Fundamental Issues in Building A Molecular Electronics Technology

Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology I-V Behavior of Molecules Potential Applications and Device Types Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices Manufacturability Issues Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues **Conclusions and Perspectives** 

#### **Acknowledgements**

T. Dunbar (PSU/3M); A. Hooper (PSU/Motorola) P. Harder; J. Stapleton; H. Skulason (PSU, Molecular Electronics Corp.); T. Tighe, M.Reinard, O. Cabarcos, T. Daniel, Y. Selzer

AFOSR

P. Weiss (PSU----STM) [Z. Donhauser; L. Bumm; B. Mantooth] N. Winograd (PSU----ToF-SIMS) [A. Walker] R. Collins (PSU----optical spectroscopy) T Mayer (PSU --- device fab) [M. Cabassi]

J. Tour (Rice----synthesis) R. Opila (Lucent Bell Labs----metal contacts)

M. Reed (Yale ---- EE) R. Tsui (Motorola) J. Seminario (U. S. Carolina ---EE) P. Franzon (NC State U.---EE)

Defense Advanced Research Project Agency Office of Naval Research National Science Foundation Molecular Electronics Corp. Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

**I-V Behavior of Molecules** 

**Potential Applications and Device Types** 

Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices

Manufacturability Issues

Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 

#### **Conductance of a Single Molecule via STM**



40 x 40 nm

Bumm, Arnold, Cygan, Dunbar, Burgin, Jones, Allara,
Tour, Weiss, *Science*, 271 1705(1996)
Cygan, Dunbar, Arnold, Bumm, Shedlock, Burgin, Jones, Allara,
Tour, Weiss *JACS* 120, 2721(1998)

#### **Conductance of a Single Molecule via A Break Junction**



M.A. Reed *et. al*, *Science* <u>278</u>, 252 (1997)

Theory: Di Ventra, Pantelides, and Lang D ( $E_F$ - $E_{HOMO}$ ) ~ 0.7 eV

#### **Small Molecular Ensembles in A Nanopore Show Device Functions**



### **Small Molecular Ensembles in A Nanopore Show Device Functions**





Memory function can be created from these types of device structures Reed, Chen, Rawlett, Price, Tour, *Appl.Phys.Lett.*, 78, 3735(2001)

Chen, Reed, Rawlett, Tour, Appl.Phys.Lett 77 1224 (2000)

Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

**I-V Behavior of Molecules** 

**Potential Applications and Device Types** 

Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices

Manufacturability Issues

Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 





## Molecular Q-Dot Quantum Computers

¢μ<sub>N</sub>

0

## Single Molecule Logic Devices-II • large molecules





## Molecule-*n*-Particle Logic Blocks

Molecular

**Electronics**,

### Molecular Q-Dot Cellular Automata Computers



# Chemical Attachment / Surface Chemistry is Common to All Devices

Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

**I-V Behavior of Molecules** 

**Potential Applications and Device Types** 

**Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices** 

Manufacturability Issues Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues Conclusions and Perspectives

## **Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices**

- Molecules
  - 2-terminal
  - multi-terminal, complex functions
- Molecule-Electrode Attachment
  - chemical bonding
  - molecule-electrode geometry
- Molecule Alignment and Distribution
  - guest-host placement
  - multi-terminal registry

## Selected Examples (Zoo) of Molecules with Reported I-V Characteristics



### **Examples of Proposed Specialized Function Molecules**



current theory ineffective in predicting actual device behavior
device measurement feedback: slow - almost non-existent

## **Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices**

- Molecules
  - 2-terminal
  - multi-terminal, complex functions
- Molecule-Electrode Attachment
  - chemical bonding
  - molecule-electrode geometry
- Molecule Alignment and Distribution
  - guest-host placement
  - multi-terminal registry

## Useful Established Attachment Combinations

Г		Base Electrode Metal						1
	Attachment		Da					
	(selected)	Au	Pt	Pd	Cu, etc	GaAs	Si	
	RSH	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
	RSAc	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
	RNC	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$				
	RSe, -Te	$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$		
	RC-			$\checkmark$		√?	$\checkmark$	
-								,
<ul> <li>J-SR: Simplest starting combination</li> <li>+ well-established chemistry</li> <li>- SAc needed for stability but then Au-S coupling problematic</li> </ul>					Pt(Pd)-CNR: + low junction barriers (~0.2 eV) - preps more difficult - less well known chemistry			
<ul> <li>hiah iur</li> </ul>								

need more effort on molecule attachment group – electrode combinations

- low junction impedance
- chemical stability

A

device operation stability

• Ni, W, Ti, Al?

