Rapid Production of \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}\) as an Efficient Electrode Material for Supercapacitor by Flame Plasma

Yang Zhou 1, Lei Guo 2,* @, Wei Shi 2, Xuefeng Zou 1, Bin Xiang 1,3,* and Shaohua Xing 4,*

1 School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Chongqing University, Chongqing 400044, China; cuquzhouyang@126.com (Y.Z.); njzoux@126.com (X.Z.)
2 School of Material and Chemical Engineering, Tongren University, Tongren 554300, China; truwei@163.com
3 National-municipal Joint Engineering Laboratory for Chemical Process Intensification and Reaction, Chongqing 400044, China
4 State Key Laboratory for Marine Corrosion and Protection, Luoyang Ship Material Research Institute (LSMRI), Qingdao 26623, China
* Correspondence: cqglei@163.com (L.G.); xiangbin@cqu.edu.cn (B.X.); davy8006@126.com (S.X.)

Received: 7 May 2018; Accepted: 22 May 2018; Published: 24 May 2018

Abstract: Benefiting from good ion accessibility and high electrical conductivity, graphene-based material as electrodes show promising electrochemical performance in energy storage systems. In this study, a novel strategy is devised to prepare binder-free \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4\)-reduced graphene oxide (\(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}\)) electrodes. Well-dispersed and homogeneous \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4\) nanosheets are grown on graphene layers through a facile chemical co-precipitation process and subsequent flame procedure. This obtained \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}\) nanostructures exhibit excellent gravimetric specific capacitance of 342.5 F g\(^{-1}\) at current density of 1 A g\(^{-1}\) and remarkable cycling stability of 85.47% capacitance retention under 10,000 extreme charge/discharge cycles at large current density. Furthermore, an asymmetric supercapacitor assembled using \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}\) and activated graphene (AG) delivers a high energy density of 27.41 Wh kg\(^{-1}\) and a maximum power density of 8 kW kg\(^{-1}\). The material synthesis strategy presented in this study is facile, rapid and simple, which would give an insight into potential strategies for large-scale applications of metal oxide/graphene and hold tremendous promise for power storage applications.

Keywords: \(\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4\); reduced graphene oxide; supercapacitors; flame plasma

1. Introduction

Supercapacitors have attracted much attention owing to their robust lifetimes, rapid charging capabilities and high power energy storage for mobile phone, hybrid electrical vehicles, back-up power systems, cranes, and lift [1–5]. A promising supercapacitor stores much more energy compared with electrostatic and electrolytic capacitors and exhibits stronger power with longer cycle life than the available battery [6,7].

Compared with a great mass of mercantile supercapacitor electrode, transition metal oxides used as supercapacitor electrode have high energy density, good capacitive performance and long cycle stability [8,9]. Manganese oxides represent a suite of transition metal oxides interesting scientific workers in energy storage field, because of their low cost, natural abundance, environmental compatibility and excellent pseudocapacitive property (~1370 F g\(^{-1}\)) [10,11]. However, its low electrical conductivity which is about \(10^{-7} \text{~} 10^{-8}\) S cm\(^{-1}\) remains one of the major challenges to be addressed. This drawback can be overcome by using hybrid materials via coupling of conductive materials and
MnO$_x$ [12,13]. Combining well-aligned nanocrystalline structures and two-dimensional (2D) graphene sheet with enhanced electron transport, ultrahigh exposed surface area and improved mechanical stability are extremely interesting [14–18].

Recently, MnO$_x$/rGO composites as advanced electrode materials in ECs have been reported [19–21]. Wang et al. synthesized Mn$_3$O$_4$/reduced graphene oxide nanohybride paper using hydrothermal method. The obtained Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite has kept promising cycle 95% of retention ratio after 6000 cycles. The composite delivers a volumetric energy density of 0.0055 Wh cm$^{-3}$ and a high volumetric capacitance of 54.6 F cm$^{-3}$ in a half-cell [22]. Wang and co-workers reported an ASC was assembled by graphene@MnO$_2$ nanosheet hybrid materials as the positive electrode and porous graphene as the negative electrode, respectively. Graphene@MnO$_2$ was prepared by polyaniline-assisted anchoring MnO$_2$ ultrathin nanosheet and uniformly on the graphene substrate. The composite was used as an electrode show excellent specific capacitance of 245.0 F g$^{-1}$ at 0.5 A g$^{-1}$, as well as 74.5% of retention at large current density. Furthermore, the assembled ASC achieved a promising energy density of 7.9 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at exceptional power density of 11,804 W kg$^{-1}$ [23]. Liu et al. demonstrated a facile one-pot solvothermal process. Octylamine as surfactant, graphene sheets as substrate and manganese carbonyl (Mn$_2$(CO)$_{10}$) as precursor are prepared Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanodot composites anchored on nitrogen-doped graphene sheet (Mn$_3$O$_4$ NDs@NG). An ASC is based on the Mn$_3$O$_4$ NDs@NG and the assembled device exhibits high energy density of 90.7 W h kg$^{-1}$ [24]. The results of these studies demonstrated the beneficial role of rGO and the significance of synergistic effects. Graphene is found as the thinnest two-dimensional and its basic structure unit is benzene six-membered ring. It is just a one carbon atom thick and honeycomb-like sheet showing lots of particular physical chemistry properties. Besides, heterogeneous nucleation and graphene used as templates to direct material deposition have been proven an effective way to guide the growth of novel nanomaterials [25,26]. In addition, MnO$_x$/rGO composites could be assembled to be a free-standing electrode preventing the decrease in electrical conductivity caused by binders and keeping system stable. Various approaches have been proposed to synthesis MnO$_x$/rGO hybrid materials, such as hydrothermal [27], chemical vapor deposition [10] and electrochemical deposition [28]. However, these methods show limitation in large scale preparation for high quality materials. There is great room for improvement in MnO$_x$/rGO synthesis.

