

Electrochemical formation of Ni-Si alloys for the application as anode-materials in lithium-ion-battery

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Recently silicon (Si)-based materials with highest-known theoretical charge capacity of 4200 mAh/g, have been considered as promising anode materials in lithium-ion battery (LiB). Specially, Si-metal based (Carbon, nickel, iron etc.) nano-composites have drawn particular attention as it can effectively suppress volume expansion due to free space surrounding the nano-structures, and thus improve life cycle of the LiB. In this paper, we have reported a low-cost electrochemical route for the formation of Ni-Si based alloys on Ni-substrates obtained through electrochemical reduction of silica powder (SiO₂).

Electrodeposition of Ni-silicides has been carried out in a Al₂O₃- crucible placed inside a quartz electrochemical cell equipped with three-electrode system. Graphite has been used as counter electrode (CE) as well as reference electrode (RE), while Ni-sheet was used as the working electrode (WE) as well as substrate for

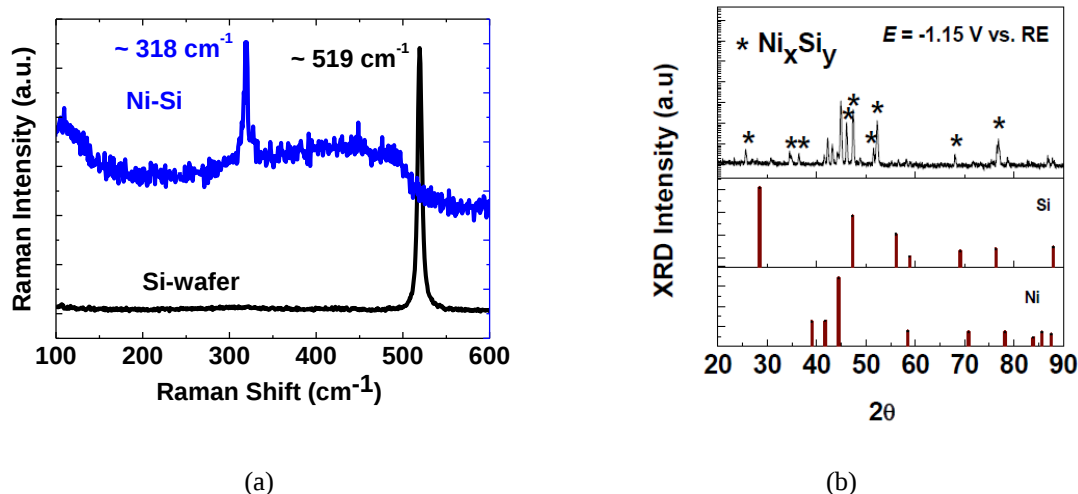


Fig. 1 (a). Room temperature Raman spectra of electrodeposited Ni-Si layer deposited with potential, $E = -0.75$ V vs. graphite RE; (b) X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of electrodeposited Ni-Si layer.

the electrodeposition. Electrochemical analysis has been done under Ar-gas at 860^o Celsius using CaCl₂ molten salt. Chronoamperograms (CA) has been done at constant potential (E) applied between Ag-substrate (WE) and graphite reference electrode. Cyclic voltammetry (CV), and all the constant potential electrolysis were carried out with an HSV-110 potentiometer (Hokuto Denko, Japan).

Fig. 1 (a) shows Raman spectra of an electrodeposited Ni-Si layer on Ni-substrate deposited with potential, $E = -0.75$ Volt, applied between the Ni-substrate and Graphite-RE. A peak around ~318 cm⁻¹ together with appearance of broadened peaks in between 350~ 500 cm⁻¹ suggest formation of Ni-Silicides on the Ni-substrate. X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern (Fig. 1 (b)) also supports formation of Ni-Si alloys on Ni-substrate. Optical and structural properties of the electrodeposited Ni-Si layers will be studied in relation to the effect of various reduction potential applied during electrochemical reduction of SiO₂ and discussed.