



# Mn-doped $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with enhanced electrochemical performance as cathode materials for lithium-ion batteries

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Received: 29 April 2019 / Revised: 23 May 2019 / Accepted: 25 May 2019 / Published online: 5 June 2019  
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## Abstract

Lithium-ion batteries with the  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  cathode material enable a high energy density and safety. However, a major challenge of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is its low conductivity. In this work,  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) are prepared via the solvent thermal method. Systematic investigations have studied the effect of Mn-doping on the physical and electrochemical properties. The results indicate that Mn-doping not only does not destroy the lattice structure of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , but also reduces the resistance and improves the diffusion coefficient of lithium ion, which provide it with better electrochemical properties.  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  delivers much excellent cycling performance and rate capacity than other materials. It has a  $284.2 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  initial discharge capacity that remains at  $258.9 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  after 50 cycles at 0.1 C, giving the high capacity retention rate of 91.1%. Additionally, the initial discharge capacity of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is 245, 231, 217, and 203  $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$  at 1, 2, 5, and 10 C in the voltage range of 1.5–4.5 V vs.  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$ , respectively.

**Keywords** Cathode material · Lithium-ion batteries · Mn-doping ·  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  · Electrochemical performance

## Introduction

Lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) that can maintain a high energy density, high working voltage, and long lifespan are necessary for applications in portable electronics, electric vehicles, and large-scale energy storage [1–5]. However, the greatest challenge for battery technology is meeting the demand for high-capacity and safe batteries. Therefore, significant interest is directed toward developing high performance electrode materials, which is the key for maximizing the performance of lithium-ion batteries.

Considerable focus has been placed on investigating iron-based fluorides due to their high theoretical energy density ( $712 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ , three electrons transfer), low costs, and safety, which provide it with great potential for use as cathode materials in high-capacity lithium-ion batteries [6, 7]. However, there are several issues for these materials such as strong ionic

bonds, a wide band gap and poor conductivity, which result in a low material rate performance that limits practical applications [8, 9].  $\text{FeF}_3$  is a multiphase crystal that mainly includes the following: anhydrous  $\text{FeF}_3$  [10],  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [11],  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [12], and  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [13]. Meanwhile, researchers have found that  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has the most stable crystal structure and the best electrochemical performance [14–16]. The structure of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  belongs to the orthogonal crystal system, the hexagonal tungsten bronze phase, in which iron atoms and fluorine atoms form a hexagonal tunnel, and water molecules are in the middle of the hexagon tunnel. Furthermore, the pore channels are benefit to the entry and exit of lithium ions, while the water molecules in the middle are conducive to the stability of the structure and the improvement of the conductivity. Researchers believe that it is this unique structure that makes this material's electrochemical performance better than other iron fluoride-containing crystal water [17–21].

The methods, such as the ball mill method [22, 23], the liquid phase method [24, 25], the template method [26, 27], and the solvent thermal method [28, 29], can use to prepare the  $\text{FeF}_3$  cathode material. The materials prepared by these different methods contain different crystal water. Moreover, the pure phase  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can be directly synthesized by

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the simple solvent thermal method. This method is more prone to industrial production due to the controllable preparation conditions and low production costs.

The materials prepared by the solvent thermal method exhibit their excellent morphology and crystal structure. Nevertheless, the pure phase has poor conductivity and the actual capacity is relatively low [30]. Solving the issues, the approaches are often applied to improve the electrochemical properties of the cathode material, primarily cationic doping [31] and surface coating [32]. However, surface coating has the defect of being uneven, which easily falls off with the collecting fluid in the process of circulation and reduces the circulation performance. Doping is an effective way to fabricate high-performance material. For example,  $\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{Co}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  nanomaterials using the liquid phase method are synthesized by Sun et al. [33]. The result explains that an excellent electrochemical performance could be achieved in cationic-doped  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  cathode material for lithium-ion batteries. Yang et al. [34] calculate that Ti-doping can expand the hexagonal cavity of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  through the first-principles theory, thereby improving the electrical conductivity of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Therefore, one can expect that the performance of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can be improved by Mn-doping.

