Original Article

Graphene Oxide: Synthesis, Characterization, And Applications In Energy Storage

Shweta*[1] , Rajesh Kumar[2] , Sunil kumar pandey[3]

[1]Department of Physics, NIET, Nimes University Rajasthan Jaipur.
[2]Department of Physics, NIET, Nimes University Rajasthan Jaipur.
[3]Department of Physics, NIET, Nimes University Rajasthan Jaipur.
Jaipur-303121, India.
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Abstract

A single sheet of graphene oxide known as graphene oxide (GO) has demonstrated great promise for energy conversion and storage applications. It has drawn interest due to its unique structure and improved qualities, which make it appropriate for application in a range of energy conversion and storage systems. The potential applications of GO and its composites in water electrolyzers, fuel cells, batteries, and supercapacitors have been investigated. According to recent studies, GO has the ability to completely transform the supercapacitor technology by providing better energy storage capacities, increased performance, and affordable solutions. Because of its two-dimensional structure, exceptional electrical conductivity, large surface area, and superior mechanical strength, graphene oxide (GO) is a great option for applications that need high power output or short bursts of energy. Moreover, high-capacity energy storage in lithium-ion batteries and supercapacitors has been achieved through the use of reduced graphene oxide (rGO) nanocomposites, underscoring the potential of graphene-based materials in energy storage applications. GO's cost-effectiveness and wide availability make it a good substitute for pricey materials, which increases its appeal for energy storage applications. Better capacitance and charge-discharge rates result from the precise controllable characteristics of graphene oxide on the electrode's surface. To sum up, GO has great potential to advance energy storage technologies by providing improved performance and affordable options.

Keywords: Graphene Oxide, Energy Storage, Supercapacitors, Nanomaterial, Electrochemical Applications.

I. Introduction

Graphene oxide (GO) has emerged as a pivotal nanomaterial with remarkable properties, setting the stage for transformative advancements in various scientific and technological domains. A single-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice, GO possesses unique characteristics such as high surface area, excellent mechanical strength, and exceptional electrical conductivity. This section provides a concise overview of graphene oxide, shedding light on its fundamental structure and properties. The importance of graphene oxide in the realm of energy storage cannot be overstated. As the world transitions towards sustainable energy solutions, the demand for efficient and high-performing energy storage systems is escalating. Graphene oxide, owing to its outstanding electrical and structural attributes, has become a focal point in the development of cutting-edge energy storage technologies. Its applications range from lithium-ion batteries to supercapacitors, promising enhanced performance and longevity. The scope of this article encompasses a comprehensive exploration of the synthesis methodologies employed for graphene oxide, a detailed analysis of its structural and morphological characteristics through various characterization techniques, and an in-depth examination of its applications in energy storage systems. By delving into these aspects, this article aims to provide a holistic understanding of graphene oxide and its pivotal role in shaping the future of energy storage technologies.

II. Synthesis of Graphene Oxide

Synthesis Method	Description
Hummers Method	Uses potassium permanganate and strong acids for oxidizing graphite.

Improved Hummers Method	An improved version of the Hummers method that uses K2FeO4 instead of KMnO4.
Brodie Technique	Uses metal chlorates and is an alternate method to the Hummers method.
Microwave-Assisted Synthesis	Utilizes microwave radiation to produce graphene oxide in a more effective and expedient way.
Green Synthesis Techniques	Gaining popularity due to their use of environmentally friendly components and potential to lessen their influence on the environment.
Tour Method	A wet chemical method for producing large amounts of graphene oxide.

