

Ph.D. Graduate Work

The Rate Dependency of Li-ion Battery Degradation Mechanisms

Chelsea Snyder

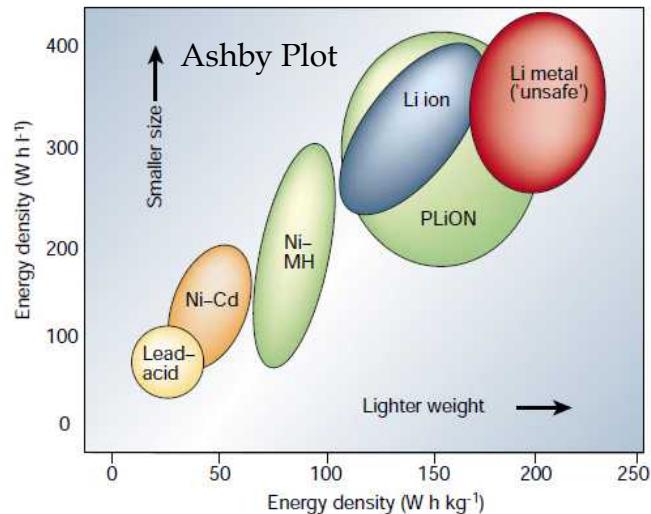
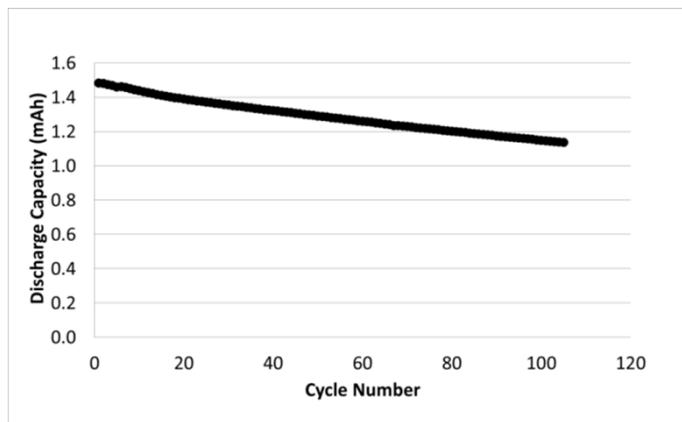
KAPL Interview - March 16th, 2016

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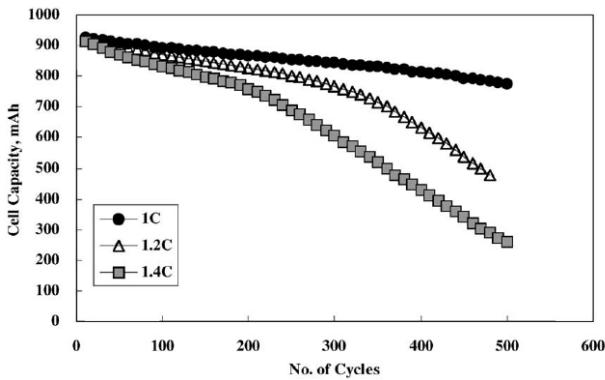
Motivation

Capacity Fade



J. Tarascon and M. Armand *Nature* 414 (2001) 359-367

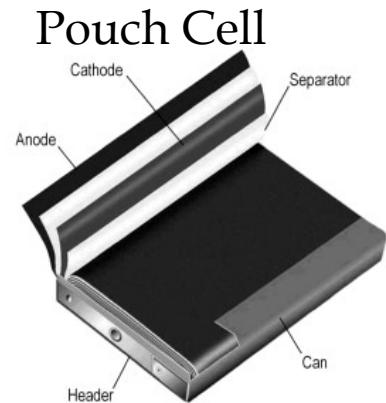
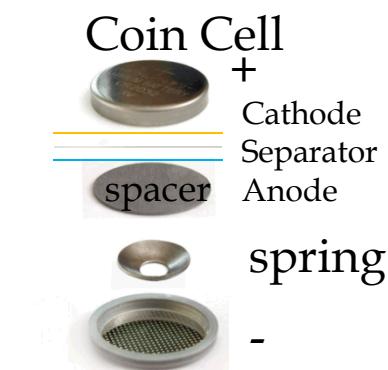
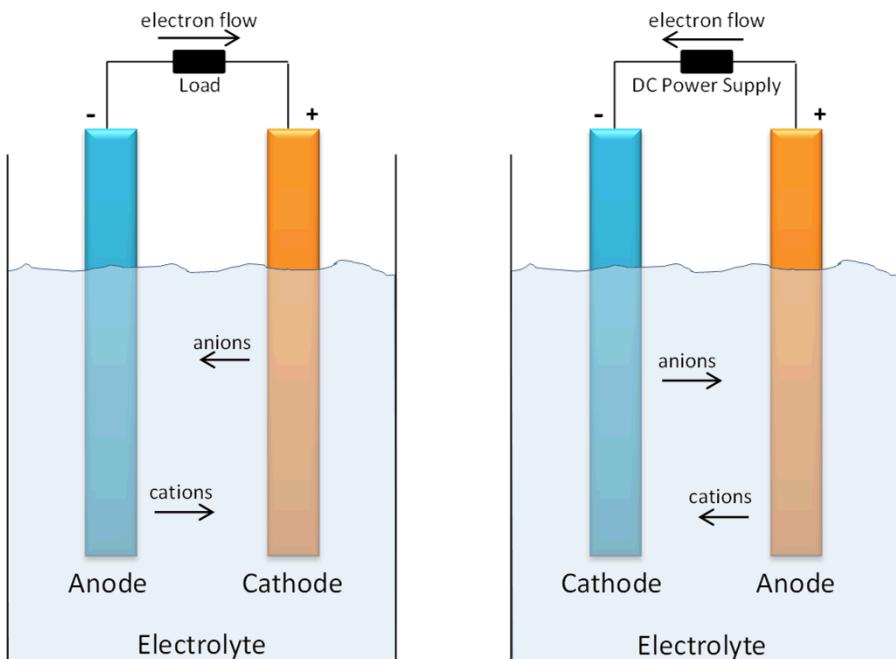
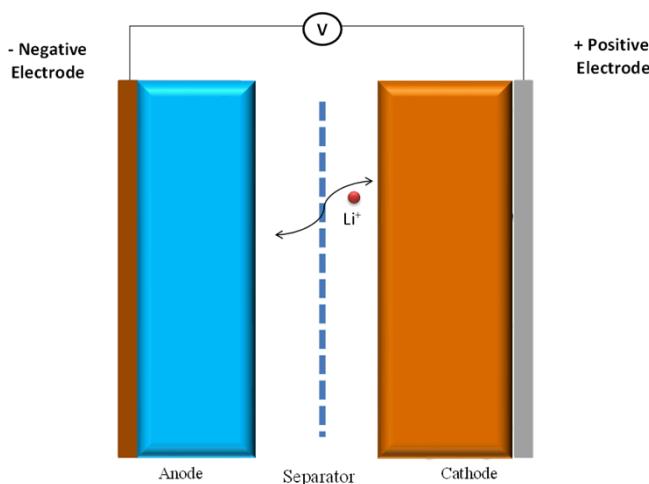
Rate Effects



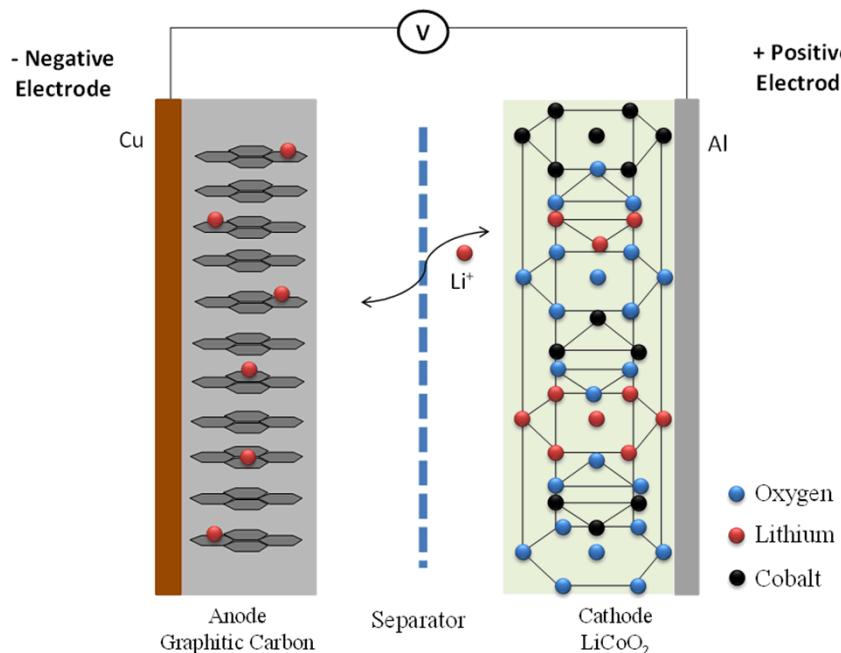
Choi et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 111 (2002) 130-136

Batteries

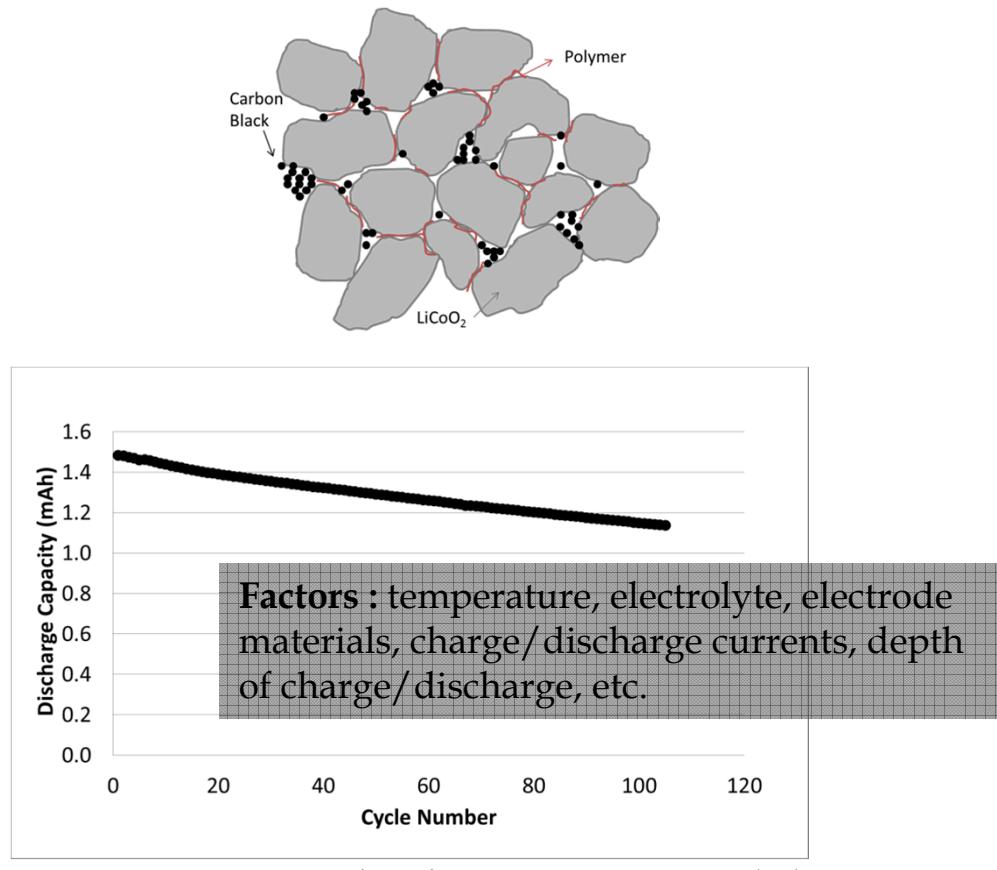
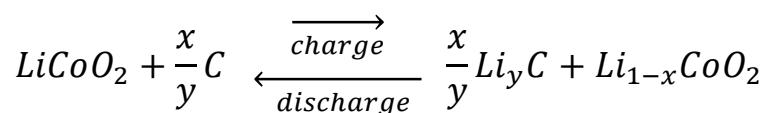
- A battery converts stored chemical energy into electrical energy through an electrochemical oxidation-reduction reaction
- Anode: oxidized species
- Cathode: reduced species



