

# Batteries Part III: From Li-ion to grid-scale storage and autonomous materials discovery

47202: Introduction to Future Energy; 2023-11-14



Prof. Tejs Vegge, [teve@dtu.dk](mailto:teve@dtu.dk), DTU Energy  
Technical University of Denmark

# Increasing the Energy and Power Density

Three options for increasing the energy density:

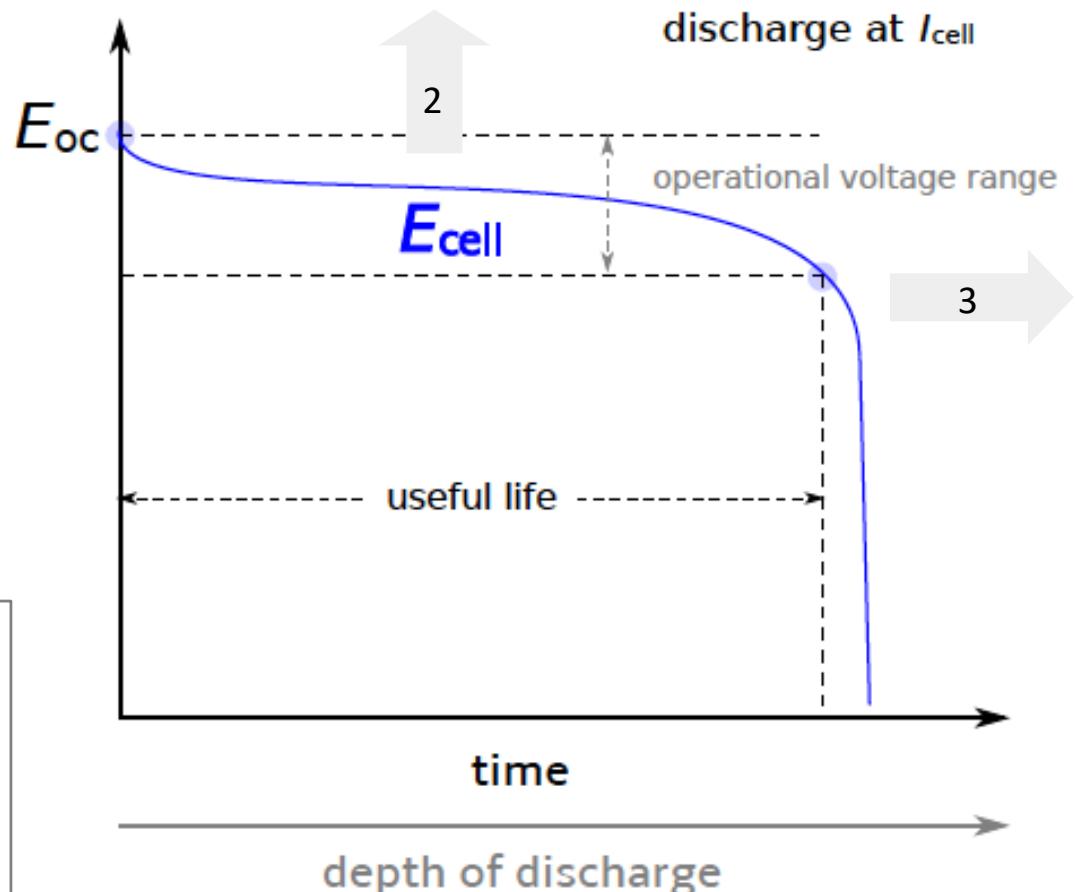
- 1) use light(er) and dense(r) materials to increase gravimetric and volumetric energy density
- 2) increase cell voltage
- 3) increase capacity (amount of Li<sup>+</sup> stored per weight / volume)

$$\text{energy} = \bar{E}_{\text{cell}} \cdot I_{\text{cell}} \cdot t$$

capacity { } Q (charge)

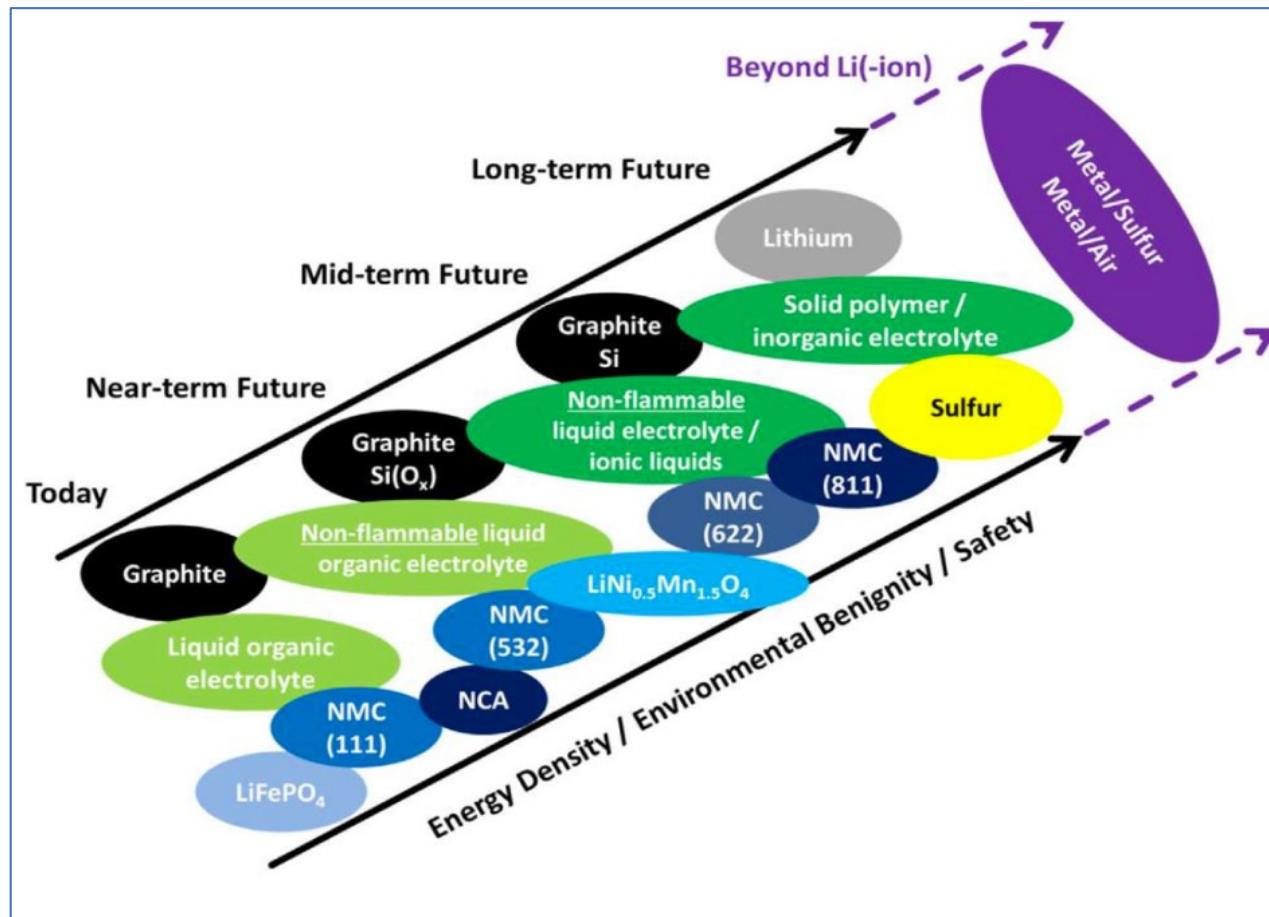
$$\text{power} = I \cdot E$$

A discharge curve:



# Next generation battery materials

- How do we get better batteries?
- ...and how do we get them faster

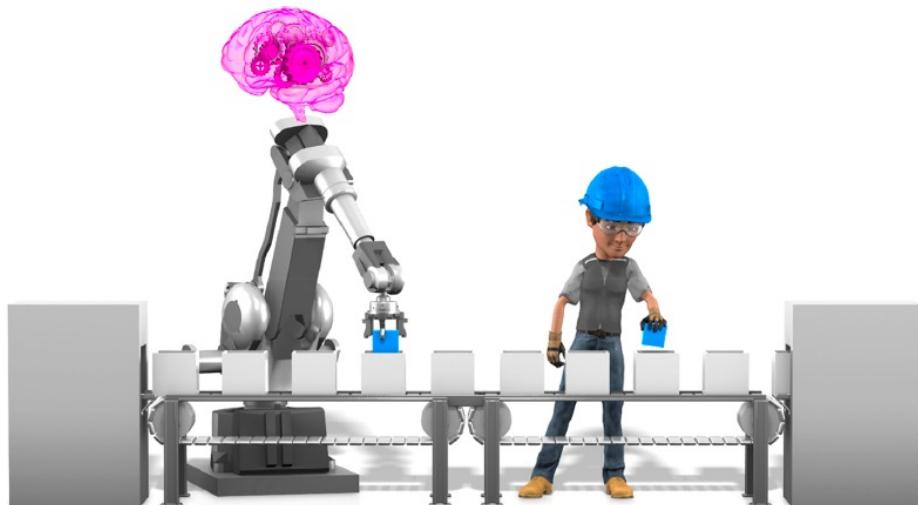


Edström, Dominko, Fichtner, Otuzewski, Perraud, Punckt, Tarascon, Vegge, Winter, BATTERY 2030+ Roadmap (2020)

# Can computer simulations and AI help us get better batteries faster?

A multi-pronged AI-accelerated approach

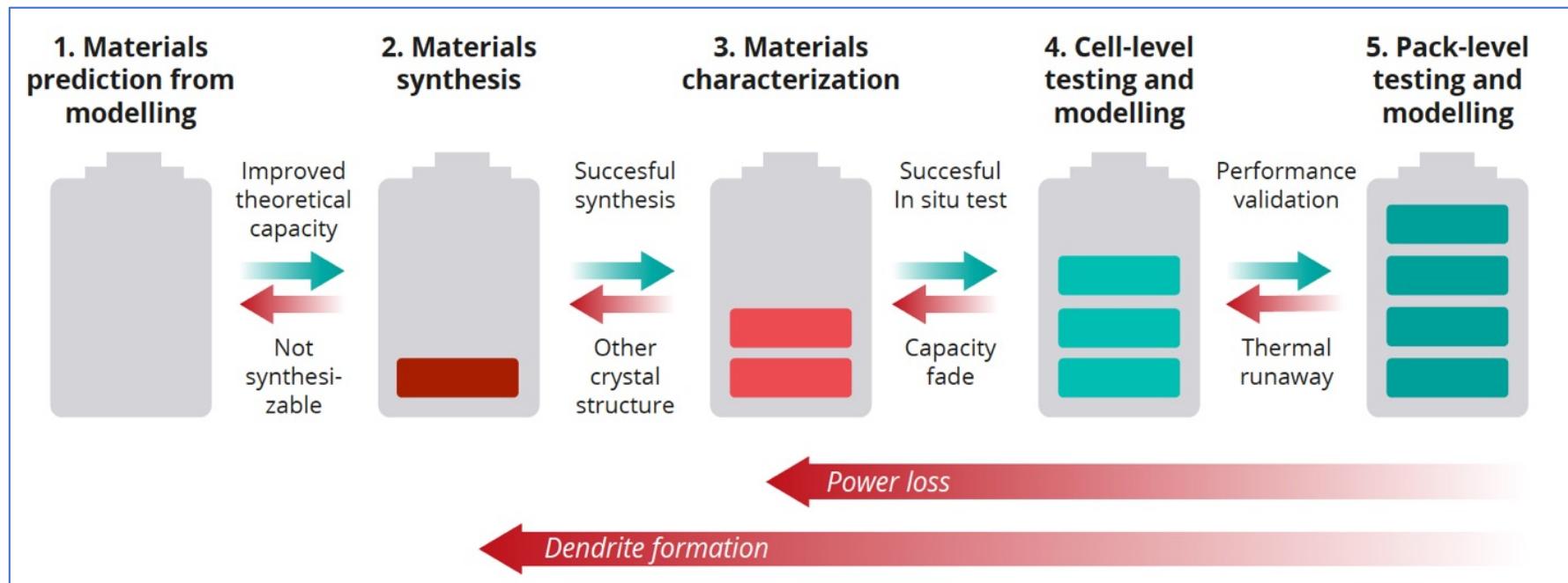
- Inverse design and computational materials discovery
- Getting more out of existing batteries
- Develop autonomous materials discovery platforms



Lombardo, Vegge, Johansson, Franco, et al. Chem. Rev. 10.1021/acs.chemrev.1c00108 (2021)

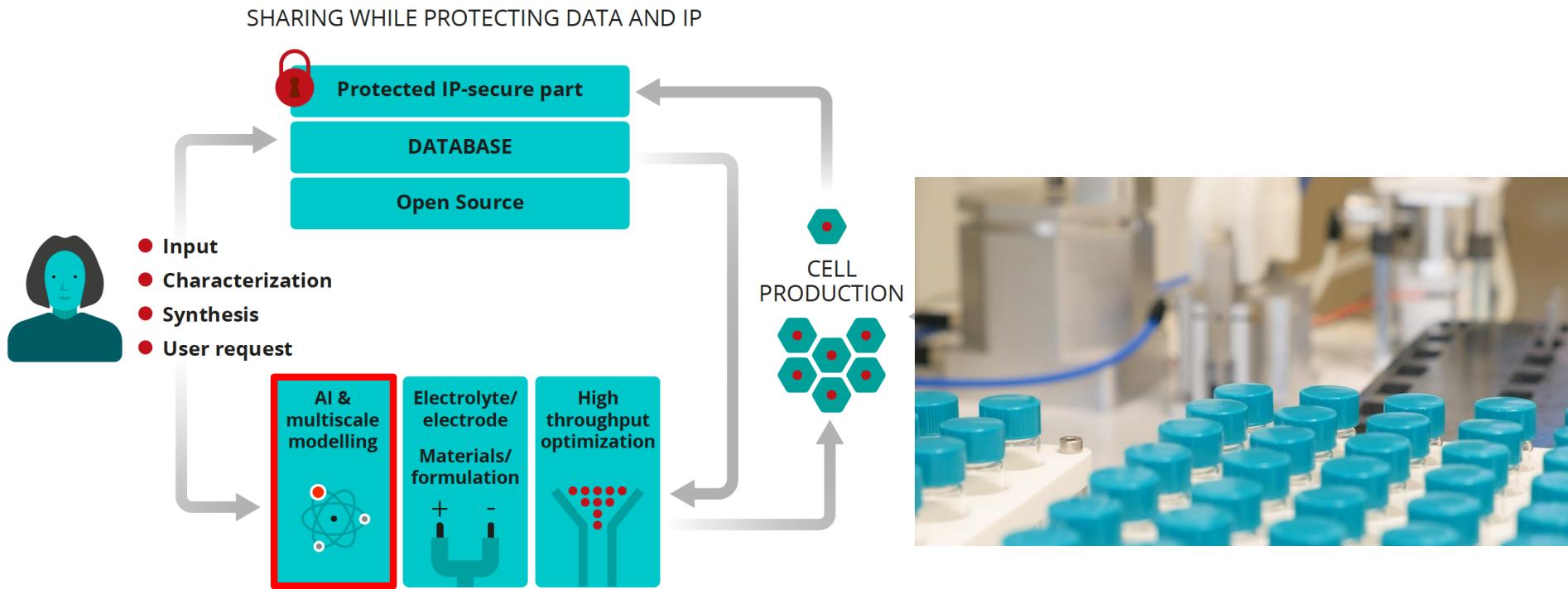
# Current Battery Development is Sequential

- Li-ion: a 20-years discovery & development process
- Can AI, simulations and closed-loop discovery accelerate the discovery & development process?



