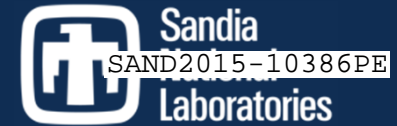


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Energy Storage for the Electric Grid – NanoWatts to MegaWatts

**Sean J. Hearne, Ph.D.**  
*Manager, Center for Integrated Nano-Technologies*  
*Sandia National Labs*



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000

# Acknowledgements

## The Team

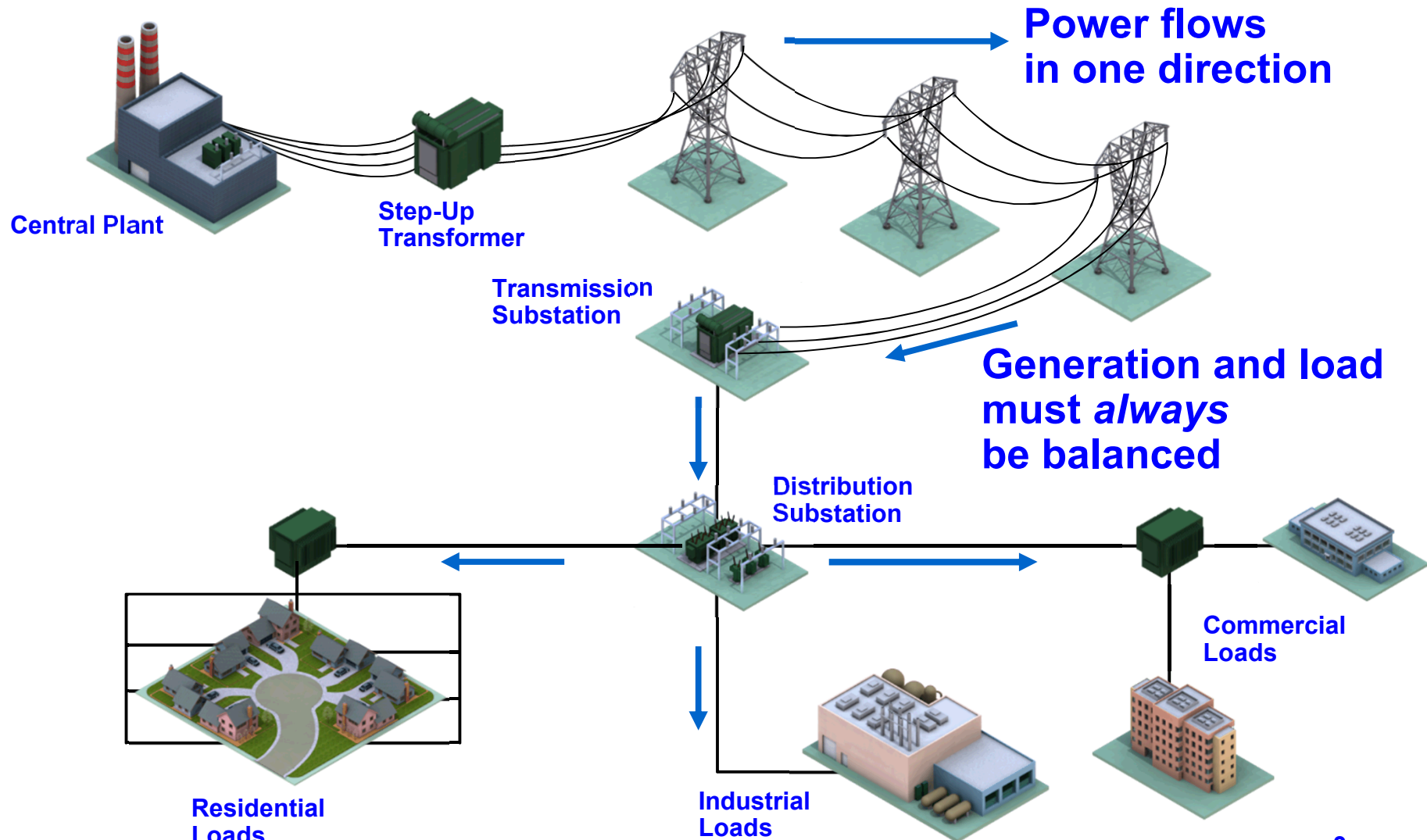
## The Money

- Katherine L. Jungjohann
- Andrew J. Leenheer
- Katharine L. Harrison
- Nathan T. Hahn
- C. Tom Harris
- John P. Sullivan
- Kevin R. Zavadil
- Georgianne Huff
- Tom Drennen

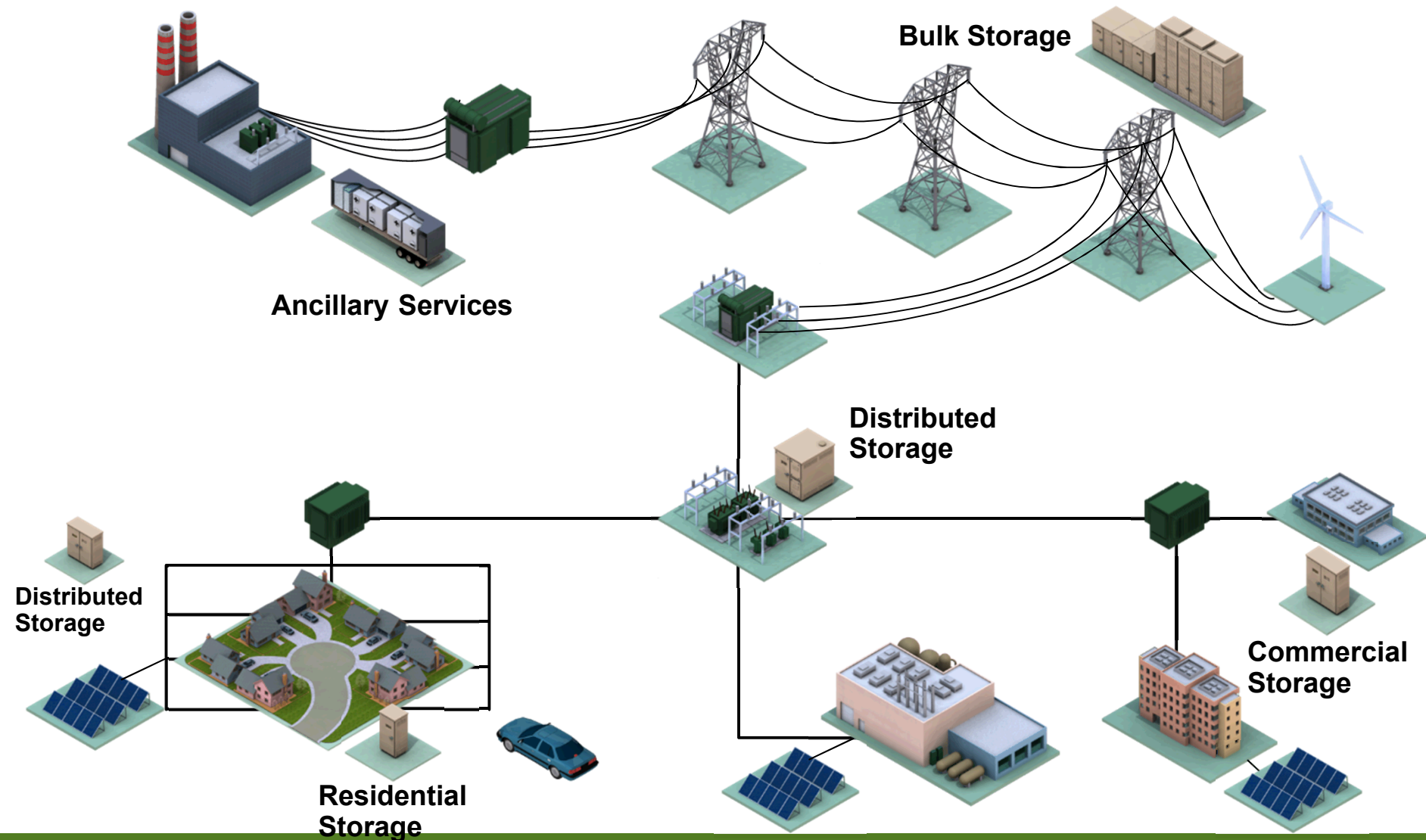


**DOE** - Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability

# How the Electricity Grid Works Today

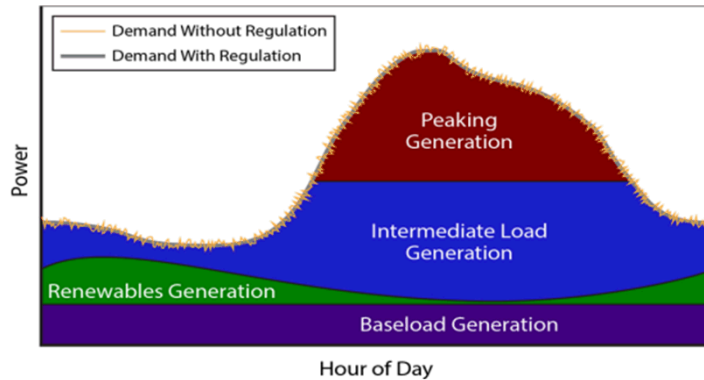


# The Role of Storage

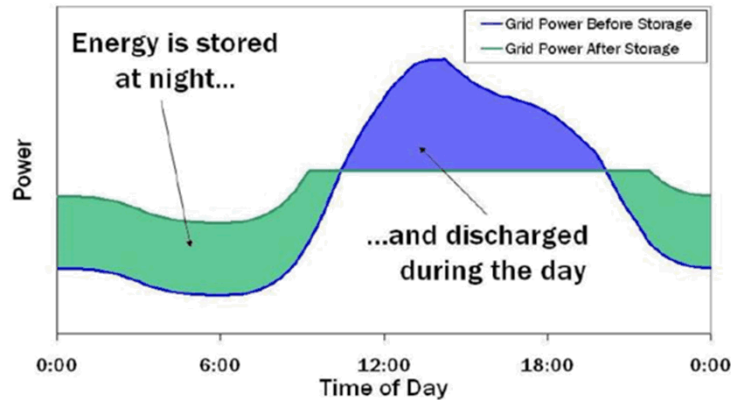




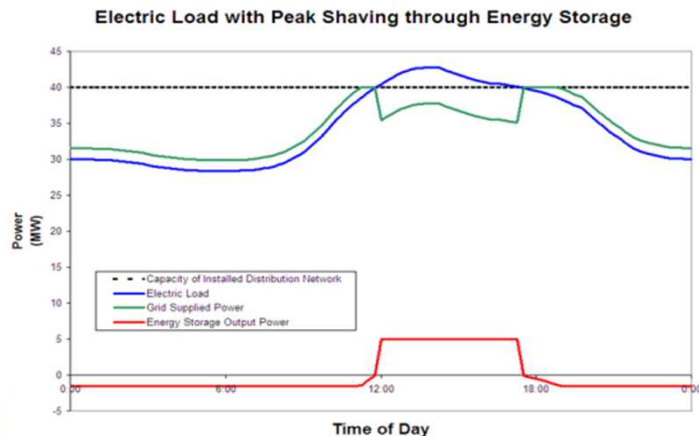
# Uses of Energy Storage



**Frequency Regulation:** Method to maintain the grid frequency within an allowable bandwidth by sourcing or sinking real power to and from the grid in a dynamic way.



**Arbitrage:** Also known as “load-leveling”; buy energy at low prices at night, sell when demand for energy is high during the day



**Peak Shaving:** also known as “demand charge management”; energy storage allows utilities a less-expensive option to address growing peak demand without building additional substations

# Energy Storage Technologies

**Energy**

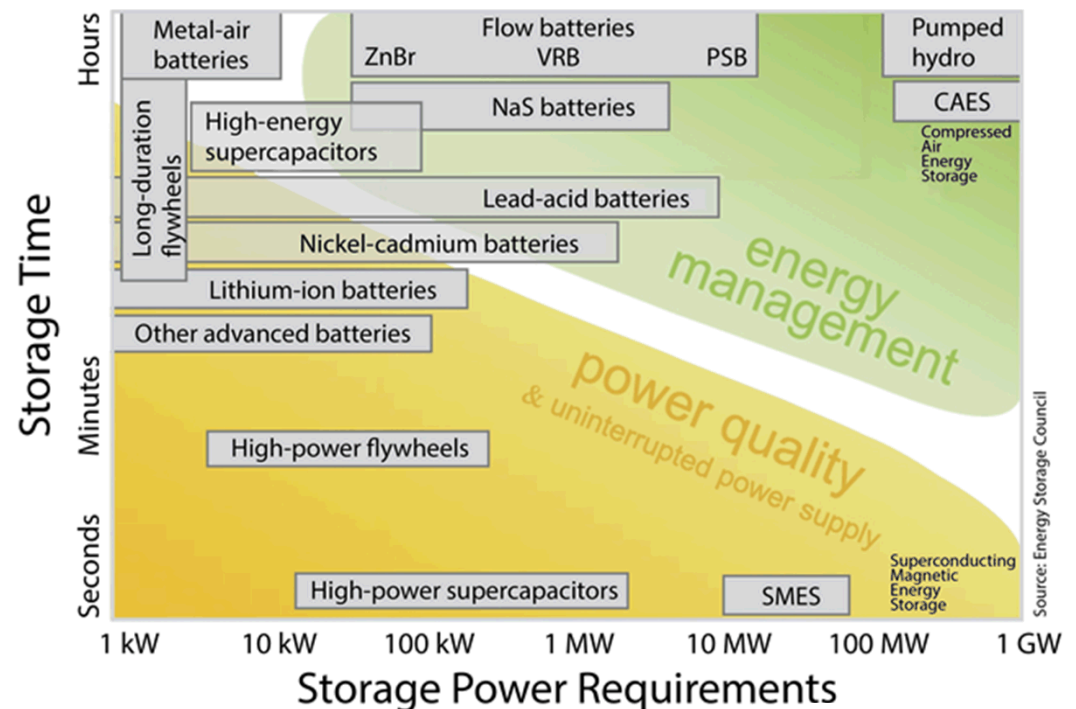
- Pumped Hydro
- Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)
- Batteries
  - Sodium Sulfur (NaS)
  - Flow Batteries
  - Lead Acid
  - Advanced Lead Carbon
  - Lithium Ion
- Flywheels
- Electrochemical Capacitors

**Power**

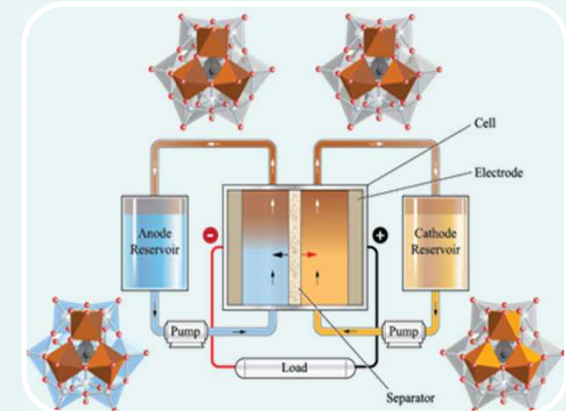
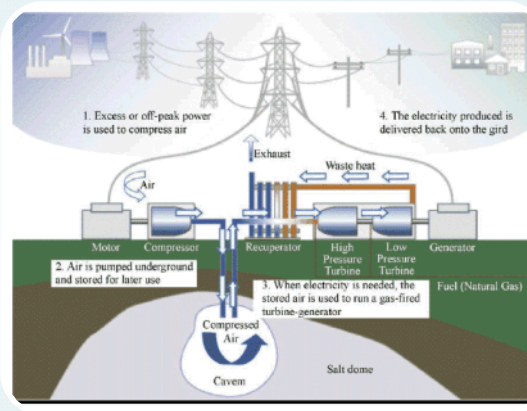
Two regimes, multiple technologies:

Power – short discharges (sec to min):  
flywheels, capacitors, SMES, some batteries

Energy – long discharges (min to hr):  
batteries, H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells, CAES, pumped hydro



# Energy Storage Technologies



## Pumped Hydro

- Nearly 99% of world-wide installed electrical storage capacity
- Advantage: Mature technology, large energy density
- Disadvantage: Large amount of space required for an installation, limited by geography, extremely slow response time

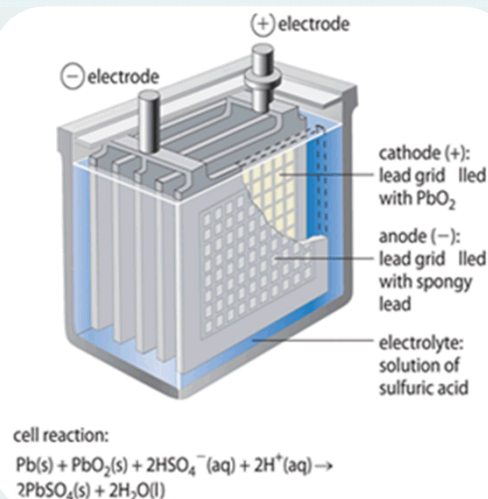
## Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)

- When needed, the compressed air is mixed with natural gas, burned and expanded in a modified gas turbine.
- Advantage: large energy density/capacity
- Disadvantage: Results in low round-trip efficiencies of less than 50%, limited by geography

## Redox Flow Batteries

- Advantage: Relatively safe, requires less space than pumped hydro or CAES
- Disadvantages: Low energy density, still researching optimal membrane/electrolyte pairing

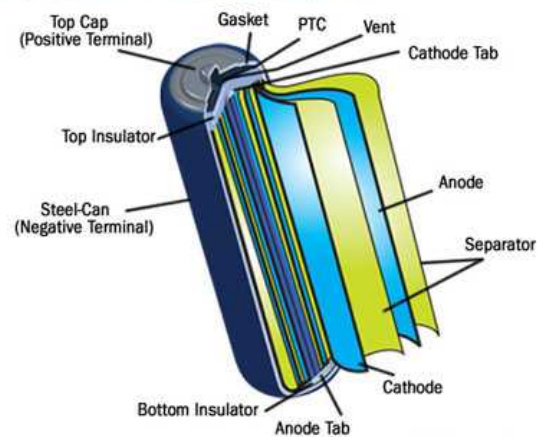
# Energy Storage Technologies continued



## Lead Acid (Pb acid) Batteries

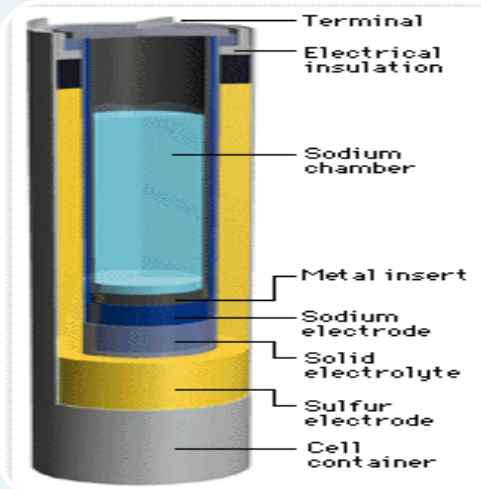
- Common applications in emergency power systems, stand-alone systems with PV, fluctuation mitigation for wind power
- Advantage: Mature technology, but not yet economically viable
- Disadvantage: Usable capacity decreases when high power is discharged

## Cylindrical lithium-ion battery



## Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Batteries

- Advantage: Very high efficiency, variable discharge time makes them flexible
- Advantage: High energy density lowers cost and increases mass production
- Disadvantage: High risk of thermal runaway

