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Illinois Chemists Use Nanodroplets of Water to Shape Graphene (http://wokao.com.ru/illinois-chemistsuse-nanodroplets-of-water-to-shape-graphene-2.htm)



Chemists at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) say molding graphene into desired shapes is possible using only a nanodroplet of water.

"Up until now, it wasn't thought we could controllably fold these structures," said Petr Král, assistant professor of chemistry at UIC. "But now we know how to shape graphene by using weak forces between nanodroplets carefully positioned on graphene sheets."

Král and two of his graduate students described the process in a recent article in Nano Letters, which is highlighted in Nature's "news and views" section on Dec. 17.

Engineers already cut graphene into narrow ribbons and other shapes, expanding the set of carboneous systems such as fullerenes, carbon nanotubes and nano-diamonds. Using computer simulations, Král showed that weak molecular interactions called van der Waals forces between water nanodroplets and graphene can shape it into a

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