Formation of Nanosize-Needle and Nanosize-Cauliflower on Carbon Surface with Cold Plasma and its Applications

MASAAKI KATOH, TAKASHI KANO, ATSUSHI SUZUKI, MICHIYA OTA, TAKEO OHTE, Gunma National College of Technology, EIICHI YASUDA, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Nanofiber Strategic Research Initiative — By oxygen plasma treatment of glasslike carbon, nano-sized needle-shaped structure (carbon nano needles) was formed on GC surface placed at power-electrode connected to high-frequency power source through matching circuit. On the other hand, nano-sized cauliflower-shaped structure was formed on GC surface connected to earth-electrode. This difference of formation between power-electrode and earth-electrode is whether or not self-bias voltage is generated by. In case of self-bias voltage generation, oxygen ions play an important role in formation the carbon nano needles. On the contrary, no self-bias voltage generation, radicals play an important role in formation the carbon nano cauliflowers. From the experimental results, length of needles shortens from 3.6 to 2.5 [µm] and diameter of them get thin from 120 to 43 [nm] when treatment pressure was increasing from 9.31 to 66.5 [Pa]. Length of needles lengthen from 0.30 to 3.5 [µm] and diameter of them get thin from 120 to 70 [nm] when treatment power increasing from 30 to 200 [W]. Field-emission (FE) measurements showed that the carbon nano needles were excellent electron field emitters which indicate that the carbon nano needles are employed as field emitters.

Masaaki Katoh
Gunma National College of Technology

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