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Highly Sensitive NH₃ Wireless Sensor Based on Ag-RGO Composite Operated at Roomtemperature

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The detection of ammonia (NH₃) in low concentrations is very important in the chemical industry and for human health. In this paper, we present reduced graphene oxide (RGO) decorated with silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) as a sensing material for NH₃. A simple, environmentally friendly, and costefficient green approach for the preparation of the sensing material is proposed. X-ray diffraction (XRD), Raman spectroscopy, and field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM) were used to analyze the crystalline structure, material composition, and surface appearance characteristics of the sensing material. By combining the material with a commercial near-field communication (NFC) tag, a wireless gas sensor was built. The enhanced NH₃-sensing performance is mainly due to the synergistic effect between Ag and RGO. More specifically, AgNPs enhanced the adsorption capacity of RGO for NH₃ electrons. The excellent performance of the sensor shows that it has potential for applications in food safety, environment, and human health monitoring.

As a poisonous gas, NH_3 is produced in many industrial processes and the natural decomposition of organic matter. Long-term exposure to 35 ppm of NH_3 is hazardous to human health¹. Gas sensors play an important role in the detection of hazardous gases, inflammable gases, air pollution, human health and agricultural automation²⁻⁶. Various gas sensing technologies have been developed⁷, traditional gas sensors with metal compounds as sensing materials detect gases at high temperatures and show excellent performances⁸. However, there is more of a need to test gas sensing at room temperature⁹.

In recent years, nanostructures have received much attention owing to excellent performances in gas sensing. They possess nano-sized particles, uniform sizes, narrow distribution and ultra-high specific surface areas¹⁰⁻ Many nanostructures, such as SnO₂, ZnO, CuO, and Fe₂O₃ metal oxide semiconductors, have been used to detect poisonous, inflammable, and explosive gases¹⁴⁻¹⁷. However, their higher operating temperatures have limited the application of metal oxide sensors. Carbon materials such as carbon nanotube and graphene are proved to be ideal gas sensitive materials, which can work at room temperature. Due to the high specific surface area, carbon nanotube has been used for gas sensing widely¹⁸⁻²⁰. Graphene possesses excellent electronic, thermal and robust mechanical properties, and has recently become an emerging two-dimensional (2D) material²¹. Many researchers have attempted to combine metal nanomaterials with carbon nanomaterials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes to make super-sensitive sensing materials²²⁻²⁵. It has potential in many applications, such as energy storage and sensing²⁶, and graphene can be considered as the ideal electrode. Graphene is a typical 2D material, it contains a single-layer sheet of sp²-hybridized carbon atoms with zero band gap energy and possesses excellent electrical conductance²⁷. It is usually characterized as a p-type semiconductor, mainly owing to the oxygen-containing functional groups and defects²⁴. The edge of a graphene-based composite material forms a porous structure, which increases the specific surface area and leads to better sensor response. Owing to its large surface area, the material shows excellent electrical performance and possesses high electrical conductivity and ultra-fast electron mobility, and the specific surface area is approximately twice as large as that of carbon nanotubes²⁷. In addition,

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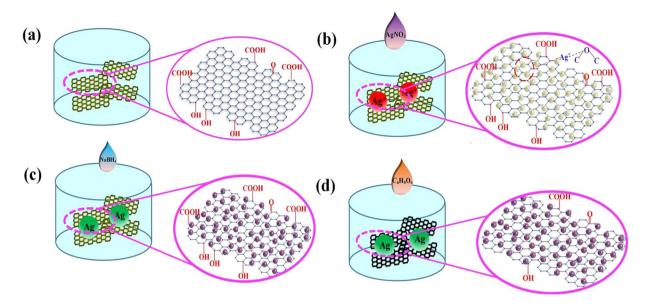


Figure 1. Preparation process of Ag-RGO. (a) Graphene oxide is dispersed in DI water and the schematic image of a graphene oxide (GO) sheet. (b) AgNO₃ solution was added into the graphene oxide solution and the schematic image of Ag⁺-GO. (c) Silver ions were reduced to AgNPs by adding NaBH₄ solution. (d) Ag-RGO was obtained by adding $C_6H_8O_6$ solution.

combining gas sensing materials with wireless sensors improve the application of the sensors in wearable, health monitoring and environmental monitoring effectively. As the development of the artificial intelligence (AI) and internet of things (IOT), wireless sensors possess particular advantage than traditional wired sensors. Based on the near-field electromagnetic coupling, the sensor realizes remote sensing without power supply.