In this study, we report a simple, efficient, convenient, and facile technology for preparing the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite for promising performance supercapacitor electrode by using a naked flame of ethanol fuels. The optimized Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite exhibits excellent specific capacitance of 342.5 F g$^{-1}$ at current density of 1 A g$^{-1}$ and exceptional cycle ability, demonstrating excellent electrochemical characteristics. Furthermore, an asymmetric supercapacitor (ASC) is designed using Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO as the positive electrode, activated graphene (AG) as the negative electrode, and 0.1 M Na$_2$SO$_4$ as the electrolyte. The results show it can achieve a high cell voltage of 1.6 V and deliver a maximum energy density 27.41 Wh kg$^{-1}$ and a power density of 8 kW kg$^{-1}$. Such fabrication technique demonstrates features of simplicity, rapidity and low-cost, thus a hopeful approach for producing metal oxide/graphene, holding tremendous promise for power storage systems.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials and Chemical

Graphite powder (99.99%) were purchased from Qingdao Jinrilai graphene corporation (Qingdao, China). Sodium nitrate (NaNO$_3$, ≥98.0%), ethanol (CH$_3$CH$_2$OH, ≥98.0%), and aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution (H$_2$O$_2$, 30.0%) were obtained from Chengdu Kelong reagent factory (Chengdu, China). Potassium permanganate (KMnO$_4$, 99.0%) and sulphuric acid (H$_2$SO$_4$, 98.0%) were purchased from Chongqing Chuandong chemical (group) Co., Ltd. (Chongqing, China) Manganese(II) acetate tetrahydrate (C$_4$H$_7$MnO$_8$, >99.0%) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Shanghai, China.
2.2. Preparation of the Mn₃O₄/rGO Composite

2.2.1. Synthesis of Graphene Oxide (GO)

GO was synthesized by a modified Hummers method [29]. The preparation details of GO can be seen in the electronic supplementary information (Supplementary Materials S1).

2.2.2. Synthesis of MnO₂/GO Film

In detail, 400 mg of GO was dispersed in 100 mL of DI water by sonication for 1 h and transferred into three-necked 500 mL round-bottomed flask. 100 mL KMnO₄ (0.05 M), followed by 100 mL Mn(Ac)₂ solution (0.05 M) was carefully added into the GO suspension. The reaction proceeded under a controlled temperature of 90 °C for several hours to ensure full reaction, and finally cooled to the room temperature. Then, the samples were collected and washed several times with deionized water. They were dried at 35 °C under vacuum and MnO₂/GO film was obtained.

2.2.3. Synthesis of Mn₃O₄/rGO Film

The MnO₂/GO hybrid film quickly passed through a naked flame from a burning alcohol lamp (video, see the Supplementary Materials). The color of MnO₂/GO film changed from yellow-brown to reddish brown, and Mn₃O₄/rGO film was obtained.

The overall synthetic route of Mn₃O₄/rGO is illustrated in Scheme 1.

2.3. Electrode Preparation

The obtained Mn₃O₄/rGO samples were ground into fine powders to press between two nickel foams (1 × 1 cm²) forming an electrode as the working electrode or positive electrode. In two-electrode system, the activated graphene (AG) was also pressed between two nickel foams to form the negative electrode. The preparation details of AG can be seen in the Supplementary Materials S2 section.

2.4. Materials Characterization

The sample IR spectra were studied using Nicolet iS50 FTIR (Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy) spectrophotometer. Raman measurements were utilized with Raman spectrometer
(LabRAM HR Evolution, Horiba, Kyoto, Japan). The phase composition was analyzed by an X-ray diffractometer (XRD, SuperNova, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The chemical compositions were conducted on X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (L Escalab 250Xi, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Hampton, NH, USA). Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM) images were obtained on a JEOL JSM-7800F microscope (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) and Transmission electron microscope (TEM) images were taken on Tecnai G2 20 microscopes (Fisher Scientific, Hampton, NH, USA).

