



# A novel coral-like garnet for high-performance PEO-based all solid-state batteries

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**ABSTRACT** As one of the most promising next-generation energy storage devices, the lithium-metal battery has been extensively investigated. However, safety issues and undesired lithium dendrite growth hinder its development. The application of solid-state electrolytes has attracted increasing attention as they can solve safety issues and show great potential to inhibit the growth of lithium dendrites. Polyethylene oxide (PEO)-based electrolytes are very promising due to their enhanced safety and excellent flexibility. However, they suffer from low ionic conductivity at room temperature and cannot effectively inhibit lithium dendrites at high temperatures due to the intrinsic semicrystalline properties and poor mechanical strength. In this work, a novel coral-like  $\text{Li}_{6.25}\text{Al}_{0.25}\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  (C-LALZO) is synthesized to serve as an active ceramic filler in PEO. The PEO with LALZO coral (PLC) exhibits increased ionic conductivity and mechanical strength, which leads to uniform deposition/stripping of lithium metal. The Li symmetric cells with PLC do not cause a short circuit after cycling for 1500 h at 60°C. The assembled  $\text{LiFePO}_4/\text{PLC}/\text{Li}$  batteries display excellent cycling stability at both 60 and 50°C. This work reveals that the electrochemical properties of the composite electrolyte can be effectively improved by tuning the microstructure of the filler, such as the C-LALZO architecture.

**Keywords:** coral-like garnet, composite solid-state electrolyte, all-solid-state battery

## INTRODUCTION

With the ever-growing demand for efficient and rechargeable energy storage, lithium-ion batteries with high energy density and long cycling life have attracted great attention [1–5]. Lithium (Li) metal has been extensively considered as the most promising anode due to its high theoretical specific capacity (3860 mA h g<sup>-1</sup>) and the lowest electrode potential (~3.04 V vs. the standard hydrogen electrode), and the corresponding lithium-metal batteries (LMBs) have been studied for several decades [6–8]. However, many barriers hinder the practical

application of LMBs [9–12]. In traditional LMBs with liquid organic electrolytes, the side reactions and uneven plating/stripping of lithium during cycles cause undesired Li dendritic growth or mossy Li generation, which can lead to internal short-circuiting or even an explosion [13–15].

The application of solid-state electrolytes in LMBs has attracted increasing attention because they can solve the safety issue and effectively prevent the formation of an unstable solid-state electrolyte interphase (SEI) [16,17]. In addition to inorganic ceramic solid electrolytes, solid polymer electrolytes, such as polyethylene oxide (PEO), are becoming increasingly promising due to their excellent flexibility [18,19]. However, because of the intrinsic semicrystalline properties and poor mechanical strength, PEO electrolyte suffers low room-temperature ionic conductivity and insufficient capability for inhibiting lithium dendrites [20]. Therefore, a great number of approaches have been adopted to overcome these issues [21–25]. Compositing ceramic fillers within the PEO matrix is an effective approach to improve the ionic conductivity and mechanical properties [26,27]. The existence of fillers leads to the decreased crystallinity of PEO, which further improves the ionic conductivity. Ceramic fillers can be divided into two categories: inactive ceramic fillers and active ceramic fillers which can serve as ion conductors [28]. Adding inactive ceramic fillers, such as  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  [29],  $\text{ZrO}_2$  [30], and  $\text{SiO}_2$  [27] to form solid composite polymer electrolytes (CPEs) has been proved to be a valid strategy. However, the low ionic conductivity is still a tricky issue. Compared with inactive ceramic fillers, adding inorganic solid-state electrolytes to the PEO matrix can be more effective to improve the ionic conductivity further since they can provide additional fast paths for lithium-ion transport. In previous studies,  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  (LLZO) [31,32],  $\text{Li}_{1.5}\text{Al}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{1.5}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  (LAGP) [33], and  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Al}_x\text{Ti}_{2-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  [34] have been demonstrated to be useful not only to improve the ionic conductivity of PEO electrolyte but also to increase its strength. The CPE can also effectively suppress the growth of undesired lithium dendrite. Besides, the interfacial resistance between electrolyte and lithium metal anode can be effectively reduced by compositing active fillers [35]. For instance, Chen *et al.* [35] reported a CPE with

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$\text{Li}_{6.4}\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_{1.4}\text{Ta}_{0.6}\text{O}_{12}$  particles as the filler and found it favorable to suppress the growth of Li dendrites. Zhao *et al.* [36] chose four types of LAGP with different particle sizes as active fillers to fabricate PEO/LAGP CPEs. The results indicate that LAGP particles provide a positive effect to enhance the ionic conductivity of the CPE.

Besides ceramic particles, ceramic nanowires and three-dimensional (3D) ceramic frameworks have attracted much interest due to their obvious increase in ionic conductivity [37]. Wan *et al.* [38] applied LLZO nanowires as the filler to modify PEO and verified that LLZO nanowires in the PEO matrix can efficiently enhance the ionic conductivity and mechanical properties of the CPE. The addition of LLZO nanowires can also contribute to the uniform deposition of lithium during the cycle process. Gong *et al.* [39] reported CPEs with a template-derived 3D ceramic textile, exhibiting an enhanced electrochemical performance and thus demonstrating the advantages of 3D lithium conductive ceramics in CPEs.

