



Energy Storage Technologies

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Sandia National Laboratories



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BATTERY MATERIALS

Large portfolio of R&D projects related to advanced materials, new battery chemistries, electrolyte materials, and membranes.



CELL & MODULE LEVEL SAFETY

Evaluate safety and performance of electrical energy storage systems down to the module and cell level.



POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Research and development regarding reliability and performance of power electronics and power conversion systems.



SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Test laboratories evaluate and optimize performance of megawatt-hour class energy storage systems in grid-tied applications.



DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Work with industry to develop, install, commission, and operate electrical energy storage systems.



STRATEGIC OUTREACH

Maintain the ESS website and DOE Global Energy Storage Database, organize the annual Peer Review meeting, and host webinars and conferences.



GRID ANALYTICS

Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.

Wide ranging R&D covering energy storage technologies with applications in the grid, transportation, and stationary storage

Reducing the Cost of Battery Energy Storage



Li-ion batteries

- Increase reliability and cycle life
- Improve safety

Sodium batteries

- Lower temperature Na batteries
- Sodium ion batteries

Alkaline Zn-MnO₂ Batteries

- Make alkaline batteries fully chargeable

Li-ion Batteries

Family of electrochemical systems

Positive electrode

- Metal-oxides (e.g. LCO, NMC, NCA)
- Phosphates (e.g. LFP)

Negative electrode

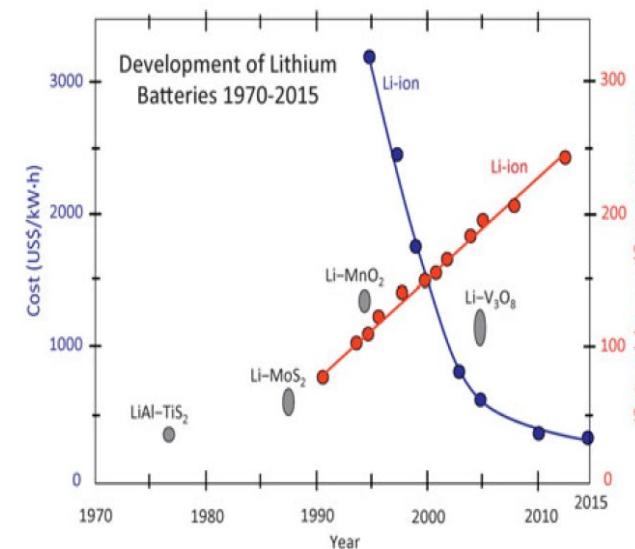
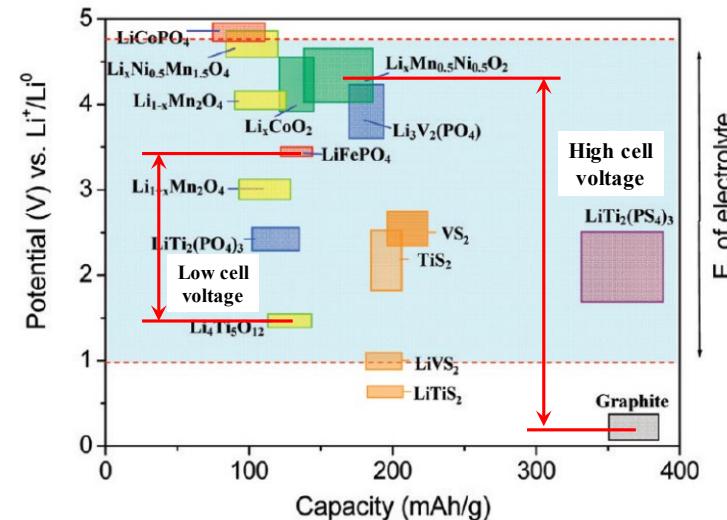
- Graphite and other carbons
- Lithium titanate

SOA EV batteries - Specific energies near 250 Wh/kg

330-350 Wh/kg possible near term with composite anodes (Si-based anodes)

500 Wh/kg as a longer term goal based on significant improvements in electrode design and composition (e.g., lithium anodes), electrolyte formulations, and separator innovations.

Safety continue to be a significant concern



Source: Crabtree, Kocs, Trahey, MRS Bulletin, Dec 2015

Large Commercial Li-ion Deployments



AES 30 MW / 120 MWh ESS, Escondido, CA Peaker replacement



Tesla 100 MW / 129 MWh ESS Australia - Grid stability



Saft 6 MW / 4.2 MWh ESS Kauai - Grid Stability

Li-ion Batteries – Challenges for Power and Energy Applications



Battery safety is very important for applications where high power is required.