# An AI-accelerated closed-loop battery discovery infrastructure

Accelerated closed-loop discovery using AI-accelerated models & procedures



Vegge, Tarascon, Edström, Adv. Energy Mater. 11, 2100362 (2021); Fisker-Bødker, Moretti, Chang, Kiebach, Vegge (2022)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement #957189



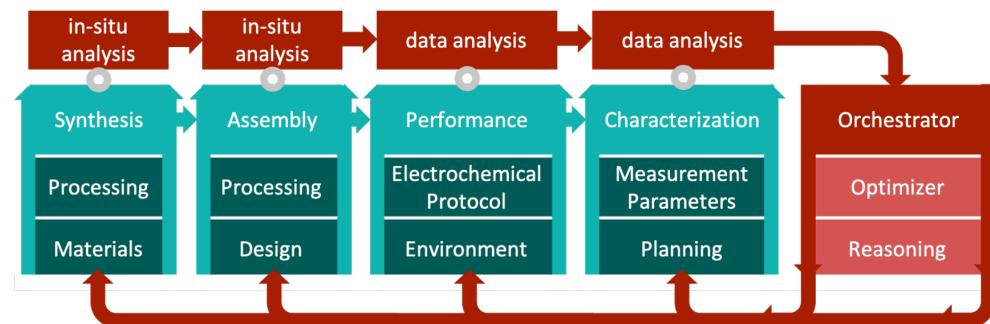
# BIG-MAP: Battery Interface Genome – Materials Acceleration Platform

*Reinventing the way we invent batteries*

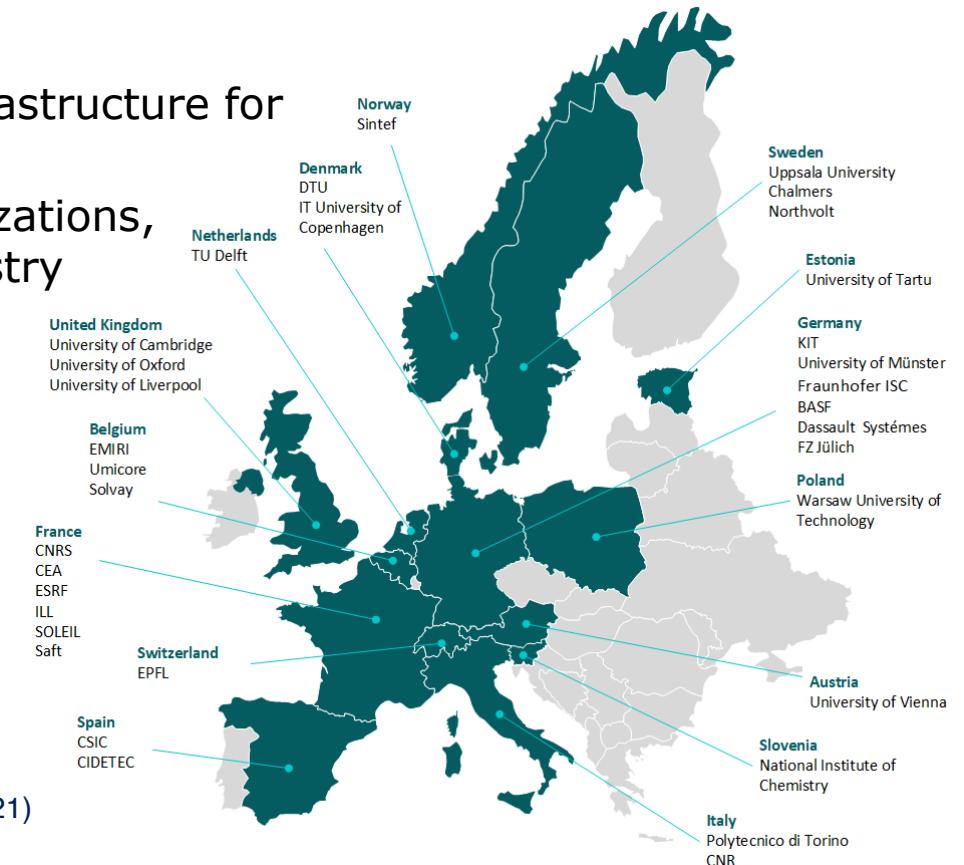
Developing an AI-accelerated digitalized infrastructure for the European Battery Community

34 partners from academia, research organizations, large-scale research infrastructure and industry

Watch video on [www.big-map.eu](http://www.big-map.eu)

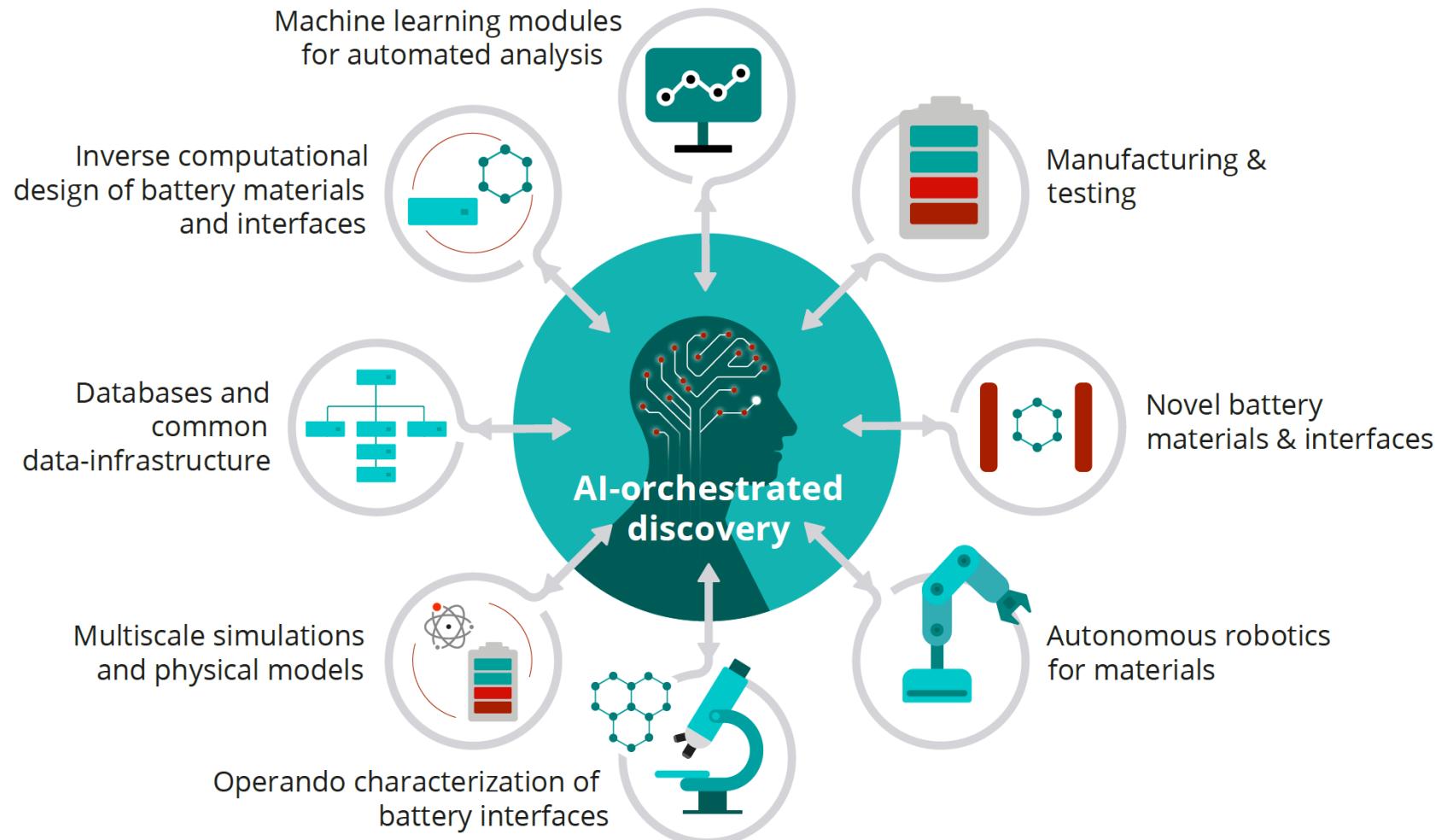


Vegge et al., Adv. Energy Mater, DOI: 10.1002/aenm.202102698 (2021)

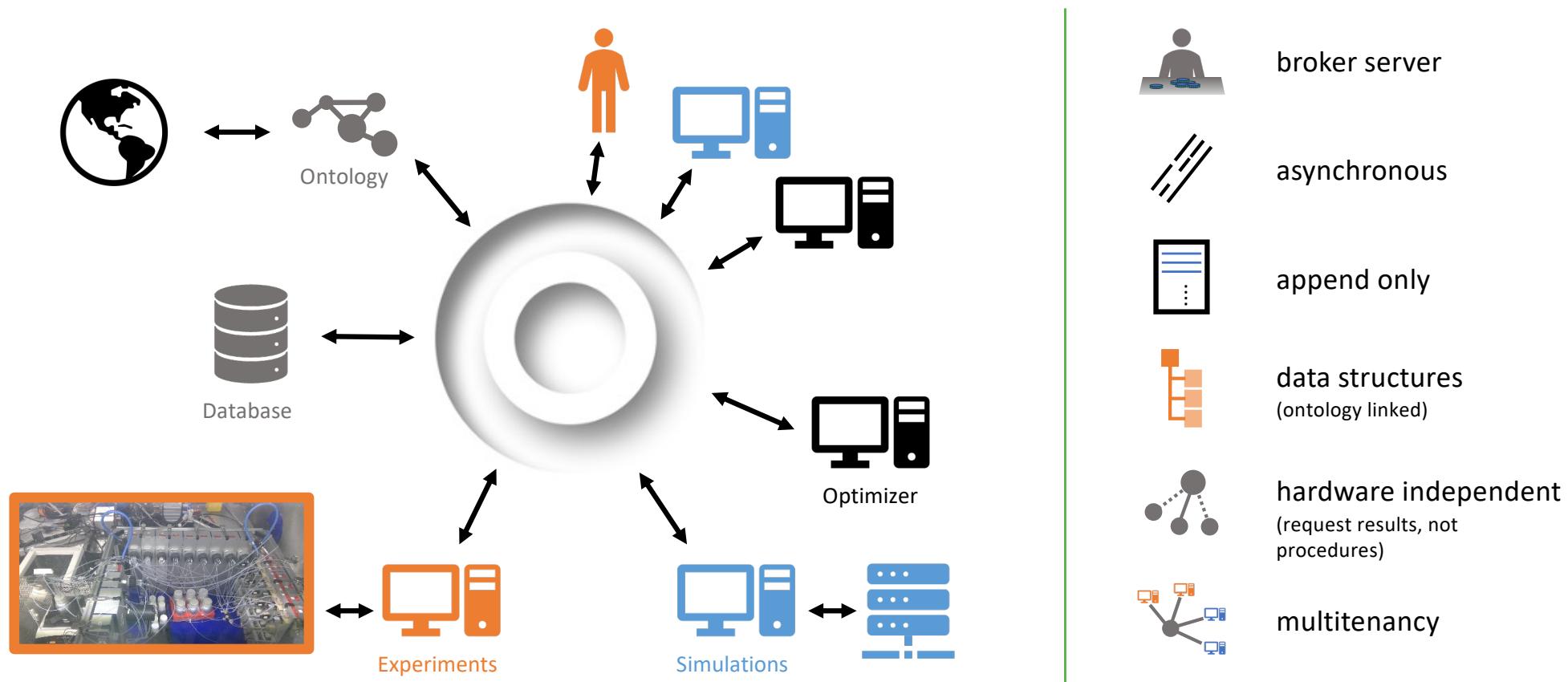


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 957189

# Accelerating battery discovery and development



# FINALES: Fast INtention-Agnostic Learning Server



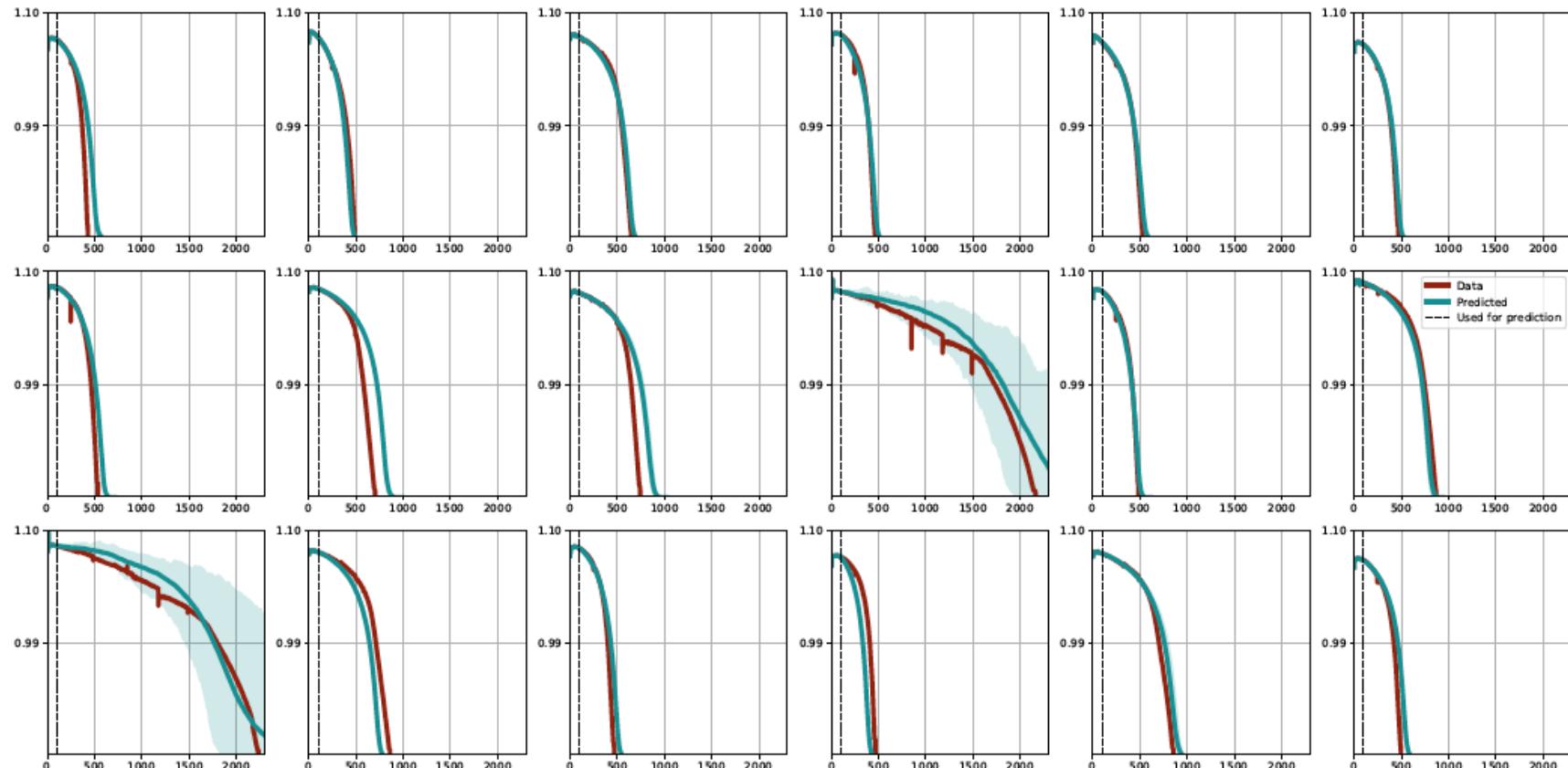
Vogler, et al., Matter, 10.26434/chemrxiv-2022-grgrd (2022)

