



Building more **reliable** and **performant batteries** by embedding **sensors** and **self-healing** functionalities to detect degradation and repair damage via advanced **Battery Management System**

Advancing Self-Healing Battery Technologies Through Integrated Sensing and Triggering

K. Burak DERMENCI, Senior Researcher, VUB

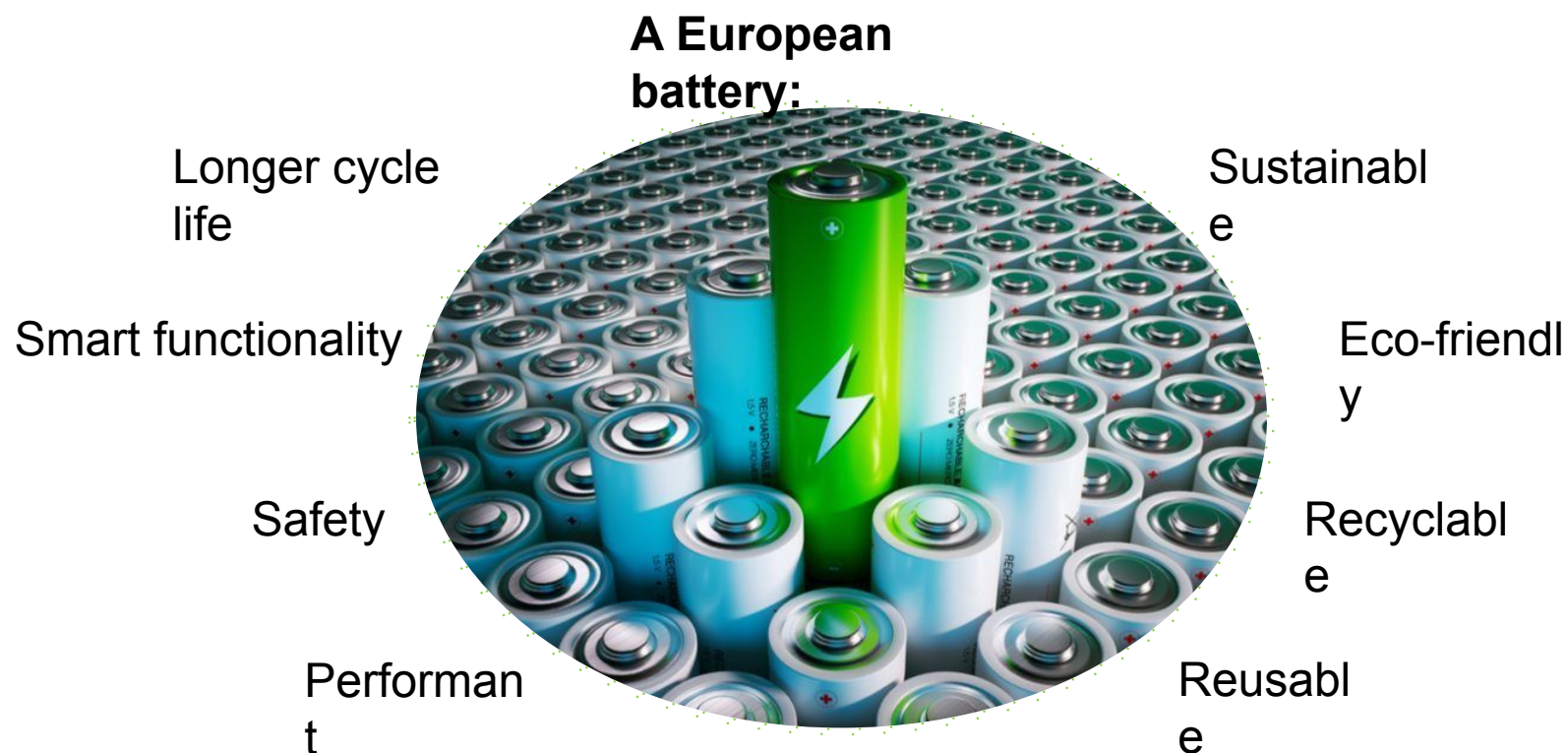
Graphergia Hub Webinar Series, June 25th, 2026



Funded by
the European Union

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EUROPE NEEDS...



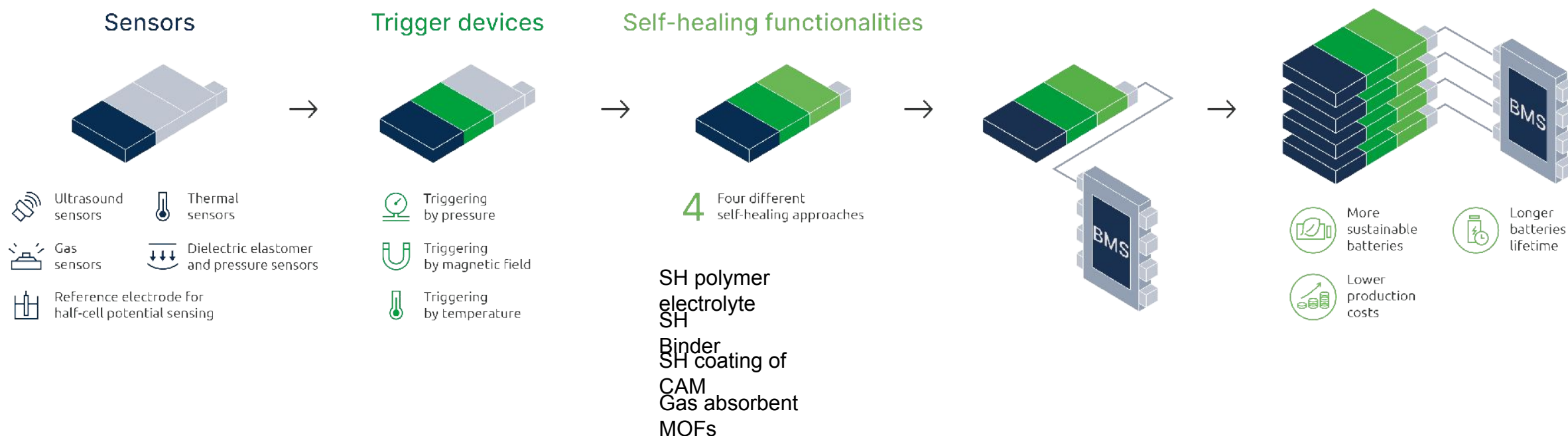
PHOENIX PROPOSES...



Building more reliable and performant batteries by embedding sensors and self-healing functionalities to detect degradation and repair damage via advanced Battery Management System

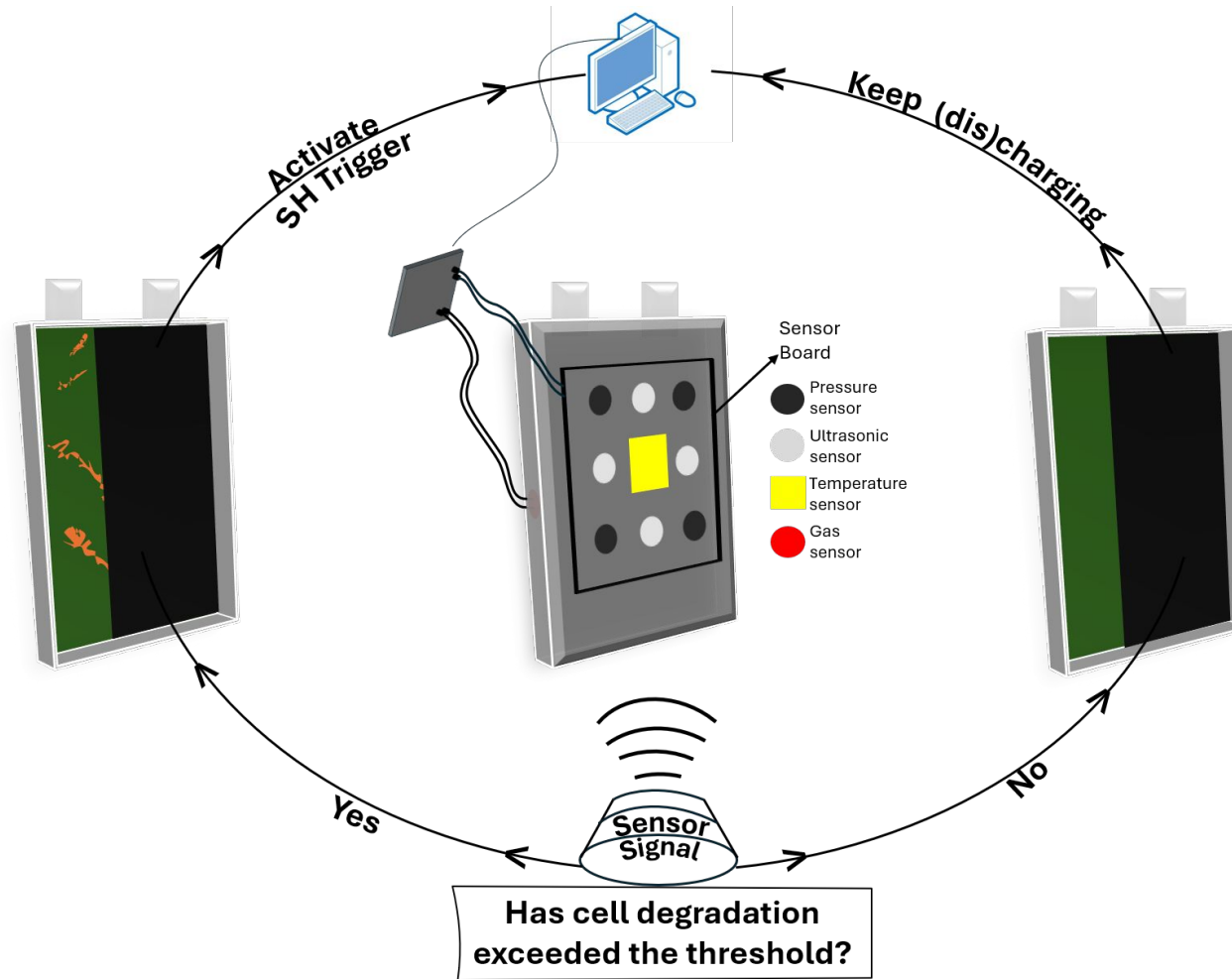
OUR CONCEPT

The PHOENIX project explores integrating self-healing, sensing, and triggering functionalities into batteries to prolong their lifespan and prevent degradation.



