

2019-12-28

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### Recommended Citation

Han-fang ZHANG, Feng WEI, Jian SUN, Meng-ying JING, Xiao-jun HE. Ionic Liquid Assisted Synthesis of Porous Carbons from Rice Husk for Supercapacitors[J]. *Journal of Electrochemistry*, 2019 , 25(6): 764-772.

DOI: 10.13208/j.electrochem.180721

Available at: <https://jelectrochem.xmu.edu.cn/journal/vol25/iss6/14>

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DOI: 10.13208/j.electrochem.180721

Artical ID:1006-3471(2019)06-0764-09

Cite this: *J. Electrochem.* 2019, 25(6): 764-772

Http://electrochem.xmu.edu.cn

## Ionic Liquid Assisted Synthesis of Porous Carbons from Rice Husk for Supercapacitors

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**Abstract:** It is still a challenge to prepare carbon materials with high specific surface area at low cost from renewable resources. Herein, the authors report an efficient approach to synthesize porous carbons (PCs) from rice husk with ionic liquid (1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate (BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>)) as a template and an activation agent. The as-made PCs featured the high specific surface area up to 1438 m<sup>2</sup>·g<sup>-1</sup>. As electrodes for supercapacitors, PCs showed a high specific capacitance of 256 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup> in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH aqueous electrolyte and a good rate performance of 211 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup>. All the PC electrodes exhibited good cycle stability. This work provides a new way for efficient synthesis of PCs from biomass using BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> as a template and an assisted activation agent for high-performance supercapacitors.

**Key words:** porous carbon; BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>; rice husk; supercapacitor

**CLC Number:** O646

**Document Code:** A

With the fast consumption of fossil fuel and the following global environmental concerns, there is an increasing demand for green, sustainable, and highly efficient energy-storage devices. Supercapacitors have drawn much attention as the promising energy storage devices in recent years because of their high power density and long cycle life<sup>[1-2]</sup>. Among the components of supercapacitor, electrode materials play an important role in supercapacitive performance<sup>[3]</sup>. There are various electrode materials, including porous carbons (PCs), transition metal oxides or sulfides, conducting polymers and so on<sup>[4-9]</sup>. Among these electrode materials, PCs are indispensable candidates due to their high surface area, chemical stability and electrical conductivity<sup>[10]</sup>. Up to now, the experiment conditions<sup>[11-13]</sup> influence the pore structure parameters and the cost of PCs. It is imperative to develop a simple and effective procedure for the synthesis of PCs from cheap carbon sources for the commercial applications of supercapacitors. The non-renewable and limited fossil sources including coal<sup>[14]</sup>, coal tar pitch<sup>[15]</sup>

and petroleum coke<sup>[16]</sup>, have been used to synthesize PCs. Compared to the fossil sources, the use of renewable carbon sources to produce PCs is worthwhile and necessary from the view point of economic, environmental and social issues. Rice husk is usually treated as waste and disposed at power plant sites, which leads to a serious environmental problem<sup>[17]</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to make full use of rice husk. Rice husk is one of the promising precursors for the production of low-cost PCs since the annual outputs of rice husk in the world and China are huge, which are up to 148 and 40 million tons, respectively<sup>[18]</sup>. However, the high ash content in rice husk makes it difficult to be utilized because the deash procedure increases its cost, which leads to the large discard of rice husk.

Ionic liquids (ILs) have been extensively studied because IL inherits many excellent features, such as good solubility for chemicals, excellent thermal stability and negligibly small vapor pressure<sup>[19-21]</sup>. IL (1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate,

(BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>) has been used as a template to synthesize carbon xerogels from resorcinol-formaldehyde by coupling with KOH activation for supercapacitors<sup>[21]</sup>. Nevertheless, no study on the synthesis of PCs from rice husk using BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> as a template for supercapacitor has been reported. BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> is expected to work both as template for the formation of pores and activation agent to tune the pores via the HF formed *in-situ*.

Herein, we report a facile method to prepare PCs from rice husk using BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> as a template and an assisted activation agent. The effects of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>/rice husk mass ratio on the pore structure parameters and electrochemical performance of PCs in 6 mol · L<sup>-1</sup> KOH aqueous electrolyte for supercapacitors are addressed in details.

