UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG NEW DELHI – 110 002

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF SENDING THEFINAL REPORT OF THE WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT

- 1. TITLE OF THE PROJECT : "Fabrication and characterization of Reduced graphene oxide Field Effect Transistors (rGO -FET) for sensor applications"
- 2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Goverdhan Reddy Turpu

Department of Pure and Applied Physics

Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya, Koni, Bilaspur 495009

3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION

Department of Pure and Applied Physics

Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya, Koni, Bilaspur 495009

- 4. UGC APPROVAL LETTER NO. AND DATE 43-407/2014 (SR), 07 Sept. 2015
- 5. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION01/07/2015
- 6. TENURE OF THE PROJECT03 Years.....
- 7. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED Rs. <u>10,20,500.00</u>
- 8. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED Rs. 9,23,000=00
- 10. TITLE OF THE PROJECT "Fabrication and characterization of Reduced graphene oxide Field Effect Transistors (rGO -FET) for sensor applications"

11. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Synthesis of graphene oxide (GO) through modified hummer's method and reduction of GO to reduced graphene oxide (rGO) through chemical methods.
- Characterization of the GO and rGO through XRD, and Raman spectroscopic studies
- GO Film fabrication on Si/SiO₂ (300 nm) and pattering of GO film as a micro channel with the combination of photolithography and oxygen plasma etching
- Characterization of rGO FETs using I V characteristics and study adsorbate effects on electrical properties
- During Mid term evaluation, the additional work related to photocatalytic and electrochemical
 applications of the composites of the rGO with functional materials was also discussed and
 presented
- 12. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVEDYes...... (Give Details)
 - > Graphene Oxide and reduced Graphene Oxide were synthesized successfully using proposed methods and characterized thoroughly
 - > X ray Diffraction, Transmission Electron Microscopy, Scanning Electron Microscopic studies were done on the samples to confirm their formation

- Raman Spectroscopic studies were done on all the sample to confirm the SP2 hybridized C- structures in the materials to confirm the Graphene Oxide formation
- Several Composites of the reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO) were synthesized through different chemical methods like co precipitation assisted sonochemical method, solid state synthesis assisted sonochemical methods.
- rGO-SnO2 compounds were synthesized and studied for photocatalytic applications to degrade the Industrial dye, UJALA Blue, Methylene Orange and Super capacitor applications, there results appeared in *IOP Conf. Series: Materials Science and Engineering 149 (2016) 012169 and AIP Conf. Proceedings 1728 (2016) 020375*
- rGO-FeVO4 compounds were synthesized and studied for photocatalytic and super capacitor applications in both bulk and nano sizes. The results appeared in *Applied Surface Science* 488(2019)221 AIP Conf Proc. 2220(2020)080070
- > rGO CrVO4 compounds were synthesized and studied for photocatalytic and super capacitor behaviour and these results appeared in J. Phy. Chem. C 122 (2018)21140
- ➤ rGO V2O5 composite compounds were synthesized and studied for photocatalytic applications and these results appeared in J. Alloys and Compounds Article # 155746 (doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2020.155746)

13. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT

- ✓ A novel and easy method for the synthesis of rGO composites was developed and implemented successfully
- Rapid Photodegradation of Methylene Blue, an industrial dye is being implemented which would be a very interesting results and paves way to develop rapid photocatalytic materials
- ✓ Project produced high quality research publication including journals like JPCC(ACS) (I.F. 4.3), App Surf Sci (I.F. 5.17) and J. Alloys and Comp. (I.F. 4.15)

14. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The project was aimed at development of novel reduced graphene oxide based sensors and multifunctional composite materials. During the duration of the project, reduced graphene oxide was successfully synthesized through modified Hummer's method followed by the reduction using chemical methods. The synthesized rGO was thus used to prepare the composite materials. Several interesting multifunctional materials like FeVO4, CrVO4, V2O5 and SnO2 were synthesized through solid state reaction, co-precipitation methods to achieve bulk and nano particles. Composites of these materials were prepared through simple sonochemical mixing method which yielded uniformly mixed composite materials. This was confirmed by SEM and TEM measurements on these materials. Cyclic Voltammetric measurements were done on the samples to study the super capacitor behaviour on these systems these results were supported by DFT calculations through the help of our collaborators at BARC, Mumbai. Photocatalytic degradation of Methylene Blue dye was studied by all the composite materials where we could develop a rapid photocatalyst which degrades MB in 20 minutes with 70% dye removal capacity.

15. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Photocatalytic degradation of industrial affluent is a quite interesting results pertaining to the environmental remediation in the current world. The method developed for the rapid photo degradation of MB will be a huge step forward for us to develop prototype filter membranes for industrial waste water and this will be further pursued by us in future research.

16. WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT: **NO**(Student Support was not given)

17. NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECT<u>07</u>......

(PLEASE ATTACH) – Attached

- 1. A. Mishra et.al. Rapid photodegradation of methylene blue dye by rGO- V2O5 nano composite J. Alloys and Compounds (doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2020.155746) (In Press) (I.F. 4.15)
- 2. A.Mishra, et.al. Comparative electrochemical analysis of rGO-FeVO4 nanocomposite and FeVO4 for supercapacitor applications,
 App. Surf. Sci. 488, 221(2019) (1.F.5.175)
- 3. G. Bera, et.ala. Multifunctionality of Partially Reduced Graphene Oxide—CrVO₄ Nano-Composite: Electrochemical and Photocatalytic Studies with Theoretical Insight from Density Functional Theory,
 J. Phy. Chem C. 122,21140 (2018) (I.F.4.37)
- 4. Ganesh Bera, et.al. *Triclinic monoclinic orthorhombic (T–M–O) structural transitions in phasediagram of FeVO 4 -CrVO*, solid solutions.

