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Research Article

Conducting Polymer /Graphene composite electrodes for supercapacitors

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Abstract

Graphene, as a new emerging carbonaceous material has gained a lot of attention in the past decade due to its extraordinary intrinsic properties. Conducting polymers exhibit high potential in supercapacitors because of their advantages over other electrode materials including good conductivity, flexibility, ease of synthesis etc. But both materials have some drawbacks when they merely used as electrodes. Therefore, research community has move towards composite electrodes to avoid disadvantageous realities and accomplish the best performance. This review summarizes recent development of graphene and conducting polymer (Polypyrrole and Polyaniline) based composite electrodes for supercapacitors and the comparison of their performance.

Keywords: Conducting polymer, Graphene, Supercapacitor, Composite electrode, Specific capacitance

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1. INTRODUCTION

From the past over several decades, due to industrialization, increase in global population, rapid development of the global economy, depletion of fossil fuels, and increasing environmental pollution, there is an urgent need for efficient, clean and sustainable sources of energy, as well as new technologies associated with energy conversion and storage devices, such as batteries, fuel cells and supercapacitors¹. Due to its high power density over batteries fuel cells (which have high energy storage), high energy density compared to the conventional capacitors (which have high power output), and long lifecycle, supercapacitors or ultracapacitors become prominent. For these supercapacitors to realize their promise in the outcome, it is important that their energy and power densities must be maximized². To increase the performance of supercapacitors, different materials and various methods were used in recent years. However, the performance of supercapacitors depends mainly on the electrode material and the properties of the electrode/electrolyte interface. Therefore, it is important that the electrode materials should demonstrate high capacitance, good mechanical and structural stability to reach long cycling life³. At present, the electrode materials of supercapacitors can be mainly divided into two categories. One is carbon-based materials with electric double-layer feature including graphene, carbon nanotubes, porous carbon, carbon foam, activated carbon, carbon fiber and so on⁴. Second electrode material type is mainly conducting polymers (e.g., polyaniline, polypyrrole) and/or metal oxides which has pseudocapacitive feature through redox reactions to achieve the electron transfer and charge storage³. These standard supercapacitors have two identical electrodes which aligned symmetrically and the charges are stored electrostatically in electric double layer capacitors (EDLCs) and faradaically in pseudocapacitors or redox capacitors at the electrochemical double layer situated in the electrode/ electrolyte interfaces⁵. EDLCs utilize the high surface area of carbonaceous materials and exhibit a high power density and excellent cycle life. However, they have lower energy density due to the low areal capacitance of electrode materials and narrow operating potentials⁴. Redox capacitors are also suffering from some drawbacks, such as lower energy and power densities and poor cycling stabilities. Therefore, to avoid these weaknesses and improve performances recent research works have moved towards to merge the electrodes of EDLCs and redox capacitors. However, supercapacitors can be much more complex devices when combined different materials for electrode fabrication. These hybrid capacitors try to develop the relative advantages and diminish the relative disadvantages of EDLCs and redox capacitors to comprehend better performances by utilizing both faradaic and electrostatic processes to store charge and have achieved