CONCEPT APPLICATION

- The Self-Healing initiated based on sensor monitoring and degradation diagnosis

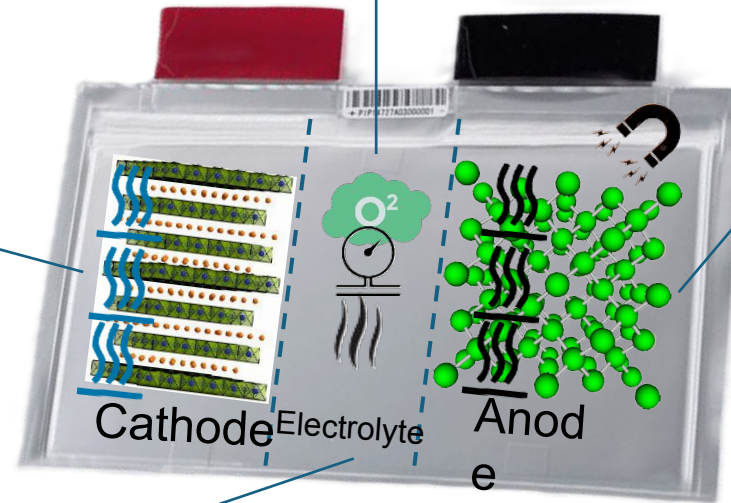


SELF-HEALING in PHOENIX

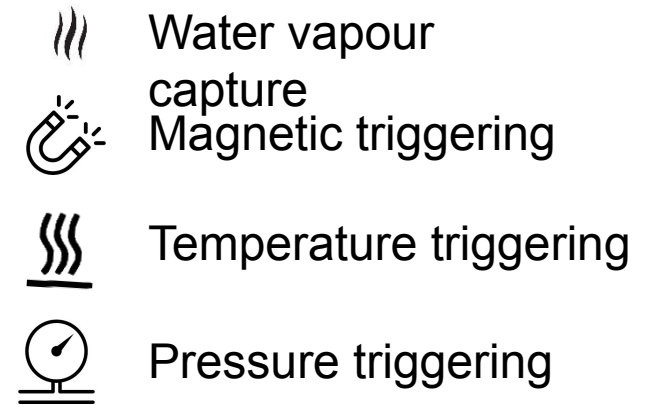
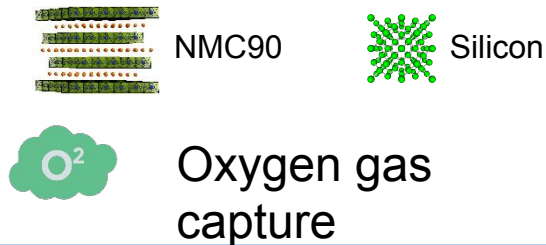
Thermally triggered MOF
integrated Separator for
absorption and **storage** of H₂,
O₂, CO and RH

Thermally triggered **SH-polymer**
embedded surface modified **NMC90**
core/shell structured cathode
microparticles

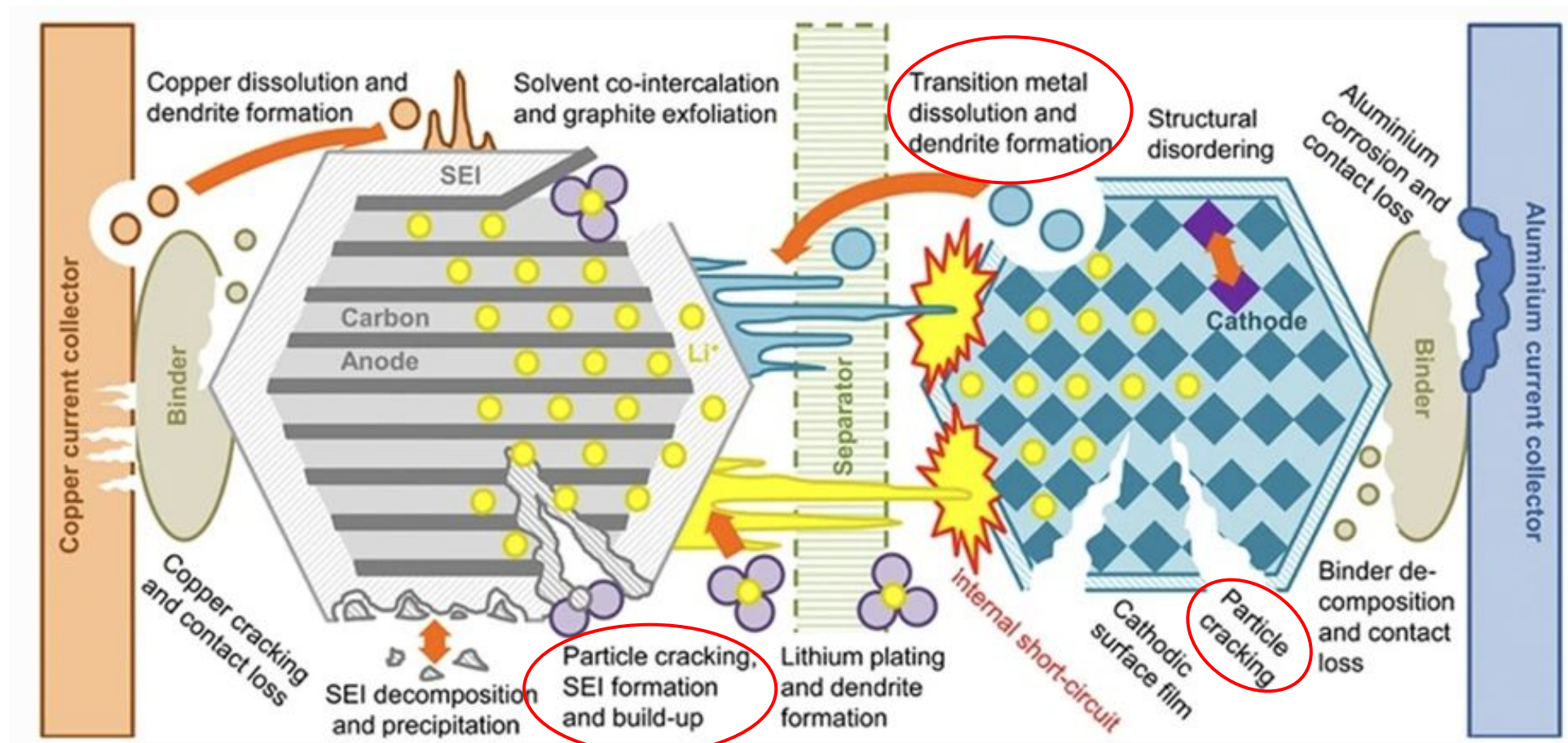
Magnetically and **thermally**
triggered **Self-Healing**
polymer surface coated
Silicon anode



Synthesis of **thermally**
triggered, **self-healing**, **in-situ**
polymer electrolte



PHOENIX SENSORS & TRIGGERS

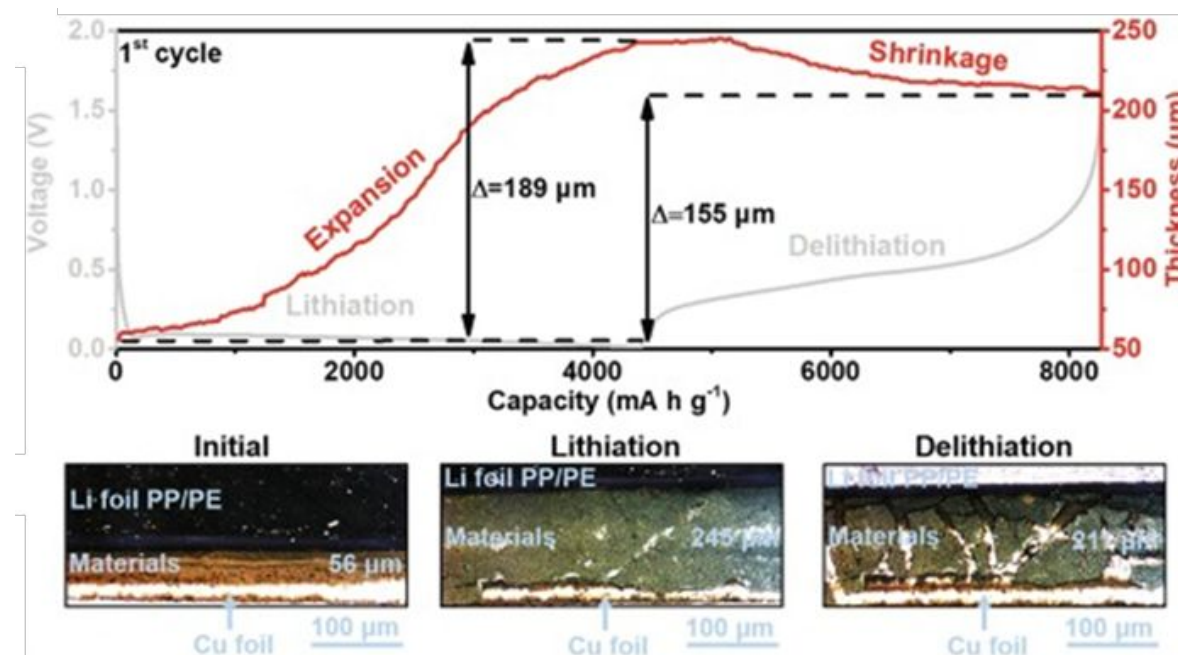
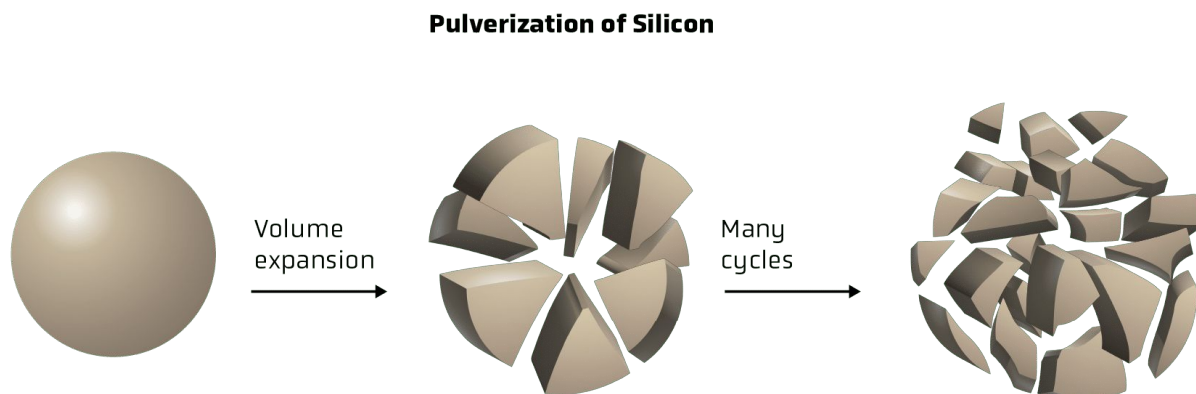


Birkel, Christoph R., et al. "Degradation diagnostics for lithium ion cells." *Journal of Power Sources* 341 (2017): 373-386.

