

Content

1	<i>Introduction</i>	1
1.1	Economic and ecologic demand for electricity	1
1.2	Aims of SOFC research and development	1
1.3	Objectives of this work and outline	2
2	<i>Fundamentals and background</i>	3
2.1	Fuel cells	3
2.1.1	Different types of fuel cells	4
2.1.2	Operation principle of SOFC	6
2.1.3	Thermodynamics	7
2.1.4	Electrochemical efficiency of SOFC	8
2.1.5	Electrolytes	11
2.1.6	Anodes	14
2.1.7	Cathodes	14
2.1.8	Cell design	15
2.2	Sol-gel processing	17
2.2.1	Colloidal particle system	18
2.2.2	Polymeric and colloidal sols	20
2.2.3	Spin-coating	22
2.2.4	Dip-coating	23
2.2.5	Sintering of thin ceramic layers	25
3	<i>Experimental</i>	27
3.1	Electrolyte preparation strategies	27
3.2	Synthesis and sample preparations	27
3.2.1	A two-step polymeric zirconia sol-gel process	27
3.2.2	Synthesis of colloidal sol	28
3.2.3	Preparation of commercial colloidal zirconia and ceria nano-suspension	29
3.2.4	Synthesis of CGO, LSM and LSCF polymeric sols from inorganic metal salts	29
3.2.5	Preparation of powders	30
3.2.6	Preparation of substrate and anode	30
3.2.7	Preparation of YSZ electrolyte layer	31
3.2.8	Preparation of CGO barrier layer	32
3.2.9	Preparation of cathode	32
3.3	Characterizations	32
3.3.1	Particle size distribution	32
3.3.2	Adsorption	33
3.3.3	Surface topography and deflection measurement	33
3.3.4	Dilatometry	33
3.3.5	Helium leak rate test	34
3.3.6	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	34
3.3.7	SEM and TEM	34
3.3.8	Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS)	35
3.3.9	Electrochemical single cell test	37
4	<i>Results and discussion</i>	38
4.1	Fundamental characterization of materials	38
4.1.1	YSZ polymeric sols and derived powders	38
4.1.2	CGO, LSM and LSCF polymeric sols and derived powders	45
4.1.3	8YSZ colloidal sols and derived powders	47

Content

4.1.4	Nano-suspensions made of commercial oxide particles	51
4.1.5	Results of dilatometric measurements	56
4.2	Characterization of layers	58
4.2.1	Substrates	58
4.2.2	Layers deposited with polymeric sols	60
4.2.3	Layers deposited with nano-suspensions	64
4.3	Electrochemical characterization of single cells	78
4.3.1	Single cells with multi-layered electrolyte, without CGO layer and non-sintered LSCF cathode (Group 1-1)	80
4.3.2	Single cells with multi-layered electrolyte, CGO layer and sintered LSCF cathode (Group 2-1 and Group 2-2)	83
4.3.3	Single cells with co-sintered multi-layered electrolyte, CGO layer and LSCF cathode (Group 3-1, Group 3-2 and Group 3-3)	92
4.3.4	Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS)	106
4.3.5	Single cells with co-sintered multi-layered electrolyte, CGO layer and LSC cathode (Group 4-1)	112
4.3.6	Summary of electrochemical characterizations	118
5	Summary	121
6	References	123
7	Acknowledgements	129