

Electrode Materials for Na-ion batteries

Philipp Adelhelm and team

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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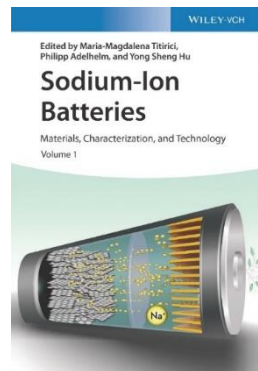


HZB Helmholtz
Zentrum Berlin

POLiS Seminar Series, July 24 2024 (online)

Group activities

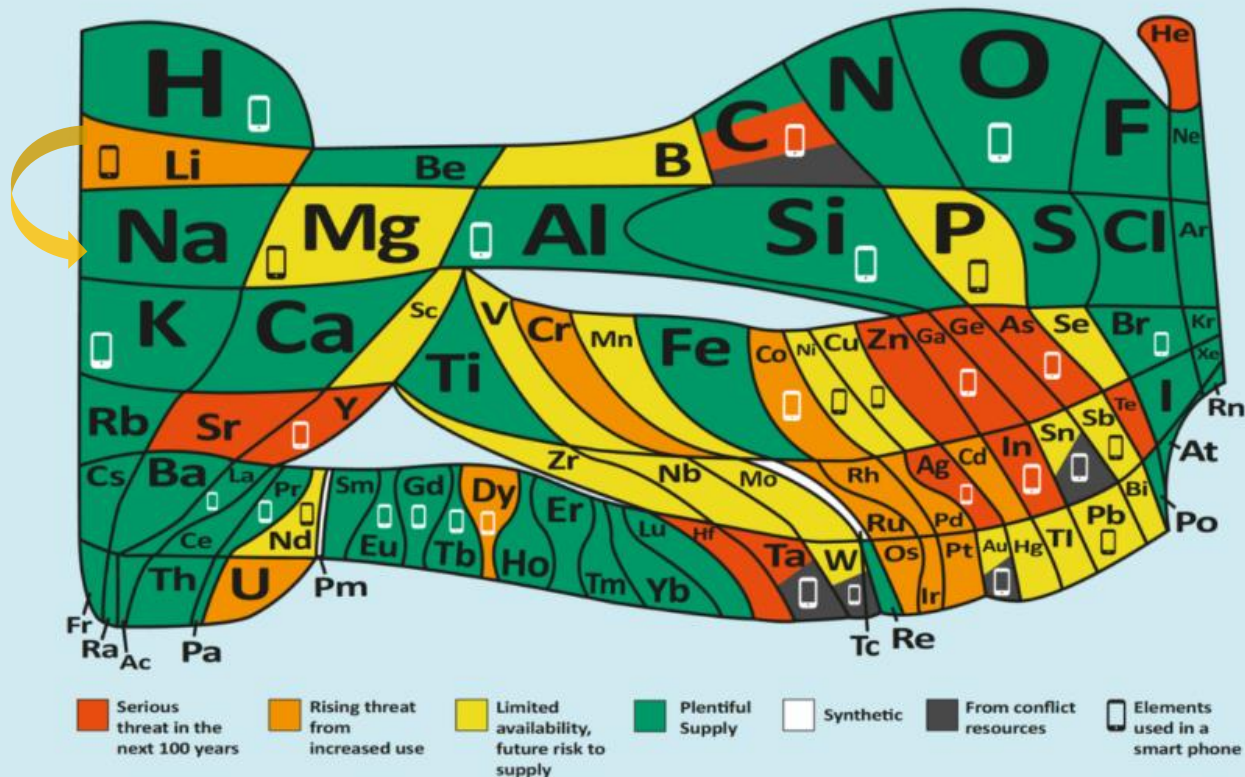
- Studies on Na-ion batteries since 2010
- Currently about 30 group members, most of them working on „Na-ion“ (liquid & SSB)
- Junior BMBF research group: Gustav Graeber
- Inorganic materials (oxides, sulfur & sulfides, carbons, metals, Prussian Blue/White)
- Operando methods



The 90 natural elements that make up everything

How much is there? Is that enough? Is it sustainable?

Ion size
+ 30%
good or bad?



Read Support Notes and play the video game <http://bit.ly/euchems-pt>

Today's menu

Layered materials:

- Layered oxides and sulfides
- Graphite

Metals

- Na and Sn

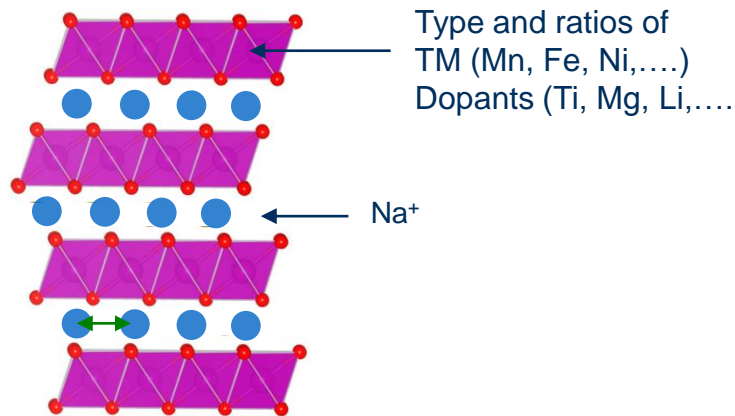
Conversion materials

- CuS – a unique electrode materials studied with tomography

Layered Materials

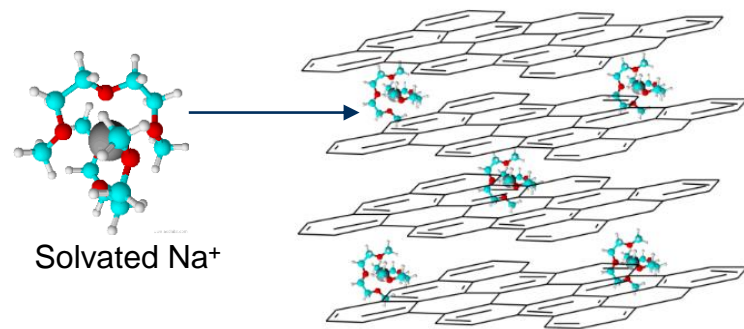
Strategies for tuning the properties of layered materials in Na-ion (and Li-ion) batteries

Tuning properties through adjusting transition metals and dopants



1) $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.67}]\text{O}_2$ doped with Mg, Sc

Tuning properties through solvent co-intercalation

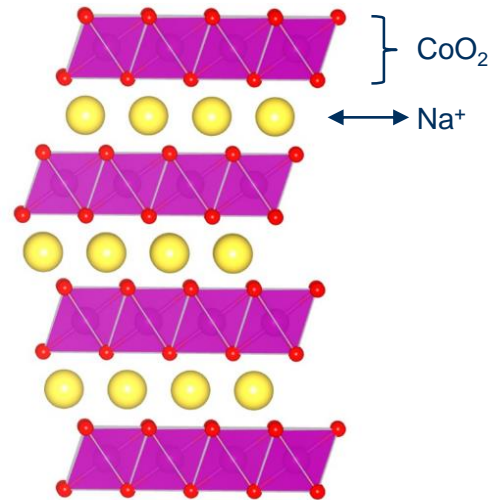
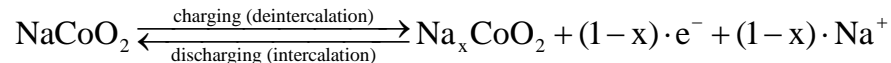
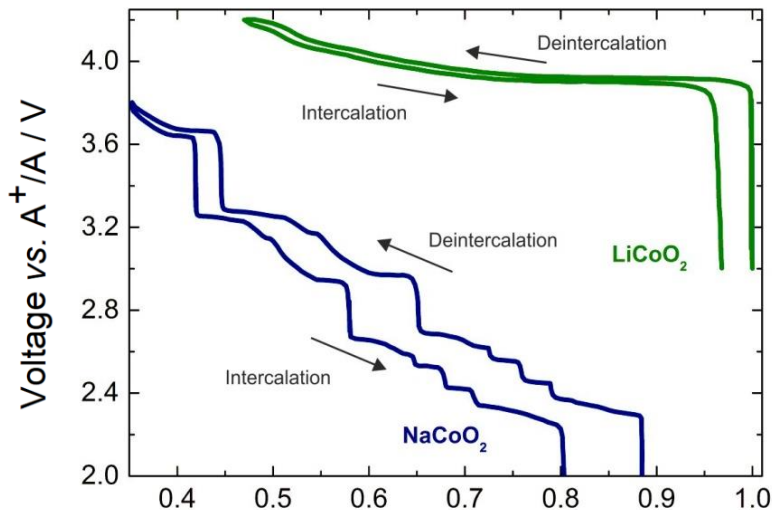


2) New model for solvent co-intercalation

3) Apply solvent co-intercalation to cathode materials

Cathode materials – Layered materials

„LiCoO₂ vs. NaCoO₂“



P. K. Nayak, L. Yang, W. Brehm, P. Adelhelm, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2018** x in A_xCoO₂

- Removing Na from layered oxides strongly depends on the SOC while the effect is much smaller for Li.
- Obviously the same materials behave quite different for Li and Na

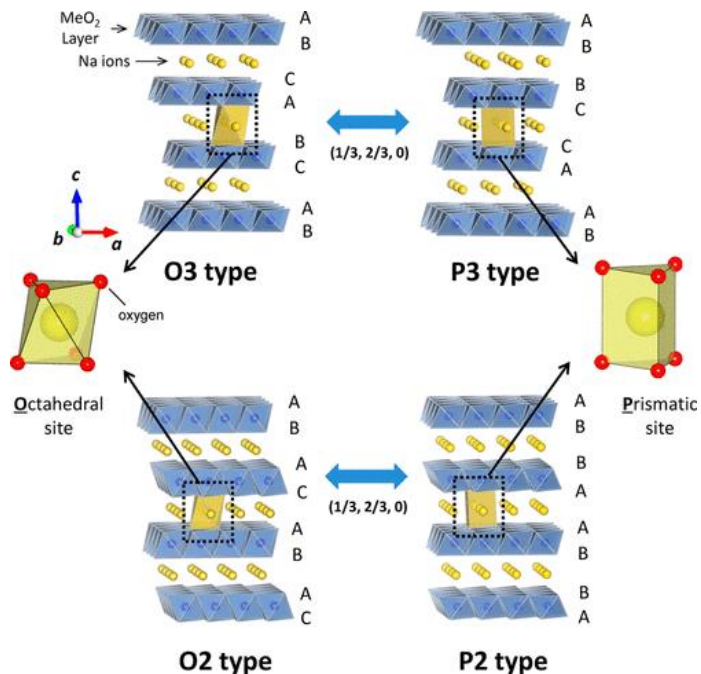
→ Why more complexity in case of sodium? Why is there a more diverse chemistry?

Layered oxides and tuning their properties

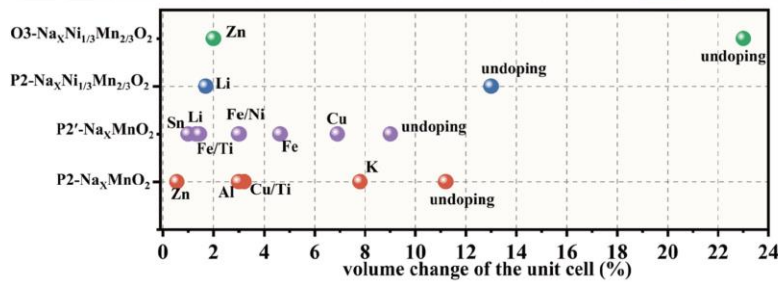
Na layered oxides with **one TM**, i.e. NaTMO_2



Na layered oxides with **several transition metals** $\text{Na}[\text{TM}_1\text{TM}_2\text{TM}_3, \dots]\text{O}_2$ and **other substitutional elements** like Li^+ , Mg^{2+}, \dots

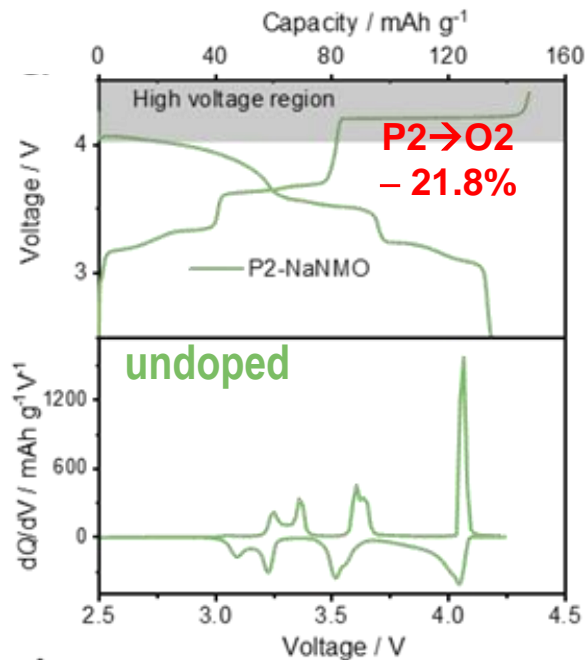


1 IA													2 IIA										3 IIIB										4 IVB										5 VB										6 VIB										7 VIIB										8 VIII										9 VIII										10 VIII										11 IB										12 IIB										13 IIIA										14 IVA										15 VA										16 VIA										17 VIIA										18 VIIIA									
1 H Hydrogen													2 Li Lithium										3 Na Sodium										4 K Potassium										5 Rb Rubidium										6 Cs Cesium										7 Fr Francium										8 He Helium										9 Ne Neon										10 Ar Argon										11 Kr Krypton										12 Xe Xenon										13 Rn Radon																																																											



Jiang (2023) doi:10.1007/s40843-023-2617-5

Example: P2- $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.67}]\text{O}_2$ doped with Mg or Sc



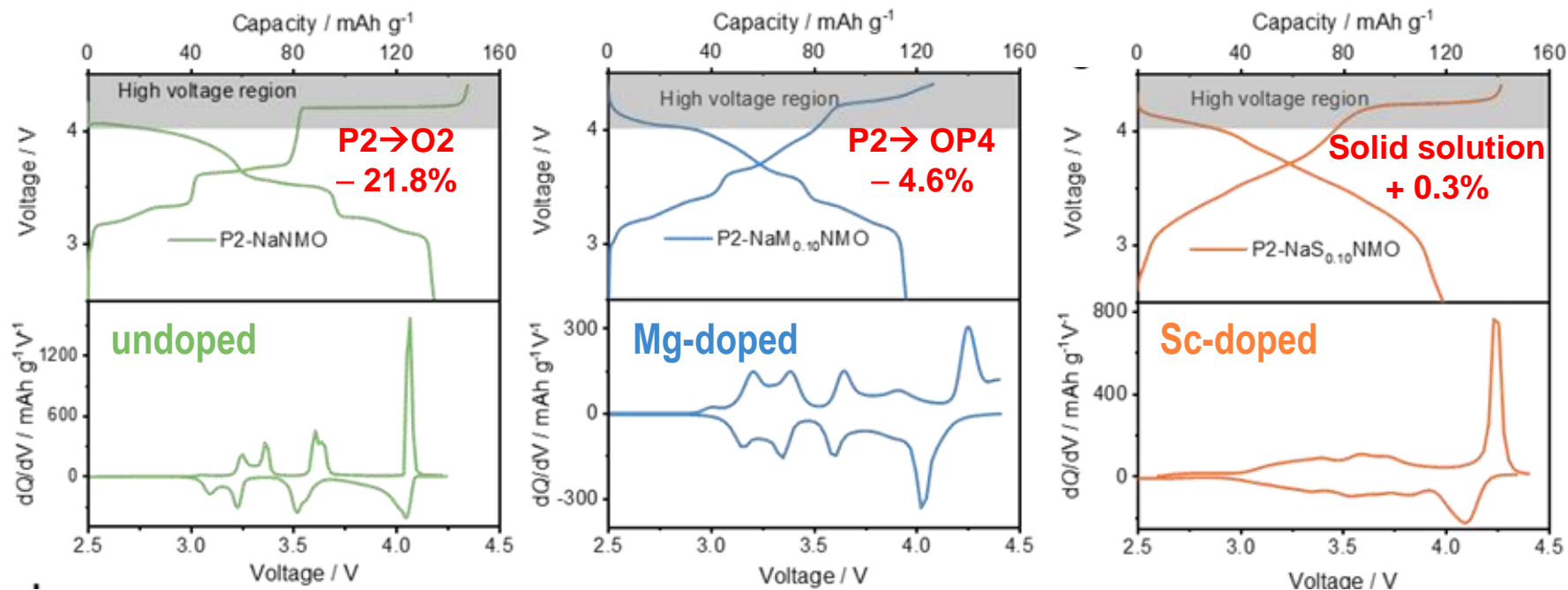
Isovalent substitution of Ni^{2+} by Mg^{2+}
(similar radii, similar size)

Aliovalent substitution of Ni^{2+} by Sc^{3+}
(similar radii, but different charges
→ requires charge compensation)

Capacity ↓ **Stability** ↑ **O-redox** ?

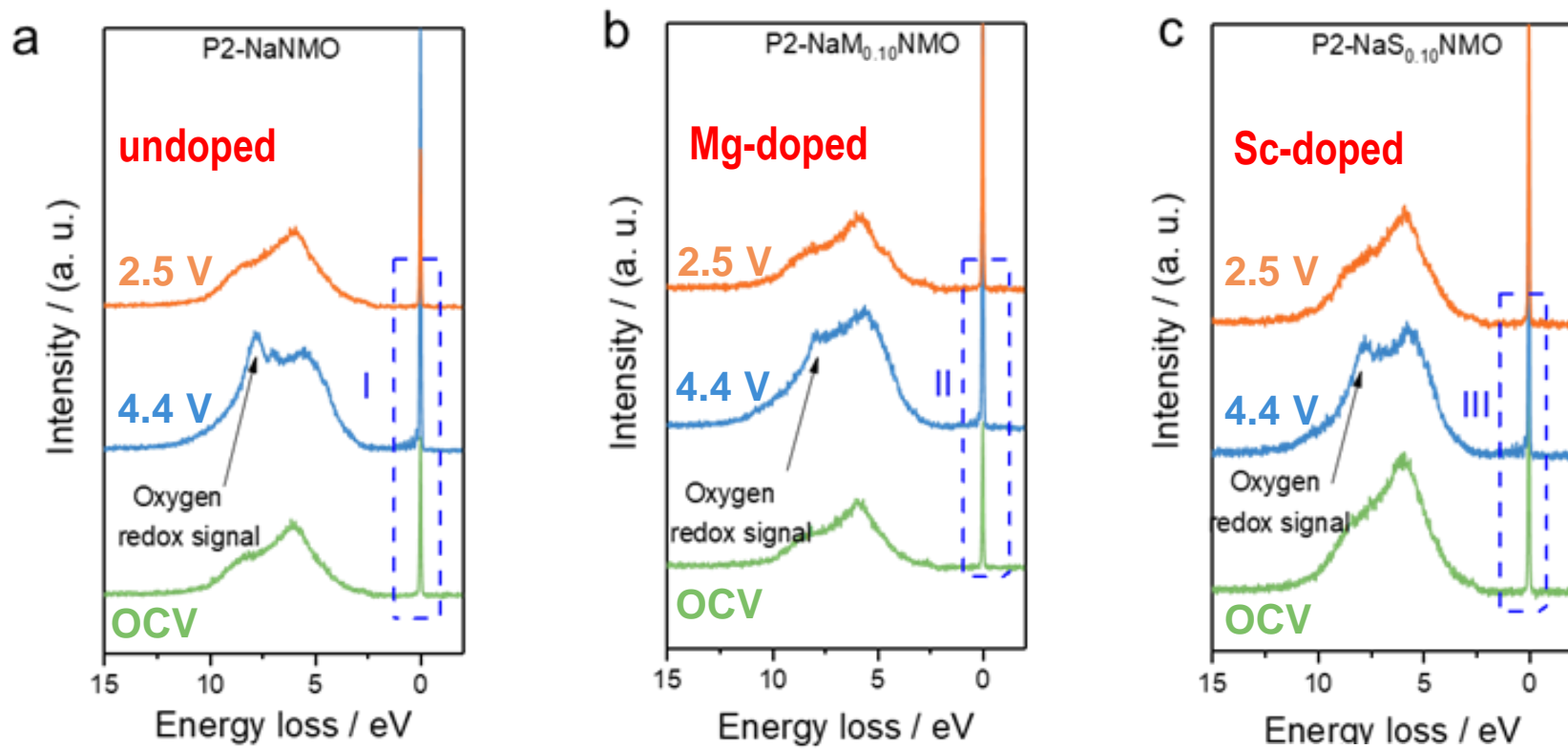
High voltage region: Phase transition causes strong decrease in interlayer spacing

Example: P2- $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.67}]\text{O}_2$ doped with Mg or Sc



Sc doping: Most effective for smoothening the voltage profile and minimizing lattice changes.
Mg doping: Trunkates the high voltage plateau (less O redox?)

