

Contents

Preface IX

1	Introduction	1
1.1	What is a Plasma?	3
1.2	Relevant Issues of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology	12
1.3	Plasma-Assisted Synthesis of Nanomaterials	19
1.4	How to Choose the Right Plasma for Applications in Nanotechnology?	31
1.5	Structure of the Monograph and Advice to the Reader	37
2	Generation of Highly Uniform, High-Density Inductively Coupled Plasma	41
2.1	Low-Frequency ICP with a Flat External Spiral Coil: Plasma Source and Diagnostic Equipment	42
2.1.1	Plasma Source	44
2.1.2	Diagnostics of Inductively Coupled Plasmas	45
2.2	Discharge Operation Regimes, Plasma Parameters, and Optical Emission Spectra	50
2.2.1	Electromagnetic Properties and Mode Transitions	50
2.2.2	Plasma Parameters	52
2.2.3	Discharge Hysteresis	54
2.3	Electromagnetic Field Distribution and Nonlinear Effects	56
2.4	Optical Emission Spectroscopy of Complex Gas Mixtures	62
2.4.1	Optical Emission Spectra and Hysteresis	63
2.4.2	$E \rightarrow H$ Transition Thresholds	66
2.5	Modeling of Low-Frequency Inductively Coupled Plasmas	72
2.5.1	Basic Assumptions	73
2.5.2	Electromagnetic Fields	73
2.5.3	Particle and Power Balance	74
2.5.4	Numerical Results	76
2.6	Concluding Remarks	81

3	Plasma Sources: Meeting the Demands of Nanotechnology	85
3.1	Inductively Coupled Plasma Source with Internal Oscillating Currents: Concept and Experimental Verification	86
3.1.1	Configuration of the IOCPS	87
3.1.2	RF Power Deposition	89
3.1.3	Plasma Parameters	94
3.2	IOCPS: Stability and Mode Transitions	98
3.2.1	Optical Emission	99
3.2.2	Self-Transitions of the IOCPS Discharge Modes	101
3.3	ICP-Assisted DC Magnetron Sputtering Device	106
3.3.1	Enhancement of DC Magnetron Sputtering by an Inductively Coupled Plasma Source	109
3.3.2	Mode Transitions in ICP-Assisted Magnetron Sputtering Device	111
3.4	Integrated Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication Facility	115
3.5	Concluding Remarks	119
4	Carbon-Based Nanostructures	121
4.1	Growth of Carbon Nanostructures on Unheated Substrates	123
4.1.1	Process Details	124
4.1.2	Synthesis, Characterization, and Growth Kinetics	124
4.2	Temperature-Controlled Regime	130
4.3	Single-Crystalline Carbon Nanotips: Experiment	137
4.4	Single-Crystalline Carbon Nanotips: <i>ab initio</i> Simulations	141
4.4.1	Theoretical Background and Numerical Code	142
4.4.2	Geometrical Stability of Carbon Nanotip Structures	143
4.4.3	Electronic Properties of Carbon Nanotips	146
4.5	Plasma-Assisted Doping and Functionalization of Carbon Nanostructures	149
4.5.1	Doping of Carbon-Based Nanostructures: Density Functional Theory Considerations	149
4.5.2	Postprocessing of Carbon-Based Nanostructures: Experiments	152
4.6	Synthesis of Carbon Nanowall-Like Structures	156
5	Quantum Confinement Structures	159
5.1	Plasma-Assisted Fabrication of AlN Quantum Dots	161
5.2	Nanofabrication of $\text{Al}_x\text{In}_{1-x}\text{N}$ Quantum Dots: Plasma-Aided Bandgap Control	167
5.3	Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication of SiC Quantum Dot Arrays	172
5.3.1	SiC Properties and Applications	172
5.3.2	SiC Growth Modes: With and Without AlN Interlayer	173
5.3.3	Quest for Crystallinity and Nanopattern Uniformity	181

5.4	Plasma-Aided Fabrication of Very Large-Aspect Ratio Si-Based Nanowires	188
5.5	Quasi-Two-Dimensional Semiconductor Superlattices Synthesized by Plasma-Assisted Sputtering Deposition	191
5.6	Other Low-Dimensional Quantum Confinement Structures and Concluding Remarks	199
6	Hydroxyapatite Bioceramics	209
6.1	Basic Requirements for the Synthesis of HA Bioceramics	209
6.2	Plasma-Assisted RF Magnetron Sputtering Deposition Approach	212
6.2.1	Comparative Advantage	212
6.2.2	Experimental Details	213
6.3	Synthesis and Growth Kinetics	217
6.3.1	Optimization of the Plasma-Aided Coating Fabrication Process	217
6.3.2	Film Growth Kinetics	222
6.4	Mechanical Testing of HA Films	226
6.5	<i>In vitro</i> Assessment of Performance of Biocompatible HA Coatings	229
6.5.1	Simulated Body Fluid assessment	230
6.5.2	Cell Culture Assessment	233
6.6	Concluding Remarks	236
7	Other Examples of Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication	237
7.1	Plasma-Assisted Er Doping of SiC Nanoparticle Films: An Efficient Way to Control Photoluminescence Properties	238
7.2	Polymorphous (poly)Nanocrystalline Ti–O–Si–N Films Synthesized by Reactive Plasma-Assisted Sputtering	241
7.3	Fabrication of Nanostructured AlCN Films: A Building Unit Approach for Tailoring Film Composition	244
7.4	Plasma-Assisted Growth of Highly Oriented Nanocrystalline AlN	251
7.5	Plasma-Assisted Synthesis of Nanocrystalline Vanadium Oxide Films	258
7.6	Plasma-Treated Nano/Microporous Materials	264
8	Further Examples, Conclusions, and Outlook	269
8.1	Further Examples of Plasma-Aided Nanofabrication	270
8.2	On Benefits and Problems of Using Plasma Nanotools	276
8.3	Outlook for the Future and Concluding Remarks	280