

Hydrothermal redox synthesis of cobalt and manganese spinels using metal nitrates

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Abstract

The hydrothermal reduction of cobalt, manganese and lithium nitrates with ethylene glycol was studied in the temperature range 100-270 °C in order to obtain nanostructured spinels. The phase composition, particle sizes of the reaction products, and their morphology studied by using IR spectroscopy, X-ray diffractometry, and scanning electron microscopy.

We found that the nature of the reaction product of manganese and cobalt nitrates with ethylene glycol (EG) depends on the reaction temperature, the ratio of metal nitrate: ethylene glycol and reaction time. In excess of the reducing agent at temperatures up to 140 °C, observed the formation of metal oxalates. The main product of hydrothermal reduction of manganese nitrate with ethylene glycol at temperatures of 150 °C and 180 °C is manganese oxide Mn₃O₄ (Hausmanite). At 200 °C obtained the mixture of manganese oxide (Mn₃O₄) and carbonate (MnCO₃). In accordance with the data of X-ray phase analysis at 220 °C and 240 °C, the only reaction product in both cases is manganese carbonate.

It was obtained two types of structures on electron-microscopic images of the non-calcined sample at 200 °C: needle-shaped and spherical clusters. It can be assumed that these structures belong to the phases Mn₃O₄ (Hausmanite) and manganese carbonate MnCO₃, respectively.

When reduced cobalt nitrate with ethylene glycol in the temperature range 120-220 °C, gives a main amorphous phase, and on X-ray diffraction patterns are observed weak reflections corresponding to cobalt oxide Co₃O₄.

It was shown that upon calcination (at 750 °C) of the samples during the reduction of the mixture of cobalt and manganese nitrates, was obtained the spinel phase of the composition (Co,Mn)(Co,Mn)₂O₄.

In a similar way were obtained Li₂CoMn₃O₈ and LiCoO₂ phases (with average particle sizes of 42 nm and 30 nm), which can be used as cathodes in lithium batteries.

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