 Journal of Applied Physics 122(11):115101. (2017) (I.F. 2.10)
- Priyanath Mal, et.al. Electronic, magnetic and spectroscopic properties of doped Mn(1-x)AxWO4(A=Co,Cu,Ni) and Fe) multiferroic: an experimental and DFT study. Journal of Physics Condensed Matter, 29, 075901(2017) (1.F.2.657)
- 6. P.Rambabu et.ala. rGO- SnO 2 Composites for Super capacitor Applications, *IOP Conf. Series: Materials Science and Engineering 149 (2016) 012169*
- 7. P.Rambabu et.al. Study of photocatalytic degradation of an industrial dye Ujala Supreme and Methyl Orange using SnO₂ rGO composites AIP Conf. Proceedings 1728 (2016) 020375

(PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Theolde

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कुल सचिव/Registrar गुरू घासीदास विश्वविद्यालय, विलासपुर (छ.ग.) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (C.G.)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG NEW DELHI – 110 002.

Annual/Final Report of the work done on the Major Research Project. (Report to be submitted within 6 weeks after completion of each year)

| ١. | Project report No. 1st /2nd /3rd/Final | <u>Final</u> | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2. | UGC Reference No.F. | 43-407/2014 (SR) | |
| 3. | Period of report: from | 01/07/2015 to 30/06/2018 | |
| 4. | | characterization of Reduced graphene oxide Field Effect tors (rGO -FET) for sensor applications" | |
| 5. | (a) Name of the Principal Investigator Dr. GOVERDHAN REDDY TURPU | | |
| | (b) Department. | PURE AND APPLIED PHYSICS | |
| | (c) University/College where work has pre- | ogressed GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA | |
| 6. | Effective date of starting of the project | 01/07/2015 | |
| 7. | Grant approved and expenditure incurred during the period of the report: | | |
| | a. Total amount approved | Rs. <u>10,20,500.00</u> | |
| | b. Total expenditure c. Report of the work done: (Please attac | Rs. 79,344 = 00 (Attached as Annexure A) | |

SIGNATURE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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गुरु घासीवार, विश्वितिहासीलय, विलासपुर (छ.ग.) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (C.G.)

1. Objectives of the Project

- Synthesis of graphene oxide (GO) through modified hummer's method and reduction of GO to reduced graphene oxide (rGO) through chemical methods.
- Characterization of the GO and rGO through XRD, and Raman spectroscopic studies
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- Characterization of rGO FETs using I V characteristics and study adsorbate effects on electrical properties
- During Mid term evaluation, the additional work related to photocatalytic and electrochemical applications of the composites of the rGO with functional materials was also discussed and presented.

2. Methodology

- 1. Synthesis of Graphene Oxide (GO) standard modified Hummer's method
- 2. Characterization of graphene oxide through XRD and Raman studies
 - ✓ The X-Ray diffraction measurements are carried out using Rigaku Smart lab (9kW power, Cu $k\alpha$ =1.54Å) in the 20 range of 10-80°.
 - ✓ The Raman spectra were recorded in the region 416-2000 cm⁻¹ with Micro Raman spectrometer with model No. STR 500, Cornes Technologies Ltd., Japan. The excitation wavelength of the laser used is 532.8 nm.
- 3. Fabrication of GO thin films and pattering through photolithography and oxygen plasma etching
- 4. Reduction of thin films
- 5. Deposition of FET electrodes by evaporation method
- 6. Characterization through electrical measurements

3. Work done so far (please give details)

The work carried out so far in the project is classified as given below,

A. Synthesis of Graphene Oxide and composites

Materials: For the synthesis of GO and its reduction the chemicals identified are natural graphite, sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) (95–97%), hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) (30 wt.%), potassium permanganate (KMnO₄), sodium nitrate (NaNO₃), hydriodic acid (HCl) (57 wt.%) and acetic acid. For cleaning and regular usage in the laboratory, methanol, isopropanol, nitric acid and membrane filter (200 nm) were used.

Synthesis of graphene oxide (GO): GO synthesis was done from natural graphite powder by the modified Hummers and Offenman's method [1] using sulfuric acid, potassium permanganate, and sodium nitrate.

Synthesis of graphene oxide (rGO) – SnO₂ composites: Reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO) - SnO₂ composite was prepared by mixing GO and SnO₂ precursor prepared by chemical solution methods. The SnO₂ precursor was prepared by adding 22.56 gm of SnCl₂.2H₂O to 100 ml absolute ethanol (1M solution) and stirred at 60°C for 30 min in a closed vessel to obtain the clear, transparent and homogeneous solution. 9.496 ml of GO was added to 40 ml Tin Chloride solution in a closed vessel and the admixture was stirred at 80°C for 1h. The obtained powder after drying was washed with de-ionized water several times and finally with ethanol 2-3 times and dried at 100°C in the oven for 24 hours. rGO- SnO₂ composite powders were annealed at 500°C temperatures in inert ambient. SnO₂ was prepared through similar method without GO addition.

