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## PREPARATION AND RESEARCH INTO FUNCTIONAL PROPERTIES OF NANOSTRUCTURED TITANATES OF LITHIUM AND SODIUM

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Abstract: Information about methods of preparation, structure and physical-chemical properties of nanostructured materials based on lithium and sodium titanates was analyzed and summarized. The functional nanostructured composite materials based on sodium and lithium titanates to produce an anode material with high capacity and working stable potential in the course of cycling with optimal electronic and ionic conductivity were examined. Examples of specific schemes, physical-chemical properties and the mechanism of functional processes by using bioactive and doped components were presented.

**Keywords**: lithium and sodium titanates, functionalization, nanostructuring, ion batteries **DOI**: 10.32737/2221-8688-2019-2-216-234

### Introduction

If earlier titanates, particular in titanomagnetites, were mainly of interest for producing titanium dioxide and metallic titanium [1–4], in recent decades titanates have been studied to be used in magneto-optical, ion-conducting and spintronic devices, in lithium-ion batteries for the production of new highly effective catalysts and functional nanoparticles [5-8]. Explorations are carried out to study the effect of bioactive components functionalization of the surface nanostructures [9,10].

The most intensively studied are titanates of lithium and sodium, as well as related

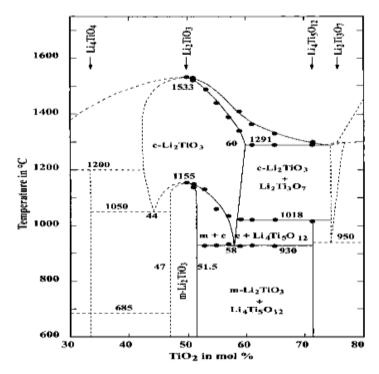
composite nanostructured functional materials to obtain anode material with high capacity, stability of the operating potential while cycling with optimal electronic and ionic conductivity. A number of books and review articles are devoted to the problem of creating new promising materials based on lithium and sodium titanates [11–16].

The aim of our review is to present in a compact form the highlights of this problem with due regard for new publications on the structure, synthesis and functionalization of lithium and sodium titanates-based nanostructured materials.

#### Lithium titanates

The growing interest in lithium titanates is due to the fact that lithium-ion batteries are widely used as compact energy sources in electric vehicles, cell phones, notebooks, etc. Lithium titanates are formed over the quasi-

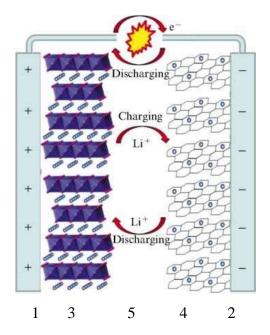
binary Li<sub>2</sub>O – TiO<sub>2</sub> cross section of the Li – Ti – O ternary system [17]. Compounds Li<sub>4</sub>TiO<sub>4</sub>, Li<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub>, Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> and Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> are formed in the system Li<sub>2</sub>O-TiO<sub>2</sub> (Fig.1).



**Fig.1**. Phase diagram of the  $Li_2O$  -  $TiO_2$  system [17].

Note that a high-temperature form of  $\text{Li}_2\text{TiO}_3$  makes up a wide range of solid solutions between ~ 44 and 66% mol  $\text{TiO}_2$ . A low-temperature form of  $\text{Li}_2\text{TiO}_3$  generates solid solutions between ~ 47 and 51%  $\text{TiO}_2$ . A

spinel phase of  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  has an upper stability limit at  $1018^\circ\text{C}$ , above which it decomposes to form  $\text{Li}_2\text{Ti}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Li}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$ . Also,  $\text{Li}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  has a lower stability limit at  $957 \pm 20^\circ\text{C}$ , below which it decomposes into  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  and rutile.

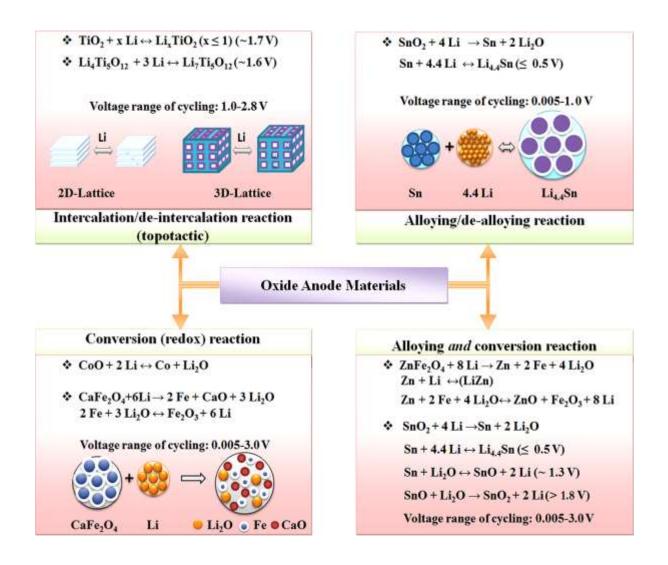


**Fig. 2**. Schematic diagram LIB [15]: (1) cathode collector, (2) anode collector, (3) cathode material, (4) anode material, (5) separator with electrolyte.

