

**Recycled &  
updated**

# Idea Series

**Simulations of materials – focusing on  
electrolytes for all solid state batteries**

**Contribution from: Natalie Holzwarth  
Department of Physics**

## **Acknowledgements:**

**Hannah Zhang and Zachary Pipkorn (former WFU undergrads)**

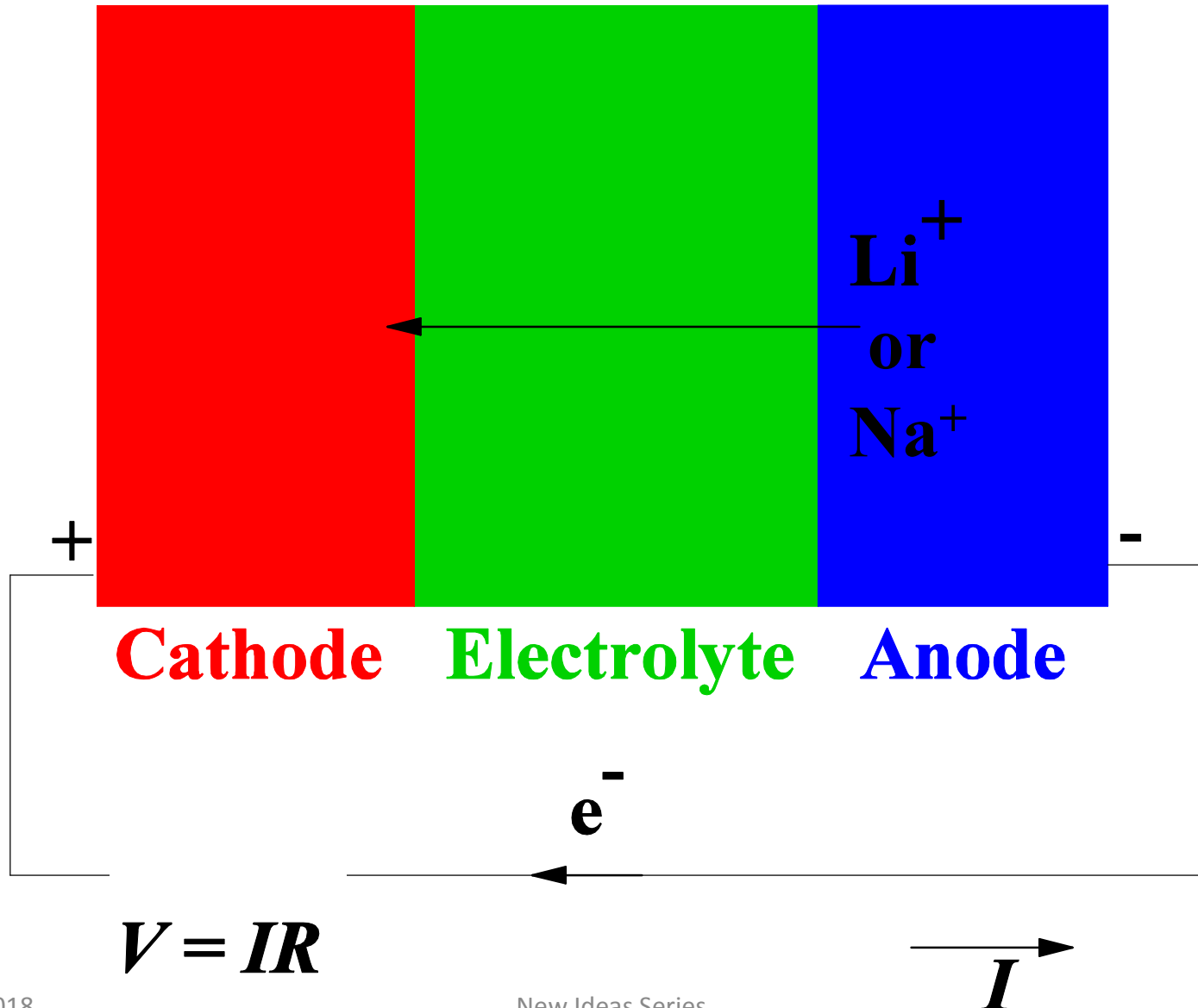
**Zachary Hood (WFU chemistry alum, Ga Tech Ph. D)**

