

Consequence Analysis of Li-Ion Battery Thermal Runaway Events with Chemical Equilibrium Analyses

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Motivation



The *current approach* to *toxic gas hazards* during LIB thermal runaway is *expensive* and *not 'a priori'*

Problem Statement:

Toxic gas release during thermal runaway of Li-ion batteries is a potential hazard, but is not well characterized

Current Approach: Experimental evaluation of single batteries

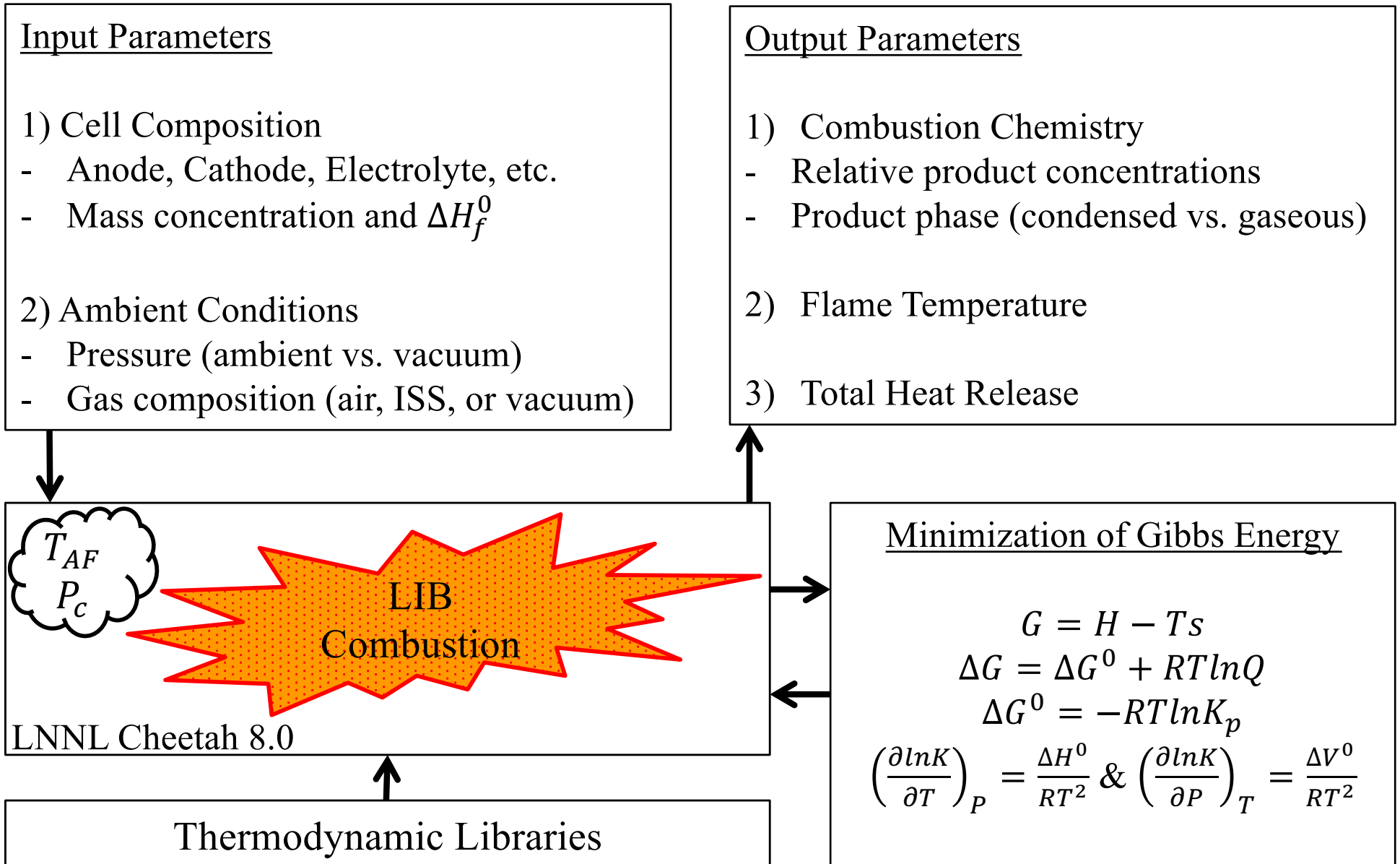
Objectives:

- 1) Develop an a priori modeling approach
- 2) Validate against existing experimental data
- 3) Apply to various LIB designs and conditions

Overview of Chemical Equilibrium Analysis (CEA)



CEA is utilized to predict reaction equilibrium conditions



Literature Review: Experimental Approaches

State-of-the-Art Experiments



ARC and reaction gas composition analysis

Experiments

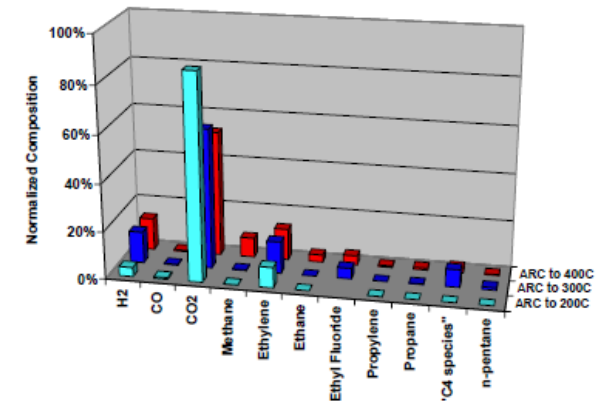
- DSC, ARC with temperature-transient gas sampling
- Reaction Gas Sampling (GC, FTIR)
- Cell-level and sub-components

Shortcomings

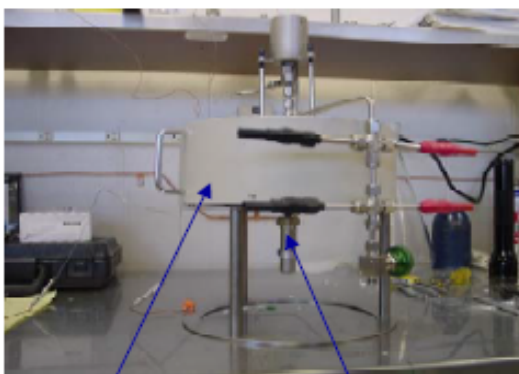
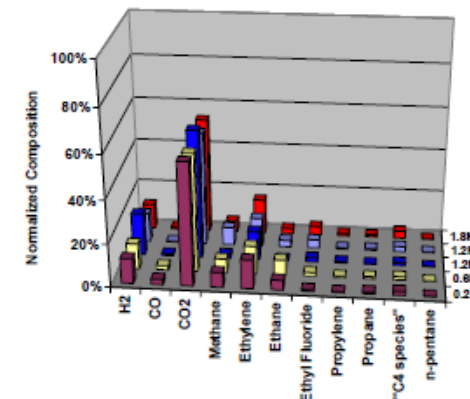
- No 'true' ignition and combustion (slow dT/dt)
- Gas sampling data may be useful for kinetics modeling

Gen1 Cells: (Argonne National Laboratory Design)	Anode:	75% MCMB-6-2800 Carbon 16% SFG-6 Graphite 9% PVDF Binder
	Cathode:	84% $\text{LiNi}_{0.85}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{O}_2$ 4% Carbon Black, 4% SFG6 Graphite 8% PVDF Binder
	Electrolyte:	1M LiPF_6 in EC:DEC (1:1)
Gen2 Cells: (Argonne National Laboratory design)	Anode:	92% MAG10 Graphite 8% PVDF Binder
	Cathode:	84% $\text{LiNi}_{0.80}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2$ 4% Carbon Black, 4% SFG6 Graphite 8% PVDF Binder
	Electrolyte:	1.2M LiPF_6 in EC:EMC (3:7)

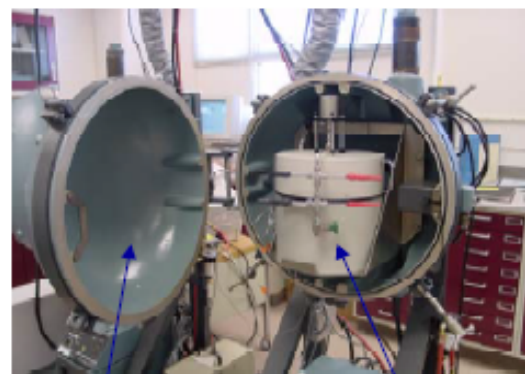
Temperature Effect for EC:EMC/1.2M LiPF_6