In this paper, we reported a flexible wireless sensor that can monitor gases at low concentrations (5 ppm) at room temperature (25 °C). The sensor is based on a near-field coupled electronic tag and uses RGO decorated with AgNPs as the gas-sensitive material. The reflectance of the sensor would change when NH_3 gas molecules are absorbed by the AgNP-decorated RGO, since the impedance of the wireless sensor circuit would change. The results showed that the sensor has a fast response time and recovery time, and also good repeatability. In addition, the electrical characteristics of the sensor hardly changed after bending, which means that the sensor has potential application value in future wearable devices.

Results

Preparation of sensitive materials. To prepare NH_3 sensing material, RGO was decorated using AgNPs. The preparation process involved the following steps, as shown in Fig. 1(a–d). First, the initial graphene oxide (GO) material was prepared from ultra-high-purity graphite powder (99%, Aldrich) according to a modified Hummers and Offman method²⁸. Then, the prepared GO was dispersed in deionized water and the resulting mixture was ultrasonicated at 60 Hz for 1 h, to prepare a GO aqueous solution. Then, different volumes (0.1, 1, or 10 mL) of a 0.1 mol/L AgNO₃ solution (Shuwan Chemical Industry, Dongguan) were added to the GO solution. There are many different functional groups on the surfaces of GO sheets, such as hydroxyl (-OH), carboxyl (-COOH), and epoxy groups (-CH(O)CH-)²⁹.

When the AgNO₃ solution was introduced into the GO solution, the positively charged Ag ions formed bonds with the partially negative oxygen atoms in the functional groups. When the Ag cations were adsorbed to the GO surface, NaBH₄ (Damao Chemical Reagent Factory, Tianjin) dissolved in deionized water was introduced into the mixed solution as a reducing agent, and reduced the Ag cations from Ag⁺ to Ag. Consequently, an Ag-decorated GO sheet (Ag-GO) was produced. Then, ascorbic acid (Haibiao Science and Technology, Xiamen) was added to the Ag-GO solution as a reducing agent under vigorous stirring to convert the GO sheet to RGO. Thus, Ag-RGO as a gas-sensing material was prepared.

Characterization of sensitive materials. The field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM) results for Ag-RGO are shown in Fig. 2. Figure 2(a-c) show the surface topographies of 0.1-Ag-RGO, 1-Ag-RGO, and 10-Ag-RGO, respectively, which reveal that there were different amounts of AgNPs on the surfaces of the RGO sheets. Figure 2(d) shows the appearance of the surface under high magnification. It can be concluded that as the number of Ag ions increases, the number of AgNPs on the graphene surface also increases, effectively increasing the specific surface area of graphene. Raman spectroscopy was used to analyze the vibrations and rotational information of the nanostructure. As shown in Fig. 2(e), there are two characteristic peaks of GO and Ag-RGO sheets. The characteristic peaks in the Raman spectrum of graphene are mainly D and G peaks. Figure 2(e) also shows that the graphene has defects owing to the oxidation, the D peak is at 1346 cm⁻¹ and the G peak, which corresponds to optical E_{2g} phonons at the Brillouin zone center³⁰, is at 1587 cm⁻¹. The intensity ratio of the D and G peaks (I_D/I_G) of Ag-RGO changed noticeably from 0.994 to 1.103. Owing to the addition of

