

2022 [第五届] 铌在电池中应用国际研讨会文集

# 2022 | International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Nanning - China

September 15<sup>th</sup>



中信金属股份有限公司  
CITIC Metal Co., Ltd



| Niobium N<sub>5</sub>



2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries



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## 2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries

**Date: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Hybrid Event

主办单位 / **Organized by**



支持单位 / **Partners**

- ▷ China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association
- ▷ China Industrial Association of Power Sources
- ▷ China Industry Technology Innovation Strategic Alliance for Electric Vehicle
- ▷ The Chinese Society of Electrochemistry
- ▷ Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- ▷ Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory
- ▷ South Manganese Group Limited

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大会主席 / **Chairman**

- ▷ Dr. Aimin Guo, Vice President of CITIC Metal Co., Ltd, China

组织委员会 / **Organizing Committee:**

- ▷ Mr. Ricardo Lima, President of CBMM, Brazil
- ▷ Dr. Aimin Guo, Vice President of CITIC Metal Co., Ltd, China
- ▷ Mr. Weijian Li, President of South Manganese Group Limited, China
- ▷ Mr. Debing Duan, Deputy President, China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association
- ▷ Mr. Yanlong Liu, General Secretary, China Industrial Association of Power Sources
- ▷ Prof. Dr. Xuejie Huang, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- ▷ Prof. Dr. Yongyao Xia, Fudan University, China
- ▷ Mr. Lijing Zhao, Assistant of General Secretary, China SAE, China
- ▷ Mr. Rogerio Ribas, Executive Manager of Battery Products, CBMM, Brazil
- ▷ Dr. Robson Monteiro, Sr. Market Development Specialist, CBMM, Brazil
- ▷ Dr. Zhongzhu Liu, Senior Engineer, CITIC Metal Co., Ltd, China
- ▷ Dr. Luanna Parreira, Senior Engineer of Battery Products, CBMM, Brazil

秘书长 / **General Secretary**

- ▷ Dr. Zhongzhu Liu, Senior Engineer, CITIC Metal Co., Ltd, China
- ▷ Dr. Luanna Parreira, Senior Engineer of Battery Products, CBMM, Brazil





Dear guest,



On behalf of the board of CBMM, I would like to thank you for participating in the 5th Edition of the International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries, held in hybrid mode on September 15th, in Nanning, China.

On this year's conference, we've brought together guest speakers from all over the world to contribute to developing niobium technology in electrochemical energy storage related to lithium-ion batteries. In the first session, our guest speakers will approach the next generation of applications of niobium in doping and coating for active cathode materials. The second session will introduce the development of niobium's role in active anode materials to evidence application for high-power technologies for industrial, commercial, and heavy-duty applications. And this year, CBMM and CITIC Metal introduced the Excellent Paper Award, a recognition for researchers on niobium batteries in China. This initiative aims to recognize the excellence of the production of knowledge and scientific contribution from the Chinese researchers and academics of the future in this important area of advancement in niobium based batteries and to speed up the technical development in this field.

This event is happening thanks to the strong alliance between CITIC Metal and CBMM. It's a long-term partnership, and our friends from CITIC Metal make us happy to be able to share this additional activity with them. We're very proud to have such a relevant and important partner in this event and new initiative. Furthermore, on behalf of Ricardo Lima, president of CBMM, and Dr. Aimin Guo, vice president of CITIC Metal in China, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the speakers, attendees, and organizers for being here and for sharing with us some more fresh and new information on the advanced battery materials using niobium.

Yours sincerely,

João Fernando  
Board Member, CBMM



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The rapid development of electric vehicles and energy storage technologies has fast-tracked the urgent requirements for high-performance batteries. The 2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries will present the significant advantages of niobium technology in lithium-ion batteries, including heavy-duty vehicle applications, which have attracted extensive attention from the global market and academia. This year's conference specially invited experts from the United States, the UK, Brazil, Korea, Japan and China to exchange insights on the market development and application of advanced energy storage.

### 2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries Programme

#### Opening Session and Excellent Paper Award Ceremony

08:30 - 08:35	VIP Introduction	Dr. Zhongzhu Liu, CITIC Metal Co., Ltd
08:35 - 08:50	Opening Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Dr. João Fernando, CBMM Board Member</li> <li>• Mr. Debing Duan, Vice President of China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association</li> <li>• Mr. Yanlong Liu, General Secretary of China Industrial Association of Power Sources</li> <li>• Dr. Aimin Guo, VP CITIC Metal Co., Ltd</li> </ul>
08:50 - 09:00	Excellent Paper Award Ceremony	

#### Session 01: Next Generation of Niobium Containing Cathode Materials

09:00 - 09:25	Role of Niobium in Nickel-rich Layered Oxide Cathodes for Lithium-ion Batteries	Prof. Stanley Whittingham, 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Laureate and 2022 Charles Hatchett Award Winner
09:25 - 09:50	Reducing the Surface Reactivity of High-nickel Cathodes with Niobium	Prof. Arumugam Manthiram, The University of Texas at Austin
09:50 - 10:15	High Cycling Stability and Mechanism Analysis of High-nickel Ternary Cathode Materials Modified by Nb	Prof. Dr. Xuejie Huang, Songshan Lake Materials Lab
10:15 - 10:25	Q&A Session	
10:25 - 10:45	Group Photo and Tea Break	
10:45 - 11:10	Development of Cobalt-free or Cobalt-less Li[Ni <sub>x</sub> Co <sub>y</sub> Mn <sub>z</sub> Nb <sub>1-x-y-z</sub> ]O <sub>2</sub>	Prof. Yang-Kook Sun, Hanyang University
11:10 - 11:35	The Role of Nb in Single Crystal Spinel-structure Lithium Manganese Oxides (LMO & LNMO)	Prof. Dr. Yongyao Xia, Fudan University
11:35 - 12:00	Niobium-doped Layered Cathode Material for High-power and Low-temperature Sodium-ion Batteries	Prof. Dr. Yufeng Zhao, Shanghai University
12:00 - 12:10	Q&A Session	

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#### Session 02: High-power Battery Technologies for Industrial, Commercial and Heavy-duty Applications

13:30 - 13:55	Role of Niobium for High Power, Fast Charging and Long Life Li-ion Batteries	Dr. Kent Griffith, CBMM Consultant
13:55 - 14:20	Defect and Wire Modulated Nb-Based Oxide Anodes for Durable and Fast-Charging Li-ion Batteries	Prof. Dr. Chilin Li, Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
14:20 - 14:45	High Power Energy Storage Applications and Requirements	Dr. Sebastian Pohlmann, Skeleton Technologies
14:45 - 15:10	Current Status of Niobium Titanium Oxide (NTO) Cell Development for Commercialization	Dr. Yasuhiro Harada, Toshiba Corporation
15:10 - 15:35	Commercialization of Next-gen Batteries Based on Niobium Based Chemistries	Dr. Rahul Fotedar, Morrow Batteries
15:35 - 15:50	Q&A Session	
15:50 - 16:00	Tea Break	

#### Session 03: Excellent Paper Award - Recognition for Research on Niobium Based Batteries

16:00 - 16:20	Winning Paper Presentation Ultrafast and Stable Li-(De)intercalation in a Large Single Crystal H-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> Anode via Optimizing the Homogeneity of Electron and Ion Transport	Zihan Song, Hui Li, Wei Liu, Hongzhang Zhang, Jingwang Yan, Yongfu Tang, Jianyu Huang, Huamin Zhang, Xianfeng Li
16:20 - 16:40	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Paper Presentation Engineering the Conductive Network of Metal Oxide-Based Sulfur Cathode Toward Efficient and Longevous Lithium-Sulfur Batteries	Jiayi Wang, Gaoran Li, Dan Luo, Yonggang Zhang, Yan Zhao, Guofu Zhou, Lingling Shui, Xin Wang, Zhongwei Chen
16:40 - 17:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Paper Presentation Rational Design and Synthesis of Nickel Niobium Oxide with High-Rate Capability and Cycling Stability in a Wide Temperature Range	Changpeng Lv, Chunfu Lin, S. Zhao
17:00 - 17:10	Q&A Session	
17:10 - 17:15	Closing Speech	Mr. Jefferson Vieira, CBMM



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M. STANLEY WHITTINGHAM教授 - 纽约州立大学, 2019年诺贝尔化学奖得主和2022查尔斯·哈切特获奖者  
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铌在电池中研究优秀论文奖

**Excellent Paper Award Recognition for Research on Niobium  
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## Prof. Stanley Whittingham

FRS Chemistry Department - Binghamton  
University

M. STANLEY WHITTINGHAM 是纽约州立大学宾汉姆顿分校化学和材料科学与工程杰出教授，2019年诺贝尔化学奖获得者。他在牛津大学获得化学学士和博士学位，是牛津新学院的荣誉研究员。自1971年以来，他一直活跃于锂电池领域，当时他因在 $\beta$ -氧化铝方面的工作获得了电化学学会的青年作家奖。1972年，他加入了Exxon公司，发现了插层在电池反应中的作用，这产生了Exxon公司制造的第一批商用锂可充电电池。1988年，他回到了纽约州立大学宾厄姆顿分校的学术界，开始了材料化学项目。2018年，他被选为国家工程院院士，并获得了TURNBULL奖。他是皇家学会、MRS、ECS、ISE和ICDD的研究员。

M. Stanley Whittingham is a SUNY distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering at Binghamton, and the 2019 Chemistry Nobel Laureate. He received his BA and D Phil degrees in chemistry from Oxford University, where he is an honorary Fellow of New College. He has been active in Li-batteries since 1971, when he won the Young Author Award of the Electrochemical Society for his work on beta-alumina. In 1972, he joined Exxon and discovered the role of intercalation in battery reactions, which resulted in the first commercial lithium rechargeable batteries that were built by Exxon Enterprises. In 1988, he returned to academia at SUNY Binghamton to initiate a program in materials chemistry. In 2018, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering and received the Turnbull Award from MRS. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, of MRS, ECS, ISE and ICDD.



## Role of Niobium in Nickel-Rich Layered Oxide Cathodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries

M. Stanley Whittingham

Binghamton University,  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000, USA

### Abstract

There is an exponentially increasing demand for lithium batteries to enable the electric economy and to combat climate change. At the same time, end-users are demanding higher energy densities and longer lifetimes. This is leading to the use of ever higher nickel layered oxide cathodes,  $\text{LiNi}_{1-y-z}\text{Mn}_y\text{Co}_z\text{O}_2$ . This change is also being driven by the cost of cobalt and its political challenges. However, as the nickel content increases, so does its reactivity with the electrolyte. This limits its lifetime, so approaches have to be found to reduce this reactivity, which may be associated with loss of oxygen and perhaps some dissolution of the transition metals.

Two approaches are being used to minimize reactivity. First, reduce the surface area of the cathode material by switching from the present meatball morphology to small single crystals, around 3 nm. This switch also eliminated the interparticle cracking observed on deep cycling of the meatballs. Second, modify the material by either coatings or substitution in the bulk. Such modification might also reduce the 1st cycle loss, that can amount to as much as 15% of the theoretical capacity. Aluminum has been used to stabilize the lattice, such as in NCA.

Our results on using small amounts of niobium to both reduce the 1st cycle loss and to close to eliminating capacity loss on extended cycling will be presented. We used two different approaches to niobium treat the NMC; treatment of commercial meatballs and addition of niobium with the lithium to the hydroxide precursors. The results are strongly dependent on the conditions used.

This work was supported by the US Department of Energy through the Battery500 consortium.





## Notes

- ▷ 1. Fengxia Xin, Hui Zhou, Xiaobo Chen, Mateusz Zuba, Natasha Chernova, Guangwen Zhou, and M. Stanley Whittingham, “Li–Nb–O Coating/Substitution Enhances the Electrochemical Performance of the LiNi<sub>0.8</sub>Mn<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (NMC 811) Cathode”, ACS Applied Mater & Interfaces, 2019, 11: 34889-34894. DOI: 10.1021/acsami.9b09696.
- ▷ 2. Fengxia Xin, Hui Zhou, Yanxu Zong, Mateusz Zuba, Yan Chen, Natasha A. Chernova, Jianming Bai, Ben Pei, Anshika Goel, Jatinkumar Rana, Feng Wang, Ke An, Louis F. J. Piper, Guangwen Zhou, and M. Stanley Whittingham, “What is the Role of Nb in Nickel-Rich Layered Oxide Cathodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries?”, ACS Energy Letters, 2021, 6: 1377-1382. DOI: 10.1021/acsenergylett.1c00190.
- ▷ 3. Fengxia Xin, Anshika Goel, Xiaobo Chen, Hui Zhou, Jianming Bai, Sizhan Liu, Feng Wang, Guangwen Zhou, and M. Stanley Whittingham, “Electrochemical Characterization and Microstructure Evolution of Ni-Rich Layered Cathode Materials by Niobium Coating/Substitution”, Chemistry of Materials, 2022. DOI: 10.1021/acs.chemmater.2c01461.



## Notes

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## Notes

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## Prof. Arumugam Manthiram

The University of Texas at Austin

ARUMUGAM MANTHIRAM 目前是奥斯汀德克萨斯大学科克雷尔家族董事会工程系主席和德克萨斯材料研究所所长。他撰写了810篇期刊文章，引用次数为6万9千次，h指数为130。他为260名学生和博士后研究员提供了研究培训，包括62名博士生和26名硕士生的毕业。他代表 JOHN GOODENOUGH 教授在斯德哥尔摩发表了2019年诺贝尔化学奖演讲。

Arumugam Manthiram is currently the Cockrell Family Regents Chair in Engineering and Director of the Texas Materials Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. He has authored 810 journal articles, with 69,000 citations and an H-index of 130. He has provided research training to 260 students and postdoctoral fellows, including the graduation of 62 Ph.D. students and 26 M.S. students. He delivered the 2019 Chemistry Nobel Prize Lecture on behalf of Professor John Goodenough in Stockholm.

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### Reducing Surface Reactivity of High-nickel Cathodes with Niobium

Arumugam Manthiram

Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering

McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering

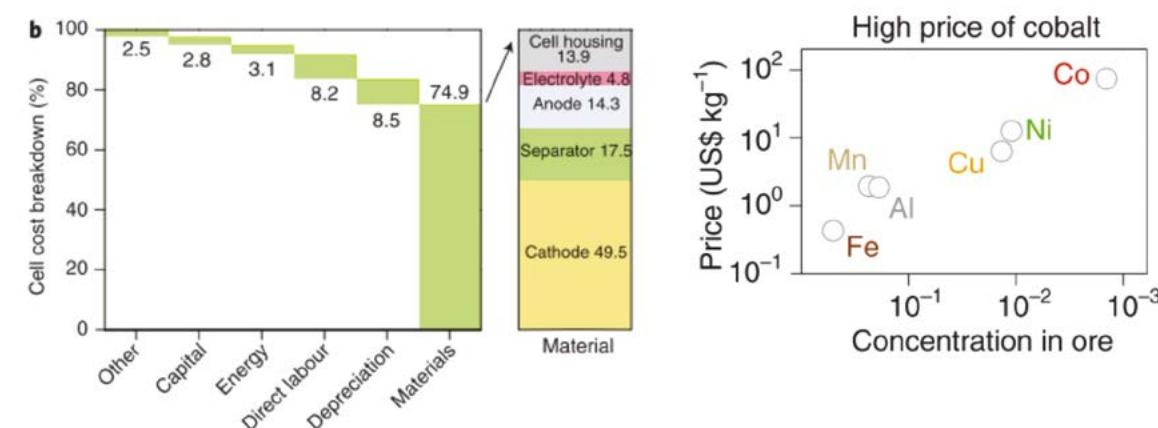
The University of Texas at Austin



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### Cost Considerations

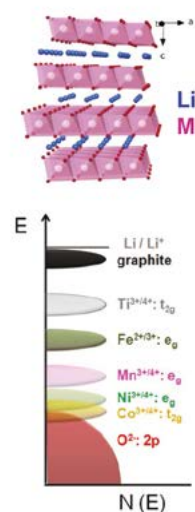


W. Li, E. M. Erickson, and A. Manthiram, *Nature Energy* 5, 26 (2020)

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Effect of Co, Ni, and Mn in Layered LiMO<sub>2</sub> Cathodes

Ion	Octahedral CFSE	Tetrahedral CFSE	Octahedral-site stabilization energy
Mn <sup>3+</sup> : d <sup>4</sup>	$t_{2g}^3 e_g^1$ : -0.6 $\Delta$	$e^2 t_{2g}^2$ : -0.18 $\Delta$	-0.42 $\Delta$
Ni <sup>3+</sup> : d <sup>7</sup>	$t_{2g}^6 e_g^1$ : -1.88 $\Delta$	$e^4 t_{2g}^3$ : -0.53 $\Delta$	-1.35 $\Delta$
Co <sup>3+</sup> : d <sup>6</sup>	$t_{2g}^6 e_g^0$ : -2.4 $\Delta$	$e^3 t_{2g}^3$ : -0.27 $\Delta$	-2.13 $\Delta$

- M<sup>3+/4+</sup> ion characteristics/behavior are determined by
  - position of metal:3d band relative to that of O<sup>2-</sup>:2p band
  - stability of metal ions in octahedral vs. tetrahedral sites
- High-Ni oxides:
  - high capacity, tap density, volumetric energy, and rate
  - cycle, thermal, air instabilities: involves bulk and surface of both electrodes (cathode and anode) and electrolyte

Chemical stability:

Mn &gt; Ni &gt; Co

Structural Stability:

Co &gt; Ni &gt; Mn

Conductivity:

Co &gt; Ni &gt; Mn

Dissolution Stability:

Co &gt; Ni &gt; Mn

Abundance:

Mn &gt; Ni &gt; Co

Affordability (low cost)

Mn &gt; Ni &gt; Co

Environmental:

Mn &gt; Ni &gt; Co

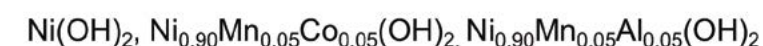
A. Manthiram, *Nature Communications* 11, 1550 (2020)

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## Incorporation of Niobium into High-nickel Layered Oxide Cathodes

- Solution-mediated mixing of high-nickel metal hydroxide precursors with ammonium niobium oxalate (ANO)



- Calcination of ANO-coated precursor with LiOH under oxygen atmosphere at an optimum temperature to yield niobium-incorporated high-nickel layered oxide cathodes

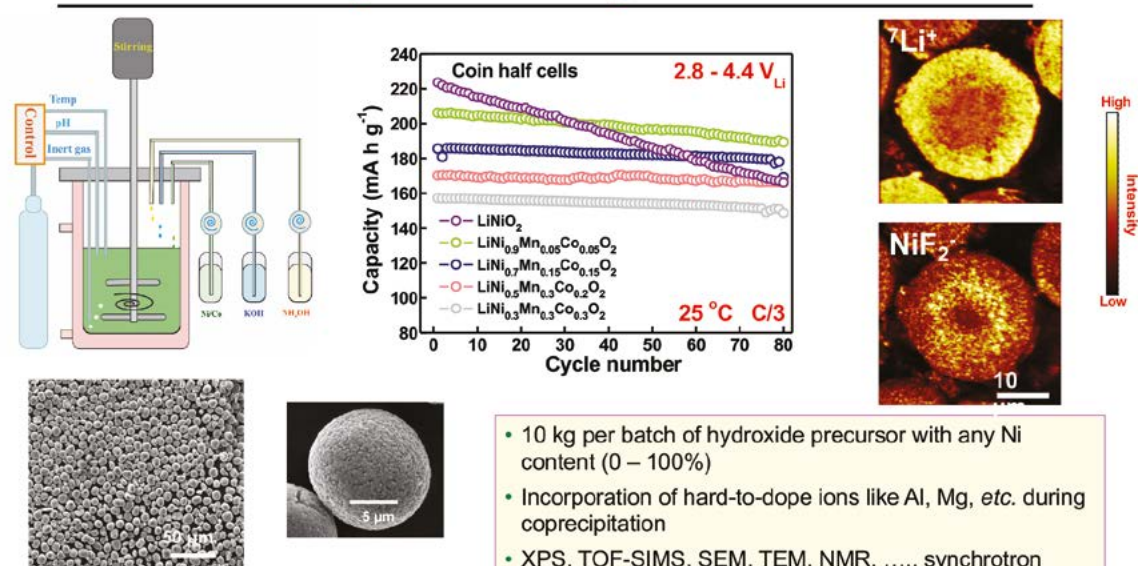


Nb-LiNiO <sub>2</sub>	Nb-LiNi <sub>0.90</sub> Mn <sub>0.05</sub> Co <sub>0.05</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Nb-LiNi <sub>0.90</sub> Mn <sub>0.05</sub> Al <sub>0.05</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
700°C	750°C	760°C

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## Challenges with Increasing Ni Content



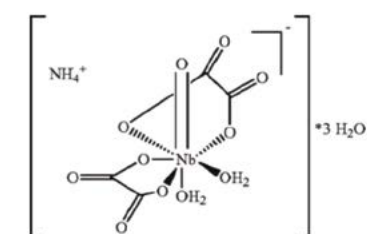
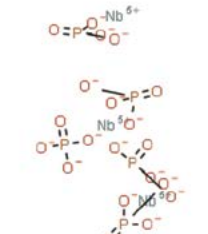
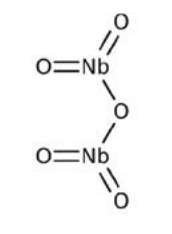
- 10 kg per batch of hydroxide precursor with any Ni content (0 – 100%)
- Incorporation of hard-to-dope ions like Al, Mg, etc. during coprecipitation
- XPS, TOF-SIMS, SEM, TEM, NMR, ..... synchrotron

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## Niobium Source Selection

- Various niobium precursors exhibit excellent stability and are low cost

Ammonium niobium oxalate  
 $\text{NH}_4[\text{NbO}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ Niobium phosphate  
 $\text{Nb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_3$ Niobium Oxide  
 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 

- Nb introduction by dry mixing and solution-mediated coating methods
  - Incorporation in hydroxide precursors vs. layered oxides after lithiation
- Comparative study of niobium sources on NMC 90:05:05

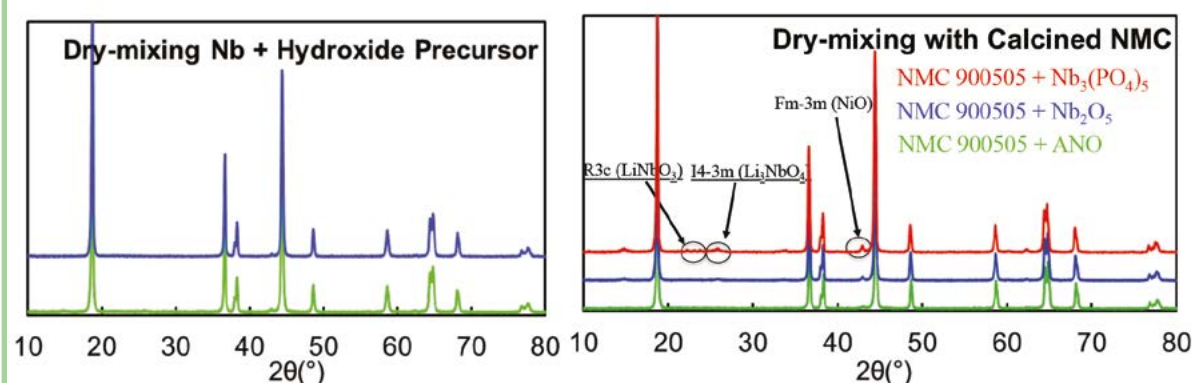
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### XRD of Samples Obtained with 1% Nb Incorporation in NMC 900505

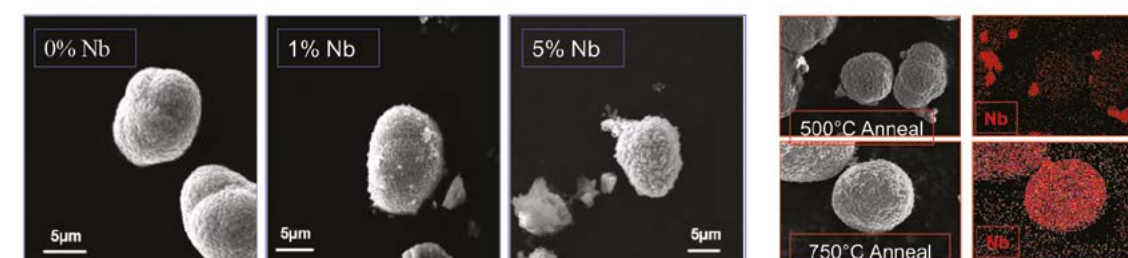
- ANO-NMC and  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ -NMC show similar XRD patterns
- $\text{Nb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_5$  yields heterogeneous phase formation even at a small concentration



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### Methods of Nb Introduction

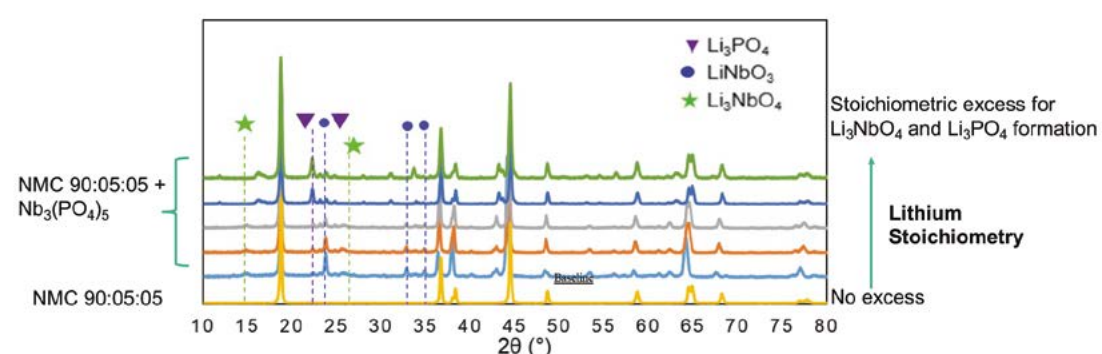


- Solution-mediated coating of hydroxide precursor with ANO
- Addition of ANO after calcination, followed by annealing step
- Dry-mixing ANO with hydroxide precursor

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### XRD of Samples Obtained with 10% Nb with $\text{Nb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_5$ in NMC 900505

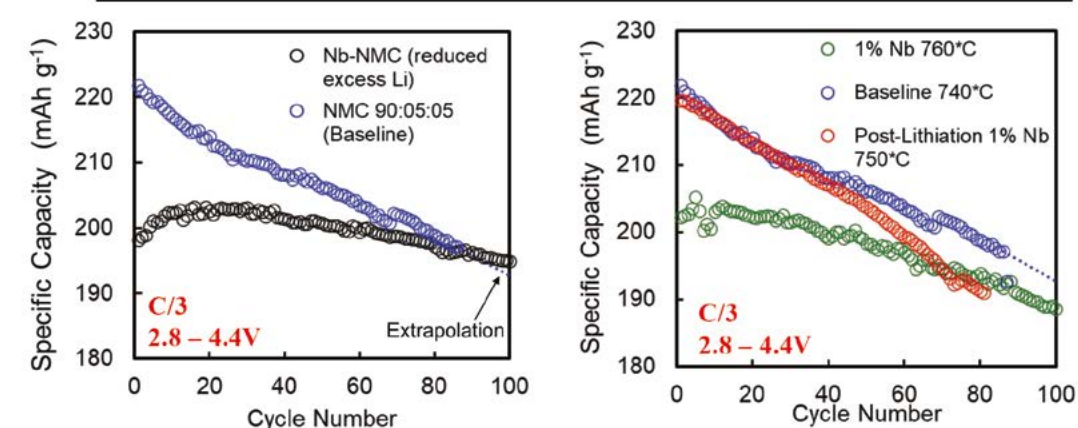


- $\text{Nb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_5$  precursor yields various heterogeneous phases in NMC 90:05:05
- Type and extent of phase formation depends on lithium stoichiometry
  - Excess Li is required for formation of  $\text{Li}_x\text{NbO}_y$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{PO}_y$  without delithiation of layered phase

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### Electrochemical Performance of Nb-NMC 900505

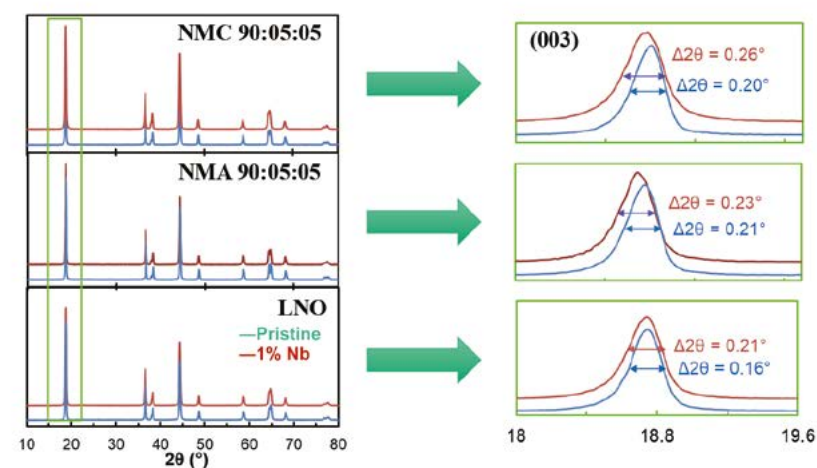


- Nb incorporation into precursor yields optimal electrochemical performance
- Nb incorporation after calcination does not improve stability
- Possibly due to reduced Li inventory caused by  $\text{Li}_3\text{NbO}_4$  phase formation

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## XRD of Various 1 % Nb-incorporated Samples

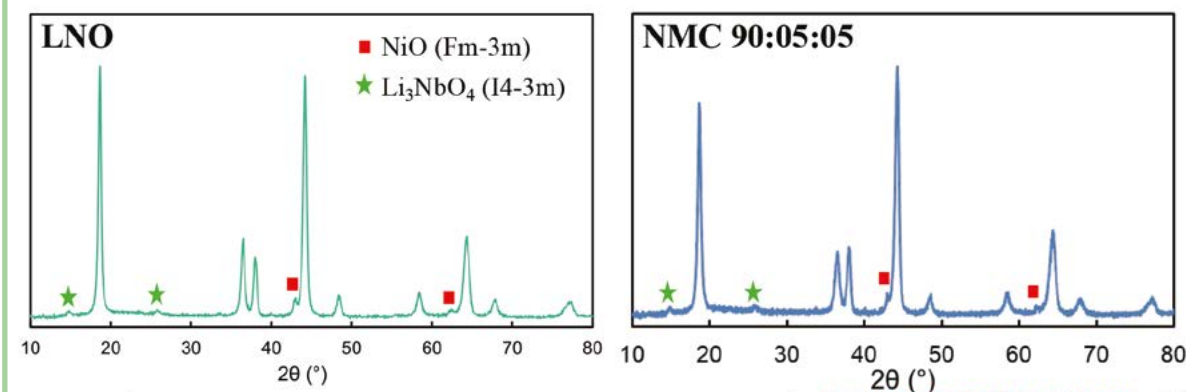


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## Effect of 10% Nb incorporation on Crystal Chemistry

- $\text{Li}_x\text{NbO}_y$  phase forms primarily as  $\text{Li}_3\text{NbO}_4$
- Increasing Nb content forms excessive NiO rock salt-like phase
- $\text{Li}_3\text{NbO}_4$  phase formation causes delithiation in  $\text{LiNiO}_2$  to form rock salt phase



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## Effect of 1 % Nb incorporation on Crystal Chemistry

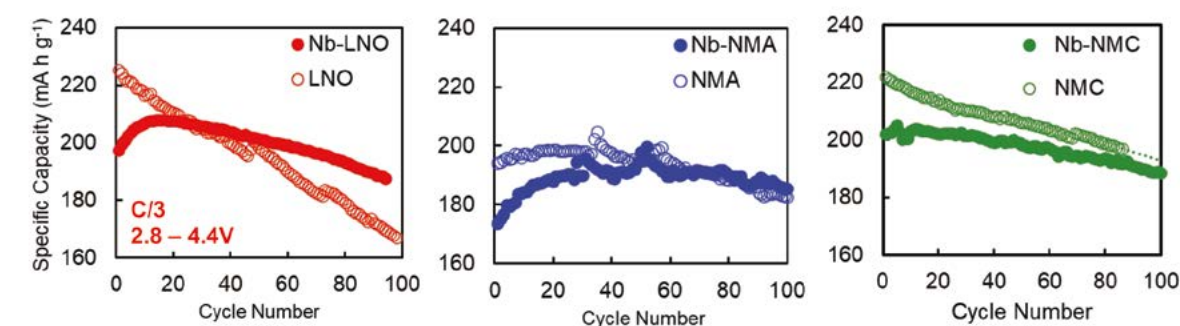
- Slight changes in structural features on 1% Nb incorporation
  - Reduced crystallite size
  - Increased structural disordering
  - Slight lattice expansion in 90% Ni materials
- Nb forms surface phase in intergranular space:  $\text{Li}_x\text{NbO}_y$
- Slight bulk doping effect at high synthesis temperatures

Composition	a (Å)	c(Å)	Li/Ni Mixing	Domain Size
LNO	2.874	14.187	1.89	0.733
Nb-LNO	2.875	14.183	3.50	0.437

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## Electrochemical Performance Various High-nickel Cathodes: Half Cells



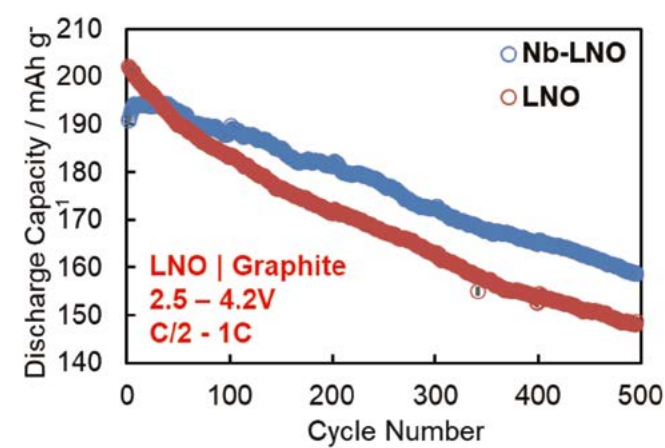
- Nb incorporation improves the electrochemical stability of various high-nickel cathode materials
- Consistent differences in the 'activation' period suggest different structural impacts during cycling

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### Electrochemical Performance of Nb-LiNiO<sub>2</sub>: Pouch Full Cells



- Nb incorporation enhances cycling stability
- Voltage curves indicate improved structural stability in Nb-LNO

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### Acknowledgements



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### Conclusions

- Nb incorporation improves the electrochemical performance of various High-nickel cathodes
- Nb forms Li<sub>3</sub>NbO<sub>4</sub> phase as a coating during heat treatment
  - Reduced primary particle size, intergranular Li<sub>3</sub>NbO<sub>4</sub> phase
- Bulk doping effects may also contribute to stability and Li<sup>+</sup> mobility
- Method of Nb introduction significantly impacts Nb distribution and performance characteristics

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## Notes

[illegible]

## Notes

[illegible]



## Prof. Dr. Xuejie Huang

Songshan Lake Materials Lab

黄学杰博士，现任中国科学院物理所研究员，博士生导师，兼任松山湖材料实验室副主任，广州中科院工业技术研究院锂离子动力电池工艺技术装备基础服务平台主任、中国电池工业协会副理事长。从1996起主持中科院物理所锂离子电池及其关键材料的研究、开发和产业化工作。主要从事于锂二次电池及其相关材料、工艺和装备技术的研究，推动锂离子动力和储能电池的产业发展。

Dr. Xuejie Huang, a Professor at the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOP/CAS), Deputy Director of Songshan Lake Laboratory for Materials, Director of Research/Development/Service Platform of Manufacturing Arts and Machining Technology, Guangzhou-CAS Institute of Industry, and Vice President of China Battery Industrial Association. Since 1996, he chairs the group of Solid-State Ionics at IOP/CAS and works on secondary lithium batteries and related materials. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal papers, and has more than 30 patents granted. He has developed technologies for materials, batteries and machines for the Li-ion battery industry in China. He prospected several companies to develop and produce large size Li-ion batteries for electrical vehicle and energy storage applications.



### High cycling stability and mechanism analysis of NCM811 modified by Nb

Liubin BEN, Xuejie HUANG\*  
IOP CAS/SSL

Yongming ZHU, Peng GAO  
HIT Weihai

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- 1 Background
- 2 Initial analysis of various ions doped NCM811
- 3 Doping of Nb<sup>5+</sup> on the electrochemical performance
- 4 Doping of Nb<sup>5+</sup> on the microstructure
- 5 Atomic-scale analysis of cracks
- 6 Conclusions and future perspectives





## 1.4 Comparison of Cathode Materials



项目	三元镍钴锰	磷酸铁锂	锰酸锂
化学式	$\text{Li}(\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_{1-x-y})\text{O}_2$	$\text{LiFePO}_4$	$\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$
理论比容量 ( $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ )	273~285	170	148
实际比容量 ( $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ )	<220	130~140	100~120
电芯比能量 ( $\text{Wh kg}^{-1}$ )	180~240	130~160	130~180
平均电压/V	3.6	3.4	3.8
Cycling 循环性/次	800~2000	2000~6000	500~2000
环保性	镍、钴有毒	无毒	无毒
安全性能	尚好	好	良好
使用温度/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$	-20~55	-20~75	>50
Price 价格 (万元/吨)			
2021年9月30日上 海有色网价格	20~25	6.5~7.5	5.5~6.5

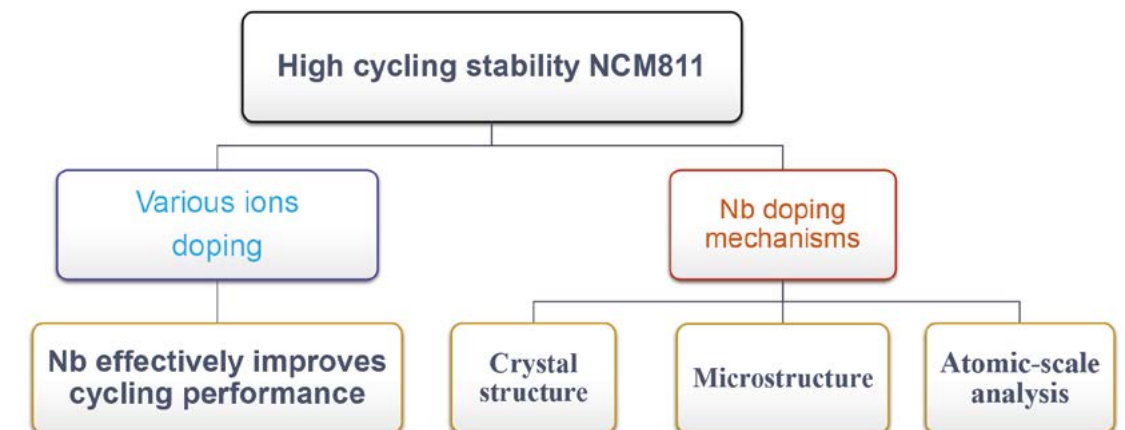
- ◆ Considering the development of high energy density EV battery in the future
- Longer range (1000 km per charge)
- Higher driving enjoyment (auxiliary driving and intelligent car, etc.)

✓ High Ni NCM/NCA with higher theoretical energy density have more application prospects in the future

• 王伟东, 锂离子电池三元材料: 工艺技术及生产应用

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## 1.6 Research Strategies

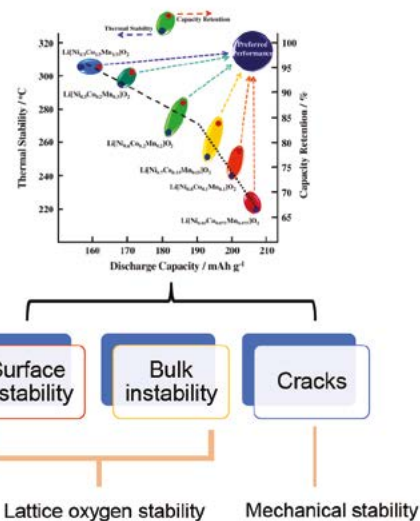


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## 1.5 High-Ni NCA/NCM Issues and Solutions



## ➤ Problems:



• Chemistry of Materials, 2019,31(18):7574-83.

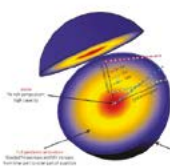
## ➤ Modifications:

## ● Coating



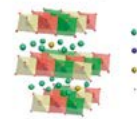
• Nature Energy, 2021, 6(4): 362-371.

## ● Concentration gradient



• Nature Materials, 2012,11(11):942-7.

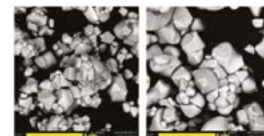
## ● Doping



Ta-0.25%

• ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, 2020, 8(8): 3082-3090.

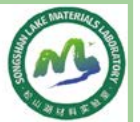
## ● Single-crystallization



• Journal of The Electrochemical Society, 2021, 168(4): 040531.

8

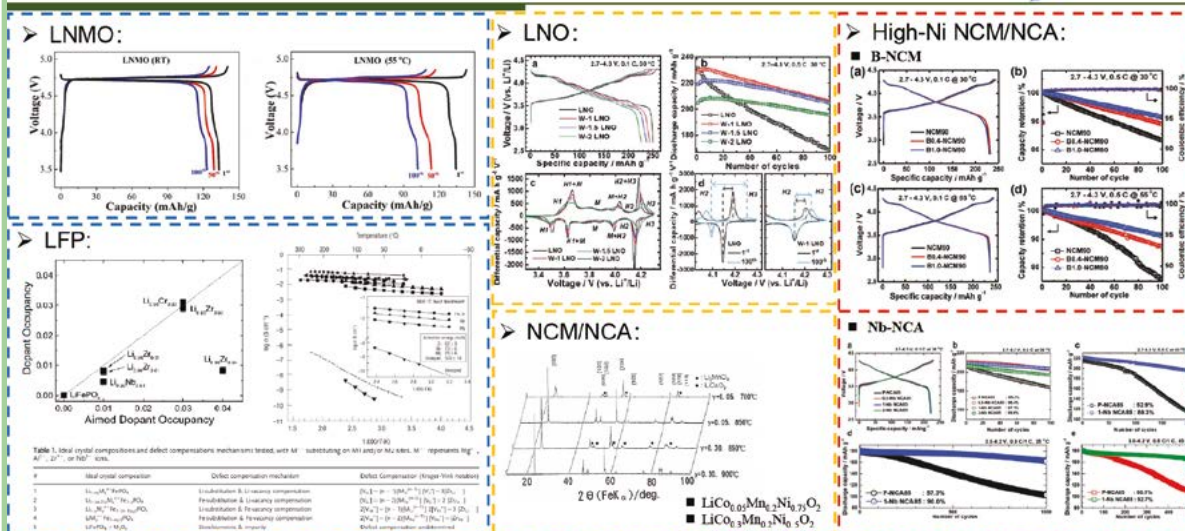
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- 1 Background
- 2 Initial analysis of various ions doped high-Ni NCM811
- 3 Doping of Nb on the electrochemical performance
- 4 Doping of Nb on the microstructure of secondary particles
- 5 Atomic-scale analysis of cracks
- 6 Conclusions and future perspectives



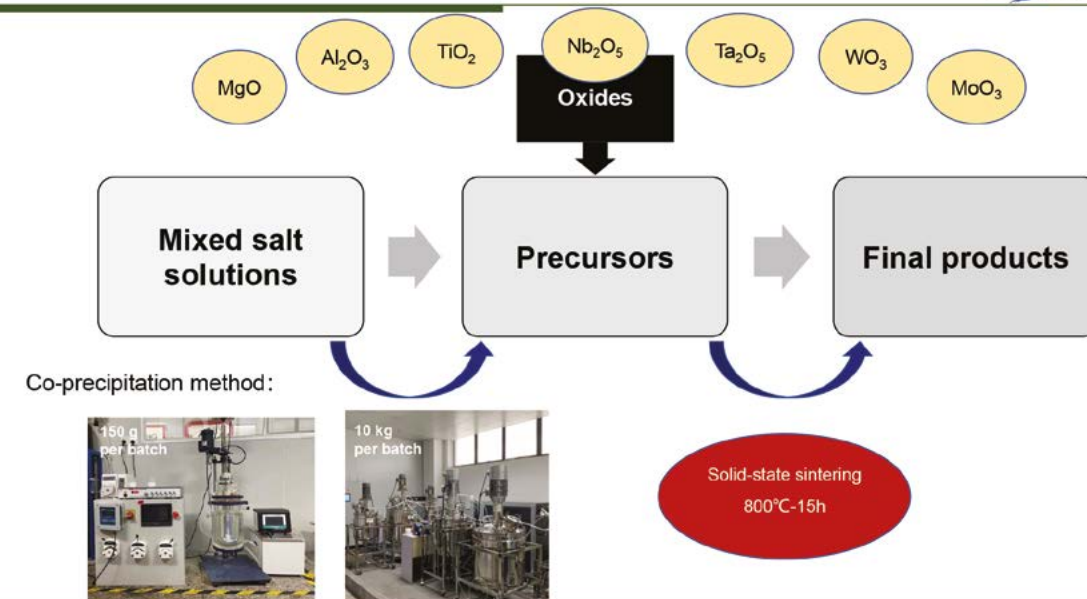
## 2.1 The Important Role of Doping in the Development of Cathode Materials



- ACS Applied Energy Materials, 2018, 5589-5593;
- Nat Mater, 2002, 1(2): 123-8;
- Advanced Functional Materials, 2009, 19(7): 1060-1070;
- Chemistry of Materials, 2008, 20(20): 6313-6315;
- Journal of Materials Chemistry A, 2019, 7(31): 18580-18588;
- Journal of Power Sources, 2000, 90(2): 176-181;
- Advanced Energy Materials, 2018, 8(25): 1801202;
- Advanced Energy Materials, 2021, 11(25).

