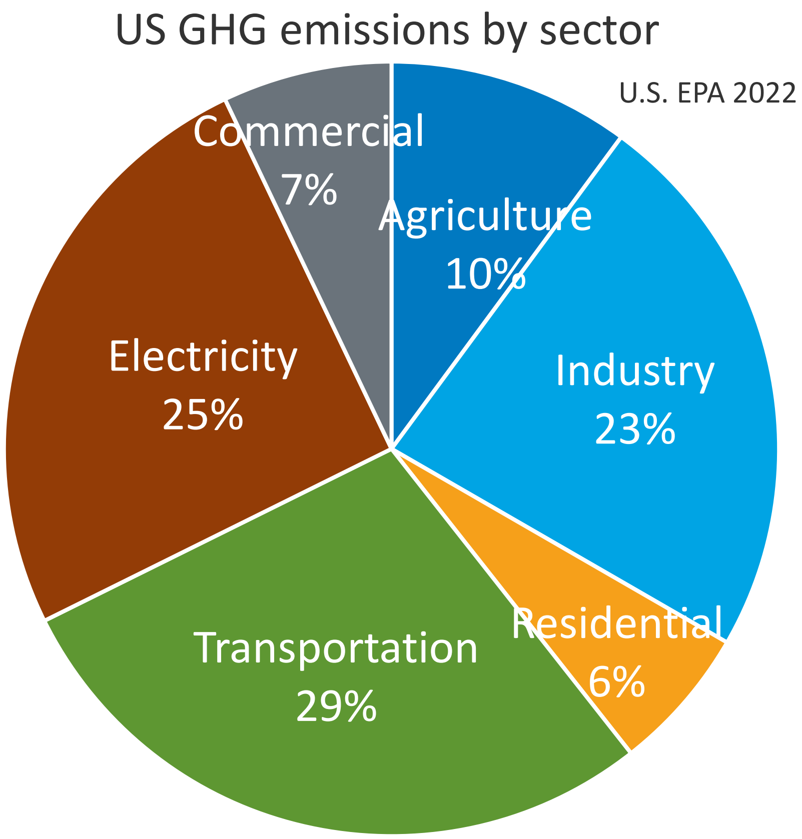
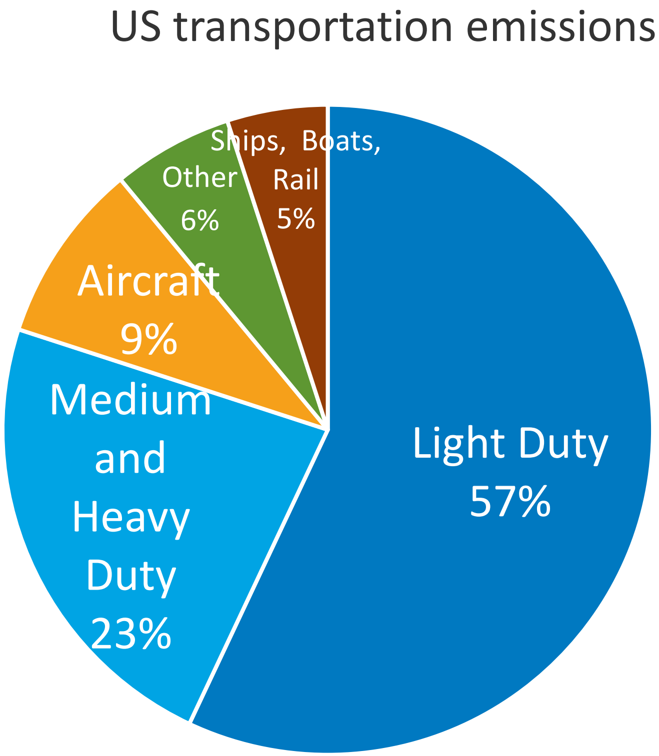
Using the Principals of Electrochemistry to Understand and Overcome the Complicated Degradation Mechanisms of Silicon Anodes in Lithium-Ion Batteries.

Mike Carroll

6/4/2024
2024 GRC Inorganic Chemistry

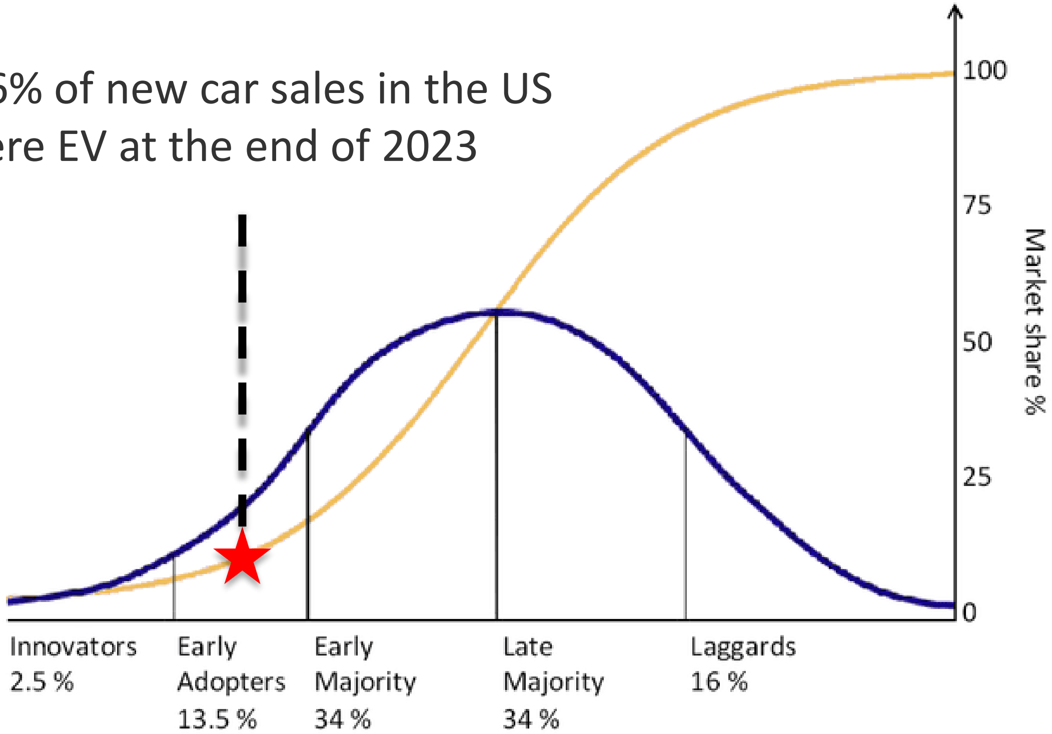
Decarbonization





EV Adoption

7.6% of new car sales in the US were EV at the end of 2023

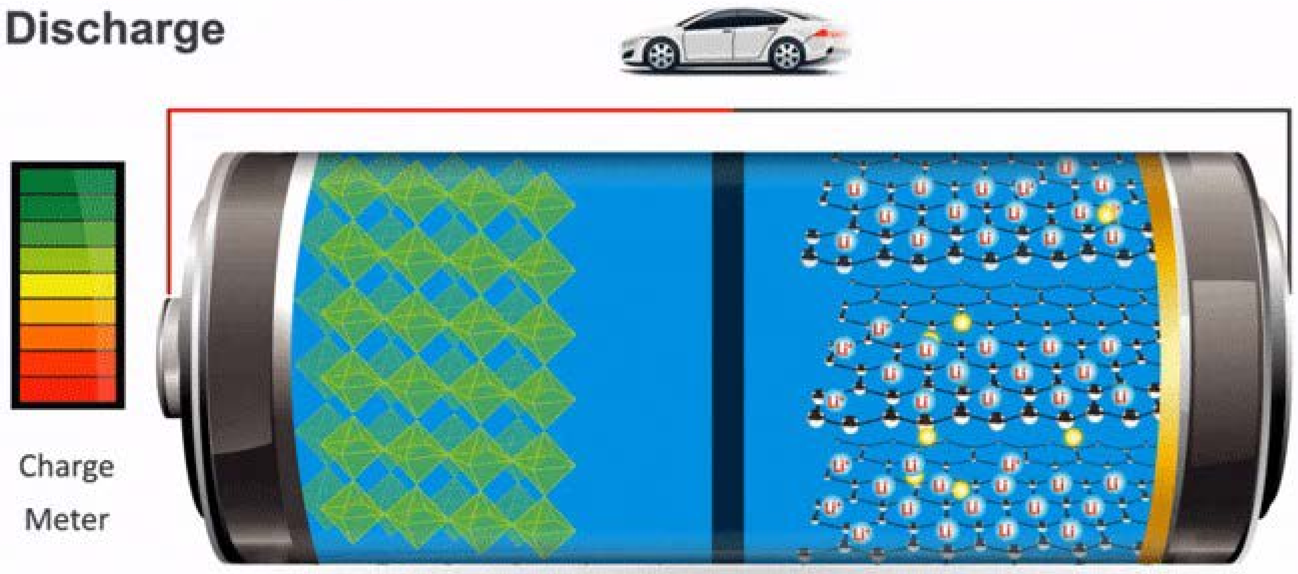


Major headwinds for EVs:

(1) Range anxiety
(2) Too expensive
(3) Developing charging infrastructure

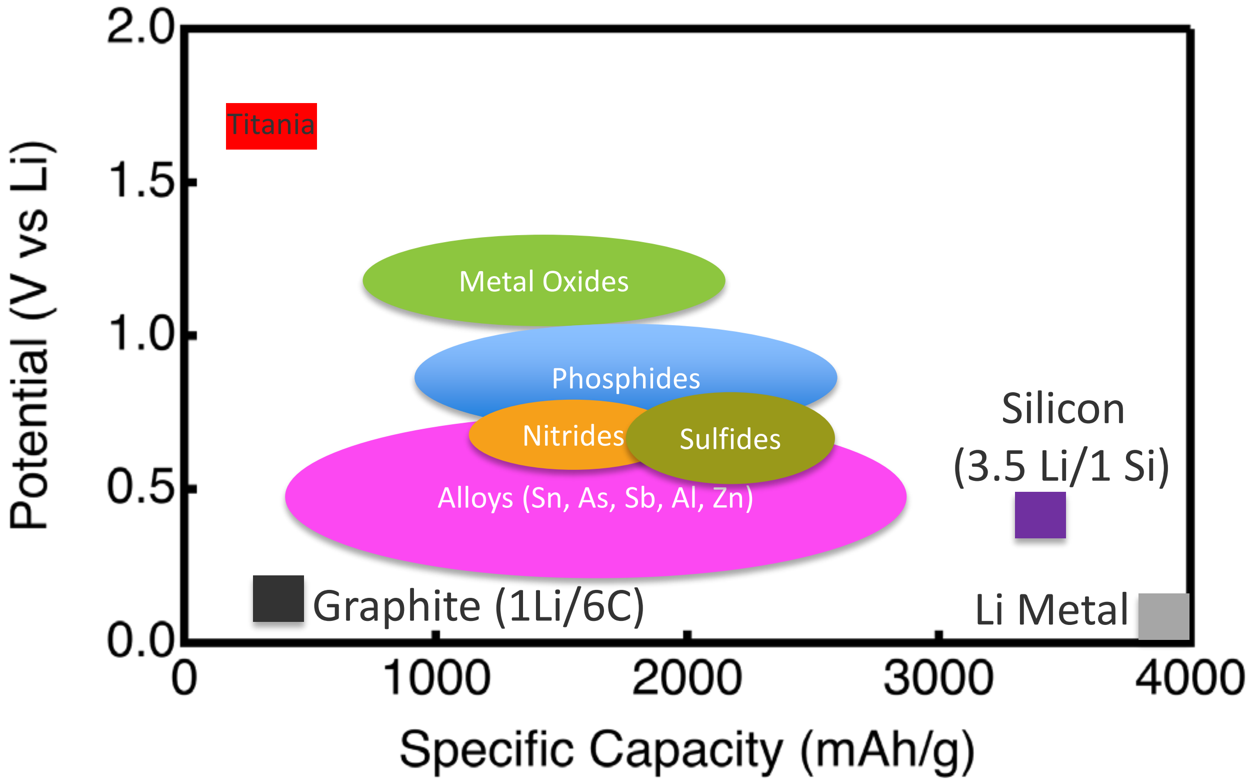
Battery technology is the bottleneck

How Lithium-ion Batteries Work

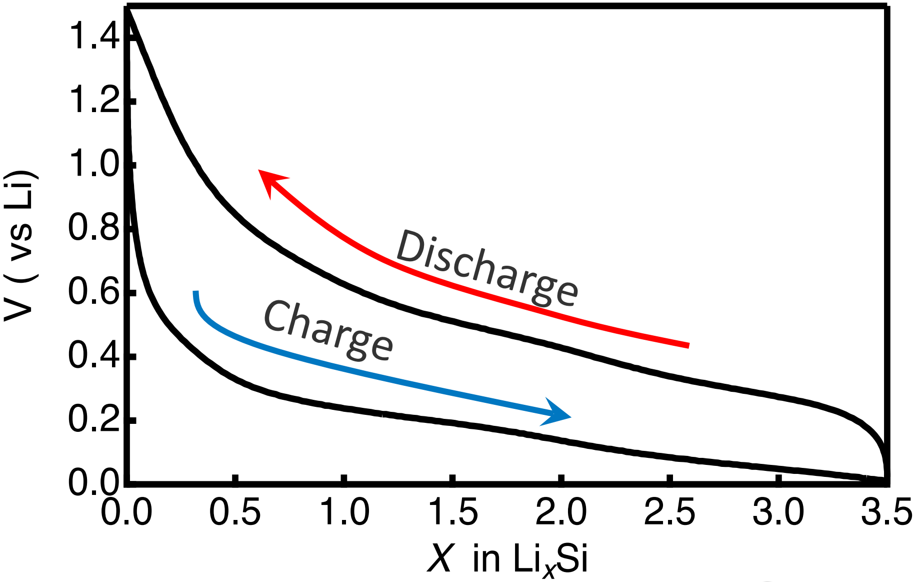


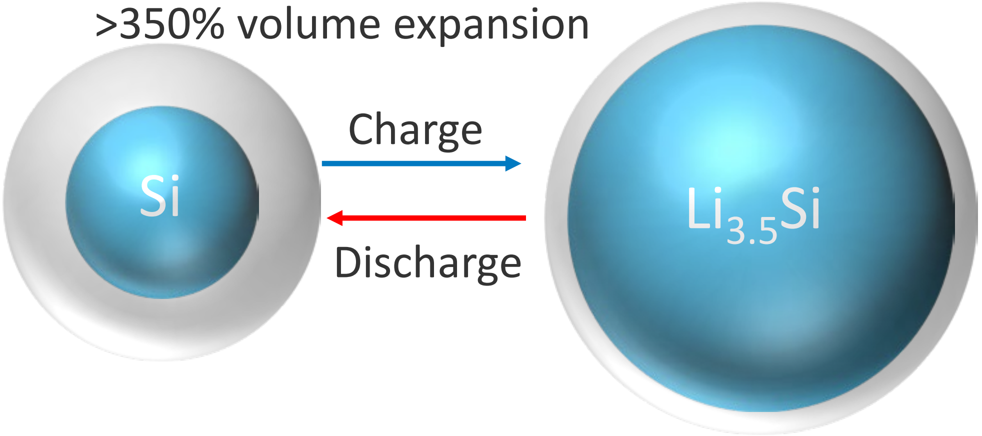
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Anode Active Materials

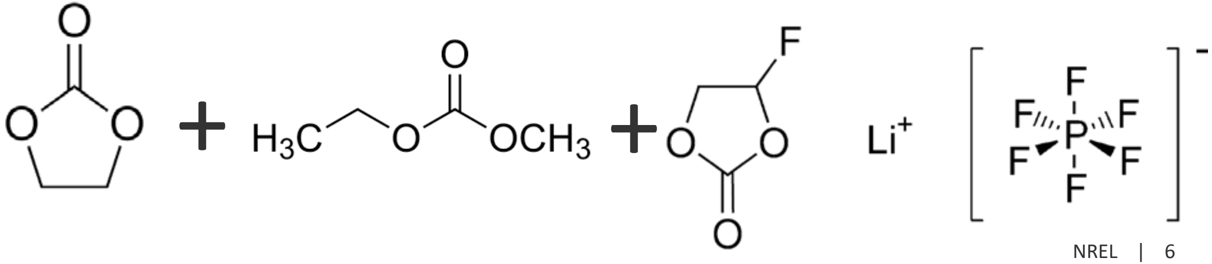


Cycling Silicon Under Battery Operation

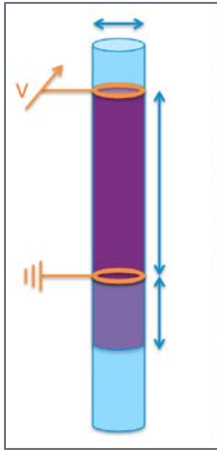




Solid Electrolyte Interphase



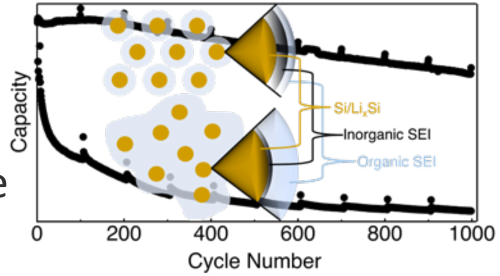
Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition Si NPs



-PECVD synthesis enables precise control over silicon size, surface chemistry, and composition

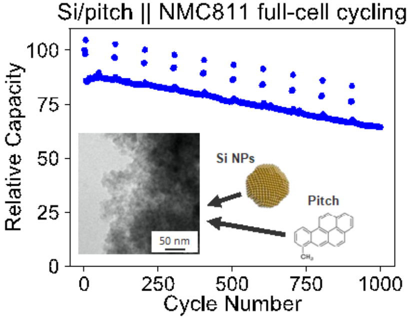
-Surfaces are terminated with SiH_x functional groups

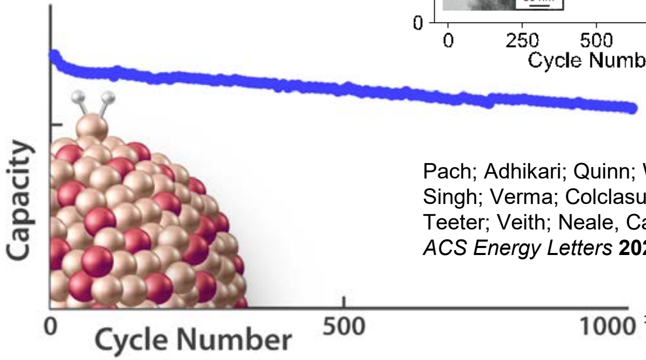
-Radical chemistry to functionalize the silicon surface



Schulze; Urias; Dutta; Huey; Coyle; Teeter; Doeren; Tremolet de Villers; Han; Neale; Carroll: *J. Mater. Chem. A.* **2023.**

