

The Role of Bernard–Marangoni Instability on the Percolation Scaling of Electrical Networks in Polymer/MWCNTs Hybrid Films

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We employed various amorphous polymers such as polycarbonate, poly(methyl methacrylate), polystyrene, and poly(styrene-co-acrylonitrile) and MWCNTs to fabricate transparent, electrically conductive polymer/CNT hybrid films. In solution casting process, some films showed ring-shaped cells composed of MWCNTs. These cells were formed by Bernard–Marangoni instability during solvent evaporation. We found that the electrical conductivity of hybrid films strongly depends on the shape of Bernard–Marangoni cells. There may be two driving forces on the Bernard–Marangoni instability; surface tension gradient and buoyancy. The surface tension gradient is affected by temperature and concentration; Ma_T , Ma_C . All polymer/CNT hybrid films used in this study showed the lowest surface resistivity near the value of Ma_T 25 which is onset point of instability. We present a percolation scaling model for the explanation of these phenomena.