

Langmuir-Blodgett Assembly of Graphitic Films

Laura B. Biedermann¹, Jordan A. Fleischer^{1,2}, and Kevin R. Zavadil¹

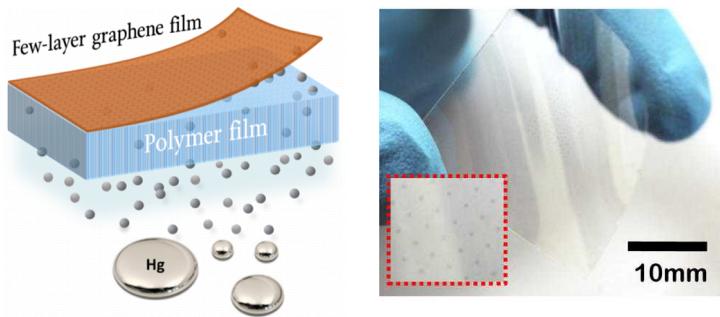
1. Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM
2. U. Michigan at Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI

Rio Grande Symposium on Advanced Materials, Oct. 22, 2012

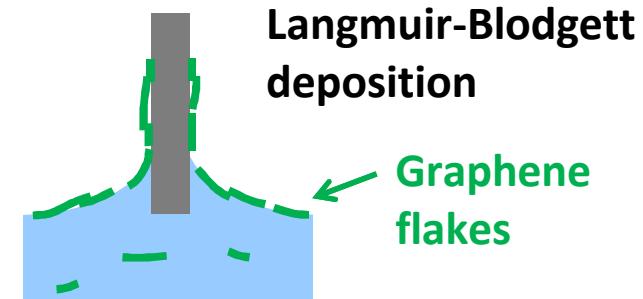
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Assembly of graphitic membranes

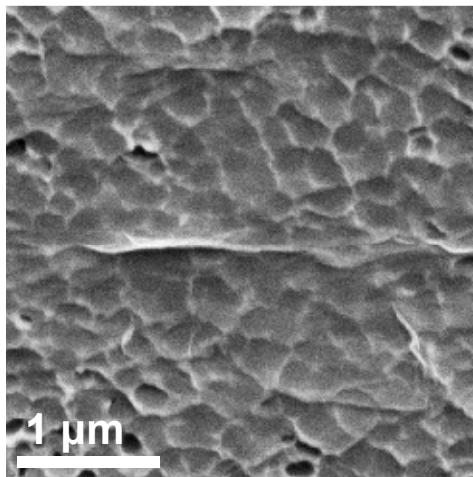
1. Motivation



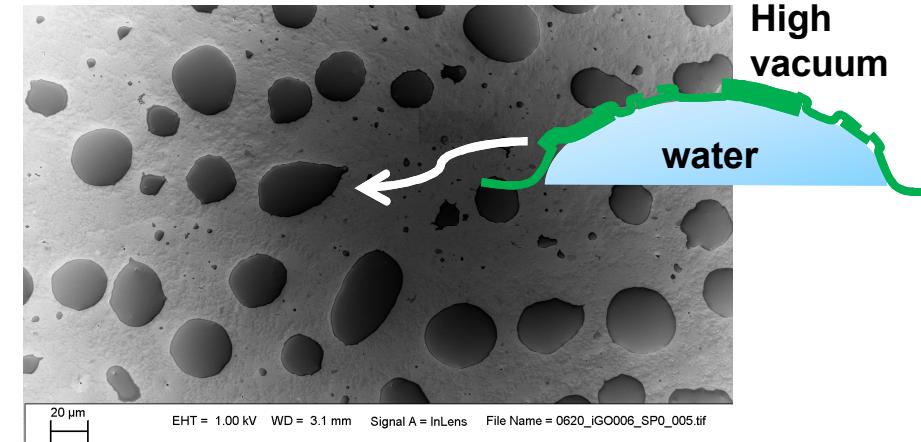
2. Experimental methods



3. Controllable deposition

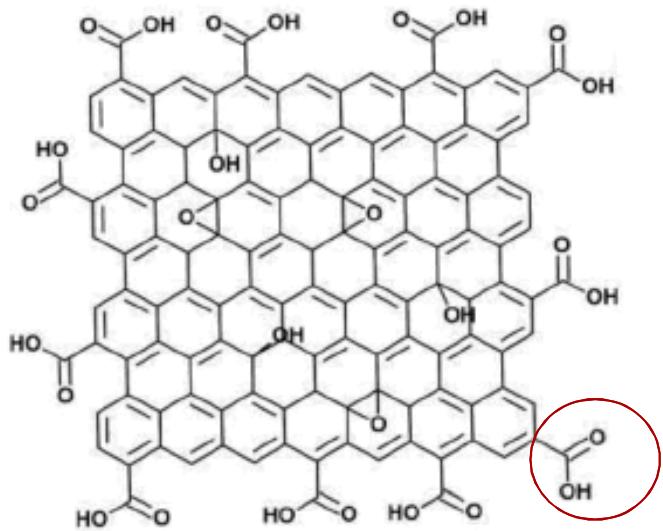


4. Permeation barrier



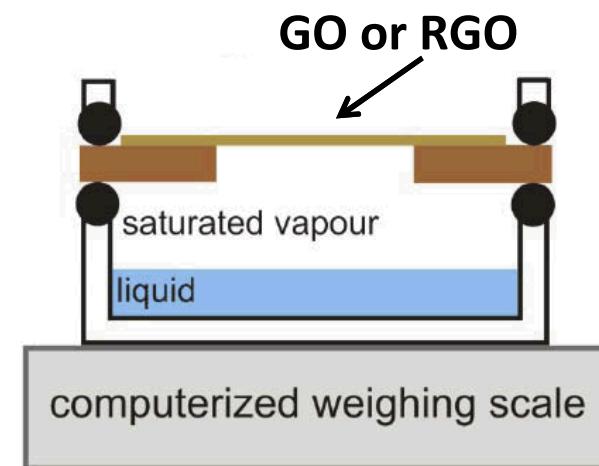
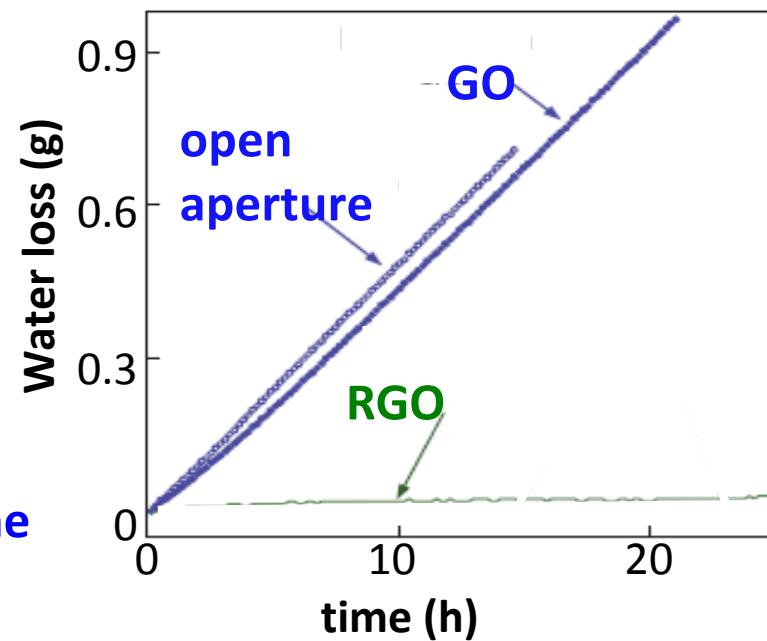
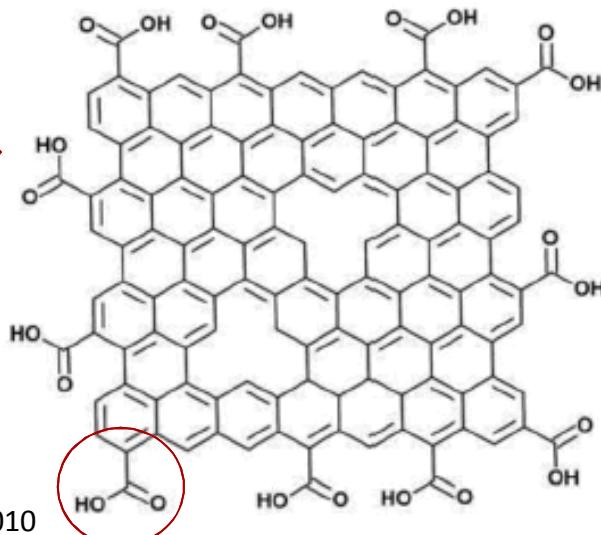
Compare properties of GO and RGO films

Graphene Oxide (GO)



Reduced Graphene Oxide (RGO)

+ 80 °C and
Ascorbic acid
(Vitamin C)

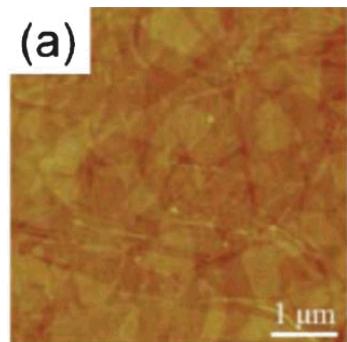
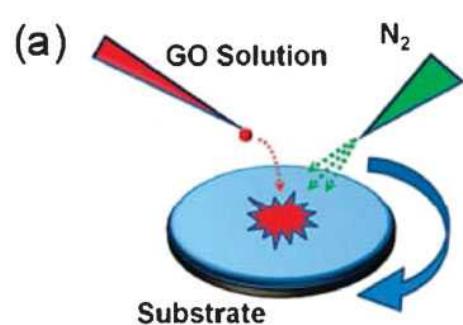


G. Eda and M. Chhowalla, *Adv. Mater.* 2010
M. Fernandez-Merino *et al.*, *J. Phys. Chem. C* 2010

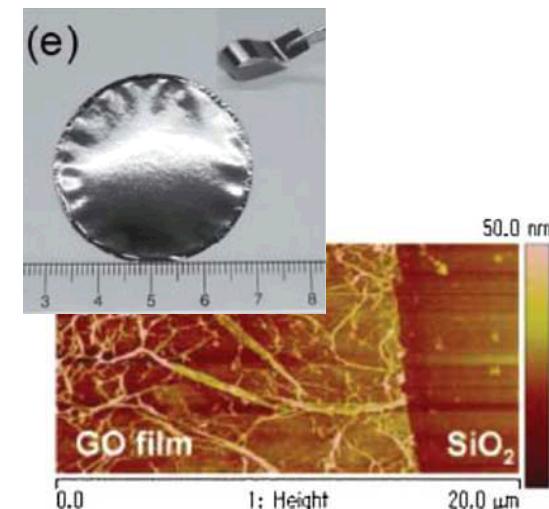
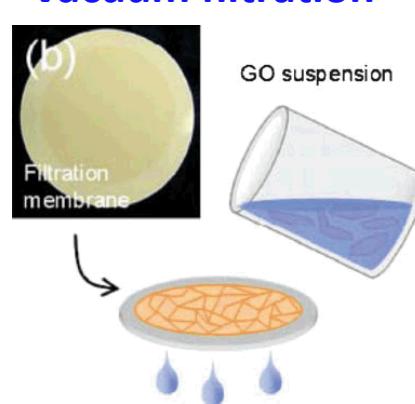
R. Nair *et al.* *Science* 2012

