

# Energy Storage: Perspectives



Professor Linda Nazar, FRSC  
Senior Canada Research Chair in Solid State Materials  
Dept of Chemistry & Dept of Electrical Engineering  
University of Waterloo

# Management of Energy Demand Through Energy Storage

Solar, wind, wave



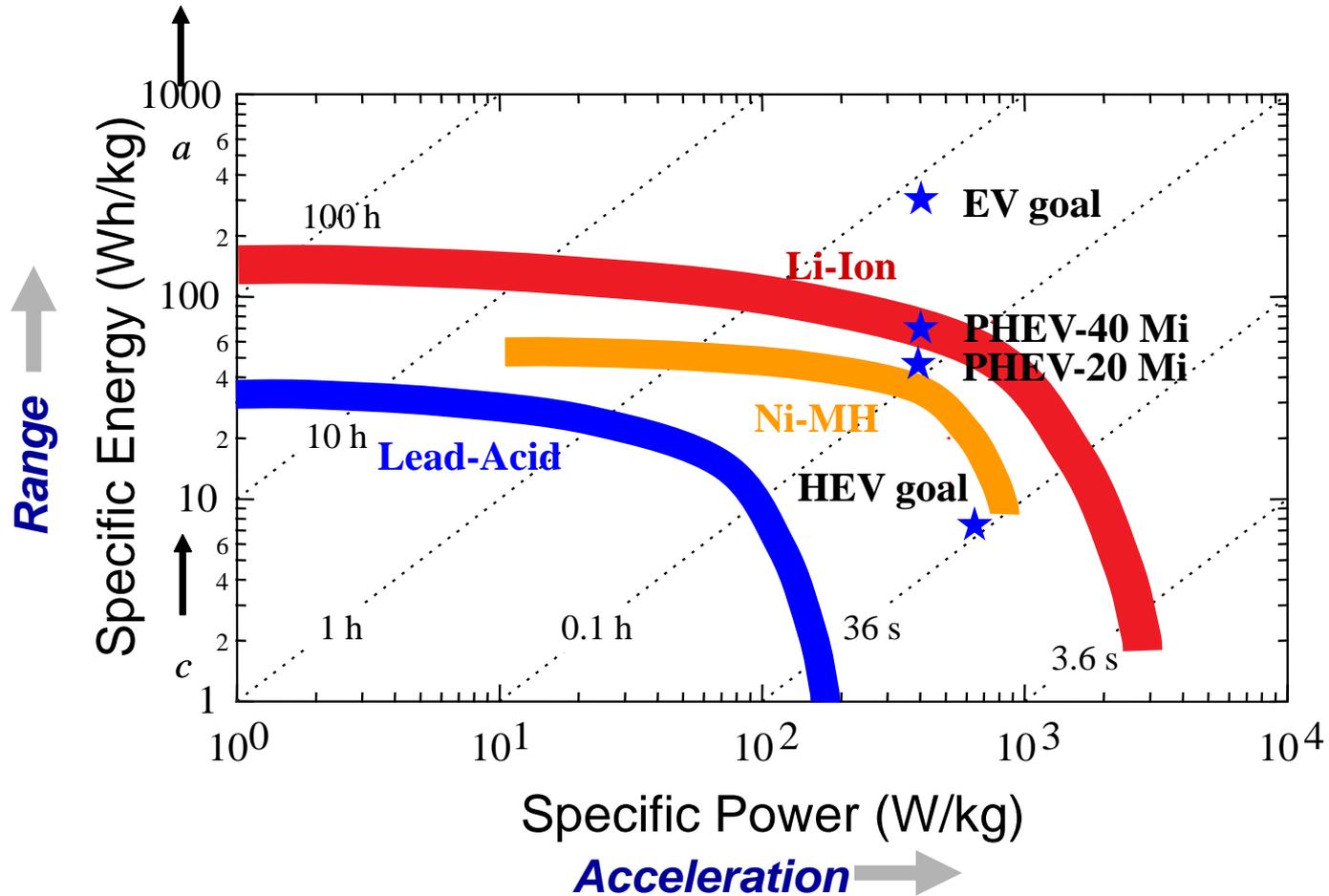
Intermittency of supply

Electrification of transport



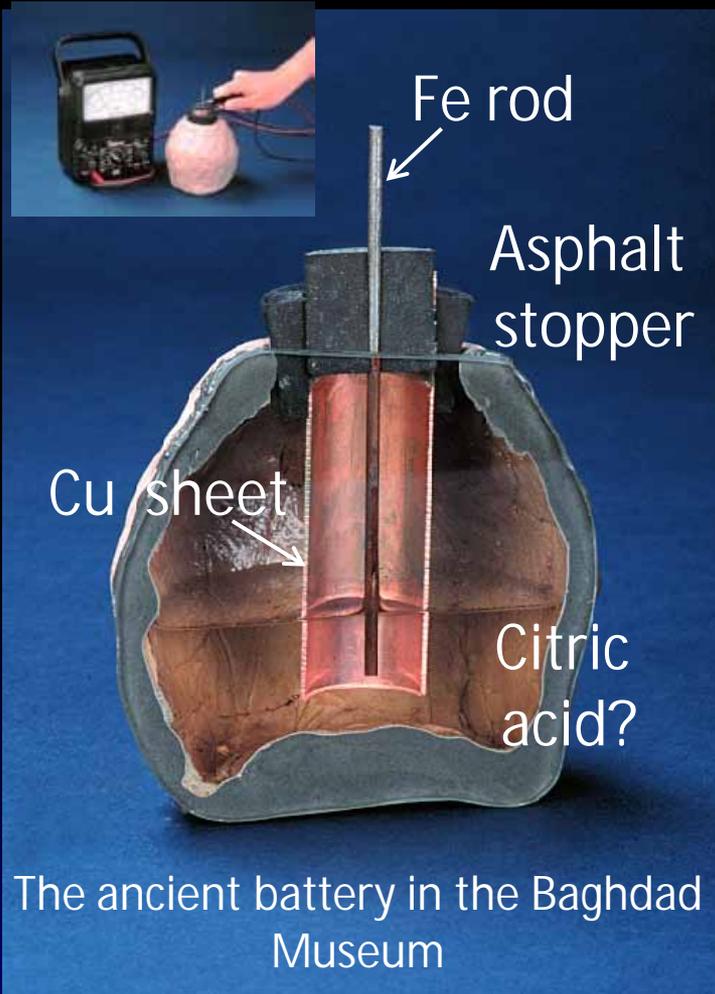
Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
Conservation of petrol

# Comparison of Battery Systems for Automotive Transport



Source: Amended from Product Data Sheets

# Ancient Electrochemistry: 250 BCE – CE 250



There are also copper vases plated with silver in the Baghdad Museum, excavated from Sumerian sites in southern Iraq, dating back to at least 2500 BCE.

When the vases were lightly tapped, a blue patina or film separated from the surface, which is characteristic of silver electroplated onto copper base.

It would appear that the Parthians inherited their batteries from one of the earliest known civilizations

è General concept of energy from chemicals

$$\text{è } \Delta G = - n F E$$

# Electrochemical Conversions

1. Chemicals to other chemicals through electrochemistry  
(the ancient electrochemistry)

Electroplating

2. Chemical energy to electrical energy and work

Normal battery discharging

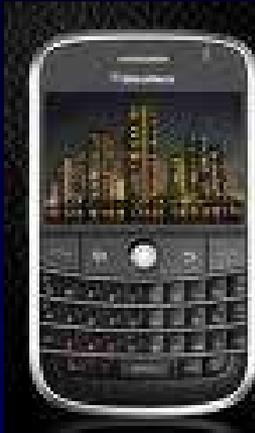
3. Electrical energy to chemical energy

Battery recharging;  
The electrochemical storage problem  
that challenges PHEV's & renewable  
energy technology

