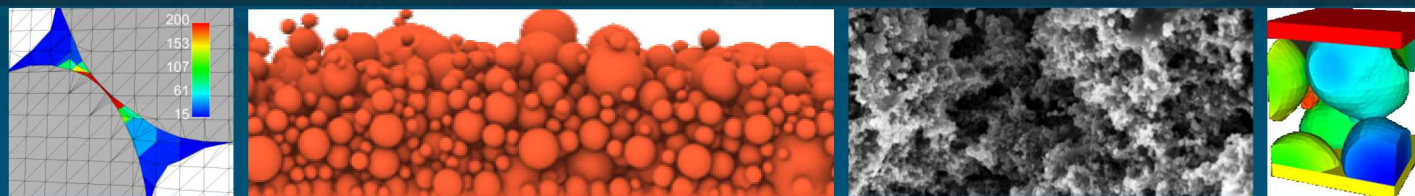
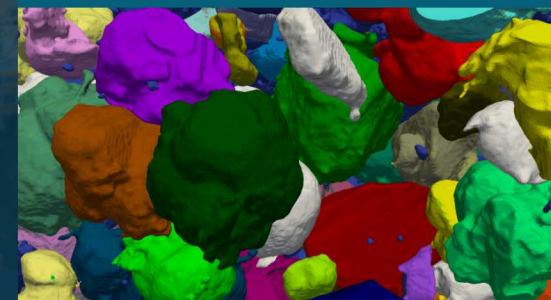


# Mesoscale Electrochemical-Mechanical Analyses of Solid-State Non-Planar Conversion Cathodes



PRESENTED BY

Scott A. Roberts, Ph.D. (sarober@sandia.gov)

ECS PRiME 2020  
A02-0330

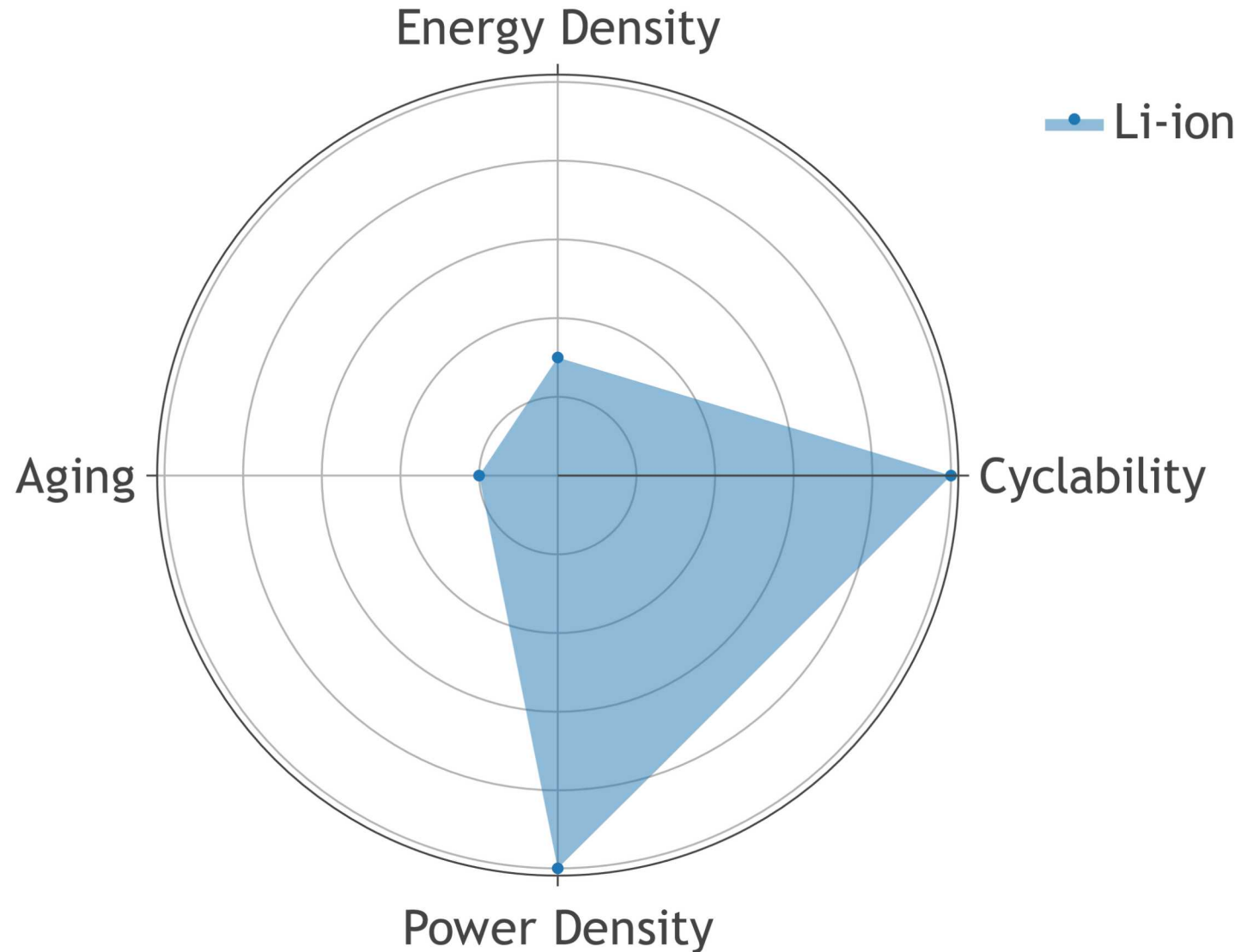
October 6, 2020



Co-Authors:

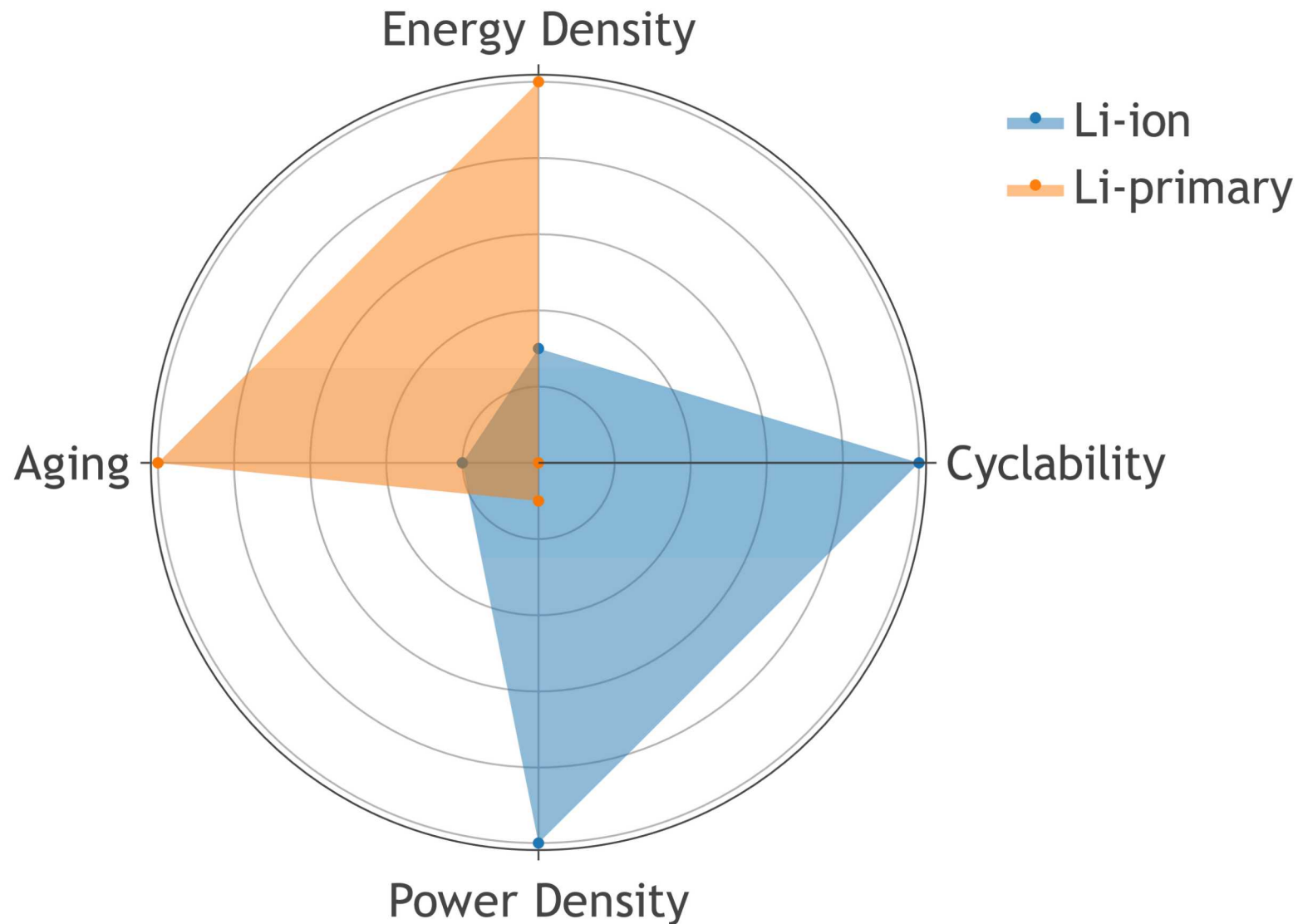
- Benjamin Ng
- Mark E. Ferraro
- Jeffrey S. Horner
- Katharine L. Harrison