In the course of the decomposition, a metastable phase of unknown composition forms an intermediate product  $\text{Li}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  with a solubility region between ~ 74 and 76%  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Each of the formed phases is of some interest for practice, in particular as an anode material for lithium-ion batteries (LIB). Graphite is usually used as anode material but undergoes changes in the structure in the course of the operation, rapid loss of power in the course of cycling, and a low thermal stability limit is widely used [18]. Currently, one of the most

promising anode materials for LIB is lithium titanate Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>0<sub>12</sub>.

Research into the development of new materials for LIB is aimed at obtaining an anode material with a high working capacity in the course of cycling, with optimal electronic and lithium-ionic conductivity. To a greater extent, these requirements are met by anodic materials based on lithium titanate Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> [19-21]. A schematic diagram of the LIB and reversible electrochemical processes for lithium is shown in Fig.2.3.



**Fig.3**. Classification of oxide materials of the anode based on the reversible process of inclusion and extraction of Li [16]: Intercalation-de-intercalation, alloy formation-exit from the alloy, conversion reaction (redox). The voltage range applies Li.

Electrochemical properties of Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> There are four methods for obtaining phases depend largely on the methods of its synthesis. based on the compound Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>. 1) the

Pechini sol-gel method [22,23], 2) the citrate method using C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub> citric acid and 3) the EDTA-citrate method using the ethylenediaminetetraacetic C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> and citric acids [24]. The last three methods were used to obtain Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> in [18]. According to the Pechini method, titanium tetrabutylate was successively added to the mixture of ethylene glycol + nitric acid with constant stirring  $(C_4H_9O)_4Ti$ ,  $C_6H_8O_7$  and  $Li_2CO_3$ . The molar ratio of titanium ions in respect of citric acid was 1:4. The resulting mixture was kept at 368 and 423 K for 24 hours. Under these conditions, molecules of ethylene glycol and citric acid enter into a polycondensation reaction which leads to the formation of a polymer gel and a subsequent pyrolysis at 623 K for 5 h. When using the EDTA-citrate method (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O), 4Ti and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> were dissolved in a mixture of ethanol + nitric acid (volume ratio of 5: 1). Note that EDTA and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub> were added to the resulting solution. The molar ratio of metal ions to EDTA and  $C_6H_8O_7$  was 1: 1: 2. Next, the mixture was heated at 368 K until a gelatin-like mass formed which was then kept at 523 K for 5 hours. However, as for single-phase Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> in the presence of a high theoretical capacity of 175 mAh /g and an operating potential of 1.5 V (Li / Li<sup>+</sup>), values of electronic and lithium-ionic conductivity proved to be low [19,20]. To improve the conductivity, doping was carried out with various cations (V<sup>5+</sup>,  $Nb^{5+}$ ,  $Zr^{4+}$ ,  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Sn^{2+}$ , etc.) in the positions of titanium and lithium [25, 26]. An increase in the conductivity (first of all electronic) can also be achieved due to the formation of composites with carbon or metals [27].

In [28] Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> was considered as a promising electrode material for lithium secondary batteries. The spray drying process was used to obtain porous and spherical Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> powders from Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> as precursors for pore formation. Experimental results showed that porous and spherical morphologies are preserved in the course of the sintering and subsequent heat treatment. At the same time, excessive heat treatment may result in losing the lithium content and,

consequently, reducing the charge and discharge power. Porous carbon substances have a low specific capacity; at the same time as an intercalation type the materials with asymmetric capacity have a limited ion velocity. In [28], it found that intercalationtype nanoparticles of lithium titanate  $(Li_4Ti_5O_{12})$ in carbon nanopores nanocomposites with both high ionic density and high ion transfer rate through open and interconnected pore channels.