Ceramic nanoparticles [40], nanowires [34,41,42], nanosheets [43], and 3D frameworks [44–46] as the filler in PEO have been widely studied, and their positive effects on the ionic conductivity and mechanical properties of CPE have been demonstrated. Herein, we report the synthesis of a coral-like  $\text{Li}_{6.25}\text{Al}_{0.25}\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  (C-LALZO) electrolyte *via* a sol-gel method with graphene oxide (GO) as nucleation additives. The PEO-based CPE with C-LALZO (PLC) as the active filler presents excellent electrochemical performance. Garnet LALZO has high ionic conductivity and air stability at room temperature as well as good electrochemical stability against lithium metals [47]. Furthermore, the advantages of C-LALZO in enhancing the conductivity and inhibiting the growth of lithium dendrites in CPEs were investigated. The assembled  $\text{LiFePO}_4$  (LFP)/PLC/Li all-solid-state battery demonstrates excellent cycling stability and rate performance at both 50 and 60°C. C-LALZO can further enhance the ionic conductivity of CPEs due to the formation of continuous and fast Li-ion transfer pathways, which can effectively promote the uniform deposition of lithium metal without the growth of lithium dendrites. The decomposition potential of CPE is widened to around 5.2 V at 50°C *vs.* metallic Li, which means the CPE could match cathode materials with higher working potentials such as  $\text{LiNi}_{1/3}\text{Co}_{1/3}\text{Mn}_{1/3}\text{O}_2$  (NCM) and  $\text{LiCoO}_2$  (LCO). This work provides a facile sol-gel method to fabricate C-LALZO, and an all-solid-state battery with its CPE achieves outstanding cycling stability and rate performance.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### Preparation of LALZO branches and corals

Element Al was selected to stabilize the cubic garnet phase. Stoichiometric amounts of  $\text{LiNO}_3$ ,  $\text{La}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{ZrO}_8$ , and  $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (purchased from Aladdin) were dissolved in a mixed solvent (ethanol:deionized water = 3:1, by volume), followed by adding citric acid (citric acid:metallic cation = 2:1 in mole ratio) as the complexant. Additional  $\text{LiNO}_3$  (20 wt%) was added to compensate for the lithium loss during calcination. Afterward, the solution was stirred on a hot plate to evaporate the solvent and form a tawny solid precursor. To obtain the cubic phase branch-like LALZO (B-LALZO), the precursor was first heated at 200°C for 2 h under vacuum to remove the residual solvent and then calcined at 800°C for 5 h in air. The preparation of C-LALZO was the same as that of B-LALZO

except for the addition of GO ( $\text{LiNO}_3:\text{GO} = 16$  by weight) to the precursor solution as the nucleation sites.

### Preparation of CPE

The PLC and PLB (PEO with B-LALZO) CPEs were fabricated by the solution-casting method. The PEO ( $M_w = 600,000$ , Sigma) and lithium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (LiTFSI) (Aladdin, 99%) were added to acetonitrile with a mole ratio of EO:Li = 8:1. After stirring for several hours, B-LALZO or C-LALZO was added to the aforementioned solution and stirred for several hours. The homogeneously suspended composite solution was poured into Teflon molds and dried in an argon-filled glovebox. The obtained composite solid electrolyte membrane was further dried at 60°C for 10 h in a vacuum oven to remove the residual solvent and then punched into certain sizes and shapes.

### Characterization of LALZO and CPE

X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of the B-LALZO, C-LALZO, and CPEs were recorded with an X-ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 Advance, Germany) using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.154$  nm) in an angular range of 10°–90° at a power of 600 W (40 kV, 15 mA). The morphology and interplanar spacing of LALZO materials were characterized using a scanning electron microscope (SEM, Phenom pro) and a high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM, JEOL JEM-2100). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed with a Mettler-Toledo TGA2 Thermo Analyzer from 30 to 900°C at a ramping rate of 5°C min<sup>-1</sup> under Ar protection. The Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra were obtained on a Bruker Tensor 37.

### Electrochemical characterization of solid CPE

CR2032 cells were assembled by sandwiching the electrolyte between two stainless steel (SS) sheets to test the ionic conductivity of the solid CPE with different LALZO contents using electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS). The measurements were carried out in a frequency range from 1 MHz to 0.1 Hz from 25 to 70°C on a Metrohm-Autolab B.V. electrochemical station. The electrochemical stability of the composite solid electrolyte was investigated *via* linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) which was applied to a cell with an SS plate as the working electrode and Li metal as the counter and reference electrodes. The applied potential ranges from 2.5 to 6.0 V at a scanning rate of 0.1 mV s<sup>-1</sup> at 60°C. The assembled Li/CPE/Li cells were galvanostatically cycled at current densities of 0.02 and 0.05 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> on a Land-CT2001A battery testing system for interfacial stability testing. The LFP/PLB/Li and LFP/PLC/Li cells were assembled for the galvanostatic intermittent titration technique (GITT) measurement. The assembled all-solid-state cells were subjected to a sequence of charging at 0.1 C for 1 h followed by 0.5-h rest on the Land-CT2001A battery test system until the potential reached 4.0 V (*vs.* Li<sup>+</sup>/Li). The lithium-ion transference number was measured at room temperature using an electrochemical workstation. A constant voltage (10 mV) was applied until the lithium symmetric cell exhibits a stable current value. The lithium transference number is calculated using Equation (1):

$$t_{\text{Li}^+} = \frac{I_{\text{ss}}(\Delta V - I_0 R_0)}{I_0(\Delta V - I_{\text{ss}} R_{\text{ss}})}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta V$  is the applied constant voltage (10 mV),  $I_0$  is the initial current,  $I_{\text{ss}}$  is the steady-state current,  $R_{\text{ss}}$  and  $R_0$  are the inter-

facial resistances after and before polarization, respectively.

