

PREPARATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF REDUCED GRAPHENE OXIDE IN ETHANOL/WATER SOLUTION BY y-RAY IRRADIATION

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1. Summary 2. Background 3. Experimental **4.** Results and discussion 5. Conclusion Acknowledgements References

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1. Summary

- Reduction of graphene oxide (GO) in ethanol/water solution in the presence of oxygen with γ -ray irradiation in the dose range of 0-250 kGy was studied;

GO suspension dispersed in the ethanol/water solution at a concentration of 1 mg/ml under ultrasonic, and then irradiated by y-ray in absorbed dose range of 0 – 250 kGy;

- The characteristic properties of GO and rGO samples were analyzed by UV-vis, FTIR, XRD, Raman spectra, TEM, TGA, measurement of contact angle and electrical conductivity;

- The electrical conductivity of rGO was increased from 2.4x10⁻² to 2.58 S/cm with a increase of the absorbed doses from 25 to 250 kGy, respectively;

- This study could be performed to produce a large quantity of the rGO from GO with a simple reduction process by gamma irradiation.



General information

- Graphene can be defined as a two-dimentional mono-layer of carbon atoms.
- There are lots of reduction routes of GO sheets to produce rGO with good improvement of the mechanical, electrical, optical and thermal properties and its characterization (Zhu, 2010; Hanifah, 2015).
- The reduction of GO sheets has been performed by the following ways such as chemical, chemico-physical, mechanical, solvothermal, electrochemical ones and so on (Stankovic,2007; Singh, 2011; Li, 2011; Loryuenyong, 2013; Wang, 2014; Shang, 2015,).
- Optimizing the preparation parameters of GO and rGO for large-scale production is evaluated and tested (Lee, 2013; Fathy, 2016).

Chemical reduction methods

- GO is usually synthesized via a oxidizing process of graphite using oxidants based on Hummers'method and modified Hummers'approach (Hummer, 1958; Si, 2008; Shahriary, 2014);
- The chemically selective reduction of GO in ethanol, ethyleneglycol, glycerol, and hydrazine hydrate is reported (Xu, 2014).
- Reduced graphene oxide paper is yielded by super-critical ethanol treatment (Liu, 2012).
- The radiation-induced oxidation of ethanol and methanol by hydrogen peroxide in aqueous solution is discussed previously (Burchill, 1970).

2. Background (cont.)

Chemico-physical reduction methods in combination with irradiation

Gamma-ray irradiation

- The reduced GO in the presence of silver nanoparticle and exposure to gamma irradiation is synthesized in an ionic liquid (Wang, 2013).

- Gamma ray irradiation effects on GO in an ethylenediamine aqueous solution is investigated (Li, 2014).

- Single-step preparation of meso-porous and reduced GO by gamma ray irradiation in gaseous phase is studied; and tuning the grade of graphene: Gamma ray irradiation of free-standing GO films in gaseous phase is also published from the authors' group (Dumee, 2014).

- A study on Raman spectroscopy is applied for few-layer graphene films with gamma-ray assisted irradiation (Kleut, 2014).

- The reduced GO in alcohol/water mixture under exposure to gamma ray in the absence of oxygen is considered as an effective and clean route to synthesize functionalized graphene (Zhang, 2012).

Electron beam irradiation

- Some studies on ion and electron irradiation induced effects in nano-structured materials, graphene oxide, graphite, graphene, carbon nanotubes, amorphous carbon have been carried out (Krasheninnikov, 2010; Chen, 2011; Cretu, 2012; Park, 2013; Iqbal, 2013; Kwon, 2014).

2. Background (cont.)

Thermal reduction methods in combination with ultrasonic or laser irradiation

GO can be reduced by microwaves in combination with thermal reduction (Chen, 2010; Hojati-Talemi, 2010), with solvothermal method (Tran, 2013).
Reduction of GO with laser irradiation (Trusovas, 2013), rGO from graphite oxide under ultraviolet irradiation (Ji, 2013), ultra-violet laser irradiation on graphene (Wakaya, 2012).

Doping nanoparticles

- Doping nanoparticles onto graphene or GO has been done for the following works (Brenner, 2012; Bi, 2013; Ortega-Amaya, 2015).