## 2 Why study FeS<sub>2</sub> cathodes?



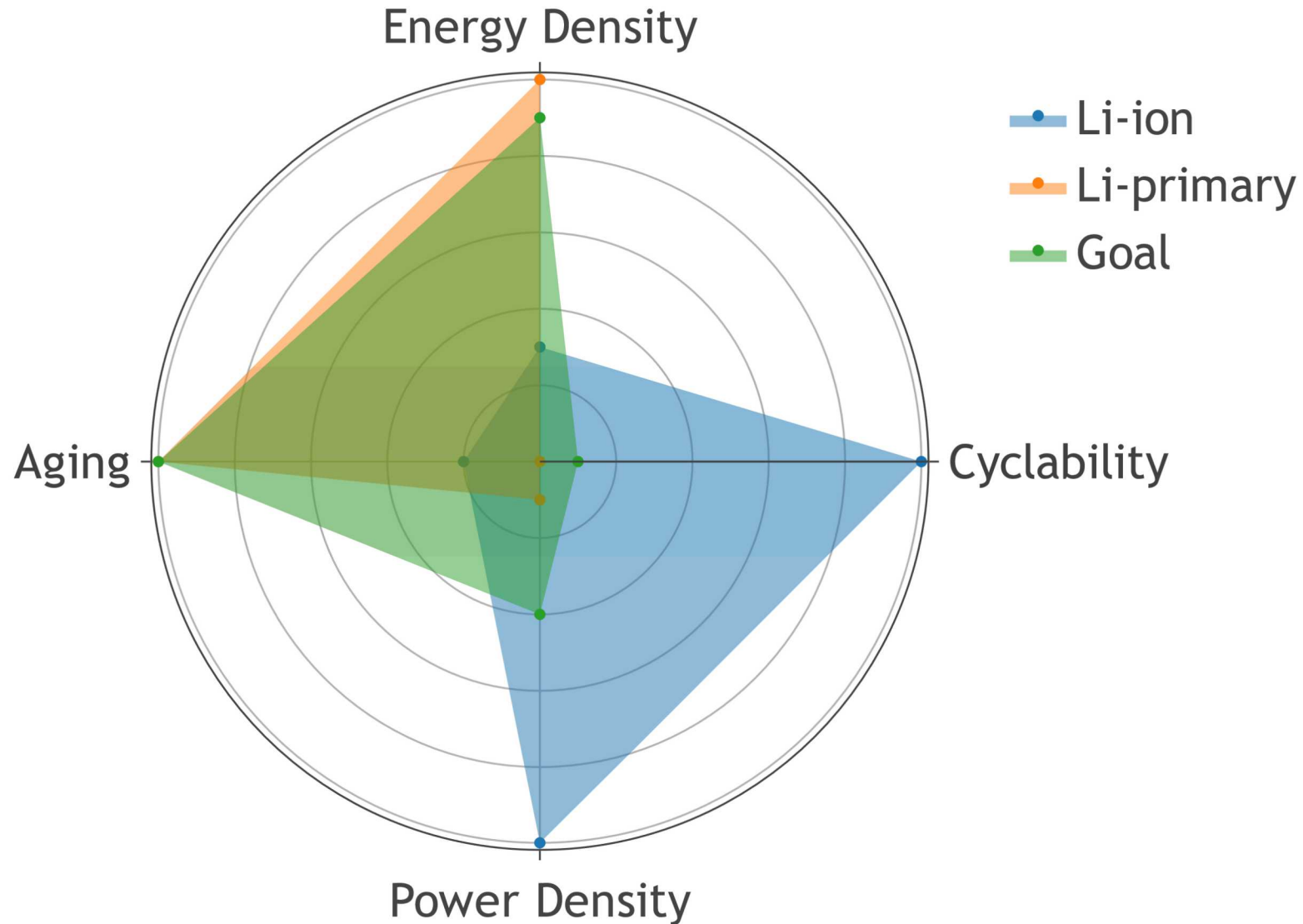
Motivation: High energy-density batteries with limited, tunable cyclability

### 3 Why study FeS<sub>2</sub> cathodes?



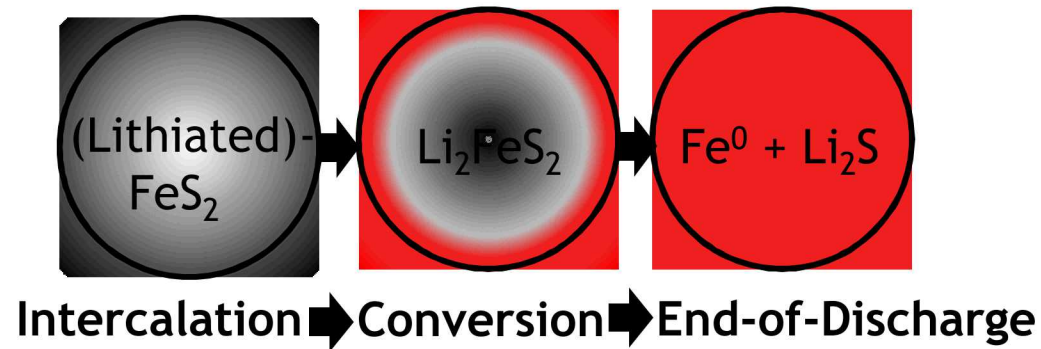
Motivation: High energy-density batteries with limited, tunable cyclability

4 Why study FeS<sub>2</sub> cathodes?



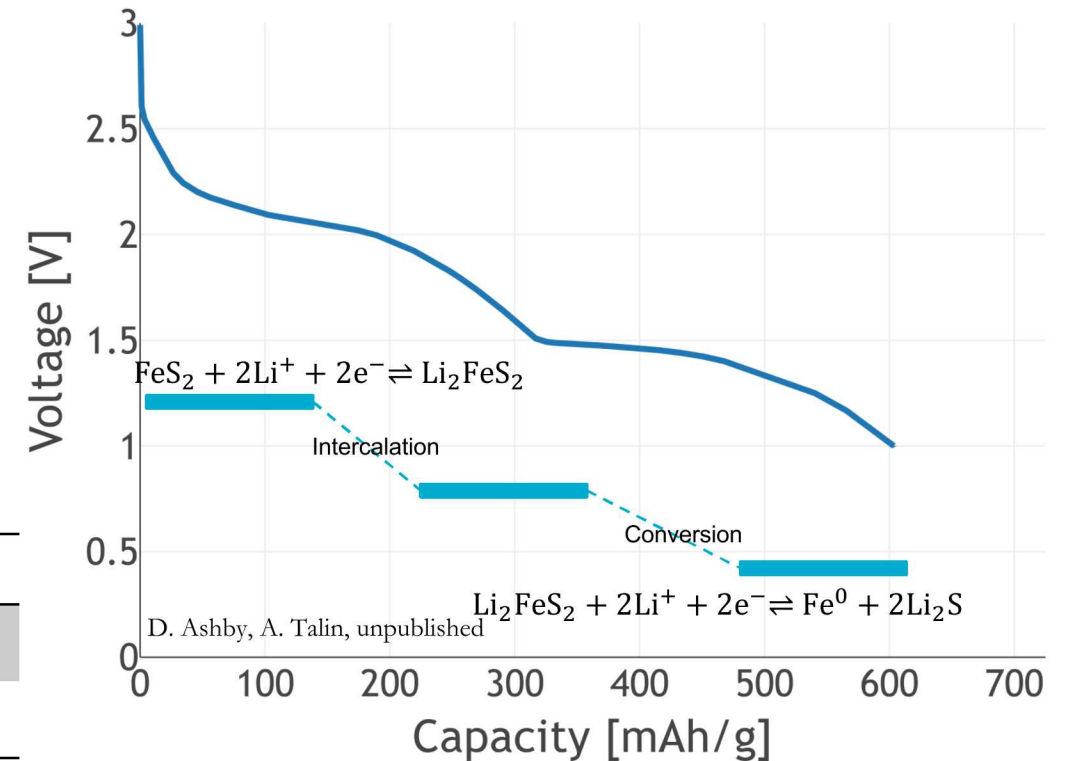
Motivation: High energy-density batteries with limited, tunable cyclability