### Battery assembly and electrochemical characterization

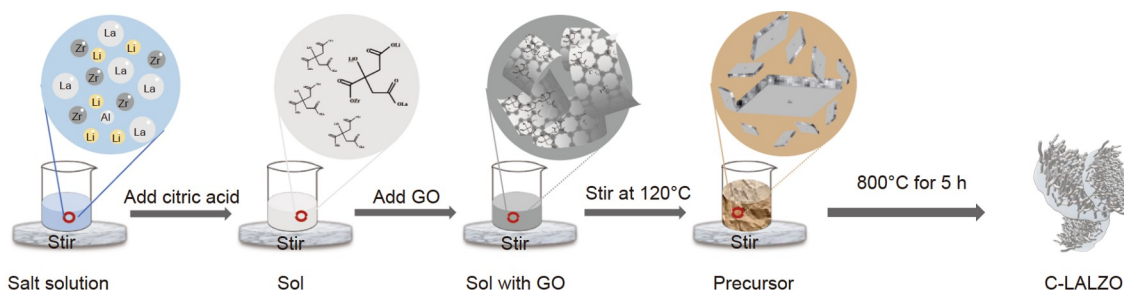
Using PLC and PLB as the electrolytes, LFP as the cathode active material, and Li metal as the anode, the all-solid-state battery was assembled in 2032-coin cells. The cathode is composed of 80 wt% LFP, 10 wt% polyvinylidene difluoride and 10 wt% Super-P. The all-solid-state batteries were assembled in an argon-filled glovebox. The measurements of cycle performance of all-solid-state batteries at 50 and 60°C were carried out in a voltage range of 2.8–4.0 V (*vs.* Li<sup>+</sup>/Li). The performances at different rates were acquired from 0.1 to 1 C at 50 and 60°C. All of the above electrochemical measurements were carried out with the Land-CT2001A battery test system.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

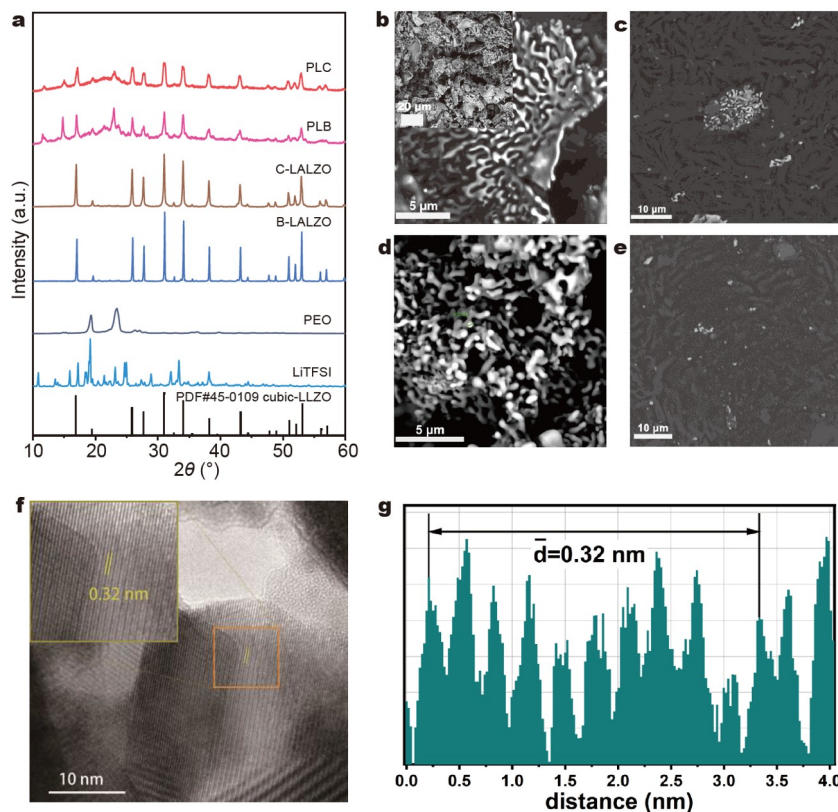
In this work, the procedure for fabricating C-LALZO is illus-

trated in Fig. 1. We first successfully developed C-LALZO with a cubic garnet structure using GO as the nucleation site under sol-gel conditions, for which the mechanism is briefly discussed in Fig. S1.