Lithium-ion Batteries



“Rocking Chair”



Electrolyte: 1.2 M LiPF_6 EC:EMC (3:7)
Cycle Rate: C/10
Voltages: 3.0-4.2 V
Room Temp (25°C)

Linden, D., *Linden's Handbook of Batteries*. Fourth ed. 2011: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
J. Goodenough and K. Park *Journal of American Chemical Society* 135 (2013) 1167-1176
L.S. Kanevskii and V.S. Dubasova *Russian Journal of Electrochemistry* 41 (2005) 1-16

Degradation Mechanisms

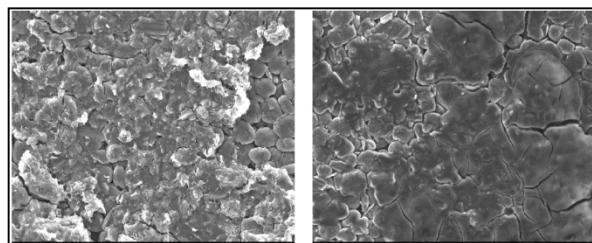
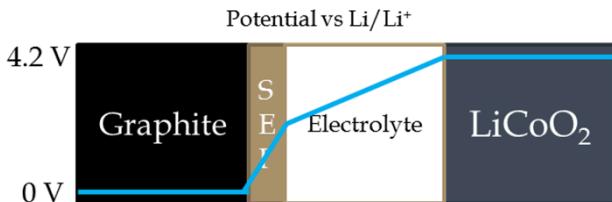
1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li^+ ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material (LiCoO_2)
3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

Degradation Mechanisms

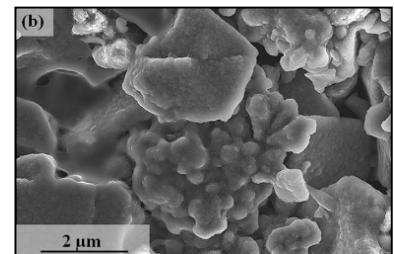
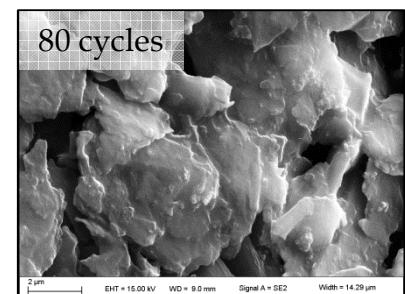
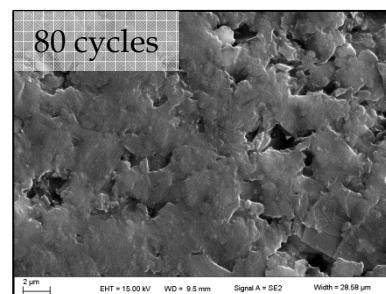
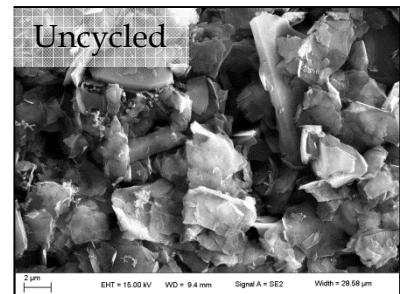
1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li^+ ion Inventory)
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3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

Solid Electrolyte Interphase (SEI) formation

- Reduction of electrolyte to form passive surface film
- Largest impact during first few cycles
- Increases impedance and charge transfer resistance



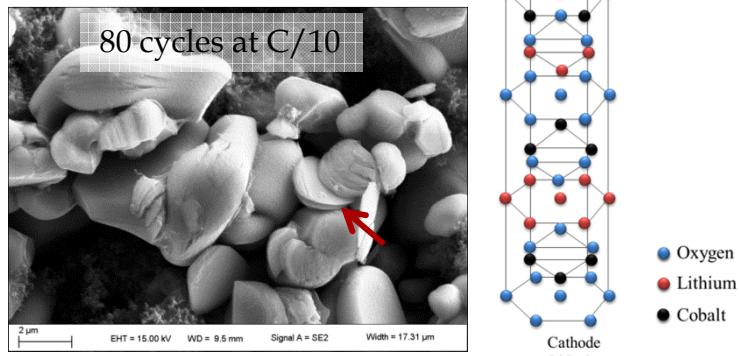
V. Agubra and J. Fergus *Materials 6* (2013)
1310-1325



J. Lee et al. *Carbon 52* (2013)
388-397

Degradation Mechanisms

1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li⁺ ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material (LiCoO₂)
3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
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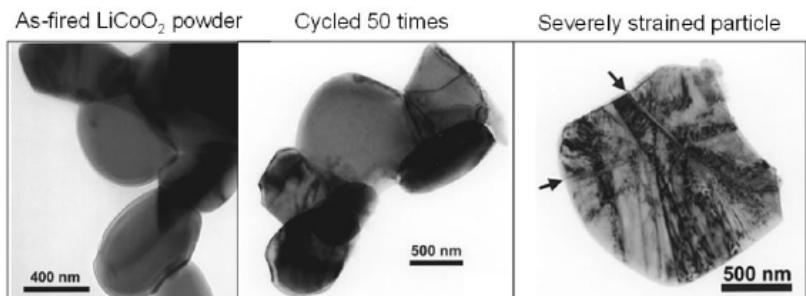


Anisotropic expansion/contraction

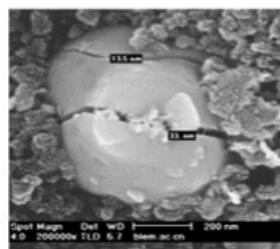
- Internal strains and dislocation defects
- Fracture of particles
- Contact loss between electrically conductive components

Electrode disordering

- Deactivation of Li ions, cracks, pores
- Triggered by strain caused by volumetric changes



W. Haifeng et al. *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* 146 (1999) 473-480



D. Wang et al.
Journal of Power Sources 140 (2005)
125-128

Degradation Mechanisms

1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li⁺ ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material (LiCoO₂)
3. **Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)**
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

Exfoliation of particles

- Solvent molecules intercalate between graphene layers and lead to particle cracking and loss of active material

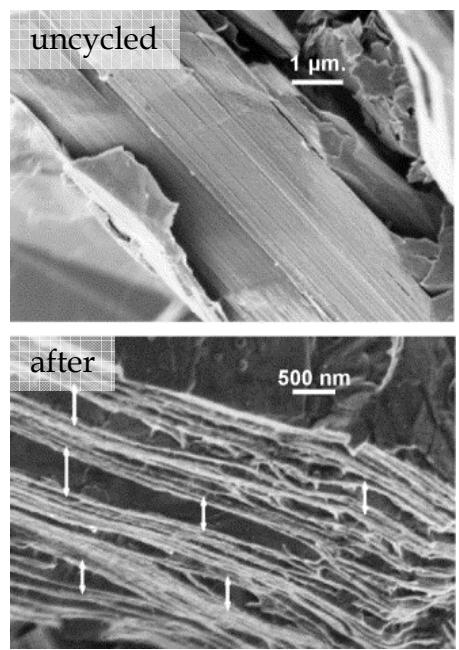
Structural disorder and damage

- Triggered by volumetric expansion

Contact Loss in composite material

- Due to expansion of graphite (10% linear expansion at full charge)

Exfoliation of Graphite



H. Buqa et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 153 (2006) 385-390

Degradation Mechanisms

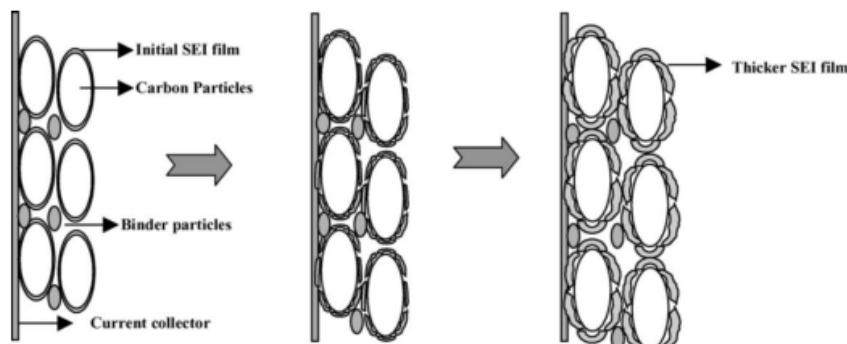
1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li⁺ ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material (LiCoO₂)
3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

