

Anchoring of Single Indium Atoms and Few-Atom Indium Clusters onto Graphene via Silicon Heteroatoms

Kenan Elibol,^{1,2,3} Clemens Mangler,¹ David D. O'Regan,^{2,4} Kimmo Mustonen,¹
Dominik Eder,⁵ Jannik C. Meyer,^{1,6} Jani Kotakoski,¹ Richard G. Hobbs,^{2,3}
Toma Susi,¹ Bernhard C. Bayer^{1,5}

¹University of Vienna, Faculty of Physics, Boltzmanngasse 5, A-1090, Vienna, Austria

²Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) and the SFI Advanced Materials and Bio-Engineering Research Centre (AMBER), Dublin 2, Ireland

³School of Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland

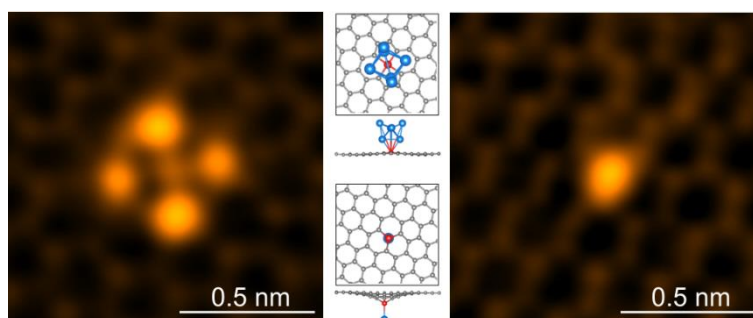
⁴School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland

⁵Institute of Materials Chemistry, Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien), Getreidemarkt 9/165, A-1060 Vienna, Austria

⁶Institute for Applied Physics, University of Tübingen, Auf der Morgenstelle 10, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

Email: bernhard.bayer-skoff@tuwien.ac.at

Single atoms and few-atom nanoclusters are of high interest in catalysis and plasmonics, but pathways for their fabrication and placement remain scarce.[1] We report here the self-assembly of room-temperature-stable single indium (In) atoms and few-atom In clusters (2-6 atoms) that are anchored to substitutional silicon (Si) impurity atoms in suspended monolayer graphene membranes.[2] Using atomically resolved scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM), we find that the symmetry of the In structures is critically determined by the 3- or 4-fold coordination of the Si “anchors”. All structures are produced without electron-beam induced materials modification. In turn, when activated by electron beam irradiation in the STEM, we observe *in situ* the formation, restructuring and translation of the Si-anchored In structures. Our results on In-Si-graphene provide a materials system for controlled self-assembly and heteroatomic anchoring of single atoms and few-atom nanoclusters on graphene.



[1] K. Elibol, C. Mangler, T. Gupta, G. Zagler, D. Eder, J. C. Meyer, J. Kotakoski, B. C. Bayer: Process Pathway Controlled Evolution of Phase and Van-der-Waals Epitaxy in In/In₂O₃ on Graphene Heterostructures, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 30, 2003300, (2020), <https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/adfm.202003300>

[2] K. Elibol, C. Mangler, D. D. O'Regan, K. Mustonen, D. Eder, J. C. Meyer, J. Kotakoski, R. G. Hobbs, T. Susi, B. C. Bayer: Single Indium Atoms and Few-Atom Indium Clusters Anchored onto Graphene via Silicon Heteroatoms, *ACS Nano*, (2021), ASAP, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsnano.1c03535>