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Porous V₂O₅/Carbon Nano-composites Electrodes for Rechargeable Power Sources with Large Capacity and High Power

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Abstract

Nanoporous composite electrodes for rechargeable power sources were successfully fabricated by coating porous carbon with thin V_2O_5 gel layers. Their electrochemical properties were demonstrated, which took after both lithium ion batteries and electrochemical double layer capacitors. The nanoporous V_2O_5 /carbon composites exhibited large capacity of more than 100 mAh (g-composite)⁻¹ and good rate capability of 80% at 5.0 A (g-composite)⁻¹. The good performance is explained by electric double layer capacitance of large surface area and high rate lithium insertion to thin V_2O_5 gel layers.

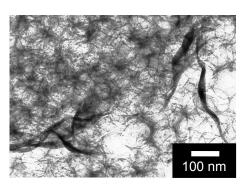
Introduction

Rechargeable power sources with both large capacity and high power are strongly demanded for their potential application to power sources for electric vehicles (EVs). Electric double layer capacitors (EDLCs) and lithium ion batteries (LIBs) are the most promising candidates. EDLCs exhibit good rate capability but low capacity. On the other hand, capacity of LIBs are relatively high but their power density is not enough for EVs. In this study, composite electrodes based on concepts of both EDLCs and LIBs were synthesized.¹⁾ We prepared V_2O_5 /carbon nanoporous composites that utilize capacitance of both double layer and pseudo capacitance of lithium insertion into V_2O_5 . The structure and the electrochemical properties of the composite electrodes are reported.

Experimental

Ordered porous carbons that are employed as frameworks of composite electrodes were synthesized by using colloidal crystals of SiO₂ (particle size: 110 nm) as templates. The detailed procedure was reported elsewhere.²⁾ The porous carbons were dispersed in a V_2O_5 sol that were prepared by dissolving vanadium powder in hydrogen peroxide.³⁾

After stirring, carbons were collected by filtration and dried. This coating process was repeated several times. V₂O₅-coated carbon thus obtained is hereafter abbreviated as $V_2O_5[n]/C$, where n is the number of the coating process. Surface areas structure of $V_2O_5[n]/C$ porous were and investigated by N₂ ad-/desorption isotherms and TEM, respectively. Electrochemical properties Fig. 1. TEM image of porous V₂O₅[9]/C. $V_2O_5[n]/C$ of were investigated by cyclic charging/discharging in 1 M LiClO₄/ (PC + DME).



voltammetry and galvanostatic

Results and Discussions

TEM images revealed the porous carbons had ordered spherical pores with a diameter of 110 nm, and was coated with V_2O_5 for $V_2O_5[n]/C$ (Fig. 1). The amounts of loaded V2O5 increased almost linearly with repeating the coating process, and about 34 wt-% of V₂O₅ was loaded after 11th cycle. In cyclic voltammograms (Fig. 2), for pristine carbon. almost rectangular voltammograms obtained were due to charging/discharging of double layer capacitance, which was calculated to be about 80 F g^{-1} .

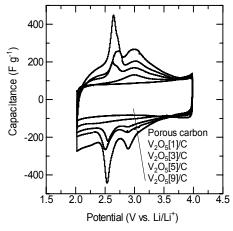


Fig. 2. Cyclic voltammograms of porous carbon and $V_2O_5[n]/C$ nanoporous composites.

Coating V₂O₅ layers on carbons resulted in appearance of two pairs of red-ox peaks at 2.6 V and 2.9 V, indicating lithium insertion to and extraction from amorphous V_2O_5 . $V_2O_5[n]/C$ exhibited large capacity of 50 – 100 mAh (g-composite)⁻¹ between 2.0 – 4.0 V vs. Li/Li^+ , and 80% of capacity was retained at a high charge rate of 5.0 A g⁻¹. In summary, large capacity and high rate capability of V₂O₅/carbon nanoporous composites were successfully demonstrated.

References

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