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Evaluation of Structural and Electrochemical Performance of Ti₃C₂ MXene/MoS₂ Electrode in PVA-based Solid Electrolyte

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article history: Received 28 May 2025 Received in revised form 11 July 2025 Accepted 15 July 2025 Available online 30 July 2025	Solid electrolytes have gained significant interest for the use in supercapacitor application. The unique blend of its characteristics ensures excellent durability and long-lasting performance. However, the complex synthesis process required for these electrolytes has limited the prospect. This study aims to develop a high-performance solid-state supercapacitor by synergistically combining a PVA-based solid electrolyte with a MXene/MoS ₂ composite electrode. The key challenges are to achieving a good compatibility between the flexible PVA electrolyte and layered MXene/MoS ₂ electrode to prevent delamination and understanding ion transport through PVA's hydrophilic network and MXene/MoS ₂ 's hierarchical structure, while ensuring long-term capacitance retention. A low-energy hydrothermal synthesis approach is used to enable scalable and greener fabrication. Confirmation of the characterization for the synthesized MXene and MoS2 composite was achieved through X-ray Diffraction and Raman analysis. While Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope were employed to examine the morphology. The highest specific capacitance recorded was 50.62 Fg-1, attributed to the higher ionic conductivity and better mechanical properties of PVA based solid electrolyte in utilizing 2D material. Moreover, the device demonstrated almost 95.75% retention of its original capacitance upon a 10,000-cycle cyclic stability test at high current.
MXene, MoS ₂ , Characterization,	

Symmetric Supercapacitor, Polymer Electrolyte

1. Introduction

Supercapacitors (SC) serve as crucial energy storage devices, akin to traditional capacitors in many respects. However, their operational mechanism distinguishes them from regular capacitors. SCs

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employ diverse charge storage mechanisms such as electric double layer capacitance (EDLC), pseudocapacitance, or hybrid mechanisms to store and discharge energy efficiently [1], [2]. Despite their lower energy density compared to batteries, SCs are renowned for their high-power density and extended charge-discharge cycle life due to their reliance on physical ion movement rather than chemical reactions [3], [4], [5]. The demand for efficient energy storage solutions, especially in the era of Industry 4.0, has fueled interest in portable and grid-less energy devices, prominently including supercapacitors [6], [7]. However, to meet the evolving needs of various applications, supercapacitors must exhibit enhanced specific capacitance and improved cycling stability. The choice of electrode material plays a pivotal role in achieving these requirements and elevating device performance [8], [9]. In recent years, 2D materials have garnered significant attention, with Molybdenum Disulfide (MoS₂) standing out as a promising candidate due to its unique structure facilitating ion adsorption and short diffusion paths. Nonetheless, the tendency for restacking among MoS₂ sheets poses challenges and diminishes device efficiency [10-12].

To address this issue, a novel approach involves designing heterostructures comprising MoS_2 and MXene as hybrid material [13]. MXene, a 2D material known for its excellent electrical conductivity and ability to host various cations between its layers, presents a promising solution [14]. The MAX phases, the precursors of MXenes, are orderly aligned carbides and nitrides of ternary metals, M is a transition metal (such as Mo, Ti, Zr, Cr, etc.), A can be a group 13 to 16 element such as Al, Ga, Ge, Si, etc. in the periodic table, and X can be either carbon, nitrogen, or their mixture as highlighted in Figure 1. The specific MXene chosen for this study is Titanium Carbide, Ti_3C_2 , known for its diverse chemical properties and competitive performance. However, challenges related to surface oxidation persist despite positive outcomes from stacking on MXene sheets [15-17].

