
Impact of Interface Electrochemistry on Li-Battery Performance:

A first-step study towards multi-scale modeling

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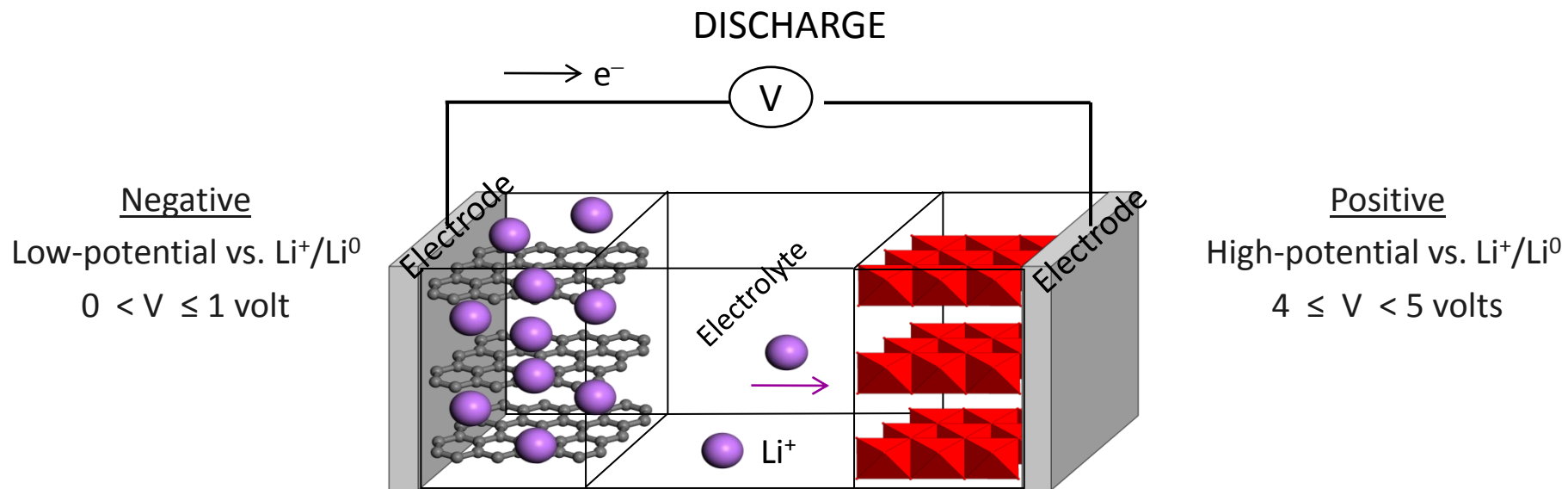


The french network on
electrochemical energy storage



- Introduction to Li-Ion Batteries
- QM strategy / methodology for interface electrochemistry
- Results on multi-phased / nanosized conversion electrodes
- Conclusions / Challenges for multi-scale modeling in Li-ion batteries

- ✓ Secondary (rechargeable) electrochemical devices



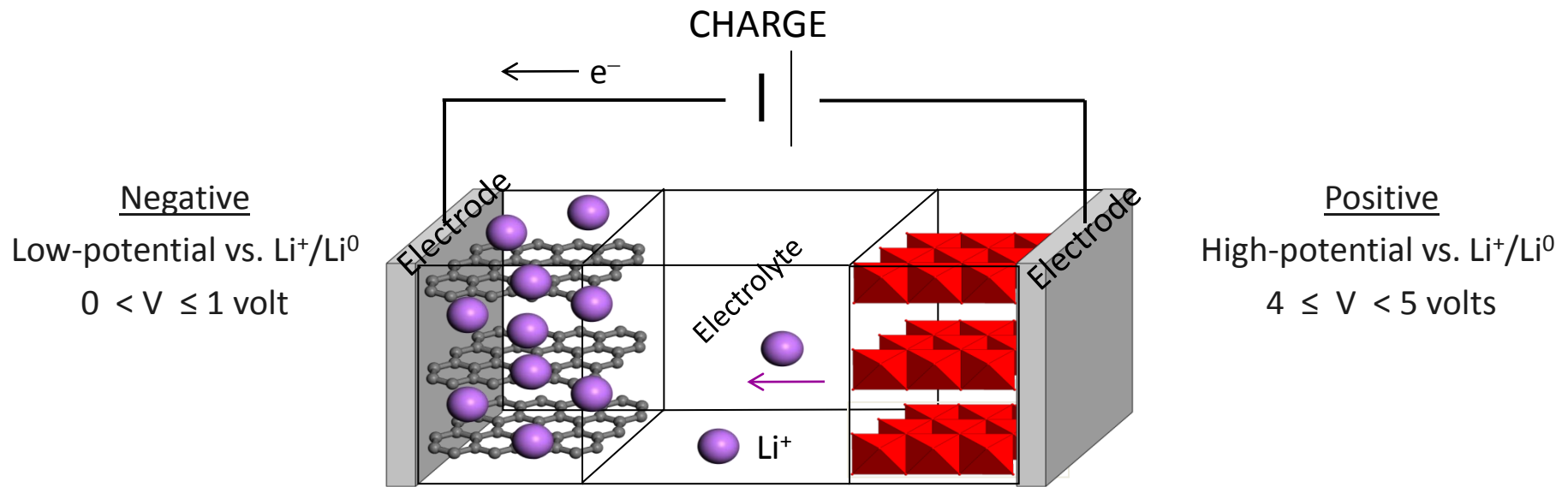
Two simultaneous reversible electrochemical reactions

Working voltage

$$V = -\frac{\Delta_r G}{nF}$$

G : Gibbs energy

- ✓ Secondary (rechargeable) electrochemical devices



Two simultaneous reversible electrochemical reactions

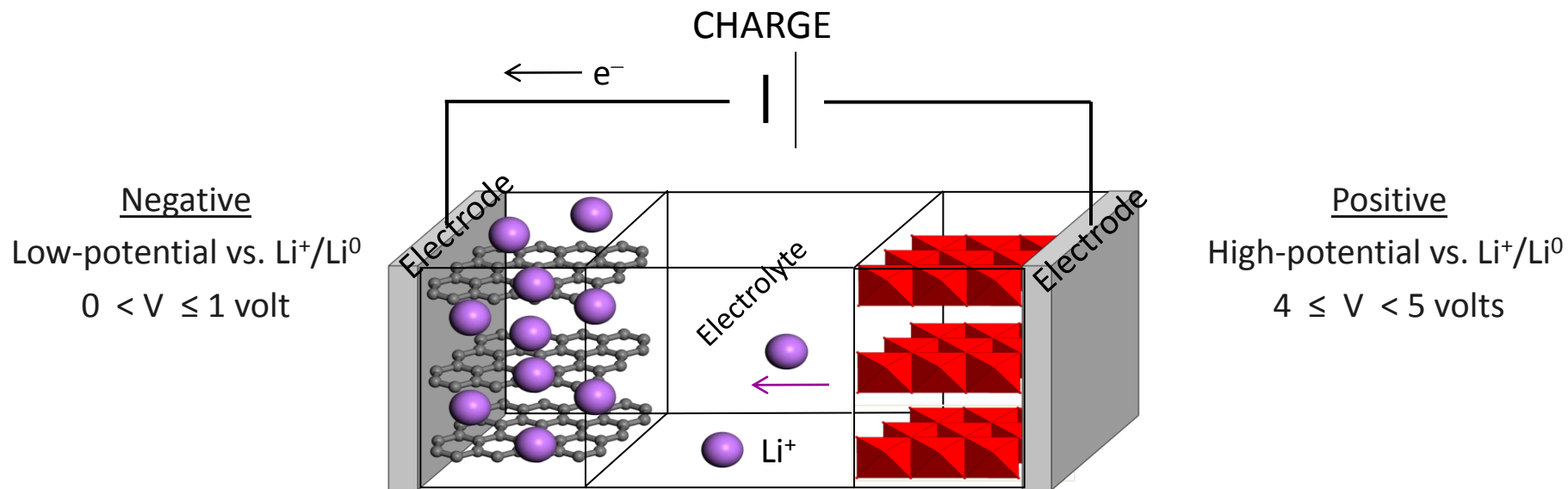
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LI-ION BATTERIES

- ✓ Secondary (rechargeable) electrochemical devices
- ✓ Industrial specifications : $\Delta V \approx 4$ Volts

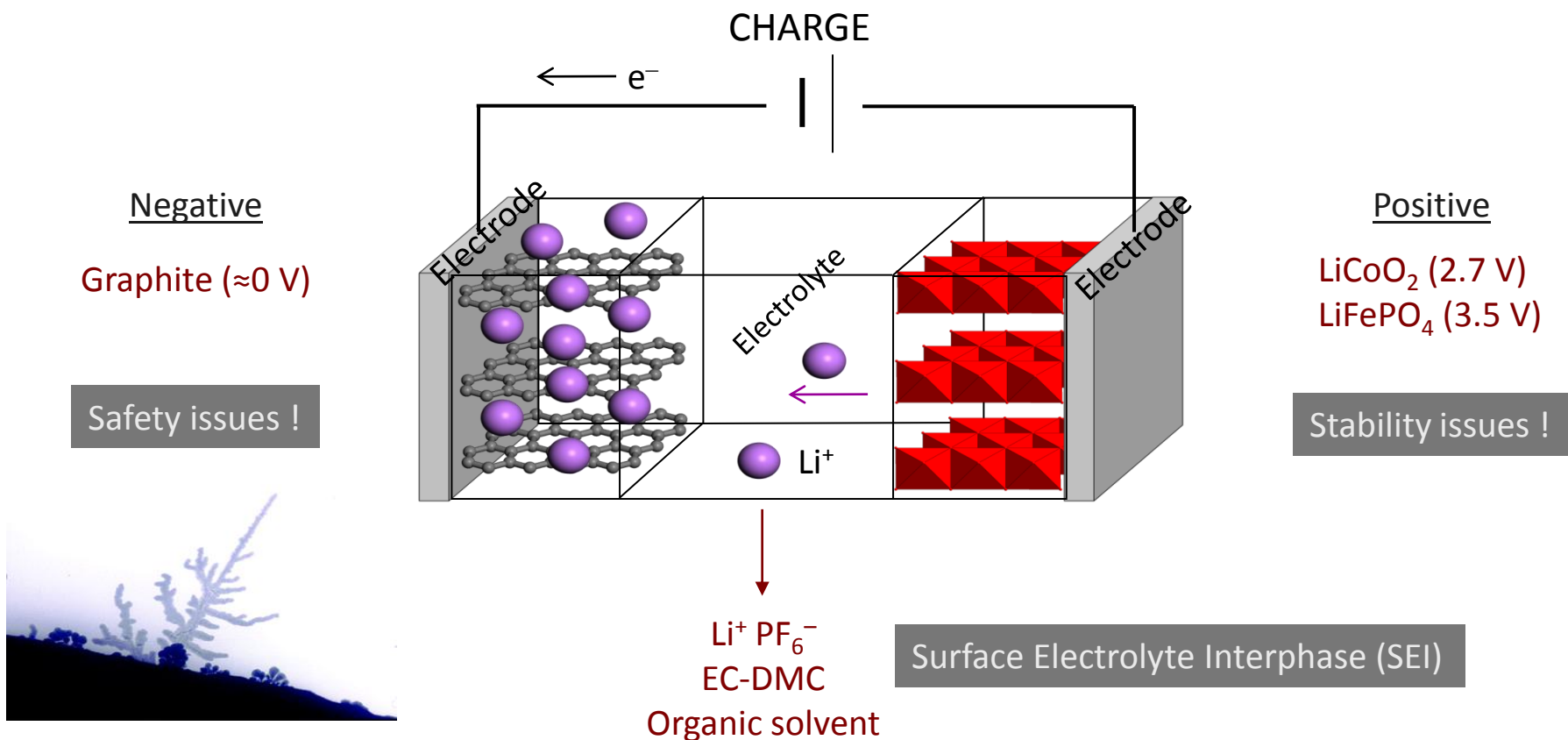


Two simultaneous reversible electrochemical reactions

Increase the energy density → Thermodynamics (V . Capacity)
 Increase the efficiency → Kinetics (fast reactions)

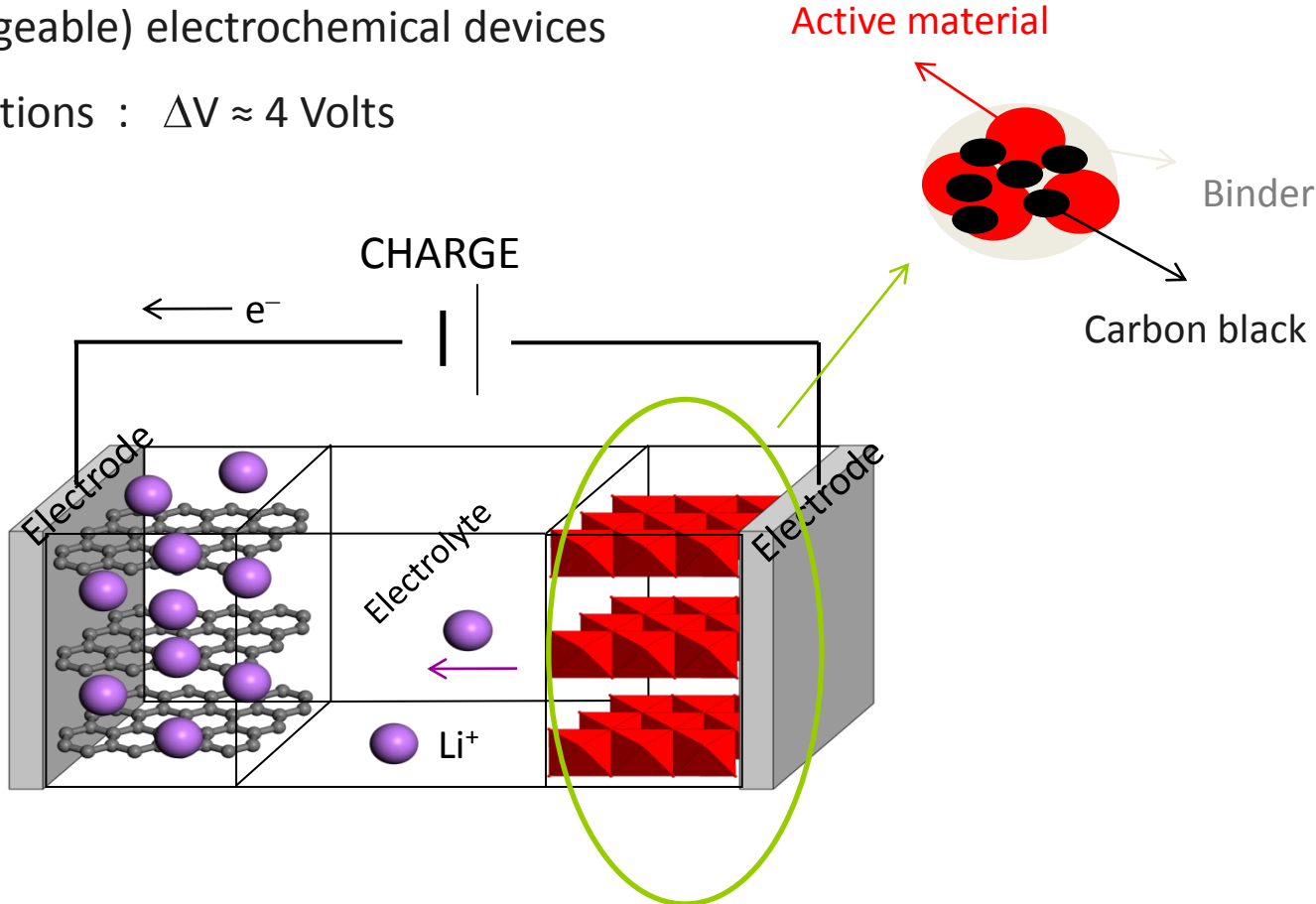
LI-ION BATTERIES

- ✓ Secondary (rechargeable) electrochemical devices
- ✓ Industrial specifications : $\Delta V \approx 4$ Volts
- ✓ Solving the related issues



LI-ION BATTERIES

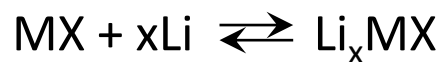
- ✓ Secondary (rechargeable) electrochemical devices
- ✓ Industrial specifications : $\Delta V \approx 4$ Volts



Electrode reactivity itself is a challenge !!

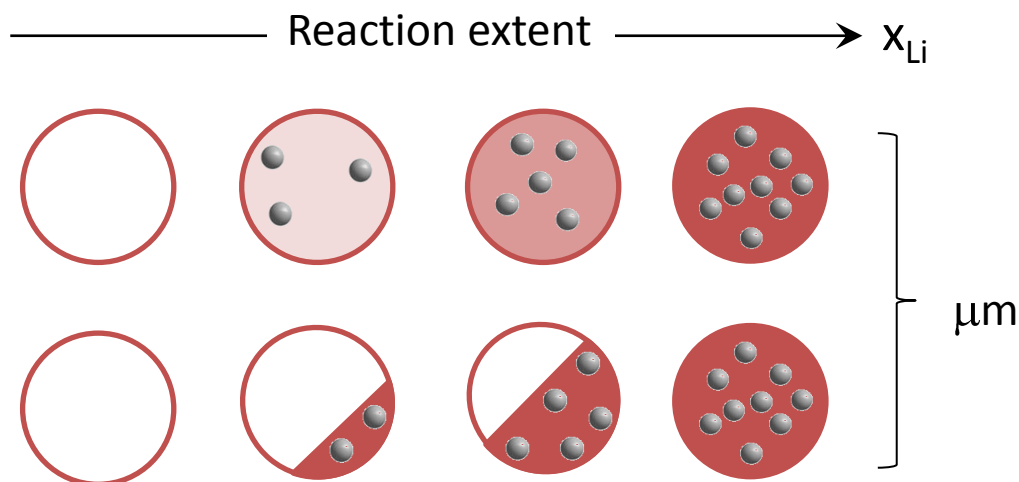
ELECTRODE REACTIONS

Insertion

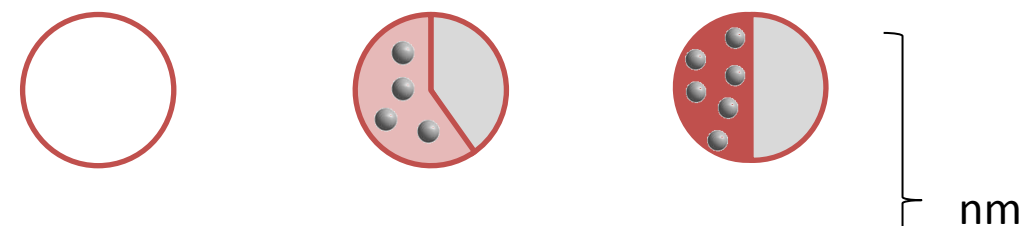


Single phase

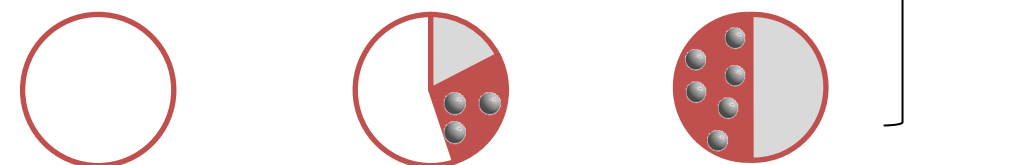
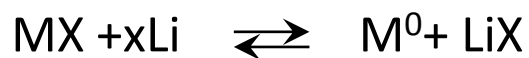
Two-phase



Displacement

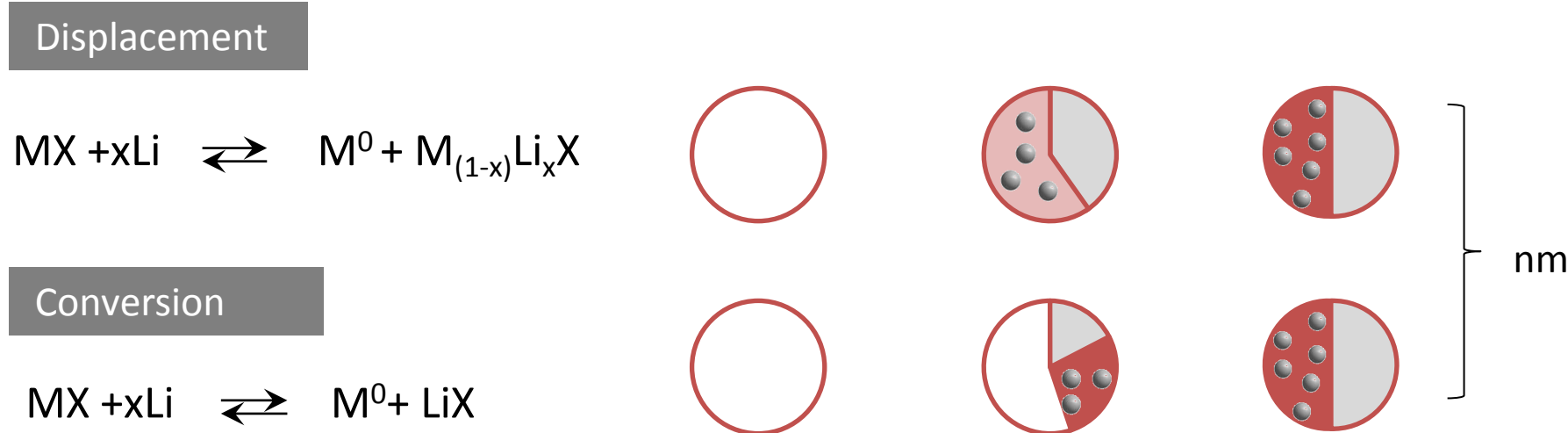
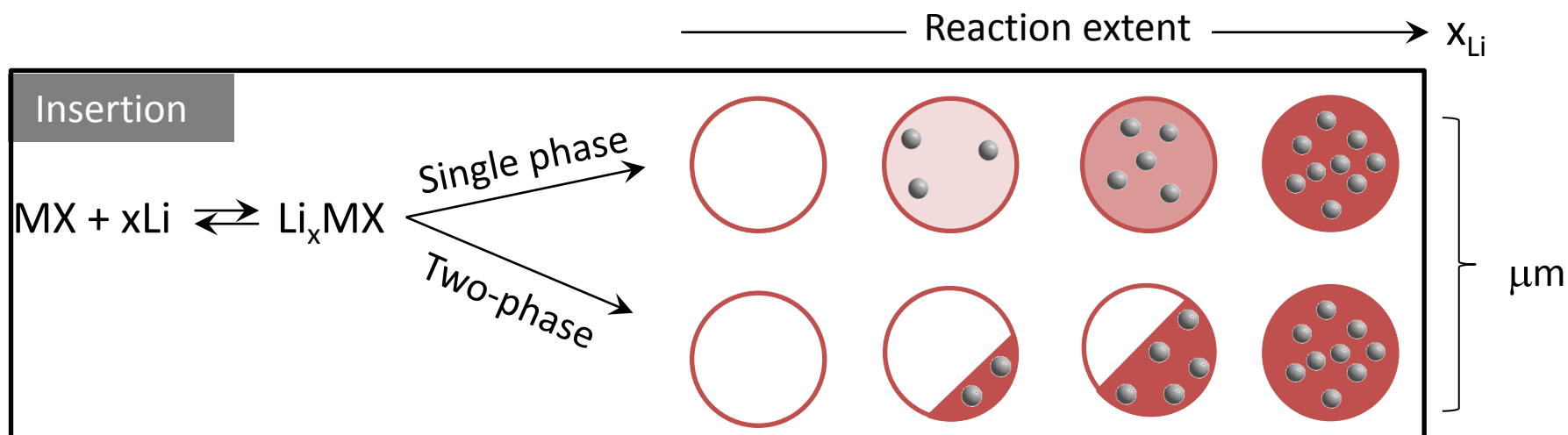