Assembly of GO and RGO films

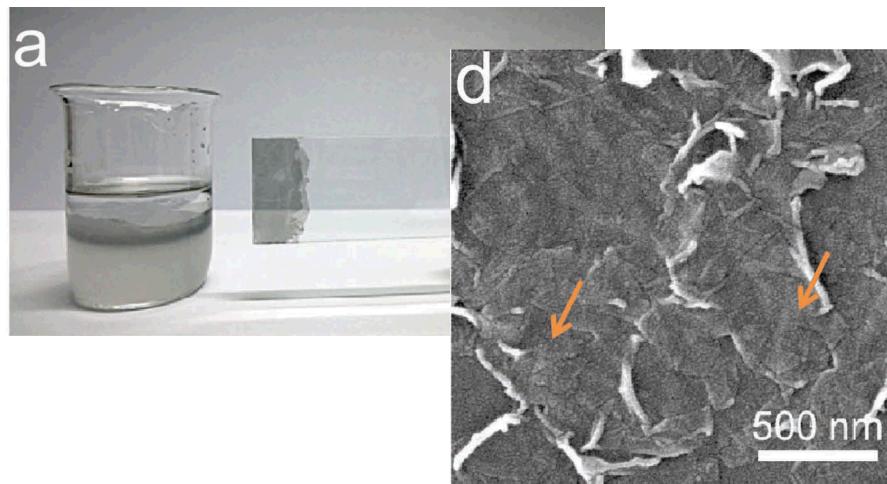
Drop casting¹



Vacuum filtration²



Assembly at an oil-water interface³



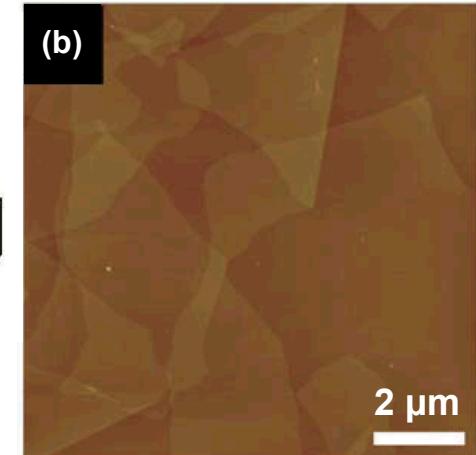
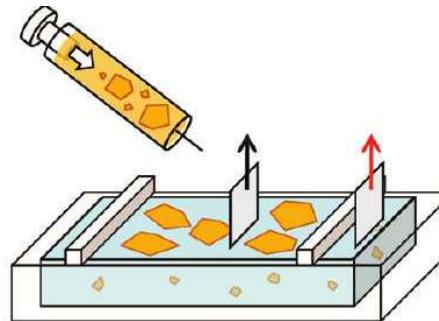
[1] G. Eda and M. Chhowalla, *Adv. Mater.* 2010

[3] S. Gan *et al.* *Adv. Mater.* 2012

[2] S.-K. Lee *et al.* *Nano Lett.* 2012

[4] L. Cote *et al.* *Soft Matter* 2010.

Langmuir-Blodgett deposition⁴



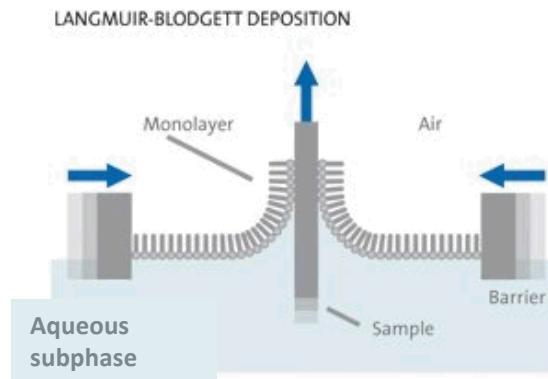
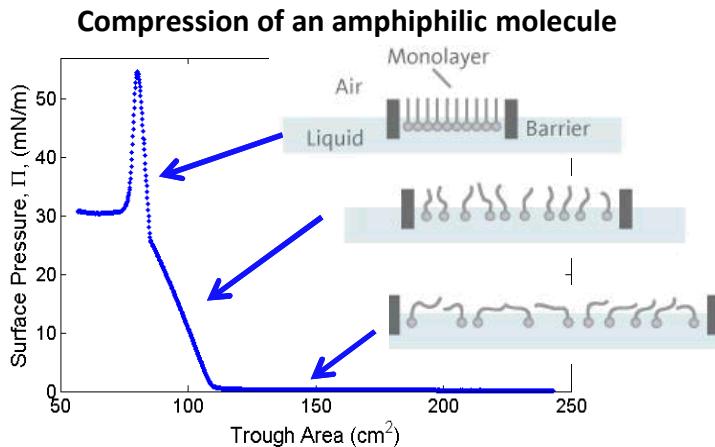
Dense, ordered molecular monolayers assembled using Langmuir-Blodgett deposition



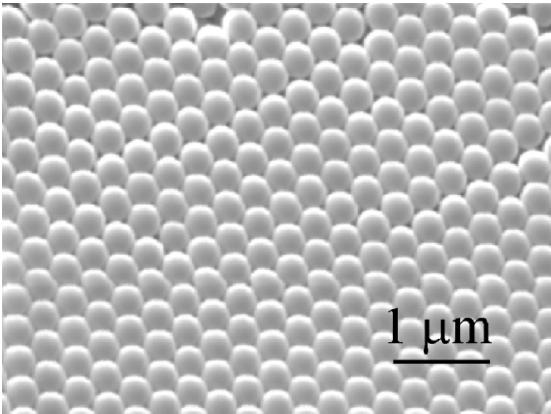
Katherine Blodgett



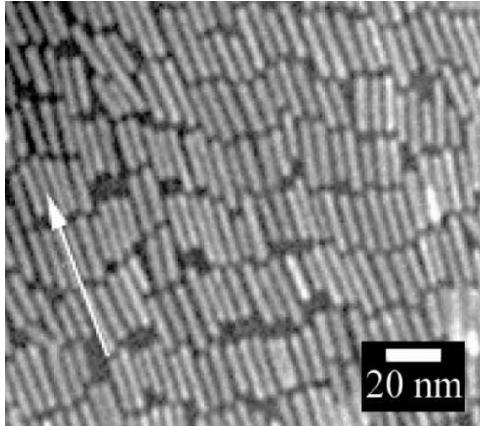
Irving Langmuir



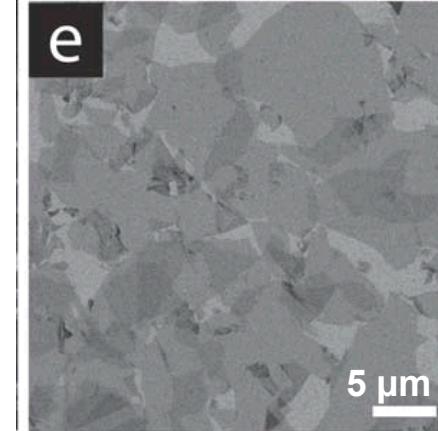
Synthetic opals¹



BaCrO₄ nanorods²



Overlapping GO flakes³



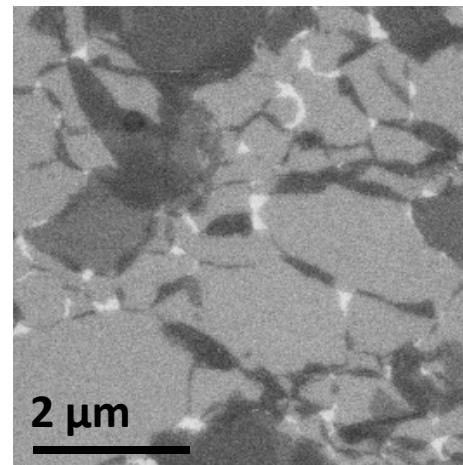
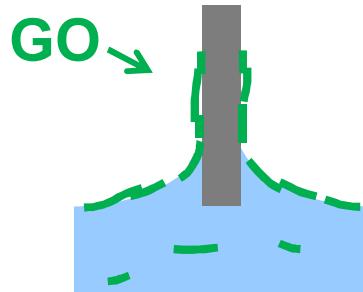
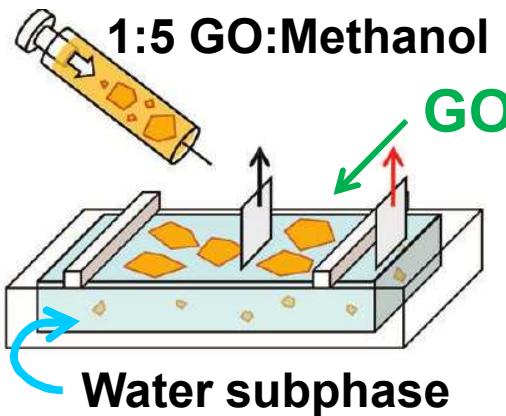
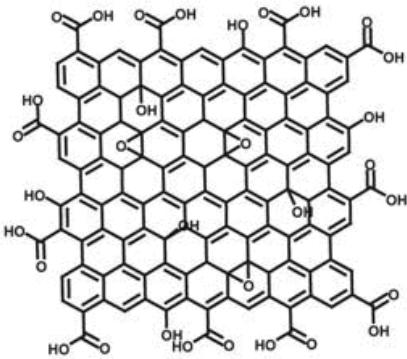
[1] M. Bardosova, et al. *Thin Solid Films*, 2003

[2] F. Kim et al. *JACS*, 2001

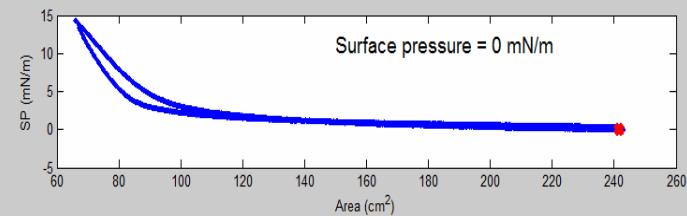
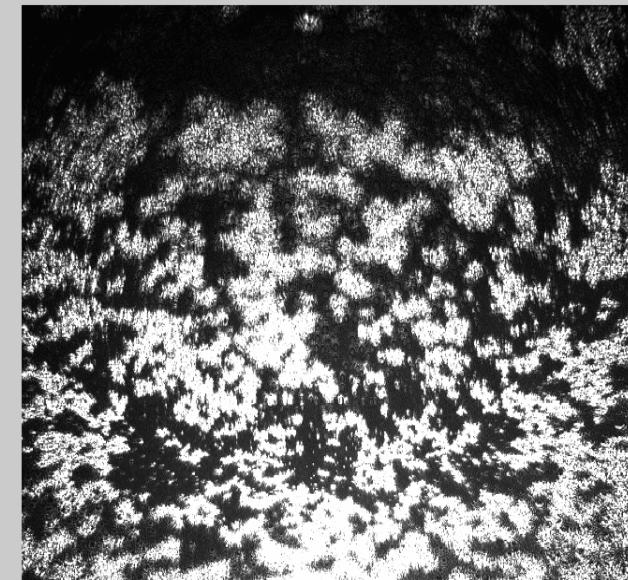
[3] L. Cote et al. *Soft Matter* 2010.