energy and power densities greater than EDLCs. EDLCs consist of carbon-based materials which have large surface area, high porosity, controllable morphology and high electrical conductivity. Moreover, these carbon materials can be treated to modify its structural properties and thereby to accumulate chemical and physical properties for numerous applications⁶. Scientists believed that the increasing specific surface area will increase the capacitance of EDLCs⁷. Therefore, from its discovery in 2004, graphene with one atom thickness and large specific area has attracted the major focus of supercapacitor industry⁸. Thermal conductivity and mechanical stiffness of these graphene sheets (one-atom-thick two-dimensional layers of sp^2 -bonded carbon) may rival the remarkable in-plane values for graphite ($3,000 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ and $1,060 \text{ GPa}$, respectively); and recent studies have shown that individual graphene sheets have extraordinary electronic transport properties which got the attention for energy storage applications⁹. Two-dimensional (2D) graphene has exhibited unusual and intriguing physical, chemical and mechanical properties due to its honeycomb lattice structure. The use of graphene has overtaken the use of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) because CNTs restricted from achieving electric double-layered capacitance for industrial devices¹⁰. Today, most research works on graphene-based supercapacitors concentrate on using graphene nano-platelets, graphene nano-powders and other graphene derivatives such as graphene oxide, reduced graphene oxide, chemical modified graphene, etc. Even though the highest quality and least defects in graphene sheet were obtained via chemical vapor deposition (CVD) which cannot compete against activated carbon due to its high manufacturing cost and hard scalability^{8,11}. To obtain better contact in the current collector, polymer binders, specifically, fluoropolymers like polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) were used. The low conductivity of these polymer binders could lead to a decrease in energy density in supercapacitors. Therefore, rather than using only a binder, scientists have tested conducting polymer (CP) to comprehend both factors. These conducting polymers are electrically conductive and can undergo redox reactions to fulfill pseudo-capacitance in addition to the electric double layer capacitance⁸. Polypyrrole (PPy), polyaniline (PANI), and Poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) (PEDOT) are the three most commonly used CPs in supercapacitors due to their excellent conductivity, high capacitance, ease of synthesis, low cost, good flexibility and lightweight¹². However, it is a challenge to build high power supercapacitors using CPs because they exhibit poor stabilities during the charge-discharge processes¹⁰. In recent times, activated carbon and CNTs have been used to fabricate supercapacitors due to their good stability, but these microstructures limit the value of the capacitance. Therefore CNT-PANI has been tested in supercapacitor

electrodes to improve the capacitance. While doing so the PANI stability increased as well¹³. In this review we mainly focused on the recent supercapacitor electrodes fabricated from composite materials such as graphene–polyaniline (G–PANI) and graphene-polypyrrole (G-PPy), for energy applications. Thereby, the review allows to comprehending the technology of using graphene and conducting polymer composite electrodes in supercapacitor industry and mitigates the disadvantages of using sole graphene electrodes or conducting polymer electrodes.

2. GRAPHENE BASED ELECTRODES FOR SUPERCAPACITORS

One atom thick, 2D layer graphene is a unique carbon material that has potential for energy storage device applications¹⁴. Recently, it was proposed that graphene can be used as a material for supercapacitor applications due to its outstanding characteristics like high electrical conductivity, chemical stability, large surface area and mainly because it doesn't depend on the distribution of pores at solid state, when compared with other carbon materials such as activated carbon, CNT etc.¹⁵. Among all carbon materials used as electrochemical double layer capacitor electrodes, newly developed graphene has the highest specific surface area (SSA) which can be larger than $2630 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ¹⁶. This graphene is capable of achieving an ultra-high specific capacitance if the entire SSA is fully utilized¹⁴. According to Xia *et al.* single-layer graphene has the theoretical specific capacitance of $\sim 21 \text{ uF cm}^{-2}$ and the corresponding specific capacitance is $\sim 550 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ when the entire surface area is fully utilized¹⁷. However, in the practical situation due to serious agglomeration during both preparation and application processes, expected values were not observed¹⁸. Therefore, different graphene synthesis methods and various electrode preparation processes were considered to obtain the maximum capacitance values. Nowadays, there are many different approaches being tested for the production of graphene varieties such as CVD, micromechanical exfoliation, arch discharge method, unzipping of CNTs, epitaxial growth, electrochemical and chemical methods and intercalation methods in graphite¹⁹. Another major advantage of using graphene as electrode material is that the both major surfaces of graphene sheet are exterior and therefore can be readily accessible by electrolyte material²⁰. Even though mechanical exfoliation of graphite using scotch tape method gives high quality graphene, this method is not suitable for mass production¹⁹. Mitra *et al.* observed specific capacitances from 0.74 to 0.98 mF cm^{-2} for supercapacitor using exfoliated graphite electrodes with a solid electrolyte of polyethylene oxide-ethylene carbonate-propylene carbonate-LiClO₄, together with a long cycle life and a short response time in the order of milliseconds²¹. Lv