In this work, we report on a facile strategy for the synthesis of Mn-doped  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to prepare  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The effects of different doping amounts on the physical and electrochemical properties are comprehensively investigated.

## Experimental

### Fabrication of $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$

$\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) was prepared by the hydrothermal method.  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2\text{Mn} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in a molar ratio of 1:0, 0.994:0.01, 0.98:0.03, 0.967:0.05, and 0.954:0.07 were dissolved in a polytetrafluoroethylene container containing ethanol, cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide, and Tween 80. The mixture was continuously stirred until it was dissolved to obtain reddish brown solution, and 15 ml 40 wt.% HF solution was slowly added with stirring. After 30 min, the polytetrafluoroethylene container was placed in a hydrothermal reaction vessel and sealed and then heated at 120 °C for 6 h in a blast drying oven. After cooling to room temperature, the light pink precipitate was obtained. Next, the precipitate was washed 4 times with ethanol to remove the unreacted HF and water, and then dried at 120 °C for 3 h to obtain a dried powder. The dried and mixed reactant mixture was reground and then heated in a tube furnace at 230 °C for 3 h under high-purity Ar protection to obtain  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

## Material characterizations

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) phase test of the synthesized samples was done with an XD-2 using a  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation source ( $\lambda = 0.15405 \text{ nm}$ ). All of the diffraction patterns were recorded at room temperature in the  $2\theta$  range from 10° to 80° with a scan rate of 4°/min and were operated at 36 KV and 20 mA. The morphological and crystalline structures of the samples were characterized by a scanning electron microscope (SEM, JSM-7001F, JEOL).

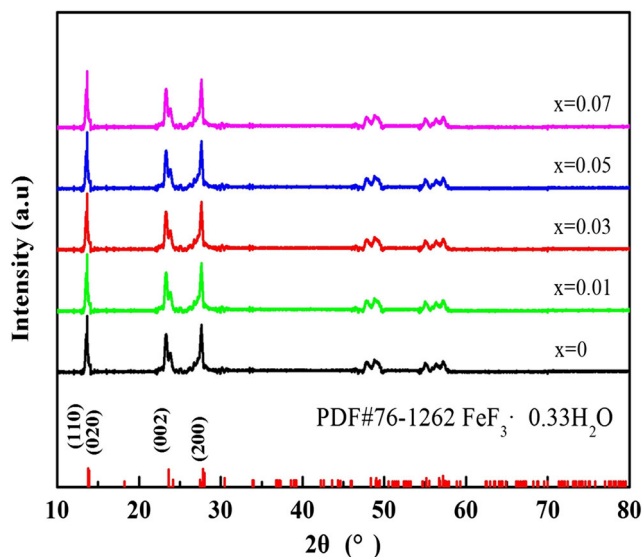
## Electrochemical measurements

The electrochemical performance of the obtained particles was tested using a CR2032 coin-type cell. First, the active material  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (90 wt%), acetylene black (5 wt%), and polyvinylidene fluoride binder (5 wt%) were mixed and ground with N-methylpyrrolidone as a solvent to form a uniform slurry, which was coated on aluminum foil and dried under a vacuum at 120 °C for 24 h. Then, the foil was pressed and cut into disks, and a Celgard 2400 polypropylene microporous membrane were used as the separator and lithium foil were used as the negative electrode, respectively. The electrolyte consists of 1 M  $\text{LiPF}_6$  in a mixture of ethylene carbonate (EC), dimethyl carbonate (DMC), and ethylene methyl carbonate (EMC) (volume ratio 1:1:1). The cells were assembled in an argon glove box.

The galvanostatic discharge-charge characteristics of the cells were performed over the potential range between 1.5 and 4.5 V (vs.  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}^+$ ) using a Blue battery tester system (CT2001A Wuhan, China) at different rates of 0.1–10 C at room temperature. The cyclic voltammetry (CV) tests were measured using a CHI600A electrochemical workstation under a scan rate of 0.5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  between 1.5 and 4.5 V (vs.  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}^+$ ). Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) tests were performed by using an electrochemical workstation in the frequency range of 100 to 10 mHz with the perturbation of 5 mV. All of the characterizations and electrochemical measurements were conducted at room temperature (25 °C).