2.5. Electrochemical Measurements

The electrochemical experiments were done in a classical three-electrode system which consists of working electrode, counter electrode, and reference electrode (SCE). All the electrochemical measurements were carried out with a CHI760E electrochemical workstation and repeated more than three times. The cyclic voltammetry (CV) analysis at various scan rates as well as the galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) at different current densities was performed in 0–0.8 V. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was obtained by applying an AC voltage of 5 mV amplitude in the frequency range of 0.01–100 kHz.

3. Results and Discussion

The SEM and TEM images of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO are shown in Figure 1. As can be seen from Figure 1a, the image acquired at the surfaces of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO shows Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet evenly and fully anchored on the rGO layers. A high magnification SEM image (Figure 1b) exhibits that the Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet with an average size of about 100 nm (Figure 1c) forms dense nanosheet area on graphene layers. The TEM image (Figure 1d) shows an overview of the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO samples. This image demonstrates that the lightweight conductive rGO with abundant wrinkles serves as an excellent conductive bracket for Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet attachment. It is notable that, after a long time of high-power sonication before tested with TEM, the Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet was still stably anchored on the graphene layer surface with high density, suggesting a strong interaction between graphene layers and Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet. In addition, the nanosheet could act as a barrier to prevent the adjacent restack of graphene sheets, thus avoiding losing their high active surface area. The SAED pattern shows crystalline nature of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanoparticles and the diffraction rings which could be attributable to the (004), (103), (112), (101), (200), (220), (105) and (224) planes of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet (Figure 1e). The planes are in accordance with the XRD results in previous reports [30]. The HR-TEM (Figure 1f) focuses on lattice planes of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet. The result of the interplanar spacing of the crystalline grains was 0.25 nm, closely matching with the (220) plane orientation [31]. Figure 1g shows the elemental mapping analysis of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composites including C, O, Mn.

The FT-IR spectra of the rGO and Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO in Figure 2a reveals that the stretching peak appears at 2923 cm$^{-1}$ and 1421 cm$^{-1}$ are attributable to C–H and C–C band, which refer to skeletal vibrations of non-oxidized graphitic domains [32]. The presense of peak at 1556 cm$^{-1}$ belong to carbonyl group band could be attributed to the unreduced carboxy group. The peak at 1116 cm$^{-1}$ suggested C–O vibrations of carboxylic acid. In addition, the new peaks (at 490 cm$^{-1}$ and 620 cm$^{-1}$) were observed, which was due to Mn–O stretching mode in tetrahedral site and octahedral environment. In addition, the absorption peak at 3472 cm$^{-1}$ is ascribed to the O–H vibrations from adsorbed moisture.
Figure 1. (a–c) FE-SEM; (d) TEM; and (e) is the SAED pattern of Mn$_3$O$_4$ with (211) in the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO, indicative of the well-textured and single-crystalline nature of Mn$_3$O$_4$ NPs; (f) HR-TEM images of Mn$_3$O$_4$/Rgo; (g) is the elemental mapping analysis of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composites.

Figure 2. (a) FTIR spectra of rGO and Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO; (b) Raman spectrum and (c) Powder XRD pattern of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO.

Moreover, Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite could be clearly verified by Raman spectra. Figure 2b shows that two distinct peaks occur at 1353 cm$^{-1}$ (D-band: vibrations for dangling bonded carbon atoms) and 1585 cm$^{-1}$ (G-band: vibrations for all sp$^2$ bonded carbon atoms). Additionally, an obvious peak at 640 cm$^{-1}$ and a small peak between 200 cm$^{-1}$ and 400 cm$^{-1}$ are in agreement with the data of Mn$_3$O$_4$ compound in previous reports [33]. Complementary XRD patterns of the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO provide an identification in chemical composition and crystalline structure (Figure 2c). A minor broad (002)
The porous nature of the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO was analysed by nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms (Figure 4a). The Brunauer Emmett Teller (BET) specific surface area of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO was 36.197 m$^2$ g$^{-1}$. In addition, the pore size distribution calculated from the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda method were concentrated at 3 and 5–15 nm (Figure 4b). The porous texture of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO material could be a benefit for the excellent electron and ion percolation network.
This feature reveals that the effective capacitance is attributed to pseudocapacitance of the Mn
The CV obtained from different scan rates are near-perfect rectangular without distinct redox peaks.
The specific capacitance of Mn
that graphene layer structure and the mesoporous structure of Mn
scan rate increasing, suggesting good high-rate capability of the composite. The reason might be
the internal resistance of the electrode material. The CV shapes change little with
inhibited by the internal resistance of the electrode material. The CV shapes change little with
electron conductivity and high channels for ion diffusion. The specific capacitance of Mn
sharp
inhibited
inhibited
0.8
V
0.1
Na2SO4
solution.
Figure 4. (a) N2 adsorption-desorption isotherms of Mn3O4/rGO and (b) the corresponding pore
size distribution.
Electrochemical characterization of the Mn3O4/rGO nanosheets was done by galvanostatic
charging-discharging (GCD) and cyclic voltammetry (CV) at the room temperature of 25 °C.
CV measurements of Mn3O4/rGO composite recorded at different scan rates were performed.
The CV obtained from different scan rates are near-perfect rectangular without distinct redox peaks.
This feature reveals that the effective capacitance is attributed to pseudocapacitance of the Mn3O4
nanosheet and double layer capacitance of rGO [34]. However, the CV curves gradually turn into
a sharp tip towards 0.8 V with scan rate decreasing, because the charge mobility in porous structure
is inhibited by the internal resistance of the electrode material. The CV shapes change little with
scan rate increasing, suggesting good high-rate capability of the composite. The reason might be
that graphene layer structure and the mesoporous structure of Mn3O4 nanosheet provide excellent
electron conductivity and high channels for ion diffusion. The specific capacitance of Mn3O4/rGO
calculated based on the CV curves are shown in Figure 5b (see Supplementary Materials S3 and S4 for
calculation details).