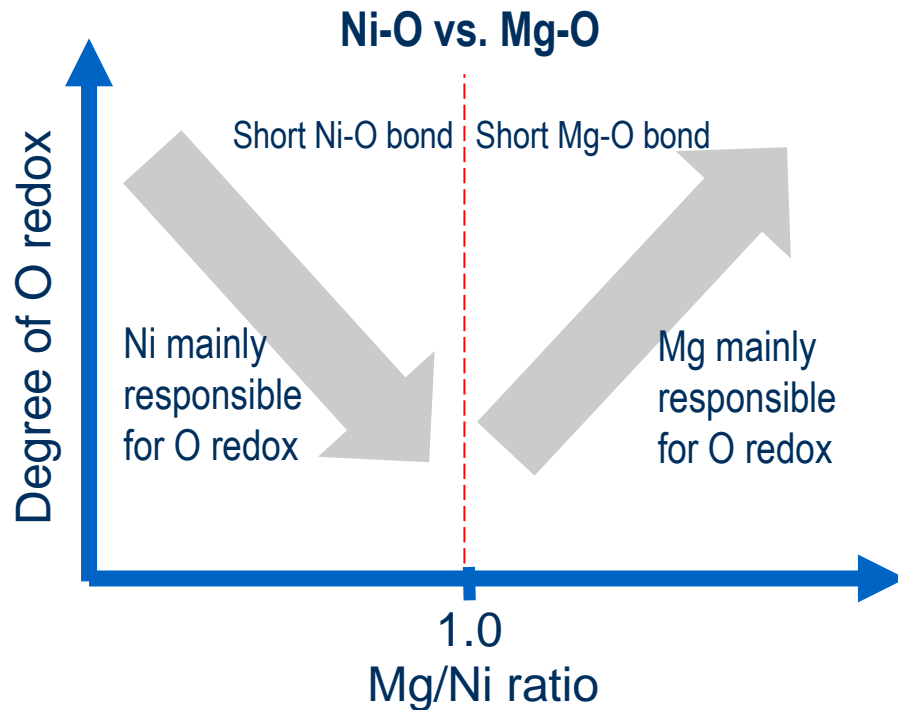
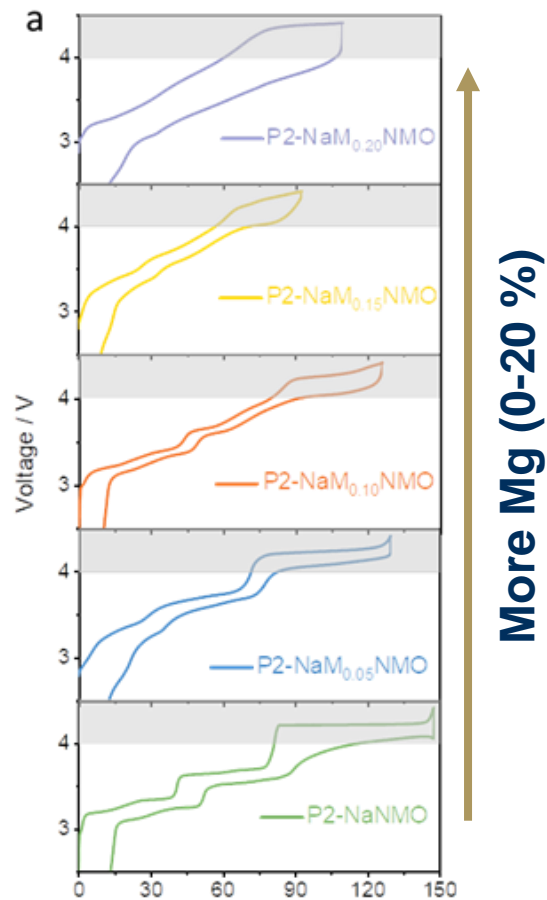
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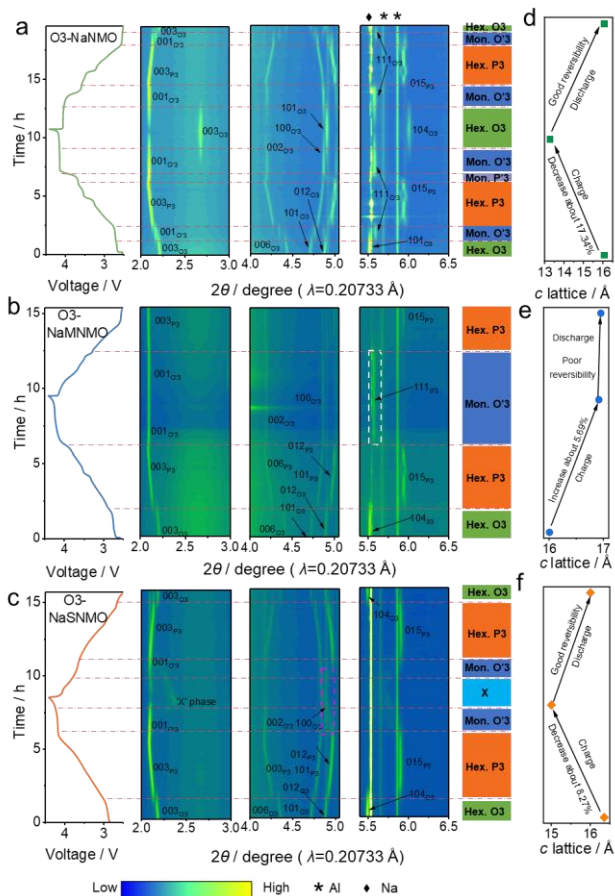
Mg doping: Most effective in mitigating O-redox (bit surprising at first!)

Example: P2- $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.67}]\text{O}_2$ doped with Mg or Sc

Mg doped P2- $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.67}]\text{O}_2$



Example: O3-Na_{1.0}[Ni_{0.50}Mn_{0.50}]O₂ doped with Mg or Sc



O3-Na_{1.0}[Ni_{0.50}Mn_{0.50}]O₂
 Many phase transitions, large shrinkage

O3-Na_{1.0}[Mg_{0.1}Ni_{0.4}Mn_{0.5}]O₂
 Less phase transitions, less shrinkage,
 additional redox center, better cycle life

O3-Na_{1.0}[Sc_{0.1}Ni_{0.4}Mn_{0.5}]O₂
 Less phase transitions, less shrinkage,
 no additional redox center, better cycle life

Stability of electrolytes and electrodes: Gas analysis (DEMS)

Gas analysis

Determination of gas release during charging/ discharging of a battery (e.g. When does overcharging takes place?). Can be quantitative.

Our project

Improving data analysis

→ Analyzing the whole spectra instead of detecting only single masses. Improving quantification.

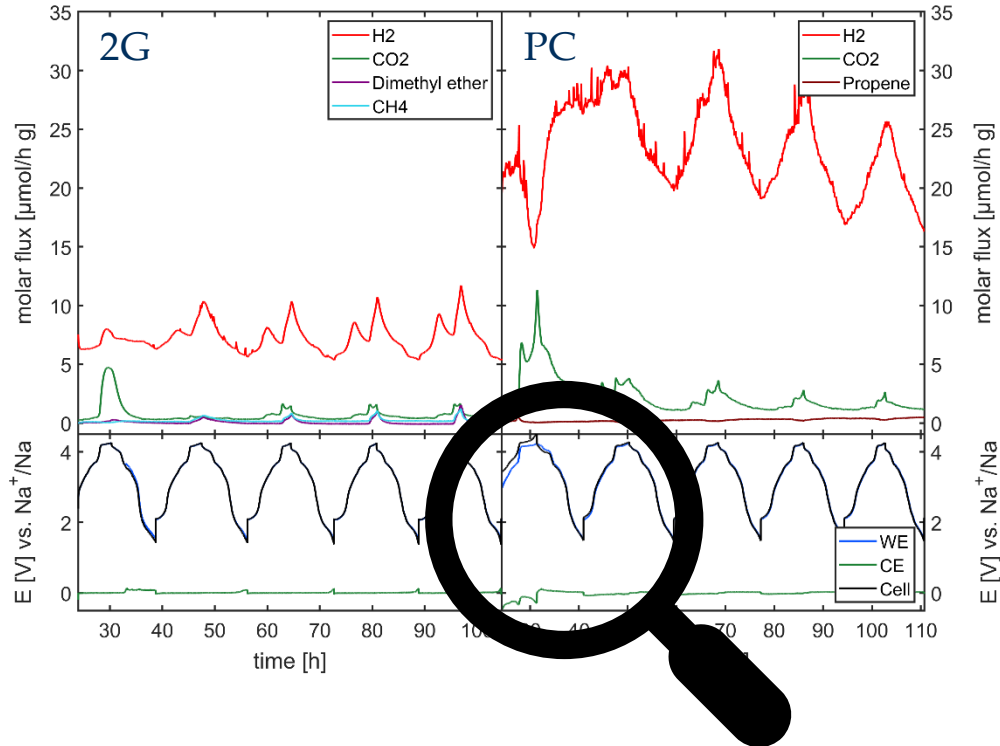
Improving cell design

→ Minimize artefacts, trapping of gas bubbles



Stability of Na-ion layered cathode active materials

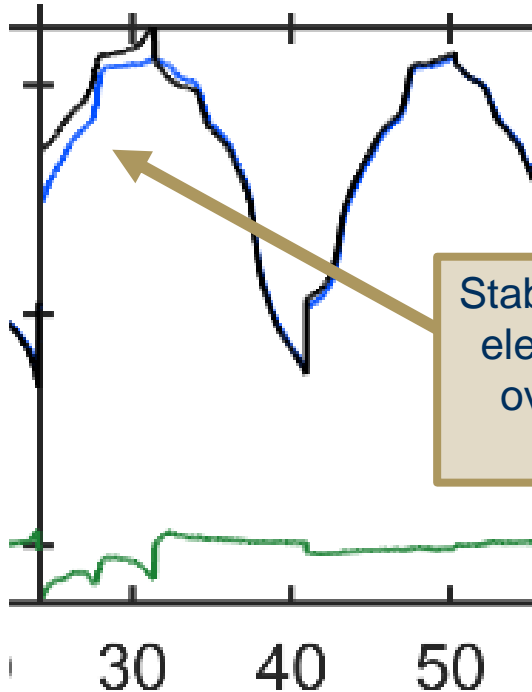
Electrolyte stability in $\text{Na}_{0.67}[\text{Mn}_{3/4}\text{Ni}_{1/4}]\text{O}_2$ half-cells



- 1.5 – 4.25 V vs. Na⁺ / Na
- More gas release in case of PC electrolyte!
- Validation with operando pressure measurements
- 3-electrode geometry important, especially when carbonates are used in half cells.

Stability of Na-ion layered cathode active materials

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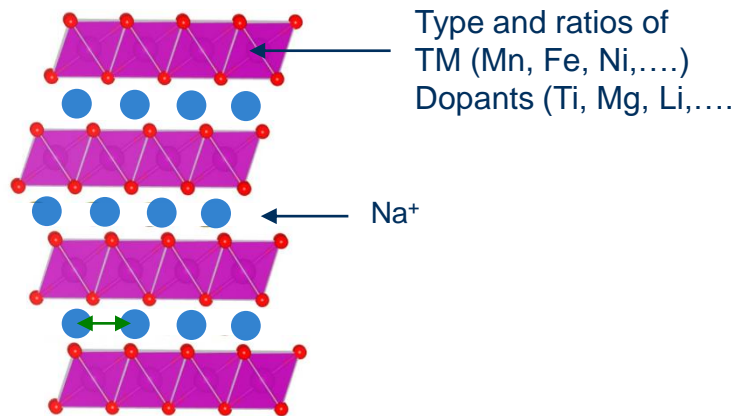


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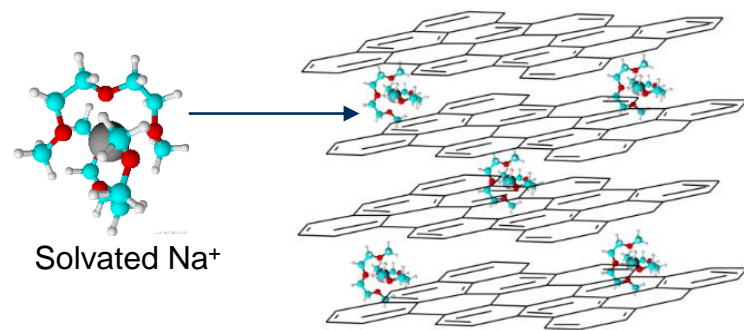
Layered Materials

Strategies for tuning the properties of layered materials in Na-ion (and Li-ion) batteries

Tuning properties through adjusting transition metals and dopants



Tuning properties through solvent co-intercalation



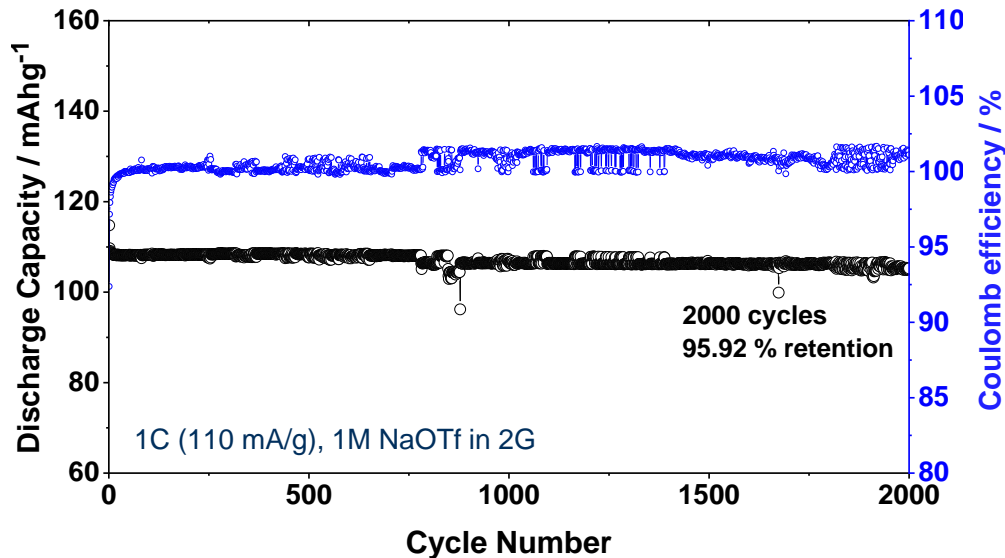
Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



Y. Kravets / I. Escher (own data)

Extreme volume expansion

Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



Batteries

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201403734

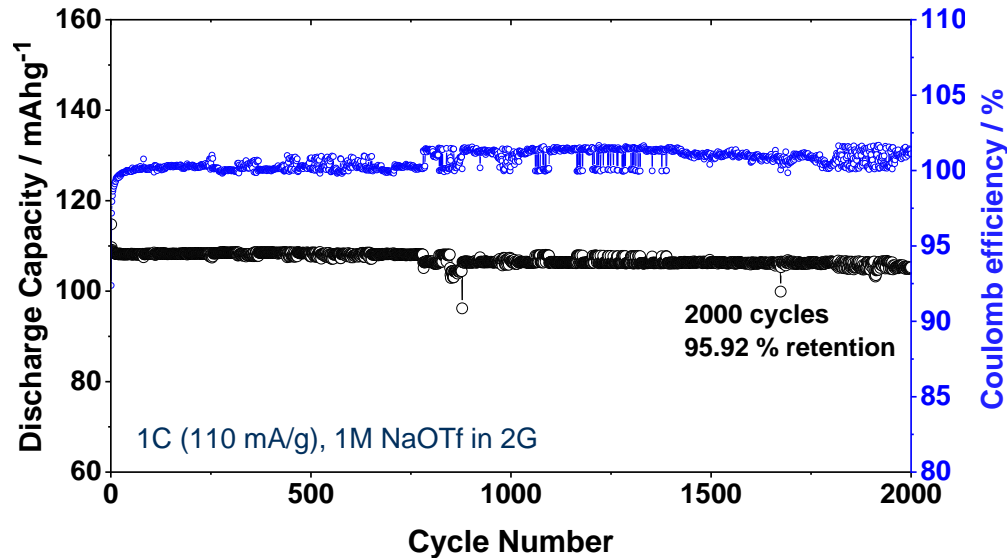
Use of Graphite as a Highly Reversible Electrode with Superior Cycle Life for Sodium-Ion Batteries by Making Use of Co-Intercalation Phenomena**

*Birte Jache and Philipp Adelhelm**

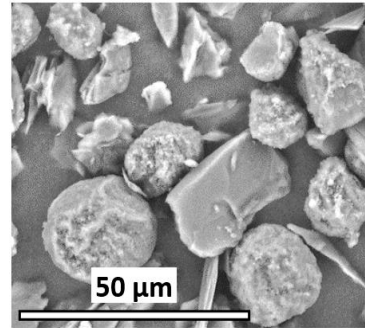
2014, *Angew. Chemie. Int. Ed.*,
doi:10.1002/anie.201403734

Intercalation of solvated ions can be highly reversible despite large volume change
Exfoliation but no delamination occurs (the structure remains crystalline!)
Concept minimizes charge transfer resistance (= high energy efficiency, fast charging)