# Small Scale to Large Scale

New demands for batteries

Portable High-Energy Demand Devices



larger scale



$$Q = \frac{n \cdot F}{M_w \cdot 3.6} \text{ (mAh/g)}$$

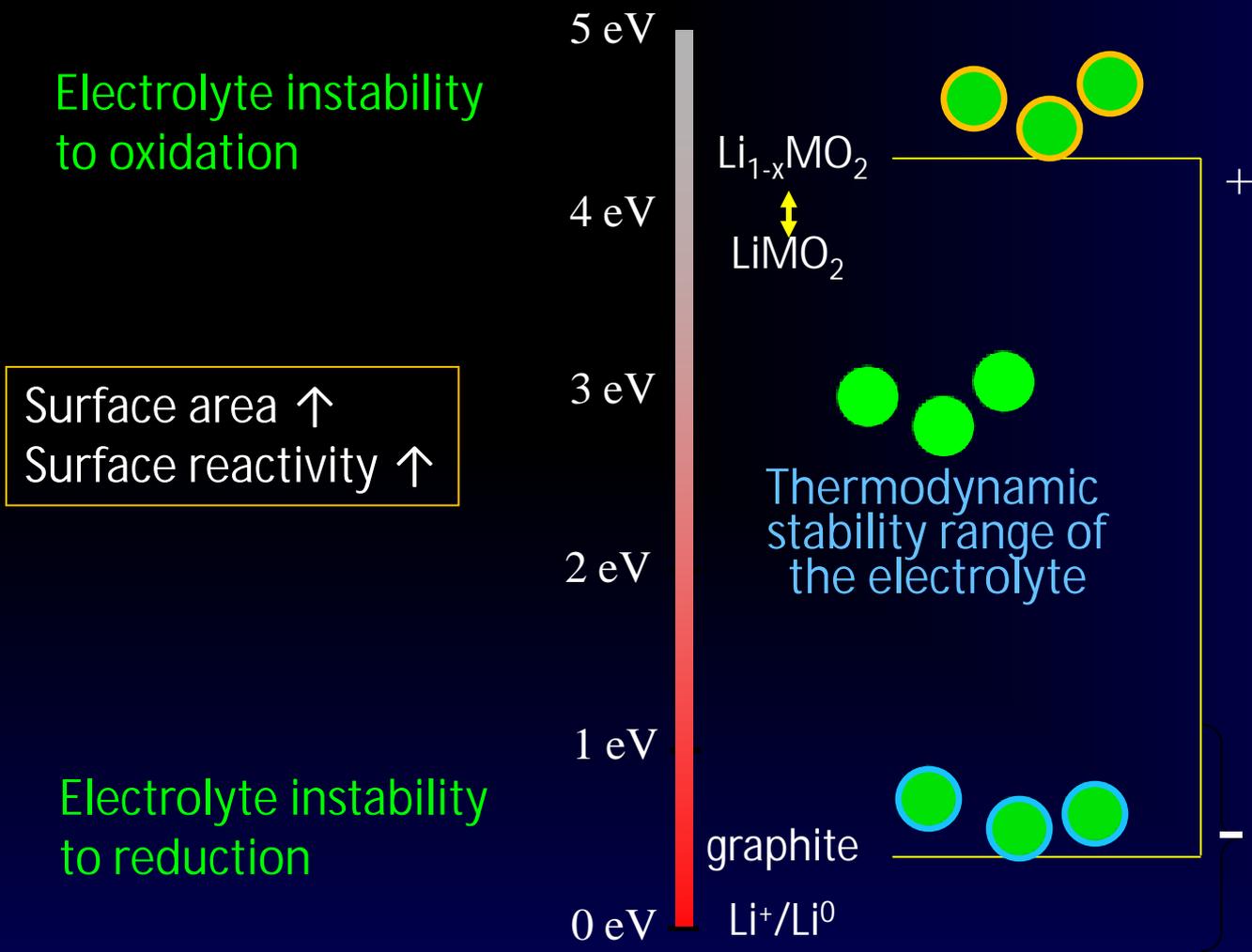
smaller scale

Medical applications

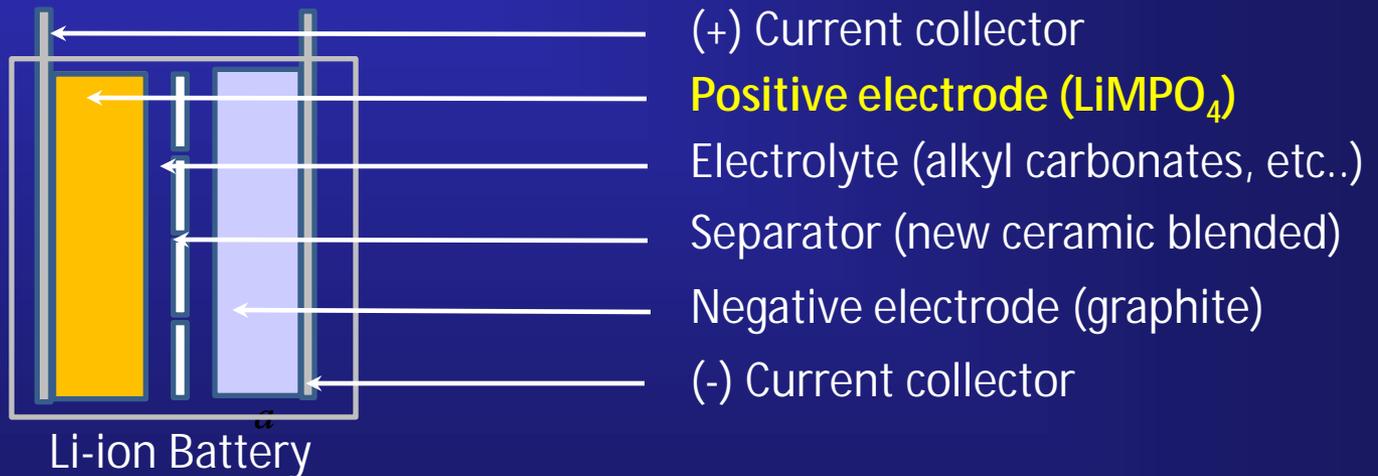


implantable battery

# Stability Window Determines Choice of Electrode Materials



## "Polyanion" Positive Electrode Materials



# Stable, Safe Low Cost Storage

**GEN 2:** Lithium transition metal phosphates, fluorophosphates, sulfates, silicates

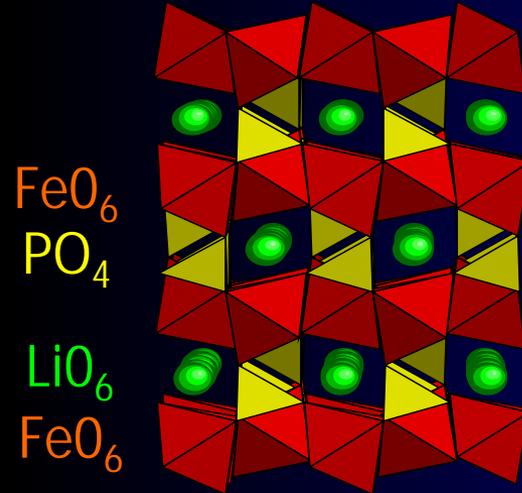
Triphylite:  $\text{LiFePO}_4$

Resource unlimited  
Low cost, high safety



Common mineral

Electrochemistry



J.B. Goodenough et al, *J. Electrochem. Soc.* 144, 1609 (1997)

Ø energy storage systems currently available to global markets in the 100 MW-Hr range, designed for renewable energy project developers



# Nano-network Conductivity in LiFePO<sub>4</sub>

LiFePO<sub>4</sub> crystallites are simultaneously growth limited, encapsulated in conductive matrix



Ballmill 0.5hr  
350°C, N<sub>2</sub>

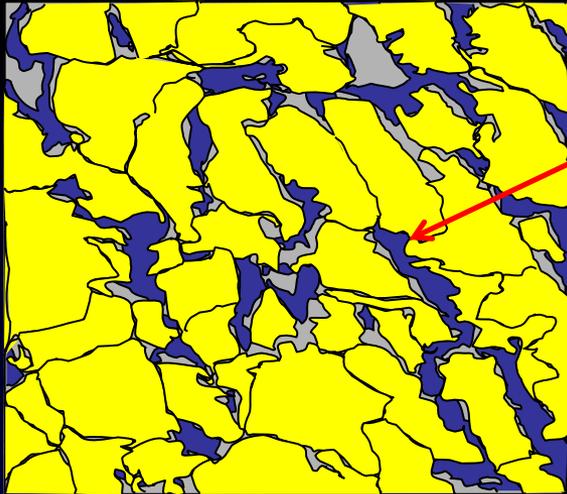


700°C



Armand et al., JPS 2000; Nazar et al., ECS 2001

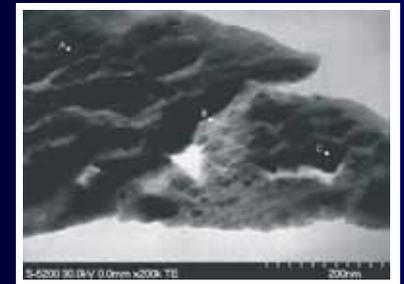
è Key: synthesize nano-LiFePO<sub>4</sub> at high T (defect free!) using (thin) coating to inhibit growth



← TEM image (colored) of LiFePO<sub>4</sub> nanocrystallites

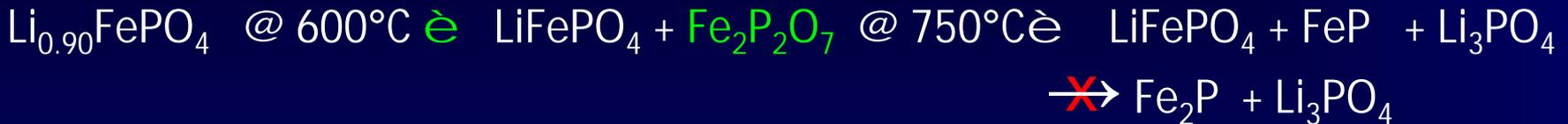
metallic FeP + carbon + Fe<sub>75</sub>P<sub>20</sub>C<sub>15</sub> - a metallic glass  
σ of FeP = 10<sup>3</sup> S/cm

Nazar et al., *Nature Materials* 2004;  
JECS, 2006



Carbothermal reduction

Creation of an electronic conducting surface phase via controlled off-stoichiometry



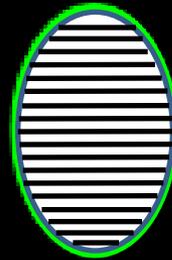
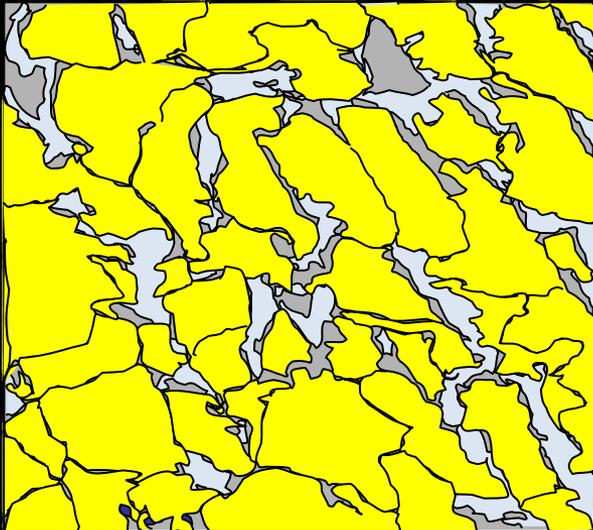
Grain boundary – surface transport of electrons

# Amorphous Ion-Conducting Surface on $\text{LiFePO}_4$

## Grain boundary and/or surface transport of ions

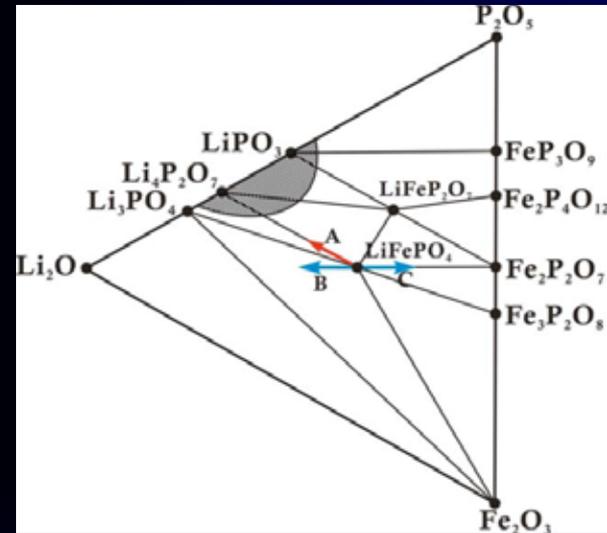
### ■ Example: $\text{LiFePO}_4/\text{Li}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ composite

- Enables very rapid discharge rates: 100 mAh/g @ 60C rate



thin Li-ion coating acts to control growth at high T

Concept schematic showing possible glassy  $\text{Li}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$  phase in the grain boundaries of  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  nanocrystallites



G. Ceder et al., Nature 458, 190 (2009)

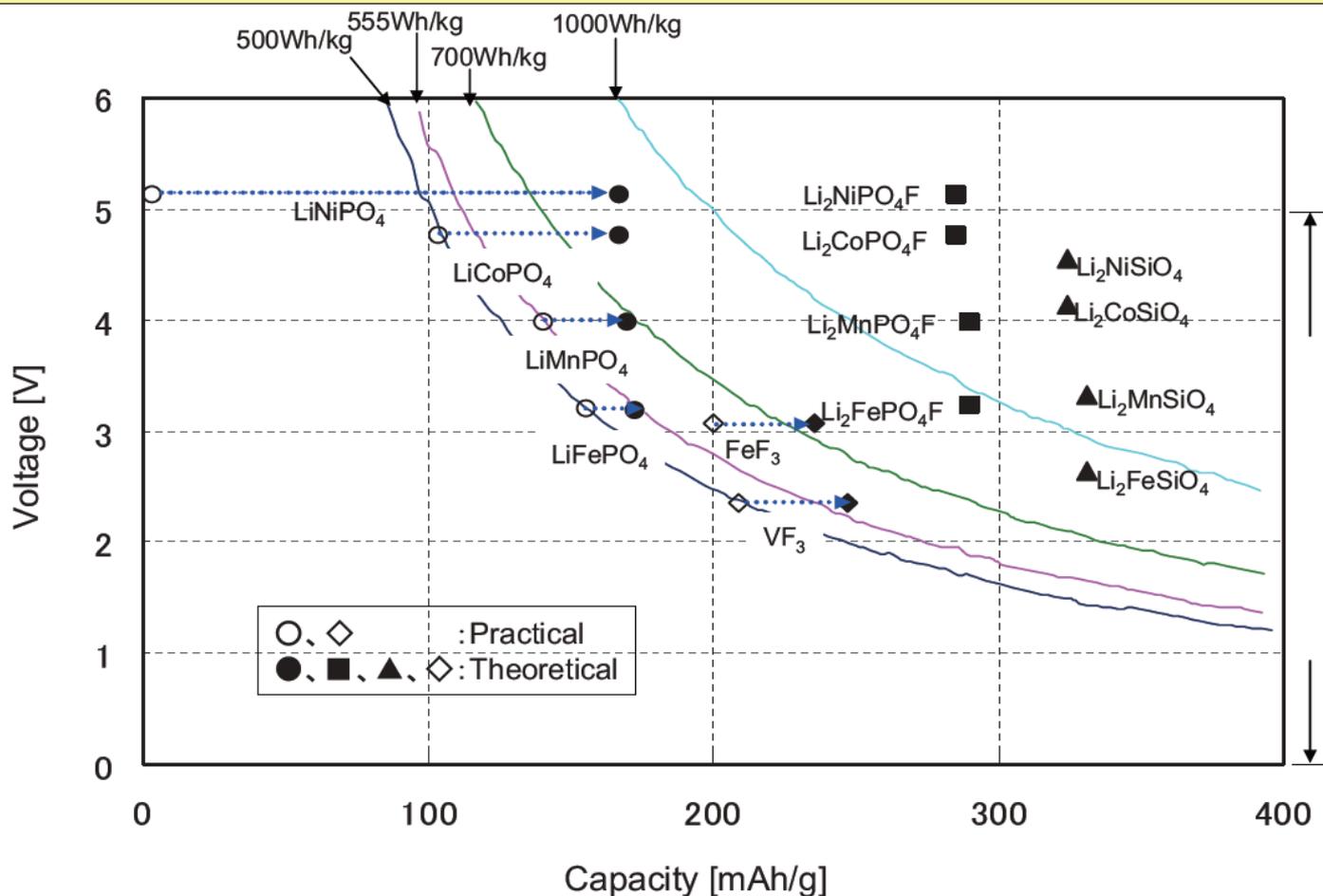
Creation of a fast ion-conducting surface phase through controlled off-stoichiometry