Conversion



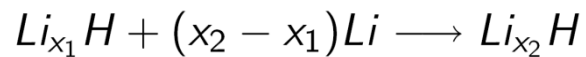
Very different Thermodynamics AND Kinetics

ELECTRODE REACTIONS

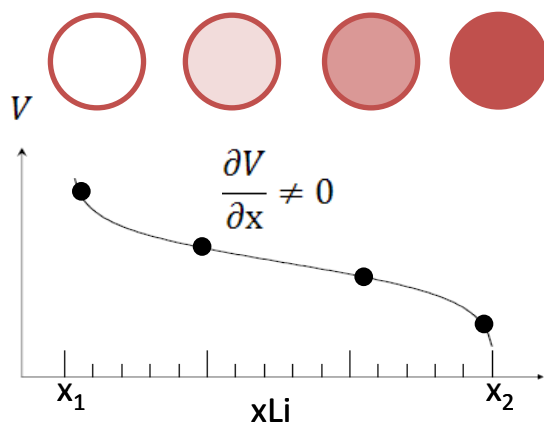


Very different Thermodynamics AND Kinetics

ELECTRODE REACTIONS



Single-Phase process

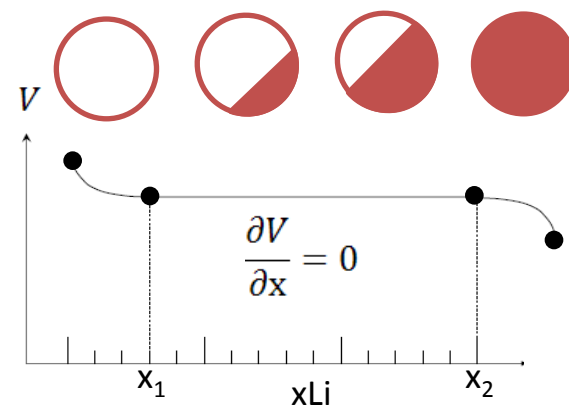


Nernst law

Kinetically limited by Li diffusion

$$V = -\frac{\Delta_r G}{nF}$$

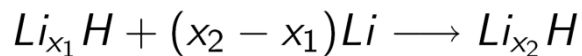
Multi-phase process



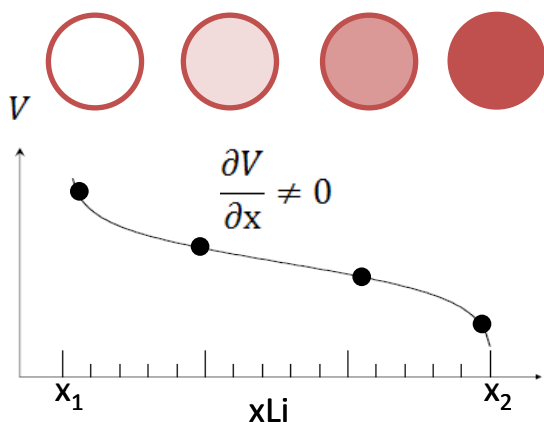
Potential plateau

Kinetically limited by front-phase migration

ELECTRODE REACTIONS



Single-Phase process



Nernst law

Kinetically limited by Li diffusion

$$V(x) = -\frac{1}{F} \left\{ \frac{\partial G(x)}{\partial x} - G(Li^0) \right\}$$



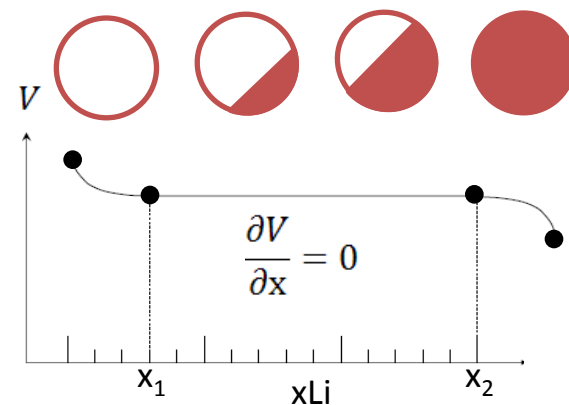
Infinite number of phases to compute + entropy

Numerical challenge !

$$V = -\frac{\Delta_r G}{nF}$$

Methodological challenge !

Multi-phase process



Potential plateau

Kinetically limited by front-phase migration

$$V(x) = -\frac{1}{F} \left\{ \frac{G(x_2) - G(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1} - G(Li^0) \right\}$$

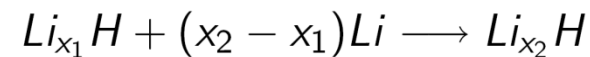


“Easy” to compute if one neglects

Surface / Interface effects !

AVERAGE VOLTAGES CALCULATIONS

Treated as (successive) two-phase processes

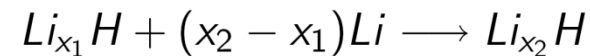


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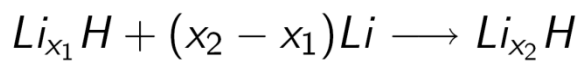
$$\Delta_r G = \Delta_r E + P\Delta_r V - T\Delta_r S \approx \Delta_r E$$

↙
↘

negligible neglected

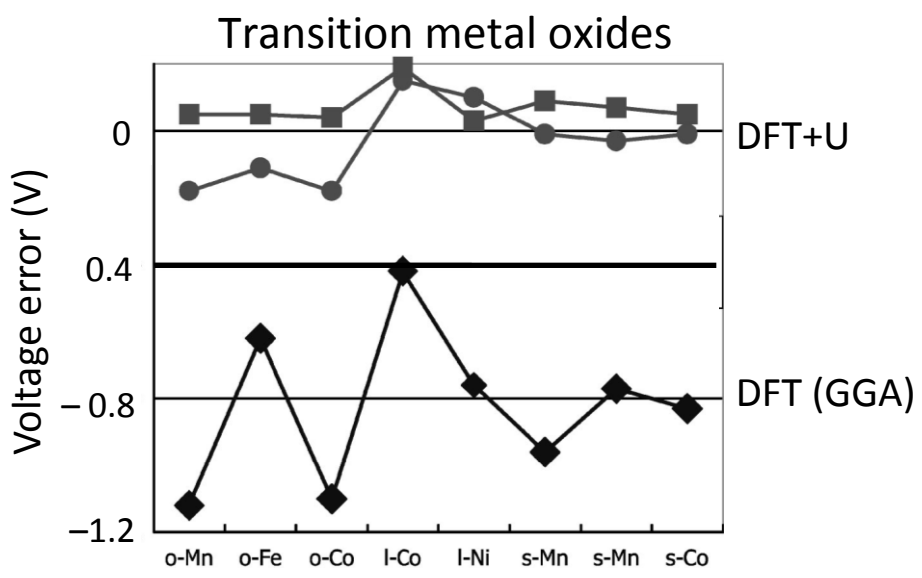
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F. Zhou et al. *PRB* **70** (2004) 235121

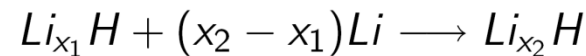
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Method generally used to “extract” the effective U value for any given system

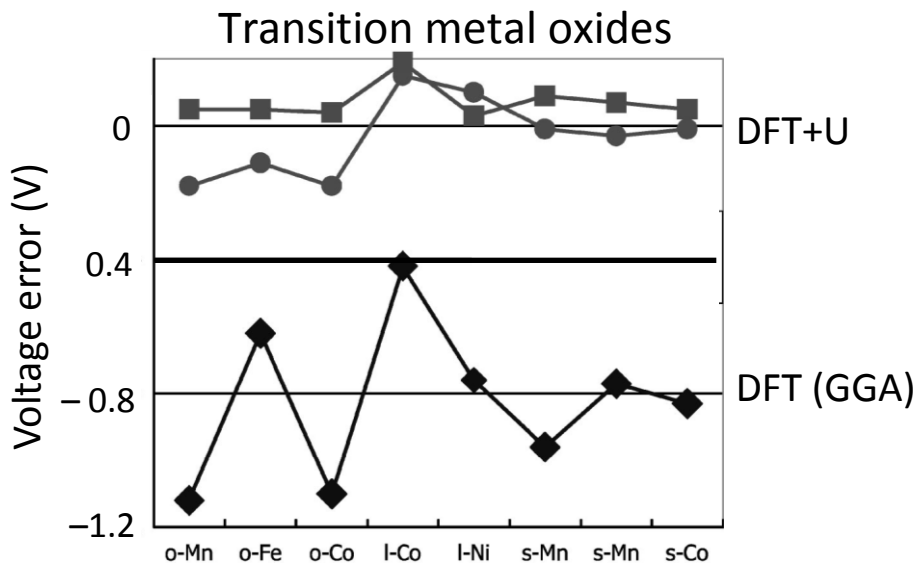
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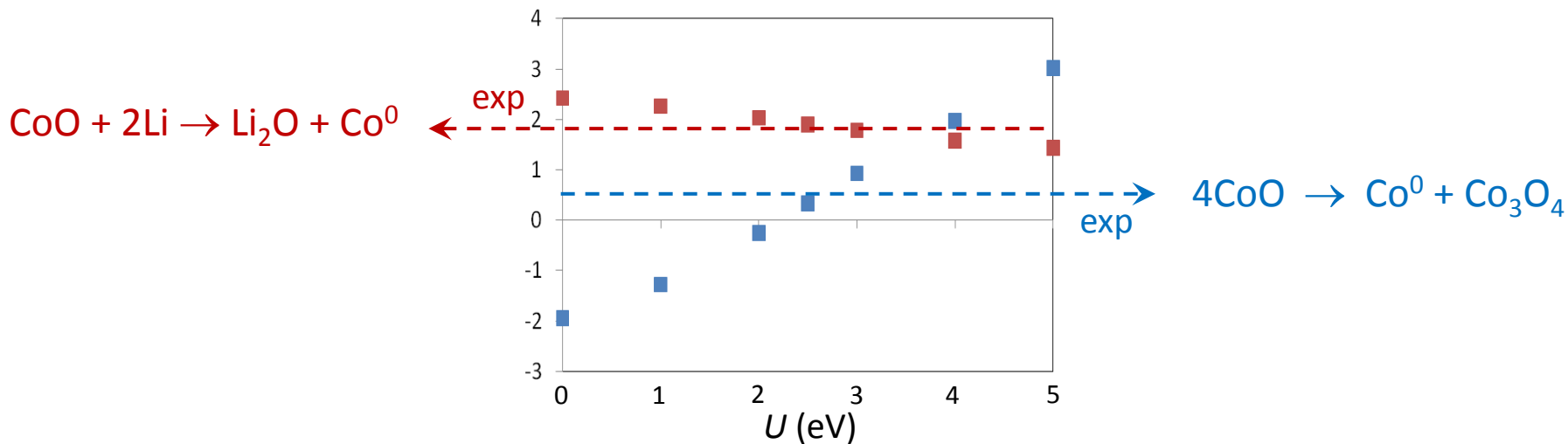
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Method generally used to “extract” the effective U value for any given system

→ Can be very dangerous !

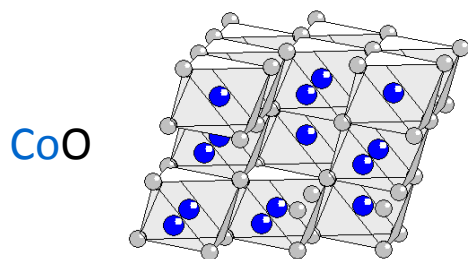
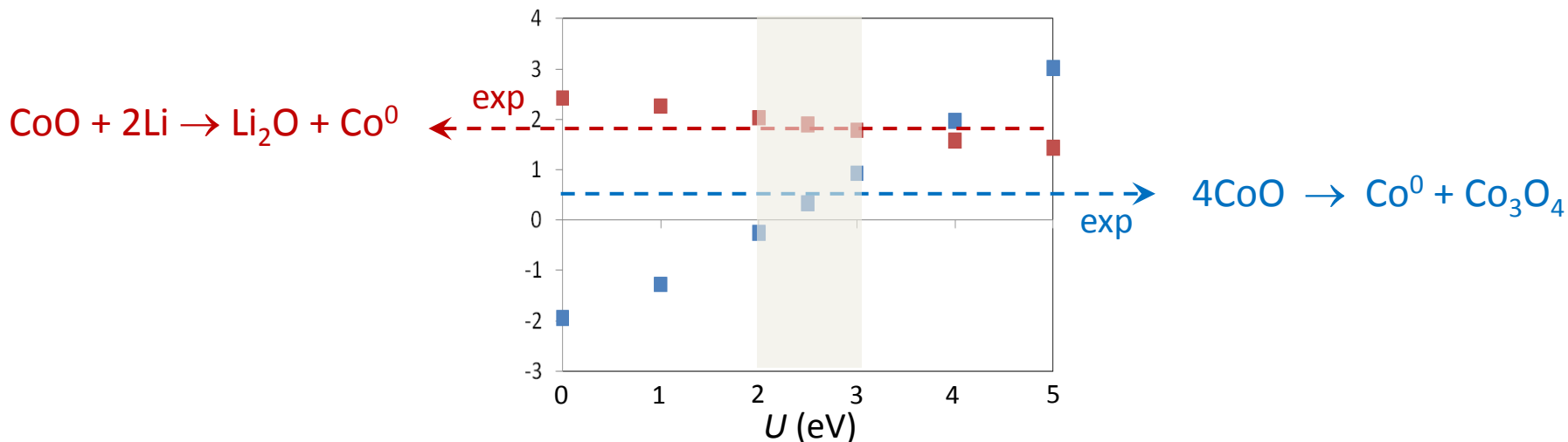
AVERAGE VOLTAGES CALCULATIONS

$\Delta_r E$ (eV) and V (volt) computed within the DFT+ U framework



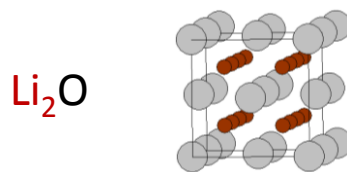
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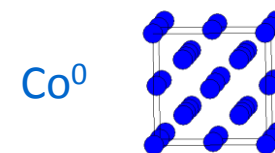
Strongly correlated AntiFerromagnet

DFT+ U : $U(\text{Co}) = 5\text{eV}$!



Band gap Insulator

DFT

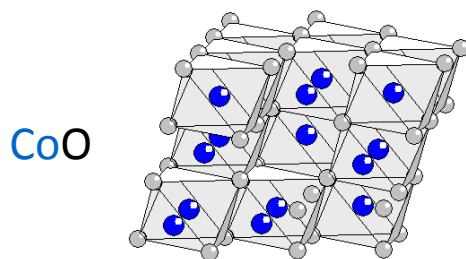
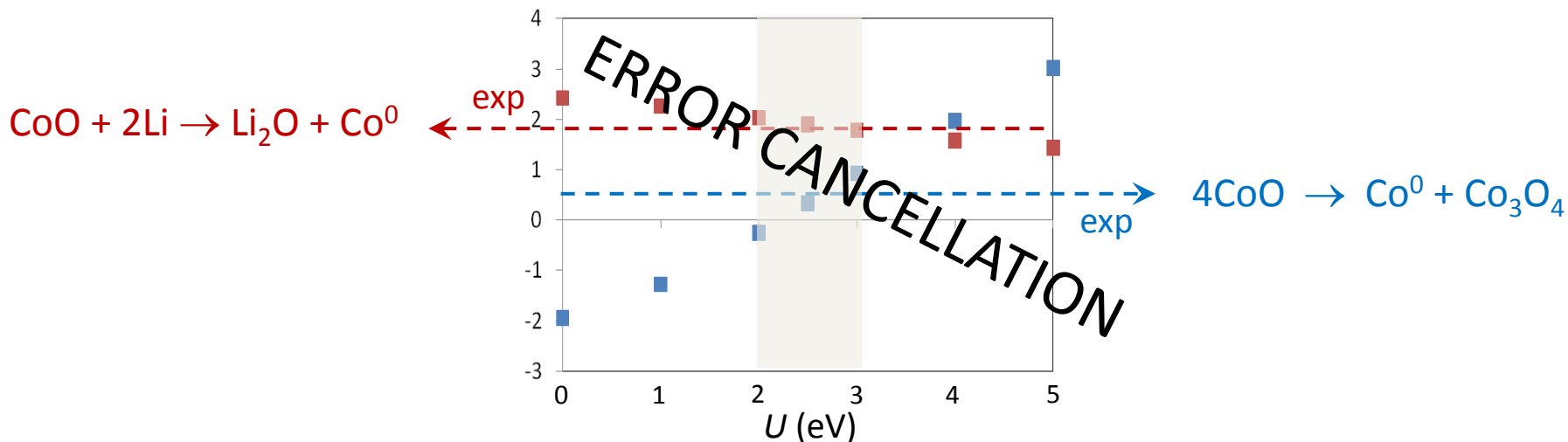


Ferromagnetic metal

DFT $U(\text{Co}) = 0\text{eV}$

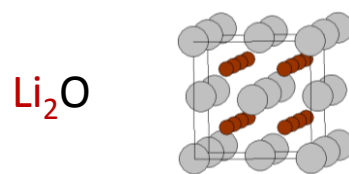
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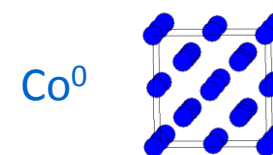
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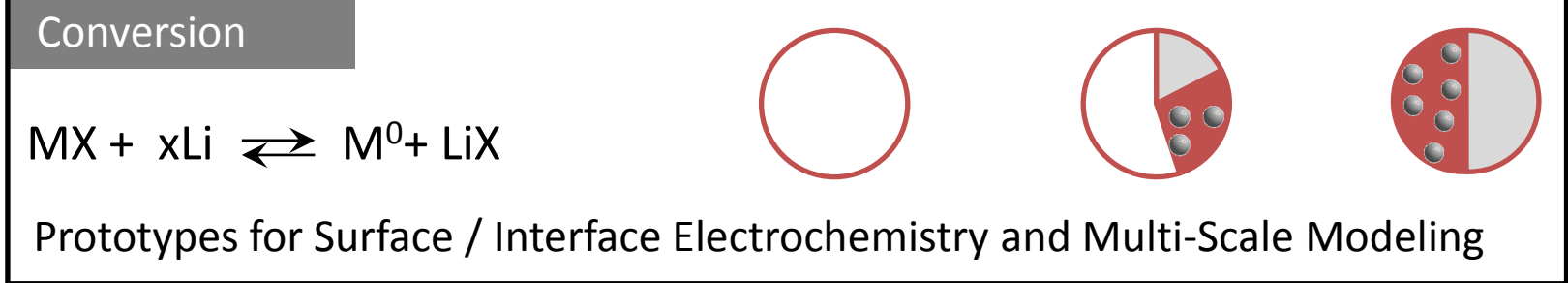
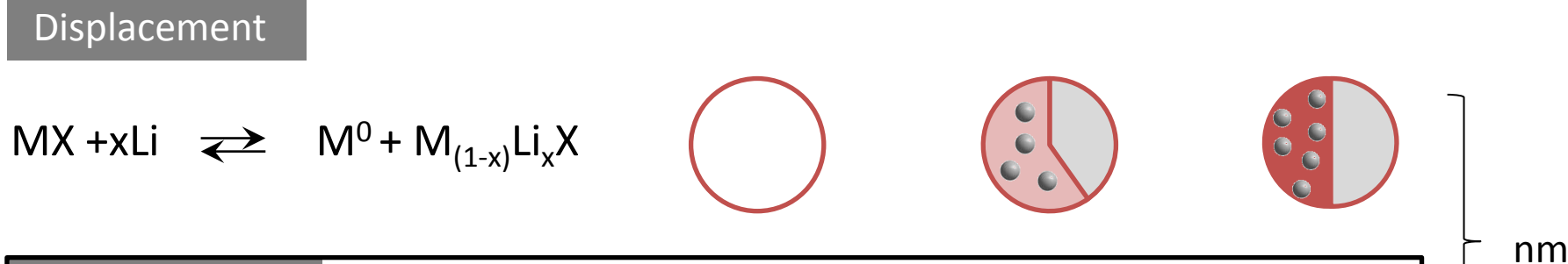
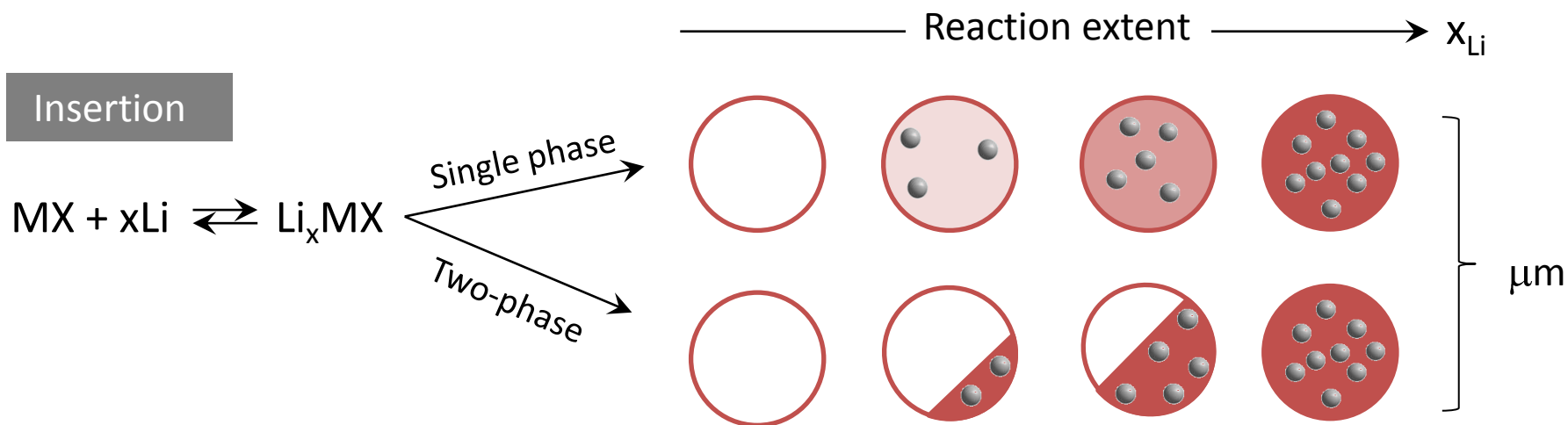
DFT