The XRD patterns in Fig. 2a verify the garnet crystalline structures of the C-LALZO and B-LALZO. Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 2f, g, the HRTEM further reveals that the C-LALZO possesses a lattice spacing of 0.32 nm, corresponding to the (411) crystallographic plane of the cubic phase LALZO, which further verifies the garnet crystalline structure of C-LALZO. Moreover, XRD patterns of CPEs with C-LALZO and B-LALZO are presented in Fig. 2a. It can be observed that the peak intensity ratio of PEO in PLC is lower than that in PLB, which suggests that C-LALZO provides a more positive effect to reduce the crystallinity of PEO compared with B-LALZO. In addition, the XRD patterns of CPEs with different C-LALZO contents are presented in Fig. S2. With the increase of C-LALZO



**Figure 1** Schematic diagram of the synthetic process of C-LALZO.



**Figure 2** (a) XRD patterns of PEO, LiTFSI, LALZO and CPEs with 20 wt% C-LALZO and B-LALZO; SEM images of (b) C-LALZO, (c) PLC, (d) B-LALZO, and (e) PLB; (f) HRTEM and (g) average interplanar spacing of LALZO coral.

content, the intensity of peaks increases gradually. Besides, the peak intensity ratio of PEO decreases in the CPE, which indicates that the C-LALZO filler effectively reduces the crystallinity of PEO. As presented in Fig. 2a, the C-LALZO is in the form of 3D continuous coral, which serves as a fast lithium-ion transportation channel in the CPE to improve the ionic conductivity [44]. However, the LALZO branches are partly aggregated (Fig. 2d). It can be observed in Fig. 2c, e that the garnet C-LALZO and B-LALZO particles are embedded in the PEO electrolyte. Compared with B-LALZO, C-LALZO forms 1D and 2D continuous fast lithium-ion conduction channels in PEO, which can promote the ionic transportation of the CPE.

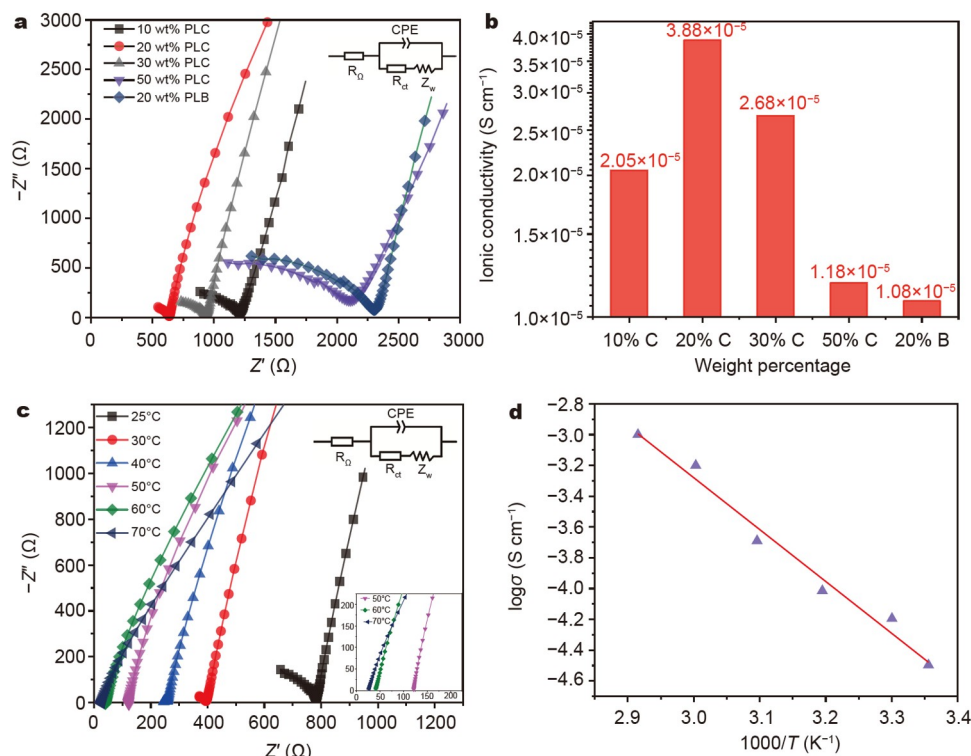
The ionic conductivity ( $\sigma$ ) is calculated *via* the following Equation (2) [48]:

$$\sigma = L / (RS), \quad (2)$$

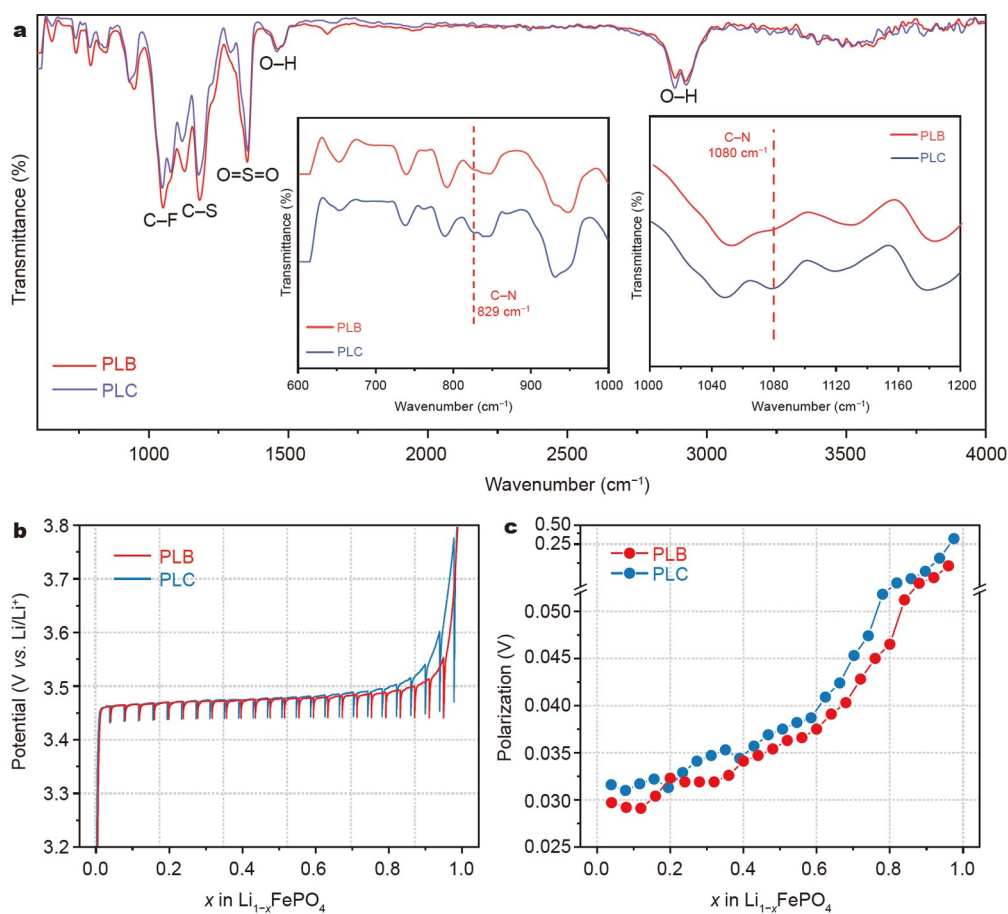
where  $S$  is the area of electrolyte, and  $L$  the thickness of electrolyte.  $R$  is obtained by EIS measurement with symmetric cells of the electrolyte sandwiched by two SS electrodes. The resistance  $R$  is the total resistance of charge transfer and ohmic resistance, and the value of  $R$  was obtained by adopting the intercept of arc and abscissa axis. Electrolytes with a thickness of  $\sim 400 \mu\text{m}$  are adopted for the ionic conductivity measurements to ensure precise thickness measurements. The Nyquist plots of PLC and PLB for evaluating the ionic conductivity are shown in Fig. 3a. The EIS of pure PEO electrolyte is also presented in Fig. S3. By comparing the ionic conductivity of PLC electrolytes with various C-LALZO contents (Fig. 3b), the PLC with 20 wt% C-LALZO has an optimal ionic conductivity. Therefore, the ionic conductivity of PLB with 20 wt% B-LALZO is also listed in Fig. 3b for comparison. The fitted equivalent circuit model is

shown in the inset of Fig. 3a, c. The small intercept corresponds to the electrolyte resistance ( $R_{\Omega}$ ), the depressed semicircle is related to the charge transfer resistance ( $R_{ct}$ ) and the constant phase element, and the inclined line at low frequencies represents the Warburg impedance due to the diffusion of lithium ions in the electrode ( $Z_w$ ). The results in Fig. 3b show that the garnet coral-like filler can enhance the ionic conductivity to a larger degree than the branch-like counterpart. Besides, the results of EIS also verify the conjecture from the test results of XRD in Fig. 2a. The higher ionic conductivity is attributed to their continuous unique coral-like structure with 1D LALZO nanowires seated on a 2D LALZO plate, which can promote ion transportation and provide fast ion transportation channels. Fig. 3c presents the impedance spectra of PLC at different temperatures from 25 to 70°C. The linear relationship (Fig. 3d) between Li-ion conductivity and temperature conforms to the Arrhenius equation [49]. Besides, the lithium-ion transference number was measured at 60°C by an electrochemical workstation (Fig. S4). The calculated value of  $t_{\text{Li}^+}$  of the PLC is 0.26.

As revealed in Fig. 4a, the enhanced peaks at 829 and 1080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  appear in PLC CPE compared with that of PLB, corresponding to the C–N functional group [50]. The C–N group comes from the result of the interactions between the carbon of PEO and nitrogen-containing functional groups. Because of the existence of ceramic LALZO, TFSI<sup>-</sup> anion could be fixed by PEO polymer chain, thus inducing the uniform distribution of space charge, which is beneficial to inhibiting the growth of lithium dendrite [51]. The GITT experiments were performed at 60°C to further solidify the results of EIS and FTIR. The corresponding transient charge potential profiles and the



**Figure 3** (a) EIS and (b) calculated ionic conductivity of CPE with different LALZO contents at 25°C (C and B correspond to PLC and PLB, respectively); (c) EIS and (d) Arrhenius plot of the PLC (20 wt% C-LALZO) at elevated temperatures (from 20 to 70°C) (the inset figure in (c) is an enlarged view of the high frequency range of impedance under 50, 60, and 70°C).



