

Polyaniline and Polythiophene Electrodes for High-Performance Supercapacitors

Mohammad Ali Haghighat Bayan, Filippo Pierini

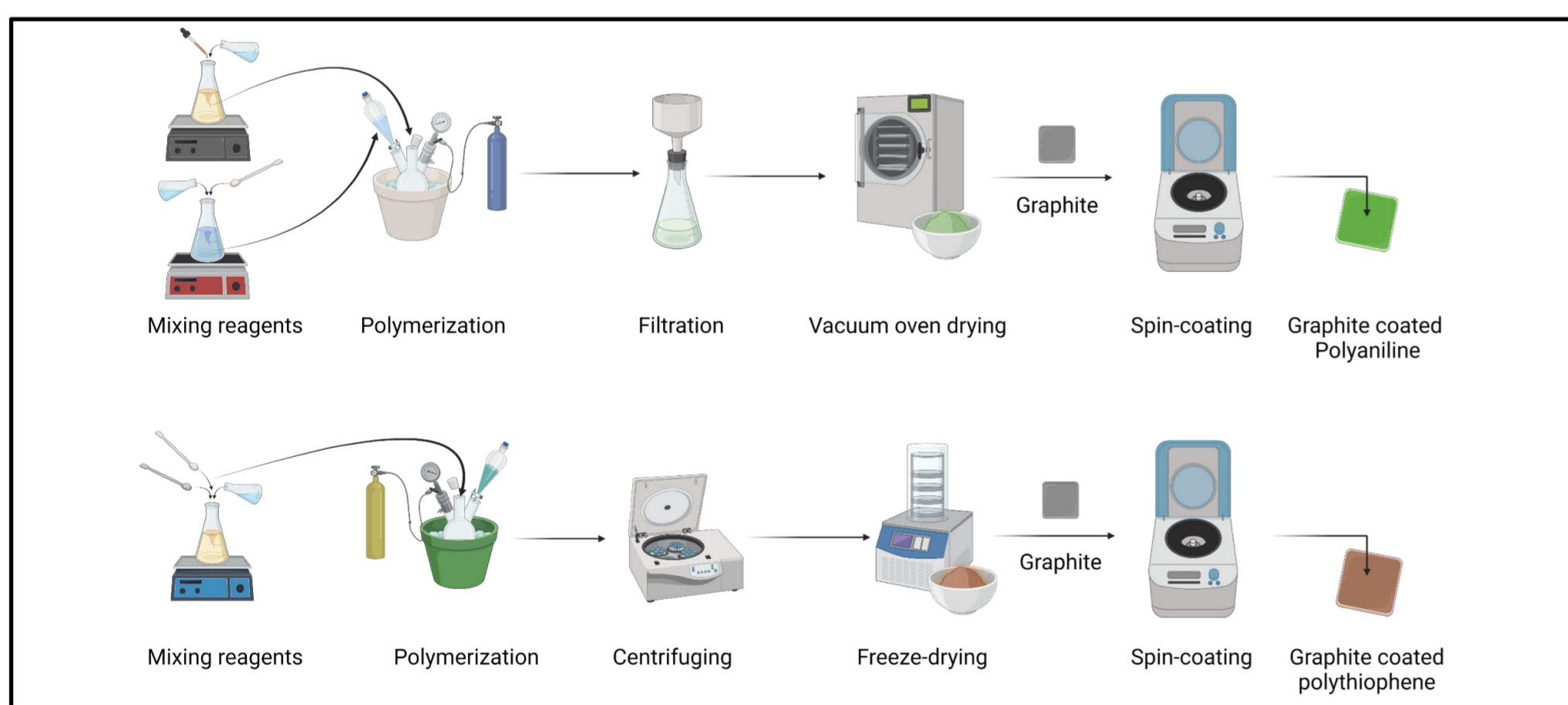


Introduction

- **High-Performance Energy Storage** are advanced devices that can excel in rapid energy storage and release.
- **Electrostatic Energy Storage:** unlike batteries, they store energy electrostatically. This allows for quick charge and discharge cycles.

