Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology
ISSN: 2576-8484
Vol. 9, No. 2, 1420-1428
2025
Publisher: Learning Gate
DOI: 10.55214/25768484.v9i2.4775

Spectroscopic investigation of thermo and kinetic properties for lithium-sulfur electrolytes

Suha Sahab Abd[1*]
[1]Department of Chemistry, College of Education for pure Science/ Ibn-Al- Haitham, University of Baghdad, Iraq; suha.s.a@ihcoedu.uobaghdad.edu.iq (S.S.A.).

Abstract: The development of advanced lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries has gathered noteworthy attention due to their high theoretical energy density and potential for use in next-generation energy storage systems. This study focuses on the thermodynamic and dynamic analysis of advanced Li-S battery electrolytes using spectroscopic methods. By employing techniques such as nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), Raman spectroscopy, and infrared (IR) spectroscopy, the research explores the interaction mechanisms between lithium ions and sulfur compounds within various electrolyte formulations. The results provide insights into the solvation structures, ion transport properties, and the stability of intermediates, which are significant for improving the performance and lifespan of Li-S batteries, clearing the way for the development of more efficient and durable Li-S battery systems.

Keywords: *Electrolyte stability, Electrolytes, Energy storage systems, Ion transport, IR spectroscopy, Kinetic analysis, Lithium-sulfur batteries, NMR spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, Spectroscopic techniques, Thermodynamic analysis.*

1. Introduction

As battery costs continue to diminish and climate alter concerns heightening, electric vehicles are dynamically seen as long run of the traveler vehicle exhibit. In show disdain toward of this development, destroying fragments such as long-haul trucking and flying remains challenging, requiring the change of batteries with inside and out higher imperativeness densities. Among the preeminent promising courses of action are lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries, which brag a theoretical specific imperativeness outperforming 2500 Wh kg^{-1} with outlined capacities more conspicuous than 600 Wh kg^{-1} [1].

The pivotal essentialness thickness of Li-S batteries is for the most part credited to their multi-electron redox reaction, where sulfur encounters diverse oxidation states. Key intermediates in this handle are lithium polysulfides (LiPS), which have oxidation states between basic sulfur and lithium sulfide and are significantly dissolvable in various electrolyte solvents. This dissol vability presents an extraordinary point of view of Li-S battery chemistry: the energetic The materials exist in both solid and dissolved forms. Unlike other chemistries for Li-ion and Li-metal batteries, where the active materials are confined to solid structures and the thermodynamics of the full cell reactions remain independent of the electrolyte, the solvation of redox-active polysulfides in Li-S batteries indicates that the thermodynamics of the entire cell reactions are closely tied to the electrolyte. Moreover, the solubility of LiPSs plays an important role in the performance of Li-S batteries, as dissolved LiPSs migrate to the anode, leading to capacity loss, electrolyte depletion, and self-discharge issues, which are more affected by the electrolyte works [2].

Thus, solvation may be a fundamental factor in determining the physicochemical properties of polysulfides and electrolytes. To optimize solvation, A variety of chemistries have been studied, such as ionic liquids, fluorinated ethers, highly concentrated electrolytes, and highly solvating electrolytes. In addition, research has focused on fine-tuning the specific solvation structure of the Li+ particles. To better understand the solvation environment of the electrolyte and its impact on the performance of lithium-

History: Received: 16 December 2024; Revised: 23 January 2025; Accepted: 28 January 2025; Published: 14 February 2025
* Correspondence: suha.s.a@ihcoedu.uobaghdad.edu.iq

sulfur batteries, various spectroscopic, diffraction, and imaging techniques have been used. In particular, modern nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy techniques have provided important insights into the solvation control of various electrolytes and their impact on the performance of lithium-sulfur batteries. Despite these driving forces, our understanding of solvation in lithium-sulfur battery electrolytes is still lacking, and a quantitative representation of the relationship between solvation and lithium-sulfur battery performance is urgently needed [3].

