

Perspective

Towards More Stable and Flexible Perovskite Solar Cells by Graphene and Nanotube Contacts

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The R&D of rather stable inorganic-organic hybrid perovskite solar cells have been excessively increasing over the last 5 years. The focus is now on stability of the cells against moisture, a critical aspect to overcome for scaling these devices for large production. One of the techniques to impede water/oxygen ingress to device structure and consequence decomposition of perovskite layer is covering them with protective layers. Graphene and Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs) were suggested as great candidates to this as they offer excellent optical transparency, electrical conductivity. In addition, Graphene and nanotubes have honeycomb networks, which stops ion electro migration of the metallic contacts to the perovskite layer thus significantly reducing the device degradation and shunting probability.

Various research groups worldwide are currently investigating graphene/nanotubes application in the architecture of perovskite solar cells as whole transporting layer, electron transporting layer or even front or back contacts. There were also attempts to mix the perovskite layer with nanotube to enhance its robustness considering the polycrystalline nature of perovskites materials [1]. Nanostructures are flexible and will thus support the flexibility of perovskite devices. In the last 5 years, the application of graphene/nanotubes and other nanostructure such as C_{60} in perovskite cells was increased according to the chart given in figure 1.

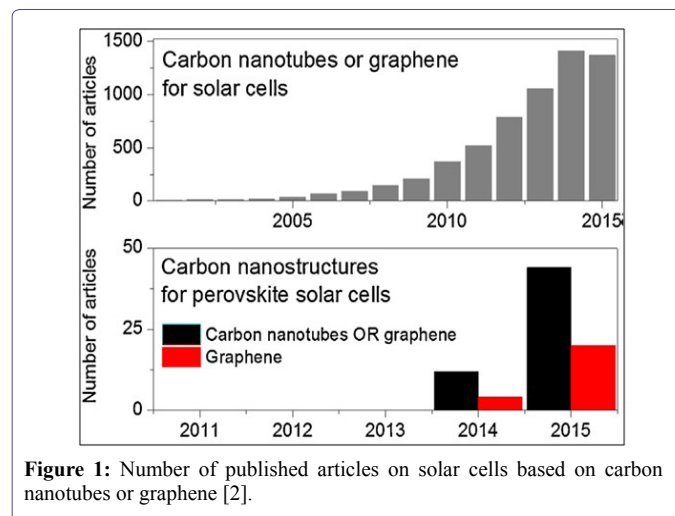


Figure 1: Number of published articles on solar cells based on carbon nanotubes or graphene [2].

In the last 2 years, however, over 1500 papers have been published on graphene/nanotubes application in perovskite devices and various researchers have confirmed that a high performance (15-19%) is obtained from these hybrid cells, which is comparable to the planar perovskite devices [3]. More importantly, hybrid perovskite devices are highly stable (~90% performance after hundred hours stressing), flexible, environmentally friendly and cheaper to produce.

CNT or Graphene derivatives are also influenced by humidity, which deteriorates the device performance. However, novel techniques show that chemical treatment of nanolayers can significantly protect them against oxygen fatigue. Have separately demonstrated that the humidity sensors made of nanotubes showed higher sensitivity and better stability upon proper chemical treatment [4].

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