
Supplementary information

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phosphate batteries for mass-market
electric vehicles**

In the format provided by the
authors and unedited

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Supplementary Information for

Thermally Modulated Lithium Iron Phosphate Batteries for Mass-Market Electric Vehicles

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Supplementary Table 1 | Summary of the specific energy and energy density of commercial EV batteries at pack and cell levels.

OEM and Model	Pack-Level					Cell-level						CTP Ratios	
	Energy (kWh)	Weight (kg)	Volume (L)	Specific Energy (Wh/kg)	Energy Density (Wh/L)	Capacity (Ah)	Nominal Voltage (V) ^a	Weight (kg)	Volume (L)	Specific Energy (Wh/kg)	Energy Density (Wh/L)	GCTP	VCTP
Tesla Model 3 LR (2017)	75 ¹	457 ¹	314 ¹	164	239	4.8 ²	3.65	0.0685 ²	0.02425 ²	256	722	0.64	0.33
BMW i3 (2018)	33 ³	256 ³	278.4 ⁴	129	119	94 ²	3.65	2.02 ²	0.973 ²	170	353	0.76	0.34
BMW i3 (2019)	42.2 ³	278 ³	278.4 ⁴	152	152	120 ²	3.65	2.25 ^b	0.973 ²	195	450	0.78	0.34
Nissan Leaf (2019)	40 ⁵	303 ⁵	485 ⁵	132	82	56.3 ⁶	3.65	0.916	0.447	224 ⁶	460 ⁶	0.59	0.18
Chevy Bolt (2018)	60 ¹	435 ¹	306 ¹	138	196	60 ²	3.65	0.835 ²	0.398 ²	262	550	0.53	0.36
Renault ZOE ZE40 (2018)	44.1 ³	305 ³	N/A	145	N/A	65.6 ⁷	3.65	0.965 ⁷	0.467 ⁷	248	513	0.58	N/A
Renault ZOE ZE50 (2019)	54.7 ⁸	326 ⁸	N/A	168	N/A	78 ⁸	3.65	1.073 ⁸	N/A	265	N/A	0.63	N/A
Audi E-tron (2018)	95 ⁹	681 ⁹	1238 ⁹	140	77	60 ^c	3.65	0.86 ^c	0.432 ^c	255	507	0.55	0.15
Hyundai Kona 2018	64 ¹	452 ¹	390 ¹	142	164	60 ¹	3.65	0.86 ¹	0.432 ¹	255	507	0.56	0.32
Jaguar I-PACE (2019)	90.2 ¹⁰	610 ¹⁰	472 ¹⁰	148	191	58 ¹⁰	3.65	0.815 ¹⁰	0.384 ¹⁰	260	551	0.57	0.35
Mercedes EQC (2019)	85 ³	652 ³	N/A	130	N/A	63 ¹¹	3.65	0.965 ¹¹	0.467 ¹¹	238	492	0.55	N/A
NIO ES8 (2018)	72.8 ⁹	525 ⁹	432 ⁹	139	169	50 ¹¹	3.65	0.81 ¹¹	0.35 ¹¹	225	521	0.62	0.32
Hyundai IONIQ	40.4 ³	359 ³	N/A	113	N/A	65.6 ⁷	3.65	0.965 ⁷	0.467 ⁷	248	513	0.45	N/A
BYD Han	65.9 ¹²	471 ¹²	238 ¹²	140	277	202 ¹³	3.2	3.91 ¹³	1.442 ¹³	165 ¹²	448	0.85	0.62

