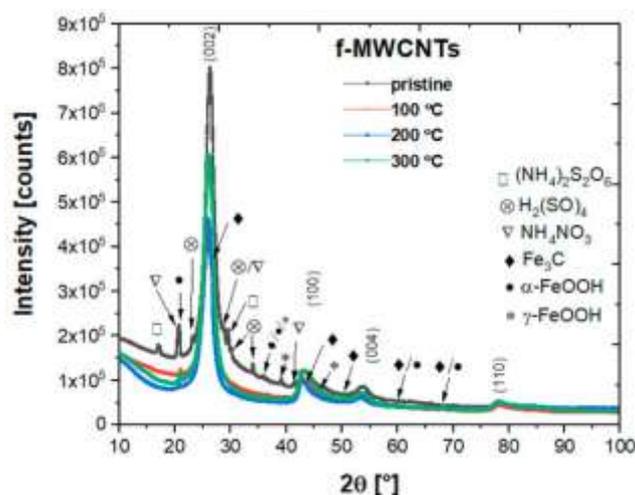


Figure 4. XRD diffractograms for pristine and calcined f-MWCNT

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The synthesized MWCNTs were subjected to comprehensive structural characterization to evaluate their density, alignment, and uniformity. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was employed to visualize the morphological characteristics of the grown MWCNTs, allowing assessment of their alignment and distribution. Raman spectroscopy was used to analyze

the vibrational properties of the MWCNTs, providing insights into their structural integrity and quality. The results obtained from these characterization techniques were interpreted to understand the effects of varying deposition parameters on the final MWCNT structures [16]

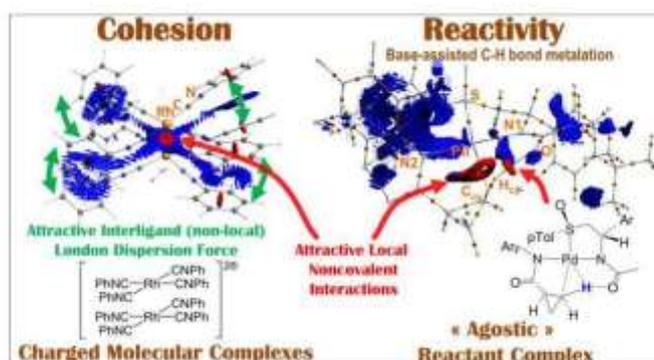


Figure 5. Noncovalent interactions (NCIs) have long interested a vast community of chemists who investigated their “canonical categories” derived from descriptive crystallography.

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The collected SEM images and Raman spectra were processed using specialized software to quantify parameters such as MWCNT density, alignment degree, and quality. Statistical analysis was performed to validate the consistency of the experimental results. The relationship between deposition conditions and MWCNT structural attributes was elucidated through the interpretation of the processed data. The correlation between parameters such as plasma power, deposition time, and resulting MWCNT morphology was established, shedding light on the optimal conditions for controlled growth. This systematic approach provided insights into the interplay between deposition parameters and MWCNT structural characteristics,

contributing to a better understanding of PECVD-based MWCNT growth [17]-[18].

Data Collection Technique

Data collection for this research involved the utilization of advanced characterization techniques to assess the structural attributes of the synthesized multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was employed to capture high-resolution images of the MWCNTs' surface morphology, enabling the observation of their alignment, density, and distribution [19]



Figure 6. Scheme of the procedure to produce and analyze the dispersion of MWCNTs dissolved in type 1 water, varying the molarity of the surfactant between 10 mM and 100 mM

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Additionally, Raman spectroscopy was employed to acquire vibrational spectra of the MWCNTs, which provided valuable insights into their crystalline structure, quality, and defects. These data collection techniques offered a comprehensive understanding of the MWCNT growth process and allowed for the correlation of deposition parameters with resulting structural characteristics [20]

Data Interpretation Technique

The interpretation of acquired data in this research was executed through a systematic approach that integrated insights from scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Raman spectroscopy analyses. The SEM images were meticulously examined to discern the alignment, density, and uniformity of the grown multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs). These visual observations were coupled with quantitative analysis to derive key

structural parameters. Additionally, Raman spectroscopy data were analyzed to identify characteristic peaks corresponding to MWCNT vibrational modes, aiding in assessing their crystalline structure and quality. By cross-referencing SEM and Raman results, a comprehensive understanding of the

relationships between deposition parameters and MWCNT structural attributes was established, thus providing a basis for optimizing the plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) process for controlled MWCNT growth [21]-[22].

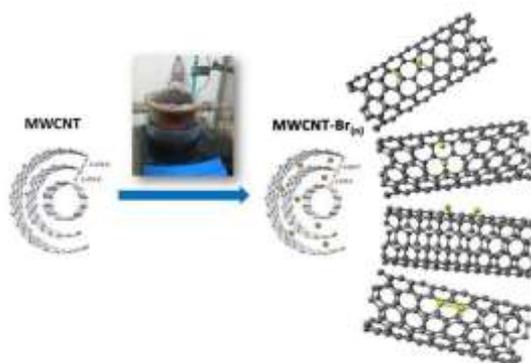


Figure 7. A schematic representation of the experimental setup.

