

Superior hydrogenation/dehydrogenation kinetics of MgH₂ nanopowders upon mechanical doping with amorphous Zr₂Ni

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Hydrogen is an energy carrier, which holds tremendous promise as a new clean energy option. Hydrogen storage, which is considered to be the most important factor cutting across both hydrogen production and hydrogen transportations, has been the subject of intensive research for many years. Mg and Mg-based materials have opened promising concept for storing hydrogen in a solid-state matter. The natural abundance, cheap price, operational cost effectiveness, light weight, and high hydrogen storage capacity (7.60 wt.%, 0.11 kg H₂L⁻¹) are some advantages of Mg and Mg-based alloys making them desirable storage materials for research and development. Whereas all catalytic materials used to improve the behaviors of hydrogenation/dehydrogenation kinetics for MgH₂ have long-range order structure, the present work proposes two different types of structure; i.e. short range- and medium range- order. For the purpose of the present study, MgH₂ powders were prepared by reactive ball milling of Mg powders under 50 bar of H₂, using room-temperature high-energy ball mill [5]. Ultrafine powders of amorphous- and big cube-Zr₂Ni phases were prepared by ball milling small bulk pieces of tetragonal-Zr₂Ni alloy prepared by arc melting technique. Small volume fraction (10 wt. %) of amorphous and big- cube powders obtained after ball milling for 100 and 150 h, respectively were individually mixed with as-synthesized MgH₂ powders and then ball milled for 50 h. The results have shown that nanocomposite MgH₂/10 wt.% metallic glassy Zr₂Ni powders had high density of hydrogen (~6 wt.%) and possessed fast kinetics of hydrogen uptake/release at 250°C within 1.15 and 2.5 min, respectively. Whereas, MgH₂/10 wt.% of big cube Zr₂Ni nanocomposite showed moderate improvement on hydrogenation (1.8 min)/dehydrogenation (7 min) kinetics due to the heterogeneous distribution of their particles onto the MgH₂ powders.

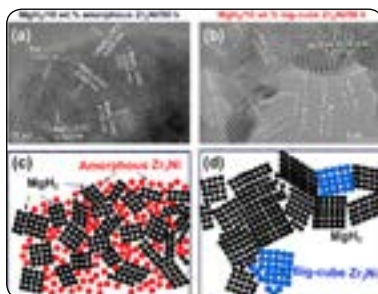


Fig. HRTEM images of nanocrystalline MgH₂ powders doped with 10 wt.% of (a) amorphous Zr₂Ni, and (b) big-cube Zr₂Ni nanopowders. The corresponding illustration sketches for the HRTEM images shown in (a) and (b) are displayed in (c) and (d), respectively.

Recent Publications:

1. El-Eskandarany, M. Sherif (2017) Synthetic nanocomposite MgH₂/5 wt. % TiMn₂ powders for solid hydrogen storage tank integrated with PEM fuel cell Nature, Sci. Rep. 7: 13296; doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-13483-0. www.nature.com/scientificreports.
2. El-Eskandarany, M. Sherif et al. (2017) Structure, morphology and hydrogen storage kinetics of nanocomposite MgH₂/10 wt% ZrNi₅ powders, Materials Today Energy, 3: 60-71.
3. El-Eskandarany, M. Sherif et al. (2016) In-situ catalyzation approach for enhancing the hydrogenation / dehydrogenation kinetics of MgH₂ powders with Ni particles. Sci. Rep. 6, 37335; DOI: 10.1038/srep37335 www.nature.com/scientificreports.
4. El-Eskandarany, M. Sherif (2016) Metallic glassy Zr₇₀Ni₂₀Pd₁₀ powders for improving the hydrogenation/dehydrogenation behavior of MgH₂. Nature, Sci. Rep. 6, 26936; doi: 10.1038/srep26936. www.nature.com/scientificreports.

5. El-Eskandarany M.Sherif, Shaban E., Alsairafi A. (2016) Synergistic dosing effect of TiC/FeCr nanocatalysts on the hydrogenation/dehydrogenation kinetics of nanocrystalline MgH₂ powders. Energy 104: 158-170.

Biography

Fahad Al-Ajmi works at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research KISR in the Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials department. He obtained his master degree in advanced chemical engineering from the University of Manchester, and the bachelor degree in chemical engineering from Swansea University UK.

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