

Study of Ion Transport Behavior of Nanocomposite Polymer Electrolyte for Battery Application

Kumhar RP*

Department of Physics, Govt. Maharaja College Chhatarpur, India

***Corresponding authors:** Kumhar RP, Department of Physics, Govt. Maharaja College Chhatarpur, (M.P.) India, E-mail: rpk1972ssi@gmail.com

Research Article

Volume 2 Issue 3

Received Date: April 15, 2017

Published Date: May 22, 2017

DOI: 10.23880/nnoa-16000123

Abstract

In the present work an attempt has been made to synthesize and characterize polyvinyl alcohol: polyvinyl carbazole (90:10) blend based nanocomposite polymer electrolyte dispersed with SiO₂ namely, (PVA: PVK): CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ system. Improvement in amorphous nature of the system upon addition of SiO₂ nanofillers has been confirmed by XRD and SEM studies. The ionic conductivity of nanocomposite electrolyte improves moderately (~5 times) at room temperature with optimum of 5×10^{-3} S/cm for 6 wt% SiO₂. The temperature dependent conductivity analysis shows that ion conduction is controlled by combination of Arrhenius and VTF behavior. All the results have been suitably explained. All-solid-state battery has been fabricated in the cell configuration Zn+ZnSO₄ (anode)/polymer Gel Electrolyte/V₂O₅+C+Polymer Gel Electrolyte (cathode) to establish its practical utility in electrochemical devices. Cell performance studies on cell with 0.4 M electrolyte show open circuit voltage of 1.5 volt with power density 1.12 W/Kg been studied by recording the cell potential discharge profiles at room temperature under different load conditions..

Keywords: Polyvinyl Alcohol; Polyvinyl Carbazole; Nanocomposite Polymer Electrolytes; Polymethyl Methacrylate

Introduction

In recent past electrochemical based energy storage devices provide a tremendous role in technical applications like computers, communication devices, industrial controls, electric vehicles, laboratory equipments etc. Moreover they have stringent need in the portable electronic market like solar cells, pacemakers, remote controls and even in toys. In these emerging technologies they are having an exclusive demand for long life, environmentally friendly, low cost, reliable rechargeable batteries with specific energy power as expected [1-3]. Within this frame-work polymer electrolytes are materials of great interest for applications in different electro-chemical devices but their relatively

poor ionic conductivity limits its utility. The conductivity of these electrolytes is confined mostly in amorphous phase and the crystalline phases are considered as poor conductivity phase. Thus over the years attempts have been made to improve the amorphous phase of polymer electrolyte. Introducing of a plasticizer in small amounts which may be a low molecular weight substance [1], polymer blending [4], using comb- branched copolymer [5], cross- linking of polymer matrices [1] and incorporation of inorganic fillers [6] are the alternative ways to improve the ionic conductivity of polymer electrolyte. Polymer blending is an extensive way to complement advantages of each compartment, improve the electrical behavior and enhance the physical properties of polymer electrolytes. Therefore, blending of

polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and polyvinyl carbazole (PVK) was employed in this work. In general, PVA is solvent swollen character and known to form hydrogels [7,8] and also a potential candidate for development of proton conducting electrolytes. Introduction of PVK in polymer electrolyte is expected to improve the mechanical strength and interfacial properties between electrode and electrolyte [9]. In recent years, polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) [10-12], polyacrylonitrile (PAN) [13], polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF) [11,14] and polyethylene oxide (PEO) [11,15] have been reported as suitable polymer host materials for the preparation of polymer gel electrolyte. The most of the work on polymer gel electrolytes concerns development of lithium- based polymer batteries [11,16-18]. Proton conductors has attracted much attention because of its potential use in clean energy devices such as fuel cell, electrochromic devices (ECDs) and other smart devices [19]. The numbers of fast protonic conductors, organic, crystalline and amorphous, have been prepared during past three decades [3,11,15,20]. Within the realm of polymer gel electrolytes, PVA is also one of the prominent polymer because its good solvent holding capacity and electrochemical stability [7,21] have reported PVA- based proton conducting gel electrolytes with high ionic conductivity.

Generally, poor dimensional, mechanical stabilities and exudation of liquid from gel lump retained for a long period are the main drawback of ionic liquid- based gel polymer electrolytes. Therefore, composite electrolytes are developed to overcome these shortcomings by dispersing the inorganic inert fillers, such as SiO_2 , TiO_2 and alumina (Al_2O_3). Addition of inorganic filler not only improves ionic conductivity but also enhances mechanical stability. In recent times, dispersion of inorganic filler in pristine polymer electrolytes [22] and in polymer blend based electrolytes [23] have been effectively tried to overcome these problems to a great extent leading to formation of nanocomposite polymer electrolytes. Looking into such problems, an attempt has been made in the present work to improve the performance of (PVA: PVK): $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$: EC electrolyte system by dispersal of nano- sized SiO_2 . This system is expected to drastically impede crystallization process in polymer based nanocomposite electrolytes and thus improve ionic conductivity. Present system is characterized by using XRD, FTIR, Scanning electron microscopy, electrical measurement and battery fabrication and discharge profile test to evaluate cell performance.

