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Synthesis of One-Dimensional Graphite Polymer, Poly-Peri-Naphthalene, By Vapor Phase Polymerization

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SYNTHESIS OF ONE-DIMENSIONAL GRAPHITE POLYMER, POLY-PERINAPHTHALENE, BY VAPOR PHASE POLYMERIZATION.

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Abstract. Very fine whiskers grown via vapor phase polymerization of 3,4,9,10-perylenetetracarboxylic dianhydride have a one-dimensional graphite structure with a metallic-like electrical conductivity.

INTRODUCTION

One-dimensional graphite has been expected to have extinguished physical properties because of its unique molecular structure. Quantum mechanical calculation has recently been made with various hypothetical one-dimensional graphite polymers, such as polyacene,¹ polyacene,^{2,3} polyphenanthrene,⁴ or polynaphthalene.⁵ It has been suggested that some will exhibit metallic conductivity and some will possibly have a phase with high-temperature superconductivity or ferromagnetism.³ Although attempts have been made on the preparation of such polymers, well-defined one-dimensional graphite has not been synthesized as yet.^{6,7} In this paper, we report vapor phase polymerization of 3,4,9,10-perylenetetracarboxylic dianhydride (PTCDA) at elevated temperatures, presenting a new approach to a successful preparation of a one-dimensional graphite polymer.

EXPERIMENTAL

A pressed pellet of PTCDA was heated in an argon or argon-hydrogen atmosphere with an infrared-radiation furnace in which the light

from four quartz-made light sources was concentrated on the center of the pellet. The temperature was raised at a rate of $10^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ to a predetermined temperature (T_p) where the pellet was heat-treated for another one hour.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SEM Features of the Whiskers

During the experiments, growth of very fine whiskers on the pellet was encountered when T_p was higher than 520°C . It looked as if the pellet was covered with black mold of thickness less than 10 mm and quite unusual macroscopic properties were revealed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) observation. First, almost all the whiskers grown under the same condition were of uniform size and shape with about $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$ in width. (see Fig.1) Since the length of the whisker is between 1 and 10 mm, the largest ratio of the width to the length is about one to fifty thousand. This ratio is equivalent to that of five-meter long human hair. Second, as shown in Figure 2, the whisker has an essentially rectangular cross section of about 0.1 to $0.4\ \mu\text{m}$ on a side. Until now many kinds of vapor-phase grown carbon fibers have been reported but all have circular cross sections. This is the first example of a rectangular fiber. Third, the angular nature of the whisker was much pronounced when grown in a hydrogen-containing inert atmosphere. Figure 3 shows the whisker grown in Ar-H_2 (3:2 in volume) at $T_p = 800^{\circ}\text{C}$. Since the shape of the whisker differs substantially from that of benzene-derived carbon fibers⁸ and the whisker grows at relatively low temperatures without any catalyst, a mechanism for the reaction and growth of this new whisker should be offered on a basis entirely different from that of ordinary carbonization reactions.

Polymerization Mechanism

The temperature at which the whisker started to grow (520°C) is just above the decomposition temperature of the PTCDA crystal (516

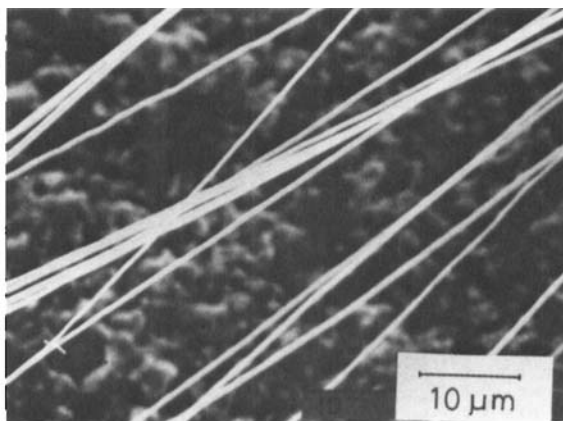


FIGURE 1 SEM picture of whisker-800.

FIGURE 2 More magnified view of the whisker-800.