et al. found a novel approach to obtain low temperature exfoliated graphene which exhibits good energy storage performance when compared with high temperature exfoliated graphene²². Graphene undergo agglomeration which leans towards to restack back to graphite. To reduce this issue several methods are being examined. As a result, Fan *et al.* developed highly corrugated graphene sheets using thermal reduction of graphite oxide at a high temperature followed by a rapid cooling in liquid nitrogen which gives high specific capacitance of 349 F g⁻¹ in 6 M KOH aqueous solution²³. Graphene oxide (GO) same as graphite oxide is another significant graphene derivative, which can readily made by graphite. Due to the disruption of its sp² bonding networks, GO is often described as an electrical insulator. But in reality, this could vary due to incomplete oxidization²⁴. These GOs can be synthesized using modified Hummers method from powdered flake graphite²⁵. Depending on the GO synthesis techniques, different functional groups and their various distributions on the surface can be seen. Stankovich *et al.* suggested an alternative method for creating single sheets starting from GO exfoliation to create stable aqueous dispersions of individual sheets²⁶. Insulating GO can be converted into graphene by a controllable reduction of GO along with the reducing agent hydrazine hydrate which is an efficient and a low cost method. Reduction of GO is the removal of oxygen containing functional groups in GO such as hydroxyl, carboxyl and epoxy groups giving reduced GO (rGO)¹⁶. Ruoff *et al.* introduced the chemically modified graphene (CMG) as electrode materials to obtain the specific capacitances of 135 and 99 F g⁻¹ in aqueous and organic electrolytes, respectively. These CMG materials are made from 1-atom thick sheets of carbon and functionalized as required²⁷. Li *et al.* prepared graphene nanosheets by chemical modification with KOH. The specific capacitance was checked using cyclic voltammetry and the value reach up to about 136 F g⁻¹, which is an increase of 35% with that of pristine graphene nanosheets²⁸. Table 01 summarizes the electrochemical performances of electrodes based on graphene and its derivatives.

Table 01: Electrochemical performances of different graphene electrodes.

Electrode	Electrolyte	Specific capacitance	Reference
Carbon Dots/ rGO	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	211.9 F g ⁻¹ (at 0.5 A g ⁻¹)	29
GO	0.01 M Fe(CN) ₆	223.6 F g ⁻¹ (at 5 mV s ⁻¹)	30
GO	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	265.0 F g ⁻¹ (at 1 A g ⁻¹)	31

Graphene	H ₂ SO ₄ -polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	Areal 80.7 $\mu\text{F cm}^{-2}$ Stack 17.9 F cm^{-3}	32
Graphene	70% of 1.4 M Li ₂ SO ₄ +30% of ethylene glycol	99.0 F g^{-1}	33

3. CONDUCTING POLYMER BASED ELECTRODES FOR SUPERCAPACITORS

Conducting polymers (CPs) are realized as promising materials for the high-performance supercapacitors. They have high specific capacitances because of their charge processes concern the whole polymer mass not only limits to the surface as in the case of carbon-based materials. Moreover, they exhibit high conductivities in the charged states, while their charge–discharge processes are generally fast. This review will focus on the use of two conducting polymers, polyaniline (PANI), polypyrrole (PPy) composites with graphene as supercapacitor electrodes.

3.1. PANI

PANI has been studied and experimented in a wide range as an electrode material for supercapacitors due to its high conductivity, electroactivity, specific capacitance, good stability in air and ease of synthesis⁸. PANI to be used as supercapacitor electrode material, a protic solvent (acidic medium/ protic ionic liquid) is required³⁴. PANI can be synthesized by various techniques, and by these different methods, properties of PANI will vary. Most common two synthesis methods are oxidative polymerization and electrochemical polymerization. In addition to that, interfacial polymerization, electrospinning, seeding polymerization and templated polymerization also play a major role in PANI preparation^{35–38}. Even though, theoretically, PANI can reach up to specific capacitance value of 2000 F g^{-1} , experimental values are much lower. According to Q. Meng *et al.* this is due to the amount of PANI contribution to capacity is being smaller and the effective PANI percentage is depended on the both PANI conductivity and diffusion of counter-anions³⁹. Sivakkumar *et al.* synthesized PANI nanofibers by interfacial polymerization and the fabricated redox supercapacitor composed as a two-electrode cell giving initial specific capacitance of 554 F g^{-1} at 1.0 A g^{-1} but decreases rapidly upon continuous cycling⁴⁰. Peng *et al.* was able to prepared PANI powder by chemical solution polymerization, and the electrochemical properties of PANI single electrode with 1 M HCl and 1 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte solutions were tested using galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) and cyclic voltammetry (CV) tests and

