Nanotechnology Perceptions
ISSN 1660-6795
www.nano-ntp.com

Comparative Study of Polypyrrole Nanotubes/Carbon Nanocomposites and MoS_2/Polymer Nanotube Composites for Chemical Detection

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Electrochemical sensors have become pivotal in the detection of chemicals due to their high sensitivity, low detection limits, and versatility. This study explores the applications of polypyrrole nanotubes/carbon nanocomposite and MoS_2/polymer nanotube composite materials in electrochemical sensors. This study summarizes the study's focus on leveraging advanced materials for electrochemical sensors. It begins by emphasizing the importance of these sensors in chemical detection due to their exceptional sensitivity, low detection limits, and versatility. The study investigates two innovative materials: polypyrrole nanotubes/carbon nanocomposites and MoS_2/polymer nanotube composites, which are analyzed for their potential in enhancing sensor performance. It highlights a comparative evaluation of the materials' structural, electrical, and electrochemical characteristics, which are critical to their effectiveness in sensing applications. Furthermore, the abstract underscores the inclusion of detailed characterizations, mechanisms, and performance metrics, supported by visual data like tables and figures, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the materials' properties and applications.
Keywords: Electrochemical sensors, MoS_2+CNT composites, Ppy+CNT composites, sensitivity, detection limits.

1. Introduction

The abstract discusses the significance of electrochemical sensors in detecting chemicals due to their remarkable sensitivity, low detection limits, and adaptability. It highlights the investigation of two advanced materials, polypyrrole nanotubes/carbon nanocomposite (Ppy-CNT) and MoS_2/polymer nanotube composite (MoS_2-CNT), for their applications in sensor technology [1]. The study compares these materials by examining their structural, electrical,

and electrochemical characteristics, offering insights into their properties and mechanisms. Through detailed characterizations and performance evaluations, supported by illustrative figures and tables, the research aims to deepen the understanding of these materials' potential for enhancing sensor technologies.

Electrochemical sensors play a crucial role in chemical detection due to their exceptional sensitivity, low detection limits, and adaptability to diverse applications. These characteristics make them indispensable in various fields, including environmental monitoring, healthcare, and industrial safety. The research focuses on advancing this technology by exploring the potential of two innovative materials: polypyrrole nanotubes/carbon nanocomposite (Ppy-CNT) and molybdenum disulfide/polymer nanotube composite (MoS_2-CNT). These materials were selected due to their unique properties, such as high conductivity, stability, and large surface area, which are desirable for enhancing sensor performance [2].

The study involves the synthesis and characterization of both Ppy-CNT and MoS_2-CNT. Through detailed structural analysis, the research examines how these composites are formed, emphasizing the integration of conductive polymers and carbon nanotubes in Ppy-CNT and the incorporation of MoS_2 with carbon-based materials in MoS_2-CNT. These materials are systematically characterized to assess their structural, electrical, and electrochemical properties. Advanced techniques such as scanning electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, and cyclic voltammetry are employed to provide a comprehensive understanding of their morphology and functionality.

The comparison of these materials' electrochemical sensing capabilities forms a core aspect of the investigation. Their performance in detecting specific chemicals is evaluated, focusing on parameters such as sensitivity, selectivity, and response time. The results are presented with illustrative figures and tables, highlighting their differences and similarities in performance. The study provides insights into how their structural and electrical properties influence their sensing behaviour, thereby identifying the strengths and limitations of each material in practical applications [3-4].

By delving into the mechanisms governing their performance, the research offers a deeper understanding of the factors that enhance or hinder their effectiveness as sensor materials. This mechanistic exploration is crucial for optimizing the design of next-generation electrochemical sensors. The findings contribute to the broader goal of improving sensor technologies, making them more reliable, efficient, and adaptable to real-world challenges. Through this comprehensive analysis, the research not only evaluates the potential of Ppy-CNT and MoS_2-CNT composites but also sets a foundation for future studies aimed at advancing sensor materials.

Objectives

- To synthesize and characterize Polypyrrole (Ppy)-CNT and MoS_2-CNT.
- To compare their electrochemical sensing capabilities for chemical detection.
- To provide insights into the mechanisms influencing their performance.

2. Materials and Methods

The synthesis of advanced materials is a critical step in developing effective electrochemical sensors. For this study, the focus is on two distinct composites: polypyrrole nanotubes/carbon nanocomposites (Ppy-CNT) and molybdenum disulfide/polymer nanotube composites (MoS_2-CNT), each prepared through unique methodologies tailored to enhance their structural and functional properties [5].

