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Effects of Li$_2$MnO$_3$ coating on high-voltage electrochemical performance and stability of Ni-rich layer cathode materials for lithium-ion batteries

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Both the high-voltage electrochemical performance improvement and the storage improvement of Ni-rich layer cathode materials have been investigated. The performance improvement is achieved by a surface modification, involving Li$_2$MnO$_3$ as the coating layer. Owing to the composite structure, the Ni-rich layer cathode material has a stable interface, resulting in the improvement of the high-voltage cycling performance (the initial discharge capacities of 202.5 mAh g$^{-1}$ and the capacity retention of 86.4% over 50 cycles at 3.0 V $\sim$ 4.5 V vs Li/Li$^+$). The differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements show that the improved material presents a much lower calorific value than the pristine material. The perfect electrochemical properties of the improved composite material are still maintained after the material has been exposed to air for 2 months. The Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopic analysis indicates that the formation of Li$_2$CO$_3$ on the material surface is suppressed. Obviously, as-improved composite material maintains stable features after high-voltage cycling and is much easier to be stored.

Introduction

Currently, there are more and more demands for lithium-ion batteries ranging from portable electronics to large-scale applications including electric vehicles and energy storage systems$^{1,2}$. The longer cycle life combined with higher energy density is urgent to be solved as one of the key points for addressing these new applications$^{3,4}$. The layered Li transition metal oxides have been served as the most important cathode materials for high-energy batteries for their high theoretical capacity compared with those of olivine$^5$ or spinel$^6$ structure. Being the most widely used material for commercial lithium-ion batteries, the LiCoO$_2$ has some disadvantages, such as the high cost of cobalt, small practical capacity and unreliable safety, have impelled researchers to look for other materials with less Co. Three-component layered materials, such as LiNi$_{1/3}$Co$_{1/3}$Mn$_{1/3}$O$_2$ (NCM), have promising electrochemical properties, which depend on the composition of Ni, Co, and Mn in the structure$^7$. Generally speaking, for the NCM, the high Ni content supply a higher capacity with a bad safety, the high Mn content enhances the structural stability, and the high Co content improves the processing ability and rate performance but its cost is higher.

Great efforts have been made to develop the alternative cathode materials$^8$-10. High Ni content materials, such as LiNi$_{0.8}$Co$_{0.18}$Al$_{0.04}$O$_2$$^{11}$ and LiNi$_{0.8}$Co$_{0.1}$Mn$_{0.1}$O$_2$$^{12}$, are the promising lithium-ion batteries cathode materials owing to their high capacity and low cost. To obtain higher capacities, these materials should be charged to a high cut-off voltage which, however, could lead a fast capacity fade and poor thermal stability. The factors could be categorized as follows.

i. The formation of stress-inducing microcracks at grain boundaries during long-term cycling by lattice expansion at high cut-off voltage$^{13}$ and phase transition$^{14,15}$.

ii. The formation of solid electrolyte interface (SEI) film, the migration of rock salt NiO-like layer from surface into bulk of the materials$^{16}$ and the consumption of active lithium ions due to the formation of lithium carbonate$^{17,18}$.

The cation substitution$^{19,20}$ and surface modification$^{21-24}$ are effective approaches to suppress the phase transformation and side reactions at the interface, which can improve the structural stability and slow the capacity fade. Wu et al.$^{24}$ introduced fluorination to modify the surface of LiNi$_{0.8}$Co$_{0.18}$Al$_{0.05}$O$_2$ to obtain a much better electrochemical performance. On account of kinetic effects, there is a greater extraction of lithium from the surface of the particles, resulting in the structural instability. It is clear that improvements of overall performance of the Ni-rich layer cathode materials must occur through surface engineering$^{25}$. Meanwhile, Matsumoto et al.$^{26}$ carried out detailed studies on the reaction of LiNi$_{1/3}$Co$_{1/3}$Al$_2$O$_3$ with CO$_2$ and concluded that the reaction rate was limited by the diffusion of CO$_2$ through the dense
surface layer of Li₂CO₃. The formation of Li₂CO₃ may take place via the reaction (1).

\[
\text{LiNi}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2 + (0.25x)\text{O}_2 + (0.5x)\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Li}_x\text{Ni}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2 + (0.5x)\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 \quad (1)
\]

Richardson et al. discussed the relationship between the capacity loss and the formation of Li₂CO₃, and indicated that a 10 nm-thick Li₂CO₃ would be found on the surface of LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Al₀.05O₂ material exposed to air. The effect of Li₂CO₃ contamination on electrochemical properties were discussed, but no more detailed study was specifically addressed the effects of surface modification on the formation of Li₂CO₃.

