

# Cadmium Metals Particles- Covered Polystyrene Nanospheres Thin Film Material: Fabrication, Analysis and Model

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## Cadmium Metals Particles-Covered Polystyrene Nanospheres Thin Film Material: Fabrication, Analysis and Model

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### 1. Introduction

Metal atomic particles-covered Polystyrene Nanospheres (M-CPSNs) is a part of metal-incorporated organic polymers materials that have great deal attention from many researchers focusing his study on material engineering and its application. The existence of metal in a polymer matrices could deliver their important basic properties such as thermal and mechanical stability, electric and electronic conductance, optical and magnetic behaviour, hardness, and catalytic activity to the matrix resulting an advanced composite material with better properties and characters. In this point of view, it could be performed properly through two strategies independently, the first one is by mean of functionalization the PSNs molecule framework with an active organic group firstly then followed by metals introduced onto the fuctionalized PSNs [1,2]. The second one is by mean of straightforward metal deposition or embedding into the PSNs particles without any treatmeants of them [3-7]. The first strategy might commnoly be applied to fabricate a useful functionalized PSNs-based support material for biosensors [8-10], ion exchange membranes [11-13], drug delivery agents [14-17], acid-base catalytic materials [18] and soon, whereas the second strategy was widely used to manufacture a nice pattern nanostructure for light emmiting [19,20], specific adsorbant materials [21,22], metal-based catalytic material [23,24], useful intermediate material for fuel cell membrane and electrodes [13,25] and soon.

In correlation to the both strategies, we indetify that the dispersion system for incorporating metals to either the functionalized PSNs or the virgine ones is the most important key to achieve the following step. It was because of sometimes a chemical reducing agent and surfactant stabilizer need to be added into the dispersion system to reduce metal precursor to the according metal atomic nanoparticles and the others to prevent any undesirable alglomeration procesess of the nanoparticles, but contrary sometimes the system did not require any stablizer addition. We already performed similar research of PSNs-based dispersion system without any additional chemical stabilizer for the study of PSNs-based thin film material character and proerties [26]. It was actually depend on the

typical dispersion system made from and what for it was made. However, the most economic procedure to prepare dispersion systems would be a very important thing to be considered seriously in fabricating any useful thin film material made from them, and it was commonly depend on what the dispersion system for. PSNs functionalisation as well as dispersion system stabilizer additional will be more complicated, high cost and time consuming.

Nevertheless chemical reducing agent and stabilizer were still common to be employed in preparing the dispersion system particularly when to study any unique physical interaction and chemical change happened among metal particles, PSNs and stabilizer molecules itself during their interact each other in a certain medium. In this paper we reported the fabrication of cadmium (Cd) metal particles-covered PSNs thin film material from its according dispersion system prepared with common used stabilizer addition of poly vinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) to study their physical interaction and chemical change through its surface morphology exploration and its ATR-FTIR spectra for creating the building model of metal-covered PSNs material structure.