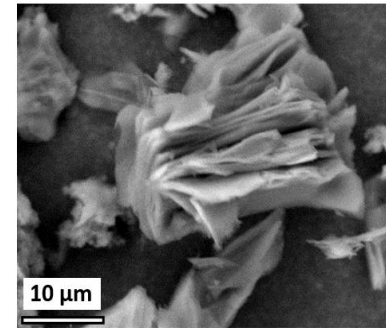
Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



before intercalation

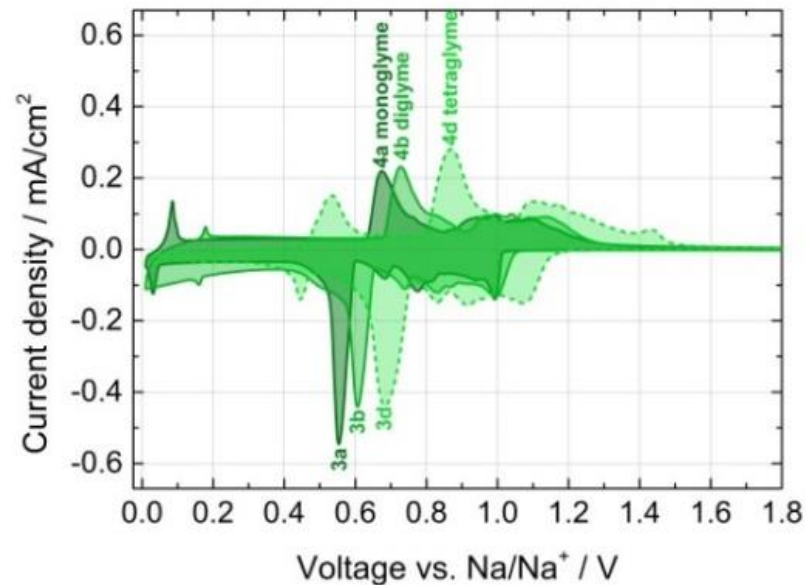
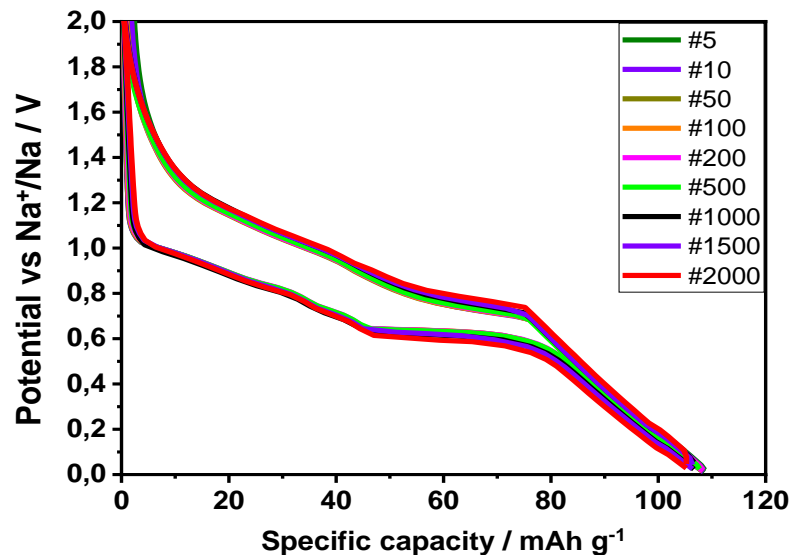


after cycling



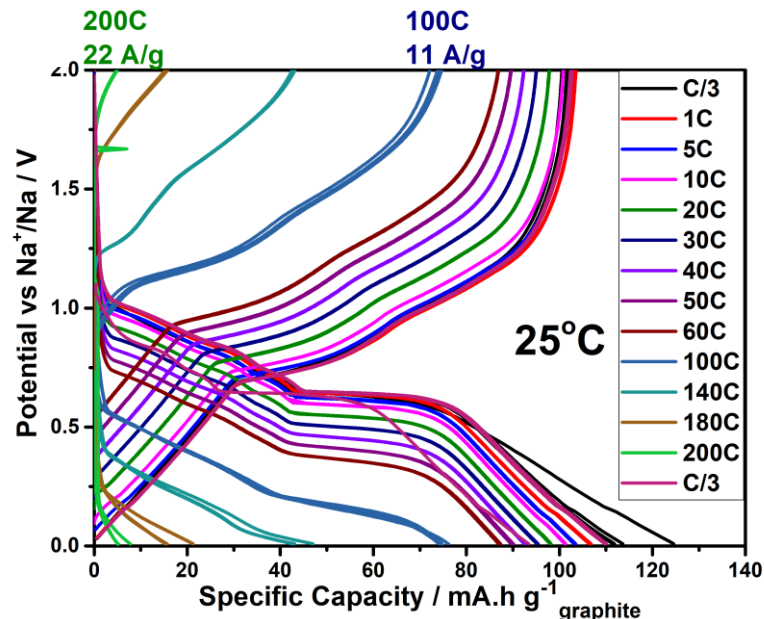
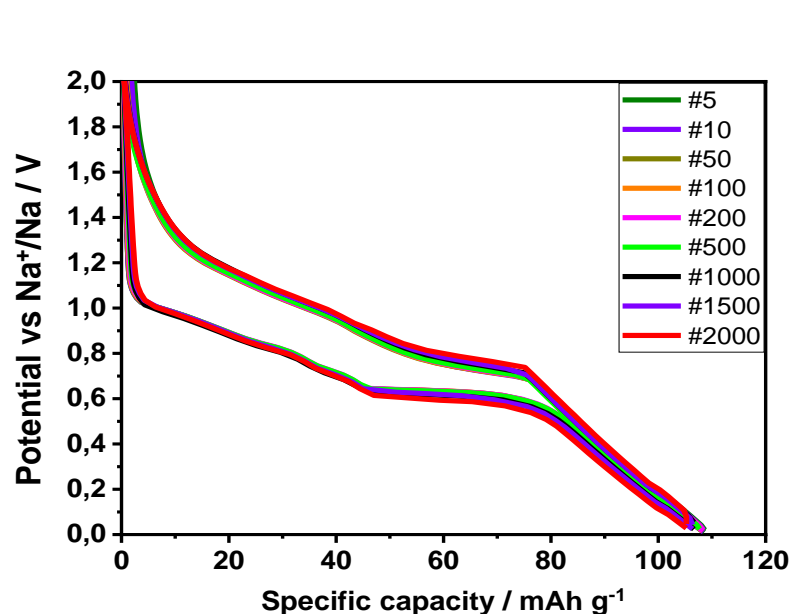
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Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



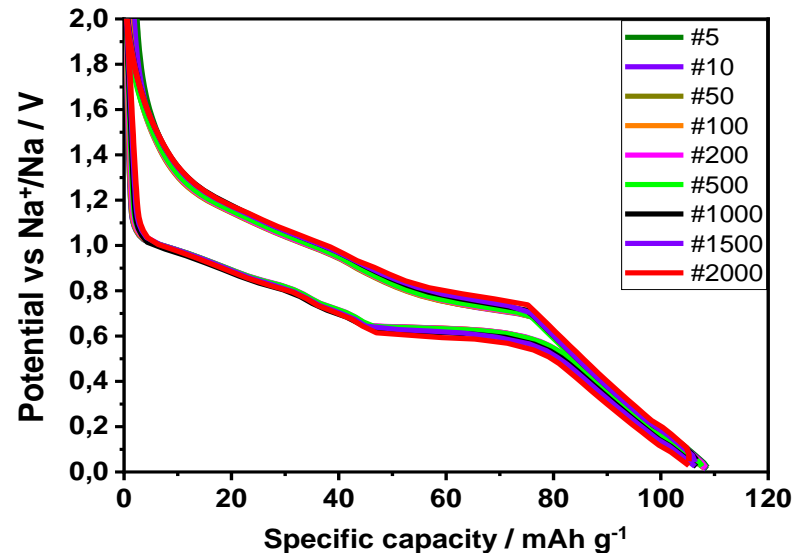
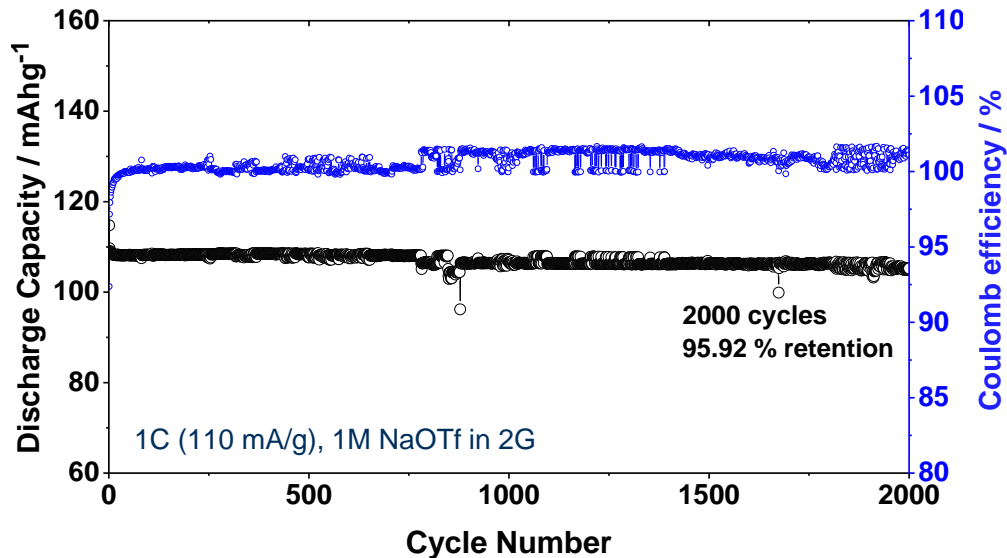
Voltage profile indicate that crystalline structure is preserved
Redox potential can be changed by changing the co-intercalating solvent (up to a few hundred mV)

Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



Rate tests indicate very fast kinetics despite the large size of the solvated ions. Theory* and NMR** suggest high mobility of solvated Na⁺ in graphite lattice ($D=1.1 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$). Activation energy for charge transfer < 10 kJ/mol as compared to around 60 kJ/mol for normal intercalation***

Co-intercalation reactions: Intercalation of solvated ions



Intercalation of solvated ions can be highly reversible despite large volume change
Concept minimizes charge transfer resistance (= high energy efficiency, fast charging)

M. Goktas et al – *Adv. Energy Materials*, **2018**, 1702724

M. Goktas et al., *J. Phys. Chem. C.*, **2018**, 122, 47, 26816-26824

I. Escher et al. *Energy Technology*, **2021**, 2000880

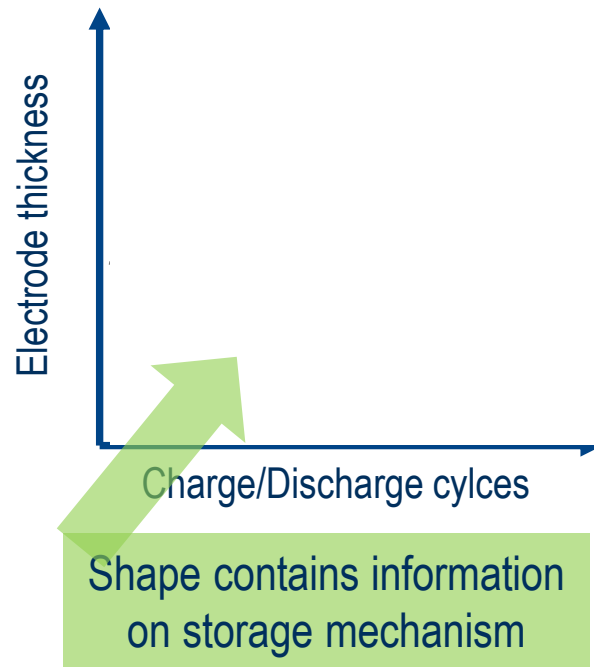
G. Ferrero et al. *Adv. Energy Materials*, **2023**, 2202377 (full cell, co-intercalation battery)

Operando electrochemical dilatometry

Quite similar to this situation, batteries and electrodes change their size during charging and discharging, they are „breathing“



nm resolution

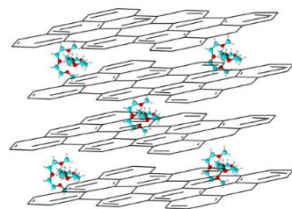
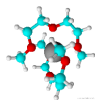


Review on operando dilatometry:

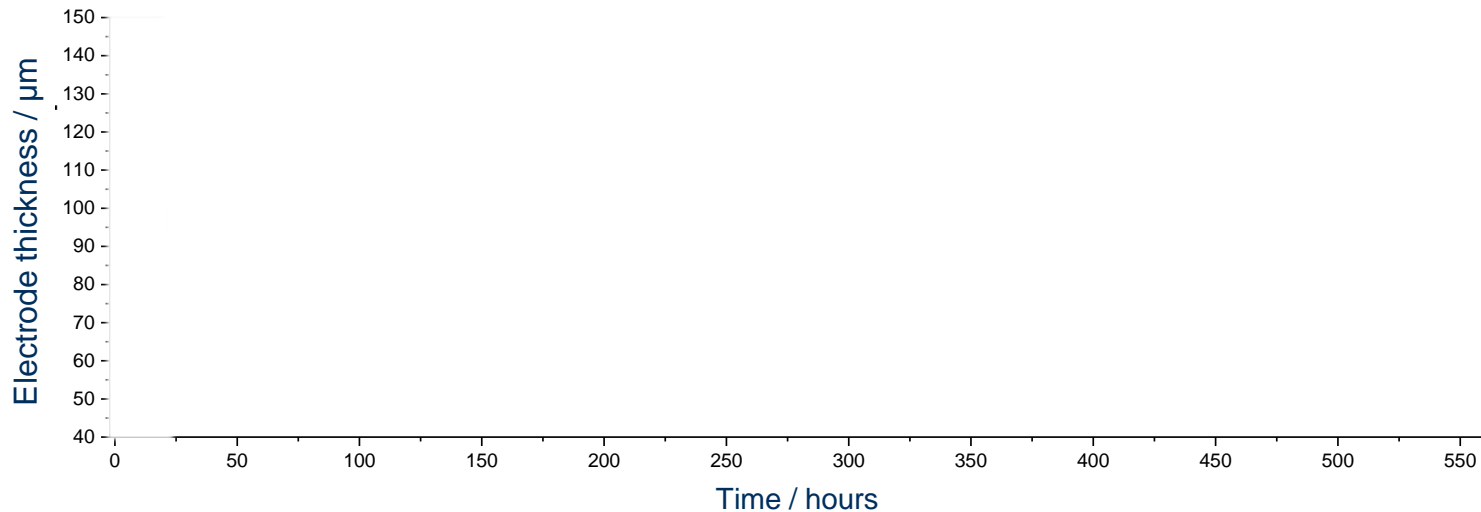
I. Escher et al., Energy Technology, 2022, doi: 10.1002/ente.202101120

Applying operando electrochemical dilatometry

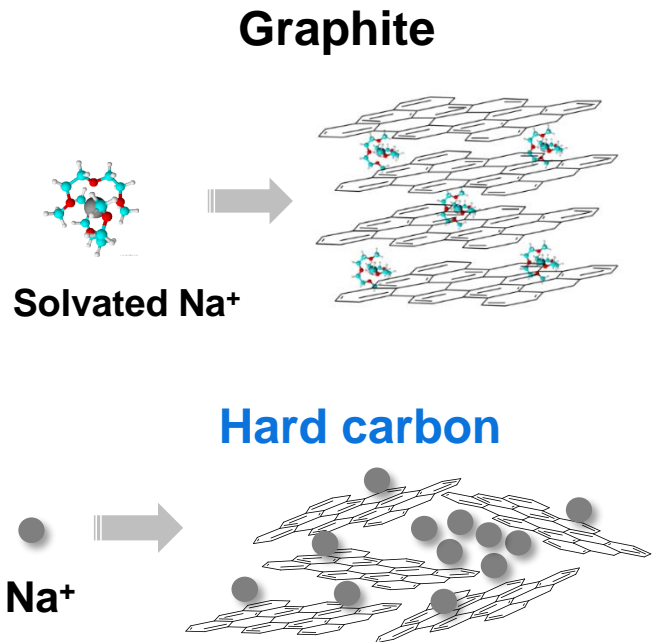
Solvated Na⁺



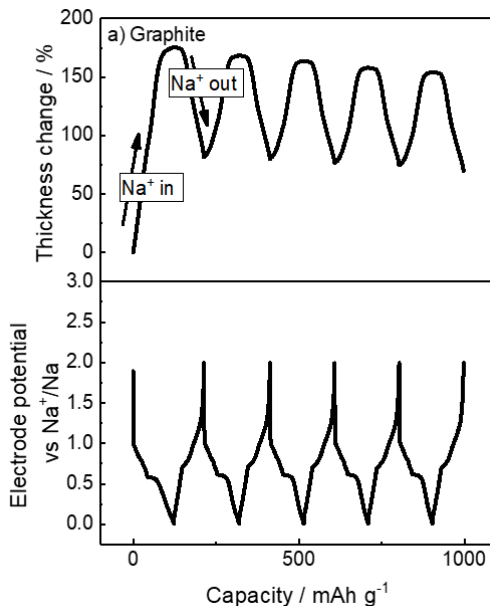
Graphite electrode
1M NaPF₆ in diglyme



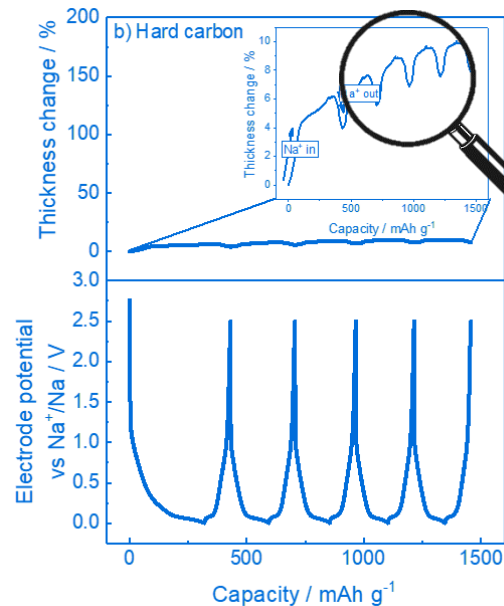
Applying operando electrochemical dilatometry



