Accepted Manuscript

Title: Electrochemical Model for Ionic Liquid Electrolytes in Lithium Batteries

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PII: S0013-4686(15)30070-0

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.electacta.2015.07.003

Reference: EA 25279

To appear in: Electrochimica Acta

Received date: 1-5-2015 Revised date: 26-6-2015 Accepted date: 1-7-2015

Please cite this article as: Kisoo Yoo, Anirudh Deshpande, Soumik Banerjee, Prashanta Dutta, Electrochemical Model for Ionic Liquid Electrolytes in Lithium Batteries, Electrochimica Acta http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2015.07.003

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Electrochemical Model for Ionic Liquid Electrolytes in Lithium Batteries

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ABSTRACT

Room temperature ionic liquids are considered as potential electrolytes for high performance and safe lithium batteries due to their very low vapor pressure and relatively wide electrochemical and thermal stability windows. Unlike organic electrolytes, ionic liquid electrolytes are molten salts at room temperature with dissociated cations and anions. These dissociated ions interfere with the transport of lithium ions in lithium battery. In this study, a mathematical model is developed for transport of ionic components to study the performance of ionic liquid based lithium batteries. The mathematical model is based on a univalent ternary electrolyte frequently encountered in ionic liquid electrolytes of lithium batteries. Owing to the very high concentration of components in ionic liquid, the transport of lithium ions is described by the mutual diffusion phenomena using Maxwell-Stefan diffusivities, which are obtained from atomistic simulation. The model is employed to study a lithium-ion battery where the electrolyte comprises ionic liquid with mppy⁺ (N-methyl-Npropyl pyrrolidinium) cation and TFSI (bis trifluoromethanesulfonyl imide) anion. For a moderate value of reaction rate constant, the electric performance results predicted by the model are in good agreement with experimental data. We also studied the effect of porosity and thickness of separator on the performance of lithium-ion battery using this model. Numerical results indicate that low rate of lithium ion transport causes lithium depleted zone in the porous cathode regions as the porosity decreases or the length of the separator increases. The lithium depleted region is responsible for lower specific capacity in lithiumion cells. The model presented in this study can be used for design of optimal ionic liquid electrolytes for lithium-ion and lithium-air batteries.

Keyword: Li Battery / Ionic Liquid / Ternary System

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