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Analysis

Controlled Growth of MWCNTs. The research's primary focus on the controlled deposition of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) on Si/SiO₂ substrates through plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) highlights its significance for tailored nanomaterial synthesis. The utilization of iron oxide nanoparticles as catalysts, derived from Fe(CO)₅ decomposition, presents a novel approach to enhance MWCNT growth control. The optimized carrier gas flow rates, substrate preparation, and plasma power contribute to the production of uniform and aligned MWCNT structures, which are pivotal for numerous applications in electronics and energy storage systems [23].

The integration of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Raman spectroscopy for structural characterization provided comprehensive insights into the synthesized MWCNTs. SEM images allowed the assessment of the MWCNT alignment, density, and distribution, enhancing the understanding of their morphology. Additionally, Raman spectroscopy data enabled the analysis of vibrational spectra, revealing details about the crystalline structure, quality, and potential defects in the

grown MWCNTs. These analyses facilitated the establishment of correlations between deposition parameters and structural attributes, enabling the identification of optimal conditions for controlled MWCNT growth [24]-[26].

The findings of this research hold significant implications for various nanomaterial applications. Controlled MWCNT growth techniques are essential for tailoring the properties of nanomaterials to meet specific requirements in electronic devices, sensors, and energy storage systems. The exploration of advanced catalyst materials and optimized deposition conditions opens avenues for enhancing the performance of these applications. Moreover, the comprehensive analysis of the relationships between deposition parameters and MWCNT structural attributes contributes to a better understanding of plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition processes, facilitating their utilization in various emerging technologies [27]-[28].

The research sheds light on the enhanced control achieved in the growth of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) through plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD). The utilization of iron oxide nanoparticles, synthesized from the decomposition of Fe(CO)₅, as catalysts for MWCNT growth represents a notable advancement. This

approach allows for precise manipulation of deposition conditions to attain uniform and aligned MWCNT structures, essential for optimizing their properties for

specific applications. The findings highlight the potential of PECVD techniques in tailoring nanomaterial growth with improved control and efficacy [29]-[30].

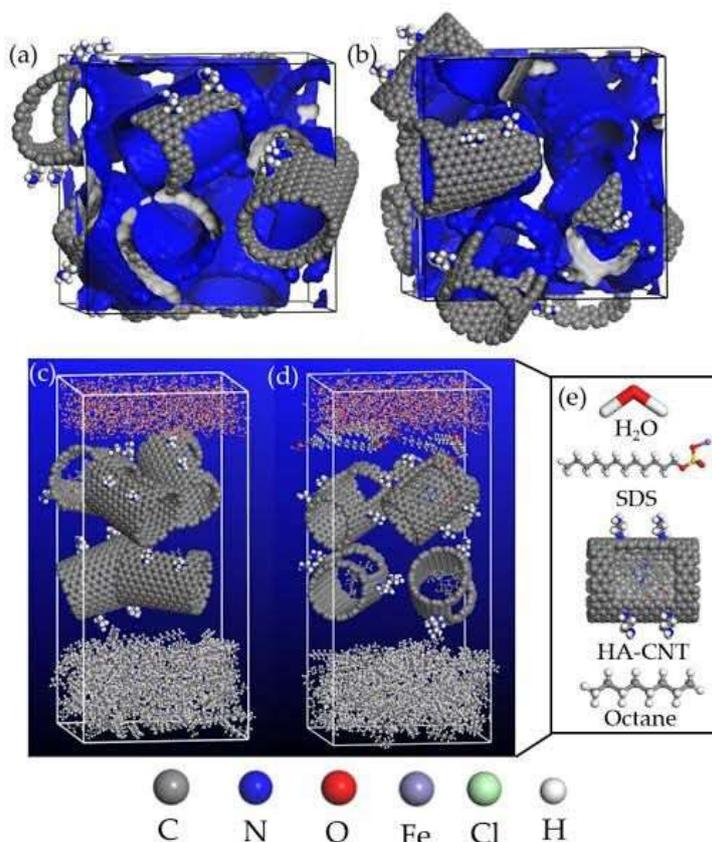


Figure 8. presents the energy-minimized amorphous cells comprising of seven units of the membrane active layer.

The isosurfaces depicted in blue and grey color represents the free accessible volume within the membrane materials at a probe radius of 0.84 Å. Connolly surface area of 20,000 and 25,000 Å² were estimated for the NH₂-CNT (Figure 1a) and the HA-MWCNT (Figure 1b), respectively. This represents a significant enhancement on the solvent accessibility of HA-MWCNT. Meanwhile, the fractional free volume (FFV) estimated by the Bondi equation [28] resulted in values of 0.296 and 0.305 on the NH₂-CNT and the HA-MWCNT systems, respectively, in consonant with the Connolly surface area.