DEGRADATION REACTIONS INSIDE OF THE BATTERIES

Si-Anode

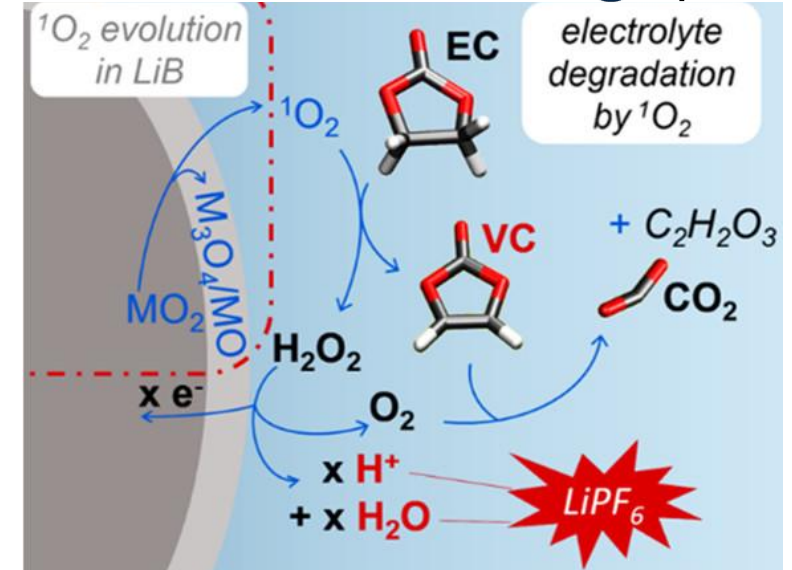
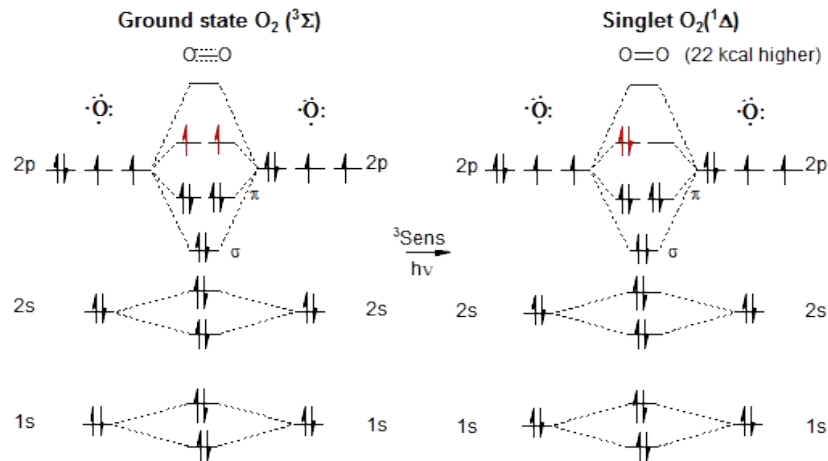
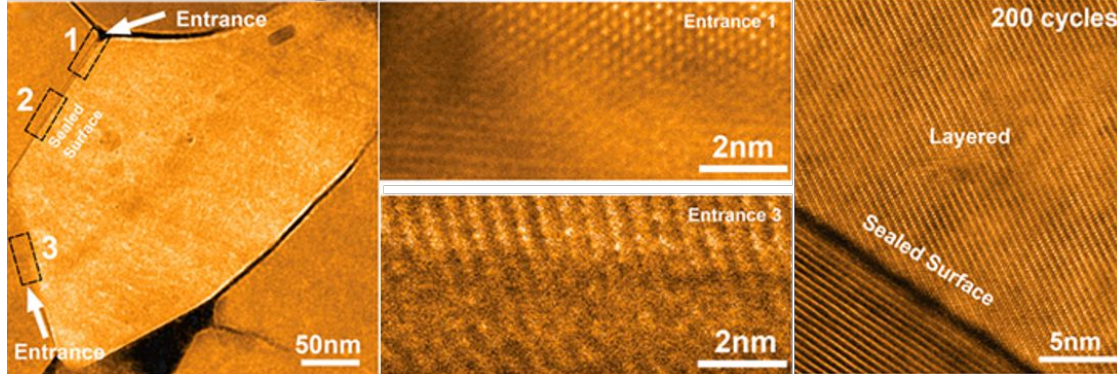
- 300% volume expansion during charging
- Pulverization and crack formation after delithiation



- Choi, J., Aurbach, D. Promise and reality of post-lithium-ion batteries with high energy densities. *Nat Rev Mater* **1**, 16013 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/natrevmats.2016.13>
- Zou, L., Zhao, W., Jia, H., Zheng, J., Li, L., Abraham, D. P., ... & Wang, C. (2020). The role of secondary particle structures in surface phase transitions of Ni-rich cathodes. *Chemistry of Materials*, 32(7), 2884-2892. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemmater.9b04938>

DEGRADATION REACTIONS INSIDE OF THE BATTERIES

- Singlet oxygen production from metal oxide cathode materials
- Electrolyte degradation due to singlet oxygen reaction



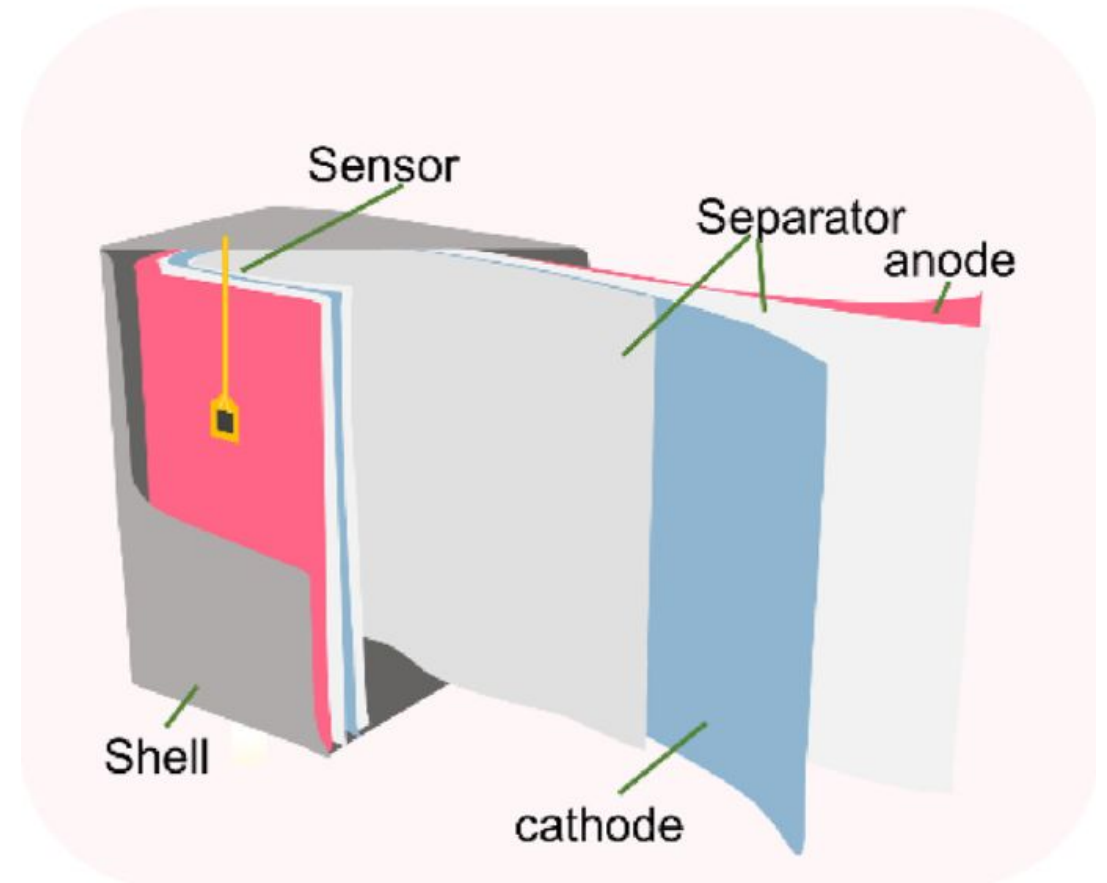
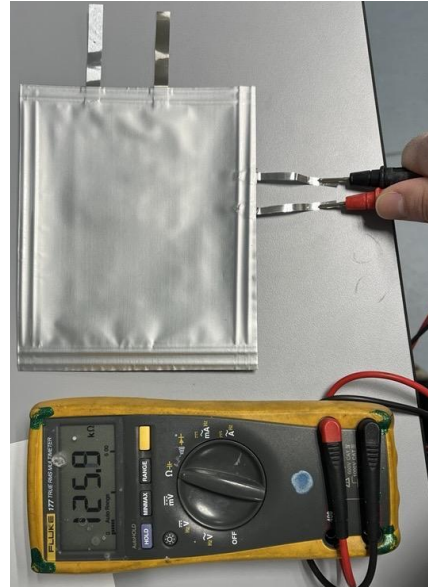
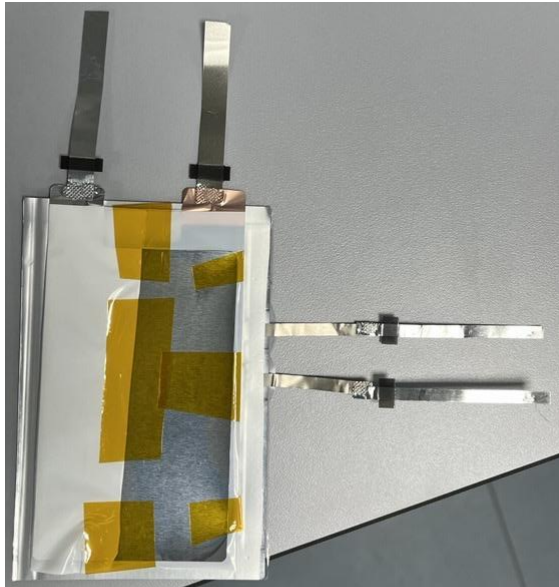
- Peng, Y., Ding, M., Zhang, K., Zhang, H., Hu, Y., Lin, Y., ... & Yang, Y. (2024). Quantitative analysis of the coupled mechanisms of lithium plating, SEI growth, and electrolyte decomposition in fast charging battery. *ACS Energy Letters*, 9(12), 6022-6028. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsenergylett.4c02898>
- Freiberg, A. T., Roos, M. K., Wandt, J., de Vivie-Riedle, R., & Gasteiger, H. A. (2018). Singlet oxygen reactivity with carbonate solvents used for Li-ion battery electrolytes. *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 122(45), 8828-8839. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpca.8b08079>