As we know, the surface modification is an effective way to improve capacity retention, rate capability and thermal stability. Li₂MnO₃ has been applied in Li[Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05]O₂ material to form a core-shell structure with excellent stability. Having 2 Li⁺ in its formula, Li₂MnO₃ can deliver better ionic permeability than other inactive materials with only one Li⁺ or without Li⁺ in the structure. In addition, Li₂MnO₃ is structurally compatible with Li[Ni, Co, Mn]O₂ so we could combine the high discharge capacity of LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05O₂ cathode with the high ionic permeability of Li₂MnO₃. Besides, comparing with other oxides, Li₂MnO₃ exhibits better ionic permeability without the degradation of structure when the working voltage is kept less than 4.5V, which is favorable for the interface stability. In this work, we conduct an investigation about the effect of the Li₂MnO₃ coating on the LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05O₂ cathode material at higher voltage (3.0 V ~ 4.5 V). Our results demonstrate that the coating is very effective in improving the cycling stability of the LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05O₂ cathode material. Even the active cathode materials have been exposed to air for a long time, the electrochemical performances are still maintained. According to the investigation used by FT-IR, DSC and electrochemical methods, a reasonable mechanism of the improvement has been suggested based on the coating layer suppressing the formation of Li₂CO₃ on the surface of active cathode materials.

**Experimental**

The [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂ precursor and the [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂@Mn(OH)₂ precursor were respectively synthesized through a co-precipitation reaction using aqueous solutions.

To prepare [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂, an aqueous solution of NiSO₄(AR), CoSO₄(AR), and MnSO₄(AR) (cationic amount ratio of Ni:Co:Mn, 8:1:1) with a metal ion concentration of 1.0 M was pumped into a 1 L reactor under nitrogen atmosphere. At the same time, a mixed solution of 1.0 M NaOH and desired amount of NH₄OH as a chelating agent was also fed into the reactor. The pH (11.0), temperature (55 °C), and stirring speed of the mixture in the reactor were carefully controlled. The resultant slurry was aged in the beaker under an N₂ atmosphere at 55 °C for 12 h, then the sheet-like hydroxides [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂ were obtained.

To prepare [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂@Mn(OH)₂, a aqueous solution of MnSO₄ was continuously pumped into the suspension under nitrogen atmosphere with stirring vigorously, meanwhile the required amounts of NaOH and NH₄OH mixed solution was added dropwise. After being filtered and washed with deionized water for several times, the precursor product was dried in the oven at 90 °C for 12 h. The [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂ and [Ni₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05](OH)₂@Mn(OH)₂ precursors were mixed with 3% excess LiOH·H₂O (AR), preheated at 480 °C for 6 h and then calcined at 750 °C for 15 h to obtain the final products, which were named as NCM0 (LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05O₂) and NCM1 (LiNi₀.8Co₀.15Mn₀.05O₂@Li₂MnO₃), respectively. The coating concentration of NCM1 discussed below is 1 wt%.

