

Soft X-ray Emission Spectroscopy on Chemical States of 3D-Transition Metal Elements with SEM

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Soft X-ray emission spectrometer for 50-4000 eV had been attached to a SEM [1], and has been applied to 3dtransition metals and compounds including battery cathode materials. X-rays originate from electronic transitions from valence bands (VB, bonding electron states) to inner-shell electron levels inform us of energy states of bonding electrons. Thus, L-emissions due to transitions of 3d valence electrons to 2p core-hole are very important to assign the chemical states of 3d-transition metal elements. Furthermore, charge state is also important to discuss the physical property because of the amount of 3d electrons closely related to magnetism and conductivity of transition metal compounds.

L α , β emissions attributed to 3d_{5/2,3/2} \rightarrow 2p_{3/2} and 3d_{3/2} \rightarrow 2p_{1/2} transitions, respectively, are suitable to probe valence states (bonding states). On the other hand, L η emissions are due to 3s_{1/2} \rightarrow 2p_{3/2} and 3s_{1/2} \rightarrow 2p_{1/2} transitions, respectively. The 3s and 2p electron levels of 3d-elements are core states. Thus, L η lines are appropriate to observe a change of binding energy of core electrons (chemical shift).

TiO₂ is an important photocatalytic material. Figure 1 shows L α , β emission spectra obtained from bulk TiO₂ specimens having various morphology, i.e., rutile, anatase, and brookite, by use of the SXES-SEM instrument with a grating for 300-2200 eV developed by us [2]. A spectrum of metal-Ti is also shown for comparison. In a simple ionic model, TiO₂ is considered as Ti⁴⁺O²⁻₂. Ti⁴⁺ ion has no 3d electron. However, L α , β emissions are observed for each TiO₂ material, reflecting covalent bonding between Ti and O atoms. Characteristic profile structures indicated by vertical lines vary for different TiO₂ materials due to particular band structures, which are attributed to different crystal structures. When comparing the peak positions of L α , β spectra, those of TiO₂ are located at the lower energy side than those of metal-Ti. They are opposite shifts for Ti⁴⁺ ion. This means that L α , β intensity profile influenced by the density of states of VB is not appropriate to detect chemical shift.

Figure 2 shows L η emission spectra of bulk TiO₂, rutile, anatase, and brookite along with metal-Ti. All data points of the respective spectra were obtained at the same time with the corresponding spectra shown in Figure 1, because the spectrometer with the present grating allows us a parallel detection for 300-2200 eV. As L η emissions are caused by transitions between inner-shell levels, intensity profiles of L η show symmetric distribution concerning the peak top positons, except the presence of weak L η intensity on the high energy side. It is clearly seen that L η peaks of TiO₂ materials are positioned at higher energy side than that of metal-Ti. These shifts of TiO₂ materials are reasonable for cation chemical shift. Furthermore, shift amounts of rutiel and anatase are almost the same, but that of brookite is suggesting a larger positive valency than other two TiO₂.

As shown above, L-emission of 3d-transition element is useful not only for probing valence electron state of bonding electrons by $L\alpha,\beta$ but also for charge state (valency) analysis by $L1,\eta$. SXES-SEM analysis of battery cathode materials which show particular characters depending on different charge states will be also presented.

References:

[1] M Terauchi, *et al.*, *Microscopy and Microanalysis* **20** (2014), 629.

[2] T Imazono, *et al.*, *Applied Optics* **51** (2012), 2351.

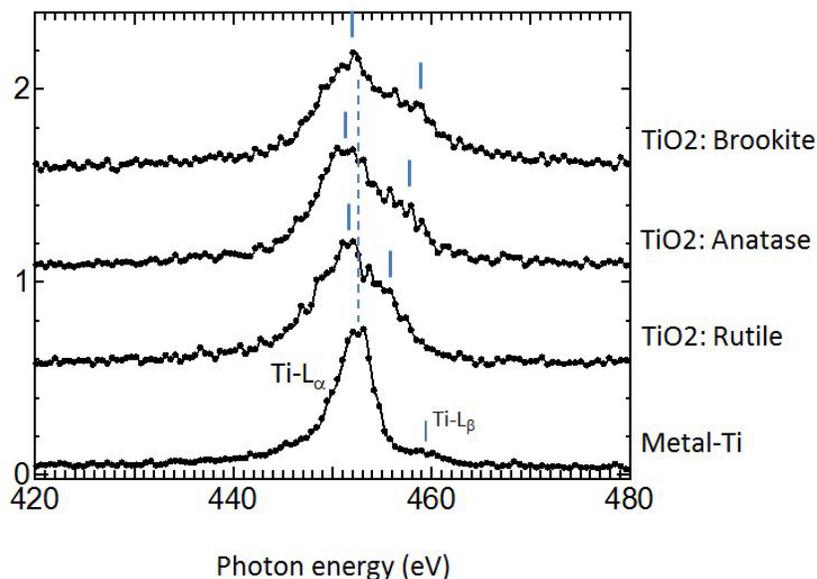


Figure 1. Ti-L α,β emission spectra obtained from bulk TiO₂ specimens of rutile, and anatase, brookite as well as metal-Ti by using our SXES-SEM with a grating for 300-2200 eV [2].

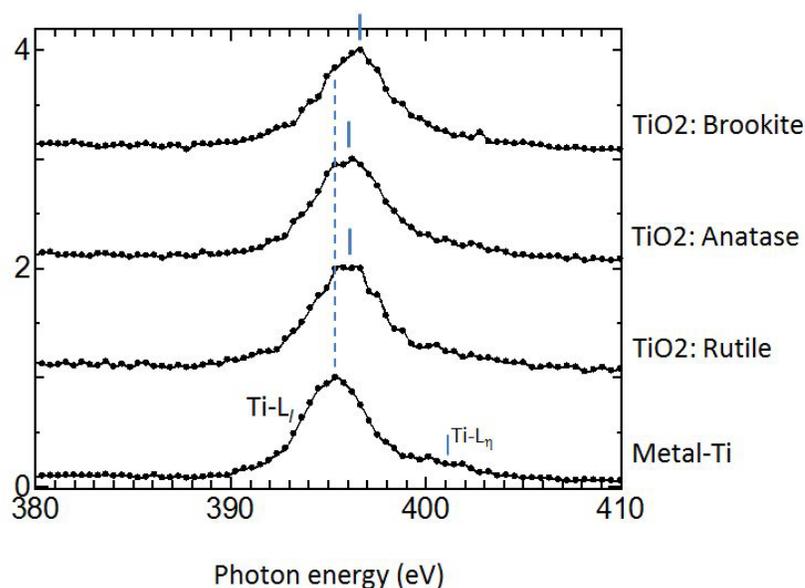


Figure 2. Ti-L $1,\eta$ emission spectra of bulk TiO₂ of rutile, anatase, and brookite, as well as metal-Ti.