## 1 Experimental

### 1.1 Materials

The rice husk was obtained from Huai-xiang Company in Anhui province, as described elsewhere<sup>[12]</sup>. Carbon black was provided by Cabot Co., USA. The BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> was purchased from Shanghai Flute Cypress Chemical Technology Co. Ltd. of China. Other chemicals were purchased from Aladdin Co. Ltd.

### 1.2 Syntheses

For a typical run, BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> was added into 150 mL absolute ethanol. The deashed rice husk was added into the above mixture and dispersed by ultrasonic for 1 h, followed by being soaked under vacuum for 3 h. Then, the resultant mixture was dried at 80 °C for 3 h to obtain the reactant. The reactant was transferred to a corundum boat that was put in a box-type electric furnace and heated at 3 °C · min<sup>-1</sup> to 330 °C for 30 min, and then heated to 750 °C in a flowing N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (60 mL · min<sup>-1</sup>). The resultant product was washed with 2 mol · L<sup>-1</sup> HCl solution and distilled water to remove the inorganic impurities, and dried at 110 °C for 24 h before use. The obtained PC is denoted as PC<sub>*x/y*</sub>, where the subscript *x/y* represents the mass ratio of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>/rice husk. In addition, the deashed rice husk prepared without BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> is denoted as RHC.

### 1.3 Characterizations

The pore structure of PCs was studied by N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption technique at -196 °C using ASAP2010. The BET surface area (*S*<sub>BET</sub>) of PCs was calculated by the BET (Brunauer-Emmett-Teller) equation in a relative pressure range from 0.05 to 0.24. The pore size distribution was calculated by the density functional theory (DFT) method. The total pore volume (*V*<sub>t</sub>) was obtained at a relative pressure of 0.99, and the micropore volume (*V*<sub>mic</sub>) was estimated by using the t-plot method. The average pore size (*D*<sub>ap</sub>) of PCs was obtained by the equation of *D*<sub>ap</sub> = 4*V*<sub>t</sub>/*S*<sub>BET</sub>. The microstructures of PCs were investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD, Philips X, Cu K, Radiation) and transmission electron microscope (TEM, JEOL-2100). The thermal stability of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> was studied by heating BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> at 800 °C in flowing nitrogen of 30 mL · min<sup>-1</sup> in a thermogravimetric analyzer (DTG-60, Japan).

### 1.4 Electrochemical Measurements

The carbon electrodes were made by mixing PC (87wt%), carbon black with BET surface area of 550 m<sup>2</sup> · g<sup>-1</sup> (5wt%) and polytetrafluoroethylene (8wt%), and then pressed at 20.0 MPa for 10 s, followed by being dried at 110 °C for 1 h under vacuum. Button-type supercapacitor was assembled with two similar carbon electrodes (about 11 mg · cm<sup>-2</sup>) separated by a polypropylene membrane in 6 mol · L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte. The supercapacitor was evaluated by cyclic voltammetry on a CHI760C electrochemical workstation (CH Instrument, Shanghai, China). The charge-discharge performance of supercapacitor was carried out on a supercapacitance test system (SCTs, Arbin Instruments, USA). The specific capacitance of PC electrode (*C*, F · g<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated from the slope of the discharge curve according to Eq. (1).

$$C = \frac{2I}{m \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta t}} \quad (1)$$

where *I* is the discharge current (A),  $\Delta V$  is the discharge voltage between the  $\Delta t$  period, and *m* is the mass (g) of the active materials in a single electrode.

The energy density (*E*, Wh · kg<sup>-1</sup>) and average power density (*P*, W · kg<sup>-1</sup>) of supercapacitors were

calculated according to Eqs. (2) and (3).

$$E = \frac{1}{2 \times 4 \times 3.6} CV^2 \quad (2)$$

$$P = \frac{E}{\Delta_{td}} \quad (3)$$

where  $C$  is the capacitance of two-electrode supercapacitor (F), and  $V$  is the usable voltage after  $IR$  drop (V), and  $\Delta_{td}$  is the discharge time (h).

The gravimetric capacitance of PC electrodes ( $C$ ,  $F \cdot g^{-1}$ ) was also calculated from the CV curves according to Eq. (4).

$$C = \frac{2 \int_{V_1}^{V_2} i(V)dV}{mv\Delta V} \quad (4)$$

where  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  (V) are the lower and upper limits of potential, respectively;  $\Delta V = V_2 - V_1$ , is the voltage window;  $v$  is the scan rate ( $V \cdot s^{-1}$ ); and  $i$  (V) is the current as the function of voltage.