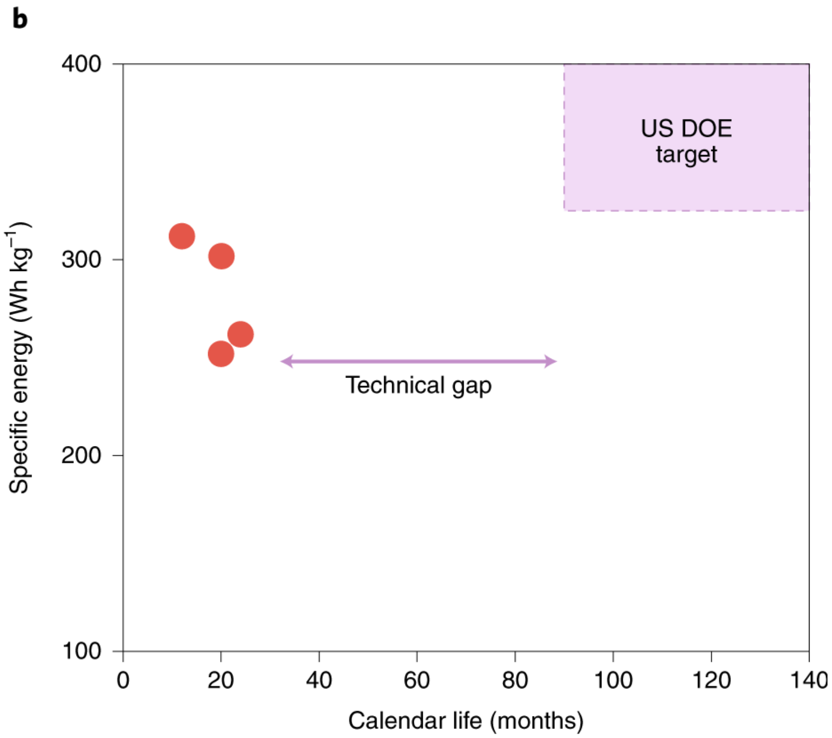
Schulze.; Fink; Palmer; Carroll; Dutta; Zwiefel; Engtrakul; Han; Neale, Tremolet de Villers: *Batteries and Supercaps,* **2023.**

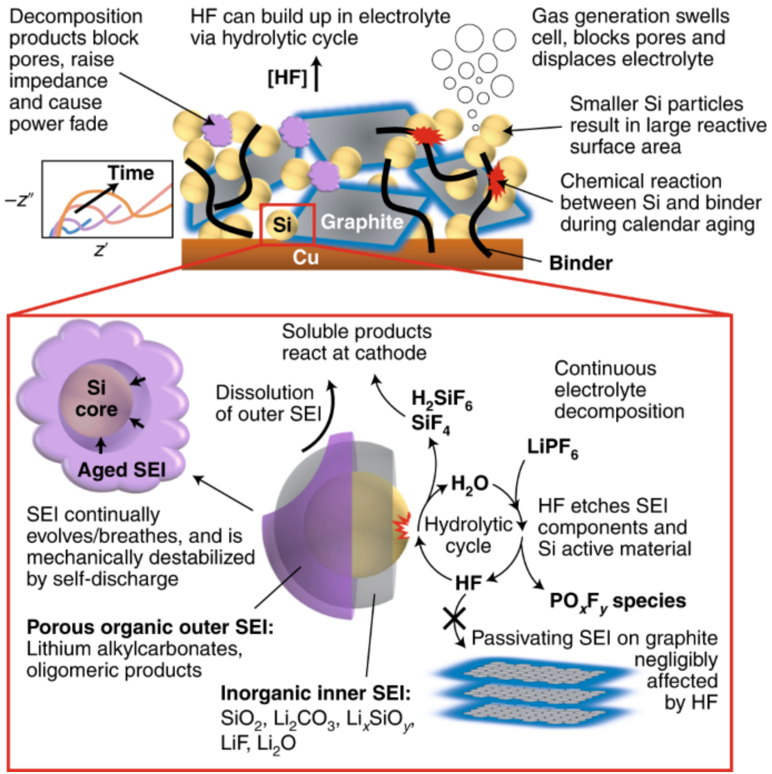




Pach; Adhikari; Quinn; Wang; Singh; Verma; Colclasure; Kim; Teeter; Veith; Neale, Carroll: *ACS Energy Letters* **2024**

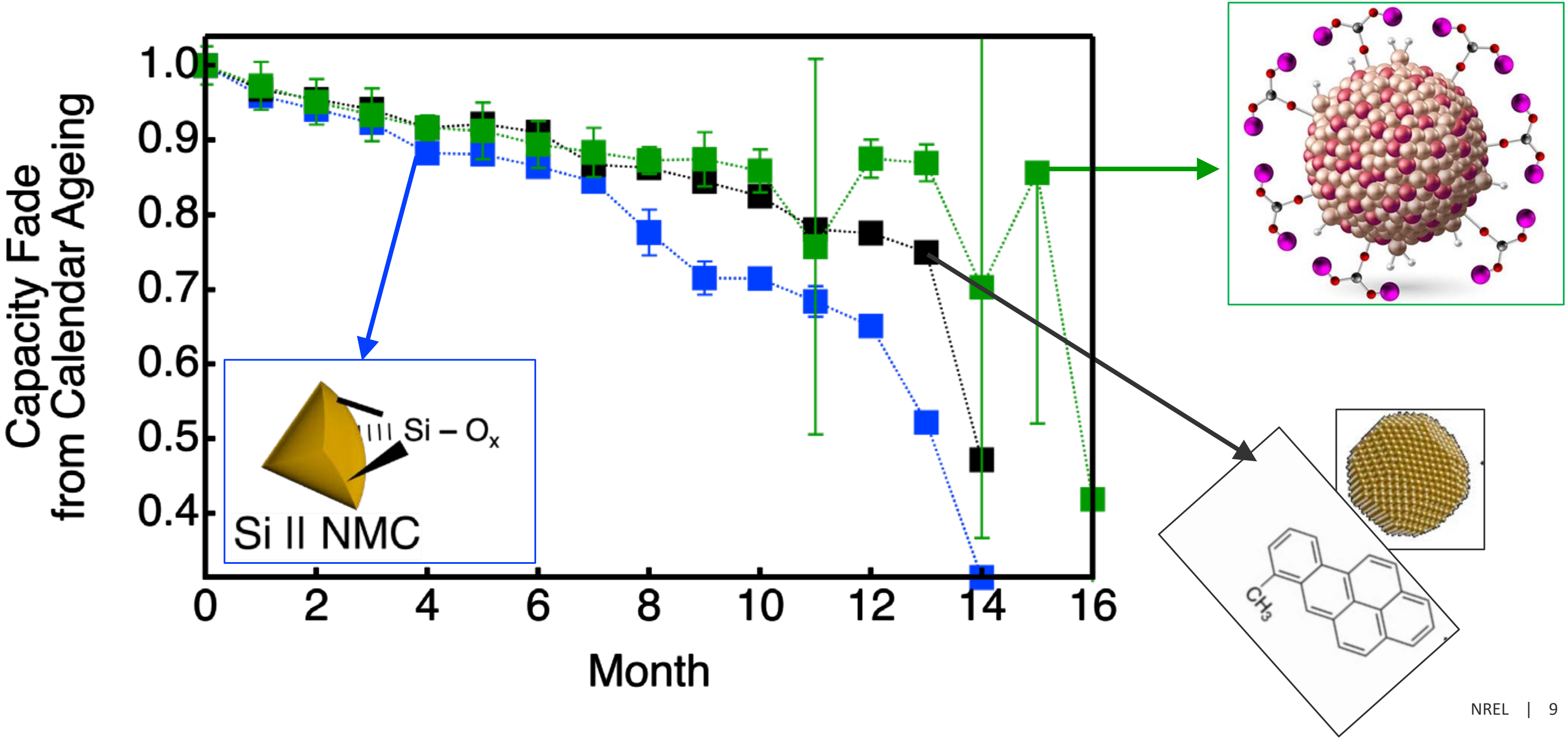
Calendar Life in Silicon Containing Anodes



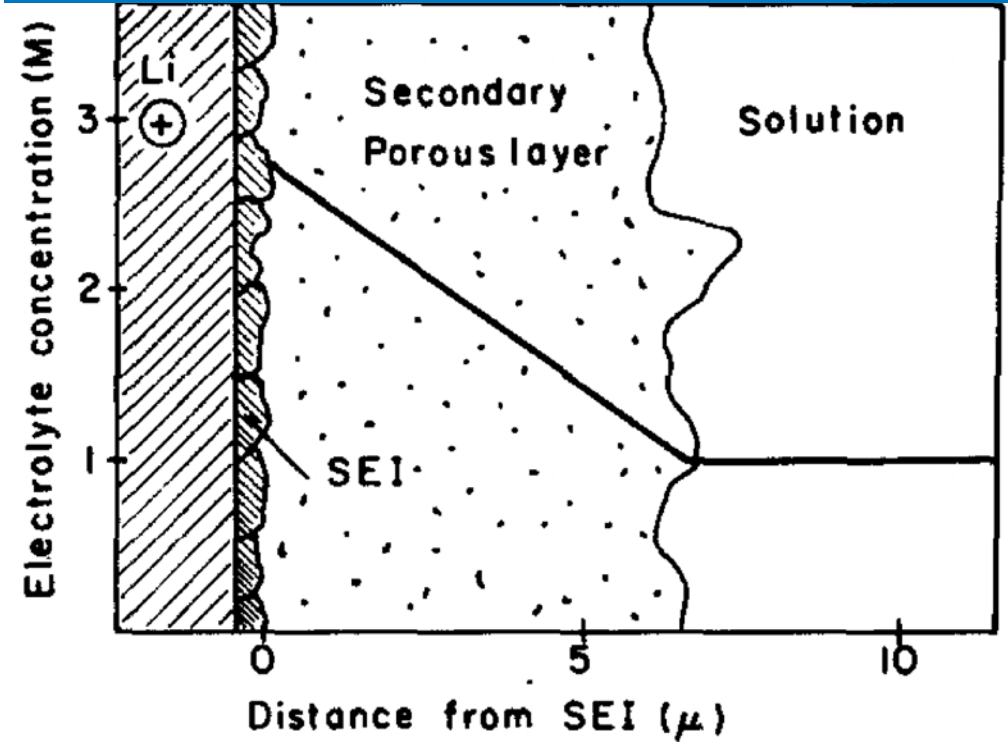


McBrayer; Rodrigues; Schulz; Abraha; Apblett; Bloom; Carroll; Colclasure; Fang; Harrison; Liu; Minteer; Neale; Veith; Johnson; Vaughey; Burrell; Cunningham: *Nature Energy* **2021**

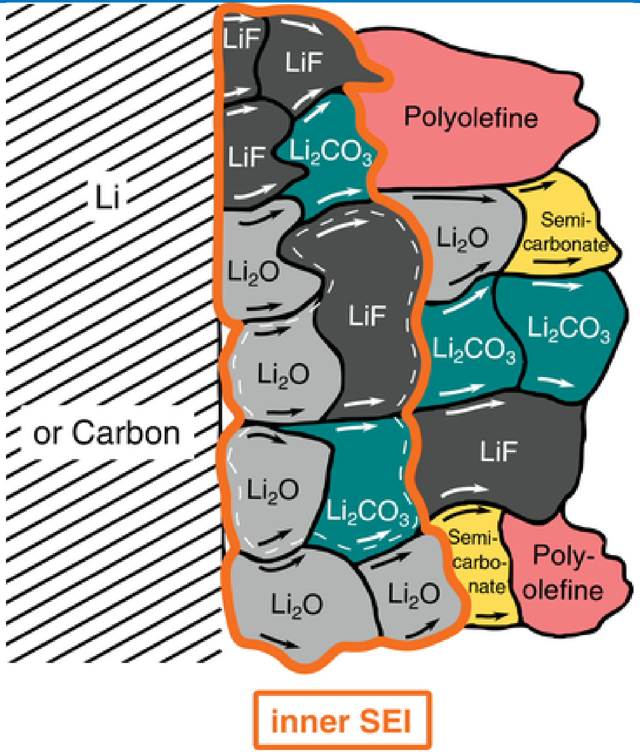
Calendar Life Issues in Silicon Containing Anodes



The SEI Model

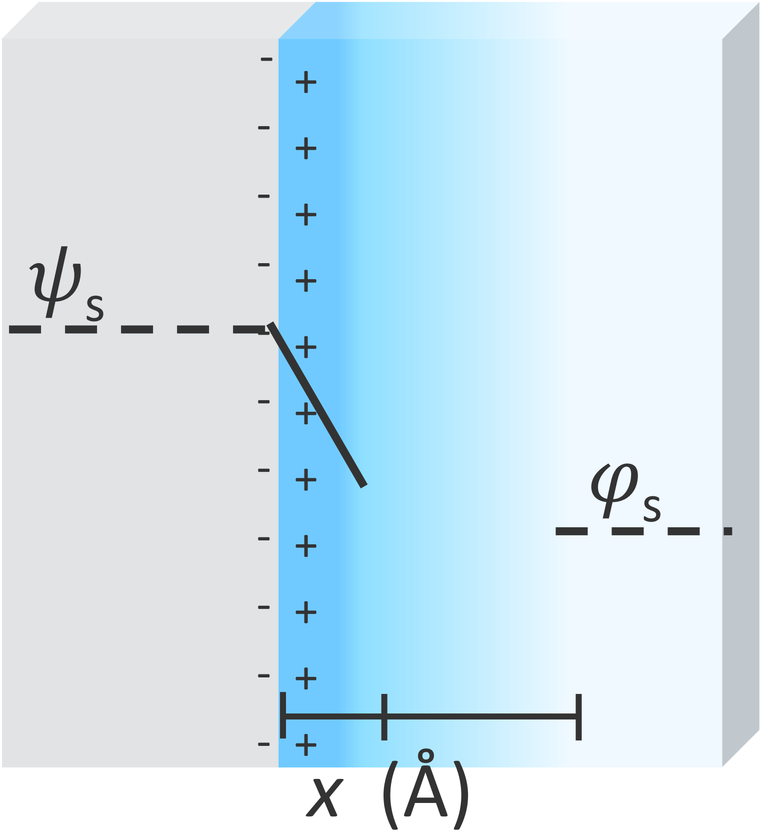


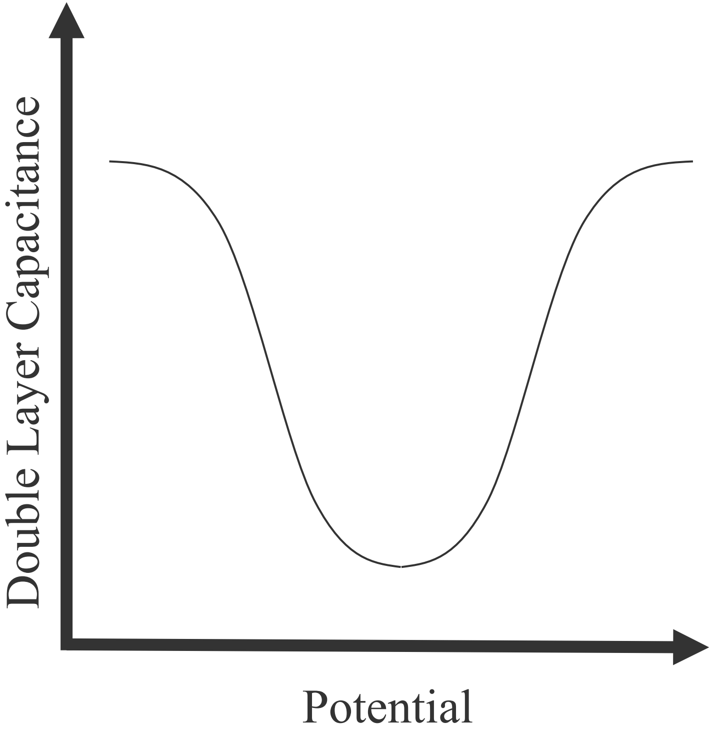
Emanuel Peled, *JPS* **1982**



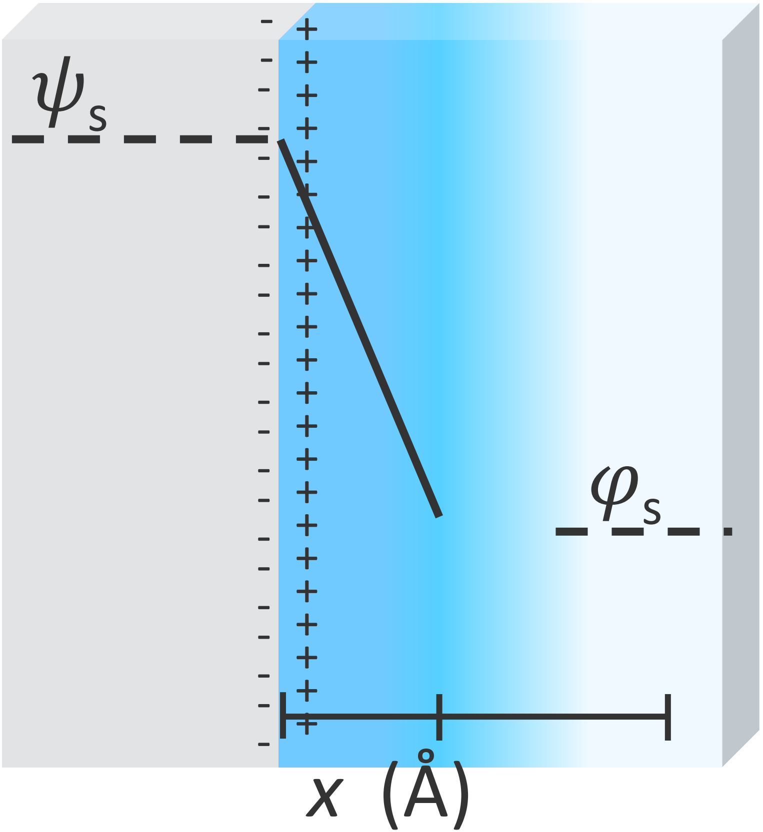
Krauss, et al., *Adv. Mater. Int.* **2022**

