

## Article

# Superionic solid electrolyte $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ synthesis and thermodynamics for application in all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries

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**Abstract:** Solid-state reaction was used for  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  material synthesis from  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  powders. Phase investigation by XRD, SEM and EDS methods of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  were carried out. The molar heat capacity of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  at constant pressure in the temperature range 298-800 K should be calculated as  $C_{p,m} = 518.135 + 0.599 \times T - 8.339 \times T^{-2}$ , where T is absolute temperature, . Thermodynamic characteristics of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  were determined as next: entropy  $S^0_{298} = 362.3 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ , molar enthalpy of dissolution  $\Delta_d H_{\text{LLZO}} = -1471.73 \pm 29.39 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , the standard enthalpy of formation from elements  $\Delta_f H^0 = -9327.65 \pm 7.9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , the standard Gibbs free energy of formation  $\Delta_f G^0_{298} = -9435.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ .

**Keywords:** lithium-ion battery; solid-state electrolyte; lithium-ion thermodynamics; solid-state synthesis

## 1. Introduction

The commercial history of lithium-ion battery has started at 1991 by Sony [1]. Since, a lot of efforts were directed to improve electrochemical performance of lithium-ion batteries [2]. One of the perspective decisions to stabilize lithium-ion battery electrochemical characteristics and safety is apply solid-state inorganic electrolyte instead of liquid organic electrolyte as traditional electrolyte for commercial lithium-ion batteries [3]-[7]. Some solid-state electrolytes have high ionic conductivity in an order of magnitude of  $\sim 10^{-3} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$  [8] in comparison to liquid electrolyte [9].

Between all types of the solid-state electrolytes (perovskite, NASICON- and LISICON-type, LATP- and LAGP-type, garnet, sulfide and halide electrolytes, etc. [8]) garnet-type electrolytes have the most attractive electrochemical performance in combination with manufacture costs and simplicity in commercial application. Garnet-type  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  (LLZO) solid-state electrolyte has two modifications: cubic and tetragonal. The ionic conductivity is  $\sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-3} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$  and  $\sim 10^{-7} - 10^{-6} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ , respectively [10].

LLZO solid-state electrolyte attracts high attention due to its' relatively high electrochemical properties. Though, LLZO has lower ionic conductivity in comparison with organic liquid electrolyte ( $\sim 10^{-4}$  versus  $\sim 10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ , respectively [9]), it provides high safety performance, high chemical stability against metallic lithium, a wide electrochemical potential window, low electronic conductivity, high stability with moisture in air; LLZO prevents lithium dendrites growth due to high mechanical strength [11]-[15].

Since as LLZO has been first synthesized by Murugan et al. [16], it was investigated to improve its' chemical and structure stability, long cycle life, electrode/solid electrolyte interface interactions, high energy density at room temperature. Thus, heterovalent substitution/doping with  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  from alumina crucible (or intentional incorporation) during synthesis process allow enhance the ionic conductivity up to  $\sim 10^{-3} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ , but it cause in higher activation energy of lithium ion conduction, which limits  $\text{Li}^+$  mobility [17]-[24]. Doped with  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  also as  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  stabilize structure of LLZO [25]-[32]. The substitution of  $\text{Zr}^{4+}$  with  $\text{Ta}^{5+}$  ions allow increase of the ionic conductivity, stabilize the cubic structure,

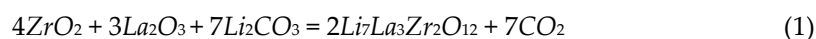
improve lithium-ion transport, lithium dendrite growth prevention and current density [33]-[38]. Totally, mentioned above elements improves electrochemical and structure stability, increase the ionic conductivity, prevent lithium dendrite growth and penetration at the solid electrolyte structure.

In this work, synthesis, structure studies and thermodynamics calculations of tetragonal  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  were performed.

## 2. Materials and Methods

Tetragonal LLZO electrolyte was produced by solid-state synthesis as the one of the commonly used synthesis methods for investigation and mass manufacture [39]-[47]. Initial materials  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  (Xilong Sci., 99%),  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  (ReLAB, 99.99%) and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  (Sinopharm, 99.9%) in stoichiometric ratio were used as source for Li, La and Zr, respectively. Excess 10 wt. % of lithium was initially added to precursor to avoid lithium loss during synthesis process at high temperature. Lanthanum oxide was preliminarily dried at 900°C for 24 h. Mentioned materials mechanically milled at agate mortar and then dissolved at acetic acid with following magnetic stirring at 90°C for 12 h to provide homogeneous solution. Excess acetic acid was evaporated at 110°C to get dry precursor powder. Dried precursor has been mechanically milled at agate mortar and put into alumina crucible for heat treatment. Muffle furnace Nabertherm™ was used for solid-state reaction at air atmosphere. Firstly, precursor was slowly heated (heat rate was 0.5°C/min) to 130°C for 3 h to evaporate remaining acetic acid. Then, precursor was heated (heat rate was 2°C/min) to 900°C for 8 h to provide solid-state reaction.

