

Rechargeable Batteries for Electrochemical Energy Storage: From Battery Research to Application

Workshop: Batteries – Fuelling the Alliance with the Future

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Münster Electrochemical Energy Technology



Official Launch

in 2009 – Entry into MEET-Arcades in 2011

Central Scientific Institution

of University of Münster since 2013

Diversity and Internationality

About 140 staff members from more than 12 nations, 30% female

Worldwide Visibility

with numerous scientific publications, conference contributions, patents, awards, *etc.*

Bridge

from Science to Industry

The Battery Value Chain



Materials



Components



Cells



Batteries



Application



2nd Life



Recycling

Electrochemistry
& process development

Focus of MEET

Management system
& System integration

**Technical
Universities**

Electrochemistry
& process development

Focus of MEET

MEET Battery Research Center: Division „Materials“



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scientific Leadership: Prof. Dr. Martin Winter // Management: Dr. Falko Schappacher

Project Management and MEET Administration:

Dr. Adrienne Hammerschmidt



Division Cell System

Cell & Cell Design

Aging

Safety

Division Analytics & Environment

Electrolyte Aging

Recycling & Second Life

Toxicity Investigations

Division Materials

Anode Materials

Cathode Materials

Inactive Materials

Joint Groups

Next Generation

Electrolyte

Head of Division “Materials”:
Dr. Tobias Placke

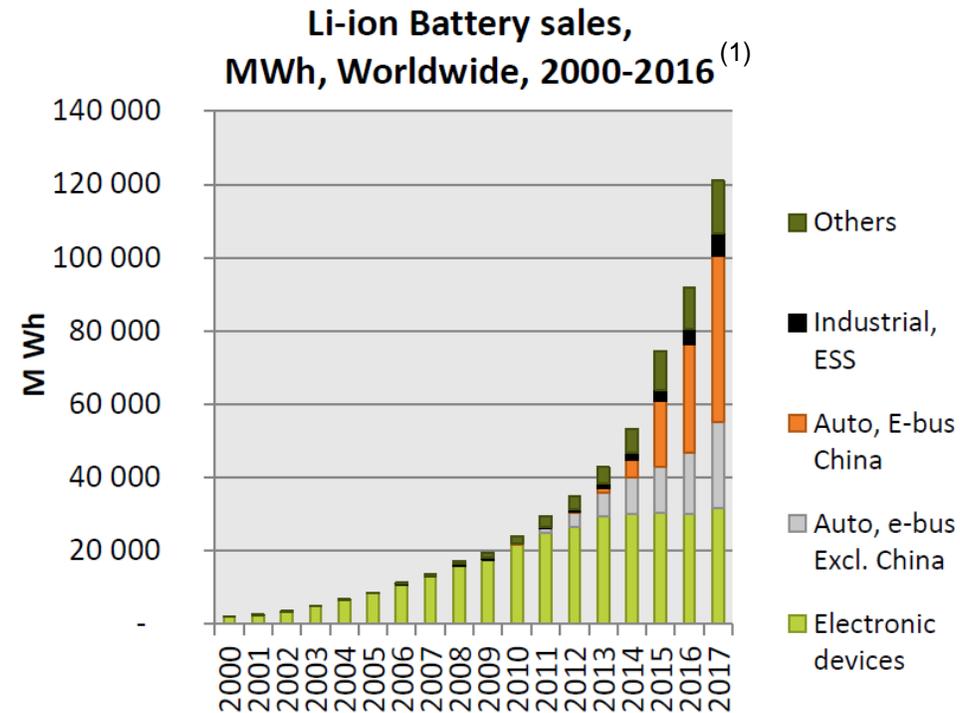
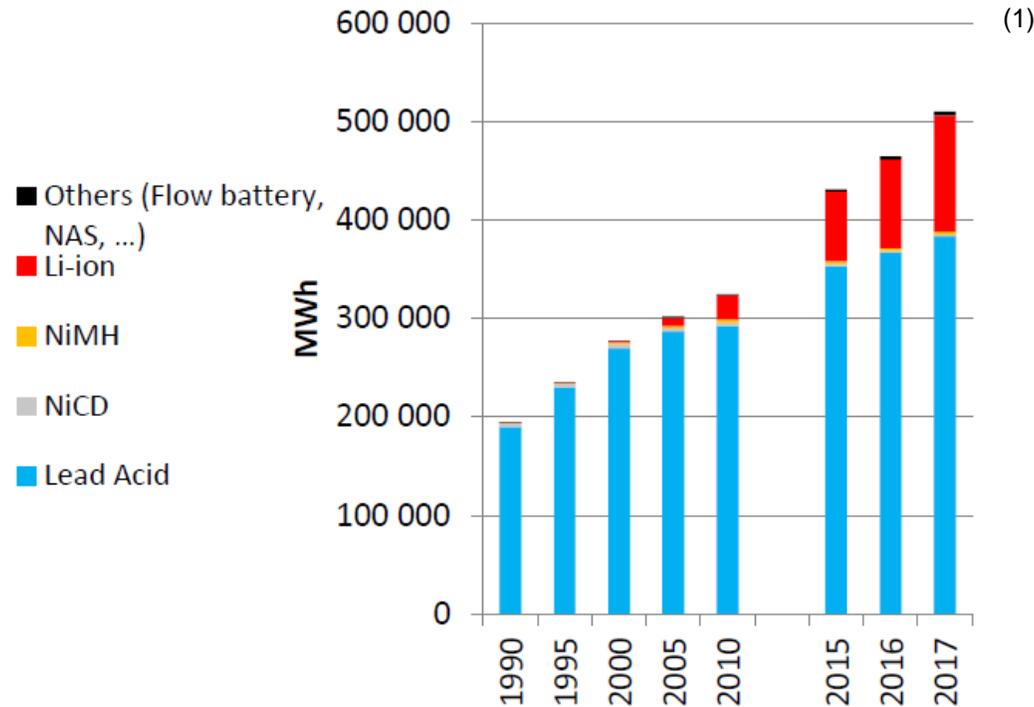
Deputy Head:
Dr. Richard Schmuch

Group size (2018):

- 5 Post Docs
- 15 PhD students
- > 15 Undergraduate Students (Master, Bachelor or internship students)



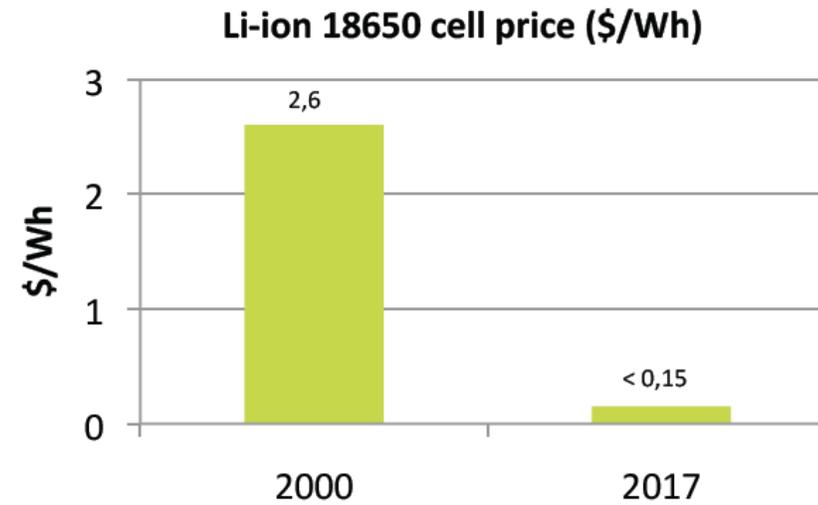
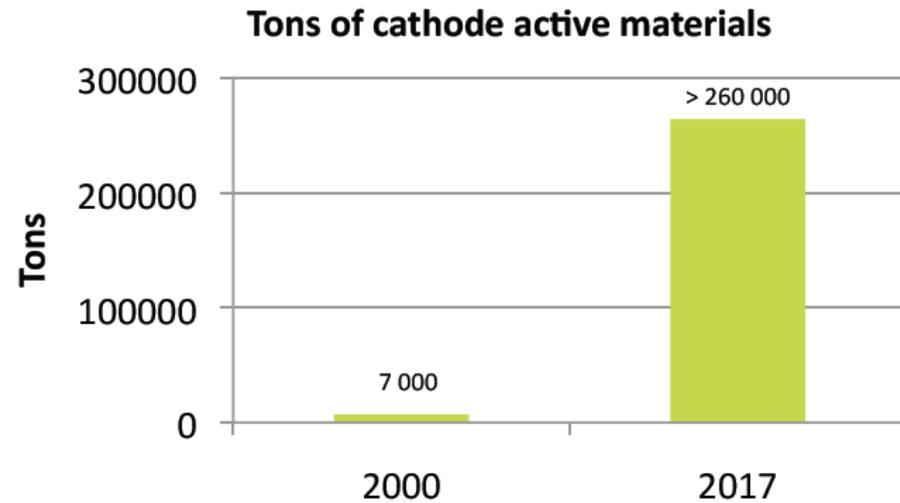
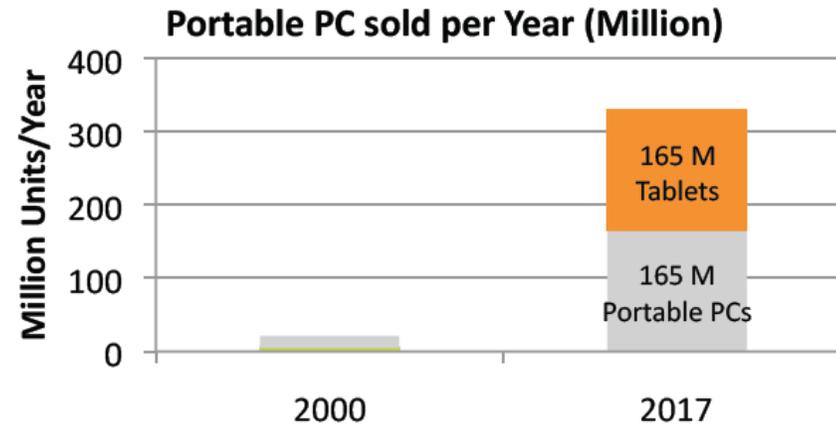
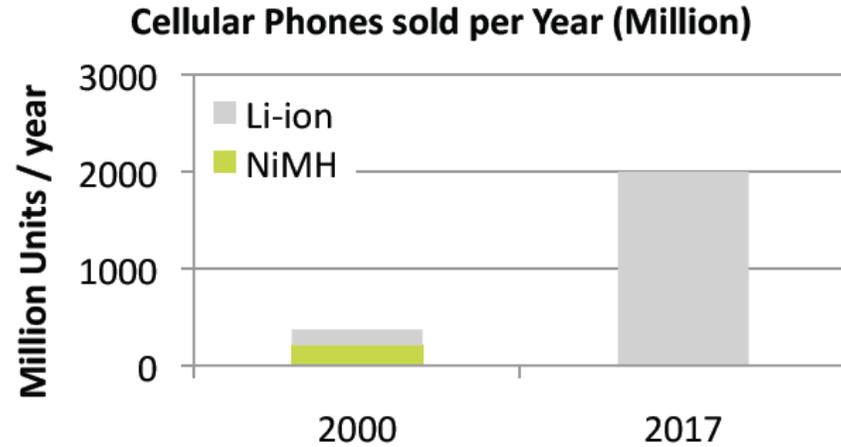
Excellent Times for Electrochemical Energy Storage (= Batteries and More)



others: power tools, gardening tools, e-bikes, medical devices, etc.

- Global market for lithium ion batteries (LIBs) in xEVs (HEVs, PHEVs, BEVs, etc.) and energy storage applications is huge.
- xEV market based on LIB technology has recently become the largest.

The Lithium Ion Battery (LIB): A Success Story



From Today's View: Is it possible to develop a "1000 km battery"?

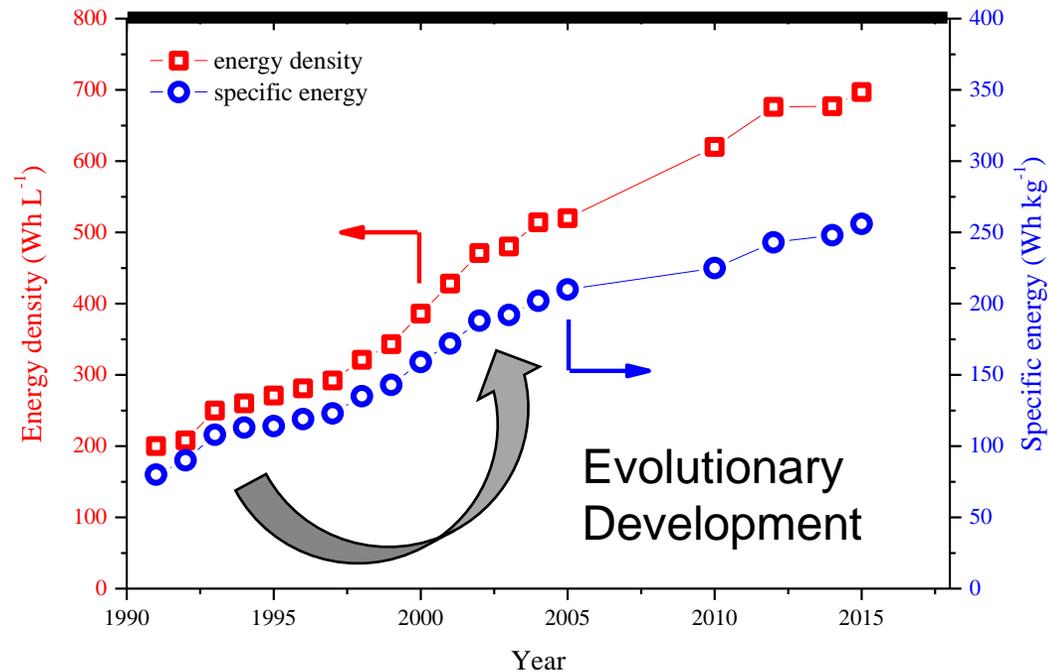
Yes, but...