Figure 5. Electrochemical measurements in 0.1 M Na2SO4 solution. (a) CV curves of Mn3O4/rGO at
various scan rates; (b) specific capacitance of the as-prepared Mn3O4/rGO material at various scan
rates; (c) galvanostatic charge–discharge curves of Mn3O4/rGO at various current densities; (d) cycle
performance measured over 10,000 cycles at a 10 A g⁻¹.
A complementary measurement of the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO nanocomposite electrode capacitance was done by GCD studies over a voltage varying from 0 to 0.8 V. Figure 5c shows the GCD profiles of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO electrode samples at the different current densities. When the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO electrode was measured at 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 A g$^{-1}$, the specific capacitance could reach 342.5, 304.5, 223.1, 146.2 and 62.5 F g$^{-1}$, respectively. (Calculation details see Supplementary Materials S5 and S6). The specific capacitance decreases with current density increasing. The result is in accordance with the preceding CV studies and illustrates excellent electrochemical performance of obtained Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO material. Additionally, the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO electrode was subjected to 10,000 cycles of full-depth charge/discharge cycles at the large current density of 10 A g$^{-1}$ with excellent retention of 94.87% over the whole 6000 cycles and even after 10,000 cycles it still keeps 85.47% of its initial capacitance (Figure 5d).

The impedances of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO before and after 10,000 whole cycles were also tested (Figure 6). $R_s$ represents the equivalent series resistance (ESR) [37] consisting of intrinsic resistance, electrolyte resistance and contact resistance between current collector and Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO. Here, the value of $R_s$ changed slightly from 1.945 Ω to 2.544 Ω after 10,000 cycles, suggesting low internal resistance of the electrode and good conductivity of the electrolyte. In addition, just a slight increase of $R_{ct}$ changed from 0.1776 Ω to 0.2085 Ω after 10,000 cycles. These results demonstrate that there is no apparent difference before and after 10,000 cycles, indicating ideal capacitive behavior.

![Figure 6. EIS spectra of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO measured at open circuit potential with frequency ranging from 0.01 Hz to 100 kHz in 0.1 M Na$_2$SO$_4$.]

To evaluate the Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite electrochemical characteristics in practical application, an asymmetric supercapacitor device (ASC) device was assembled. The results of CV studies (1.0−2.0 V) are shown in Figure 7a and there is no obvious redox peaks and polarization with the voltage up to 2.0 V. The CV curves at potential window between 0 and 1.6 V show the same shape CV curves at different scan rates (Figure 7b), revealing excellent supercapacitor behavior and an unexceptionable fast charge-discharge property for ASC. According to mass loadings of the positive and negative electrodes, the device delivers a relatively high capacitance of 77.1 F g$^{-1}$ (Figure 7c). As shown in Figure 7d, on basis of GCD curve at 0.5 A g$^{-1}$, a high energy density ($E$) of 27.41 Wh kg$^{-1}$ with a corresponding power density ($P$) value of 400 W kg$^{-1}$ could be obtained. The maximal $P$ could maintain 8 kW kg$^{-1}$ with the $E$ value maintaining as high as 7.8 Wh kg$^{-1}$, which are larger than that of reported manganese oxide-based materials in the literature. The Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO shows superior properties in terms of $E$ and $P$ over MnO$_2$/rGO (24 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 100 W kg$^{-1}$) [38], cobalt-manganese layered double hydroxide (4.4 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 2500 W kg$^{-1}$) [39], Mn$_3$O$_4$/onion-like carbon (OLC) nanohybrid (19 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 100 W kg$^{-1}$) [40], spray deposited hausmannite Mn$_3$O$_4$ thin film (8.27 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 850 W kg$^{-1}$) [41], graphene/MnO$_2$ (6.8 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 62 W kg$^{-1}$) [42], MnO$_2$ NFs@PPy NWs (25.8 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 901.7 W kg$^{-1}$) [43], and MnO$_2$ modified silicon (23.2 Wh kg$^{-1}$ at 400 W kg$^{-1}$) [44].
which was similar to the previous report \[24,45\]. The promising capacitance retention of 85.7% exhibited in Figure 8a. Obviously, as shown in Figure 8b, based on the conductivity value of the five points, the specific capacitance of the MnO\(_2\)/GO increased significantly through the flame reaction.