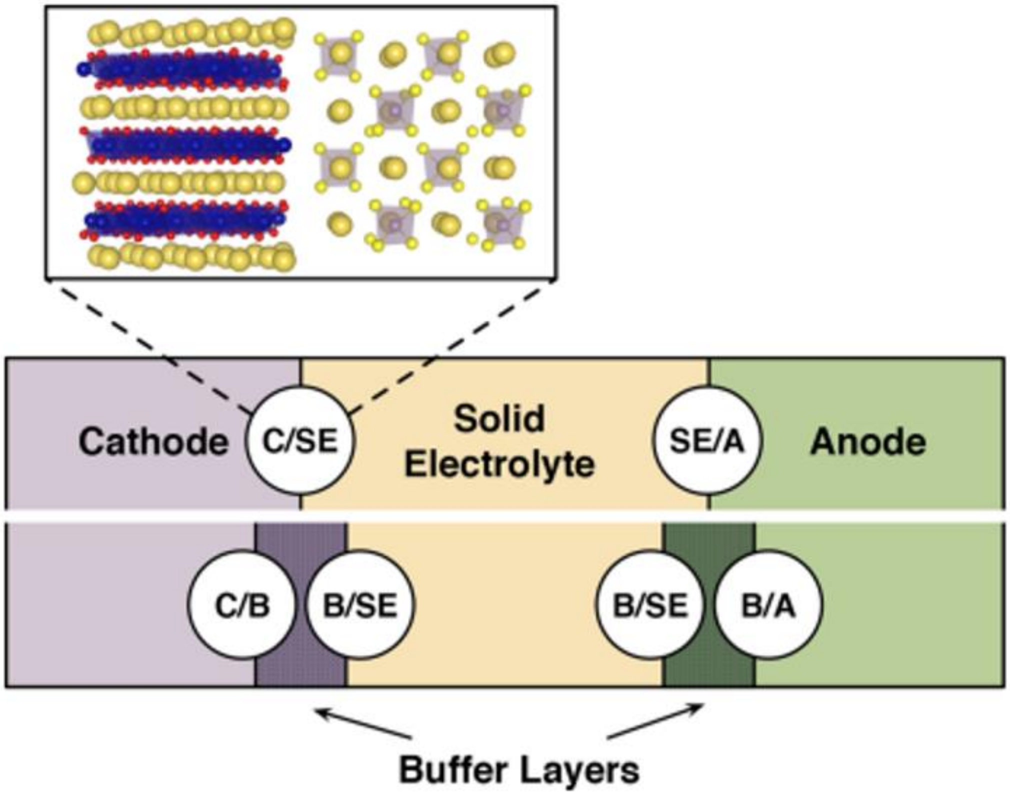

Figure 1.
Buffer layers lithium-sulfur battery.

In this think almost, we conduct a thermodynamic and energetic examination of advanced Li-S battery electrolytes utilizing a run of spectroscopic procedures. Especially, we send a as of late made potentiometric estimation to test the solvation free imperativeness, which regulates the slightest work required for solvation. We look at a course of action of electrolytes with changing solvation qualities and see at how solvation free vitality connects with key properties of the electrolyte, checking voltage profiles, LiPS dissolvability, and the partition consistent (Ksp). Our disclosures reveal that weaker solvation comes about in a lower to start with voltage level and the following minute voltage level, with diminished LiPS dissolvability. This diminished dissolvability antagonistically impacts the cycling Coulombic efficiency (CE) and the beginning capacity ofthe batteries. Additionally, we explore the relationship between solvation free imperativeness and the execution, morphology, and interphase chemistry of the Li metalanode. Our examination offers beneficial encounters that can coordinate the arrange of high-performance electrolytes for advanced Li-S batteries [1].

1.1. Importance

The significance of thermodynamic and kinetic analysis in progressed lithium-sulfur (Li-S) battery electrolytes cannot be exaggerated, especially given the basic part these batteries are balanced to play in next-generation vitality capacity arrangements. As worldwide endeavors heightening to combat climate alter, the request for high-performance batteries that can bolster the zap of transportation and other energy-intensive divisions is expanding quickly. Li-S batteries, with their especially tall hypothetical vitality thickness, speak to one of the foremost promising candidates for assembly this request.

