

Design and analysis of triangle phase diagram for preparation of new lithium manganese oxide solid solutions with stable layered crystal structure

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Abstract

A new phase diagram of AB(CD)_{1/2} system, where A, B, C, and D represent Li₂MnO₃, LiMO₂ (M = Co, Al, Cr, etc.), LiMnO₂, and LiM'O₂ (M' = Ni, Cu, Fe, etc.), respectively, was developed to express all compositions of solid solutions with layered manganese oxides. The phase diagram satisfied the theoretical manganese oxidation state of +4 over the whole triangle plane of the diagram and was expressed with a new design equation of Li[M_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(M'_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O₂. Solid solutions whose compositions were randomly chosen from the phase diagram were experimentally prepared using a direct synthetic method and were subjected to the examination of the structural and electrochemical properties. All the synthesized solid solutions had layered structure with maintaining +4 and showed one-step monotonous discharge curve shape without structural transformation during charge/discharge processes.

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1. Introduction

Solid solutions with layered manganese oxides have been proposed as a promising cathode material for lithium secondary batteries because of their stable structure and good electrochemical properties [1–7]. Various design equations have been proposed to synthesize the solid solutions. Numata et al. [1] synthesized solid solutions of LiCoO₂–Li₂MnO₃ system and expressed them with a design equation of Li(Co_{1-x}Li_{x/3}Mn_{2x/3})O₂ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1). Lu et al. proposed the design equations of Li[Ni_xLi_(1/3-2x/3)Mn_(2/3-x/3)]O₂ [2] and Li[Ni_xCo_{1-2x}Mn_x]O₂ [3] to express solid solutions of Li₂MnO₃–LiNiO₂ system and those of LiNiO₂–LiCoO₂–LiMnO₂ system, respectively. Sun et al. [4] also developed a design equation of Li[Li_xNi_xMn_{1-x-y}]O₂ for solid solutions of LiNiO₂ and Li₂MnO₃. Kang et al. [5] designed a equation of Li(Mn_{0.5-x}Ni_{0.5-x}M'_{2x})O₂

to express solid solutions of LiMnO₂–LiNiO₂–LiM'O₂ system (M' = Mg, Co, Al, Ti). Park et al. [6] expressed the solid solutions of Li₂MnO₃, LiNiO₂ and LiAlO₂ with a design equation of Li[Li_{0.15}Ni_xAl_{0.05-2x}Mn_{0.3+x}]O₂. It was experimentally observed that the solid solutions synthesized using the above design equations had a layered structure with Mn⁴⁺ and showed good electrochemical behavior.

A two-dimensional phase diagram might be a convenient tool to visually and clearly show compositions of solid solutions discussed above. Ammundsen et al. [7] reviewed the research trends of layer structured manganese oxides and showed all of them implicatively on two triangle phase diagrams of LiMnO₂–LiNiO₂–Li₂MnO₃ and LiMnO₂–LiCrO₂–Li₂MnO₃ systems. They forecasted some promising compositions of the solid solution from the phase diagrams. However, the design equations discussed above paragraph cannot be all expressed on the phase diagrams.

In this work, four triangle phase diagrams were first proposed and then examined to find out the composition regions, which maintain the theoretical manganese oxidation state of