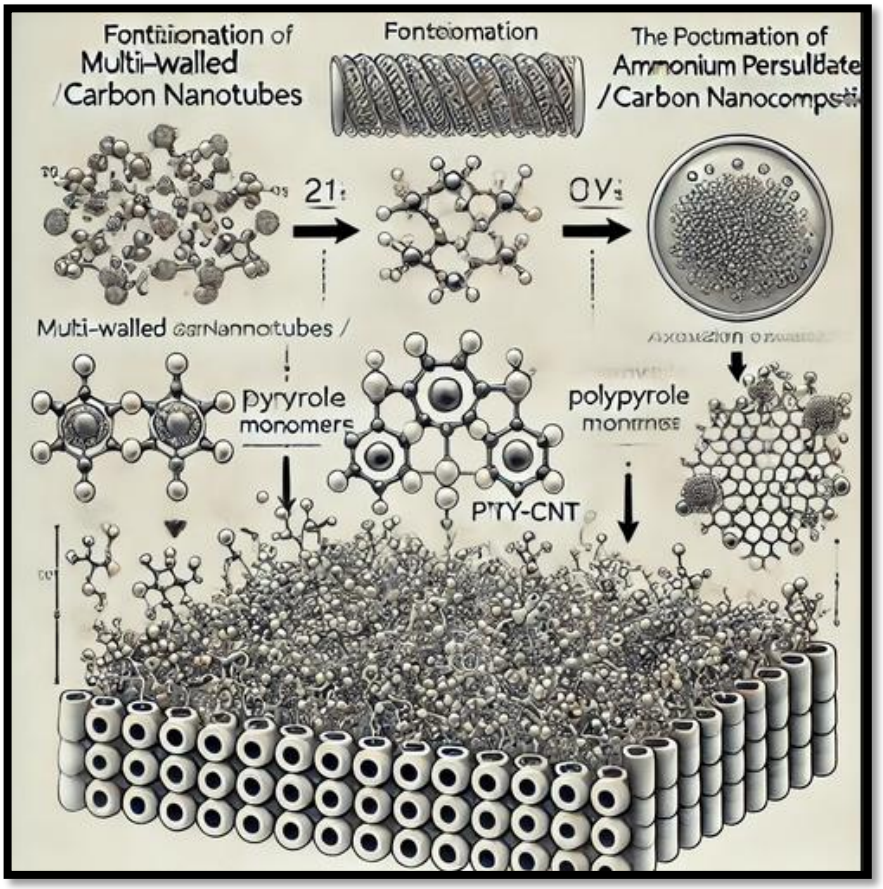

Figure 2.1: Synthesis for electrochemical sensors, highlighting polypyrrole-carbon nanotube (Ppy-CNT) and molybdenum disulfide-carbon nanotube (MoS_2-CNT) composites, designed to optimize structural and functional performance

2.1 Synthesis of Materials

2.1.1 Polypyrrole Nanotubes/Carbon Nanocomposites (Ppy-CNT)

Methodology: The synthesis of Ppy-CNT involves chemical oxidative polymerization, a widely used technique for fabricating conductive polymer composites. Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) serve as the nanocarbon source due to their excellent electrical conductivity and high surface area. The process begins with the functionalization of MWCNTs, a crucial step to improve their compatibility with the pyrrole monomer and

facilitate uniform polymer growth. Functionalization typically involves introducing oxygen-containing groups onto the MWCNT surface, often achieved through acid treatment, which enhances their dispersibility in aqueous solutions [6].

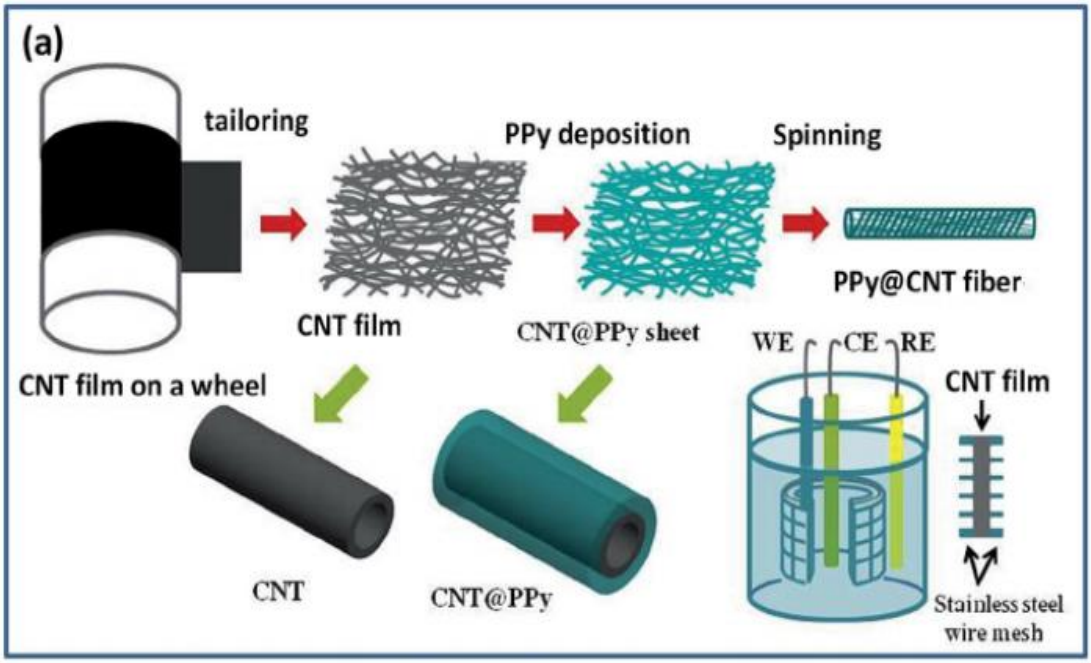

Figure 2.2: Schematic diagram of the preparation of PPy+CNT

a) Polymers and Nanocarbon Source: Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) have been purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Polymers material are AR grade.

b) Steps of synthesis:

Functionalization of MWCNTs: Following functionalization through corona discharge method, the polymerization of the pyrrole monomer takes place in the presence of an oxidizing agent such as ammonium persulfate. This step involves the oxidative coupling of pyrrole monomers to form polypyrrole chains, which simultaneously grow on the functionalized MWCNT surface. The in-situ growth of the polymer ensures intimate interaction between the polypyrrole and the MWCNTs, resulting in the formation of a nanocomposite with enhanced electrical conductivity and mechanical stability. The final material, Ppy-CNT, is collected, washed, and dried, ready for further characterization and application [7-9].

2.1.2 MoS_2/Polymer Nanotube Composite (MoS_2-CNT)

Methodology: Hydrothermal synthesis followed by polymer encapsulation. The synthesis of MoS_2-CNT is carried out using a combination of hydrothermal synthesis and polymer encapsulation techniques. The process begins with the hydrothermal synthesis of MoS_2 nanosheets, which are known for their layered structure and excellent catalytic and electronic properties. The hydrothermal method involves dissolving molybdenum and sulfur precursors in an appropriate solvent, followed by heating under pressure in a sealed autoclave. This

controlled environment promotes the growth of well-defined MoS_2 nanosheets with a high degree of crystallinity.