In [6] carbon encapsulated Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> (C/Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>) anode material for lithium ion battery was prepared by using the pre-coat method of two steps, and the TiO2 was precoated before the reaction with Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The structure and morphology of the resultant C/Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> materials were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning microscopy (SEM). Electrochemical tests showed that at 0.1 C, the initial discharge capacity was 169.9 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>, and the discharge capacity was 80 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> at 5 C. After 100 cycles at 2 C, the discharge specific capacity was 108.5 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>. As compared to one step coating method, results showed that the C/Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> prepared by pre-coat method can reduce a particle's size and effectively improve the electrochemical performance. In [7] the spinel Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> (LTO) was doped by Ca<sup>2+</sup> via a solid-state reaction route generating highly crystalline Li<sub>3.9</sub>Ca<sub>0.1</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> powders with a view of improving their electrochemical performance as an anode. The structure changes, morphologies, and electrochemical properties of the resultant powders were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and cyclic voltammetry (CV), respectively. Crystal structure and composition were analyzed, and results obtained with various tests of LTO. Electrochemical measurements revealed that Li<sub>3.9</sub>Ca<sub>0.1</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> anodes exhibit better capability, better cycling stability, and higher specific capacity than pure LTO anodes. In [8] Composites of Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> with Ag–Cu particles were successfully synthesized by solid-state reaction followed by thermal decomposition of metal substrates. The presence of metallic particles was confirmed by X-ray diffraction,

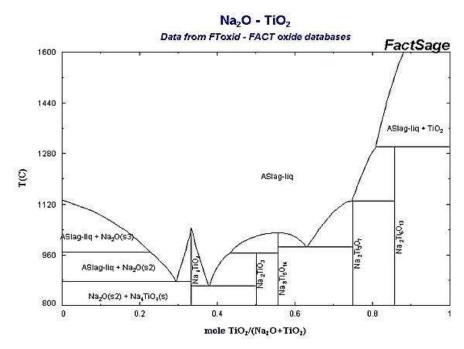
scanning transmission electron microscopy and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. Galvanostatic charge–discharge tests showed improved specific capacity and capacity retention of Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>/Ag–Cu composites at a 10C current rate, while cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy revealed changes in Li<sup>+</sup>ion

chemical diffusion coefficient values and charge-transfer resistance with increasing amount of Ag–Cu in prepared powders. The synthesis and structural, morphological and electrochemical evaluation of Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>/Ag–Cu powders carried out in this work were also presented here for the first time.

#### Sodium titanates

Sodium titanates are formed over the quasi-binary section of  $Na_2O$ - $TiO_2$  of the Na-Ti-O ternary system (Fig.4):  $Na_4TiO_4$ ,  $Na_2TiO_3$ ,  $Na_4TiO_{14}$ ,  $Na_2Ti_3O_7$  and  $Na_2TiO_{13}$ . Of the sodium titanates, sodium trititanate  $Na_2Ti_3O_7$  was explored most intensively. Sodium trititanate was mainly obtained in the form of nanotubes (T3Ns) and nanofibers (T3NFs). It should be noted that T3NTs and

T3NFs have high specific surface area, ion-exchange capacity and proton conductivity. Therefore, they can be used as a catalyst [29], catalyst carriers [30], energy storage electrodes [31], proton exchange membrane of fuel cells [32] to remove pollutants [33]. Because of their biocompatibility and hydrophobicity, T3NTs are used as nanobiocatalysts (immobilization of enzumes [34].



**Fig.4**. Phase diagram of the Na<sub>2</sub>O-TiO<sub>2</sub> system.

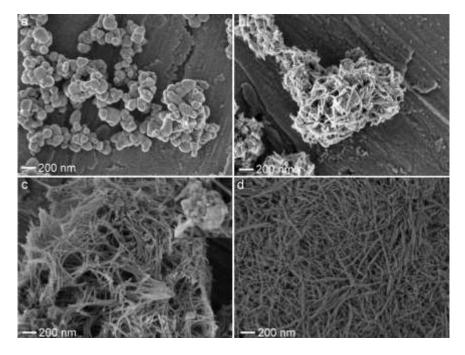
# Methods of synthesizing $Na_2Ti_3O_7$ and obtaining nanotubes (T3NTs) and nanofibers (T3N)

The mechanism of formation of T3NTs nanotubes has been the subject of the research [35] whose authors suggested that lamellar sheets are formed as a result of alkaline hydrothermal processing. The removal of

sodium ions by acid washing leads to the scrolling of sheets in the form of nanotubes (acid washing mechanism). The authors of [36, 37] suggested that nanotubes are formed as a result of four staged hydrothermal processing

(the peeling-scrolling mechanism). In [38-42], the microwave hydrothermal treatment method was used to obtain different sizes of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes. In particular, nanotubes of sodium titanate NaTiNTs were synthesized in [43] by microwave hydrothermal treatment of TiO<sub>2</sub>. The synthesis of nanotubes was carried out in the following sequence: 0.7 g of TiO<sub>2</sub> was dispersed in 7 ml of 10 M NaOH solution, stirred at a room temperature for 1 h, then for about 15 min, followed by sonication, and then stirred again for 10 min. Next, 6 ml of the

reaction mixture was poured into a silicon carbide flask and placed in a microwave reactor (Anton Paar, Monowave 300). The reaction was carried out at a constant temperature of 135 °C for 15 min, 1, 4, 8, and 16 h. A more detailed description of the experiment is given in [43]. Nanotubes were observed as early as 15 min after microwave irradiation. Analyses of products irradiated for 8 and 16 hours confirm the complete conversion of TiO<sub>2</sub> powder into NaTiNTs (Fig. 5).