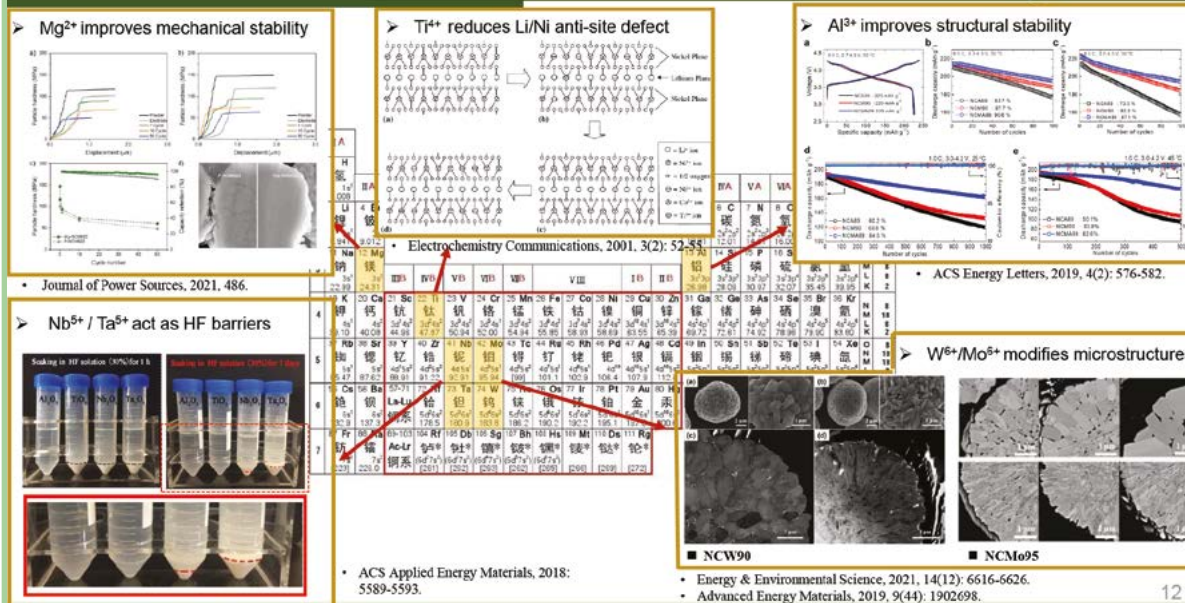
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## 2.3 Preparation of Doped NCM811



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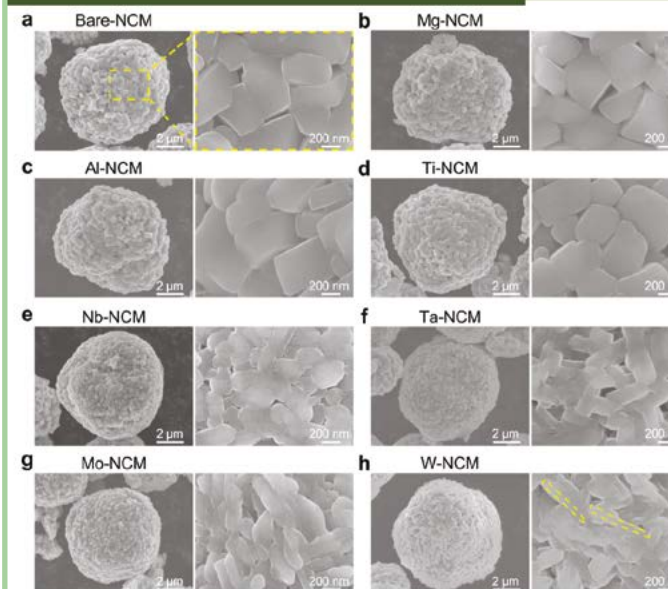
## 2.2 Various dopants



- Journal of Power Sources, 2021, 486.
- ACS Energy Letters, 2019, 4(2): 576-582.
- ACS Applied Energy Materials, 2018, 5589-5593.
- Energy & Environmental Science, 2021, 14(12): 6616-6626.
- Advanced Energy Materials, 2019, 9(44): 1902698.

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## 2.4 Doped NCM811---Morphology

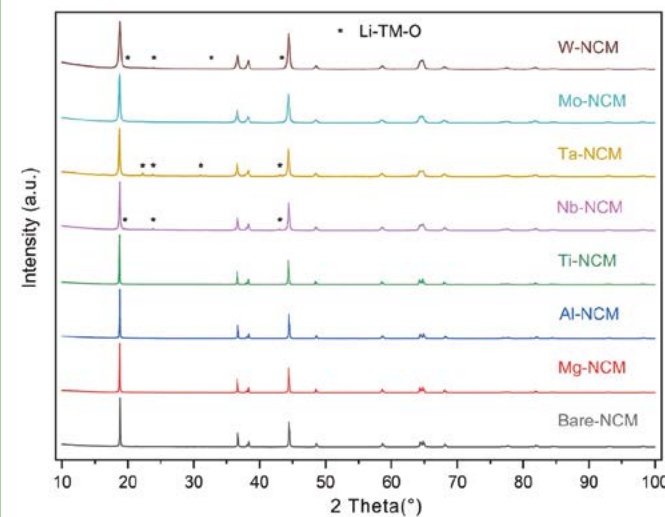


- The size and morphology of the secondary particles are similar, and they all maintain a spherical shape with a size of 8-10  $\mu\text{m}$ ;
- For the size and morphology of primary particles, doping with different ions shows different effects:
  - After doping with  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ , the primary particles show no obvious change, and they maintain original shapes with a size of about 500 nm;
  - After  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$  doping, the primary particles size is obviously reduced, only about 200 nm, and the overall edges and corners are tend to be "rounded";
  - After the doping of  $\text{Ta}^{5+}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$  and  $\text{W}^{6+}$ , the size of the primary particles decreases, and the shape are becoming elongated;

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## 2.4 Doped NCM811---Crystal Structure

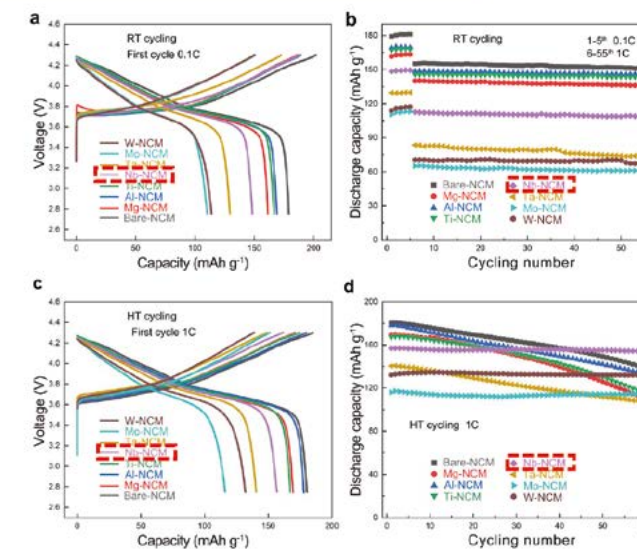


3 mol% dopant ions:

- All samples maintained the standard layered  $\alpha$ - $\text{NaFeO}_2$  crystal structure, and no change of the original crystal structure can be observed;
- Doping with high valent ions will cause the weakening of the (006)/(012) and (108)/(110) peak splitting, which may relate to the broadening of the peaks after the grain size decreases;
- In addition, high-valent ions doping will cause the formation of the second phase of Li-TM-O, which is related to the fact that doping reach the solid solution limit.

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## 2.4 Doped NCM811---RT and ET Cycling



**Capacity :**

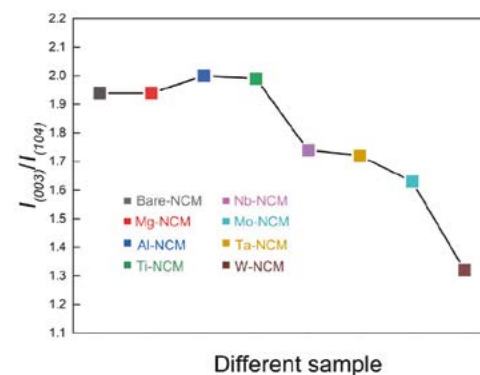
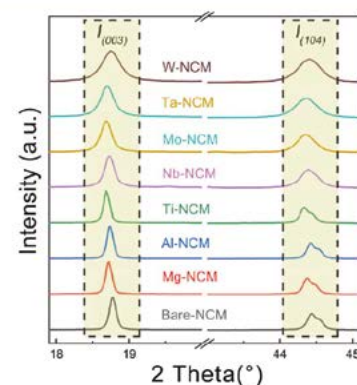
- With 3 mol% dopants, the discharge capacity of the NCM cathode decreases regardless of RT or ET cycling, and the capacity decrease caused by the doping of high-valent ions is more serious.

**Retention:**

- All cathodes have relatively good cycling stability at room temperature; At elevated temperature, the performance of the pristine NCM cathode decays rapidly; while  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$  and  $\text{W}^{6+}$  doping helps significantly to improve the cycle performance.
- Nb-NCM has the best comprehensive electrochemical performance.

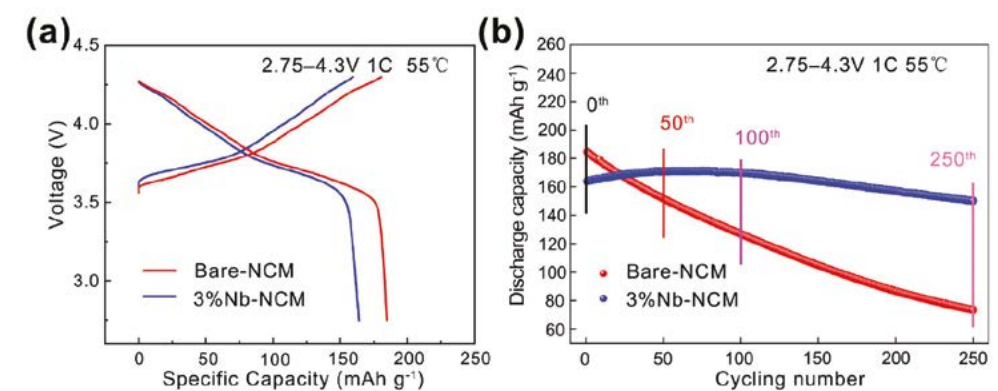
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## 2.4 Doped NCM811---Li/Ni Anti-site Defect



- With 3 mol% dopants, the  $I(003)/I(104)$  value decreases significantly with doping with high-valent ions, indicating an increase in the degree of Li/Ni anti-site defect.
- In addition, the enlarged XRD patterns can clearly show the broadening of XRD lines with the doping of high-valent elements, indicating that grain size changes in these samples;

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2.5 Cycling Performances of Bare and  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$  Doped NCM811 at 55°C

- The pristine NCM811 material decays rapidly at 55 °C, while the addition of  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$  greatly improves the cycling performance at 55°C .

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## 2.6 Conclusions for the Doping into NCM811



## Conclusions of Part 2:

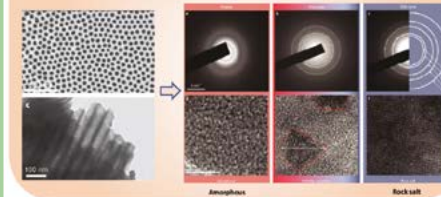
- Doping with high-valent ions will significantly change the morphology of the primary particles, significantly reduce the size of the primary particles ( $\text{Nb}^{5+}$ ), and significantly affect the particle morphology ( $\text{Ta}^{5+}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$  and  $\text{W}^{6+}$ );
- Under 3 mol% doping, low-valent ions have no obvious effect on the layered crystal structure, while doping with high-valent ions will lead to an increase in cation mixing and the generation of Li-TM-O second phase, which will play a role in the cycling capacity. cause varying degrees of impact;
- All cathode materials show good electrochemical stability at room temperature, but at high temperature cycling, the electrochemical performance of high-nickel cathode materials decays rapidly, and high-valent  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$  and  $\text{W}^{6+}$  ions doping can significantly improve the material's cycling stability.
- Comprehensive consideration of the electrochemical performance, it is clear that the NCM material doped with  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$  can significantly improve the material stability, especially the high temperature cycling stability, with a small loss of reversible capacity.

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## 3.1 Wide Application of Nb Element in Battery Materials



- 非晶态纳米通道 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 在电化学驱动下结晶而获得一种岩盐结构 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  Anode Materials



Nat. Mater. (2022): doi.org/10.1038/s41563-022-01242-0

- 石榴石型 Solid Electrolyte  $\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{M}_2\text{O}_{12}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Nb}, \text{Ta}$ ) ( $\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$  块体传导率  $10^{-6} \text{ S/cm}$  ( $25^\circ\text{C}$ ), 离子传导激活能( $<300^\circ\text{C}$ )为0.43 eV)

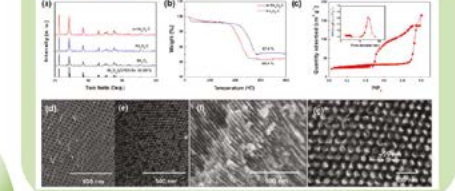
Table II. Synthesis Conditions and Comparison of Lattice Parameters of Garnet Type  $\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{M}_2\text{O}_{12}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Nb}, \text{Ta}$ )

Compound	Synthesis conditions <sup>a</sup>	Lattice parameters (Å)
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$	760°C/24 h, 860°C/24 h, 890°C/12 h, and 950°C/24 h	12.762(3)
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_{12}$	760°C/24 h, 860°C/24 h, 890°C/12 h, and 950°C/24 h	12.766(4)
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$	760°C-850°C/6 h	12.79(1)
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$	760°C-900°C/24 h	12.839(1) <sup>b</sup>
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_{12}$	560°C-850°C/6 h	12.804(1)
$\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$	760°C-900°C/24 h	12.821(2) <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The synthesis of the garnet-type compounds involves that the compounds are sintered up to 1000°C. <sup>b</sup>Structure R32 patterns revealed after 100°C above the formation of a single-phase garnet structure. Further sintering was performed for sintering the structural parameters. <sup>c</sup>At 100°C, the sample could develop the garnet-type  $\text{Li}_3\text{La}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{12}$  ( $a = 10.161(20) \text{ Å}$ ,  $b = 10.020(20) \text{ Å}$ ,  $c = 10.020(20) \text{ Å}$ ,  $\beta = 90.0^\circ$ ) and undoped sample. <sup>d</sup>From Rietveld and Refinement. <sup>e</sup>From Rietveld.

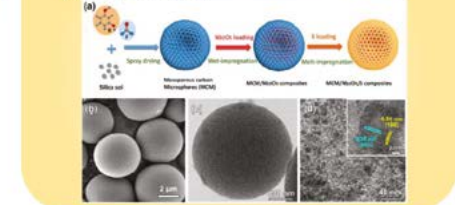
J. Am. Ceram. Soc., 86 [3] 437-40 (2003)

- 介孔 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ /碳 复合材料作为 Na Insertion Materials



Nano Energy (2015) 16, 62-70

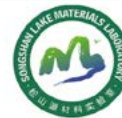
- 超细 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 纳米晶, 合成介孔碳微球/ $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ /硫 复合 Cathode Materials for Li-S Batteries ( $\text{MCM}/\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5/\text{S}$ )



Energy Environ. Sci., 2016, 9, 3230

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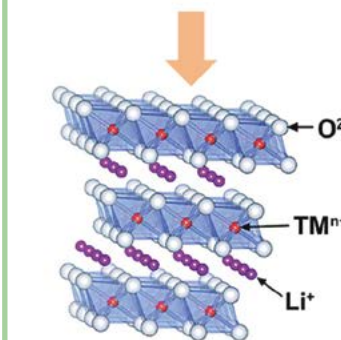
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3.2 Modification of NCM811 with  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$ 

Nb	41
NIOBIUM	
92.91	8.57
2468	4742

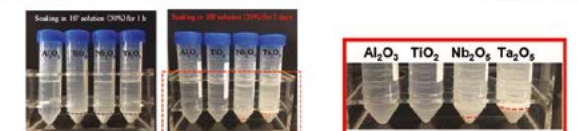


- High Nb-O bonding energy

	Nb-O	Ni-O	Co-O	Mn-O
键离解能 (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	753	391.6	368	402

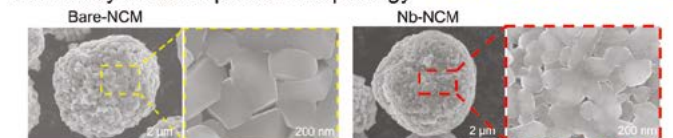
- Solid State Ionics, 2021, 359: 9;
- Electrochimica Acta, 2016, 188: 48-56.

- High resistance to HF



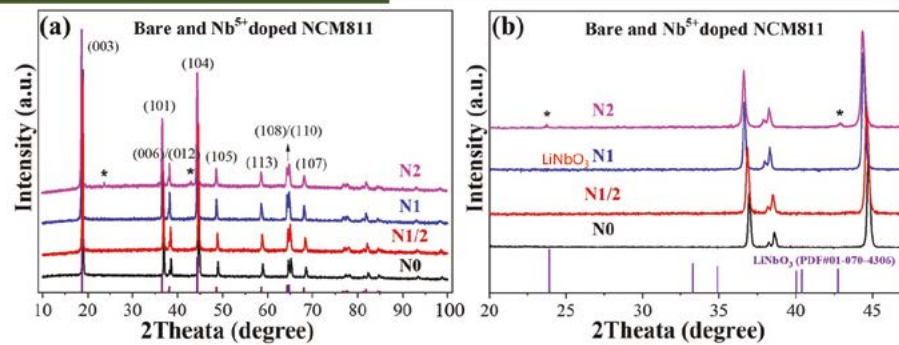
ACS Applied Energy Materials, 2018: 5589-5593.

- Effectively modifies particle morphology Particle mechanical stability



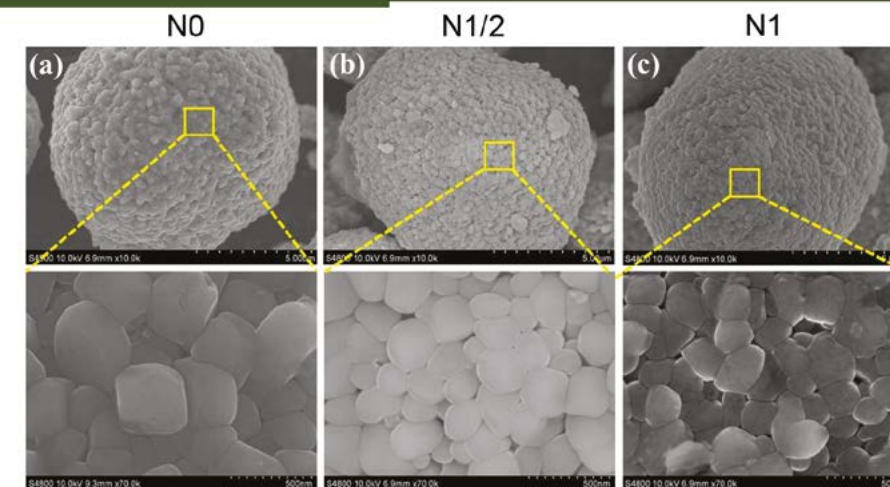
22



3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Crystal Structure

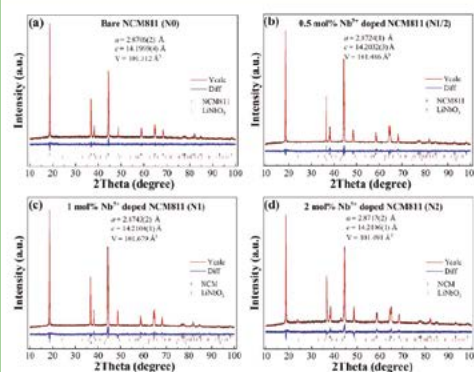
- All cathodes have a standard layered LiNiO<sub>2</sub> structure with clear (006)/(012) and (108)/(110) peak splits;
- With the gradual addition of Nb<sup>5+</sup>, a slight shift of the peak position to a low angle can be seen, indicating that Nb<sup>5+</sup> enters the layered lattice;
- When the doping content is 2 mol%, the second phase of LiNbO<sub>3</sub> begins to appear, which means that the solid solution limit is reached at this time, and the residual Nb<sup>5+</sup> does not enter the lattice and reacts with the Li source to form the LiNbO<sub>3</sub> phase;

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3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Morphology

- The primary particle size in the pristine NCM811 cathode is 300-500 nm, while the primary particle size is reduced to about 200 nm under Nb doping.

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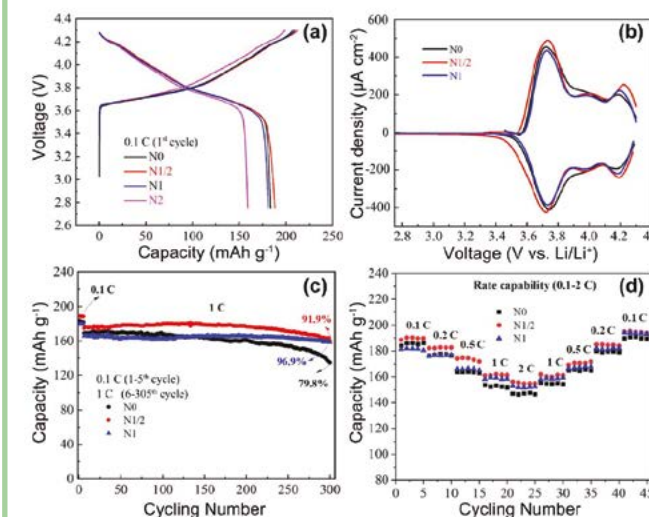
3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Structure Refinement

	Phase%		Lattice Parameter (Å)		Cell Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	Ni/Li Mixing%
	NCM811	LiNbO <sub>3</sub>	a	c		
N0	100%	0%	2.8706(2)	14.1969(4)	101.312	4.26
N1/2	100%	0%	2.8724(1)	14.2032(3)	101.486	1.92
N1	99.94%	0.06%	2.8743(2)	14.2104(1)	101.679	2.31
N2	99.31%	0.69%	2.8717(2)	14.2106(1)	101.491	4.43

- Rwp and Rp: N0 (4.59%, 3.64%) N1/2 (4.73%, 3.81%) N1 (4.43%, 3.41%) N2 (3.56%, 3.71%)

- The refinement results show that the N1/2 and N1 samples hardly contain the second phase of LiNbO<sub>3</sub>, while the second phase of LiNbO<sub>3</sub> appears obviously in the N2 sample (~0.69 wt%), indicating that the solid solution limit is reached at this time;
- The degree of Li/Ni mixing decreased from 4.26% of N0 to 1.92% of N1/2 and 2.31% of N1, but increased to 4.43% in N2 cathode, indicating the increase of mixing caused by excessive doping.

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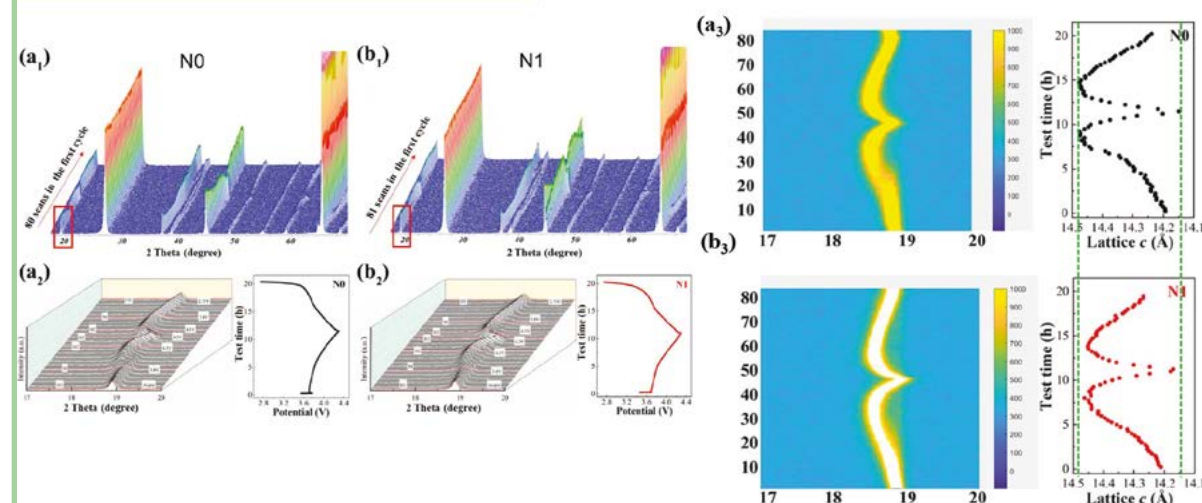
3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Cycling Performances

- Excessive Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping will lead to a large capacity degradation;
- The lower content of Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping can significantly improve the cycle stability of the material under the premise of less impact on the capacity;
- N1 has the best electrochemical performance, with a capacity retention rate of 96.9% after 300 cycles at 1 C at room temperature;
- The addition of Nb<sup>5+</sup> also improves the rate performance of the material.

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### 3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Structure Evolution



- In situ XRD analysis shows that Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping can alleviate the change of the unit cell parameter *c* during cycling, which is helpful to improve the stability of the crystal structure.

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### 3.4 Conclusions of Nb<sup>5+</sup> Doping on the Structure and Cycling performances

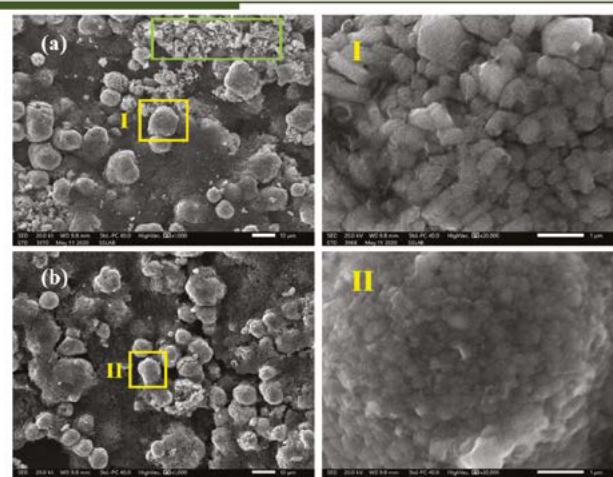


#### Conclusions of Part 3:

- Through the study of Nb doping with different contents, it is determined that 1 mol% Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping is the optimal doping content, which can significantly improve the cycle stability under the premise of effectively minimizing the sacrificed capacity;
- An appropriate amount of Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping can effectively reduce the cation mixing and alleviate the change of unit cell parameters during the cycle, thereby helping to improve the stability of the crystal structure of high-nickel materials;
- In addition, the cycle cracking problem of high-nickel cathode particles is solved after Nb element doping.

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### 3.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doped NCM811---Morphology after cycling



N0

N1

- After 300 cycles at room temperature, the N0 material exhibited severe particle cracking and pulverization;
- However, thank to the doping with Nb element, the cracking situation in N1 material is obviously alleviated;

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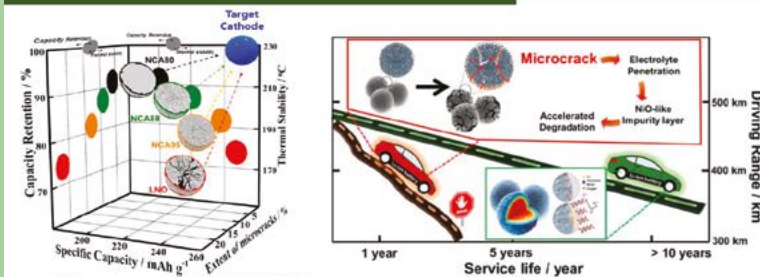


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- 5 Atomic-scale analysis of cracks
- 6 Conclusions and future perspectives



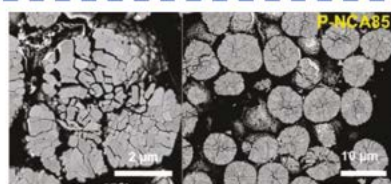


## 4.1 High-Ni NCA/NCM

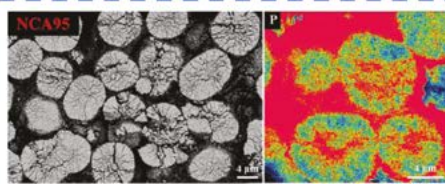


• ACS Energy Letters, 2019, 4(12): 2995-3001.

• ACS Energy Letters, 2019, 4(5): 1042-1044.



• Advanced Energy Materials, 2021, 11(25).



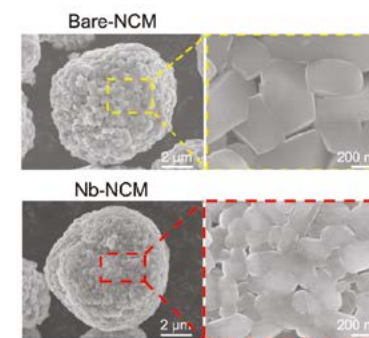
• Energy & Environmental Science, 2021, 14(12): 6616-6626.

- A large number of cracks were observed in the electrode after cycling, resulting in severe performance degradation.

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4.3 Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping on the Microstructure of NCM811---Nano-CT Analysis

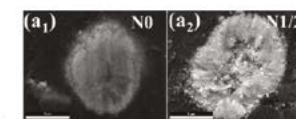
- Considering the effect of Nb element doping on particle morphology



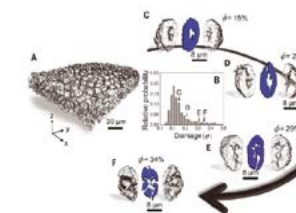
Particle mechanical structure stabilization

- Limitations of traditional 2D topography characterization;

- Particle damage caused by mechanical polishing;
- Incomplete topographic information brought by 2D slicing;

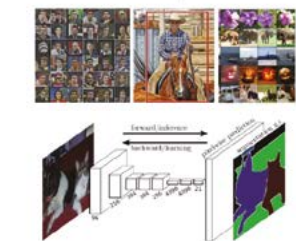


- Wide application of X-ray CT Technology.



• Science, 2022, 376(6592): 517-521.

- The continuous development of deep learning methods in the field of computer vision.



• 内容摘自，向能明，“深度学习新模型及其应用”报告，2020，中科院自动化所。

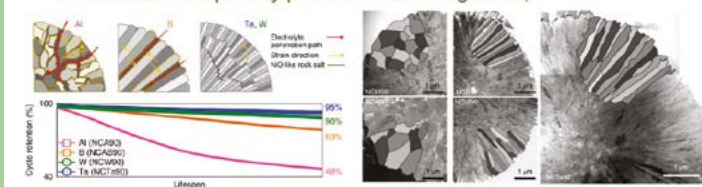
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## 4.2 Particle Structure Engineering works



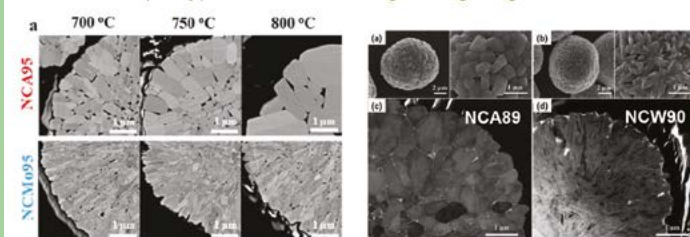
- Doping ions to build a special secondary particle microstructure, improve the mechanical strength of the secondary particle, and inhibit the growth of cracks;

- Build acicular primary particle radial arrangement;



• Nature Energy, 2020, doi:10.1038/s41560-020-00693-6

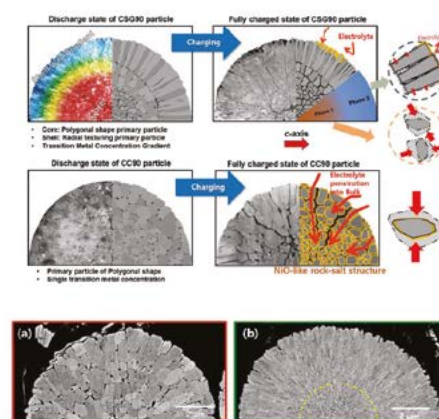
- Reduce primary particle size to achieve "fine grain strengthening"



• Energy & Environmental Science, 2021, 14(12): 6616-6626.

• Advanced Energy Materials, 2019, 9(44): 1902698.

- Design concentration gradient cathode, build external needle-like radial arrangement microstructure, inhibit crack propagation;



• Advanced Energy Materials, 2019, 9(15).

• ACS Energy Letters, 2021, 6(1): 216-223.

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## 4.4 Nano-CT image and Quantification Analysis



- A non-destructive and efficient three-dimensional visualization and quantitative analyses scheme were proposed for the study of the microstructure of high Ni cathode particles;

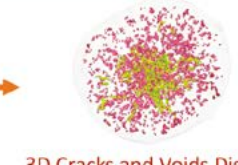
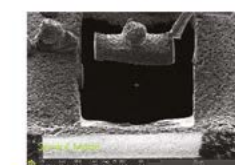
Sample preparation  
Ethos-NX5000  
focused ion beam



Image reconstruction  
Xradia-800 Ultra  
Nano-CT



Image segmentation and quantification  
Deep learning  
U-NET



3D Cracks and Voids Distribution

- The three-dimensional visualization and quantitative analyses of the internal pores and cracks of the quasi-in-situ secondary particles under different electrochemical states are realized.

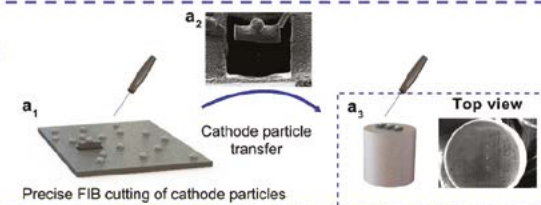
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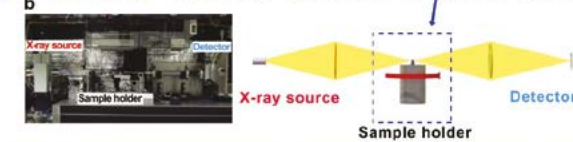
## 4.4 Nano-CT image and Quantification Analysis---Experimental Details



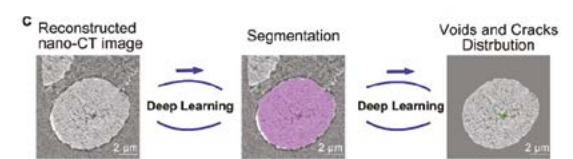
## a) Sample Preparation with FIB cutting



## b) Nano-CT Image Acquisition

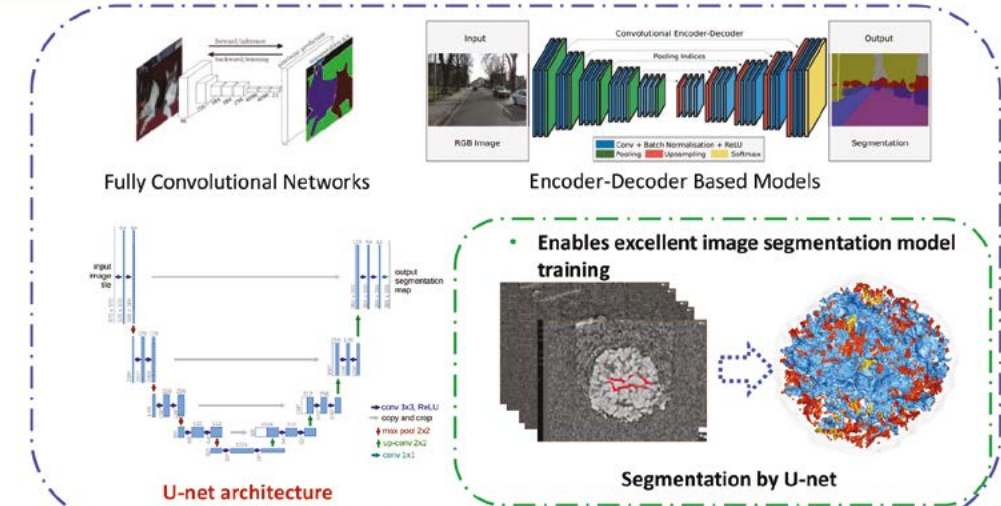


## c) Image Processing by Deep Learning



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## 4.4 Nano-CT image and Quantification Analysis---U-net Image Segmentation

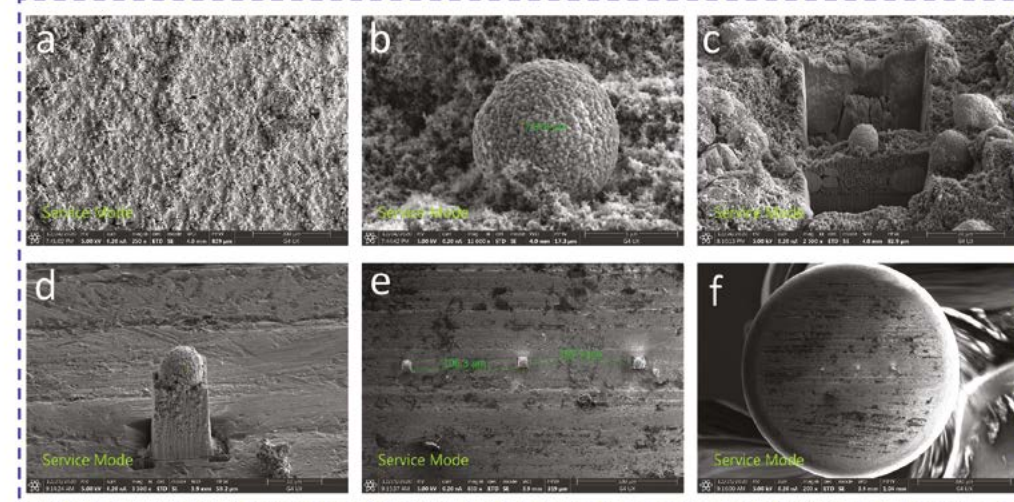


- U-net image segmentation algorithm based on fully convolutional neural network and encoder-decoder architecture are introduced to achieve efficient image segmentation.

arXiv:1505.04597v1 [cs.CV] 18 May 2015  
arXiv:2001.05566v5 [cs.CV] 15 Nov 2020

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## 4.4 Nano-CT image and Quantification Analysis---Particle Selection



- Through the FIB-SEM combined system, the observation-selection-extraction of particles are realized.

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## 4.4 Nano-CT image and Quantification Analysis---U-net Deep Learning

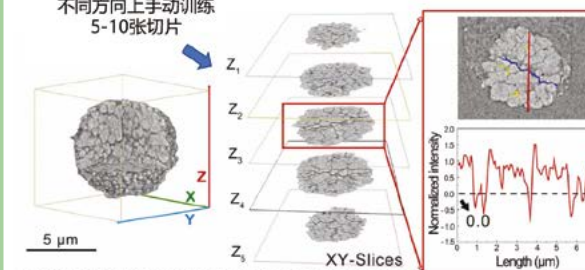


## Deep learning to train machine to distinguish between

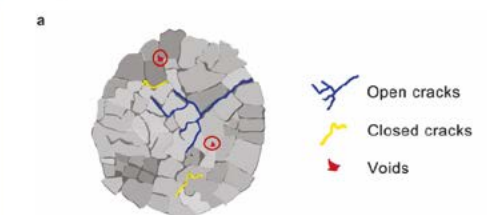
- Initial voids
- Electrochemically induced open cracks
- Electrochemically induced closed cracks

- Deep learning image segmentation based on gray value changes and different microstructure phase topography.

不同方向上手动训练  
5-10张切片



- Distinguish open and closed cracks by whether they are connected to the outside of the particle.



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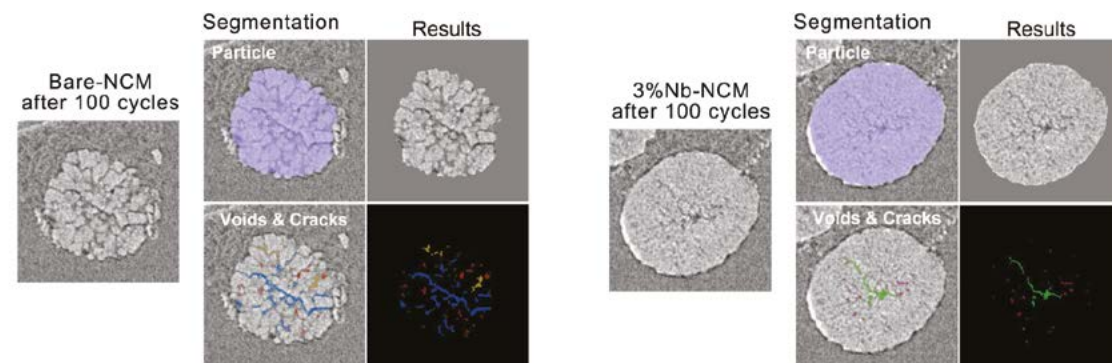


#### 4.4 Nano-CT image and Deep Learning Reliability Analysis



##### ① Original CT slices

✓ After 100 cycles

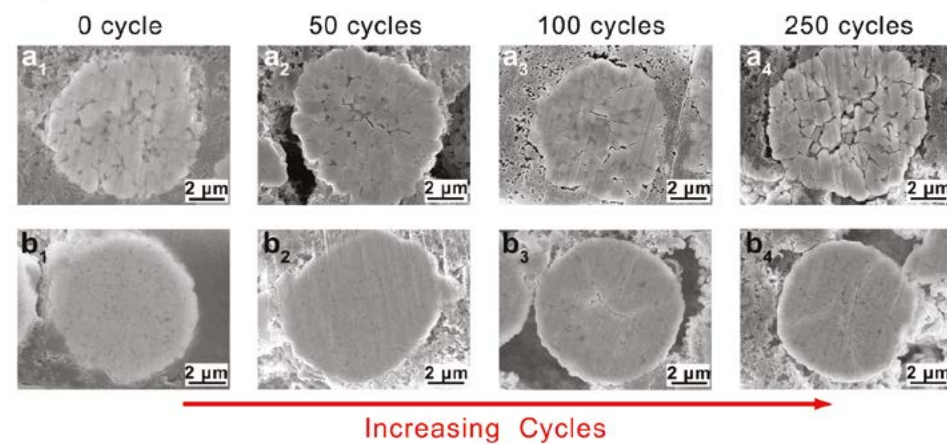


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#### 4.4 Nano-CT image and Deep Learning Reliability Analysis



##### ② 2D SEM images

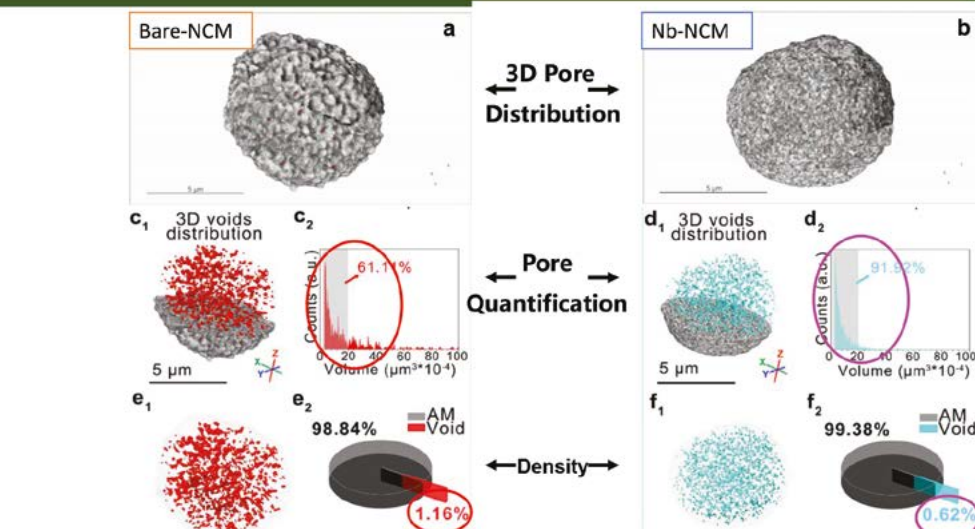


- The comparison results show that the deep learning model has good reliability and can accurately obtain the hole and crack phases.