**Material characterization**

Crystal characterization of the materials was analysed with a Rigaku Ultima IV (Rigaku Corporation) using Kα radiation operated at 40 kV and 30 mA. Data were collected over the range of 10° ≤ 2θ ≤ 90° and analyzed by using PDXL-2 analysis software (Rigaku Corporation). Scanning electron microscope (SEM) was performed on S-4800 (Hitachi Corporation). Elemental mappings of the prepared samples were carried out by energy dispersive X-ray detector (EDX). The images of transmission electron microscope (TEM) were carried out on JEM-2100 (JEOL). The elementary compositions of the materials were determined by inductive coupled plasmaatomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES), carried out on plasma 1000 (NCS Testing Technology, China). FT-IR spectra were obtained on XploRa (Horiba Corporation). The electrolyte was 1 mol-L⁻¹ LiPF₆ (Battery Grade, Shenzhen Capchem Co. Ltd) salt dissolved in a mixed solution of ethylene carbonate (EC, Battery Grade, Shenzhen Capchem Co. Ltd), dimethyl carbonate (DEC, Battery Grade, Shenzhen Capchem Co. Ltd) and diethylcarbonate (DEC , Battery Grade, Shenzhen Capchem Co. Ltd) with a volume ratio of 1 : 1 : 1. The DSC (STA 449 F3 Jupiter Netzsch) was used to measure the thermal stability of electrodes in the above electrolyte from 100 °C to 300 °C at a heating rate of 5 °C /min. Firstly, the cell was charged to 4.5 V at 1 C and then kept at 4.5 V for 2 h, then the cell was taken apart to get the electrode material film in an Ar-filled glove box. Secondly, the film was washed several times by DMC and naturally dried. Thirdly, the electrode materials scraped from the film and the electrolyte were sealed together in a gold-plated stainless steel crucible in the glove box. The ratio of electrolyte to electrode materials was 10 μL of electrolyte per milligram of electrode materials.

**Electrochemical measurements**

Electrochemical performances of these materials were evaluated in the CR2016-type coin-cells. The active materials, acetylene black, and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF, Battery Grade, Songbai Chemical Industry Co. Ltd) were mixed with the weight ratio of 80:10:10 in N-methyl-2-pyrrolidene (NMP,
Battery Grade, Songbai Chemical Industry Co. Ltd) to form the slurry. The slurry was coated onto the aluminum foil with AFA-II Automatic Film Applicator (Shanghai, China). After being dried in a vacuum oven at 80 °C overnight, the film was punched out into a desired size with a punching machine, then roll-pressed with the press pressure of 10 MPa. The electrode diameter here is 12 mm. The coin cells were assembled by sandwiching a separator Celgard 2400 (Celgard Co. Ltd) between the electrode and the Li metal foil (China Energy Lithium Co. Ltd) in an Ar-filled glove box (Mbraun, Germany). The mass loading for all the cells was controlled at about 4.5 mg.

The charge and discharge tests were performed galvanostatically between 3.0 V and 4.5 V using a Landian CT2001A (Wuhan, China) battery testing system at room temperature. The capacities of NCM0 and NCM1 were calculated basing on the weight of the composite material in the electrode. The voltage fading means a voltage change at the point of capacity discharge to 50% per cycle. The data of voltage fading can be directly collected by a Landian CT2001A (Wuhan, China) battery testing system. The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) of the cells was conducted on the electrochemical workstation (Autolab PGSTAT 302 N) with amplitude voltage of 10 mV and frequency range of 0.01 Hz ~ 10 kHz.

Results and Discussion

XRD patterns of the NCM0 and NCM1 are shown in Fig. 1. All the diffraction peaks for these materials can be indexed to a layered hexagonal α-NaFeO$_2$ structure (space group R-3m). There are no any phases ascribed to impurity that can be observed, implying that the surface modification processes do not damage the crystalline structure of the main materials. The lattice parameters of the NCM0 and NCM1 are calculated by the PDXL-2 software in Table. S1. The integrated intensity ratio (R) of I(003)/I(104) peaks in the XRD patterns of layered oxides is the measurement of the cation mixing between Li$^+$ and Ni$^{2+}$, and the value of R > 1.2 is an indication of the cation mixing to be effectively restrained. The ratios for these materials are both bigger than 1.2. Therefore, it is suggested that there is no any cation mixing, or the cation mixing is at very low level even if it exists.

