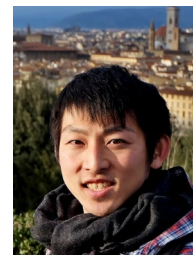


## Carbon Dots – Metal Oxide nanocomposite films with controlling functional properties using surface interaction

Kazumasa SUZUKI

Department of Materials Science,  
The University of Shiga Prefecture, Hikone, Shiga, 522-8533, Japan  
Email: [suzuki.ka@mat.usp.ac.jp](mailto:suzuki.ka@mat.usp.ac.jp)  
Lab web page: <http://metal1.mat.usp.ac.jp/~metal-labo/en/>



Carbon dots (C-dots) are of great interest as they show the unique photoluminescence properties in aqueous solution in spite of carbon-based nanomaterials. In the meantime, C-dots based solid-state systems, like emitting device have not yet been well-designed to achieve an efficient emission due to the difficulties in dispersion and in preventing reabsorption by surrounding substances. If the design of C-dots based nanocomposite systems are realized, the application fields must be expanded not only as emitting devices but also as conductive and electrochemical materials. In this seminar, C-dots – Metal Oxide nanocomposite systems are reviewed, using the different nanostructured composite systems to induce their specific interaction between the C-dots and Metal Oxide. Such a nanocomposite system, the unique surface properties of C-dots are the most important and useful for the incorporation with metal oxide matrices, such as  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  and so on. Also to achieve the wide range of design by controlling the chemical reaction, we use the solution process such as sol-gel method and hydrothermal synthesis to prepare the nanostructure-controlled composite films. In this seminar, several nanostructures with specific functional properties are introduced. For instance,  $\text{ZnO}$  – C-dots mesoporous films can induce the energy transfer from  $\text{ZnO}$  into C-dots, which enhance the luminescence of C-dots (Figure 1(a)).<sup>1,2</sup> Meanwhile, when the C-dots are much impregnated onto  $\text{ZnO}$  macroporous surface, a reducing effect on  $\text{ZnO}$  are observed (Figure 1(b)).<sup>3</sup> For the improvement of dispersibility of C-dots into the matrix, the surface of C-dots is functionalized by the organoalkoxysilane, which can be part of matrix (Figure 1(c)).<sup>4</sup> Another advanced electrochemical functionalities are being explored in a titania nanofunnels (TNFs) – C-dots system. Vertically-oriented TNFs against conductive substrate are prepared and make composition with C-dots, which can achieve the efficient electron transport for water splitting devices (Figure 1(d)). These designing of nanocomposite films using solution process can be one of the promising strategies to use C-dots efficiently for solid-state systems.

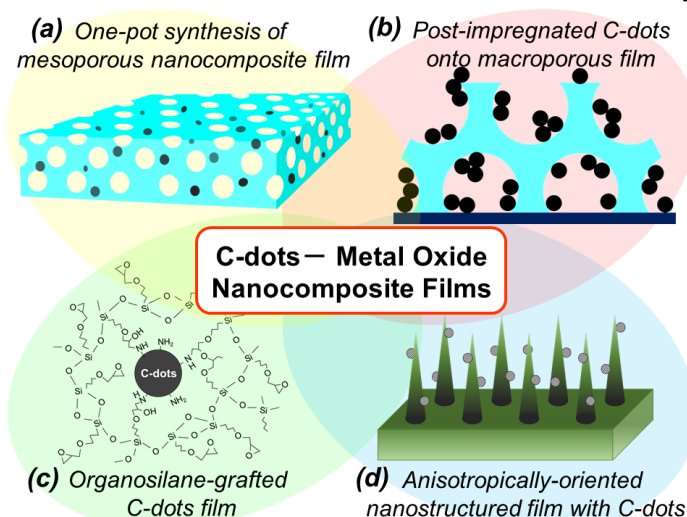


Figure 1. Synthetic designs of Carbon Dots – Metal Oxide nanocomposite films for advanced functional properties.

### References

1. K. Suzuki, L. Malfatti, D. Carboni, *et al.*, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 119, (2015) 2837–2843.
2. C. M. Carbonaro, L. Malfatti, K. Suzuki, *et al.*, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 122, (2018) 25638–25650.
3. K. Suzuki, M. Takahashi, L. Malfatti, P. Innocenzi, *RSC Adv.*, 6, (2016) 55393–55400.
4. K. Suzuki, L. Malfatti, M. Takahashi, F. Messina, *et al.*, *Sci. Rep.*, 7, (2017) 5469.

Contact : Delphine Schaming : [delphine.schaming@u-paris.fr](mailto:delphine.schaming@u-paris.fr)