

Beyond-Lithium Batteries: From Human Intuition to Artificial Intelligence

Vijay Murugesan Staff Scientist, Materials Sciences



PNNL is operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

We will begin shortly....

We value your feedback!

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1 of 17 U.S. DOE Labs





PNNL is Focused on **DOE's MISSIONS** and **Addressing Critical** NATIONAL **NEEDS**











PNNL is an ECONOMIC ENGINE





Annual Spending









Patents









7,180 Jobs Generated in Washington





50+ Years Developing Goodwill



Over the Years

FY20



Philanthropic Investments **334,000 5,660**

Team Battelle Volunteer Hours >120 56 Community Organizations

6

Lithium (Li) – First Metal on Periodic Table

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"Ein neues mineralisches Alkali und ein neues Metall (a new mineral alkaline and a new metal)"

-Johan August Arfwedson (1817)

"a shining, white, combustible metal" -William Thomas Brande (1821)

"highest electrode potential" – i.e., Li is more electromotive than any other metal

-Lewis and Keyes (1913)





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What's next revolution?





New electric energy storage (EES) materials and systems need to be developed and validated to meet the growing demand.



Bloomberg New Energy Finance, "Electric Vehicle Outlook 2020," BloombergNEF, New York, 2020.

Rapidly growing demand for energy storage brings significant challenge!

Science can deliver safer, cheaper and efficient EES



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PNNL has unique expertise and capabilities to innovate materials for energy storage devices.



Joint Center for Energy Storage Research

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Transform electrochemistry and energy storage science with disruptive new materials deliberately constructed from the bottom up, where each atom or molecule has a prescribed role in producing targeted material behavior.



JEER JOINT CENTER FOR ENERGY STORAGE RESEARCH

www.jcesr.org



JCESR 2.0 VISION

New materials and phenomena deliberately created from the bottom up using design principles formulated at the atomic and molecular level.

JCESR 2.0 MISSION

♦ A description of solvation "cages" across the solid-liquid continuum.

- An exhaustive knowledge of redox active multimers with custom design of their complex structure.
- A predictive understanding of the role of defects in solids and heterogeneities at interfaces.

Energy storage emerging: A perspective from the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research

> A diversity of batteries for a diversity of uses

JCESR



Meet all performance requirements simultaneously

Transformative Materials, Chemistries, and Architectures





Atoms



PNNL Build Novel Tools to Study Inner Workings of Battery during charge/discharge cycle

NMR





XPS

TEM



PNNL hosts suite of unique tools to study the materials degradation during charge/discharge process of Li-batteries.

Extremely high-resolution imaging of chemical reactions in lithium-metal batteries to understand how to design long battery lifetimes by watching how batteries degrade in real time.



Recent Success and Remaining Challenges in Designing New Multi-Valent Battery Materials

Electrolyte Genome



Recent success in designing electrode and electrolyte materials for rechargeable multivalent batteries are encouraging, but still a long way to go !

Need for Large Scale EES – Reliable & Resilient Electrical Grid Northwest



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DOE OE's Priority:

North American Energy Resiliency Model Megawatt Scale Grid Storage



Technology and Market Challenges

Need new approach to accelerate the energy materials innovation.

• Safety risks

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- Significant cost reduction is needed for greater market penetration.
- Critical materials availability and sustainability.



April 2019, McMicken, AZ, 2MW / 1MWh 8 Firefighters hospitalized The energy density of lithium-ion battery was improved < 2% per year over the last 40 years.



Redox Flow Batteries – Grid Scale EES

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Promising technology for grid energy storage

- High safety
- Potential to reach DOE cost target



PNNL build novel and viable electrolytes for redox flow batteries (RFB)

Positive Positive Cell: $VO^{2*} + CI^{-} + H_2O + V^{3*} \rightarrow VO_2CI + 2H^{+} + V^{2*}$ Mixed Acid

Zn-I electrolyte





Organic-Flow



Molecular design and engineering through tuning solvate structure and dynamics



nature communications

Received 24 Oct 2014 | Accepted 14 Jan 2015 | Published 24 Feb 2015 Opt 10.031 V/comm2020 OPEN Ambipolar zinc-polyiodide electrolyte for a

high-energy density aqueous redox flow battery Bin Li¹, Zimin Nie¹, M. Vijayakuma¹, Guosteng Li¹, Jun Liu¹, Vincent Sorentle¹ & Wei Wang¹

Redox flow batteries are receiving wide attention for electrochemical energy storage due to their unique architecture and advantages, but progress has so far been limited by their low

energy density (\sim 25 Wh I $^{-1}$). Here we report a high-energy density aqueous zinc-polyiodide

flow battery. Using the highly soluble indide/triindide redox couple, a discharge energy

density of 167 Wh I -1 is demonstrated with a near-neutral 5.0 M Znl₂ electrolyte. Nuclear

magnetic resonance study and density functional theory-based simulation along with flow

test data indicate that the addition of an alcohol (ethanol) induces ligand formation between

oxygen on the hydroxyl group and the zinc ions, which expands the stable electrolyte

temperature window to from -20 to 50 °C, while ameliorating the zinc dendrite. With the

high-energy density and its benign nature free from strong acids and corrosive components, zinc-polyiodide flow battery is a promising candidate for various energy storage applications.