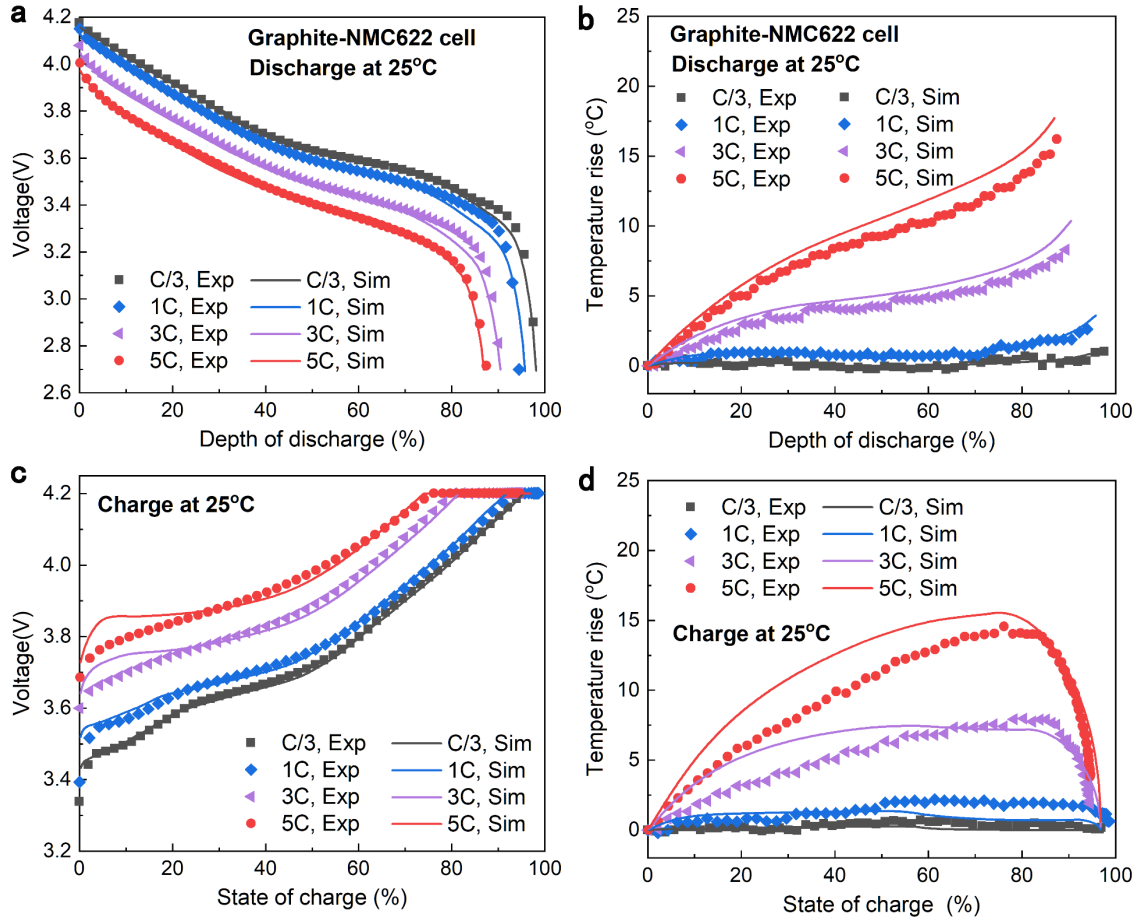
^a For all NMC/NCA cells, we use nominal voltage of 3.65V to calculate cell energy.

^b Estimated by assuming that the increased battery-pack weight from 2018 version to 2019 version all comes from cells (i.e., the same overall mass of inert parts such as metal cans, cabling, BMS, etc.). Thus, the total cell weight increase from 194kg in 2018 version to 216kg in 2019 version. Each pack has 96 cells.

