Colloidal synthesis of PtZn nanoparticles for oxygen reduction reaction

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Commercialization of a proton exchange fuel cell (PEMFC) is confronted with insufficient activity and durability of Pt-based cathode catalyst. Thus, research on cathode electrocatalysts has been focused on increase of specific activity of Pt-based catalysts by alloying Pt with transition metals. Computational density functional theory predicted that Pt3Zn has the nearly optimal oxygen binding energy for oxygen reduction. However, there has been still lack of knowledge on electrochemical performance of Pt3Zn as a cathode catalyst in a PEMFC. In this work, we developed synthetic method to Pt-Zn nanoparticles in oleylamine. The size of Pt-Zn nanoparticles was tuned by synthetic conditions, such as reaction temperature and precursor concentration. The effect of precursor ratio between Pt precursor and Zn precursor will be also presented.