# FeS<sub>2</sub> – A combination of intercalation and conversion

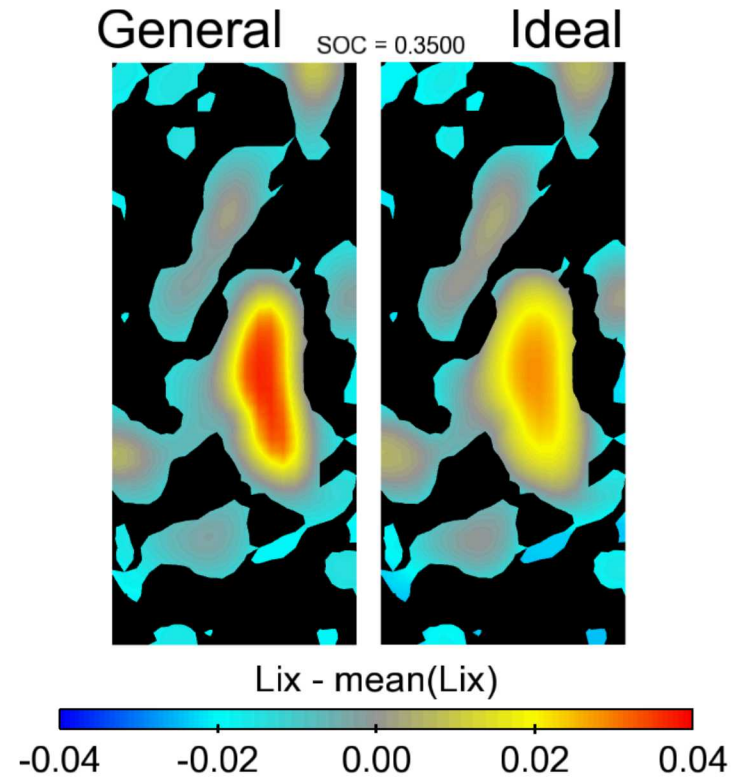


## Generalized Reaction Mechanism

- |     |                                                                                                              |               |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| (1) | $\text{FeS}_2 + 2\text{Li}^+ + 2\text{e}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{Li}_2\text{FeS}_2$                       | Intercalation |
| (2) | $\text{Li}_2\text{FeS}_2 + 2\text{Li}^+ + 2\text{e}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{Fe}^0 + 2\text{Li}_2\text{S}$ | Conversion    |

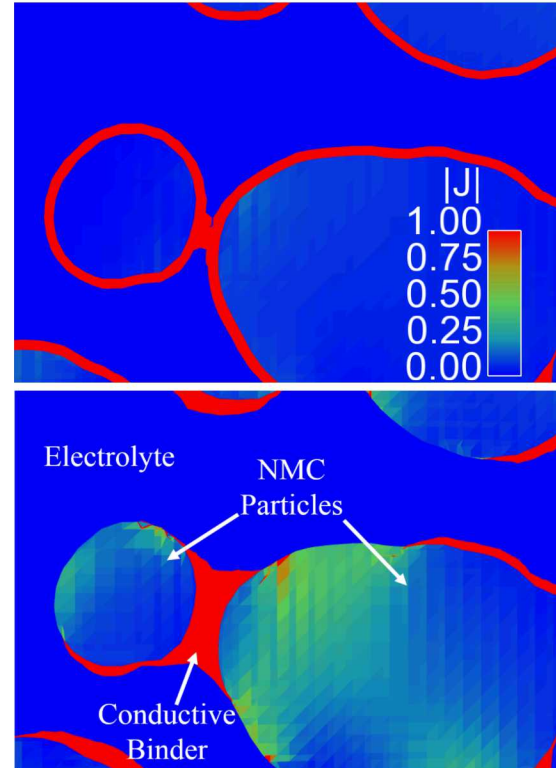


# Mesoscale modeling



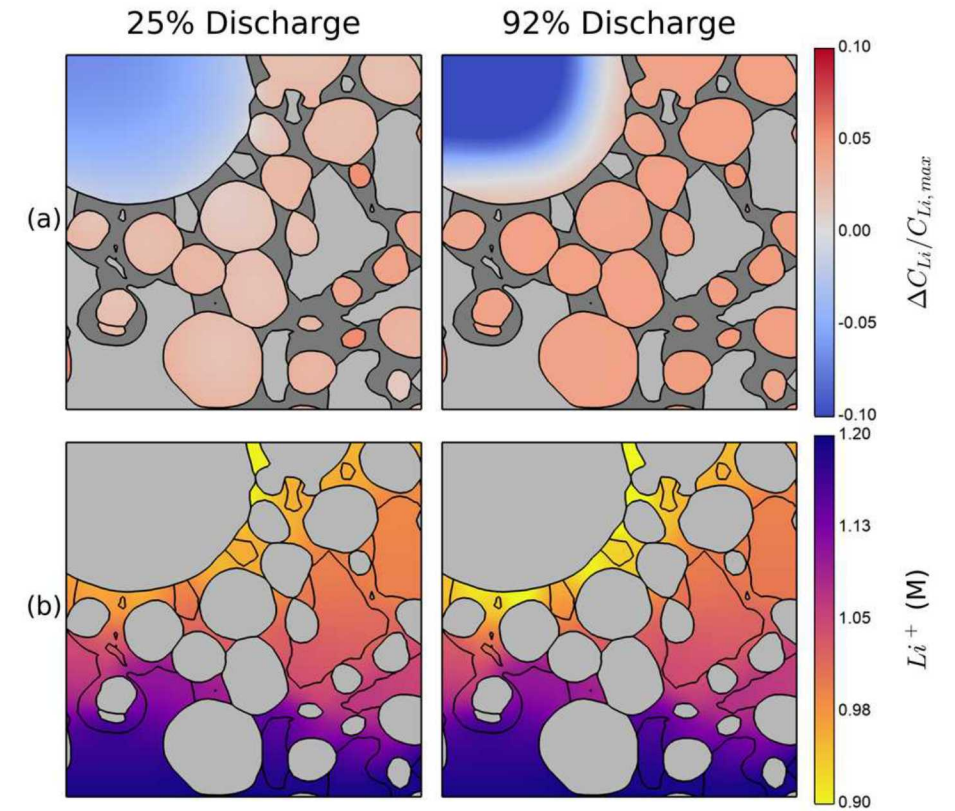
LCO image-based studies

Mendoza et al, J. Electrochem. Soc. (2016)