**Jason Howard, Ahmad Al-Qawasmeh, Larry E. Rush, and**

**Nicholas Lepley (current and former WFU grad students)**

**NSF grant DMR-1507942**

## Materials components of a Li or Na ion battery



# Development of LiPON electrolyte films at Oak Ridge National Laboratory



**SOLID  
STATE  
IONICS**

Solid State Ionics 53–56 (1992) 655–661  
North-Holland

## Sputtering of lithium compounds for preparation of electrolyte thin films

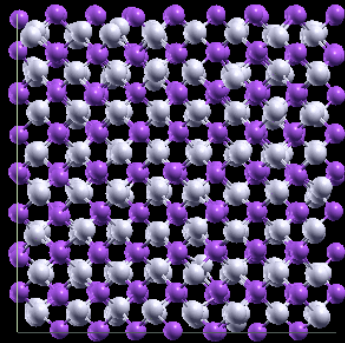
N.J. Dudney, J.B. Bates, R.A. Zuhr and C.F. Luck

JOURNAL OF SOLID STATE CHEMISTRY **115**, 313–323 (1995)

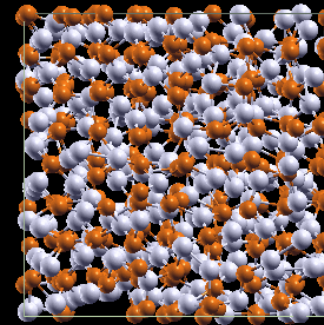
## Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Ionic Conductivity of a Polycrystalline Lithium Phosphorus Oxynitride with the $\gamma$ -Li<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> Structure