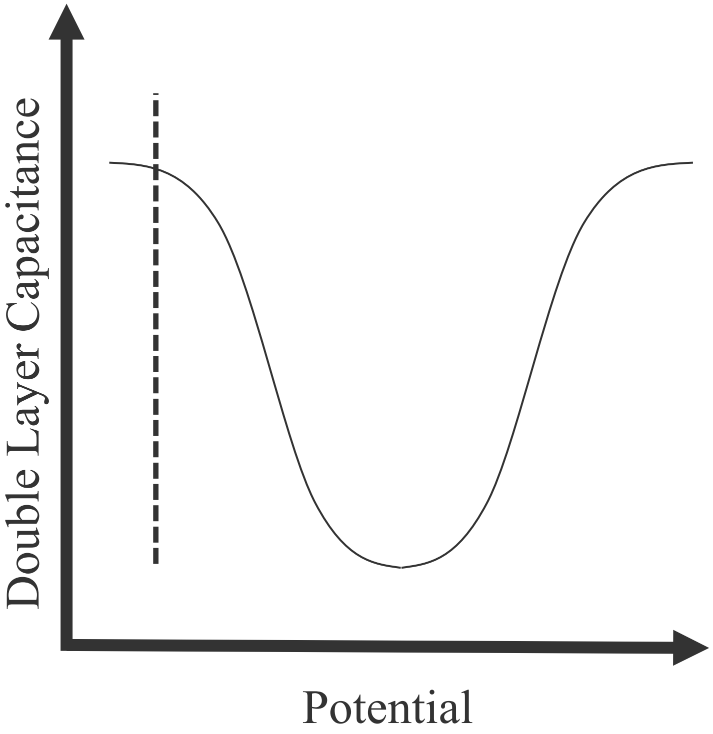
The Classical Model



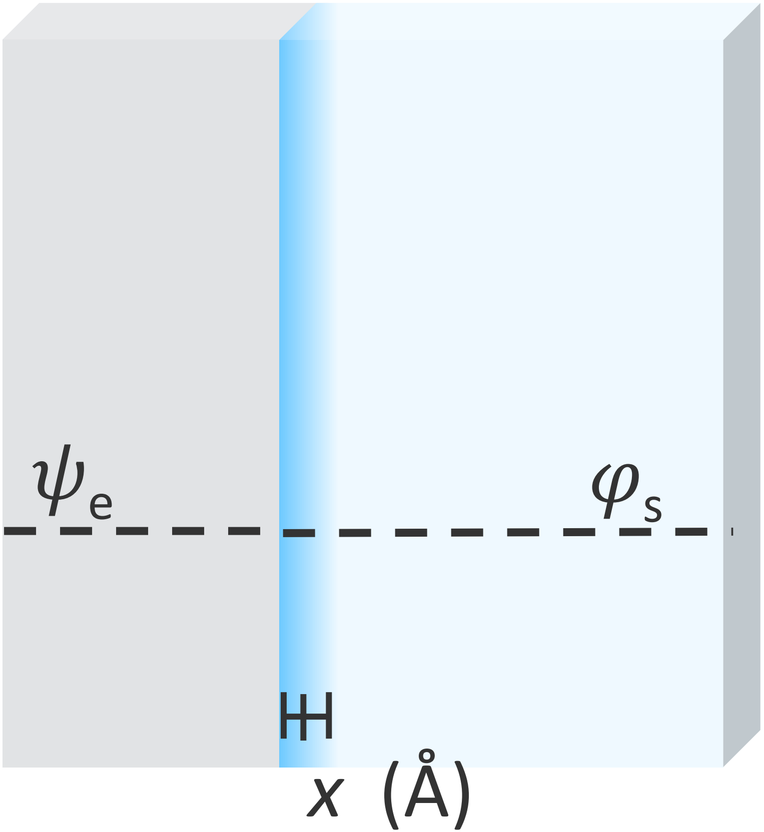


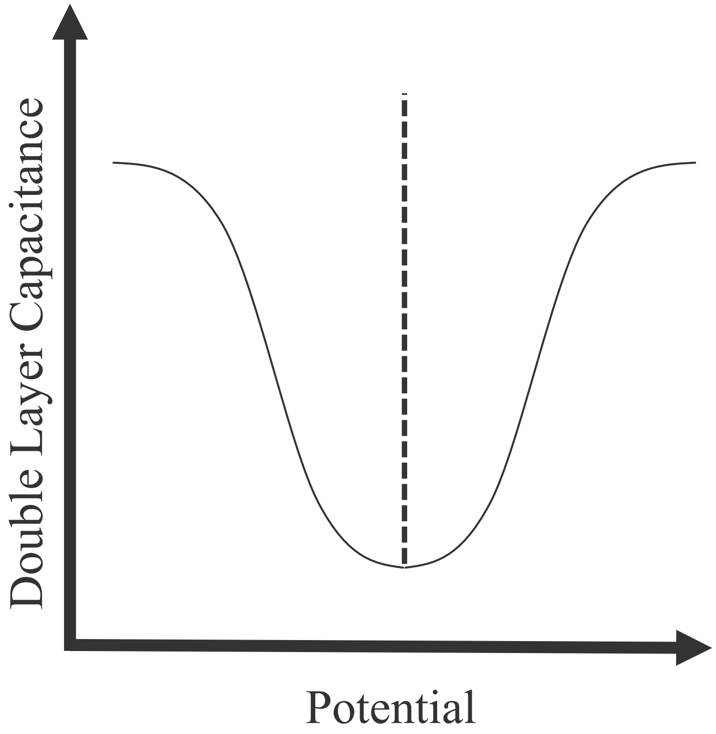
The Classical Model



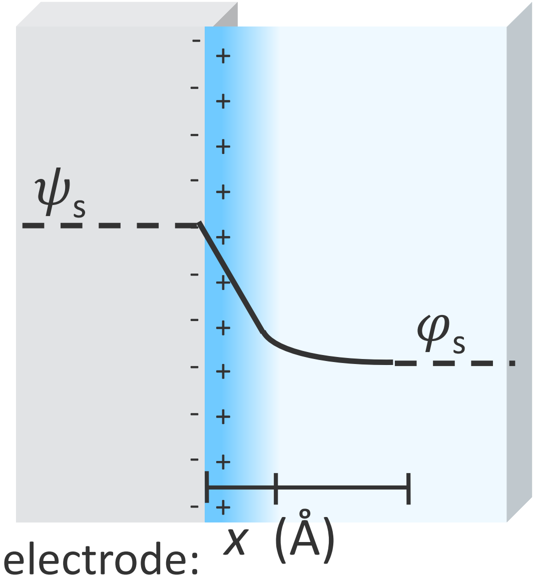


The Classical Model





(Re-)Connecting Li_xSi to Model Interfaces



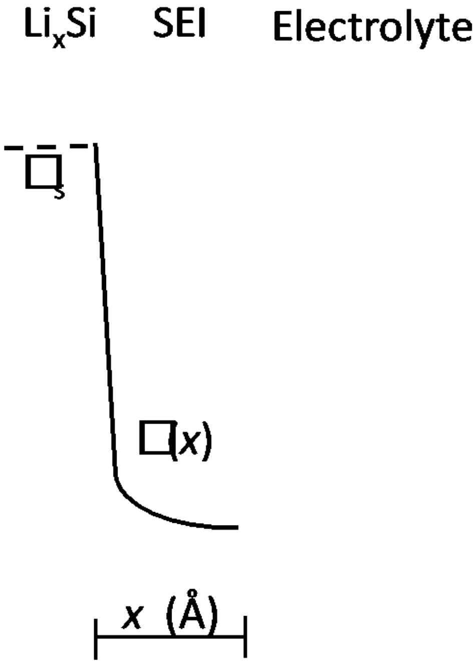
Ideal electrode:

(1) Static and well-defined electrode interface

(2) No hysteresis between cycling

→ No change to electrode surface

→ No change to electrolyte



Silicon electrode:

(1) Dynamic Si electrode interface with lithiation

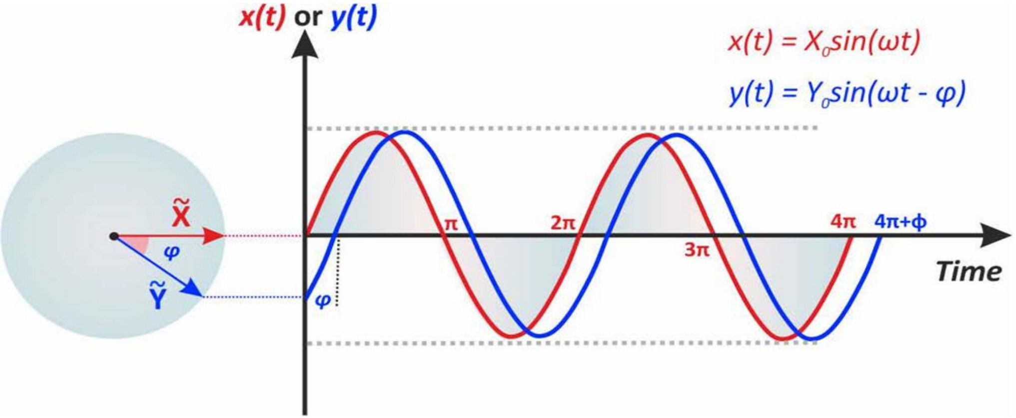
(2) Poorly-defined interface (Li_xSi?, SEI?, $Li_xSi_yO_z$)

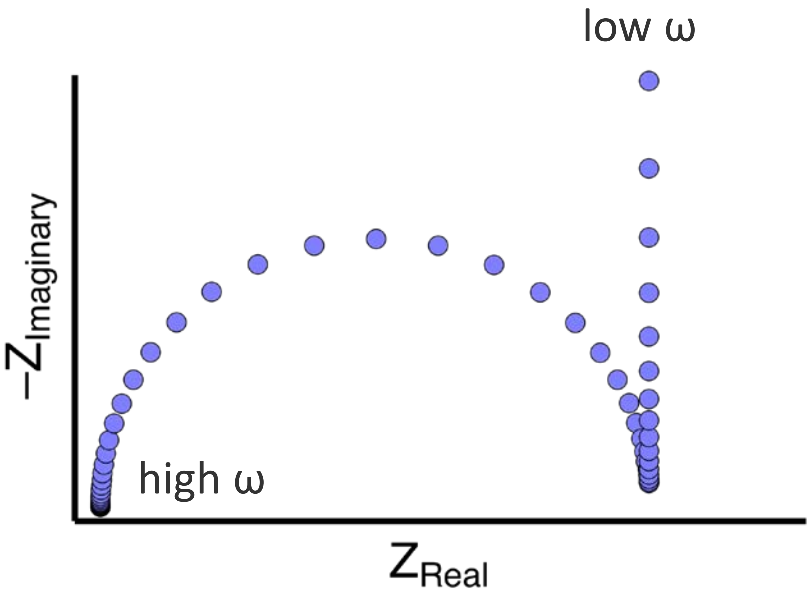
(3) Unstable (intrinsically reactive)

(4) Hysteresis between cycles

(5) Extremely heterogeneous

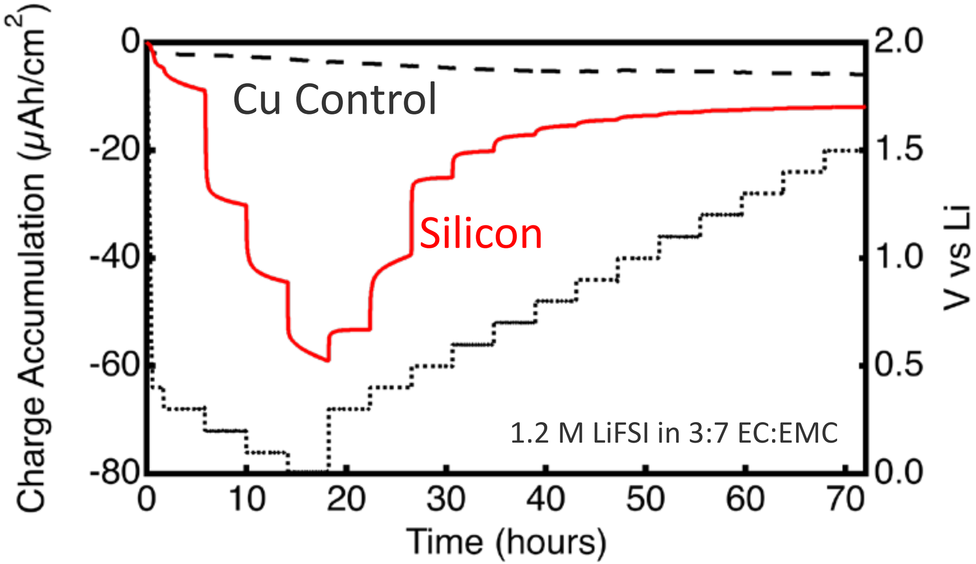
Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy

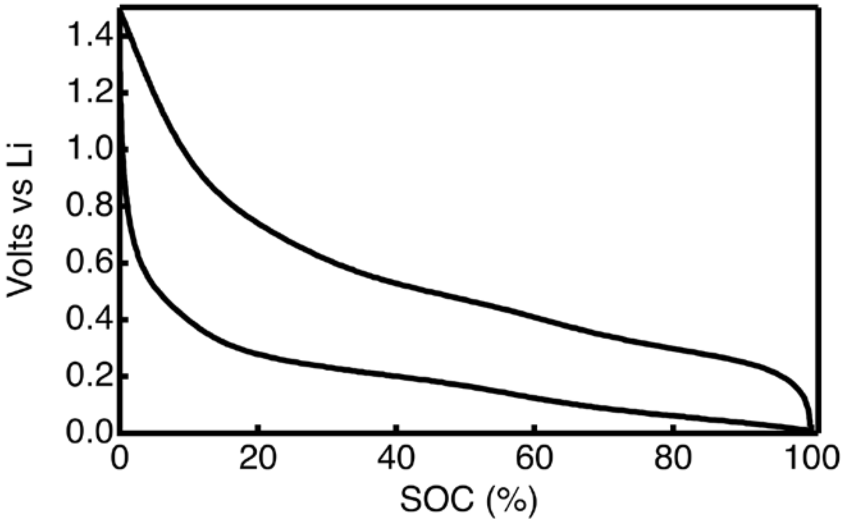




Lazanas, A. C.; Prodromidis, M. I: *ACS Measurement Science Au* **2023.**

SOC – Dependent EIS



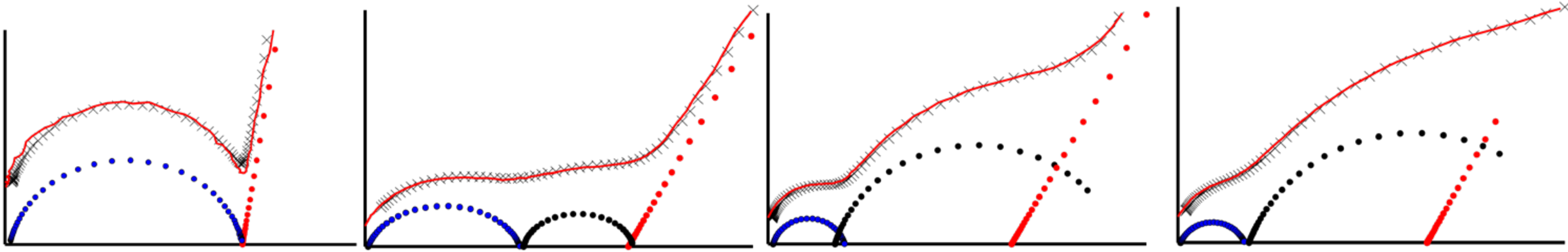


Silicon lithiation states held at a constant potential

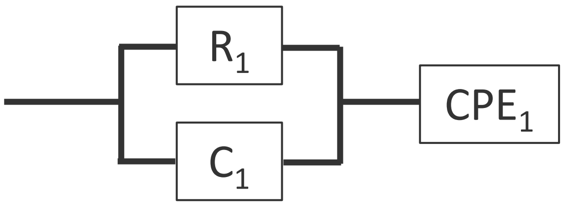
Potentiostatic EIS performed at end of V-hold every 4 hours.

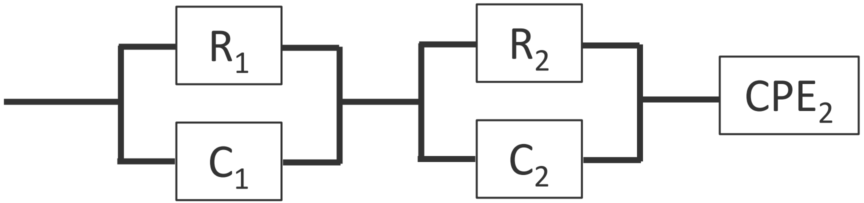
Delithiation sweep investigated specifically

Impedance Evolution on Delithiation

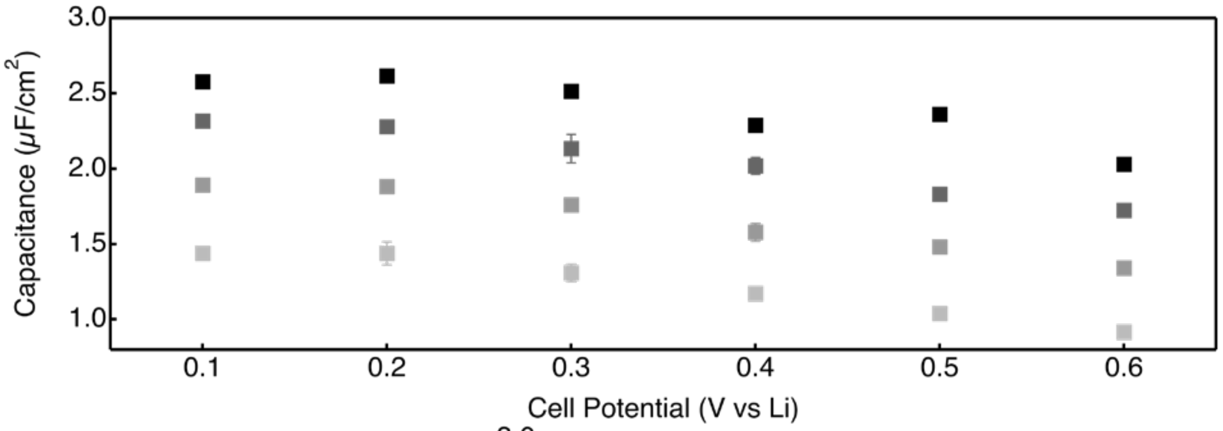


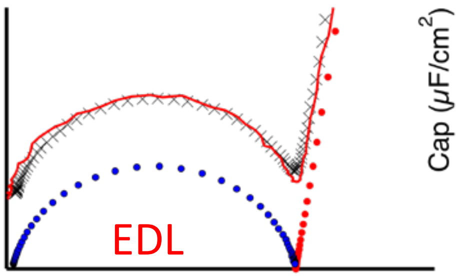
$E_W \leq 0.7$ vs Li	$E_W = 0.8$V vs Li	$E_W = 0.9$V vs Li	$E_W \geq 1$ V vs Li
SOC > 20%	SOC ~ 20%	SOC ~ 10%	SOC < 5%

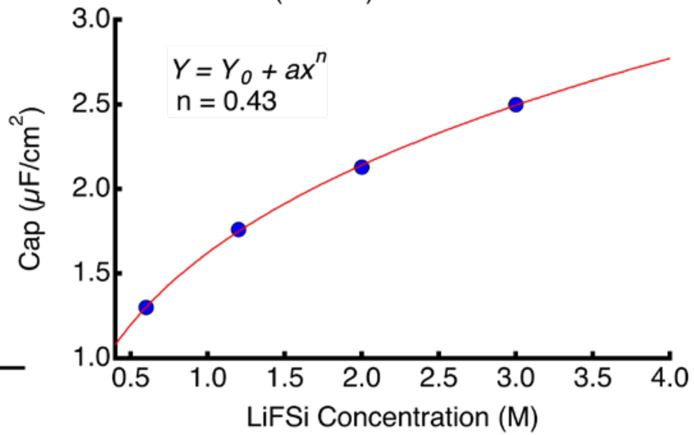




Capacitive Feature Assignment







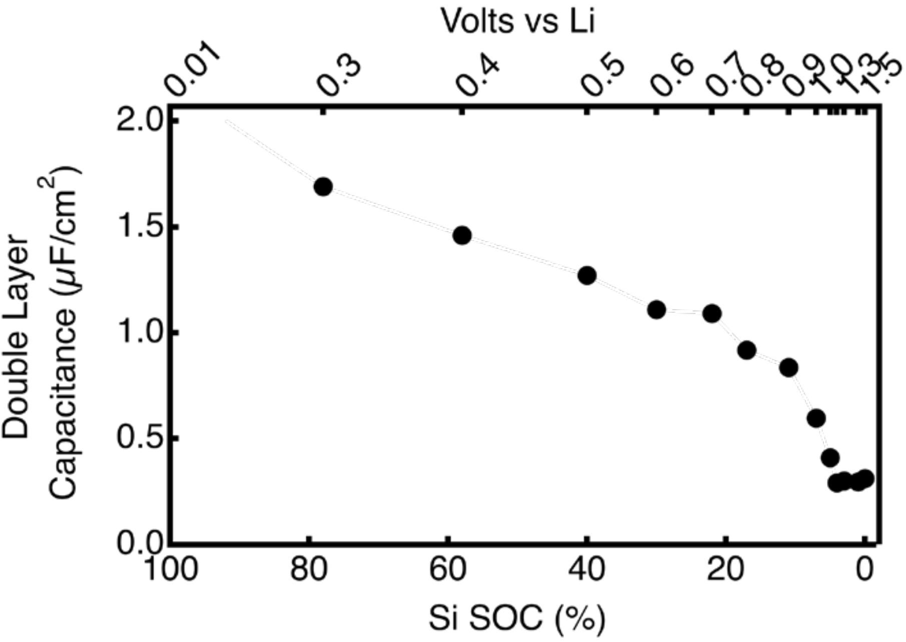
Double layer capacitance:

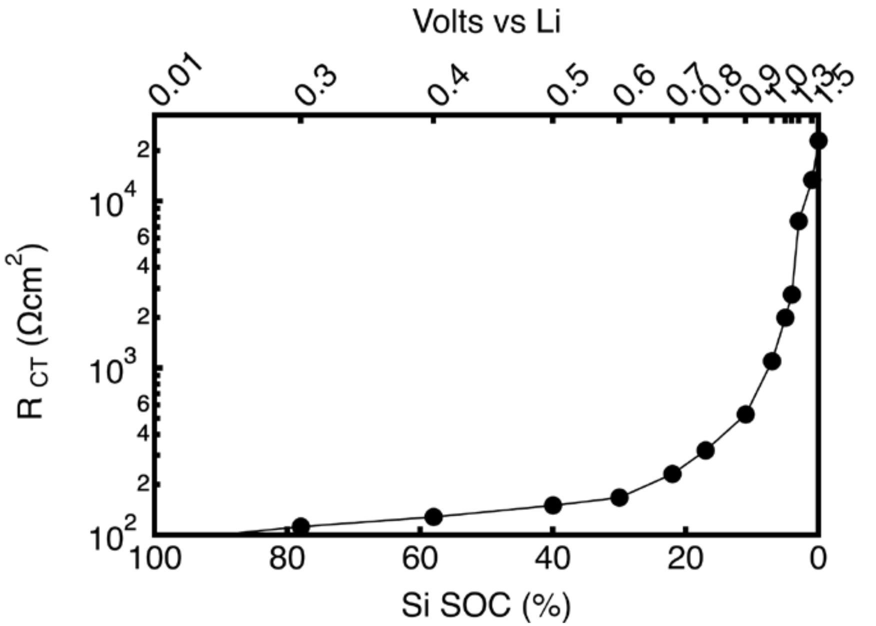
Differential capacitance is not zero

Capacitance is proportional to sq. root of ion activity (~ concentration$^{1/2}$)

First semi circle is capacitance of EDL.