Synthesis of graphene oxide (rGO) – Orthovanadate composites: Further, recently composites with various photocatalytic materials like $FeVO_4$, $CrVO_4$ and $BiVO_4$ are also synthesized through ultrasonication method to study the photocatalytic and electrochemical applications.

B. Characterization of Graphene Oxide and Composites through XRD and Raman Studies

a) XRD and Raman Studies of GO and rGO-SnO₂:

The figure 1(a) shows that the X-Ray diffraction patterns of GO and rGO-SnO₂ samples. The obtained reflections for SnO₂ indicate the tetragonal rutile phase of SnO₂ matching with JCPDS Card No. 41–1445 [1]. Further, the rGO-SnO₂ composites also exist in the same phase. The peak corresponding with GO was not observed in rGO-SnO₂. This may be due to the less amount of GO in the composite and dominating strong intensity peaks of SnO₂ [2]. The XRD pattern of GO with 20 value 11.11° corresponding to (002) reflection with interlayer d-spacing 7.96Å indicates the successful preparation of GO by oxidation of Graphite [3].

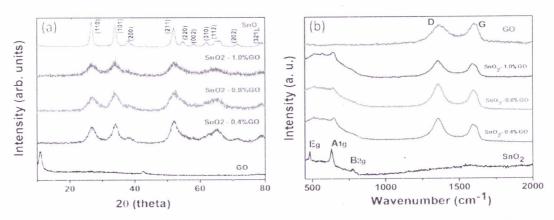


Figure 1(a) X – ray diffraction pattern of GO, SnO_2 and SnO_2 – rGO composites; (b) Raman spectra of GO, SnO_2 and SnO_2 – rGO composites.

The figure 1(b) shows the Raman spectra of GO and rGO-SnO₂ samples. From The peaks at 485.1 cm⁻¹, 631.3 cm⁻¹ and 771.1 cm⁻¹ corresponds to the E_0 , A_{1g} and B_{2g} vibration modes of SnO₂ respectively [4]. The degree of disorder and the average size of sp² domains are measured in terms of 1D/IG ratio [5]. The value of ID/IG ratio for composites is greater than that of GO due to the formation of sp² domains and indicates that GO was reduced due to the addition of Sn during the reaction [6].

b) XRD and Raman Studies of GO and rGO-CrVO4:

Figure 2(a) shows the XRD pattern of GO, $CrVO_4$, and $rGO-CrVO_4$ composite. The diffraction peak indicating (001) plane of GO corresponds to the interlayer space (d spacing) of 0.75 nm, which is larger than the d spacing of natural graphite (0.34 nm) [7] The XRD pattern of $CrVO_4$ shows pure single-phase formation of the compound and is indexed to the orthorhombic structure having Cmcm space group. The lattice parameters evaluated by Rietveld analysis for $CrVO_4$ are a = 5.5818 Å, b = 8.2390 Å, and c = 5.9953 Å [8]. The prepared composite of rGO and $CrVO_4$ shows the peaks corresponding to both rGO and $CrVO_4$, indicating the formation of $rGO-CrVO_4$ composite successfully. It is also observed that the peak corresponding to (001) plane of rGO shifts toward the higher angles indicating the reduction of the rGO by adding $rGVO_4$ to it. It is evident that the materials prepared are pure and are in single-phase from the XRD studies. Figure 2(b) shows the Raman spectra of rGO, $rGVO_4$, and $rGO-CrVO_4$ composite. The main features in the Raman spectra of graphitic carbon-based materials are the rGO and 1354 cm⁻¹, respectively [9]. The rGO peak corresponds to the optical rGO phonons at the Brillouin zone center, resulting from the bond stretching of rGO carbon pairs in both rings and chains. The rGO peak represents the breathing mode of aromatic rings arising because of the defect in the sample. The rGO-peak intensity is therefore often used as a measure for the degree of disorder. The Raman spectra of rGO shows the rGO and rGO bands at 1583.27

and 1345 cm⁻¹, respectively, with the intensity ratio between D and G peaks, ID/IG = 1.04. $CrVO_4$ having orthorhombic crystal structure with *Cmcm* space group has four symmetry inequivalent atoms in the unit cell occupying 4a, 4c, 8f, and 8g positions. The group theory analysis predicts the following irreducible representation at Γ point: $\Gamma = 5Ag + 4B1g + 6B1u + 3Au + 2B2g + 7B2u + 4B3g + 5B3u$; out of these 36 phonon modes, there exist three acoustic modes (B1u, B2u, and B3u),

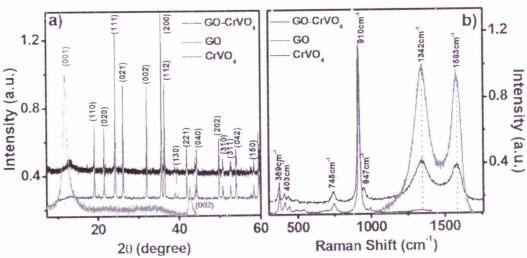


Figure 2 (a) XRD patterns and (b) Raman spectra of CrVO₄ (blue line), rGO (red line), and rGO-CrVO₄ composite (black line), respectively.

