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Module - 01 Introduction to electrochemical energy storage and conversion Lecture - 05 Kinetics of Electrochemical Cells and Structural Characteristics of Electrodes

Welcome to the course Electrochemical Energy Storage and we are in module 1 at the last lecture, lecture number 5, where I will be still continuing the thermodynamic aspect Kinetics of Electrochemical Cells. Then, I will introduce briefly the Structural Characteristics of the Electrode materials.

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Now, you know that in this particular lecture, we will consider electrode and electrolyte requirements to construct a cell. Then, we will introduce Gibbs-Duhem equation which is important to understand the other concepts I will teach.

Then, we will talk about electrode kinetics and its origin. And in order to do that, I will talk about Butler-Volmer and Tafel equations which are very important to understand a certain basics of electrochemical energy storage.

Then, I will briefly introduce the elementary crystallography and some important crystal structure pertinent to electrochemical energy storage and then, other important structural characteristics of lithium-ion battery materials.

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So, you know that we already have this term defined and as you can see that there is open circuit voltage that I was talking about, this is the difference of the chemical potential of electron in cathode and anode.

$$
V_{OC} = (\mu_e^c - \mu_e^a)/F
$$

So, it is shown here the cathode which is given in the left-hand side and anode in the right-hand side. So, in an ideal electrochemical cell the band gap of the electrolyte, which is E_g , must be greater than this voltage eV_{OC}.

In addition to that, electrolyte to be stable under operation, it should not dissociate.

So, the LUMO band of the electrolyte should be placed above the Fermi energy level of the anode.

And on the other hand, the HOMO band this should be placed below the Fermi level of the cathode. This is required otherwise the electrolyte will get involved in the electron transfer process during operation.

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Now, in chemical thermodynamics, Gibbs-Duhem equation is a concept which comes under partial molar properties. Consider an open system with n_1 , n_2 , n_3 n_n moles of constituents at temperature T and P. So, you can write the free energy that is a function of temperature, pressure and moles.

$$
G = f(T, P, n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_i), \text{ total mole is } \sum_{1}^{i} n_i = N
$$

So, any small fluctuation either in temperature or in pressure or in this mole fraction n_i actually yields the following result.

$$
dG = \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial T}\right) P, ni, n2...ni dT + \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial P}\right) T, ni, n2...ni dP + \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial n_1}\right) P, T, n2, n3...ni d n1
$$

$$
+ \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial n_2}\right) P, Tn3...ni + ... + \left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial n_i}\right) P, T, n1, n2....ani d
$$

So, now, from the definition,

$$
\left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial n_i}\right)P, T, n1, n2 \dots = chemical potential \mu_i
$$

 μ is also known as partial molar Gibbs free energy.

Now at constant P and T we can write

$$
dG = \mu_1 dn_1 + \mu_2 dn_2 + \mu_3 dn_3 + \dots \mu_i dn_i
$$

At definite composition, integrating $G(p,T,N) = \mu_1 n_1 + \mu_2 n_2 + \mu_3 n_3 + \dots \mu_i n_i$

Differentiating it by parts

$$
dG = (\mu_1 \, dn_1 + \mu_2 \, dn_2 + \ldots \mu_i \, dn_i) + (n_1 \, d\mu_1 + n_2 \, d\mu_2 + \ldots + n_i \, d\mu_i)
$$

Red marked expression is dG, hence

$$
\sum n_i \, \mathrm{d}\mu_i = 0
$$

For two components

$$
n_1 d\mu_1 = - n_2 d\mu_2
$$

So, this is actually the Gibbs Duhem equation. From this, I can understand that any change in chemical potential of any one of this component which is there in the system is not independent with the other component. The other component will also change to maintain this relationship. So, if you change the chemical potential of one particular component, the other component will also get affected.

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So, now, we will talk about the electrode kinetics. In the last lecture, we considered a very simple case where we calculated the cell potential under no-load condition. But if you consider a practical battery, this is certainly not the case, we use the battery so that we can draw current out of it right.

