

Tailoring Solution-Processable Li Argyrodites $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ge}, \text{Sn}$) and Their Microstructural Evolution Revealed by Cryo-TEM for All-Solid-State Batteries

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Cite This: *Nano Lett.* 2020, 20, 4337–4345

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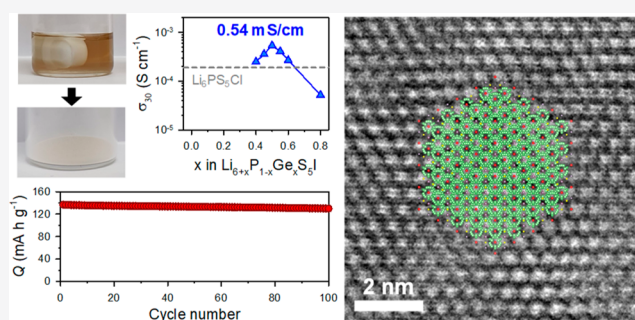
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ABSTRACT: Owing to their high Li^+ conductivities, mechanical sinterability, and solution processability, sulfide Li argyrodites have attracted much attention as enablers in the development of high-performance all-solid-state batteries with practicability. However, solution-processable Li argyrodites have been developed only for a composition of $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{X}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) with insufficiently high Li^+ conductivities ($\sim 10^{-4} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$). Herein, we report the highest Li^+ conductivity of 0.54 mS cm^{-1} at 30°C ($\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$) for solution-processable iodine-based Li argyrodites. A comparative investigation of three iodine-based argyrodites of unsubstituted and Ge- and Sn-substituted solution-processed $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$ with varied heat-treatment temperature elucidates the effect of microstructural evolution on Li^+ conductivity. Notably, local nanostructures consisting of argyrodite nanocrystallites in solution-processed $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ have been directly captured by cryogenic transmission electron microscopy, which is a first for sulfide solid electrolyte materials. Specifically, the promising electrochemical performances of all-solid-state batteries at 30°C employing LiCoO_2 electrodes tailored by the infiltration of $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ -ethanol solutions are successfully demonstrated.

KEYWORDS: Solid-state batteries, solid electrolytes, cryo-TEM, sulfides, solution process



Inorganic Li^+ superionic conductors have gained extensive attention as a promising alternative to flammable organic liquid electrolytes used in conventional lithium ion batteries (LIBs).^{1–8} In particular, extremely high ionic conductivities reaching a maximum value of $\sim 10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ at room temperature (e.g., $\text{Li}_{9.54}\text{Si}_{1.74}\text{P}_{1.44}\text{S}_{11.7}\text{Cl}_{0.3}$:² 25.3 mS cm^{-1}) and good deformability that enables mechanical sintering strongly suggest the significant potential of sulfide solid electrolyte (SE) materials for achieving high-performance all-solid-state Li or Li ion batteries (ASLBs) to scale.^{2,4,9,10} Argyrodite SEs represented by $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{X}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) show high Li^+ conductivities in the range of 10^{-3} – $10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ at room temperature and possess a stable face-centered-cubic crystal structure indicating high thermal and electrochemical stabilities.^{11–14}

Recent extensive investigations on theoretical and experimental studies for Li-argyrodites have achieved notable progress.^{9,13–17} Consistent with a prediction by density functional theory molecular dynamics simulations,¹³ an increase in halogen and the corresponding increase in Li significantly enhanced Li^+ conductivities that reach $10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ ($\text{Li}_{5.5}\text{PS}_{4.5}\text{Cl}_{1.5}$).¹⁸ Zeier and co-workers revealed that the much lower Li^+ conductivity of an iodine-based argyrodite, $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$, as compared with that of bromine- or chlorine-based

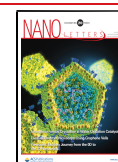
argyrodites, $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Br}$ or $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$, despite larger and more polarizable lattices, could be associated with the restricted anion-site disorder between free S^{2-} and I^- .^{11,14} Notably, the same group recently demonstrated that the aliovalent substitution of P^{5+} with larger ions, such as Ge^{4+} , Si^{4+} , and Sn^{4+} , could induce the anion-site disorder and result in high ionic conductivities ($\text{Li}_{6.6}\text{P}_{0.4}\text{Ge}_{0.6}\text{S}_5\text{I}$,¹⁵ 5.4 mS cm^{-1} ; $\text{Li}_{6.3}\text{P}_{0.7}\text{Sn}_{0.3}\text{S}_5\text{I}$,¹⁹ 0.1 mS cm^{-1} ; and $\text{Li}_{6.7}\text{P}_{0.3}\text{Si}_{0.7}\text{S}_5\text{I}$,¹⁹ 2.0 mS cm^{-1}), thereby opening up new opportunities. Furthermore, Nazar and co-workers extended the exploration of new iodine-based argyrodites by the isovalent substitution of P^{5+} with Sb^{5+} and identified $\text{Li}_{6.6}\text{Si}_{0.6}\text{Sb}_{0.4}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ (14.8 mS cm^{-1}).⁹

A unique functionality of Li argyrodites is the solution processability using anhydrous ethanol (EtOH).^{4,20–23} Our group demonstrated that several SE materials (e.g., Li_4SnS_4 , $\text{LiI-Li}_4\text{SnS}_4$, $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$, Na_3SbS_4 , $\text{Na}_{4-x}\text{Sn}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{S}_4$, and

