

Ph.D. Graduate Work

# The Rate Dependency of Li-ion Battery Degradation Mechanisms

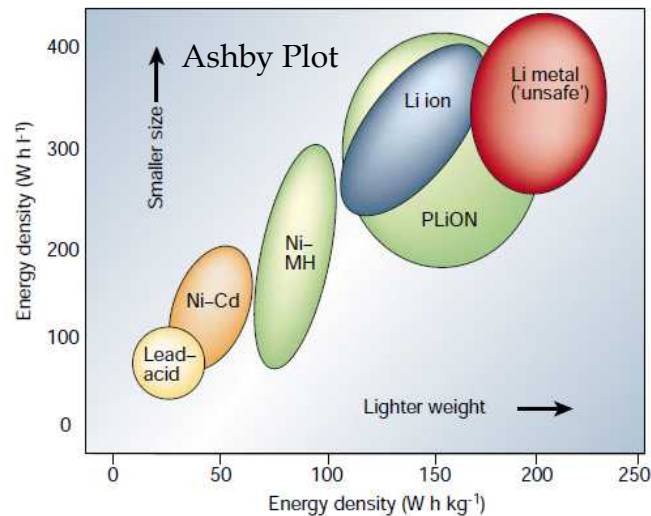
Chelsea Snyder

KAPL Interview - March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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.

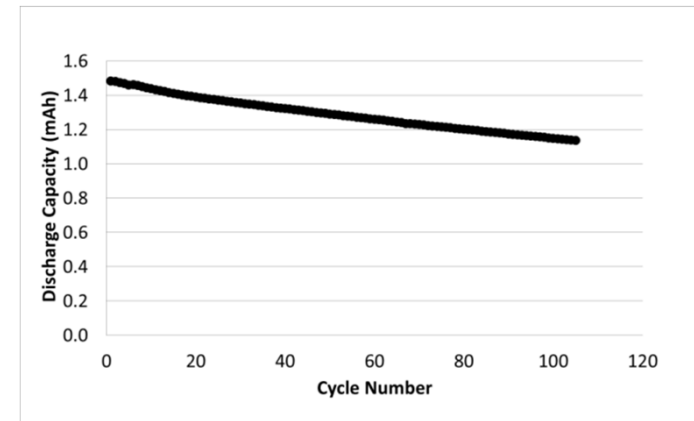


# Motivation

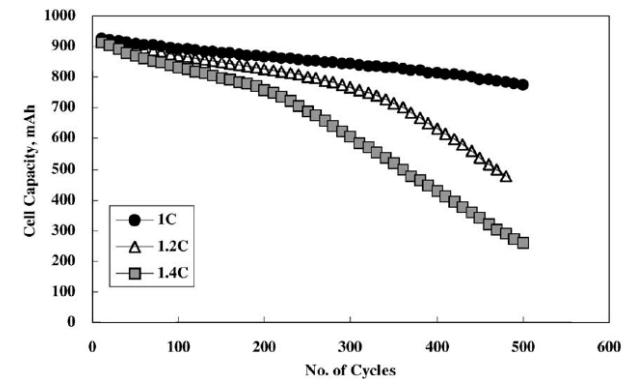


J. Tarascon and M. Armand *Nature* 414 (2001) 359-367

## Capacity Fade



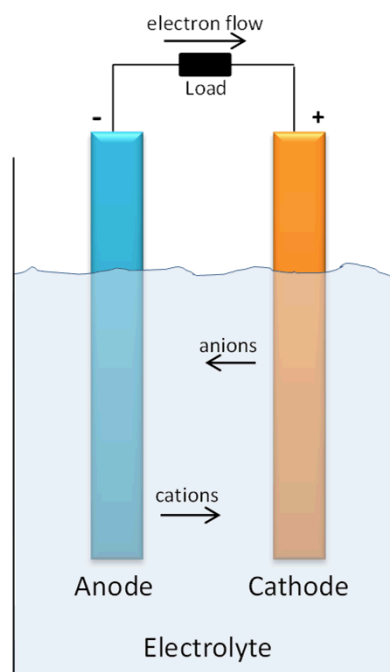
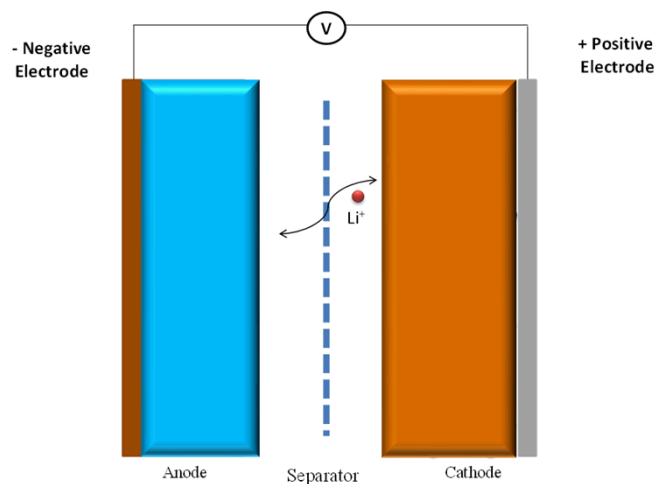
## Rate Effects



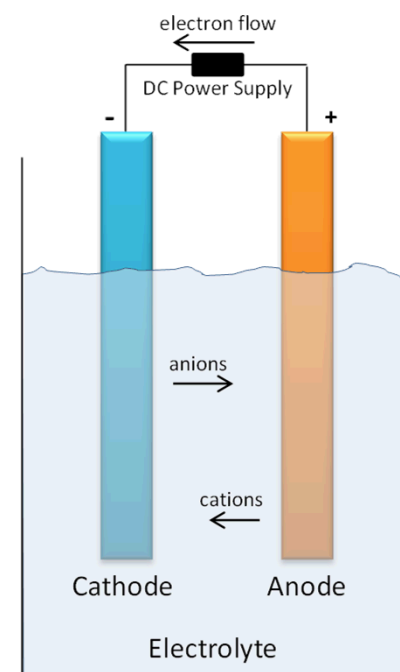
Choi et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 111 (2002) 130-136

# Batteries

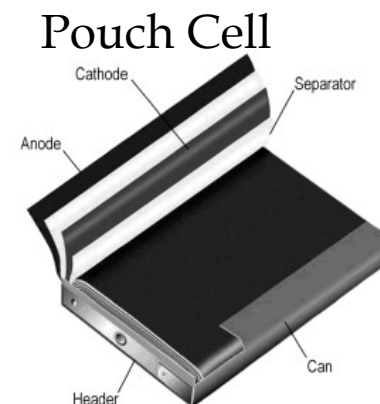
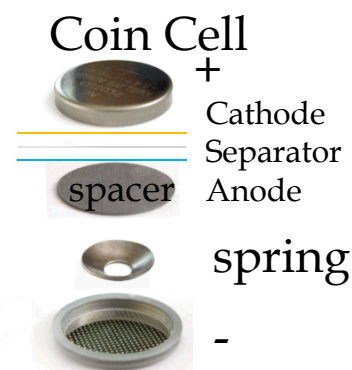
- A battery converts stored chemical energy into electrical energy through an electrochemical oxidation-reduction reaction
- Anode: oxidized species
- Cathode: reduced species



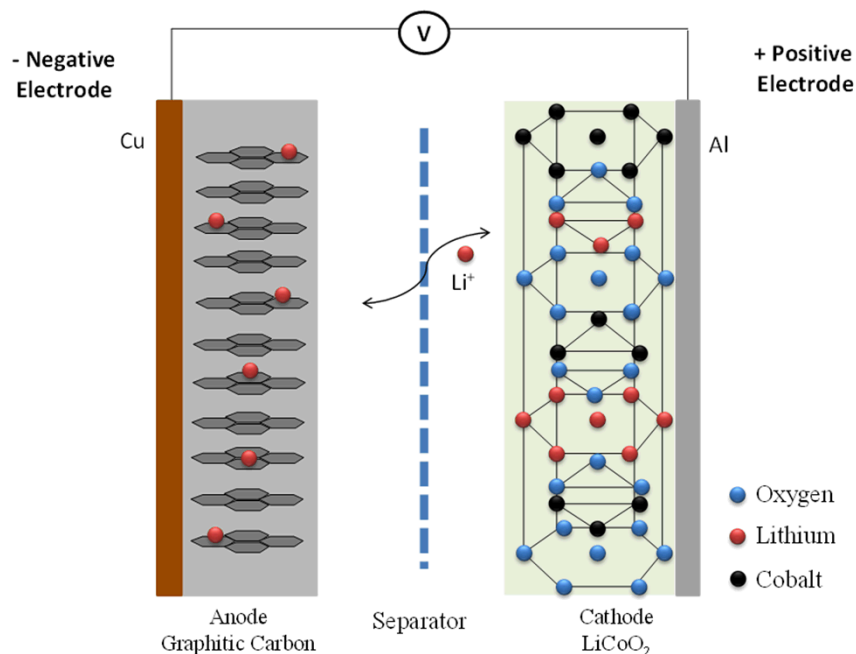
Discharge



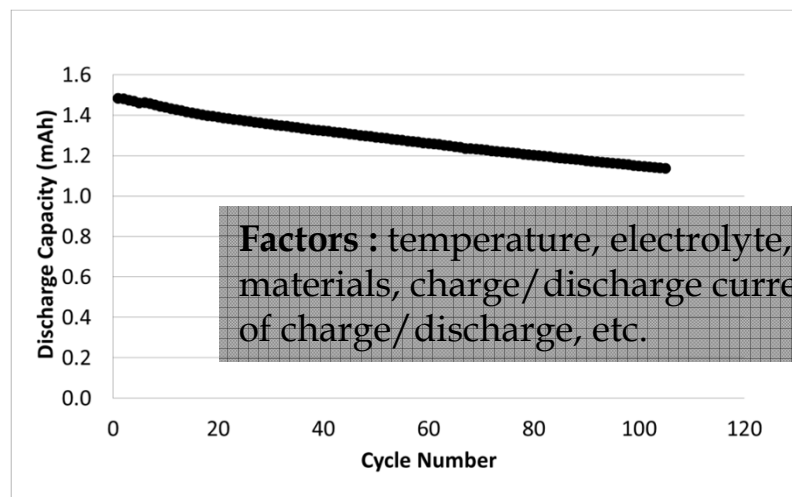
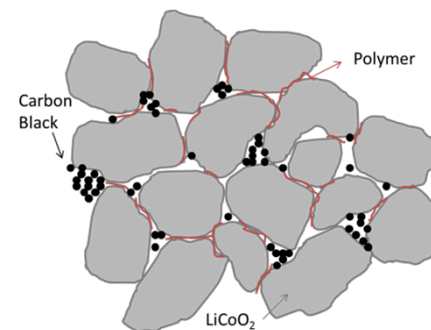
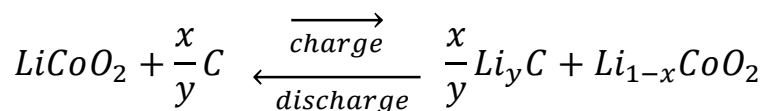
Charge