DTU Energy, Technical University of Denmark

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 957189

# AI-guided Uncertainty-aware prediction of Battery EOL

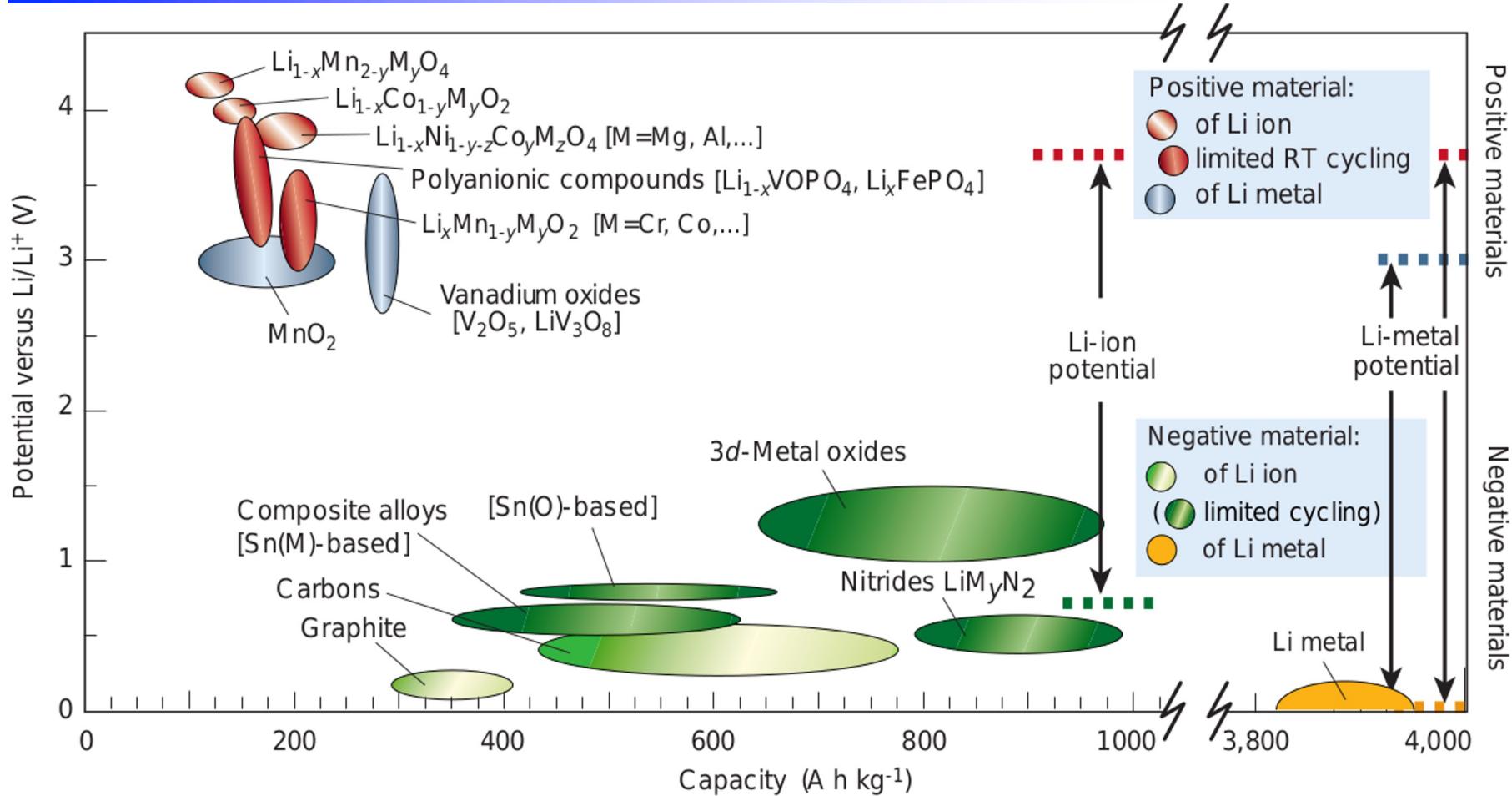
- Calibrating uncertainty with graph-based neural network ensembles
- Deep learning for faster predictions of battery End Of Life with uncertainty estimates



Busk, Jørgensen, Bhowmik, Schmidt, Winther, Vegge, Machine Learning: Science and Technology 3, 015012 (2022)  
 Rieger, Flores, Nielsen, Norby, Ayerbe, Winther, Vegge, Bhowmik, Digital Discovery 2, 112-122 (2023)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement #957189

# Li-ion Battery Materials – Potential vs Capacity



A moderate increase in voltage possible, e.g.  $\text{Li}_x\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{O}_4$  operates at  $\sim 4.7 \text{ V}$   
→ no dramatic increase in capacity ( $C_T = 147 \text{ mAh/g}$ ), but energy density increases!

Source: Tarascon, J.-M.; Armand, M. Issues and Challenges Facing Rechargeable Lithium Batteries.  
Nature 2001, 414 (6861), 359–367 DOI: 10.1038/35104644.

# High Voltage Cathodes for Li-ion Batteries

- Higher voltages ( $>4.5$  V vs. Li/Li<sup>+</sup>) and higher capacities
- Cathodes like  $\text{Li}_2\text{MnO}_3$ – $\text{LiNi}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{LiMn}_{1.5}\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{LiCoPO}_4$ , and  $\text{LiNiPO}_4$ , have operating voltages between 4.7 and 5.2 V
- Key limitation: electrolytes with very high electrochemical stability

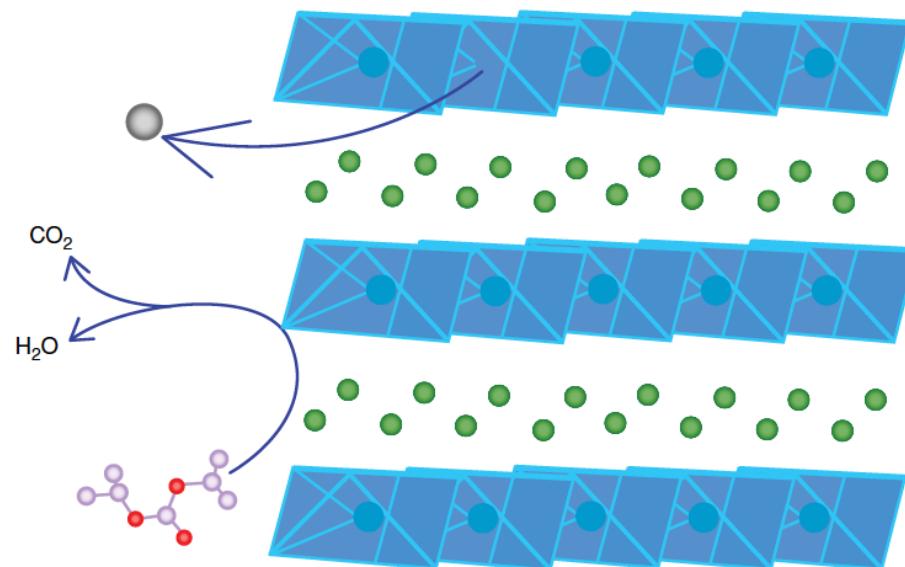
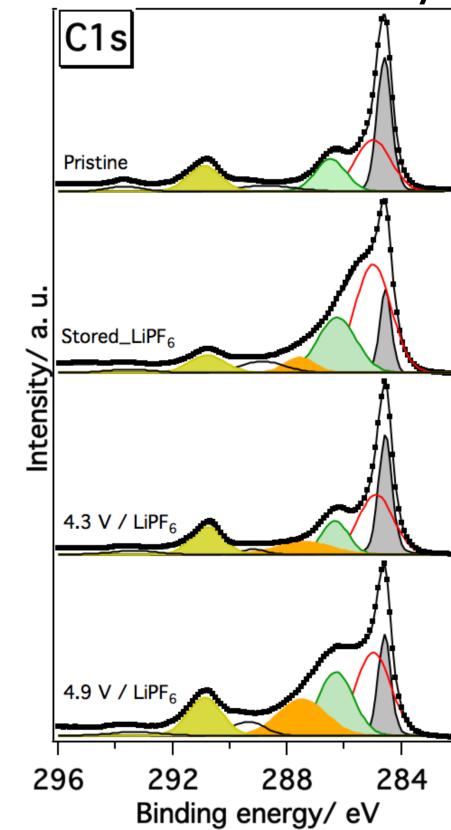


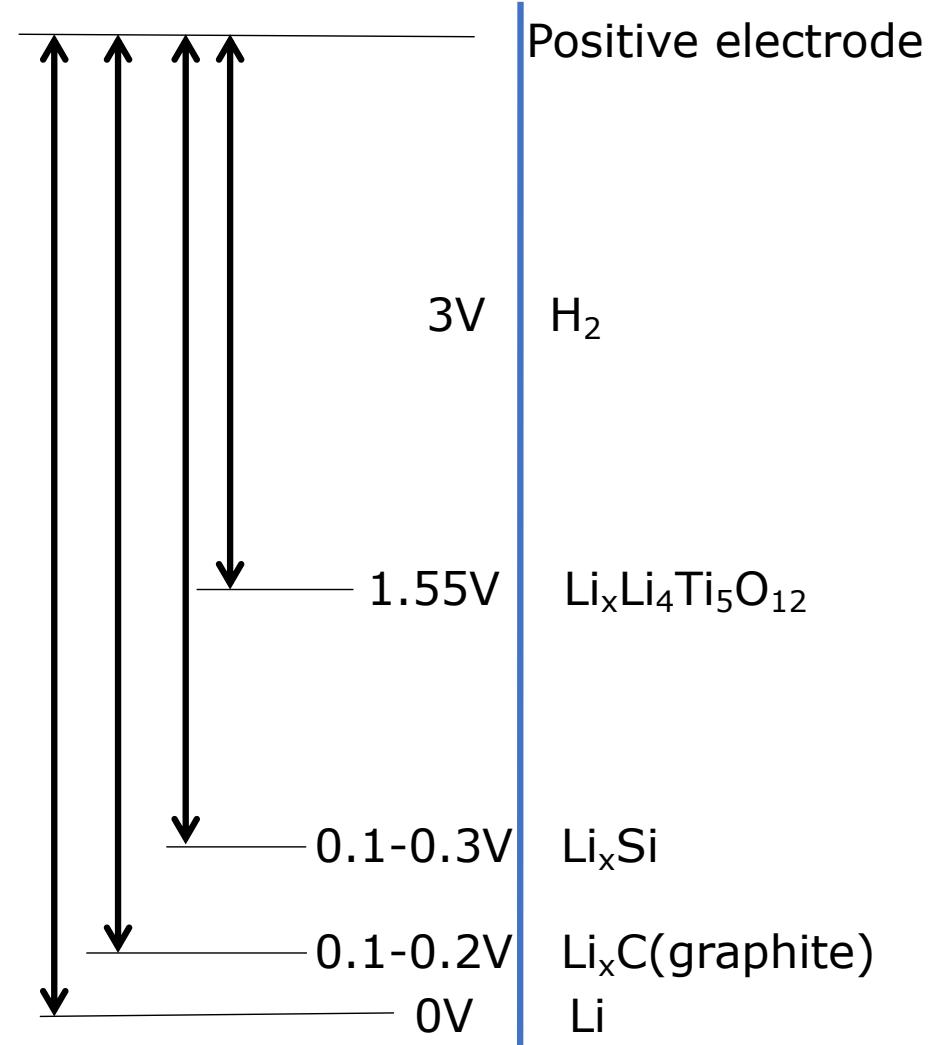
FIGURE 4 Dissolution of metal elements and decomposition of electrolyte at a high-voltage cathode surface.



Younesi, Christiansen, Loftager, Garcia-Lastra, Vegge, Norby, Holtappels, Chem. Sus. Chem. 8, 3213 (2015)  
Scrosati, Abraham, Schalkwijk, Hassoun, Lithium Batteries: Advanced Technologies and Applications, Wiley (2013)

# High Capacity Anodes for Lithium Batteries

- Li-metal anodes are unsafe, so graphite is used ( $\text{Li}_x\text{C}_6$ : 372 mAh/g)
- Si, Sn, Al, Bi can alloy with Li ( $\text{SiLi}_4$  @ 4200 mAh/g), but undergoes a ~400% change in volume
- Significant interest for such anodes in the automotive industry

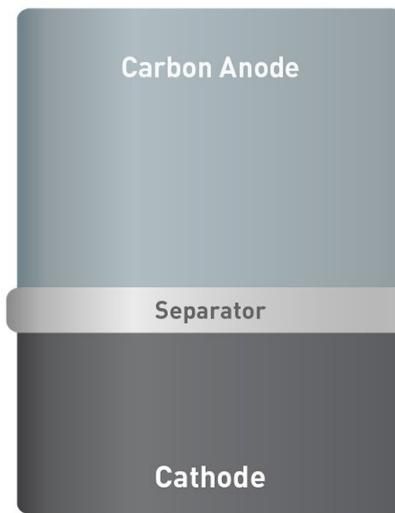


Hassan, Batmaz, Li, Wang, Xiao, Yu, Chen, Nature Communication 6, 8597 (2015)

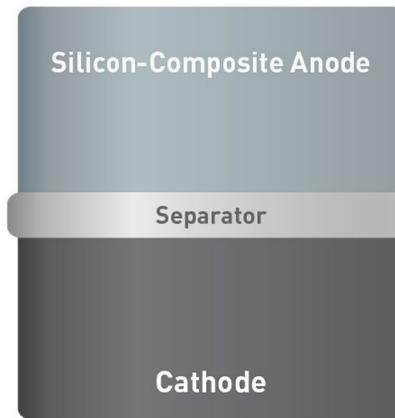
# Solid state batteries



**Gen 0**  
**Li-Metal**  
100-200 Wh/kg  
200-300 Wh/L  
Dangerous



**Gen 1**  
**Li-ion**  
200-250 Wh/kg  
600 Wh/L  
Safe



**Gen 2**  
**Li-ion**  
250-300 Wh/kg  
700 Wh/L  
Safe

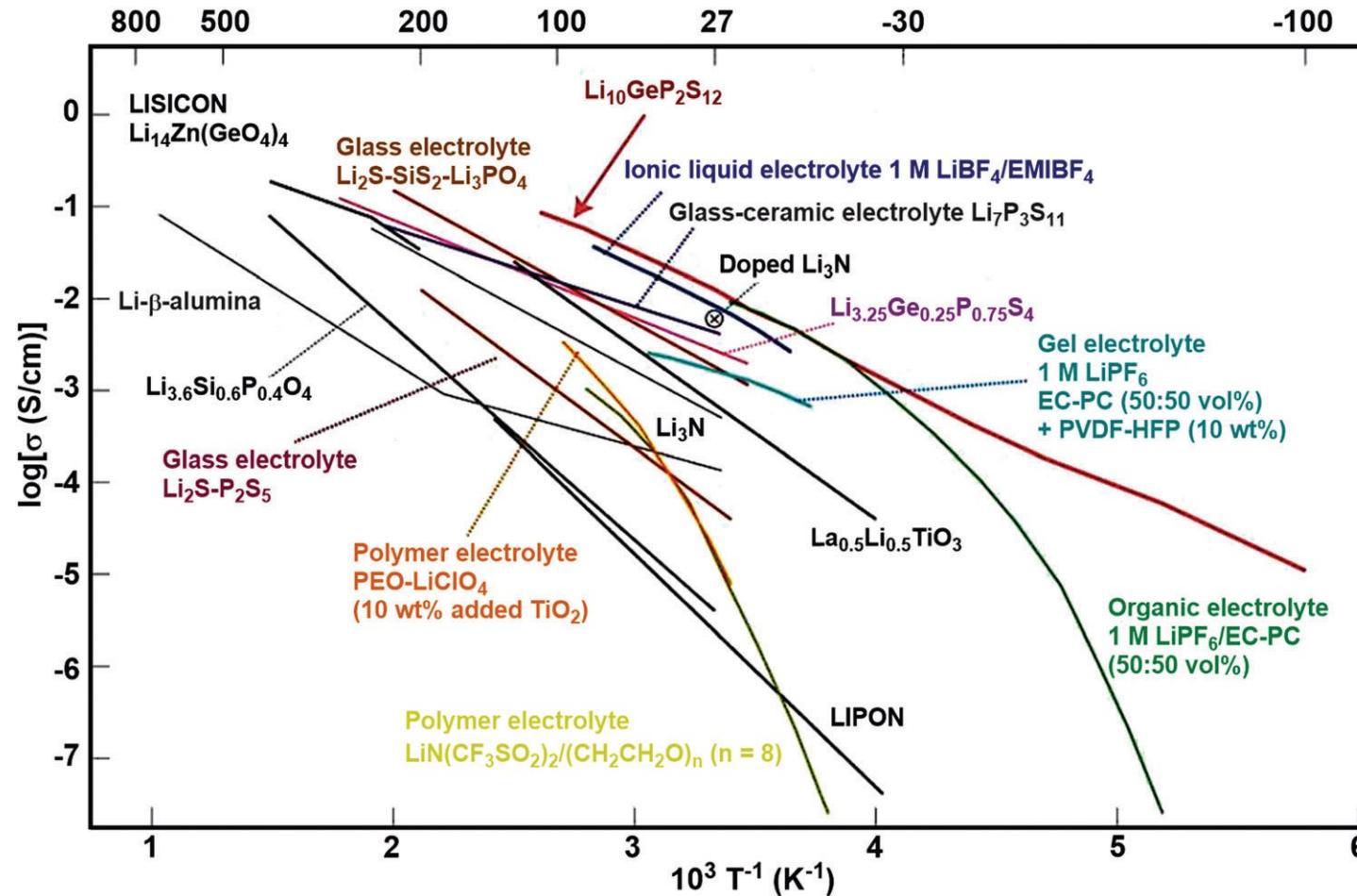


**Gen 3**  
**Li-Metal**  
400-500 Wh/kg  
1200 Wh/L  
Safest

IRENA, Electricity Storage and Renewables: Costs and Markets to 2030 (2017)