Solid-state reaction proceeds according to next formula:



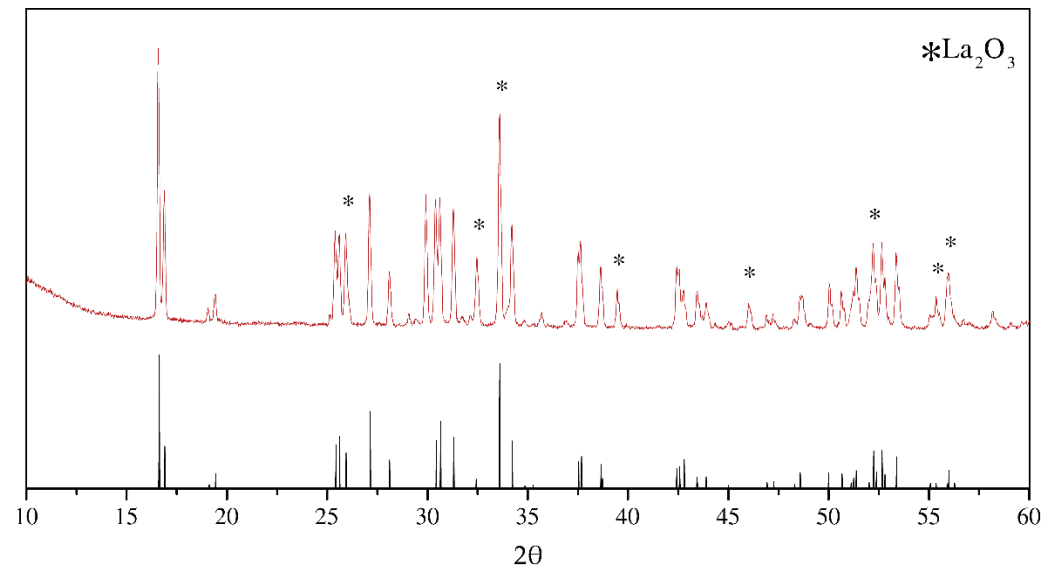
X-ray diffraction structural analysis (XRD) was performed by Bruker D8 Advance equipment (diffraction angle step was 0.02°, Cu  $K_\alpha$ -radiation). Rietveld method was used for structure refinement. Diffraction angles for synthesized LLZO powder were set from 15° to 60° (2 $\theta$ ).

Images of microstructure performance of LLZO powder were performed with scanning electron microscope (SEM) Tescan MAIA3 with secondary electron detection. Bruker XFlash 6-10 was used for energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS).

TAM IV Microcalorimeter was used for calorimetric investigation. Measurement parameters were next: temperature is 298 K, volume of cell is 20 ml. Aqueous solution of 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl was filled in the ampoule at calorimetric cell. Dissolution process of LLZO powder has been started after thermal equilibrium was established. Dissolution enthalpy value was obtained from thermoelectromotive force data during the dissolution process, providing the heat dissolution curve.