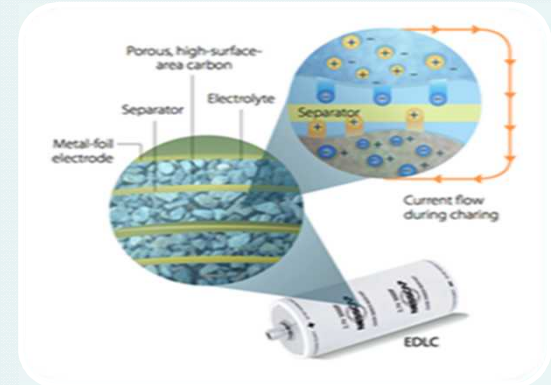
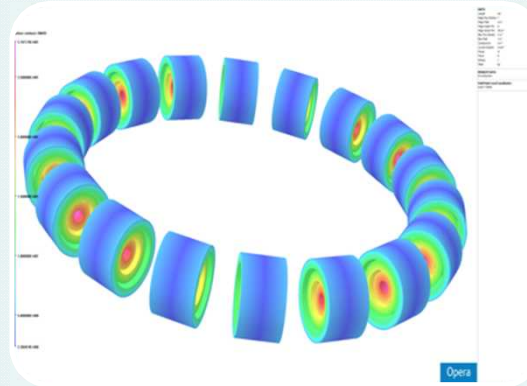
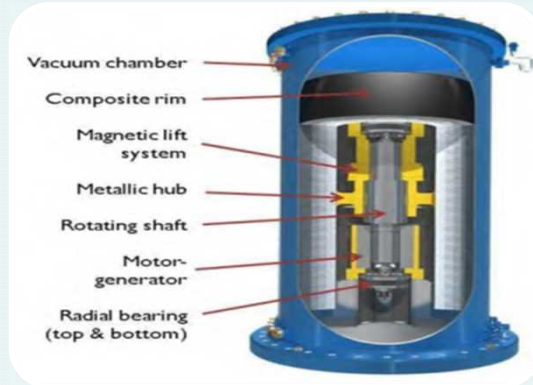


## Sodium Sulfur (Na/S) Batteries

- Advantages: High energy efficiency, fast response time
- Disadvantage: Requires a heat source, which uses the battery's own stored energy



# Energy Storage Technologies continued



## Flywheels

- Advantages: Primary applications include frequency regulation, frequency response, solar PV and wind output smoothing, peak shaving, power quality
- Disadvantage: recent safety incident at Stephentown plant, concrete cover partially blown off
- Current safety mitigation: fire suppressant

## Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage (SMES)

- Energy is stored in the magnetic field created by the flow of direct current in a superconducting coil
- Advantages: Very high power capability, improving load leveling, no moving parts or loss of power
- Disadvantage: Cryogenics challenge (cold temperature technology)

## Electrochemical Capacitors

- Advantages: High power capability, very fast charge/discharge, durability
- Disadvantages: Cannot be used to store energy over long periods



# Why isn't storage everywhere?

## Economics!

**The cost is too high for the value  
of services provided**



**Energy Storage only  
makes money for  
the purchaser when  
electrons are  
flowing.**

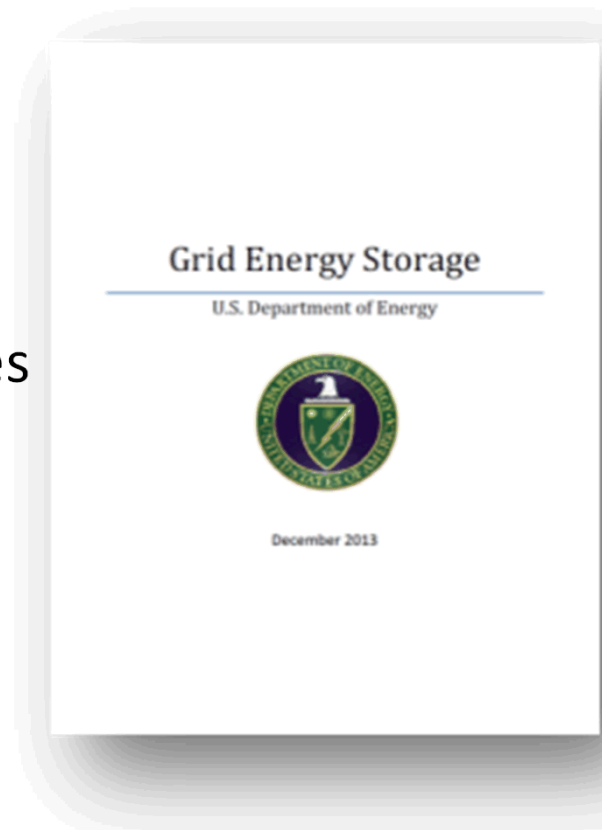
# But Wait There is More

*During the commissioning hearings of Dr. Moniz to head US DOE, Senator Wyden requested a strategic plan for grid energy storage.*

DOE Published the report in December 2013

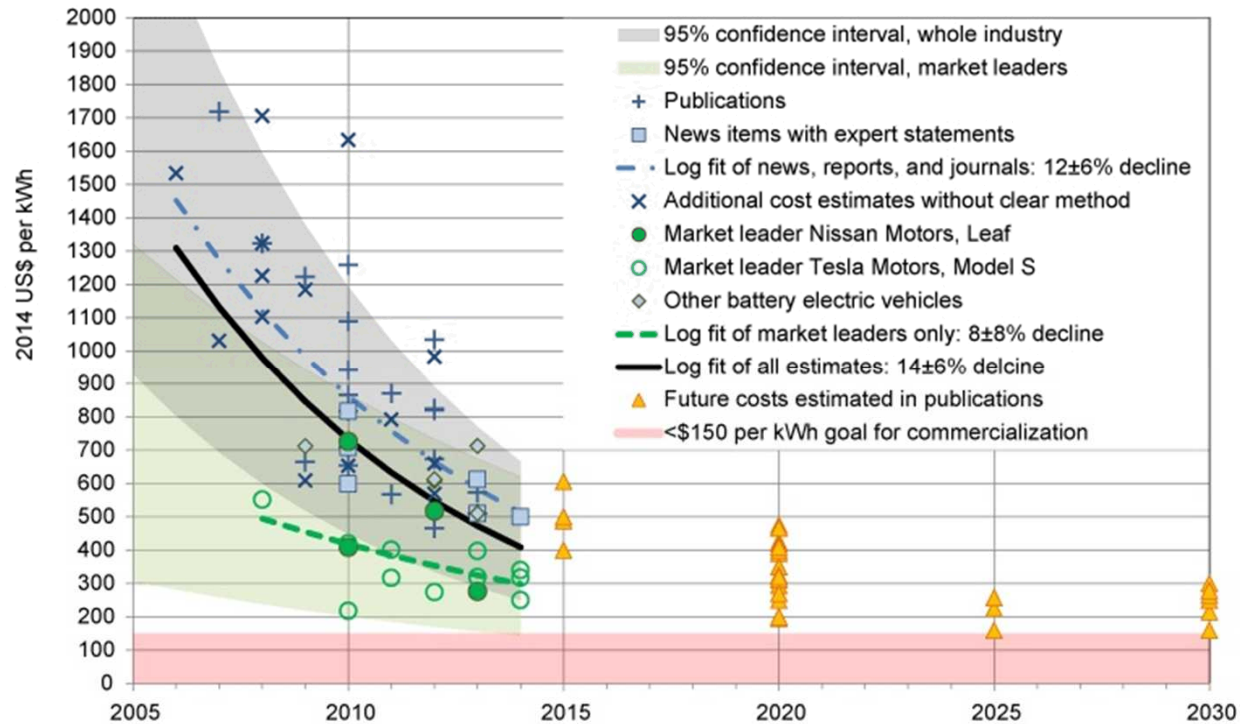
## Four Critical Challenges were identified

1. Cost Competitive Energy Storage Technologies
2. Validated Reliability and Safety
3. Equitable Regulatory Environment
4. Industry Acceptance



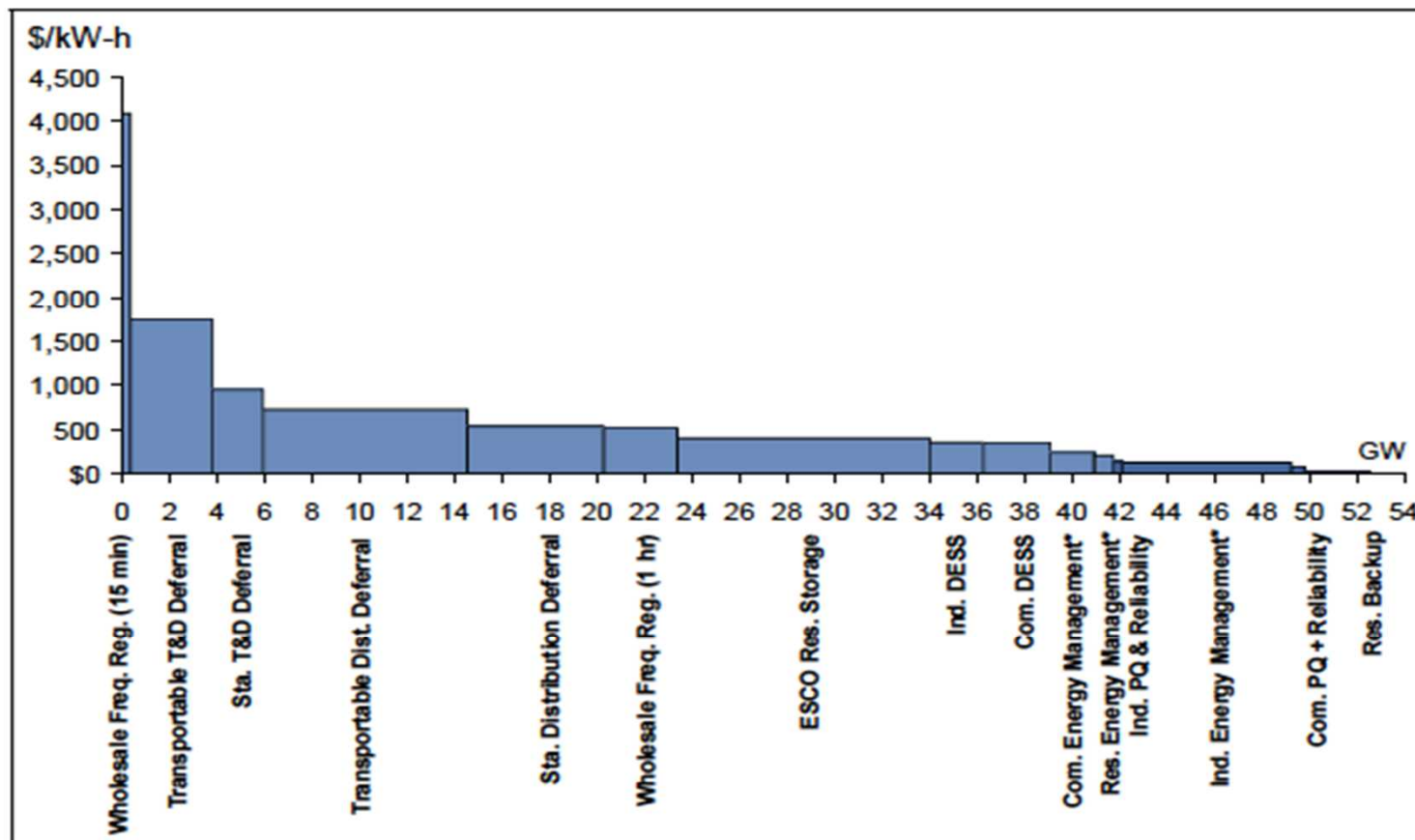
# Li-ion Battery Cost

Estimates of costs of lithium-ion batteries for use in electric vehicles



Björn Nykvist and Måns Nilsson, 2015

# Battery Value



Estimated value (bar height) and market size (bar width) for grid storage deployment.

**Figure 13**  
Estimated Target Market Size and Target Value Analysis

Source: EPRI, 2010

■ **Estimated to be \$35.3B, ~19GWh market by 2020** (assuming \$500kWh) -

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/articles/2010/08/pike-research-grid-energy-storage-a-35b-market-by-2020.html>

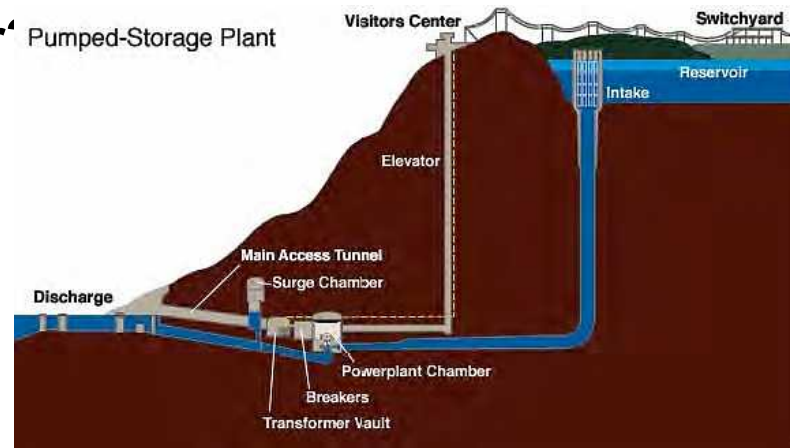
# Is pumped hydro the answer?

How much energy is in displaced water?

1 cubic meter of water

100M height

=0.272 kWh



To get 0.5MWh of storage = 919 cubic meters

A tank 3 meters high will take up 306 sq. meters

Cost of real estate in New York City is **\$5167 per sq. meter** [1]

The tank will cost \$1.5M, but two tanks are needed. **The property costs \$3M alone!**

919 cubic meters =  
10 tractor trailers





# What about Li-ion Batteries?



**In NYC the space for a single tractor trailer is \$170k.**

**The cost of the batteries \$500 /kWh installed is \$250k**

**Total cost = \$420k (20x less than the space needs alone for pumped hydro.**

**For many applications, where space or environmental impact matters, batteries are a most desirable solution.**

# But...



**Let's consider the degradation cost of Tesla batteries**

**60kWh battery costs \$12,000 to replace when it reaches 80% of life. So, the degradation cost of Tesla batteries is \$1000 /kWh [1]**

**Tesla batteries degrade at 0.03% per cycle [2] = \$0.30 per cycle per kWh**

**Current average electricity cost in Kentucky = \$0.09 kWh**

**So, using Tesla batteries to store energy for the grid is a losing proposition even if the power was free!**

**Better analysis: G. Freeman “ Estimating the Microeconomic Benefits of Vehicle-to-Grid Services in New York City” *Proceedings US Association for Energy Economics* (2015).**

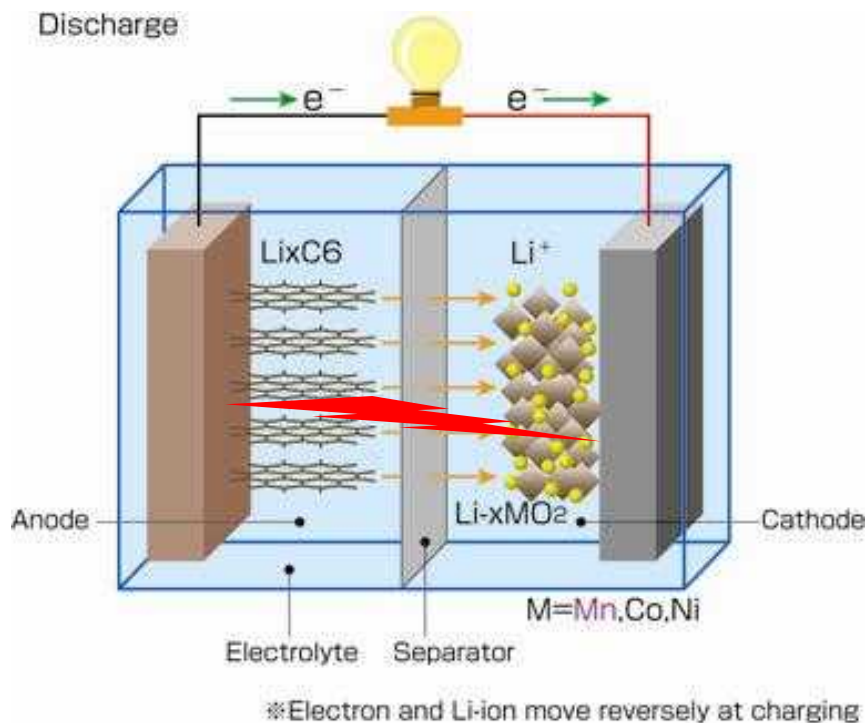
[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tesla\\_Model\\_S](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tesla_Model_S)

[2] [http://my.teslamotors.com/fr\\_CA/forum/forums/battery-degradation-finally-some-data](http://my.teslamotors.com/fr_CA/forum/forums/battery-degradation-finally-some-data)

# Using Nanoscience to understand degradation in Li batteries

# Li Metal Anodes for Lithium Ion Batteries

*Li metal anodes can increase the capacity by a factor of 10!*



Alloy Anode Material	Theoretical Capacity (mAh/g)
Li	3,860
Si	4,200
Graphite	~ 360
Sn	990
Al	990
Sb	650

Yoshio, M. et al., 2009 Lithium-Ion Batteries. Springer, New York, 11

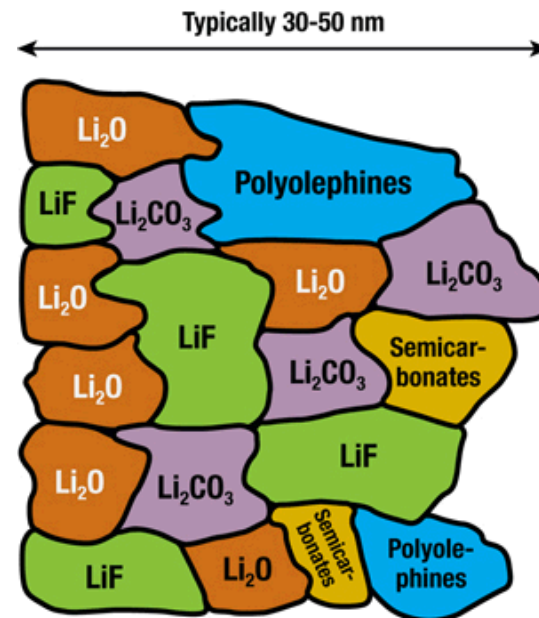
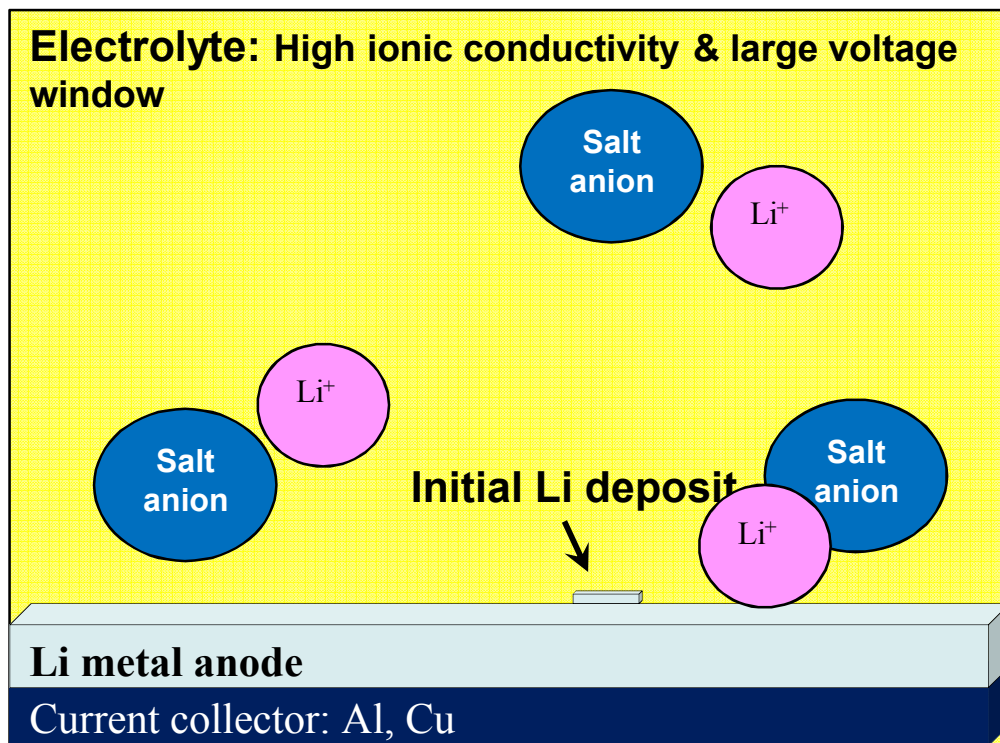
**Why don't we use Li metal anodes?**

**Short circuit failure in Li-ion batteries from Li dendrite formation**

# Li Metal – Electrolyte Interface

## Electrodeposition of Li

**Electrolyte:** High ionic conductivity & large voltage window



**SEI Interface:**  
Lithium Intercalation into Graphite

Peled et al. (1997) J. Electrochem. Soc. 144, L208.