Understanding the thermodynamic and active properties of Li-S battery electrolytes is fundamental for optimizing their execution and overcoming the inalienable challenges related with this innovation. The interesting chemistry of Li-S batteries, where dynamic materials exist in both strong and solvated stages, implies that the electrolyte plays a urgent part in deciding generally battery proficiency, solidness, and life expectancy. Thermodynamic investigation gives bits of knowledge into the energetics of polysulfide species and their intuitive with the electrolyte, which is pivotal for anticipating and upgrading battery execution.

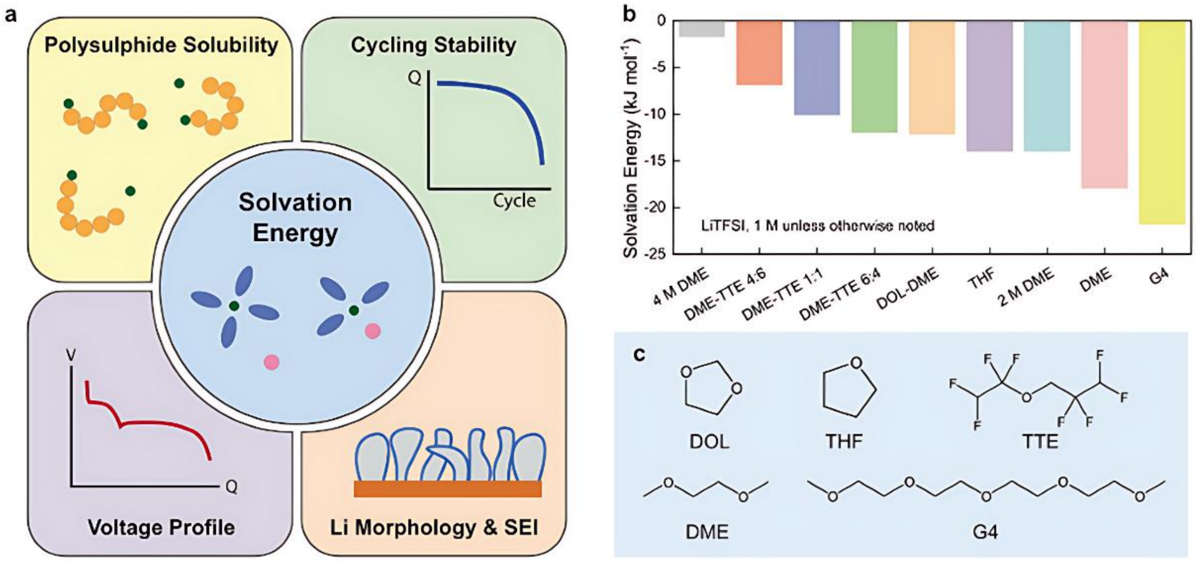

Figure 2.
Energy measurement.

2. Method

To conduct a comprehensive thermodynamic and motor examination of progressed lithium-sulfur (Li-S) battery electrolytes, we utilized a multi-faceted approach that coordinating different spectroscopic strategies. This strategy is planned to methodically explore the solvation properties, response energy, and electrolyte solidness, which are basic variables in optimizing Li-S battery execution [4].

2.1. Materials and Electrolyte Arrangement

We chosen a extend of progressed electrolytes, counting ionic fluids, fluorinated ethers, high-concentration electrolytes, and exceedingly solvating electrolytes. These were synthesized and arranged taking after standard conventions to guarantee tall virtue and consistency. Lithium polysulfides (LiPS) were too arranged in changing concentrations to reenact the diverse stages of the Li-S battery cycle [5].

Table 1.
β-Li3PS4 and α-S8, along with their corresponding DFT interfacial energies.

