

Functional Nano-Structures for Bio-Chemical Sensing

Ajay Agarwal

CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute & Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research, PILANI (RAJ.) 333 031, INDIA; dr.ajay123@gmail.com; Ph. 01596-245078

Abstract:

Novel nano-dimensional materials and structures are being realized using chemical methods and nanotechnologies along with standard silicon micro-fabrication technologies. These functional materials are enabling devices which find numerous applications in the field of diagnostics, drug delivery, electronics, energy production, detecting food adulterants, water pollutants, etc. With the increasing awareness, healthcare is particularly in focus that includes early diagnosis, drugs discovery, point-of-care solutions, etc. For these bio-chemical applications, specific and sensitive detection of various biological and chemical species becomes crucial.

Among the various nano-materials realized, CNT, Nano-Gap and Nanowire based bio-chemical sensors are most exploited for the purpose. Nano-Gap sensors work on two principles; either on the 'change of the conductivity' of the sensing layers between the electrodes when exposed to analytes or based on 'Electro-magnetic enhancement' using micro Raman spectroscopy. Nanowire sensors work on the principle of 'Field Effect Transistor' (FET) where charges associated with the chemical molecule or the biological species is attached on the nanowire surface and acts as chemical or bio-gate; the devices are hence termed as CHEM-FET or BIO-FET.

The technologies used to realize such devices and their applications will be discussed.

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