

Lukas Köbbing, Arnulf Latz, Birger Horstmann

From Stress to Voltage – Modeling the Hysteresis and Slow Relaxation of Silicon Anodes

14th HIU Biennial Meeting 2025

Solid-Electrolyte Interphase (SEI)



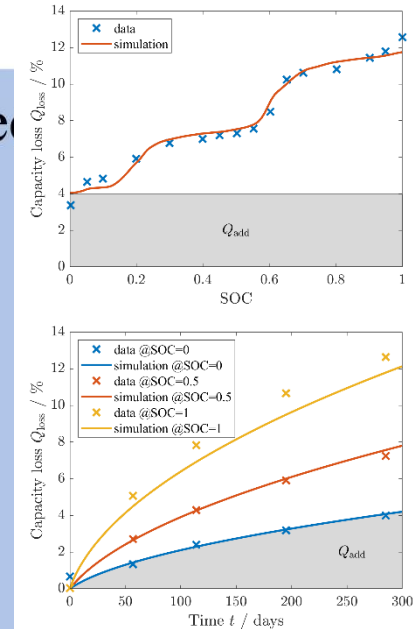
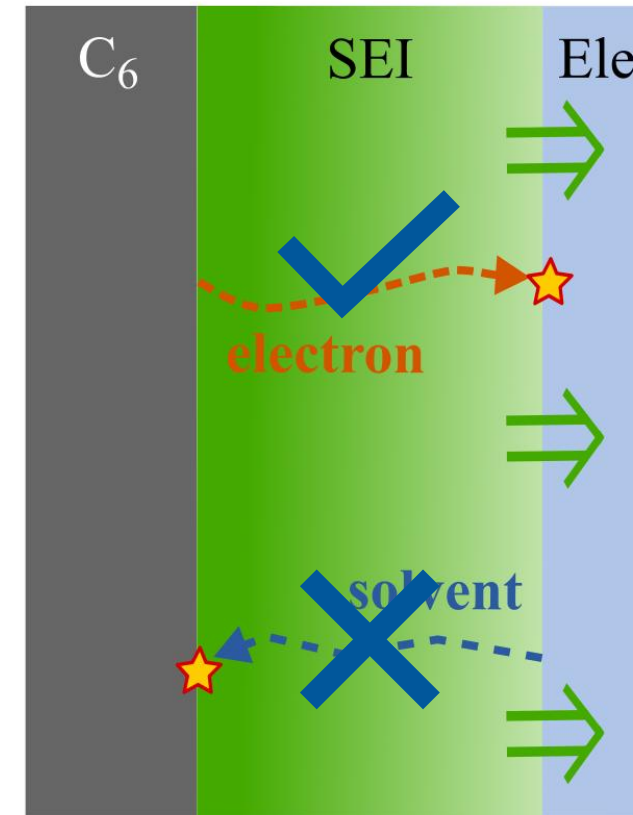
Hinders electrolyte decomposition
➤ **Enables** lithium-ion batteries



Consumes cyclable lithium
➤ Capacity **fade**

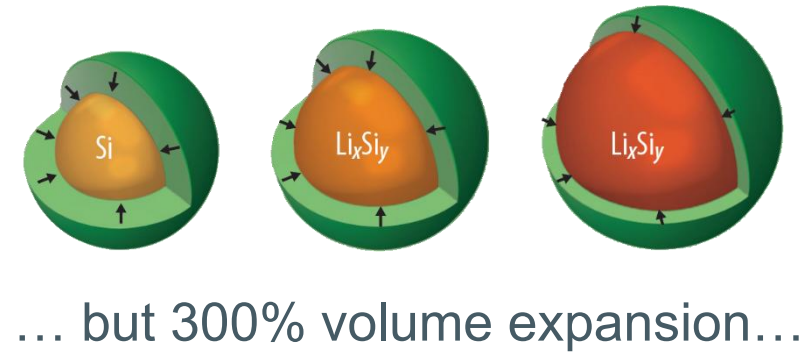
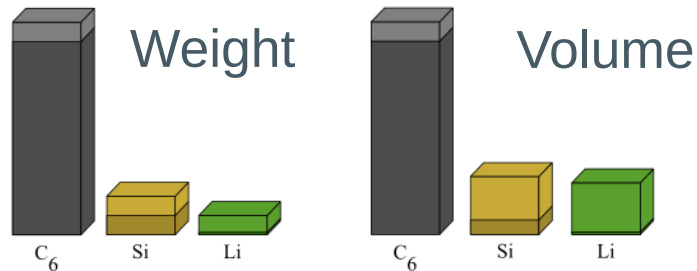


