











Yarbrough, J. Am. Ceram. Soc. 75 (1992) 3179.

A popular suggestion, originally made by pioneering Soviet Union researchers [64,65], is that atomic hydrogen acts as a means of gasifying or etching graphite or graphitic carbon.

 $\rightarrow$  In the presence of atomic hydrogen, diamond is kinetically stable relative to graphite [66].

Despite its popularity, this particular approach is not without its problems. Diamond is deposited with the simultaneous gasification of graphite, and diamond can be synthesized with graphite as the only source of carbon. This has been demonstrated most clearly in Vakil's work [67].

CVD of pure carbon from a hydrocarbon can generally be written as a reaction of the form

$$C_x H_y \rightarrow \frac{y}{2} H_2 + x C_{solid}$$
 (3)

If an external supply of atomic hydrogen exists and it is presumed a major reactant driving the process, then Eq. (3) can be modified to be of the form

$$mH^{\circ} + C_{x}H_{y} \rightarrow \frac{y+m}{2}H_{2} + xC_{solid}$$
 (4)

 $\rightarrow$  Fig. 4(a)



The simultaneous deposition of diamond with the gasification of  
graphite using atomic hydrogen suggests that a more accurate  
schematic is that of Fig. 4(b), rather than that of Fig. 4(a), and that  
the vapor-phase deposition of diamond from graphite can be  
described as a sequence of two steps:  
$$yH^{o} + xC_{graphite} \rightarrow C_{x}H_{y} \quad (5)$$
(gasification of graphite)  
$$mH^{o} + C_{x}H_{y} \rightarrow \frac{y+m}{2}H_{2} + xC_{diamond} \quad (6)$$
(diamond deposition)  
The simultaneous CVD of diamond and gasification of graphite is  
recognized as the vapor-phase transport of carbon from graphite  
to diamond. Summing Eqs. (5) and (6) to obtain an overall process  
gives

$$(y+m)H^{\circ}+C_{graphite} \rightarrow \frac{y+m}{2}H_2+C_{diamond}$$
 (7)

which, if separated into independent reactions, is simply the recombination of atomic hydrogen with the conversion of graphite into diamond, i.e.,

$$(Y+M)H^{\circ} \rightarrow \frac{y+m}{2}H_2$$
 (8)

$$C_{\text{graphite}} \rightarrow C_{\text{diamond}}$$
 (9)

Equation (9) conflicts with the accepted phase diagram for carbon, and the paradox that has disturbed the early skeptics becomes apparent.















$$\begin{split} &1\% \, CH_4 - 99\% \, H_2 \\ &1200 \, K, \quad 2700 \, Pa \\ &\alpha = \frac{P_{gas}^*}{P_{dia}^{eq}} = 11.9 \\ &\Delta \mu^{gas \to dia} = -4.02 \times 10^{-20} \, J \, / \, atom \\ &\Delta \mu^{gas \to gra} = -5.14 \times 10^{-20} \, J \, / \, atom \\ &\Delta \mu^{dia \to gra} = -1.12 \times 10^{-20} \, J \, / \, atom \end{split}$$









1.	N.M. Hwang, J.H. Hahn and G.W. Bahng, "Thermodynamic Approach to the C-H-O Deposition Diagram in the Diamond Chemical Vapor Deposition Process" Diamond Relat. Mater., vol. 3 (1993) 163-167.
2.	N.M. Hwang and D.Y. Yoon "Driving Force for Deposition in the Chemical Vapor Deposition Process," J. Mater. Sci. Lett. vol. 13 (1994) 1437-1439.
3.	N.M. Hwang "Thermodynamic Analysis of the Chemical Vapor Deposition of Diamond in the C-H, C-O and C-H-O Systems," J. Crystal Growth, vol. 135 (1994) 165-171.
4.	N.M. Hwang and D.Y. Yoon "Thermodynamic Approach to the Chemical Vapor Deposition Process," J. Crystal Growth, vol. 143 (1994) 103-109.









Data point in Fig. 1	Reactants	CVD method	XIII	$X_{C:\Sigma}$	Xor	Reference
62	CO-H-	MW plasma	0.974	0.500	0.026	[5]]
63	CH, -H, -H,0	MW plasma	0.986	0.652	0.008	[52]
64	CO-CO,-H,	MW plasma	0.781	0.475	0.237	[53]
65	CO-CO,-H,	MW plasma	0.787	0.482	0.225	[53]
66 (growth limit)	CO-H,-O,	MW plasma	0.800	0.450	0.234	[53]
67	CO-CO,-H,	MW plasma	0.772	0.465	0.254	[53]
68	Calla-COa	MW plasma	0.333	0.492	0.682	[62]
69 (not shown)	CH <sub>4</sub> -CO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub>	MW plasma	0.977	0.560	0.018	[37]
70 (not shown)	C <sub>1</sub> H <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>2</sub>	Flame	0.505	0.467	0.528	[44]
71 (growth limit, not shown)	C1H1-01-11	Flame	0.600	0.472	0.428	[44]
72 (not shown)	C <sub>1</sub> II <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>2</sub> -II <sub>2</sub>	Flame	0.524	0.472	0.505	[44]
73 (not shown)	CHCOII,	MW plasma	0.981	0.672	3.009	[37]
74 (not shown).	Example in eqn. (4)		0.935	0.545	0.054	_
O (undiluted)	Pure CO		0.000	0.500	1.000	-
O (undiluted)	Pure CH4	-	0.800	1.000	0.000	_
C (undiluted)	Pure CO <sub>2</sub>		0.000	0.333	1.000	
O (undiluted)	Pure C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>		0.667	1.000	0.000	
O (undiluted)	Pure C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>		0.750	1.000	0.000	—
O (undiluted)	Pure C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>		0.500	1.000	0.000	-
O (undiluted)	Pure CalleOII		0.750	0.667	0.143	