Stable graphene oxide surface phase enables Langmuir-Blodgett assembly

GO structure



08/08/12, iGO01: Compression at 10 mm/min

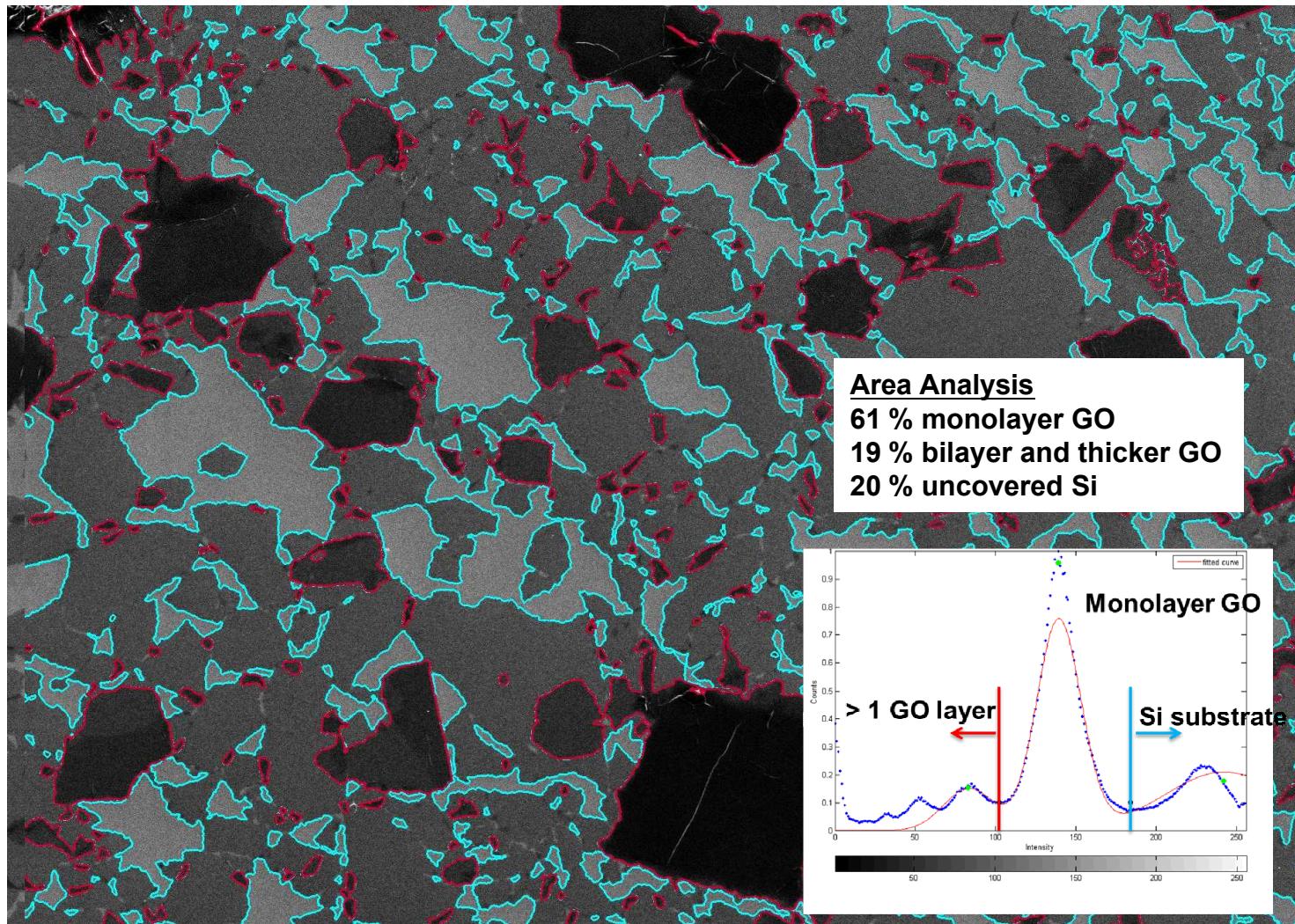


Goal: Optimize deposition to generate continuous GO and RGO films

Control of Graphene Oxide Coverage

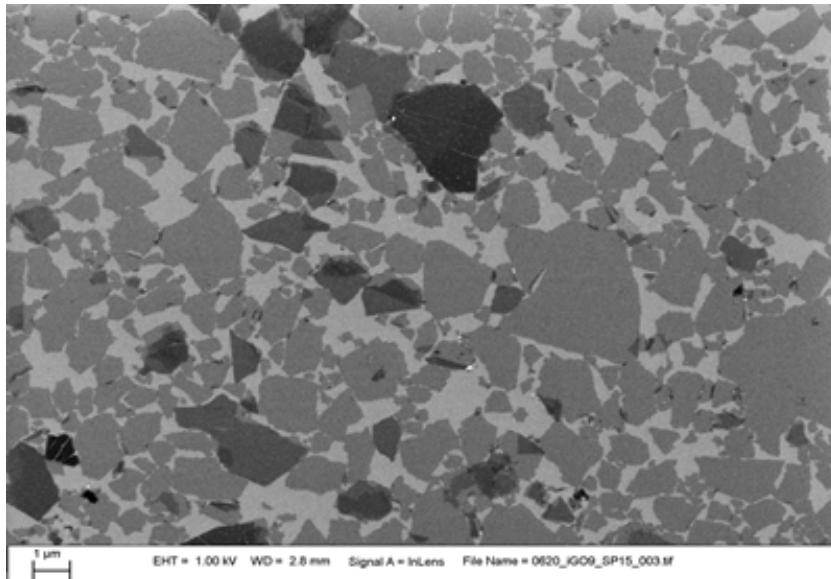
Adjusted Parameter	Effect Property	Impact to Coverage
Initial GO concentration	Amount of flakes in solution	Peak SP at lower concentration 
Centrifugation	Flake size	Large flakes yield higher coverage 
Addition of HCl, NaOH, or NH ₂ O ₄	Excess charge on flake	Basic conditions show higher coverage
Surface Pressure	Flake Density	Increased coverage until plateau 
Dipping speed	Dynamics of flake attachment	Higher coverage with slower dip 
Number of dips	Layers of flakes	More dips yield higher coverage 