B. Wang, B. C. Chakoumakos, B. C. Sales, B. S. Kwak, and J. B. Bates

# Simulations of ions in electrolyte crystals at two different temperatures.



**T=427 K**

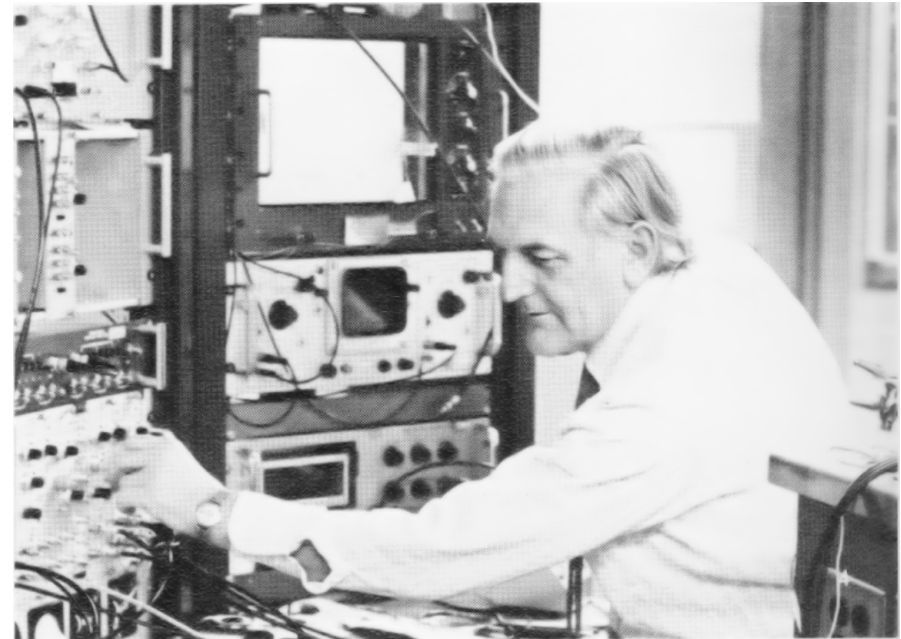


**T=952 K**

**Molecular dynamics simulations of AgI prepared  
by Zachary Pipkorn in 2015.**

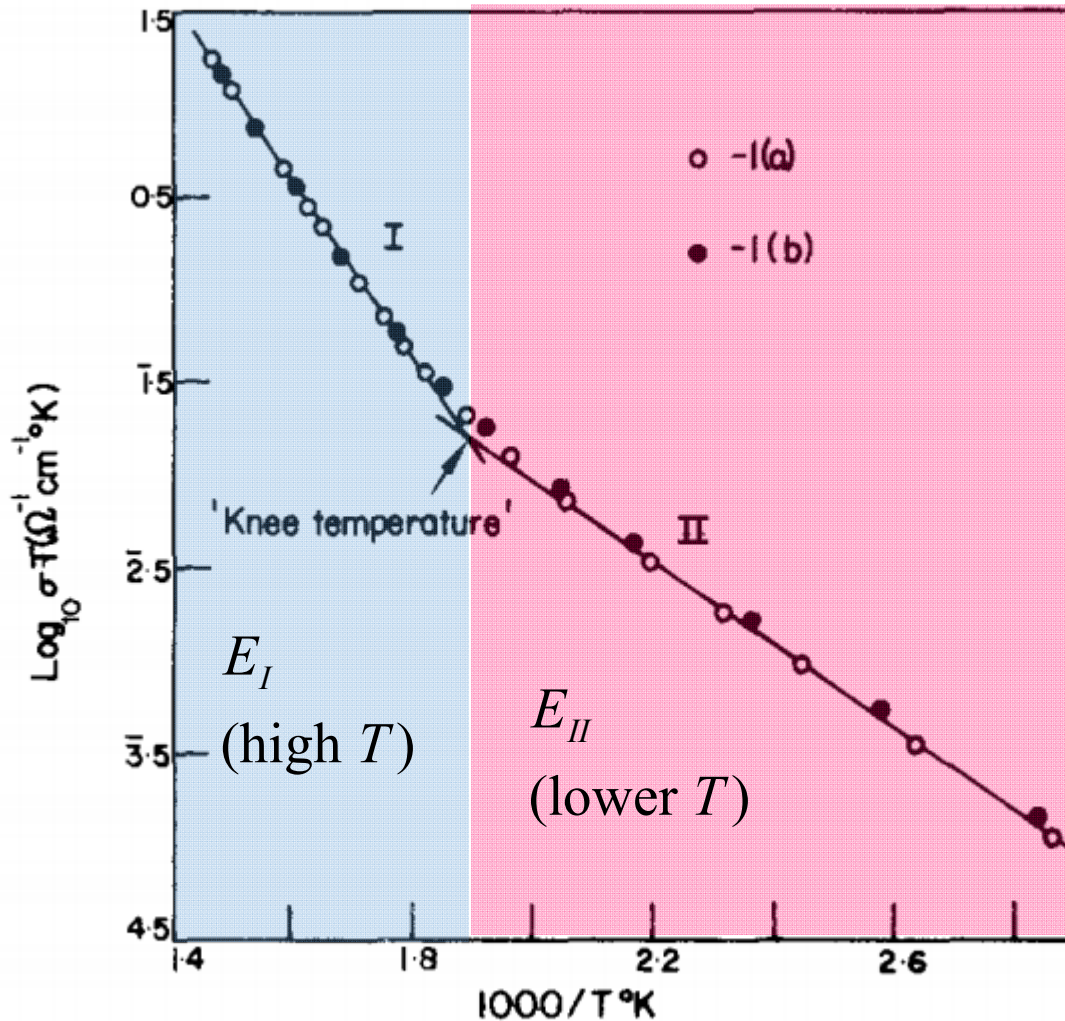
# Ysbrand Haven – WFU Physics Professor 1965-1983

**1975 Howler photo of  
Professor Haven with his  
conductivity equipment.**



**Studied ionic conductivity in well-controlled crystalline samples as a function of temperature, to develop models of basic mechanisms and their relationship to diffusion.**

# Ionic conductivity in LiI (single crystal form)



B. J. H. Jackson and  
D. A. Young, J. Phys.  
Chem. Solids 30,  
1973-1976 (1969)

$$\sigma = \frac{K_I}{T} e^{-E_I/k_B T} + \frac{K_{II}}{T} e^{-E_{II}/k_B T}$$

$E_I$  and  $E_{II}$  are “activation”  
energies, characteristic of  
the hopping processes.

Fig. 2. The intrinsic (I) and extrinsic (II) regions of the ionic conductivity plot for two specimens of as-grown material.



