



### Ab initio approaches to understanding, optimizing and discovering energy storage electrode materials

### **Kristin Persson**

### Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## Outline



### How can computations help ?

- What are computable properties?
- Application examples:
  - Rate-limitations in graphite
  - Tuning particle morphology in LiFePO<sub>3</sub>
  - Explaining the hysteresis in LiFeF<sub>3</sub> conversion reactions
- Discovering New Intercalation Cathodes
  - For Li-ion batteries
  - Pellion Technologies: Rechargable Mg batteries
- Towards the Materials Genome

 Accelerated materials discovery for energy storage applications



The equations describing the basic physical interactions of matter are known

$$H\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$P_i = \frac{\exp(-\beta E_i)}{Z}$$





### Quantum mechanics + statistical mechanics



We can predict materials properties from assuming/ knowing where the atoms are....

# Examples: Computable Material's Properties





### **Rate limitations in graphite**

## **Exp facts of Li-graphite**



- At low temperature rate capability of carbon anode deteriorates rapidly
- Li diffusion measurements in graphite span 10<sup>-7</sup> 10<sup>-12</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>/s

Material	RT	T (°C)	Range of x in	Method	Reference
	diffusivity	92. 3258	LixC6 (or		
	(cm <sup>2</sup> /s)		potential vs Li)		
Graphite	10-11	RT	2872	12	From Megraw
Artificial graphite	10 <sup>-9.4</sup> -10 <sup>-7.7</sup>		0.1 < x < 0.95	EIS <sup>(3)</sup>	Takami et al (see Yu et al)
Natural graphite	10 <sup>-9</sup> -10 <sup>-7</sup>		0.1 < x < 0.95	EIS <sup>(3)</sup>	Takami et al
Graphite	10 <sup>-9</sup> -10 <sup>-10</sup>	20		PSCA <sup>(1)</sup>	Zhang et al
Graphite powder	10 <sup>-12</sup> -9.3×10 <sup>-14</sup>	55	0.1 < x < 0.57	PITT	Yu et al
Graphite powder	2.27×10 <sup>-13</sup>	55	x = 0.36	EIS - Warburg	Yu et al
Graphite powder	10 <sup>-10</sup> -6.5×10 <sup>-11</sup>	25	0 < x < 0.35	Modified EIS	Yu et al
Graphite powder	1.12×10 <sup>-10</sup> - 1.35×10 <sup>-10</sup>	25-55	x=0	Modified EIS	Yu et al
Graphitized MCMB	10-10		0.2 -0.05 V	EIS	Chang et al (see NuLi et al)
Graphite	1.2×10 <sup>-10</sup>	30	0.085-0.080 V	PITT	Levi et al
coke petroleum (soft)	10 <sup>-9</sup> -1.8×10 <sup>-8</sup>		0 < x < 0.65	PITT <sup>(2)</sup>	Guyomard and Tarason (see Yu et al)
Coke (soft)	10-9				From Megraw
Carbon fiber (hard)	10 <sup>-12</sup> - 10 <sup>-10</sup>		0 < x < 0.65	CPR <sup>(+)</sup> and PSCA	Uchida et al (see Yu et al)
Carbon fiber pitch-based (hard)	10-11-10-10		0.1 < x < 0.5	EIS	Morita et al (see Yu et al)
Carbon fiber (hard)	10 <sup>-7.7</sup> – 10 <sup>-6.4</sup>	С	0.1 < x < 0.5	EIS	Takami et al (see Yu et al)
Hard carbon	3×10 <sup>-7</sup>	100			Saito et al
Carbon fiber (hard)	10-10		x = 0	Modelin g and CV <sup>(5)</sup>	Verbrugge and Koch (see Yu et al)

Can we find out what the Li mobility in graphite really is using first principles ?

### **Exp facts of Li-graphite**







### Graphite intercalates in stages



### All possible Li-graphite decorations



**c**cccc

Correct staging is obtained by adding vdW to empty layers

### The right Li-C interactions





# Predicting how fast Li moves in graphite





<sup>1</sup> K. Persson, V. A. Sethuraman, L. J. Hardwick, Y. Hinuma, Y. S. Meng, A. van der Ven, V. Srinivasan, R. Kostecki and G. Ceder, J Phys Chem Lett 1176–1180, 2010.

K. Persson, Y. Hinuma, Y. S. Meng, A. Van der Ven<sup>,</sup> and G. Ceder<sup>,</sup> Thermodynamic and Kinetic Properties of the Li – Graphite System from First-Principles Calculations, Physical Review B 82, 125416, 2010.

### Carbon can be super fast!



Computations predicted in-plane Li diffusivity of  $\sim 10^{-7}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s



Charge/discharge 45 nm graphite particle in **0.2 ms**!