Diazonium Coupling Chemistry for Direct Aromatic Ring-Electrode Attachment





- direct molecule-electrode bonding via C- bonds ---improved conduction??
- strong bonding precludes self-organization (kinetic vs thermodynamic control)
- extensions to Si, GaAs, C, Pt, etc.

Stewart, Kosynkin, Dirk, Allara, Tour, submitted

**Oligomer Alignment and Distribution** 



Will adsobate-surface bond force  $\delta$  orientation?

OR

Will  $\pi$ -stacking force **4** orientation?



Can insertion be used to control guest molecule orientation?



## **Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices**

- Molecules
  - 2-terminal
  - multi-terminal, complex functions
- Molecule-Electrode Attachment
  - chemical bonding
  - molecule-electrode geometry

# Molecule Alignment and Distribution

- guest-host placement
- multi-terminal registry

# Using Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) as Model Molecule Layers ----- Matrix Isolation of Electronically Active Molecules



#### Large Molecules Resist Self-Organization --- Can Align via Insertion



Inserted PE5-PS(~12%) in Host C8 SAM



### **Oligomer Distribution in Host C8 SAM Matrix Defect Regions**





#### **Nano-Device Assembly at Planar Surfaces**

- \* <u>General</u>: Find assembly protocols for orienting multi-functional molecules (e.g., for 3-terminal devices) at planar (Au) surfaces
- \* Testing the 3-legged approach for rigid, self-orienting molwire attachment



"caltrops" molecules

#### **Self-Orienting Oligomers at Electrodes?**



for assembly?

## **Selective Assembly of a 3-Terminal Device: Steric Effect Methods**



Side-chain Steric Effect



\*no insertion until 50 hrs.



# Selective Assembly of a 3-Terminal Device: Chemical and Electrochemical Control Methods

Release active thiolate or thiol by base/acid deprotection of thioacetate, etc.

Application of V at selected electrodes:

- induce selective chemisorption [thiosulfate derviatives, (G. Ferguson, Langmuir)]
- induce selective thiolate desorption (M. Porter)

Overall: Intense development needed to allow high yields of selective assembly on large scale multi-terminal device chips Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

- **I-V Behavior of Molecules**
- **Potential Applications and Device Types**
- Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices

**Manufacturability Issues** 

Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 



Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology
I-V Behavior of Molecules
Potential Applications and Device Types
Manufacturability Issues

**Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices** 

Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 

## Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

- molecules
- bottom contacts
- self-assembly
  - molecular geometry
  - chemistry
- matrix effects in molecule switching
- electron injection states
- top contact metallization issues

# **Issues in Rigid Molecule Contacts**

VS

Multicontact Self-Assembly (e.g., nanorod crossbar)

Molecular tilt changes required gap spacing
Isolated vs bundles



• Electrode topography unpredictable attachment density



**Top Contact Metallization** 

Deposition should be Conformal but:

- Shorts
- Molecule damage


Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

- I-V Behavior of Molecules
- **Potential Applications and Device Types**
- Manufacturability Issues

Planar Devices : Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

- molecules
- bottom contacts
- self-assembly
  - molecular geometry
  - chemistry
- matrix effects in molecule switching
- electron injection states
- top contact metallization issues

### **Conclusions and Perspectives**

## Molecular Assembly



Molecular Packing: a major bottleneck in molecular electronics?

### Careful Control of Assembly Procedures Can Produce Ordered Pure MoleSwitch SAMs



### Contact Mode AFM Images of Molewire SAMs on Au(111)

4.0 nm x 4.0 nm images; lateral force, unfiltered









100x100 nm STM image pre-surface clean

- SAMs can order
- ~  $(\sqrt{3}x\sqrt{3})$  Au(111) superlattice spacing

### **Side Reactions May Cause Mixed Composition SAMs**

**Cleavage method** 



#### Typically ~30% -NH2 in SAM

Zinin Reduction:  $RNO_2 + RS^- \rightarrow RNH_2$ 

Stapleton, Daniel, Yao, Tour, Allara, submitted

### Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

- molecules
- bottom contacts
- self-assembly
  - molecular geometry
  - chemistry
- matrix effects in molecule switching
- electron injection states
- top contact metallization issues

# Strategies for Probing Matrix Effects on Switching

# **Compare I-V behavior:**

- Planar devices with dense-packed SAMs (Reed et al)
- STM of inserted moleswitches in alkanethiolate SAMs
- Conducting AFM/STM with nanoparticle contacts to inserted moleswitches in alkanethiolate SAMs
- Single molecule devices