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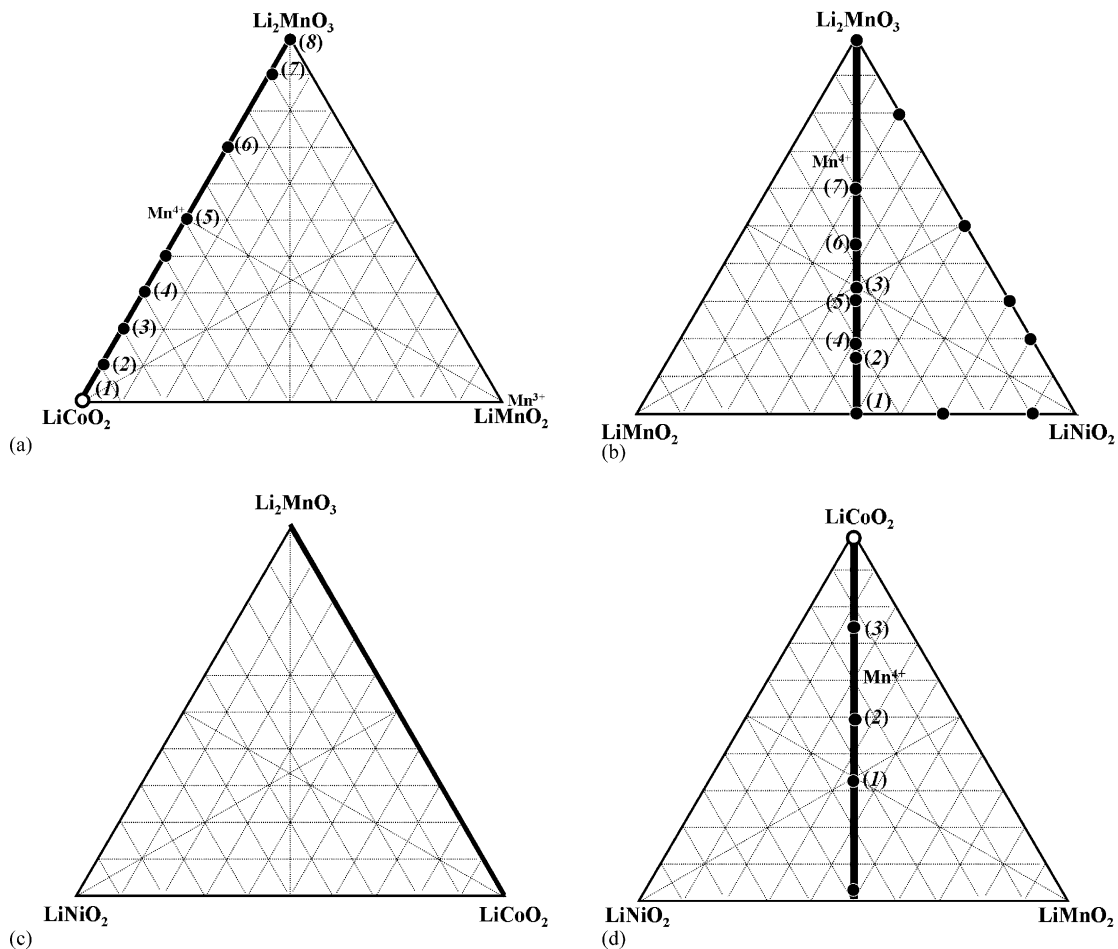


Fig. 1. Triangle phase diagrams of (a) Li_2MnO_3 – LiCoO_2 – LiMnO_2 , (b) Li_2MnO_3 – LiMnO_2 – LiNiO_2 , (c) Li_2MnO_3 – LiNiO_2 – LiCoO_2 , and (d) LiCoO_2 – LiNiO_2 – LiMnO_2 system. The bold lines on the diagrams present the region where the manganese oxidation state is +4.

+4. On the basis of these analyses, we developed a new phase diagram, which can concisely express all compositions of solid solutions reported up to now. Four compositions of the solid solution randomly chosen from the new phase diagram were experimentally synthesized using a direct method and were subjected to the examination of structural and electrochemical properties to examine the reliability of our developed phase diagram.

2. Two dimensional phase diagrams of solid solutions

A detailed examination of design equations and compositions of the solid solutions previously reported reveals that they are formulated based on Li_2MnO_3 , LiCoO_2 , LiMnO_2 and LiNiO_2 compounds. These four compounds can form the following four triangle planes with different compositions; (1) Li_2MnO_3 – LiCoO_2 – LiMnO_2 , (2) Li_2MnO_3 – LiMnO_2 – LiNiO_2 , (3) Li_2MnO_3 – LiNiO_2 – LiCoO_2 , and (4) LiCoO_2 – LiNiO_2 – LiMnO_2 systems. Here, Ni, Co and Cr in transition metal site (3a) generally hold oxidation states of +2, +3 and +3, respectively, while synthesizing solid solutions of manganese oxides in air [2,3]. Therefore, the position

of LiNiO_2 can be replaced with LiFeO_2 or LiCuO_2 , while that of LiCoO_2 with LiCrO_2 or LiAlO_2 . Each system will be individually examined in the follows.