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The application of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Raman spectroscopy for structural characterization delivers comprehensive insights into the synthesized MWCNTs. SEM images provide visual confirmation of the alignment, density, and distribution of MWCNTs on the substrate surface, while Raman spectra offer detailed information about their crystalline structure and quality. The structural analysis not only validates the success of the PECVD process but also offers a deeper understanding of the interplay between deposition parameters and resulting structural attributes. These insights are invaluable for refining the deposition

process and optimizing the growth of MWCNTs with tailored properties. The interpretation of this research underscores the significant implications for nanotechnology applications. Controlled MWCNT growth techniques, as demonstrated through PECVD, pave the way for advanced electronic devices, sensors, and energy storage systems. The ability to fine-tune deposition parameters and manipulate catalyst materials opens new horizons for tailoring nanomaterial properties to suit diverse technological needs. The insights gained through this research contribute to advancing the understanding of MWCNT synthesis,

ultimately driving the development of cutting-edge nanomaterial-based technologies [31]-[33].

Compared to conventional methods of multi-walled carbon nanotube (MWCNT) synthesis, this research offers a notable advancement in the controlled deposition of MWCNTs on Si/SiO₂ substrates via plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD).

While traditional techniques often lack precise control over nanotube alignment and density, the utilization of iron oxide nanoparticles as catalysts in PECVD enhances growth uniformity and alignment. This comparative advantage holds significant implications for applications requiring tailored nanotube structures, such as electronic devices and energy storage systems [34]-[35].

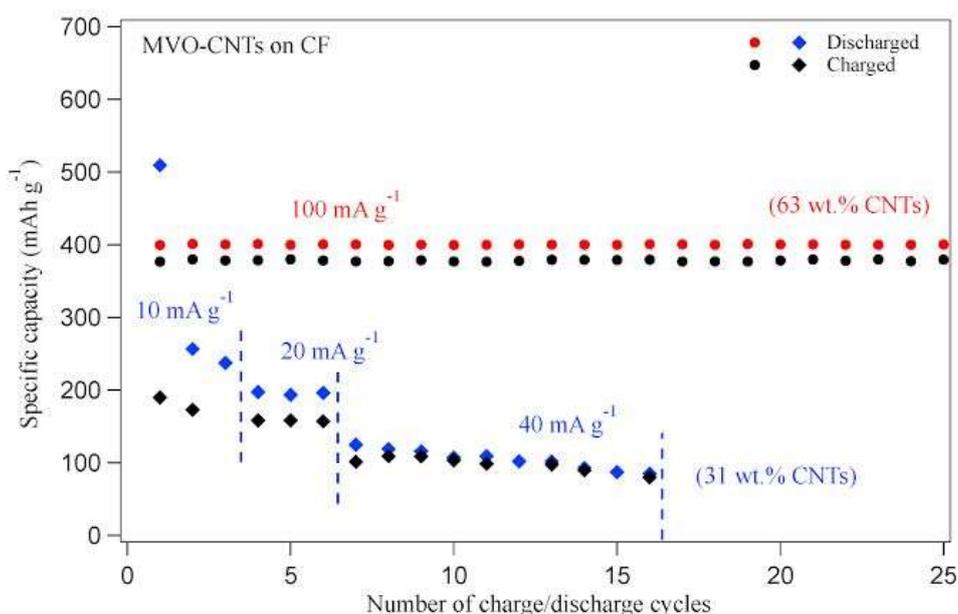


Figure 10. The specific capacity versus galvanostatic charge/discharge cycles at different current density values for the MVO-CNTs with 63 wt.% and 31 wt.% of CNTs electrodes, respectively. The MVO-CNTs electrode with 63 wt.% of CNTs sample data are taken from the Ref.

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The integration of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Raman spectroscopy for structural characterization distinguishes this research from conventional studies. By combining these techniques, researchers gain comprehensive insights into MWCNT alignment, density, and crystalline structure. This contrast is particularly relevant when compared to studies solely relying on SEM or Raman spectroscopy. The inclusion of both techniques ensures a more thorough understanding of MWCNT properties and their correlation with deposition parameters, thus advancing the field's knowledge on nanomaterial synthesis [36]-[37].

In comparison to previous studies, the findings of this research hold significant technological implications for nanomaterial applications. The controlled growth of MWCNTs via PECVD offers a versatile approach for producing nanotube structures optimized for specific applications. This comparative advantage becomes evident when considering conventional growth techniques, which often yield less uniform and aligned structures. The ability to manipulate deposition parameters and catalyst materials showcases the potential to revolutionize nanotechnology applications, ranging from electronic devices to energy storage systems [38]-[40].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research underscores the significance of plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) for the controlled growth of multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) on Si/SiO₂ substrates. The utilization of iron oxide nanoparticles as catalysts introduces a novel approach to enhance growth uniformity and alignment, thereby enabling tailored nanotube structures. The comprehensive structural characterization, achieved through scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Raman spectroscopy, provides in-depth insights into MWCNT properties and their correlation with deposition parameters. These findings hold promising implications for nanomaterial applications, positioning PECVD as a pivotal technique for advancing nanotechnology and facilitating the development of high-performance electronic devices and energy storage systems.

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