Long cycling ability is also a key factor in evaluating supercapacitor electrode material in practical applications. The GCD were tested with large current density of 10 A g\(^{-1}\) in a voltage window of 0–1.6 V and the results are shown in Figure 7e. Due to a gradual activation process of material, the specific capacitance of the Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO electrode gradually increased during the first 6000 cycles, which was similar to the previous report \[24,45\]. The promising capacitance retention of 85.7% sustained after 10,000 cycles. Therefore, the above results demonstrated that the Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO would be a kind of promising material for power supply devices.

Moreover, Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO film was obtained from MnO\(_2\)/GO through the flame reaction. The conductivity of MnO\(_2\)/GO film and Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO film was tested by a 4-point probes resistivity measurement system. The points on the surface of samples selected for testing conductivity were exhibited in Figure 8a. Obviously, as shown in Figure 8b, based on the conductivity value of the five points, the average electrical conductivity of MnO\(_2\)/GO film and Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO film were calculated to be 3.01 × 10\(^{-3}\) S cm\(^{-1}\) and 0.813 S cm\(^{-1}\), respectively, suggesting that the electrical conductivity of the MnO\(_2\)/GO increased significantly through the flame reaction.

![Figure 7](image7.png)

Figure 7. Electrochemical performance of an ASC in 0.1 M Na\(_2\)SO\(_4\) solution. (a) CV curves at the scan rate of 50 mV s\(^{-1}\) with different potential windows; (b) CV curves measured at different scan rates with the potential window of 1.6 V; (c) GCD curves at different current densities with the potential window of 1.6 V; (d) Ragone plots of the ASC compared with other work; (e) cycle performance measured over 10,000 cycles at 10 A g\(^{-1}\).

![Figure 8](image8.png)

Figure 8. (a) Selected locations of MnO\(_2\)/GO and Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO film; (b) the electrical conductivity values of MnO\(_2\)/GO and Mn\(_3\)O\(_4\)/rGO tested by 4-point probes resistivity measurement system, respectively.
On basis of solution-based redox method, the MnO$_2$ nanosheets were prepared and GO was employed as a template. The flame, as a special plasma, produces a gaseous mixture of H$_2$ and CO through partial oxidation of the fuel with O$_2$ from the ambient air, but also provides heat for a thermally sustained fuel cell (500–800 °C). The naked flame could enhance the process of decomposition, in which insulating functional groups over GO basal planes turned into CO$_2$ and H$_2$O. Meanwhile, the MnO$_2$ nanosheets collapsed and turned into Mn$_3$O$_4$ which are evenly anchored on the surface of graphene sheet. This low-cost method simplifies the electrode preparation process. During the faradaic reaction, the binder-free electrode preparation method lowers the electrical resistance from binder and reduces mass/volume.

4. Conclusions

A well-dispersed Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanosheet anchored on reduced graphene (Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO) composite was designed by a facile chemical co-precipitation and subsequent flame procedure. The obtained Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite electrodes display fine pseudocapacitive performance.

(1) The Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO electrode in the three-electrode system delivered high capacitance up to 342.5 F g$^{-1}$ at the current density of 1 A g$^{-1}$ and exhibited equally remarkable cyclic stability.

(2) The ASC consisting of an AG negative and a Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO positive achieved a relatively high energy density 27.41 Wh kg$^{-1}$ and a power density of 8 kW kg$^{-1}$.

(3) Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO material demonstrated in this paper can offer conductive porous texture for the excellent electron and ion percolation network.

(4) Such fabrication technique is simple, rapid, facile and low-cost and it would give an insight into producing the similar metal oxide/graphene as potential active materials for energy storage device.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/1996-1944/11/6/881/s1, Figure S1: The changes of the samples before and after the reaction triggered by the flame, Figure S2: Raman spectrums of MnO$_2$/GO and Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO, Figure S3: CV curves of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO and AG at 20 mV s$^{-1}$, Figure S4: SEM (a,b) and Mn 2p XPS spectra of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO composite (c,d) of Mn$_3$O$_4$/rGO before and over 10,000 cycles at a 10 A g$^{-1}$, Table S1: Comparison of the fabrication process and electrochemical performance of the as manganese oxide material in this work with those reported in previous literatures.

Author Contributions: Y.Z. and X.Z. did the experiments. W.S., L.G., and B.X. were involved in conception and design of the experiments. S.X. offered some precious suggestion and did some work in revised manuscript. All authors were involved the drafting, revision and approval of the manuscript.

