

离子型聚合物在质子交换膜中的应用

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摘 要 保护环境,开发环保型能源,对人类和社会具有重要意义。质子交换膜燃料电池由于其能量转化率高,可实现零排放,近年来引起了电池领域研究者的兴趣。质子交换膜是燃料电池的重要组成部分,离子型聚合物膜具有质子传导率高、稳定性能好等优点,作为质子交换膜具有良好的应用前景,主要综述了离子型聚合物在燃料电池质子交换膜方面的研究进展,详细介绍了此类质子交换膜的类型、结构和性能,同时对其应用前景做了评论和展望。

关键词 燃料电池,质子交换膜,质子传导率

Application of ionic polymer in proton exchange membrane

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Abstract Environment protection and environment-friendly energy development are very important for human and society. Proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) has attracted much interest from battery researchers due to its high energy conversion rate and zero emissions in recent years. Proton exchange membrane (PEM) as an ionic polymer is an important part of fuel cells. The ionic polymer membranes with high proton conductivity and good stability has good application prospects for proton exchange membranes. Some recent progresses in the application of ionic polymer membranes in PEMs for fuel cell were studied, introduced the types, structures and properties, and discussed the developmental trend.

Key words fuel cell, proton exchange membrane, conductivity

质子交换膜燃料电池由于其燃料可再生、能量转化率高、可实现零排放等优点,受到了人们的广泛关注。燃料电池中的质子交换膜具有非常重要的功能:它分离了阴极和阳极;为质子传输提供了传输通道。现阶段研究最为广泛的质子交换膜为 Nafion 膜, Nafion 膜具有很多优点,如:化学稳定性和机械强度较好、质子传导率较高^[1-2]。但由于 Nafion 膜也有一定的缺陷使其不能广泛地应用于燃料电池,这些缺点包括高温低湿度条件下的质子传导率较低、成本较高等^[3]。因此,人们研究出了许多种类型的离子型聚合物材料,如磺化聚苯乙烯类^[4]、磺化聚醚醚酮类^[5-6]、磺化聚苯醚砜类^[7-8]、磺化聚酰亚胺类^[9]等可以作为质子交换膜应用于燃料电池。这些磺化聚合物由于具有成本较低、高温下的质子传导率较高等优点,在提高质子交换膜性能方法具有广阔的前景^[10-11]。笔者根据离子型聚合物分类的不同,分别对含有磺酸基团的离子型聚合物磺化聚苯

乙烯、磺化聚醚醚酮、磺化聚醚砜和磺化聚磷腈类质子交换膜材料在燃料电池中的应用进行概述,主要介绍了离子型聚合物膜的类型和性能。

1 磺化聚苯乙烯类

人们研究发现,聚苯乙烯尤其是其含氟结构的衍生物代替全氟磺酸结构,既能节省成本,又可以设计成疏水相-亲水相的相分离结构,从而可以保持膜具有高的质子传导率,是一种适合作为质子交换膜的材料^[12]。基于此原理, Holdcroft 等^[13]通过聚(偏二氟乙烯-共聚-三氟氯乙烯)[P(VDF-co-CTFE)]大分子引发剂和聚苯乙烯的原子转移自由基聚合作用、后磺化作用合成了磺化的接枝共聚物磺化的聚(偏二氟乙烯-共聚-三氟氯乙烯)-接枝-苯乙烯[P(VDF-co-CTFE)-g-SPS]。这种聚合物的结构含有疏水性的氟骨架和亲水性的磺化聚苯乙烯结构,从而形成了相分离结构。聚合物的纳米相分离结构

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决定了离子聚合物的性能,接枝共聚物形成的膜即使在离子浓度很高的条件下也不会溶胀或者溶解,从而使膜具有较高的稳定性能,研究发现聚合物的形貌与质子传导率之间存在一定的关系。

此外,本课题组还合成了含有氟片段的磺化的嵌段共聚物磺化的聚(偏二氟乙烯-共聚-六氟丙烯)-嵌段共聚-苯乙烯[P(VDF-co-HFP)-b-SPS]^[14],此聚合物是通过含氟的大分子引发剂与聚苯乙烯发生原子转移自由基聚合作用,然后得到的聚合物与磺化试剂发生磺化反应,从而制备出目标聚合物。具有相分离结构的嵌段共聚物具有长程有序的离子序列,从而使膜在离子交换容量(IEC)较低的情况下具有较高的溶胀度,高的溶胀度稀释了离子浓度,限制了 IEC 的增长。此外,具有嵌段共聚物结构的质子交换膜在平面方向的质子传导率较低。

Ueda 等^[15-17]合成了含有烷基磺酸侧链的聚苯乙烯类质子交换膜。制备的交联质子交换膜具有明显的疏水相和亲水相的相分离结构,从而使膜在低湿度条件下的质子传导率较高,在湿度为 30%~95%范围内的质子传导率与 Nafion 的质子传导率相当;此外,由于发生了交联反应,交联膜的机械性能较好,抗氧化性也很好。

Jana 等^[18]制备了磺化聚偏氟乙烯类纳米杂化膜(PVDF),杂化膜中的亲水相和疏水相形成的纳米通道有利于质子传输,使膜的质子传导率达到了 3.5S/m,膜在甲醇燃料电池中测试的最大功率密度为 440W/m²。

2 磺化聚醚醚酮类

磺化的聚醚醚酮类离子型聚合物由于制作成本较低,能够保持膜在高温下的质子传导率而受到人们的广泛研究^[19]。

Hayes 等^[20]合成了磺化的嵌段聚醚醚酮聚物质子交换膜,制备的质子交换膜具有较好的机械性能、低的溶胀度、明显的相分离结构,使膜在湿度 100%,温度 80℃ 的条件下的质子传导率为 63 mS/cm,而 Nafion 117 在此条件下的质子传导率为 136mS/cm。