*Known that a surface film forms at solid-electrolyte interface (SEI), what impact does this SEI film have on Li morphology for electrodeposition?*

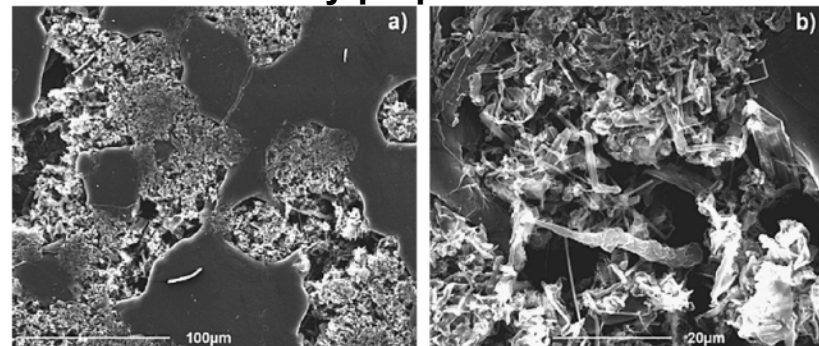


# Characteristics of Li Dendrite Growth

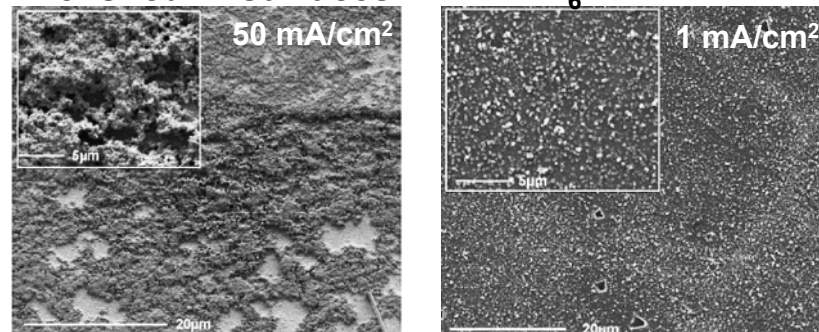
## Parameters determining Li morphology

- *Current density*
- *Temperature*
- *Initial Li metal structure*
- *Electrolyte (solute and solvent)*
- *Electrolyte additives*
- *Electrode stack pressure*
- *Environmental considerations*

## Electrochemically prepared Li surfaces

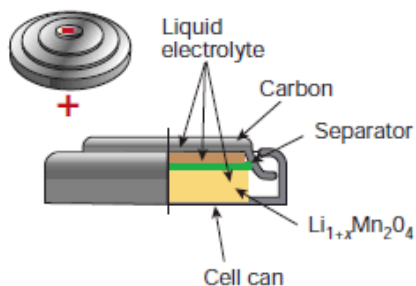


## Polished Li surfaces: 1 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in EC/DMC



Gireaud, L. et al. 2006. Electrochem. Comm. 8, 1639.

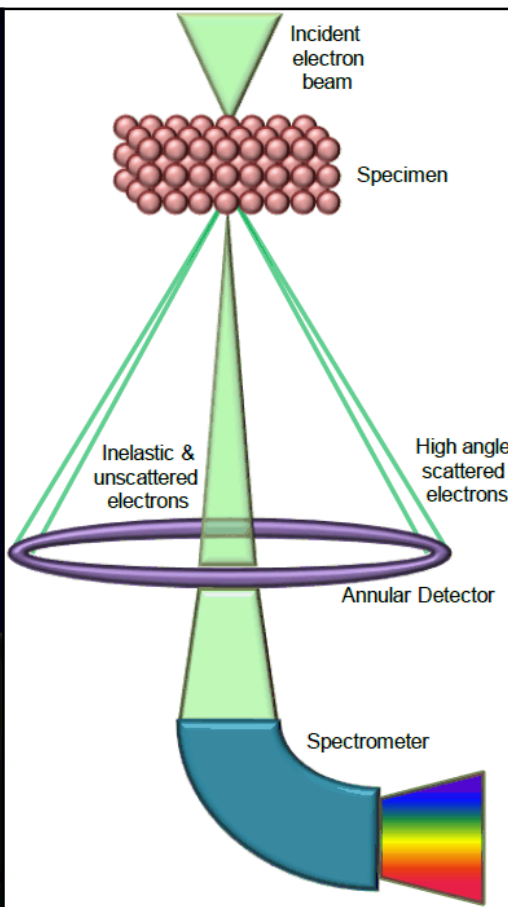
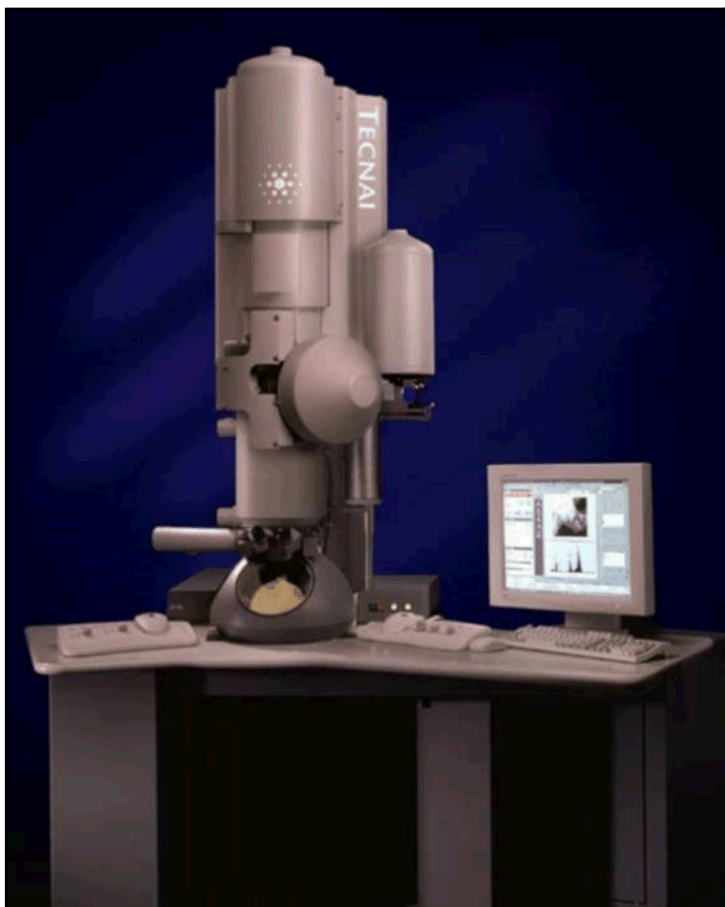
Li dendrites preferentially grown on metal imperfections (higher surface energy states) and at high current densities. The local current density (current focalization) is enhanced by surface imperfections.



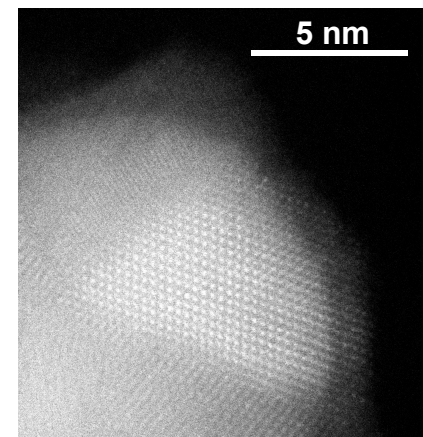
Tarascon J.-M. and Armand, M. (2001) Nature 414, 359.

Li dendrite tip morphology remains constant during growth (growth from base)

# Transmission Electron Microscopy

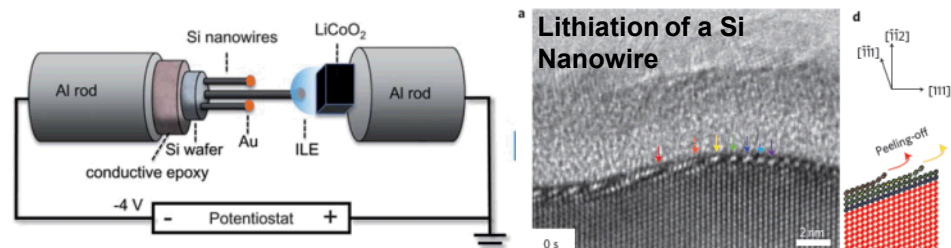


300 kV electron beam  
Beam current 5 – 10 pA  
Dark-field and Bright-field STEM  
Generally: 5 sec 1k x 1k images



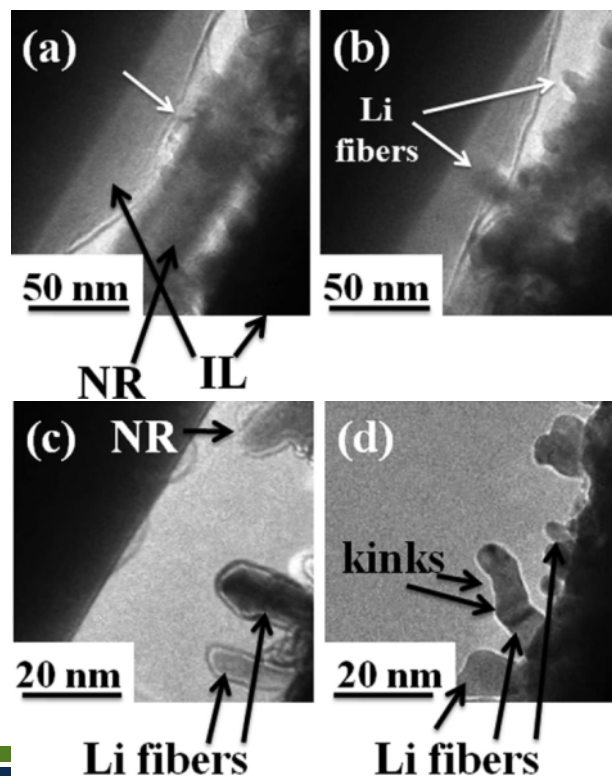
*Atomic-resolution imaging and chemical analysis*

# Vacuum Environment: Li Dendrite Formation

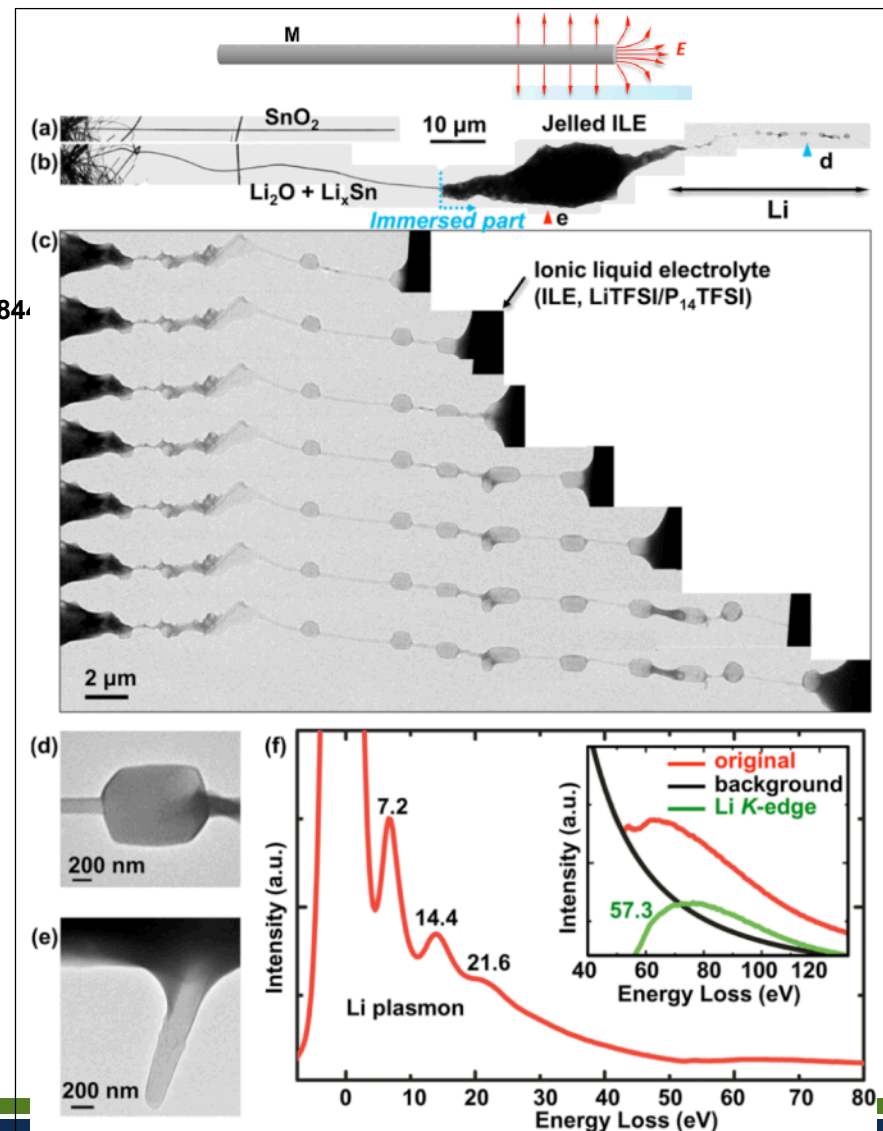


Liu, X. H. and Huang, J. Y. 2011. Energy Environ. Sci. 4, 3844.

Liu, X. H. et al. 2011. Nature Nano. 7, 384



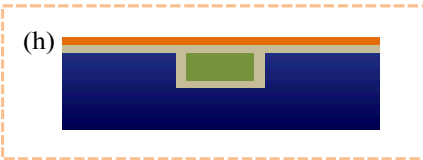
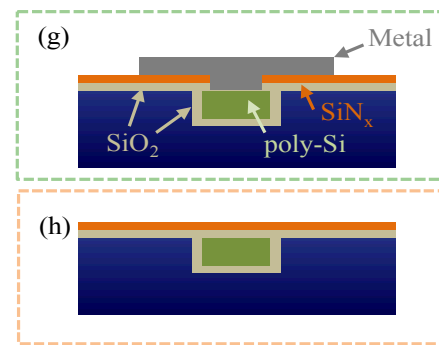
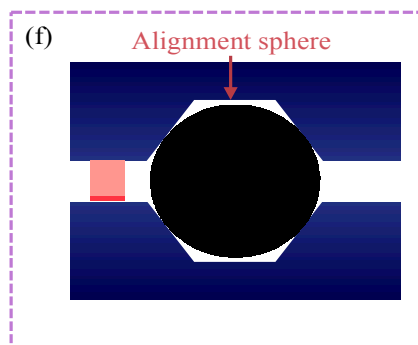
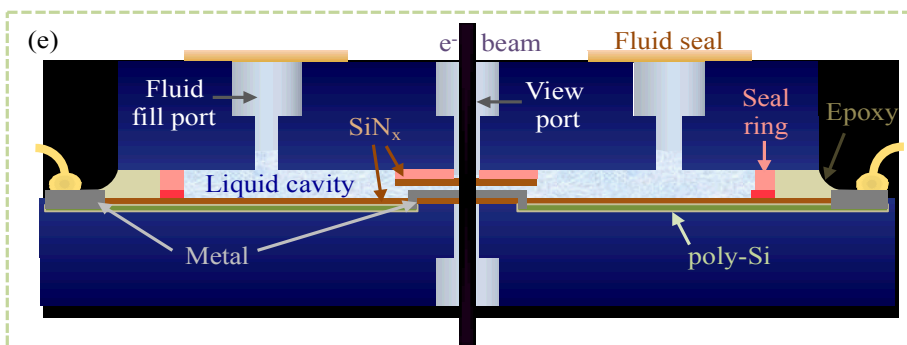
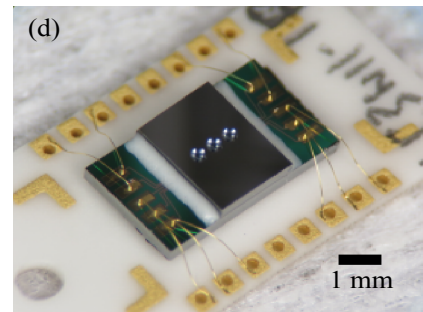
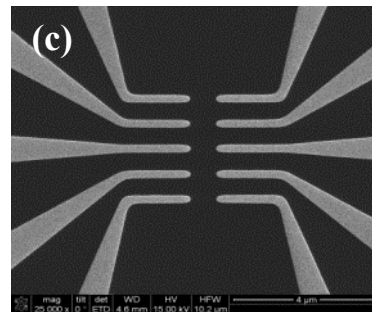
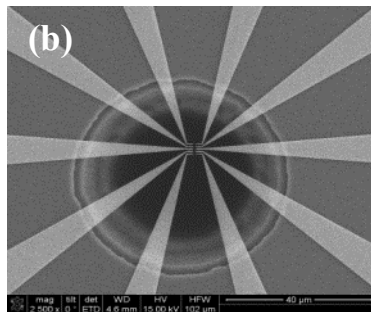
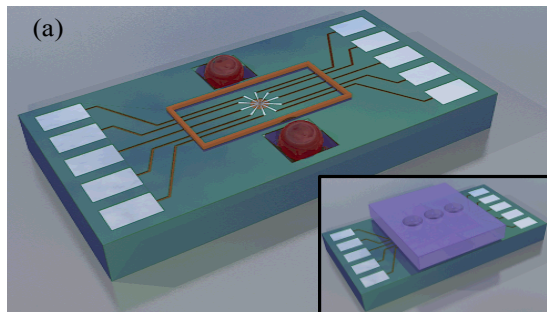
Ghassemi, H. et al. 2011. Appl. Phys. Lett. 99, 123113.



