

基于喷墨打印的银/纸复合结构拉曼增强研究

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摘要 将银纳米粒子制备成可打印的墨水,采用喷墨打印方法将此墨水打印在纸张表面,作为柔性表面增强拉曼散射基 底。重点研究了不同银墨水倍数和不同打印层数对拉曼检测灵敏度的影响。实验结果表明,以55 mmol/L浓度银墨水 作为打印原料,在打印7层时,基底对罗丹明(R6G)分子的检测浓度低于10⁻¹⁰ mol/L,最大增强因子约为1.92×10⁹,相对 误差分析计算结果为14.3%。同时,在苹果的曲面上对该基底的拉曼增强效果进行了实际检测。最后,结合基底的扫描 电子显微镜(SEM)结果,采用有限时域差分(FDTD)软件对该基底的电磁场增强特性进行了计算。

关键词 散射; 拉曼散射; 喷墨打印; 银/纸张复合结构; 表面增强拉曼散射

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1引言

表面增强拉曼散射(SERS)是一种广泛应用于化 学和生物分子的多功能检测技术,其具有检测灵敏度 高、无需样品处理和无损伤测试等优点。SERS技术 可以实现超低浓度分子检测,甚至单分子检测^[1-3]。 SERS的增强效应主要归结于电磁增强和化学增强, 前者与金属纳米材料的局域电场增强,即"热点"有关, 后者与探针分子和基底表面电荷转移相关^[4-6]。

硅晶片和玻璃载玻片是制备 SERS 基底的最常见 的两种衬底,但这些衬底属于刚性基底且易碎,大大限 制了等离子体纳米结构的应用。柔性基底优于传统的 刚性基底,其可以被很容易地切割成不同形状和尺寸, 以满足非平面、柔性等应用需求^[7]。纸张作为柔性基 底材料的一种,具有许多独特的优势,如获取途径容 易、成本低廉和可折叠等^[8-10]。

目前在制备纸基 SERS 基底方面有许多的探索, 纸基 SERS 基底也具有多种多样的制备方式。 Polavarapu等^[11]通过将金或银纳米颗粒(AgNP)的溶 液储存在圆珠笔中,通过笔尖涂覆在纸张上,最终可实 现2×10⁻⁸ mol/L浓度的噻苯咪唑有毒分子检测,但该 方法难于实现量产化。Li等^[12]将金或银纳米颗粒从 压力容器中喷射到纤维素纸上,该方法至少需要25个 循环喷涂周期才达到最佳性能,制备的 SERS 基底最 终可实现对1 nmol/L浓度的罗丹明(R6G)分子进行 检测,增强因子约为2×10⁷,但该方法难以满足不同环 境条件下不同图案的设计要求。Zhang等^[13]通过画笔 将金或银纳米颗粒刷在滤纸上,整个过程大约需要14 个循环,最终可实现对1 nmol/L浓度的R6G分子的检 测,相对标准差(RSD)约为15%,该基底可进行快速 制备,但制备过程较为繁琐。

本文采用喷墨打印方式制备银-纸张SERS基底, 通过最优参数选择实现了高性能的纸基SERS基底 制备。

2 实验部分

2.1 银溶胶的制备

采用Lee等^[14]的制备方法制备银溶胶,硝酸银和 柠檬酸钠的量分别设置为17 mg和10 mg,持续加热反 应10 min后,即可得到平均粒径为58.6 nm的棕绿色 银溶胶溶液。

2.2 银墨水配置过程

银墨水的制备,可通过以下两步制备获得。

1)将制备的银溶胶溶液在4000 r/min转速下离 心35 min,去掉90%溶液体积的上清液,再放入原来 相同体积的水中后,超声1h,洗涤过程重复两次。洗 涤后的银溶胶溶液在3000 r/min转速下离心30 min, 最终根据10、20、33、50银溶胶浓缩倍数,分别去除表 面50、53、54、55 mL的上清液,再继续超声1h。

2) 银墨水由银溶胶、无水乙醇和甘油进行配置合成,组成比例为25:10:8。为了避免打印机喷头堵塞, 使用聚四氟乙烯(PTFE)膜过滤器(孔径为0.2 μm的 微孔)过滤掉尺寸大于0.2 μm的粒子,保证银墨水工 作的流畅性^[15]。