# Quasi-2-D Matrix Isolation of Individual Molecules and Bundles

- Control molecular orientation at electrodes for devices
- Control local molecular environment
- Position molecules for precision **local probe** characterization of electrical properties as a function of:
  - molecule structure
  - metal-molecule junction
  - local molecular environment

Quasi-2-D Matrix Isolation of Individual Molecules and Bundles

O<sub>≷</sub>N+

Insertion of 1.4 nm Nitro Molecule in a C10 SAM

- Valuable Test System

### -NO<sub>2</sub> groups:

- important in switching and memory
- vibrational spectroscopy tag



#### SAM Defect Sites for Insertion/Exchange in RS/Au{111}



Tightly packed domain:

- 5.0 Å S-S distance; 30° tilt
- 4.6 molecules/nm<sup>2</sup>



Tilt Domain line defect - II

- conformational disorder along line
- exposed Au atoms along line



### Tilt Domain line defect - I

• conformational disorder along line



- on imperfect terraces
- in crystallite grain boundaries

#### Insertion Rates of Nitro Molecule in Several Host SAMs



### The Local Environment of Guest Molecules in Host Matrices: - Effects on Electrical Response





#### IR Frequency Shifts Show Host Matrix Packed Densely Around Guest Molecules



- IR modes shift to lower frequencies as length of surrounding host alkyl chains exceeds length of guest molecule
- Shifts correlate with DFT(B3LYP/6-31G\*; Onsager dipole-sphere medium) calculations for shifts as a function of immersion in hydrocarbon media
- Correlation shows short guest molecules insert into a fully hydrocarbon host environment

JPCB, 104, 4880(2000)

STM of inserted moleswitches in alkanethiolate SAMs

# How Does Ensemble Switching (e.g., *n*-pore devices) Scale to The Molecular Level?





-1.0 V tip bias; 1.0 pA current

Donhauser, Mantooth, Kelly, Bumm, Monnell, Stapleton, Allara, Tour, Weiss; Science, 292, 2303-2307(2001)

random

but



-1.0 V tip bias; 1.0 pA current

Donhauser, Mantooth, Kelly, Bumm, Monnell, Stapleton, Allara, Tour, Weiss; *Science , 292, 2303-2307(2001)* 

# Increase in Film Order by Annealing: 1 mM RSH / EtOH at 75 °C



40 nm x 40 nm; V<sub>Tip</sub>=+1 V; I=1.0 pA



40 nm x 40 nm V<sub>Tip</sub>=+1 V; I=10 pA

J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1999, 121, 8017-8021

# Switch ON Times Depend on Host Matrix Packing



Low Switch

**ON/OFF** 

Ratio

High



Defect populated SAM (5 min deposition)





Std. SAM (24 hr deposition)

Vapor Annealed SAM (24 hr+)





1.0 pA; V<sub>tip</sub>=+1.0 V; Frame interval: 30 min



1.0 pA; V<sub>tip</sub>=-1.5 V

Switching for both isolated and grouped molecules

Switching Mechanism(s)??



### STM data suggest Molecular Tilt Change??:

Donhauser, Mantooth, Pearl, Kelly, Nanayakkara & Weiss, unpublished STM-Induced Molecule Switching **Recently Observed in Alkane Chain Molecules** 

[Lindsay et al, Science, 300, 1413 (2003)]



# HS-C8-SH in C8-S SAM HS-C10-SH in **C10-S SAM** HS-C12-SH in **C12-S SAM** HS-C12-SH in C12-S SAM 1.5 nm Au n-particle

10 nm

### effect of toluene medium???

Switching via Au-S bond scission at bottom contact??

- no electronic mechanism for -CH<sub>2</sub>- structure
- switching with or without n-particle
- switching with n-particle precludes tilt mechanism?
- Au-S bottom contact scission common to both structures

Conducting AFM with nanoparticle contacts to inserted moleswitches in alkanethiolate SAMs

### **Conducting AFM Probes of Inserted Nitro OPE Molecule**



#### Au–S–molecule–S–Au junction in alkanethiolate matrix

Full contact simulates 2-terminal device

# **Results: Nitro-OPE in C12S- SAM**



Lindsay et al, APL, 81, 2002

- ~2 nm nanoparticles
- measurement under toluene solvent
- integral i ratios  $\rightarrow$  1 molecule
- very weak NDR at ~1-1.5 V
- no NDR with simple OPE
- currents ~500-1000 pA