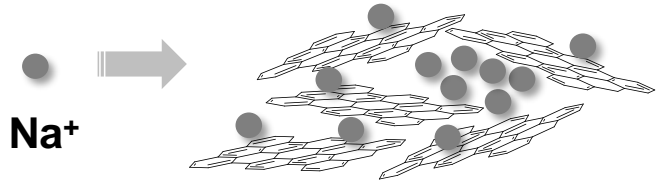
Graphite
Breathing > 50 %



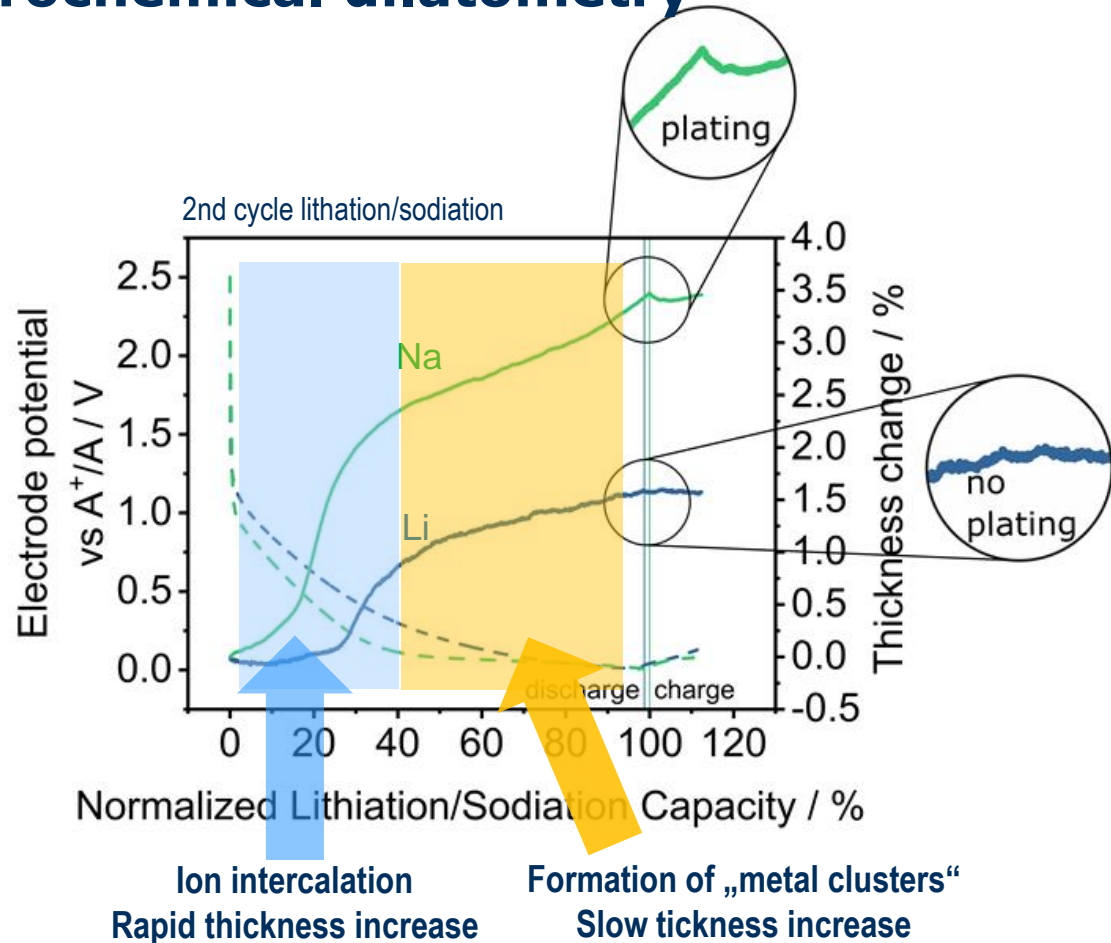
Hard carbon
Breathing around ≤ 2 %



Applying operando electrochemical dilatometry



- Operando dilatometry can be used to identify different storage mechanisms in hard carbons: intercalation, cluster formation, metal plating
- For Na/hard carbon, underpotential Na plating takes place (dendrites may form above 0 V!)



...we had learned a lot but a major question was still unclear:

How many solvent molecules co-intercalate into graphite and what is the formation process?

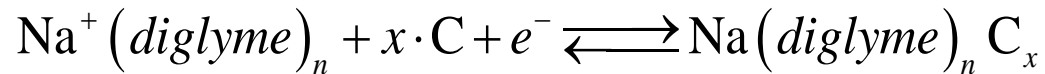
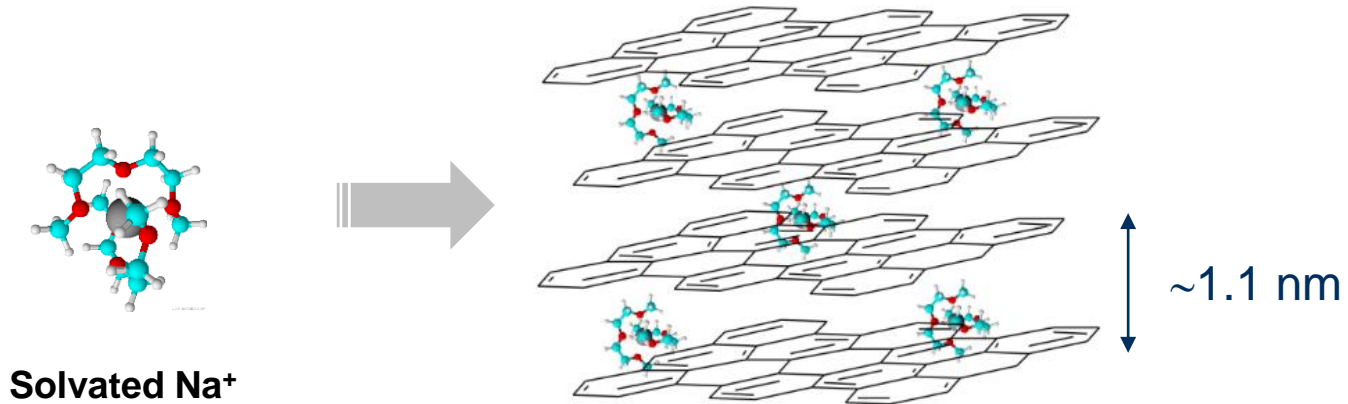
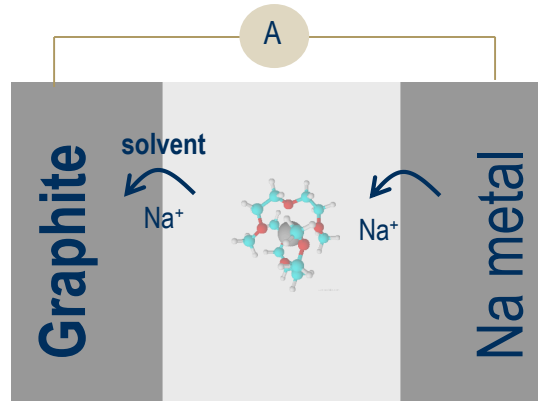


Illustration too simple!

How many solvent molecules co-intercalate into graphite?



What experiments can be made to answer this question?

XRD, Dilatometry,....
Change of electrode mass
Change of electrolyte conductivity
Change of optical properties
Change in entropy
Change in ssNMR spectra
Theory

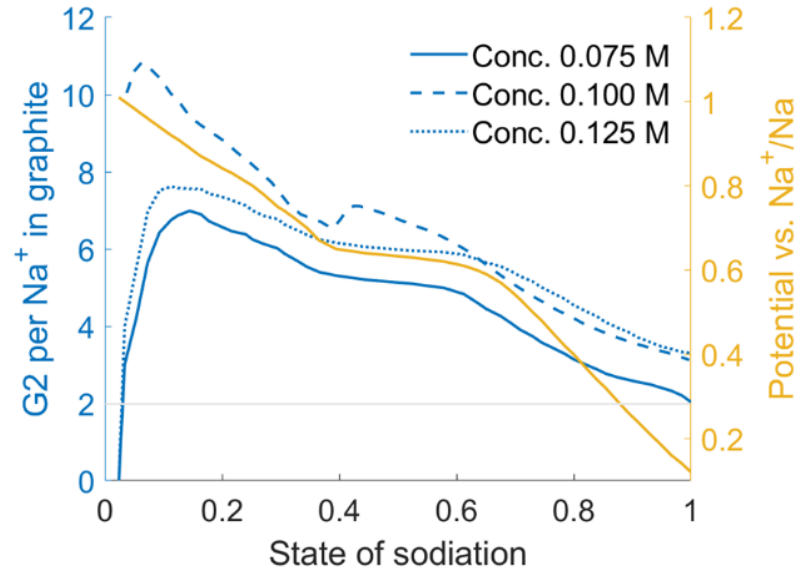
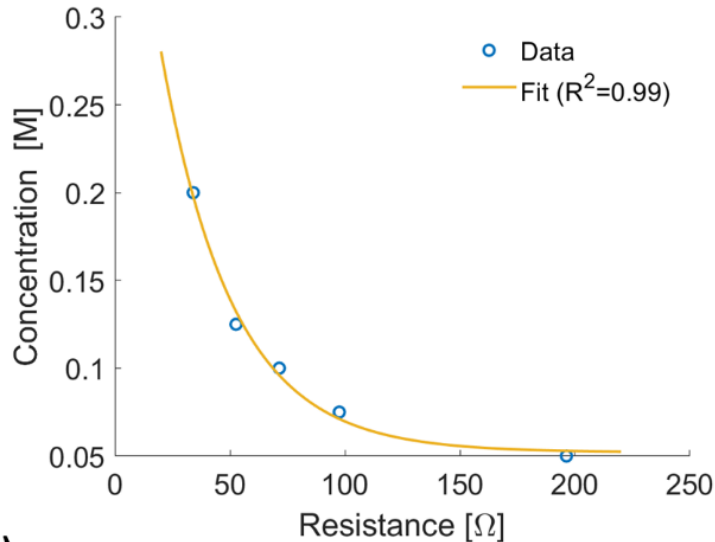


**New model for the
co-intercalation process**

G. Avall et al., Adv. Energy Materials, **2023**,
doi: [10.1002/aenm.202301944](https://doi.org/10.1002/aenm.202301944)

Change in electrolyte conductivity during solvent co-intercalation:

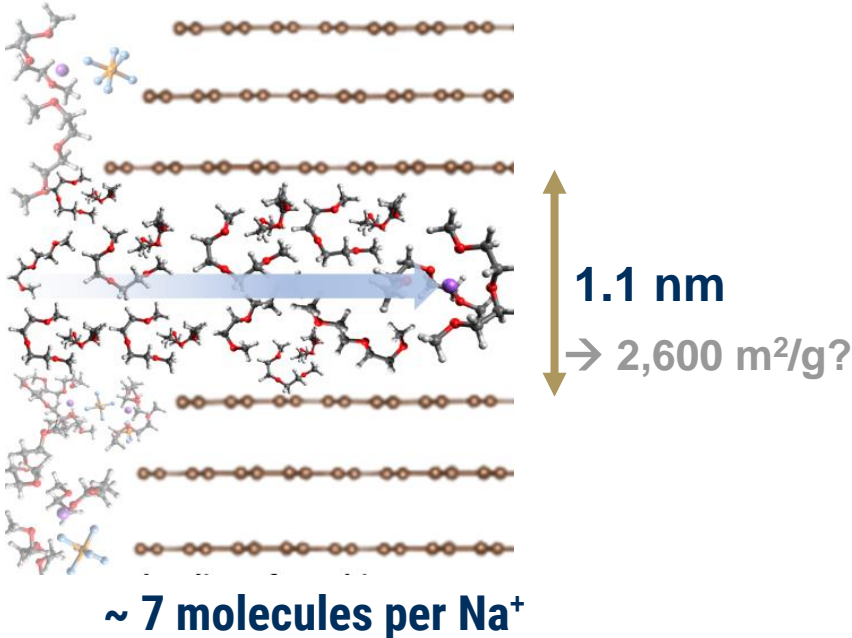
Idea: Measure conductivity change of the electrolyte during the reaction and calculate how much solvent is co-intercalating



As soon as the first Na⁺ intercalates, the electrolyte concentration rapidly increases. This means that many solvents enter the graphite structure, up to approx. 7 diglyme molecules for every Na⁺!

New model for the formation of *t*-GICs

Step 1:
pore formation &
pore filling

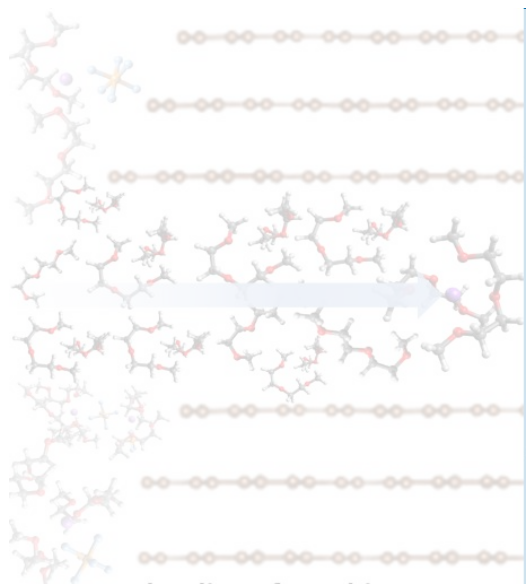


G. Avall et al., In situ pore formation in graphite through solvent co-intercalation: A new model for the formation of ternary graphite intercalation compounds bridging batteries and supercapacitors, *Adv. Energy Mater.*, 2023, doi: [10.1002/aenm.202301944](https://doi.org/10.1002/aenm.202301944)

New model for the formation of *t*-GICs

Step 1:

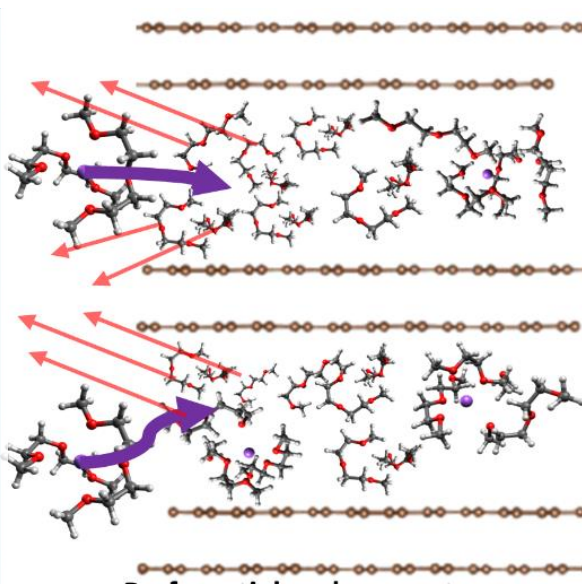
**pore formation &
pore filling**



~ 7 molecules per Na⁺

Step 2:

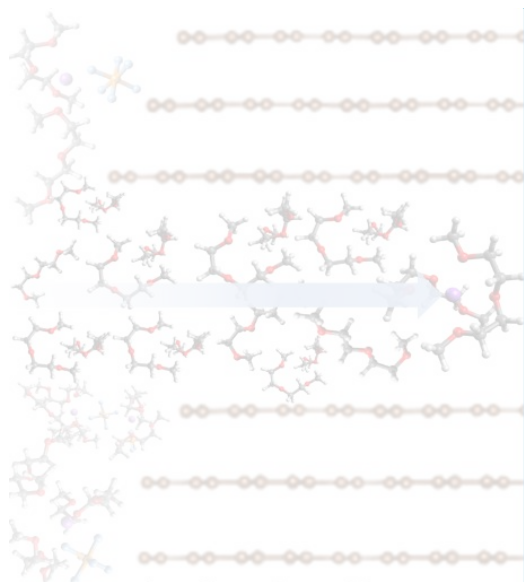
**Replacement of free
solvents**



New model for the formation of *t*-GICs

Step 1:

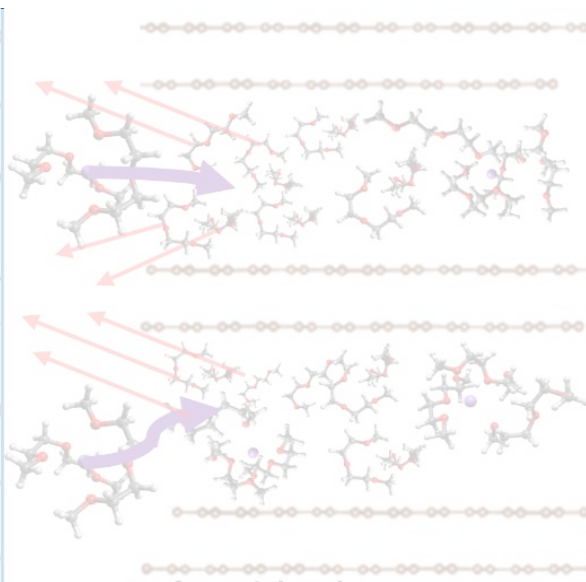
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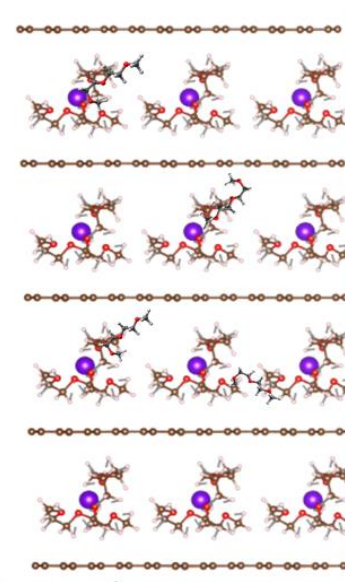
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**Replacement of free
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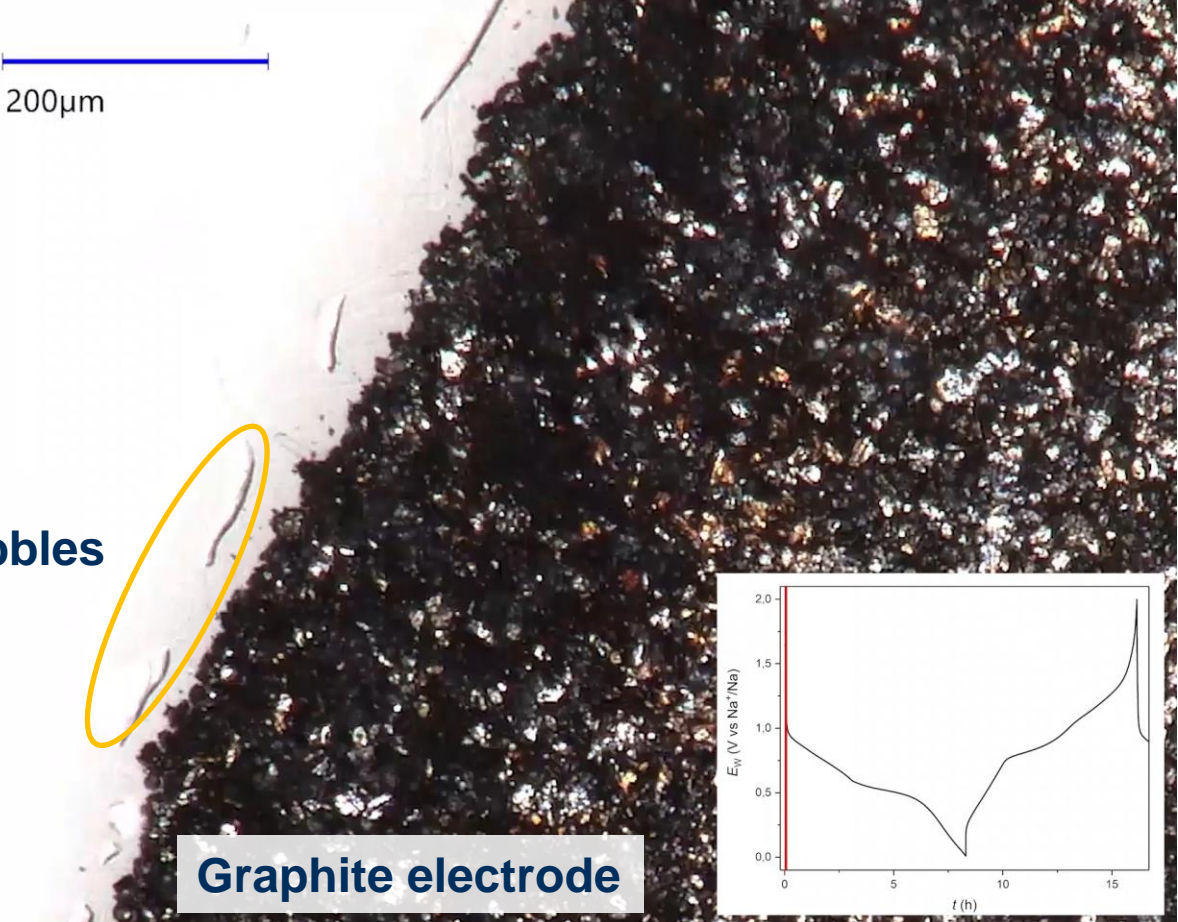
Step 3:

**Geometric
optimization**



~ 2 molecules per Na⁺

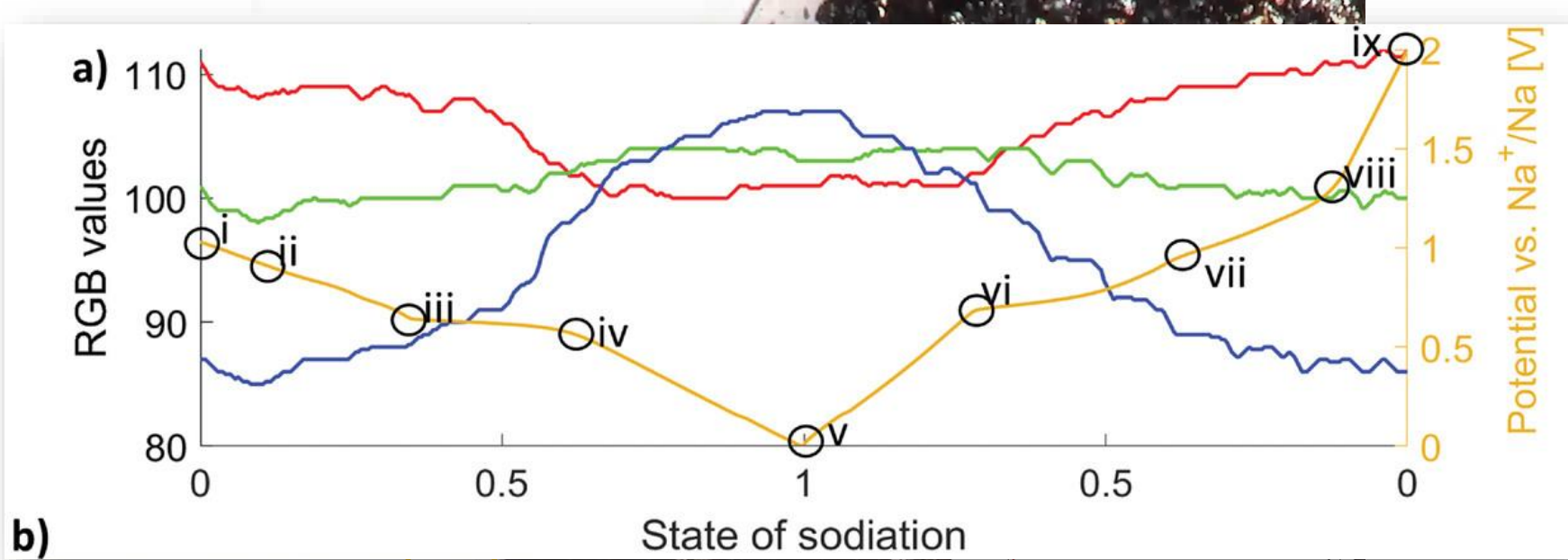
Solvent co-intercalation: operando optical microscopy



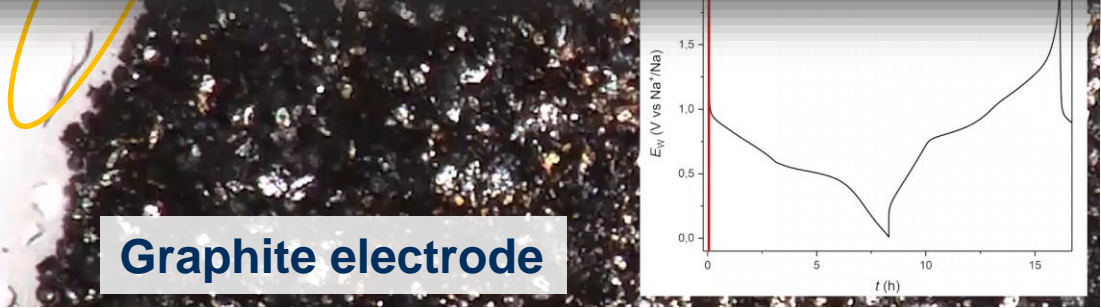
Electrolyte

Graphite electrode

Solvent co-intercalation: operando optical microscopy



b)



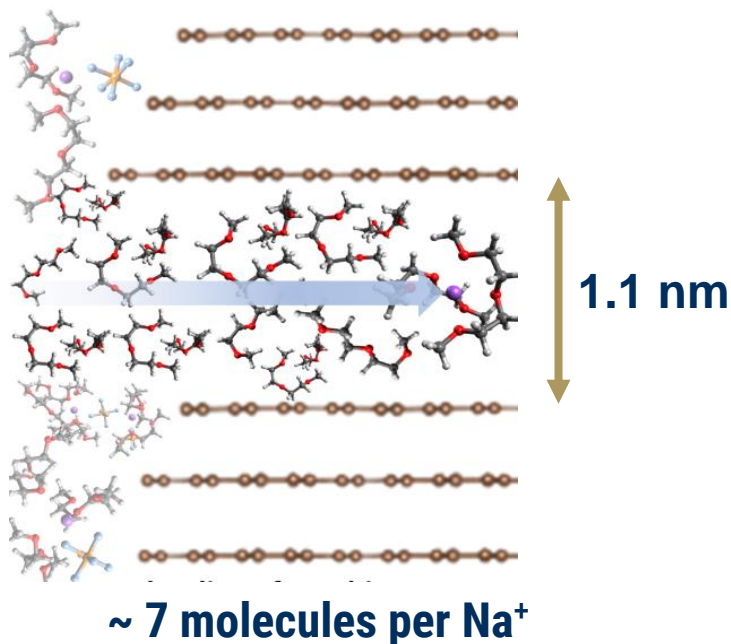
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Graphite electrode

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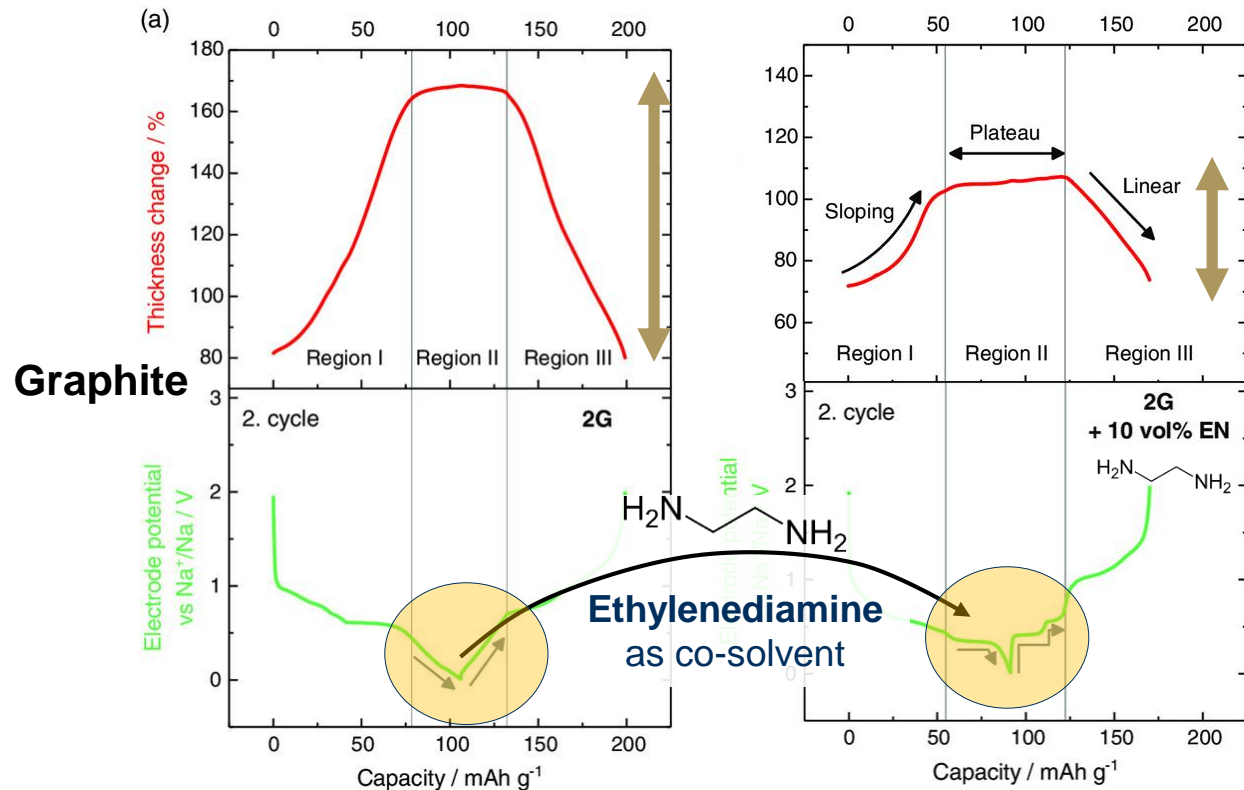
**pore formation &
pore filling**



**If pore filling takes place,
additional solvents may be
co-intercalated.**

...from ternary, to quarternary
intercalations, to quinary etc.
compounds?

From ternary to quarternary intercalation compounds



Adding ethylene diamine as co-solvent:

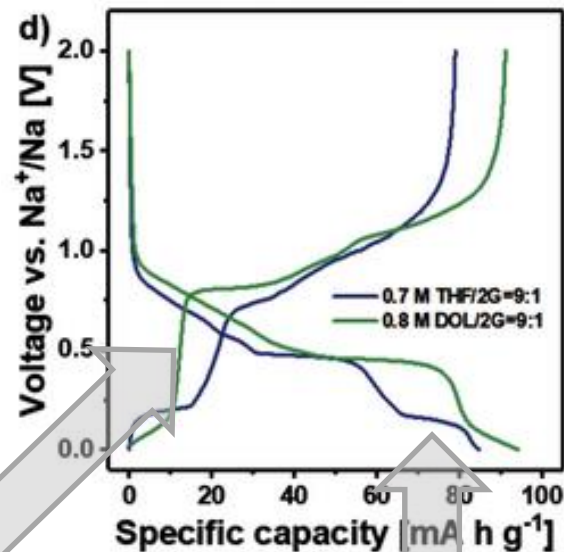
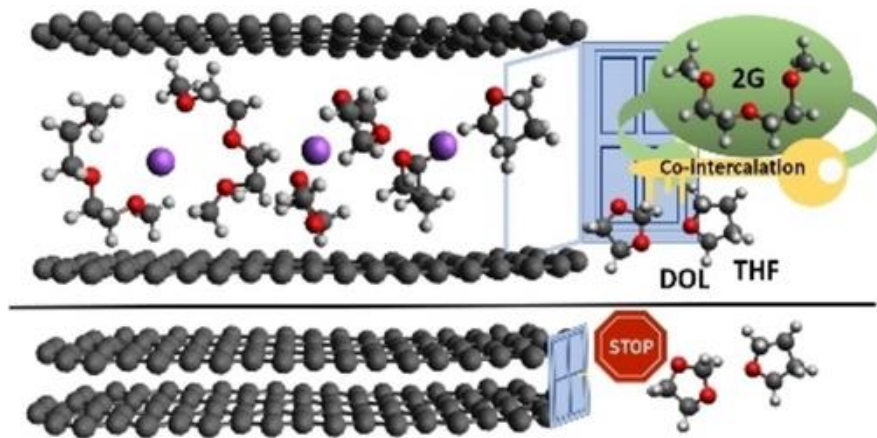
- 1) Changes the reaction mechanism and leads to a quarternary GIC (q -GIC), i.e. graphite intercalated by Na⁺ and two different solvents
- 2) Significantly reduces the interlayer spacing (from 1.1 nm to 0.7 nm)^[1] and the electrode breathing (from 40-60 % to around 15-20 %)^[2]

1) Zhang/Lerner Nanotechnology, 2018, 325402

2) I. Escher, *Energy Technology*, 2021, doi:10.1002/ente.202000880

From ternary to quarternary intercalation compounds

Diglyme can promote the co-intercalation of others solvents too (DOL and THF)



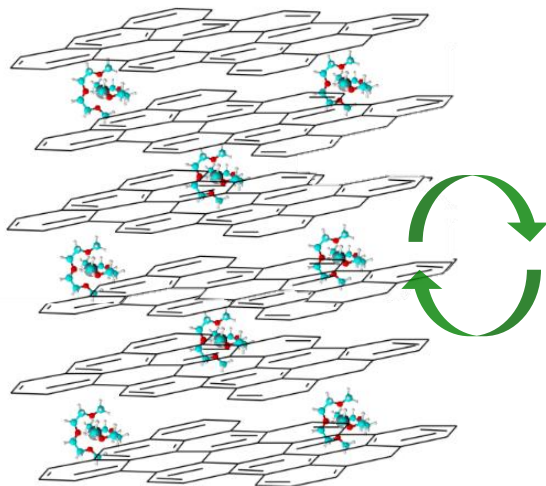
**New Quarternary
Graphite Intercalation
Compounds!**

High voltage:
Na⁺ and diglyme
enter the structure

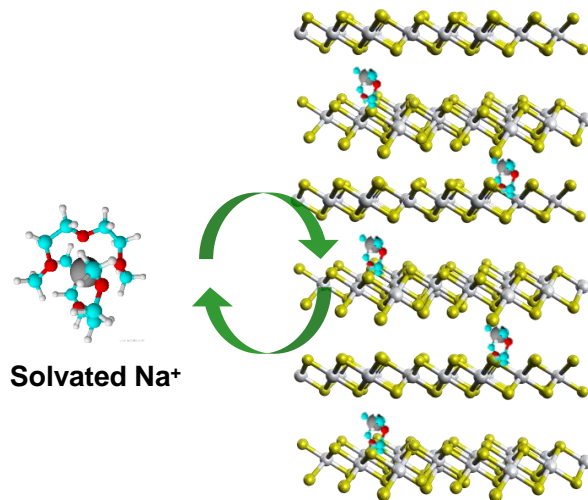
Low voltage:
Na⁺ and diglyme+THF/DOL
enter the structure

Can we build a co-intercalation battery?

Negative electrode



Positive electrode



Solvated Na⁺

Adv. Energy Mater. (2022)

G. Alvarez et al. *Advanced Energy Materials*, 2023, 2202377, DOI:10.1002/aenm.202202377



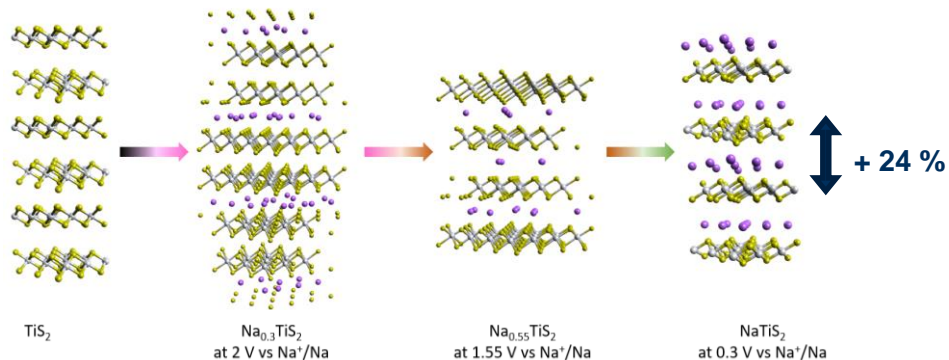
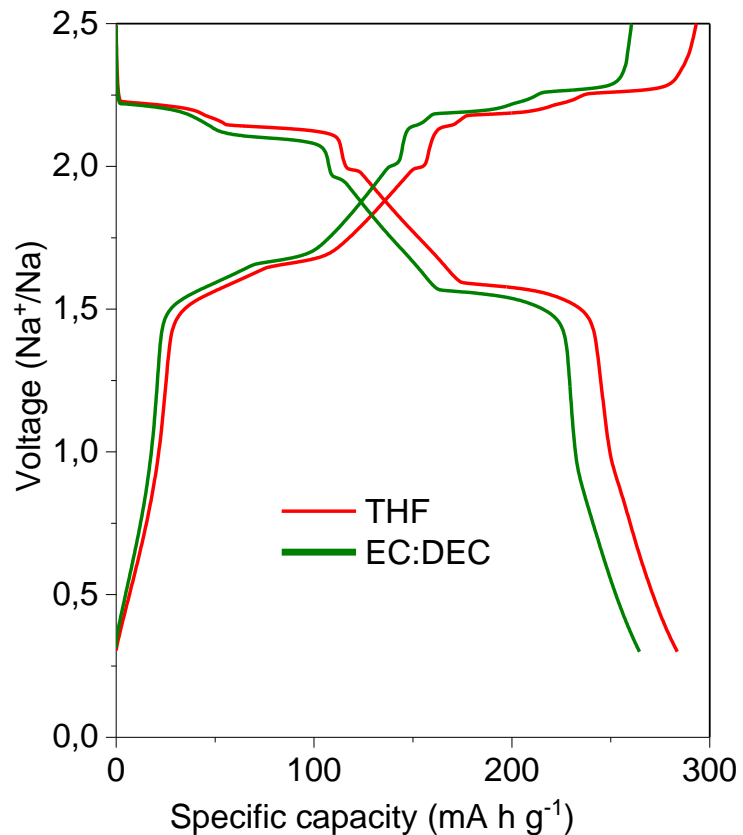
European Research Council