Determination of Graphene Coverage

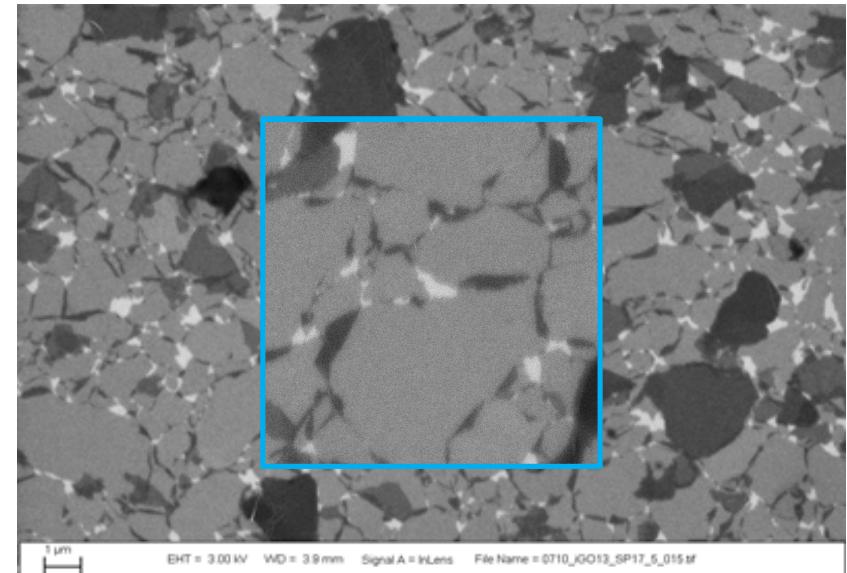


More continuous GO films are possible through controlling flake size

Initial GO size distribution



After removing smallest GO flakes

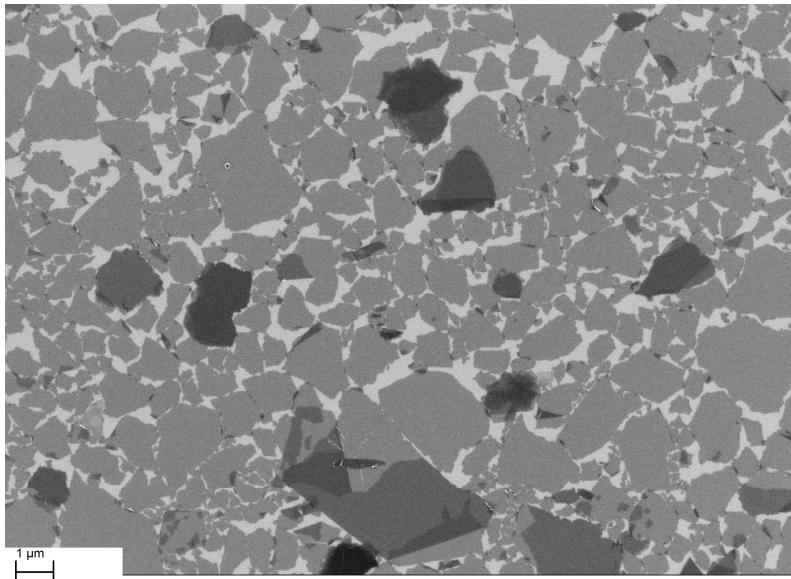


78 % GO coverage
for deposition at 15 mN/m

97 % GO coverage
for deposition at 17.5 mN/m

Multiple dips can result in higher surface coverage

First dip at 14 mN/m

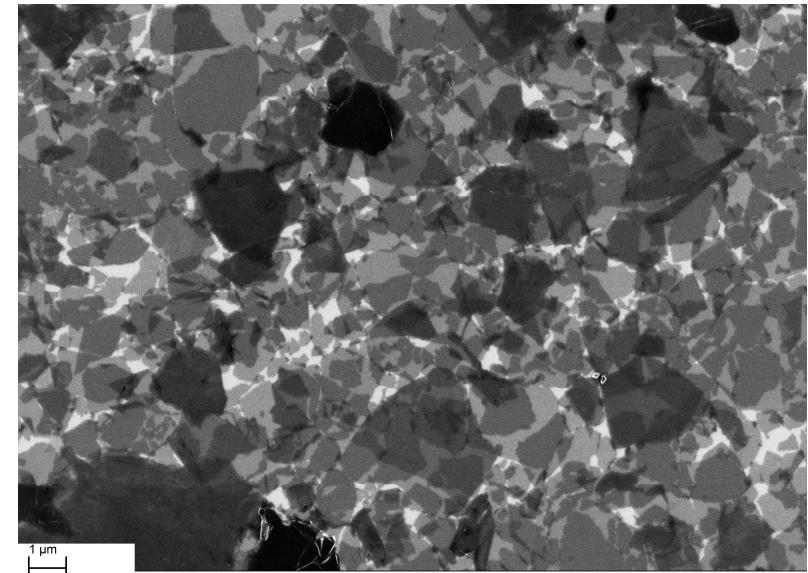


83 % coverage

75 % monolayer GO

12 % thicker and overlapped GO

Second dip at 17.5 mN/m



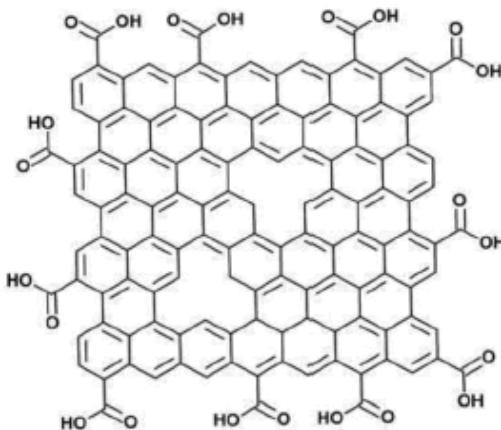
94 % coverage

20 % monolayer GO

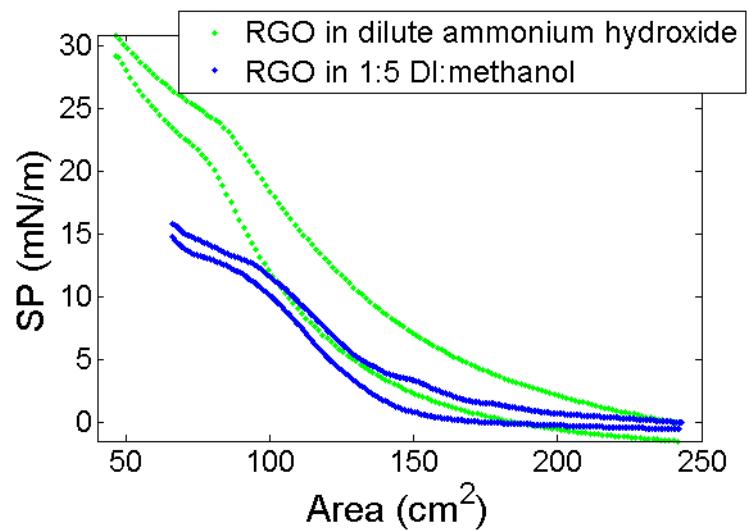
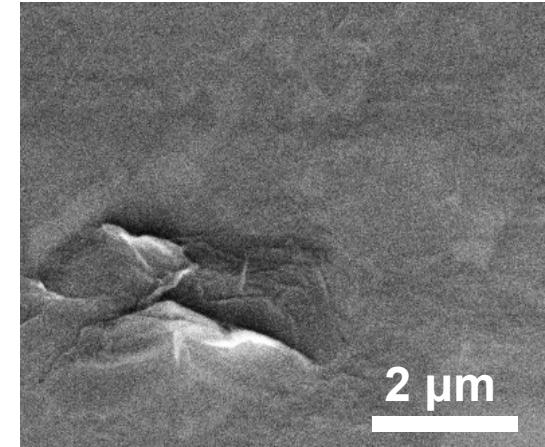
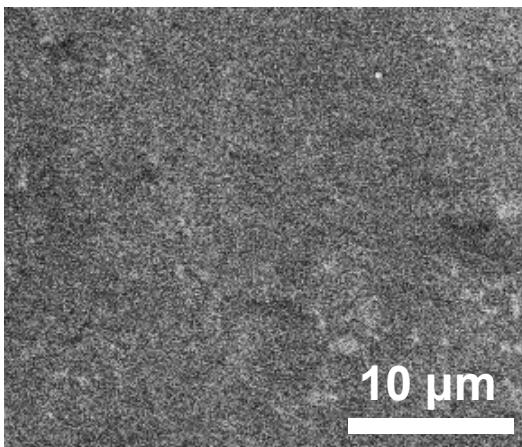
74 % thicker and overlapped GO

RGO surface phase is stable, yet deposition is challenging

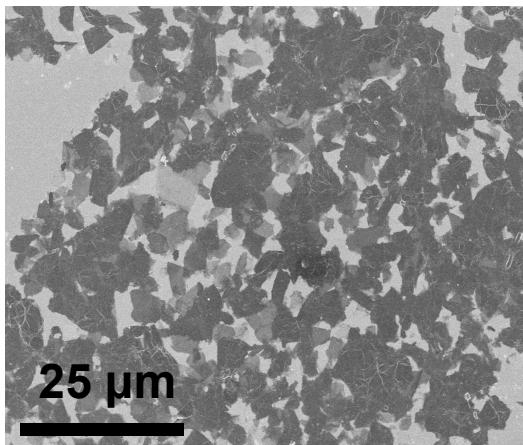
RGO structure



High coverage, but wrinkled RGO flakes with methanol spreading solvent.

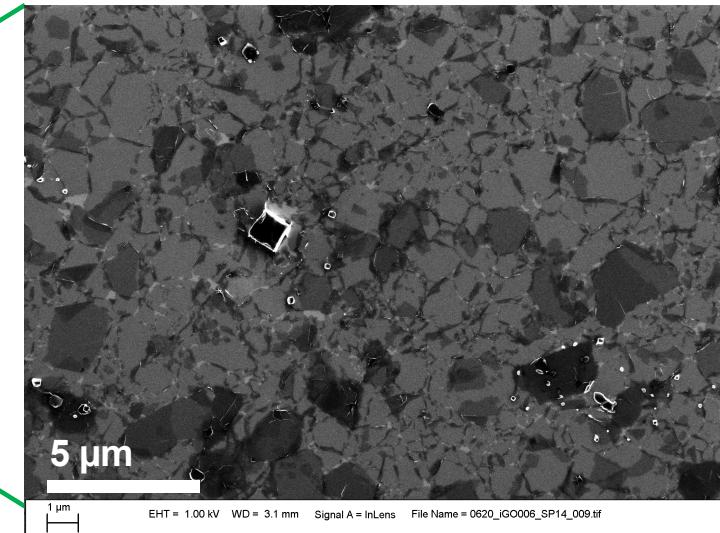
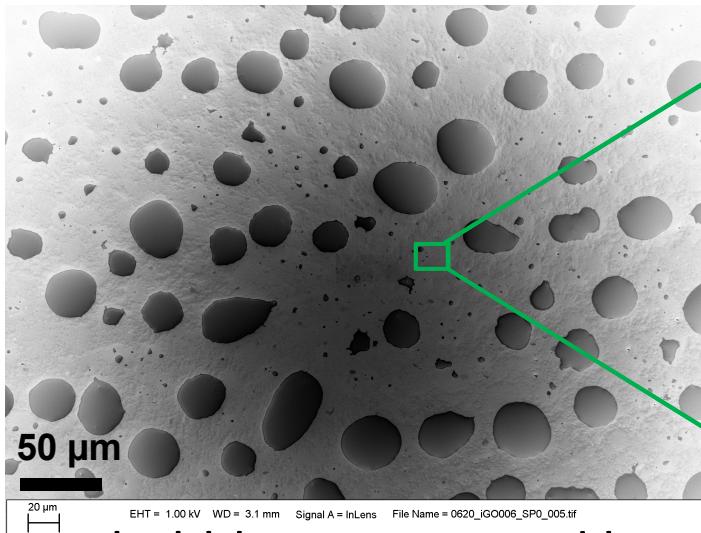


Low coverage of flat RGO with dilute ammonium hydroxide as a spreading solvent.



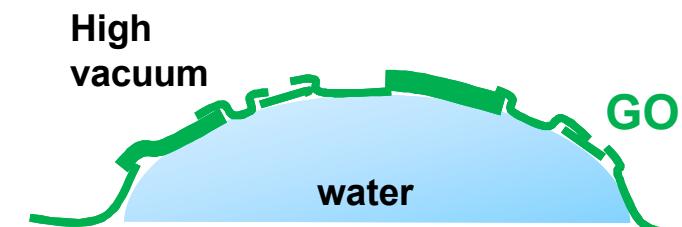
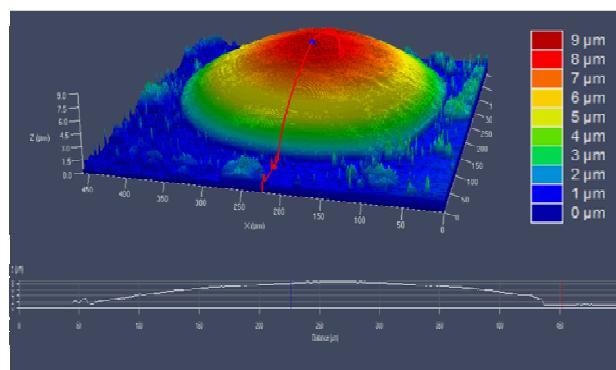
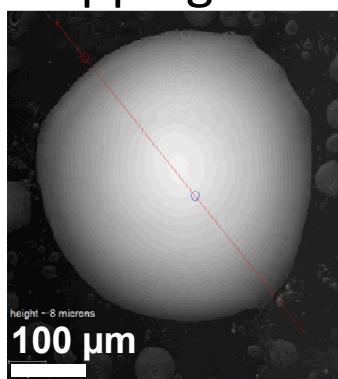
Hydrophobic surfaces yield best transfer for aqueous RGO

