

Rapid Water Transportation through One-dimensional Carbon Nanospaces

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ABSTRACT: Water transportation through one-dimensional (1D) and quasi-1D internal nanospaces were directly observed by the rates of water vapor adsorption in the internal nanospaces of highly pure single- and double-wall carbon nanotubes, respectively, was directly investigated from the rates of water vapor adsorption in that have quasi-1D and 1D nanospaces, respectively. Water was found to be rapidly transported more rapidly through 1D nanospaces rather than through quasi-1D nanospaces. Molecular dynamics simulations of water transport through carbon nanotubes were found to agree with shows the same tendency as the experimentally determined adsorption rates. In a 1D system, fewer hydrogen bonds are formed between water molecules rarely form hydrogen bonding between water molecules. This results in therefore, the rapid water transportation through is a result of less hydrogen bonding formation of water adsorbed in 1D nanospaces.

Water is one of the most ubiquitous substances, and it is well known to have anomalous physical properties owing due to its constituent hydrogen bonding. Hence, the anomalous properties of water have been continuously studied extensively.¹ Water transportation through a water channel in a biomembrane is another important research topic issue, because a water channel is involved in many physiological processes. Water channels have narrow hydrophobic nanospaces.² Because as these channels have are flexible and complex structures, a nanoporous material having a model structure for a water channel structure is required in order to understand water transport mechanism through a water channel. A carbon nanotube (CNT) is believed to be an ideally model structure of a water channel structure because it has due to having hydrophobic one-dimensional (1D) nanospaces.³ Thus, in recent times, the properties of water properties in CNTs carbon nanotubes have been are actively studied actively recently.⁴ The water permeation through membranes fabricated using by CNTs carbon nanotube is demonstrated to study the working of a water channel mechanism.⁴ However nevertheless, the mechanism of water transportation through the internal nanospaces of carbon nanotubes remains is still not unclear.

Ideal single- and double-wall carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs and DWCNTs) were synthesized by Hata et al. and Endo et al., respectively; these CNTs were found to these have extremely low metal catalysts, long aspect ratios, and hydrophobic internal nanospaces.⁵ These carbon nanotubes are ideal for have the great advantage of fundamental studies on water transportation

through the internal nanospaces. Here, we use these SWCNTs and DWCNTs to demonstrate directly show water vapor transportation through their nanospaces based on these carbon nanotubes by the rate of water vapor adsorption in SWCNT and DWCNT, and molecular dynamics (MD) simulations.

The SWCNTs and DWCNTs were observed by High-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) observations were performed on SWCNT and DWCNT using JEM-2100F (JEOL Co.) at 120 kV. The Adsorption rates of water vapor were measured at 303 K every 50 ms using a homecustom-made volumetric apparatus. Here, these CNTs carbon nanotubes were are heated at a pressure less than 0.1 Pa for 2 h prior to the adsorption rate measurements. MD simulations with the leapfrog time integration scheme were performed to for understanding the water transportation through the carbon nanotubes; the model comprised a single SWCNT having infinite length and a diameters of 1 or 2 nm, placed in a unit cell having dimensions of $4 \times 4 \times 6$ nm³. The interaction potentials between water molecules and between a water molecule and a carbon wall were calculated by using TIP5P and Lennard-Jones potential models, respectively. Here, the TIP5P potential model, proposed by Mahoney et al. is a combination model of the dispersion and electrostatic interactions, and it was proposed by Mahoney et al.⁶ A complete MD simulation (100 ps) was conducted at around close to 303 K for using an integration time of 0.1 fs (The simulation procedures are presented in detail in Supporting Information).

Figure 1 shows the HRTEM images of the DWCNTs and SWCNTs. The average internal diameters of the DWCNTs and SWCNTs is are 1 and 2–3 nm, respectively, as reported previously which are also shown in the preceding papers.⁷ Water vapors can be adsorbed mainly in the internal nanospaces, because as these CNTs carbon nanotubes form bundles. Thus, SWCNTs and DWCNTs act as produce typical 1D and quasi-1D systems, respectively, for water, respectively. Figure 2(a) shows changes in the fractional filling changes of water with time progress. Water vapors is are not adsorbed from below 0.1 s onward, then begin to be adsorbed at that time, and finally, achieve equilibrium fractional fillings is achieved. The fractional fillings of water vapor for the 1D system were significantly increased rapidly from 0.5 to 10 s, whereas that while these for the quasi-1D system were gradual increased gradually. Therefore, water molecules are transported more rapidly transport through 1D nanospaces rather than through quasi-1D nanospaces. The Adsorption rates of water vapor were evaluated from the differential change in the fractional filling change, as shown in Figure 2(b), which is directly indicative of show the water vapor transportations through 1D or quasi-1D nanospaces. We observed extremely fast adsorption of water vapor below 0.2 s,

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relatively fast adsorption from 0.2 to 10 s, and gradual progress of adsorption above 10 s were observed. Fast adsorption below 0.2 s is caused by diffusion of water into the internal nanopores. The relatively fast and gradual adsorption is caused by process should result from water vapor transportation through the nanopores. From 0.2 to 10 s, water vapor is adsorbed faster in 1D nanopores than in comparison with quasi-1D nanopores system, faster adsorption in 1D nanopores is actually observed from 0.2 to 10 s.