Film formation and thickening

- SEI on graphite anode
- Electrolyte oxidation at LiCoO₂ electrode

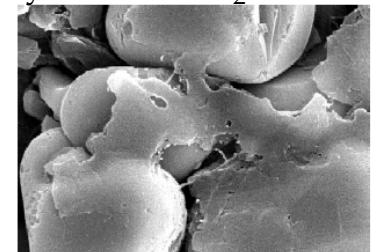
Increased Cell Resistance

Degradation of binder conductivity



G. Ning et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 117 (2003) 160-169

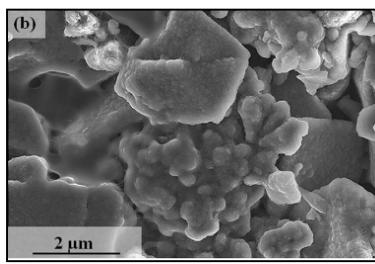
Cycled LiCoO₂ Electrode



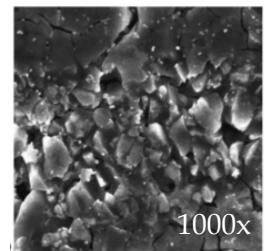
Scale: 9 mm=1 micron

D. Aurbach et al., *Electrochimica Acta* 00 (2002) 1-13

Cycled Graphite Electrode



J. Lee et al. *Carbon* 52 (2013)
388-397



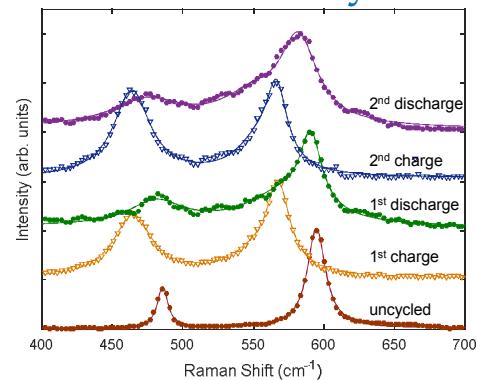
G. Ning et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 117 (2003)
160-169

Degradation Mechanisms

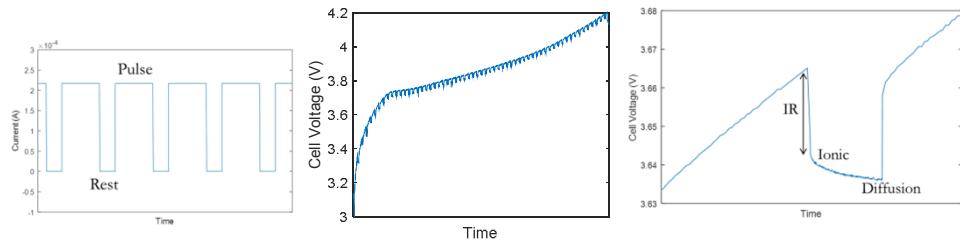
Relative contributions depend on physical and chemical nature of the system, temperature, and c-rate

1. Loss of Primary Active Material (Li⁺ ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material (LiCoO₂)
3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

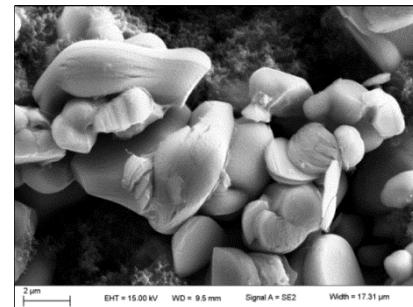
→ Raman Analysis



Current Interrupt (CI) Methods



Electrochemical Testing
Microscopy Techniques



Hypothesis: Chemical mechanisms of degradation in a Li-ion battery dominate capacity loss at low strain rates, whereas, mechanical degradation dominates at high strain rates.

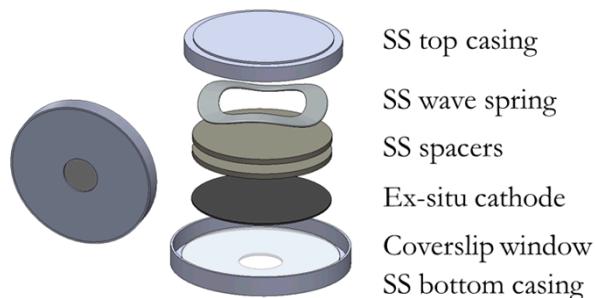
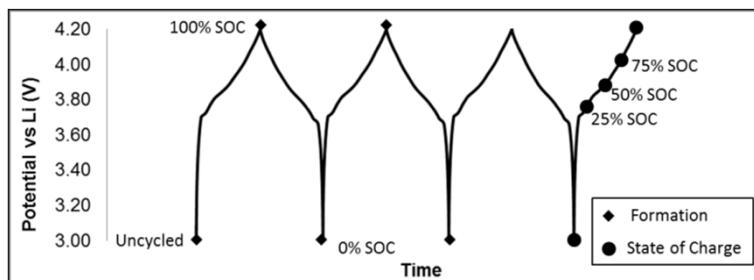
Develop Model to Estimate Lithiation State

Develop Model:

1. Formation Cycle Test (Cycle 1 and 2)
2. State of Charge Test (Cycle 4)

Implement:

3. Long Term Cycle Test (Cycle 10, 20, 40, 80)



Cell Information

$\text{LiCoO}_2/\text{Graphite}/1.2 \text{ M LiPF}_6 \text{ EC:EMC (3:7 w/w)}$

C-rate : C/10

Temperature: 25 °C

Disassembled within Argon filled glove box

Raman Analysis Information

System: Witec Alpha 200R

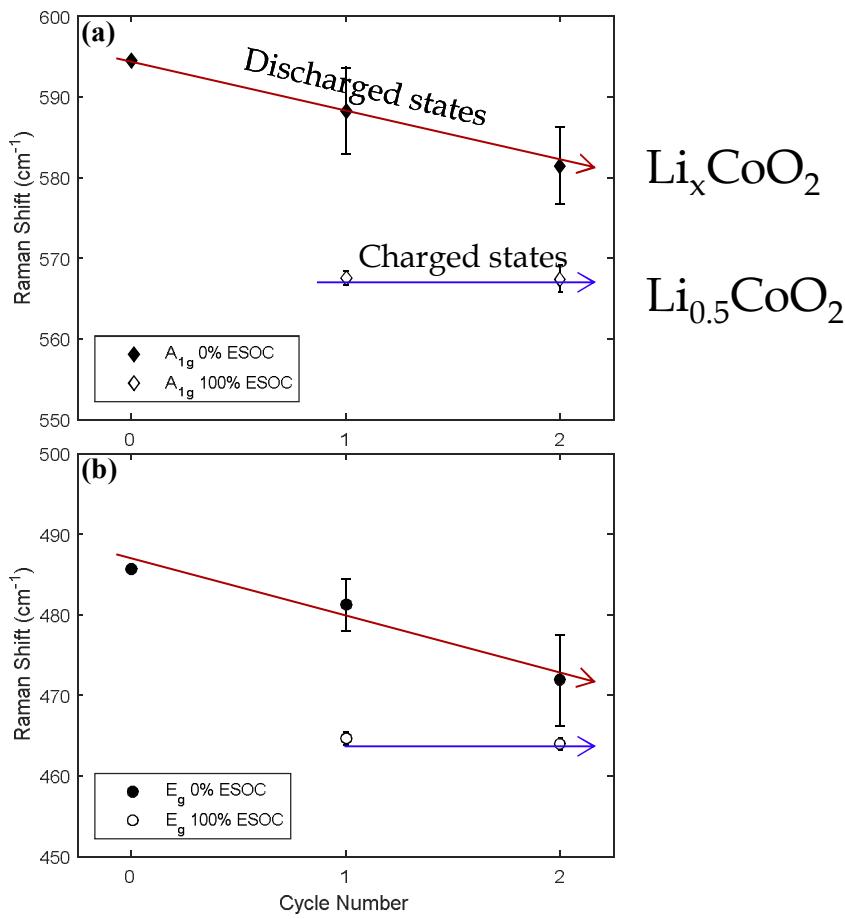
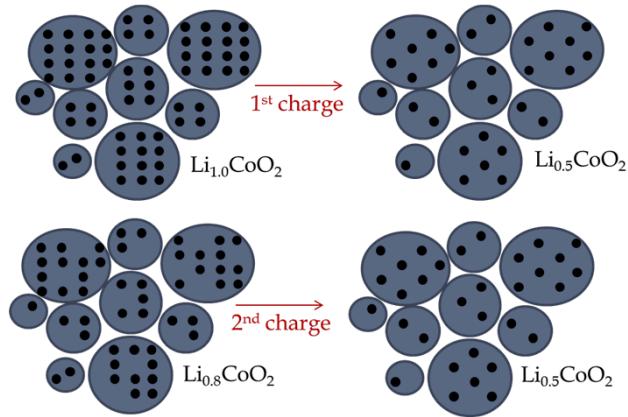
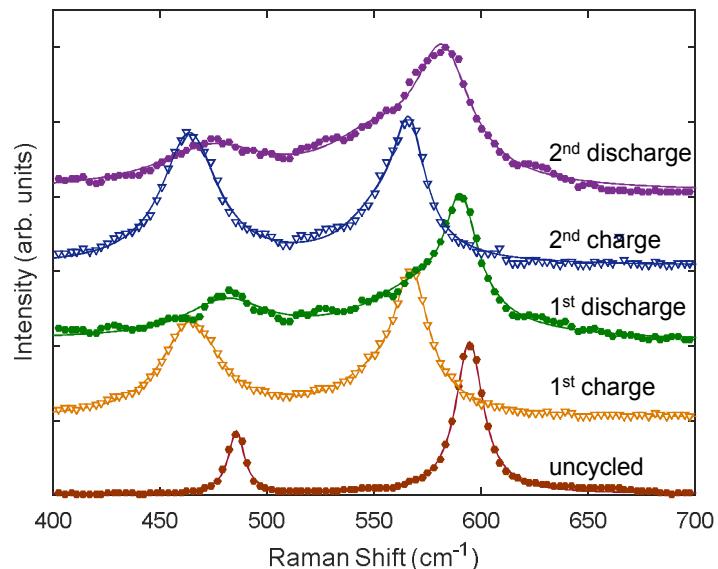
Laser : Nd:YAG at 532 nm

Objective: 50 x , 0.55 NA (600 nm spot size)

Power : 250 μW

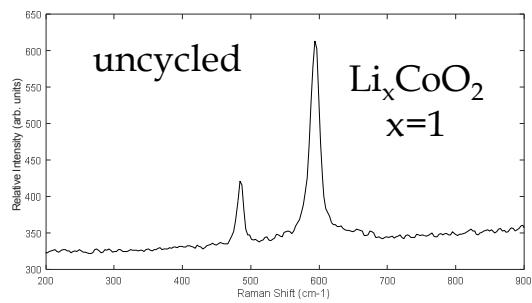
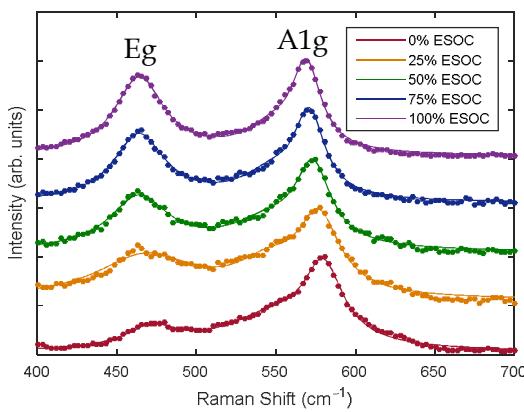
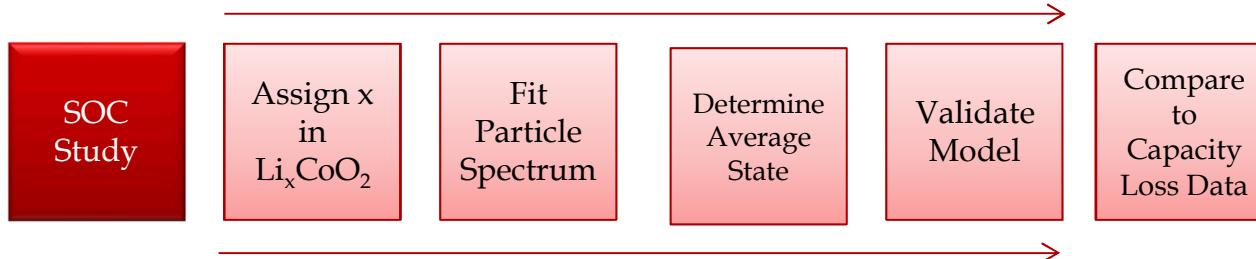
Integration time : 300 s per particle

