

Recyclable enzyme mimic of cubic Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles loaded on graphene oxide-dispersed carbon nanotubes with enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis†

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Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles as nanocatalysts may present peroxidase-like catalysis activities and high electrocatalysis if loaded on conductive carbon nanotube (CNT) supports; however, their catalysis performances in an aqueous system might still be challenged by the poor aqueous dispersion of hydrophobic carbon supports and/or low stability of loaded iron catalysts. In this work, amphiphilic graphene oxide nanosheets were employed as "surfactant" to disperse CNTs to create stable graphene oxide-dispersed CNT (GCNT) supports in water for covalently loading cubic Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles with improved distribution and binding efficiency. Compared with original Fe₃O₄ nanos and CNT-loaded Fe₃O₄ nanocomplex, the prepared GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite could achieve higher aqueous stability and, especially, much stronger peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis to H₂O₂, presumably resulting from the synergetic effects of two conductive carbon supports and cubic Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts effectively loaded. Colorimetric and direct electrochemical detections of H₂O₂ and glucose using the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite were conducted with high detection sensitivities, demonstrating the feasibility of practical sensing applications. Such a magnetically recyclable "enzyme mimic" may circumvent some disadvantages of natural protein enzymes and common inorganic catalysts, featuring the multi-functions of high peroxidase-like catalysis, strong electrocatalysis, magnetic separation/recyclability, environmental stability, and direct H₂O₂ electrochemistry.

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1. Introduction

Enzymes have been widely applied as biological catalysts in environmental, industrial, medical, and biosensing fields.^{1–3} However, there are certain disadvantages of natural enzymes, such as protein enzymes, regarding protease digestion, easy denaturation, and catalytic activity inhibition especially in some complex media (*i.e.*, wastewater). Moreover, natural enzyme-based electrochemical sensors can also be challenging as a result of the redox center of enzymes deep inside insulate protein shells, making electronic mediators/relays necessary.^{4–7} Alternatively, increasing efforts have been contributed to development of inorganic catalysts that possess the catalysis

capacities of natural enzymes but address some of their catalysis limitations.^{8–19} In particular, the development of peroxidase-like nanocatalysts has attracted much attention.^{13–18} Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles (Fe₃O₄ nanos), the most well-known example, have been established to possess intrinsic peroxidase-like catalysis activities through converting Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺.^{13,17,18} Fe₃O₄ catalysts, however, may suffer from limited catalysis performance, low suspending stability, and poor metal oxide conductivity, especially for electrocatalysis applications. Accordingly, many conductive materials, typically as carbon nanotubes (CNTs), have been introduced as supports for Fe₃O₄ loading, owing to their high electric conductivity, large surface area, mechanical strength, and chemical inertness.^{7,18,20–25} CNTs were mainly used to increase the electrocatalysis capacities of Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts so as to achieve low-potential sensing of H₂O₂ or glucose²⁶ or their electromagnetic behaviour.²⁷ Meanwhile, CNT improvement of the intrinsic peroxidase-like catalysis of Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts has received comparatively little attention. Some researchers have introduced CNTs to obtain enhanced catalysis of Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts;¹⁸ nevertheless, their catalysis performances and large-scale applications can still be challenged by the poor dispersion of hydrophobic carbon supports and low stability of iron catalysts mixed in an aqueous

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system. Therefore, improved spatial distribution and well-dispersion stability of CNT supports should be one of the key requirements to obtain further enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis of Fe_3O_4 nanocatalysts.