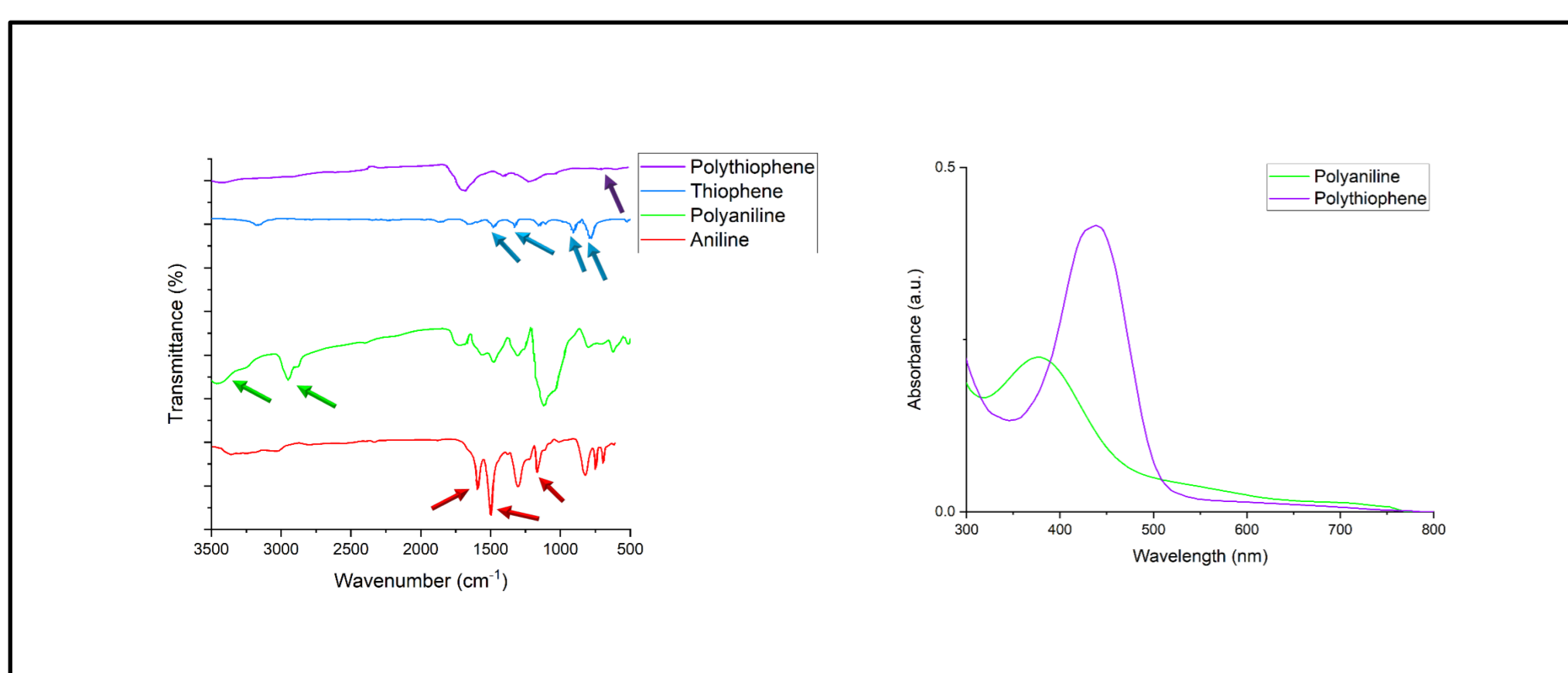
Methods

- **Polymerization Process:** Conducting polymers are synthesized through a polymerization process. Monomer molecules undergo chemical reactions to form long chains or networks.
- **Doping for Conductivity:** Conducting polymers are doped with various dopant molecules to impart conductivity. Doping introduces charge carriers (e.g., electrons or holes) into the polymer structure.
- **Versatile Techniques:** Various methods, such as chemical oxidative polymerization, can be used. Electrochemical and photochemical techniques are also common for synthesis.