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2.3 A4纸的疏水化

将A4纸张放入质量体积比为20%的十二(碳烯) 琥珀酸酐(DDSA)的己醇溶液^[15]中,浸泡20min。然 后,将A4纸放入干燥箱中进行固化处理,温度设置为 120℃,干燥时间设置为20min,对于不同纸张可以适 当增加浸泡时间。

2.4 纸张打印

在进行打印前,先把 3~5 mL 银墨水装入黑色墨 盒中,其他颜色墨盒装入等量的无水乙醇,并让黑墨盒 中的银墨水静置几分钟以确保墨盒中的墨水平衡。然 后,运行 Word 软件进行打印设置。

2.5 材料与仪器

样品表面形貌表征使用扫描电子显微镜(SEM)。 拉曼测试采用 HORIBA 生产的 LabRAM HR 型共焦 拉曼光谱仪,激发波长设置为532 nm,功率为1 mW, 积分时间为3.5 s。打印机采用EPSON L130,使用克 重为70 g/m²的A4办公用纸作为印刷 SERS 基材的 基底。

3 结果与讨论

3.1 SEM 表征

对制备的不同打印层数进行表面形貌表征,SEM 测试结果如图1中的下方图所示。为了更好地分析不 同打印层数的表征形貌,在银纳米粒子较为集中的区 域统计不同打印层数的银纳米粒子聚集情况,以反应 样品表面形貌特征,样品统计情况如图1中上方图所 示。SEM图中白色框所围的区域即为样品统计区域, 所占面积为12 µm²。



图 1 不同打印层数的统计图和SEM。(a)单层;(b) 3层;(c) 5层;(d) 7层;(e) 9层 Fig. 1 Statistics and SEMs of different print layers. (a) Single layer; (b) three layers; (c) five layers; (d) seven layers; (e) nine layers

从图1所示的统计结果可以看出,在不同打印层数情况下,单颗银纳米粒子的占比数量始终保持前二 水平,且除了单颗游离的银粒子状态外,在多层打印的统计图中,银粒子聚合状态分别以2颗、3颗、5颗、7颗 为主。

3.2 拉曼测试

由 SERS 增强效应可知,银溶胶的浓度是影响基 底效果的关键指标,故在进行实验探索过程中,为了得 出最优的银墨水浓度,以未进行浓缩时的银溶胶为原 料,即银溶胶浓度为1.8 mmol/L,并以此为1倍比例, 获得10、20、33、50倍浓度的银溶胶,即浓度分别为18、 36、59、90 mmol/L的银溶胶。同时,以不同浓度倍数 的银溶胶为原料,按照2.2节中银墨水的配置比例加 入无水乙醇和甘油,最终可得到浓度为10、21、34、 55 mmol/L的银墨水。银墨水光学照片如图2(a)所 示。图2(b)显示了利用不同浓度倍数银墨水进行单 次打印,以10⁻⁶ mol/L浓度的R6G为探针分子,测试 得到的R6G的典型拉曼峰(611、772、1125、1310、 1362、1510、1574、1650 cm⁻¹)。为了更好地反应不同 倍数银墨水浓度对特征峰测试强度的影响,以 611 cm⁻¹特征峰为例进行比较,如图2(c)所示。可以 发现,随着银墨水浓度倍数的上升,特征峰测试强度也在上升,故在后续的实验中,选择50倍浓度的银溶胶。

除了银墨水倍数的影响,打印层数也是一个关键 参数。在银墨水浓度为50倍的情况下,不同打印层数 的光学照片如图2(d)所示。不同打印层数的SERS基 底下10⁻⁶ mol/L的R6G的拉曼测试结果如图2(e)所 示。611 cm⁻¹特征峰与打印层数关系如图2(f)所示。 结果表明:在3层向5层变化时,拉曼特征峰测试强度 变化最快;当打印层数为7层时,拉曼特征峰的测试强 度达到最大值,若在打印7层的基础上再进行打印,测 试强度会稍微有所下降。因此,在后续实验中,采用7 层打印SERS基底。