At present, two types of oxidation treatment²⁸ and surfactant addition²² are normally used to improve the aqueous dispersion of hydrophobic CNTs, but with limited success. In recent years, graphene has received a great deal of attention in the materials science and biotechnology fields.^{16,29–32} Reduced graphene oxide (GO) nanosheets have also been used to attach Fe_3O_4 nanos, achieving excellent electrocatalytic activities.³³ Particularly, GO nanosheets are amphiphilic with an edge-to-center distribution of hydrophilic and hydrophobic domains,³⁰ implying that they may serve as a very effective “surfactant” for CNTs to create stable colloidal dispersion in water.^{30–32} In addition, it is well established that the catalysis activities of inorganic nanocatalysts could be shape- and size-dependent^{34–37}—that is, cubic platinum nanoparticles have been demonstrated to show strong peroxidase-like catalysis.³⁶ In the present work, cube-shaped Fe_3O_4 nanos have been synthesized and further covalently bound onto the GO nanosheet-dispersed CNTs (GCNTs), aiming to develop a new kind of magnetic nanocatalyst with enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis performances towards extensive applications. Comparable investigations were carried out to demonstrate the improved support dispersion, high environmental stability, and especially enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis activities of the as-prepared GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposites by optical and electrochemical measurements, including the feasibility for recyclable sensing applications for H_2O_2 and glucose detection.

2. Experimental section

2.1. Materials and reagents

Multiple-walled CNTs functionalized with carboxyl groups were purchased from Carbon Solutions, Inc. (Riverside, CA). Graphene oxide nanosheets were obtained from Graphene Supermarket (USA). Glucose oxidase (GOD), glucose, human erythrocyte AChE, bovine serum albumin, Nafion (5.0%), *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N*-ethylcarbodiimide (EDC), *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS), FeCl_3 , sodium oleate, MES buffer, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH), and peroxidase colour substrate were the products of Sigma-Aldrich, including 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), *o*-phenylenediamine (OPD), 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB), *p*-aminophenol (PAP), and hydroquinone (HQ). Other reagents were of analytical reagent grade.

2.2. Synthesis of cubic Fe_3O_4 nanos

Cubic Fe_3O_4 nanos were synthesized by following the procedures of thermal decomposition of iron oleate complex.^{37,38} Typically, FeCl_3 (5.0 mmol) and sodium oleate (15 mmol) were added to a mixture containing ethanol (10 ml), water (7.5 ml), and hexane (17.5 ml). The mixture was then refluxed at 60 °C for 4 h. After the organic reagents were separated and evaporated out, the resulting iron oleate was dissolved in an appropriate amount of 1-octadecene containing sodium oleate (2.5 mmol). The mixture was

further heated to 300 °C for 40 min under nitrogen. The cooled solution was precipitated by 2-propanol, and then washed with hexane and ethanol. The precipitate of Fe_3O_4 nanos was subsequently resuspended in 1.0 M of TMAH as the stock suspension.

2.3. Preparation of and GOD modification of GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposite

The GCNTs were prepared with the mass ratio of GO nanosheets to CNTs at 1 : 10. An aliquot of 100 mg CNTs, which were treated to be derivatized with carboxyl groups, were ultrasonicated in 50 ml deionized water for 30 min, and then 10 mg GO solution was added to the CNT solution to be sonicated until a visually homogeneous dispersion was formed. The resulting GCNT mixture was sonicated for 16 h (cycles of 60 s on and 5 s off), and then centrifuged and washed to get GCNTs. Furthermore, the GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposite was synthesized by the EDC/NHS cross-linking chemistry. An aliquot of carboxyl group-derivatized GCNTs described above were re-dispersed in an MES buffer (pH 5.0) containing 100 mM EDC and 80 mM NHS to be stirred overnight at room temperature. The activated GCNTs were then separated and washed twice by centrifuge. Moreover, an aliquot of cubic Fe_3O_4 nanos of the desired amount in TMAH above was magnetically separated and washed three times. The yielding precipitate of amine-derivatized Fe_3O_4 nanos was then mixed with the activated GCNTs suspension for 3 h (pH 7.0), followed by magnetic separation and washing. The resulting GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposite was finally dispersed in 2-propanol at different concentrations. In addition, a CNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomplex was prepared in the same manner except for the GO addition.

Thereafter, 1.0 mg of GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocatalysts was dispersed in 1.0 ml PBS containing 0.5% Triton X-100. GOD (10 mg) was added to an aliquot of GCNT- Fe_3O_4 suspension (1.0 mg ml⁻¹) pre-activated by EDC/NHS chemistry to be incubated overnight at 4 °C. Then the mixture was magnetically separated and washed twice. Subsequently, GOD-loaded GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposites were dispersed in PBS containing 0.5% Triton X-100 to be stored at 4 °C.