# The Search for New Positive Electrode Materials

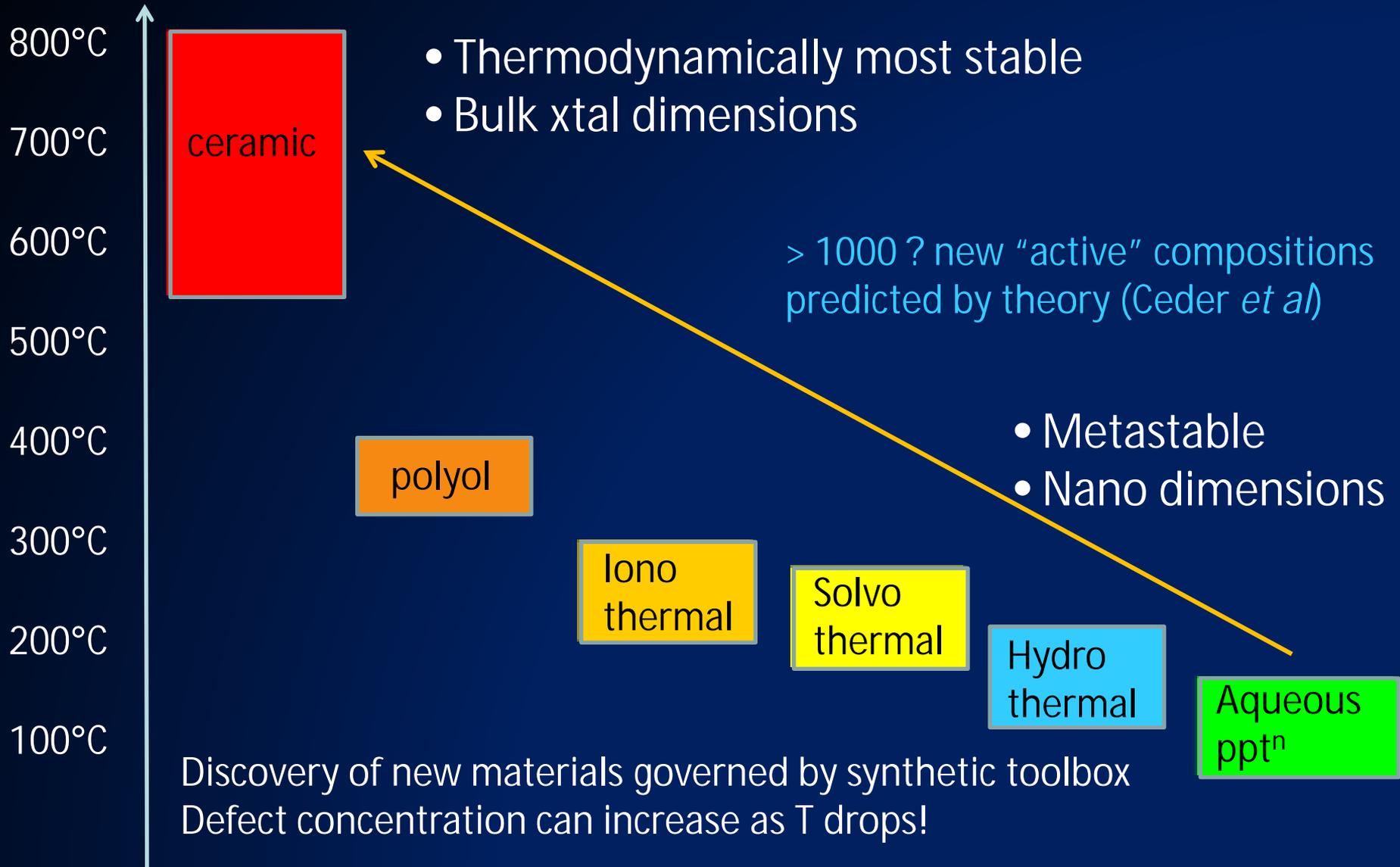
Development map for polyanion-type positive electrode materials

Li phosphates, silicates and borates are promising as thermally stable positive electrode materials

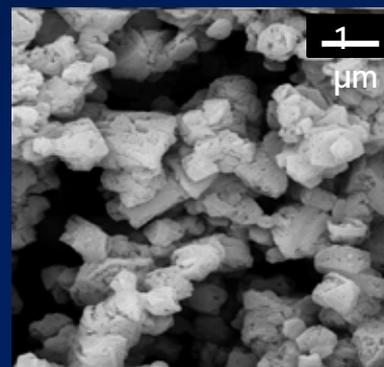
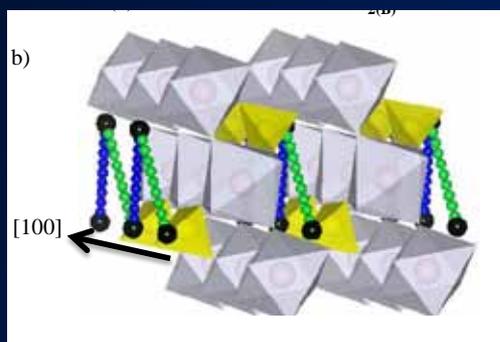
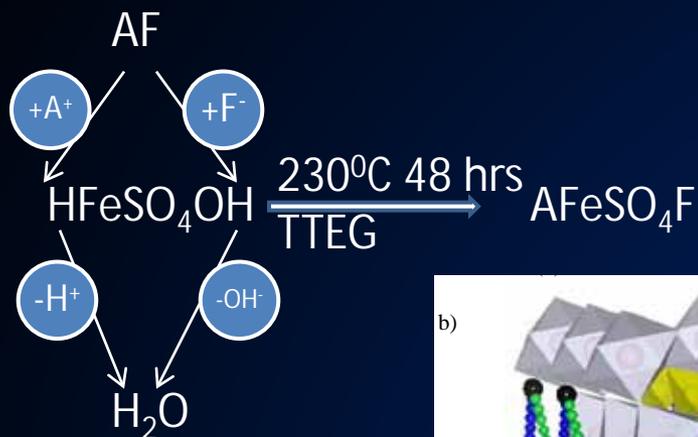


Source: [http://www.iem.titech.ac.jp/ishikawa/IWMD-SS\\_2009.pdf](http://www.iem.titech.ac.jp/ishikawa/IWMD-SS_2009.pdf)

# Discovery of New Materials: If Mother Nature Can't Make It...



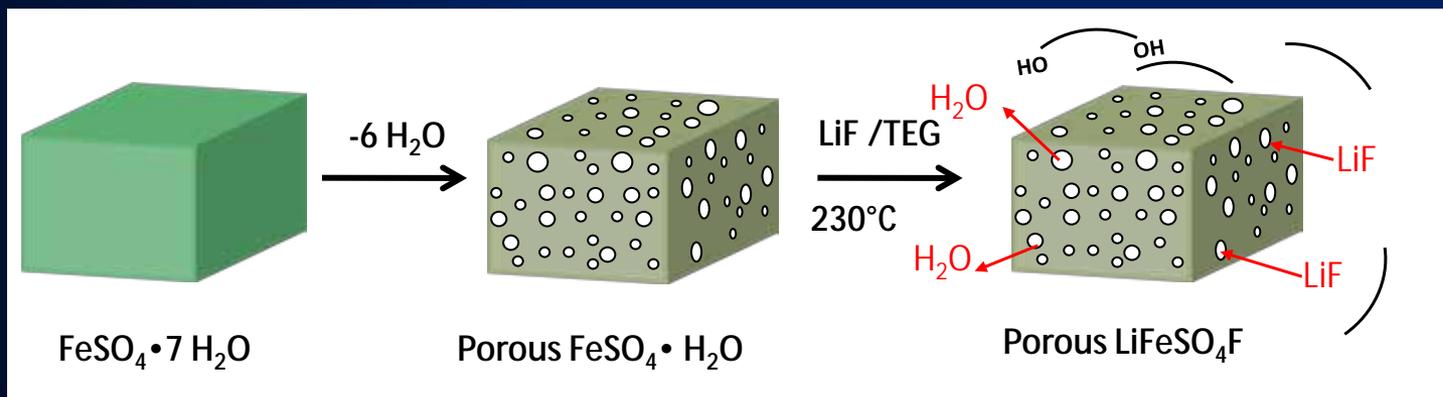
# Solvothermal Synthesis of Fluorosulphates: $\text{LiFeSO}_4\text{F}$



90% of theoretical capacity at 3.6V  
 $\approx 510 \text{ Wh/kg}$

$\approx E_a = 0.35 \text{ eV}$

$\text{LiFePO}_4: 0.67\text{eV}$



R. Tripathi L. Nazar et al., *Angew Chemie* 2010

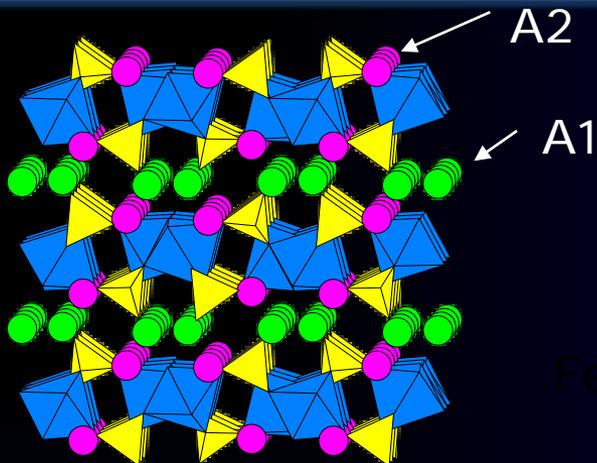
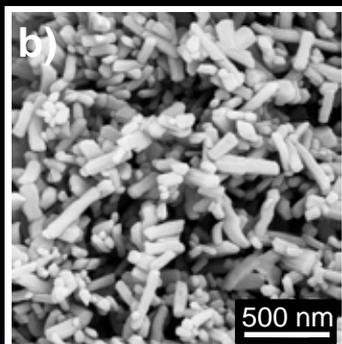
R. Tripathi, MS.Islam and LF. Nazar, *Chem. Mater*, 2011

# Na-ion Cells: Coupling to Renewable Energy

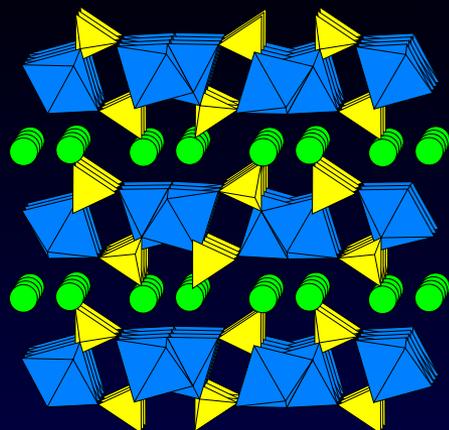
- Sodium is abundant and less costly than lithium precursors
- Demand for Li will rise with auto manufacturers plans for Li batteries in hybrid and electric cars
- Mitsubishi claims that demand will exhaust current Li sources by 2015
- Much debate over the accessibility of the world's lithium reserves
  - remote locations
  - political factors (New Li sources: Uyuni, Bolivia; Afghanistan?)