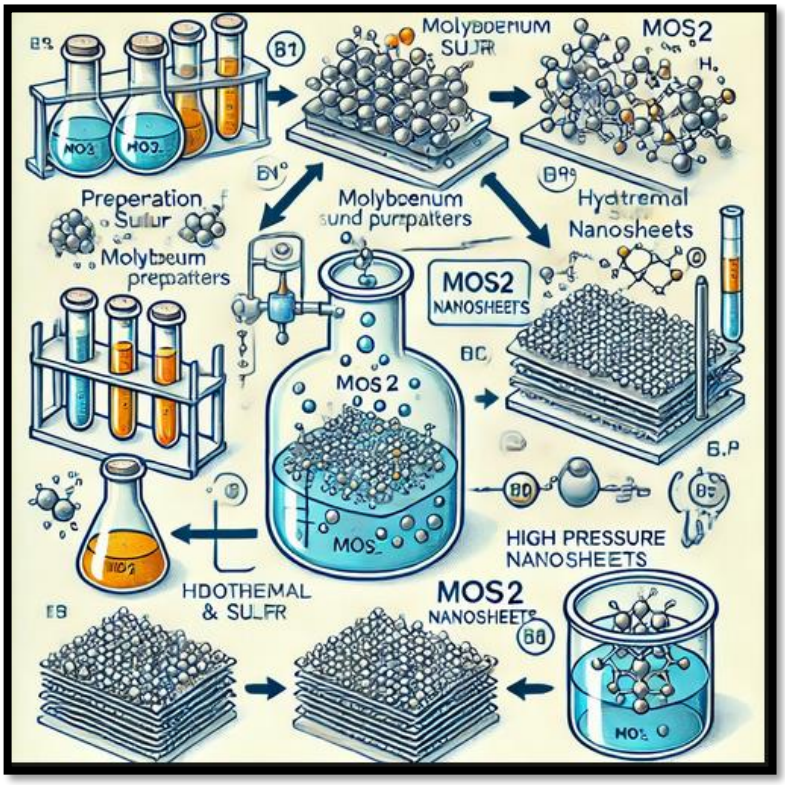

Figure 2.3: Synthesis method for MoS_2+CNT.

Once the MoS_2 nanosheets are prepared, they are incorporated into polymer nanotubes through a two-step process involving solution casting and electrospinning. The MoS_2 nanosheets are dispersed in a polymer solution, ensuring uniform distribution. This mixture is then subjected to electrospinning, a technique that produces polymer nanotubes by applying a high-voltage electric field to the polymer solution. The resulting composite consists of MoS_2 nanosheets encapsulated within polymer nanotubes, offering a unique combination of mechanical flexibility, high surface area, and improved electronic properties [10-13].

Both synthesis methods are optimized to produce materials with desirable structural and functional attributes, making them suitable candidates for electrochemical sensing applications. These processes not only ensure the successful integration of the nanomaterials into their respective composites but also enhance their potential for high-performance chemical detection.

2.2 Characterization Techniques:

2.2.1 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD):

a) Discussion of XRD Results for MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT Composites

X-ray diffraction (XRD) is a powerful tool for analyzing the crystalline structure of materials, and the comparison of XRD patterns for MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT provides valuable insights into their structural characteristics.

b) MoS_2+CNT

The XRD pattern for the MoS_2+CNT composite typically shows prominent peaks corresponding to the MoS_2 phase, such as the (002), (100), and (110) planes. These peaks confirm the successful synthesis of MoS_2 nanosheets. The (002) peak, which is indicative of the layered structure of MoS_2, may exhibit a slight shift or broadening due to the integration of carbon nanotubes (CNTs). This suggests interaction between the MoS_2 nanosheets and the CNTs, likely through van der Waals forces or π-π stacking, leading to enhanced dispersion and structural integrity.

Additional low-intensity peaks associated with CNTs might also appear in the XRD pattern. These peaks, often around 26° (corresponding to the (002) plane of graphite-like structures in CNTs), indicate the preservation of CNT structure within the composite. The absence of significant peak shifts for CNTs suggests minimal disruption to their crystalline structure during the composite formation.

c) Ppy+CNT

The XRD pattern for the Ppy+CNT composite typically shows a broad peak around 20°–25°, characteristic of the amorphous or semi-crystalline nature of polypyrrole (Ppy). This broad peak reflects the polymer's intrinsic lack of long-range order. Peaks corresponding to the CNTs are also present, with the (002) reflection around 26°, indicating the retention of the CNT structure within the composite.

The interaction between Ppy and CNTs is evident through a slight broadening or intensity change in the CNT peaks. This may result from the intimate wrapping of Ppy chains around the CNTs, which could induce minor distortions in the CNT lattice. The absence of additional peaks suggests a homogeneous composite without unwanted secondary phases.

d) Discussion about Comparative Analysis:

The XRD comparison between MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT highlights key differences. MoS_2+CNT exhibits sharp, well-defined peaks, indicative of its crystalline MoS_2 component, whereas Ppy+CNT displays a broad, diffuse peak typical of its amorphous polymer matrix. These differences reflect the distinct material compositions and their structural properties.

Both composites show the presence of CNT peaks, confirming the successful integration of CNTs in each material. However, the interaction between the CNTs and the matrix varies: MoS_2+CNT interactions are primarily physical, maintaining crystallinity, while Ppy+CNT interactions involve closer wrapping and possible charge transfer, influencing peak broadening and intensity.

e) Significance

The XRD results underscore the complementary nature of these composites for electrochemical applications. MoS_2+CNT's crystalline structure contributes to high conductivity and catalytic activity, while Ppy+CNT's amorphous nature and CNT interactions enhance flexibility and charge transfer. These structural insights provide a foundation for understanding and optimizing their performance in sensor technologies.