Funding: This research is funded by Chongqing Innovation Fund for Graduate Students (No. CYB16035), and National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant no. 21576034 and 21706195), the Guizhou Province Science Fund for Excellent Young Scholars (QKHTC2017-5604), the Guizhou Provincial Department of Education Foundation (QJHZK2016-105), the Science and Technology Program of Guizhou Province (QKHJ2016-1149), the Innovative Research Team of Chongqing (CXTDG201602014) and State Education Ministry and Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (106112017CDQJ138802, 2017CDJSK04XK11 and 106112016CDJXZ288803).

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

References

1. Zhang, L.L.; Zhao, X.S. Carbon-based materials as supercapacitor electrodes. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2009, 38, 2520–2531. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

2. Wang, Y.; Shi, Z.; Huang, Y.; Ma, Y.; Wang, C.; Chen, M.; Chen, Y. Supercapacitor devices based on graphene materials. J. Phys. Chem. C 2009, 113, 13103–13107. [CrossRef]

3. Jia, R.; Zhu, F.; Sun, S.; Zhai, T.; Xia, H. Dual support ensuring high-energy supercapacitors via high-performance NiCo$_2$S$_4$@Fe$_2$O$_3$ anode and working potential enlarged MnO$_2$ cathode. J. Power Sources 2017, 341, 427–434. [CrossRef]
4. Futaba, D.N.; Hata, K.; Yamada, T.; Hiraoka, T.; Hayamizu, Y.; Kakudate, Y.; Tanaike, O.; Hatori, H.; Yumura, M.; Iijima, S. Shape-engineerable and highly densely packed single-walled carbon nanotubes and their application as super-capacitor electrodes. *Nat. Mater.* 2006, 5, 987-994. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

5. Chiam, S.L.; Lim, H.N.; Hafiz, S.M.; Pandikumar, A.; Huang, N.M. Electrochemical Performance of Supercapacitor with Stacked Copper Foils Coated with Graphene Nanoplatelets. *Sci. Rep.* 2018, 8, 3093. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

6. Wang, X.Z.; Xiao, Y.H.; Sun, D.C.; Zhou, L.M.; Wu, S.D.; Han, L.F.; Fang, S.M.; Cao, S.K. High-quality porous cobalt monoxide nanowires@ultrathin manganese dioxide sheets core-shell nanowire arrays on Ni foam for high-performance supercapacitor. *Electrochim. Acta* 2016, 194, 377–384. [CrossRef]

7. Simon, P.; Gogotsi, Y.; Dunn, B. Materials science. Where do batteries end and supercapacitors begin? *Science* 2014, 343, 1210–1211. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

8. Zhao, C.; Zhang, Y.; Qian, X. MoS₂/RGO/Ni₃S₂ Nanocomposite in situ Grown on Ni Foam Substrate and Its High Electrochemical Performance. *Electrochim. Acta* 2016, 198, 135–143. [CrossRef]

9. Garakani, M.A.; Abouali, S.; Xu, Z.-L.; Huang, J.; Huang, J.-Q.; Kim, J.-K. Heterogeneous, mesoporous NiCo₂O₄-MnO₂/graphene foam for asymmetric supercapacitors with ultrahigh specific energies. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2017, 5, 3547–3557. [CrossRef]

10. Zhou, J.; Zhao, H.; Mu, X.; Chen, J.; Zhang, P.; Wang, Y.; He, Y.; Zhang, Z.; Pan, X.; Xie, E. Importance of polypropylene in constructing 3D hierarchical carbon nanotube@MnO₂ perfect core-shell nanostructures for high-performance flexible supercapacitors. *Nanoscale* 2015, 7, 14697–14706. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

11. Ortaboy, S.; Alper, J.P.; Rossi, F.; Bertoni, G.; Salvati, G.; Carraro, C.; Maboudian, R. MnO₂-decorated carbonized porous silicon nanowire electrodes for high performance supercapacitors. *Energy Environ. Sci.* 2017, 10, 1505–1516. [CrossRef]

12. Deng, J.W.; Chen, L.F.; Sun, Y.Y.; Ma, M.H.; Fu, L. Interconnected MnO₂ nanoflakes assembled on graphene foam as a binder-free and long-cycle life lithium battery anode. *Carbon* 2015, 92, 177–184. [CrossRef]

13. Yuan, T.; Jiang, Y.; Sun, W.; Xiang, B.; Li, Y.; Yan, M.; Xu, B.; Dou, S. Ever-increasing pseudocapacitance in RGO-MnO₂-RGO sandwich nanostructures for ultrahigh-rate lithium storage. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2016, 26, 2198–2206. [CrossRef]

14. Pan, C.; Gu, H.; Dong, L. Synthesis and electrochemical performance of polyaniline@MnO₂/graphene ternary composites for electrochemical supercapacitors. *J. Power Sources* 2016, 303, 175–181. [CrossRef]

