





















$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G^* &= \frac{16\pi v^2 \gamma^3}{3(RT \ln \alpha)^2} \qquad v = 3.41 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}^3/\text{mole}, \gamma = 3.7 \text{ J/M}^2 \\ \alpha &= 10, \text{ T} = 1200 \text{ K} \quad \text{R} = \text{Nk} = \text{N} \times 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K} = 8.31 \text{ J/K} \\ \Delta G^* &= \frac{2.96 \times 10^{-8}}{1.58 \times 10^9} = 1.87 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J} \\ \frac{I_{\text{hetero}}}{I_{\text{homo}}} &= \exp\left\{\frac{\Delta G^*_{\text{homo}}}{4kT}\right\}, \exp\left\{\frac{\Delta G^*_{\text{homo}}}{2kT}\right\}, \exp\left\{\frac{3\Delta G^*_{\text{homo}}}{4kT}\right\} \\ &= \frac{10^{123}}{10^{122}} \frac{10^{245}}{10^{245}} \end{aligned}$$





# **Puzzling Phenomena in Diamond CVD** (Implication of Charge)

- **1. Bias Effect** (Sawabe et al. Thin Solid Film 137 (1986) 89)
- 2. Preferential formation on the convex edge (Dennig et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. 59 (1991) 1562)
- 3. Preferential formation of soot on the Fe edge
- 4. Halogen elements replace the gas activation (Patterson et al. Diamond Relat. Mater. 1 (1992) 768)
- 5. High growth rate without gas phase nucleation  $\rightarrow$  In analogy with electrodeposition
- 6. Enhanced diamond formation on soot when the iron substrate is electrically insulated.

### **Puzzling Phenomena in Diamond CVD** (Implication of Gas Phase Nucleation)

- 1. Deposition of graphitic soot on the iron substrate
- 2. Microcrystalline or nanocrystalline diamond Ball-like diamond, Cauliflower structure
- 3. All kinds of carbon allotropes are favorable for diamond formation.
- 4. Diamond deposition on graphite with simultaneous etching of graphite
- 5. Confirmation of gas phase nucleation of diamond powder particles (Mitura, J Crystal Growth, 80 (1987) 417)



















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#### Abstract

In spite of the critical handicap from the thermodynamic point of view, the atomic hydrogen hypothesis is strongly supported by experimental observations of diamond deposition with simultaneous graphite etching. Thermodynamic analysis of the C-H system showed that at ~ 1500 K, carbon solubility in the gas phase is minimal and thus, the equilibrium fraction of solid carbon is maximal. Depending on whether gas phase nucleation takes place or not, the driving force is for deposition of ro etching of solid carbon below ~ 1500 K for the input gas of the typical mixture of 1% CH<sub>4</sub>-99% H<sub>2</sub>. The previous observation of etching of the graphite substrate is not expected unless solid carbon precipitated in the gas phase. By rigorous thermodynamic analysis of the previous experimental observations of diamond deposition with simultaneous graphite etching, we suggested that the previous implicit assumption that diamond deposits by an atomic unit should be the weakest point leading to the thermodynamic paradox. The experimental observations could be successfully explained without violating thermodynamics by assuming that the diamond phase had nucleated in the gas phase as fine clusters.



form in the gas phase, are suggested to be responsible for the formation of diamond. When the carbon cluster is sufficiently small, the capillary pressure built up inside the cluster can be high enough to make diamond more stable than graphite. The number of carbon atoms in the cluster that reverses the stability between diamond and graphite increases sensitively with increasing surface energy ratio of graphite to diamond. The gas activation process produces charges such as electrons and ions, which are energetically strong heterogeneous nucleation sites for the supersaturated carbon vapor, leading to the formation of charged nuclei clusters. Once the carbon clusters are charged, the surface energy of diamond can be reduced by electrocapillarity while that of graphite cannot because diamond is dielectric and graphite is conducting. The evolution of graphite soot and diamond on the iron and the silicon substrates, respectively, can be approached based on the charged cluster model is further supported by the result that the insulating quartz block beneath the iron substrate enhances the initiation of diamond on soot.

# Charged Cluster Model

- 1. Negatively charged clusters are formed in the gas phase of hot filament CVD diamond process.
- 2. Their size are of a few nanometers and invisible, suspended in the gas phase like colloidal particles.
- *3. These clusters have the diamond structure. The diamond stability comes from the two factors: capillary pressure and electrical double layer.*
- 4. If they lose charge, they will transform to graphite.
- 5. When CCs approach the Fe substrate of the high charge transfer rate, they lose charge just before landing.

#### **Charged Cluster Model**

- 6. After losing charge, they lose the diamond stability coming from the electrical double layer and instantly transform into graphite clusters.
- 7. These neutral graphite clusters undergo random Brownian coagulation, producing soot on Fe.
- 8. When CCs approach the Si substrate, they retain charge and maintain the diamond structure.
- 9. They undergo repulsion dominant sedimentation and result in the highly ordered packing and self-assembly combined with epitaxial recrystallization, growing into diamond crystals.

# Charged Cluster Model

- 10. Small clusters undergo epitaxial recrystallization and deposit as high quality diamond crystals.
  → tend to be accommodated to the substrate structure.
- 11. Medium-size clusters made twins or stacking faults.
- 12. Large clusters deposit as a cauliflower structure.
- 13. High substrate temperature enhances epitaxial recrystallization and is favorable for deposition of epitaxial films.
- 14. Low substrate temperature enhances non-epitaxial recrystallization and is favorable for deposition of nano-structure or cauliflower structure.

































































