

The Effect of dispersion state of Graphene for the study of Transport properties of Epoxy-Graphene nano composites

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ABSTRACT

The alternate substitute for traditional epoxy reinforcement with graphene have attracted graphene nano composites in advanced applications. In this paper the dispersion of graphene in to epoxy system by using sonication as well as dispersion states and reaggregation properties have been studied. The reaggregation property was measured by using UV spectroscopy. The decrease in light transmittance was about 80.6 to 60.3% in liquid epoxy after 10mins. which mainly depends on the sonication time and temperature.

Introduction

The deteriorating unique and exceptional properties of graphene [1]-[2]. which could decrease the purity of graphene was identified from the contamination with other additives required for usefulness of graphene. The covalent functionalization and noncovalent surface modification of graphene can be done by dispersion retaining the original structure and other properties[3] By covering with polymer the dispersion state of graphene surface [4]-[5] can be controlled.

The simplest method to disperse graphene using solvents has been widely applicable. The dispersion of graphene in 1-propanol was showed by Choi et al. [5] Before curing the dispersion of graphene in solvents such as acetone [6]-[7], THF [7]-[8], and DMF [9]-[10]. require another step to remove the solvents, which is undesirable due hazardous effects of are expensive and toxic during lengthy processing durations, leading to implications in health and nature[11]-[15].

In this paper effect of dispersion state of graphene and other properties in epoxy, graphene nanocomposites have been studied.

Sample Preparation

The weighed samples of graphene (0.01 mg) were dispersed by mixing with hand for 15 s gently and then sonicated in bath sonicator for uniform dispersion in epoxy system.

For studying the influence of sonication time on the dispersibility the different concentrations such as 0.5 wt% were sonicated for different time intervals (10-50min) at 20°C. The reaggregation properties of the nanocomposites sample(0.5wt%) were studied by sonicating for half an hour and preserving the samples for 10days

The influence of concentration of graphene on the dispersability was studied by preparing samples of various graphene concentration (0.5 to 1.5wt%) in hardener, as well as epoxy-hardner systems The influence of temperature on sonication and the dispersibility of 0.5wt% samples were obtained by sonicating for 20mins at different temperatures(20-60o c)

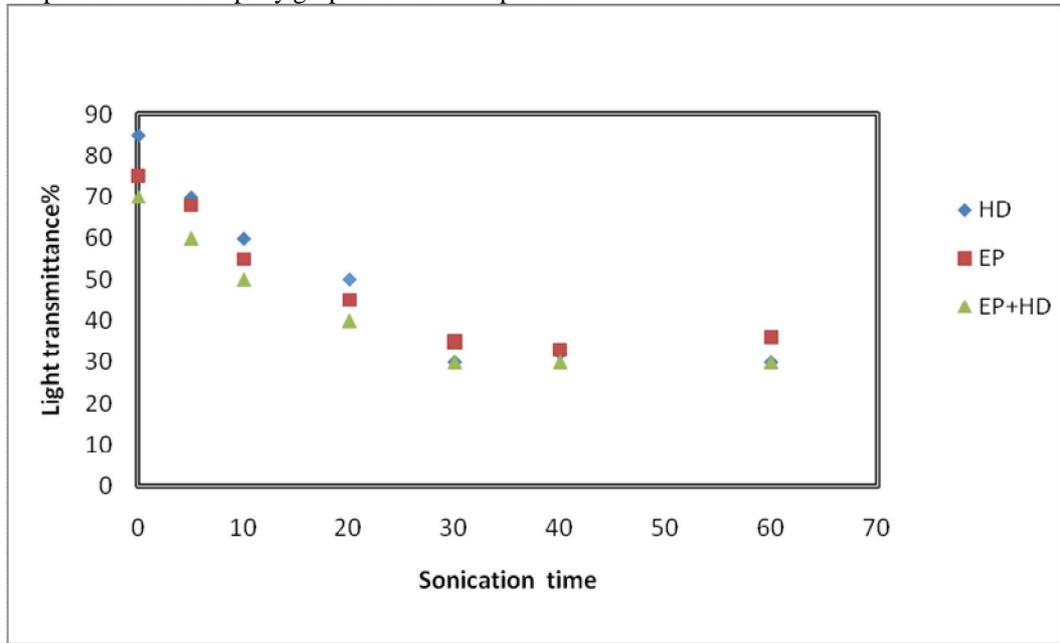
The reaggregation of graphene in epoxy system was studied by a series of controlled experiments using light transmittance in the UV-visible spectroscopy.