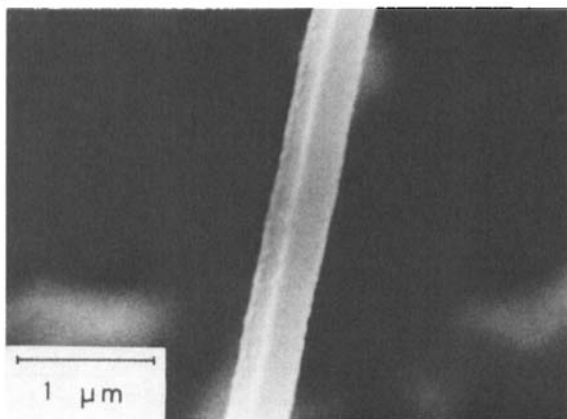
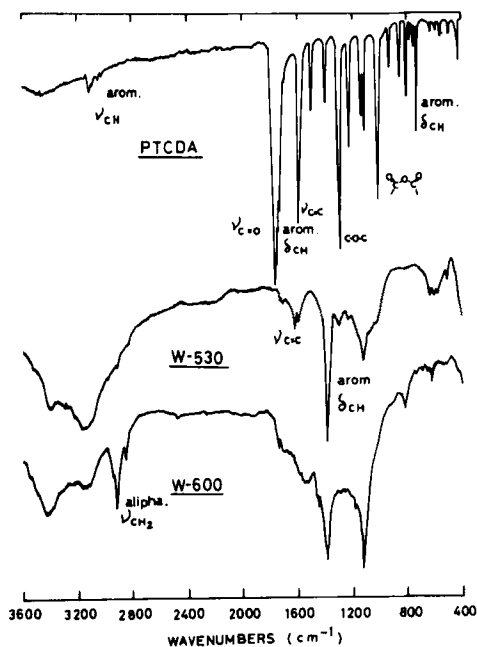


FIGURE 3 SEM picture of whisker-800 synthesized in Ar/H₂ atmosphere.

$^{\circ}\text{C}$) as evidenced from the thermogravimetric analysis. From the elemental analysis of the heat-treated PTCDA, it was found that the oxygen content of PTCDA decreased with the weight loss. For example, the content of the heat-treated PTCDA at 600°C is less than 1 %. In addition, gas analysis revealed almost stoichiometric evolution of carbondioxide and monooxide gas. So that it is concluded that the scission of the dianhydride substituents in PTCDA occurs during the initial weight loss at the whiskerization temperature.

The FT-IR absorption spectra of the PTCDA whiskers synthesized at 530°C and 600°C in Ar are shown in Figure 4. The spectrum of PTCDA consisted of absorptions at 1774 cm^{-1} ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1757 , 1743 , 1730 cm^{-1} (aromatic $\delta\text{ C-H}$, out of plane), 1594 , 1538 cm^{-1} (aromatic $\nu\text{C=C}$), 1299 , 1234 cm^{-1} (C-O-C), 1022 cm^{-1} ($-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}-$), and 859 , 792 , 733 cm^{-1} (aromatic $\delta\text{ C-H}$, out of plane). In the spectrum of the

FIGURE 4 FT-IR spectra of PTCDA, Whisker-530, and -600.



whisker grown at 530°C, however, absorptions based on C-O-C, C=O and -C-O-C- completely disappeared and instead the absorptions at 1593 cm^{-1} (aromatic $\nu\text{C}=\text{C}$) and those due to aromatic $\delta\text{C-H}$ (1400 and 1125 cm^{-1}) developed. The absorption spectrum of the whisker obtained at 600°C was almost identical with that obtained at 530°C except for absorptions at 2925 and 2854 cm^{-1} (aliphatic νCH_2). For higher T_p , the infrared absorption spectra became broadened as in the case of conventional carbons.

The hydrogen content in the whiskers decreased with increasing T_p . For example, the contents for whiskers made at 550, 600, 800, and 1000°C were 2.9, 2.4, 0.9, and 0.4 %, respectively. Since a sufficient amount of whisker-520 has not been obtained at this stage, we cannot directly determine the hydrogen content in the whisker. However, we estimated the hydrogen content to be 3.2% by extrapolating the mentioned elemental analysis data to 520°C.

From these results, we propose a growth mechanism for the whiskers as shown in Figure 5. The decomposition is thought to

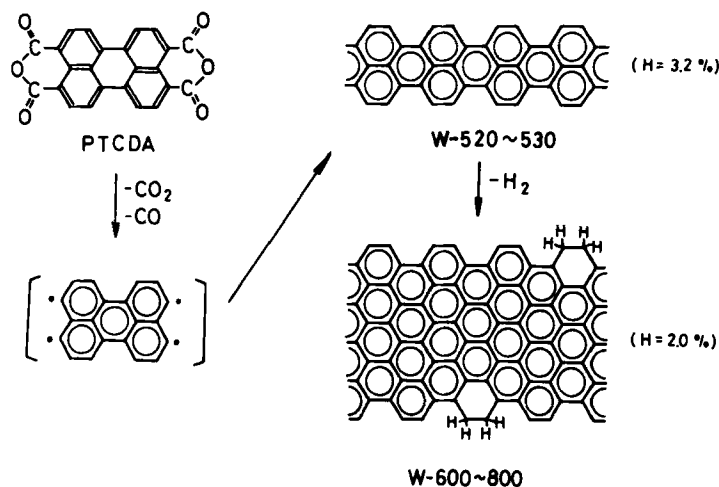


FIGURE 5 Polymerization mechanism of PTCDA.

