Predicting the Interfacial reactions between electrodes and solid state electrolytes





SAMSUNG ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Slides will be posted at ceder.berkeley.edu

Gerbrand Ceder ^{UC Berkeley} ECS Meeting, Honolulu Oct 6 2016

Recent advances in solid-state lithium conductors



N. Kamaya et al., *Nat. Mater.* **10**, 682-686 (2011) Y. Seino et al., *Energy Environ. Sci.*, **7**, 627 (2014)

Good understanding of what creates high Li-conductivity



¹ N. Kamaya *et al.*, Nat. Mater. **10**, 682-686 (2011) ² Y. Mo, S. P. Ong, G. Ceder, Chem. Mater. **24** 15-17 (2012)

Excellent DFT predictions on conductivity DFT vs. Experiment



(*)Richards et al, Nature Communications 7, 11009 (2016)

The anatomy of superionic conductors - insight from LGPS and other conductors







- In Li₁₀GeP₂S₁₂ and Li₇P₃S₁₁ the sulfur anion arrangements are very close to bccc
- Some other sulfides have anion sublattice matched to close-packed frameworks (fcc/hcp)

Materials	Anion lattice	E _a (exp.)	σ at R.T. (mS/cm)
$Li_7P_3S_{11}$	bcc	0.18	18
Li ₁₀ GeP ₂ S ₁₂	bcc	0.21	12
Li ₄ GeS ₄	hcp	0.53	2×10^{-4}
Li ₂ S	fcc	0.74	\



Y. Wang et al. Nature Materials, 14 (10), 1026–1031 (2015).

Novel conductor predicted



Table 1 Calculated activation energy (E_a) and extrapolated room temperature (RT) conductivity for Li_{1+2x}Zn_{1-x}PS₄ from MD simulations

Composition	E_a/eV	RT conductivity/mS cm-1	
LiZnPS ₄	1.07	1.81×10^{-9}	
Li1 25Zno 875PS4	0.252	3.44	
Li1.5Zn0.75PS4	0.181	27.7	
Li2Zn0.5PS4	0.165	53.8	
Li2.5Zn0.25PS4	0.140	114	

W. Richards, Energy and Env. Sc. 10.1039/C6EE02094A 2016

Some requirements for good solid state electrolytes

- High Li⁺ conductivity
- No electron conductivity
- Processability
- No interfacial reactions with electrodes (or passivation)

Electrochemical Stability



W.D. Richards et al., Interface Stability in Solid-State Batteries, Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

Remarkable stability claims have been made



1. Electrochemical Stability

No chemical reaction with electrodes



2. Chemical + Electrochemical Stability

Including chemical reaction with electrodes

1. Electrochemical Stability

No chemical reaction with electrodes





How stable can an oxide conductor be ?

Require voltage stability up to 4.5 or 5V

Li-oxides/peroxides: Metastable oxidation of the oxygen anion starts at about 3.3V



SY Kang and GC, dx.doi.org/10.1021/cm401720n | Chem. Mater. 2013, 25, 3328-3336

When a transition metal is present, oxidation voltage moves up

Li₂MnO₃



Lee, E., Persson, K. A. (2014). Adv. Energy Mater., 4: 1400498. doi: 10.1002/aenm.201400498

Given strong stabilization of oxygen by Mn in Li_2MnO_3 difficult to imagine solid oxide electrolytes to have much higher anodic stability than 4.5V

How to calculate Electrochemical Stability



Thermodynamics is well defined

Equilibrium under high and low Li chemical potential:

 $\Phi = \mathbf{G} - \mu_{\mathsf{Li}} \, \mathsf{x}_{\mathsf{Li}}$

Y. Mo, S. P. Ong, G. Ceder, Chem. Mater. 24 15-17 (2012)

Need energy of all phases in the chemical space

Project at some Li chemical potential



Stability range for oxide garnet is much larger



W.D. Richards et al., Interface Stability in Solid-State Batteries, Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

More oxides



All reaction decomposition products can be found in the Supplementary Information in W.D. Richards et al., Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

More oxides

BUT ... Possibility of reduction of metal will decrease stability against Li anode



All reaction decomposition products can be found in the Supplementary Information in W.D. Richards et al., Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

Oxidation of Sulfide Conductor

Address polysulphide solubility Charge process ULS ULS ULS ULS ULS Occharge process 0 Capacity (mAh g¹)

Li-S battery charges at about 2.3 - 2.4V:

Difficult to imagine Sulfides have much higher redox potential than $\approx 2.5V$

Electrochemical Stability is embedded in the quaternary phase diagrams



Stability range for LGPS is actually quite narrow.