So ultimately, we create a flow of electron and ions in the whole electrochemical cell. Consider a Daniel cell zinc and copper, you are connected with a wire so, zinc gets oxidized; electron flows from the wire and goes to the cathode; and from the electrolyte copper ions take this electron. And then, they get reduced. So, this part when a flow of electron is there, it is not under open circuit condition. So, we will consider only this behavior of electrode, the transport phenomena of the electrolyte is actually beyond the scope of this particular lecture.

So, at the electrode, a reaction takes place involving the exchange of the species. So, thermodynamics dictates that what is the cell potential would be under equilibrium condition when the rates of forward and backward reactions are equal.

So, by creating a change in the electrochemical potential of the electrons away from the equilibrium condition, a current flow can be induced, where the rate of either of the forward or backward reaction is higher than the other. So, that is the concept of the socalled electrode kinetics. So, we will elaborate it.

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From Eyring's activated complex theory

Rate constant (K) can be defined as follows, where B is a constant, R gas constant, T is temperature

$$
K = B. \, exp \, \left(-\frac{\Delta G \, *}{RT}\right)
$$

So, again, you consider the physical process what is going on, diffusion is prevailing through electrolyte. Lithium-ion is coming from anode or cathode and going to the respective other electrode. Then, absorption on the electrode is taking place. At this point, transfer of electron is possible. Electron is coming from the outer circuit and then, transfer of electron possible and then finally, desorption of electron is taking place at the interface. This lithium is finally diffusing inside the electrode. So, electrolyte diffusion is there, absorption of this charge species is there, transfer of electron is there, desorption of electron is there. And then finally, diffusion of the uncharged species inside the active material is occuring.

 C_0 and C_R are the concentration of oxidized and reduced species

 K_c . C_o and K_a . C_R are the rates for cathodic and anodic processes.

Magnitude of charge transfer $F = e$. N_a (Avogadro's number)

Charge transfer per mole, $F = e$

I can always write the anodic current as

Anodic current $i_a = F$. K_a . C_R

Cathodic current i_c=F. K_c . C_o

Total Current $i = F$. K_a . C_R – F. K_c . C_o

So, under equilibrium process, probably this two anodic and cathodic current will be equal. So, this is your electrode surface. And here, there is a potential barrier, it must cross for this anodic and cathodic current to flow and this is the Helmholtz plane which I already defined so, that is due to this charged surface this double layer this plane that is there.

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Inserting the expression for K we get

$$
i = F. B_a. C_R. e \frac{-\Delta G_a^*}{RT} - F. B_c. C_0. e \frac{-\Delta G_a^*}{RT}
$$

So, clearly when this anodic current is more than the cathodic current, then total current is positive. When cathodic current is more than anodic current, then the total current is negative. So, we call it is a cathodic process.

So, now, you consider an equilibrium process. So, in the non-equilibrium process so, metal ion is getting reduced, the work done is we can define this electron and the potential difference because now, it is not any more equilibrium process, but one is favorable with respect to others.

So, this was the red one was the so-called equilibrium process, but the blue one is a nonequilibrium process. You can see that if this if it if I consider this is cathodic, if it wants to go, you will have to cross an extra barrier here and then, pass this barrier and move here and on the other hand, in case of anodic process, you are gaining this so, you will have to go from only here to here. So, this is the difference.

So, in the cathodic process as I have said that del G star plus this alpha F and potential difference where this alpha term is a shape factor, it defines that where exactly is this electron, what is their position so, either it could be at 0 at 1 time one end and 1 is an other end so, the value will be in between 0 to 1.

So, you will have to cross this barrier and in case of anode, basically this one is gaining so, del G minus 1 minus alpha and F and del phi so, I can substitute the value for current i equation which I derive here.