# Lithium-ion Batteries



“Rocking Chair”



**Factors :** temperature, electrolyte, electrode materials, charge/discharge currents, depth of charge/discharge, etc.

Electrolyte: 1.2 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> 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

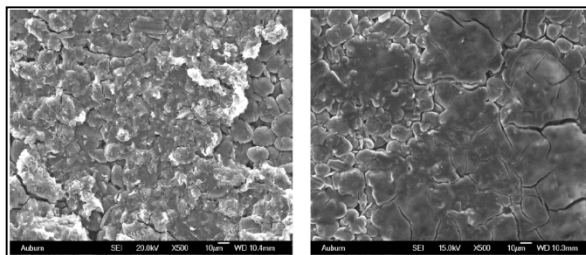
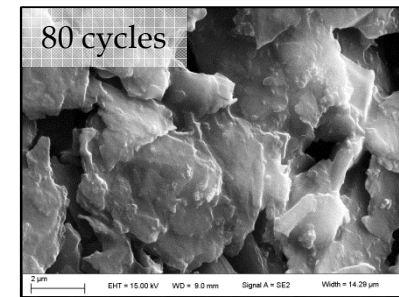
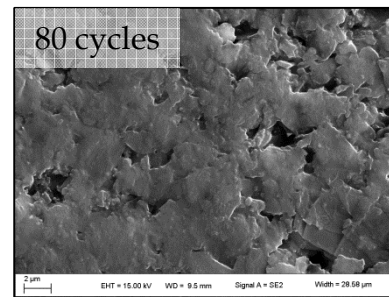
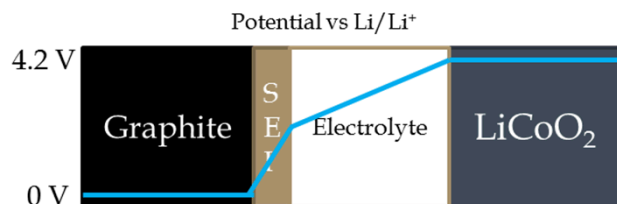
1. Loss of Primary Active Material ( $\text{Li}^+$  ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material ( $\text{LiCoO}_2$ )
3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes

# Degradation Mechanisms

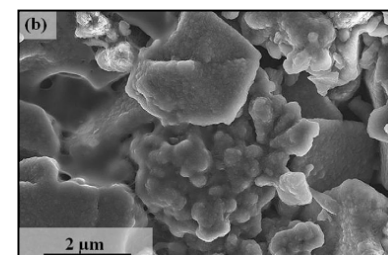
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## Solid Electrolyte Interphase (SEI) formation

- 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

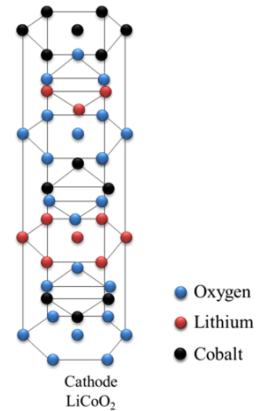
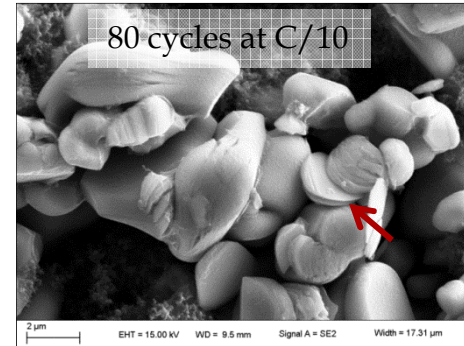


J. Lee et al. *Carbon* 52 (2013) 388-397



# Degradation Mechanisms

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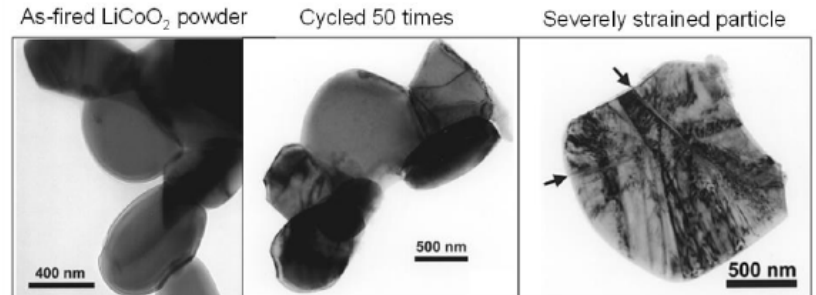


## Anisotropic expansion/contraction

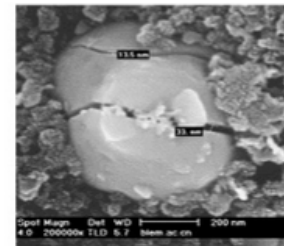
- Internal strains and dislocation defects
- Fracture of particles
- Contact loss between electrically conductive components

## 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 ( $\text{Li}^+$  ion Inventory)
2. Loss of Secondary Active Material ( $\text{LiCoO}_2$ )
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

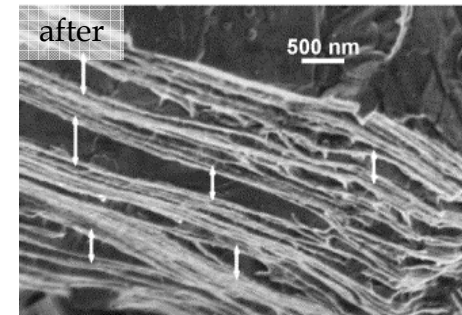
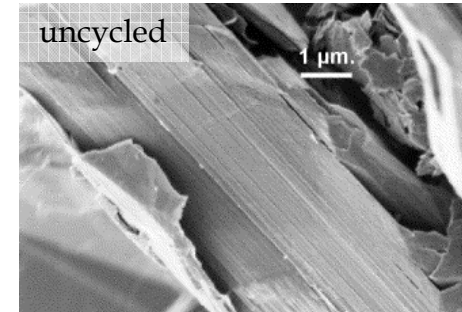
## Structural disorder and damage

- 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

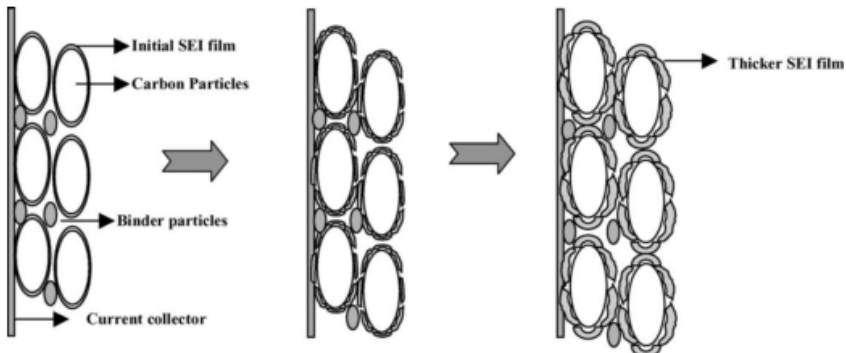
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3. Loss of Secondary Active Material (Graphite)
4. **Increased Impedance of Cell and Electrodes**

## Film formation and thickening

- SEI on graphite anode
- Electrolyte oxidation at  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  electrode

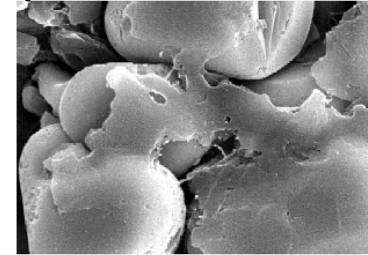
## Increased Cell Resistance

## Degradation of binder conductivity



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

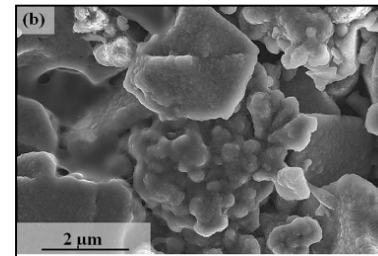
Cycled  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  Electrode



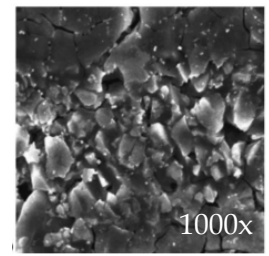
Scale: 9 mm=1 micron

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

Cycled Graphite Electrode



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



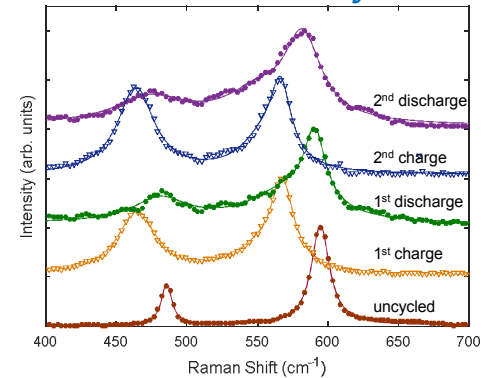
G. Ning et al. *Journal of Power Sources* 117 (2003) 160-169