EC:EMC/ LiPF_6 : Normalized Gas Composition with Increasing LiPF_6 (400C)



Top Cell Holder



Clam Shell Blast Shield Heating Unit

State-of-the-Art Experiments



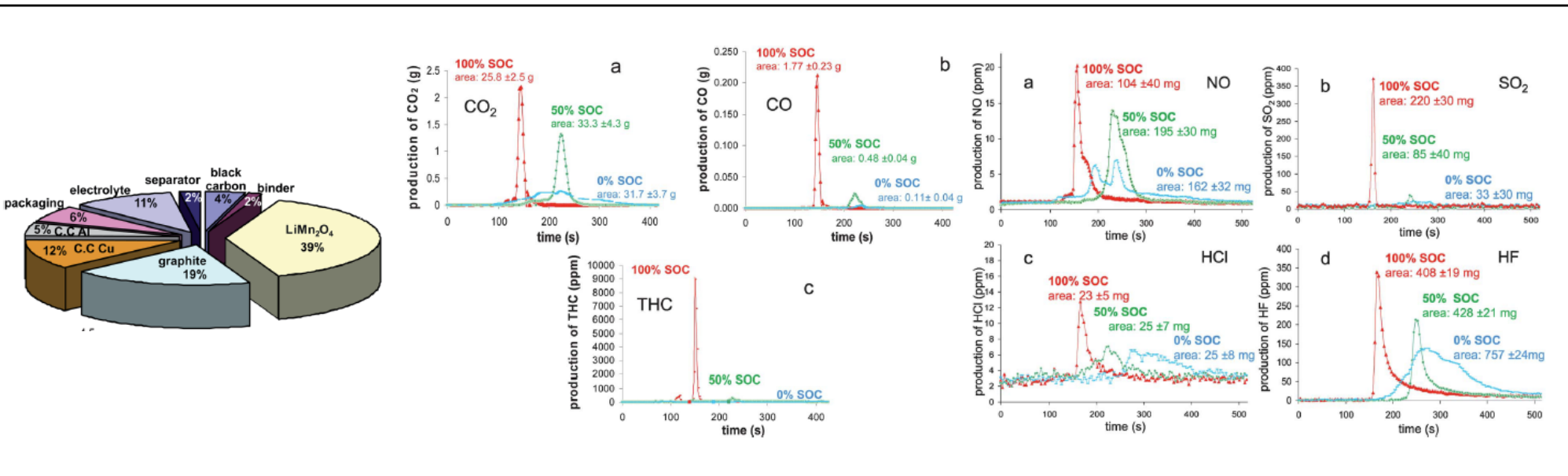
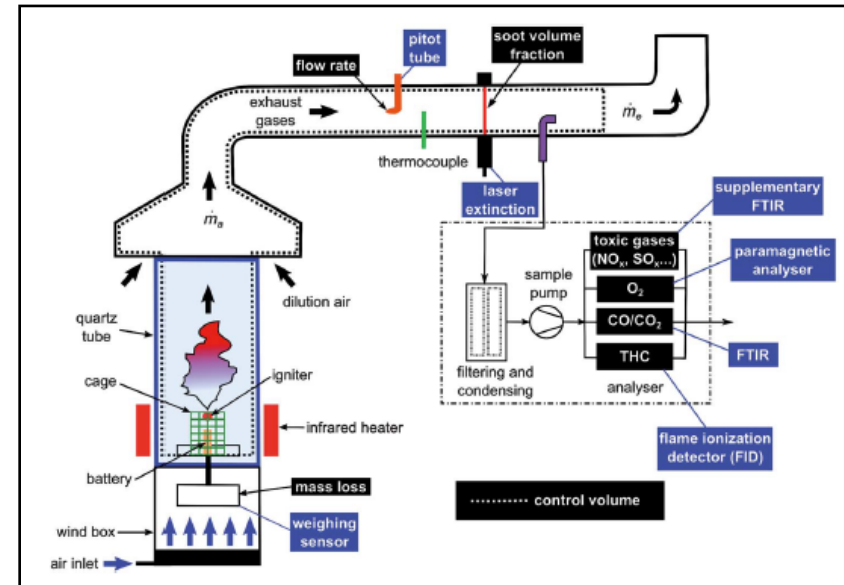
Cone calorimetry and reaction gas composition analysis

Experiments

- Cone Calorimetry (Heat Release Rate)
- Reaction Gas Sampling (Reaction Composition)

Shortcomings

- Cell composition not well defined
 - Numerous estimates
 - Electrolyte, salt, SEI
- Oxidizer volume is not well quantified



State-of-the-Art Experiments



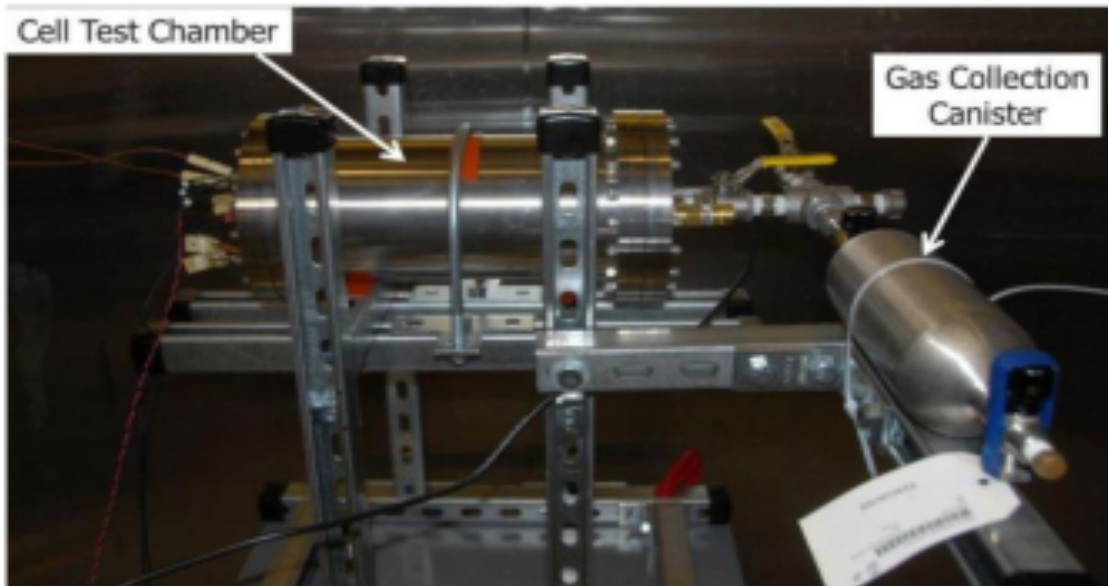
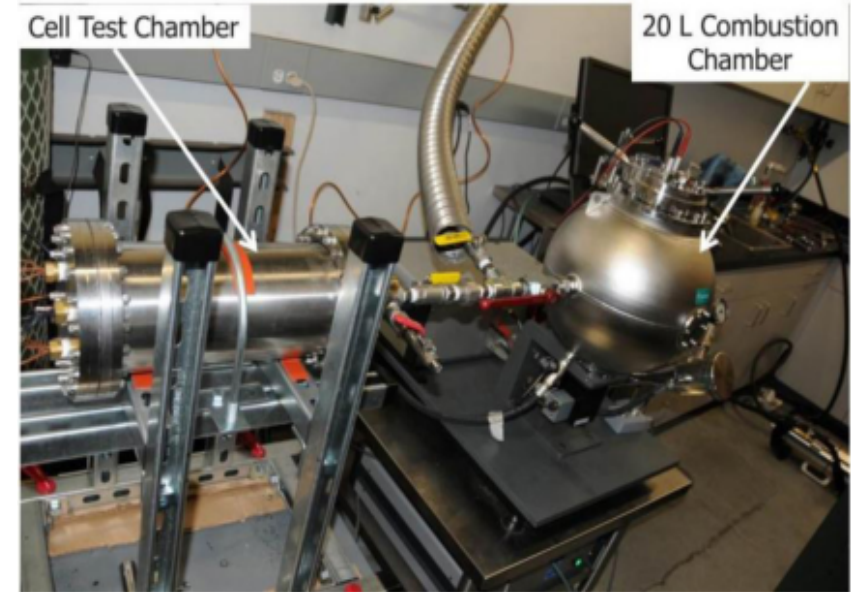
CV 'bomb' with gas collection and explosion analysis

