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Carbon Nanotubes as Advanced Materials for Nanotechnology Applications

Vikram Sharma*

Department of Nanoscience and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology Delhi, India

***Corresponding author:** Vikram Sharma, Department of Nanoscience and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology Delhi, India.

E-mail: vikramsharma.nano@gmail.com

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Abstract

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) represent one of the most significant nanomaterials discovered in modern nanotechnology. These cylindrical carbon structures exhibit remarkable electrical conductivity, mechanical strength, and thermal stability due to their unique atomic arrangement. Their nanoscale dimensions and exceptional properties make them suitable for applications in electronics, energy storage, biomedical engineering, and composite materials. Advances in synthesis techniques such as chemical vapor deposition and arc discharge methods have enabled the production of high-quality nanotubes for technological applications. This article discusses the structural characteristics of carbon nanotubes, their synthesis approaches, and their emerging role in advanced nanotechnology systems.

***Keywords:** Carbon Nanotubes, Nanomaterials, Nanoelectronics, Nanocomposites, Chemical Vapor Deposition*

Introduction

Carbon nanotubes are cylindrical nanostructures composed of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice similar to graphene. These structures can be visualized as graphene sheets rolled into seamless tubes with diameters typically in the nano meter range. Since their discovery, carbon nanotubes have attracted enormous attention due to their unique mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties that surpass many conventional materials [1]. The structural configuration of carbon nanotubes plays a critical role in determining their physical characteristics. They are generally classified into single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) and multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs). Single-walled nanotubes consist of a single graphene layer rolled into a cylindrical structure, while multi-walled nanotubes contain multiple concentric graphene cylinders. These structural variations influence conductivity, strength, and chemical reactivity [2]. One of the most remarkable properties of carbon nanotubes is their exceptional mechanical strength. CNTs possess tensile strength several times higher than steel while maintaining extremely low density. This property has led to their incorporation into nanocomposites to enhance the mechanical stability and durability of materials used in aerospace, automotive, and structural applications [3]. Carbon nanotubes also demonstrate excellent electrical conductivity, making them promising candidates for nano electronic devices. Depending on their structural orientation, nanotubes can behave either as metallic conductors or semiconductors. This tunable electronic behavior enables their application in transistors, sensors, and nanoscale circuits used in advanced electronic systems [4]. Various synthesis techniques have been developed to produce carbon nanotubes with controlled dimensions and properties. Common methods include arc discharge, laser ablation, and chemical vapor deposition. Among these techniques, chemical vapor deposition has gained significant attention because it allows large-scale production with better control over nanotube growth and alignment. Continued research into synthesis optimization and surface functionalization is expanding the potential applications of carbon nanotubes in fields such as energy storage, environmental remediation, and biomedical technology [5].

Conclusion

Carbon nanotubes are among the most promising nanomaterials due to their extraordinary mechanical strength, electrical conductivity, and thermal properties. Their unique nanoscale structure enables a wide range of applications in electronics, nanocomposites, sensors, and energy systems. Continued advancements in synthesis and functionalization techniques are expected to further enhance their performance and expand their role in future nanotechnology innovations.

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