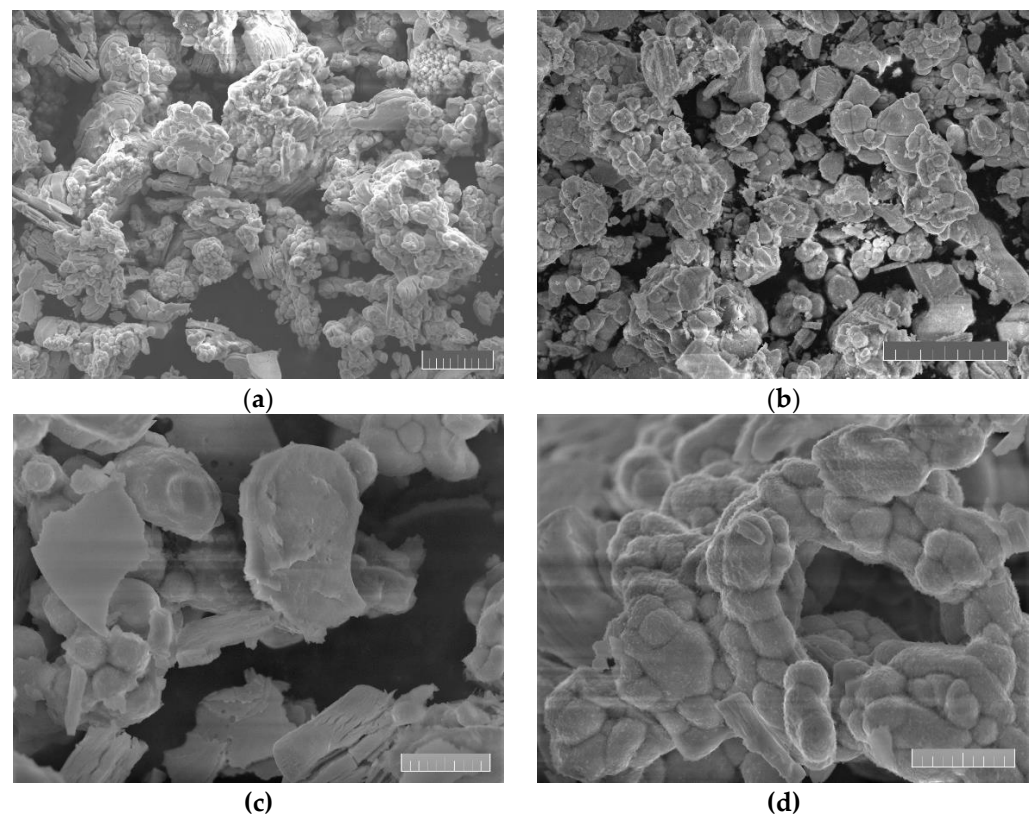
## 3. Results

XRD pattern of synthesized LLZO is shown at Figure 1. According to diffraction data, LLZO has  $I4_1/acd$  space group. Vertical lines at the bottom are related to PDF #00-064-0140. The peaks indexes and interplanar distances are shown at Supplementary. Synthesized material contains 4 wt. % of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  impurity after solid-state reaction.



**Figure 1.** X-ray diffraction pattern of synthesized tetragonal  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  by solid-state reaction. Bottom vertical lines belong to PDF #00-064-0140.

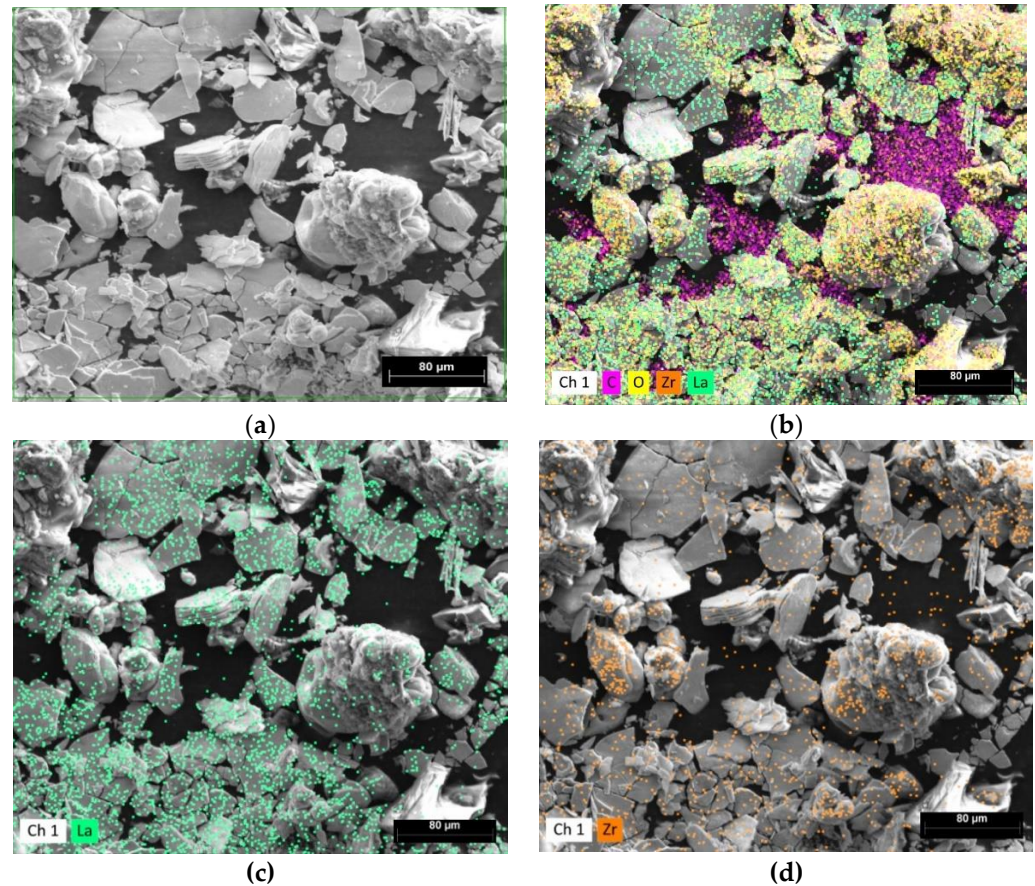
SEM images of LLZO powder are shown at Figure 2, made at 2x, 3.5x, 10x and 11.5x magnification, respectively. All images were performed at 10 keV landing energy.