Demonstration of GO as permeation barrier



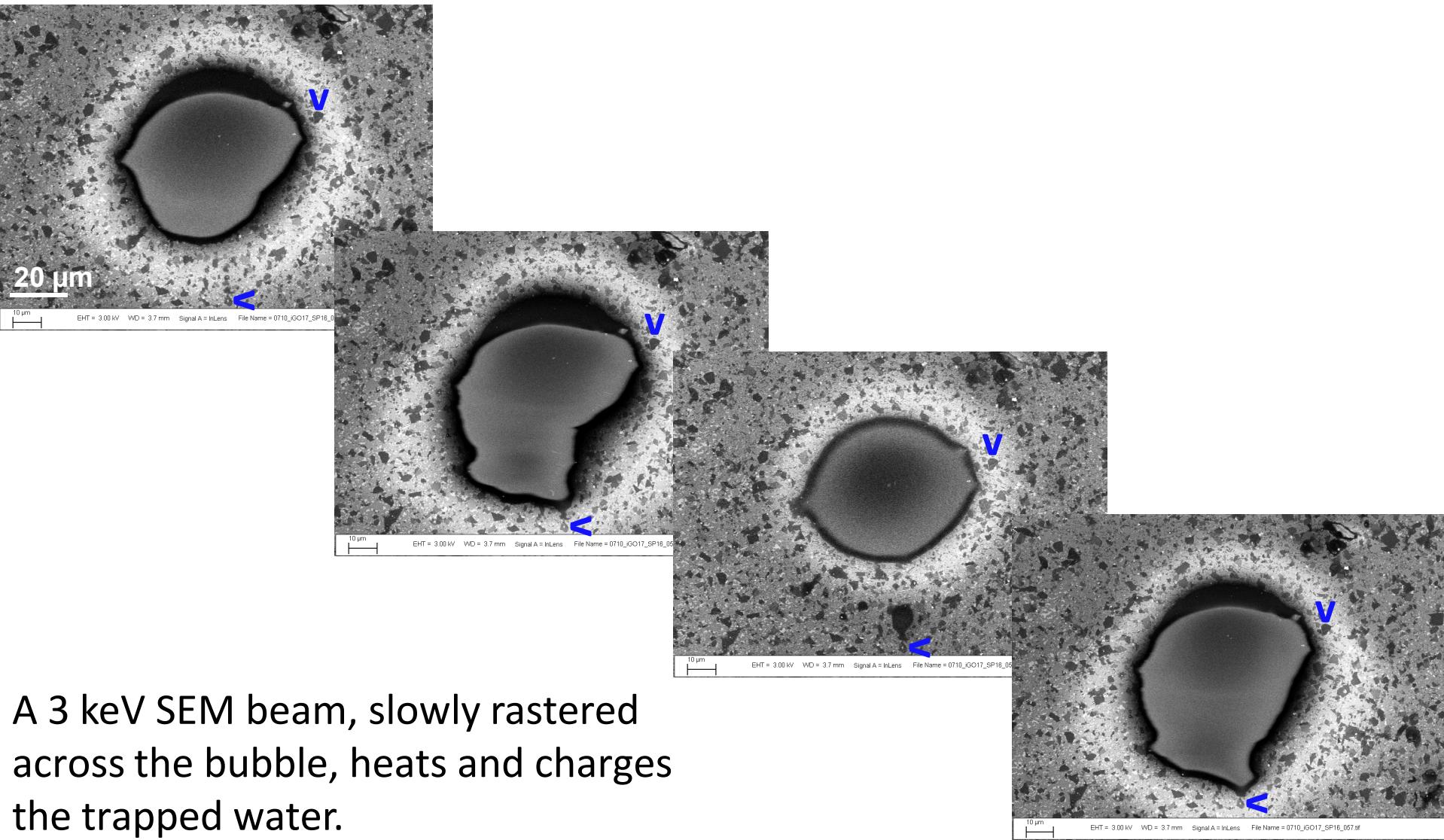
Water bubbles are trapped by overlapping GO flakes.

98 % GO coverage between bubbles.



An unusually large bubble is 8- μm tall and 450- μm in diameter.

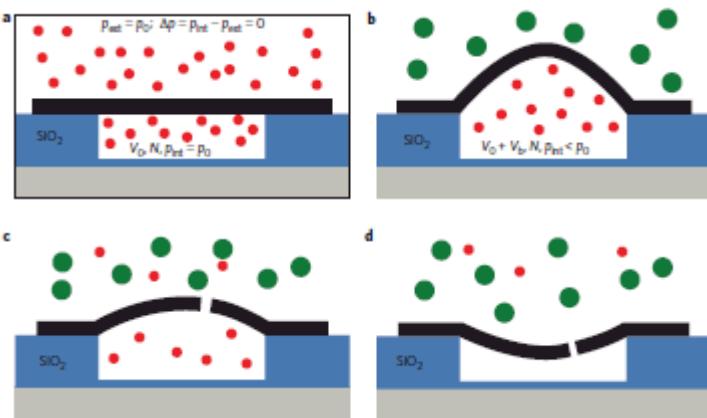
Composite GO membranes can stretch without bursting



A 3 keV SEM beam, slowly rastered across the bubble, heats and charges the trapped water.

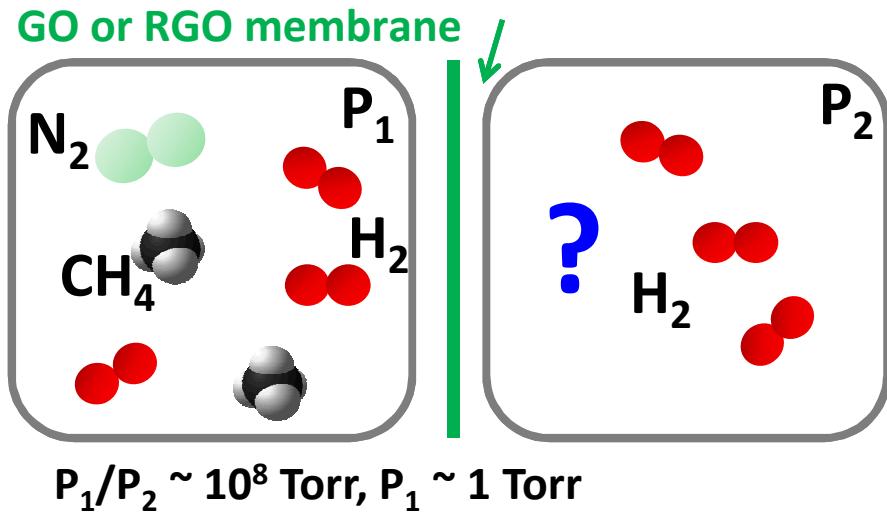
Are GO and RGO membranes permselective?

Size-selective permeation of H_2 through graphene recently reported

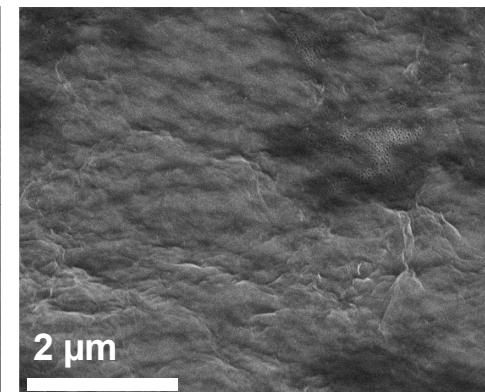
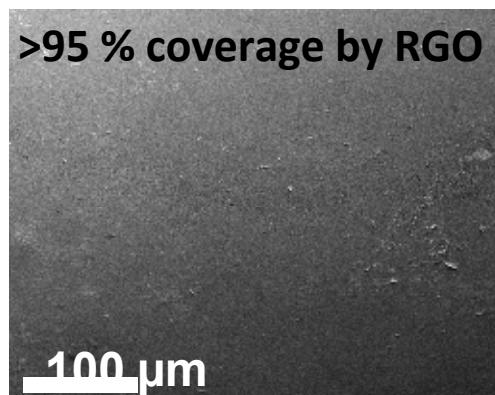
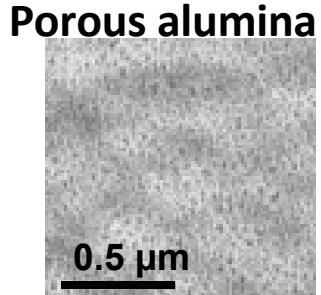
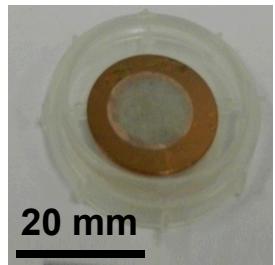


S. Koenig *et al.*, *Nature Nano.* 2012 (Adv. Online)

Compare the permeability of GO and RGO films on porous supports.



Progress towards continuous GO and RGO films on porous supports

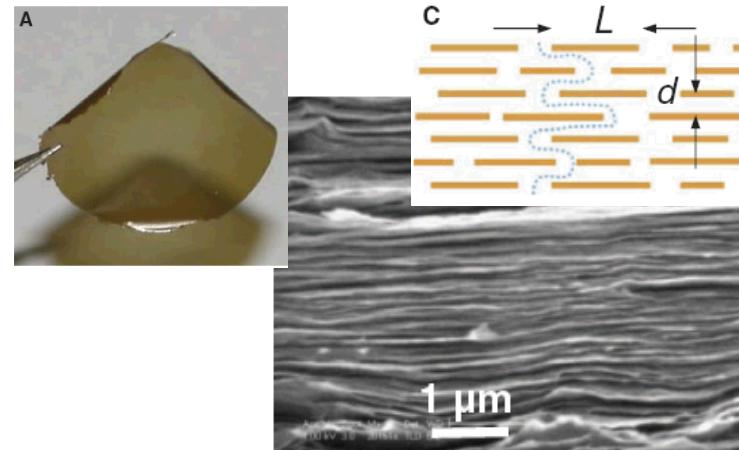
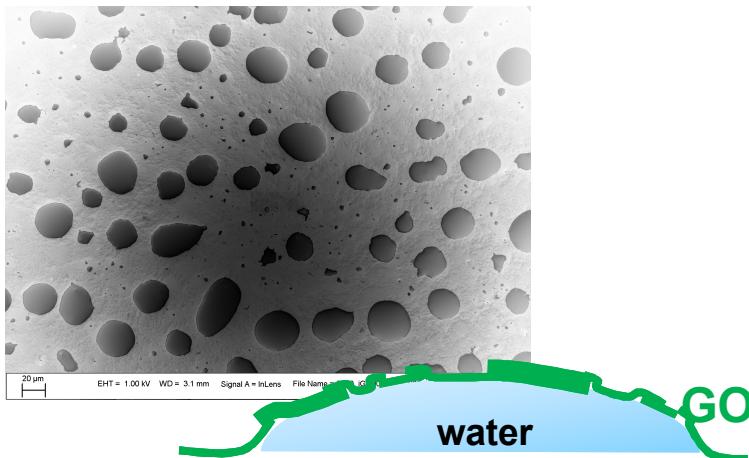


Conclusions

Optimized deposition of GO on a variety of substrates, including porous alumina.

Achieved Langmuir-Blodgett deposition of RGO membranes, which hasn't been reported before.