Heat generation during high power usage must be managed

- Dictates smaller form factor
- Higher production costs

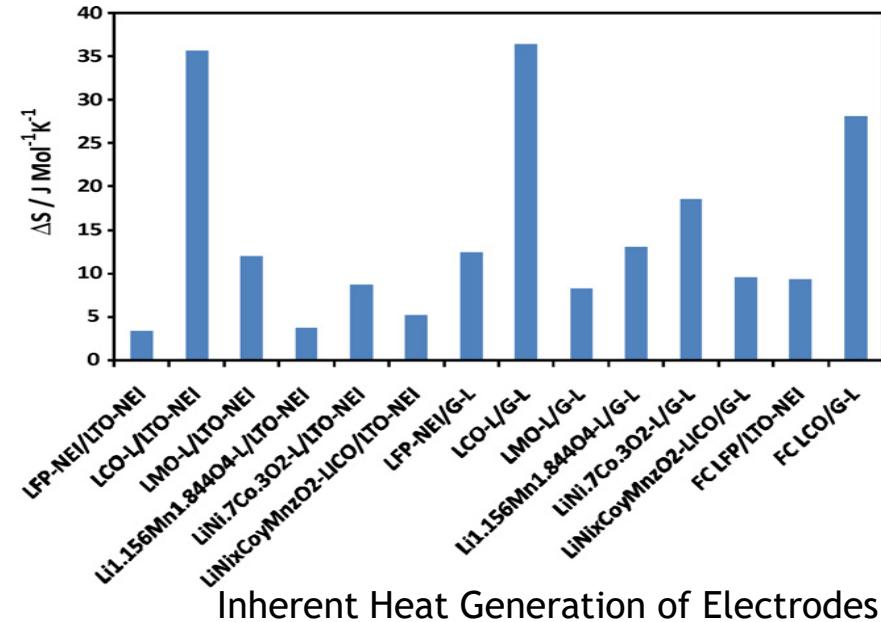
High Temperature

- Typical operating window 0-50°C
- Operation above this temperature can lead to organic electrolyte decomposition and flammable gas, rapid internal pressure build-up

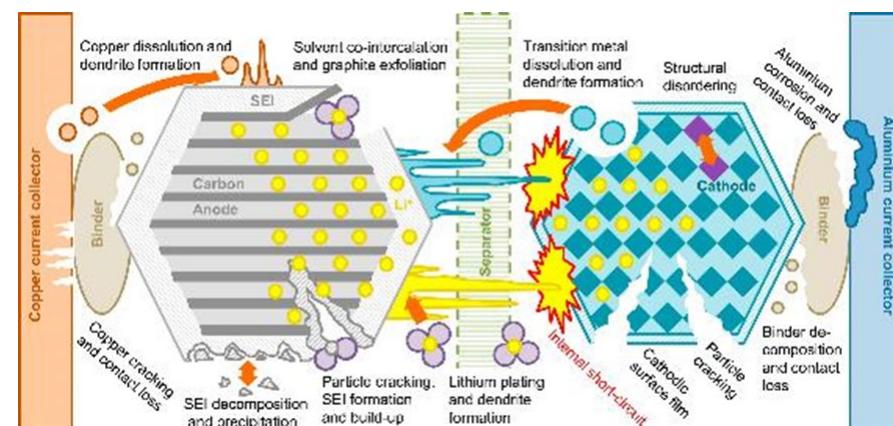
Overcharging

- Overcharging can lead to Li metal plating on anode, potential for short

Need better understanding of the degradation pathways and engineering to control thermal runaway