Experimental

PVA (average molecular weight 124,000- 186,000 Aldrich make), PVK (average molecular weight 40,000 Aldrich make), ammonium acetate ($\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$), AR grade sd fine chem. and aprotic solvent dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) merk limited, were used for synthesis of polymer nanocomposite electrolyte. The preparation of nanocomposite electrolytes involved many steps. First both polymers PVA and PVK were dissolved in DMSO in the ratio of PVA: PVK, 90:10 and stirred for 3 h at 50°C to obtain homogeneous mixing. In the second step an appropriate quantity of ammonium acetate ($\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$) salt in EC (Aldrich make) was added to the above mixture to get the composition so as to obtain the polymer blend electrolyte and stirred further for 2h to complete the homogenous mixing. In next step SiO_2 nano filler was mixed in different wt% and stirred for other 2 to 3h. The final solution was poured in poly carbonate pettri dish to obtain thick films of nanocomposite electrolyte system. Silicon oxide (SiO_2) filler was synthesized by standard sol-gel technique. Tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) was chosen as precursor material dissolved in a double- distilled water/ethanol mixture for the formation of silicon oxide powder. The pH value of solution was maintain 5-7 with the ammonia solution drops and allowed to gel at 50°C . The gel was dried at 150°C for 12 h followed by thermal treatment at 700°C for 2 h and 900°C for 0.5 h in a kanthal high temperature furnace. The dried material was crushed to obtain fine powder of SiO_2 [24]. C-V and I-t measurements were performed on a CH- electrochemical workstation (CH instruments model CH608) to determine electrochemical window and nature of charge transport. Electrical characterization of the material was carried out using impedance spectroscopy technique. Complex impedance parameters were measured with a Hioki impedance analyzer (model 3520) in the frequency range 40 Hz- 100 KHz using platinum electrodes for electrical contact.

Results and Discussion

XRD Studies

Figure 1 depicts the XRD pattern of blend based polymer gel electrolyte films of (PVA: PVK): $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$: EC without and with SiO_2 nanofillers along with pristine components. One relatively sharp characteristic XRD peak at $2\theta = 22.1^\circ$ and a broad peak around 16.7° (pattern b) closely matches with the peaks reported for PVK [25]. The slight deviations in characteristic reflection of PVK are possibly due to variation in solvent swollen nature of PVK

in different organic solvents. XRD pattern of as synthesized SiO_2 nanofiller particles showing prominent XRD peak at $2\theta = 26.6^\circ$ (in inset pattern c) to conform to earlier reported results [26]. When the polymer components are admixed together to form PVA:PVK (90:10 ratio) blend the low intensity diffraction peaks appear at 2θ values 19.45° , 19.76° and 20.6° while high intensity characteristic reflection is noticed around 24.23° (pattern d). These diffraction maxima occur on account of interaction among components/ intercalation of PVK in PVA leading to formation of a new material viz. polymer blend. It is should be mentioned here that few low intensity peaks are not clearly visible due to merge of different patterns in a single figure. The presence of diffraction peak 19.45° and 19.76° is correlated to existence of un-reacted PVA in the blend. The remaining peaks can be correlated to formation of PVA: PVK blend as they do not correspond to any of the reflection of pristine material. Upon addition of salt $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$ (pattern e) the XRD peaks of PVK ($2\theta = 16.7^\circ$) retraces towards lower 2θ value. On the other hand, the PVA related peak intensity ($2\theta = 19.6^\circ$) diminishes. Also diffraction peak related to PVA: PVK: DMSO system at 24.2° intensifies owing to enhanced compatibility in the presence of added salt. Recently, PVA has been shown to form complex with ammonium salts leading to formation of polymer gel electrolyte [27-29].

On the same lines it can be argued that ammonium acetate forms complex with linkage at the OH group of PVA. In addition to the XRD peaks appearing at 16.7° and 24.2° few other peaks around 26.9° , 27.2° , 30.6° , 35.2° , 35.7° , 41.1° and 47.6° appear in XRD pattern of composite system. Since none of these peaks are assignable neither to salt nor host polymers it is conjectured that complex formation takes place in electrolyte system. Upon addition of nanofiller SiO_2 (pattern f) all the existing peaks are suppressed with increase in broadening of primary peak except the appearance of a strong sharp peak at $2\theta = 26.6^\circ$. This peak corresponds to characteristic reflection of SiO_2 according to JCPDS data (file no.461045) and also recorded in the experiment (in inset pattern c). This observation supports the role of SiO_2 as that of passive filler in electrolyte with SiO_2 only improving the morphology of composite blend electrolyte system. Characteristic reflections of nanofiller could not be tracked at higher concentration of SiO_2 due to coverage of SiO_2 particles by matrix electrolyte. The average crystallite size in composite system (Table 1) was also estimated using well-known Debye-Scherrer formula [30] which reflects nano format of electrolyte system in

presence of filler particles. Further marginal improvement (decrease in crystallite size) noticed till intake of 6 wt% SiO_2 . As it exceeds a sudden increase in crystallite size is noticed possibly due to agglomeration of nano particles.

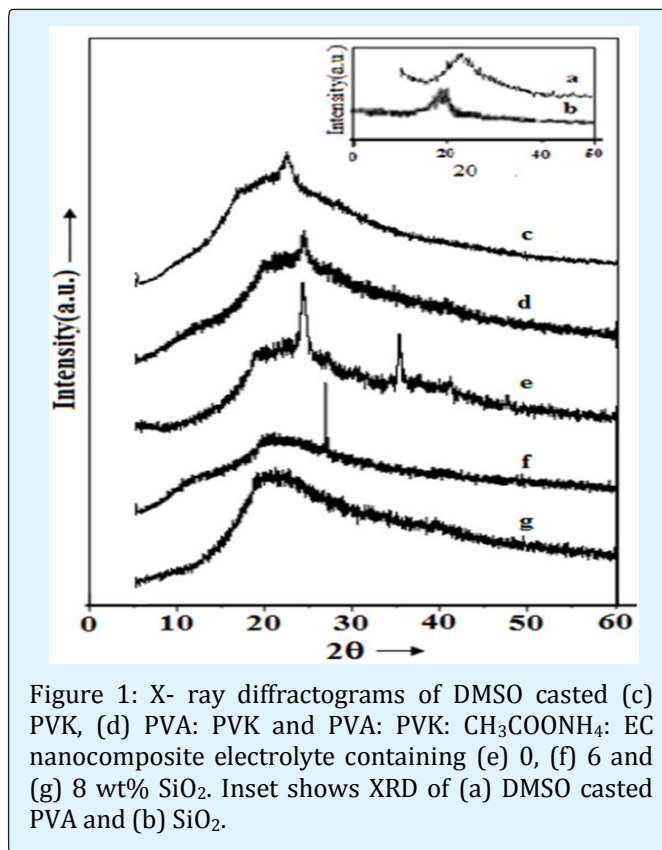


Figure 1: X- ray diffractograms of DMSO casted (c) PVK, (d) PVA: PVK and PVA: PVK: $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$: EC nanocomposite electrolyte containing (e) 0, (f) 6 and (g) 8 wt% SiO_2 . Inset shows XRD of (a) DMSO casted PVA and (b) SiO_2 .