 ΔG^* _c = ΔG^* + α F $\Delta \varphi$ where α (0 < α < 1) is a shape factor for reduction process, and

$$
\Delta G^*_{a} = \Delta G^* (1-\alpha) F \Delta \phi
$$

i=F.
$$
B_{a}
$$
. C_{R} e $\left(\frac{A_{G}}{RT}\right)$ e $\frac{(1-\alpha)F\Delta\varphi}{RT}$ - F. B_{c} . C_{O} e $\frac{A_{C}}{RT}$. e $\frac{\alpha F\Delta\varphi}{RT}$

So, I can define the over potential which is

$$
\eta = \Delta \varphi - \Delta \varphi_{eq}
$$

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So, over potential is defined as eta and this is a deviation from actual applied potential from equilibrium cell potential derived from thermodynamics, in order to drive a desired amount of current. So, there are three possible sources of this over potential. The 1st one is we call activation or surface potential that is basically created due to the activation barrier of electron transfer across the electrode-electrolyte interface.

2nd one is the ohmic over potential that is created due a resistance to ionic motion in the electrolyte, because ions are moving through the electrolyte in presence of a concentration gradient which otherwise was not there when we were talking about the equilibrium kind of situation. 3rd one is the concentration over potential.

So, electrochemical potential gradient is created due to the different concentration of the participating species. So, remember when we estimate the cell potential, it varies with the concentration.

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So, this over potential term I will now introduce in anodic current

$$
i_a = F. B_a. C_R e \left(\frac{-\Delta G^*}{RT}\right). e \frac{(1-\alpha)F\Delta \varphi_{eq}}{RT}. e \frac{(1-\alpha)F\eta}{RT} = i_a^{eq}. e \frac{(1-\alpha)\eta F}{RT}
$$

Similarly for cathodic current we get $i_c = i_c^{eq} e^{-\frac{\alpha \eta}{2m}}$ \boldsymbol{R}

Equilibrium condition: $i_a = i_c = i_o =$ exchange current density

$$
i = i_a - i_c = i_0
$$
 { $e \frac{(1-\alpha)\eta F}{RT} - e \frac{-\alpha \eta F}{RT}$ } [Butler Volmer Equation]

Now, when this over potential is very small, then you can put this exponential series and take the first two term.

$$
e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots
$$

 $i = i_0 [1 + \frac{(1 - \alpha)\eta F}{RT} - 1 + \alpha \eta F/RT)]$

$$
i = i_0 \frac{\eta F - \alpha \eta F + \alpha \eta F}{RT} = i_0 \cdot \frac{\eta F}{RT}
$$

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Now, there are two other possibility, another one is this over potential is very large and it is positive.

$$
i = i_0 e^{\frac{(1-\alpha)\eta F}{RT}}
$$

ln i= ln i₀+(1-\alpha) η F/RT

The third possibility is over potential is very large and negative

$$
i = -i_0 e \frac{-\alpha \eta F}{RT}
$$

$$
\ln(-i) = \ln i_0 - \frac{\alpha \eta F}{RT}
$$

So, this is the total summation of this two particular current right and you can see a part of it is linear so, that linear part is almost the case where your over potential is very small. So, from the Butler Volmer equation, we can actually derive the Tafel equation and it will be very important for us to see later how it works.

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So, now, the structure of the cathode or anode material is important. So, few basic requirements are there. The cathode should have a very high lithium chemical potential with respect to anode in order to maximize the voltage. So, voltage is high means your energy is also high.

Cathode and anode material should allow the insertion and exertion of large amount of lithium to maximize the total charge. So, we will have to search for that kind of electrode material.

If you consider the secondary or rechargeable lithium battery, then lithium insertion exertion should be reversible. Once it is coming out during charging, during discharging it must go back by an equal amount. There should not be any loss of lithium anywhere. So, that will give a good cycle life. Material should support a mixed conduction type of behavior with good electronic and lithium-ion conductivity. The performance at high current rates will get affected if either one is low. The material should be chemically stable without undergoing any reaction with the electrolyte. And finally, the material should be inexpensive and environmentally benign and lightweight in order to increase the gravimetric energy density.