Liu, X. H. et al. 2011. Appl. Phys. Lett. 98, 18310

# Electrochemical TEM Discovery Platform

- Electrically isolated electrodes allow for defined current control down to femptoampere levels
- 10 ultramicroelectrodes can be controlled at technologically relevant current densities
- Active electrode areas are confined to viewable region in the 30 nm thick SiN window

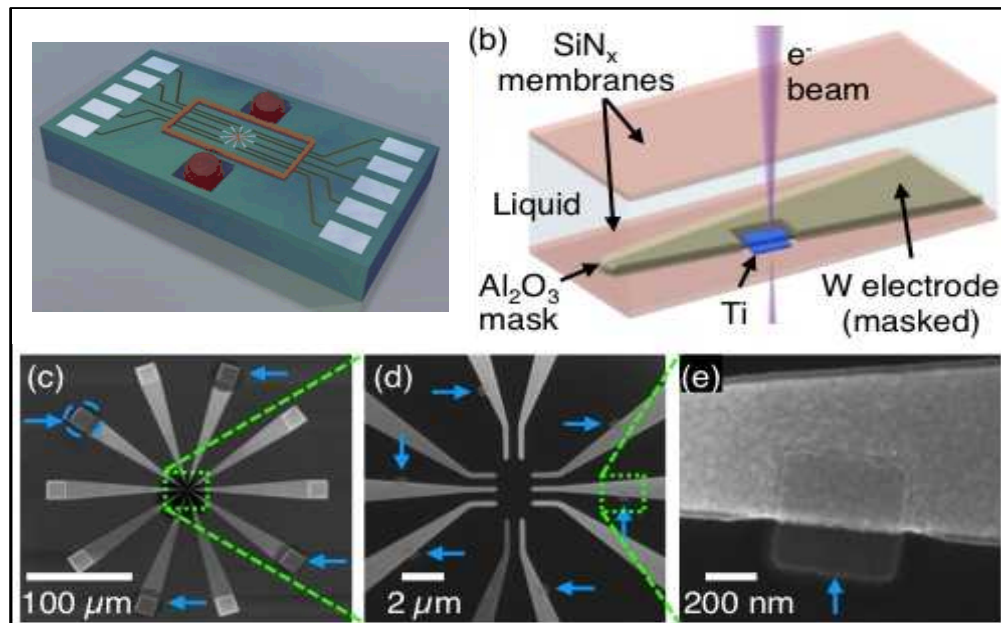


Leenheer et al., (2015) JMEMS. DOI:10.1109/JMEMS.2014.2380771

*Reproducible electrochemical control during imaging*



# Customization of EChem TEM Discovery Platform



- 10 Custom Designed Electrodes
- Multiple Experiments on Same Platform
- Passivated Leads to Localize Electrochemistry
- Picoampere Current Control
- Liquid Thickness > 120 nm
- Beads Simplify Window Alignment
- Chemical Compatibility with Cell
- Conduct in-situ & ex-situ Testing

*Consideration to Depletion of Li in Electrolyte*

$$i_{\max} = nF\Delta cV/t$$

N : # e<sup>-</sup> transferred

F: 96485 C/mol

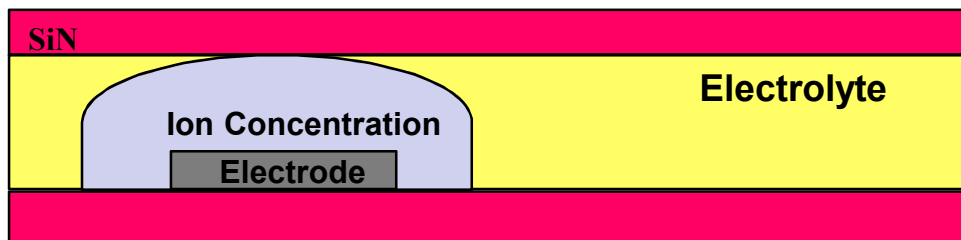
V: ~ 2.8 nL

T: 1 hr

$i_{\max}$  (10% of 1 mM): 7.5 pA

Use ~ 1 μm<sup>2</sup> electrode area

leads Leenheer et al., (2015) JMEMS. DOI:10.1109/JMEMS.2014.2380771.



Diffusion limited reaction at 400 nm cell thickness: >75 pA (1 μm<sup>2</sup>)

Absolute limiting current for 0.26 μm<sup>2</sup> electrode is 4,000 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>



**1 M  $\text{LiPF}_6$  IN EC/DMC ( $>10$  PPM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )**

# Galvanostatic Control of Working Electrode

Electric current is kept at a defined set point

We are able to control currents below pA level

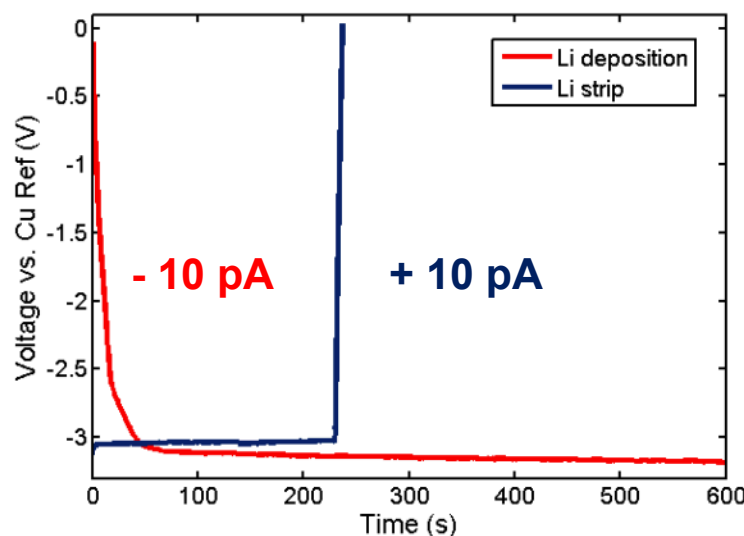
The voltage applied is dependent on the resistance during the measurement, value plotted vs. time

Voltage plateau defines the electrochemical processes

The electron beam can produce currents to be read during the measurement

Pseudo-reference electrodes were used, where potential values vary with changes in the conditions

Galvanostatic experiments allow us to directly measure the Coulombic efficiency at each of the deposition/stripping cycles

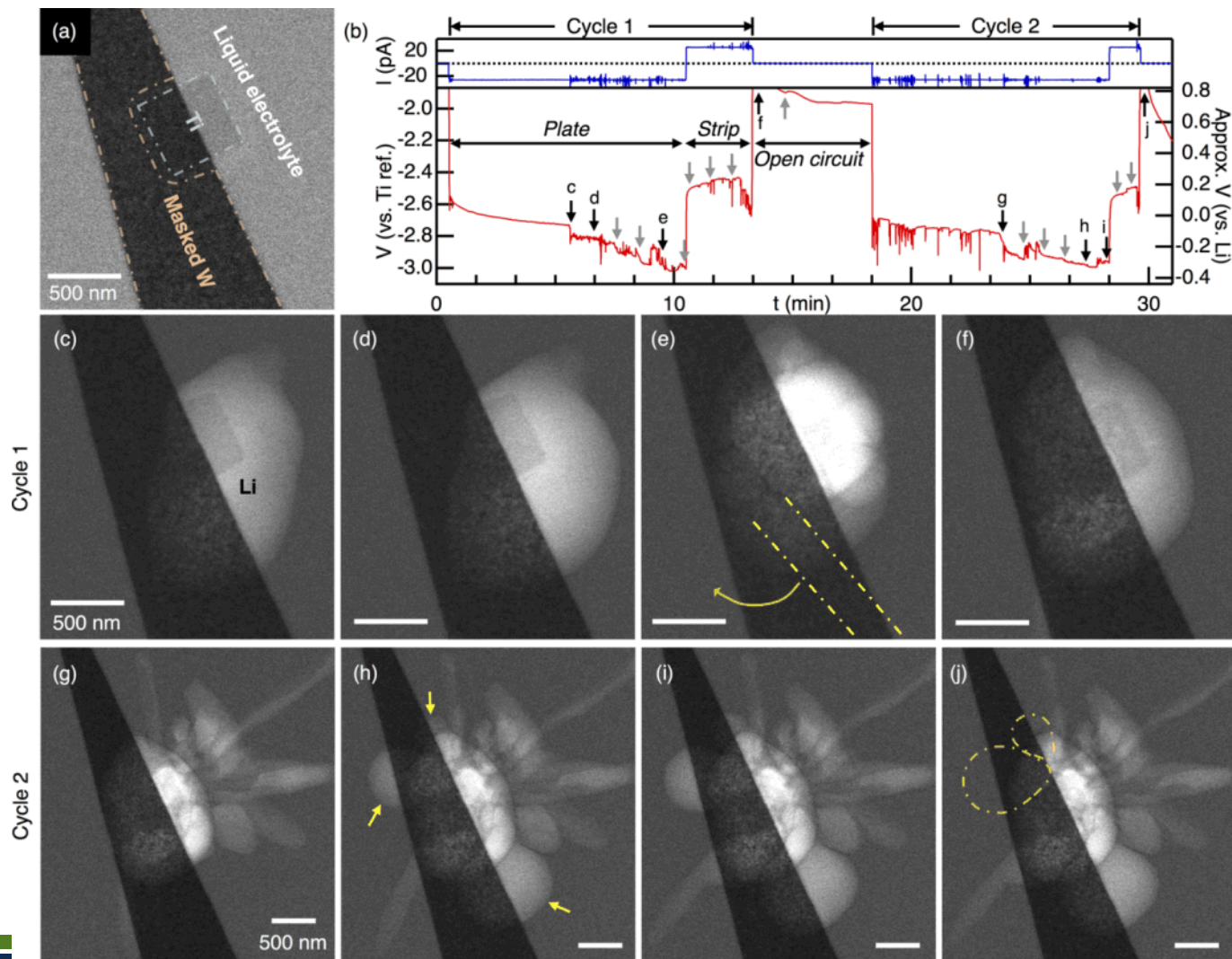


Coulombic Efficiency: 39.47%

# Li Morphology during Cycling

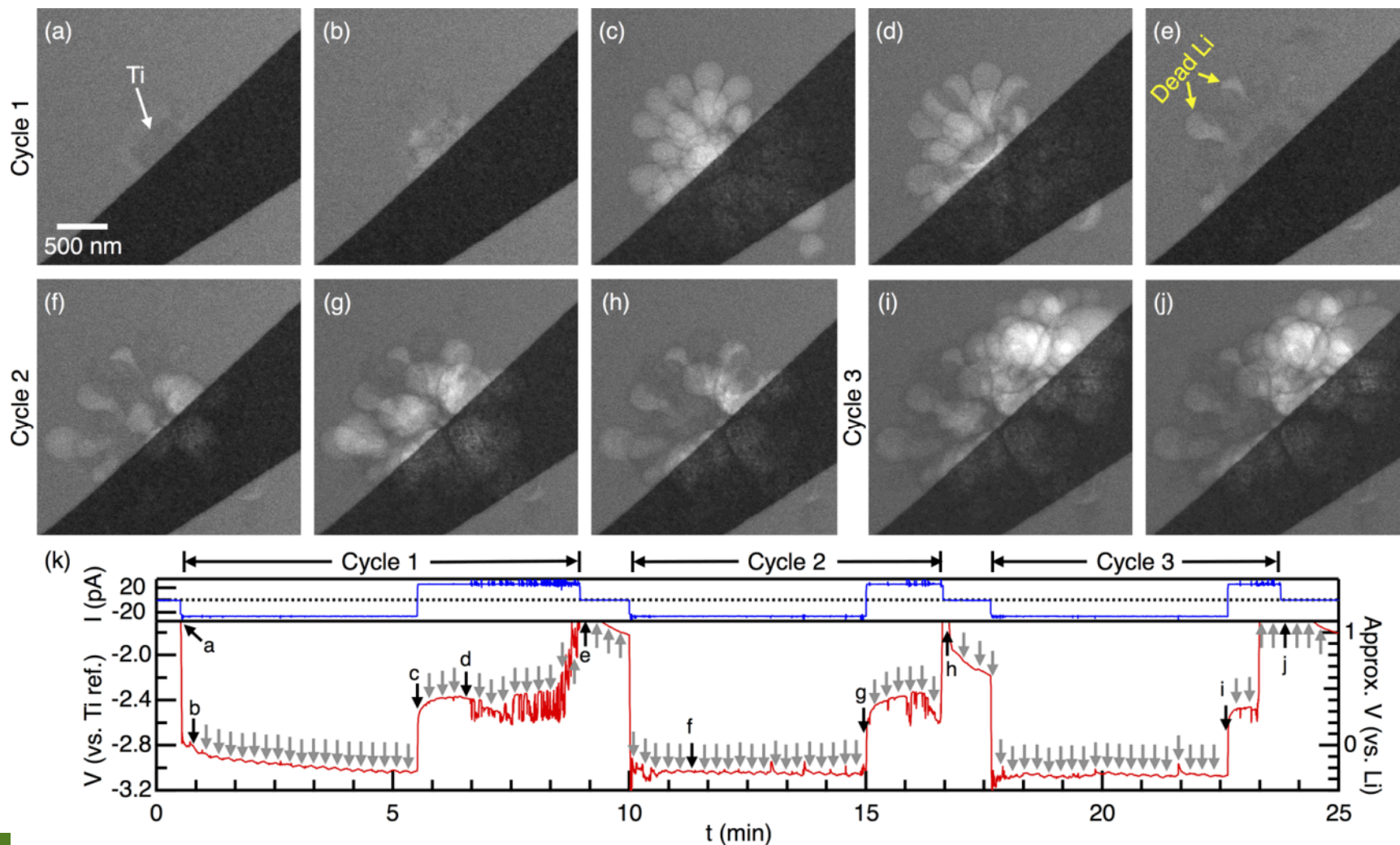
WE:  $0.26 \mu\text{m}^2$  Ti electrode  
 CE:  $750 \mu\text{m}^2$  Ti electrode  
 Coated with ALD  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$   
 Liquid thickness:  $>1 \mu\text{m}$   
 Galvanostatic control:  $\pm 10 \text{ mA/cm}^2$   
 Electron dose per image:  $25\text{-}50 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$

- The electron beam impacted initial Li plating
- Correlate spikes in electrochemical data with nucleation of new Li grains
- Unable to distinguish electrochemically the nucleation of a rounded grain vs. a dendrite



# Li Morphology: High E<sup>-</sup> Beam Dose

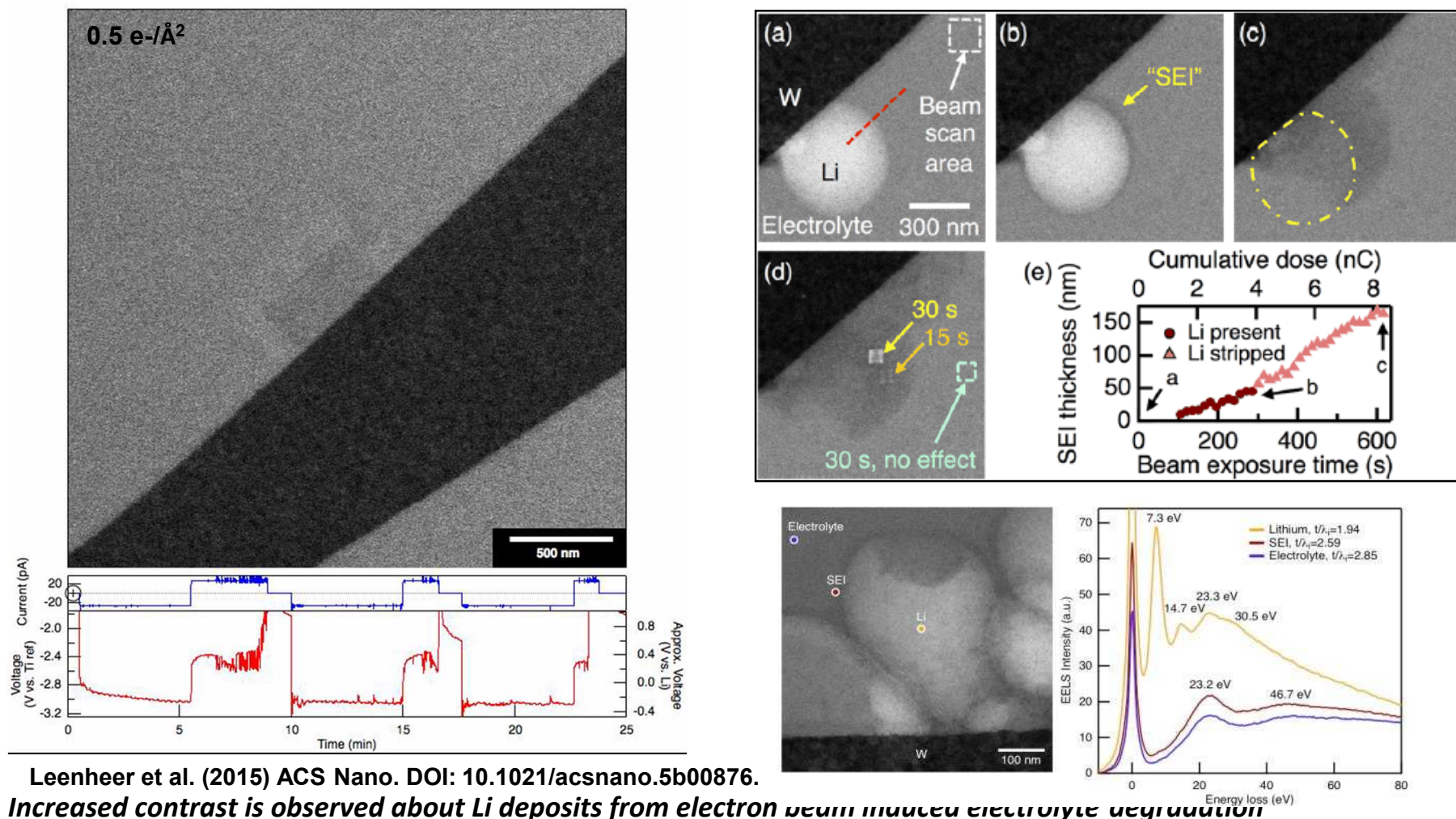
Galvanostatic control at  $\pm 10 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ , Electron dose per image:  $25 - 50 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$ , Imaging every 15 seconds



Electron beam increases nucleation and creates rounded Li deposits



# How Does SEI Evolve with Cycling?

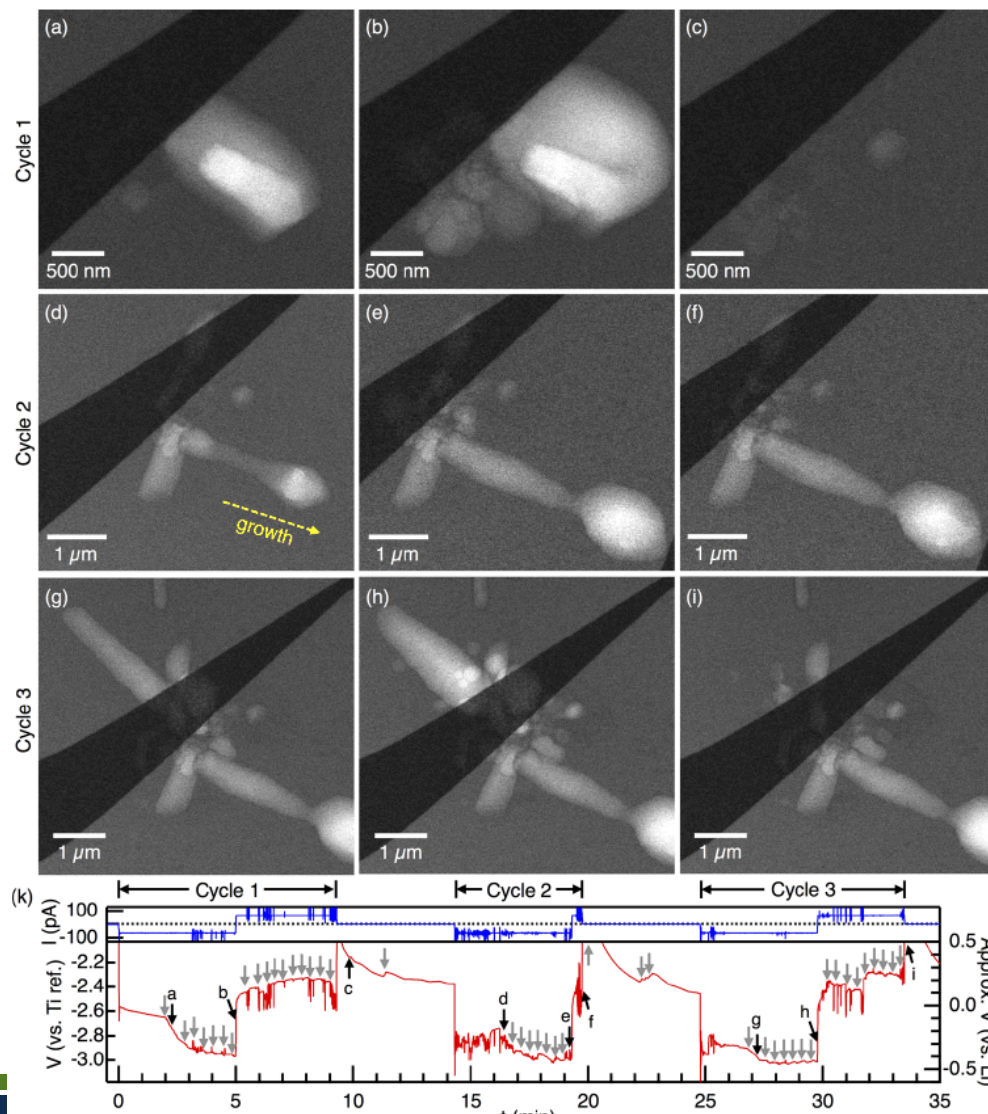


Leenheer et al. (2015) ACS Nano. DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.5b00876.