2.1. Li_2MnO_3 – LiCoO_2 – LiMnO_2 system

Fig. 1(a) is a triangle phase diagram of the system Li_2MnO_3 – LiCoO_2 – LiMnO_2 . The theoretical oxidation state of manganese was calculated for each composition within the phase diagram. In the calculation, we utilized the rules proposed by Lu et al. [8]. The first rule is that the sum of metal cations occupying on the 3a sites of space group $R\bar{3}m$ (166) in the transition metal layers is to be one. The second rule is that the sum of the products of the composition and oxidation state of each metal cation in the transition metal layers must be three. The first rule is the condition to make the stoichiometry to be one and the second rule the condition to make the manganese oxidation state to be +4. Thus prepared solid solutions were all synthesized with layered structure and showed a monotonous discharge curve shape with one step. The manganese oxidation state was +4 over the whole compositions of solid solutions on a bold line between Li_2MnO_3 and LiCoO_2 , but it was gradually reduced with the

variation of the composition toward LiMnO_2 from the line. The compositions of the solid solutions on the bold line between Li_2MnO_3 and LiCoO_2 can be rewritten as an equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Co}_x(\text{Li}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{2/3})_{1-x}]\text{O}_2$ ($0 \leq x < 1$). The theoretical oxidation states of manganese in the solid solutions expressed with the equation are always +4. This means that the solid solutions synthesized with the compositions expressed by the $\text{Li}[\text{Co}_x(\text{Li}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{2/3})_{1-x}]\text{O}_2$ ($0 \leq x < 1$) equation will maintain the manganese oxidation state of +4 and will be layered structure.

Numata et al. [1] synthesized layer structured solid solutions with compositions between Li_2MnO_3 and LiCoO_2 using a design equation of $\text{Li}(\text{Co}_{1-x}\text{Li}_{x/3}\text{Mn}_{2x/3})\text{O}_2$ ($x = 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9, 1$). The compositions of the synthesized solid solutions can be presented with points of (1)–(8) on the bold line of Fig. 1(a). They observed that the oxidation state of manganese in the solid solutions maintained +4 and that the discharge curve showed a monotonous curve shape with one step. This means that the solid solutions have layered structure and are not subjected to structural transformation to spinel structure during charge and discharge processes.

2.2. Li_2MnO_3 – LiMnO_2 – LiNiO_2 system

A triangle phase diagram of solid-state solutions in the system of Li_2MnO_3 , LiMnO_2 and LiNiO_2 is presented in Fig. 1(b). The theoretical oxidation state of manganese was calculated for each composition within the phase diagram. The manganese oxidation state was +4 over the whole compositions of solid solutions on a bold line passing through the center of the phase diagram from Li_2MnO_3 to the center of the line between LiMnO_2 and LiCoO_2 . But the oxidation state gradually reduced with the variation of the composition toward LiMnO_2 from the bold line, but steadily increased with the variation of the composition toward LiNiO_2 from the bold line. The compositions of the solid solutions with Mn^{4+} lie on the straight line between Li_2MnO_3 and $\text{LiNi}_{1/2}\text{Mn}_{1/2}\text{O}_2$, one to one solid solution of LiMnO_2 and LiNiO_2 . The compositions on the bold line between Li_2MnO_3 and $\text{LiNi}_{1/2}\text{Mn}_{1/2}\text{O}_2$ can be rewritten as an equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Mn}_x\text{Ni}_x(\text{Li}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{2/3})_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$. The theoretical oxidation states of manganese in the solid solutions expressed with the equation are always +4. This means that the solid solutions synthesized with the compositions expressed by the $\text{Li}[\text{Mn}_x\text{Ni}_x(\text{Li}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{2/3})_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$ equation will maintain the manganese oxidation state of +4 and will be layered structure.