## Results and discussion

Figure 1 shows the XRD patterns of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ). Among all investigated samples, no obvious diffraction peaks for any impurities are detected, the major X-ray diffraction peaks at the  $2\theta$  angles of 13.8°, 23.6°, and 27.8°, matching the standard diffraction pattern of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , are indexed as the (110), (002), and (220) crystal planes, respectively. The results indicate that Mn-doping still maintains the material's structure, which shows the orthorhombic structure of the Cmc<sub>2</sub>m space group. Furthermore, with the increase of the Mn content, the



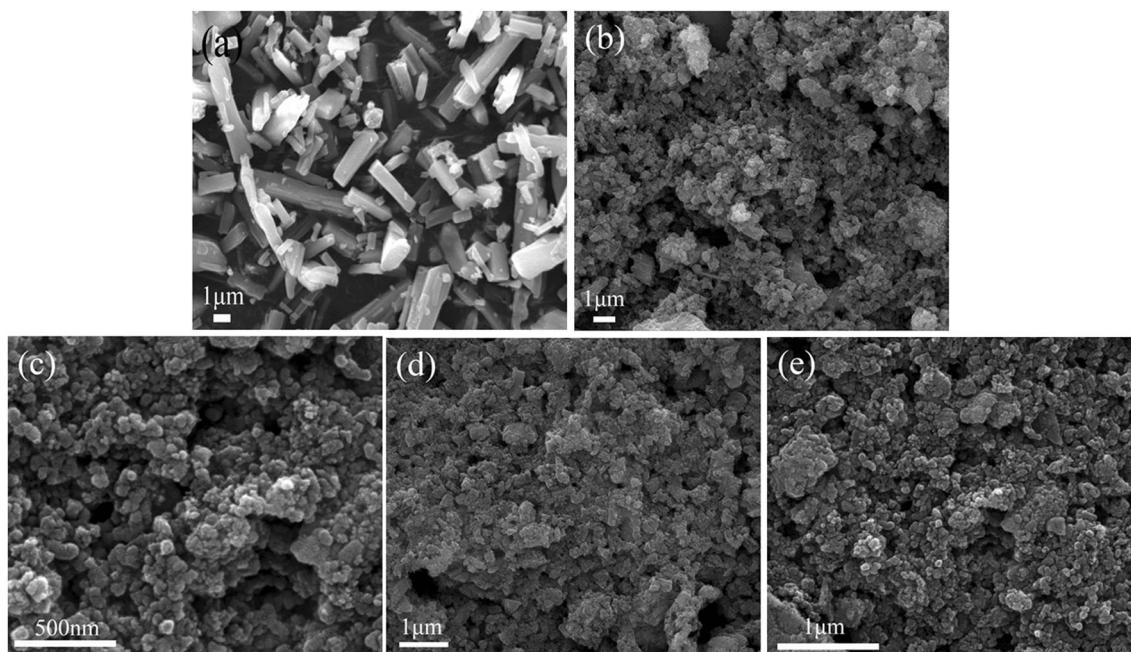
**Fig. 1** XRD patterns of  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ )

diffraction peaks have not only enhanced intensity but also sharp shape owing to a high crystallinity of the material. Additionally, no diffraction peaks of Mn are detected in the  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  samples, indicating that Mn is effectively doped, but it does not change the lattice structure of the  $FeF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$ .

