

# Battery energy storage beyond Li-ion

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ALISTORE ▶  
European research institute



EXCELENCIA  
SEVERO  
OCHOA

# Introduction



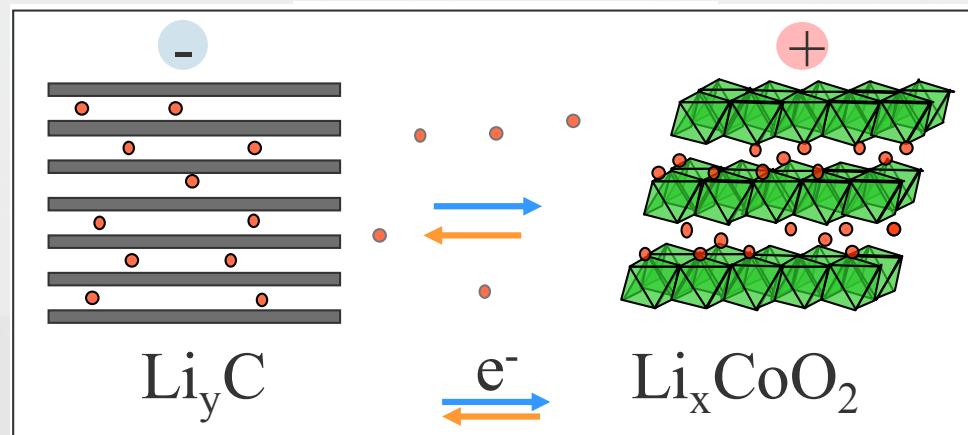
Volta 1792-94

PHILOSOPHICAL  
TRANSACTIONS,  
OF THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF  
LONDON.

iter in the same order and connected by wires that pic in the two different quids respectively. The device was designed to establish the position of mercury in the scale electromotor bodies.

XVII. On the Electricity excited by the mere Contact of conducting Substances of different kinds. In a Letter from Mr. Alexander Volta, F. R. S. Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Pavia, to the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart, K. B. P. R. S.

Read June 26, 1800.



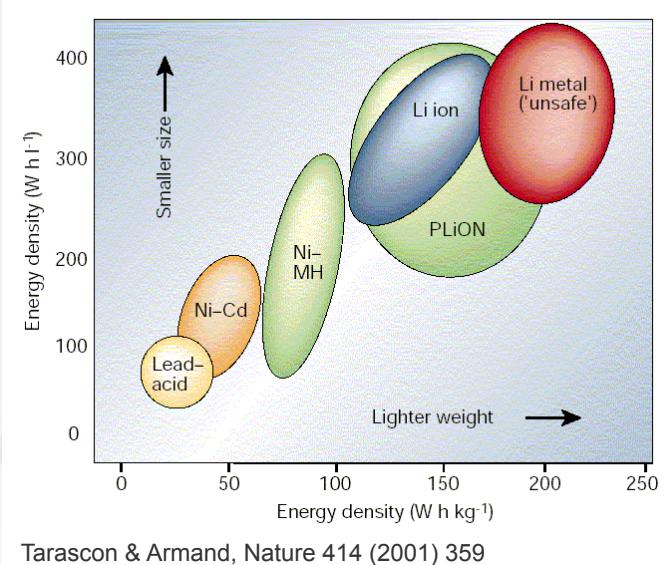
## Schematic of the Overall Battery R&D Process from Conception to Production

Concept Generation → Production

| Concept Validation                         | Research   | Applied Research   | Development  | Advanced Development                         |                   |
|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| An idea in a creative mind                 | Scale-up experiments   | Lab/prototype cells  | Confirm research results   | Design initial cell product                  |                   |
| Limited exploratory laboratory experiments | Characterize fundamental properties of concept, chem. composition, structure, etc. | Initial map of performance, rate, cycling, temperature, etc. | Establish initial product format                                 | Design and construct unit operations         |                   |
| Establish repeatability of performance     | Evaluate size of commercial opportunity  | Scale-up of material preparation                             | Develop unit assembly operations                                 | Scale-up prototype cell fabrication          |                   |
| Is there a market?                         |  | Preliminary market scope                                     | Make, test, and characterize 5 to 10 cell lots of 100 cells each | Run 3 to 5 sizable pilot line-factory trials |                   |
|  |  |  | Construct business plan  | Finalize business plan                       |                   |
|  |  |  |  | Market development                           |                   |
| Timing                                     | One to three years   | One to three years   | Three to four years  | Three to five years                          | Two to four years |
| Staffing                                   | One  | Two to four  | Four to ten  | Eight to sixteen                             | Twelve to thirty  |
| Materials Batch                            | Grams  | 10 to 50 g   | 100 g to 1 kg  | 1 kg to 10 kg                                | 10 kg to 100 kg   |

10-19!!!

## Performance



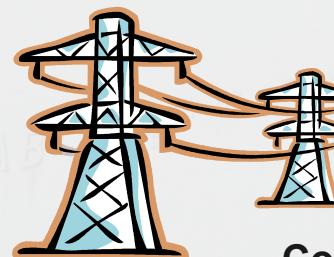
## Application



Energy density



Safety



Cost

Increasing size

## Sustainability



energy / water footprint

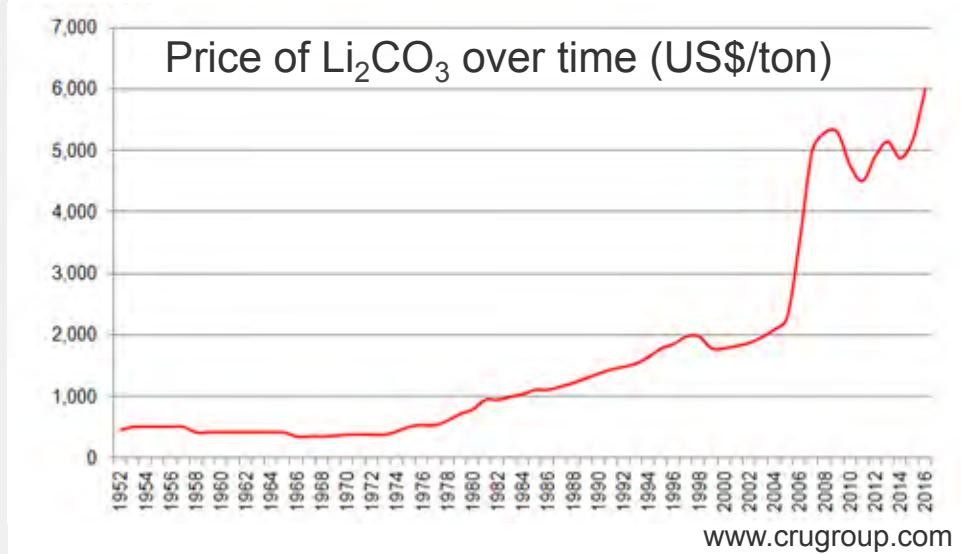
recycling

critical vs. abundant materials

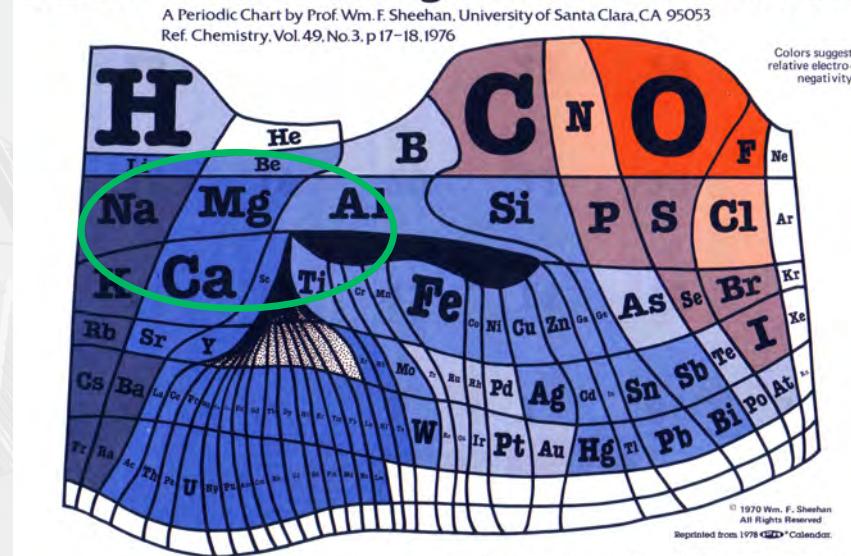
# Growing larger....



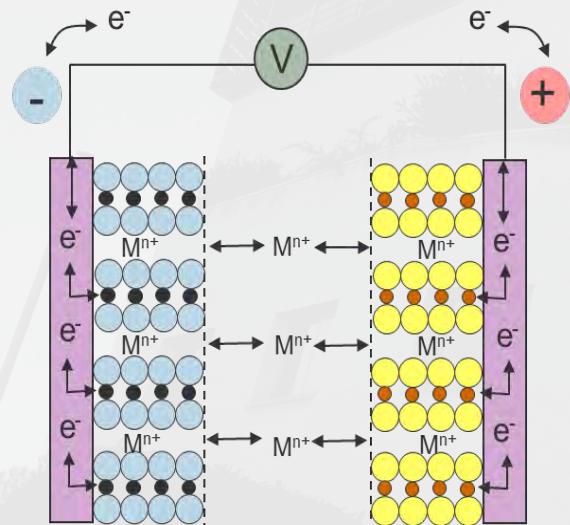
... and larger if grid applications are considered !!!



## The Elements According to Relative Abundance



## M-ion concept

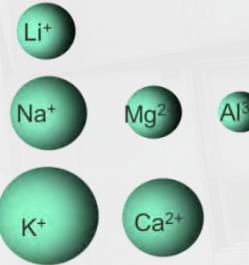


analogous to Li-ion

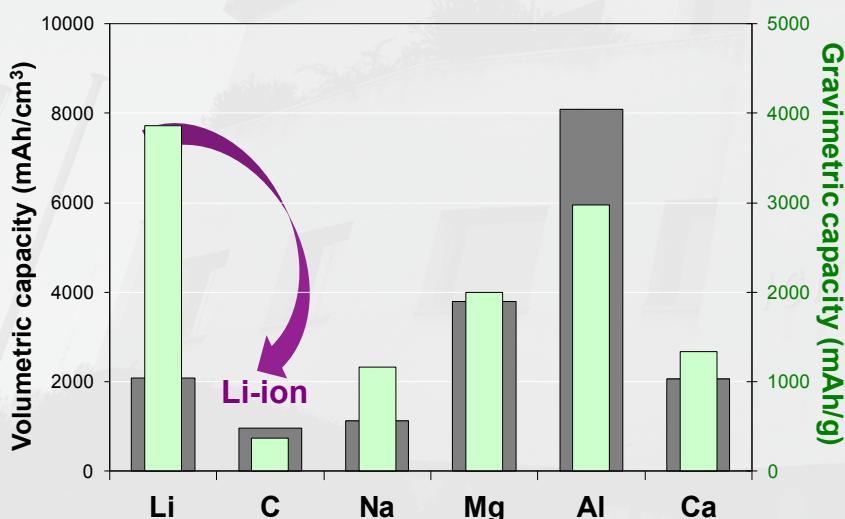
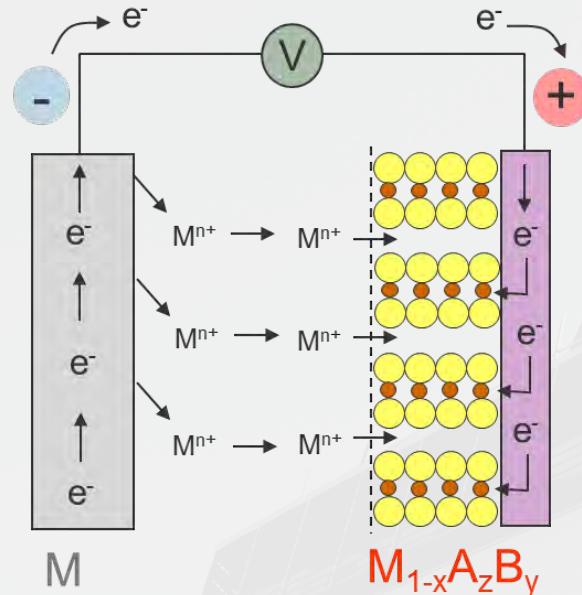
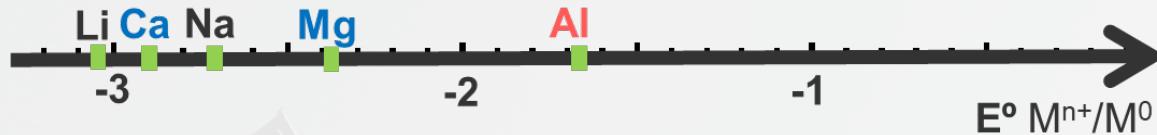
$\text{M}^{n+}$  as charge carriers instead of  $\text{Li}^+$   
(migration may be an issue for  $n > 1$ , coulombic interactions)

energy density not directly related to M  
(but to electrode material capacities & potentials)

Na-ion



## M-anode concept



**Li**

"unsafe" ? polymer electrolyte ?  
air or sulphur cathodes?