**Figure 2.** SEM images of synthesized LLZO powder at different magnification. The scale bar is (a), (b) 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and (c), (d) 5  $\mu\text{m}$  long.

EDS spectra images are shown at Figure 3. The scale bar is 80  $\mu\text{m}$  long for all images (a)-(d). Green frame at Figure 3, (a) shows EDS analyzing field. Figures 3,(b)-(d) shows elements distribution for La, Zr, O and C (b), La (c) and Zr (d) elements, respectively. The elements at Figure 3 are evenly distributed. Carbon at Figure 3, (b) is electrically conductive carbon tape for sample holder. Elemental analysis of EDS spectra is shown at Table 1.





**Figure 3.** SEM images of synthesized LLZO powder at different magnification. The scale bar is (a), (b) 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and (c), (d) 5  $\mu\text{m}$  long.

EDS elemental analysis of LLZO powder shows lanthanum excess of solid electrolyte powder, expressed in terms of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  and  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  compounds. Elemental analysis based on Table 2 shows excess of 3.1 wt.% of lanthanum oxide (III).

**Table 2.** Elemental EDS analysis of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  powder.

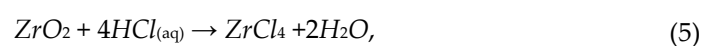
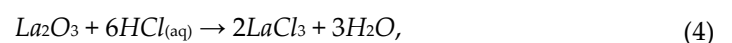
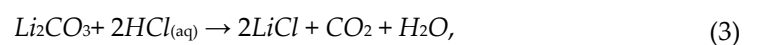
Element	Mass, wt. %
Lanthanum	53.19
Oxygen	22.59
Zirconium	24.22

## 4. Discussion

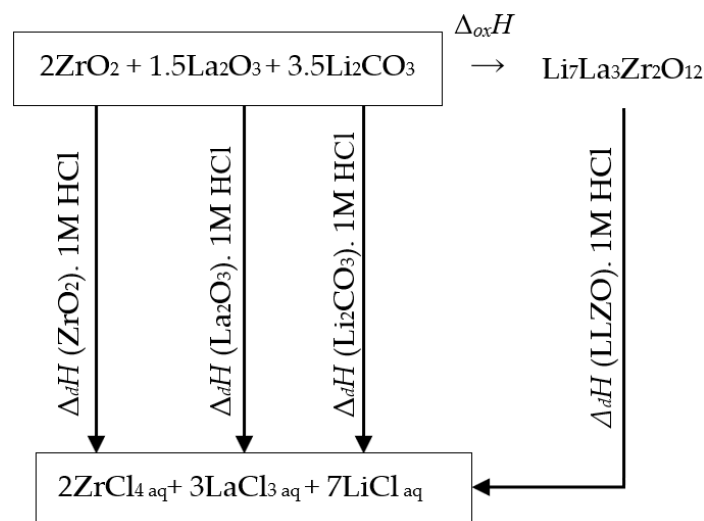
### 4.1. The standard enthalpy of formation

The enthalpy of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  formation ( $\Delta_{\text{ox}}H_{\text{LLZO}}$ ) from  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  is calculated according to the equation (1) from Experimental section. The subscript *ox* means “oxides”, that related to initial compounds of equation (1).

