Flexible, All–Polymer Supercapacitors based on the Agarose/Activated Carbon Composite Hydrogels

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Recently, a three-dimensional (3D) electrodes have been developed for high-capacity supercapacitor. In this study, we use agar/activated carbon (AC) composite gel as electrode materials supercapacitor. The agarose is a natural hydrophilic polymer and forms a hydrogel. It has a characteristic of thermal sol-gel transition which enables reversible shape configuration of materials. Using reversible thermal sol-gel transition of agar/AC composite gel, we make various shapes of agar/AC composite gels for demonstrating as a shape configurable agar/AC composite electrode. Quantative analysis for electrical properties as electrodes of Agar/AC composite hydrogel proves that conductivity of composite gels can be measured to 5.12×10^{-4} S/cm. Finally, we integrate agar/AC electrodes with agar-based solid electrolyte containing NaCl to demonstrate flexible, all-polymer supercapacitor which can be potentially applied for designing 3D electrodes in the future.