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## Uniquely Synthesized Lithium Sulfide Composite via Chemical Route for Battery Application

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**ABSTRACT:** As a result of solid-solid contact between electrolyte and electrode particles, interfacial resistance determines how well solid state batteries work. In order to provide remote solid-solid contact, it is imperative to improve the pathways for lithium ion and electron transport. One crucial stage in determining the interfacial resistance between electrolyte and electrode particles is the electrode fabrication process. Selecting a straightforward way to prepare electrode composite is crucial to avoid degrading performance. The key to creating an effective  $Li_2S$  cathode is finding a low-cost synthesis technique for nanosized  $Li_2S$  with a tiny diameter and low charging overpotential. The creation process for  $Li_2S$  nanoparticles is outlined below, along with a laboratory production method.

In present work, lithium sulfide composite is uniquely synthesized by chemical route method as a result it is possible to boost performance of lithium sulfide as counter electrode.

KEYWORDS: Synthesis of lithium sulfide, chemical route method

#### I. INTRODUCTION

People's interest in new energy has increased as a result of the energy crisis in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the turn of the century, a number of environmental organizations and nations passed stricter environmental protection legislation, which aided in the growth of alternative energy sources. It should be emphasized that electric energy must be stored and released by certain equipment, such as batteries, capacitors, and other similar devices, just like hydrogen energy [1]. lithium-ion batteries have been widely used in portable electronic devices[2]. Batteries are made up of different electrochemical cells that are connected either in series or parallel to produce the necessary voltage and capacity[3]. Each electrochemical cell has an anode and a cathode, and because an electrolyte solution containing salts separates the two electrodes, charge can move between the electrodes in an electrochemical cell[4]. Lithium sulfur batteries has been under intensive development as one of the most promising next-generation rechargeable batteries used for electrified transportation and stationary energy storage, among others[5][6][7].

#### **II. RELATED WORK**

With the unique features, lithium sulfide ( $Li_2S$ ) has been investigated as the cathode material for nextgeneration rechargeable batteries[8]. Because of its high theoretical capacity, high melting point, affordable volume expansion, and lithium composition, lithium sulfide ( $Li_2S$ ) is regarded as the most promising cathode material[9]. The size distribution of the commercially available  $Li_2S$  particles ranges from a few micrometers to tens of micrometers. In the first charge cycle, a significant potential barrier greater than 1.0 V will arise when this microscale  $Li_2S$  powder is applied directly to prepare the cathode. But employing  $Li_2S$  as the initial cathode material comes with its own set of problems. If the cathode structure is not appropriately built, the  $Li_2S$  activation during the first charging phase proves to be a significant difficulty since it necessitates an extreme over potential[10]. The employed  $Li_2S$ 's particle size, morphology, and crystallinity all have a direct bearing on this overpotential. Commercially available  $Li_2S$  is not a good candidate since it has very poor electrochemical properties and tens of micrometer-sized particle size. Therefore, creating new preparation methods for high-performance  $Li_2S$  is crucial. The charging barrier should be effectively reduced by a  $Li_2S$  cathode material with tiny particle diameter[11], and at the same time, the cost should be low to gain a competitive edge over currently used cathode materials.

Researchers in the past have put a lot of effort into figuring out how to alter the properties of synthetic  $Li_2S$  to lower the potential barrier during first charging, which has resulted in a wide range of cutting-edge techniques for the inlab synthesis of  $Li_2S$ . In addition to solid phase carbothermal reduction or lithium combustion with hotter reaction



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temperatures, these techniques also incorporate liquid-phase synthesis techniques with kinder reaction conditions[12]. The activation of the initial charging process benefits from the liquid phase synthesis methods' good ability to control the particle size of the  $Li_2S$  product[13]. However, the reactants used in these procedures are frequently extremely active organolithium complexes. Lithium sulfate ( $Li_2SO_4$ ) and cheap carbon can be used as the feedstock for carbothermal reduction processes, however manufactured  $Li_2S$  particles often have greater diameters. This kind of technique must be used in conjunction with other techniques, such as ball milling, electrospinning, or in-situ polymerization, to evenly distribute  $Li_2SO_4$  and the carbon source prior to heat reduction and to prevent the formation of  $Li_2S$  particles during reduction.

