

## Ouagadougou lithium-ion battery technology

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It would be unwise to assume "conventional" lithium-ion batteries are approaching the end of their era and so we discuss current strategies to improve the current and next generation systems, where a holistic approach will be needed to unlock higher energy density while also maintaining lifetime and safety. We end by briefly reviewing areas where fundamental science advances will be needed to enable revolutionary new battery systems.

It would be unwise to assume "conventional" LIBs are approaching the end of their era; many engineering and chemistry approaches are still available to improve their performance. While much research focusses on making improvements to single components, a holistic approach will be needed to unlock higher energy density while also maintaining lifetime and safety.

We have not touched on the wide range of electrode materials, explored now over many years, which involve displacement or conversion chemistries, where lithiation (or sodiation) results in partial-to-complete rearrangement of lattices. Here challenges include rate performance, voltage hysteresis, and lifetime. Lithium metal continues to attract considerable attention as an anode, but Li dendrite formation remains a concern, providing considerable incentive to push towards all solid-state batteries (SSBs) with solid state electrolytes.

None of the beyond Li chemistries are straightforward, with the possible exception of Na, where many of the learnings for LIBs can be applied. But even here, there are distinct differences, due to the larger size of Na which favours different coordination environments and lattices (e.g., graphite cannot accommodate Na), and the higher solubility of the Na salts in the SEI, which means that different electrolyte additives are required.

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