Scanning Electron Microscopy Studies

Figure 2 depicts the surface morphology of DMSO casted PVK, PVA: PVK, PVA: PVK: $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$: EC and PVA: PVK: $\text{CH}_3\text{COONH}_4$: EC: SiO_2 films. In the pure PVK film image plain structure is observed with existence of intermittent pores of small dimension (Figure 2a). In the image of PVA: PVK blend rough surface of irregular pores is observed with cluster of un-dissolved PVK (Figure 2b). The rough surface along with existence of phase separation is an indication of poor compatibility among polymer components as also witnessed during optical microscopy. Upon addition of ammonium acetate salt in PVA: PVK to make polymer blend the original entity is lost and layered type structure with significant decrease in pores size is observed (Figure 2c). This supports better solvent retention capability of electrolyte system. It seems

that there exists better compatibility among polymer components in the presence of salt validating optical microscopic data. Incorporation of SiO₂ filler in mixed conducting system reduces the porosity of system because SiO₂ nanoparticles are entrapped between chains in the pores (Figure 2d). White colored spots observed in the SEM image show that SiO₂ nano filler particles are not fully absorbed.

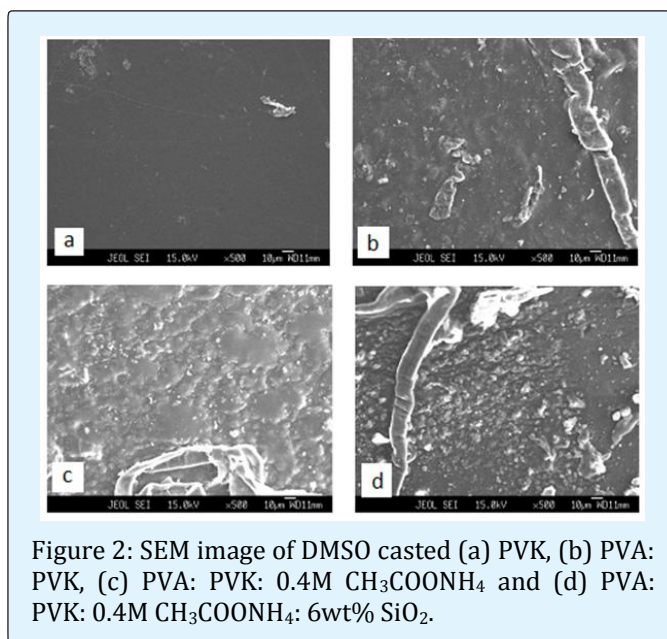


Figure 2: SEM image of DMSO casted (a) PVK, (b) PVA: PVK, (c) PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄ and (d) PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄: 6wt% SiO₂.

DSC Analysis

DSC thermograms of Figure 3 (i) and (ii) represent the thermal scans for PVA, PVK, PVA: PVK: DMSO and PVA: PVK: CH₃COONH₄: EC composite system for two salt molarities (0.4 and 0.6 M) and nanocomposite electrolyte containing 6 and 8 wt% SiO₂ for 0.4 mole salt. Since PVA is known to be partially crystalline material, both characteristic transitions (T_g and T_m) appear in DSC thermogram as evidenced in scan a of Figure 3(i) (T_g= 88°C and T_m= 216°C). These transitions are in close agreement with the earlier reported values [27,31]. The glass transition temperature of PVA decreases in the blend and as well as in composite electrolyte system probably due to plasticization of PVA with DMSO used as casting solvent for electrolytes [32]. This transition is observed around 70°C. A broad shoulder peak around 170°C is also evidenced in DSC profile of pure PVA. Such a feature has also been reported earlier [27] and ascribed to phenton melting. In thermogram b of Figure 3(i) glass transitions temperature and melting temperature of PVK

appear around 197°C and 337°C respectively, which conform to the result of Cadek et al. [33]. Endothermic transition around 58°C (scan a figure 3 (ii)) shifts toward higher temperature (61°C) upon addition of 0.4 M salt in the blend (scan b of Figure 3 (ii)) and correlated to melting of DMSO resulting interaction of DMSO with PVA. It has been shown previously by Agrawal and Awadhia [21,34] that DMSO interacts with PVA and reduces to dimethyl sulphide (DMS). This endothermic peak is also observed in nanocomposite system containing 6 and 8 wt% SiO₂ at 55°C (scan d) and 49°C (scan e) respectively.

Endothermic transition observed around 221°C in PVA: PVK blend (scan a) can be ascribed to melting temperature of uncomplexed PVA and this peak shifts toward higher temperature upon addition of salt and observed at 223°C and 225°C for 0.4 M (scan b) and 0.6 M (scan c) respectively. Upon incorporation of 6 wt% SiO₂ nanofiller in composite blend containing 0.4 mole ammonium acetate salt, (scan d of Figure 3 (ii)) this peak is shifted to 227°C. On further increasing content of nanofiller this transition retraces back and appears at 217°C. The enthalpy change corresponding to this transition when calculated for electrolyte samples (Table 1) it decreases. However change in enthalpy is minimal for sample containing 6 wt% SiO₂ (26.3 J/g) which is an indication of maximal degree of amorphousness. No transition corresponding to glass transition temperature of PVK (197°C) could be perceived in blend nor their electrolyte. Further multiple endothermic transitions appeared in the temperature range 250°C - 288°C in all electrolytes samples (scan b-e of Figure 3 (ii)) which is attributed to formation of complexes.