# Conductivity of solid Li-ion electrolytes

- The Li-ion conductivity remains (too) low



Lin et al, Chem. Soc. Rev. 45, 5848-5887 (2016)

# Are all-solid-state batteries there yet?

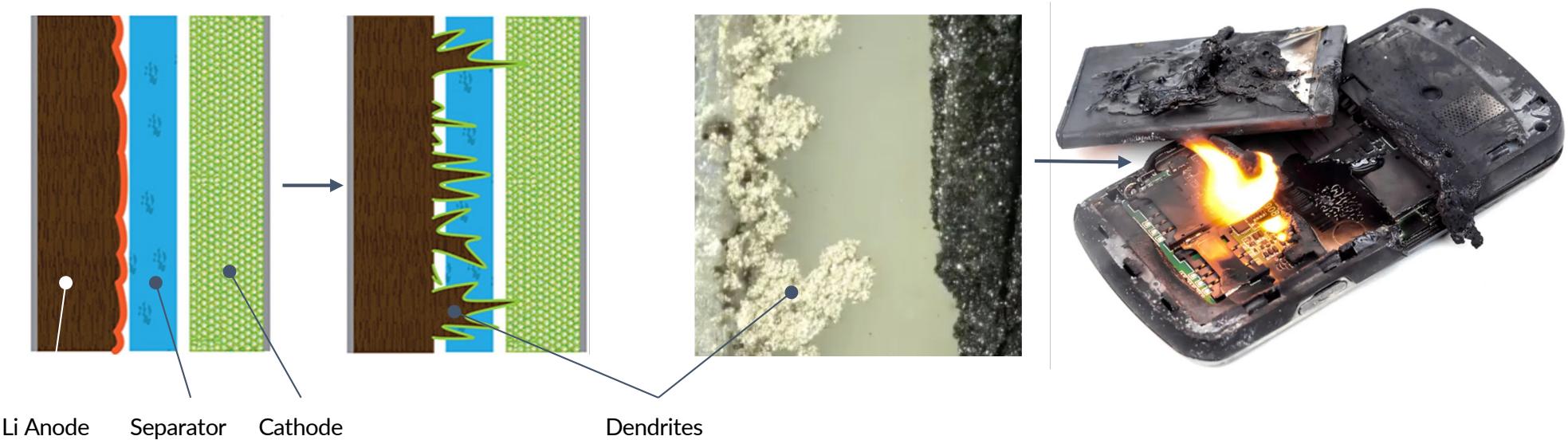
- Almost...
- Toyota expect to mass-produce solid-state batteries by 2027 or 2028
- Claim: A range of 1,200km and a charging time of 10 minutes or less



Toyota (2023)

# Dendrite growth in Li(s) batteries

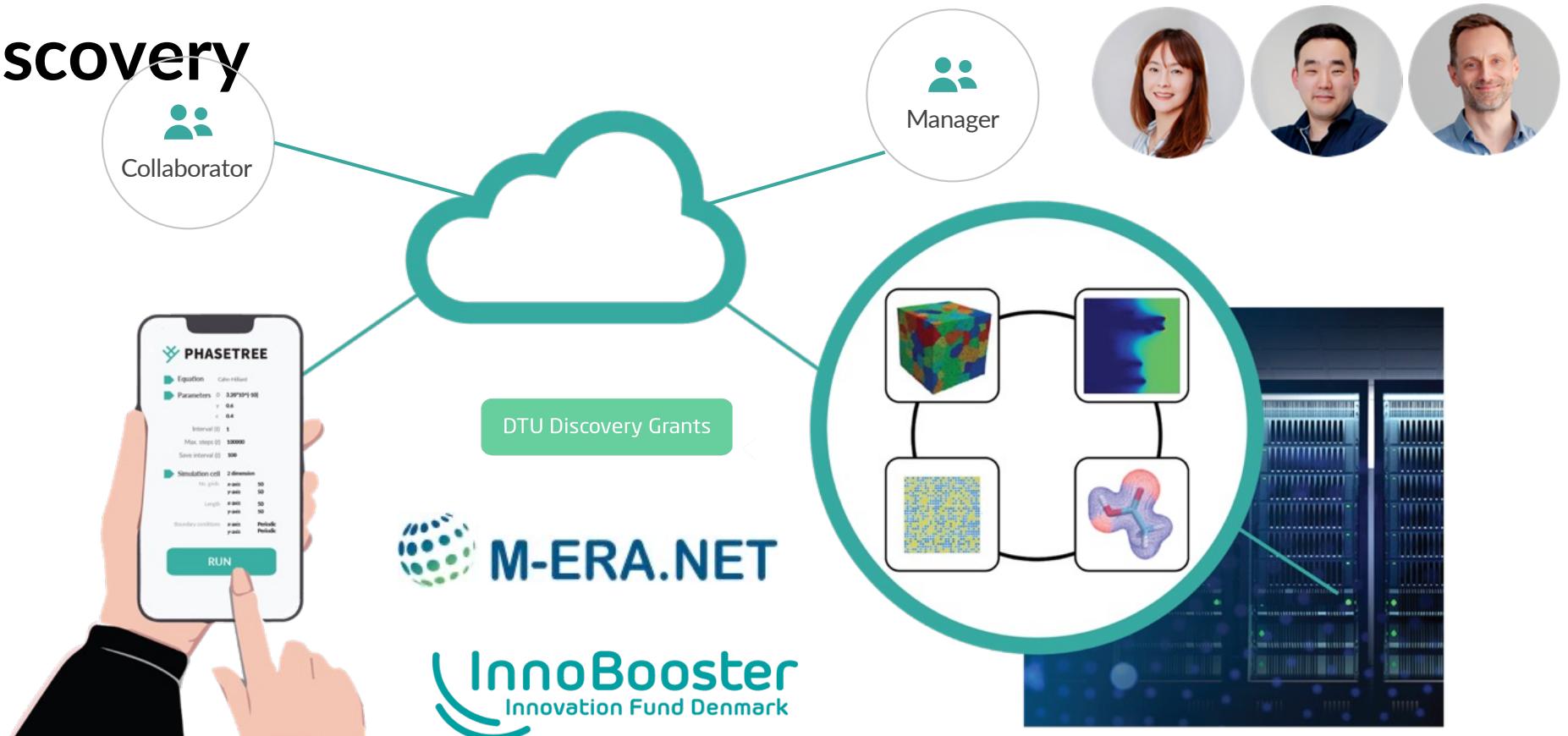
Dendrite growth plagues the development of future all-solid-state and Li-metal batteries



Performing atomic-scale-informed phase field simulations of dendritic growth

Jeon, Gil Ho, Vegge, Chang, ACS Appl. Mater. Inter 14, 15275–15286 (2022)

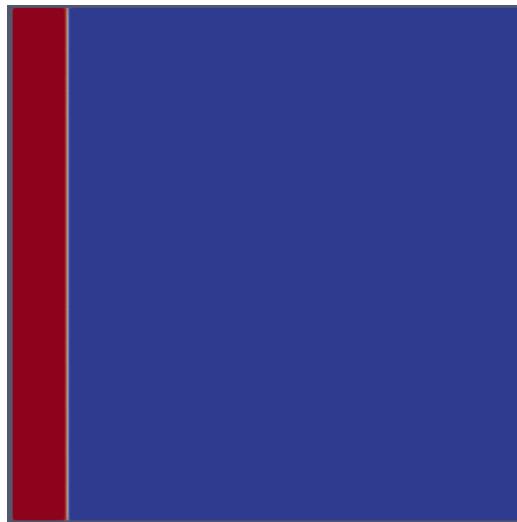
# Virtual Platform for Accelerated Materials Discovery



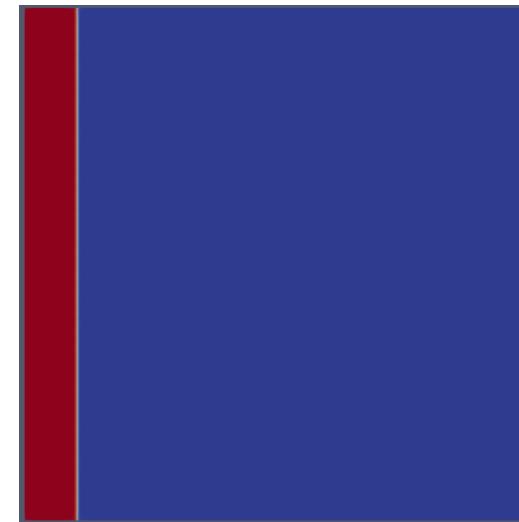
# Dendrite growth in Li(s) batteries

- Dendrite growth is a leading cause of failure in Li-metal batteries
- Modifying materials composition or use conditions to suppress dendrite growth

$V = -0.3 \text{ V}$



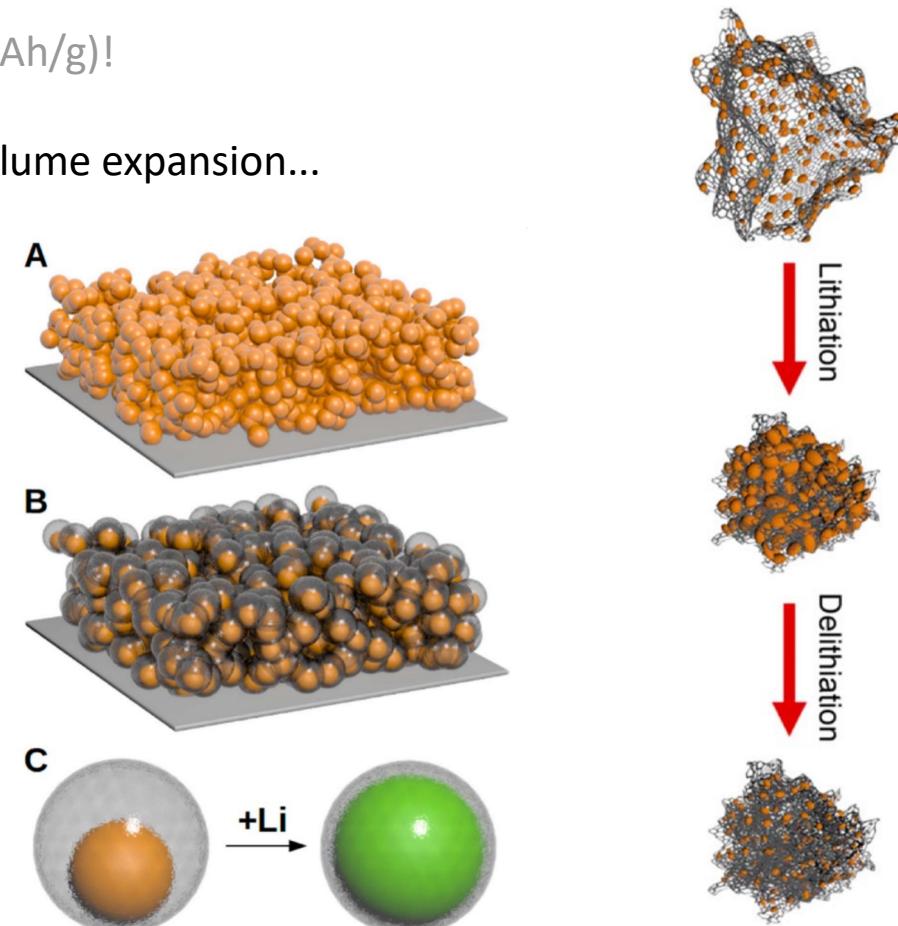
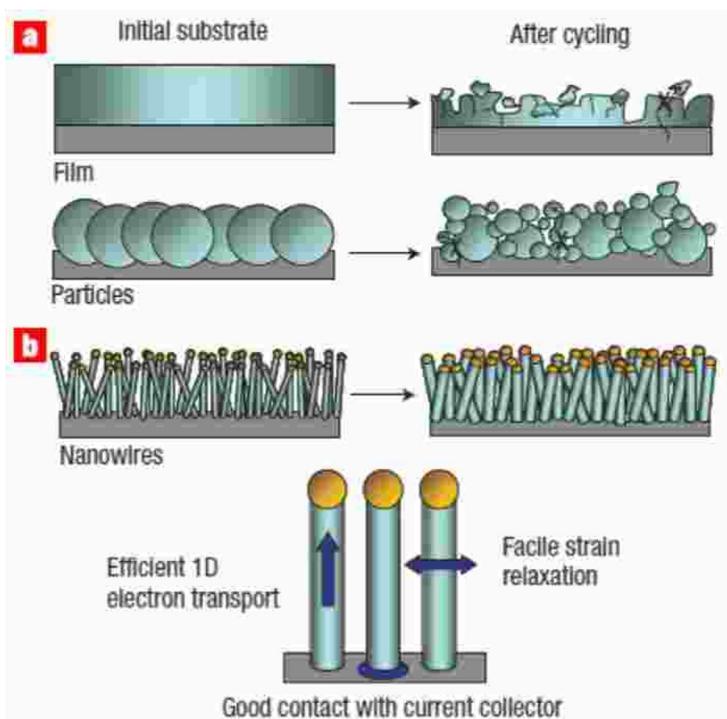
$V = -0.45 \text{ V}$



Jeon, Gil Ho, Vegge, Chang, ACS Appl. Mater. Inter 14, 15275–15286 (2022)

# Si-anodes

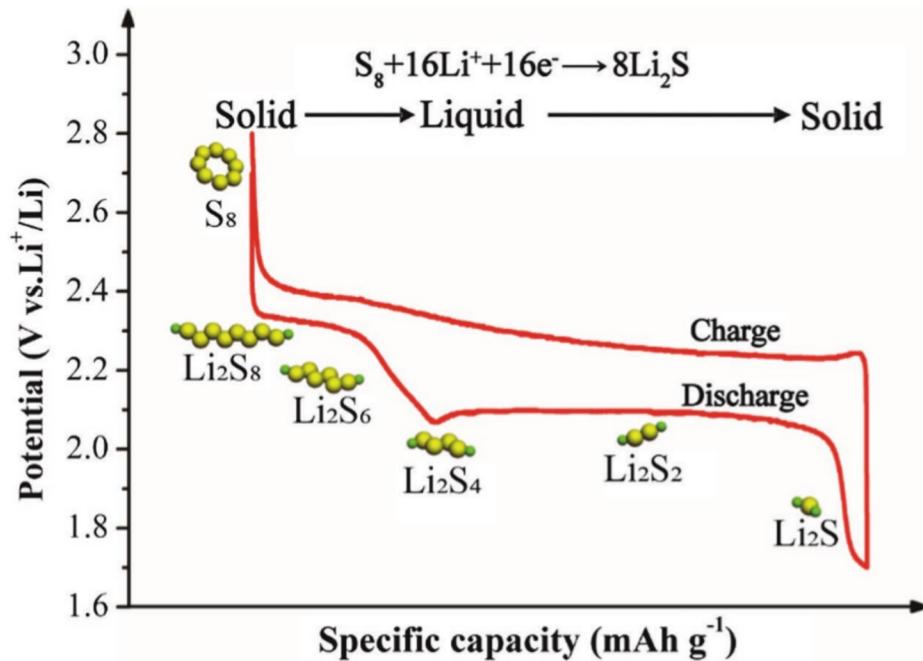
- Silicon can alloy with Lithium resulting in compositions up to  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Si}$  yielding
- Theoretical capacity of **4200 mAh/g**  
→ more than 10x the capacity of graphite (372 mAh/g)!
- Operates at ~ **0.4 V**
- But: alloying is accompanied by up to a 300% volume expansion...



