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Enhanced electrochemical performance of nickel-cobalt-oxide@reduced graphene oxide//activated carbon asymmetric supercapacitors by the addition of a redox-active electrolyte

Charmaine Lamiel,^a Yong Rok Lee,^a Moo Hwan Cho,^a Dirk Tuma,^b Jae-Jin Shim^{a,*}

^aSchool of Chemical Engineering, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan, Gyeongbuk 38541, Republic of Korea

^bBAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, D-12200 Berlin, Germany

*Corresponding author: (e-mail) jjshim@yu.ac.kr (J.-J. Shim)

Abstract

Supercapacitors are an emerging energy-storage system with a wide range of potential applications. In this study, highly porous nickel-cobalt-oxide@reduced graphene oxide (Ni-Co-O@RGO-s) nanosheets were synthesized as an active material for supercapacitors using a surfactant-assisted microwave irradiation technique. The RGO-modified nanocomposite showed a larger specific area, better conductivity, and lower resistivity than the unmodified nanocomposite because the RGO facilitated faster ion diffusion/transport for improved redox activity. The synergistic effect of Ni-Co-O@RGO-s resulted in a high capacitance of 1,903 F g⁻¹ (at 0.8 A g⁻¹) in a mixed KOH/redox active K₃Fe(CN)₆ electrolyte. The asymmetric Ni-Co-O@RGO-s//AC supercapacitor device yielded a high energy density and power density of 39 Wh kg⁻¹ and 7500 W kg⁻¹, respectively. The porous structure and combination of redox couples from both the electrode and electrolyte provided a highly synergistic effect, which improved the performance of the supercapacitor device.

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