Same month experiments published ~1000C rate in single carbon particle



Figure 3. Discharge curves of a single MCMB particle (diameter: 18  $\mu$ m) measured at various currents. Prior to each discharge, the MCMB particle was fully lithiated by charging at a low current of 3 nA.

Dokko et al, J Phys Chem C, 114, 18, 2010

These studies show that 'normal' **low rate** behavior of carbon anodes is **not due to graphite We** may be able to engineer the electrodes to be better!



## **Tuning the particle morphology of LiFePO**<sub>4</sub>

# Motivation: morphology optimization of LiFePO<sub>4</sub>





- LiFePO<sub>4</sub> performance very dependent on particle size and shape
- Morphology dependent on facet growth-rate, strain, temperature etc<sup>1</sup>
- Maximize *ac* facet for optimized Li intercalation into particle

Can we understand particle morphology development through firstprinciples calculations and tune it by changing water conditions?

<sup>1</sup>Chen, Song and Richardson, ESSL 9, A295 (2006).

How do we compute particle shape?



How can we study electrode material surfaces and relevant processes with ab initio modeling?



Ability to predict

- Preferred absorbed species on different surface facets
- Stable surface facets in equilibrium with different aqueous environments including dissolution
- Particle morphology as function of aqueous environment

### Water map: Pourbaix diagram



We consider all reactions to be in equilibrium with water







**Stable surface facets are calculated** 

Surface energies with H, O, OH and H<sub>2</sub>O termination for all relevant crystal facets



## **Reducing conditions**



Equilibrium particle shapes can be predicted as function of solution pH, oxygen chemical potential and Li<sup>+</sup> concentration



### **'Normal' Water Conditions**

For  $0 < \mu_0 < -3.1$  shape change is due to Li ions dissolving from the surfaces which affects the surface energies and therefore the shape. Supported by exp<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>K. Dokko, S. Koizumi, H. Nakano, and K. Kanamura, J. Mater. Chem. **17**, 4803 (2007).

### **Compare to Exp**

Increasing the Li concentration enables the same shape particle be synthesized at lower pH

L3-5.1 Πμm pH = 6.5



[Li<sup>+</sup>] = 3 M [Li<sup>+</sup>] = 2 M <sup>1</sup>K. Dokko, S. Koizumi, H. Nakano, and K. Kanamura, J. Mater. Chem. **17**, 4803 (2007).

LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

pH = 5.1





# Explaining the hysteresis in conversion reactions

### Hysteresis in conversion reactions



Conversion reactions: e.g.  $TM-O_x + 2xLi \rightarrow TM_{(nano)} + xLi_2O$ 

All conversion reactions show hysteresis; from 0.3 V (hydrides) to 1.5 V (fluorides):



From Bruce P. et al, AngChem 2006

### **Possible explanations**



To design conversion materials without hysteresis, we need to understand the cause:



<sup>1</sup>Taberna et al, Nat Mat 2008 <sup>2</sup>Bruce AngChem 2006



Different transport properties of the involved chemical species induces different reaction path on conversion and re-conversion ?

If thermodynamic equilibrium  $\longrightarrow$  voltage profile same during charge and discharge



Published in R. E. Doe, K. A. Persson, Y. S. Meng, G. Ceder, Chemistry of Materials, 20, 5274, 2008.





### Consider diffusion during conversion



If Fe diffuses much slower than  $Li^+$ , then maximum reduction in  $Li_xFeF_3$  will occur rather than Fe precipitation.



<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Badway, F.; Cosandey, F.; Pereira, N.; Amatucci, G. G. J. Electrochem. Soc. 2003, 150, A1318, A1209.

## **Kinetics during Oxidization**



### Consider diffusion during re-conversion



# Fe migrates slowly into LiF and Li<sup>+</sup> moves quickly out, so maximum oxidation in $Li_xFeF_3$ will occur.



<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Badway, F.; Cosandey, F.; Pereira, N.; Amatucci, G. G. J. Electrochem. Soc. 2003, 150, A1318, A1209.



### **Discovering New Intercalation Cathodes**





# Can we compute all computable properties for all materials ?





### experimental literature computed



+U is fit to binaries - method is predictive outside its fitted compound



# Structural stability – is the reaction topotactic?









How to compute safety?

- Oxygen release correlates with oxygen chemical potential of cathode



### **Experience agrees with results**



Increasing oxygen chemical potential



## **lonic mobility**



Developed ability to automatically find diffusion paths for Li/Mg/... in structures.



Evaluated thousands of known structures...

LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY



### Organized in Materials Properties Database...

<u>F</u> ile <u>T</u> o	ools									
capacity (	(mah/c¢)			(	apacity (mah/g)			database		
								2		🗳 Composition Phase Diagram of Li-O-P-Ti
e above h	hull (delithiat	ed)			above hull (lithia	ated)		element		File Options Tools Inspector Method Window ?
								Li & Ti & O		missing license, cannot fipd = C1Documents and Settings\anubhavjiDesktop\rsrc\jv-lic.lic
energy de	lensity (wh/kg	g)		i	energy density (w	h/D		entry id		register at www.javaview.ea
								3		
initialfina	alnotes			i	s ordered			number of eler	ments	
								3		
overall st	tability rating			1	structure id			sum formula(n	ormali	P1 TI2 P1 TI3
voltage (a	(avg.)	50								
				6.01	<b>E</b>	<b></b>	NACE IN A			
L	Include AL	L (duplicates, rem	ovals)	GOI	Export cirs	Export results	VASP inputs	Analysis	FIIte	
511 entri	ries match									1212 63 A (2017) 2211 12 23 8 2 7 13
su	um formula	voltage (avg.)	capacity (r	mah/g)	e above hull (lithi	e above hull (deli.	valence text diff	valence text diff	coordi	A CONTRACTOR
Li7 O	024 Ti11	2.6954207400	83.688732	2410	00	0.0490699288	Ti:3+Ti:3+	Ti: 4+Ti: 4+	0:4.53	2201
Li4 O	08 Ti4	2.654583785	308.21958	3136	000	0.34574246	Ti:3+Ti:3+	Ti:4+Ti:3.50	0:5.86	
Li2 O	04 Ti2	1.605799815	308.21958	3136	0.0041093487	0.0016269349	Ti:3+nullnull	Ti:4+nullnull	0:5.89	
Li7 O	012 Ti5	2.6956740533	167.25190	)943	0.0066086702	0.1703648421	Ti:3+Ti:3+	Ti:4+Ti:4+	0:5.98	
Li2 O	04 Ti2	1.593053745	308.21958	3136	0.0071577175	0.0014427366	Ti:3+	Ti: 4+	0:5.88	1.42/1

### Collaboration with MIT: Made possible by Gillette (P&G), Bosch and Umicore and BATT

Structure 228104 - Li2 04 Ti2	0.1330340010 11.3.304	Ctrl-Click to (de)selec	t elements (note that	t commonly used Li, P	and O are preselected	by default)	
Instructions	0.1554955291 Ti:3.50+						Creat Care Orthogo
P1 Rotate: Click (hold) & Drag Mouse	0.1555759566 Ti:3.50+	AA : Generic cation A	Cm : Curium	Hg : Mercury	Np : Neptunium	Sm : Samarium	Grand Can. Options
a=4.091Å Rotate about extra axis: Shift+Right click+Drag (hold all)	0 155499395 Ti 3 50+	AC: ACUNIUM	Co: Cobalt	Ho : Holmium	O: Oxygen	Sn : Tin	Crand Canonical
b=5.1254 Zoom: Hold Shift, move Mouse up & down	0 1555906422 TH2 501	Ag: Silver	Cr : Chronnum	I: Iouine	D : Dheenherus	SI : Su onuum	V Grand Canonical
c=4.091A Measure distance: double-click points	0.1555896455 11.5.50+	An : Anonicium	Cu: Coppor	In : Indium	P : Phosphorus	Ta : Tantalum	Projected Element
Beoor Participation and Contract and Contrac	0.155482845 Ti:3.50+	Arr: Argon	D : Doutorium	K : Dotaccium	Pa. Protacumum	To : Technotium	
-113.5	0.0582667381 Ti:3.33+	As : Arsonic	DD: Generic cation [	D Kr · Krynton	Pd · Dalladium	Te : Tellurium	O:Oxygen
	0 1552515066 Ti 3 54+	At · Astatino	Dv · Dvsprosium	La:Lanthanum	Pro . Promethium	Th: Thorium	
	0 1551069414 Ti:2 54	Au : Gold	EF : Generic cation F	E Li:Lithium	Po : Polonium	Ti : Titanium	μ-
	0.1331908414 11.5.34+	B : Boron	Er : Frbium	Lr:Lawrencium	Pr : Praseodymium	TI : Thallium	Temperature = 300
	0.1553904775 11:3.57+	BB : Generic cation B	Es : Einsteinium	Lu: Lutetium	Pt : Platinum	Tm : Thulium	
	0.1553038264 Ti:3.63+	Ba : Barium	Eu : Europium	M : Generic cation M	Pu: Plutonium	U : Uranium	1 1 1 1
	0 5503116983 Ti 3+1	Be : Beryllium	F : Fluorine	Md : Mendelevium	Ra: Radium	V : Vanadium	0 500 1000 1500 2000
ChangeTheWorld Imol	0.0004872116 Ti:2 Ti:	Bi : Bismuth	FF : Generic cation F	Mg : Magnesium	Rb: Rubidium	W : Tungsten	Part Pres (atm) 1
	0.0004875110 11.5+ 11.	Bk : Berkelium	Fe : Iron	Mn : Manganese	Re: Rhenium	X : Generic anion X	
viewer size polyhedra translucency view polyhedra supercell	0.1349100099 11:3+	Br : Bromine	Fm : Fermium	Mo: Molybdenum	Rh: Rhodium	XX : Generic anion XX	Reducing Agent None
BASIC DR PROPERTIES	0.0457703283 Ti:3+	C : Carbon	Fr: Francium	N : Nitrogen	Rn: Radon	Xe: Xenon	
and formula: U2.04 Ti2	0.0478228155 Ti:3+	CC : Generic cation C	Ga : Gallium	Na : Sodium	Ru: Ruthenium	Y : Yttrium	Crit. µ list
sum formula.		Ca: Calcium	Gd: Gadolinium	Nb : Niobium	S : Sulfur	YY: Generic anion YY	
		Cd : Cadmium	Ge : Germanium	Nd : Neodymium	Sb : Antimony	Yb : Ytterbium	Entry Onthese
entry Id: 180849		Ce : Cerium	H: Hydrogen	Ne : Neon	Sc: Scandium	ZZ: Generic anion ZZ	Entry Options
entry physicallocation: disorderedNew3/3/Li1_02_li1/vasprun.xml.relax2.c		Cf : Californium	He : Helium	Ni: Nickel	Se : Selenium	Zn : Zinc	ICSD only
db key: 20090120205645LiOTi-59.9770246-VASP		CI : Chlorine	Hf : Hafnium	No: Nobelium	Si : Silicon	Zr: Zirconium	
EXTENDED VASP INFORMATION						0	Col Down of
final energy: -59.9770246		Make PD R	Reset Data Re	dox Analysis	nase Stability Range	Compare PDs	Get Report
final energy per atom: -7.497128075					0%		40
initialfinalnotes: final	•	L					40
	]	Ready					

