Flat Field Emitter Based on Ultrananocrystalline Diamond (UNCD) Film for SRF Technology

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Euclid TechLabs LLC, founded in 1999 is a company specializing in the development of advanced electrons-structure interaction apparatuses for various applications. Areas of expertise include electron accelerators, high power rf components, photoinjectors, dielectric accelerators, diamond based electron sources and other applications, etc.

- 2018: 16 person research staff and 3 administrative,
- 2 offices: Bolingbrook, IL (lab) and Washington DC (administrative).
- Tight collaborations with National Labs and Institutes: Fermilab, ANL, BNL, LBL, LANL, Jlab, NIST, NIU, IIT, etc.
Selected Products

- L-band high peak current LINAC
- UHV L-band RF window BPM compact readout
- UNCD FE cathode
- Linear and non-linear ceramics low loss; various form factors
- Detachable SRF coupler

- L-band 100nC Photogun
- S-band 1000 pps Photogun
- S-band 100MV/m Photogun
- S-band Thermionic RF gun
Field Emission is described by Fowler-Nordheim theory; CNTs exhibit field enhancement factors $\beta > 1000$. Typical behavior is a more stable IV curve ramping down vs ramping up, but with higher turn-on field after processing.
Electrons preferentially emitted from GBs in (N)UNCD

The larger GB area the higher current field emitter may yield

(N)UNCD can have $10^{13}$ emitting GBs/cm$^2$

(compare to Spindt source with $10^8$ emitting tips/cm$^2$)

How We Grow/Characterize (N)UNCD

915 MHz microwave-assisted plasma chemical vapor deposition

100-200 nm highly conductive (N)UNCD by SEM and Raman

# Overview of NCRF, SRF, and DC Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Platform</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Main Results</th>
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| **NC RF**     | • Flat cathode @ 1.3GHz RF gun, AWA facility (Prior to Phase 2)  
• Grooved cathode @ 1.3GHz RF gun of AWA facility (Phase 1)  
• Flat cathode @ 9GHz compact RF gun developed at Euclid (Phase 2) | ➢ operating up to 65 MV/m, 6us pulse width, peak currents of 80 mA (equivalent to 25 mA/cm²), core beam emittance of 1.5 mm×mrad/mm-rms  
➢ compact X-band electron source, operating at 45MV/m, 1µm pulse width for 2 weeks. |
| **SRF**       | • Nb base cathode @ 1.3GHz SRF gun of BNL (Phase 2) | ➢ the first FE SRF cathode  
➢ 3mA/cm² @ ~1 MV/m under 2 Kelvin |
| **DC**        | • Flat cathodes @DC emission and imaging test stand developed at Euclid  
• Pyramidal cathodes with LANL  
• (P)UNCD with Hasselt U, Belgium  
• Photolithographic patterning | ➢ automatic I/V and imaging characterization  
➢ life time emission test  
➢ emitter area control and diamond pyramid arrays, phosphorus UNCD |
**AWA Tests: Flat UNCD**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time(s)/RF pulses/GHz oscillations</th>
<th>Peak current (mA) at 65 MV/m</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 s/0/0</td>
<td>79.37 ± 3.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>3600 s/36 × 10^3/288 × 10^6</td>
<td>79.26 ± 3.96</td>
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**Euclid Tests: X-band 9 GHz**

Faraday cup signal:

2 mA/cm² @ 28 MV/m

**AWA Tests: Grooved UNCD**

3 mA/cm² @ 18 MV/m

**BNL: First-ever UNCD SRF**

3 μA → 3 mA/cm² @ ~1 MV/m under 2 Kelvin

Turn-On 0.7 MV/m

(N)UNCD at Euclid DC Test Stand: I/V curve

Lifetime test

UNCD/Mo
60 hours
60 uA

$E \approx 15 \text{ MV/m}$
Example of a dataset: (N)UNCD/Ni/Mo/SS
“The Emitter Galaxy”

Field of view is 4.4 mm
What Makes Good Emitters?

- Nanoscale composition debated
- Fowler-Nordheim beta >1000 can’t be explained by sharp tip geometry
- Non-diamond (likely graphitic) carbon at GBs >>

- Turn-on voltage lowered by diamond adjacent to GB [1]
- UNCD: superior thermal conductivity
- Synergy of high-beta carbon GB and robust diamond thermal conductivity

- Question: Can we perform a simple experiment to indicate whether emitters are carbon or diamond?