Dahn and co-workers [2] synthesized solid solutions of Li_2MnO_3 and LiNiO_2 using their proposed design equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Li}_{(1/3-2x/3)}\text{Mn}_{(2/3-x/3)}]\text{O}_2$ ($x = 1/2, 5/12$ and $1/3$). The compositions of the solid solutions can be presented at points of (1)–(3) on the bold line of Fig. 1(b). Shin et al. [9] also prepared the solid solutions of Li_2MnO_3 and LiNiO_2 with a design equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Li}_{(1-2x)/3}\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_{(2-x)/3}]\text{O}_2$ ($x = 0.41, 0.35, 0.275$ and 0.2), which are all depicted with points of (4)–(7) on the bold line. The solid solutions were identified to have layered structure with Mn^{4+} and showed

a monotonous charge-discharge curve shape with good cycleability.

2.3. Li_2MnO_3 – LiNiO_2 – LiCoO_2 system

Fig. 1(c) is a triangle phase diagram of solid solutions in the system of Li_2MnO_3 – LiNiO_2 – LiCoO_2 . The theoretical oxidation state of manganese of the solid solutions was calculated within the phase diagram. The manganese oxidation state was +4 over the whole compositions of solid solutions on a bold line between Li_2MnO_3 and LiCoO_2 , which can be expressed with a design equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Co}_y(\text{Li}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{2/3})_{1-y}]\text{O}_2$, being same with the equation derived in Section 2.1.

The major interest of this paper is to find a composition range where the manganese oxidation state maintains +4 even when the solid solutions having manganese as a main component were calcined under air atmosphere. Many researches have been reported for the preparation of the solid solutions of LiNiO_2 and LiCoO_2 whose compositions lie on the bottom line of this phase diagram, mainly under oxygen atmosphere [10–12]. The discussion of this phase diagram on the basis of previously reported data will be omitted in this paper. To our knowledge, however, there have been very few literatures reporting compositions located within the phase diagram.

2.4. LiCoO_2 – LiNiO_2 – LiMnO_2 system

Shown in Fig. 1(d) is a triangle phase diagram of solid-state solutions in the system of LiCoO_2 , LiNiO_2 and LiMnO_2 . The theoretical oxidation state of manganese was calculated for each position within the phase diagram. The manganese oxidation state was +4 over the whole compositions of solid solutions on a bold line passing through the center of the phase diagram from LiCoO_2 to the center of the line between LiNiO_2 and LiMnO_2 . But the oxidation state gradually reduced with the variation of the composition toward LiMnO_2 from the bold line and steadily increased with the variation of the composition toward LiNiO_2 from the bold line. The compositions of the solid solutions with Mn^{4+} lie on the straight line between LiCoO_2 and $\text{LiNi}_{1/2}\text{Mn}_{1/2}\text{O}_2$, one to one solid solution of LiMnO_2 and LiNiO_2 . The compositions on the bold line between LiCoO_2 and $\text{LiNi}_{1/2}\text{Mn}_{1/2}\text{O}_2$ can be rewritten as an equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_x\text{Co}_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$. The theoretical oxidation states of manganese in the solid solutions expressed with the equation are always +4. This means that the solid solutions synthesized with the compositions expressed by the $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_x\text{Co}_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$ equation will maintain the manganese oxidation state of +4 and will be layered structure.

Ohzuku et al. [13] synthesized a solid solution of $\text{LiNi}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{1/3}\text{Co}_{1/3}\text{O}_2$ using the equation of $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_x\text{Co}_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$ ($x = 1/3$). The compositions of the synthesized solid solution can be presented with a point of (1) on the bold line of Fig. 1(d). Lu et al. [8] prepared solid solutions using the equation when $x = 1/4$ and $1/8$ in $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_x\text{Co}_{1-2x}]\text{O}_2$. The compositions of the solid solutions can be presented with points of (2) and (3) on the

bold line of Fig. 1(d). They observed layered structure with $R\bar{3}m$ space group from the solid solution, which showed a monotonous discharge curve shape with one step and had good cycleability during charge/discharge processes.

