

Formic acid electrooxidation on carbon-supported PtCu catalyst *Elektrooksidacija mravlje kiseline na PtCu katalizatoru na ugljeničnom nosaču*

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Abstract

Over the last decade, fuel cell (FC) technology has grown in potential as an alternative energy source. Platinum (Pt)- based electrocatalysts, deposited over high surface area carbon, are often used as anodic catalysts in the formic acid oxidation (FAO) reaction. However, the most significant problem with utilizing Pt as an anodic catalyst for FAO is the creation of intermediate carbon monoxide (CO), which poisons the Pt surface by blocking the active sites and thus reduces the overall fuel cell performance.

Since Pt is an expensive and rare precious metal, recent research has focused on lowering the amount of Pt present in the catalyst by forming alloys, wherein a portion of platinum is substituted with more affordable metals such as Sn, Ni, Cu or Co. High catalytic activity and especially stability of catalysts are dependent on the quality of supporting material used. Carbon (Vulcan XC-72R) is still one of the most widely utilized commercial carbon supports because of its high surface area, porosity, and superior electrical conductivity, the essential features ensuring homogeneous catalyst dispersion. In this work, a PtCu/C catalyst was synthesized by the microwave-assisted polyol method. The produced catalyst was electrochemically characterized using cyclic voltammetry and the oxidation of the adsorbed CO monolayer. Activity and stability of synthesized catalysts for the formic acid oxidation reaction in 0.5 M sulfuric acid were investigated. The obtained result indicates that the activity of the synthesized catalyst was improved, in comparison to the pure Pt/C catalyst, thanks to the synergistic effects caused by the addition of Cu, through bifunctional and electronic effects.

Keywords: Fuel Cell; Platinum Catalysts; Formic acid electrooxidation

Izvod

Tokom poslednje decenije, tehnologija gorivnih ćelija (FC) beleži značajan napredak i pokazuje sve veći potencijal kao alternativni izvor energije. Elektrokatalizatori na bazi platine (Pt), deponovani na ugljeniku velike specifične površine, često se koriste kao anodni katalizatori u reakciji oksidacije mravlje kiseline (FAO). Međutim, najveći problem pri korišćenju Pt kao anodnog katalizatora za FAO je stvaranje međuprodukta reakcije - ugljen-monoksida (CO), koji truje površinu Pt blokiranjem aktivnih mesta i time smanjuje ukupne performanse gorivne ćelije.

S obzirom na to da je platina skup i redak plemeniti metal, savremena istraživanja usmerena su na smanjenje njenog sadržaja u katalizatoru formiranjem legura, u kojima se deo platine zamenjuje jeftinijim metalima kao što su Sn, Ni, Cu ili Co. Visoka katalitička aktivnost i posebno stabilnost katalizatora zavise od vrste korišćenog nosača. Ugljenik (Vulcan XC-72R) je i dalje jedan od najčešće korišćenih komercijalnih ugljeničnih nosača zbog svoje velike specifične površine, poroznosti i izuzetne električne provodljivosti, što su bitne karakteristike koje omogućavaju homogenu disperziju katalizatora.

U ovom radu sintetisan je PtCu/C katalizator poliol postupkom u mikrotalasnoj pećnici. Dobijeni katalizator je elektrohemijski okarakterisan korišćenjem ciklične voltametrijе i oksidacije adsorbovanog monosloja CO. Ispitana je aktivnost i stabilnost sintetisanog katalizatora za reakciju oksidacije mravlje kiseline u 0,5 M sumpornoj kiselini. Dobijeni rezultati su ukazali da je aktivnost

sintetisanog katalizatora poboljšana u poređenju sa Pt/C katalizatorom, zahvaljujući sinergetskom efektu izazvanom dodavanjem Cu, poput bifunkcionalnog i elektronskog efekta.

Ključne reči: *Gorivne ćelije; Platinski katalizatori; elektrooksidacija mravlje kiseline*

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