*Increased contrast is observed about Li deposits from electron beam induced electrolyte degradation*

*Native SEI characterization is very difficult using an electron beam for imaging/spectroscopy*

# Li Deposition: High Current Density



Galvanostatic control at  $\pm 25 \text{ mA/cm}^2$   
 Electron dose per image:  $12.5 - 25 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$   
 Imaging every 15 seconds

- Li dendrites observed more readily at higher current densities
- Li dendrites were observed more frequently at later cycles
- Since the current densities used were well below the diffusion limited regime for these  $0.26 \mu\text{m}^2$  electrodes, the diffusion-limited model for Li dendrites must be applicable to propagation rather than initiation
- TEM observation creates enhanced Li dendrite growth?
  - Large electrolyte volume to electrode area, ratio, radial diffusion, lack of separator pressure and beam-induced SEI

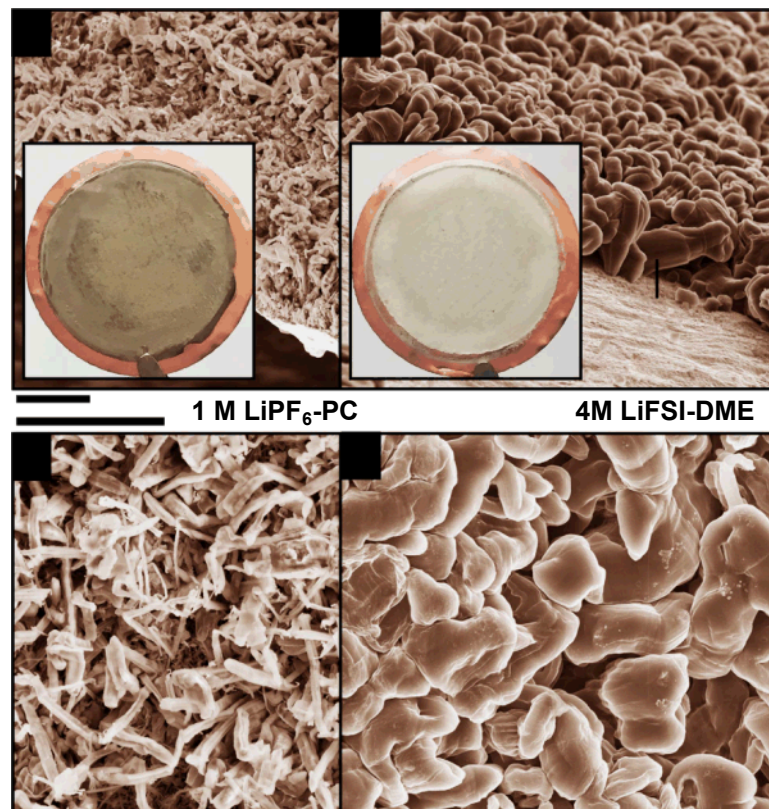
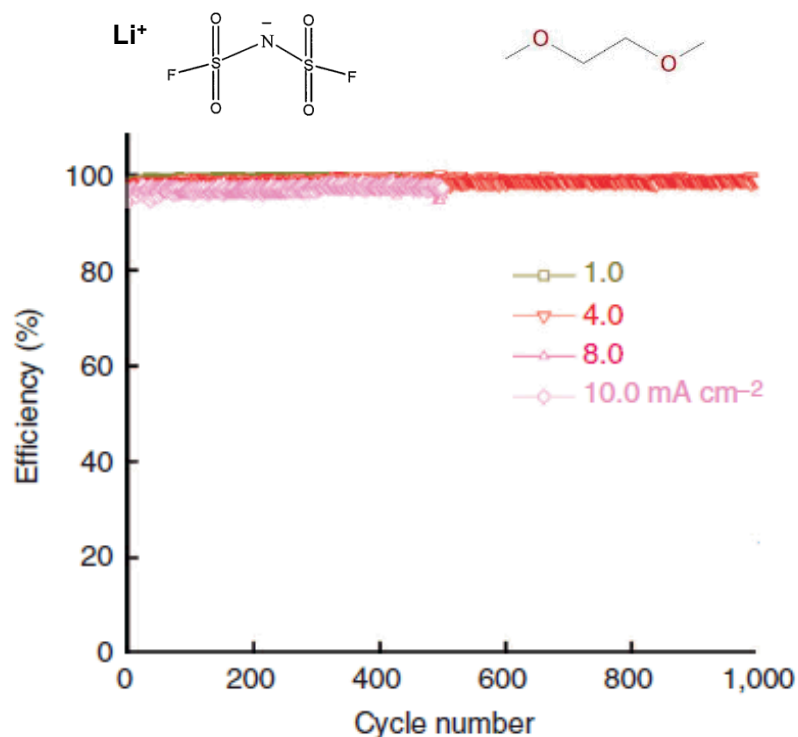


# 4 M LiFSI IN DME (4 PPM H<sub>2</sub>O)

# Electrolyte Suppresses Li Dendrites?

## Technical challenge

- Tailoring the electrolyte to suppress Li dendrite formation may solve this issue, allowing for Li metal anodes to be used for increased capacity
- 4 M Lithium bis(fluorosulfonyl)imide (LiFSI) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) (< 1 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O), increased solvent coordination

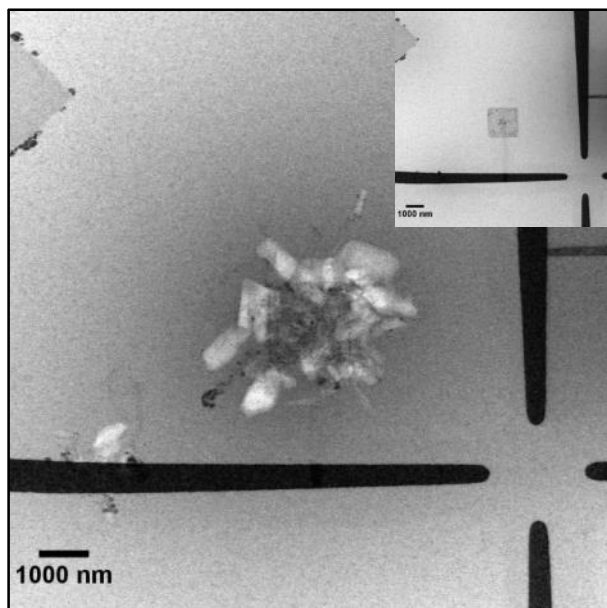


Qian et al., Nature Comm. 6, 6362 (2015).

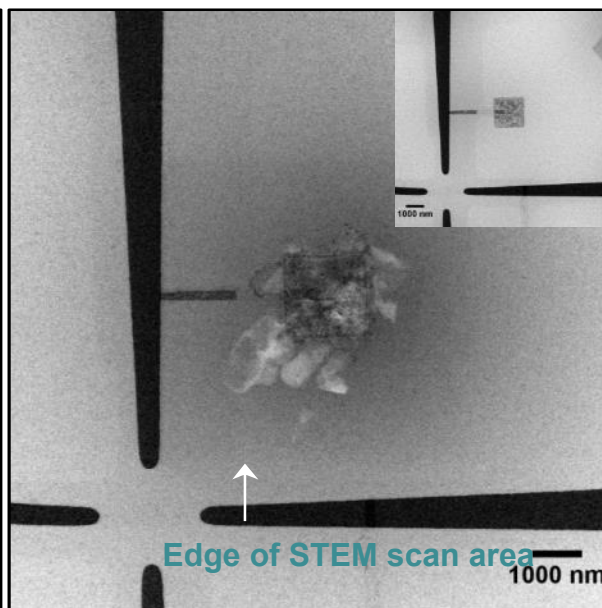
# Electron Beam Induced Degradation and SEI

Compare beam effects in identical electrochemical environments, same closed cell  
Galvanostatic control at 2.25 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> for 2 min deposition/stripping steps for 10 cycles

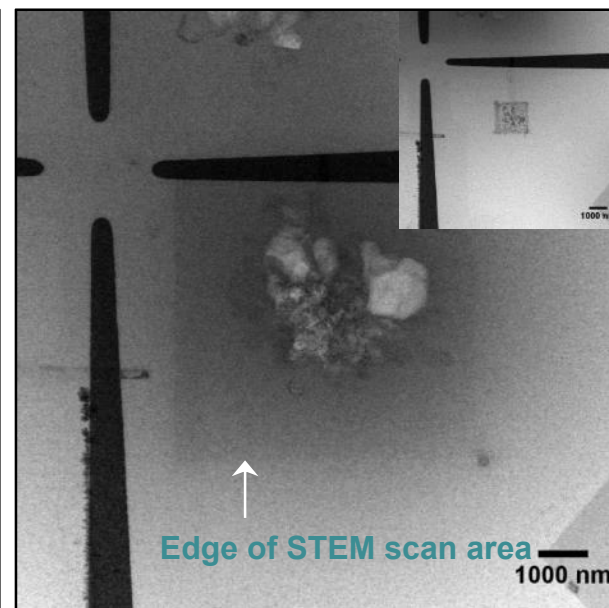
WE#3 : No Beam



WE#1 : < 3.84 e-/Å<sup>2</sup>



WE#4 : < 20.16 e-/Å<sup>2</sup>



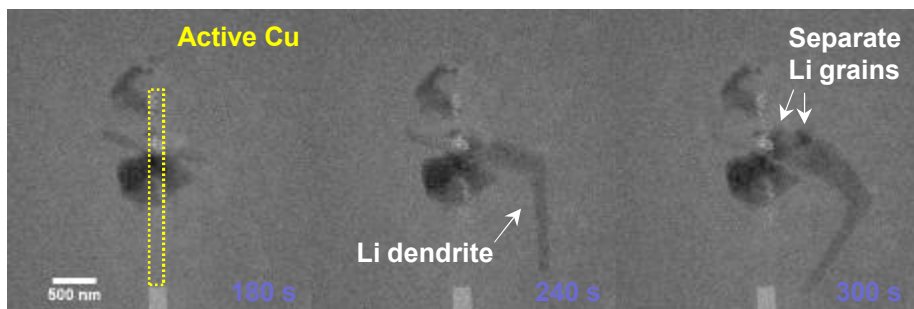
*Li deposits push membrane windows apart, increasing scattering in the background*

*Electron beam adds background scattering by electrolyte breakdown forming polymerized carbon chains*

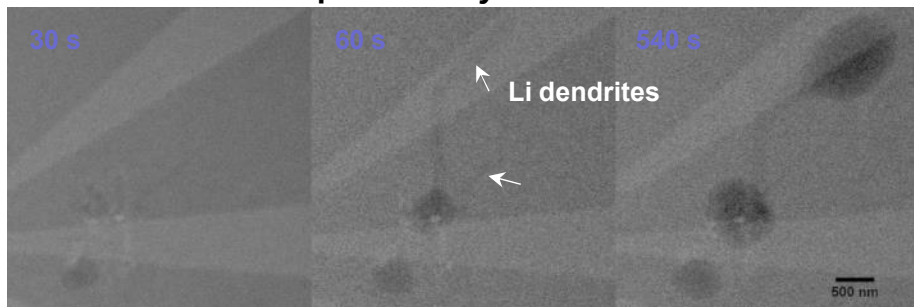
# Li Dendrite Disconnection

- During deposition the Li dendrites become electrochemically inactive at the metal electrode by being disconnected during the growth of a neighboring low-aspect-ratio grain
- *Not current density or cycle # dependent*
- Self-discharge mechanism or corrosion?
- How is the electron beam impacting ion diffusivity?

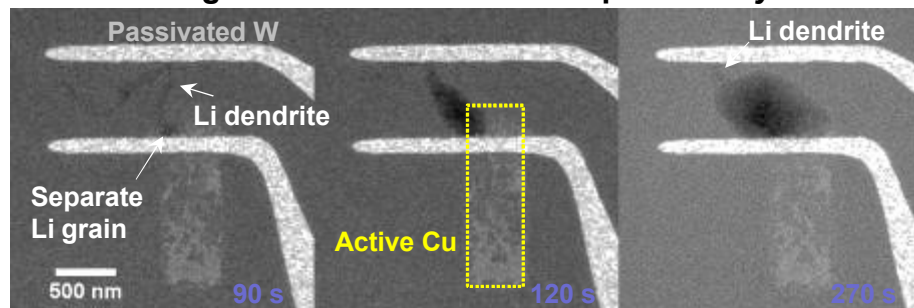
**-2.25 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> on 0.44 μm<sup>2</sup> Cu: Cycle 7**



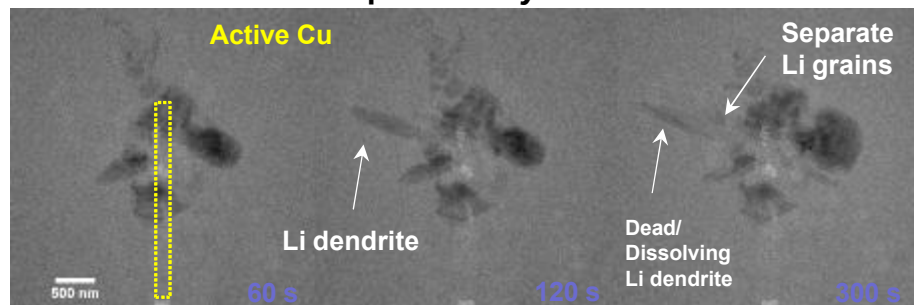
**-5 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> on 0.75 μm<sup>2</sup> Cu : Cycle 1**



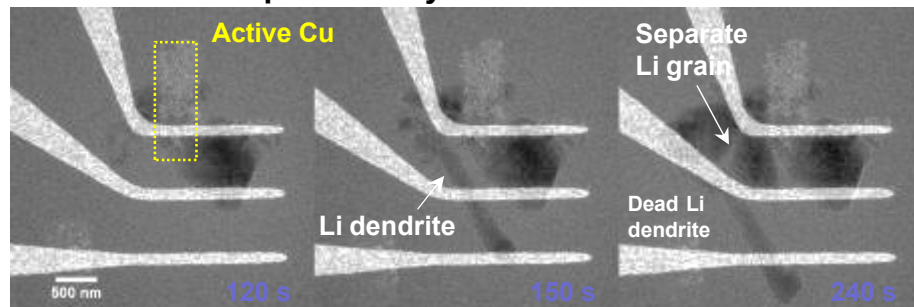
**EC-Scanning TEM: -1.33 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> on 1 μm<sup>2</sup> Cu: Cycle 1**



