

Regulation of Charge Self-Balance Mechanism by Double Doping and Its Synergistic Interface Modification on the High-Voltage Cyclic Stability of Ultra-High Nickel Cathode Materials

Zhi-Chao Liu^{1*}

¹Department of Energy and Chemical Engineering, Tianjin Ren'ai College, Boxueyuan, Tuanbo New City, Jinghai District, Tianjin, 301636

Among all the intercalation compounds, ultrahigh-Ni ($\text{Ni} > 0.9$) layered oxides are the most probable commercially available cathode materials, with the high specific capacity and high discharge plateau, for the next-generation high energy lithium-ion batteries. However, with increasing Ni content in the oxides, fast decay of both the discharge capacity and mid-point potential during cycling is unavoidable due to the structural instability, which is the critical obstacle for the commercialization of ultrahigh-Ni oxides, including apparent microcracks and intrinsic phase transitions. In this work, we systematically combine the charge self-balancing, double doping, interface regulation and other modification strategies to prepare the ultrahigh-Ni layered oxide by co-precipitation method. The as-prepared ultrahigh-Ni cathode design can be attributed to following fundamental principles: (i) Strong bonding to oxygen: Al^{3+} and high-valence dopants, for example, Nb^{5+} , Mo^{6+} , and W^{6+} , doping in transition metal (TM) cation sites (tetrahedral interstices and octahedral sites) reinforces the robust bonds with O. (ii) the formation of more Ni^{2+} along with the high-valence dopants doping are to maintain charge imbalance, increasing cation mixing. The introduction of Al can help overcome the drawback of increased cation mixing caused by high-valence dopants doping. (iii) Radially oriented structure: Doping with high-valence dopants is favorable to reassemble primary grains, resulting in the dense microspheres with radially oriented morphologies. Such microstructure modification can greatly suppresses the microcracks through dissipating the strain caused by the serious H2-H3 phase transition. Correspondingly, the dual-doping ultrahigh-Ni oxides demonstrate superior capacity retention at 1C rate over 300 cycles with an upper cutoff potential of 4.4V (vs Li/Li⁺). Consequently, this work provides an efficient strategy to design and stabilize ultrahigh-Ni layered oxides for high energy lithium-ion batteries.