Nano-composites

A lot of research works have been reported on graphene or rGO and/or GO mixed with acrylic resins (Fabbri, 2012), polymer-nanocomposites (Potts, 2011; Young, 2012), polymer-composites (Fryczkowski, 2013), conductive polymer composite thin films (Xie, 2013), CMC nanocomposite superabsorbent hydrogels (Sung, 2016), end-functional polymers (Choi, 2010), filled polyethyleneterephthalate composites (Zhang, 2011)

2. Background (cont.)

Some applications of rGO

Some applications from graphene, GO or rGO have been extensively studied and developed as presented on

- A sample support in TEM (Pantelic, 2012);
- Highly efficient supports for metal nanocatalysts (He, 2014);
- Drug delivery system and tissue engineering (Goenka, 2014);
- Super-capacitor electrodes (Li, 2012);
- Chemical functionalization of graphene;
- And other applications (Kuila, 2012).

Objective of the presentation

The reduction of GO to rGO by γ - ray irradiation in ethanol/water solution in order to improve the electrical conductivity aiming at development and production of highly capable energy storage devices.

3. Experimental 1. Chemicals and materials

- Pure graphite flake
- 99.5% ethanol (EtOH)
- NaNO₃, H₂SO₄, KMnO₄, HCl, H₂O₂, and acetone, distilled water
- All chemicals were analytical reagents and used without further purification.
 - An alpha-cellulose membrane with 8-12 μm pore-size of Sartorius AG Company

2. Preparation of rGO

- The modified Hummer's method was used for the preparation of GO from graphite powder;

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3. Experimental (cont.)

rGO was prepared according to the following flow chart:



3. Experimental (cont.)

An proposed pathway of y-irradiated reduction of GO to rGO in EtOH/water





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3. Experimental (cont.)

Determination of GO reduction reaction into rGO by γirradiation in ethanol/water solution via analysis of their characteristic properties

- UV-vis curves
- FTIR spectra
- XRD patterns
- Raman spectra
- TEM images
- TGA plots
- Measurement of contact angle and electrical conductivity.

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4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 1. Analysis of UV-vis curves

- The UV-vis spectra of GO and rGO at 25 kGy with the shoulder peak around 290 nm due to $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition of C=O bonds;

- This peak disappeared after γ irradiated from 50 to 250 kGy. The strong absorption peak around 230 nm regarding to $\Pi \rightarrow \Pi^*$ transition of aromatic C – C bonds red-shifted to 264, 266, 268, 282 nm corresponding to the absorbed doses of 25, 50, 100, and 250 kGy, respectively;

- The sharply reduced GO was in the presence of ethanol/water in combination to the gamma ray irradiation at high absorbed dose;

- This meant that the electronic conjugation in the graphene sheets was re-arranged and partially retored.



Fig.1. UV-vis curves of GO, rGO-25 kGy, rGO-50 kGy, rGO-100 kGy, and 250 kGy

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4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)2. Analysis of FT-IR spectra

- The stretching vibration band of C=O at 1732 cm⁻¹ and of C-O of epoxy groups at 1124 - 1142 cm⁻¹ and OH at 3,450 cm⁻¹ in the GO spectrum was due to the high oxygen contained groups;

- As for rGO spectrum, the intensity of absorption bands involving in the oxygen containing groups decreased remarkably with the increasing the absorbed doses from 25 to 250 kGy;

- The absorption bands with a strong intensity appeared at 1615 cm⁻¹ attributed to the vibration of C=C band



Fig.2. FT-IR spectra of GO, rGO-25 kGy, rGO-50 kGy, rGO-100 kGy and rGO-250 kGy

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.) 3. Analysis of XRD patterns

- The bulk crystalline structure of rGO with a new broaden diffraction peak assigned to d-spacing 7.20 Å. 2θ =12.30⁰ for irradiating at 25 100 kGy; if increasing the absorbed dose to 250 kGy, a new peak rGO attributed to d-spacing 3.76 Å. 2θ =23.64⁰ appeared approximately to the XRD peak for the pristine graphite;

- The XRD peak of GO was found at d-spacing 8.13 Å. 2θ =10,87°, indicating the rGO had an inhomogeneous crystalline structure for rGO exposed to gamma ray irradiation in the ethanol/water.



