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Fuel cell based on novel hyper-branched polybenzimidazole membrane

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Abstract

A novel hyper-branched polybenzimidazole (HB-PBI) has been synthesized and efficiently utilized as a conducting polymer for the fabrication of an efficient high temperature fuel cell. The developed fuel cell showed outstanding proton conductivity (0.168 Scm(-1) at 150 A degrees C) along with excellent single cell performance, displaying a maximum power density of 0.346 Wcm(-2). The HB-PBI has been synthesized by polymerization of bibenzimidazole diterephthalic acid (BBIDTA) and 3,3'diaminobenzene in the presence of poly phosphoric acid while the BBIDTA was synthesized by treating trimellitic anhydride with 3,3'-diaminobenzene. Both HB-PBI and BBIDTA were structurally characterized by nuclear magnetic resonance (H-1 and C-13 NMR). HB-PBI showed high thermal stability and mechanical properties, findings that were corroborated by thermogravimetric analysis and use of a universal testing machine. Additionally, proton conduction and the thermal and mechanical properties of HB-PBI were compared with polybenzene imidazole (m-PBI), and found that HB-PBI has higher proton conducting, thermal and mechanical properties.

Keywords

Author Keywords: polybenzimidazole; proton exchange membrane; fuel cell; thermal properties; mechanical properties

KeyWords Plus: COPOLYMER COMPOSITE MEMBRANES; POLYMER ELECTROLYTE MEMBRANES; ACID DOPED POLYBENZIMIDAZOLE; SULFONATED POLYIMIDE; METHANOL; PERFORMANCE; STABILITY; NETWORKS; HYDROGEN

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