15. Yao, J.; Pan, Q.; Yao, S.; Duan, L.; Liu, J. Mesoporous MnO₂ nanosphere/graphene sheets as electrodes for supercapacitor synthesized by a simple and inexpensive reflux reaction. *Electrochim. Acta* 2017, 238, 30–35. [CrossRef]

16. Li, L.; Raji, A.R.O.; Tour, J.M. Graphene-wrapped MnO₂-graphene nanoribbons as anode materials for high-performance lithium ion batteries. *Adv. Mater.* 2013, 25, 6298–6302. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

17. Xiong, T.; Lee, W.S.V.; Huang, X.; Xue, J.M. Mn₃O₄/reduced graphene oxide-based supercapacitor with ultra-long cycling performance. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2017, 5, 12762–12768. [CrossRef]

18. Wang, Y.; Lai, W.H.; Wang, N. A reduced graphene oxide-mixed-valent manganese oxides composite electrode for tailor able and surface mountable supercapacitors with high capacitance and super-long life. *Energy Environ. Sci.* 2017, 10, 941–949. [CrossRef]

19. Ke, Q.; Wang, J. Graphene-based materials for supercapacitor electrodes—A review. *J. Materiomics* 2016, 2, 37–54. [CrossRef]

20. Wu, Z.-S.; Zhou, G.; Yin, L.-C.; Ren, W.; Li, F.; Cheng, H.-M. Graphene/metal oxide composite electrode materials for energy storage. *NANO Energy* 2012, 1, 107–131. [CrossRef]

21. Liu, M.; Shi, M.; Lu, W.; Zhu, D.; Li, L.; Gan, L. Core–shell reduced graphene oxide/MnO₂@carbon hollow nanospheres for high performance supercapacitor electrodes. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2017, 313, 518–526. [CrossRef]

22. Hu, Y.; Guan, C.; Feng, G.; Ke, Q.; Huang, X.; Wang, J. Flexible asymmetric supercapacitor based on structure-optimized Mn₃O₄/reduced graphene oxide nanohybrid paper with high energy and power density. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2015, 25, 7291–7299. [CrossRef]

23. Wang, L.; Ouyang, Y.; Jiao, X.; Xia, X.; Lei, W.; Hao, Q. Polyaniline-assisted growth of MnO₂ ultrathin nanosheets on graphene and porous graphene for asymmetric supercapacitor with enhanced energy density. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2018, 334, 1–9. [CrossRef]
41. Yadav, A.A.; Jadhav, S.N.; Chougule, D.M.; Patil, P.D.; Chavan, U.J.; Kolekar, Y.D. Spray deposited...[CrossRef]

31. Chen, C.; Jian, H.; Mai, K.; Ren, Z.; Wang, J.; Fu, X.; Fan, C.; Sun, C.; Qian, G.; Wang, Z. Shape- and... [CrossRef] [PubMed]

30. Vazquez-Olmos, A.; Redon, R.; Rodriguez-Gattorno, G.; Esther Mata-Zamora, M.; Morales-Leal, F.;...[CrossRef] [PubMed]

24. Liu, L.; Su, L.; Lang, J.; Hu, B.; Xu, S.; Yan, X. Controllable synthesis of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanodots@nitrogen-doped graphene and its application for high energy density supercapacitors. J. Mater. Chem. A 2017, 5, 5523–5531. [CrossRef]

25. Zhang, H. Ultrathin two-dimensional nanomaterials. ACS Nano 2015, 9, 9451–9469. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

26. Chhowalla, M.; Liu, Z.; Zhang, H. Two-dimensional transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD) nanosheets. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2015, 44, 2584–2586. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

27. Sun, S.; Wang, S.; Xia, T.; Li, X.; Jin, Q.; Wu, Q.; Wang, L.; Wei, Z.; Wang, P. Hydrothermal synthesis of a MnOOH/three-dimensional reduced graphene oxide composite and its electrochemical properties for supercapacitors. J. Mater. Chem. A 2015, 3, 20944–20951. [CrossRef]

28. Park, S.K.; Suh, D.H.; Park, H.S. Electrochemical assembly of reduced graphene oxide/manganese dioxide nanocomposites into hierarchical sea urchin-like structures for supercapacitive electrodes. J. Alloy. Compd. 2016, 668, 146–151. [CrossRef]

29. Zhang, W.; Zou, X.; Zhao, J. Rapid production of a bulk of porous mesh reduced graphene oxide films using a naked flame. J. Mater. Chem. C 2015, 3, 2788–2791. [CrossRef]

30. Vazquez-Olmos, A.; Redon, R.; Rodriguez-Gattorno, G.; Esther Mata-Zamora, M.; Morales-Leal, F.; Fernandez-Osorio, A.L.; Saniger, J.M. One-step synthesis of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanoparticles: Structural and magnetic study. J. Colloid Interface Sci. 2005, 291, 175–180. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

31. Chen, C.; Jian, H.; Mai, K.; Ren, Z.; Wang, J.; Fu, X.; Fan, C.; Sun, C.; Qian, G.; Wang, Z. Shape- and size-controlled synthesis of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanocrystals at room temperature. Eur. J. Inorg. Chem. 2014, 2014, 3023–3029. [CrossRef]

32. Anilkumar, K.M.; Manoj, M.; Jinisha, B.; Pradeep, V.S.; Jayalekshmi, S. Mn$_3$O$_4$/reduced graphene oxide nanocomposite electrodes with tailored morphology for high power supercapacitor applications. Electrochim. Acta 2017, 236, 424–433.