EDLC and Charge Transfer Resistance

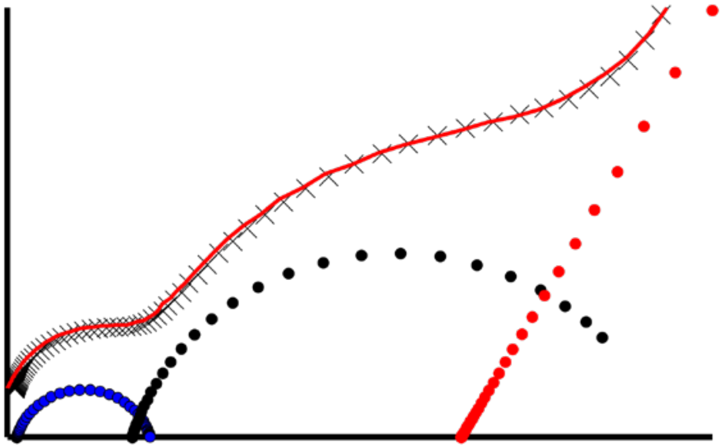


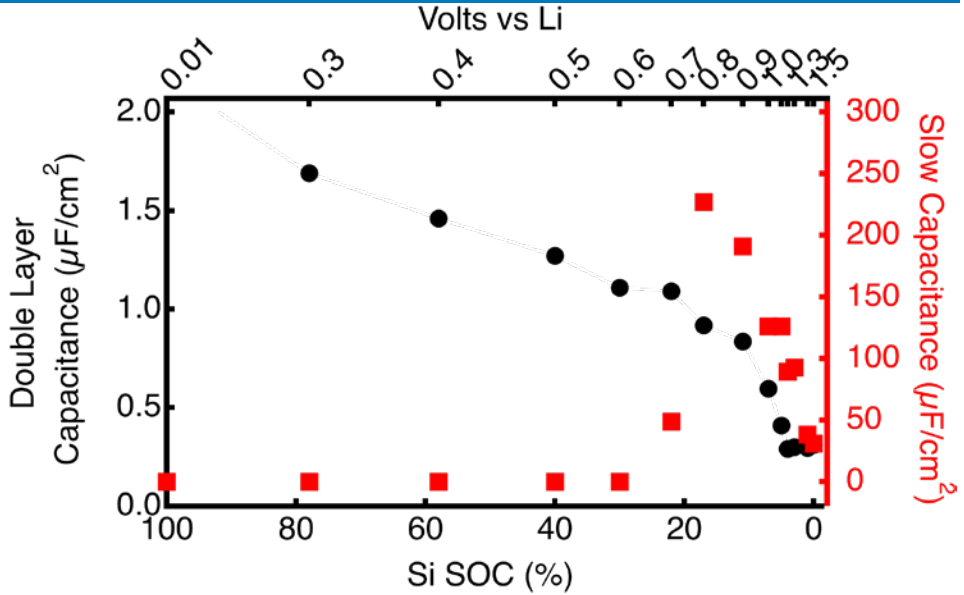


Inverse relationship between R_{CT} and C_{DL}

Indicates change in limiting step in charge transfer

Slow Process Capacitance



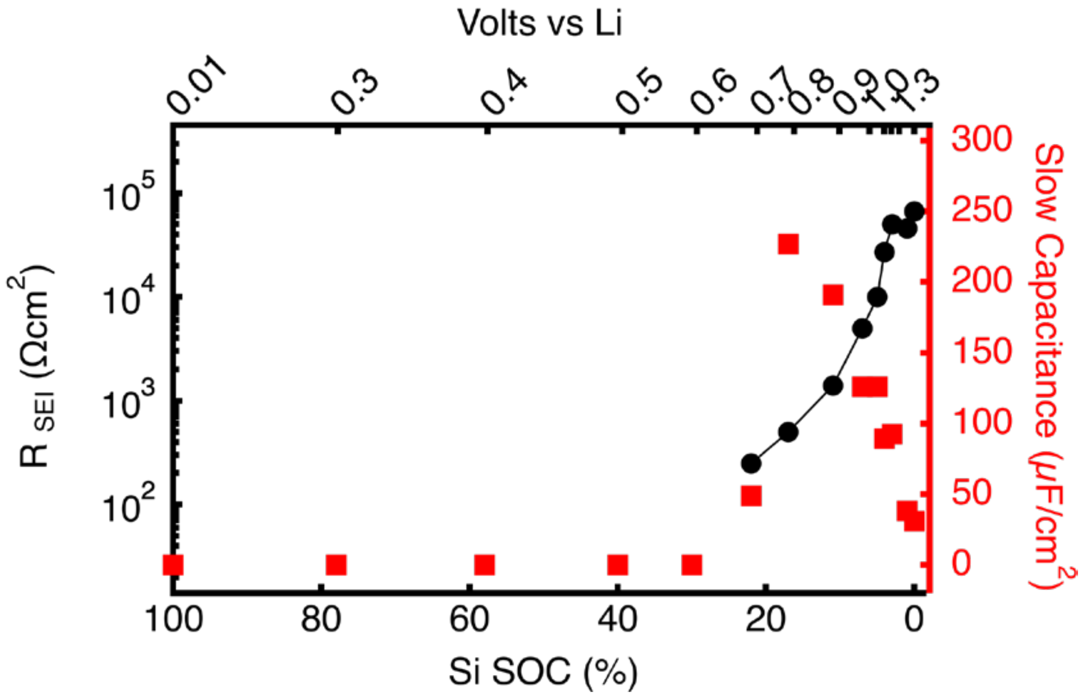


Capacitance of slow process has sharp increase at EDL drop

Slow capacitance is > 100 greater than EDL capacitance

Slow semicircle is likely SEI capacitance and resistance

Resistance of the SEI

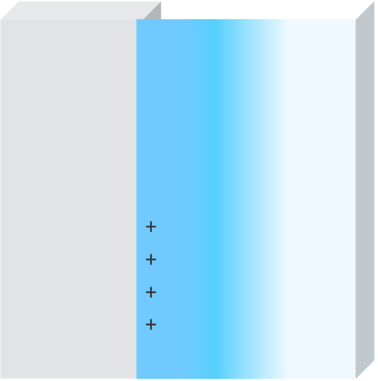


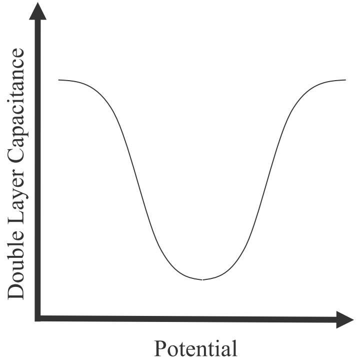
Resistance values keep climbing despite decreasing differential capacitance

Suggests SEI continues to grow

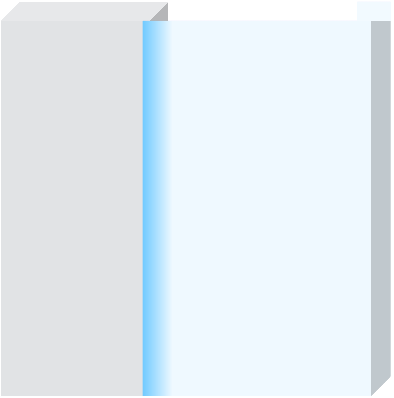
SOC-dependent EDLC

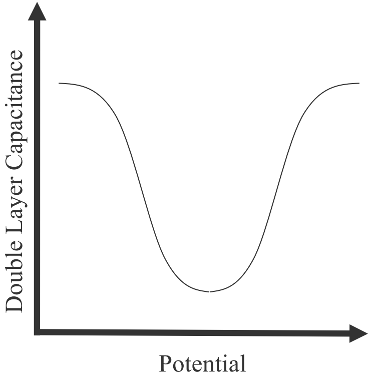
~90% > SOC > ~20%





SOC < ~20%





Calendar Aging in Symmetric Cells

Si@PEO || Si@PEO

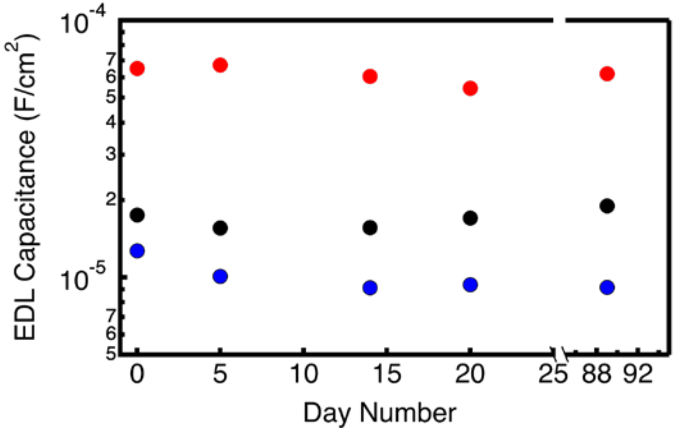
Gen2 electrolyte

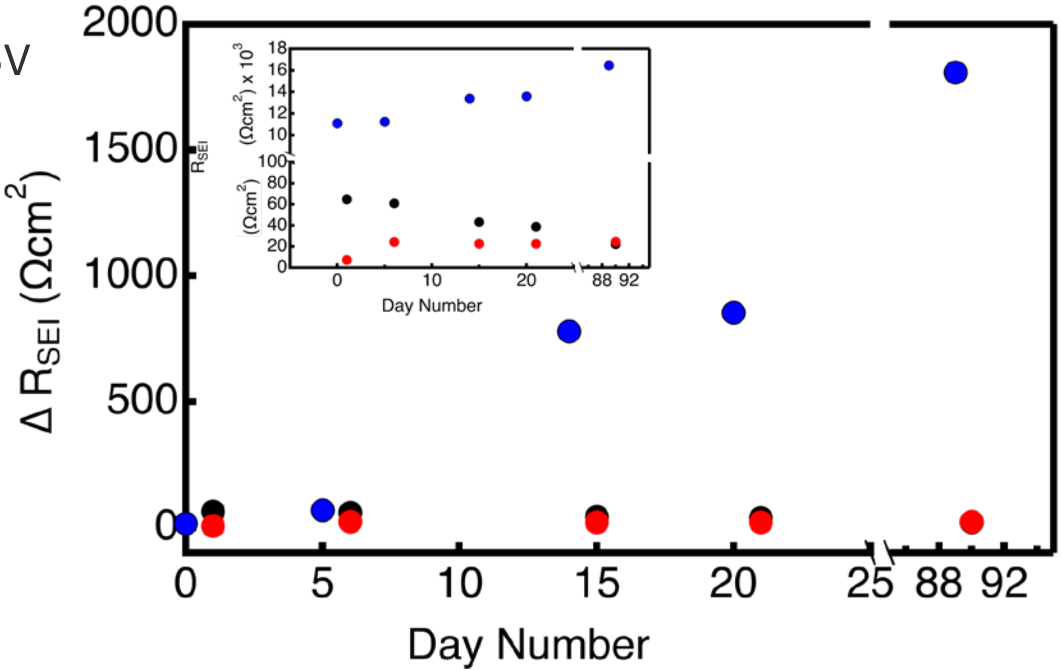
Formed at C/10 between 0.01 and 1.5V

Delithiated to: 0.01 V, 0.4 V, 1 V

48 hr V-hold @ desired potential

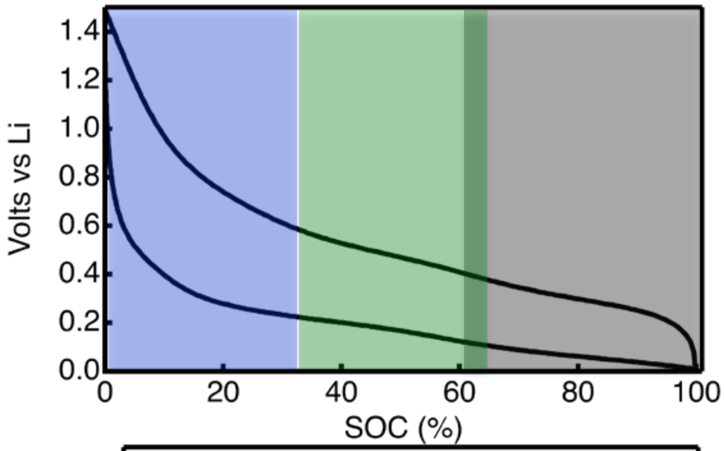
Aged at 45 C at 0V vs Li_xSi

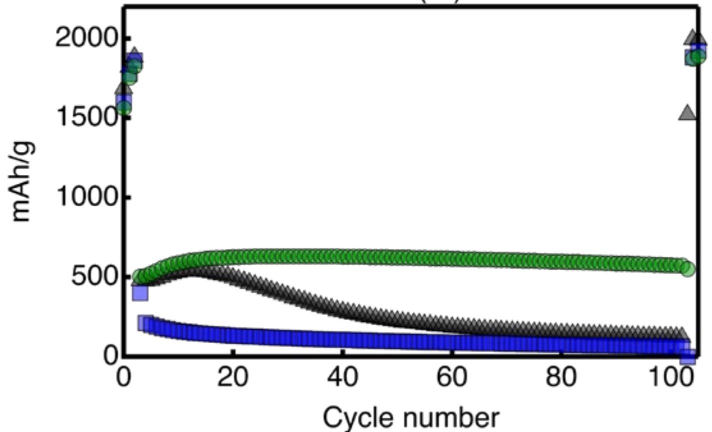


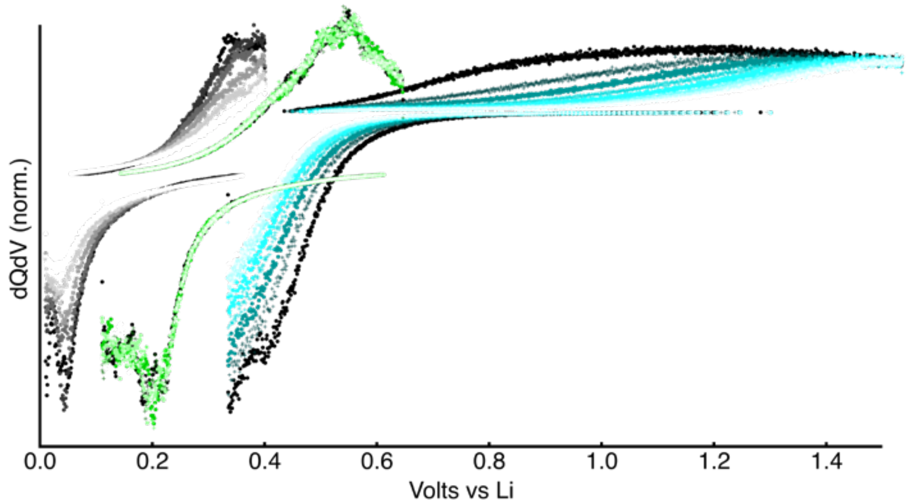


Increasing impedance at low SOCs is consistent with PZC-like regime

Cycle Lifetime (Composite Half cells)





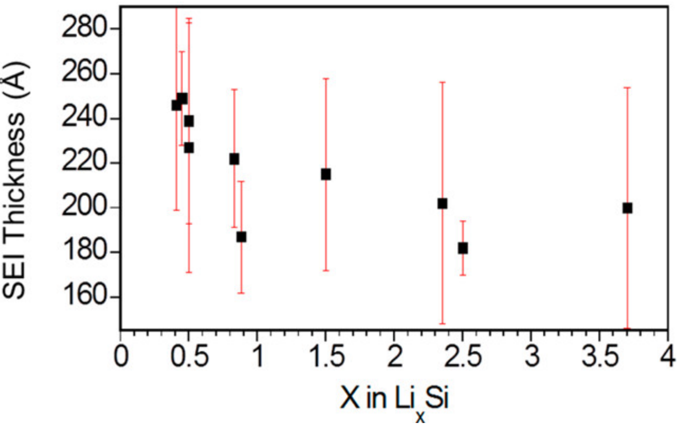


Large impedance gain in High SOC and Low SOC cycle domains

No apparent loss of active material

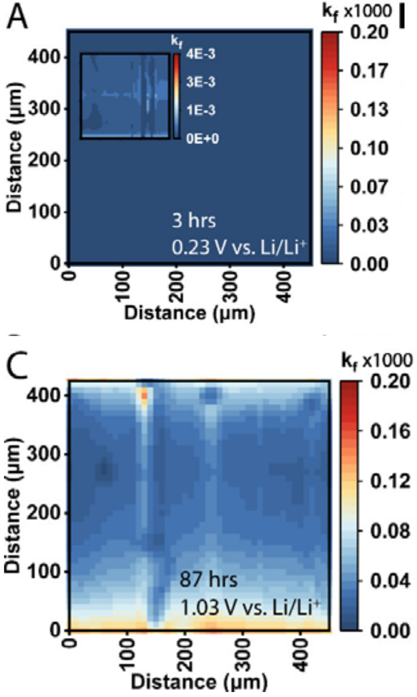
SOC-Dependent SEI Electrostatic Picture

Neutron Reflectometry Measurements of SEI thickness



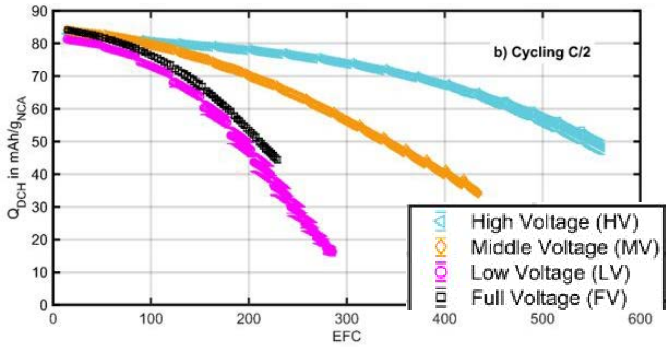
Veith, et al; *JPCC* **2019**

Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy Measurements on SEI Passivation