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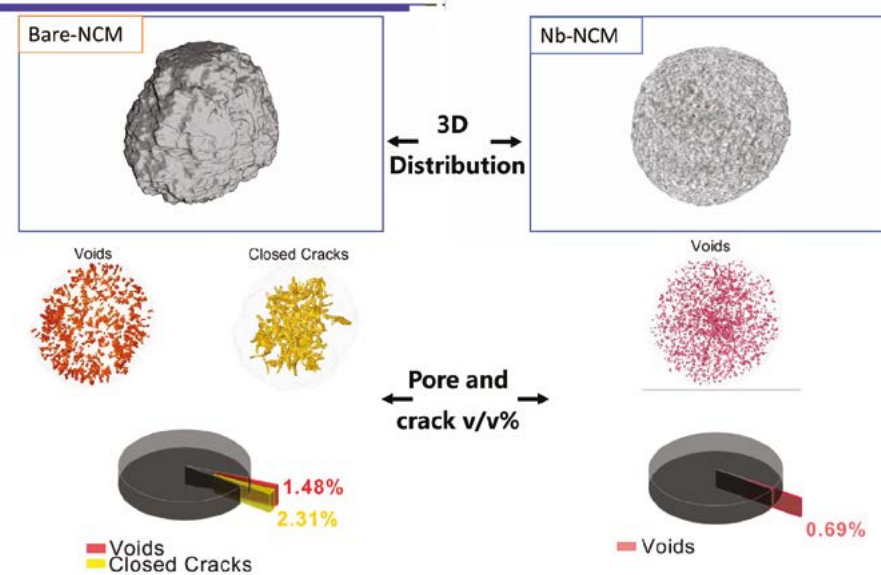
#### 4.5 3D Reconstruction of Particles before Cycling



- The addition of Nb can significantly reduce the pore size, reduce the overall pore volume, and promote the closer packing of particles

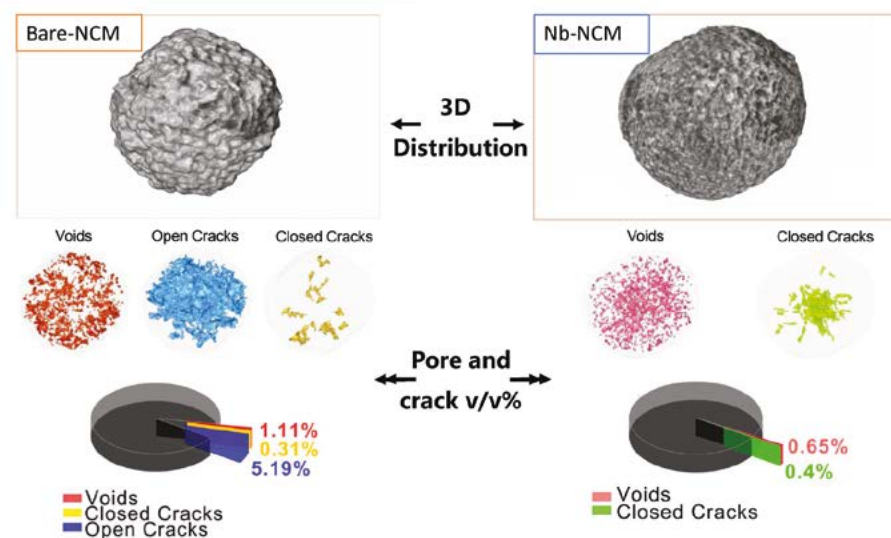
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#### 4.3 3D Reconstruction of Particles after 50 Cycles

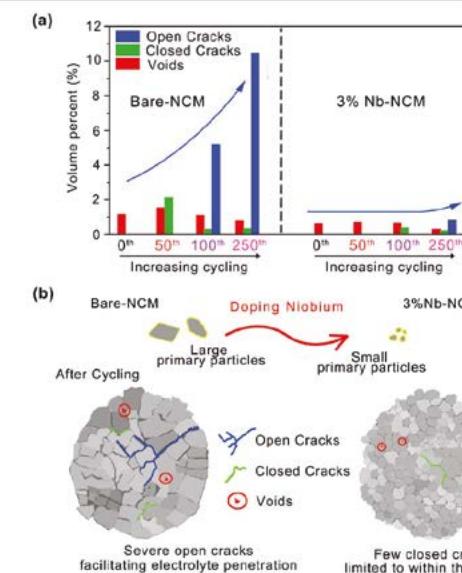


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## 4.5 3D Reconstruction of Particles after 100 Cycles



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4.6 Results of Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping on the Secondary Particles

◆ The results of quantification of the circulation microstructure show that

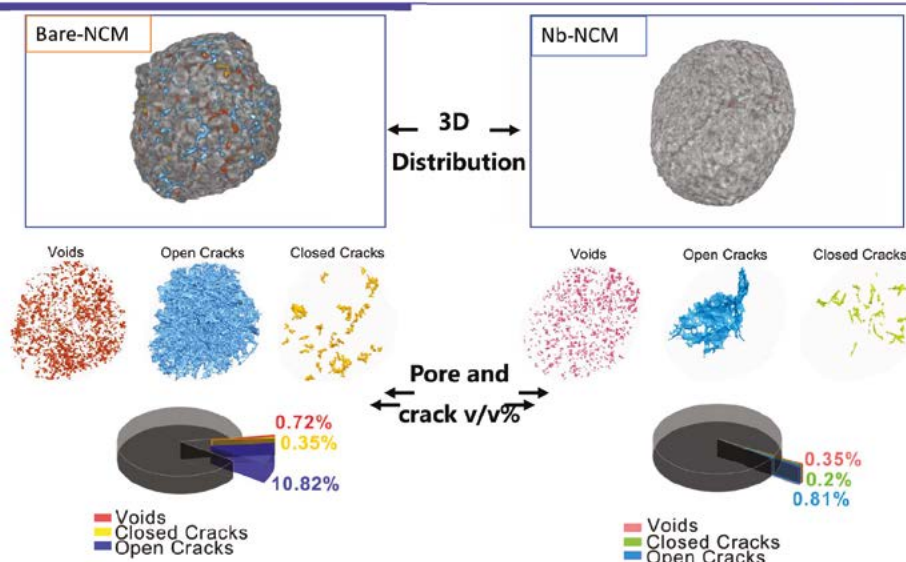
- The generation of a large number of open cracks is the key factor that causes the performance degradation of NCM811 material at high temperature;
- The addition of Nb greatly inhibits the generation of open cracks, thereby significantly improving the cycling stability.

◆ Effect of Nb Element on Microstructure

- By reducing the size of the primary particles, it promotes closer packing between the primary particles, thereby improving the inherent mechanical strength of the positive electrode particles;
- In addition, the accumulation of small-sized primary particles forms a large number of grain boundaries, which can effectively release the strain energy and hinder the propagation of cracks, thereby greatly inhibiting the formation of open cracks.

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## 4.5 3D Reconstruction of Particles after 250 Cycles



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4.7 Conclusions of Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping on the Secondary Particles

## Conclusions of Part 4:

- Through the combination of X-ray Nano-CT and deep learning method, the non-destructive 3D visualization and quantitative analysis of the internal microstructure (holes, open cracks and closed cracks) of secondary particles under different cycle states were successfully achieved;
- The quantitative results show that the growth of open cracks more mainly contributes to the degradation of cycle performance;
- After doping with Nb<sup>5+</sup> ions, by reducing the size of the primary particles, a more stable secondary particle microstructure is constructed, which improves the mechanical stability of the cathode particles, effectively inhibits the growth of open cracks, and thus significantly improves the cycle performance of high-nickel materials.

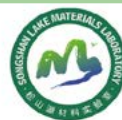
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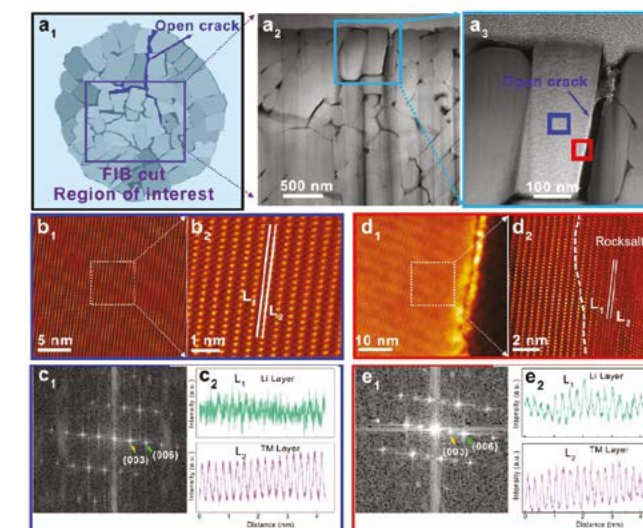


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- 5 Atomic-scale analysis of cracks
- 6 Conclusions and future perspectives



## 5.2 STEM Analysis---Atomic-Structure in Open Crack Region



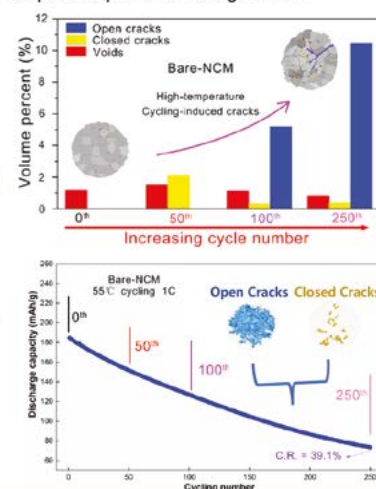
- The inner region of the primary particle has a standard layered transition metal arrangement, and there is no structural distortion caused by the migration of the transition metal to the Li layer;
- In the surface area of the primary particle near the open crack, there is obvious severe structural distortion caused by the migration of transition metal to the Li layer, and this area is about 5 nm.

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## 5.1 Further Analyses of Cracks on Performance

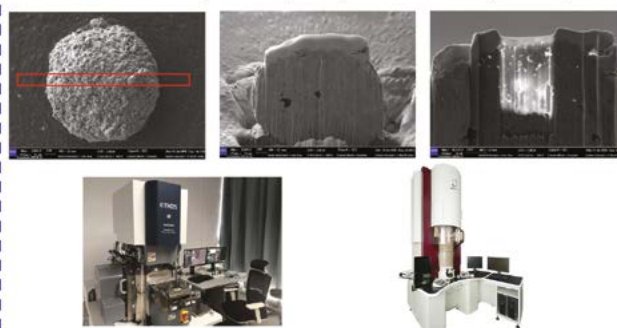


Through 3D visualization and quantitative analysis, it is found that high temperature cycling will induce a large number of cracks, and the rapid growth of open cracks is the key factor causing high temperature performance degradation.



Further combining STEM and EELS, direct evidence of the effects of open cracks and closed cracks on material properties is given from the perspectives of atomic structure, elemental composition distribution and transition metal ion oxidation state;

- Extraction-cut-thinning of the particles of Bare-NCM cathode material after 100 cycles of high temperature for subsequent analysis.

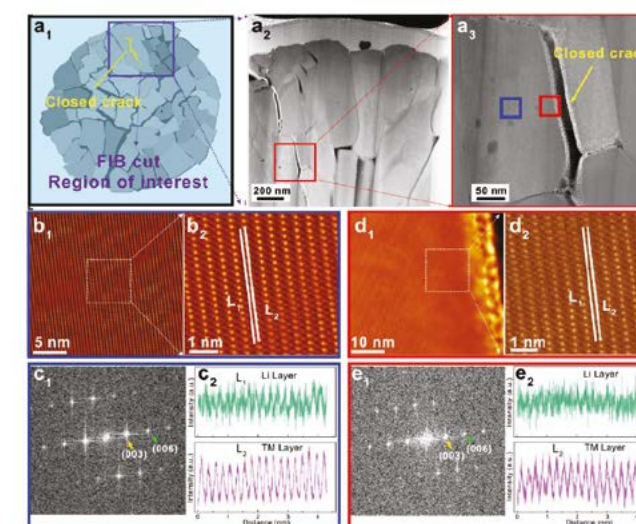


Ethos-NX5000 focused ion beam for sample preparation

JEOL ARM200 Scanning transmission electron microscopy

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## 5.2 STEM Analysis---Atomic-Structure in Open Crack Region



- Both the interior and surface area of primary particles have standard layered transition metal arrangement, and no structural distortion caused by the migration of transition metal to Li layer is observed.

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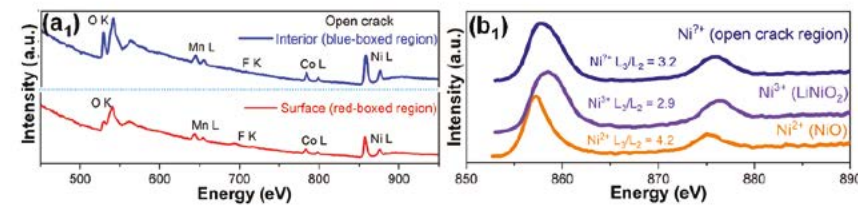




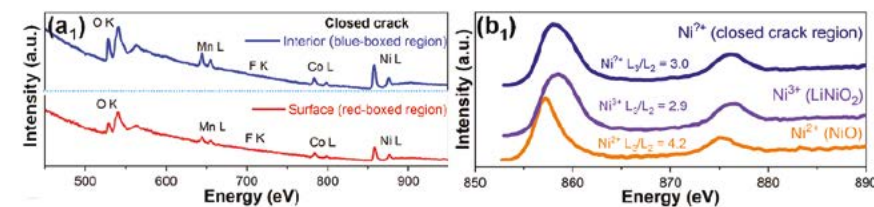
### 5.3 EELS Analysis---Element Concentration and Oxidation Distribution



#### ➤ Open crack region

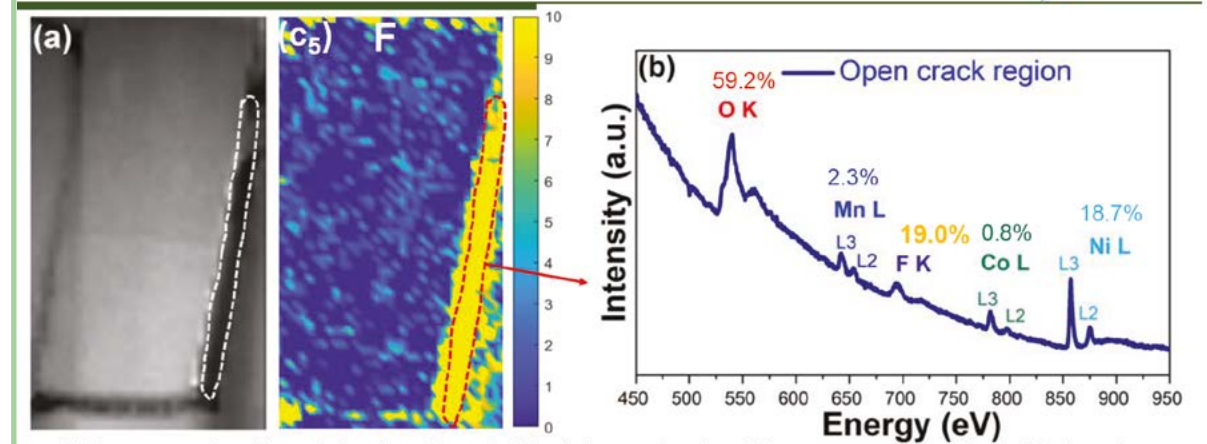


#### ➤ Closed crack region



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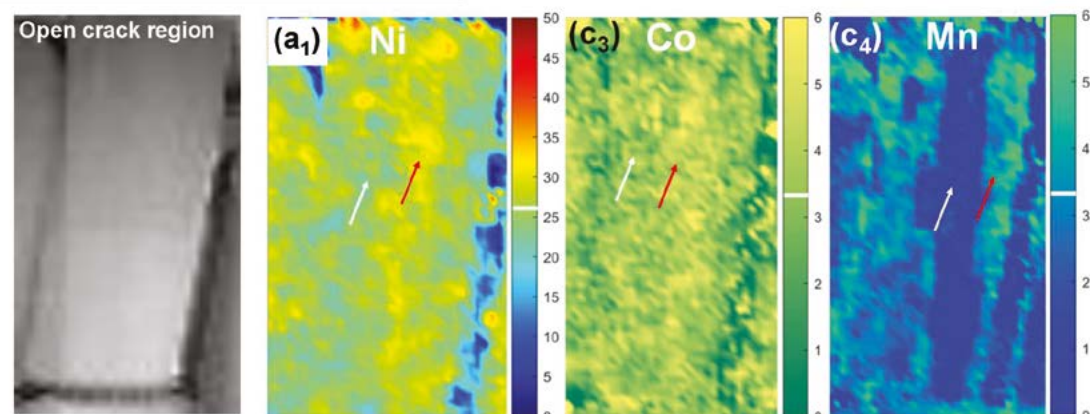
### 5.4 Element Distribution in Open Crack Region



- At the open crack position, obvious transition metal dissolution was found, and there was an obvious signal of F element;
- This shows that the electrolyte will indeed enter the interior of the secondary particles through the open crack channel, resulting in the migration and dissolution of transition metals;
- The dissolved transition metal ions react with the electrolyte, resulting in the accumulation of insulating fluoride ( $\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{F}_2$ ) and rock-salt phase ( $\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{O}$ ) at open crack sites, and resulting in uneven distribution of elements within the lattice.

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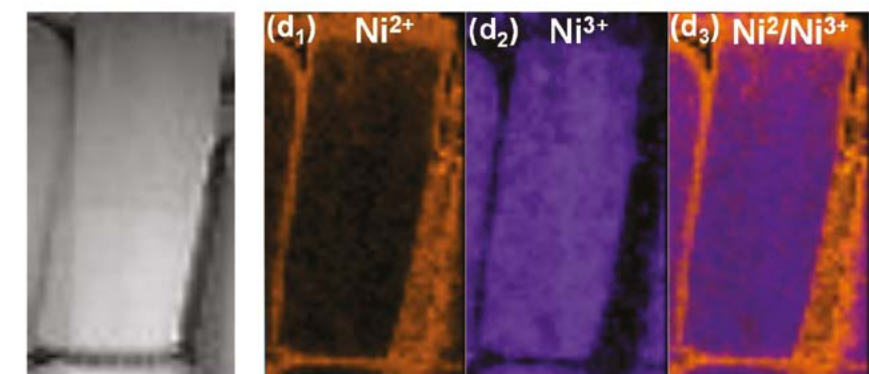
### 5.4 Element Distribution in Open Crack Region



- The distribution of Ni, Co and Mn elements is uneven in the open crack area, and the transition metal elements are missing in the primary particles, especially the Mn element.

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### 5.4 $\text{Ni}^{2+}/\text{Ni}^{3+}$ Oxidation Distribution in Open Crack Region



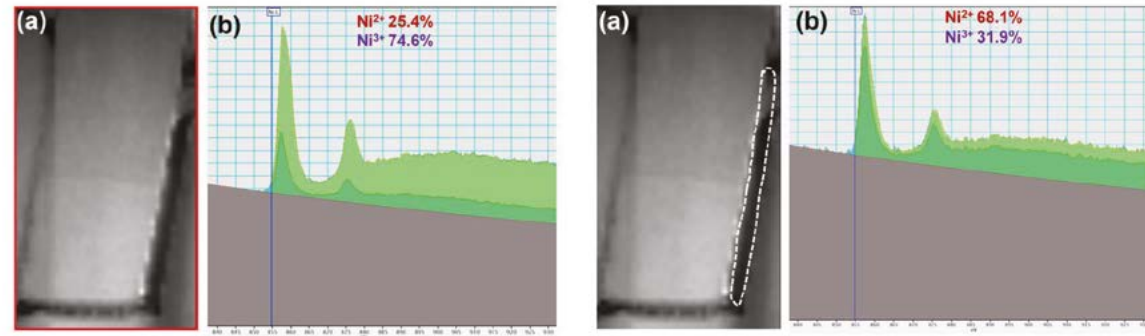
- $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  has a higher concentration at the edge of the primary particle, especially near the edge of the open crack, which is consistent with the results observed in the atomic structure analysis, indicating that severe interfacial side reactions occur at the open crack;
- In contrast, the content of  $\text{Ni}^{3+}$  is relatively uniform in the whole primary particle.

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#### 5.4 Ni<sup>2+</sup>/Ni<sup>3+</sup> Oxidation Distribution in Open Crack Region

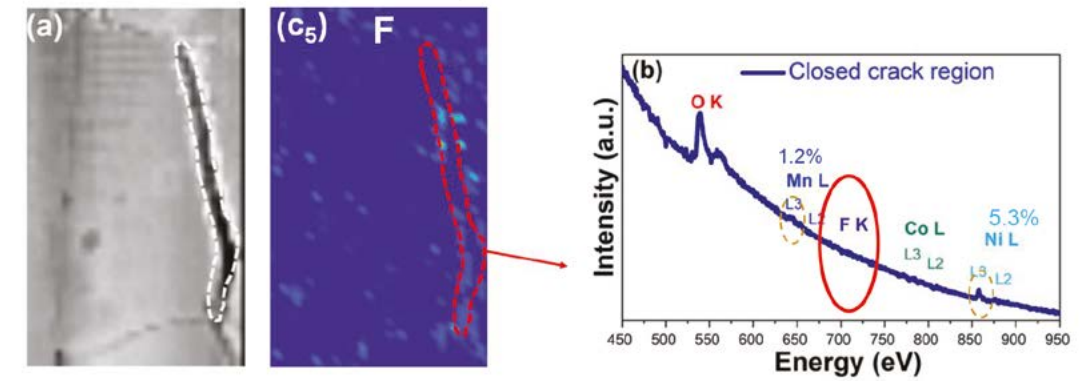


- Near the open crack, both the overall area (marked by the red box) and the specific crack position (marked by the white dotted line) show high Ni<sup>2+</sup> content;

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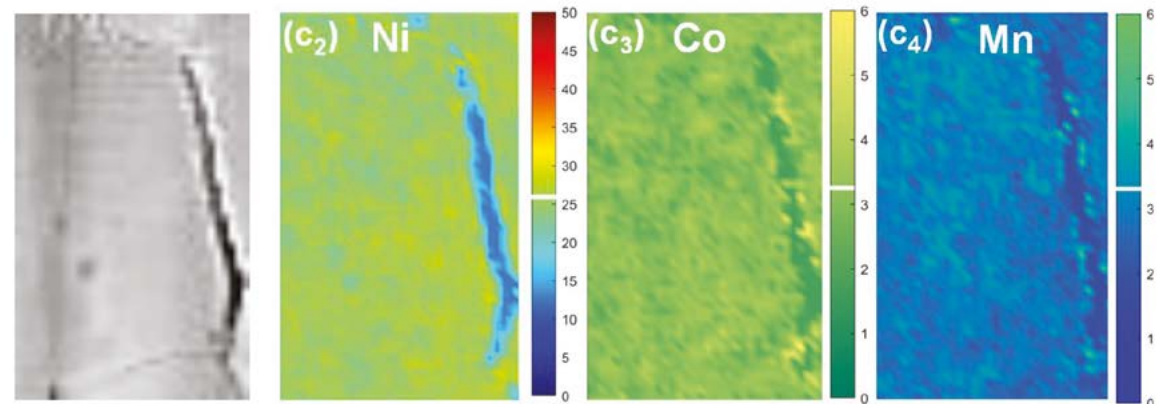
#### 5.5 Element Distribution in Closed Crack Region



- At the closed crack position, there is no obvious F element signal, only a small amount of Ni and Mn elements are distributed, and there is no serious transition metal dissolution phenomenon.
- It shows that although the closed crack is close to the outer surface of the particle (about 500 nm), the infiltration of electrolyte into the closed crack will not occur, and it will not cause serious interfacial side reactions inside the particle, which is consistent with the results of atomic structure analysis.

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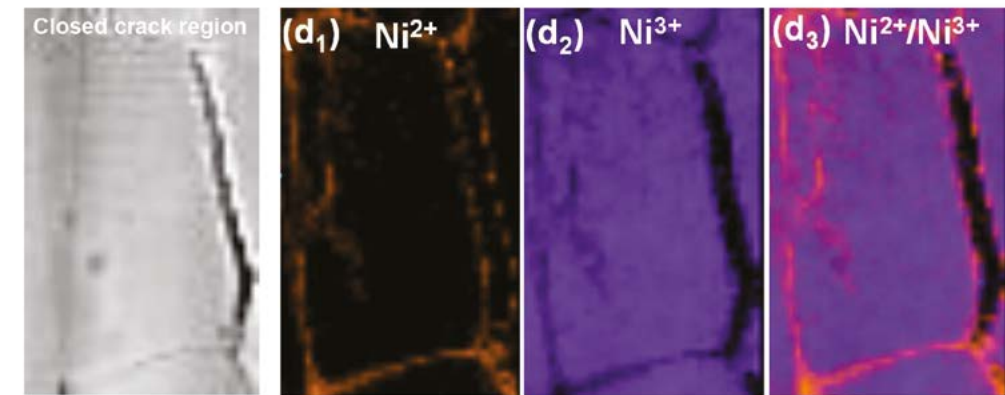
#### 5.5 Element Distribution in Closed Crack Region



- All transition metal elements have uniform distribution throughout the primary particles.

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#### 5.5 Ni<sup>2+</sup>/Ni<sup>3+</sup> Oxidation State Distribution in Closed Crack Region

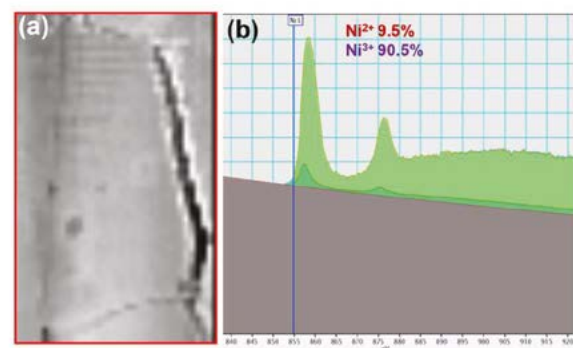


- The Ni<sup>2+</sup> content at the closed crack is obviously reduced, and only a small amount is observed at the edge of the primary particle;;
- And Ni<sup>3+</sup> is relatively uniformly distributed in the whole primary particle.

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### 5.5 Ni<sup>2+</sup>/Ni<sup>3+</sup> Oxidation State Distribution in Open Crack Region



- Near the closed crack, the proportion of Ni<sup>2+</sup> in the whole area is only 9.5%, which is much lower than the Ni<sup>2+</sup> content in the open crack.

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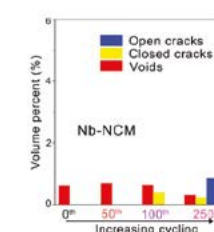
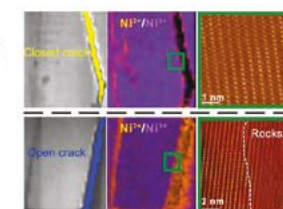


### 5.7 Conclusions of Atomic-Scale Structure Analysis



#### Conclusions of Part 5:

- At the open crack, serious interfacial side reactions occur inside the particles due to the immersion of the electrolyte, resulting in the loss of lattice oxygen, the distortion of the lattice structure, the dissolution of transition metal ions and the generation of a large number of Ni<sup>2+</sup> ions, resulting in the destruction of the lattice structure and the large reversible capacity.
- At the closed crack, although there is a small amount of oxygen loss and Ni<sup>2+</sup> generation, there is no obvious lattice distortion and element dissolution, and the internal crystal structure can be better maintained, thus making no significant contribution to the performance degradation.
- Combined with the three-dimensional analysis results of the particle microstructure and further considering the doping of Nb<sup>5+</sup>, the addition of Nb<sup>5+</sup> greatly reduces the generation of cycle-induced open cracks, thereby avoiding more serious internal particle side reactions caused by electrolyte immersion, effectively maintaining the positive electrode. The integrity of the particle crystal structure and elemental composition results in excellent material stability.

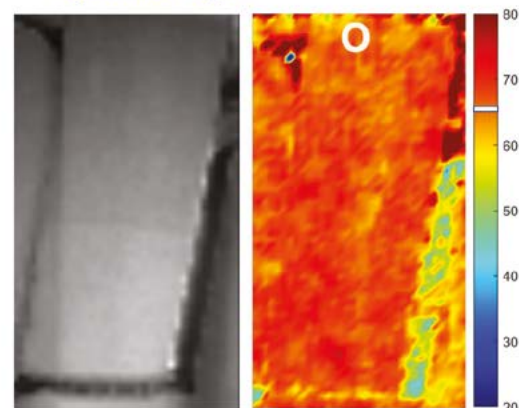


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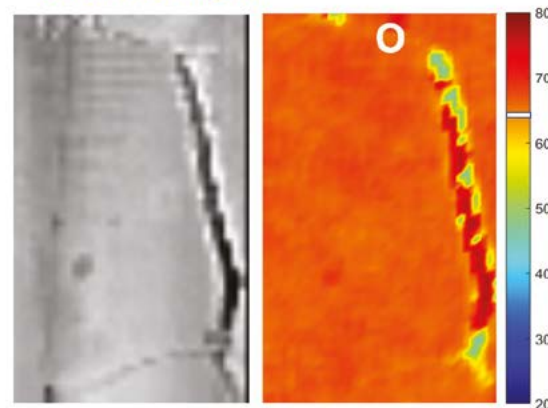
### 5.6 O Element Distribution in Open and Closed Crack Regions



Open crack region



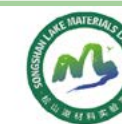
Closed crack region



- Compared with the oxygen content distribution at the open crack, the closed crack has a smaller lattice oxygen loss.

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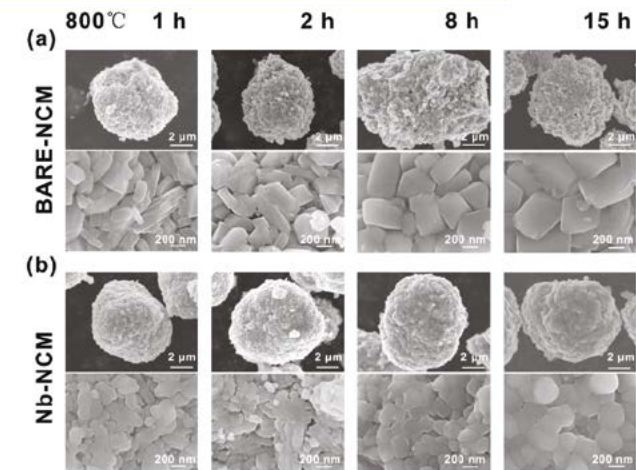
## Conclusions



1. By systematically synthesizing high-nickel materials doped with different elements, it is determined that Nb element doping can improve the cycling stability of high-nickel ternary cathode materials, especially the improvement of high-temperature cycling stability.
2. Through experiments with different doping contents, 1 mol% Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping was determined as the best doping scheme;
3. Using different advanced characterization methods, including in-situ XRD, Nano-CT/DL, and STEM/EELS, it was determined that Nb element doping, on the one hand, has an effect on the stability of crystal structure by reducing cation mixing and alleviating cyclic lattice distortion to a certain extent. On the other hand, by adjusting the morphology of the primary particles, a more stable secondary particle microstructure is constructed, which effectively inhibits the generation of open cracks, and finally realizes the synthesis of high-stability and high-nickel ternary materials at high temperatures.

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## Future perspectives

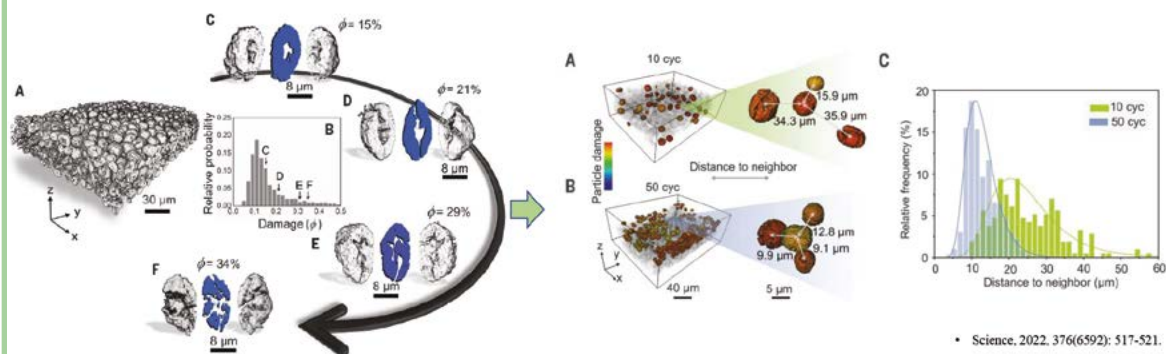


- Under the doping of Nb element, the crystal growth and morphology were observed during sintering at 800 °C.

(2) The modification of the particle microstructure by Nb element doping is essentially the regulation of the primary particle size by Nb element doping. How does Nb affect the crystal growth of the high nickel layered cathode and how to reduce the primary particle size? Further studies are needed to better understand the regulation mechanism of elemental doping on morphology and microstructure.

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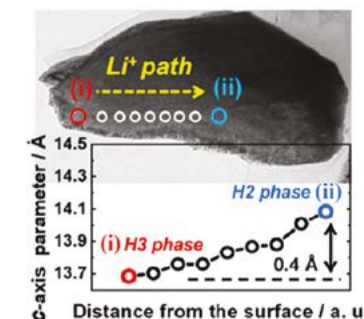
## Future perspectives



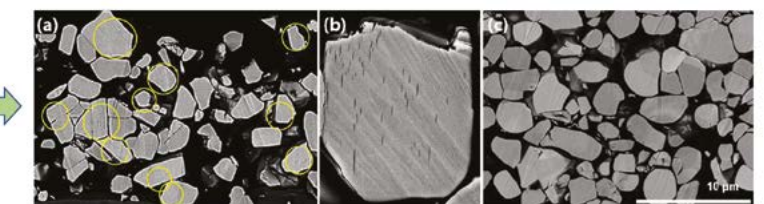
(1) In the future, it is hoped to further optimize the experimental acquisition and analysis methods, to achieve simultaneous acquisition and efficient analysis of a sufficient number of particles through a single experiment, and to give experimental conclusions from a statistical point of view, which can better promote the development of materials research and have more Strong generalizability.

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## Future perspectives



- The sluggish kinetics in single-crystal high-nickel cathodes lead to the coexistence of multiple phases with significantly different unit cell parameters in the same single crystal, which further hinders Li-ion transport and causes stress unevenness and thus intragranular cracks.



• ACS Energy Letters, 2021, 6(8): 2726-2734.

(3) Large-size single-crystal high-nickel materials have always been considered to be a better choice for next-generation cathode materials, especially favored by the industry, and single-crystal materials for high voltage can make up for the lack of energy density, but the kinetic performance is not good. The high synthesis cost still limits the further promotion of single-crystal high-nickel materials. Considering the excellent modification effect of Nb<sup>5+</sup> on polycrystalline high-nickel cathodes, this opens up new possibilities for the future development of polycrystalline materials.

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2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries

**Songshan Lake Materials Lab**

**Preparation and characterization of lab-to-to-industrial scale batteries**

**10 kg** → **100 kg**

**Synthesis**

**Test**

**Characterization**

**Songshan Lake Materials Lab**

**中国科学院物理研究所**  
INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**Preparation of lab-to-industrial scale ternary cathode materials**

**150g per batch**

**10kg per batch**

**Co-precipitation equipment**

**SONGSHAN LAKE MATERIALS LABORATORY**  
松山湖材料实验室

**松山湖材料实验室**  
SONGSHAN LAKE MATERIALS LABORATORY

This work has been supported by CBMM and CITIC Metal Co., Ltd.







## Prof. Yang-Kook Sun

FRS Chemistry Department - Hanyang University

韩国首尔汉阳大学的 YANG-KOOK SUN 教授是材料化学和化学工程领先科学家。他成功地设计、合成和用于电化学装置结构分析、锂离子电池、锂硫电池、锂空气电池和钠离子电池的先进储能和转换材料。在相关成就中，他设计的浓度梯度锂镍钴锰氧化物正极已获得电池公司的许可，并用于电动汽车电池的生产，最近受到了持续的工业关注。

Professor Yang-Kook Sun of Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea, is a leading materials chemistry and chemical engineering scientist. He succeeded in design, synthesis and structural analysis of advanced energy storage and conversion materials for application in electrochemical devices, lithium-ion, lithium-sulfur, lithium-air, and sodium-ion batteries. Among the relevant achievements, the concentration-gradient lithium-nickel-cobalt-manganese oxide cathode designed by himself has been licensed by battery companies, undergone production for use in EV batteries and recently received continuous industrial attention.



## High-Energy Nb-doped Ni-rich NCA, NCM Cathodes Materials

Yang-Kook Sun

Department of Energy Engineering, Hanyang University

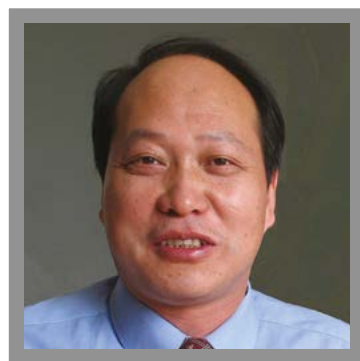
### Abstract

Lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) have become the main power sources for electric vehicles (EVs) because of their high energy density and long service life. However, currently available state-of-the-art LIBs are still inadequate for EVs that will appeal to a wider consumer base, mainly because of the short drive range per charge. Hence, improvements in the energy density and cycling stability of LIBs, as well as cost reduction, are prerequisites for envisioned general electromobility. The overall performance and cost of LIBs are largely determined by the cathode material because of its relatively low capacity and poor cycling stability compared to those of graphite. Hence, recent research on LIBs has concentrated mainly on identifying and optimizing high-capacity cathodes; the primary candidate materials are Ni-rich layered  $\text{LiMO}_2$  ( $M = \text{Ni, Co, Mn}$ , called NCM or Al called NCA). To increase the capacity of current NCM and NCA cathodes, the fraction of Ni in the cathodes has been progressively increased. However, this approach is limited by the deterioration of capacity retention and thermal stability resulting from excessive Ni enrichment due to the anisotropic volume change caused by the phase transition (H2-H3) at approximately 4.2 V. This volume variation generates internal microcracks that propagate to the particle surface, facilitating electrolyte penetration along the grain boundary into the particle interior. This accelerates the surface degradation of internal primary particles by reacting the exposed, reactive, and unstable  $\text{Ni}^{4+}$  with a deleterious electrolyte to form a  $\text{NiO}$ -like impurity layer.

In this presentation, to overcome the tradeoff relationship between reversible capacity and cycling stability, one approach is introduced. The concept of radially aligned primary particles with crystallographic texture was successfully confirmed by Nb-doped Ni-rich layered cathodes. Nb plays a vital role in producing highly oriented and elongated primary particles, which can effectively dissipate the internal strain resulting from H2-H3 phase transitions, realizing a significant improvement in cycling stability. As such, 1-Nb-doped NCA85 cathode demonstrated 90% of its initial capacity after 1000 cycles while an undoped cathode retains 57.3%.







## Prof. Dr. Yongyao Xia

Fudan University

夏永姚，工学博士，博士生导师，复旦大学特聘教授。国际电化学会（ISE）FELLOW，J. POWER SOURCES 杂志编辑，中国电化学会主任。

1987年毕业于浙江师范大学化学系，1990年获吉林大学化学系电化学专业理学硕士学位，1990-1994在长春应用化学研究所工作，1997年获日本佐贺大学能源-材料科学专业工学博士学位，同年留校任日本文部省教官讲师。1998年赴美国南卡罗来纳州化学工程系做博士后研究员。1999-2001年在大阪工业技术研究所做博士后研究员。2001-2002年进入日立Maxell公司电池开发中心工作。2003年回复旦大学化学系工作。从1990起一直从事新型储能材料和技术的研究，包括锂（钠）离子电池、电化学电容器和新型电池体系等。共发表SCI论文399篇，他引30000余次，H-INDEX 91，入选2017-2021年CLARIVATE ANALYTICS 高引作者，授权专利30余项。

Dr. Yongyao Xia, Distinguished Professor of Fudan University. Fellow of International Electrochemical Society (ISE), editor of J. Power Sources magazine, Director of China Electrochemical Society.

He graduated from the Department of Chemistry of Zhejiang Normal University in 1987 and received a Master of Science degree in electrochemistry from the Department of Chemistry of Jilin University in 1990. He worked at Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry from 1990 to 1994. He received a doctorate engineering degree in energy and material Science from Saga University, Japan, in 1997. In 1998, he went to the Department of Chemical Engineering, South Carolina, USA, as a postdoctoral researcher. From 1999 to 2001, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Osaka Institute of Industrial Technology. From 2001 to 2002, he worked in the Battery Development Center of Hitachi Maxell. He returned to work in the Chemistry Department of Fudan University in 2003. Since 1990, he has been researching new energy storage materials and technologies, including lithium (sodium) ion batteries, electrochemical capacitors, and new battery systems. He has published 399 SCI papers, has more than 30,000 citations, H-index 91, and was selected as the highly cited author of Clarivate Analytics from 2017 to 2021, and has more than 30 authorized patents.