# Degradation Mechanisms

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

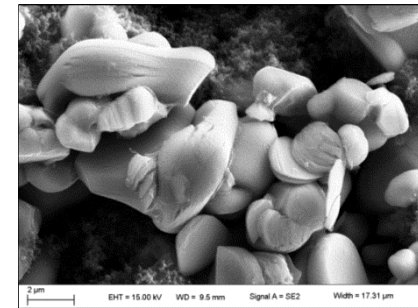
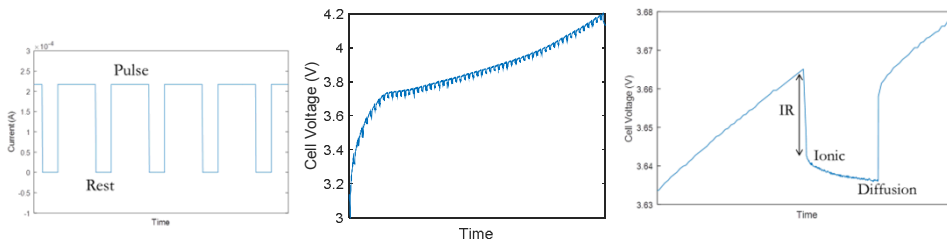
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→ Raman Analysis



→ Electrochemical Testing  
Microscopy Techniques

Current Interrupt (CI) Methods



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.

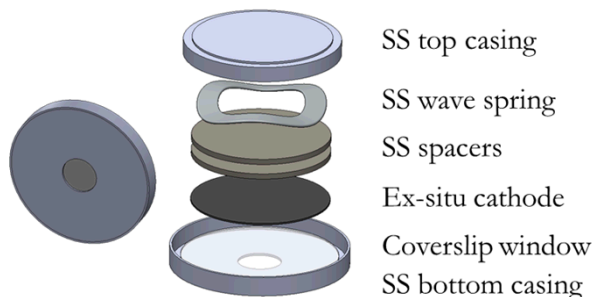
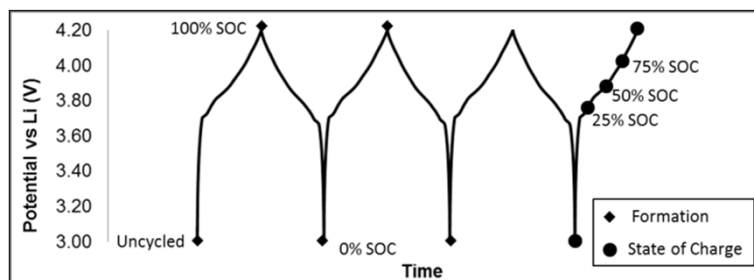
# Develop Model to Estimate Lithiation State

## 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

LiCoO<sub>2</sub>/Graphite/1.2 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> 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

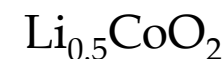
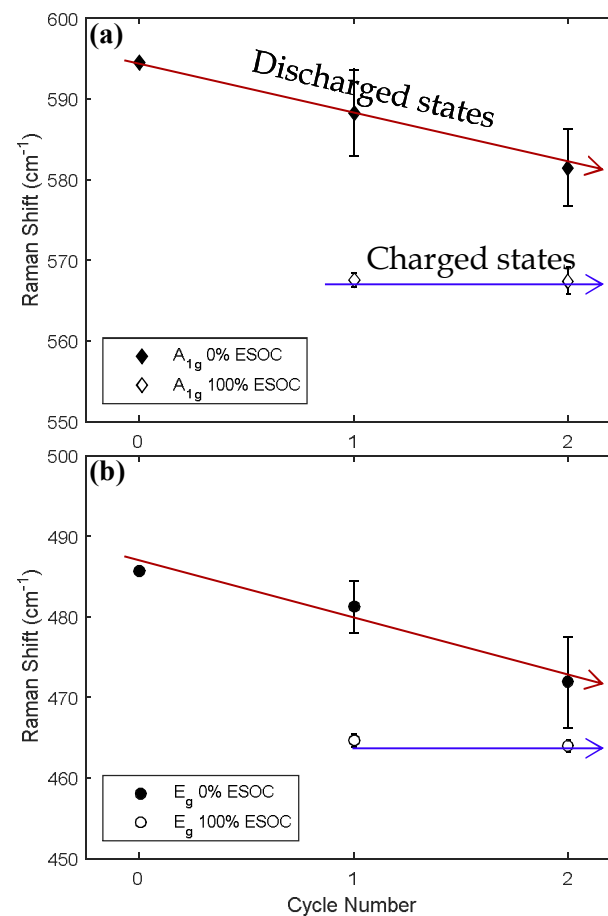
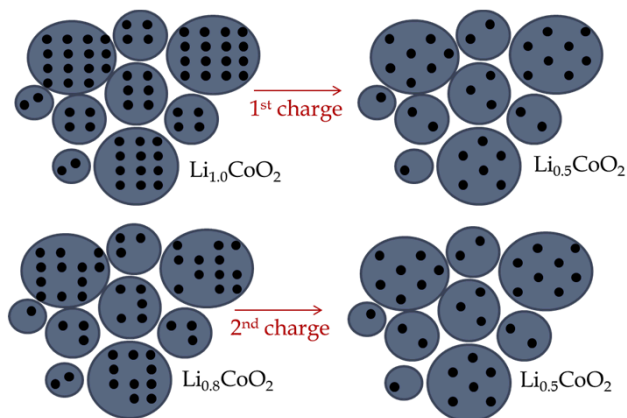
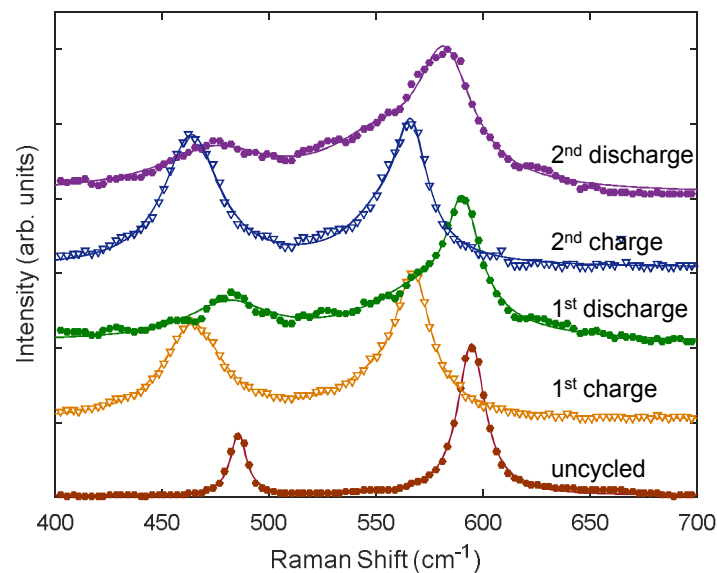
Laser : Nd:YAG at 532 nm

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

Power : 250 μW

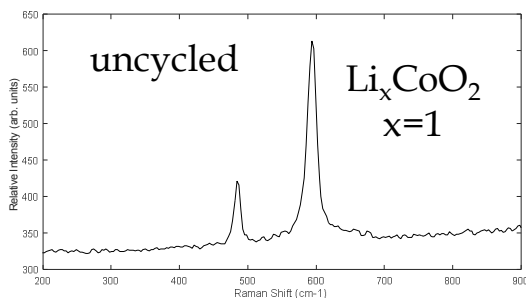
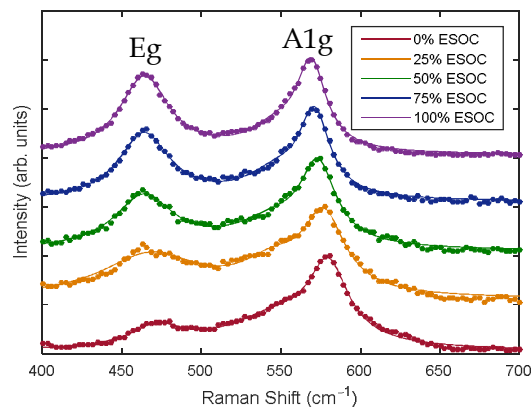
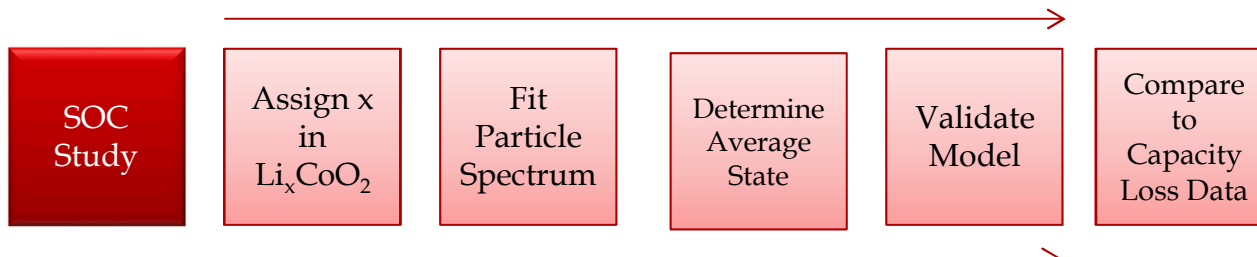
Integration time : 300 s per particle

# Formation Study

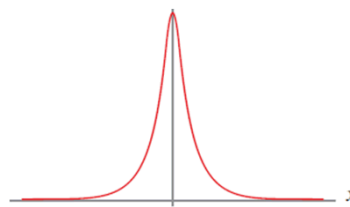


\*Each data point represents the averaged peak position from ten particles randomly selected on the electrode