SEI covers anode particles
➤ **Core-shell structure**



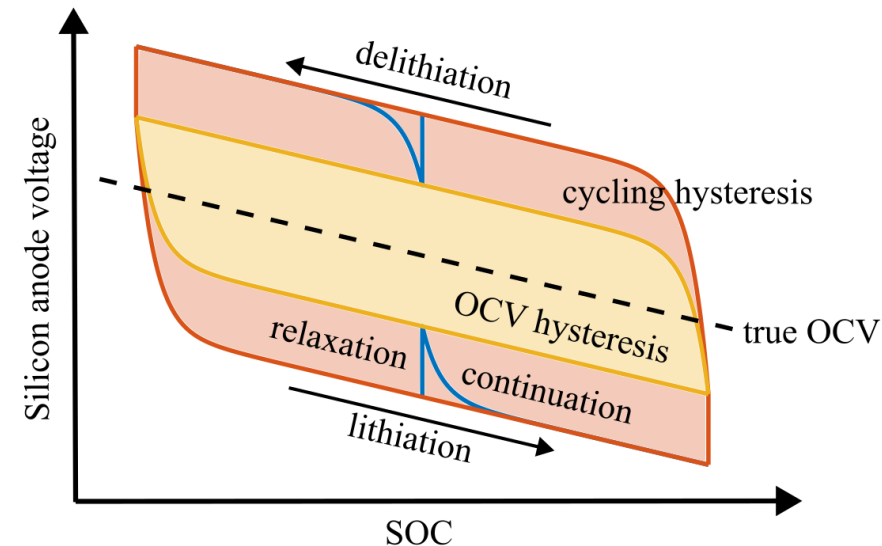
Motivation

Silicon shows 10x higher capacity...



Drawbacks:

- Imprecise SOC
- Heat generation
- Reduced efficiency



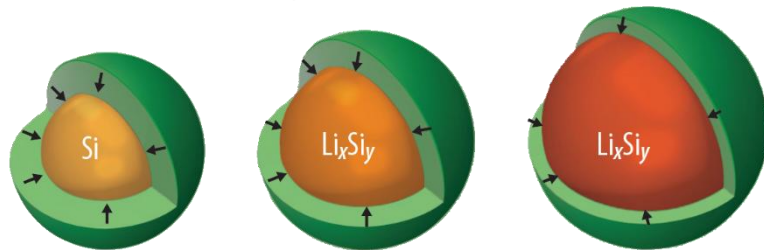
Reason:



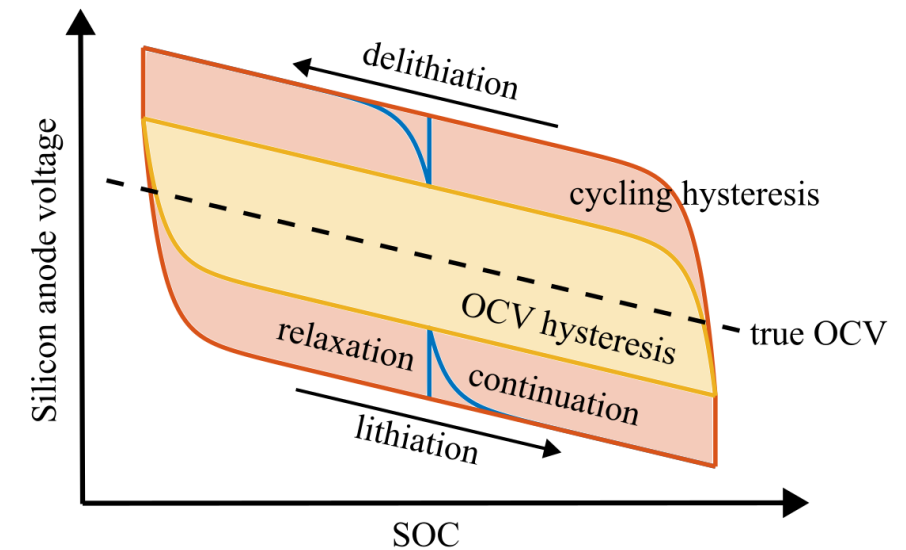
... and **voltage hysteresis**.

Hypothesis: Chemo-Mechanical Coupling

Core-Shell Structure



Voltage Hysteresis

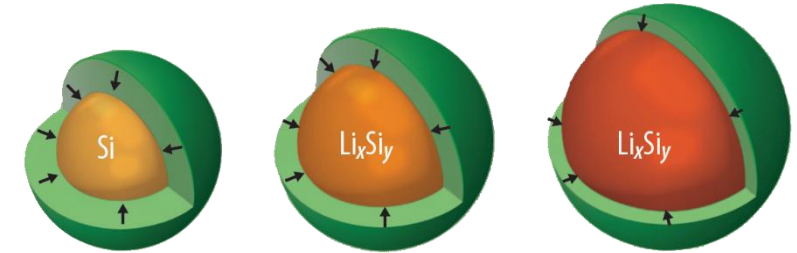


Thermodynamic Consistent Model

Deformation: $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{pl}} \mathbf{F}_{\text{el}} \mathbf{F}_{\text{ch}}$

Free energy:

$$\rho_0 \varphi = - \int_0^{c_{\text{Li},0}} F U_0(c'_{\text{Li},0}) dc'_{\text{Li},0} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\lambda (\text{tr}(\mathbf{E}_{\text{el}}))^2 + 2G \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}_{\text{el}}^2) \right)$$



Combining 1st and 2nd law:

➡ **Constitutive equations**

$$\mu_{\text{Li}} = \frac{\partial \rho_0 \varphi}{\partial c_{\text{Li},0}} = -F U_0 - \frac{v_{\text{Li}}}{3\lambda_{\text{ch}}^3} \mathbf{P} : \mathbf{F}$$

$$\mathbf{P} = 2\mathbf{F} \frac{\partial \rho_0 \varphi}{\partial \mathbf{C}} = \lambda_{\text{ch}}^{-2} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{F}_{\text{pl}}^{-\text{T}} \mathbf{F}_{\text{pl}}^{-1} (\lambda \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}_{\text{el}}) \mathbf{Id} + 2G \mathbf{E}_{\text{el}})$$

Entropy production

$$R = -\vec{N}_{\text{Li},0} \nabla_0 \mu_{\text{Li}} + \mathbf{M} : \mathbf{L}_{\text{pl}} + \mathbf{P}_{\text{visc}} : \dot{\mathbf{F}} \geq 0$$

OCV

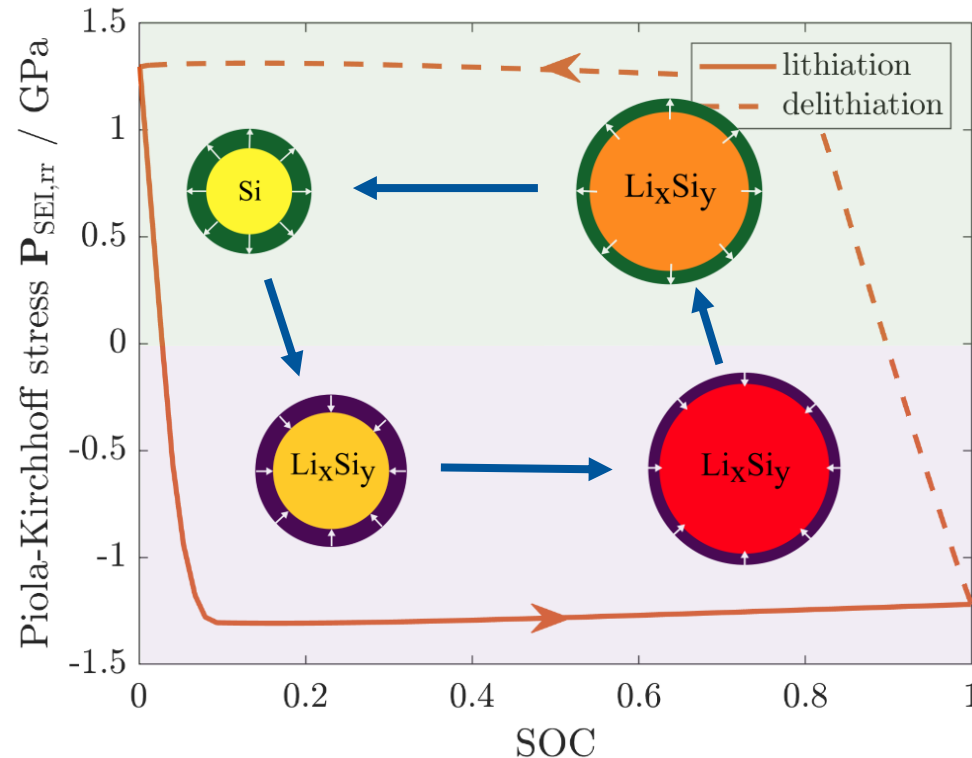
$$U = U_0 + \frac{v_{\text{Li}}}{3F\lambda_{\text{ch}}^3} \mathbf{P} : \mathbf{F}$$

ODEs

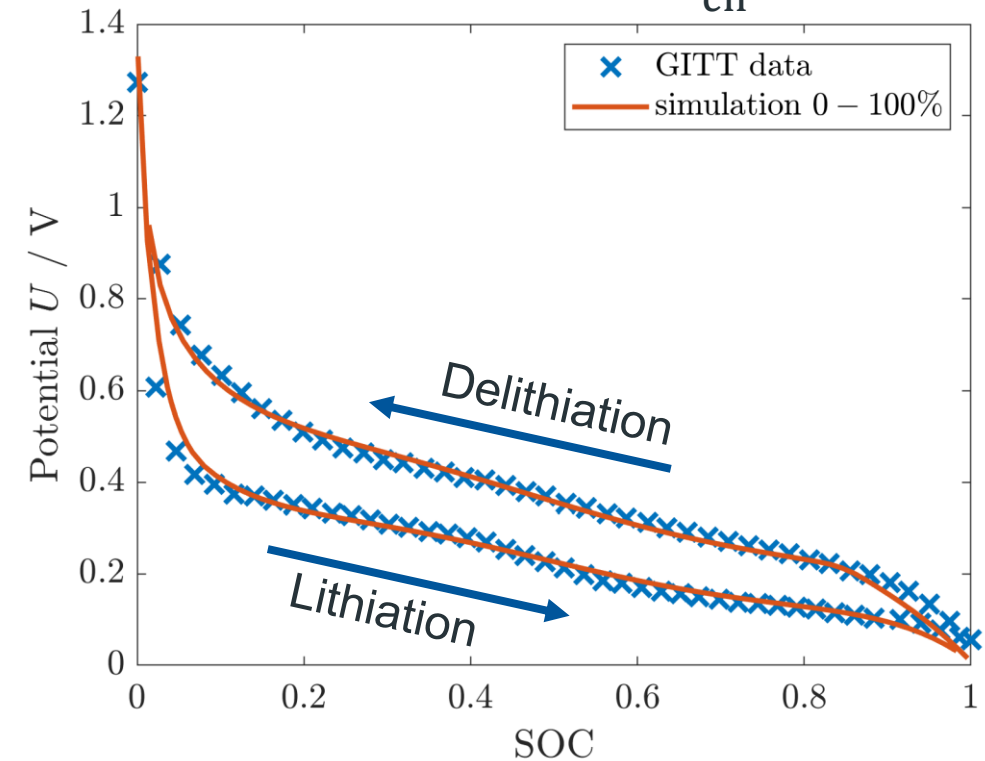
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{c}_{\text{Li},0} = -\nabla_0 \cdot \vec{N}_{\text{Li},0} \\ \nabla_0 \cdot \mathbf{P} = 0 \\ \mathbf{L}_{\text{pl}} = \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{M}} \end{array} \right.$$