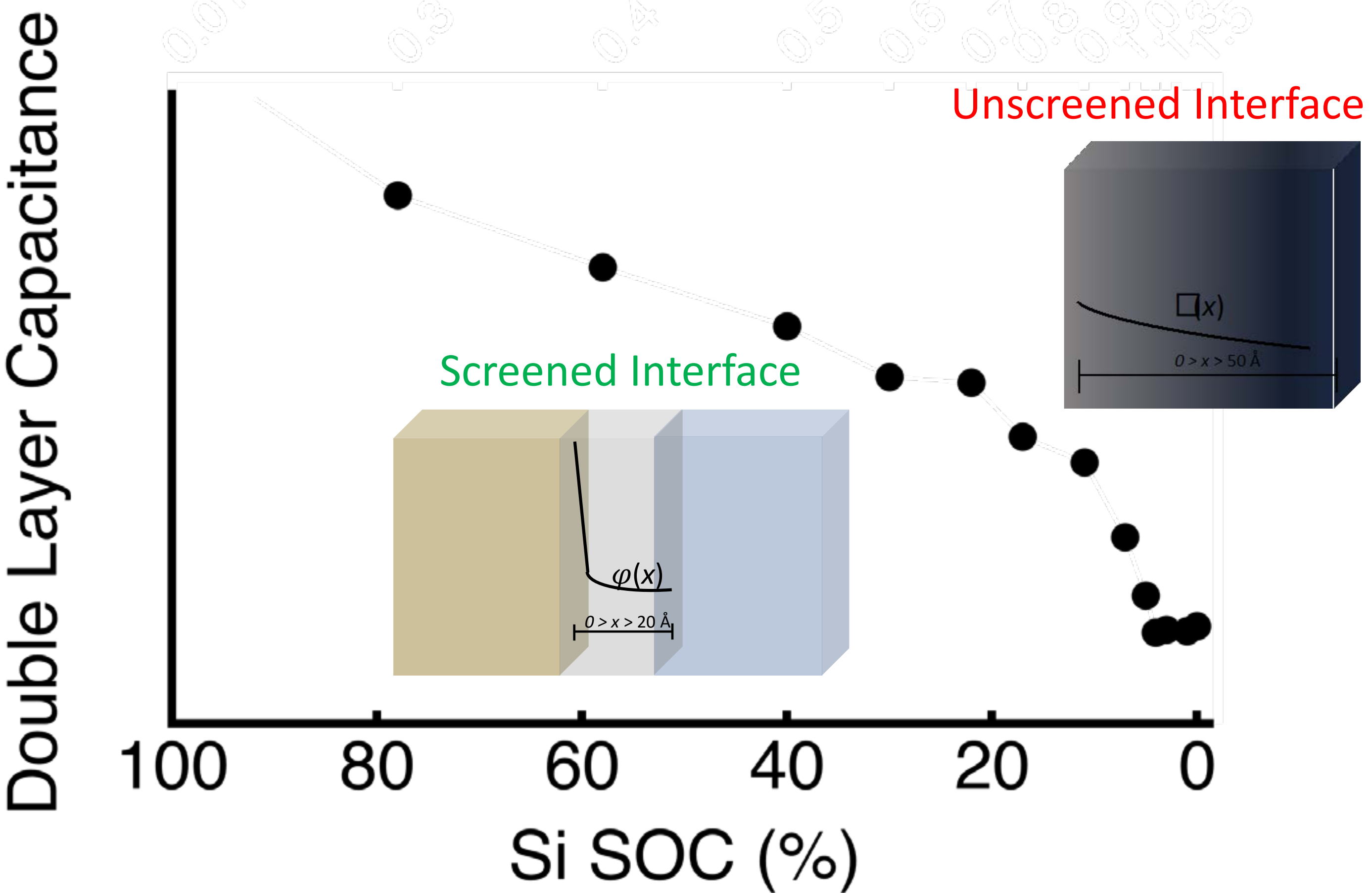
McBrayer, et al; *J. Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2024**

Battery Cycling



Sven Friedrich, *245th ECS A02-0240* **2024**

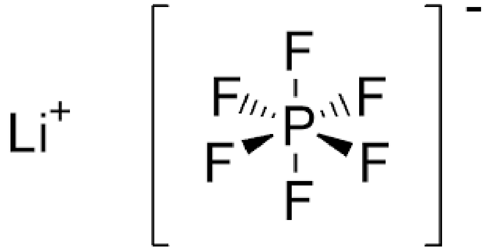
SOC-Dependent SEI Electrostatic Picture



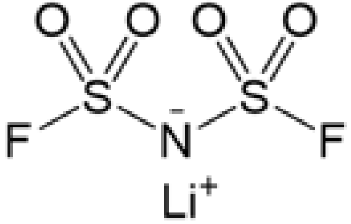
Anion Variation

1.2M Li*X* dissolved in 3:7 EC:EMC

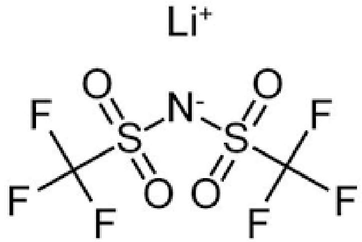
$LiPF_6$



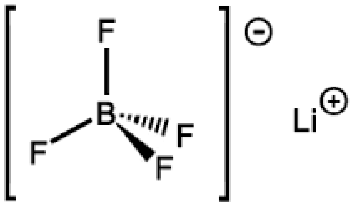
LiFSI



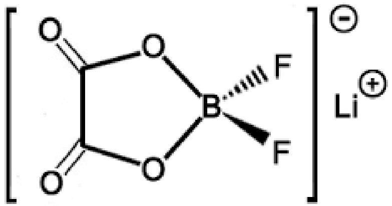
LiTFSI



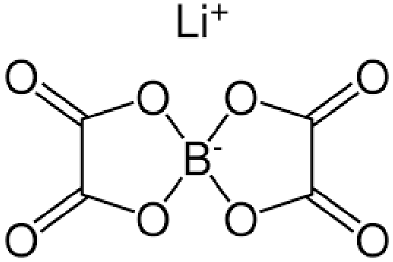
$LiBF_4$



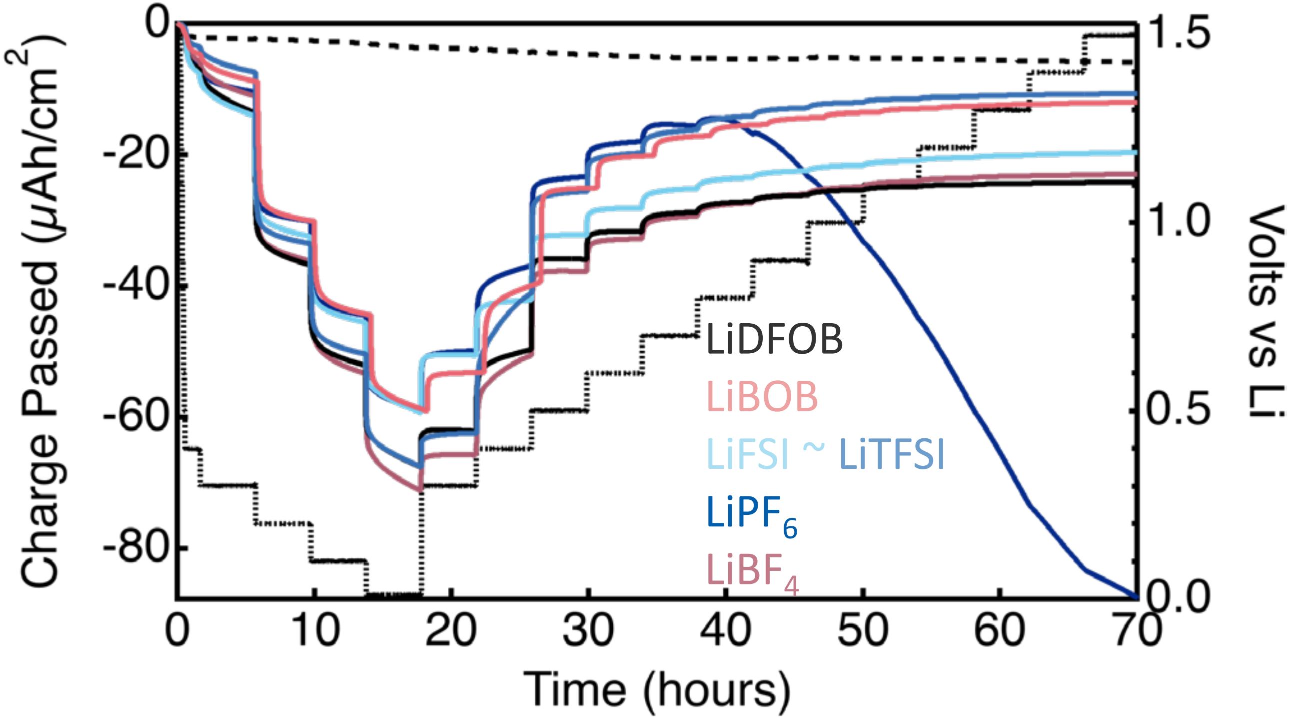
LiDFOB



LiBOB



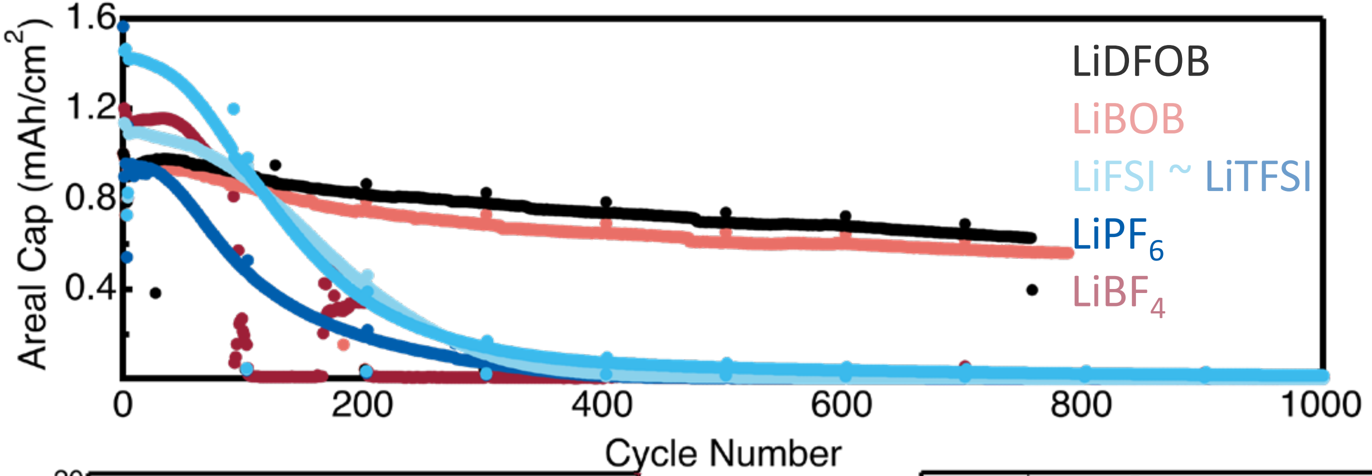
Charge Accumulation



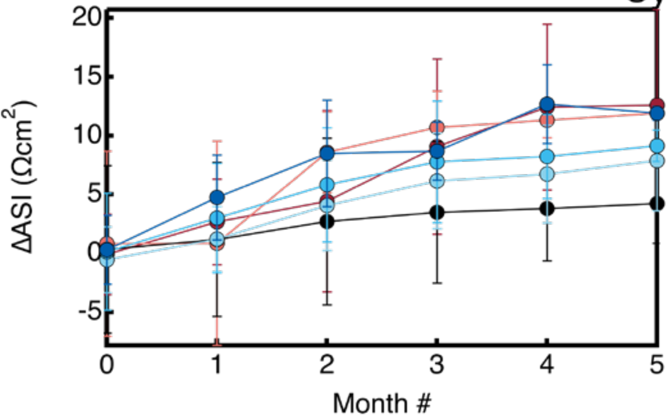
$LiPF_6$ coupled with EC shows continuous current at low SOC's

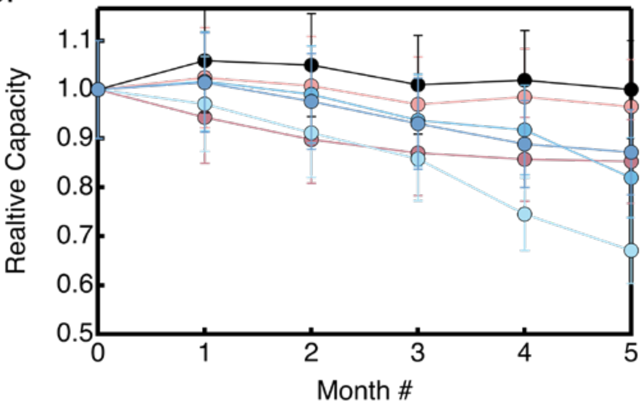
All other electrolytes are stable at low SOC's

Cycle/Calendar Lifetime vs LFP (n-limited)

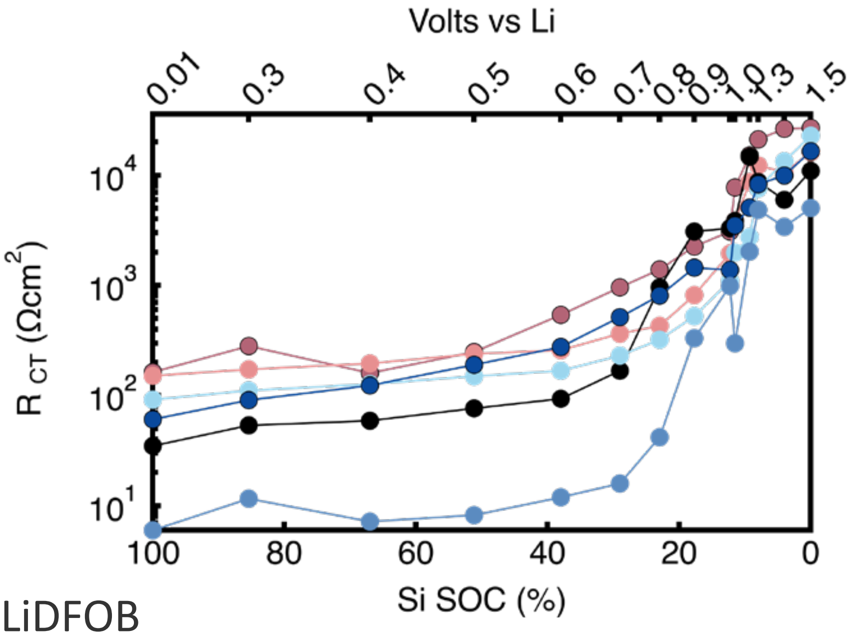


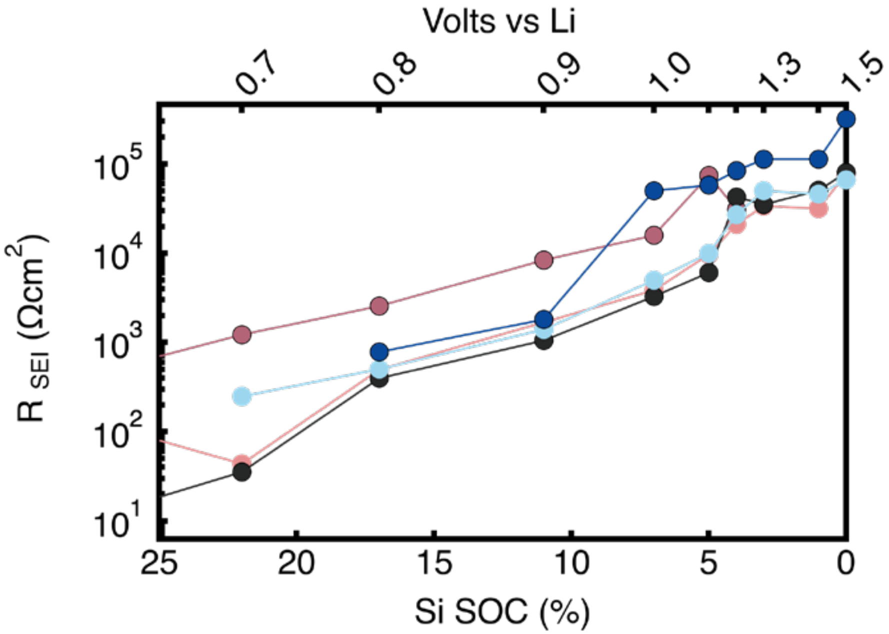
Si@PEO|| LFP
1.2 M salt
3:7 EC:EMC
coin cell
non-prelithiated





Resistances





LiDFOB

LiBOB

LiFSI ~ LiTFSI

$LiPF_6$

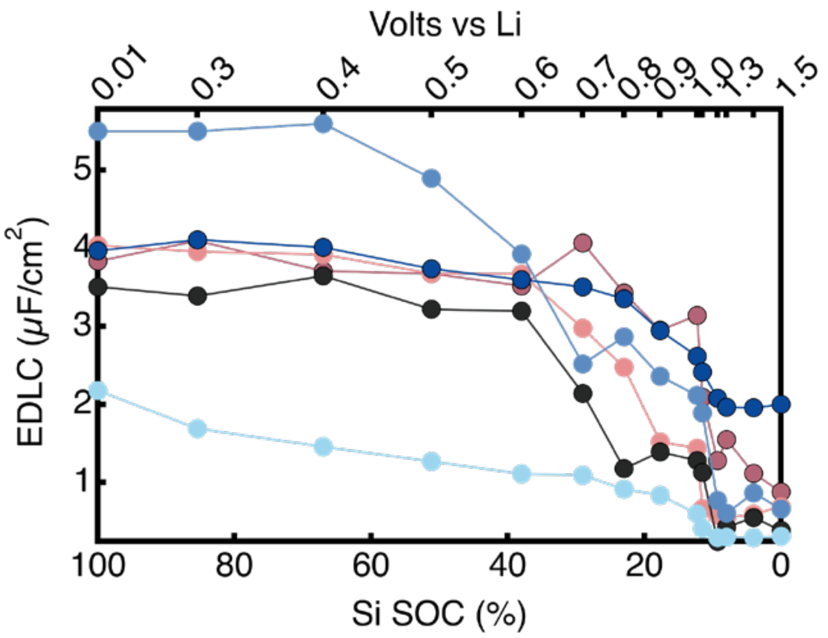
$LiBF_4$

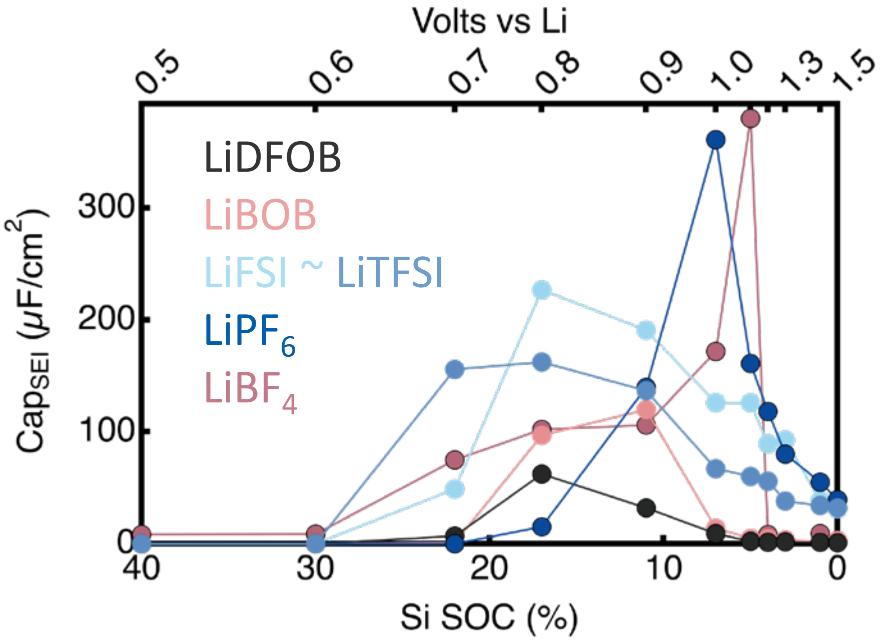
R_{CT} and R_{SEI} follow the same trajectory for all salts