**Fig. 5**. SEM images, starting with  $TiO_2$  (a), before the products separated after 15 min (b), 1 hour (s) and 8 hours (g) were processed in a microwave reactor at 1350C. All images were taken at the same magnification [43].

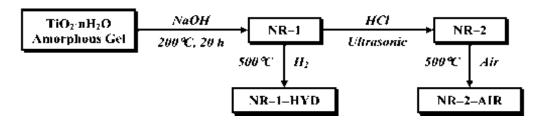
## Hydrothermal synthesis of nanoparticles of sodium titanates

In recent years, a large number of experimental approaches have successfully used to synthesize nanowires based on titanium dioxide. These include the sol-gel method in combination with electrophoretic deposition [44], spin method [45], sol-gel standard method [45,46], deposition of organometallic compounds from the vapor [47,48], anodic oxidative hydrolysis [49], sono-chemical synthesis [50], reverse micro-emulsion [51],pyrolysis-assisted melting of salts [52], hydrothermal synthesis

[53-55] of titanium dioxide-based rod-shaped nanostructures. The advantage of this method is that nanotubes or nanowires can be obtained in relatively large quantities. Hydrothermal treatment of TiO<sub>2</sub> precursors in a strongly alkaline medium is an efficient way to prepare titanium dioxide-based nanotubes and nanofibers. For example, K<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub> nanofibers were successfully obtained hydrothermally using KOH in [54]. In [55], it showed that nanowires and nanotubes can also be obtained using NaOH. However, information about the

of synthesized nanoparticles structure remained unclear, despite intensive research. In [56] it was reported that the products of hydrothermal treatment of the anatase modification TiO2 with NaOH of nanotubes of polytitanates of the Na<sub>x</sub>H<sub>2-x</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> composition Later [57] reported that the

synthesized nanotubes or nanotubes have even more complex composition, to be exact,  $Na_xH_{2-x}Ti_nO_{2n+1}.yH_2O$ . By treating these nanoparticles with a HCl solution, nanotubes and nano-sticks with  $H_2Ti_3O_7$  composition were obtained.

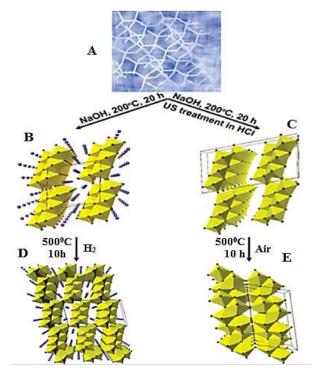


**Scheme 1**. Hydrothermal treatment of amorphous TiO<sub>2</sub>.nH<sub>2</sub>O using 10 molar solution of NaOH and 0.1 molar solution of hydrochloric acid to produce nano-sticks: NR-1 denotes Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>n</sub>O<sub>2n+1</sub>(n=3,4,9), NR-2: H<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, NR-1-HYD: in a stream of hydrogen, NR-2-AIR: in the air flow [53].

In [53], hydrothermal conditions of thermal and chemical treatment of amorphous phases for the preparation of titanates with the general formula Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>n</sub>O<sub>2n+1</sub> were studied more thoroughly. The process of formation of titanium-like nanopacks from amorphous TiO<sub>2</sub>.nH<sub>2</sub>O gels in the process of hydrothermal explored. Note synthesis was that nanoparticles of Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> sodium trititanate rod-shaped morphology were obtained using simple hydrothermal treatment in the presence of a concentrated aqueous solution of NaOH. The ion-exchange reaction of the synthesized Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nano-sticks with HCl in the course of ultrasonic processing led to the complete replacement of sodium ions and the formation of H<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nanopalicle (Scheme 1).

