

Quantum chemical molecular dynamics simulations of SWNT nucleation and growth on iron and nickel

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要旨

Self-consistent-charge density-functional tight-binding molecular dynamics simulations of transition metal (Fe, Ni)-catalyzed nucleation and growth of single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) were performed. Adding C atoms and C₂ units to the initially bare metal particles, we observed the nucleation of carbon caps, and continued growth of short SWCNT fragments. Adding C₂H₂ on the bare particles, polyacetylene formation is dominant, and hydrogen is only slowly removed. Growth appears to be a 2-step process, i) disordered pentagon/hexagon growth at the carbon/metal interface, and ii) annealing to all-hexagons where the colder top-layered (n,m) chirality is imprinted on the newly forming network. The carbon-metal adhesion strength governs growth rates and mechanism: weaker C-M interaction favors more fullerene-like ring-collapse growth of longer polyene chains.



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