Inherent Heat Generation of Electrodes



Future Developments in Li-based Batteries



Higher-voltage positive (cathode) materials

- Lithium manganese phosphate
- Lithium cobalt phosphate

Higher-capacity negative (anode) materials

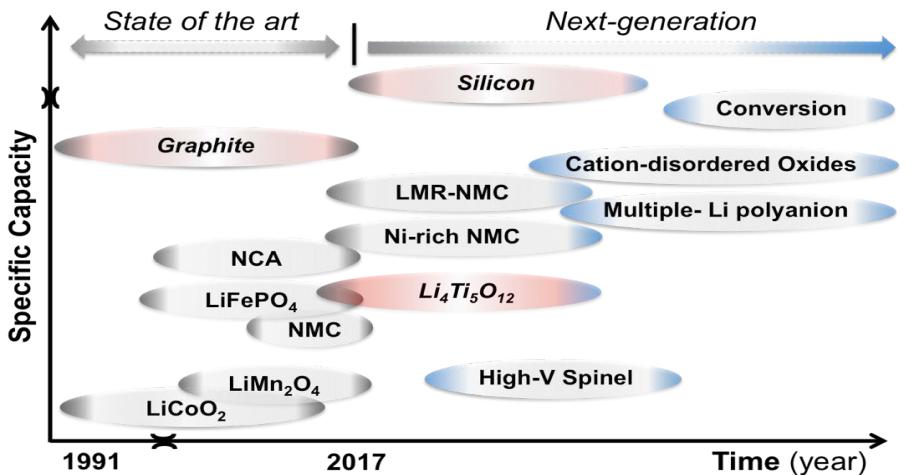
- Silicon-based

Safer electrolytes

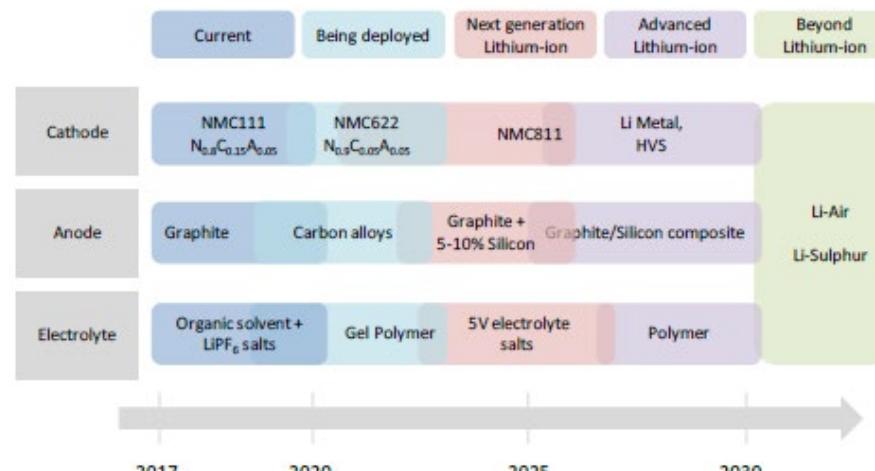
- Inorganic
- Solid-state electrolytes

Other Li chemistries

- Lithium-sulfur



DOE Basic Research Needs Report on Energy Storage
DOE Office of Science, 2017



Global EV Outlook Report, IEA 2018
Based on DOE-VTO and NEDO Projections

High Energy Density Li-S and Metal Air Batteries



Li-S: high theoretical energy density (>2700 Wh/kg), prototype cells ~ 400 Wh/kg

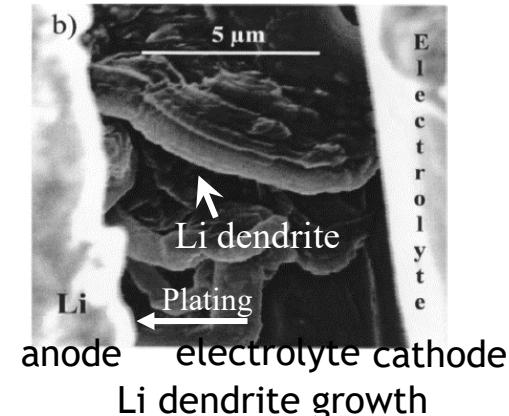
- Suffers from self discharge and poor life
- Breakthroughs needed with Li electrodes
- Managing the Sulphur shuttle reactions

Metal air batteries (Li-air, Zn-air)

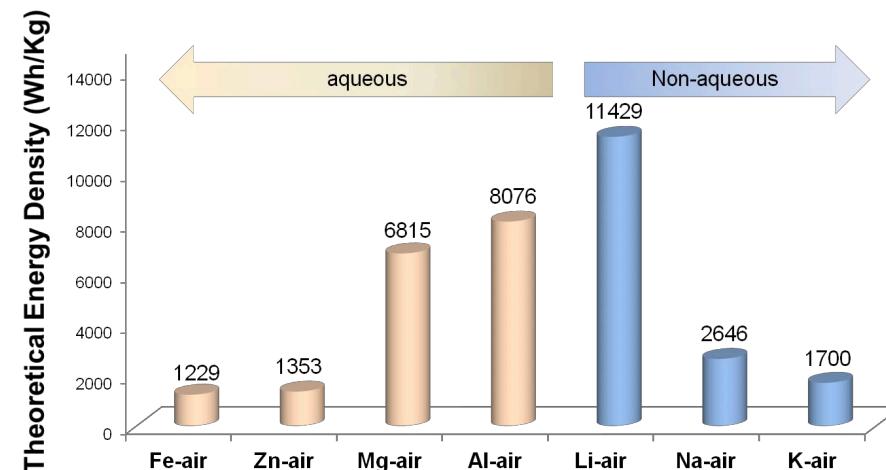
- Potential to deliver high energy densities at low cost. Challenges with recharging have so far precluded commercialization of the technology.
- Not mature, many years away
- Potential fundamental problems

Li-Air combines difficulties of air and lithium electrodes

- Breakthroughs needed in cheap catalysts, more stable and conductive ceramic separators
- Developing a robust air electrode is a challenge, need major breakthroughs

