

MASTER'S THESIS

Amperometric biosensors based on carbon nanotubes with different polymer coatings

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**Amperometric Biosensors Based on Carbon Nanotubes
with Different Polymer Coatings**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Philosophy**

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Abstract

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have emerged as a new class of nanomaterials that exhibit a unique combination of excellent mechanical, electrical and electrochemical properties, which have stimulated increasing interest in the application of CNTs as important components in biosensor developments.

Multi-walled CNT (MWNT)-modified glassy carbon electrode (GCE) with different types of MWNT materials, including regular MWNTs, MWNTs with carboxyl (-COOH) and hydroxyl (-OH) functionalities under both purified (acid-treated) and unpurified conditions, have been prepared. Electrochemical reactions involving ferricyanide and hydrogen peroxide were evaluated at the MWNT-modified electrodes. Glucose biosensors have also been fabricated with different types of MWNT materials and the amperometric behaviors of the modified electrodes for glucose determination have been examined. Experimental results revealed that the purified MWNT materials offered better electron transfer properties and electrocatalytic activities to hydrogen peroxide and glucose than the corresponding unpurified MWNTs. Moreover, electrodes modified with the purified MWNT and MWNT-OH materials exhibited slightly improved electrochemical performances when compared with the purified MWNT-COOH material for the substrates (H_2O_2 and glucose) evaluated.

The utilization of CNT-based biosensors for the amperometric detection of glucose by casting the MWNT-modified GCE with different polymeric enzyme entrapment materials has been investigated. The polymeric materials examined in this thesis work include the non-conducting poly(*o*-phenylenediamine) (PoPD) film, as well as the conducting poly(toluidine blue O) (PTBO), polypyrrole (PPy) and Nafion films. Glucose oxidase (GOx) was co-immobilized on electrode

either by electrochemical polymerization or enzyme entrapment. The electrochemical behaviors of different biosensors were explored and compared in terms of sensitivity and linear range for glucose detection under three particularly selected potentials of +0.70 V, -0.10 V and -0.30 V (vs. Ag|AgCl reference), respectively.

The PTBO-based enzymatic system was then selected to construct an amperometric hydrogen peroxide biosensor utilizing horseradish peroxidase (HRP) at a low detection potential of -0.10 V. Furthermore, a bienzyme glucose biosensor by co-immobilizing both HRP and GOx together onto a MWNT-modified GCE in an electropolymerized PTBO film has been developed. In this design, the HRP layer could be used to analyze hydrogen peroxide with TBO mediators, while the bienzyme system (HRP + GOx) could be utilized for glucose determination. An unusual amperometric response for glucose detection was observed due to the competition between oxygen and an oxidized mediator for the regeneration of the oxidase enzyme. The reaction schemes for glucose detection at the PTBO coated bienzyme electrodes have been examined in detail. The bienzyme electrode offered high sensitivity for amperometric determination of glucose at low potential, displaying Michaelis-Menten kinetics. The bienzyme glucose biosensor offered a linear response up to 1.2 mM with a sensitivity of 113 mA M⁻¹ cm⁻² at an applied potential of -0.10 V in air-saturated electrolytes. The reaction schemes for glucose detection at the PTBO coated bienzyme electrodes have been examined in detail.

Table of Contents

DECLARATION.....	i
Abstract.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Figures.....	xii
List of Schemes.....	xvii
List of Symbols and Abbreviations.....	xviii
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Carbon nanotubes (CNTs).....	1
1.1.1 Molecular structure and different types of CNTs.....	1
1.1.2 Properties of CNTs.....	3
1.1.2.1 Mechanical and thermal properties.....	3
1.1.2.2 Electronic properties.....	4
1.1.2.3 Chemical and electrochemical properties.....	5
1.1.2.4 Defects and functionalization of CNTs.....	6
1.1.3 Synthesis and purification of CNTs.....	7
1.1.4 Characterization CNTs.....	9
1.1.5 Applications of CNTs.....	10
1.1.5.1 CNTs for catalytic applications.....	10
1.1.5.2 Catalytic applications of CNTs modified with metal nanoparticles.....	10