Experiments

- Constant-Volume (CV) Vessel with TR
- Reaction Gas Collection and Explosion
- Atmosphere Control

Shortcomings

- Cell composition not fully characterized
 - Lithium salts, SEI not included
- Slow Heating Rates (~ 1 K/s)



Cell Composition

Component	Chemical Compound	Molecular Formula	ΔH_c (kJ g ⁻¹)	Mass %
Tape	Polyester Terephthalate	(C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₄) _n	22.00 [25]	0.2%
Label	Polypropylene	(C ₃ H ₆) _n	42.66 [24]	0.5 %
Separator	Polypropylene	(C ₃ H ₆) _n	42.66 [24]	6.4%
Electrolyte w/o Salt	See Table 2.		19.31 ¹⁷	9.5%
Outer Packaging (Top)	Nylon 6	(C ₁₂ H ₁₁ NO) _n	28.74 [25]	2.2%
Outer Packaging (Bottom)	Polypropylene	(C ₃ H ₆) _n	42.66 [24]	2.1%
Positive Tab	Polyester Terephthalate	(C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₄) _n	22.00 [25]	0.9%
Negative Tab	Polyester Terephthalate	(C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₄) _n	22.00 [25]	0.9%
LiCoO ₂ coated, positive electrode (aluminum)	Lithium Cobalt Oxide	LiCoO ₂	Inorganic Material	42.4%
Graphite-coated negative electrode (copper)	Lithium-intercalated Graphite (charged)	LiC ₆	Inorganic Material	34.9%
Chemical Compound	Molecular Formula	ΔH_c (kJ g ⁻¹)	% Volume in Electrolyte	% Mass in Electrolyte
Ethylene Carbonate	C ₃ H ₄ O ₃	12.30 [26]	15.1	12
Dimethyl Carbonate	C ₃ H ₆ O ₃	13.40 [27]	3.1	3
Diethyl Carbonate	C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₃	21.15 [26]	70.8	76
Propylene Carbonate	C ₄ H ₆ O ₃	16.53 [26]	9.8	9

Vent Gas Composition

Gas	50% SOC (%vol)	100% SOC (%vol)	150% SOC (%vol)	Roth et al.[4] (%vol) Test 1/Test 2
Carbon Dioxide	32	30	20.9	61.4/75.8
Carbon Monoxide	3.61	22.9	24.5	15.1/6.4
Hydrogen	30	27.7	29.7	5.1/5.9
Total Hydrocarbons	34	19.3	24	---
Methane	5.78	6.39	8.21	7.4/1.9

Gas	50% SOC (%vol)	100% SOC (%vol)	150% SOC (%vol)
Methane	5.78	6.39	8.21
Ethylene	5.57	2.19	10.77
Ethane	2.75	1.16	1.32
Propylene	8.16	4.52	0.01
Propane	0.68	0.26	2.54
Isobutane	0.41	0.20	0.13
n-Butane	0.67	0.56	0.39
Butenes	2.55	1.58	0.60
Isopentane	0.45	0.07	0.04
n-Pentane	1.94	0.73	0.30
Benzene	0.14	0.11	0.33
Toluene	0.06	0.02	0.05
Ethylbenzene	0.01	0.00	0.00
m+p Xylenes	0.01	0.00	0.00

State-of-the-Art Experiments



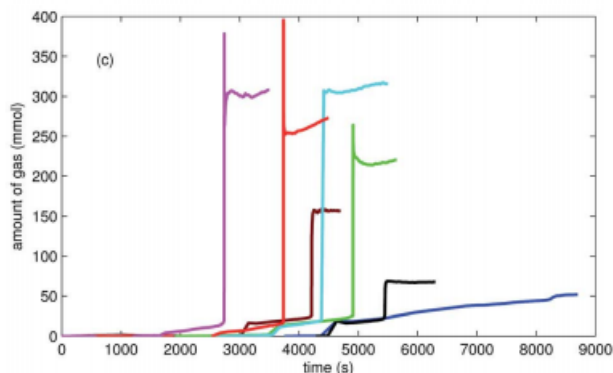
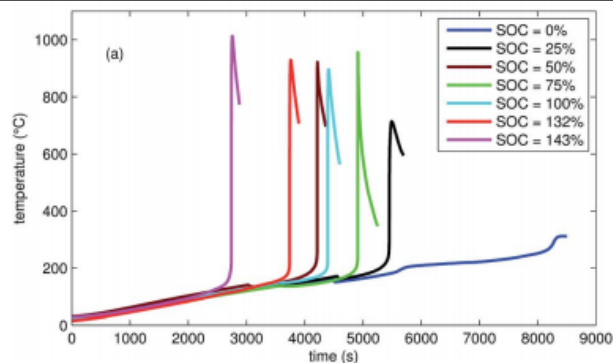
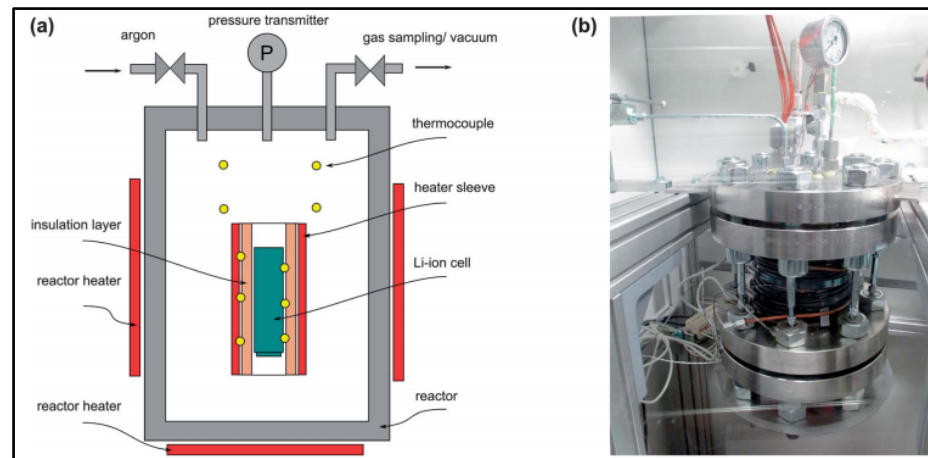
CV 'bomb' with reaction gas analysis

Experiments

- CV Vessel with Gas Sampling (GC)
- Full cell composition given (NCA & LFP)

Shortcomings

- Cell compositions contain some uncertainty
- Slow heating rates (~ 0.1 K/min)



No.	Cell	SOC (%)	θ_R (°C)	θ_m (°C)	Δm (g)	n_{sum}^{ideal} (mmol)	H ₂ (%)	CO ₂ (%)	CO (%)	CH ₄ (%)	C ₂ H ₄ (%)	C ₂ H ₆ (%)
1	NCA	0	—	302	—	65	1.7	94.6	1.6	1.6	0.3	—
2	NCA	0	160	316	4.4	52	1.8	94.7	1.9	1.2	0.4	—
3	NCA	0	160	315	4.5	55	1.2	96	1.5	1.1	0.2	—
4	NCA	0	161	214	4.4	39	0.9	96.2	1.1	1.4	0.3	—
5	NCA	0	150	243	4.4	59	0.8	96.6	1	1.3	0.3	—
6	NCA	25	150	739	5.9	67	15.5	62.7	5.5	8.7	7.5	—
7	NCA	50	140	970	8.5	157	17.5	33.8	39.9	5.2	3.2	0.4
8	NCA	75	140	955	—	217	24.2	20.8	43.7	7.5	3.3	0.5
9	NCA	100	144	904	—	273	22.6	19.7	48.9	6.6	2.4	—
10	NCA	100	138	896	20.5	314	26.1	17.5	44	8.9	2.7	0.9
11	NCA	100	136	933	20.9	244	28.5	22.7	41.5	5.9	1.3	0.3
12	NCA	112	144	—	19.2	252	25.1	18.8	48.1	5.9	2.1	—
13	NCA	120	80	929	—	281	23.5	20.8	48.7	5.4	1.6	—
14	NCA	127	80	983	—	317	28.8	16.2	46.6	6.4	1.3	0.3
15	NCA	132	80	943	17	262	25.8	18.9	49.2	4.7	1.4	—
16	NCA	143	65	1075	20.1	303	26.2	22	43.4	6.9	1.5	—
17	LFP	0	—	251	6.1	55	2.7	93.5	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
18	LFP	25	195	231	6.1	31	7.1	85.3	3.1	1.2	3.1	0.2
19	LFP	50	130	283	6.1	32	20.8	66.2	4.8	1.6	6.6	—
20	LFP	75	149	362	6.3	41	21.8	62.6	6.4	1.9	6.3	1
21	LFP	100	140	440	7.1	32	29.4	48.3	9.1	5.4	7.2	0.5
22	LFP	115	155	395	6.2	61	34	52.2	6.4	2.6	4.7	0.1
23	LFP	130	80	448	—	58	30.1	55.8	7.7	6.4	—	—