**Na**

low melting T, "unsafe" as solid?  
Na/S successful (liquid electrodes)

**Mg**

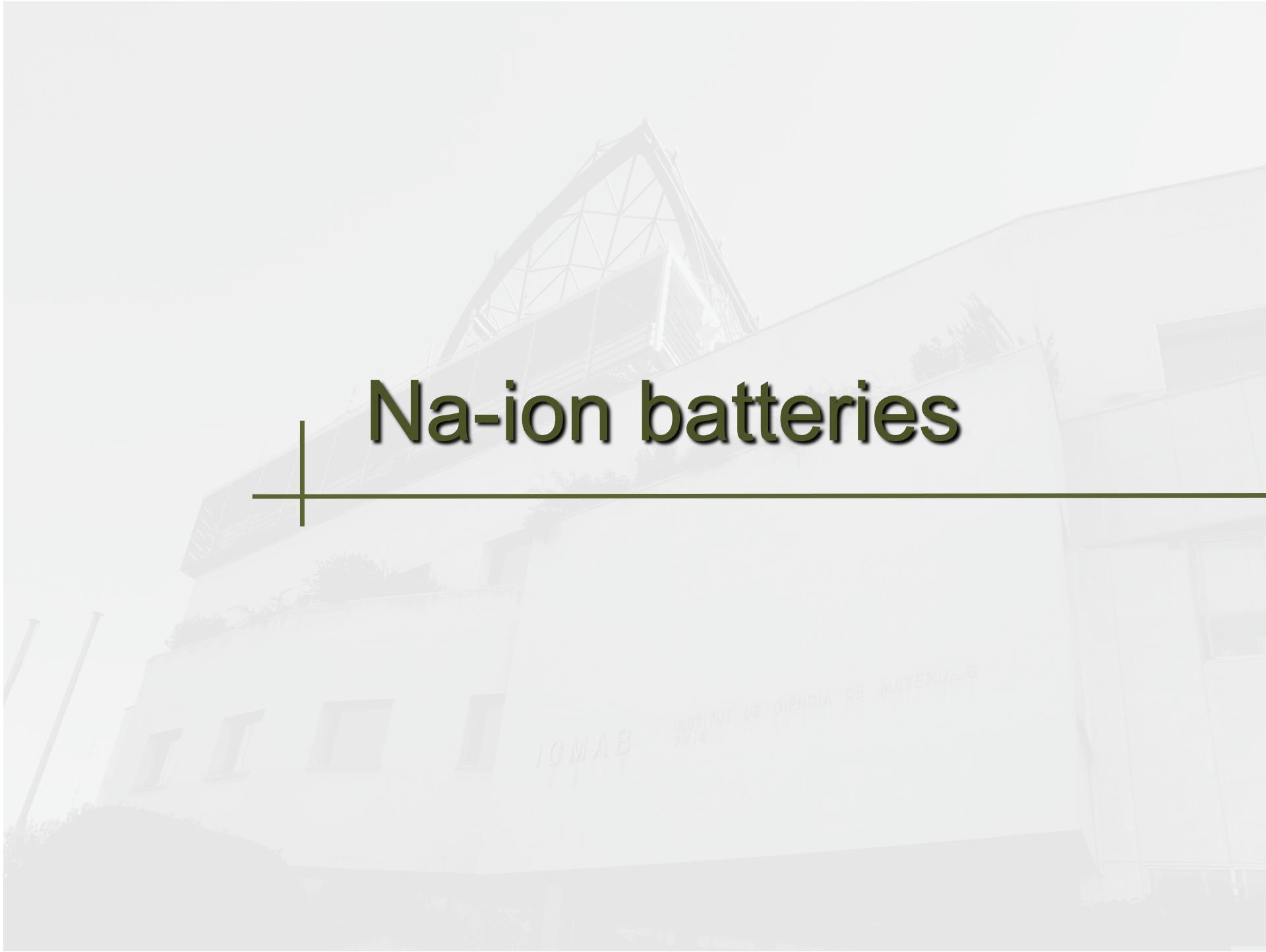
electrolytes with wide V window?  
high energy density cathodes?

**Ca**

interesting potential  
reversible plating/stripping?

**Al**

lower potential  
reversible plating/stripping?



# Na-ion batteries

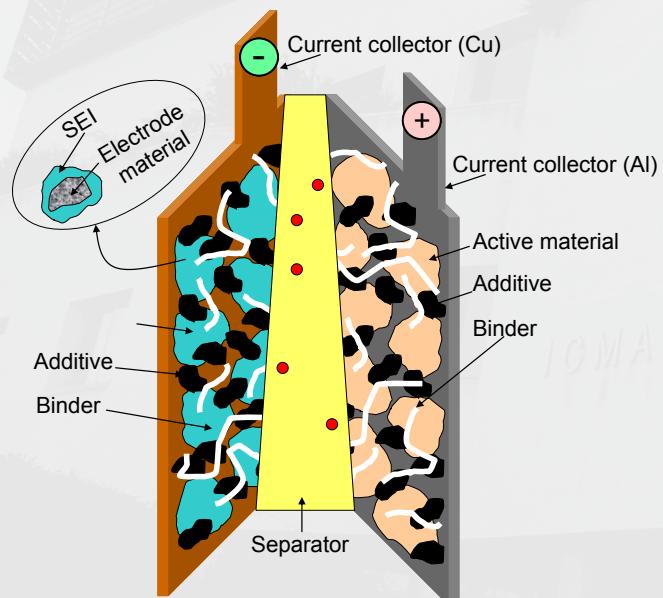


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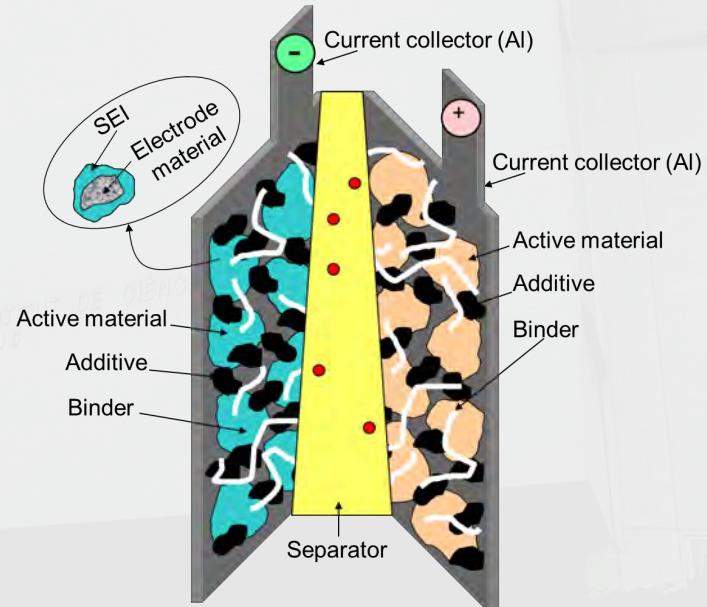


|                                     |        |           |               |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| → “unlimited” Na resources          | 20 ppm | 22700 ppm | Earth’s crust |
| → high standard reduction potential | -3.04  | -2.71     | vs. NHE       |
| → alloy formation with Al           | yes    | no        |               |

## Li-ion



## Na-ion



→ Similar chemistry  
- Faster progress

→ Differences

- Ionic radius – coordination – crystal chemistry
- Polarizing character – diffusion – kinetics
- Solvation energy – solubilities – SEI

Graphite // LiPF<sub>6</sub> EC:DMC // LiFePO<sub>4</sub>

Graphite // NaPF<sub>6</sub> EC:DMC // NaFePO<sub>4</sub>



Alike but different...

# Practical prospects

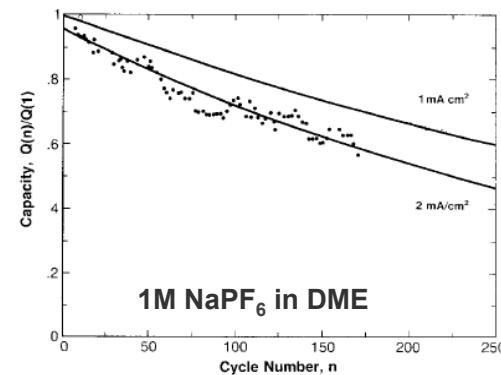


J. Electrochem. Soc.: ELECTROCHEMICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY November 1988 2669

## Rechargeable Electrodes from Sodium Cobalt Bronzes

L. W. Shacklette,\* T. R. Jow,\* and L. Townsend

Allied-Signal, Incorporated, Corporate Technology, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

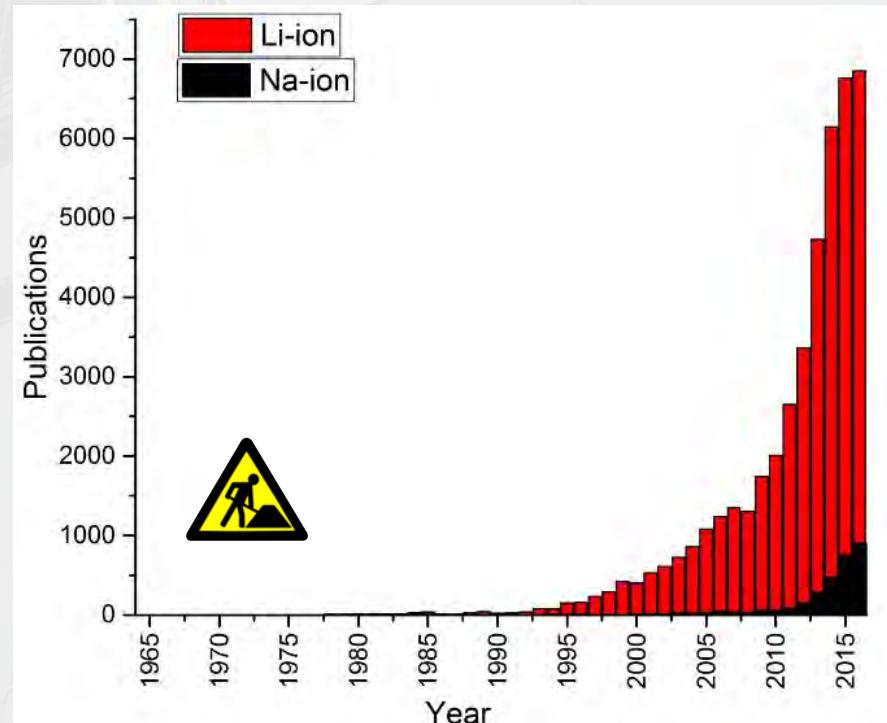
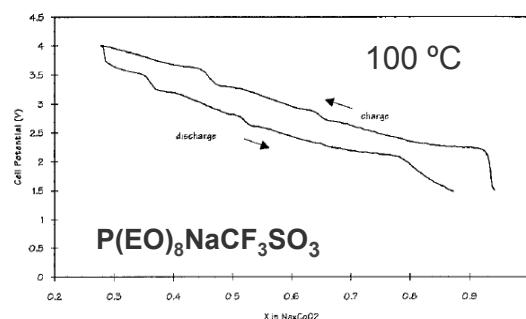


J. Electrochem. Soc., Vol. 140, No. 10, October 1993

## Rechargeable $\text{Na}/\text{Na}_x\text{CoO}_2$ and $\text{Na}_{15}\text{Pb}_4/\text{Na}_x\text{CoO}_2$ Polymer Electrolyte Cells

Yanping Ma,\* Marcia M. Doeff,\*\* Steven J. Visco, and Lutgard C. De Jonghe

Materials Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720



# Practical prospects

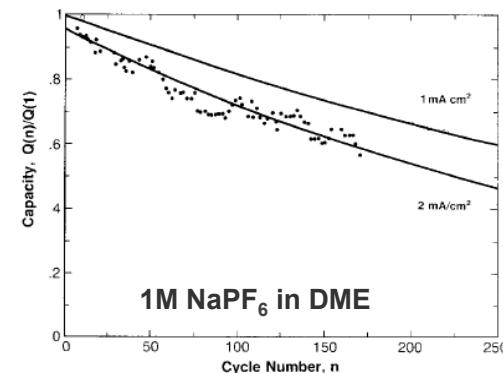
$\text{Na}_{15}\text{Pb}_4 \parallel \text{Na}_x\text{CoO}_2$   
th: 350 Wh/kg, 1470 Wh/l

