

# **Hybrid structure based high performance SPR sensor: a numerical approach of structure optimization for DNA hybridization**

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# **Abstract**

A MoS<sub>2</sub>-Graphene hybrid layer Based High Performance Refractive Index SPR Sensor is illustrated in this paper. Intended for the enhancement of sensor angular sensitivity (S), signal to noise ratio (SNR), quality factor (QF), frst of all, the impact of gold layer thickness is investigated and optimized to 40 nm, after then the  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene coting layers are optimized to four (4) and three (3) layers, respectively. Further that, at this optimum structure, the minimum refectance and SPR angle are decorated. It is seen that the angular sensitivity of the optimum assembly, improved to excellent value of 130 deg-RIU<sup>-1</sup> with improved angular SNR of 1.37 and QF of 17.02 RIU<sup>-1</sup>. At the end of this paper, an analysis specifcally for numerically DNA hybridization is considered.

**Keywords** SPR · SNR · Sensitivity · QF

# **1 Introduction**

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) founded optical sensing technology has assumed a pivotal part in monitoring diverse biochemical interactions in particular binding of proteins (Hossain et al. [2020a;](#page-15-0) Isti et al. [2020](#page-15-1); Goyal and Saini [2020\)](#page-15-2), haemoglobin concentration (Goyal and Pal [2020](#page-15-3)) as well as DNA-DNA hybridization (Ebrahimi et al. [2018](#page-14-0)). SPR, an optical exhibition, gives a label-free mechanism of investigating binding interactions between a biomolecule and an analyte (Saha et al. [2020](#page-16-0)[, 2019a;](#page-16-1) Nico and Fischer [2010;](#page-16-2) Liedberg et al. [1983](#page-15-4)). The SPR has a developing enthusiasm for the application of optics and optoelectronics. Other than that, SPR is broadly employed as plasmonic devices (Hossain et al. [2019a](#page-15-5)), biomedical sensing (Saha et al. [2019b](#page-16-3); Bashiri et al. [2019\)](#page-14-1), optical solar cell (Akimov and Koh [2010\)](#page-14-2), organic light emitting diode (OLED) (Kretschmann and Raether  $1968$ , and so on.

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The propagation of the SPs especially relies proceeding the efective RI of the sensing medium contiguous the metal that creates it an incredible technique to capture the modifcations in RI of a sample by reason of binding actions and in this way becomes useful for bio-sensing application (Filion-Côté et al. [2014\)](#page-15-7). Surface plasmon wave (SPW) can get energized when the incident optical signal gratifes a defnite incident state (Hossain et al. [2019b\)](#page-15-8), and the excitation for Surface Plasmons (SPs) are fundamentally guided by the part of the ferce refectance dip (Lin et al. [2016](#page-15-9)). Biosensors using SPs scheme possess speedy and extremely responsive to biomolecular sensing (Hossain et al. [2019c](#page-15-10); Sreekanth et al. [2013](#page-17-0)) which able it more convenient than fuorescence-based optical sensors that require more time and has high molecular binding disorder (Jacob [2012\)](#page-15-11).

