

Study on Polycarbosilane Fibers Cured by Thermal Process and Electron Beam Irradiation

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Abstract

A non woven polycarbosilane (PCS) fibers was successfully produced by electrospinning and processed by a thermal curing and electron beam curing. PCS solution composition was 1.2 g/ml PCS with 30% N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF)/70%toluene and the applied voltage at 10 kV in spinning process. The PCS fibers with average diameter $\sim 8 \mu\text{m}$ cured by thermal at 200°C with varied time (1, 1.5 and 2 hour(s)) were compared to the fiber that processed by electron beam curing with varied absorbed doses (approximately 23, 139, 231, 324, 509 and 787 kGy). The structural changes of PCS fibers after curing process was analyzed by FTIR. The fibers cured by thermal process all shows oxidation curing and fibers cured by electron beam all shows non-oxidation curing. The fibers cured by thermal process with holding time at 1 hour and cured by electron beam with absorbed doses at 231 kGy show the higher crosslinking degree. The fibers that curing by electron beam are more brittle compared to the fibers that curing by thermal process. The empirical chemical formula for pyrolyzed fiber are $\text{SiO}_{0.49}\text{C}_{0.51}$ for cured at 1 hour, $\text{SiO}_{0.53}\text{C}_{0.47}$ for cured at 1.5 hours and $\text{SiO}_{0.61}\text{C}_{0.39}$ for cured at 2 hours.

Keywords: polycarbosilane, PCS fiber, electrospinning, electron beam irradiation.

1. Introduction

Contributions Contributions are to be in English.
Authors are encouraged to have their contribution

checked for grammar. A non woven poly carbosilane (PCS) fibers produced by electrospinning is use for many purpose such as enhanced filler in composite material¹, acting as filtration membrane²,

nanocensor and enzyme immobilization.³ Processing the PCS fiber with curing oxidation, electron beam irradiation⁴ or γ -ray⁵ will produce infusible fibers to producing a high yield and to improve the properties of the ceramics processing with pyrolysis process. The structure of PCS according to ref.⁶ is

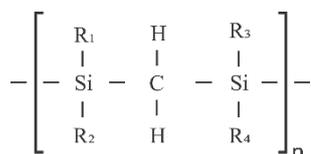


Fig 1. Structure of polycarbosilane.⁶

Where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 respectively are hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, silyl group or a halogen.

Electron beam irradiation on melt spun PCS fibers was done. Melt spun fibers was pre-cured with electron beam irradiation with doses 1.5 MGy and continued to oxidation curing.⁴ The pre-cured fibers shows the fiber can be easily oxidation cured at fast heating rate without fusion. Differ to PCS fibers without pre-cured, that only with slow heating rate (10 °C/h) survived, and all the rest fused.⁴ Work on electron beam atmosphere condition on melt spun PCS fibers was done by compared at doses 0.1-1.4 MGy in oxygen atmosphere and 5-25 MGy in vacuum-He atmosphere. Radical parts resulted on fibers during Electron beam in vacuum-He. These part reacted each others and the PCS fiber became crosslinked.⁷ PCS fibers that irradiated by electron beam at absorbed doses 15 MGy to 35 MGy resulting of SiC fiber almost constant at 82%.⁸

In this study, we presented on the effect of thermal curing of a non woven PCS fiber produced from electrospinning compared to electron beam curing to the structural changes in PCS fibers. PCS fiber cured by electron beam expected show Si-O, C-O or C=O relative intensity lower. The structural changes of PCS fibers was analyzed by FTIR was observed. Fibers cured by thermal process continued by pyrolysis process in an inert atmosphere for 1 hour at 1000 °C. The fibers composition after pyrolysis analyzed by SEM and EDS.

