

# ALL SOLID STATE THIN-FILM LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES (REVIEW)<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** The main features of all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries and similar batteries with a lithium metal electrode are considered. The main areas of application of such batteries are noted. Solid inorganic electrolytes and electrode materials are considered in detail. The main manufacturers are briefly listed.

**Keywords:** *li-ion battery, lithium electrode, solid electrolyte, electrode materials*

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## INTRODUCTION

All-solid-state thin-film lithium-ion batteries [1] represent a special, relatively small, but very important category of such devices. All-solid-state batteries have certain advantages over traditional batteries with liquid electrolytes. Firstly, the absence of organic solvents increases the safety of the battery by eliminating the risk of possible leakage of liquid and vapors and, consequently, reducing the risk of fire and explosion. Secondly, liquid electrolyte solvents are often involved in the degradation of lithium-ion batteries, so it is assumed that the service life of solid-state batteries will be much longer. Thirdly, the use of liquid electrolyte leads to a number of limitations on the design and size of the battery. (The typical thickness of conventional separators in lithium-ion batteries is about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , while the thickness of solid electrolytes is 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Thus, the concept of all-solid-state devices opens the way to the creation of thin-film (including flexible and transparent) and microbatteries.

The need for all-solid-state thin-film lithium-ion batteries arises due to the rapidly developing microelectronics, especially with the advent of battery-powered smart cards, radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, smart watches, implantable medical devices, remote micro sensors and transmitters, Internet of Things (IoT) systems and various other wireless devices, including intelligent building management and so on. Often, these batteries need to be placed on the same chip as the microelectronics device itself, creating a so-called embedded system. The manufacturing technology of solid-state thin-

film lithium-ion batteries must be compatible with the manufacturing technology of integrated circuits, microelectromechanical systems (MEMS devices), semiconductor sensors, etc., i.e., in general, it must be VLSI-compatible (VLSI: “very large scale integration”). Flexible and transparent devices are quite important types of thin-film batteries. It should be noted that significant progress in the field of solid-state lithium-ion batteries has recently been achieved through the experimental development and optimization of solid electrolytes and functional electrode materials.

Interest in all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries is steadily increasing. The number of publications on this topic in 2010 was about 500, and in 2021 it exceeded 2,500 [2]. Fairly detailed review papers can be mentioned [3–16].

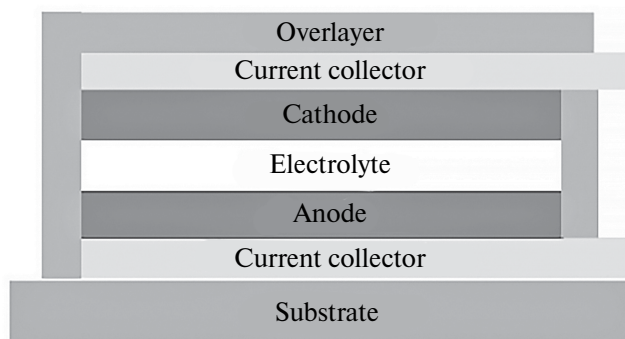
## GENERAL PROVISIONS

A schematic diagram of an all-solid-state thin-film lithium-ion battery is shown in Fig. 1.

The negligible thickness of a thin-film battery forces it to be placed on a more or less large structural element (substrate), which may be part of a device powered by this battery. And this is perhaps the main difference between thin-film batteries and conventional commercial lithium-ion batteries. The second fundamental difference is the possibility of using lithium metal as a negative electrode in all-solid-state batteries. It is known that the main feature of lithium-ion batteries is the use of intercalation electrodes instead of lithium metal.

The structural base of a thin-film battery can in principle be made of any material, including metals, ceramics, glass, polymers, and even paper. If this material is an electronic conductor, then the structural

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**Fig. 1.** Diagram of an all-solid-state thin-film lithium-ion battery.

base (substrate) can play the role of a current collector of one electrode (usually lithium). In any case, the substrate material must comply with the conditions of application and operation of the functional layers. The substrate material should not interact with other layers of the battery. The substrate material should also prevent lithium from diffusing from the battery. The battery, in fact, consists of two electrodes, between which there is an electrolyte. The outside of each electrode is in contact with the corresponding current collector. The battery as a whole is enclosed in an appropriate housing. The housing is a very important structural element. It must protect the internal contents of the battery from external physical and chemical influences, in particular, prevent the interaction of active battery materials with air and moisture. Ideally, the battery and the electronic device powered by it should be functionally integrated with maximum efficiency and voltage control.

Although the first attempts to create fully solid-state thin-film batteries were made back in the 1950s, real success was achieved only 40 years later and was due to the development of a successful solid electrolyte, LiPON – lithium phosphorus oxynitride [17–20] which is obtained by magnetron radiofrequency sputtering of a  $\text{Li}_3\text{PO}_4$  target in a nitrogen medium. Its average composition can be expressed as  $\text{Li}_{3.3}\text{PO}_{3.8}\text{N}_{0.22}$  with some uncertainty of nitrogen content. It was assumed that the introduction of nitrogen into the glass structure would increase its chemical and thermal stability. LiPON is stable in contact with lithium metal, has very low electronic conductivity and adequate ionic conductivity of about  $2.3 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  at room temperature, and most importantly, has a lithium transfer number equal to unity. The decomposition voltage of LiPON exceeds 5.5 V. Using this very electrolyte, thin-film batteries with various active materials of the positive electrode, including  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{TiS}_2$ ,  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  и  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ , have been manufactured.

