

Tailoring fluorine-rich solid electrolyte interphase to boost long cycling stability of lithium metal batteries

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Schematics illustrating the role of DFEC in improving solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) and affection on Li deposition in ether electrolyte. Credit: Science China Press

In a study published in the journal *Science China Chemistry*, fluorinated cyclic carbonate (DFEC) was introduced into ether electrolyte as a SEI-forming additive. The modified electrolyte could improve the interface



of Li metal anode and achieve high efficiency and long cycling stability of LMBs.

LMBs are regarded as the most promising next-generation battery system due to the high specific capacity (3860 mAh g^{-1}) and low electrode potential (-3.04 V vs. SHE) of the Li metal <u>anode</u>.

However, there are many limiting factors which limit the development of LMBs—such as a side reaction between Li anode and <u>electrolyte</u>, Li dendrite growth and a serious volume effect of Li anode, etc.—which lead to low coulombic efficiency (CE) and poor cycle life. Stable solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) is the key to achieve <u>high efficiency</u> and long cycling stability of LMBs.

Adjusting SEI through electrolyte optimization is regard as a low-cost and efficient way to improve Li metal anode interface. So, it is critical to design an electrolyte formulation which can form a stable SEI, the key is the choice of solvents and film-forming additive.

Recently, Prof. Renjie Chen and Prof. Ji Qian proposed an ether-ester mixed electrolyte in which trans-difluoroethylene carbonate (DFEC) was introduced into the ether electrolyte as a film-forming additive. Firstly, ether electrolyte has good anti-reduction stability with Li metal. Secondly, due to the lower LUMO level of DFEC, it can be preferentially reduced during the initial cycle, forming LiF-rich SEI on the Li metal anode.

LiF-rich SEI can inhibit the growth of lithium dendrite, alleviate side reactions, and induce dense lithium deposition. Thanks to the above advantages, the LMBs using modified electrolyte show high efficiency and stable cycling performance. The first author of this paper is Tianyang Xue, a graduate student at Beijing Institute of Technology, and the corresponding authors are Prof. Renjie Chen, Prof. Ji Qian, and



Prof. Xingming Guo.

A few implications thus emerge for designing an electrolyte to boost high efficiency and long cycling stability of LMBs. This work explores the interphase chemistry of LMBs, and provides important insights for further study on the novel electrolyte system for LMBs.

More information: Tianyang Xue et al, Tailoring fluorine-rich solid electrolyte interphase to boost high efficiency and long cycling stability of lithium metal batteries, *Science China Chemistry* (2023). DOI: 10.1007/s11426-022-1623-2

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