Alkaline membranes based on poly(vinylalcohol) for PEM fuel cells

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It was prepared samples of polyvinylalcohol (PVA) membrane by two ways:

PVA membranes without hydroxide

PVA (Mowiol 15-99) was dissolved in hot water. A small amount of potassium dichromate water solution was added to PVA solution. Difference between membranes is in amount of potassium dichromate (Table 1). Membranes were crosslinked in UV box after drying (aprox. 10 minutes) [1]

Table 1. Composition of PVA membranes without hydroxide

Sample	PVA 10wt%	$K_2Cr_2O_7$	H <sub>2</sub> O
	[g]	[g]	[g]
1.8.1 S	12	1,8	0
1.8.5 S	12	0,6	1,2

PVA membranes with hydroxide

10 wt% PVA watersolution was mixed with 10 wt% water solution of potassium, lithium or sodium hydroxide. Ratio of this mixture was 60:40 wt. It was added 5 wt% glycerine. After 24 hours of mixing 1 wt% BORAX sloution was added. Membranes were crosslinked in UV box after drying.

Electrodes for MEA structure PEMFC were prepared by spraying of "ink" on the carbon paper Quintech TP060. The ink was homogenized by sonication from the prepared catalysts [2]. As a Pt catalyst was used HiSPEC 3000. Amount of Pt was 0,5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Manganese dioxide based electrocatalysts were prepared by a chemical reaction of potassium permanganate at the carbon black Chezacarb A. One sample was doped by the satlt of Zn and one sample was undopped [3]. Amount of  $MnO_x$  electrocatalyst was 2 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>.



Fig. 1: Power characteristics of PEMFC with different type of PVA based membranes. Pt catalysts 0,5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> was used for both electrodes



Fig. 2: Power characteristics of PEMFC with PVA based membranes and  $2 \text{ mg/cm}^2$ manganese dioxide positive electrodes with and without dopant. Pt catalysts 0,5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> was used for negative electrodes

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