# Beyond Li-ion Batteries: $\text{Na}_2\text{FePO}_4\text{F}$



metastable  
< 650°C)  
hydrothermal  
solvothermal



Two – dimensional ion  
transport



$$\text{Vol} = 852\text{\AA}^3$$

Reduction

Oxidation

3.7% vol change



Low strain material on redox

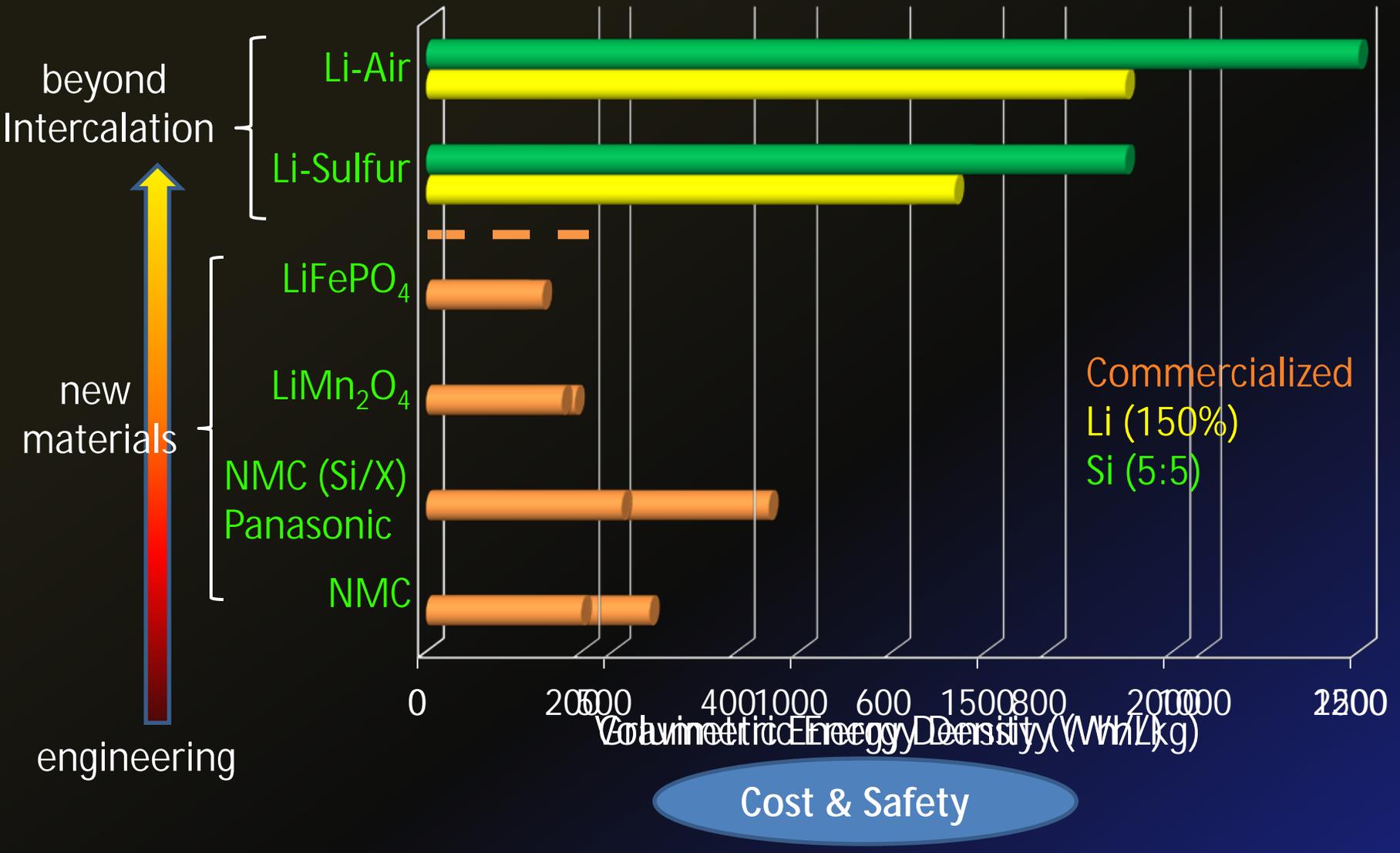
Ellis, Nazar et al., *Nature Mater.*, 2007

New family of Na-ion conductors

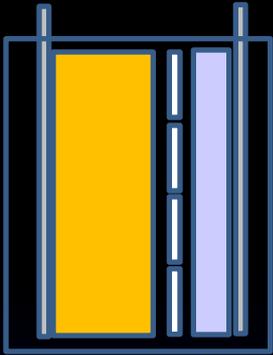
# Future Energy Storage Materials Challenges

- F nanocrystallites è nanostructures
- F control and design grain boundaries
  - inter-particle, inter-electrode & inter-battery
- F interface organic, polymer & inorganic materials science
  - materials with tailored properties
- F electrochemical reactivity of bulk solids - REsearch

# Going Beyond the Limits of Intercalation Chemistry: Energy Density (Full Cells)



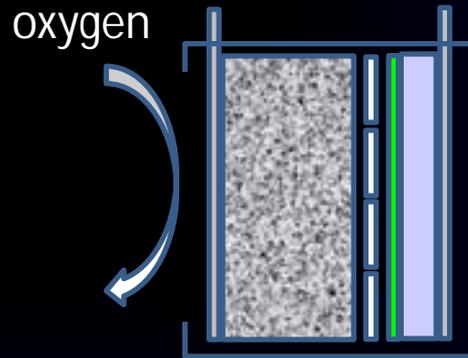
# A Comparison of Batteries and Fuel Cells