# Relationship between ionic conductivity and diffusion

From statistical mechanics

(Nernst-Einstein relation)

$$\sigma = \frac{N}{V} \frac{q^2}{k_B T} D^{(\text{all})}$$
$$= \frac{1}{H_r} \frac{N}{V} \frac{q^2}{k_B T} D^{(\text{tracer})}$$

$$\text{Haven ratio: } H_r = \frac{D^{(\text{tracer})}}{D^{(\text{all})}}$$

Key:

$\sigma \equiv$  DC electrical conductivity

$D \equiv$  Diffusion coefficient

$\frac{N}{V} \equiv$  #mobile ions per unit volume

$q \equiv$  charge of mobile ions

$k_B \equiv$  Boltzmann constant

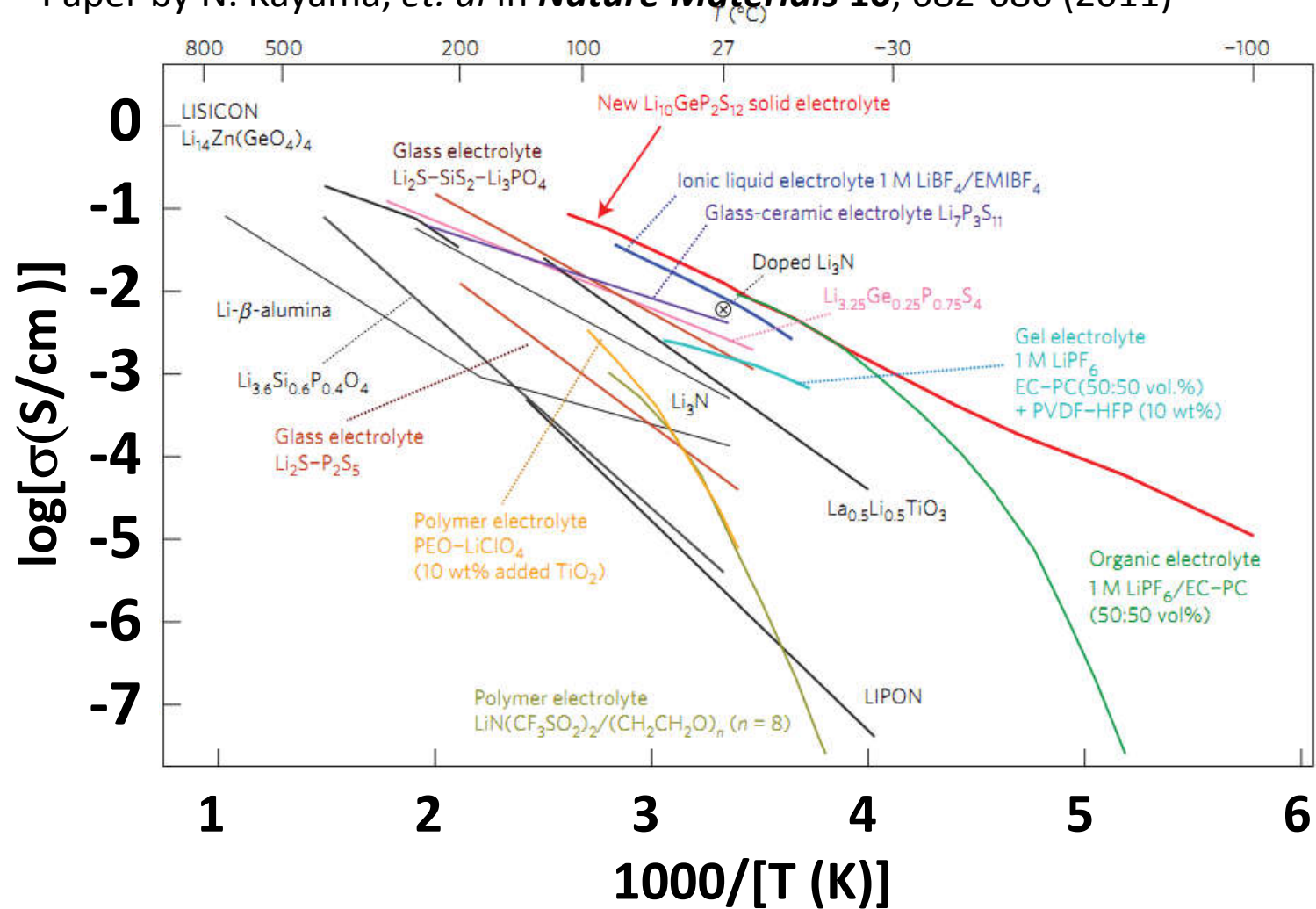
$T \equiv$  temperature in Kelvin

$D^{(\text{tracer})}$  : can be measured using nuclear isotopes; represents independent particle motions  
**accessible by computation**

