Study on the Crystal and Electronic Structures of the Layered Li$_2$MO$_3$-LiMO$_2$ Materials in Li de-intercalation process

Hironori Kobayashi$^{1,2}$, Masahiro Shikano$^1$, Hiroyuki Kageyama$^1$, Yuki Takenaka$^2$, Yoshinori Arachi$^2$, and Hiroaki Nitani$^3$

$^1$ Research Institute for Ubiquitous Energy Devices, AIST, Ikeda, Osaka, 563-8577 Japan
$^2$ Department of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering, Kansai University, Suita, Osaka, 564-8680 Japan
$^3$ Institute of Materials Structure Science, KEK, Tsukuba, 305-0801 Japan

1. Introduction

The layered Li$_2$MO$_3$-LiMO$_2$ materials are one of the promising positive electrode materials of lithium secondary battery because of their large capacity when operated above 4.6 V [1]. In this system, especially, Li[Li$_{0.17}$Ni$_{0.27}$Co$_{0.07}$Mn$_{0.56}$]O$_2$ displays an initial discharge capacity of ca. 280 mAh/g in the voltage range of 2.5 to 4.8 V and keep a reversible capacity of ca. 250 mAh/g after 50 cycles [2]. Several papers have reported on the mechanism why these materials show large reversible capacity. However, the initial charge and discharge process are still ambiguous. We have reported on the characteristic structural change during Li de-intercalation for LiNi$_{1/2}$Mn$_{1/2}$O$_2$ [3-4] using synchrotron radiation. Detailed information on the crystal and electronic structures above 4.6 V is very important in order to improve the calendar life and thermal stability of these materials and, therefore, the structural and electronic changes of Li$_{1.20}$-yNi$_{0.17}$Co$_{0.10}$Mn$_{0.53}$O$_2$ (sample A) and Li$_{1.01}$-yNi$_{0.49}$Co$_{0.21}$Mn$_{0.29}$O$_2$ (sample B) in Li de-intercalation process were studied in this paper.

2. Experiment

The de-lithiated Li$_{1.20}$-yNi$_{0.17}$Co$_{0.10}$Mn$_{0.53}$O$_2$ (samples A-series) and Li$_{1.01}$-yNi$_{0.49}$Co$_{0.21}$Mn$_{0.29}$O$_2$ (samples B-series) were electrochemically prepared using coin-type cells with Li/1M LiPF$_6$ in EC:DMC(1:2)/samples. Crystal and electronic structures were investigated by synchrotron XAFS (BL7C at PF) measurements. The bondlength were determined using the analysis programs REX2000.

3. Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows the 1st charge and discharge curves of samples A and B in the voltage range of 2.0 and 4.8 V. The Li/sample A cell showed the 1st charge capacity of 282 mAh/g and gave the characteristic plateau region around 4.5 V. Figure 2 shows the Ni K-edge XANES Spectra of samples A-series and B-series with Li de-intercalation. For samples A-series, Ni K-edge XANES spectra shift to higher energy up to y=0.4-0.6 and then shift to lower energy up to y=0.93. This means that the valence state of Ni increased to 4+ with Li de-intercalation. These results indicated that Li de-intercalated mechanism is different between samples A and B.

References