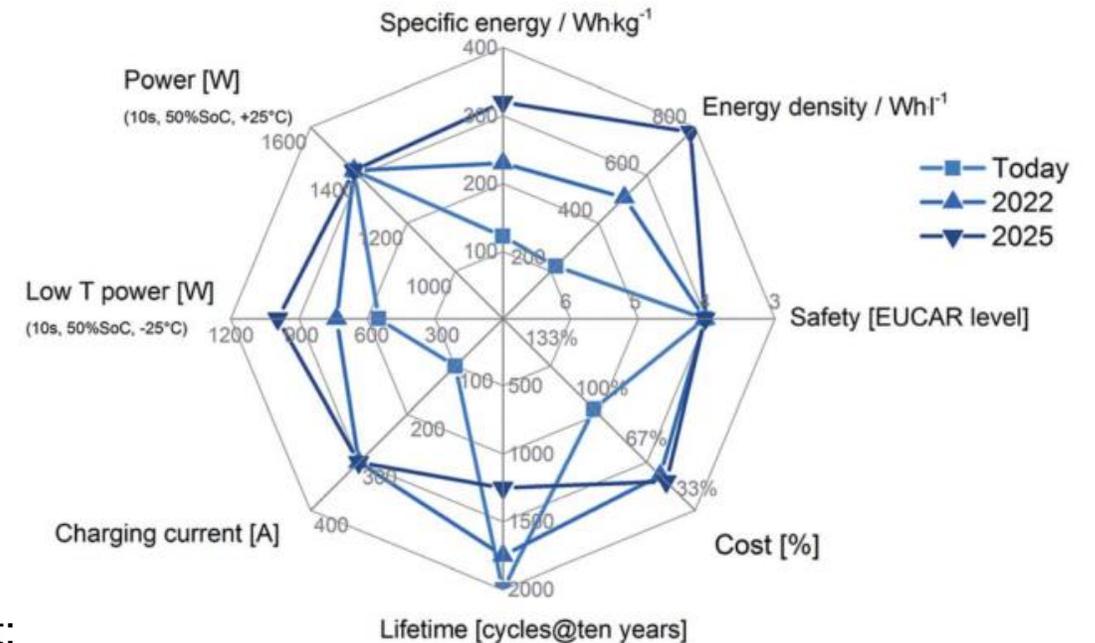
Battery Performance Targets: Energy Density and more

(1, 2)

Physicochemical limit: $\approx 400 \text{ Wh/kg}$, $\approx 800 \text{ Wh/L}$



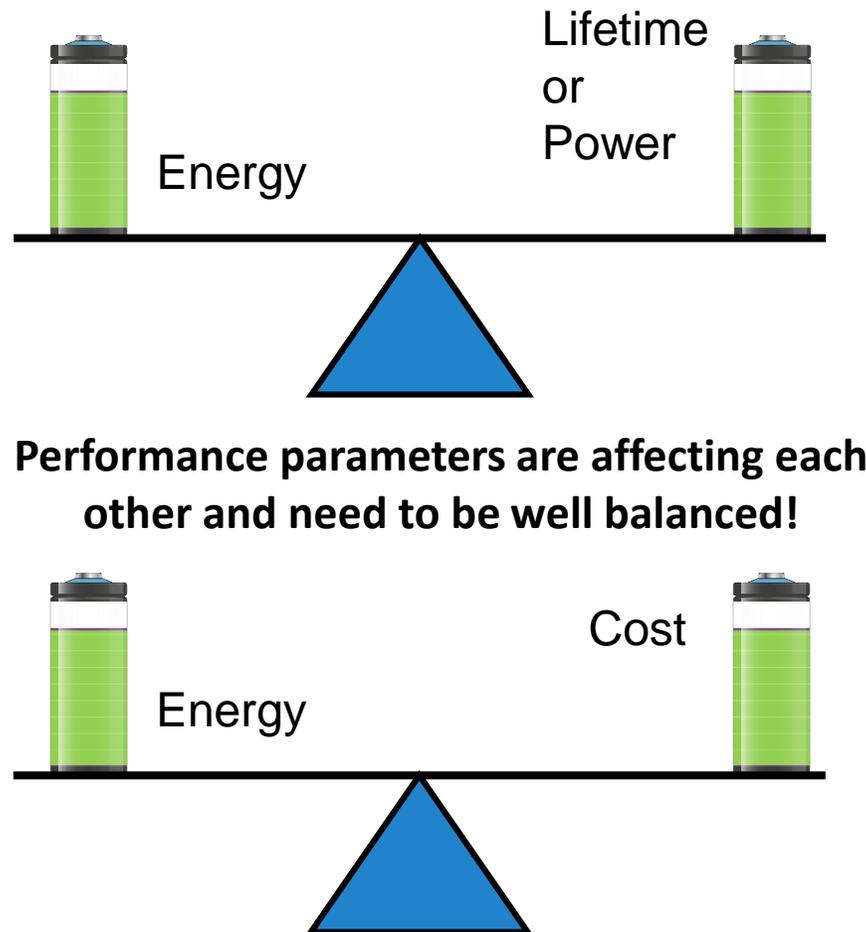
Roadmap of key performance parameters for automotive application (from OEM perspective)⁽³⁾



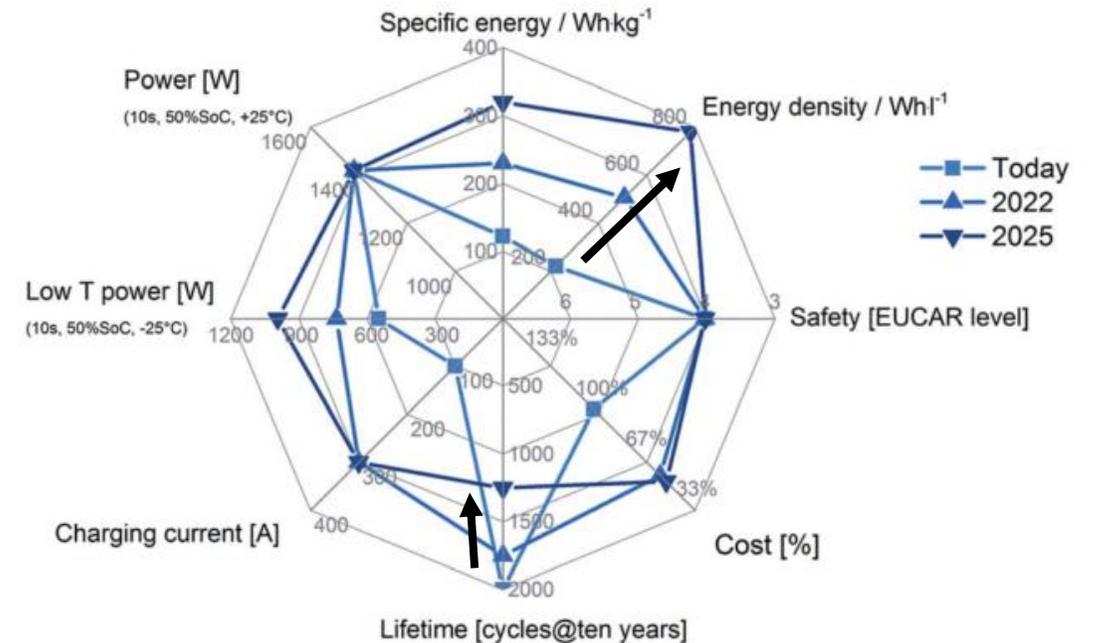
*: pack level

- LIBs (intercalation/insertion) approach physicochemical limit:
 - Current energy density: $\approx 260 \text{ Wh/kg}$ & $\approx 700 \text{ Wh/L}$ in cylindrical 18650-type cells
 - Further energy-optimization becomes increasingly difficult

Battery Performance Targets: Energy Density and more

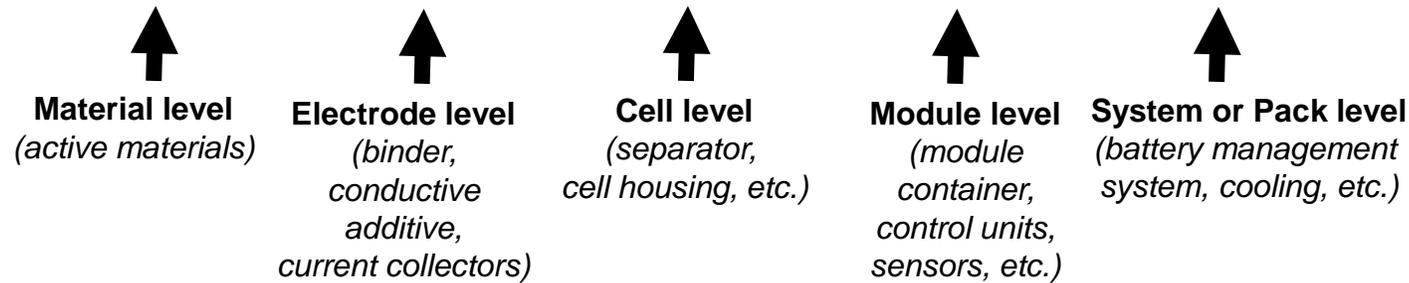
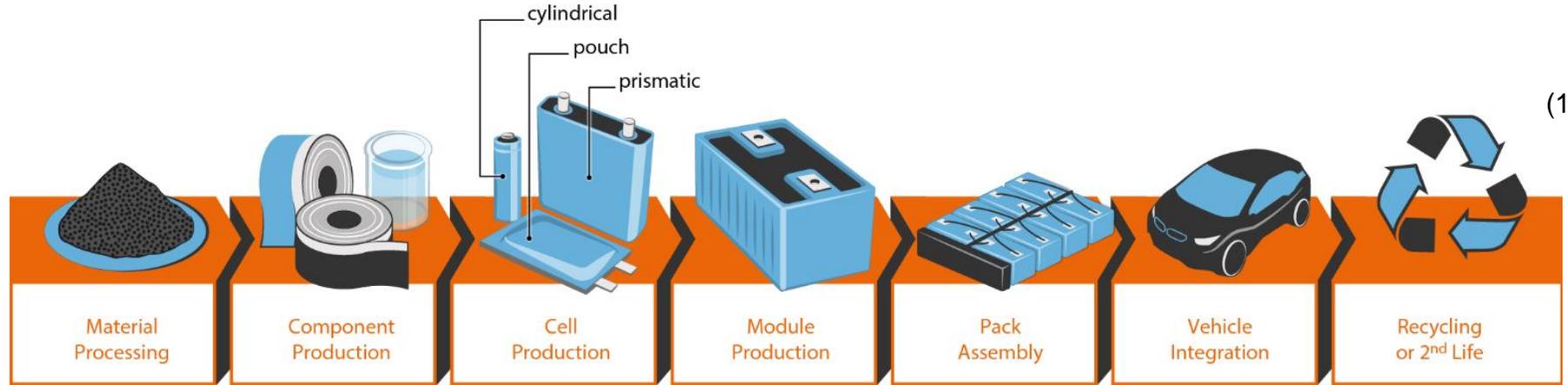


Roadmap of key performance parameters for automotive application (from OEM perspective)⁽³⁾

