

Achieving Both High Ionic Conductivity and High Interfacial Stability with the $\text{Li}_{2+x}\text{C}_{1-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_3$ Solid-State Electrolyte: Design from Theoretical Calculations

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ABSTRACT: A crystalline solid electrolyte interphase Li_2CO_3 material with a large band gap shows promise toward next-generation all-solid-state lithium batteries (ASSLBs). However, the inferior ionic diffusivity restricts such structures to a real battery setup. Herein, based on density functional theory calculation and Python materials genomics, we theoretically develop the chemistry and local structural motifs to build a mixed boron–carbon framework $\text{Li}_{2+x}\text{C}_{1-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_3$ (LCBO). We examine the electrochemical and chemical stabilities of LCBO-electrode interfaces by analyzing the thermodynamics of formation of interfacial phases. Interestingly, the LCBO material is automatically protected from further decomposition through the self-generated resistive interphase (Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3), which gives a wide range of operating potential. LCBO shows high interfacial stability with LiCoO_2 , LiMnO_2 , and LiMn_2O_4 . More importantly, the theoretical Li-ion migration barrier of LCBO ($x = 0.375$) is approximately 0.23 ± 0.02 eV through a cooperative migration mechanism. Therefore, the LCBO material combines high Li-ion diffusivity with good interfacial stability, which makes it a promising solid-state electrolyte material for ASSLBs.

KEYWORDS: $\text{Li}_{2+x}\text{C}_{1-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_3$, solid electrolyte, high interfacial stability, separator, solid-state lithium battery

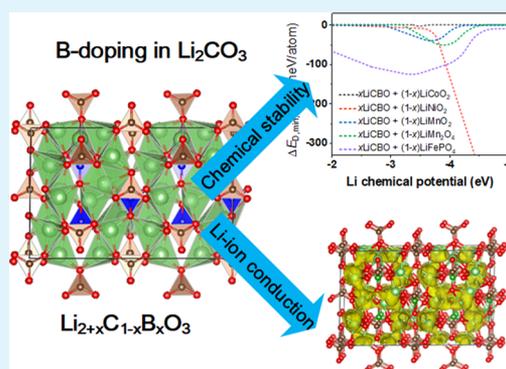
1. INTRODUCTION

All-solid-state lithium batteries (ASSLBs) as potential candidates have recently been extensively studied due to their high lithium-ion (Li-ion) capacity and safety.^{1–3} The most important thing in ASSLBs is the inorganic solid electrolytes (ISEs) with high ionic conductivity and good stability.^{4–7} However, only a handful of crystalline structure families, such as LISICON-like,^{8–10} NASICON-like,^{11,12} argyrodite,^{13–15} garnet,^{16,17} and perovskite,^{18,19} have been reported as ISEs. Finding potential solid-state electrolytes with excellent interfacial compatibility is an important task for ASSLB development.^{20,21}

Li_2CO_3 is widely believed to be a solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) and is used as an artificial coating layer on electrodes due to its electrochemical stability.^{22–26} Based on the properties of Li_2CO_3 coating materials, the design of crystalline Li_2CO_3 as ISEs in ASSLBs is an intriguing possibility. Other than for coating material use, experimental studies show that Li-ion conductivity in crystalline Li_2CO_3 is $\sim 10^{-10}$ S cm^{-1} (temperature = 298 K)²⁷ or $\sim 2 \times 10^{-7}$ S cm^{-1} (temperature = 473 K),²⁸ which is far behind that of bulk ISEs (10^{-4} to 10^{-2} S cm^{-1} at room temperature).⁵ The low ionic conductivity of crystalline Li_2CO_3 is due to the low intrinsic point defects such as Li interstitials since Li_2CO_3 can hardly exhibit off-stoichiometric composition on batteries. These insights

motivate us to consider increasing the concentration of Li interstitials by replacing CO_2-3 with BO_3-3 , which is $\text{Li}_{2+x}\text{C}_{1-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_3$ (LCBO), so that it will enhance Li conductivity. Recently, Jung et al.²⁹ synthesized $\text{Li}_{3-x}\text{B}_{1-x}\text{C}_x\text{O}_3$ (LBCO) based on the Li_3BO_3 compound and applied the Li_3BO_3 - Li_2CO_3 as coatings for the LiCoO_2 cathode in ASSLBs, which drastically enhances the electrochemical performances. However, the detailed LCBO phase and interfacial structures and ion conductivity are hardly investigated so far in view of ISEs.