Ferromagnetic metal

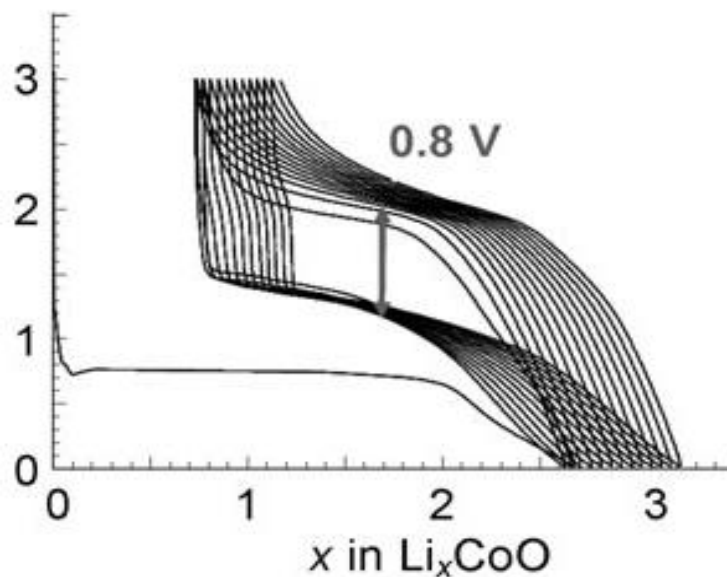
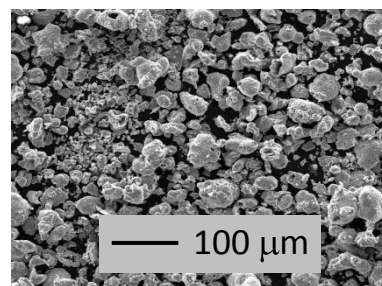
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ELECTRODE REACTIONS

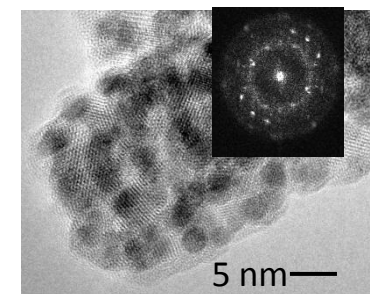


CONVERSION REACTIONS

μm-sized electrode



Nano-composite electrode

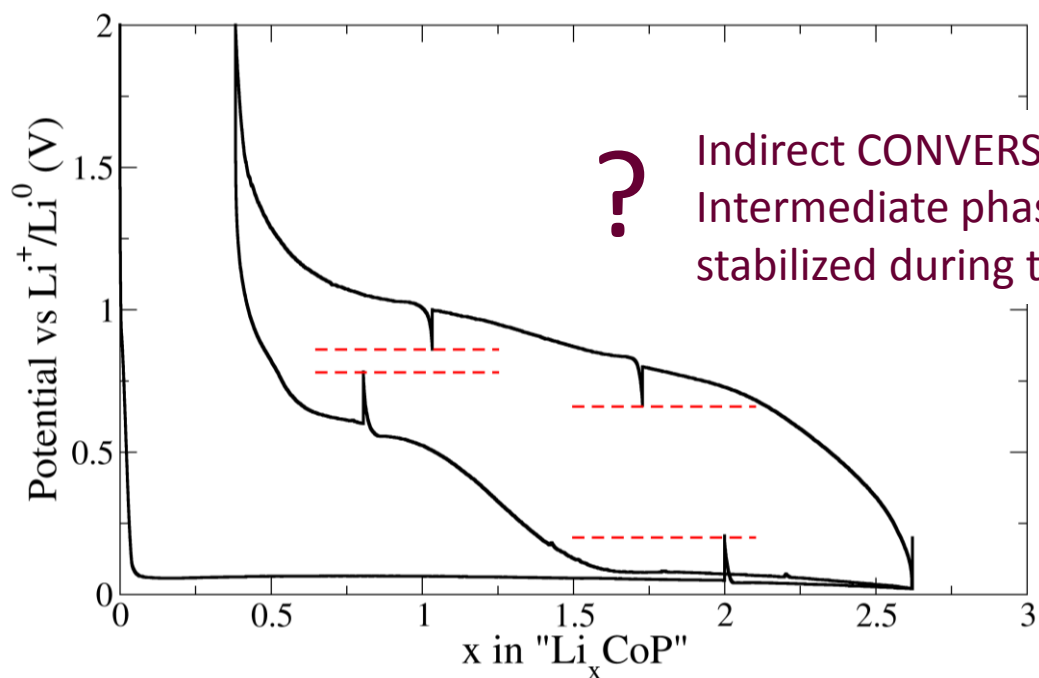
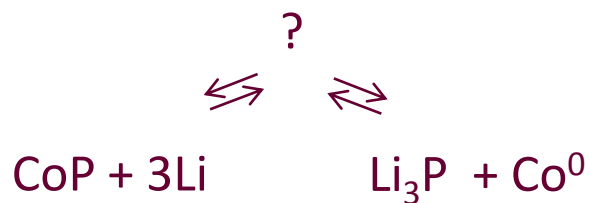
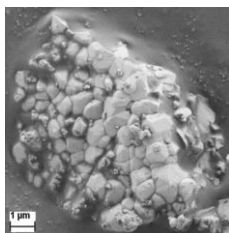


Higher capacity than insertion



Lower efficiency than insertion

CONVERSION REACTIONS



? Indirect CONVERSION
Intermediate phases
stabilized during the process



Higher capacity than insertion



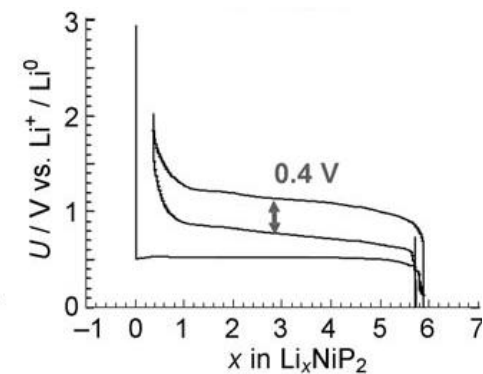
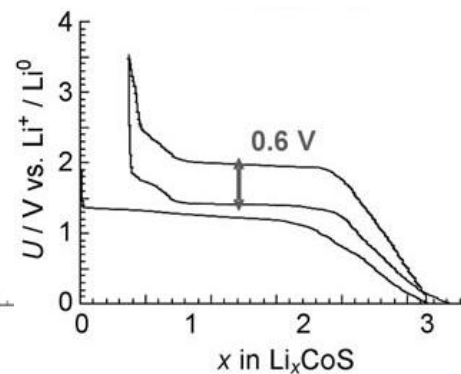
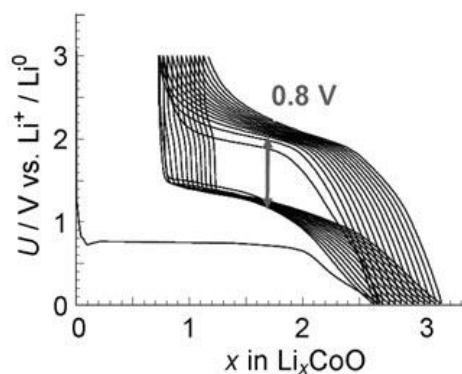
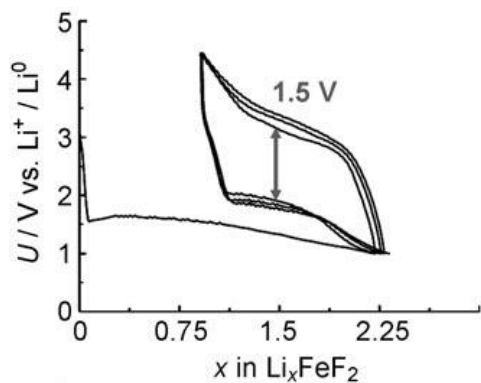
Lower efficiency than insertion

→ Voltage polarization ?

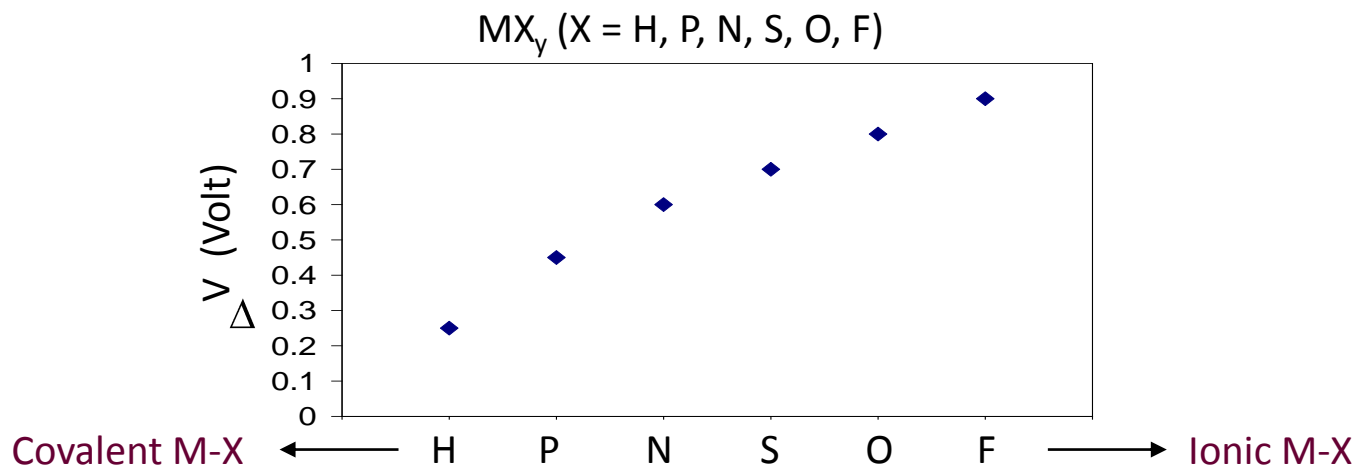
→ Voltage hysteresis ?

Thermodynamics
vs.
Kinetics

CONVERSION REACTIONS

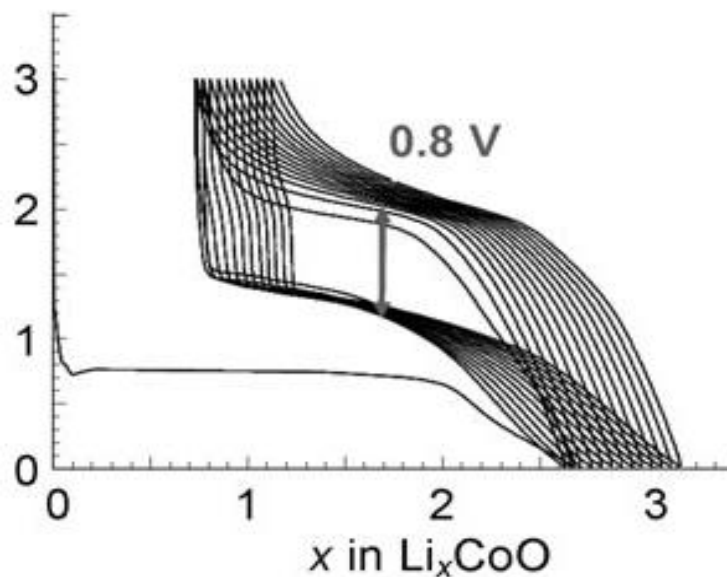
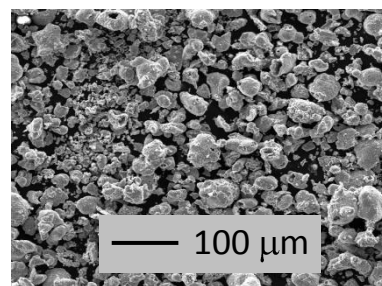


Bruce et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2930 – 2946

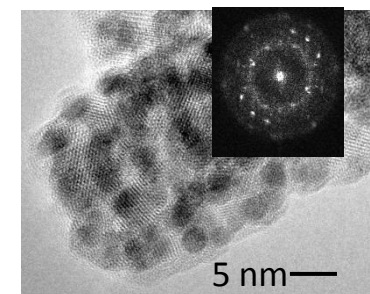


CONVERSION REACTIONS

μm-sized electrode



Nano-composite electrode



Surface / Interface effects



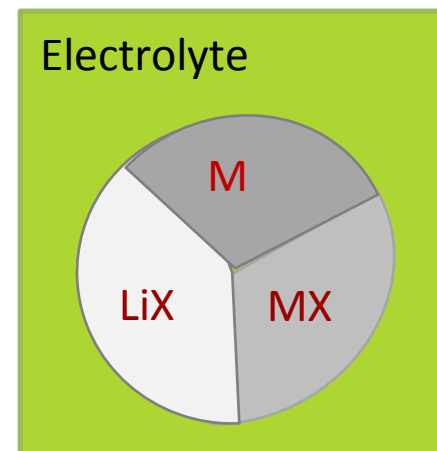
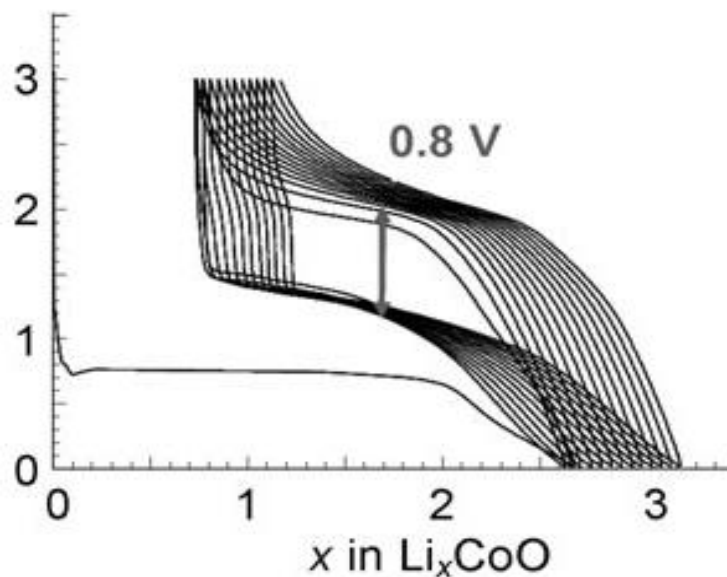
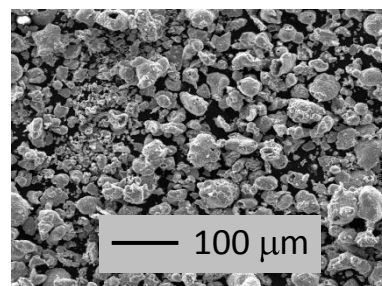
Higher capacity than insertion



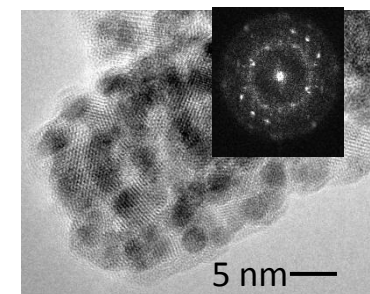
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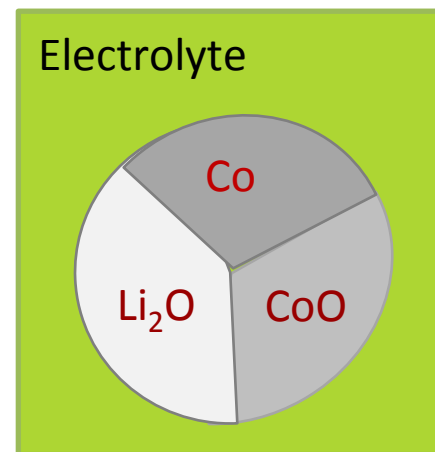
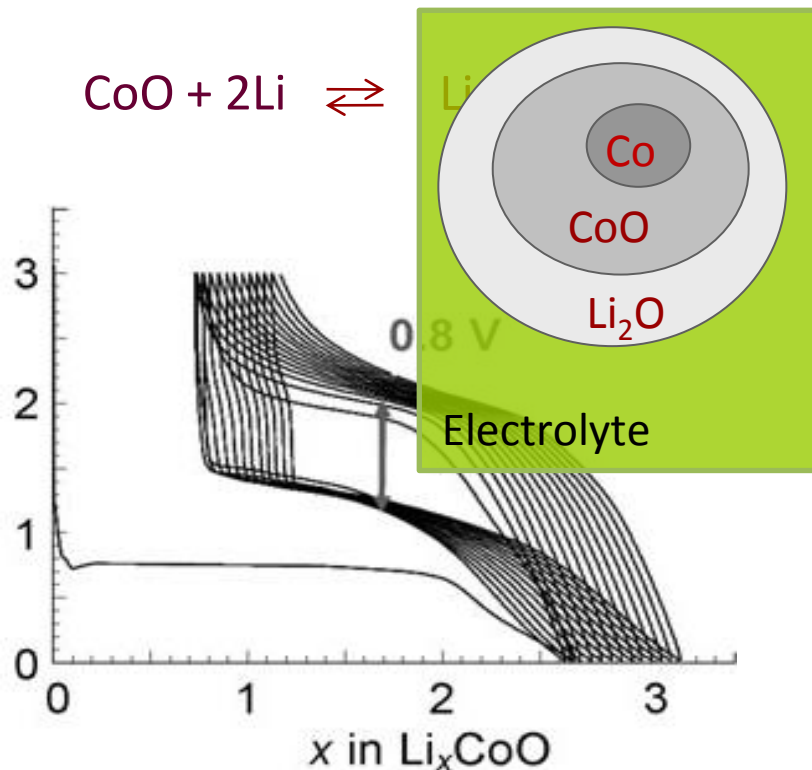
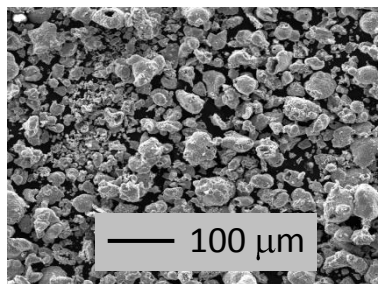
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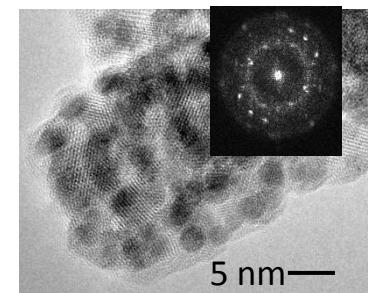
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CONVERSION REACTIONS

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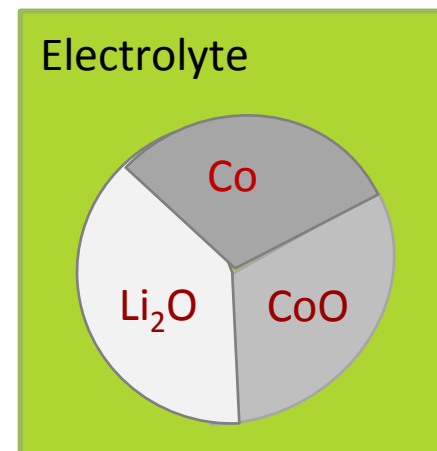
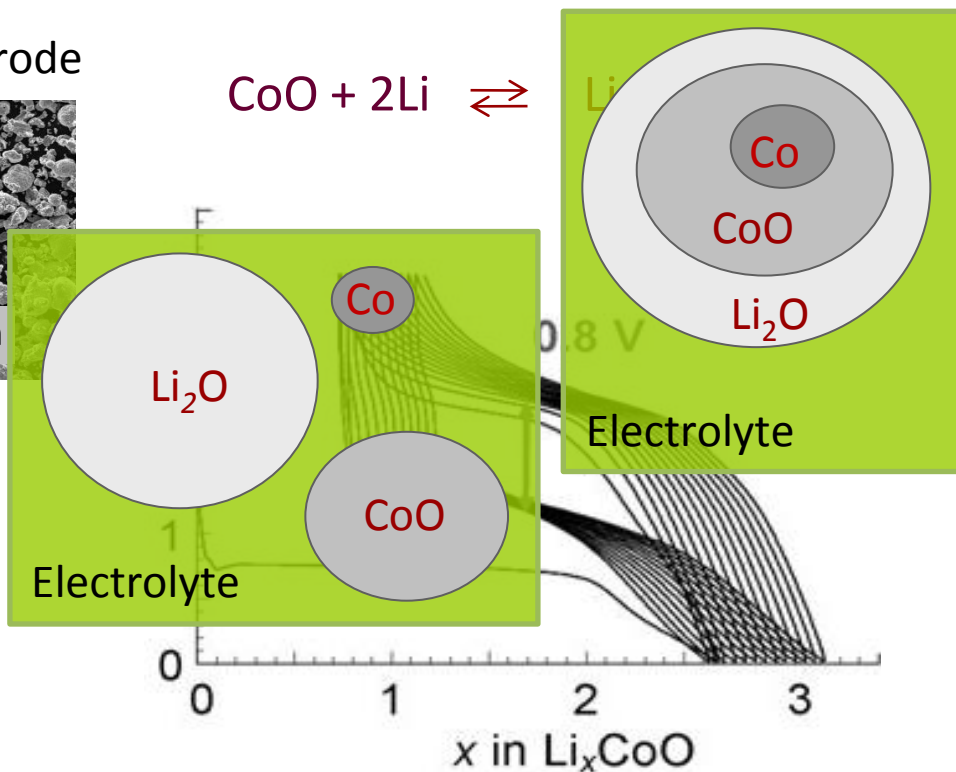
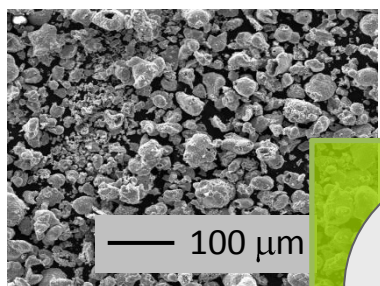
Surface / Interface effects