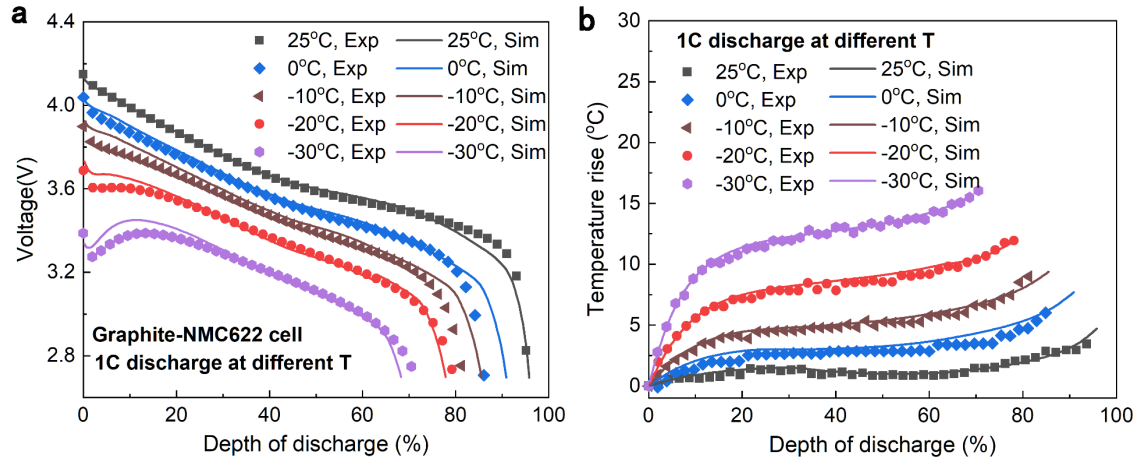
^c Estimated based on the specifications of LG Chem E63B pouch cells.

Supplementary Table 2 | Design information of the blade-type LFP cell and prismatic-type NMC622 cell (VDA-BEV2 standard) studied in this work.

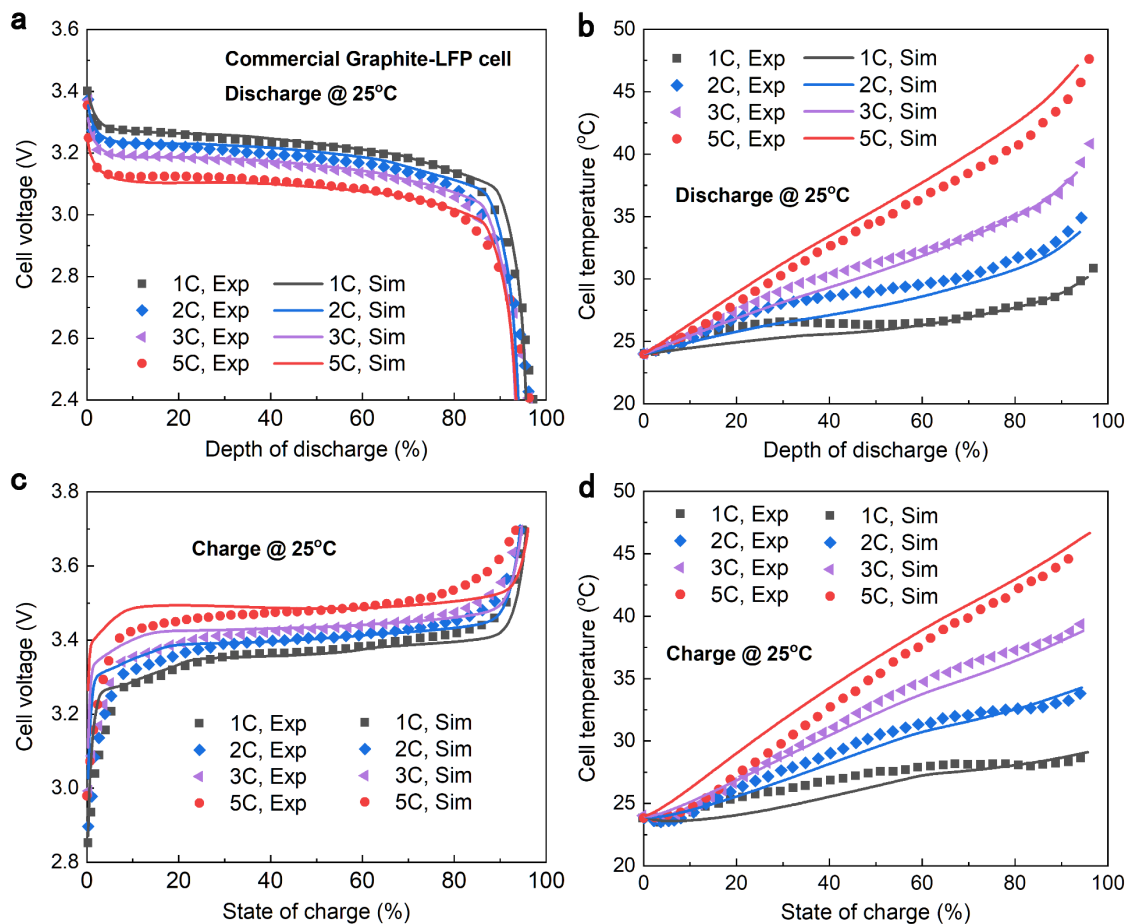
		VDA-BEV2 NMC622 cell	Blade-type LFP cell
Anode	Active material	Graphite	Graphite
	Areal capacity	3.3 mAh/cm ²	3.3 mAh/cm ²
	Porosity	0.27	0.27
	Single-side thickness	56.8 μm	56.8 μm
	Cu foil thickness	8 μm	8 μm
	Dimension	115×166 mm	110×885 mm
	Number of layers	160	39
Cathode	Active material	LiNi _{0.6} Mn _{0.2} Co _{0.2} O ₂	LiFePO ₄
	Areal capacity	3.0 mAh/cm ²	3.0 mAh/cm ²
	Porosity	0.27	0.27
	Single-side thickness	47.4 μm	75.6 μm
	Al foil thickness	13 μm	13 μm
	Dimension	112×163 mm	108×883 mm
	Number of layers	159	38
Electrolyte	1M LiPF ₆ dissolved in EC/EMC (3:7 by wt.)+2wt% VC		
Separator	20 μm thick, porosity 0.4		
Dimension	125×173×45 mm	118×905×13.5 mm	
Weight	2296.4 g	3493.7 g	
Capacity	158 Ah	202 Ah	