Key Point: Raman spectroscopy

D/G Ratio reveals GB carbon

D/G > 1.5 is “good” UNCD, but would lower D/G improve emission?

![Raman Spectrum Graph](chart)

Intentionally Induced Local D/G variation

July 2018: LANL provided pyramidal NCD array on Mo.
Experiment: Omit nanodiamond seeding, grow otherwise as normal in Argonne CNM reactor.
UNCD diamond is self-seeded on array and carbon should preferentially grow on unseeded Mo elsewhere.

Pyramid from 7-12-18 LANL cathode
Emitters Denser where D/G is Low


D/G = ~1.2

D/G = ~1.5

Turn-on Field:
<1.8 MV/m
100 uA ~6.1 MV/m
Towards Emitter Density Control

Emitters very common in regions NOT pre-seeded before M-CVD reactor growth

More GB material is non-diamond, indicated by Raman spectroscopy D/G ratio 1.2, less than typical 1.5 for (N)UNCD.

Grain boundary graphitic or CNT carbon emitters as emission sites suggested

FUTURE: intentional seeding of grain boundaries with CNT catalysts to maximize current density while gaining diamond’s excellent thermal conductivity, with the promise of extended lifetime compared to bare carbon emitters

Phosphorus-Doped UNCD

Expected high emission current expected [1]
Entire grains emit, not just grain boundaries [2]
Initial results show doping density matters!

Phase II Takeaways

1. Semi-metallic (N)UNCD saturates similarly to semiconductors: thus (N)UNCD contains non-FN non-metallic field emitters.

2. Uniform (N)UNCD exhibits nonuniform emission from E-field-dependent area.

3. (N)UNCD saturates at local $j \sim 100$ mA/cm$^2$, any substrate, but substrate chemistry optimizes density and type of emitters, hence total achievable $j$.

4. D/G control shows good emitters occur more frequently on unseeded Mo, a known CNT catalyst. New idea: use two nanoparticles to simultaneously seed both emitters and UNCD. Potential for robust source with high current density.

- Four papers in two years.
- Exhibitions in the NA-PAC 2016, LINAC2016 and AAC2016, and oral and poster presentations at a number of conferences and workshops including IVNC2017.

Utility patent US 9418814:

Planar field emitters and high efficiency photocathodes based on UNCD.
YAG Screen + Camera: 10 micron resolution
IV characterization: ~30 MV/m, 21 mA DC

Fully automated IV curve acquisition
10^-9 Torr vacuum
Two-axis piezo tilt control
1 micron anode-cathode gap precision
Multiple collectors/screens available

2018 Sales to Date

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Courtesy Prof. Andrei Afanasev, George Washington U.
Highly robust field emission cathodes

Gun-tested

Many substrates available including single crystal Mo, Mo-coated stainless, highly doped Si, Mo-coated Si, and photolithographically patterned on Si.

Multiple sales 2018 with future sales in ongoing discussions

Utility patent US 9418814: Planar field emitters and high efficiency photocathodes based on UNCD
Joint Award for (N)UNCD Cathode Work

Presented on May 14, 2018, at TechConnect’s annual World Innovation Conference and Expo, the award recognizes Dr. Ani Sumant’s work on nitrogen-incorporated ultrananocrystalline diamonds [(N)UNCDs] for application as a portable electron source in field emission cathodes.

The technology was developed in partnership with Euclid Techlabs under the DOE Technology Commercialization project to create a superior field emission electron source for use in linear accelerators, or linacs, outpacing photoemission and thermionic emission technologies. Euclid, an R&D company specializing in conventional, dielectric and superconducting RF accelerators, has a long history of successful collaboration with Argonne.
Conclusions

- *n*-type (N)UNCD is a promising field emitter that is already available for RF injectors and other applications (the first sales have been delivered to Duke, BESSY)
- (N)UNCD is a remarkable platform to keep finding and understanding fundamental processes in field emitters

Next

- Possible path to higher current density and long lifetime: dual seeding of emitters & (N)UNCD grains
- Further efforts needed to compare (N)UNCD vs (P)UNCD, especially varying P doping density
- New collaborations: LANL, Hasselt University
Acknowledgements

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