The following thermodynamic cycle was used for enthalpy calculation, Figure 4:



the subscript (aq) indicates “aqueous”. The calorimeter was used for the standard enthalpy ( $\Delta_d H_{LLZO}$ ) measurement. The received value after calorimetry measurement was equal to  $-1911 \pm 37 \text{ J g}^{-1}$ , Table 3.



**Figure 4.** Thermochemical cycle scheme of LLZO dissolution in HCl.

It was shown in Experimental section, that LLZO has 3.1 wt. % of unreacted  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  impurity. Thereby, measured  $\Delta_d H_{LLZO}$  should be recalculated considering the amount of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ :

$$\Delta_d H_{LLZO} = \frac{\Delta_d H_{LLZO+\text{La}_2\text{O}_3} - \omega \Delta_d H_{\text{La}_2\text{O}_3}}{1 - \omega}, \quad (6)$$

$\omega$  – mass fraction of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ . It should be noted that enthalpies, mentioned at equation (6) are supposed to be specific, not molar. The recalculated value of the dissolution enthalpy of LLZO (with 3.1 wt.% of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ) is equal to  $-1917.7 \text{ J g}^{-1}$  or  $-1607.75 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , Table 3.

**Table 3.** Specific and molar enthalpies of dissolution values ( $1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3} \text{ HCl(aq)}$ ,  $T=298 \text{ K}$ ,  $p=101 \text{ kPa}$ ).

Compound	Specific enthalpy, $\text{J g}^{-1}$	Molar mass, $\text{g mol}^{-1}$	Molar enthalpy of dissolution, $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	Ref.
$\text{ZrO}_2$	$-2186 \pm 19$	123.222	$-269.4 \pm 2.34$	this work
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$	$-1927 \pm 13$	325.837	$-627.9 \pm 4.23$	this work
$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	$-683 \pm 9$	73.89	$-50.5 \pm 0.67$	this work
$\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ (with $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ impurity)	$-1758 \pm 34$	-	-	this work
$\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$	$-1752.6 \pm 35$	839.741	$-1471.73 \pm 29.39$	this work (recalculated)

The resulting value of  $\Delta_{\text{ox}} H_{LLZO}$  is obtained by next equation:

$$\Delta_{\text{ox}} H_{LLZO} = 2\Delta_d H_{\text{ZrO}_2} + 1.5\Delta_d H_{\text{La}_2\text{O}_3} + 3.5\Delta_d H_{\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3} - \Delta_d H_{LLZO} \quad (7)$$

The values of  $\Delta_d H_{\text{ZrO}_2}$ ,  $\Delta_d H_{\text{La}_2\text{O}_3}$  and  $\Delta_d H_{\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3}$ , measured by calorimetry method are shown at Table 3. The recalculated value of the enthalpy of dissolution of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  was used for  $\Delta_{\text{ox}} H_{LLZO}$  evaluation. The value of  $\Delta_{\text{ox}} H_{LLZO}$  by equation (7) is equal to  $-186.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . Negative value of the enthalpy of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  formation indicate that  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  is a stable phase and there is an energy benefit in the formation of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  from  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$ . The values for various lithium zirconates were added to Table 3 to compare with measured and calculated values at this work. The value of the enthalpy

of formation from binary oxides  $\Delta_{\text{ox}}H_{\text{LLZO}}$  has the same order as corresponding values for lithium zirconate compounds and complex oxides (Table 4), thus it can be concluded that measurements are correct.

**Table 4.** Standard enthalpies of formation of complex oxides from binary oxides ( $\Delta_{\text{ox}}H^0$ )

Compound	$\Delta_{\text{ox}}H^0_{298.15}, \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$	Reference
$\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12} \text{ (s)}$	$-186.4 \pm 7.3$	this work
$\text{Li}_2\text{ZrO}_3 \text{ (s)}$	$-304.1 \pm 1.4$	[48]
$\text{Li}_6\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7 \text{ (s)}$	$-112.86$	[49]
$\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7 \text{ (s)}$	$-135.6$	[50]
$\text{Li}_2\text{TiO}_3 \text{ (s)}$	$-238.5 \pm 1.5$	[48]
$\text{LiAlO}_2 \text{ (s)}$	$-209.0 \pm 3.2$	[48]
$\text{LiCoO}_2 \text{ (s)}$	$-143.99 \pm 1.38$	[51]
$\text{BaZrO}_3 \text{ (s)}$	$-114.6$	[52]

The subscripts (s) mean "solid".

Finally, the enthalpy of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  formation from elements can be calculated by formula:

$$\Delta_f H_{\text{LLZO}} = 3.5\Delta_f H_{\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3} + 1.5\Delta_f H_{\text{La}_2\text{O}_3} + 2\Delta_f H_{\text{ZrO}_2} + \Delta_{\text{ox}} H_{\text{LLZO}}. \quad (8)$$

Standard enthalpies for the calculation were taken from the handbook [53], Table 5.

**Table 5.** Standard enthalpies of formation from elements ( $\Delta_f H^0$ ).

Compound	$\Delta_f H^0_{298.15}, \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$	Reference
$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 \text{ (s)}$	$-1214.1 \pm 1.0$	[53]
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ (s)}$	$-1794.2 \pm 2.0$	[53]
$\text{ZrO}_2 \text{ (s)}$	$-1100.3 \pm 0.7$	[53]
$\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12} \text{ (s)}$	$-9327.65 \pm 7.9$	this work

The subscripts (s) mean "solid".

The calculated value of the formation enthalpy of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  by formula (8) is  $-9327.65 \pm 7.9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , Table 5. The enthalpy of formation value, rated by Equation (8), can be recommended to use in further thermodynamic calculations of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  reactivity.

#### 4.2. The isobaric heat capacity

The temperature dependence of the isobaric heat capacity of the  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  is shown on Figure 5. According to XRD and EDS data (Figure 1 and Table 2, respectively), obtained powder material contains a certain amount of lanthanum oxide  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ . This amount must be considered for calculating the heat capacity of the  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ . The impurity could appear after synthesis process as unreacted compound. The heat capacity of a two-phase system must be recalculated by additive consideration:

$$mC_p = m(\text{LLZO})C_p(\text{LLZO}) + m(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)C_p(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3), \quad (9)$$

$C_p$  – a specific heat capacity ( $p=\text{const}$ ),  $m$  is a mass. The sample mass consists of synthesized compound (LLZO) and impurity ( $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Thus, the heat capacity of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  is expressed from eq. (9) as:

$$C_p(\text{LLZO}) = \frac{mC_p - m(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)C_p(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)}{m(\text{LLZO})} \quad (10)$$

The impurity compound weight can be recalculated from the sample total mass, with the known mass fraction of lanthanum oxide,  $\omega(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)$ :

$$m(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3) = m\omega(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3) \quad (11)$$

and

$$m(\text{LLZO}) = m[1 - \omega(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)] \quad (12)$$

According to eq. (11) and (12), eq. (13) can be written as follows:

$$C_p(\text{LLZO}) = \frac{C_p - C_p(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)\omega(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)}{1 - \omega(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3)} \quad (13)$$

Thereby, the heat capacity of LLZO can be calculated from the experimental data and heat capacity of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  impurity. Dependence of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  specific heat capacity from temperature is required for Equation (13) calculation. For this, tabular data required to define temperature dependence for the lanthanum oxide heat capacity [53]. The commonly used polynomial for the heat capacity (for 300-800 K in our case):

$$C_p = a + bT - cT^{-2} \quad (14)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are empirical coefficients;  $T$  is the absolute temperature. The received coefficients for lanthanum oxide are:  $a = 119.604 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ,  $b = 14.514 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-2}$ ,  $c = 13.452 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}$ . The heat capacity of LLZO for 300-800 K temperature range was recalculated using eq. (14) and (13) considering  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  impurity presence. According to XRD and EDS data (Figure 1 and Table 2, respectively) LLZO contains about  $3.1 \pm 0.12 \text{ wt. \%}$   $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ . Experimental and recalculated LLZO heat capacity is shown on Figure 5 and Table 6. Empirical values for heat capacity were calculated by Neumann-Kopp (N-K) rule. This rule prescribes to calculate the molar heat capacity of complex compound from the heat capacities of constituent elements by adding them in with compound stoichiometry. But this calculation method gives good results for room temperatures and rough results for high temperatures. For more accurate results binary compounds were used instead to single elements (accurate results are usually obtained for the same aggregate state of materials):

