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SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND ELECTROCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF Na_{0.44}MnO₂ IN NaNO₃ AND LiNO₃ AQUEOUS SOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

Na_{0.44}MnO₂ synthesized by glycine-nitrate method (GNM) was described in this paper and it was characterized by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) and field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM). Electrochemical performances of Na_{0.44}MnO₂ were studied by cycling voltammetry (CV) at various scan rates in NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ aqueous solutions in order to compare the intercalation/deintercalation kinetics of Li⁺ and Na⁺ ions. The initial discharge capacity was found to be 27.1 and 27.44 in the aqueous solution of NaNO₃ and LiNO₃, respectively, and after 30 cycles its values increased for 12% in both electrolytes.

INTRODUCTION

The rechargeable batteries are seen as one of the most promising system for energy conversion and storage. Lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) are the most investigate type of rechargeable battery, due to its specific energy and specific power, high energy density storage, small weight and long life time [1]. In recent years, the development of the sodium-ion batteries (SIBs) has become more attractive, owing to the low cost and natural abundance of sodium, as well as the physicochemical similarity with lithium. The working principle of SIBs is identical to LIBs. One of the main problems of SIBs is the larger radius of Na-ion than of Li-ion, which could cause more difficult intercalation compared to Li-ion [2]. Until now investigated LIBs and SIBs use highly toxic and flammable organic solvents which have low ionic conductivity and high price. Aqueous LIBs and SIBs have a series of advantages: they do not contain flammable organic electrolytes, the ionic conductivities of the aqueous electrolyte is about two orders of magnitude higher than in nonaqueous electrolyte and the electrolyte salt and solvent are

cheaper. Manganese oxides, vanadium oxide or phosphates are used as electrode materials (cathodic and anodic) in both types of batteries. Li–Mn–O or Na–Mn–O systems with tunnel or layered crystal structures are the mostly used type of manganese oxides as electrode materials. Na_{0.44}MnO₂ (NMO) have been synthesized by different methods such as hydrothermal process, thermo-chemical conversion process, polymer-pyrolysis process, molten salt technique, electrostatic spinning method, spray pyrolysis process and spray drying process [3]. In this work NMO was synthesized by glycine-nitrate method (GNM), which, according to the literature, has not been used for synthesis of this material so far.

EXPERIMENTAL

NaNO₃ and Mn(NO₃)₂ aqueous solutions were mixed in ratio corresponding to a stoichiometric ratio of Na/Mn in NMO. The glycine was added to the mixture with molar ratio of glycine-to-nitrate 1.2. The resulting precusor solution was placed in a glass beaker and heated in an oven until spontaneous ignition occurred. The obtained powder was heated in the air at 900 °C for 4 h.

The structure of synthesized powder was characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and XRD pattern was recorded at Philips PW-1050 over a 2θ range 10–70° with a step of 0.05° and a counting time of 5 s. The morphology of the synthesized powder was analyzed by FE-SEM (TESCAN, MIRA 3 XMU) at 20 kV. The electrochemical behavior of NMO was investigated by cyclic voltammetry (CV) at various scan rates, in both NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ aqueous solutions using Gamry PCI4/300 Potentiostat/Galvanostat/ZR

A in three-electrode cell. A platinum foil was used as a counter electrode, saturated calomel electrode (SCE) was used as a reference electrode and the working electrode was made of NMO powder (85%), carbon black (10%) and polyvinylidene fluoride (5%)in N-methyl-2pyrolidone as solvent. The suspension was homogenized in an ultrasonic bath to form homogeneous slurry and afterwards transferred

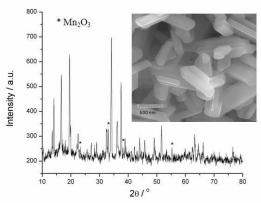


Figure 1. XRD pattern and FE-SEM image of Na_{0.44}MnO₂. The asterisk shows the positions of Mn₂O₃ reflections.

glassy carbon rod and dried under vacuum 10-2 mbar at 140°C for 4h.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 1 shows the XRD pattern of the synthesized material. The sharp diffraction peaks indicated that the product was well-crystallized and was identified as orthorhombic structured of Na_{0.44}MnO₂ with *Pbam* space group (JCPDS No.27-0750). A minor amount of impurities was detected and identified as Mn₂O₃ (JCPDS No.41-1442) [3]. The FE-SEM images of NMO indicated that the powder consisted of uniform rod-like particles and the average width and length of particles were found to be ~80 nm and ~800 nm, respectively, Fig 1.

Cyclic voltammograms of NMO recorded in NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ aqueous solutions, by high polarization scan rates from 20 to 400 mV s⁻¹ within the voltage range -1.30 to 1.35 V vs. SCE, are shown on Fig. 2. For both solutions, the shape of CV's and peaks position were similar for all rates which means that process of intercalation/deintercalation of Li⁺ and Na⁺ are reversible and synthesized material can be used in lithium and sodium batteries. In NaNO₃ electrolyte at a polarization rate of 20 mVs⁻¹, NMO showed three anodic peaks at the potential 0.005, 0.723 and 1.168 V and two cathodic peaks at the potentials of 0.4 and - 0.32 V vs. SCE. In the case of LiNO₃ as an electrolyte, the three anodic peaks were present at the potential 0.116, 0.649 and 1.206 V while two cathodic peaks were at the potential 0.729 and - 0.242 V vs. SCE.

The initial discharge capacity of NMO in NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ aqueous solution at the polarization rate of 20 mV s⁻¹ is 27.1 and 27.4 mAh g⁻¹ while

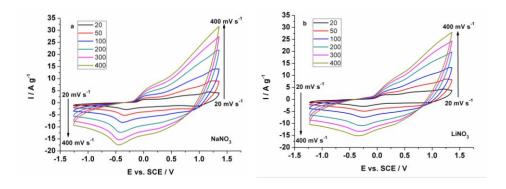


Figure 2. CV's of Na_{0.44}MnO₂ in aqueous solution of a) NaNO₃ and b) LiNO₃ at scan rate of 20, 50, 100, 200, 300 and 400 mVs⁻¹.

initial charge capacity is 30.6 and 30.5 mAh g⁻¹, respectively. The discharge capacity of NMO in NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ electrolytes, after 30 cycles, at the same polarization rate, was increased to values 51.1 and 53.3 mAh g⁻¹, while charge capacity was 50.8 and 53.9 mAh g⁻¹, respectively. With the increase in polarization rates from 20 to 400 mVs⁻¹, the discharge capacity decreases to 14.6 and 13.3 mAh g⁻¹, and charge capacity decreases to 14.8 and 12.8 mAh g⁻¹, in both NaNO₃ and LiNO₃, respectively.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Na_{0.44}MnO₂ was successful synthesized by glycine-nitrate method and the powder consisted of uniform rod-like particles. The intercalation/deintercalation of lithium and sodium ions in synthesized material were reversible in NaNO₃ and LiNO₃ aqueous electrolyte which indicated that Na_{0.44}MnO₂ synthesized by glycine-nitrate method can be used as the positive material in lithium and sodium aqueous batteries.

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