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So, now, I will just brush you with certain known crystallographic concepts which you might have read in your second year course. If not, then I have cited two important references. You please read this chapter on crystal structure.

So, the crystal lattice is a three-dimensional array of points, and this is related by translation symmetry. So, translation you can occur at three independent directions. Depending on that, you have the lattice parameter and the angle between the respective lattice parameter that constitute the crystal lattice.

Unit cell is the smallest possible construction which is having highest symmetry. Crystal system: there are seven unique shapes that can be used to fill the three-dimensional space. These are seven crystal systems into which all crystals are classified.

Bravais lattice, there are 14 Bravais lattice, this constructed by three separate type: one is primitive with one lattice point per unit cell, then body centered lattice, one lattice point at the corners and one at the center or A, B, C or F centered lattice, a lattice point at the corners and others at either A, B or three F of the faces.

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Then, this is the relation between the lattice constant and the angle between them that define the different types of the crystal system and the highest symmetry is cubic, lowest symmetry is triclinic right.

And lattice point per cell, you can estimate for example, if you have a primitive lattice one lattice point at the interior of the cell can be thought belonging to entirely to that particular cell, if it is face, then it is half shared; if it is at the corner, it is shared by eight. So, we call basis which is group of atoms associated with each and every lattice point.

We can describe the crystal structure in terms of a Bravais lattice and a basis. So, basis and Bravais lattice constitute the crystal structure and the coordination number is important; number of nearest neighbor that we have.

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So, there are various types of symmetry and depending on the symmetry, we have 32 types of point group. This is a mirror plane, this one is first one is a 2-fold axis, 3-fold axis and 4-fold axis and it has shown that in case of 4-fold axis, if you 90 degree rotate it, you will get back the same points.

There could be an inversion. So, across this line, it is just inverted. There could be roto inversion, if it is a 4-fold axis, you go 90 degree and then, it will go to the other side, invert it. So, these are different types of symmetry operation.

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If you have this symmetry operation across the all crystal system, then in total you have 32 point groups and then, this point groups are arranged to give you the space group which is beyond the scope for this particular course, but indeed, we will be using the space group in defining certain things.

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So, sometimes a 3 axis system is not enough particularly, for the rhombohedral and hexagonal system so, there is a Miller indices hkl plane. In case of the hexagonal system, we have a Bravais-Miller notation which is having 4 index system and this three index system can be converted into four index system both for plane and direction and viceversa. So, there are certain algebraic way to do that, please go through the literature that I will suggest to clarify this idea

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And then, we have this Pauling rule which is important. The rule 1 is the coordinated polyhedron anion is formed about each cation and cation-anion distance is determined by the sum of these two radii and coordination number is determined by the radius ratio. Again, I am telling that this is the gist of the crystal structure, and you will have to read the chapter whatever I will give in the study material very thoroughly.

2nd rule is the stable structure, the total strength of bond that reach an anion in a coordination polyhedron from all neighboring cations should be equal to the charge of the anion. 3rd one, the polyhedra in a structure tend not to share edges or faces. If the edge are shared, the shared edges are shortened.

Shared faces are the least favorable. Then, the 4th rule is crystal containing different cations of high valance, and a small coordination number tends not to share polyhedron element with each other so, they will remain separated and final rule is the number of essential different kinds of constituents in the crystal tends to be small.

So, this Pauling rule defined particularly for the ionically bonded solid that how they are packed together. It is not an individual unit cell, but we are now considering the polyhedra which are connected.

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So, here is one example for the cube coordination number is 8 and R_c by R_a ratio, anion to cation, cation to anion ratio is 0.732 and you change that thing, your coordination number will change and the polyhedra will also change. Therefore, the triangle for example, it is lowest 0.155, for cube it is highest 0.732.

