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&
TWELFTH WORLD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE
ON SINTERING
XII WRTCS**

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pH-triggered sol-gel synthesis of $\text{Na}_4\text{Fe}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ cathode material

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The combination of different structural units in the anionic sublattice ($\text{PO}_4\text{-SO}_4$, $\text{PO}_4\text{-NO}_3$, $\text{PO}_4\text{-CO}_3$, etc.) can provide novel mixed polyanionic structures, which matched properties of Li-ion intercalation materials [1]. Mixed polyanion, $\text{Na}_4\text{Fe}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ (NFPP) is of special interest as a cathode for Na-ion batteries [2]. In this study, the simple citric-assisted sol-gel method was used for NFPP/C preparation, with the aim of evaluating its sodium storage capability. When both phosphates and pyrophosphates are used as precursors, the mixed NFPP phase has been successfully obtained, but only if pH is adjusted to the neutral value. Otherwise, when it comes to spontaneous sol-gel reaction (without pH adjustment), the heterostructure $\text{Na}_4\text{Fe}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7/\text{Na}_2\text{FeP}_2\text{O}_7$ was formed. The obtained polyanions have been examined in terms of the structural, thermal and morphological behaviour by XRD, FTIR, TG/DTA and FESEM. Their electrochemical examination in NaNO_3 , by cyclic voltammetry and chronopotentiometry, reveals the substantial difference in sodium storage properties of synthesized nanocomposites. While the heterostructure delivers the specific capacity of around 90 mAh g^{-1} with a poor rate capability, the mixed phase can reach theoretical capacity of $\approx 129 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ (at a common scan rate), with a high rate capability of $\approx 80 \text{ C}$.

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