Low-temperature annealing of  $Na_2Ti_3O_7$  and  $H_2Ti_3O_7$  nano-sticks leads to the loss of a layered crystal structure and the formation of sodium hexane-titanate nano-sticks  $(Na_2Ti_6O_{13})$  and the metastable  $TiO_2$ -B phase, (Fig.~6). The analyzed methods for the synthesis of nanostructures of active metal titanates are successfully applied in [58–64]. In [58], sodium titanate nanopowder (nominal

formula  $Na_{1.5}H_{0.5}Ti_3O_7$ was directly synthesized using a continuous hydrothermal flow synthesis process with the help of a relatively low base concentration (4 M NaOH) in the process. The as-made titanate nanomaterials were characterized using powder X-ray diffraction, X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy, energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, Brunauer-Emmett-Teller analysis and transmission electron microscopy to evaluate results as potential electrode materials for Li-ion and Na-ion batteries. Cyclic voltammetry studies on half-cells revealed that the sodium titanate nanomaterial stored the charge primarily through a combination of pseudo-capacitive diffusion-limited processes in systems. Electrochemical cycling tests at a high specific current of 1000 mA g-1 revealed that the Li-ion and Na-ion cells retained their relatively high specific capacities after 400 cycles of 131 and 87 mAh g-1, respectively. This study demonstrates the potential of CHFS-made sodium titanate nanopower as an anode material for both Li- and Na-ion cell chemistries.

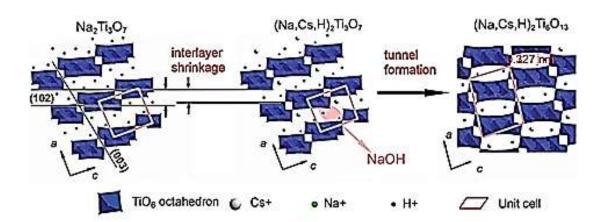


**Fig.6.** The scheme of frame transformations in the course of hydrothermal and chemical treatment of amorphous TiO<sub>2</sub>.nH<sub>2</sub>O [19]: (A) amorphous gel TiO<sub>2</sub>.nH<sub>2</sub>O; (B) Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>; (C) H<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>; (D) Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub>; (E) TiO<sub>2</sub>-B.

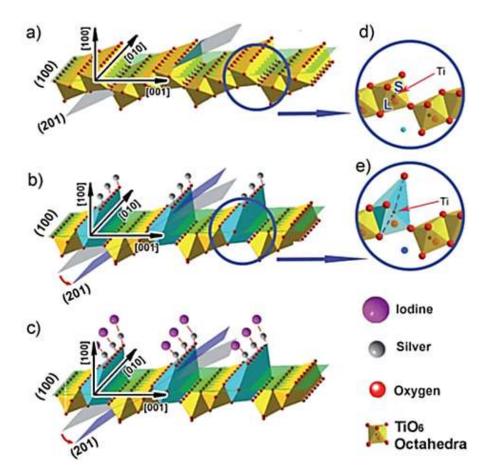
## Using nanotubes and nanofibers Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> to capture radioactive ions

Titanates and silikotitanate as zeolites, are cost-effective materials for cleaning contaminated water from radioactive ions [65]. Promising for the adsorption and safe disposal of <sup>137</sup>Cs<sup>+</sup> radioactive ions from an aqueous nanotubes solution are and Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nanofibres. In [66], nanofibres and nanotubes of Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> were synthesized under hydrothermal conditions. The materials obtained have a layered structure where the TiO<sub>6</sub> octahedra are basic structural units [67]. These layers carry negative charges about two oxygen atoms thick. Na<sup>+</sup> ions are located between the layers and can be exchanged with other cations. In [66], nanofibres (T3NF) and nanotubes (T3NT) were used to remove <sup>137</sup>Cs<sup>+</sup> radioactive ions from an aqueous solution by exchanging cations. This process with a structural change (Fig. 7) is described by the reaction as follows:

 $2\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7 + (1\text{-}0.5 x) \text{Cs}^+ + (1\text{-}0.5x)\text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  $\rightarrow \text{Na}_x\text{Cs}_{1\text{-}0.5x} \text{H}_{1\text{-}0.5x} \text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{13} + (4\text{-}x)\text{Na}^+ + 2\text{OH}^-$  The Cs<sup>+</sup> ions are located in the T6NF fiber tunnels. A maximum width of the tunnel along [010] direction is about 0.327 nm. Since the diameter of the Cs<sup>+</sup> ion is 0.330 nm, it will be difficult for the <sup>137</sup>Cs<sup>+</sup> ions to diffuse into the tunnels and the ions will be trapped in the fibers. T6NF is more stable than T3NF at higher temperatures. This property is an advantage for the safe disposal of immobilized radioactive ions. The structure evolution from the initial titanate NF to Ag<sub>2</sub>O-T3NF was also studied in [66] (Fig. 8). The titanate NF fibers consist of octahedral TiO<sub>6</sub> plates and an open plane (100) (Fig. 8a). When Ag<sup>+</sup> ions diffuse on the surface of titanate NF in a neutral or alkaline medium, (Ag)(OH)<sub>n</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>m</sub> silver intermediates are formed on the surface. These intermediate products are dehydrated on the Ti-OH surface and are bound to the surface by exchanging the surface oxygen atoms of the octahedral TiO<sub>6</sub> plates in the (100) planes (Fig. 8, b) which leads to the deformation of the (100) plane surface and, therefore, the plane proper.



