

Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology

Linking mineral and material worlds: defects genealogy in olivine-type cathode materials

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Outline

I. Olivine mineral group: variety and structure

II. Defects: brief introduction, classification, examples

III. Parallels between minerals and electrode materials:

"Learning from Nature" strategy

IV. Newly discovered old defects

V. Conclusions

Olivine mineral (Mg,Fe)₂**SiO**₄ Papakolea beach in Hawaii



also known as Green Sand Beach or Mahana Beach

Olivine crystal structure



Orthorhombic unit cell

M₂XO₄ Olivine (Mg,Fe)₂SiO₄

Two M sites

One X site edge-shared with M₂

LiFePO₄ – triphylite (olivine-group mineral)





LiFePO₄ Triphylite

BVEL DFT MEM 1D Li⁺ migration ۰b

LiFePO₄ – triphylite (olivine-group mineral)





Triphylite

Nanosizing + Carbon-coating



LiFePO₄/C cathode material



- Low conductivity
- Slow diffusion





Wang, L. et al, Nano Lett., 2012, 12(11), 5632

Defects make it unique...

Australian bee hive (honeycomb)



1D defects

Spider in Amber





3D defects



Vinnie-Pooh

Damascus steel



2D defects

Ruby gemstone



Point defects (0D)

Terminology



Types of point defects: Kröger-Vink notation

- A atom or vacancy
- A_{R}^{c} **B** – position (site or interstitial)
 - C charge:
 - positive
 - negative
 - X neutral
 - e' electron
 - h^{\cdot} hole
- X₂Y₃ stoichiometry $Y'_{\mathbf{X}}$ $V_{\mathbf{v}}$ X_i Vacancy in Y X interstitial Y at X site





X type atom



Y type atom

LiFePO₄ defects – vacancies

 $Li_{Li}^{\times} - Fe_{Fe}^{\times}$

$$V_{Li}' - Fe_{Fe}^{\cdot}$$



LiFePO₄ Triphylite

Li_xFePO₄ Ferrisicklerite

FePO₄ Heterosite

LiFePO₄ defects

$$Li_{Li}^{\times} - Fe_{Fe}^{\times}$$

$$Fe_{Li}^{\cdot} - V_{Li}'$$





Li⁺ diffusion is blocked!

LiFePO₄ Triphylite

Feo.5FePO₄ Sarcopside or Fe₃(PO₄)₂

 $Li_{Li}^{\times} - Fe_{Fe}^{\times}$



 $Li^{+}(r = 0.76Å)$ Fe^{2+} (r = 0.78 Å)

 $Fe_{Mg}^{\times} - Mg_{Fe}^{\times}$ **Mg-Fe interdiffusion**

Continuous solid-solution: Fe₂SiO₄ Fayalite – Mg₂SiO₄ Forsterite $Fe_{Li}^{\cdot} - Li_{Fe}^{\prime}$



LiFePO₄ Triphylite

 $(Li_{1-x}Fe_x)_{M1}(Fe_{1-x}Li_x)_{M2}PO_4$

Antisite defects

LiFePO₄ – Li-rich

$$Li_{Li}^{\times} - Fe_{Fe}^{\times}$$





"Li-rich"

2D Li⁺ transport

Not known in minerals (yet?)

What about electrode materials?

LiFePO₄ Triphylite

Li_{1+x}Fe_{1-x}PO₄

Poster on Li-rich LiMPO₄ by A. Grebenschikova

LiFePO₄ – defects in anion sublattice



LiFePO₄ Triphylite

Amisse, R. *Chem. Mater.* 2015, **27**, 4261–4270



What about anions?

Any defects in anionic sublattice?

 $V_P^{\prime\prime\prime\prime\prime}$

DFT: 3.56 eV – "highly unlikely"

Low-temperature co-precipitation:

 $[Li_{0.85}Fe^{3+}_{0.15}]_{M1}[Fe^{2+}_{0.72}Fe^{3+}_{0.19}Li_{0.09}]_{M2}P_{0.92}O_{4}$

8% No explanation given...

LiFePO₄ – defects in anion sublattice



After several cycles of refinement the occupancy factors of the cation sites in the isotropic and anisotropic refinements agreed within the standard errors and were, for the anisotropic refinement. M(1) = $40.8 \pm 2.2\%$, $M(2) = 98.6 \pm 0.4\%$, $P = 95.8 \pm 0.4\%$. These results seem to indicate that the M(1) site is occupied only by Li. Moreover the partial occupancy of the P site (95.8%) confirms the substitution of the PO₄ group by the (OH)₄ group as suggested by Fontan *et al.* (1976) and agrees satisfactorily with the calculated occupancy (93.9%). Albertia, A. (**1976**) Acta Cryst. B, 32(10), 2761–2764.

Fontan, F., Huveun, P., Orliac, M. & Permingeat, F. (1976). Bull. Soc. Fr. Mindr. Crist. In preparation.

Never been published...

Water in the upper mantle and transition zone



Hydrogen in natural (Mg,Fe)₂SiO₄ olivines



Nature 467, 78–81 (02 September 2010) Download Citation ±

Hydroxyl defects in (Mg,Fe)₂SiO₄ olivines

FTIR spectroscopy for Forsterite DFT for OH groups in Si and Mg positions



Modeling of FTIR spectra

Blanchard, M. et al American Mineralogist, 2017, 102(2), 302–311.

Qin, T. et al. American Mineralogist, 2018, 103(5), 692–699.

Hydrothermally prepared LiFePO₄

Hydrothermal synthesis: precursor concentration variation

 $Li_{1.050}Fe_{0.950}P_{0.962}O_4$ $Li_{0.93}Fe_{1.07}P_{0.84}O_{4}$ **TEM-EDX XRD** *Pnma* V, Å³ 290.431(9) *P*2₁*ma* V, Å³ 293.12(2) [100] [100 002 020 a "Li-rich" 7% Fe in M1 position No Li-Fe anti-sites **16% P-deficiency** Distance. nm Distance, nm

Sharikov, F. Yu et al, Cryst. Growth. Des., 2018

Sumanov, V. D. et al, Chem. Mater. 2019

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OH-detecting: TG-MS + FTIR

Hydrothermal synthesis in D₂O



Total mass loss 3.9 %

D-shift, band at ~2600 cm⁻¹

-OD (cryst.) mass corresponds to y \approx 0.17 in Li_{1-x}Fe_{1+x}(PO₄)_{1-y}(OD)_{4y}

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Hydrothermal synthesis: precursor concentration/temperature scans

P deficiency vs. Fe(M1) occupancy

Magnetic behavior: T_N change



Higher P deficiency – Larger cell volume

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Li_{1-x}Fe_{1+x}(PO₄)_{1-y}(OH)_{4y} electrochemistry



1) $Li_{0.93}Fe_{1.07}P_{0.84}O_4$

2) $Li_{0.965}Fe_{1.035}P_{0.905}O_4$

3) $Li_{1.050}Fe_{0.950}P_{0.962}O_4$

C/10 rate, LiPF₆ in 1M EC:DMC



Conclusions

- I. Look for creativeness in minerals and Nature
- II. Much richer defects chemistry of LiFePO₄: polyanion sublattice is not inert
- III. Hydroxytriphylite solid solutions $Li_{1-x}Fe_{1+x}(PO_4)_{1-y}(OH)_{4y}$ inspired by minerals and Nature.

Glass beach in Vladivostok







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Thank you for attention!