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Now, rock salt structure is one of them. Here, you can see that two interpenetrating fcc lattice that is there and example of this type of crystal lattice is FeO, cobalt oxide and manganese oxide etcetera.

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And then, we have another important crystal lattice is zinc blende and this is interpenetrating fcc lattice; one of anions and another one of cation which you can see it here. So, for wurtzite type of structure, we stack the tetrahedra as ABAB. For zinc blende, we stack the tetrahedra as ABCABC. So, this is also another important crystal structure. Examples are zinc oxide, aluminum nitrate and beryllium oxide.

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The other one is molybdenum disulfide. In molybdenite, the Mo atoms are located in the position which correspond to the unit cell of the fcc structure and sulphur-sulphur pair is

centered along the c-direction here and the stacking sequence can be written as A and small b and then again, capital A capital B small a capital B. The capital letter that denotes the S atom and lower-case letter as Mo atoms.

The metal atom has coordination number 6 as it is in the TiO 2 and cadmium iodide structure. More ionic compound form rutile structure which I have not defined in this particular lecture, and it is a homework to read about the rutile structure for you.

Because of the weak interlayer van-der waals forces, the layer can slip with respect to each other. This is a good dry lubricant like graphite. Graphite is also having a layer structure. Due to weak inter layer bonding, it can also store external ions between the sheets. So, for lithium-ion also, this kind of structure for lithium-ion battery will be important.

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Spinel structure, I will be talking in details. It is basically a cubic closed pack structure and inside the oxygen packing, there are two types of void, tetrahedral type and octahedral type. Tetrahedral type voids are assumed by double valent cations and octahedral are usually trivalent cation.

The normal spinel is having a structure AB 2 O 4 and there are possibility for inverse spinal structure where the formula is BAB O 4, all the octahedral void content comes to the tetrahedral void and sorry half of this octahedral bond octahedral void content comes to the tetrahedral and whole tetrahedral goes to the octahedral. So, that is the inverse spinel structure and we will come back to this type of structure while I will be talking more about the lithium-ion battery operation.

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Finally, perovskite structure is as you can see there are three different types of cation, the central octahedral position usually titanium sits here, oxygen shows sits in the face centered and corners resumed by larger cation like barium and this type of material also we have used to make the electrode material although not very common.

But as a part of a short case study, I will introduce it more whenever we talk about the use of perovskite and spinel structure for lithium-ion battery.

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And finally, these are the olivine structure the tetrahedra is associated from one another that means, the tetrahedra do not share any oxygen ions. Usually, hexagonal ABAB kind of stacking of anions is similar to one seen in alumina. Unlike alumina, some of the cations are also in the tetrahedral sites and others are in the octahedral sites like spinel. Like spinel the pairs of tetrahedra are not actually sharing edge. So, this is the complicacy of this type of structure.

The result of this kind of distribution of cations is that the crystal structure is orthorhombic, with a b lattice parameter by far the longest one and O 2 minus ions, they are at the corner of the tetrahedra, they are linked by O-A and O bonds. This is also another type of structure which is heavily used in case of lithium as well as sodium ion batteries.

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So, for a this particular lecture, the Barry Carter book is a good one and for the other part, the thermodynamic part along with the other reference, you should consider this book as well and especially, the basics of crystal structure Askeland and Phule, this book is quite good and the whole chapter 3 should be read very seriously.

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So, in this particular lecture, initially I talked about electrode-electrolyte requirement, then Gibbs Duhem equation, then electrode kinetics and then, Butler Volmer and Tafel equations. Then, basic structure characteristics of lithium-ion battery materials are established, crystallography was introduced and revisited.

Although, it is not a exhaustive treatment and I just touch certain points and you will have to read if you are not familiar with this, whoever is familiar with this structure, it is ok and study of different types of crystal structure relevant to battery materials are introduced.

Thank you for your attention.