CBD morphology impacts

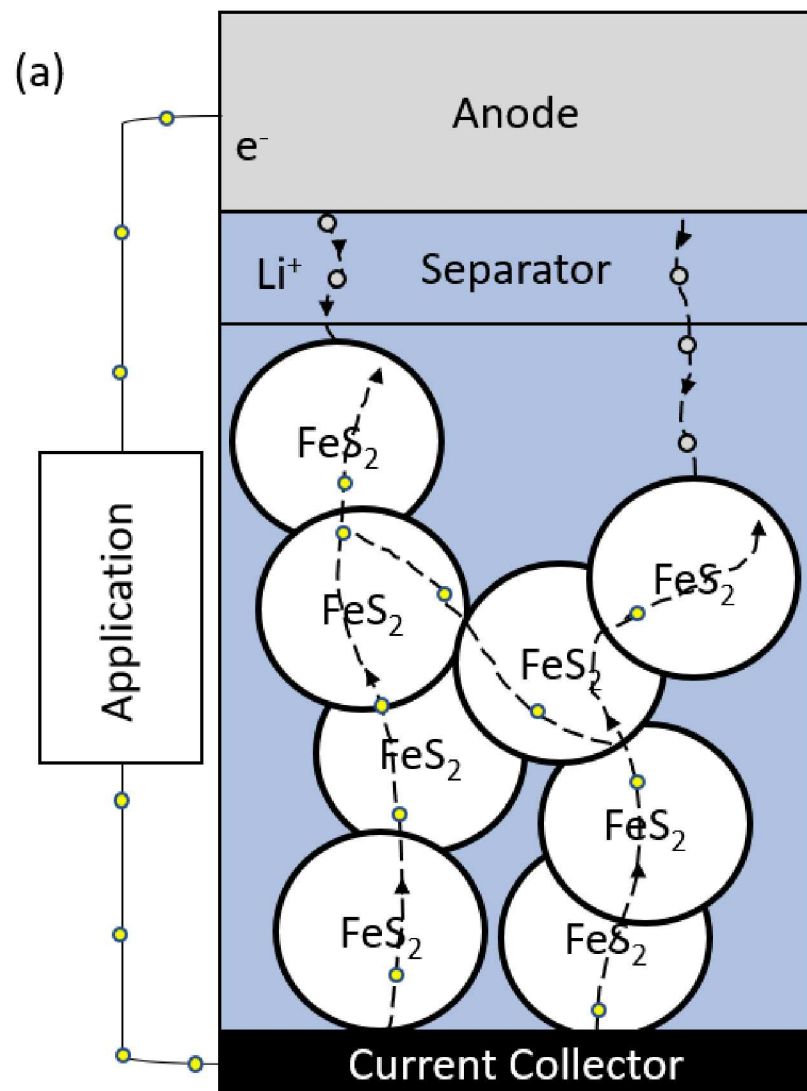
Trembacki et al, J. Electrochem. Soc. (2017)



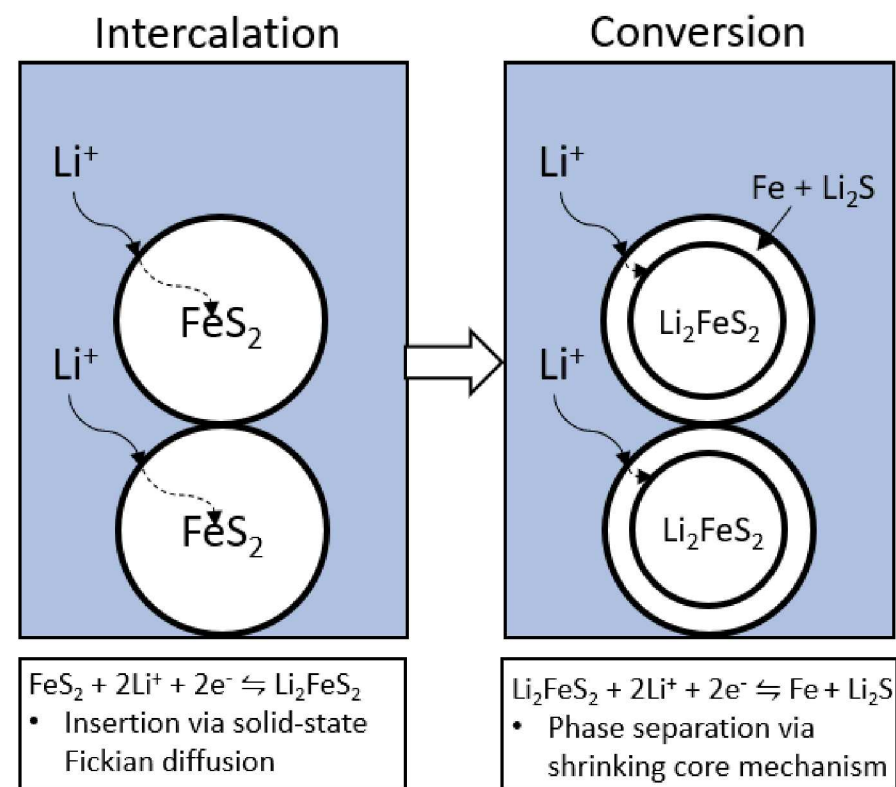
High-fidelity NMC per-particle analyses

Ferraro et al, J. Electrochem. Soc. (2020)

Mesoscale modeling provides detailed insights into coupled-physics behaviors



(b)

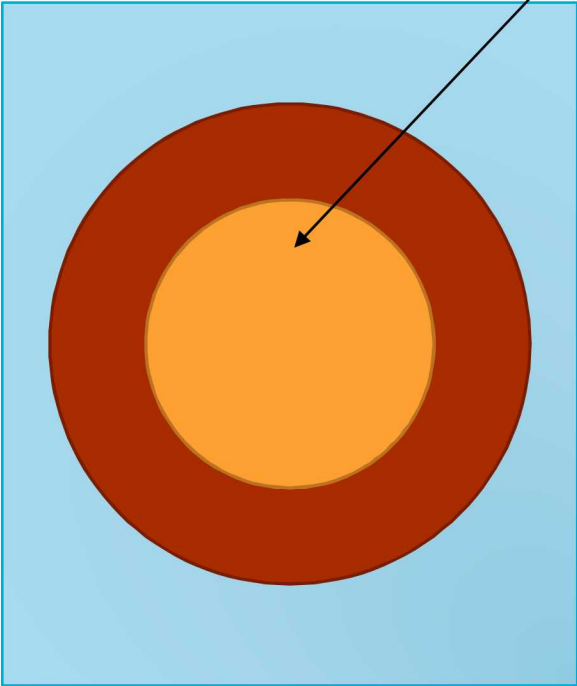


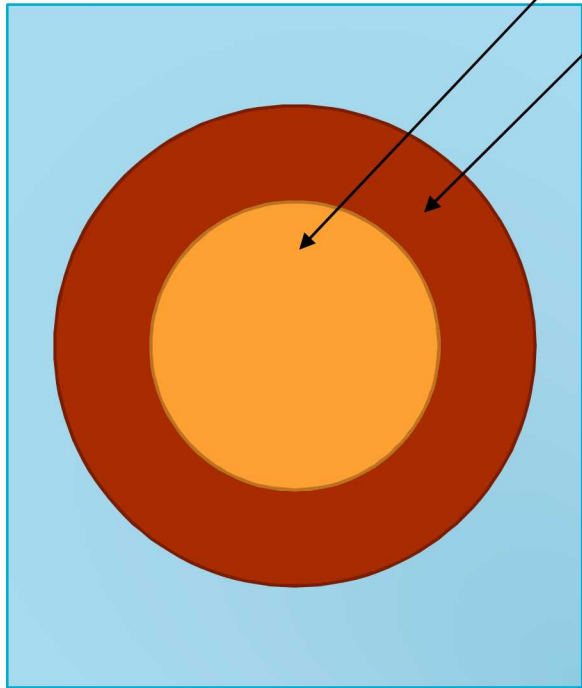
Develop model on a simplified geometry to allow detailed focus prior to scaling up

$\text{Li}_x\text{FeS}_2$  Particle “Core”:

Electrical transport (voltage) – Ohm’s Law

Intercalated lithium diffusion ( $\text{Li}_x\text{FeS}_2$  concentration) – Fick’s Law