Appearance of an endothermic peak around 347°C in PVA: PVK blend can be associated to melting of unblended PVK, and this temperature decreases upon addition of salt due to formation of blend based electrolyte. Upon addition of SiO₂ nanofiller further decrement is noticed in this thermal transition. Moreover the enthalpy change corresponding to this transition is also seen to decrease. A broad endothermic peak in composite system containing 0.4 M salt (scan b of Figure 3 (ii)) is observed around 135°C which can be correlated to melting of PVA: salt complex formed or onset of phenton melting. Since endotherms related to melting temperature of PVA and PVK is observed in all samples in the temperature range 250°C to 288°C, their occurrence suggest formation of partially compatible blend based electrolytes.

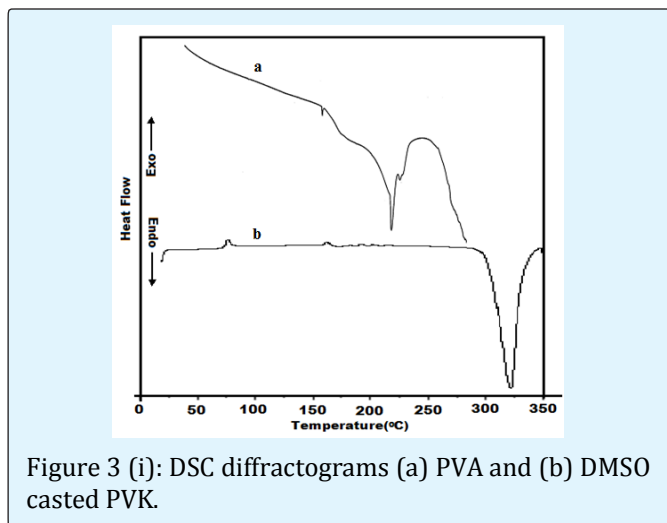


Figure 3 (i): DSC diffractograms (a) PVA and (b) DMSO casted PVK.

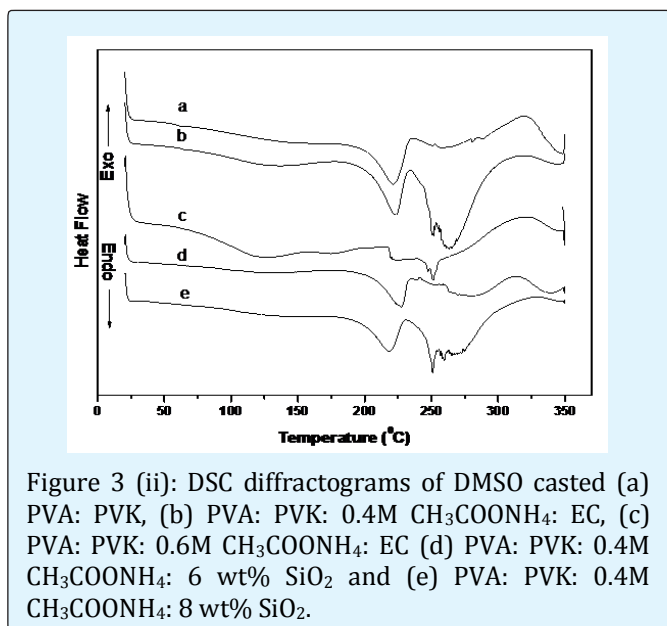


Figure 3 (ii): DSC diffractograms of DMSO casted (a) PVA: PVK, (b) PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄: EC, (c) PVA: PVK: 0.6M CH₃COONH₄: EC (d) PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄: 6 wt% SiO₂ and (e) PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄: 8 wt% SiO₂.

Wagner's Polarization

Amperometric I-t technique was used to assess the nature of ion transport and evaluate total ionic transference number from current time plot with platinum electrodes. The variation of current with time for mixed conducting samples is shown in Figure 4. Polarisation behavior is reflected in all these curves. The ionic transference number t_{ion} was calculated using the relation [35]:

$$t_{ion} = \frac{I_{initial} - I_{final}}{I_{initial}} = \frac{I_{total} - I_{electronic}}{I_{total}} = \frac{I_{ionic}}{I_{total}} \quad (1)$$

Where I_{ionc} is current due to ions, $I_{electronic}$ (or I_{final}) the current due to electrons, and I_{total} (or $I_{initial}$) the sum of ionic and electronic contribution to current.

It is observed that the nature of charge transport is similar to that for solvent-free gel polymeric electrolytes [36]. The calculated values of t_{ion} for different composite films varies from 0.9 to 0.8 with varying concentration of SiO₂ filler which ascertains dominance of ionic charge transport over electronic transport in nanocomposite electrolyte.