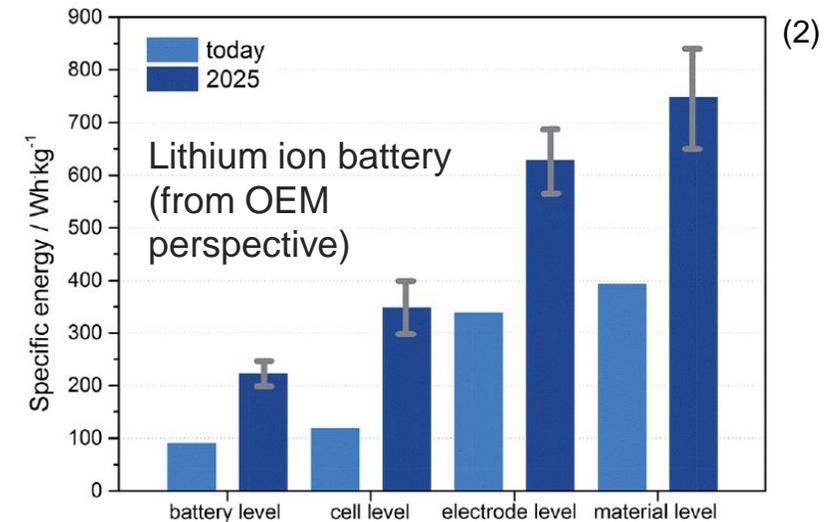


*: pack level

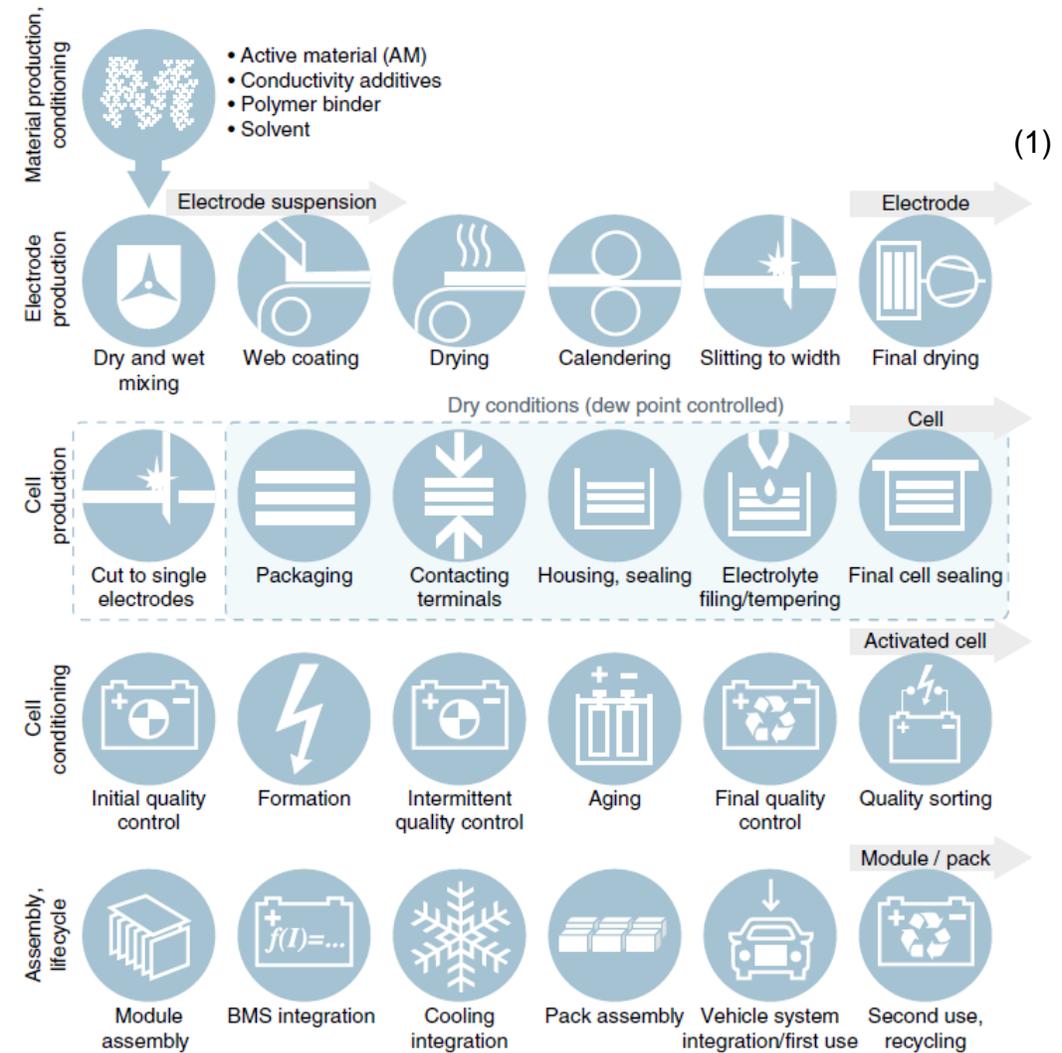
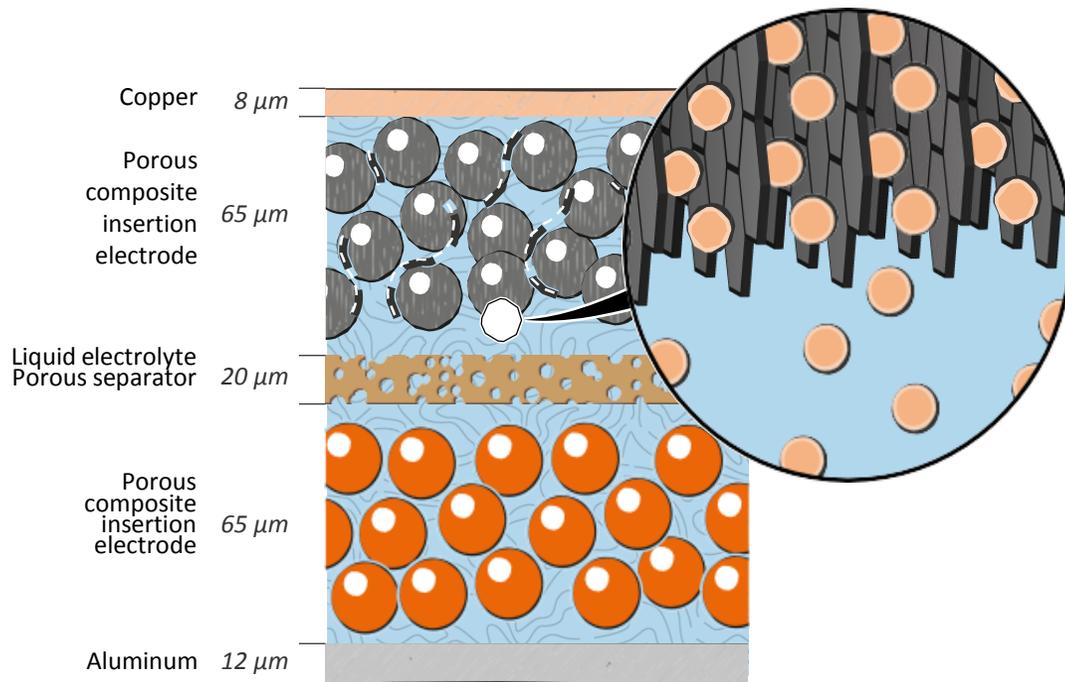
The Battery Value Chain: From Material Level to Pack Level



Addition of inactive materials: Decrease of energy content

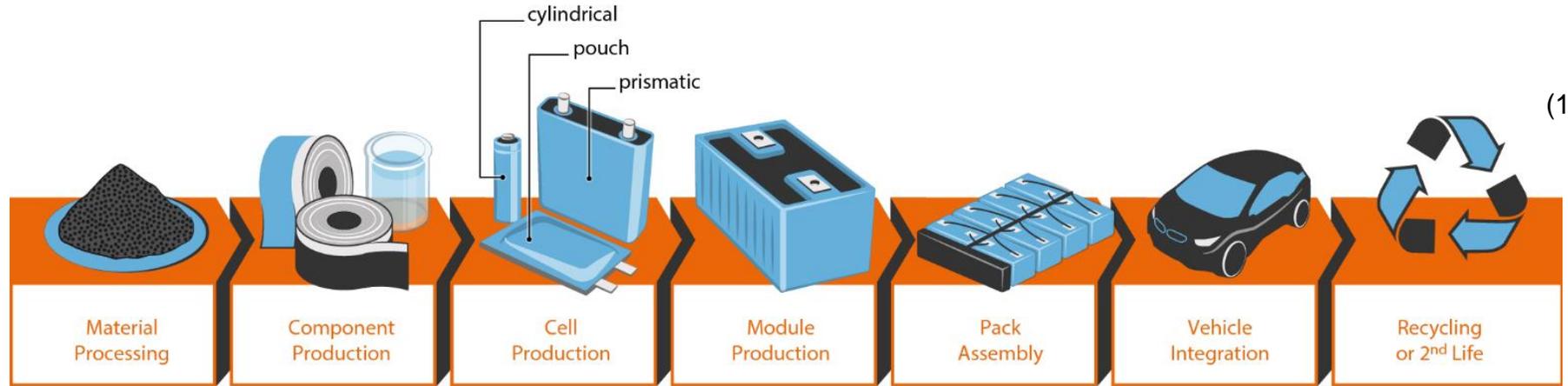


Battery Process Chain

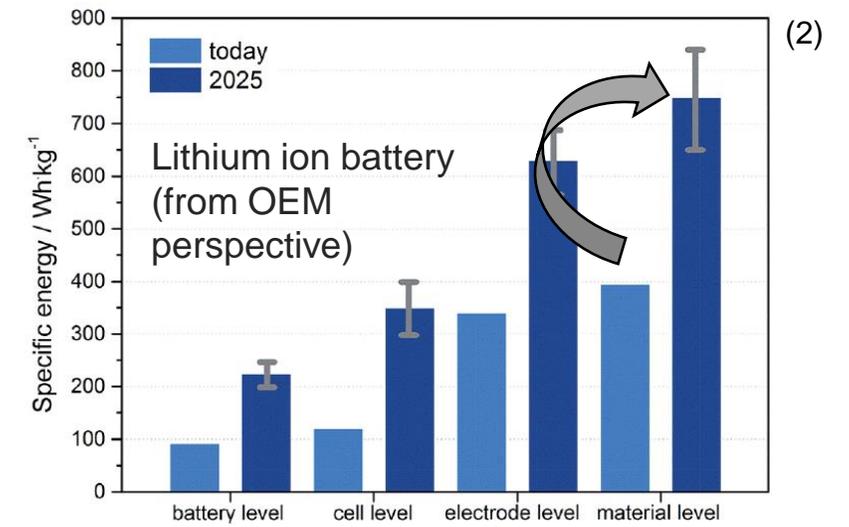


(1)

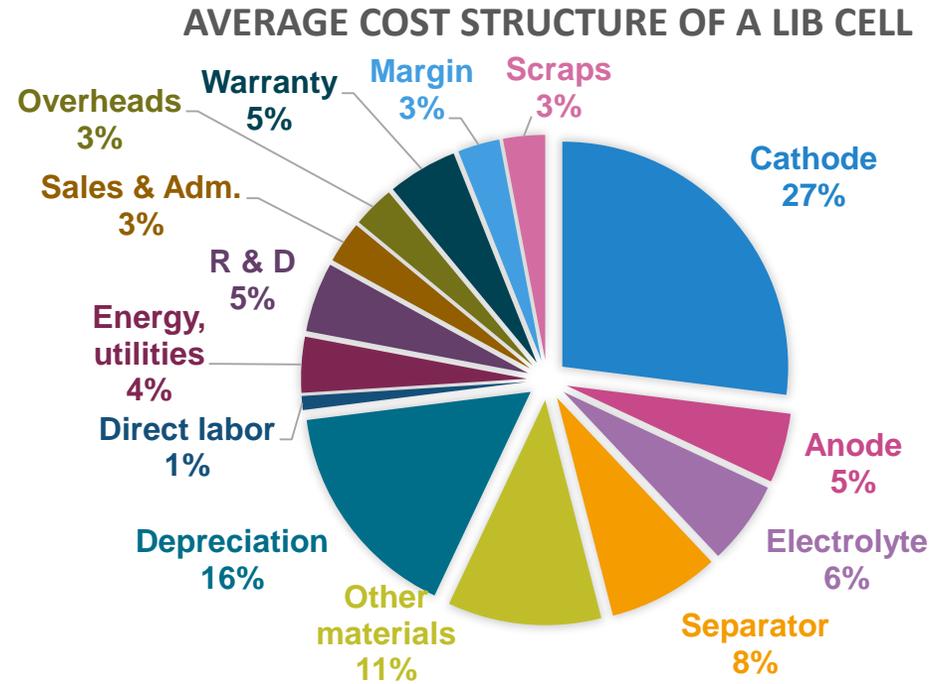
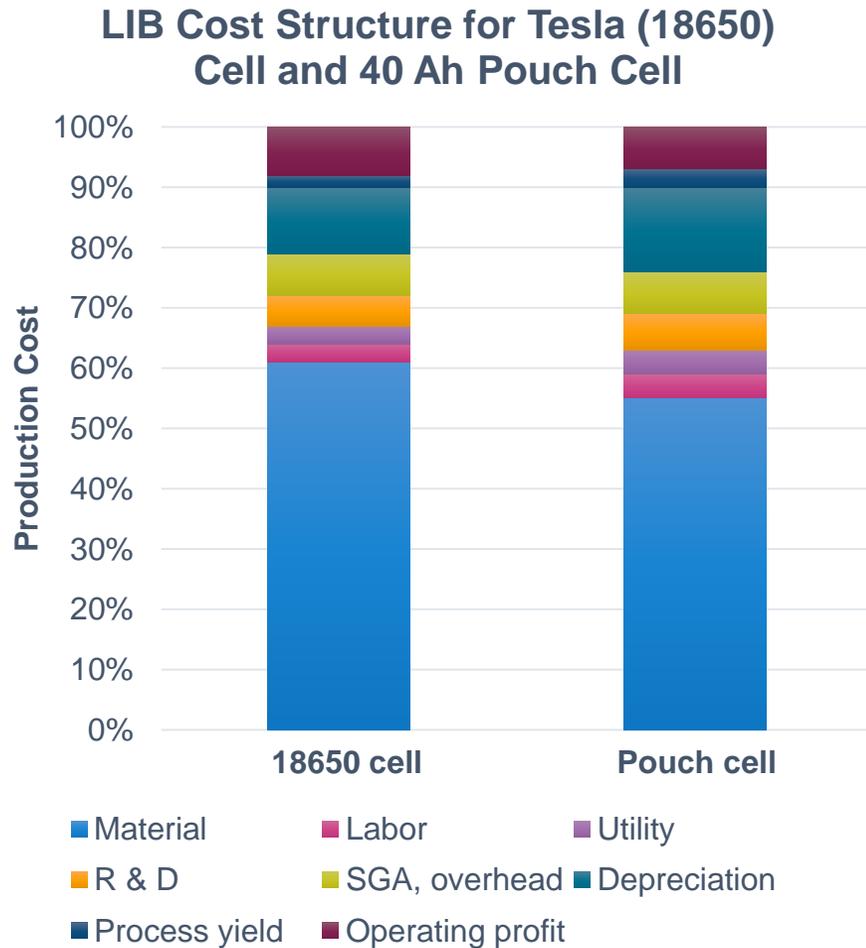
The Battery Value Chain: From Material Level to Pack Level