State-of-the-Art Experiments



CV 'bomb' with reaction gas analysis

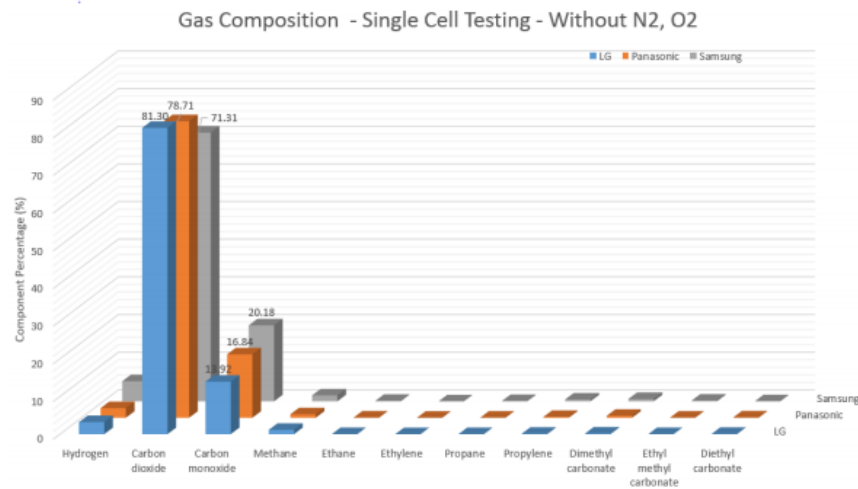
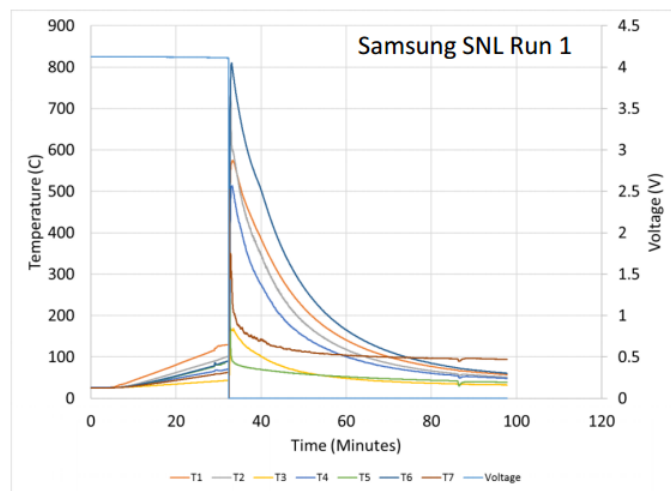
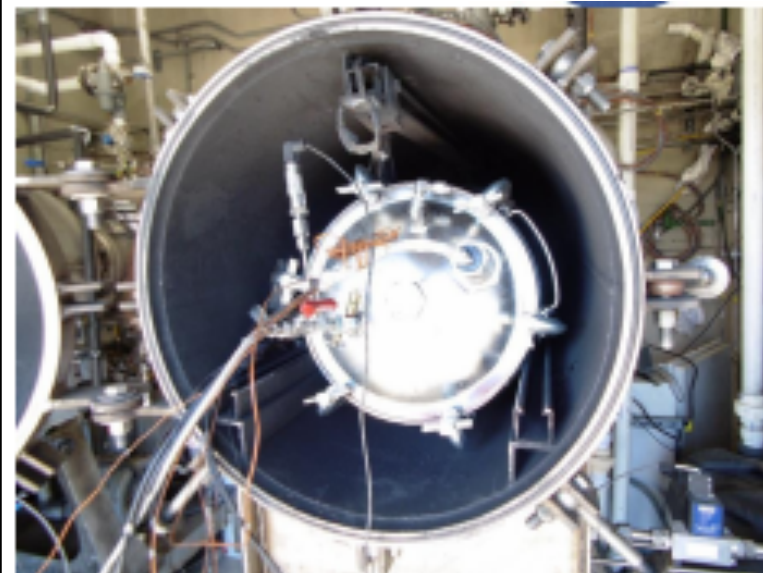
Experiments

- CV Vessel TR with Gas Analysis (GC), CCP Analysis
- Atmosphere Control
- Commercial 18650 Cells

Manufacturer	Cell (18650)	Chemistry	Capacity (Ah)
Samsung	ICR-26F	LiCoO ₂ (LCO)	2.6
LG	INR-MJ1	LiNiMnCoO ₂ (NMC)	3.5
Panasonic	NCR-B	LiNiCoAlO ₂ (NCA)	3.4

Shortcomings

- Cell composition not well defined (proprietary)
- Slow heating rates (~0.1 K/s)



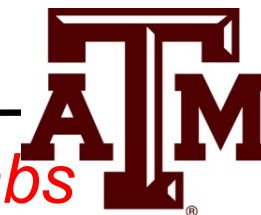
Toxic product formation in LIB thermal runaway is an active area of research

Summary:

- Toxic gas release during LIB thermal runaway is a noteworthy hazard and an active area of research
- Several experimental approaches are currently being taken
 - ARC, cone calorimetry, closed vessel sampling
 - Current experimental data lacks ‘accurate’ cell compositions
 - Temperature ramp (dT/dt) is typically too slow
 - Very little modeling has been completed
 - [Golubkov et al., 2015] experiments are the best available

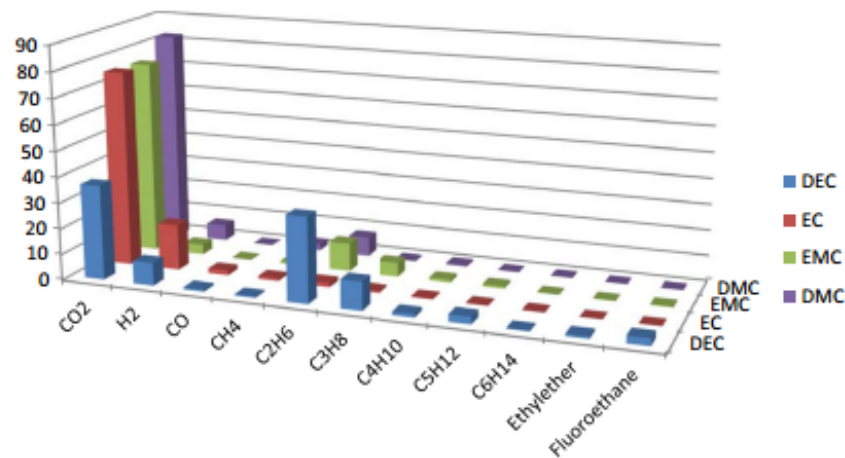
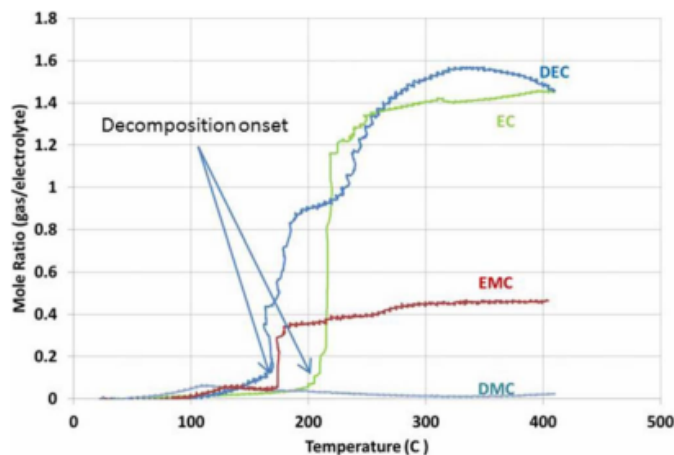
CEA Modeling – Electrolyte Solutions