Kim 等^[21]制备了具有相分离结构的嵌段磺化聚醚醚酮类质子交换膜,与无规聚合物膜相比较,在相同的吸水率条件下,嵌段聚合物膜的质子传导率大于无规聚合物膜,这是由于嵌段聚合物膜的疏水相和亲水相的相分离结构更明显;小角 X 射线散射(SAXS)分析表明嵌段聚合物膜的离子簇尺寸大于

无规聚合物膜;嵌段聚合物膜的抗氧化性能大于无规聚合物膜。

Na 等^[22]合成了含有烷基磺酸侧链的聚醚醚酮类质子交换膜。制备的质子交换膜具有较好的稳定性能,吸水率和溶胀度较低,甲醇渗透性能优于 Nafion117,选择性能高于 Nafion117,透射电镜(TEM)结果显示膜具有明显的疏水相和亲水相的相分离结构,从而使膜的质子传导率和 Nafion 具有可比性。

Lee 等^[23]制备了含氟低聚物的嵌段共聚磺化聚醚醚酮类(SPEAK)质子交换膜,此类膜在 90℃,100%相对湿度(RH)条件下质子传导率为 131~154mS/cm,而在此条件下 Nafion 115 的质子传导率为 131mS/cm^[24]。在 90℃,80% RH 条件下膜的最大质子传导率为 140.7mS/cm,高于 Nafion 115 的质子传导率 102mS/cm;原子力显微镜(AFM)测试表明,膜的质子传输通道随着亲水性低聚物长度的增加而增加,这也是膜质子传导率较高的原因之一;SPEAK 膜在 60℃,100% RH 条件下的最大功率密度为 324mW/cm²,高于 Nafion115 的 291mW/cm²。

3 磺化聚醚砜类

磺化的聚醚砜类离子型聚合物由于高温条件下较稳定,成本较低受到了人们的广泛研究^[24-25]。Guiver 课题组^[26]合成了含有柔性烷基磺酸侧链的聚醚砜类质子交换膜,此类质子交换膜具有明显的疏水相和亲水相的相分离结构,这种骨架结构形成了离子的传输通道,从而使膜在常温完全吸水的条件下的质子传导率为 0.061~0.209S/cm,高温条件下的质子传导率为 0.146~0.365S/cm,在高温低湿度条件下 SPAES-39 膜的质子传导率高于 Nafion;膜的阻醇性能优于 Nafion(甲醇的渗透系数范围为 3.22~13.1×10⁻⁷cm²/s);膜还具有较好的稳定性能,吸水率和溶胀度较低。

Kim 等^[27]制备了交联的磺化聚醚砜类质子交换膜,由于具有交联结构的相分离形貌形成了离子通道,交联膜的质子传导率较高,在 90℃,50% RH 条件下,电压为 0.65V 时交联膜的最大功率密度为 1.17W/cm²。Lee 等^[28]制备了磺化聚醚砜类聚物质子交换膜(S4PH-*x*-PSs),此类膜具有较好的稳定性能、低的吸水率和高质子传导率,膜在室温下完全吸水的条件下的质子传导率范围为 0.004~0.110S/cm,通过 AFM 分析发现此类膜具有较好

的吸水相和亲水相相分离形貌,这也是膜质子传导率较高的原因。S4PH-35-PS膜在80℃,53% RH条件下的最大功率密度是234.9mW/cm²,高于Nafion 212的214.0mW/cm²。

4 磺化聚磷腈类

本课题组^[29]制备了一系列含有烷基磺酸侧链的磺化聚磷腈类质子交换膜。TEM结果显示制备的交联膜具有良好的疏水相和亲水相的纳米相分离结构,这种结构形成狭窄的离子通道使膜的质子传导率较高;在完全吸水的条件下80℃下最高的质子传导率为0.284S/cm,高于Nafion117;此外,交联膜的甲醇渗透率范围为 $1.60 \times 10^{-7} \sim 10.4 \times 10^{-7}$ cm²/s,低于Nafion117(15.8×10^{-7} cm²/s);交联膜表现出良好的热稳定性和抗氧化性。

本课题组Luo等^[30]还合成了含有烷基磺酸侧链的聚磷腈类结构聚合物与磺化碳纳米管的复合质子交换膜CF₃-PS_x-PSBOS_y-SCNT,制备的复合膜的质子传导率高于Nafion117,CF₃-PS₁₁-PSBOS₃₃-SCNT和CF₃-PSBOS₄₅-SCNT膜在100℃下的质子传导率分别为0.46S/cm和0.55S/cm,是Nafion117的2.2~2.6倍;膜的阻醇性能要好于Nafion117,选择性优于Nafion117。

5 结语与展望

离子型聚合物类质子交换膜由于相分离比较明显,形成了离子的传输通道,使膜的质子传导率明显提高,且这种相分离结构使膜在高IEC的条件下膜的吸水率和溶胀度较低,从而使膜具有较高的稳定性;此外,此类质子交换膜具有很好的阻醇性能。虽然此类质子交换膜具有很好的质子传导率和阻醇性能,但对于其研究还需要进一步深入,如合成步骤较为繁琐,在合成过程中容易引起高分子的交联,从而不能很好地得到目标产物或产物的产率很低。针对此类质子交换膜的研究目前只是在实验室中,为了达到工业化生产以实现其应用价值,还需要科研工作者们进一步的努力。

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