ARTICLE

A biomimetic high-capacity phenazine-based anolyte for aqueous organic redox flow batteries

Aaron Hollas', Xiaoliang Wei¹²', Vijayakumar Murugesan', Zimin Nie J. Bin Li®', David Reed', Jun Liu', Vincent Sprenkle' and Wei Wang''

Aqueous soluble organic (JAGO) redor-active materials have recently attacked significant attaction as alternatives to traditional transition matai ions in whot mobatineis (ORD). However, reported reversible capacities of XAD are often subtactially lower than their theoretical values based on the reported maximum solubilities. How, we describe a phenatin-based XAD compound with an execptionally high eventible capacity that sceeds 90° his theoretical value, bargicalign modifying the phenatine molecular structure, we demonstrate an increased solubility from near-serv with pristing benatine to as much as 13.04 while also soliting to resolve optiential with 900 keV. An HFD based on a phenatine derivative (CA-ditydropphenatine - Autionic acid) of its men-astantion concentration exhibits an operating valueg of 1.4V with a reversible and/us capacity of 4.141 and a capacity networks 000 KeV per optice over 0 optices.

Building Robust Electrolyte Design Module



Virtual screening assisted with empirical rules to down select viable Aqueous electrolytes and subsequent property and battery testing for model validation

Designed a High-Performance Vanadium Electrolyte

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Chloride anion suppress the deprotonation and subsequent precipitation reaction



 $[VO_2(H_2O)_3]^+ + HCl \leftrightarrow VO_2Cl(H_2O)_2 + [H_3O]^+\Delta H > 0$

Sulfate and chloride mixed electrolytes showed high energy density and broad operational temperature window

Technology Advancement



Molecules to Megawatt: Vanadium Battery R&D Story

Pacific Northwest HCI addition prevents deprotonation increasing temperature stability by 80% 2010 and energy density by 70% **PNNL's Electrolyte** Traditional Electrolyte Flexible. Reliable. PNNL kW lab scale Proven. WA Governor Jay Inslee, demonstration of UniEnergy CEO Gary Yang, Avista/UniEnergy 1 MW/4 MWh technology OE Asst. Sec. Pat Hoffman at System installation February 2015, CEF kickoff June 2014 commissioned in June.

Aqueous-Soluble Organic RFB is the new frontier

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Benefits of Organics

- ♦ Potentially lower cost
- \diamond Vast library of candidates
- ♦ Systems ranging from pH 0-14
- \diamond Improved electrochemical kinetics
- \diamond Candidates with 2e⁻ redox events



Traditional Vanadium RFB

- ♦ High material cost
- \diamond Capacity loss from crossover
- Precipitation issues (temperature window)
- \diamond Requires Nafion



Computationally Guided Molecular Editing

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Target solubilizing groups (pH dependent) and appropriate redox-tuning groups
 Substitute core structure based on readily available reagents and scalable synthetic methods



Current fragmented research through trial-and-error approach slows the innovation



A Hollas, X Wei, V Murugesan, Z Nie, B Li, D Reed, J Liu, V Sprenkle, W Wang *Nature Energy* **3**, 508–514, 2018

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Prototyping in 1kW stack

Known Phenazine derivatives: >6000





The largest small molecule data-base GDB-17 contains 166.4 billion molecules.



"Our goal is to develop a framework for the design of energy storage materials (e.g., redox active molecules) with desired properties (functionality, solubility, electrochemical stability, etc.) through automation (e.g., data sciences and high throughput experimentation)".



Data Science based Electrolyte Design Formulations



Vision:

Can recent developments in machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), can help us design optimal organic redox flow electrolytes?

Challenges:

No known physics models for predicting solubility and stability. Enormity organic chemical space (> 10¹¹), demands adequate training data set for reliable ML.

Natural Language Processing for Harvesting DataPacific
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https://demo.allennlp.org/named-entity-recognition



- Domain specific NLP tools:
 - SciBERT: pretrained on 1.14M papers from Semantic Scholar (18% CS, 82% biomed)
 - ScispaCy: domain-specific tokenization and sentence splitting

A comprehensive database for organic molecules

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The largest database of aqueous solubility and related properties

- Experimental data (> 60,000)
- Quantum descriptor (> 6)
- Molecular descriptor (> 1500)

Computed data

- Quantum descriptors (solvation energy, dipole moment, quadrupole moment asymmetry, molecular volume, molecular surface area, molecular geometry, etc.)
- Molecular descriptors (Balaban's J index, topological polar surface area, etc.)

Experimental data

- ~17,000 solubility data
- ~20,000 melting point data
- ~7,000 fusion enthalpy, sublimation enthalpy and vaporization enthalpy data
- ~10,000 pKa data
- ~5,000 redox potential data
- ~4,000 LogP data

Features

- Three independent identifiers (CASRN, SMILES, InChikey)
- Isomeric SMILES
- Multiple subsets



High throughput Experimentation Capabilities





- Installed two robotic systems, *Albert* (N₂ atmosphere) and *Beverley* (Ar atmosphere).
- Handles both liquid (10 μl 10ml) and solid (0.1mg 25g) samples.
- Vortex mixing (~1000 rpm), heating (<180 °C), centrifugation and filtration
- Working on automating analysis protocols for solubility, density, viscosity and pH testing.
- Staff training and system integrations are in progress.



Electrical Energy Storage is Evolving !





PNNL team is focused on designing transformative and Innovative materials for future energy storage systems.



Vijay Murugesan

Physicist

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Thank you





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Join us for these upcoming webinars



Catalysis - Nature's Way Bojana Ginovska April 27, 2021 | 5:00 pm



Improving Environmental Monitoring, Reducing Stressors, and Getting Marine Renewable Energy Devices into the Water Alicia Amerson May 11, 2021 | 5:00 pm



Talking Trash: Finding the Value in Plastic Waste Through Chemical Upcycling Lily Hale June 8, 2021 | 5:00 pm