

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xi
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. THEORETICAL DESCRIPTION OF INTERACTIONS IN NANOMATERIAL SUSPENSIONS	1
2.1 Charging of Colloidal Nanomaterials	4
2.2 Stable Suspensions	6
2.3 DLVO Theory	6
III. MECHANISMS FOR ELECTROPHORETIC DEPOSITION	17
3.1 Electrostatic Force	17
3.2 Electro-osmotic Flow	18
3.3 Electrochemical Effects	19
IV. ELECTROPHORETIC DEPOSITION OF NANOPARTICLES OVER POLYMERS	21
4.1 Selection of Materials	22
4.2 Deposition of CdSe Nanoparticles on Polystyrene: Experimental Method	22
4.3 Deposition of CdSe Nanoparticles on Polystyrene: Results and Discussion	24
4.4 Deposition of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles on PLGA	32
V. OPTIMIZING THE SACRIFICIAL LAYER ELECTROPHORETIC DEPOSITION TECHNIQUE BY USING DIFFERENT POLYMERS	36
5.1 Polymer Chains: A Primer on Solvent Interaction and Size	36
5.2 Changes in Polymer Size as a Solid Polymer Dissolves	38
5.3 Polymer Chain Attached to Nanoparticle Film	39
5.4 Sacrificial Layer Experiments Using Different Polymers	40
5.5 Hydrolysis of PLGA to Yield Macroscopic Nanoparticle Films	42
5.6 Versatility of Sacrificial Layer Electrophoretic Deposition	44
VI. PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF EXFOLIATED GRAPHENE OXIDE (eGO)	46
6.1 Synthesis	46
6.2 Chemical Characterization	47
6.3 Structural Characterization	55
6.4 Preparation and Characterization of eGO in Suspension	60
6.5 Overall Picture of eGO	61

VII. ELECTROPHORETIC DEPOSITION OF EXFOLIATED GRAPHENE OXIDE (eGO)	64
7.1 Tuning eGO Suspensions	64
7.2 Electrophoretic Deposition Survey Experiments	67
7.3 Conclusions from Survey Experiments	81
VIII. TRANSFERABLE EXFOLIDATED GRAPHENE OXIDE (eGO) FILMS WITH TUNABLE MICROSTRUCTURES	86
8.1 Wettability of eGO Films	86
8.2 Preparation of Free-standing eGO Films	87
8.3 Characterization of Free-standing eGO Films	90
IX. CONCLUSION	94
REFERENCES	96

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1-1. Schematic of proposed sacrificial layer electrophoretic deposition (SLED) method	3
2-1. Diagram of the probable bonding of oleic acid and TOPO ligands at the surface of a PbSe nanocrystal	5
2-2. Energy of van der Waals interaction for two 10-nm iron oxide spherical particles (top, purple) and two 14-nm iron oxide spherical particles (bottom, blue)	8
2-3. Energy of van der Waals interaction for two 100 nm ² graphene oxide sheets interacting edge-to-edge (red, line with symbols) and for two 100 nm ² graphene oxide sheets interacting face-to-face (black, line only)	9
2-4. Distribution of ions around a colloid. 1: Stern layer, 2: Diffuse layer. The electric potential decreases with increasing distance from the colloid surface. The zeta potential, which is the electric potential at the slipping plane, is a special value that can provide information about the extent of electrostatic interaction between colloids and colloidal stability	11
2-5. Total interaction energy between two 14-nm iron oxide nanoparticles in hexane	15
2-6. Total interaction energy between two identical 100 nm ² graphene oxide sheets in water with zeta potential magnitude 35 mV (black, open symbols) and between two identical 100 nm ² graphene oxide sheets in water with zeta potential magnitude 15 mV (red, closed symbols)	16
3-1. Pattern of electro-osmotic flow around a stationary particle near an electrode surface. Adapted from [36]	18
4-1. AFM images (a) of the bare silicon and (b) of the polystyrene-coated silicon electrodes prior to CdSe nanoparticle deposition	25
4-2. (a) TEM image of CdSe nanoparticles. (b) Size distribution of colloids in hexane suspension of CdSe nanoparticles. (c) Distribution of electrophoretic mobility of CdSe nanoparticles dispersed in hexane. The presence of both positively and negatively charged nanoparticles in the same suspension preparation is evident	26
4-3. Current density measured in plain hexane at 250 V using (a) the PS/n-Si electrode and (b) the n-Si electrode, each paired with a p-Si electrode. Current density measured during nanoparticle EPD using (c) the n-Si electrode and (d) the PS/n-Si electrode, each paired with a p-Si electrode	29
4-4. SEM images of CdSe nanoparticle film deposited (a) on the n-Si electrode and (b) on the PS/n-Si electrode. The features indicated are I, silicon; II, polystyrene; III, CdSe film edge due to solvent meniscus; IV, CdSe film. The band-like features of region III result from solvent evaporation, and are wider in (b) than in (a) due to hexane's poor affinity for polystyrene	30