## 2. Experimental Section

### 2.1. Material

Microsphere emulsion of 200 nm Polystyrene nanospheres (PSNs) (exactly size of  $199 \pm 6$  nm), 1.0 % w/v solid concentration, density 1.05 g/ml and index refraction at 589 nm is 1.59, Duku Sci Cooperation USA) as a main spherical particles that will be covered. Cadmium nitrate-4-hydrate ( $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , Mr = 308.48 gram/mol) of 98 % grade (Cica Reagent-Kanto Chemical Japan) as a Cd metal particles precursor. Polyvinyl pyrrolidone (MW:40,000 gram/mol) 99% w/w, p.a. produced Merck Germany. Sodium borohydride granular ( $\text{NaBH}_4$ , MW: 37.83 gram/mol) 98% w/w, p.a. produced Merck Germany. Silicon wafer (100 single crystal orientations, p-doped, resistivity 6.0-9.0 ohm.cm, thickness  $675 \pm 15$   $\mu\text{m}$ , USA) as a hydrophilic solid support material for thin film fabrication. Saturated hydrochloric acid (HCl), hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), both in analytical grade, produced J. T. Baker, U.S.A used as received to oxidize properly any oily matter exist on the silicon wafer surface. Deionized water (DI) produced by our own DI standard laboratory equipment as a general solvent. **Equipments:** Field emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM) JEOL JSM-7600F Seri No.SM17600053, made in Japan) for morphology surface characterization of fabricated thin film. Ultrasonic Cleaner Powersonic 405 (SER No.405J411536; made in Korea) as an ultrasonic generator to irradiate the colloidal system dispersion. Perkin Elmer FTIR Spectrometer (LR 64912C, N3896, made in U.S.A completed with a universal ATR (attenuated total reflectance) sample stage and spectrum express FTIR software V1.3.2 Perkin Elmer LX100877-1) to confirm the PSNs molecular level change. Helium Light Laser Generator Model 30025, Serial Number 12187-3408-382, Power 1.5 mW, 633 nm wave length (Made in U.S.A.) to expose Cd metal particles-covered PSNs thin film.

### 2.2. Preparation of colloidal PSNs-Cd metal dispersion system:

The amount of 5  $\mu\text{L}$  PSNs (Polystyrene nanospheres) (200 nm size, 1 % w/v) was put into a 500  $\mu\text{L}$  eppendorf tube then subsequently added carefully by 5  $\mu\text{L}$  Cadmium nitrate-4-hydrate of 1 % w/v (32.4 mM) concentration and DI water up to total volume of 100  $\mu\text{L}$ . The solution was then homogenized by vigorously shaking and irradiated by ultrasonic wave of 40 kHz for 45 minutes (Ultrasonic Cleaner Powersonic 405; SER No.405J411536; made in Korea). In addition, the same solution without treated by the same ultrasonic was also prepared as a reference one. By the similar procedure, the other dispersion system was also prepared using 10  $\mu\text{L}$  PSNs 1%, 20  $\mu\text{L}$  30 mM  $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 5  $\mu\text{L}$  0.01 mM PVP, 5  $\mu\text{L}$  0.05 M  $\text{NaBH}_4$  and DI water up to 100  $\mu\text{L}$  total volume.

### 2.3. Fabrication of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs thin film material:

It was well performed as in reference [22] firstly,  $1 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$  silicon wafer was treated by the sequences procedures to make it more hydrophilic, that it were warmed at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  in about 25 mL saturated HCl/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 = 3:1$  for about 20 minutes to remove any oily matter, rinsed up with DI water and dried under a laboratory atmospheric air flow. Secondly, 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of the PSN-Cd metal emulsion already prepared was gently dropped onto the hydrophilic Si wafer. The desirable thin film could be immediately formed followed it drying in a room temperature through self-assembly process during the drying. This action was also applied to fabricate pristine PSNs thin film on the same silicon wafer for a reference thing.

#### 2.4. FESEM Images Characterization:

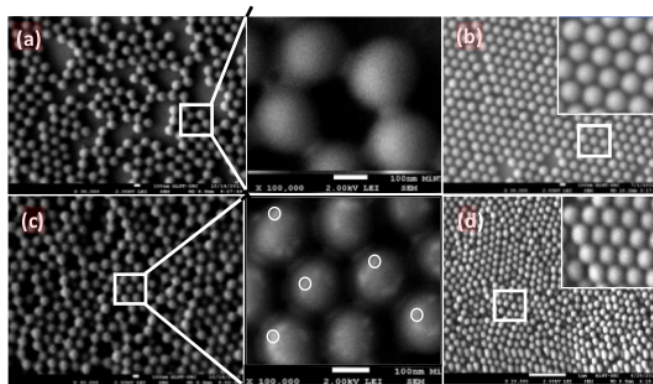
By quoting the reference [22] the surface morphology of the both already fabricated PSN-Cd colloidal and pristine PSN thin film each was characterized by using FESEM as the following step. The samples were carefully load on a specific FESEM sample holder then introduced into the FESEM chamber that was setup on a vacuum of about  $10 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa. The surface morphology images was then scanned with electron beam source voltage of about 2.00 kV, LEI SEM detector mode and scanning wide distance (WD) of about 9.6-9.8 mm. The optimum magnifications scanning of about 10,000 to 50,000 were preferential mode for the best images. Image magnification was defined as the ratio of the length of the scan on the Cathode Ray Tube (LCRT) and that of the scan on the sample specimen (LSpec).