R_{CT} values vary significantly

R_{SEI} are generally the same

Capacitance and Passivation





Onset for SEI capacitance gain tracks with the drop in EDLC (except $LiBF_4$)

→Expected as PZC is set by electrode *and* electrolyte

Capacitance in SEI roughly follows performance→ lower SEI capacitance is signature of more passivated surface

Conclusions

1. Lithium silicide interface and SEI can be understood through the classical model of electrochemical interfaces
    - EIS enables measurements of relevant properties at a very non-ideal electrochemical interface

2. EDLC measurements reveal that Li_xSi have very dynamic surface electrostatics:
    - At SOC < ~20% the electrode surface resembles a structure analogous to the PZC
    - The PZC regime is least passivated--> fasted impedance gain in calendar life cells
    - The PZC regime may be appropriate for accelerating calendar life measurements and assessing the passivation of the SEI with different electrolytes

3. Measurements of different anions:
    1. The onset of PZC regime depends on anions
    2. Anions play a large role in passivation
    3. The degree of passivation (C_{SEI}) strongly correlates with cycle and calendar life

Conclusions

1. Cycle life in majority Si anodes is less relevant than calendar life

2. Lithium silicide interface and SEI can be understood through the classical model of electrochemical interfaces
    - EIS enables measurements of fundamental electrochemical interface properties of a highly non-ideal electrochemical interface

3. The interface structure and mass transport properties are strongly dependent on the electrode state of charge

If your battery has silicon in it, don’t store it fully charged or discharged

The Silicon Consortium Project

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VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

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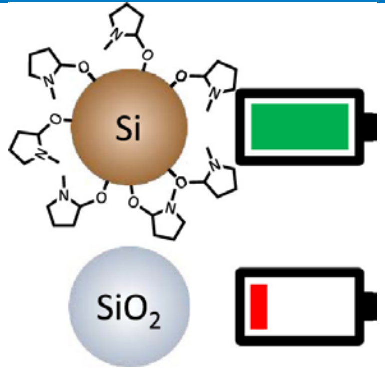
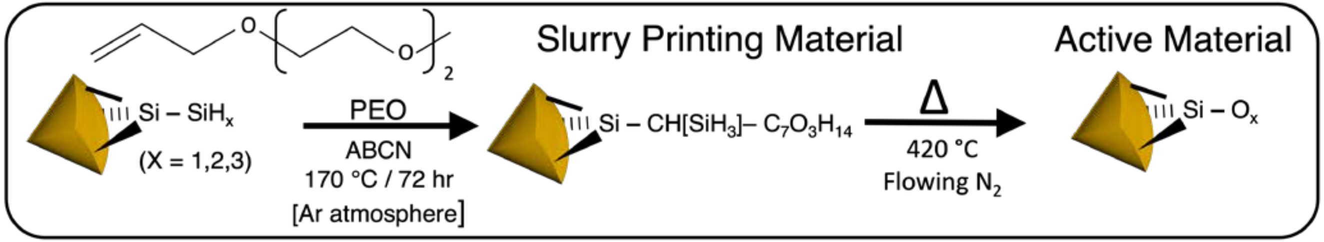
NREL Transforming ENERGY

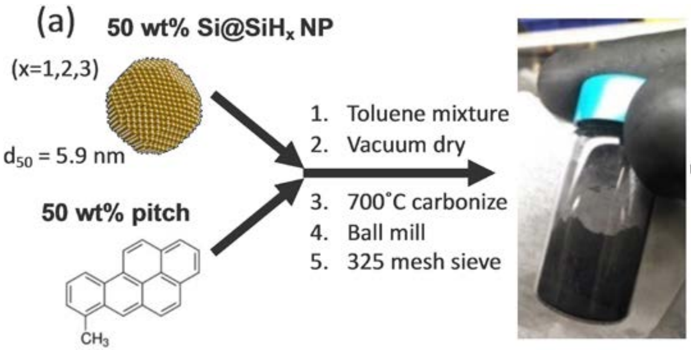
Controlling the Surface Chemistry of Si Electrodes

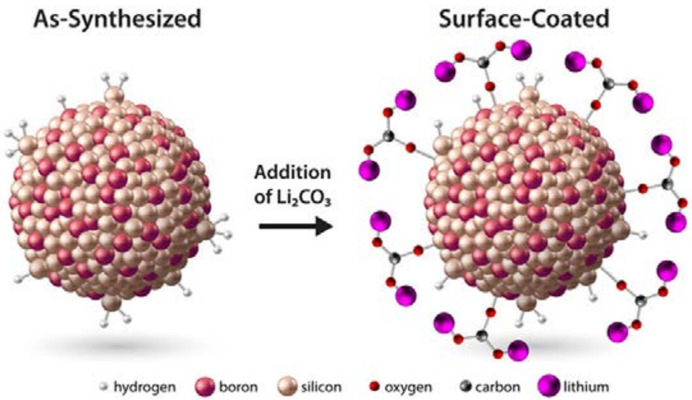




Schulze, … Carroll; *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2023**

Carroll, … Neale; *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.* **2020**





Schulze, et al.; *Batteries and Supercaps* **2023**

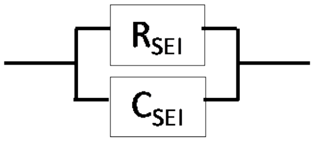
Pach, … Carroll; *ACS Energy Letters* **2024**

EIS of a Redox Active Thin Film (SEI) at a Reflective Boundary.

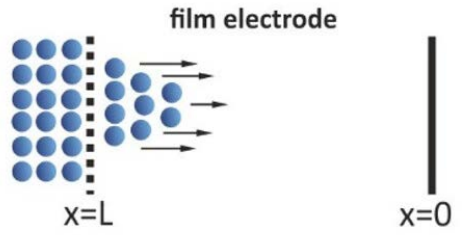
<u>(1) Faradaic Redox Chemistry</u>

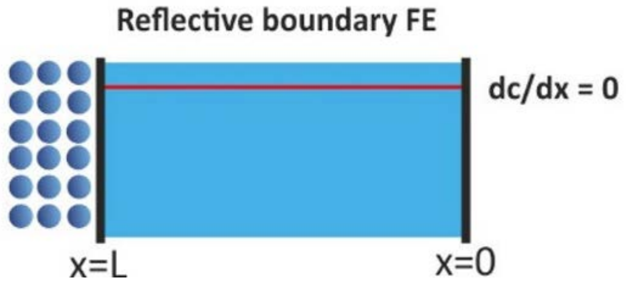
$SEI + e^- + Li^+ \leftrightharpoons SEI(Li)$

Randles' Circuit



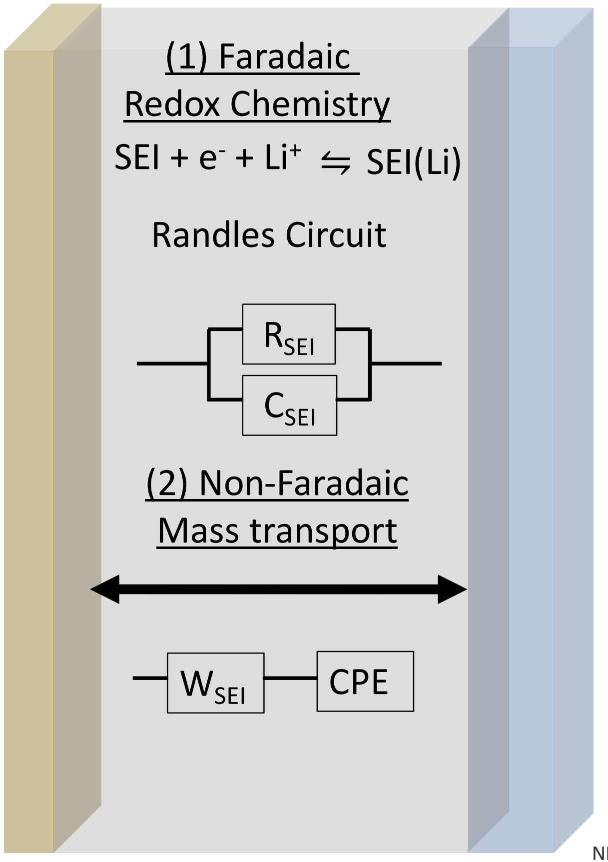
Mass Transport Through the SEI



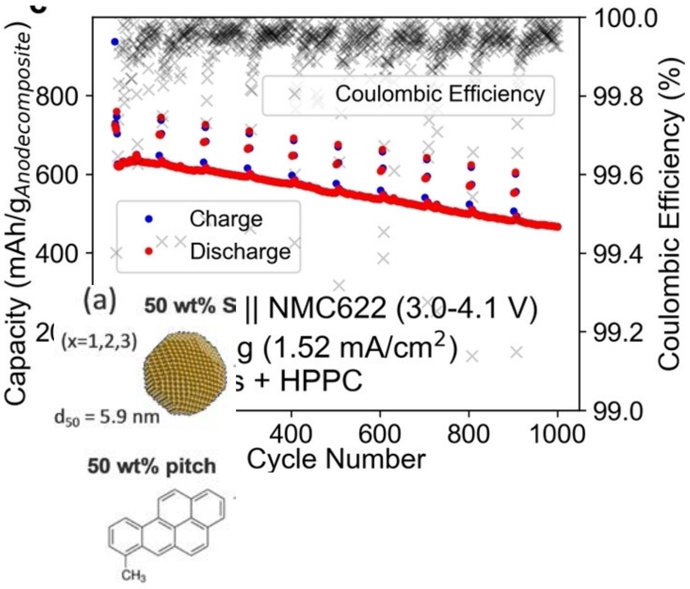


$$Z_t(\omega) = \frac{\coth(B\sqrt{j\omega})}{Y_0\sqrt{j\omega}}$$

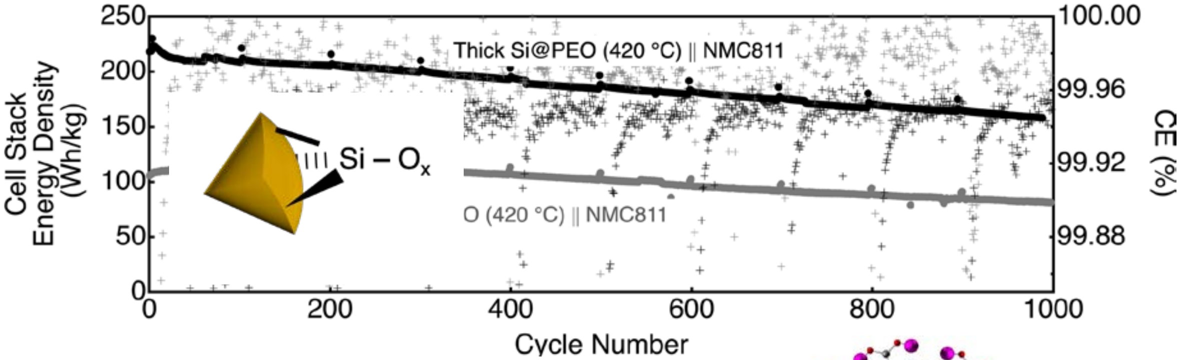
$$\beta = \frac{diffusion\ layer\ thickness}{diffusion\ coefficient^{1/2}}$$



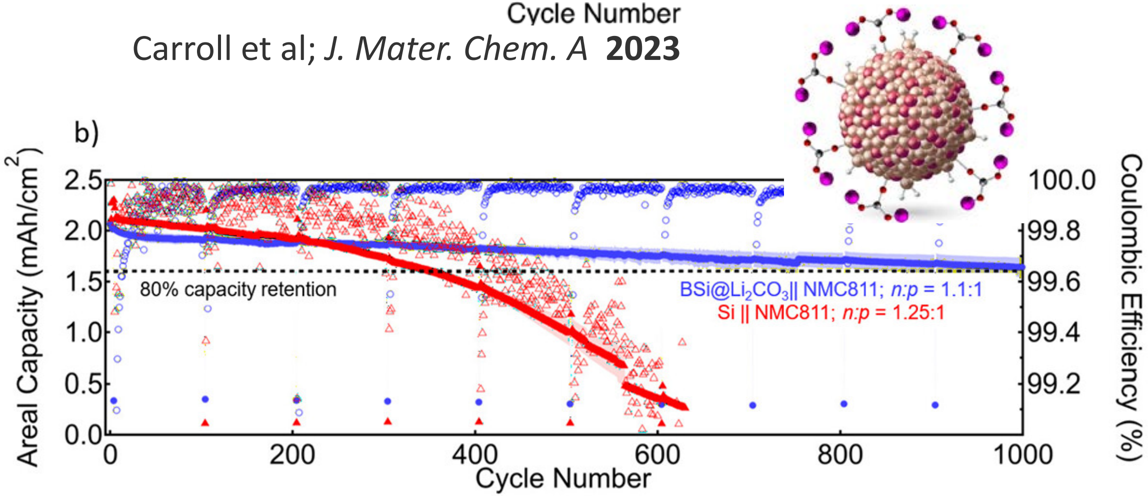
Cycle Life with Varied Surfaces



Schulze, et al.; *Batteries and Supercaps* **2023**

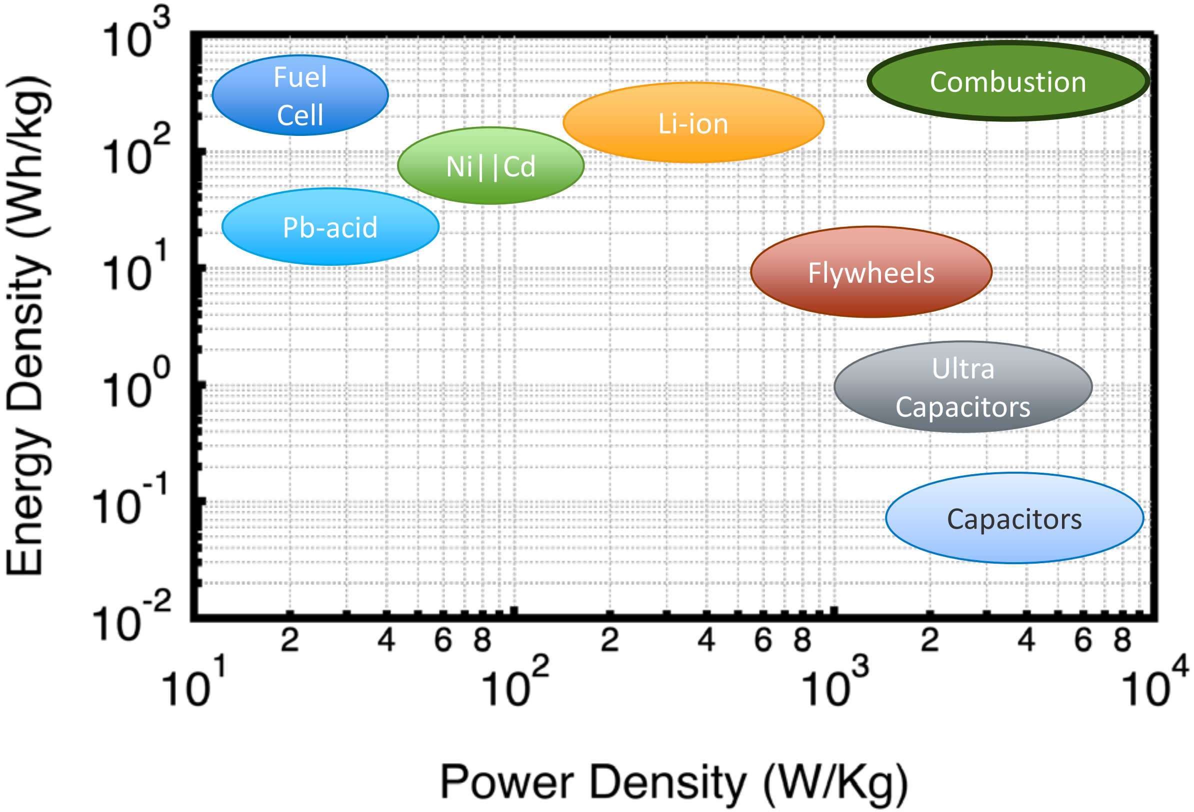


Carroll et al; *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2023**



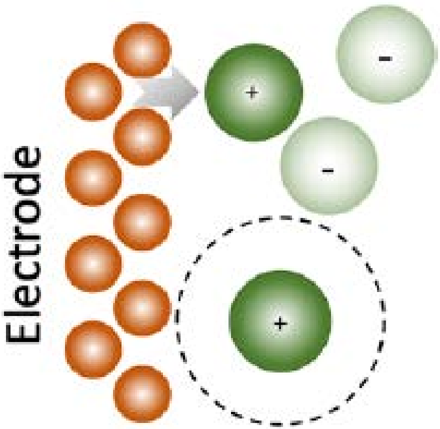
Pach, … Carroll; *ACS Energy Letters* **2024**