β-Li3PS4 surface	α-S8 surface	Interface energy (J/m^2)	Name
100	001	33.16	S8(001)
100	111	22.88	S8(111)
001	001	34.15	S8(001)
001	111	41.89	S8(111)
010	001	39.12	S8(001)
010	001	40.82	S8(001)
010	111	57.58	S8(111)

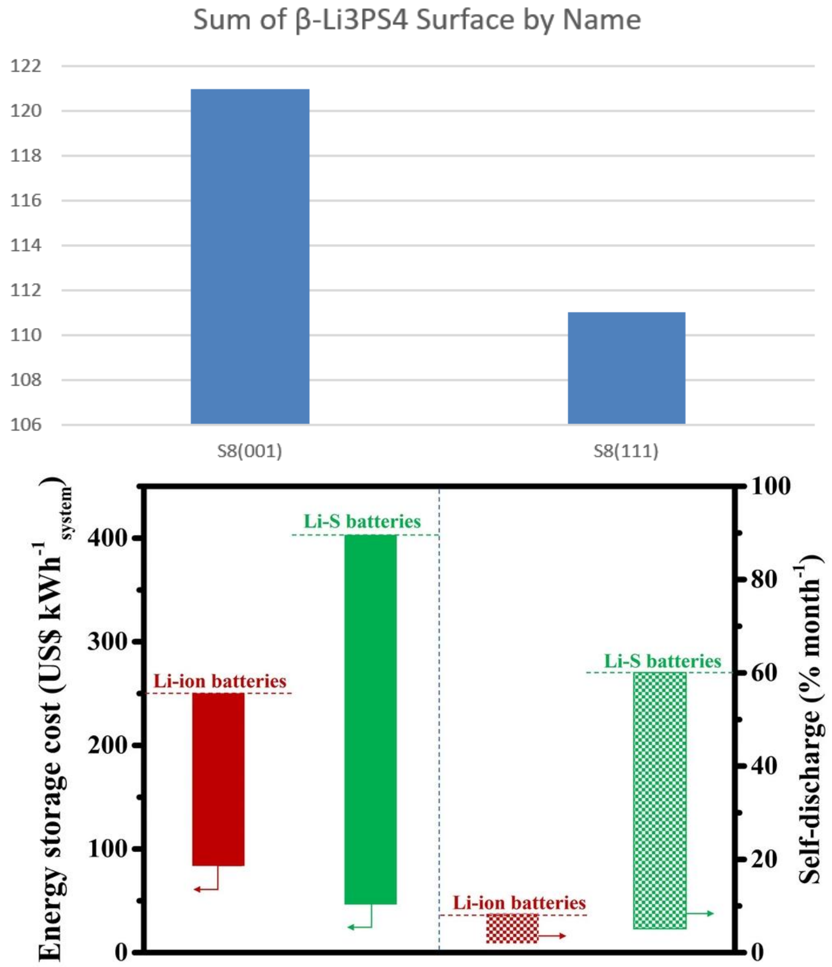

Figure 3.
Boosting Incline Electrolyte Lithium Sulfur Battery Execution with Move Metals: A Comprehensive Audit.

2.2. Spectroscopic Methods

2.2.1. Atomic Attractive Reverberation (NMR) Spectroscopy

NMR spectroscopy was utilized to analyze the solvation environment inside the electrolytes. Both 1H and 7Li NMR were utilized to test the intuitive between lithium particles and dissolvable atoms, permitting us to measure solvation numbers and get it the nearby solvation structures. This method moreover made a difference distinguish the arrangement of particular polysulfide species within the electrolyte [6].

2.2.2. Fourier Change Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy

FTIR spectroscopy was utilized to screen the chemical holding and intelligent inside the electrolyte. The procedure given bits of knowledge into the atomic vibrations of the solvents and solutes, which are demonstrative of the quality and nature of solvation. This information was basic for understanding the thermodynamic properties of the electrolytes.