Formation Study

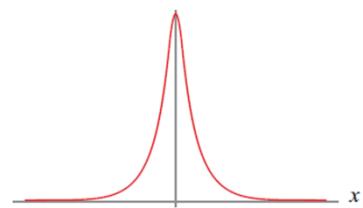


*Each data point represents the averaged peak position from ten particles randomly selected on the electrode

Raman Analysis



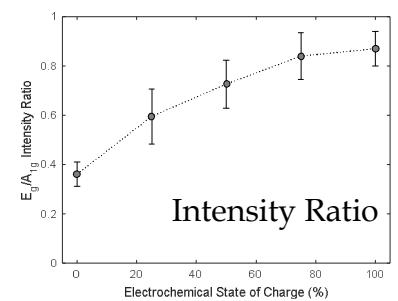
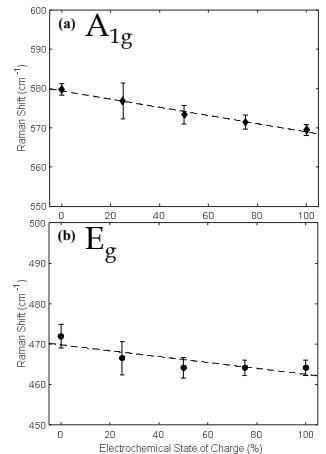
Lorentz Function



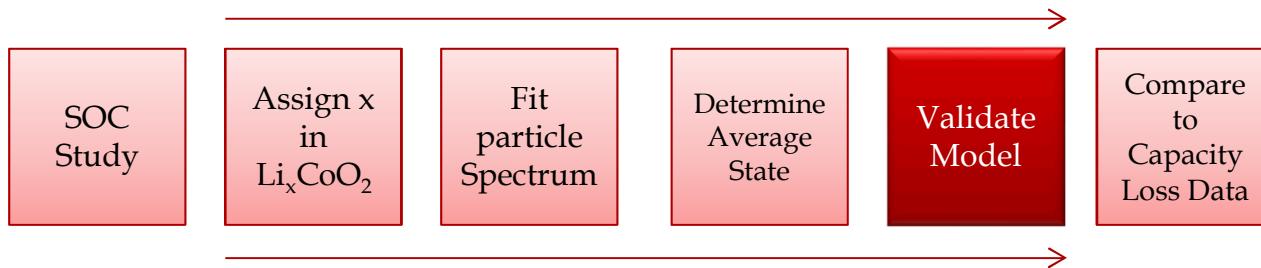
$$L(x) = A * \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(x - p)^2}{w^2}}$$

$A \sim$ Amplitude
 $w \sim$ line width
 $p \sim$ peak position

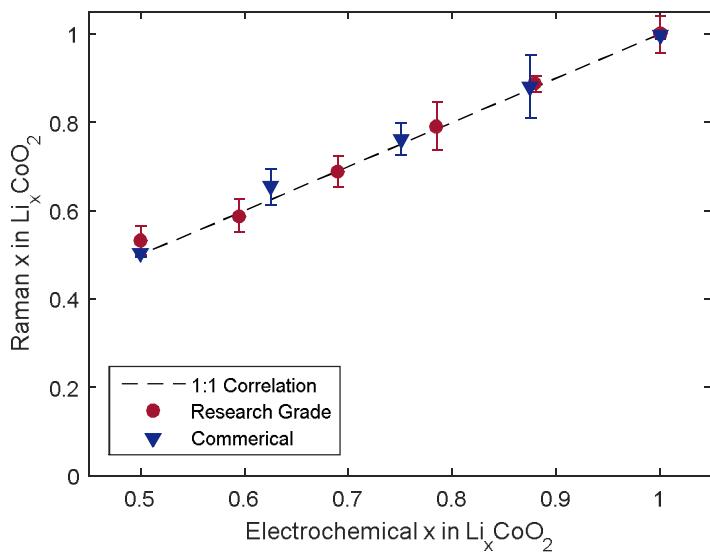
Peak positions



Raman Analysis



Raman vs Electrochemical



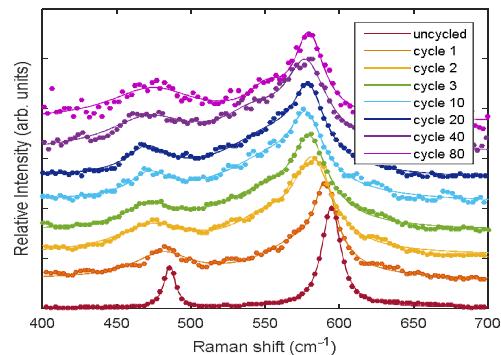
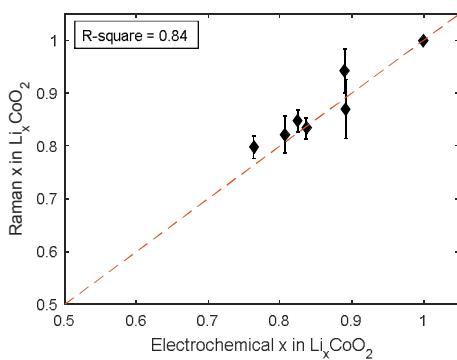
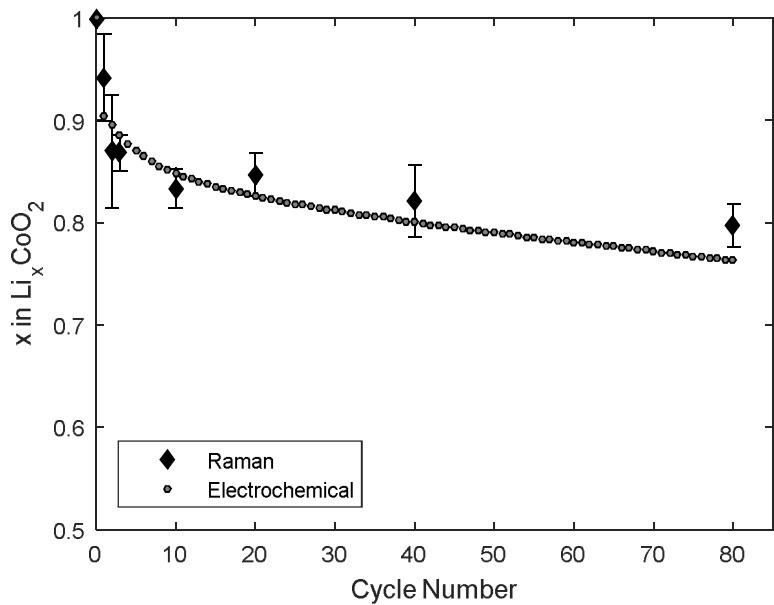
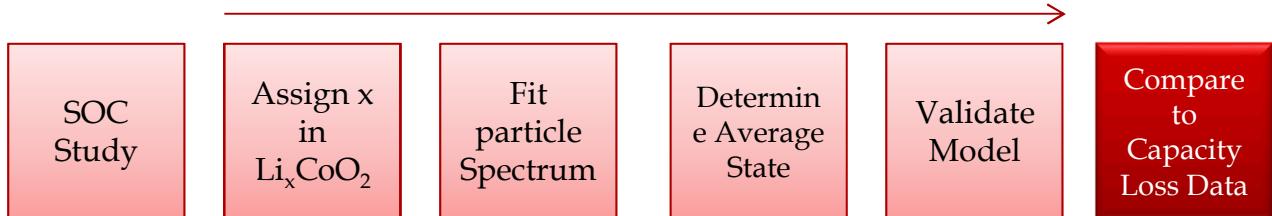
Research Grade

- SOC Samples

Commercial Electrodes

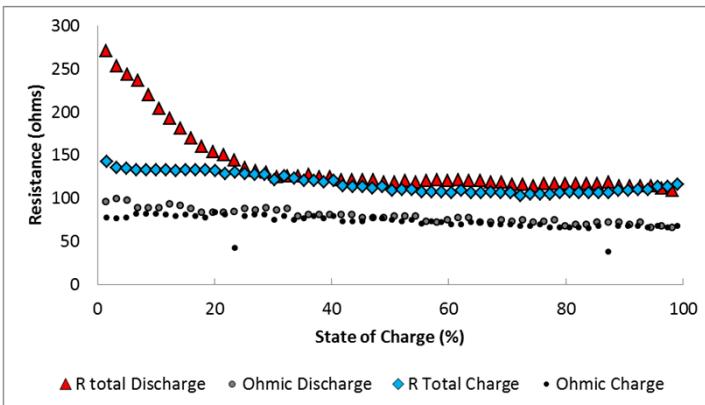
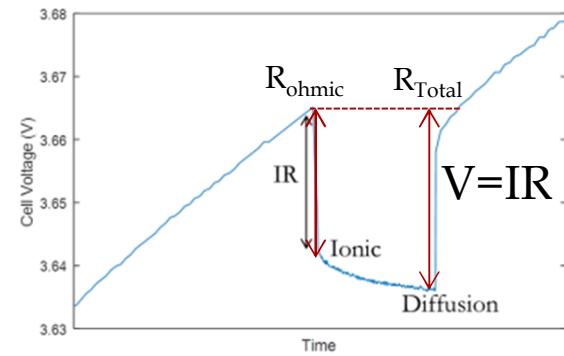
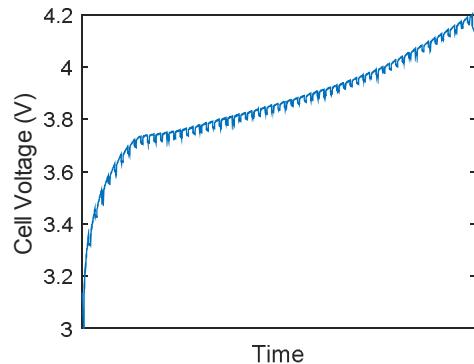
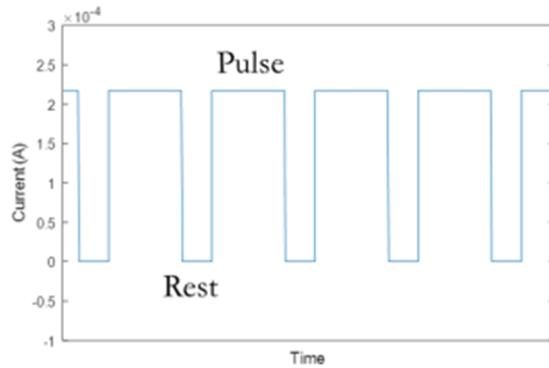
- Refreshed electrolyte (excess Li^+)