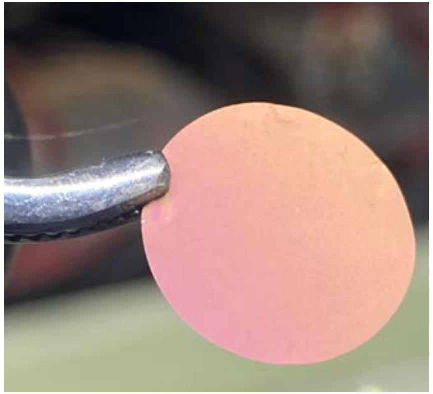
Energy Storage and Delivery Technology

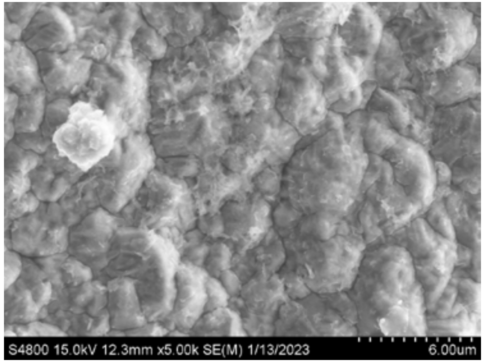


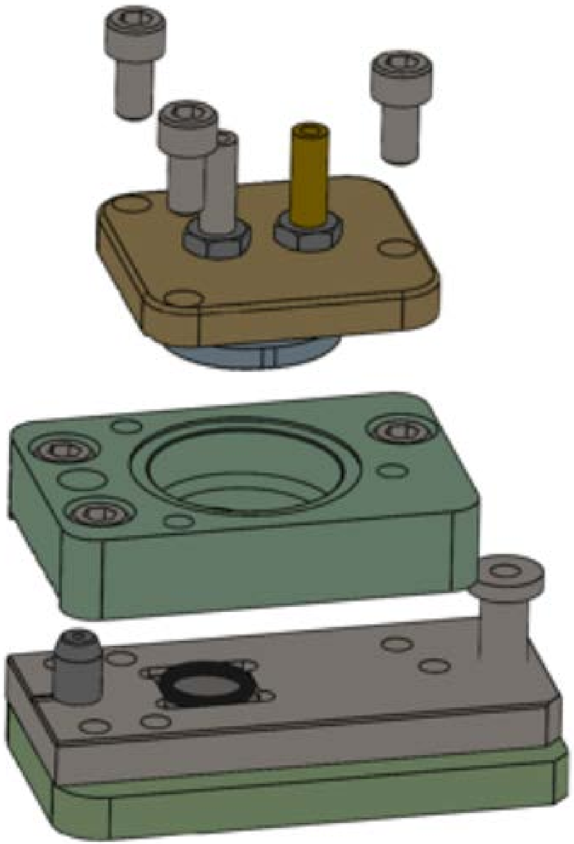
Thin Film Silicon Electrode

2D Planar electrode



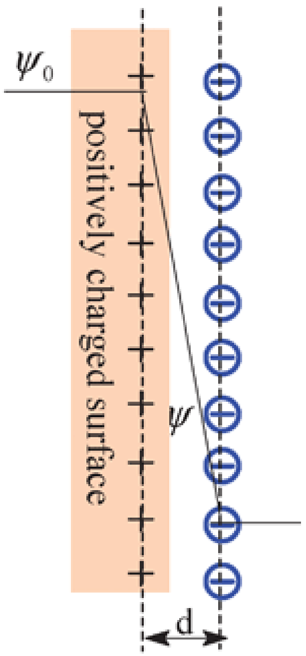




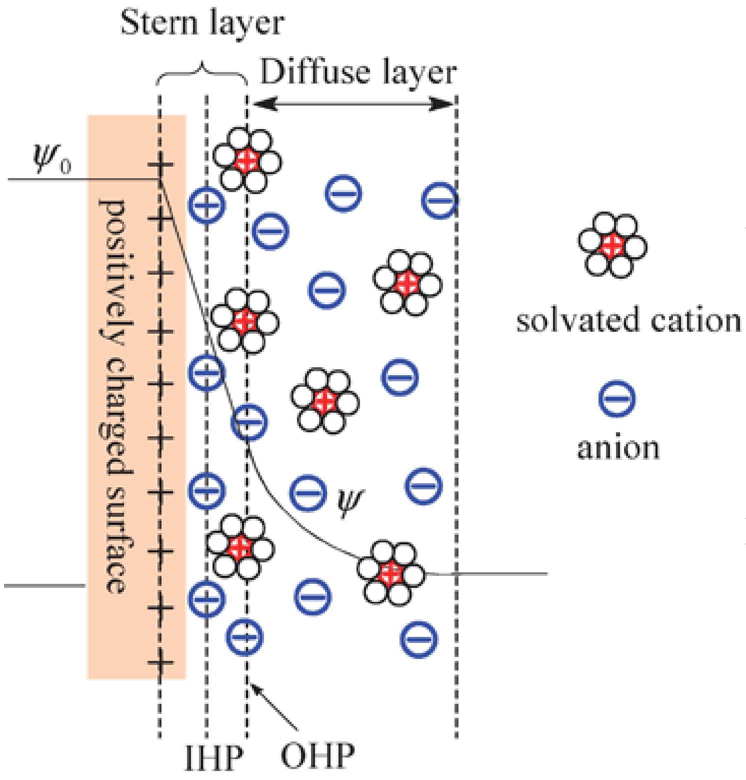


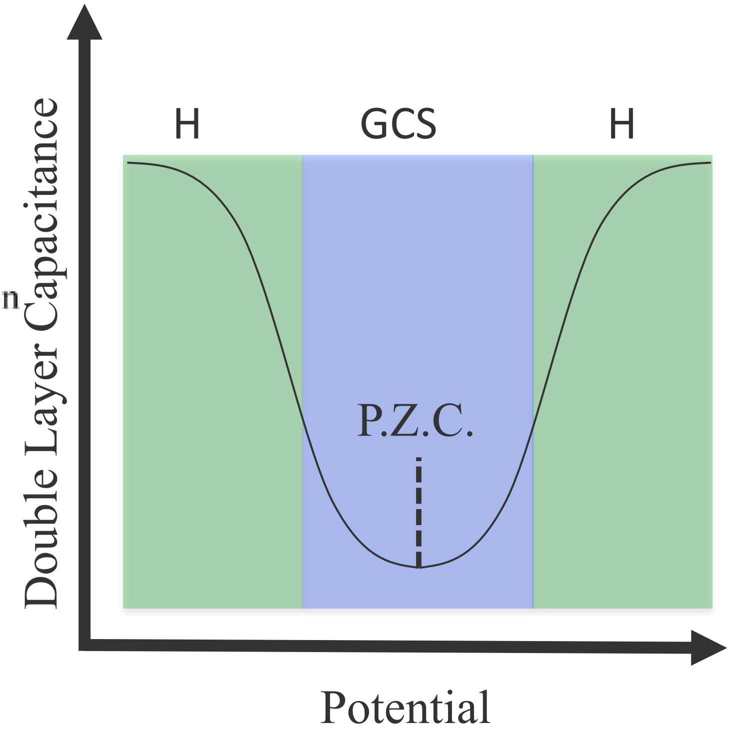
The Classical Model

Helmholtz Model



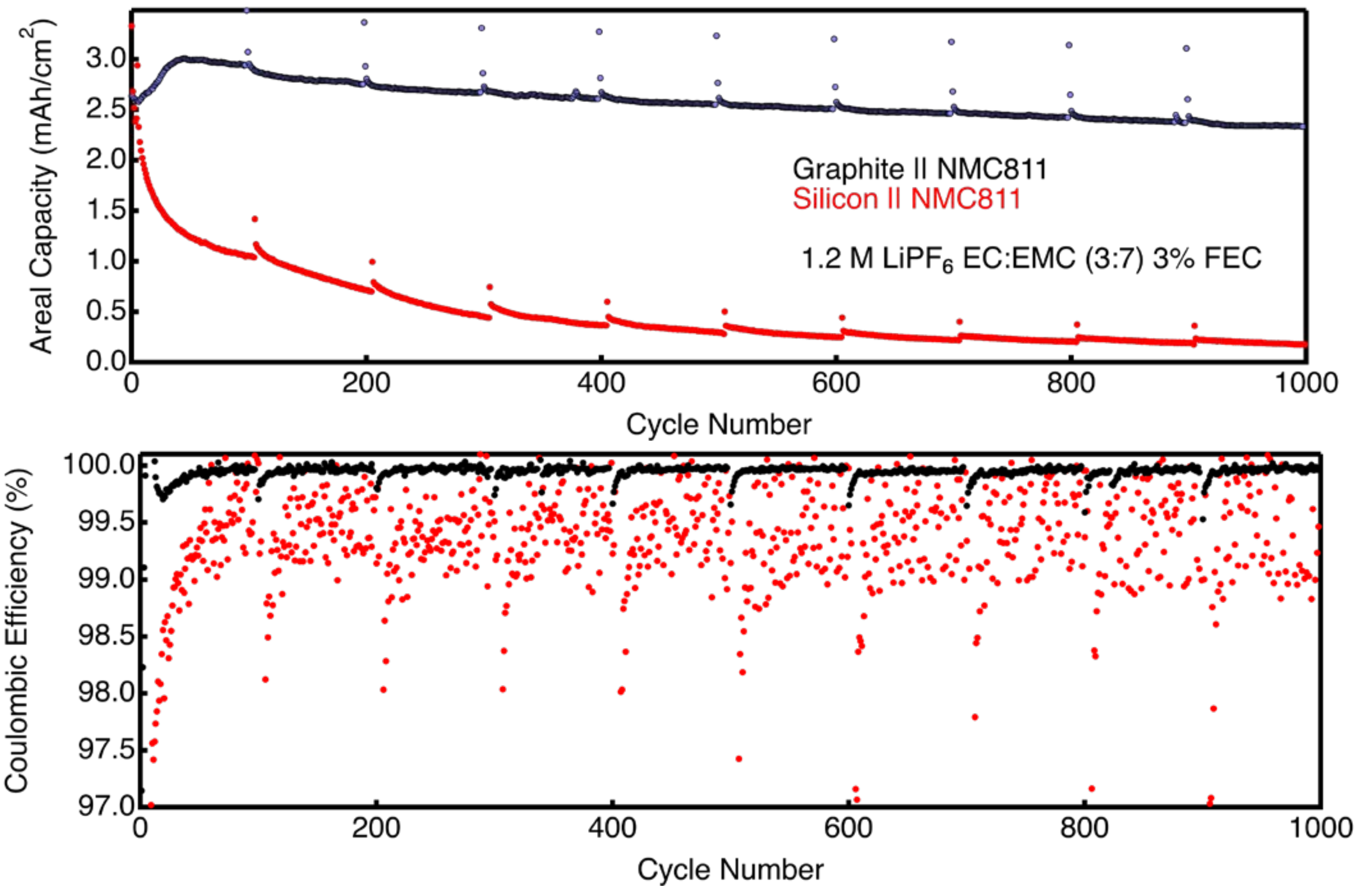
Gouy-Chapman-Stern Model



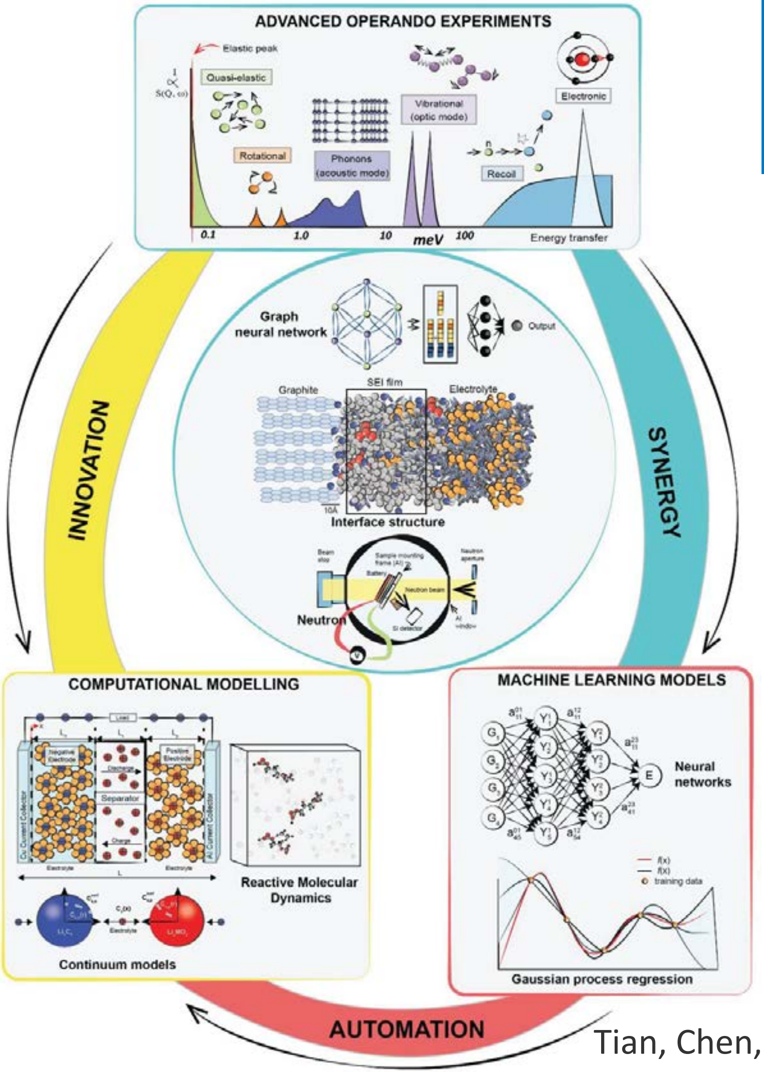


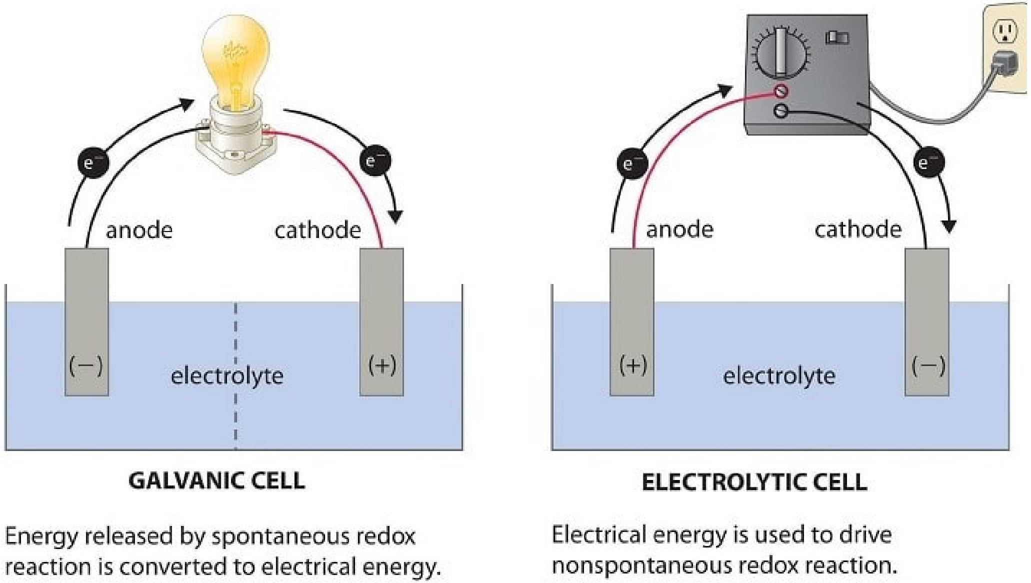
Zhang, L. L.; Zhao, X. S. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2009**

Electrochemical Cycling



Understanding Calendar Life



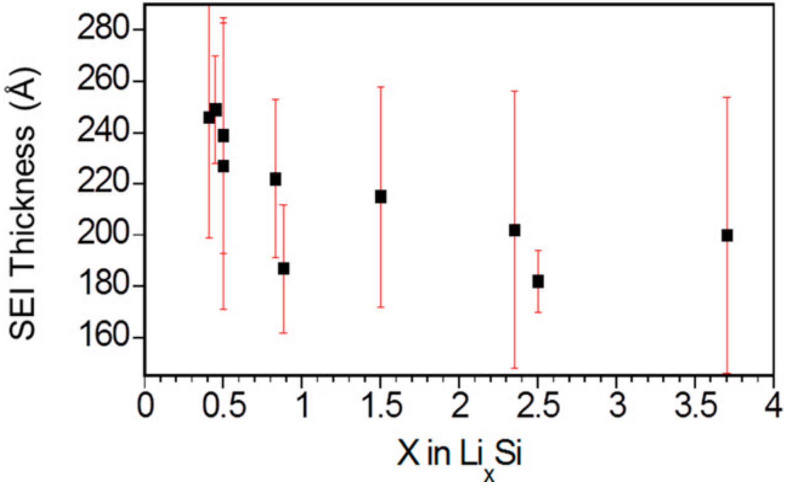


Energy Education, Univ. of Calgary

Tian, Chen, et al; *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2023**

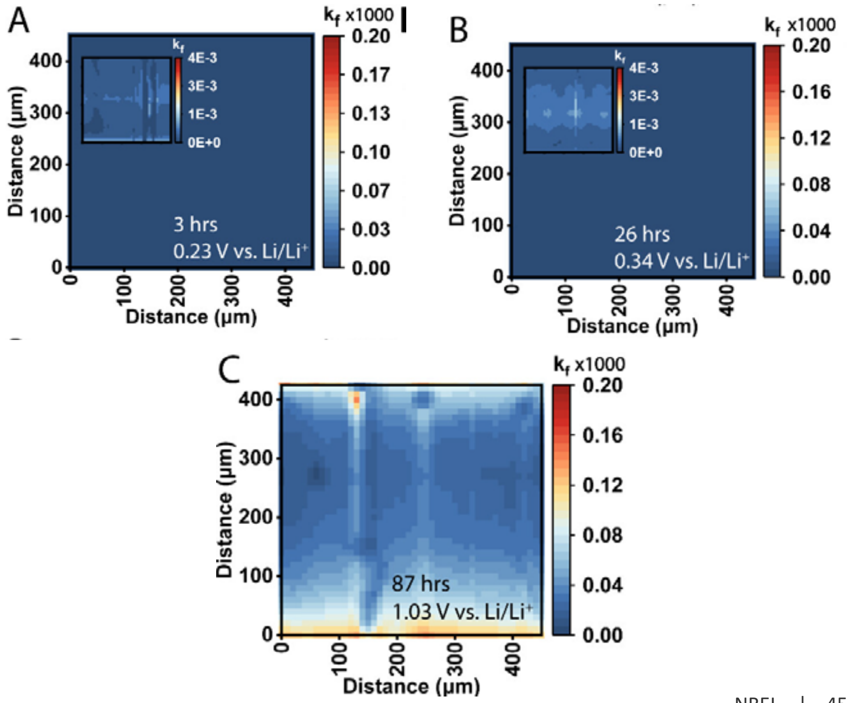
Corroborating Observations

Neutron Reflectometry Measurements of SEI thickness



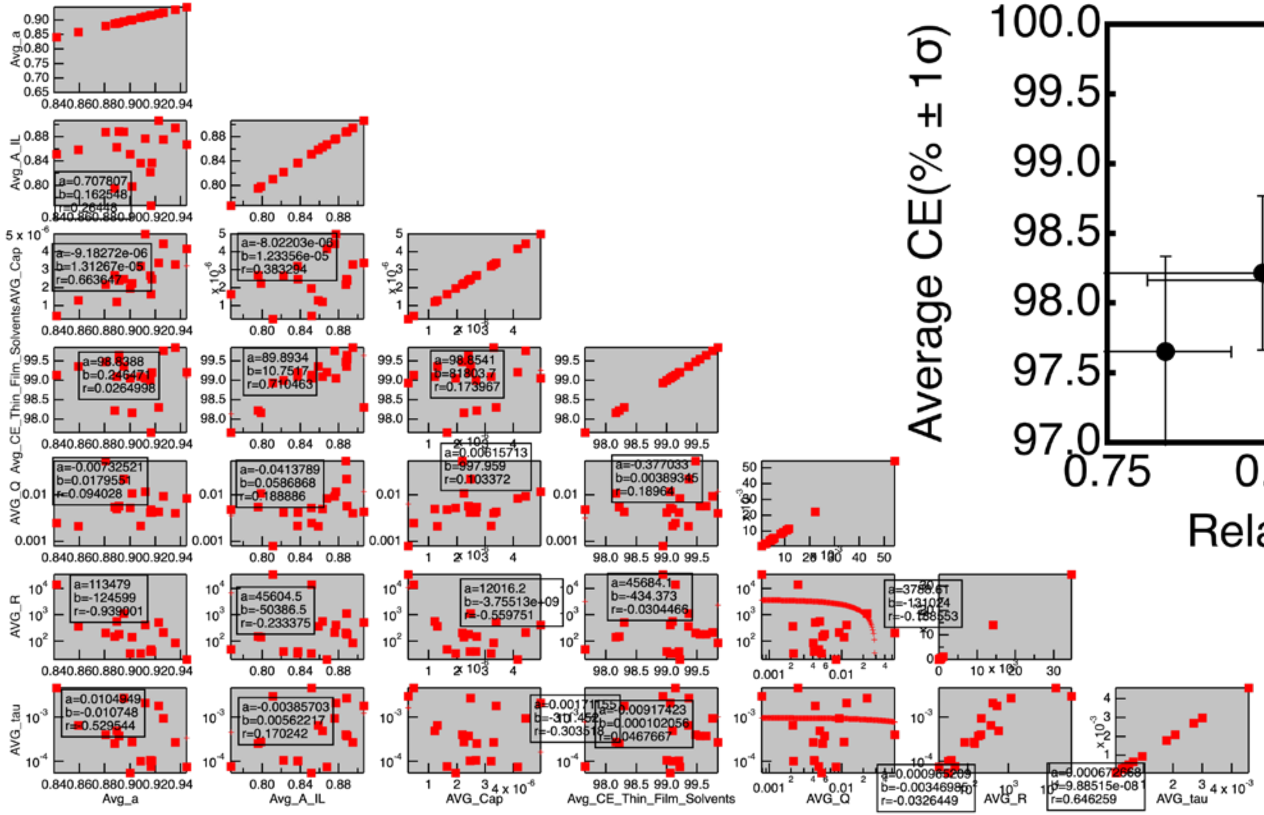
Veith, et al; *JPCC* **2019**

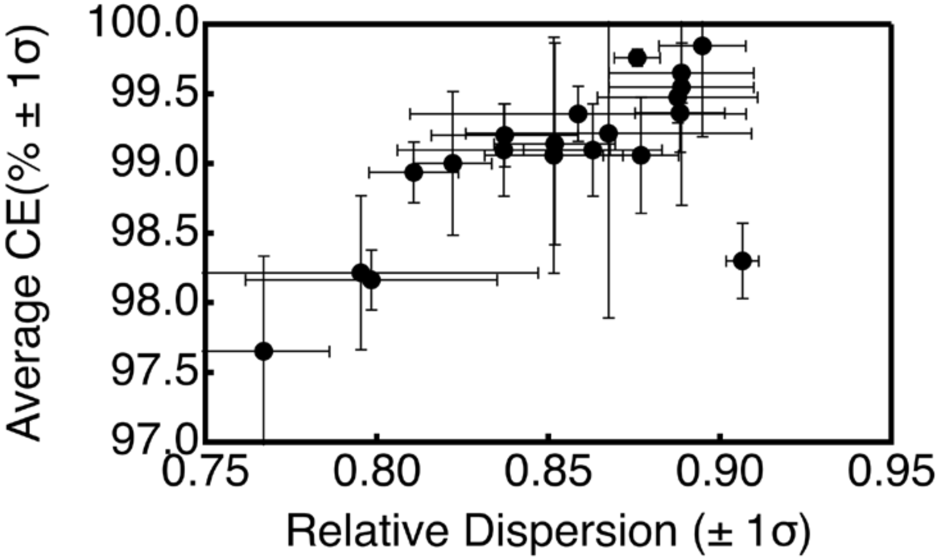
Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy Measurements on SEI Passivation