Here, by applying the first-principles density functional theory (DFT),^{30–34} ab initio molecular dynamics (AIMD),^{35–39} and pymatgen materials analysis library,^{40–44} we aim to probe the effect of BO_3-3 units within the Li_2CO_3 framework on the phase stability, electrochemical stability, chemical stability in contact with electrodes, and ionic conductivity. These modeling and analyzing techniques are well suited to the investigation of such properties and have been applied successfully to a variety of studies on solid-state electrolytes.⁴⁵ Our results suggest that a crystalline LCBO



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material inherits good interfacial stability with electrodes from Li_2CO_3 . LCBO materials have a wide electrochemical window through the formation of resistive interphase (Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3) at a reduction potential of 1.27 V. LCBO also shows very high Li-ion conductivity at room temperature. Good Li-ion diffusivity and high electrochemical stability make LCBO an effective solid-state electrolyte material for ASSLBs.

2. COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

All calculations in this work were performed using Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP).⁴⁶ The electron–ion interaction was described with the projector augmented wave (PAW).⁴⁷ Valence electrons were described using the plane wave basis set, and core electrons were kept frozen in the configuration for which the PAW dataset was generated. The electronic orbitals were expanded by plane waves with a maximum kinetic energy of 500 eV. The exchange–correlation part of the density functional was treated within the generalized gradient approximation of Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof.⁴⁸ The convergence used for terminating the self-consistency interactions was below 10^{-6} eV/atom. For DFT simulations, a unit cell of 96 atoms with Monkhorst-Pack k -point meshes ($2 \times 2 \times 2$) was used. For AIMD simulation, a unit cell of 208 atoms with a Gamma-centered k -point mesh was used. To get more information on the DFT method, the two references (refs 49 and 50) offer more information.^{49,50}

To study the thermodynamic stability upon B and C mixing with respect to the parent ternary oxide, we calculate the quantity ΔE_{mixing} which is defined as

$$\Delta E_{\text{mixing}}(\text{LCBO}) = (E(\text{LCBO}) - (1-x) \cdot E(\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3) - x \cdot E(\text{Li}_3\text{BO}_3))N \quad (1)$$

where N is the total number of atoms in the system. The electrochemical stability of the LCBO framework is studied using the grand potential phase diagram^{43,44} and the thermochemical data in Open Quantum Materials Database (OQMD) as well as in python materials genomics (pymatgen).^{51–53} The OQMD is a database of DFT-calculated thermodynamic and structural properties. We first identify the electrochemical window of the LCBO framework in a Li chemical potential range, μ_{Li} , in which the composition of LCBO is stable against either Li extraction or insertion. The μ_{Li} is determined according to the equation

$$\mu_{\text{Li}}(\Phi) = \mu_0 \text{Li} - e\Phi \quad (2)$$

where $\mu_0 \text{Li}$ is the chemical potential of the Li metal, and potential Φ is open to Li.

Then, we evaluate the chemical stability of ISE-electrode interfaces to estimate whether materials react exothermically with or without the applied chemical potential.^{54–56} Here, we consider the interface as a pseudobinary of the ISE and electrode, $x \cdot \text{ISE} + (1-x) \cdot \text{electrode}$. For LCBO-cathode interfaces at none applied potential, the mutual reaction energy is defined in terms of $\Delta E_{\text{mutual energy}}$ in eq 7 after considering the reaction equilibrium and the following eqs 3–6

$$\Delta E_{\text{LCBO}} = E(\text{EP}) - E(\text{LCBO}) \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{cathode}} = E(\text{EP}) - E(\text{Ca}) \quad (4)$$

$$E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) = x \cdot E(\text{LCBO}) + (1-x) \cdot E(\text{Ca}) \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) \\ = E(\text{EP}, x) - E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{\text{mutual energy}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) \\ = \Delta E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) - x \cdot \Delta E_{\text{LCBO}} - (1-x) \cdot \Delta E_{\text{Ca}} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where EP is the abbreviation of equilibrium phase, Ca is the abbreviation of cathode, $E(\text{EP})$ is determined by constructing the convex energy hull of all relevant phases in the compositional phase diagram for the corresponding LCBO or cathode, $\Delta E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x)$ is the decomposition energy with respect to the equilibrium phase of the LCBO-Ca interface, $\Delta E_{\text{mutual energy}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x)$ is the mutual energy between the LCBO and cathode interface excluding the decomposition energy of LCBO and cathode themselves. The mutual reaction energies and equations are as a function of mixing ratio at this interface x , and x varies from 0 to 1.