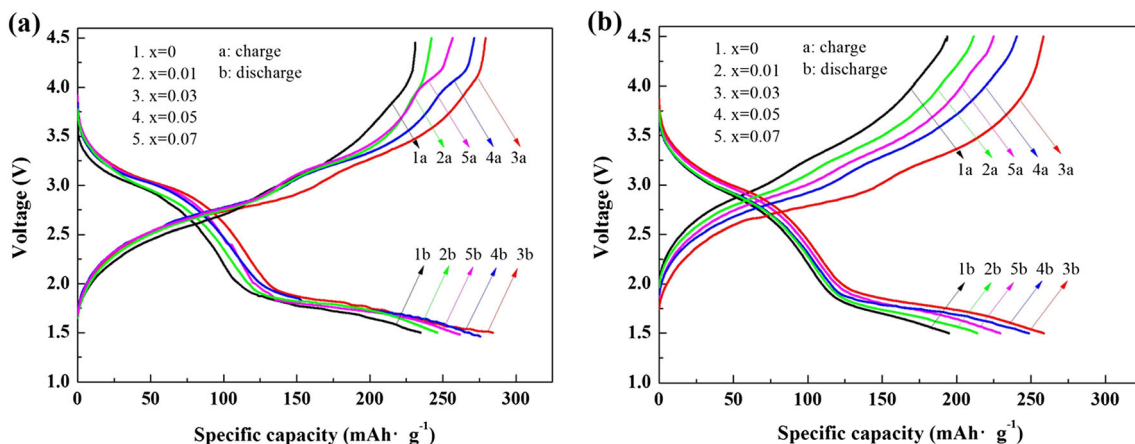
Figure 2 is SEM images of  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ ). The  $FeF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  exhibits a rod-like structure that is approximately 3–9- $\mu m$  long and 0.5–2- $\mu m$  wide and can be seen in Fig. 2a. The surfaces of the

pure phase  $FeF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  particles are relatively smooth. By contrast, the surfaces of the Mn-doped sample particles are rough, and this can greatly increase the specific surface area of the particles, and could help promoting the penetration of the electrolyte, these factors result in enhancing the electrochemical performance [35, 36]. The comparison shows that the particle size of  $Fe_{0.98}Mn_{0.03}F_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  is the smallest in  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05$  and  $0.07$ ). The electrode material with small particle size has larger specific surface area, and the electrolyte is more easily penetrated with the fastest ion diffusion rate. The SEM image reveals that it is effective to reduce the particle size and shorten the process of crystal growth via the Mn-doping. A smaller particle size can strongly reduce the resistance, possessing a superior electrochemical performance.

Figure 3 shows charge/discharge performance curves of  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ ) cathode material at 0.1 C. As shown in Fig. 3a, the pure phase  $FeF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  has a relatively low initial discharge specific capacity (234.8  $mAh g^{-1}$ ), which may be attributed to its poor conductivity. However, the doped samples have a high discharge specific capacity. The electrode can deliver the initial discharge capacities of 246.1, 284.2, 275.6, and 261.8  $mAh g^{-1}$  when doping amounts are  $x = 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ , respectively. Noticeably, the change of the discharge capacity is not linearly related to the increase of Mn content. The discharge capacity decreases when the doping amount reaches the maximum, which suggests that the Mn doping amount should not be too high. It is worth noting that the  $Fe_{0.98}Mn_{0.03}F_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$  cathode material possesses the highest discharge capacity. Figure 3b



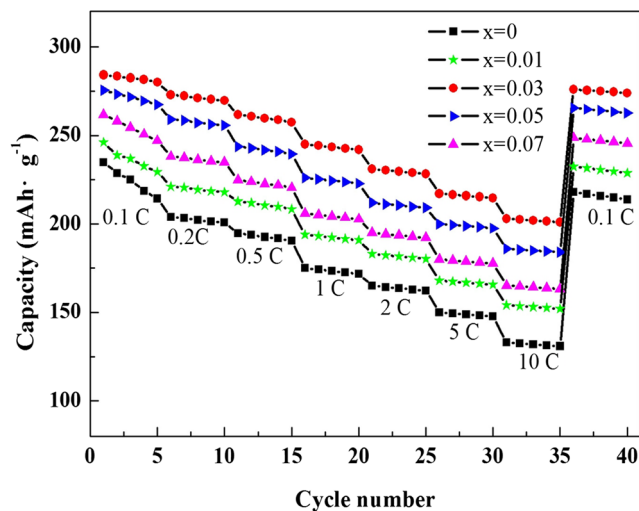
**Fig. 2** SEM images of  $Fe_{1-2x/3}Mn_xF_3 \cdot 0.33H_2O$ : **a**  $x = 0$ , **b**  $x = 0.01$ , **c**  $x = 0.03$ , **d**  $x = 0.05$ , **e**  $x = 0.07$