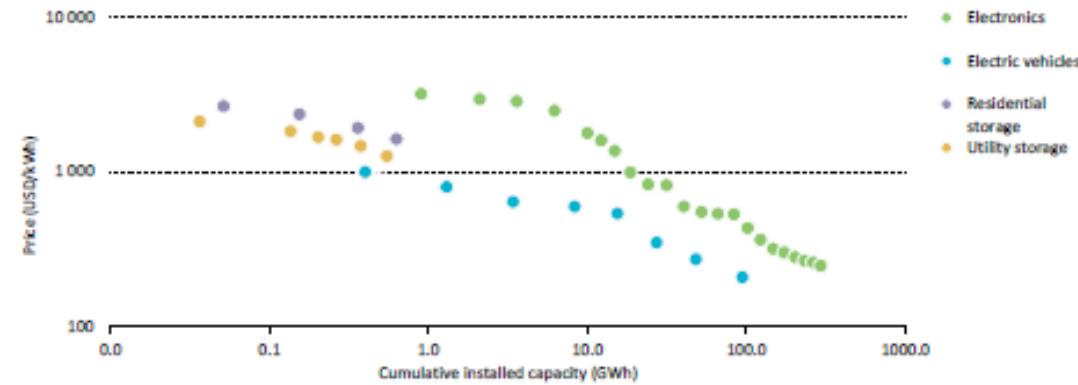


H. Pan, et. al, Adv. Energy Mater., 2015



Y. Li and J. Lu, "Metal-Air Batteries: Future Electrochemical Energy Storage of Choice?," PNNL, 2017

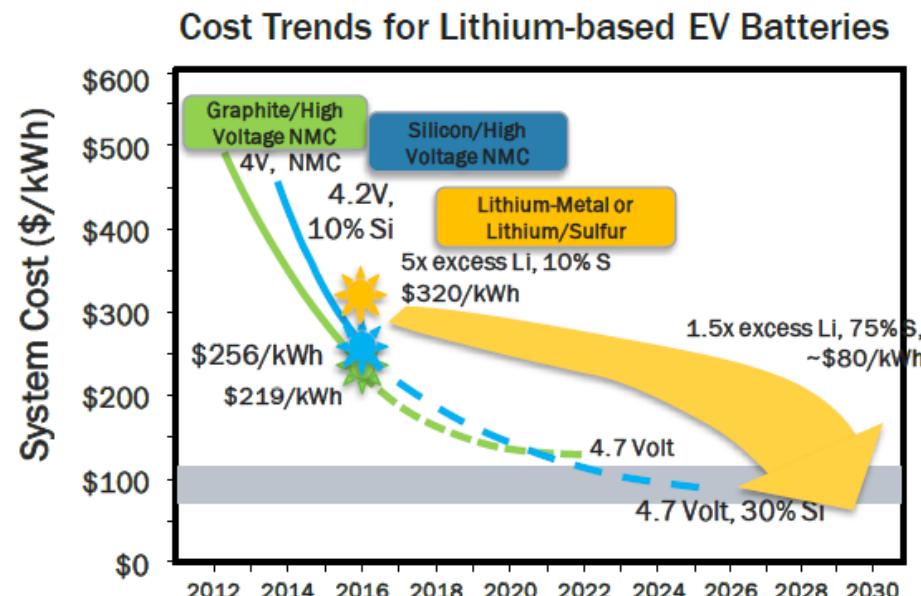
Manufacturing Scale and Cell/System Costs



Li-ion storage technology price with manufacturing volume

Source: IEA, 2018

Future cost projections predicated on stable commodity prices, significant improvements in energy density and cell performance



Cost trends for Li-based EV Batteries (pack level)
Source: David Howell, DOE VTO, 2018

Lead-Acid Batteries

Overall Reaction

- $\text{Pb(s)} + \text{PbO}_2(\text{s}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4(\text{aq}) \rightarrow 2\text{PbSO}_4(\text{s}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{O(l)}$
- OCV ~ 2.0 V

Flooded lead-acid

- Requires continuous maintenance
- Most common

Sealed lead-acid

- Gel and Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM)
- More temperature dependent

Advanced Lead Acid Energy Storage

- Carbon plates significantly improve performance

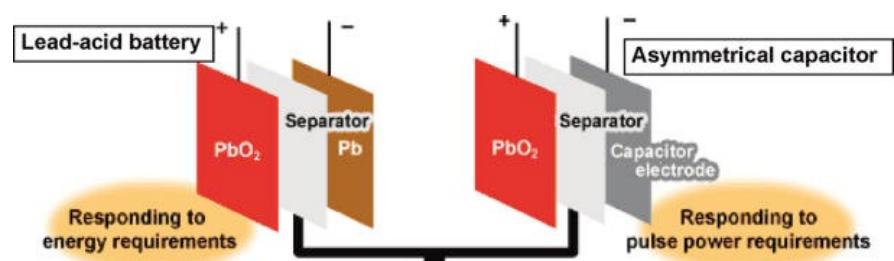
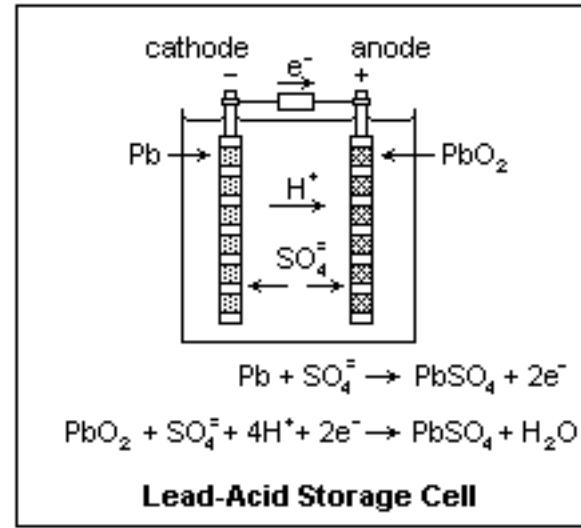
Mature technology

High recycled content

Good battery life

Advantages/Drawbacks

- Low cost/Ubiquitous
- Limited life time (5~15 yrs)/cycle life (500~1000 cycles) and degradation w/ deep discharge (>50% DoD)
- New Pb/C systems > 5,000 cycles.
- Low specific energy (30-50 Wh/kg)
- Overcharging leads to H₂ evolution.
- Sulfation from prolonged storage



<http://www.ultrabattery.com/>

Lead Acid Batteries – Deployment for Grid Services



3 MW/3 MWh advanced lead acid battery system for utility applications (Source: EastPenn, East Lyons, PA)



Solar plus ultrabattery storage (Source: PNM Albuquerque, NM)



1.3MW/1.9 MWh advanced lead acid battery system providing support for a 68MW solar farm in Alt Daber, Germany (Source: BAE Batteries, 2018)