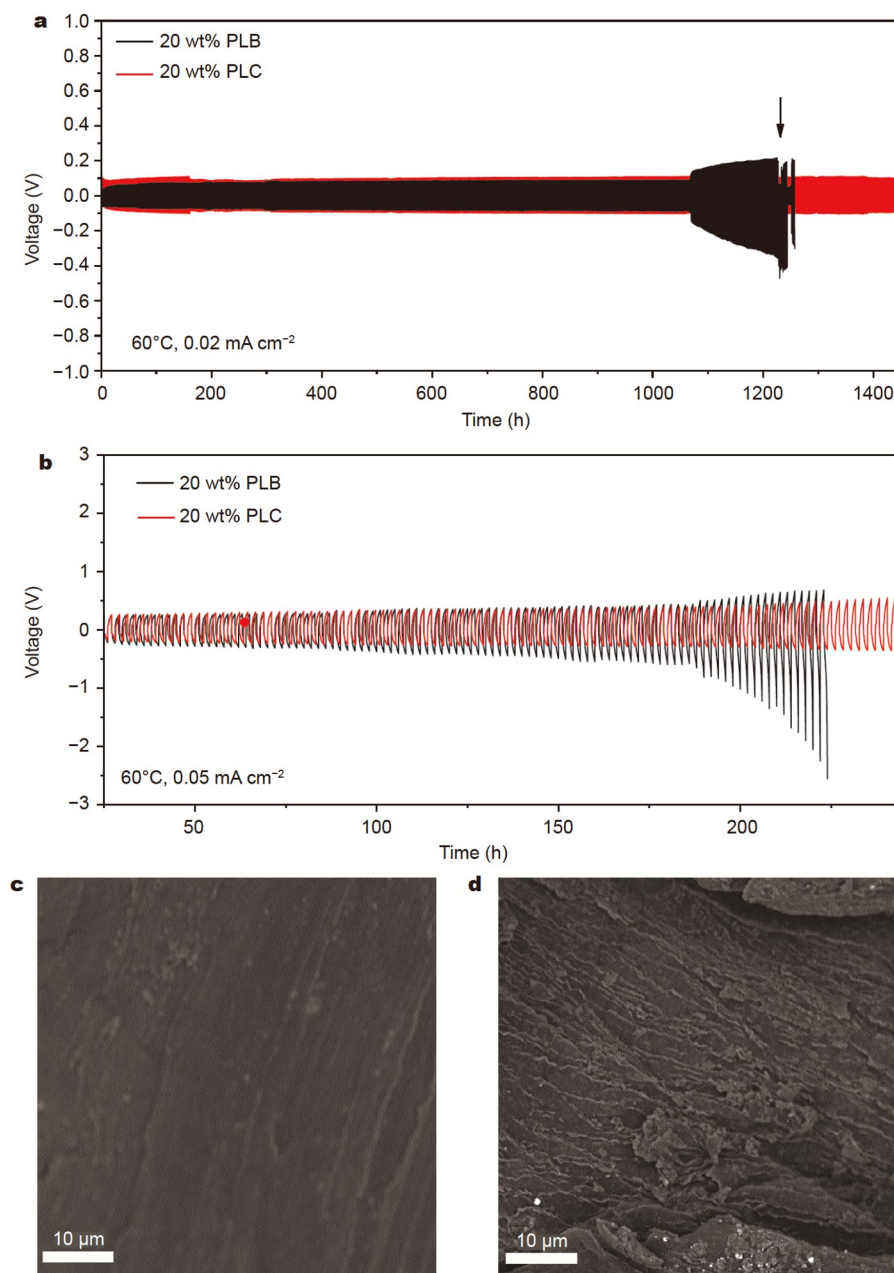
**Figure 4** (a) FTIR of PLB and PLC (inset: details of plots at around 829 and 1080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ); (b) GITT profiles, and (c) the polarization of PLB and PLC at different states of the charging process.

calculated polarization are presented in Fig. 4b, c, respectively. As shown in Fig. 4b, the profile of the battery with PLC electrolyte delivers smaller overpotentials than that of PLB electrolyte, indicating a higher  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion coefficient. PLC electrolyte displays lower polarization values than those of PLB electrolyte at various potentials of the charging process (Fig. 4c), which suggests faster  $\text{Li}^+$  diffusion kinetics in the PLC electrolyte than in the PLB electrolyte [52].

The stability of the composite solid electrolyte against Li metal was evaluated using Li symmetric cells. The Li/PLC/Li and Li/PLB/Li symmetric cells were charged and discharged for 1 h under current densities of 0.02 and 0.05  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  at 60°C, respectively (Fig. 5a, b). After cycling for 1500 h, the voltage hysteresis of the symmetric cell with PLC can still remain stable at about 100 mV. However, abrupt voltage drops (indicated by the arrow in Fig. 5a) are observed in the later cycling period of Li/PLB/Li due to a short circuit of the cell, which suggests undesired deposition of lithium. This result confirms that the PLC CPE is more able to block the growth of lithium dendrite than the PLB electrolyte. Furthermore, when the current density is increased to 0.05  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ , voltage polarization of Li/PLB/Li cells rapidly increased. This unfavorable cycling behavior is attributed to the low ionic conductivity of PLB, which leads to undesired lithium deposition. The polarization voltage of Li/PLC/Li cells remains at 250 mV, suggesting excellent cycling stability and superior capability to suppress lithium dendrite

growth. Besides, to further confirm the superior positive effect of PLC to inhibit lithium dendrite growth, the surface morphology of lithium anode from Li/Li symmetric cells after cycling for 1500 h is presented in Fig. 5c, d. The lithium anode in symmetric cells with PLC electrolyte exhibits a smoother surface than that with the PLB electrolyte.