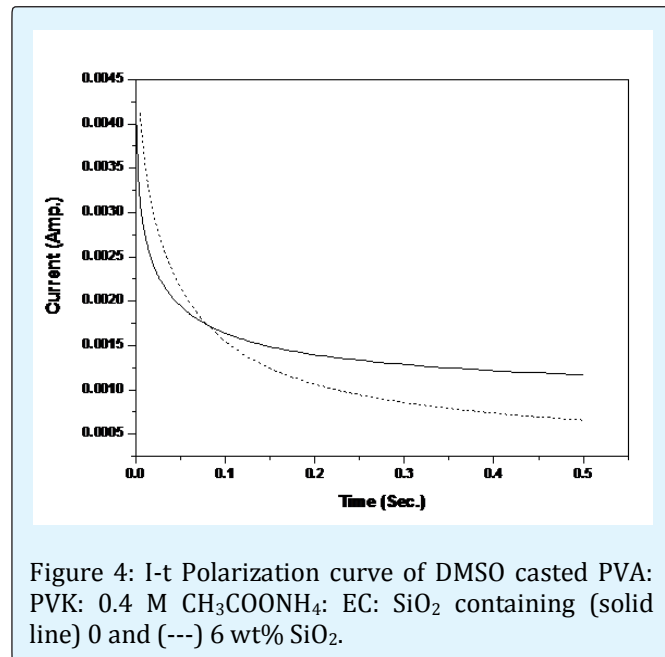


Figure 4: I-t Polarization curve of DMSO casted PVA: PVK: 0.4 M CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ containing (solid line) 0 and (---) 6 wt% SiO₂.

CV Studies

A stable potential window is of great practical importance for applications of electrolyte materials in batteries and super capacitor [37,38]. Figure 5 compares the cyclic voltagrams of composite electrolyte and nanocomposite electrolyte with loaded different wt% nanofiller of SiO₂. It is apparent from this figure that electrochemical stability is moderately good without any filler which range - 1.5 V to + 1.6 V. On addition of nano filler stability is seen to improve significantly range from - 1.54 V to +1.64V. Another effect of adding the nanofiller is the narrowing of faradic currents during oxidation and reduction cycles in the stable region. An interesting observation is the appearance of a single oxidation/reduction peak for all pristine and composite electrolytes, which is on account of NH₄⁺ ions that contributes to ionic conduction. Oxidation of PVA in presence of DMSO has been envisaged earlier [21]. In the

presences of filler, the reduction peak was noticed to shift on the potential scale along with decrease in the intensity. Comparison of C-V data indicates best cyclic reversibility for composite system containing 6 wt% SiO₂ filler with optimum, improvement in electrochemical stability. Electro chemical window has been found to range from -1.6V to +1.64V.

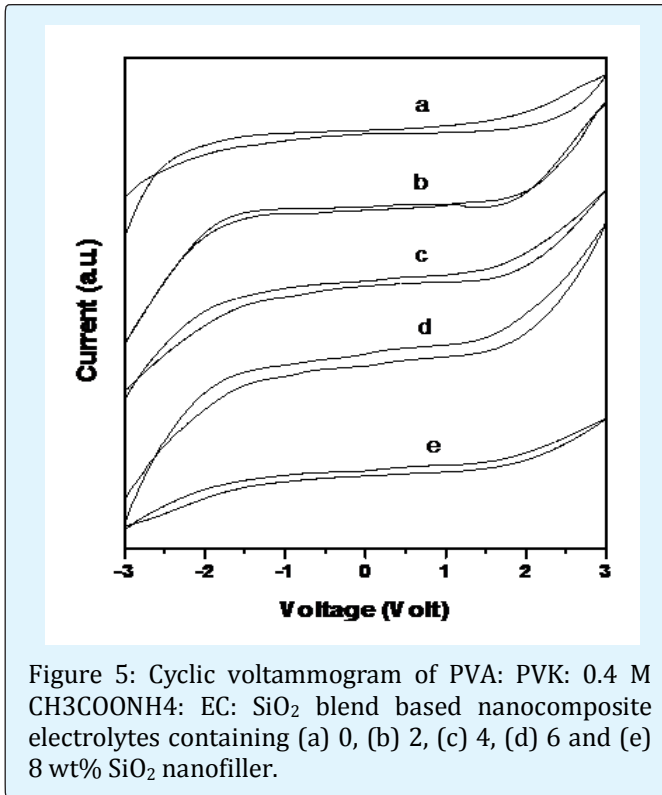


Figure 5: Cyclic voltammogram of PVA: PVK: 0.4 M CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ blend based nanocomposite electrolytes containing (a) 0, (b) 2, (c) 4, (d) 6 and (e) 8 wt% SiO₂ nanofiller.

Electrical Conductivity

The variation of ionic conductivity of composite electrolyte (PVA: PVK): CH₃COONH₄: EC system as a function of salt concentration is shown in Figure 6. The conductivity of composite system has been extracted with the help of Cole- Cole plot. The conductivity of composite electrolyte is seen to rise with increasing salt concentration and reach an optimum at $1.27 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$ for 0.4 M. It has been complex formation takes place in the system, which tends to raise the conductivity of the system through greater dissociation of salts. Dimethyl sulfoxide is highly aprotic solvent and ammonium acetate is likely to dissociate into respective ions at lower concentration and there is nothing to be dissociate. Therefore as the concentration of salt enhances concentration of free ions increases and so the conductivity increases in accordance with the relation:

$$\sigma = nq\mu \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where q represents the charge of mobile carrier, n the charge carrier concentration and μ the carrier mobility. Increase in the amount of salt content leads to increase in fraction of un-dissociated salt in gel solution. However, the polymer- salt interaction, as reported earlier [21]. This in tantamount to higher conductivity values in accordance with relation (2). For high salt concentration > 0.4 M dissociation of salt by polymer is restricted by further increase in fraction of un- dissociated salt in gel solution, which raises the viscosity of gel system and hence conductivity decreases.