😊 Higher capacity than insertion

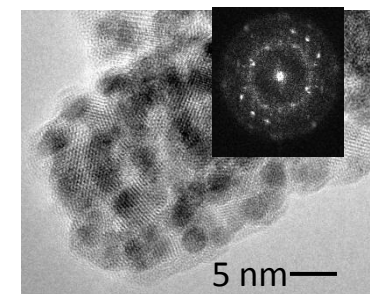
☹ Lower efficiency than insertion

CONVERSION REACTIONS

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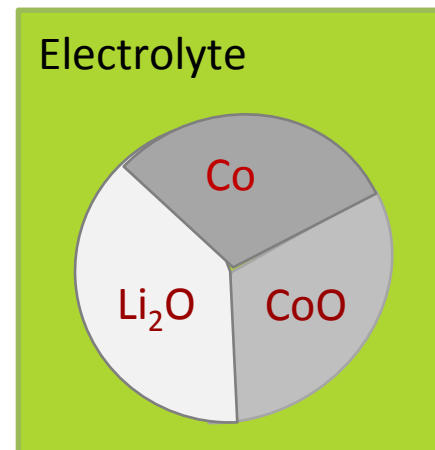
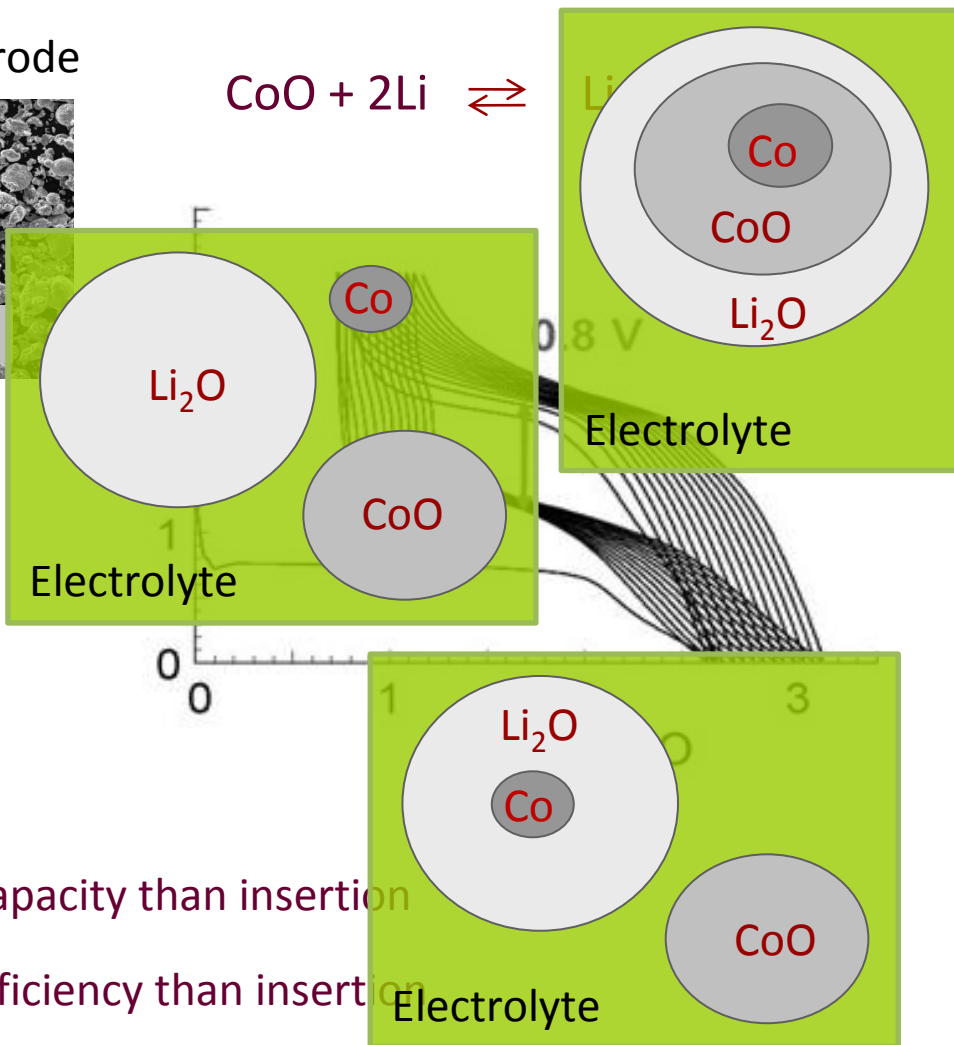
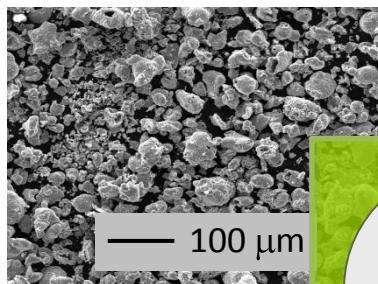
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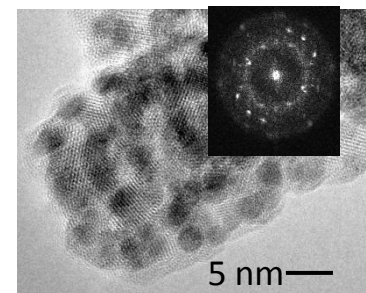
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CONVERSION REACTIONS

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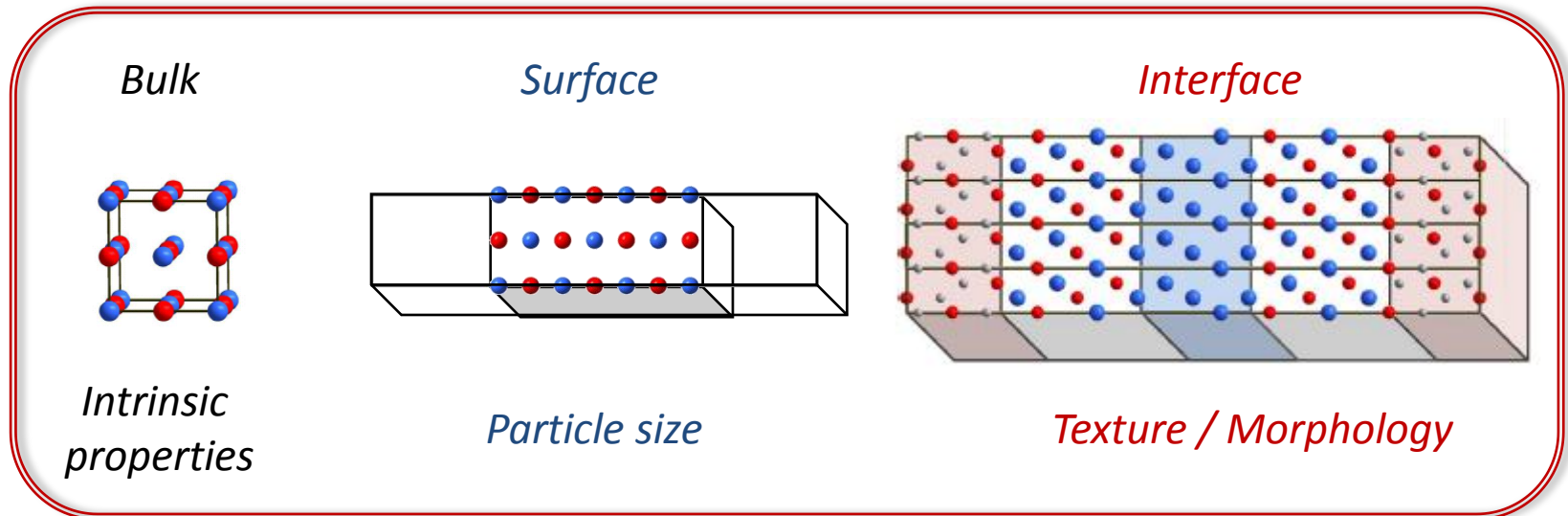


Higher capacity than insertion



Lower efficiency than insertion

1. Based on first-principles (DFT) periodic calculations



2. Transferable to any type of electrochemical reaction

3. Easy handling

STEP 1
THE INTERFACES

STEP 2
THE ELECTRODE

STEP 3
THE REACTION

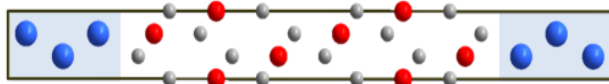
STEP 1 THE INTERFACES

STEP 2 THE ELECTRODE

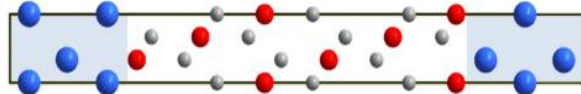
STEP 3 THE REACTION

Interface energies γ (J/m²)

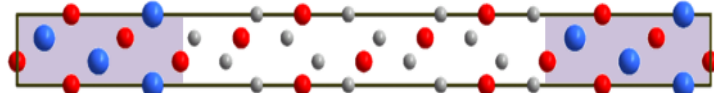
Co⁰/Li₂O-Li



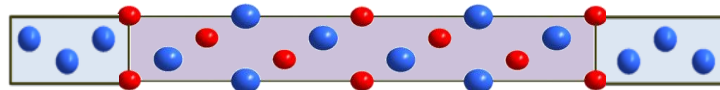
Co⁰/Li₂O-O



CoO/Li₂O



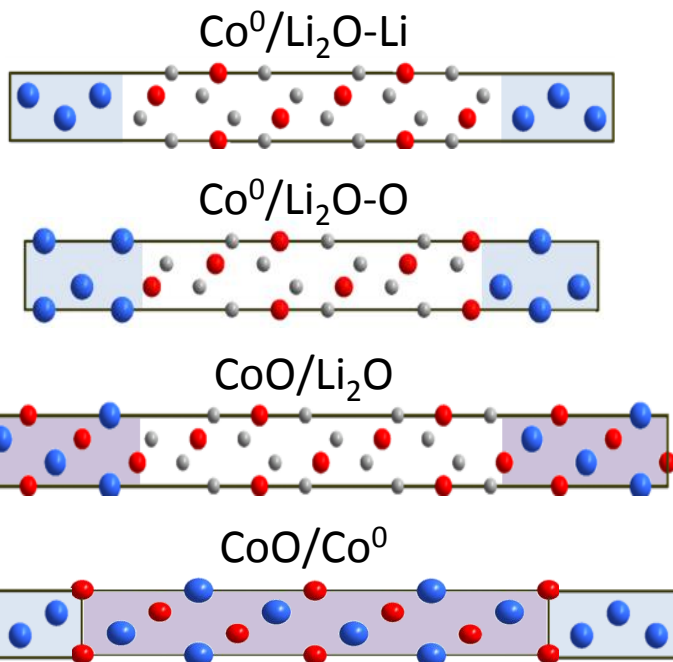
CoO/Co⁰



QM calculations

STEP 1 THE INTERFACES

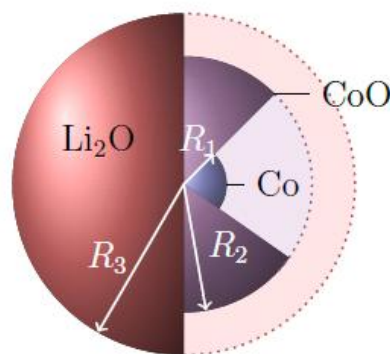
Interface energies γ (J/m²)



QM calculations

STEP 2 THE ELECTRODE

Electrode morphology

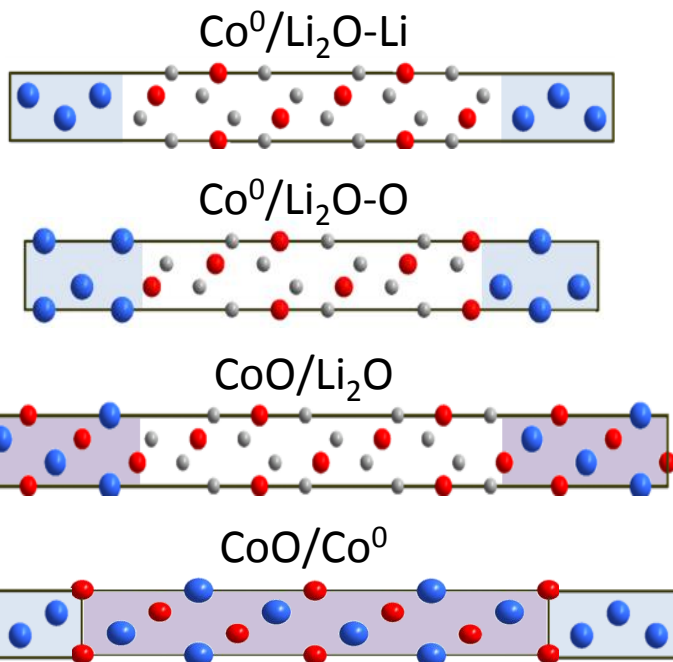


Wulff-like approach

STEP 3 THE REACTION

STEP 1 THE INTERFACES

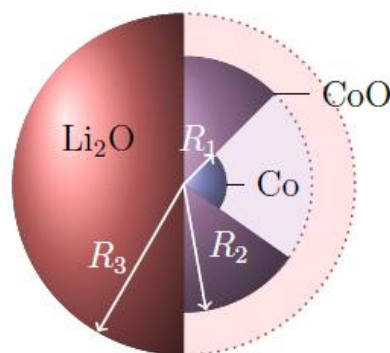
Interface energies γ (J/m²)



QM calculations

STEP 2 THE ELECTRODE

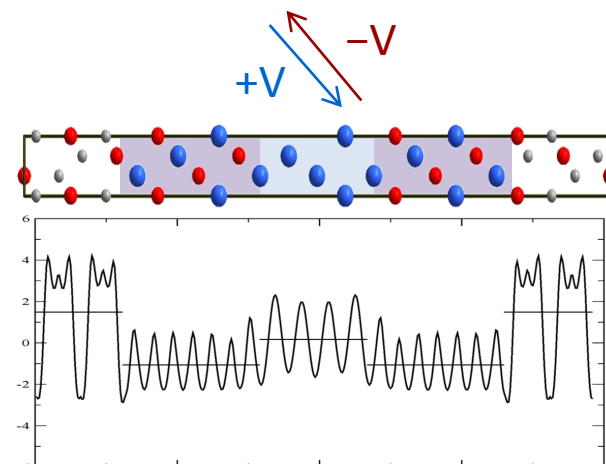
Electrode morphology



Wulff-like approach

STEP 3 THE REACTION

Electrochemistry

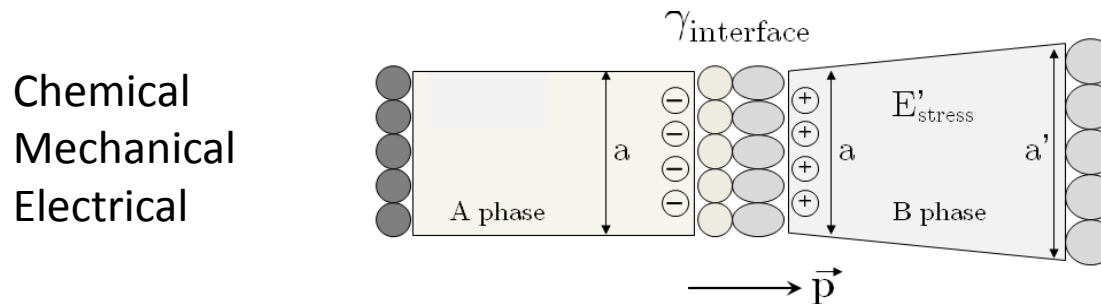


+ External field

✓ What do you learn from this 3-step analysis ?

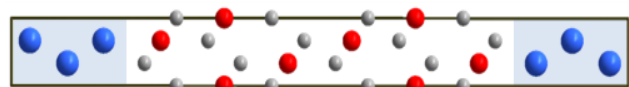
1. The **chemistry** governs the **interface stability** (morphology)
2. The **mechanical strain** drastically affects the **voltage**
3. The **interface electric dipole** is crucial for the **mechanism**

✓ An interface is described by 3 inter-dependent descriptors

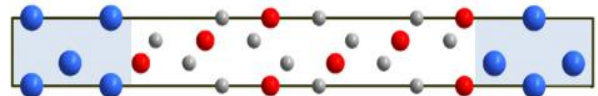


STEP 1: INTERFACES

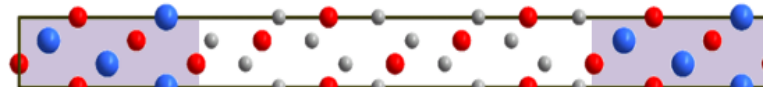
CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



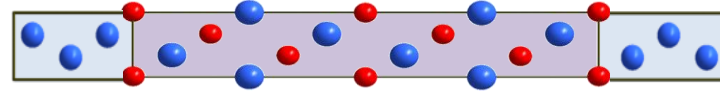
Li₂O-Li / Co



Li₂O-O / Co



CoO/Li₂O



CoO/Co

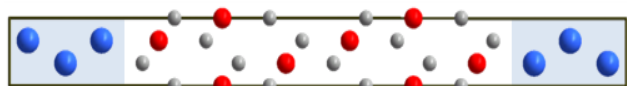
$$2\gamma A = 2\gamma^* A + \sum_i n_i \delta_i$$

Chemical
contribution

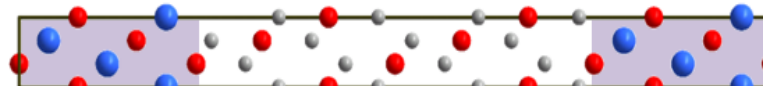
Mechanical
contribution

STEP 1: INTERFACES

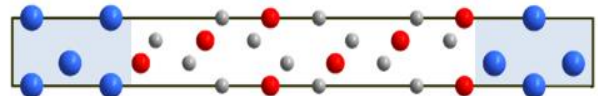
CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



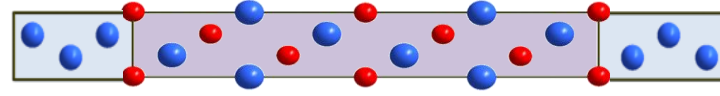
Li₂O-Li / Co



CoO/Li₂O



Li₂O-O / Co

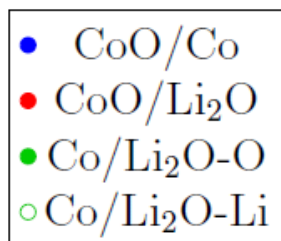
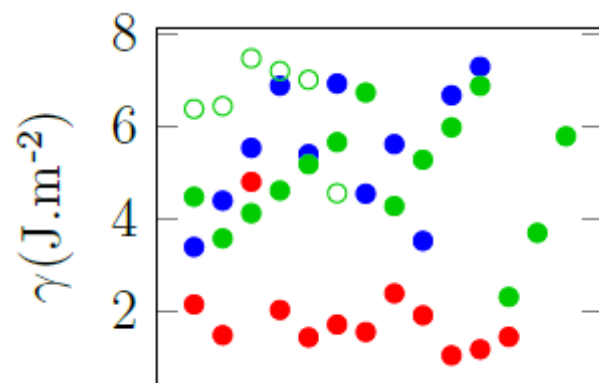


CoO/Co

$$2\gamma A = 2\gamma^* A + \sum_i n_i \delta_i$$

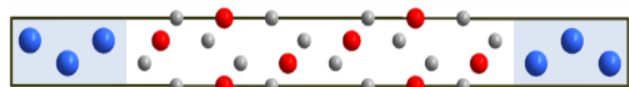
Chemical contribution

Mechanical contribution

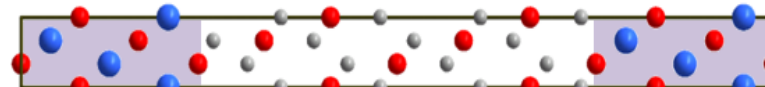


STEP 1: INTERFACES

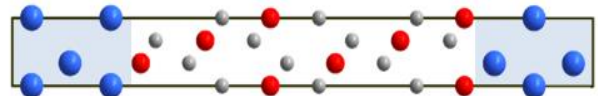
CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



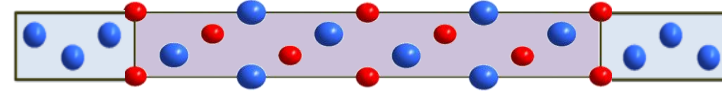
Li₂O-Li / Co



CoO/Li₂O

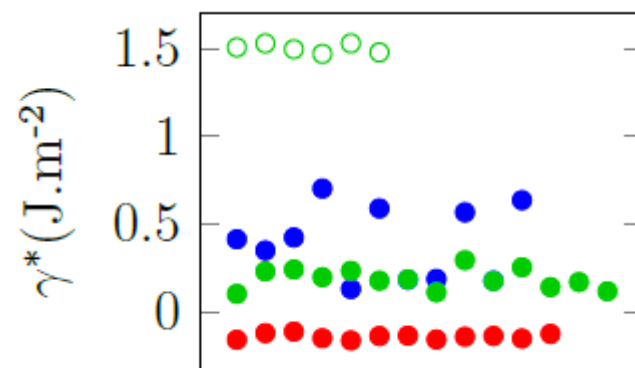
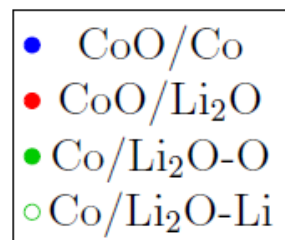
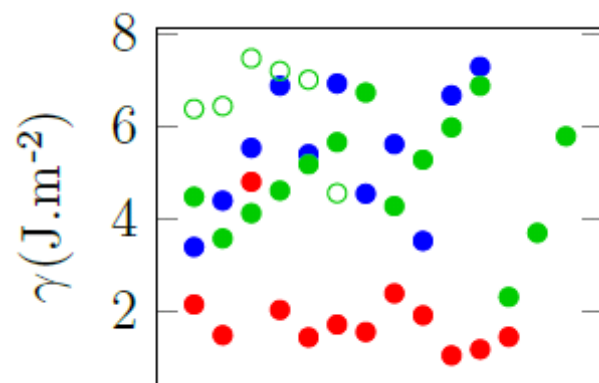


