2024 KOR-EU Joint Workshop

Large-Scale Synthesis of 2-Dimensional Transition Metal Dichalcogenide (TMDCs) by Low-Temperature Plasma and their Applications

## **Taesung Kim**

School of Mechanical Engineering and SAINT Department of Semiconductor Convergence Engineering Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) Education

Work experience

Period

2005. 3 - present

2023. 1 - present

2019. 1 - 2020.12

2014. 3 - 2018. 12

2011. 10 - 2015. 4

2002. 3 - 2005. 2

1994. 3 - 1996. 6

#### Prof. Taesung Kim



Year	Degree	Institute	Major
2002	Ph. D.	U. of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Mechanical Engineering
1998	M. S.	U. of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Mechanical Engineering
1994	B. S.	Seoul National University	Mechanical Engineering

Institute/Company

SKKU School of Mechanical Engineering

SKKU College of Engineering

SKKU Admissions Office

Samsung Display

ROK Army

SKKU Business Foundation

Seagate Technology, USA



#### Atmospheric & Indoor Air quality Semiconductor Process (CMP/cleaning) Atmospheric & Indoor Air quality Thermal/Fluid Particle/Aerosol Engineering Particle Instrument OF Sensor Plasma Synthesis of 2-D materials Plasma

#### Graduate Student

#### **Semiconductor Process**







Rank

Professor

Vice President

Vice President

Technical Advisor

Senior/Staff Engineer

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

Dean



Aerosol Technology & Machine Learning



Research Professor Dr. Keunseok H. Kim Post Doc. Dr. Vinit Kanade



# **Research Group**





# Nano Particle Technology Lab.



#### **Research Area**



#### Collaboration Partners





- 1-1. Advantage of PECVD-based 2D Material Synthesis
- 1-2. History of 2D Material Synthesis in Our Group

#### Part 2. Two-dimensional Transition Metal Dichalcogenide Materials

- 2-1. Trends in Two-Dimensional Materials Research
- 2-2. Types and Characteristics of Two-Dimensional Materials
- 2-3. Synthesis Methods and Limitations of Two-Dimensional Materials
- 2-4. Potential to Overcome Limitations of 2-D material synthesis via Plasma-assisted Processes
- 2-5. Advantages of Synthesizing 2D Materials using Low-Temperature Plasma Technology
- 2-6. 2D Material Synthesis Technology via Low-Temperature Plasma

#### Part 3. Electronic Applications - Tunneling device

- 3-1. Need for Next Generation Devices
- 3-2. Next-Generation Device Application Based on 2D Materials
- 3-3. One-Step MoS2-WS2 Vertical HT Using Penetrative H2S Plasma
- 3-4. Negative differential resistance (NDR) photodetector using MoS2/p-Si HT
- 3-6. TMDC Layer Phase Transition via Process Temperature Control
- 3-7. Enhancement of the NDR Performance via Phase Transition

#### Part 4. Electronic Application – Neuromorphic device

- 4-1. Mechanism of Neuromorphic Device
- 4-2. 2D Materials for Neuromorphic Applications
- 4-3. Grain Confinement via Low-temperature Synthesis
- 4-4. Nanograin Memristor
- 4-5. Grain Boundary Effect in Neuromorphic Performance Reliability
- 4-6. Patents

#### 1-1. Advantage of PECVD-based 2D Material Synthesis

Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) is a widely used technique in various industries, including semiconductors, optics, and nanotechnology.

- Lower Temperature Processing (< 300°C)
- Controlled Film Properties
- Compatibility with various Substrates
- Uniform and Large-scale Films



- Enhanced Chemical Reactions
- Industrial Compatibility
- Customization

#### Wafer Scale and Uniform thin film on Different Substrate







Phase Controlled Synthesis

#### One-step heterostructure Synthesis





#### 1-1. History of 2D Material Research







Wafer-scale Vertical Heterostructure of MoS<sub>2</sub>/WS<sub>2</sub>



- 2-1. Trends in Two-Dimensional Materials Research
- 2-2. Types and Characteristics of Two-Dimensional Materials
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#### 2-1. Trends in Two-Dimensional Materials Research

2D materials, often exhibit different physical behaviors compared to their 3D counterparts due to quantum confinement.