DEGRADATION MONITORING TECHNIQUES

Temperature

Monitoring

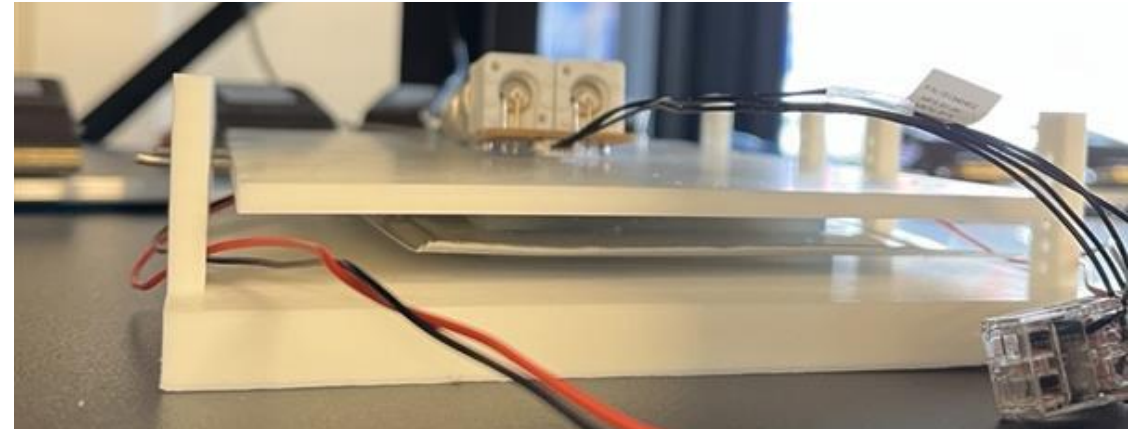
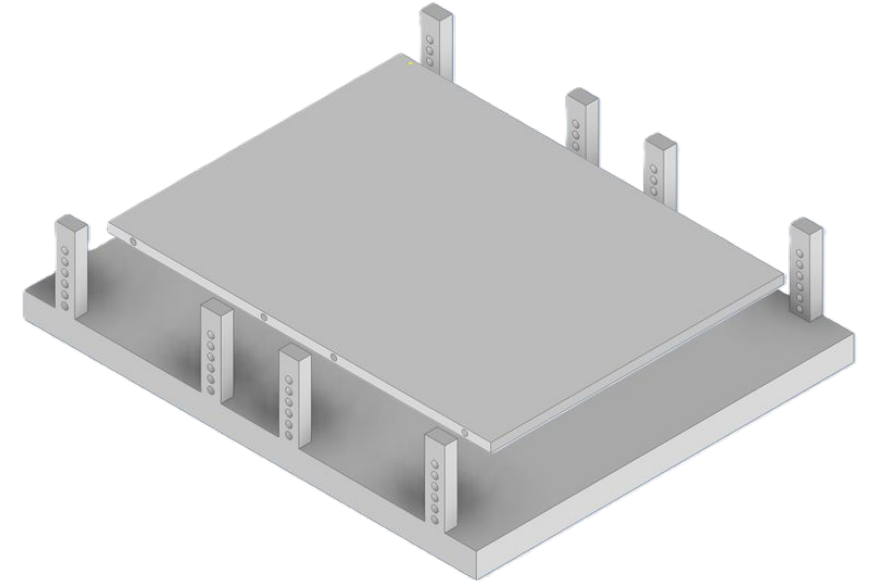
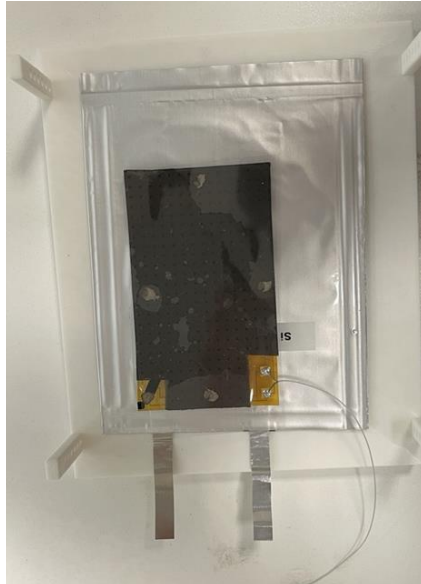
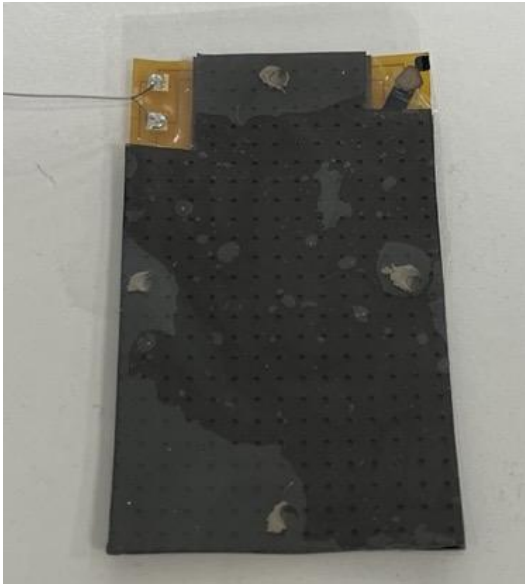
- Temperature sensor is useful for detecting the internal cell temperature in case of potential thermal runaway.
- Temperature can be generated due to the increased charging rate and the resulting SEI thickening caused by the change in the cell's ohmic resistance.



DEGRADATION MONITORING TECHNIQUES

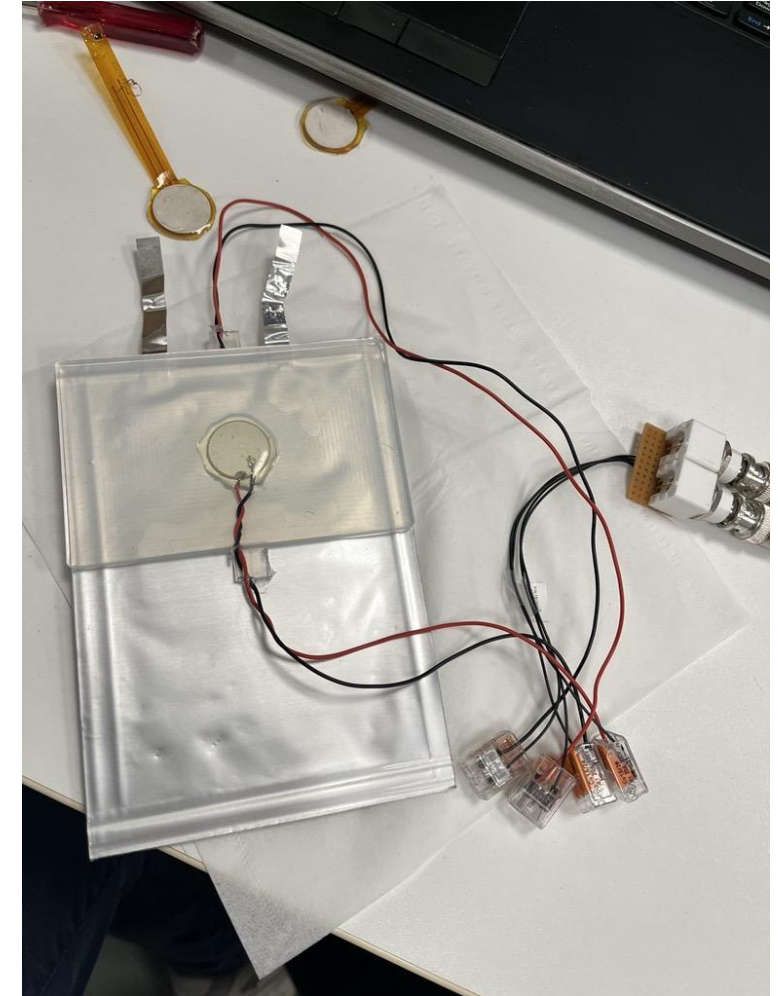
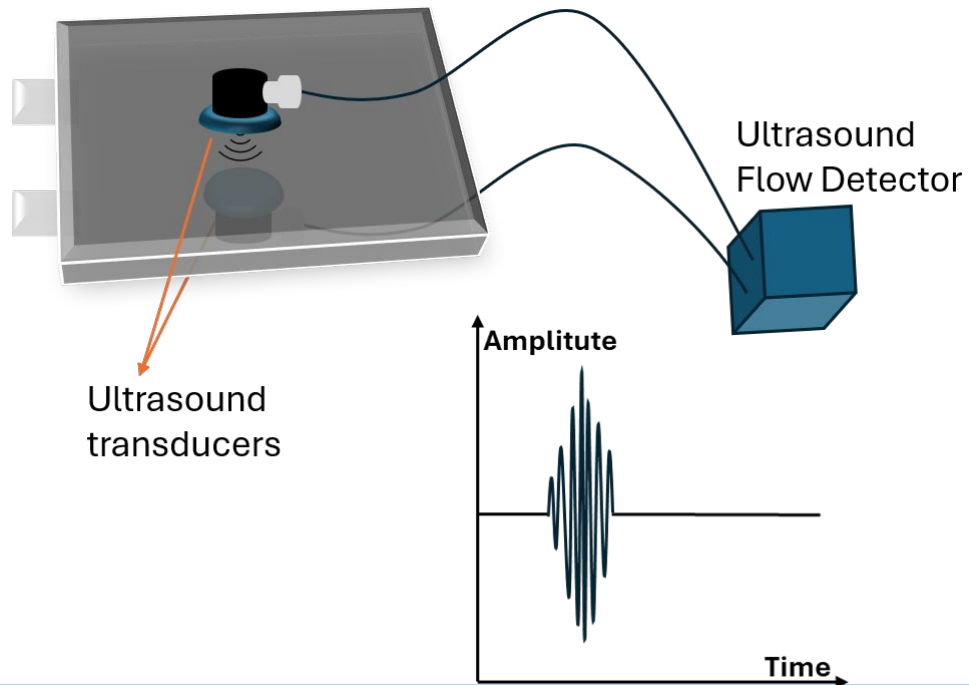
Dilation Monitoring

- Volume change of the cell can be monitored



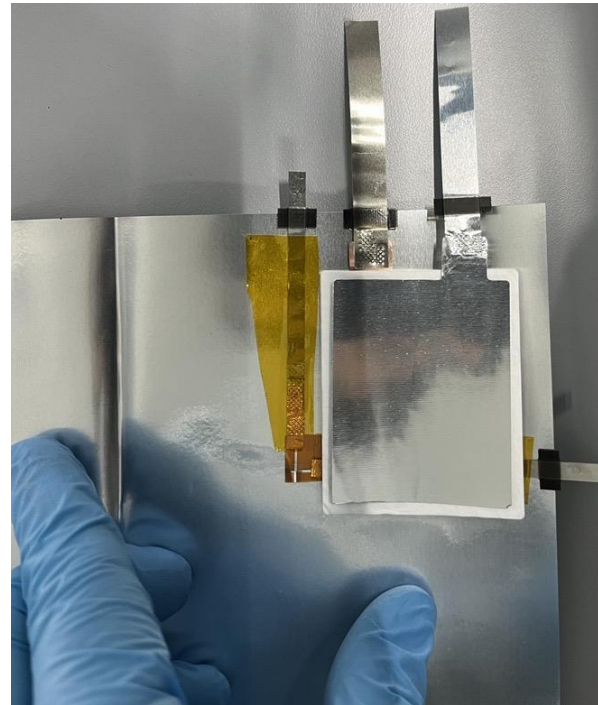
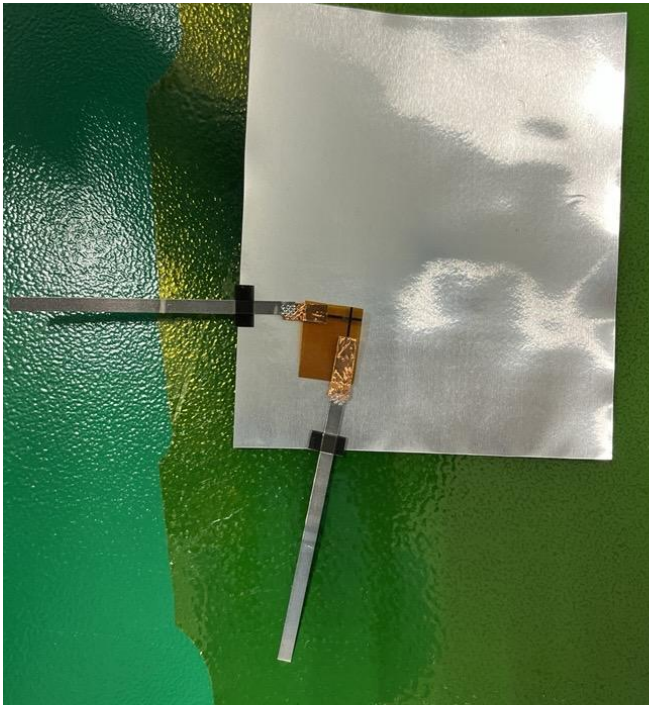
Ultrasound Monitoring

- Electrode defects and volume change can be monitored based on ToF of sound.
- Generated gas can be estimate according to sound propagation change.