**Fig. 3** Initial (a) and after 50 cycles (b) charge/discharge curves of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ ) at  $0.1\text{ C}$

displays the discharge capacity of the pure phase  $\text{FeF}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  decreases to  $194.9\text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ , retaining 83% of initial capacity after 50 cycles. The discharge capacities of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ ) remain at 216.8, 258.9, 246.9, and  $232.7\text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ , and the capacity retention rates are 88.1%, 91.1%, 89.6%, and 88.9%, respectively. It shows a great cycling stability of Mn-doped material. The  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  cathode material exhibits an excellent cycling performance after 50 cycles. All these above features indicate that an improved electrochemical performance is achieved with moderate Mn-doping. On the one hand, Mn-doping can effectively reduce the size of  $\text{FeF}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  particles as well as the specific surface area so as to shorten the diffusion path length for  $\text{Li}^+$  and electron transport. On the other hand,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  partially substituted  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  reduces the band gap, which improves the conductivity of the material.

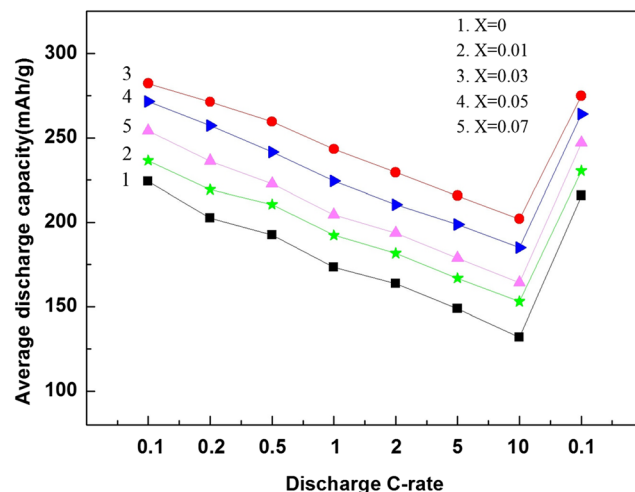
Rate performance of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05$  and  $0.07$ ) from  $0.1$  to  $10\text{ C}$  is presented in Fig. 4.



**Fig. 4** Cyclic performances of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05,$  and  $0.07$ ) at different rates

The average discharge capacity at different rates is displayed in Fig. 5. Clearly, the higher discharge capacities of Mn-doped samples than that of  $\text{FeF}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are achieved at different rates, suggesting good conductivity of Mn-doped samples. Besides, the lower discharge capacities of the five samples, can be obtained with the increasing of different rates (from  $0.1$  to  $10\text{ C}$ ), exhibiting different rate of reduction. Among them,  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , which shows the higher discharge capacity and the slowest rate of reduction, reaches the average discharge capacities of 282.3, 271.3, 259.6, 243.4, 229.6, 215.8, and  $202.0\text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  at  $0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5,$  and  $10\text{ C}$  rates, respectively. When the rate returned back to  $0.1\text{ C}$ , the specific capacity of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can be quickly returned to  $276.1\text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  with a capacity retention of 97.8%. At the first current density of  $0.1\text{ C}$ , the discharge capacity of 5 discharge cycles deteriorates dramatically because the initial irreversible reaction results in irreversible capacity.