**-2.25 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> on 0.44 μm<sup>2</sup> Cu: Cycle 10**



**-5 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> on 1 μm<sup>2</sup> Cu : Cycle 1**

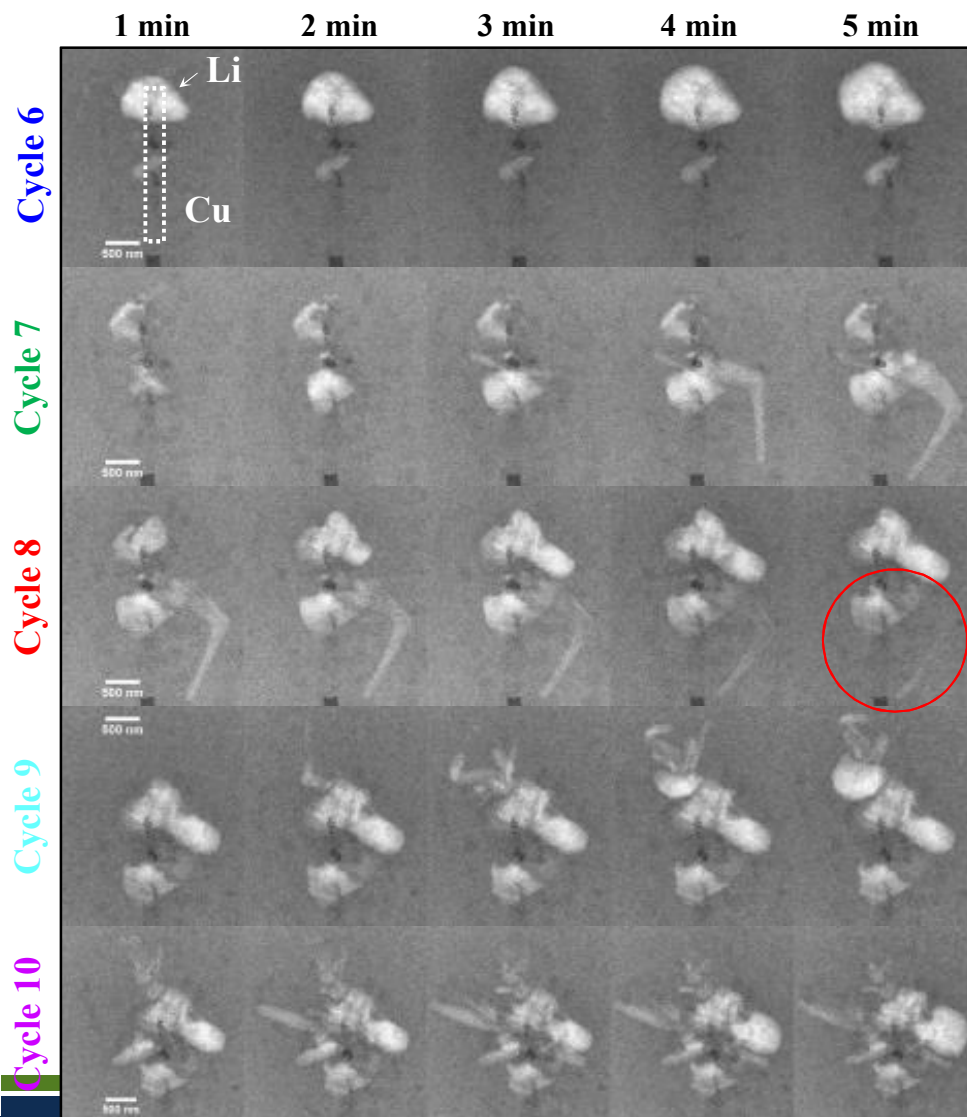
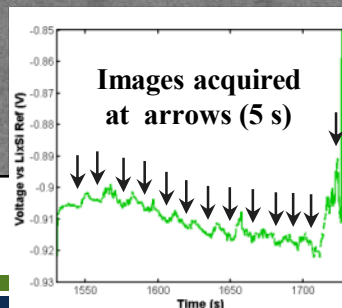
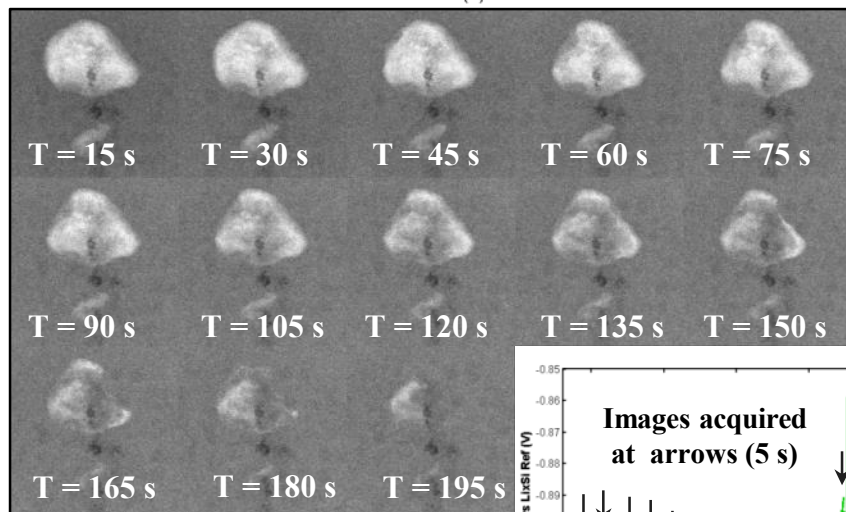
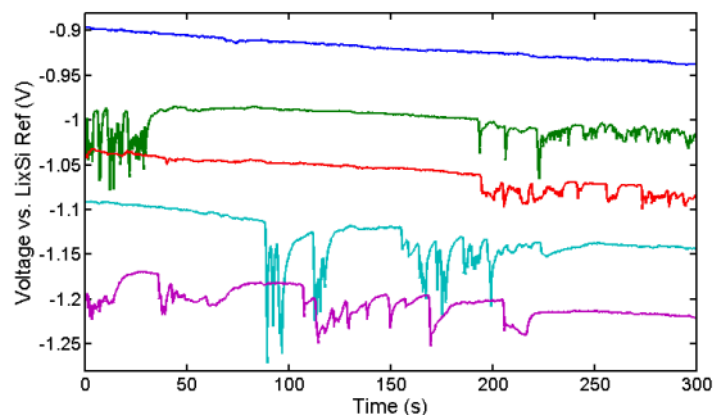


**The velocity of the dendrite growth decreases significantly when ion diffusivity increases**



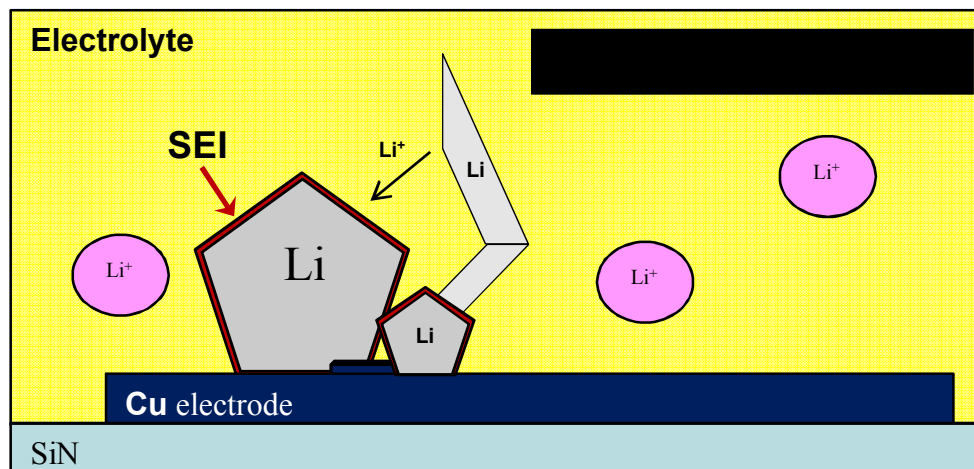
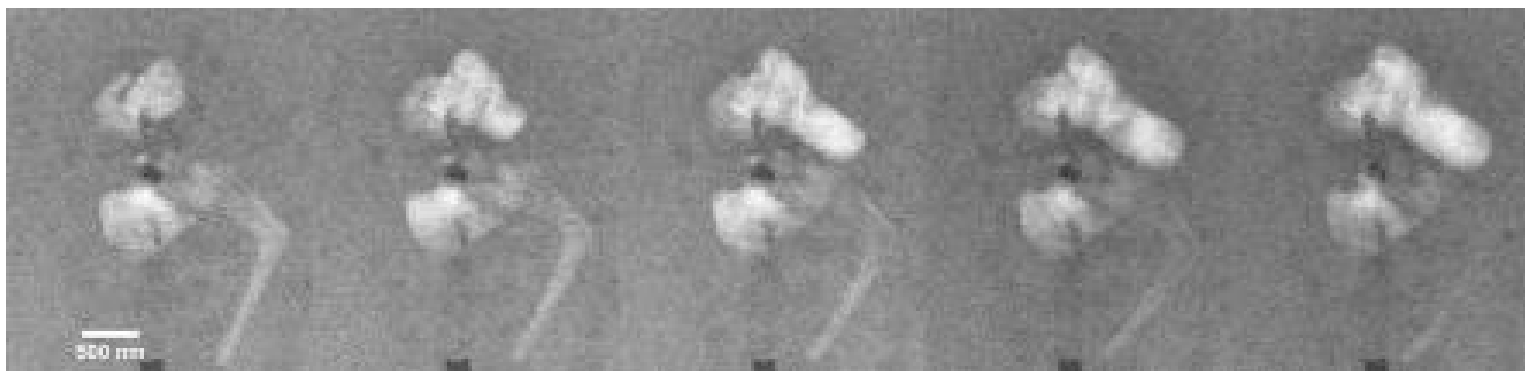
# Effects of Multiple Cycles on Li Nucleation

WE #2 Cu: 2.25 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> for 5 min deposition



# Self Discharge Mechanism or Conservation?

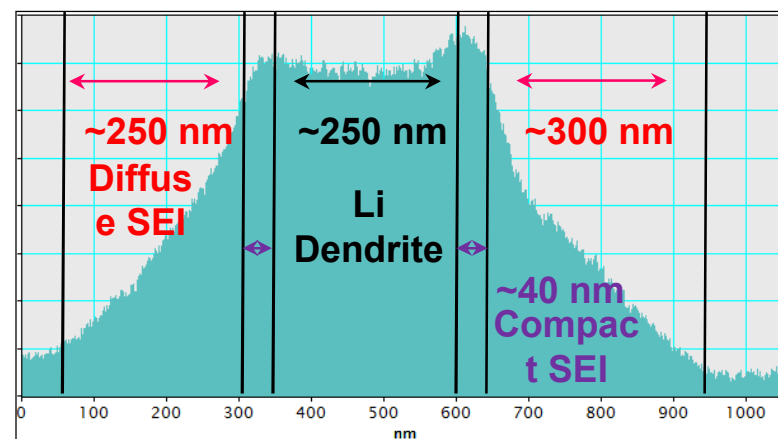
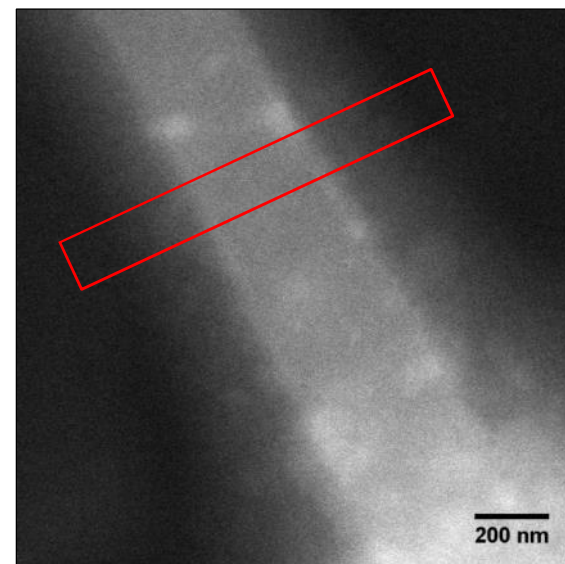
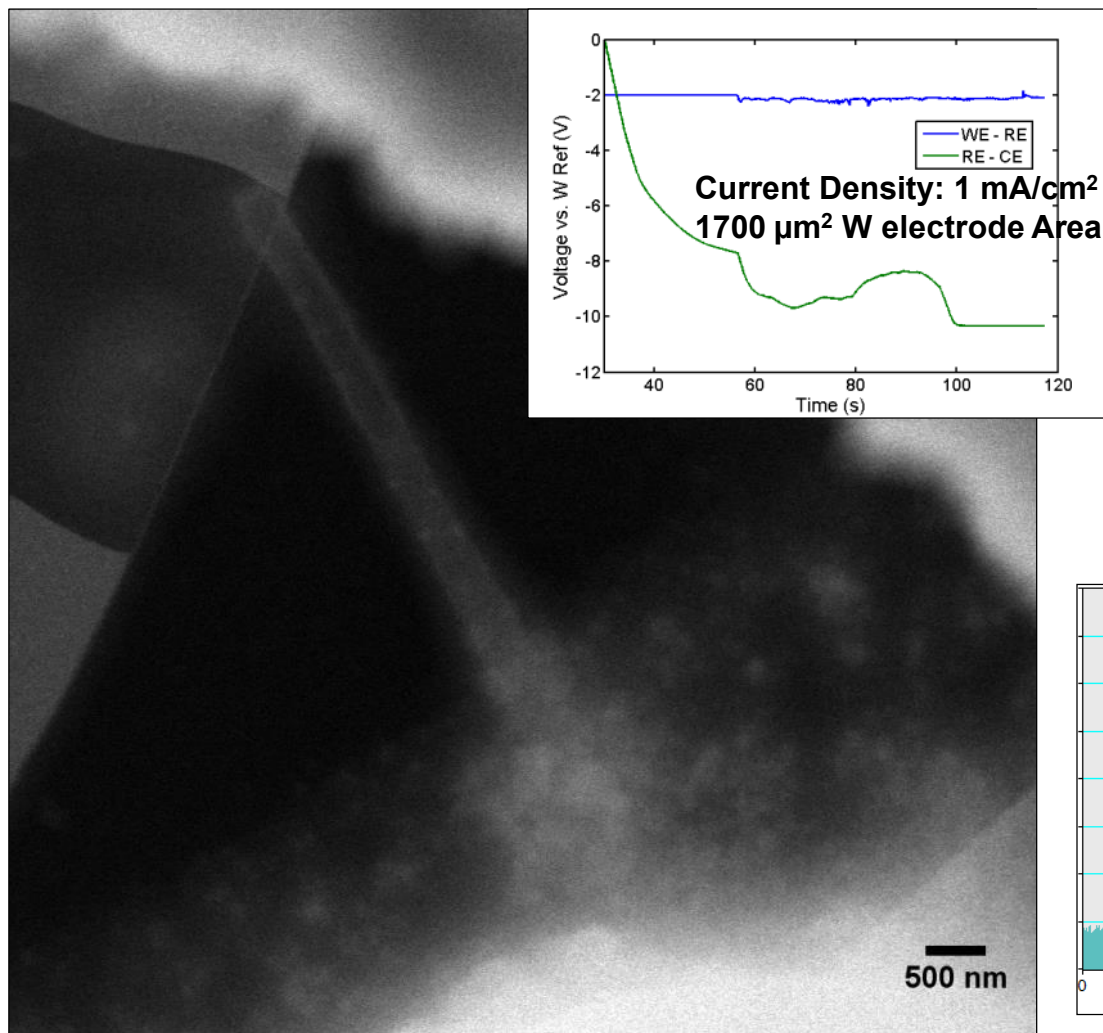
Li dendrite disconnected from electrode by neighboring grain, will dissolve during next deposition step



*Need comparison to deposition results when using a Li metal CE*



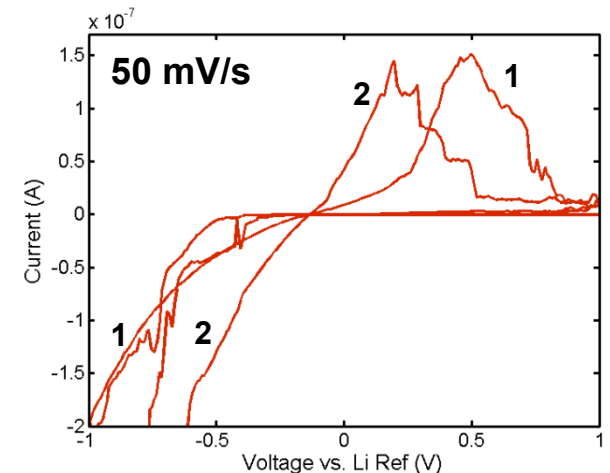
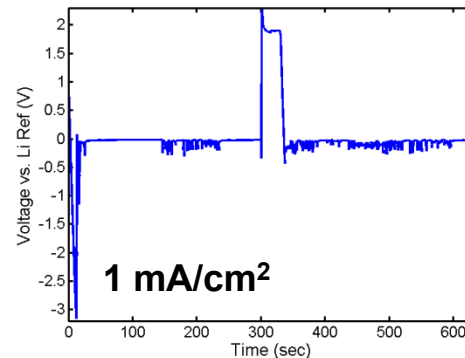
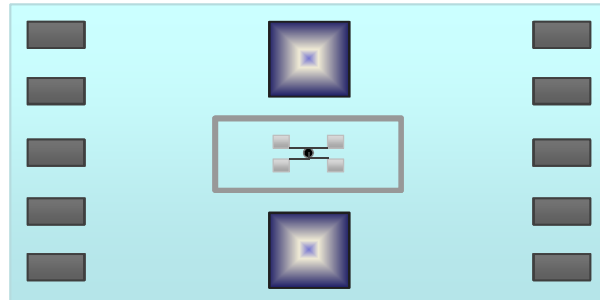
# Li Dendrites formed at High Current Densities



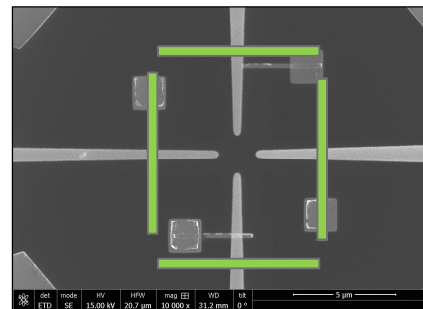
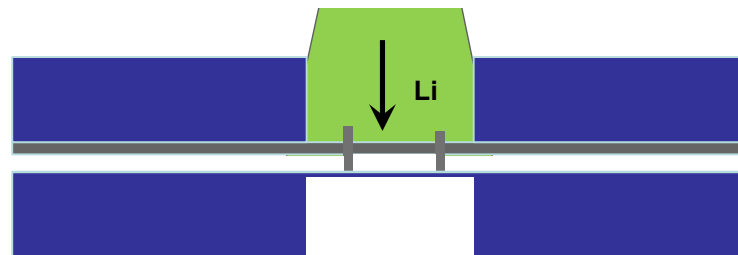
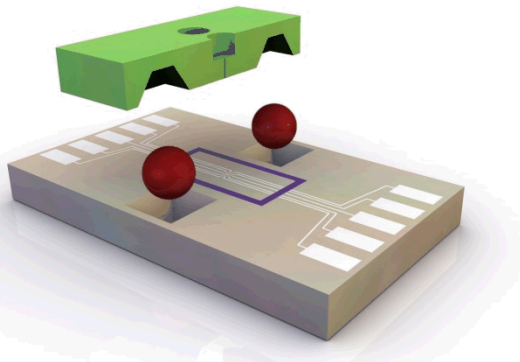
*Remove electrolyte to observe structural details in SEI*

## Technical challenge

- Using the 4 M LiFSI in DME system, determine the effect of using a Li metal counter and reference electrodes on the cycling efficiency and Li morphology.



Shadow mask to evaporate conformal Li WEs onto the cell



- Deposit 300 nm SiO<sub>2</sub> on SiN membrane
- Wet etch to open center port
- FIB electrode shadow mask design
- Beads align shadow mask to base

- Conformal Li metal electrodes will enable testing of Li morphology with protective films
- Li metal electrode vs. Li CE & RE

- What is the interfacial structure between Li metal electrode with protective layer?
- Chemical composition at the interface?

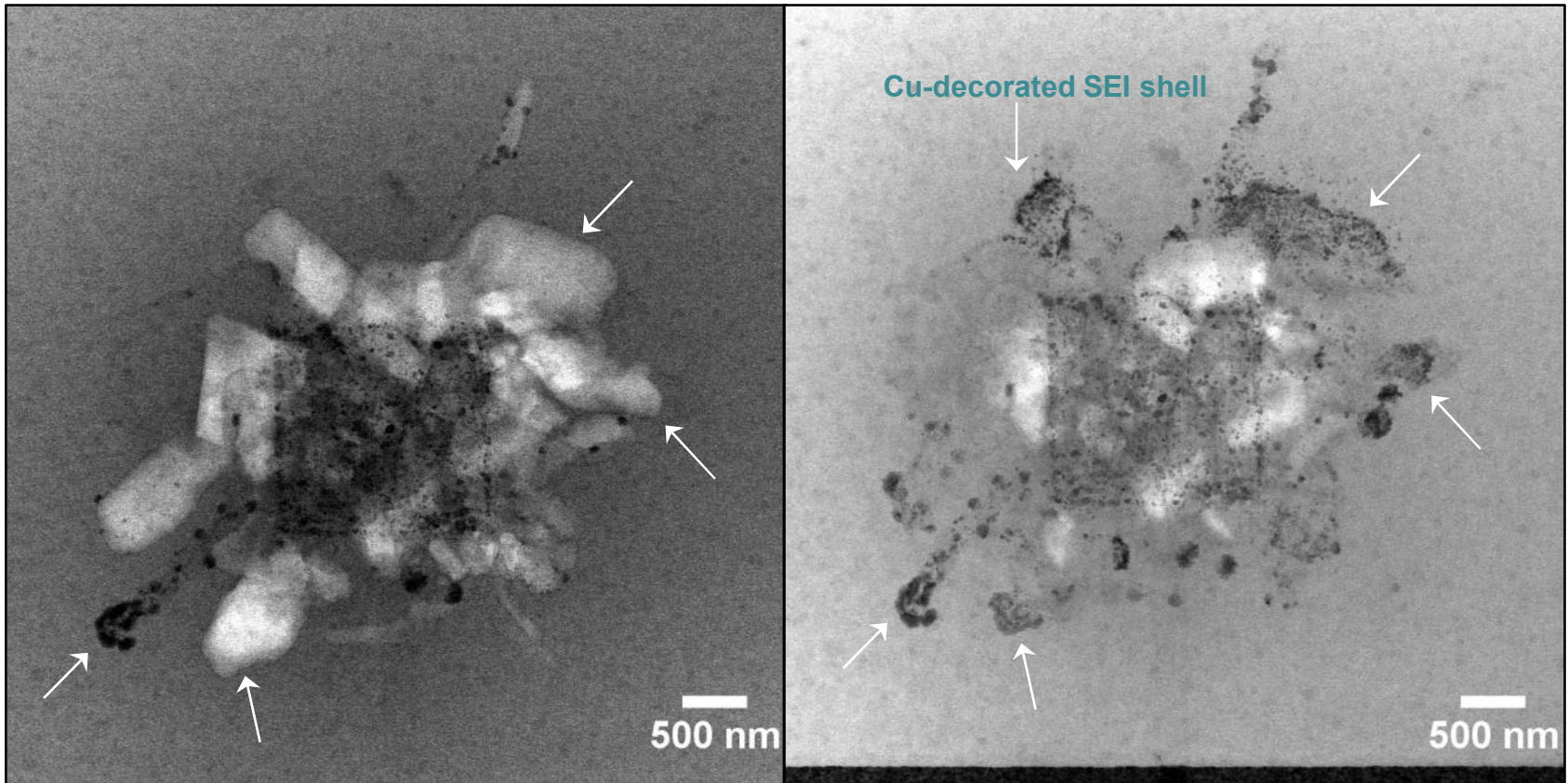
# Conclusions

- Able to electrochemically control the deposition/stripping of Li in TEM
- Li morphology is dependent on many factors: electrolyte/salt, electrode surface, SEI, current density, *pressure and temperature*
- Li dendrites observed at higher current densities and during later cycles for both salt/electrolyte systems
- Comparison between salt/electrolytes identifies similarities in effects due to cell design and differences due to salt/electrolyte (dead Li dissolution)
- Is electrolyte breakdown (no Li metal CE) affecting Li morphology & Coulombic efficiency?
- The electron beam can influence the electrochemical data and surface film properties on ultramicroelectrodes, even at low dose imaging
- Effect of electron beam on ion diffusivity to affect dendrite growth?