在 50 倍银墨水、7 层打印 SERS 基底下, 10^{-6} ~ 10^{-10} mol/L 浓度的 R6G 的拉曼信号如图 3(a)所示。 对于 SERS 基底增强效应,可以用增强因子 $F_{e}^{[16]}$ 描述, 计算公式为

$$F_{\rm e} = \frac{I_{\rm SERS}}{I_{\rm normal}} \times \frac{C_{\rm normal}}{C_{\rm SERS}},\tag{1}$$

式中: I_{SERS} 和 C_{SERS} 分别为打印SERS基底的拉曼散射 强度和R6G浓度; I_{normel} 和 C_{normel} 分别为无SERS增强的



图 2 喷墨打印制备参数的讨论。(a)不同倍数银溶胶光学照片;(b)不同浓度倍数银溶胶下 10⁻⁶ mol/L浓度 R6G 的拉曼测试结果; (c) 611 cm⁻¹特征峰强度与浓度倍数的关系;(d)不同打印层数光学照片;(e)不同打印层数下 SERS 基底对 10⁻⁶ mol/L浓度 R6G 的拉曼测试结果;(f) 611 cm⁻¹特征峰强度与打印层数关系

Fig. 2 Discussion on preparation parameters of inkjet printing. (a) Optical photos of silver sol with different multiples; (b) Raman test results of R6G with concentration of 10⁻⁶ mol/L under silver sol with different concentration multiples; (c) relationship between intensity of 611 cm⁻¹ characteristic peak and concentration multiple; (d) optical photos with different printing layers; (e) Raman test results of R6G with concentration of 10⁻⁶ mol/L under SERS substrate with different printing layers; (f) relationship between intensity of 611 cm⁻¹ characteristic peak and number of printed layers

拉曼散射强度和 R6G 浓度。由式(1)计算可得, F_{e} 约为1.92×10°。

图 3 (b)、(c)展示了7 层打印 SERS 基底对 10⁻⁷ mol/L浓度 R6G 探针分子的均匀性 mapping 测试 结果,mapping 测试范围设置为0.20 mm × 0.15 mm, 步长为20 μm,RSD为14.3%,可以看出具有良好的均 匀性。图 3(d)显示了不同打印层数的 RSD 计算结果, 得知7层打印 SERS 基底为最佳打印制备基底层数。

3.3 疏水处理影响

在实验过程中,发现A4纸张的亲水和疏水特性对 测试结果有一定的影响,为此打印前对A4纸张进行疏 水处理。将3μL的去离子水分别滴在疏水处理前后 的纸张上。光学照片如图4(a)和4(b)所示。利用 PicPick软件对疏水前后的光学照片接触角进行测量: 未进行疏水处理时,水滴在纸张所呈现的接触角为 60°,呈现亲水性;疏水处理^[17]后,水滴在纸张上呈现的 接触角为108°41′,呈现疏水性。未进行疏水处理的纸 张的 SERS 基底(50倍墨水,7层打印)对 R6G 的浓度 测试极限约为10⁻⁸ mol/L,如图4(e)所示,此时增强因 子约为2.2×10⁷,疏水处理后的 SERS 基底拉曼增强 提升约87倍。 疏水处理后的纸张会使溶液往中间聚集^[18],溶液 与基底的接触面积不同。在同样的墨水浓度和体积情 况下,疏水处理后,基底单位面积上有更多的银纳米粒 子,进而会产生更强的拉曼增强。自定义一个关于富 集度的参数 V_{FJ}来描述银墨水在纸张表面的富集程度, 相应的公式为

$$V_{\rm FJ} = \frac{n_2/S_2}{n_1/S_1},$$
 (2)

式中:n₁和n₂分别代表液滴的量;S₁和S₂分别代表液滴 在疏水前后纸张表面的面积。

如图 4(c)、(d)所示,计算 S₁和 S₂前,假设液面形 状为圆弧形,其体积经过组合可成为一个全新的球体, 且液滴蒸发后的面积为液滴与纸张表面接触的面积, 其形状为圆形。

疏水处理前有公式

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}S_{1}h + V_{1} = \frac{\pi R_{1}^{3}\theta_{1}}{270} \\ S_{1} = \pi (R_{1}\sin\theta_{1})^{2} \\ h = R_{1}\cos\theta_{1} \end{cases}$$
(3)