Table 1: Synthesis methods

(Source: Korkmaz and Kariper, 2020, p. 547)

It is possible to generate graphene oxide by a number of various processes, and it is a wonderful chemical that has a wide range of uses. Production of graphene oxide is achievable. Potassium permanganate and strong acids are used in the conventional technique, which is sometimes referred to as the Hummers method, for the aim of oxidizing graphite. Using the Improved Hummers approach, this strategy is improved and made more successful. This is accomplished by the use of the technique. In the context of a scenario that is subject to controlled conditions, the Brodie technique is an alternate method that makes use of metal chlorates (Ullah et al. 2020). A significant amount of reliance is placed on the existence of necessary components in the process of synthesis. There exists a connection between the selection of graphite precursor, which may include natural graphite, and the quality of graphene oxide that is created throughout the manufacturing process. It is generally agreed that some oxidizing agents, such as potassium permanganate and sulfuric acid, are components that are absolutely necessary (Ikram et al. 2020). Two of the most important aspects of the reaction that is responsible for determining the result are the temperature and the length of time that has passed. When it comes to synthesis, an increasing number of individuals are showing an interest in technologies that are not only scalable but also helpful to the environment. Green synthesis techniques are gaining popularity as a result of their use of environmentally friendly components and their potential to lessen their influence on the environment. Microwave-assisted synthesis is a method that utilizes microwave radiation to accomplish the goal of producing graphene oxide in a more effective and expedient way (Jeon et al. 2020). This method is responsible for the acceleration of the creation of graphene oxide. To put it another way, the synthesis of graphene oxide may be performed via the use of a few different processes, each of which has some important differences within it. New technologies that place a focus on efficiency and sustainability are bringing the manufacturing of graphene oxide closer to being environmentally friendly. This is because of the fact that these technologies are putting an emphasis on efficiency. It is of the utmost importance to choose the suitable technique and to take into account the crucial pieces of information.

III. Characterization Techniques

The many characteristics of graphene oxide are being examined by scientists with the help of a broad variety of techniques in order to get an all-encompassing comprehension of the material. Through the use of methods such as Fourier transform infrared, Raman, and ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy, they investigate the structure of graphene oxide (Ashery et al. 2021). The objective of these methods is to function as specialized cameras since they are able to record the arrangement of atoms and molecules inside the material. In order to ascertain the distance that occurs between these atoms, it is possible to make use of a separate apparatus that is known as X-ray diffraction (XRD), which offers further information about the structure. Scientists are now able to characterize the look of graphene oxide as a result of the use of morphological characterisation methodologies.

Characterization Technique	Description

Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR)	Used to investigate the structure of graphene oxide by analyzing its functional groups and chemical bonds.
Raman Spectroscopy	Provides information about the quality and structural characteristics of graphene oxide.
Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis)	Used to study the electronic structure and optical properties of graphene oxide.
X-ray Diffraction (XRD)	Provides information about the distance between atoms and the crystalline structure of graphene oxide.
Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)	Allows for nanoscale imaging of the material, providing a comprehensive view of its surface and structure.
Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	Used to analyze the surface of graphene oxide, but provides less detailed images compared to TEM.
Brunauer–Emmett–Teller Analysis (BET Analysis)	Used to determine the surface area of graphene oxide, providing insights into its porosity and adsorption properties.
Pore Size Distribution Analysis	Provides information about the distribution of pore sizes in the material, offering insights into its structural characteristics.

Table 2: Characterization Technique

(Source: Olabi et al. 2021, p. 236)

It is possible to draw parallels between it and capturing a succession of little images. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), which zooms in even further to display the material at the nanoscale, gives a more comprehensive image of the surface than scanning electron microscopy (SEM), which is the microscope that is used to analyze the surface. TEM is also known as transmission electron microscopy (Saeed et al. 2020). Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance to quickly get acquainted with the surface characteristics. Brunauer–Emmett–Teller analysis, sometimes known as BET analysis, is a method that scientists use in order to determine the surface area. This method is comparable to the way that is used in the process of determining the quantity of space that is available on the surface. By doing an investigation of the pore size distribution of the substance, one may be able to get a better understanding of the spaces and voids that are present in a material. As per Skákalová and Kaiser (2021), in a method that is more basic, the process of characterizing graphene oxide entails the use of specialized instruments and cameras in order to observe its structure, get a grasp of its surface characteristics, and gain close-up views of it. Similar to the process of discovering and deciphering the secrets of this substance, it is conceivable for science to use the potential of this extraordinary material for a broad range of applications. This is akin to the process of discovering information about this substance.