2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries

## The roles of Nb in single crystal spinel-structure lithium manganese oxides (LMO & LNMO)

铌在单晶锰酸锂和镍锰酸锂中的作用

Yongyao Xia

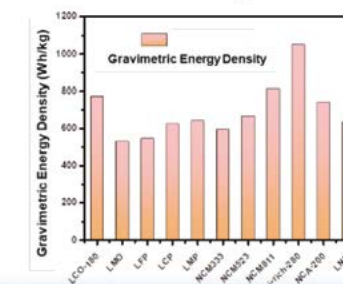
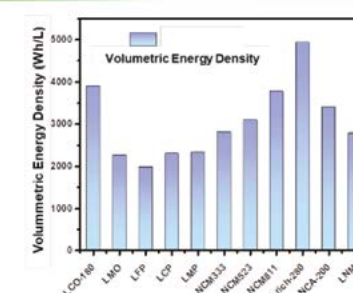
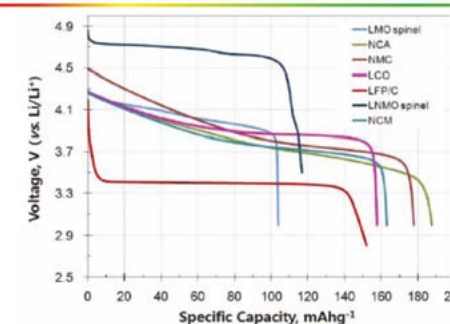
Department of Chemistry

Institute of New Energy Research, Fudan University

E-mail: [yyxia@fudan.edu.cn](mailto:yyxia@fudan.edu.cn)

(Research Group UR): <http://www.electrochem.fudan.edu.cn>

## Capacity & Energy of Different Cathode Materials

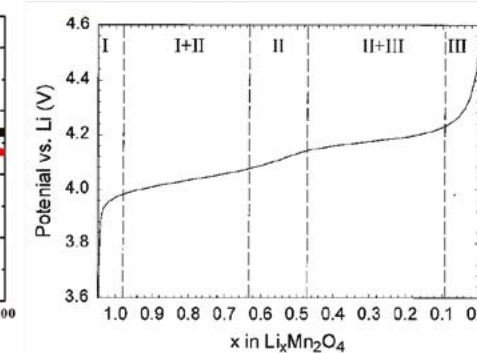
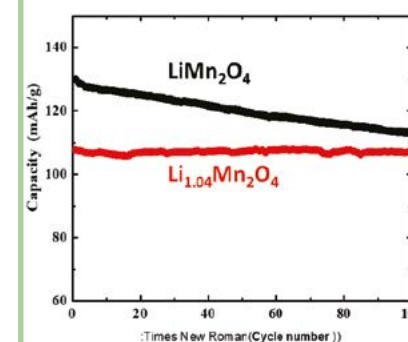


- Cathode materials have different discharge voltages and capacities (thermodynamics/kinetics).
- The density of material is another important parameter.



## Summary of Various Cathode Materials

	LCO	NCA	NMC	LMO	LFP
Capacity (CHG cut off)	-160mAh/g (@4.4V)	-190mAh/g (@4.3V)	-180mAh/g (@4.5V)	-105mAh/g (@4.3V)	-160mAh/g (@4.0V)
Cost	High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Process Difficulty	-1,000°C, air Easy	-800°C, O <sub>2</sub> Difficult	-1,000°C, air Less difficult	-900°C, air Less difficult	-700°C, N <sub>2</sub> Difficult
Environment	Poor	Slightly poor	Slightly poor	Good	Good
Thermal Stability	Slightly poor	Poor	Good	Very good	Excellent
Remark	Small-Mid size High Energy Mobile devices	Small-Mid size High Energy EV	Small-Mid size High Energy EV, ESS	Small-Large size High power Power tools, EB, EV	Small-Large size Long cycles/safety EB, EV, ESS

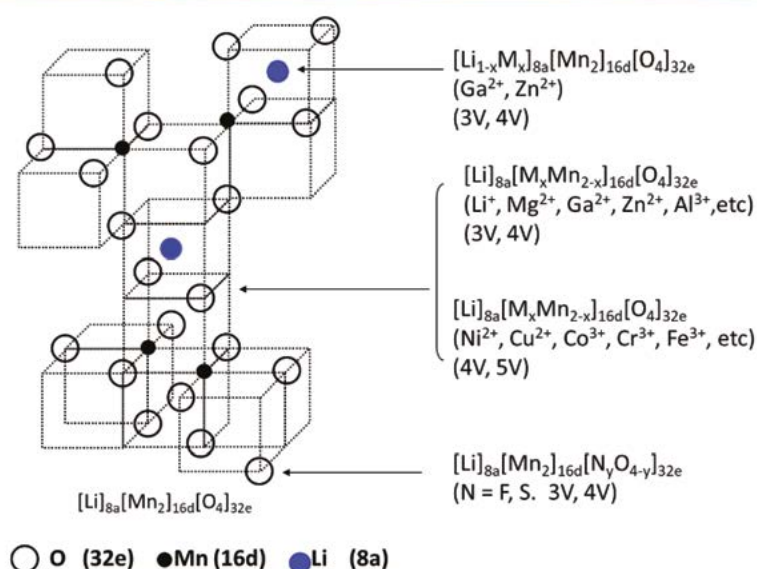
Phase Transition Model for  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$ 

- Y. Xia et al., One-Phase Model
- T. Ohzuku et al., Two-Phase Model (JES., 137, 769, 1990).
- W. Liu, et al., Three-Phase Model. (JES, 145, 459, 1998).

## Lithium-rich spinel exhibits better cycling stability with one-phase transition

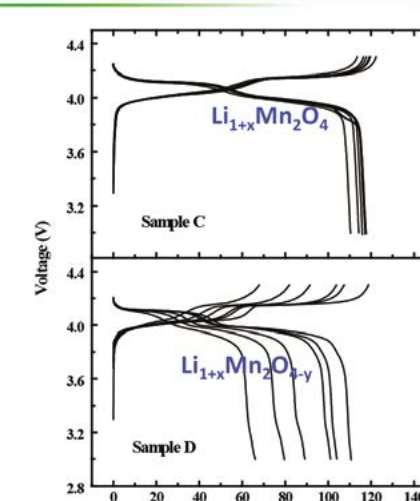
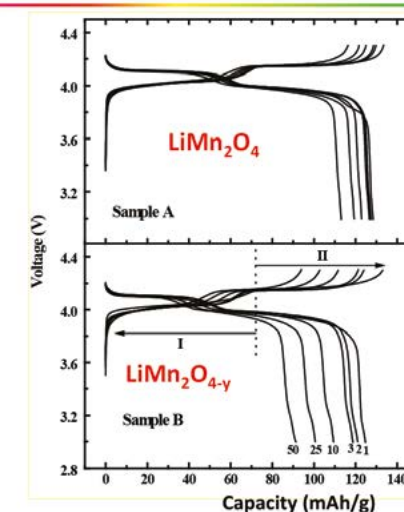
Yongyao Xia and Masaki Yoshio, "An investigation on the lithium ions insertion into the spinel structure Li-Mn-O compounds". *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 143, 825-833 (1996).

## Crystal Structure of Spinel



High rate capability due to the three-decision structure for Li-ion diffusion.

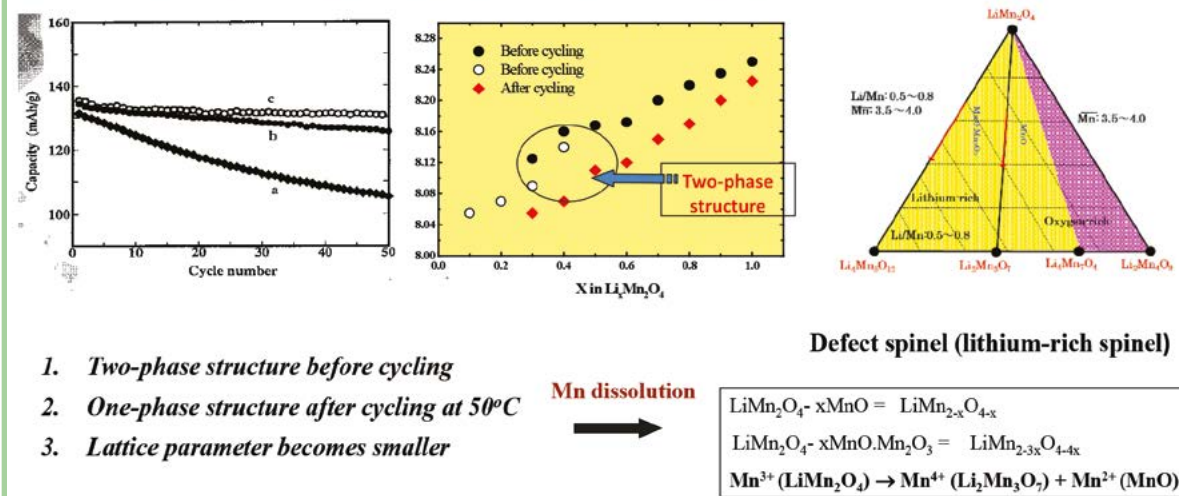
## Oxygen-stoichiometric &amp; Oxygen-defect spinel



0.4 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>  
between 3.0 and 4.5 V at room temperature

Xia et al., "Correlating capacity fading and structural changes in  $\text{Li}_{1+y}\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{O}_{4-d}$  spinel cathode materials - A systematic study on the effects of Li/Mn ratio and oxygen deficiency", *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 148(7), A723-A729 (2001).



Mn dissolution of  $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$  during cycling

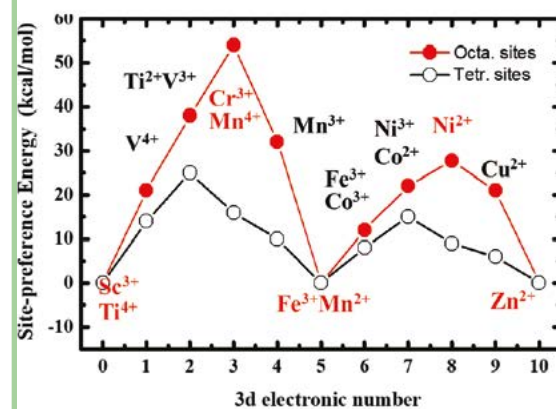
Yongyao Xia, Yunhong Zhou, and Masaki Yoshio, "Capacity fading on cycling in 4V Li/LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> cells", *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 144, 2593-2600 (1997).

## Spinel LMO with various morphologies

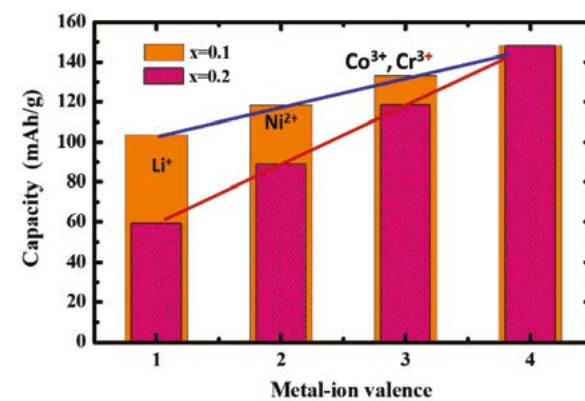


## Basic information for the element doping in spinel LMO

## Site-preference Energy for 3d Transition Metal

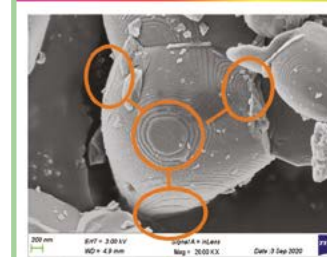


$\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{V}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  occupy on 16d octahedral sites  
 $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  can occupy on 8a tetrahedral sites

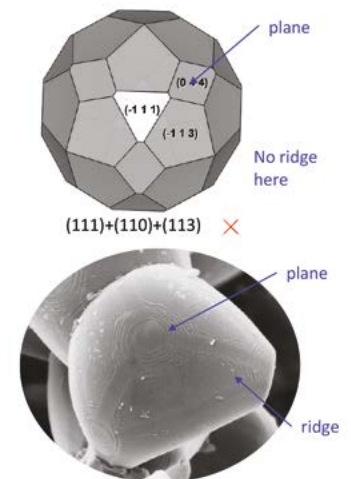
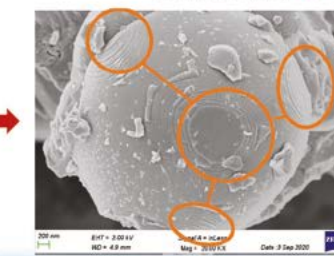
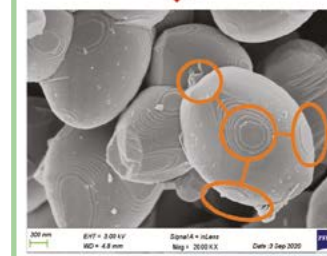
Capacity of Metal-ion Doped Spinel  $\text{LiM}_x\text{Mn}_{2-x}\text{O}_4$ 

Optimal range of M/Mn will be at 0.05/1.95 ~ 1/9

## Nb-doped LMO sample – triple rotational symmetry morphology

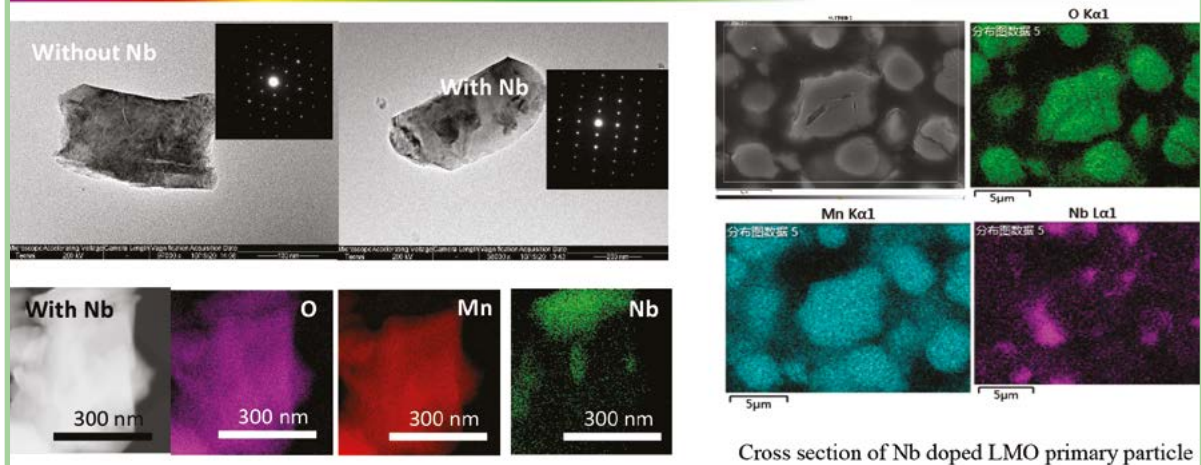


The step-like faces shows obvious triple rotational symmetry, which strongly implies the co-existence of (111), (110) and (100) plane species. And this co-existence seems like the only choice.



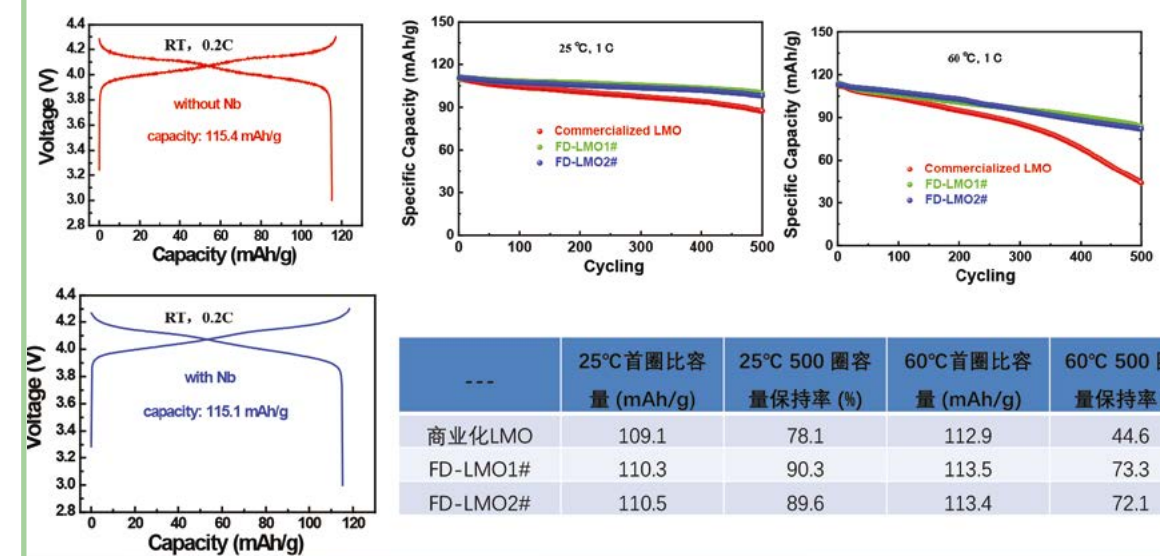


## Niobium Distribution

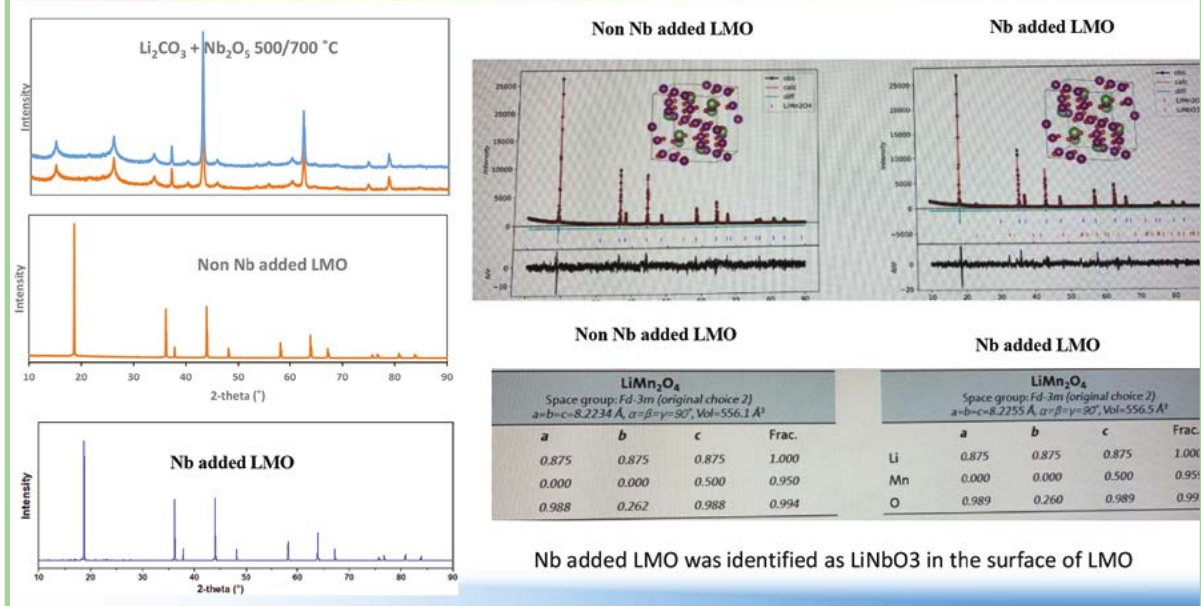


Niobium mainly distributes on the surface of LMO in form of  $\text{LiNbO}_3$

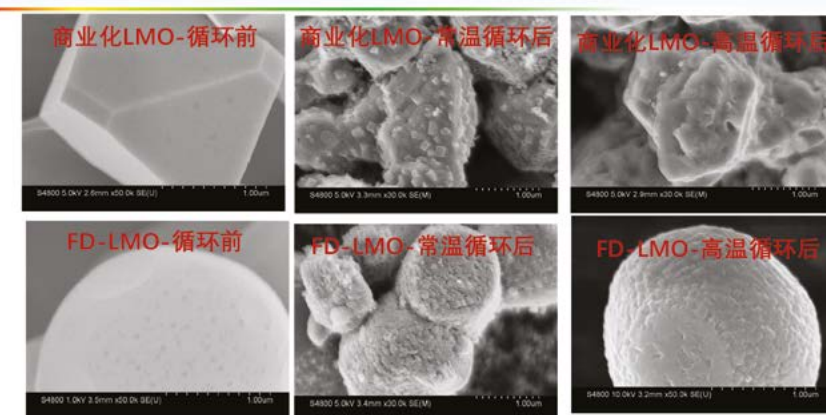
## Electrochemical properties (Half-cell)



## XRD Data analysis



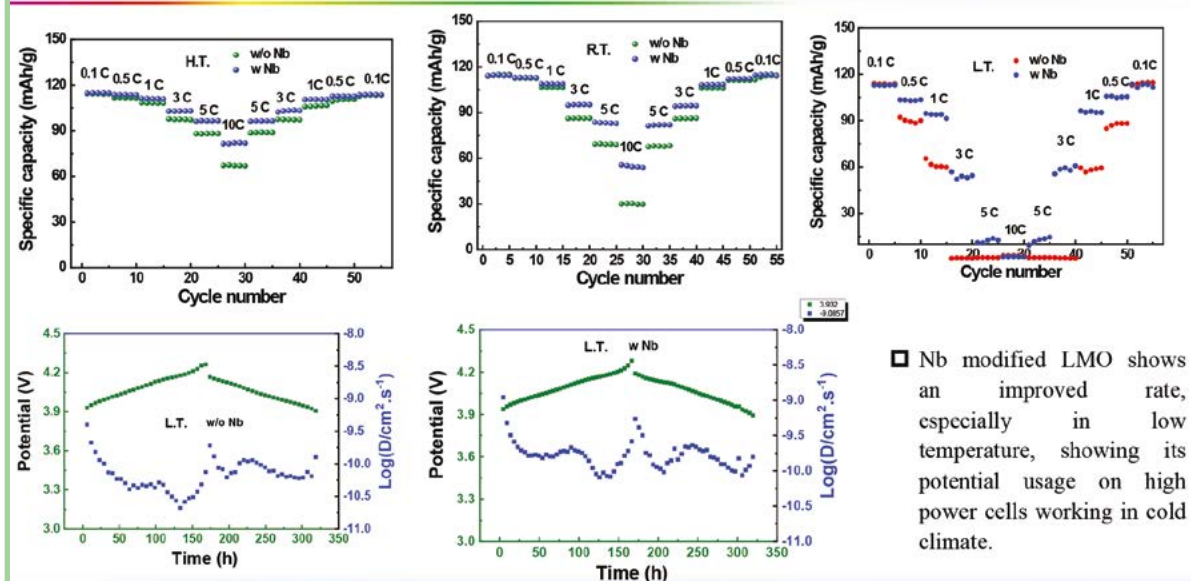
## Manganese dissolution



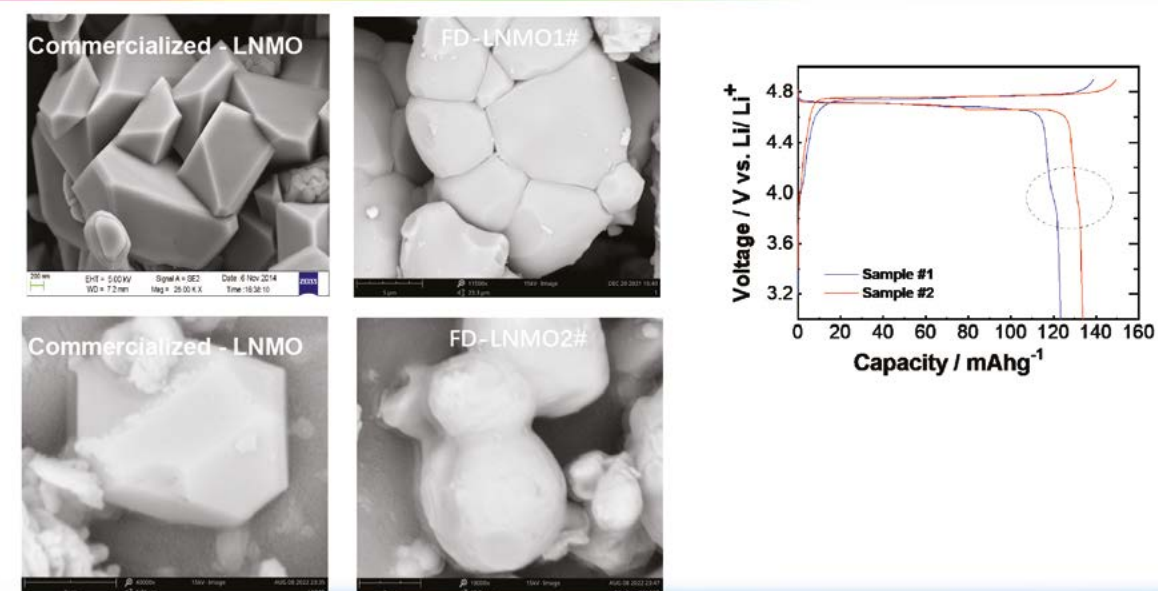
产品编号	25°C-500圈锰溶解率 (%)	60°C-500圈锰溶解率 (%)
商业化LMO	22.6	49.2
FD-LMO1#	7.2	18.5
FD-LMO2#	7.8	19.7



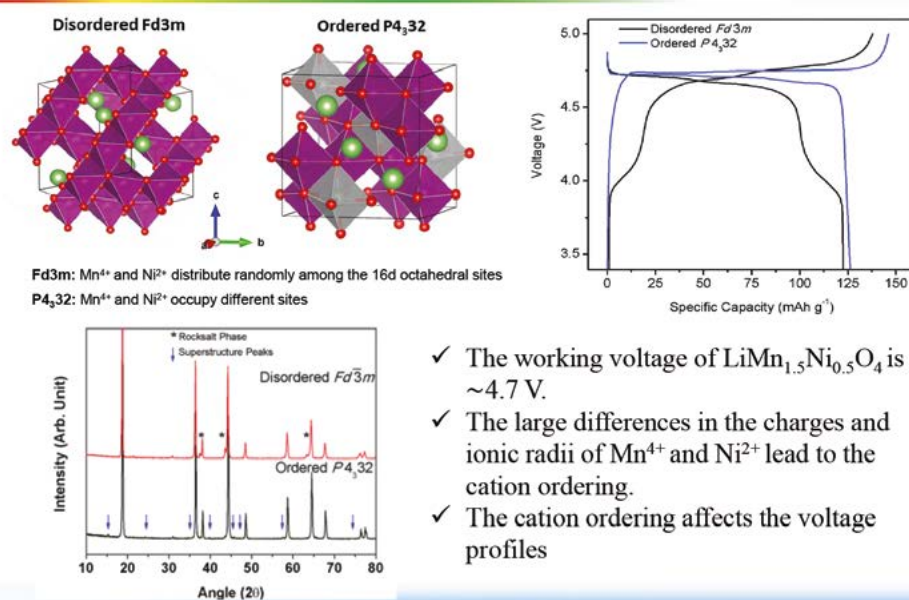
## Rate capability at various temperature



## Spinel LNMO with various morphologies



## High voltage $\text{LiMn}_{1.5}\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{O}_4$



## Conclusion

- Nb can be used as additives to stabilize the crystal structure, and as well as coating buffer layer to improve/stabilize electrode/electrolyte interface.
- The existence of little amount of Nb in LMO & LNMO can change crystal shape. The round shape of LMO was observed under various calcinating temperature and time, indicates that the forming process of round shape under these synthesis conditions doesn't face up any kinetical bottleneck.
- Nb added LMO was identified as  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  in the surface of LMO. The Nb added LMO & LNMO show better cycling stability, especially at the elevated temperatures.

**Nb is NB**





CITIC Metal Co., Ltd and Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Mineracao (CBMM) for the financial support and Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> sample offering

**Thank you for your attention !**



Home page: <http://www.electrochem.edu.cn>

## Notes





## Notes

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## Notes

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## Prof. Dr. Yufeng Zhao

Shanghai University

赵玉峰，上海大学理学院/可持续能源研究院教授、博士生导师，可持续能源研究院副院长，英国皇家化学会会士 (FRSC)。1996–2003年在天津大学学习分别获得学士/硕士学位，2006年获新加坡南洋理工大学博士学位。随后分别在澳大利亚迪肯大学、德国马尔堡大学从事科研工作。2010年回到燕山大学工作，2019年正式入职上海大学。

研究领域：新能源材料与器件，包括钠离子电池、氢能的制备及应用、金属空气电池等。迄今为止在Nature COMM、ADV MATER、ANGEW CHEM、ENERGY ENVIRON SCI、ADV FUNCT MATER等国际期刊发表SCI收录论文150余篇，他引8000余次，申请国家发明专利30余项。

Dr. Yufeng ZHAO, Professor, and Doctoral Supervisor of School of Science/Institute of Sustainable Energy of Shanghai University, Vice President of Institute of Sustainable Energy, and member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). From 1996 to 2003, she studied at Tianjin University and obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, respectively. In 2006, she received a doctor's degree from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Subsequently, she engaged in scientific research at Deakin University in Australia and Marburg University in Germany. She returned to Yanshan University in 2010 and joined Shanghai University in 2019. Her research fields cover new energy materials and devices, including sodium-ion batteries, preparation and application of hydrogen energy, metal-air batteries, etc. She has published more than 150 papers included in SCI in international journals such as Nature Comm, ADV Mater, Angel Chem, Energy Environment SCI, ADV Function Mater, etc., has been cited more than 8000 times, and applied for more than 30 national invention patents.



## Niobium-doped Layered Cathode Material for High-power and Low-temperature Sodium-ion Batteries

Yufeng Zhao

Institute for Sustainable Energy, College of Sciences,  
Shanghai University, Shanghai 200444, P. R. China

### Abstract

Application of sodium ion batteries in grid-scale energy storage demands electrode materials that facilitate fast and stable charge storage from room-temperature to sub-zero temperature range. The key issues that hinder P2-type layered oxides from achieving such goals are their unsatisfied charge transfer kinetics and unavoidable surface fading. Herein, we report a P2-type  $\text{Na}_{0.78}\text{Ni}_{0.31}\text{Mn}_{0.67}\text{Nb}_{0.02}\text{O}_2$ , whereby the trace Nb substitution simultaneously reduces the electronic band gap and ionic diffusion energy barrier, thus enables fast electron and  $\text{Na}^+$  mobility ( $\sim 10^{-9} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  at  $-40^\circ \text{C}$ ). While the Nb induced atomic-scale surface pre-construction efficiently prevents the electrolyte penetration and surface metal dissolution. The material demonstrates a record high rate capability ( $50^\circ \text{C}$ ), unprecedented low temperature performance and ultrahigh cycling stability (98% capacity retention at  $-40^\circ \text{C}$  with 76% capacity remaining after 1800 cycles). Different from literatures, this work shows that complete solid-solution is not always critical for high rate performance.



## Notes

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## Notes

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## Dr. Kent Griffith

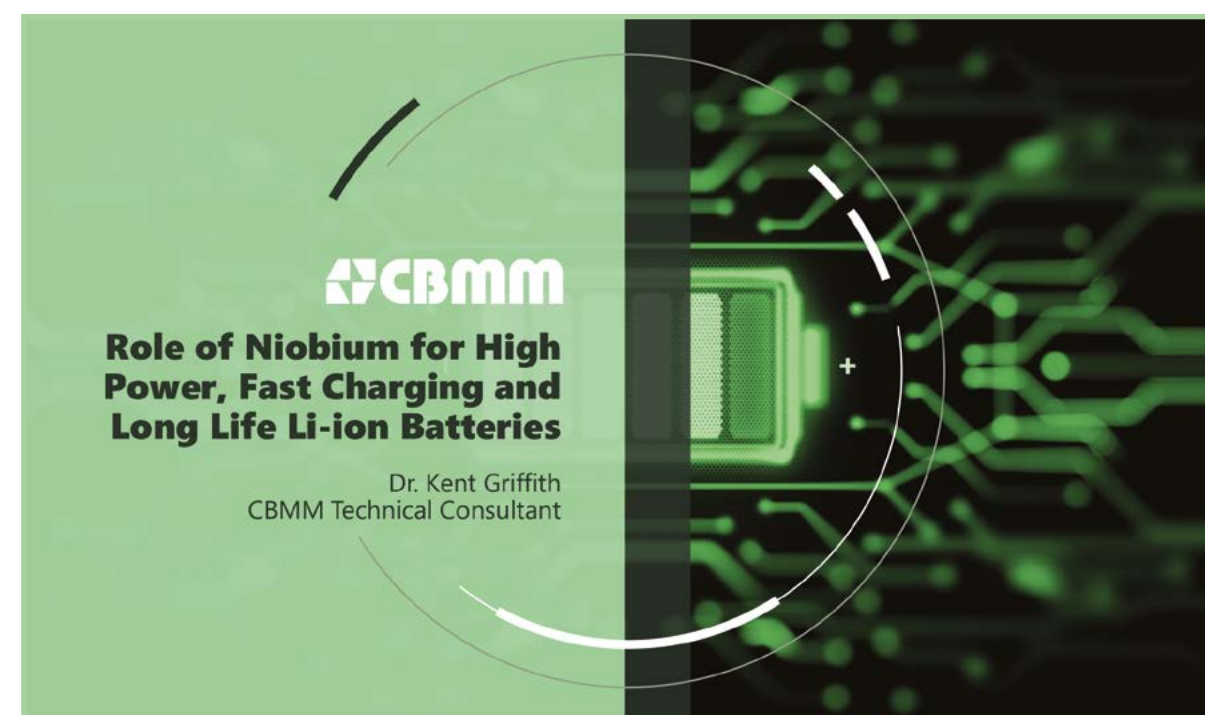
Consultant - CBMM

KENT GRIFFITH博士是CBMM的技术顾问和电池材料专家。Kent具有将先进材料转化为商业应用的经验。他获得了剑桥大学的博士学位，并和 CLARE GREY 教授合作在新型快速充电大功率电化学储能电极发现与开发。

Kent 拥有50多份同行评议的科学出版物、专利和关于锂离子电池和未来一代能源技术的书籍章节。他还为业界领先的电池杂志撰写了数十篇文章。他的工作获得了多个国家（美国和英国）和国际奖项的认可，包括丘吉尔奖学金（CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP），该奖学金每年颁发给全美最优秀的14名科学、数学和工程大学毕业生；皇家化学学会SHEELAH CAMPBELL电化学奖；材料、矿产和采矿研究所（IOM3）颁发的 CHARLES HATCHETT 奖；英国科技设施委员会颁发的STFC FUTURES EARLY CAREER 奖；以及美国国会设立的 BARRY M. GOLDWATER 奖学金，以表彰自然科学、工程和数学方面的杰出成就。

Dr. Kent Griffith is a Technical Consultant for CBMM and an expert in battery materials with experience translating advanced materials to commercial applications. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge for working with Professor Clare Grey on the discovery and development of new fast-charging and high-power electrodes for electrochemical energy storage.

Kent has more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications, patents, and book chapters on lithium-ion batteries and future-generation energy technologies. He has also written dozens of articles for industry-leading battery magazines. His work has been recognized with a number of national (US and UK) and international awards including the Churchill Scholarship - awarded to the top 14 science, math, and engineering university graduates from across the US each year; the Sheelagh Campbell Electrochemistry Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry; the Charles Hatchett Award from the Institute of Materials, Minerals, and Mining (IOM3); the STFC Futures Early Career Award from the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council; and the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship established by the United States Congress to recognize merit in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics.





## Modern battery technology

Materials chemistry

Chemical energy into electricity

### Carbon graphite

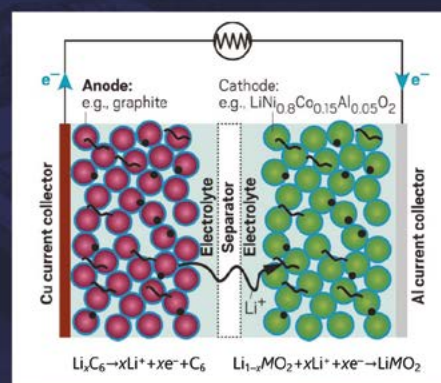
Lithium Titanium Oxide  
( $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  - LTO)

Niobium Titanium Oxide  
( $\text{Nb}_2\text{TiO}_7$  - NTO)

Silicon

Silicon-Graphite  
Composites

Li metal



Lithium Cobalt Oxide  
( $\text{LiCoO}_2$  - LCO)

Lithium Manganese Oxide  
( $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$  - LMO)

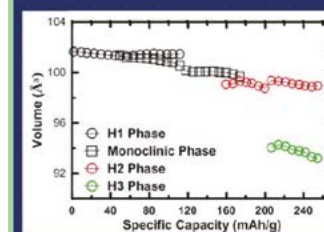
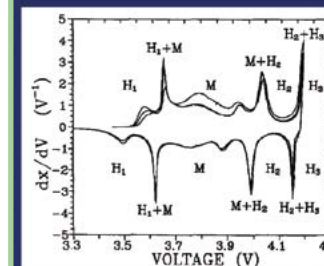
Lithium Iron (Mn) Phosphate  
( $\text{LiFe}(\text{Mn})\text{PO}_4$  - LF(M)P)

Lithium Nickel Manganese  
Cobalt Aluminum Oxide  
( $\text{Li}[\text{Ni}_x\text{Mn}_y\text{Co}_z]\text{O}_2$  - NMCA)

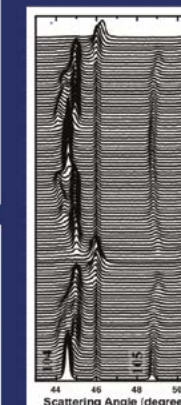
Lithium-rich Disordered  
Rocksalt Oxides  
( $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Nb}_x\text{TM}_{1-2x}\text{O}_2$  - DRX)

Cathode chemistry

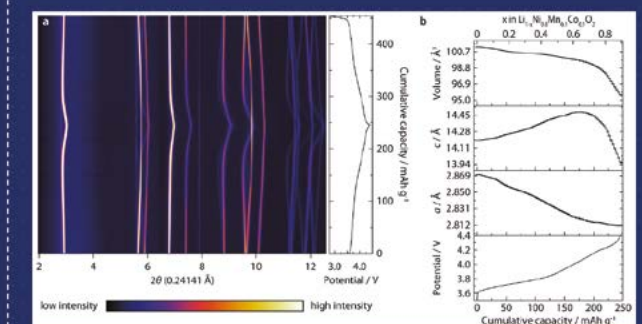
## Challenges with Ni-rich layered oxides



$\text{LiNiO}_2$



NMC811



Li, Dahn et al. *J. Electrochem. Soc.* **2018**, 165, A2985–A2993.  
Li, Dahn et al. *Solid State Ion.* **1993**, 67, 123–130.  
Marker, Griffith, Grey et al. *Chem. Mater.* **2019**, 31, 2545–2554.

Cathode chemistry

## Challenges with Ni-rich layered oxides

**Cation migration:**  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Ni}^{2+}$  antisite mixing during synthesis or cycling

**Phase transformation:** layered ( $\text{LiMO}_2$ )  $\rightarrow$  spinel ( $\text{LiM}_2\text{O}_{4-x}$  or  $\text{M}_3\text{O}_{4-x}$ )  $\rightarrow$  rocksalt (MO)

Loss of lithium and/or loss of oxygen

May be surface reconstruction or bulk transformation

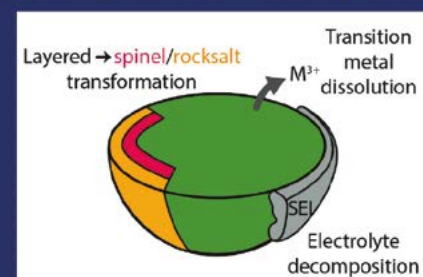
**Particle fracture** and disconnection from the current collector (loss of active material)

Primary or secondary particles

**Interfacial** side reactions and impedance growth

**Transition metal dissolution**

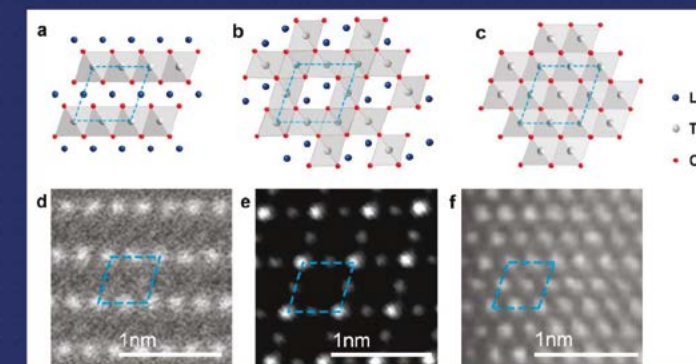
**Current collector corrosion**



Cathode chemistry

## Challenges with Ni-rich layered oxides

layered ( $\text{LiMO}_2$ )  $\rightarrow$  spinel ( $\text{LiM}_2\text{O}_{4-x}$  or  $\text{M}_3\text{O}_{4-x}$ )  $\rightarrow$  rocksalt (MO)



Layered  $\rightarrow$  spinel does not require oxygen loss but still associated with oxygen evolution so suggests oxygen-deficient spinel

Rocksalt is least desirable, "electrochemically dead", though often amorphous

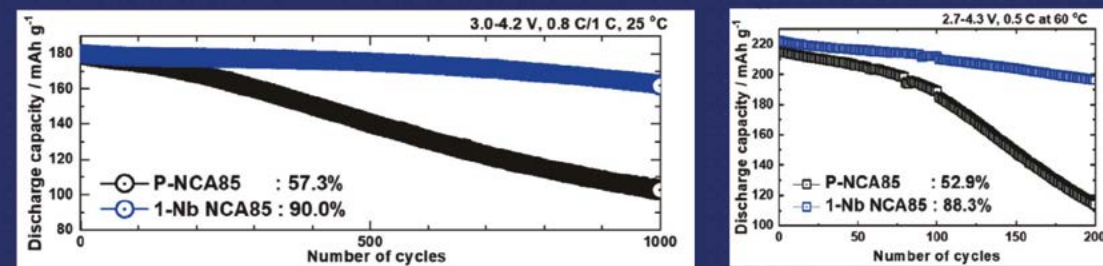
Similar process occurs thermally ( $> 200^\circ\text{C}$ , delithiated) and electrochemically ( $> 4.2\text{ V}$ )

Zhang, Liu, Piper, Whittingham, Zhou *Chem. Rev.* **2022**, 122, 5641–568



## Cathode chemistry Enhancing cycle life

Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> coating of Ni-rich cathodes



Sun et al. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2021**, *11*, 2100884.  
Whittingham et al. *ACS Energy Lett.* **2021**, *6*, 1377–1382.

## Cathode chemistry Mechanisms of favorable performance

Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> coating of Ni-rich cathodes

Doping stabilizes the layered cathode structure

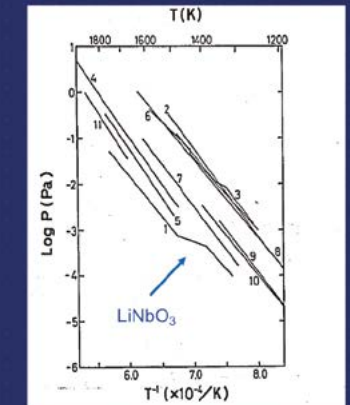
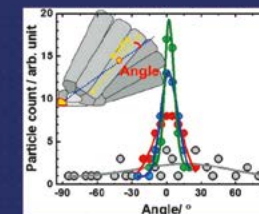
Nb grain boundary preferential enrichment leads to oriented, rod shaped primary particles

LiNbO<sub>3</sub> is a good ionic conductor, electronic insulator

100× higher  $\sigma_{Li^+}$  than LiAlO<sub>2</sub> or Li<sub>2</sub>ZrO<sub>3</sub>

LiNbO<sub>3</sub> coating prevents side reactions with the electrolyte and transition metal dissolution

LiNbO<sub>3</sub> has ultra low lithium vapor pressure



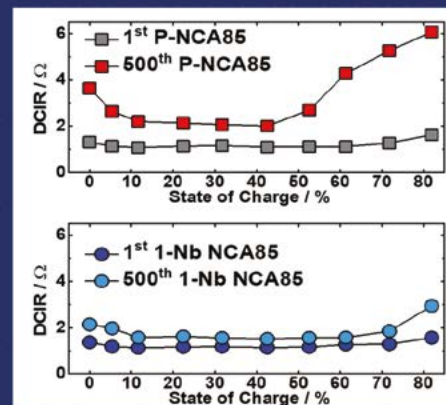
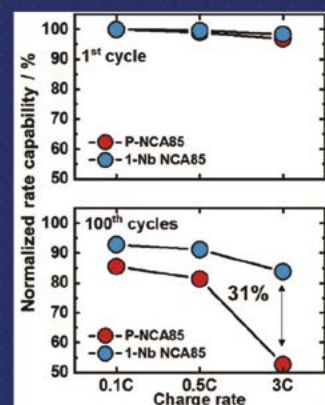
Sun et al. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2021**, *11*, 2100884.  
Whittingham et al. *ACS Energy Lett.* **2021**, *6*, 1377–1382.  
Uhlendorf et al. *Z. Phys. Chem.* **2017**, *231*, 1423–1442.  
Hellstrom and Van Gool *Solid State Ionics* **1981**, *2*, 59–64.  
Yamawaki et al. *Advances in Ceramics*, 1990.