three silentmodes (Au), 15 infrared (IR) modes (5B1u, 6B2u, and 4B3u), and 15 Raman active modes (5Ag, 4B1g, 2B2g, and 4B3g). Raman active vibrational modes can be classified as internal and external modes of the VO₄ units [10]. The modes at high frequency (900 cm⁻¹) are internal modes of VO₄ tetrahedra because of symmetric and asymmetric stretching and bending. The modes at lower wave number are due to pre-translational (T) and modes in between these two are due to pure rotational (R) modes. The Raman spectra of composite material (rGO–CrVO₄) show all modes as observed in the pristine compounds with a slight shift toward the lower wave numbers. The intensity ratio of D and G peaks of rGO in the composite changes to 1.09–1.04, indicating possible partial reduction of GO into rGO [11] because of the formation of bonds on the rGO sheet with Cr/V ions.

c) XRD and Raman Studies of GO, FeVO4 and rGO-FeVO4:

Fig. 3 shows the XRD patterns of FeVO₄, GO and rGO-FeVO₄. The XRD of graphene oxide was recorded in the 20 range

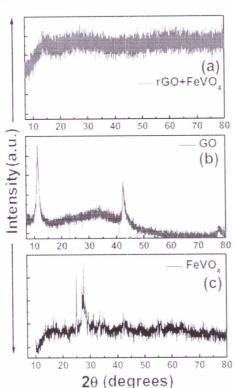


Figure 3 X-ray diffraction pattern of graphene oxide (a) rGO-FeVO₄, (b) GO and (c) $FeVO_4$.

between 8° – 80° which shows a (002) diffraction peak at 2θ =11.12° and (001) diffraction peak at 2θ=42.67° [12]. XRD Spectra of FeVO₄ is measured in range between 10°-80° where the XRD spectra confirms that FeVO₄ is pure and is in triclinic phase [13, 14]. The XRD pattern of FeVO₄manifests broad peaks indicating particle sizes in nano range (~39 nm). Due to low temperature synthesis of the compound it is expected that the nanoparticles possess poor crystallinity when compared to compounds annealed at higher temperatures [15]. The same is observed in terms of lesser counts in XRD pattern and fewer Bragg's peaks with broad nature as compared to bulk FeVO₄ [10]. The XRD of rGO-FeVO $_4$ shows a broad hump around 2theta values of 25° indicating poor crystalline nature or nearly amorphous behavior. This broad hump is due to the overlap of rGO and FeVO4 characteristic peaks appearing at approximately same angles. The absence of sharp peaks is due to poorly crystalline nano particles of FeVO4 and diffused XRD behavior of rGO. Further we want to mention that GO and FeVO₄were taken in 1:1 ratio.

Fig. 4 shows the Raman spectra of GO, FeVO₄ and rGO-FeVO₄ samples. The characteristic spectra of graphitic carbon material D and G peaks which arise due to the vibration of sp² hybridized carbon in ring

and chain. The D band corresponds to the disorder in the aromatic ring because ofthe breathing of sp² and sp³ hybridized carbons in the ring. The G bandcorresponds to the bond stretching of sp² carbons in the ring and chain [16, 17]. In our sample the G and D peaks appears at 1578.92 cm-1 and 1343.55 cm-1respectively. FeVO₄ having triclinic structure (P-1 space group and atoms at 2i positions) contains three symmetry inequivalent Fe³⁺ sites and three symmetry inequivalent

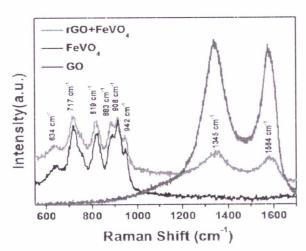


Figure 4Raman spectra of graphene oxide (GO), FeVO $_4$ and rGO-FeVO $_4$ nanocomposite.

ions in the unit cell which forms two FeO $_{0}$ octahedrons, one FeO $_{5}$ polyhedron (trigonal bipyramidal), and three VO $_{4}$ tetrahedron [18]. The polyhedrons are linked with oxygen atoms at vertices. The primitive cell of FeVO $_{4}$ contains 36 atoms and in principle 108 vibrational modes are expected. According to the group theory analysis, the irreducible representation at Γ point is Γ =54Ag+54Au among which 54 optical modes are Raman active (Ag), 51 are infrared active (Au), and 3 (Au) modes are acoustic modes [10]. The spectra of FeVO $_{4}$ contains distinct peaks which appears majorly because of V-O-Fe stretching where the peaks at higher wave numbers are due to the V-O stretching and the peaks at lower frequencies (\leq 500 cm=1) are due to relative torsional motion between polyhedrons [19]. In rGO-FeVO $_{4}$ the characteristic

peaks of graphene oxide and triclinic FeVO₄coexists in the Raman spectra. The ID/IG ratio decreases from 0.96 to 0.92 in composite material compared to GO indicating the increase in ordering of sp2 bonded graphitic domains suggesting reduction of GO to rGO.