Elastoplastic SEI: OCV Hysteresis

SEI stress during cycling



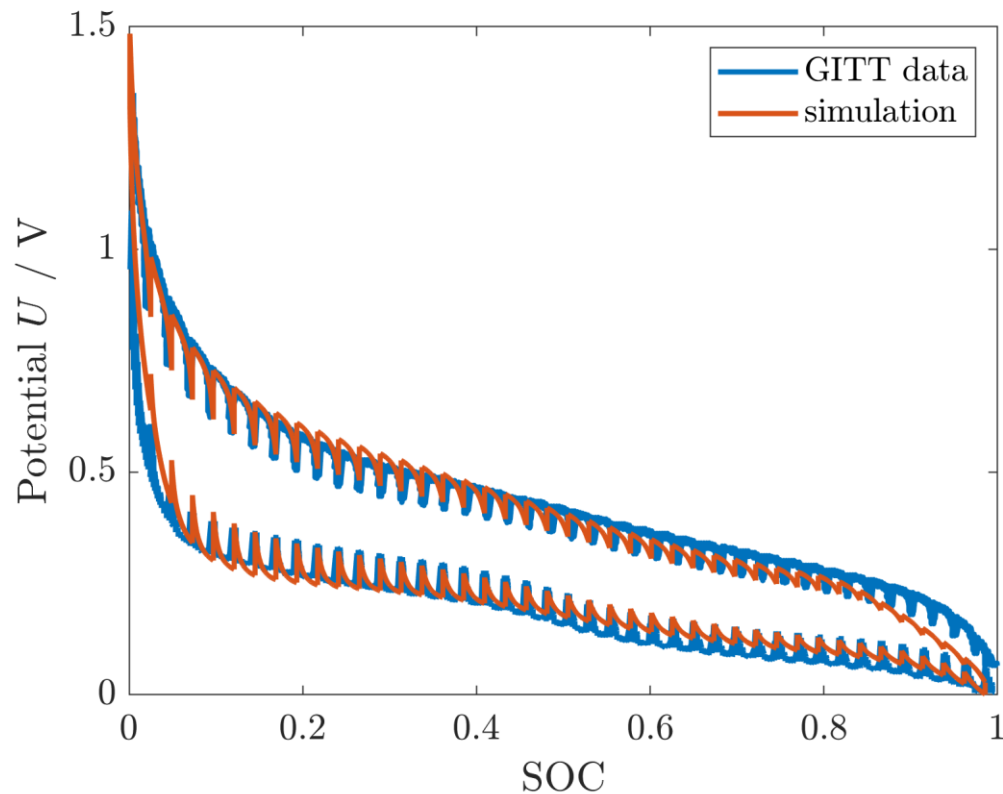
$$OCV: U = U_0 + \frac{v_{Li}}{3F\lambda_{ch}^3} \mathbf{P} : \mathbf{F}$$