2.4. Colorimetric catalysis experiments

Colorimetric tests were performed to comparably examine the peroxidase-like catalysis activities among various suspensions (0.01 mg in 1.0 ml PBS, pH 4.5) of CNTs, GCNTs, Fe_3O_4 nanos, CNT- Fe_3O_4 , and GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocatalysts, which were separately added to 0.15 ml TMB- H_2O_2 substrates. Moreover, the organic peroxidase substrates (2.0 mM) of TMB, DAB, OPD, PAP, and HQ were catalytically oxidized by mixing them with 4.0 mM H_2O_2 using the 0.01 mg ml⁻¹ GCNT- Fe_3O_4 suspension to produce different colors of reaction products. In addition, colorimetric detection for glucose and H_2O_2 of different concentrations was conducted in an acetate buffer (0.2 M, pH 4.5) containing 4.0 mM TMB using GOD-loaded GCNT- Fe_3O_4 and GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposites (0.01 mg ml⁻¹), respectively. Moreover, the dynamics parameters (*i.e.*, K_m and V_{max}) of GCNT- Fe_3O_4 nanocomposites were measured in order to plot Michaelis–Menten curves with different concentrations of H_2O_2 and TMB.

2.5. Electrochemical catalysis experiments

Electrocatalytic investigations of the GCNT-Fe₃O₄-modified electrode for H₂O₂ were performed using the CHI 760 electrochemical analyzer (CH Instruments, Austin, TX). A three-electrode configuration (CH Instruments) consisting of a glassy carbon working electrode, an Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and a platinum counter electrode was employed. Herein, 5 μl of the respective suspension (0.010 mg in 1.0 ml 0.25% Nafion) of CNTs, GCNTs, Fe₃O₄ nanos, and GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites were separately dropped onto the electrodes to be incubated overnight at 4 °C. Subsequently, 5 μl of 0.05% Nafion were added onto the electrodes and left for 1 h at room temperature.

Furthermore, cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements of the resulting electrodes were conducted in a PBS solution containing the same H₂O₂ concentration. The direct electrochemical responses of the GCNT-Fe₃O₄-modified electrode to successive additions of H₂O₂ with a step of 1.0 mM were recorded under the same CV conditions. Moreover, glucose was electroanalyzed with the GOD-GCNT-Fe₃O₄-modified electrode. Herein, an appropriate amount of the GOD-labeled GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts was first dispersed in PBS buffer with 0.25% Nafion. An aliquot of 5.0 μl of the mixture was added onto the electrodes to be incubated overnight at 4 °C and washed twice. The amperometric responses to glucose with different concentrations for the resulting enzyme electrodes were recorded at an applied potential of -0.3 V.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis and characterization of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite

Cube-shaped Fe₃O₄ nanos were synthesized by the thermal decomposition of iron oleate complex,^{37,38} and stabilized in TMAH solution to be derivatized with amine groups.^{38,39} The

yielded Fe₃O₄ nanos were further separately coupled onto the carboxyl group-functionalized CNTs and the GCNTs (mass ratio of GO to CNTs being 1 : 10) by EDC/NHS cross-linking chemistry, resulting in GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites. Fig. 1 shows the comparison of topological structures among different nanomaterials by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) imaging. Note that cubic Fe₃O₄ nanos (~13 nm in diameter) could largely be loaded onto CNTs and GCNTs to form the CNT-Fe₃O₄ (Fig. 1C) and GCNT-Fe₃O₄ (Fig. 1D), respectively. However, the latter may display much higher dispersion and suspension stability than the former, as is clearly shown in their solution photographs. Moreover, the TEM images show that Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts were well distributed and aligned with desirable density on the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites (Fig. 1D, inset); in contrast, they were stacked and coagulated on the CNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomplex. Clearly, the GCNT supports could enable better binding distribution and dispersion stability of Fe₃O₄ nanos on the nanocomposite, confirming the vital role of the GO "surfactant." The synergetic effects of carbon supports (high conductivity or electron transfer) and of cubic Fe₃O₄ nanos (intrinsic catalysis activity) were thereby expected to facilitate both enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite for recyclable sensing applications.