疏水处理后有公式



图 3 SERS 基底的拉曼性能讨论。(a)打印7层对不同浓度 R6G 的 SERS 光谱图;(b)大面积多点拉曼光谱测试结果;(c)打印7层时 611 cm⁻¹处对应计算的 RSD;(d)不同打印层数 RSD测试结果

Fig. 3 Raman properties of SERS substrate. (a) SERS spectra of R6G with different concentrations when printing 7 layers; (b) test results of large-area multipoint Raman spectra; (c) corresponding calculated RSD at 611 cm⁻¹ when printing seven layers; (d) RSD test results of different printing layers





Fig. 4 Discussion of paper hydrophobic treatment. (a) Optical photo before hydrophobic treatment; (b) optical photo after hydrophobic treatment; (c) mathematical model of cross-section before hydrophobic treatment; (d) mathematical model of cross-section after hydrophobic treatment; (e) SERS spectra of untreated paper for different R6G concentrations

$$\begin{cases} V_2 = \frac{\pi R_2^3 \theta_2}{270}, \quad (4) \\ S_2 = \pi \left(R_2 \sin \theta_2 \right)^2 \end{cases}$$

式中: R_1 和 R_2 分别为疏水处理前后的液滴简化数学模型半径; V_1 和 V_2 分别为液滴滴入疏水前后纸张表面的体积,且设置 $V_1 = V_2 = 3 \mu L; \theta_1 \pi \theta_2$ 分别为疏水处理

前后纸张的接触角。通过式(3)和式(4)可以计算出 S_1/S_2 为4.31,再结合式(2)可得到A4纸张表面疏水处 理后的富集度 $V_{\rm FJ}$ 为4.31。由于纸张处理过后,银墨 水在纸张表面富集程度有了很大改变,故检测灵敏度 得到了巨大提升。

3.4 柔性特性实验

图 5(a)~(c)展示了对苹果弯曲表面的拉曼检

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测。由图 5(a)、(b)可以得出,SERS 基底弯曲后,均 匀性略微下降,但性能基本稳定。图 5(c)展示了在 苹果表面模拟实际测试污染物的过程,首先将 10⁻⁶ mol/L浓度的 R6G 污染物均匀喷涂在苹果表面, 等其表面晾干后,继续向苹果表面喷涂等离子体水, 再利用制备的7层打印 SERS 基底在苹果表面擦拭, 最后进行拉曼检测,检测结果如图 5(d)所示。将图 5 (d)与图 5(a)比较发现,拉曼散射强度有所降低,这 是因为在实际测试过程中,为了更好地将待测分子吸 附在 SERS 基底上,向苹果表面均匀地喷涂了去离子 水,该过程会使得 R6G 浓度降低,进而使得拉曼测试 强度下降。



图 5 柔性特性实验。(a)基底折叠拉曼测试;(b)基底折叠均匀性测试;(c)苹果表面模拟实际测试污染物过程示意图;(d)苹果表面 污染物拉曼测试;(e)多分子测试

Fig. 5 Flexible characteristic experiment. (a) Substrate folding Raman test; (b) substrate folding uniformity test; (c) schematic diagram of process of simulating actual testing of pollutants on apple surface; (d) Raman test of apple surface pollutants; (e) polymolecular test

图 5(e)显示基底具有多分子同时检测性能,通过 R6G 和孔雀石绿(MG)典型特征峰(1220、1341、1366、 1395、1488 cm⁻¹)可知,在多分子混合溶液和单分子溶 液中,都可对探针分子进行检测。

3.5 拉曼增强机理

根据前述 SEM 图和银纳米粒子分布的统计情况, 利用有限时域差分(FDTD)仿真软件研究银纳米粒子 的局域表面等离子共振引起的电磁场增强。设置入射 光波长为λ=532 nm (与实验中参数一致),入射光沿 x方向偏振,沿z方向传播,结果如图6所示,每个图中 上方的图展示了银纳米粒子的分布情况,下方的图展 示了相应的电磁场分布。

为了更方便地分析仿真结果,引入模拟理论增强 因子 F_E^[10],其计算公式为

$$F_{\rm E} = \frac{\left| E_{\rm out}(w_0) \right|^2 \left| E_{\rm out}(w_s) \right|^2}{\left| E_0 \right|^4} \approx \frac{\left| E_{\rm out}(w_0) \right|^4}{\left| E_0 \right|^4} , \quad (5)$$