$D^{(\text{all})}$  : measured from the conductivity; includes correlated motions of mobile ions  
**very difficult to compute**

Recent ionic conductors: --

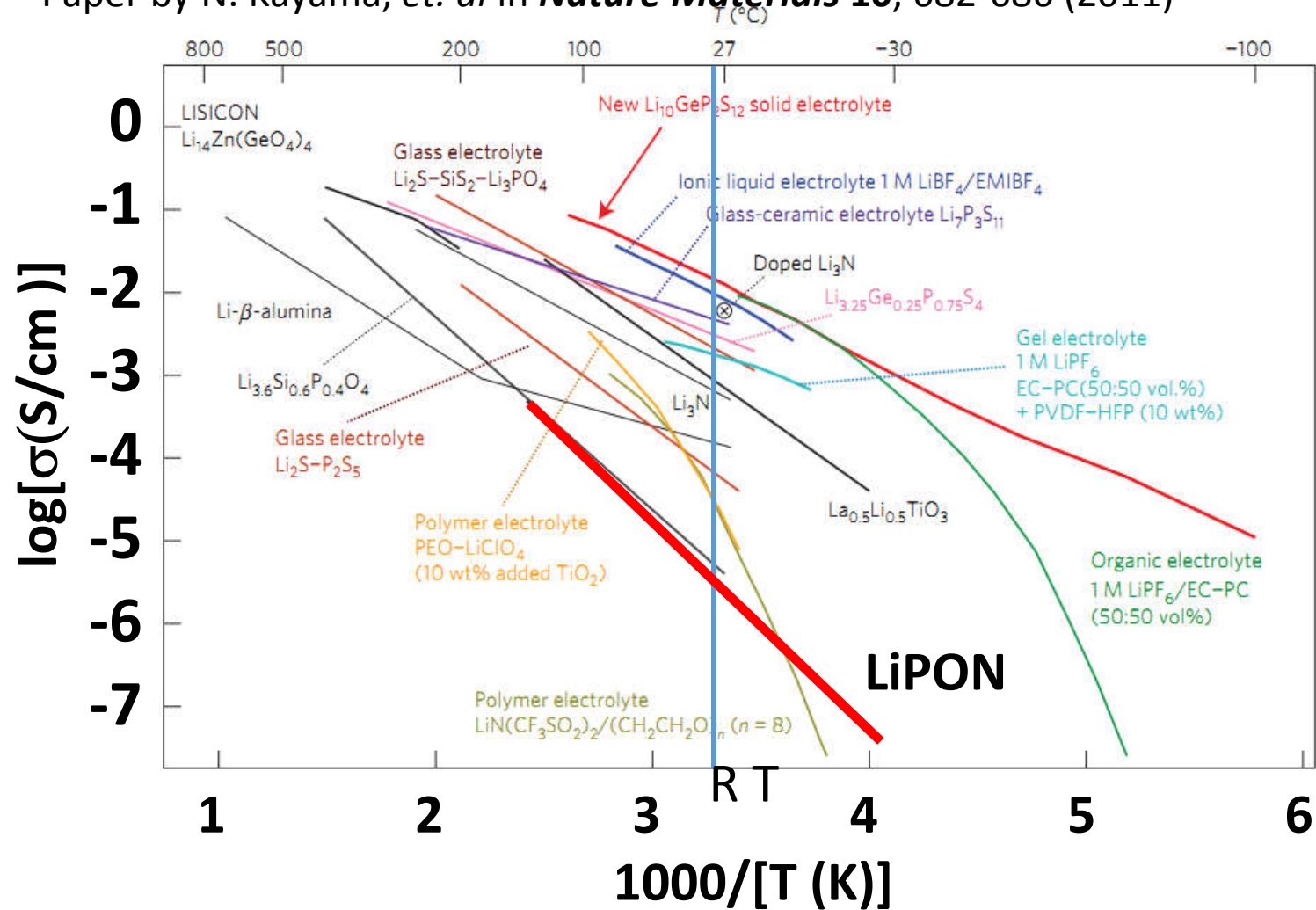
Paper by N. Kayama, *et. al* in **Nature Materials** 10, 682-686 (2011)