The electrochemical impedance spectroscopic (EIS) measurements were performed on a CHI760C electrochemical workstation (CH Instrument, Shanghai, China). The specific capacitance of PC electrodes was also obtained by Eq. (5).

$$C = -\frac{4}{2\pi m f Z''} \quad (5)$$

where  $f$  is the frequency (Hz) and  $Z''$  is the imaginary impedance (Ohm).

The surface area normalized capacitance  $C_{sa}$  ( $\mu F \cdot cm^{-2}$ ) was calculated by Eq. (6).

$$C_{sa} = \frac{C}{S_{BET}} \times 100 \quad (6)$$

where  $S_{BET}$  is the specific surface area ( $m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$ ) of PC

derived from the  $N_2$  adsorption and  $C$  is the specific capacitance of the single electrode ( $F \cdot g^{-1}$ ).

## 2 Results and Discussion

Fig. 1(A) shows the  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of PCs. Fig. 1(B) is the corresponding pore size distribution curves of PCs. All the PCs synthesized in the present work are microporous carbons, evidenced by the Type I isotherms in accordance with the IUPAC classification. The pore size distribution curves of PCs revealed that the micropores of PCs centered at 0.7 nm, 1.0 nm, 1.2 nm and 2.0 nm. The pore structure parameters of PCs are shown in Tab. 1. The  $S_{BET}$  of  $PC_{3/1}$  reached  $1438 m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$ . The  $S_{mic}$ ,  $V_{mic}$ ,  $S_{BET}$  and  $V_t$  values of PCs rose with the increase of  $BMIMPF_6$ /rice husk mass ratio, which is mainly ascribed to the highest content of  $BMIMPF_6$  template as well as the *in-situ* activation agent of HF produced from the decomposition of  $BMIMPF_6$ , as shown in Eq. (7). The  $S_{BET}$  of PCs decreased from  $1438 m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$  ( $PC_{3/1}$ ) to  $697 m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$  ( $PC_{1/2}$ ) when the mass ratio of  $BMIMPF_6$ /rice husk dropped from 3/1 to 1/2 with other conditions remaining unchanged. Obviously, the  $S_{BET}$  of PCs can be tuned by adjusting the mass ratio of  $BMIMPF_6$  to rice husk. It was reported that the  $S_{BET}$  of hierarchical PCs synthesized through the self-assembly of poly(benzoxazine-co-resol) with ionic liquid  $C_{16}mimBF_4$  both as a structure directing agent and a heteroatom precursor reached  $596 m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$ [19]. The  $S_{BET}$  of carbon xerogels synthesized from resorcinol-formaldehyde with ionic liquid  $BMIImCl$  as a template reached  $590 m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$ [20]. The  $S_{BET}$  of carbon xerogels

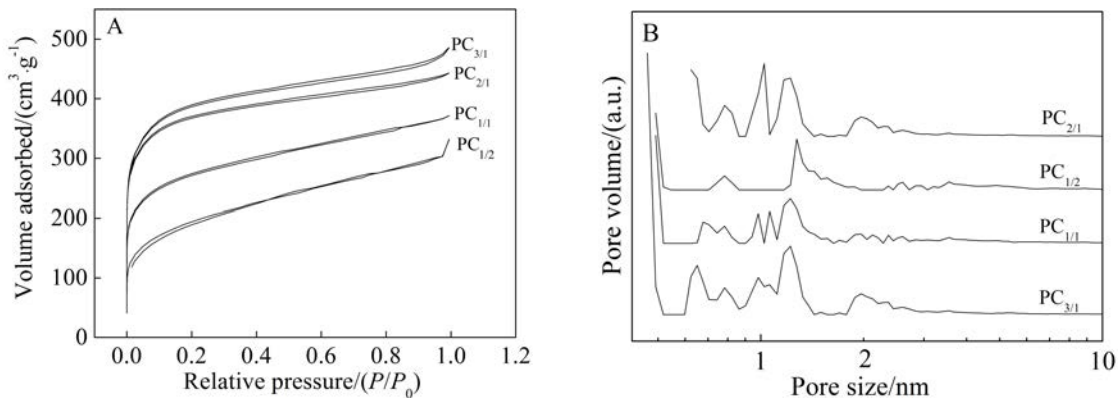


Fig. 1 (A) Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms and (B) pore size distribution curves of PCs.