4-5.	EDS spectra of (a) CdSe nanoparticle film deposited over polystyrene, corresponding to region IV in Figure 4-4b, and (b) an unused polystyrene-coated silicon electrode. The cadmium and selenium peaks affirm the presence of CdSe nanoparticles atop the polymer film. The oxygen signal in (a) originates from the dodecylphosphonic acid ligands capping the nanoparticles	31
4-6.	AFM images of CdSe nanoparticle films deposited (a) on the n-Si and (b) on the PS/n-Si electrodes	32
4-7.	TEM image of iron oxide nanoparticles with oleic acid ligands, synthesized from iron oleate precursor	33
4-8.	Electrophoretic mobility distribution of iron oxide nanoparticles in hexane	34
4-9.	(a) Current for 25 min EPD of iron oxide nanoparticles, followed by 5 min drying with the voltage still applied. (b) Photograph of iron oxide nanoparticle film deposited on PLGA-coated Au electrode	35
5-1.	Simplified 2-D representation of a polymer chain, whose end-to-end length (r) depends on the chain's conformation	37
5-2.	Square of radius of gyration plotted against polymer concentration for good, theta, and poor solvent conditions. Calculations reproduced from [58]	39
5-3.	Schematic representation of a nanoparticle film atop a polymer layer, in which the polymer chain has an end-to-end length of r_0	40
5-4.	If a polymer chain is larger than the nanoparticles attached to it, expansion of the chain in solvent can break apart the nanoparticle assembly	40
5-5.	Photograph of iron oxide nanoparticle films floating on water after liberation, casting tinted shadows	42
5-6.	(Top) Diagram of nanoparticle film on SU-8 scaffold. (Left) SEM image of film on scaffold. (Right) Optical micrograph of film on scaffold	43
5-7.	AFM images of top and bottom surfaces of NP film with discrete NPs visible, indicating removal of sacrificial polymer layer. The horizontal scale bars correspond to 30 nm	43
5-8.	(a) TEM image of CdSe nanoparticles. Optical micrographs of CdSe nanoparticle film section on glass slide captured (b) without and (c) with fluorescent excitation	44
5-9.	Free-standing carbon nanotube films (buckypapers) produced by John Rigueur using the SLED technique. Figure provided by John Rigueur	45
6-1.	Photographs of (a) the precursor graphite powder and (b) the freeze-dried graphite oxide powder	47
6-2.	UV-Vis absorbance spectrum for exfoliated graphene oxide sheets	48
6-3.	Spectra of Raman shift for (a) eGO and (b) graphite precursor. The peak locations are (a) 1374 cm^{-1} and 1603 cm^{-1} and (b) 1594 cm^{-1}	50
6-4.	Spectra of XPS survey scans of graphite precursor and eGO	51
6-5.	Spectra of O 1s and C 1s XPS region scans for (a) eGO and (b) graphite precursor	52