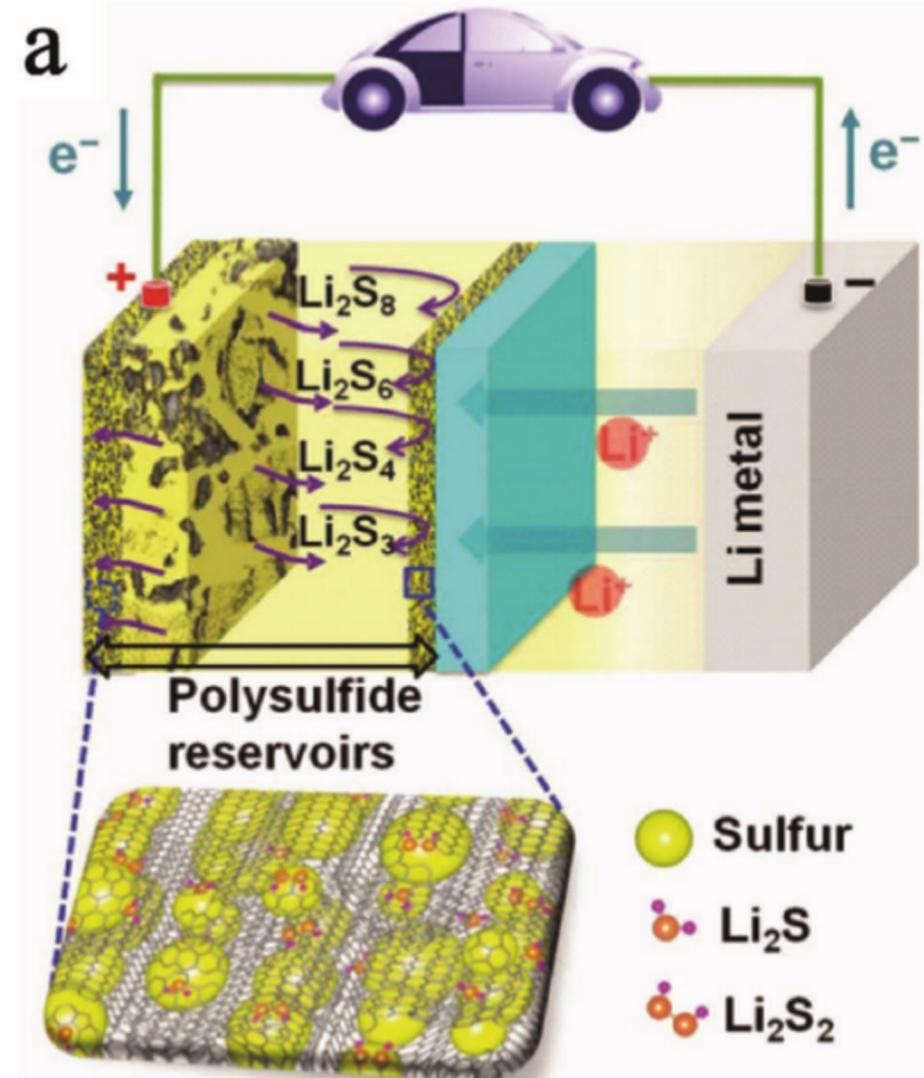
A lot of research dedicated to ways of managing the volume expansion problem  
(→ reduced attainable capacity)

Zuo, X.; Zhu, J.; Müller-Buschbaum, P.; Cheng, Y.-J.  
Silicon Based Lithium-Ion Battery Anodes:  
A Chronicle Perspective Review. *Nano Energy* 2017, 31, 113–143  
DOI: 10.1016/j.nanoen.2016.11.013.

# Low Temperature Metal-Sulfur Batteries



Utilizing low cost materials, and has a high theoretical capacity, but have issues with the so-called poly-sulfide shuttle.  
(transport of cathode material to anode and vice versa...)



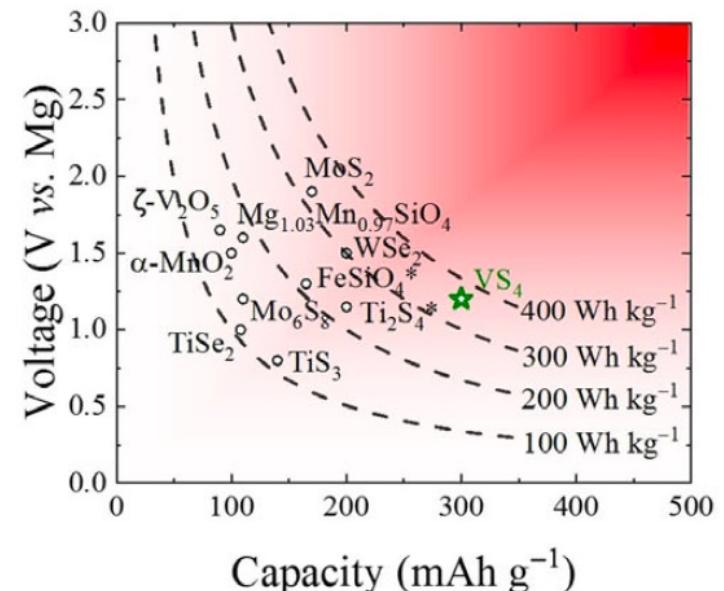
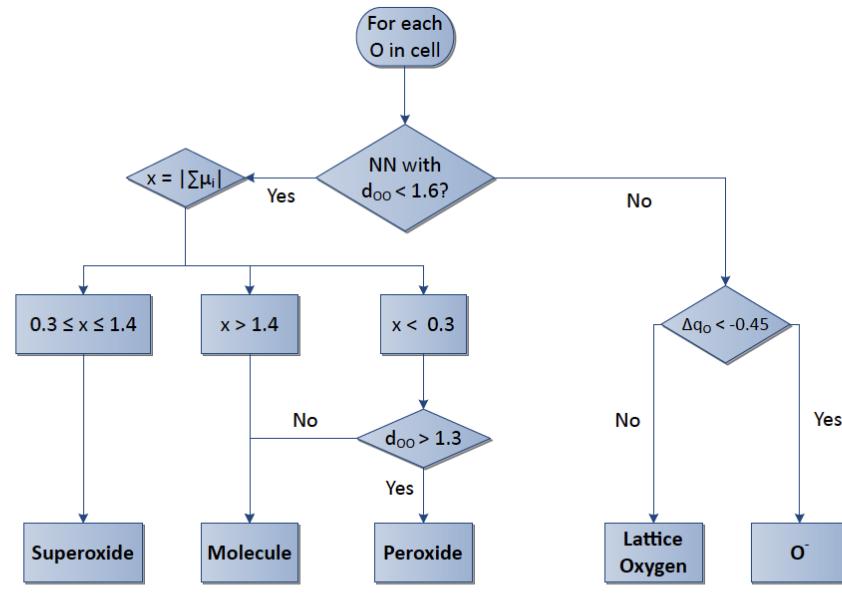
- (1) Fang et al, More Reliable Lithium-Sulfur Batteries: Status, Solutions and Prospects. *Advanced Materials* 2017, 1606823 DOI: 10.1002/adma.201606823.
- (2) Manthiram et al, Lithium-Sulfur Batteries: Progress and Prospects. *Advanced Materials* 2015, 27 (12), 1980–2006 DOI: 10.1002/adma.201405115.

# Utilizing anionic redox in battery electrodes

Automated procedures for detecting the unexpected, e.g., on-the-fly detection of anionic redox processes (could increase capacity dramatically)

Anionic redox in Li-rich ( $\text{Li}_x\text{MnO}_3$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{VO}_2\text{F}$ )

and multi-valent ( $\text{VS}_4$ ) Mg battery electrodes

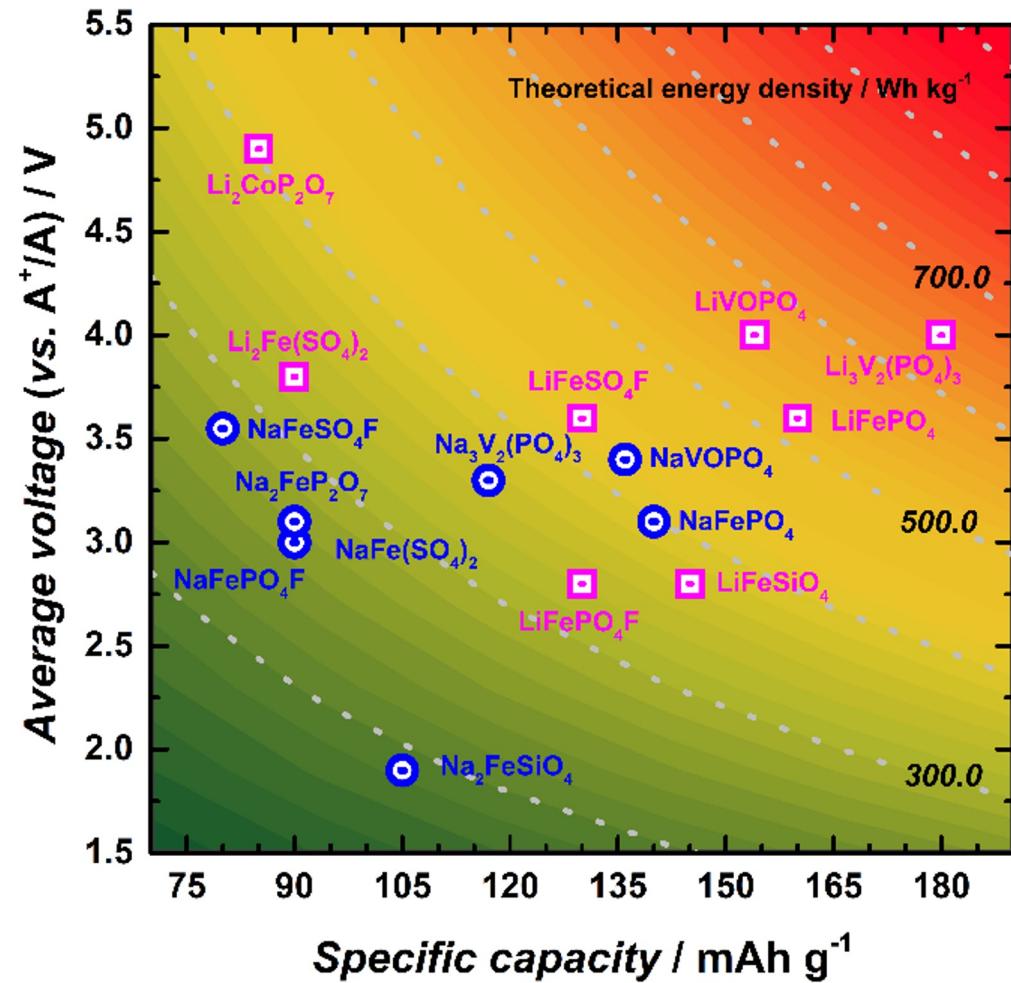
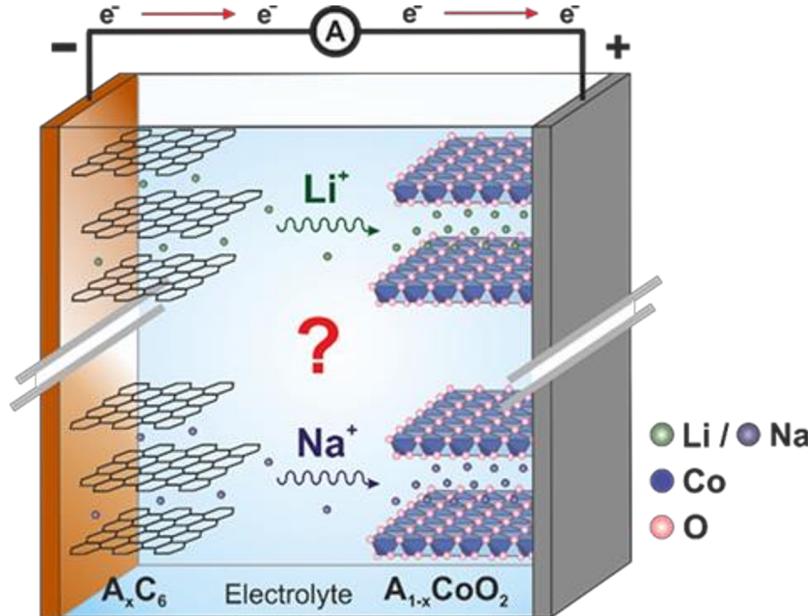


Tygesen, Chang, Vegge, Garcia-Lastra, npj Comp. Mater. 6, 1-9 (2020); Chen et al., J. Mater Chem A 8, 16551 (2020)

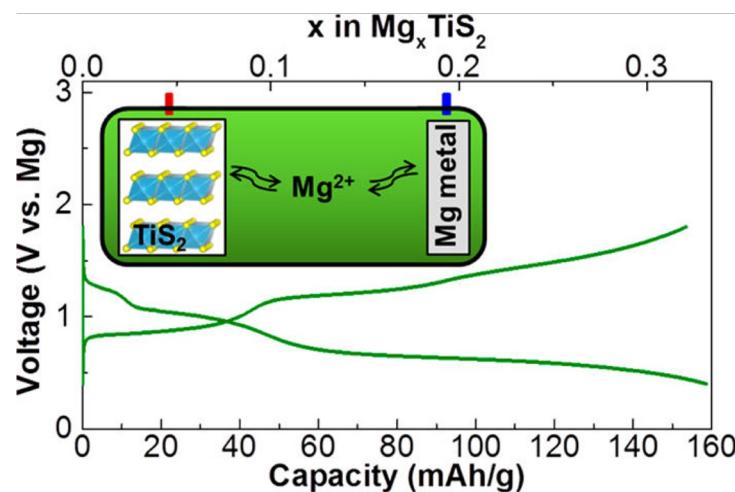
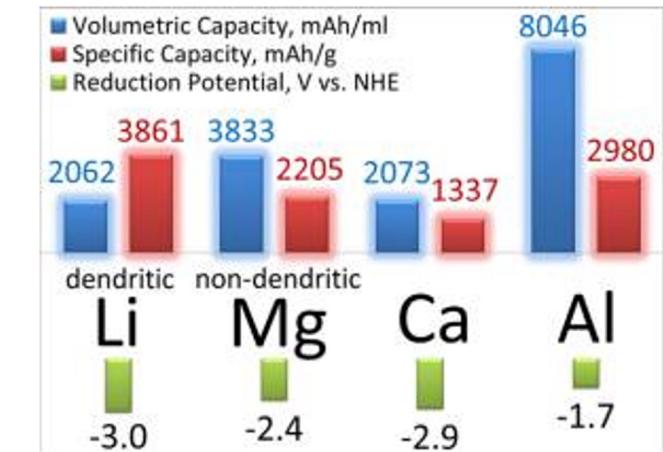
Li, Bhaghavathi, Vinayan, Jankowski, Njel, Roy, Vegge, Maibach, Lastra, Fichtner, Zhao-Karger, Angew. Chemie 59, 2 (2020)