Tab. 1 Pore structure parameters of PCs

PCs	$D_{sp}/\text{nm}$	$S_{BET}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	$S_{mic}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	$V_{mic}/(\text{cm}^3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	$V_t/(\text{cm}^3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1})$	$V_{mic}/V_t/\%$
PC <sub>1/2</sub>	2.95	697	369	0.16	0.51	31.3
PC <sub>1/1</sub>	2.33	988	696	0.29	0.58	50.0
PC <sub>2/1</sub>	1.99	1375	1165	0.48	0.69	69.6
PC <sub>3/1</sub>	2.09	1438	1203	0.50	0.75	66.7

synthesized from resorcinol-formaldehyde without coupling with KOH activation reached  $667 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ [21]. The above results show that BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> is a good template for the synthesis of PCs from rice husk via the *in-situ* activation of HF produced from the decomposition of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>.

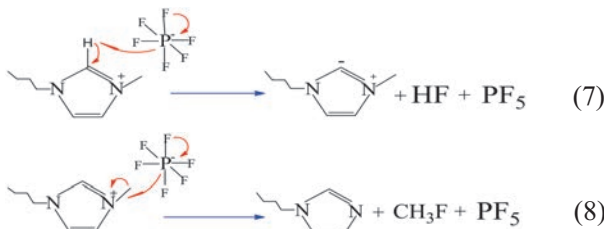


Fig. 2 shows the TEM images of PC<sub>2/1</sub> and PC<sub>3/1</sub>. As shown in Fig. 2(A) and (B), the mesopores (ca. 5 nm) and a few macropores can be observed in thin PC<sub>2/1</sub>. In addition, many carbon dots (ca. 5 nm in diameter) can be found in PC<sub>2/1</sub>, which might be formed via the *in-situ* activation of HF produced from the decomposition of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> on the surface of carbon materials as shown in Fig. 2(C) and (D). For the PC<sub>3/1</sub>, abundant carbon dots are also observed in Fig. 2(E) and (F), and the diameter of the carbon dots is ca. 10 nm. The sheet-like structure of PC<sub>2/1</sub> can be demonstrated by FESEM images in Fig. S1(A) and (B) (Supporting Information). The FESEM images of RHC are also provided in Fig. S1(E) and (F) (Supporting Information), showing large bulk morphology. Compared with PC<sub>2/1</sub>, PC<sub>3/1</sub> possesses thinner sheets (Fig. S1(C) and (D), Supporting Information), resulting from the increased dosage of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>. The porous carbon sheets with abundant carbon dots are expected to improve the capacitance and rate performance as supercapacitor electrode[22].

Fig. 3(A) is the thermogravimetric curve of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> in nitrogen atmosphere. As we all know,

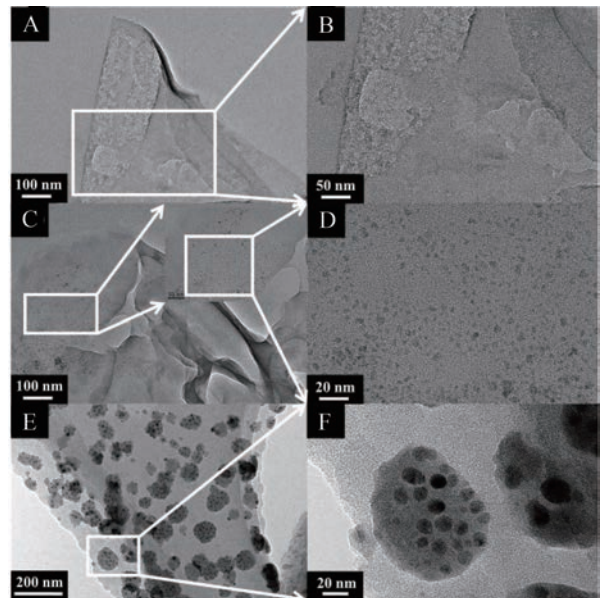


Fig. 2 (A) TEM image of PC<sub>2/1</sub>; (B) high-resolution TEM image of PC<sub>2/1</sub>; (C) TEM image of PC<sub>2/1</sub>, the inset is the high-resolution TEM image; (D) high-resolution TEM image of the inset in Fig. 2(C); (E) TEM image of PC<sub>3/1</sub>; (F) high-resolution TEM image of PC<sub>3/1</sub>.

BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> is an organic salt that exists as a liquid below a threshold temperature (ca. 100 °C), which can be used as green solvents due to its negligible vapor pressure, non-flammability and high thermostability. Fig. 3(A) shows that BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> began to be decomposed at ca. 340.2 °C and ended at ca. 398.6 °C. During the heating process, liquid BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> firstly entered the microstructures of rice husk and acted as a template at lower temperature. Secondly, at higher temperature, BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> was decomposed into a 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium carbene, HF and PF<sub>5</sub> via Eq. (7) or a 1-butylimidazole, methyl fluoride and PF<sub>5</sub> via Eq. (8)[23]. Lastly, the HF formed *in-situ* works as an activation agent to make abundant pores by

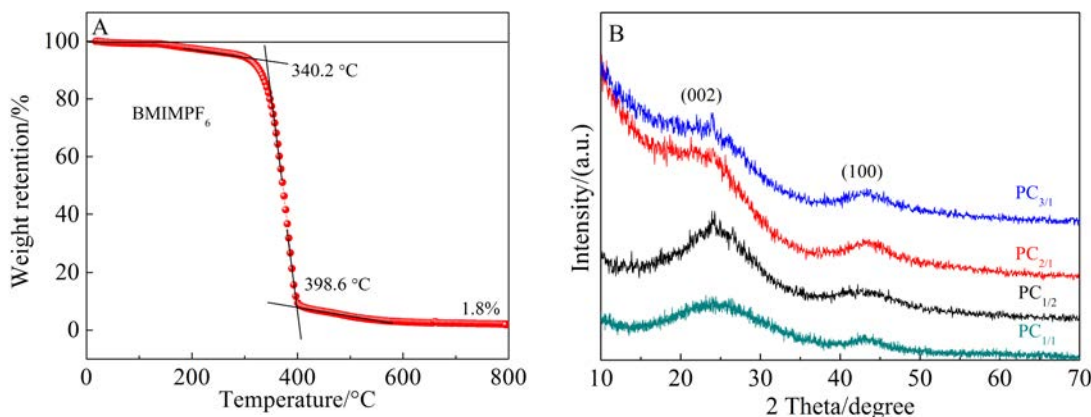


Fig. 3 (A) Thermogravimetric curve of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> in nitrogen atmosphere. (B) XRD patterns of PCs.

reacting with the carbon precursor produced from rice husk. Fig. 3(B) is the XRD patterns of the PCs with no sharp peaks being observed, indicative of the amorphous structure of PCs due to the activation effect of HF formed *in-situ* from the decomposition of BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>.

Fig. 4(A) shows that the galvanostatic charge-discharge curves of PC electrodes in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte at 0.8 A·g<sup>-1</sup> are symmetrical without obvious pseudocapacitance behavior, and the *IR* drop of PC<sub>3/1</sub> was only 0.028 V. Fig. 4(B) is the specific capacitance of PC electrodes in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte at different discharge current densities. The specific capacitances of PC<sub>3/1</sub> and PC<sub>2/1</sub> reached 256 F·g<sup>-1</sup> (17.8 μF·cm<sup>-2</sup>) and 260 F·g<sup>-1</sup> (18.9 μF·cm<sup>-2</sup>) at 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. In addition, the specific capacitance of RHC was only 103 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. S2(A), Supporting Information). At 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup>, the specific capacitance of PC<sub>2/1</sub> became the highest among four samples, which is attributed to the abundant carbon dots in the PC<sub>2/1</sub>. With the increase of current density to 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup>, the specific capacitance of PC<sub>3/1</sub> was 211 F·g<sup>-1</sup> with a capacitance retention of 82.4%, exhibiting a superior rate performance.