3. A new phase diagram of solid solutions

We have discussed four triangle phase diagrams and proposed the composition ranges of solid solutions with Mn^{4+} in the phase diagrams. The four triangle phase diagrams were fabricated to form a tetrahedral phase diagram, as shown in Fig. 2(a). The connection of the straight lines in the phase diagrams generates a new triangle phase diagram. Fig. 2(b) is the new phase diagram consisting of $LiNi_{1/2}Mn_{1/2}O_2$, $LiCoO_2$, and Li_2MnO_3 . The calculated theoretical manganese oxidation states are all +4 over the whole triangle plane. The compositions located on the phase diagram can be expressed with a new design equation of $Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O_2$. As long as solid solutions are synthesized with compositions on the triangle plane of the phase diagram, the manganese oxida-

tion state of the solid solutions would be +4. The new phase diagram of Fig. 2(b) and the design equation of $Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O_2$ can be effectively utilized to consistently express all compositions of solid solutions so far reported in literatures [1–13].

In Fig. 2(a), the position of $LiNiO_2$ can be replaced with $LiFeO_2$ or $LiCuO_2$, while that of $LiCoO_2$ with $LiCrO_2$ or $LiAlO_2$ because Ni and Co in $LiNiO_2$ and $LiCoO_2$ generally hold oxidation states of +2, +3 and +3, respectively, in transition metal site (3a) while synthesizing solid solutions of manganese oxides [2–4]. Therefore, Fig. 2(a) can be more generally expressed by representing the four angular points with A, B, C, and D. The four alphabet letters represent cathode materials used for Li secondary batteries. A and C represent Li_2MnO_3 and $LiMnO_2$, respectively. B is $LiMO_2$ ($M = Co, Al, Cr, \text{etc.}$) and D $LiM'O_2$ ($M' = Ni, Cu, Fe, \text{etc.}$). Then, Figs. 1(a)–(d), and 2(a) can be represented with the triangle planes of ABC, ADC, ADB, BCD, and ABCD, respectively, whereas Fig. 2(b) with that of $AB(CD)_{1/2}$. The compositions of the triangle plane of $AB(CD)_{1/2}$ can be expressed by the design equation of $Li[M_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(M')_{1/2}Mn_{1/2}]_{1-x-y}]O_2$. Thus developed generalized tetrahedral phase diagram cannot only represent all compositions of solid solutions previously reported in literatures, but also predict the solid solutions, which will be newly derived in future.

4. Experimental verification of new phase diagram

In order to identify the reliability of the new phase diagram and design equation, four solid solutions whose compositions were randomly chosen from the phase diagram were synthesized using a direct method and were subjected to the examination of the structural and electrochemical properties. They were $Li[Li_{1/5}Ni_{1/10}Co_{1/5}Mn_{1/2}]O_2$ ($x = 0.2, y = 0.4$) (Sample A: (a)), $Li[Li_{2/15}Ni_{3/20}Co_{3/10}Mn_{5/12}]O_2$ ($x = 0.3, y = 0.6$) (Sample B: (b)), $Li[Li_{1/15}Ni_{1/10}Co_{3/5}Mn_{7/30}]O_2$ ($x = 0.6, y = 0.2$) (Sample C: (c)), and $Li[Li_{1/15}Ni_{3/10}Co_{1/5}Mn_{13/30}]O_2$ ($x = 0.2, y = 0.2$) (Sample D: (d)), which were marked on Fig. 2(b). The $Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O_2$ materials were synthesized using a sol-gel method with stoichiometric amounts of starting materials (lithium acetate ($CH_3COOLi \cdot 2H_2O$), nickel acetate ($(CH_3COO)_2Ni \cdot 4H_2O$), manganese acetate ($(CH_3COO)_2Mn \cdot 4H_2O$), cobalt acetate ($(CH_3COO)_2Co$). The synthetic procedure was fully described in our previous report with the fabrication process of the electrochemical test cell. The detailed description of the experimental procedure is elsewhere [14,15].