have occurred at the dianhydride groups in PTCDA producing perylene-tetraradicals (II), which then polymerized to form polynaphthalene (III). The whisker had neither carboxylic nor carbonyl groups, and the theoretical hydrogen content of III, 3.2%, coincides with the estimated hydrogen content of whiskers synthesized at around 520°C. This result together with the infrared results strongly support the polynaphthalene structure. The structure of form IV in Fig. 5 is the estimated structure of whiskers heat-treated in the higher temperature range. As evidenced from the infrared spectra, a partially aliphaticized graphite structure can be assumed. The theoretical hydrogen content of the structure (IV) is 2.0 %. Since the hydrogen contents of whiskers synthesized at 600 and 800°C are 2.4 and 0.9 %, respectively, they are thought to have the structure IV.

Structure of the Whiskers

From results of X-ray, XPS, TEM, and laser Raman measurements, it was found that the structure of the whisker consisted of three phases; polynaphthalene, amorphous carbon and graphitized carbon. The whiskers which were synthesized at temperatures lower than 550°C mainly consisted of crystalline polynaphthalene. On the contrary, the whiskers synthesized between 550 and 1000°C mainly consisted of partially graphitized amorphous carbon. In the latter whiskers, a graphite like two-dimensional structure was formed as a result of degradation of the polynaphthalene structure. In a temperature range higher than 1000°C, a three-dimensional, graphite-like, layer structure gradually developed. For example, laser Raman spectrum of whisker-550 shows four absorptions at 1295 cm^{-1} (C-C stretching and CH bending mode), 1370 cm^{-1} (disorder-induced line), 1575 cm^{-1} (C=C stretching mode), and 1600 cm^{-1} (Raman-allowed graphite-like E_{2g} mode). This result confirms the existence of polynaphthalene structure in the whisker-550.

Electrical Conductivity

The room-temperature conductivities measured with the two-point method for whiskers developed in Ar at 530, 600, 800, 1000 and 1200°C were, respectively, 0.2, 10, 200, 570 and 1100 S/cm without doping. These values are considerably larger than those of conventional carbon fibers. And the conductivities did not change after several months' aging at room-temperature.

Figure 6 shows the temperature dependence of the conductivity measured with the four-probe method for whiskers grown at various temperatures. First, it is noted that the temperature dependence of the conductivity is very small: The ratios of the room-temperature conductivity to that at 30 K for whisker-1000, 800, 600, and 530 were 1.04, 1.14, 2.68 and 5.45, respectively. The second feature is that the conductivity is completely temperature-independent at low temperatures, indicating the existence of a metallically conducting phase which is ascribed to the one-dimensional graphite structure postulated above.⁹

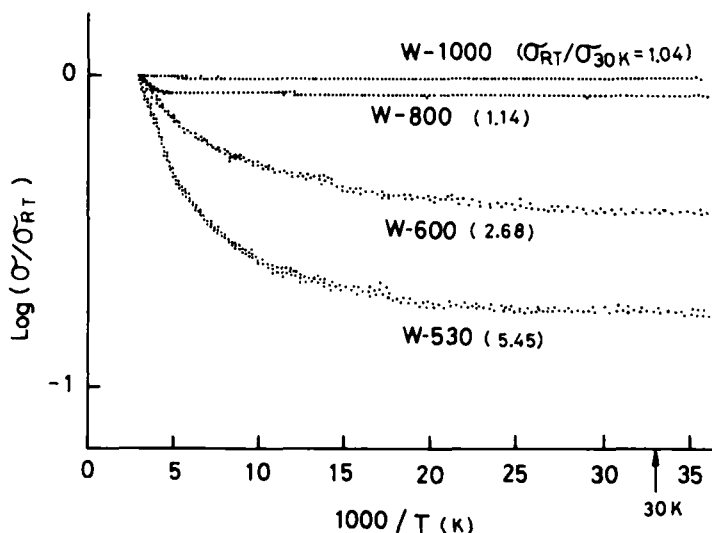


FIGURE 6 Temperature-dependence of conductivity of the whiskers

SUMMARY

The vapor phase polymerization of PTCDA yielded a well-formed one-dimensional graphite polymer which has a high electrical conductivity with metallic nature. An essential difference of the preparation process of this PTCDA whisker from that of conventional carbonaceous materials is that the molecular identity of the starting material is preserved and the graphite structure is formed without passing complete decomposition of the starting material. Some more variety of one-dimensional graphites will be synthesized with other monomers and processes which promote such reaction.

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