# Raman Analysis



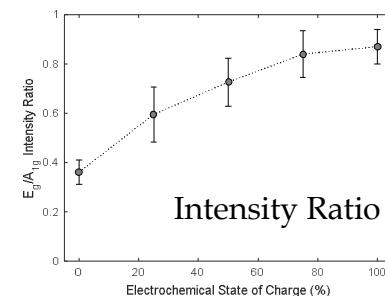
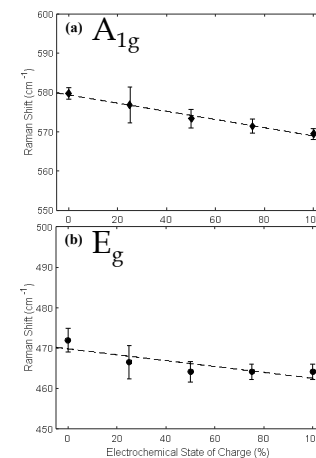
## Lorentz Function



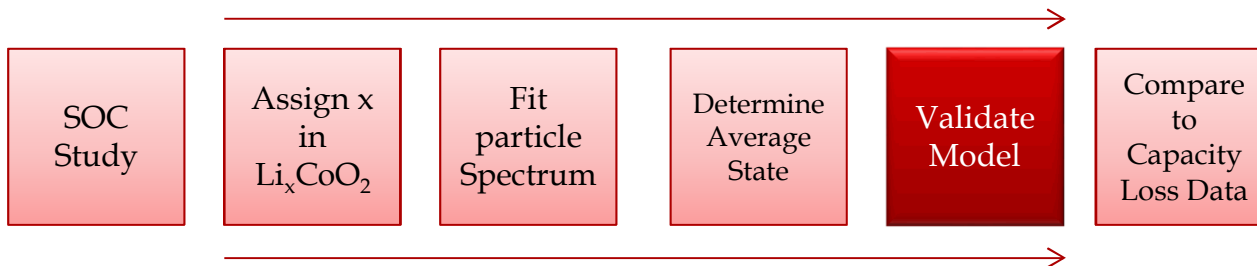
$$L(x) = A * \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(x - p)^2}{w^2}}$$

A ~ Amplitude  
w ~ line width  
p ~ peak position

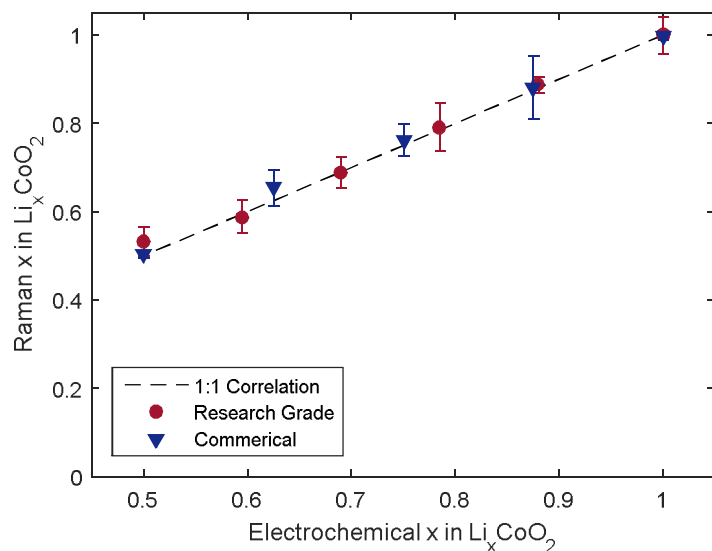
## Peak positions



# Raman Analysis



## Raman vs Electrochemical



### Research Grade

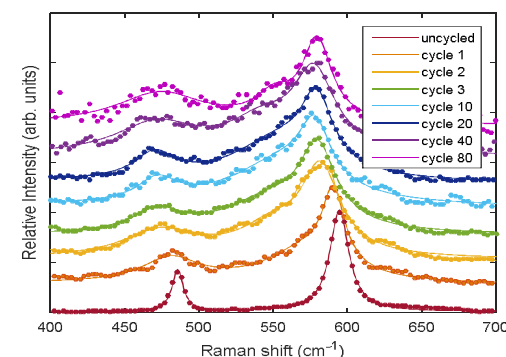
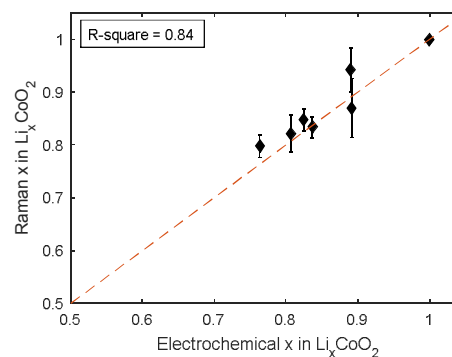
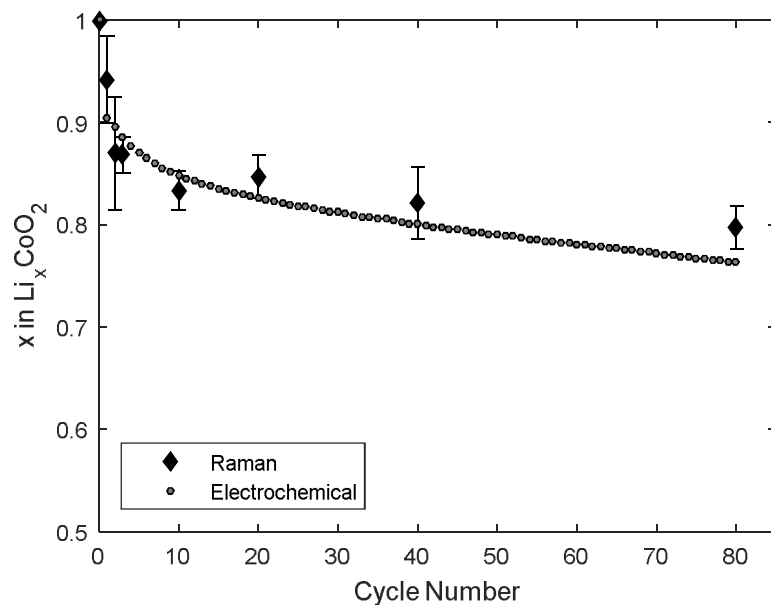
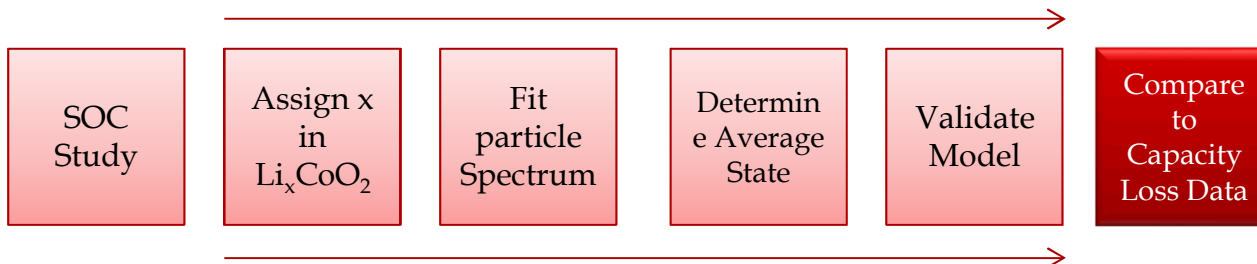
- SOC Samples

### Commercial Electrodes

- Refreshed electrolyte (excess  $\text{Li}^+$ )

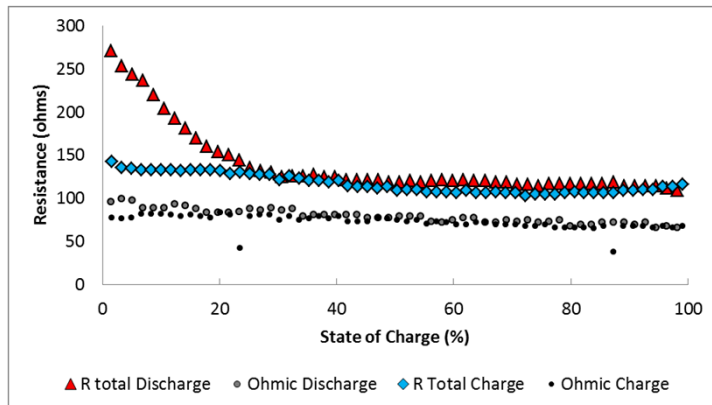
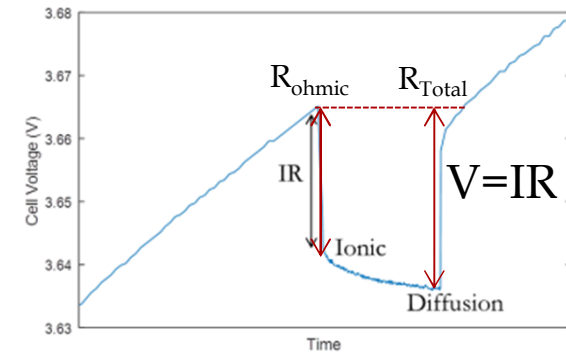
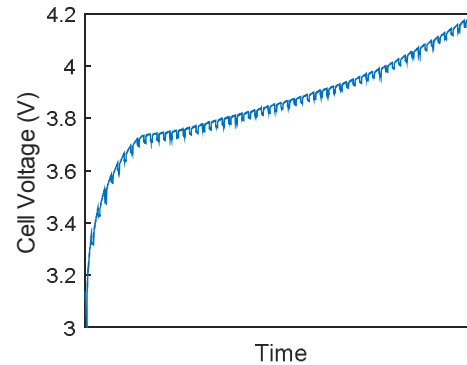
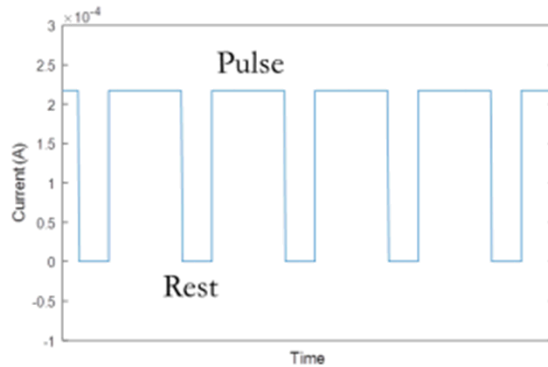