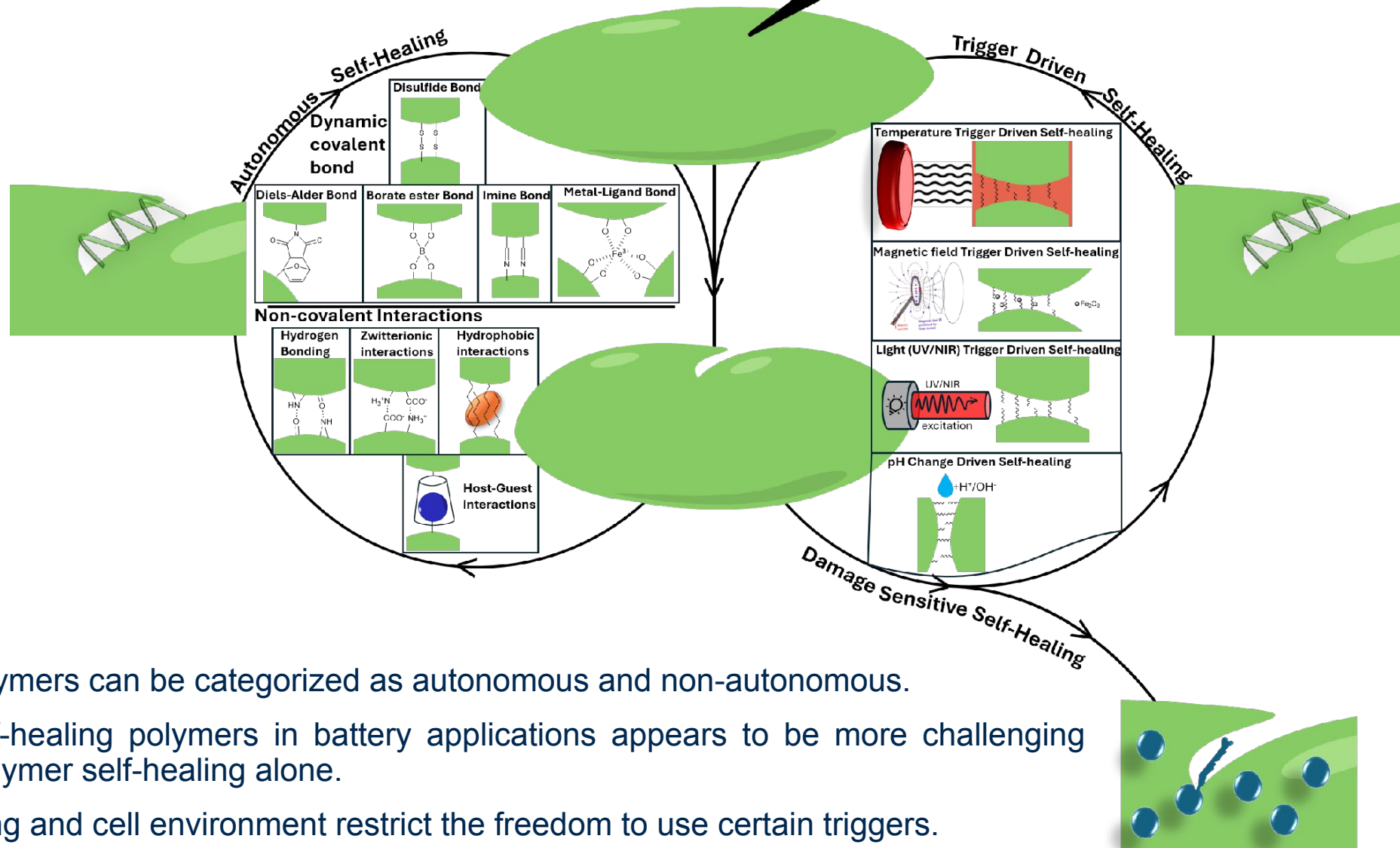
Gas Generation Monitoring

- Based on the generated gas amount the gas sensor resistance decrease.
- Prevent electrolyte leakage and thermal runaway.



SELF-HEALING POLYMER MECHANISMS

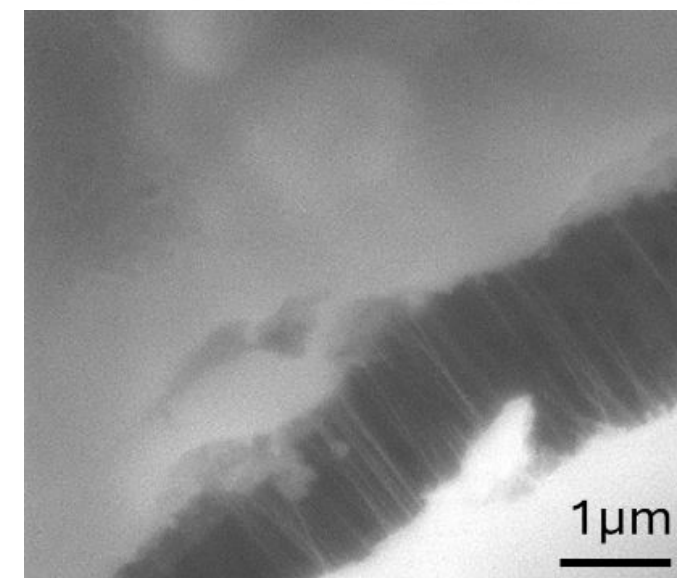
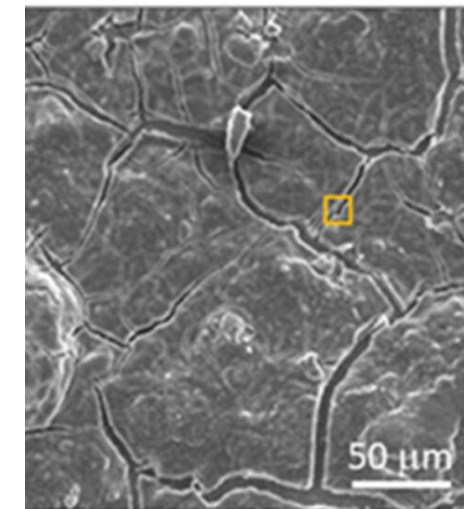
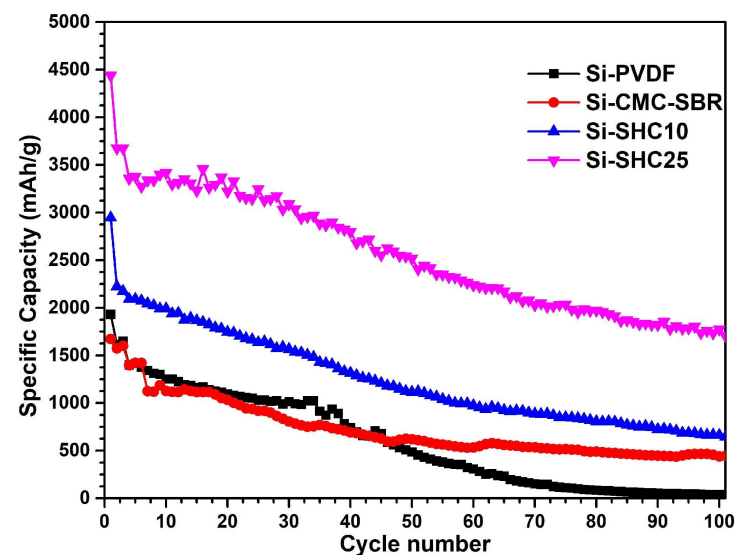
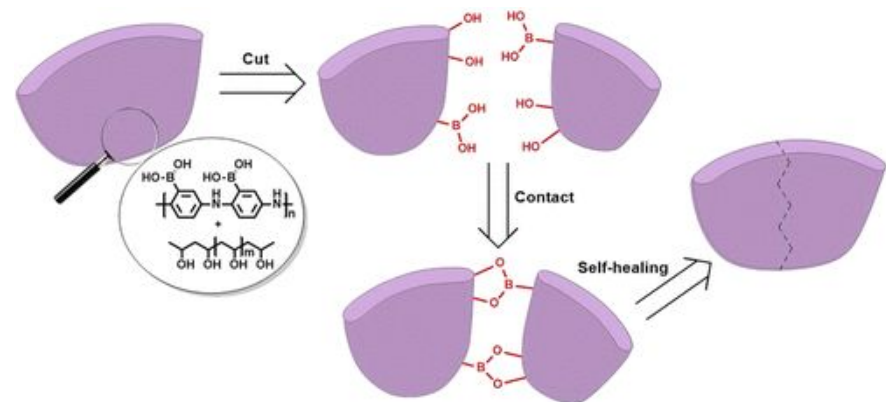
SELF-HEALING POLYMER MECHANISMS



- Self-healing polymers can be categorized as autonomous and non-autonomous.
- The use of self-healing polymers in battery applications appears to be more challenging compared to polymer self-healing alone.
- Pouch cell casing and cell environment restrict the freedom to use certain triggers.

Self-Healing Validation

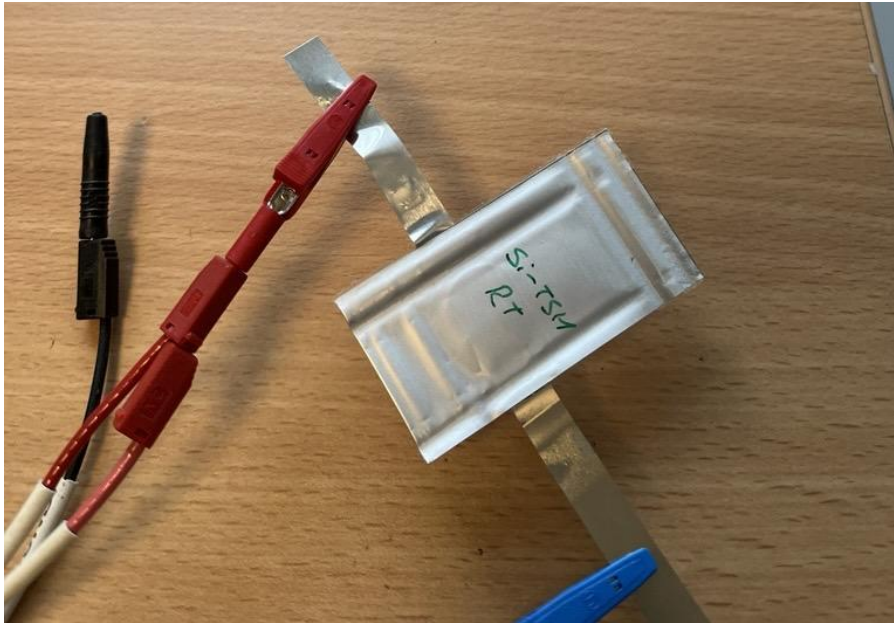
- The self-healing bonds were observed via SEM after 1000 cycles at 1C.
- Conductive polymer improved electrode capacity and retention.



Neslihan Yuca, Omer Suat Taskin, Emre Guney, Javier García-Alonso, David Maestre, and Bianchi Méndez ACS Omega 2025 10 (30), 33607-33618 DOI: 10.1021/acsomega.5c040528

Thermally Triggerable Self-Healing Polymer Coating

- **Negative effect** of heat was also observed on long-term GCD cell performance.
- All cells had lost more than 90% of capacities after 100 cycles.
- **No evidence** was found to support that the self-healing property of the thermally triggerable self-healing polymer led to any performance increase.