Raman Analysis



1. Raman microscopy is capable of estimating the lithiation state within individual LiCoO_2 particles
2. At these slow rates, Capacity loss is exclusively caused by a loss of cycleable Li^+
3. No "inactive" particles of LCO were found on the surface of the electrode
4. All particles were in a relatively homogenous state of lithiation at the slow rates (C/10)

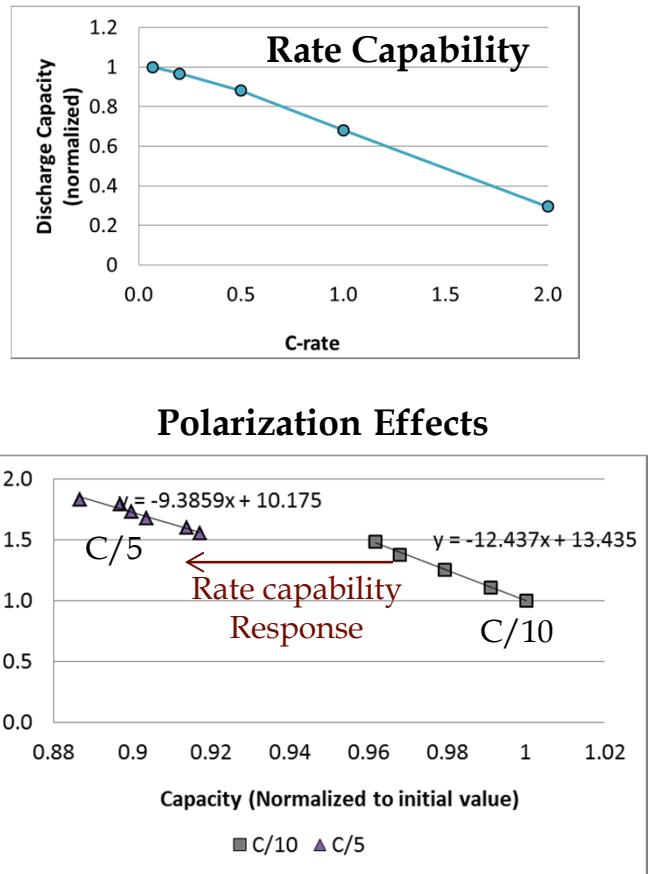
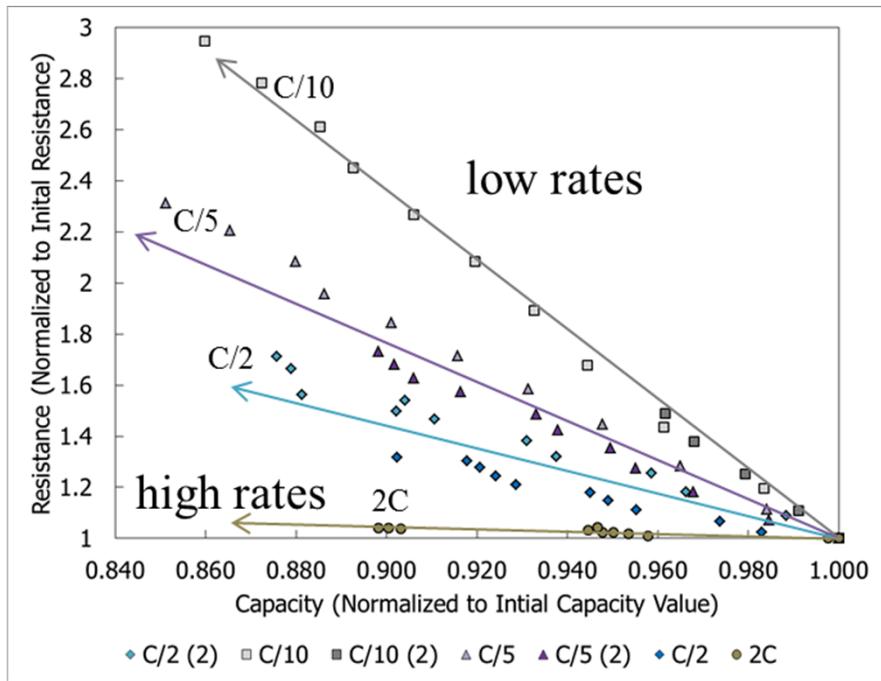
Current Interrupt Testing



What we looked at

- Ohmic resistance as a function of cycle number and c-rate
- Total resistance as a function of cycle number and c-rate
- Relate to measured capacity loss

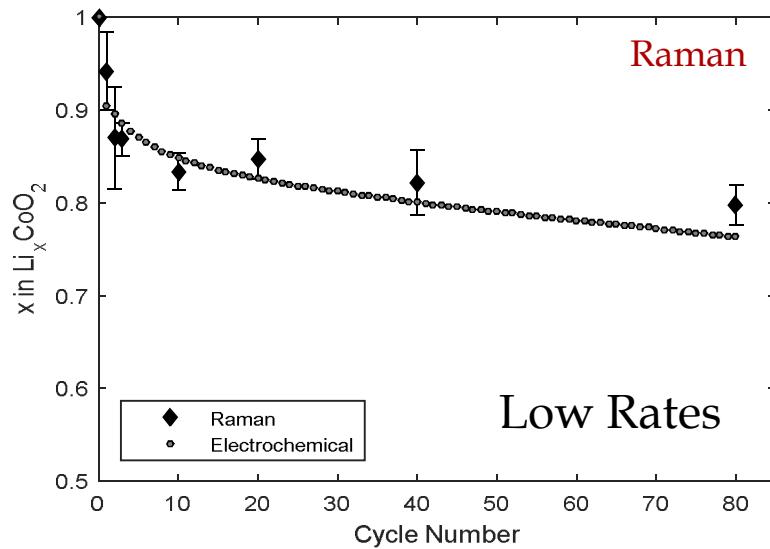
Rate Dependency



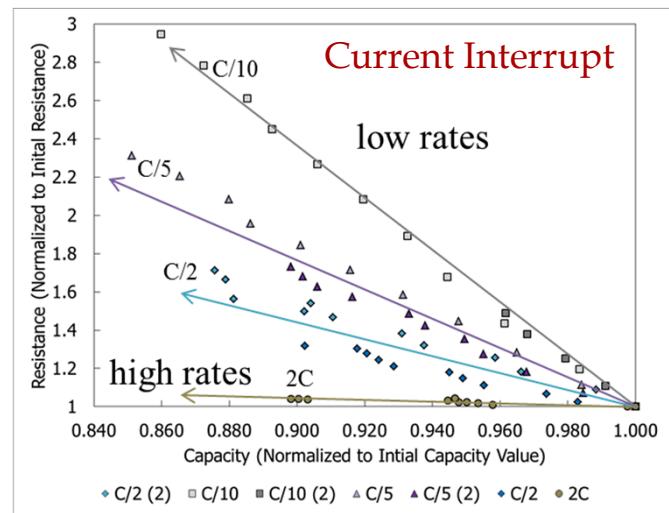
- Under fast rates, mechanical degradation dominates capacity loss - thus results in insignificant changes to resistance. Meanwhile at slow rates, chemical mechanisms dominate which result in increased measured resistance. At moderate rates, a combination of mechanical and chemical mechanisms contribute to capacity fade.
- Considerations: cell to cell variability, rate capability, polarization effects, and repeatability
- Testing for physical evidence is underway (thickening of SEI, fracture of particles, etc.)

Thesis Statement

- Chemical mechanisms of degradation in a Li-ion battery dominate capacity loss at low strain rates, whereas, mechanical degradation dominates at high strain rates.



Loss of Li^+ inventory due to SEI thickening and other side reactions is the primary mechanism responsible for capacity fade.



At low rates an increased cell impedance is responsible a larger portion of capacity loss compared to at high rates where other mechanisms begin to dominate.



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Thank you

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Christopher Applett and Dr. Anne Grillet for project mentorship
- Professor Duquette for project oversight and advisement

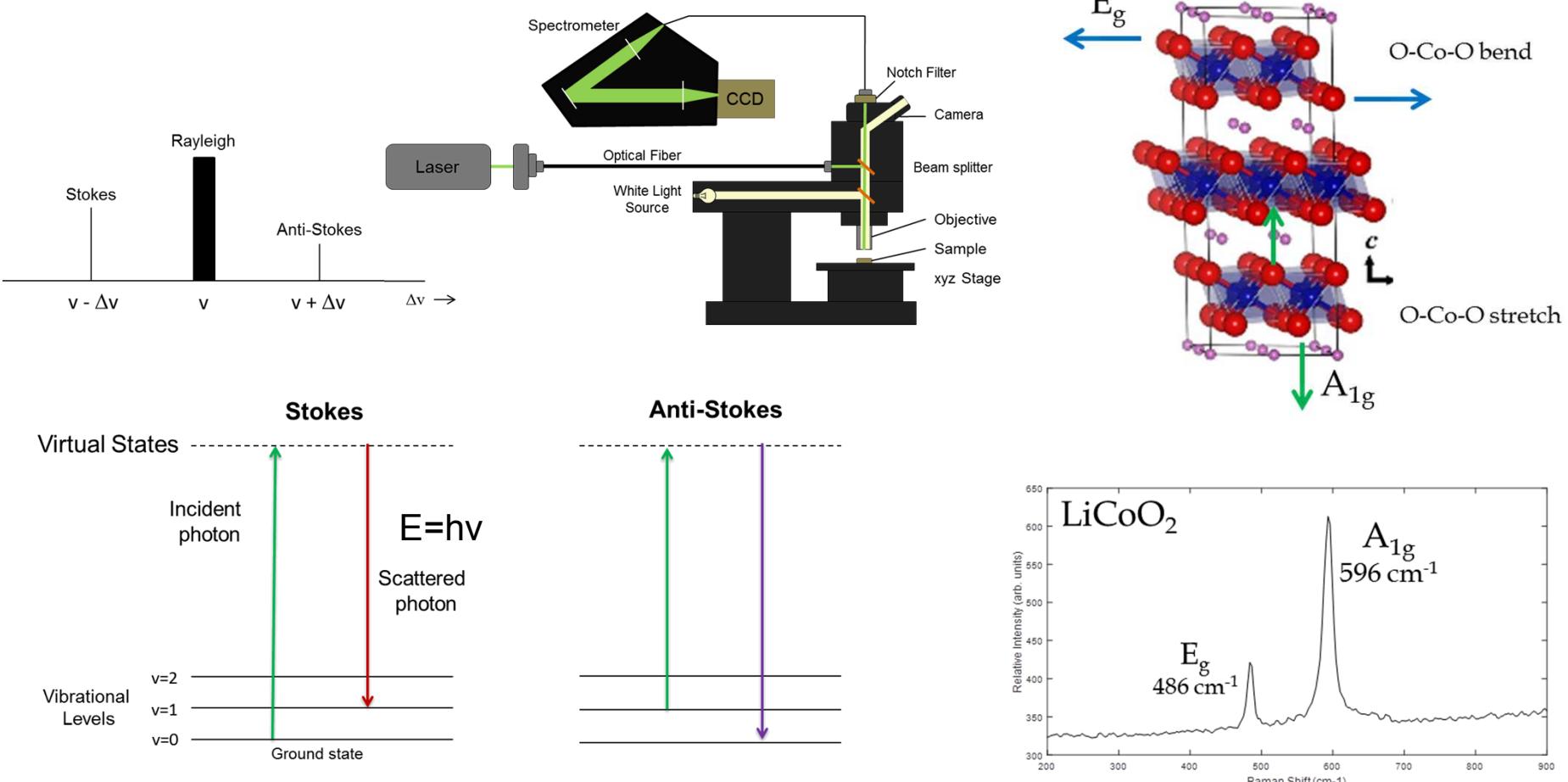
Other Contributors: Dr. Thomas Beechem, Anthony McDonald, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Farid El Gabaly, Dr. Kyle Fenton, Dr. Mani Nagasubramanian, Dr. Brian Perdue, Jon Coleman, Lorie Davis, Bonnie McKenzie