Received: March 10, 2020

Revised: April 26, 2020

Published: May 5, 2020



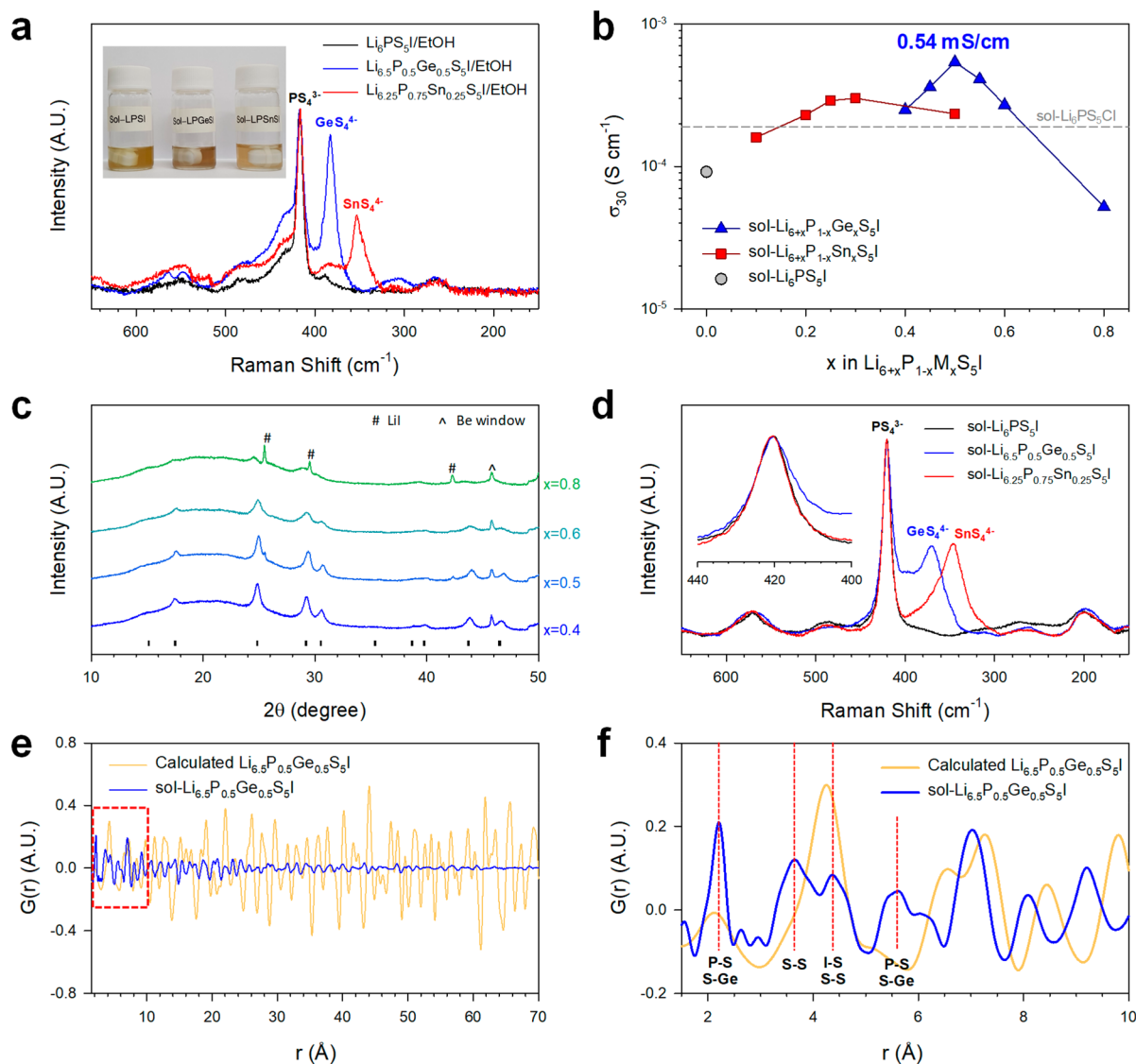


Figure 1. Characterization of solution-processed $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ (LPMSI, $\text{M} = \text{Ge}, \text{Sn}$). (a) Raman spectra and photographs of homogeneous solutions of LPMSI dissolved in anhydrous EtOH. (b) Li^+ conductivities at 30 °C for sol-LPMSI as a function of x in $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$. The conductivity for sol- $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$ is also shown for comparison. (c) XRD patterns of sol-LPGeSI. Bragg positions for $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$ (ICSD no. 418489) are also shown at the bottom. (d) Raman spectra for sol-LPMSI heat treated at 180 °C, indicating signatures for polyanions. PDF $G(r)$ for sol- $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ heat treated at 180 °C in comparison with the PDF for the calculated $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ using the bulk crystalline model structure taken from ref 15 in the r ranges of (e) 1.5 to 70 Å and (f) 1.5 to 10 Å.