The fixed wavelength of 450 nm were recorded as transmittance for five graphene dispersions versus blank EP and other epoxy graphene nanocomposites The dispersion state of graphene in EP, HD, and EP + HD. were also systematically shown by plotting the graph of transmittance versus sonication time

Results

The high efficiency of dispersion of graphene in polymer matrix was obtained by sonication

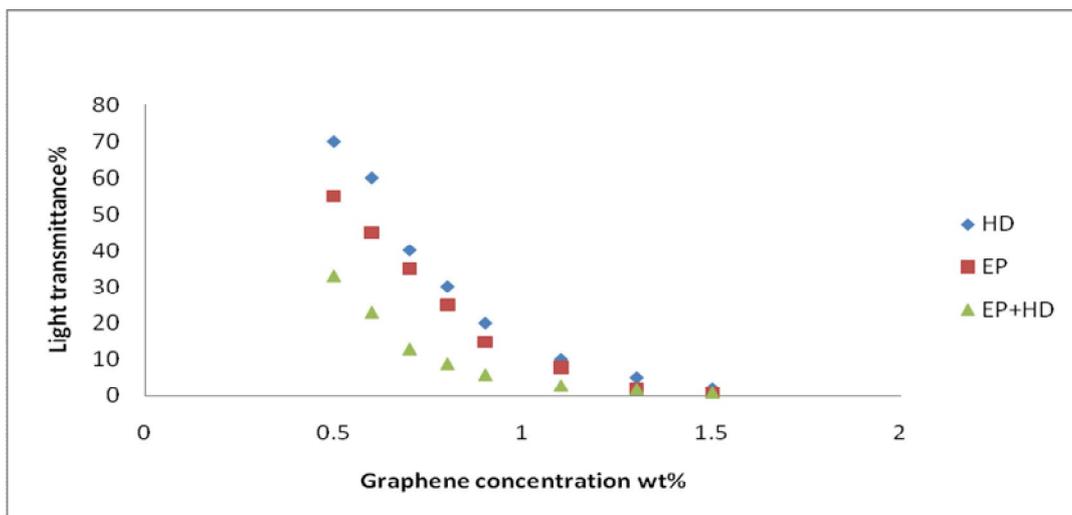
The light transmittance of graphene dispersion against sonication time is shown in Figure 1. The graphene dispersion in HD shows a decrease in the transmittance within the first 5 mins. The lowered light absorbance of graphene aggregates due to shielding effect before sonication. The higher light absorption or lower light transmittance of the graphene aggregates was observed after sonication. The decrease in light transmittance was observed for the graphene dispersion is due to high viscosity of epoxy system. The decrease in transmittance was 5 % in EP, 20 % in HD, and 25% for graphene dispersion in other epoxy graphene nanocomposites



Light transmittance of graphene dispersion against sonication time (graphene concentration: 0.5 wt%).

The curing of epoxy resin mixed with hardener showed non uniform dispersion with lower transmittance. The resin started to cure immediately after mixing liquid resin with hardener. The limited time for graphene dispersion lead to gelling and curing process. The uniformly dispersion of graphene was not depend on. limited time. Therefore, it is desirable select epoxy resin with longer curing time for preparing epoxy/graphene nanocomposites.

The light transmittance decreased with the decrease of agglomerate/flake size at low concentration. Figure 2 shows the measured light transmittance against concentration. The light transmittance decreased with the increase of concentration.



Light transmittance of graphene dispersion against graphene concentration

Conclusion

The dispersion of graphene in matrix depends on reaggregation, with the passage of time, for the performance of nanocomposites. The dispersion of graphene significantly contribute to temperature and viscosity. The 0.5 wt% of graphene disperse easily at high temperature in epoxy graphene nanocomposites yielded lower reaggregation profile (size and trend).

Acknowledgement & Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare. All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is original work and is not under review at any other publication

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