#### **Bjordefors, Daniel, Allara**

- ~2-5 nm nanoparticles
- measurement in air or Ar
- integral i ratios  $\rightarrow$  1 molecule
- no NDR 0 ± 5 V
- no NDR with simple OPE
- currents ~50-100 pA

Conclusion: NDR extremely sensitive to surrounding matrix and environment

# Single molecule devices

# nano-Junction Molecule Devices -- Fabrication





- 1. e-beam fab Au nano-wires between contact pads
- 2. Form SAM on Au surface
- 3. Apply V at 10 K --- wire breaks causing nm-scale gap; molecules bridge gap by thermal motion
- 4. ~10% junctions show molecules bridged; typically ~1-3 molecules



[Park, Lim, Park, Alivisatos, McEuen, APL, 75, 301–303 (1999)]

Selzer, Allara, Mayer, Cabassi (submitted)

# nano-Junction Molecule Devices -- I-V Data





#### sharp increase in dl/dV:

onset of new conduction channel

### nano-Junction Molecule Devices -- T-Dependence



hopping conduction  $\vee$  40 K:

internal molecular barriers

### hopping onset T<sup>-</sup> as bias V - :

 vibrational scattering "heats" molecule - opens barriers

### **DE** ℝ 0 V ∀ |±0.5 V|

• internal molecular E fields?

**No NDR or Switching Effects** 



# nano-Junction Molecule Devices -- Summary

- Through molecule e<sup>-</sup> tunneling (Inelastic tunneling vibrational spectrum)
- Individual molecule devices (expected values of tunneling current)



- V40 K activated hopping intramolecular conduction (V-dependent barrier from T dependence)
  - Vibrational scattering heats molecule
  - increased conduction via activated conformational transitions?
- Monotonic I-V behavior out to ~±5 V --no NDR - switching effects on repeated cycling
  - Previous nanopore devices (> 10<sup>3</sup> molecules) show NDR (Reed et al)

**Conclude NDR-switching is function of molecular packing** 

Switching-NDR Mechanism(s)??



Theoretical	
Approaches	
vary:	

Seminario *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* <u>120</u>, 3970 (1998).
Seminario *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* <u>122</u>, 3015 (2000).
Di Ventra *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* <u>86</u>, 288 (2001).
Kornilovitch, Bratkovsky, *Phys. Rev. B* <u>64</u>, 195413 (2001).
Cornil, Karzazi, Bre´das, JACS, 2002, 124, 3516-3517
Taylor, Brandbyge, Stokbro, arXiv:cond-mat/0212191 v1 9 Dec 2002

#### **Overall Conclusion:**

effects extremely sensitive to surrounding matrix and environment
predictive theory missing



FIG. 1: Geometry of monolayers A, B, and C connected with two Au (111) surfaces. Color codes: C(green), H(white), O(red), N(blue), S(yellow), Au(gold).

NDR-Switching Mechanism: V excitation of conformational rotation to New conductance state

- locking via intermolecular matrix effects??

K. Stokbro et al, arXiv:cond-mat/0212191 v1 9Dec 2002

# NO<sub>2</sub>-OPE uniquely shows minima at 60° ring rotation





### Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

- molecules
- bottom contacts
- self-assembly
  - molecular geometry
  - chemistry
- matrix effects in molecule switching
- electron injection states
- top contact metallization issues

**One-Electron Injection States:** 

- Important in switching?
- Can be made chemically?



- Make SAMs of -NO<sub>2</sub> containing molecules
- Dose with alkali metal atoms (K and Li) in UHV
- Track chemical changes by vibrational spectroscopy
- Possible route to spin ½ array?


1-electron states exist & mostly reversible (2-electron states also)









e<sup>-</sup> delocalized over NN shell??



#### **Repulsive lattice??** (K/graphite)



contact AFM 4 nm X 4 nm

Bare SAM: Complex lattice -- not a simple  $(\sqrt{3}x\sqrt{3})$ 

#### **DFT** calculations of K + 1 Molecule show poor fits to spectra

- HF/(3-21G, 6-31G\*); B3PW91/6-31G\* level; isolated molecule
- Mode intensities corrected for known surface orientation in SAM





- Results suggest e<sup>-</sup> delocalized among nearest neighbors
- Similar delocalization in molecule switching?
- Possible electron spin lattice?

