低次元ナノマテリアルが実現する堅牢な人工嗅覚デバイス

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Low dimensional materials have proven their unique and useful properties and functionalities for various device applications. One of interesting features in such low dimensional materials is the significant amplification of interactive events with surrounding molecules on surfaces due to the high surface/volume ratio. Here, I report robust artifitial olfactory devices utilizing low dimensional metal oxide nanomaterials. In nature, biological olfactory systems (e.g. olfactory receptors) are highly sophisticated, and can discriminate various odor molecules with similar structural isomers in a wide concentration range. However, such biological olfactory systems have faced their limitations for artificial olfactory sensor electronics, because of their inherent vulnerability. Thus, it has been a long-standing scientific issue in material chemistry to design robust but molecular selective odor sensing and artificial olfactory systems using robust materials. In this talk, I will present some recent progress of my research group on robust odor sensing and artificial olfactory devices by designing low dimensional metal oxide nanostructures and their interfaces. 1-7) I will also discuss that weak van der Waals interactions between hydrophobic aliphatic alkyl-chains and hydrophilic metal oxide nanostructured surfaces, which have been highly underestimated as interactions during molecular sensing, play an important role on robust electrical sensing on metal oxide sensor surfaces.

Keywords: Low Dimensional Metal Oxides; Artificial Olfactory Devices; Surface Chemistry on Metal Oxides; Robust Molecular Recognition; van der Waals Interactions

本シンポジウムの趣旨でもあるように、低次元ナノマテリアルならではの様々な機能を特徴的なナノデバイスや素子へと発展・展開することは興味深い研究テーマである。低次元ナノマテリアルならではの特徴として、その高い比表面積を介してナノ構造表面における周辺分子群との相互作用が電流やその他の物性値として容易に抽出・検出可能であることが挙げられる。人工嗅覚システムへの低次元ナノマテリアルの展開はその際たる例であり、現在世界で熾烈な研究開発競争が繰り広げられている。生物の嗅覚システム(嗅覚受容体)は極めて洗練されており、幅広い濃度範囲で類似の構造異性体を持つ様々な匂い分子群を識別しているが、その材料脆弱性のために堅牢な人工嗅覚センサとしての展開には本質的な限界が存在し、堅牢かつ分子選択的な匂い検知および人工嗅覚システムを設計することは重要な課題として顕在化していた。本講演では、金属酸化物ナノマテリアルを活用した堅牢な人工嗅覚デバイスに関する我々の最新の研究成果について報告する。「こう特に従来研究では過小評価されてきた疎水性脂肪族アルキル鎖と親水性金属酸化物ナノ構造表面との間のファンデルワールス相互作用が堅牢な人工嗅覚センサ構築に重要な役割を果たすことについて幾つ

かの研究例を示しながら紹介する。

- 1) Nanoscale Thermal Management of Single SnO₂ Nanowire: pico-Joule Energy Consumed Molecule Sensor, *ACS Sensors*, 1, 997 (2016).
- 2) Rational Method to Monitor Molecular Transformations on Metal Oxide Nanowire Surfaces, *Nano Letters* 19, 2443 (2019).
- 3) Thermally Robust and Strongly Oxidizing Surface of WO₃ Hydrate Nanowires for Electrical Aldehyde Sensing with Long-Term Stability, *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, 9, 5815 (2021).
- 4) Impact of Surface Cu^{2+} of $ZnO/(Cu_{1-x}Znx)O$ Heterostructured Nanowires on Adsorption and Chemical Transformation of Carbonyl Compounds, *Chemical Science*, 12, 5073 (2021).
- 5) Edge-Topological Regulation for in Situ Fabrication of Bridging Nanosensors, *Nano Letters*, 22, 2569 (2022).
- 6) Water-Selective Nanostructured Dehumidifier for Molecular Sensing Space, *ACS Sensors*, 7, 534 (2022).
- 7) Impact of Lateral SnO₂ Nanofilm Channel Geometry on a 1024 Crossbar Chemical Sensor Array, *ACS Sensors*, 7, 460 (2022).