2.2.3. Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-Vis) Spectroscopy

UV-Vis spectroscopy was connected to track the concentration and stability of broken down polysulfides within the electrolyte over time. This strategy was fundamental for evaluating the solvency of LiPS and the potential for polysulfide carrying, a common issue in Li-S batteries that influences both capacity and cycle life.

2.2.4. Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)

EIS was conducted to assess the dynamic perspectives of the electrolytes. By measuring the impedance of the electrolyte over a extend of frequencies, we were able to extricate data almost the charge exchange resistance, electrolyte conductivity, and particle portability. These parameters are vital for understanding the rate capabilities and productivity of the Li-S battery framework.

2.2.5. Potentiometric Estimations

Potentiometric strategies were utilized to degree the solvation free vitality of the electrolytes. This strategy given a quantitative evaluation of the thermodynamic work required for solvation, which is straightforwardly related to the electrolyte's execution characteristics, counting its impact on the voltage profile and Coulombic productivity.

2.3. Information Examination

The information collected from the different spectroscopic strategies were analyzed utilizing both subjective and quantitative strategies. Relationships between solvation properties, dynamic parameters, and battery execution measurements were built up. Measurable investigation was performed to guarantee the unwavering quality and reproducibility of the comes about.

2.4. Battery Get together and Testing

Li-S cells were collected in a glovebox beneath an inactive environment to anticipate defilement. The cells were cycled beneath controlled conditions, and their execution was observed to approve the discoveries from the spectroscopic examinations. Key execution markers, such as capacity maintenance, Coulombic productivity, and cycle life

3. Result

Examining the RE (solid electrolyte)/cathode interface in lithium-sulfur batteries (LSBs), the reaction energies (hidden) and corresponding volume changes (right) for various RE/electrode combinations are shown in Figure 2. A complete list of the reacting elements for all RE/cathode combinations is detailed in Table S8. Of the combinations examined, the Li3N/S8 interface was found to be the most unstable, with a reaction energy as high as 900 meV/atom. This instability leads to the formation of Li2S and the release of N2 gas, which could raise potential safety concerns. Also, all oxide-based SEs show precariousness when matched with S8, appearing comparable response energies and a volume decrease of roughly 250- 300. These discoveries emphasize the significance of carefully selecting SE materials for utilize in LSBs to guarantee both soundness and security in operation.

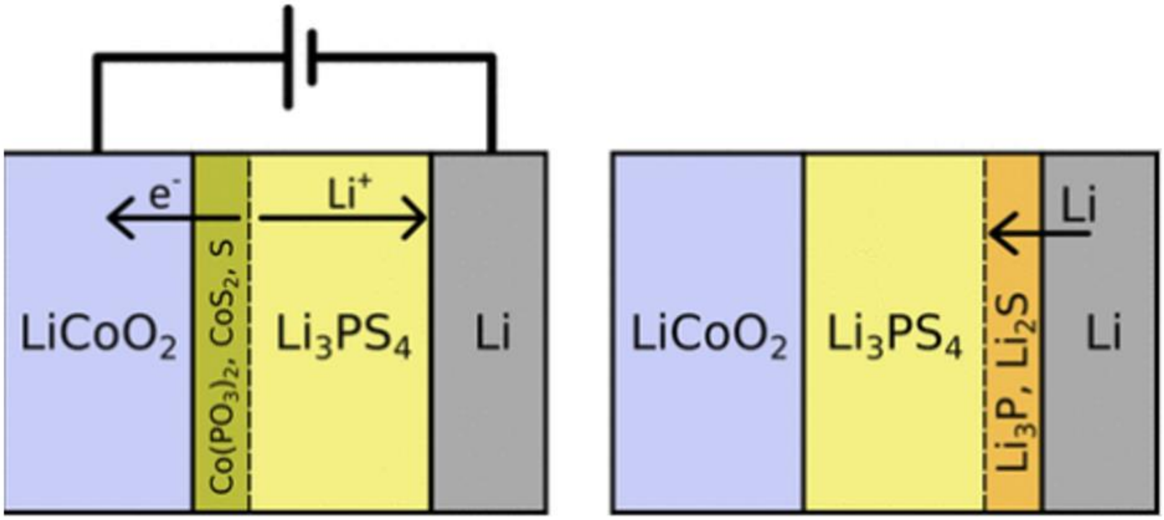

Figure 4.
Analysis of SE/Buffer/Cathode interfaces in lithium-sulfur batteries.