Increasing potential to improve key performance indicators



Cost Structure of Lithium Ion Batteries: Raw Material Impact

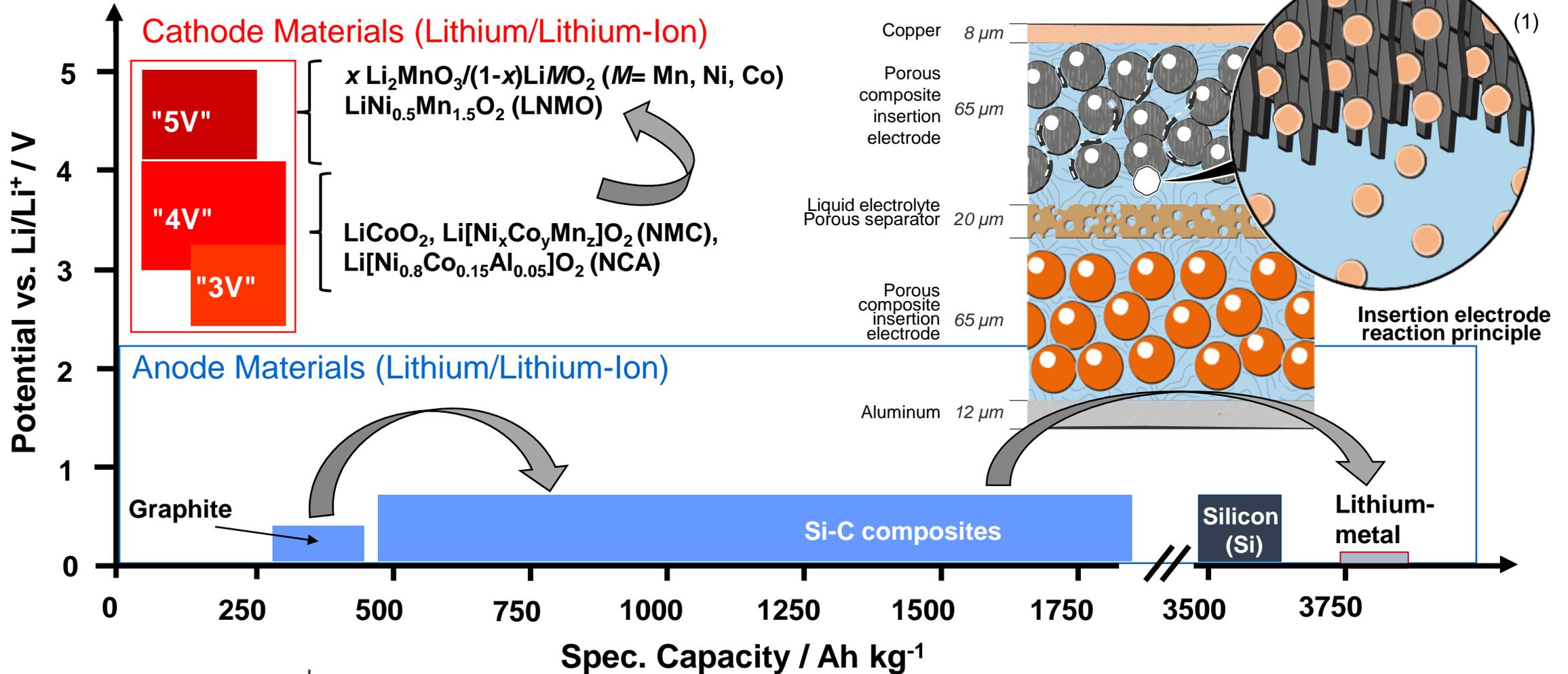


- Raw material cost account for ≈50-70 % of LIB cells
- Cathode materials are the most substantial contributor to material cost

Materials for Lithium Ion Batteries: State-Of-The-Art and Development Strategies

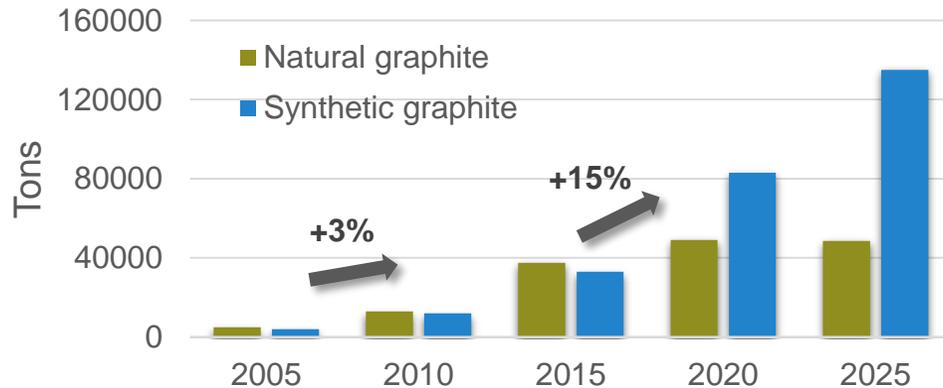


Materials for Lithium Ion Batteries: State-Of-The-Art and Development Strategies



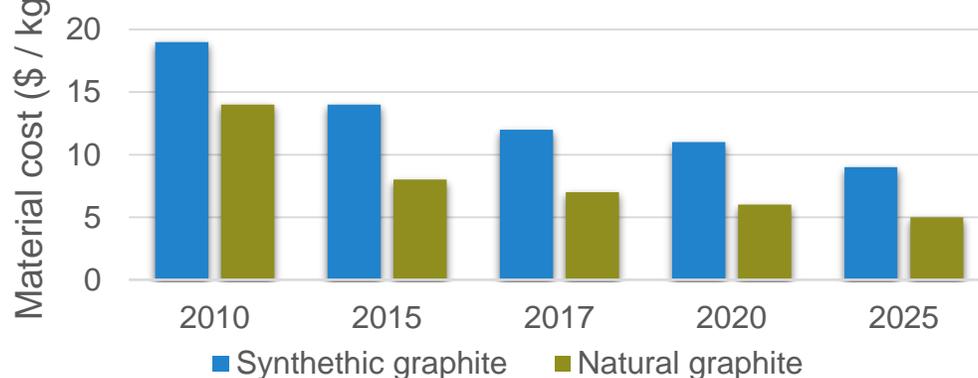
State-of-the-Art LIB Anode Materials: Graphitic Carbons

Annual growth rates

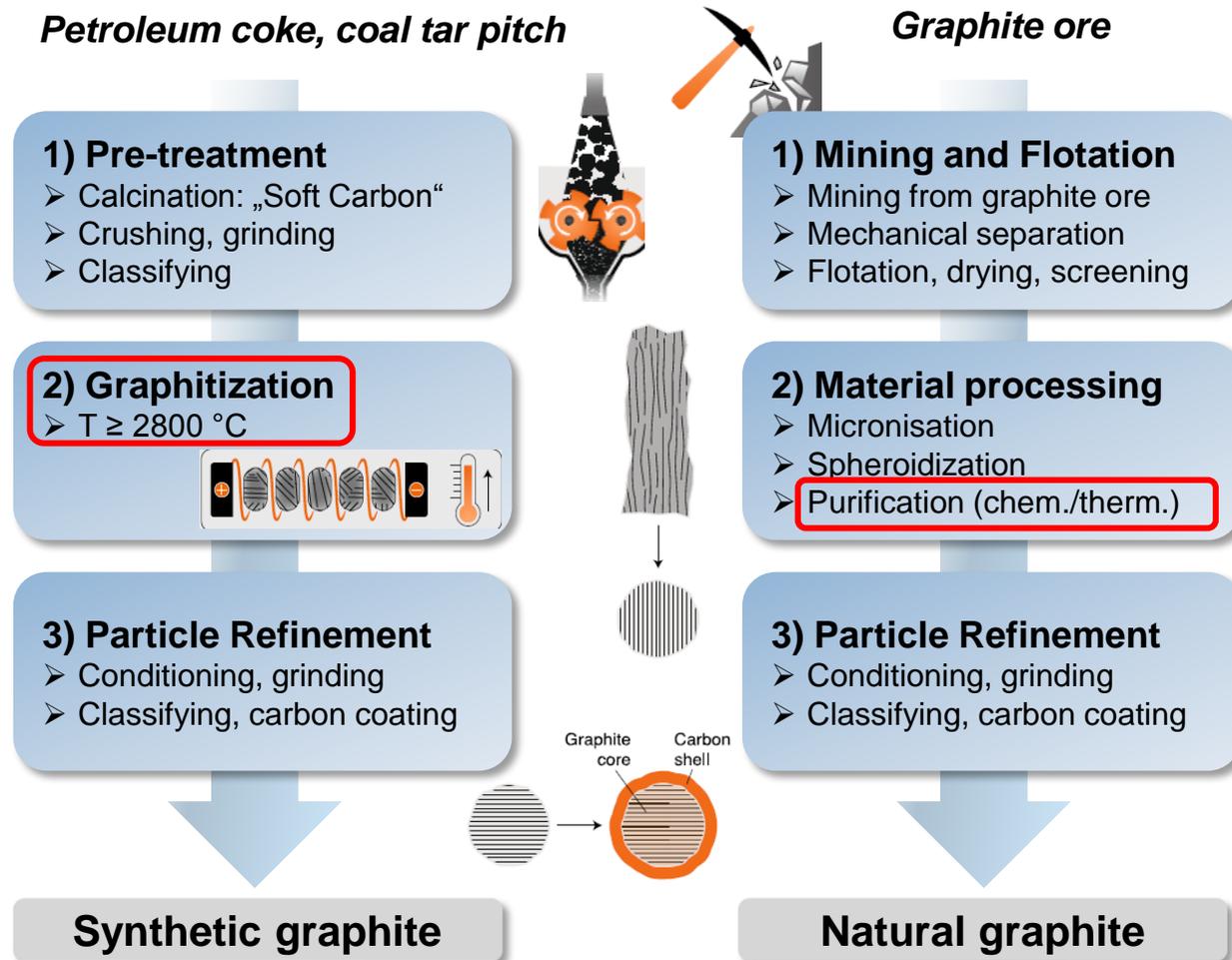


- Carbonaceous materials: Synthetic graphite (SG; share of 54%) and natural graphite (NG; share of 39%) as well as amorphous carbons (share of 2%)(¹)
- Often, mixtures of amorphous and graphitic carbons are used to optimize the P/E-ratio
- Demand for graphite increases fast, especially for synthetic graphite due to EV market
- SG shows outstandingly high levels of purity and less fluctuating quality compared to NG → SG meets EV lifetime requirements
- Cost: ≈7 \$/kg for NG and ≈13 \$/kg for SG (2017)
- Currently, only some commercial cells (e.g. Panasonic) use silicon (SiO_x) in small amounts (few wt.%)

Synthetic and natural graphite cost forecast



Industrial Production of Carbons: Synthetic Graphite vs. Natural Graphite

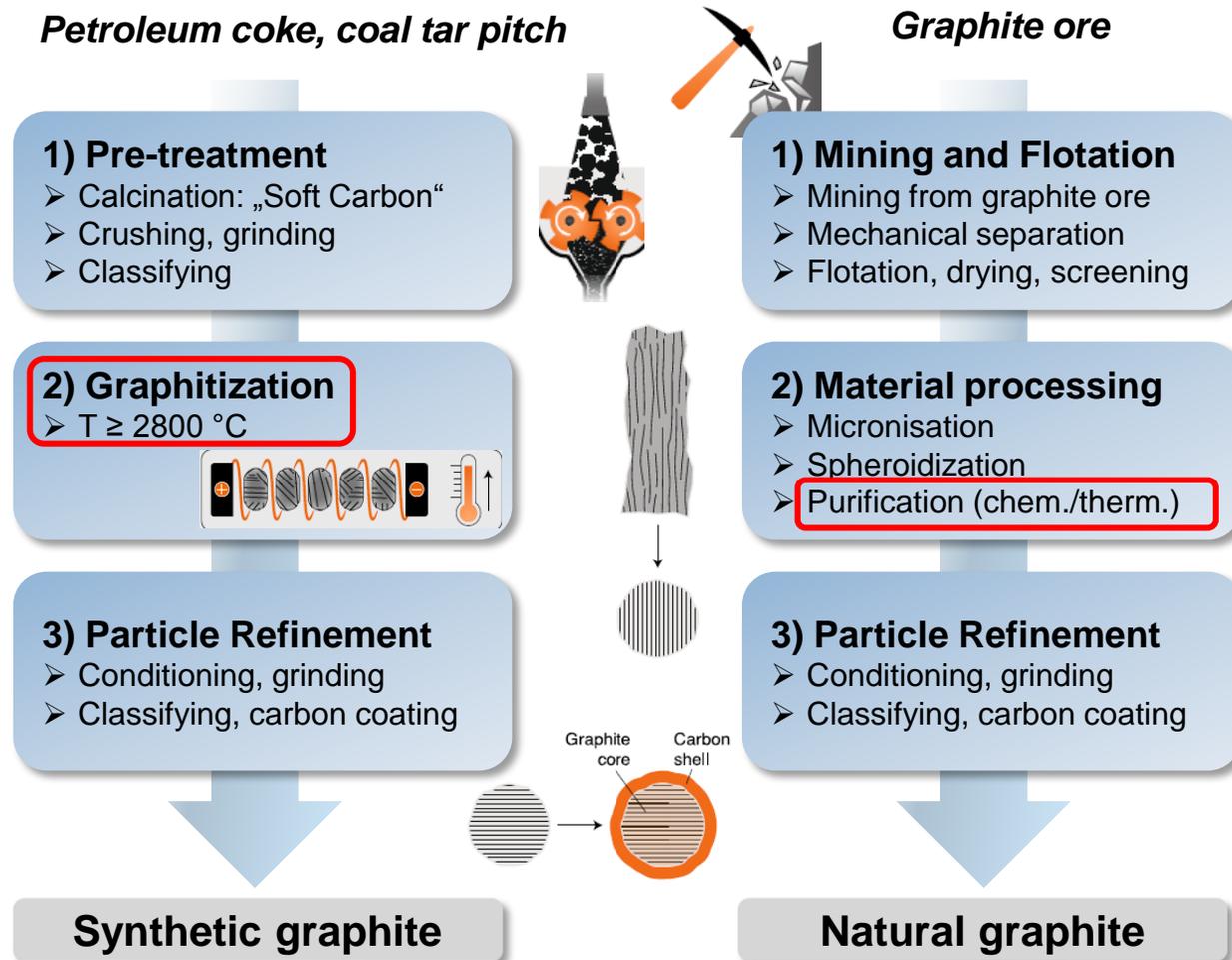


Major Challenges:

- High energy consumption and high cost, i.e. >25% of total production cost (*synthetic graphite*)
- *Natural graphite* is classified as „critical“ material (largest deposits: China)
- Purification of *natural graphite* is often done by acid treatment (HF) → water pollution
- China: insufficient monitoring and measures: high levels of environmental and air pollution (2)