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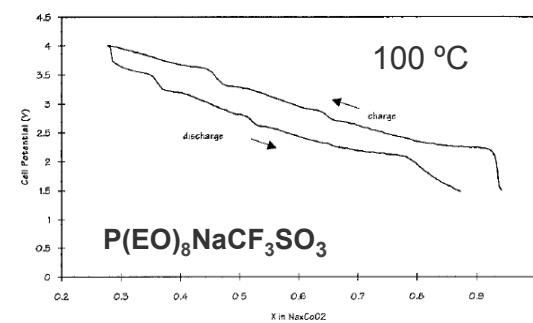


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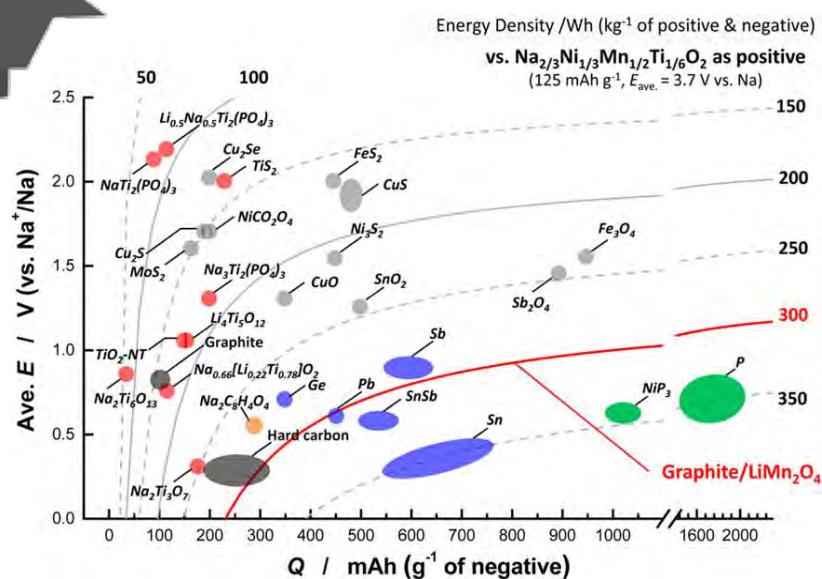
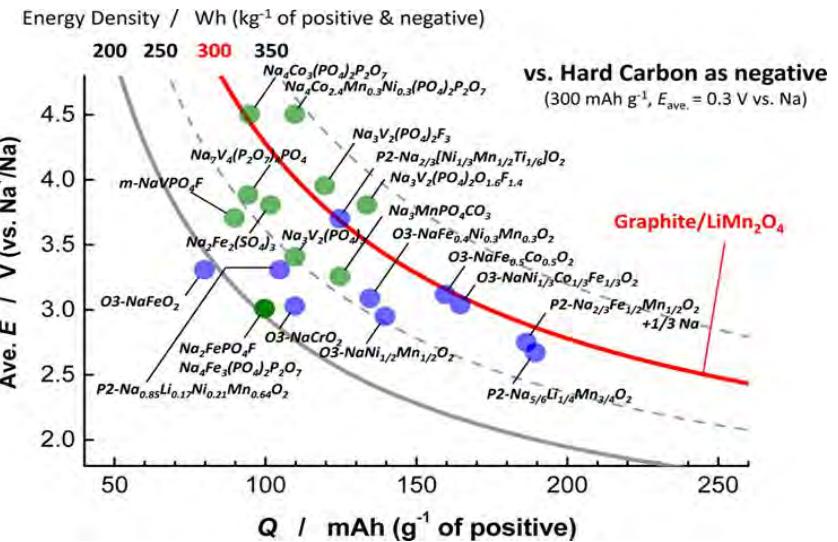
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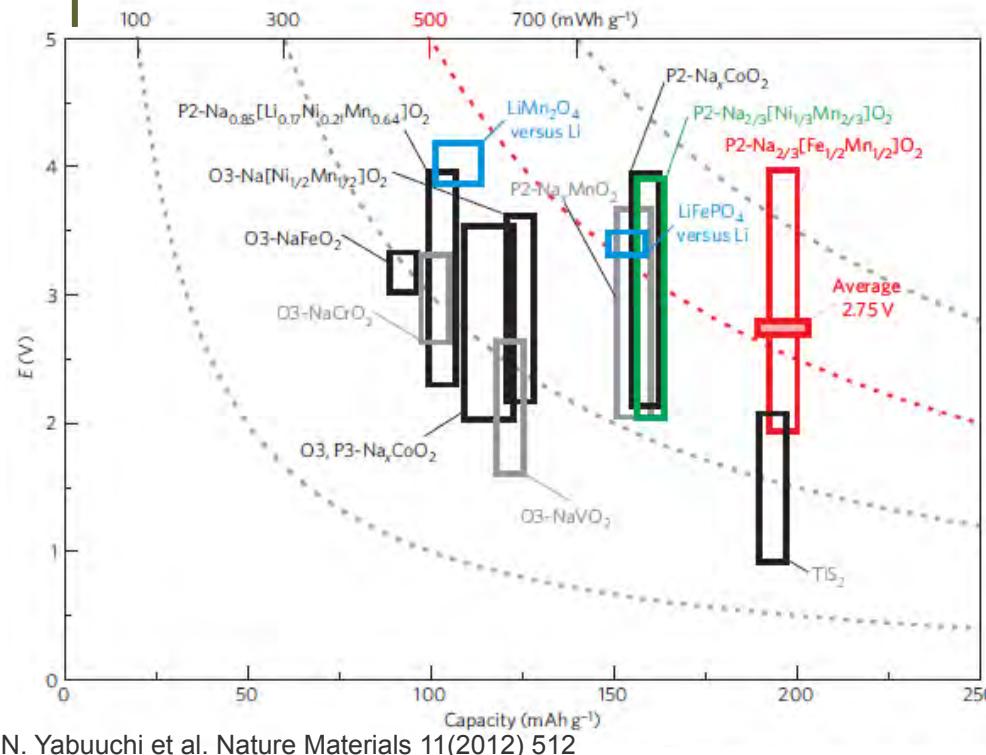


~1990



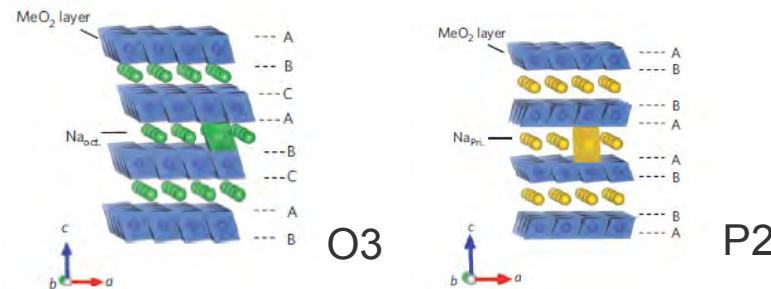
N. Yabuuchi et al. Chem. Rev. 114 (2014), 11636.

# Positive electrode materials



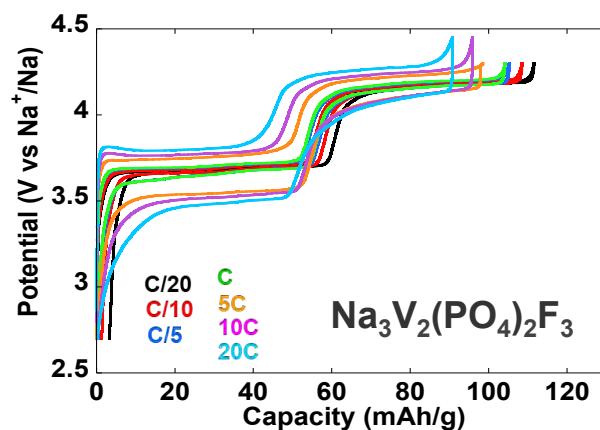
N. Yabuuchi et al. Nature Materials 11(2012) 512

Some V windows too wide to be practical  
Air stability can be an issue



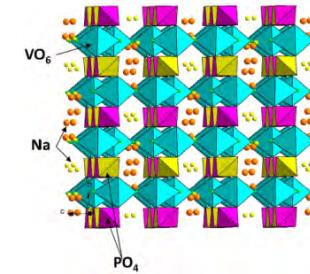
O3 higher capacity & P2 higher stability

## Layered materials $\text{Na}_x\text{MO}_2$



A. Ponrouch et al. Energy & Environ. Sci. 6 (2013) 2361.

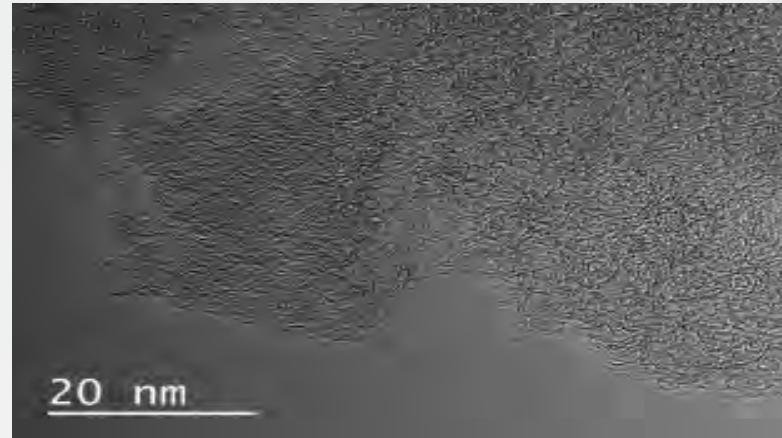
Frameworks typically different from Li - based  
Lower capacities than layered (« inactive groups »)  
Poor conductivity (C coating)  
High stability



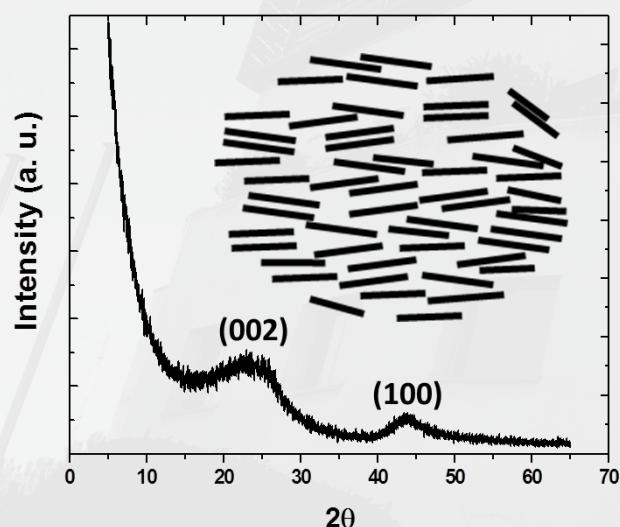
# Polyanionic frameworks

# Negative electrode materials: hard C

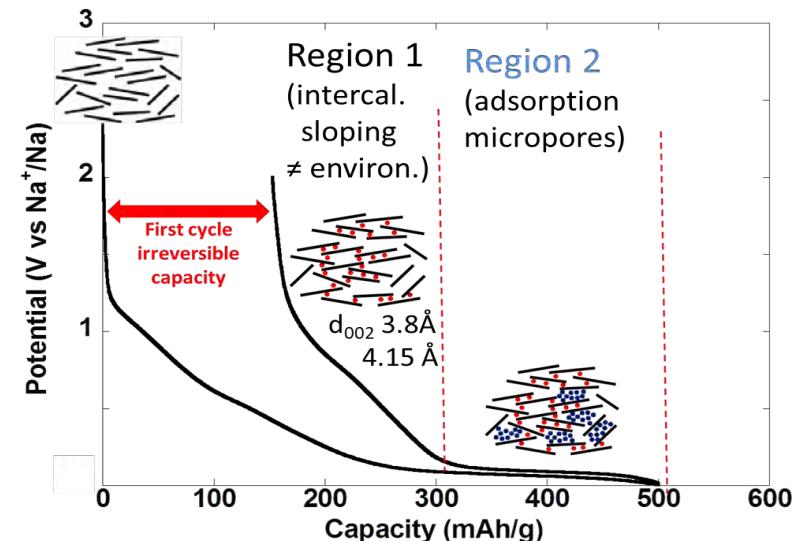
Non-graphitizable ( $sp^3$  cross-linking)



Prepared by pyrolysis of solid precursors  
(cellulose, charcoal, phenolic resins, sugar...)



graphene sheets  
10 – 40 Å  
(1-3 layer stacks)



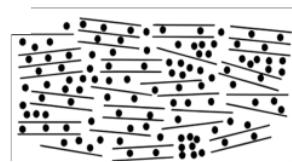
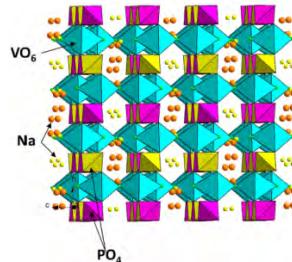
## Current state of the art material

Very low V operation (plating risk?)