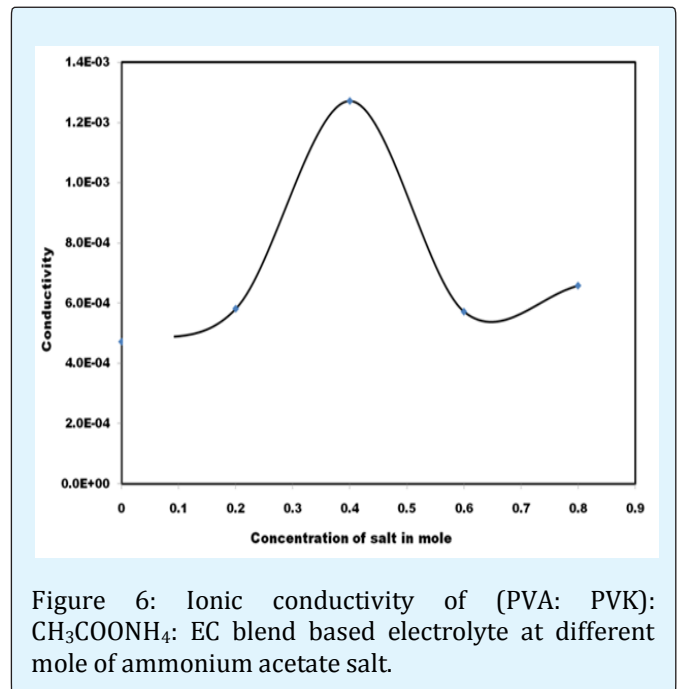


Figure 6: Ionic conductivity of (PVA: PVK): CH₃COONH₄: EC blend based electrolyte at different mole of ammonium acetate salt.

Figure 7 depict the variation of ionic conductivity of nanocomposite polymer electrolyte with SiO₂ filler concentration. The ionic conductivity of nanocomposite electrolyte seen to improves moderately (~5 times) at room temperature for 6 wt% of SiO₂ filler. Close observation of conductivity plot shows two maxima, one around 2 wt% and other around 6 wt% filler concentration- a feature typical of nanocomposite polymer gel electrolyte [26,27]. At low filler concentration, greater dissociation of salt and increase in amorphous behavior tends to enhance free ions concentration and mobility, which significantly enhance ionic conductivity. A flattening in conductivity response is noticed beyond 2 wt% SiO₂ contents. This can be associated to the fact that all the salt has been dissociated

and so charge carrier concentration is limited. It is only the change in system morphology that tends to affect the conductivity, and thus, again an enhancement of small magnitude is visible. In situation when there is very large quantity of nanoparticles (beyond 6 wt%), agglomeration of these nanoparticles take place, which leads to decrease in conductivity due to creation of tortuous pathways for mobile ions. Another factor that can be associated with the fall conductivity is the increase in the microscopic viscosity of composite system.

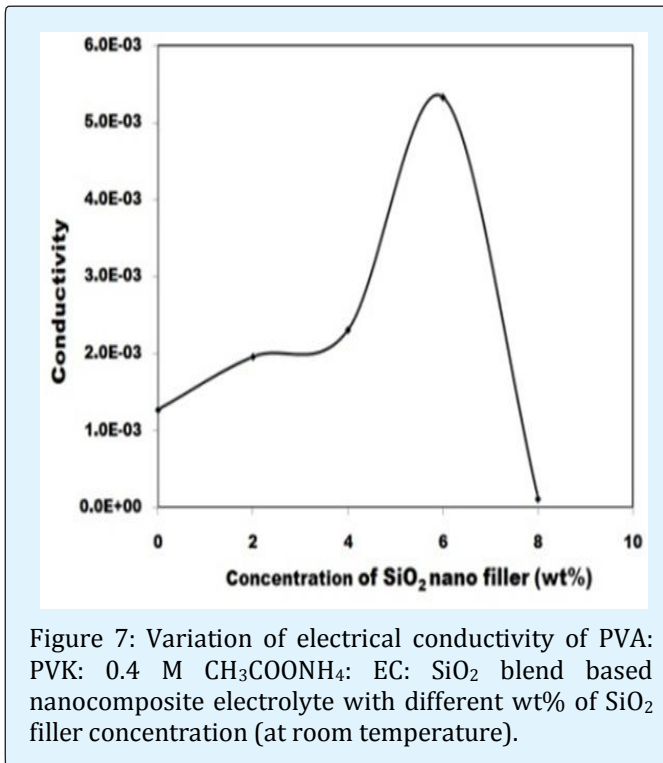


Figure 7: Variation of electrical conductivity of PVA: PVK: 0.4 M CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ blend based nanocomposite electrolyte with different wt% of SiO₂ filler concentration (at room temperature).

Temperature Dependence of Conductivity

It is clear from Cole- Cole plots of PVA: PVK: CH₃COONH₄ system that there is a continuous drop in bulk resistance of composite system with increase of temperature. Hence temperature dependence of electrical conductivity of (PVA: PVK): CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ system at different filler concentration was studied and the result have been shown in Figure 8. The variation of conductivity indicates that the conductivity increases with rise in temperature with two distinct straight lines separated by a region in which there a non-linear change in conductivity value. At low temperature (around room temperature) the conductivity response is essentially dictated by the trapped liquid electrolyte within the polymer matrix and hence Arrhenius behavior is

noticeable. However, as the temperature approaches the glass transition temperature of polymer PVK (65°C) in polymer composite system, the matrix becomes flexible giving rise to conductivity response associated to that PVA: CH₃COONH₄ electrolyte. Therefore as the temperature is raised further the conductivity enhancement is best described by VTF relationship. All the curve display similar behavior i.e. combination of Arrhenius and VTF with former being noticed in the low-temperature region and later at higher temperatures.

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 \exp(-E_a / KT) \quad (4)$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 T^{-1/2} \exp(-E_a / T-T_0) \quad (5)$$

Where σ_0 is the pre-exponential factor, the activation energy and E_a is activation energy K is the Boltzmann constant and $T_0 = T_g - 60^\circ\text{C}$ is quasi equilibrium glass transition temperature.

A low value of activation energy in low temperature region (Table 1) has been observed. Such low values are typically observed for polymer gel electrolytes.