# Na-ion: Lower cost and more abundant

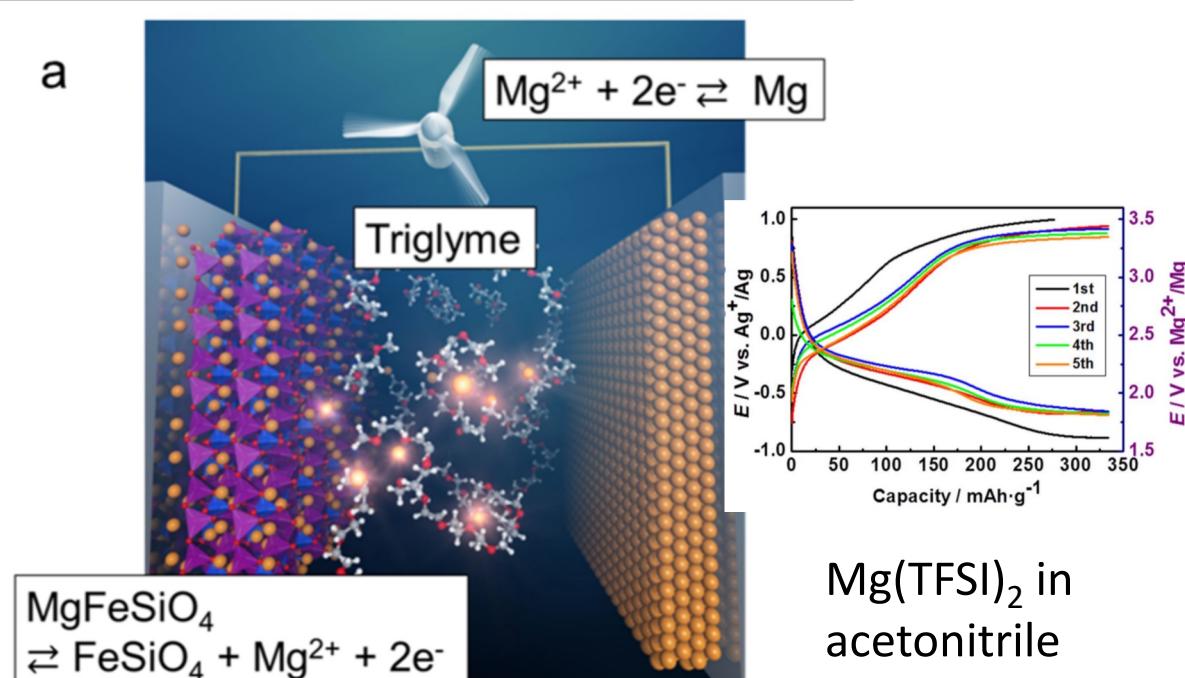
- Sodium ion batteries: utilizing  $\text{Na}^+$  instead of  $\text{Li}^+$
- CATL is now mass-producing gen 1 Na-ion (40 GWh) per year capacity



# Multivalent Metal Ion Batteries



Mg and Ca does not suffer from the same dendrite formation problem as Li does.



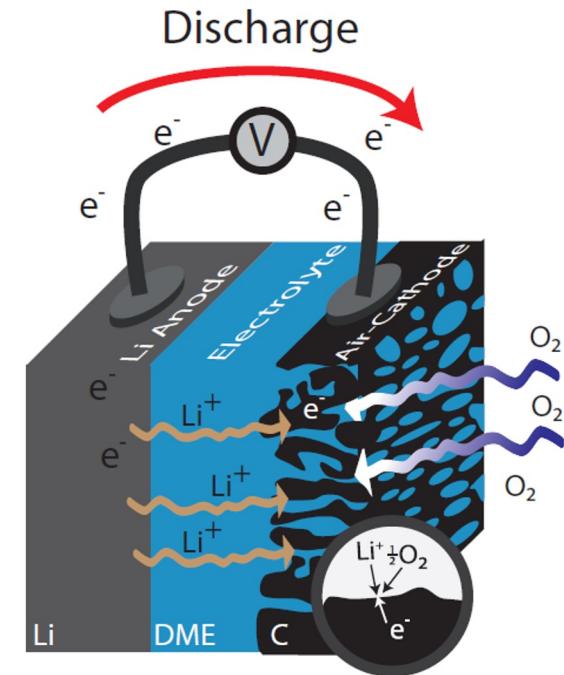
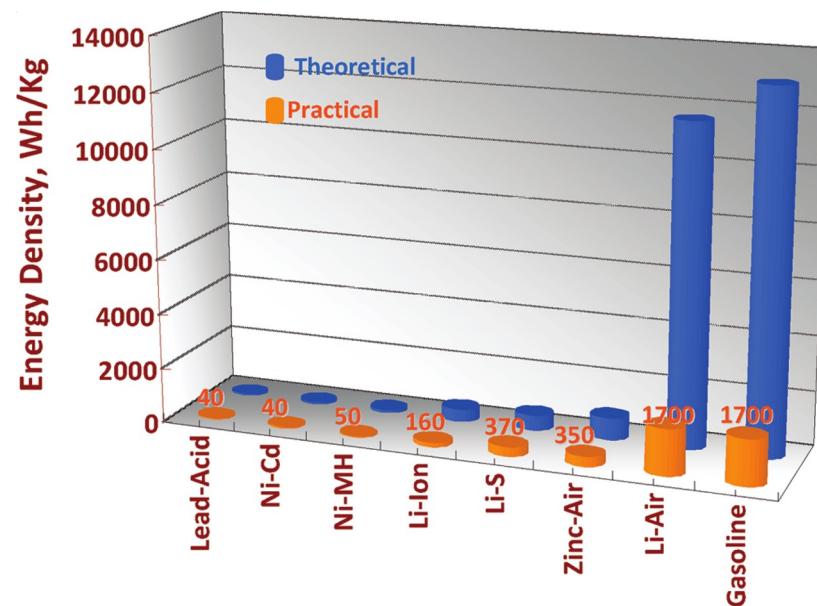
Large overpotentials  
Capacities over 300 mAh/g achieved

Sources:

Scientific Reports 2014, 4 DOI: 10.1038/srep05622 & Chem. Rev. 2014, 114 (23), 11683–11720 DOI: 10.1021/cr500049y  
& ACS Energy Lett. 2016, 1 (1), 297–301 DOI: 10.1021/acsenergylett.6b00145.

# Metal-Air Cells

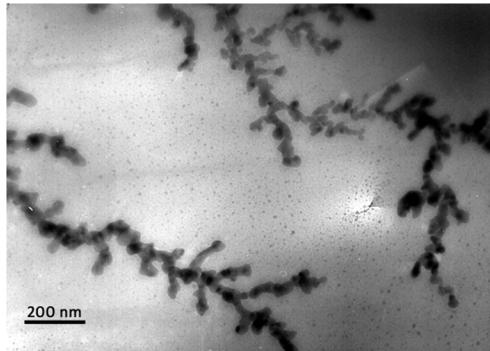
- The Li-Air battery utilizes the oxygen in ambient air, (largely) omitting heavy transition metals used in Li-ion batteries
- Reversible charge storage chemistry relying on the reversibility of lithium peroxide ( $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$ )
- Results in a potentially significant increase energy density



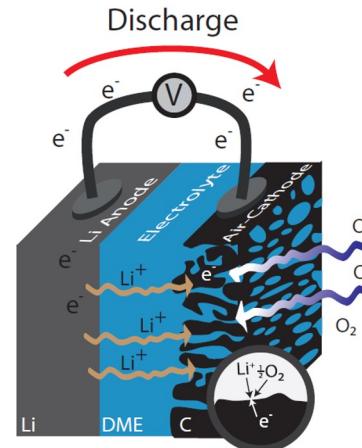
## Sources:

- K. M. Abraham, Z. Jiang; *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 143, 1 (1996).
- G. Girishkumar, B. McCloskey, A. C. Luntz, S. Swanson, and W. Wilcke, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, 1, 2193–2203 (2010).

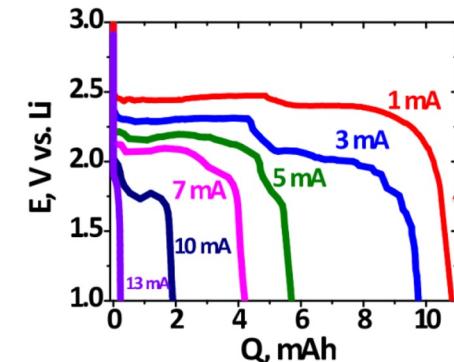
# Li-Air Cells – Main Challenges



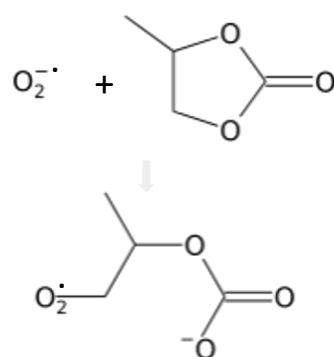
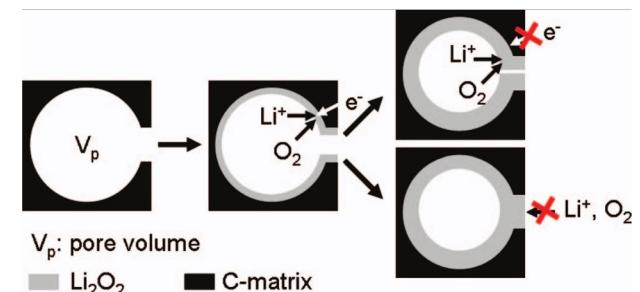
Dendrite formation



Poor rate capability

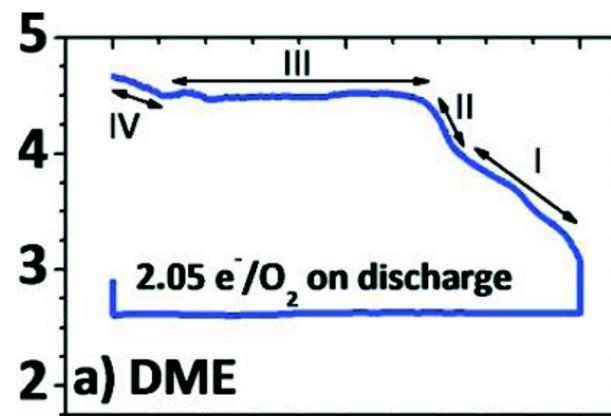


Poor electronic conductivity of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$



Solvent Stability

*J. Phys. Chem. A*, 115, 12399–12409 (2011)



High Overpotentials

*J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, 2, 1161–1166 (2011).

Limited Capacity

*J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 159, R1 (2012)

# From e-mobility to Grid-Scale Storage

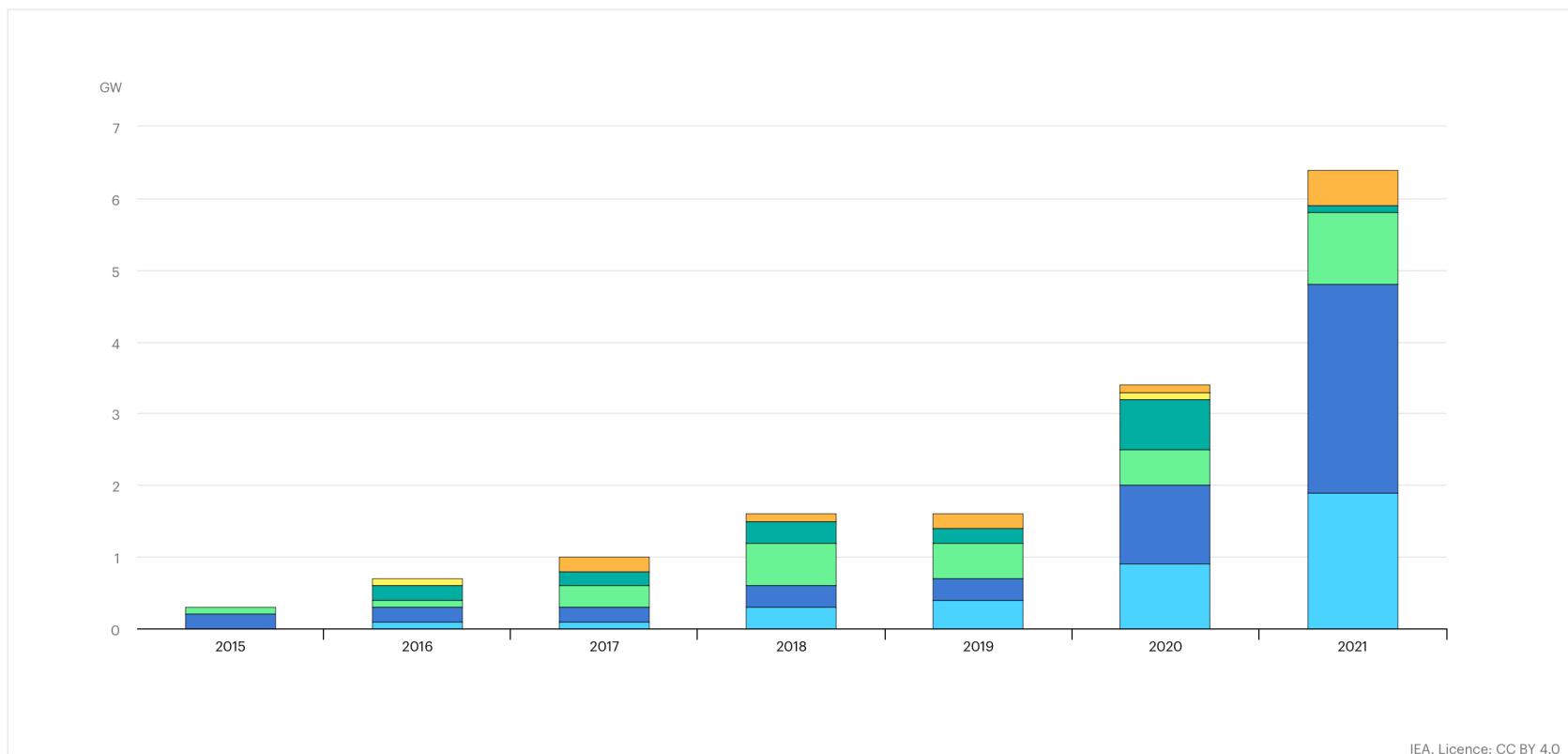
- Li-ion batteries hold potential for household storage, as well as short-term, grid-scale storage (100MW/129MWh)
- Stationary/grid-scale storage opens for alternative battery concepts and technologies



Tesla Energy – Powerwall 2 og Tesla's Hornsdale batteriinstallasjon (2017)

