Instruction Manual

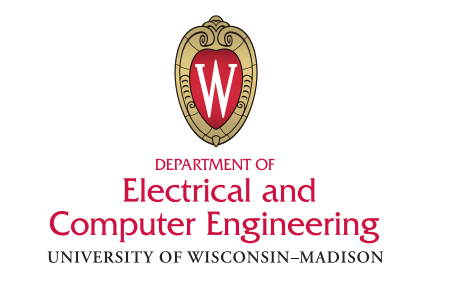
**Carbon Nanotube Mesh Generator**

Version: 1.01

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# Introduction

- Brief motivation for entire Amirhosein’s project (refer to his papers)

- Solar energy is important due to increasing energy demands and need for clean energy

- Carbon nanotubes, chiralities, band gap, tunable

- Motivation for this project

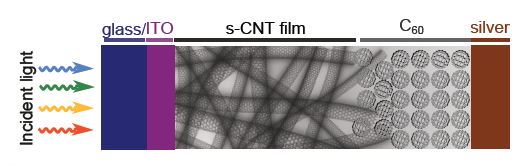
- what the project accomplishes

- brief on how it accomplishes it

- How this ties works into final project

The National Academy of Engineering, concerned about the increasing energy demands as well as the environmental cost of meeting them, has determined that development of an enconomic solar panel is a grand engineering challenge of the 21st century. To address the challenge, much effort has been towards finding a suitable light-absorbing material. In recent years, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have become a material candidate due to more effective separation techniques. Researchers have the abilty to separate optically absorptive, semiconducting nanotubes from others. With a wide range of possible band gaps due to different nanotube chiralities, CNTs can be used to create widely tunable photovoltaic cells. The optical versatility, ultrafast exciton and charge transport, and chemical stability of CNTs has been the impetus of much recent research.

While research on bilayer donor/acceptor heterojunction photovoltaics has shown that exciton dissociation at the semiconducting CNT (s-CNT) and C60 junction [fig. 1] is very efficient, the diffusion of the exciton to the junction has been determined to be a bottleneck in increasing the overall process efficiency. Amirhossein Davoody, a member of Professor Knezevic’s research group, has undertaken a project to develop the theory of exciton diffusion in CNTs and use his theoretical framework to computationally simulate exciton dynamics in a CNT mesh. Before the start of the CNT Mesh Generator, he had already found success calculating exciton transfer rates between CNTs with arbitrary chirality, angle, and separation.



**Fig. 1** Structure of a CNT-based bilayer donor/acceptor heterojunction photovoltaic device

Since s-CNTs are separated from others through colloidal separation techniques and then deposited on substrates through spin coating, doctor-blade casting, or spray coating, there is no reason to believe that CNTs will have any sort of order when used on a device. For photovoltaics to become economical, the previously mentioned techniques will most likely be used to mass produce devices. If the production devices have unorded CNTs, then ultimately Amirhossein’s simulation should reflect that as accuratly as possible. Unfortunately, no software was found that could create the semi-realistic, random network of CNTs desired for the project.

The purpose of this software is to give a user the ability to choose CNT and device region parameters to create a random mesh of CNTs. Once the mesh is complete, each tube’s physical parameters are output to .csv file and are available for future processing. With respect to Amirhossein’s project’s needs, which was the motivation for this work, the final positions of the CNTs, in conjunction with the exciton tranfer rate tables, allow the modelling of exciton dynamics by using the Monte Carlo method.

This manual provides the imformation necessary to understand how to use the software and how the software works.

# Usage

## Installing

- where to find installer

- file path upon extraction

- files to be aware of

## Initializing

- Entering config file path

### Configuration File

- Explanation of the parameters

## Runtime

- Rendering Controls

- Camera movement controls

- Resetting the simulation

## Exit

- Output file location

- output file format

- matlab script

# Simulation Mechanics

- Basic overview of simulation components

## Carbon Nanotube Parameters

## Bullet Physics Integration

# Limitations

# References