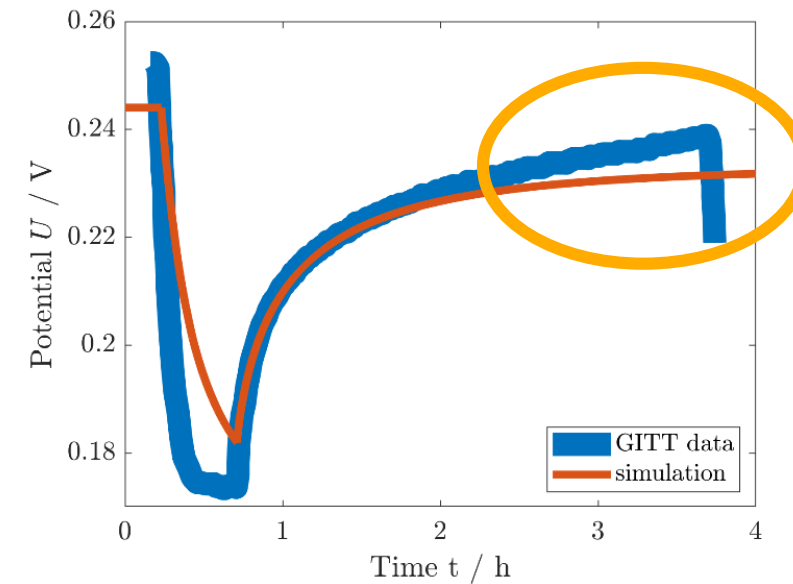
Plastic flow causes stress hysteresis

Visco-Elastoplastic SEI: GITT Procedure

Enlarged hysteresis for small currents



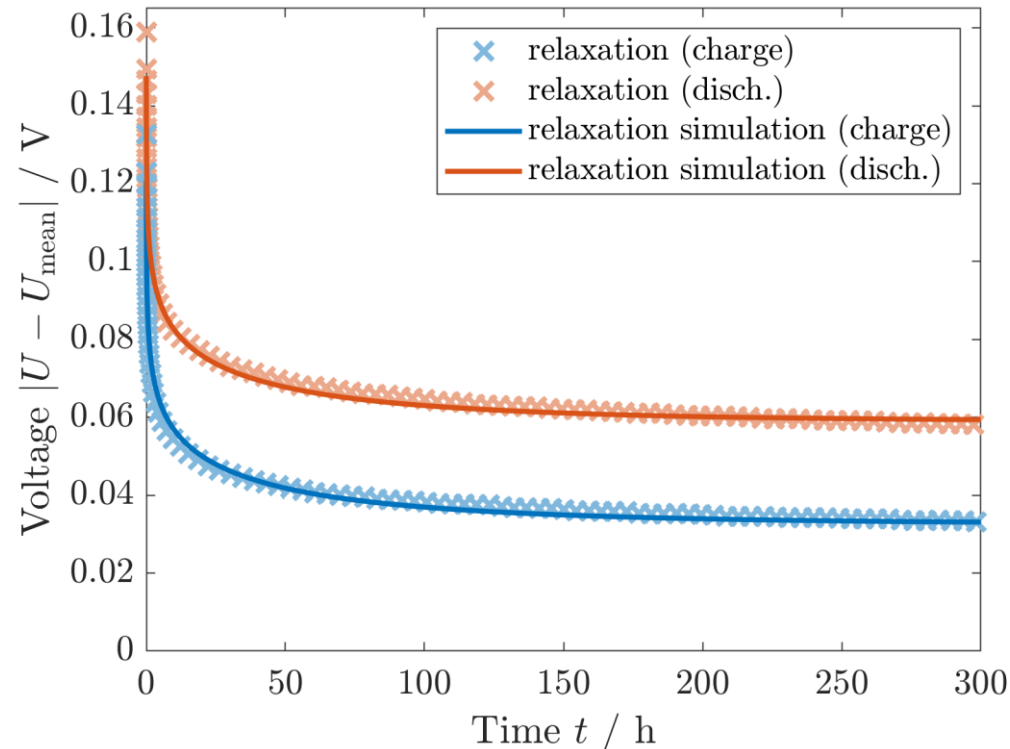
➤ Voltage profile of GITT pulse reproduced