In the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, several companies launched the production of all-solid-state thin-film batteries with capacities from 0.1 to 5 mAh. These batteries used negative electrodes made of both lithium and conventional intercalation materials (Sn, Si, Ge, and C). Total thickness of the active part (current sinks, electrodes and electrolyte) ranged from 20 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . The first LiPON electrolyte batteries could withstand hundreds and even thousands of cycles with low degradation. Such excellent cyclicality was explained by a combination of several factors. Firstly, the high stability of LiPON, secondly, the ability of thin-film materials to withstand volumetric changes caused by lithiation and delithiation, and thirdly, the uniform distribution of current in the thin-film structure.

The diagram in Fig. 1 shows a “plate-like” (one-dimensional) structure. Various 3D constructions are more rational [4, 21–27]. 3D designs can significantly increase the specific energy of the battery, as the total surface area of the electrodes per unit area of the substrate increases. In fact, the energy needs of micro- and nanoelectromechanical systems, including implantable medical devices, drug delivery systems, microsensors, etc., have opened up a niche for 3D batteries with a characteristic size from 1 to 10  $\text{mm}^3$  and a capacity from 10 nW to 1 mW.

Various designs of 3D batteries with regular or chaotic geometry are described. It can be a periodic grid or an aperiodic ensemble of electrodes. For example, it can be an array of cylindrical (columnar) electrodes of both signs grown on substrates. Two arrays of different electrodes are inserted into each other. The space between the electrodes must be filled with electrolyte (Fig. 2). The main disadvantages of this design are a rather large volume of electrolyte, a large and variable interelectrode distance.

A more effective design is one consisting of an array of column electrodes of the same sign placed on a substrate and coated with a thin layer of electrolyte. In this case, the remaining space is filled with the active material of the counter-electrode.

An interesting 3D battery design is described in [21]. Here, a number of grooves are made in a massive silicon substrate by anisotropic etching. The substrate itself plays the role of a single current collector. The active electrode layers are deposited inside this highly structured substrate, starting with an effective barrier layer, preferably TiN or TaN, to protect the substrate from lithium penetration, followed by a thin-film silicon negative electrode with a thickness of about 50 nm, a solid-state LiPON-like electrolyte and a thin-film material of the positive electrode, in this example  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  with a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . The second current collector is applied last.

The chaotic analogue of the regular structure shown in Fig. 2 is a kind of “sponge” design (Fig. 3). In this case, the solid mesh of the sponge (“web”), which is the cathode, is covered with a very thin layer of solid electrolyte. The remaining voids are filled with anode material.

Probably the most advanced technology for the production of 3D batteries is 3D printing (in the English-language literature, additive manufacturing (AM)) [28–30]. This technology makes it possible to produce objects with well-controlled and very complex geometries through layer-by-layer deposition directly on computerized equipment without using any templates. Recently, 3D printing of lithium-ion batteries of various geometries has been developed in order to increase their specific energy, specific power and mechanical characteristics. In fact, 3D printing is not a single method, but a group of methods that includes: (i) material extrusion (for example, direct ink writing, DIW, and fused deposition modeling, FDM); (ii) inkjet processing of materials (for example, inkjet printing); (iii) binder jet cleaning; (iv) powder layer melting (e.g., selective laser sintering and selective laser melting); (v) directed energy release; (vi) photopolymerization (e.g., stereolithography (SLA)); (vii) sheet lamination. The most popular 3D printing method used in the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries is direct ink writing. The DIW equipment is not complicated (and therefore inexpensive) and includes a simple desktop 3D printer, a heated table, a pneumatic dispenser, and a micronozzle.

A kind of 3D version of an all-solid-state lithium-ion battery is a transparent (or translucent) flexible battery. The concept of a translucent battery with opaque active electrode materials was proposed in 2011 [31] and developed later [32]. The concept is based on the principle of electrodes with a mesh structure. A distinctive feature of this mesh design is the fact that the size of the electrodes is lower than the resolution of the human eye, and thus the entire battery appears transparent. [31] described a thin-film battery of the  $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4/\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  electrochemical system with a gel polymer electrolyte, whereas [32] described a  $\text{LiCoO}_2/\text{Si}$  battery with LiPON electrolyte. The transparency of both batteries is close to 60%.

#### FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR SOLID-STATE THIN-FILM LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Materials for electrolytes. The electrolytes of solid-state thin-film batteries are fundamentally different from those of traditional lithium-ion batteries, and quite a lot of research has been devoted to the development



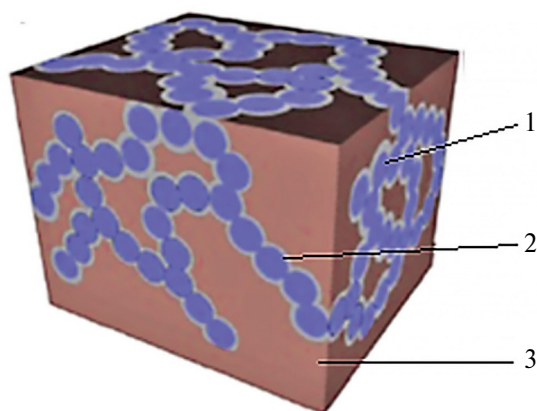
Fig. 2. 3D design with interdigital arrays of electrodes.

and improvement of such electrolytes (see, for example, reviews [33–42]).