C. Photocatalytic studies

a) Photocatalytic studies of rGO - SnO₂:

Photocatalytic activity of SnO₂ and SnO₂ - 1% rGO composites in the degradation of two organic dyes, Methyl Orange (MO) and Ujala Supreme (US) (a fabric whitener) is studied. Ujala Supreme (US) is a synthetic organic colouring agent which is diluted form of acid violet paste and is very similar to the organic compound Acid-Voilet-49. The chemical structures of Methyl Orange and Acid-Voilet-49 are as shown below. Figure 5. shows UV – Vis spectra of a) US in 1% rGO – SnO₂, b) US in SnO₂, c) MO with time and in SnO₂ and d) MO in 1% rGO – SnO₂ in progressive intervals of times upto 180 min. The solution prepared was kept in dark conditions to complete these time dependent measurements. The time dependent UV-Vis spectra of US in SnO₂ show gradual reduction in absorption intensity of the dye as evidenced by Figure 4b whereas, in presence of SnO₂-rGO composite the reduction occurs faster compared to the SnO₂ solutions. The reduction in absorption intensity can be understood in terms of the degradation of dye.

The photo catalytic reaction mechanism of SnO_2 can be understood in the following way: when photo catalyst SnO_2 is excited via UV radiation having greater energy than its band gap energy, the electron - hole pair is generated in the SnO_2 and subsequently, redox reactions occur and form superoxide ions (O^2) and hydroxyl radicals (OH-/OH•) which are strong oxidizing agents and can react with the dye molecules in favour of its degradation directly. The dye molecule can therefore interact with the photo generated holes in the valence band (VB), and provides a direct chemical reaction between the dye and the photo catalyst [20]. Further, the incorporation of rGO over SnO_2 nano particles was made assuming that rGO could offer enhanced photo catalytic activity due to its exceptional electrical conductivity and extremely efficient absorption which promotes the adsorption of organic molecules and inhibits the electron-hole recombination. The photo catalytic activity of SnO_2 and SnO_2 -rGO composite on MO and US shows similar effects resulting in faster degradation due to the incorporation of rGO in the composites.

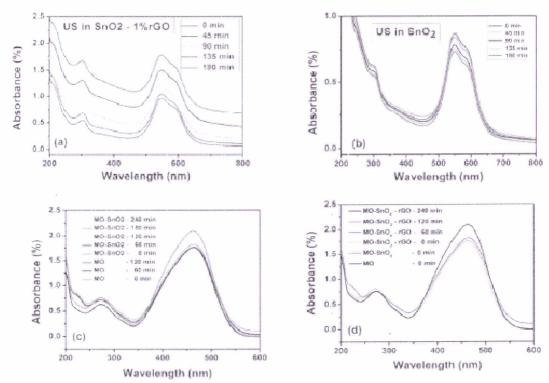


Figure 50V – VIS absorbance spectra of the solutions kept in dark conditions (U - 180 min with 45 min interval) a) US in 1% $rGO - SnO_2$, b) SnO_2 , c) MO in SnO_2 and d) MO in $1\% rGO - SnO_2$.

b) Photocatalytic studies of CrVO₄ and rGO – CrVO₄:

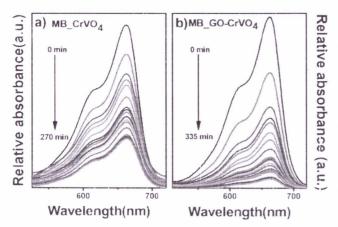


Figure 6 UV-visible absorbance spectra of MB dye solution with performance of (a) CrVO4 and (b) rGO-CrVO4 composite.

Figure 6(a,b) displays the intensity of absorption spectra of MB dye which is having a maximum absorbance at 668 nm and isgradually decreasing on increasing the irradiation time to 330 and 400 min for CrVO₄ and rGO–CrVO₄ composite, respectively. The maximal position of absorption is not altered during the removal process indicating the complete destruction of the dye pollutant into inorganic carbon, and no other intermediate organic products are formed in the degradation process [21]

Figure 7(a) shows the degradation of initial concentration of MB dye with respect to time. The photocatalytic

degradation process obeys the first-order decay kinetics as represented in Figure 7(b), and the rate constants were estimated according to the following formula [22];

$$C_t = C_0 \exp(-kt)$$
; or, $\ln C_0/C_t = kt$

where, C_0 is the initial concentration of dye solution (mol/L), C_1 is the concentration of the dye at various interval times (mol/L), t is the illumination time, and k is the reaction rate constant. The evaluated rate constants are 0.0332 and 0.0670 min⁻¹ for $CrVO_4$ and rGO- $CrVO_4$ composite catalysts, respectively. It is evident that the composite has almost twofold photocatalytic activity as compared to $CrVO_4$. This increase suggests that there is a synergistic effect between rGO and $CrVO_4$.

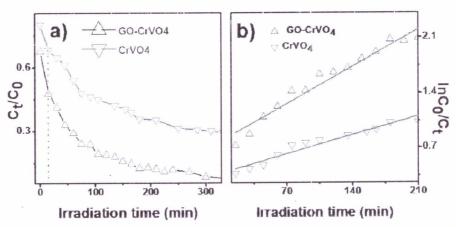


Figure 7 (a) Photodegradation reaction efficiency of MB solution using CrVO₄ and rGO-CrVO₄ composite (b) first-order kinetic linear fitting curves of MB photocatalytic degradation with same catalysts.