$\text{Na}_4(\text{B}_{12}\text{H}_{12})(\text{B}_{10}\text{H}_{10})$) could be fully dissolved in selected solvents, such as methanol, EtOH, and water, without the occurrence of a side reaction, forming homogeneous solutions, and could be recovered via the elimination of the solvents (and subsequent heat treatment).^{4,22,24–29} The homogeneous SE solutions could be used for direct SE coatings on active materials or the infiltration of slurry-cast porous electrodes used in conventional LIBs.^{22,28–30} In both cases, the good wetting property of SE solutions enabled intimate ionic contacts with active materials and thereby enhanced the electrochemical performance of all-solid-state batteries significantly. To date, the solution processes for Li-argyrodites have been developed only for a composition of $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{X}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) (Table S1).^{4,20–22} Unfortunately, Li^+ conductivity of the solution-processed $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$ was insufficiently high (maximum value $\sim 10^{-4}$ S cm^{-1}) under heat treatment at a low temperature of ≤ 200 °C, which was necessary for

applications of SE coatings or infiltration and responsible for low crystallinity.

Low-crystalline SE materials including such solution-processed Li-argyrodites and mechanical-milling-derived samples (e.g., glasses and glass-ceramics) are important for ASLBs.^{20,31–37} It was suggested that inconsistencies in the reported values of Li^+ conductivities for Li–P–S glass-ceramics (e.g., Li_3PS_4) were associated with complex local phase evolution, which varied with synthesis conditions and precursors.³⁸ Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis could be a straightforward method for disclosing the microstructures of such low crystalline materials. Unfortunately, direct capturing for sulfide SE materials via conventional TEM has been unsuccessful because of their vulnerability toward the electron beam.³⁹ In this regard, cryogenic TEM (cryo-TEM), which has been emerging as a powerful tool for the observation of electron-beam-sensitive