Redox Flow Batteries

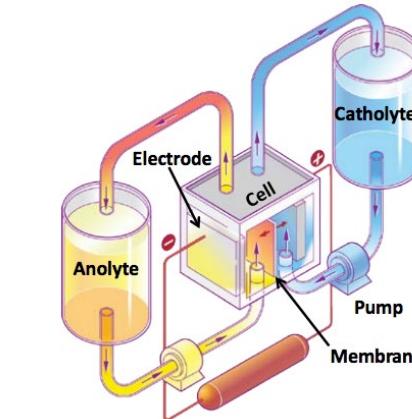
Energy storage technology utilizing redox states of various species for charge/discharge purposes

Key Aspects

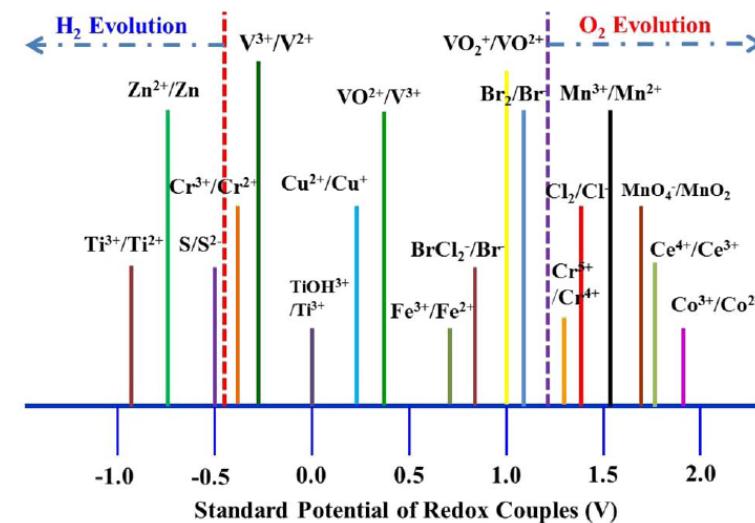
- Power (kW) and energy (kWh) separation
- Greater flexibility and safety
- Modular and scalable across a wide range of power and energy
- Long cycle life
- Low energy density ~ 30 Wh/L

Range of redox chemistries

- Fe-Cr, Zn-Br, V-V are most studied and large systems demonstrated
- Most large commercial flow batteries are based on V-V chemistry, and Zn-Br



Source: Travis Anderson, Sandia National Laboratories, 2013



Redox Flow Batteries – Technical Challenges



Low energy density

- Limited voltage window of aqueous electrolyte solutions (< 1.5 V)
- Large form factor/footprint

Limited electrolyte stability

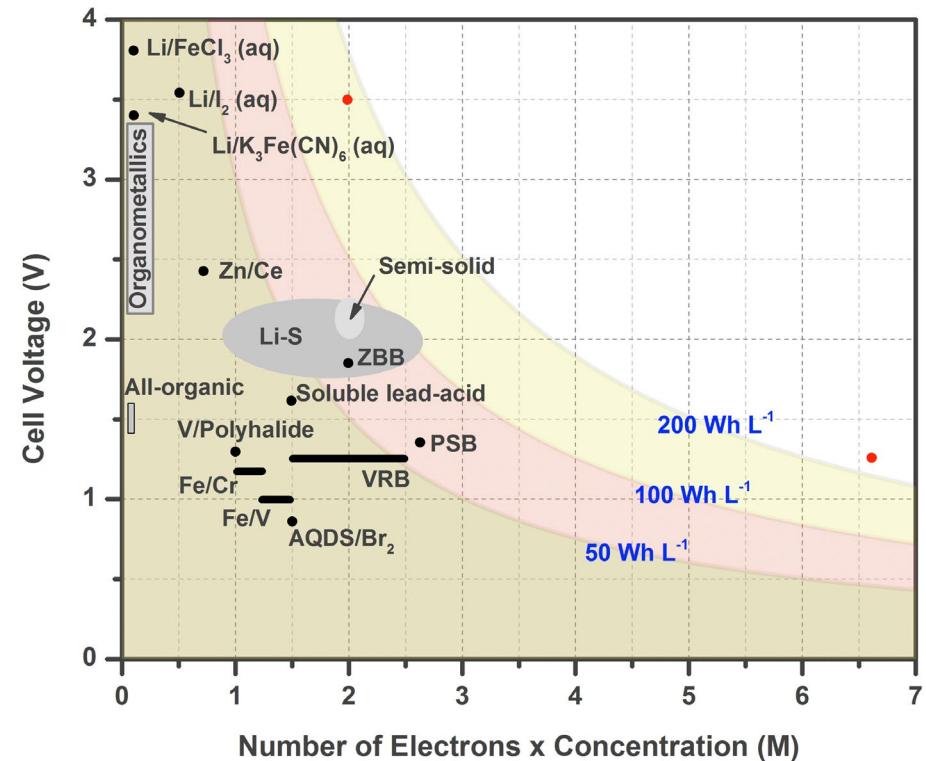
- Low solubility of redox species in aqueous electrolytes
- Capacity decay during cycling
- Narrow temperature range

Corrosion of membranes and electrode materials by acidic electrolyte solutions

- Long-term reliability

Opportunities to Reduce Materials Cost

- New redox chemistries, new electrolytes under development
- Lower cost of membranes
- Increased current density and lower cost stack design



Wei Wang, et. al., Adv. Funct. Mater., 23, 970, 2013

RFB Stack Sizes Continue to Grow – Large Plants being built



Rapid progress in the development of large utility class redox flow battery systems

Rapid development of new electrolytes to replace Vanadium species

Further potential to reduce the size of the stacks and to increase energy density

Containerized Systems



UniEnergyTechnologies, 1MW/4MWh



32 KW Stack
Rongke
Power/UET
120 mA/cm²
Meter size
stack

Flow battery power plants



Sumitomo Electric, 15MW/60MWh



Stack room

Sodium Batteries (NaS and NaNiCl₂)



Abundant low cost materials (Na, S, ...)