$$C_p(\text{CO}) = \sum n(\text{BO})C_p(\text{BO}) \quad (15)$$

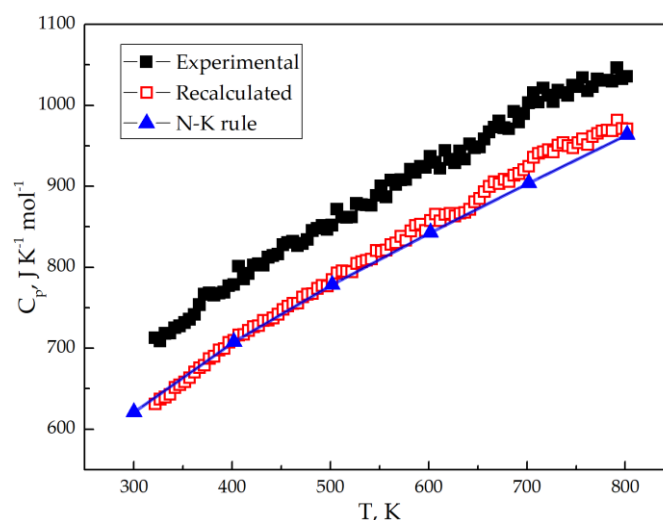
$C_p$  is molar heat capacity ( $p=\text{const}$ ),  $n$  is a stoichiometric coefficient, CO and BO are complex and binary oxide, respectively. For LLZO, eq. (15) can be written as (according to eq. (1)):

$$C_p(\text{LLZO}) = 3.5C_p(\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3) + 1.5C_p(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3) + 2C_p(\text{ZrO}_2) \quad (16)$$

The temperature dependence of the heat capacity calculated from eq. (16) using tabular data [53] is also shown on Figure 5 and Table 6.

**Table 6.** The temperature dependence of experimental (exp.), recalculated by eq. (15) (rec.) and calculated by Neumann-Kopp (N-K) rule (eq. 16) heat capacities ( $C_p$ ) of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  (s).

$T, \text{K}$	$C_p(\text{exp.}), \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$C_p(\text{rec.}), \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$C_p(\text{N-K}), \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
300	126.9	124.1	621.1
400	134.1	132.6	708.1
500	146.3	144.3	778.8
600	160.5	158.3	843.1
700	173.8	171.9	904.3
800	183.3	180.7	964.0



**Figure 5.** Temperature dependences of the experimental, recalculated and Neumann-Kopp rule heat capacities of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ . The line for Neuman-Kopp rule is given as an approximating allometric line.

The Neumann-Kopp rule and recalculated are in good correlation. Experimental data is for LLZO compound with  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  impurity. The heat capacity temperature dependence (Equation 16) was calculated using tabular data [53], [54]. XRD and EDS quantitative analysis gives accurate enough results for small presence of impurity compounds in material to define it.

#### 4.3. Entropy

Entropy is another thermodynamic function that should be calculated. The Third Law of thermodynamics states, "The entropy of a perfect crystal is zero when the temperature of the crystal is equal to absolute zero (0 K)." Thus, the entropy absolute value can be valued by the equation:

$$S(T) = \int_0^{T_1} \frac{C_p(T)}{T} dT + \frac{\Delta H_1}{T_1} + \int_{T_1}^{T_2} \frac{C_p(T)}{T} dT + \frac{\Delta H_2}{T_2} + \dots + \int_{T_k}^T \frac{C_p(T)}{T} dT, \quad (17)$$

$S$  is entropy,  $T_k$  is temperature of the  $k$ -th phase transition ( $0 < T_k < T$ ),  $\Delta H_k$  is enthalpy of the  $k$ -th phase transition. Since the entropy can be calculated by Neumann-Kopp rule and if there are no phase transition till calculation temperature, entropy can be also calculated by Neumann-Kopp rule:

$$S(T) = \int_0^T \frac{\sum C_p(T, BO)}{T} dT = \sum \int_0^T \frac{C_p(T, BO)}{T} dT = \sum S(T, BO), \quad (18)$$

where  $BO$  is the binary oxide compound (see eq. (15)). According to eq. (15) and (16), eq. (18) can be written in the following way:

$$S(LLZO) = 3,5S(\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3) + 1,5S(\text{La}_2\text{O}_3) + 2S(\text{ZrO}_2) \quad (19)$$

The entropy of  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  at room temperature is  $607.18 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  according to eq. (19) and tabular data [53], [54]. Additive rule for entropy calculation is suitable if the sum of the molar volumes of binary compounds differs a bit with the molar volume of the complex compound [54]. Thus, the molar volume for  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  is  $35.0 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$  ( $\rho = 2.11 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  [55]), for  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  is  $50.1 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$  ( $\rho = 6.51 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  [56]), for  $\text{ZrO}_2$  is  $21.2 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$  ( $\rho = 5.56 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  [56]) and for  $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$  is  $165.0 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$  ( $\rho = 5.09 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  [57]). The sum of the molar volumes of  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  with their corresponding stoichiometric coefficients is  $240.05 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$  and differs about 45.5% of the LLZO molar volume, which do not allow usage of additive scheme.