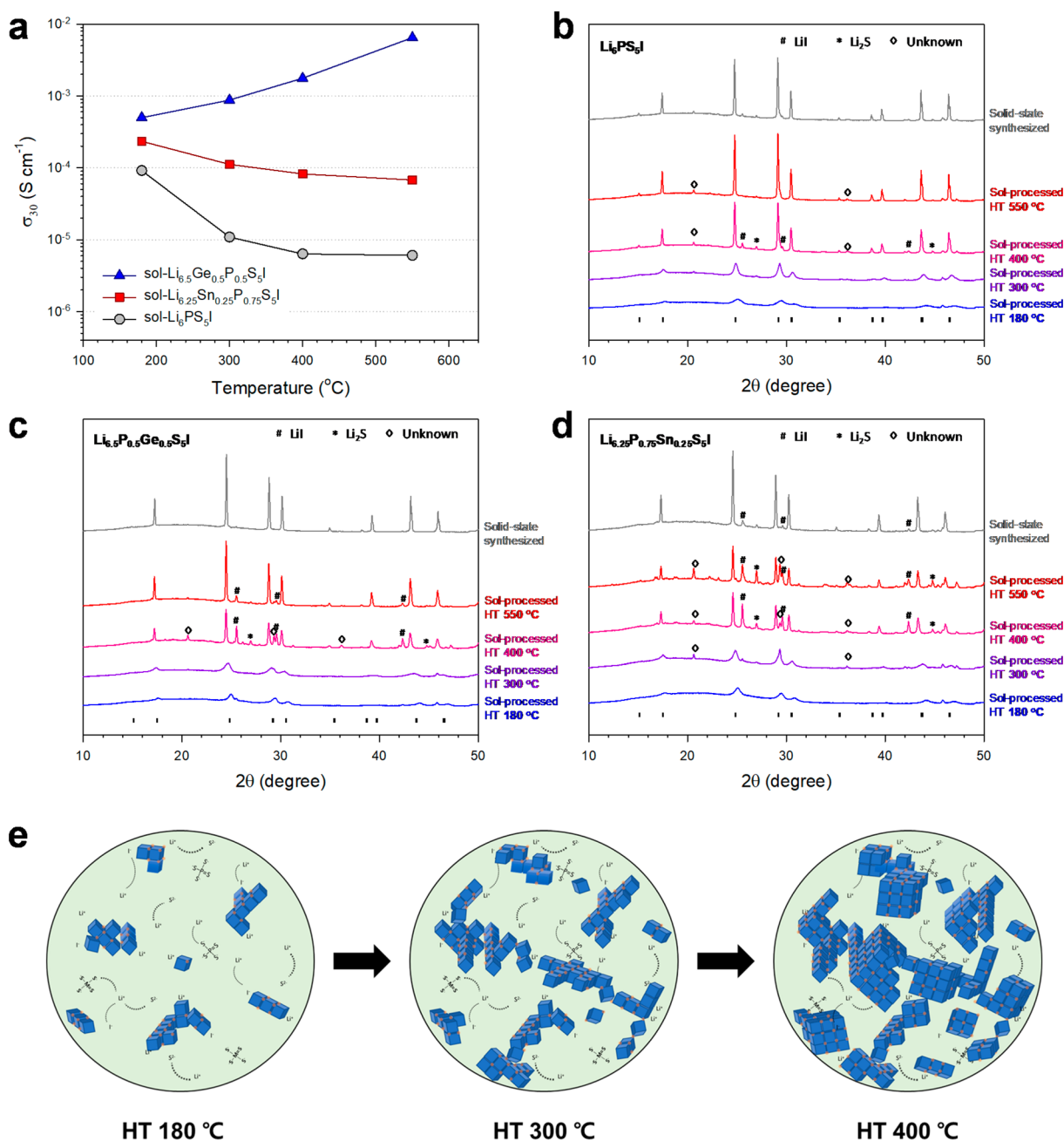


Figure 2. Results of sol-LPMSI heat treated at various temperatures. (a) Li^+ conductivities at 30 °C for sol-LPMSI prepared at different heat-treatment temperatures. XRD patterns for (b) sol-LPMSI, (c) sol-LPGeSI, and (d) sol-LPSnSI prepared at different heat-treatment temperatures. Bragg positions for $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$ (ICSD no. 418489) and XRD patterns for the solid-state-synthesized LPMSI samples heat-treated at 550 °C are also shown for comparison in (b–d). (e) Schematic illustrating microstructural evolution for sol-LPMSI with increasing heat-treatment temperature.

materials such as biomolecules, Li metal, and solid electrolyte interphases, could be highly promising for sulfide SE materials as well.^{40–43} There have been no reports on the cryo-TEM measurement of sulfide SE materials thus far.

Herein, we develop new solution-processable iodine-based Li-argyrodites ($\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$, $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ge}, \text{Sn}$)) using anhydrous EtOH as a solvent. An Li^+ conductivity of 0.54 mS cm^{-1} at 30 °C is achieved for $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$, and it is the highest reported value achieved among the solution-processable Li-argyrodites to date. Effects of the heat-treatment temperature and composition of iodine-based argyrodites on microstructure and Li^+ conductivity are systematically investigated via electrochemical impedance spectroscopy

(EIS), X-ray diffraction (XRD), Raman spectroscopy, and pair distribution function (PDF) measurements. Importantly, cryo-TEM directly captures local nanostructures for sulfide SE materials for the first time. Finally, $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ –EtOH solution is used to infiltrate slurry-cast LiCoO_2 electrodes. The resulting LiCoO_2 in all-solid-state cells demonstrates a high reversible capacity (155 mA h g^{-1} at 0.1 C) and rate capability with excellent cycling stability (94.9% capacity retention after 100 cycles at 0.2 C) at 30 °C between 3.0 and 4.3 V (vs Li/Li^+), attributed to the high Li^+ conductivity of $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ and intimate ionic contacts.

Iodine-based Li – P (– M)– S – I samples used for the solution process were prepared via mechanochemical milling of the

precursors (Li_2S , P_2S_5 , GeS_2 , SnS_2 , and LiI), referred to as BM-LPMSI ($M = \text{Ge}$, Sn). For the solution process, the as-prepared BM-LPMSI powders were dissolved completely in anhydrous EtOH, forming homogeneous SE solutions as shown in the inset in Figure 1a. Raman spectra for the homogeneous SE solutions show signatures for PS_4^{3-} at 417 cm^{-1} (for all samples), GeS_4^{4-} at 382 cm^{-1} (for $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$), and SnS_4^{4-} at 353 cm^{-1} (for $\text{Li}_{6.25}\text{P}_{0.75}\text{Sn}_{0.25}\text{S}_5\text{I}$).^{24,25} Moreover, characteristic Raman peaks for EtOH remain constant, and no other impurity peaks were observed for any of the BM-LPMSI/EtOH solutions (Figure S1). These results confirm the intactness of polysulfide species in the EtOH solution (Figure 1a). The final products of SEs were crystallized by evaporating the solvent from the solutions under vacuum, followed by heat treatment at $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under vacuum, and are referred to as sol-LPMSI ($M = \text{Ge}$, Sn). To investigate the relationship between the microstructure of solution-processed SEs and the heat-treatment temperature, further heat treatment under Ar at various temperatures was also carried out, which is discussed later.

Li^+ conductivities at $30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and the corresponding activation energies for sol-LPMSI heat treated at $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ were measured by an AC impedance method using Ti/SE/Ti symmetric cells, as shown in Figures 1b and S2, respectively. The highest Li^+ conductivities for sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSnSI are found at $x = 0.5$ and 0.3 in $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$, respectively. These values are higher than that for conventional sol- $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$ ($\sim 0.19\text{ mS cm}^{-1}$). They are also higher than that for sol-LPSI ($\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$), possibly owing to the increased anion-site disorder and Li^+ concentration.¹⁵ Notably, the maximum Li^+ conductivity for sol-LPGeSI achieved with sol- $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ (0.54 mS cm^{-1}) is the highest among those reported solution-processed Li-argyrodites so far.^{15,19}

XRD patterns for sol-LPGeSI and Raman spectra for sol-LPMSI are shown in Figure 1c, d, respectively. (The heat-treatment temperature was $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.) Broad but clear argyrodite characteristic peaks are seen in all XRD patterns. At $x = 0.8$ in $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$, a highly intense peak for the LiI impurity is observed, indicating that the solid solution limit of x is far less than 0.8 .¹⁵ This is consistent with the volcano-shaped Li^+ conductivities centered at $x = 0.5$ in Figure 1b. In Raman spectra in Figure 1d, strong peaks at 420 cm^{-1} shown for all three samples of sol-LPSI, sol-LPGeSI, and sol-LPSnSI indicate the presence of PS_4^{3-} .²¹ Moreover, the peaks centered at 370 and 345 cm^{-1} for sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSnSI originate from GeS_4^{4-} and SnS_4^{4-} , respectively.^{24,25} Furthermore, the PS_4^{3-} peak broadness in the Raman spectra, reflecting the degree of disorder,^{44,45} is the largest for sol-LPGeSI.