Offer potential for safe, versatile, cost-effective energy storage

Molten sodium batteries - Two primary chemistries

- NaS, mature technology, deployed in grid applications
- NaNiCl₂, mature, more stable than NaS
- Neither NaS nor NaNiCl₂ are at high production volumes and the economies of scale needed

Early Stage Technologies

- Sodium Ion Batteries (NaIBs)
- Solid State Sodium Batteries (SSSBs)
- Sodium Air Batteries (Na-O₂)

NaS batteries



Batteries consisting of molten sodium anode and β'' - Al_2O_3 solid electrolyte (BASE)

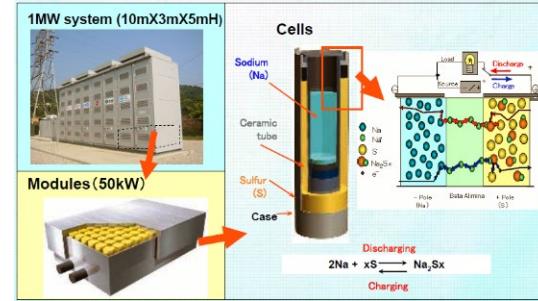
- High specific energy density (120~240 Wh/kg)
- Good specific power (150-230 W/kg)
- Long duration batteries, with 4-6 hr discharge
- Operated at relatively high temperature (300~350°C)

Originally developed at Ford Motors, later commercialized by NGK Insulators in Japan

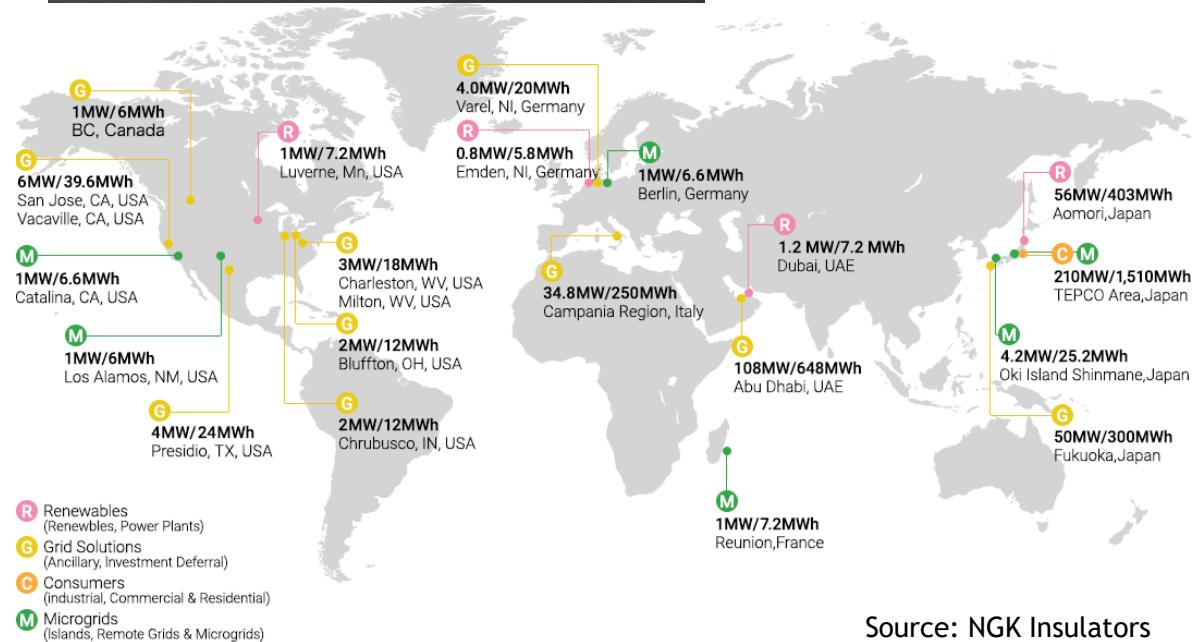
NGK has deployed \sim 580 MW/4 GWh of storage, primarily in Japan

Challenges

- Battery is assembled fully charged, presents a major safety/handling issue
- System needs to be maintained at temperature
- High temperature operation, safety and containment challenges
- Relatively expensive



50 MW system at a solar farm
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan (NGK)



Source: NGK Insulators

NaNiCl₂ Batteries



NaNiCl₂ battery

- $2\text{Na} + \text{NiCl}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NaCl} + \text{Ni}$
- $E = 2.58\text{V}$ at 300°C

