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The Structure of New Synthetic Manganese Oxide Octahedral Molecular Sieves

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Manganese K-edge X-ray absorption spectra are used to examine the average oxidation state and local structure of new synthetic manganese oxide photocatalysts, including the materials known as octahedral molecular sieves. The structures of these materials are compared to the natural minerals cryptomelane and todorokite.

Keywords: XAS, manganese oxide, catalysts

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The manganese dioxide minerals hollandite and todorokite have one dimensional tunnel structures [1]. These materials contain MnO6 octahedra which share edges and vertices. In hollandite the tunnels have two octahedra on each side (2×2) . Todorokite is a homologue of hollandite, in which the tunnels have expanded to a 3 x 3 structure. The X-ray absorption spectra of these and other natural manganese dioxide (MnO2) minerals have been discussed in detail previously [1-3]. Recently octahedral molecular sieves (OMS) based on manganese oxides have been synthesized [4-5]. Two forms of these materials, OMS1 and OMS2, mirror the structures of todorokite and hollandite, respectively. In addition, a new amorphous MnO2 compound (A-MnO₂) with high photocatalytic activity has been reported [6]. In this paper we describe the use of X-ray absorption spectroscopy to examine the oxidation state and local structure for manganese in these new synthetic materials and compare these compounds with natural analogues.

Experimental

Transmission and fluorescence manganese K edge spectra were acquired at NSLS on beamline X23A2 using a Si(311) double crystal monochromator, standard ion chambers, and a Lytle fluorescence detector equipped with a three absorption length chromium filter. The energy calibration was maintained by simultaneously monitoring the maximum at 6539 in the derivative of the spectrum of a manganese mesh. The precision of the energy calibration is 0.3 eV. The octahedral molecular sieves were synthesized by methods previously described [4-6]. The natural cryptomelane (India) and todorokite (Charco Redondo, Cuba and N'Chwaning Mine, China) samples were obtained from the Smithsonian Institution. Data reduction was performed using a Mathematica® package for XAS analysis developed at Argonne National Laboratory.

Discussion

The near edge and unfiltered EXAFS data (not shown) for OMS2 and cryptomelane, a natural hollandite which contains potassium cations (K⁺) within the 2 x 2 tunnel, are virtually

identical. These results demonstrate that the manganese in the synthetic and natural materials possess the same average oxidation state and local structure. The XANES spectra for three of the compounds with 3×3 tunnel structures, as well as A-MnO₂, also appear in Figure 1. The absorption edges for each of these compounds occur at lower energies than those of the 2×2 materials. OMS1 and MgOMS, two versions of the 3 x 3 compounds for which the magnesium template was introduced at different stages in the synthesis, exhibit lower average oxidation states than natural todorokite. Table 1 lists the fitting parameters for the first coordination shell as well as our estimates for the position of the edge for each of these samples. Except for possibly OMS1, all values are within the error of EXAFS. The edge energies correlate well with the manganese valency that is deduced from elemental analyses.

The near-edge and EXAFS spectra for A-MnO2 indicate that the valence and local structure within this material are similar to those in natural todorokites. However, the spectra for A-MnO2 are also similar to birnessite, a

layered manganese oxide. This fact is consistent with the weak X-ray powder diffraction pattern of A-MnO₂ [6].

Acknowledgments

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Figure Captions

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Fig. 1. (A) Normalized XANES spectra and (B) Radial Structure Functions for OMS1, Mg-OMS1, A-MnO₂, and Todorokite (N'Chwaning Mine, China). Table I. Parameters for the First Coordination Shell in the Fluorescence XAFS Spectra of Manganese Oxides^a

Sample	n	r (Å)	$\Delta\sigma^2 \times 10^4$	ΔE (EXAFS)	ΔE (XANES)
OMS2	6.0	1.88	0	0	0
Cryptomelane (India)	6.0	1.88	2	.4	.1
OMS1	4.8	1.89	0	-1.3	-1.8
Mg-OMS1	5.3	1.89	1	-1.5	-1.3
A-MnO2	5.4	1.88	1	8	6
Todorokite (China)	6.0	1.88	2	5	4
Todorokite (Cuba)	5.6	1.88	3	6	5

^aThe errors in coordination numbers (n) and radial distance (r) are \pm 20 % of n and \pm 0.01 Å respectively. The values for n, r, $\Delta\sigma^2$ and ΔE are referenced to OMS2 (n=6, r= 1.88 Å, $\Delta\sigma^2$ = 0, ΔE = 0). ΔE (XANES) was determined at 0.5 absorbance. Windows for Fourier transforms of $k^2\chi(k)$: forward-2.1 to 13.0 Å⁻¹, inverse-1.00 to 1.95 Å.