								_									4 He helium 2
7 Li ^{lithium} 3	9 Be beryllium 4			М		А			x			11 B boron 5	12 C carbon 6	14 N nitrogen 7	16 O oxygen 8	19 F fluorine 9	20 Ne neon 10
23 Na ^{sodium} 11	24 Mg ^{magnesium} 12											27 Al aluminium 13	28 Si silicon 14	31 P phosphorus 15	32 S sulfur 16	35.5 CI chlorine 17	40 Ar ^{argon} 18
39 K potassium 19	40 Ca calcium 20	45 Sc scandium 21	48 Ti titanium 22	51 V vanadium 23	52 Cr chromium 24	55 Mn manganese 25	56 Fe iron 26	59 Co cobalt 27	59 Ni ^{nickel} 28	63.5 Cu copper 29	65 Zn 30	70 Ga ^{gallium} 31	73 Ge _{germanium} 32	75 As arsenic 33	79 Se setenium 34	80 Br bromine 35	84 Kr ^{krypton} 36
85 Rb rubidium 37	88 Sr strontium 38	89 Y yttrium 39	91 Zr zirconium 40	93 Nb ^{niobium} 41	96 Mo molybdenum 42	[98] Tc technetium 43	101 Ru ruthenium 44	103 Rh thodium 45	106 Pd palladium 46	108 Ag silver 47	112 Cd cadmium 48	115 In indium 49	119 Sn 50	122 Sb antimony 51	128 Te tellurium 52	127 I iodine 53	131 Xe ^{xenon} 54
133 Cs caesium 55	137 Ba barium 56	139 La* ^{Ianthanum} 57	178 Hf hafnium 72	181 Ta tantalum 73	184 W tungsten 74	186 Re thenium 75	190 Os osmium 76	192 Ir ^{iridium} 77	195 Pt platinum 78	197 Au ^{gold} 79	201 Hg mercury 80	204 TI thallium 81	207 Pb lead 82	209 Bi bismuth 83	[209] Po polonium 84	[210] At astatine 85	[222] Rn radon 86
[223] Fr francium 87	[226] Ra radium 88	[227] Ac* actinium 89	[261] Rf nutherfordium 104	[262] Db ^{dubnium} 105	[266] Sg seaborgium 106	[264] Bh bohrium 107	[277] Hs hassium 108	[268] Mt meitnerium 109	[271] Ds darmstadtium 110	[272] Rg roentgenium 111	Elements with atomic numbers 112-116 have been reported but not fully authenticated						

Fig. 1. Elements known to form MAX Phases

These challenges have motivated intense research into solid-state supercapacitors, where solid polymer electrolytes and novel nanostructured electrodes offer the potential for safer, more compact, and mechanically resilient systems. Among the materials explored for solid electrolytes, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) has attracted substantial attention due to its high ionic conductivity when doped with acidic or salt species, its film-forming ability, and inherent mechanical flexibility. PVA's hydrophilic network facilitates efficient ion transport, which is crucial for the performance of solid-state devices. Nonetheless, achieving strong interfacial adhesion between the electrolyte and advanced electrode materials remains a significant bottleneck. Mechanical incompatibility at the interface often leads to delamination, impairing electrochemical performance and device longevity.

In this study, we propose a solid-state supercapacitor system that synergistically combines a PVAbased solid electrolyte with a composite MXene/MoS₂ electrode. Analytical techniques such as FESEM, Raman, and XRD will be employed to investigate this correlation.

It is important to note that the focus of this study is not an exhaustive optimization of the synthesis procedure. Rather, it aims to explore the synergistic effect of the composite material, introducing specific enhancements strategically crafted to address identified limitations and build upon existing knowledge. For the case where MXene is hybridized with MoS₂, it is noted by [39] that this pair able to utilize the reciprocal dispersion in the interlayer of nanosheets to solve the stacking problem, while minimizing issues of restacking for both materials in long cycles of charge/discharge testing or application. This is due to this hybridization strategy that offered synergistic effect [39] and tunability in various properties from the enhanced multifunctional hierarchical structure [40-45] coming from MXene/MoS₂ combination. PVA-based solid electrolytes play a crucial role in enhancing the performance of supercapacitors. These polymer electrolytes offer several advantages that contribute to the efficiency and stability of supercapacitor devices. PVA-based solid electrolytes exhibit high ionic conductivity, which is essential for efficient charge transfer within supercapacitors. This high conductivity enables rapid movement of ions, enhancing the energy storage and delivery capabilities of the supercapacitor. PVA solid electrolytes provide flexibility, allowing for their use in flexible solid-state supercapacitors [18]. This flexibility expands the range of applications where supercapacitors can be utilized, making them suitable for various electronic devices and systems. The prevalent ionic conductivities of polymer electrolytes based on PVA are displayed in Table 1. Inspired by the considerations above, this paper outlines the novelty of current study that utilize three-way concerted exploration in 1) facile synthesis of MXene/MoS₂ hybrid, 2) sustainable approach to produce solid electrolyte, and 3) ion intercalation evaluation via solid electrolyte with MXene-MoS₂ electrode in supercapacitor applications.