6-6.	IR spectra examining carbonyl stretch modes of the graphite and eGO samples.....	53
6-7.	Normalized TGA plot for the graphite precursor and for the eGO powder product. The heating rate (°C/min) for each sample is indicated. The scatter point markers in the plot of eGO (15 °C/min) were added for visual clarity	55
6-8.	X-ray diffraction scans of (a) the graphite precursor and (b) the eGO sheets	57
6-9.	SEM images of the eGO material at (a) low and (b, c) high magnification	58
6-10.	(a) AFM scan showing typical eGO sheets resting on freshly exposed mica surface. (b) Example of step height measurement on one eGO sheet.....	60
6-11.	Dynamic light scattering measurements of eGO suspended in water. Each scan represents a different aliquot of the same suspension preparation	61
6-12.	(a) Chemical structure and (b) 3-dimensional representation of an exfoliated graphene oxide sheet, showing relative position of oxygen-containing groups	63
7-1.	Zeta potential and conductivity of eGO suspension, as a function of measured pH value. Lines are a guide for the eye. (Measurement error: pH \pm 0.1, zeta potential \pm 1 mV, conductivity \pm 2%)	65
7-2.	Photographs of eGO suspension with zeta potential of (a) -15 mV and (b) -35 mV. Floccs (aggregates) visible in (a) are absent in (b).....	66
7-3.	The different eGO suspension regimes. The shaded region indicates all suspensions with zeta potential magnitude > 30 mV. Regime 1: High stability, high conductivity. Regime 2: high stability, low conductivity. Regime 3: Moderate stability, high conductivity	67
7-4.	Photograph of the EPD setup for the eGO experiments. The parallel steel electrodes await submersion in an eGO suspension	68
7-5.	Normalized current during 0.5 V and 3 V experiments.....	71
7-6.	Photograph of electrodes from 0.5 V, 5 min experiments	71
7-7.	Photograph of electrodes from 3 V, 5 min experiments. Lines added as approximate guides to the film boundaries.....	72
7-8.	SEM images of the films formed in the 3 V, 5 min experiments. The films for all three suspension regimes were on the positive electrode	72
7-9.	Normalized current during 15 V, 5 min experiments.....	75
7-10.	Photographs of the three eGO suspension regimes after 15 V, 5 min experiments	75
7-11.	Photograph of electrodes from 15 V, 5 min experiments. Lines added as approximate guides to the film boundaries.....	76
7-12.	SEM images of the films formed in the 15 V, 5 min experiments. The film from suspension regime 3 was on the negative electrode, while the films from regimes 1 and 2 were on the positive electrode	76

7-13. Diagram depicting edge view of eGO sheets. An increase in H ⁺ concentration reduces electrostatic repulsion between the negatively charged sheets, leading to increased aggregation. Per calculation of van der Waals interaction energy (Figure 2-4), face-to-face interaction dominates edge-to-edge interaction, leading to formation of aggregates comprising multilayered stacks of eGO sheets	77
7-14. Electrophoretic mobility of eGO sheets in suspension regime 3 before (dashed line) and after (solid line with dots) a 15 V, 5 min EPD run	77
7-15. Normalized current during 15 V, 10 min experiments.....	79
7-16. Photograph of electrodes from 15 V, 10 min experiments. Lines added as approximate guides to the film boundaries.....	79
7-17. SEM images of the films formed in the 15 V, 10 min experiments. The film from suspension regime 3 was on the negative electrode, while the films from regimes 1 and 2 were on the positive electrode	80
7-18. Accurate film thickness measurements using profilometry require a defined step edge between the substrate and the film. Inaccuracies result if film remains on the substrate or if the substrate is deformed	81
7-19. Schematic of (a) rug and (b) brick eGO film deposition. During rug film deposition, eGO sheets arrived individually at the electrode. During brick film deposition, eGO sheets arrived at the electrode as multilayered stacks. The multilayered stacks formed as a result of charge screening by H ⁺ ions, per Figure 7-13.....	84
8-1. Water contact angle of rug and brick eGO films were $41.1^\circ \pm 1.2^\circ$ and $79.1^\circ \pm 3.5^\circ$, respectively. For comparison, steel substrate contact angle was $77.5^\circ \pm 0.7^\circ$	87
8-2. EPD currents (a) for suspension regime 1 and (b) for suspension regime 3 when both electrodes are plain steel and when one plain steel electrode is paired with a CA-coated one	88
8-3. Photographs of the free-standing eGO films. (a) Rug and (b) brick films floating in acetone after liberation. (c) Rug film transferred to Teflon sheet. Larger size compared to (a) primarily a function of more adroit razor pushing. The ruler shown in all three frames was demarcated in millimeters, i.e., 10 mm or 1 cm separation between “14” and “15” in (a)	89
8-4. Low and high magnification SEM images of the (a) rug and (b) brick eGO films	91
8-5. XPS survey scans of the rug and brick eGO films	92
8-6. XPS region scans of the eGO films showing the (a) Zn 2p(3/2), (b) O 1s, and (c) C 1s bonding states.....	92

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
5-1. Change in a polymer's radius of gyration as the polymer concentration decreases. Calculated from Figure 5-2 for a polymer in a good solvent	39
5-2. Radius of gyration and end-to-end length of the polymers used in this study	41
6-1. X-ray diffraction peak positions and d-spacings: graphite precursor and eGO sheets	57
7-1 Properties of the suspension regimes used for the EPD experiments	67
7-2. Summary of 0.5 V, 5 min deposition experiments	73
7-3. Summary of 3 V, 5 min deposition experiments	73
7-4. Summary of 15 V, 5 min deposition experiments	77
7-5. Summary of 15 V, 10 min deposition experiment	80