All-solid-state LFP/PLB/Li and LFP/PLC/Li batteries were assembled to verify the electrochemical advantages of C-LALZO structure. Fig. 6a, b show the cycling performance at 0.1 C at 50 and 60°C, respectively. The assembled LFP/PLC/Li exhibits an initial discharge specific capacity of 159.8  $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$ , which remains at 145.6  $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$  after 80 cycles with a capacity retention rate of 91.1%. However, LFP/PLB/Li exhibits a lower capacity retention rate of 86.3%. Since the operating temperature makes a great difference to the performance of all-solid-state batteries, the performance of all-solid-state batteries at a lower temperature was measured. At 50°C, the discharge capacity of the LFP/PLC/Li cell exhibits 135.5  $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$  after 70 cycles with a capacity retention ratio of 93.3% (Fig. 6a), which is much higher than that of the LFP/PLB/Li cells, 125.6  $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$  after 70 cycles with a capacity retention ratio of 86.5%. The results suggest that all-solid-state batteries with PLC can work at a lower temperature. The significant promotion of electrochemical performance is attributed to the high conductivity of PLC ensuring fast ion transport and stable interfacial contact between electrodes and PLC in the LFP/PLC/Li cells.

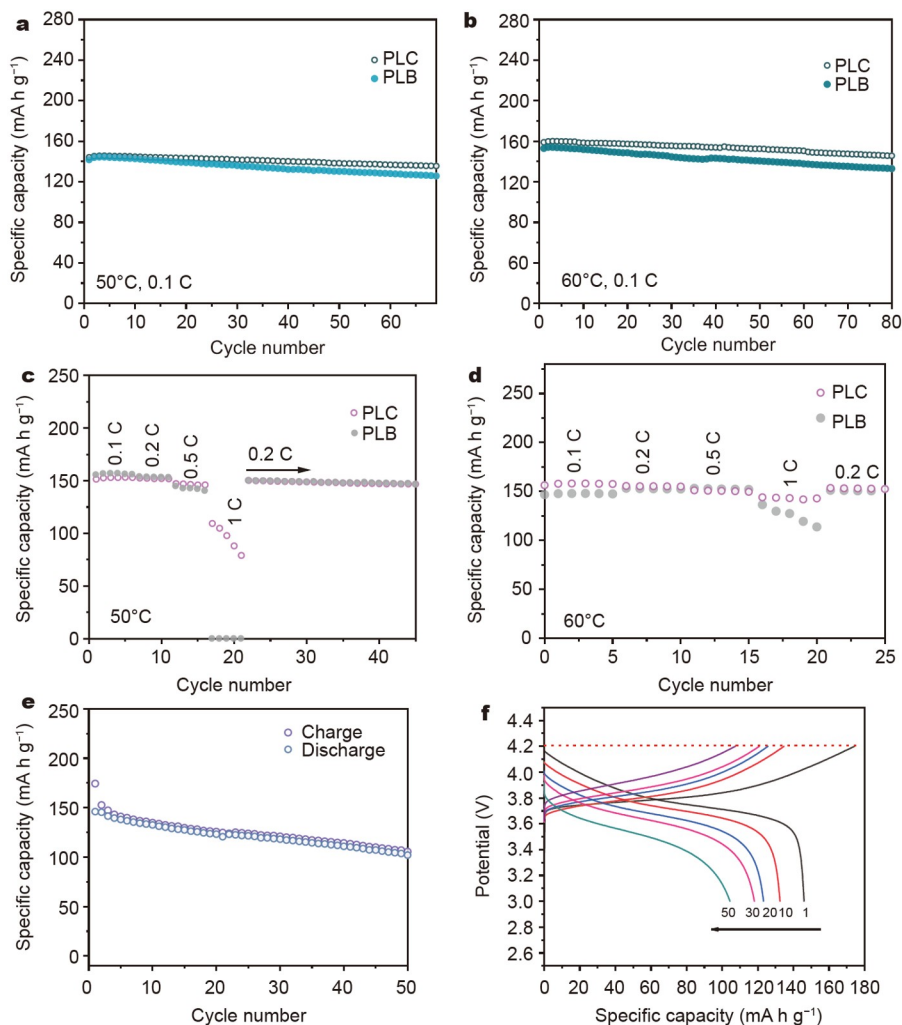


**Figure 5** Voltage profiles of the lithium plating/stripping cycling at current densities of (a) 0.02 and (b) 0.05 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> at 60°C; SEM images of Li-metal anode after cycling in (c) Li/PLC/Li and (d) Li/PLB/Li symmetric cells.