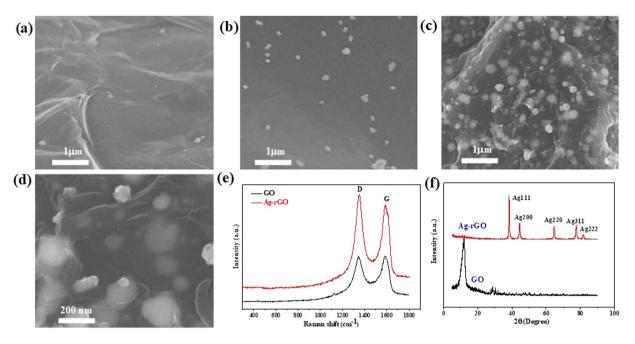


Figure 2. (a) SEM image of 0.1-Ag-RGO. (b) SEM image of 1-Ag-RGO. (c) SEM image of 10-Ag-RGO. (d) high-magnification image of 10-Ag-RGO. (e) Raman spectra of GO nanosheets before and after decoration with AgNPs. (f) X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of GO nanosheets before and after decoration with AgNPs.

the reducing agent, most of the functional groups on the GO surface were reduced, resulting in changes in I_D/I_G . X-ray diffraction (XRD, HAOYUAN DX-2007B) was used to analyze the nanocomposite components Fig. 2(f). The characteristic diffraction peaks at diffraction angles of 38.31°, 44.48°, 64.64°, and 81.27° correspond to the (111), (200), (220), and (311) crystal surfaces, respectively. The XRD results were consistent with the standard card of Ag (JCPDS 04-0783).

To be a good candidate as a gas sensing material, specific surface area is an important parameter. To determine specific surface area of Ag-RGO, the Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) gas adsorption system was used. The specific surface area of Ag-RGO composite was measured by adsorption and desorption of nitrogen. The BET specific surface areas of the RGO, 0.1-Ag-RGO, 1-Ag-RGO and 10-Ag-RGO are calculated by BET method to be 436.6 m^2g^{-1} , 512 m^2g^{-1} , 568 m^2g^{-1} , 621.3 m^2g^{-1} respectively. The specific surface area of sensing material increased with Ag nanoparticles loading.

Gas sensing evaluation of Ag-RGO. To evaluate the electrical properties of the Ag-RGO, the Ag-RGO was spray coated on the interdigitated array (IDA) configuration. The IDA electrode was composed of 40- μ m-width gold fingers, totalizing 14 pairs. The IDA was formed on PET substrate by magnetron sputtering gold. The distance between IDA fingers is 40 μ m. The current-voltage characteristic was measured by HP4145 semiconductor parameters analyzer, which were used to evaluate the electrical conductivity and contact type of the uniformly decorated Ag-RGO on the IDA substrate for various Ag nanoparticles decoration amounts. The current-voltage (I–V) characteristics of them over the voltage range from -0.1 V to 0.1 V, is shown in Fig. 3(a). All devices showed linear I–V characteristics and indicated Ag-RGO is typical ohmic electrical contact with electrodes. It is due to the smooth transfer of charge carriers of the sensing material³¹. With increased of the AgNPs of RGO sheets, the electrical conductivity of the devices enhanced.

Highly pure NH₃ (99.9%) as a gas source was purchased from Qinlan chemical technology co. LTD. To obtain dry NH₃, highly pure NH₃ was passed through a dry tube filled with $Ga(OH)_2$ flakes and collected into an aluminum foil air bag. In this work, the gas sensing properties of the Ag-RGO were evaluated by exposition to different concentrations of dry NH₃. As shown in Fig. 3(b), it is the result of the device sensing material under different concentrations. For the RGO, there is no NH₃ function sites to attract NH₃ molecules. In contrast, when the Ag-RGO is exposed to the NH₃, because of the AgNPs, Ag-RGO shows high sensitivity for NH₃. To evaluate the dynamic response of the Ag-RGO, IDA were exposed to 5 ppm at room temperature, as shown in Fig. 3(c), it has excellent repeatability and stability. To obtain the sensitivity of the sensor, the response of the sensors at different concentration of NH₃ were extracted, and then fitted data sectionally. Results of the sensors are shown in Fig. 3(d). When the 10-Ag-RGO sensor exposed to the NH₃ at 0–20 ppm, the slope is about 1.25. While for the sensor exposed to NH₃ 20–100 ppm, the slope decreased to 0.2. They are much more sensitive than other sensors at the same concentration of NH₃. The sensor sensitivity (S) is defined as the following equation:

$$S(\%) = \frac{R_{\rm g} - R_0}{R_0 \Delta C} \times 100 = \frac{\Delta R}{R_0 \Delta C} \times 100 \tag{1}$$

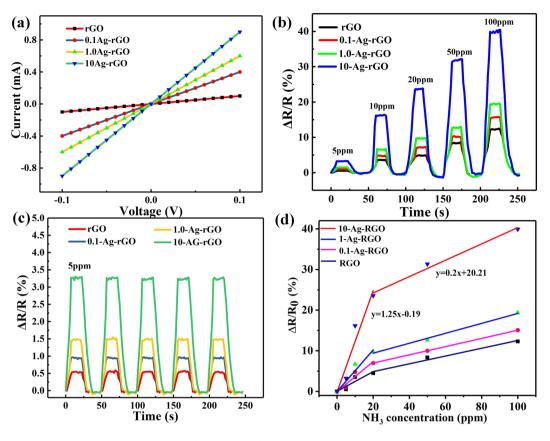


Figure 3. (a) I–V characteristic curve for the IDA of different amount of Ag decorated RGO sensing material. (b) Normalized resistance changes at different gas concentrations. (c) Dynamic response of the sensors exposed to 5 ppm NH₃. (d) The sensitivity of the different sensors.

where R_{gas} (R_g) and R_0 are the resistances of the sensor in gas and out of gas, respectively. ΔC is the gas concentration.

Preparation of sensors. Figure 4(a) shows a schematic of the preparation process of the near-field communication (NFC) tag sensor. It is a standardized commercial NFC tag (Fudan M1 tag, Chenming Smart Card Technology co. LTD, Guangzhou), with the initial frequency of 13.56 MHz in the first image, and has been widely used in daily life because of its low cost. It is composed simply of an integrated circuit (IC) chip and chip capacitor (C) with an inductance of L on a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) substrate³². The NFC tag was disrupted by removing a section of the conductive aluminum. In the second image, and the resonant frequency was changed to 16.78 MHz. To make the surface of PET active, the position that was disrupted was treated by O₂ plasma as shown in the third image, the plasma power is 120 W and the O₂ flow rate is 150 sccm. In addition, the processing time is 20 s. This process can generate hydrophilic functional groups on the surface of PET, such as hydroxyl (-OH) or carboxyl (-COOH) groups. Then, the prepared Ag-RGO solutions with different concentrations were drop coated onto the surface of PET by micropipette, the drop volume is 0.5 μ L. The LRC loop was reconnected, as shown in the fourth image. The last image shows a schematic of the modified NFC tag sensor. To test the mechanical stability of the sensor, the prepared sensor was bent and twisted, and then kept in an intact state, as shown in Fig. 4(b,c).

Discussion

A schematic of the NFC tag wireless sensing system for NH_3 is shown in Fig. 5(a). The sensing system contains a network analyzer (Agilent E5061B), a home-made matched antenna, modified NFC tag, and a sealed chamber. When the network analyzer emitted a swept-frequency signal through the antenna, the sensor tag was activated. Then, the signal was reflected to the antenna, owing to the impedance matching between the antenna and NFC tag, and the antenna resonated with the NFC tag. Meanwhile, the network analyzer received impedance information (phase and amplitude), and changes in the target gas concentration are observed from the impedance information of the antenna. Figure 5(b) shows the equivalent circuit of the gas test device. The antenna terminal contains a signal source, equivalent resistance (R_a), equivalent inductance (L_a) and equivalent inductance capacitance (C_a). The sensor part contains equivalent inductance (L_a), equivalent capacitance of the variable resistor of the sensor was exposed to different concentration of NH_3 , the resistance of the variable resistor of the sensor changed, and the impedance information of the antenna changes accordingly.