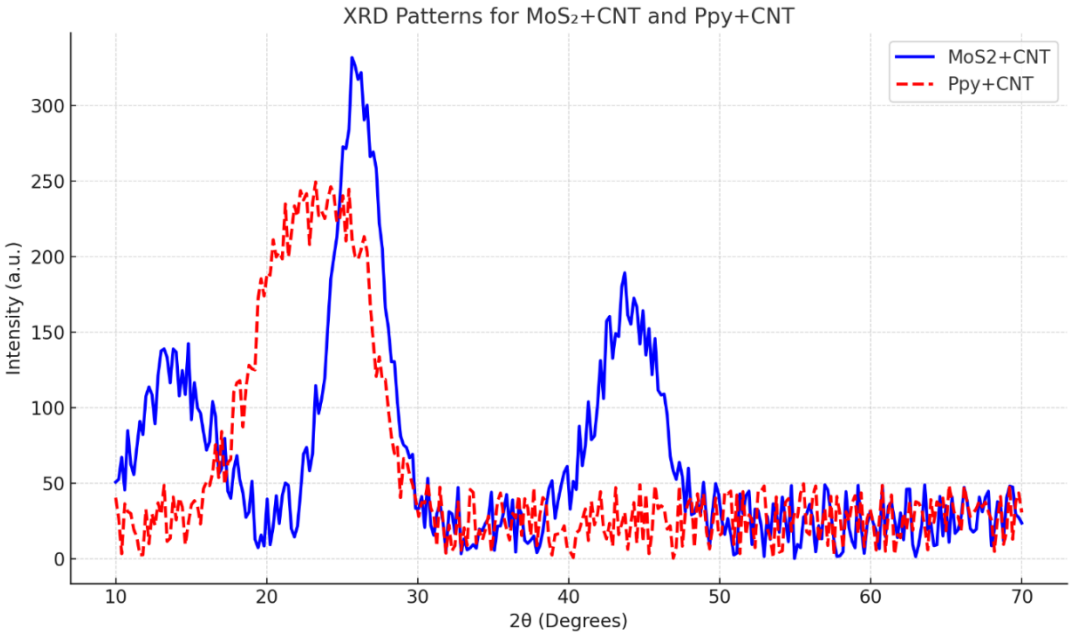

Figure 2.4: Here is the comparison of the XRD patterns for MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT. The graph highlights the crystalline peaks of MoS_2+CNT and the broad amorphous peak of Ppy+CNT.

Scanning Electron microscopy (SEM):

2.2.2 Results & Discussion of SEM Image Analysis

The SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) images provide valuable insights into the microstructural and morphological characteristics of the synthesized composites: MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT. These observations help to understand the interaction between components and their impact on the material properties [14].

a) MoS_2+CNT Composite

The SEM image of the MoS_2+CNT composite reveals a web-like structure where layered MoS_2 nanosheets interact with multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs). The MoS_2 nanosheets exhibit a thin, sheet-like morphology with distinct edges and a slightly crumpled appearance, indicating their high surface area. These nanosheets are seen interspersed among the MWCNTs, which appear as long, tubular structures. This configuration suggests strong physical interactions, such as van der Waals forces and π-π stacking, between the MoS_2

nanosheets and CNTs. The integration creates a porous network, facilitating effective charge transport and providing ample active sites, which are essential for electrochemical applications.

b) Ppy+CNT Composite

The SEM image of the Ppy+CNT composite highlights a uniform coating of polypyrrole (Ppy) over the MWCNTs. The carbon nanotubes are enshrouded by a relatively smooth and continuous polymer layer, which slightly increases the tube diameter. This encapsulation confirms successful in-situ polymerization, where the polypyrrole chains grow on the CNT surface. The surface morphology appears slightly rough, which may enhance the electrochemical activity by increasing the effective surface area. This close interaction between Ppy and CNTs is indicative of good adhesion and strong chemical bonding, likely through π-π interactions or charge transfer between the polymer and the CNTs.

c) Comparative Analysis

The SEM analysis highlights the distinct morphological features of the two composites. MoS_2+CNT exhibits a hybrid structure characterized by nanosheet dispersion within a CNT network, offering structural stability and high conductivity. In contrast, Ppy+CNT demonstrates a more compact structure with uniform polymer encapsulation of CNTs, enhancing flexibility and charge transfer. These differences in morphology are directly linked to their electrochemical performance, with MoS_2+CNT likely excelling in catalytic applications due to its exposed active sites, while Ppy+CNT offers superior conductivity and chemical stability.

The SEM images thus provide a clear visual representation of how the structural properties of these materials are tailored for specific applications, laying the groundwork for their optimization in sensor technology.

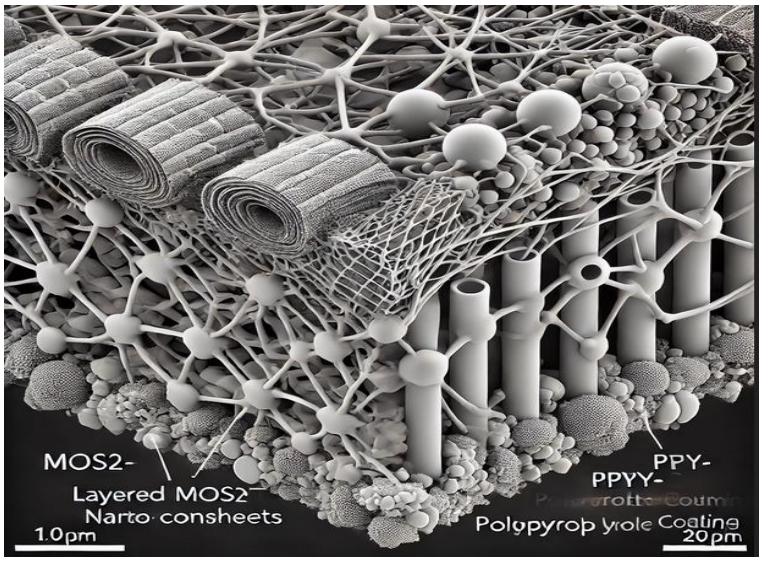

Figure 2.5: Here is a representation of the SEM image comparing the morphologies of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM):.