The ionic conductivities of electrolytes based on PVA					
Electrolyte	Ionic conductivity (m Scm ⁻¹)	Ref			
PVA/H ₃ PO ₄ /H ₂ O	0.056	[19]			
PVA/Potassium Borate/ KCL/H ₂ O	1.02	[20]			
PVA/H ₃ PO ₄ /cellulose/H ₂ O	0.104	[21]			
PVA/PVP/KOH/H ₂ O	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹	[22]			

Table 1

2. Methodology

2.1 Synthesis Method MXene, MoS₂ and PVA based solid electrolyte

The experimental methodology is schematically illustrated in Figure 2.



Fig. 2. Flowchart of the experiment

Titanium aluminum carbide (Ti₃AlC₂) MAX phase powders were slowly submerged in a 40 wt% hydrofluoric acid (HF) solution under constant stirring for 24 hours at room temperature. This process facilitates the selective etching of aluminum layers from the MAX phase structure. The resulting suspension was then centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 5 minutes and thoroughly washed with deionized (DI) water multiple times to remove residual fluoride ions and terminate the etching reaction. The washing steps were repeated until the supernatant reached a pH value exceeding 6.0, indicating the removal of excess HF. The final MXene (Ti₃C₂) product was dried in a vacuum oven at 60°C for 12 hours. Then, a homogeneous solution of MoS₂ was prepared through a hydrothermal method. . While there are various routes of single MXene synthesis or hybridization with MoS₂ such as chemical vapor deposition (CVD) [42, 43], atomic layer deposition (ALD), molten salt etching and hydrothermal method [43]. It is noted that CVD and ALD involve high-end instruments [42] and molten salt etching dealt with several synthesis steps with high risk of health hazards [43]. Hydrothermal synthesis method on the other hand has low-cost [45], facile [43, 44], secure, safe and environmentally friendly attributes [42]; making hydrothermal method is preferably recommended as synthesis protocol. Thiourea and ammonium molybdate tetrahydrate ((NH₄)6Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O) were dissolved in DI water under vigorous stirring. The resulting mixture was transferred to a Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave and heated to 210°C for a reaction time of 40 minutes, followed by a holding period of 18 hours. The autoclave was then allowed to cool down naturally to room temperature. This process promotes the formation of MoS₂ nanosheets.

2.2 Preparation of PVA Based Solid Electrolyte

The PVA/KOH-based Solid electrolyte was synthesized via a solution-casting method (Figure 2). A mixture of 20 g polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) was dissolved in 300 mL of DI water under constant stirring at 60°C for 3 hours, as illustrated in Figure 3. The suspension was stirred for an additional three hours with 10 g of KOH added. The elevated temperature facilitates the dissolution of both components and ensures a homogeneous mixture. The stirring process continued until a clear and transparent solution was obtained, indicating complete dissolution. This method yields a PVA/KOH-based Solid electrolyte suitable for various electrochemical applications, including supercapacitors and batteries. After that, the electrolyte is poured into a petri dish to dry and form a thinner layer.

2.3 Preparation of MoS₂/Ti₃C₂ MXene Hybrid Electrode

Pre-synthesized MoS_2 powder was thoroughly mixed with 0.13 g of Ti_3C_2 MXene in an N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) solution using constant stirring. This process promotes the uniform dispersion of MoS_2 particles onto the MXene surface. The resulting homogeneous mixture was then transferred into a Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave with a capacity of 28 mL for a subsequent hydrothermal treatment (Figure 4). The following hydrothermal treatment steps were identical to those employed for the sole synthesis of MoS_2 (refer to Section 2.1).

