

# CO2 Electroreduction efficiency of various Cu based layered double hydroxides

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#### CO<sub>2</sub> Electroreduction efficiency of various Cu based layered double hydroxides.

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The emission of CO<sub>2</sub> by industrial action seriously impacts our environment which requires us to consider strategies to reduce the emitted CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. The electrochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> (CO<sub>2</sub>ER) into molecules such as CO, HCOOH, CH<sub>3</sub>COOH, and CH<sub>4</sub> is one of the many ways to valorize CO<sub>2</sub> as fuels or chemicals<sup>1</sup>. Not only could this help reduce pollution, but it would also convert the CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable products to use as a feedstock. Amongst the different heterogeneous catalysts investigated, Cu based electro-catalysts for CO<sub>2</sub>ER Cu electrodes have attracted much attention due to their unique advantages including hydrocarbon production and product selectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Recently, Cu-based LDH  $([M(II)_{1-x}Al(III)_x(OH)_2]^{x+}[A^{n-}]_{x/n}\cdot yH_2O$ ,  $0.20 \le x \le 0.33$ ), with M(II) = Cu and M(III) = Al have particularly been investigated for  $CO_2ER$ . These matrices appear as promising electrocatalyst promoting the electrochemical conversion, in galvanostatic conditions, of  $CO_2$  to CO and HCOOH  $^3$ . A morphology control allowed to improve the catalytic activity by tailoring the structure of active sites and increasing the surface area/number of active sites.  $^4$ 

Herein, the electrochemical efficiencies towards  $CO_2ER$  of a series of CuAl-LDH matrices were compared. The LDH materials were synthesized by both the coprecipitation and the polyol method and characterized using powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD), Infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Electrochemical characterization of the Cu-LDH modified electrodes was carried out following a specific protocol by linear sweep voltammetry and cyclic voltammetry showing that an electrochemical activation of the Cu-LDH occurred at  $E^{app} >-1.4 \text{ V}$ , leading to an enhancement of the electrochemical signal of the copper redox couples, addressing to more accessible catalytic sites and to an increase in current under  $CO_2$  and hence  $CO_2$  activation. The influence of the LDH composition that is the Cu amount into the layer, the presence of Mg or Zn in a ternary layer composition, and the nature of the interlayer anions were investigated showing that the composition  $Cu_{1.5}$   $Mg_{0.5}Al-CO_3$  provides the highest faradaic yield of HCOOH formation, reaching 57%.

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