The attenuated total refection (ATR) designed SPR biosensor renders in two activity mode: First mood by angular inquisition where the wavelength of incident light signal is fxed, and the input angle is changed or second one by wavelength inquisition where the entering angle is fxed and the wavelength is varied (Pockrand et al. [1978](#page-16-4)). The performance of SPR sensor enhances largely at the point when  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene are utilized in place of detecting improvement layer (Pockrand [1978;](#page-16-5) Wolfbeis and Weidgans [2006;](#page-17-1) Rahman et al. [2017a](#page-16-6); Soheilifar and Zarrabi [2019;](#page-17-2) Verma et al. [2015;](#page-17-3) Heydari et al. [2017](#page-15-12)). The SPR sensors are frequently utilized in the feld of enzyme detection (Wolfbeis and Weidgans [2006\)](#page-17-1), protein-DNA (Wolfbeis and Weidgans [2006](#page-17-1)), food safety (Pumera [2011](#page-16-7)), communication channel security enhancement (Sarker et al. [2020;](#page-16-8) Islam et al. [2020;](#page-15-13) Avazov et al. [2017\)](#page-14-3), biological and biochemical sensing applications(Maurya et al. [2015b\)](#page-16-9) for example, flm characterization (Mollah et al. [2020\)](#page-16-10), and beam polarization selection (Lee et al. [2015](#page-15-14)), DNA-DNA hybridization (Lee et al. [2015\)](#page-15-14), protein–protein (Kim et al. [2006;](#page-15-15) Madeira et al.  $2011$ ), enzyme–substrate or inhibitor (Yuan et al.  $2011$ ), wireless & remote sensing (Shahzad et al. [2019](#page-16-12); Hossain et al.  $2018$ ) and so forth. The MoS<sub>2</sub> and Graphene, both are 2D material of mono atomic thickness. They both have numerous properties to be specifc low reluctance, high carrier mobility, high optical transparency, tenability and so on (Sakib et al. [2020;](#page-16-13) Hossain et al. [2016,](#page-15-17) [2015](#page-15-18); Rana et al. [2015](#page-16-14); Hossain and Rana [2015a\)](#page-15-19). For the excitation and spread of surface plasmons, their utilization have been verifed experimentally and theoretically (Hossain et al. [2020b](#page-15-20)).

In this paper, A SPR sensor along with optimized structure of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene$  is utilized for the application of DNA hybridization. The  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene$  is profoundly responsive to the charged analytes for example, ions, DNAs, body cells, and so on. It turns into a perfect material for high performance sensors due to having an electric feld around graphene. Because of the adsorption of DNA on  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  as well as graphene, it was demonstrated experimentally that charge can be moved through DNA bio focuses to  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/gra$ phene surface. The DNA bases and the carbon atoms bonds is a kind of Van der Waals bolding ( $\pi$  stacking) (Shushama et al. [2017a](#page-16-15)). Because of this, MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene has abrupt change in refractive index close the  $_{\text{MoS2}}$ /graphene-sensing layer interface. For the increment of sensor angular sensitivity (S), signal to noise ratio (SNR), quality factor (QF), most importantly, the impact of including  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene$  layer is investigated and afterward the number of their layers are optimized to four and three layers. Subsequently, at these ideal layers, the SPR curves are plotted and correlation of sensor sensitivity, signal to noise ratio, quality factor is made among the current works. It is seen that the angular sensitivity of the upgraded  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene$  layers-based sensor is enhanced to a standard value of 130 deg-RIU<sup>-1</sup> having improved angular SNR of 1.37 and QF of 17.02 RIU<sup>-1</sup>. The article is systematized as given. In Sect. 2, the Computational Design Methodology of the proposed work is described which is covered by two subsections, one is Organizational Design and another is Mathematical Design. In section III, the Numerical results and discussion are described under a number of tables, equations and fgures. First portion of the numerical results and discussion section is exemplifed Structure Optimization on Sensor Performance Analysis and the rest exemplifed the DNA detection approach.

# **2 Computational design methodology**

### **2.1 Organizational design of proposed sensor**

The offered SPR design is composed by five layers, the design of that is appeared in Fig. [1](#page-2-0). The entering optical signal along the transverse magnetic (TM) polarization is one of the furthermost signifcant conditions for the stimulation of SPs (Soheilifar and Zarrabi [2019](#page-17-2)). The 633 nm is chosen as operating wavelength because the optical nonlinearity can be upgraded at low wavelength (O'Brien et al. [2014\)](#page-16-16). All through the photon energy range, micro band optical transitions happen because  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene$  has band structure (Luo et al. [2016;](#page-16-17) Maurya et al. [2015a\)](#page-16-18). Subsequently, the whole performance of the biosensor is heightened along with negligible Kerr efect at 633 nm wavelength (Rahman et al. [2017b\)](#page-16-19). For angular interrogation, we utilized Fresnel multilayered system to model the ofered sensor that is described in detail in literature (Rahman et al. [2017a](#page-16-6), [2017b,](#page-16-19) [2016;](#page-16-20) Shushama et al. [2017a](#page-16-15), [2017b;](#page-16-21) Hossain and Rana [2016](#page-15-21)[, 2015b\)](#page-15-22). In the direction of giving additional momentum along the entrance light, high propagation constant supported photonic crystals should be utilized (Isti et al. [2020](#page-15-1)), to satisfy this condition, we indicated high RI based prism, for example, SF11 optical prism as a foundation layer of high RI  $(n_n)$ of 1.7786 (Rahman et al. [2017b](#page-16-19)). As a second layer, we utilized gold (RI,  $n_{\text{an}} = 0.1838 + i$ 3.4313 of optimized thickness  $(d_{Au})$ , to keep up both improve angular QF and SNR. At the point when the propagation constant of entering light remains confned at the interface and decays exponentially in the transverse directions, resonant excitation of photon-electron coupling happens (Shushama et al. [2017a](#page-16-15), [2017b\)](#page-16-21).