According to Kirchhoff's law, the antenna terminal input impedance (Z_{in}) can be expressed as follows³²:

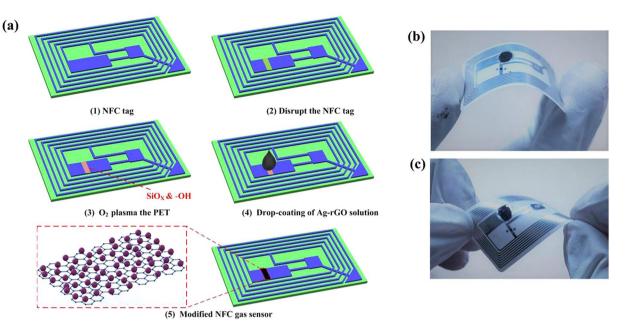


Figure 4. (a) Preparation process of NFC tag sensor. (b) Drop-coating of Ag-RGO solution onto the NFC tag, which recompleted the LRC circuit. (c) NFC sensor tag under twisting.

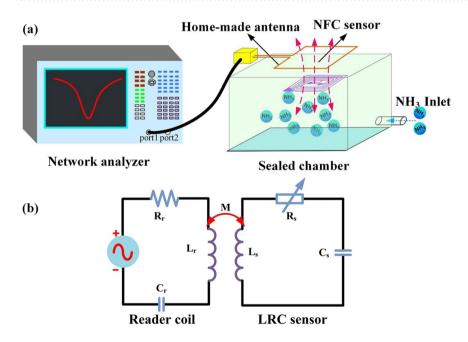


Figure 5. (a) Schematic of the test loop. (b) Equivalent circuit diagram of the test loop.

$$Z_{in} = R_a + j\omega L_a + \frac{\omega^2 M^2}{R_s + j(\omega L_s - 1/\omega C_s)}$$
(2)

where ω is the angular frequency and M is the mutual inductance between the antenna and the sensor. The resistance change of the variable resistor in response to NH₃ causes change in the reflection value (S₁₁ parameter) at the resonance frequency, and the simplified formula can be expressed as follows³³:

$$S_{11} = \frac{Z_{in} - Z_0}{Z_{in} + Z_0} \Big|_{Z_0 = 50\Omega}$$
(3)

When the input impedance Z_{in} in the loop increases as the concentration of NH₃ increases, the resulting S₁₁ value also increases. In the equation (2), the Z_0 is fixed for all samples.

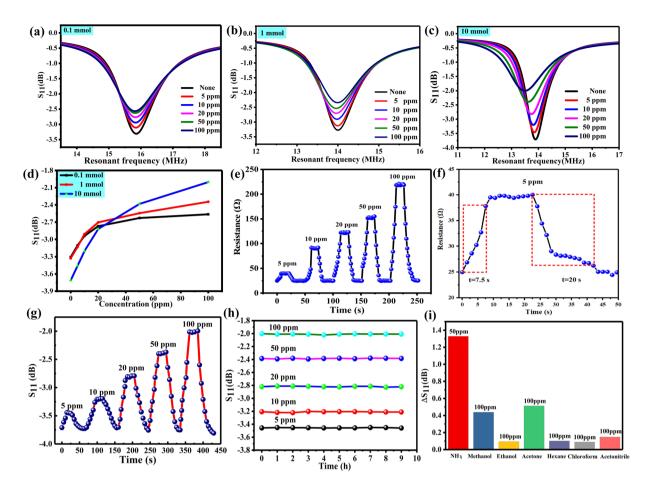


Figure 6. (a) Results for the sensor containing 0.1-Ag-RGO. (b) Results for the sensor containing 1-Ag-RGO. (c) Results for the sensor containing 10-Ag-RGO. (d) Reflection characteristic curves for three wireless sensors under different concentrations of ammonia. (e) The resistance of 10-Ag-RGO sensor under different concentration of NH₃. (f) The response and recovery time of gas sensor. (g) Response of sensors under different concentrations of NH₃. (h) Results of stability tests of sensors under different concentrations of NH₃. (i) The response of prepared sensor to other gases at room temperature.