Discovered both GO and RGO membranes restrict water permeation.



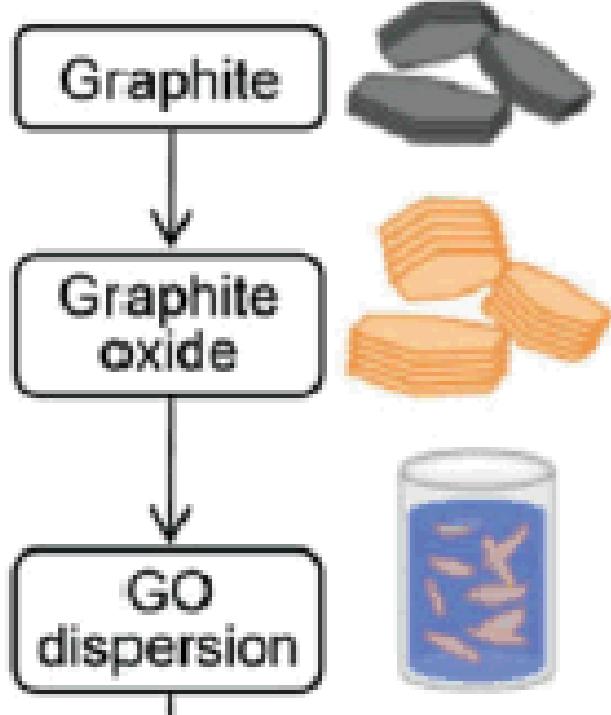
Acknowledgements

Graphene oxide: Tim Lambert

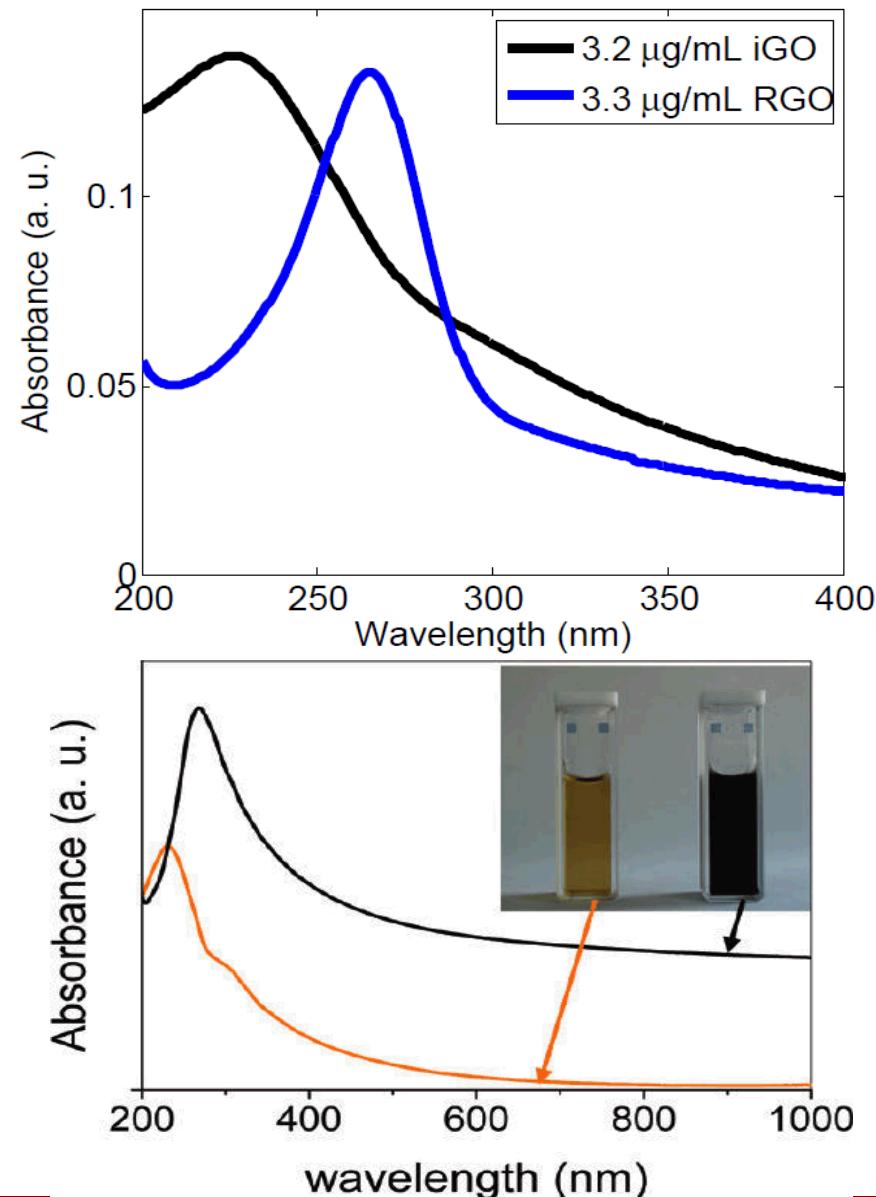
Experimental assistance: Susan Brozik, Cody Washburn, and Dave Wheeler

Scanning electron and optical microscopy: Bonnie McKenzie and Alice Kilgo

Natural graphite is oxidized via Hummer's method

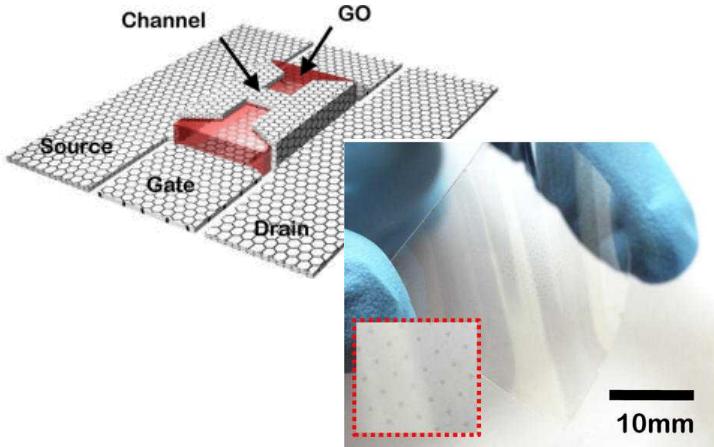


Oxidized using a mixture of NaNO_3 , H_2SO_4 , and KMnO_4 .
Diluted and heated with H_2O and H_2O_2
Filtered and rinsed with HCl

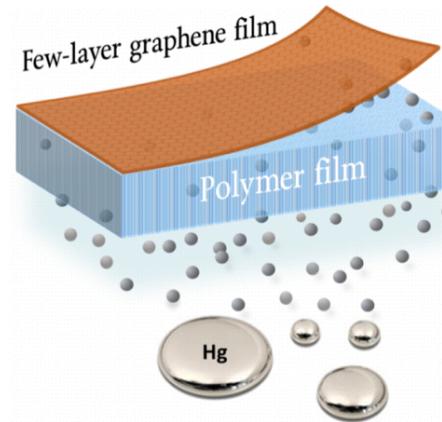


Transparent graphitic films are ideal for flexible electronics and barrier membranes

Dielectric for flexible electronics¹



Environmental barrier⁴



Anode for organic LEDs (OLEDs)²



Window electrode for solar cells³



[1] S.-K. Lee *et al.* *Nano Lett.* v. 12, 3472-6, 2012.

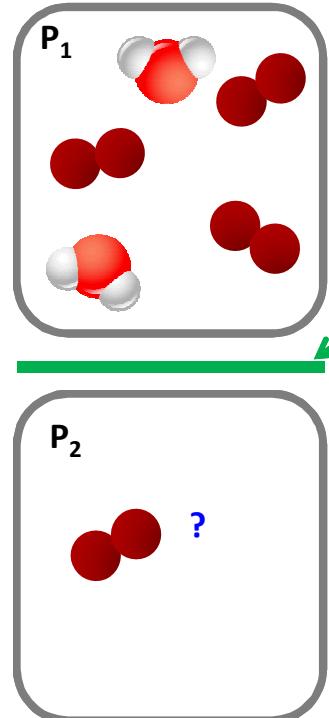
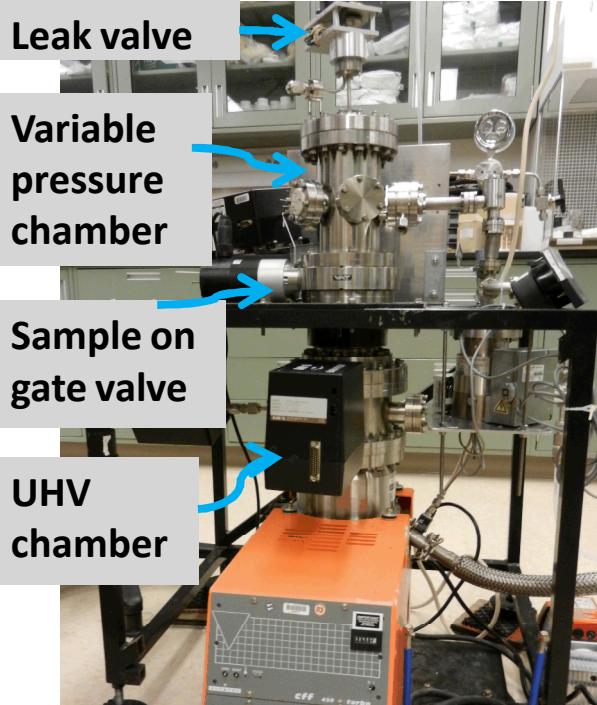
[3] G. Eda and M. Chhowalla, *Adv. Mater.* 2010

[2] T. H. Han *et al.*, *Nat. Photonics* v. 6, 105-10. 2012

[4] F. Guo *et al.* *Enviro. Sci. Tech.* v. 46, 7717-24, 2012.

Approach to confirm size-selective permeation

Permeation System



Compare the permeability of GO and RGO films supported on alumina membranes.

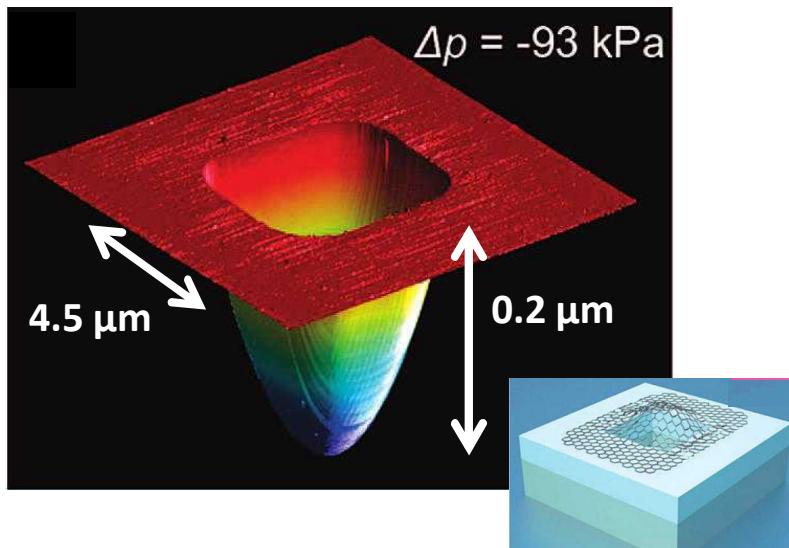
A precision permeation system allows for high pressure differentials

- $P_1/P_2 \sim 10^8$ Torr, $P_1 \sim 1$ Torr
- Permeation rates and composition will be detected using a mass spectrometer

System design following P. Galambos, K. Zavadil, R. Shul, *et al.* Proc. SPIE (1999).