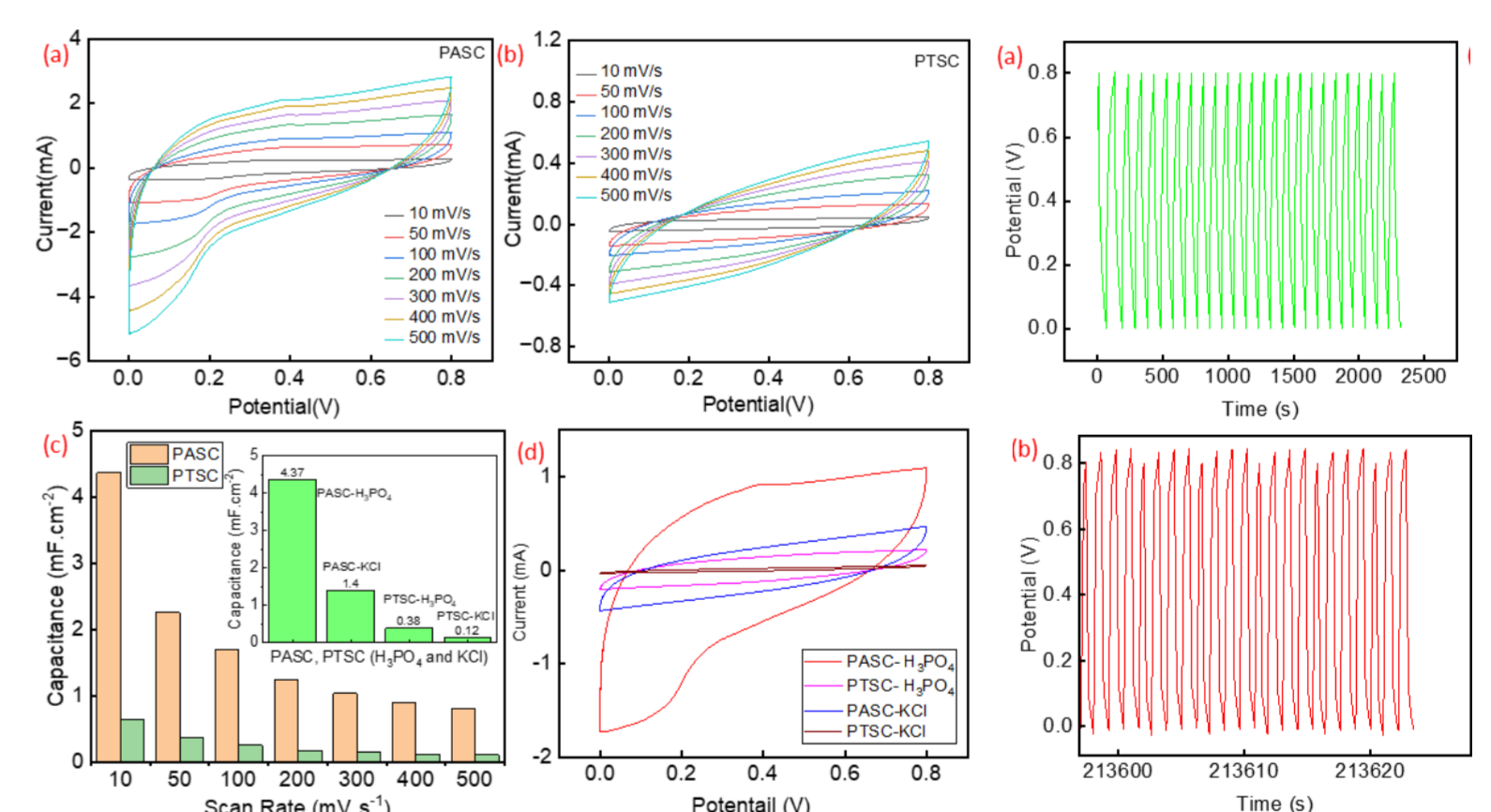
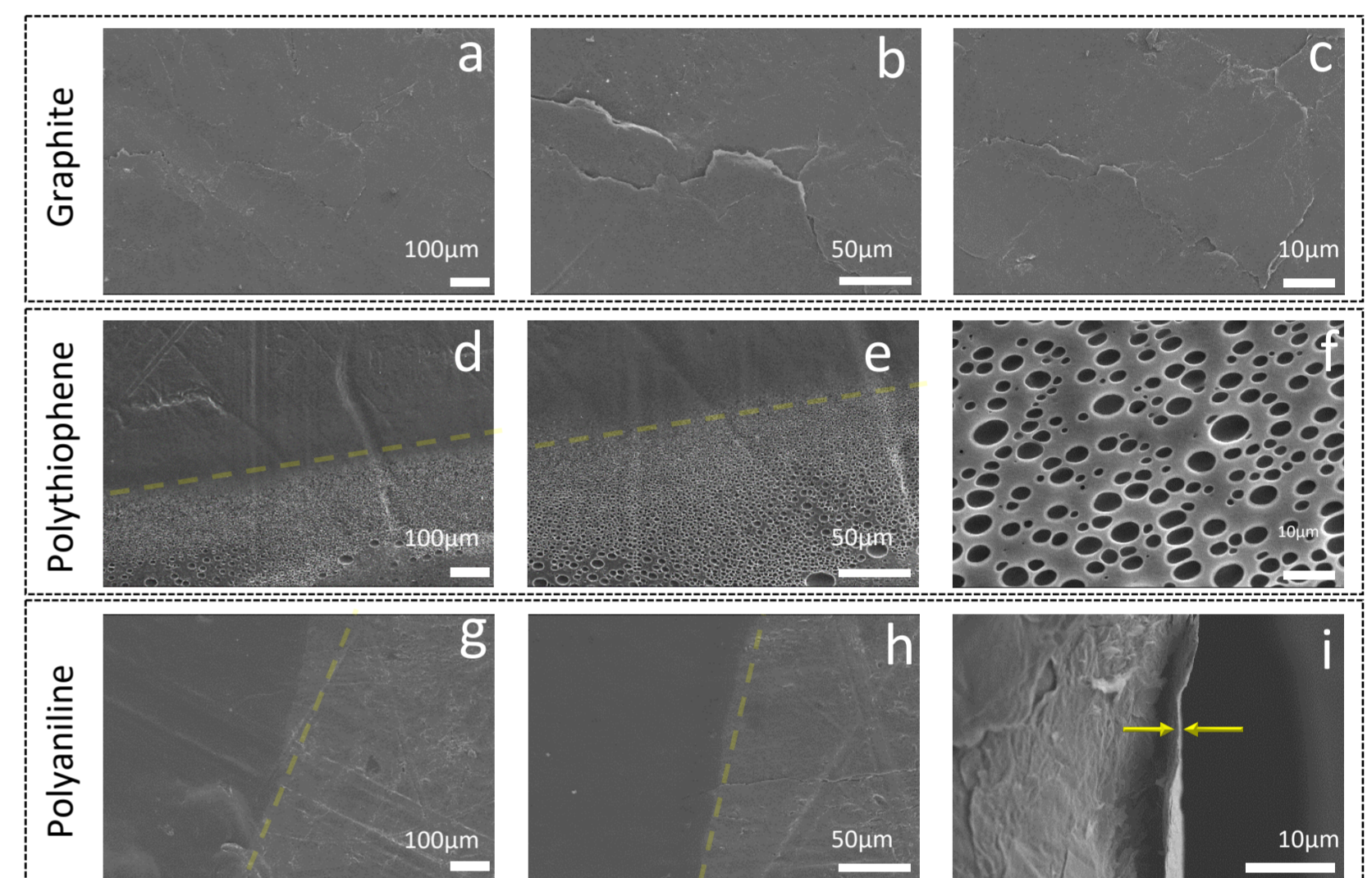
Chemical Characterizations