1.1.5.3 Application of CNTs as nanoprobe.....	11
1.1.5.4 Applications of CNTs in electrochemical (bio)sensors.....	12
1.1.5.5 Applications of CNTs used as a sorbent phase and separation tool.....	13
1.2 Biosensors.....	14
1.2.1 Electrochemical biosensors.....	14
1.2.2 Development of electrochemical glucose biosensors	15
1.2.2.1 First-generation glucose biosensors.....	15
1.2.2.2 Second-generation glucose biosensors.....	17
1.2.2.3 Third-generation glucose biosensors.....	18
1.2.3 Amperometric peroxidase-modified electrodes.....	19
1.2.4 Biosensors based on carbon nanotubes.....	21
1.2.4.1 Electrodes modified by CNTs.....	21
1.2.4.2 CNT-based electrodes with immobilized enzymes.....	22
1.3 Objectives.....	23
References.....	26
Chapter 2 Comparison of Electrochemical Performances of Different Multi- walled Carbon Nanotube Materials.....	38
2.1 Introduction.....	38
2.2 Experimental.....	40
2.2.1 Reagents.....	40
2.2.2 Apparatus.....	41
2.2.3 Electrode modification.....	42
2.2.4 Amperometric measurements.....	43
2.3 Results and discussion.....	43

2.3.1 Electrochemical behaviors of MWNT-modified electrodes.....	43
2.3.2 Electron transfer properties of MWNT-modified electrodes.....	44
2.3.3 FTIR characterization of functionalized MWNTs.....	46
2.3.4 Redox reactions of hydrogen peroxide at MWNT-modified electrodes.....	49
2.3.5 Electrocatalytic oxidation of glucose at MWNT-modified glucose biosensors.....	55
2.4 Conclusions.....	61
References.....	62
Chapter 3 Comparison of Electrochemical Performances of Glucose Biosensors Based on Different Polymeric Enzyme Entrapment Materials65	
3.1 Introduction.....	65
3.2 Experimental.....	70
3.2.1 Reagents.....	70
3.2.2 Apparatus.....	70
3.2.3 Electrode modification.....	71
3.2.4 Amperometric measurements.....	71
3.3 Results and discussion.....	72
3.3.1 Reaction schemes of different amperometric glucose biosensors.....	72
3.3.2 Preparation of different amperometric biosensors.....	73
3.3.3 Effects of PTBO and PPy film thickness on the biosensor performance.....	76
3.3.4 Electrochemical characterization of the glucose biosensors.....	78
3.3.5 Amperometric determination of glucose.....	83
3.3.5.1 Applied potential: +0.70 V.....	83

3.3.5.2 Applied potential: -0.10 V.....	87
3.3.5.3 Applied potential: -0.30 V.....	88
3.4 Conclusions.....	90
References.....	92
Chapter 4 Hydrogen Peroxide Biosensor Based on MWNT-Modified GC Electrode with Electropolymerized Conducting Poly(toluidine blue O) Film as a Redox Mediator.....	
4.1 Introduction.....	96
4.2 Experimental.....	97
4.2.1 Reagents.....	97
4.2.2 Apparatus.....	98
4.2.3 Electrode modification.....	98
4.2.4 Amperometric measurements.....	99
4.3 Results and discussion.....	99
4.3.1 Preparation of GCE/MWNT/PTBO/HRP electrode.....	99
4.3.2 Electrochemical characterization of the GCE/MWNT/PTBO-HRP electrode.....	102
4.3.3 Optimization of experimental conditions.....	105
4.3.3.1 Influence of pH on the biosensor performance.....	105
4.3.3.2 Effects of applied potential on the biosensor performance.....	106
4.3.3.3 Effects of PTBO film thickness on the biosensor performance..	108
4.3.4 Amperometric determination of hydrogen peroxide.....	109
4.3.5 Selectivity against interferents.....	112
4.4 Conclusions.....	113
References.....	114

Chapter 5 Amperometric Bienzyme Glucose Biosensor Based on Carbon Nanotube Modified Electrode with Electropolymerized Poly(toluidine blue O) Film.....	117
5.1 Introduction.....	117
5.2 Experimental.....	119
5.2.1 Reagents.....	119
5.2.2 Apparatus.....	119
5.2.3 Electrode modification.....	120
5.2.4 Amperometric measurements.....	120
5.3 Results and discussion.....	121
5.3.1 Reaction schemes of the GOx-HRP bienzyme system at MWNT-modified GCE with PTBO coating.....	121
5.3.2 Preparation of GCE/MWNT/PTBO/GOx+HRP electrode.....	123
5.3.3 Electrochemical characterization of the bienzyme electrodes.....	124
5.3.4 Effects of detection potential on the biosensor performance.....	130
5.3.5 Effects of enzyme composition on the biosensor performance.....	132
5.3.6 Amperometric response of the bienzyme biosensor.....	133
5.3.7 Electrode performance for glucose detection.....	140
5.4. Conclusions.....	141
References.....	142
Chapter 6 Summery and Future Work.....	145
6.1 Summary.....	145
6.2 Future Work.....	149
6.2.1 Preparation of glucose biosensors based on functionalized MWNT materials.....	149

6.2.2 Fabrication of cholesterol biosensors with the electropolymerized poly(toluidine blue O) film.....	149
References.....	152
Curriculum Vitae.....	153