Related Technical Talks/Publications

- “Measuring Li⁺ Inventory Losses in LiCoO₂/Graphite Cells using Raman Microscopy”. Chelsea Snyder, Christopher Applett, Thomas Beechem, Anne Grillet, David Duquette, Journal of The Electrochemical Society (accepted March 2016).
- “Measuring Li⁺ Inventory Losses in LiCoO₂/C Cells Using Ex-Situ Raman Spectroscopy”, Chelsea Snyder, Christopher Applett, Anne Grillet, Thomas Beechem, David Duquette, 229th Electrochemical Society Meeting, San Diego, CA, May 29– June 3, 2016.
- “Steps Towards In-Situ Studies of the Mechanical Degradation of Lithium Ion Batteries using Fluorescence Confocal Microscopy”, Chelsea Snyder, Christopher Applett, David Duquette, Anne Grillet, 227th Electrochemical Society Meeting, Chicago, IL May 24-28, 2015.

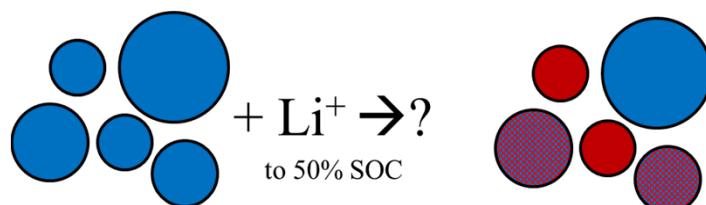
Back up slides

Raman Spectroscopy



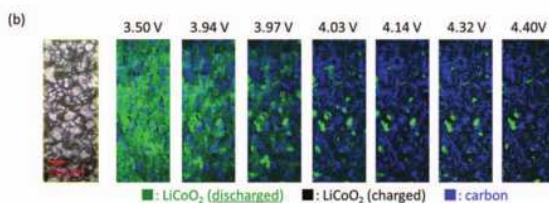
Upcoming Raman work

- Loss of Li⁺ Inventory in Commercial Cell (1C for 500+ cycles)
- In-situ studies
 - Kinetic limitations at accelerated c-rates
 - Electrode SOC homogeneity



1C

Non-uniform charge/discharge
Inhomogeneous SOC distribution

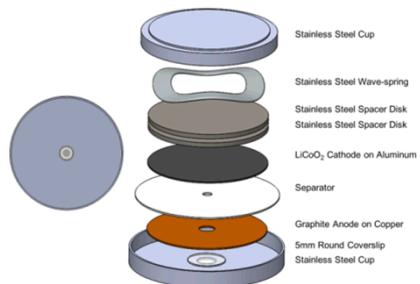


Nishi et al. *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* 160 (2013) A1785-A1788

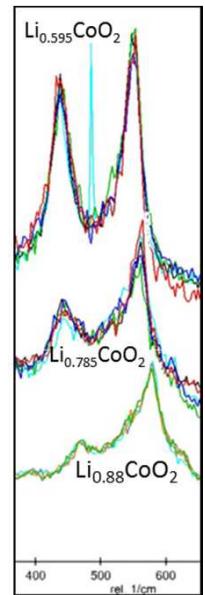
Uniform charge/discharge
Homogenous SOC distribution

Snyder et al. *Journal of the
Electrochemical Society* (submitted)

In-situ Cell

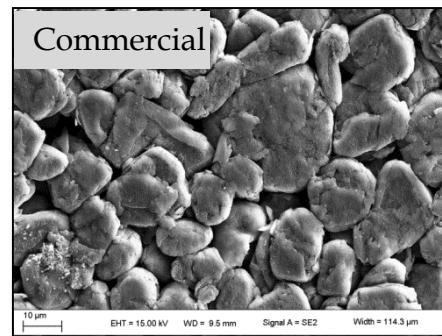
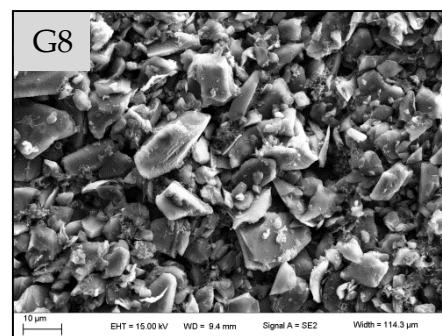
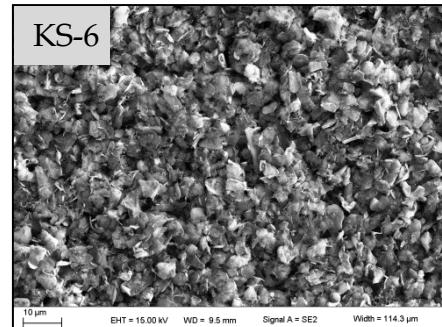
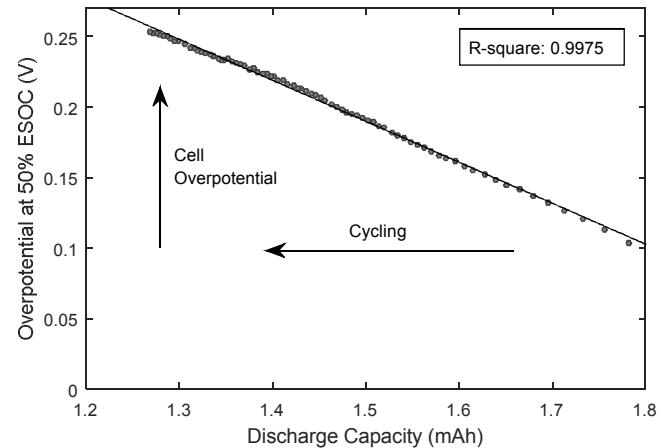


Raw Raman Data



Accelerated Loss of Li⁺ Inventory

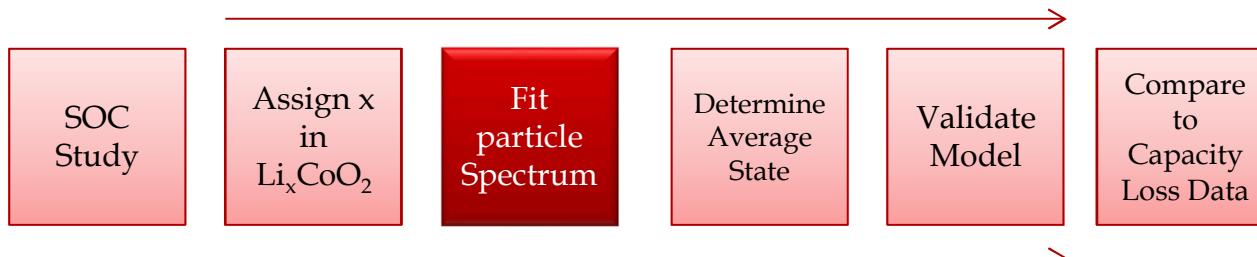
- No Electrolyte Additives to form more stable SEI
 - Unstable SEI = more cracks/reforming and consumption of Li⁺
- High surface area Graphite anodes (using KS-6) compared to commercial anodes
 - High surface area = more SEI growth more initial consumption of Li and more SEI area
- Will use G8 anodes (graphite optimized for anode use) in future testing



Particle Size

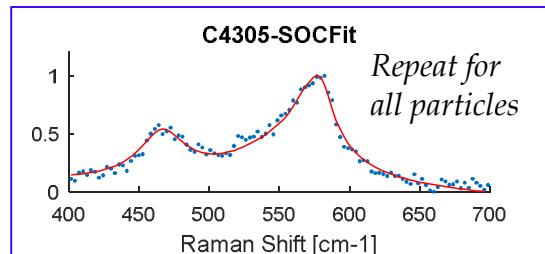
Surface Area

Raman Analysis

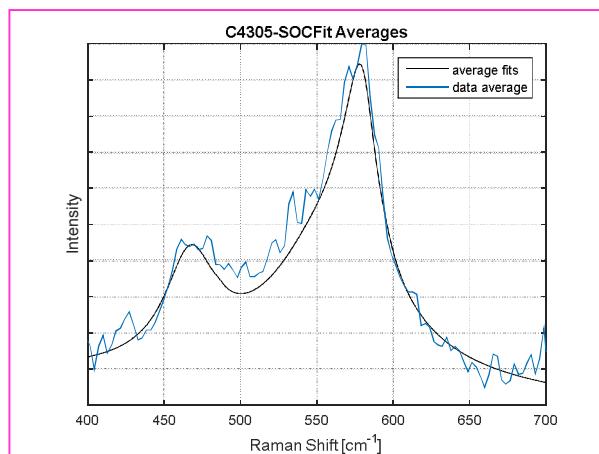


1. Preprocessing

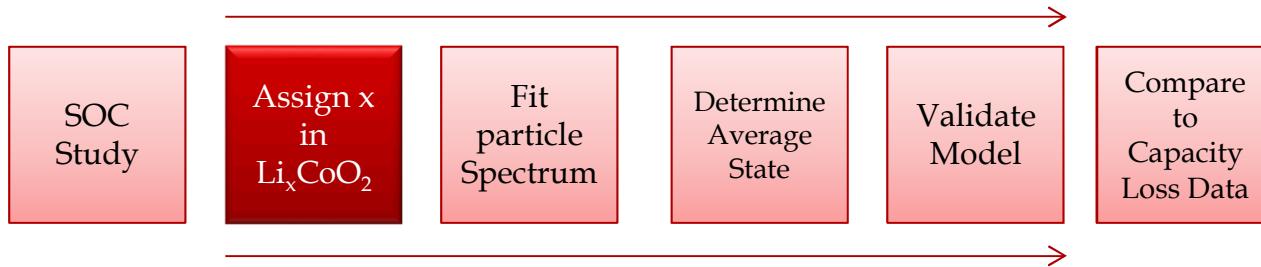
- Exclude data outside 400-700 cm^{-1}
- Linear Background Removal
- Cosmic Ray Removal
- Normalize Intensity