**Fig.7.** Evolution of the structure of T3NF-layered nanofibers into a microporous T6NF tunnel structure [66].



**Fig.8.** Formation of  $Ag_2O$  nanocrystals profile on (100) plane of the titanate nanofibres and the deposition of iodide ions: a) surface of the titanate nanofibre. b, c) deformation on (100) and (201) planes after deposition of  $Ag_2O$  nanocrystals and adsorption of iodide ions. d)  $TiO_6$  octahedra of titanate substrates, e) distorted  $TiO_6$  octahedra: in the course of the deformation process of  $TiO_6$ , a short Ti-O bond disappears and a long Ti-O bond forms [66].

In addition, Ag<sup>+</sup> ions are exchanged with Na + ions inside the interlayer space which leads to a deterioration in crystallinity and a decrease in the diffraction intensity. The diffraction intensity (201) of the planes (blue plane in Fig. 8 b) may significantly drop. In (201), the planes are partially occupied by oxygen atoms and Na<sup>+</sup> ions inside the interlayer space in the initial fibers. These Na<sup>+</sup> ions are replaced by Ag<sup>+</sup> ions that strongly interact with oxygen atoms; this substitution

resulted in a small displacement of oxygen atoms from their original positions to affect the diffraction intensity. The structure evolution was also confirmed by measuring short Ti-O bonds (bonds between terminal oxygen atoms and a central titanium atom in the distorted TiO<sub>6</sub> octahedra labeled with S in Fig. 10d) and long Ti – O bonds (bonds between bridging oxygen atoms and the titanium atom in the same octahedra, labeled L in Fig.8d).

## Titanates functionalization by bioactive components and doping

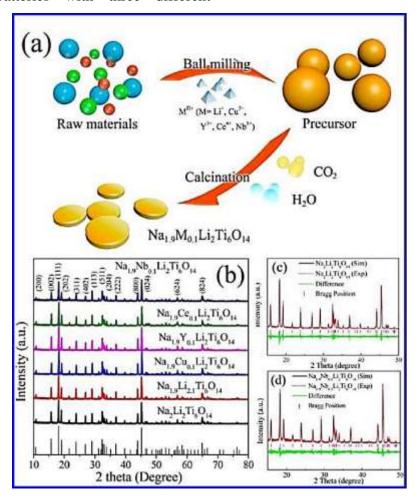
The functionalization of the surface of one-dimensional nanostructures with bioactive components allows forming textures, morphology and phase composition products in the course of hydrothermal treatment of doped titanium dioxide powders and titanates [9,10,68]. In particular, in [10] was studied the influence of bioactive natural polymer chitosan as the organic reactant in the formation of texture morphology and phase composition of products in the course of hydrothermal treatment CoTiO<sub>3</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> powders obtained from hydrosols pre-formed electrochemical sol-gel method. The behavior of sodium titanates when exposed to a simulated body fluid SBF was studied in [69,70]. Suffice it to recall that the simulated body fluid (SBF) is a solution with a concentration of the ions close to the human blood plasma. In particular, it was found in [70] that an increased content of sodium entails a higher biological activity, since more sodium ions are available for exchange with H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> ions in SBF, which leads to the formation of Ti - OH groups and then intermediate calcium titanate. A local increase in pH causes the formation of a biomimetic calcium phosphate layer on the surface. Sintering of the samples leads to the formation of a larger number of three- and hexatitanate crystal structures and a decrease in the sodium content. The amount of Na<sup>+</sup> ions that can be released from the surface of sodium titanate is reduced due to decreasing surface area and low sodium content. When the sintered samples are treated with an aqueous solution

of NaOH, some of the Ti - O - Ti bonds are broken and Ti – O – Na and Ti – OH bonds are formed. This process is enhanced in the SBF medium by exposure to hydroxonium ions. In work [71], nanoscale porous lithium titanate (LTO) as an anode material was synthesized using the method of spray drying after grinding in a ball mill. LTO nanoparticle size was optimized at a rate of 200 for stable performance. **I**t was found that electrochemical characteristics of the synthesized LTO nanoparticles are stable at high operating temperature (50 ° C) and at high current speeds.

In the work [72], a series of samples of Li<sub>2</sub>BaTi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> was synthesized by the traditional solid-phase method — calcination at various temperatures from 800 to 1000 ° C. Structural analysis and electrochemical evaluation showed that the optimal firing temperature for Li<sub>2</sub>BaTi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> is 950°C. Li<sub>2</sub>BaTi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub>, calcined at 950 ° C, has high phase purity with excellent reversible capacity of 145.7 mAh / g for the first cycle at a current density of 50 mA /g. After 50 cycles, reversible capacity can be maintained at 137.7 mAh /g. maintaining a potential of 94.51%.

