Nanomaterials for Enhanced Environmental Measurements



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Do environmental scientist, materials experts, and analytical scientists have any thing to say to each another?







Yes—especially if they speak of small things. (very very small things) Pacific No

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Information is the Pivot Point

Environmental Remediation and Monitoring

- Homeland Security
- Improved Medical Measurements
- Industrial Efficiency

Consumer/Personal



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"Technology gives power to the skeptical public" --USA Today headline

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The "Macro" Perspective on Measurement Challenges

part-per-trillion sensitivity (a needle-in-a haystack)

- Assuming nothing else looks like a needle (i.e. low background)
- If a needle is 116 mg then the haystack is
 - 20' wide x 15' high x ~11.2 miles long



▶ 10⁶ error rate (1 in a million)

- Assuming 2 car trips/day then
 - 1 accident/mistake/ticket/wrong turn every ~1370 years



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The Analytical Challenge



The Integrated Analytical Approach "Remedial Tricorder Prototyping"



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Advanced Materials (can) Enable Improved Sampling and Assay

"Smart" materials enable

- Collection
 - Preconcentration
 - Selective Separation
- Detection
 - Selective transduction
 - Multivector information
 - Spectral/electronic
 - Spatial
- Miniaturization
- "Orthogonal" Enhancement
 - Sensitivity, Selectivity
 - Simplicity, Speed





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Practical Example Nanoporous Ceramic Substrates





Surfactants R-N⁺-(CH₃)₃X⁻







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So the way that we get the surface chemistry we need is....

Molecular self-assembly

Self-assembly driven by van der Waals interactions between chains, as well as the interaction between the headgroup and the surface.

Monolayer Advantages

Well-established silanation chemistry
Stabilized surface
High ligand density
Easily tunable chemistry

"Designing Surface Chemistry in Mesoporous Silica" in "Adsorption on Silica Surfaces"; pp. 665-687, Marcel-Dekker, **2000**.



Structures—3D Macroforms

- Three Dimensional Cellulose Templated Mesoporous Silica Macrostructures
 - Various filter papers
 - Thin planar, Thick planar, Tubular
 - Natural filters structures.
 - Carbon foams
 - Structural stability a function of foam
 - Corrugated cardboard
 - Cellulose sponge
 - Polyurethane foam

Fibrous Substructure of Mesoporous Silica Loofa (calcined)





Loofa Bath Sponge

Mesoporous Silica Loofa (calcined)

Mesoporous Silica Structure



Monolayer Modified Nanopore Pacific Northwest National Laboratory U.S. Department of Energy 10

Mesoporous Silica Sensing and Separation *Tailored Structure from the Molecular to Macroscale*





Surface





Macroscopic Support



High affinity ligands •Inorganic

- •Organic
- •Nuclear
- Biological

- 1-6 binding sites/ nm²High capacity
- •Chemically selective
- •Shape selective
- •Signal Transduction

High surface area (500-1000 m²/g)

- Sensitivity
- Capacity
 Nondendritic porosity
- rapid response
- size selective

1 micron Mesoporous Thin Film within a 75 micron Capillary

- •Capillaries
- •Planar Thin films
- Particles
- Monoliths

Comparative Performance of SAMMS* (Thiol material for capture of heavy metals)

Thiols SAMMS

- High surface area (500-1000 m²/g)
- High site density (4-6 thiol groups/nm2)
- High affinity $(K_d's > 10^6)$
- Open porosity (fast response)

High Capacity (over 50% wt/wt)

- Uptake linear over very large range
 - Volume
 - Concentration
- 10⁶ selective preconcentration demonstrated

Efficiency depends upon

- Capture/material configuration
- Binding affinity
- Sample matrix
- pH

Material can be directly assayed



* <u>Self Assembled Monolayers on Mesoporous Supports</u>

Separation Science and Technology, **1999**, *34*, 2329-2345. *Adv. Mater.* **1998**, *10*, 161-165. *ES&T, submitted*

X-ray Fluorescence

Fast, portable
 Simultaneous multimetal assay
 Limited sensitivity (ppm)

Matrix sensitive



Heavy Metal Capture with SAMMS Direct XRF analysis

Experiment

- 2 ppb metals in Columbia River water
- 15 mg microcolumn
- Direct XRF assay of SAMMS Sorbent

Conclusions

- 60 min assay on 100mL sufficient for DWS (except Cr)
- 60 sec assay on 500mL sufficient for DWS (except Cr)
- 60 min assay on 500mL for Cr DWS (can be improved)
- XRF Instrumentation Improving
- Collection configuration limiting factor