3.2. Colorimetric investigations of peroxidase-like catalysis activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite

We first employed the peroxidase substrate of TMB-H₂O₂ to investigate the peroxidase-like catalysis activities of the obtained GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts (Fig. 2). Fig. 2A shows the comparison of colorimetric TMB-H₂O₂ reaction results among CNTs, GCNTs, Fe₃O₄ nanos, CNT-Fe₃O₄, and GCNT-Fe₃O₄. One can find that both CNTs and GCNTs may show a small amount of catalysis behaviour, which may result from the presence of

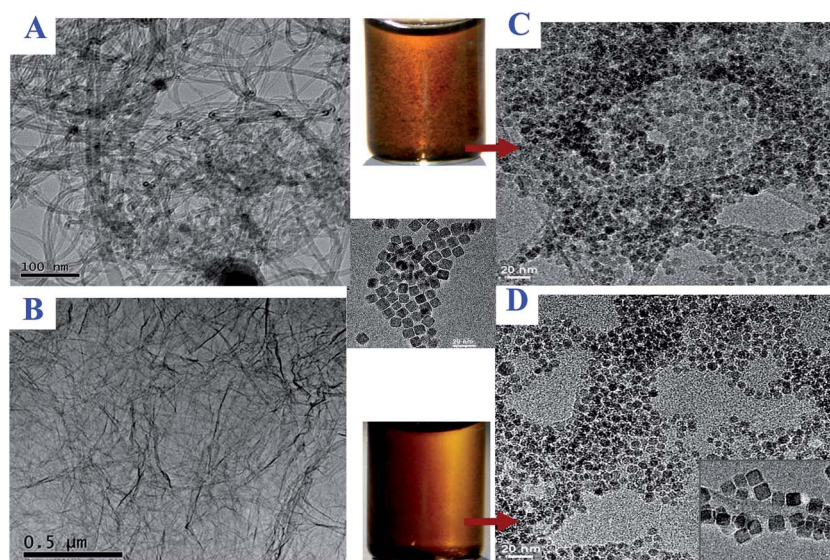


Fig. 1 Typical TEM images of (A) CNTs, (B) GO, (C) CNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite, (D) GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite (inset: partially amplified view of a nanocomposite), and free cubic Fe₃O₄ nanos (middle), including (middle, top and bottom) the photographs of the CNT-Fe₃O₄ and GCNT-Fe₃O₄ suspensions indicated.

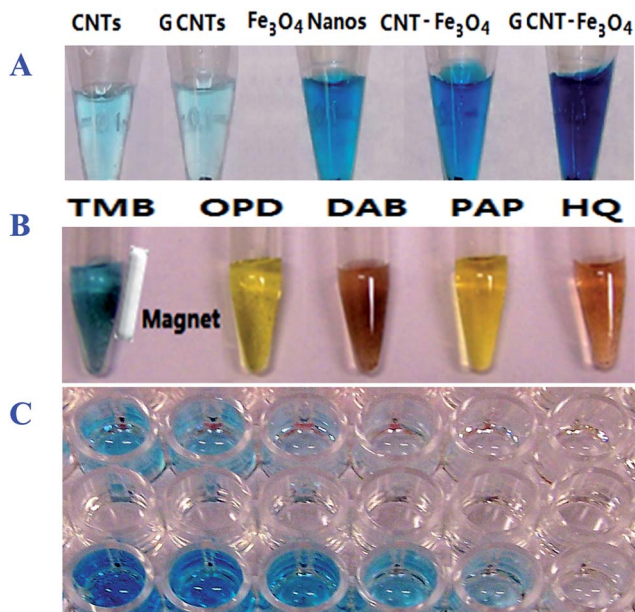


Fig. 2 Colorimetric comparison investigations of catalysis activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts. (A) Comparison of catalytic activities for TMB-H₂O₂ reaction (5.0 mM TMB and 2.0 mM H₂O₂) among CNTs, GCNTs, Fe₃O₄ nanos, CNT-Fe₃O₄, and GCNT-Fe₃O₄ materials normalized with the same iron amount. (B) GCNT-Fe₃O₄-catalyzed H₂O₂ oxidation of various organic peroxidase substrates (2.0 mM) of TMB, OPD, DAB, PAP, and HQ. (C) Colorimetric detection of glucose (top row) and H₂O₂ (bottom row), ranging from 0.050 to 1.0 mM (from right to left) using GOD-loaded GCNT-Fe₃O₄ and pure GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts (0.010 mg ml⁻¹), respectively.