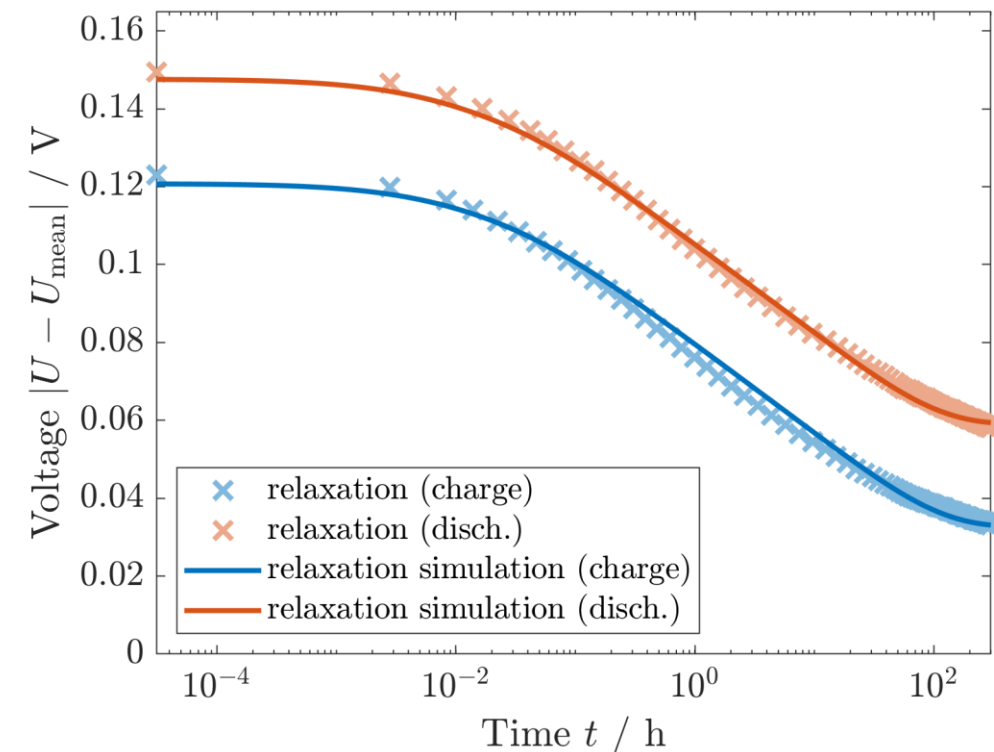
➤ SEI viscosity explains GITT profile

Logarithmic Silicon Voltage Relaxation

Voltage relaxation



Logarithmic plot

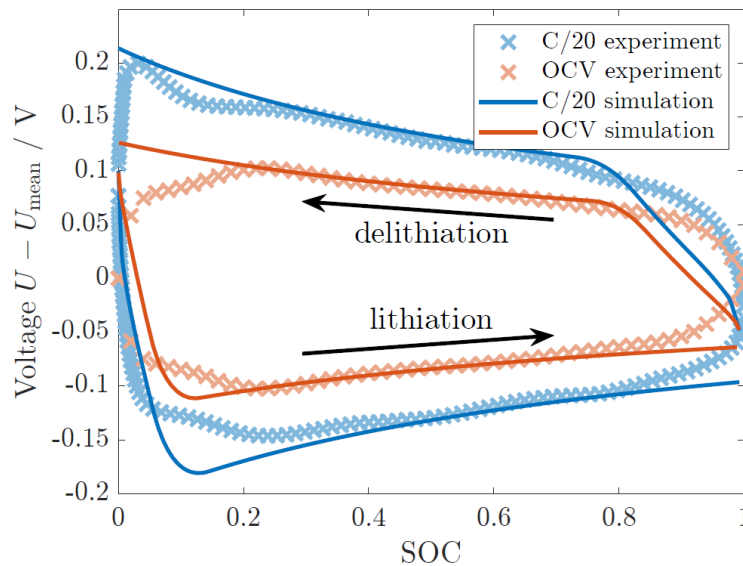


Viscosity: $\sigma_{\text{Garofalo}} = \sigma_{\text{ref}} \text{asinh}(\tau \dot{\epsilon})$

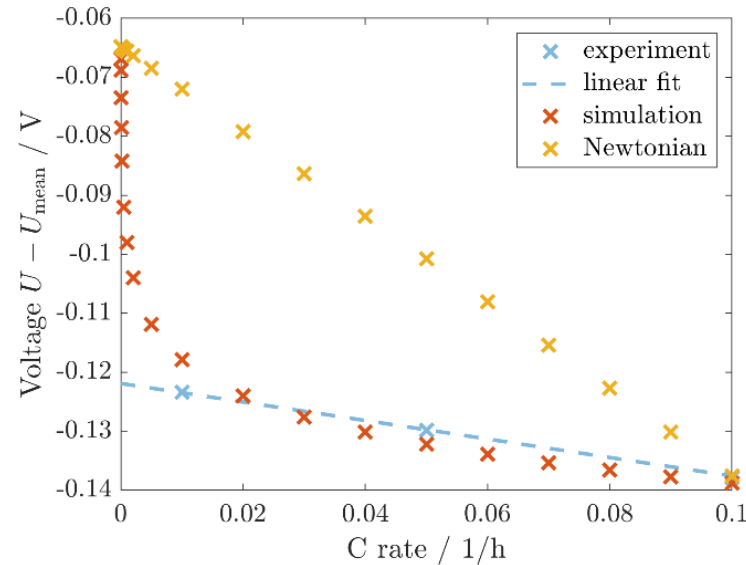
➤ Model fits logarithmic trend

Consistency with other Hysteresis Phenomena

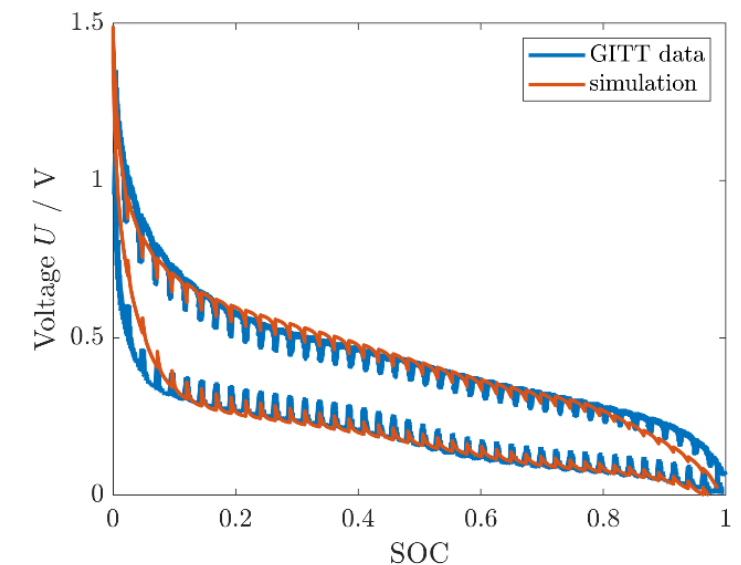
Hysteresis



C rate dependence



GITT procedure



➤ Garofalo viscosity model describes hysteresis phenomena consistently

L. Köbbing, Y. Kuhn, B. Horstmann, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2024**, 16 (49), 67609–67619

Exp. data: D. Wycisk, G. K. Mertin, M. Oldenburger, O. v. Kessel, A. Latz, *J. Energy Storage*

2024, 89,111617.

