

Controlling Ni²⁺ from the Surface to the Bulk by a New Cathode Electrolyte Interphase Formation on Ni-rich Layered Cathode in High-Safe and High-Energy-Density Lithium-Ion Batteries

Yen-Ting Liu (劉晏廷)¹, Hsin-Yi Lee (李信義)^{2,3*}, and San-Yuan Chen (陳三元)²

Nan-Hung Yeh¹, Fu-Ming Wang^{1,2,3,4*}, Xing-Chun Wang¹, Yi-Wen Lin¹, Shih-Chang Chang¹, ChunChuan Hsu¹, Yung-Jen Chang¹, Lester Tjong¹, Chia-Hao Liu¹, Ying-Rui Lu⁵, Yen-Fa Liao⁵, Chung-Kai Chang⁵, Shu-Chih Haw⁵, Chih-Wen Pao⁵, Jeng-Lung Chen⁵, Chi-Liang Chen⁵, Jyh-Fu Lee⁵, Ting-Shan Chan⁵, Hwo-Shuenn Sheu⁵, Jin-Ming Chen⁵, Alagar Ramar¹ and Chia-Hung Su⁶

¹Graduate Institute of Applied Science and Technology, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan

²Sustainable Energy Center, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan

³Department of Chemical Engineering, Chung Yuan Christian University, Taoyuan, Taiwan

⁴R&D Center for Membrane Technology, Chung Yuan Christian University, Taoyuan, Taiwan

⁵National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center, Hsin-Chu, Taiwan

⁶Graduate School of Biochemical Engineering, Ming Chi University of Technology, New-Taipei City, Taiwan

Abstract

Ni-rich high-energy-density lithium ion batteries pose great risks to safety due to internal short circuits and overcharging; they also have poor performance because of cation mixing and disordering problems. For Ni-rich layered cathodes, these factors cause gas evolution, the formation of side products, and life cycle decay. In this study, a new cathode electrolyte interphase (CEI) for Ni²⁺ self-oxidation is developed. By using a branched oligomer electrode additive, the new CEI is formed and prevents the reduction of Ni³⁺ to Ni²⁺ on the surface of Ni-rich layered cathode; this maintains the layered structure and decreases the cation mixing during cycling. In addition, this new CEI ensures the stability of Ni⁴⁺ that is formed at 100% state of charge in the crystal lattice at high temperature (660 K); this prevents the rock-salt formation and the overreduction of Ni⁴⁺ to Ni²⁺. These findings are obtained using in situ X-ray absorption spectroscopy, operando X-ray diffraction, operando gas chromatography–mass spectroscopy, and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. Transmission electron microscopy reveals that the new CEI has an elliptical shape on the material surface, which is approximately 100 nm in length and 50 nm in width, and covers selected particle surfaces. After the new CEI was formed on the surface, the Ni²⁺ self-oxidation gradually affects from the surface to the bulk of the material. It found that the bond energy and bond length of the Ni–O are stabilized, which dramatically inhibits gas evolution. The new CEI is successfully applied in Ni-rich layered compound, and the 18650- and the punch-type full cells are fabricated. The energy density of the designed cells is up to 300 Wh/kg. Internal short circuit and overcharging safety tests are passed when using the standard regulations of commercial evaluation. This new CEI technology is ready and plans for future applications in electric vehicle and energy storage.

Keywords - cation mixing, cathode electrolyte interphase, internal short circuit, Ni-rich layered, safety.