catalysis-active iron segments of CNTs,^{18,23,40} and/or the intrinsic peroxidase-like catalytic activity of GO nanosheets.¹⁶ But Fe₃O₄ nanos showed stronger catalysis than the commercially available CNTs or GCNTs in terms of color densities of TMB-H₂O₂ reaction products. More importantly, when Fe₃O₄ nanos were loaded on GCNTs, the resulting GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites could show much higher catalysis activity than Fe₃O₄ nanos and carbon supports; furthermore, they could exhibit much stronger peroxidase-like catalysis than the CNT-Fe₃O₄, demonstrating the apparent difference in catalyst supports. Again, the use of GO “surfactant” could significantly improve the aqueous dispersion and stability of the supports to allow for better distribution and more effective loading of cubic Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts, which may in turn facilitate greatly enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites by faster conversion of Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺.¹³

In addition, the kinetic characterization of peroxidase-like activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites was carried out by plotting the typical Michaelis-Menten curves (Fig. S1, ESI†). According to the Lineweaver-Burk equation, the Michaelis constant (K_m) and the maximal reaction velocity (V_{max}) were obtained and shown in Table S1, ESI† as compared with those of the natural enzyme, horseradish peroxidase (HRP), reported elsewhere.¹³ It is found that the K_m value of the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ with a H₂O₂ substrate (2.52 mM) is a little lower than that of HRP (3.7 mM), showing that they could have compatible affinity

to H₂O₂. But the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ presented much lower K_m with a TMB substrate (0.118 mM) than HRP (0.434 mM), indicating higher affinity to TMB was achieved for the GCNT-Fe₃O₄, presumably resulting from its carbon carriers with strong adsorption to TMB.

3.3. Colorimetric sensing applications of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite

The peroxidase-like catalysis activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts were first examined *via* the H₂O₂-induced catalytic oxidation of some organic peroxidase substrates commonly used, including TMB, OPD, DAB, PAP, and HQ. Fig. 2B shows the photographs of the colorimetric reaction products. It was discovered that these originally colourless organic substrate solutions could be rapidly turned into various colours; for instance, the DAB solution presented a brown colour. Clearly, the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ enzyme mimic may display strong catalysis degradation of typical organic peroxidase substrates. Note that when a magnetic stirring bar was applied to the side of the tube after color reactions, magnetic nanocatalysts could be effectively collected from the substrate media, as exemplified in the TMB tube in Fig. 2B. Therefore, the strong magnetism of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts could additionally enable the inorganic nanocatalysts to be recovered or recycled after usage, indicating the possibility of extensive applications in the field of environmental chemistry. For example, they may be tailored for the magnet-aided separation and recyclable catalysis degradation or removal of organic toxicants such as phenols¹⁸ in wastewater treatments.

Furthermore, TMB-H₂O₂ substrate reactions catalyzed by the developed GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite were found to be pH-dependent, which was colorimetrically tested by changing the pH values from pH 0.50 to pH 14 (data not shown). The optimal pH value of the reaction was found to be ~pH 4.5, as determined by the fastest reaction of blue substrates. Additionally, when the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ catalysts were placed at 90 °C for 1 h or stored at room temperature for 6 months, no significant change was observed in their catalysis performance for TMB-H₂O₂ reactions (data not shown). The results indicate that the inorganic enzyme mimic can display high thermal and long-term storage stabilities. Subsequently, the feasibility of catalysis applications for colorimetric H₂O₂ and glucose detection was probed using GCNT-Fe₃O₄ and GOD-GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts, respectively (Fig. 2C). A proportional change of colour densities for TMB chromogens was obtained for H₂O₂ and glucose, both with linear concentrations ranging from 0.050 to 1.0 mM, by separately plotting the absorbance values *versus* H₂O₂ and glucose concentrations (data not shown), indicating the potential for sensitive colorimetric detection of H₂O₂ and glucose.