ERC Consolidator Grant

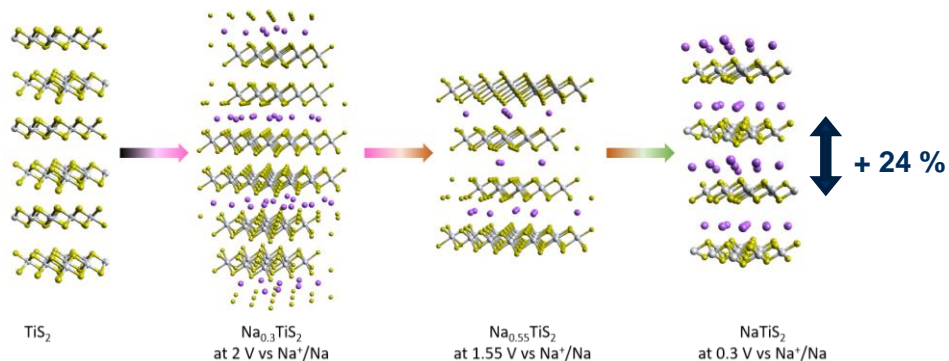
TiS₂ - Intercalation of solvated Na-ions

THF or EC:DEC as solvents: no solvent co-intercalation

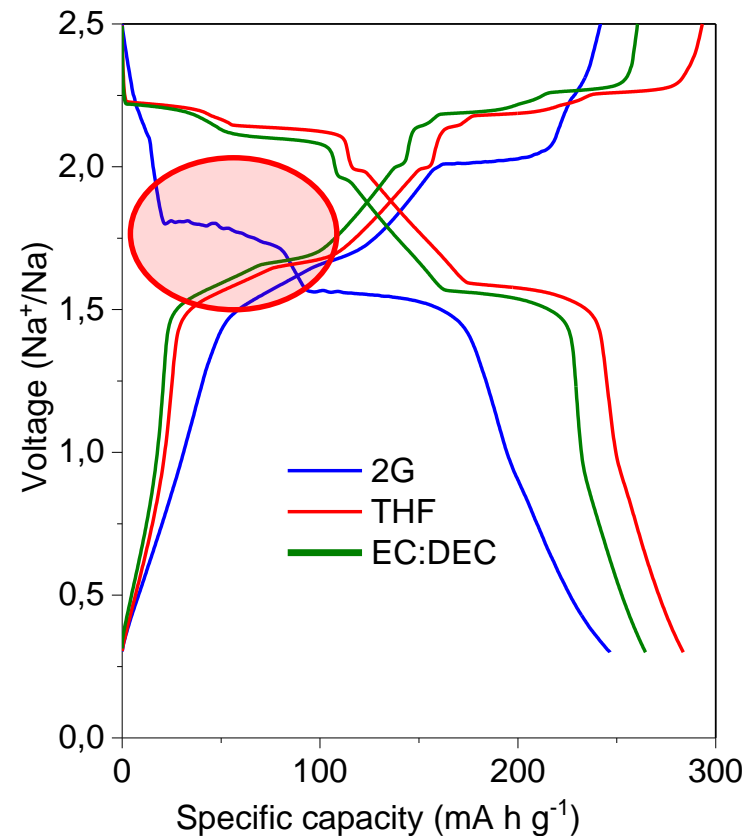
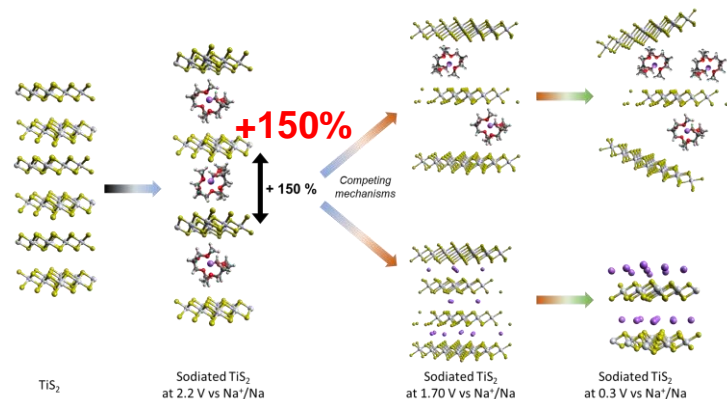


TiS₂ - Intercalation of solvated Na-ions

THF or EC:DEC as solvents: no solvent co-intercalation

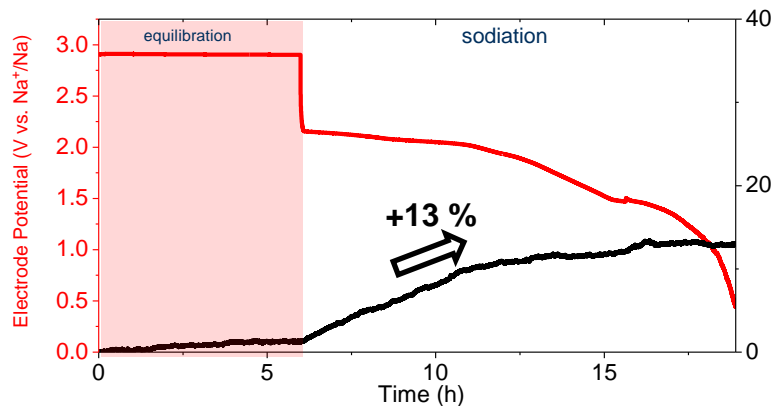


Diglyme as solvent: (partial) co-intercalation

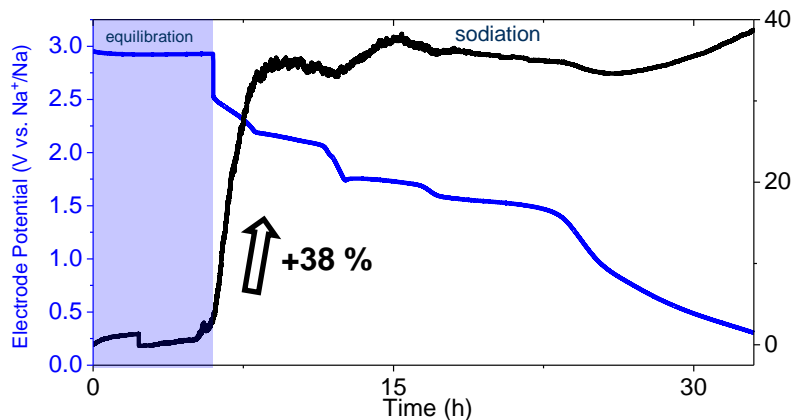
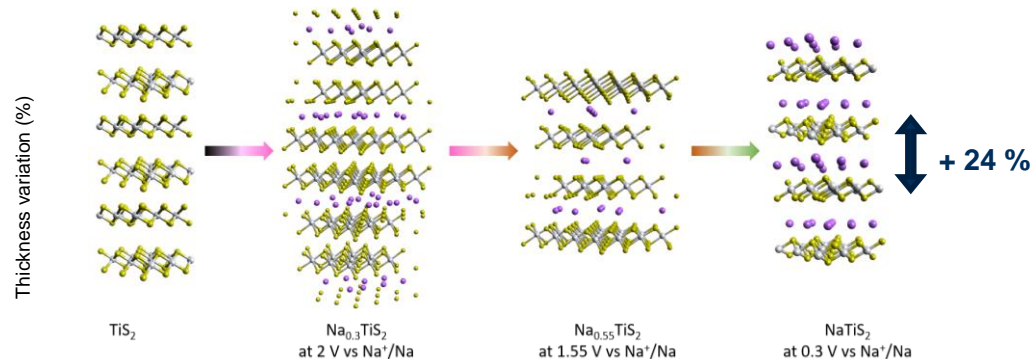


TiS₂ - Intercalation of solvated Na-ions

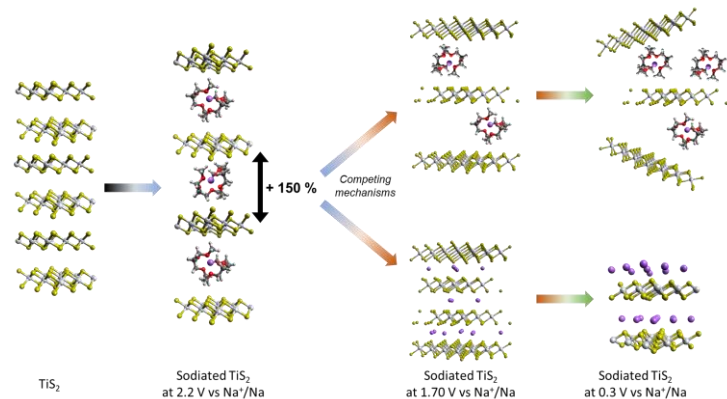
Operando dilatometry



THF or EC:DEC as solvents: no solvent co-intercalation



Diglyme as solvent: (partial) co-intercalation



What about solvent co-intercalation in Na_xTiS_2

Today's menu

Layered materials:

- Layered oxides and sulfides
- Graphite

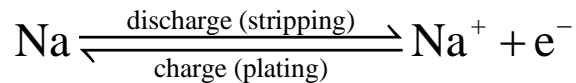
Metals

- Na and Sn

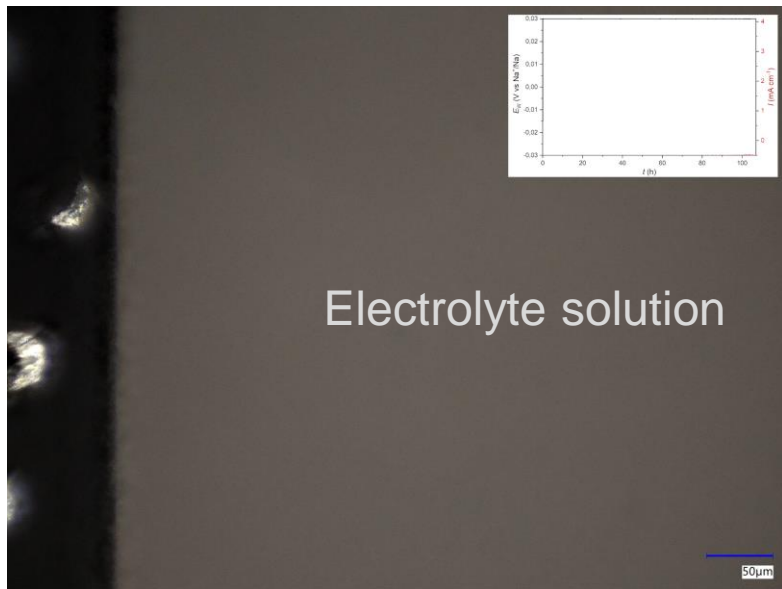
Conversion materials

- CuS – a unique electrode materials studied with tomography

Anode materials: Sodium

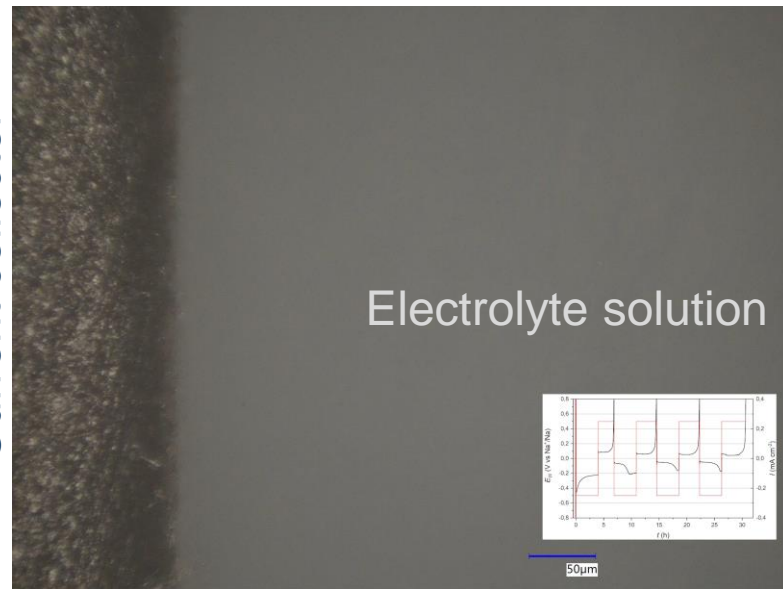


Current collector



Plating on current collector
Different currents for 1 mAh cm⁻²
1M NaPF₆ in Diglyme
→ **Tip growth mechanism**

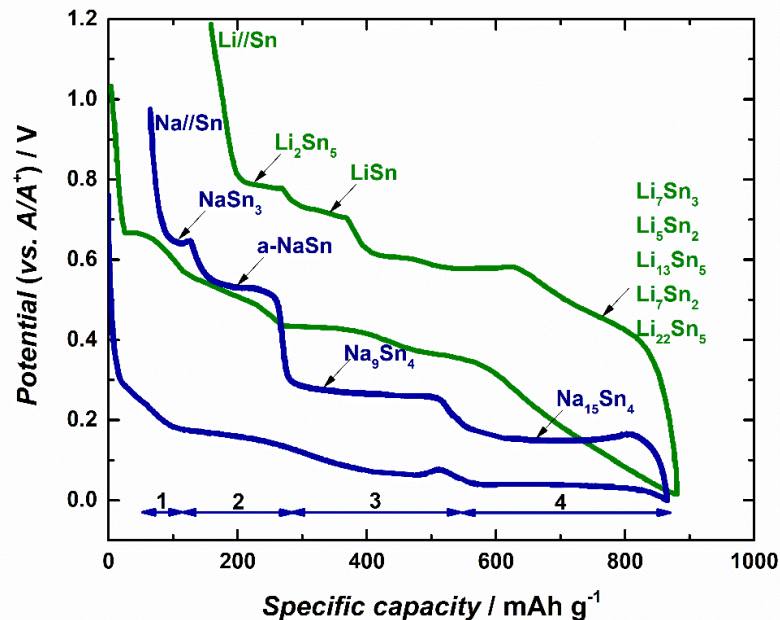
Current collector



Plating on current collector
0.25 mA for 1 mAh cm⁻²
Alternative electrolyte
→ **Root growth mechanism**

Anode materials: Alloys

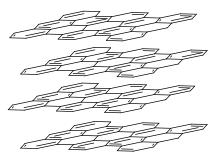
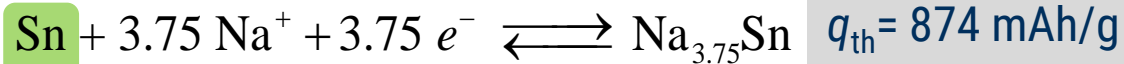
Li				Na			
Zn	13	14	15	Zn	13	14	15
LiZn	AlLi	Li ₂₂ Si ₅	Li ₃ Sb	NaZn ₁₃	Ga ₄ Na	NaSi	Na ₃ Sb
Li ₂ Zn ₃	Al ₂ Li ₃	Li ₁₅ Si ₄	Li ₂ Sb		Ga ₃₉ Na ₂₂	Ge ₄ Na	NaSb
					(Ga ₁₃ Na ₇)		
LiZn ₂	AlLi _{2-x}	Li ₂₁ Si ₈		In ₈ Na ₅	GeNa		
Li ₂ Zn ₅	Al ₄ Li ₉	Li ₂ Si		InNa	GeNa ₃		
LiZn ₄	Ga ₁₄ Li ₃	GeLi ₃		InNa ₃	Na ₁₅ Sn ₄		
	Ga ₂ Li	Ge ₅ Li ₂₂		Na ₅ Tl	Na ₃ Sn		
	GaLi	Li ₂₂ Sn ₅		Na ₂ Tl	Na ₉ Sn ₄		
	Ga ₄ Li ₆	Li ₇ Sn ₂		NaTl	NaSn		
	Ga ₂ Li ₃	Li ₁₃ Sn ₅		NaTl ₂	NaSn ₂		
	GaLi ₂	Li ₅ Sn ₂			NaSn ₃		
	InLi	Li ₇ Sn ₃			NaSn ₄		
	In ₄ Li ₅	LiSn			NaSn ₆		
	In ₂ Li ₃	Li ₂ Sn ₅			PbNa		
	InLi ₂	Li ₄ Pb			Pb ₄ Na ₉		
	In ₃ Li ₁₃	Li ₁₀₍₈₎ Pb ₃			Pb ₂ Na ₅		
	Li ₄ Tl	Li ₃ Pb			Pb ₄ Na ₁₅		
	Li ₃ Tl	Li ₅₍₇₎ Pb ₂					
	Li ₅ Tl ₂	LiPb					
	Li ₂ Tl						
	LiTl						



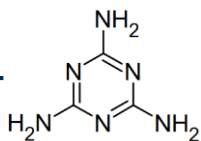
Metals: Lithium generally forms more intermetallic phases than Na

→ Using Si in SIBs fails so far, Al can be used as current collector!

Tin as anode for sodium-ion batteries

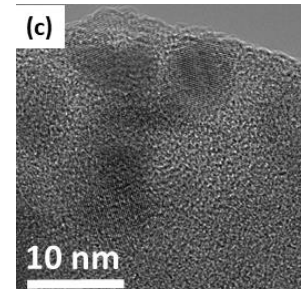
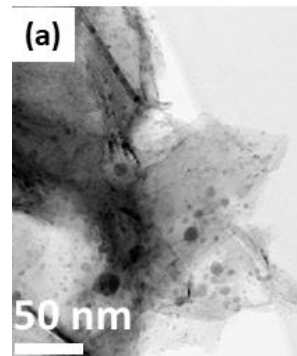


+ Sn +



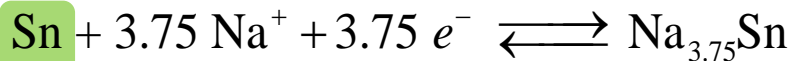
Ball milling

Heat treatment 1100 °C



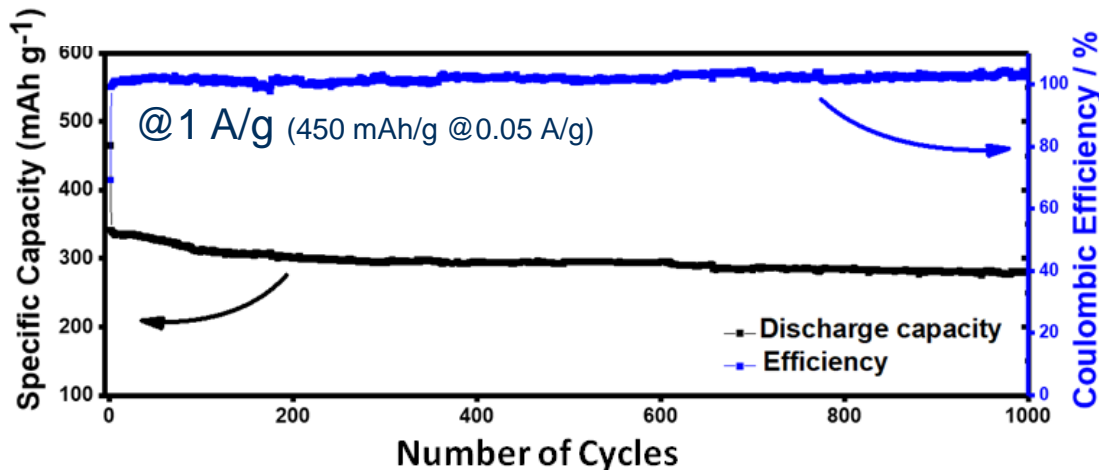
60 wt% Sn, 40 wt% N-doped carbon (ball-milled graphite)

Tin as anode for sodium-ion batteries



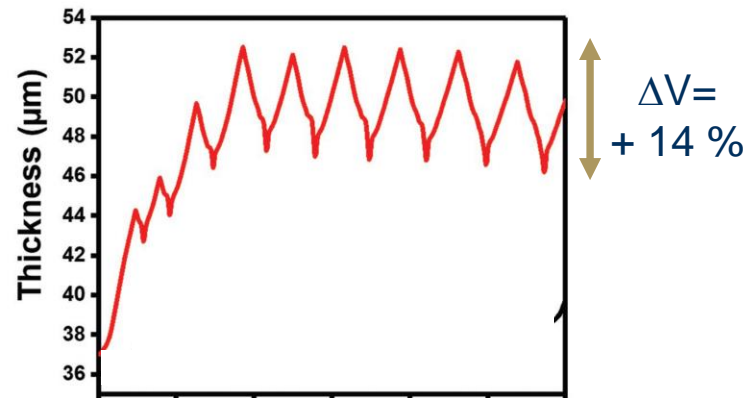
$$q_{\text{th}} = 874 \text{ mAh/g}$$

$$\text{Sn} \rightarrow \text{Na}_{3.75}\text{Sn}: \Delta V = + 420 \%$$



All electrodes:
60wt% Sn, 40wt% C,
 $q_{\text{th}} \approx 1.5 \text{ mAh/cm}^2$.