Also, the LLZO entropy can be calculated by W.Herz rule [58]:

$$S_{298}^0 = K_H (M/C_{p,298})^{1/3} m, \quad (20)$$

where  $K_H$  is Herz constant,  $M$  is molar mass,  $C_{p,298}$  is isobaric heat capacity,  $m$  is atoms per formula.

Herz constant  $K_H$  has a good correlation with average values of anion molar mass [58]:

$$K_H = \frac{33.5x^2 e^x}{(e^x - 1)^2}, \quad (21)$$

where  $x=42.4/M_{La3Zr2O12}$ ,  $M_A$  is an anion ( $La3Zr2O12^{7-}$ ) molar mass. For  $Li7La3Zr2O12$ , anion molar mass  $M_{La3Zr2O12}$  is 791.154 g mol<sup>-1</sup>. Thus,  $K_H$  constant is equal to 33.5.

According to eq. (20) and considering  $C_{p,298}$  from Table 6 the LLZO entropy is 362.3 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>. Thus, the LLZO entropy calculated by W.Herz rule is not in good correlation with Neumann-Kopp rule result, hence the N-K rule cannot be used for the entropy calculations, as follows from molar masses principle. The calculated value of LLZO entropy by W.Herz rule is in good correlation with Ref. [59].

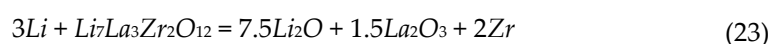
#### 4.4. The standard Gibbs free energy

The enthalpy of formation and entropy calculated above allows to rate the standard Gibbs energy of LLZO formation ( $T=298$  K):

$$\Delta_f G_{298}^0 = \Delta_f H_{298}^0 - 298 \Delta_f S_{298}^0, \quad (22)$$

The resulting value of the Gibbs free energy for  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  at room temperature is -9435.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

The next reaction is suggested for determination of stability against metallic lithium with subsequent calculation of the Gibbs free energy at room temperature:



To determine the Gibbs free energy of reaction it is required to subtract from  $\Delta_f G_{298}^0$  values of the Gibbs energy for initial reagents of the reaction. The  $\Delta_f G_{298}^0$  for single elements is equal to zero, for  $Li2O$  is -561.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and for  $La2O3$  is -1706.7 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> [53]. The  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  Gibbs free energy has been calculated above. Thus, the Gibbs free energy for reaction (23) is 8.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and this reaction is thermodynamically impossible. Finally,  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  is stable against metallic lithium at room temperature.

## 5. Conclusions

The thermodynamic characteristics were determined for  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  solid-state electrolyte material for lithium-ion battery. Solid-state reaction was used as synthesis method of  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  from  $Li2CO3$ ,  $La2O3$  and  $ZrO2$ . The synthesized material had 3.1 wt. % of the lanthanum oxide ( $La2O3$ ) impurity according to XRD and EDS data. Probably, this amount of  $La2O3$  is unreacted oxide during synthesis process. The enthalpy of  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  formation from binary oxides (and from  $Li2CO3$ )  $\Delta_{ox}H_{LLZO}$  and from elements  $\Delta_f H_{LLZO}$  were calculated according to the measured enthalpy of dissolution of reagents and product of  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  formation reaction. The obtained values are equal to  $-186.4 \pm 7.3$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and  $-9327.65 \pm 7.9$ , respectively. The formation enthalpy from binary oxides  $\Delta_{ox}H_{LLZO}$  is in good correlation with similar zirconate compounds, which confirms the correctness of the measurements. The  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  standard enthalpy of formation from elements is equal - can be used in further thermodynamic modeling and determinations.

The heat capacity value was recalculated considering presence of  $La2O3$  impurity. The temperature dependence of the heat capacity is in good correlation with calculated by Neumann-Kopp rule. Finally, the heat capacity can be described by formula  $C_p(T) = 518.135 + 0.599 \times T - 8.339 \times T^{-2}$ , where  $T$  is absolute temperature. The LLZO entropy is equal to 362.3 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>, the Gibbs free energy of  $Li7La3Zr2O12$  formation is -9435.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. The Gibbs free energy of LLZO reaction with metallic Li is equal to 8.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, consequently

Li<sub>7</sub>La<sub>3</sub>Zr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub> material is stable against metallic lithium. All thermodynamic values and functions can be used for modelling and further calculations.

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