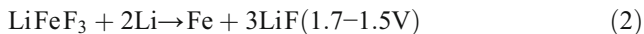
To evaluate the cycling performance of  $\text{FeF}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3\cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the samples are cycled 50 times at



**Fig. 5** The average values of discharge capacities at different C rates

1 C to obtain cycling performance curves, as shown in Fig. 6. The capacity loss in the first 10 times is obvious, which is caused by the occurrence of side reactions and the formation of the SEI film, leading to a partial irreversible capacity. The first discharge capacities of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are 245.2 and 175.3  $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ . After 50 cycles the samples maintain a capacity of 219.6 and 134.6  $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$  with the capacity retention of 89.6% and 76.8%, respectively, and especially the coulombic efficiencies reach nearly 99%. The excellent cycling stability of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is attributed to the following: (i) Mn-doping effectively increases the unit cell volume by reducing the activation energy barrier required for  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion and increasing the  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion coefficient; and (ii) the size of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  particles is reduced by  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  partially substituted  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  providing a transport channel for the insertion and conversion reaction of  $\text{Li}^+$ , which facilitates the migration of lithium ions and improves the conductivity of the material.

Figure 7 exhibits the CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) obtained at the scanning voltage of 1.5 to 4.5 V and the scanning rate of  $0.5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . In the CV curves, the peak in the positive direction of the ordinate axis is the oxidation peak, and that in the negative direction is the reduction peak. The potential difference between the two peaks reflects the polarization degree of the electrode. The electrode reaction process of  $\text{FeF}_3$  in a lithium-ion battery is [37, 38].



It can be seen from the figure that two pairs of redox peaks are observed, corresponding to the conversion between the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  phases in the  $\text{Li}^+$  insertion/extraction behaviors and the chemical transformation reaction between the  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$

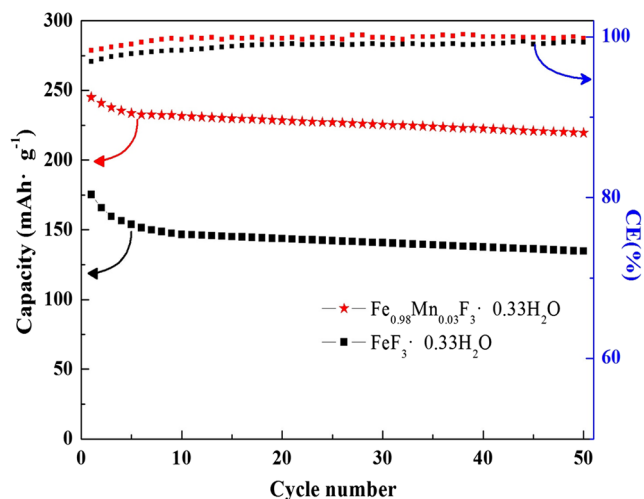


Fig. 6 Cyclic performances of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 1 C and 1.5–4.5 V

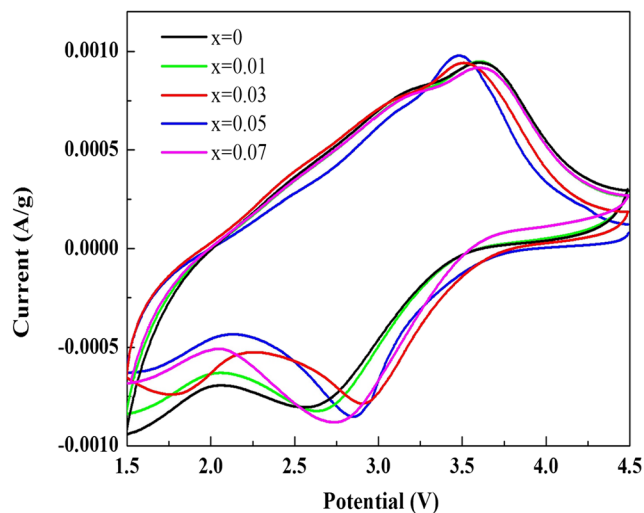


Fig. 7 CV curves of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) at a scan rate of  $0.5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$

and  $\text{Fe}^0$  phases, which are consistent with Fig. 3. The potential interval of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) are 1.07, 0.98, 0.61, 0.66, and 0.83 V, respectively, indicating that  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\Delta E = 0.61$ ) has the smallest polarization.