The rate performances of the assembled all-solid-state batteries with PLC and PLB CPE at various rates from 0.1 to 1 C at 50 and 60°C are presented in Fig. 6c, d, respectively. The discharge specific capacities of the LFP/PLC/Li cell cycled at 60°C at 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1.0 C are 158.7, 155.4, 150.5, and 143.9 mA h g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The discharge specific capacities of the LFP/PLC/Li cell cycled at 50°C at 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1.0 C are 153.2, 150.8, 146.5, and 99.3 mA h g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. These specific capacities at different rates are higher than those of batteries with the PLB CPE at corresponding rates, indicating the fast ion transportation of PLC, which is consistent with the higher Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion coefficient and smaller overpotential shown in Fig. 6b. The discharge specific capacity recovers to 153.7 mA h g<sup>-1</sup> at

0.2 C, 60°C and 150.2 mA h g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.2 C, 50°C after cycling at 1 C, which suggests the assembled all-solid-state LFP/PLC/Li batteries possess excellent stability.

The LSV in Fig. S5 presents the decomposition voltage of PLC and PLB, which reveals that PLC possesses a wider electrochemical window than PLB. Therefore, high voltage cathodes (NCM and LCO) were adopted to assemble all-solid-state batteries. The all-solid-state batteries using NCM111 and LCO cathodes exhibit excellent cycling stability at 0.1 C (60°C, Fig. 6e). Besides, as shown in Fig. 6f and Fig. S6, the presented smooth charge-discharge curves of NCM/PLC/Li and LCO/PLC/Li cells indicate that no side reactions occur and PLC CPE exhibits excellent electrochemical stability at high voltages.



**Figure 6** Electrochemical performances of LFP/PLC/Li and LFP/PLB/Li cells. Cycling performances of LFP/PLC/Li and LFP/PLB/Li cells at (a) 50 and (b) 60°C. Rate performances of LFP/PLC/Li and LFP/PLB/Li cells at (c) 50 and (d) 60°C. (e) Cycling performance and (f) charge-discharge voltage profiles of NCM111/PLC/Li at 0.1 C (60°C).

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, this work provides a facile sol-gel method to fabricate C-LALZO, which has been proved to be an effective filler in the PEO matrix forming an advanced CPE. The incorporated C-LALZO increases the ionic conductivity and enhances the electrochemical properties of PEO. This novel composite solid-state electrolyte effectively inhibits the growth of lithium dendrite in a lithium symmetric battery during the cycling process for about 1500 h at 60°C. The assembled all-solid-state LFP/PLC/Li batteries exhibit a high specific capacity of 145.6 mA h g<sup>-1</sup> after 80 cycles at 0.1 C and 60°C. Even at a lower temperature of 50°C, a high specific capacity of 135.5 mA h g<sup>-1</sup> was still retained after 70 cycles at 0.1 C. This work provides a facile sol-gel method to fabricate C-LALZO and develops an all-solid-state battery with a corresponding composite PEO electrolyte that exhibits good cycling stability and rate performance. Furthermore, it provides a reference for researchers to study the synergistic electrochemical effects of active ceramic fillers of various dimensions and morphologies in PEO.

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**Author contributions** Ci L and Li D conceived and supervised this project. Cheng J and Hou G designed the experiments. Cheng J carried out the preparation of electrolyte materials, material characterization, assembly of batteries, electrochemical measurements, and data analysis. Sun Q and Chen Q performed some data analysis and offered helpful suggestions. Li J and Zeng Z assisted in the preparation of electrolyte materials. Cheng J and Li D co-wrote the paper. Li K, Yuan Q, Wang J, and Ci L revised the manuscript. All authors contributed to the general discussion.

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Supplementary information** Supporting data are available in the online version of the paper.



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## 一种用于高性能聚环氧乙烷基全固态电池的新型珊瑚状石榴石

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**摘要** 锂金属电池被认为是最有前景的下一代储能设备之一, 但是锂金属电池的安全性问题以及锂枝晶生长问题严重阻碍了它的实用化进程. 固态电解质可以有效解决这一安全性问题, 表现出能够抑制锂枝晶生长的巨大潜力, 并因此受到大家的关注. 其中聚环氧乙烷(PEO)基固态电解质由于具有较高的安全性以及出色的柔韧性, 被认为是一类非常有应用前景的固态电解质. 但是, 其固有的半结晶特性以及较差的力学性能导致它们在室温下的离子电导率较低, 并且在高温下不能有效地抑制锂枝晶生长. 为改善上述问题, 本文设计并合成了一种新型的珊瑚状 $\text{Li}_{6.25}\text{Al}_{0.25}\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ (C-LALZO)活性陶瓷填料来增强PEO聚合物电解质, 制备得到的复合固态电解质(PLC)表现出更高的离子电导率和机械强度, 保证了锂金属的均匀沉积/剥离. 采用PLC的锂对称电池在60°C下循环1500小时不发生短路. 组装得到的 $\text{LiFePO}_4/\text{PLC}/\text{Li}$ 全固态电池在60和50°C时均有出色的循环稳定性. 这项工作表明, 通过调节填料的微观结构(如C-LALZO结构), 可以有效地改善复合电解质的电化学性能.