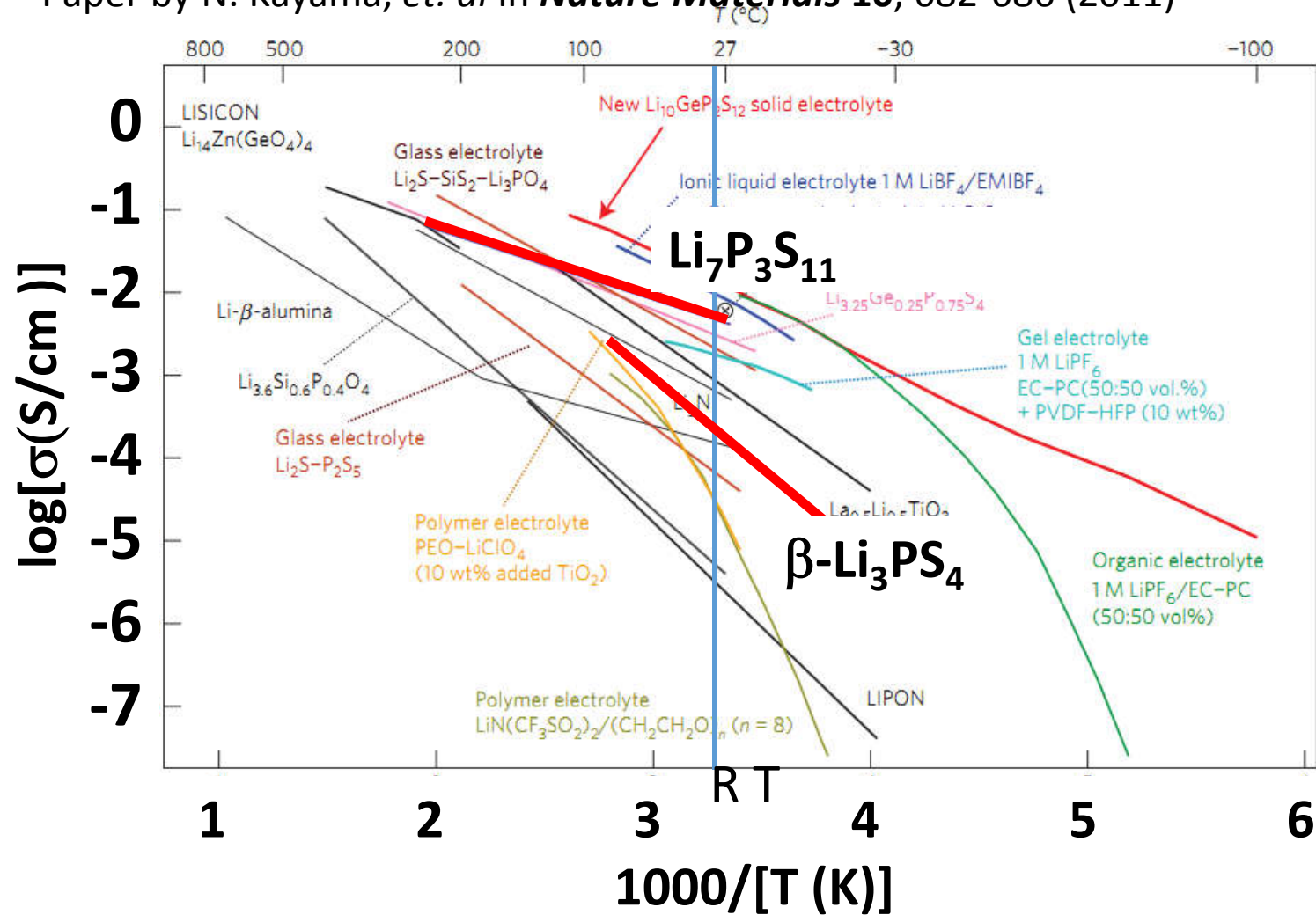
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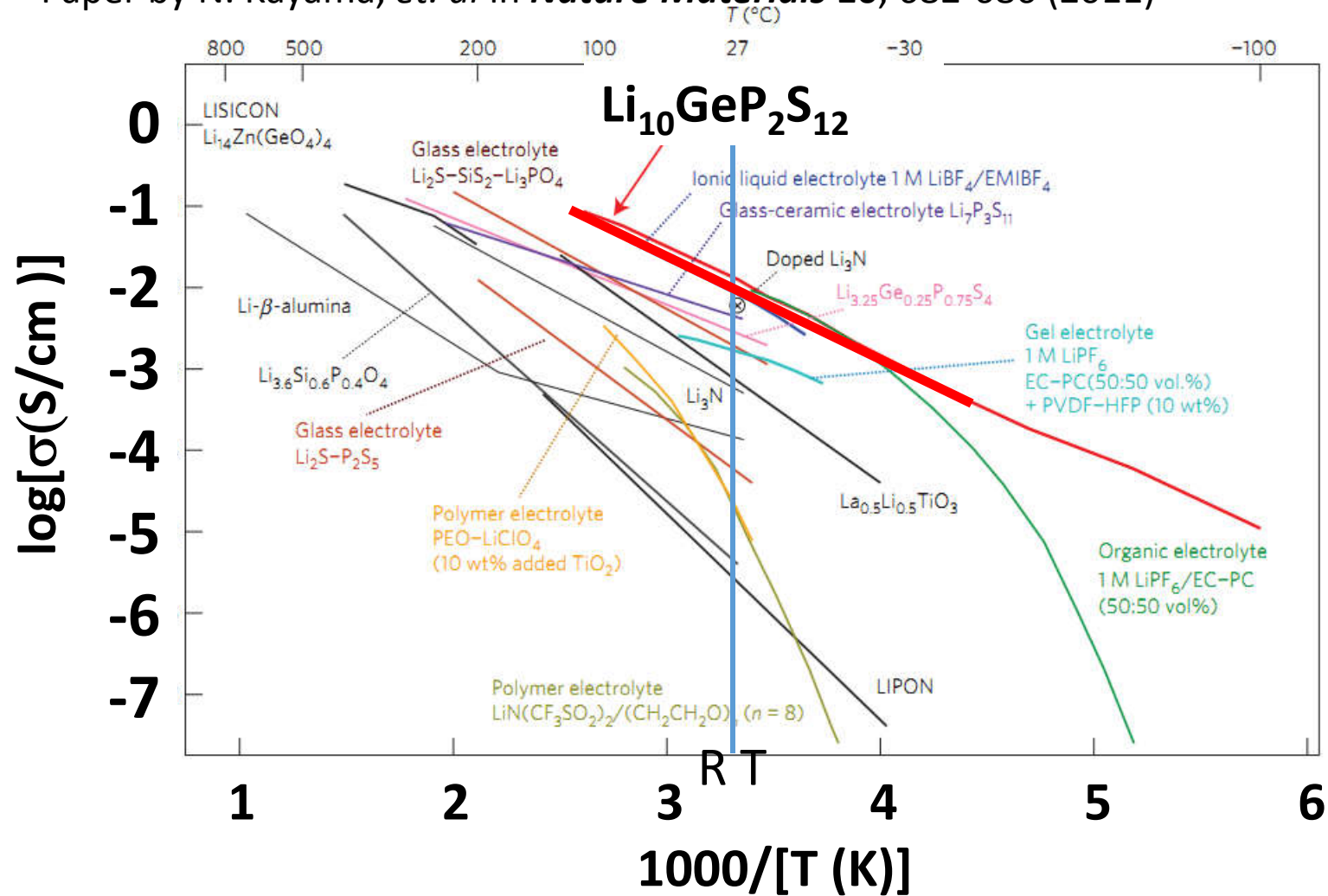
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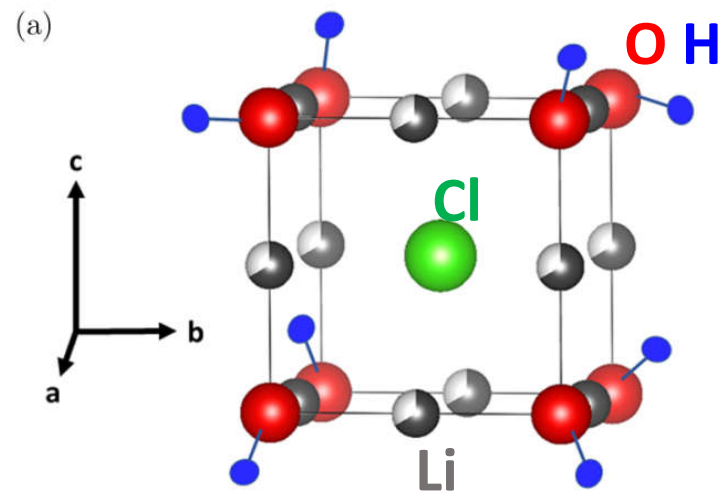