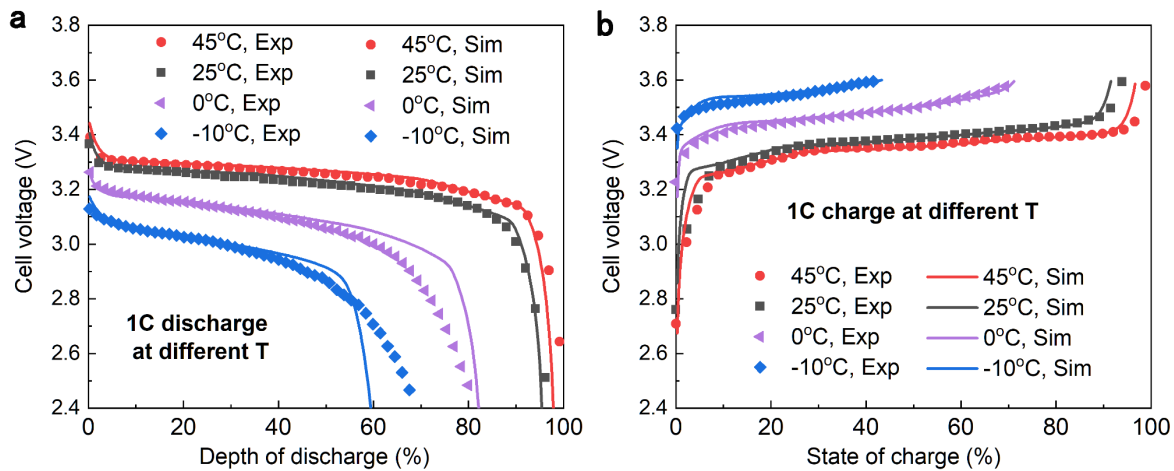
Supplementary Fig. 1| Validation of the ECT model for predicting C-rates effects on graphite-NMC622 cells. Comparison of modeling results with the experimental data in Ref.¹⁴ for (a,b) discharge and (c,d) charge of a 10-Ah graphite-NMC622 pouch cell with various C-rates at the ambient temperature of 25°C.