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Figure 6(a-c) show the changes in scattering parameters of different NFC sensors. When there is no NH₃, the sensor is under the initial state, due to different amount of AgNPs decorated RGO, the initial resistance of the sensor is different and the S₁₁ value is also different, the S₁₁ absolute value of the 10-Ag-RGO sensor is max. It can be concluded that as the AgNPs increases, the resistance of the sensor decreases. When NFC sensors were exposed to different concentrations of NH_3 (5–100 ppm), the impedance of the sensor circuit increased gradually. The results in Fig. 6(a,b,c) revealed that the frequencies in Fig. 6(a,b) changed slightly, and only the S₁₁ parameter changed. However, in Fig. 6(c), both the S₁₁ parameter and the resonant frequency changed, and this is because the change in the impedance of the 10-Ag-RGO sensor circuit was larger than those of the 0.1-Ag-RGO and 1-Ag-RGO circuits. From Fig. 6(d), after extracting the S₁₁ parameters at the resonance frequency points of the sensor at different concentrations, it can be seen that the change in the blue line is the most obvious. In addition, the resistance of 10-Ag-RGO sensor was tested under different concentration of NH_3 , as shown in Fig. 6(e). The initial resistance of the sensor is 25 Ω , and the resistance of the sensor increased with the increase of ammonia concentration. The response time of the sensor was defined as the resistance change of the sensor, which was 90% of the maximum value at the ammonia concentration of 5 ppm. Recovery time is defined as the time required for the sensor to recover 90% of the resistance drop after exposure. As shown in Fig. 6(f), the gas sensor possesses fast response time of 7.5 s and recovery time of 20 s, respectively, and the concentration of NH₃ is 5 ppm. In order to study the wireless response characteristics of NFC gas sensor with different concentration, the NFC sensor was exposed to NH₃ gas at concentrations of 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 ppm, respectively. The characteristic curve of the S_{11} parameters with time is shown in Fig. 6(g), it can be seen that sensor has fast response time and recovery time. For practical applications of gas sensor, the fast response, recovery time and good repeatability are essential properties.

The fast response time is attributed to high sensitivity of Ag-RGO nanomaterial. Due to the high specific surface area of RGO, which offers more attachment points and results in more active sites for NH_3 sensing³⁴. NH_3 is a typical reducing gas, acting as an electrical donor during gas sensing. Due to the catalysis of AgNPs, the sensing ability of RGO increased. In addition, RGO possess carrier mobility (15000 cm²V⁻¹S⁻¹)³⁵. Due to the high carrier mobility of the RGO, it can also act as conducting channel in the gas sensor. Additionally, the S₁₁ parameters at

Sensing material	Т (°С)	MDL (ppm)	Sensitivity (%)	Tres (s)	Trec (s)	connection	Ref.
ZnO	RT	400	—	120-180	600-1200	Wire	41
RGO	RT	0.4	1.5	600	600	Wire	42
Au-CNT	RT	50	0.03	84	216	Wire	43
ZnO-RGO	RT	0.05	0.384	50	250	Wire	44
Pd/SnO2/RGO	RT	5	0.124	420	3000	Wire	45
Carbon black	RT	151	-	150	120	RFID	46
Ag-RGO	RT	5	1.25	7.5	20	RFID	This work

Table 1. Comparison of sensor perforamance for the Ag-RGO with other sensors.