式中: E₀为入射电场强度,在仿真设计中其值为



图 6 不同数量银纳米颗粒下的电磁场仿真。(a)单颗银纳米颗粒;(b) 2颗银纳米颗粒;(c) 3颗银纳米颗粒;(d) 5颗银纳米颗粒; (e) 7颗银纳米颗粒;(f) 9颗银纳米颗粒

Fig. 6 Electromagnetic field simulation under different numbers of silver nanoparticles. (a) Single silver nanoparticle; (b) two silver nanoparticles; (c) three silver nanoparticles; (d) five silver nanoparticles; (e) seven silver nanoparticles; (f) nine silver nanoparticles

 $1 \text{ V/m}; E_{\text{out}}(w_0) 和 E_{\text{out}}(w_s) 分别为入射光 w_0 和拉曼光 w_s 的局部电场。$

根据3.1节中统计的不同打印层数的银纳米粒子的聚集情况,在仿真过程中以平均模拟增强因子来代 表不同打印层数的仿真情况,平均模拟增强计算公 式为

$$\bar{F}_{E_i} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} F_{E_{i,j}} b_{i,j} , \qquad (6)$$

式中:*i*代表打印层数;*j*代表银纳米颗粒的聚集量;*F*_{E,}, 代表第*i*层第*j*种情况下的模拟增强因子;*b*_i,代表第*i*层 第*j*种情况下数量所占的百分比,如图1所示。对不同 打印层数的平均模拟增强因子进行计算,计算公式为

$$\begin{cases} F_{E_{1}} = F_{E_{1,1}}b_{1,1} + F_{E_{1,2}}b_{1,2} + F_{E_{1,3}}b_{1,3} = 5.6 \times 10^{7} \\ F_{E_{2}} = F_{E_{2,1}}b_{2,1} + F_{E_{2,2}}b_{2,2} + F_{E_{2,3}}b_{2,3} + F_{E_{2,5}}b_{2,5} = 2.4 \times 10^{8} \\ F_{E_{3}} = F_{E_{3,1}}b_{3,1} + F_{E_{3,2}}b_{3,2} + F_{E_{3,3}}b_{3,3} + F_{E_{3,5}}b_{3,5} + F_{E_{3,7}}b_{3,7} = 2.93 \times 10^{8} \\ F_{E_{4}} = F_{E_{4,1}}b_{4,1} + F_{E_{4,2}}b_{4,2} + F_{E_{4,3}}b_{4,3} + F_{E_{4,5}}b_{4,5} + F_{E_{4,9}}b_{4,9} = 5.18 \times 10^{8} \\ F_{E_{5}} = F_{E_{5,1}}b_{5,1} + F_{E_{5,2}}b_{5,2} + F_{E_{5,3}}b_{5,5} + F_{E_{5,7}}b_{5,7} + F_{E_{5,9}}b_{5,9} = 3.7 \times 10^{8} \end{cases}$$
(7)

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由式(7)给出的不同打印层数的平均模拟增强因 子值可知,7层为最优打印层数,但模拟仿真得到的平 均模拟增强因子数值要小于实验的增强因子数值,这 是因为仿真模拟过程中,只考虑了电磁增强,但实际实 验时电磁场增强和化学增强同时存在,且仿真模拟模 型与实际 SERS 基底也存在一定的误差。模拟仿真和 实验结果均表明,最优的打印层数为7层。

4 结 论

利用喷墨打印方法制备银-纸张 SERS 基底,在银 墨水浓度为50倍、打印层数为7层时,SERS 基底对 R6G分子的检测浓度低至10⁻¹⁰ mol/L,最大增强因子 约为1.92×10⁹。同时,该基底具有良好的均匀性,最 优RSD计算结果为14.3%。在苹果表面研究了该基 底的柔性特性,并实现了多分子检测。该方法具有价 格低廉、可量产化等优点。

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Study on Raman Enhancement of Silver/Paper Composite Structure Using Inkjet Printing