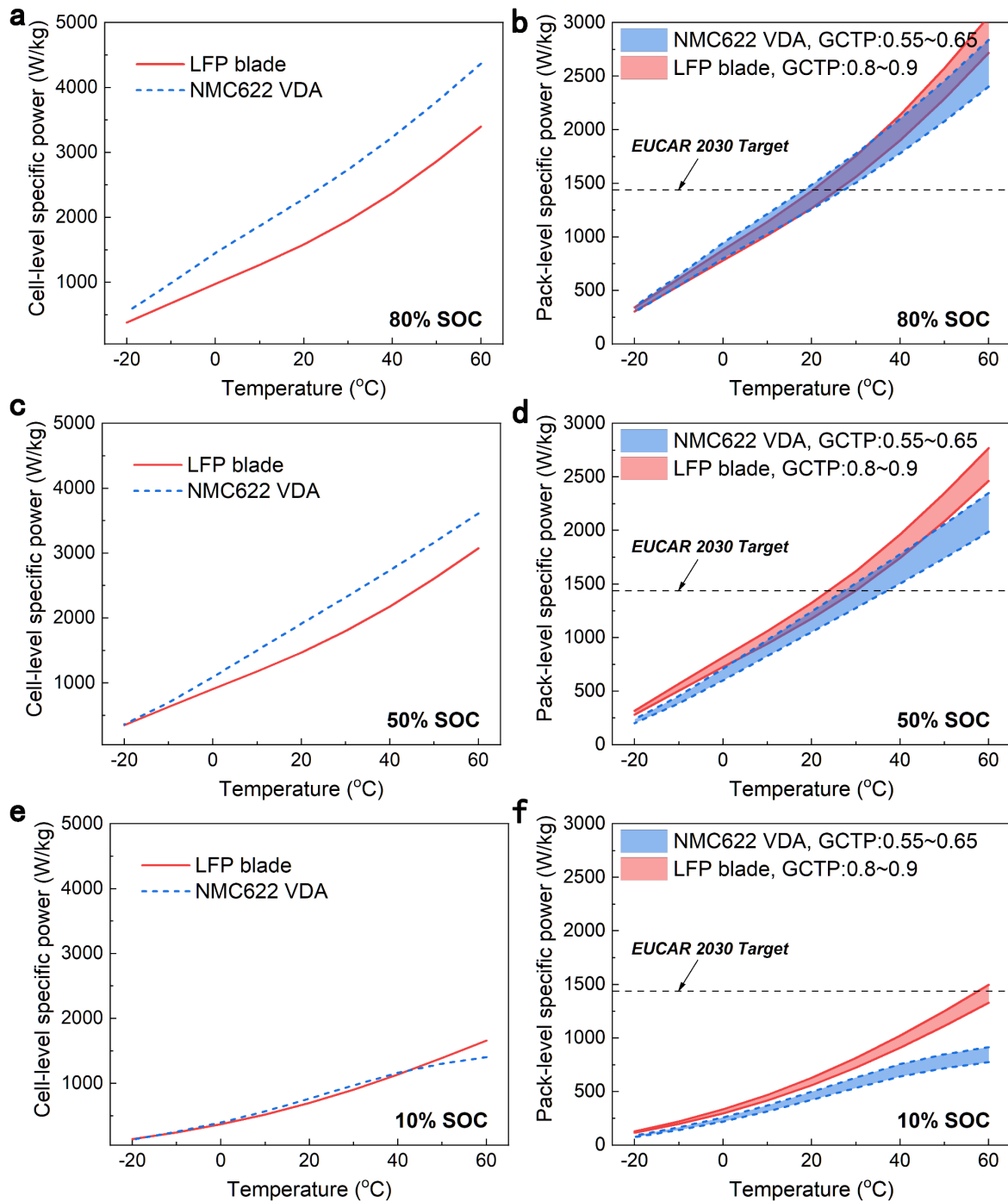
Supplementary Fig. 2| Validation of the ECT model for predicting temperature effects on graphite-NMC622 cells. Comparison of modeling results with the experimental data in Ref.¹⁴ for 1C discharge of a 10-Ah graphite-NMC622 pouch cell at different ambient temperatures.