A qualitative analysis of the PDF data for sol-LPGeSI was also carried out by comparing the calculated PDF data using the model structure of bulk crystalline LPGeSI.¹⁵ As seen in Figure 1e, PDF data for the calculated model and sol-LPGeSI show similar interatomic structures in the short-range regime below $\sim 10\text{ \AA}$. However, the oscillation for sol-LPGeSI gradually decays to nearly zero at $r \approx 60\text{ \AA}$, in contrast to that of the calculated bulk crystalline LPGeSI. This result implies that sol-LPGeSI has limited structural coherence within the $\sim 6\text{ nm}$ length scale, indicating a lack of long-range order,⁴⁶ which is in line with the broad XRD peaks in Figure 1c. Figure 1f shows a close-up of the shorter atom-atom distances (r) between 1.5 and 10 \AA . The PDF peaks for sol-LPGeSI at 2.125 , 3.471 , 3.77 , and 5.643 \AA correspond to the atomic bonding for P(Ge)–S, S–S, S–S(I), and P(Ge)–S

in the argyrodite structure, verifying the formation in the short-range regime. However, there is a noticeable variation in the peak intensity as compared with that in the PDF of the calculated bulk crystalline LPGeSI, implying differences in atomic position and occupancy between sol-LPGeSI and the bulk crystalline LPGeSI in the local-structure regime. We also note that the overall shifts of peak positions to the lower r distance for sol-LPGeSI suggest a decreased lattice volume compared with that of bulk crystalline LPGeSI.

In summary, complementary analysis by the XRD, Raman spectroscopy, and PDF measurements so far confirms that the low- and/or nanocrystalline argyrodite framework structure for iodine-based LPMSI could be formed successfully via the solution process.

It is interesting that sol-LPSnSI shows higher Li^+ conductivity than sol- $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{Cl}$ (Figure 1b), despite its lower Li^+ conductivity in the crystalline phase. Moreover, the Li^+ conductivity of sol-LPSI reaches almost 10^{-4} S cm^{-1} , which is far higher than that of crystalline LPSI prepared at a high temperature of $550\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (0.0013 mS cm^{-1}).¹⁴ This unique feature of the solution-processed iodine-based argyrodites suggests a veiled effect of microstructure derived from the solution process.³⁹

To further investigate the effect of composition and microstructure on Li^+ conductivity for sol-LPMSI, Li^+ conductivities and XRD patterns for sol-LPMSI heat treated at different temperatures (180 , 300 , 400 , and $550\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) were measured (Figure 2a–d). For sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSnSI, samples with a composition showing the highest Li^+ conductivities were used ($x = 0.50$ and 0.25 in $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ for $M = \text{Ge}$ and Sn , respectively). As the heat-treatment temperature is increased from 180 to $550\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, distinctly opposite behaviors are observed for sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSI (Figure 2a). Though the Li^+ conductivity of sol-LPSI decreases from 0.092 to 0.0061 mS cm^{-1} , that of sol-LPGeSI increases from 0.50 up to 6.5 mS cm^{-1} . As clearly shown in the XRD patterns (Figure 2b–d), the increase in the heat-treatment temperature leads to sharpened and strengthened peaks, indicating enhanced crystallinity.^{37,39} The extremely different Li^+ conductivities between highly crystalline sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSI heat treated at $550\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ are consistent with those highlighted in previous reports, wherein the increased S^{2-}/I^- site disorder upon Ge substitution in $\text{Li}_6\text{PS}_5\text{I}$ renders enhanced Li^+ movement drastically.¹⁵ The contrasting behavior of Li^+ conductivities for sol-LPGeSI and sol-LPSI upon varying the heat-treatment temperature could be understood by considering their microstructural evolution as follows. Solution-processed SEs heat-treated at a low temperature of $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ would have glass-ceramic structures in which nanocrystalline and amorphous phases coexist.^{20,21,37,47} As illustrated in Figure 2e, the crystalline phase would grow as the heat-treatment temperature is increased, which is beneficial for LPGeSI but detrimental for LPSI. Thus, distinctly opposite contributions of highly crystalline LPGeSI and LPSI phases, respectively, could be responsible for the overall behavior of Li^+ conductivities for solution-processed Li argyrodites. Conversely, the solution process could be a promising method to enable low ion-conductive materials to be useful materials.^{22,24,37}

While global structural information was analyzed by XRD, Raman spectroscopy, and PDF measurements, local nanostructural information was acquired by cryo-TEM analysis for sol-LPGeSI ($\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$) heat-treated at $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (Figure 3). Measurement attempts by conventional TEM resulted in a