have been found specific capacitance of 302.43 F g^{-1} ⁴¹. PANI applied in supercapacitors in pure form has been studied a lot where its specific capacitance value reaches up to several hundreds in experimental level. But PANI's some electrochemical performances, especially cycling ability still unable to reach practical application requirements in daily life. Specific capacitance of PANI being much relied on the synthesis conditions and only applicable to proton type electrolytes are disadvantageous facts to PANI in supercapacitor electrodes. Hence, scientists try to overview different approaches while researching for the preparation of PANI based composites (with carbon materials and/or metal oxides) to overcome the challenging situation which will be discuss later on in this review.

3.2. PPy

PPy, as one of the major conducting polymer, has become a promising electrode material for supercapacitors due to its intrinsic properties such as high electrical conductivity and interesting redox reactivity. Flexibility, ease of fabrication, relatively high specific capacitance per unit volume, high cycling stability, applicable to neutral electrolytes are some of the main advantages of PPy³⁹. Yang *et al.* obtained maximum specific capacitance of 261 F g^{-1} at 25 mV s^{-1} for PPy films which synthesized via oil/water interfacial polymerization⁴². Similarly, nanostructured conductive PPy hydrogel was synthesized by interfacial polymerization to reach specific capacitance value of 380 F g^{-1} which showed good mechanical properties and excellent rate capability⁴³. Hashmi *et al.* observed capacitance values to be in the range of $15.3\text{-}22.5 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$ which is equivalent to single electrode specific capacitance of $120\text{-}178 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ of PPy that corresponding to the energy density values of $16.7\text{-}24.7 \text{ Wh kg}^{-1}$ and power densities $1.6\text{-}2.8 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ in the working voltage 1.0 V for PPy redox capacitors⁴⁴. Zhi *et al.* fabricated solid-state supercapacitor which possess a specific capacitance value of 170 F g^{-1} at 0.5 A g^{-1} and showed that the performance can be effectively enhance up to 214 F g^{-1} with a 20% strain⁴⁵. Li *et al.* was able to prepare PPy flexible film via chemical oxidation technique which exhibited specific capacitance of 576 F g^{-1} at 0.2 A g^{-1} with the 1 M KCl electrolyte⁴⁶. Rajesh *et al.* prepared a thin film of PPy doped with phytic acid that can act as a supercapacitor electrode to give specific capacitance of 343 F g^{-1} at the scan rate of 5 mV s^{-1} ⁴⁷. Even though there is a need for an improvement of cycling stability Xu *et al.* was able to prepare conductive cotton fabrics coated with PPy via an in-situ polymerization method which can directly use as a supercapacitor electrode exhibiting specific capacitance of 325 F g^{-1} and energy density of 24.7 Wh kg^{-1} at current density of 0.6 mA cm^{-2} ⁴⁸. PPy based electrode properties are mainly lying upon many factors; synthesis method, substrate, dopant, template as well as the

electrolyte which it tested with. Also, specific capacitance (per unit gram) is relatively low compared to that of PANI³⁹. Hence, by optimizing all these crucial factors great improvement for the electrochemical properties of PPy can be achieved. To obtain a greater performance in practical applications, further works on PPy composites may provide a huge benefit.

4. CONDUCTING POLYMER/GRAPHENE COMPOSITES

Although pure conducting polymers (PANI, PPy) possess a lot of unique properties, they might not appropriate as electrodes active materials alone in the supercapacitor due to the drawbacks mentioned earlier. In order to improve the electrochemical performances of CP-based supercapacitors, researchers have tried to synthesize binary and even ternary composites with other active materials, mainly including carbon materials (which in this case: graphene-based materials) will be reviewed hereinafter.