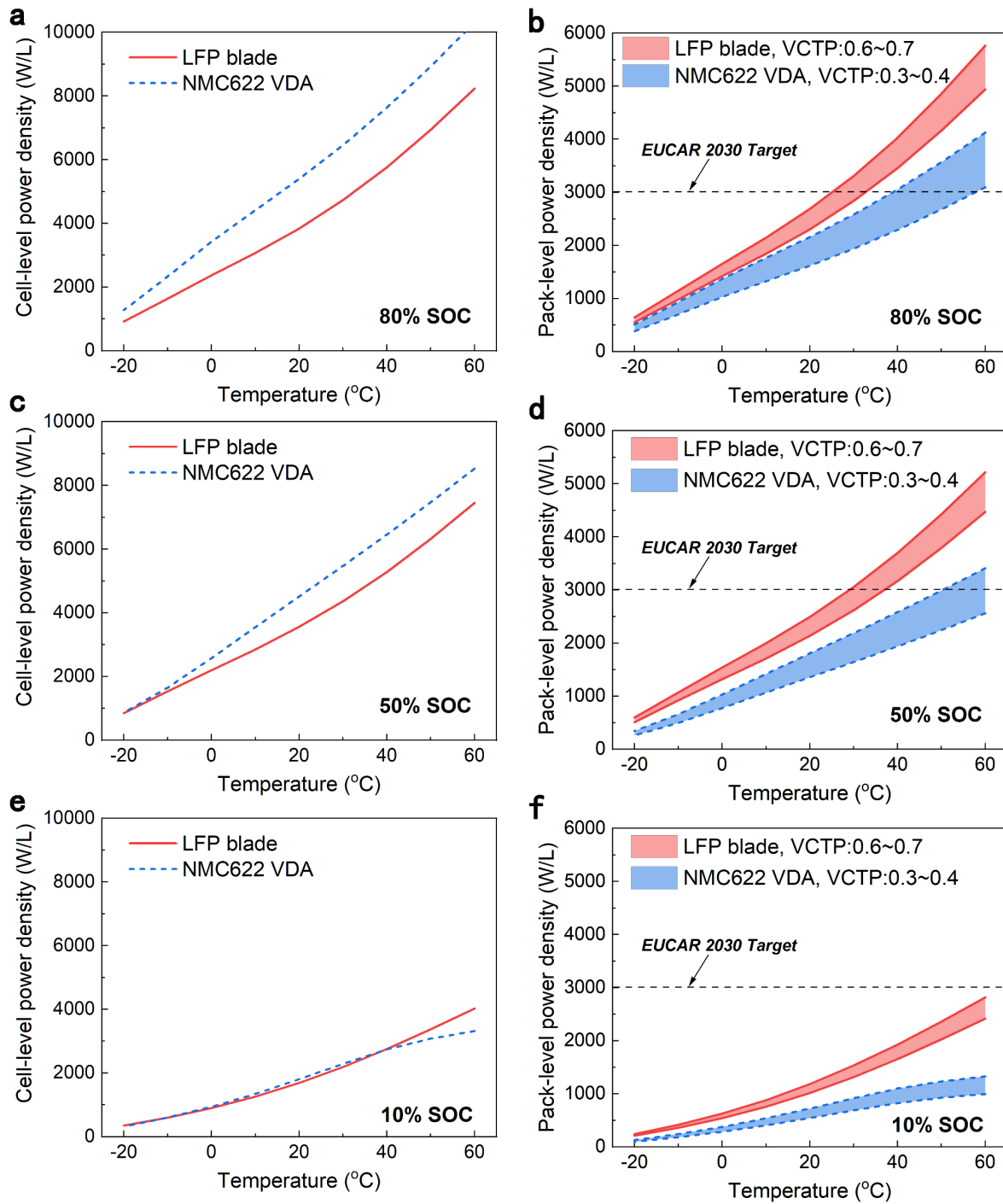
Supplementary Fig. 3| Validation of the ECT model for predicting C-rates effects on graphite-LFP cells. Comparison of modeling results with the experimental data in Refs.^{15, 16} for (a,b) discharge and (c,d) charge of a 20-Ah graphite-LFP commercial cell (from A123) at the ambient temperature of 25°C.



