



Gas-Diffusion Electrocrystallization (GDEX): A versatile technology for the synthesis of (electro)catalytic nanomaterials

Omar Martinez-Mora^{1,2*}, Jan Fransaer¹, Xochitl Dominguez-Benetton^{2**}

¹Department of Materials Engineering, KU Leuven, 3001 Leuven, Belgium, ²Separation and Conversion Technologies, VITO, 2400 Mol, Belgium e-mail: omar.martinezmora@vito.be*; omar.martinezmora@kuleuven.be*, xoch@vito.be**

Gas-Diffusion Electrocrystallization (GDEx)

Electrochemical process for the recovery of metals from liquid streams and synthesis of metallic and/or metal oxide nanoparticles (NPs), where reducing or oxidizing agents are produced in-situ during the electrochemical reduction (or oxidation) of a gas in a gas-diffusion electrode (GDE). These agents reacts with metal ions in solution, forming precipitates.





RESULTS

O₂-GDEx

Synthesis of magnetic Fe oxide NPs FeO(OH) Fe₂O₃/Fe₃O₄ Fe₂O₃-Fe₃O₄ Si holder 11-4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 -8 O 10 -50 2θ (°) 20 9. 8 Hd 7 ration 6 -3 (m 2) 20 nm 5 -**IONP-PVP** pН 4 Fe conc. - 1 3 25 30 15 20 35 0 10 time (min)

O₂-GDEx and CO₂-GDEx combined

Synthesis of Pt NPs supported in Fe oxide NPs



cm⁻² ge

rrent density (mA o ト い と し

20 (°)

ORR electrocatalysis

0.1 M KOH, 10 mV s⁻¹, 1600 RPM

0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

Potential (V vs RHE)

-IONP Pt-IONF

-Pt-C

-Pt-IONP-PVF

Synthesis of Pt-Pd alloy NPs

CO₂-GDEx





Electrocatalytic activity towards methanol oxidation reaction





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: To Stefenanos Mourdikoudis and Liudmyla Storozhuk for the acquisition of the TEM images



CONCLUSIONS

The GDEx process is a versatile and scalable method for synthesizing nanoparticles. By adjusting different variables, a wide range of materials can be produced, including metal oxides such as Fe₃O₄, Fe₂O₃, CeO₂, Mn₃O₄, and Co₃O₄, double-layered hydroxides, and noble metal nanoparticles like Pd, Rh, and Au. Additionally, these processes can be combined to create metal oxides/noble metal nanocomposites. The nanomaterials produced by GDEx can be used in various catalytic applications, from heterogeneous catalysis to electrocatalysis.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation program under Grant Agreement n° 958302 (PEACOC) and the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 101091715 (FIREFLY).

