

Solid Electrolytes: Extremely Fast Charge Carriers in Garnet-Type $\text{Li}_6\text{La}_3\text{ZrTaO}_{12}$ Single Crystals

Bernhard Stanje¹, Stefan Breuer¹, Marlena Uitz¹, Daniel Rettenwander², Stefan Berendts³, Martin Lerch³, Reinhard Uecker⁴, Günther Redhammer², Ilie Hanzu^{1,5}, Martin Wilkening^{1,5}

¹ Institute for Chemistry and Technology of Materials, Christian Doppler Laboratory for Lithium Batteries, Graz University of Technology, Stremayrgasse 9, 8010 Graz, Austria; ² Department of Chemistry and Physics of Materials, University of Salzburg, Hellbrunnerstrasse 34, 5020 Salzburg, Austria; ³ Institut für Chemie, Technische Universität Berlin, Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin, Germany; ⁴ Leibniz Institut für Kristallzüchtung (Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V.), Max-Born-Straße 2, 12489 Berlin, Germany; ⁵ Alistore-ERI European Research Institute, 33 rue Saint Leu, 80039 Amiens, France
E-Mail: wilkening@tugraz.at

The development of all-solid-state electrochemical energy storage systems, such as lithium-ion batteries with solid electrolytes, requires stable, electronically insulating compounds with exceptionally high ionic conductivities. Considering oxides, garnet-type $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ and derivatives, see Zr-exchanged $\text{Li}_6\text{La}_3\text{ZrTaO}_{12}$ (LLZTO), have attracted great attention because of its high Li^+ ionic conductivity of up to $1 \text{ mS} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$. Despite numerous studies focusing on conductivities of powder samples, only a few use time-domain NMR methods to probe Li ion diffusion parameters in single crystals. Here we report, for the first time, on temperature-variable ^7Li NMR relaxometry measurements using both laboratory and spin-lock techniques to probe Li jump rates in monocrystalline Li-bearing garnets. Time-domain NMR offers the possibility to study Li ion dynamics on both the short-range and long-range length scale. The techniques applied yield a fully consistent picture of correlated Li ion jump diffusion in LLZTO; the data perfectly mirror a modified BPP-type relaxation response being based on a Lorentzian-shaped relaxation function. The rates measured could be parameterized with a single set of diffusion parameters. Dynamic information about the elementary jump processes, such as jump rates and activation energies, were extracted from complete diffusion-induced rate peaks that are obtained when the relaxation rate is plotted vs inverse temperature. Results from NMR are completely in line with ion transport parameters derived from conductivity spectroscopy.

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