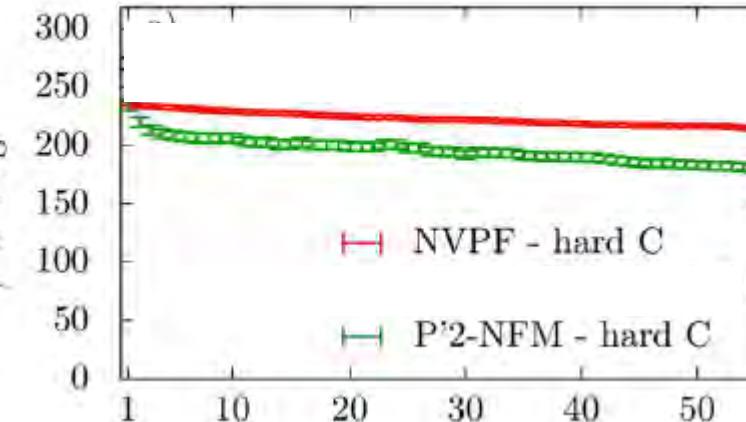
1<sup>st</sup> cycle irreversibility is an issue

capacity ↔ microstructure, electrolyte

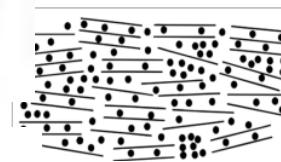
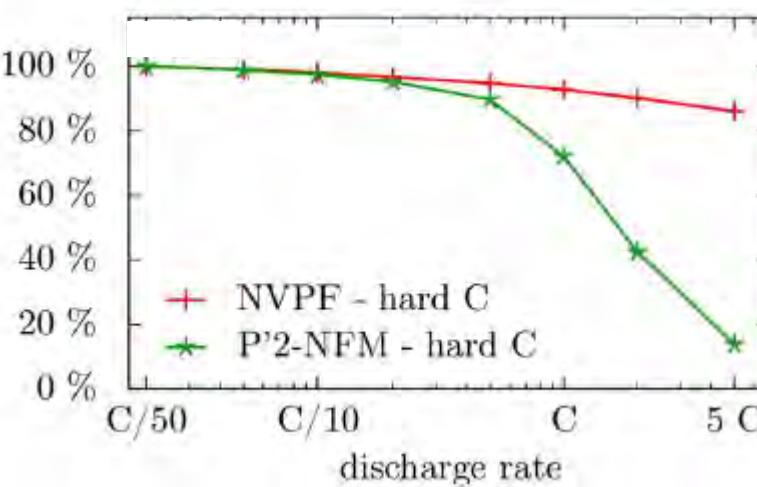
# Reported performance: lab cells



specific discharge energy



retained capacity



# Sustainability

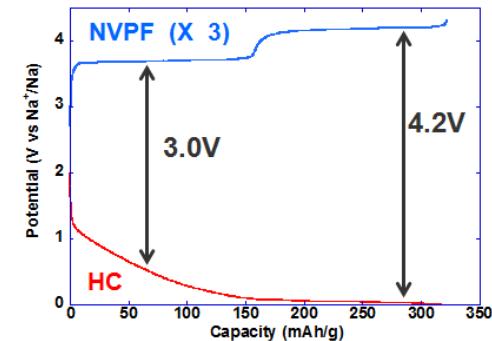
Hard C // EC<sub>0.45</sub>:PC<sub>0.45</sub>:DMC<sub>0.1</sub> // Na<sub>3</sub>V<sub>2</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>



3.6 V cell  
300 mAh/g (HC)  
110 mAh/g (NVPF)

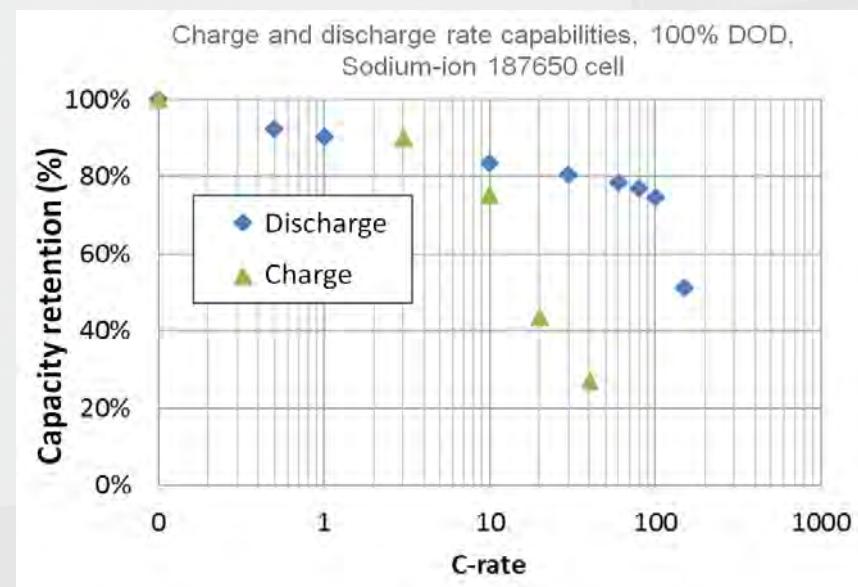
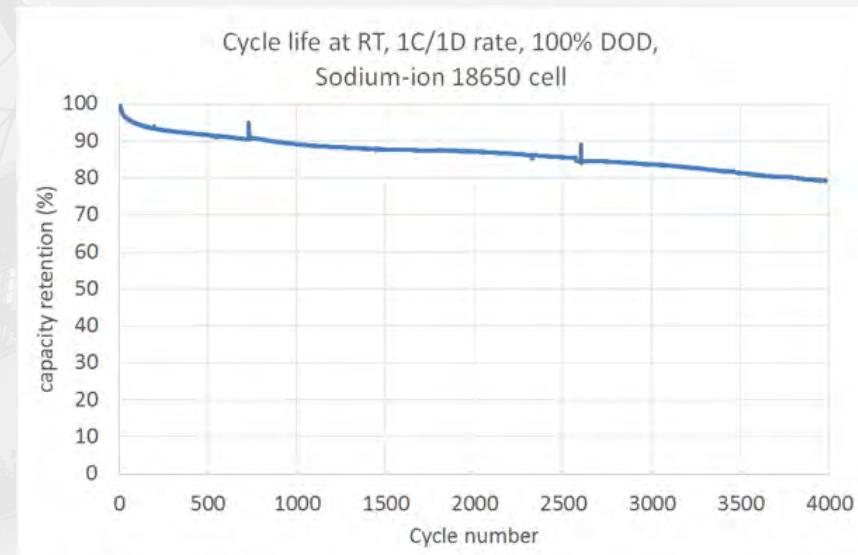
Theoretical energy density : 78 Wh/kg  
(BatPac v1.0)

(for comparison Graphite//LP30//LiFePO<sub>4</sub> gives 75 Wh/kg )



| CALCULATED NATURAL CAPITAL COST [€/kWh capacity] |                |                                 |  |  |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Sodium Ion Batteries                             |                |                                 | Lithium Ion Batteries                        |  |
| Elem.  | HC elec   NVPF | Graph. LP30 LiFePO <sub>4</sub> | Graph. LP30 LiMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | Li <sub>4</sub> Ti <sub>5</sub> O <sub>12</sub>  LP30 LiMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> |
| Al   | 0.36           | 0.18                            | 0.11   | 0.51   |
| C  | 0.073          | 0.08                            | 0.057  | 0.068  |
| <b>Cu</b>  | -              | <b>185</b>                      | <b>110</b>                                   | -  |
| F  | 2.17           | 1.09                            | 0.8  | 2.42   |
| H  | 0              | 0                               | 0  | 0  |
| Fe   | -              | 0.6                             | -  | 1.5  |
| Li   | -              | 0.0085                          | 0.0078                                       | 0.04   |
| Mn   | -              | -                               | <b>6.56</b>                                  | <b>15.1</b>  |
| O  | 0              | 0                               | 0  | 0  |
| P  | 1.43           | 0.15                            | 0.081  | 0.24   |
| Na   | 0              | -                               | -  | -  |
| Ti   | -              | -                               | -  | <b>1.56</b>  |
| V  | <b>27.5</b>    | -                               | -  | -  |
| <b>Sum</b>                                       | <b>31.5</b>    | <b>187</b>                      | <b>117</b>                                   | <b>19.9</b>  |

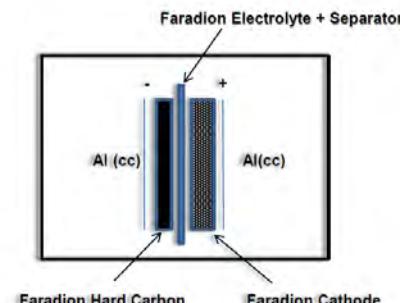
# Reported performance: upscaling



# Reported performance: industrial cells



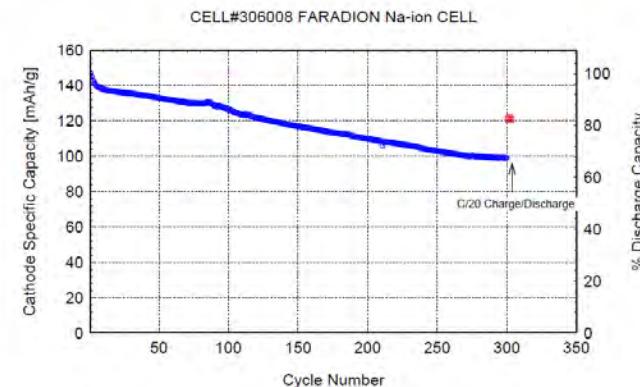
**4 cm<sup>2</sup> or 100 cm<sup>2</sup>**



## Typical Faradion Na-ion Pouch Cells

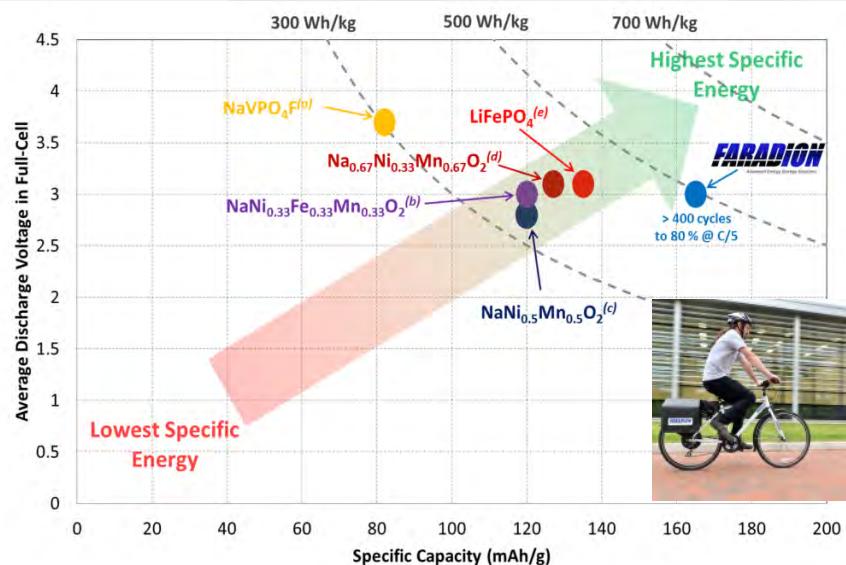
Typical cell capacity = 10-12 mAh (4 cm<sup>2</sup>) and 250-300 mAh (100 cm<sup>2</sup>)

Typical Bi-cell capacity = 500-600 mAh (100 cm<sup>2</sup>)



**Hard Carbon//NaNi<sub>1-x-y-z</sub>M<sup>1</sup><sub>x</sub>M<sup>2</sup><sub>y</sub>M<sup>3</sup><sub>z</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Layered Oxide**