Li₂O-O / Co



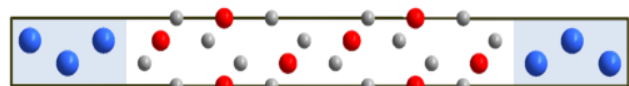
CoO/Co

~~$$2\gamma A = 2\gamma^* A + \sum_i n_i \delta_i$$~~

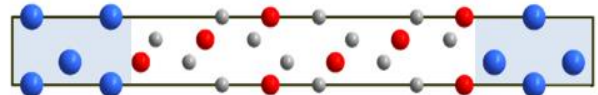


STEP 1: INTERFACES

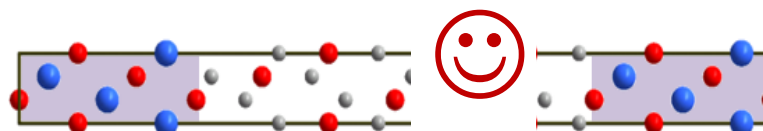
CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



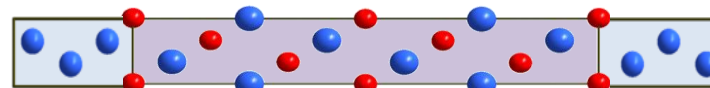
Li₂O-Li / Co



Li₂O-O / Co

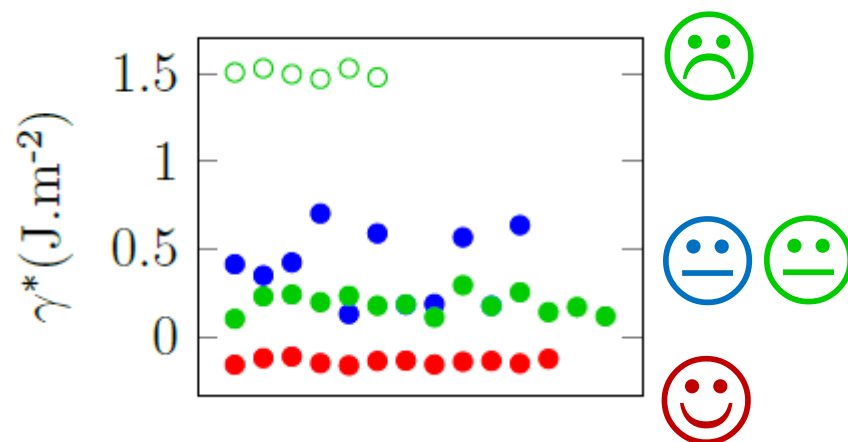
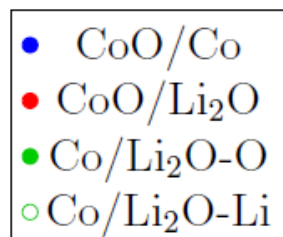
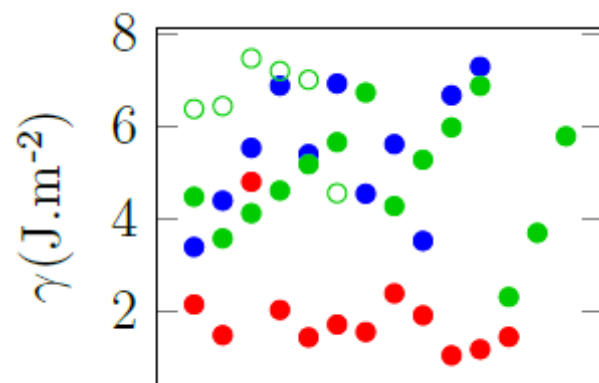


CoO/Li₂O



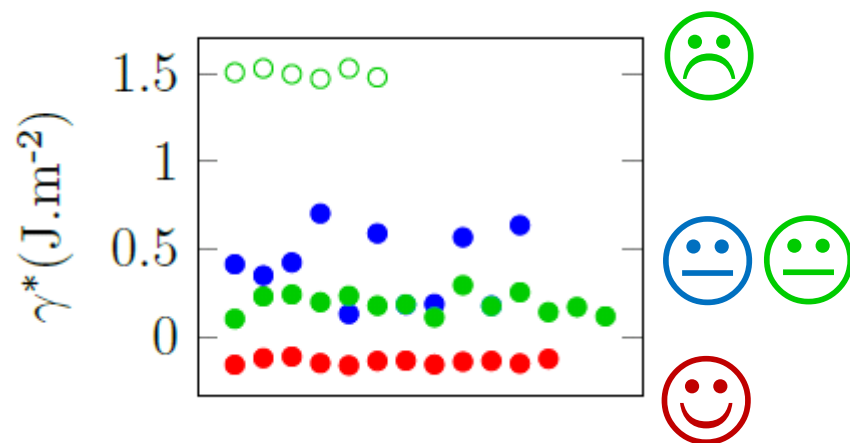
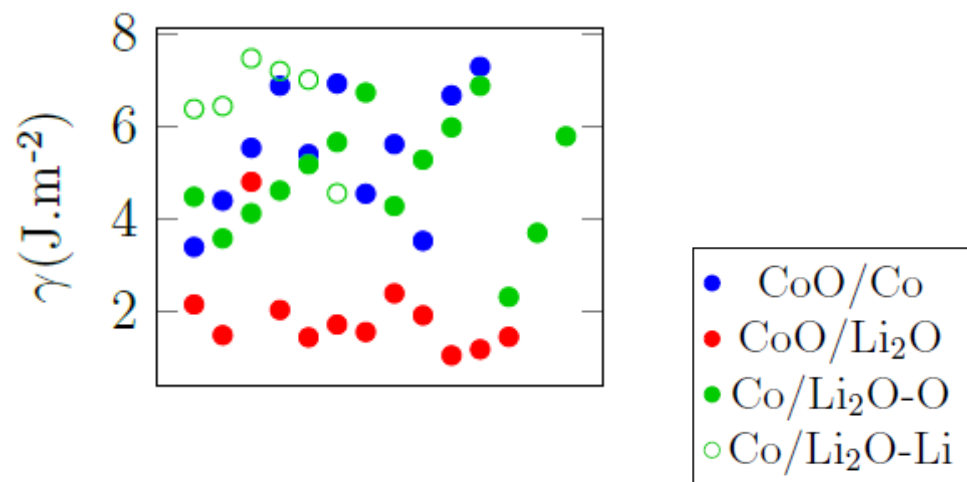
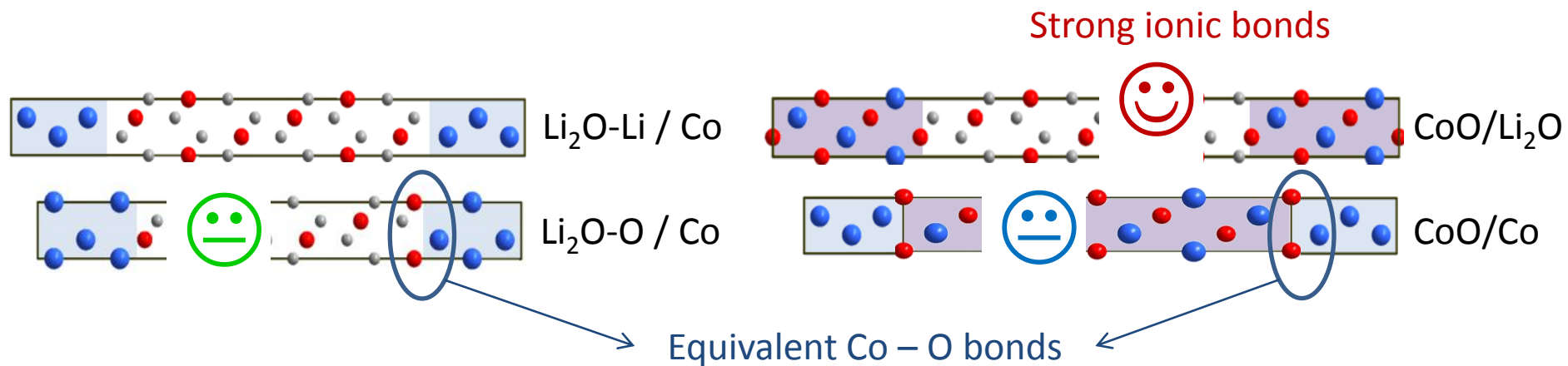
CoO/Co

Strong ionic bonds



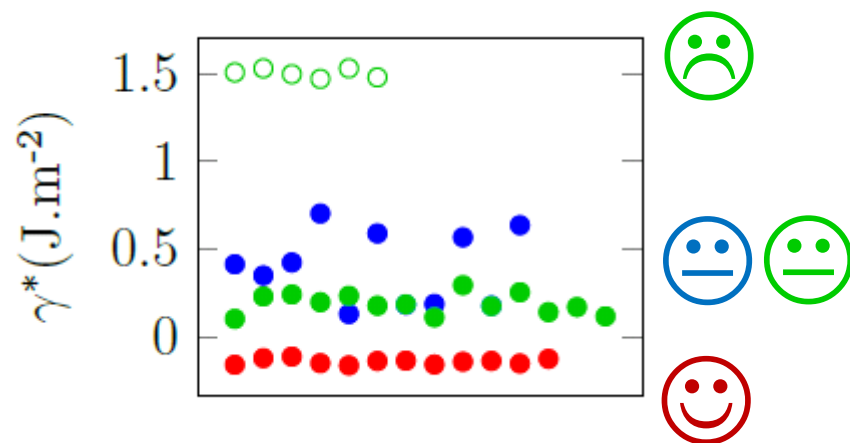
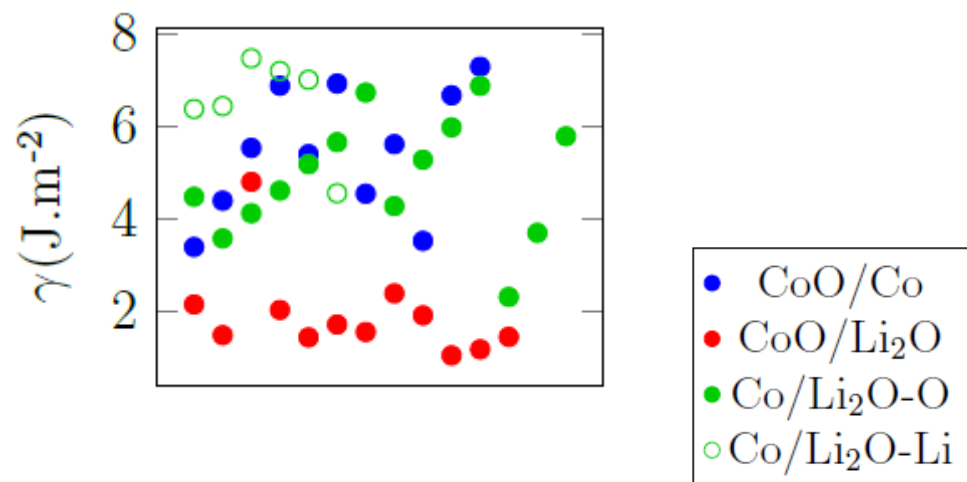
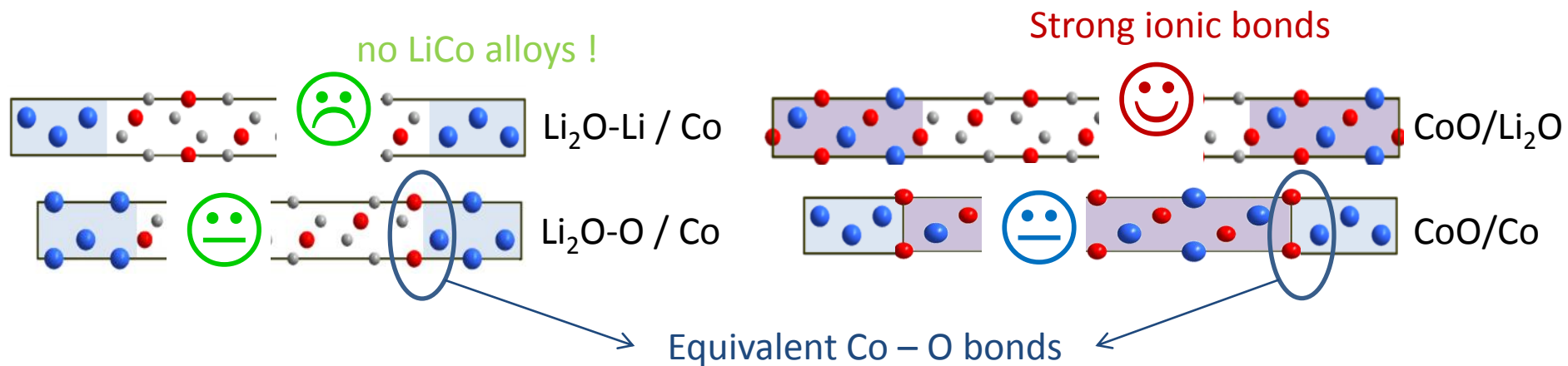
STEP 1: INTERFACES

CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



STEP 1: INTERFACES

CHEMICAL DESCRIPTOR



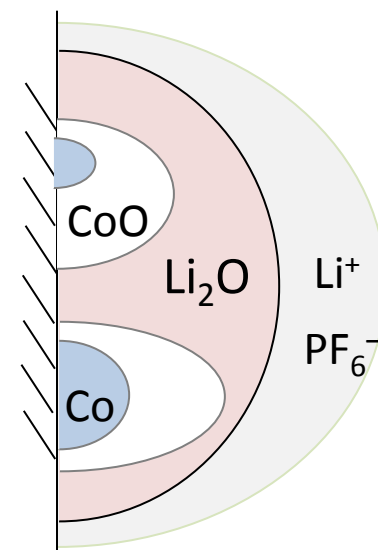
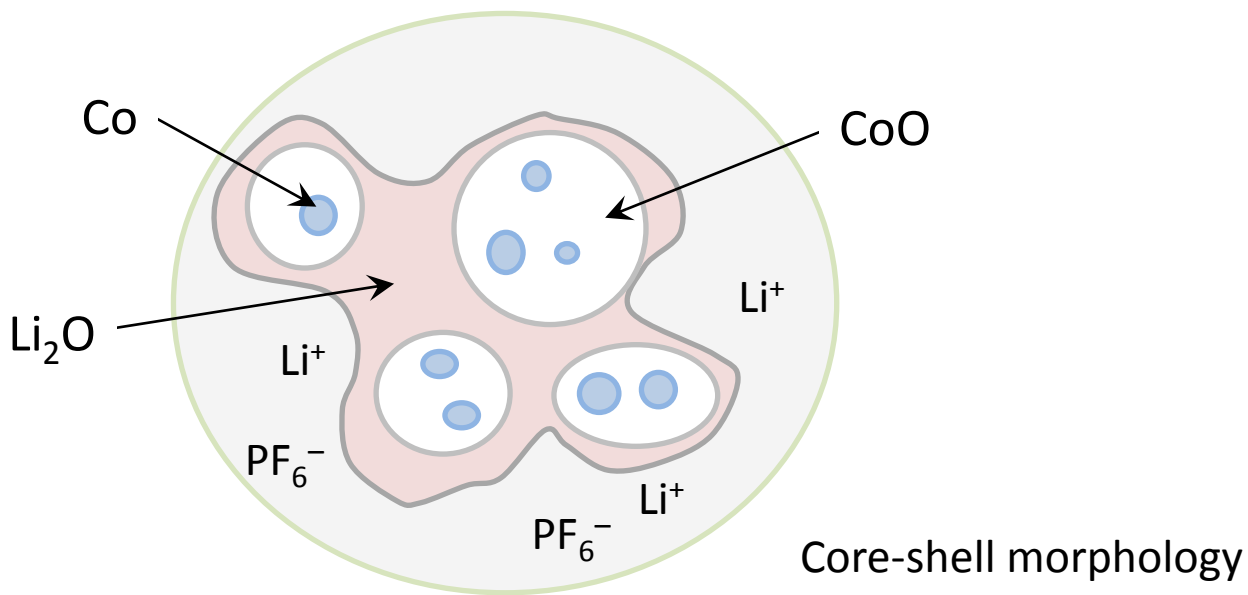
✓ Wulff-like approach to determine the electrode morphology

- **Maximizing** contact area of 😊 interfaces Li_2O / electrolyte
 CoO / Li_2O
- **Minimizing** contact area of ☹️ interfaces Co^0 / Li_2O -Li
- **Avoiding elastic stress**

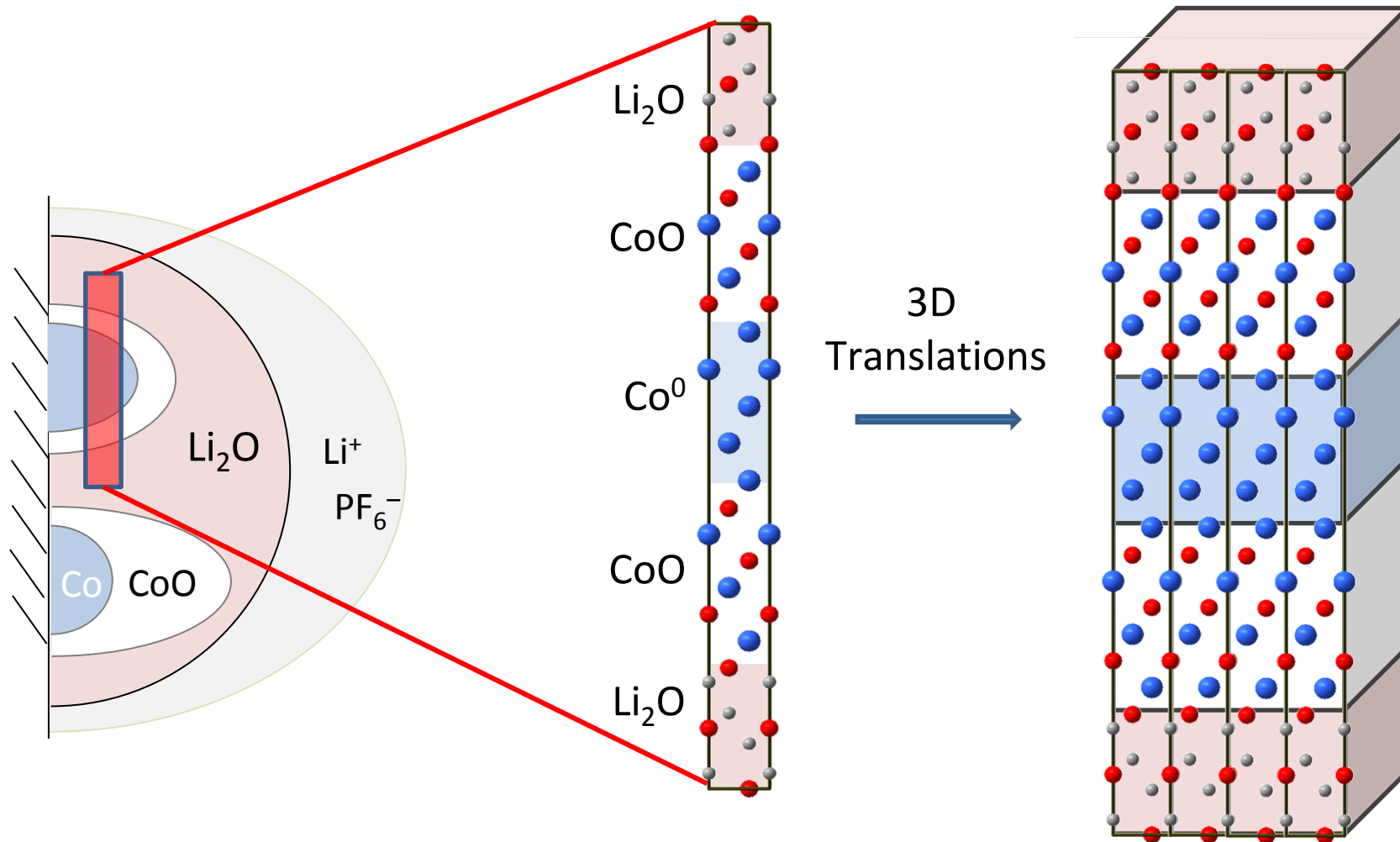
STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY

✓ Wulff-like approach to determine the electrode morphology

- **Maximizing** contact area of 😊 interfaces $\text{Li}_2\text{O} / \text{electrolyte}$
 $\text{CoO} / \text{Li}_2\text{O}$
- **Minimizing** contact area of ☹️ interfaces $\text{Co}^0 / \text{Li}_2\text{O-Li}$
- **Avoiding elastic stress**

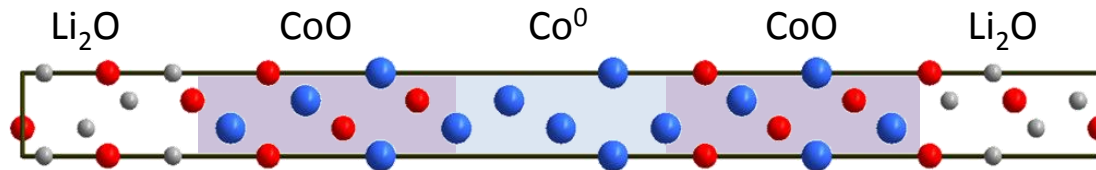


STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY



STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY

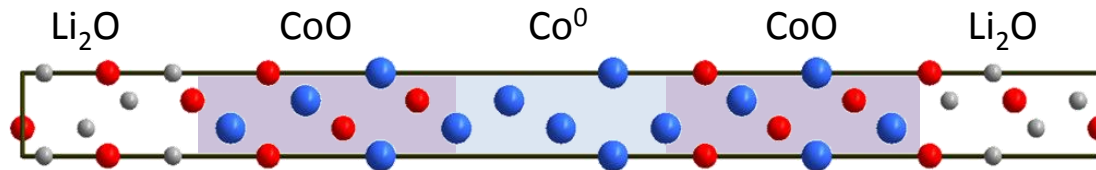
MECHANICAL DESCRIPTOR



- Unit cell symmetric with respect to Co^0 to avoid unphysical electric dipole

STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY

MECHANICAL DESCRIPTOR

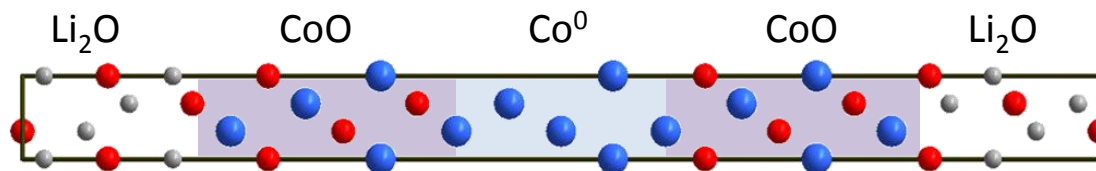


- Unit cell symmetric with respect to Co^0 to avoid unphysical electric dipole
- The relative layer thickness is directly related to the reaction extent through the relation:



STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY

MECHANICAL DESCRIPTOR



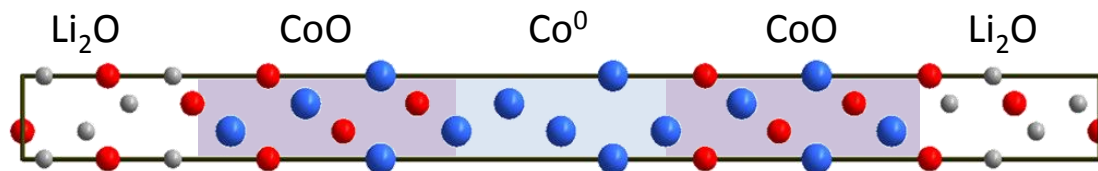
- Unit cell symmetric with respect to Co^0 to avoid unphysical electric dipole
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	Superlattices					Bulk
x	0.17	0.33	0.50	0.67	0.83	equilibrium
V (Volt)	1.84	1.80	1.78	1.77	1.90	2.18

STEP 2: ELECTRODE MORPHOLOGY

MECHANICAL DESCRIPTOR



- Unit cell symmetric with respect to Co^0 to avoid unphysical electric dipole
- The relative layer thickness is directly related to the reaction extent through the relation:

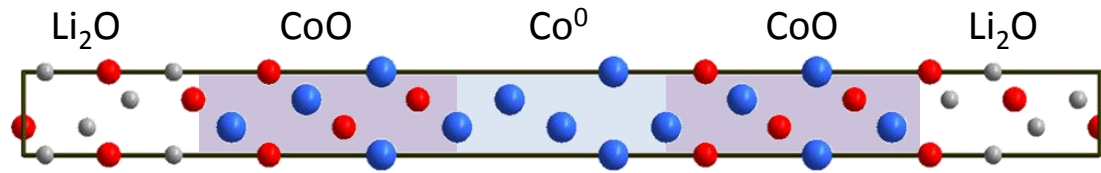


	Superlattices					Bulk	
x	0.17	0.33	0.50	0.67	0.83	equilibrium	strained
V (Volt)	1.84	1.80	1.78	1.77	1.90	2.18	1.79

Electrochemical potential (V) depends on the interface strain !

