

Ullmann coupling reaction on unconventional substrates

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In the early 1900's Fritz Ullmann first reported the synthesis of biaryls from aryl halides mediated by a fine copper powder¹, demonstrating with this the aromatic nucleophilic substitution mediated by copper, now known as Ullmann condensation reaction. More than hundred years after, this reaction is routinely used in numerous industrial applications and, nowadays it becomes widely used for the synthesis on metal surfaces of atomically precise graphene nanoribbons²

The next step to move toward device applications requires performing the synthesis directly on suitable substrates such as semiconducting, insulating or magnetic substrates. Within this context, in the present work we explore the Ullmann based synthesis of polymers on magnetic and insulating substrates. In particular we demonstrate the aryl homocoupling synthesis of 4,4-Dibromo (or diiodo)-p-terphenyl precursor into molecular poly-p-phenylene wires on the semiconductor TiO₂ surface³ and on the bimetallic (and ferromagnetic) GdAu₂ surface alloy⁴. Moreover, we propose a reaction pathway during the polymerization. To monitor the chemical reaction complementary microscopic and spectroscopic surface science techniques (, scanning tunneling microscopy, X-ray photoemission spectroscopy, angle-resolved Photoemission spectroscopy) are used.

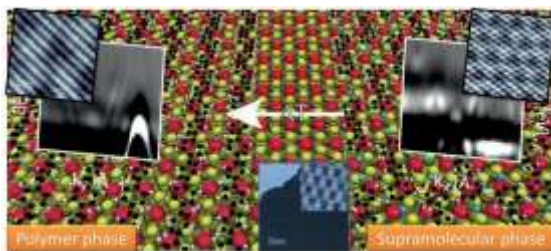


Figure 1 – STM and ARPES experimental observations of Ullmann based Polymer synthesis on GdAu₂ alloy

References

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