Fig.3. XRD patterns of GO, rGO-25 kGy, rGO-50 kGy, rGO-100 kGy, and 250 kGy

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)4. Analysis of Raman spectra

- The Raman spectrum of the graphite displayed a G peak featured at 1581 cm⁻¹;

- The Raman spectrum of the GO in the presence of the G band enlarged and shifted to 1594 cm-1, and appearance of the D band at 1340 cm⁻¹ with a stronger intensity, indicating there was a size decrease of the inplane sp² domains caused by an oxidation;

- The Raman spectra of rGO also had both G and D bands at 1584 and 1352 cm⁻¹, respectively. But there was an increased D/G intensity ratio of the graphite compared to GO and rGO formed from y-ray irradiation with upward absorbed doses from 0 to 250 kGy;

- There was a decrease in the average size of the sp² domains upon a remarkable reduction of the GO exposed to gamma ray at high absorbed doses and a formation of the new graphitic domains.



Fig.4. Raman spectra of GO, rGO-25 kGy, rGO-50 kGy, rGO-100 kGy, and rGO-250 kGy

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)5. Analysis of Raman spectra (cont.)

No.Sample	Abs. dose, kGy	D band, cm ⁻¹	G band, cm ⁻¹	I_D/I_G ratio
Graphite	0	1,331.6	1,581.6	0.346
GO	0	1,339.5	1,590.8	1.036
rGO-25	25	1,331.6	1,596.0	1.181
rGO-50	50	1,327.6	1,588.1	1.177
rGO-100	100	1,324.2	1,590.5	1.172
rGO-250	250	1,324.2	1,599.2	1.238

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)6. Analysis of TEM images

GO suspension with a structure of stacked layers by a lot of GO layers in solutions observed in Fig. 5a.

- rGO suspension on highly exfoliated graphite observed in Fig. 5b & 5c. The higher transparent areas indicated the creation of thinner layer structure by a few exfoliated GO layers after γ -ray irradiation-induced reduction.



Fig.5. TEM images of GO (a) and rGO at 50 kGy (b) and 250 kGy γ-irradiation (c)

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4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)7. Analysis of TEM images

- A slight mass loss below 100 $^{\rm o}{\rm C}$, the loss of absorbed water in both GO and rGO.

- Increased heating from 100 to 300 9 C, a pyrolysis of labile oxygencontaining functional groups to produce CO, CO₂ and the other products. A vigorous gas release was resulted in large and rapid mass loss of GO;

- rGOs' were more thermally stable than GO. While graphite was very durable to the thermal impact to 600 °C;

- The incremental rGO with an increase of absorbed dose could made them more thermally stable. Their slow mass loss was detected when rGOs' were heated up to 600 0C, which only cracked carbon-structural network.



Fig.6. TGA plot of GO, rGO-25 kGy, rGO-50 kGy, rGO-100 kGy, and rGO-250 kGy

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4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.) 8. Measurement of contact angle

Table 2. Results of measuring contact angle of GO and rGO

No.	Sample	Abs. dose, kGy	Contact angle, degree
1	GO	0	58.2 ± 0.7
2	rGO-25	25	58.3 ± 0.7
3	rGO-50	50	61.2 ± 0.8
4	rGO-100	100	74.2 ± 0.8
5	rGO-250	250	106.4 ± 1.3

- The water droplet was dropped on the GO or rGO film, resulting in the contact angle of 58.2 \pm 0.7° for GO film and 106.4 \pm 1.3° for irradiation-reduced GO one at 250 kGy;

- The absorbed doses for irradiating GO increased with an increase in their contact angles. It meant that the GO was reduced remarkably to form rGO;

- As-resulted rGO films were non-wetting with water and became more hydrophobic than GO films

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (cont.)9. Measurement of electrical conductivity

Table 3. Results of measuring electrical conductivity of GO and rGO

Sample	Abs. dose, kGy	Resistivity, kΩ/sq	Elect. conductivity, S/cm
GO	0	-	0
rGO-25	25	210.0	0.02
rGO-50	50	20.0	0.22
rGO-100	100	8.5	1.23
rGO-250	250	2.0	2.58

- The electrical conductivity of reduced GO films according to the increased absorbed doses.

- The oxygen-containing functional groups in GO were possibly removed and partially restored defects in graphitic lattice structures of rGO

5. Conclusion

- GO can be simply reduced and exfoliated by gamma irradiation in alcohol/water solution to form rGO, which was less defected than that prepared by other method;

- The more transparent solution of rGO was obtained after γirradiation-induced reduction proved by TEM. In addition, the formation of rGO was confirmed by analysis of spectral records of UV-vis, FT-IR, and Raman; building up XRD pattern; plotting TGA; and measuring contact angle and electrical conductivity;

- This method is a promising way to reduce GO into rGO in an environmentally friendly solution by γ-ray irradiation for potential large-scale applications.

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