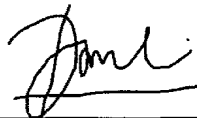


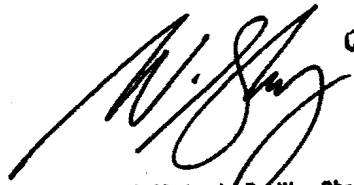
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

We hereby declare that we have checked this thesis and in our opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.



(Supervisor's Signature)

Full Name : Dr. Ramli Junid
Position : Lecturer
Date : 30/11/2020



Prof. Madya Iq. Dr. Wan Sharuzi Wan Harun
PhD, PEng, MFM, CEng MIMechE, PTech
Pensyarah
Fakulti Teknologi Kejuruteraan Mekanikal & Automatif
Universiti Malaysia Pahang
28600, Pekan, Pahang.
Tel : + 6 09 424 6338 Mobile : + 6 019 959 0039
E-mail : sharuzi@ump.edu.my Website : www.ump.edu.my

(Co-supervisor's Signature)

Full Name : Dr. Wan Sharuzi Wan Harun
Position : Associate Professor
Date : 30/11/2020



STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Muhammad Azim Anwar Bin Noor Hisham', written over a horizontal line.

(Student's Signature)

Full Name : MUHAMMAD AZIM ANWAR BIN NOOR HISHAM

ID Number : MMM17023

Date : 23 DECEMBER 2020

SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERISATION OF GRAPHENE AND ITS
CORROSION RESISTANCE ON MAGNESIUM ALLOYS

MUHAMMAD AZIM ANWAR BIN NOOR HISHAM

Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
for the award of the
Master of Science

College of Engineering
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG

JANUARY 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah Rabbil'Aalameen, All praises belong to Almighty Allah s.w.t. I believe there is no other word to express my gratitude to Almighty Allah s.w.t for His Blessing, Merciful and Rahmah in guiding me throughout all these tenure years, truly, without His blessing I wouldn't have made it this far. I'm truly blessed, Alhamdulillah.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my previous research supervisor, Tedi Kurniawan for his guidance, support, and encouragement during my Master of Science research. His dedications to research and insights greatly inspire me. I am sincerely grateful for his supervisions and guidance as well as providing useful information during this research period from the start to its end. I am truly grateful for his tolerance in guiding me on proofreading, and for his time spent to correct my mistakes. I would like also to extend my gratitude to Dr Ramli bin Junid as my new supervisor for his invaluable discussion, pieces of advice, suggestions and cooperation during my study. His knowledge on graphene has contributed a lot in my research.

I am also indebted toward the members of Structural and Material Degradation (SMD) research focus group for their willingness to share and exchange their knowledge with me. Especially, Dr Juliawati for sharing her knowledge and experienced during his studies in corrosion and alloy studies. Not to forget, a big of thanks to my co-supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr Wan Sharuzi bin Wan Harun for sharing his taught and guidance in making the publications paper.

My grateful thanks go to all my lab mates and members, who have provided me advice and helps in many ways which made my study in UMP pleasant and unforgettable. Sincerely thanks and acknowledge with a deep sense of reverence go to my corrosion team research group for their excellent co-operation, inspirations and supports during this research. A lot of thanks to my friends who offered me helps throughout this period in order to make this research and report writing successful.

Last but not least, I acknowledge my sincere gratitude and indebtedness to my family especially my parents for their love, understandings and sacrifice throughout my life. I cannot find the appropriate words that could properly describe my appreciation for their love, faith, devotion and continuous supports to me throughout my whole life.

Any omission in this brief acknowledgement does not mean lack of gratitude.

