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Operando Investigation of NMC622/Argyrodite based All-Solid-State Battery using Neutron Diffraction

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All-solid-state batteries (ASSBs) are gaining increased attention due to their potential for enhanced safety and higher energy density compared to conventional metal-ion batteries. They are particularly suited for industrial applications like oil wells, where battery operation at high temperatures is necessary¹. A deep understanding of the assembly and electrochemical cycling mechanisms of ASSBs is still needed to assess reactivity and structural evolution of the active materials. The positive electrode material, $\text{LiNi}_{0.6}\text{Mn}_{0.2}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_2$ (NMC622), currently utilized in commercial Li-ion batteries for its balance of high energy density, safety, and durability, is being considered for ASSBs². Additionally, mixed-halide argyrodite solid electrolytes are recognized for their high ionic conductivity and softness, despite their relatively high chemical instability and reactivity.

We investigated operando the solid-state battery system comprising of NMC622 and a mixed-halide solid electrolyte $\text{Li}_{6-x}\text{PS}_{5-x}\text{BrCl}_x$ synthesized in-house³ which possesses a RT ionic conductivity of $10^{-2} \text{ S.cm}^{-1}$ thus allowing to build very thick ASSBs. Due to the high penetration power of the neutron beam and its sensitivity to light elements such as Lithium⁴, neutron diffraction (ND) is the method of choice. By combining ex situ and operando ND techniques, we analysed the reactivity at the solid-solid interfaces and thus the stability of each component (NMC622, Argyrodite), and more generally all the mechanisms involved upon electrochemical operation, at room temperature and upon increasing temperature (100°C)⁵.

Operando ND measurement of ASSB

References

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