3.4. Electrochemical investigations of electrocatalysis activities of GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite

The GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts were coated onto the electrodes to conduct direct electrocatalysis to H₂O₂ reduction, in comparison with the electrodes modified separately with CNTs,

GCNTs, Fe_3O_4 nanos, and $\text{CNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$. Fig. 3 illustrates the typical CVs of these electrodes, in which significantly different changes in H_2O_2 response currents were observed upon adding 3.0 mM H_2O_2 . Interestingly, the current response of the CNT-modified electrode was higher than that of the Fe_3O_4 nano-modified electrode, but was lower than that of the electrodes modified with GCNTs or $\text{CNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$. Compared with CNTs,

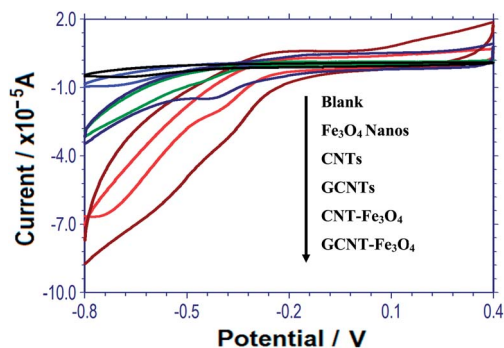


Fig. 3 Comparison of direct voltammetric responses to H_2O_2 (3.0 mM) among the electrodes separately modified with GCNTs, CNTs, Fe_3O_4 nanos, and the $\text{CNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ and $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ nanocomposites, scanning from -0.80 to 0.40 V at a scan rate of 0.10 V s^{-1} .

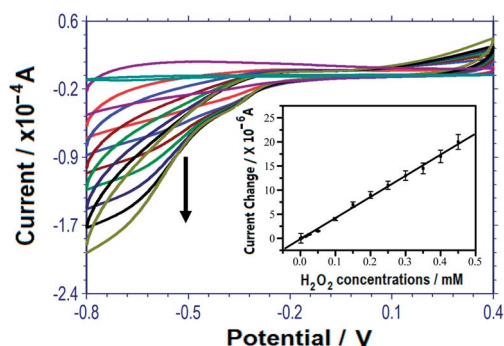


Fig. 4 Direct voltammetric responses of the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified electrode to successive 1.0 mM step additions of H_2O_2 . Inset: the calibration curve of amperometric responses to H_2O_2 with different concentrations linearly ranging from 0.01 to 0.50 mM.

semiconductive Fe_3O_4 nanos might be packed more tightly on the electrode, leading to lower electron transportation—although they had high peroxidase-like catalysis activity in the previous experiments. As for the GCNT-modified electrode, relatively high electrocatalysis to H_2O_2 was observed, presumably resulting from the intrinsic electrocatalysis activities of CNTs and/or GO, as evidenced elsewhere.^{16,22,33,41–43} From Fig. 3, one can observe that the H_2O_2 reduction response of the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified electrode was ~ 2.5 times higher than that of the electrode with Fe_3O_4 nanos or GCNT alone. Also, it could exhibit much larger responses to H_2O_2 than the $\text{CNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified one. Accordingly, stronger electrocatalysis to H_2O_2 was verified for the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ electrode, including higher electron transfer capacities, presumably benefiting from the high electrocatalysis of carbon supports,^{16,18,22,23,33} and the aforementioned intrinsic peroxidase-like catalysis of Fe_3O_4 nanos.