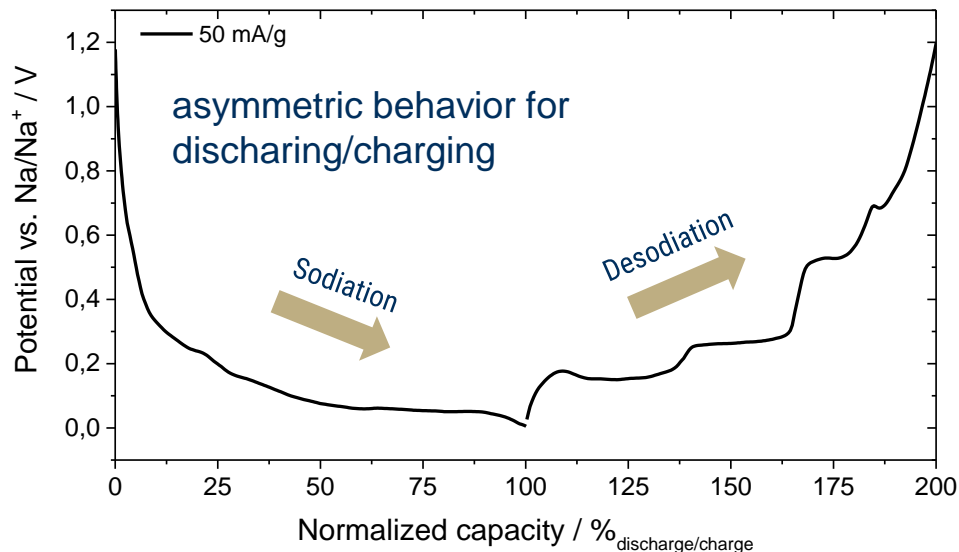
Operando electrochem. dilatometry



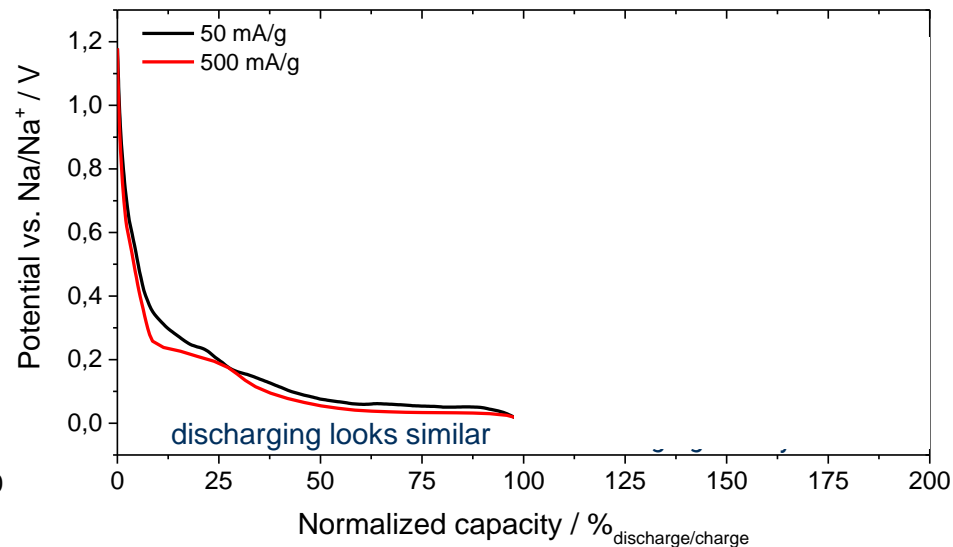
Electrode „breathes“ only
by about 14%! → good
cycle life

Tin as anode for sodium-ion batteries

A closer look on the surprises when sodiating Sn



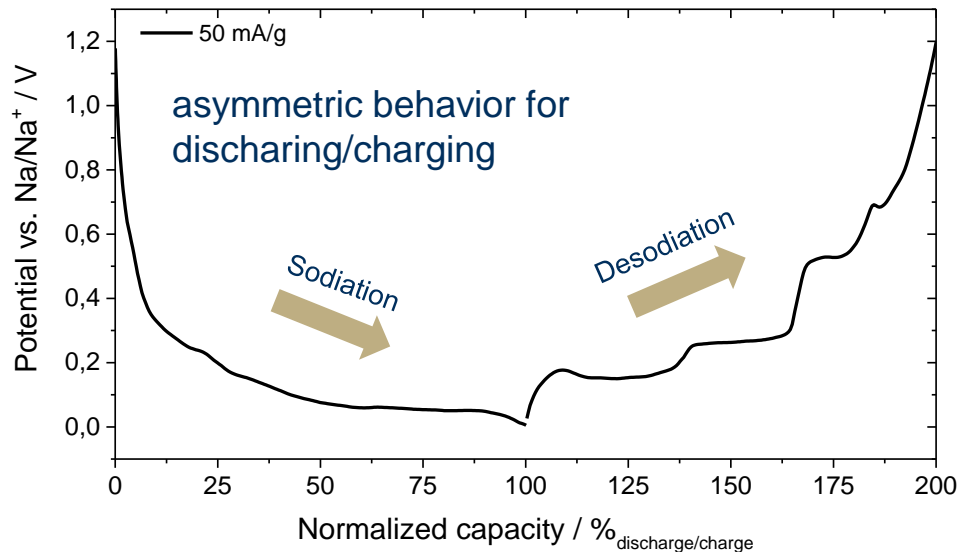
2nd cycle, 1M NaPF₆ in diglyme
 $q_{\text{dis}}(50 \text{ mA/g}) = 437 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$
 $q_{\text{ch}}(50 \text{ mA/g}) = 435 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$



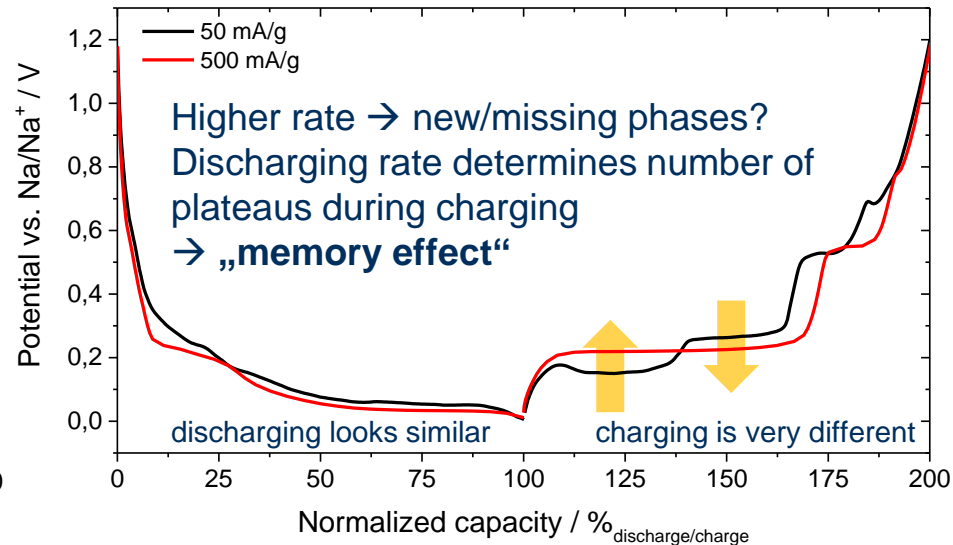
2nd cycle, 1M NaPF₆ in diglyme
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 $q_{\text{ch}}(50 \text{ mA/g}) = 435 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$
 $q_{\text{dis}}(500 \text{ mA/g}) = 386 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$
 $q_{\text{ch}}(500 \text{ mA/g}) = 385 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$

Tin as anode for sodium-ion batteries

A closer look on the surprises when sodiating Sn



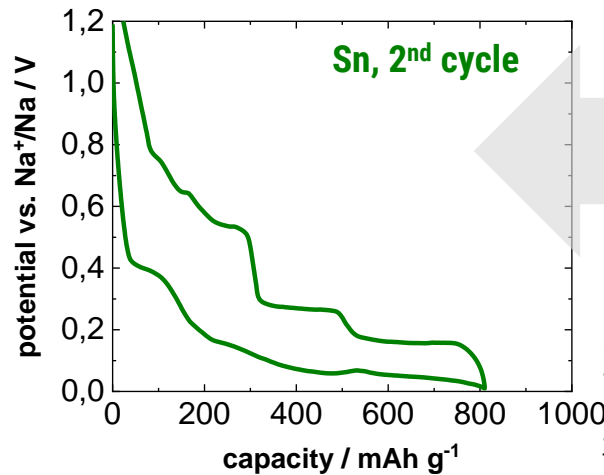
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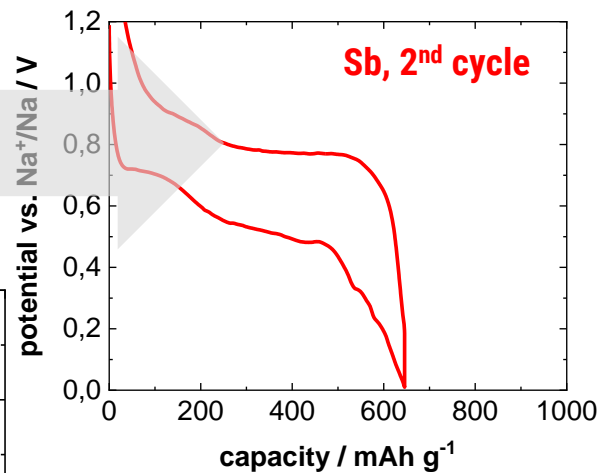
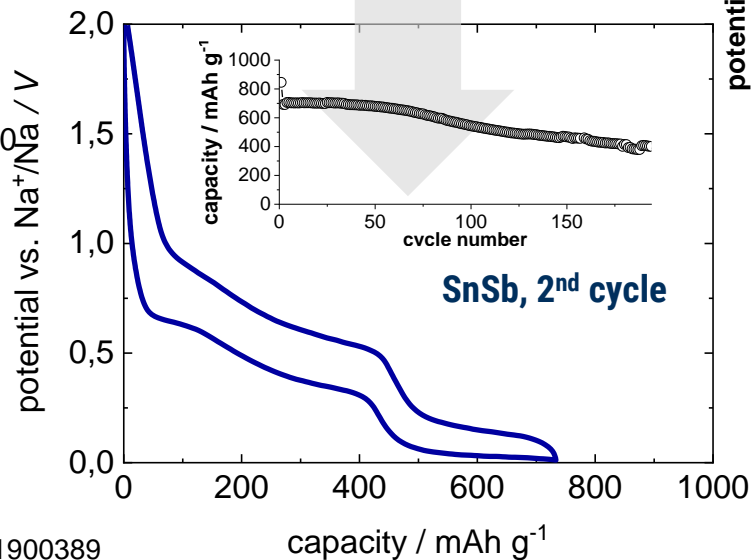
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 $q_{\text{dis}}(500 \text{ mA/g}) = 386 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$
 $q_{\text{ch}}(500 \text{ mA/g}) = 385 \text{ mAh/g}_{\text{composite}}$

Tin as anode for sodium-ion batteries

Tailoring the voltage profile: From Sn to SnSb



All electrodes:
70 wt% metal, 30 wt%
C, $q_{th} \approx 1.5 \text{ mAh/cm}^2$.



Today's menu

Layered materials:

- Layered oxides and sulfides
- Graphite

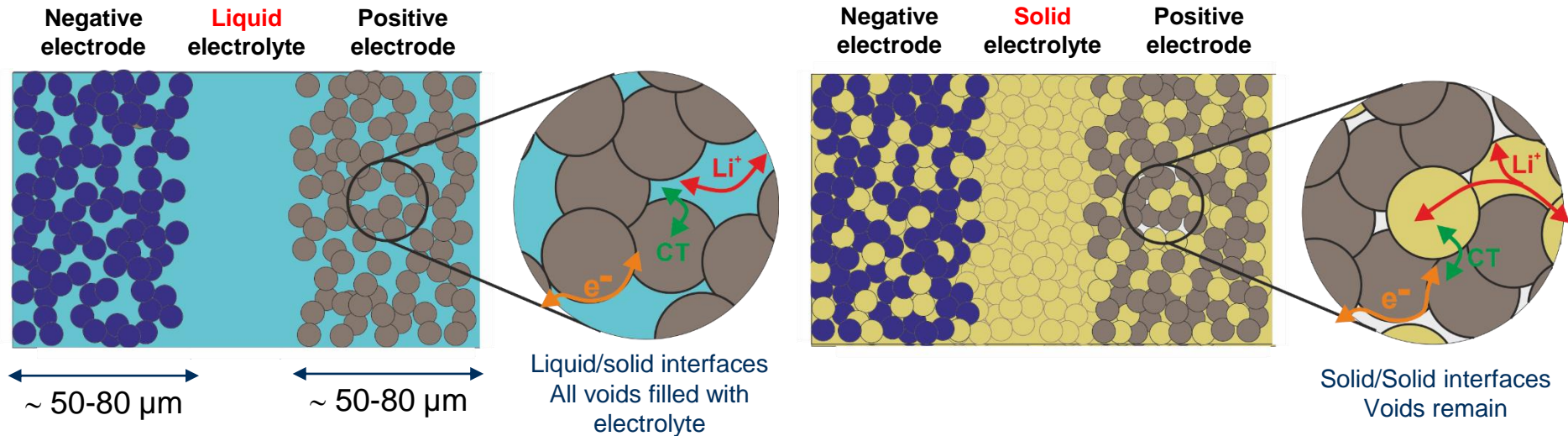
Metals

- Na and Sn

Conversion materials

- CuS – a unique electrode materials studied with tomography

From Li/Na-ion batteries to Li/Na **solid-state** batteries



Solidifying batteries:

Main motivation: Higher energy density, better safety

Main difference: Mechanical properties become much more important

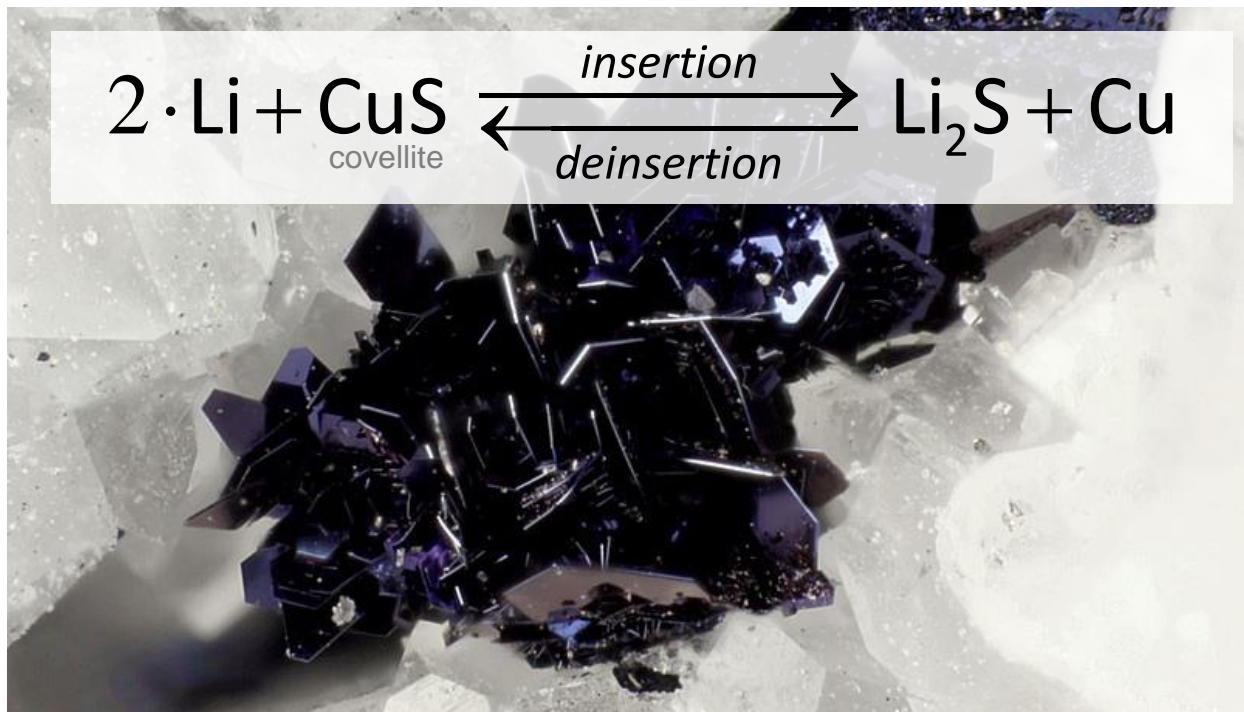
Copper sulfide – CuS (covellite)



Covellite: A naturally occurring mineral.

Source:
Mineralienatlas.de;
Grube Clara, Black forest.

Copper sulfide – CuS (covellite)



Covellite: A naturally occurring mineral – even in Germany.
Source: Mineralienatlas.de; Grube Clara, Black forest.

