

# Elliptical Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Particles / Reduced Graphene Oxide Composite Materials for Supercapacitors and Their Electrochemical Properties in Different Electrolytes

Meirong Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Yurong Ren<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Haiyan Chen<sup>3</sup>, Xiaobing Huang<sup>4</sup>, Jianning Ding<sup>1,2,5,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Materials Science and Engineering, Changzhou University, Changzhou 213000, China

<sup>2</sup> Jiangsu Province Cultivation base for State Key Laboratory of Photovoltaic Science and Technology, Changzhou University, Changzhou, 213164

<sup>3</sup> NO. 47. Qingyang North Rd., Tianning district, Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, P. R. China

<sup>4</sup> College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hunan University of Arts and Science, Changde, 41500, China

<sup>5</sup> Micro/Nano Science and Technology Center, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, 212013, China

\* E-mail: [ryrchem@163.com](mailto:ryrchem@163.com), [ryrchem@cczu.edu.cn](mailto:ryrchem@cczu.edu.cn)

Received: 23 July 2017 / Accepted: 25 September 2017 / Published: 12 November 2017

In this work, a supercapacitor electrode material, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO composite, was fabricated by the hydrothermal method. A mixture of isopropyl alcohol and deionized water was used as the hydrothermal agent. Structural characterization revealed that the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles in the composites exhibit a unique elliptical structure with significantly increased specific surface area compared to hexagonal Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles, thereby allowing more ions to penetrate. The Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO composite has a larger specific capacitance than bare Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles in 1M KOH. Additionally, compared to that in 1M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, 1M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1M KOH and 6M KOH electrolytes, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO exhibits better electrochemical performance in 6M KOH with 3M methanol.

**Keywords:** Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; rGO composite; hydrothermal method; supercapacitor.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The search for new energy storage devices has become a hot topic in the field of new energy. New types of energy devices must be low-cost and environmentally friendly [1,2]. Supercapacitors, also called electrochemical capacitors, display the notable characteristics of high power density, low maintenance cost, fast charging/discharging rate and long cycle life [3-5]. According to their energy storage mechanisms, supercapacitors can be divided into electrical double layer capacitors (EDLCs) and pseudocapacitors. The charge storage capacity of EDLCs depends on the electrostatic force acting

on the interface between the active electrode material and the electrolyte. In contrast, pseudocapacitors utilize fast oxidation/reduction reactions and reversible chemical adsorption/desorption to produce a higher specific capacitance than EDLCs [6,7].

It is well known that the performance of supercapacitors is closely related to the electrode materials [8,9]. Supercapacitor electrode materials are divided into three categories, i.e., carbon materials, conducting polymers and transition metal oxides [10-12]. In particular, transition metal oxides are attractive supercapacitor electrode materials because they have many oxidation states. For example, NiO [13], MnO<sub>2</sub> [14], Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [15], Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [16], ZnO [17], and TiO<sub>2</sub> [18] transition metal oxide materials have larger specific capacitance and energy density as significant electrode materials for pseudocapacitors than electrical double layer capacitors. Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is widely used in supercapacitors because of its multivariate oxidation states, environmental compatibility and low cost. However, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> also exhibits several issues, such as bad rate capability and poor cycling stability as a result of its small specific surface area and poor conductivity [19-21]. Some efforts have been made to overcome these difficulties. For example, carbon-based materials can be composited with Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as the composite electrode to improve the electrochemical properties and cycling stability of supercapacitors in comparison with pure Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [22,23].

In this work, we attempted to fabricate Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO composites by a one-step hydrothermal process accompanied using isopropyl alcohol and deionized water as the hydrothermal agent. This method achieved elliptical Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles homogeneously covering the surface of the rGO sheets. Such unique architectures can offer many channels for rapid diffusion of electrolyte ions within the active electrode material.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1. Synthesis of the composite

All reagents were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent. The preparation method of graphite oxide (GO) was the modified Hummers method as described in previous reports [24]. Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO was synthesized as follows: 120 mg of GO was dispersed ultrasonically in a 60-mL mixture (30 mL isopropyl and 30 mL deionized water) for 1 h to form a homogeneous GO solution. Then, 2 g of FeCl<sub>3</sub> and 2 g of CH<sub>3</sub>COONa were added to the GO solution under magnetic stirring for 30 min. Then, the obtained mixed suspension was transferred to a Teflon-lined autoclave, followed by hydrothermal treatment at 180 °C for 700 min. The sample was collected by naturally cooling to room temperature, then filtered, cleaned with deionized water several times, and finally dried at 60 °C in a vacuum oven for 6 h. For comparison, pure Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> without GO was also fabricated by the above process.