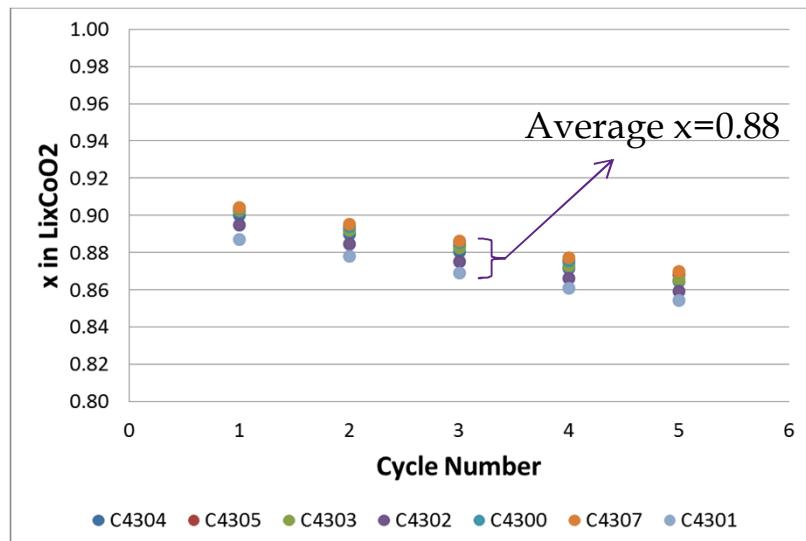
2. Fit to Linear Combination of SOC spectra - use weights in peak regions to maximize fit
3. Compare Average Fit to Average Data - ensure fits represent the data well
4. Export coefficients and R^2 fit value



Raman Analysis



Discharge Capacity Normalized
to Theoretical Capacity



Assignment of lithiation state

| ESOC (%) | x in Li_xCoO_2 | PSOC (%) |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 0 | 0.88 | 24 |
| 25 | 0.785 | 43 |
| 50 | 0.69 | 62 |
| 75 | 0.595 | 81 |
| 100 | 0.5 | 100 |

Raman Analysis

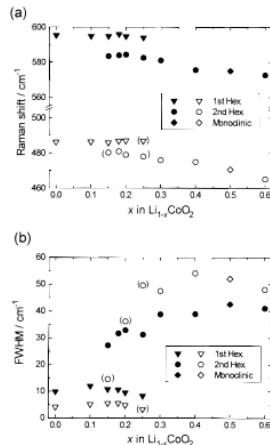


Example Fit Output

| Particle | x=1 | x=0.88 | x=0.785 | x=0.69 | x=0.595 | x=0.5 | Net State, x |
|----------|-----|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.83 |
| 2 | 0 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.84 |
| 3 | 0 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.82 |
| 4 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.90 |
| 5 | 0 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.86 |
| 6 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0.79 |
| 7 | 0 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.85 |
| 8 | 0 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.87 |
| 9 | 0 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0.85 |
| 10 | 0 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.86 |

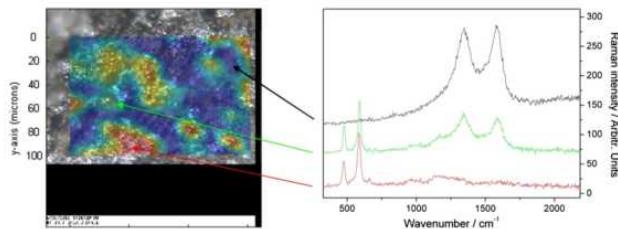
Average Lithiation State:
 $x=0.8482 \pm 0.0314$

Raman Spectroscopy



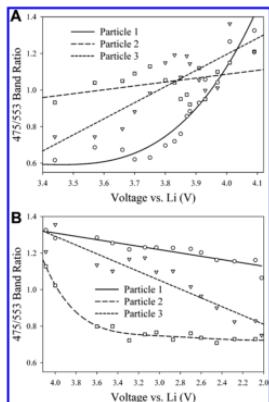
Inaba et al. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 28 (1997) 613-617

- First report on Raman of LiCoO_2 throughout deintercalation
- Li Half Cell



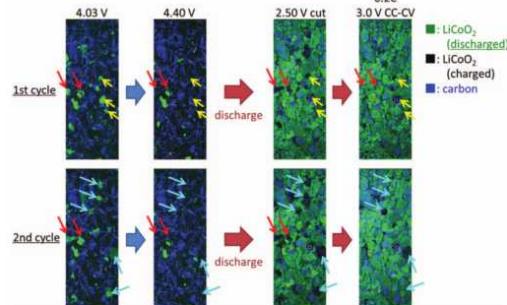
Gross and Hess *Journal of Power Sources* 256 (2014) 220-225

- Compositional mapping of LiCoO_2 cathode – binder and active material



Lei et al. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 109 (2005) 952-957

- In-situ monitor of SOC of individual $\text{LiNi}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2$ particles
- In-situ
- Half Cell (C/5)

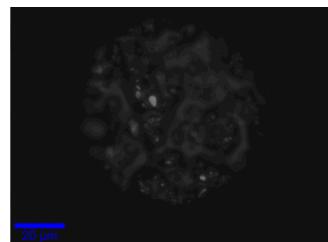
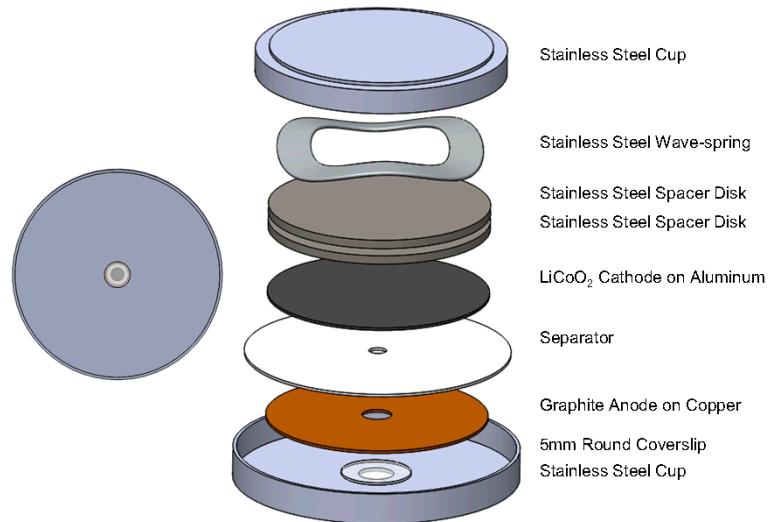


Nishi et al. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 160 (2013) A1785-A1788

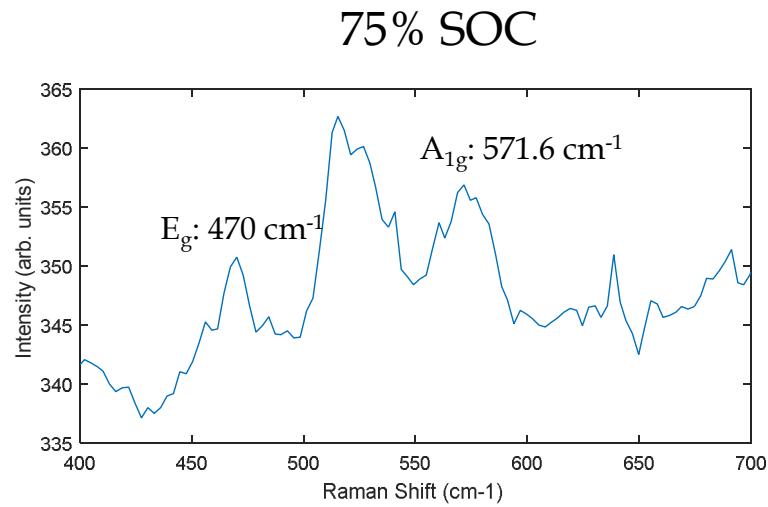
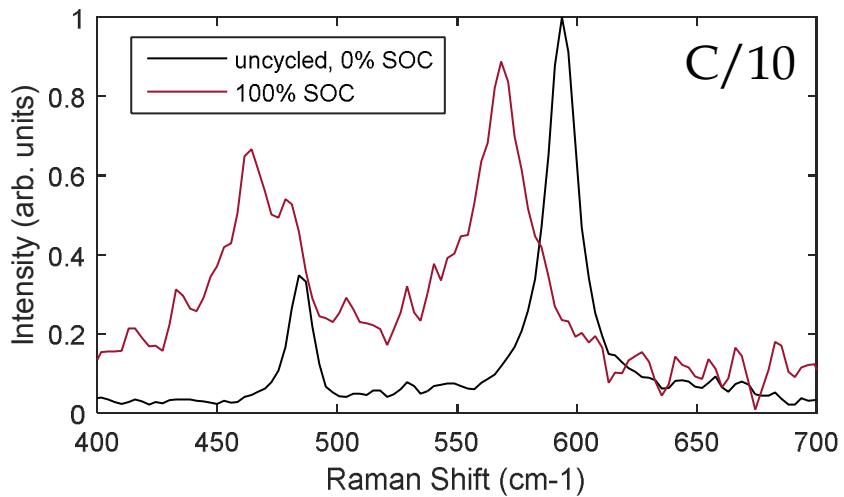
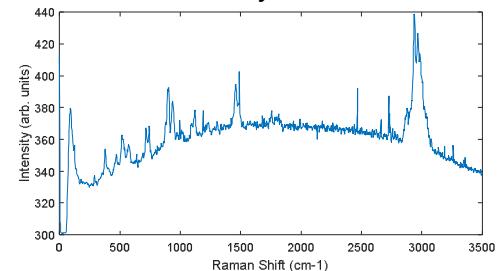
- LiCoO_2 /Li Half Cell (1C)
- In-situ Analysis
- Electrode mapping
- Inhomogeneous SOC distribution