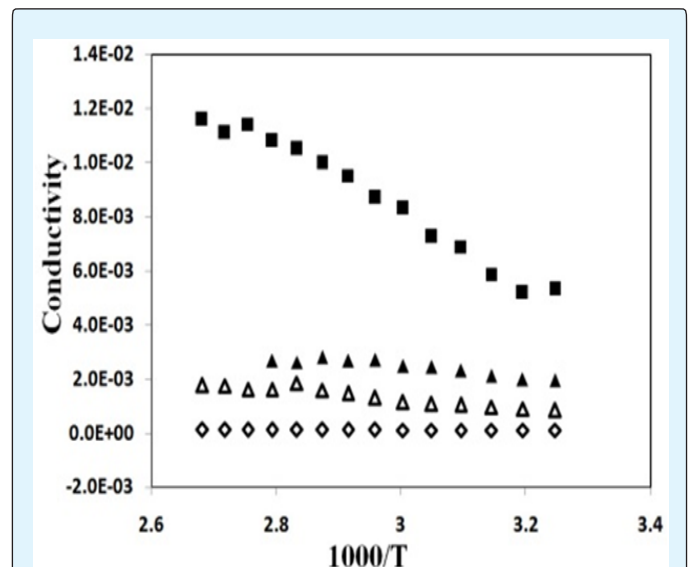


Figure 8: Temperature dependent conductivity of PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH₃COONH₄: EC: SiO₂ blend based nanocomposite electrolytes with (Δ) 0, (▲) 2, (■) 6 and (◇) 8 wt% SiO₂.

S. No.	Samples Name	Average Crystallite Size(nm)	Change in enthalpy (J/g)	Ionic transference number t_{ion}	σ_{dc} (S/cm)	Activation energy E_a (ev)
1	PVA: PVK: DMSO	~35.38	30	-	-	-
2	PVA: PVK: 0.4 m CH_3COONH_4	~33.16	28.2	0.7	1.27×10^{-3}	0.47
3	PVA: PVK: 0.6 m CH_3COONH_4	~32.5	27.3	-	-	-
4	PVA: PVK: 0.4 m CH_3COONH_4 : 2wt% SiO_2	-	-	0.93	1.96×10^{-3}	0.3
5	PVA: PVK: 0.4 m CH_3COONH_4 : 4wt% SiO_2	-	-	0.82	2.31×10^{-3}	0.2
6	PVA: PVK: 0.4 m CH_3COONH_4 : 6wt% SiO_2	~30.20	26.3	0.9	5.33×10^{-3}	0.086
7	PVA: PVK: 0.4 m CH_3COONH_4 : 8wt% SiO_2	~118.2	28.9	0.46	1.13×10^{-4}	0.138

Table 1: Average crystallite size, Change in enthalpy, Ionic transference number and activation energy of some samples.

All-Solid -State Battery

Looking into wide temperature and electrochemical window of the nanocomposite electrolytes all-solid state battery has been fabricated using PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH_3COONH_4 : EC: SiO_2 as electrolyte to test the utility of electrolytes in battery application. All solid state battery was designed in the configuration $(Zn+ZnSO_4) || PVA: PVK: 0.4M CH_3COONH_4: EC: SiO_2 || (C+V_2O_5+Electrolyte)$ and subjected to discharge profile test to evaluate cell performance. Open circuit voltage (OCV) ~ 1.5 V has been obtained for the cell. The Cell was discharged through load resistance 1.5 K Ω at room temperature. Initial drop in the potential followed by a plateau region and ultimate fall in cell voltage is observed (Figure 9) with 1.5 K Ω load resistance. The cell potential discharge profile is shown in Figure 9 Some important parameters, calculated in the plateau region of the discharge profile are listed in Table 2. The observed favorable results clearly outline the importance of these blend electrolyte in solid state battery applications.

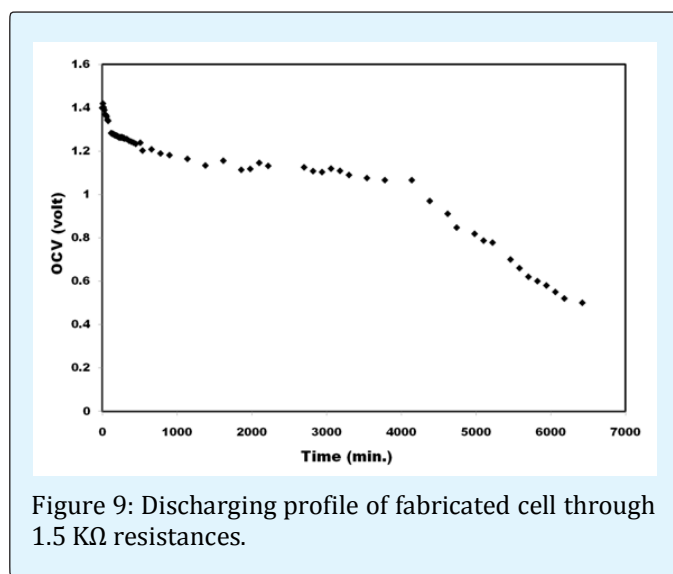


Figure 9: Discharging profile of fabricated cell through 1.5 K Ω resistances.

Maximum OCV (Volt)	Working Voltage (Volt)	Current (I) mA	Electric Power (P) mW	Electric Energy (E) mWh	Current Density (J) mA cm ⁻¹	Power Density W/Kg	Energy Density Wh/Kg
1.42	1.13	0.75	0.85	39.29	0.45	0.85	39.29

Table 2: Some important cell parameters calculated in the plateau region of the cell potential discharge profile.