## Cathode chemistry Suppressing impedance growth

Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> coating of Ni-rich cathodes

Retains maximum power at all states of charge

Retains high charge rate over lifetime



Kim et al. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2021**, *11*, 2100884.

## Cathode chemistry Enhancing energy, lifetime, and safety

Nb<sup>5+</sup> doping and LiNbO<sub>3</sub> coating of Ni-rich cathodes

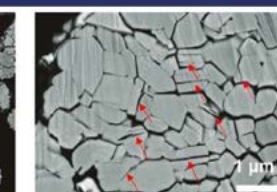
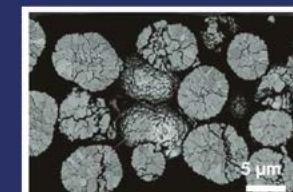
Sun et al. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2021**, *11*, 2100884.

Doping stabilizes the layered cathode structure

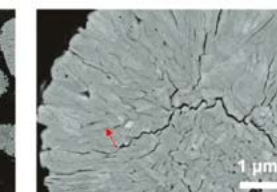
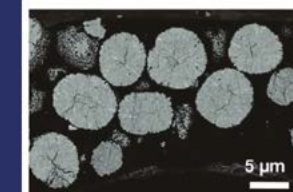
Lower interior porosity → Higher electrode density

Alignment and doping mitigate particle cracking

Without niobium



With niobium





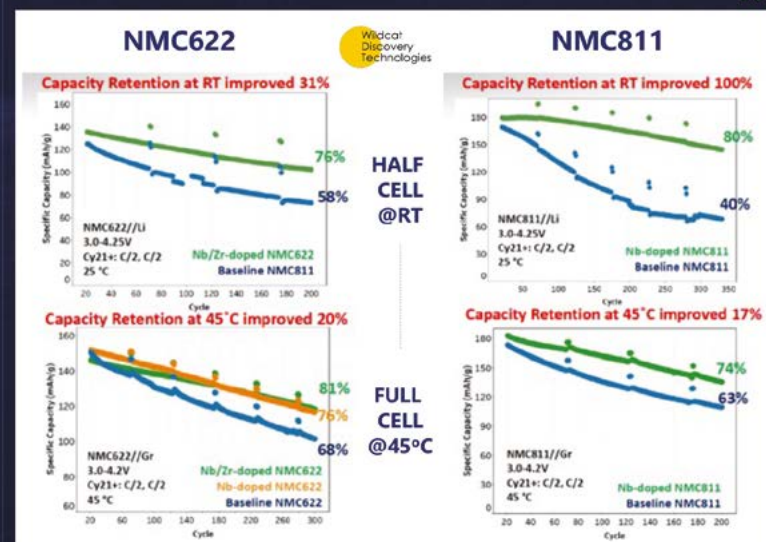
## Cathode chemistry Improving capacity retention

### NIObIUM DOPING

NMC622  
NMC811

Primary doping  
Nb (0.5 wt.%)

Secondary doping  
Nb/Zr (0.5 wt.%/0.5 wt.%)



## Cathode chemistry

## Increasing energy density: Li- & Mn-rich

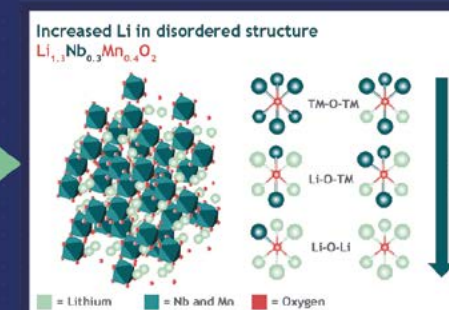
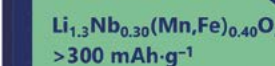
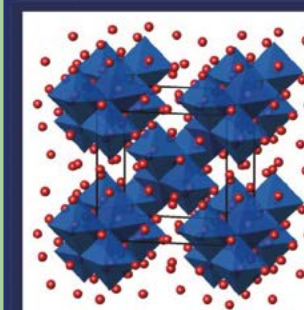
Cobalt-free  $\text{Li}_3\text{NbO}_4$  rock-salt structure

Ashbrook et al. *Dalton Trans.* **2010**, 39, 6031–6036.  
Yabuuchi et al. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **2015**, 112, 7650–7655.  
Grey et al. *Chem. Commun.* **2019**, 55, 9027–9030.  
Ceder et al. *Energy Environ. Sci.* **2020**, 13, 345–373.

High Li content induces the formation of cation-disordered rock-salt structure (DR):

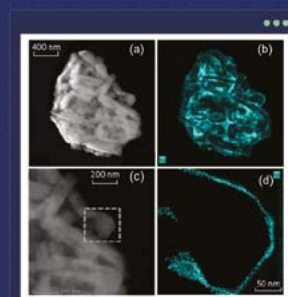
Novel redox mechanism combining metal and oxygen ion oxidation ( $\text{Mn}^{2+}/\text{Mn}^{4+}$  and  $\text{O}^{2-}/\text{O}^-$ )

$\text{Nb}^{5+}$  ions stabilize the lithium-rich structure and novel solid-state redox mechanism (charge compensation)

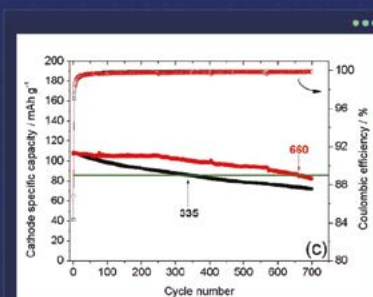


## High-Voltage Cathode Coating

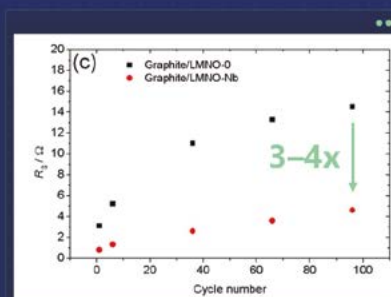
Full cell performance stabilization



Optimized, high-voltage  
LNMO || GRAPHITE  
0.8 wt.%  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  coating



$\text{LiNbO}_3$  coating doubles the cycle life  
from 335 to 660 cycles for the same  
80% capacity retention



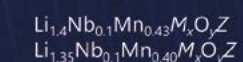
$\text{LiNbO}_3$  coating lowers  
the charge-transfer  
resistance by 3–4x  
after 100 cycles

Gabrielli et al. *ChemSusChem* **2016**, 9, 1670

## Cathode chemistry

## Increasing energy density

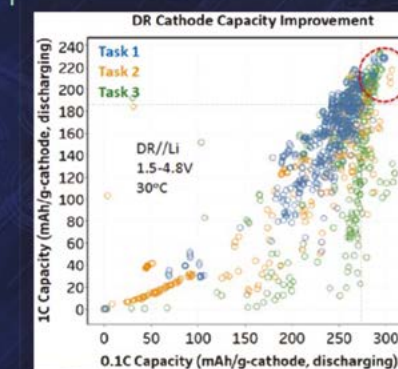
### DR Cathode Mn-rich Chemistry Development



### Challenges:

Cycle Life  
Electronic  
Conductivity

### Cathode Level Energy Density ( $\text{Wh/kg}$ )



### High-throughput screening:

Compositional space  
Synthesis process  
Carbon coating  
Electrolyte  
Electrochemical window



## Cathode chemistry Increasing energy density



>40% drop of \$/Wh  
from NMCA to DR2

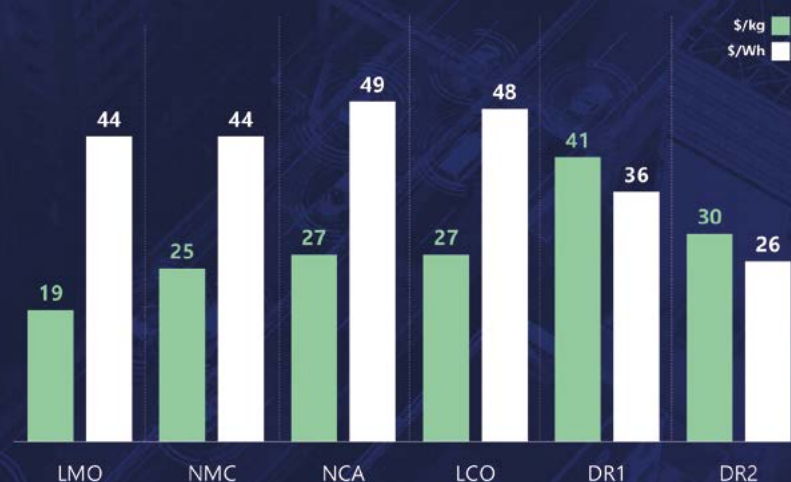
### DR Cathode Mn-rich Chemistry Development

DR1:  $\text{Li}_{1.25}\text{Nb}_{0.25}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{M}_x\text{O}_2$   
DR2:  $\text{Li}_{1.25}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{0.15}\text{M}_{0.5}\text{O}_2$

### Challenges:

Cycle Life

Electronic Conductivity



## High Power & Fast charging

### Titanium Niobium Oxides – TNO

New mixed metal anode materials

### Ti-Nb-O Ternary Family

$\text{TiNb}_2\text{O}_7$   
( $\text{TiO}_2 \cdot \text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ )

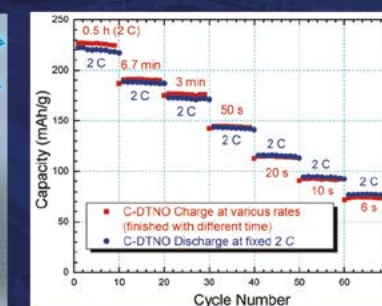
$\text{Ti}_2\text{Nb}_{10}\text{O}_{29}$   
( $2\text{TiO}_2 \cdot 5\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ )

$\text{TiNb}_{24}\text{O}_{62}$   
( $\text{TiO}_2 \cdot 12\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ )



Theoretical Energy Density:  
380  $\text{mAh} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$

$\text{Ti}^{4+}/\text{Ti}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Nb}^{5+}/\text{Nb}^{3+}$  redox couples (~5  
Li per formula unit in  $\text{TiNb}_2\text{O}_7$ )

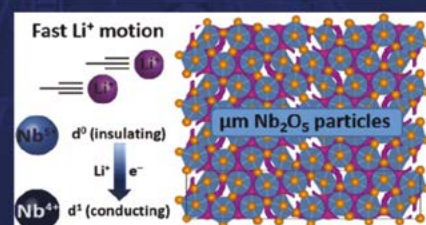


Safe working voltage (>0.6 V vs.  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$ )

Griffith, Goodenough et al. *Chem. Mater.* **2021**, 33, 4–18.

## High Power & Fast charging

$\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  as a new class of anode materials



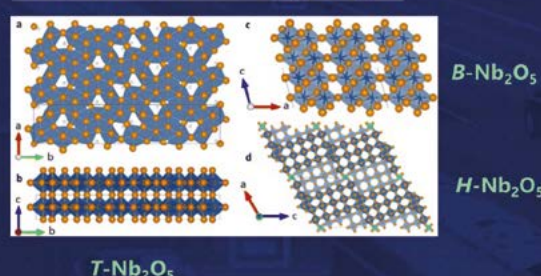
### NIOBUM (V) OXIDES:

Safe potential window  
+1.0 to +2.0 V vs.  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$

High Rate

0.8 to 2.0 Li per Nb  
 $\text{Nb}^{5+}/\text{Nb}^{3+}$  redox pairs  
High Capacity

### Niobium (V) Oxides Polymorphs



Griffith, Grey et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2016**, 138, 8888–8899.

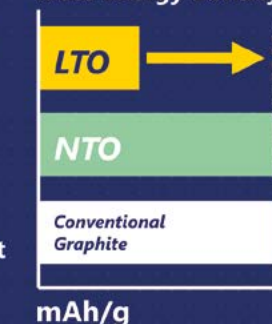
## Comparison of Energy Density

NTO is a promising solution, however  
high anode voltage negatively impacts  
cell-level energy density (as with LTO)

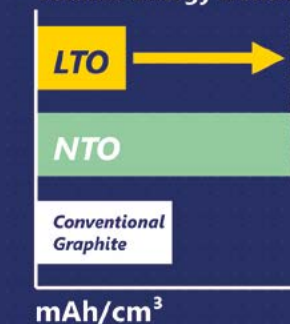


Safety margin against  
Li metal dendrite  
(short circuit)

### Mass Energy Density



### Volume Energy Density



### Cell Voltage

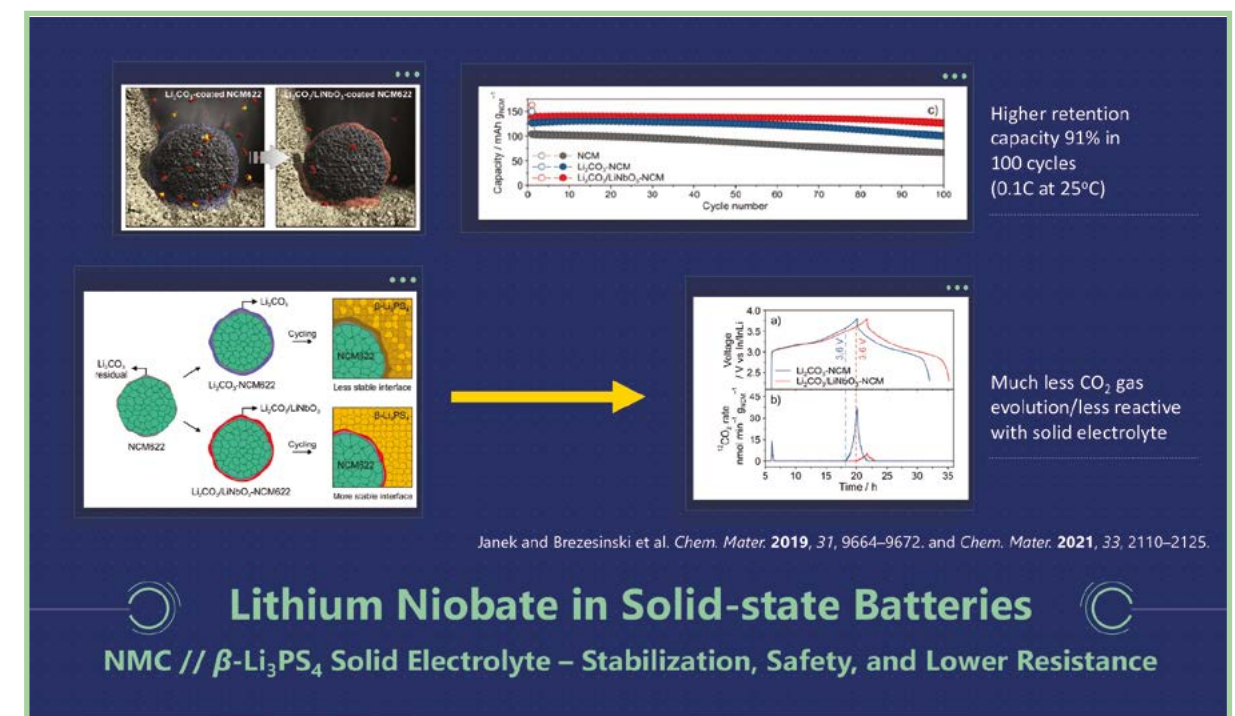
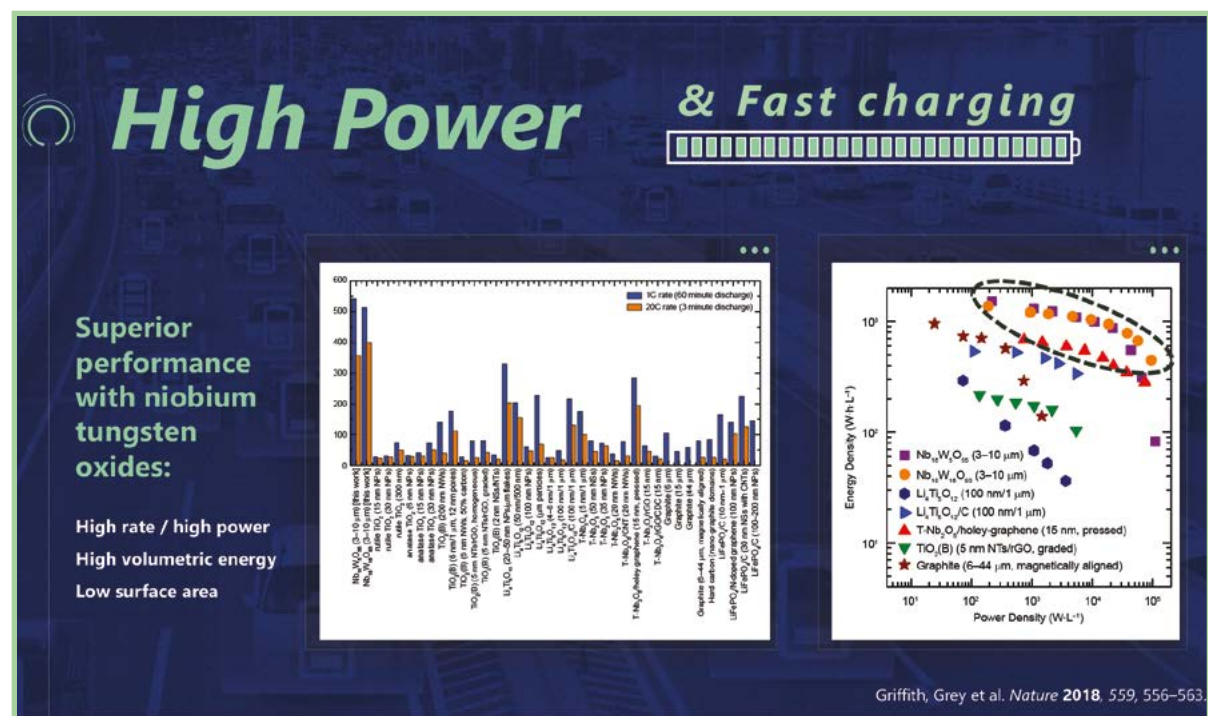
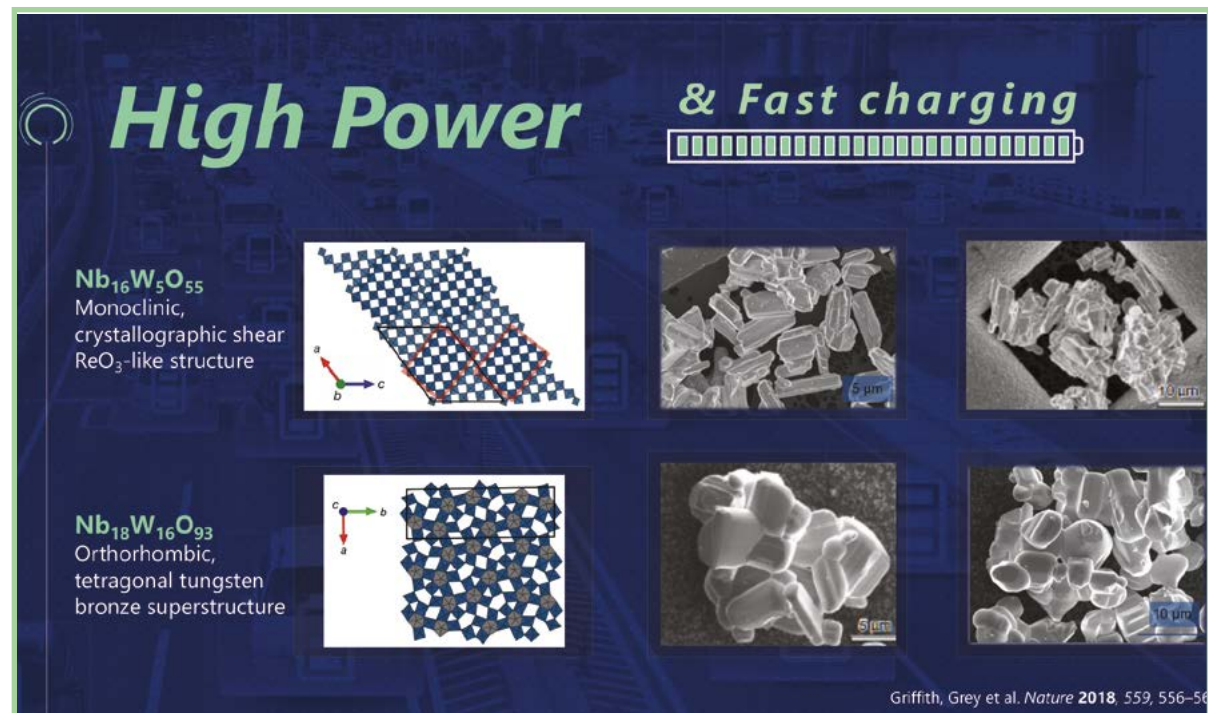
### Anode Capacity (Ah/g)

### Anode Energy Density (Wh/cm³)

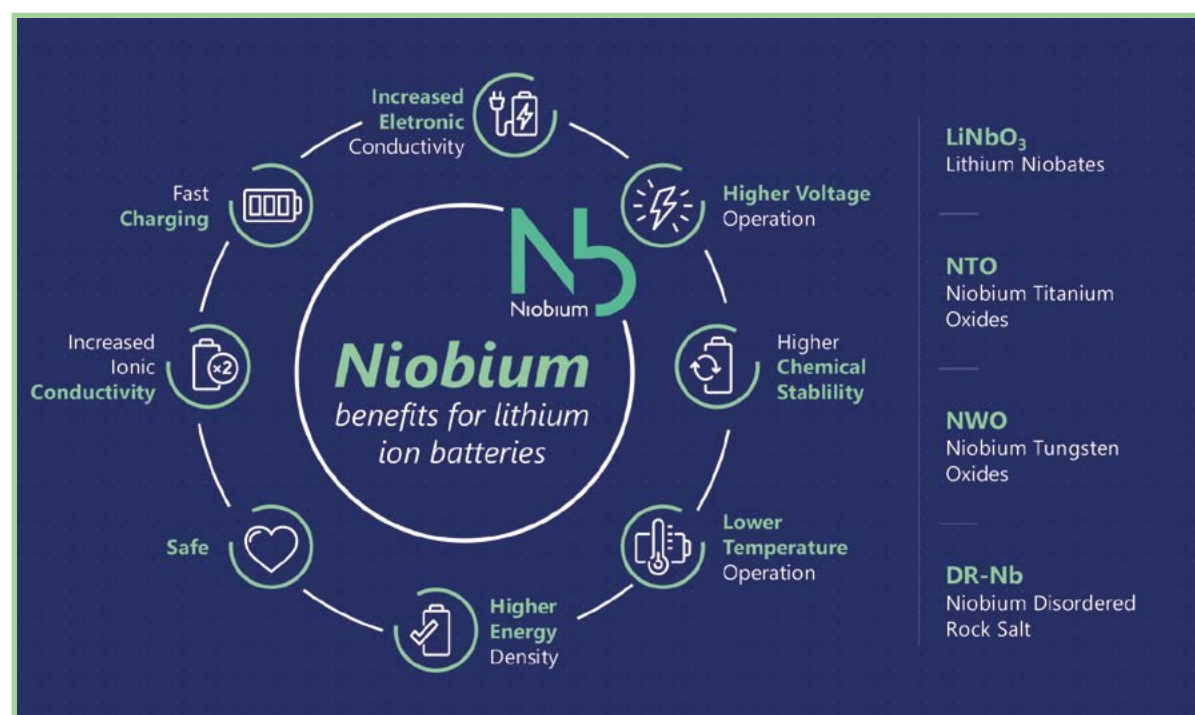
	LIB	LTO	NTO
Cell Voltage	HIGH	LOW	LOW
Anode Capacity (Ah/g)	MED	LOW	HIGH
Anode Energy Density (Wh/cm³)	MED	LOW	HIGH

Courtesy of TOSHIBA Corporation











## Notes

[illegible]

## Notes

[illegible]





## Prof. Dr. Chilin Li

Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese  
Academy of Sciences

李驰麟，中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所研究员，博士生导师，课题组长，入选上海市优秀学术带头人、上海市高层次人才计划、中科院杰出人才计划，在氟基电池、固态电池、锂/镁金属电池、快充电池等方面作出系列原创成果。在SCI、ADV.、NAT. COMMUN.、J. AM. CHEM. SOC.、ANGEW. CHEM.、ADV. MATER.、ENERGY ENVIRON. SCI.等发表期刊论文110余篇。授权和申请PCT国际发明专利和中国发明专利20余项。

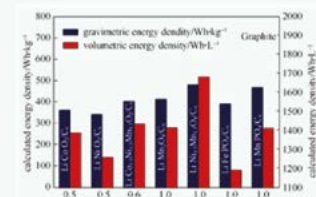
Dr. Chilin Li, researcher of Shanghai Institute of Silicate, Chinese Academy of Sciences and project leader. He was selected as Shanghai's excellent academic leader, Shanghai high-level talent plan, and Chinese Academy of Sciences outstanding talent plan and made a series of achievements in fluorine-based batteries, solid-state batteries, lithium/magnesium metal batteries, and fast charging batteries field. He has published more than 110 journal papers in SCI Adv., Nat. Commun., J. Am. Chem. Soc., Angew. Chem., Adv. Mater and Energy Environ. Sci. Prof. Chilin Li also authorized and applied for more than 20 PCT international invention patents and Chinese invention patents.



## 研究背景

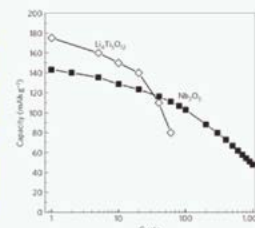
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

SICCAS Since 1928

实际能量密度低于300 Wh/kg  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  的容量仅有 175 mAh/g

## 正交相氧化铌的优势

1. 储锂电压范围为1-3V, 避免锂沉积
2. 层间结构稳定
3. 倍率性能稳定, 容量保持率高。40s→100mAh/g



## 非晶碳的优势

1. 原料丰富, 成本低
2. 导电性好
3. 容量大且工作电位高

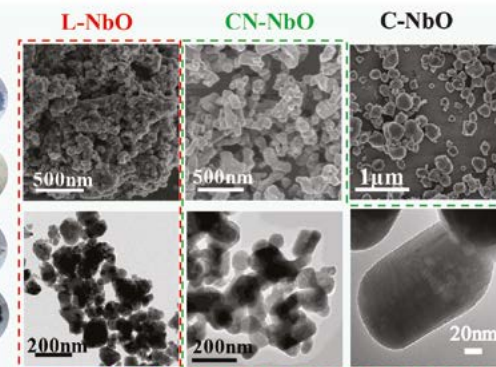
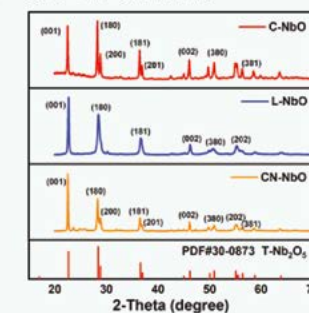
储能科学与技术, 2013, 2(1): 55-64.

Nature Materials, 2013, 12(6): 518-522.

T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

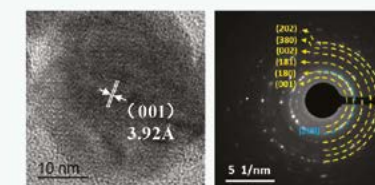
SICCAS Since 1928

## 形貌结构与物相分析



L-NbO 为缺陷较多的样品  
CN-NbO 为调控缺陷浓度后的样品  
C-NbO 为商业氧化铌

缺陷引入前后的Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>均为正交相;  
L-NbO为极细纳米颗粒, CN-NbO  
具有规则的短棒状形状, 缺陷引入  
并没有破坏Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>的晶格

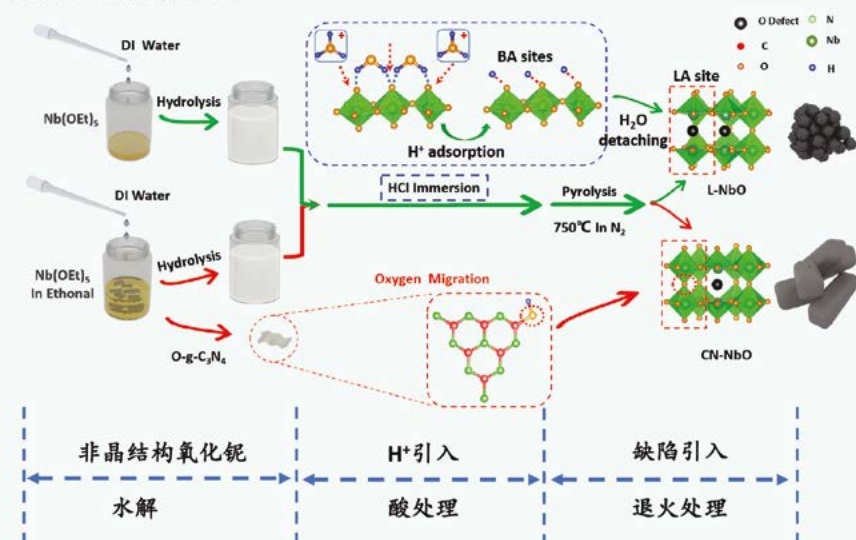


## 研究内容

中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

SICCAS Since 1928

## 氧缺陷构造及补氧机理图



非晶结构氧化铌

水解

H<sup>+</sup>引入

酸处理

缺陷引入

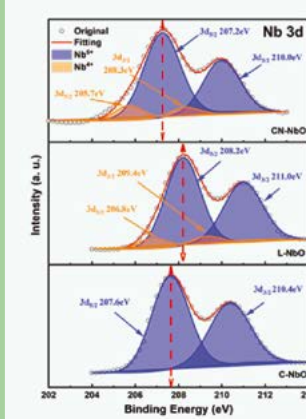
退火处理

T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

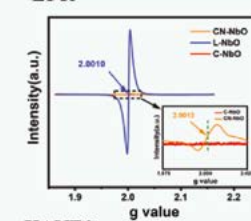
SICCAS Since 1928

## 缺陷结构和价态表征

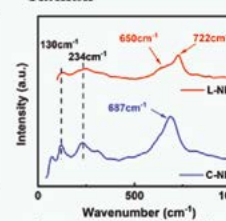
## XPS Nb3d



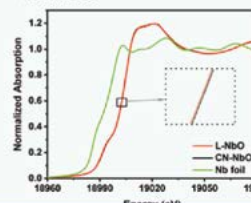
## EPR



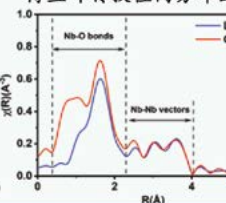
## Raman



## XANES



## 傅里叶变换径向分布函数



XPS、EPR、XANES表明缺陷氧化铌存在Nb<sup>4+</sup>; Raman和傅里叶  
变换RDF表明氧缺陷使Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>的晶体结构中出现多面体构型的转变



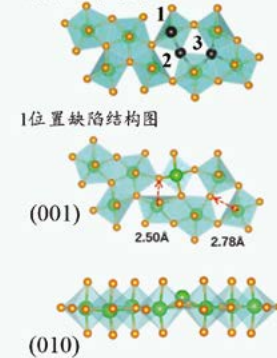
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

### T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控

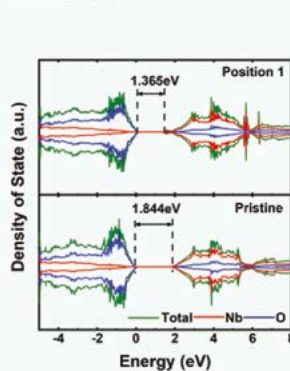
Since 1928  
SICCAS

#### 理论计算

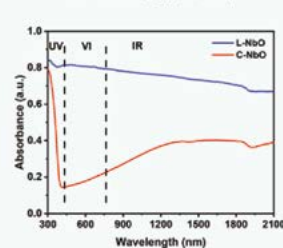
缺陷位置示意图



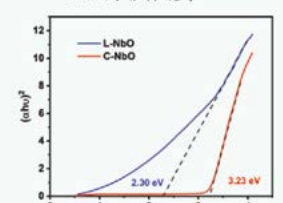
PDOS能带图



UV-VI-IR光谱吸收图



Tauc图推算能带



氧缺陷导致五方双锥转变为四方双锥；T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5-x</sub>的能带的理论与实验值均减小，表明氧缺陷位于桥氧位点处

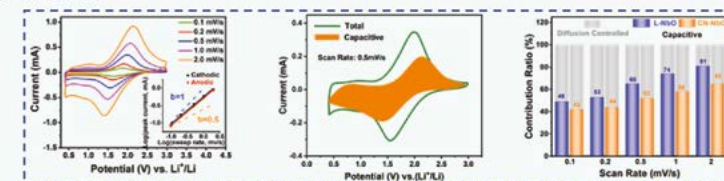
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

### T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控

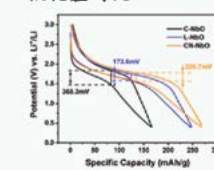
Since 1928  
SICCAS

#### 动力学性能对比

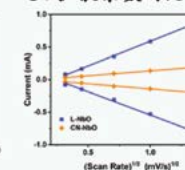
##### 赝电容性能



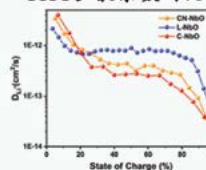
##### 极化差对比



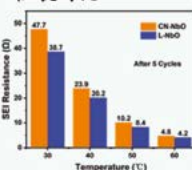
##### CV扩散系数对比



##### GIIT扩散系数对比



##### 阻抗对比



电压极化、扩散系数以及阻抗表明L-NbO的动力学性能更好

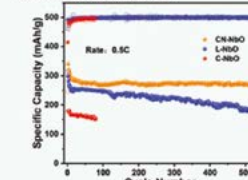
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

### T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控

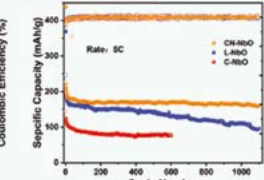
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#### 电化学性能对比

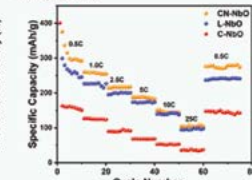
##### 0.5 C长循环性能



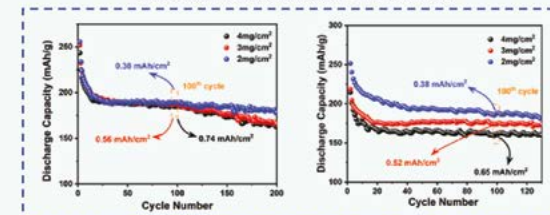
##### 5 C长循环性能



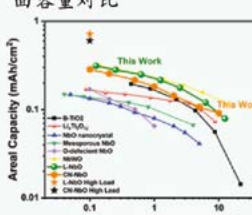
##### 倍率性能



##### L-NbO和CN-NbO高载量性能对比



##### 面容量对比

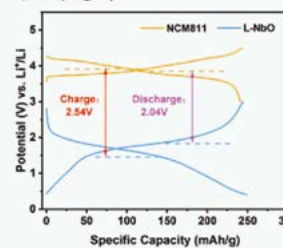


低载量CN-NbO的性能优于L-NbO；高载量时受电导率影响，L-NbO的性能更优。

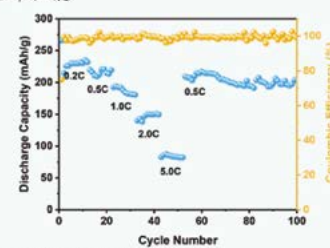
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

#### L-NbO/NCM811全电池

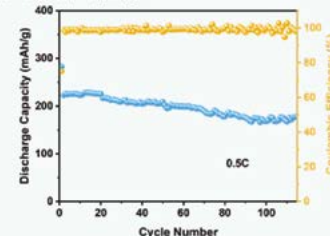
##### 理论电压示意图



##### 倍率性能



##### 0.5 C长循环性能



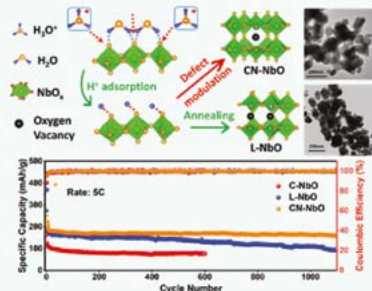
L-NbO/NCM811的平均工作电压分别为2.54 V和2.04 V。  
5 C下保持75 mAh/g以上的容量  
0.5 C下循环100圈保持160 mAh/g



## 小结

中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of SciencesSICCAS  
Since 1928T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中的氧缺陷调控

- ◆ 通过室温酸处理的方法，氧缺陷成功引入到T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中，并将电导率提升两个数量级
- ◆ O-g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>调控缺陷浓度后，T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5-x</sub>中的缺陷浓度大大下降，约为原来的1/60
- ◆ 基于XANES、Raman、DFT计算与紫外-可见-红外光谱综合分析，氧空位最有可能位于不同NbO<sub>x</sub>多面体层间的Nb-O-Nb桥氧键处



## 本章节创新点

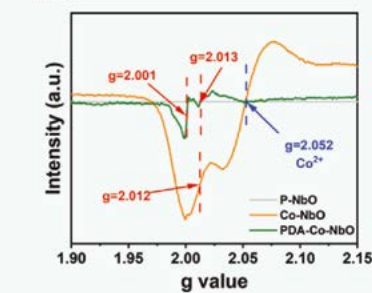
- ① **新策略**：室温酸浸泡的缺陷诱导方法 ② **新机制**：O-g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>的微氧泵补氧机制

Y. J. Zheng, C. L. Li et al. Adv. Funct. Mater., 32, 2107060, 2022

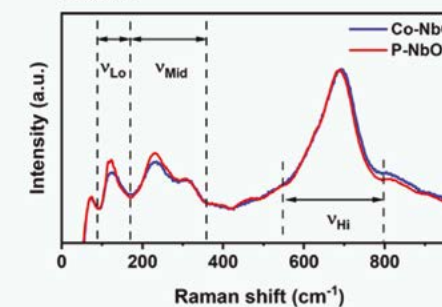
下一个工作: T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中三重导电网络构建T-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中三重导电网络构建中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of SciencesSICCAS  
Since 1928

## Co掺杂结构分析

## EPR



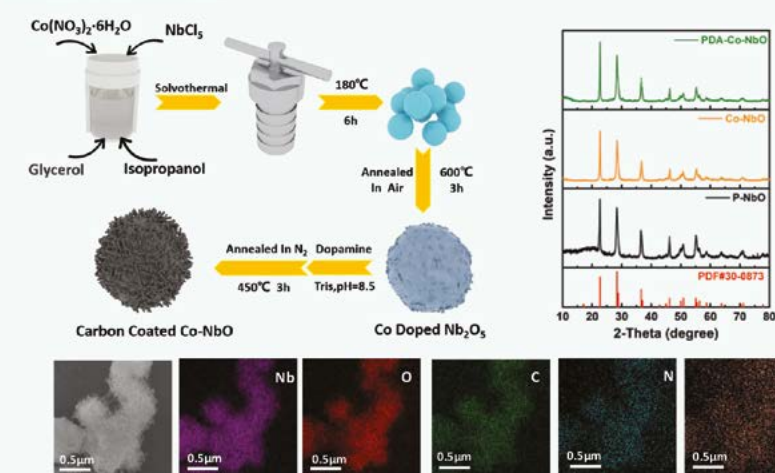
## Raman



EPR能谱中有Co原子的磁信号，证明Co的成功掺杂  
Raman光谱中并没有发现Co-O的振动峰，表明Co掺杂进入晶格中

中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of SciencesT-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中三重导电网络构建SICCAS  
Since 1928

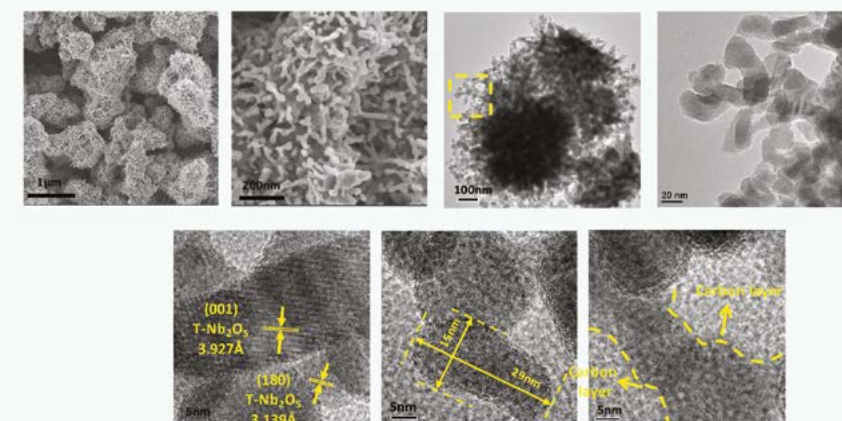
## Co的掺杂与PDA包覆



水热合成，PDA原位包覆构建非晶碳层，掺杂前后均为正交相Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
EDS mapping表明PDA均匀包覆，Co均匀掺杂

