Continuous Process to Synthesize Size and Morphologically Controlled Nanostructures for Energy Storage

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BACKGROUND

Researchers at UCR have developed a flexible and affordable solution based synthesis process for manufacturing $LiFePO_4$ (LFP) and other nanostructures at low temperatures (150 to 200 ^{o}C) with highly reproducible sizes and shapes. The nanocrystalline structures may be incorporated into cathodes and anodes to enhance charging cycle stability or enhance capacitance (when doped with conductive metals).

The process is run at relatively low temperatures, and uses environmentally friendly solvents that transport precursor to flexible conductive substrates. This results in lower up front and ongoing manufacturing costs in cathode and anode production. Control over the material parameters is maintained through altering the solution parameters. The produced structures are uniformly dispersed and retain homogeneity in size and shape (vs. traditional high temperature solid state synthesis methods), preventing loss of performance and capacity due to increased stresses and charge de-stabilization which occur with heterogeneous particle sizes.

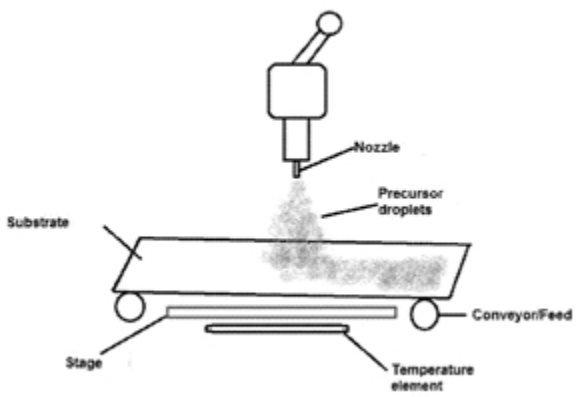


Fig. 1 shows the continuous application of reaction mixture onto a substrate to synthesize size and/or morphologically controlled nanostructures.

APPLICATION

This low cost, environmentally friendly, and low temperature process may be used in the scalable manufacture of batteries for use in renewable energy and power grid storage.

RELATED MATERIALS

- Zhu, J. et al. Solvothermal Synthesis, Development, and Performance of LiFePO4 Nanostructures. Crystal Growth & Design, 2013 13 (11), 4659-4666 - 10/09/2013

CONTACT

Venkata S. Krishnamurty
venkata.krishnamurty@ucr.edu
tel: .

OTHER INFORMATION

KEYWORDS

lithium ion, low temperature, precision, energy, storage, battery, anode, cathode, morphology, renewable, LFP, LiFePO4, nanostructures, nanocrystalline

CATEGORIZED AS

- **Energy**
  - Storage/Battery
- **Materials & Chemicals**
  - Storage
- **Nanotechnology**
  - Other

RELATED CASES

2013-250-0

PATENT STATUS

Country	Type	Number	Dated	Case
United States Of America	Issued Patent	9,666,857	05/30/2017	2013-250

University of California, Riverside

Office of Technology Commercialization

200 University Office Building,

Riverside,CA 92521

otc@ucr.edu

https://research.ucr.edu/

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