Electrolyte Compositional Analysis

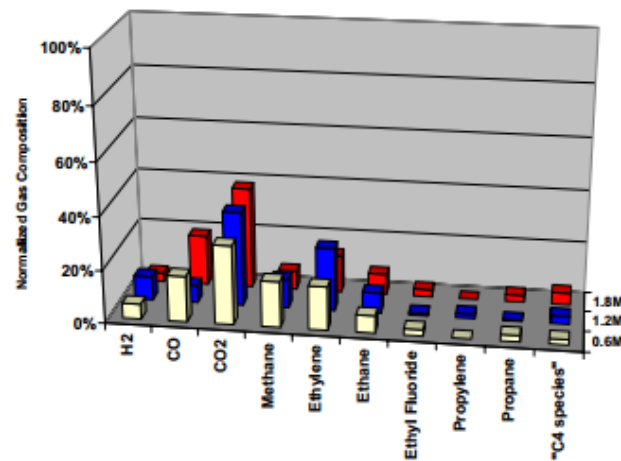
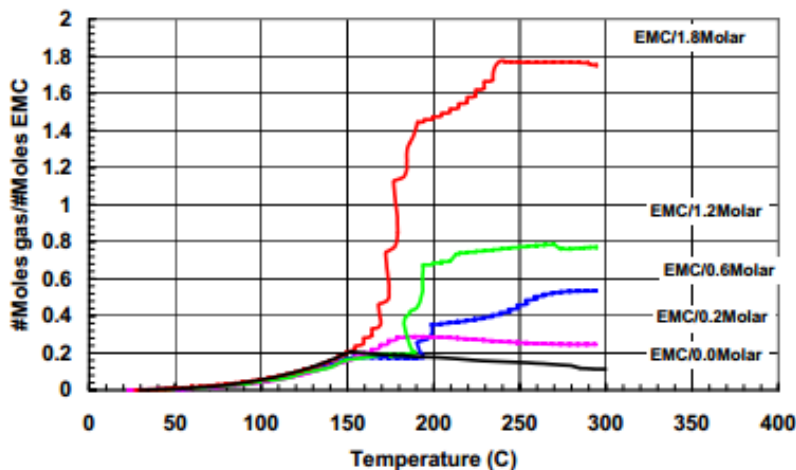


Electrolyte reaction data provided by Sandia National Labs

1.2 M LiPF_6 in various electrolytes (DEC, EC, EMC, DMC)



Various concentrations of LiPF_6 in EC



Electrolyte Compositional Analysis



Empirical density correlations developed

CEA inputs require knowledge of relative mass fractions (not concentration)

Mass Fraction Computation

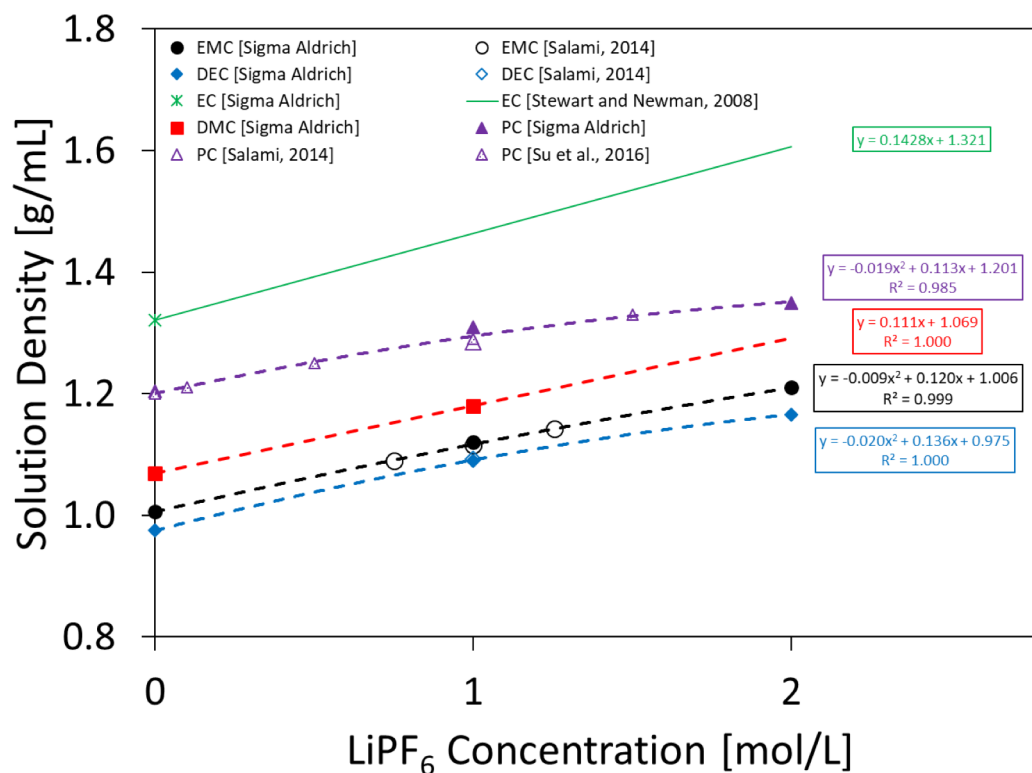
$$Y_i = C_i \frac{M_i}{\rho_{sol}}$$

Y_i – component mass fraction

C_i – component concentration [mol/L]

M_i – component molecular weight [g/mol]

ρ_{sol} – solution density [g/L]

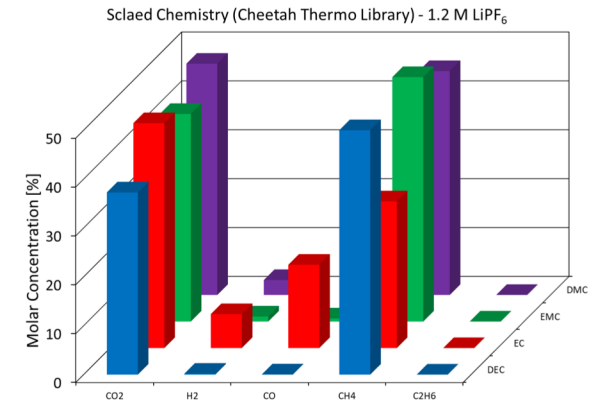
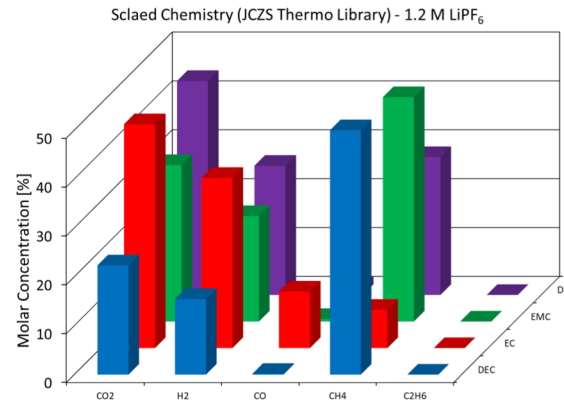
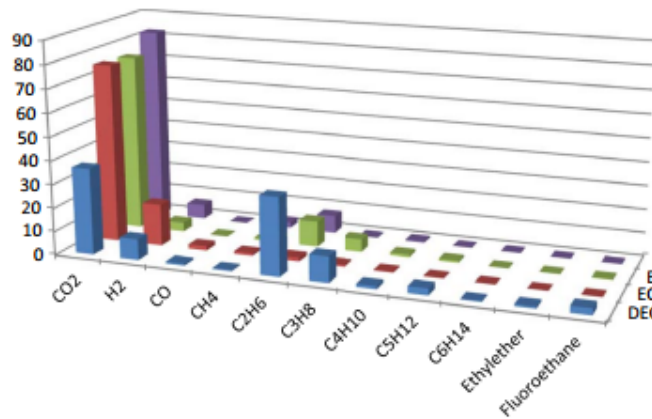