Figure 8 shows the EIS curves of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) cathode materials after 1 cycle, 20 cycles, and 50 cycles at 1 C. The EIS profiles exhibit a semicircle in the high frequency region and an oblique line in the low frequency region. The equivalent circuit model is shown in the figure, which shows that the fitted graph and the experimentally measured pattern match well. As showed in Table 1, the fitted values of the impedance spectra can be obtained by the relevant equivalent circuit model. In the equivalent circuit,  $R_s$  denotes the impedance of the electrode

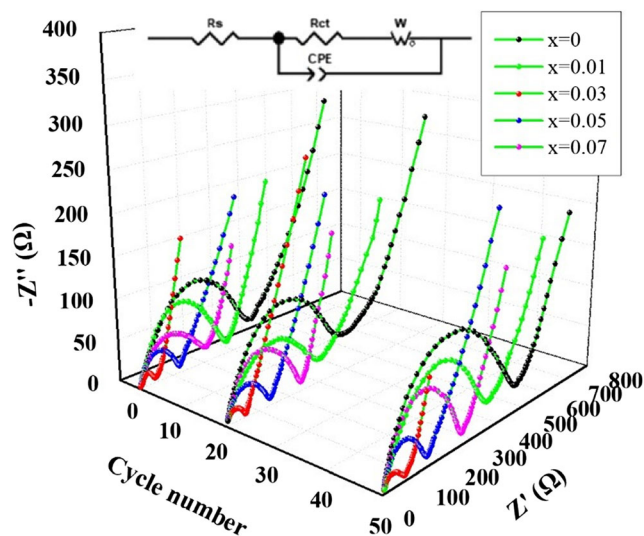
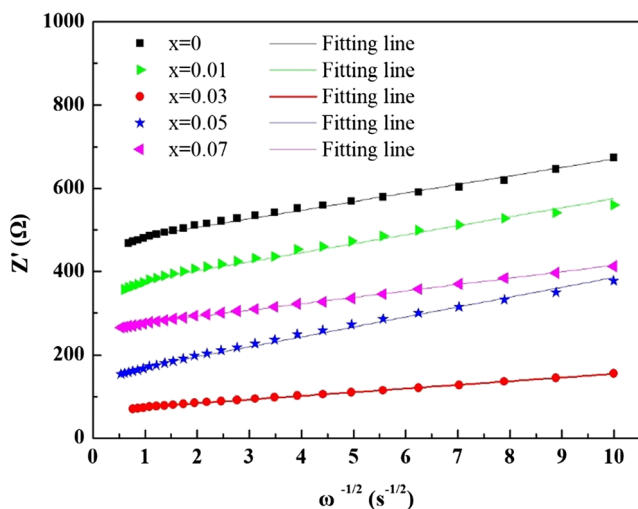


Fig. 8 EIS curves of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) cathode materials after 1 cycle, 20 cycles, and 50 cycles at 1 C

**Table 1** Simulated impedance parameters of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ )

Sample	$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )			$R_{ct}$ ( $\Omega$ )		
	1st	20th	50th	1st	20th	50th
$x = 0$	7.298	7.865	8.256	367.52	399.10	468.95
$x = 0.01$	6.820	7.197	7.996	276.80	302.70	357.24
$x = 0.03$	3.405	5.083	6.895	46.964	59.093	70.142
$x = 0.05$	4.466	5.334	6.475	122.02	136.27	142.94
$x = 0.07$	5.901	6.108	6.294	209.09	238.32	265.84