# Raman Analysis



1. Raman microscopy is capable of estimating the lithiation state within individual  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  particles
2. At these slow rates, Capacity loss is exclusively caused by a loss of cycleable  $\text{Li}^+$
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)

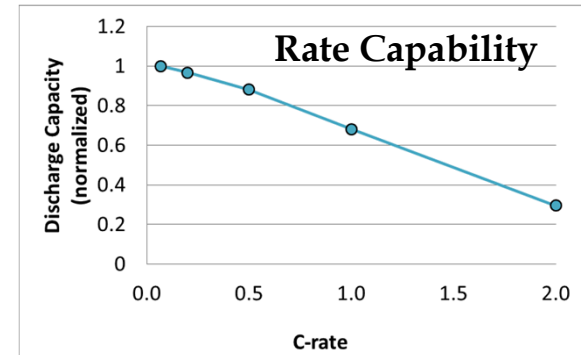
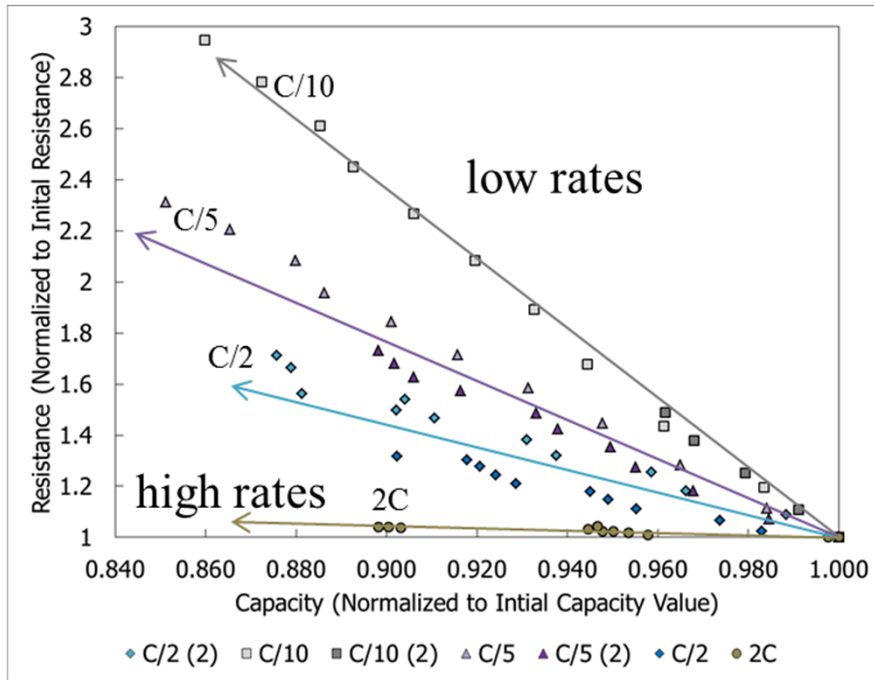
# Current Interrupt Testing



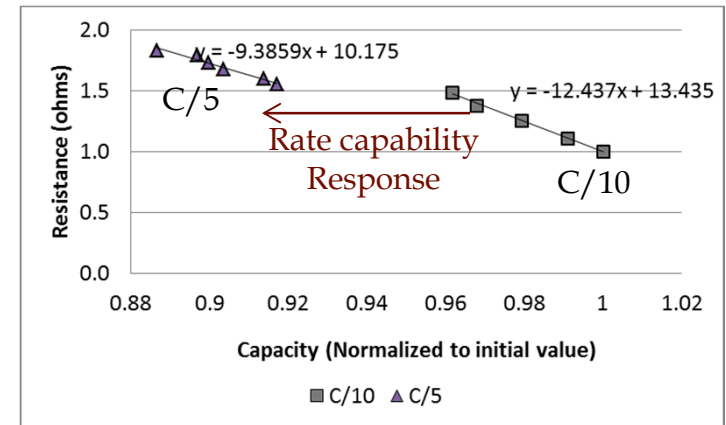
What we looked at

- 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



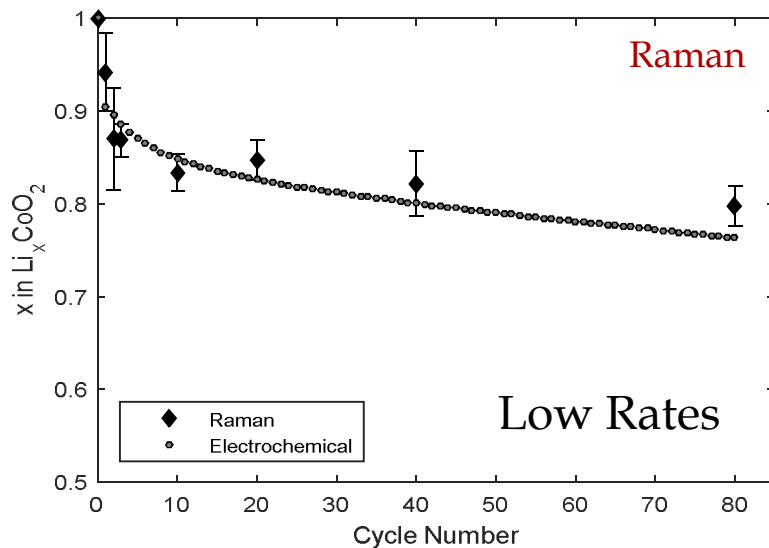
## Polarization Effects



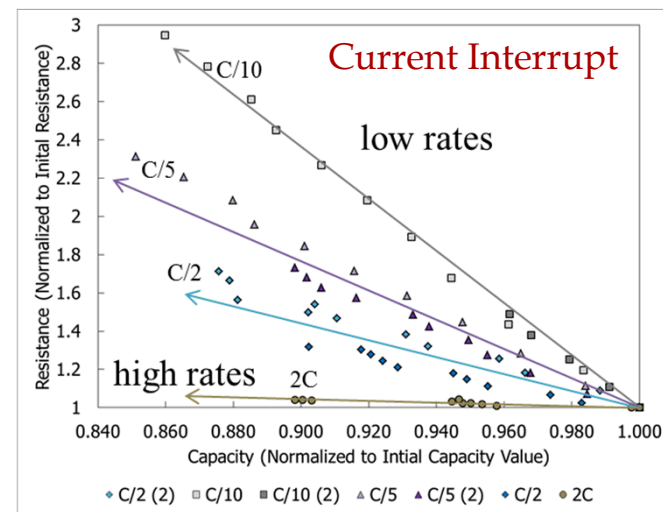
- Under fast rates, mechanical degradation dominates capacity loss - thus results in insignificant changes to resistance. Meanwhile at slow rates, chemical mechanisms dominate which result in increased measured resistance. At moderate rates, a combination of mechanical and chemical mechanisms contribute 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  $\text{Li}^+$  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.

# Thank you

## Acknowledgements

- Dr. Christopher Apblett 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

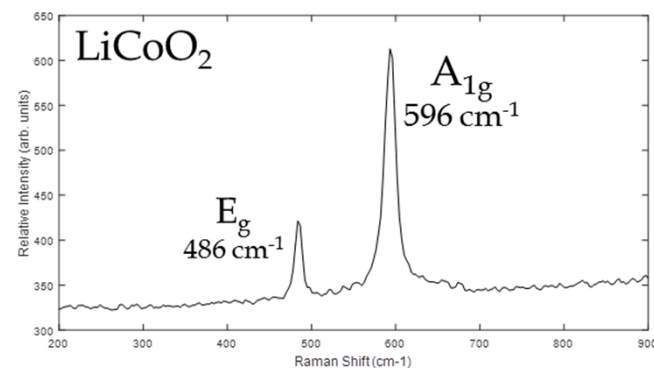
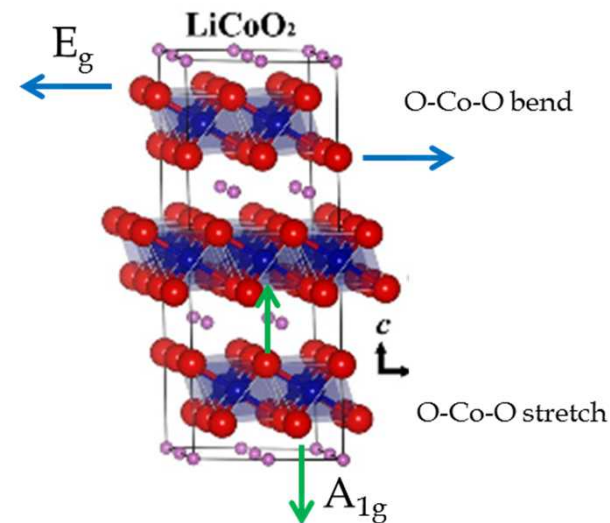
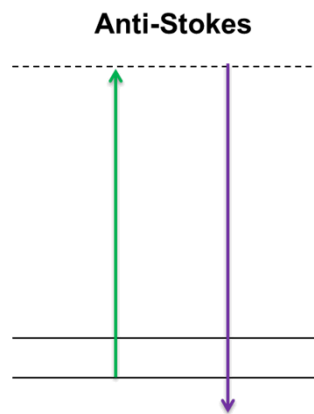
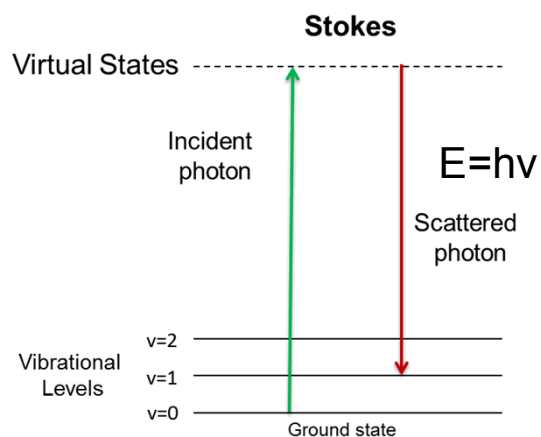
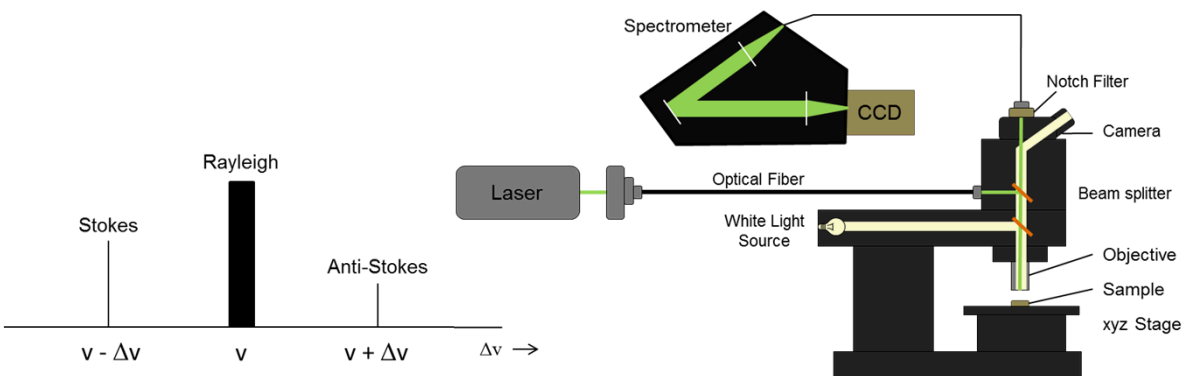
### Related Technical Talks/Publications