Hong Liu, et al. employed n-butyllithium to convert sulfur to  $Li_2S$  using mesoporous carbon CMK-3/S composite, which has previously been described for its performance in lithium-sulfur batteries[14]. The pore size of the mesoporous carbon limits the  $Li_2S$  in the CMK-3/Li<sub>2</sub>S composite similarly to the CMK-3/S composite, although the voltage–capacity curve during first charging demonstrates that the phase transition barrier is not entirely abolished. Lithium triethylborohydride (LiEt<sub>3</sub>BH), in addition to n-butyllithium, was utilized as a reducing agent in the creation of  $Li_2S$ . The so-called "Lithium Superionic Sulfide (LSS)" was created by Lin et al. by heating a tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution of lithium ethoxide to reduce sulfur to  $Li_2S$  with an average diameter of about 30 to 50 nm.

By thermally decomposing the resorcinol-formal dehyde (RF) gel into partially graphitized carbon at 900 °C while converting the  $Li_2SO_4$  to  $Li_2S$ , immobilized the  $Li_2SO_4$  in solution. The resulting  $Li_2S$  particles have sizes ranging from 500 nm to 2 $\mu$ m.

In the current work, Li<sub>2</sub>S was chemically produced in the manner stated below.

#### **III. METHODOLOGY**

For the synthesis of  $Li_2S$  composites, AR grade (SD fine, India) chemicals were used without any further purification. In the present work, chemical route approach was used for the synthesis of  $Li_2S$  nanoparticles. The Lithium Nitrite (LiNO<sub>3</sub>) and sodium sulfide (Na<sub>2</sub>S) were used as starting chemicals for the synthesis of  $Li_2S$  nanoparticles. 10 ml Methanol added to 1 mole of LiNO<sub>3</sub> and homogenized by magnetic stirring. As-obtained homogenous mixture added drop wise to the mixture of 1 mole of Na<sub>2</sub>S and 10 ml methanol. The mixture was again homogenized by rigorous magnetic stirring results the formation of lithium sulfide.

The physic-chemical analysis of prepared sample was done. The structural study of samples was completed using X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis on XRD (Philips PW 1830).

#### **IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

Figure 1. shows XRD pattern of  $Li_2S$  composite. XRDpattern clearly shows the presence of characteristics peaks of Li2S with correct diffraction peak position and marginal intensity. The signature peaks are exactly match with JCPDS card. The broad hump with some shoulder peaks appears between  $27^0$  to  $32^0$  shows presence of Lithium sulfide composite.

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Figure 1 xrd pattern of Li<sub>2</sub>S

For the practical use of  $Li_2S$  cathodes, a low-cost synthesis method that can generate nanosized  $Li_2S$  with tiny size and low activation barrier is required. Numerous strategies have been reported, some of which are practically feasible. The production of nanosized  $Li_2S$  still has a lot of potential for improvement, despite the enormous achievements. Here are a few of the topics that, in our opinion, require more study.

#### V. CONCLUSION

It this study, we successfully demonstrate the synthesis of lithium sulfide by chemical route method. The oxidation of  $Li_2S$  is achieved through the direct charge transfer between the solid  $Li_2S$  and conducting materials. The potential barrier is found to be strongly dependent on the size of cathode particle and ultimately method of synthesis. An appropriate architecture for the construction of free-standing cathodes is provided by the as-synthesized  $Li_2S$ . Importantly, this synthetic technique is scalable and highly reproducible. The cathode in an all-solid-state battery may perform exceptionally well in terms of capacity retention and efficiency when using this nanostructured  $Li_2S$ .

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