The momentary tail of SPR is highly responsive to the modifcation in complex RI of metalic coating, neighboring dielectric analyte and their confgural sizes (Soheilifar and Zarrabi [2019](#page-17-2); Shushama et al. [2017a\)](#page-16-15), that resulted extreme sensor angular sensitivity (Soheilifar and Zarrabi [2019\)](#page-17-2). For quickening responsive change of tail in SPR

<span id="page-2-0"></span>

momentary wave to acquire extreme sensor angular sensitivity with standard detection accuracy (DA), we selected  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene as 3rd and 4th layer which has high complex RI (RI,  $n_G = 3.0 + i 1.1487$  and  $n_M 5.9 + i 0.8$  (Shushama et al. [2017b;](#page-16-21) Rahman et al. [2016\)](#page-16-20)) alo*n*g with high carrier mobility, high optical transparency, exceptional mechanical fexibility, mechanical strength (Hossain et al. [2016](#page-15-17), [2015;](#page-15-18) Rana et al. [2015;](#page-16-14) Hossain and Rana [2015a\)](#page-15-19), low resistivity, tunable conductivity, and extreme mode con-finement (Hossain et al. [2016\)](#page-15-17). Also, last layer is water(RI  $n_5 = 1.33$ ) as bare sensing medium that manages better absorption of DNA molecules (Ball and Ramsden [1998;](#page-14-4) Diéguez et al. [2009](#page-14-5)).

# **3 Mathematical design of proposed sensor**

The incident light is formed a momentary signal at the moment of passing through SF11 prism and it is fnally refected from the SF11 prism-Au interface. For Transvers Magnetic-polarized optical signal, the refectance is exposed as (Rahman et al. [2017a;](#page-16-6) Shushama et al. [2017a\)](#page-16-15):

<span id="page-3-1"></span><span id="page-3-0"></span>
$$
\text{Ro} = \left| \mathbf{r}_0 \right|^2 \tag{1}
$$

where

$$
r_o = \frac{(B_{11} + B_{12}n_N)n_1 - (B_{21} + B_{22}n_N)}{(B_{11} + B_{12}n_N)n_1 + (B_{21} + B_{22}n_N)}
$$
(2)

In Eq.  $(5)$  $(5)$ , F is well-defined in (Shushama et al.  $2017a$ ) as:

$$
B_{ij} = \left[ \prod_{k=2}^{4-1} \left( \begin{array}{c} \cos \beta_k & -\frac{i \sin \beta_k}{n_k} \\ -i n_k \sin \beta_k & \cos \beta_k \end{array} \right) \right]_{ij} = \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{array} \right] \tag{3}
$$

Here  $n_k$  is arbitrary transverse refractive indices of the comparing  $k<sup>th</sup>$  layer which can be illustrated by the relation (Rahman et al. [2017a](#page-16-6))

$$
n_k = \left[\frac{\mu_k}{\varepsilon_k}\right]^{1/2} \cos \theta_k = \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_k - (n_p \sin \theta_{in})^2}{\varepsilon_k^2}}
$$
(4)

And  $\beta_k$  is arbitrary phase constant of the corresponding  $k^{th}$  layer which can be explained by the relation (Rahman et al. [2017a](#page-16-6)):

$$
\beta_k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_k \cos \theta_k (z_k - z_{k-1}) = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} d_k \sqrt{\varepsilon_k - (n_p \sin \theta_{in})^2}
$$
(5)