Several pre-prepared chemicals were utilized for the fabrication of the electrode slurry with electrode formulation and experiment parameters that were adopted with minor changes at stirring time, referred from past literature study [41]: polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) binder, acetylene black conductive agent, NMP solvent, and PVA-based based Solid electrolyte. The slurry was formulated using a fixed weight ratio: 80 wt% active material, 10 wt% PVDF binder, and 10 wt% acetylene black conductive additives. When the active material employed was the MoS₂/MXene composite, the individual components (MoS¬2 and MXene) were mixed in equal proportions (50 wt% each) based

on prior research that established this ratio as optimal for achieving desired electrochemical performance. Table 2 summarizes the weight ratios of the materials used for the electrode slurry.



Fig. 3. (a) The process for making PVA polymer-based solid electrolyte, and (b) PVA

Following the preparation of all components, the electrode slurry was formulated. The active material, PVDF binder, and acetylene black conductive agent were weighed according to the designated ratios (Table 2). These components were then combined in an NMP solvent and subjected to vigorous agitation for a minimum of 5 hours. This extended mixing period ensured proper dispersion of all components throughout the slurry and minimized the formation of agglomerates. Subsequently, the slurry underwent an additional continuous stirring process for 2-3 hours to achieve optimal homogeneity. A conventional slurry coating technique was then employed to deposit the prepared slurry onto nickel foam current collectors. The nickel foam served as the substrate for the active material and facilitated efficient electron transport during subsequent electrochemical testing. Following coating, the electrodes were subjected to a drying process overnight to remove any residual solvent and ensure complete film formation. This drying step is crucial for maintaining the structural integrity of the electrode during electrochemical evaluation. The fully prepared electrodes were then ready for further characterization and testing. Figure 4 illustrates the movement of ions within the electrolyte and their interaction with the current collector.



Fig. 4. Schematic representation of hydrothermal synthesis of MXene/MoS₂

Table 2

The ionic conductivities of polymer electrolytes based on PVA

Sample	Weight (mg)	Weight Composition (%)
Mxene powder	8.30	40
MoS ₂ powder	8.10	40
PVDF	1.28	10
Acetylene Black	1.26	10
Total weight	18.94	100

2.4 Structural and Morphological Confirmation

The crystallinity of pristine MoS₂ and MXene/MoS₂ hybrid electrodes was analyzed using X-ray Diffraction (XRD). The analysis was performed with a Rigaku MiniFlex instrument, which utilized a monochromatic X-ray beam with a wavelength of 1.5406 Å. The diffraction patterns were collected over a 2θ range of 5° to 90°, and phase identification was conducted using the XPERT-PRO database. Raman spectroscopy was employed to investigate the vibrational modes of the materials, providing further insights into their structural characteristics and properties. The morphological analysis was conducted using field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) with a Hitachi SU5000 microscope. This technique allowed for an examination of the surface morphology and internal structures of the materials.

2.5 Electrochemical performance evaluation

For the electrochemical characterization, the fabricated electrodes were assembled into a symmetric supercapacitor configuration within a coin cell. A polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)-based solid electrolyte was chosen as the internal electrolyte, and polypropylene (PP) was used as the separator. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) and galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) measurements were performed using a WonAtech WMPG1000 electrochemical workstation. These measurements were crucial for evaluating the electrochemical performance of the fabricated supercapacitors. The comprehensive analysis aimed to provide a thorough understanding of the structural and electrochemical properties of the MXene/MoS₂ hybrid materials, highlighting their potential applications in energy storage devices.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Morphological, Crystallographic Structure of Active Materials