IV. Properties of Graphene Oxide

Research is now being conducted by scientists to investigate the outstanding properties that graphene oxide has. Graphene oxide is a chemical that possesses a great deal of promise.

Characteristic	Description
Optical Transparency	Graphene oxide exhibits high optical transparency, making it suitable for applications requiring transparent materials.
Heat Conductivity	It possesses the best heat conductivity at room temperature, indicating its potential for thermal management applications.
Flexibility	Despite its strength, graphene oxide is flexible, allowing it to be used in various flexible electronic and mechanical devices.
Mechanical Strength	Graphene oxide is remarkably robust, demonstrating exceptional mechanical properties even at the nanoscale.
Thermal Conductivity	The material has remarkable thermal conductivity, making it useful in diverse applications requiring efficient heat transfer.
Electrical Conductivity	As a semiconductor, graphene oxide can conduct electricity, offering potential for controlling electrical currents.
Surface Chemistry	The material's surface chemistry and reactivity play a crucial role in its behavior and interactions with other substances.
Functional Groups	The oxygen-containing functional groups bound to graphene oxide significantly influence its chemical properties and interactions.

Table 3: Characteristics of Graphene Oxide
(Source: Sajid and Płotka-Wasylka 2020, p. 127)

By conducting an investigation into the chemical properties of the functional groups that are bound to graphene oxide, the objective of this study is to get a more comprehensive comprehension of the features of these groups. They have an effect on the substance in a manner that is comparable to the way in which sections that include oxygen have an impact on the interactions that the material has with other molecules. In other words, these groups have an effect on the substance. When it comes to surface chemistry and reactivity, having knowledge of how it behaves and responds in varied circumstances is equivalent to having knowledge of how it behaves (Aadil et al. 2020). When it comes to its mechanical properties, graphene oxide is so robust that it amazes us; just think of it as being very long-lasting, even on the tiniest scale. As a matter of fact, we find this to be rather astonishing. This specific physical attribute is one of the ones that we find to be very astounding. An further characteristic that demonstrates how well the material is able to transport heat from one point to another is the thermal conductivity of the material. Because of the remarkable thermal properties that it has, graphene oxide is useful in a wide range of diverse applications from a number of different fields (Azzaz et al. 2020). Our next chat will be about the characteristics of electricity, so stay tuned for that! Because it is a semiconductor and conducts electricity, graphene oxide has the potential to exert control over the flow of electrical currents. This is because graphene oxide is transparent. This power is possessed by graphene oxide. Fragments in the structure, on the other hand, have the potential to obstruct these electrical qualities; in other words, they may act as minute barriers to the free flow of information throughout the system. We are able to have a comprehensive grasp of the potential that graphene oxide has in terms of the development of cutting-edge technology and the production of innovative applications as a result of the study that has been conducted on these features (Chatterjee et al. 2020). This knowledge is analogous to getting an understanding of the language of a super-material, which may also lead to exciting chances in the fields of technology and research. Obtaining this information is essential.

V. Applications in Energy Storage

As a result of the remarkable features that it has, graphene oxide has the potential to be used in a broad variety of applications within the realm of energy storage. Specifically, it may be utilized to improve the efficiency of batteries and supercapacitors, amongst other uses. Graphene oxide is a component that may be found in both the anode and cathode materials of lithium-ion batteries (Naeini et al. 2022). These batteries are an ideal option for a broad range of electronic devices. Additionally, graphene oxide is used in the manufacture of these. It is important to take into account the material that assists in the process of storing and releasing energy, which ultimately results in an increase in the lifespan of our goods and an improvement in their level of performance. Additionally, graphene oxide is very helpful for supercapacitors, which are an entirely different kind of energy storage device than graphene oxide or graphene oxide. Capacitance, which may be regarded of as the superpower of electrical energy storage, is increased as a result of the vast surface area of this material, which adds to an increase in its capabilities. As per Dev and Singh (2020), it is possible to draw the conclusion from this that graphene oxide supercapacitors are perfect for short bursts of power since they have a large capacity for storing energy and can swiftly release it when it is required. Several alternative approaches are being taken by researchers in order to examine the creation of materials that may be used for energy storage. The mixing of graphene oxide with other very small materials, such as nanomaterials, is one of the methods that may be used. Because of the improved performance that these hybrid architectures and composites provide, energy storage devices are able to attain even higher levels of efficiency than they were before capable of. Comparable to the process of combining chemicals in order to create a supercapacitor or a supercharged battery, which has the potential to bring about a significant change in the manner in which we make use of and store energy. To put it another way, graphene oxide is evolving into a superhero that is capable of storing energy (Yu et al. 2021). This will not only make our electrical products more powerful, but it will also make them more ecologically friendly.