For LCBO-Ca interfaces at the applied lithium potentials, the decomposition mutual reaction energy is defined in terms of $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ in eq 10 after considering the reaction equilibrium and the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{\text{D,interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi) \\ = E(\text{EP}, x) - E_{\text{interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x) - \Delta n \cdot \mu_{\text{Li}}(\Phi) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{\text{D,mutual}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi) \\ = \Delta E_{\text{D,interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi) - x \cdot \Delta E_{\text{LCBO}}(\Phi) \\ - (1-x) \cdot \Delta E_{\text{Ca}}(\Phi) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}} = \min(0 < x < 1)[\Delta E_{\text{D,mutual}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi)] \quad (10)$$

where $\Delta E_{\text{D,interface}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi)$ is the decomposition energy at an applied potential, $\Delta E_{\text{D,mutual}}(\text{LCBO} - \text{Ca}, x, \Phi)$ is the mutual energy between LCBO and the cathode excluding the decomposition energy of LCBO and the cathode themselves, $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ is minimum of the mutual reaction energy at the applied potential, and Φ here varies from 2 to 5 V.

To search for the possible Li-ion migration pathways and the corresponding migration barriers, the AIMD and climbing image nudged elastic band (CI-NEB) methods are used.⁵⁷ Three initial images between two local energy minima structures are first set by linear interpolation and then fully relaxed. We estimate the diffusion coefficient via the following formula.

$$D_{\text{Li}} = \frac{1}{2} \nu (\Delta x)^2 e^{-E_{\text{A}}/k_{\text{B}}T} \quad (11)$$

where Δx is the hop distance, ν is the lattice vibrational frequency with a typical value of 10^{13} Hz, T is the temperature, and k_{B} is the Boltzmann constant. E_{A} is the migration barrier. The Li-ion conductivity (σ_{Li}) is estimated from the Nernst–Einstein relation

$$\sigma_{\text{Li}} = n_{\text{Li}} D_{\text{Li}} (q^2/k_{\text{B}}T) \quad (12)$$

where n_{Li} is the concentration of mobile Li ions, q is the charge of the diffusion carrier Li, k_{B} is the Boltzmann constant, D_{Li} is the calculated value from eq 11, and T is the temperature. In addition, the diffusion analyses are performed by using the pymatgen diffusion Python packages.⁴¹

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. LCBO Structural Modeling. We use monoclinic Li_2CO_3 ($C2/c$ structure) to model the LCBO system, which is composed of planar CO_3 units and LiO_4 tetrahedra, as shown in Figure 1a,b. Planar CO_3 units form building blocks along the b direction. Interconnected LiO_4 tetrahedra along the bc plane are situated between these blocks. LiO_4 tetrahedra are interconnected by corner or edge sharing. After B doping, additional Li ions are introduced into the framework because of the charge compensation, shown as Li interstitials in Figure 1c,d. These Li interstitials lead to a 3D connectivity of the LiO_4 tetrahedra in LCBO. Here, the location of Li interstitials is suggested by the previous calculation. Table 1 lists the calculation results of lattice parameters for LCBO systems in

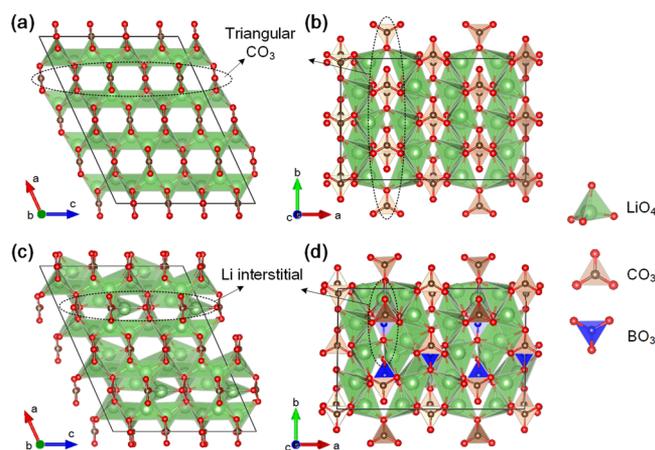


Figure 1. Polyhedral view of the Li_2CO_3 and LCBO crystal structures projected along the (a and c) b axis and (b and d) c axis. Dotted lines highlight triangular CO_3 blocks and Li interstitial. Tetrahedral LiO_4 , triangular CO_3 , and BO_3 units are shown in green, light brown, and light blue, respectively.