Industrial Production of Carbons: Synthetic Graphite vs. Natural Graphite



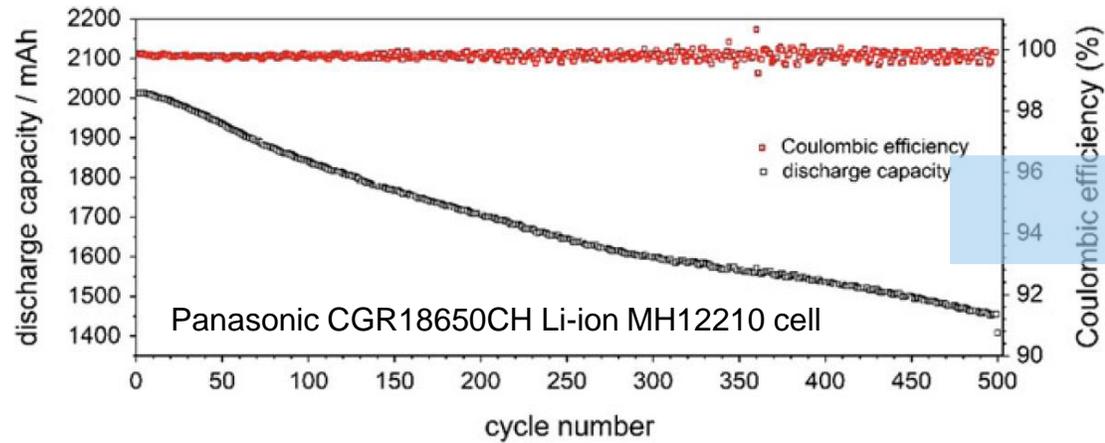
Strategies:

- Decrease of processing cost by decrease of energy consumption during graphitization: Catalytic graphitization
- Search for alternative, abundant precursor materials for synthetic graphite production (e.g. from biomass or waste products)
- Search for environmentally friendly (or friendlier) processes for natural graphite purification
- Recycling of graphite anode materials from spent lithium ion cells

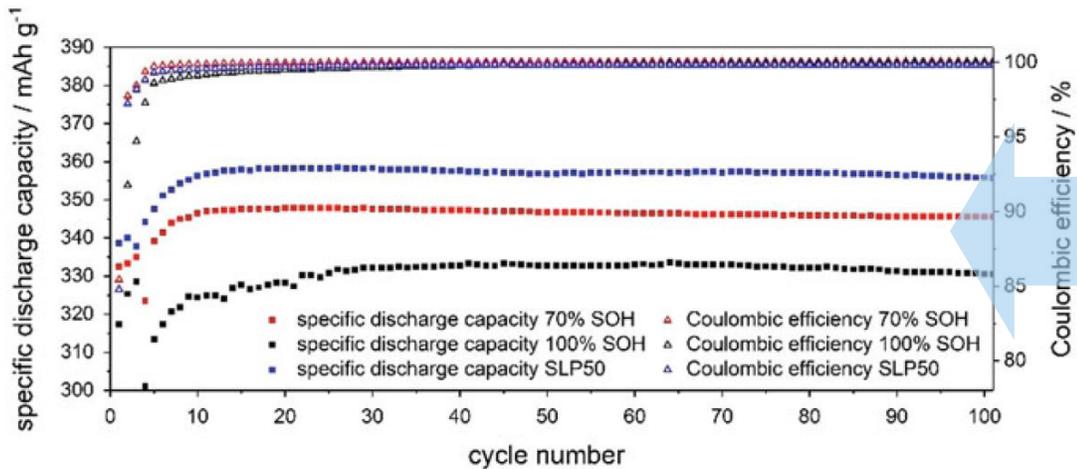


Graphite Recycling from Spent Lithium Ion Cells

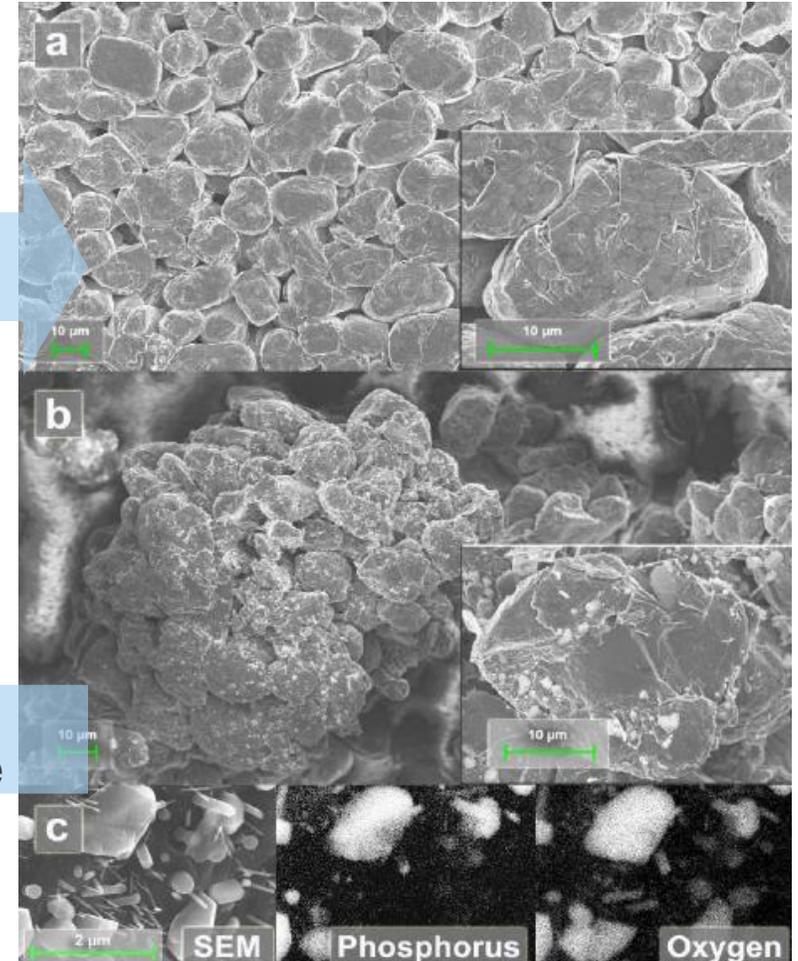
Charge/discharge cycling until 70% SOH



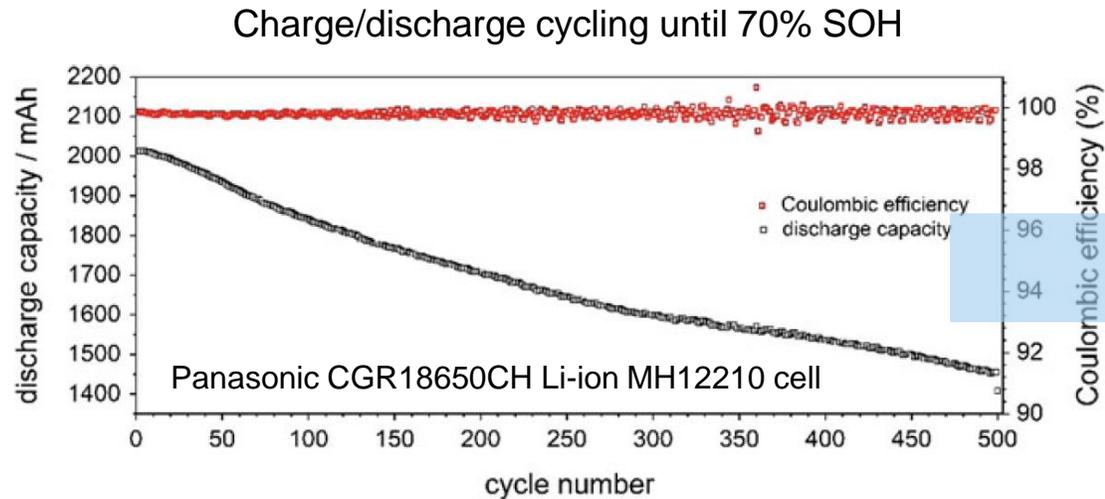
thermal purification



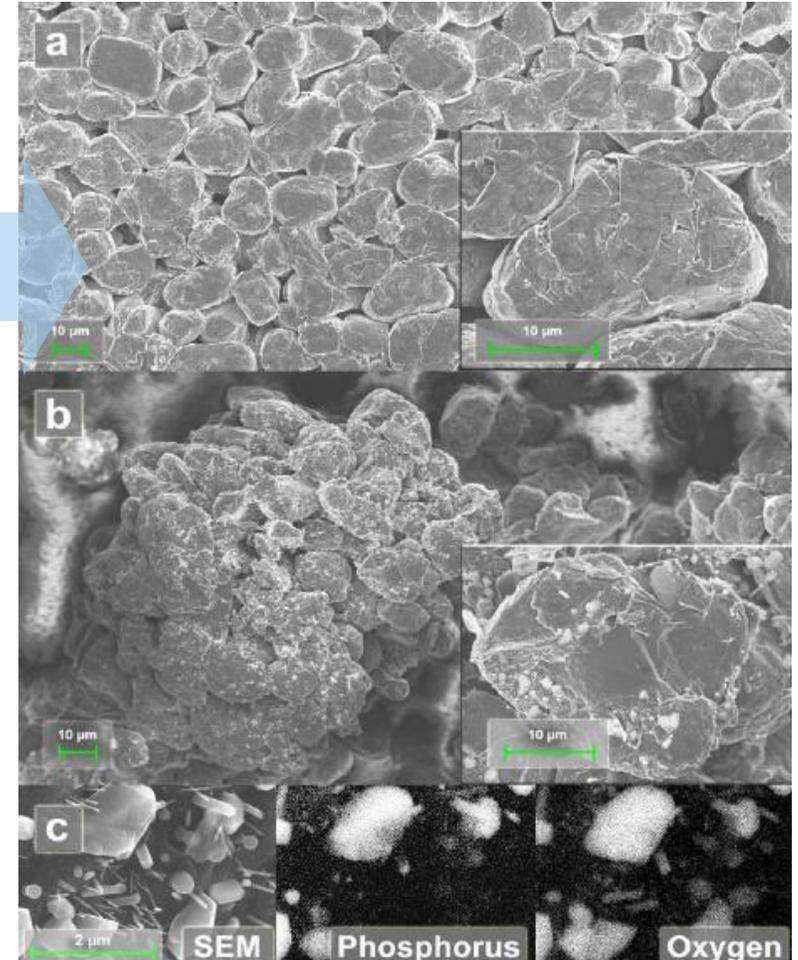
Reuse as graphite anode



Graphite Recycling from Spent Lithium Ion Cells



thermal purification



Open questions / challenges:

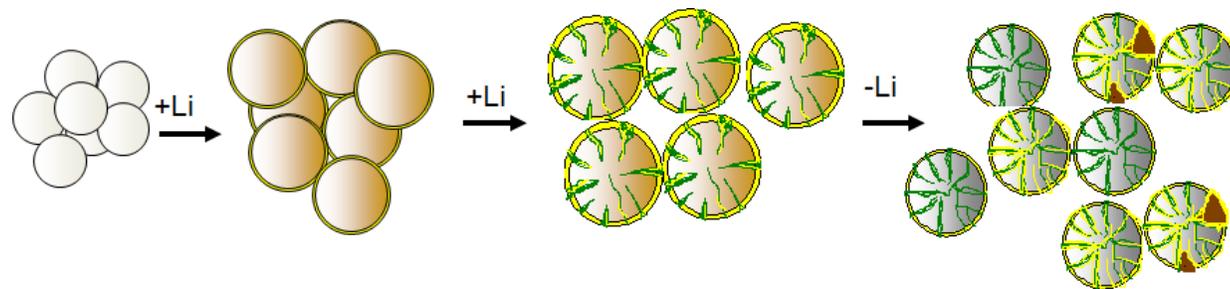
- Impact of electrolyte/salt residues on long-term performance (stability and rate)?
- Impact on solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) formation and stability?
- Multiple recycling of graphite possible? Degradation effects?