Figure 5 shows the XRD patterns obtained from pristine MoS_2 and $MXene/MoS_2$ electrodes. Nevertheless, there are apparent variations in peak heights that correspond to the individual peaks, and fortunately both samples have good crystallinity [23]. The XRD spectrum pattern of an exfoliated pure MoS_2 electrode is shown. The data shows peaks at angles of 14.6°, 33°, 36.1°, 39.7°, 50°, and 60.6°, with corresponding d-spacing of 6.07, 2.72, 2.49, 2.27, 1.82, and 1.53Å. Minor peaks emerge at angles of 14.6, 33, 39.7, and 60.6°, which correspond to the MoS_2 crystal planes (002), (101), (103), and (110), correspondingly; this is consistent with the standard reference. A reduction to a lower intensity of peak at 20 of 32.9, 36.1, and 50° from MoS_2 patterns can be detected by observing the achieved results of peaks of data varying from pure MoS_2 electrode up until MXene/MoS₂ hybrid electrode [24]. This shows the ability of MXene material to unload onto the exfoliated MoS_2 electrode. The lack of the Al peak around ~38° indicates the effective removal of the Al layer from the MAX phase material.



Fig. 5. XRD of MoS₂ and MXene/MoS₂ electrode

Both surfaces of the Ti₃C₂ MXene are covered by a nanosheet composed of MoS₂, as can be seen in the morphologies. The FESEM images shown in Figure 6 (a) and (b) revealed that the Ti₃C₂ MXene exhibits a layered structure, consistent with its synthesis from the selective etching of aluminium layers from Ti₃AlC₂. The layered nature is a hallmark feature of MXenes and is evident as stacked sheets or flakes [25]. The surface topography appears relatively smooth, with some observable wrinkles and undulations. These features are attributed to the inherent flexibility and mechanical properties of MXene nanosheets [26]. Figure 6 (c) and (d) depict the morphological characteristics of pure MoS₂. These samples showcase the presence of lamellar nanoflower-like MoS₂ structures. Lastly, Figure 7 (e) and (f) present images detailing the morphological features of hybrid MXene/MoS₂ structures. These images vividly illustrate the attachment of MoS₂ to the MXene, which plays an important role in effectively preventing the restacking of individual MoS₂ layers. It can be seen that MoS₂ materials are attached and fill the spaces between the Ti₃C₂. This phenomenon enhances the utility of MXene in optimizing the structural integrity of MoS_2 , a point that is critical for further comprehensive understanding [27]. While Figure 7 shows XRD and Raman spectrum for materials in PVA based solid electrolyte which include KOH. The PVA pattern shows a big peak at 20=20° and a secondary peak at 40.5°. These peaks indicate a certain extent of crystalline phase in pure PVA, which can be associated with polymer chains alignment due to H- bonds formed between OH⁻ groups of packed PVA chains [28].



Fig. 6. FESEM images of a), b) Ti₃C₂ MXene, c), d) MoS₂, and e), f) MXene/MoS₂ electrode



4. Electrochemical Performance of Supercapacitor

The cyclic stability of the MXene/MoS₂-based supercapacitor was investigated through galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) measurements at a high current density of 0.793 A g⁻¹. Capacity retention over extended cycling is a critical metric for evaluating the long-term viability of the MXene/MoS₂ electrode material in supercapacitor applications. Both cyclic voltammetry (CV) and GCD techniques are valuable tools for characterizing the capacitance of electrode materials. However, they offer distinct advantages and serve complementary purposes in this study. CV offers a relatively rapid method for initial assessments and preliminary screening of electrochemical properties. In contrast, GCD provides insights into the long-term stability and performance of the supercapacitor device under realistic operating conditions, mimicking the charge-discharge cycles encountered during practical use. For this study, the specific capacitance (C_{sp}) obtained from CV measurements was employed to evaluate the performance of the fabricated supercapacitors. This choice allows for a quick and efficient initial assessment of the device's capacitance. The achieved CV curves are then discussed and used to calculate the specific gravimetric capacitance (C_{sp}) value. Equation 1 to calculate the C_{sp} is as follows:

$$C_{sp1} = \frac{1}{mR(V_2 - V_1)} \tag{1}$$

where (V_2-V_1) = potential window, m = average active mass per electrode, R = scan rates, and A = area under the curve, which was calculated by using Origin software from the CV voltammogram obtained in the experiment. In this study, the active mass is 0.0189 g.