Electrolytes for solid-state thin-film batteries must have high ionic and low electronic conductivity at operating temperature (preferably room temperature), a wide electrochemical stability window, adaptability, and compatibility with electrodes. The latter feature suggests that the electrolyte must be resistant to interaction with electrodes, especially with lithium and lithium alloy electrodes, and have the same coefficients of thermal expansion with both electrodes. Both crystalline and amorphous materials are used as solid electrolytes. A typical representative of an amorphous (glass-like) electrolyte for solid-state thin-film batteries is the already mentioned LiPON. Other examples of amorphous solid electrolytes are oxide and sulfide glass. Crystalline solid electrolytes are represented by solid solutions with a perovskite structure, lithium-ion conductors such as NASICON, LISICON and thio-LISICON, as well as lithium-ion conductors of the garnet type.

An interesting example of a LiPON-like glassy electrolyte is the so-called LiSON with a typical composition of  $\text{Li}_{0.29}\text{S}_{0.28}\text{O}_{0.35}\text{N}_{0.09}$  and an ionic conductivity of about  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  S/cm [43]. This material was produced by RF magnetron sputtering using a  $\text{Li}_2\text{SO}_4$  target in an atmosphere of pure nitrogen. Another similar glassy electrolyte, known as LiPOS ( $6\text{LiI}-4\text{Li}_3\text{PO}_4-\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$ ), has the same conductivity [44].

Sulfide glassy solid electrolytes, especially those with a high concentration of  $\text{Li}^+$  ions, have generally higher conductivity than LiPON-like electrolytes. In the  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}-\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  system, when the  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$  content is more than 70 mol.%, the electrolytes have a conductivity of more than  $10^{-4}$  S/cm, which is one and a half orders of magnitude higher than the conductivity of LiPON-like analogues. However, the synthesis of sulfide glass with a sufficiently high concentration of  $\text{Li}^+$  ions is difficult due to easy crystallization during cooling, so such glass is made by double-roll rapid quenching or mechanical milling. The addition of halides, borohydride, or lithium



**Fig. 3.** The “spongy” design of the 3D battery. 1 is the active material of the positive electrode, 2 is the electrolyte, 3 is the active material of the negative electrode (from [24], open access).

orthophosphate increases the conductivity of the glass to  $10^{-3}$  S/cm at room temperature. For example, an electrolyte of composition  $95(80\text{Li}_2\text{S}-20\text{P}_2\text{S}_5) + 5\text{LiI}$  has a conductivity of 2.7 mS/cm [45], an electrolyte of composition  $\text{Li}_{5.5}\text{PS}_{4.5}\text{Cl}_{1.5}$  with an argyrodite structure is 10.2 mS/cm [46], and an electrolyte of composition  $\text{Li}_{5.4}\text{PS}_{4.4}\text{Cl}_{1.6}$  is 8.4 mS/cm [47].

Intermediate forms, the so-called glass-ceramic electrolytes, represent a kind of palliative. Their conductivity is higher than that of amorphous electrolytes, but lower than that of crystalline electrolytes. Such glass-ceramic electrolytes can be obtained by crystallization of real glass electrolytes. The separation of thermodynamically stable crystalline phases from the initial glass leads to a decrease in intercrystalline resistance. For example, glass-ceramic electrolytes obtained by heat treatment of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{TiO}_2-\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  glasses are described in [48]. The maximum conductivity of 1.3 mS/cm was achieved in a system heat-treated at a temperature of 950 °C.

Glass ceramics of the compositions  $70\text{Li}_2\text{S}-30\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  [49],  $80\text{Li}_2\text{S}-20\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  [50],  $\text{Li}_{3.25}\text{P}_{0.95}\text{S}_4$  [51] и  $\text{Li}_7\text{P}_3\text{S}_{11}$  [51] have even higher conductivity. Glass ceramics  $70\text{Li}_2\text{S}-30\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  were synthesized by heat treatment of the corresponding glass at a temperature of about 240 °C (slightly higher than the crystallization temperature). This treatment resulted in an increase in conductivity at room temperature to 3.2 mS/cm. The conductivity of glass ceramics  $80\text{Li}_2\text{S}-20\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  is 0.74 mS/cm. Glass ceramics  $\text{Li}_{3.25}\text{P}_{0.95}\text{S}_4$  and  $\text{Li}_7\text{P}_3\text{S}_{11}$  demonstrate conductivity at room temperature of 1.3 and 17 mS/cm (!) The glass-ceramic electrolyte  $\text{Li}_7\text{P}_3\text{S}_{11}$  ( $70\text{Li}_2\text{S}-30\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$ ) is characterized not only by the highest conductivity, but also by the lowest activation energy of 17 kJ/mol at room temperature

(and, consequently, the weakest temperature dependence of conductivity).

The most popular crystalline electrolytes of the  $(\text{ABO}_3)$  type perovskite family with  $\text{A} = \text{Li}, \text{La}$ , and  $\text{B} = \text{Ti}$  are solid solutions with the general formula  $\text{Li}_{3x}\text{La}_{2/3-x-1/3-2x}\text{TiO}_3$  (where the square indicates the lattice vacancy) [52]. Usually  $0.04 < x < 0.17$ , in this case the abbreviation LLTO is used. Such electrolytes have a conductivity at room temperature of about 1 mS/cm. Lithium-enriched oxyhalides with an antiperovskite structure have an even higher conductivity. For example, the compound  $\text{Li}_3\text{OCl}_{0.5}\text{Br}_{0.5}$  exhibits a specific conductivity of about 2 mS/cm at room temperature and about 5 mS/cm at 230 °C [53].