Challenges and Strategies for Si-Based Anodes

- High volume changes during lithiation/de-lithiation
- Pulverization/"cracking" of Si particles
- Contact loss of particles from electronically conductive network or current collector
- Instability of solid electrolyte interphase (SEI): Breakage and re-formation
- High active lithium losses by continuous electrolyte decomposition (low Coulombic efficiency)

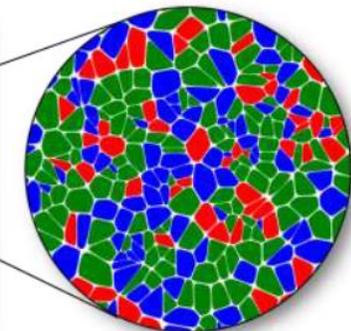
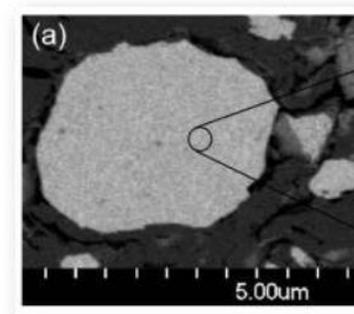
Strategies

- Active/inactive matrix concept (nano-Si in inactive matrix)
 - Si/Carbon composite materials
 - Si/intermetallics/carbon composite materials



3M approach:

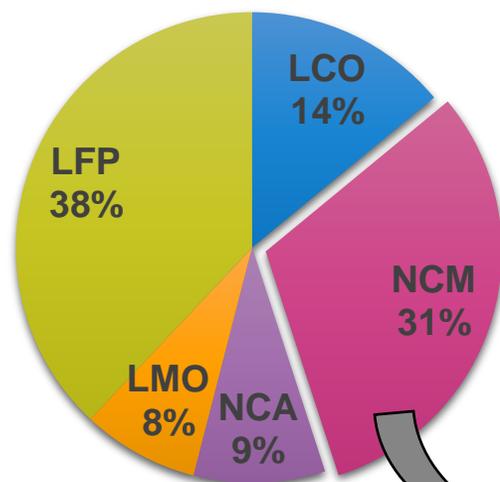
[1]



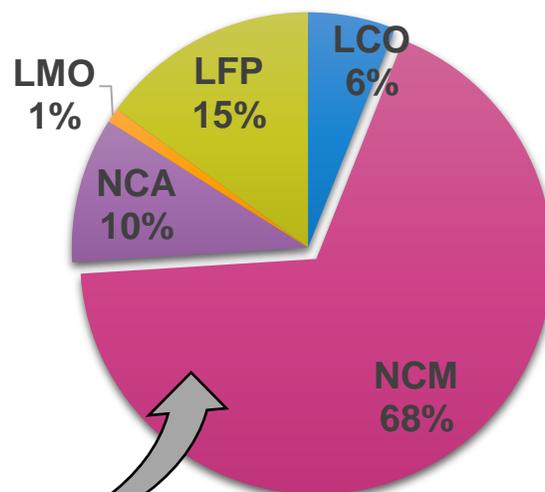
■ active
■ inactive

State-of-the-Art LIB Cathode Materials

Cathode materials (2016):
>270 000 tons



Cathode materials perspective
(2025): 850 000 tons



➤ LCO is mostly used for handheld consumer electronics (pouch cell lithium ion cells for mobile phones, tablets, *etc.*)

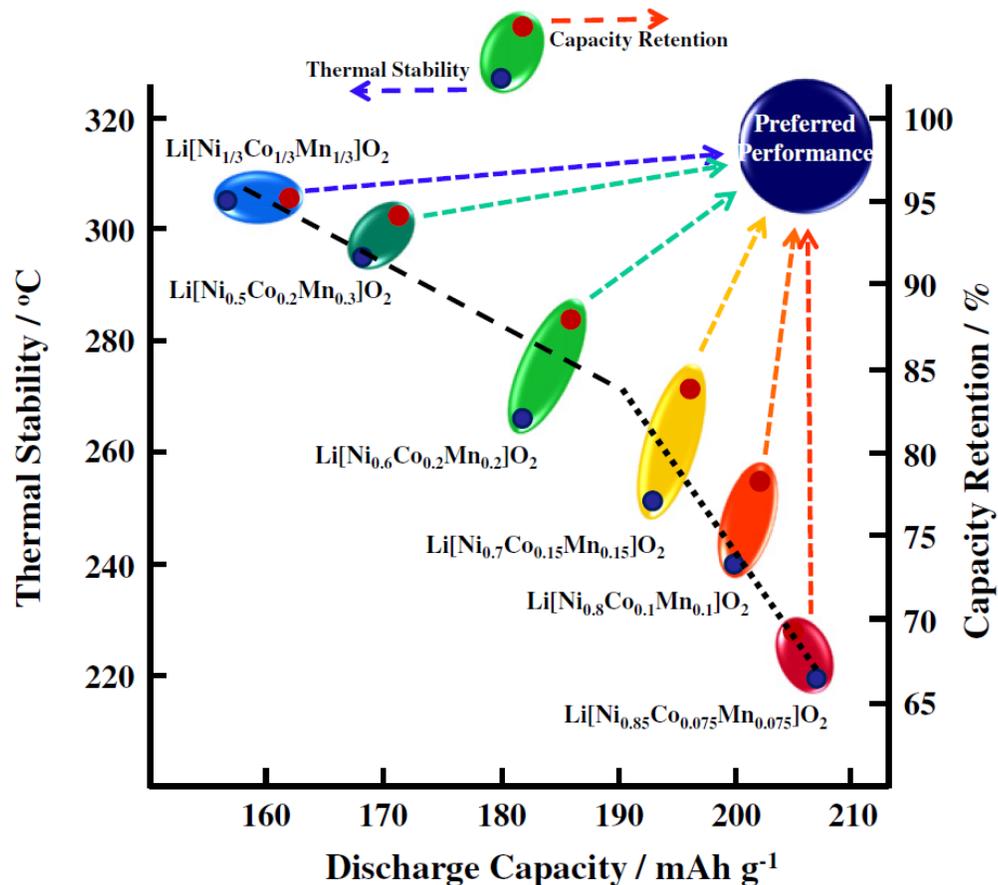
➤ NCM is used in other electronic devices and in large cells (EV applications)

➤ NCA is primarily used in 18650 cells (Panasonic, Tesla) and as blend with LMO for EV cells

➤ LMO is typically blended with NCM for EVs to adjust the P/E ratio:
Trend: LMO/NCM 75:25 → LMO/NCM 25:75

➤ LFP is primarily used for EVs and electric buses in China, as well as for industrial or stationary applications

State-of-the-Art LIB Cathode Materials: NCM-based Layered Oxides



NCM111 (Gen2a) NCM523 (Gen2b) NCM622 (Gen2b-3a) NCM811 (Gen3a) NCM910 (Gen3a/b)

Increasing nickel content

Increasing capacity

Ni: 33%	Ni: 50%	Ni: 60%	Ni: 80%	Ni: 90%
Co: 33%	Co: 20%	Co: 20%	Co: 10%	Co: 10%
Mn: 33%	Mn: 30%	Mn: 20%	Mn: 10%	Mn: 0%

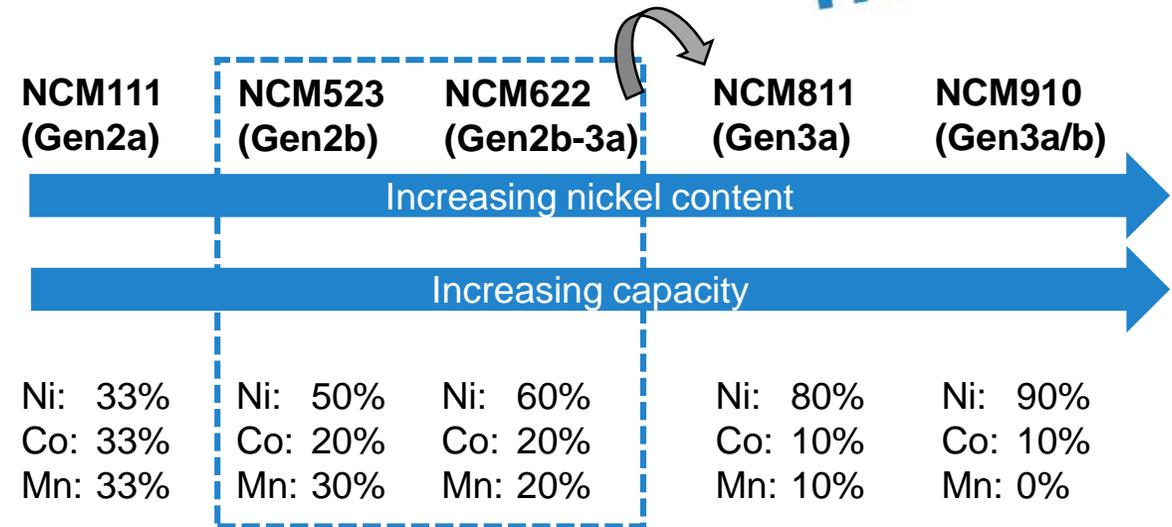
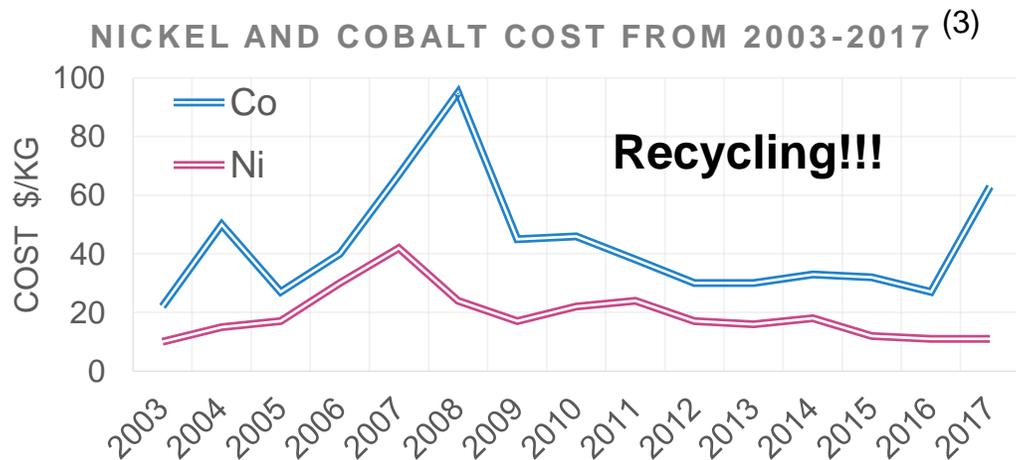
- NCM523 and NCM622 (and NCA) can be considered as state-of-the-art materials for xEV applications
- NCM811: short-term goal for EV applications
- Higher Ni-content
 - Lower cost of raw materials
 - Challenges: Safety, lifetime and manufacturing

State-of-the-Art LIB Cathode Materials: NCM-based Layered Oxides



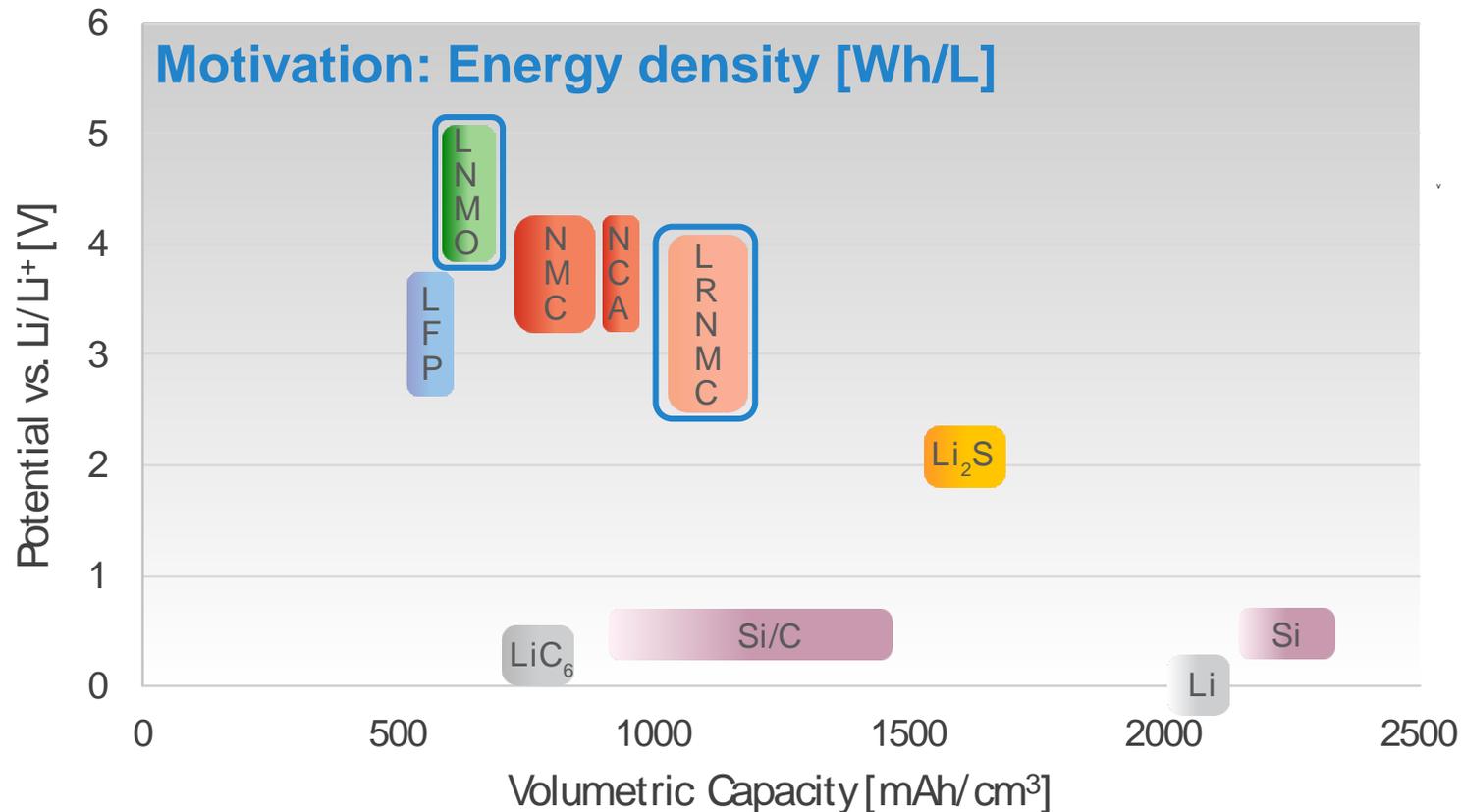
➤ Cost drivers:

- Lithium is not considered as potential cost driver⁽²⁾
- Cost increase risk: especially Cobalt and Nickel pricing



- NCM523 and NCM622 (and NCA) can be considered as state-of-the-art materials for xEV applications
- NCM811: short-term goal for EV applications
- Higher Ni-content
 - Lower cost of raw materials
 - Challenges: Safety, lifetime and manufacturing