comparison with those for Li_2CO_3 . The lattice constant of Li_2CO_3 is consistent with the experimental data (within 1% error). After B doping, the lattice changes are within 5%, indicating that B dopants have only a minor effect on the original structure. The density of states (DOS) of Li_2CO_3 and LCBO (in Figure S1) suggest that the LCBO system has a band gap as large as 4.4 eV. Therefore, LCBO is a good electron insulator that is potent in blocking the electron leakage and preventing electrode corrosion.

3.2. Phase Stability and Electrochemical Stability of LCBO. To study the phase stability of LCBO, we use the grand canonical linear program and explore the phase diagram of $\text{Li}_2\text{O}-\text{B}_2\text{O}_3-\text{CO}_2$ compounds with respect to a range of possible decomposed systems including the binary and ternary, as shown in Figure 2a. For the decomposition of LCBO, the release of CO_2 gas is not associated with a solid decomposition reaction. The only possible case is the decomposition of the quaternary LCBO ($0 < x < 0.625$) into ternary compounds, Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 , with a decomposition energy from 17 to 47 meV/atom (Figure 2b). These values are much lower than those of $\text{Li}_{10}\text{GeP}_2\text{O}_{12}$ (56 meV/atom, decomposition into ternary Li_3PO_4 and Li_4GeO_4) and $\text{Li}_{10}\text{GeP}_2\text{S}_{12}$ (69 meV/atom, decomposition into ternary Li_3PS_4 and Li_4GeS_4).⁴⁰ Experiments have demonstrated the synthesis of LGPO and LGPS and success in the battery setup test.^{58,59} The reason for the stability performance of them is due to the very high kinetic barrier, which prohibits the solid–solid phase decomposition. Thus, the solid decomposition is less of a problem in practice because of the kinetic obstruction. In addition, a higher B-dopant content in LCBO leads to a higher Li interstitial

content but the worse stability (high decomposition energy). To balance them, we choose LCBO ($x = 0.375$) to be the optimized structure, at which point the decomposition energy is relatively close to zero while ensuring the Li interstitial content, as shown in Figure 2b.

Achieving a broad electrochemical window in ISEs is very challenging in a battery system with a high-voltage cathode and a low-voltage anode because of the extreme conditions of Li chemical potential and chemical reaction between ISEs and electrodes.^{4,60} Here, the (electro)chemical stability of the LCBO system is divided into two stages: electrochemical stability and chemical stability. For electrochemical stability, using the grand potential phase diagram, we calculate the equilibrium of LCBO against a range of Li chemical potential (μ_{Li}) or voltage (Φ) to show the electrochemical stability and the voltage range where the material is stable. Figure 3 shows the electrochemical window (upper inset), phase equilibria (middle inset), and Li update versus voltage (lower inset) for the LCBO system with Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 as references. The detailed phase equilibrium at reduction and oxidation potentials of LCBO are listed in Table S1. We find that both Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 have a wide electrochemical window from reduction potentials of 1.27 and 0.30 V to oxidation potentials of 4.11 and 3.47 V (green bars in upper inset of Figure 3). For LCBO, when an applied potential range is from 1.27 to 3.47 V (yellow bar in upper inset of Figure 3), LCBO decomposes into Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 due to the voltage-induced thermodynamic driving force. However, it is noticeable that this voltage range (from 1.27 to 3.47 V) is right in the stability window of Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 . The SEI-like materials can suppress the further decomposition of LCBO since Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 can block electrons and allow Li-ion transport. Therefore, the stable voltage range for LCBO is from 1.27 to 3.47 V. Recent experimental synthesis and electrochemical characterization of $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3\text{-Li}_3\text{BO}_3$ have demonstrated its phase stability and high ionic conductivity.²⁹ Thus, the voltage-induced instability is less problematic in practice due to the good electronic insulation and ionic conduction of $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3\text{-Li}_3\text{BO}_3$.