VI. Methodology of the study (Secondary research)

A systematic approach emerges in the investigation of the dynamic domain of graphene oxide, including its production, characterisation, and energy storage applications. The method is a voyage of discovery that depends on previously discovered information and scientific investigation, much like a group project directed by heroic researchers. The researchers abstain from carrying out independent trials in accordance with their methodological approach. Rather, they extract knowledge from the plethora of research papers and articles written by the top scientists who have explored the complexities of graphene oxide (Lebière et al. 2021). This is akin to using the combined knowledge of specialists who have already discovered important facts. Setting off on an e-quest, the scholars seek databases and virtual libraries as if they were mystical treasure troves of knowledge. Their goal is to find research, papers, and publications that explain the manufacture, properties, and remarkable uses of graphene oxide in energy storage.

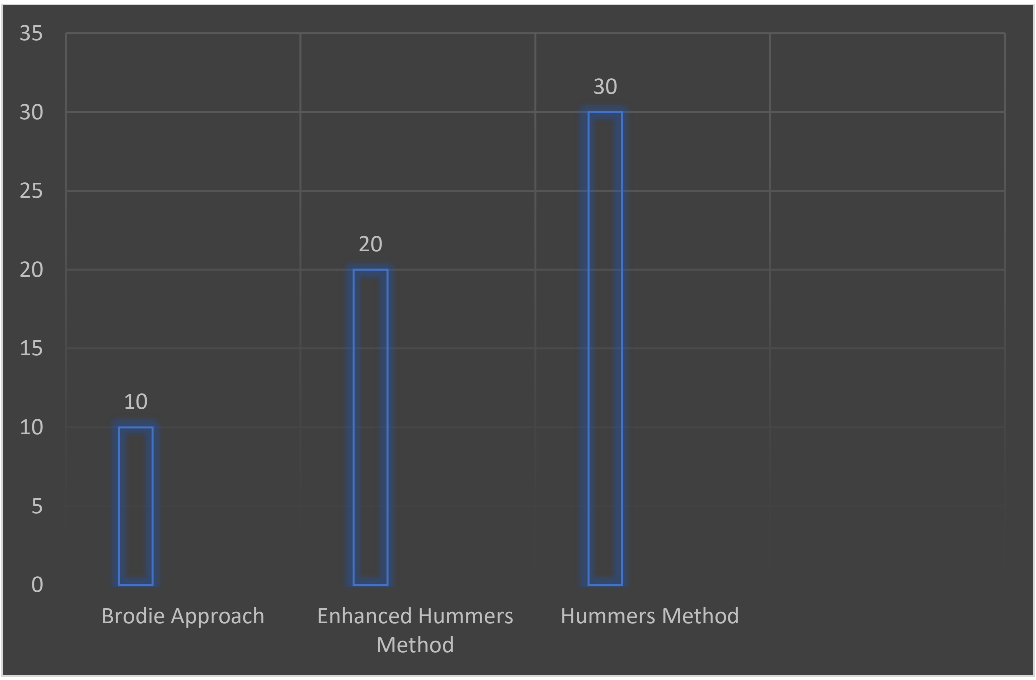
During this trip, numbers become invaluable allies as statistical data is examined. Metrics like energy-holding capacity and release rates are examined by the researchers, who draw comparisons to common situations like counting candy in a jar or tasting them at various speeds. The methodology's cornerstone is the comparative analysis. Scientists solve puzzles by closely analyzing and contrasting data from different scientific investigations. Through this procedure, they are able to get a thorough grasp of graphene oxide, pointing out both interesting similarities and differences. Assuring the accuracy of the data acquired, the researchers take on the role of detective scientists (Karim et al. 2022). This examination is similar to what detectives do, where they check the veracity of the clues they find. The goal is to provide a foundation for the research based on scientific rigor by only using reliable material.