#### 2.5. ATR-FTIR Analysis:

The already fabricated Cd metal particles-covered PSNs thin film material and that pristine PSN each was scanned properly using Fourier Transform Infra Red Spectrometer equipped with an ATR sample holder. The sample was introduce properly on the ATR-FTIR sample stage and carefully scanned under a default set up at peak threshold of 0.5 %T, center of gravity threshold of 0.0022 Absorbance (A), 10.0000 Absorbance Unit (A.U) and center of gravity peak height of 0.2. Appeared spectra were then analyzed further under subsequent actions of data Tune-up, ATR correction, Based line correction and finally Normalization modes for the best spectra. The smaller the number threshold, the less intensive are the peaks that may be detected. In addition, center of gravity peak height 0.2 was the fraction of the peak to be used to calculate its center gravity of peaks position [22].

### 3. Results and Discussion

FESEM images of their surface morphology were depicted in Fig. 1. The proposed building model of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs structure was depicted in Fig.2. The ATR-FTIR spectra of the Cd-metal particles-covered-PSNs thin film material and that of pristine PSNs explored under Tune-Up, ATR correction, Based line correction and Normalization modes sequences was depicted in Fig. 3.



**Figure 1.** FESEM images of surface morphology of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs (a), pristine PSNs (b), Cd metal particles-covered PSNs irradiated by continues laser (c) and pristine PSNs irradiated by continues laser (d).

#### 3.1. FESEM Images interpretation:

There was a very interesting view shown in Fig 1(a) that between two PSNs particles adjacent were properly connected each other by a nice bridge of likely Cd metal particles aggregates forming a dumbbell-like shape of which it could not be seen in pristine PSNs thin film, Fig 1(b). This metal particles aggregations seem might deliver its advantage properties to the throughout formed thin film surface since the Cd metal-covered PSNs expressed significantly resist towards continuous laser exposure of 633 nm wavelength for 20 minute compared to the pristine PSNs as it can be seen in Fig.1(c) and Fig.1(d) respectively. It was surprise the very small aggregate of around 30 nm in diameter which could be attributed as Cd metal particles covering the PSNs surface formed during the exposure could be seen clearly (see white color circles, Fig.1(c)).

In contrast, any aggregates deposit could not be generated at all by the same laser light irradiated to the pristine PSNs as shown in Fig. 1(d). This nice phenomenon indicated that Cd metal particles could enhance significantly the capability of PSNs particles in interacting with laser lights exposed to them compared to the pristine ones. Furthermore, the existence of Cd metal particles seem could also enhance significantly the surface morphology of Cd metal-covered PSNs thin film as it was shown in Fig.1(a) and Fig.1(c) each compared to Fig.1(b) and Fig.1(d) respectively. This fact matches to the previous report [22]. From nanomaterial engineering point of view, it was a very respective phenomenon particularly on adsorbent and catalytic nanomaterial manufacturing of which the both required tightly for porous material.

