

LT-STM Investigation of Organic Molecules
for Molecular Electronics:
Lander and Hexabenzocoronene Derivatives on
Copper Surfaces

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Figures on the cover page:

Background: Monolayer of hexaphenylbenzene (HPB) on Cu(111), see section 6.1.1. The different molecular contrast corresponds to the molecular conformation, which can be altered by STM induced manipulation, described in section 7.2.

Upper panel: Series of five STM images with a manipulation step in between each two images. A hexa-*tert*-butyl hexaphenylbenzene (HB-HPB) molecule is manipulated across single Cu adatoms on Cu(111), collecting the atoms under the molecular core (see section 7.3).

Lower panel of six images: STM induced contacting of a Lander molecule to a step edge on Cu(111). Left column: Lander on the terrace. Middle column: Lander at a step edge without contact. Right side: Lander contacted to the upper terrace. The contact is proven by analysis of the surface state standing wave patterns, visible in the lower row (see section 5.4).

Abstract

In this thesis, large organic molecules, namely derivatives of Lander and hexa-*peri*-hexabenzocoronene (HBC), are studied on copper surfaces by means of low temperature scanning tunnelling microscopy (LT-STM).

The adsorption of the Lander molecules, custom designed molecular wires, is investigated temperature dependent on Cu(111) and Cu(211). On the stepped Cu(211) surface an adsorbate induced restructuring for temperatures above 160 K is discussed. Due to the interplay between STM measurements and theoretical calculations, the adsorption geometry of single molecules can be determined. Moreover, the STM induced lateral manipulation of Lander molecules is investigated. For the first time, an atomically defined contact between a metal electrode and a molecular wire could be established. To do so Lander molecules are manipulated to an artificially created step edge of known geometry. Scattering of Cu(111) surface state electrons is used to probe the interaction of molecules with the metal electrode. By analysis with multiple scattering model calculations, the molecular contact to the electrode can be traced back to the molecular end group.

Monolayer structures of four different derivatives of HBC on Cu(111), formed due to molecular self-organisation, are determined. By comparison of the different molecular species it is possible to identify the chemical groups that are responsible for the anchoring to the substrate, the intermolecular bonding, and the molecular orientation. Molecular STM induced manipulation within molecular structures showed that the high level of precision, regarding position and orientation of molecules inside the monolayer structure, is maintained upon manipulation. Furthermore, it is shown that molecule-atom interactions can be used to accumulate atoms under molecules.

Kurzfassung

In dieser Arbeit werden große organische Moleküle, Derivate von Lander und Hexa-*peri*-Hexabenzocoronen (HBC), auf Kupferoberflächen mittels Tieftemperatur Raster-Tunnel-Mikroskopie (TT-RTM) untersucht.

Die Adsorption von Lander Molekülen, speziell entworfenen molekularen Drähten, wurde temperaturabhängig auf Cu(111) und Cu(211) untersucht. Auf der gestuften Cu(211) Oberfläche wird eine Adsorbat-induzierte Oberflächenrestrukturierung diskutiert. Durch das Zusammenspiel von RTM Messungen und theoretischen Rechnungen kann die genaue Adsorptionsgeometrie von einzelnen Molekülen bestimmt werden. Außerdem wird die STM induzierte laterale Manipulation der Moleküle untersucht. Zum ersten Mal wurde ein atomar definierter Kontakt zwischen einem molekularen Draht und einer metallischen Elektrode hergestellt. Dazu wurden Lander Moleküle an eine künstlich erzeugte Stufenkante von bekannter Geometrie gebracht. Die Streuung von Elektronen in Cu(111) Oberflächen-Zuständen wird genutzt um die Wechselwirkung zwischen Molekül und Metall-Elektrode zu untersuchen. Durch eine Analyse mittels Mehrfach-Streuung Model-Rechnungen kann der Kontakt zur Elektrode auf die molekulare Endgruppe zurückgeführt werden.

Die durch Selbstordnung verschiedener Derivate von HBC auf Cu(111) ausgebildeten Monolagenstrukturen werden bestimmt. Durch Vergleich der Derivate können die chemischen Gruppen, die für die Anbindung zum Substrat, die intermolekulare Bindung und die molekulare Orientierung verantwortlich sind, identifiziert werden. Es zeigt sich, dass das hohe Maß an Genauigkeit bezüglich molekularer Position und Ausrichtung in Monolagenstrukturen auch nach RTM induzierter Manipulation erhalten bleibt. Ferner wird gezeigt, dass Molekül-Adatom Wechselwirkungen genutzt werden können um Atome unter Molekülen zu akkumulieren.

Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Abstract | iii |
| Kurzfassung | iv |
| Contents | v |
| Acronyms | vii |
| Chapter 1 Introduction | 1 |
| Chapter 2 Basic Principles | 5 |
| 2.1 The Scanning Tunnelling Microscope | 5 |
| 2.2 Theoretical Description of the Tunnelling Process | 7 |
| 2.3 Scanning Tunnelling Spectroscopy | 12 |
| 2.4 STM induced Manipulation | 14 |
| 2.5 Elastic Scattering Quantum Chemistry | 19 |
| Chapter 3 Experimental | 23 |
| 3.1 The UHV Chamber and the LT-STM | 23 |
| 3.2 The Substrates | 27 |
| 3.2.1 Cu(111)..... | 27 |
| 3.2.2 Cu(211)..... | 28 |
| 3.3 The Molecules | 30 |
| 3.3.1 Lander Type Molecules..... | 30 |
| 3.3.2 HBC, HPB, and Derivatives..... | 36 |
| 3.4 Sample Preparation | 39 |
| Chapter 4 Lander/Cu(211) – Selective Adsorption and Surface Restructuring | 43 |
| 4.1 Preparation at Low Sample Temperature..... | 44 |
| 4.2 Preparation at High Sample Temperature | 49 |
| 4.3 Formation of Molecular Chains | 57 |
| 4.4 Conclusions | 58 |
| Chapter 5 Lander/Cu(111) – Molecule-Metal Contact | 61 |
| 5.1 Adsorption Geometry | 63 |
| 5.2 Manipulation | 64 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| 5.3 | Scattering of Surface State Electrons at Lander Molecules | 67 |
| 5.4 | Contacting Lander Molecules to Step Edges | 76 |
| 5.5 | Conclusions | 86 |
| Chapter 6 | Molecular Self-Ordering..... | 89 |
| 6.1 | Monolayer Structures | 90 |
| 6.1.1 | HPB/Cu(111)..... | 90 |
| 6.1.2 | HBC/Cu(111) | 94 |
| 6.1.3 | HB-HBC/Cu(111) | 96 |
| 6.1.4 | HB-HPB/Cu(111)..... | 99 |
| 6.2 | Comparison of Molecular Growth | 102 |
| 6.3 | Conclusions | 105 |
| Chapter 7 | Manipulation of HBC derivatives..... | 107 |
| 7.1 | Manipulation of Isolated Molecules..... | 108 |
| 7.2 | Manipulation Within Molecular Structures..... | 111 |
| 7.3 | Manipulation of Atoms with Molecules..... | 117 |
| 7.4 | Conclusions | 121 |
| Chapter 8 | Summary and Outlook..... | 123 |
| References | | 127 |
| Curriculum Vitae | | 137 |
| Articles | | 138 |
| Talks | | 139 |
| Posters | | 140 |
| Acknowledgments | | 141 |

Acronyms

| | |
|---------|--|
| E_F | Fermi Energy |
| ESQC | Elastic Scattering Quantum Chemistry |
| HBC | Hexa- <i>peri</i> -Hexabenzocoronene |
| HB-HBC | Hexa- <i>tert</i> -butyl-Hexabenzocoronene |
| HB-HPB | Hexa- <i>tert</i> -butyl-Hexaphenylbenzene |
| HME | Hybrid Molecular Electronics |
| HOMO | Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital |
| HPB | Hexaphenylbenzene |
| LDOS | Local Density Of States |
| LT | Low Temperature |
| LUMO | Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital |
| MBE | Molecular Beam Epitaxy |
| ML | (saturated) Monolayer |
| MM | Molecular Mechanics |
| MM+ESQC | Combined routine of MM and ESQC calculations |
| MME | Mono-Molecular Electronics |
| RL | Reactive Lander |
| R_m | maximal resistance needed for lateral manipulation |
| SL | Single Lander |
| STM | Scanning Tunnelling Microscopy / Microscope |
| STS | Scanning Tunnelling Spectroscopy |
| TAS | Tip-apex-Adsorbate-Substrate |
| TBP | di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-phenyl |
| UHV | Ultra High Vacuum |
| VL | Violet Lander |