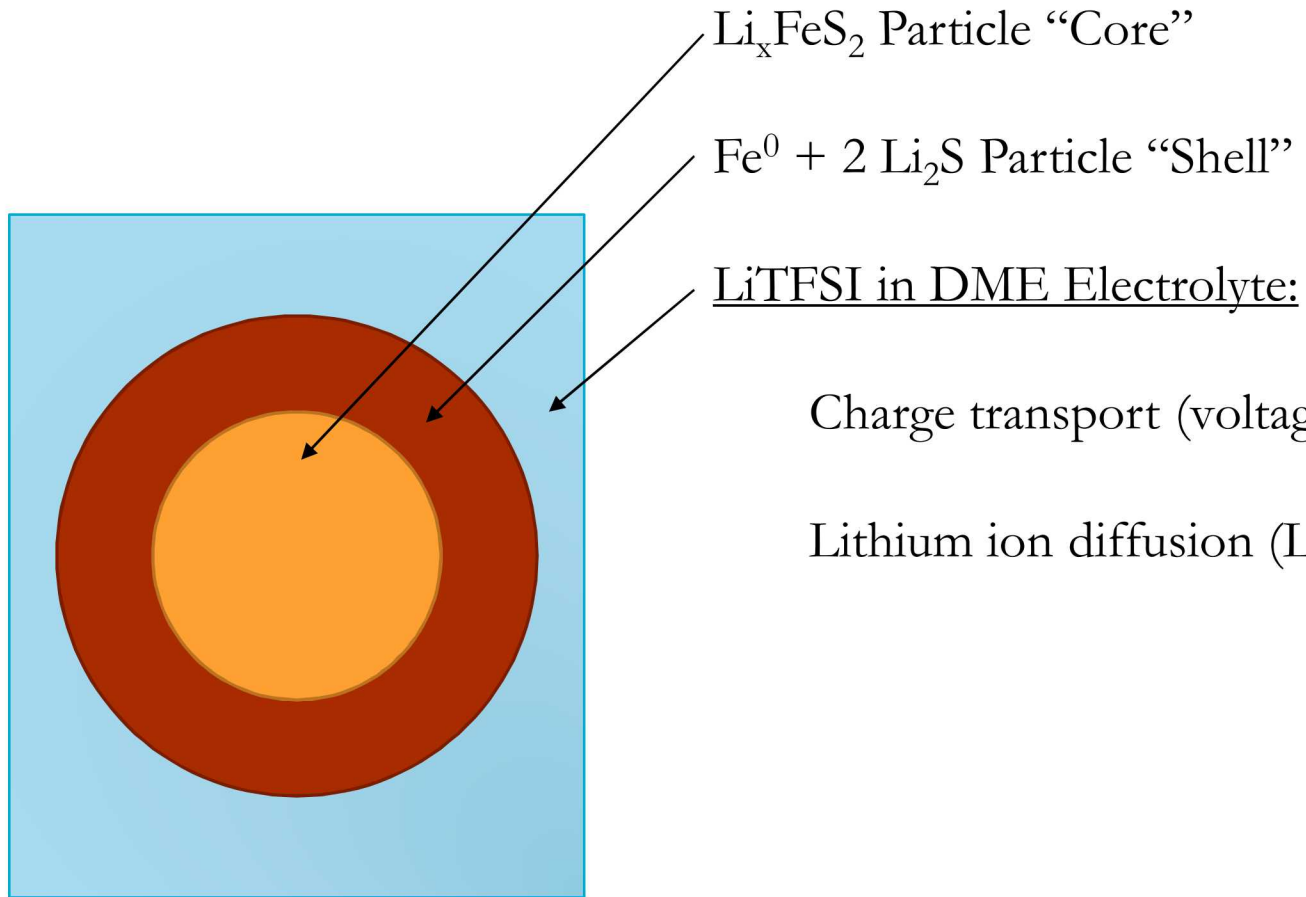


$\text{Li}_x\text{FeS}_2$  Particle “Core”

$\text{Fe}^0 + 2 \text{Li}_2\text{S}$  Particle “Shell”:

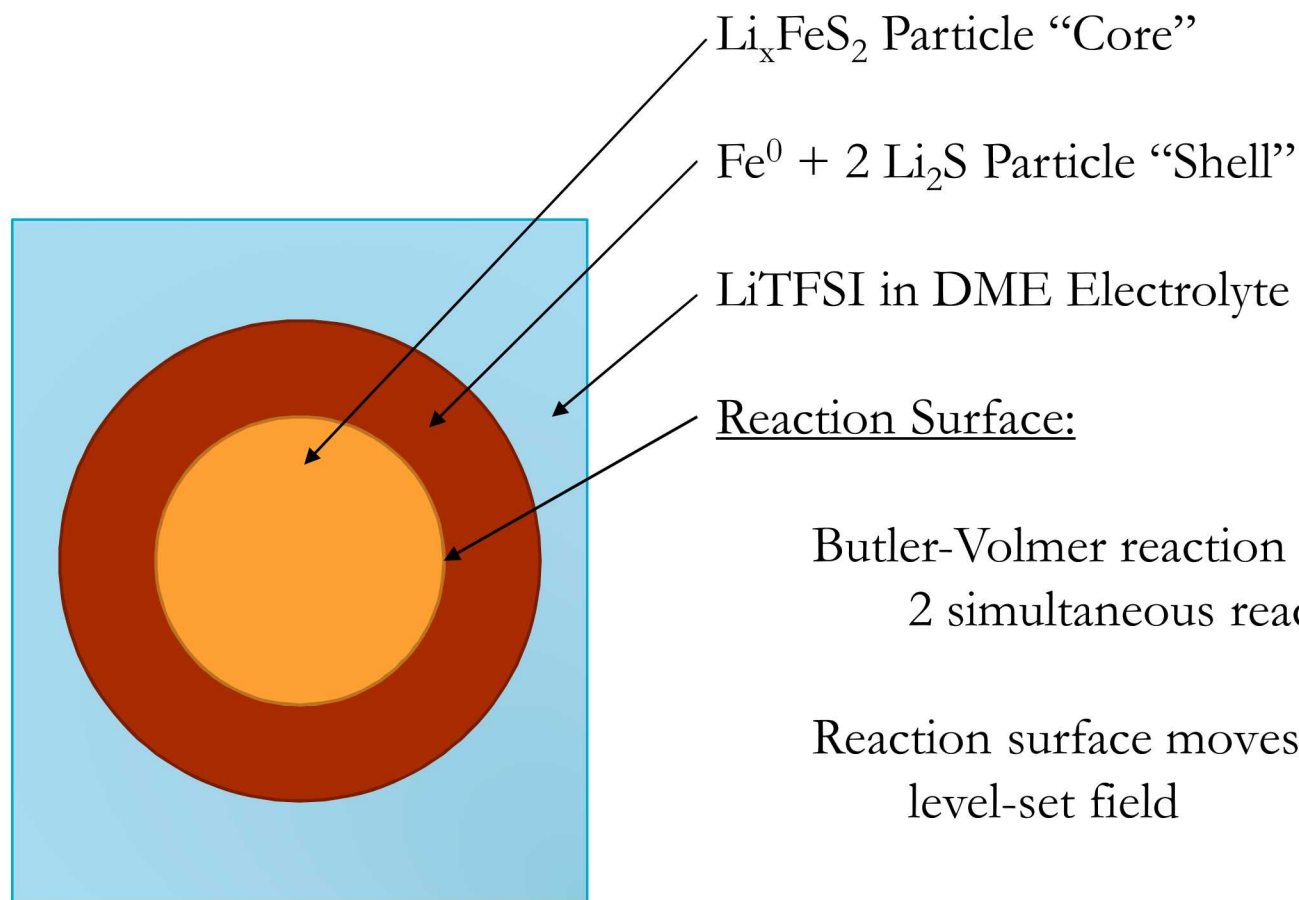
Electrical transport (voltage) – Ohm’s Law

Lithium ion diffusion ( $\text{Li}^+$  concentration) – Fick’s Law



Charge transport (voltage) – Ohm’s Law + Nernst-Planck Flux

Lithium ion diffusion ( $\text{Li}^+$  concentration) – Fick’s Law + Nernst-Planck