Here,  $z<sub>k</sub>$  is the wave impedance of kth layer and is characterized as (Hossain and Rana [2016\)](#page-15-21):

<span id="page-3-2"></span>
$$
z_k = \frac{k_{\text{light}} n_k \cos \theta_k}{(2\pi c/\lambda_{633})\epsilon_k^2}
$$
(6)

And  $\theta_k$  is the incident angle of kth layer, is expressed as (Hossain and Rana [2016](#page-15-21)):

$$
\theta_k = a \cos \left( \sqrt{1 - (n_{k-1}/n_k) \sin^2 \theta_{in}} \right) \tag{7}
$$

In Eq. [\(1](#page-3-1)) to (7),  $n_1$  is the refractive index of prism,  $\theta_{in}$  is the 1st layer entrance angle demonstrated in Eq. [\(1\)](#page-3-1),  $\epsilon_k$  is the permittivity of a specific kth layer,  $d_k$  is the thickness of specific kth layer (thickness of graphene  $d_G = G \times 0.34$  nm, thickness of MoS<sub>2</sub>  $d_M = M \times 0.65$  nm, here G and M are the graphene and MoS<sub>2</sub> layers, respectively, thickness of gold  $d_{Au}$  is needed to be optimized) individually.

The RI of the detecting layer varies by reason of deluging probe DNA (pDNA) to the detecting layer. The efective RI of detecting layer after absorption of DNAs molecules is precisely represented as (Rahman et al. [2017a,](#page-16-6) [2017b](#page-16-19); Shushama et al. [2017a,](#page-16-15) [2017b](#page-16-21)):

$$
n_{\rm sens}^1 = n_{\rm sens}^0 + c_a \frac{\Delta n}{\Delta c} \tag{8}
$$

Here,  $n_{sens}^1$  is the effective refractive index of the detecting layer after absorption of DNAs solutions,  $n_{sens}^0$  is the effective refractive index of the detecting layer before absorption of DNAs solutions,  $c_a$  is the concentration of absorbed DNAs, and  $\Delta n/\Delta c$  is the RI progress because of the adsorbate DNA molecules. The efective refractive index development parameter  $(\Delta n/\Delta c)$  is a value of  $0.18 \pm 0.03$  cm<sup>3</sup>/gm, while using water (Sreekanth et al. [2013](#page-17-0)). At resonance point, the wave vector of entering wave identical to SPW. Variation of the concentration (density) of detecting layer because of the immobilization of DNAs pursuits the variation of local RI  $(n<sub>s</sub>)$  of that sensing medium narrated by Eq. [\(8](#page-3-2)). At a constant wavelength the SPR condition is attained when the incident angle is varied in which refectance intensity (R) of the refected wave is lowest and its spectra (normalized refected power) show dip. The performance of SPR sensor is fundamentally analyzed based on its angular sensitivity (S), detection accuracy (DA), and the quality factor (QF) which are elaborately described in literature (Hossain et al. [2019b,](#page-15-8) [2019c\)](#page-15-10).

# **4 Numerical results and discussions**

#### **4.1 Structure optimization and sensor performance parameters analysis**

In the beginning, a SPR curve of simple structure having monolayer (G &  $M=1$ ) of graphene and  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  with sensing layer effective RI (ERI) of 1.33, as shown in Fig. [2,](#page-5-0) has been considered everywhere to observe the outcome due to the variation of gold layer thickness on sensor performance. And from this outcome, the thickness of gold layer can be optimized to ensure superior sensor performance. The changing characteristics of gold layer thickness has played a weighty impact on refectance and SPR angle. The Fig. [2](#page-5-0) represents the modifcation of minimum refection versus SPR angle characteristics with increment of Au thickness from 20 to 60 nm. It is evident from Fig. [2;](#page-5-0) due to increase or decrease of thickness from 40 nm, SPs become damped. So that, the minimum refected intensity in refectance curve is observed at 40 nm thickness of gold layer which shows the strong coupling of incident light to SPs and results in efficient excitation of SPs (Rahman et al. [2016,](#page-16-20) [2018](#page-16-22)). As a result of increasing or decreasing of thickness from 40 nm, full width half maximum (FWHM) increases (Shushama et al. [2017a,](#page-16-15) [2017b](#page-16-21); Farajollahi et al. [2015](#page-14-6)). It has been observed from the defnition of SNR and QF that with the increase in FWHM linearly decreasing angular SNR and angular QF which also evidenced from Table [1](#page-5-1).