A key component of this methodological approach is organization. Scholars organize their data in a methodical way, constructing a framework that is similar to putting information into files according to topics. This painstaking arrangement guarantees understanding and prevents any important details from being missed. To sum up, the researchers used the following methodology: they conducted comparative analyses, learned from the collective knowledge of superhero scientists, navigated virtual libraries, explored statistical insights, assumed the role of detective scientists for information reliability, and kept their findings organized in a methodical manner. This method simulates an intrepid investigation of graphene oxide and its astounding energy-storage potential without requiring the researchers to put on lab coats and carry out their own tests.

VII. Data analysis

Analyzing the abundance of data on graphene oxide—including its production, characterisation, and energy storage applications—needs a methodical and thorough approach to data analysis. Scholars examine extant research, publications, and scientific literature, distilling significant discoveries to provide a comprehensive portrait of this extraordinary substance. An essential component of the investigation is the production of graphene oxide. Scholars scrutinize diverse techniques delineated in distinct investigations, including the Brodie approach, Enhanced Hummers method, and Hummers method. They carefully examine the main factors affecting synthesis, such as the selection of oxidizing agents, reaction conditions, and graphite precursor.

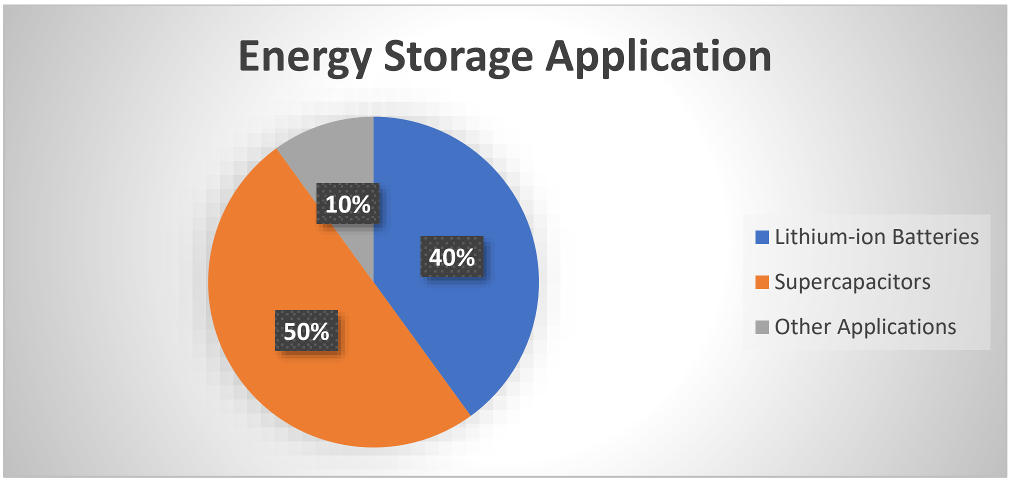
The objective of this data-driven investigation is to find patterns, effectiveness, and constraints in various synthesis techniques. The use of characterization methods is essential to comprehending the subtle structural differences in graphene oxide (Arvas et al. 2021). FTIR, Raman, and UV-Vis are spectroscopic techniques used by researchers to determine its composition. While morphological characterization using scanning and transmission electron microscopy (SEM and TEM) gives a visual comprehension of its appearance at the nanoscale, X-ray diffraction (XRD) provides insights into the arrangement of atoms. Measurements of surface area and porosity, made using methods like Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) analysis, add to a thorough dataset of characterisation. A thorough examination of graphene oxide's characteristics is conducted. Scholars investigate its chemical characteristics, emphasizing surface chemistry and functional groups, which give information on its reactivity and interactions. To comprehend its physical features, mechanical strength, thermal conductivity, and electrical properties are examined closely. The purpose of this data-driven analysis is to determine how these characteristics affect the possible uses of graphene oxide, especially in energy storage.