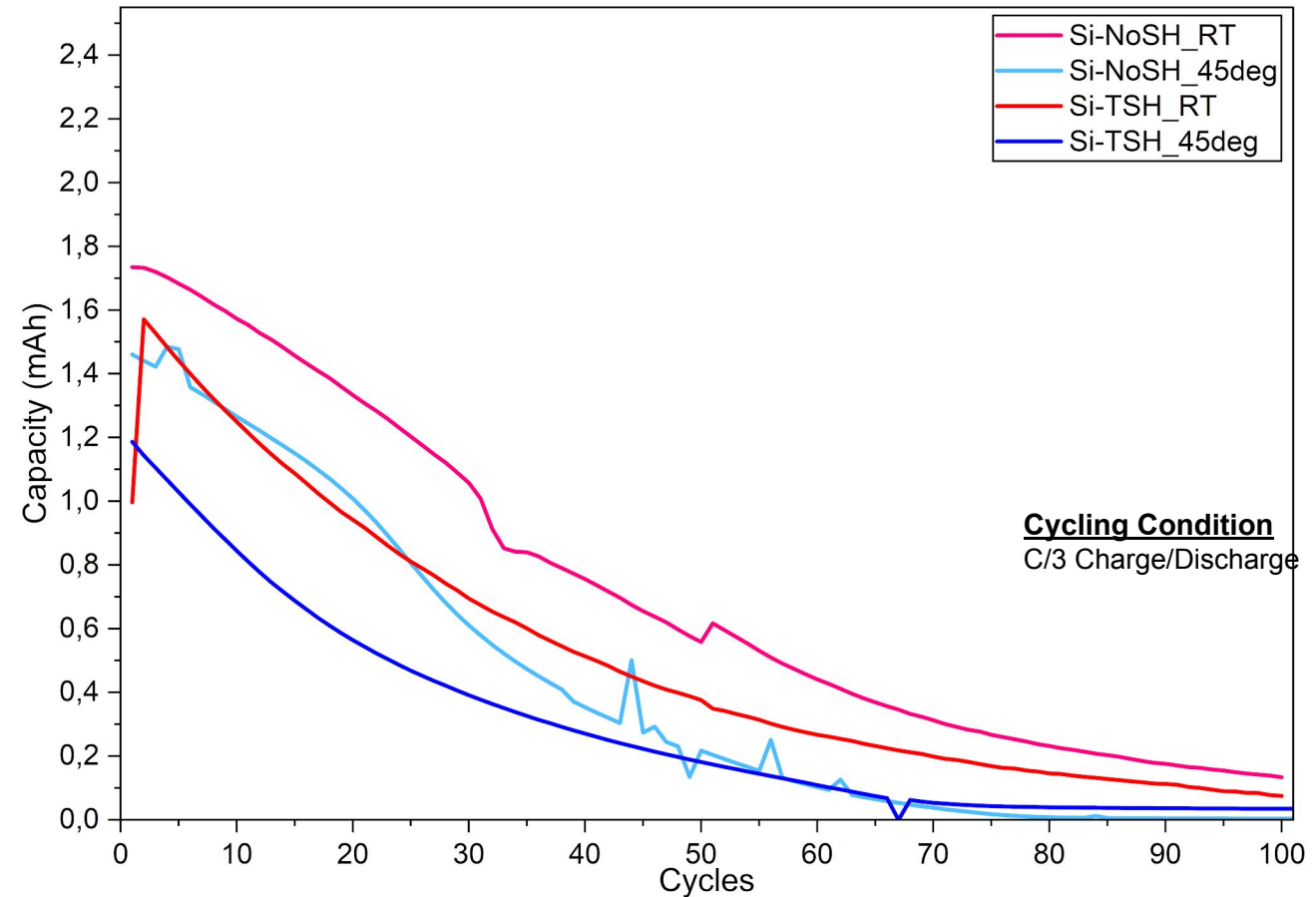
Cell composition

Si-NoSH | LiPF₆ EC:DEC(1:1
v/v)+Celgard2500|NMC811

&

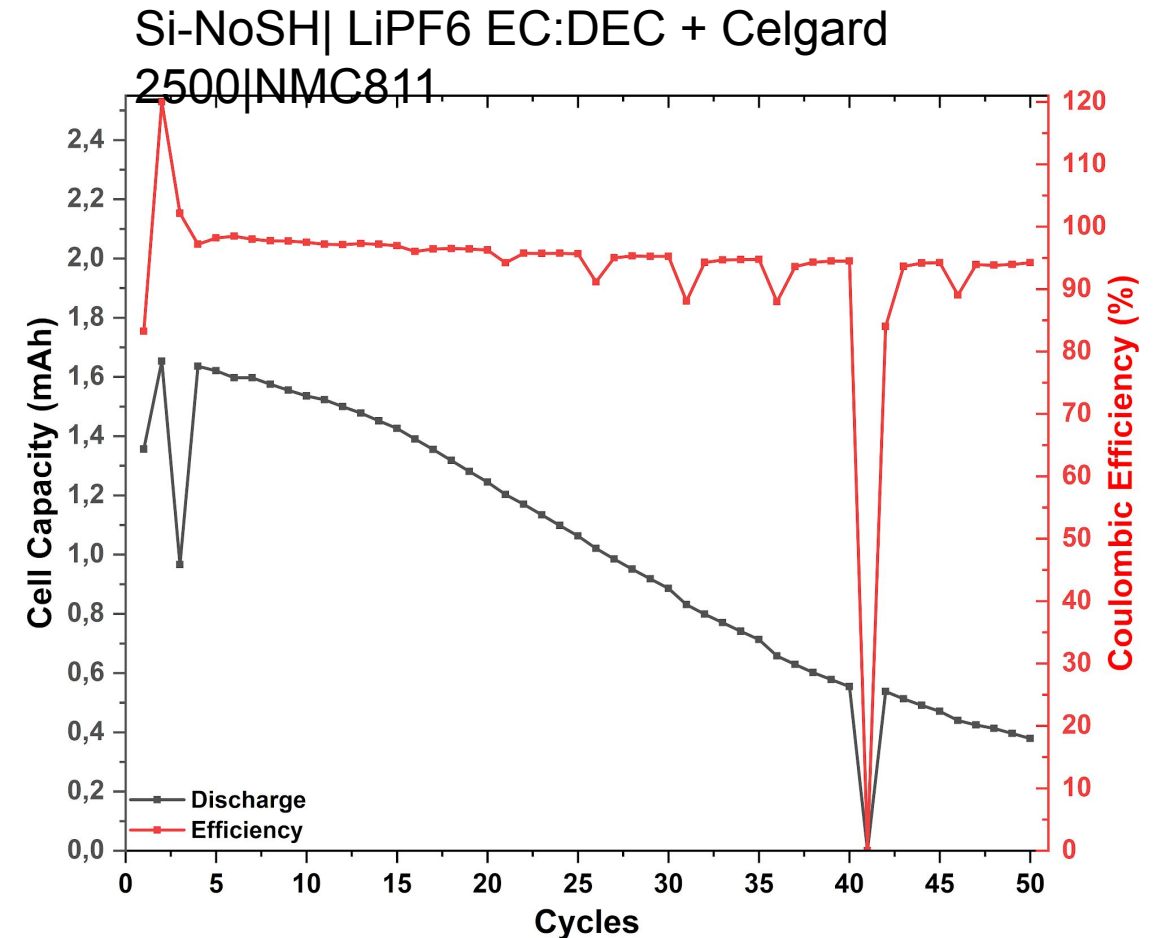
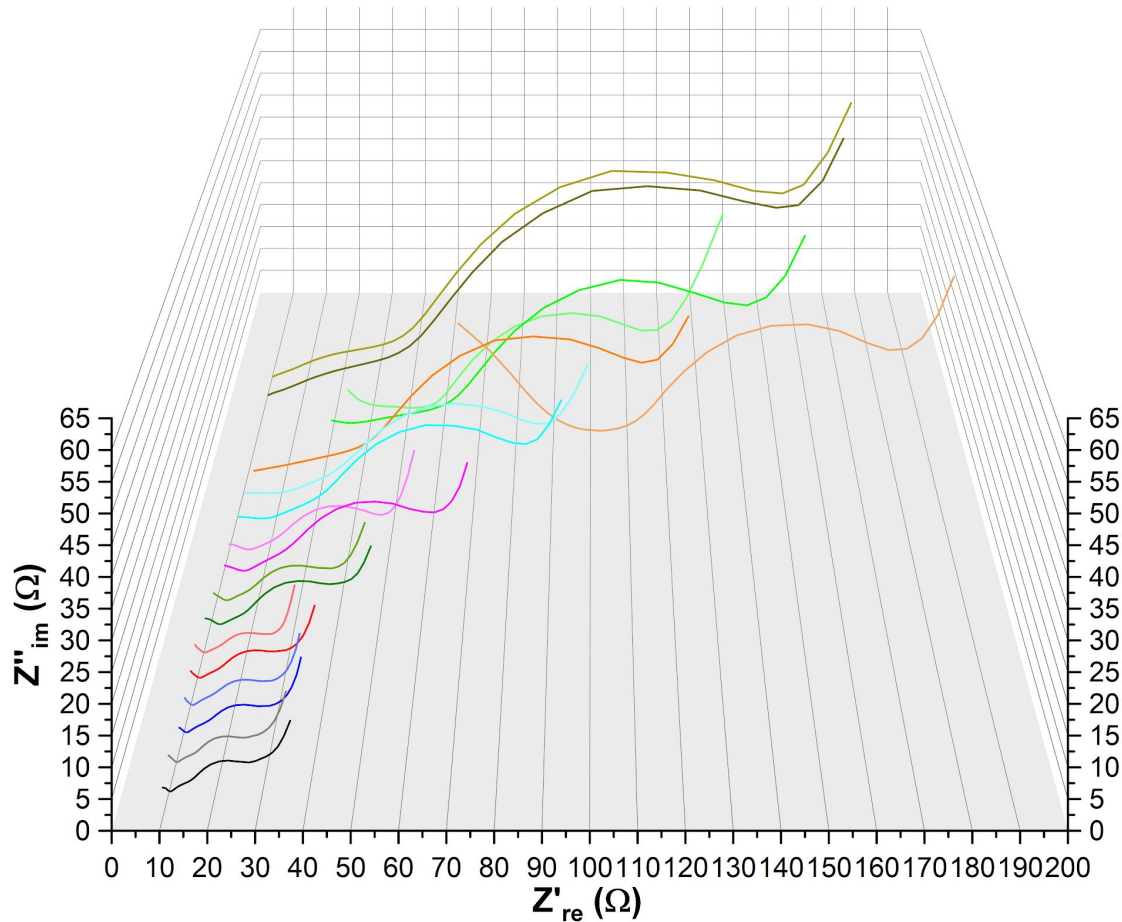
Si-TSH | LiPF₆ EC:DEC(1:1
v/v)+Celgard2500|NMC811
TSH: Thermally Triggerable Self-Healing Polymer
Coating

