PENN<u>State</u>



Electrochemical Engine Center

## Computer-Aided Engineering and Next Generation Development of Electric Drive Batteries

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# Outline

- 1. Background & Penn State Battery R&D
- 2. Computer-Aided Engineering of xEV Batteries
- 3. Next Generation of xEV Batteries
- 4. Summary

## **Electrochemical Engine Center**

- Founded in 1997
- Engaged in battery and fuel cell research for vehicle electrification



















## **Lithium-Ion Battery Manufacturing Facility**













## **Energy Storage Technologies for a Sustainable Future**

• Batteries for: PHEV, renewable energy storage, smart grids, etc.







• All-day power for iPhones, iPads, iPods, wireless society







# Winning the Future with Clean Energy

February 03, 2011 President Obama visits Penn State University and speaks about encouraging and investing in innovation and clean energy technologies to create new jobs, grow the economy, and win the future.



Penn State: #1 ranking in alternative energy among universities globally (Elsevier, 2010)

Penn State: #1 ranking in fuel cells among universities worldwide (ScienceWatch, 2009)

Penn State: one of only 3 Energy Hubs (\$129M in Energy Efficient Buildings)

### Penn State Energy Efficient Building Hub



#### Net-Zero Energy Building

## **Computer-Aided Engineering of Batteries**



# **Evaluating Various Designs**



# **Design Optimization for 50% Gain in Energy Density**



- Ensuring current distribution uniformity (and hence uniformly high utilization of active materials) quantitatively impacts the cell's energy density (by as much as 50%)
- It is as significant as developing advanced Li-ion chemistries or going beyond Li-ion! In addition, it makes immediate commercial advances!

## **Cycle Life – Key to EV Commercialization**

- battery cycle life is a major challenge
- directly impacts warranty and hence cost
- very time-consuming and expensive information
- computer simulation ~500x faster than real testing time, e.g.
  - > for 6-min pulsed power cycle, simulation  $\sim 1$  s
  - ➢ for 1h charge/discharge, simulation ~ 10 s
  - ➢ for 6-12 months cycle life testing, simulation ~ 12-24 hrs



<u>10% error in life prediction</u> <u>results in 50% cell failure</u> <u>before expiration of warranty.</u>

### **Cycle Life Prediction – Key to EV Commercial Viability**



### **Cycle Life Prediction & Exp. Validation – NMC-Gr Chemistry**



### **Predicting Battery SOH at Various T and C-rate**



### **Predicting Battery SOH for Different Chemistry**



• Cycle life is significantly shortened by elevated temperature: ~2,000 cycles at RT but <1,000 cycles at 45°C. This indicates the paramount importance of thermal management for battery pack life extension.

# **Lithium Battery Safety**



Peter Cohan, Contributor I write from near Boston about startups and political economy + Follow (263)



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#### 'Thermal Runaway' in 787 Dreamliner Batteries Must Be Stopped

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Boeing (BA) is certainly <u>eager to</u> <u>get its 787 Dreamliner back into</u> <u>service</u>. Unfortunately, all 50 of the over 500,000 pound, \$207 million aircraft that it's shipped years late after at least seven missed delivery deadlines – have been grounded.

And in a test of how much



My photos that I took at today's First Flight of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)



- Cost to Boeing of reimbursing airlines for the lost revenue due to Liion safety-related grounding of 787 was \$550M\*
- As Li-ion batteries become more energy dense (smaller), potential for catastrophic safety incident increases

# **Fundamentals of Battery Safety**



Active material thermal stability is NOT equal to battery safety. The latter is an integrated result of SEI layer stability, electrolyte stability, & anode/cathode material stability, as well as cell structure.



### <u>Thermal runaway</u> <u>experiment</u>



### **Nail Penetration & Internal Short**



## **Full and partial penetration**

#### **Full Penetration**









### **Internal short**

Internal Short (R<sub>short</sub> = 10 milliohms) Surface temperature



20

### **Enhanced Module/Pack Safety**



# **Overcharge: Effect of Cathode Material**



- Cell : NCM 20 Ah, LFP 20 Ah
- Thermal condition: Adiabatic
- Charge current : 1C, 10C



BYD e6 taxi (powered by LFP batteries) caught fire on 6/20/2013 at charging station in Hong Kong.

- Cathode material has dramatic effect on overcharge behavior. LFP is less tolerant to overcharge.
- Significant overcharge of LFP battery even at 1C leads to thermal runaway.

## **Li-S Battery for Transportation Energy Storage**

• Driving range per charge solely depends on energy density of batteries; 300-mile batteries are desirable.



## **Li-S Battery**

cathode	theoretical capacity (mAh/g)	electrode voltage	actual capacity	estimated price (\$)
LiCoO <sub>2</sub>	275	3.7	130-140	1
LiNiO <sub>2</sub>	274	3.4	170-180	0.86
LiMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	148	3.8	100-120	0.17
<b>V</b> <sub>2</sub> <b>O</b> <sub>5</sub>	400	2.5	120-200	
S <sub>8</sub>	1672	2.1	>1000	0.017



- Issues: polysulfide shuttle effect after dissolution, resulting in low efficiency, low active material utilization; low electronic conductivity
- Solutions: absorbents, electrolyte additives, graphene fillers, etc.

### Li-S Cell Performance @ C/10 Rate



### Li-S Cell Performance @ C/2 Rate



# Summary

- Current Generation Li-ion Battery for Vehicle Electrification:
  - Specific Energy or Energy Density: 200 Wh/kg or 400 Wh/L
  - Cycle Life: >5000
  - Cost (@ Cell Level): <\$150/kWh
  - High Safety: ~60Ah Cells and large packs still safe
  - CAE of vehicle batteries is a main tool to achieve all above.
- Beyond Li-ion:
  - Li-S battery for 300+ mile range
  - 2x or 3x energy density of current LiB
  - potentially low-cost
  - has achieved 1,000 mAh/g after 200 cycles in coin cells
  - prototyping in 1-10Ah being pursued.

## **Acknowledgements**