### 2.2. Structure characterization and electrochemical evaluation

The morphologies of all prepared samples were analysed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were obtained using a D8 (Bruker) X-ray

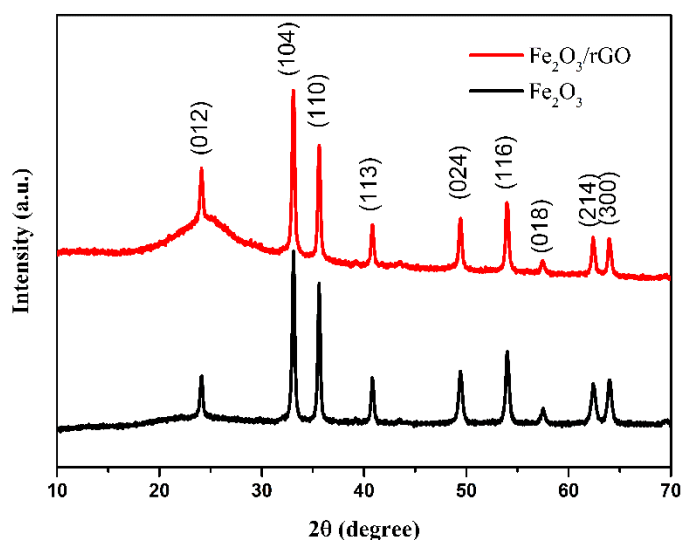
diffractometer with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=1.5418$  Å). The mass of rGO in the composite was determined by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) from room temperature to 1000 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air. Raman spectra were obtained using a RM2000 Raman Spectrometer (Renishaw, British).

The working electrode was obtained by mixing 80 wt% active material (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO or Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), 10 wt% Super P, and 10 wt% sodium alginate. Then, the three components formed a slurry, which was mixed and ground with deionized water. Finally, the slurry was coated onto a nickel foam (1×1 cm<sup>2</sup>). The mass of the active electrode material (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO or Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) was equal to the mass of the foam nickel coated with the active material less the mass of the pure foam nickel. The surface area of the active material (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO or Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) in the working electrode was 1 cm<sup>2</sup>, and the mass of the active material (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO or Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) was approximately 3 mg.

The three-electrode cell system contained a working electrode, a platinum sheet counter electrode, and a saturated calomel electrode as the reference electrode. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) and galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) tests were conducted on an electrochemical workstation, CHI760E, in 1M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>, 1M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1M KOH, and 6M KOH with and without 3M methanol electrolytes. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) tests were performed between 10<sup>5</sup> Hz and 0.01 Hz using an AC amplitude of mV at open circuit potential.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