CEA Analysis – 1.2 M LiPF₆ in DEC, EC, EMC, DMC

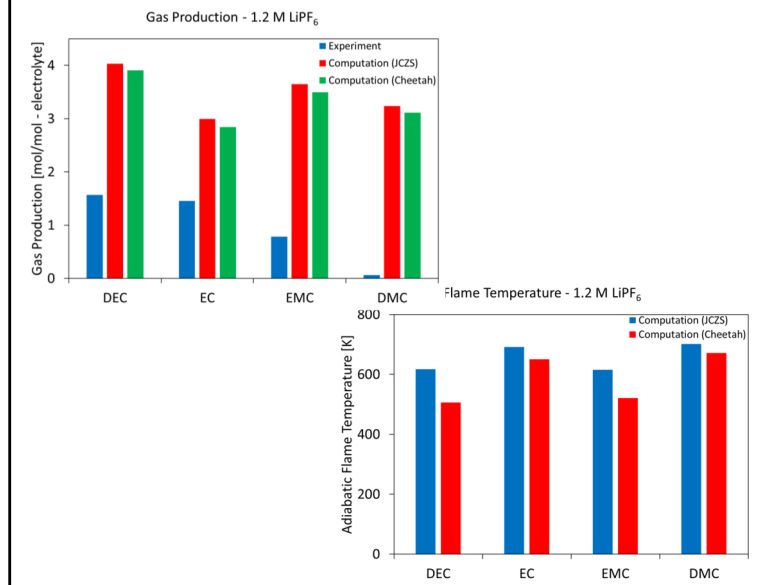
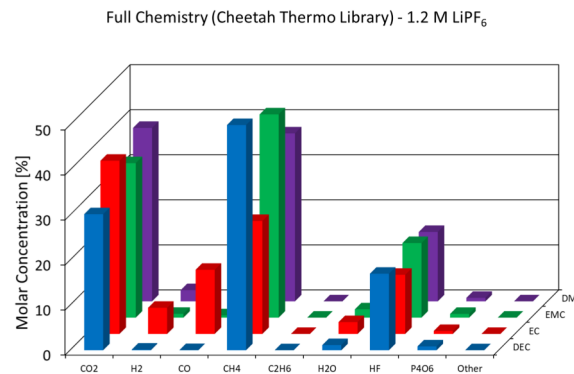
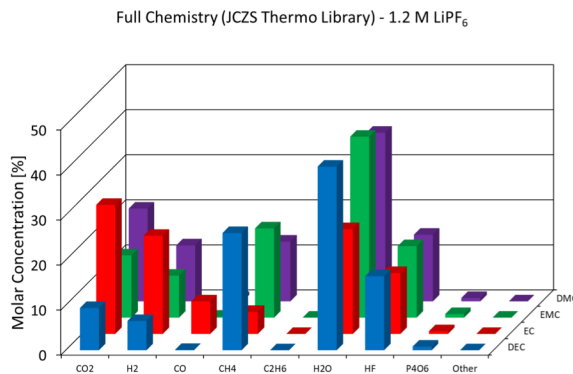


Moderate agreement between experiment and computation

Scaled Chemistry



Full Chemistry

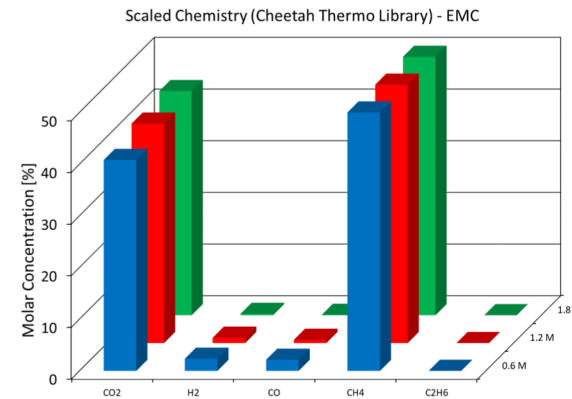
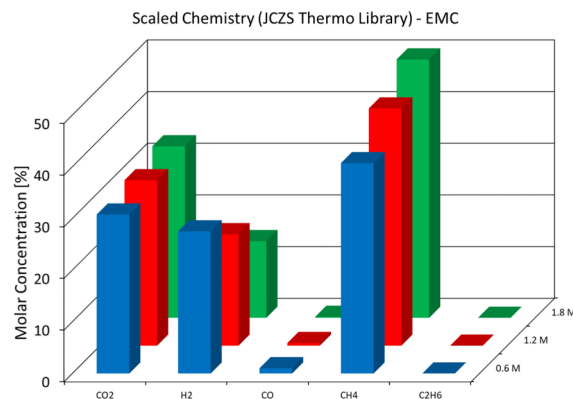
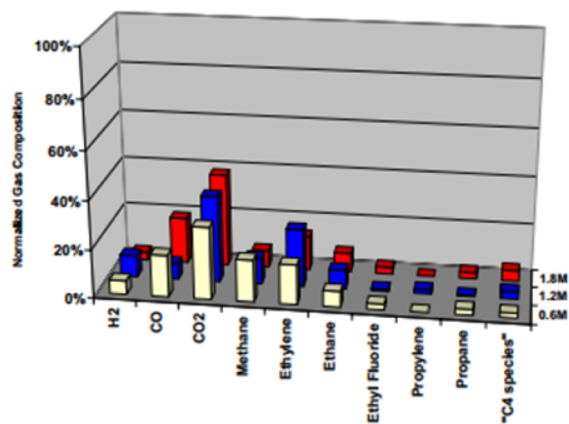


CEA Analysis – LiPF₆ in EC

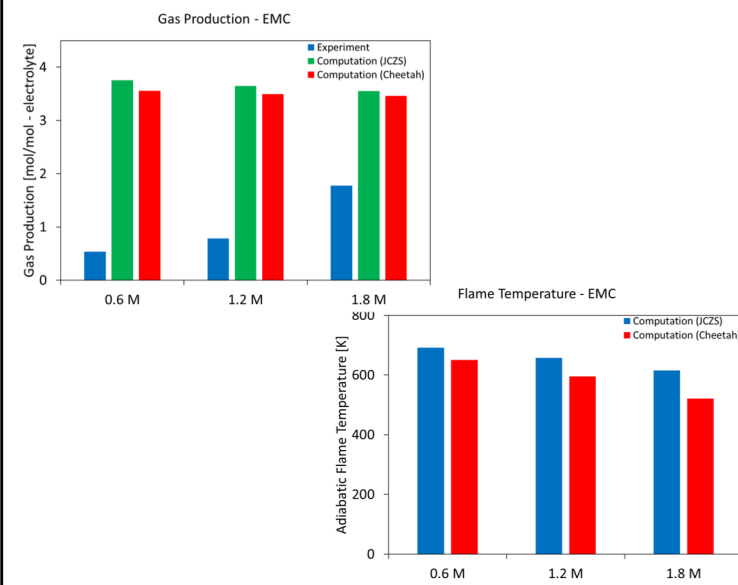
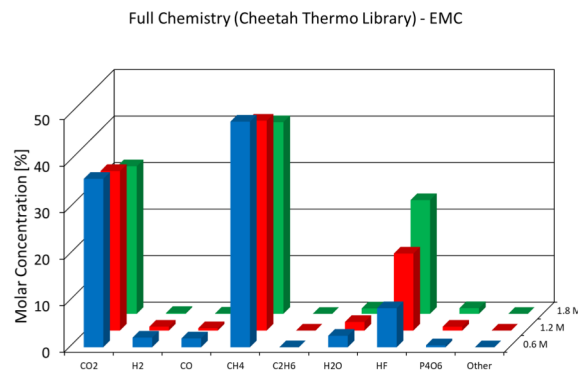
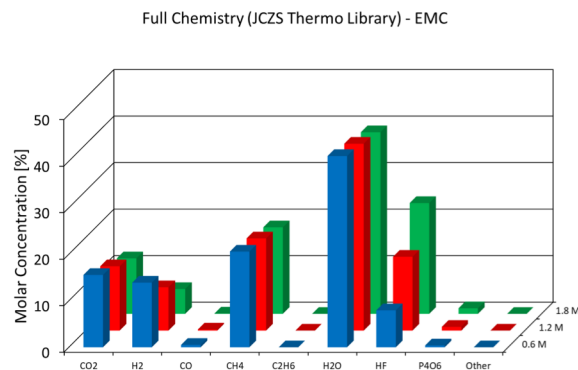


Moderate agreement between experiment and computation

Scaled Chemistry



Full Chemistry





Key Findings:

- Experimental and Computational Agreement
 - Moderate (chemistry) and Poor (total gas production)
 - May be due to slow heating conditions
- Thermodynamic libraries yield significantly different results
 - JCZS library favors H₂ and H₂O production
 - Cheetah library favors CH₄ production
 - Cheetah library agreed better with experiments
- Appreciable amounts of toxic substances detected (HF and P₄O₆)
 - Dilute compounds not yet evaluated

CEA Modeling – Lithium Ion Battery

Battery Compositional Analysis



Estimated battery composition given by Golubkov et al.

Experimental Methods:

- Mass and geometry of main components directly measured
 - Anode, cathode, separator, electrolyte
- Anode and cathode chemistry
 - Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES)
 - Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)
 - Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) Analysis
- Electrolyte identification
 - Solution immersion (CH_2Cl_2)
 - Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)
- Separator Identification
 - Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)
 - Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TGA)

Battery Compositional Analysis



Estimated battery composition given by Golubkov et al.