On the other hand, physically effect of the laser lights exposure could be approximately explored through the determination of particles density of each the fabricated thin film material. In this context, the PSNs-based particles density could be defined as the total amount of according PSNs particles fill-up the area of  $10^3 \text{ nm}^2$  in size, and the mentioned density could be calculated by applying either equation 1a or 1b, where  $d_{1000}$  is particles density for  $1000 \text{ nm}^2$  area and  $B_p$  is the amount of particles body fill up area of  $49 \times 10^4 \text{ nm}^2$  while  $C_{PHAH}$  is a constant of conversion namely PHAH constant (PHAH stands for Pratama, Hashim, Arif and Hadi), that is a constant to calculate nanoparticles density in either every rectangular or circle space with  $700 \text{ nm}$  length in side or  $700 \text{ nm}$  length in diameter. In this context, the value of  $C_{PHAH}$  for the rectangular space had already been well determined as big as  $2.0408 \times 10^{-3}$ .

$$d_{1000} = 2.0408 \times 10^{-3} B_p \quad (1a)$$

$$d_{1000} = C_{PHAH} \times B_p \quad (1b)$$

Moreover, let, in this case,  $1 \text{ Cm}$  length was approximately equivalence to  $100 \text{ nm}$  length such that every rectangular drawn on all the Fig. 1 would be representing an area of  $49 \times 10^4 \text{ nm}^2$  due to its side length was  $7 \text{ Cm}$ . We saw clearly that the rectangular of Fig.1(a), (1b), (1c) and (1d) had already been filled up by 6 bodies of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs, 8 bodies of pristine PSNs, 7 bodies of laser-exposed PSNs and 13 bodies of laser-exposed pristine PSNs respectively. By applying the equation 1a, we found that the particles density of the sequences Figures was as it could be summarized in Table 1. Now more clearer that the existence of Cd metal particles covering PSNs body could provide it at least on two impacts, the first one was enhancing porosity as its  $d_{1000}$  value lesser than that of pristine PSNs, and the second one was enhancing its resistivity towards laser exposure as the same reason as the aforementioned.

**Table 1.** Particles density\* of some fabricated PSN-based thin film materials

Figure	Material	$B_p$ / particle**	$d_{1000} / 10^3$ particle $\text{nm}^{-2}$
1a	Cd metal particles-covered PSNs	6	12.2448
1b	Pristine PSNs	8	16.3264
1c	Laser-exposed Cd metal particles-covered PSNs	7	14.2856
1d	Laser-exposed Pristine	13	16.5304

\*It was defined as the particles number of every  $1000 \text{ nm}^2$  wide.

\*\*The particles number of every  $700 \text{ nm}^2$  wide of area

Nevertheless, as we can see in the all aforementioned figures the spherical shape of the both materials particles did not change at all under laser exposure. These phenomena guided us to understanding that the Cd metal particles might have covered fully the surface of PSNs body. It was therefore we could propose a nice model of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs body as it had been sketched out in Fig. 2.



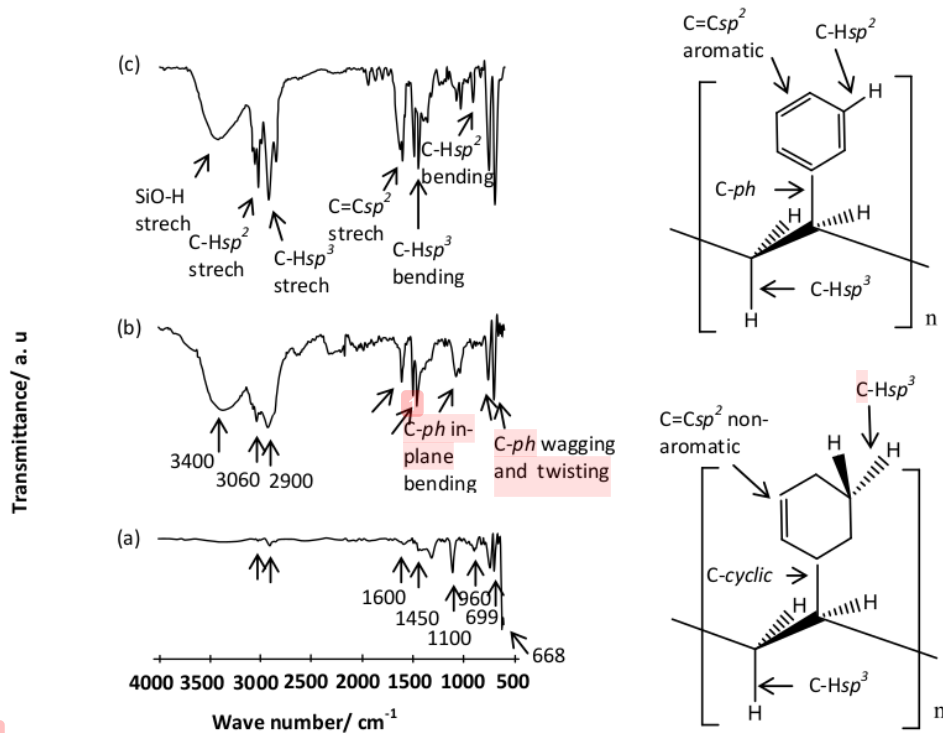
**Figure 2.** Proposed model of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs body constructed up PSNs-based material thin film