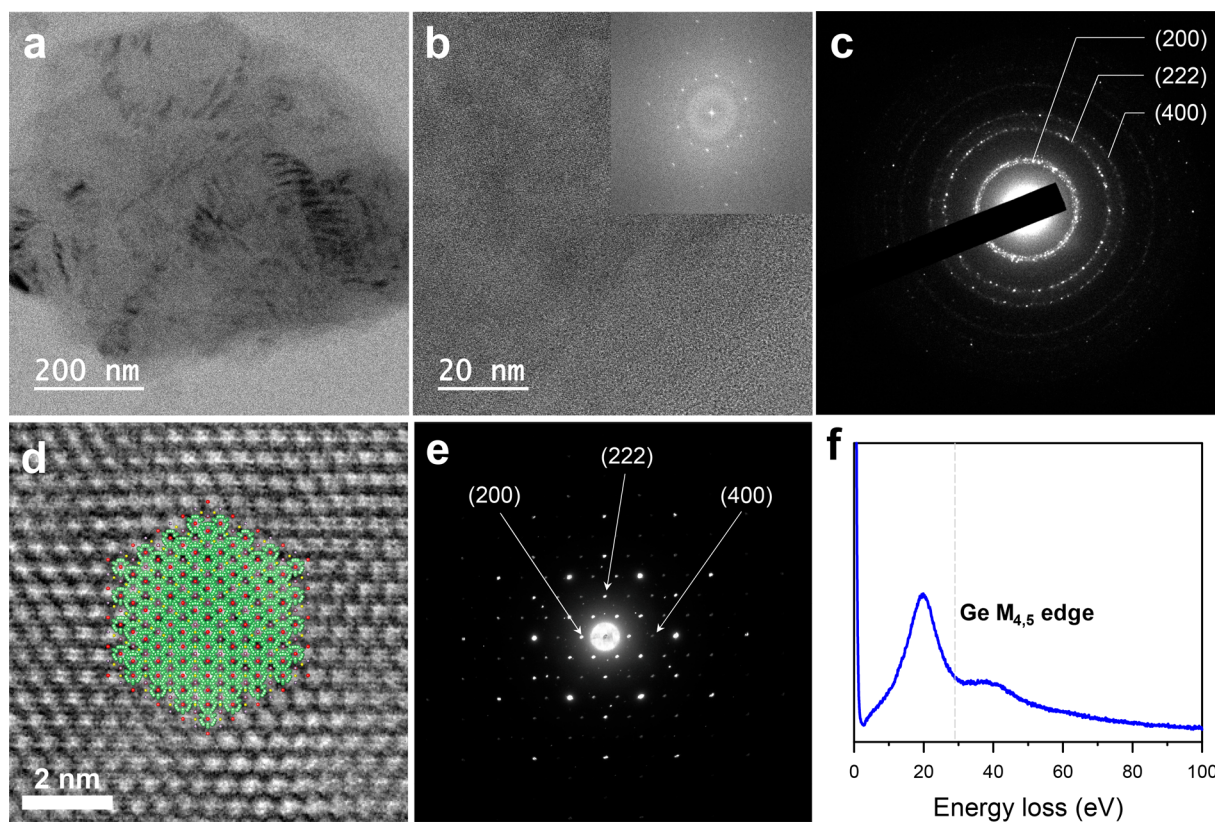


Figure 3. Cryo-TEM results for sol-LPGeSI heat treated at 180 °C. Cryo-TEM images at (a) low magnification and (b) high magnification with an inverse-FFT pattern. (c) Corresponding SAED patterns indicating polycrystallites of the argyrodite phase. (d) Magnified high-resolution cryo-TEM image revealing the cubic structure of the argyrodite phase. (e) SAED patterns indicating a single-crystallite argyrodite phase. Cryo-TEM images corresponding to (d) and (e) are provided in Supporting Information (Figure S4). (f) EELS spectrum showing the signature of Ge.

severe and immediate destruction of sulfide SE materials by the electron beam (Movie S1). Cryo-TEM measurement was conducted at cryogenic temperature (−175 °C) without any exposure to ambient air using a double-tilt cryogenic TEM holder. Prior to cryo-TEM analysis, a cryogenic XRD measurement for sol-LPGeSI was conducted at −175 °C to check any possible phase changes at cryogenic temperature. As shown in the cryogenic XRD pattern, the crystallinity and structure of sol-LPGeSI were well maintained at −175 °C, compared with the XRD pattern at 25 °C (Figure S3). The cryo-TEM image of an ~700-nm-sized particle of sol-LPGeSI is shown in Figure 3a. The corresponding high-resolution image with fast Fourier transform (FFT) patterns and selected area electron diffraction (SAED) patterns are shown in Figure 3b, c, respectively. Multiple spots in the SAED patterns in Figure 3c indicate a polycrystalline feature of argyrodite nanocrystals for solution-derived LPGeSI. Consistent results were obtained in other magnified images (Figure S4). In particular, a high-resolution lattice image on the atomic scale is successfully acquired, as shown in Figure 3d, reflecting the argyrodite cubic structure with [111]-directed alignment (Figure S5). The SAED patterns in Figure 3e perfectly match the argyrodite crystal (space group $F\bar{4}3m$). The cryogenic electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS) spectrum is also shown in Figure 3f, and its corresponding cryo-STEM image is provided in Figure S6. The strong peak at ~20 eV and the broad shoulder signal at ~38 eV originate from the Ge plasmon, and the broad signal at ~29 eV corresponds to Ge

$M_{4,5}$ ionization, corroborating the existence of Ge in the particle of sol-LPGeSI.^{48,49}

