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The Effect of Graphene Addition on the Microstructure and Properties of Graphene/Copper Composites for Sustainable Energy Materials

(2023) *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 1216 (1), art. no. 012028, . Cited 1 time.

DOI: 10.1088/1755-1315/1216/1/012028

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Abstract

Graphene is a single thin layer (mono layer) of a hexagon-bound carbon atom and is an allotropic carbon in the form of a hybrid atomic plane, with a molecular bond length of 0.142 nm. Graphene is the thinnest and lightest material with 0.77 mg square meters, which exhibited excellent electricity and heat conductor. However, the perfect uniform microstructure, strength and optimum thermal properties of copper-graphene composites cannot be achieved because the amount of graphene does not reach the optimum level. In order to solve this problem, copper-graphene composites were produced by metal injection molding method (MIM) with various percentage of graphene, specifically 0.5%, 1.0% and 1.5% in the composite, to compare the physical and mechanical properties of these samples. MIM process involves the preparation of feed materials, pre-mixing process, mixing process, mold injection process, binding process and sintering processes. Feeding materials were used are copper and graphene, which have the powder loading of 62% with a mix of binder comprising 73% polyethylene glycol (PEG), 25% polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and 2% stearic acid (SA). Densification and tensile test were conducted to determine the mechanical properties. Scanning electron microstructure (SEM) was performed to obtain the microstructure of the composites. From the research, the result revealed that the 0.5% graphene content had the optimum parameter, which the hardness and tensile stress values were at 94.2 HRL and 205.22 MPa. © 2023 Published under licence by IOP Publishing Ltd.

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Editors: Noor N.M., Rahim N.L.

Publisher: Institute of Physics

Conference name: 4th International Conference on Green Environmental Engineering and Technology, ICONGEET 2022

Conference date: 17 November 2022 through 18 November 2022

Conference code: 191331

ISSN: 17551307

Language of Original Document: English

Abbreviated Source Title: IOP Conf. Ser. Earth Environ. Sci.

2-s2.0-85169611976

Document Type: Conference Paper

Publication Stage: Final

Source: Scopus

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