**Li-S Battery**

product:  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$

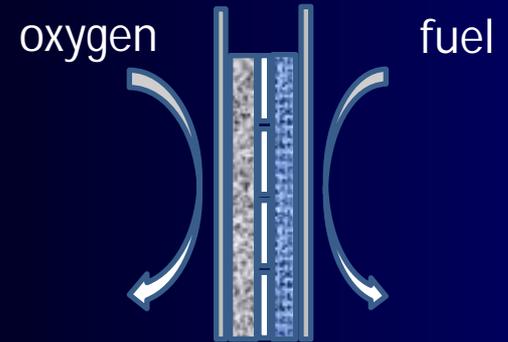
stored in carbon cathode



**Li-Air Battery**

product:  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$

stored in carbon cathode

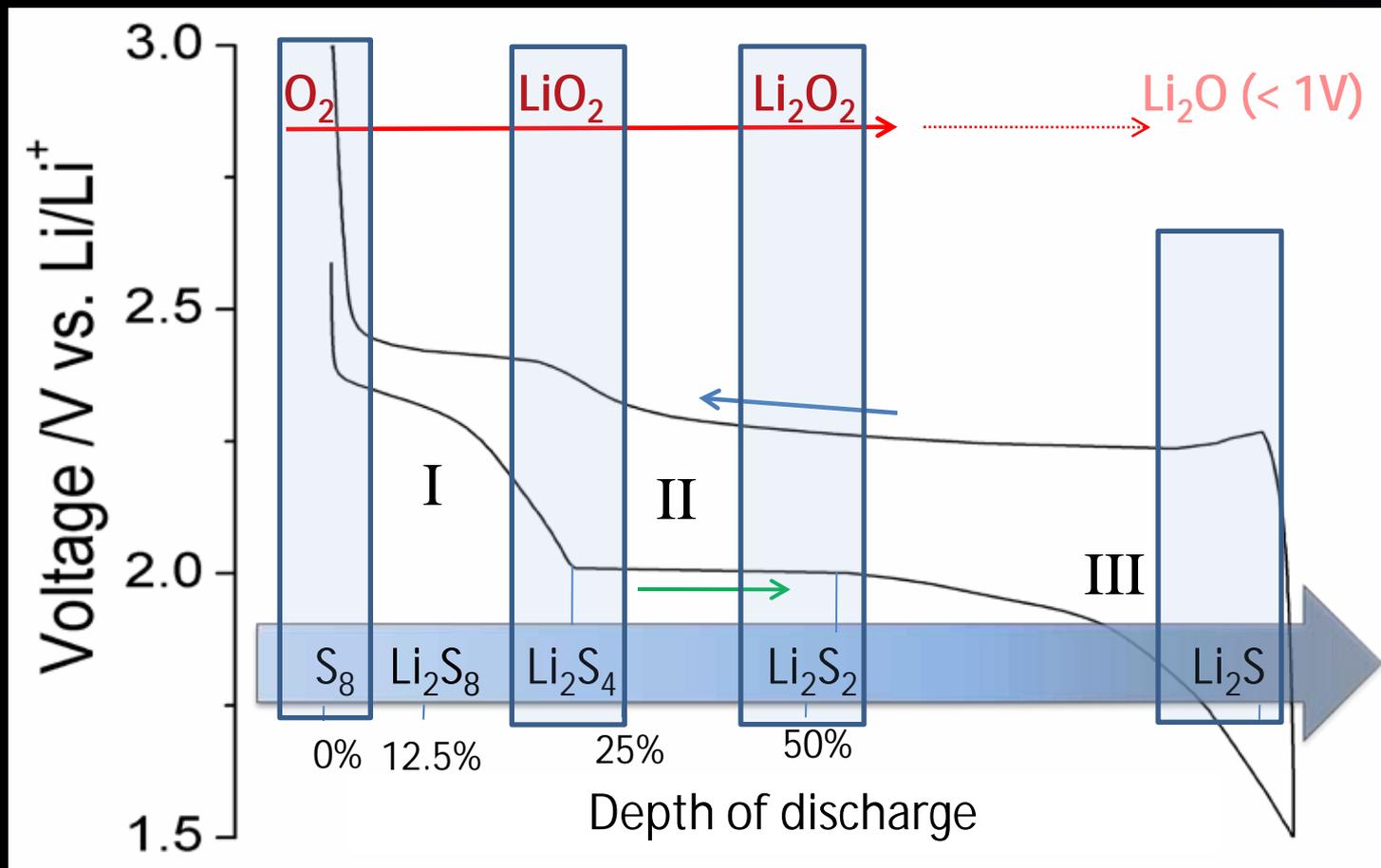


**Fuel Cell**

Product:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

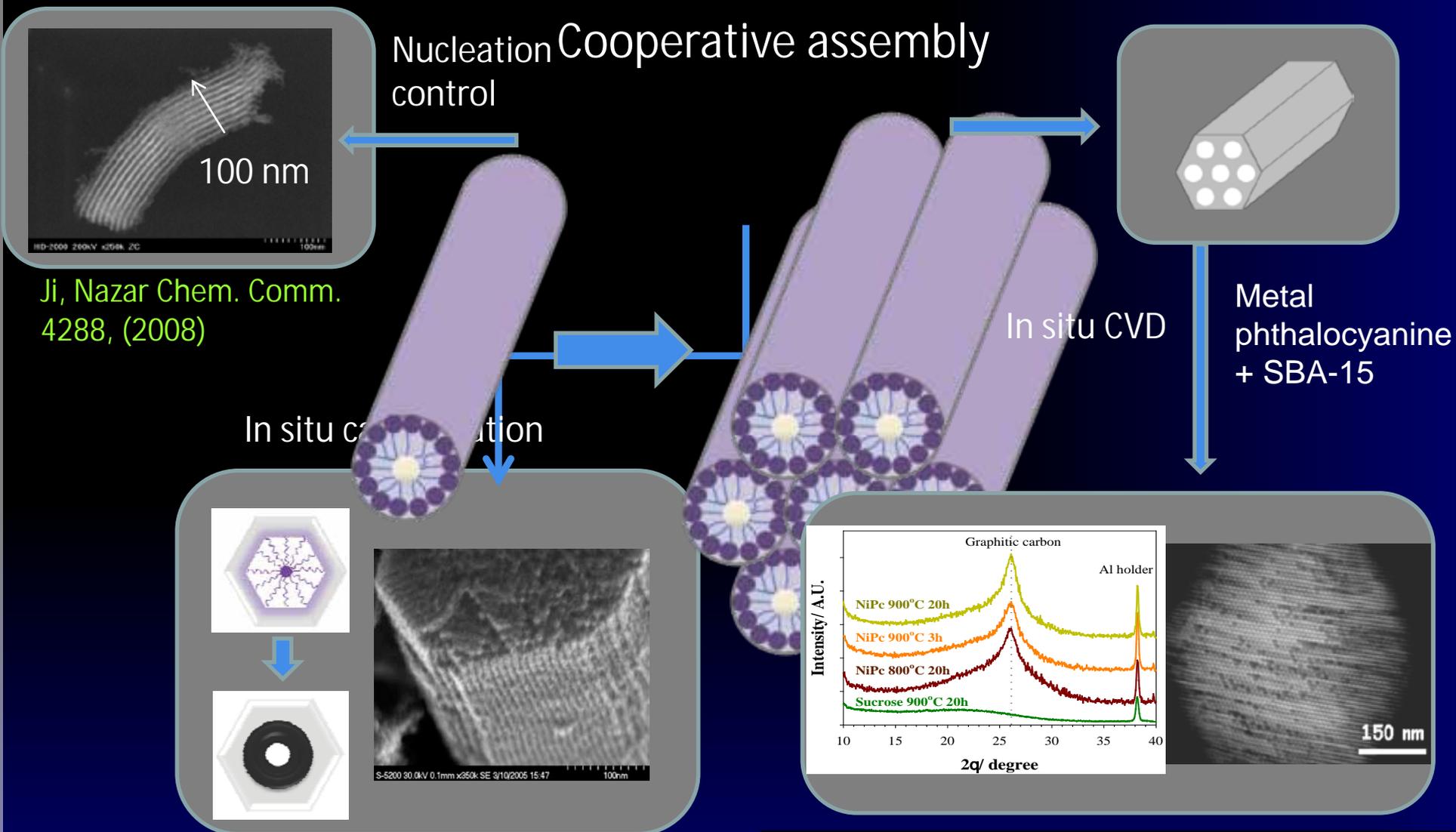
eliminated

# Electrochemistry of the Sulphur vs Oxygen Electrode



*O<sub>2</sub> reaction mechanism: K. Abraham, J. Phys. Chem C 2009*

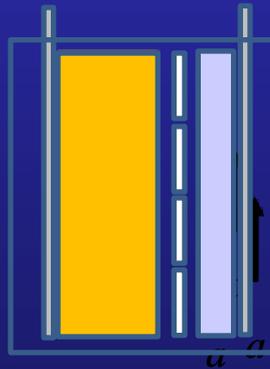
# Tailoring Mesoporous Carbon Hosts



Ji, Nazar et al, *Chem. Mater* 19, 374 (2007)

Lee, Nazar et al., *Angew Chemie*, 48, 5661, (2009)

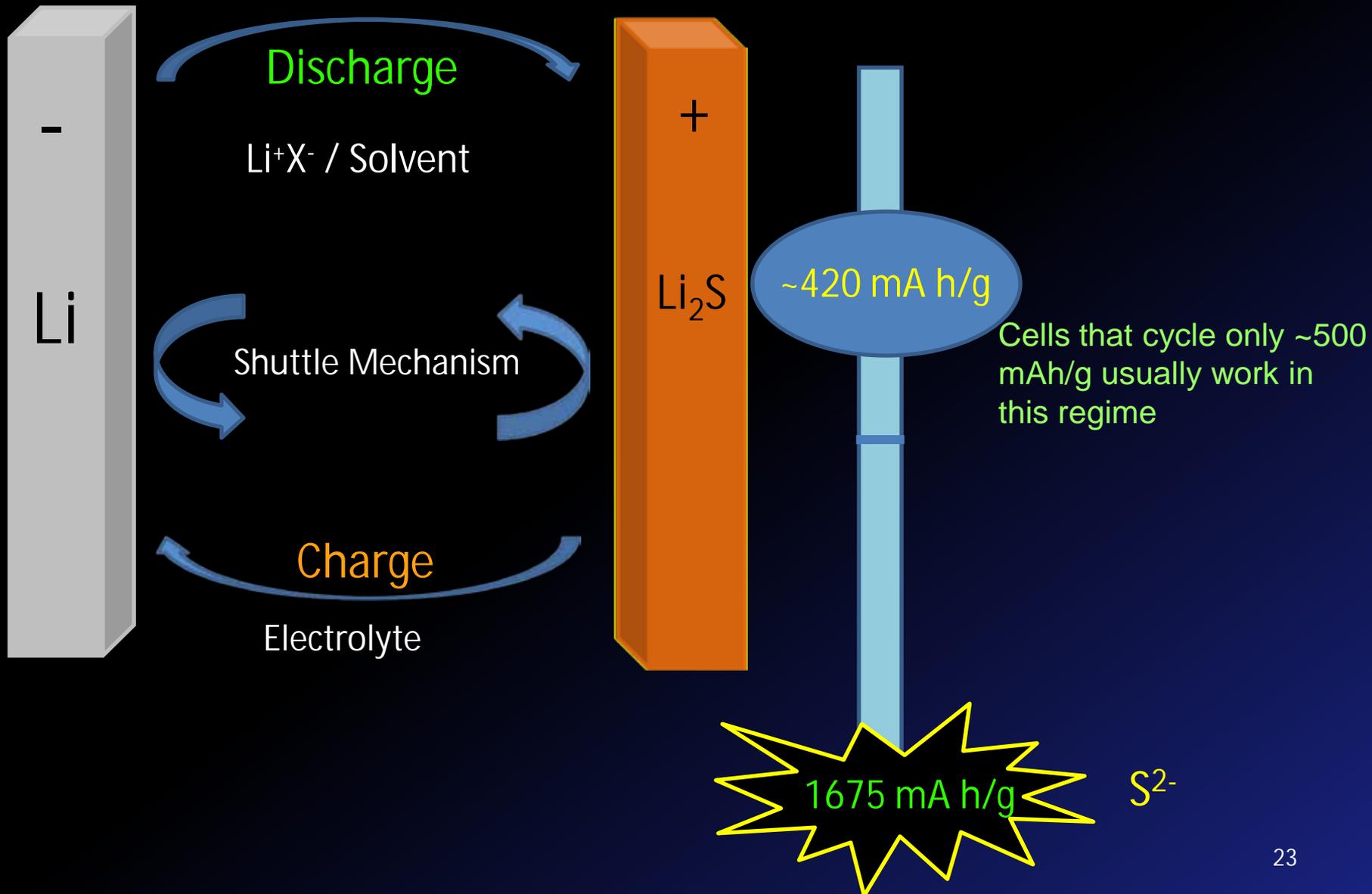
# Li-S Energy Storage



Li-S Battery  
product:  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$   
stored in carbon cathode

*b*

# Li-S Battery: Reaction Scheme



# Sulfur Abundance and Cost

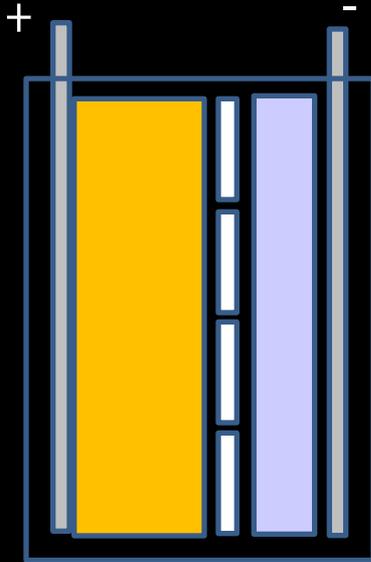


- Resources of elemental sulfur (volcanic deposits, sulfur associated with natural gas, petroleum, tar sands, and metal sulfides:
  - about 5 billion tons.

<http://minerals.usgs.gov>

# Li-S Diametric Approaches: Contain or Let Free

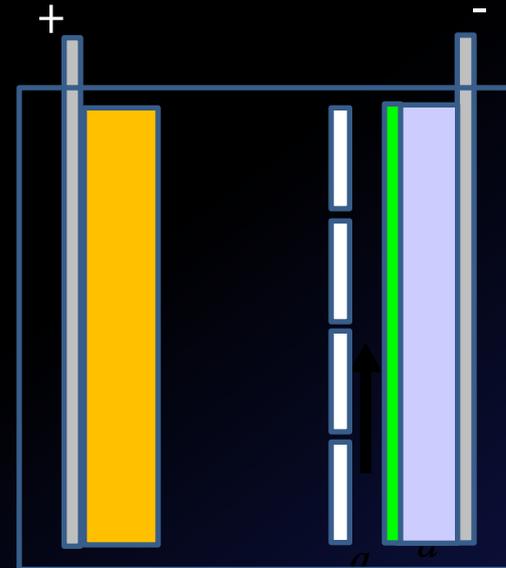
## Contained Cathode



Insoluble product:  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$   
stored in carbon cathode

High volumetric capacity  
Lower power

## Catholyte



Soluble product:  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}_n$   
stored in electrolyte

Low volumetric capacity (150 Wh/l)  
Higher power



All of our studies are conducted with unprotected  
Li negative: worst case scenario

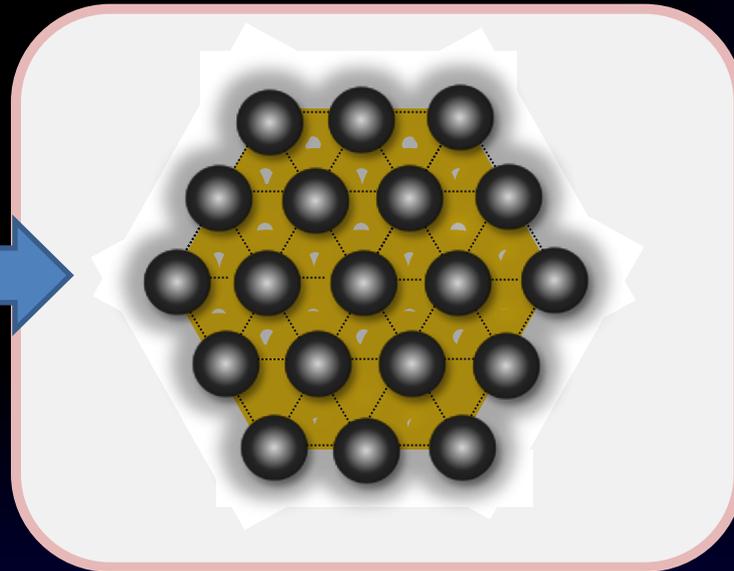
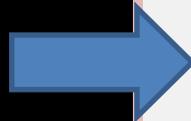
# Conductivity Ensured

Electrical Conductivity: CMK-3: 0.25 S/cm  
CMK-3/S: 0.21 S/cm

Ionic Conductivity: • Space is precisely tuned to accommodate swelling of S to  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$

Molten S within pores  
(incomplete Filling)

C/S – 70 wt%



$\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  formation

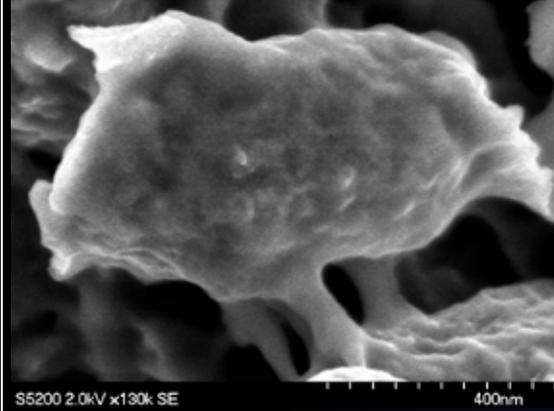
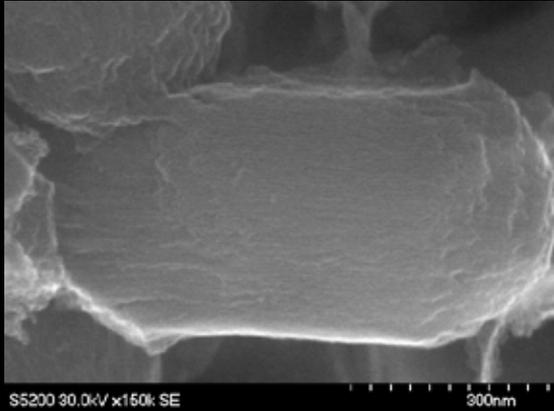
Mesoporous carbon