References

- Gray FM (1991) Solid Polymer electrolytes: Fundamentals and Technological Applications, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, New York, pp: 245
- Mac Callum JR, Vincent CA (1989) Polymer Electrolyte Reviews, Elsevier Applied Science Publishers London, pp: 1-2.
- Chandra S, Sekhon SS, Arora N (2000) PMMA based protonic polymer gel electrolytes. *Ionics* 6(1): 112-118.
- Rajendran S, Shivkumar M, Subadevi R (2004) *Materials Letters* 58: 641-649.
- Xia DW, Soltz D, Samid J (1984) *Solid State Ionics* 14: 221.
- Weston JE, Steel BC (1982) *Solid State Ionics* 7: 75-79.
- Finch CA (1973) Polyvinyl Alcohol properties and applications, John Wiley & Sons, Bristol.
- Wang T, Gunasekaran S (2006) State of water in chitosan-PVA hydrogel. *J App Polym Sc* 101(5): 3227-3232.
- Michael MS, Prabaharan RS (2004) *Journal of Power Source* 136: 408-415.
- Bohanke O, Rousselot C, Gillet PA, Truche CJ (1992) Gel Electrolyte for Solid-State Electrochromic Cell. *Electrochem Soc* 139(7): 1862-1865.
- Seshadri KS, Selvaraj M, Kesava Moorthy R, Varatharajan K, Srinivasan MP, et al. (2003) Role of binder in the synthesis of titania membrane. *Bull Mater Sci* 26(2): 221-225.
- Singh HP, Kumar R, Sekhon SS (2005) Correlation between ionic conductivity and fluidity of polymer gel electrolytes containing $\text{NH}_4\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$. *Bull Mater Sci* 28(5): 467-472.
- Croce F, Gerace F, Dautzemberg G, Passerini S, Appetechi GB, et al. (1994) *Electrochim Acta* 39: 2187-2194.
- Song JY, Wang YY, Wan CC (2000) Conductivity Study of Porous Plasticized Polymer Electrolytes Based on Poly(vinylidene fluoride) A Comparison with Polypropylene Separators. *J Electrochem Soc* 147(9): 3219-3225.
- Radhucha D, Wieczorek W, Florjanczyk Z, Stevens JR (1996) Nonaqueous H_3PO_4 -Doped Gel Electrolytes. *J Phys Chem* 100(51): 20126-20133.
- Koksbang R, Oslen II, Shackle D (1994) *Solid State Ionics* 69: 320-335.
- Caravanier CC, Montigny BC, Lemordant D, Bossier G (2003) *Solid State Ionics* 156: 113-127.
- Sato T, Bonno K, Maruo T, Nozu R (2005) *J Power Sources* 152: 264-271.
- Colomban P (1992) Proton conductors: Solids, membranes and gels- materials and devices, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Wieczorek W, Florjanczyk Z, Stevens JR (1995) *Electrochim Acta* 40: 2327-2330.
- Awadhia A, Agrawal SL (2007) *Solid State Ionics* 178: 951-958.
- Agrawal SL Singh M, Dwivedi MM, Tripathi M, Pandey K (2009) Dielectric relaxation studies on [PEO-SiO₂]:NH₄SCN nanocomposite polymer electrolyte films. *J Material Sci* 44(22): 6060-6068.
- Mishra K, Hashmi SA, Rai DK (2013) Nanocomposite blend gel polymer electrolyte for proton battery application. *J Solid State Electrochem* 17(3): 785-793.
- Hench LL, West JK (1990) The sol-gel process. *Chemical Review* 90(1): 33-72.
- Ramrakhiani M (2013) Luminescence of Cadmium Sulphide Nanoparticles and Nanocomposites. *International journal of Luminescence and Application* 3(1): 15-22.
- Pandey K, Dwivedi MM, Tripathi M, Singh M, Agrawal SL (2008) Structural, thermal and ion transport studies on nanocomposite polymer electrolyte-{(PEO + SiO₂):NH₄SCN} system. *Ionics* 14(6): 515-523.
- Chand N, Rai N, Agrawal SL, Patel SK (2011) Morphology, thermal, electrical and electrochemical stability of nano aluminium-oxide-filled polyvinyl alcohol composite gel electrolyte. *Bull Mate Sci* 34: 1297-1304.

28. Ramya CS, Selvasekarapandian S, Savitha T, Hirankumar T, Baskaran R, et al. (2006) *European Polymer Journal* 42: 2672-2677.
29. Selvasekarpandiana S, Hirankumara G, Kawamura J, Kuwata N, Hattori T (2005) *Mater Lett* 59: 2741-2745.
30. Cullity BD (1978) *Elements of X-ray diffraction*, 2nd (ed.), Addison-Wesley Publishing Company Inc., London.
31. Bao GC, Yun WQ, Fang SB, Jiang YY (1987) Ionic conductivity of polyelectrolyte derivatives of poly(vinyl alcohol)-lithium ion complex films. *Polym Bull* 18(2): 143-148.
32. Pradhan DK, Choudhary RNP, Samantaray BK (2008) *Express Polymer Letters* 2: 630-638.
33. Cadek M, Coleman JN, Barron V, Hedicke K, Blau WJ (2002) Morphological and mechanical properties of carbon-nanotube-reinforced semicrystalline and amorphous polymer composites. *Applied Physics Letters* 81(27): 5123-5125.
34. Agrawal SL, Awadhia A (2004) DSC and conductivity studies on PVA based proton conducting gel electrolytes. *Bull Mater Sci* 27(6): 523-527.
35. Chandra S (1981) *Superionics Solids: Principles and Application*, Amsterdam North-Holland.
36. Agrawal SL, Shukla PK (2000) *Ind J Pure and Appl Phys* 38: 53-61.
37. Kubota N, Fujii S, Tatsumoto N, Sano TC (2002) Ionically conductive polymer gel electrolytes consisting of crosslinked methacrylonitrile and organic electrolyte. *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* 83(12): 2655-2659.
38. Kim KM, Park NG, Ryu KS, Chang SH (2002) *Polymer* 43: 3951-3957.