4.1. Graphene-Polyaniline (G-PANI) composites

Various G-PANI nanocomposites have been studied, such as PANI and nitrogen-doped-graphene (NG), PANI/nitrogen doped GO or rGO, PANI/graphene hydrogel (GH)^{10, 49-54}. Khosrozadeh *et al.* were able to fabricate an electrode composing with PANI, graphene and silver nanowires which gave a specific capacitance of 73.4 F g⁻¹ at a discharge rate of 1.1 A g⁻¹, power density of 468.8 W kg⁻¹ and energy density of 5.1 Wh kg⁻¹⁵⁵. Zang *et al.* fabricated a PANI/NG composite through in-situ polymerization method while having GO in the acid, which have given a specific capacitance value of 480 F g⁻¹ at current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹ and stated that high capacitances and good cycling stability can be obtained by doping bulky PANI with GO/NG⁴⁹. Gomez *et al.* synthesized PANI/NG composite via chemical precipitation method to obtain a specific capacitance in the range of 300-500 F g⁻¹ at current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹¹⁰. Cong *et al.* arranged a flexible PANI/NG nanocomposite by electropolymerizing PANI nanorods on the NG paper which was prepared beforehand, thus giving an excellent specific capacitance of 763 F g⁻¹⁵¹. Wang *et al.* prepared a 3D PANI/reduced NG (rNG) by a chemical routine and the fabricated electrode could achieve a maximum specific capacitance of 740 F g⁻¹ when the current density is 0.5 A g⁻¹ and the retention of initial value remains at 87% even after performing 1000 constant charge-discharge cycles at 10 A g⁻¹⁵⁰. Sun *et al.* was able to assemble a self-standing 3D PANI/rGO foam through a template-directed in-situ polymerization method to obtain a specific capacitance of 701 F g⁻¹ at current density 1 A g⁻¹, whereas the retention maintained to be 92% of the initial value after 1000 cycles⁵². In addition to that, Du *et al.* was able to

synthesized PANI/NG and studied their conductivity properties at different conditions^{56,57}. Moreover, Wang *et al.* prepared fibrillar PANI doped with GO through a soft chemical process, which have given a high conductivity value of 10 S cm^{-1} at $22 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and specific capacitance of 531 F g^{-1} in the potential window $0\text{-}0.45 \text{ V}$ when the current density is 0.2 A g^{-1} ⁵³. Das *et al.* synthesized PANI/MoO₃/NG nanoplates, ternary composite via an inexpensive and novel approach of in-situ polymerization of aniline. The prepared composite was able to achieve specific capacitance of 734 F g^{-1} at 10 mV s^{-1} scan rate and the retention of capacity from the initial value was remained at 92.4% after 1000 cycles at the current density of A g^{-1} ⁵⁸. Dhibar *et al.* prepared a nanocomposite which contained Ag nanoparticles that decorated on PANI/NG through an in-situ polymerization method, exhibiting supercapacitance of 591 F g^{-1} at a scan rate of 5 mV s^{-1} ⁵⁹. Shayeh *et al.* synthesized PANI/rGO/Au nanocomposite on glassy carbon which showed higher specific capacitance⁶⁰. Kazemi *et al.* fabricated an asymmetric supercapacitor based on ternary nanocomposite of manganese dioxide-reduced graphene oxide quantum dot-polyaniline (MGP) which demonstrated a high specific capacitance of 423 F g^{-1} at a current density of 5.7 A g^{-1} . Capacitance retention was almost 85% of the initial capacitance value after 2000 charge-discharge cycles⁶¹. According to Tayel *et al.* PANI can be integrated with conducting carbon materials for the greater improvement of stability, electrical conductivity and redox behavior to prepared G-PANI composite which has high porosity and large surface area. The fabricated supercapacitor exhibited specific capacitance of 916 F g^{-1} and energy density of 127.2 Wh kg^{-1} ⁶². Liu *et al.* obtained a high specific capacitance value of 731.2 F g^{-1} at 5 mV s^{-1} for GO wrapped PANI hollow microsphere which was prepared using facile self-assembly method. Though it has higher capacitance value, while having other qualities like low density, high specific surface area and good permeation, electrical conductivity and excellent electrochemical property its uses have been limited due to relatively poor cycling life⁶³. Kumar *et al.* prepared a composite electrode with PANI grafted rGO which has fibrillar morphology through electron microscopy, demonstrated electrical conductivity of 8.7 S cm^{-1} at room temperature and specific capacitance of 250 F g^{-1} ⁶⁴. Zhang *et al.* constructed an electrode using highly conductive GH combined with PANI which exhibited excellent electrochemical properties. It showed specific capacitance value of 710 F g^{-1} at 2 A g^{-1} and 73% capacitance retention upon increasing current to 100 A g^{-1} . In addition to that, GH/PANI electrode gave a maximum energy density of 24 Wh kg^{-1} and power density of 30 kW kg^{-1} , and also exhibits 86% capacitance retention after 1000 cycles⁵⁴. In summary, there