Fig. 3 shows the XRD patterns for the synthesized $Li[Li_{1/5}Ni_{1/10}Co_{1/5}Mn_{1/2}]O_2$ $Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O_2$ with Miller indices for each peak. As-prepared $Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O_2$ are all indexed by assuming a layer manganese oxide structure based on a hexagonal α - $NaFeO_2$ structure (space group: $R\bar{3}m, 166$). The material shows a (003) peak at $2\theta = 18^\circ$ as

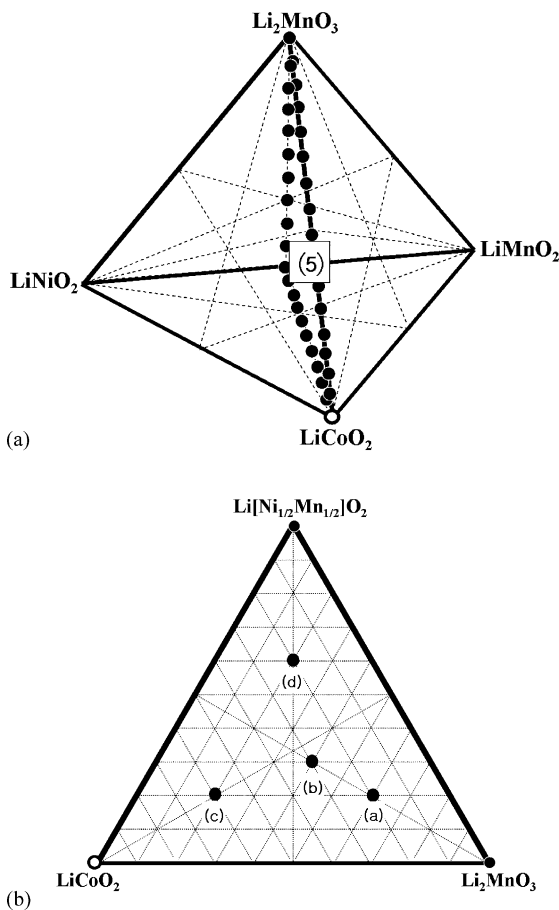


Fig. 2. (a) A tetrahedral phase diagram of $LiMnO_2$ – $LiCoO_2$ – $LiNiO_2$ – Li_2MnO_3 system, fabricated with four triangle phase diagrams of Fig. 1 (a)–(d). (b) A new triangle phase diagram of $Li[Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2}]O_2$ – $LiCoO_2$ – Li_2MnO_3 system.

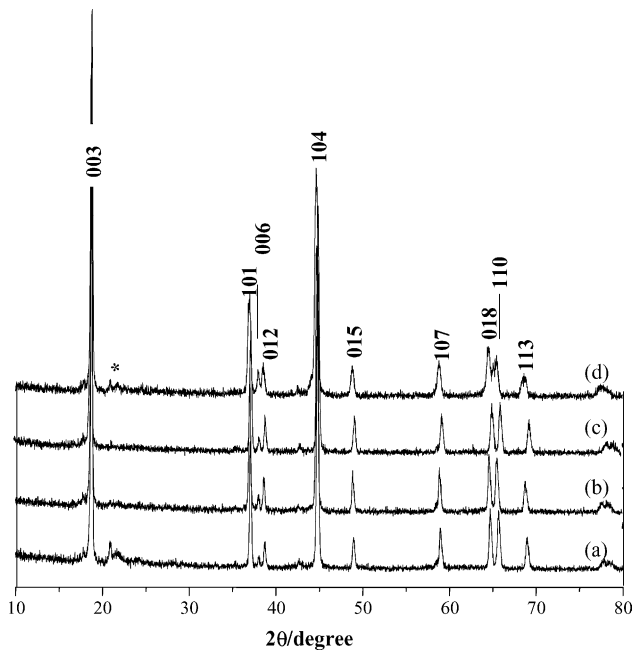


Fig. 3. XRD patterns for Samples (a)–(d).

