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Niraj Kumar, Jassiel R. Rodriguez, Vilas G. Pol, Arijit Sen

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Facile synthesis of 2D graphene oxide sheet enveloping ultrafine 1D LiMn_2O_4 as interconnected framework to enhance cathodic property for Li-ion battery

Niraj Kumar^a, Jassiel R. Rodriguez^b, Vilas G. Pol^{b*}, Arijit Sen^{a*}

^aSRM Research Institute and Department of Physics & Nanotechnology, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur 603203, India.

^bDavidson School of Chemical Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, United States.

*corresponding author: vpol@purdue.edu; arijit.s@res.srmuniv.ac.in

Abstract

Cubic spinel lithium manganese oxide (LiMn_2O_4) has been able to attract a great deal of attention over the years as a promising cathode material for large-scale lithium-ion batteries. Here a facile hydrothermal route followed by solid state reaction is developed using as grown ultrafine $\alpha\text{-MnO}_2$ nanorods to prepare 1D LiMn_2O_4 with 10-50 nm diameters. To enhance the cathodic property of these nanorods, a unique synthesis technique of heat treatment is developed to grow 2D graphene oxide sheet enveloping 1D LiMn_2O_4 as interconnected framework. This nanocomposite 3D porous cathode exhibits a high specific charge capacity of 130 mAh g^{-1} at 0.05 C rate and Coulombic efficiency of $\sim 98\%$ after 100 cycles in the potential window of 3.5 to 4.3 V vs Li/Li^+ with promising initial charge capacity retention of $\sim 87\%$, and outstanding structural stability even after 100 cycles. Enhancement in the lithiation and de-lithiation processes leading to improved performance is likely to have its origin in the 2D conducting graphene oxide sheets. It allows for decreasing the Mn dissolution, improve the electron conductivity and reduce the Li-ion path diffusion inside the favourable morphology and crystallinity of the ultrafine 1D LiMn_2O_4 nanorods, giving rise to a promising cathode nanocomposite.

Keywords: Nanorods, ultrafine, graphene oxide, hydrothermal, cathode, Li-ion battery

1. Introduction

Li-ion batteries (LIBs) in recent time are used extensively as the main source of power in almost every portable electronic device like personal computers, phones, digital cameras and electric vehicles, which is due to their compact size and high portability [1].

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