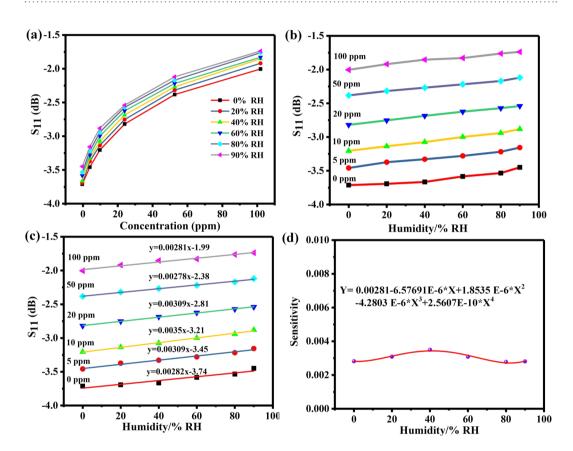


Figure 7. (a) S_{11} parameters extracted from different concentration of NH₃ at relative humidity 0–90% RH. (b) S_{11} parameters extracted under humidity 0–90% RH at concentration of NH₃ 0–100 ppm. (c) Linear fitting of the values of S_{11} . (d) The quartic polynomial fitting curve of the average humidity sensitive.

the resonant frequency point were extracted. Figure 6(h) shows the repeatability results of NFC sensors at different concentrations of NH₃ gas. It can be concluded that the sensor has good repeatability. The selectivity of the Ag-RGO based sensor was investigated and the result is presented in Fig. 6(i), the sensor shows high selectivity to NH₃ compared to other volatile gas, such as ethanol, methanol and acetone. From Fig. 6(i), the response to 50 ppm NH₃ is much higher than other volatile gases such as methanol, ethanol, acetone, hexane, chloroform and acetonitrile at 100 ppm. These results show that the sensor based on the Ag-RGO possesses an effective selectivity.

Table 1 shows a comparison of the performance of various sensors based on different sensing materials at room temperature. From the table, there are a few sensors' MDL superior to the sensor in this work. However, most sensors' response time and recovery time are too long for the poisonous gas sensors. Compared to other gas sensors, our gas sensor shows better performance in MDL, response time and recovery time. In the Table 1, the MDL is minimum detectable level, T_{res} is response time; T_{rec} is recovery time.

To study the effect of humidity, the sensor was exposed to different concentration of NH_3 (5 ppm, 10 ppm, 20 ppm, 50 ppm, 100 ppm). When the relative humidity of the environment increased, the S_{11} of the sensor decreased, as shown in Fig. 7(a). By extracting the S_{11} of the sensor at different humidity, results of the sensor are shown in Fig. 7(b). It can be found that the response of the sensor increased as the increased of relative humidity. In addition, we performed linear fitting of extracted data under different humidity, and obtained influence coefficient of humidity on sensor response at different concentration of NH_3 which is the slope of fitted line, as shown

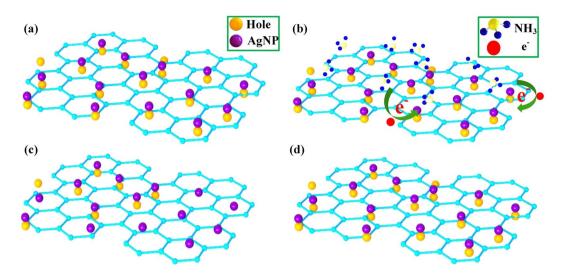


Figure 8. Schematic diagram of the principle of NH₃ gas sensing by reduced graphene oxide: (**a**) Ag-RGO in air. (**b**) Ag-RGO accepts electrons in an NH₃ atmosphere. (**c**) The number of holes of graphene decreases. (**d**) Ag-RGO returns to the original state.

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in Fig. 7(c). Finally, the influence coefficient curves of different humidity on the sensor are obtained, as shown in Fig. 7(d). Hence, the sensitivity coefficient can be calculated when the humidity value was substituted into the quartic polynomial fitting curve.