D. Electrochemical studies

a) Electrochemical studies of rGO - SnO₂

The cyclic voltammetric studies for SnO_2 and $rGO-SnO_2$ composite have been recorded in the potential range of -0.8-0.8V with a scan rate of 1 mV/sec in 0.5M H_2SO_4 solution. Figure 8(a) shows the votammograms of $rGO-SnO_2$ in two different scan rates of 0.1 and 0.03 V/s and 8(b) shows half cycle in the range of -8 – 0 V with two different scan rates 0.01 and 0.03 V/s. Figure 8(c) shows votammograms of SnO_2 with different scan rates between 0.5 to 0.05 V/s. Fig. 8(d) shows the comparative curves for both $rGO-SnO_2$ and SnO_2 where the increase in the area of the voltammogram is greater for composite material at a given scan rate and range. As can be observed from the graphs, the CV curves deviate from the rectangular shape and get distorted. This distortion increases with the change in the scan rate. This can be due to the polarization [23].

The specific capacitance of the both samples was found using the formula:

$$C = \int i(E) dE / (2mv(E_2 - E_1))$$

where C is capacitance (in farad (F)), i(E) is the instantaneous current (in A), \int i(E)dE is the total voltammetric charge obtained by integration of positive and negative sweep in CV, m is the mass (in gm), v is the scan rate (in V/sec) and (E₂-E₁) is the potential window width (in V).

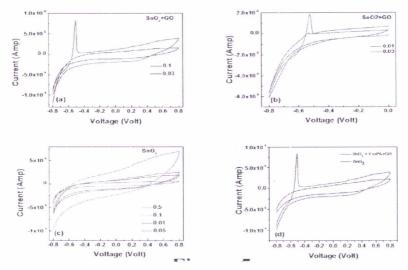


Figure 8Cyclic Vollatommograms of a) 1% rGO - SnO2 in the range of -0.8 – 0.8 V with scan rates of 0.1 and 0.03 V/s , b) 1% rGO - SnO2 in the range of -0.8 – 0.8 V with scan rates of 0.01 and 0.03 V/s, c) SnO2 in the range of -0.8 – 0.8 V with scan rates of 0.05, 0.01, 0.1 and 0.5 V/s and d) comparative cycles of 1% rGO - SnO2 and SnO2 in the range of -0.8 – 0.8 V with scan rates of 0.1 V/s

From the Figure 8(d), it is evident that the area of the composite curve is more compared to the pure SnO_2 which clearly indicates that the $rGO-SnO_2$ composite is having more specific capacitance (4.66 F/gm) than that of pure SnO_2 (2.86 F/gm). Here the specific capacitance of the composite is 1.62 times higher than that of pure SnO_2 . So the composite can be used in super capacitor applications since the addition of GO to the SnO_2 enhances its capacitive behaviour [24].

From the electrochemical impedance measurements, Nyquist plots of the Pure SnO2 and rGO-SnO2 composite samples

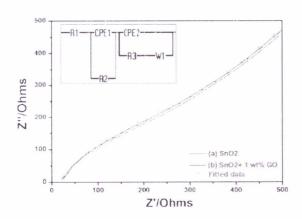


Figure 9Nyquist plots of (a) SnO_2 and (b) $SnO_2 + 1wt\%$ rGO, inset showing equivalent circuit.

were shown in the Figure 9. Accordingly, an equivalent circuit matching the electrochemical behaviour of the samples was simulated [25], as shown in the inset of Fig. 9. The circuit elements are composed of bulk solution resistance (R1) which is the solution resistance between working electrode and reference electrode, the high frequency semicircle is associated with SEI film resistance (R2), the middle frequency semicircle is linked to charge-transfer resistance through the electrode-electrolyte interface (R3), CPE1 and CPE2 are the constant phase elements and the inclined line is associated with the Warburg impedance W1 [26]. The diameters of high and low frequency regions give the SEI resistance (R2) and Charge transfer resistance (R3) directly.

Table 1: Bulk solution resistance (R1), Solid Electrolyte Interface resistance (R2), and Charge transfer resistance (R3) values obtained through the fitting to Nyquist plots of SnO2 and SnO2 + 1wt% rGO

| Sample | R1 (in Ohm) | R2 (in Ohm) | R3 (in Ohm) |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SnO ₂ | 17.1 | 178 | 70902 |
| SnO₂ – 1%rGO | 17.9 | 168 | 44577 |

From the Table 1, it can be seen that the diameters of the semicircles in the high and low frequency regions for the rGO-SnO $_2$ composite are lower than that of pure SnO $_2$. The obtained parameters after fitting tell that the value of the charge transfer resistance R3 for the composite is much lower than that of the Pure SnO $_2$ which clearly indicates that improvement of the charge transfer performance of the composite. Also the value of the SEI film resistance R2 for the composite is lower than that of the Pure SnO $_2$ which obviously reveals the high conductivity of the composite than that of pure SnO $_2$. Therefore, the presence of GO in SnO $_2$ not only enhances the conductivity of the composite butalso largely enhances the electrochemical activity of SnO $_2$.

b) Electrochemical studies of rGO - CrVO₄:

Figure 10(a,b) shows the cyclic voltammograms of CrVO4 and rGO-CrVO4 composite at different scan rates. The CrVO₄cyclic voltammogram shows various oxidative and reduction peaks, whereas in composite material, these peaks almost disappeared. The composite CV shows a nearly rectangular shape, which are typical for an electrical double-layer capacitive behavior. A gradual increase in the current with the increase in the scan rate is also observed. Notably, at the scan rate of 20 mV/s, the behavior can be compared with other high-power SCs found in literature. Figure 8c shows a comparison between CrVO₄ and rGO-CrVO₄ at 5 mV/s, the three redox peaks appearing in CV of CrVO₄ at -0.2768, 0.3302,, 0.7377 V in the anodic sweep and three peaks -0.7138, -0.3284, and 0.3421 V in the cathodic sweep get disappeared in rGO-CrVO₄composite. Nearly a three times increase in capacitance is observed for composite in contrast to CrVO₄ largely because of the increase in the surface area of the composite and availability of various conduction paths in rGO.