# Role of the Polymer Surface Modifier

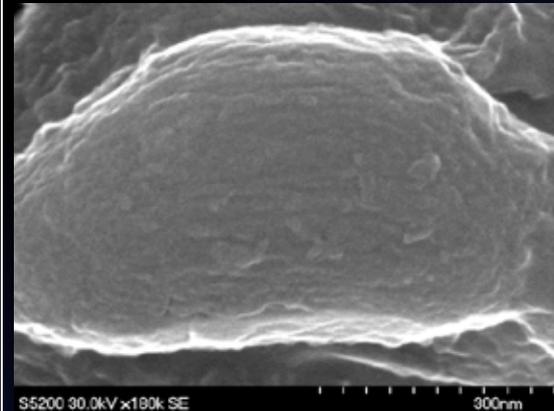
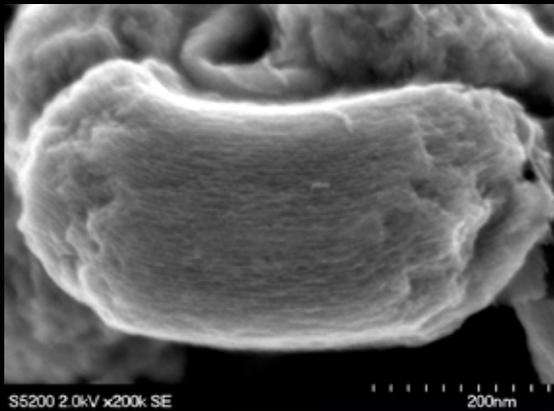
Before cycling

30<sup>th</sup> charge

CMK-3/S

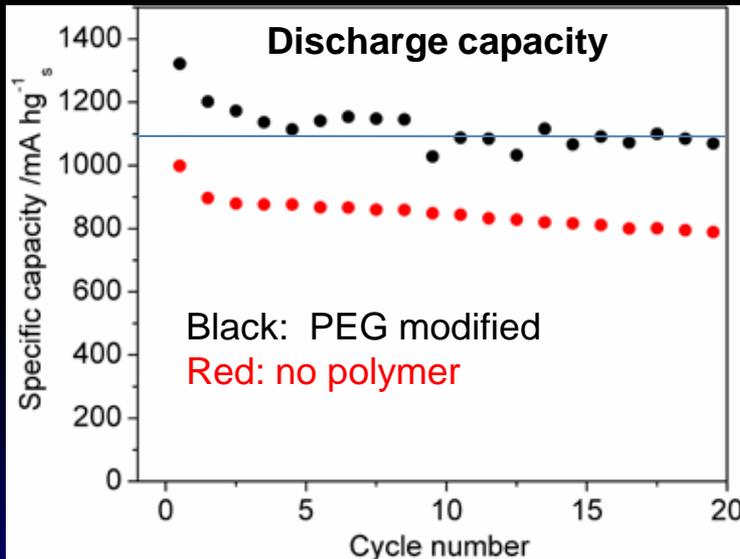
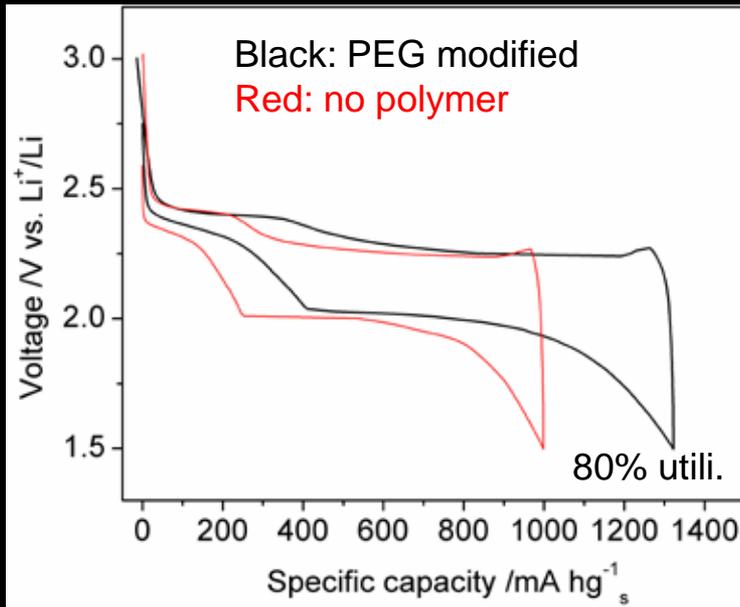


PEG-CMK-3/S

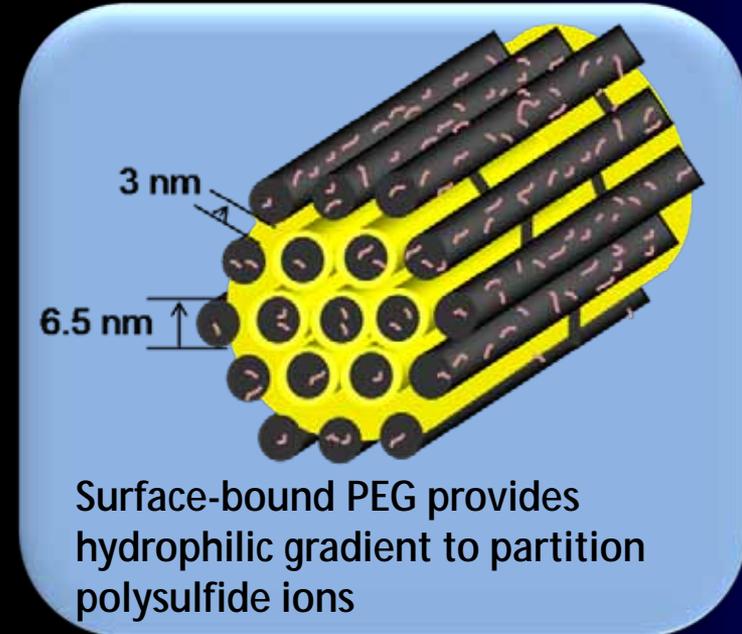


- Polymer inhibits precipitation on the external surface of mesoporous carbon.

# CMK-3/S/Hydrophilic Polymer Surface Modifier



PEG = polyethylene glycol (Mw = 4600)



For 1000 mAh/g capacity:

- è 1400 Wh/kg based on total mass of cathode (S + carbon + binder)
- è 2330 Wh/l volumetric for cathode
- è 600 – 800 Wh/kg for a full cell

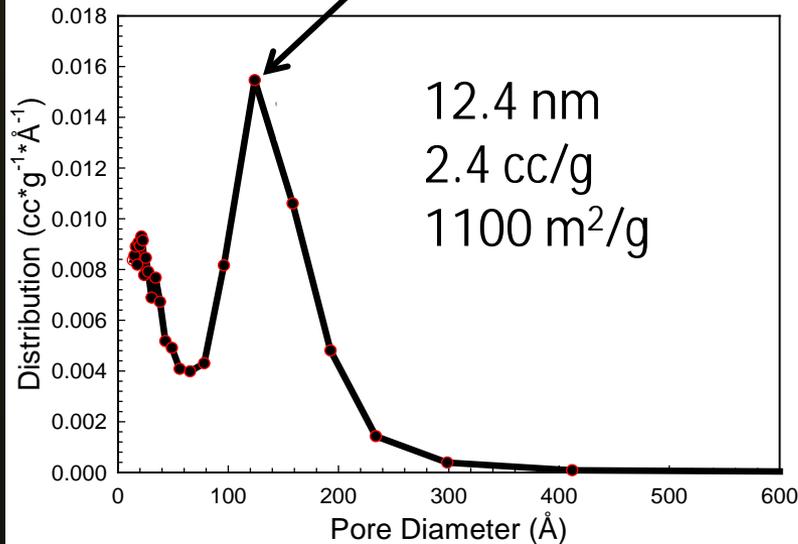
# Large Pore Carbons: SCM

Porous carbon replica  
cast from colloidal silica

300 nm

70 wt% sulfur impregnated

300 nm

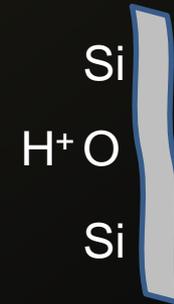


2.4 cc/g specific pore volume > 2.1 (CMK-3)

Theoretical fill for sulfur is 85 wt%

# Reservoir Concept

ü Assume Adsorption:  
~ 20 -30 % of the dissolved polysulfides can be contained.



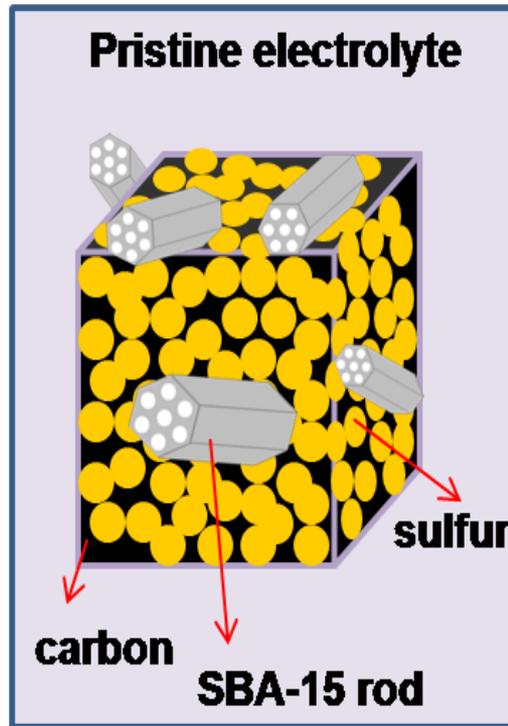
ü Assume Absorption:  
~ 96% of the dissolved polysulfides can be contained.