Promises of High-Capacity/High-Voltage Cathode Materials



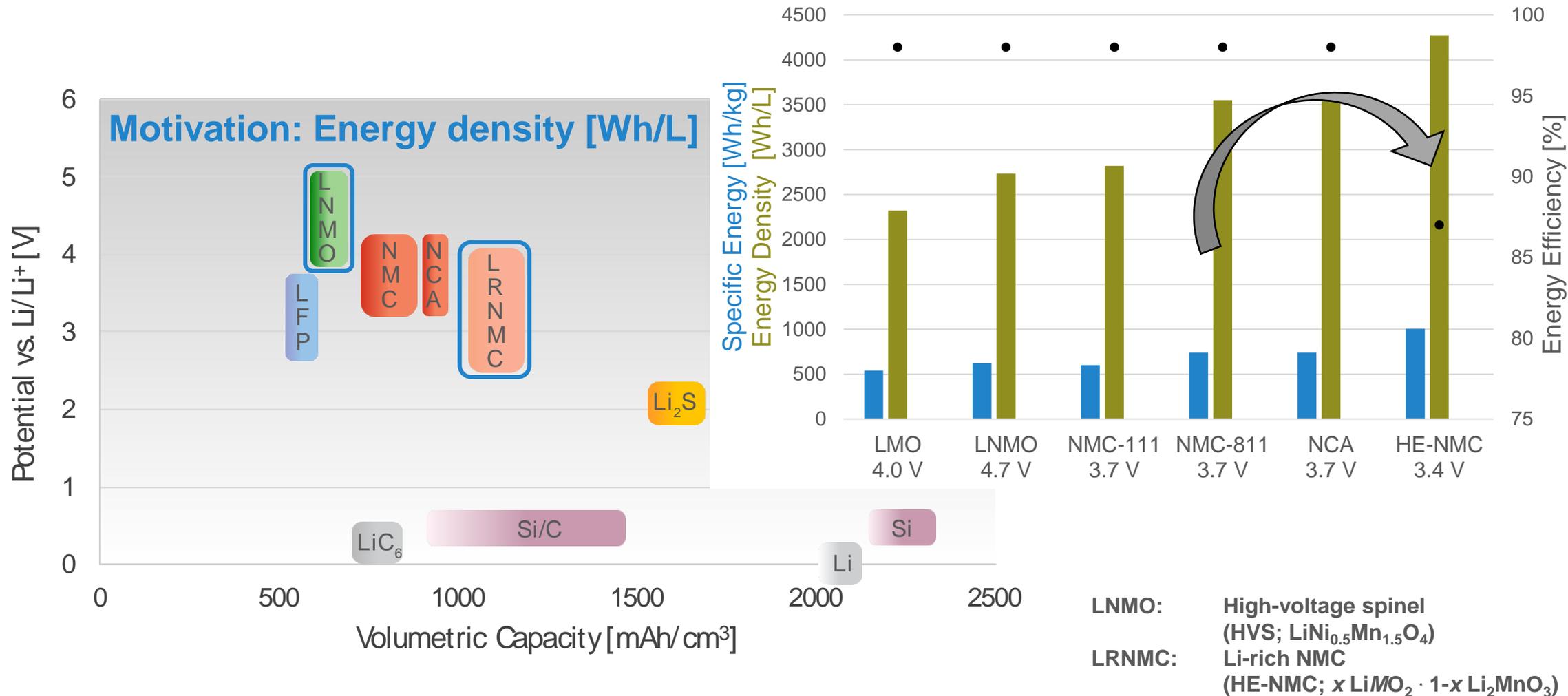
➤ Volumetric energy density [Wh/L] is of higher importance for mobile applications than specific energy [Wh/kg]

➤ With respect to cathodes:

- High capacity
- High redox potential
- High material density

LNMO: High-voltage spinel (HVS; $\text{LiNi}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{1.5}\text{O}_4$)
LRNMC: Li-rich NMC (HE-NMC; $x \text{LiMO}_2 \cdot (1-x) \text{Li}_2\text{MnO}_3$)

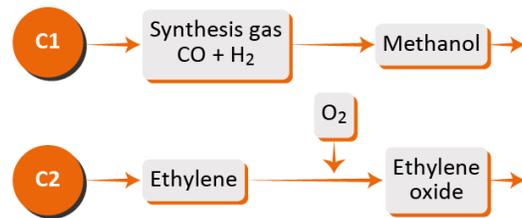
Promises of High-Capacity/High-Voltage Cathode Materials



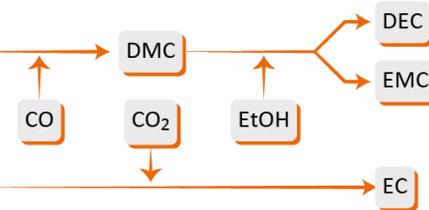
State-of-the-art Electrolyte: Mixtures of Carbonates and LiPF₆

Electrolyte Solvents

Step 1: Precursor via C1 and C2 Route



Step 2: Solvent Preparation



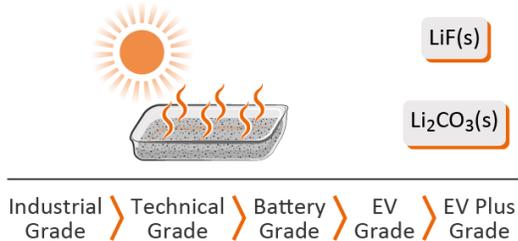
Step 3: Electrolyte Preparation



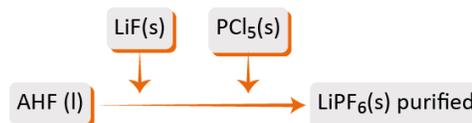
Typical electrolyte contains:
 12,6 % by weight Salt
 0-10% by weight Additives
 ≈ 85% by weight Solvent

Electrolyte Salt (LiPF₆)

Step 1: Mining and Precursors



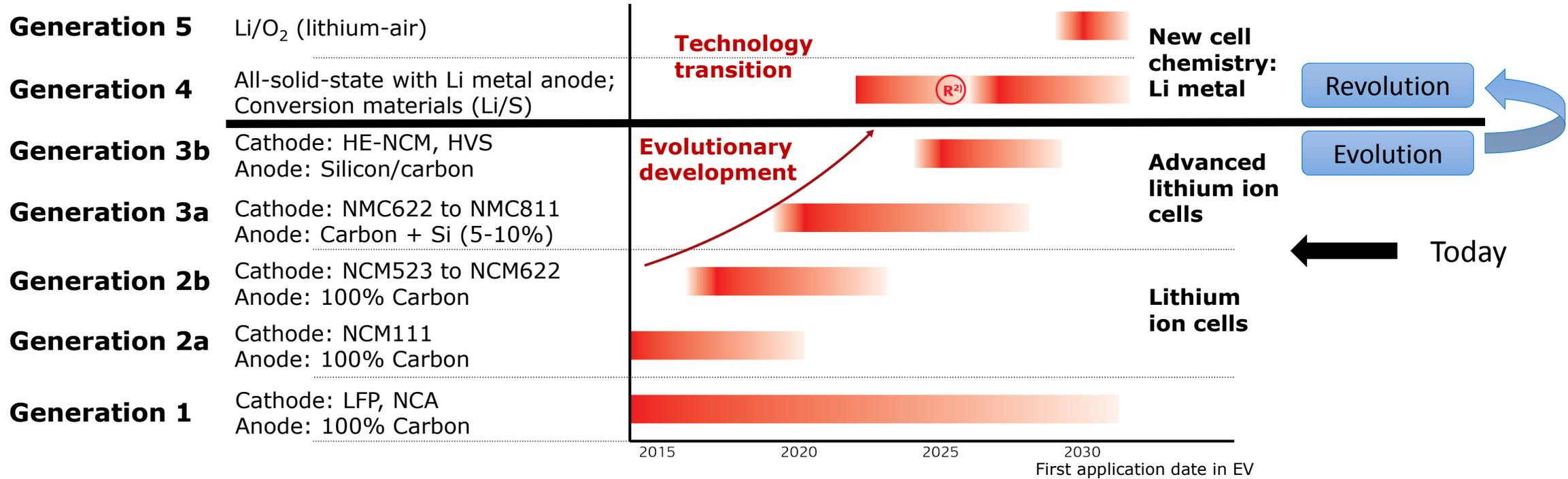
Step 2: Salt Manufacturing Process



Current research focusses on novel additives for interface stabilization:

- Anode: Solid electrolyte interphase (“SEI”)
- Cathode: Cathode electrolyte interphase (“CEI”)
- High voltage (>4.5 V) electrolyte additives and solvents

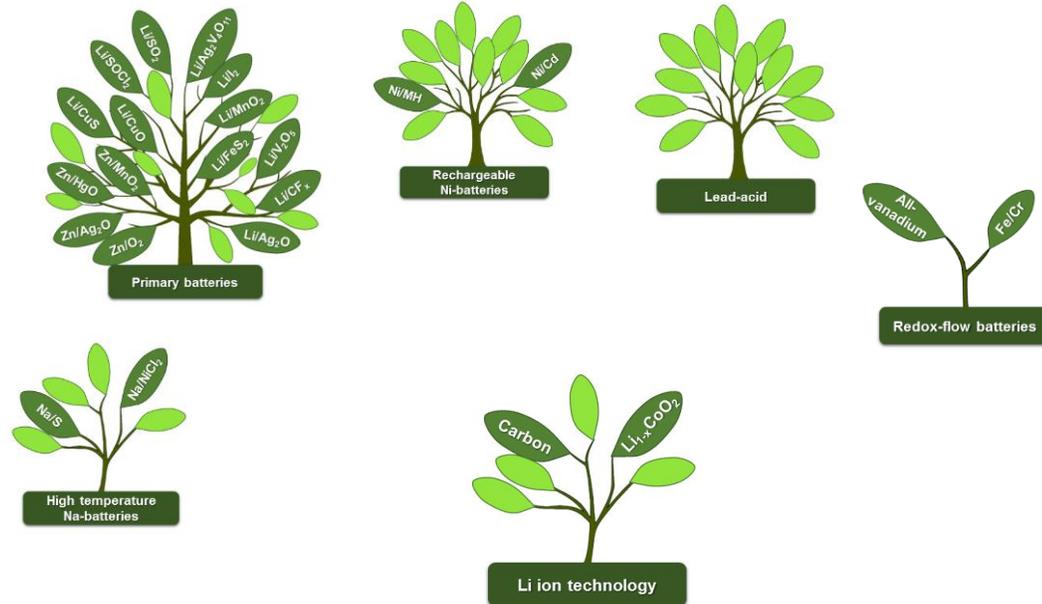
Technological Roadmap of Battery Cell Chemistries



2) Risk of earlier market entrance

Research & Development of Battery Technologies: Past, Present and Future

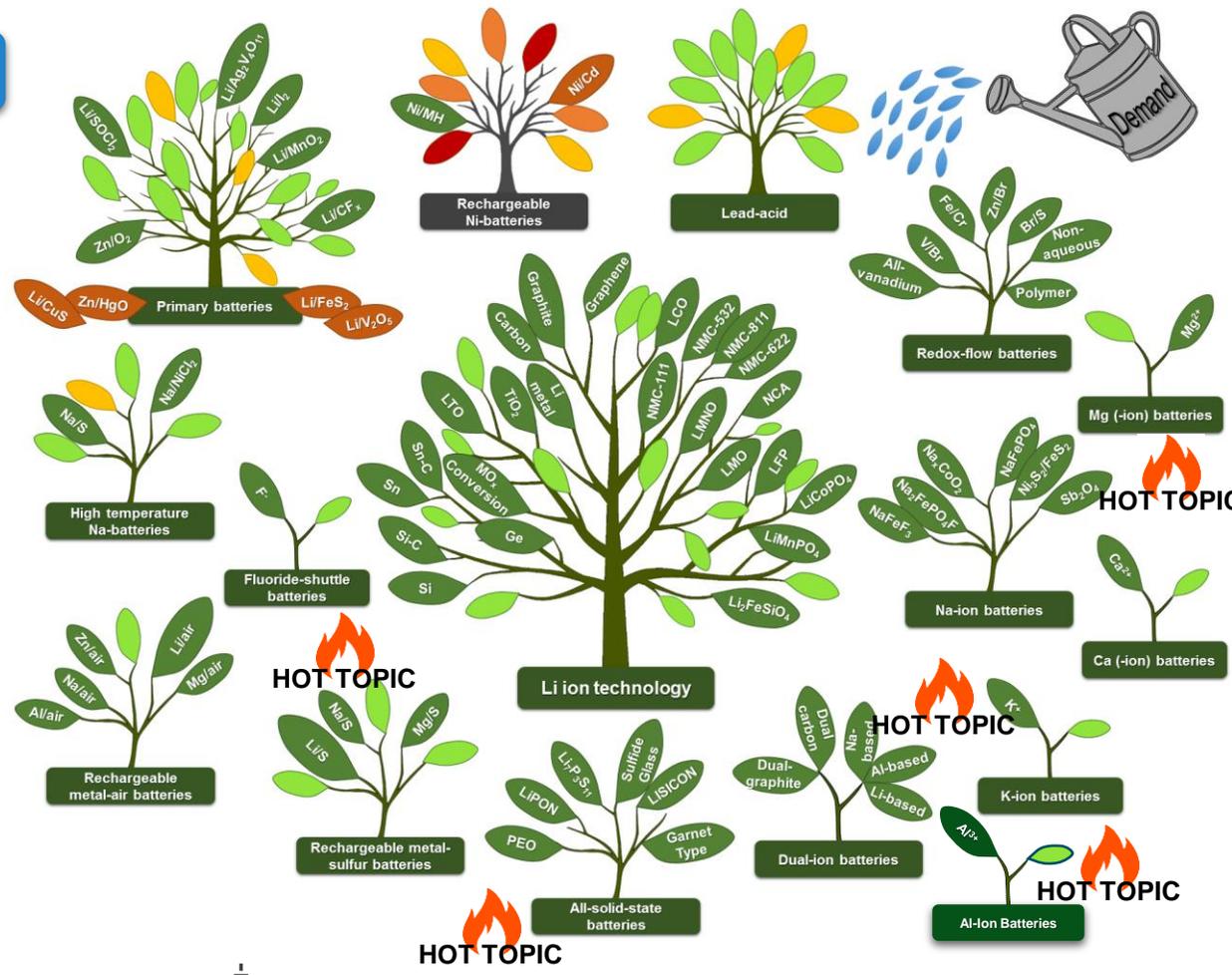
1991:



- The demand as well as the economic and social importance of rechargeable batteries increases rapidly (electronics, electro mobility, home storage, etc.)
- Versatile requirements: Significant diversification of battery technologies in the past >25 years