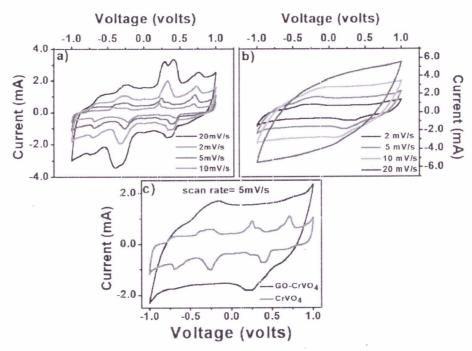


Figure 10 Cyclic voltammograms of (a) CrVO4 and (b) rGO-CrVO4 composite at different scan rates and (c) a comparison between CrVO4 and rGO-CrVO4 at 5 mV/s.

Figure 11(a,b) shows the galvanometric charging discharging (GCD) curve of CrVO₄ and rGO–CrVO₄ composite at different current densities of 0.5, 1.0, 5.0, and 10.0 mA/cm2, respectively. Therefore, triangular shapes were observed for GCD curves at different current densities. The calculated specific capacitance of rGO–CrVO₄ composite is 102.66 F/g for 4.45×10^{-3} g of electrode material and that of CrVO₄ is 30.87 F/g at a scan rate of 0.5 mA/cm2. The discharge curve of rGO–CrVO₄ is quite linear as compared to CrVO₄, with a minimal IR drop visible at the start of each discharge curve. At higher scan rates, the IR drop becomes more visible. Figure 12 shows a Nyquist curve of rGO– CrVO₄ composite in the frequency range of 100 KHz to 10mHz, where there is an internal resistance Rs = 9.64 Ω in the high-frequency region; on the other hand, the Rs in CrVO₄ was 15.91 Ω .

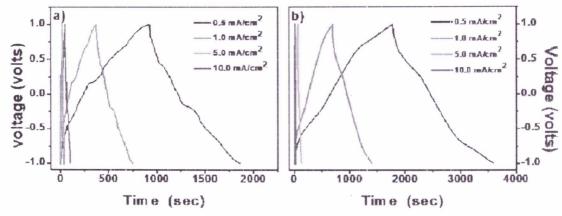


Figure 11GCD curve of (a) CrVO4 and (b) rGO-CrVO4 composite at different current densities.

The partial semicircle in the high-frequency to mid-frequency region is modeled by an interfacial charge-transfer resistance Rct= $0.854~\Omega$; on the other hand, the Rct of CrVO₄ was $14.87~\Omega$. A low Rs and Rct of rGO-CrVO₄, respectively, in the highfrequency region is attributed to balanced electronic and ionic conduction in composite material. Moreover, the impedance curve of composite parallel to the imaginary axis indicates the capacitive nature of rGO-CrVO₄ composite. The high Rs and Rct for CrVO₄ indicate high diffusion resistance and resistive electron-transfer pathways. This substantially differentiates CrVO₄ and rGO-CrVO₄ in turn which holds larger chargestorage capacity [27].

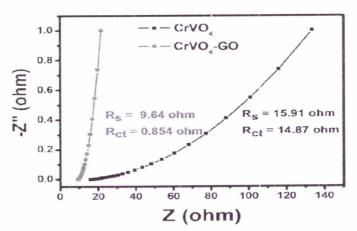


Figure 12 Nyquist curve of CrVO4 (black) and rGO-CrVO4 (red) in the frequency range of 100 KHz to 10 mHz.

c) Electrochemical studies of rGO - FeVO₄:

Fig. 13(a) & (d) shows the Cyclic Voltammograms of FeVO₄and rGO-FeVO₄composite material taken in a voltage window from -1.0 to 1.0 at 5 mV/s, 10 mV/s and 20 mV/s sweep rates. In FeVO₄ sharper oxidation peaks at -0.00929 V, 0.7481 V and 0.9944 V on anodic sweep and reduction peaks at 0.4730 V, -0.6778 V and -0.9926 V on cathodic sweep were observed and are due to two redox couples Fe³⁺/Fe²⁺ and V⁵⁺/V⁴⁺ [28]. Whereas in rGO-FeVO₄ composite intensity of the peaks is reduced may be due addition of graphene oxide there will be an insertion of FeVO₄ into the layer of graphene oxide resulting in the overlapping of redox peaks of redox couples. Fig. 13(b) & (e) shows the Galvanometric charging discharging curve of FeVO₄ and rGO-FeVO₄composite at different current densities i.e. 0.5 mA/cm2, 1 mA/ cm2, 5 mA/cm2up to 10 mA/cm2. The humps appearing on the charging and discharging curve of FeVO₄ at 0.5 mA/cm2 matches well with the cyclic voltammogram, whereas the humps nearly get disappeared in the charging and discharging curve of rGO-FeVO₄ at 0.5 mA/cm². The specific capacitances evaluated by using GCD curve for FeVO₄ and rGO-FeVO₄are 97.54 g/F and 189.10 g/F, respectively. The specific capacitance increases drastically (all most double) by the addition of GO to FeVO₄. The IR drop appearing in the beginning of discharging curve of FeVO₄ at 0.5 mA/cm² gets reduced in rGO-FeVO₄ at 0.5 mA/cm² indicating a good characteristic of rGO-FeVO₄ as a supercapacitor.