a main peak, although the superlattice peaks, resulting from the short-range ordering of Li, Ni, Co, and Mn atoms in the transition metal layers, appear at $2\theta = 22^\circ$ as a impurity peak [16]. The 1 0 4, 1 0 1, 0 0 6, 0 1 2, 0 1 8, and 1 1 0 planes observed at $2\theta = 45, 37, 38, 38.5, 54.5,$ and 65.5 peaks, respectively, also clearly present the characteristic XRD peaks of the hexagonal structure. This structural characterization clearly demonstrates that the manganese solid solution oxides designed using our theoretically developed phase diagram is synthesized with typical layered structure.

Fig. 4 shows the discharge capacities measured at room temperature as a function of cycle number for the fabricated Li/LiPF₆-EC/DMC (1:2 by vol.)/Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O₂ electrodes.

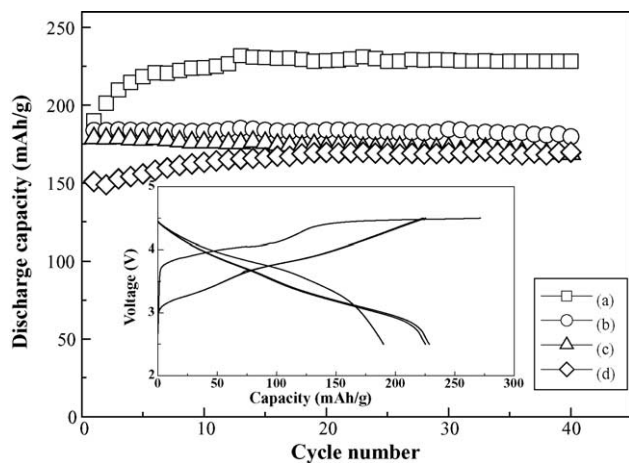


Fig. 4. Capacity vs. cycle number for the fabricated Li/LiPF₆-EC/DMC (1:2 by vol.)/Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O₂ electrodes. Shown in the inset in Fig. 3 is a plot of charge/discharge capacity vs. voltage for the electrode.

(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O₂ electrodes. The inset of Fig. 4 is a plot of charge/discharge capacity versus voltage for the Li[Li_{1/5}Ni_{1/10}Co_{1/5}Mn_{1/2}]O₂ electrode. The electrode produces monotonous curves with one step. The same curve shapes were observed from the other samples. This means that the synthesized Li[Co_x(Li_{1/3}Mn_{2/3})_y(Ni_{1/2}Mn_{1/2})_{1-x-y}]O₂ materials show the typical charge/discharge behavior of layered manganese solid solution oxides. Moreover, no fading of the discharge capacity of the sample after several charge/discharge cycles indicates that the solid solution oxides synthesized using the phase diagram is stable in the structure and do not experience structural transformation during the cycling. This electrochemical behavior is observed from all the synthesized materials though the discharge capacities are different for each sample. The initial discharge capacities of samples A, B, C, and D are 190, 184, 179, and 151 mAh g⁻¹, respectively. The capacities become 229, 180, 169, 170 mAh g⁻¹ after 40th cycle. The discharge capacities of the samples except sample (b) gradually increase with cycle number to be saturated after certain cycle, with negligible capacity fading. The capacity fades of the samples are 0.03, 0.07, 0.14, and 0%/cycle. This experimental examination demonstrates that the new phase diagram and the design equation can be used to prepare solid solutions of lithium manganese oxides with a stable layered structure.

5. Conclusions

A new phase diagram with its design equation, which can express all of the solid solutions appeared in previous reports, was developed in this work. To examine the reliability of our developed phase diagram, four compositions of solid solutions were randomly chosen from the phase diagram and synthesized using a direct method. All the synthesized solid solution oxides had layered structure with maintaining +4 and showed monotonous discharge curve shape without transformation to spinel structure during cycling. The phase diagram and the design equation were further generalized. Thus developed generalized phase diagram cannot only represent all the solid solutions previously reported in literatures, but also predict the solid solutions, which will be newly derived in future.

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