Fig. 4(C) shows the cycle stability of PC electrodes. The specific capacitance of PC<sub>3/1</sub> electrode remained 245 F·g<sup>-1</sup> after 1000 charge-discharge cycles at 0.1 A·g<sup>-1</sup>. It is interesting to note that the capacitance of PC<sub>3/1</sub> electrodes increased slightly in the first 500 cycles and remained 104.3% of the initial capacitance after 10000 cycles. The rise of the specific ca-

pacitance may be due to the improvement of wettability, which indicates good electrochemical stability and reversibility of the PC electrodes. In order to find out the advantages of PC<sub>3/1</sub> synthesized in this work, we compared the specific surface area, specific capacitance, and stability of PC<sub>3/1</sub> with those reported in literatures. As listed in Tab. S1, PC<sub>3/1</sub> possessed high capacitance and excellent cycle stability in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte. In our previous work, the specific capacitance of PCs synthesized from rice husk by ZnCl<sub>2</sub> activation remained 243 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup> after 1000 cycles<sup>[24]</sup>. It was reported that the specific capacitance of carbon xerogels synthesized from resorcinol-formaldehyde without coupling with KOH activation was below 150 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at different current densities<sup>[21]</sup>. The specific capacitance of carbon nanocages made from benzene reached 178 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup> in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte<sup>[25]</sup>. It should be beared in mind that rice husk, the carbon source of PCs in our present work, is much cheaper than benzene. For nitrogen-rich networks, the specific capacitance reached 173 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup><sup>[26]</sup>. For functionalized 3D hierarchical PC, the specific capacitance reached 192 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup> in 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> KOH electrolyte<sup>[27]</sup>. For porous graphene made with flake-like MgO as a template and ferrocene as the carbon precursor, the specific capacitance was 196 F·g<sup>-1</sup> at 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup><sup>[28]</sup>. Obviously, PC<sub>3/1</sub> with high specific capacitance and good cycle stability in our present work is very attractive as the electrode of supercapacitors. For PC<sub>3/1</sub> synthesized in our present work, its volumetric capacitance reach-

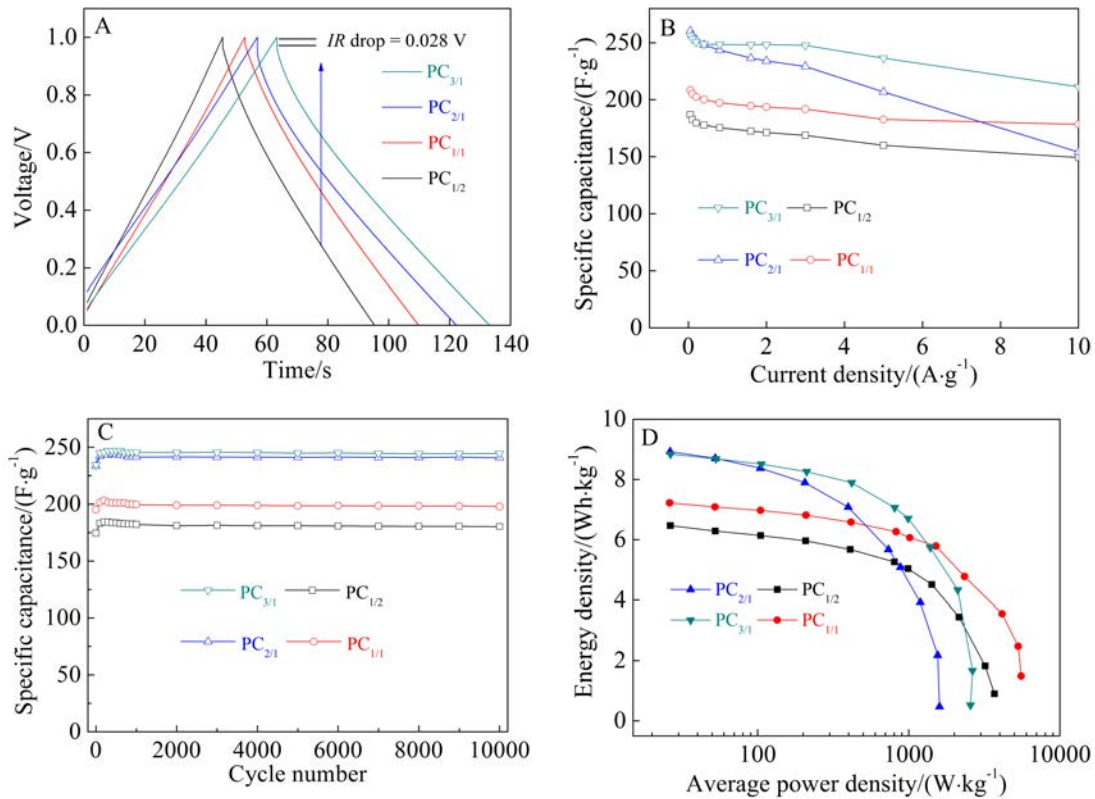


Fig. 4 (A) Charge-discharge curves of PC electrodes in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte at  $0.8 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ; (B) specific capacitance plots of PC electrodes at different discharge current densities; (C) capacitance variation of PC electrodes at  $0.1 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ; (D) Ragone plots of PC supercapacitors.