An electrolyte only battery ...

Decomposition products actually become electrochemically active

Han et al. Adv. Mater. 2015



and electrolyte b Li, GeP, S, /C Cathode Li, GeP, S, Solid Electrolyte Li, GeP, S, /C Anode

LGPS as anode, cathode,

Same for Li₃PS₄ and Li₇P₃S₁₁



W.D. Richards et al., Interface Stability in Solid-State Batteries, Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

All Sulfides

DFT calculated stability windows



Recent XPS experiments show thiophosphate electrolyte reduction by Li-metal



Ionics 286 24–33 (2016)

S. Wenzel *et al.,* Chem. Mater. (2016)

Very recent experiment confirmed theoretical predictions: Thiophosphates unstable against high voltage cathode and Li metal

- The consumed capacity during the first charge–discharge process indicates the occurrence of side reactions leading to the generation of the surface layer.
- Coating layer (LiNbO₃) of the cathode is required
- Stable cycling only achieved using the Li₄Ti₅O₁₂ anode.



Kato and Kanno et al., Nature Energy (2016)

Electrochemical stability of the LGPS family Characterized by LiCoO₂/solid electrolyte/Li cell



Summary on Sulfides

- Sulfides will decompose against Li metal into Li₂S and Li₃P (or other phosphides).
- If a metal cation is present, such as Ge, it will be reduced to the metal, and potential alloy with Li
- On all systems investigated in detail experimental evidence is in agreement with computational predictions
- Li₂S and Li₃P are insulating and as such may be able to lead to a passivation SEI

W.D. Richards et al., Interface Stability in Solid-State Batteries, Chem. Mat, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016).

Similar results recently seen in LiPON



A. Schwöbel et al. Solid State Ionics 273 (2015) 51–54

Thermo analysis easily applied to wide range of systems

- Simple binaries Li-anion set the best possible stability against Li-metal
- Adding other components reduces stability against Li metal



W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)

Limit at high voltage is modified by other cations

- Cations that move up anion oxidation potential (e.g. through inductive effect) raise the anodic high voltage stability
- Explains good performance of barrier layers (LiNbO₃, LiAlO₂, Li₂ZrO₃)

W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)



But passivation may help. Need to investigate the passivation products

W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)

Passivating interface between LiBH₄ and TiS₂

- DFT predicts limited stability window of LiBH₄
 - Forms layer of Li₂B₁₂H₁₂ at high voltage (>2 V)
- Experimental cell has good stability and shows the expected decomposition products





Electrochemical + Chemical Reactivity with the Cathode

W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)

Electrochemical + chemical reactivity with cathode





Why this is complicated

Cathode and electrolyte react in undefined ratio







Construct the phase diagram made up of combined elements of cathode and electrolyte (sometimes as many as 7-8 elements)

Approach



Predicted to decompose to ZnS and LiCI

 $\Delta E[C_a, C_b] = \min_{x} \left\{ E_{pd} \left[xC_a + (1-x)C_b \right] - xE[C_a] - (1-x)E[C_b] \right\}$



Construct the phase diagram made up of combined elements of cathode and electrolyte (sometimes as many as 7-8 elements)

W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)



Example: LLZO and LLTO against common cathodes

W.D. Richards, et al. Chemistry of Materials, 28 (1), 266-273 (2016)

L. Miara et al. Chem. Mater., 27 (11), 4040–4047 (2015

Selecting an electrolyte/cathode combination



Selecting an electrolyte/cathode combination



Summary

- > Ab-initio methods predict Li conductivity extremely well.
- Electrochemical stability can be computed and seems to be in very good agreement with detailed experimental studies
- Sulfides have poorer electrochemical stability than oxides. React to Li₂S and Li₃P against Li metal. Undergo oxidation at the cathode
- Adding metals to the conductor may raise the anodic limit but almost always comes at the expensive of cathodic stability
- Chemical reactivity with cathodes lowers electrochemical voltage limit
- Barrier layers will be required for most (if not all) sulfides, and possibly many oxides