<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Variation of minimum refectance vs incident angle characteristics curve for various thicknesses of gold

<span id="page-5-1"></span>



Figure [2](#page-5-0) has been considered to describe the effect of sensor performance parameters (sensor angular sensitivity, angular SNR, angular QF) on the change of gold layer thickness. Here, the modifcation of minimum refectance, SPR angle and FWHM have been calculated for  $n_{\text{eff}} = 1.33$  RIU (bare sensor, NO DNAs) and  $n_{\text{eff}} = 1.41$  RIU (sensing layer contains 1000 nM concentrated target DNAs) and fxed wavelength of 633 nm. The obtained outcomes are described in Table [1](#page-5-1) for gold layer thickness of  $d_{\text{An}} = 20$  nm, 30 nm, 40 nm, 50 nm and 60 nm, respectively. When the ERI increases from 1.33 RIU to 1.4[1](#page-5-1) RIU ( $\Delta n_{\text{eff}} = 0.08$  RIU), 2nd row in Table 1 shows that the SPR angle increases from 45.00 to 46.00 degree (change in SPR angle;  $\Delta\theta_{SPR} = 1.00$  Deg., and change in spectral width;  $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 12.50$  Deg.) at  $d_{Au} = 20$  nm, 3rd row in Table [1](#page-5-1) shows that the SPR angle shifts from 57.94 to 63.94 degree (change in SPR angle;  $\Delta\theta_{SPR} = 6.00$  Deg., and change in spectral width; $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 11.80$  Deg.) at  $d_{Au} = 30$  nm, 4th row in Table [1](#page-5-1) shows that the SPR angle shifts from 57.56 to 64.28 degree (change in SPR angle; $\Delta\theta_{SPR} = 6.72$  Deg., and change in spectral width; $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.10$  $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.10$  $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.10$  Deg.) at  $d_{Au} = 40$  nm, 5th row in Table 1 shows that the SPR angle shifts from 57.52 to 64.25 degree (change in SPR angle; $\Delta\theta_{SPR} = 6.69$  Deg., and change in spectral width; $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.50$  $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.50$  $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 10.50$  Deg.) at  $d_{Au} = 50$  nm and 6th row in Table 1

shows that the SPR angle shifts from 57.5800 to 64.2300 degree (change in SPR angle;  $\Delta\theta_{\text{SPR}} = 6.65 \text{ Deg}$ , and change in spectral width; $\Delta\theta_{0.5} = 11.30 \text{ Deg}$ .) at  $d_{Au} = 60 \text{ nm}$ , respectively. The modifcation of minimum refectance, SPR angle and spectral width have been summarized in Table [1](#page-5-1) for diferent gold layer thickness with monolayer of graphene and  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$ .

It is professed from Table [1](#page-5-1) that the maximum angular sensitivity, angular SNR and angular QF and lowest changed minimum refractive index have been attainable at 40 nm. A perfect sensor must have a sensitivity, angular SNR, QF as high as possible with lowest minimum refectance. However, to maintain high sensitivity along with both SNR and QF, we have well thought-out of 40 nm all over the study.

Secondly in this section, the optimization of the number of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene are analyzed by keeping optimized thickness of gold layer equals to 40 nm. Firstly, the impact of addition of graphene on angular sensitivity, angular SNR and angular QF has been numerically discussed. The number of graphene layers have momentous infuences in the enhanced performance and upgrading of angular sensitivity for the raised SPR sensor. Hence, we look into the fuctuation of refractive index for diferent graphene layers in Fig. [6](#page-12-0) where MoS<sub>2</sub> layers kept constant to one  $(M=1)$  to ensure how much graphene layer can alone play impact on sensor performance. The number of carrier changes with the introduction of electron-rich DNA molecules in the graphene layer, which leads to the variation of the wave vector (Shushama et al. [2017a\)](#page-16-15), fnally a variation in SPR angle is happened.