- High Surface Area
- Electrical Properties
- Thermal Conductivity

**Catalytic Application** 

Quantum Effects

- Optical Properties
- Chemical Reactivity
- Bandgap Tunability
- Mechanical Strength

Challenges

- Large-scale production
- Integration into existing technologies
- Technology Readiness Level (TRL)



## **2-2. Types and Characteristics of TMDC Materials**



- Due to strong in-plane covalent bonds, it exhibits high physical and chemical stability along with excellent mechanical flexibility
- The presence of the 'quantum confinement effect' results in properties such as band gap being different from those in three-dimensional structures due to discrete energy states.
- A two-dimensional structure composed of one transition metal (M) and two chalcogen elements (X: S, Se, Te) bonded together



 $(MX_2 : MoS_2, WS_2, PdSe_2, WTe_2 \dots)$ 

- Due to its excellent mechanical properties, it can be applied to flexible substrates, and its atomic-scale structure plays a crucial role in enhancing circuit integration
- Promising as a building block for next-generation electronic devices, thanks to its structural stability, high electron
  mobility, and direct bandgap characteristics



#### 2-3. Synthesis Methods and Limitations of Two-Dimensional Materials



2-4. Potential to Overcome Limitations of 2-D material synthesis via Plasma-assisted Processes





- Part 2. Two-dimensional Transition Metal Dichalcogenide Materials
- 2-5. Advantages of Synthesizing 2D Materials using Low-Temperature Plasma Technology







- By controlling various process variables, it is possible to synthesize 2D materials with desired characteristics
- The synthesis of large-area 2D materials enables the smooth fabrication of devices
- Synthesized by harnessing kinetic energy within the plasma field, it supplements the energy required for forming crystalline structures, enabling the synthesis of 2D materials even at low process temperatures (< 150 °C)</li>

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#### 2-6. 2D Material Synthesis Technology via Low-Temperature Plasma





- For the synthesis of 2D materials, it is possible
  to utilize a plasma containing chalcogen
  elements. The transition metal(M) seed layer
  can be directly chalcogenized through the
  Xization process
- Efficient heterostructure synthesis technology can be achieved, surpassing conventional processes
- Even in three-dimensional curved areas, which were limitations of conventional synthesis methods, it is possible to deposit 2D materials
- Enhanced production capacity with largearea uniformity and reduced processing time
- The absence of a separate transfer process reduces process steps and increases production yield



## **Part 3. Electronic Applications – Tunneling Device**

- **3-1. Need for Next Generation Devices**
- **3-2. Next-Generation Device Application Based on 2D Materials**
- 3-3. One-Step MoS<sub>2</sub>-WS<sub>2</sub> Vertical HT Using Penetrative H<sub>2</sub>S Plasma
- 3-4. Negative differential resistance (NDR) photodetector using  $MoS_2/p$ -Si HT
- **3-6. TMDC Layer Phase Transition via Process Temperature Control**
- 3-7. Enhancement of the NDR Performance via Phase Transition

### 3-1. Need for Next Generation Devices



Source : https://www.gregverdino.com/everything-is-exponential/

Source : http://www.newstof.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=1134

- With the development of AI, IoT, and industries, the need for strong data processing means is emerging.
- Two-dimensional materials are in the spotlight as core materials for next-generation devices due to their excellent electrical properties and usability based on various band characteristics.
- Research on high-performance devices and high-density data storage devices using two-dimensional materials is attracting a lot of attention





3-2. Next-Generation Device Application Based on 2D Materials



- Principle of operation: By inducing electronhole separation through Type-II heterojunction using two-dimensional semiconductor materials, excited photoelectrons are induced according to light irradiation, thereby inducing photoreactivity
- <u>advantage</u>: Photoreactive Device with High Performance and Uniformity Based on Large Area Two-Dimensional Material Synthesis Technology Using PECVD

## Negative Differential Resistance device (NDR device)



- Principle of operation: A phenomenon in which negative differential range appears in a specific voltage region due to tunneling in type-III heterojunction
- <u>advantage:</u> High functional devices can be manufactured through selective NDR phenomenon control depending on light irradiation.

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- **Principle of operation:** By utilizing a highly scalable electrode material, conductive filaments are formed inside the channel according to the applied voltage. Memory state changes depending on whether filaments are formed.
- <u>advantage</u>: Two-terminal device-based memory simplifies circuits and enables high integration of devices.