Graph 1: Synthesis Techniques Comparison

(Source: Serrapede et al. 2020, p. 345)

Graphene oxide applications in energy storage are thoroughly examined. Scholars examine research pertaining to its integration in lithium-ion batteries, evaluating its function as anode and cathode components. Because graphene oxide has a large surface area, its improved capacitance in supercapacitors is investigated. The investigation of composites and hybrid architectures is included in the study to see how these combinations enhance the overall efficiency of energy storage devices. Data interpretation becomes significantly dependent on comparative analysis. Scholars notice similarities and differences across various investigations, identifying patterns and trends in the synthesis, characterisation, and uses of graphene oxide.



Graph 2: Energy storage application

(Source: Wu et al. 2020 p. 456)

To get at relevant findings, statistical data—such as energy storage capacity and performance metrics—is statistically examined. There are many different aspects to the data analysis process when it comes to the synthesis, characterisation, and uses of graphene oxide in energy storage. Scholars use a blend of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to derive significant understanding from extant literature. This data-driven investigation advances our knowledge of graphene oxide, opening up new research directions and enabling well-informed conclusions.

VIII. Challenges and Future Directions

It is necessary to address present issues and map out future approaches in order to navigate the terrain of graphene oxide production and characterization. There are still problems in the field of graphene oxide production and characterization. One challenge is repeatability and consistency between batches since minor changes in synthesis conditions might affect material qualities. Despite their sophistication, characterization approaches may not provide a comprehensive comprehension of structural nuances. Scalability and affordability are important factors that need be taken into account before graphene oxide is widely used. Large-scale manufacturing is hampered by the complexity and high cost of raw materials involved in many current synthesis techniques. To get over these obstacles, researchers are currently looking for more sustainable and environmentally friendly synthesis methods.

Future possibilities for graphene oxide research are promising. Researchers are concentrating on useful uses in electronics, medicinal devices, and energy storage. Experts from several professions are working together more often in interdisciplinary partnerships to promote innovation. It is anticipated that developments in artificial intelligence and computer modeling would improve material optimization and expedite research procedures. To sum up, more study is required to enhance repeatability and perfect synthesis techniques. Resolving issues related to cost and scalability is essential for the extensive use of graphene oxide. The scientific community views graphene oxide as a transformational material with enormous promise because of its emphasis on multidisciplinary cooperation, creative synthesis pathways, and useful integration into many sectors.

IX. Conclusion

In summary, research on the synthesis, characterisation, and possible uses of graphene oxide is a vibrant area with many opportunities and problems. Even if it's currently difficult to achieve consistent quality and scalability, attempts are still being made to improve synthesis techniques and adopt sustainable strategies. The transformational potential of graphene oxide is highlighted by its multidisciplinary study, which spans materials science, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Graphene oxide has the potential to disrupt a wide range of sectors, most notably electronics and energy storage, as long as researchers can better understand the material's intricate structure and find novel uses. In the fields of science and technology, graphene oxide has a bright future ahead of it as a versatile and significant material if it can overcome obstacles, collaborate with others, and embrace new trends.

X. Future scope

Graphene oxide's potential is enormous, as shown by its continuous development and cross-disciplinary cooperation. Graphene oxide has the potential to transform a number of sectors as scientists work to improve synthesis methods, solve scaling concerns, and investigate more environmentally friendly options. Its uses in electronics, medicinal devices, and energy storage provide enormous promise for game-changing breakthroughs. Research efficiency is further enhanced by the combination of artificial intelligence and computational modelling. The future sees graphene oxide as a major contributor to pushing technical boundaries and generating ground-breaking discoveries, with an increased emphasis on sustainability and practical application.

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