2. Experimental

Polycarbosilane (PCS) was obtained from NaBond Technology Company. PCS was dissolved by toluene with ratio 1.2 g/ml, and for processing by electrospinning, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) was

added to the solution with the ratio of DMF and toluene were 30:70. DMF and toluene were gently stirred for 12 hours with a magnetic stirrer at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. PCS was added slowly to DMF/toluene solution and continued stirred for 24 hours after the last 12 hours reached.

Electrospinning system from NaBond Technology Company with vertical configuration and using grid configuration collector with grids 5 mm x 5mm was used. The flow rate of solution is 3 ml/h. The fibers was thermally curing at 200°C with heating rate 2 °C/min for 1, 1.5 and 2 hour(s) in oxygen atmosphere and electron beam curing was done in vacuum condition with electron beam irradiator at 300 KeV with 4 mA and absorbed doses received was approximately 23, 139, 231, 324, 509 and 787 kGy. FTIR analysis was conducted for both fibers after curing by FTIR Bruker Alpha. Fibers cured by thermal process were pyrolyzed in an inert atmosphere (Ar) at 1000°C for 1 hour (heating rate 2 °C/min). The pyrolyzed fibers was observed by SEM JEOL JSM 6510 and its compositions analyzed by EDS that attached on SEM.

3. Results and Discussion

Fig. 2 and 3 shows FTIR spectra of the PCS fibers that cured by thermal process and electron beam irradiation. There are some significant changes in FTIR spectra in thermal process in wavenumber 1720 cm^{-1} , 2100 cm^{-1} and 2900-2950 cm^{-1} . The PCS fibers cured by electron beam irradiation, the change only at wavenumber 2100 cm^{-1} . Assignments of IR spectrum are tabulated at Table 1 and relative intensity for characteristic peaks for PCS fibers are tabulated at Table 2. The determined relative intensity for characteristic peaks was according.⁹

Table 1. Wave numbers and assignments of the IR spectrum of PCS. [10]

Wavenumbers (cm^{-1})	Mode of vibration
850-700	Si-CH ₃ bending, Si-C stretching in SiC ₄
950-800	Si-H bending
1020	CH ₃ bending in Si-CH ₂ -Si
1100-1200	Si-O stretching in Si-O-Si or Si-O-C
1200	C-O stretching
1250	Si-CH ₃ stretching
1450-1350	H stretching in CH, CH ₂ & CH ₃
1720	C=O stretching
2100	Si-H stretching
2950-2900	C-H stretching
3700-3200	O-H stretching in Si-OH

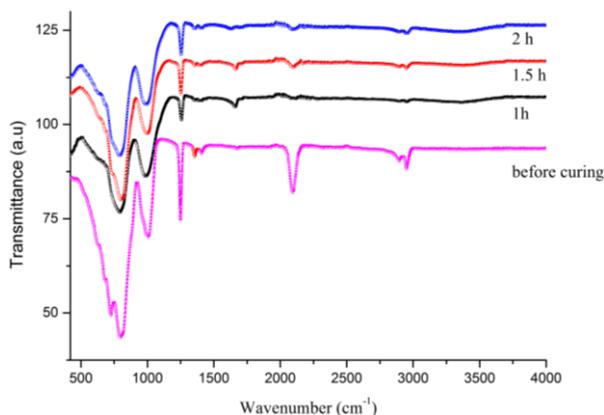


Fig 2. FTIR spectra for thermal curing.

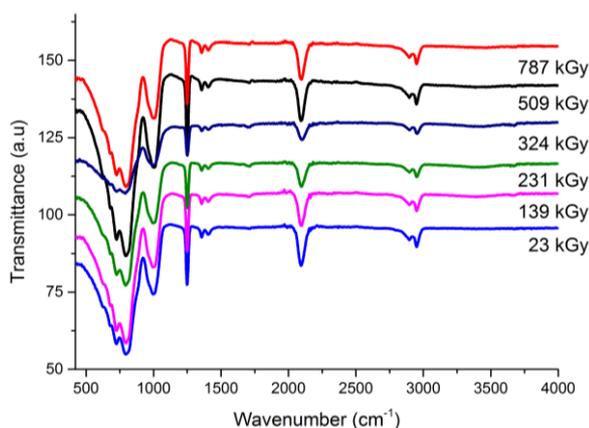


Fig 3. FTIR spectra for electron beam irradiation curing.