Exp. data: K. Pan, F. Zou, M. Canova, Y. Zhu, J.-H. Kim, *J. Power Sources* **2019**, 413, 20–28.

Reduced Chemo-Mechanical Hysteresis Model

Voltage: $U = U_0 + \Delta U_{ee} + \Delta U_{ev}$

Elasto-plasticity

$$\frac{d \Delta U_{ee}}{dt} = \begin{cases} -E_{\text{shell}} \frac{2v_{\text{Li}}^2}{3F\lambda_{\text{ch}}^7} \dot{c}_{\text{Li}}, & \text{if } f < 0 \\ \sigma_{\text{Y,shell}} \frac{\alpha v_{\text{Li}}^2}{F(1 + \alpha\lambda_{\text{ch}}^3)^2} |\dot{c}_{\text{Li}}|, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

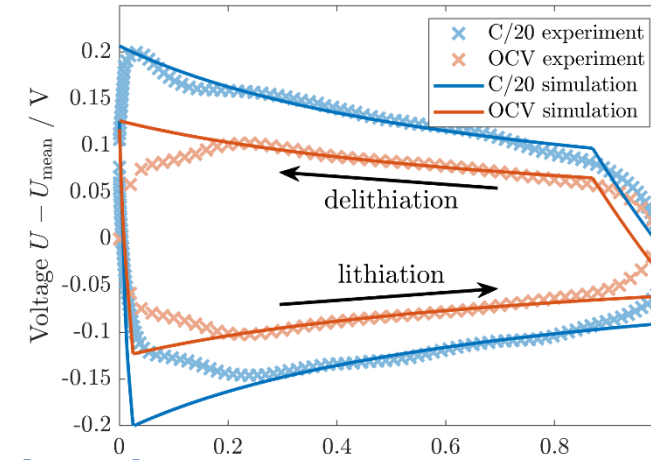
Viscosity

$$\frac{d \Delta U_{ev}}{dt} = -\frac{E_{\text{core}} v_{\text{Li}}}{\tau F \lambda_{\text{ch}}^2} \sinh \left(\frac{\alpha \lambda_{\text{ch}}^3 F \Delta U_{ev}}{\sigma_{\text{ref}} v_{\text{Li}}} \right) - \frac{E_{\text{core}} v_{\text{Li}}^2}{3\lambda_{\text{ch}}^3} \dot{c}_{\text{Li}}$$

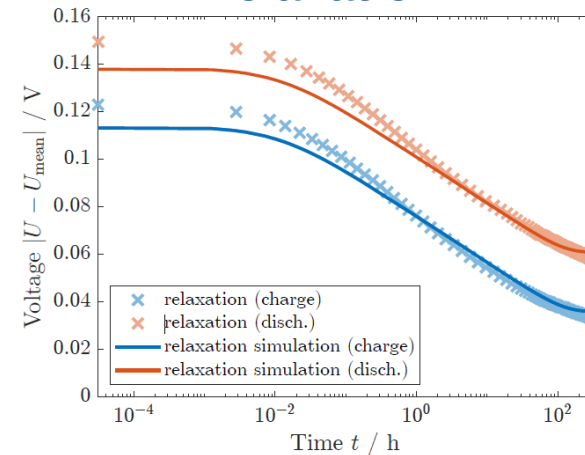
with $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{R_{\text{core}}}{L_{\text{shell}}} - 1 \right)$

and $f = -\text{sgn}(\dot{c}_{\text{Li}}) \left(1 + \alpha \lambda_{\text{ch}}^3 \right) \frac{F \Delta U_{ee}}{v_{\text{Li}} \sigma_{\text{Y,shell}}} - 1$