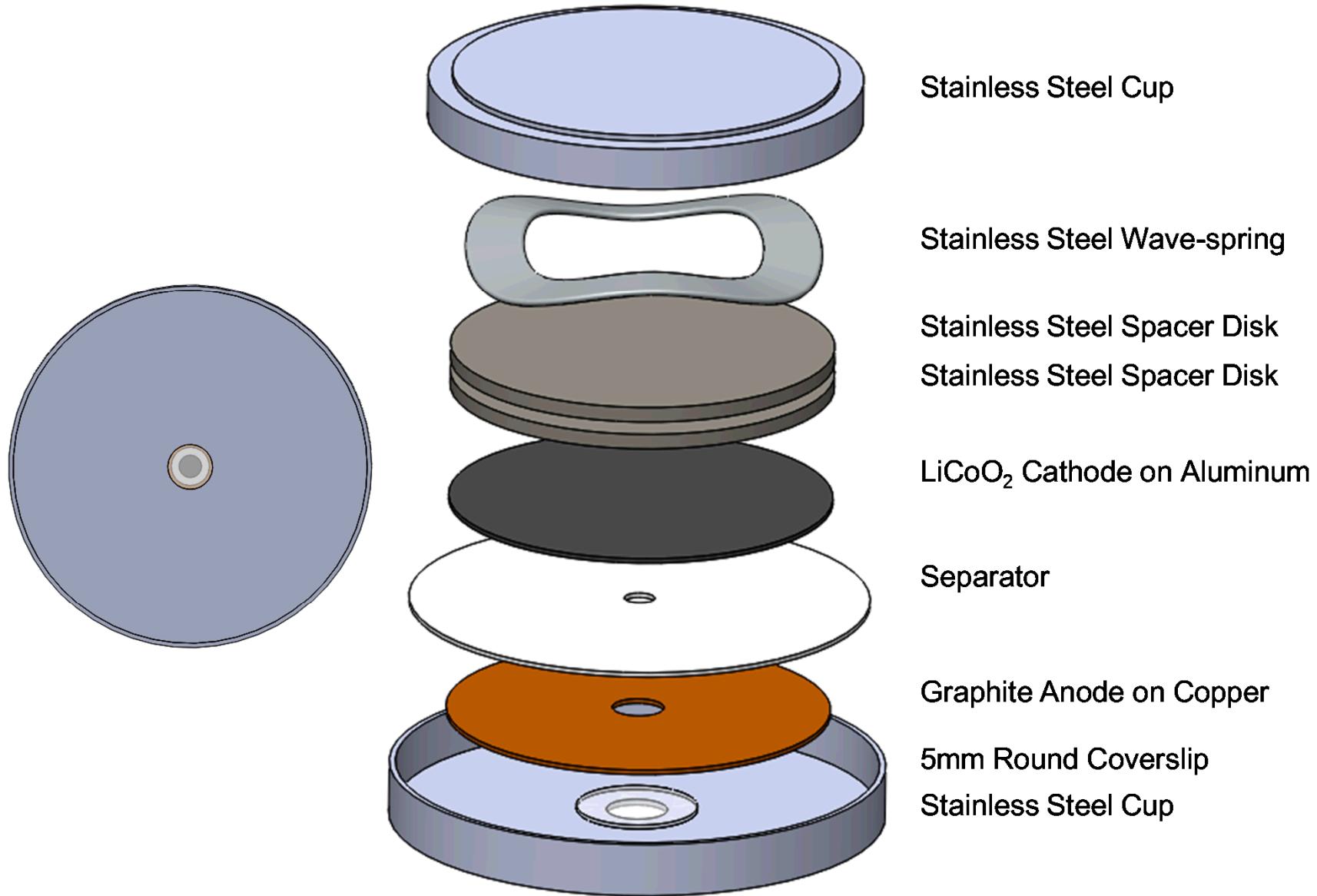
Backup

In-situ Raman Analysis

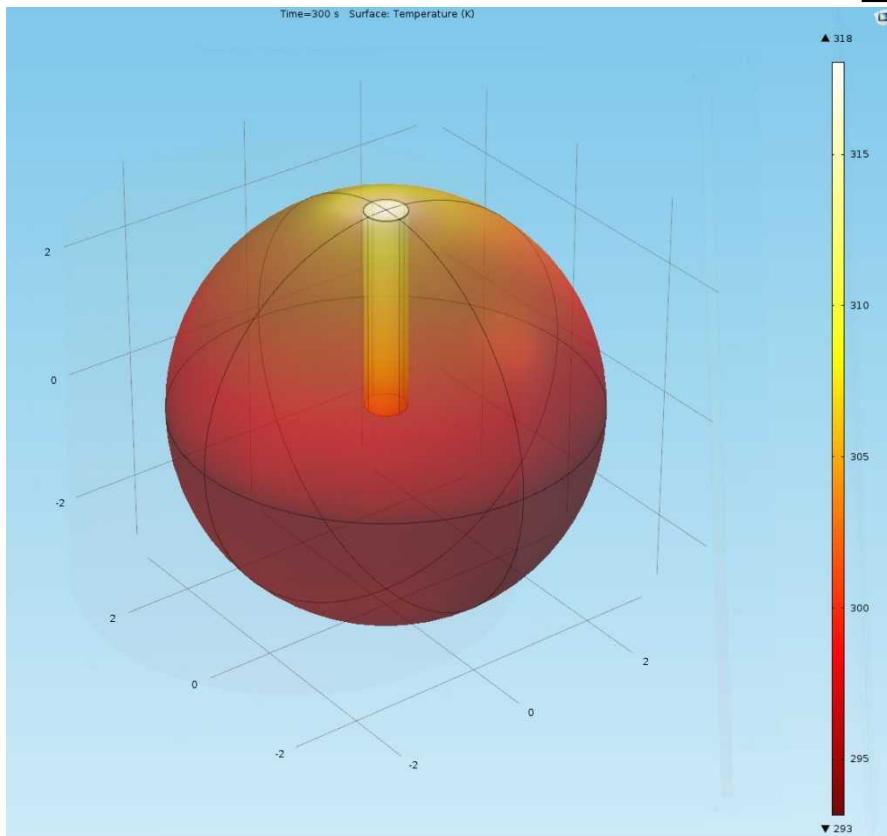


Electrolyte Peaks





Raman - Laser heating of LiCoO₂ Particles



Density of LCO = 5.05 g/cc
Heat capacity: 71.62 J/molK
Thermal Conductivity: 2.165 W/mK

Depth of laser : 3 um (uniform heat generated)
Laser spot = 600 nm
Laser Power = 0.25 mW
Total Time =300 s

Particle size: 6um diameter
Bottom half surface kept at 293.14 K ("conductive")
Insulated on top half ("air")

Max temperature = 318 K = 44.85°C
Max increase in temperature = 25°C

Study 1, Time Dependent

$$(\rho C_p)_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho C_p \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = \nabla \cdot (k_{\text{eff}} \nabla T) + Q + Q_{\text{vd}} + Q_p$$

$$(\rho C_p)_{\text{eff}} = \theta_p \rho_p C_{p,p} + (1 - \theta_p) \rho C_p$$

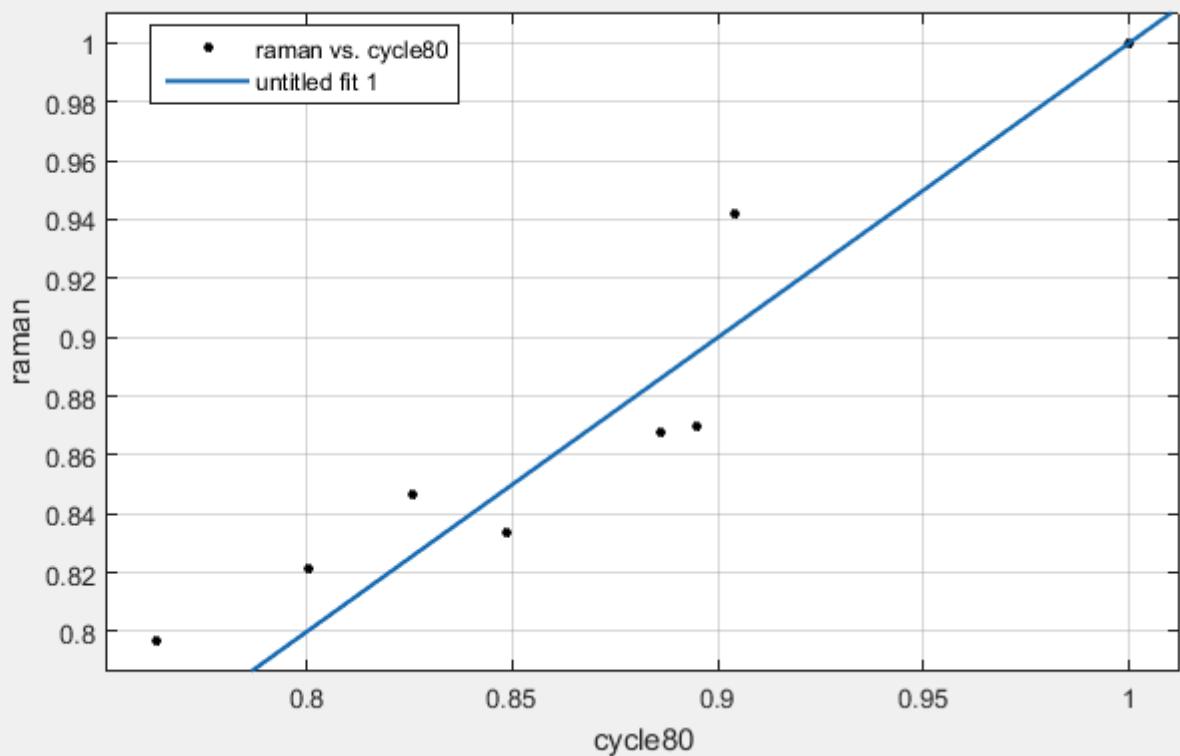
$$k_{\text{eff}} = \theta_p k_p + (1 - \theta_p) k$$

Results

General model:
 $f(x) = x + c$

Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
 $c = 0$ (fixed at bound)

Goodness of fit:
SSE: 0.004646
R-square: 0.8523
Adjusted R-square: 0.8708
RMSE: 0.0241



The fit explains 85.23% of the total variation in the data about the average

Raman Spectroscopy

- Molecules have vibrational modes dependent on: orientation, atomic mass, bond order
- Change in polarizability (size, shape, or orientation of the electron cloud that surrounds the molecules)
 - Occurs in symmetric stretching but not asymmetric stretching
- Visible light – molecules absorb and re-emit (some is absorbed by the molecular vibrations – re-emit at new frequency)
- Inelastic scattering

Tools

- Electrochemical Techniques
 - Current Interrupt
 - Gain insight to the cell resistance – electronic, ionic, and diffusional response
 - Discharge Current testing
 - Vary the discharge current to look at rate capability of the cell
 - How does it evolve over cycling? As a function of different c-rate aging?
- Spectroscopic Techniques
 - Raman
 - Probe individual LiCoO₂ particles both in-situ and ex-situ
 - Look at structural changes → Lithiation state (State of Charge)
- Microscopy Techniques
 - SEM
 - Look at mechanical damage to particles after various rate cycling