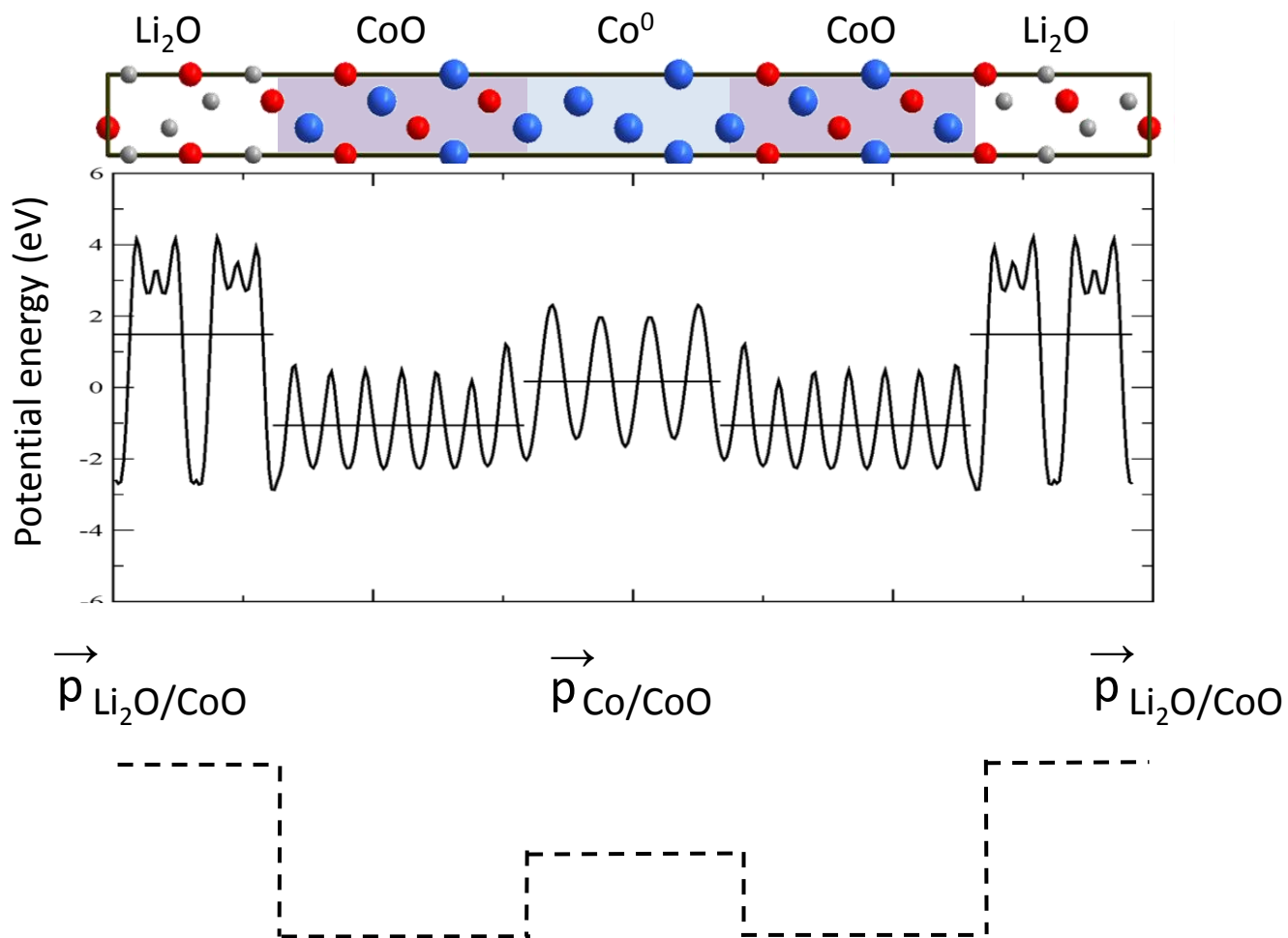
STEP 3: THE REACTION

ELECTRICAL DESCRIPTOR



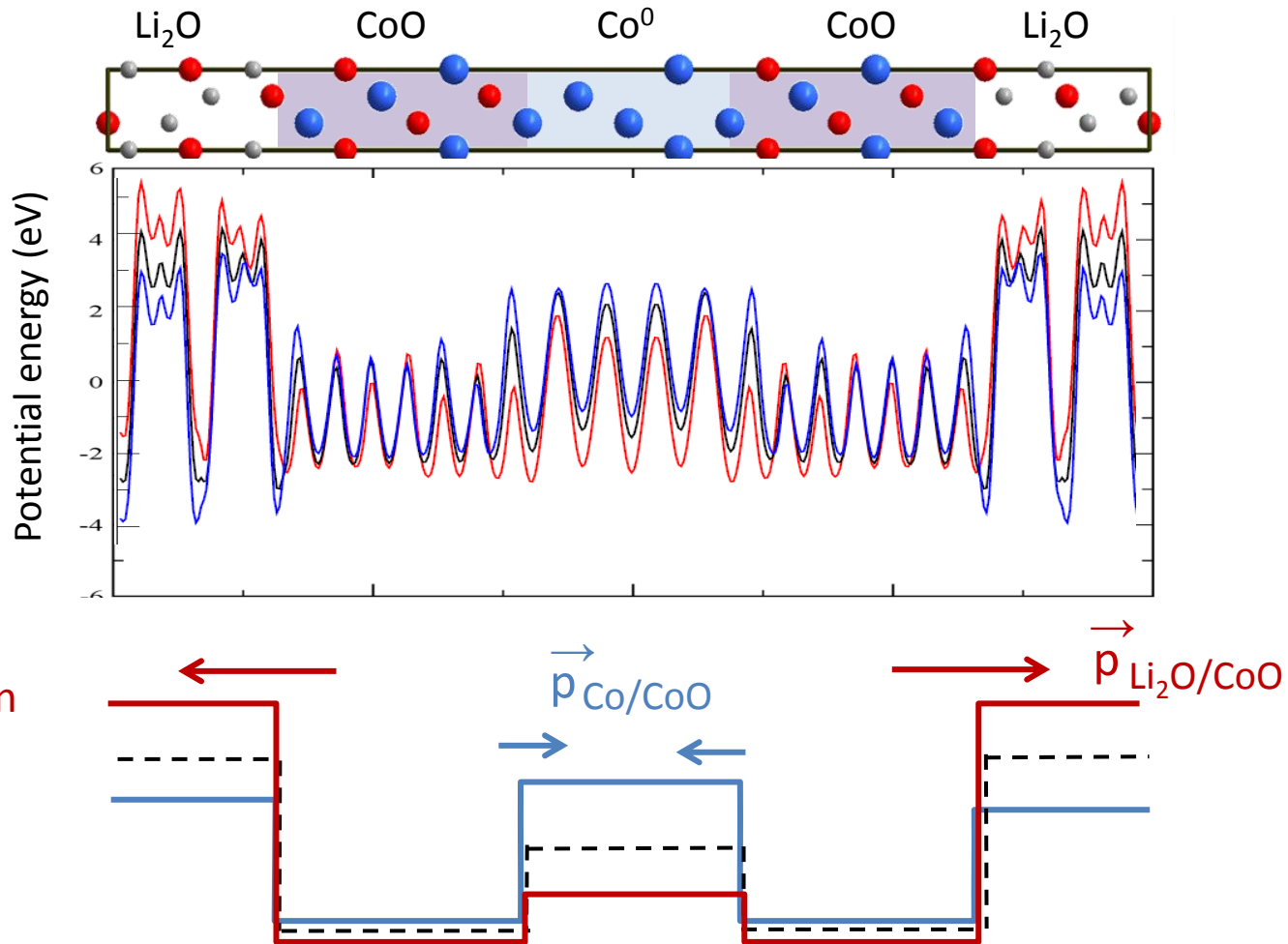
STEP 3: THE REACTION

ELECTRICAL DESCRIPTOR



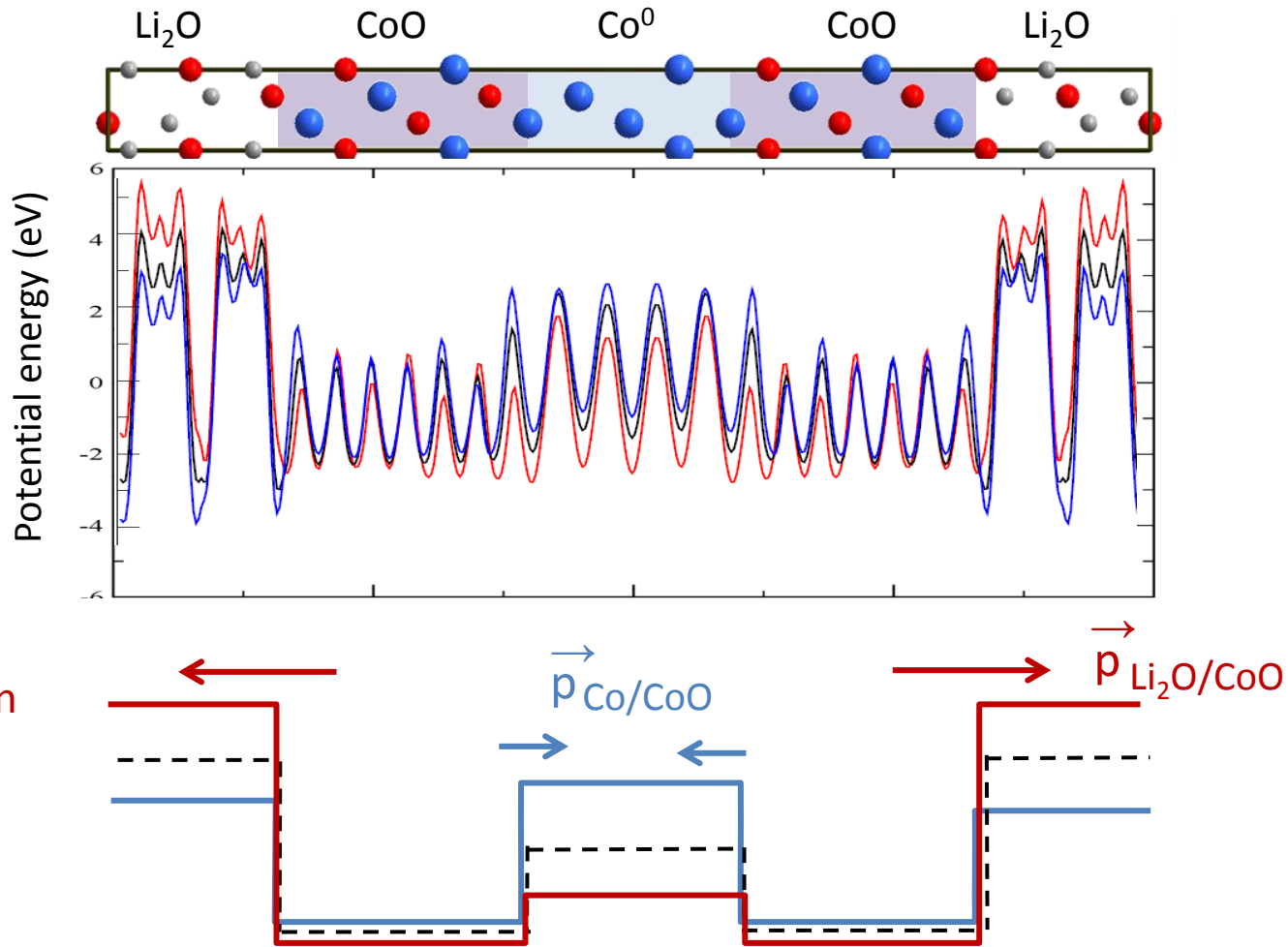
STEP 3: THE REACTION

ELECTRICAL DESCRIPTOR



STEP 3: THE REACTION

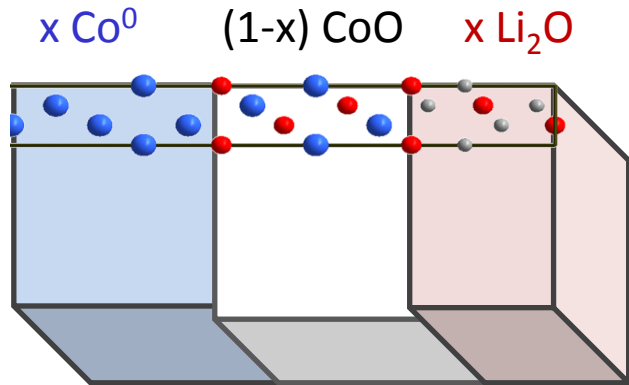
ELECTRICAL DESCRIPTOR



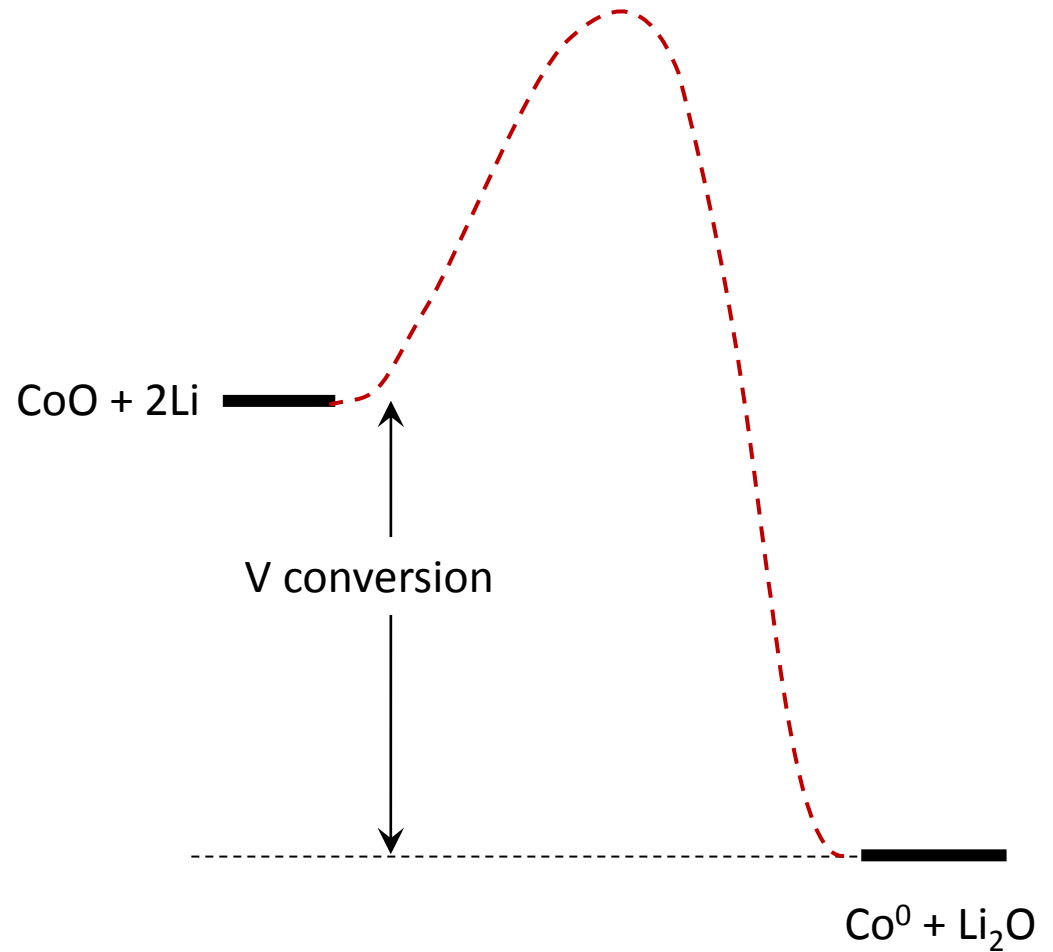
1. Different responses of the two interfaces