are various practices to synthesize G-PANI composites which have better electrochemical performances, thus moving towards to comprehend practical application requirements.

4.2. Graphene-Polypyrrole (G-PPy) composites

Novel approaches have been made to develop the nanostructured conductive polymer, polypyrrole (PPy) with electrically conductive graphene and its derivatives to achieve higher specific capacitances and good cycling stability. Drzal *et al.* created 100% binder free composite electrode with multilayered graphene sheets and PPy nanowires which could reach to specific capacitance of 165 F g^{-1} upon increasing scan rate. Further its cyclic voltammograms showed nearly ideal rectangular shape when rising of the scanning rate implying high electrochemical cyclic stability⁶⁵. Liu *et al.* performed in-situ intercalative chemical polymerization to obtain hierarchical plush PPy layers intercalated into graphene sheets and prepared G-PPy based supercapacitor which exhibited specific capacitance value of 650 F g^{-1} , energy density of 54 Wh kg^{-1} , power density of 778.1 W kg^{-1} and electrical conductivity of 1980 S cm^{-1} ⁶⁶. Xu *et al.* synthesized G-PPy composite via in-situ chemical oxidation method and the specific capacitance obtained was 318.6 F g^{-1} at a scan rate of 2 mV s^{-1} . The value decreased to 132.9 F g^{-1} after 1000 cycles at 100 mV s^{-1} ⁶⁷. Basnayake *et al.* was able to prepared G-PPy by a chemical oxidative polymerization method with a high yield of 97% which was higher than that of PPy yield of 85%. This composite exhibited 112 F g^{-1} specific capacitance at knee frequency of 125 Hz and 270 F g^{-1} at 0.1 Hz ⁶⁸. Davies *et al.* fabricated G-PPy supercapacitor which gave a specific capacitance of 237 F g^{-1} for a reasonable deposition time of 120 s . This flexible electrode exhibited energy density of 33 Wh kg^{-1} and power density of 1184 W kg^{-1} at scan rate 0.01 V s^{-1} ⁶⁹. Bora *et al.* synthesized an electrode material using sulfonated graphene and PPy via interfacial polymerization method which exhibited 360 F g^{-1} at a current density of 1 A g^{-1} ⁷⁰. NG and its derivatives are another suitable type for designing G-PPy composites. Zu *et al.* was able to improve rate capability and cycling stability of PPy by adjusting NG content in PPy (cauliflower morphology) homogeneous nanosheet composite. Prepared nanocomposite exhibited a specific capacitance of 255.7 F g^{-1} at current density of 0.2 A g^{-1} . Capacitance retention was 93% of initial value after 1000 cycles implying high stability⁷¹. Chen *et al.* developed novel PPy/polyoxometalate/rGO ternary nanohybrids (TNHs) through a one-pot redox relay approach. The composite showed high areal specific capacitance of 2.61 mF cm^{-2} as well as good rate stability, excellent flexibility and mechanical stability⁷². Sun *et al.* synthesized a PPy/NG/MnO₂ composite via ultrasonic irradiation to obtain a specific capacitance of 258 F