A classic example of an electrolyte with the NASICON structure is  $\text{NaA}^{\text{IV}}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ , where  $\text{A}^{\text{IV}} = \text{Ge}, \text{Ti}$ , and  $\text{Zr}$ . Such a structure can be represented as a  $[\text{A}_2\text{P}_3\text{O}_{12}]$ – framework consisting of  $\text{AO}_6$  octahedra and  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra. The most popular  $\text{Li}^+$  conducting electrolyte with a NASICON-like structure is  $\text{Li}_{1.3}\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{1.7}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  (LATP), belonging to the family with the general formula  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Ti}_{2-x}\text{M}_x(\text{PO}_4)_3$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Al}, \text{Ga}, \text{B}, \text{Sc}$ ). Among  $\text{Li}^+$ -conducting electrolytes with a NASICON-like structure,  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Al}_x\text{Ge}_{2-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  (LAGP) has the highest conductivity at room temperature of 3 mS/cm<sup>3</sup>. Of particular interest is a silicon-substituted electrolyte in which part of the phosphorus is replaced by silicon  $\text{Li}_{1+x+y}\text{Ti}_{2-x}\text{Al}_x\text{Si}_y(\text{PO}_4)_{3-y}$ .

The electrolyte analogue with the NASICON – LISICON structure with the formula  $\text{Li}_{2+2x}\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{GeO}_4$  has too low conductivity and is of no practical interest. At the same time, thio-LISICON is very attractive [54]. The highest conductivity, 2.2 mS/cm, is shown by an electrolyte of the composition  $\text{Li}_{3.25}\text{Ge}_{0.25}\text{P}_{0.75}\text{S}_4$  (which can be considered as  $\text{Li}_{4-x}\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{P}_x\text{S}$  with  $x=0.75$ ). At the same time, the  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}-\text{GeS}_2-\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  electrolytes proved to be incompatible with the graphite negative electrode. To solve this problem, the authors of [55] proposed a battery design with a two-layer solid electrolyte. The layer facing the negative (graphite) electrode is  $\text{LiI}-\text{Li}_2\text{S}-\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  glass, and the layer facing the positive ( $\text{LiCoO}_2$ ) electrode is  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}-\text{GeS}_2-\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  crystalline material. It is known that the first electrolyte is resistant to electrochemical reduction, and the second to oxidation.

An even higher conductivity, 12 mS/cm, is provided by a similar superionic conductor of the composition  $\text{Li}_{10}\text{GeP}_2\text{S}_{12}$  with a special crystal structure [56].

Special attention has recently been paid to solid electrolytes with structures similar to garnet. Ideal garnets can be represented by the general formula  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_2(\text{XO}_4)_3$ , where  $\text{A} = \text{Ca}, \text{Mg}, \text{Y}, \text{La}$  or rare earth elements;  $\text{B} = \text{Al}, \text{Fe}, \text{Ga}, \text{Ge}, \text{Mn}, \text{Ni}$  or  $\text{V}$ ;  $\text{X} = \text{Si}, \text{Ge}$  or  $\text{Al}$ . The most important feature of the garnet



structure is the ability to introduce  $\text{Li}^+$  ions into the structure. Garnets usually contain from five to seven Li atoms per formula unit. An increase in the number of lithium atoms in the formula unit to five, as, for example, in  $\text{Li}_5\text{La}_3\text{B}'_2\text{O}_{12}$  ( $\text{B}' = \text{Bi}, \text{Sb}, \text{Na}, \text{Ta}$ ), leads to an increase in ionic conductivity by three orders of magnitude to  $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ S/cm}$  [57]. Partial replacement of Zr in lithium-enriched garnet  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  with Nb makes it possible to obtain a material with lithium-ion conductivity up to  $0.8 \text{ mS/cm}$  [58].  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  doped with Ga has an ionic conductivity of  $0.54 \text{ mS/cm}$  [59]. For substituted garnet  $\text{Li}_{6.75}\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_{1.75}\text{Ta}_{0.25}\text{O}_{12}$ , room temperature conductivity of  $0.9 \text{ mS/cm}$  was reported [60]. Doping of an electrolyte with a garnet structure by a bromide anion leads to a two-three-fold increase in the conductivity of  $\text{Li}^+$  ions.

Fig. 4 summarizes the temperature dependence of the conductivity of various solid electrolytes. As a rule, these dependences are well described by the Arrhenius equation (unlike many liquid electrolytes). Fig. 4 also clearly shows how the conductivity of the new electrolytes has increased compared to LiPON.

Materials for negative electrodes. As already mentioned, a significant advantage of solid-state thin-film batteries is the possibility of using lithium metal as a negative electrode. Lithium has the maximum theoretical specific capacity and the most negative equilibrium potential, therefore, the use of lithium metal, all other things being equal, provides the highest discharge voltage. However, the use of lithium metal as a rechargeable negative electrode in batteries with liquid aprotic electrolyte encounters well-known fundamental problems of dendrite formation and encapsulation. Both problems lead to a drastic reduction in service life.