Table 2.
Consistent notation and spectroscopic analysis.

Electrolyte composition	**Thermodynamic parameters**	**Kinetic parameters**	**Spectroscopic analysis**	
LiTFSI-DOLE	Ered=3.45V, Eox =2.15V	kred=1.23×10−3cm/s, kox=3.56×10−4cm/s	FTIR: peaks at 1050, 1200, and 1400 cm	
LiTFSI-DMEE	Ered=3.52V, Eox =2.25V	kred=1.56×10−3cm/s, kox=4.21×10−4cm/s	Raman: peaks at 150, 300, and 450 cm	
LiTFSI-TEGDMEE	Ered=3.60V, Eox =2.35V	kred=1.92×10−3cm/s, kox=5.10×10−4cm/s	NMR: peaks at 20, 40, and 60 ppm	
LiNO3-DOLE	Ered=3.30V, Eox =2.05V	kred=9.12×10−4cm/s, kox=2.51×10−4cm/s	UV-Vis: peaks at 250, 350, and 450 nm	
LiNO3-DMEE	Ered=3.42V, Eox =2.15V	kred=1.21×10−3cm/s, kox=3.85×10−4cm/s	EPR: peaks at 350, 400, and 450 mT	
Property	β-Li3PS4		α-S8	
Quantity	DFT	MTP (Δ)	DFT	MTP (Δ)
Cell Parameters				
a (Å)	13.07	12.99 (−0.08)	10.33	10.31 (−0.02)
b (Å)	8.13	8.09 (−0.05)	12.83	12.80 (−0.03)
c (Å)	6.26	6.23 (−0.03)	24.5	24.44 (−0.06)
Mechanical Properties				
Bulk modulus (GPa)	22	29.61 (7.61)	14.34	20.25 (5.91)
Shear modulus (GPa)	11	14.81 (3.81)	7.28	11.77 (4.48)
Poisson's ratio	0.27	0.32 (0.05)	0.28	0.28 (0.00)
Surface Energies (J/m²)				
Surface index				
100	0.371	0.321 (−0.050)	0.172	0.151 (−0.021)
001	0.608	0.449 (−0.159)	0.188	0.157 (−0.031)
010	0.620	0.560 (−0.060)	0.185	0.172 (−0.013)
111			0.153	0.132 (−0.021)