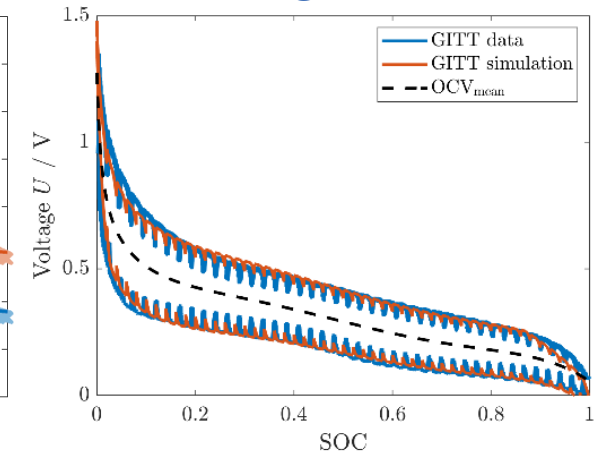
Hysteresis



Relaxation



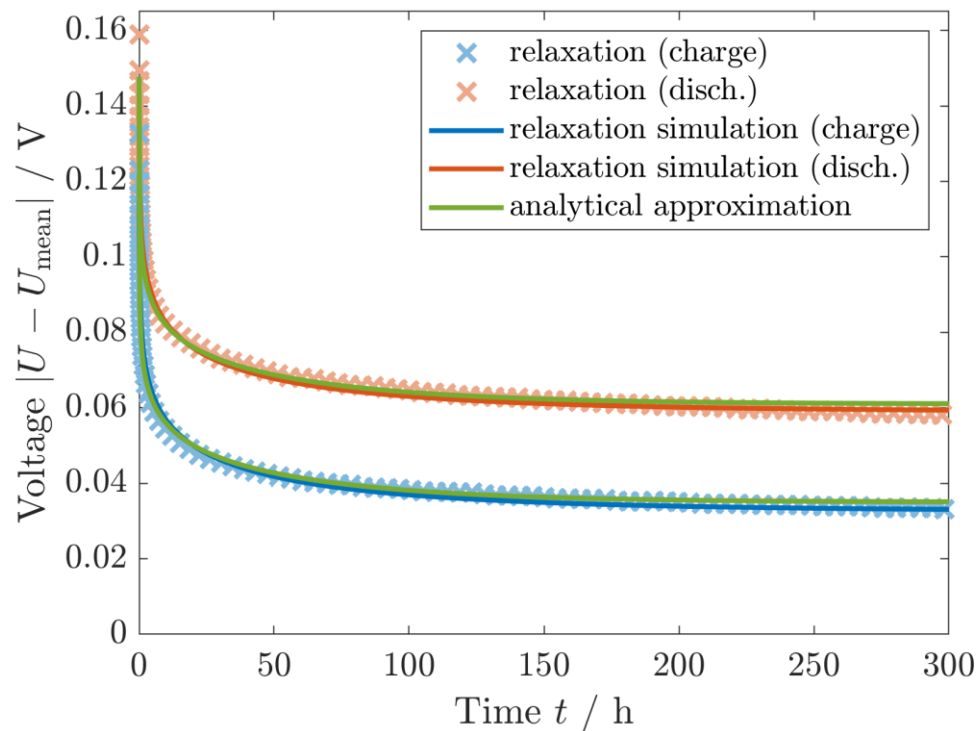
GITT



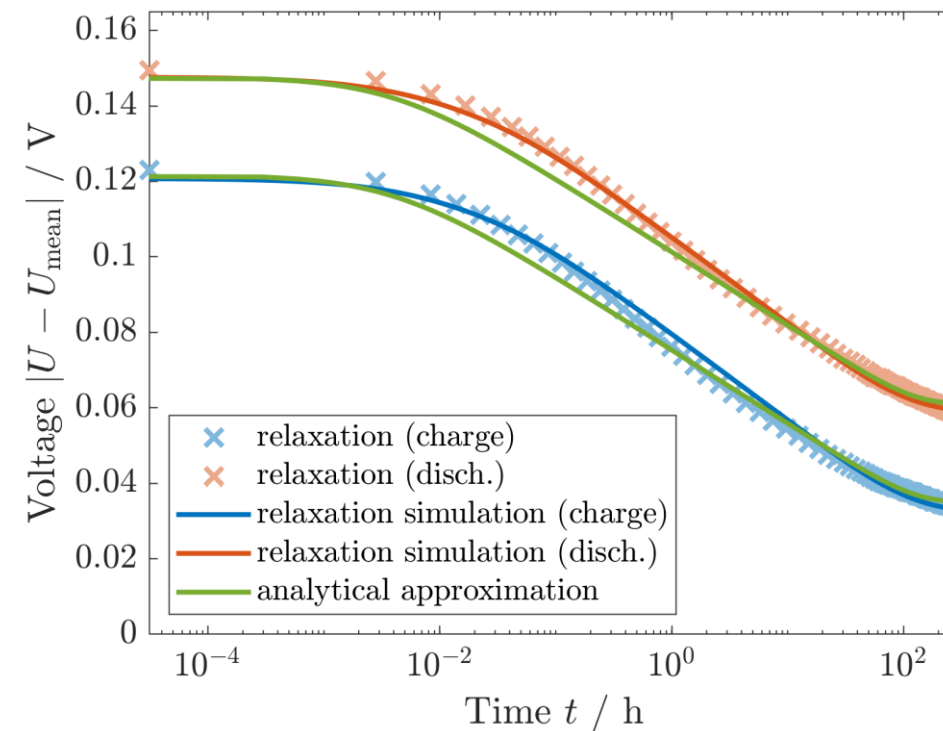
Analytical Approximation: Voltage Relaxation

Voltage relaxation in time:
$$\Delta U_{\text{ev}} = \frac{2v_{\text{Li}}\sigma_{\text{ref}}}{\alpha_{\text{red}}F\lambda_{\text{ch}}^3} \operatorname{atanh} \left(C \cdot \exp \left(-\frac{E_{\text{core}}\alpha_{\text{red}}\lambda_{\text{ch}}}{\tau\sigma_{\text{ref}}} t \right) \right)$$

Voltage relaxation



Logarithmic plot



Conclusion

- **SEI on silicon:** Chemo-mechanical core-shell model
- **Elastoplastic shell:** OCV hysteresis of Si nanoparticles
- **Visco-elastoplastic shell:** reproduces voltage relaxation
- **Reduced hysteresis model** for easy voltage estimations
- **Soft but passivating SEI might reduce the OCV hysteresis**