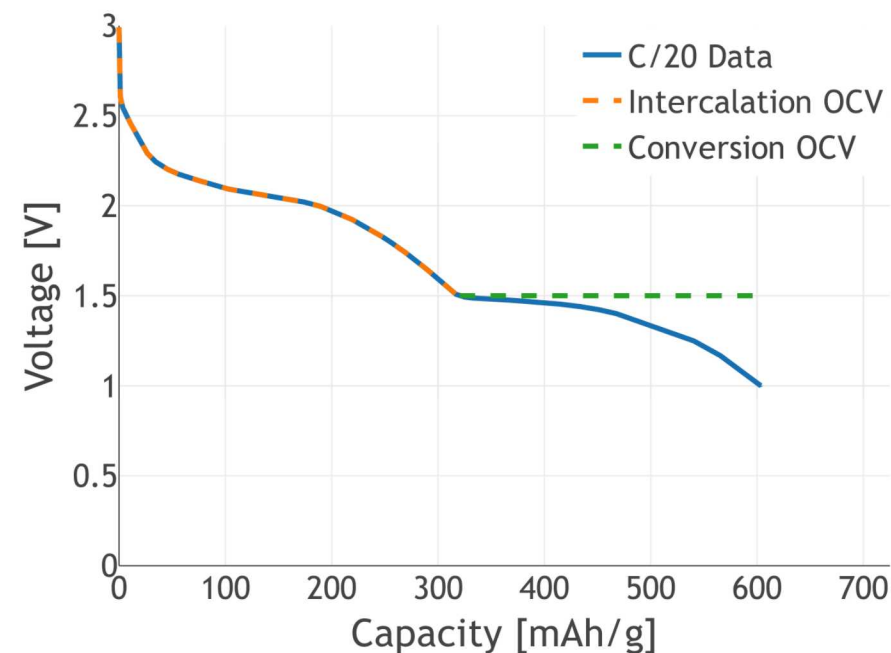


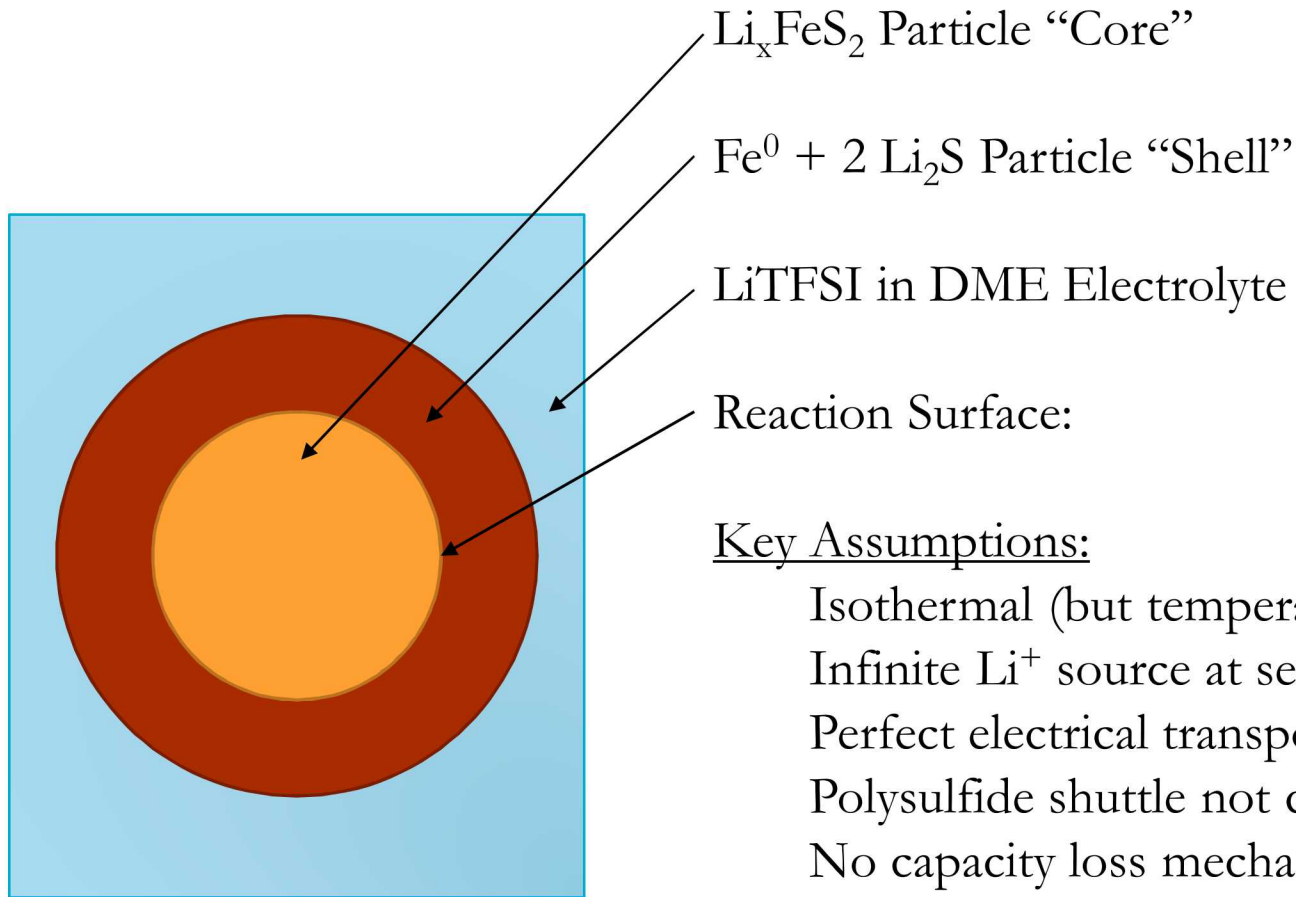
Butler-Volmer reaction kinetics –  
2 simultaneous reactions

Reaction surface moves using  
level-set field

$$v = n \cdot \left( -\frac{i_{conv} M}{nF \rho} \right)$$

$$i_r = i_{0,r} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{\alpha_a F \eta_r}{RT} \right) - \exp \left( \frac{-\alpha_c F \eta_r}{RT} \right) \right]$$

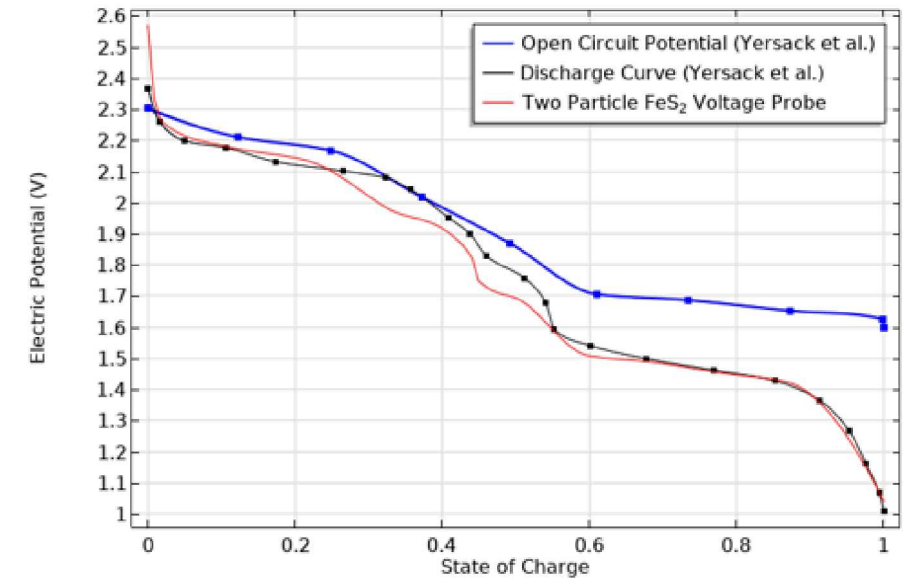
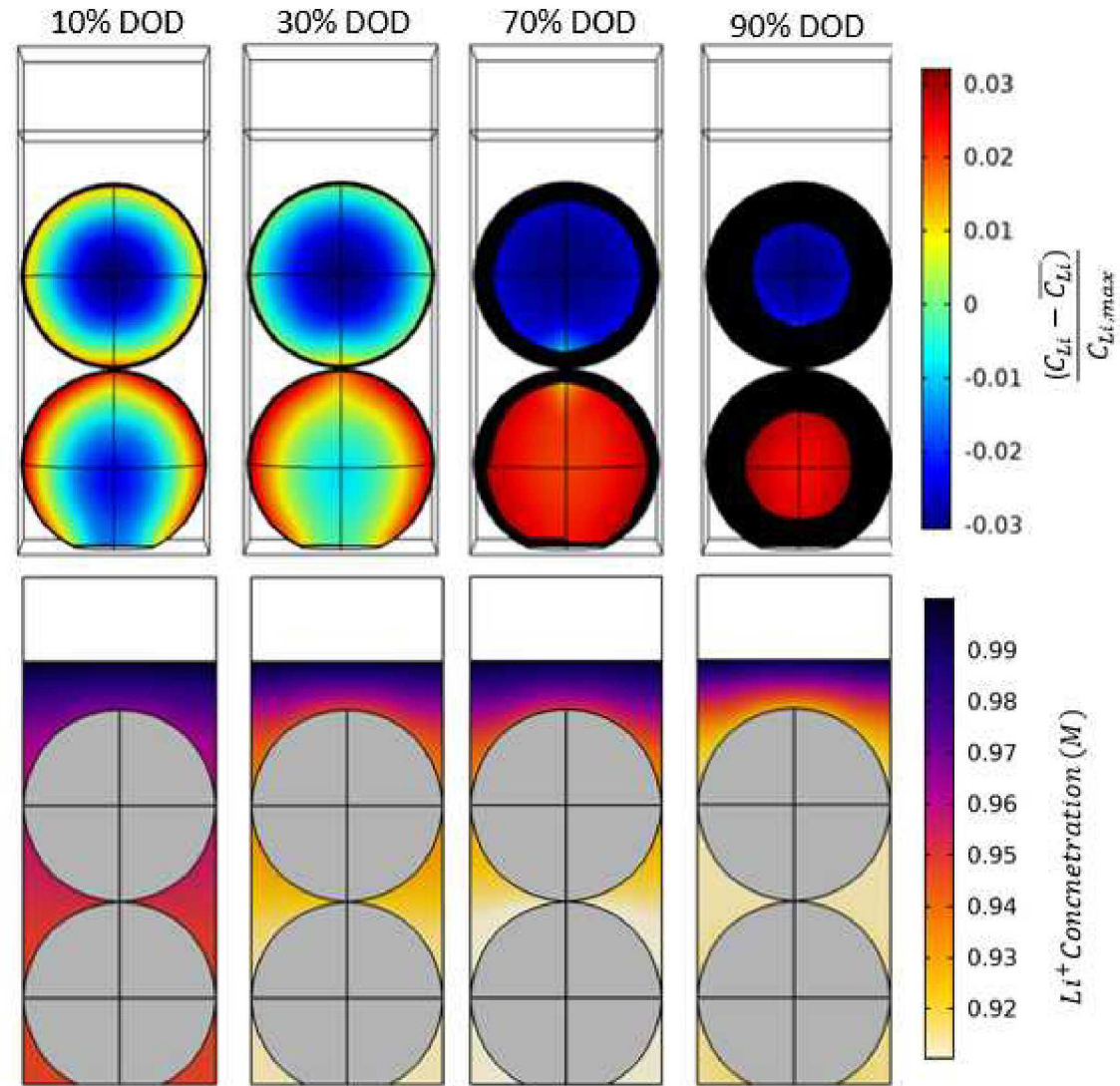