It is important to know whether the ISE-electrode interface reacts exothermically or whether the interface is chemically stable, which could occur in heat treatment of cell preparation or (dis)charging of cell testing. We therefore extend the above methodology to calculate the mutual reaction energy of ΔE_{mutual} energy and $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ (see eqs 3–10 in the methods part), as shown in the upper and lower insets of Figure 4, respectively. The cathodes LiXO_2 ($X = \text{Co}, \text{Mn}, \text{and Ni}$), LiFePO_4 , and LiMn_2O_4 are chosen as electrodes. The phase equilibria of ISE-electrode interfaces are listed in Tables S2 and S3 of the Supporting Information. In the absence of any applied chemical potential, these ISEs show good interfacial

Table 1. Experimental and Calculated Structural Parameters for Li_2CO_3 and LCBO Crystals (Space Group $C2/c$)

crystals	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	α (°)	β (°)	γ (°)
Li_2CO_3	8.387	5.021	6.318	90.00	114.967	90.00
Li_2CO_3 (exp.) ⁶⁸	8.359	4.974	6.194	90.00	114.789	90.00
$\text{Li}_{2.125}\text{C}_{0.875}\text{B}_{0.125}\text{O}_3$	8.412	4.982	6.413	90.523	113.193	89.732
$\text{Li}_{2.25}\text{C}_{0.75}\text{B}_{0.25}\text{O}_3$	8.468	4.986	6.501	89.821	113.012	90.132
$\text{Li}_{2.375}\text{C}_{0.625}\text{B}_{0.375}\text{O}_3$	8.443	4.978	6.603	89.556	113.697	89.753
$\text{Li}_{2.5}\text{C}_{0.5}\text{B}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$	8.404	5.013	6.793	89.945	114.073	89.687
$\text{Li}_{2.625}\text{C}_{0.375}\text{B}_{0.625}\text{O}_3$	8.381	5.012	6.696	88.267	113.543	90.263

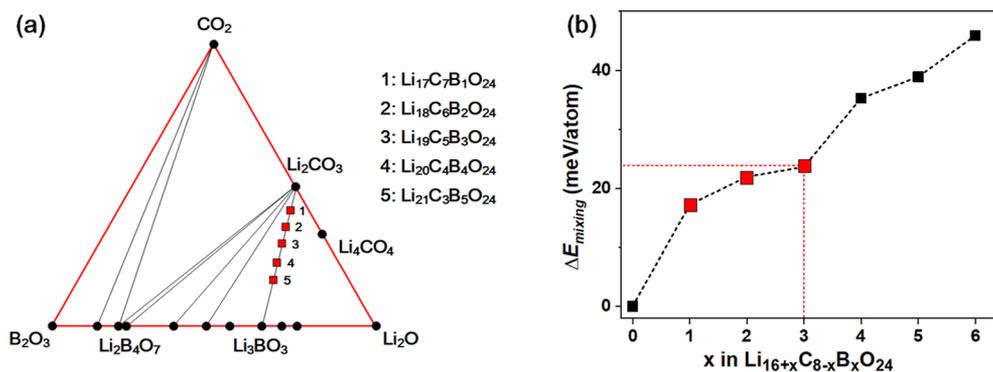


Figure 2. (a) Li-C-B-O ternary phase diagram assessing the computed stability of compounds formed by B doping in $\text{Li}_{16+x}\text{C}_{8-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_{24}$. Results are shown in the diagram starting from stoichiometric Li_2O , Ba_2O_3 , and CO_2 . Black solid circles indicate clearly stable phases. Red solid squares indicate metastable phases. (b) Mixing energy in $\text{Li}_{16+x}\text{C}_{8-x}\text{B}_x\text{O}_{24}$. Cases where the mixing energy was close to zero are shown with red solid squares.