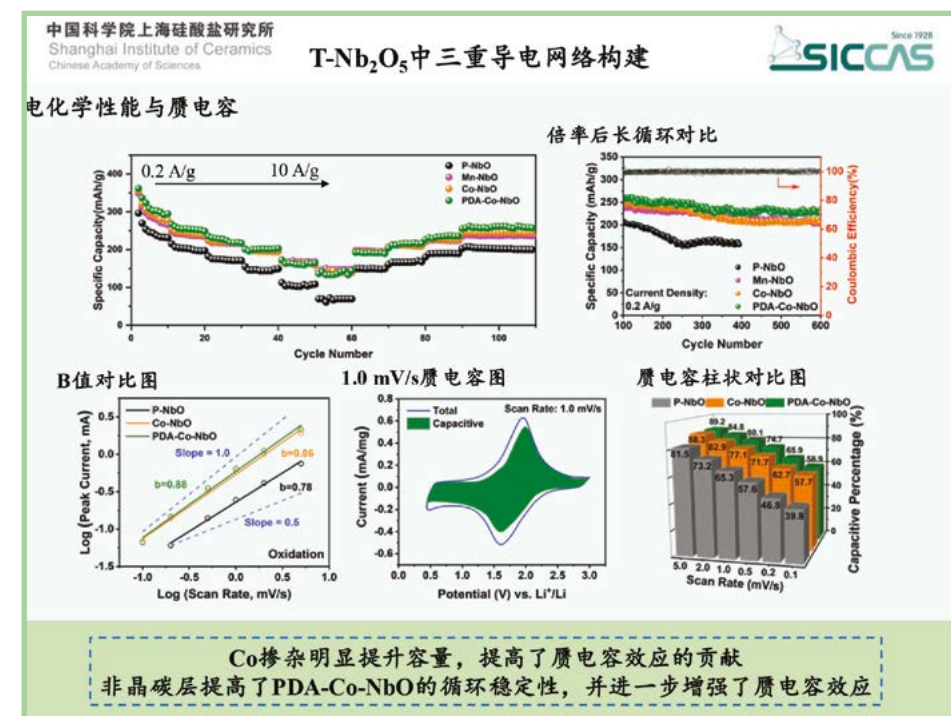
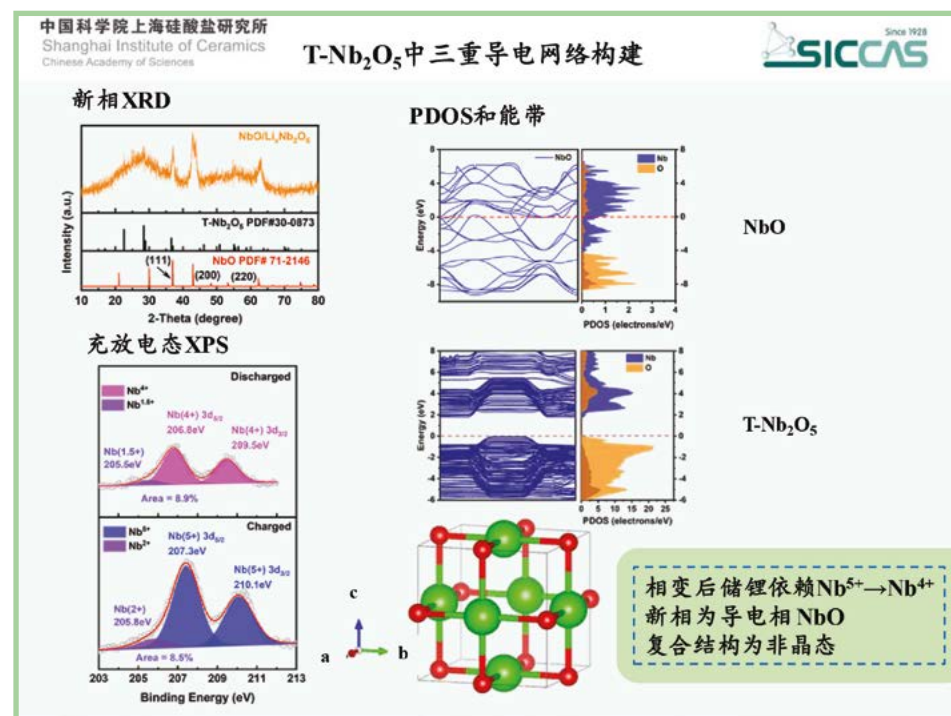
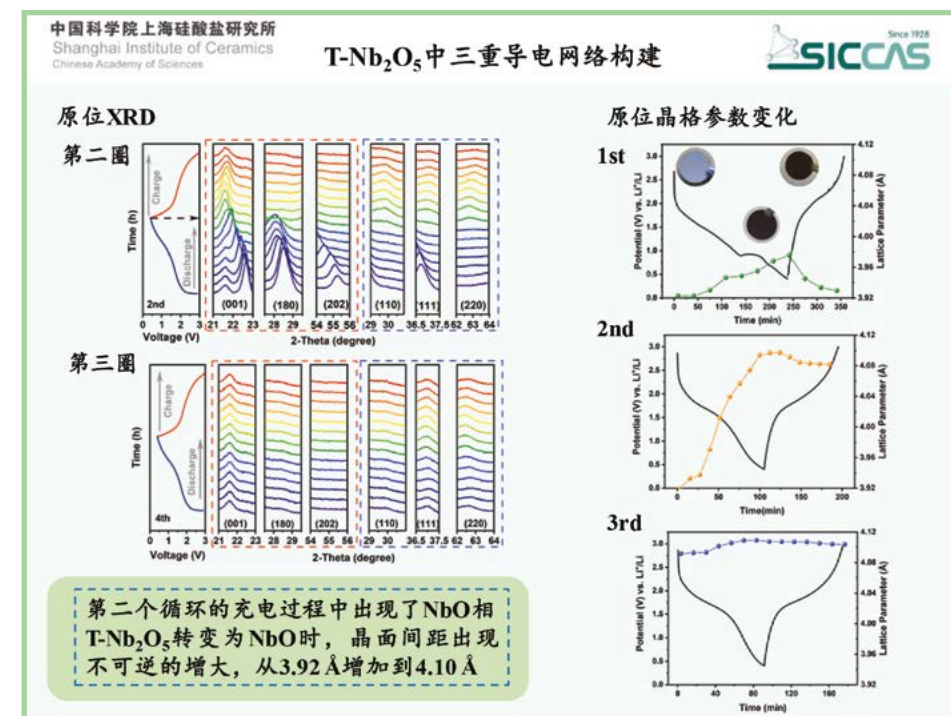
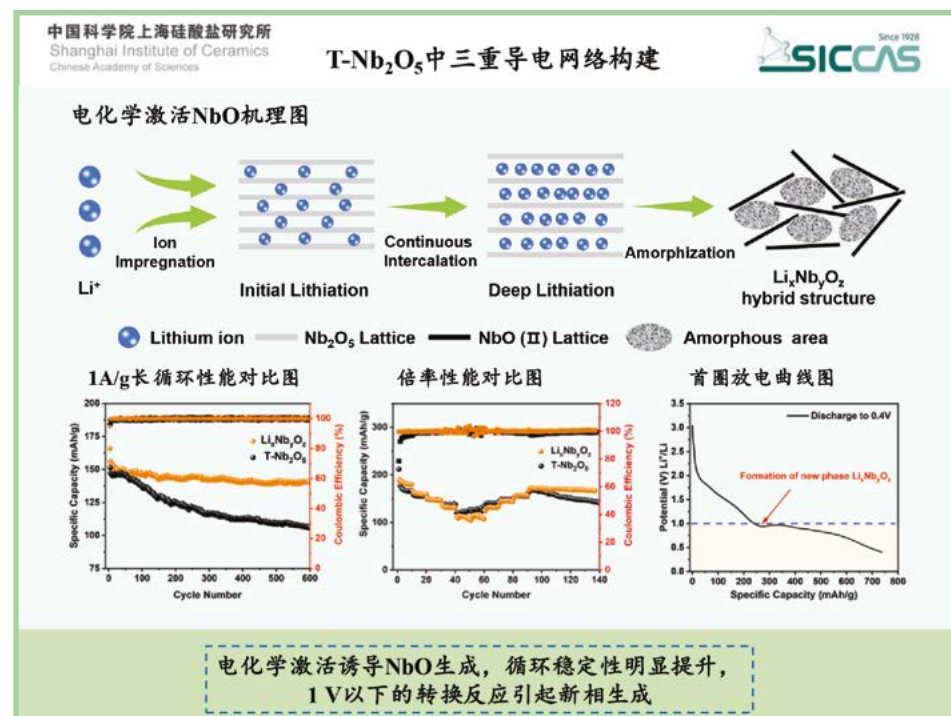
中国科学院上海硅酸盐研究所  
Shanghai Institute of Ceramics  
Chinese Academy of SciencesT-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>中三重导电网络构建SICCAS  
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## 形貌结构分析 PDA-Co-NbO



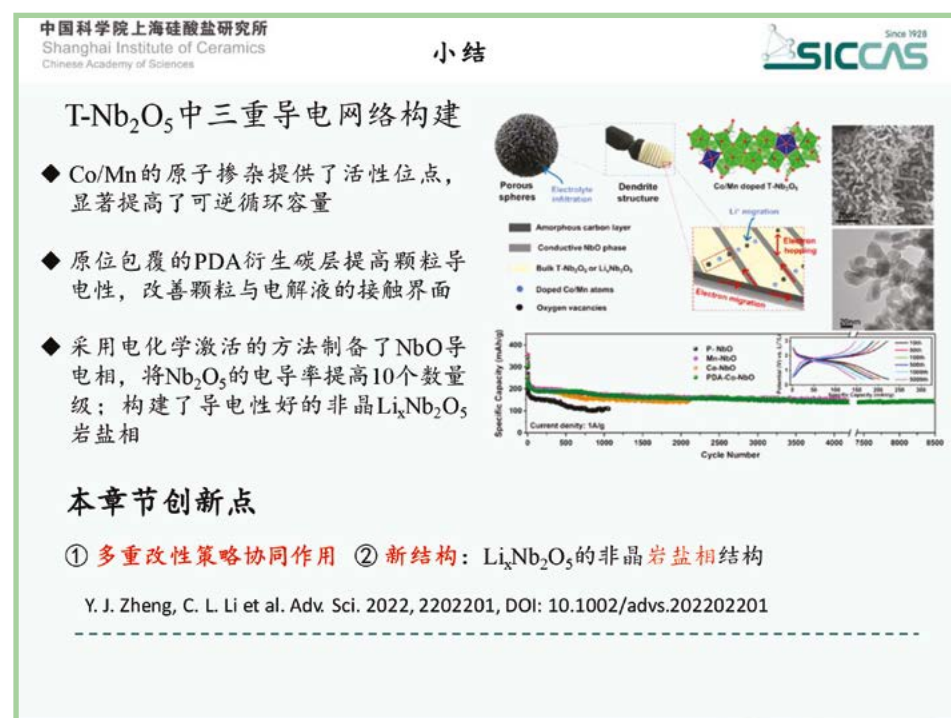
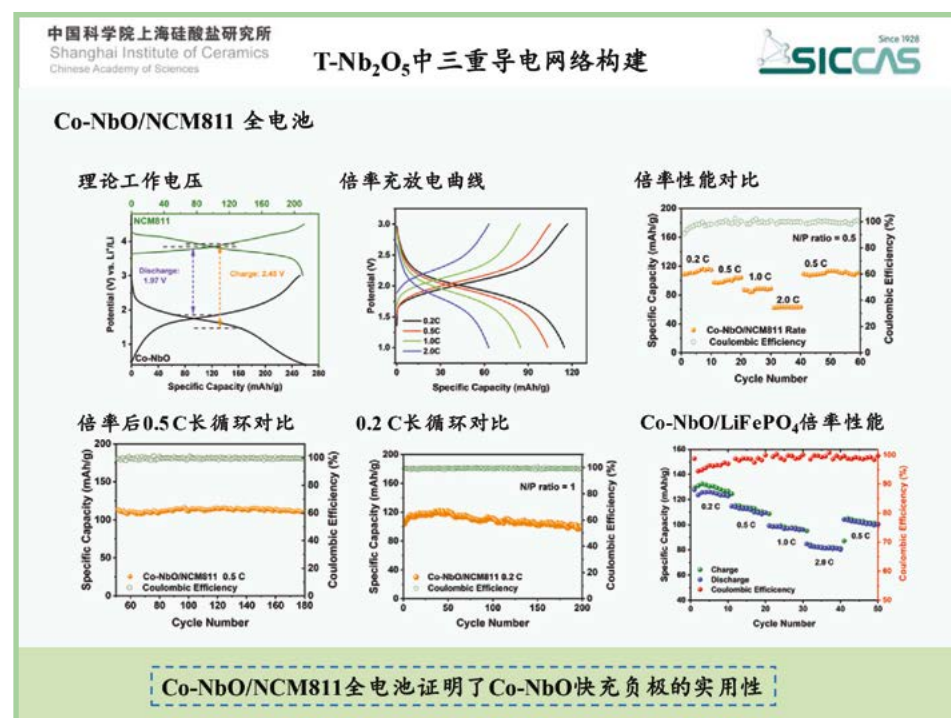
颗粒表面为珊瑚状的多孔结构，由极细纳米颗粒组成，  
高分辨图像中，颗粒表面可见原位包覆的非晶碳层







## Notes







## Notes

[illegible]

## Notes

[illegible]

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## Dr. Sebastian Pohlmann

VP Automotive and Business Development -  
Skeleton Technologies

SEBASTIAN POHLMANN博士是SKELETON TECHNOLOGIES汽车和业务开发副总裁，他领导汽车商业活动，并将下一代超级电容器引入未来应用。在SKELETON工作的5年中，他还领导了2年的开发团队，使SKELETON的“弯曲石墨烯”技术更接近应用。POHLMANN博士于2014年在明斯特大学获得物理化学博士学位，并撰写和合作撰写了超过12份出版物和专利。

Dr. Sebastian Pohlmann is Vice President Automotive & Business Development at Skeleton Technologies, where he leads automotive commercial activities and brings next generation ultracapacitors into future applications. During his 5 years at Skeleton, he also led the development team for 2 years, bringing Skeleton's "Curved Graphene" technology closer to application. Dr. Pohlmann obtained his PhD in Physical Chemistry in 2014 at the University of Münster and has authored and co-authored over 12 publications and patents.

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## High power energy storage: Requirements and applications

International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries 2022

Dr. Sebastian Pohlmann

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### Challenge

Electrification  
and zero-  
emissions  
technologies

are the only ways to  
combat an increasingly  
alarming climate crisis

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### The Key Enabler

## Energy storage beyond Lithium- Ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries do not  
fit all solutions perfectly



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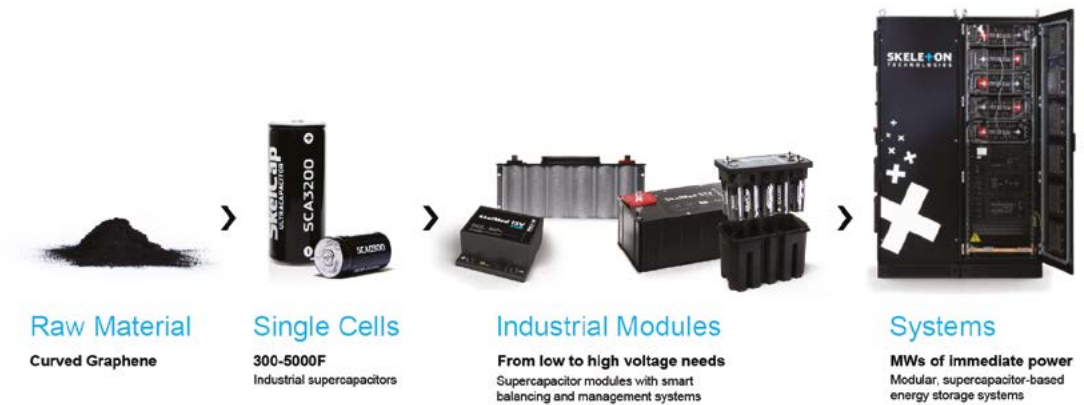
03



## From Single Cells to Full Energy Storage Systems

The only full value-chain manufacturer on the market

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07

## Global Reach from the Heart of Europe

Combining German engineering & Estonian IT

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## The largest and most modern supercapacitor factory in Europe

### Germany

Großröhrsdorf, Germany  
Industrial scale, highly automated production facility  
Supercapacitor research & development center  
Main production location from cells to systems



### Germany

Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany  
Curved Graphene synthesis and production  
Material pilot & development plant  
Solid-state material research

### Estonia

Tallinn, Estonia  
Software development  
Electronics engineering  
Module & system development



04

## Technological Advantage Through Superior Carbon Raw Material

Backed by the largest R&D team in the industry

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### Li-ion Batteries

use a chemical reaction to store energy



- Limited power density (0.5 kW/kg)
- **High energy density** (205 Wh/kg)
- Limited cycle life (<3000)
- Slow charge rate (1.5 C)
- Safety concerns
- Hard to recycle
- Contains Cobalt, Nickel, Copper

### Supercapacitors

use an electric field to store energy



- **High power density** (up to 60 kW/kg)
- Limited energy density (11.1 Wh/kg, 16 Wh/L)
- Extreme cycle life (>1 million)
- Extremely fast charge rate (2000 C)
- High inherent safety
- Easily recycled
- Only metal content is Aluminum

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## Key Enabling Technology to Power Electrification Across Industries

A qualified supplier & system provider to industry leaders

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**Automotive**  
Selected applications

- Fuel cell power support solutions
- 48V active suspension
- KERS / Push-to-pass
- 12V board net stabilization & back-up solutions



**Transportation & Heavy Equipment**  
Selected applications

- KERS for light rail
- Engine start
- Mild hybrid bus energy storage
- Fuel cell power support solutions for rail and bus transportation



**Grid & Renewables**  
Selected applications

- Wind turbine pitch control
- Virtual inertia / Grid forming in STATCOMs
- Microgrid power back-up and quality



**Industrial**  
Selected applications

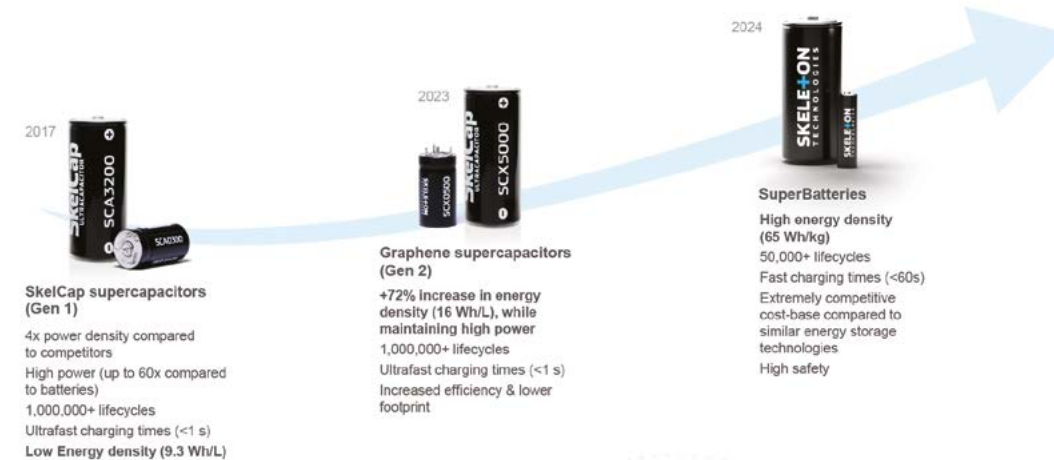
- Peak load shaving to cover short-term peak power demands
- KERS for port cranes, forklifts, and elevators
- Fast-charging for warehouse AGVs and shuttles



## Technology Advantage Throughout the Entire Energy Storage Industry

Highest performance and quality for every energy storage application, powered by Curved Graphene

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## Technology Advantage Throughout the Entire Energy Storage Industry

Highest performance and quality for every energy storage application, powered by Curved Graphene

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**SkelCap supercapacitors (Gen 1)**  
4x power density compared to competitors  
High power (up to 60x compared to batteries)  
1,000,000+ lifecycles  
Ultrafast charging times (<1 s)  
Low Energy density (9.3 Wh/L)



**Material research for higher energy density is at the core of Skeleton Technologies**

## Current Energy Storage Technology Has Clear Shortcomings

No single solution meets market requirements

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	1 SUPERCAPACITORS:	2 HIGH POWER BATTERIES:	3 HIGH ENERGY BATTERIES:
	Ucap Power, LSMtron, SECH, AVX, CRRC	Microvast, Toshiba, Varta AG	LG Chem, Panasonic, Samsung SDI, Tesla
PROs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Energy throughput (\$/kWh cycle)</li> <li>+ Efficiency (cost per kW)</li> <li>+ Wide temperature window</li> <li>+ High safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Medium energy density</li> <li>+ Medium efficiency</li> <li>+ Relatively fast charging</li> <li>+ Good safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Low energy cost (&lt;\$120/kWh)</li> <li>+ High energy density</li> </ul>
CONs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low energy density</li> <li>- Very high initial cost (\$/kWh)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High initial cost (\$600/kWh)</li> <li>- Not at full Gigafactory scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very low cycles</li> <li>- Long charging times</li> </ul>





## Where is high power required?

Defining requirements

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### Critical requirements in the application's power profile

- Fast charging:** High utilization, no dedicated charging storage
- High power discharge:** Pack size dependent on power density
- High RMS current:** Lifetime dependent on power density and low ESR

### Critical requirements independent of power profile

- Safety:** Less overhead, wider application field
- Sustainability:** Emission footprint, end-of-life costs
- Supply chain security:** Price stability

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## Industrial grid solutions | Data centre UPS

CHALLENGE: High safety, footprint and high power



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- Fast charging**
- High power discharge**
- High RMS current**
- Safety**
- Sustainability**
- Supply chain security**

### BACKGROUND

- + Data centers have extreme reliability, availability and maintainability requirements
- + Uncontrolled power loss can mean losing the work of millions of euros in data loss.
- + Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) needed to prevent shut down of mission critical loads in case of grid issues
- + UPS aim to provide 15 – 30min of power before gensets or fuel cells

### KEY CHALLENGES

- + Low lifetime in lead acid requires constant system substitution.
- + Very high safety and reliability requirements incompatible with standard Li-ion
- + Only options are high priced (LTO) or oversized (NMC/LFP)

### BENEFITS

- + Increased lifetime and high power capabilities
- + Extended system energy storage lifespan up to 8 times and reduce maintenance cost.
- + Increased intrinsically safety of the system at cell, module and system level.

## How does the classic Li-ion battery compare?

Low cost and high energy density are pressuring other technologies

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### Competition in power

- Fast charging:**
- High power discharge:**
- High RMS current:**

### Oversizing vs cost advantage

A LIB with 400 kWh @ 100 EUR/kWh is a cheaper solution than a high power battery with 100 kWh @ 500 EUR/kWh

Price per kWh determines required "oversizing gap"

### LIB are challenged on safety, sustainability and supply chain

- Safety:**
- Sustainability:**
- Supply chain security:**



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## Mining Solutions | Surface Full Electric Haul Trucks

CHALLENGE: Electrification with lowest impact on TCO



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- Fast charging**
- High power discharge**
- High RMS current**
- Safety**
- Sustainability**
- Supply chain security**

### BACKGROUND

- + All-electric mines require electrified hauling
- + Electrification should have no impact on the haul cycle
- + Battery-electric haul trucks require up to 400 kWh capacity per roundtrip

### KEY CHALLENGES

- + Trolley solutions require a catenary – resulting in high CAPEX with frequent interruptions for extensions as the mine grows
- + Battery-electric trucks require long charging times and large battery capacities when charged stationary
- + Battery swap not possible due to large battery size

### SOLUTION

- + Fast charging high power battery system on board
- + Charging in <2 min depending on power connection
- + Charging station supported by SuperBattery for high power availability



\*calculated for a 30 min charge for LIB with 5000 cycles, including overhead for additional trucks to compensate for charging time

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## Utility machines and Trucks | Ultra-fast Charging

BENEFITS: cost-effective solution for full electrification

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## BENEFITS with high power batteries

- + Fast charging as a default option
- + Increased efficiency from full electrification
- + Lower peak demand on the grid
- + Solution applicable to all machines dependent on high utilization



## Conclusion

High power batteries for wide field of applications

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TECHNOLOGIES

## REQUIREMENTS

- + **Power density** alone is not enough for all applications
- + High safety, sustainability and supply chain stability as emerging requirements
- + All energy storage competes with the price pressure from classical Lithium-ion batteries

## OUTLOOK AND APPLICATIONS

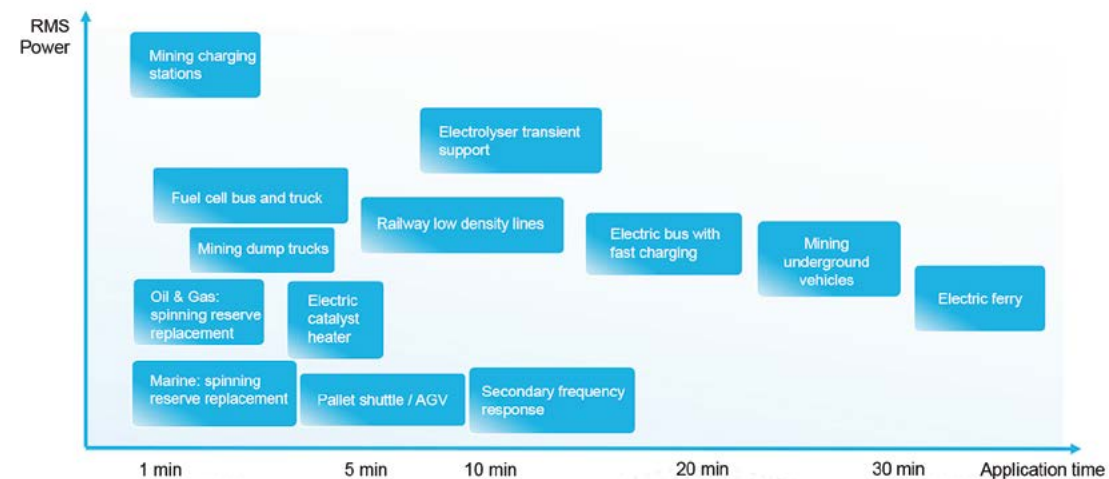
- + Energy density of most high power batteries is not high enough for classic BEV traction batteries
- + Hybrid and low voltage solutions are optimal use cases
- + High power batteries need to offer high utilization (long lifetime)



## Where is high power required?

Application categories

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# Thank you!

For more information  
contact us:  
[www.skeletontech.com](http://www.skeletontech.com)



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## Notes

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## Notes

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## Dr. Yasuhiro Harada

Senior Fellow - Nano Materials & Frontier  
Research Laboratories Corporate Research &  
Development Center, Toshiba Corporation,  
Japan

YASUHIRO HARADA目前是东芝公司研发中心的高级研究员。他2001年毕业于东京理科大学无机化学专业获得博士学位，并于2002年加入东芝。他从事新电池材料的研究已有19年。他于2020年被日本文部科学省授予科学技术奖。他目前的工作重点是开发新的电池技术。

Yasuhiro Harada is currently a Senior Fellow at Toshiba corporate R&D center. He received his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Tokyo University of Science in 2001. He joined Toshiba in 2002. He has been working on new battery materials for 19 years. He was awarded the Commendation for Science and Technology by Japan Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 2020. His current work is focused on the development of new battery technologies.

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**TOSHIBA**

2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries 15th

### Current Status of Niobium Titanium Oxide (NTO) Cell Development for Commercialization

**Yasuhiro Harada (Ph.D.)**

Senior Fellow

 Cooperate Research & Development Center  
Toshiba Corporation

 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

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#### Contents

- 01 Back Ground
- 02 Promising Anode Material NTO\* for Batteries
- 03 What is the best cell format for NTO\*?
- 04 Summary

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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## 01

## Back Ground

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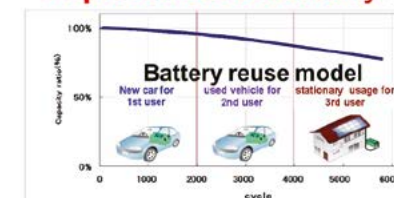
## Current Challenges and Future Trends in Battery Technology

## ■ Challenges for electrified society

- Global resource depletion (Co, Li and so on) due to demand growing
- Long charging time ⇒ Less convenient
- Short cycle life and low level of safety ⇒ Low reliability and low salvage value

## ■ Future Trend

- Long cycle life for **environmental conservation** ⇒ **Higher salvage value for reuse**
- Electrification of heavy duty cars by using **high durability and reliability battery**
- **Improvement of usability** for electrified society with **ultra-fast charging**

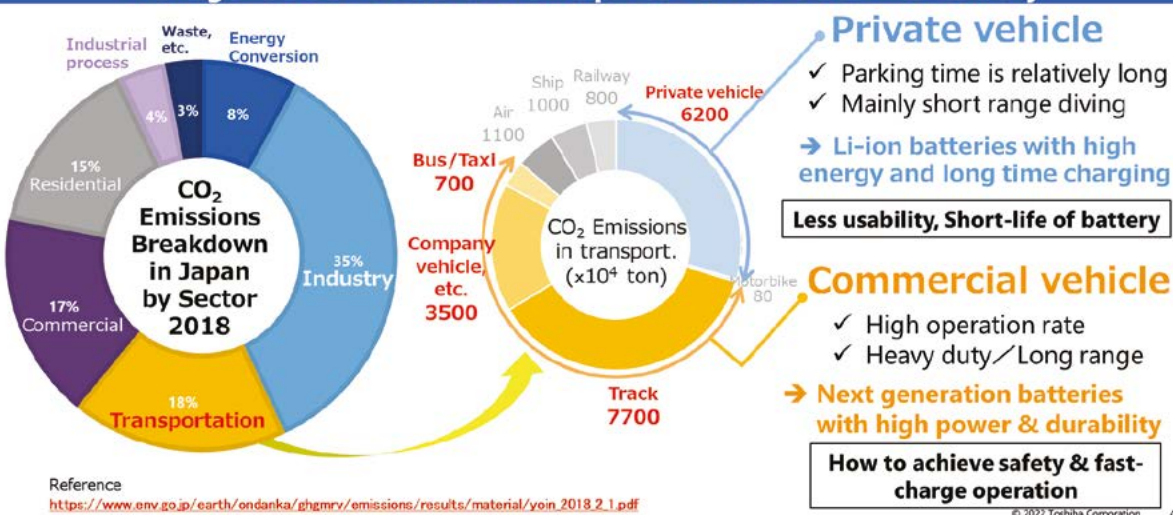


Strong requirement for ultra-fast chargeable and high reliability battery

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## The Challenge of Carbon Neutrality by 2050

Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> gas from industry and transportation is key  
Next generation batteries are required for the electrified society



## Features of Toshiba's Li-ion Battery SCiB™



## Safety



Low risk of fire or explosion

## Long life



Cycle life of 20,000 times or more

## Rapid charging



Rapidly charges to about 80% of the capacity in 6 minutes

## Low-temperature performance



Usable even at -30° C

## High input/output



Large current for both input and output

## Wide effective SOC\* range



Available SOC\* range of 0 to 100%

\*LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide

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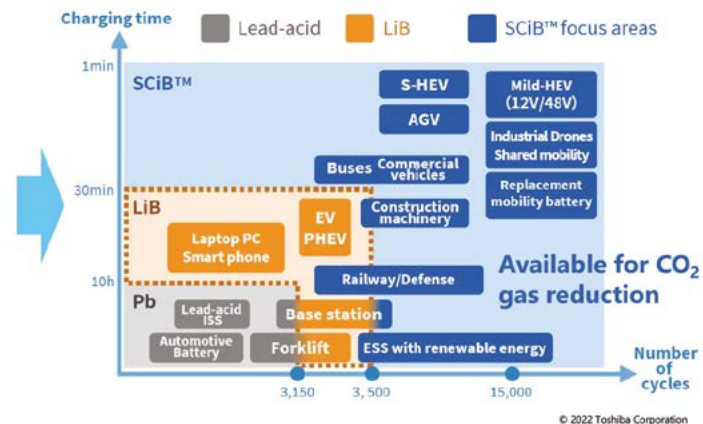
## Target Market Segment for SCiB™

Focus on heavy-duty areas where SCiB™ can be useful,  
rather than simple energy storage applications

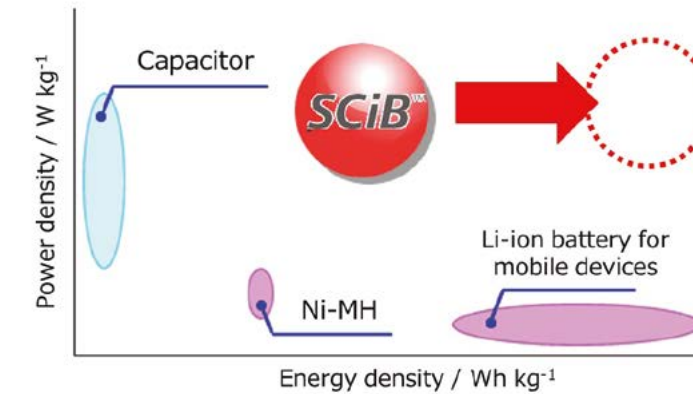
## SCiB™ Characteristics



## Target Markets



## Target Energy Density for Next Generation Battery



Lack of sufficient energy density is the biggest weakness of Toshiba's battery.

Toshiba's challenge is to enhance the energy density which is mainly determined by capacity and electrode potential of the anode material.

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## 02

Promising Anode Material  
Niobium Titanium Oxide

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## Candidates for High-capacity Oxide Anode Material

Table. Titanium-based oxide anode materials and Graphite

Anode materials	LTO*	TiO <sub>2</sub> (B)	NTO*	Graphite
Crystal structure	Spinel	monoclinic	monoclinic	Hexagonal
Redox couples	Ti <sup>4+</sup> /Ti <sup>3+</sup>	Ti <sup>4+</sup> /Ti <sup>3+</sup>	Ti <sup>4+</sup> /Ti <sup>3+</sup> Nb <sup>5+</sup> /Nb <sup>3+</sup>	C <sub>6</sub> /C <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	3.41	3.73	4.34	2.25
Capacity* (mAh/g)	170	335	387	372
Capacity* (mAh/cm <sup>3</sup> )	580	1250	1680	837
Potential (V vs. Li)	1.55	1.6	1.6	0.2

\* Theoretical capacity

※LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

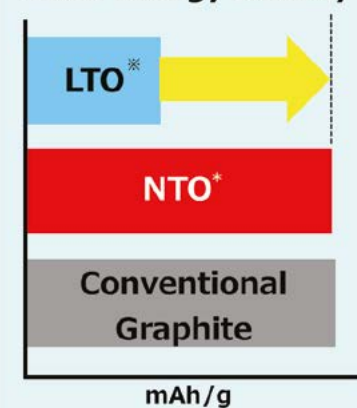
NTO\* would be the only material that can derive high capacity with the same redox potential as LTO\*. NTO\* has unique redox couples such as not only Ti but also Nb, which enables to react 3 electrons.

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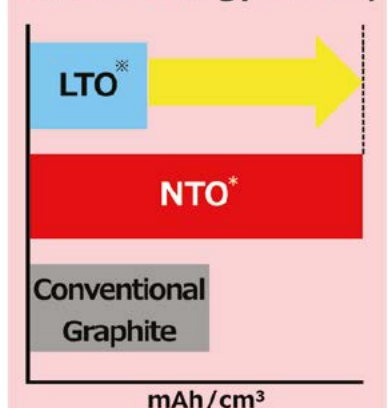


Comparison of Energy Density on **Anode** Materials

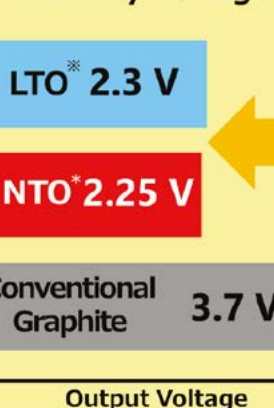
## Mass energy density



## Volume energy density



## Battery voltage

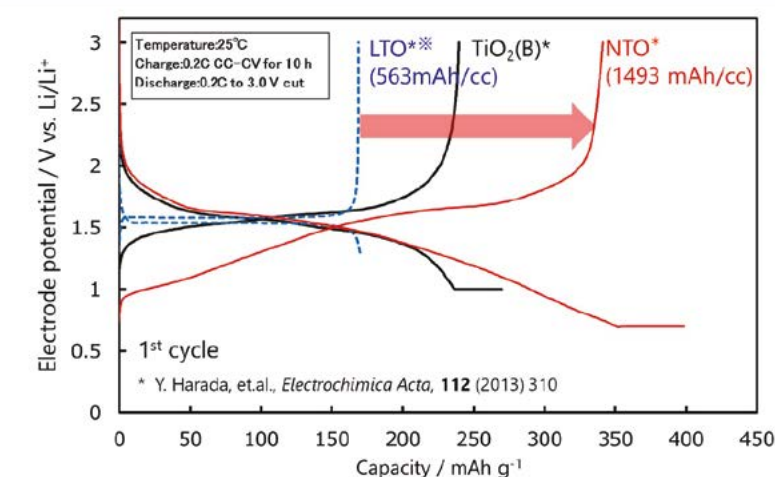


$$\text{Battery Energy (Wh)} = \text{Capacity (Ah)} \times \text{Battery Voltage (V)}$$

※LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide \*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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## Comparison of Charge-discharge Curves on Toshiba's Anodes



The reversible volume capacity of NTO\* showed twice that of LTO\*.

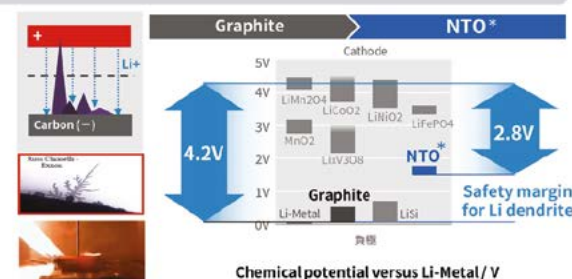
※LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide \*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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## Why Niobium Titanium Oxide can derive ultra-quick chargeability?

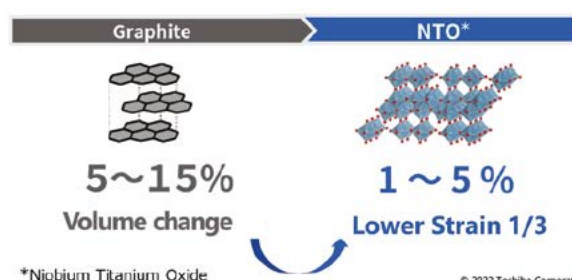
1. Safety margin for Li<sup>+</sup> dendrites

- ✓ Stable even under quick charging
- ✓ Lower safety risk at end of life
- ✓ No damage at low temperature



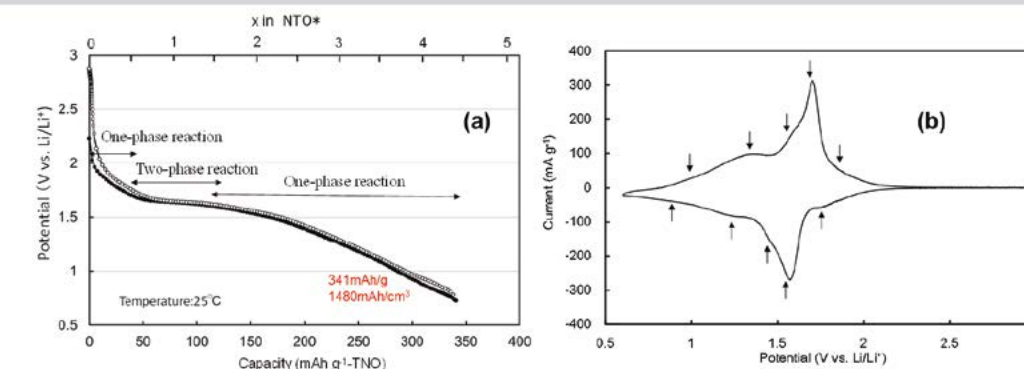
## 2. Lower strain during charging

- ✓ Rigid framework of NTO\*
- ✓ Almost no structural change



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## Li Storage Reactions in Niobium Titanium Oxide Electrode



Single-phase and two-phase reaction

Five lithium insertion/extraction reactions

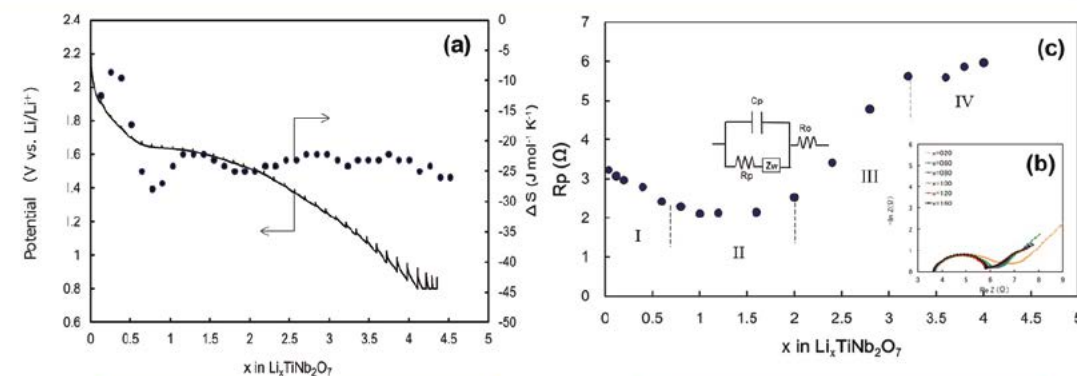
Fig. Open-circuit potential plots of NTO electrode during lithium insertion (●) and extraction (○) at 15 mA g<sup>-1</sup> between 0.7 and 3.0V (a) and cyclic voltammogram of NTO\* electrode at 0.1 mV s<sup>-1</sup> (b)

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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### $\Delta S$ and $R_p$ on Li Insertion into Niobium Titanium Oxide Electrodes



$\Delta S$  during lithium insertion indicates exothermal heat effect

Interface resistance varied as lithium insertion proceeded

Fig. Galvanostatic potential curve with open-circuit potential and  $\Delta S$  (a), impedance spectra (b), and  $R_p$  (c) of the NTO\* electrodes during lithium insertion at 25°C.

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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## 03

What is the best cell format for  
Niobium Titanium Oxide

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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### Cell Thickness Change During Charge-Discharge

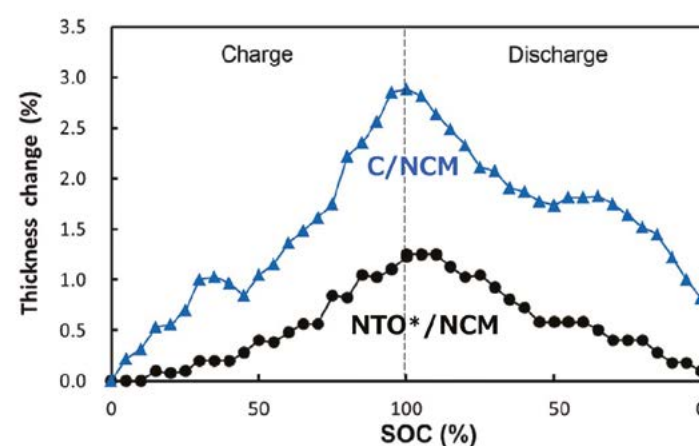


Fig. Change in thickness of NTO\*/NCM (●) and graphite/NCM (▲) battery during charge and discharge at 0.2 C rate.

\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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### Specifications of 32 Ah Prismatic Cell

TENTATIVE

Cathode	NCM
Anode	NTO*
Case	Aluminum prismatic
Dimension (mm)	W116 x D22.3 x H106 mm
Weight (g)	Approx. 570
Max. charge voltage	3.0
Min. discharge voltage	1.5
Nominal voltage (V)	2.25
Designed Capacity (Ah)	31.6
Operating temperature	-30 to 60°C
AC impedance (mΩ)	0.54
DC impedance for 0.2 sec (mΩ)	0.98
Energy density	260 Wh/l, 124 Wh/kg
10 s output power density	2.8 kW/l, 1.28 kW/kg (SOC50%)
10 s input power density	6.0 kW/l, 2.76 kW/kg (SOC50%)



\*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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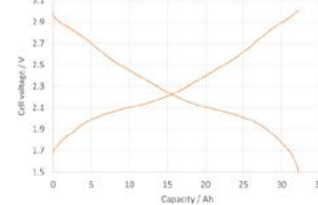
## Performances of Prismatic Cell Format

TENTATIVE

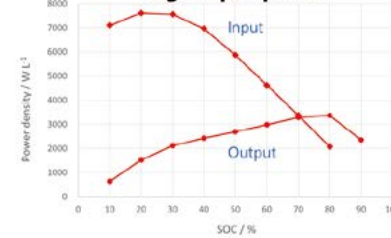
32Ah Prismatic Format



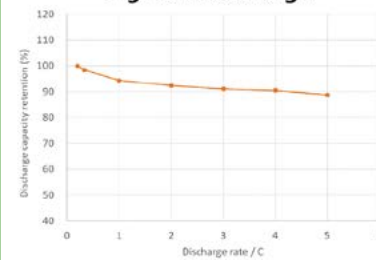
High capacity



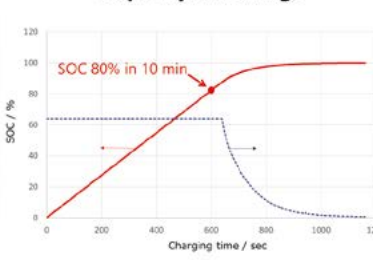
High input power



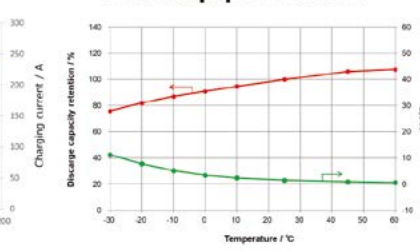
High rate discharge



Super-quick charge



Low temp. performance



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## Target Specification of Niobium Titanium Oxide Cell

TENTATIVE

Good valance between energy and power can be expected by using pouch cell with stacking electrode

※LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide \*Niobium Titanium Oxide

	20Ah LTO※	32Ah NTO*	LFP	NTO* Large Pouch
Capacity	23Ah	31.6Ah	100Ah	55Ah
Anode/Cathode	LTO/NCM	NTO/NCM	C/LFP	NTO/NCM
Electrode/Shell	Winding/Can	Winding/Can	Winding/Can	Stacking/Pouch
Input power	★★★★ 5 kW/L	★★★★ 6.0 kW/L	★ 0.7 kW/L	★★★★ 6.5-7.4 kW/L※1
Output power	★★★★ 4.0 kW/L	★★★ 2.8 kW/L	★ 0.4 kW/L	★★★ 3.0-3.8 kW/L※1
Energy density	★ 202 Wh/L	★★★ 260 Wh/L	★★★★ 280 Wh/L	★★★★ 300-340 Wh/L※2
Initial cost	★	★	★★★★	TBD

※1 : Depending on tab structure ※2 : Volume w/o sealing and tabs

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## Found Issue for Prismatic Cell Preparation

TENTATIVE

(a)w/o Clamping (b) Clamping

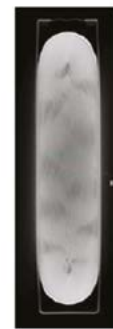


Fig. X-ray CT images for (a) non-clamped and (b)clamped cell.