- PANI's FTIR spectrum (1146, 1439, 1570 cm^{-1}) shows quinone nitrogen vibrations, benzene stretching modes, and configuration changes. Thiophene's spectrum (2916, 1674, 1404, 1211, 1041 cm^{-1}) displays C-H and C=C stretching, C-H bending, and C-S bending. These results confirm monomer polymerization.
- UV-Vis spectrum shows a sharp 365 nm absorption peak indicating its conductive emeraldine form for PANI. Polythiophene UV-Vis spectrum displays 446 nm peak, confirming stable polymerization without thiophene degradation.



Morphology

- SEM micrographs depict the surface morphology of conjugated polymer-coated layers. The graphite sheet (a-c) had a flake-type structure, and polythiophene exhibited a porous structure, while PANI had a non-porous spin-coated layer.
- Polythiophene (d-f) showed a porous network due to solvent evaporation, with an average pore diameter of $159.04 \mu\text{m} \pm 61.89$. Scratching some areas enhanced visibility.
- PANI coating (g-p) was uniform and thin without pores, with an average thickness of 401 nm.



Conclusions

- Specific capacitance: 13.22 mF cm^{-2}
- Energy density: $1.175 \mu\text{W h cm}^{-2}$
- Power density: $4.99 \mu\text{W cm}^{-2}$ at $50 \mu\text{A}$ current
- Compared to PTSC, PASC exhibits four times higher capacitance due to superior surface, structural, and electrical properties.
- Electrochemical impedance analysis (0.1 Hz to 100 kHz) reveals faster ionic exchange and higher PASC capacitance than PTSC in the H_3PO_4 electrolyte.
- Hydrophobicity affects polythiophene's performance, influencing the electrode-electrolyte interface.
- PANI coating provides a uniform thin film, reducing resistance compared to polythiophene and improving energy storage.
- This preparation method enhances supercapacitor performance. Future studies will explore electrolytes (acidic, alkaline, neutral, and ionic liquids) for further optimization.