ABSTRAK

Magnesium sebagai salah satu logam struktur paling ringan amat digunakan dalam banyak aplikasi. Sifat biodegradasinya yang baik dan sifat mekanikalnya, aloi magnesium dianggap sebagai bahan yang ideal untuk stent kardiovaskular. Kemosrosis pesat dalam persekitaran sekeliling manusia dan bio-kompatibiliti yang lemah telah menghadkan penggunaannya untuk biomaterial tersebut. Struktur magnesium yang padat dengan bentuk heksagonnya telah menurunkan kemulurannya dan perlindungan karat yang rendah dalam elektrolit akueus. Bagi memaksimumkan perlindungan karat magnesium dan biokompatibilitinya, terdapat kaedah celupan telah dilakukan ke atasnya dengan membina lapisan multilayer. Kaedah perlindungan lapisan karat ini merupakan suatu kaedah yang mudah dan sangat menguntungkan. Pada masa kini, grafin telah muncul dan dikenali sebagai salah satu bahan terkuat, nipis, dan paling ringan di dunia yang sangat sesuai digunakan sebagai bahan lapisan untuk meningkatkan ketahanan karat. Terdapat banyak kaedah yang boleh digunakan dalam menghasilkan grafin tetapi tidak semua kaedah tersebut mampu menghasilkan grafin dalam kuantiti yang banyak. Kaedah yang digunakan untuk pengeluaran skala besar grafin berkualiti biasanya memerlukan kos yang tinggi, penyediaan yang merbahaya dan sukar dan memerlukan tenaga yang tinggi. Pengelupasan elektrokimia dipercayai salah satu kaedah yang berpotensi untuk mengatasi masalah ini kerana ia mudah dilakukan dengan kos rendah dan tidak merbahaya. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai kesan pelarut yang berlainan dalam proses sonikasi dalam pembentukan grafin dari pengelupasan grafit elektrokimia. Secara ringkasnya, rod grafit diceraikan menjadi serpihan kecil oleh proses elektrokimia dengan amonium sulfat sebagai elektrolit garam. Serbuk tersebut kemudian diletakkan di bawah dua pelarut yang berbeza, iaitu dimethylformamide (DMF) dan larutan berair untuk membentuk grafin. Keputusan mendapati bahawa struktur grafin ini serupa diperolehi daripada kedua-dua jenis pelarut. Struktur mikro yang terkelupas telah dilihat secara teliti di bawah pencirian Mikroskop Imbasan Elektron (FESEM) dan Pencirian Mikroskopi Elektron Transmisi (TEM). Grafin yang berjaya dihasilkan kemudiannya melapisi magnesium dengan menggunakan kaedah celupan bagi menguji sifat-sifat karat. Walau bagaimanapun, jumlah grafin yang dihasilkan berbeza kerana perbezaan dalam kestabilan grafin. Grafin lebih stabil dalam pelarut DMF berbanding larutan berair yang didapati dalam ujian spektroskop UV-Vis. Larutan akueus dapat membolehkan tindak balas yang dapat diubah yang dapat mengubah grafit oksida dari grafin akibat adanya komponen hidroksil dalam larutan berair. Pelarut DMF digunakan untuk membantu dalam mencapai objektif kedua dengan mengkaji kesan salutan grafin terhadap sifat karatan magnesium. Lengkung pembelauan potensiostatik potensiometer menunjukkan bahawa lapisan grafin telah meningkatkan ketahanan karat pada aloi magnesium. 7 lapisan grafin memberikan hasil kadar ketahanan karat yang ideal dengan jumlah 0.2944 mA/cm^2 , sementara 5 lapisan dan 9 lapisan masing-masing menunjukkan 2.234 mA/cm^2 dan 0.9940 mA/cm^2 . Kesimpulannya, hasil penyelidikan ini dapat membuktikan bahawa lapisan grafin pada aloi magnesium AZ31B mampu meningkatkan lapisan dan kakisan magnesium itu sendiri.

ABSTRACT

Magnesium is one of the lightest structural metal is greatly used in many applications. Due to its good biodegradability and mechanical properties, magnesium alloys are considered as the ideal candidate for the cardiovascular stents. The rapid degradation in human physiological environment and the poor biocompatibility seriously limit its application for biomaterials. Its hexagonal close packed structure of magnesium has lowered the ductility of it and it is poor corrosion resistance in aqueous electrolyte. In order to maximize the corrosion resistance of magnesium, some research had be done on it as multilayer coating has carry out by dip coating method. Coating a layer of high corrosion resistance material on it is one of the most simple and economic way. Graphene has emerged and known as one of the strongest, thinnest, and lightest material in the world which is very suitable used as a coating material to improve corrosion resistance of magnesium. There are many methods can be used in synthesising graphene but not all could be used in producing it in bulk quantities. The method used for huge scale of high quality graphene production usually demands high costing, high-skilled and requires high energy. Electrochemical exfoliation is believed to be one of the potential method to overcome this problem as it is easy to conduct at low. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of different solvents in sonication process on the formation of graphene from the electrochemical exfoliation of graphite. Graphite rod was exfoliated by electrochemical process with ammonium sulfate as salt-electrolyte. The exfoliated powder then sonicated under two different solvents, which are dimethylformamide (DMF) and aqueous solution to form graphene. Both type of solvent produced similar structure of graphene. The microstructures of exfoliated graphene were carefully characterized under field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) characterization. The successful graphene produced was then coated by using dip-coating method to test the corrosion properties of magnesium. The amount of graphene produced was different due to the differences in graphene stability. Graphene is more stable in DMF solvents compared to the aqueous solution as resulted in UV-Vis Spectroscope. The aqueous solution can allow the reversible reaction that can reform graphite oxide from graphene due to the existence of hydroxyl component in the aqueous solution. The DMF solvents used to help in achieving the second objective by study the effect of graphene coating on corrosion properties of magnesium. The potentiodynamic polarization curve showed that the coating of graphene had improved the corrosion resistance of magnesium alloy. The 7 layers of coating presents an ideal result of corrosion rate with 0.2944 mA/cm^2 , while 5 layers and 9 layers shows 2.234 mA/cm^2 and 0.9940 mA/cm^2 respectively. In conclusion, this research was able to prove that the graphene coating on the magnesium AZ31B alloy was able to increase the graphene coating and corrosion properties of the magnesium itself.

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