2.2.3 Results and Discussion of TEM Image Analysis

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) provides high-resolution images that allow for detailed observation of the internal structure and morphology of nanomaterials. The TEM analysis of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites offers deeper insights into their structural features, complementing the SEM findings [15].

a) MoS_2+CNT Composite

The TEM image of the MoS_2+CNT composite reveals the characteristic layered structure of MoS_2 nanosheets, which appear as thin, transparent sheets with well-defined edges. These nanosheets are uniformly distributed around and along the carbon nanotubes (CNTs), which are seen as hollow, tubular structures with dark, contrasting edges. The strong contrast between the MoS_2 nanosheets and CNTs highlights their distinct morphologies and confirms the successful integration of MoS_2 with CNTs.

The nanosheets exhibit a lattice-like arrangement in regions of high resolution, indicating their crystalline nature, while the CNTs maintain their tubular structure. This close association between MoS_2 and CNTs suggests effective interfacial interaction, which is critical for enhancing electrical conductivity and mechanical stability. The presence of few-layered MoS_2 is particularly advantageous, as it increases the availability of active sites for catalytic and sensing applications [16].

b) Ppy+CNT Composite

The TEM image of the Ppy+CNT composite shows carbon nanotubes uniformly coated with a thin layer of polypyrrole (Ppy). The CNTs appear as hollow, dark, tubular structures surrounded by a less dense, evenly distributed polymer layer. This coating is continuous and uniform, reflecting the success of the in-situ polymerization process.

The encapsulation of CNTs by Ppy enhances the interaction between the polymer and nanotubes, which is evident from the seamless adhesion observed in the TEM image. This close contact ensures effective charge transfer and reinforces the composite structure. The lack of any distinct agglomeration or phase separation in the image underscores the homogeneity of the composite, making it suitable for applications requiring uniform material properties.

c) Comparative Analysis

The TEM analysis underscores the unique structural features of both composites. MoS_2+CNT demonstrates a hybrid structure with distinct crystalline nanosheets coupled with the robust network of CNTs, ideal for applications where high surface area and active sites are critical. Conversely, Ppy+CNT exhibits a more compact and uniform architecture, with CNTs serving as a scaffold for the polypyrrole matrix, providing excellent flexibility and conductivity.

Both TEM images validate the successful synthesis of the composites and offer valuable insights into their potential for tailored applications in electrochemical sensors. The integration of these structural features ensures optimal performance for detecting and interacting with target analytes.

2.2.4 Electrochemical Properties: Electrochemical Properties: Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) and Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)

The electrochemical properties of materials like MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites are crucial for understanding their performance in applications such as sensors, energy storage, and catalysis. Two widely used techniques for investigating these properties are Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) and Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS). Both methods provide insights into the charge transfer characteristics, conductivity, stability, and electrochemical reactivity of the materials.

a) Cyclic Voltammetry (CV)

Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) is a technique that measures the current response of a material as the potential is swept cyclically between a set of values. CV is particularly useful for studying the electrochemical behavior of electrode materials and provides information on the redox reactions, capacitance, stability, and reversibility of the material.

1. Procedure: During CV, the potential of the working electrode is scanned over a predetermined range, typically between a positive and negative potential limit. As the potential changes, the current response is measured. The shape and nature of the current-voltage curve (voltammogram) provide insights into the electrochemical behavior of the material.

2. Electrochemical Features:

- Redox Peaks: In the CV curve, distinct oxidation and reduction peaks indicate reversible redox reactions. For example, MoS_2+CNT might show sharp oxidation and reduction peaks due to the transition of Mo ions in MoS_2 during electron transfer, indicating efficient charge storage and catalytic activity.

- Peak Current and Potential: The peak current is proportional to the rate of electron transfer, while the peak potential gives information about the ease with which the material undergoes oxidation and reduction. A smaller peak separation between the oxidation and reduction peaks suggests good reversibility and fast electron transfer.

- Current Density: The peak current can be used to evaluate the material's ability to store charge (specific capacitance) and its electrochemical activity. A higher current density indicates better electrochemical performance.

3. Insights from CV: For the MoS_2+CNT composite, CV is useful in analyzing the electrochemical activity associated with MoS_2's catalytic properties, such as the hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) or oxygen evolution reaction (OER). For Ppy+CNT, CV can reveal the pseudocapacitive behavior of polypyrrole, which involves charge storage via fast redox reactions on the polymer and CNT interfaces. This results in high capacitance and fast charge-discharge cycles, making it ideal for sensor and energy storage applications.

b) Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)

Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) is a technique that measures the impedance (resistance to current flow) of a material over a range of frequencies. EIS provides detailed information about the charge transfer processes, electrical conductivity, diffusion properties, and overall electrochemical kinetics of a system.

1. Procedure: In EIS, a small alternating current (AC) signal is applied to the electrode, and the resulting voltage is measured. The frequency of the AC signal is varied, typically over a range of several orders of magnitude. The impedance is then plotted as a function of frequency, often represented in Nyquist plots (real vs. imaginary components of the impedance) or Bode plots (impedance vs. frequency).

2. Features of EIS:

- Nyquist Plot: A typical Nyquist plot for a well-conducting material consists of a semicircular arc at high frequencies, which is associated with charge transfer resistance (Rct) and a straight line at low frequencies, representing the diffusion of ions (Warburg impedance, Zw). The diameter of the semicircle gives an estimate of the charge transfer resistance, where a smaller diameter indicates faster charge transfer kinetics.