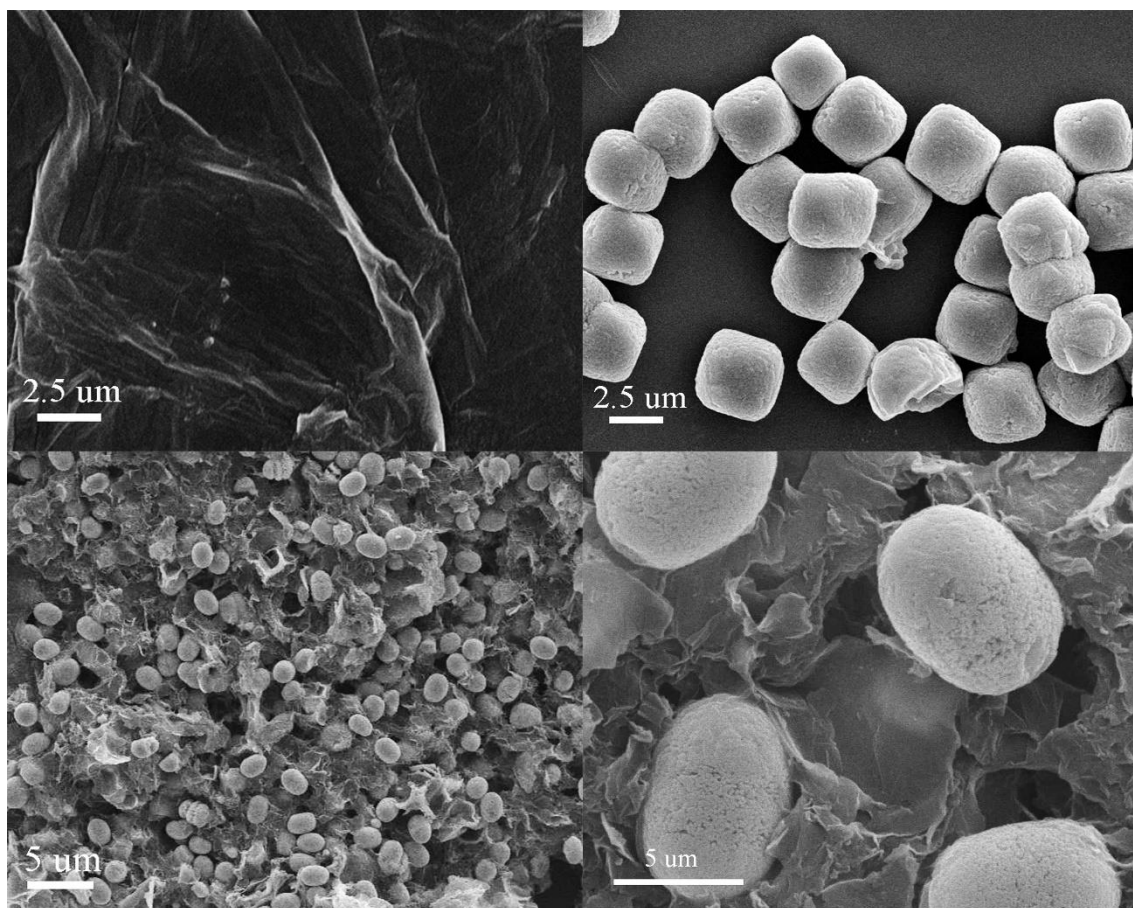
#### 3.1. Material characterization



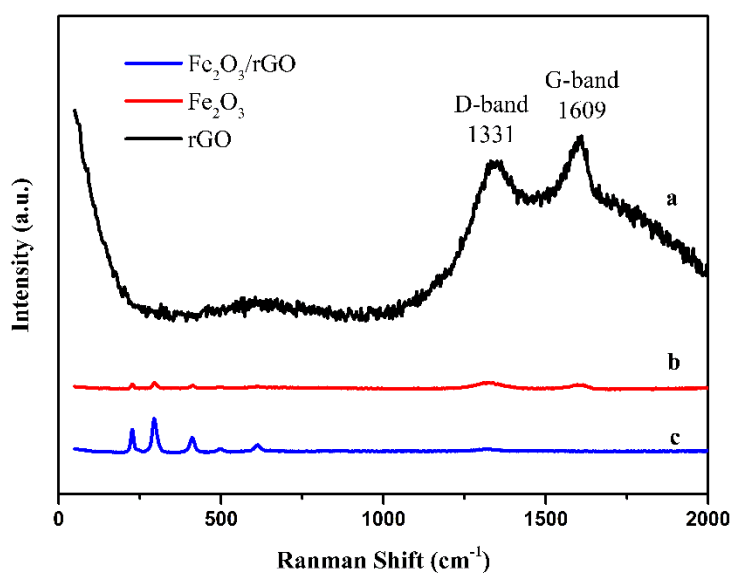
**Figure 1.** XRD patterns of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO

The crystalline structures of the prepared samples (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) were identified by XRD. The XRD patterns of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GO are shown in Fig. 1. The diffraction peaks present at 24.1°, 33.2°, 35.6°, 40.9°, 49.5°, 54.1°, 57.6°, 62.4° and 64° represent the (012), (104), (110), (113), (024), (116), (018), (214) and (300) crystal planes, respectively. All of the peaks can be assigned to Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (JCPDS no. 33-0664), which proves that the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was successfully prepared. As described in the literature [25], no significant change in XRD patterns of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO composite

is observed, which demonstrates that the phase purity of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  is maintained after formation of the composite. However, in the XRD spectrum, there is no definitive evidence to confirm the presence of GO in the composite.



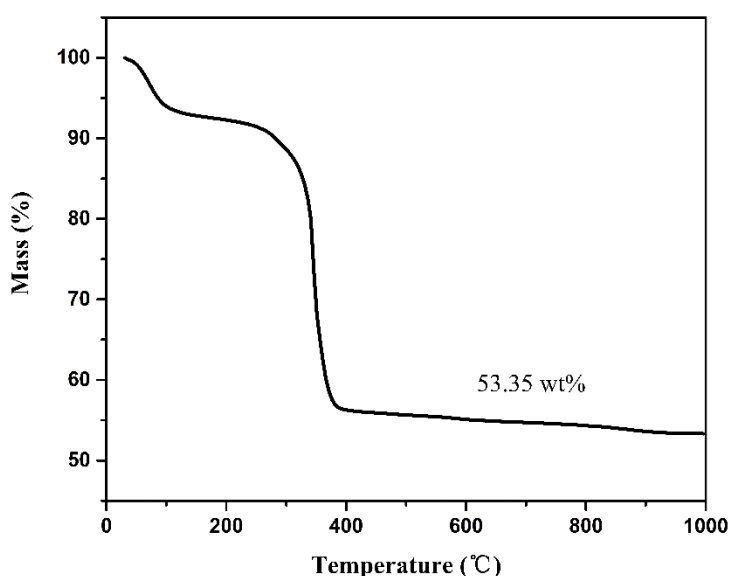
**Figure 2.** SEM images of rGO (a).  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (b) and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  (c,d) at different magnifications



**Figure 3.** The Raman spectra of rGO (a),  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  (b) and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (c)

The morphologies of the prepared samples (rGO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) were studied by SEM. As seen in Fig. 2a, the rGO has a wrinkled porous structure with a framework network. Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with a uniform grain size of approximately 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  is shown in Fig. 2b. Fig. 2c and Fig. 2d show the SEM images of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO at different magnifications. In Fig. 2c, the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles are elliptical, which greatly increases the specific surface area compared to hexagonal Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Additionally, the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles are shown to be evenly distributed on the layer of rGO sheets. As reported in previous work [26], such composite frameworks could enhance the interface contact and suppress the dissolution and agglomeration of particles, thereby promoting the electrochemical activity and stability of the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO. As shown in the high magnification SEM image (Fig. 2d), the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles exhibit a porous structure.