The work [73] deals with obtaining new electrorheological (ER) materials using microwave synthesis with the provision of a suitable shell with due regard for the electrorheological effect. In the work [74], ultrathin layered sodium titanate nanofilms were synthesized using a continuous process of hydrothermal flow and explored as anode material for lithium-ion batteries. [75]

examined the low-temperature execution of the start /stop command for LMO / LTO (lithium manganese oxide/lithium titanate) lithium-ion batteries with three different electrolytes. [76] reported on the successful use of perovskite structured lithium-lanthanum-titanate (LLTO) material in LIB.



**Fig.9.** (a) Schematic representation of the synthesis process, (b) XRD of Na<sub>2</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> μ Na<sub>1.9</sub>M<sub>0.1</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> (M=Li<sup>+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Y<sup>3+</sup>, Ce<sup>4+</sup>, Nb<sup>5+</sup>), (c) Rietveld processing profiles for Na<sub>2</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub>; (d) Rietveld profiles processing Nb-doped Na<sub>2</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>M</sub> [77]

By doping with Li (+), Cu (2+), Y (3+), Ce (4+), and Nb (5 +) ions, a series of Nasubstituted Na<sub>1.9</sub>M<sub>0.1</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> materials was prepared [77]. Structural and electrochemical analysis suggests that the substitution of highvalent metals for Na + can effectively increase the ionic and electronic conductivities of concluded  $Na_2Li_2Ti_6O_{14}$ . In [77] that Na<sub>1.9</sub>M<sub>0.1</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> is a highly efficient anode material for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. Diagram of the process of synthesis of  $Na_{1.9}M_{0.1}Li_2Ti_6O_{14}$  is shown in Fig.9.

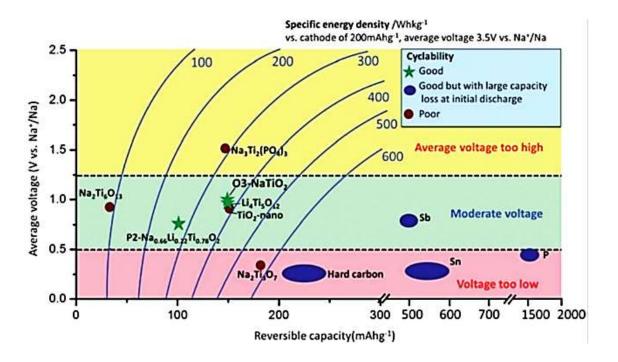
[78] successfully synthesized lithiumtitanate nanotubes (Li-TNTs). The inner and outer diameters of the nanotubes are 5 nm and 8 nm with a distance between the layers at 0.83 nm. Nanotubes correspond to the composition Li<sub>1.81</sub>H<sub>0.19</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> • xH<sub>2</sub>O. The chemical component was Li<sub>1.81</sub>H<sub>0.19</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> • H<sub>2</sub>O, defined as ICP-AES. From the Li-TNT and WO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles thin films (WO<sub>3</sub> / Li-TNT) were prepared on an ITO glass using a spin coating, and then an electrochromic device was made. The diffusion coefficient of Li ions in WO<sub>3</sub> / Li-TNT film was 6.1·10<sup>-10</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, which is up eight times from the pure WO<sub>3</sub> film. The contrast transmittance of pure WO<sub>3</sub>, based on the ECD (electron capture detector), was 53.3% at a wavelength of 600 nm. However, this figure increased to 74.1%

for WO<sub>3</sub> / Li-TNT. Zinc lithium titanate (Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) is a desirable anode material for lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) due to its low cost, non-toxicity and high safety. However, low electronic conductivity and limited speed hold back the commercial use of Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. An effective strategy was developed in [79] for fabricating an Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> electrode using Cu foils with grown graphene and deposited Au nanoparticles as a current collector. Note that graphene and Au nanoparticles significantly increase electrical the conductivity of the current collector.

The Cu-structured current collector has a rough interface that can enhance adhesion between the  $\text{Li}_2\text{ZnTi}_3\text{O}_8$  active material layer and the current collector, providing an excellent electronic transport network and

reducing the internal resistance of LIBs. Supported by a Cu structured current collector, Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> shows high storage properties of Li+ with a reversible capacity of 172.2 mAh / g after 100 cycles at a high current density of 4A / g. Even at 6 A / g, a value of 148.4 mAh / g can be achieved. The improved speed of the nanostructured Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> electrode makes it a promising anode material for LIBs.