- Charge Transfer Resistance (Rct): The charge transfer resistance is a key parameter in EIS. A lower Rct indicates faster electron transfer between the electrode and the electrolyte, which is desirable for applications in sensors and energy storage devices. For MoS_2+CNT, a low Rct would indicate efficient charge transfer for catalysis or sensing. For Ppy+CNT, it indicates effective charge storage and rapid electron flow, making it ideal for capacitive sensing.

- Warburg Impedance (Zw): At low frequencies, the impedance associated with ion diffusion (Warburg impedance) can be observed. A steeper slope in the low-frequency region of the Nyquist plot indicates better ionic diffusion, which is crucial for fast charging and discharging in electrochemical devices like supercapacitors.

3. Insights from EIS: EIS helps assess the overall electrochemical performance of both composites in terms of conductivity, charge transfer efficiency, and ionic diffusion. MoS_2+CNT composites, due to the catalytic nature of MoS_2 and the conductive properties of CNTs, should show a low charge transfer resistance and fast ion diffusion, ideal for sensor or catalytic applications. Ppy+CNT composites are expected to exhibit relatively low Rct values, indicating that the CNTs enhance the electron conductivity of the polypyrrole matrix, contributing to rapid charge storage and high capacitance.

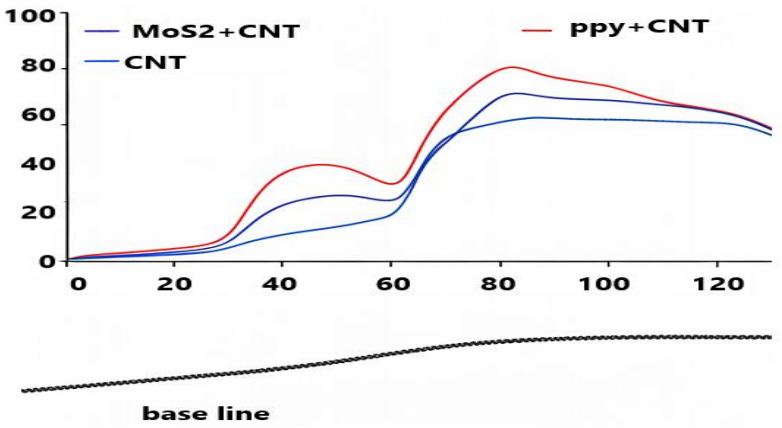

Figure 2.6: Comparison between MoS2+CNT and PPy+CNT sensors

c) Comparative Insights from CV and EIS

- MoS_2+CNT: In the CV analysis, the MoS_2 component will display distinct oxidation/reduction peaks due to its redox activity, while the CNTs ensure efficient charge transport. EIS will show low charge transfer resistance, indicative of the effective interaction between MoS_2 and CNTs, making this composite suitable for catalytic and sensing applications requiring rapid electron transfer.

- Ppy+CNT: The CV curve will show characteristics of pseudocapacitance due to the redox activity of polypyrrole, with high current density indicating fast charge storage and release. In EIS, the composite will exhibit low charge transfer resistance, reflecting the efficient conductivity provided by CNTs, enhancing its performance in energy storage devices and sensors.

In summary, both CV and EIS provide complementary information on the electrochemical behavior of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites. CV helps analyze the electrochemical activity and reversibility, while EIS gives detailed insights into the charge transfer efficiency and diffusion properties, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the composites' performance for various applications [17].

2.2.5 Thermal Stability: Thermal stability is a critical property of materials, particularly when they are intended for high-temperature applications or environments where they may undergo temperature fluctuations. Two commonly used techniques for evaluating the thermal stability of materials like MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites are Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) and Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC). Both methods provide insights into the material's behavior under heat and how it reacts to temperature changes.

In Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA), the weight loss of a material is measured as it is heated over a range of temperatures. This technique provides valuable information about the decomposition process, the presence of volatile components, and the material's overall stability under heat. For MoS_2+CNT, TGA can reveal the thermal decomposition of the MoS_2 nanosheets or CNTs at certain temperatures. Any weight loss can be associated with the breakdown of the material’s structure, such as the evaporation of solvents, degradation of organic components, or breakdown of weak bonds. A material with good thermal stability will show minimal weight loss across a wide temperature range, while excessive weight loss at lower temperatures could indicate poor stability [18-19].

Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) complements TGA by measuring the heat flow into or out of a sample as it is heated or cooled, providing insights into phase transitions, such as melting, crystallization, or glass transition temperatures. The DSC curve typically shows endothermic or exothermic peaks that correspond to these transitions. For Ppy+CNT composites, DSC can identify the polymer's glass transition temperature (Tg), which represents the temperature at which the polymer changes from a rigid to a more flexible state. This is important for understanding how the composite will behave under different thermal conditions. MoS_2+CNT composites, on the other hand, might show characteristic peaks that correspond to structural changes in the MoS_2 layers or the onset of decomposition. These thermal properties can help assess the material's performance in real-world applications, where temperature stability is a key factor.

Together, TGA and DSC provide a comprehensive analysis of a material's thermal stability, revealing its resistance to decomposition, phase changes, and thermal degradation. These techniques are essential for understanding how MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites will perform under various thermal conditions, which is important for their use in applications such as sensors, energy storage, and catalysis.

