Supporting Information

Electronic and transport properties of graphene with grain boundaries

Jie Sun, a Na Lin, a,* Zhenyu Li, b,* Hao Ren, c Cheng Tang, a Xian Zhao, a,*

a. State Key Laboratory of Crystal Materials, Shandong University, 250100 Jinan, Shandong, PR China.
b. Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China.
c. Center for Bioengineering and Biotechnology, China University of Petroleum (East China), 266580 Qingdao, PR China.

1. The transmission spectra of (2,1)|(2,1) GB using both the LDA and GGA functionals.

![Figure S1](image.png)

**Figure S1.** The transmission spectra of (2,1)|(2,1)GB calculated with GGA and LDA

2. The crossed GB derived from the singe GB

Take the most complex (3,1)|(3,1) GB as an example, as see form Figure S2 that the supercell lattice constant d and L are 8.9776 Å and 31.1452 Å respectively, A and B are two points of the located at the core of the GB. If we want to obtain a new supercell ACEF also satisfied with period conditions by rotating AB around A point with an angle \( \theta \), the \( \theta \) has some relationship with d and L. Here point C and E can be
obtained from B and A by making period of \( md \) and \( (m+n)d \) (\( m \) and \( n \) are integer). For \((3,1)|(3,1)\)GB, we can get \( \theta = 16.07^\circ, 29.96^\circ, 40.85^\circ, 49.06^\circ, 59.96^\circ, 73.87^\circ \), namely, if we rotate the GB with one of these angles, we can create a new supercell also satisfied with period. After the new supercell is obtained by rotating \( 59.96^\circ \), \((3,1)|(3,1)D\) can be obtained by doing some other translations and rotations based on the new supercell. The whole process is illustrated in Figure S3-FigureS8.

![Figure S2.](image)

**Figure S2.**

**Figure S3.** The supercell of \((3,1)|(3,1)\) GB

![Figure S4.](image)

**Figure S4.** Cleave the supercell with \(1*10*3\) and select A (blue atom) as the reference point
Figure S5. Rotate the above supercell with 59.96° and find the equal points C, E and F (blue atoms).

Figure S6. The new supercell created with the lattice constant AC and AF.

Figure S7. Copy and translate the new supercell with period AF and get the green part.

Figure S8. Rotate the green part along AF direction with 180° and then obtain (3,1)(3,1)D GB.
3. Some benchmark tests of the formation energy of grain boundary to avoid the coupling effects between the neighbour grain boundaries

We constructed (2,1)|(2,1) GBs with different length between the neighbor grain boundaries, the atom number (N), and the distance (d) between the neighbor grain boundaries. The formation energies are shown in Table S1. We can see that the formation energy has converged with the distance 14.67 Å between two neighbor grain boundaries. Moreover, that distance in other GBs investigated in our manuscript is larger than 14.67 Å, which indicates the coupling effects between the neighbor grain boundaries can be neglected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GB</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>d(Å)</th>
<th>E_{form} (eV/nm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5621</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11.42</td>
<td>3.2868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6421</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>13.04</td>
<td>3.2473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7221</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14.67</td>
<td>3.2368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8021</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>3.2348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The detail procedures to calculate the transport properties.

The transport properties calculation is a self-consistent iteration process combined Density functional theory (DFT) with nonequilibrium Green's function (NEGF) method. The process is as follows:

![Figure S9. Two-probe systems model](image)

From the Hamiltonian H, we can get the retarded Greens function G,

\[ G(E) = \left[ E - H - \Sigma_L - \Sigma_R \right] \] (2)

Using the retarded Greens function G, we can obtain the lesser Green’s function \( G^< \),
\[ G^<(E) = iG(E)[\Gamma_L f(E - \mu_L) + \Gamma_R f(E - \mu_R)]G^1(E) \]  
(3)

where $\Gamma_L$ and $\Gamma_R$ is the contact broadening functions associated with the left and right electrodes.

The non-equilibrium density matrix can be constructed by the lesser Green’s function,

\[ \rho = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int dE G^<_{E,E}(E) \]  
(4)

Then, taking the non-equilibrium density matrix $\rho$ into the equation (1), doing self-consistent cycles until the density matrix $\rho$ of the system reaches its convergence criteria. The whole process is shown in figure S10.

**Figure S10.** The self-consistent cycle.

After we obtained the convergent density matrix $\rho$, we can obtain $H$, $G(E)$, $\Gamma_L$ and $\Gamma_R$ and transmission coefficient $T(E, V) = Tr[\Gamma_L G^1(E)\Gamma_R G(E)]$.

Thus, the current can be obtained based on the Landauer-Büttiker formula:

\[ I = G_0 \int T(E, V)[f_L(E) - f_R(E)]dE \]  
(5)