- Pouch Cell
- 1.0 – 4.2 V CC/CV @30°C
- C/10 Rate Charge and Discharge



<http://www.faradion.co.uk>

# Reported performance: industrial cells

| 18650 - Energy Cell - Prediction                     |                              |             |                   |             |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Cell Chemistry : Graphite // LiFePO4                 |                              |             |                   |             |
|  | Cathode                      |             | Anode             |             |
| Prescription   | Material / Name              | Rate / Spec | Material / Name   | Rate / Spec |
| Activity Material                                    | LiFePO4                      | 92.00%      | Graphite          | 92.75%      |
| Residual Carbon                                      | Residual from synthesis      | 2.00%       | Anode Additive    | 0.25%       |
| Conductive Carbon                                    | Conductive Carbon            | 2.00%       | Conductive Carbon | 3.00%       |
| Binder   | PVDF / (High MW)             | 4.00%       | PVDF / (High MW)  | 4.00%       |
| Total Long   | 664 mm                       |             | 670 mm            |             |
| Foil Thickness(mm) Cu and Al                         | 0.02 mm                      |             | 0.015 mm          |             |
| 1st coat surface long                                | 624 mm                       |             | 653 mm            |             |
| 2nd coat surface long                                | 607 mm                       |             | 603 mm            |             |
| Coat both (single surfaces total long)               | 1231 mm                      |             | 1256 mm           |             |
| Single side thickness not including foil's thickness | 0.0820 mm                    |             | 0.0500 mm         |             |
| both side including foil thickness                   | 0.184 mm                     |             | 0.115 mm          |             |
| Width of electrode                                   | 5.6 cm                       |             | 5.75 cm           |             |
| single electrode total coat area                     | 689.36 cm^2                  |             | 722.3 cm^2        |             |
| Material Coat Wt (g) /cm^2                           | 0.016191 g/cm^2              |             | 0.00732 g/cm^2    |             |
| Total Coat Wt (g) /cm^2                              | 0.0175 g/cm^2                |             | 0.00780 g/cm^2    |             |
| Theoretical Capacity / g                             | 140 mAh/g                    |             | 360 mAh/g         |             |
| Reversible Capacity / g                              | 125 mAh/g                    |             | 300 mAh/g         |             |
| Non reversible Cap.                                  | 10                           |             | 20 mAh/g          |             |
| Capacity / unit area                                 | 2.02 mAh/cm^2                |             | 2.05 mAh/cm^2     |             |
| Press Stretch Rate                                   | 100.3%                       |             | 100.1%            |             |
| Real Unit Area Capacity                              | 2.02 mAh/cm^2                |             | 2.05 mAh/cm^2     |             |
| Unit Area of C/A Weight compare                      | 1.334 Compare                |             | 1.021             |             |
| Whole electrode of C/A                               | Whole Electrode A/C Capacity |             |                   |             |

| 18650 - Energy Cell - Prediction                     |                              |             |                   |             |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Cell Chemistry : Hard Carbon // Layered Oxide        |                              |             |                   |             |
|  | Cathode                      |             | Anode             |             |
| Prescription   | Material / Name              | Rate / Spec | Material / Name   | Rate / Spec |
| Activity Material                                    | Layered Oxide                | 94.00%      | Hard Carbon       | 92.75%      |
| Residual Carbon                                      | Residual from synthesis      | 0.00%       | Anode Additive    | 0.25%       |
| Conductive Carbon                                    | Conductive Carbon            | 2.00%       | Conductive Carbon | 3.00%       |
| Binder   | PVDF / (High MW)             | 4.00%       | PVDF / (High MW)  | 4.00%       |
| Total Long   | 472 mm                       |             | 478 mm            |             |
| Foil Thickness(mm) Al both sides                     | 0.02 mm                      |             | 0.02 mm           |             |
| 1st coat surface long                                | 432 mm                       |             | 461 mm            |             |
| 2nd coat surface long                                | 415 mm                       |             | 421 mm            |             |
| Coat both (single surfaces total long)               | 847 mm                       |             | 882 mm            |             |
| Single side thickness not including foil's thickness | 0.0820 mm                    |             | 0.0500 mm         |             |
| both side including foil thickness                   | 0.184 mm                     |             | 0.120 mm          |             |
| Width of electrode                                   | 5.6 cm                       |             | 5.75 cm           |             |
| single electrode total coat area                     | 474.32 cm^2                  |             | 507.15 cm^2       |             |
| Material Coat Wt (g) /cm^2                           | 0.02491 g/cm^2               |             | 0.0164 g/cm^2     |             |
| Total Coat Wt (g) /cm^2                              | 0.0265 g/cm^2                |             | 0.01770 g/cm^2    |             |
| Theoretical Capacity / g                             | 200 mAh/g                    |             | 360 mAh/g         |             |
| Reversible Capacity / g                              | 150 mAh/g                    |             | 240 mAh/g         |             |
| Non reversible Cap.                                  | 20                           |             | 120 mAh/g         |             |
| Capacity / unit area                                 | 3.74 mAh/cm^2                |             | 3.74 mAh/cm^2     |             |
| Press Stretch Rate                                   | 100.3%                       |             | 100.1%            |             |
| Real Unit Area Capacity                              | 3.73 mAh/cm^2                |             | 3.74 mAh/cm^2     |             |
| Unit Area of C/A Weight compare                      | 1.514 Compare                |             | 1.004             |             |
| Whole electrode of C/A                               | Whole Electrode A/C Capacity |             |                   |             |

Will performance equal / beat Li-ion?

*For myself I am an optimist ,*

*it does not seem to be much use being anything else.*

*(Sir Winston Churchill, Nov. 9th, 1954 )*

# Ca batteries

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# Why Ca anode?



ALISTORE  
European research institute



- “unlimited” resources
- high standard reduction potential

20 ppm

27640 ppm

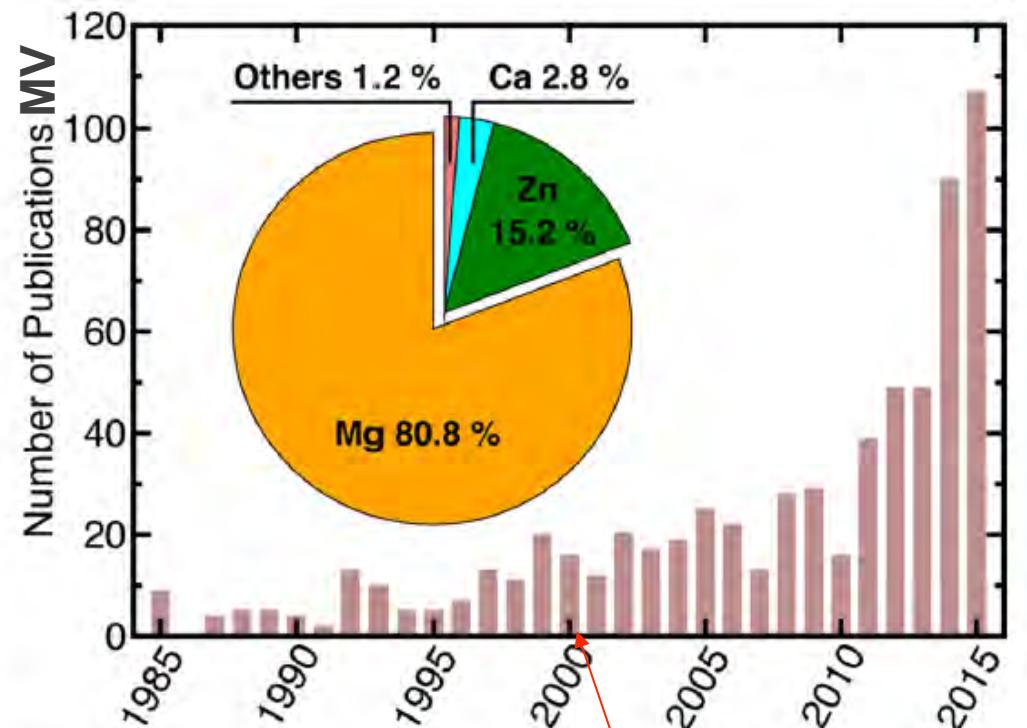
46600 ppm

-3.04

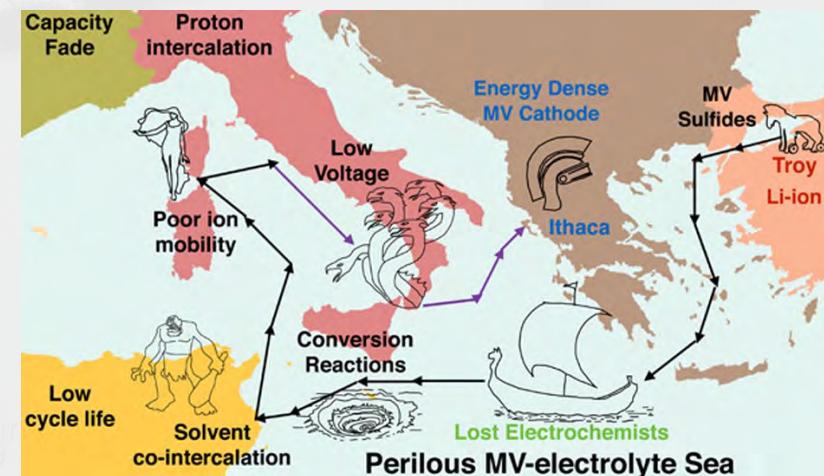
-2.37

-2.87

Earth's crust  
vs. NHE



Proof-of-concept Mg anode (Aurbach et al. Nature)



The Odyssey of Multivalent Cathodes

P. Canepa et al. *Chem. Rev.* 2017, 117, 4287.

# M anodes: the case of Ca...

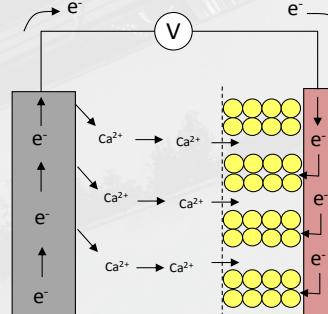
1991

Aurbach et al.

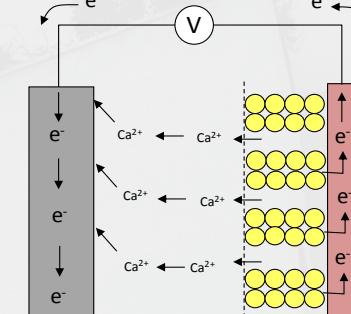
**Ca deposition not possible in organic solvent electrolytes**  
(SEI does not conduct  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions)

Suitable electrolytes (plating)

cathode development

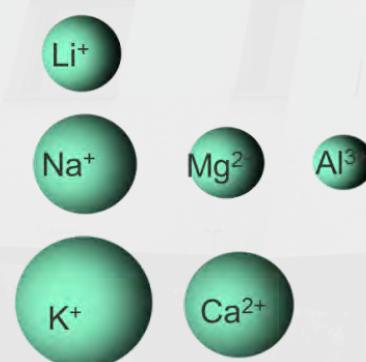


Reduction of the WE:  
Ca stripping at the CE



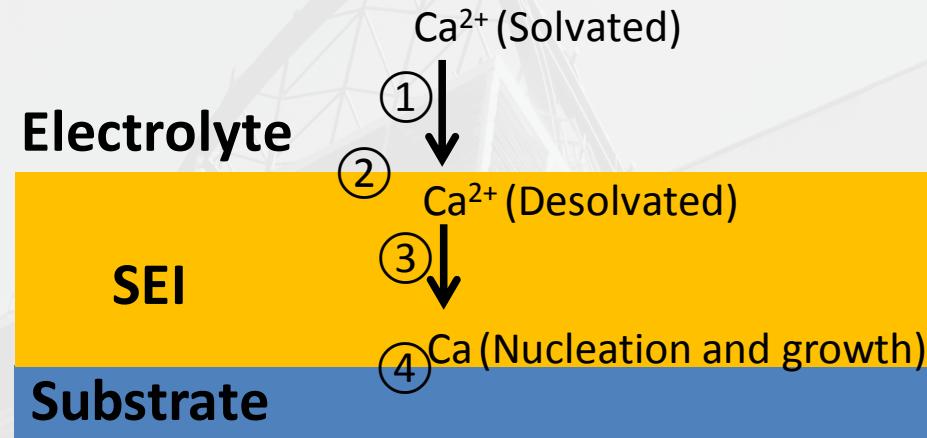
Oxidation of the WE:  
Ca deposition ???