When lithium metal comes into contact with a solid electrolyte, the problems of dendrite formation do not play such a decisive role as in the case of liquid electrolytes. This statement is clearly confirmed by the successful commercialization of fully solid-state batteries with a lithium metal negative electrode, implemented at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA) at the beginning of the current millennium, as well as in companies such as STMicroelectronics, Cymbet<sup>TM</sup> Corp., Front Edge Technology, Inc., Exxellatron, etc. For example, STMicroelectronics claimed that its thin-film batteries last up to 4,000 cycles. To combat dendrite formation at the interface with solid electrolytes, the same techniques are used that have been developed in systems with liquid electrolyte, primarily the creation of a lithium-ion current-carrying substrate and the application of artificial SEI (solid electrolyte interface, passive film) [61].

As a rule, lithium electrodes are applied by thermal evaporation or magnetron sputtering directly

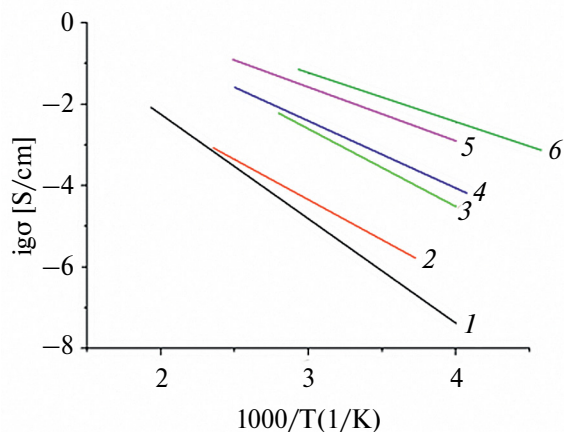
onto a solid electrolyte [62]. The typical thickness of a lithium thin-film electrode is  $2\text{--}5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , which corresponds to a capacity of  $0.4\text{--}1.0 \text{ mAh/cm}^2$ .

A serious disadvantage of lithium metal negative electrode batteries is the limited operating temperature, determined by the melting point of lithium ( $180.54^\circ\text{C}$ ). Since thin-film solid-state batteries are designed primarily for microelectronic devices, these batteries are used in modern semiconductor technology, i.e. they should be suitable for soldering at higher temperatures. A rather ingenious option to solve this problem is the so-called "lithium-free construction" [63]. Such a lithium-free battery is assembled without lithium metal (and, therefore, can withstand high-temperature solder melting procedures), but with some excess of the active material of the positive electrode. During the first charge, the required amount of lithium is deposited on the current collector. (In this respect, "lithium-free" batteries are similar to the recently popular so-called "anode-free" batteries.) For a lithium-free battery to function properly, it is very important that the negative electrode current collector material does not form intermetallic compounds with lithium. The most suitable material in this regard is copper, which is used as current receivers in conventional lithium-ion batteries, although some alternative materials such as Ti, Co and TiN are also being discussed.

Another approach to increase the operating temperature of thin-film solid-state batteries is to replace pure lithium with a lithium alloy, such as an alloy with magnesium. The melting point of such an alloy, depending on the magnesium content, ranges from  $200^\circ\text{C}$  with a magnesium content of 4 at.% up to  $400^\circ\text{C}$  with a magnesium content of 40 at.%.

However, a more fundamental solution to the problem is to replace the lithium electrode with an electrode typical of lithium-ion batteries, that is, an electrode in which lithium ions are reversibly embedded in a matrix. Elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> group of the Periodic Table (carbon, silicon, germanium, tin), oxides and some other compounds can be used as such matrices (as in traditional lithium-ion batteries).

Silicon is known to have a record capacity for the reversible incorporation of lithium. When lithium is introduced into silicon, intermetallic alloys are formed, and the most lithium-rich intermetallic compound is  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Si}$  ( $\text{Li}_{22}\text{Si}_5$ ), which corresponds to a specific capacity of  $4200 \text{ mAh/g}$ . Such an alloy is formed only at elevated temperatures. At room temperature, the most lithium-rich intermetallic compound is  $\text{Li}_{3.75}\text{Si}$  ( $\text{Li}_{15}\text{Si}_4$ ), which corresponds to a specific capacity of  $3590 \text{ mAh/g}$ . It should be emphasized that these specific capacity values relate to the process of introducing lithium into silicon,



**Fig. 4.** Temperature dependence of the specific conductivity of solid electrolytes. 1 – LiPON, 2 –  $\text{Li}_{3.6}\text{Si}_{0.6}\text{P}_{0.4}\text{O}_4$ , 3 –  $\text{Li}_{0.5}\text{La}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3$ , 4 – glass-ceramic  $\text{Li}_7\text{P}_3\text{S}_{11}$ , 5 –  $\text{Li}_{10}\text{GeP}_2\text{S}_{12}$ , 6 –  $\text{Li}_{9.54}\text{Si}_{1.74}\text{P}_{1.44}\text{S}_{11.7}\text{Cl}_{0.3}$ .

i.e. to the charge of the negative electrode. During discharge, i.e., when lithium is extracted from  $\text{Li}_{3.75}\text{Si}$  intermetallide, the specific capacity is 1852 mAh/g (recall that the specific capacity of pure lithium is 3828 mAh/g). The introduction of lithium into silicon proceeds at potentials close to the potential of lithium, and its anode extraction is mainly in the range of 0.3–0.5 V ( $\text{Li}^+/\text{Li}$ ).