The Raman spectra of the prepared samples (rGO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) are shown in Fig. 3. The Raman spectrum of rGO is shown in Fig. 3a. The Raman peak of rGO at 1331  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is called the D peak, and its peak intensity is expressed as  $I_D$ . The D peak is the defect peak caused by disorder or  $\text{sp}^3$  carbon atoms. The Raman peak at 1609  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is called the G peak, and its peak intensity is expressed as  $I_G$ . The G peak is a characteristic peak of  $\text{sp}^2$  carbon structures. As reported in previous works [27,28], the ratio of  $I_D$  to  $I_G$  represents the reduction degree of graphene oxide. The  $I_D/I_G$  ratio of rGO is 0.81, and the  $I_D/I_G$  ratio of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO is 1.16. The larger  $I_D/I_G$  value of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO suggests that the combination of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles within rGO sheets can improve the structural disorder and defects.

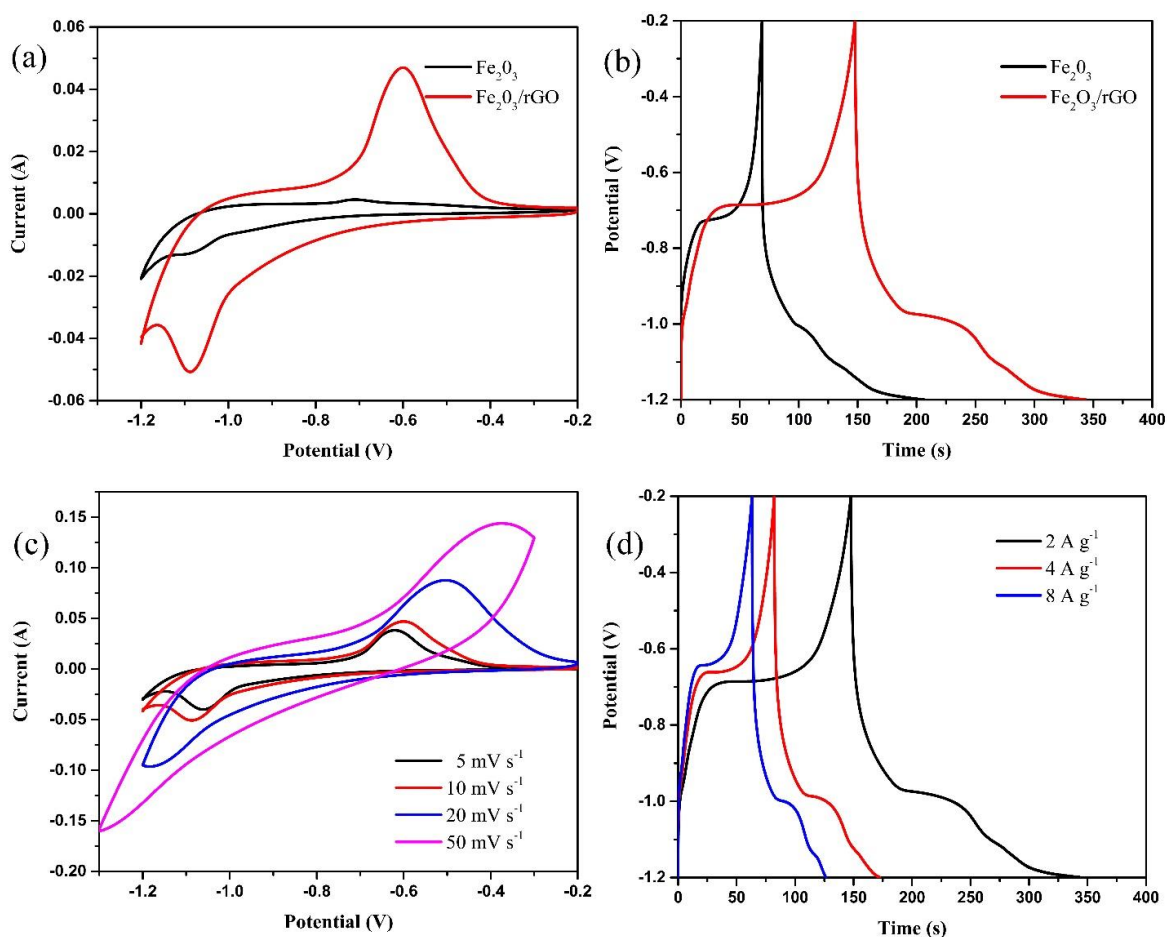


**Figure 4.** The TGA curve of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO.

Fig. 4 shows the TGA curve of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/rGO, which was heated to 1000 °C in air. We observed that the first mass loss between 35~100 °C may be attributed to the decomposition of individual precursors. As the temperature rises, a second rapid mass loss occurs between 250~400 °C corresponding to the oxidation of carbon. According to the mass change, the mass ratio of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles in the composites was calculated to be 55%.