BUT



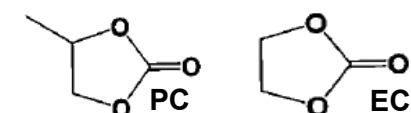
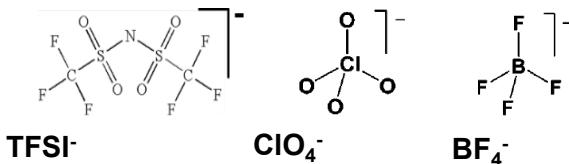
Charge/radius  $\text{Ca}^{2+} \ll \text{Mg}^{2+}$

Easier migration



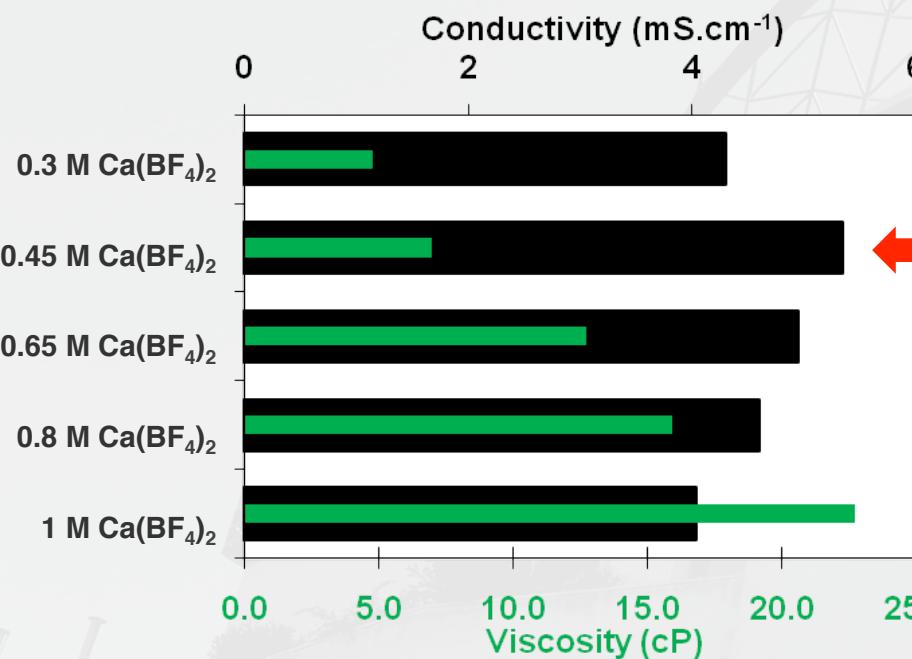
**Alkyl carbonates (high  $\epsilon$ , large redox window)**

**Commercial salts**



# Is Ca electrodeposition viable?

EC:PC RoomT



$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  electrolytes

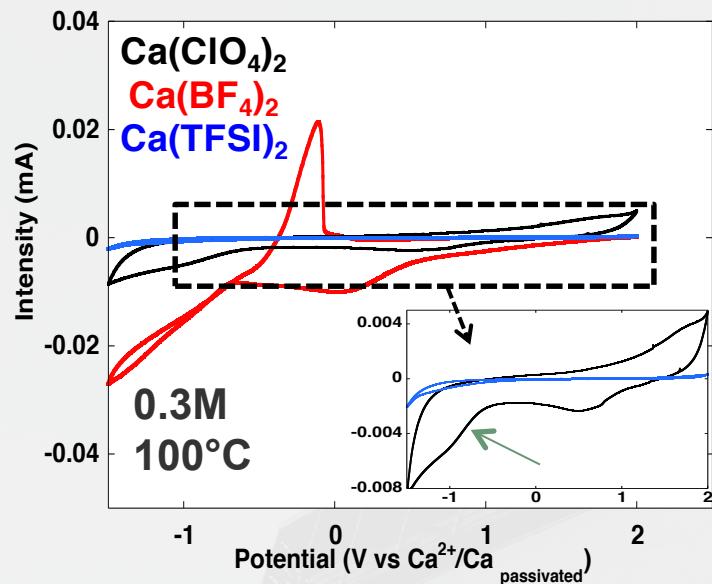
Concentration ↑ → Viscosity ↑

Conductivity ↑ , ↓

Low conductivities at RT  
Ion pairing

High T  
(50-100°C)

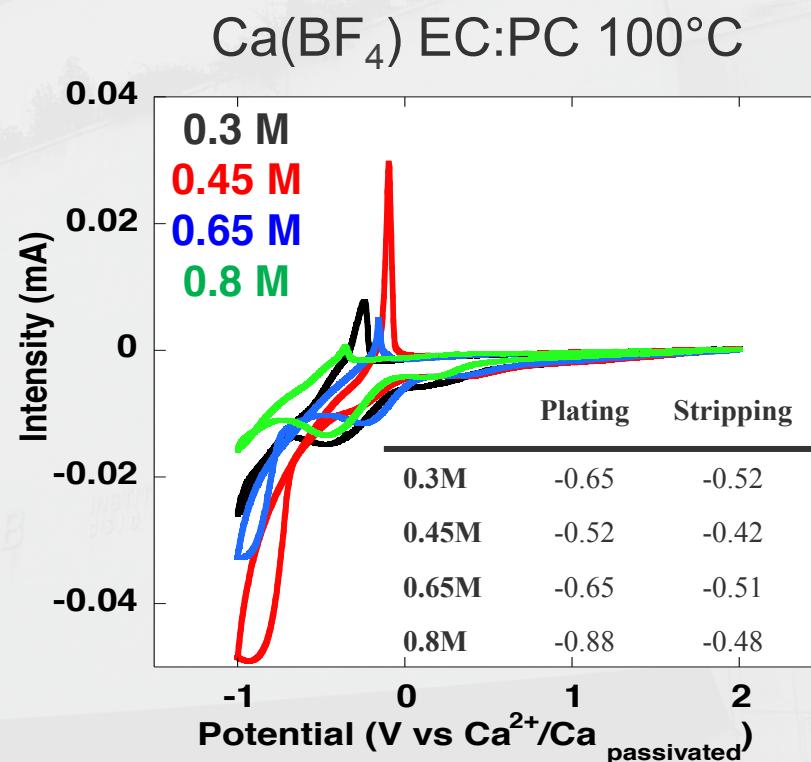
# Is Ca electrodeposition viable?



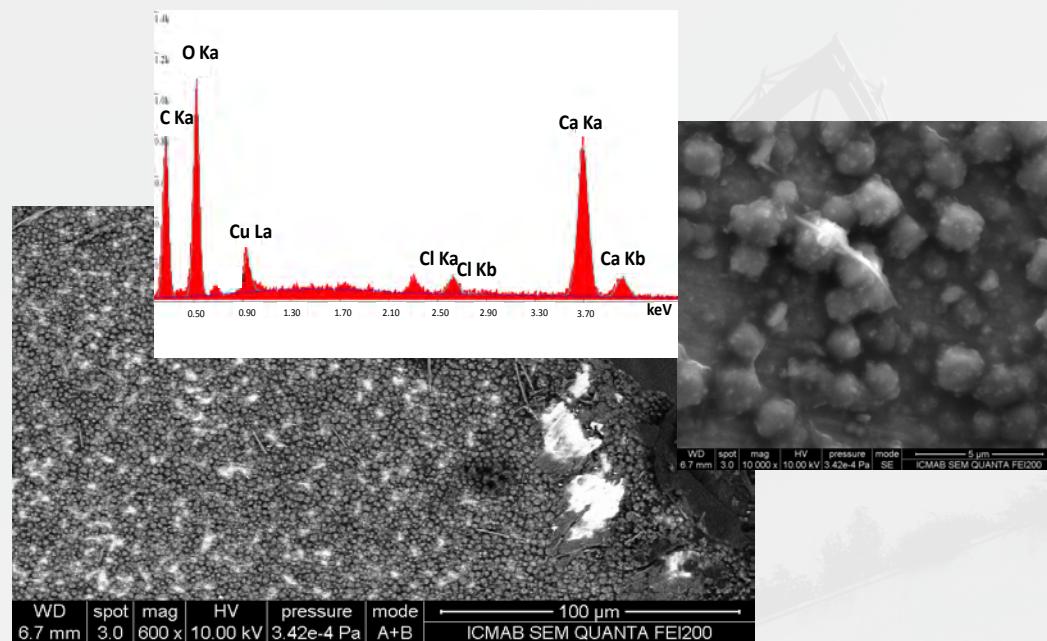
Intensity  $\uparrow$  with:  
 $\text{Ca}(\text{BF}_4)_2$   
 $\uparrow$  temperature  
 $\uparrow$  ionic conductivity

Reversible redox process in  $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  &  $\text{Ca}(\text{BF}_4)_2$

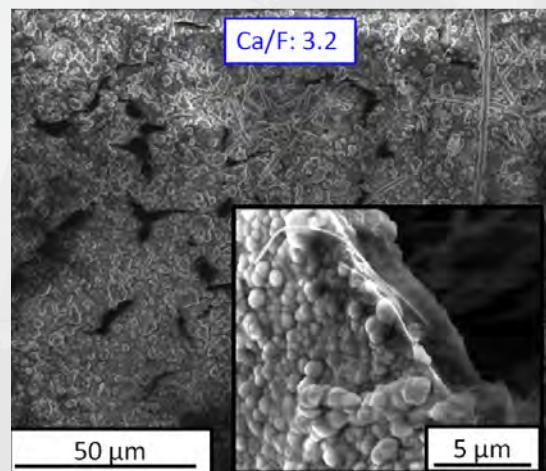
Ca plating???



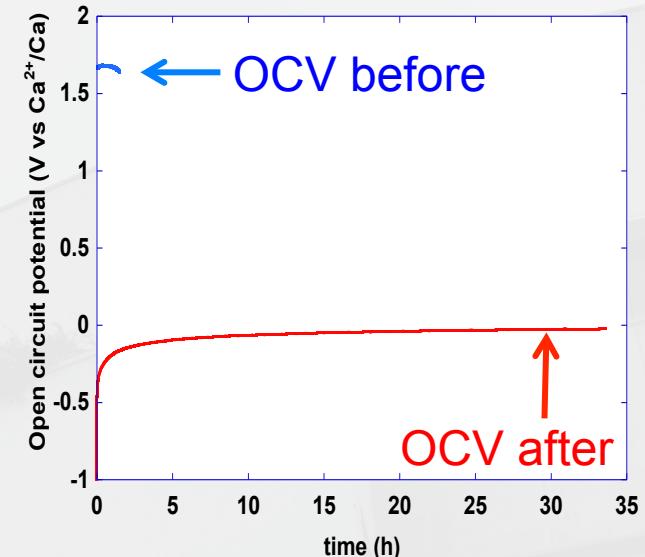
# Is Ca electrodeposition viable?