*Ji et al. Nature Communications ( 2011)*

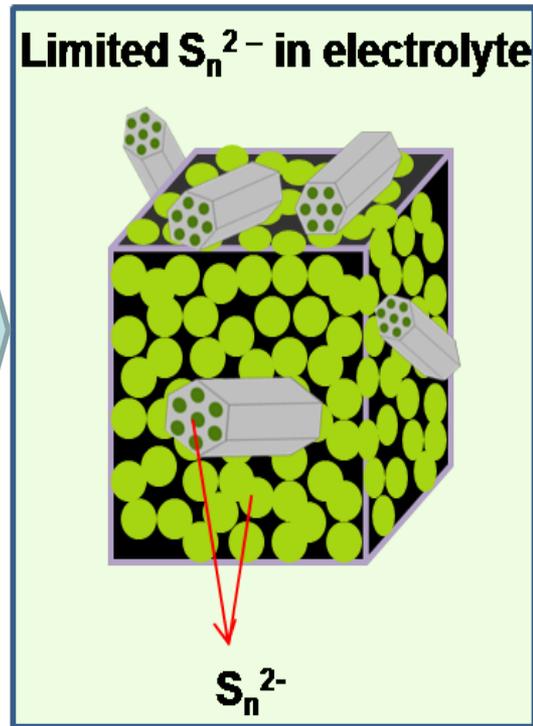
# Polysulfide reservoirs: a concept borrowed from drug delivery

a. Before discharge



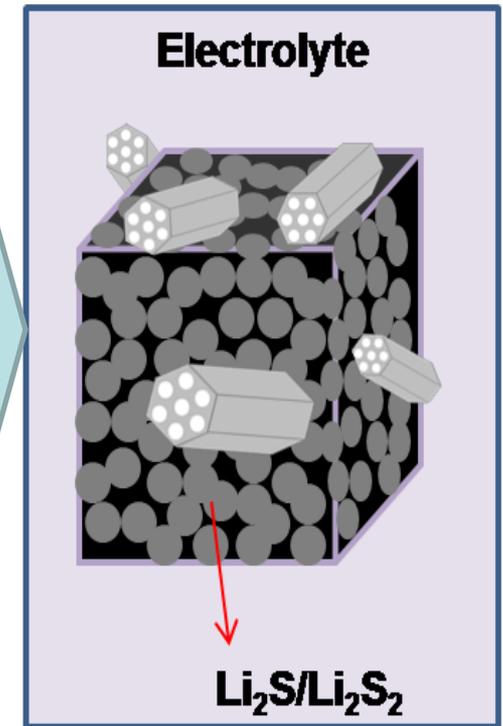
Dissolved  $S_x^{2-}$  kept in positive electrode near the carbon framework

b. Discharge to 2.15 V



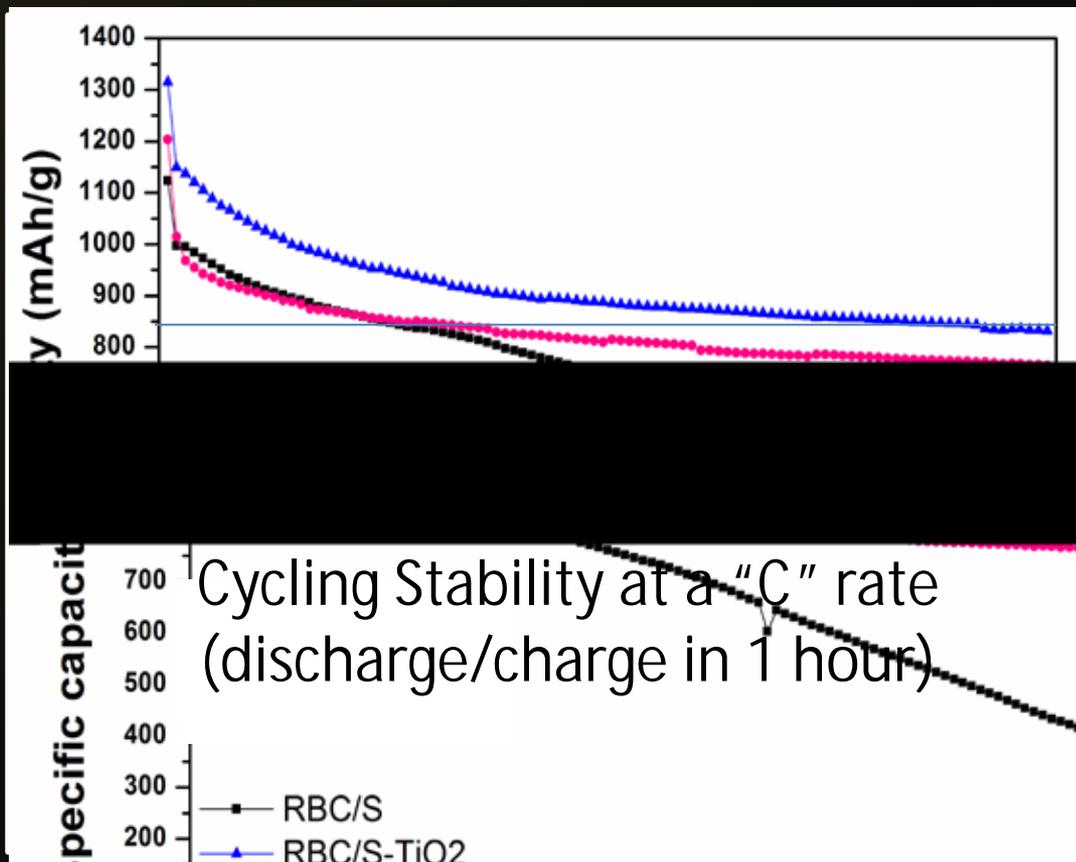
Reduction of  $S_x^{2-}$  from nanoporous silica: controlled release

c. Discharge to 1.5 V



# Large Pore Carbons + Reservoir: High Capacity at Faster Rates with Good Retention

- ü "C" rate = discharge or charge in one hour
- ü Stabilized at 850 mAh/g
- ü 77% retention over 100 cycles

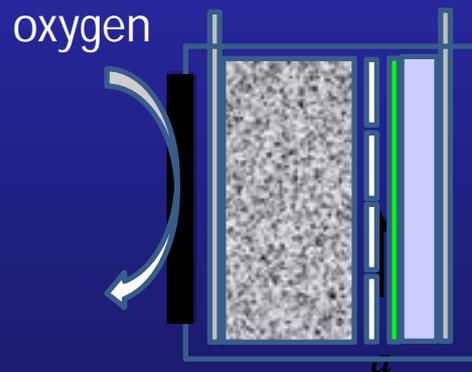


Ji, Nazar et al. *Nature Comm*, 2011

He, Nazar et al., *Energy Environ. Sci*, 2011

Yim, Nazar et al, *Adv. Mater*, submitted

# Li-O<sub>2</sub> Energy Storage



Li-Air Battery  
product: Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
stored in carbon cathode

b →

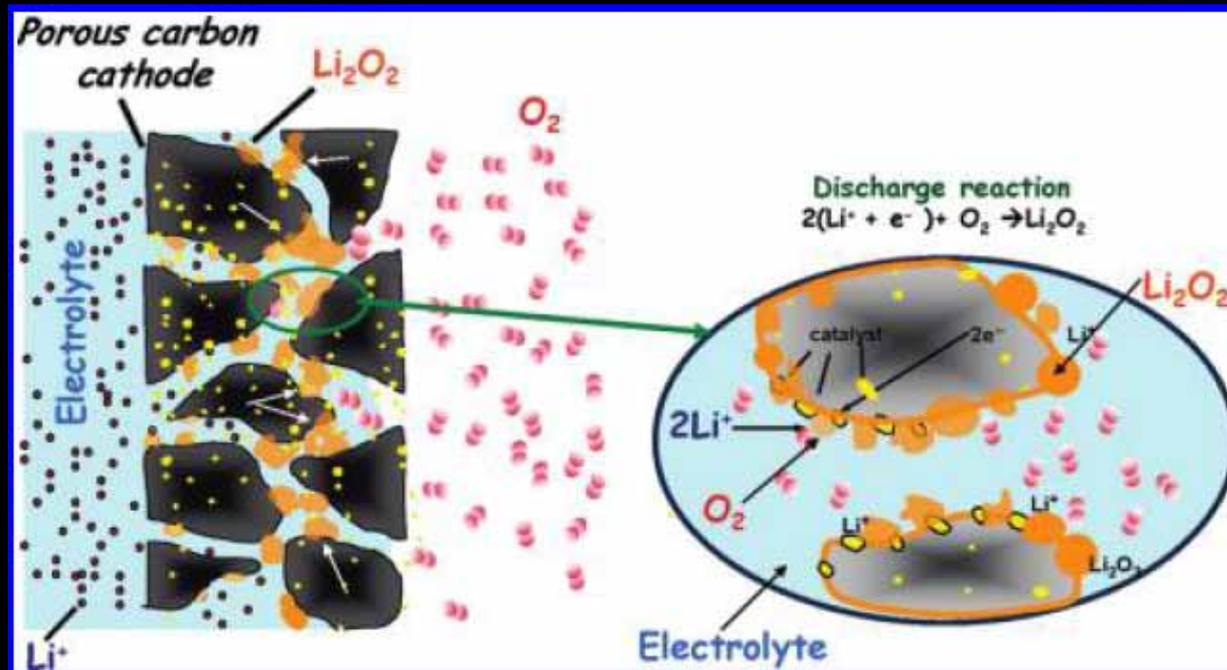
# Positive Electrode Challenges

## § Air breathing cathode materials

§ Allow all reactants ( $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $e^-$ ) to the active catalyst sites

§ Host solid  $\text{Li}_x\text{O}_y$  products while maintaining conductivity

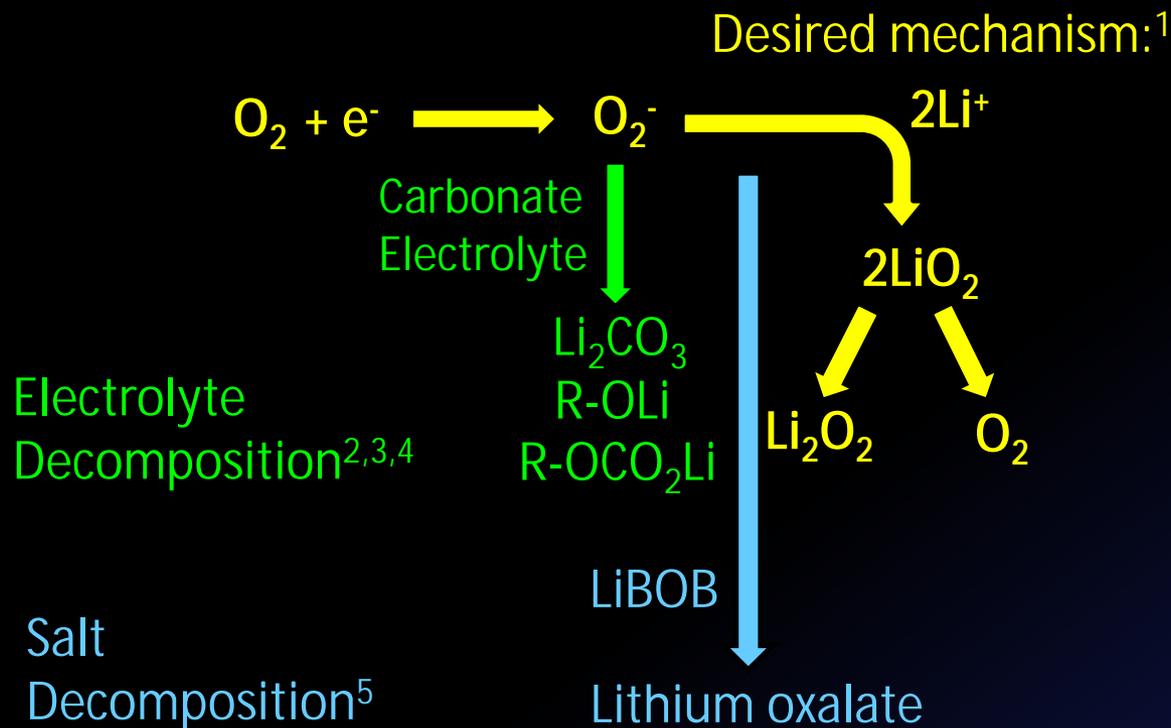
§ Carbon surface area is tantamount



G. Girishkumar, et al., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2010**, 1, 2193-2203.

G. Q. Zhang, et al., *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, **2010**, 157, A953-A956.

# The Electrolyte Problem



1. K.M Abraham et.al., *J. Phys Chem C*, **113** (2009) - mechanism
2. Mizuno et. al., *Electrochemistry*, **78** (2010) - proof of electrolyte decomp
3. P.G. Bruce et.al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc* 2011 (on line) – elucidation of electrolyte decomp
4. A. Luntz, W. Wilcke et al., *J. Phys Chem. Lett*, 1168 (2011) – det'm of stable solvents
5. S. Oh, T. Yim, and LF. Nazar, *ESL*, in press (2011) - studies of stable salts