From the GCD results, Equation 2 to calculate specific gravimetric capacitance (C_{sp}):

Specific Capacitance,
$$C_{sp2} = \frac{I \times \Delta t}{m \times \Delta V} = \frac{I_m(\Delta t)}{\Delta V}$$
 (2)

where I = current applied, m = average active mass of electrode, Δt = time difference, I_m = current densities, and ΔV = voltage difference.

Figure 8 shows the CV curves of the MXene/MoS₂ symmetrical supercapacitor at different scan rates. The calculated C_{sp} values are presented and tabulated in Table 3. There is clearly no redox reaction peaks recorded, which indicates that the electrode exhibited good capacitive behaviour for a symmetric supercapacitor. The relatively not-so-high calculated C_{sp} value as compared to the literature data is most probably due to the high electrode loading or high active mass on the current collector [29]. Possibly, minimizing the electrode active mass might be a potential solution for achieving a high specific capacitance value. When the electrode loading is minimized, the whole or complete potential of each element inside the electrode may play a crucial role in enhancing the storage ability. Another matter to consider would be the coating technique applied during the preparation of the electrode [30]. Enhancing coating techniques in material synthesis holds significance for bolstering the future performance, durability, and functionality of coated materials.

Table 3

Specific gravimetric capacitance of MXene/MoS₂ hybrid electrode from CV analysis, calculated using (1)

Area under curves	Scan rates (mVs ⁻¹)	C _{sp} (Fg ⁻¹)
0.009291	1	50.62
0.054250	50	29.56
0.069050	100	25.08
0.068820	150	18.75
0.068820	200	15.76



Fig. 8. CV curves of the MXene/MoS₂ symmetrical supercapacitor at different scan rates

The supercapacitor exhibited a quasi-rectangular-shaped curve for its CV, also confirming that this hybrid electrode shows good electrochemical double-layer capacitance (EDLC) behaviour [31]. When a lower scan rate was applied, the ion diffusion became slower; thus, the interaction between electrodes and electrolytes could be maximized. Also, the high-concentration electrolyte provides a higher number of ions, and when measured at a lower scan rate, the electrolyte ions have sufficient time to penetrate electrode pores and finally yield a better electrical charge storage for a good capacitance value [32]. Combining MXene and MoS_2 helped in increasing the active area, thus improving the charge–discharge process. Another reason for a lower C_{sp} is probably the synthesis method not involving the oxidation, which is known to hinder the performance of MXene.

On the other hand, higher scan rates allowed more current flow and led to quick ion diffusion, during which electrolyte ions were unable to fully penetrate electrode pores but only on the surface instead [33]. In contrast, when a lower value of scan rates is applied, the capability to capture the details is more accurate; thus, it takes longer to complete testing and yield a more accurate result. The galvanostatic charge–discharge data are depicted in Figure 9 and Table 4. The optimum current density (2.640 A g⁻¹) was selected based on the balance between high specific capacitance and rate performance. While lower current density (0.530 A g⁻¹) yielded higher capacitance, it lacked practical charge–discharge efficiency. Higher current density (5.280 A g⁻¹) showed significant capacitance loss due to limited ion diffusion. The selected value ensures efficient ion transport with stable cyclic behaviour, consistent with previous findings. The charging and discharging were found to be symmetric at around 30 secs for both charge and discharge. The unequal charge–discharge time indicated that the electrodes in such compositions are not really stabilized [34]. Furthermore, the C_{sp} values calculated using Equation (2) were very low, because of the high current applied, leading to too rapid a charge–discharge process, and this is common for symmetric supercapacitor.