### 3.2. Electrochemical properties

Fig. 5a shows the CV curves of the prepared electrode ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$ ) in 1 M KOH electrolytes at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The curve shape of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  was irregular, and the redox peaks were obscure, corresponding to conversion between  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  [29,30]. However, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite electrode showed obvious strong oxidation and reduction peaks. The specific capacitance of the active electrode material is well known to be proportional to the area of the CV curve, which suggests that the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite has a higher capacitance than bare  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . As shown in Fig. 5b, a charge platform at approximately  $-0.7 \text{ V}$  and a discharge platform at approximately  $-1.0 \text{ V}$  correspond to the oxidation and reduction of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles, respectively.

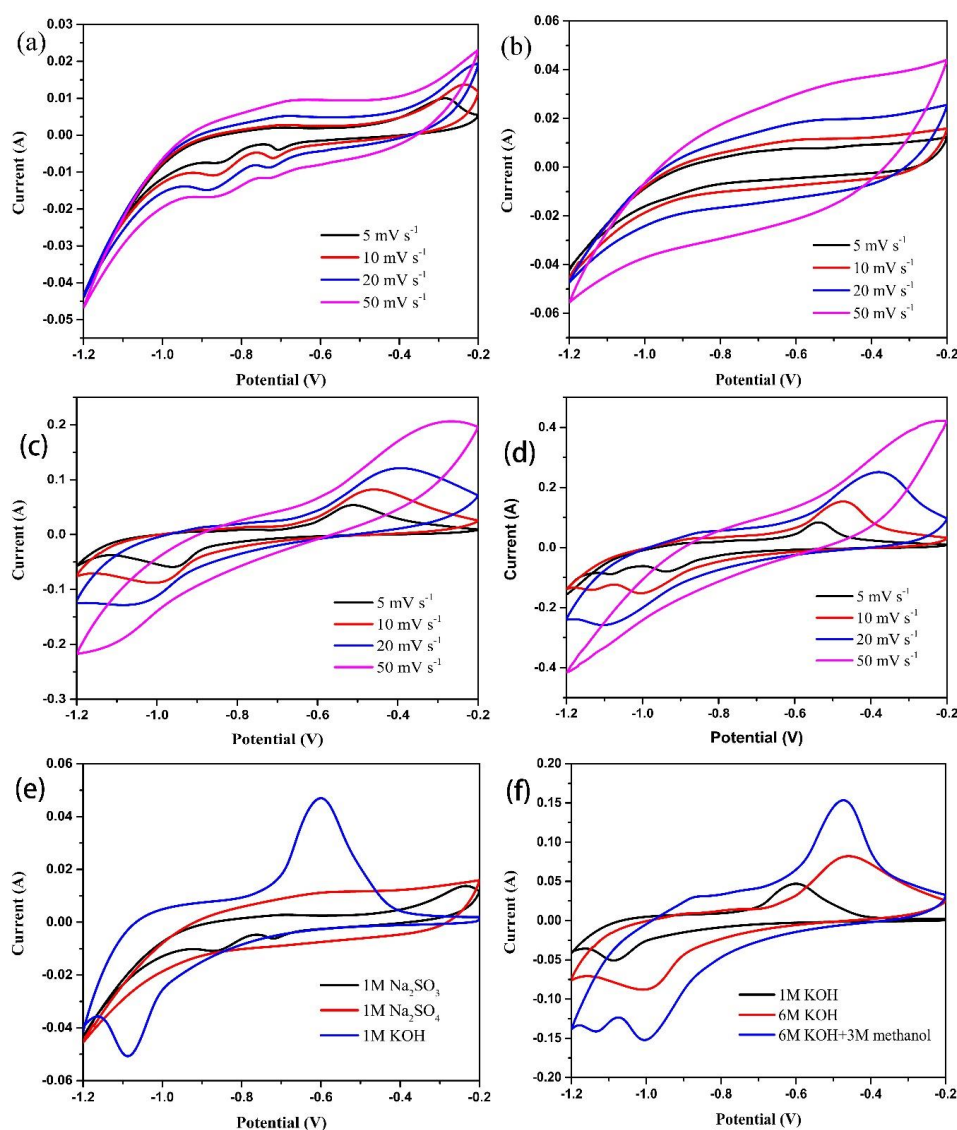


**Figure 5.** (a) CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrodes in 1M KOH electrolytes at scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . (b) GCD curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrodes in 1M KOH electrolytes at a current density of  $2 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ . (c) CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1M KOH electrolytes at different scan rates. (d) GCD curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1M KOH electrolytes at different current densities.

