

ABSTRACT

Carbon-based nano-materials have undergone an explosion of interest, particularly Graphene Oxide (GO) and reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO). Both GO and rGO have appeared to be significant amidst all carbon-based materials with a wide range of applications. Hence, this research synthesized and characterized both optimized GO and rGO thin films by employing the improved and modified chemical vapour (hydrazine solution) methods to serve as a potential Hole Transport Layer (HTL) in Organic Photovoltaic (OPV) applications. GO is synthesized with varied parameters, including reaction time, degree of oxidation, and concentration of GO, while rGO is analyzed with various reduction temperatures and volumes of reduction agent. These parametric aspects are assessed to attain the optimization of both GO and rGO. Next, the optimized GO was deposited into thin films and is reduced to form rGO thin films. After that, a new compound called Azo Kojic (K-Azo) is developed. This compound is deposited on the surfaces of the optimized GO and rGO thin films. The effect of K-Azo compound on the GO and rGO surfaces is evaluated. Several characterization methods, such as Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), X-ray Diffraction (XRD), Ultra-Violet Spectroscopy (UV-Vis), Fourier Transform Infra-red Spectroscopy (FTIR), Raman Spectroscopy, and I-V Characteristics, has been performed accordingly onto the GO and rGO samples. SEM images of the GO revealed crumple and wrinkled structure due to exfoliation of graphite with adequate reaction time and degree of oxidation (potassium permanganate, KMnO_4), while the XRD pattern is identified as GO phase. The absorbance and vibrational information of GO was supported by UV-Vis and Raman Spectroscopy. The existing oxygen functional group seemed to be present in the GO samples, as determined via FTIR Spectroscopy. I-V characteristic showed improvement in electrical conductivity based to

the parametric of GO. Meanwhile, the SEM images of rGO exhibited folded structure due to loss of oxygen functional groups with decent reduction in both temperatures and volumes of reduction agent (hydrazine solution), whereas the XRD pattern identified the rGO phase. The absorbance and vibrational information of rGO is verified by UV-Vis and Raman Spectroscopy, while the remaining oxygen functional group in rGO samples is determined via FTIR Spectroscopy. Finally, I-V characteristic displayed enhancement in electrical conductivity based to the parametric of rGO. In conclusion, GO is formed with 4.5 g of KMnO_4 within 48 hours. In precise, the properties of GO appeared to be dependent on adequate reaction time and suitable degree of oxidation, while the properties of GO thin films are based on the concentration of GO solution, which is 8mg/ml. Reduction of GO thin films is achieved by altering the chemical method at 70 °C with 300 μl of hydrazine solution. This signified adequate reduction in both temperatures and volumes of reduction agent, which led to rGO thin films. In summation, the enhanced and modified chemical vapour a technique has been successfully developed rGO thin films from GO thin films. Finally, the presence of K-Azo compound enhanced the absorbance and electrical properties of both GO and rGO thin films which $4.07 \times 10^{-7} \text{ S/cm}$ and $1.10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ S/cm}$.

Keywords: Graphene oxide, reduced graphene oxide, synthesis, characterization

Sintesis dan Pencirian Grafene Oksida (GO) dan Grafene Oksida terturun (rGO) sebagai Lapisan Filem Nipis Pengangkutan Lubang (HTL) pada Sebatian Azo-Kojik untuk Aplikasi Fotovoltaiik Organik (OPV)

ABSTRAK

Bahan nano berasaskan karbon telah mendapat tarikan yang menarik terutama grafene oksida (GO) dan grafene oksida (rGO) terturun. GO dan rGO dianggap sebagai bahan penting di antara semua karbon yang berasaskan pelbagai aplikasi. Oleh itu, penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk mensintesis dan pencirian filem GO dan rGO yang tipis yang optimum dengan menggunakan kaedah ditambah baik dan wap kimia yang diubahsuai (kaedah larutan hidrazina) untuk Potensi Lapisan Pengangkutan Lubang (HTL) dalam aplikasi organik fotovoltaiik (OPV). GO disintesis oleh parameter yang berlainan antaranya masa reaksi, tahap pengoksidaan dan kepekatan cecair GO sementara rGO pula dihasilkan daripada parameter suhu pengurangan yang berbeza dan isipadu agen penurunan. Parameter ini dilakukan untuk mencapai pengoptimuman GO dan rGO. Seterusnya, pengoptimuman GO filem nipis diturunkan untuk membentuk filem nipis rGO. Di samping itu, sebatian baharu iaitu azo-kojik (K-Azo) telah diperkenalkan. Sebatian ini diterapkan pada permukaan teratas pengoptimuman filem GO dan rGO tipis. Oleh itu, kesan sebatian K-Azo di bahagian atas GO dan rGO telah dikaji. Teknik pencirian seperti Mikroskop Elektron Pengimbasan (SEM), Difraksi Sinar-X (XRD), Spektroskopi Ultra-Lembayung (UV-Vis), Spektroskopi Fourier Transform Infra-Merah (FTIR), Spektroskopi Raman dan pencirian I-V telah dilaksanakan di atas sampel GO dan rGO. Imej SEM dari GO menunjukkan struktur keruntuhan dan berkerut yang menghasilkan pengelupasan grafit dengan masa tindak balas yang mencukupi dan darjah pengoksidaan (kalium permanganat, KMnO_4) manakala corak XRD dikenal pasti sebagai fasa GO. Selain itu, penyerapan dan maklumat getaran GO disokong oleh UV-Vis dan Spektroskopi Raman. Di

samping itu, kumpulan berfungsi oksigen yang sedia ada wujud dalam sampel GO yang dikenalpasti oleh Spektroskopi FTIR. Ciri-ciri I-V menunjukkan peningkatan kekonduksian elektrik berdasarkan parametrik GO. Oleh itu, imej SEM rGO mempamerkan struktur terlipat disebabkan oleh kehilangan kumpulan berfungsi oksigen dengan suhu pengurangan yang baik dan isipadu agen pengurangan (larutan hidrazina) manakala pola XRD mengenal pasti fasa rGO. Penyerapan dan maklumat getaran rGO telah disahkan oleh Spektroskopi UV- Vis dan Raman. Selain itu, kumpulan berfungsi oksigen yang masih tinggal dalam sampel rGO dikenalpasti oleh Spektroskopi FTIR. Akhirnya, ciri I-V menunjukkan peningkatan kekonduksian elektrik berdasarkan parametrik rGO. Kesimpulannya, pembentukan GO dibentuk oleh 4.5 g KMnO_4 dengan 48 jam. Dalam erti kata lain, sifat-sifat GO bergantung pada masa tindak balas yang mencukupi dan tahap pengoksidaan, manakala sifat-sifat GO filem-filem tipis berdasarkan kepekatan larutan GO 8 mg/ml. Sementara itu, pengurangan filem tipis GO telah dicapai dengan kaedah kimia yang telah diubahsuai pada 70 °C dengan 300 μl larutan hidrazina. Ia menunjukkan bahawa suhu yang sesuai dan isipadu agen penurunan yang membawa kepada filem- filem nipis rGO. Secara ringkasnya, teknik wap kimia yang telah diperbaiki dan diubah suai telah berjaya dalam penyediaan filem tipis GO dan rGO. Akhirnya, kehadiran sebatian K-Azo meningkatkan penyerapan dan sifat-sifat elektrik GO dan rGO pada $4.07 \times 10^{-7} \text{ S/cm}$ dan $1.10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ S/cm}$.

Kata kunci: Grafene oksida, grafene oksida terturun, sintesis, pencirian