Metal	SAMMS Monolayer Composition	EPA DWSa (ppb)	SAMMS Conc. (ppm) 500 mL	XRF LODb (ppm) 60 sec	SAMMS Conc. (ppm) 100 mL	XRF LODb (ppm) 60 min
Hg	Thiol	2	46.7	15	9.3	1.9
Pb	Thiol	15	35	12	7	1.5
Ag	Thiol	100	40.7	30	8.1	3.9
Cd	Thiol	5	46.7	35	9.3	4.5
Cr	Cu(II) EDA	100	44.5	115	8.9	14.8
As	Cu(II) EDA	100	31	10	6.2	1.3

a) EPA Drinking water standards (DWS), from www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html b) limit of detection (LOD) for field portable XRF system,

40mCi ^{109}Cd source (14mCi ^{241}Am source for Cd)

Environmental Matrix Effects

Heavy Metal Uptake with Thiol SAMMS

Matrix	pН	% Uptake					
		Hg	Cu	Pb	Ag	Cd	
DI Water, Acidified	1.9	99	64	0	104	0	
Ground Water	8.2	77	37	49	30	94	
Ground Water, Acidified	1.9	101	68	0	90	1	
River Water	8.5	68	35	42	56	69	
Sea Water	7.2	98	52	75	103	72	

200ml of water spiked with 1 ppm of heavy metals, 1 mL/min, 15 mg of SAMMS in microcolumn. Acidification with HNO₃, Replicate analysis +/- 5%.



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Radionuclide Preconcentration and Measurement with SAMMS

- Need a sorbent with high selectivity AND affinity
 - Preconcentration 10⁴- 10⁷
- Need material to support sampling AND assay
 - Particles
 - Thin films



Actinide Select Silane

- Variants of CMPO[†] ligands
- Molecule has both desired protic and synergistic ligands in a geometry suitable for chelation
- Other systems available/in development

† Carbamoylphosphonate oxide

Ac-Phos^{*} SAMMS

* acetamide diethylphosphonate moiety with 3-aminopropylsilane linkage

Chemical Communications, 2002, 1374-1375.

Measurement of Radionuclides

Simple Field Assay



Detector ~ 20% Efficiency SAMMS ~ 10000X preconcentration. 2000X increase in sensitivity Selectivity provided by sorbent Laboratory Assay



Alpha energy spectrum of Ac-Phos SAMMS after exposure to a solution of ²³⁰Th and ²³⁹Pu.

SAMMS Thin Films

Water stable, rapid, selective preconcentration
 Relative surface area increased 100 - 10,000X



Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs)

- High surface area
- High electrical conductivity
- High thermal conductivity
- High mechanical strength
 - Reinforce soft materials
 - Particulate form.....

Excellent chemical/physical stability

- Allow use in harsh/corrosive environments
- Not reactive.....





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CNTs on Planar Surfaces

- 30 min.; 750 °C
- CNTs arrays are about 0.1 0.2 mm
- Aligned CNTs are about 40 60 µm





CNTs in Quartz Capillary Tubes



CNT-coated quartz capillary tube



Alignment of CNTs coated inside a quartz capillary tube (high mag.)



Alignment of CNTs coated inside a quartz capillary tube



Alignment of CNTs' tips coated inside a quartz capillary tube

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Preconcentration with CNT Structures and Thermal Swing Adsorption



• Not selective....

Chemically Selective CNTs?

Pyrene "anchors"

- Pi-stacking
- Strong enough to hold macromolecules
- Does not disrupt CNT structure
- Chemically active groups can be tethered to pyrene
- Loading density can be greater than monolayer coverage!(?)

Mixed Functionality



Conclusions

Hierarchically ordered materials can enable leaps in sampling and sensing.

Nanostructure Materials can provide:

- High surface areas (capacity)
- Open pore structure (speed)
- Flexible surface chemistry (selectivity)
- High functional density (capacity)
- Can be integrated into macrostructures
 - Capillaries
 - Planar Thin films
 - Particles
 - Monoliths
- "Orthogonal" Enhancement
 - Sensitivity, Selectivity, Simplicity, Speed

Other Nanobuilding Blocks Emerging

- Mesoporous Carbon
- Metal Oxide Frameworks
- Metal Nanoparticles
- Quantum Dot Emitters
- Modified Enzymes



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