Supplementary Information

A promising nanohybrid of silicon carbide nanowires scrolled by graphene oxide sheets with synergistic effect for poly(propylene carbonate) nanocomposites

Hao Qu, Yong Wang, Yun Sheng Ye, Wei Zhou, Shou Ping Bai, Xing Ping Zhou, Hai Yan Peng, Xiao Lin Xie and Yiu-Wing Mai

* Key laboratory of Material Chemistry for Energy Conversion and Storage, Ministry of Education, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430074, China.

BYD Company Limited; No. 3009, BYD Road, Pingshan, Shenzhen.

Centre for Advanced Materials Technology (CAMT), School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering J07, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia.

Dispersion amount of SiC nanowires in the SiC/GO suspension

The SiC/GO dispersions with the concentration of 2 mg ml⁻¹ was estimated by weighting the amount of the dispersed solid (upper layer after standing overnight) after evaporation process. The content of SiC nanowires in the resulting SiC/GO dispersed solid was then analyzed by TGA. The dispersion amount of SiC was calculated using equations: Y=M_u/M_o. Where M_u is the content of SiC nanowires in the upper layer of SiC/GO suspension, M_o is the content of SiC nanowires in the original SiC/GO suspension. The dispersion amount of SiC means the amount of SiC dispersed by GO sheets. Dispersion stability was studied by UV-vis absorption spectra as shown in Figure S1.

![Figure S1](image_url)

**Figure S1.** UV-vis absorption spectra of (a) GO and (b) SiC-GO 3 hybrid dispersed in water with different concentrations; (c) optical density at 500 nm of SiC-GO and GO at different concentrations.
Hydrogen interactions between GO and SiC

We assumed that the abundant oxygen groups of GO interact with the surface hydroxyl groups of SiC through hydrogen bonding, and then a SiC/GO scroll-like structure was formed. The hydrogen bonding was analyzed by FTIR in this study and result was presented in Figure S2. For the convenience of observation, the weight ratio of GO to SiC (GO/SiC=0-50) used in the mixture are different from that used for the fabrication of composites (GO/SiC=1). Figure S2 (a) shows that the interactions between SiC and GO weaken the interaction of GO itself, so the frequencies of peak at 1618 cm$^{-1}$ corresponding to the C=O bonds present in GO is slightly shifted towards high wavenumbers with increasing amount of SiC in the GO/SiC nanohybrid. Additionally, Figure S2 (b) shows the peak at 941 cm$^{-1}$ corresponding to the O-H bonds of SiC were lowered (4-5 cm$^{-1}$) by the increasing amount of GO in the SiC/GO nanohybrid. These results indicate that the interactions between OH groups of SiC and COOH groups of GO weaken the interactions of GO itself, which is in a good agreement with our morphological observation for the SiC/GO nanohybrids.

Figure S2. FTIR spectra of (a) GO and nanohybrids with different GO/SiC ratios; (b) SiC and nanohybrids with different SiC/GO ratios.
Tensile properties of neat PPC and PPC-SiC/GO nanocomposites

**Figure S3.** Tensile properties of neat PPC and PPC-SiC/GO nanocomposites composites with different filler contents.

**Theoretical values of tensile modules of PPC-based nanocomposites**

The SiC nanowires composites were considered as random oriented discontinuous fibers, and the GO sheets were assumed as effective rectangular solid fibers, the modulus of the PPC-SiC and PPC-GO composites can be calculated from the Equations S1 and S2, respectively.

**PPC-SiC composite:**

\[
E_c = \frac{3}{8} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{E_R} \left( \frac{l_{NT}}{d_{NT}} \right) \right] \left[ \frac{E_R - 1}{E_R + 2 \left( \frac{l_{NT}}{d_{NT}} \right)} \right] V_{NT} E_M + \frac{5}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{E_R - 1}{E_R + 2} \right] V_{NT} E_M \tag{S1}
\]

In the Halpin–Tsai model, \( E_c \) is the tensile modulus of the composite, \( l_{NT} \) is the length of nanowires (100 μm), \( d_{NT} \) is the average diameter of the nanotubes (300 nm), \( E_R = E_{eq}/E_M \), \( E_{eq} \) is the equivalent modulus of nanowires (581 GPa), \( E_M \) is the tensile modulus of PPC matrix (3.03GPa) and \( V_{NT} \) is the volume content of the nanowires.

**PPC-GO composite:**

\[
E_c = \frac{3}{8} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{E_R} \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) \right] \left[ \frac{E_R - 1}{E_R + \left( \frac{W}{L} \right) / t} \right] V_{GPL} E_M + \frac{5}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{E_R - 1}{E_R + 2} \right] V_{GPL} E_M \tag{S2}
\]

In the modified Halpin–Tsai model, \( E_c \) is the tensile modulus of the composite, \( W \) is the
average width of GO sheets (5 μm), \( L \) is the average length of the GO sheets (5 μm), \( t \) is the average thickness of GO sheets (1.1 nm), \( E_r = \frac{E_{GPL}}{E_M} \) is the equivalent modulus of GO sheets (1.11 TPa), \( E_M \) is the tensile modulus of PPC matrix (3.03 GPa) and \( V_{GPL} \) is the volume content of the GO sheets.

The \( V_{NT} \) and \( V_{GPL} \) in equation S1 and S2 can be calculated from wt % of SiC nanowires and GO sheets, respectively.