# Backup slides

# Li Morphology: No Electron Beam Influence

WE#3 : No Beam

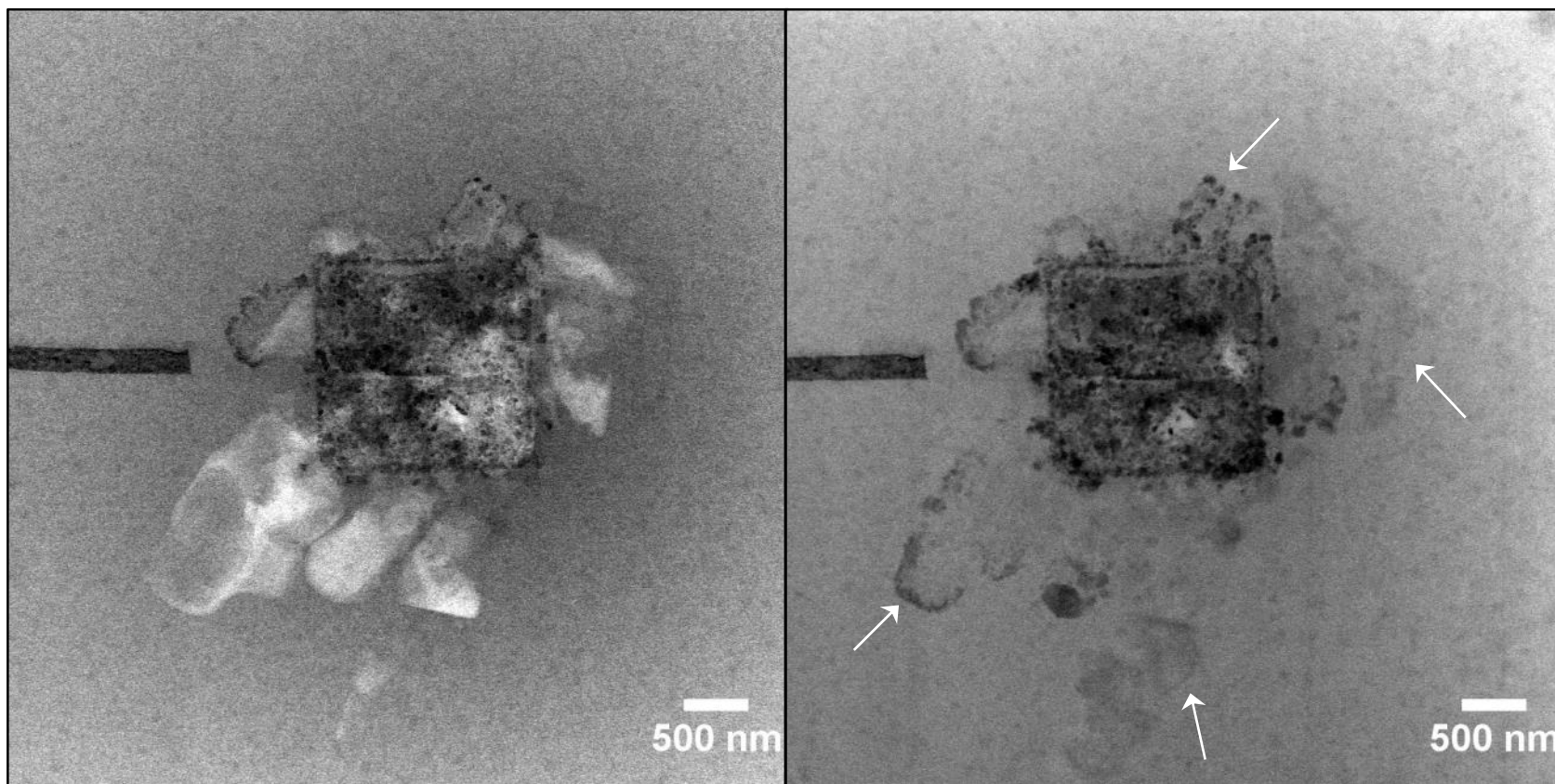


*Cu deposited along the Li deposits, after self-discharge of 'dead' Li, the Cu decorating the solid-electrolyte interface provides increased contrast which retains structure even after Li dissolution*



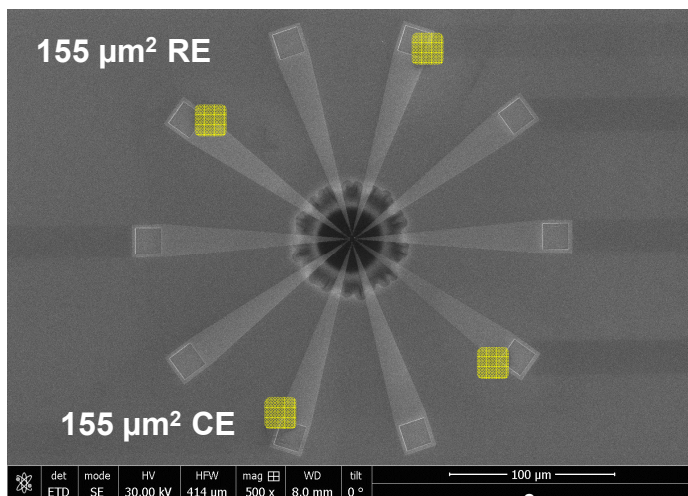
# Li Morphology: Limited Beam Influence

WE#1 :  $< 3.84 \text{ e-}/\text{\AA}^2$  Total Dose During Electrochemistry

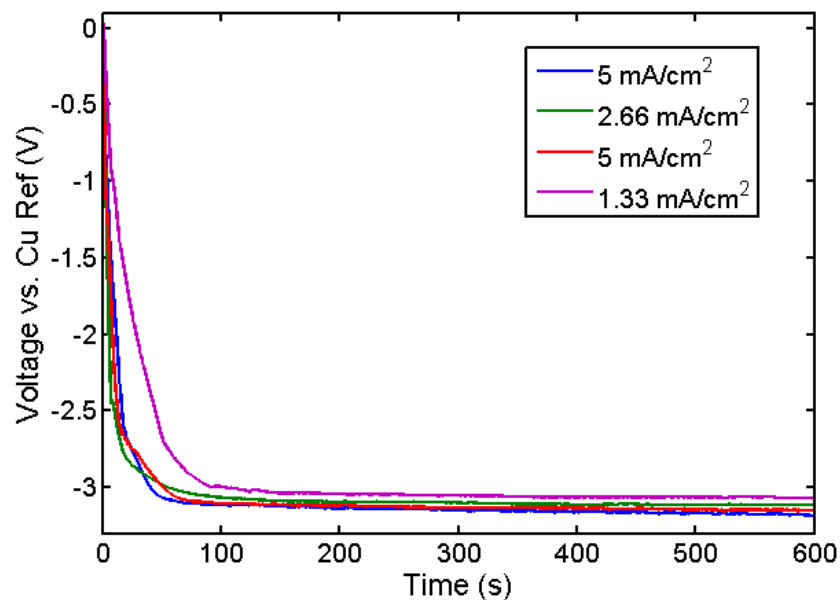
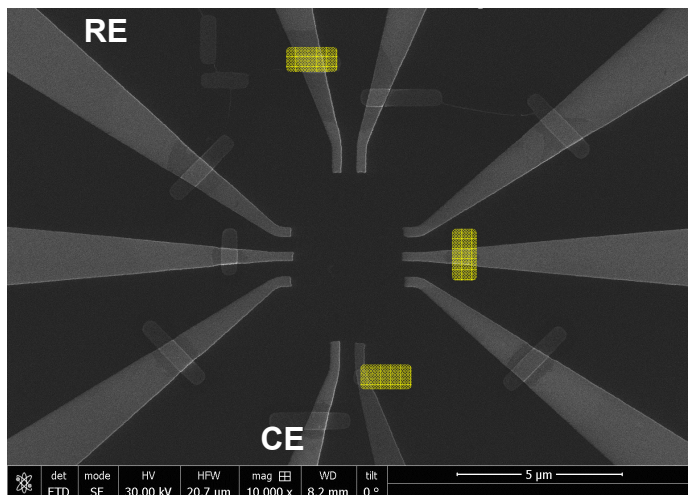


*Increased contrast from SEI is observed about the edges of dissolved Li deposits  
Shows impact of electron beam degradation of the electrolyte*

# Current Density Dependence on Li Morphology

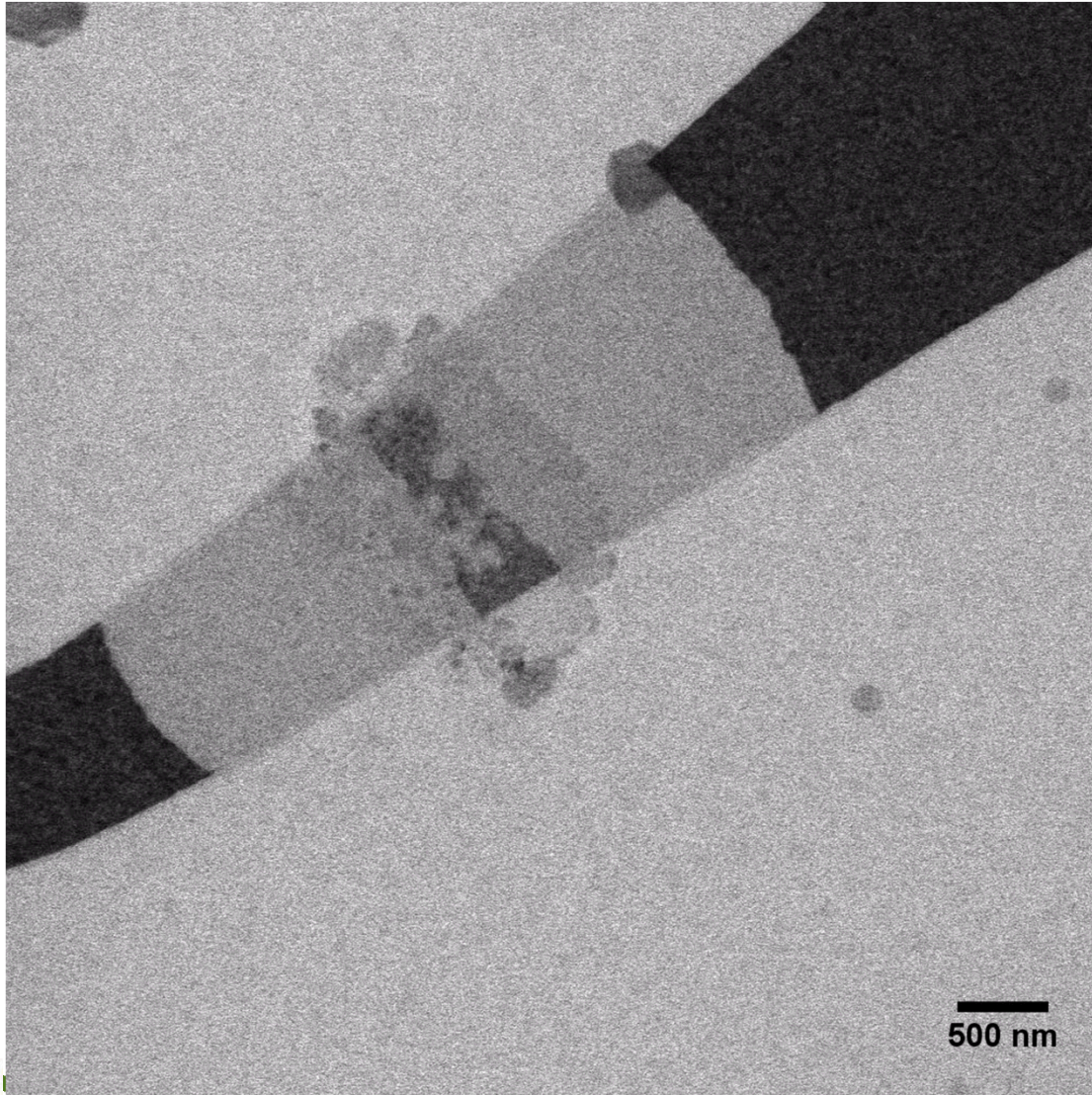


- 40 nm Cu electrodes (5 nm Ti adhesion layer)
- W electrodes coated with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (40 nm) passivation layer
- Cu WE Area:  $0.75 \mu\text{m}^2$
- Cu RE & CE Areas :  $155 \mu\text{m}^2$
- 4M LiFSI in DME (3 ppm  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
- Dose per frame:  $0.03 - 0.28 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$
- Electrolyte Thickness:  $> 1.5 \mu\text{m}$





# Where is Li depositing during Cycling?



- Ni WE Area:  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}^2$
- Ni RE & CE Areas :  $100 \mu\text{m}^2$
- Electron Beam Dose:  $< 2.53 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$
- Dose per frame:  $0.03 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$
- Electrolyte Thickness:  $500 \text{ nm}$

# Models that Explain Li Deposition Morphology

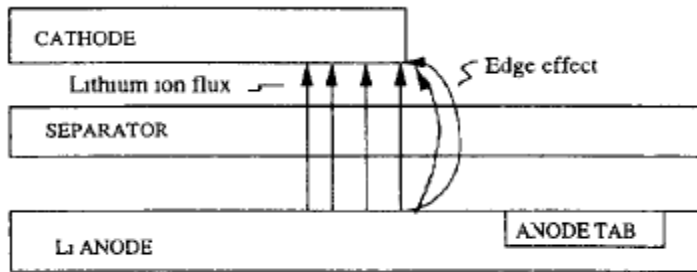
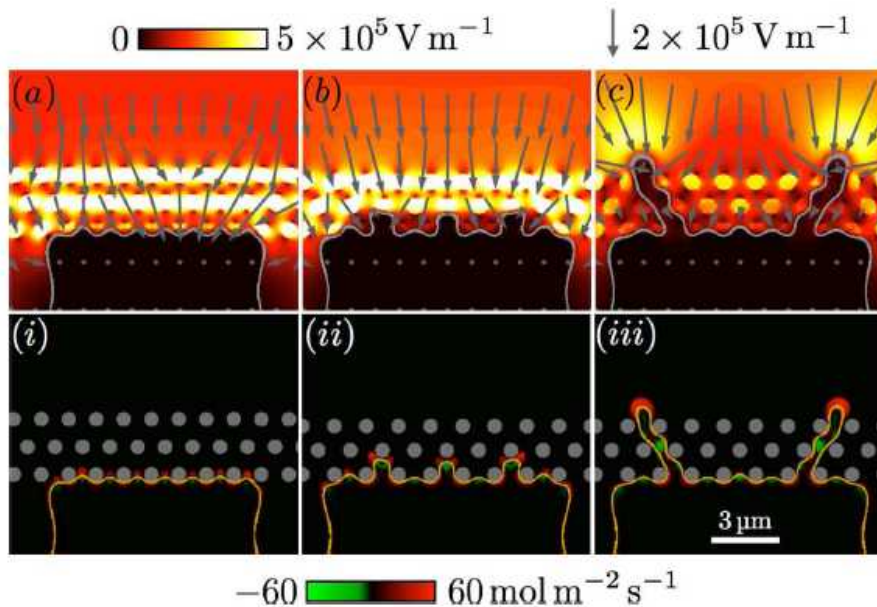
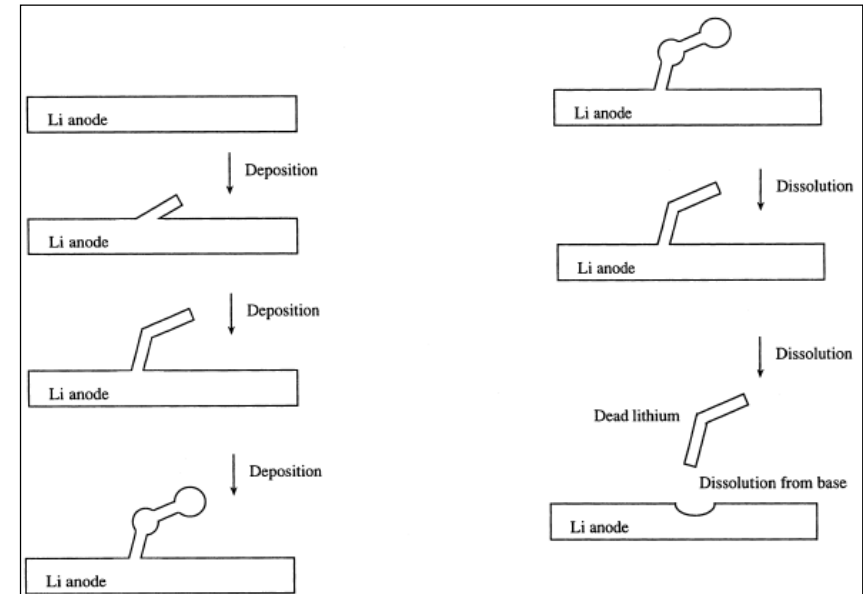


Fig 4 Lithium anode cut at the end of the cathode during cycling

Tobishima, S. et al. 1997. J. Power Sources 68, 455.

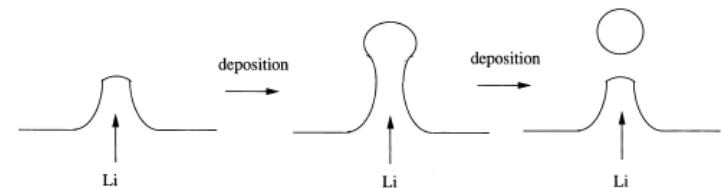


Jana A. et al. 2015. J. Power Sources 275, 912.