- “Measuring  $\text{Li}^+$  Inventory Losses in  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ /Graphite Cells using Raman Microscopy”. Chelsea Snyder, Christopher Apblett, Thomas Beechem, Anne Grillet, David Duquette, Journal of The Electrochemical Society (accepted March 2016).
- “Measuring  $\text{Li}^+$  Inventory Losses in  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ /C Cells Using Ex-Situ Raman Spectroscopy”, Chelsea Snyder, Christopher Apblett, 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 Apblett, David Duquette, Anne Grillet, 227th Electrochemical Society Meeting, Chicago, IL May 24-28, 2015.

# Back up slides



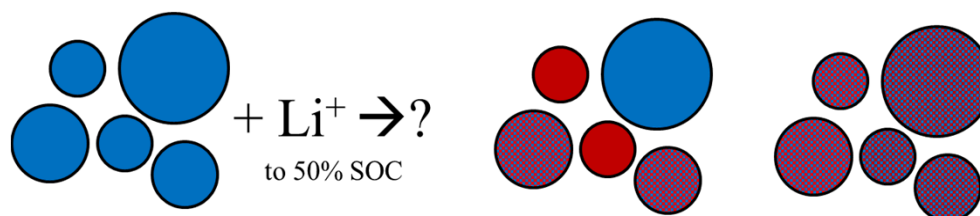
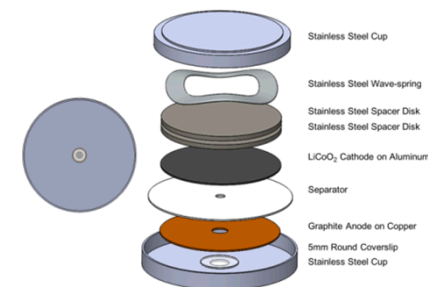
# Raman Spectroscopy



# Upcoming Raman work

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

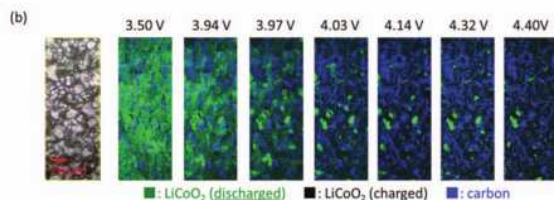
## In-situ Cell



1C

C/10

Non-uniform charge/discharge  
Inhomogeneous SOC distribution

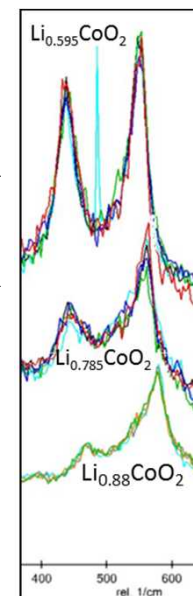


Nishi et al. *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* 160 (2013) A1785-A1788

Uniform charge/discharge  
Homogenous SOC distribution

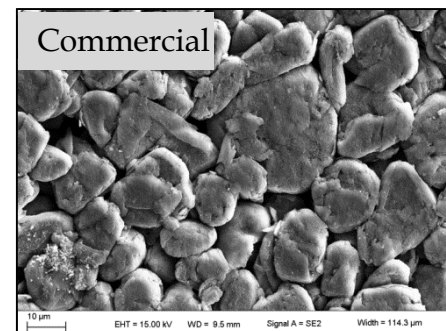
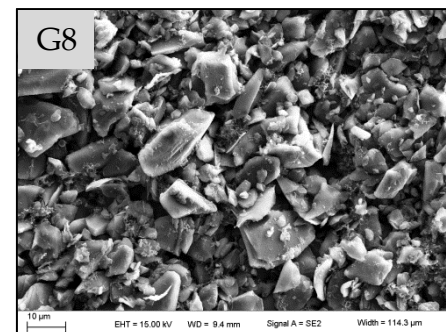
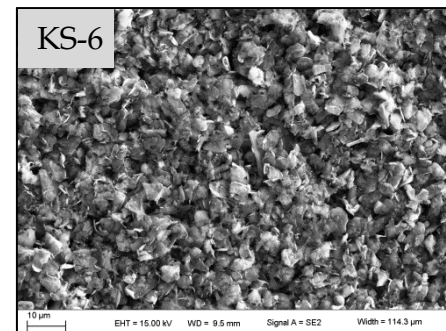
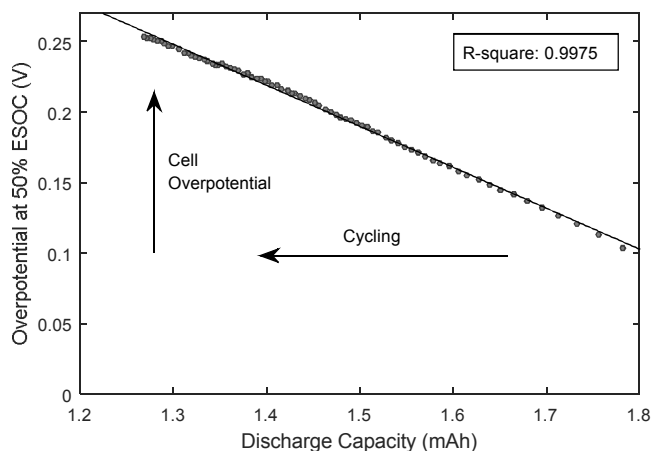
Snyder et al. *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* (submitted)

## Raw Raman Data



# Accelerated Loss of $\text{Li}^+$ Inventory

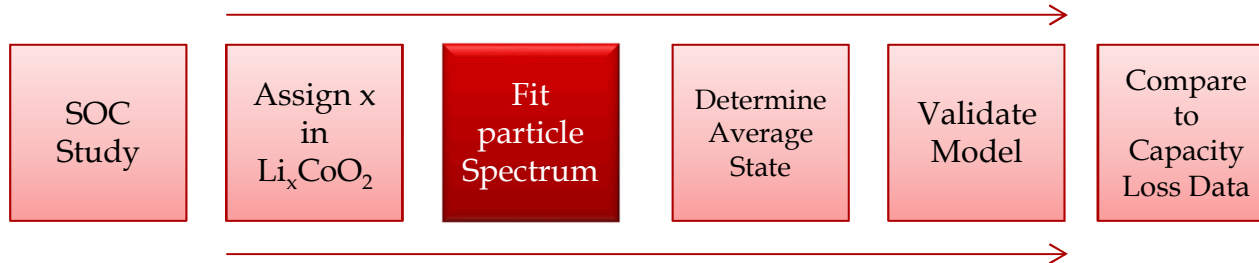
- No Electrolyte Additives to form more stable SEI
  - Unstable SEI = more cracks/reforming and consumption of  $\text{Li}^+$
- High surface area Graphite anodes (using KS-6) compared to commercial anodes
  - High surface area = more SEI growth more initial consumption of Li and more SEI area
- Will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



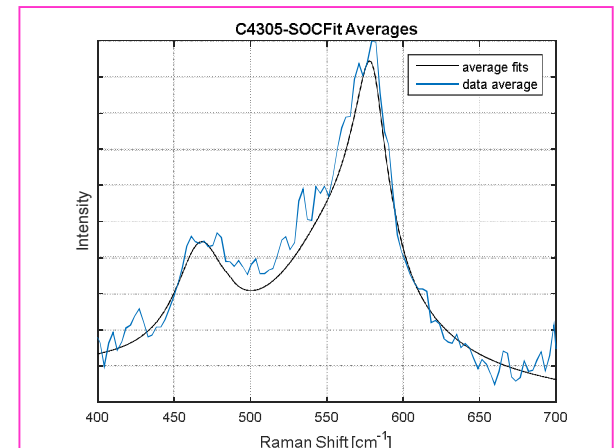
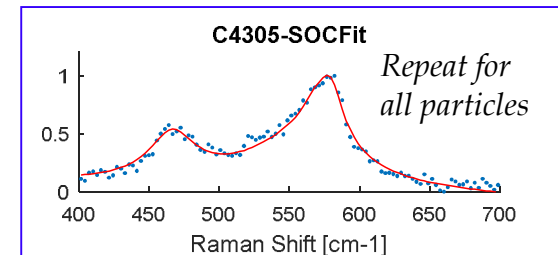
Particle Size

