

**DEVELOPMENT AND STUDY OF MOLTEN
SALT ELECTRODEPOSITION SYSTEM USING
DIFFERENT VOLTAGE FEEDING**

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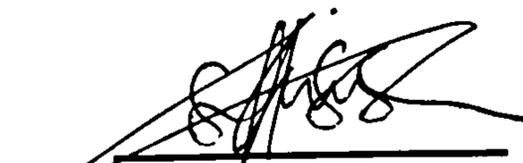
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ABSTRACT

Electrochemical conversion of CO₂ into solid carbon is one of the conversion techniques that had been developed which contributes in the carbon capture and utilisation (CCU). The electro reduction process in molten alkali/earth alkali carbonate salt reduces carbonate ion to form solid carbon and alkali/earth alkali metal oxide. Then, the metal oxide reacts with CO₂ to reform carbonate ion. This cycle is called the fixation process. However, at a low operating temperature, the charge transfer of the electrolysis process was low and experience current drop after the operation period was prolonged. These leads to the low production rate of solid carbon. The factor that caused the low charge transfer has been described in this thesis. The motivation of study is to improve the charge transfer at operating temperature range 550 - 570 °C and driven at constant voltage 4V which was previously claimed could promotes high current efficiency at this temperature. Therefore, the main objective was to instigate an experimental understanding of electrolysis process on carbon electrodeposition under different voltage feeding. The voltage feeder was invented as to provide electrochemical agitation in the electrolysis system. The electrolysis system with Double Pole Double (DPDT) switch was developed in the electrolysis system as the voltage feeder. The agitation was done by changing the DC current flow manually to drive the electrolysis process. The gated pulse and alternate voltage feeding operation was described in this thesis. The effect of the voltage feeding on electrolysis in molten Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃ with mole ratio (0.44:0.30:0.26) and salt mixture CaCO₃ – Li₂CO₃ – LiCl with mole ratio (0.09:0.28:0.63) was studied. The effect of voltage feeding on total charge transfer and carbon yield was studied. The succeeded electrodeposited products were characterised through EA, SEM-EDX, TEM, XRD and ATR-FTIR. The results showed the total charge transfer under alternate voltage feeding was extremely high compared to gated pulse and continuous voltage feeding which leads to high carbon deposition rate. Through EA characterisation, it was found that the produced sample under different voltage feeding exhibit higher than 60% of carbon content, therefore the deposited samples were carbon dominant. However, approximately 12% of carbon content was observed for samples produced in Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃ under alternate voltage feeding. Under the SEM-EDX analysis, the observed essential carbon structure was found differed based on the types of the salt bath and also effected with voltage feeder. Carbon nanotubes structure was seen in the samples prepared under alternate voltage feeding for both salt mixtures. TEM analysis confirmed the existence of carbon nanotubes. Through XRD analysis, the obtained dominant carbon deposition was amorphous type. Due to the corrosion of the electrode, crystallite of metallic compound was significantly observed for sample prepared using alternate voltage feeding in molten mixture Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃. The functional group on the surface of the sample was hard to determined due to the noise from the strong IR spectra of intrinsic diamond peak from the FTIR probe at region 1700 – 2700 cm⁻¹. In alternate voltage feeding, the charge transfer in the process was high, however the carbon yield was relatively low. Henceforth, it leads to low current efficiency, and therefore high energy density was necessary to produce carbon. It was found that with the increased of carbon loses during the process, it reduced the current efficiency and thus increased the energy consumption.



ABSTRAK

PEMBANGUNAN DAN KAJIAN SISTEM ELEKTROENAPAN LEBURAN GARAM MENGGUNAKAN PEMBEZA PACUAN VOLTAN

Penukaran CO₂ kepada karbon melalui kaedah elektrokimia adalah salah satu teknik yang telah dimajukan dan mampu menyumbangkan kepada penangkapan dan penggunaan karbon (CCU). Proses elektro penurunan dalam leburan garam karbonat alkali/bumi alkali akan melibatkan penurunan ion karbonat untuk membentuk pepejal karbon dan oksida logam alkali/alkali bumi. Kemudian, oksida logam ini bertindak balas terhadap CO₂ untuk membentuk semula ion karbonat. Kitaran ini disebut sebagai proses penetapan. Walau bagaimanapun, pada operasi elektrolisis suhu yang rendah, pemindahan cas elektrolisis adalah lemah dan mengakibatkan kadar penghasilan pepejal karbon yang perlahan. Motivasi kajian adalah untuk meningkatkan jumlah perpindahan cas pada julat suhu 550 - 570 °C dan dipacu pada voltan tetap 4 DCV, dimana voltan ini telah dilaporkan mampu memberi kecekapan arus yang tinggi pada julat suhu tersebut. Oleh itu, objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk meneliti proses elektrolisis menerusi pembeza pacuan masukan voltan. Pacuan masukan voltan telah direka untuk memberikan kesan agitasi elektrokimia dalam sistem elektrolisis. Sistem DPDT (suis dua kutub dua arah) diperkenalkan dalam sistem elektrolisis sebagai pemacu masukan voltan. Pengagitasi telah dibuat dengan mengubah aliran arus DC secara manual yang memacu proses elektrolisis menerusi DPDT. Operasi pacuan voltan nadi berpagar dan pola berganti telah dijelaskan dalam tesis ini. Kesan pacuan voltan pada elektrolisis dalam campuran leburan garam Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃ (nisbah mol 0.44:0.30:0.26) dan campuran leburan garam CaCO₃ – Li₂CO₃ – LiCl (nisbah mol 0.09:0.28:0.63) telah dipelajari. Pencirian sifat produk enapan bagi setiap pacuan voltan telah diuji melalui EA, SEM-EDX, TEM, XRD, dan ATR-FTIR. Hasil ujikaji menunjukkan jumlah pemindahan cas yang tinggi berlaku menerusi pacuan voltan pola berganti berbanding pacuan voltan nadi berpagar dan pacuan voltan berterusan. Menerusi pencirian EA, sampel enapan bagi setiap pacuan voltan mengandungi 60 % kandungan karbon kecuali sampel yang dijana dalam leburan garam Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃ menerusi pacuan polar berganti iaitu kandungan karbon hanya sekitar 12 %. Analisis SEM-EDX mendapati struktur-struktur karbon yang terhasil adalah bergantung pada jenis leburan garam dan turut dipengaruhi dengan voltan yang dipacu. Pacuan voltan pola berganti mampu menghasilkan struktur tiub nano karbon dalam sampel enapan bagi kedua-dua jenis garam yang digunakan. Analisis TEM telah memastikan kehadiran tiub nano karbon. Menerusi analisis XRD, sampel karbon adalah jenis amorfos. Kesan daripada kakisan pada electrode, kehadiran struktur komposisi logam telah dikesan dalam sampel enapan voltan pola berganti dalam Li₂CO₃ – Na₂CO₃ – K₂CO₃. Kumpulan berfungsi dalam sampel karbon tidak kelihatan selain spektra yang menunjuk sisa penyerapan struktur berlian daripada prob FTIR sekitar 1700 – 2700 cm⁻¹. Perpindahan cas menerusi pacuan pola berganti adalah tinggi namun relatifnya terhadap penghasilan karbon adalah rendah. Ini mengakibatkan kecekapan arus rendah dan seterusnya mengakibatkan penggunaan tenaga yang tinggi. Peningkatan kehilangan penghasilan karbon semasa operasi telah menyebabkan penurunan kecekapan arus dan seterusnya meningkatkan penggunaan tenaga operasi.



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