100°C, 200h, -1.5V



0.3M Ca(BF<sub>4</sub>) EC:PC



Higher T, longer t



thicker deposits

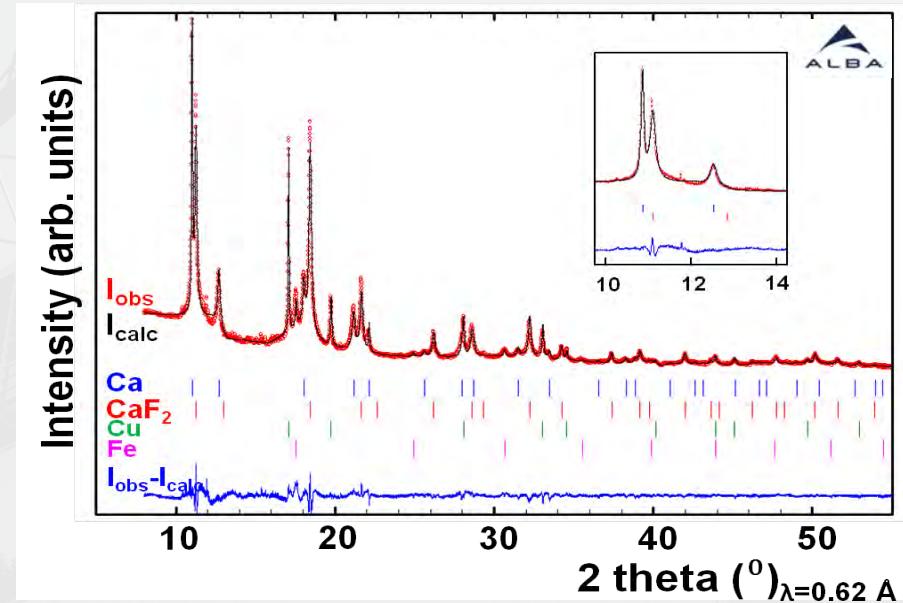


higher Ca/F ratio

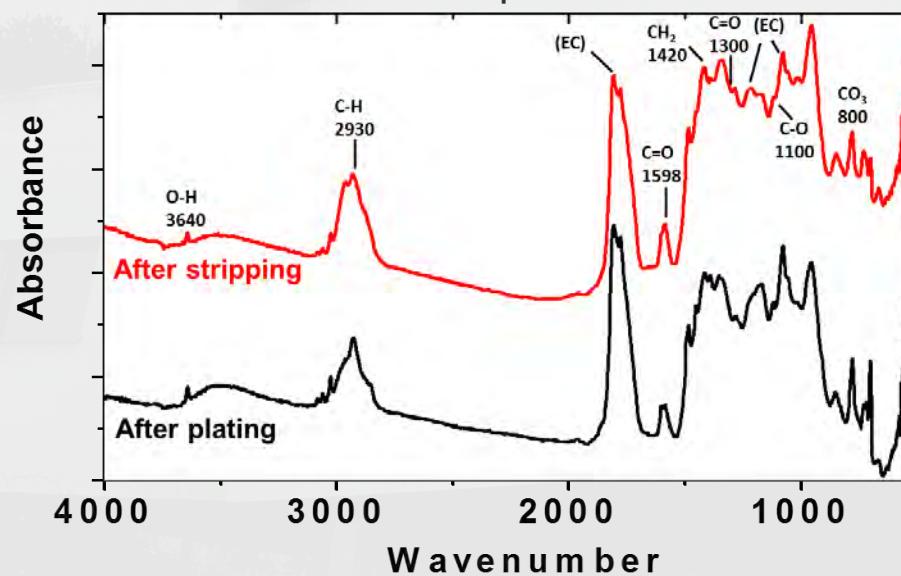
Bubbling in H<sub>2</sub>O: H<sub>2</sub>?

# Ca plating/stripping

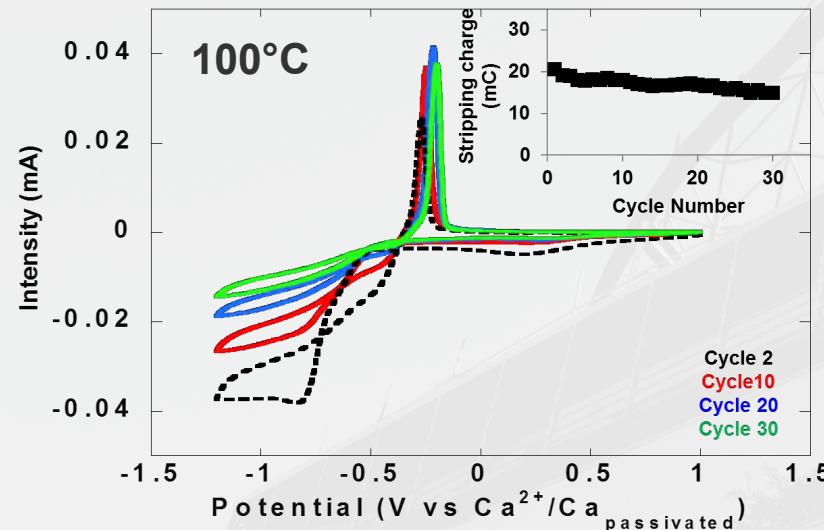
Deposits consist of a mixture of Ca metal and  $\text{CaF}_2$  (SEI)



SEI seems stable: permeable to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ??

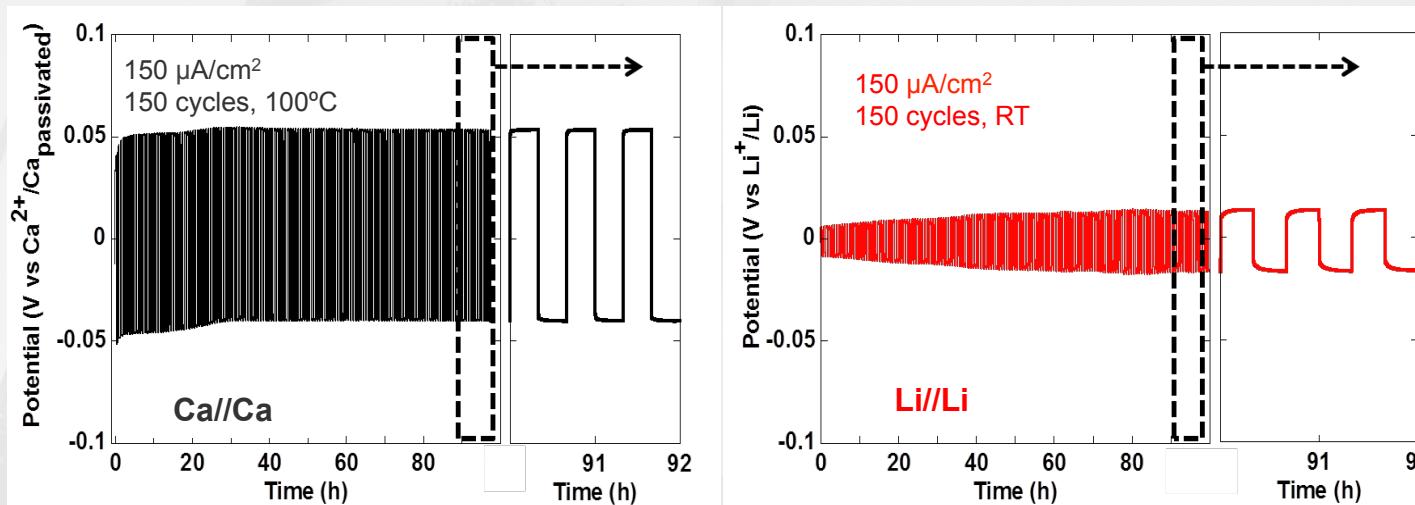


# Ca plating/stripping



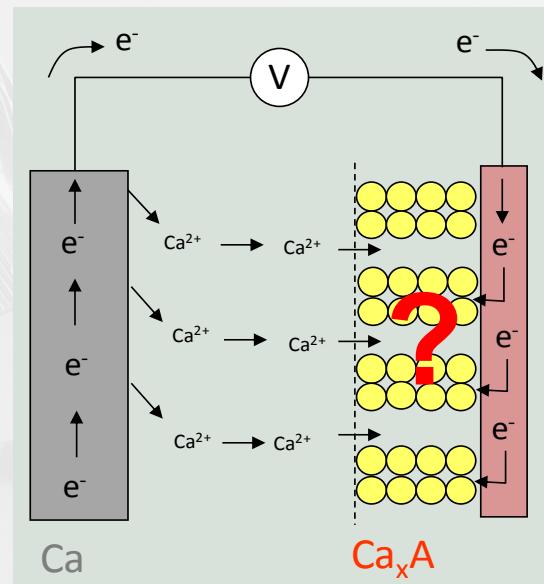
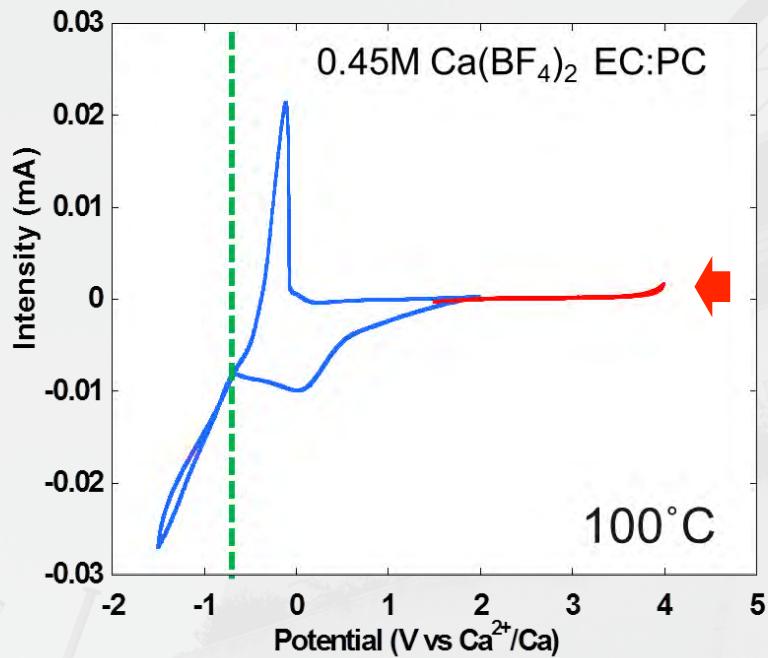
Capacity stable upon cycling

BUT:  
competition with electrolyte  
decomposition  
(efficiency to be improved)



Good cyclability  
BUT  
high polarisation

# The quest for a cathode



## Insertion cathodes?

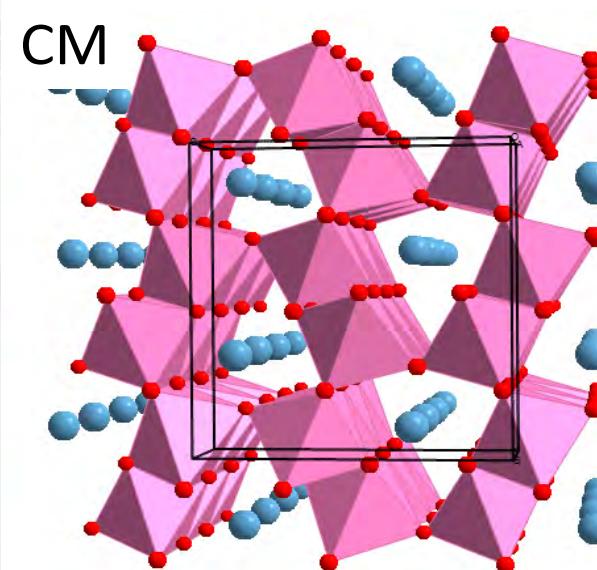
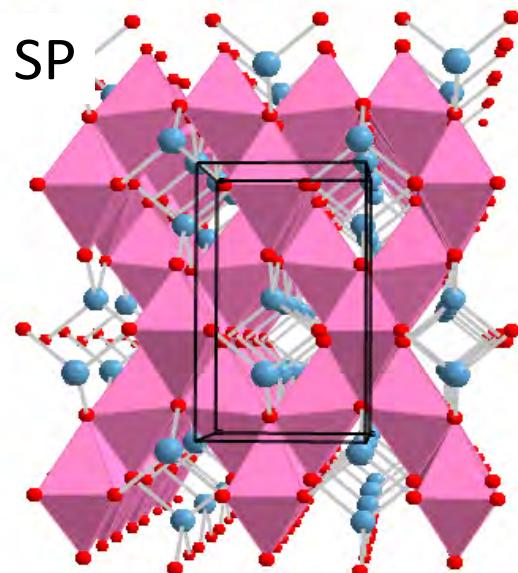
*“Technology is always limited by the materials available”*

*DARPA, US, 1960's*

# Is CaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> a viable cathode?



Mn<sup>3+</sup> / Mn<sup>4+</sup> Th.capacity  $\Delta x=1$ : 250 mAh/g



**Spinel (not known)**

Ca Td

~3V, migration barrier 0.5 eV

*Persson et al. 2015*

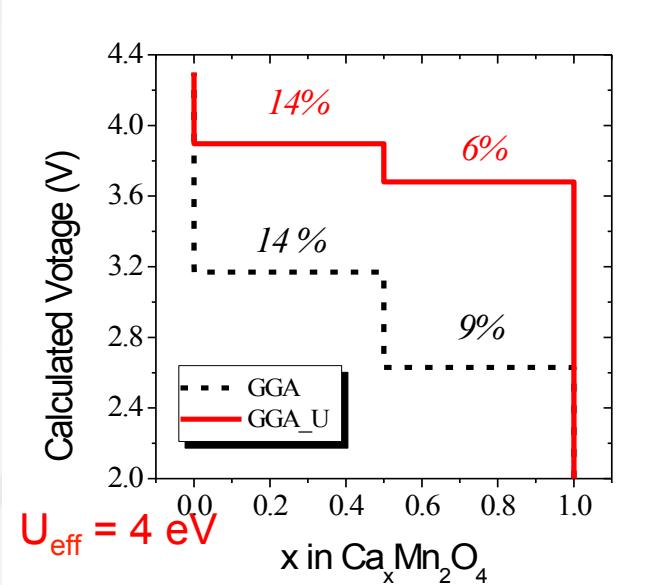
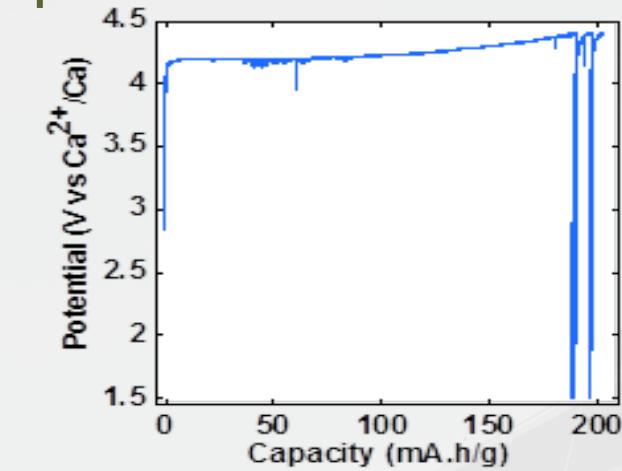
**Marokite (1200°C, 72h)**