The fundamental possibility of long-term operation of a silicon electrode in contact with a solid electrolyte (LiPON) was experimentally confirmed in [64]. In [65], a boron-doped LiPON electrolyte was used. In a later work [66], the compatibility of porous silicon with a glassy electrolyte of the composition  $80\text{Li}_2\text{S} \cdot 20\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  was shown. In this work, for 100 cycles, the capacity of the silicon electrode was almost 3000 mAh/g. In [67, 68], the operability of amorphous silicon electrodes in contact with a glass-ceramic electrolyte of the composition  $70\text{Li}_2\text{S} \cdot 30\text{P}_2\text{S}_5$  was shown. [69] describes the characteristics of a monolithic silicon electrode with a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in contact with an electrolyte with a garnet structure ( $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  doped with 3 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ). A specific capacity of 2685 mAh/g has been achieved here. An increase in the thickness of the electrode to 2 and 3  $\mu\text{m}$  led to an expected decrease in capacity to 1700 and 830 mAh/g. Stable cycling of silicon electrodes with a columnar structure in contact with an argyrodite-like electrolyte of the composition  $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$  was reported in [70]. Similar results for electrodes made of silicon microparticles are given in [71–73]. The latest work also showed that the introduction of a small amount of LiI into the sulfide electrolyte leads to an increase in the elasticity of the electrolyte and protects silicon particles from destruction during lithiation-delithiation.

Electrodes in the form of films from a silicon-FeS mixture with a thickness of up to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in contact with the aforementioned sulfide glass-ceramic electrolyte demonstrated specific capacitance of 3000 and 2200 mAh/g when discharged in C/10 and 10 C modes [74].

It is known that when a sufficiently large amount of lithium is introduced into silicon, a significant increase in the specific volume occurs, leading to internal stresses and destruction of the material. To prevent this destruction, nanomaterials based on silicon and its alloys are widely used in traditional lithium-ion batteries with liquid electrolyte. A variety of nanoforms (nanopowders, nanofibers, thin films, etc.) are generally used. Multilayer structures in which thin layers of silicon are interspersed with layers of other materials are of particular interest [75–81]. Si-O-Al layered structures, which have proven themselves well in contact with the LiPON solid electrolyte, are described in [82–87]. Among other silicon-based composite materials used as negative electrodes in contact with solid electrolytes, composites with carbon [88], tin [89], and even such exotic materials as  $\text{Li}_x\text{Ti}_4\text{Ni}_4\text{Si}_7$  [90, 91] should be mentioned.

When using silicon in the form of micro- and nanopowders, a solid electrolyte is introduced into the active mass of the electrode [92, 93]. Amorphous silicon films also show a good ability to cycle in contact with a solid electrolyte [94, 95].

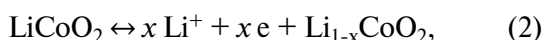
If silicon has the maximum specific capacity for the introduction of lithium, then lithium titanate  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  has the best cyclability. A distinctive feature of this material is the practical constancy of its specific volume during full lithiation (and reverse delithiation) and, as a result, the absence of internal stresses during cycling of the electrodes [96]. The process of reversible lithiation/delithiation is described by the equation



therefore, the theoretical specific capacity of this process is 175 mAh/g. Lithium titanate, as such and in the form of various doped derivatives, is widely used in liquid electrolyte batteries. Examples of its use in contact with solid electrolytes are quite rare. In [97, 98], the characteristics of a model battery with a negative electrode made of lithium-indium alloy and a positive electrode made of  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  composite, a glass-ceramic electrolyte ( $70\text{Li}_2\text{S} \cdot 29\text{P}_2\text{S}_5 \cdot 1\text{P}_2\text{S}_3$ ) and an electrically conductive carbon fiber additive are given. The charging and discharging characteristics of such a model showed almost horizontal lines (which is typical for  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ). The models withstood 700 cycles at a current density of 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> without noticeable degradation. The specific capacity of  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  in this case was 140 mAh/g. Models

of batteries with sulfide electrolytes of the compositions  $\text{Li}_{9.54}\text{Si}_{1.74}\text{P}_{1.44}\text{S}_{11.7}\text{Cl}_{0.3}$  and  $\text{Li}_{9.6}\text{P}_3\text{S}_{12}$  are described in [99]. In these models, a mixture of  $\text{LiCoO}_4$  with an electrolyte and an electrically conductive additive (acetylene black) was used as the positive electrode, and a mixture of  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  composite with graphite, an electrolyte and an electrically conductive additive was used as the negative electrodes. It is reported that phenomenal results have been achieved: stable cycling of up to 1000 cycles in modes up to 0.9 C at a temperature of  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  and in modes up to 150 C and 1500 C at temperatures of 25 and  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively.

Materials for positive electrodes. The most popular active material for the positive electrodes of fully solid-state lithium-ion batteries remains lithium cobalt oxide  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  (already mentioned in the references [20, 32, 40, 56, 63, 79, 99]. Unfortunately, deep cycling (dividing at potentials above 4.2 V, which means the extraction of approximately 50% or more of Li) leads to irreversible distortions of the  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  crystal lattice from hexagonal to monoclinic symmetry, and this change worsens the cycling characteristics. In reality, only about 50% of lithium is extracted during cycling, that is, the electrode process is described by the equation



where  $0 < x < 0.5$ .

The theoretical specific capacity of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  is 273 mAh/g, while the actual values do not exceed 140 mAh/g. Despite this,  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  is still used in thin-film batteries with various solid electrolytes [100–114]. It was with such positive electrodes that flexible translucent batteries were created [100, 102]. However, the interaction of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  with sulfide electrolytes caused a certain problem [104–106]. Upon contact of these materials, mutual diffusion occurs and the formation of a kind of intermediate layer, which complicates interphase transport. One of the ways to combat this unpleasant phenomenon is to apply the thinnest (several monolayers) coating of various materials to the surface of the  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  electrode, including  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  [107],  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  [108],  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  [109] and even Nb [110].

