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Enhanced energy storage of Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles embedded in N-doped graphene

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Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles, Lithium-ion battery, Negative electrode, N-doped graphene.

Highlights

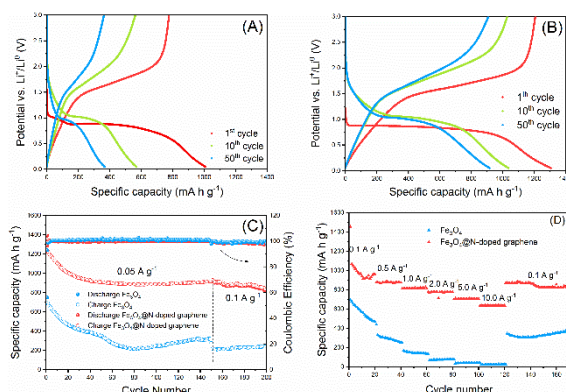
An Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles embedded in nitrogen-doped graphene was obtained.

Fe₃O₄@N-doped graphene exhibits an excellent cycling and rate performance.

N-doped graphene sheets allow to diminish the volume change of Fe₃O₄ during cycling.

Resumo/Abstract

Here, we report the synthesis and application of a hybrid material composed of Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles embedded in nitrogen-doped graphene sheets (Fe₃O₄@N-doped graphene) as a negative electrode for lithium-ion batteries. We studied the influence of N-doped graphene on the storage capacity of Fe₃O₄ using different electrochemical techniques. We determined that the as-prepared Fe₃O₄ materials presented high-quality crystalline nanostructures. Using cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy techniques, we demonstrated that the N-doped graphene sheets improved the conductivity between the Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles, allowing a faster charge transfer process than that for pure magnetite nanoparticles, as well as the presence of porous particles in the hybrid composite. The Fe₃O₄@N-doped graphene hybrid material showed the best Li storage capacity and maintained specific capacity values of 910 mA h g⁻¹ during the first 150 cycles performed at 0.05 A g⁻¹ and 850 mA h g⁻¹ at 0.1 A g⁻¹ during the following 50 cycles, which were near their corresponding theoretical values. Moreover, the N-doped graphene sheets resisted the volume changes that occur during discharge/charge processes, which helped avoid the consequent pulverization that this kind of material suffers in rate capability experiments. We provided a simple and novel method to obtain a material with a higher superficial area and conductivity between particles, allowing great performance as a negative electrode for lithium-ion batteries application.



Galvanostatic charge/discharge profiles corresponding to cycle numbers 1 (red line), 10 (green line) and 50 (blue line) of Fe₃O₄ and Fe₃O₄@N-doped graphene (A) and (B), respectively. The tests were performed at 0.05 A g⁻¹ (first 150 cycles) and at 0.1 A g⁻¹ (the following 50 cycles) in a voltage range of 3.00-0.05 V vs. Li⁺/Li⁰ in a 1 mol L⁻¹ LiPF₆ EC:EMC electrolyte. (C) Cycling performance and coulombic efficiency vs cycle number. (D) Rate capabilities at different charge current densities. Color code for (C) and (D): blue symbols correspond to the Fe₃O₄ material and red symbols to Fe₃O₄@N-doped graphene.

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