NoSH: Pristine Si anode without polymer coating



Thermally Triggerable Self-Healing Polymer Coating Tests

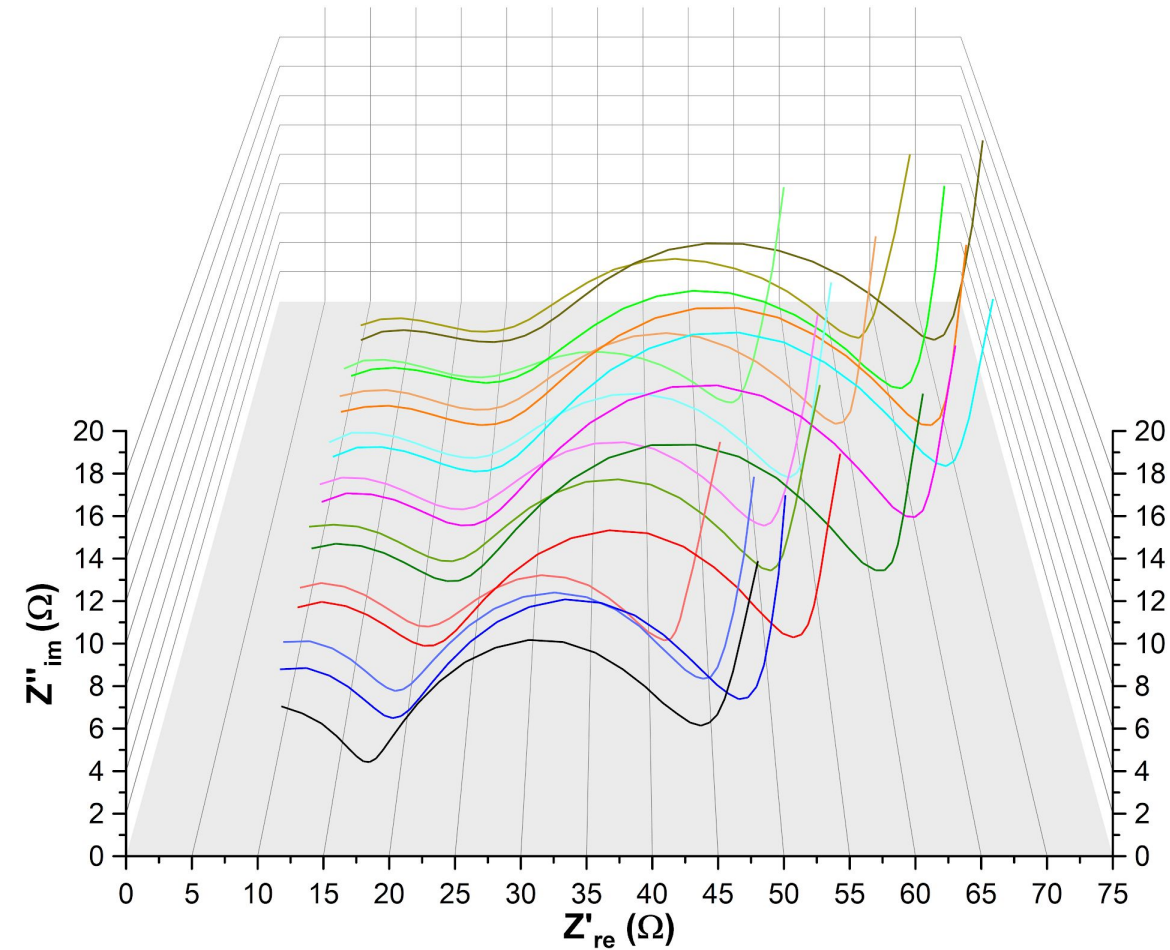
Heat Treatment every 5 cycles @ 45°C



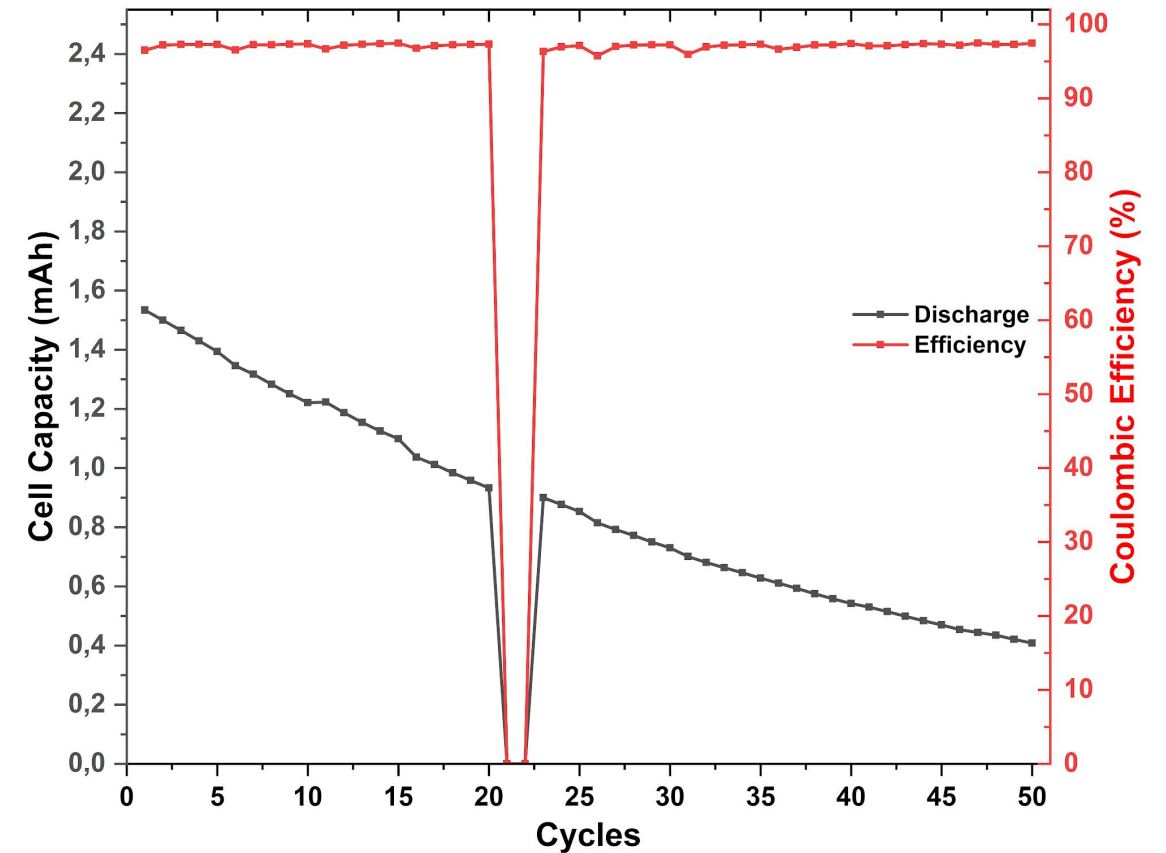
27.95% capacity retention
(22.92% if calculation made from peak point)

Thermally Triggerable Self-Healing Polymer Coating Tests

Heat Treatment every 5 cycles @ 45°C



Si-TSH| LiPF6 EC:DEC + Celgard
2500INMC811

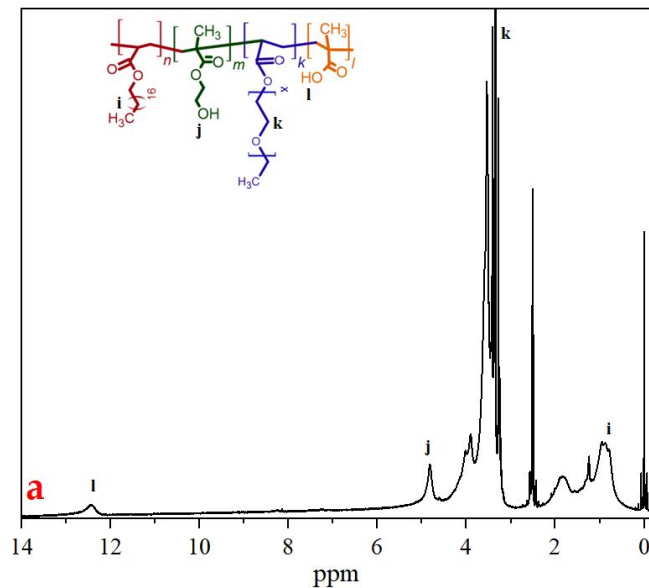


26.6% capacity
retention

Synthesis & Characterization of Magnetically Triggerable Self-Healing Polymer Binder