The mass-specific capacitance of bare  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles ( $260 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ ) was calculated to be smaller than that of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  ( $400 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ ). As reported in previous works [31,32],  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  has better electrochemical performance because of the contribution of the pseudocapacitance of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and the



EDL capacitance of rGO in the composite. From Fig. 5c, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite exhibits an oxidation peak and a reduction peak at 0.621 V and -1.061 V, respectively, at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the redox process. The oxidation peak of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite was found at -0.504 V at a scan rate of  $20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . However, the reduction peak was obscure. At a higher scan rate of  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , the oxidation peak was broadened, which may occur when the transfer between the ion of the active material and the ion of the electrolyte is not consistent with the electron transfer of the external circuit. As a result, the accumulated electrons on the electrode would increase potential for charging and decrease potential for discharging. The GCD curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  are shown in Fig. 5d. The charge/discharge curves show the Faraday characteristics of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode.



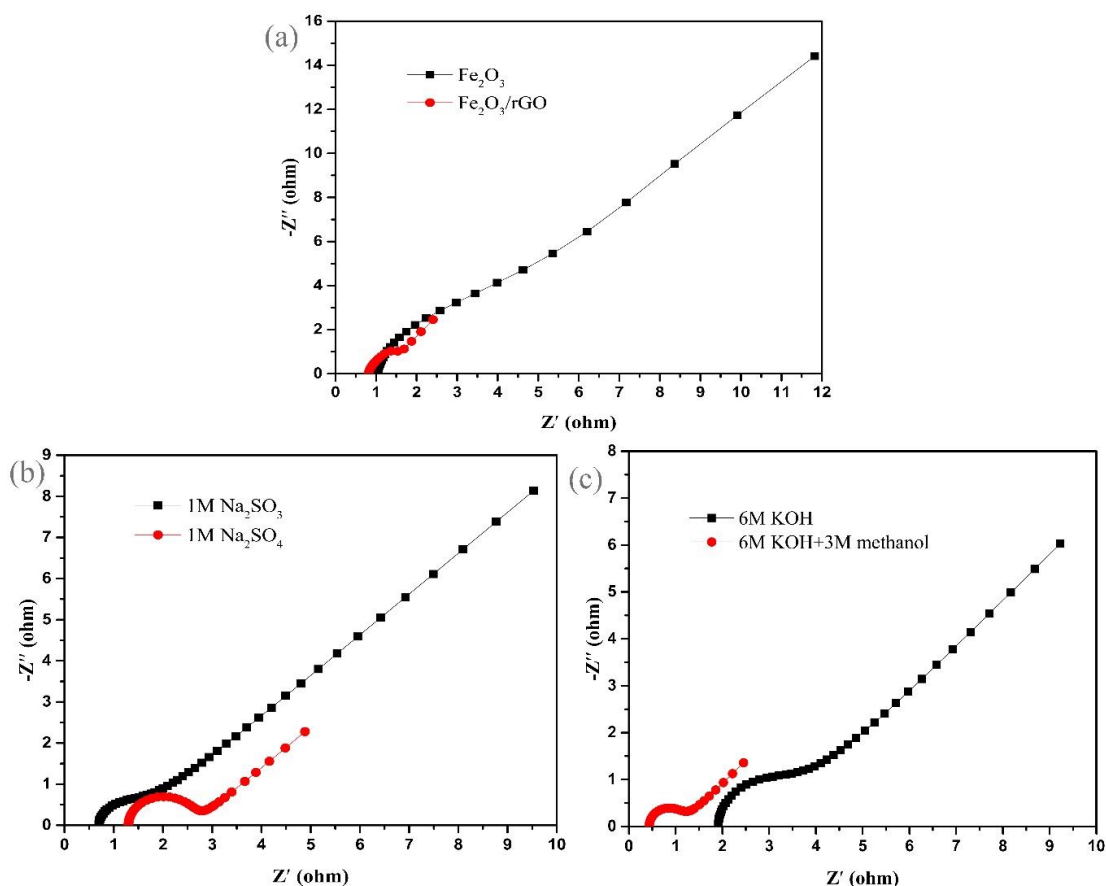
**Figure 6.** CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode (a) in  $1\text{M Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  electrolytes at different scan rates. (b) in  $1\text{M Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  electrolytes at different scan rates. (c) in  $6\text{M KOH}$  electrolytes at different scan rates. (d) in  $6\text{M KOH}$  with  $3\text{M}$  methanol electrolytes at different scan rates. (e) in  $1\text{M Na}_2\text{SO}_3$ ,  $1\text{M Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $1\text{M KOH}$  electrolytes at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  respectively. (f) in  $1\text{M KOH}$ ,  $6\text{M KOH}$  with and without  $3\text{M}$  methanol electrolytes at the scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  respectively.