In the [80], an interface element is proposed that allows the liquid / solid electrolyte interface to be analyzed using four-point measurements. The functionality of this installation is demonstrated by analyzing the effect of parameter variations at the lithium-lanthanum titanate ( $\text{Li}_{3x}\text{La}_2$ / (3-x)TiO<sub>3</sub>, LLTO) interface of solid electrolytes used in lithium-air batteries (Lithium-air batteries).



**Fig. 10.** Dependence of the average voltage on the reversible capacity for various anode materials for sodium and lithium-ion batteries. The lines of constant specific energy density are determined for a cathode with a specific current density of 200 mA h / g and with an average voltage of 3.5 V [81.82].

Spinel Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, famous for its zero effect deformation in the course of Li intercalation, was first investigated as an anode material in a sodium-ion battery in [83]. It revealed that Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> can contain both Li<sup>+</sup>

ions and Na<sup>+</sup> ions. Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> electrode with an average potential of about 1.0 V has a reversible capacity of 145 mAh / g. An atomic scale study of the mechanism of Na storage in Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub> was carried out in [84]. Proceeding

from the functional density theory (DFT), the following mechanism for producing a composite is proposed:

$$2\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12} + \text{Na}^+ + 6\text{e}^- \rightarrow 2\text{Li}_7\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12} + \text{Na}_6\text{Li}\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$$

This mechanism was confirmed by measurements (XRD) and scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM)

[82]. Average sodium conservation potential is 0.91 V with a reversible capacity of 155 mAh/g. The dependence of the average voltage on the reversible capacity for different materials of the anode is shown in Fig.10 from which it follows that the battery with the anode material containing lithium and sodium ions has the best cycleability.

### **Conclusion**

The analysis of literature data in terms a larger stream of information on the study into lithium and sodium titanates shows that the improvement of synthesis methods and nanostructuring of the phases obtained, development of the theory of modification and functionalization, use of the materials obtained in practice, in particular, the production of lithium and sodium ion batteries, are relevant.

Note that Lithium titanates are promising anode materials for lithium-ion batteries due to their low cost, non-toxicity and high safety. However, low electronic conductivity and limited ion velocity retard the commercial use of such anodes. Therefore, the synthesis and study of sodium-lithium titanates is highly relevant. Sodium Na (+) - substituted Na<sub>1.9</sub>M<sub>0.1</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> nanoparticles obtained by doping Na<sub>2</sub>Li<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>14</sub> with Cu (2+), Y (3+), Ce (4+) and Nb (5+) ions, are characterized by higher electronic and ionic conductivity at relatively low and high temperatures. Also relevant are studies on the functionalization of nanomaterials with bioactive components.

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## ПОЛУЧЕНИЕ И ИСЛЕДОВАНИЕ ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ СВОЙСТВ НАНОСТРУКТУРИРОВАННЫХ ТИТАНАТОВ ЛИТИЯ И НАТРИЯ

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Проанализированы и обобщены имеющиеся в литературе сведения о способах получения, структуре и физико-химических свойствах наноструктурированных материалов на основе титанатов лития и натрия. Рассмотрены композитные наноструктурированные функциональные материалы на основе титанатов лития и натрия для получения анодного материала с высокой емкостью, стабильностью рабочего потенциала в ходе циклирования, с оптимальной электронной и ионной проводимостью. Представлены примеры с конкретными схемами, физико-химическими данными и механизмами функциональных процессов при использовании биоактивных и легирующих компонентов.

**Ключевые слова:** титанаты лития и натрия, функционализация, наноструктурирование, ионные батареи

## NANOSTRUKTURLAŞMIŞ LİTİUM VƏ NATRİUM TİTANATLARININ ALINMASI VƏ FUNKSİONAL XASSƏLƏRİNİN TƏDQİQİ

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Litium və natrium titanatlarına əsaslanan nanostrukturlu materialların sintez üsulları, quruluşu və fiziki-kimyəvi xüsusiyyətləri haqqında ədəbiyyat məlumatları təhlil edilmiş və ümumiləşdirilmişdir. Optimal electron və ion keçiriciliyinə, yüksək tutuma, tsikl zamanı sabit işçi potensiala malik ion batareyalarında anod kimi istifadə etmək üçün natrium və litium titanatlarına əsaslanan funksional nanostrukturlu perspektiv kompozit materiallar haqqında geniş məlumat verilmişdir. Bioaktiv komponentlər və heterovalentli kationlarla legirləmənin fiziki-kimyəvi xüsusiyyətləri və funksional proseslərin mexanizminin sxemləri təqdim edilmişdir.

Açar sözlər: litium və natrium titanatları, funksiyalaşma, nanostrukturlaşma, ion batareyaları