# Annual new grid-installations (batteries)

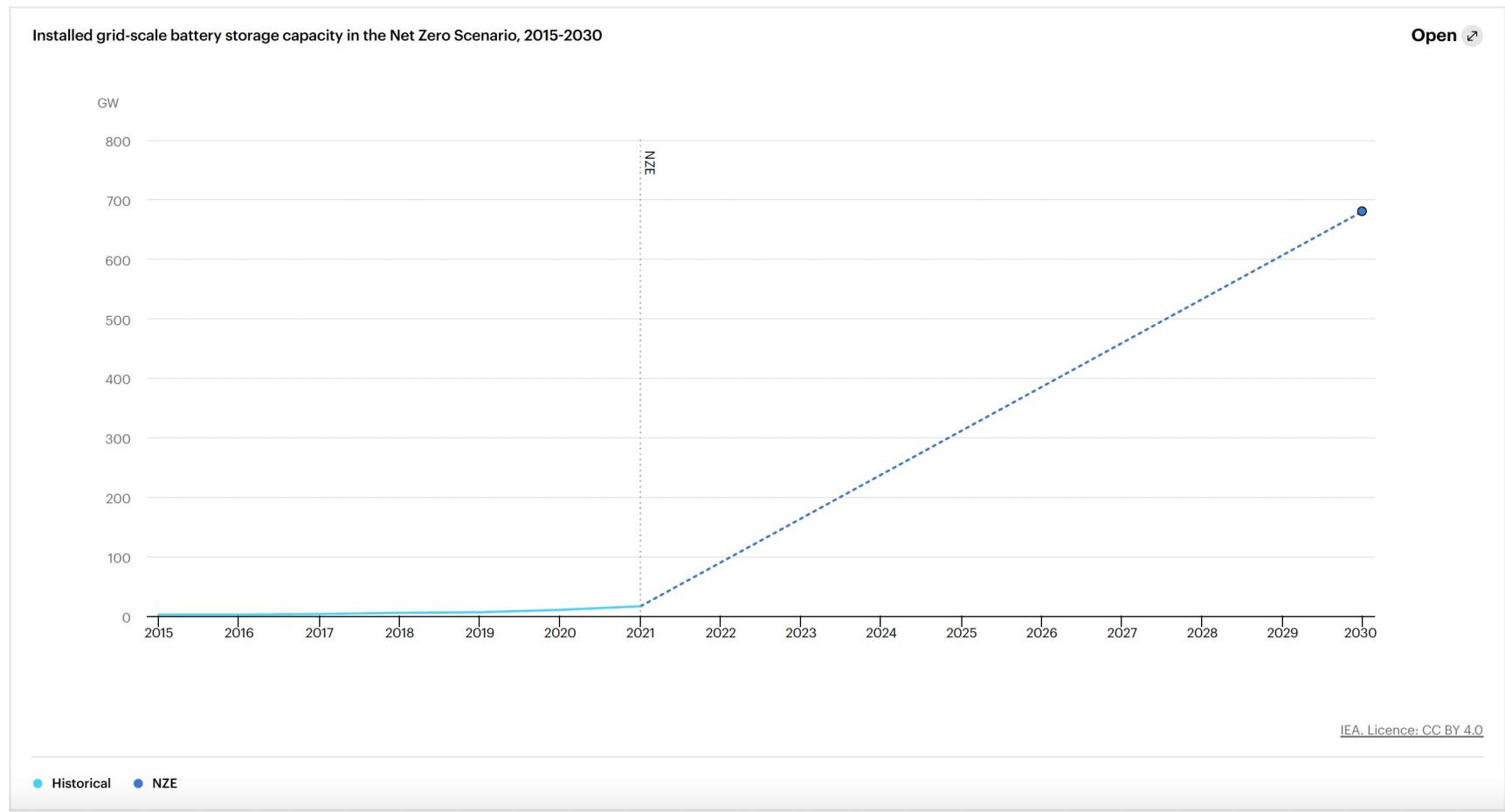
- Still small compared to the transportation sector, but growing faster

[Download chart ↓](#)[Cite](#) [Share](#)

IEA Grid-Scale Storage (2022)

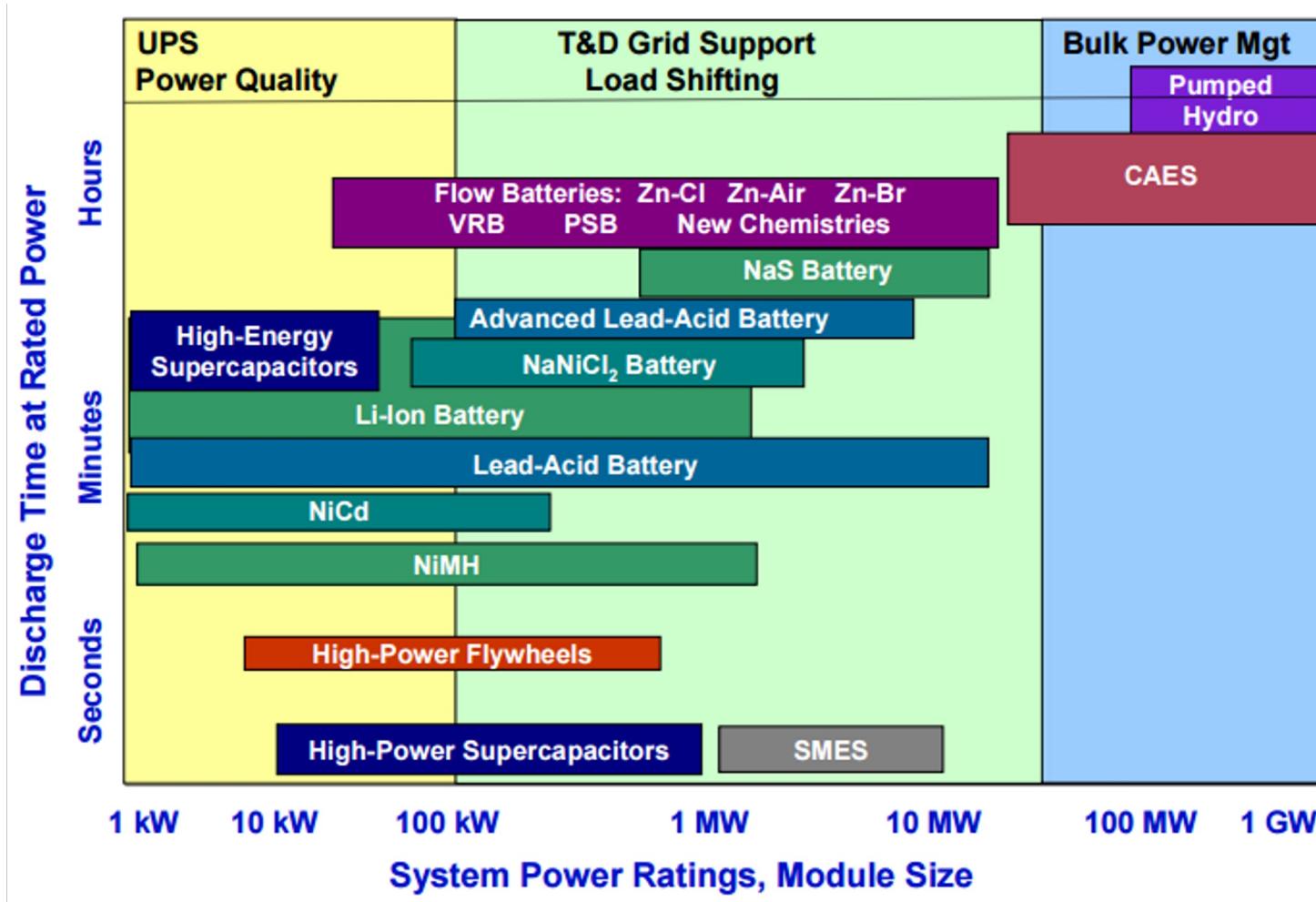
# Annual new grid-installations (batteries)

- Installed battery capacity need in the Net Zero Scenario



IEA Grid-Scale Storage (2022)

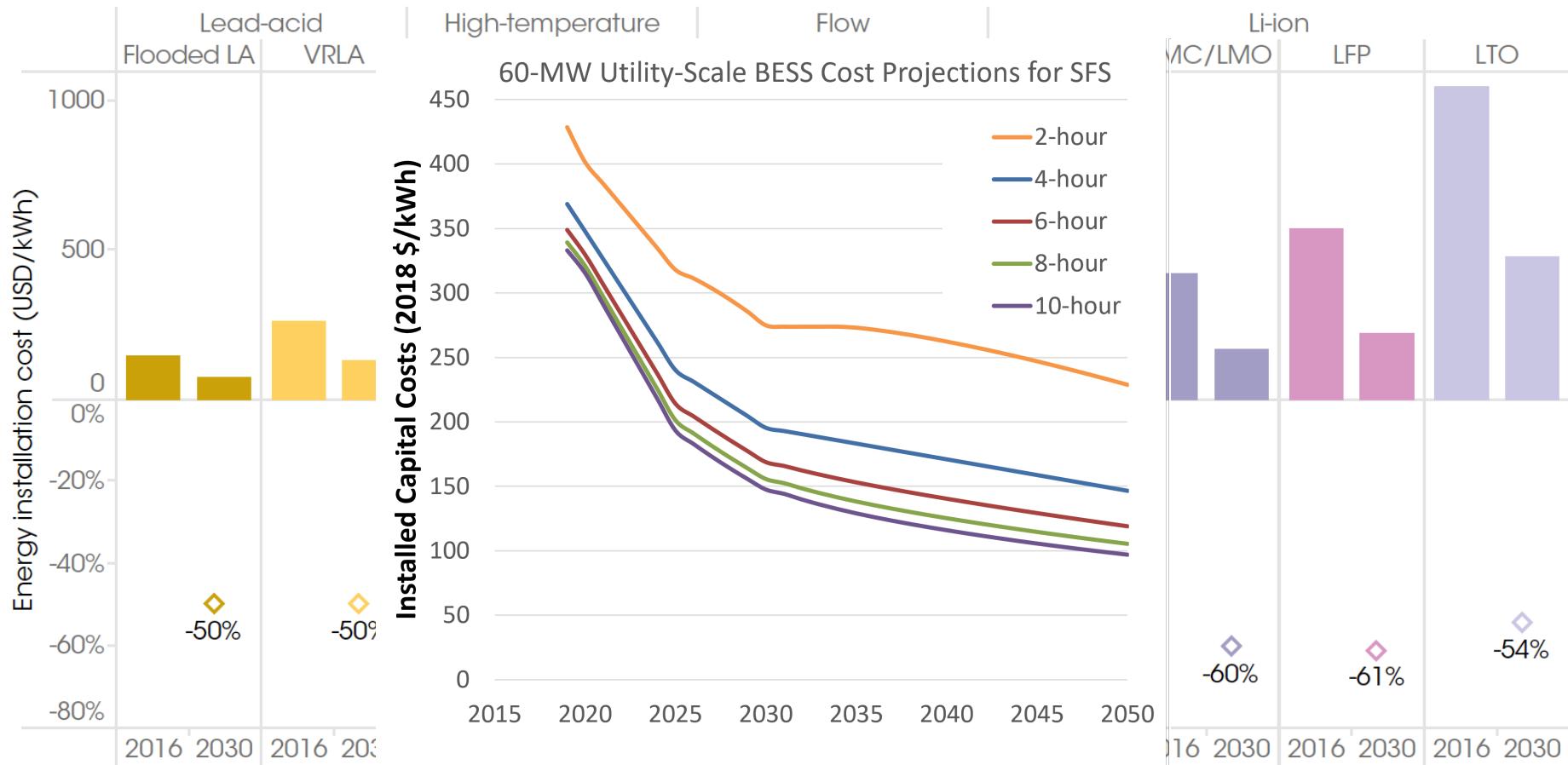
# Energy Storage Technologies - Overview



Source: DOE/EPRI 2013 Electricity Storage Handbook in Collaboration with NRECA, SAND2013-5131

# Installed cost

Figure ES6: Battery electricity storage system installed energy cost reduction potential, 2016-2030

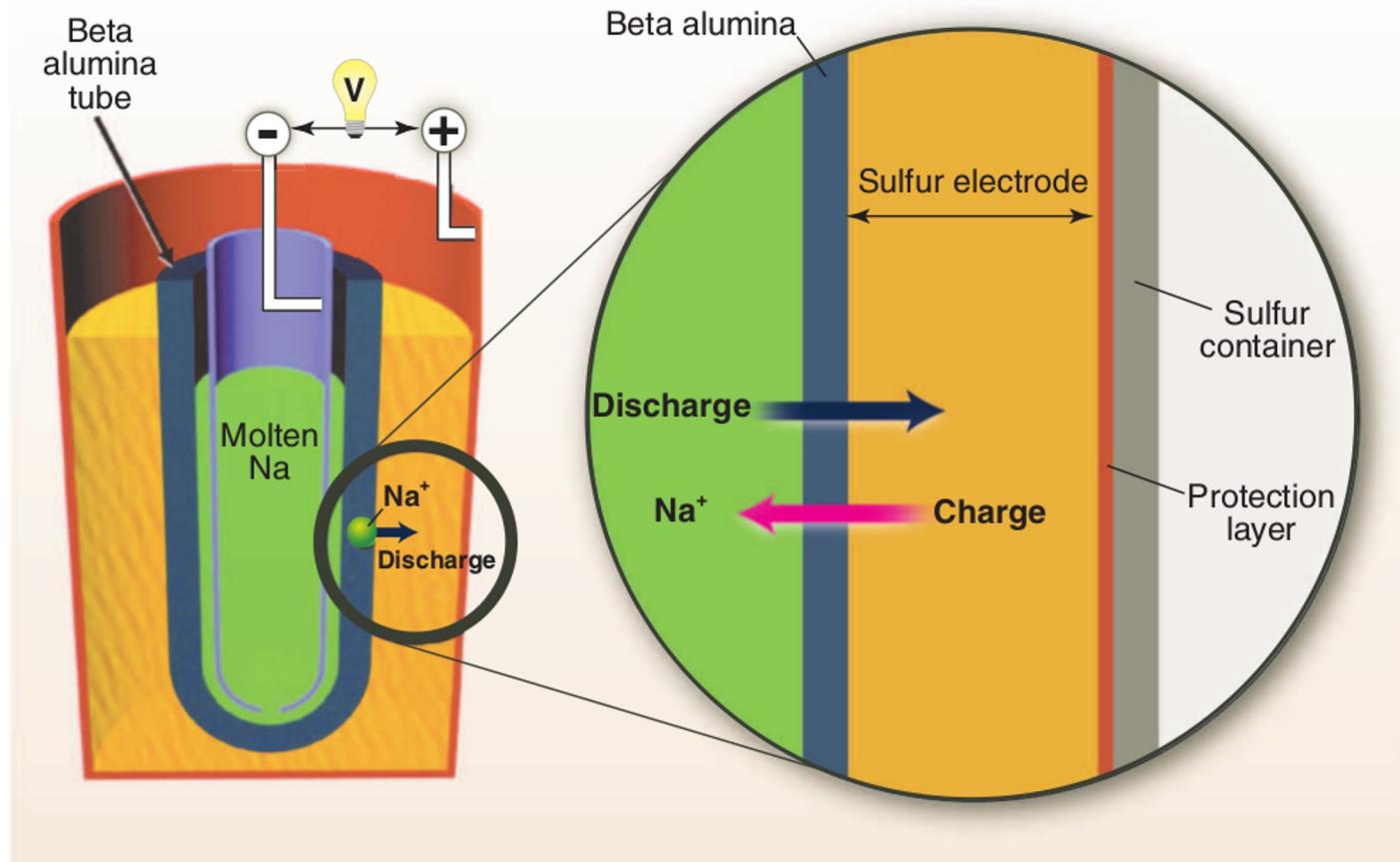


Note: LA = lead-acid; VRLA = valve-regulated lead-acid; NaS = sodium sulphur; NaNiCl = sodium nickel chloride; VRFB = vanadium redox flow battery; ZBFB = zinc bromine flow battery; NCA = nickel cobalt aluminium; NMC/LMO = nickel manganese cobalt oxide/lithium manganese oxide; LFP = lithium iron phosphate; LTO = lithium titanate.