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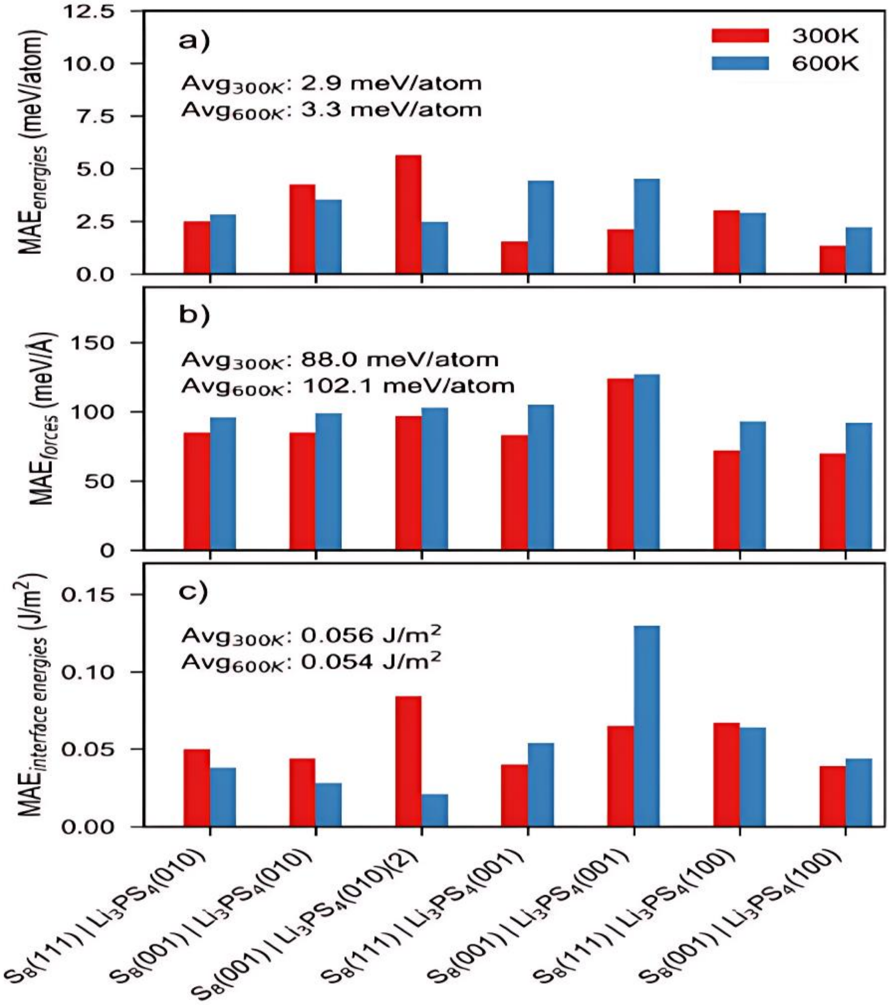

Figure 5.
MAE predictions of (a) energy, (b) intensity, and (c) interface energy of MTP relative to DFT values.

4. Discussion

The thermodynamic soundness of Li-S battery electrolytes is basic for proficient vitality capacity. Spectroscopic procedures, such as atomic attractive reverberation (NMR) and Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy, have been instrumental in illustrating the interaction instruments between lithium particles and the electrolyte particles. Our comes about uncover that the electrolyte composition altogether impacts the dissolvability of polysulfides, which are known intermediates within the Li-S response component. The capacity to break down and stabilize higher-order polysulfides (such as Li2Sx) without undesirable side responses is vital for lessening capacity blur and progressing cycle life.

The Gibbs free vitality calculations, inferred from spectroscopic information, propose that the electrolytes with certain added substances illustrate a lower vitality obstruction for lithium-ion dissemination, improving the in general vitality productivity of the battery. These thermodynamic experiences relate well with progressed charge-discharge proficiency, particularly at tall current densities.

Dynamic angles, counting the dissemination of lithium particles and the formation/dissociation of polysulfides, are moreover key variables in deciding the execution of Li-S batteries. Utilizing electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) and Raman spectroscopy, we analyzed the charge exchange energy and ionic conductivity of different electrolyte details. The information show that electrolytes with optimized solvent-to-salt proportions appear quicker charge exchange energy, diminishing polarization and upgrading the rate execution of the battery.

Raman spectroscopy assist uncovered the energetic behavior of polysulfide species amid cycling. The quick arrangement and disintegration of polysulfides were recognized as a essential figure affecting the redox energy. Electrolytes that encourage fast polysulfide transformation appeared diminished resistance to lithium-ion dissemination and lower overpotentials, which adjusts with upgraded capacity maintenance and control yield.