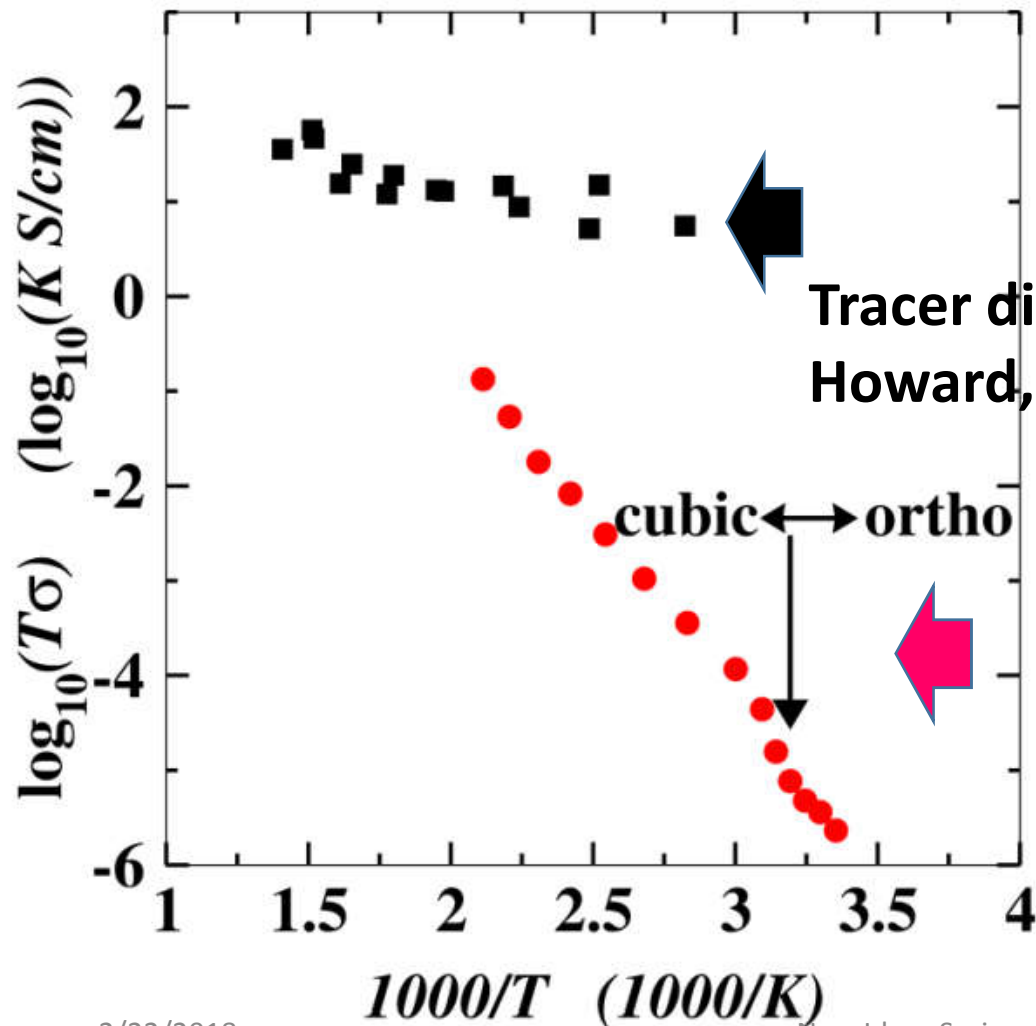
Recent ionic conductors: --

Paper by N. Kayama, *et. al* in *Nature Materials* 10, 682-686 (2011)



## Research from Toyota Motor Company

**Ionic conductivity in  $\text{Li}_2\text{OHCl}$   
from Howard & co-workers,  
PRM 1, 075406 (2018)**



**Tracer diffusion simulations by Jason Howard, suggesting that  $H_r \gg 1$**

**Experimental measurements by Zach Hood**