system,  $R_{ct}$  represents the charge transfer impedance, CPE is used instead of the interface impedance, and  $W$  is the Warburg impedance of the solid phase diffusion, which is related to the diffusion dynamics of  $\text{Li}^+$  in the solid lattice. It can be seen from the figure that there are no significant differences between the  $R_s$  values of the samples. Moreover, the  $R_s$  and  $R_{ct}$  values of the Mn-doped composites are lower than those of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with the increasing cycle number. Especially, the  $R_s$  and  $R_{ct}$  values of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  show a minimal change. The  $R_{ct}$  values of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are 367.52, 399.10, and 468.95  $\Omega$  after 1 cycle, 20 cycles, and 50 cycles, respectively, while the  $R_{ct}$  values of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are 46.96, 59.09 and 70.14  $\Omega$  after 1 cycle, 20 cycles, and 50 cycles, respectively, much less than those of the  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . This phenomenon confirms that  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  presents minimum polarization when the electrode reaction occurs, which is consistent with the CV result. The smaller polarization is of benefit to the insertion and extraction of  $\text{Li}^+$ , effectively enhancing the stability of the positive electrode material. Therefore, benefiting from an appropriate amount of Mn-doping to reduce the charge transfer impedance, the electrochemical reversibility of the material can be improved.

**Fig. 9** Graph of  $Z_{re}$  plotted against  $\omega^{-1/2}$  after 50 cycles for  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) cathode material**Table 2** Electrochemical Kinetic Parameters of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) after 50 cycles at 1 C

Samples	$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	$R_{ct}$ ( $\Omega$ )	$D_{\text{Li}^+}$ ( $\text{cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ )
$x = 0$	8.256	468.95	$2.71 \times 10^{-14}$
$x = 0.01$	7.996	357.24	$3.26 \times 10^{-14}$
$x = 0.03$	6.895	70.142	$1.95 \times 10^{-13}$
$x = 0.05$	6.475	142.94	$6.44 \times 10^{-14}$
$x = 0.07$	6.294	265.84	$3.66 \times 10^{-14}$

Figure 9 illustrates the linear relationship between  $Z_{re}$  and the reciprocal square root of the lower angular frequencies  $\omega^{-1/2}$ . According to Eqs. 3 and 4 [39, 40], we can calculate the  $D_{\text{Li}^+}$  of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ).

$$Z_{re} = R_s + R_{ct} + \sigma_w \cdot \omega^{-0.5} \quad (3)$$

$$D_{\text{Li}^+} = \frac{R^2 T^2}{2A^2 n^4 F^4 C_{\text{Li}}^2 \sigma_w^2} \quad (4)$$

Table 2 shows that the electrochemical kinetics parameters of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, \text{ and } 0.07$ ) after 50 cycles at 1 C. The  $R_s$  values of  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x = 0.07$ ) is lower than those of the other materials, whereas it is clear that  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  shows the highest  $D_{\text{Li}^+}$ ,  $1.95 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , among all materials, which corresponds to its highest initial discharge specific capacity. This result indicates Mn-doping helps to improve the conductivity of the material and accelerate the charge transfer reaction at the electrode/electrolyte interface, possessing good multiplier performance. More importantly, the  $D_{\text{Li}^+}$  increases from  $10^{-14} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  to  $10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , suggesting that Mn-doping is beneficial to  $\text{Li}^+$  stripping/embedding, which not only increases the conductivity of lithium ions, but also decreases the polarization, thus improving the reaction kinetics of the electrode.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the  $\text{Fe}_{1-2x/3}\text{Mn}_x\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  cathode material was successfully fabricated via the solvent thermal method. The capability and cycling stability of these doped materials have been improved. Notably,  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  exhibits a high capacity of  $245.2 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  and it still retains  $219.6 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$  at 1 C even after 50 cycles, which are higher than those of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , indicating that Mn-doping can improve the multiplier performance of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Meanwhile, the EIS results reveal the charge transfer resistance of  $\text{FeF}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  decreases greatly after Mn-doping. The  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has highest  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion coefficient

( $1.95 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). This outstanding battery performance of  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can primarily be attributed to Mn-doping, which reduces the size of particles, thereby accelerating the diffusion rate and reducing the polarization of the electrochemical reaction. Therefore,  $\text{Fe}_{0.98}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{F}_3 \cdot 0.33\text{H}_2\text{O}$  promises to be a cathode material for power lithium-ion batteries.

**Funding information** This work is supported by the Science and Technology Plan Foundation of Guangdong (201803030015), the Science and Technology Plan Foundation of Guangzhou (2017B010119002) and the Science and Technology Plan Foundation of Guangzhou (201704030031).

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