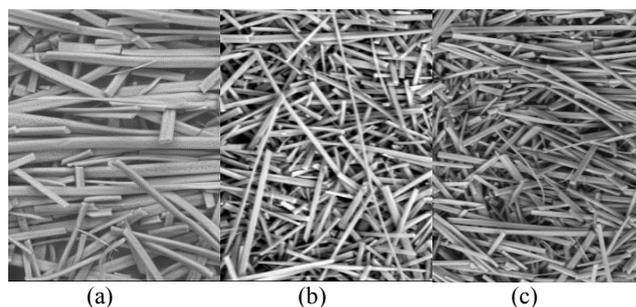


Figure 4. SEM image of pyrolyzed fibers for 1 hour at 1000 °C that cured by thermal process for (a) 1 hour, (b) 1.5 hours and (c) 2 hours.

Table 2. Relative intensity of characteristic peaks for cured fibers.

Wavenumbers (cm ⁻¹)	Assignment	Relative intensity								
		Thermal			Electron beam (kGy)					
		1h	1.5h	2h	23	139	231	324	509	787
1020	CH ₂ bending in Si-CH ₂ -Si	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.24	0.18	0.06	0.27	0.14	0.17
1250	Si-CH ₃ stretching	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.18	0.17	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.17
1720	C=O stretching	0.28	0.55	1.17	-	-	-	-	-	-
2100	Si-H stretching	-	0.72	0.61	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.30	0.30	0.30
2950-2900	C-H stretching	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 2 shows, the PCS Fibers cured by electron beam irradiation there is no peaks detected at wavenumber 1720 cm⁻¹ where assignment by C=O stretching. This show the interaction oxygen to the fibers was limited. Differ to the thermal process, where

the interaction of oxygen were occur during the process. The structure C=O was increased as the thermal process time. Thermal process for 1 hour shows the Si-H stretching was undetected, this indicated there was high crosslinking degree in the PCS fibers. Absorbed doses at 231 kGy show the lowest intensity for Si-H

stretching, this indicate higher crosslinking degree on the PCS fibers. The PCS fibers that cured by electron beam weren't continue to pyrolysis process because the fibers are very brittle than thermal process.

Fig. 4 shows the fibers morphology shows the ribbon-shape type [11]. The fiber compositions were analyzed by EDS and there is increase in oxygen content. Respectively to the curing time process, empirical chemical formula for the fibers are $\text{SiO}_{0.49}\text{C}_{0.51}$ [11], $\text{SiO}_{0.53}\text{C}_{0.47}$ and $\text{SiO}_{0.61}\text{C}_{0.39}$. These are correlated to oxidation that occur on fibers during the curing.

4. Summary

A non woven PCS fibers cured by thermal process and electron beam irradiation was done. An oxidative curing was occur in thermal process, indicated by increase of relative intensity at wavenumber 1720 cm^{-1} in FTIR spectra as curing time. The fibers cured by thermal process show high crosslinking degree when curing time at 1 hour. Non oxidative curing was occur in electron beam irradiation. Absorbed doses of electron beam at 231 kGy show higher crosslinking degree than the others. The fibers cured by electron beam irradiation are more brittle than cured by thermal process. The fibers that cured by thermal process was pyrolysis at 1000°C for 1 hour in an inert atmosphere. Empirical chemical formula that derived from EDS for the pyrolyzed fiber are $\text{SiO}_{0.49}\text{C}_{0.51}$ for cured at 1 hour [11], $\text{SiO}_{0.53}\text{C}_{0.47}$ for cured at 1.5 hours and $\text{SiO}_{0.61}\text{C}_{0.39}$ for cured at 2 hours.

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