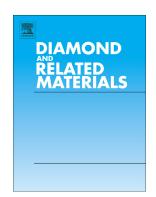
## Accepted Manuscript

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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

Reactive force field based atomistic simulations to study fracture toughness of bicrystalline graphene functionalised with oxide groups

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**Abstract** 

The aim of this article was to study the effect of oxide functionalisation on the fracture

toughness of bicrystalline graphene. Molecular dynamics based simulations in conjunction

with reactive force field were performed to study the fracture toughness of functionalised

bicrystal of graphene. Separate studies were performed with hydroxyl and epoxide

functionalisation, and later on the same simulations were extended over graphene oxide (GO)

as a whole. Failure morphologies depict that epoxide groups tend to boost the fracture

toughness, via altering the failure path and transforming the fracture mode from mode-I to

mode-II. In addition to the transformation, epoxide-to-ether conversion also played

significant role in enhancing the fracture toughness of bicrystalline graphene. On the other

hand, steric hindrance exhibited by the hydroxyl group mitigates the fracture toughness of

GO. Overall, certain spatial sandwich configurations of epoxide groups concluded an

enhanced fracture toughness for bicrystalline graphene; which further opens new avenues for

the application of these graphene sheets in nanodevices, nanomembranes and

nanocomposites.

Keywords: Bicrystalline graphene, Grain boundaries, Oxygen functionalisation, Fracture

toughness, Molecular dynamics

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