Here in Fig. [3,](#page-7-0) we determine how SPR angle shifts with the addition of graphene layers, we have enumerated SPR curves for several layers of graphene at a constant wavelength of 633 nm after the addition of 1000 nM target-DNAs molecules (sensor, present both water and target DNAs). The results are in Fig.  $3(a)$  $3(a)$  and (b). The momentous right move of SPR angle is a symbol of acknowledgment proper orientation of tangible mutated sequence interaction with probe DNAs, as well as that clarifes the sensing of DNA-DNA hybridization (Shushama et al. [2017a](#page-16-15), [2017b;](#page-16-21) O'Brien et al. [2014](#page-16-16); Luo et al. [2016](#page-16-17); Maurya et al. [2015a;](#page-16-18) Rahman et al. [2017b;](#page-16-19) Hossain and Rana [2016](#page-15-21), [2015b\)](#page-15-22). We determine the angular sensitivity (S), angular SNR and angular Q.F; these outcomes are presented in Table [2](#page-8-0), which focuses the diference on performance parameters. It is observed from Table [2,](#page-8-0) It is possible to enrich the angular sensitivity by including graphene layers. For these confgurations, we determined  $\Delta n_s = 0.08$  by incorporating Eq. [\(8](#page-3-2)) when 1000 nM complementary target DNA is present in the sensor.

Also, it is realized from Table [2](#page-8-0) that the SPR angle moves toward more excellent value on the growth of the number of graphene layers (Hossain and Rana [2015b](#page-15-22)). This moving of resonance angle toward more prominent value alongside the expanded width of the refectance curve looks like the rampant variance in the SPR signal initiated by graphene coating onto metal flm (Hossain and Rana [2016](#page-15-21); Shushama et al. [2017b\)](#page-16-21). This extraordinary variance in the SPR curve at long last outcomes in the up-gradation of sensitivity (Rahman et al. [2017a\)](#page-16-6). This exalt sensitivity happens as a result of the moving of  $\theta_{SPR}$ , that is because of the absorption ability of biomolecules (Hossain et al. [2015](#page-15-18)), high fuorescence quenching ability of graphene (Rana et al. [2015\)](#page-16-14). Furthermore, Table [2](#page-8-0) represents the evaluated outcomes for angular SNR and QF for graphene based ofered SPR sensor. It is sure from Table [2](#page-8-0) that angular SNR and QF are reducing slowly because of the increasing graphene layer of the biosensors.

Now, we evaluate the optimization of graphene layers which secures high angular sensitivity along with enhance angular SNR and QF of the ofered SPR optical sensor by change the layers of graphene from 1 to 10. As shown in Fig. [4](#page-9-0), the elevated sensitivity  $\&$  SNR



<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Fig. 3** SPR curve for diferent graphene layers **a** before absorption of DNAs, **b** After absorption of 1000 nM complementary target DNAs (ctDNAs)

as well as sensitivity  $\&$  QF can be attained at the time when the number of the graphene layer is in between 4 and 5. Therefore, we choose the optimum graphene layer as 4 in the proposed SPR biosensor to ensure also fabrication simplicity. Nevertheless, they are yet acceptable for the sensing of DNA-DNA hybridization.