Key Compositional Assumptions:

- Binder chemistry and composition
 - Anode: 5% of total coating, Na-carboxymethylcellulose (Na-CMC, S=0.7)
 - Conducting agent: 5% of total coating, carbon black
 - Cathode: 5% of total coating, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)
- Electrolyte salt
 - $LiPF_6$ at a concentration of 1.1 mol/L
 - 2% vinylene carbonate (VC, $C_3H_2O_3$) for SEI improvement
- Solid electrolyte interphase (SEI)
 - Complete VC polymerization to poly(vinylene carbonate) $C_6H_4O_6$ {1:1}
 - Ethylene carbonate reduction: lithium ethylene dicarbonate $(CH_2OCO_2Li)_2$ {1:2}
lithium carbonate Li_2CO_3 {1:4}
 - Formation of lithium fluoride LiF {1:4}
- Irreversible capacity loss
 - 8% of maximum anode capacity is trapped ($n_{Li}^{irr} = 0.08n_{C_6}^a$)

Battery Compositional Analysis



ΔH_f^0 estimated from *literature and computations*

- LFP Battery composition is ‘well’ characterized
- Need heat of formation (ΔH_f^0) data for all components

	Component		Mass		Concentration	
			(g)	(%)	(mol)	(%)
Cathode	Aluminum Foil	Al	2.14	7.53	0.079	16.61
	Active Material - LFP*	LiFePO ₄	7.73	27.21	0.049	10.26
	Particle Coating	C	0.97	3.41	0.081	16.92
	Carbon Black	C	0.48	1.69	0.040	8.37
	Binder - Polyvinylidene Flouride (PVDF)	(C ₂ H ₂ F ₂) _n	0.48	1.69	0.007	1.57
Anode	Copper Foil	Cu	3.86	13.59	0.061	12.72
	Active Material - Graphite*	LiC ₆	4.84	17.04	0.061	12.83
	Binder - Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)	[C ₆ H ₇ O ₂ (OH) _{2,3} (OCH ₂ COONa) _{0,7}] _n	0.26	0.92	0.001	0.25
	SEI - Lithium Flouride	LiF	0.02	0.07	0.001	0.16
	SEI - Lithium Carbonate	Li ₂ CO ₃	0.06	0.21	0.001	0.17
Separator	Polypropylene (PP)	(C ₃ H ₆) _n	0.76	2.68	0.018	3.78
	Polyeethylene (PE)	(C ₂ H ₄) _n	0.39	1.37	0.014	2.91
Electrolyte	SEI - Polymer Organic - Poly(Vinylene Carbonate)	(C ₆ H ₄ O ₆) _n	0.13	0.46	0.001	0.16
	SEI - Organic - Lithium Ethylene Dicarboxylate	(CH ₂ OCO ₂ Li) ₂	0.25	0.88	0.002	0.32
	Ethylene Carbonate (EC)	C ₃ H ₄ O ₃	1.59	5.60	0.018	3.78
	Dimethyl Carbonate (DMC)	C ₃ H ₆ O ₃	2.12	7.46	0.024	4.93
	Ethyl Methyl Carbonate (EMC)	C ₄ H ₈ O ₃	1.06	3.73	0.010	2.13
	Propylene Carbonate (PC)	C ₄ H ₆ O ₃	0.53	1.87	0.005	1.09
	Salt - Lithium Hexafluorophosphate	LiPF ₆	0.74	2.60	0.005	1.02
			28.41	100.00	0.477	100.00

*Mass and resultant properties dependent on state-of-charge (SoC); mass given at delithiated state (8% Li in anode)

Heat of Formation Data:

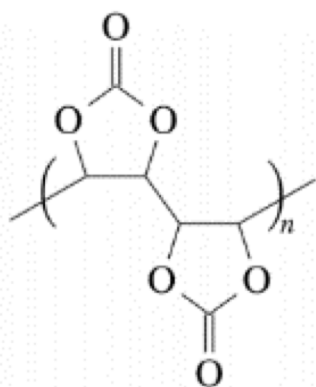
- Literature sources
 - Calorimetry
 - DFT computations
 - **NIST database**
- Additive group computations

Heat of Formation Computations

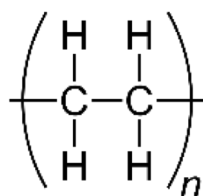
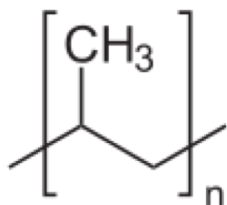
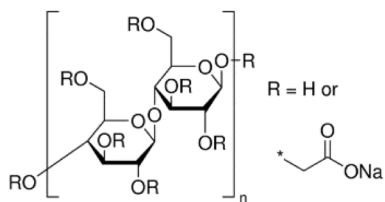
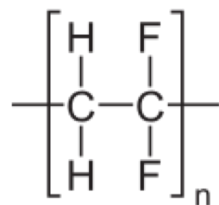


ΔH_f^0 estimated from *group additive methods*

Example Calculation: Poly(Vinylene Carbonate) - $(C_6H_4O_6)_n$



Group	Number	Group ΔH_f Contribution (kcal/mol)	Total Group ΔH_f Contribution (kcal/mol)	ΔH_f (kJ/mol)
>C=O	2	-28.08	-56.16	-235.0
-O-	4	-15.79	-63.16	-264.3
>CH-	4	-0.705	-2.820	-11.80
Ring Correction	2	-12.768	-25.536	-106.84



Chemical	ΔH_f (kJ/mol)
Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF) $(C_2H_2F_2)_n$	-390.93
Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) $[C_6H_7O_2(OH)_{2.3}(OCH_2COONa)_{0.7}]_n$	-1093.38
Polypropylene (PP) $(C_3H_6)_n$	-62.93
Polyethylene (PE) $(C_2H_4)_n$	-43.46
Poly(Vinylene Carbonate) $(C_6H_4O_6)_n$	-617.88

CEA Inputs



Ambient gas (Ar) evaluated by ideal gas law

CEA Inputs:

- Battery composition
- Ambient conditions
 - Pressure ($P \sim 1 \text{ atm}$), Temperature ($T_0 = 298 \text{ K}$)
 - Gas composition and amount

Ambient Gas:

- Argon (Ar)

$$n = \frac{PV}{RT}$$

	Component		Molecular Weight		Mass		Concentration		Heat of Formation		Reference
			(g/mol)	(g)	(%)	(mol)	(%)	(kJ/mol)	(kJ/g)		
Cathode	Aluminum Foil	Al	26.982	2.14	7.53	0.079	16.61	0	0.00	-	
	Active Material - LFP*	LiFePO ₄	157.756	7.73	27.21	0.049	10.26	-1616.02	-10.24	[Iyer et al., 2006]	
	Particle Coating	C	12.011	0.97	3.41	0.081	16.92	0	0.00	-	
	Carbon Black	C	12.011	0.48	1.69	0.040	8.37	0	0.00	-	
	Binder - Polyvinylidene Flouride (PVDF)	(C ₂ H ₂ F ₂) _n	64.035	0.48	1.69	0.007	1.57	-390.93	-6.10	Calculated	
Anode	Copper Foil	Cu	63.546	3.86	13.59	0.061	12.72	0	0.00	-	
	Active Material - Graphite*	LiC ₆	79.007	4.84	17.04	0.061	12.83	-11.65	-0.15	[Tanaka, 2014]	
	Binder - Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)	[C ₆ H ₇ O ₂ (OH) _{2.3} (OCH ₂ COONa) _{0.7}] _n	218.160	0.26	0.92	0.001	0.25	-1093.38	-5.01	Calculated	
	SEI - Lithium Flouride	LiF	25.938	0.02	0.07	0.001	0.16	-616.93	-23.78	NIST	
	SEI - Lithium Carbonate	Li ₂ CO ₃	73.888	0.06	0.21	0.001	0.17	-1216.04	-16.46	NIST	
Separator	Polypropylene (PP)	(C ₃ H ₆) _n	42.080	0.76	2.68	0.018	3.78	-62.93	-1.50	Calculated	
	Polyethylene (PE)	(C ₂ H ₄) _n	28.054	0.39	1.37	0.014	2.91	-43.46	-1.55	Calculated	
Electrolyte	SEI - Polymer Organic - Poly(Vinylene Carbonate)	(C ₆ H ₄ O ₆) _n	172.092	0.13	0.46	0.001	0.16	-617.88	-3.59	Calculated	
	SEI - Organic - Lithium Ethylene Dicarboxylate	(CH ₂ OCCO ₂ Li) ₂	161.946	0.25	0.88	0.002	0.32	-1513.2	-9.34	[Tanaka, 2014]	
	Ethylene Carbonate (EC)	C ₃ H ₄ O ₃	88.062	1.59	5.60	0.018	3.78	-531	-6.03	NIST	
	Dimethyl Carbonate (DMC)	C ₃ H ₆ O ₃	90.078	2.12	7.46	0.024	4.93	-608.76	-6.76	NIST	
	Ethyl Methyl Carbonate (EMC)	C ₄ H ₈ O ₃	104.105	1.06	3.73	0.010	2.13	-644	-6.19	NIST	
	Propylene Carbonate (PC)	C ₄ H ₆ O ₃	102.089	0.53	1.87	0.005	1.09	-614.1	-6.02	NIST	
	Salt - Lithium Hexafluorophosphate	LiPF ₆	151.905	0.74	2.60	0.005	1.02	-2296	-15.11	[Gavritchev et al., 2003]	
				28.41	100.00	0.477	100.00				