3.5. Electrochemical-sensing applications of $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ nanocomposites

Fig. 4 manifests the direct voltammetric responses of the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified electrode to successive additions of H_2O_2 . It was observed that the CV responses could increase proportionally with increasing H_2O_2 levels linearly ranging from 0.010 to 0.50 mM. Of note, the interference of other electroactive substances such as ascorbic acid and uric acid can be largely excluded if H_2O_2 was detected at such a low overpotential.^{22,33,44}

Moreover, the electrochemical detections of glucose by the electrode modified with $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -loaded GOD were conducted (Fig. 5). Herein, GOD was covalently loaded onto the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified electrodes forming the enzyme sensor for glucose analysis through amperometric detection of liberated H_2O_2 . A typical current–time response curve was obtained for the enzyme sensor to successive additions of glucose at an applied potential of -0.3 V (Fig. 5A). Note that the current responses could increase with increasing glucose concentrations, in which the steady-state signals were reached in less than ~ 10 s.

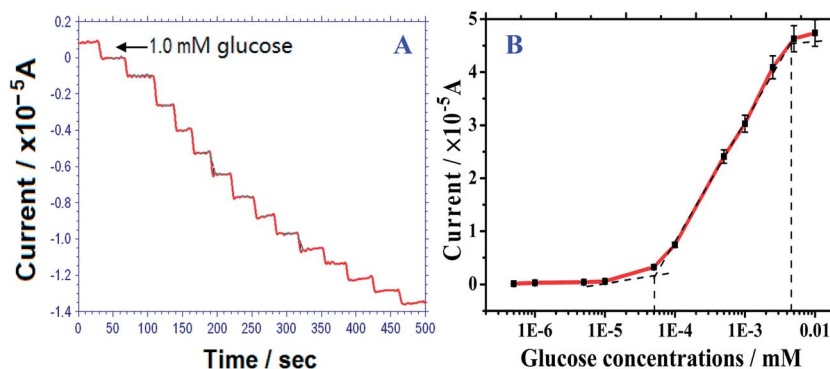


Fig. 5 (A) Typical current–time responses of the $\text{GCNT-Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ -modified electrode combined with GOD to successive addition of glucose with a 1.0 mM step, measured at an applied potential of -0.3 V. (B) Steady-state calibration curve of amperometric responses to glucose with various concentrations ranging from 0.050 to 5.0 mM.

Fig. 5B describes the calibration curve of the GOD sensor for glucose samples with various concentrations. Linear concentrations of glucose were achieved ranging from 0.050 to 5.0 mM, with a detection limit of 0.022 mM. Accordingly, the developed electrode could exhibit much better performances of sensing to glucose than the electrodes modified with CNT-loaded GOD, as previously documented.²²

4. Conclusions

In this study, cubic Fe₃O₄ nanos were successfully synthesized and covalently bound onto the GO nanosheet-dispersed CNTs supports leading to GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites with enhanced peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis activities. On the one hand, the introduction of GO nanosheets could significantly improve the aqueous dispersion of hydrophobic CNT supports to allow for more effective and stable loadings of Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts. On the other hand, the synergetic effects of two carbon supports of high conductivity and electron-transfer capability, and cubic Fe₃O₄ nanos of intrinsic catalysis activity, could facilitate greatly improved peroxidase-like catalysis and electrocatalysis activities. Compared with natural enzymes or even common iron-based nanocatalysts like the CNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomplex, the resulting GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites could possess advantages of: (1) strong peroxidase-like catalysis to catalyze the H₂O₂-induced oxidation of typical peroxidase substrates so as to enable sensitive H₂O₂-based detections; (2) high electron-transferring and electrocatalysis capabilities, to allow for direct electrochemistry to H₂O₂ at a low over-potential; (3) unique magnet-aided separation and organic catalysis degradation abilities to facilitate recyclable catalytic detoxification or removal of organic pollutants (*i.e.*, phenols) in the environment and in wastewater; and (4) high environmental stability against high temperature and long-term storage. The outstanding catalysis performances of the GCNT-Fe₃O₄ nanocatalysts have been subsequently demonstrated by colorimetric and direct electrochemical sensing of H₂O₂ and glucose with high detection sensitivity. This recyclable enzyme mimic holds great promise of intensive applications in recyclable biological catalysis, magnetic separation, toxicant removal or degradation, and enzyme-based sensing analysis fields. Significantly, such a synthesis protocol using an "artificial enzyme" may open a new door towards multifunctional catalyst design by dispersing magnetic nanocatalysts onto two high-surface-area carbon supports.

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