IRENA, Electricity Storage and Renewables: Costs and Markets to 2030 (2017)  
NREL Storage Futures Study (2022)

# Metal-Sulfur Batteries

A high temperature battery ( $T_{\text{operation}} = 200\text{-}300\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) employing a solid Na-ion conducting electrolyte and the very low cost (and highly abundant) materials sodium and sulfur.



Source: Dunn et al; Electrical Energy Storage for the Grid: A Battery of Choices.  
Science 2011, 334 (6058), 928–935 DOI: 10.1126/science.1212741.

# Sodium – Sulfur (Na-S) Battery Installations



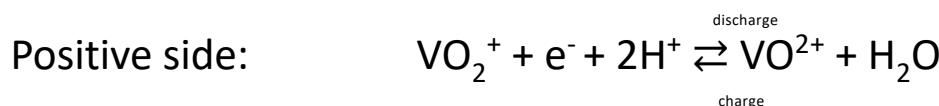
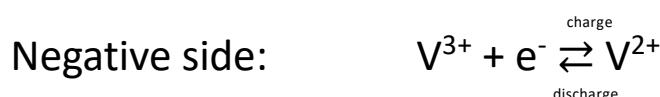
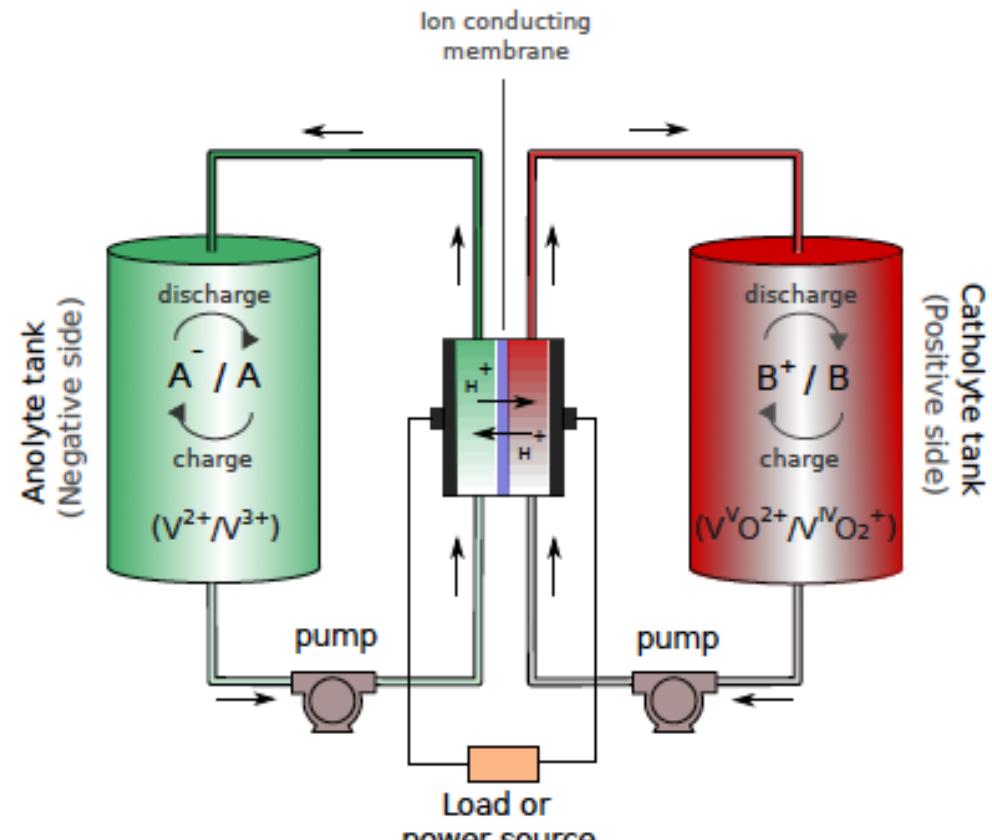
Image: NGK, Buzen installation, 50 MW, 300 MWh (6 hours storage)

Initial report on fire at 2MW installation at Tsukuba Plant : <http://www.ngk.co.jp/english/news/2011/0922.html>

Report on cause of fire and resumed operation: <http://www.ngk.co.jp/english/news/2012/0607.html>

# Flow Batteries for Energy Storage

- Flow batteries have independently scalable Energy and Power ratings:
- Storing **more energy** simply requires bigger electrolyte tanks
- Increasing the **power** is done by increasing the electrode area
- Thus, the Energy / Power ratio is a design parameter: it can be tuned to the application!
- Fast response times
- Can be used for most energy services (sub-second → hours → days)

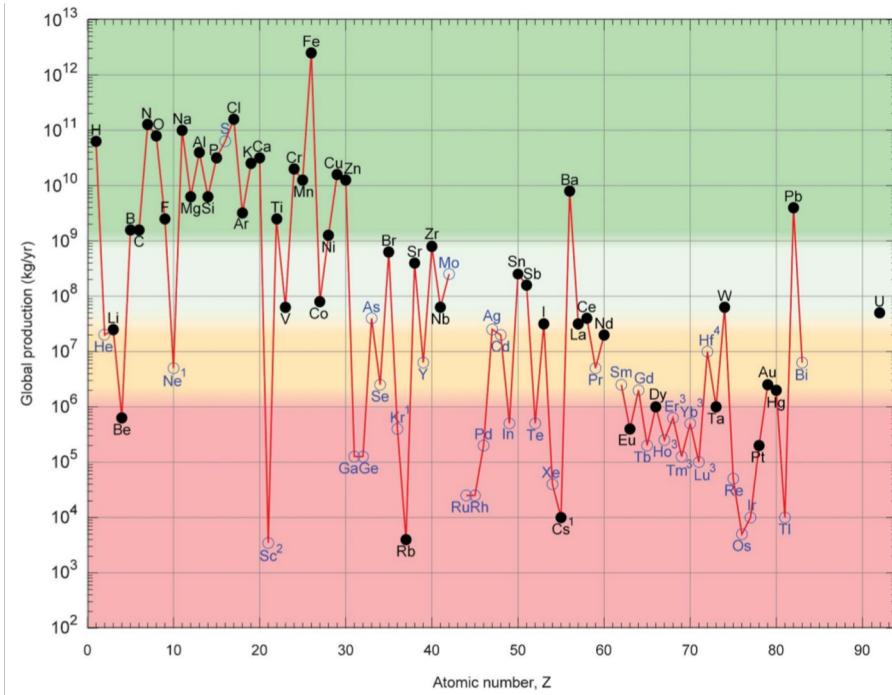
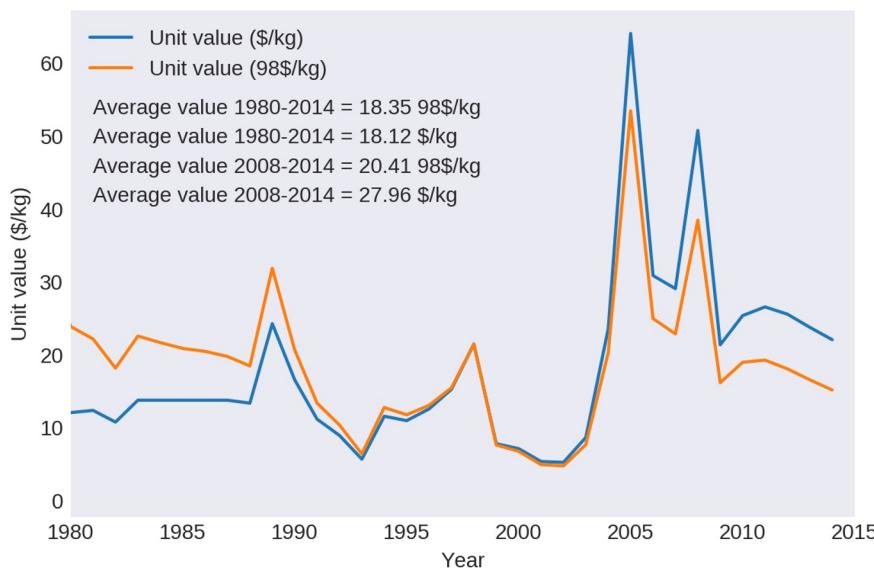


# Main Flow Battery Chemistries

System	Reactions	$E_{cell}^{\circ}$	Electrolyte
<b>Redox</b>			Anode/Cathode
All Vanadium <sup>3</sup>	Anode: $V^{2+} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} V^{3+} + e^-$ Cathode: $VO_2^+ + e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} VO^{2+}$	1.4 V	$H_2SO_4/H_2SO_4$
Vanadium-Polyhalide <sup>5</sup>	Anode: $V^{2+} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} V^{3+} + e^-$ Cathode: $\frac{1}{2} Br_2 + e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} Br^-$	1.3 V	$VCl_3-HCl/NaBr-HCl$
Bromine-Polysulfide <sup>6</sup>	Anode: $2 S_2^{2-} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} S_4^{2-} + 2e^-$ Cathode: $Br_2 + 2e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} 2 Br^-$	1.5 V	$NaS_2/NaBr$
Iron-Chromium <sup>7</sup>	Anode: $Fe^{2+} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} Fe^{3+} + e^-$ Cathode: $Cr^{3+} + e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} Cr^{2+}$	1.2 V	$HCl/HCl$
$H_2-Br_2$ <sup>8</sup>	Anode: $H_2 \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} 2H^+ + 2e^-$ Cathode: $Br_2 + 2e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} 2Br^-$	1.1 V	PEM*-HBr
<b>Hybrid</b>			
Zinc-Bromine	Anode: $Zn \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} Zn^{2+} + 2e^-$ Cathode: $Br_2 + 2e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} 2Br^-$	1.8 V	$ZnBr_2/ZnBr_2$
Zinc-Cerium <sup>9</sup>	Anode: $Zn \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} Zn^{2+} + 2e^-$ Cathode: $2Ce^{4+} + 2e^- \xrightleftharpoons[\text{charge discharge}]{\text{charge discharge}} 2Ce^{3+}$	2.4 V	$CH_3SO_3H$ (both sides)

# The State of Art: Vanadium Flow Batteries

- The most commonly researched and commercialized type of flow battery relies on the use of vanadium ( $V^{II/III}, V^{IV/V}$ ) as the charge storage medium.
- BUT: Vanadium is expensive**, has displayed significant price volatility, and is a limited natural resource!



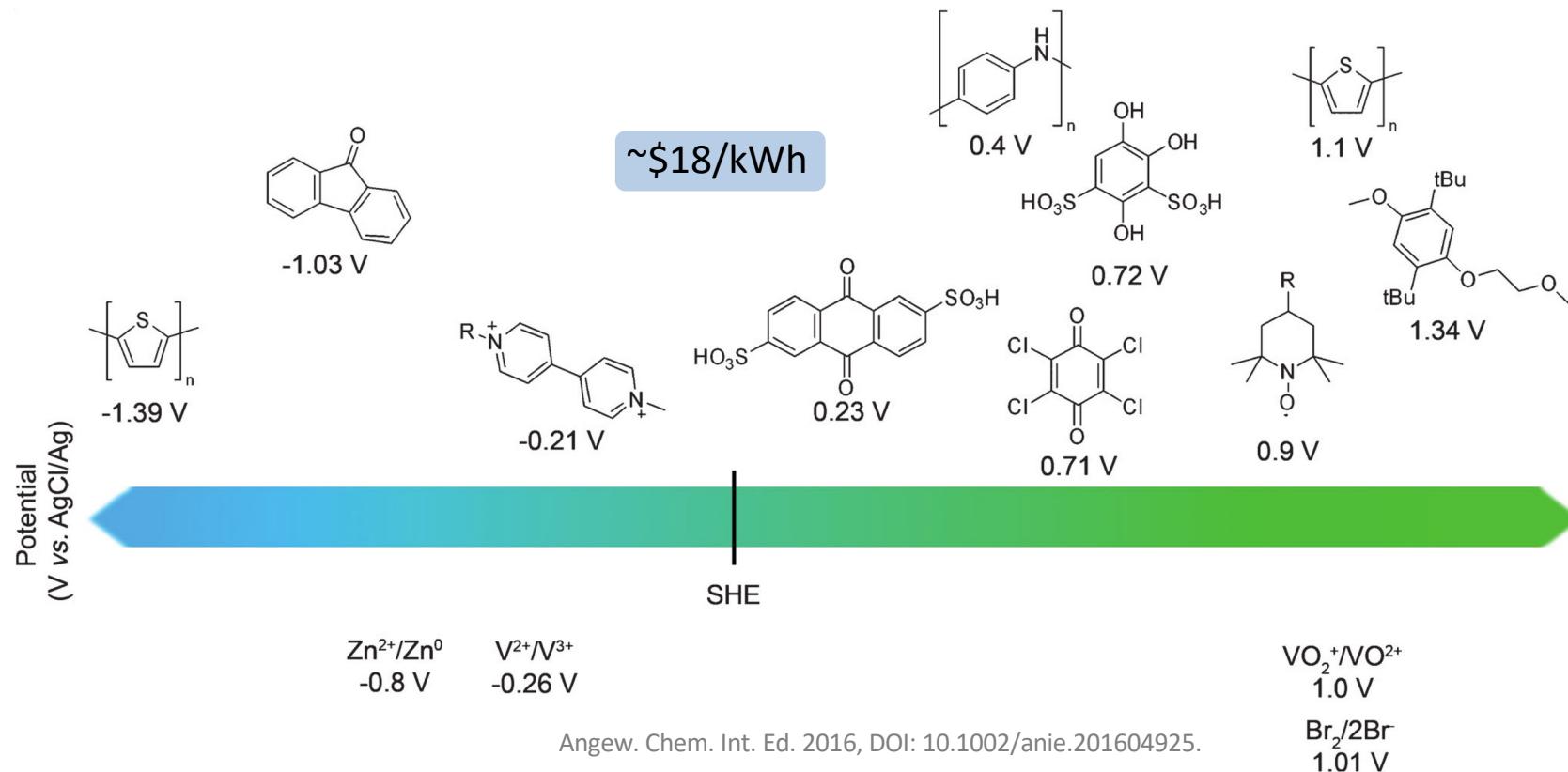
# Vanadium redox flow batteries (VRB)



Dalian, Kina, 100MW/400MWh VRB (2022)

# Organic Flow Batteries

- Interest in Organic Flow Batteries mainly driven by two things:
  - The pursuit of lower cost energy storage solutions (CAPEX < \$100/kWh)
  - Sustainability of truly large scale energy storage (Utilizing only abundant elements)
- Utilizing reversible redox reactions of organic compounds



# Batteries – Summary and Outlook

- Highly efficient (rechargeable) devices for electrochemical energy storage
- Energy/power density, safety/durability and cost remain critical factors
- Battery technologies plays a key role in the international transition to renewable energy, e.g. in the transportation sector and for household and utility/Grids scale storage on short-to-medium time-scales
  - Traditional Li-ion chemistries, e.g. NMC and LFP, will likely continue to dominate over the next +5 years, but NMC-type may ultimately be limited by their scarce metals
  - Alternatives like all solid-state batteries and Na-ion will play an increasing role over the next 5 years
  - A large-scale introduction of batteries for energy storage must rely on more earth-abundant metals and/or organic materials
  - The development of next-generation battery technologies will likely be driven by regions that unite information technology, e.g., Big Data and materials-by-design, car producers and the chemical industry (see [www.big-map.eu](http://www.big-map.eu))