g^{-1} at current density of 1 A g^{-1} ⁷³. Wu *et al.* synthesized 3D core/ shell GO/ PPy via in-situ surface initiated polymerization method and obtained a specific capacitance value of 370 F g^{-1} at a current density of 0.5 A g^{-1} . Capacitance retention was 91.2% of initial value after continuous 4000 cycles ⁷⁴. As a conclusive summary, G-PPy composite supercapacitors have given a lot of benefits in the supercapacitor industry, suggesting that they can be further used as a modification of both graphene and PPy.

5. COMPARISON AND SUMMARY

Graphene and its derivatives have a great influence on the CPs by improving its morphologies, electrical properties and structural stabilities, thus when they are combined together to create composites, great development of their electrochemical properties can be seen ⁷⁵.

Table 02: Specific capacitance of some G-CP composite supercapacitor electrodes.

G-CP Composite	Electrolyte	Specific Capacitance (F g^{-1})	Reference
Graphene/PANI	6 M KOH	261	76
Graphene/CNT/PANI	1 M KCl, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazoliumbis(trifluoromethanesulfone)imide (EMI-TFSI)	271	77
Graphene/PANI	2 M H_2SO_4	436	78
GO/ MnO_2 /PANI	1 M Na_2SO_4	512	79
Graphene/PANI	1 M H_2SO_4	1130	80
rGO/PANI	1 M Na_2SO_4	1337	81
GO/PANI	0.5 M H_2SO_4	448	82
Crumpled graphene/CNT/PANI	KOH	456	83
GO/PANI	KOH	1509	84
rGO/PANI	1 M H_2SO_4	1126	85
Sulfonated graphene (SG)/PANI	1 M H_2SO_4	931	86
Surfactant-stabilized graphene (SSG)/PANI	2 M H_2SO_4	526	87

rGO/PANI film	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	640	88
Graphene nano sheets (GNS)/CNT/PANI	6 M KOH	1035	89
GNS/PANI	6 M KOH	1046	89
SG/PPy	1 M KCl	285	90
rGO/PPy	3 M KCl	224	91
GO/PPy	0.1 M KCl	356	92
GNS/PPy	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	482	93
GO/PPy	2 M H ₂ SO ₄	500	94
NG/CNT/PPy	1 M KCl	211	95
Graphene/PPy	1 M NaNO ₃	235	96
Graphene/PPy	1 M KCl	310	97
rGO/PPy	1 M KOH	336	98
Graphene/PPy	1 M KOH	418	99
Graphene/CNT/PPy	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	453	100
Graphene/PPy	1 M KCl	466	101
Graphene/PPy	PVA – H ₂ SO ₄	509	102
Graphene/PPy	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	641	103
Graphene/layered double hydroxide nanowires/PPy	1 M KOH	845	104
rGO/PPy	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	420	105
rGO/PPy nanowire	1 M KCl	728	106
Exfoliated graphene/ PPy	3 M KCl	351	107
Graphene/PPy	LiClO ₄	1510	108

6. CONCLUSION

In this article, typical recent leading and frontier studies of graphene and CPs (mainly PANI and PPy) based composite materials for supercapacitor electrodes were reviewed. CPs and graphene have many outstanding electrochemical properties as well as other unique features which will enhance the performance of supercapacitor electrodes. Main object of this review is to reveal the difficulties of using pure CPs and graphene alone as the electrode material and to overcome this challenge through a successful approach of developing composite electrode materials using graphene and CPs for the supercapacitor industry. Pure CPs suffer

problems such as lower energy and power densities and poor cycling stabilities, while graphene and its derivatives have low volumetric capacitances, agglomeration problems, nano–micro transformation effect and incapability of large scale production. In near future scientists will be able to avoid these challenges and to improve the performance by merging the good qualities of graphene and CPs while considering the understandings of storage mechanism, interfacial relation and designs of graphene/CP composites to develop supercapacitors and to ensure the future energy storage requirements.

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