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Abstract

Objective Surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) is a multifunctional detection technology widely used in chemical and biological molecules. It has the advantages of high detection sensitivity, no sample treatment, nondestructive testing, etc. SERS technology can realize ultra-low concentration molecular detection or even single molecule detection. As a flexible substrate material, paper is different from the traditional rigid substrate. The rigid substrate is fragile, which greatly limits the application of plasma nanostructures. The flexible substrate can be easily cut into different shapes and sizes to meet the needs of non-planar, flexible, and other applications. At the same time, as paper has the characteristics of easy access and low cost, there are many explorations in the preparation of paper-based SERS substrates, and there are various preparation methods for paper-based SERS substrates, such as pen on paper, spray preparation, and other preparation methods. However, the preparation process of these paper-based SERS substrates is relatively cumbersome, and it is difficult to meet the different pattern design requirements under different environmental conditions. In this paper, the Ag-paper-based SERS substrate is prepared by inkjet printing, and the high-performance paper-based SERS substrate is prepared by selecting the optimal parameters.

Methods In this study, an Ag-paper-based SERS substrate is prepared by inkjet printing on hydrophobic A4 paper. Firstly, a brown-green silver sol solution with an average particle size of 58.6 nm is prepared by the Lee preparation method, and the parameters of silver nitrate, sodium citrate, and heating time are set. Silver ink is prepared as follows. Silver sol is centrifuged and ultrasonically operated, the supernatant is removed, and the silver sol washing process is repeated twice. According to the silver sol concentration multiples of 10, 20, 33, and 50, supernatants of 50, 53, 54, and 55 mL on the surface are removed, respectively. The absolute ethanol and glycerin are added according to the configuration scheme of silver ink, and the silver ink is filtered with a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane filter (with a pore size of 0.2 mm), so as to ensure the working fluency of the silver ink. After that, the paper receives hydrophobic treatment with a 20% mixed hexanol solution of dodecene succinic anhydride (DDSA). Next, the silver ink is put into the ink cartridge for a few minutes and printed on the hydrophobic A4 paper. Finally, the prepared Ag-paper-based SERS substrate is used for Raman detection of probe molecules.

Results and Discussions The prepared Ag-paper-based SERS substrate can be mass-produced rapidly. At the same time, it is cheap, and the preparation scheme is simple. The operator can quickly start to prepare and apply and thus realize multi-molecule detection. Through the optimal selection of silver ink multiples and the number of printing layers (Fig. 2), when the silver ink concentration is 50 times, and the number of printing layers is 7, the prepared Ag-paper-based SERS substrate has high Raman enhancement performance, with the maximum enhancement factor of about 1.92×10^9 and the relative standard deviation (RSD) of 14.3% (Fig. 3). After hydrophobic treatment of A4 paper, Raman detection sensitivity is greatly improved (Fig. 4). This is because after hydrophobic treatment, the contact angle of liquid droplets on the paper surface has been greatly improved, which leads to more silver nanoparticles per unit surface area. Therefore, Raman detection intensity has been enhanced. Paper is a flexible material. The flexible characteristic experiment (Fig. 5) shows that the prepared Ag-paper-based SERS substrate also shows excellent uniformity after bending, which proves that the Ag-paper-based SERS substrate has strong stability.

Conclusions In this paper, the silver ink is printed on the hydrophobic A4 paper surface by an inkjet printing method, so as to serve as a flexible SERS substrate. By studying the influence of different silver ink multiples and printing layers on Raman detection sensitivity, it can be found that when the silver ink concentration is 50 times, and the number of printing layers is 7, the detection concentration of R6G molecules on SERS substrate is as low as 10^{-10} mol/L, and the maximum enhancement factor is about 1.92×10^9 . At the same time, the SERS substrate has excellent uniformity, and the optimal RSD calculation result is 14.3%. The flexibility of Ag-paper-based SERS substrate is studied on the apple surface, and the detection of multi-molecules is realized. The method has the advantages of low price and mass production. Finally, according to the scanning electron microscope (SEM) results of the SERS substrate, the electromagnetic field enhancement characteristics of the SERS substrate are calculated by using finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) software. According to the numerical simulation and experimental results, the optimal number of printing layers is 7.

Key words scattering; Raman scattering; inkjet printing; silver/paper composite structure; surface enhanced Raman scattering