![Fig. 1 X-ray diffract patterns of the NCM0 and NCM1.](image)

![Fig. 2 SEM images of the fresh NCM0 (a & c) and fresh NCM1 (b & d).](image)

![Fig. 3 TEM image and EDX of the fresh NCM1.](image)

![Fig. 4 shows the charge/discharge curves of the NCM0 and NCM1 materials after the 1st, 30th, 50th and 100th cycles as](image)
cathodes at a current rate of 1 C (1 C = 180 mAh·g⁻¹) between 3.0 V and 4.5 V vs Li/Li⁺. The initial charge and discharge capacities of the NCM0 material are 234.8 mAh·g⁻¹ and 195.5 mAh·g⁻¹, respectively, which are slightly lower than the NCM1 material (240.4 mAh·g⁻¹ for charge and 202.5 mAh·g⁻¹ for discharge). The coulomb efficiencies of the NCM0 and NCM1 are 83.2% and 84.2%, respectively, which suggest that the Li₂MnO₃ may effectively stabilize the surfaces of the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Mn₀.₁O₂ particles. This result is also consistent with the fact that the coating layer, Li₂MnO₃, can supply an extra capacity. The inactive Li₂MnO₃ may be changed into electrochemical active Li₂MnO₃ at high voltage, delivering an extra capacity. Additionally, the discharge capacities of the NCM1 at the 30th, 50th and 100th are 187 mAh·g⁻¹, 175 mAh·g⁻¹ and 160 mAh·g⁻¹, while the NCM0 are 157.9 mAh·g⁻¹, 147.9 mAh·g⁻¹, and 130.9 mAh·g⁻¹, respectively, which suggest that the coating layer on the NCM1 material plays the suppression role. The possible reason for this suppression is that the coating layer may separate the electrolyte from the Ni-ions in a high oxidation state, which is usually considered as the main reason for decomposition of the electrolyte. Otherwise, the structural stability of the materials may be also improved due to the stable interface structure.

Fig. 4c and 4d present the cyclability of the NCM0 and NCM1 electrodes at a current rate of 1 C between 3.0 V and 4.5 V at room temperature. The NCM0 shows a steady decrease of capacity through the cycling test, leading to the capacity retention of 67% after 100 cycles. This is due to the more severe side reactions between the electrode and electrolyte at the high cut-off voltage, resulting to the increased formation of the nonconduction SEI layer and even the cell swelling. As expected, the NCM1 electrode exhibits an improved cycling performance with the capacity retention of 79% after 100 cycles. It should be noted that the average working voltage of the NCM1 decreased much more slowly than that of the NCM0 upon with cycle number increasing. This result clearly indicates that the coating layer can suppress the side reactions between NCM and the electrolyte. Otherwise, the surface lithium deficient state can be easily formed during electrochemical cycling as shown in the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Al₁-x⁻yO₂ layered cathode material. The NiO-cubic phase was formed on the surface of the material, with the phase transformation from rhombohedral to spinel on the surface, while the high rate at high voltage can promote the degradation and the phase transformation on the surface. The stable interface is important for good electrochemical performances as shown in Fig. 4.

When this material is fully discharged, the unstable high concentration Ni⁴⁺, are reduced to a NiO phase on the surface of NCM material, resulting in the high interfacial impedance and the poor cell electrochemical performance. The EIS measurement was carried out at the charged state to 4.5 V. As the previous studies on EIS of LiCoO₂, each of the impedance spectra contains three parts: The semicircle at the high frequency range is attributed to the resistance for Li⁺ migrating through the surface films (Rseo), the one at middle frequency is associated with the charge transfer resistance (Rct), and the slop line at low frequency range reflects Li⁺ diffusion in the particles of the electrode materials. The cathode impedance, especially charge-transfer resistance, mainly attributes to cell
impedance\textsuperscript{41}. It is clear from Fig. 5 that the pronounced difference appears at the second semicircle. The fitting data of the $R_{sei}$, $R_{ct}$ and $R_{sei}+R_{ct}$ of the cells are presented in Table 1. As the cycling goes on, the $R_{sei}$ for the NCM0 increases from 20.16 $\Omega$ cm$^2$ at 1st cycle to 28.45 $\Omega$ cm$^2$ at 5th cycle, while for the NCM1 that increases from 6.08 $\Omega$ cm$^2$ to 21.33 $\Omega$ cm$^2$. It is noticed that the value of $R_{sei}$ for NCM0 is larger than that for NCM1 all the time. The above results indicate that $Li_2MnO_3$ coating can effectively decrease the surface film resistance. After 5th cycle, the $R_{ct}$ of NCM0 still shows a much larger value (36.26 $\Omega$ cm$^2$) than that of the NCM1 (16.48 $\Omega$ cm$^2$). This result indicates that a suitable amount of $Li_2MnO_3$ coating has an effect on restraining the increase of charge transfer impedance ($R_{ct}$), which can be considered as one of the most possible reasons for the enhanced rate capability and long-life cycle performance.

