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Engineering of MoS₂ quantum dots/PANI aerogel for high energy supercapaciator and hydrogen evolution electrocatalyst

The low conductivity of MoS₂ presents a huge barrier for the exploitation of its supercapaciator electrode application and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) catalyst. To alleviate this difficulty, we have synthesized MoS₂ quantum dots (QDs) having greater quantity of catalytic edge sites by breaking up bulk MoS₂ sheet using the solvent exfoliation technique. The synthesized MoS₂ QDs are embedded into polyaniline (PANI)-N,N'-dibenzoyl-L-cystine (DBC) aerogel matrix for high energy supercapaciator and HER catalyst. Here, conductive PANI matrix are prepared by in situ polymerization of aniline where DBC acts as a gelator, dopant, and cross-linker. The DBC-PANI aerogel shows conductivity of 0.02 S/cm, specific capacitance of 278 F/g at a current density of 1A/g. The optimal MoS₂ QDs in DBC-PANI aerogel improves specific capacitance up to 796.2 F/g at 1A/g with superior rate capability (582 F/g at 20 A/g), and long cycling stability (86% after 5000 cycles). Also, the hybrid conductive DBC-MoS₂-PANI aerogels thus produced act as an efficient electrocatalyst showing lower HER overpotential in comparison to MoS₂ sheets and MoS₂ QDs. It exhibits an optimum overpotential value of 196 mV at 10 mA cm⁻², a favorable Tafel slope of 58 mV/dec, and an excellent electrocatalytic stability. Here, porous aerogel facilitate the fast diffusion of electrons/ions in the electrode, which can achieve high energy supercapaciator and the HER catalysis.

1. S. Das et al., *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 8 (2016), 28055-28067.
2. X. Geng et al., *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 24 (2014), 6123-6129.

Preferred topic

Gels and nanoparticles

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