Ca CN=8

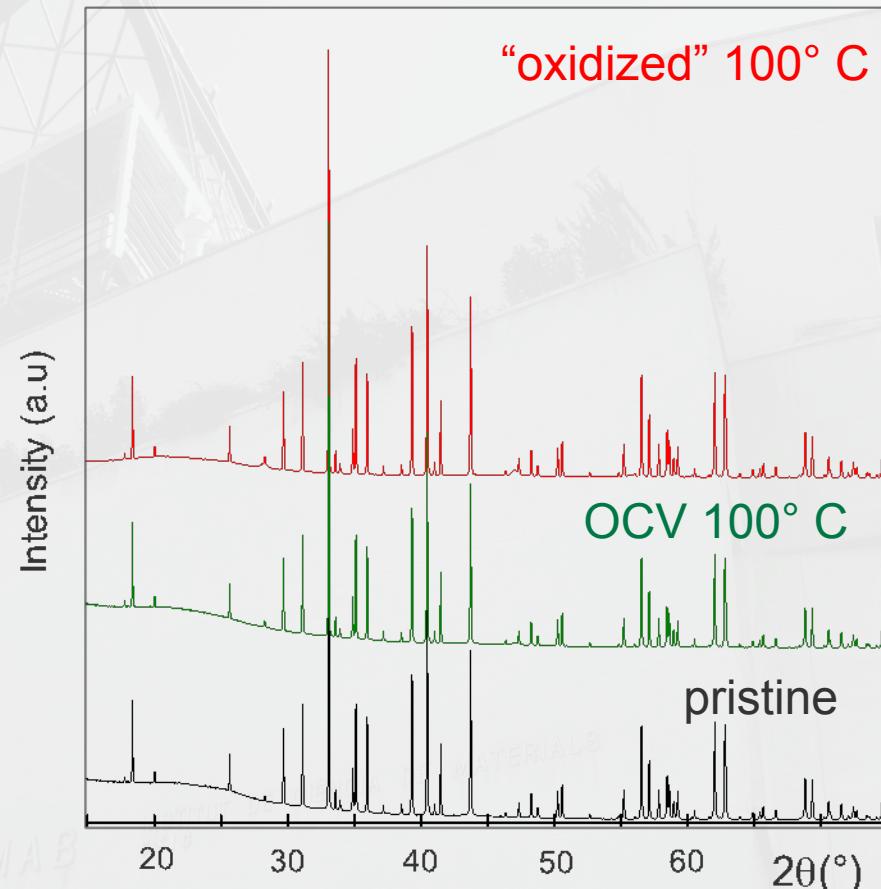
# What about CaMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> - Marokite?



ICMAB



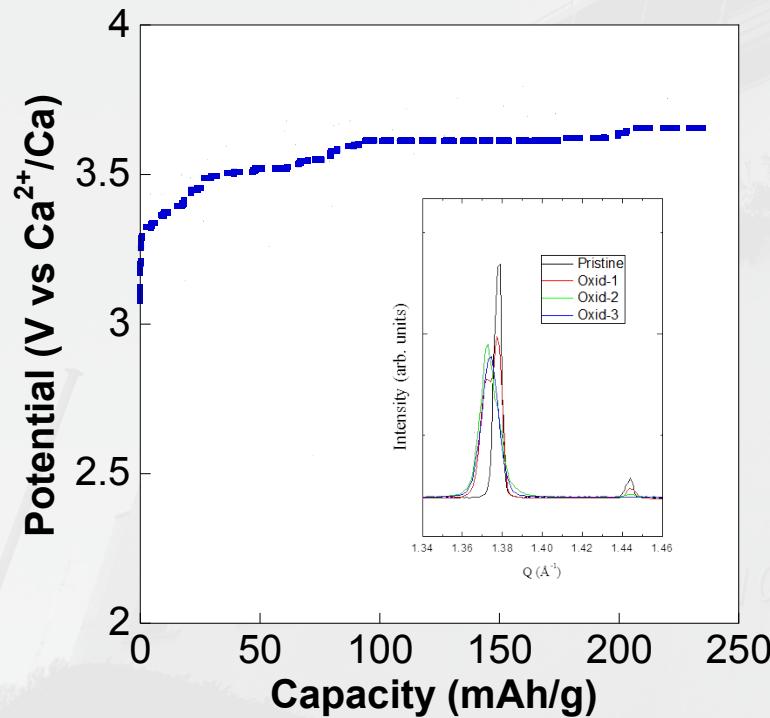
Suitable potential  
BUT migration barrier > 1.5 eV



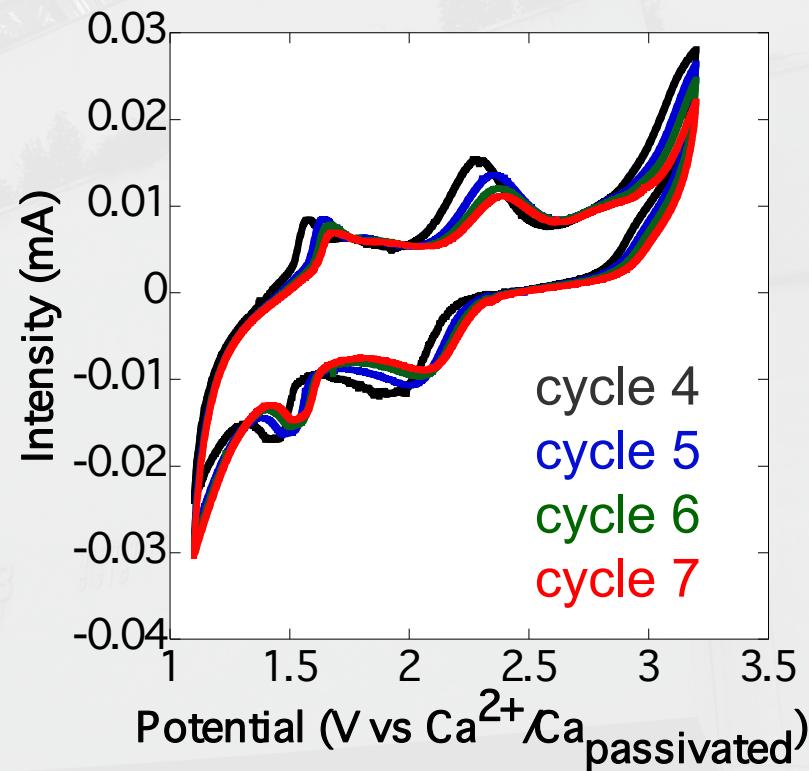
Complementary characterization  
COMPULSORY!!!

## Preliminary proof of electrochemical reactivity in some Ca-M-X and M-X phases

Ca-M-X



M-X



## Other alternatives?

Complementary characterization: XRD may not be enough...

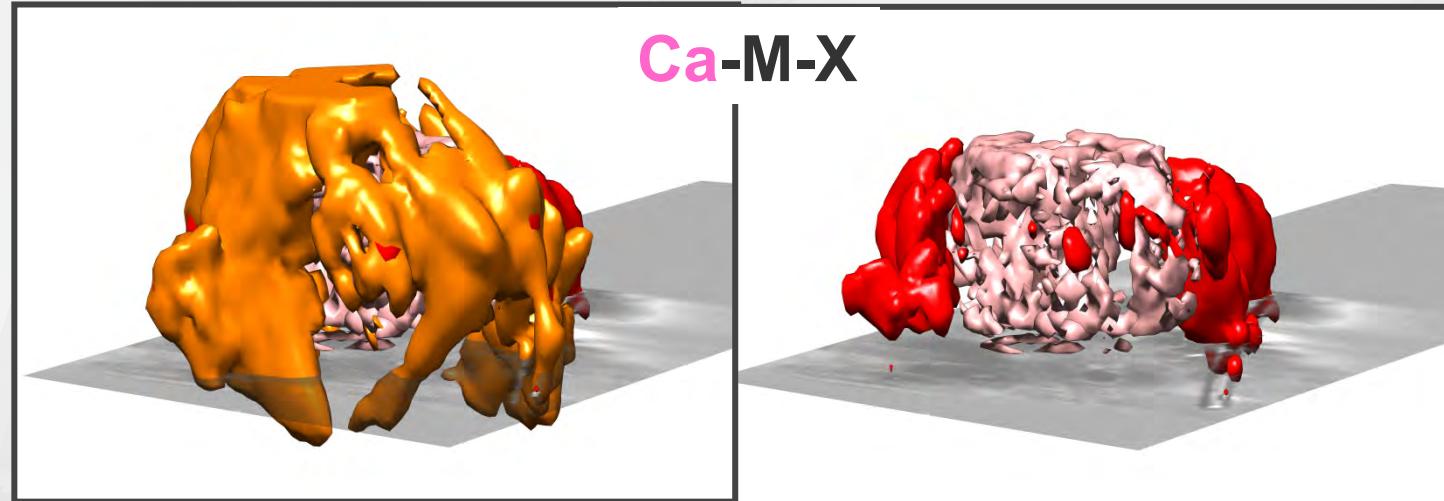
M-X



Ca-M-X

Tomographic reconstruction  
Transmission X-ray Microscopy  
Ca L edge XANES

Standards: M-X,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{CaF}_2$



... to be continued

# Towards Ca metal batteries?

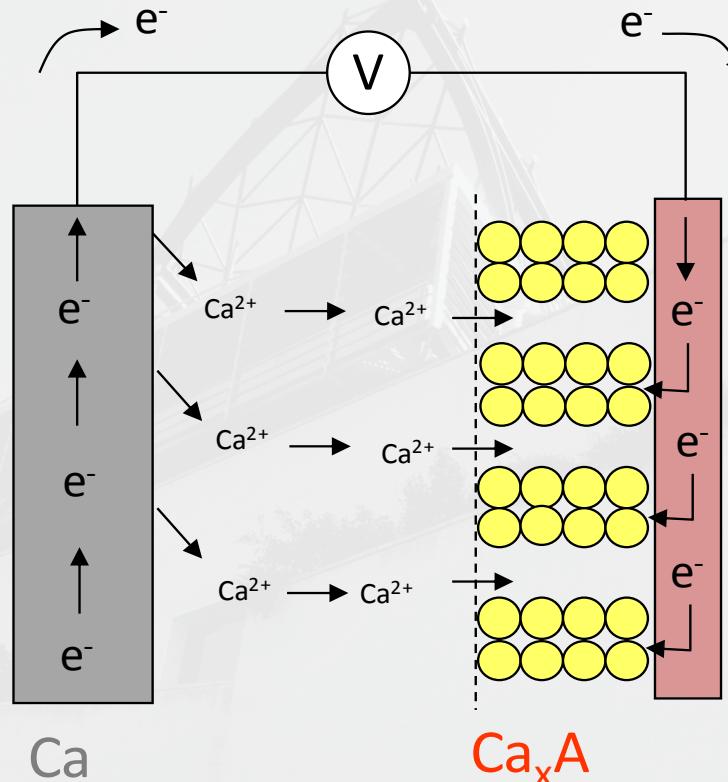


**Negative**

Plating/stripping



**Operation T  
Efficiency**



**Electrolyte**

Plating/stripping  
Large potential window



**Positive**

Efficient  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  migration  
Large specific capacity  
High operation potential



*I always like to look on the optimistic side of life, but I am realistic enough to know that life is a complex matter.* Walt Disney

## Acknowledgements



A. Ponrouch



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M. E. Arroyo



P. Johansson



D. Monti



B. Steen



A. Sorrentino



F. Bardé