Key Assumptions:

- Isothermal (but temperature-dependent)
- Infinite Li<sup>+</sup> source at separator
- Perfect electrical transport at collector
- Polysulfide shuttle not considered
- No capacity loss mechanisms

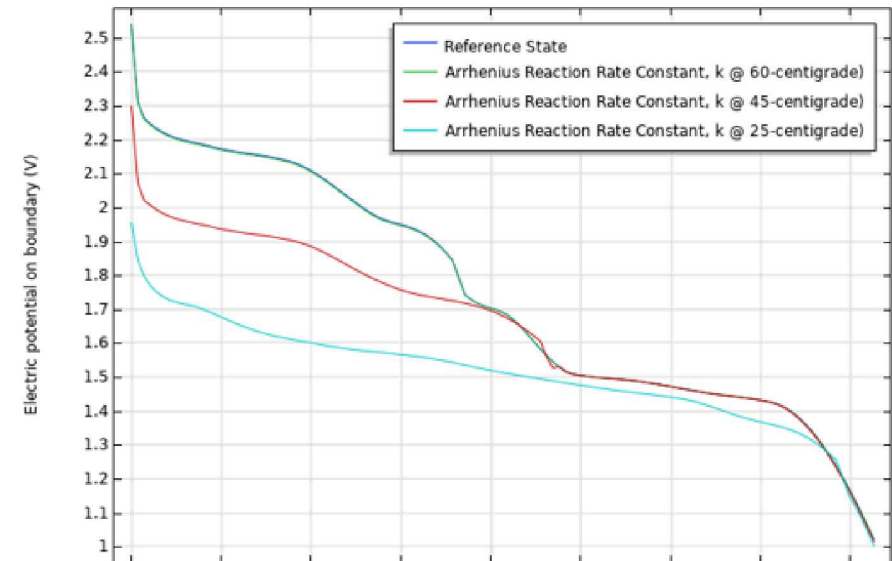
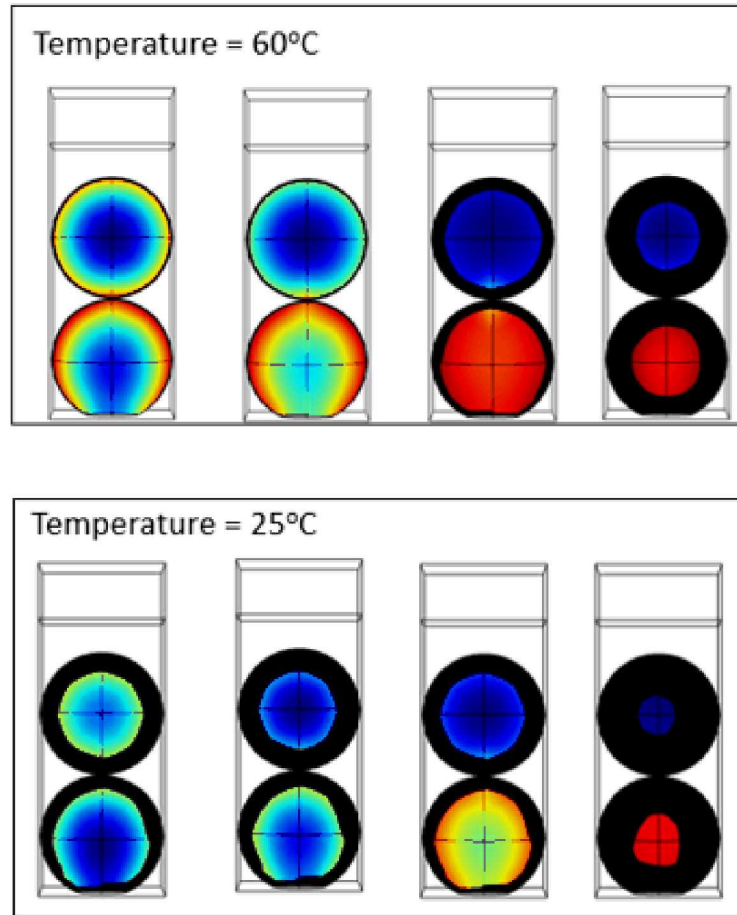
## Nominal simulation