Yamaki, J.-i. et al. 1998. J. Power Sources 74, 219.

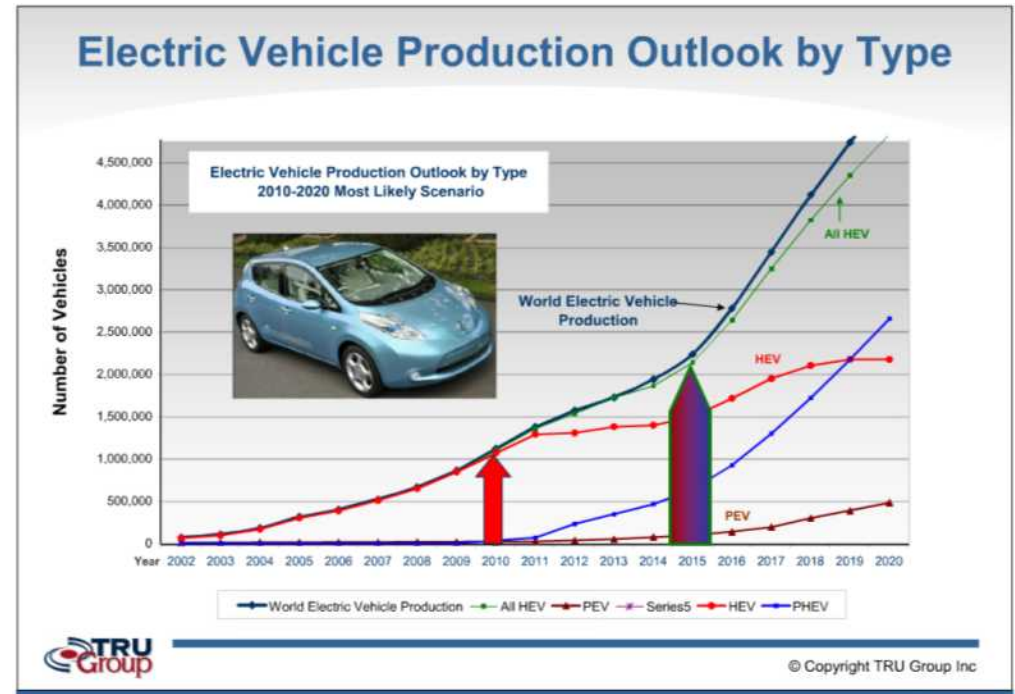
Observed dead Li dendrites: accumulates on anode decreasing capacity, and reduces thermal stability. Amount of dead Li is larger after low rate of discharge





# 2020 Transportation Market Size

- Though motivation for xEV's is decreased with low fuel costs, the market is still large.
- An optimistic 2020 estimate of >4.5M xEV on the road.
- **Represents a vehicle storage market of potentially ~45GWh of storage by 2020** (assume 10kWh per xEV).

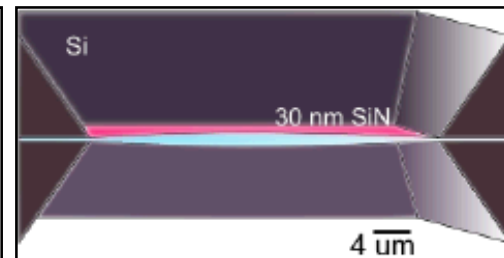
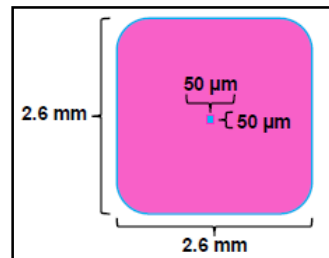
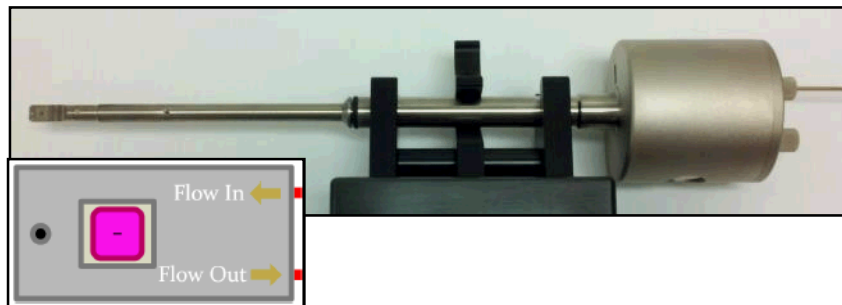


**Presidential mandate of 100M xEV on the road, would result in ~1,000GWh of storage** (assuming 10kWh per xEV)

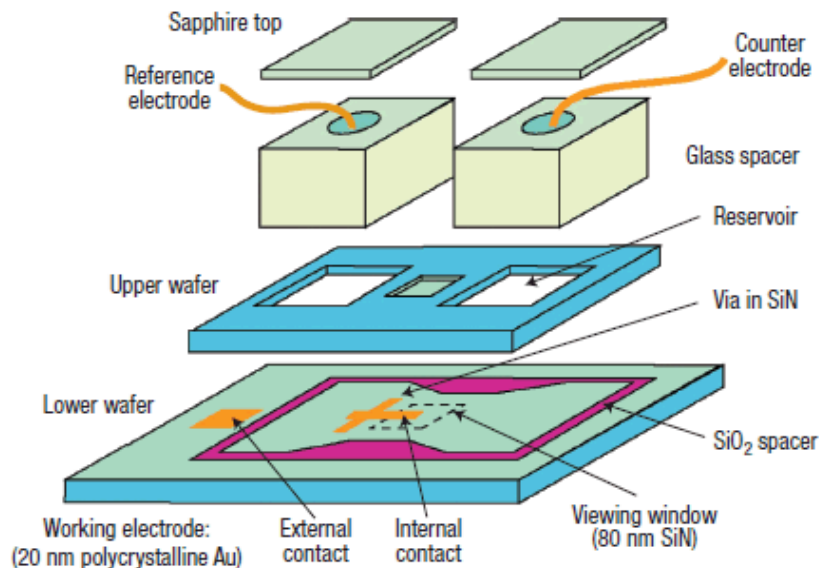


# Liquid Cell Transmission Electron Microscopy

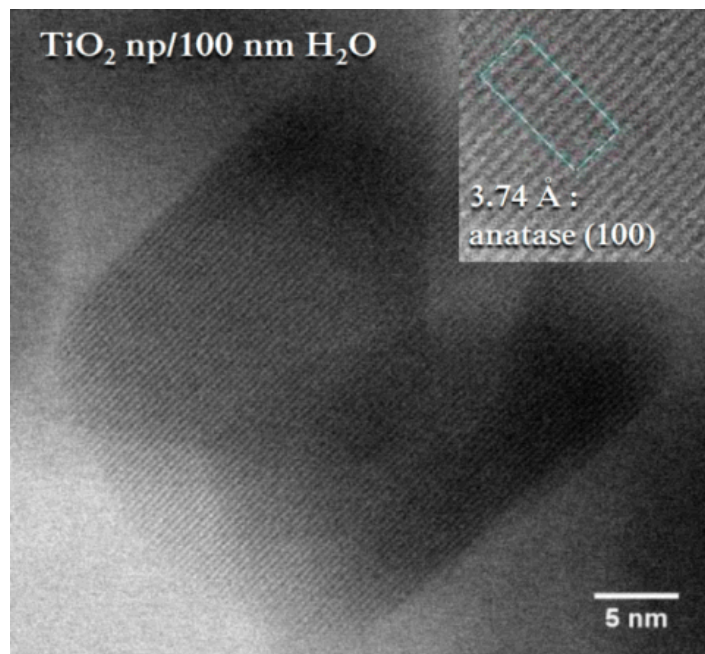
## Commercial Microfluidic Liquid Cell TEM Holder



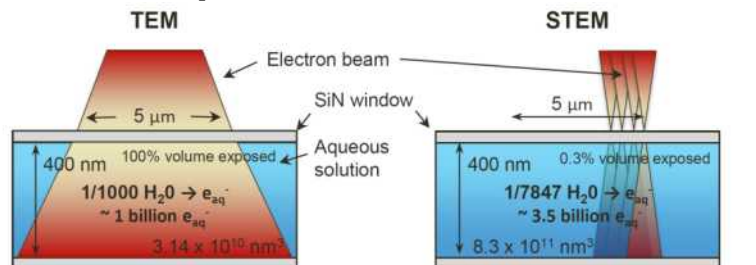
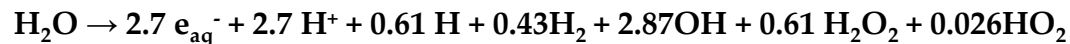
## Custom MEMS-based Liquid Cell



Williamson, M.J. et al. 2003. Nat. Mater. 2, 532.



# Electron Beam Damage on Liquids

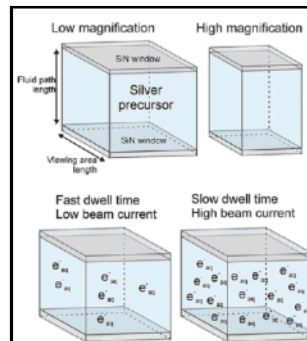
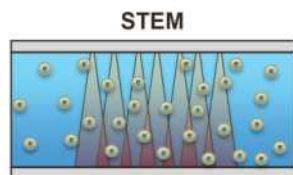
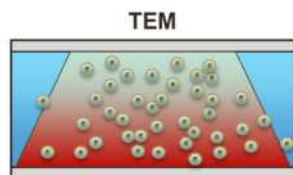


Energy Absorption per image:  $4 \times 10^{10} \text{ eV}$  Energy Absorption per image:  $2.1 \times 10^{11} \text{ eV}$

\* not drawn to scale, 40 pA beam current

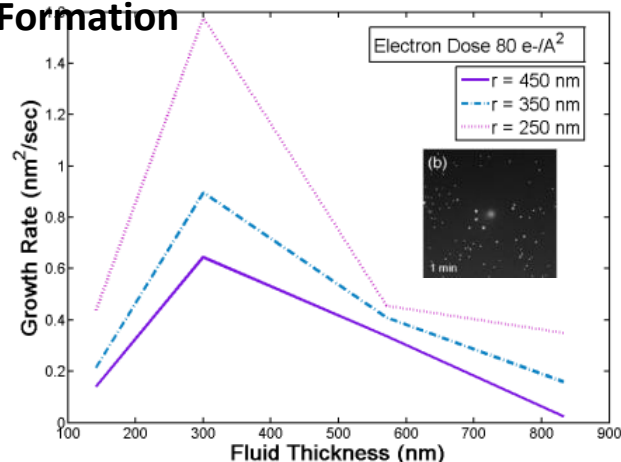
$0.0318 \text{ e}_{\text{aq}}^-/\text{nm}^3$

$0.00422 \text{ e}_{\text{aq}}^-/\text{nm}^3$



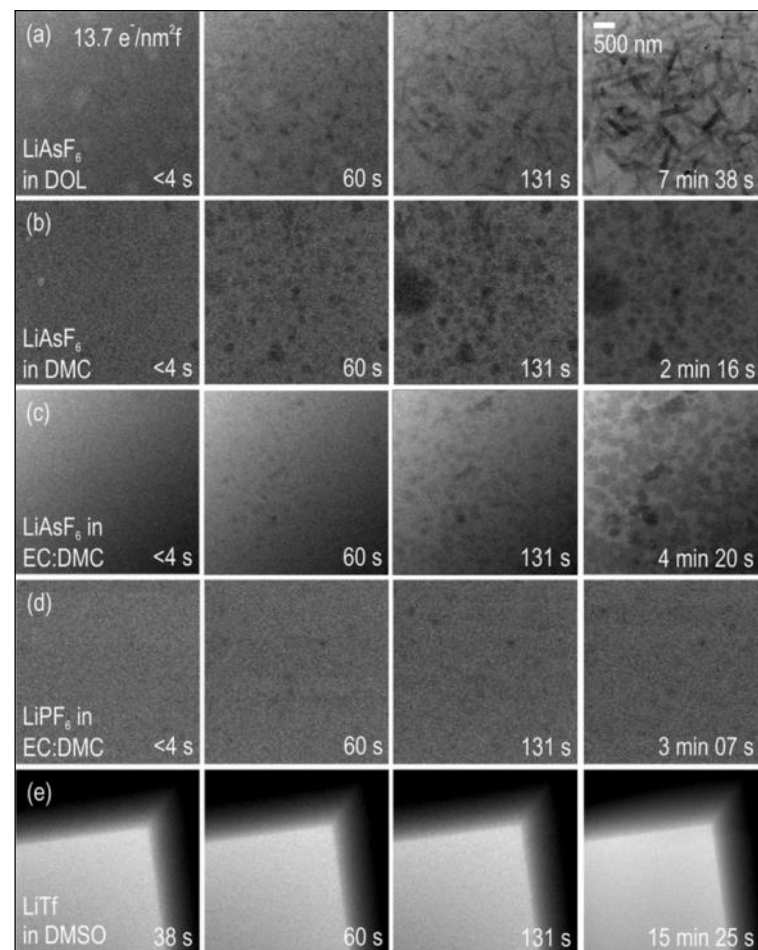
Woehl et al. ACS Nano 6, 8599 (2012).

## Thickness dependence on Beam Induced Radical Formation



- Maximum solvated electrons at  $\sim 300 \text{ nm}$  thick liquid layers

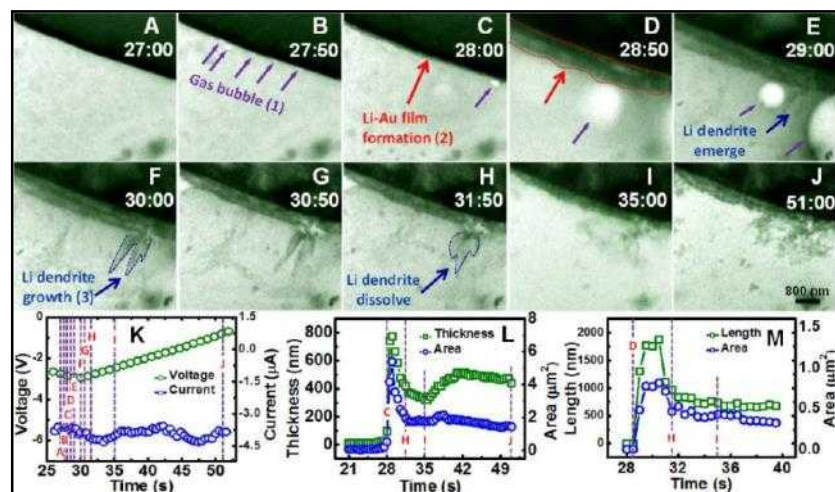
- Liquid thickness has dramatic effect on beam induced degradation of electrolyte



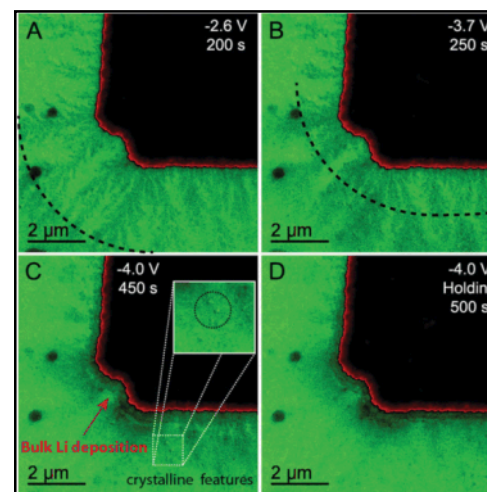
Abellan et al. Nano Lett. 14, 1293 (2014).



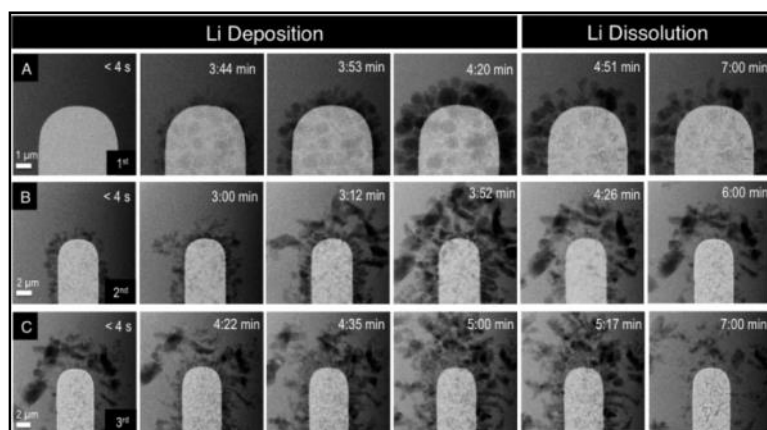
# Li Deposition in Closed TEM Liquid Cell



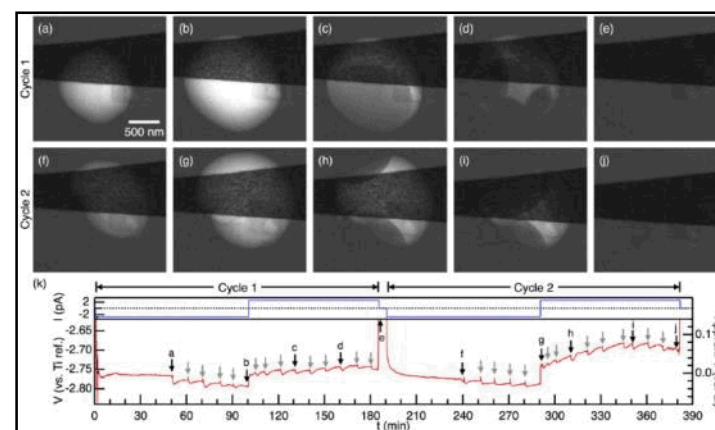
Zeng et al. (2014) Nano Letters 14(4) 1745-1750.



Sacci et al. (2014) Chem. Commun. 50, 2104-2107.

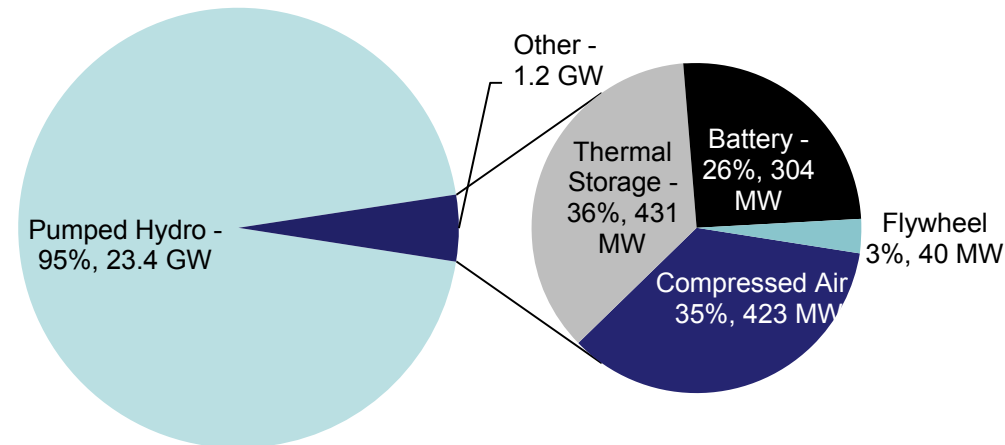


Medhi et al. (2015) Nano Letters 15, 2168-2173.



Leenheer et al. (2015) ACS Nano. DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.5b00876.

# The Distribution of Storage Types



**Pumped Hydro is king!**