2. Asymmetric responses in charge/discharge

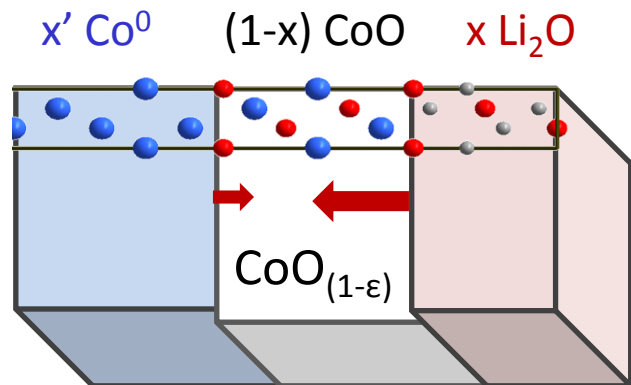
CONVERSION MECHANISM



--- Kinetics barriers

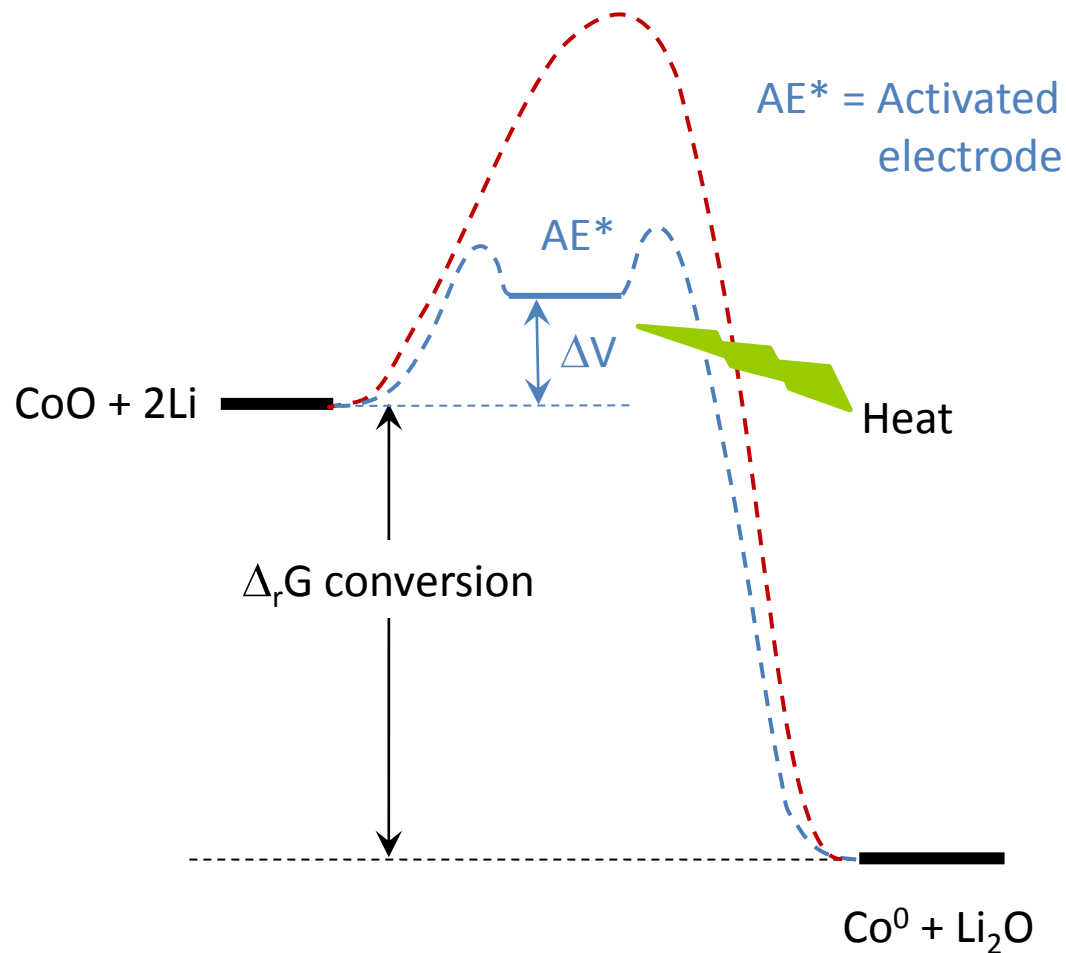


CONVERSION MECHANISM



Electric field gradients
affect the interfaces
migration

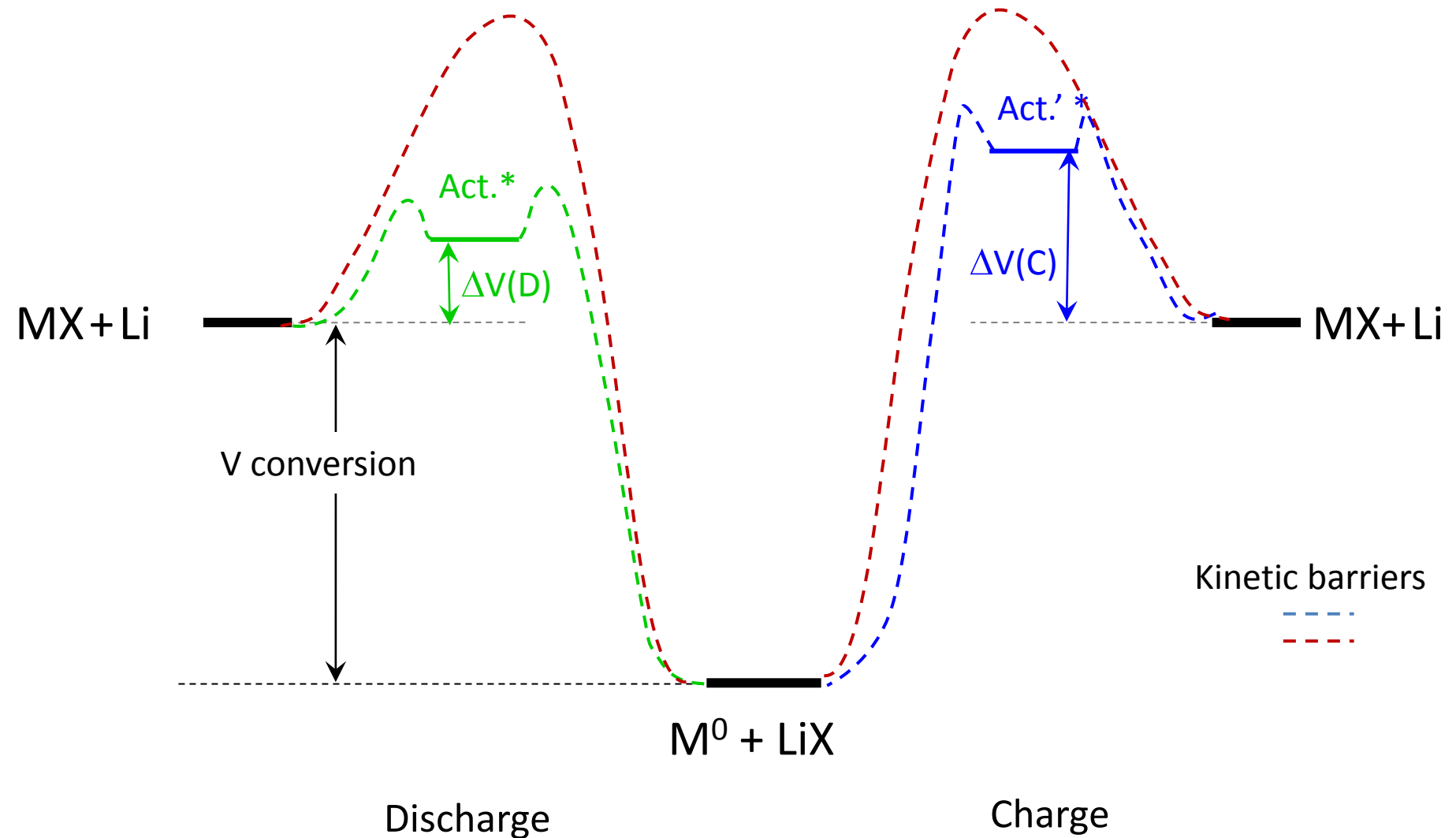
--- Kinetics barriers



✓ What did you learn from this 3-step analysis ?

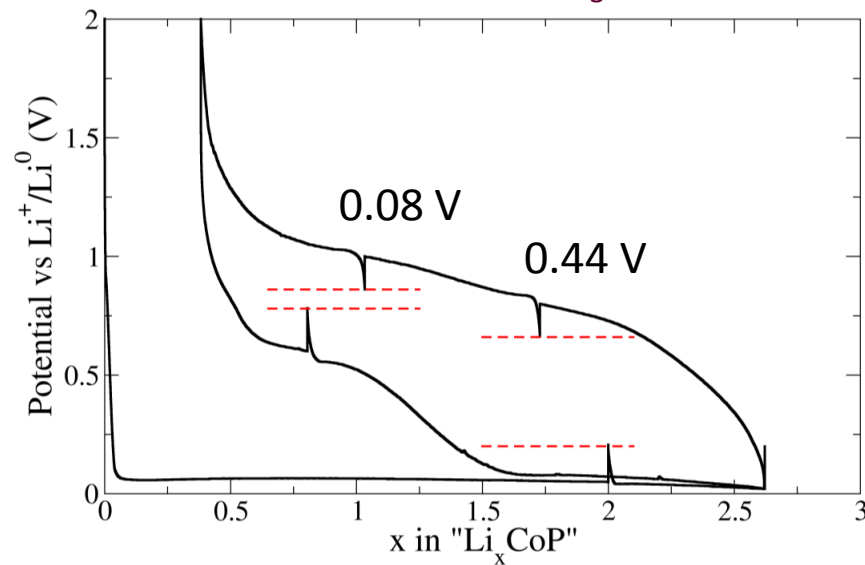
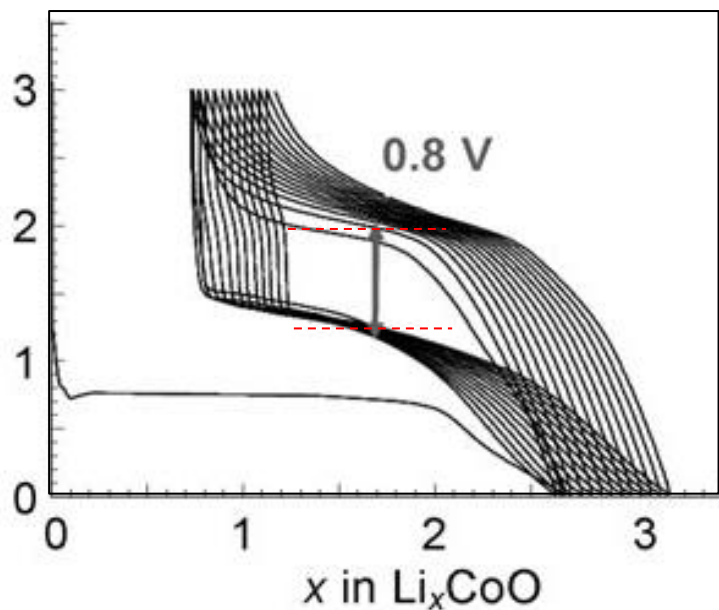
1. The **chemistry** governs the **interface stability**
→ Different morphologies (Kinetics)
2. The **mechanical strain** drastically affects the **voltage**
→ Different stress depending on the SOC / SOD
3. The **interface electric dipole** is crucial for the **mechanism**
→ Different mechanisms (Thermodynamics)

Defect Chemistry = Crucial to Initiate Conversion Reactions

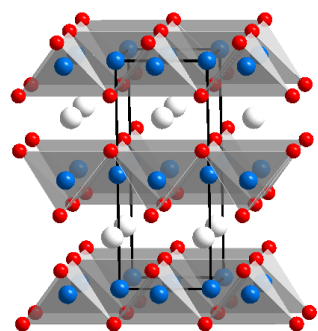
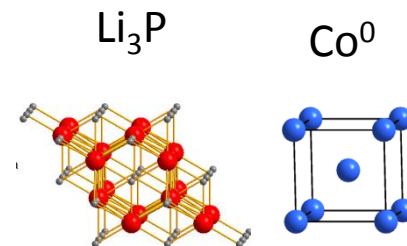
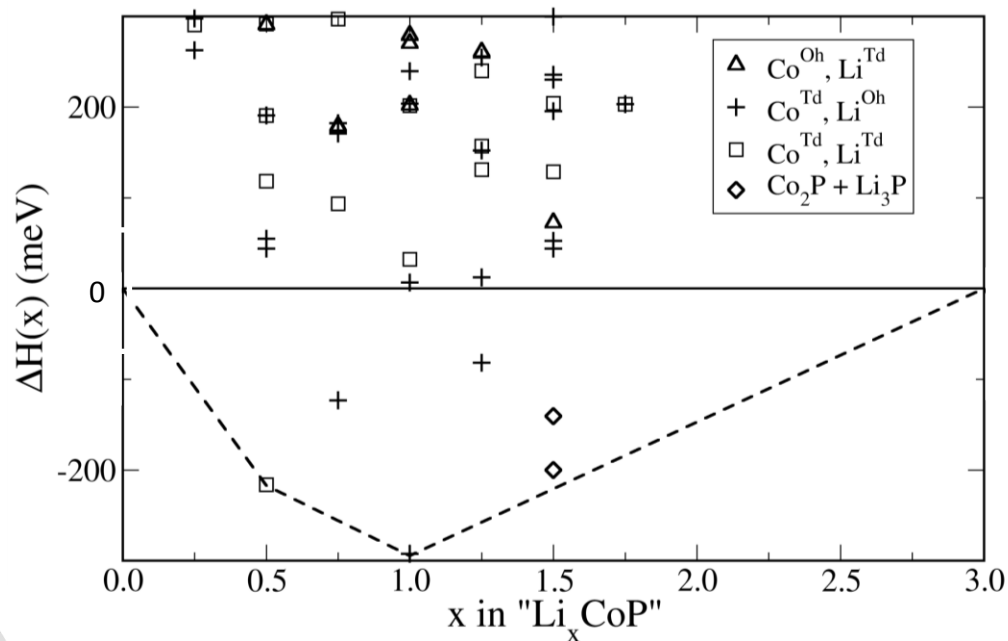
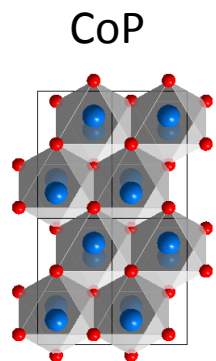


LAST BUT NOT LEAST QUESTION ?

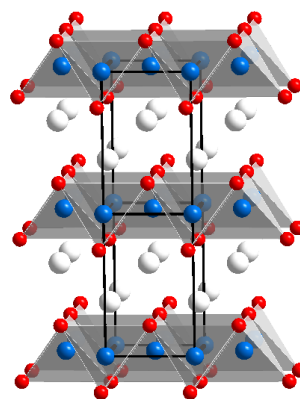
- ✓ Can we be predictive and quantitative on Mechanism + Voltage Hysteresis ?



T = 0K BULK PHASE DIAGRAM

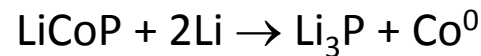
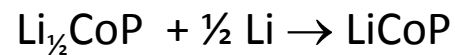
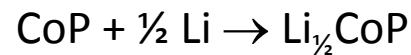


Li_{0.5}CoP

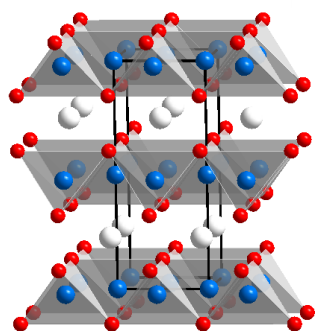
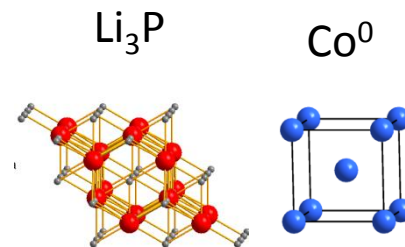
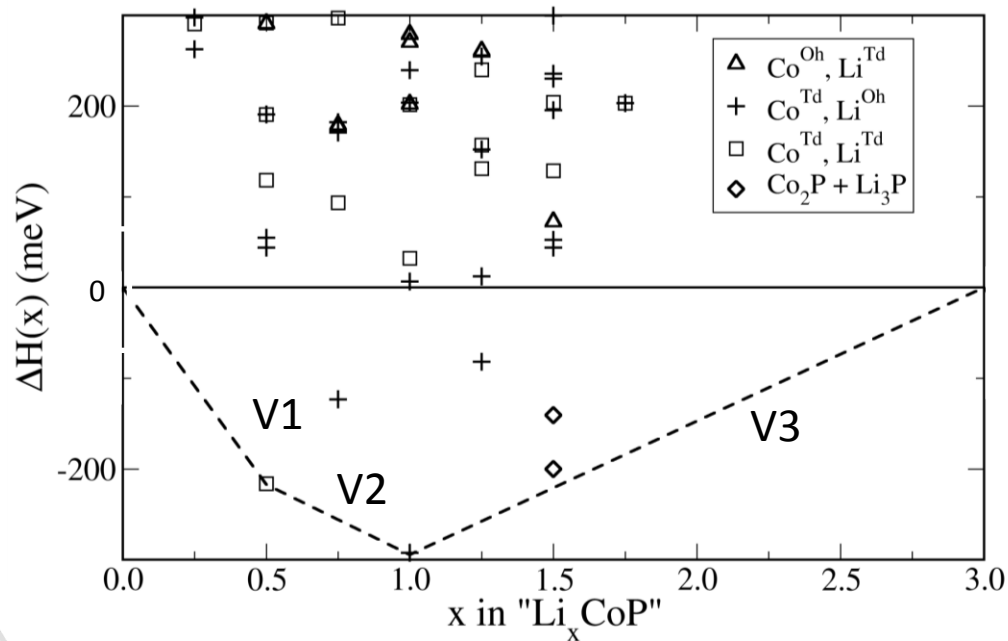
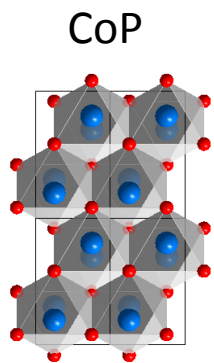


LiCoP

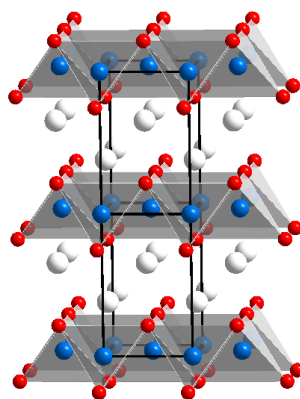
2-step Insertion / Conversion mechanism



T = 0K BULK PHASE DIAGRAM

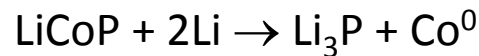
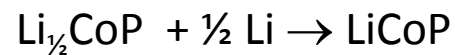
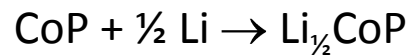


Li_{0.5}CoP



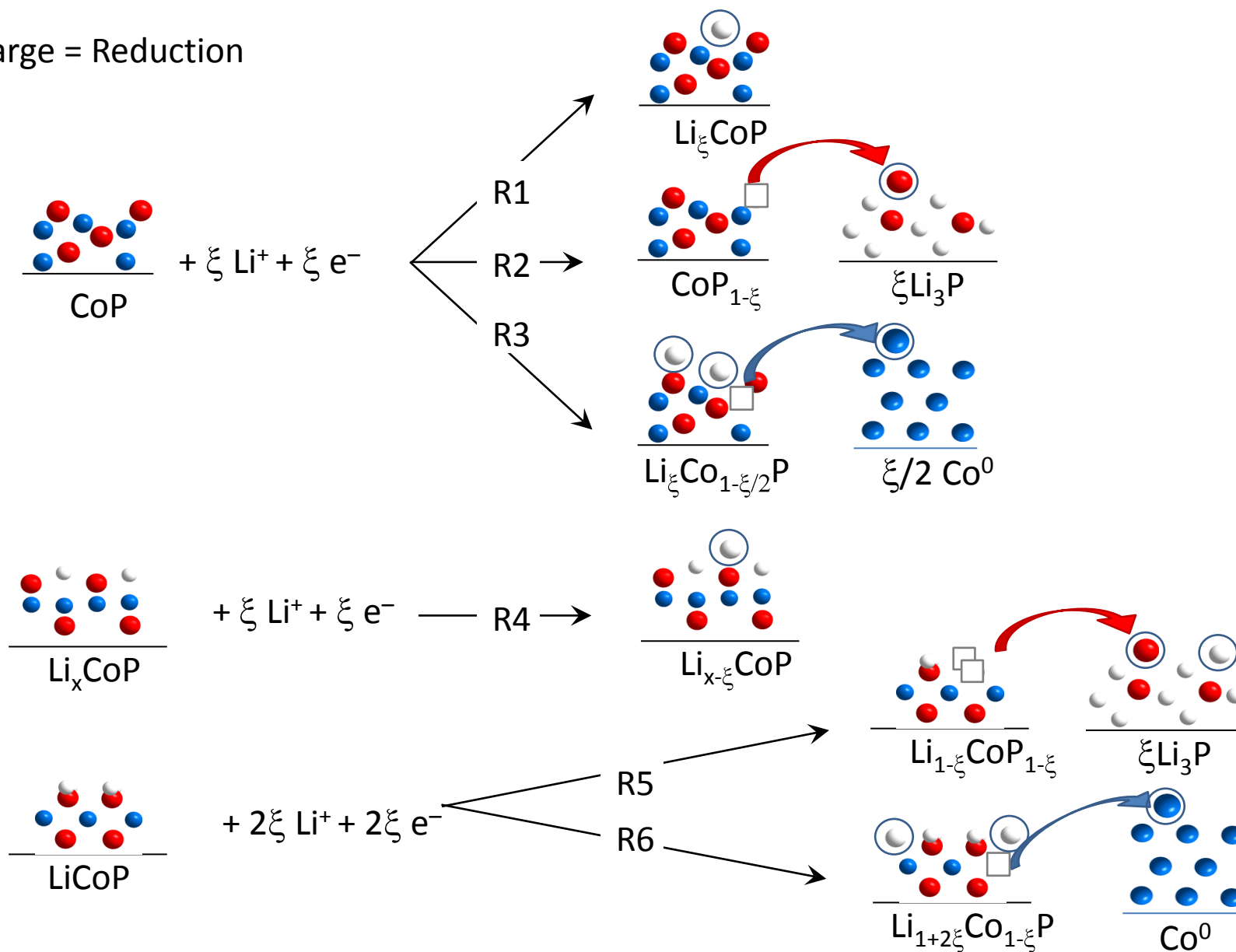
LiCoP

2-step Insertion / Conversion mechanism



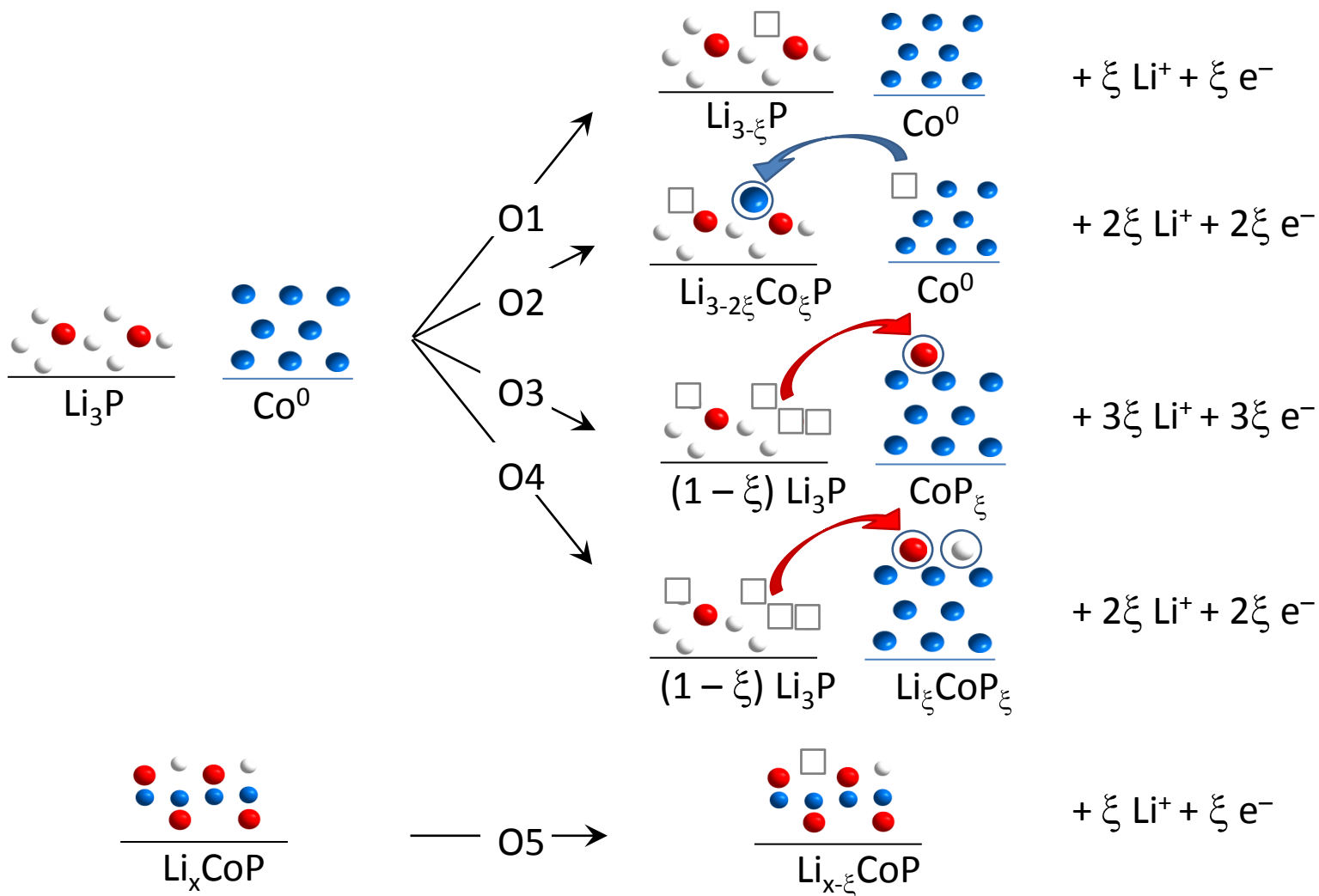
SURFACE REACTIVITY

Discharge = Reduction



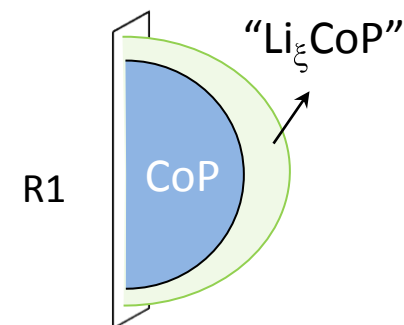
SURFACE REACTIVITY

Charge = Oxidation



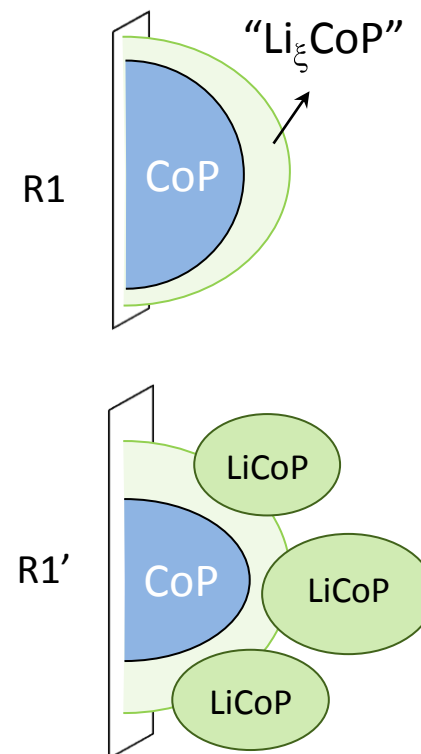
SURFACE REACTIVITY

DISCHARGE: Elementary reactions			ξ coverage	V (V)
Li-adsorption on the CoP surface to form a Li_xCoP interface				
R1	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_\xi\text{CoP})\text{-CoP}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ Li per CoP	1.12	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ Li per CoP	1.09	
		$\frac{3}{4}$ Li per CoP	0.87	
		1 Li per CoP	0.86	