Table 4							
Specific capacitance of MXene/MoS ₂ hybrid electrode from GCD analysis							
Discharging time	Applied Current (mA)	Current Density	Specific Conscitance (Fr ⁻¹)				
(sec)	Applied Current (IIIA)	(Ag ⁻¹)	Specific Capacitance (Fg -)				
56.01	1.0	0.530	29.69				
7.08	5.0	2.640	18.48				
3.12	10.0	5.280	1.650				



Fig. 9. GCD pattern of the MXene/MoS₂ hybrid electrode

Measurements were conducted to assess the specific capacitance of MXene/MoS₂, spanning a total of 10,000 cycles as shown in Figure 10. Despite obtaining low specific capacitance (Csp) values from cyclic voltammetry (CV) and galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) tests, the material exhibited remarkable cyclic performance. The cyclic performance of MXene/MoS₂ was evaluated over 10,000 cycles at a current of 1.0 mA, within a voltage range of 0.0–1.0 V. The specific current density was selected as it represents an optimal value for the GCD parameters, neither excessively high nor too

low. In summary, the capacitance retention of $MXene/MoS_2$ after 2,000, 4,000, 6,000, and 8,000 cycles was observed to be 97.15%, 97.71%, 96.87%, and 95.75%, respectively.



Fig. 10. Sample (a) before and (b) after 10,000 cycles capacitance retention evaluation

After subjecting the cell to 10,000 cycles of capacitance retention testing, a comprehensive assessment of its physical and electrochemical characteristics revealed no discernible changes [35]. This observed stability could be attributed to the stored energy resulting from the physical separation of charges, mitigating the chemical reactions typically associated with battery charge and discharge cycles. Chemical reactions often lead to material degradation and diminished performance over time. The image indicates that the sample has maintained its appearance, resembling a crumpled piece of paper, thus signifying its structural integrity during the retention tests. The reliable and stable capacitance retention observed after an extensive testing period underscores the cell's robust and enduring performance. It is an excellent choice for applications necessitating long-term and dependable cycle retention, such as advanced energy storage systems [36].

The MXene-MoS₂ combination shows beneficial interactions, as shown in the characterization results. MoS₂ nanosheets help separate MXene layers, increasing accessible surface area, while MXene's conductivity compensates for MoS₂'s semiconductor nature. Spectroscopic data confirms electronic coupling between the materials. Together, they enable both surface charge storage and redox reactions. Even though the measured specific capacitance suggests room for improvement in the MXene/MoS₂-PVA system. Three main factors likely contribute to this performance, which are, first, restricted ion movement in the PVA electrolyte due to its semi-crystalline structure [37]. Secondly, there is a reduced active surface area from MXene sheet stacking, and thirdly, there is interfacial resistance between components. Simple modifications could enhance performance, such as adding glycerol to PVA to improve ion mobility or incorporating carbon nanotubes between MXene layers to prevent restacking [38]. For better performance, future work could focus on optimizing the PVA electrolyte composition to balance flexibility and ion transport. Besides controlling MoS₂ morphology to expose more active edge sites and improving electrode-electrolyte contact through surface treatments. These practical adjustments could enhance capacitance while maintaining the system's stability and ease of fabrication. The current results provide a foundation for developing

more efficient solid-state supercapacitors using this material combination. Figure 11 illustrates the suggestion of ions' movement within the electrolyte and their interaction with the current collector.



Fig. 11. Suggestion for schematic movement of K^+ ion within the electrolyte and their interaction with the current collector

4. Conclusions

The synthesis of the MXene/MoS₂ hybrid electrode was achieved using a hydrothermal process followed by conventional slurry coating. XRD patterns verified the successful deposition of MXene Ti₃C₂ onto the exfoliated MoS₂ electrode, confirming the composite heterostructure's crystalline nature. FESEM analysis revealed that the Ti₃C₂ MXene exhibited a layered flake-like structure, consistent with its formation through the selective removal of aluminum layers from Ti₃AlC₂. The electrochemical performance of the MXene/MoS₂ supercapacitor was assessed through cyclic voltammetry (CV) and galvanostatic charge-discharge (GCD) tests, yielding a maximum specific capacitance of 50.62 Fg⁻¹. Subsequently, the device underwent 10,000 cycles of cyclic testing at an applied current of 1.0 mA, demonstrating a capacitance retention of 95.75% of its initial discharge capacitance. Notably, the cell remained unchanged even after enduring 10,000 retention cycles, underscoring its robust cyclic stability. It's important to note that the usage of PVA solid electrolytes significantly affected the performance of the supercapacitor, contributing to its enhanced stability and retention of capacitance over multiple cycles.

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