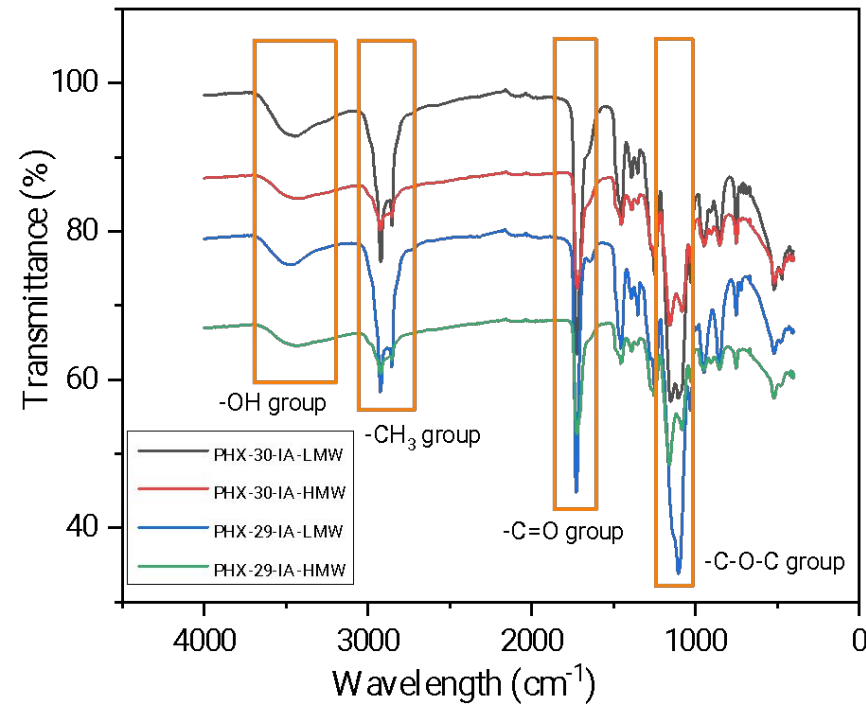
Detailed Characterization of Polymer

^1H -NMR

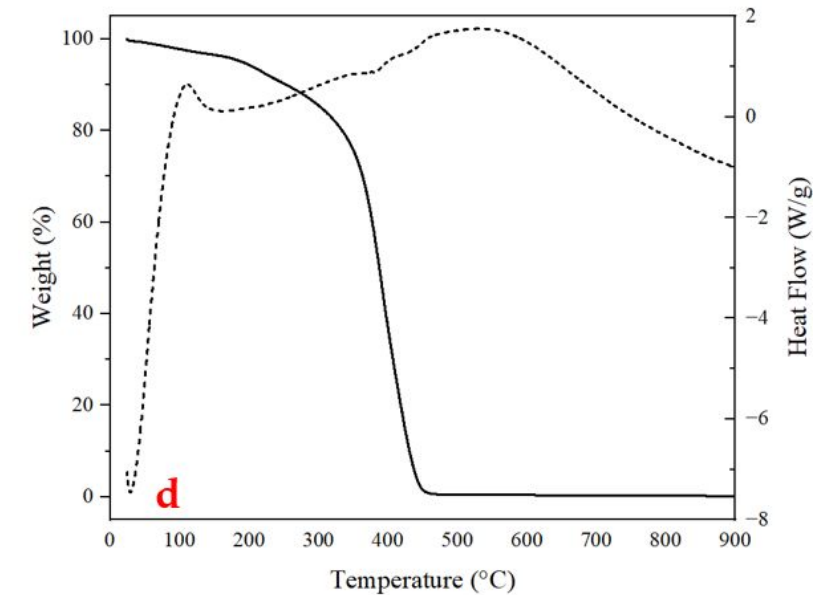


$M_{n,\text{NMR}}$: 2479.75 g/mol

FTIR

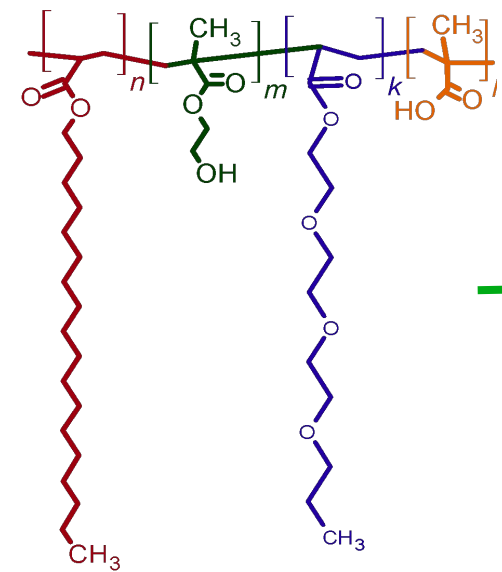


TGA-DSC



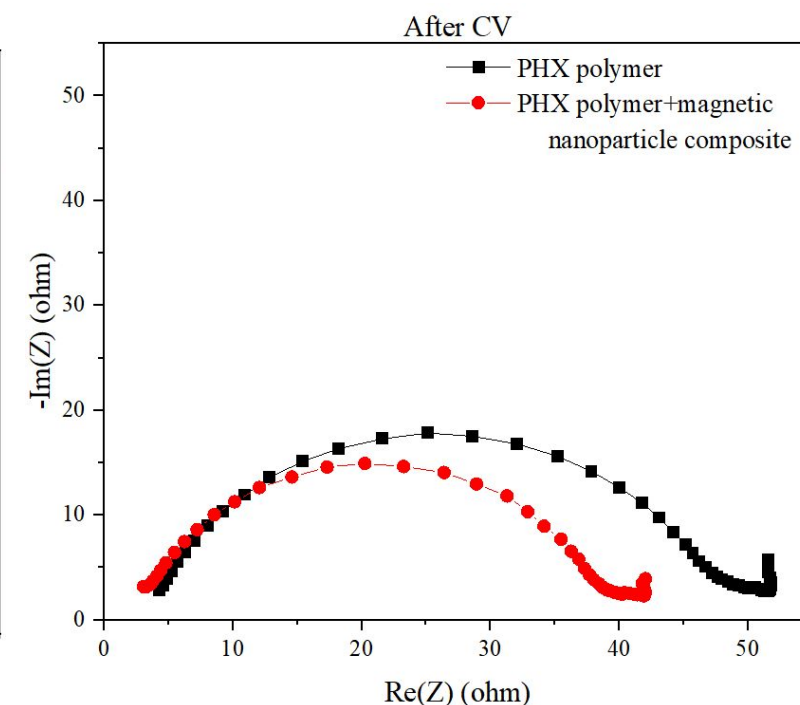
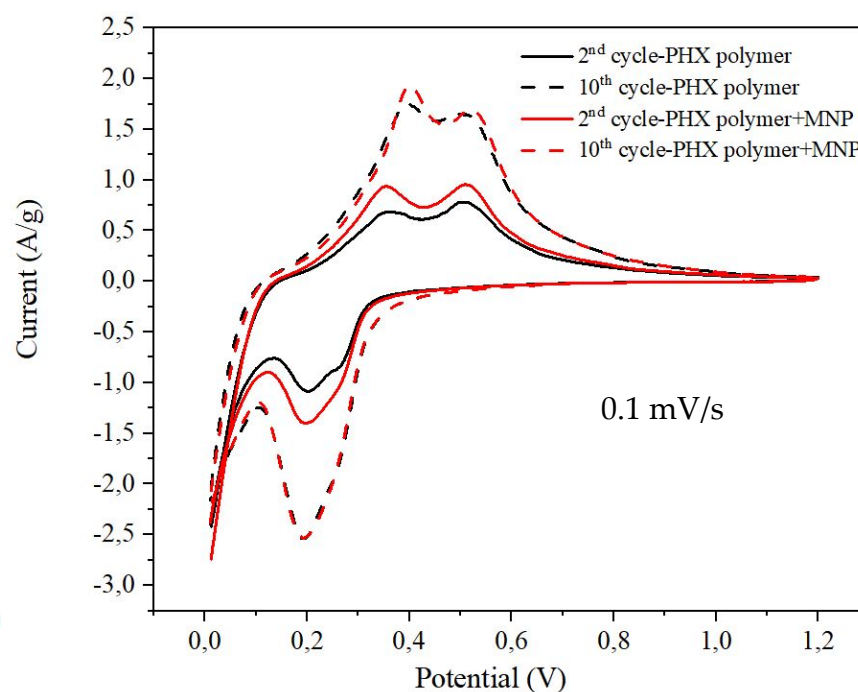
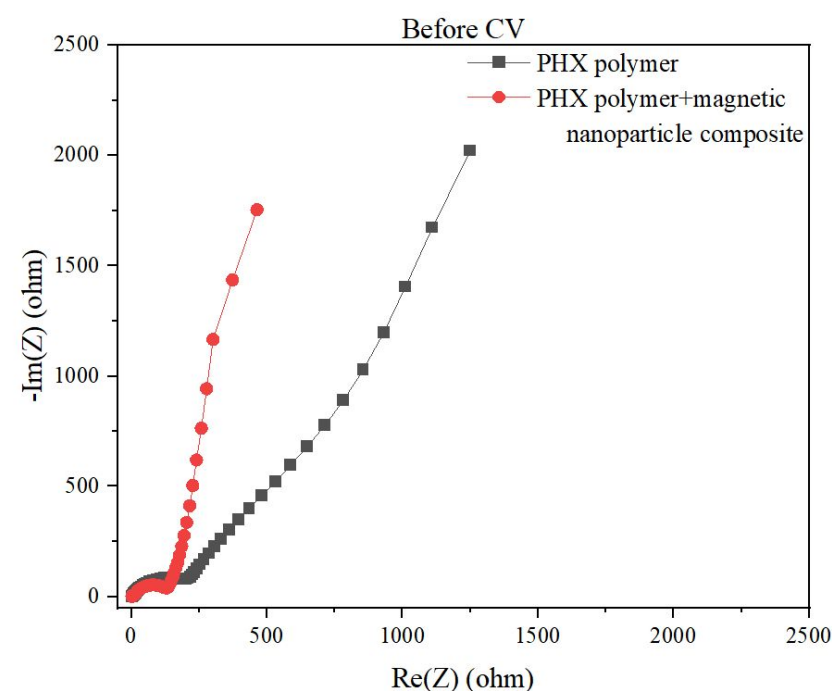
T_{deg} : 392°C

T_g : 112°C



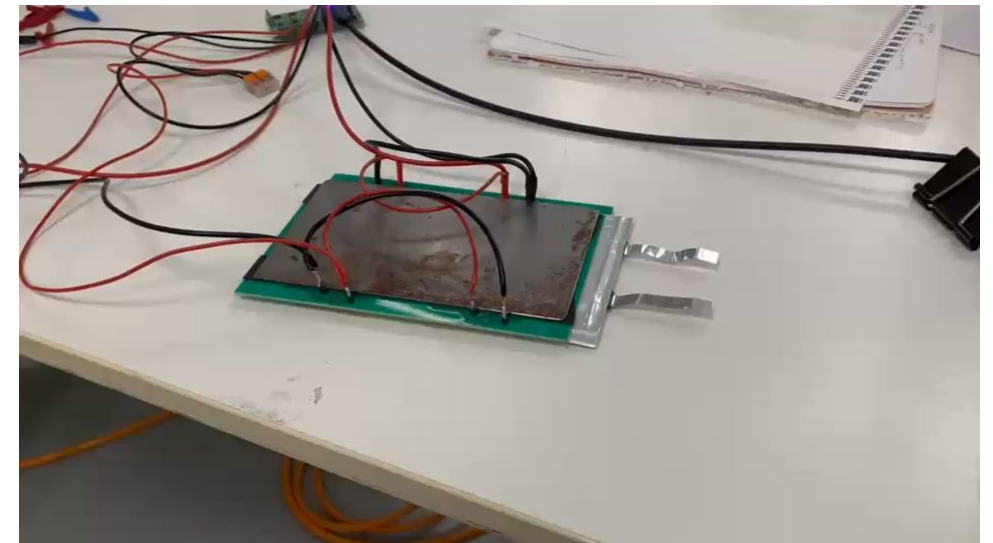
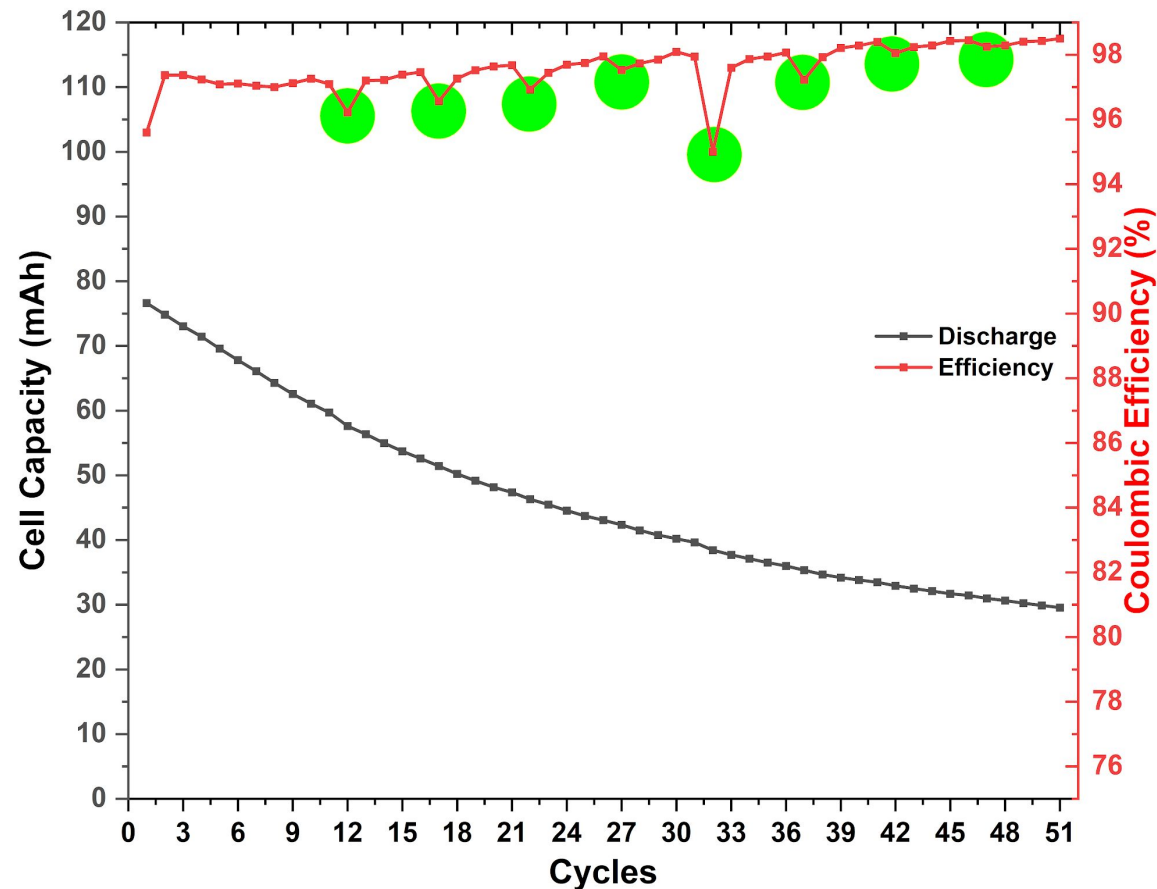
EIS-CV Measurement

Magnetic Nanoparticle Effect



Magnetically Triggerable Self-Healable Single-Layer Cell phoenix

- Magnetic triggering has an effect on the initial cycles after triggering.
- There is no self-healing effect observed yet.



Challenges and lessons learned in Triggering Self-Healing Activation for the Si Anode

- The triggering parameters should be selected wisely.
- Irreversible degradation of Si NPs makes the self-healing effect harder
- Destructive formation conditions should be avoided
- Even though materials demonstrate self-healing physically, healing kinetics and rate should also be considered.

Thank you for your attention!



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This work has received funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)