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### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Interaction of sulfonated graphene oxide with U(VI) studied by spectroscopic analysis and theoretical calculations

Yubing Sun,<sup>a,b</sup> Xiangxue Wang,<sup>a</sup> Yuejie Ai,<sup>a\*</sup> Zhimin Yu,<sup>c</sup> Wei Huang<sup>a</sup>, Changlun Chen,<sup>b\*</sup> Tasawar Hayat,<sup>d</sup> Ahmed Alsaedi,<sup>d</sup> Xiangke Wang<sup>a,c,d\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Environment and Chemical Engineering, North China Electric Power University, Beijing 102206, P.R. China

<sup>b</sup> Key Lab of New Thin Film Solar Cells, Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. Box 1126, Hefei, 230031, Anhui, P.R. China

<sup>c</sup> Department of Biology and Environmental Engineering, Hefei University, 230000, Hefei, P.R. China

<sup>d</sup> NAAM Research Group, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia

\*: Corresponding author. Email: xkwang@ncepu.edu.cn (X.Wang), aiyuejie@ncepu.edu.cn (Y. Ai), clchen@ipp.cas.cn (C. Chen). Tel(Fax): 86-10-66172890.

**Abstract** The interaction mechanism of high effective enrichment of U(VI) on sulfonated graphene oxide (GO) at ultralow pH still remains unclear. The batch characteristic results showed that sulfonated GO presented a variety of functional groups such as hydroxyl (-OH), carboxyl (-COOH) and sulfonyl (-OSO<sub>3</sub>H) groups. The macroscopic results indicated that the sorption of U(VI) on sulfonated GO was independent of ionic strength, and the maximum sorption capacity calculated from Langmuir model was 45.05 mg/g at pH 2.0. The change of relative intensities for S 2p

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