es  $129 \text{ F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$  at  $0.8 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte, which is based on that the bulk density of  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$  is  $0.52 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$ . It was reported that the volumetric capacitance of ionic liquid  $\text{C}_{16}\text{mimBF}_4$  assisted synthesis of poly(benzoxazine-co-resol)-based hierarchically porous carbons was  $101 \text{ F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$  at  $0.5 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte<sup>[19]</sup>. The volumetric capacitances of the MOF-derived nanoporous carbons in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte ranged from 81 to  $165 \text{ F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$ <sup>[29]</sup>. Fig. 4(D) shows the Ragone plots of PC supercapacitors. The energy densities of  $\text{PC}_{2/1}$  capacitor and  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$  capacitor were  $8.93 \text{ Wh} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$  and  $8.84 \text{ Wh} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$  at  $0.05 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ , respectively.

Fig. 5(A) is the CV curves of PC electrodes at a scan rate of  $2 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . All the samples exhibited the symmetric rectangular shapes. With the scan rate increasing to  $100 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , the CV curves still remained the symmetric rectangular shapes, demonstrating good rate capability and ideal electrical double layer

behavior (Fig. 5(B)). The specific capacitances of  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$  and  $\text{PC}_{2/1}$  electrodes calculated from the CV curves at  $2 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  reached  $239 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $16.6 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) and  $247 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $17.9 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ), respectively, while  $142 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $9.8 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) and  $138 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $10.0 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) at  $100 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively. In addition, the CV curves of RHC electrodes at scan rates of 2 to  $100 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  are provided in Fig. S2(B) (Supporting Information). The RHC electrodes also showed a rectangular shape. As shown in Fig. 5(C), the short x-intercept ( $0.62 \text{ Ohm}$ ) of  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$  electrode reveals that the  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$  electrode had low contact resistance and material resistance. The diameter of the semicircle of PC electrodes is smaller than that of RHC electrodes at low frequency, indicating that PC electrodes had smaller charge-discharge resistance (the inset in Fig. 5(C) and Fig. S2(C)) (Supporting Information). Fig. 5(D) is the specific capacitance of PC electrodes at different frequencies. The maximum capacitance occurred at the lowest fre-