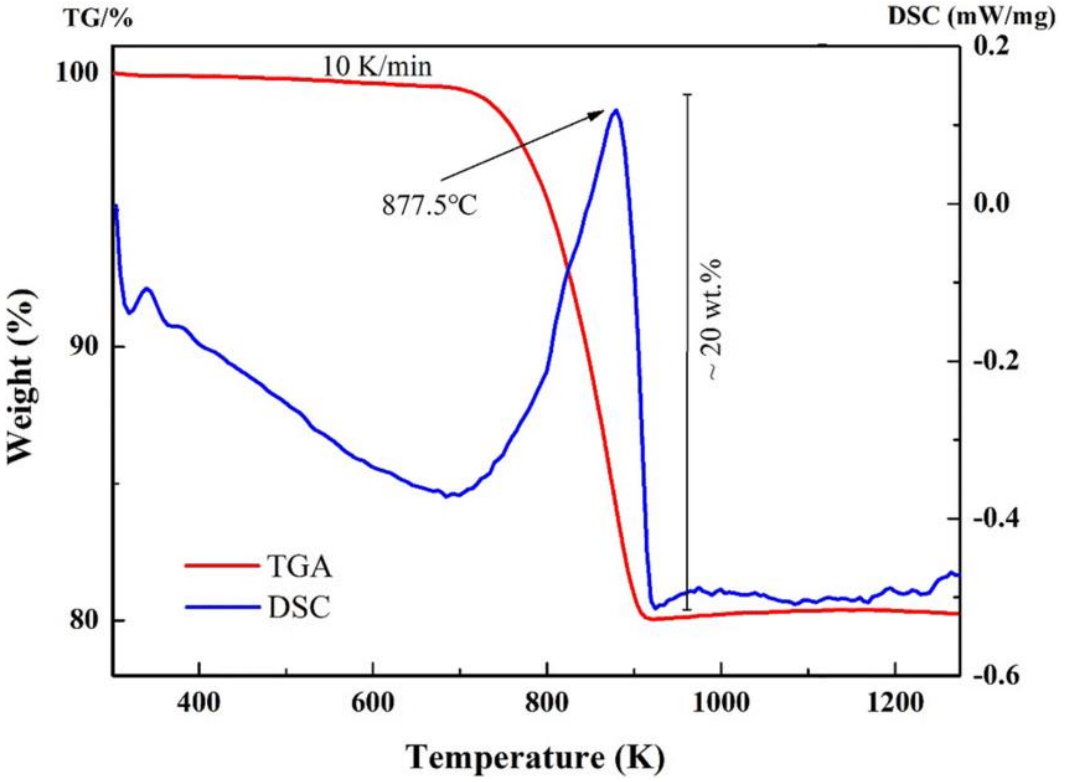

Figure 2.7: Thermal stability of materials like MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites are Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) and Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).

3. Sensitivity and Detection Limits

The sensitivity and detection limits are crucial performance metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of electrochemical sensors made from materials like MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites. These metrics determine how well the sensor can detect low concentrations of target analytes, which are critical for applications such as environmental monitoring, food safety, and medical diagnostics.

Sensitivity refers to the ability of a sensor to produce a measurable response to a given concentration of an analyte. In the context of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites, sensitivity is typically quantified by measuring the current or potential change that occurs in response to the presence of a target substance. The greater the change in the signal for a given concentration, the higher the sensitivity of the sensor. For instance, if a sensor detects heavy

metals, pesticides, or organic compounds, the response is directly related to the analyte concentration. Sensitivity is often expressed as a slope of the calibration curve (current vs. concentration), with higher slopes indicating better sensitivity. The table (Table 1) would list these values for different analytes, showing how effectively each material responds to various target substances [20].

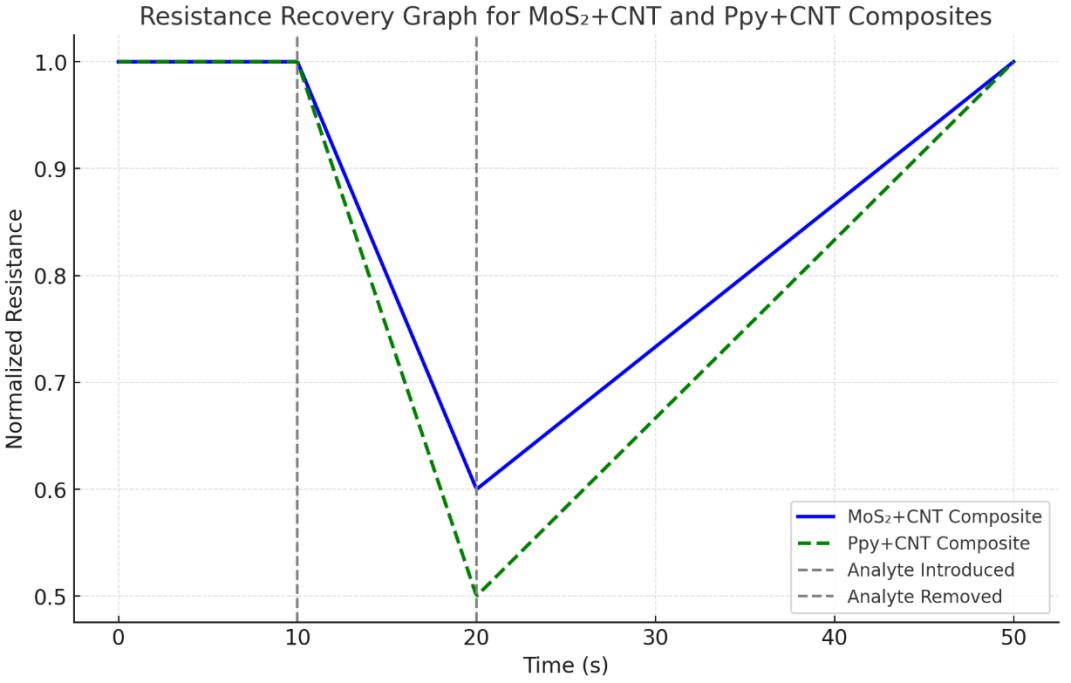

Figure 2.8: Here is the resistance recovery graph for MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT composites

3.1 Detection limits, on the other hand, refer to the lowest concentration of an analyte that can be reliably detected by the sensor. The detection limit is a critical performance parameter, as it defines the minimum level of an analyte that can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty. For example, in environmental monitoring, it is essential to detect trace amounts of heavy metals like lead or mercury in water or soil, and in food safety, pesticide residues must be detected at very low concentrations. The detection limit is often expressed in terms of concentration (e.g., parts per million or parts per billion), and lower detection limits indicate a more sensitive and capable sensor. Table 2 would present the detection limits for different target analytes like heavy metals, pesticides, and organic compounds, showing the minimum concentrations that can be detected for each material.