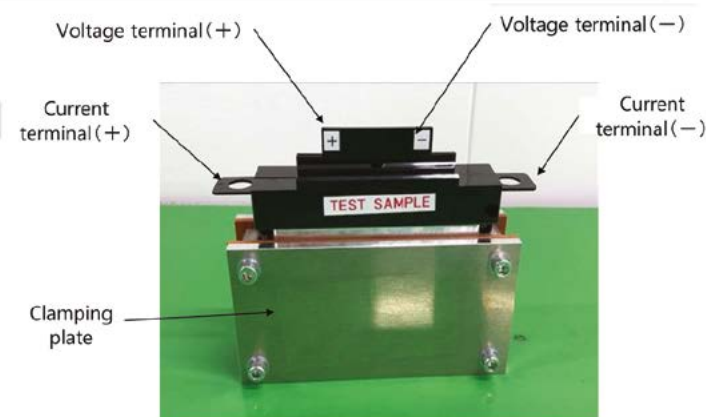


Fig. Appearance of test cell with clamping jig.

Winding coil requires sufficient clamping during 1<sup>st</sup> cell formation

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## Specification of Large Pouch Cell

TENTATIVE

55Ah Large pouch cell using Niobium Titanium Oxide can be successfully produced

## Cell Specification

Capacity	55 Ah
Input power	7,400Wh/L (Designed value)
Output power	3,900Wh/L (Designed value)
Energy density※	348 Wh/L※ (133 Wh/kg)

※ Volume calculated without tab and sealing area.

55Ah class pouch cell



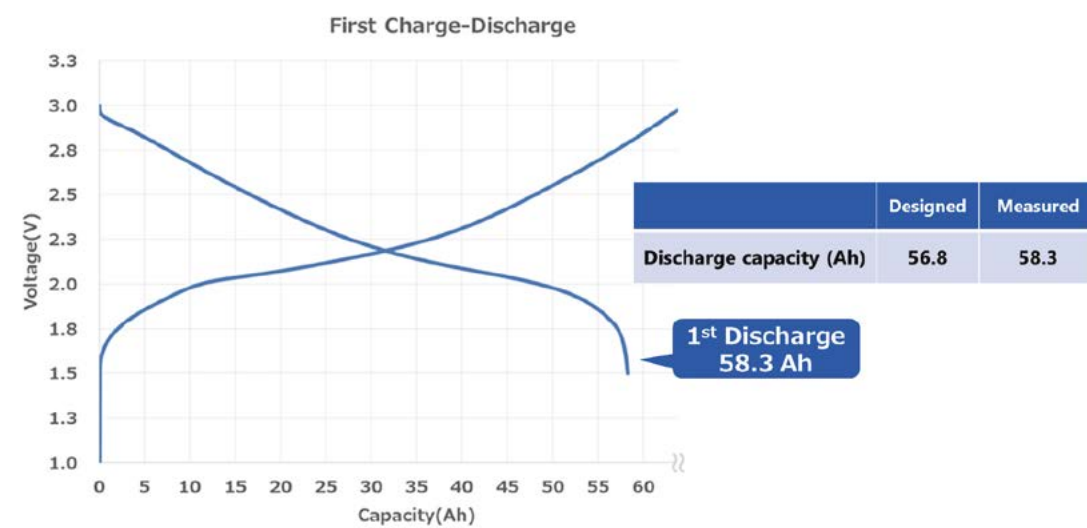
Cell appearance of after capacity check process

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## 55Ah Large Pouch Cell Charge-Discharge Curve

TENTATIVE

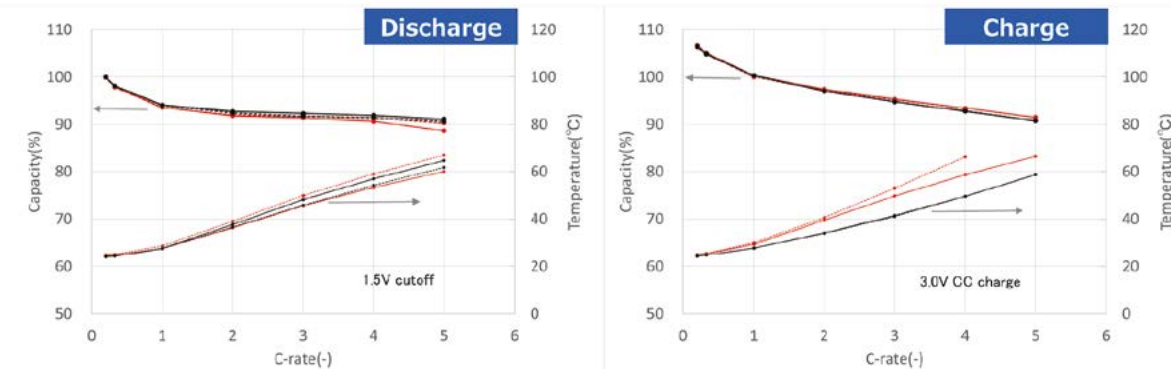


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## Rate Capability

TENTATIVE

90% capacity retention is available even at 5C (275A) rate @25°C

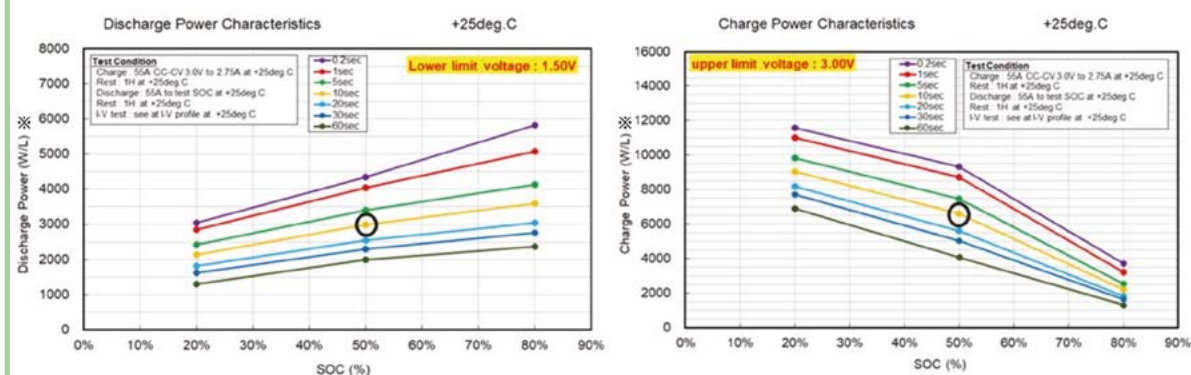


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## Power Capability

TENTATIVE

Trial produced pouch cell showed higher 10 sec power than prismatic  
Output 2983 W/L\* (Prismatic x1.23) , Input 6605 W/L\* (x1.13)



\* Volume calculated without tab and sealing area

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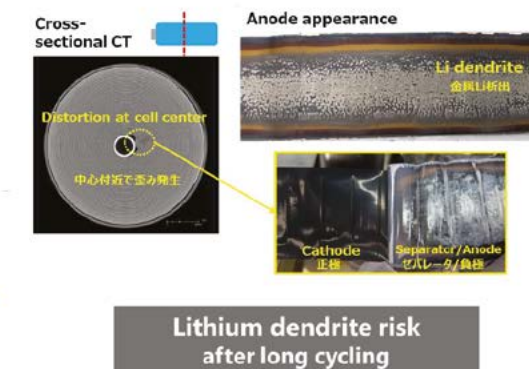
## Safety Test Results

TENTATIVE

## Niobium Titanium Oxide 55Ah Cell



## FYI: LFP Cell



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- 01 NTO\* anode material has double the volumetric capacity of graphite, which is a promising candidate for alternative anode to LTO\*.
- 02 The best scenario of NTO\* cell design seems to be pouch cell format with stacking electrode. However, reliability and durability of pouch cell format for long term usage should be tested.
- 03 This new high energy density battery containing Nb makes it possible to expand the cruising range of EVs comparable to LFP chemistry battery with a short charging time within 10 minutes, and is expected to improve the usability of commercial EVs.

※LTO: Lithium Titanium Oxide      \*Niobium Titanium Oxide

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International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries



## Notes

[illegible]

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## Dr. Rahul Fotedar

Morrow Batteries AS

RAHUL FOTEDAR博士是MORROW BATTERIES AS的首席技术官和联合创始人之一。RAHUL拥有图明钦大学化学硕士学位和苏黎世大学电池材料专业博士学位。他曾在奥斯陆的能源技术研究所担任职员科学家，在那里他开创了他们在二次电池领域的研究。2013年，他共同创立了石墨烯电池公司，这是一家专注于开发主要用于无重金属电池的技术的初创公司。在加入MORROW之前，他在HILTI CORPORATION担任高级细胞技术专家多年，领导分化细胞技术的开发和产业化活动。

Dr. Rahul Fotedar is the Chief Technology Officer and one of the co-founders of Morrow Batteries AS. Rahul holds a Masters degree in Chemistry from TU München and a PhD degree specializing on battery materials from ETH Zürich. He has previously worked as staff scientist in Institute of Energy Technology near Oslo where he pioneered their research activities in the field of secondary batteries. In 2013, he co-founded Graphene Batteries AS, a startup focused on developing technologies primarily for heavy metal free batteries. Prior to joining Morrow he was working for many years as an expert in advanced cell technology in Hilti Corporation leading activities on developing and industrializing differentiated cell technologies.



## Commercialization of Next-gen Batteries Based on Niobium Based Chemistries

Dr. Rahul Fotedar

Morrow Batteries AS

### Abstract

Morrow Batteries, through close collaboration with industrial partners, including Echion Technologies, Haldor Topsoe, Arkema and others, has developed a cell design utilizing a niobium-based anode material with an ultralong cycle life (projected to reach well over 10 000 cycles in the final cell). Coupled with a high voltage LNMO cathode, this cell not only offers superior cycle life and highly competitive energy density, but also excellent safety and sustainability. Morrow has previously demonstrated these features in lab-produced cells, whereas the focus has now shifted to upscaling – making larger cells using industrial equipment. The final product has the potential to revolutionize existing applications and open completely new application areas.





2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries

## Excellent Paper Award Recognition for Research on Niobium Based Batteries

### Winning Paper Presentation

#### Ultrafast and Stable Li-(De)intercalation in a Large Single Crystal H-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> Anode via Optimizing the Homogeneity of Electron and Ion Transport

Advanced Materials, 2020, 32 (22): e2001001. DOI: 10.1002/  
adma.202001001

- ▷ Zihan Song
- ▷ Hui Li
- ▷ Wei Liu
- ▷ Hongzhang Zhang
- ▷ Jingwang Yan
- ▷ Yongfu Tang
- ▷ Jianyu Huang
- ▷ Huamin Zhang
- ▷ Xianfeng Li

2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Niobium Based batteries

Niobium Nb

Optimizing the homogeneity of electron and ion  
transport in H-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> crystal particles towards fast  
energy storage

Zihan Song (宋子晗)

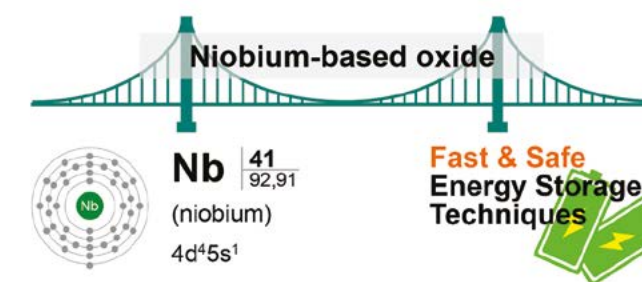
Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, CAS (Formerly)  
Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces (Now)

E-mail: [Zihan.Song@mpikg.mpg.de](mailto:Zihan.Song@mpikg.mpg.de)

15.09.2022

### Outline

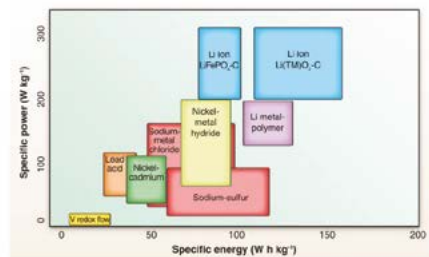
1. Research background
2. Research contents
3. Results & discussion
4. Summary
5. Acknowledgements



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2

## 1. Research background ---- Anode materials for fast chargeable LIBs



Dunn B., Kamath H., Tarascon J.M.  
*Science*, 2011, 334(6058):928-935.

## Graphite

Low Li (de)intercalation potential of  $< 0.2$  V vs  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$   
Particle fracture and the risk of Li dendrite formation;  
Leading to short circuits and potentially fires and explosions;

 $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  (Lithium titanate, LTO)

An average potential of 1.55 V vs  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$   
High-rate Li (de)intercalation without the risk of Li dendrites;  
Low specific capacity (theoretically 175  $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ )



## Ideal high-rate anode materials:

- ◆ Good electronic conductivity
- ◆ Fast Li-ion diffusion kinetics
- ◆ Safe (de)intercalation potential range
- ◆ High specific capacity

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3

## 1. Research background ---- Niobium-based anode materials

 $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 

Various modifications with different heating conditions and preparation procedures:

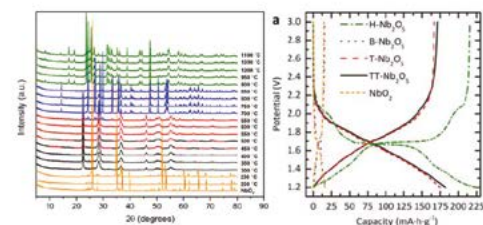
$\text{T-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{M-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ , etc.

 $\text{T-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 

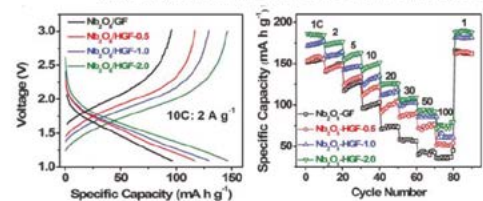
- "Intercalation pseudocapacitive" material — fast Li storage kinetics;
- Low electronic conductivity;
- Limited specific capacity ( $\sim 200$   $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ ).

 $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ 

- Higher specific capacity ( $> 250$   $\text{mAh g}^{-1}$ );
- Safe operation potential ( $\sim 1.6$  V vs  $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$ );
- Fast Li storage kinetics;
- Poor cycling stability.



Griffith K J, et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2016, 138, 8888-8899



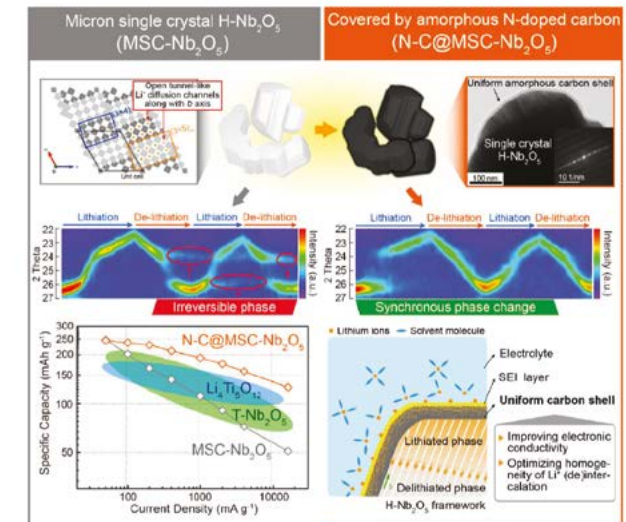
Sun H., et al. *Science*. 2017, 356, 599-604

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2. Research contents ----  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  for fast and stable Li storage

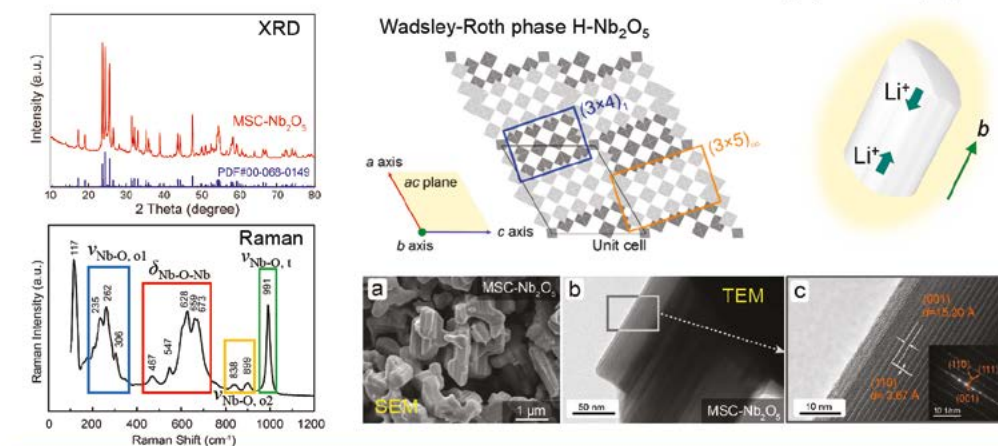
- Characteristics of synthesized micrometer single crystal  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  ( $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ );
- Understanding on the electrochemical Li storage behaviors of  $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ;
- Investigating the Li storage mechanism of  $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  via operando/in-situ characterization methods;
- Interfacial modification with amorphous N-doped carbon shell ( $\text{N-C@MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ) and the improvement in fast Li storage performance.



Zihan Song, et al. *Adv. Mater.*, 2020, 2001001.

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3. Results & discussion ---- Characteristics of  $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ Structural and morphological features of micrometer single-crystal  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  ( $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ )

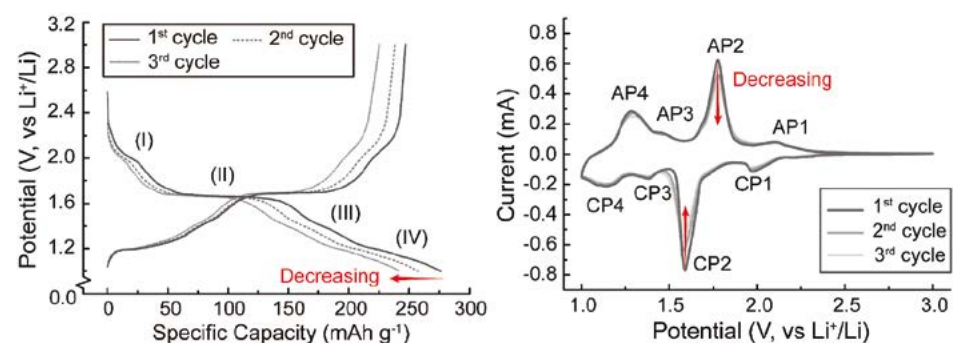
➤  $\text{MSC-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  has continuous and fast  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion channels parallel to  $b$  axis.

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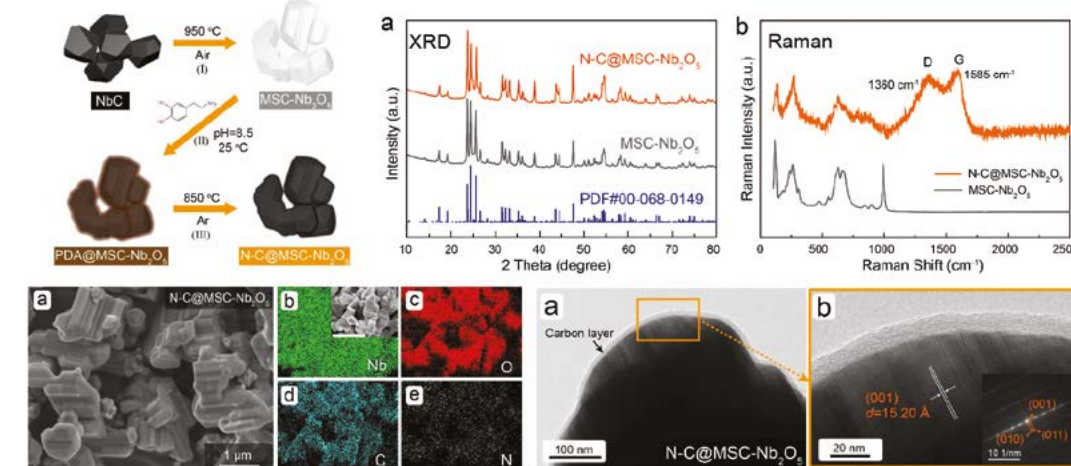
## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Electrochemical analysis

□ Electrochemical Li storage behavior of MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

- High initial capacity of approximately 250 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> and low polarization voltage of about 0.03V ;
- Rapid fading of capacity in the first 3 cycles, as well as that of response peak currents in CV.

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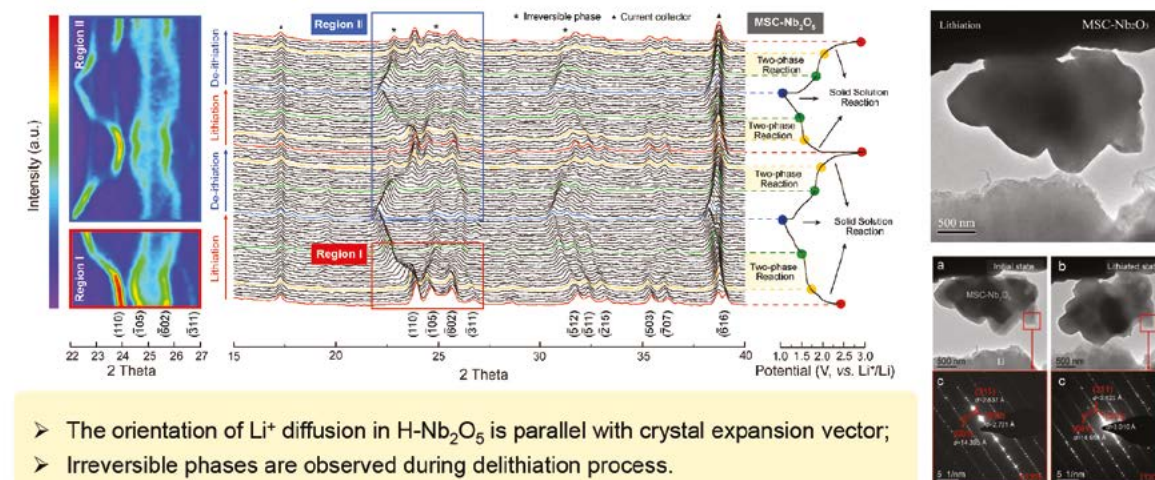
7

3. Results & discussion ---- Characteristics of N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>□ Interfacial modification with amorphous N-doped carbon shell (N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)

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## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Investigation of Li storage mechanism

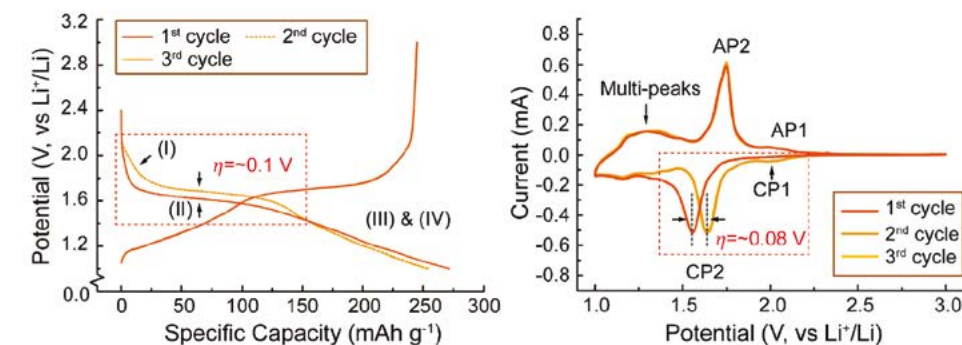
□ Operando/in-situ characterizations of MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> during lithiation/de-lithiation processes

- The orientation of Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion in H-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is parallel with crystal expansion vector;
- Irreversible phases are observed during delithiation process.

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## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Electrochemical analysis

□ Electrochemical Li storage behavior of N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

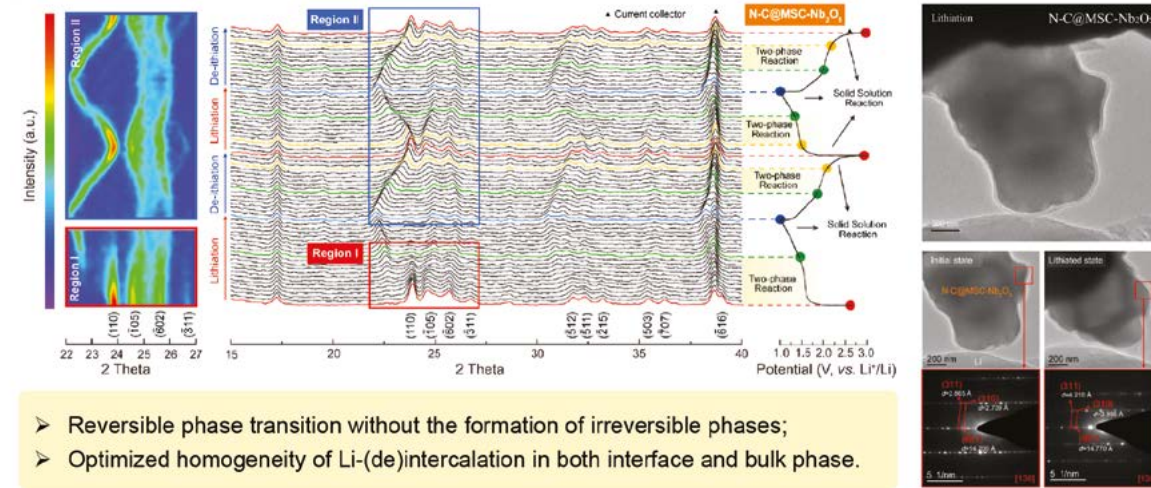
- The charge/discharge curves show improved cycling stability with smooth and slopy plateaus;
- An increased overpotential in the first lithiation process due to the modification of interfacial charge transport feature by introduced an amorphous N-doped carbon shell.

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## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Investigation of Li storage mechanism

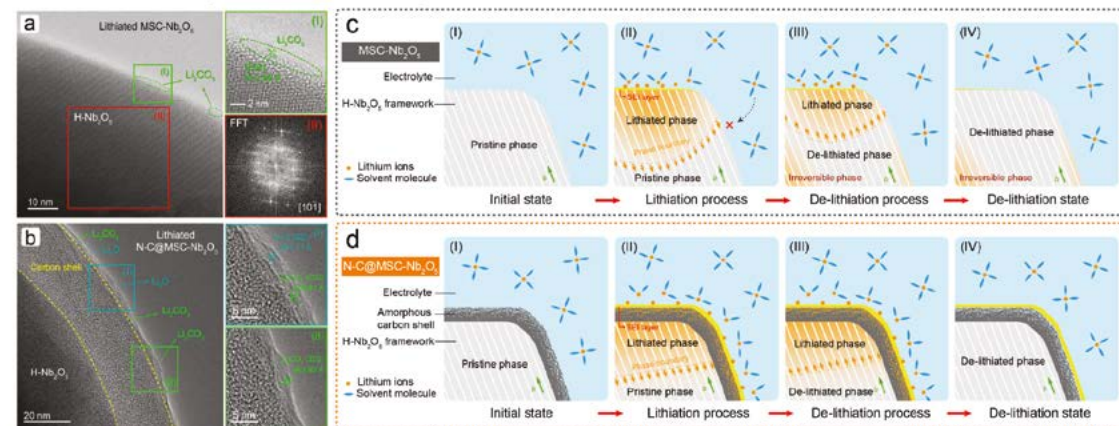
□ Operando/in-situ characterizations of N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> during lithiation/de-lithiation processes

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## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Investigation of Li storage mechanism

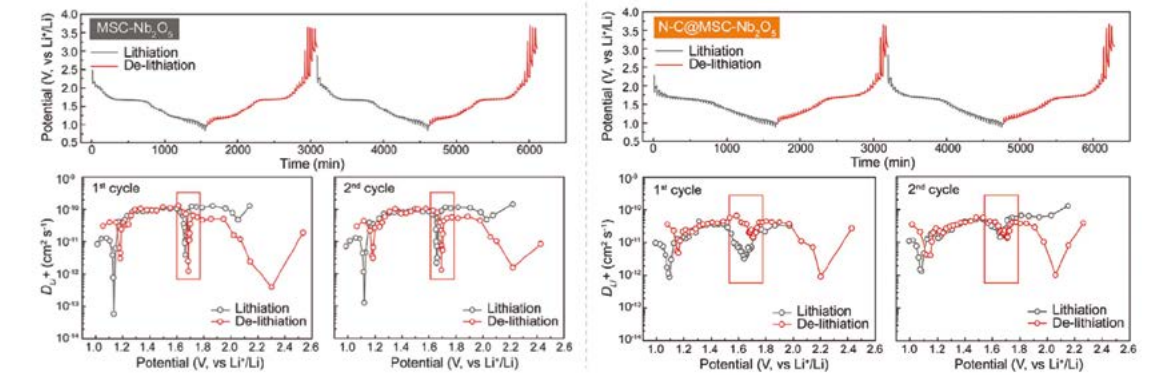
## □ Ex-situ TEM images of lithiated samples



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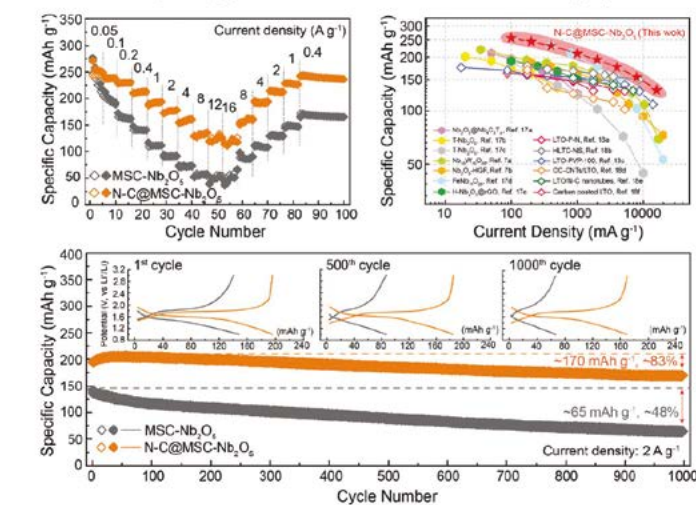
## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Electrochemical reaction kinetics

□ Investigation of electrochemical reaction kinetics of MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

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## 3. Results &amp; discussion ---- Improved Li storage performance

□ The comparison of rate and cycling performances between MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and N-C@MSC-Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

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## 4. Summary

- ◆ The parallel orientations of ion diffusion and crystal expansion vectors of single crystal  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  ensures an instinct feature of fast Li storage even in micrometer-sized particles;
- ◆ The anisotropy of charge transport of  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  in the interfacial regions leads to nonuniform  $\text{Li}^+$  flux and phase transition during electrochemical process, causing a degradation of practical performance;
- ◆ Interfacial modification with conductive amorphous phase not only optimizes the electronic conductivity, but also performs as a media to minimize the barrier of solvation/desolvation and improves the electrochemical reaction kinetics via facilitating the delivery of desolvated  $\text{Li}^+$  between electrolyte and active facets of  $\text{H-Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ .

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Thank you  
For Your Attention

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- Prof. Huamin Zhang, DICP
- Prof. Jingwang Yan



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- Hui Li, YSU



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Division of Energy storage (DNL17)



Niobium Nb

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2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries

## Excellent Paper Award Recognition for Research on Niobium Based Batteries

**2nd Place** Paper Presentation

### Engineering the Conductive Network of Metal Oxide-Based Sulfur Cathode towards Efficient and Longevous Lithium-Sulfur Batteries

Advanced Energy Materials, 2020, 10(41): e2002076.  
DOI:10.1002/aenm.202002076

- ▷ Jiayi Wang
- ▷ Gaoran Li
- ▷ Dan Luo
- ▷ Yongguang Zhang
- ▷ Yan Zhao
- ▷ Guofu Zhou
- ▷ Lingling Shui
- ▷ Xin Wang
- ▷ Zhongwei Chen

2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries

### Engineering the Conductive Network of Metal Oxide- based Sulfur Cathode towards Efficient and Longevous Lithium-Sulfur Batteries

Jiayi Wang, Gaoran Li, Dan Luo, Yongguang Zhang,\* Yan Zhao,  
Guofu Zhou, Lingling Shui, Xin Wang,\* and Zhongwei Chen\*  
2022/09

1

#### Content

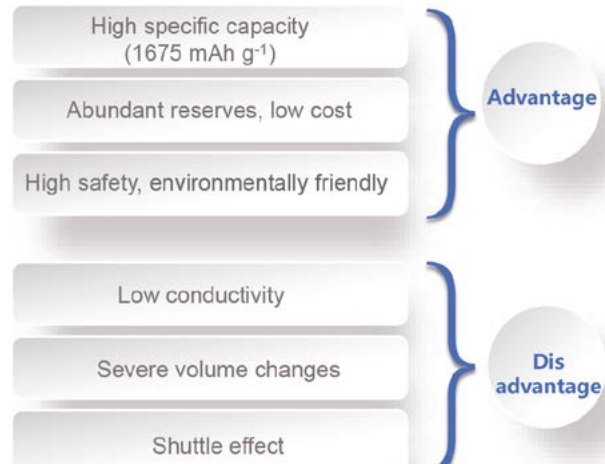
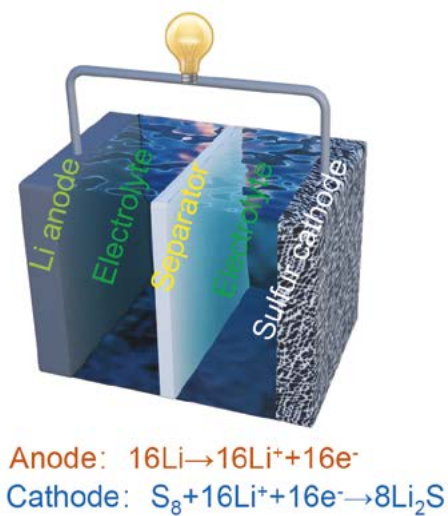
- 1 Background
- 2 Experiment design
- 3 Results and discussion
- 4 Conclusions

2





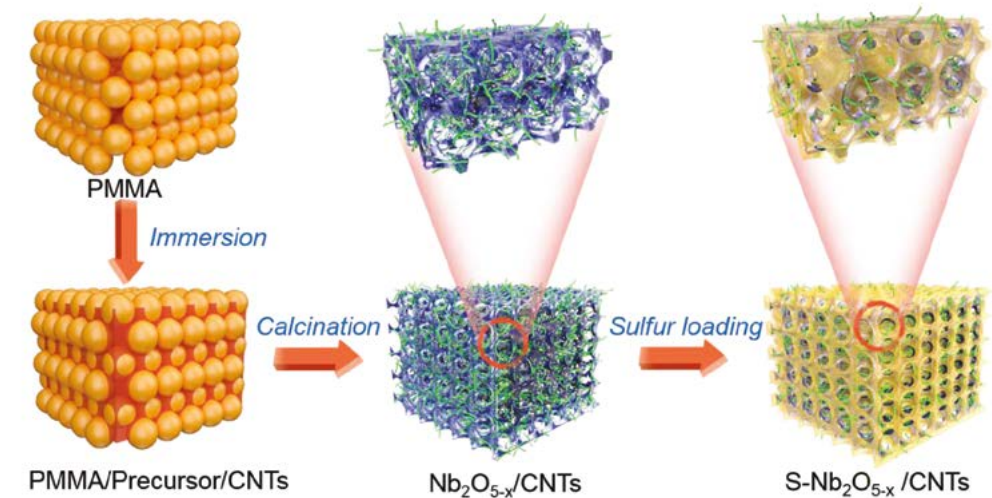
## 1. Background



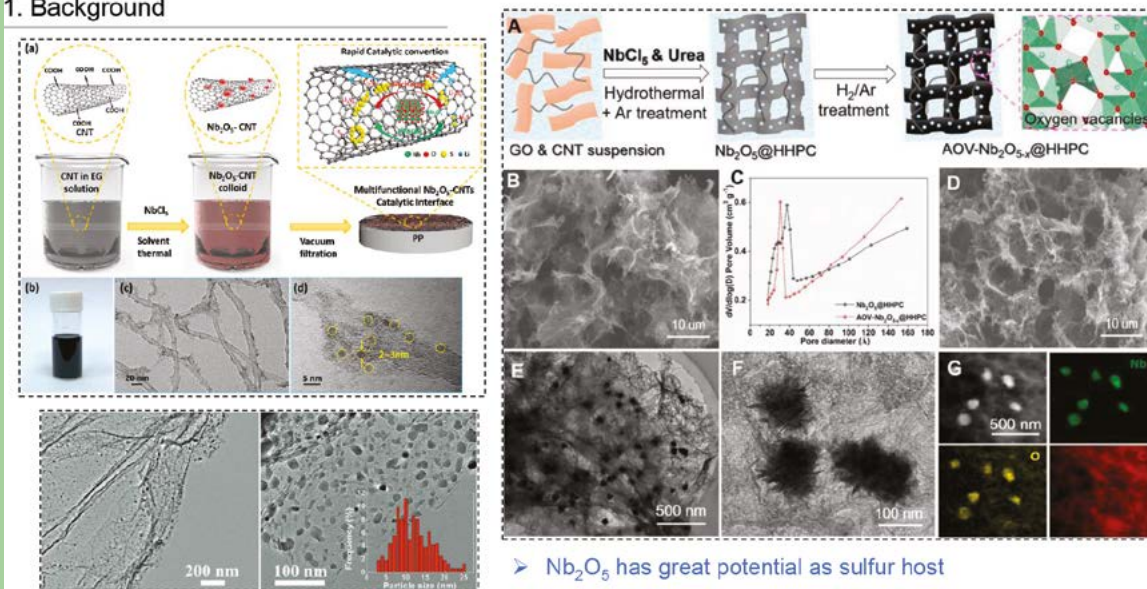
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## 2. Experiment design

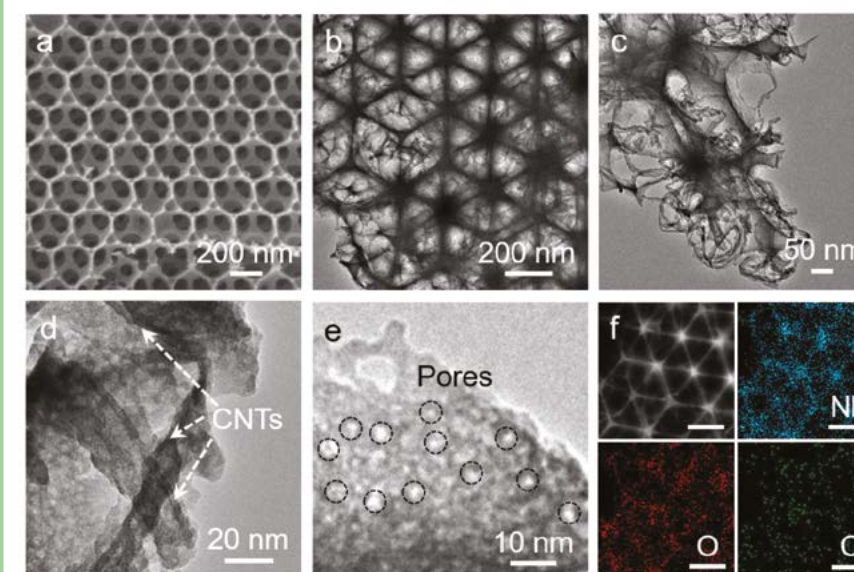


## 1. Background



Carbon 172 (2021) 260-271; Small, 15 (2019) 1902363; Chem. Eng. J. 417 (2021) 128172

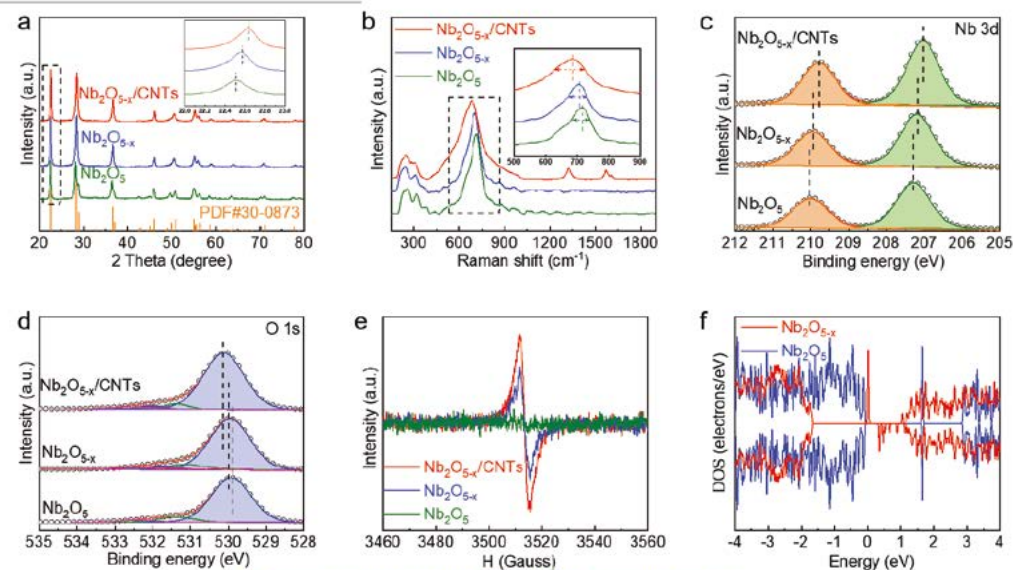
## 3. Results and discussion



- The ordered macropores and the connected channels favor the uniform sulfur distribution as well as facile electrolyte infiltration for fast ion/mass transfers.
- A certain number of CNTs can be detected in 3DOM  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{5-x}/\text{CNTs}$

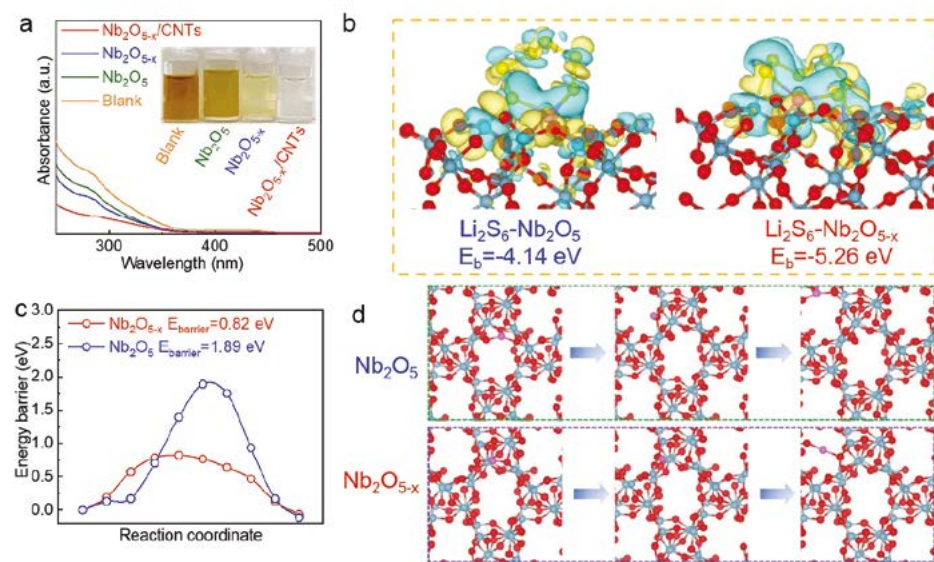


## 3. Results and discussion



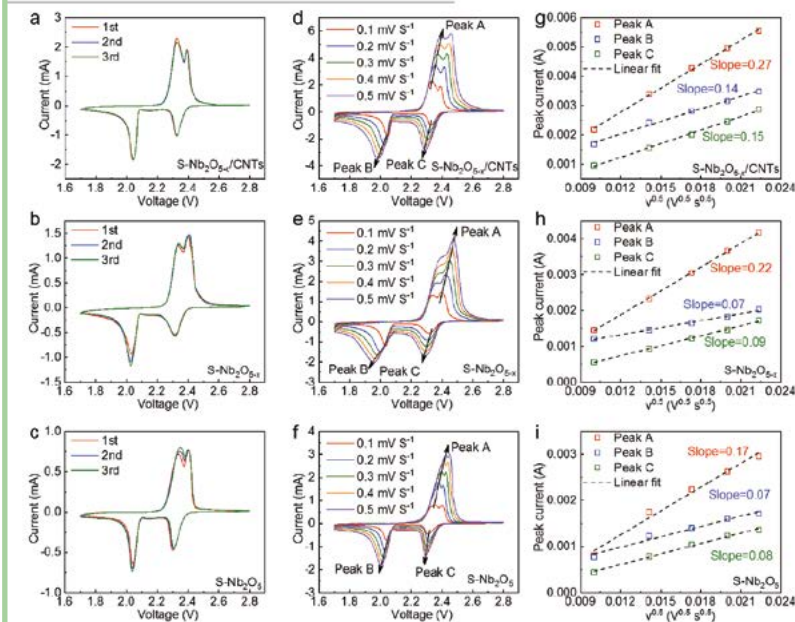
- Oxygen vacancies are introduced simultaneously
- $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{5-x}$  displays a narrowed band gap than that of  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$

## 3. Results and discussion



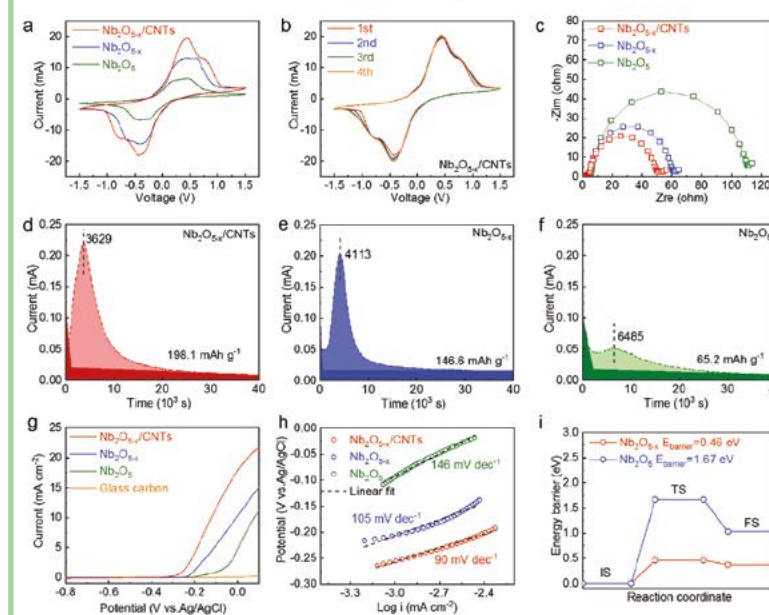
- Strong polysulfide immobilization and fast Li ion transport

## 3. Results and discussion



- According to the Randles-Sevcik equation, the slope of the fitting line corresponds to the  $D_{\text{Li}^+}$ , which positively reflects the mobility of  $\text{Li}^+$  within the electrode. Obviously, the  $\text{S-Nb}_2\text{O}_{5-x}/\text{CNTs}$  electrode delivers highest  $D_{\text{Li}^+}$  at all the redox states (peak A, B, and C), strongly confirming the significantly facilitated  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion behaviors by the defect engineering.

