

*In-situ* Synthesis of Olivine LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/C Composite by Emulsion  
Drying Method and Its Electrochemical Properties  
as Lithium Intercalation Material

Seung-Taek Myung, Shinichi Komaba,\* and Naoaki Kumagai\*

Battery R & D Center, VK Corporation

\*Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Iwate  
University, Ueda 4-3-5, Morioka, Iwate 020-8551, Japan

The electroactive LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/C nano-composite has been synthesized by an emulsion drying method. During burning out the oily emulsion precipitates in air-limited atmosphere at 300 °C, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, and amorphous or low crystalline carbon are generated, and trivalent iron as a cheap starting material is immediately reduced to divalent one at this stage, leading to a low crystalline LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/C compound. Heat-treatment of the low crystalline LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/C in an Ar atmosphere resulted in a well-ordered olivine structure, as refined by Rietveld refinement of X-ray diffraction pattern. From secondary electron microscopic and scanning transmission electron microscopic with corresponding elemental mapping images of iron and phosphor, it was found that the fine LiFePO<sub>4</sub> powders are modified by carbon. The *in situ* formation of nano-sized carbon during crystallization of LiFePO<sub>4</sub> brought about two advantages; prohibition of crystal growth of LiFePO<sub>4</sub> particle and a great enhancement of electric conductivity as high as 10<sup>-4</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> at room temperature. These effects of carbon on LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/C composite led to high capacity retention upon cycling at 25 °C and 50 °C and rate capability. That is, the obtained capacity was higher than 90 mAh (g-phosphate)<sup>-1</sup> by applying a higher current density of about 1000 mA g<sup>-1</sup> (11C) at 50 °C.