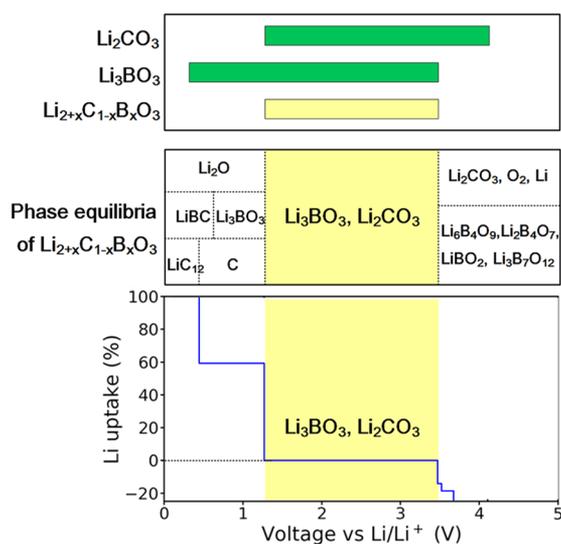


Figure 3. Electrochemical stability of studied solid electrolytes (top). Predicted phase equilibria over different voltage (μ_{Li}) ranges for LCBO (middle). Li uptake per formula unit of LCBO versus voltage (bottom). Green bars indicate stable electrochemical windows, and yellow bars indicate extended electrochemical windows.

stability with a decomposition energy from -57 to 0 meV/atom. In contrast, the decomposition energy between Li_3P_4 and LiCoO_2 is about -405 meV/atom. The interfaces of Li_2CO_3 with all cathodes are highly stable, and LCBO is nonreactive with LiXO_2 . On the other hand, applying a Li chemical potential over the interfaces, the interfacial stability of ISEs is weakened with some cathodes, especially with LiNiO_2 . The $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ energy of LCBO with cathodes, except LiFePO_4 and LiNiO_2 , is only in the -50 to 0 meV/atom range compared to that of garnet $\text{Li}_7\text{La}_3\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_{12}$ (LLZO) with a LiCoO_2 cathode (from -33 to 0 meV/atom).⁵⁵ The good stability of Li_2CO_3 - Li_3BO_3 and LLZO with a LiCoO_2 cathode has been observed in the experiments.²⁹ The interfacial decomposition reactions may be kinetically inhibited. Thus, we suggest that LiCoO_2 , LiMnO_2 , and LiMn_2O_4 are suitable cathodes for LCBO, which is very helpful to improve high-voltage performance of ASSLBs. In addition, for all $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}} < 0$ interfacial reactions, the phase Li metal is in the final phase equilibria, which may lead to formation of thick interphase layers or potential degradation at the interface.

Hence, further studies are presumed to evaluate their characteristics.

3.3. Li-Ion Transport in LCBO ($x = 0.375$). As suggested by Shi et al.,^{61,62} Li-ion conductivity in Li_2CO_3 stems from the migration of intrinsic point defect (i.e., Li interstitial) and occurs through a knock-off or cooperative mechanism involving the concerted knock-off motion of interstitial and lattice lithium.^{63,64} Such a cooperative migration mechanism has been elucidated in some ISEs.^{52,65,66} Here, the interstitial site belongs to a LiO_4 tetrahedron and connects two parallel migration paths (along the bc plane). Then, there is a three-dimensional (3D) migration channel in LCBO.

Next, we investigate the migration of Li interstitial in LCBO. The energy profile, schematic pathways, and transition state for Li cooperative migration are shown in Figure 5. In the whole migration coordination, Li interstitial will push the neighboring lattice Li into the target interstitial site while the lattice site is filled with the original Li interstitial. The overall diffusion barrier for the Li-ion interstitial in LCBO is approximately 0.23 ± 0.02 eV; the average migration distance for each step is about 2.60 Å. For LCBO, the concentration of mobile Li ions is $\sim 5.54 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. Thus, according to eqs 11–12, the calculated diffusion coefficient of D_{Li} is approximately $6.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at room temperature (300 K). Moreover, the calculated Li-ion conductivity of σ_{Li} is approximately $17 \pm 10 \text{ mS cm}^{-1}$ under room temperature. Ionic trajectories are analyzed to visualize the migration paths in Figure 6. This figure shows that Li-ion migration within this system is slightly anisotropic. Most diffusion is restricted within the LiO_4 tetrahedra layers along the bc plane with small evidence of Li-ion diffusion between layers, suggesting a quasi-isotropic three-dimensional diffusion channel. Obviously, the ionic conductivity of LCBO is superior to most of current ISE materials, such as LLZO¹⁷ and $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Al}_x\text{Ti}_{1-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$.⁶⁷ Thus, LCBO is a potential ISE material in next-generation Li batteries.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In summary, by a combination of atomistic simulations and materials project database, we investigate the electrochemical properties of LCBO as a novel solid-state electrolyte. It is shown that LCBO is a good electronic insulator with a large band gap of 4.3 eV, and B doping induces slight changes on lattice parameters. Our results suggest that the stability of the LCBO phase and interface with electrodes is dependent on the