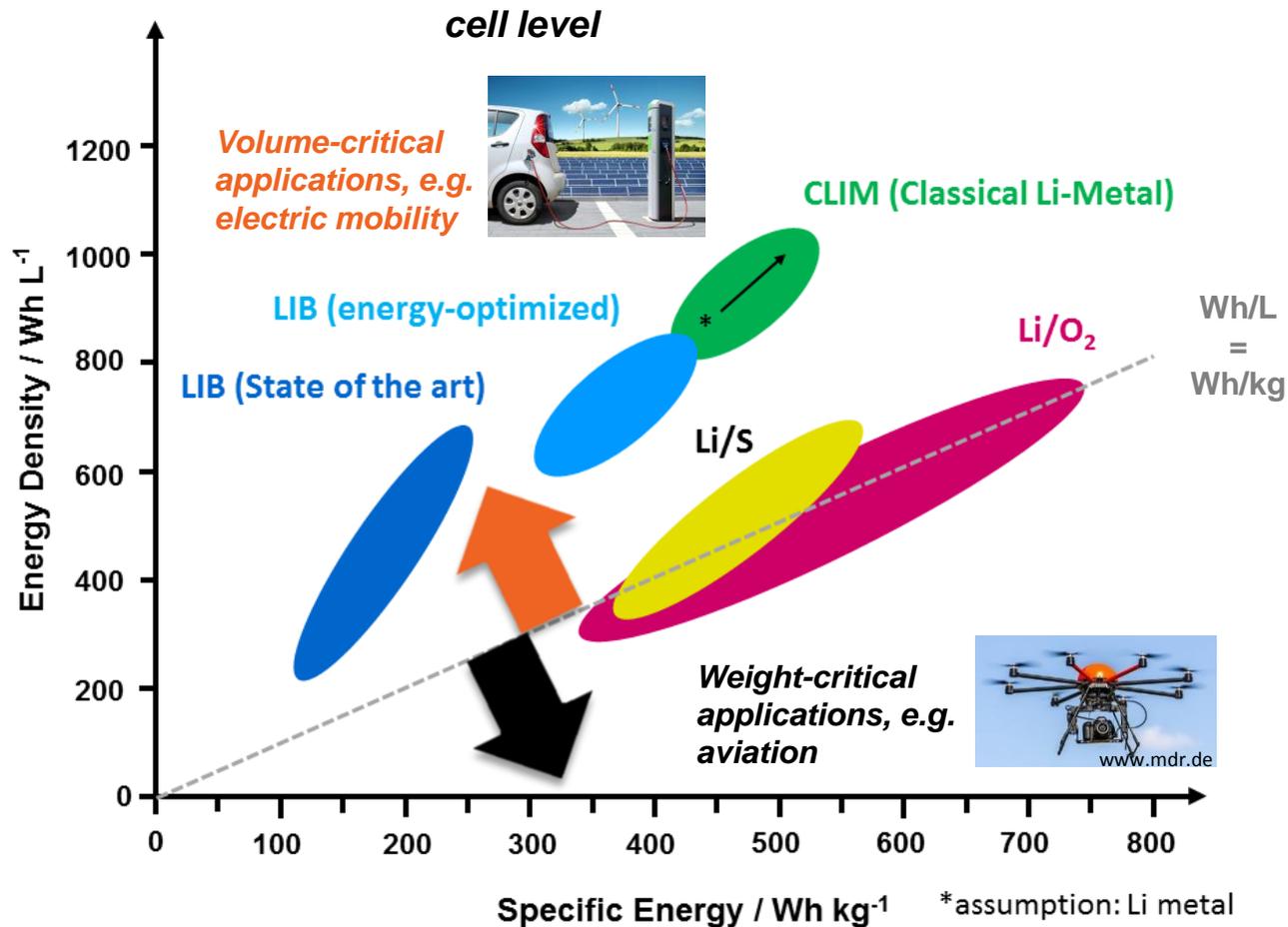
Research & Development of Battery Technologies: Past, Present and Future

2018:



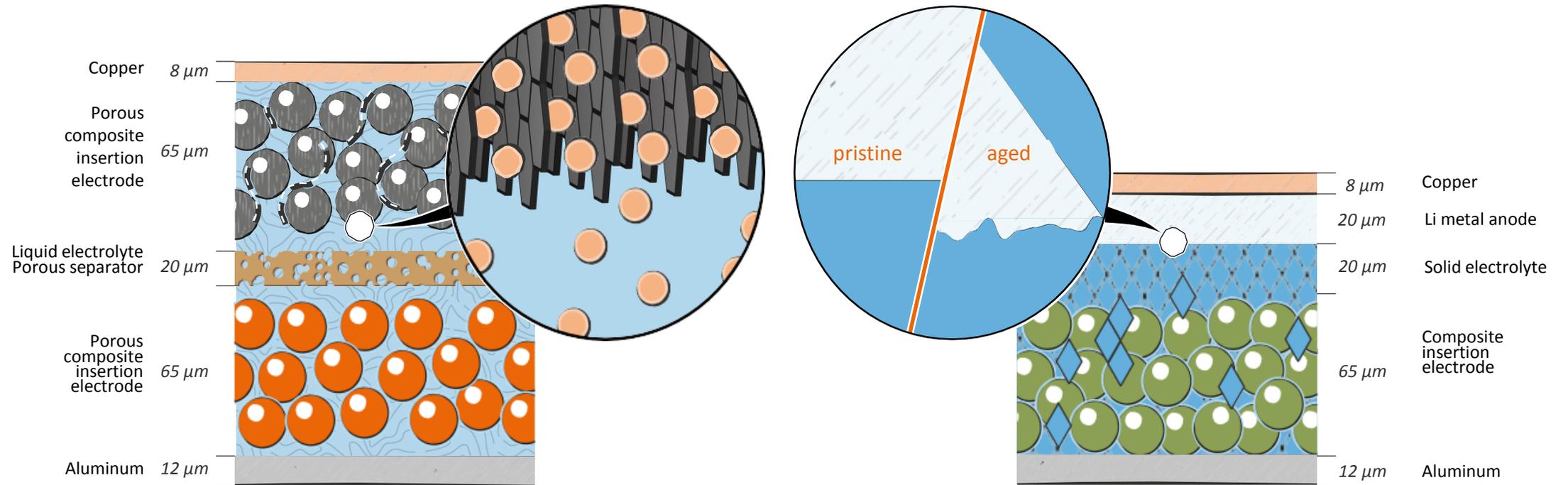
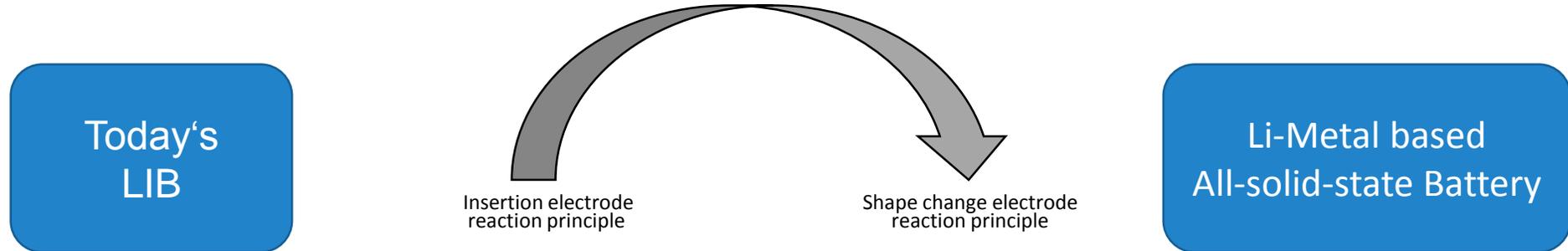
- The demand as well as the economic and social importance of rechargeable batteries increases rapidly (electronics, electro mobility, home storage, etc.)
- Versatile requirements: Significant diversification of battery technologies in the past >25 years
- Lithium ion batteries (LIBs): Global market in xEVs (HEVs, PHEVs, BEVs, etc.) and energy storage applications is huge and will be the largest in the near future
- LIBs approach their physicochemical limit in terms of energy: *Next generation? Alternatives? New Cell Chemistries?*

Performance Targets: Energy Density



- Different battery technologies will be available at the market in parallel
- Application-specific usage of different battery systems (e.g. high energy vs. high power)
- Evolutionary development of each specific battery technology
- Classification of battery technologies:
 - Lithium ion systems
 - Lithium metal systems (ASSB, Li/S, Li/O₂)
 - Other/alternative battery systems (Na, Mg, Ca, Al, Dual-ion, etc.)

Lithium Metal Anodes: Enabled by Solid Electrolytes?



Solid Electrolytes: A Reality Check

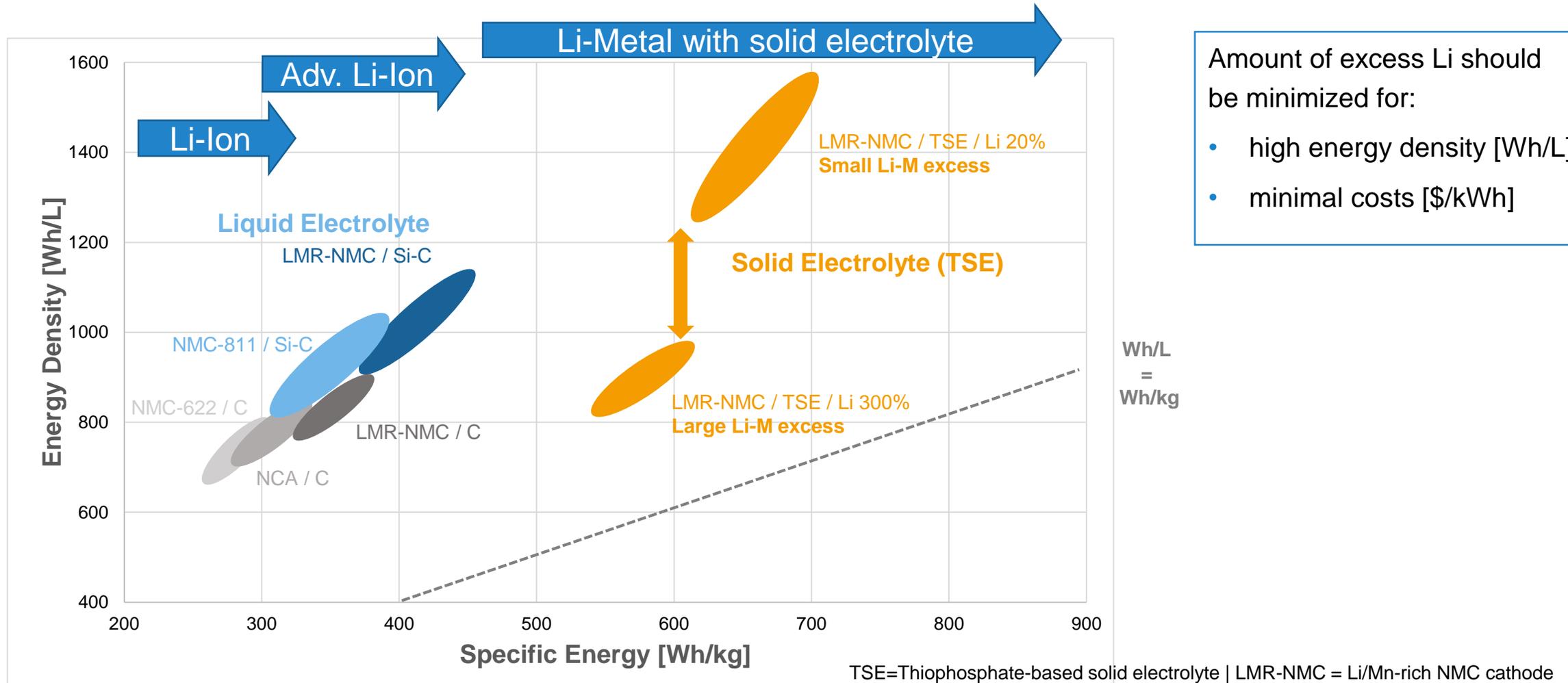
Expectations

- Higher safety
- No cross-contamination of transition metals in electrode compartments (cross-talk)
- No dendrite formation, use of Li metal
- Higher voltages (higher energy density)
- Wide range of operation temperatures
- Long-term stability (cycle life, calendar life)
- Less expensive materials for inactive materials (current collection)
- Simplified thermal management

Unsolved Problems

- Slow kinetics in electrodes
- Ionic conductivity in electrodes
- Volume changes in electrodes
- „Dendrite“ formation
- Interfacial resistances
- Interfacial delaminations
- Enhanced deterioration during cycling
- Higher cost
- Battery design

Estimated Electrode Stack Energy Density



Amount of excess Li should be minimized for:

- high energy density [Wh/L]
- minimal costs [\$/kWh]

Conclusion

- Roadmaps have identified the **dominant technology** for the next decade(s): The **lithium ion technology** (with or without solid electrolyte).
- There will be **no universal LIB technology** for all application purposes, but rather a variety of chemistries and configurations for specialized applications.
- The highest potential to improve key performance indicators (energy, cost, *etc.*) of LIBs is on the **material level**.
- Most promising strategies for **energy density improvements of LIBs** are the implementation of higher Si-contents in high-energy anodes as well as to increase the Ni-content of layered cathode materials.
- Li-metal based chemistries, in particular **all-solid-state-batteries** can further enhance the *energy content*. However, it will be **challenging to be cost competitive** to further improved LIBs.
- Novel **sustainable technologies “beyond lithium”** have been explored, such as batteries based on monovalent (Na^+ , K^+) and multivalent (Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Al^{3+}) ions. However, it will be challenging to compete with advanced LIBs in terms of energy content and/or cost per energy.
- Foreseen 10% yearly increase in the number of batteries produced will inevitably need recycling to recover metals/materials whose abundance is limited: **efficient recycling of materials** is mandatory.



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Dr. Tobias Placke

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“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Philosopher



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University of Münster (WWU)