## **Conductance Control via Doping**





## Doping: A Potential Strategy for Dramatic Changes in Molecular Wire Electronic Responses





Absorbance

Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology

- I-V Behavior of Molecules
- **Potential Applications and Device Types**
- Manufacturability Issues

## Planar Devices : Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

- molecules
- bottom contacts
- self-assembly
  - molecular geometry
  - chemistry
- matrix effects in molecule switching
- electron injection states
- top contact metallization issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 

## **Contact Metallization**



## **Top contacts: the major bottleneck in molecular electronics?**



#### **Experimental Approach:**

- Multi-technique in-situ (real time) analysis: incisive characterization
- SAMs as precision model organic surfaces



#### Choosing organic groups with representative chemical features

Metal vapor + Typical O-functional groups



Metal vapor + Aromatic-Conjugated Structures



 $\pi$ -bonds  $\sigma$ -bonds hetero atoms aromatic H







Interface Evolution: AI Deposition on -CH<sub>3</sub> & -CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> Terminated SAMs





## Spectroscopic Ellipsometry: Psuedo Dielectric Function Spectra



- 100  $\Psi$ , $\Delta$  spectra
- 83 data points

- Real time spectra
  - data collection + transfer in ~ 1 s



## Unreactive thiolate SAMs Allow Metal Atom Penetration

## AI. Cu, Ag, Au + AuS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>16</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>

- AI
  - <u>penetration stops</u> at 1 adlayer at Au/S interface
  - weak solvation by –OCH<sub>3</sub>
  - overlayer film
- Cu, Ag
  - continuous penetration
  - weak solvation by –OCH<sub>3</sub>
  - overlayer film
  - Au
    - continuous penetration
    - no solvation by –OCH<sub>3</sub>
    - no overlayer film
      - (floating SAM)











- AI: penetration stops after ~1:1 AI:Au adlayer
- Cu, Ag: penetration continues at all coverages
- <u>Au</u> only penetrates (floating SAM)



**S** atom diffusion



metal-S diffusion

DFT calculations of thermochemistry supports metal-thiolate admolecule diffusion

#### ToF-SIMS Measurement of T Dependence of Au Penetration Rate In a H<sub>3</sub>CO-Terminated C16S- SAM/Au{111}

#### Au+/CH<sub>3</sub> signals decrease as Au overlayer decreases 3.0e-3 2.5e-3 120 K 155 K 189 K 224 K 258 K Kate (Ås) <sup>2.0e-3</sup> <sup>1.5e-3</sup> <sup>1.0e-3</sup> 1.2 penetration regime starts 1.0 5.0e-4 Au<sup>+</sup>/CH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> Ratio 0.8 0.0 0.6 90 110 120 80 100 130 140 15 T, K 0.4 0.2 -2.5 0.0 $E_a = 7 \text{ meV}$ -50 50 100 150 200 250 0 -2 -2 -2.8--2.6 A = 28.2 Å/s time, min -2.9 kJ/mol -3.0 0.0072 0.0071 0.0073 0.0074 0.0075 0.007 1/T, K<sup>-1</sup> $log(rate) = A \cdot exp(-E_{penetration}^{*}/RT)$

(Haynie, Uppili, Allara, Winograd, in preparation)



**Top Contact Metallization ----Conclusions** 

Metal-organic contacts --- unexpected complexities

## Effects on device behavior remain uncorrelated



 Extraordinarily fine control of the metal-molecule interface is possible via fine tuning of chemistry and process dynamics Rationale for A Molecular Electronics Technology
I-V Behavior of Molecules
Potential Applications and Device Types
Manufacturability Issues
Selected Issues in Single Molecule Devices
Planar Devices: Molecular Level Design & Testing Issues

**Conclusions and Perspectives** 



## Transitioning: Lab Bench to Manufacturing

- 10-100 nm size
- lab bench processing

- standard lithography scale
- high yield throughput
- high reliability
- high throughput testing diagnostics

# Major Apparent Current Challenges scale up of device area

- minimize shorts
- maximize contact stability

### Top Metallization

- metal
- deposition method

#### Molecule Deposition

- optimum molecule for desired device function
- active layer composition (matrix effects)
- solvents, etc. (dense films)
- post-deposition cleaning (clean top contact surface)
- thermal / chemical stability for post-deposition processing

• Parallel with Si-based electronics: step changes often linked to *laborious* materials/chemistry developments

- Surface Characterization/Spectroscopy
- Molecular self-organization
- Organometallic chemistry
- Molecular Surface Science
- Nanofabrication