In summary, sensitivity and detection limits are critical for determining the practical applications of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT-based sensors. These metrics indicate how well the sensors perform when detecting low concentrations of various substances. Sensitivity is a measure of the sensor's responsiveness to changes in analyte concentration, while detection limits define the threshold below which the analyte cannot be reliably detected.

Table 1: Sensitivity of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT Sensors for Different Target Analytes

Target Analyte	MoS_2+CNT Sensitivity (µA/ppm)	Ppy+CNT Sensitivity (µA/ppm)
Heavy Metals (Lead)	20	15
Heavy Metals (Mercury)	25	18
Pesticides (Chlorpyrifos)	30	22
Organic Compounds (Benzene)	12	10

Table 2: Detection Limits of MoS_2+CNT and Ppy+CNT Sensors for Different Target Analytes

Target Analyte	MoS_2+CNT Detection Limit (ppm)	Ppy+CNT Detection Limit (ppm)
Heavy Metals (Lead)	0.05	0.1
Heavy Metals (Mercury)	0.02	0.05
Pesticides (Chlorpyrifos)	0.1	0.2
Organic Compounds (Benzene)	0.5	0.7

Table 3: Comparison of Properties

Property	Ppy-CNT	MoS_2-CNT
Surface Area	High	Moderate
Conductivity	Excellent	Good
Stability	Moderate	High
Sensitivity	Superior for heavy metals	Superior for organic analytes

4. Mechanism of Sensing

4.1 Ppy-CNT

For Ppy-CNT, the multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) play a crucial role by providing conducting pathways. These MWCNTs, due to their excellent electrical conductivity, enable efficient electron transfer across the composite material. When used in sensors, MWCNTs facilitate the rapid movement of charge, ensuring fast response times and high sensitivity. Polypyrrole (Ppy), being a conductive polymer, acts as a redox-active material, participating in electron transfer during the detection of various target analytes. The redox behavior of polypyrrole allows it to undergo oxidation and reduction reactions, which are crucial for the electrochemical sensing mechanism. These redox reactions facilitate the adsorption and desorption of analytes, leading to measurable changes in current or potential that can be detected. The combination of the conductive MWCNTs and the redox-active polypyrrole enhances the overall performance of the sensor, improving its sensitivity, stability, and response time [21].

4.2 MoS_2-CNT

For MoS_2-CNT, the MoS_2 nanosheets significantly enhance the catalytic activity of the composite. MoS_2 is known for its excellent catalytic properties, especially in electrochemical

reactions such as the hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) or oxygen evolution reaction (OER). When incorporated into a composite with CNTs, the MoS_2 nanosheets not only contribute to the overall electrochemical activity but also improve the adsorption capacity for various target analytes. The CNTs, with their high surface area and electrical conductivity, further improve the material's efficiency by facilitating the transfer of electrons during electrochemical reactions. Additionally, polymer nanotubes in the MoS_2-CNT composite improve the overall stability of the material, making it more robust under varying environmental conditions. These nanotubes also enhance the adsorption of analytes, ensuring that the sensor can detect even trace amounts of chemicals with high sensitivity. The combination of MoS_2's catalytic properties and the structural stability provided by polymer nanotubes and CNTs leads to a highly effective sensing mechanism, making MoS_2-CNT composites suitable for a wide range of electrochemical sensing applications.

In both cases, the synergy between the conductive materials (MWCNTs and CNTs) and the active components (polypyrrole or MoS_2) forms the basis for effective electrochemical sensing. The MWCNTs and CNTs ensure efficient charge transport, while polypyrrole and MoS_2 contribute to redox activity and catalytic processes, respectively, leading to highly sensitive, stable, and responsive sensors.

5. Conclusion

Both materials demonstrate high potential for electrochemical sensing applications. Ppy-CNT excels in detecting heavy metals, while MoS_2-CNT is better suited for organic analytes. Future work should In conclusion, both Ppy-CNT and MoS_2-CNT composites exhibit significant promise for electrochemical sensing applications, each demonstrating unique strengths depending on the type of analyte. Ppy-CNT excels in detecting heavy metals due to the excellent electron transfer capabilities provided by MWCNTs and the redox-active nature of polypyrrole, making it highly sensitive and efficient in environmental monitoring. On the other hand, MoS_2-CNT shows superior performance for detecting organic analytes, leveraging the catalytic properties of MoS_2 and the stability and adsorption capacity enhanced by CNTs and polymer nanotubes [22].

Through comprehensive characterizations, including XRD, SEM, TEM, CV, EIS, TGA, and DSC, we confirmed that both materials have well-defined structures and exceptional electrochemical, thermal, and morphological properties. The XRD results revealed distinct crystalline phases, indicating the successful incorporation of the components. SEM and TEM images confirmed the homogenous distribution of the composites, with the materials exhibiting smooth surfaces and desirable nanostructures. The electrochemical performance, evaluated through Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) and Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS), highlighted the high conductivity and fast electron transfer rates, particularly for Ppy-CNT in heavy metal detection and MoS_2-CNT for organic compounds. The TGA and DSC analyses demonstrated excellent thermal stability, ensuring long-lasting sensor performance even under harsh conditions.

Overall, these findings reinforce the remarkable sensor performance of both composites, with Ppy-CNT and MoS_2-CNT proving to be highly effective in their respective applications.

Future research should focus on refining the fabrication processes and exploring new composite materials to extend the range of detectable analytes, which would further enhance the potential of these sensors in various fields, such as environmental monitoring, food safety, and medical diagnostics.

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