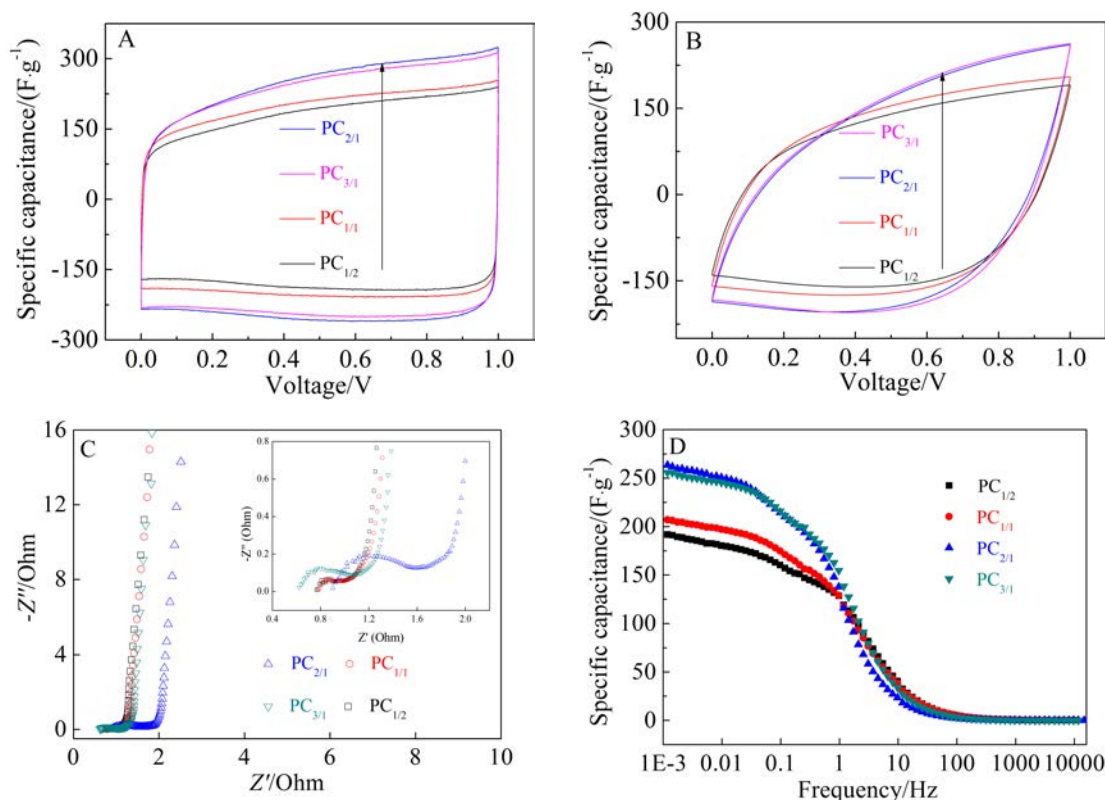


Fig. 5 (A) CV curves of PC electrodes at  $2 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ; (B) CV curves of PC electrodes at  $100 \text{ mV} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ; (C) Nyquist plots of PC electrodes; (D) specific capacitance plots of PC electrodes at different frequencies.

quency of 0.001 Hz, showing a value of  $264 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $19.2 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) for  $\text{PC}_{2/1}$  and  $256 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ( $17.8 \mu\text{F} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ) for  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$ . At 1.0 Hz, the capacitance of  $\text{PC}_{2/1}$  remained  $129 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ , while  $138 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  for  $\text{PC}_{3/1}$ . It was reported that the capacitance of PCs made from direct coal liquefaction residue and cetyltrimethylammonium bromide was ca.  $150 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  at 1.0 Hz in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte<sup>[30]</sup>.

### 3 Conclusions

PCs were made from rice husk with  $\text{BMIMPF}_6$  as a template and an assisted activation agent. The results show that the pore sizes of PCs centered at 0.7, 1.0, 1.2 and 2.0 nm. With the increased mass ratio of  $\text{BMIMPF}_6/\text{rice husk}$  from 1/2 to 3/1, the specific surface area of PCs rose from  $697 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  to  $1438 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ . PC electrodes show a high specific capacitance of  $256 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  at  $0.05 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  in  $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  KOH aqueous electrolyte, a good rate performance of  $211 \text{ F} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  at  $10 \text{ A} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  and a superior cycle stability with the retention of 104.3% initial capacitance after 1000 cycles.

This work paves a new way for efficient synthesis of PCs from biomass sources using  $\text{BMIMPF}_6$  as a template and an assisted activation agent for high-performance supercapacitors.

### Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. U1508201, U1710116), the Provincial Innovative Group for Processing & Clean Utilization of Coal Resource.

### Supporting Information Available

The supporting information is available free of charge via the internet at <http://electrochem.xmu.edu.cn>.

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## 离子液体辅助条件下由稻壳合成 超级电容器用多孔炭

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**摘要:** 本文以稻壳为碳源, 以离子液体 1-丁基-3-甲基咪唑六氟磷酸盐(BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>)为模板和辅助活化剂制备了多孔炭材料(PCs)。多孔炭的比表面积达 1438 m<sup>2</sup>·g<sup>-1</sup>, 总孔容达 0.75 cm<sup>3</sup>·g<sup>-1</sup>。以 PCs 为超级电容器电极材料, 6 mol·L<sup>-1</sup> 的 KOH 溶液为电解液组装成扣式电池, 在 0.05 A·g<sup>-1</sup> 的电流密度下, 比电容高达 256 F·g<sup>-1</sup>; 当电流密度增大至 10 A·g<sup>-1</sup>, 其比电容仍保持在 211 F·g<sup>-1</sup>, 展现出好的倍率性能。所得的多孔炭电极均表现出优异的循环稳定性。这一工作以 BMIMPF<sub>6</sub> 作为模板和辅助活化剂, 为合成生物质基超级电容器用多孔炭提供了一种新方法。

**关键词:** 多孔炭; 1-丁基-3-甲基咪唑六氟磷酸盐离子液体; 稻壳; 超级电容器