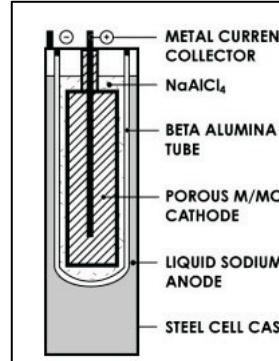
Large cells and stable chemistry

- Lower temperature than NaS
- Cells loaded in discharge mode
- Improved safety compared to NaS. Addition of catholyte NaAlCl_4 leads to a closed circuit on failure

High efficiency, low discharge

Long warm up time (16 hr)

Supply chain concerns. Only one major manufacturer (FIAMM). Limited deployments



FIAMM 222-kWh System Duke Energy Rankin Substation



620 V 1.4 MWh (400 kW)

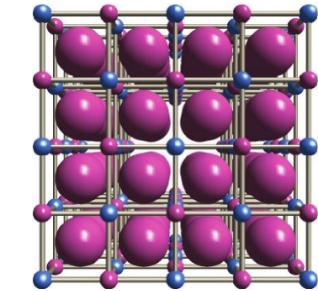
Sodium Ion Batteries on the Horizon



While not yet commercially mature, several types of NaIBs are in development or early production

Prussian blue analogs (PBAs)

- Utilize ferric ferrocyanide salts as electroactive materials (mostly cathodes)
- Natron Energy is developing NaIBs with PBAs aimed at 8kW units for data server backup power.



Y. Moritomo, *Adv. Cond. Matt. Phys.* (2013) 539620.

Li-Ion “Analogs” – possibly manufacturable on Li-ion production lines?

“Salt-water batteries”

- Carbon-titanium phosphate composite Anode, sodium perchlorate aqueous electrolyte, manganese oxide cathode.



Rechargeable Alkaline Batteries



Range of alkaline battery chemistries

- NiMH, Ni-Fe, Ni-Cd, Zn-Ni, Zn-MnO₂

Zn-MnO₂ shows most promise for grid storage

Cost

- Traditional primary batteries, low cost (\$18-20/kWh primaries)
- Low-cost materials and manufacturing
- Established supply chain

Safety

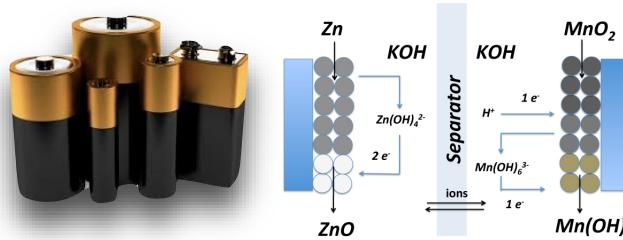
- Aqueous chemistry
- Non-flammable
- EPA certified for landfill disposal

Reliability

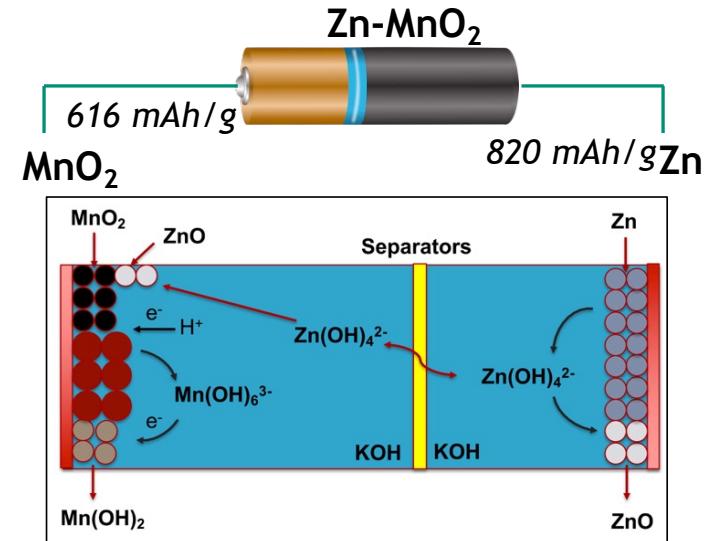
- Long shelf-life
- Limited thermal management required