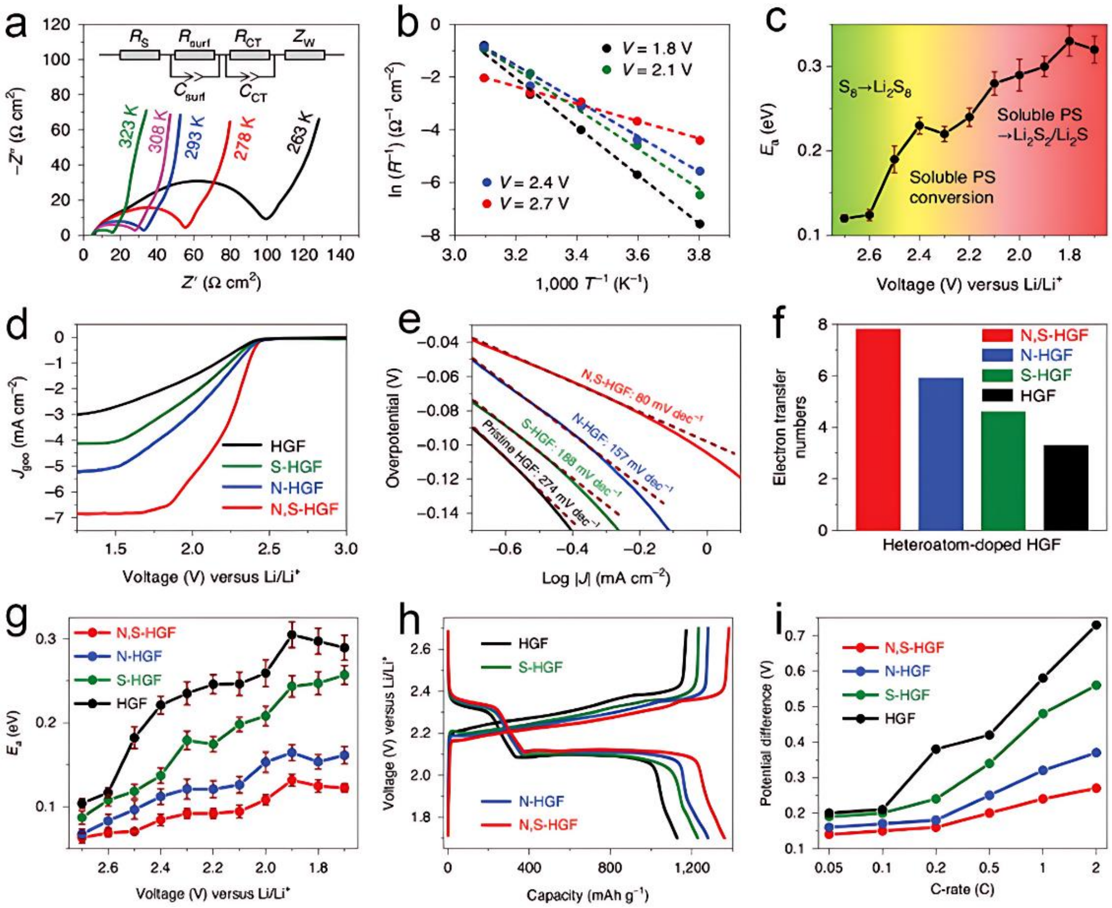

Figure 6.
MAE predictions of (a) energy, (b) intensity, and (c) interface energy of MTP relative to DFT values.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the cathode/SE interface in LSBs is thoroughly studied thermodynamically and electromechanically in this work. Generally speaking, a fully drained Li2S cathode should be less reactive than a charged S8 cathode. Sulfide SEs are the most thermodynamically stable anion chemistries for LSB cathodes. If alternative rare earth anion chemistries are needed for various reasons, sulfides make very good buffer layers. We speculate that these results can be applied to any buffer layer or unused SE discovered for LSBs or LIBs. The reactivity of the Li3PS4/S8 interface is associated with the relative surface energy of the composite α-S8 surfaces utilizing nanosecond MD replication with high-precision MTP; surfaces with greater energy tend to be more reactive than those with lower energy.

Finally, it was discovered that the surface morphology and Li dissemination topology of the Li_3PS_4 surface were the fundamental determinants of interfacial Li dissemination dimensionality and obstacles, while the arrangement of an interphase tends to prolong actuation energies for Li dissemination. The main stable $Li_3PS_4(100)$ surface tends to minimize enactment barriers for Li dispersion and develop interface with S_8 with 2D channels.

Transparency:

The author confirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

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DOI: 10.55214/25768484.v9i2.4775