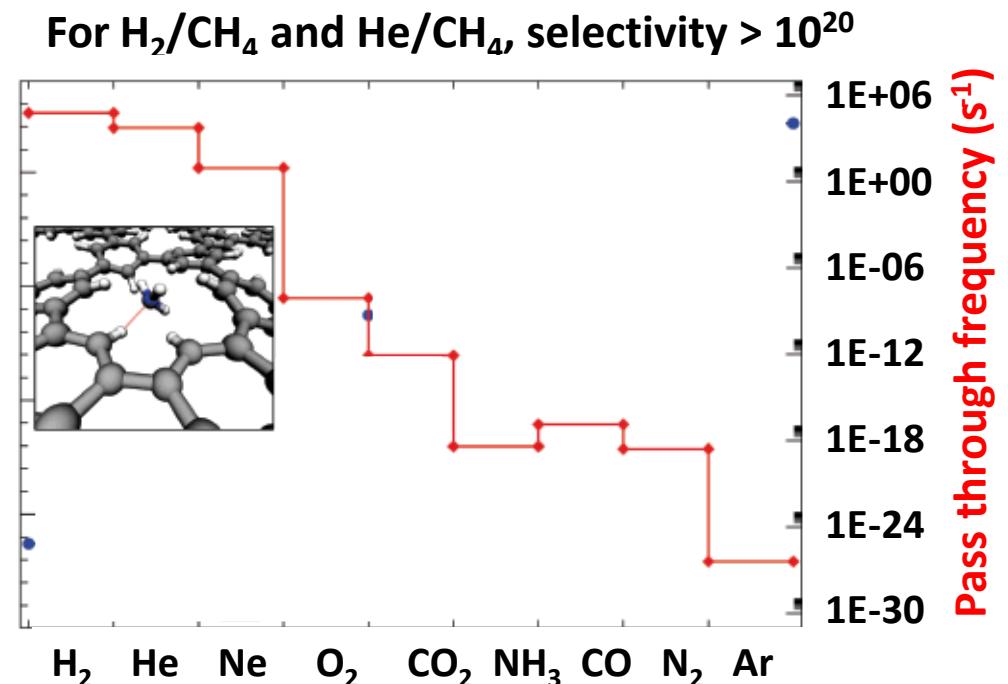
Size-selective separation is expected in nanoporous graphene

A pristine graphene membrane is impervious to gasses.



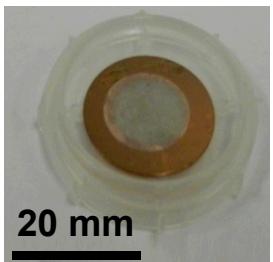
AFM image of a graphene monolayer under $\Delta p = 700$ torr

J. Bunch *et al.*, *Nano Lett.* **8**, 2459-62 (2008).

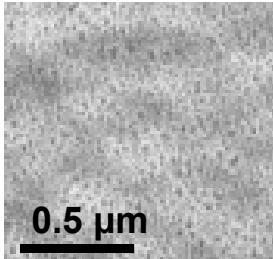


- [1] S. Blankenburg *et al.* *Small* **6**, 2266-71 (2010)
- [2] D. Jiang *et al.* *Nano Lett.* **9**, 1419-24 (2009)
- [3] J. Schrier, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, **1**, 2284-7 (2010)

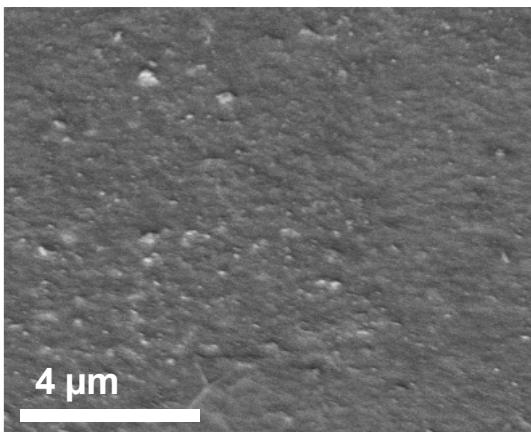
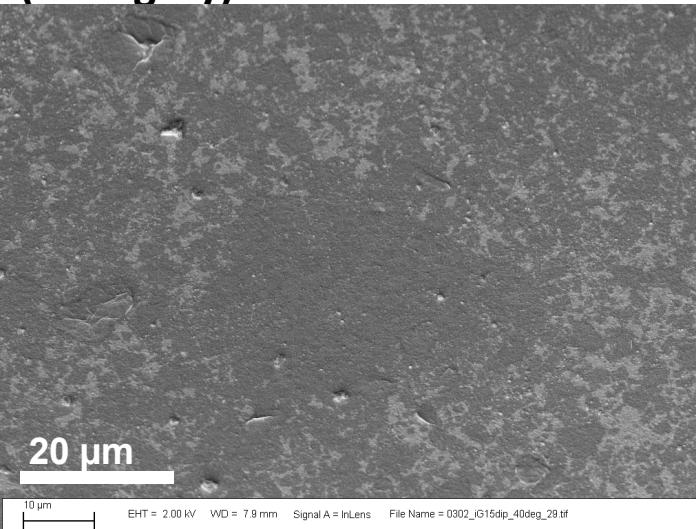
Progress towards continuous films on porous supports



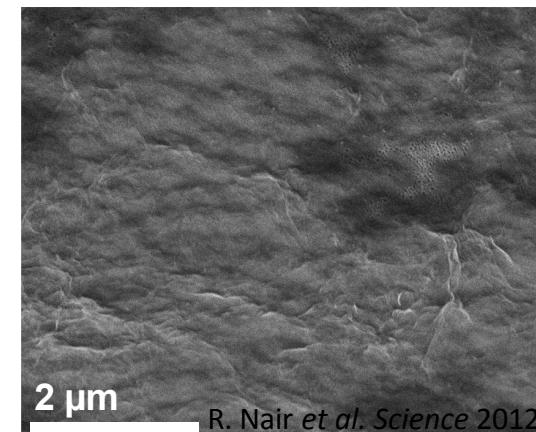
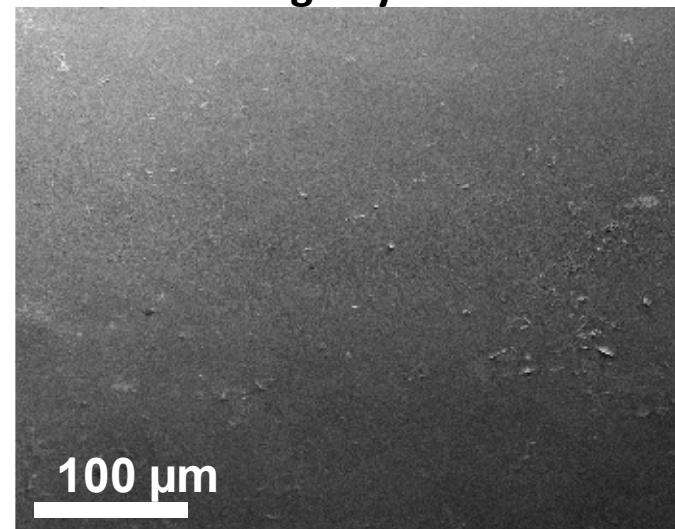
Porous alumina



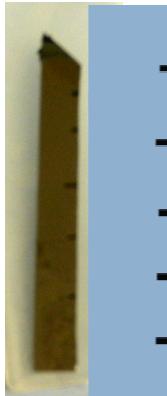
86 % coverage by GO flakes
(dark grey)



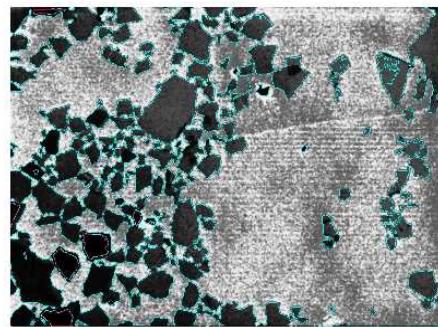
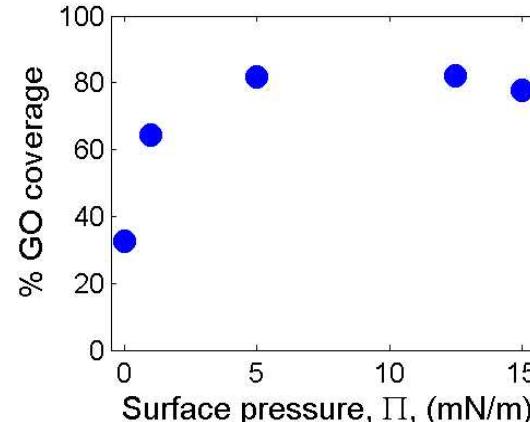
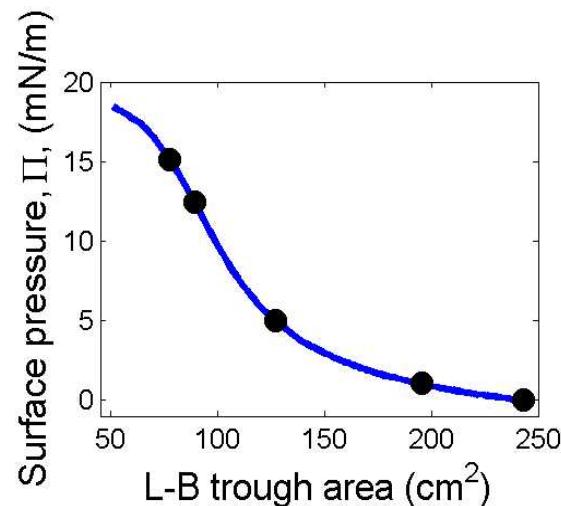
>95 % coverage by RGO



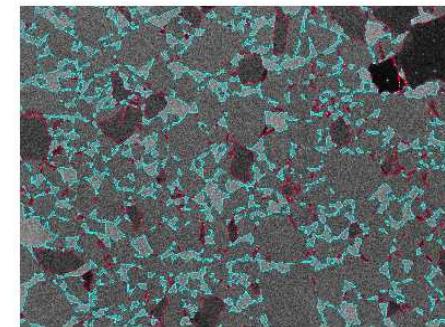
GO coverage can be controlled through surface pressure