**3-2. Next-Generation Device Application Based on 2D Materials** 



 <u>application</u>: Based on heterojunction property control, controls the detectable light area, Adjust the sensing point to be applied to LiDAR and infrared sensors

## Negative Differential Resistance device (NDR device)



 <u>application</u>: Implementation of a multivalue logical system based on multithreshold voltage characteristics. Deploy high-density data processing devices in simple circuits

## 성 균 관 대 학교 SALVI SUNG KYUN KWAN UNIVERSITY(SKKU) 성균나노과학기술원





Nature Communications volume 13, Article number: 7432 (2022)

 <u>application</u>: Application in the study of neural simulation systems that simulate information transmission processes in the brain based on continuous data state changes.

3-3. One-Step MoS<sub>2</sub>-WS<sub>2</sub> Vertical HT Using Penetrative H<sub>2</sub>S Plasma



#### Single step heterojunction synthesis



Figure. Time-dependent HR-TEM images, their schematic, Raman spectra.

Figure. Time-dependent Raman spectra along to different thickness and order of metal layer

- H<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ions travel to the Mo-W metal layer by an electric field, penetrating from top to bottom. (ion penetration)
- The Top Mo layer is converted to MoS<sub>2</sub>, and the Bottom W layer is converted to WS<sub>2</sub>.
- Raman results reflect the position and thickness of the synthesized MoS<sub>2</sub> and WS<sub>2</sub> layers.

### 3-3. One-Step MoS<sub>2</sub>-WS<sub>2</sub> Vertical HT Using Penetrative H<sub>2</sub>S Plasma





Figure. Cross-sectional and in-plane HR-TEM images with EDS mapping of MWVHs and wafer-scale diode fabrication

- MoS<sub>2</sub> (Top) and WS<sub>2</sub> (Bottom) were synthesized with a uniform thickness of 5 layers each, and the spacing of the film was uniform at 0.63/0.65 nm
- The manufactured optical sensor showed photo reactivity of 83.75 mA/W and power consumption of 6μW.

Power (µW)

**Part 3. Electronic Applications – Tunneling Device** 

3-4. Negative differential resistance (NDR) photodetector using MoS<sub>2</sub>/p-Si HT





- <u>Fabrication</u>: Deposition of 2H-MoS<sub>2</sub> layer using PECVD process on p-Si substrate through water transfer process
- <u>Mechanism</u>: Under light irradiation, photo-excited electrons from the Si wafer are accumulated in the conduction band to bend the band structure. The photogating effect enhances tunneling between each band from MoS<sub>2</sub> to a p-Si substrate.
- <u>Operation</u>: During the main charge transportation change from Tunneling to Thermionic current, NDR characteristics appear.



Figure. Mechanism and electrical characteristic of MoS<sub>2</sub>/p-Si heterostructure

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**Part 3. Electronic Applications – Tunneling Device** 



#### 3-5. TMDC Layer Phase Transition via Process Temperature Control







Figure. Calculation of the material characteristics of the defect accompanied D-1T/2H WS<sub>2</sub>

Iow-temperature sulfidation process → WS<sub>2</sub> layer 2H phase → Distorted
 1T phase change.

(Cause  $\rightarrow$  Internal stress and defects)

 By controlling the TMDC phase, it is possible to control electrical properties between semiconductors and semi-metals.

#### **Part 3. Electronic Applications – Tunneling Device**

## 3-6. Enhancement of the NDR Performance via Phase Transition



Figure. Mechanism analysis and optimization of the MP-WS<sub>2</sub>/p-Si heterostructure.



- According to process temperature decrease, distorted 1T phase WS<sub>2</sub>, which shows semi-metallic characteristics, is increased.
- Distorted 1T phase  $WS_2$  expands the tunneling window between and  $WS_2$  and Si substrates.
- Photon-Electron Accumulation at Interface layer by Illumination
  - → Promote electron tunneling throughout the window.
- The proposed NDR device is applied to the photoreactive-RAM application based on the resistive bi-stability.



## **Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device**

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**Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device** 



#### 4-1. Mechanism of Neuromorphic Device



- Early memristors were made of metal-oxide-based oxide materials, but as the size of the device scaled down, it became a problem to stabilize the uniform resistive switching of the device.
- In addition, as the area and thickness of the metal-oxide-based oxide material decreases, excessive filament formation occurs, which worsens the reliability of resistive switching.
- As an alternative, the use of van der Waals structured materials to provide atomic-level uniformity while simultaneously having a low electron density of states is gaining attention for low-power resistive switching at the nanoampere level or below.
- An additional hot topic of research is to utilize the feature that all surfaces are geometrically uniform, so that various defects can be given to form filaments wherever desired.

Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device

4-2. Mechanism of Neuromorphic Device



Kang, J.H., et al. Nature electronics, 2023, 6: 491–505.

Choi, S., et al. Adv. Mater. (2020) 32, 2204659.



- Filament-based resistive switching devices can be broadly categorized into VCM and ECM according to their operating principles.
  - VCMs: resistive switching occurs only with internal conduction channel materials without the intervention of external materials when a voltage is applied to the electrode
  - ECMs: conduction channel materials from the outside enter and cause resistive switching depending on the voltage applied to the electrode.
- VCM-based devices have the advantage of high stability and reliability because the operation is performed only internally, unlike ECMs, which are artificially pierced by external materials.
- On the other hand, ECM-based devices have the advantage of having a lower threshold voltage than VCM, which requires overall movement inside the device because filaments are formed by migration of external metal atoms.

Nano Particle Technoloav Lab **Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device** 

4-3. Generation of Nanograin Based on Low Process Temperature Formation of nanograin TMDC materials via PECVD sulfidation





- During plasma treatment, H<sub>2</sub>S ion penetrate the Mo layer, diffused into the layer.
- Numerous nuclei make the grain hard to grow with large size over 10 nm.
- Because of the uniform metal layer thickness, the MoS<sub>2</sub> can be prepared with uniform thickness of

#### 5 nm



Figure. Synthesized MoS<sub>2</sub> depending on process time

Figure. Schematic of nanograin MoS2 synthesis process

Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device

4-3. Generation of Nanograin Based on Low Process Temperature Formation of nanograin TMDC materials via PECVD sulfidation



Figure. C-AFM current map of the MoS<sub>2</sub> nanograins layer

Figure. In-plane HRTEM image with color marked nanosize of grain

- The grain size is formed within a size of 10 nm by a low synthesis temperature.
- The generated grain boundary may serve as a guideline for diffusible metal electrode ions.
- TEM images and C-AFM results represent the effect of guidelines on the presence of small grain sizes and ion migration.

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Part 4. Electronic Applications – Neuromorphic Device

4-4. Memristor Application Using Nanograin TMDC Materials





- Grain boundary makes it easier for metal electrode ions to move along the applied electric field.
- This creates a forming-free memristor device so that memory performance does not change during durability tests.
- The manufactured memristor device is applied to electronic synapse device applications and shows great viability as SNN.





- Plasma assisted metal layer sulfurization method is one of the most promising method to achieve highly uniform/reliable/reproducible production process for wafer-scale TMDCs materials.
- ✓ We have successfully implemented homostructured/heterostructured TMDCs layer and observed temperature-dependence phase tunability from 2H to 1T phase or vice versa.
- The intrinsic semiconductive/semi-metallic characteristic of the PECVD grown TMDCs layers are feasible to fabricate functional electronic device with superior photo-reactivity and unique NDR characteristics
- ✓ A nanograined TMDCs layer serves as a resilient pathway for metal-ion transport, bolstering the reliability and uniformity of memristor and synaptic applications











- Project: 차세대 이차원 소재 상용화를 위한 플라즈마 공정 최적화 (리더연구)
- **Period**: 2022.06.01 ~ 2031.02.28
- Support: National Research Foundation of Korea
- **Project**: 수전해 전극 공정을 위한 저온 플라즈마 기초연구실 (BRL)
- **Period:** 2022.06.01 ~ 2025.02.28
- Support: National Research Foundation of Korea
- Project: 플라즈마 공정 최적화 프로세스를 활용한 이차원 소재 합성 및 뉴로모픽 소자개발 연구
- **Period**: 2020.09.16 ~ 2025.09.15
- **Support**: Samsung electronics
- Project: In-situ 결함분석을 통한 고품위 MX2 소재 및 공정기술 개발 (반도체고급인력양성사업)
- Period: 2023.04.01 ~ 2027.12.31
- Support: Korea Evaluation Institute of Industrial Technology



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### **Taesung Kim**

School of Mechanical Engineering and SAINT Department of Semiconductor Convergence Engineering Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)

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