33. Wang, L.; Li, Y.; Han, Z.; Chen, L.; Qian, B.; Jiang, X.; Pinto, J.; Yang, G. Composite structure and properties of Mn$_3$O$_4$/graphene oxide and Mn$_3$O$_4$/graphene. J. Mater. Chem. A 2013, 1, 8385–8397. [CrossRef]

34. Jin, G.; Xiao, X.; Li, S.; Zhao, K.; Wu, Y.; Sun, D.; Wang, F. Strongly coupled graphene/Mn$_3$O$_4$ composite with enhanced electrochemical performance for supercapacitor electrode. Electrochim. Acta 2015, 178, 689–698. [CrossRef]

35. Lu, Y.C.; Xu, Z.; Gasteiger, H.A.; Chen, S.; Hamad-Schifferli, K.; Shao-Horn, Y. Platinum-gold nanoparticles: A highly active bifunctional electrocatalyst for rechargeable lithium-air batteries. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 12170–12171. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

36. Lee, J.W.; Hall, A.S.; Kim, J.D.; Mallouk, T.E. A facile and template-free hydrothermal synthesis of Mn$_3$O$_4$ nanorods on graphene sheets for supercapacitor electrodes with long cycle stability. Chem. Mater. 2012, 24, 1158–1164. [CrossRef]

37. Li, L.; Xu, J.; Lei, J.; Zhang, J.; McLarnon, F.; Wei, Z.; Li, N.; Pan, F. A one-step, cost-effective green method to in situ fabricate Ni(OH)$_2$ hexagonal platelets on Ni foam as binder-free supercapacitor electrode materials. J. Mater. Chem. A 2015, 3, 1953–1960. [CrossRef]

38. Miniach, E.; ´Sliwak, A.; Moyseowicz, A.; Fernández-Garcia, L.; González, Z.; Granda, M.; Menendez, R.; Gryglewicz, G. MnO$_2$/thermally reduced graphene oxide composites for high-voltage asymmetric supercapacitors. Electrochim. Acta 2017, 240, 53–62. [CrossRef]

39. Jagadale, A.D.; Guan, G.; Li, X.; Du, X.; Ma, X.; Hao, X.; Abudula, A. Ultrathin nanoflakes of cobalt–manganese layered double hydroxide with high reversibility for asymmetric supercapacitor. J. Power Sources 2016, 306, 526–534. [CrossRef]

40. Makgopa, K.; Raju, K.; Eijkeme, P.M.; Ozoemen, K.I. High-performance Mn$_3$O$_4$/onion-like carbon (OLC) nanohybrid pseudocapacitor: Unravelling the intrinsic properties of OLC against other carbon supports. Carbon 2017, 117, 20–32. [CrossRef]

41. Yadav, A.A.; Jadhav, S.N.; Chougule, D.M.; Patil, P.D.; Chavan, U.J.; Kolekar, Y.D. Spray deposited Hausmannite Mn$_3$O$_4$ thin films using aqueous/organic solvent mixture for supercapacitor applications. Electrochim. Acta 2016, 206, 134–142. [CrossRef]

42. He, Y.; Chen, W.; Li, X.; Zhang, Z.; Fu, J.; Zhao, C.; Xie, E. Freestanding three-dimensional graphene/MnO$_2$ composite networks as ultralight and flexible supercapacitor electrodes. ACS Nano 2013, 7, 174–182. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
43. He, W.; Wang, C.; Zhuge, F.; Deng, X.; Xu, X.; Zhai, T. Flexible and high energy density asymmetrical supercapacitors based on core/shell conducting polymer nanowires/manganese dioxide nanoflakes. *Nano Energy* 2017, *35*, 242–250. [CrossRef]

44. Le, Q.J.; Wang, T.; Tran, D.N.H.; Dong, F.; Zhang, Y.X.; Losic, D. Morphology-controlled MnO$_2$ modified silicon diatoms for high-performance asymmetric supercapacitors. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2017, *5*, 10856–10865. [CrossRef]

45. Li, R.; Wang, S.; Huang, Z.; Lu, F.; He, T. NiCo$_2$S$_4$@Co(OH)$_2$ core-shell nanotube arrays in situ grown on Ni foam for high performances asymmetric supercapacitors. *J. Power Sources* 2016, *312*, 156–164. [CrossRef]