Mixed conductor
(Cu⁺, e⁻)



Cell voltage
1.96 V

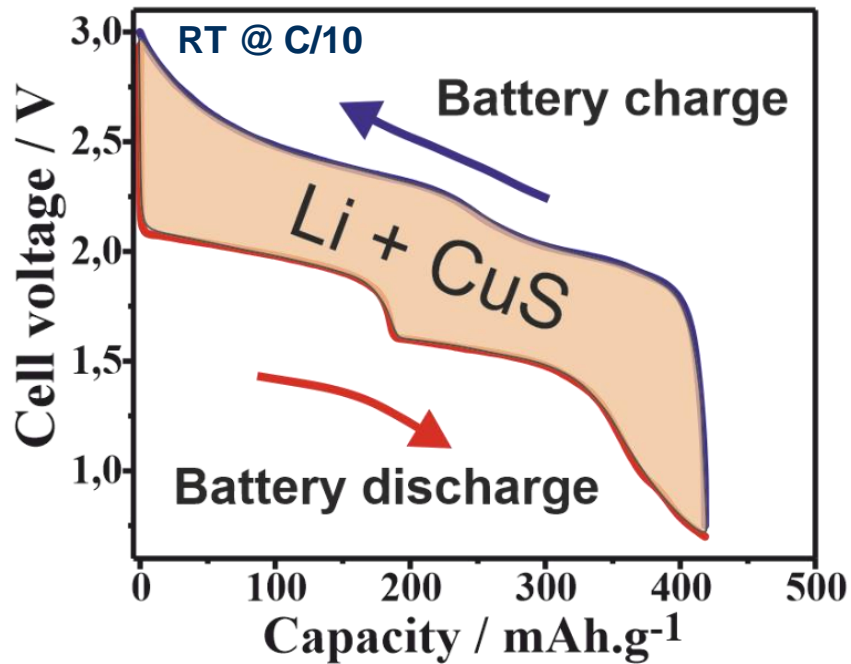
q_{th}(CuS)
561 mAh/g

Energy
961 Wh/kg

Vol. expansion
+ 75 %

Conductivity
760 S/cm

CuS as electrode for solid state batteries



ICE: 95%

310 mAh/g after 100 cycles

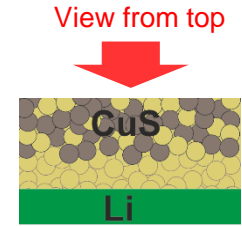
$q_{th} = 4.9 \text{ mAh/cm}^2$

Cathode: 70wt% CuS, 30 wt% Li₃PS₄,

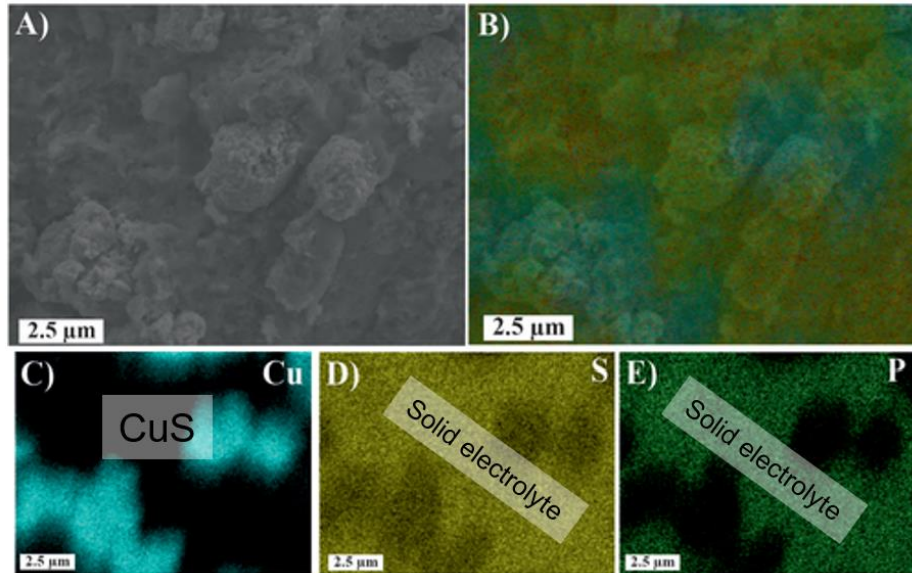
no conductive additive

CuS as electrode for solid state batteries

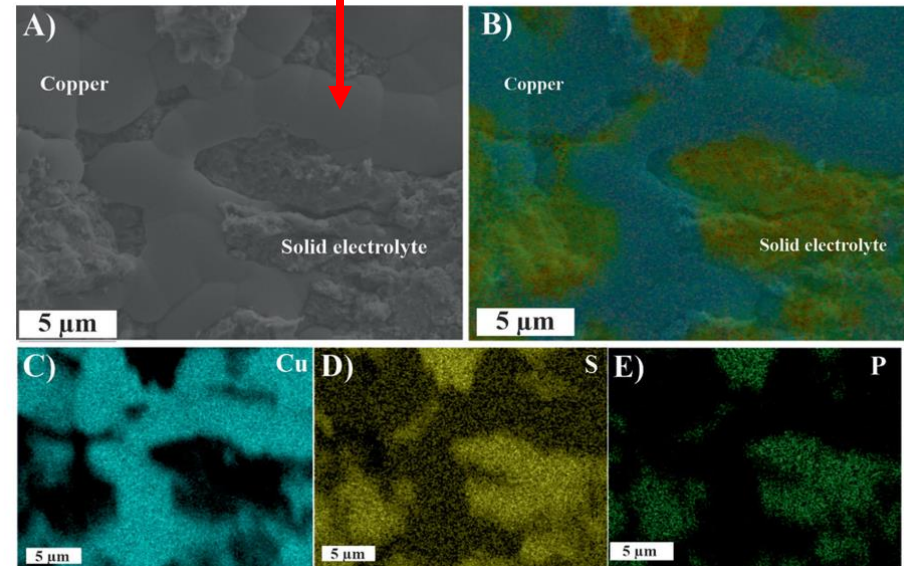
Very large crystals form during discharge.
Ideal case for tomography!



Before discharge

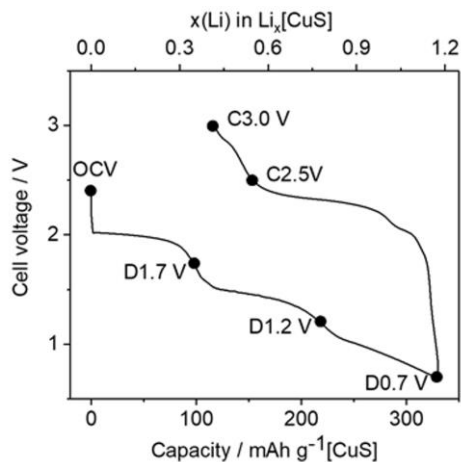


After discharge

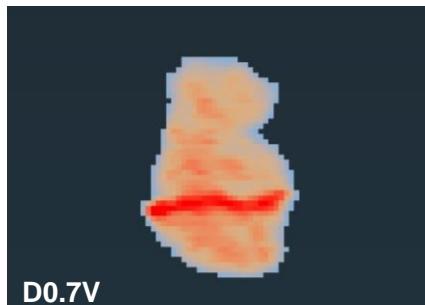
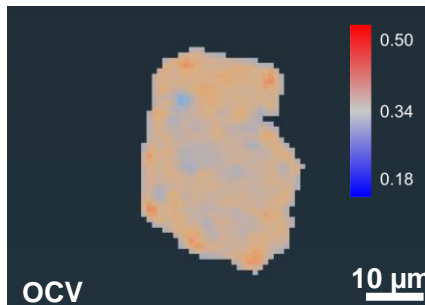


CuS as electrode for solid state batteries

Tomography study

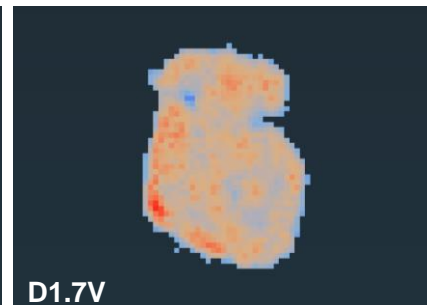


Before lithiation - CuS

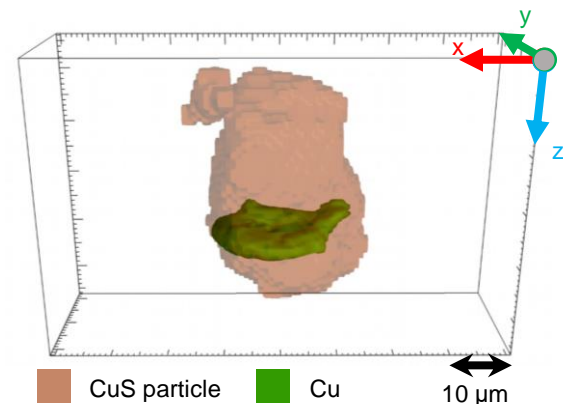


Formation of Cu and Li₂S

Formation of Cu₂S and Li₂S



Formation of Cu₂S and Li₂S



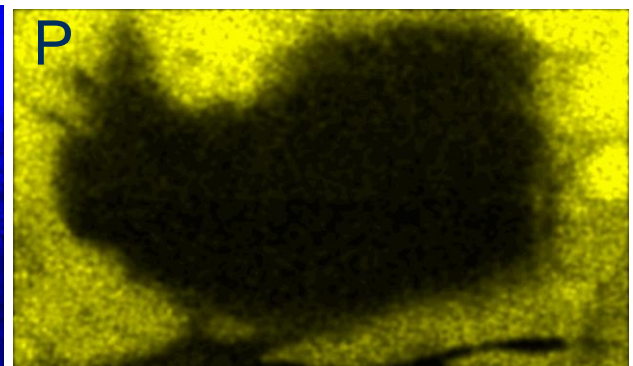
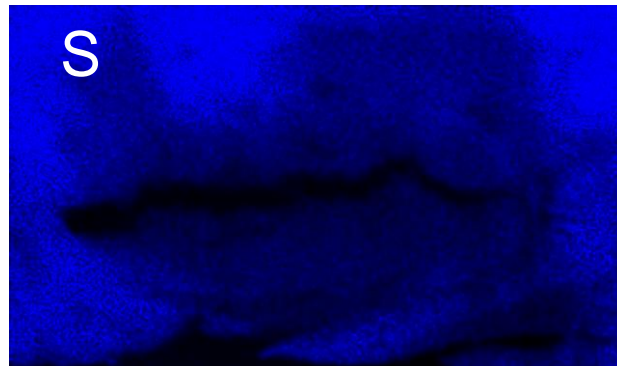
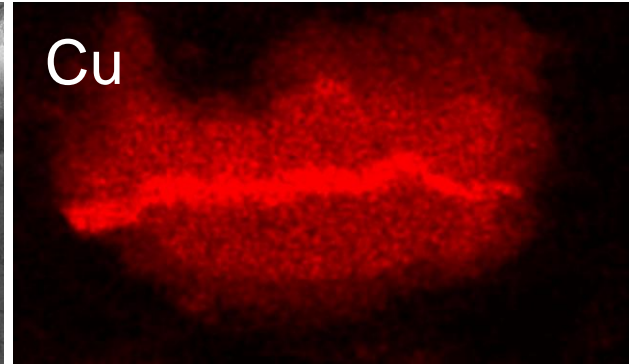
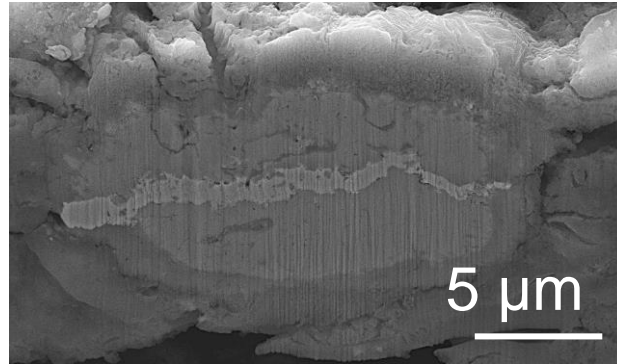
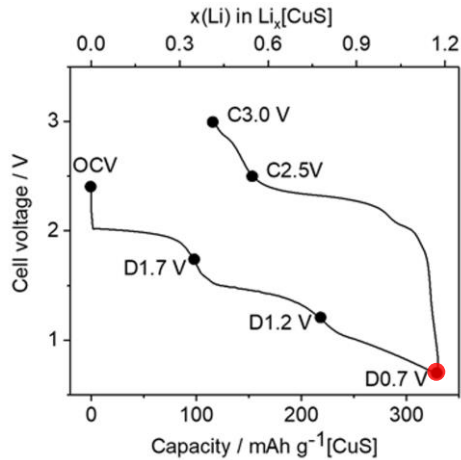
CuS particle

Cu

10 μm

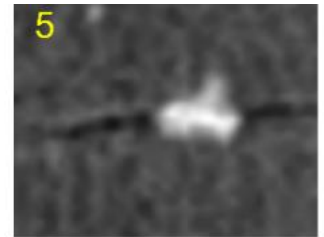
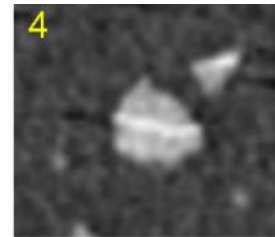
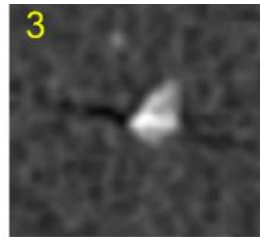
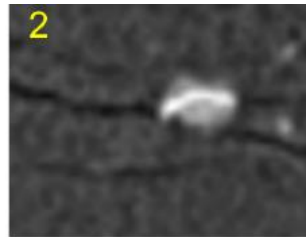
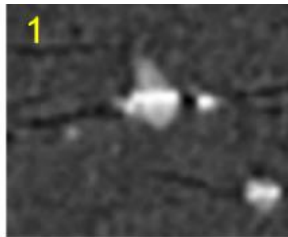
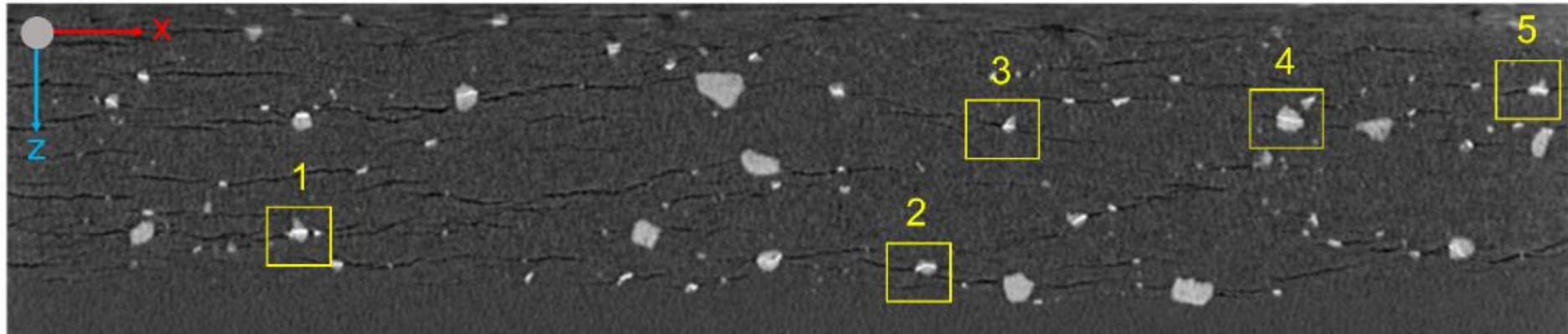
CuS as electrode for solid state batteries

FIB/SEM study



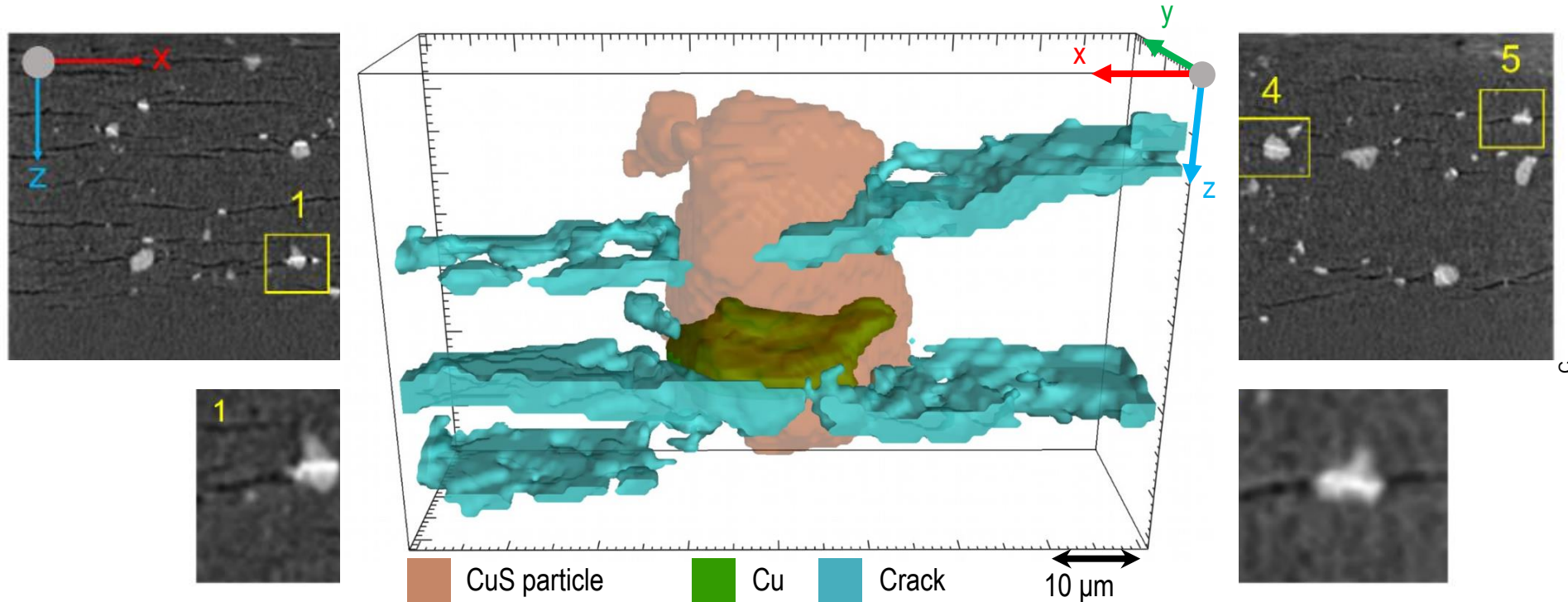
CuS as electrode for solid state batteries

Tomography study



CuS as electrode for solid state batteries

Tomography study



Take home message

- **Na-ion batteries are entering the market! There is great potential for improving electrode materials.**
- **Intercalation of solvated ions into solid host structures enriches the chemical space of battery materials**
- **Understanding electrode materials requires many analytical tools and input from different science disciplines. Important contributions can be made through operando studies and synchrotron / neutron facilities.**
- **Solid-state batteries are another technology of great interest. Mechanical properties (crack formation, contact loss,....) add to the complexity**

Questions?

X @adelhelm_group
in philipp.adelhelm



Funding: HU Berlin, HZB Berlin, BMBF, DFG, ERC, CSC, AvH

Cooperation partners of results from this talk: Giessen (Janek), Jülich (Kaghazchi), ZSW (Axmann), HZB (Manke), BESSY/DESY synchrotrons



Postdoc position available

Na-sulfur solid state battery project
(Deadline July 26), 2 years



Sodium Battery Symposium (SBS-5)

Berlin, Sept 23-25 2024 (updates on LinkedIn)
https://www.helmholtz-berlin.de/events/international-sodium-battery-symposium/index_en.html