Fig. 6a shows the CV curves of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  at different scan rates. There is an oxidation peak at -0.283 V and a reduction peak at -0.706 V at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . In addition, there is a reduction peak at approximately -0.825 V, which may be an irreversible reduction peak, indicating that there exists an irreversible unidirectional reaction. Fig. 6b shows the CV curves of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  electrolyte at different scan rates. No redox peaks were observed, which suggests no Faradaic redox reactions of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  electrolyte. In Fig. 6c, a pair of obvious redox peaks at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  in 6 M KOH is observed. The redox peak gradually weakened with increasing scan rate. This phenomenon can be attributed to electrochemical polarization. Fig. 6d shows the CV curves of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 6 M KOH with 3 M methanol at different scan rates. A pair of obvious redox peaks and an irreversible reduction peak at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  were observed. Then, the irreversible reduction peak disappeared at a scan rate of  $20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The redox peaks were not obvious when the scan rate increased to  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . This result can be explained when the contact of the ions and electrons of the electrolyte with the active material cannot be synchronized with the electron transfer of the external circuit. The CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$ , 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and 1 M KOH at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  are shown in Fig. 6e. The  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode shows a pair of obvious redox peaks in 1 M KOH electrolyte at an analogous potential region, and its enclosed CV area is larger than the other two, implying excellent electrochemical reactivity of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M KOH electrolytes. The CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M KOH and 6 M KOH with and without 3 M methanol at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  are shown in Fig. 6f. There is an obvious oxidation peak and reduction peak in the three electrolytes, indicating that the capacitance characteristics are mainly governed by Faradaic redox reactions, which possibly corresponds to the reversible conversion of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$  [33]. When the concentration of 1 M KOH was increased to 6 M KOH, the enclosed CV area also increased, showing that the specific capacitance of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode material increased in 6 M KOH electrolyte. However, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode exhibits a larger enclosed CV curve area and higher peak current in 6 M KOH with 3 M methanol electrolytes than without 3 M methanol electrolytes, which is mainly attributed to the electrochemical catalytic oxidation of methanol compared with previous literature [34].

It is well known that the intersection of the real axis and the starting point of the semicircle of the curve is the internal impedance of the electrochemical system. The half circle diameter of the curve is charge transfer resistance, which indicates the difficulty of charge transfer between the electrolyte interface and the active electrode material. The diagonal of the curve corresponds to the impedance of the electrolyte diffusion inside the active electrode material. Fig. 7a shows the diagrams of bare  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrodes in 1 M KOH. In the low frequency region, both curves present a straight line, which indicates that  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  have porous structures and thus comparative diffusion resistance. However, at the high frequency region, the semicircles of the two curves are completely different. The interfacial charge transfer resistance can be represented by the diameter of the semicircle: the larger the semicircle, the larger the charge-transfer resistance. Obviously, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  shows a smaller semicircle than that of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  electrode, implying its lower charge-transfer resistance. Fig. 7b shows the Nyquist plots of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  and 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  electrolytes. The diffusion resistance and series resistance of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1



M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  is obviously smaller than that in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Fig. 7c shows the Nyquist plots of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  in 6 M KOH with and without 3 M methanol electrolytes. After the addition of methanol, the series resistance and diffusion resistance of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode both decreased. This result reveals that the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode has better electron transfer ability in 6 M KOH with 3 M methanol electrolytes.



**Figure 7.** (a) Nyquist plots of pure  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrodes in 1M KOH electrolytes. (b) Nyquist plots of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 1M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$ , 1M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  electrolytes. (c) Nyquist plots of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode in 6M KOH with and without 3M methanol electrolytes.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, an  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite was prepared by a facile hydrothermal method. In this composite, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles have an elliptical shape and porous structure, which greatly enhance the specific surface area compared to that of hexagonal  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles. As a supercapacitor electrode material, the specific capacitance of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite was significantly improved compared to that of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  in 1 M KOH. Such superior electrochemical performance is attributed to the porous oval structure of the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  particles and excellent conductivity and high specific surface area of rGO. In addition, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  electrode has better electrochemical performance in 6 M KOH with 3 M methanol because of the electrocatalytic oxidation of methanol. Therefore, the  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{rGO}$  composite

has excellent electrochemical performance and can be used as the best candidate electrode material for supercapacitor energy storage devices.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was supported by the Priority Academic Program Development of Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions, Changzhou City of Science and Technology Support Program (CE20150042) and Qing Lan Project of Education Department of Jiangsu Province.