Finally, solution-processed $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_3\text{I}$ was applied for the infiltration of slurry-cast LiCoO_2 electrodes, as illustrated in Figure 4a. The LiCoO_2 electrodes used for the infiltration were fabricated by a conventional slurry-casting procedure with an electrode composition of 97:1:2 for LiCoO_2 /polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)/super C65 by weight. As sulfide SEs have poor electrochemical oxidation stabilities and poor compatibility with layered oxide cathode materials, LiCoO_2 coated with LiNbO_3 was used.^{4,50} A cross-sectional field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) image and its corresponding energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDXS) elemental maps for the densified LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes are shown in Figures 4b and S7. It is confirmed that LPGeSI makes intimate contact with LiCoO_2 with negligible void spaces. Electrochemical results for $\text{LiCoO}_2/\text{Li}_{0.5}\text{In}$ all-solid-state half-cells employing the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes cycled between 3.0 and 4.3 V (vs Li/Li^+) at 30 °C are shown in Figure 4c–e. The first two-cycle charge–discharge voltage profiles at 0.1 C for all-solid-state cells with LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes are shown, compared with conventional liquid electrolyte cells, in Figure 4c. The fraction of SE (LPGeSI) in the LiCoO_2 electrodes was as low as 12 wt %. The initial coulombic efficiency for the all-solid-state cells is lower (88.0%) than that for the liquid-electrolyte cells (94.5%), attributed to the irreversible electrochemical oxidation of sulfide SEs as indicated by the sloping voltage profile over 3 V (vs Li/Li^+)