### 3.2. ATR-FTIR spectra interpretation:

It was very interesting in by comparing Fig.3(b) to Fig.3(c) we possible to suppose that Cd metal particles might settled down well at surround polystyrenes phenyl moieties and its backbone chain since its wave number



peak pattern slightly changed. Unfortunately this position was likely lack of advantage due to it could not prevent the bonds from laser exposure as its ATR-FTIR spectrum in ranging wave number bands of  $3080\text{-}2920\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was disappeared followed continuous laser light exposed them for 20 minute as shown in Fig. 3(a). It means hydrogen atoms of polystyrenes phenyl moieties and those of its backbone chain collapsed during laser light exposure. This situation lead to the formation of a reactive molecular ionic radical which drove the according phenyl intramolecule degradations progressed since it was justified by disappearing wave number peak of around  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which was commonly attributed, in this case, to the phenyl ring.  $\text{C}=\text{Csp}^2$  stretching vibration as shown in Fig.3(a).



**Figure 3.** ATR-FTIR spectra of Laser-exposed Cd metal particles-covered PSNs (a), Cd metal particles-covered PSNs (b) and pristine PSNs (c). These spectra were analyzed under the sequence modes of Tune-Up, ATR correction, Base line correction and Normalization and quoted from reference [22] for spectra (b) and (c). **Right:** Rough sketch of Polystyrene unit molecular structure.

In contrast, however it was surprise that ATR-FTIR spectrum of around  $790\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $699\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $668\text{ cm}^{-1}$  represented the bending; wagging and twisting vibration of C-ph bonds (ph stands for phenyl moiety) was still generated from the Cd metal particles-covered PSNs thin film during the laser exposure as it can be seen in Fig.3(a). It attributed that probable the aromatic ring of phenyl moiety actually did not totally destructed but it was just transformed to be non-aromatic one during the laser exposure. This possibility was clearly confirmed by its surface morphology image that kept in spherical shape as shown in Fig.1(d). This phenomenon might be very unique due to the Cd metal particles settled therein could act as a shield-like that prevent selectively a lot of covalent bonds towards laser irradiation.

#### 4. Conclusions:

It was concluded that the basic molecular structure of polystyrene framework constructed up the fabricated Cd metal-covered PSNs thin film material did not change significantly compared to that of pristine PSNs. The existence of Cd metal particles covered the surface of PSNs could provide at least two impacts especially to its physical properties, those are (1) made capable to form a dumbbell-like structure between two Cd particles-covered PSNs adjacent, and (2) enhancing the porosity of the PSNs-constructed material compare to the pristine PSNs. The most important and interesting phenomenon was the existence of Cd metal particles on the PSNs



surface might act selectively as a shield to prevent certain atomic bonds of polystyrene framework towards continuous laser light irradiation of 632 nm wavelength for 20 minute exposure. This research was successfully performed since the proposed one unit particles model of Cd metal particles-covered PSNs as depicted in Fig.2 could be created.

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