The results of MD simulations of water in the internal nanopores, shown in Figure 3, clarify demonstrates the mechanism of water vapor transportation through the 1D and quasi-1D nanopores, as shown in Fig. 3. The absolutely different time scale used in between the experiment and in the MD simulation is completely different because of the due to different CNT lengths of carbon nanotubes. Figure 3 also shows photographs the snapshots of water transportations through the 1D and quasi-1D nanopores. Water molecules are located on situated in the left-hand side in the of carbon nanotubes at 0 ps, following which they and then begin to flow to ward the right-hand side. The fractional filling of water is calculated from the number of water molecules on the right-hand side. Water rapidly transports to ward the right-hand side is much faster in the CNT with a diameter carbon nanotube of 1 nm than in a diameter, while water transportation for quasi-1D nanopore is considerably slow. In a CNT with a diameter of thermal diffusivity for 1 nm, the thermal diffusivity diameter quickly increased rapidly with oscillation. On the other hands, whereas in a CNT with a diameter of the increase of thermal diffusivity for 2 nm, it increased diameter is moderately. After 10 ps, the thermal diffusivities of water vapor is are $28 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for a 1D nanopore and $4 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for a quasi-1D nanopore in 10 ps. However, after 70 ps, the respective thermal diffusivities for 1D and quasi-1D nanopores are 40×10^{-9} and $28 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ in 70 ps, respectively, (see Supporting Information). These values agree tendencies correspond with the experimental adsorption rates, as shown in Figure 2. The numbers of hydrogen bonding is are evaluated from the photographs snapshots, as shown in Figure 4. In the 1D system, the number of hydrogen bonding remains constant at (0.4) during the calculation time step. In the quasi-1D system, the number of hydrogen bonding is increased from 1 to more than and over 3 in 50 ps. In other words, that is, water molecules cannot form an adequate number of hydrogen bonding in the 1D system. Hence, hydrogen bonding formation hinders prevents from water transportation through 1D nanopores, which otherwise because 1D nanopores provide a path for rapid water transportation, as mentioned above.

In this study paper, we investigated direct water transportation through 1D and quasi-1D nanopores were observed. Water vapor was found to rapidly transports more rapidly through 1D nanopores rather than through quasi-1D nanopores, which is in agreement with the supported by MD simulations results. Hydrogen bonding formation in of water molecules is restricted in the by 1D nanopore. Therefore, as a result of restriction of hydrogen bonding formation, water molecules rapidly transport through the 1D nanopores.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N₂ adsorption isotherms at 77 K for SWCNTs and DWCNTs, and analysis of the nanopore structure analysis. Water vapor adsorption isotherms at 303 K and thermal diffusivities of water by MD simulation. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at

<http://pubs.acs.org>.

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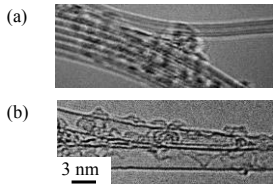


Figure 1. TEM images of DWCNT (a) and SWCNT (b).

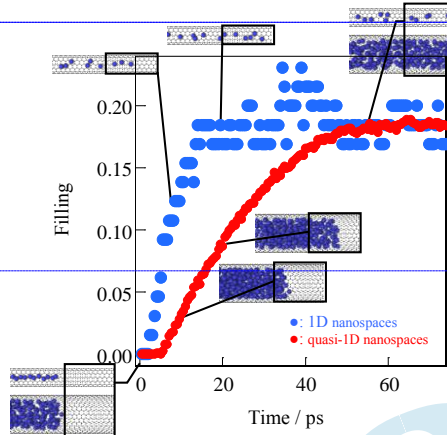


Figure 3. Simulated changes in fractional filling of water molecules in internal nanospaces of CNTs. Water molecules flow from the left to the right side in the CNTs of carbon nanotubes to the right side.

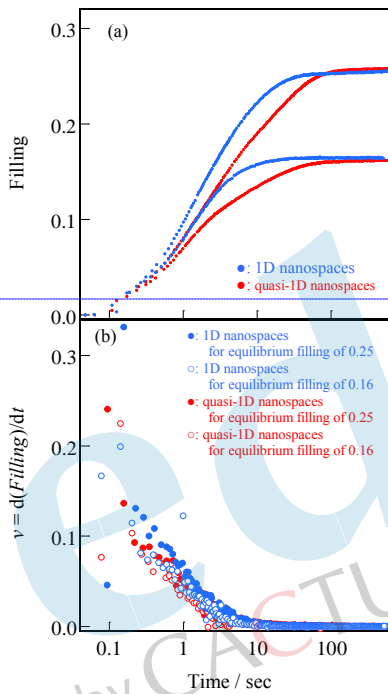


Figure 2. Changes in fractional filling and rates of water vapor adsorption in the internal nanospaces of CNTs.

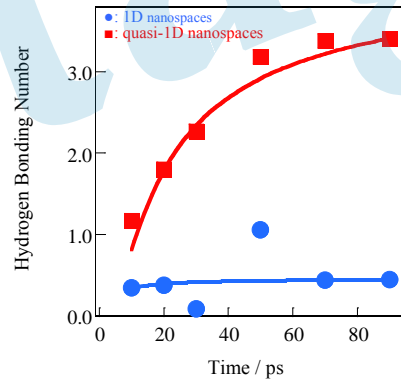


Figure 4. Changes in the number of hydrogen bonds with time.

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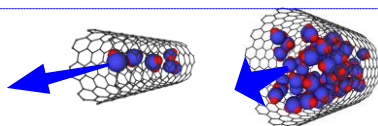
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