# Three cathode materials discovered using high-throughput DFT



Chemistry	Novelty	Energy density vs. LiFePO <sub>4</sub>	% of theoretical capacity achieved in the lab to date
LiMnBO <sub>3</sub>	Compound known (new electrochem.)	50% greater	~45%
Li <sub>3</sub> M(PO <sub>4</sub> )(CO <sub>3</sub> ) M=Fe, Mn,	New	40% greater	~45%
Li <sub>9</sub> V <sub>3</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	New	20% greater	~65%

All three systems synthesized in Ceder group at MIT during the last 18 months

### Alternate crystal structure of LiMnBO<sub>3</sub> exhibits good performance









# Previously unknown lithium metal carbonophosphates as cathodes





# New polyanion material exhibits good electrochemical performance



Chemistry	Novelty	Energy density vs. LiFePO <sub>4</sub>	% of theoretical capacity achieved in the lab to date
Li <sub>9</sub> V <sub>3</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	New	20% greater	~65%



Courtesy of Jain, Ceder (in submission)



large (~20 micron) particle size needs to be reduced



### Pellion Technologies: Rechargeable Mg intercalation batteries

# Why Mg?

CAPACITY: Mg is divalent (Mg<sup>2+</sup>) thereby displace double the charge per ion compared to Li<sup>+.</sup> 3x in volumetric energy, 2x in gravimetric
 ANODE: Mg metal can be used as anode (2300 mAh/g)
 ELECTROLYTES have been developed for stable Mg deposition (Aurbach : > 2000 cycles)
 COST: Mg is much less expensive than Li
 RESOURCE SUPPLY: Mg is 8<sup>th</sup> most abundant element in Earth's crust. Has variety of sources.



Need a high-energy cathode that works with electrolyte and anode



### **Mg Cathode Computational Screening**





Mg Voltage and Capacity of ≈ 9,600 compounds computed

Accurate diffusion barriers demonstrate fast Mg kinetics for some materials

### **Computations – Experiments in sync**





Computationally screened 9600 compounds

Successfully synthesized 15 different candidate cathode compounds (> 100 samples)

Cathodes currently under electrochemical testing...



### **Towards a Materials Genome**

### www.materialsgenome.org alpha version is online!





## **Current Apps – More Coming**









Materials Explorer search the database



### **Leveraging the Information Age**



**rrrr**r



### ....Towards a Materials Genome



### **Computing all properties of all inorganic materials**

#### ΜΙΤ

Gerbrand Ceder Anubhav Jain Shyue Ping Ong Geoffroy Hautier

### LBNL NERSC

Kathy Yelick David Skinner Shreyas Cholia Daniel Gunter Annette Greiner



LBNL EETD Kristin Persson Michael Kocher

### LBNL CRD

Juan Meza David Bailey Alex Kaiser Maciej Haranczyk



### **The End**