*Mass and resultant properties dependent on state-of-charge (SoC); mass given at delithiated state (8% Li in anode)

Lithium Species Tracking



[Li] species is defined through SoC linear approximation

CEA inputs require knowledge of the apparent composition versus SOC (i.e. [Li] atom accounting)



$$x = 1 - \left[\frac{n_{Li}^{irr} + n_{Li}^{res} + (1/F) \times SOC \times C^{nom}}{n_{LFP}^a} \right]$$

$$n_{Li}^a = n_{Li}^{res} + (1/F) \times SOC \times C^{nom}$$

$$n_{Li}^{irr} = 0.08n_{C_6}^a$$

$$n_{Li}^{res} = (1/F) \times C^{res} = (1/F) \times 0.01C^{nom}$$

x – Lithiation state of the cathode

n_{Li}^{irr} – [Li] trapped in anode during first charge (SEI formation)

n_{Li}^{res} – [Li] trapped in anode at full discharge

F – Faraday constant (96,485.3329 C/mol)

SOC – State-of-Charge (0 – 100%)

C^{nom} – Nominal cell capacity (A-h)

n_{LFP}^a – Amount of active cathode material

$n_{C_6}^a$ – Number of graphite units (C_6) in the anode

C^{res} – Residual capacity at full discharge (due to n_{Li}^{res})

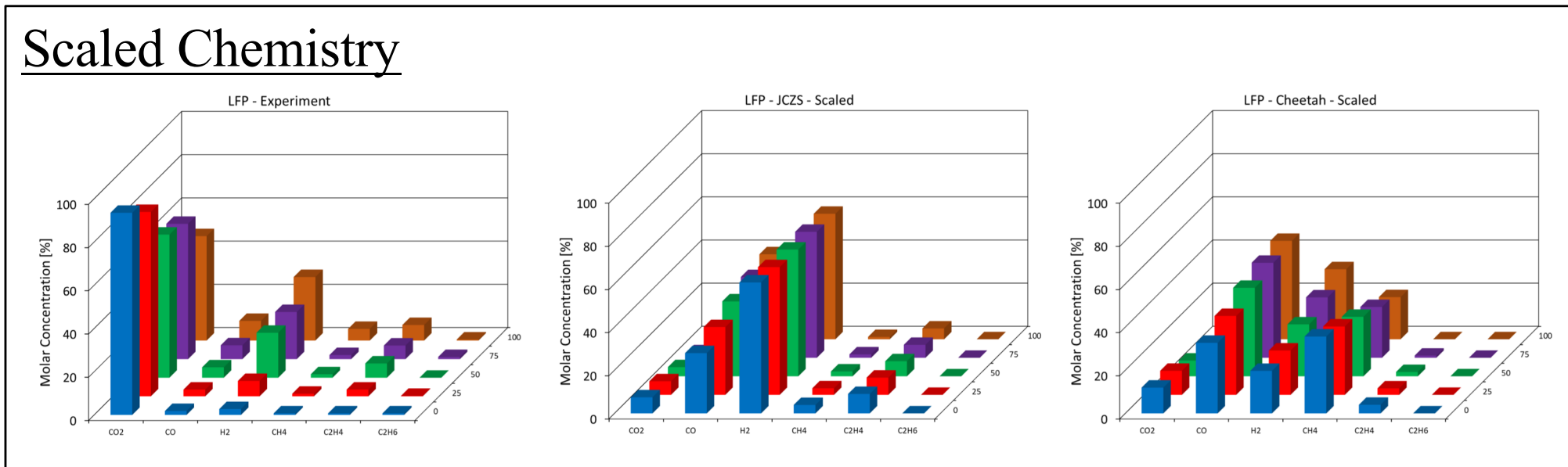
n_{Li}^a – [Li] in anode at SoC

CEA Analysis – LFP Battery

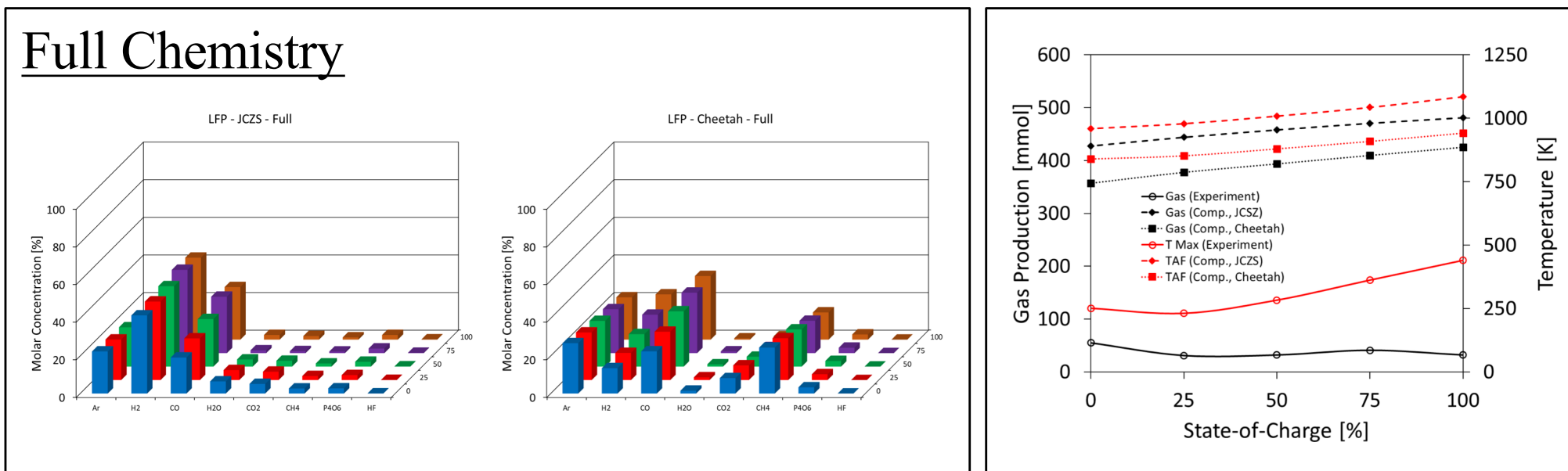


Moderate agreement between experiment and computation

Scaled Chemistry



Full Chemistry





Key Findings:

- Experimental and Computational Agreement
 - Moderate (chemistry)
 - Poor (total gas production)
 - May be due to slow-heating experiments or unrestrictive LFP modeling
- Thermodynamic libraries yield significantly different results
- Appreciable amounts of toxic substances detected (HF and P_4O_6)
 - Dilute compounds not yet evaluated

- CEA modeling capability developed for TR of electrolytes and LFP batteries
 - Simple extension to other chemistries
 - Important computational products:
 - Product composition and chemistry
 - Flame temperature
 - Total heat release
- Experimental and computational agreement is moderate
 - Need for rapid heating experiments
 - Need for more restrictive modeling (cathode breakdown threshold)
- Future Work
 - Implementation of restrictive modeling inclusions
 - Validation via alternative cathode chemistry (NCA)
 - Validation via fast-heating experiments
 - Analyze effects of pressure, ambient composition, chemistry, etc.

Consequence Analysis of Li-Ion Battery Thermal Runaway Events with Chemical Equilibrium Analyses



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