Reversibility and cycle life have been the primary technical challenges

Recent breakthroughs, promising potential for <\$50/kWh



Single-use Alkaline Battery \$25/kWh



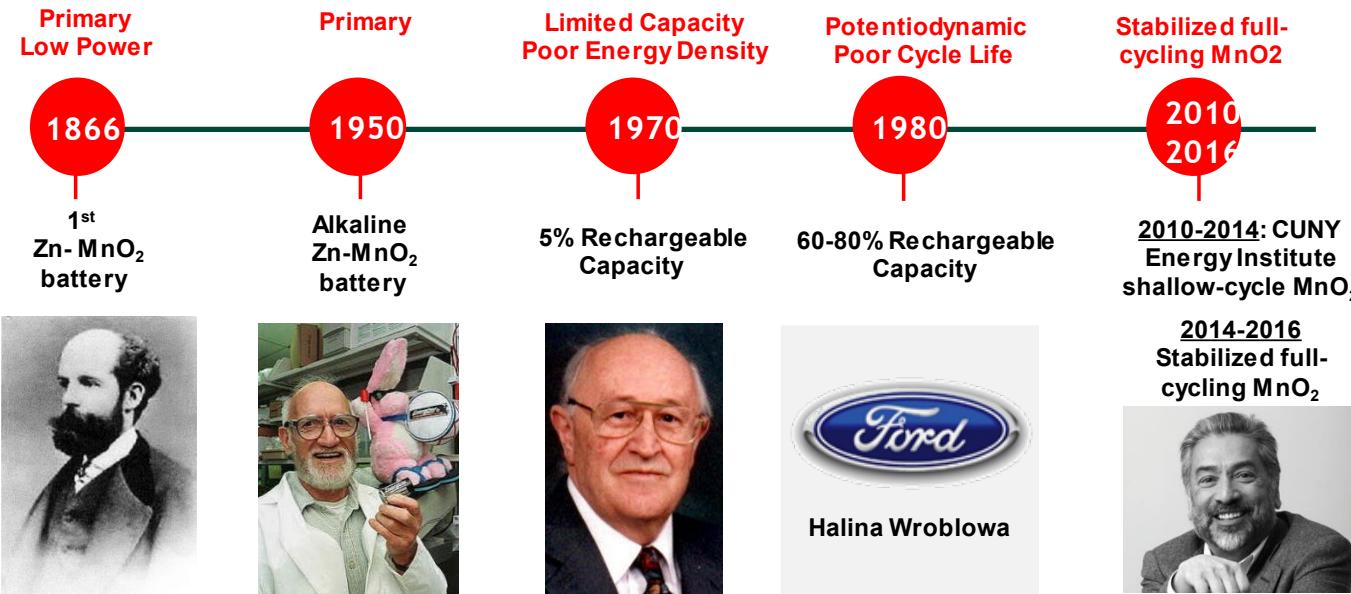
Source: S. Banerjee, CUNY Energy Institute

History of Rechargeable Zn-MnO₂ Batteries

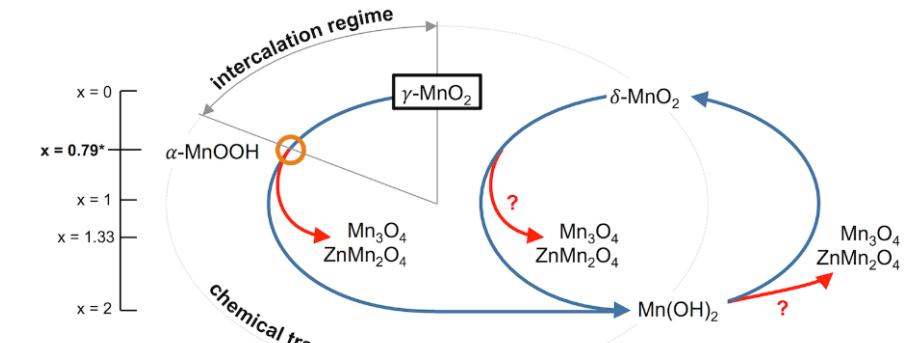
- Early commercial products based on cylindrical formats (Union Carbide, Rayovac, BTI, ...)
- Focused on consumer markets, rapid development of Li-ion batteries made small cell business not competitive
- Resurgence in the field for stationary storage



J. Daniel-Ivad and K. Kordesch, "Rechargeable Alkaline Manganese Technology: Past-Present-Future," ECS Annual Meeting, May 12-17, 2002



S. Banerjee, Symposium on Grid Energy Storage, MRS Spring Meeting, 2015
G. Yadav, CUNY Energy Institute, 2018



Failure Mechanisms of Cathode

Instability of Mn(III) resulting in formation of irreversible Mn₃O₄ and Zn poisoning forming irreversible ZnMn₂O₄

Grid Storage needs Large Format Cells



Engineering costs are significant for small format cells. Large format cells are needed to reduce overall system costs.

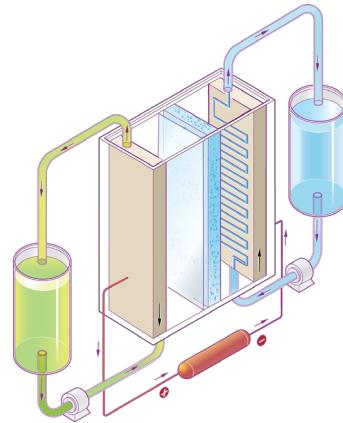
Large format cells also allow for tighter integration of power electronics, sensors, SOH monitoring at the cell level.

High Conductivity Separators for Low Temperature Molten Sodium Batteries



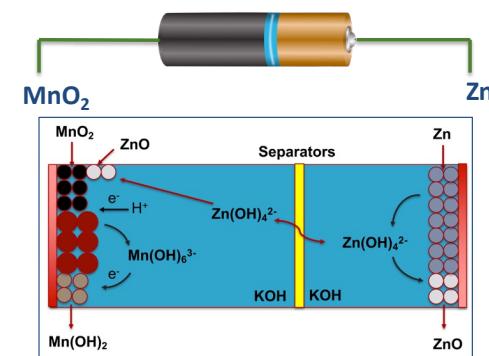
Robust ceramic separators exhibit low Na^+ conductivity at lower, more cost effective temperatures (120-180 °C).

Crossover in Redox Flow Batteries



Crossover of the electroactive species through the separator leads to severe capacity decay in flow battery systems.

Zincate poisoning of MnO_2 in Zn/MnO_2 Batteries



Zincate diffusion and subsequent poisoning of MnO_2 impairs reversibility and significantly decreases lifetimes.



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