Surface Area

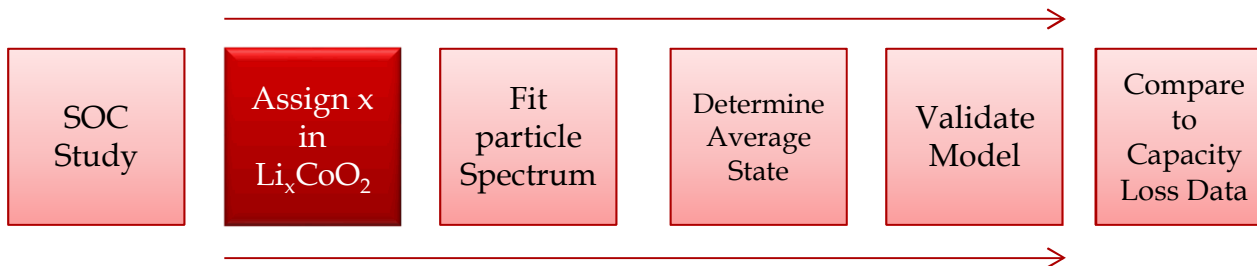
# Raman Analysis



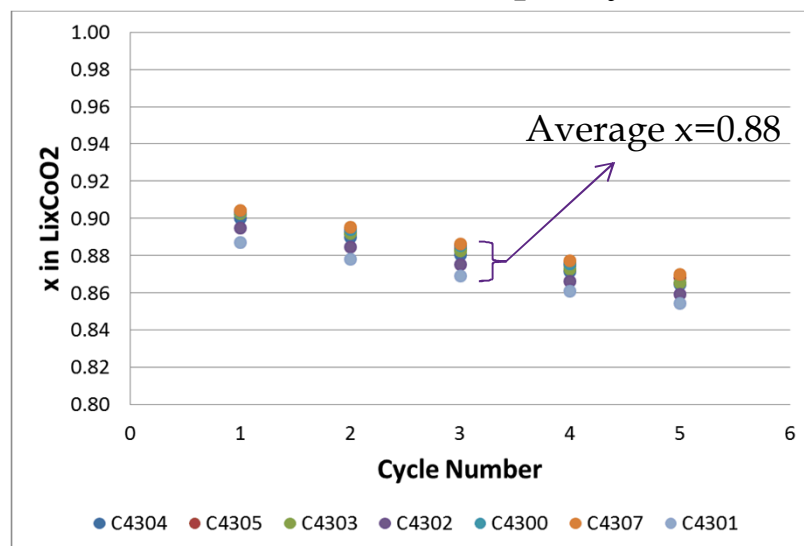
1. Preprocessing
  - Exclude data outside  $400\text{-}700\text{ cm}^{-1}$
  - Linear Background Removal
  - Cosmic Ray Removal
  - Normalize Intensity
2. Fit to Linear Combination of SOC spectra - use weights in peak regions to maximize fit
3. Compare Average Fit to Average Data - ensure fits represent 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 $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$	PSOC (%)
0	0.88	24
25	0.785	43
50	0.69	62
75	0.595	81
100	0.5	100

# Raman Analysis



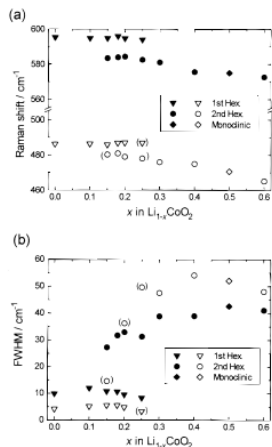
## Example Fit Output

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:**  
 $x = 0.8482 \pm 0.0314$

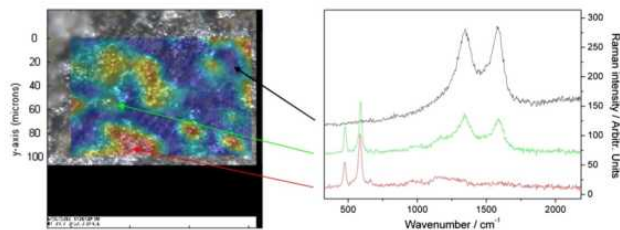


# Raman Spectroscopy



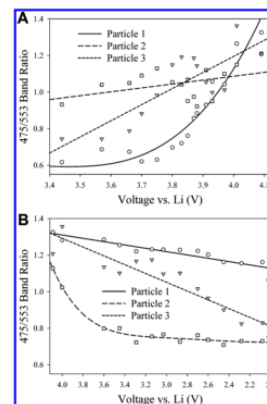
Inaba et al. *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 28 (1997) 613-617

- First report on Raman of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  throughout deintercalation
- Li Half Cell



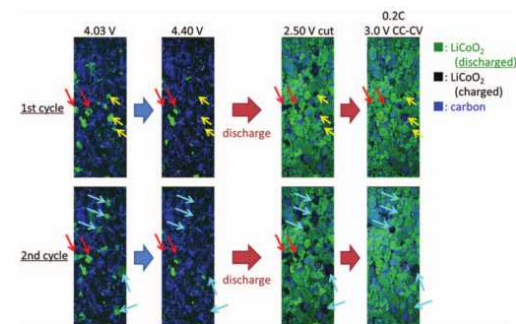
Gross and Hess *Journal of Power Sources* 256 (2014) 220-225

- Compositional mapping of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  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)

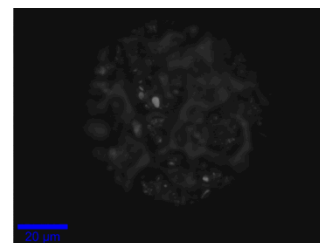
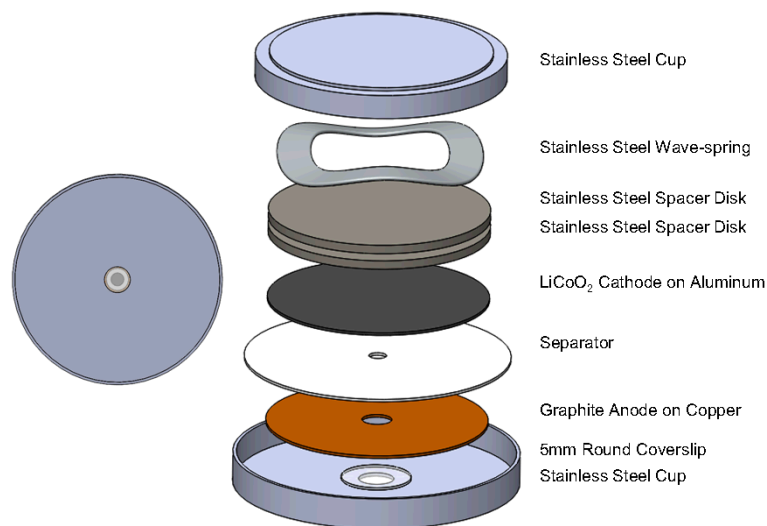


Nishi et al. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 160 (2013) A1785-A1788

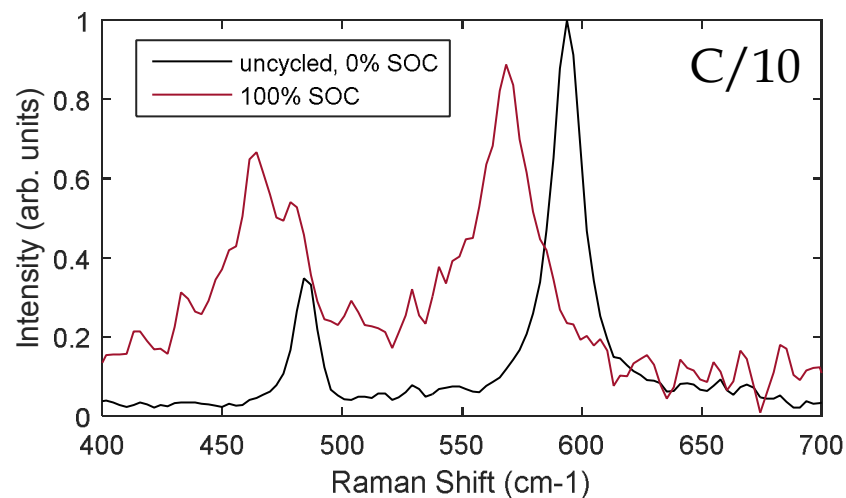
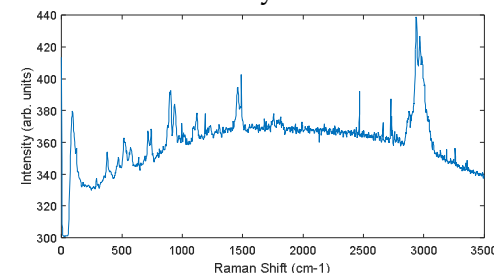
- $\text{LiCoO}_2/\text{Li}$  Half Cell (1C)
- In-situ Analysis
- Electrode mapping
- Inhomogeneous SOC distribution