In analogous way, the impact of adding  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  on the performance parameters are analyzed and optimized in terms of angular SNR, sensitivity (S), and angular QF. These results are also shown in Fig. [5](#page-10-0) and tabulated in Table [3.](#page-11-0) Hence from the close observation of Fig. [6](#page-12-0), the maximum angular sensitivity with angular SNR as well as angular QF with angular SNR can be attained at the time when the number of the  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  layer is 3. Therefore, we choose the optimum  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  layer as 3 in the proposed SPR biosensor. Now, the performance parameters are analyzed and measured in terms of angular SNR, sensitivity (S), and angular QF for our optimized structure (tetra layers of graphene and try layers of



<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Table 2** Sensitivity (S), SNR and QF for various graphene layers

Table 2 Sensitivity (S), SNR and QF for various graphene layers



<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 4** Variation of angular sensitivity (blue color), angular SNR (red color) and angular QF(green color) as the function of graphene layers (solid line). (Color fgure online)

 $MoS<sub>2</sub>$ ). We calculated for tetra layers of graphene and try layers of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  that SPR angle and spectral width point 67.13 Deg. and 59.54 Deg., respectively, for bare sensor (black line) and 77.53 Deg. and 67.18 Deg., respectively after adsorption of 1000 nM target DNAs molecules at operating wavelength of 633 nm. By using  $G=4$  and  $M=3$ , we have obtained the alteration of SPR angle and the change of spectral width 10.40 degree and 7.64 Deg., respectively. For this optimization confguration, the calculated angular sensitivity, SNR and QF are 130 Deg./RIU, 1.37 and 17.02 RIU−1. This improved performance happens by reason of the changing of  $\theta_{SPR}$ , which is attributable to the adsorption capability of graphene (Filion-Côté et al. [2014\)](#page-15-7) and high fluorescence quenching capability of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$ (Hossain et al. [2019c\)](#page-15-10). It is obvious from this study that SNR and QF are lessening slowly owing to the increase of biosensor layers. Though, the angular SNR and QF are reduced as a consequence of their kith and kin to spectral width, nevertheless they are satisfactory for the sensing of DNA-DNA hybridization in where angular sensitivity is the important issue.

### **5 DNA hybridization detection approach**

In this subsection, the DNA Hybridization Detection Approach has been described in detail, the component, where pDNAs is detected by the offered  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene-based SPR$ sensor, is appeared in Fig. [1](#page-2-0). In Fig. [7,](#page-12-1) an optical system consisting five-layers and individual SPR curves previously (blue line) and after (red line) accessment of probe DNA (pDNA) are appeared. The outcome shows that the SPR angle is 67.13 degree in the case of bare sensor and 71.19 degree after addition of pDNAs.

On account of the modifcation of the concentration of detecting layer, the efective refractive index (ERI) is additionally varied as per Eq. [\(8](#page-3-2)). Since the efective refractive index (ERI) transforms, it needs adjustment in SPR condition. The SPR angle is right shifted by 4.04 degree due to the addition of 1000 nM pDNAs shown in Fig. [7](#page-12-1). This



<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Fig. 5** SPR curve for different MoS<sub>2</sub> layers-based sensor **a** before absorption of DNAs, **b** after absorption of 1000 nM complementary target DNAs (ctDNAs) of 633 nm operating wavelength

outcome surely be acknowledged by the dependence of SPR angle on pDNAs and hybridization of the ctDNAs (Saha et al. [2019a](#page-16-1)).

During the occasion when two single-stranded complementary target DNAs (ctDNAs) (one is probe and other is complementary target) are bonded together and made a dualstranded DNAs helix structure, this is perceived as per a complementary hybridization event (Ebrahimi et al. [2018](#page-14-0)). The offered design clarifies the conduct to investigate the complementary hybridization between pDNAs and ctDNAs which are pre immobilized on MoS<sub>2</sub>/graphene surface. In addition, the proposed SPR device can likewise ready to separate between complementary and single-base-mismatched DNA molecules, which is signifcant for the characterization of changes and single-mismatched hybridization event.

The circumstance when diverse concentrated ctDNAs are included to 1000 nM pDNAs has been appeared in Fig. [8](#page-13-0) and individual color line demonstrates diverse concentrated ctDNAs molecules. According to the attained data, the SPR angle and minimum refectance have played a signifcant role to detect hybridization. These parameters will change



<span id="page-11-0"></span>**Table 3** Sensitivity (S), SNR and QF for various MoS<sub>2</sub> layers



<span id="page-12-0"></span>**Fig. 6** Variation of angular sensitivity (blue color), angular SNR (red color) and angular QF(green color) as the function of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  layers (dashed line)