McBrayer, et al; *J. Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2024**

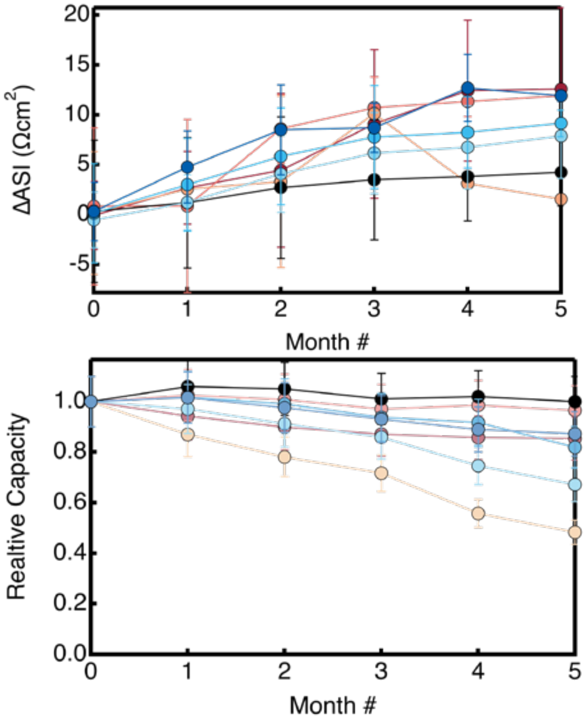
Predictive Parameters for Cycle and Calendar Life

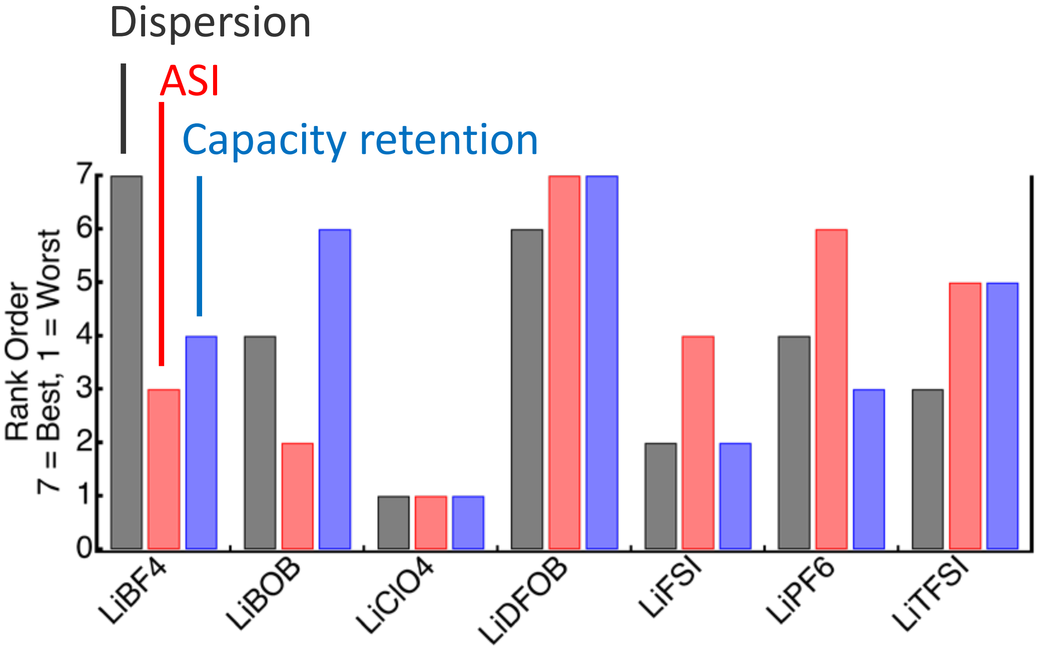




Calendar aging data in EC:EMC (Tier 2, Li^+ limited)

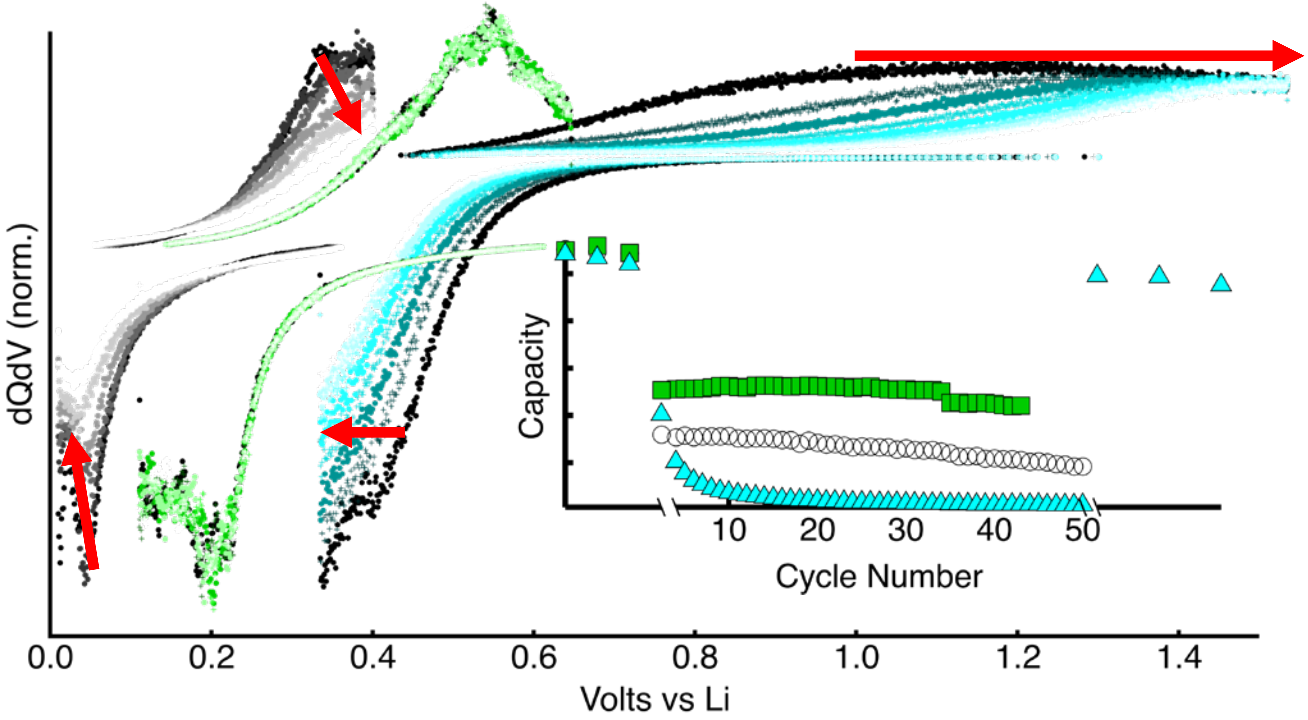
$LiPF_6$: LiTFSI : LiFSI : $LiClO_4$:
LiBOB : LiDFOB : $LiBF_4$





When ranked for ASI gain and capacity retention, α shows promise as a predictor for calendar-related degradation

Impact in Real System



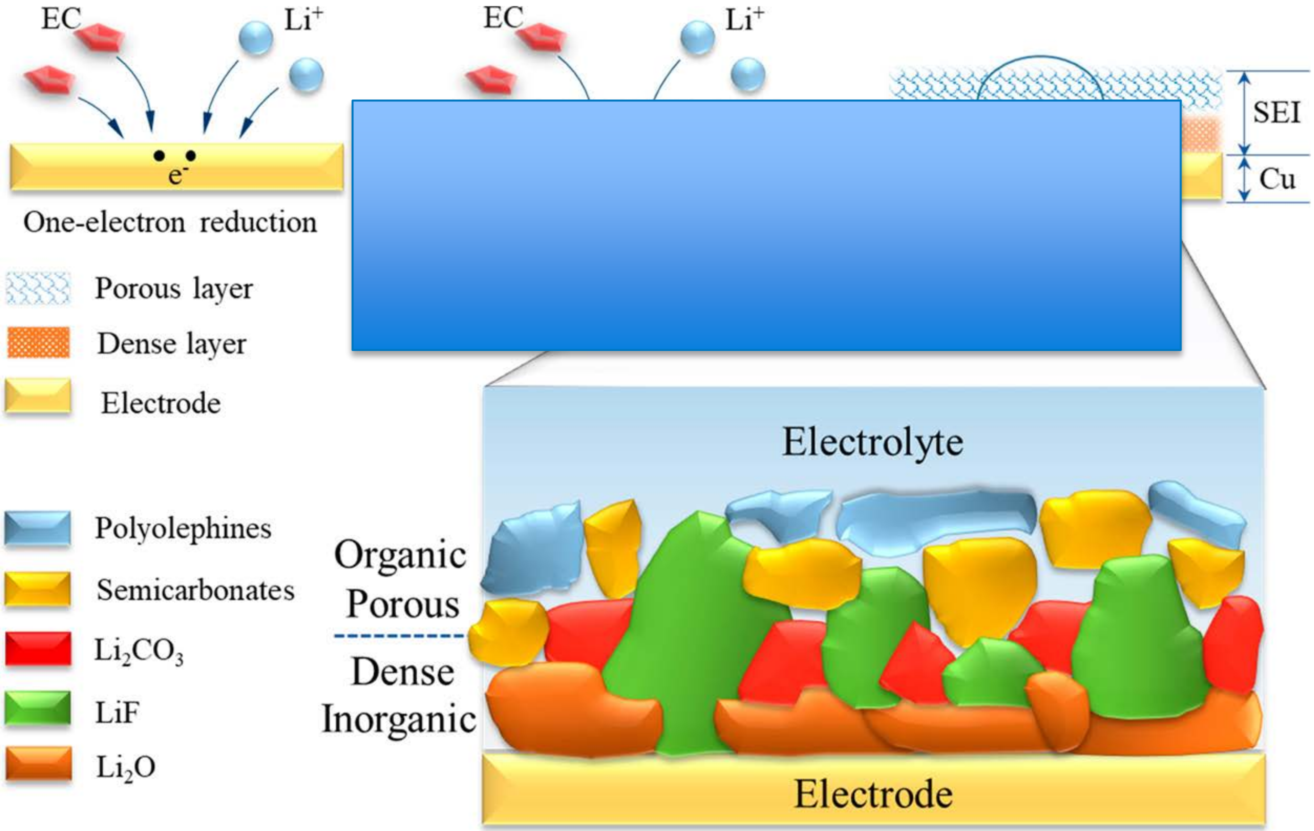
3 half cells formed between 0.01 – 1.5V

Then cycled in different voltage windows

Low voltage electrode shows increasing overpotential with cycling consistent with electrolyte reduction

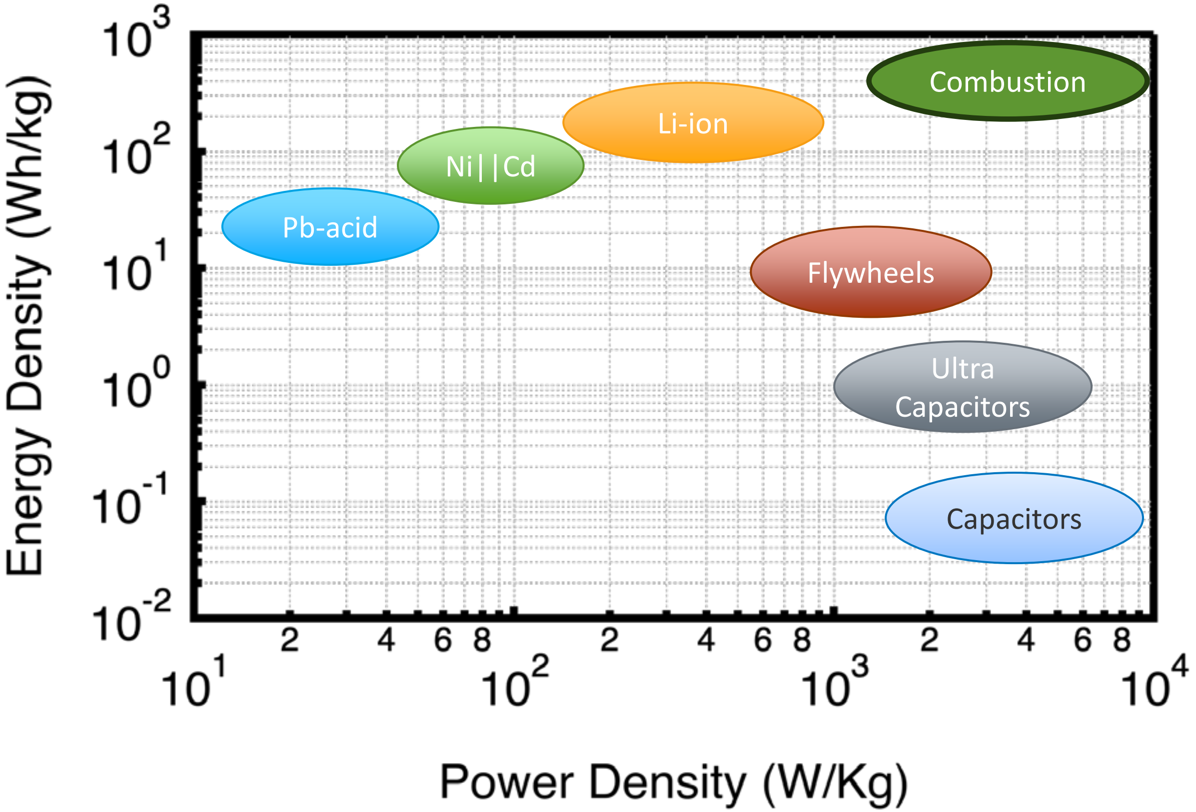
Recovers all capacity when cycled between 0.01 –1.5V

SEI on Copper

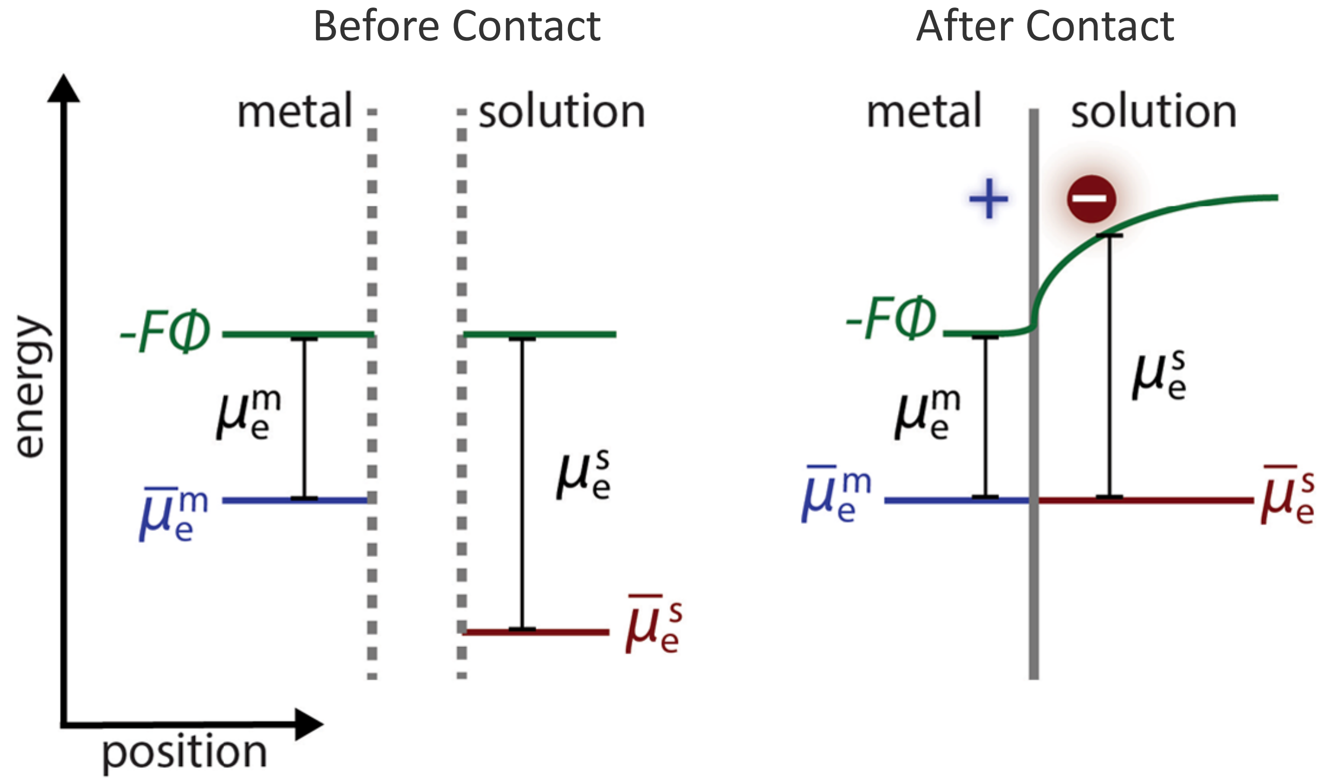


Zhang et al; *J. Phys. Chem Lett.* **2014**

Energy Storage and Delivery Technology



Electrode|Electrolyte Equilibration



Boettcher et. al., *ACS Energy Lett.*, **2021**