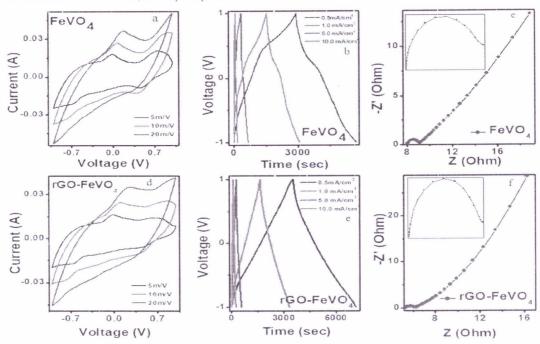


Figure 13 Cyclic voltammogram curve of a) $FeVO_4$ and d) $rGO-FeVO_4$ in voltage window of -1.0 V to 1.0 V at 5 mV/s, 10 mV/s and 20 mV/s swipe rate; galvanometric charging discharging curve of b) $FeVO_4$ and d) $rGO-FeVO_4$ and the Nyquist plot of c) $FeVO_4$ and f) $rGO-FeVO_4$.

Fig. 13(c) & (f) shows the Nyquist curve of FeVO4 and rGO-FeVO₄ in 100 kHz to 10 mHz frequency range. As it can be seen the Nyquist curve shows a semicircle in the higher frequency range followed by a slanted line in the lower frequency range. The semicircle formation indicates that there is small/lower charge transfer resistance between electrolyte and electrode [29]. rGO-FeVO₄ possess smaller impedance arc radius which means it possess lower charge transfer resistance and higher electron mobility compared to FeVO₄. This could be due to the increase in the effective surface area which is beneficial for higher electron conduction [30]. The Rs and Rct values measured by Nyquist plot ofFeVO₄ and rGO-FeVO₄ are 8.02 Ω , 0.975 Ω and 6.17 Ω , 0.829 Ω respectively.

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4. Has the progress been accordingly to original plan of work and towards achieving objectives if not, state reasons

Besides the project, some new objectives have been identified due to the potential of these materials in various applications i.e. photocatalytic and electrochemical applications.

5. Please indicate the difficulties, if any, experienced in

The additional plans were implemented due to the delay in the purchase process. It is also observed that having a project fellow would have improved the strategies in the implementation of the project.

implementing the project

Due to the non – availability of man power the implementation of the project has been quite difficult.

6. Details of Publications resulting from the project work (please attach re-prints) letter of Acceptance of paper communicated.

Also the purchase of equipment is significantly hampered due to non – availability of bidders (registered for the supply of the items, as per GFR 2005 (LTI))

- 1. A. Mishra et.al. Rapid photodegradation of methylene blue dye by rGO- V2O5 nano composite ,J. Alloys and Compounds (doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2020.155746) (In Press) (I.F. 4.15)
- 2. A.Mishra, et.al. Comparative electrochemical analysis of rGO-FeVO4 nanocomposite and FeVO4 for supercapacitor applications, App. Surf. Sci. 488, 221(2019) (I.F.5.175)
- 3. G. Bera, et.ala. Multifunctionality of Partially Reduced Graphene Oxide –CrVO₄ Nano-Composite: Electrochemical and Photocatalytic Studies with Theoretical Insight from Density Functional Theory, J. Phy. Chem C. 122,21140 (2018) (I.F.4.37)
- 4. Ganesh Bera, et.al. Triclinic monoclinic orthorhombic (T–M–O) structural transitions in phasediagram of FeVO 4 -CrVO₁ solid solutions. Journal of Applied Physics 122, 115101 (2017) (1.F. 2.10)
- 5. Priyanath Mal, et.al. Electronic, magnetic and spectroscopic properties of doped Mn(1-x)AxWO4(A = Co, Cu, Ni and Fe) multiferroic: an experimental and DFT study. Journal of Physics Condensed Matter, 29, 075901(2017) (I.F.2.657)
- 6. P.Rambabu et.ala. rGO- SnO 2 Composites for Super capacitor Applications, *IOP Conf. Series: Materials Science and Engineering* 149 (2016) 012169
- 7. P.Rambabu et.al. Study of photocatalytic degradation of an industrial dye Ujala Supreme and Methyl Orange using SnO₂ rGO composites AIP Conf. Proceedings 1728 (2016) 020375
- 7. Any other information which would help in evaluation of work done on the project
- P.I. is also involved in other funcational properties studies on orthovanadate compounds, which yielded interesting results and publications in Phy Rev B, Scientific Resports, PCCP etc. One Student also submitted thesis in the field of Multiferroics who actively participated in the activities of UGC MRP partially