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# Synergistic Effect of Nano-Ceria Dispersion on Improvement of Li<sup>+</sup> Ion Conductivity in Polymer Nanocomposite Electrolytes

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## Abstract

In the present work, we report a polymer-nanocomposite electrolyte (PNCE) system by dispersing CeO<sub>2</sub> nano-powders as fillers in Poly(ethylene)oxide-LiClO<sub>4</sub> matrix. The ceria powders known for their redox and catalytic activity have strongly influenced the structural properties of the PNCEs. XRD and thermal analysis results suggest structural modification in PNCEs that leads to improved ionic conductivity. The maximum conductivity of  $\sim 3.0 \times 10^{-5}$  S.cm<sup>-1</sup> is observed for 1-2wt.% and 10 wt.% nano-CeO<sub>2</sub> dispersed PNCEs. The d.c. conductivity and hopping frequency are thermally activated. The activation energy of d.c. conductivity ( $E_a$ ) and ion hopping ( $E_m$ ) are well correlated, suggesting that PNCEs with smaller interaction energy between Li<sup>+</sup> ions and PEO offer better ionic conductivity.

**Keywords:** Polymer nanocomposite electrolyte, Nano-CeO<sub>2</sub>, a.c. conductivity, hopping frequency.

## 1. Introduction

Keeping in pace with the recent developments in cathode and anode materials for all-solid-state-Li ion batteries, separator-cum-electrolyte has also drawn significant attention for further improvement [1-2]. In this context, solid polymer electrolyte (SPE) stands out advantageous for its excellent film-forming ability, low-cost processing and design flexibility. However, SPEs made up of simple polymer-salt complex (PS) offers low ionic conductivity rendering it unfit for the immediate applications. Hence, SPEs are further

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