# Choice of Electrolyte



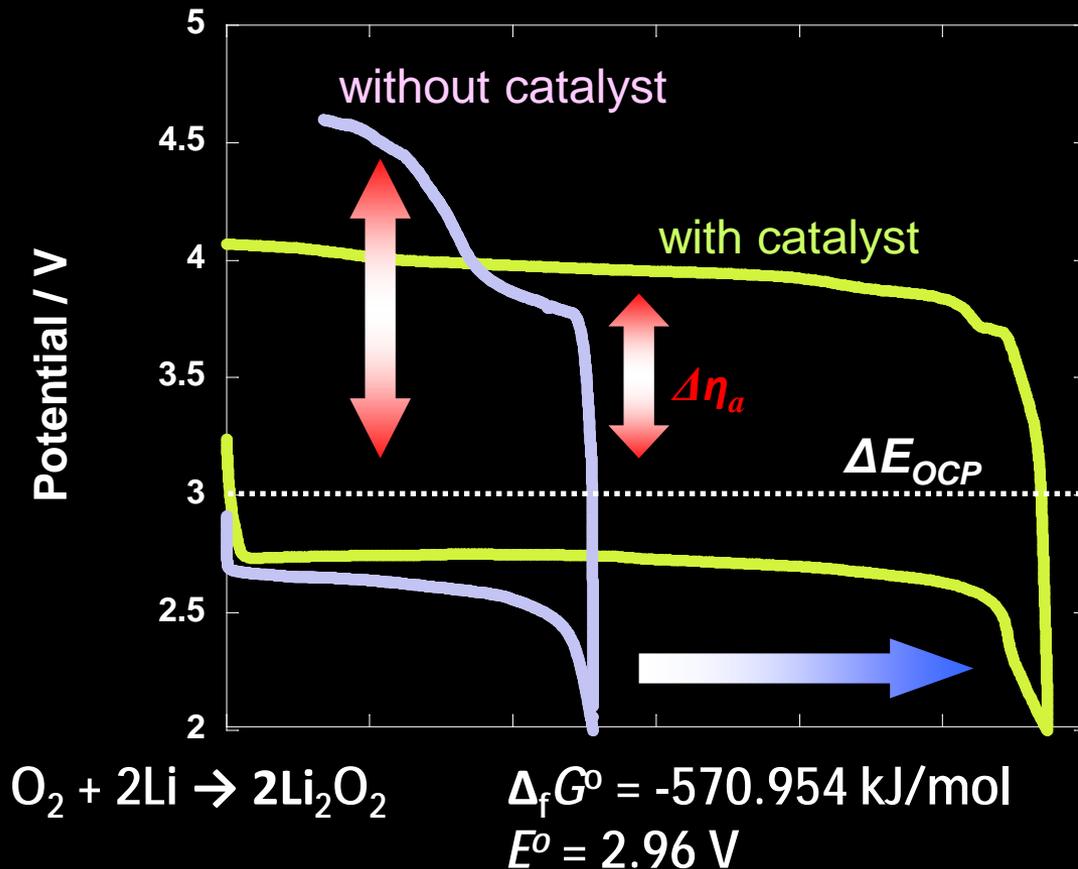
ü DME, TEGDME, DMSO...

ü LiPF<sub>6</sub>, LiClO<sub>4</sub>...

- Many additional challenges facing the Li-Air system must also be overcome :
  - understand role of catalyst in ORR and OER involving Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
  - role of surface defects in controlling Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> particle size and morphology

# Required: A bifunctional catalyst

- Increase in discharge capacity?
- Lowering of charge overpotential:  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$  morphology/size; OER
- Increase in reversible capacity



§ a –  $\text{MnO}_2$ ?

P. G. Bruce et al., *Angew Chemie* 2008

§ Pt-Au bimetallic nanoparticles?

Shao-Horn et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2010

§ However....

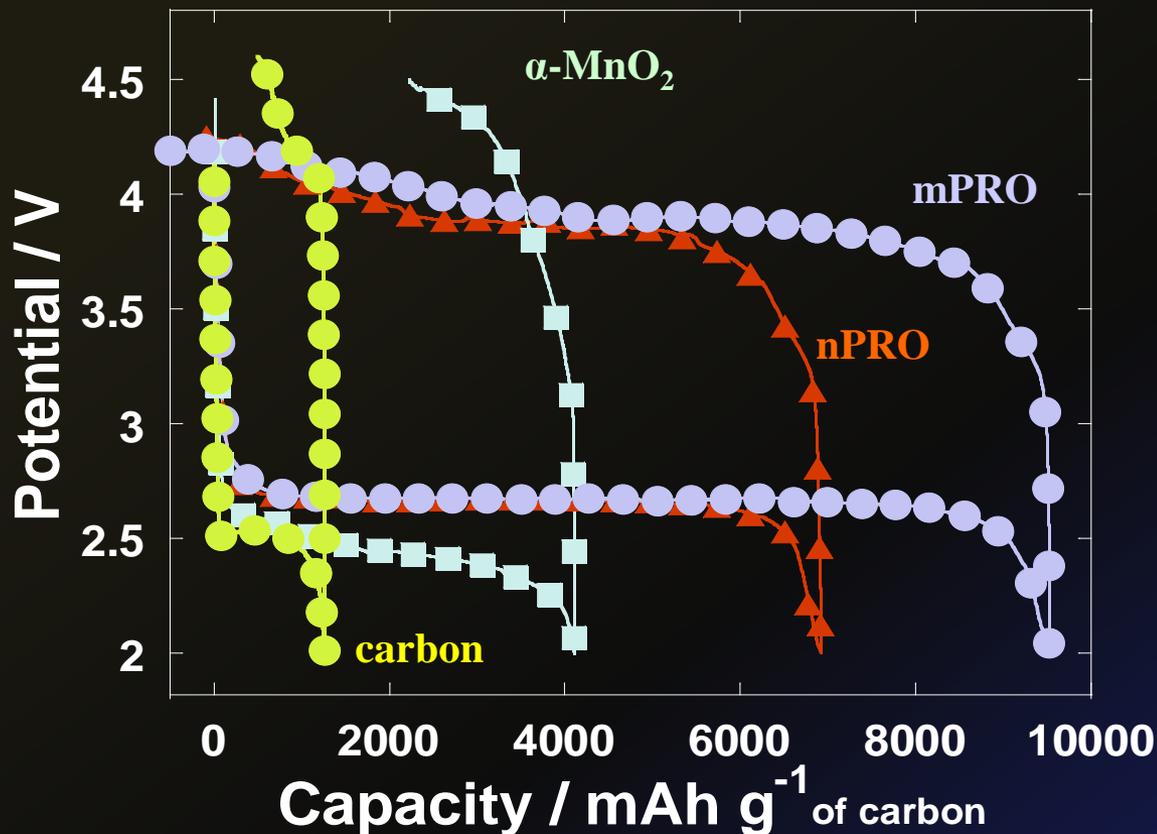
§ PC electrolyte

§  $\text{O}_2^-$  decomposes solvent

§ Oxidation of decomposition products (not  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$ )

# Mesoporous and nanocrystalline metal oxide catalysts:

Mesoporous metal oxide (mPRO) increases capacity and lowers OER voltage in comparison to nanocrystalline (nPRO) or state-of-the-art catalyst ( $\alpha$ -MnO<sub>2</sub>). Results are compared with no catalyst (carbon membrane)

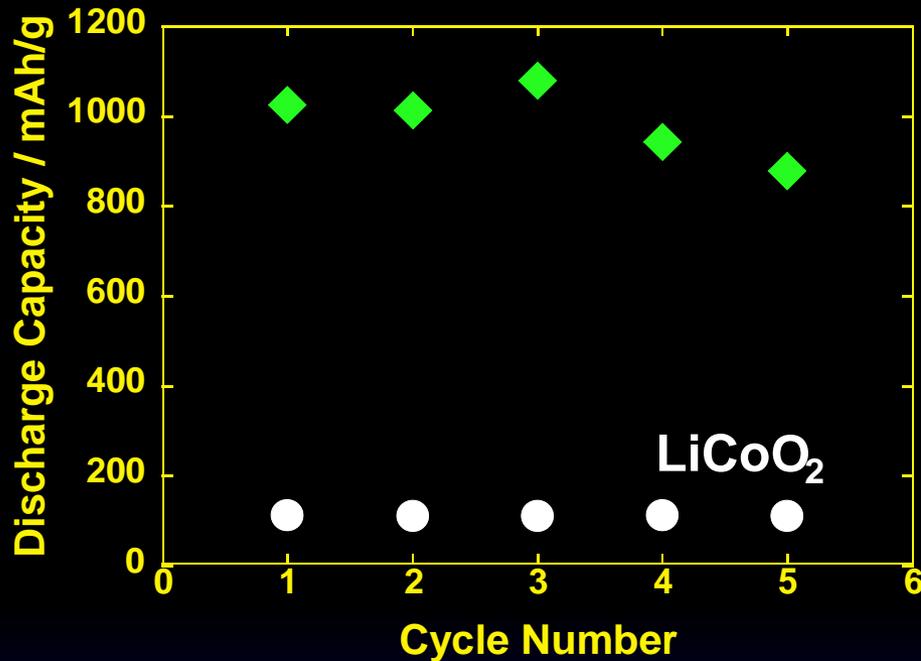


Oh, Nazar et al. , *Nature Materials*, in review

# Capacity and Stability of Li-O<sub>2</sub> Battery

Based on data for m-PRO system:

Voltage is higher than Li-S = higher energy density



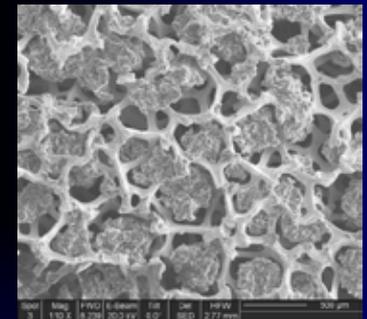
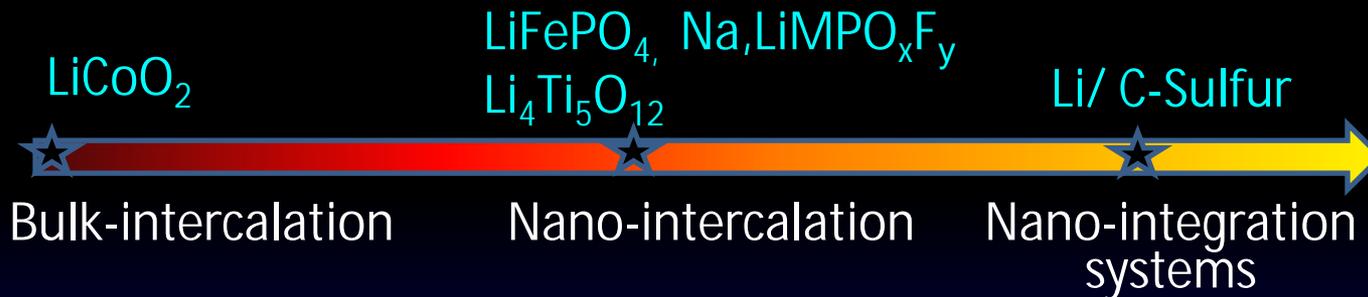
**1090 mAhg<sup>-1</sup>**  
**(carbon + catalyst + binder)**

**130 mAhg<sup>-1</sup> (total mass)**

Voltage difference between discharge/charge is higher than Li-S  
= poorer efficiency

# Increasing Complexity of Demands – and Materials

		(Wh/kg)	(MJ/kg)
lead acid		35	0.13
NiCd		45	0.16
NaS		80	0.28
NiMH	90		0.32
Li ion		150	0.54
LiS		? 600	
Li-O <sub>2</sub>		? 1000	
MgS		?	
gasoline		12000	43



Lithium – Air  
 $\text{Li} + \text{O}_2 \leftrightarrow \text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$   
 Nano-meso-micro

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Brian Ellis
- Si Hyoung Oh
- Robert Black
- Guang He
- Hae Woong Park
- Scott Evers
- Rajesh Tripathi
- Elahe Talaie
- Brian Adams
- Yverick Rangom
- David Ji
- Dr. Jin-Hyon Lee
- Dr. TaeEun Yim
- Dr. Guerman Popov
- Kyu Tae Lee
- Ramesh Adithya
- Prakash Badi
- Yoshi Makimura
- Yasutoshi Iriyama
- Dominic Ryan
- Marnix Wagemaker
- Gillian Goward
- Thomas Bein
- Gianluigi Botton
- Saiful Islam