## 3. Results and discussion



- Symmetric cell test manifest its fastest polysulfide conversion kinetics.
- $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  deposition behaviors suggest the reduced energy barrier for the nucleation and growth of  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  on  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_{5-x}/\text{CNTs}$  surface
- The  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  oxidation profiles indicate the lower energy barrier to initiate the  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  decomposition



- Excellent cyclability and rate capability

- We have developed a unique long-range consecutive and oxygen deficient 3DOM Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5-x</sub>/CNT as advanced sulfur host material in Li-S batteries.
- The successful implement of defect engineering and CNT embedment renders enhanced conductivity as well as strengthened sulfur adsorbability and catalytic activity, contributing to potent sulfur immobilization and fast reaction kinetics.
- The construction of the open and 3DOM architecture benefits the facile ion/mass transfer as well as further intensifying the host-guest interactions due to the sufficiently exposed active interfaces.
- Sulfur electrodes based on Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5-x</sub>/CNTs realized outstanding cyclability over 500 cycles and superb rate performance up to 5 C, as well as impressive areal capacities under raised sulfur loading and limited electrolyte.



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## Excellent Paper Award Recognition for Research on Niobium Based Batteries

**3rd Place** Paper Presentation

### Design and Synthesis of Nickel Niobium Oxide with High-Rate Capability and Cycling Stability in a Wide Temperature Range

Advanced Energy Materials, 2022,12(3): e2102550.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/aenm.202102550>

- ▷ Changpeng Lv
- ▷ Chunfu Lin
- ▷ X. S. Zhao

2022

International Conference on  
Niobium Based Batteries

2022 International Conference on Niobium Based Batteries

### Design and Synthesis of Nickel Niobium Oxide with High-Rate Capability and Cycling Stability in a Wide Temperature Range

Changpeng LV (吕长鹏), Chunfu LIN (林春富)\*, X. S. ZHAO (赵修松)\*

Institute of Materials for Energy and Environment  
Qingdao University

15 Sep 2022

### Introduction of Chunfu LIN



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linchunfu@  
qdu.edu.cn

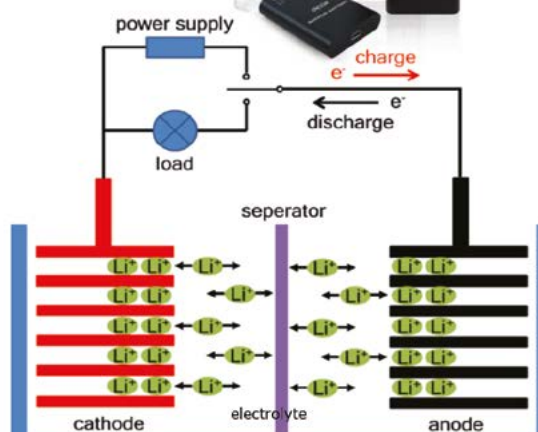
◆Chunfu LIN received his B.E. and M.E. degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from Tsinghua University in 2005 and 2007, respectively. He received his Ph.D. degree from National University of Singapore in 2014. He is currently a full professor in Qingdao University. Before joining Qingdao University, he was a full professor in Hainan University. He has published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewing journals, including Advanced Energy Materials, Advanced Functional Materials, Advanced Science, ACS Nano, and Energy Storage Materials. He has taken charge of two research programs funded by National Natural Science Foundation of China. His scientific research includes energy storage and conversion materials, **especially concentrating on niobium-based anode materials for high-performance lithium-ion batteries.**

◆林春富，泰山学者青年专家，青岛大学能源与环境材料研究院教授，曾是海南大学材料与化工学院教授和南海海洋资源利用国家重点实验室固定研究人员。清华大学学士、硕士，新加坡国立大学博士、博士后。主要从事能源存储与转换材料（特别是铌基储能材料）的研究，以第一作者或通讯作者身份在Advanced Energy Materials、Advanced Functional Materials、Advanced Science、ACS Nano和Energy Storage Materials等期刊上发表SCI论文>70篇，撰写中文专著一部和英文专著中的一章。主持完成国家自然科学基金两项。获省级科技进步奖两项。



## Lithium-ion batteries

- ◆ high operating voltage
- ◆ high energy density
- ◆ low self-discharge
- ◆ no memory effects



shuttle bus

electric vehicle

### Requirements of electrode materials:

- ◆ high safety (proper operating potential)
- ◆ high energy-conversion efficiency
- ◆ high energy density (large reversible capacity)
- ◆ high power density (high rate capability)
- ◆ good cyclic stability (good structural stability)
- ◆ broad temperature adaptability
- ◆ ...

Photos from internet

## Ti-Nb-O

Ti<sup>4+</sup>/Ti<sup>3+</sup>: one-electron reaction  
Nb<sup>5+</sup>/Nb<sup>4+</sup>/Nb<sup>3+</sup>: two-electron reaction

### merits:

- ◆ large (theoretical) capacity
- ◆ high safety
- ◆ relatively fast Li<sup>+</sup> diffusivity
- ◆ good cyclic stability
- ◆ easy SOC evaluation
- ◆ high tap density
- ◆ significant intercalation-pseudocapacitive behavior

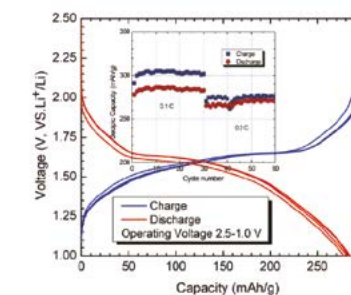
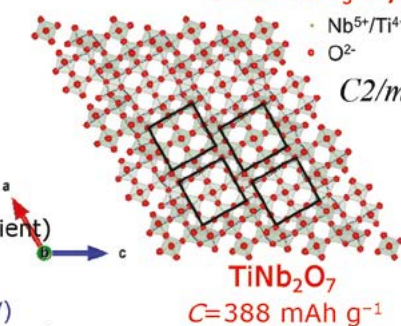
### limitations:

- ◆ poor rate capability (poor electronic conductivity, insufficient Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion coefficient)
- ◆ relatively large volume expansion after lithiation (7.22% for TiNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> at 1.0 V)
- ◆ limited Ti-Nb-O were developed

Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>10</sub>O<sub>29</sub>  
C=396 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>  
Nb<sup>5+</sup>/Ti<sup>4+</sup>  
O<sup>2-</sup>  
A2/m

Liquan Chen\*, Electrochem. Commun., 25, 2012, 39<sup>a</sup>

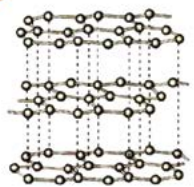
### shear ReO<sub>3</sub> crystal structure



John B. Goodenough\*, Chem. Mater., 23, 2011, 2027

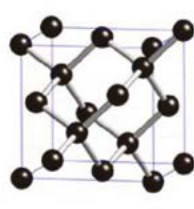
Chunfu Lin\*, J. Mater. Chem. A, 6, 2018, 9799

## Anode materials



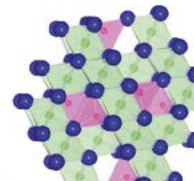
### intercalation-type: graphite

- 😊 high (theoretical) capacity (372 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>)
- 😞 limited rate capability
- 😞 poor safety
- 😞 low tap density



### alloying-type & conversion-type

- 😊 huge (theoretical) capacity
- 😞 poor cyclic stability



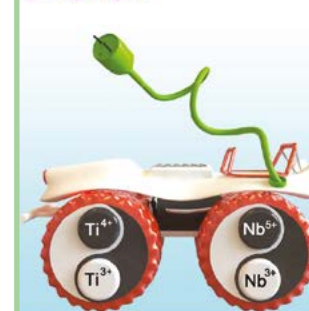
### intercalation-type: Li<sub>4</sub>Ti<sub>5</sub>O<sub>12</sub>

- 😊 excellent cyclic stability
- 😊 good rate capability after modified
- 😞 small (theoretical) capacity (175 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>)

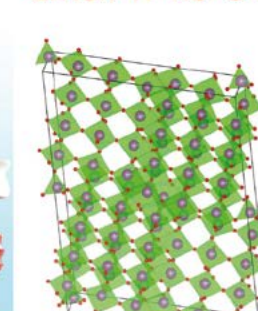
Photos from internet

## Our M-Nb-O studies (since 2014)

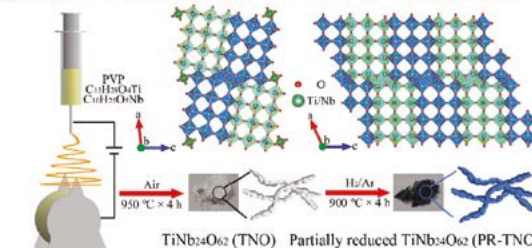
### 1. Review



### 2. New Ti-Nb-O materials



### 3. Modified Ti-Nb-O materials



- ◆ Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4+5x</sub> (JMCA, 2018)
- ◆ M-Nb-O (manuscript preparing, invited review)

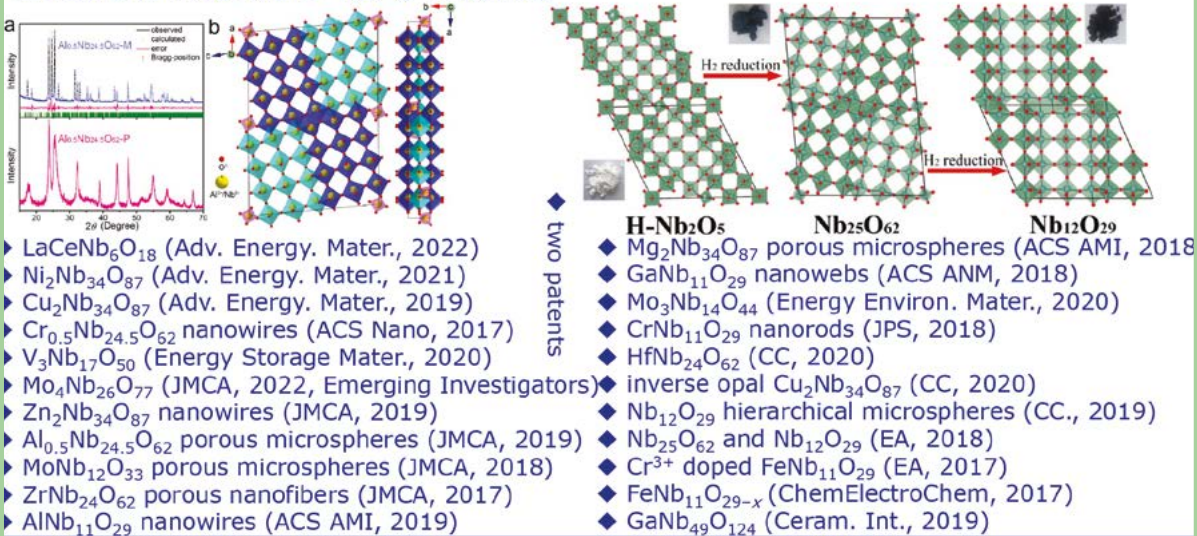
- ◆ Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>14</sub>O<sub>39</sub> (Small, 2017)
- ◆ TiNb<sub>24</sub>O<sub>62</sub> (Nanoscale, 2016)
- ◆ TiNb<sub>6</sub>O<sub>17</sub> (CC, 2015)

- ◆ Partially reduced TiNb<sub>24</sub>O<sub>62</sub> (Adv. Sci., 2021)
- ◆ Ru<sup>4+</sup> doped TiNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (JMCA, 2015)
- ◆ Cu<sup>2+</sup>-Nb<sup>5+</sup> co-doped TiNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (JPS, 2016)
- ◆ Cr<sup>3+</sup>-Nb<sup>5+</sup> co-doped Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>10</sub>O<sub>29</sub> (JPS, 2017)
- ◆ Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>10</sub>O<sub>29-x</sub> mesoporous microspheres (JPS, 2017)
- ◆ TiNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>/CNTs nanocomposite (EA, 2018)
- ◆ TiCr<sub>0.5</sub>Nb<sub>10.5</sub>O<sub>29</sub>/CNTs nanocomposite (JAC, 2018)
- ◆ Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>10</sub>O<sub>29</sub> hollow nanofibers (Mater. Lett., 2018)
- ◆ Ti<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>10</sub>O<sub>29-x</sub> (Sci. Rep., 2015)
- ◆ TiNb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nanorods (Funct. Mater. Lett., 2016)



## Our M-Nb-O studies (since 2014)

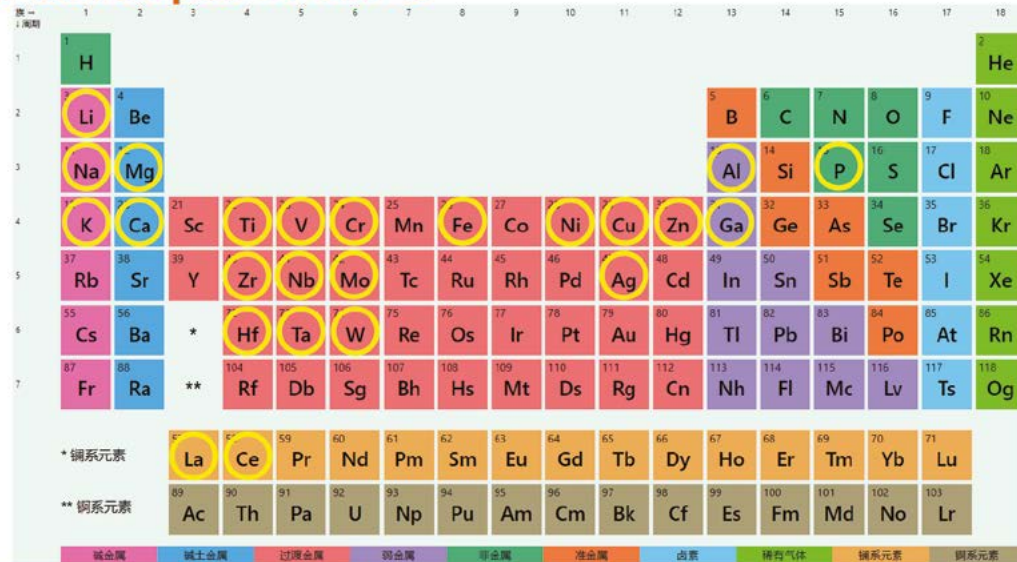
### 4. New and modified M-Nb-O materials



## Comparisons of M-Nb-O microparticles we explored

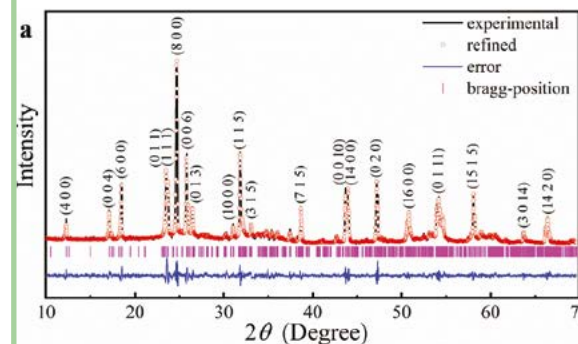
M-Nb-O	reversible capacity	rate capability	cyclic stability	highlights
TiNb <sub>6</sub> O <sub>17</sub>	328 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	178 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5C	95.6% retention at 5C over 100 cycles	
Ti <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>14</sub> O <sub>39</sub>	302 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	104 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 40C	83.5% retention at 10C over 200 cycles	
TiNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	322 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	145 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 30C	82.4% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	firstly reported by us
ZrNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	280 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	108 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 30C	81.4% retention at 10C over 1.5k cycles	
HfNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	272 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	105 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 30C	87.1% retention at 10C over 500 cycles	
GaNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	255 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	121 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	66.9% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	
AlNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	267 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	131 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	93.2% retention at 10C over 500 cycles	highly stable
Al <sub>0.5</sub> Nb <sub>24.5</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	300 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	144 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 30C	86.4% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	highly stable
Mg <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	290 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	149 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	93.5% retention at 10C over 400 cycles	highly stable
CrNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	286 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	150 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	90.2% retention at 10C over 400 cycles	high e <sup>-</sup> conductivity
Cr <sub>0.5</sub> Nb <sub>24.5</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	322 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	145 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 30C	82.4% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	high e <sup>-</sup> conductivity
Nb <sub>25</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	289 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	133 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	99.7% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	H <sub>2</sub> reduction of Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
Zn <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	284 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	162 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	86.8% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	high Li <sup>+</sup> conductivity
Cu <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	341 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	184 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	88.5% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	high e <sup>-</sup> & Li <sup>+</sup> conductivity
V <sub>3</sub> Nb <sub>17</sub> O <sub>50</sub>	207 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	68 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	90.0% retention at 10C over 2k cycles	low strain, low sintering temp.
MoNb <sub>12</sub> O <sub>33</sub>	294 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	138 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	78.8% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	Mo <sup>6+</sup> ↔ Mo <sup>4+</sup> , low sintering temp.
Mo <sub>3</sub> Nb <sub>14</sub> O <sub>44</sub>	323 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	123 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	71.8% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	Mo <sup>6+</sup> ↔ Mo <sup>4+</sup> , low sintering temp.
NaNb <sub>13</sub> O <sub>33</sub>	225 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	116 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	87.9% retention at 10C over 5k cycles	ultra-good cyclic stability
Ni <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	339 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	154 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	101.7% retention at 10C over 1k cycles	high conductivity, low V change
LaCeNb <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub>	165 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 0.1C	135 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 10C	94.0% retention at 10C over 5k cycles	deficient perovskite structure

## Our developed M-Nb-O

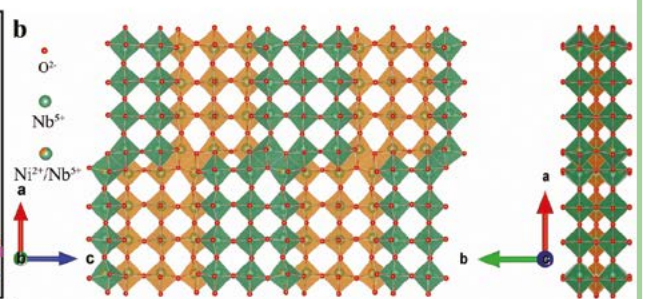


## Ni<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>34</sub>O<sub>87</sub>

## crystal structure and morphology



A FeNb<sub>11</sub>O<sub>29</sub>-type crystal with an orthorhombic 3 × 4 shear ReO<sub>3</sub>-type blocks.



Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Nb<sup>5+</sup> ions with a ratio of 1:2 occupy one type of 8f octahedral sites, while the other five types of octahedral sites are fully occupied by Nb<sup>5+</sup> ions.

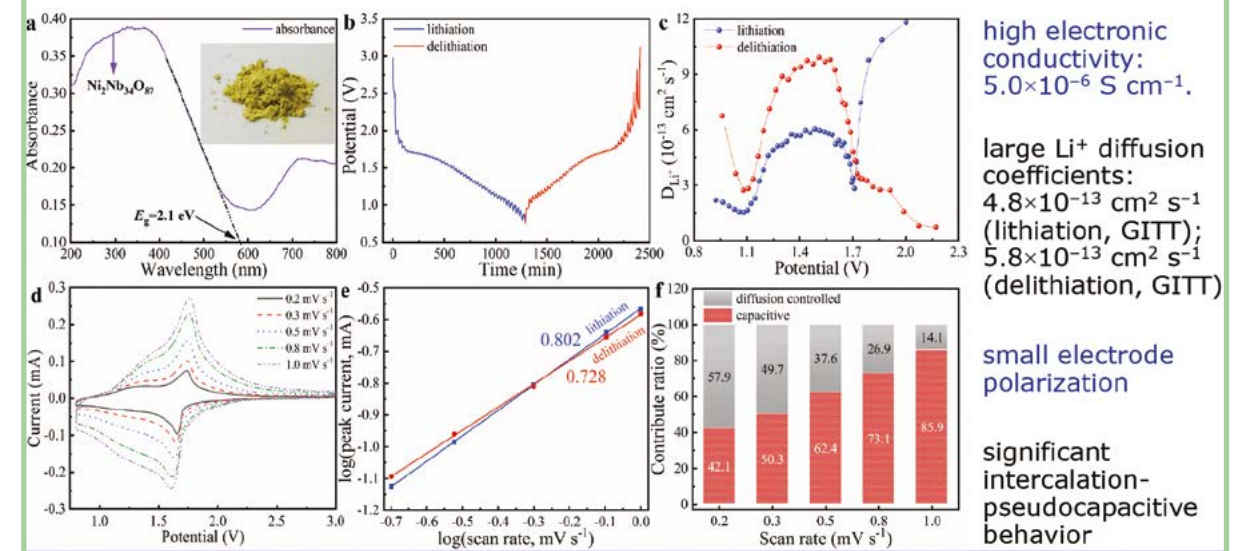
Changpeng Lv, Chunfu Lin\*, X. S. Zhao\*, Adv. Energy Mater., 10.1002/aenm.202102550



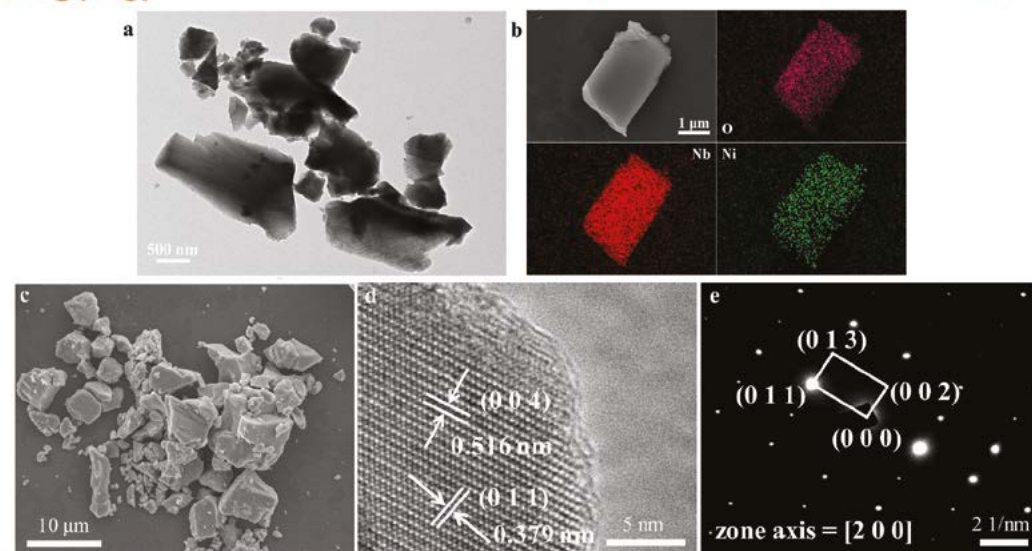
**Ni<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>34</sub>O<sub>87</sub>****crystal structure and morphology**

sample	a(Å)	b(Å)	c(Å)	β(°)	V(Å <sup>3</sup> )
Ni <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	28.69691	3.84015	20.66244	90	2277.011
Cu <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	15.59868	3.83115	20.64336	113.063	1135.059
Zn <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub> -N	15.61179	3.83217	20.66574	113.089	1137.327
Mg <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub>	15.60459	3.83071	20.64403	113.096	1135.119
Ti <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>10</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	15.52369	3.81104	20.54769	113.058	1118.512
CrNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	15.6085	3.8335	20.6481	113.067	1136.69
AlNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	15.55789	3.81126	20.53599	113.303	1118.354
Zn <sub>2</sub> Nb <sub>34</sub> O <sub>87</sub> -B	28.71489	3.82780	20.65497	90	2270.295
GaNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	28.63126	3.80931	20.57555	90	2244.078
FeNb <sub>11</sub> O <sub>29</sub>	28.6862	3.82465	20.6120	90	2261.43
TiNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	29.79212	3.81751	21.09986	95.018	2390.526
ZrNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	29.87123	3.82209	21.16379	95.078	2406.798
HfNb <sub>24</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	29.92508	3.82525	21.21133	95.068	2418.588
Cr <sub>0.5</sub> Nb <sub>24.5</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	29.91514	3.82628	21.15166	94.944	2412.092
Al <sub>0.5</sub> Nb <sub>24.5</sub> O <sub>62</sub>	29.9005	3.8228	21.1950	95.079	2413.20
TiNb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	20.36708	3.79885	11.89108	127.227	794.945
W <sub>5</sub> Nb <sub>16</sub> O <sub>55</sub>	29.657	3.8225	23.106	126.50	550.8
WNb <sub>12</sub> O <sub>33</sub>	22.2474	3.8201	17.7290	unrevealed	unrevealed
MoNb <sub>12</sub> O <sub>33</sub>	2.27931	3.82094	17.72972	123.3	1261.021

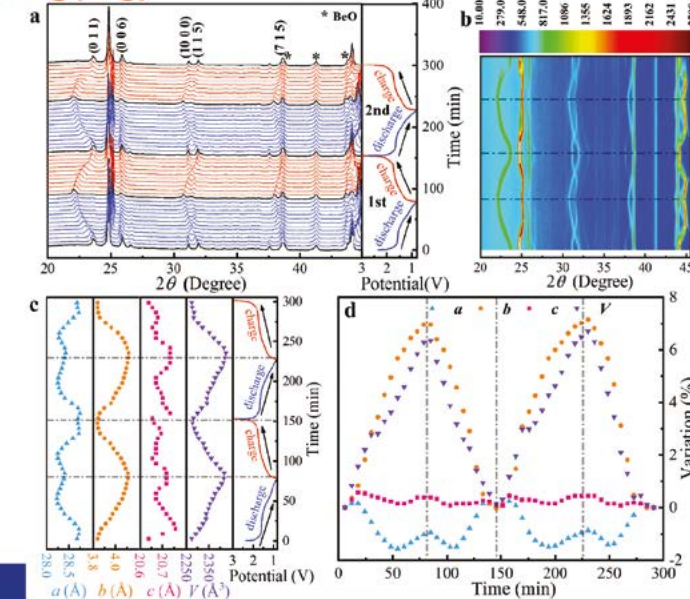
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**Ni<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>34</sub>O<sub>87</sub>****charge transport kinetics**

Changpeng Lv, Chunfu Lin\*, X. S. Zhao\*, Adv. Energy Mater., 10.1002/aenm.202102550

**Ni<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>34</sub>O<sub>87</sub>****crystal structure and morphology**

Changpeng Lv, Chunfu Lin\*, X. S. Zhao\*, Adv. Energy Mater., 10.1002/aenm.202102550

**Ni<sub>2</sub>Nb<sub>34</sub>O<sub>87</sub>****unit-cell-volume expansion**

Unit-cell volume  
expansion after  
lithiation (at 0.8 V):  
6.71%

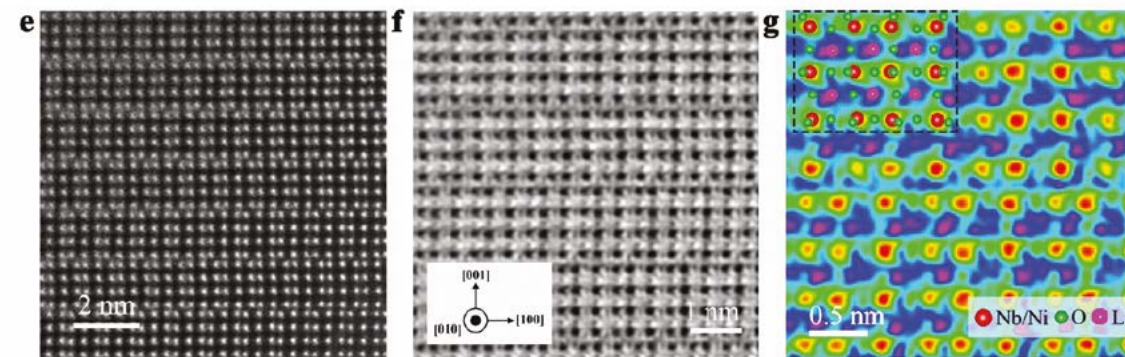
energy Mater., 10.1002/aenm.202102550





## $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$

## Li<sup>+</sup>-storage sites



The majority of Li<sup>+</sup> ions repeatedly insert into/extracts from the (010) crystallographic planes of the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  lattices.

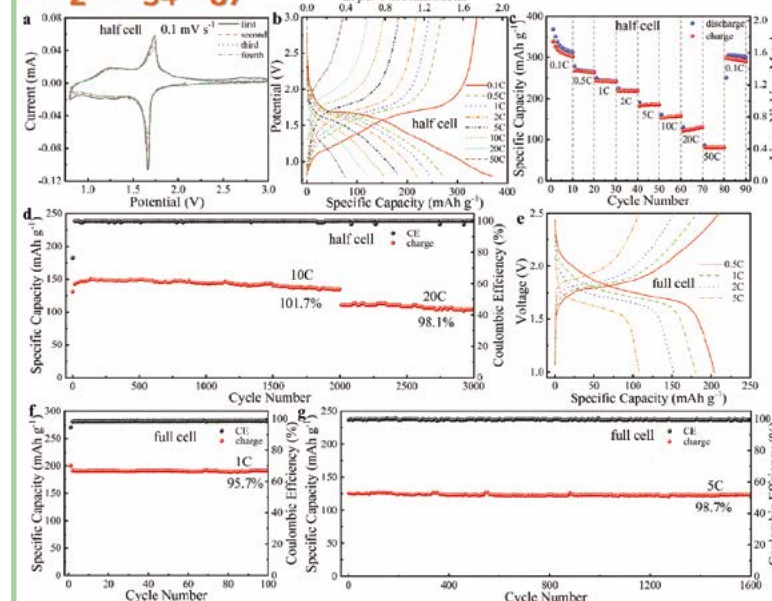
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## $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$

small  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  loading: 1.1 mg cm<sup>-2</sup>, A:B:C=7:2:1

## half and full cells



high reversible capacity: 339 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> (0.1C)

high initial Coulombic efficiency: 91.9%

safe operating potential: ~1.69 V

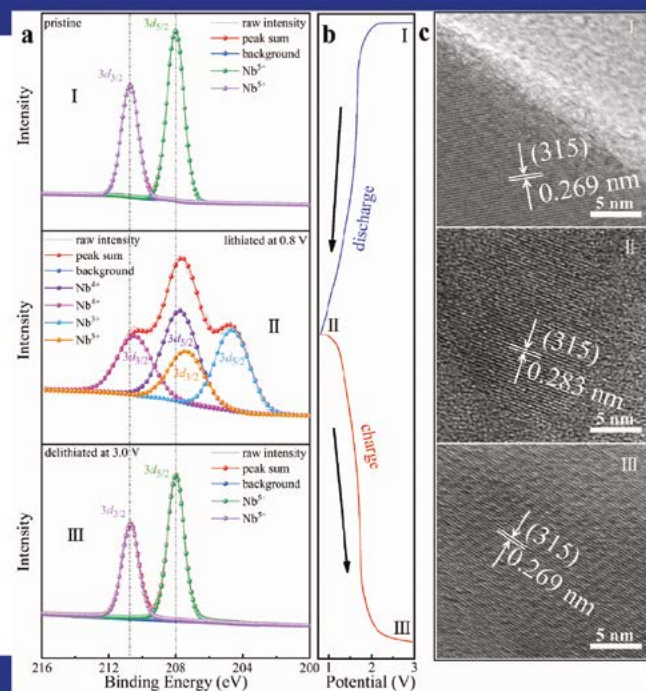
high rate capability: 154 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> (10C)

excellent cyclic stability: 101.7% capacity retention after 2000 cycles at 10C and 98.1% capacity retention after 1000 cycles at 20C

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## $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$

Two-electron transfer *per* Nb is confirmed.



## XPS and HRTEM

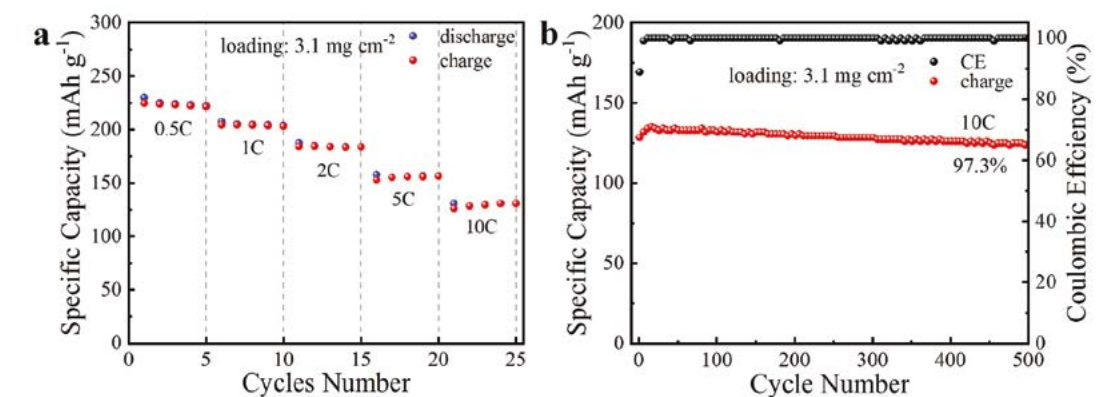
High structural stability against cycling is verified.

10.1002/aenm.202102550

## $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$

large  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  loading: 3.1 mg cm<sup>-2</sup>

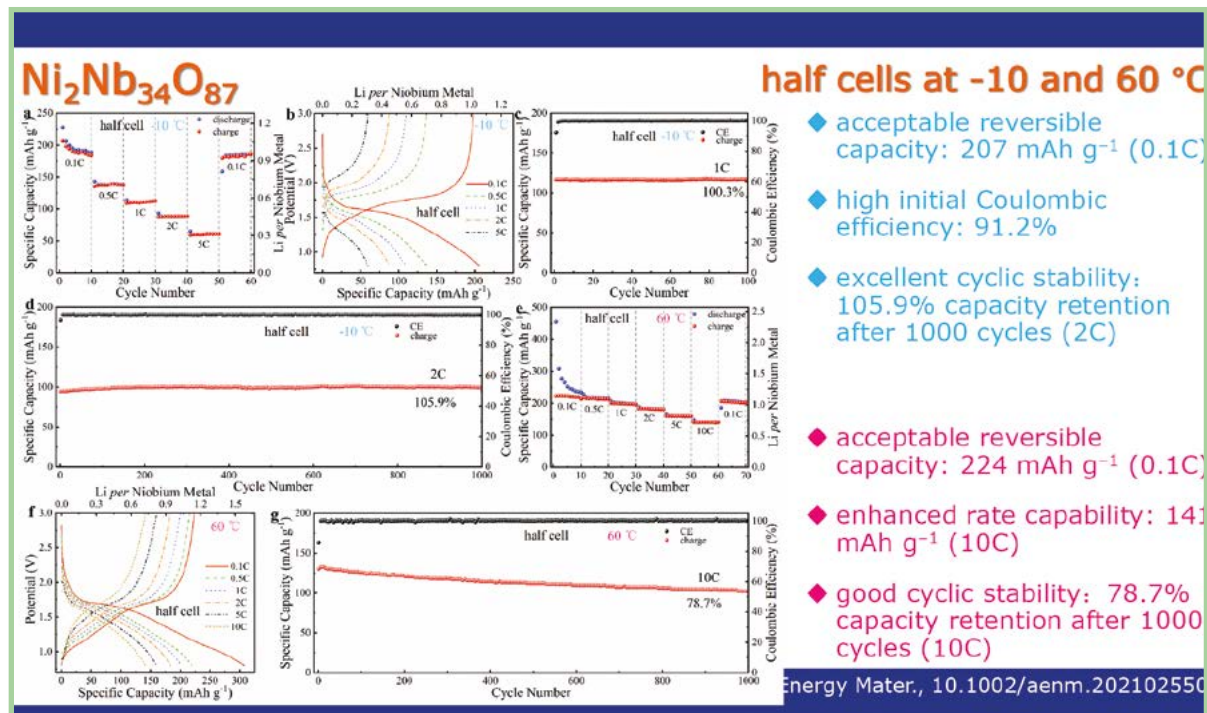
## half cell (large loading)



The thicker electrode still maintains high rate capability with 57.8% capacity retention when the current rate was increased from 0.5C to 10C, and good cyclic stability with 97.3% capacity retention over 500 cycles at 10C.

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## Conclusion

◆  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  microparticles, prepared through conventional solid-state reaction, show an orthorhombic 3×4 shear  $\text{ReO}_3$  crystal structure with a large A–B–A interlayer spacing of 3.84 Å, which is among the largest values in shear  $\text{ReO}_3$  crystal structures. Therefore,  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  exhibits fast  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusivity and small unit-cell-volume expansion of only 6.71% after lithiation (at 0.8 V).

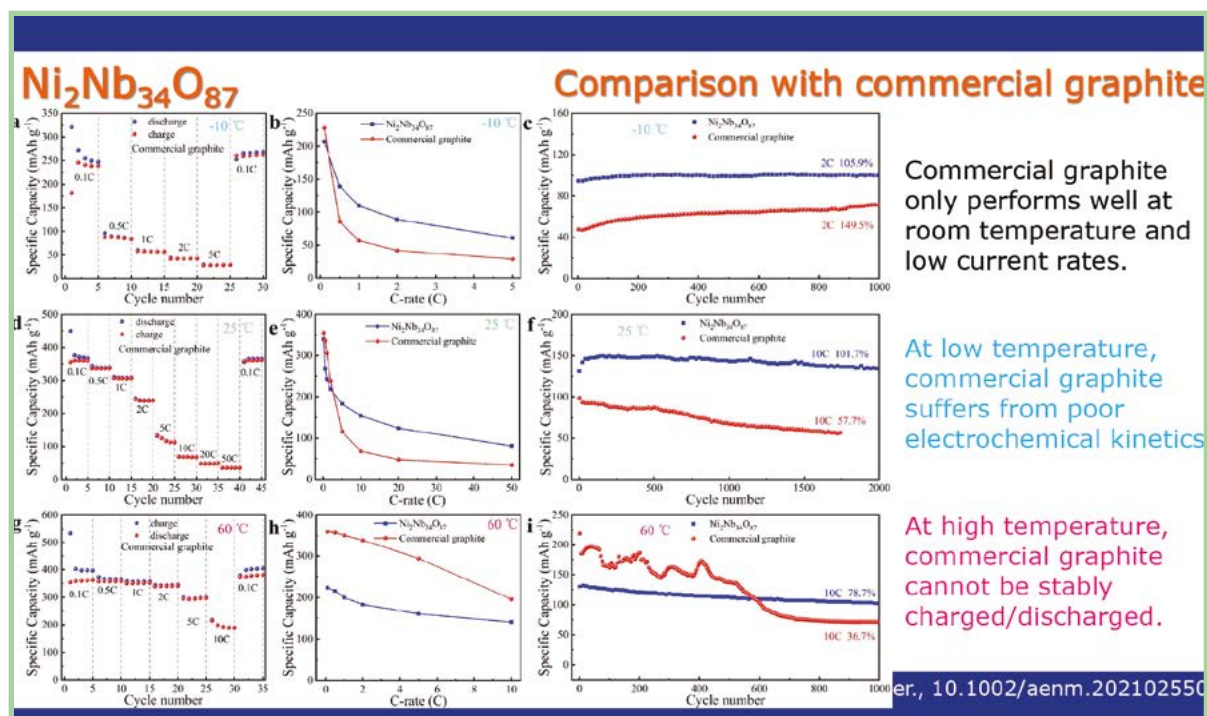
◆ The 3d electrons in  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  enables a high electronic conductivity of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$ .

◆  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  exhibits comprehensively good electrochemical properties, including a high reversible capacity, high initial Coulombic efficiency, safe operating potential, high rate capability, and excellent cyclic stability, even when the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  is large and the  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  particle sizes are on the order of micrometers.

◆ The low- and high-temperature electrochemical properties of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  are still good, demonstrating that  $\text{Ni}_2\text{Nb}_{34}\text{O}_{87}$  is an all-climate anode materials.

◆ The material design strategy demonstrated in this work opens a new approach to the exploration of high-performance electrode materials.

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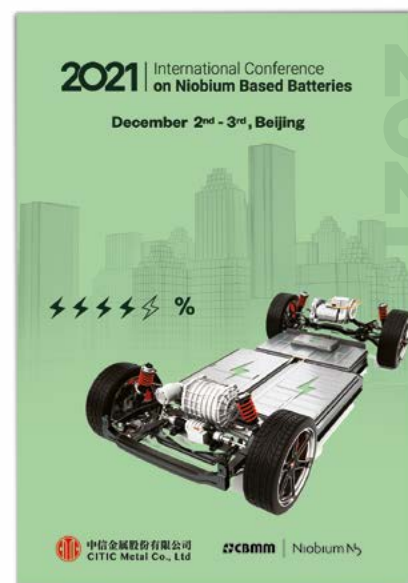
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