Backup

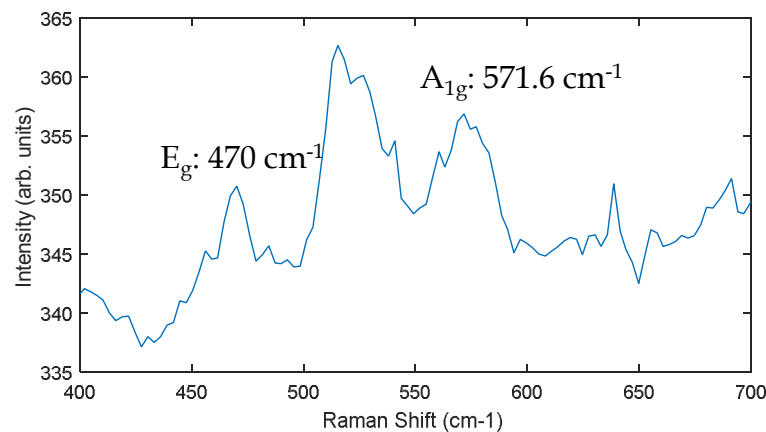
# In-situ Raman Analysis

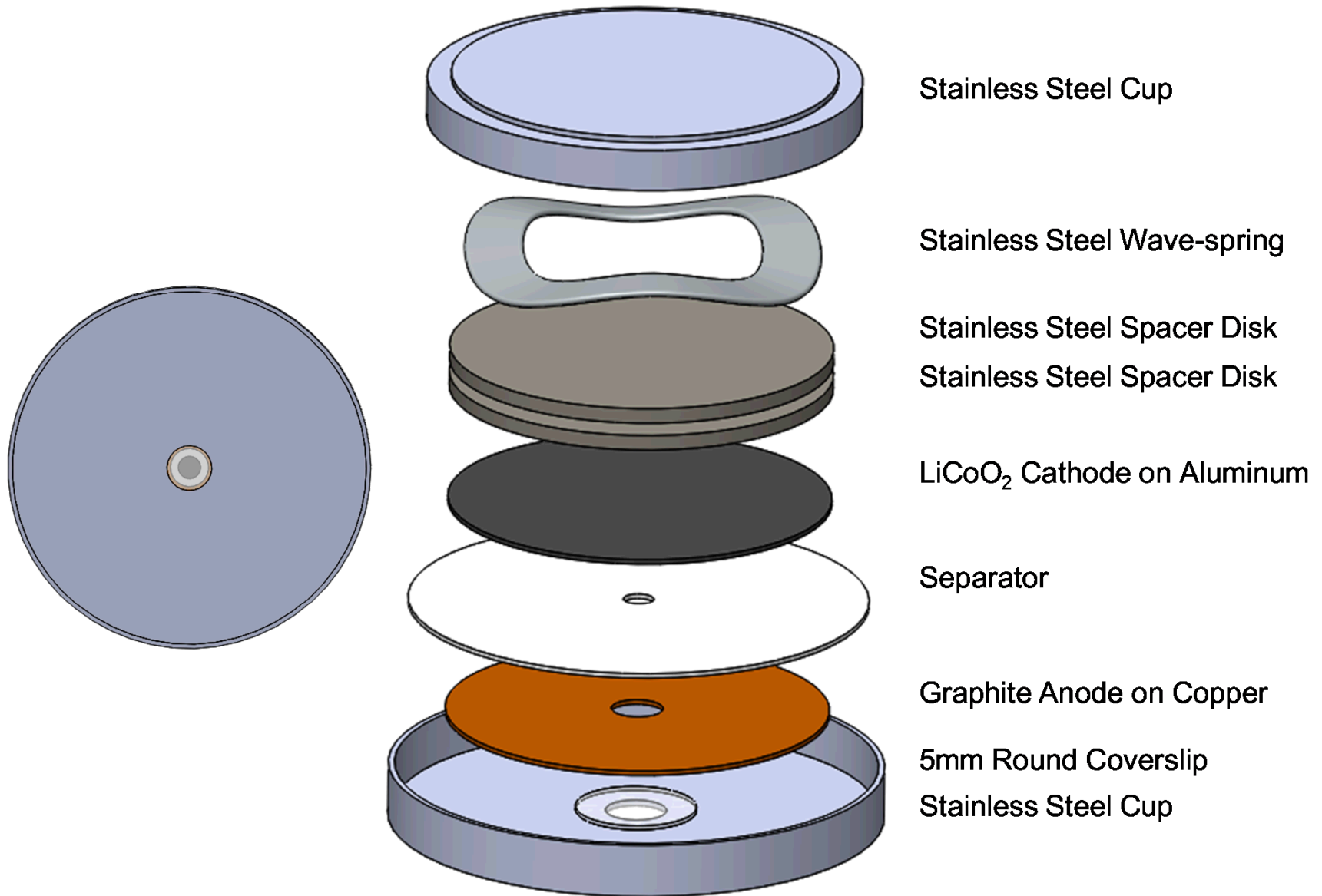


Electrolyte Peaks

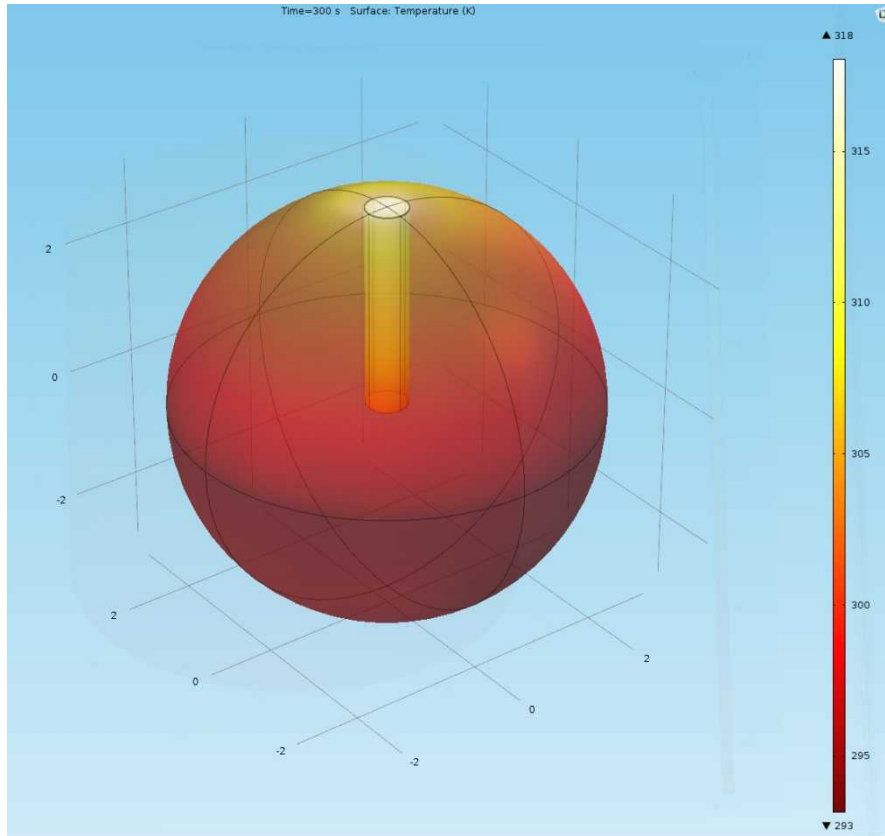


75% SOC





# Raman – Laser heating of $\text{LiCoO}_2$ Particles



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

Depth of laser : 3  $\mu\text{m}$  (uniform heat generated)

Laser spot = 600 nm

Laser Power = 0.25 mW

Total Time = 300 s

Particle size: 6  $\mu\text{m}$  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)

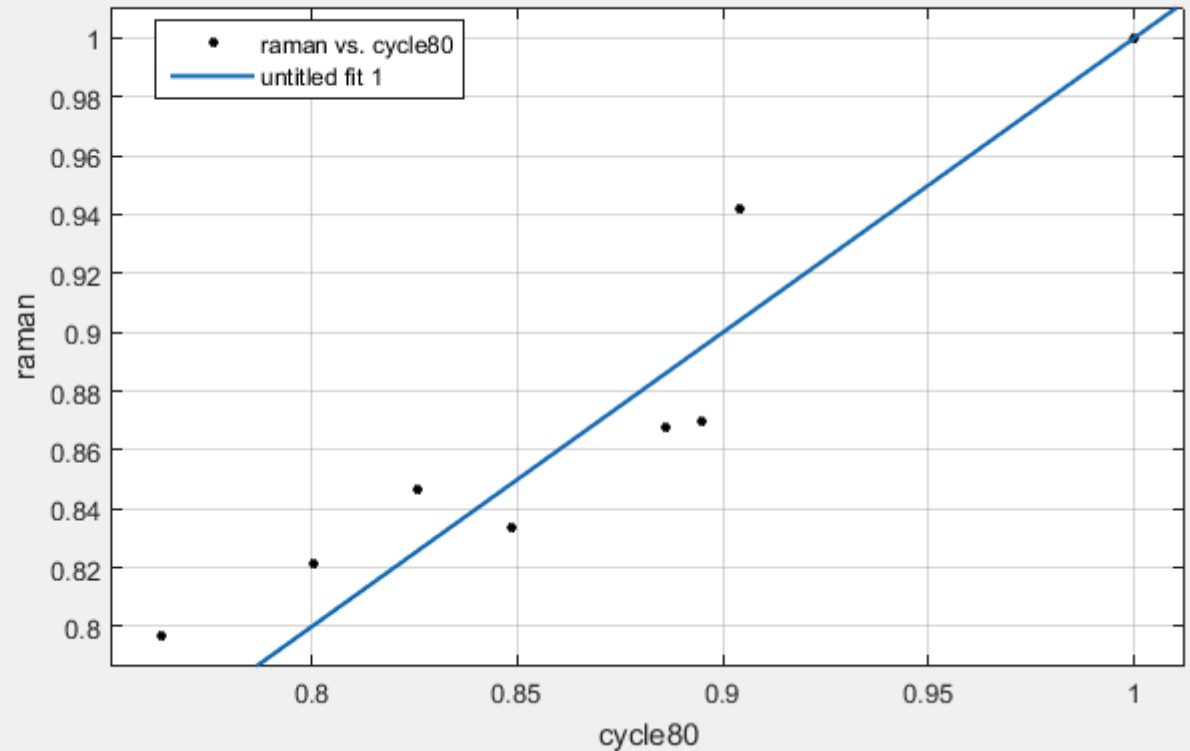
Goodness of fit:

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  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  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