As is well known, noble metals are introduced as catalyst usually¹⁷, metal decorated on the surface of a sensing film can improve the sensing ability for the objective gas molecule dramatically. However, it is not reasonable to attribute the gas-sensing ability simply to increases in the specific surface area. When the Ag-RGO was exposed to the air, oxygen molecules adsorbed on their surface, due to the catalytic action of AgNPs, O₂ molecules trapped electrons and they transform into O_2^- as shown in eq. (3)³⁶. NH₃ as a typical reducing gas, is always an electron donor. When NH₃ molecules were absorbed on the surface of AgNPs, the sensing mechanism can be described as equations (4–8)³⁷.

$$O_2(g) + e^- \to O_2(ads)^- \tag{4}$$

$$4NH_3(g) + 3O_2(ads)^- \rightarrow 2N_2 + 6H_2O + 3e^-$$
 (5)

$$4NH_3(g) + 5O_2(ads)^- \to 4NO + 6H_2O + 5e^-$$
(6)

$$2NO + 2O_2(g) \rightarrow 2NO_2 \tag{7}$$

$$NO_2 + e^- \rightarrow NO_2(ads)^-$$
 (8)

$$NO_2 + O_2(g) + 2e^- \rightarrow 2NO_3(ads)^-$$
(9)

For gas sensing, electronic sensitization is a widely accepted theory³⁸. The Fermi energy level of eigenstate graphene is near the Dirac point³⁹, when graphene adsorbs water and oxygen molecules under ambient conditions, it shows the characteristics of a typical p-type semiconductor, and holes act as the major carriers⁴⁰, as shown in Fig. 8(a). As a typical reducing gas, when NH₃ was adsorbed to AgNPs decorated RGO, electrons were transferred from NH₃ to the graphene and consumed the holes of graphene, as shown in Fig. 8(b), resulting in the resistance increases shown in Fig. 8(c). When the sensor was re-exposed to air, the number of holes of RGO increased quickly, and the electrical conductivity of Ag-RGO returned to the original value, as shown in Fig. 8(d). It is reasonable to conclude that AgNPs enhanced the capability of graphene to gain electrons. In this system, the AgNPs greatly enhanced the specific surface area of RGO, while the sensitivity of graphene to NH₃ was improved.

Conclusion

In summary, we have prepared a NFC-based wireless gas sensor, based on a modified commercial NFC tag and the Ag-RGO as a sensitive material. It possesses a fast response time (7.5 s) and recovery time (20 s). To test the properties of the sensor, a platform for NH_3 testing was set up. The results indicated that the prepared wireless sensor showed good performance in the detection of NH_3 when the concentrations ranged from 5 ppm to 100 ppm at room temperature. Then it also possesses good recoverability and stability at different concentration. Therefore, the proposed wireless passive sensor has the potential for application in future wearable gas sensors.

Methods

GO sheets were obtained from natural graphite flakes (99%, Aldrich) using the modified Hummers and Offman method. 50 mg of GO was dispersed in 50 mL of deionized water via sonication treatment for 60 min at room temperature, and resulting GO sheets were stripped to be single sheet structure, affording a brown liquid, which contributed to AgNPs adsorption on the surface of GO sheet. Then, 0.01, 0.1, or 1 mmol of a AgNO₃ solution was added to the graphene solution, followed by NaBH₄ as the reducing agent, and the resulting mixture was stirred at a speed of 1500 rpm at 25 °C for 1 h, producing Ag-GO nanoparticles. This procedure was performed in a photo area, which can prevent the decomposition of AgNO₃. Then, 10 mL of a solution of ascorbic acid, which is an innocuous green reducing agent, was introduced to the solution of silver-modified GO. In order to enhance the reduction effect, the reaction was stirred at a speed of 1500 rpm at 95 °C for 1 h. In order to remove impurities from the solution, it was washed repeatedly using deionized water, and then filtered. Ag-rGO powders were obtained after drying in a vacuum oven at 25 °C for 24 h.

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Author Contributions

All works with relation to this paper have been accomplished by all authors' efforts. L.Z. and Q.T. performed the measurements, analyzed the data, and wrote the main manuscript text. The experiments of the sensor were completed with the help of H.K. and D.W., J.X. analysed the data, and W.Z. contributed to the manuscript writing. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information

Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

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