## References

1. G. P. Wang, L. Zhang, J. J. Zhang, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 41 (2012) 797.
2. H. P. Cong, X. C. Ren, P. Wang, S. H. Yu, *Energ. Environ. Sci.*, 6 (2013) 1185.
3. X. Peng, L. L. Peng, C. Z. Wu, Y. Xie, *Chem Soc Rev.*, 43 (2014) 3303.
4. H. B. Hu, Z. b. Pei, C. H. Ye, *Energy Storage Materials.*, 1 (2015) 82.
5. S. W. Zhang, B. S. Yin, Z. B. Wang, F. Peter, *Chem. Eng. J.*, 306 (2016) 193.
6. X. Zheng, X. Q. Yan, Y. H. Sun, Y. S. Yu, G. J. Zhang, Y. W. Shen, Q. J. Liang, Q. L. Liao, Y. Zhang, *J. Colloid. Interf. Sci.*, 466 (2016) 291.
7. M. Zhang, J. Sha, X. Miao, E. Liu, C. Shi, J. Li, C. He, Q. Li, N. Zhao, *J. Alloy. Compd.*, 696 (2017) 956.
8. H. Y. Quan, B. C. Cheng, Y. H. Xiao, S. J. Lei, *Chem. Eng. J.*, 286 (2016) 165.
9. Y. Gao, D. L. Wu, T. Wang, D. Z. Jia, W. Xia, Y. Lv, Y. L. Cao, Y. Y. Tan, P. G. Liu, *Electrochim Acta.*, 191 (2016) 275.
10. H. R. Naderi, P. Norouzi, M. R. Ganjali, *Mater. Chem. Phys.*, 163 (2015) 38.
11. Z. Yu, L. Tetard, L. Zhai, J. Thomas, *Energ. Environ. Sci.*, 8 (2015) 702.
12. K. Xie, X. Qin, X. Wang, Y. Wang, H. Tao, Q. Wu, L. Yang, Z. Hu, *Adv. Mater.*, 24 (2012) 347.
13. Z. X. Song, W. Liu, W. S. Wei, C. Z. Quan, N. X. Sun, Q. Zhou, G. H. Liu, X. Q. Wen, *J. Alloy. Compd.*, 685 (2016) 355.
14. H. R. Naderi, P. Norouzi, M. R. Ganjali, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 366 (2016) 552.
15. F. Y. Ning, M. F. Shao, C. L. Zhang, S. M. Xu, M. Wei, X. Duan, *Nano Energy*, 7 (2014) 134.
16. Z. X. Song, W. Liu, P. Xiao, Z. F. Zhao, G. C. Liu, J. S. Qiu, *Mater. Lett.*, 145 (2015) 44.
17. Y. Z. Guo, B. B. Chang, T. Wen, C. M. Zhao, H. Yin, Y. N. Zhou, Y. G. Wang, B. C. Yang, S. R. Zhang, *Rsc. Adv.*, 6 (2016) 19394.
18. K. Naoi, T. Kurita, M. Abe, T. Furuhashi, Y. Abe, K. Okazaki, J. Miyamoto, E. Iwama, S. Aoyagi, W. Naoi, *Adv. Mater.*, 28 (2016) 6751.
19. S. Shivakumara, T. R. Penki, N. Munichandraiah, *Mater. Lett.*, 131 (2014) 100.
20. Z. y. Wang, C. J. Liu, *Nano Energy*, 11 (2015) 277.
21. A. Abdi, M. Trari, *Electrochim. Acta*, 111 (2013) 869.
22. W. L. Yang, Z. Gao, J. Wang, B. Wang, L. Liu, *Solid. State. Sci.*, 20 (2013) 46.
23. S. Liu, S. H. Sun, X. Z. You, *Nanoscale.*, 6 (2014) 2037.
24. S. William, J. R. Hummers, R. E. Offeman, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 80 (1958) 1339.
25. G. K. Pradhan, D. K. Padhi, K. M. Parida, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces.*, 5 (2013) 9101.
26. H. W. Wang, Z. J. Xu, H. Yi, H. G. Wei, Z. H. Guo, X. F. Wang, *Nano Energy.*, 7 (2014) 86.
27. M. S. Dresselhaus, A. Jorio, M. Hofmann, G. Dresselhaus, R. Saito, *Nano Lett.*, 10 (2010) 751.
28. S. Nag, A. Roychowdhury, D. Das, S. Mukherjee, *Mater. Res. Bull.*, 74 (2016) 109.
29. Q. Qu, S. Yang, X. Feng, *Adv. Mater.*, 23 (2011) 5574.
30. B. T. Hanga, T. Watanabe, M. Eashira, S. Okada, J. I. Yamaki, S. Hata, S. H. Yoon, I. Mochida, *J. Power Sources.*, 150 (2005) 261.
31. H. Wang, Z. Xu, H. Yi, H. Wei, Z. Guo, X. Wang, *Nano Energy.*, 7 (2014) 86.

32. H. G. Ranjbar, M. R. Ganjali, P. Norouzi, H. R. Naderi, *Ceram Int.*, 4 (2016) 140.
33. T. W. C. L. Long, J. Yan, L. L. Jiang, Z. J. Fan, *Acs Nano.*, 7 (2013) 11325.
34. M. Yu, J. P. Chen, J. H. Liu, S. M. Li, Y. X. Ma, J. D. Zhang, J. W. An, *Electrochim Acta.*, 151 (2015) 99.

© 2017 The Authors. Published by ESG ([www.electrochemsci.org](http://www.electrochemsci.org)). This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).