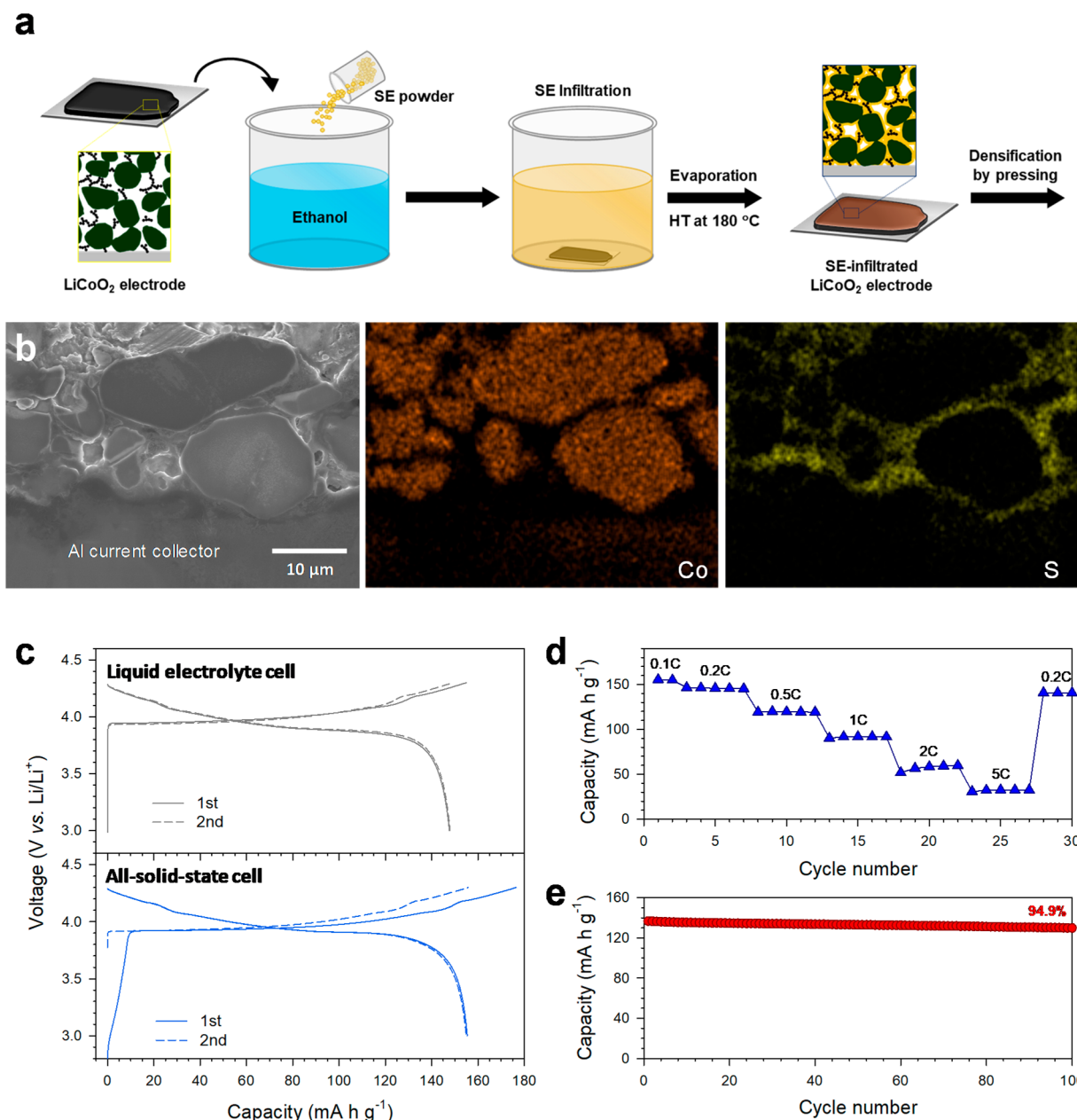


Figure 4. Electrochemical characterization of $\text{LiCoO}_2/\text{Li-In}$ all-solid-state cells employing LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes at 30°C . (a) Schematic illustrating the infiltration of slurry-cast LiCoO_2 electrodes with LPGeSI-EtOH solutions. (b) Cross-sectional FESEM image of the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes and its corresponding EDXS elemental maps. (c) First two-cycle charge–discharge voltage profiles of LiCoO_2 electrodes at 0.1 C for liquid-electrolyte cells and all-solid-state cells. (d) Rate and (e) cycling performances at 0.2 C for the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes in all-solid-state cells.

during the first charge. Nevertheless, the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes exhibit no capacity loss (reversible capacity of 155 mA h g^{-1}) in comparison with the capacity of the liquid-electrolyte cells. As a control sample, LiCoO_2 electrodes prepared by the manual mixing of LiCoO_2 , sol-LPGeSI, PVDF, and Super C65 were also prepared. The dry-mixture LiCoO_2 electrodes show much lower reversible capacity (109 mA h g^{-1}) and much larger interfacial resistance ($230.2\ \Omega\ \text{cm}^2$), as compared with the results of the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes (155 mA h g^{-1} , $26.0\ \Omega\ \text{cm}^2$) (Figures S8–S10). These results clearly demonstrate the impacts of intimate ionic contacts and favorable ionic percolation enabled by the solution process.²² The LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes also show a decent rate capability (Figure 4d), highlighting the

impact of the high Li^+ conductivity of the solution-derived $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$ (0.54 mS cm^{-1}). Moreover, the capacity retention (Figure 4e) for LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes cycled at 0.2 C after 100 cycles is as high as 94.9%, which is at the highest level in the all-solid-state battery field.^{4,22,51}

In summary, we successfully developed highly Li^+ -conductive solution-processable iodine-based Li argyrodites of LPSI, LPGeSI, and LPSnSI, with the highest Li^+ conductivity of 0.54 mS cm^{-1} at 30°C for $\text{Li}_{6.5}\text{P}_{0.5}\text{Ge}_{0.5}\text{S}_5\text{I}$. The effect of composition and structure on Li^+ conductivity was investigated by complementary analysis using EIS, XRD, Raman spectroscopy, and PDF measurements. Importantly, the cryo-TEM measurement could successfully capture the local argyrodite nanocrystallites for sol-LPGeSI. We anticipate that the

fundamental findings from cryo-TEM will unveil the unknown areas that have been known as formidable challenges in sulfide electrolytes, such as the visualization of Li^+ migration paths and electrochemically driven interfacial evolution.⁴¹ Finally, excellent electrochemical performances of the LPGeSI-infiltrated LiCoO_2 electrodes for ASLBs operating at 30 °C were successfully demonstrated, highlighting the unique advantages of the intimate ionic contacts and the high Li^+ conductivity for this solution-processable iodine-based Li argyrodites. We believe that our results provide important insights in understanding solid-state ionics in emerging low-crystalline materials (e.g., glass-ceramics, meta-materials) and the development of practical all-solid-state technologies to scale.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.nanolett.0c01028>.

Normal TEM video for a sol-LPGeSI sample showing the structural damage of sulfide solid electrolyte by an electron beam (MP4)

Experimental methods, Raman spectra, Arrhenius plots of Li^+ conductivity, cryogenic XRD pattern, cryo-TEM images, cross-sectional FESEM images and EDXS elemental maps, and electrochemical characterization for the manually mixed LiCoO_2 electrodes (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Technology Development Program to Solve Climate Changes and by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT & Future Planning (nos. NRF2017M1A2A2044501, NRF-2018R1A2B6004996, and 2019R1C1C1009324) and by the National Research Council of Science & Technology (NST) grant by the Korea government (MSIT) (CAP-14-02-KITECH). S.-M.B. at Brookhaven National Laboratory was supported by the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Vehicle Technology Office of the U.S. Department of Energy through the Advanced Battery Materials Research (BMR) Program under contract DE-SC0012704. The PDF research used beamline 28-ID-1(PDF) of the National Synchrotron Light Source II, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science User Facility operated for the DOE Office of Science by Brookhaven National Laboratory under contract no. DE-SC0012704.

■ ABBREVIATIONS

LIB, lithium ion battery; SE, solid electrolyte; ASLB, all-solid-state Li or Li ion battery; EtOH, ethanol; TEM, transmission electron microscopy; cryo-TEM, cryogenic-TEM; EIS, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy; XRD, X-ray diffraction; PDF, pair distribution function; BM-LPMSI, ball-milled $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ge}, \text{Sn}$); sol-LPMSI, solution-processed $\text{Li}_{6+x}\text{P}_{1-x}\text{M}_x\text{S}_5\text{I}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ge}, \text{Sn}$); FFT, fast Fourier transform; SAED, selected-area electron diffraction; EELS, electron energy loss spectroscopy; PVDF, poly(vinylidene fluoride); FESEM, field-emission scanning electron microscopy; EDXS, energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy

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