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Reply to the 'Comment on "Microwave synthesis of graphene/magnetite composite electrode material for symmetric supercapacitor with superior rate performance"' by Rajaperumal M., *RSC Adv.*, 2017, 7, DOI: 10.1039/c7ra04129b

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First of all, this work was completed at the Chonnam National University, Korea by the first author of this paper Mr Karthikeyan.

(1) The main scope of our work is to facilitate the synthesis of Fe₃O₄-graphene (Fe-GNS) nanoparticles using a simple and green synthesis method and to study the effect of the preparation technique on their capacitive performance. Since the preparation conditions affect the electrochemical performance of any cathode materials (Fe₃O₄-conductive carbon composites have already been prepared using various methods), a novel microwave method was adopted to fabricate the Fe-GNS composites and their application as capacitors studied. In our work, we have achieved excellent capacitive performance of the Fe-GNS system, which was attributed to its morphological features (explained well in the manuscript itself).

(2) Regarding the weight, the weight of the active material in the electrode was 0.3125 mg. The weight difference was about 0.4 mg and the active material in the electrode was about 0.3125 (~79 wt%).

(3) With reference to the article published in *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2011, 21, 3422–3427, they have achieved 480 F g⁻¹ at 5 A g⁻¹ as shown in Fig. 3b. As you can see from Fig. 3b, the discharge time could be ~43 s, voltage is 1 V and current is 5 A g⁻¹ and the authors reported the capacitance of 480 F g⁻¹.

(4) About your question on capacitive performance, the rate performance of the Fe-GNS was resulted from its morphological feature as explained well in the paper. Since the open system formed during the synthesis of Fe-GNS can accommodate more electrolyte within the composite structure, providing a flexible structure against inherent mechanical stresses formed during the charge/discharge at

high current rates, which tremendously improved the rate performance in the present case. Also resulted from its improved electrical conductivity, which is higher than the one reported in *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2011, 21, 3422–3427. Furthermore, the impedance curves in Fig. 6, did not show typical capacitance behavior (inclined line at low frequency region should be close to 45 degree, which is typical capacitive behavior). But, Fig. 6 in JMC paper did not show such behavior and it still curved, indicating there was more charge transfer resistance. But, in our case, the electrode showed perfect capacitance behavior at low frequency region, indicating better capacitive behavior, which was confirmed in cycling test. Again, it is well known that the composite materials with improved electrical conductivity would have exhibited enhanced electrochemical performance along with prolonged cycle life.

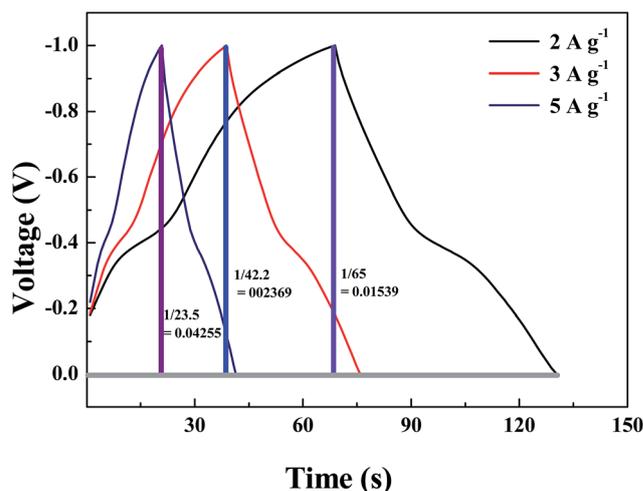


Fig. 1 Calculation of dV/dt from the discharge curve. The whole part has been considered for the calculation.

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Comment

Specific capacitance per unit mass of single electrode can be calculated using the following formula:

$$C = \frac{I}{(dV/dt)}; C_{sp} = C/m \text{ F g}^{-1}$$

where C_{sp} is specific capacitance, C is the capacitance, I is the current density, m is the mass of the active material and dV/dt was calculated from the slope of the discharge curve.

For Fe_3O_4 -GNS electrode - $I = 2 \text{ mA}$, $m = 0.3125 \text{ mg}$

$$C = 2 \times 10^{-3}/0.01539 = 129.95 \times 10^{-3} \text{ F}$$

$$C_{sp} = (129.95 \times 10^{-3}/0.3125 \times 10^{-3}) = 415.84 \text{ F g}^{-1}$$

Based on this method, the specific capacitance of the single electrodes was calculated at different current densities as follows.

For $I = 3 \text{ mA}$, $m = 0.3125 \text{ mg}$

$$C = 3 \times 10^{-3}/0.02369 = 126.64 \times 10^{-3} \text{ F}$$

$$C_{sp} = (126.64 \times 10^{-3}/0.3125 \times 10^{-3}) = 405.248 \text{ F g}^{-1}$$

For $I = 5 \text{ mA}$, $m = 0.3125 \text{ mg}$

$$C = 5 \times 10^{-3}/0.04255 = 117.508 \times 10^{-3} \text{ F}$$

$$C_{sp} = (117.50 \times 10^{-3}/0.3125 \times 10^{-3}) = 376 \text{ F g}^{-1}$$

The same method was used to calculate the capacitance value for pristine Fe_3O_4 -GNS electrode also.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

References

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