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Effect of Template, Reaction Time, and Platinum Concentration in the Synthesis of PtCu/CNT Catalyst for PEMFC Applications

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effect of Template, Reaction Time, and Platinum Concentration in the Synthesis of

PtCu/CNT Catalyst for PEMFC Applications.

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Keywords

Galvanic Displacement; Hydrogen Fuel Cell; Oxygen Reduction Reaction; Catalyst; Template.

Abstract

Ultra-low PtCu loading on carbon nanotubes (CNT) catalysts were synthesized by a novel

galvanic displacement (GD) method under sonication conditions. The influence of the type of

copper template, reaction time, and Pt concentration in the galvanic displacement bath and

their correlation to electrocatalytic activity of the catalysts for oxygen reduction reaction in

acidic media were studied. Among the catalysts synthesized, the best catalyst identified

through electrochemical analysis was used to prepare Membrane Electrode Assembly and

evaluated in a hydrogen fuel cell. The maximum power density of the PtCu/CNT and

commercial catalyst (20% Pt/C) in the fuel cell were 452 mW cm⁻² at 0.424 V and 358 mW

cm⁻² at 0.475 V, respectively, clearly showing the superior electrocatalytic capability of the

PtCu/CNT catalyst synthesized in this study when compared with the commercial catalyst.

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