A radical method of increasing the specific capacity (i.e., the depth of cycling) of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ -based electrodes, as well as reducing their cost, is the use of mixed lithium-containing oxides, i.e., lithium-cobalt oxides, in which some of the cobalt ions are replaced by ions of one or two other metals. Quite a lot of different multicomponent lithium oxides have been studied, of which the most popular are the  $\text{LiNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{O}_2$  (NMC) and  $\text{LiNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Al}_z\text{O}_2$  (NCA) systems, including

$\text{LiNi}_{1/3}\text{Co}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{1/3}\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{LiNi}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2$  systems. Both materials are currently considered environmentally friendly, fairly cheap products with high specific capacity and good cyclability. NMC and NCA are very widely used in lithium-ion batteries with a liquid electrolyte, and examples of their use in fully solid-state batteries are limited (for instance, [115–119].

The theoretical specific capacity of NMC is 278 mAh/g, in practice it reaches up to 230 mAh/g. NMC has the same structure as  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ , i.e. it belongs to the type  $\alpha\text{-NaFeO}_2$  layered structure of rock salt. From a formal point of view, NMC can be considered as a solid solution of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ - $\text{LiNiO}_2$ - $\text{LiMnO}_2$  (1:1:1). In the initial state, nickel, cobalt, and manganese in NMC are in the 2+, 3+, and 4+ states, respectively, and Ni (2+/4+) and Co (3+/4+) transitions occur during cycling, and during the dilithiation, the  $\text{Ni}^{2+}/\text{Ni}^{3+}$  transition occurs first (with increasing  $x$  in the formula  $\text{Li}_{1-x}[\text{Co}_{1/3}\text{Ni}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{1/3}]\text{O}_2$  from 0 to 1/3), then the transition  $\text{Ni}^{3+}/\text{Ni}^{4+}$  (with  $x$  in the range  $1/3 < x < 2/3$ ) and finally  $\text{Co}^{3+}/\text{Co}^{4+}$  (with an increase in  $x$  from 2/3 to 1). It is this scheme of redox processes that provides the above value of the theoretical specific capacity.

The stable cycling of NMC is due to a slight change in the crystal lattice. When extracting 60% of the total amount of lithium contained in  $\text{LiNi}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{1/3}\text{Co}_{1/3}\text{O}_2$ , the volume of the crystal cell does not change and amounts to  $0.1 \text{ nm}^3$ , and when it is almost completely removed, it decreases to only  $0.095 \text{ nm}^3$ .

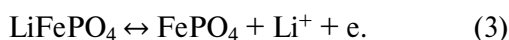
The practical specific capacity of NCA also exceeds 200 mAh/g, and the cycling capacity of such electrodes is not inferior to traditional  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ -based electrodes.

Upon contact of both NMC and NCA with sulfide solid electrolytes, as in the case of  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ , a transition layer with increased resistance is also formed. Thin protective layers of various materials, including diamond-like carbon [115],  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  [116], and  $\text{HfO}_2$  [118], are also applied to the surface of NMC and NCA.

In the initial period of the development of traditional lithium-ion batteries, lithium-manganese spinels of a composition close to  $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$ , as well as lithium-mixed nickel-manganese oxides, were widely used as the active material of the positive electrode. An important advantage of lithium-manganese spinels over other materials is their relatively low cost. Manganese compounds are much less toxic than cobalt compounds, and the manganese content in the earth's crust is also much higher than that of cobalt. In all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries, lithium manganese oxides are used much less [19, 62, 114, 120, 121], but with different types of electrolytes ( $\text{LiPON}$  [19, 62, 120], garnet type [114], phosphate [121]).

Electrodes made of lithium ferrophosphate ( $\text{LiFePO}_4$ ), which belongs to the class of polyanionic compounds, are very widely used in batteries with liquid electrolyte. The theoretical specific capacity of  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  is 170 mAh/g. The most important advantages of lithium ferrophosphate are relatively low cost, accessibility, non-toxicity, safety in operation, and most importantly, good cyclability. The main disadvantage is the extremely low electronic conductivity and low diffusion coefficient of lithium, which forces it to be used as a nanomaterial with a thin (about 3 nm) carbon coating, as well as to resort to doping with other cations, or fluoride and chloride anions.

The reversible process of lithium extraction and incorporation (during charging and discharging of the electrode) is described by a simple equation:



$\text{LiFePO}_4$  and  $\text{FePO}_4$  are isostructural, so the course of reaction (3) is not accompanied by any structural changes, which ensures very good cycling of lithium ferrophosphate-based electrodes and the possibility of accelerated charges and discharges. The mutual solubility of  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  and  $\text{FePO}_4$  is insignificant, therefore, the process (3) proceeds according to a two-phase mechanism. In this respect, the  $\text{LiFePO}_4/\text{FePO}_4$  system is very similar to the  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}/\text{Li}_7\text{Ti}_5\text{O}_{12}$  system described above. The galvanostatic curves obtained on lithium ferrophosphate electrodes also show almost horizontal sections (sections with constant potential) corresponding to the existence of two contacting phases  $\text{Li}_8\text{FePO}_4$  and  $\text{Li}_{1-8}\text{FePO}_4$ . An example of using  $\text{LiFePO}_4$ -based electrodes in a solid electrolyte system is [122], which describes the design of a 3D battery with negative electrodes made of silicon nanorods, LiPON as an electrolyte, and a positive electrode made of a  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  composite with carbon. Other examples of using  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  are the works [123, 124]. The latter work is notable for the fact that it describes a mock-up of a lithium-ion battery in which a positive electrode from  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  is combined with a negative electrode from  $\text{Li}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ . Lithium vanadophosphate  $\text{Li}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$  can function both as a negative electrode (then the  $\text{V}^{3+}/\text{V}^{2+}$  redox system with an operating potential of about 1.8 V ( $\text{Li}/\text{Li}^+$ ) is implemented in it) and as a positive electrode (in this case, the  $\text{V}^{4+}/\text{V}^{3+}$  redox system with an operating potential is implemented, close to 4 V). The article [125] describes a symmetrical solid-state battery in which in the discharged state both electrodes have  $\text{Li}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ . The electrolyte here is phosphate  $\text{Li}_{1.5}\text{Al}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{1.5}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  with the NASICON structure. When charged, one electrode is oxidized to  $\text{LiV}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ , and the other is reduced to  $\text{Li}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$  with the transfer of two electrons and two  $\text{Li}^+$  ions.

In general, the ability of vanadium to change its valence in oxide compounds in the range from +2 to +5 makes it tempting to use vanadium oxides as positive electrodes of lithium-ion batteries. Theoretically, the specific capacity of vanadium pentoxide can reach 883.5 mAh/g, which is much higher than the specific capacity of other compounds. Indeed,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  was used in the first samples of fully solid-state lithium-ion batteries [18, 19, 126–128]. Unfortunately, the introduction of lithium into the crystal lattice of vanadium oxide is associated with significant structural changes. Even with the introduction of 2 moles of lithium per mole of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ , the  $\gamma\text{-Li}_2\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  phase appears with an irreversible change in structure. Unlike lithium ferrophosphate, vanadium oxide-based materials operate in a fairly wide range of potentials, which is a definite disadvantage.

Sulfides, including nickel sulfides [129, 130], titanium sulfides [131], and molybdenum sulfides [132], have become significantly less widespread as the active materials of the positive electrode of all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries.

## PRODUCTION OF SOLID-STATE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

The scale of commercial production of fully solid-state lithium-ion batteries is still quite modest. In some cases, such production facilities existed for several years and then closed.

Cymbet Corp. (USA) produced miniature batteries (with overall dimensions of 1.7x2.25x0.2 mm and 5.7x6.1x0.2 mm) with a nominal capacity of 5 and 50 mAh. Front Edge Technology Inc. (USA) produced  $\text{LiCoO}_2|\text{LiPON}|\text{Li}$  batteries with dimensions of 25x20x0.1 mm and 25x20x0.3 mm with a capacity of 100 and 1000 mAh. Similar batteries with a capacity of 1000 mAh were manufactured by Infinity Power Solutions (USA), STMicroelectronics (France) and Excellatron (USA) [82].

It was reported [7] that Fujifilm Co. and Samsung produced batteries with sulfide electrolyte in a laminate case. Samsung batteries had a specific energy of 175 Wh/kg, they used positive electrodes based on NMC and negative electrodes based on graphite.

In 2016, Sony released batteries with LiPON electrolyte [7]. ProLogium Corporation (China) has announced the launch of ceramic electrolyte batteries with a specific energy of 810 Wh/l.

## CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that all-solid-state thin-film lithium-ion batteries represent a special, relatively small category of batteries in terms of production



volume, the need for them has been increasing, especially in recent decades. This need is due to both the rapid development of microelectronics and high technologies in general, and the fundamental advantages of all-solid-state batteries in comparison with traditional batteries with liquid electrolytes (increased fire and explosion safety, the possibility of using lithium metal electrodes, the possibility of using technologies compatible with the manufacturing technology of integrated circuits and other semiconductor devices).

It would seem that such indisputable advantages would stimulate the development of large-scale production of all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries, however, as noted in the section "Production of solid-state lithium-ion batteries", only relatively small-sized products with a capacity of no more than 1 mAh have actually become production items. The reasons for this lag in industrial manufacturing, both from consumer demands and from the results of basic research, have been repeatedly discussed in the literature (see, for example, [2, 13, 133]). Along with the mentioned advantages of fully solid-state batteries, they also have certain disadvantages, in particular technological problems, and scaling, i.e. the transition to increasingly energy-intensive single products, is accompanied by increasing technological problems [134]. For example, the relatively low electronic conductivity of solid inorganic electrolytes dictates the need to minimize their thickness; at the same time, as the area of a single product increases, the risk of uneven thickness and other indicators increases markedly, as well as the risk of defects, in particular the appearance of through pores.

With an increase in the area of the electrodes in a single battery, the probability of local excess of the interfacial resistance at the interface of the electrode with a solid electrolyte increases markedly (which is impossible in systems with a liquid electrolyte) [135]. An increase in the size (and capacity) of individual products also encounters certain economic problems [136, 137].

Progress in the development of solid-state thin-film lithium-ion batteries is determined primarily by improvements in solid electrolytes, as well as improvements in functional electrode materials. In the future, we can expect the appearance of solid electrolytes with increased conductivity and a lithium transfer number close to unity. Of particular fundamental interest is the study of processes at the interface between an electrode and a solid electrolyte. Technologically, the development of 3D structures and the use of 3D printing is of particular interest.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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