Table. 1 The fitted impedance parameters of equivalent circuits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>$R_{sei}$ (Ω cm$^2$)</th>
<th>$R_{ct}$ (Ω cm$^2$)</th>
<th>$R_{sei}+R_{ct}$ (Ω cm$^2$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCM0</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td>7.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCM1</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>6.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to further study the effect of $Li_2MnO_3$ coating, the diffusion coefficient of $Li^+$ can be calculated from the EIS plots (Fig. 5) in the Warburg region using the following equation:

$$Z' = R_s + R_{ct} + \frac{\sigma \omega^{0.5}}{2A^2n^4F^4C^2\sigma^2}$$

(1)

$$D = \frac{R^2T^2}{2A^2n^4F^4C^2\sigma^2}$$

(2)

where $R$ is the gas constant, $T$ is the absolute temperature, $A$ is the surface area of the cathode electrode, $n$ is the number of electrons per molecule during oxidization, $F$ is the Faraday constant, $C$ is the $Li^+$ concentration, and $\sigma$ is the Warburg factor associated with $Z_{re}$. Due to $Z'$ is proportional to $\omega^{-0.5}$, the value of $\sigma$ can be obtained by linear fitting of the relationship plot $Z' - \omega^{0.5}$ (Fig. 6). According to equation (1, 2), the apparent diffusion coefficient $D_0$ can be obtained.

The diffusion of $Li^+$ in NCM0 is $3.32 \times 10^{-11}$ cm$^2$·S$^{-1}$, while that of the NCM1 is $5.10 \times 10^{-11}$ cm$^2$·S$^{-1}$. Obviously, the diffusion coefficient of $Li^+$ is greatly improved due to the $Li_2MnO_3$ coating. This suggests that the $Li_2MnO_3$ coating is favorable for $Li$ ion migration.

Another problem of the Ni-rich cathodes is the oxygen generation of substantial amount during heating at charged states, and more lithium deintercalation leads to increasing oxygen generation from the cathodes at higher temperatures\textsuperscript{14}. Therefore, the thermal stability of cathodes at delithiated states need to be discussed. The NCM0 and NCM1 electrodes were charged to 4.5 V for the DSC measurements (Fig. 7). Although the NCM0 and NCM1 samples show a similar onset temperature of 201 °C (NCM0) and 207 °C (NCM1), which is indicative of the starting temperature of oxygen evolution from the lattice, the amount of heat generation is completely different. The total heat generated from 201°C to 275 °C was estimated to be 191 J·g$^{-1}$ for the NCM0, but 125 J·g$^{-1}$ for the NCM1. The result shows the NCM1 material has a better structural stability.

Matsumoto et al. carried out a detailed study\textsuperscript{26} on the reaction of $LiNi_{1-x-y}Co_xAl_yO_2$ with $CO_2$, and concluded that the rate of reaction was limited by the diffusion of $CO_2$ through the
dense surface layer of Li₂CO₃. Richardson et al. proved that a large amount of Li₂CO₃ severely limited the performance of the electrodes by means of partial or complete isolation of active materials, resulting in losses of capacity and power. To obtain the “air-exposed” materials, the NCM0 and NCM1 materials were stored in an open envelope for a period of about 2 months, and named as NCM0-2 and NCM1-2, respectively.

The FT-IR spectra (Fig. 8) of the NCM0-2 and NCM1-2, which had been stored in a sealed container until just before the measurement, consist entirely of absorptions due to Li₂CO₃, although no evidence for Li₂CO₃ contamination is found in XRD patterns. The strong peak at 1472 cm⁻¹ and shoulder peak at 1479 cm⁻¹ are attributed to the C-O asymmetric and symmetric stretching modes of Li₂CO₃, respectively, while the sharp peak at 870 cm⁻¹ are the CO₃ group bending mode. The regions between 880 cm⁻¹ and 1300 cm⁻¹ is dominated by absorptions due to the PVDF binder. The strongest peak at 1174 cm⁻¹ is attributed to C-H asymmetric stretching mode of PVDF. Although the Li₂CO₃ content in electrodes is difficult to be quantified by FT-IR, by comparing the peak intensity ratios characteristic of CF₂ group of PVDF and carbonate group, respectively, it is estimated that the NCM0-2 (the air-exposed NCM0) contains about twice as much Li₂CO₃ as the NCM1-2 (the air-exposed NCM1). It implies that the coating layer can protect the surface of active materials from CO₂.

Fig. 8 FT-IR spectra of the NCM0 (a) and NCM1 (b).

The NCM0 and NCM1 materials were stored in an open envelope for two month, and named as NCM0-2 and NCM1-2, respectively. XRD patterns of the NCM0-2 and NCM1-2 are shown in Fig. 9. Moshtev et al. showed that there was a good correlation between the intensity ratio I(003)/I(104) and the Li content in LiNiₓCo₁₋ₓO₂ lattices. As shown in Table S1, the intensity ratio of the I(003)/I(104) peak from the XRD patterns of the NCM0 particles decreases obviously after air exposure because of the reduction in the lithium content in the lattices of the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Mn₀.₁O₂ resulting from the reaction of the lithium in the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Mn₀.₁O₂ with H₂O and CO₂ in air. The greater change in the I(003)/I(104) peak ratio before and after air exposure is an indicative of the reaction of lithium with H₂O and CO₂ in the air, and the formation of Li₂CO₃ on the surface of the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Mn₀.₁O₂. However, the degree of change in the I(003)/I(104) ratio for the NCM1 is minor compared with that for the NCM0 because the Li₂MnO₃ coating effectively prevents the reactions of the LiNi₀.₈Co₀.₁Mn₀.₁O₂ with H₂O and CO₂.

Fig. 9 X-ray diffract patterns of the NCM0 (a) and NCM1 (b) after air-exposing for 2 months.

Charge and discharge potential profiles for the cells made from NCM0-2 and NCM1-2 materials are shown in Fig. 10. The cells were cycled 100 times between 3.0 V and 4.5 V at the 1 C rate in coin-type lithium cells at room temperature. The first discharge capacity of the NCM0-2 is 113.3 mAh·g⁻¹ with coulomb efficiency of 54.3%, which is lower than the NCM1-2 (153.3 mAh·g⁻¹ with coulomb efficiency of 69.2%). The increasing coulomb efficiency in the first few laps may reflect some dissolution or electrolyte penetration through the carbonate coating. Furthermore, the capacity retention rate of the NCM1-2 is 88% with a good discharge capacity of 134.7 mAh·g⁻¹ after 100 cycles. By contrast, the capacity retention rate of the NCM0-2 is only 66% after 100 cycles.
Fig. 10 Cycling performances of samples after air-exposing for 2 months.

Conclusions

This work investigates the effects of the Li$_2$MnO$_3$ coating, which is obtained by a liquid precipitation method, on the LiNi$_2$CoO$_2$Mn$_2$O$_4$ material as a cathode material for lithium-ion batteries. As-prepared NCM1 (Li$_2$MnO$_3$ coating material) samples show a significantly enhanced cycling performance compared to the pristine material NCM0. The NCM1 has the capacity retention of 79.0%, while the NCM0 material exhibits the capacity retention of only 66.0%, after 100 cycles between 3.0 V and 4.5 V. The NCM1 sample has a lower calorific effect during the thermal stability test. Due to the protection of the coating layer, the fabrication of Li$_2$CO$_3$ on the surface of the LiNi$_2$CoO$_2$Mn$_2$O$_4$ material is suppressed, which is favorable for the surface stability and the electrochemical performance.

Acknowledgements

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Notes and references

The coating layer can protect the surface of active materials from CO₂ erosion, suppressing the formation of Li₂CO₃ on the surface of NCM material. Then, the Li₂MnO₃-coated LiNi₀.8Co₀.1Mn₀.1O₂(LiNi₀.8Co₀.1Mn₀.1O₂@Li₂MnO₃) shows a higher discharge capacity with a capacity retention of 88% after 100 cycles.