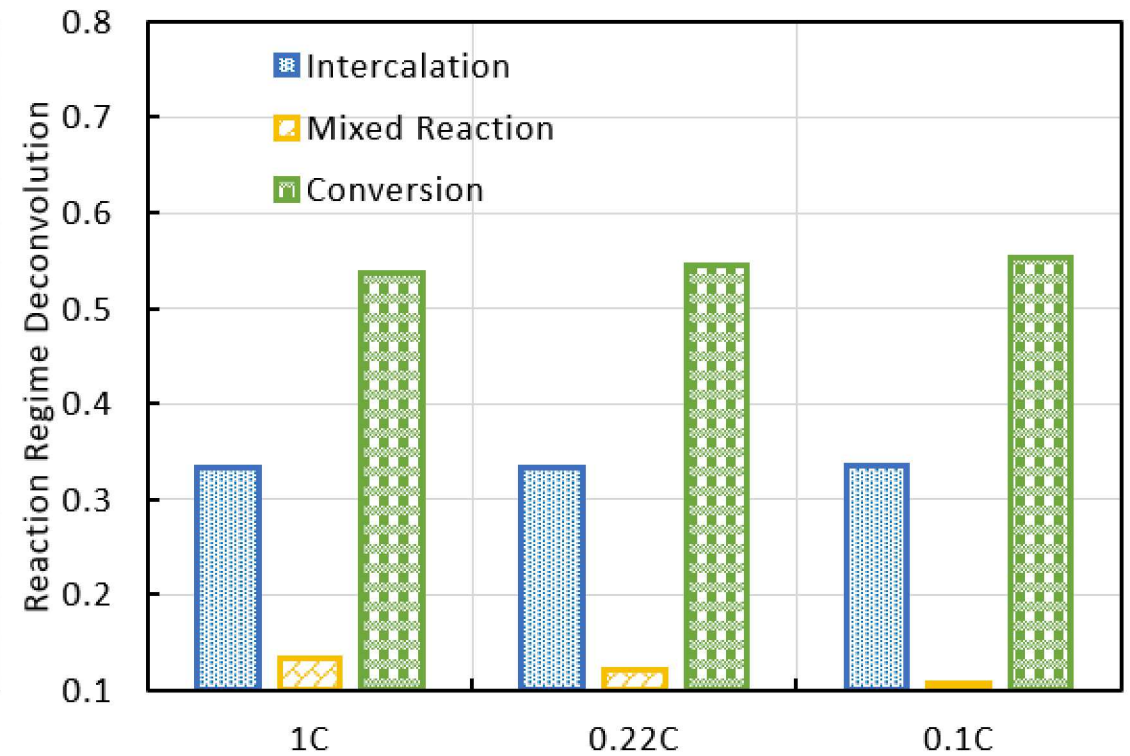
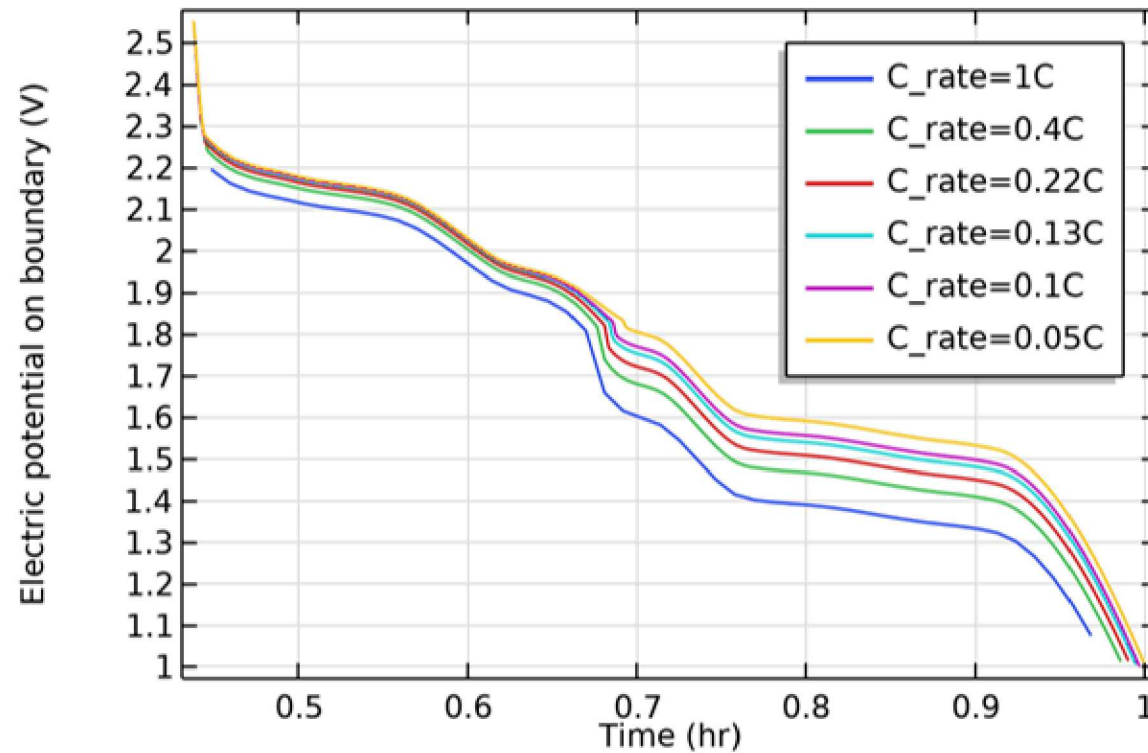
Clear distinction between intercalation and conversion regimes; reasonable match to data

## Temperature dependence

Arrhenius temperature dependence of solid-state diffusivity, electrical conductivity, and intercalation OCV



Lower temperatures lead to a larger mixed reaction zone (simultaneous intercalation and conversion)



Higher current densities lead to a slightly larger mixed reaction zone, lower overall voltage

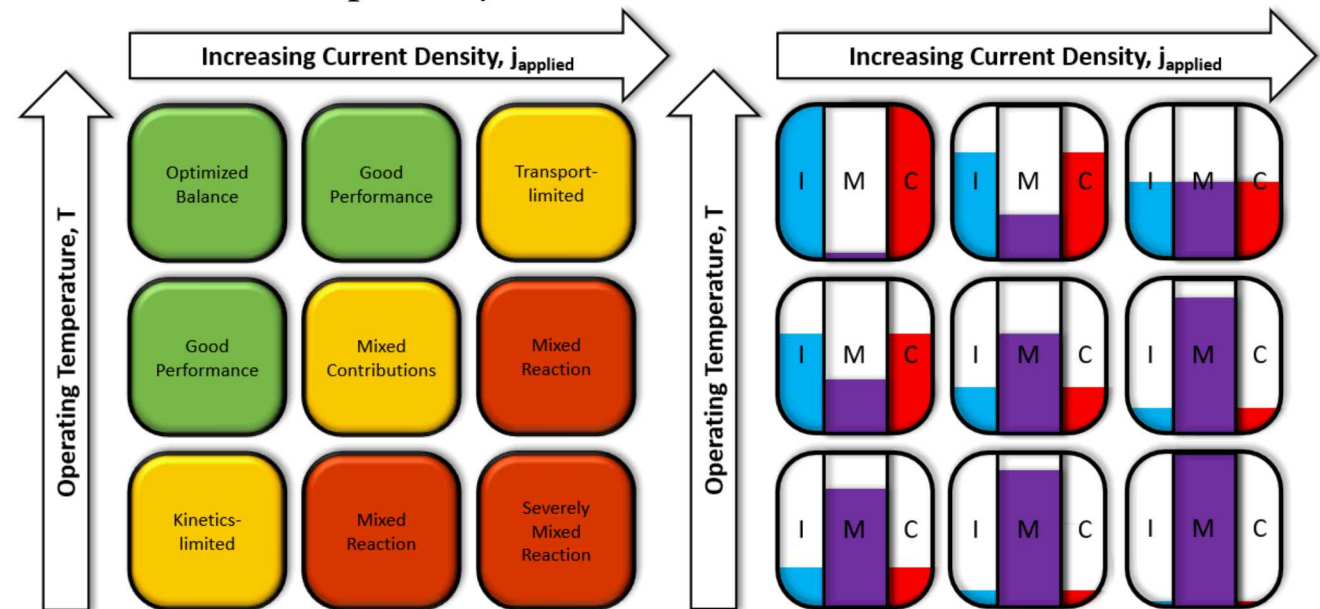
# Summary and future directions

Novel mesoscale model combining intercalation and conversion reactions in FeS<sub>2</sub>

Studied temperature- and reaction rate-dependences

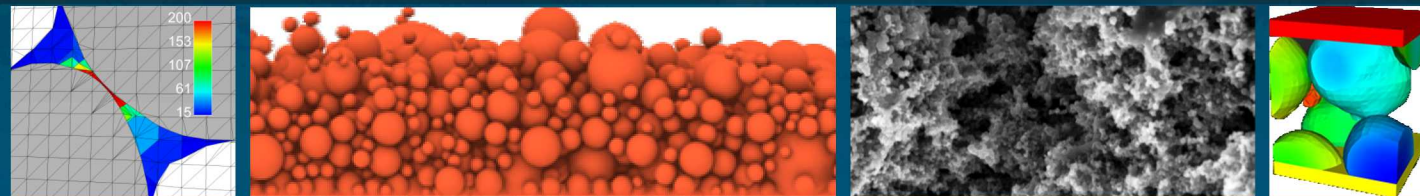
Future directions

- Additional parametric studies – particle size, electrode thickness, porosity
- Scale up to realistic particle mesostructures
- Heat generation and transport
- Stress generation and degradation



Funding: Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program – Sandia National Laboratories

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