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**An Asymmetric Solid Electrolyte with Engineered Layers for Dendrite-Free Li-metal Battery**

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Li-metal has been intensively pursued as an exceptional anode material for higher energy density batteries due to its high theoretical specific capacity (3860 mA h g−1), and the lowest redox potential (−3.040 V vs the standard hydrogen electrode). Nevertheless, the development of Li-metal batteries with liquid electrolytes is hindered by the formation of lithium dendrites, which lead to serious and sporadic safety issues. Replacing liquid electrolytes with solid-state electrolytes is an effective strategy to achieve practical Li-metal batteries free of the safety issues.[1] The key bottleneck troubling the application of solid electrolyte is the contradictory requirements from Li-metal and cathode, which need high modulus to block Li-dendrite penetration and flexibility to enable low interface resistance, respectively. This study describes a thin asymmetrical design of solid electrolyte to address these shortcomings. In this architecture, a rigid ceramic-layer modified with an ultrathin polymer is toward Li-metal to accomplish dendrite-suppression of Li-anode, and a soft polymer-layer spreads over the exterior and interior of cathode to endow connected interface simultaneously.[2] This ingenious arrangement endows solid Li-metal batteries with extremely high Coulombic efficiency and cycle-ability. This work will open up one avenue for realizing safe and long-life energy storage systems.



Fig. 1 Schematic diagrams and structure characterizations of solid Li-metal battery with asymmetric solid electrolyte

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