

Due to the inherent
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**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Due to the tremendous progress of energy storage systems, rechargeable power sources from renewable resources with smart energy environment having good electrochemical properties of high safety are highly demanded. 1. Among various power sources lithium ion batteries based on solid polymer electrolytes have many advantages which can improve the safety and stability of batteries due to their non-leakage and non-reactive characteristics. Even though it is unrivalled in its performance, there are additional worries such as high cost, low energy and power density, highly explosive, etc.,. The formation of dendrite during cycling in lithium batteries causes a fatal short circuit 2.

Therefore it is desired to develop a new type of green and safer, less expensive, non dendrite rechargeable battery system. Owing to the inherent advantage of Mg metal, magnesium (Mg) battery has been emerged as an attractive alternate for next level batteries. Magnesium can be electro deposited smoothly without any dendrite growth 3 and it can also provide a higher theoretical volumetric capacity (3832 mAh cm^{-3}) due to the divalent nature of Mg^{2+} than Li (2062 mAh cm^{-3}). This makes the Mg battery more competitive for energy storage devices 4.

In the Earth's crust Mg is more abundant and more widely available than Li. The preparation of electrode with oxygen rich environment is possible with Mg metal. These merits make the door opened for magnesium batteries for future generation energy storage.

In working state of a battery the solid polymer electrolyte (SPE) serves as the separator for the electrodes in open state as well as the ion conductor

medium between the electrodes. Due to their potential applications such as suitable for flexible type, leak proof and light weight, novel materials for the fabrication of ion conducting devices SPE have been widely studied for the past two decades⁵. For the preparation of SPE's the synthetic polar polymers namely; poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly(methylmethacrylate) (PMMA), poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA), poly(acrylonitrile)(PAN), poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) (PVP) etc. are frequently used as host matrix for the preparation of SPE's. Traditionally, the conduction mechanism of polymer electrolytes is based on the transport of the metal ion which is closely coupled to the polymer chains. The ionic transport of SPE occurs only in the amorphous polymer regions than in crystalline region and is often governed by the segmental motion of the polymer chain⁶. The SPE forms the complexes of polymer with the ions of the added salt which have high amorphicity. The low ionic conductivity at ambient temperature limits the SPE's for several technological applications in which the dynamics of polymer chains is critical for the ions transportation.

The ionic conductivity of the SPE can be increased by number of approaches such as (i) use of conventional plasticizers like EC, PC, DEC etc. (ii) dispersion of inorganic filler like SiO₂, Al₂O₃, CNT, TiO₂ etc. (iii) copolymerization (iv) blending etc. Among various approaches, concerning with the wide variety of application prospects, polymer blending technique has been used for developing and designing new polymeric materials⁷.

The two main advantages of polymer blending are (i) suitable control of physical properties by compositional changes and (ii) simplification of synthesis conditions. Recently Hema et. al synthesized a single Li-ion polymer for polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) which was blended with PVdF and LiCF₃SO₃ & TiO₂

as nano filler to form Li-ion electrolyte with conductivity as high as $3.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$ at room temperature [8].

When compared to pure PVA ($2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$) the PVA/PAN blend polymer electrolyte (BPE) with 3M LiClO₄ was reported to have an improved conductivity of $3.76 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$ [19]. Anji et al.

[10], has reported that the polymer electrolyte having 30 wt.% of Mg(NO₃)₂ with PVA-PVP polymer blend has high ionic conductivity of $3.44 \times 10^{-5} \text{ S/cm}$ [10]. Further to accomplish better conductivity many blend electrolytes have been reported based on PVC/PEO [11], PVA/PMMA [12], PVdF/HFP/PAN [13] and so on. Among various polymers Poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) is a biodegradable, biocompatible, and non-toxic inexpensive synthetic polymer with excellent film forming properties.

In aqueous blending PVA with long range hydrogen bond forming ability results into better complex formation with enhanced physical and chemical properties. The preparation and characterization of PVA based BPE membranes were assessed for the battery applications [14, 15]. By changing various crystallization conditions and the blend component ratios composed by PVA and other crystalline polymers can modulate the crystalline structure of the blend. In this order PAN is a suitable candidate to create a blend with PVA. PAN is a semicrystalline, synthetic resin prepared by the polymerization of acrylonitrile. PAN is a special conjugate polymer which can permit faster ionic mobility and it is easily soluble in DMF. Hai-Kuan Yuan et al., studied about the dehydration of ethyl acetate solution by pervaporation using PVA/PAN hollow fiber composite membrane [16]. The effect of the reaction of

epichlorohydrin with hydrolyzed starch-g-PAN (HSPAN)/PVA blend films has been reported by Dae Hyun Kim et al.

17, Xiao-Hua Maa et al. 18 studied the preparation and characterization of PFSA-PVA-SiO₂/PVA/PAN difunctional hollow fiber composite membranes. When PVA and PAN are mixed the interactions between them were expected to occur through interchain hydrogen bonding. PVA-PAN having good charge storage capacity and their electrical and optical properties makes it to be a good potential material when added with salt¹⁹. It has been optimized that the system comprising 92.5 PVA: 7.5 PAN has the highest conductivity $1.2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ ²⁰.

Based on ammonium and lithium salts there have been some studies on this optimized blend composition^{19, 21-23}. Literature survey reveals that only very little attention has been given to the polymer electrolytes based on PVA-PAN blend in which multivalent cations are the mobile species. Girish Kumar and Munichandraiah^{24, 25} have successfully constructed working magnesium cells for the gel polymer electrolytes and manganese oxide (MnO₂) as a cathode by using poly(vinylidene fluoride) (PVDF) and poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) as polymer hosts. Osman et al.

has reported that 15 % Mg(ClO₄)₂ and 20 % Mg (CF₃SO₃)₂ could coordinate with PMMA gel polymer electrolyte system to give the maximum ionic conductivity of $3.31 \times 10^{-3} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ and $1.27 \times 10^{-3} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ respectively²⁶.