Short Communication

Glancing Angle Deposited Pt Nanorod Array Electrocatalysts for Direct Ethanol Fuel Cells

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doi: 10.20964/2017.11.43

Received: 12 November 2015 / Accepted: 22 August 2017 / Published: 12 October 2017

The catalytic activity of vertically aligned platinum nanorod arrays for ethanol electrooxidation has been evaluated utilizing cyclic voltammetry (CV) in 0.5 M H$_2$SO$_4$ and 0.5 M ethanol electrolyte at room temperature. The Pt nanorods electrodes were grown using a magnetron sputtering glancing angle deposition (GLAD) technique at different lengths (400 ad 600 nm long). The x-ray diffraction and SEM results reveal that that Pt nanorod are well-isolated, single crystal, and mainly oriented in Pt(100) which has the highest activity for ethanol adsorption and electrooxidation. The CV results show that the forward anodic current density ($I_f$) to the reverse anodic peak current density ($I_b$) ratio is calculated to be 4.8 and 7.2 for 400 and 600 nm Pt nanorods, respectively, while it is around 2.5 for a commercial high-surface-area-supported Pt (Pt/C) catalyst. Such high ratio for Pt nanorods electrocatalysts reflects the enhanced tolerance to the accumulation of carbonaceous species; a larger quantity of intermediate carbonaceous species is converted (oxidized) to CO$_2$ in the forward scan compared to Pt/C, thus significantly enhancing the electrode electroactivity.

Keywords: Glancing Angle Deposition (GLAD) technique, GLAD Pt nanorod arrays electrocatalysts, Electrooxidation of Ethanol, Direct Ethanol Fuel Cells.

FULL TEXT

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