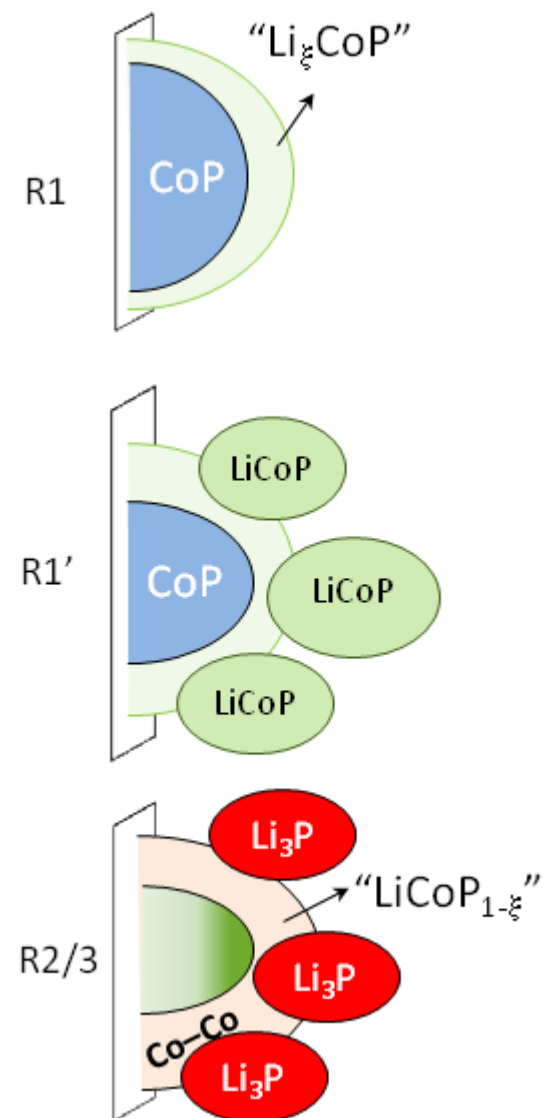
SURFACE REACTIVITY

DISCHARGE: Elementary reactions			ξ coverage	V (V)
Li-adsorption on the CoP surface to form a Li_xCoP interface				
R1	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_\xi\text{CoP})\text{-CoP}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ Li per CoP	1.12	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ Li per CoP	1.09	
		$\frac{3}{4}$ Li per CoP	0.87	
		1 Li per CoP	0.86	
Nucleation of Li_xCoP "nanoparticles" from CoP "nanoparticles"				
R1'	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_\xi\text{CoP})\text{-Li}_\xi\text{CoP}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ Li per CoP	1.09	
		1 Li per CoP	0.86	

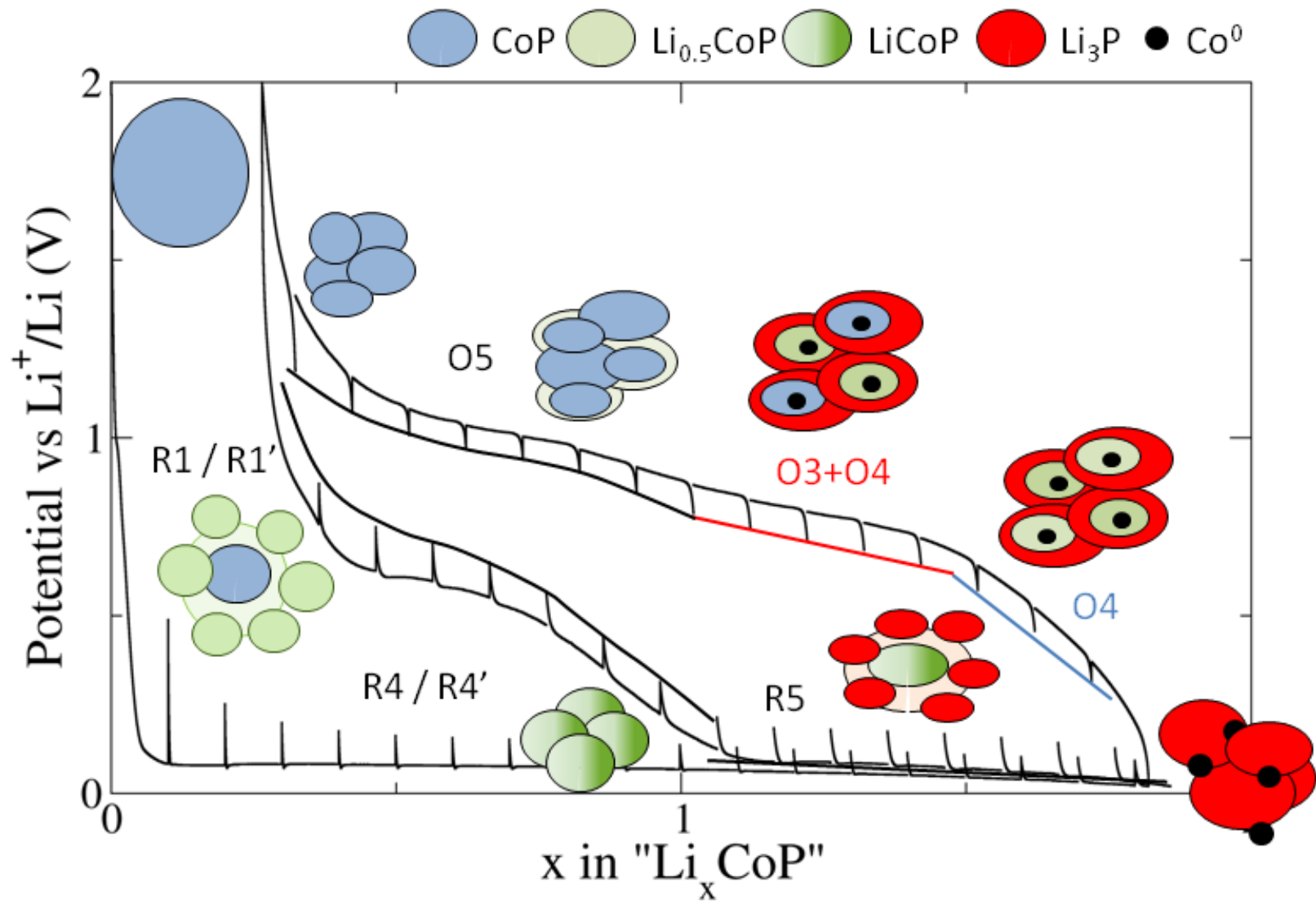


SURFACE REACTIVITY

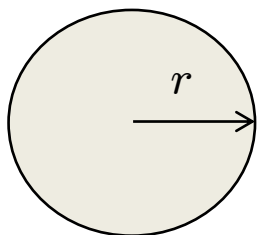
DISCHARGE: Elementary reactions			ξ coverage	V (V)
Li-adsorption on the CoP surface to form a Li_xCoP interface				
R1	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_\xi\text{CoP})\text{-CoP}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ Li per CoP	1.12	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ Li per CoP	1.09	
		$\frac{3}{4}$ Li per CoP	0.87	
		1 Li per CoP	0.86	
Nucleation of Li_xCoP "nanoparticles" from CoP "nanoparticles"				
R1'	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + 0.5\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_{0.5}\text{CoP})\text{-Li}_{0.5}\text{CoP}$ $(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + 0.5\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{LiCoP})\text{-LiCoP}$		1.09	
			0.86	
Creation of P-vacancies on the surface of CoP to form Li_3P				
R2	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + 3\xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{CoP}_{1-\xi})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Li}_3\text{P}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ P per Co	0.60	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ P per Co	0.48	
		$\frac{3}{4}$ P per Co	0.44	
		1 P per Co	0.33	
Li-substitution for Co at the surface of CoP to form Co^0				
R3	$(\text{CoP})\text{-CoP} + 3\xi\text{Li} \rightarrow (\text{Li}_{3\xi}\text{Co}_{1-\xi}\text{P})\text{-CoP} + \xi\text{Co}^0$	$\frac{1}{4}$ Co per CoP	0.37	



ELECTROCHEMICAL PROCESS

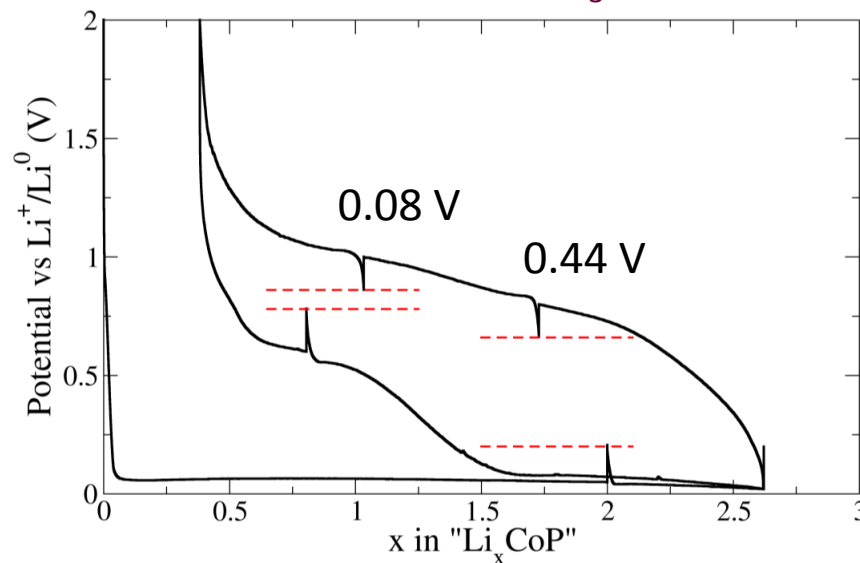
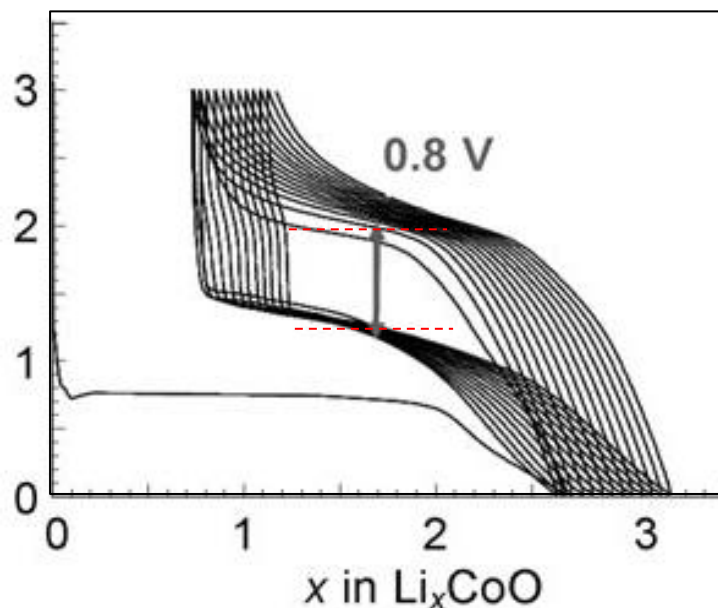


SURFACE vs. BULK REACTIVITY

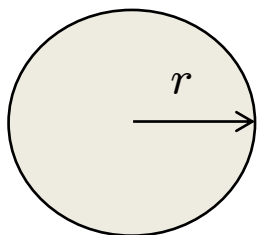


n_b : number of bulk atoms
 n_s : number of surface atoms
 $n_b + n_s = n_T$

$$V(r) = \frac{n_s}{n_T} V_s + \frac{n_b}{n_T} V_b = \frac{3}{3+r} V_s + \frac{r}{3+r} V_b$$

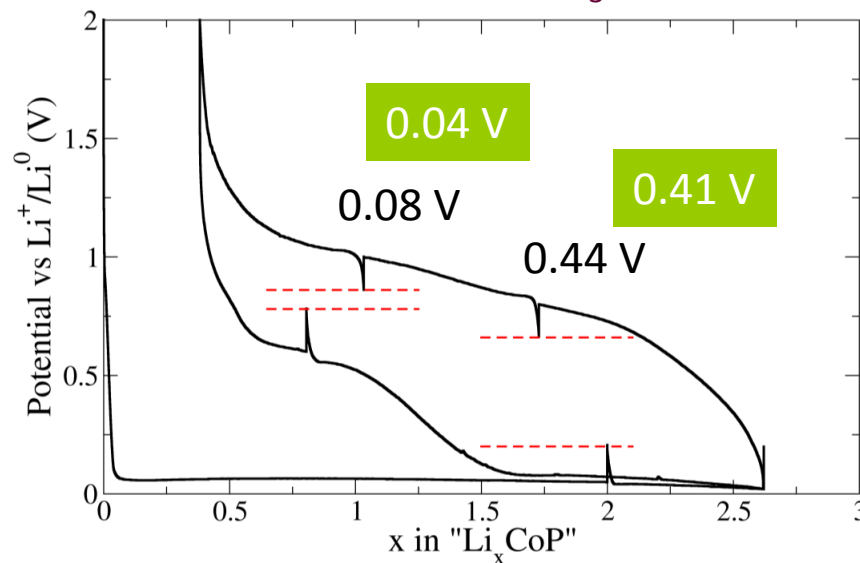
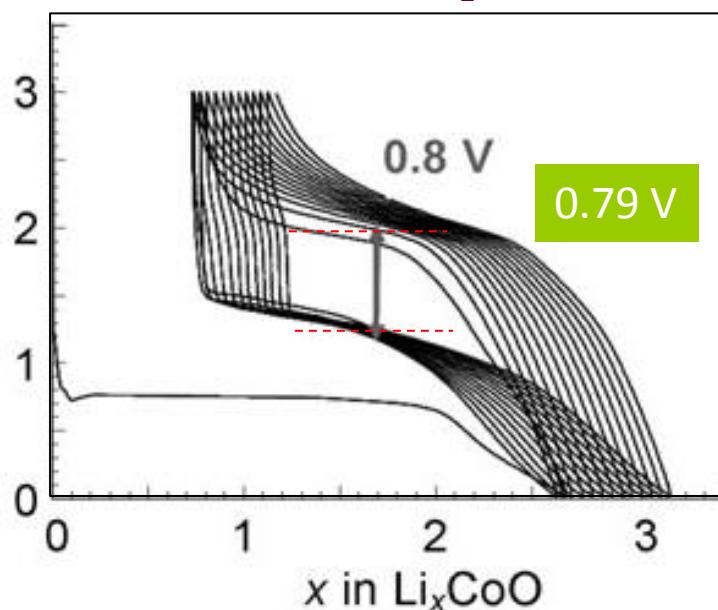


SURFACE vs. BULK REACTIVITY



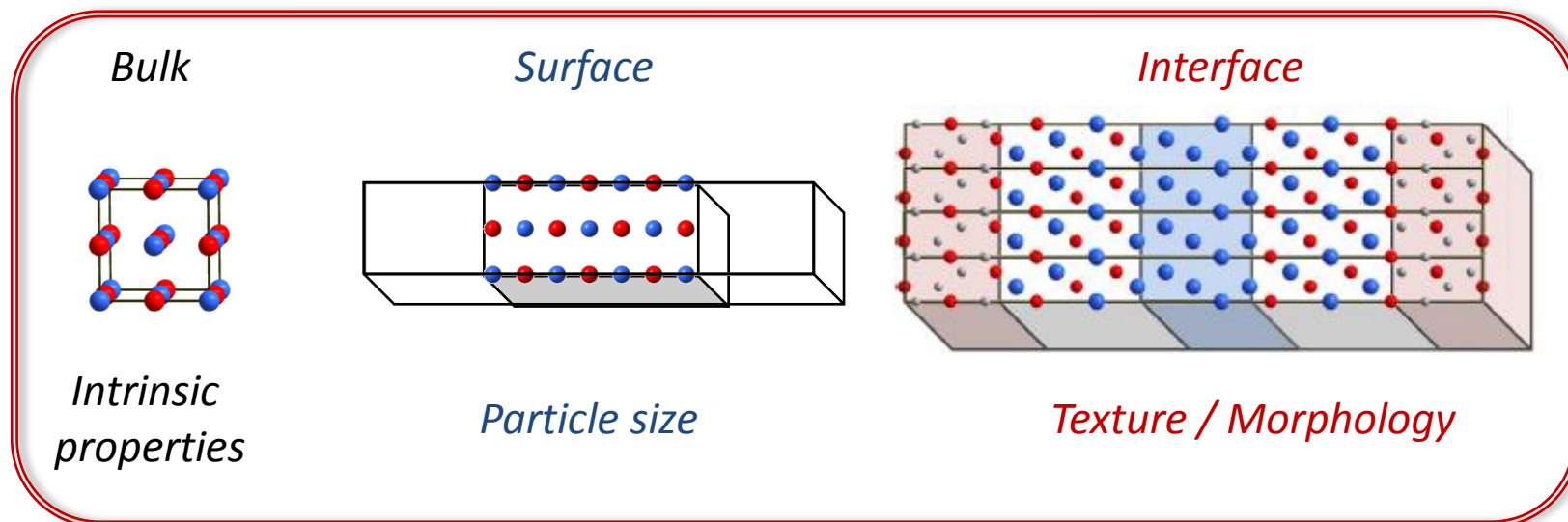
n_b : number of bulk atoms
 n_s : number of surface atoms
 $n_b + n_s = n_T$

$$V(r) = \frac{n_s}{n_T} V_s + \frac{n_b}{n_T} V_b = \frac{3}{3+r} V_s + \frac{r}{3+r} V_b$$



EXCELLENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN EXPERIMENT AND THEORY

CONCLUSIONS / PERSPECTIVES ?



- ✓ Efficient, easy-handling and powerful tool for bulk, surface and interface electrochemistry of multi-phased & nano-sized electrodes for Li-ion batteries

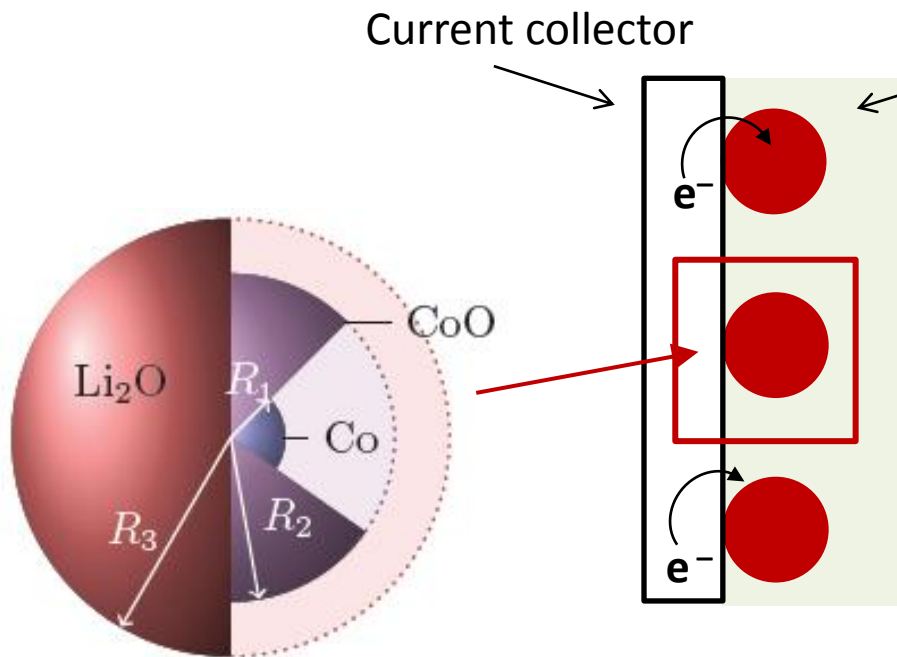
Much work still to be done ...

- ✓ Electrode / Binder / Carbon black
 - Impact on the interface reactivity

- ✓ Electrode / Electrolyte interfaces
 - Li-dendrites
 - SEI
 - Other electrolyte reduction processes

- ✓ Aging phenomena are being investigated through surface reactivity

- ✓ Development of bottom-up multi-scale models to simulate Charge / Discharge voltage profiles depending on operating conditions ... (Collaboration with A. Franco)



Assumptions:

- constant C_{Li+}
- constant double layer capacity C_{dl}

Reaction rate coefficients

$$k_i = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta G_i^\ddagger}{RT}\right)$$

Gibbs activation energy non constant
 Depends on SOC / SOD, elastic stress, morphology

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perfect accommodation



Dominique LARCHER
Experiments on CoO

Alejandro A. FRANCO
Multiscale approaches

... AND YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION