Data Article

Data on the structure, chemical state of carbon and discharge characteristics of multi-walled carbon nanotubes and composites based on them modified by pulsed ion beam

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ABSTRACT

The data presented in this article are related to the research article entitled “Structure and electrochemical characterization of SnOx/Sn@MWCNT composites formed by pulsed ion beam irradiation” (Korusenko et al., 2019). This article presents the effect of irradiation by pulsed ion beam (PIB) irradiation at various modes on the structure multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) and composites based on MWCNTs and tin oxide as well as cycling performance of these composites. The article also presents the results
of the analysis of the structure of the electrodes, obtained on the basis of the initial and irradiated composites.

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1. Data

The dataset of this article provides information on the effect of pulsed ion beam irradiation at various parameters on the structure and chemical state carbon in MWCNTs and SnO2@MWCNTs composites. Also dataset provides information on structure and elemental composition as well as electrochemical performance of electrodes based on initial and irradiated composites.

Fig. 1 shows the XANES spectra of the initial and irradiated MWCNTs with different parameters. The intense maxima at the photon energies ~285 and ~291 eV, correspond to $\pi^*$- and $\sigma^*$- states of sp$^2$-hybridized carbon in the walls of MWCNTs, respectively [2]. Carbon atoms bound to oxygen containing groups give features in the spectral region between $\pi^*$ and $\sigma^*$ resonances [2,3]. As can be seen from
Fig. 1. Significant oxidation of carbon in the walls of MWCNTs is observed only for a sample once irradiated with a pulsed ion beam at an energy of 0.5 J/cm² (curve 2).

Figs. 2 and 3 show the carbon spectra for the MWCNTs and composites before and after irradiation by PIB with various modes, respectively. All spectra can be approximated by five components. The component C1 corresponds to sp² carbon. The C2 corresponds to sp³ carbon and C–N bonds, as well as carbon being nearest to the oxygenated carbon (C–C(O)) [4,5]. The component C3 corresponds to carbon-oxygen species with single bonds (hydroxyl, epoxy and other groups). The components C4 and

Fig. 2. XPS C 1s spectra of the MWCNTs before and after irradiation by pulsed ion beam with various energy density and number of pulses (n): (1) – initial MWCNTs; (2) – 0.5 J/cm² (n = 1); (3) – 0.5 J/cm² (n = 3); (4) – 1 J/cm² (n = 1); (5) – 1 J/cm² (n = 3).
C5 correspond to carbon in C=O and COOH groups [5,6]. It is seen that with an increase in the energy density and the number of irradiation pulses, an increase in the intensity of the C2–C5 components is observed. This indicates the oxidation of MWCNTs surface under the PIB impact. However, an increase in the number of pulses when exposed to a PIB leads to changes only when the composites are irradiated.

**Fig. 4** shows the SEM images of the freshly prepared electrodes made from the initial composite and composite after irradiation with a pulsed ion beam. Also shown are EDX data carried out on various areas of the electrodes. As can be seen from **Table 1**, the amount of tin in the electrodes is almost the same.

**Fig. 5** shows the discharge characteristics for electrodes formed on the basis of the initial and irradiated composites. As can be seen, the best characteristics are observed for the irradiated composite at energy density of 0.5 J/cm² (n = 3) in which core-shell (Sn–SnOₓ) particles take place.


2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

The MWCNTs were synthesis through pyrolysis of a mixture of acetonitrile with ferrocene (100:1) performed in an argon flow (150 mL/min) at 800 °C for 30 min. Samples of composite SnO$_2$-x@MWCNT were formed by thermal decomposition of a SnCl$_2$·2H$_2$O compound at a temperature of 550 °C, followed by vapor deposition on a heated substrate (MWCNTs/SiO$_2$/Si) to 340 °C [7]. Pulsed ion beam TEMP-4M accelerator was used to modification of the MWCNTs and composites [1]. Irradiation was carrying out with various energy density and number of pulses (n): 0.5 J/cm$^2$ (n = 1); 0.5 J/cm$^2$ (n = 2); 0.5 J/cm$^2$ (n = 3); 1 J/cm$^2$ (n = 1); 1 J/cm$^2$ (n = 3).

The working electrodes were formed by composite samples (85 wt%), carbon black (5 wt %) and PVDF (10 wt %) as the binder. This mixture was coated onto copper foil and was then annealed at 80 °C for 12 h under a vacuum. The cycling performances of the samples were measured using a CR2032 button cell. The counter electrode was made from metallic lithium. The electrolyte was a 1 M LiPF$_6$ solution in mixture (EC:DMC = 1:1).

To study the local electronic structure of the MWCNTs and composites was carried out using XPS and XANES methods implemented at the Russian-German beam line at BESSY II (Berlin) and the PES-

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**Table 1**
The EDX quantitative analysis for the initial and irradiated electrodes.

| No.  | Point | Concentration, at.%  |
|------|-------|----------------------|
|      |       | [C]  | [O]  | [F]  | [P]  | [Cu] | [Sn] |
| Initial SnO$_2$-x@MWCNTs |
| Point 1 | 73.41 | 7.31 | 14.94 | 0.32 | 0.63 | 3.39 |
| Point 2 | 72.90 | 7.82 | 15.2 | 0.25 | 0.41 | 3.42 |
| Point 3 | 66.39 | 7.82 | 18.5 | 0.39 | 1.29 | 5.61 |
| Mean   | 80.56 | 5.34 | 8.42  | 0.53 | 0.72 | 4.41 |
| 0.5 J/cm$^2$ (n = 3) |
| Point 1 | 82.6  | 4.46 | 8.54  | 0.37 | 0.66 | 3.37 |
| Point 2 | 79.92 | 8.51 | 8.33  | 0.49 | 0.44 | 2.31 |
| Point 3 | 77.84 | 6.04 | 9.23  | 0.46 | 0.9  | 5.53 |
| Point 4 | 81.88 | 2.35 | 7.61  | 0.8  | 0.9  | 6.46 |
| Mean   | 70.9  | 7.65 | 16.21 | 0.32 | 0.77 | 4.14 |

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**Fig. 5.** Capacities vs. cycle number for electrodes based on MWCNTs and the composites before and after irradiation by PIB.
RGL experimental station. The XPS spectra were acquired at a photon energy of 400 eV, 850 eV and collected with the hemispherical analyzer PHOIBOS 150 using a pass energy of 15 eV. Step energy size was 0.05 eV. XPS spectra processing was performed using the CasaXPS software package. The absorption spectra were acquired by recording the leakage current from the sample. The monochromator resolutions for the carbon K-edge at $h\nu \sim 285$ eV was approximately $\sim 70$ meV. The XANES spectra were normalized to the primary photon current from a gold covered grid recorded contemporaneously. The study of the electrode surfaces by the SEM method and quantitative EDX analysis was performed on the scanning electron microscope JEOL JSM 6610 LV. Charge–discharge experiments were performed between 0.1 and 3.00 V versus Li/Li$^+$ at a constant current density of 100 mA g$^{-1}$ in galvanostatic mode at RT.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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