0 mN/m
1 mN/m SP
5 mN/m SP
12.5 mN/m SP
15 mN/m SP



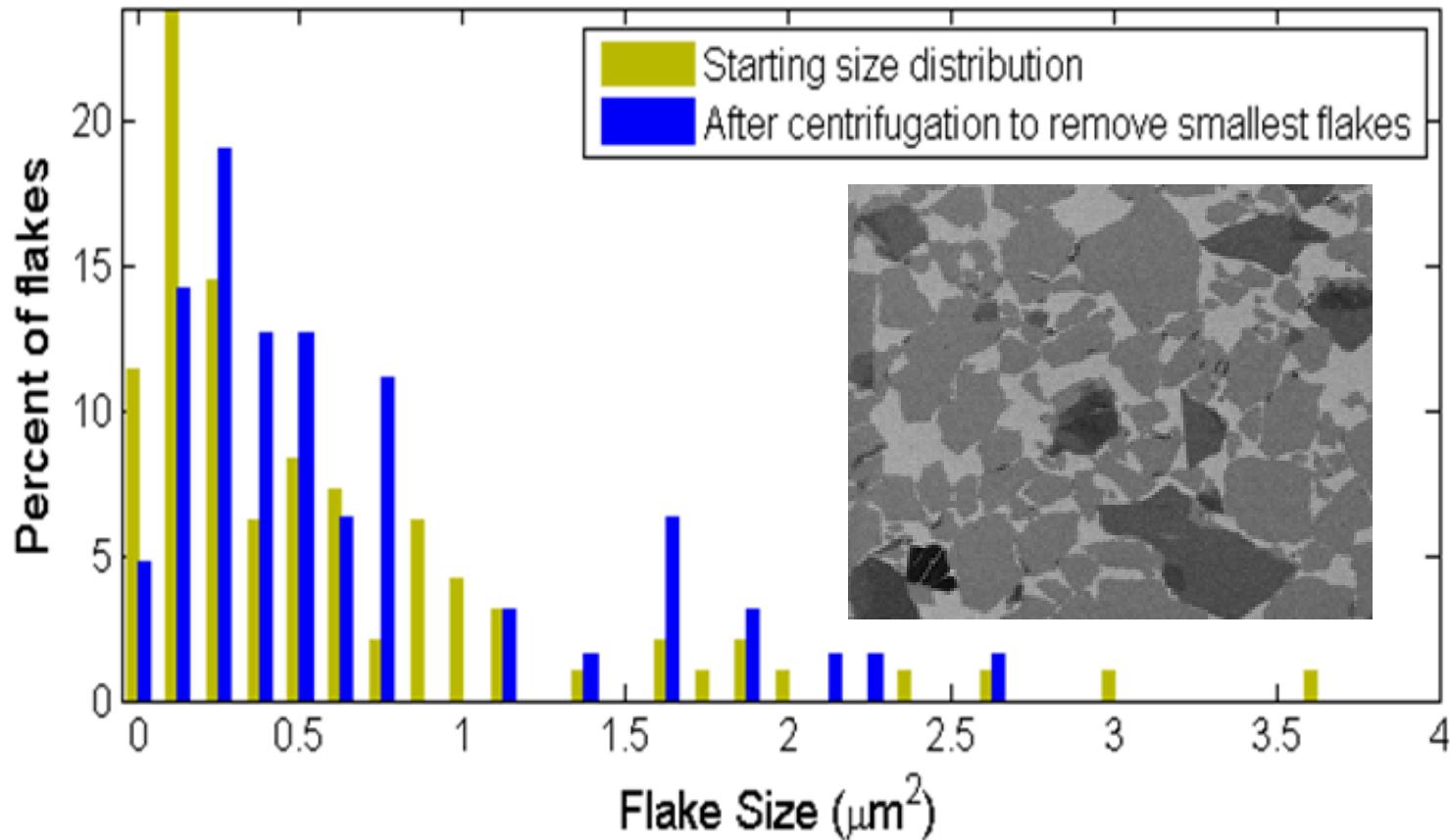
GO deposited at $\Pi = 0$ mN/m



GO deposited at $\Pi = 12.5$ mN/m

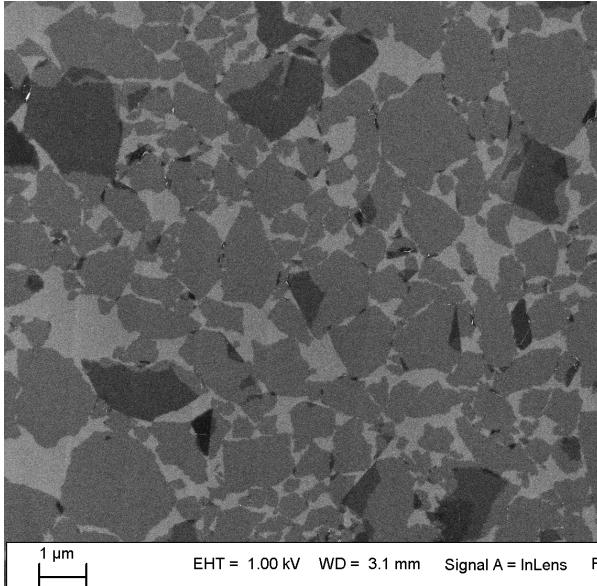
GO coverage plateaus at $SP \approx 5$ mN/m

Flake size can be controlled through separation techniques

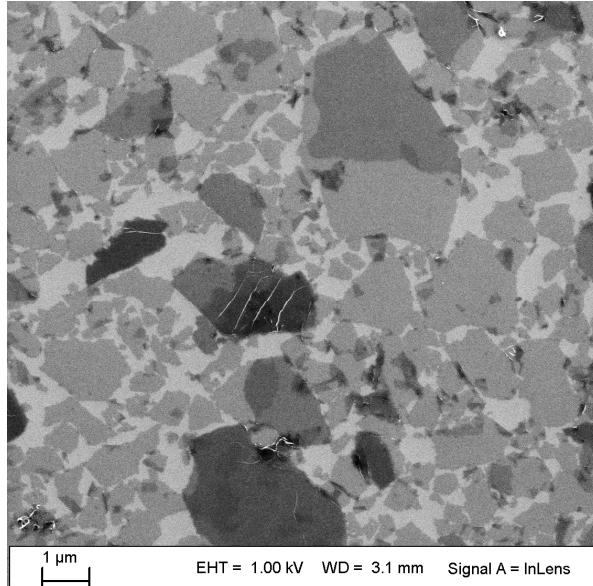


pH had minimal effect on coverage and overlap

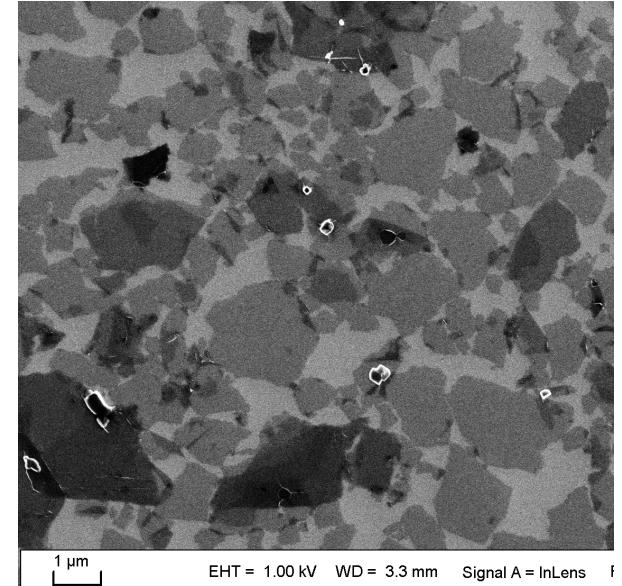
pH 10.1
SP = 12.5 mN/m
84 % coverage



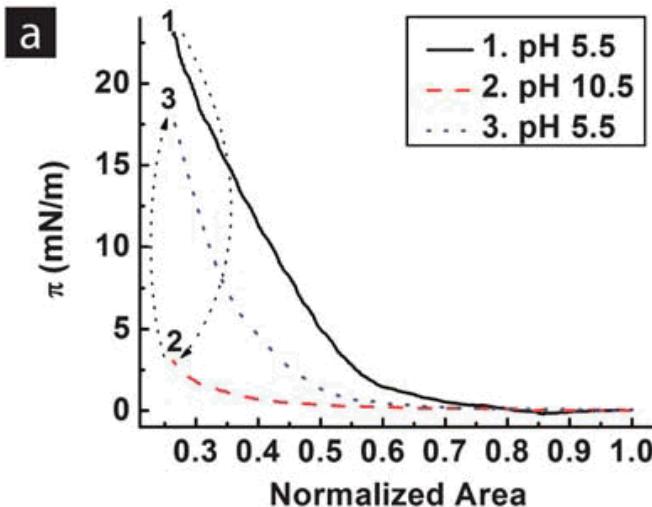
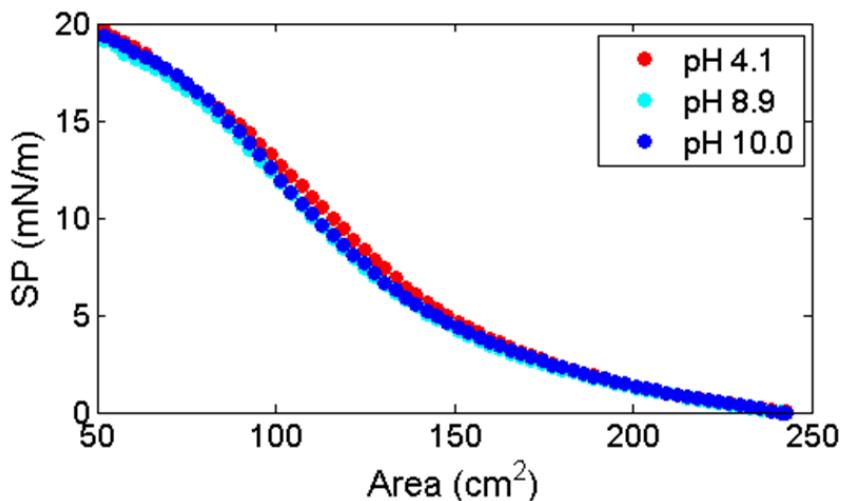
DI water (pH 5.8)
SP = 15mN/m
72 % coverage



pH 4.3
SP = 14 mN/m
75 % coverage



pH had negligible effect on surface pressure, contrary to literature reports



L. Cote *et al.* *Soft Matter* **6**, 6015-6218 (2010)

Slightly higher coverage achieved by slower dip speed