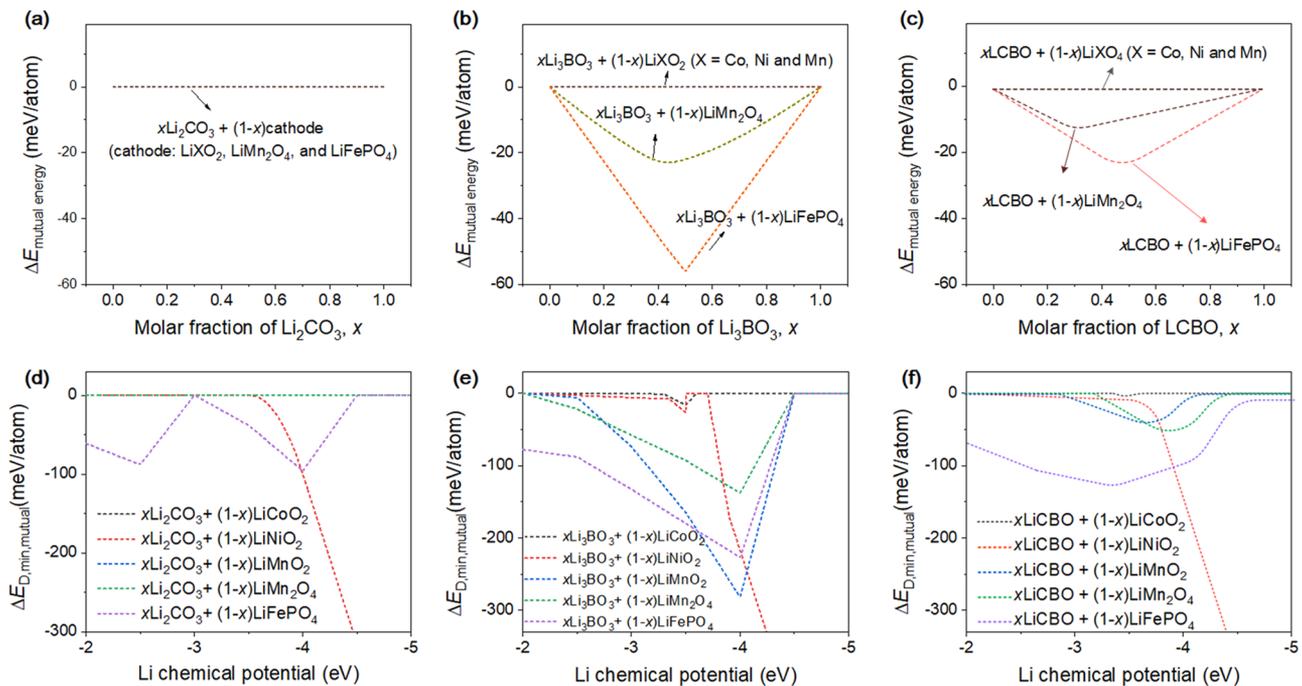


Figure 4. (a–c) Calculated mutual reaction energy ΔE_{mutual} of Li_2CO_3 , Li_3BO_3 , and LCBO ($x = 0.375$) in contact with different cathodes without any applied chemical potential. The chemical stability of interfaces in the three panels is about whether two materials would react exothermically without any applied chemical potential. (d–f) Calculated minimum mutual reaction energy $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ of Li_2CO_3 , Li_3BO_3 , and LCBO in contact with different cathodes in which interfaces are open to different Li chemical potentials. The cathode is one of LiXO_2 ($X = \text{Co}$, Mn , and Ni), LiFePO_4 , and LiMn_2O_4 . Some ΔE_{mutual} and $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ energies have zero or near-zero values, which overlap at the $\Delta E = 0$. A negative value of ΔE suggests the thermodynamically favorable reaction of the interface. Therefore, the $\Delta E_{\text{D,min,mutual}}$ energy here corresponds to the most favorable decomposition energy at a ratio of x .

