

Synthesis and Characterization of Cu- and Co-Doped $\text{Bi}_4\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ for Intermediate-Temperature Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Electrolytes by Carbonate Coprecipitation

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$\text{Bi}_2\text{Me}_x\text{V}_{1-x}\text{O}_{5.5-3x/2}$ (Me = Cu: $0 \leq x \leq 0.2$) powders were prepared by the ammonium carbonate coprecipitation method. The crystallite structure, surface morphology, and ionic conductivity of the prepared powders and pellets were examined using X-ray diffractometry, field emission scanning electron microscopy, and an impedance analyzer, respectively. The average particle sizes of the $\text{Bi}_2\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{V}_{0.9}\text{O}_{5.35}$ and $\text{Bi}_2\text{Co}_{0.1}\text{V}_{0.9}\text{O}_{5.35}$ powders were 10–50 nm. The tetragonal structure (Y-phase) appeared at sintering temperatures higher than 700°C and the peak intensity increased at higher sintering temperatures. The ionic conductivities of the $\text{Bi}_2\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{V}_{0.9}\text{O}_{5.35}$ and $\text{Bi}_2\text{Co}_{0.1}\text{V}_{0.9}\text{O}_{5.35}$ pellets sintered at 800°C showed the highest values of $6.8 \times 10^{-2} \text{Scm}^{-1}$ at 700°C and $9.1 \times 10^{-2} \text{Scm}^{-1}$ at 700°C, respectively. The optimum concentration of the Cu and Co dopants in $\text{Bi}_2\text{Me}_x\text{V}_{1-x}\text{O}_{5.5-3x/2}$ was determined to be 0.1. The results of this study demonstrated that the ammonium carbonate coprecipitation process could be used as an economical method for the preparation of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Me}_x\text{V}_{1-x}\text{O}_{5.5-3x/2}$ electrolytes for intermediate-temperature solid oxide fuel cells.