<span id="page-12-1"></span>**Fig. 7** SPR response curve for the ofered design: the SPR angle is 67.13 Deg. in the case of bare sensor and 71.19 Deg. after the addition of 1000 nM pDNAs



when ctDNAs are joined to pDNAs. Judgment will be decided dependent on the alteration of SPR angle and minimum refectance. The SPR angle and minimum refectance are determined to 0.3028 & 77.53 degree for 1000 nM concentrated ctDNAs, 0.3203 & 77.87 degree for 1001 nM concentrated ctDNAs, 0. 3584 & 78.47 degree for 1010 nM concentrated ctDNAs, and 0. 4222  $\&$  79.18 degree for 1100 nM concentrated ctDNAs, respectively. The numerical information depicts strong reliance of the SPR angle on the concentration increase. The moving of the SPR angle happens due to the ctDNA molecules are responded with both of  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene surface and produced n-doping effect. The noteworthy increment of the SPR angle is an indication of probe-target matching in DNAs hybridization. In the study of detection approach, at first, the values of  $(\Delta R_{min}^{cIDNA-pDNA})$ *min* and  $(\Delta \theta_{SPR}^{ctDNA-pDNA})$ *min* have been calculated by using the Eq. set (9). And defning these values as threshold parameters.

<span id="page-13-0"></span>

$$
(\Delta R_{\min}^{(ctDNA-pDNA)}\right)_{\min} = R_{\min}^{(ctDNA=1000nM)} - R_{\min}^{(pDNA=1000nM)} = 0.3028 - 0.1702 = 0.1326
$$
\n(9a)

$$
(\Delta \theta_{\rm SPR}^{(ctDNA-pDNA)})_{\rm min} = \theta_{\rm SPR}^{(ctDNA=1000nM)} - \theta_{\rm SPR}^{(pDNA=1000nM)} = 6.34 \text{Deg}.
$$
 (9b)

Here,  $R_{min}^{pDNA}$  impersonates the minimum reflectance of probe legend, the minimum reflectance of complementary target legend is explained by  $R_{min}^{cIDNA}$ 

**b** *m*<sup>DDM</sup> delimitates the SPR angle of pDNAs and at last the SPR angle of sampling com-<br> *θ*<sub>SPR</sub> plementary target legend is represented by  $θ_{SPR}^{c tDMA}$ . Table [4](#page-13-1) displays explicit knowledge for when the ctDNAs is inaugurated inside the SPR sensor.

From the obtained outcomes, we can make some decision which is presented in Table [5](#page-14-7). On the of chance that the measured values are more prominent than or equivalent to these threshold parameters, at that point we noticed that Complementary DNA hybridization is detected. For explaining detection condition, we obtained a decision and tabulated in Table [5](#page-14-7). These values can truly provide a thought regarding fruitful interaction or the failed ones.

The principal condition in Table [5](#page-14-7) exposed the aimed state, second and third one needs cautious recheck for achieving wanted shape, the fourth condition afrms the probe is still free and except a target molecule.

<span id="page-13-1"></span>





<span id="page-14-7"></span>

# **6 Conclusion**

In the current work, we have illustrated a refractive index SPR sensor utilizing  $MoS<sub>2</sub>/gra$ phene coatings. The AIM has been utilized for the resolution of refected optical signal from the sensor consisted prism (SF11 glass), Gold (Au),  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$ , graphene-based configuration. The effect of adding  $MoS<sub>2</sub>$  and graphene layer have been investigated on factors of sensor sensitivity (S), signal to noise ratio (SNR), quality factor (QF), after then these layers are optimized. From the obtained results, we have observed, the angular sensitivity of the optimized structure-based sensor is increased to excellent value of 130 deg-RIU−1 with standard angular SNR of 1.37 and QF of 17.02 RIU−1. At last of this paper, an analysis for biomedical application specially for DNA-DNA hybridization has been described. This design capable to recognize the absorption of DNAs onto detecting layer using *ATRM*. The numerical analysis evidence that the dissimilarity of the SPR angle for mismatched DNA strands is very trivial, though that for complementary DNA strands is momentous, which is vital for accurate detection of DNA hybridization.

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