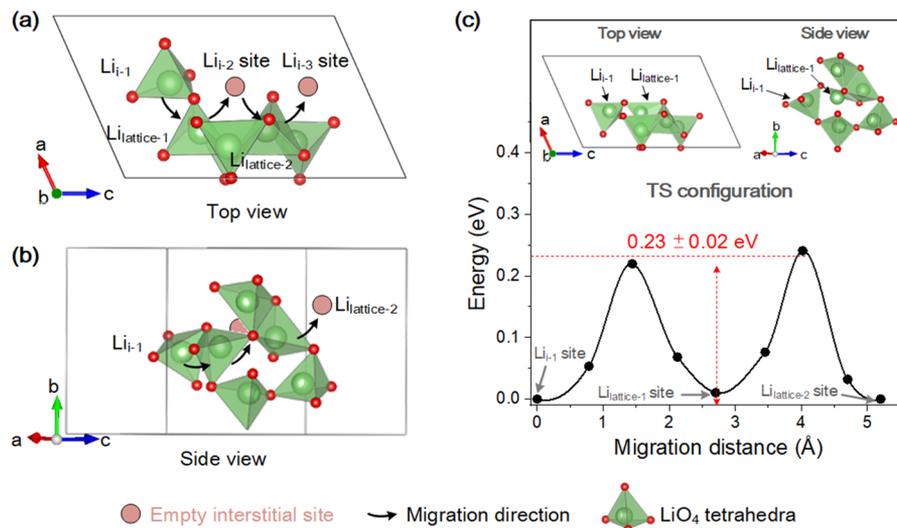


Figure 5. (a) Top and (b) side views for interconnecting LiO_4 tetrahedra arranged along the interstitial Li diffusion pathway. (c) Corresponding migration barriers (lower inset) and transition-state (TS) configuration (upper inset). Here, Li_{i-1} and Li_{i-2} are two interstitial sites, and $\text{Li}_{\text{lattice-1}}$ and $\text{Li}_{\text{lattice-2}}$ are two lattice sites. In the TS configuration, Li_{i-1} “attacks” the oxygen atoms of lattice LiO_4 tetrahedra and forms bonds with them, leading to the lattice Li-ion “departing” the same lattice LiO_4 tetrahedra.

applied voltage. The electrochemical stability studies suggest that LCBO will decompose into Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3 under a voltage from 1.27 to 3.46 V. The formed phase equilibria (Li_2CO_3 and Li_3BO_3) have good electrochemical window and good chemical stability with layered LiCoO_2 and spinel LiMn_2O_4 cathodes. Meanwhile, the corresponding mutual reaction energies of LCBO with LiCoO_2 , LiMnO_2 , and LiMn_2O_4 are only in the range of -50 to 0 meV/atom,

suggesting a small thermodynamic driving force. We suggest that LCBO has very good chemical stability in contact with these cathodes. Unfortunately, the phase Li metal exists in the formed phase equilibria between LCBO and cathodes, which leads to electron leakage and electrolyte corrosion. Therefore, further experimental examination is very necessary. The Li-ion cooperative migration has a migration barrier as low as 0.23 ± 0.02 eV and possesses high ionic conductivity in a quasi-

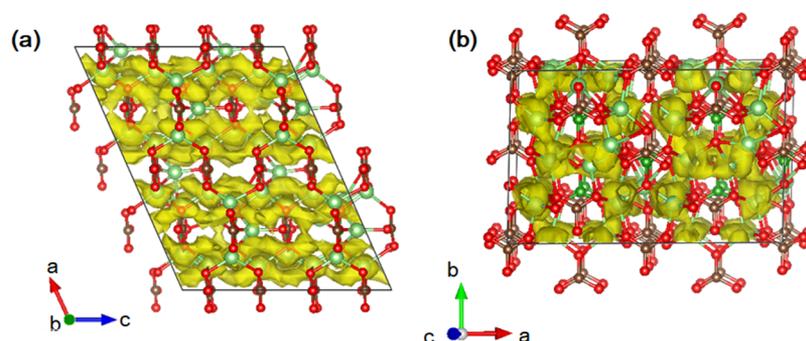


Figure 6. Isosurfaces (shown in yellow) of the ionic probability densities evaluated from ionic trajectories calculated over 60 ps AIMD at 800 K. (a) Top and (b) stereo views of the LCBO structure.

isotropic three-dimensional diffusion channel. Overall, LCBO is a potential candidate for ISE materials in ASSLBs.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsami.9b22185>.

Total density of states for Li_2CO_3 and LCBO ($x = 0.375$), phase equilibria at the reduction and oxidation potentials of LCBO, and electrolyte-electrode interfaces (PDF)

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Notes

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