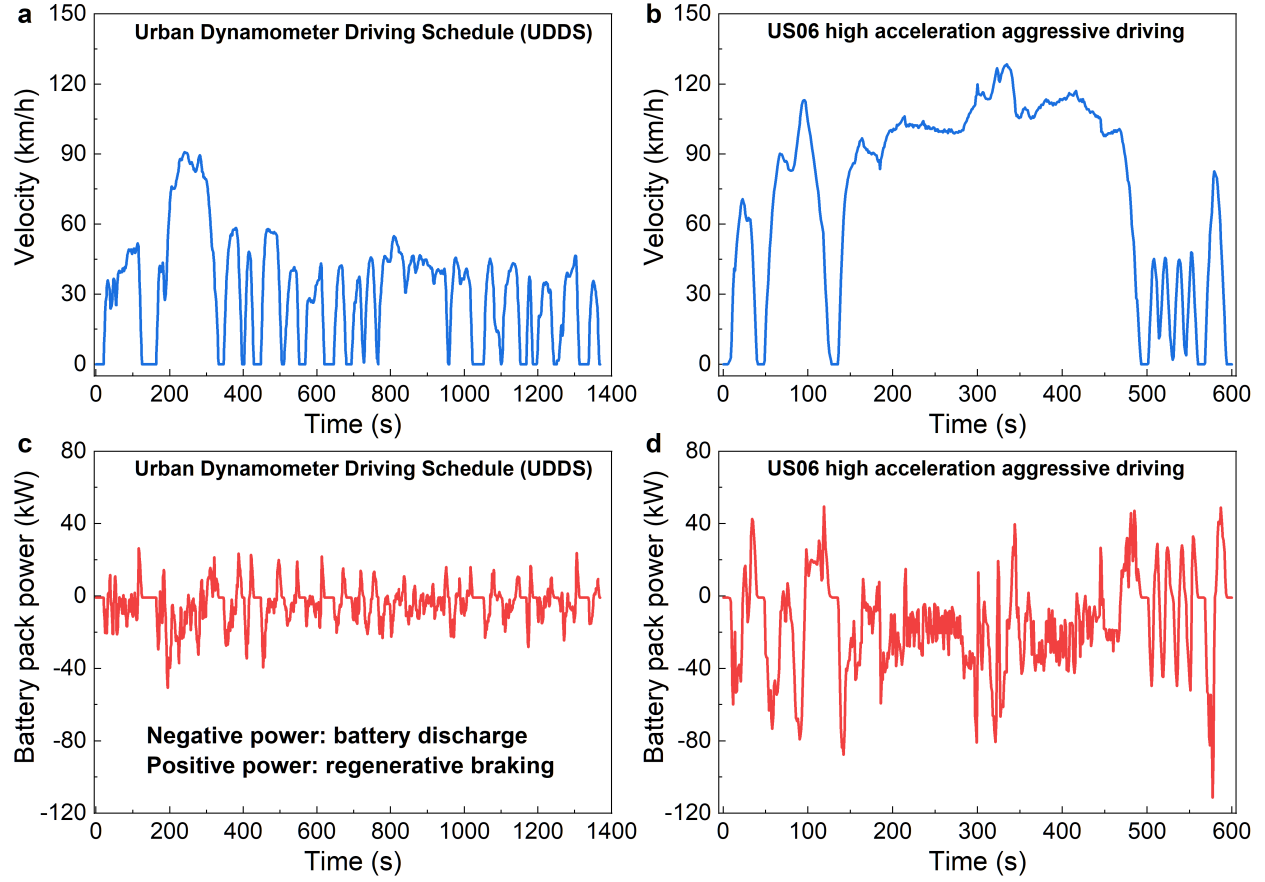
Supplementary Fig. 4| Validation of the ECT model for predicting temperature effects on graphite-LFP cells. Comparison of modeling results with the experimental data in Ref.¹⁷ for **(a)** discharge and **(b)** charge with 1C rate at different ambient temperatures.



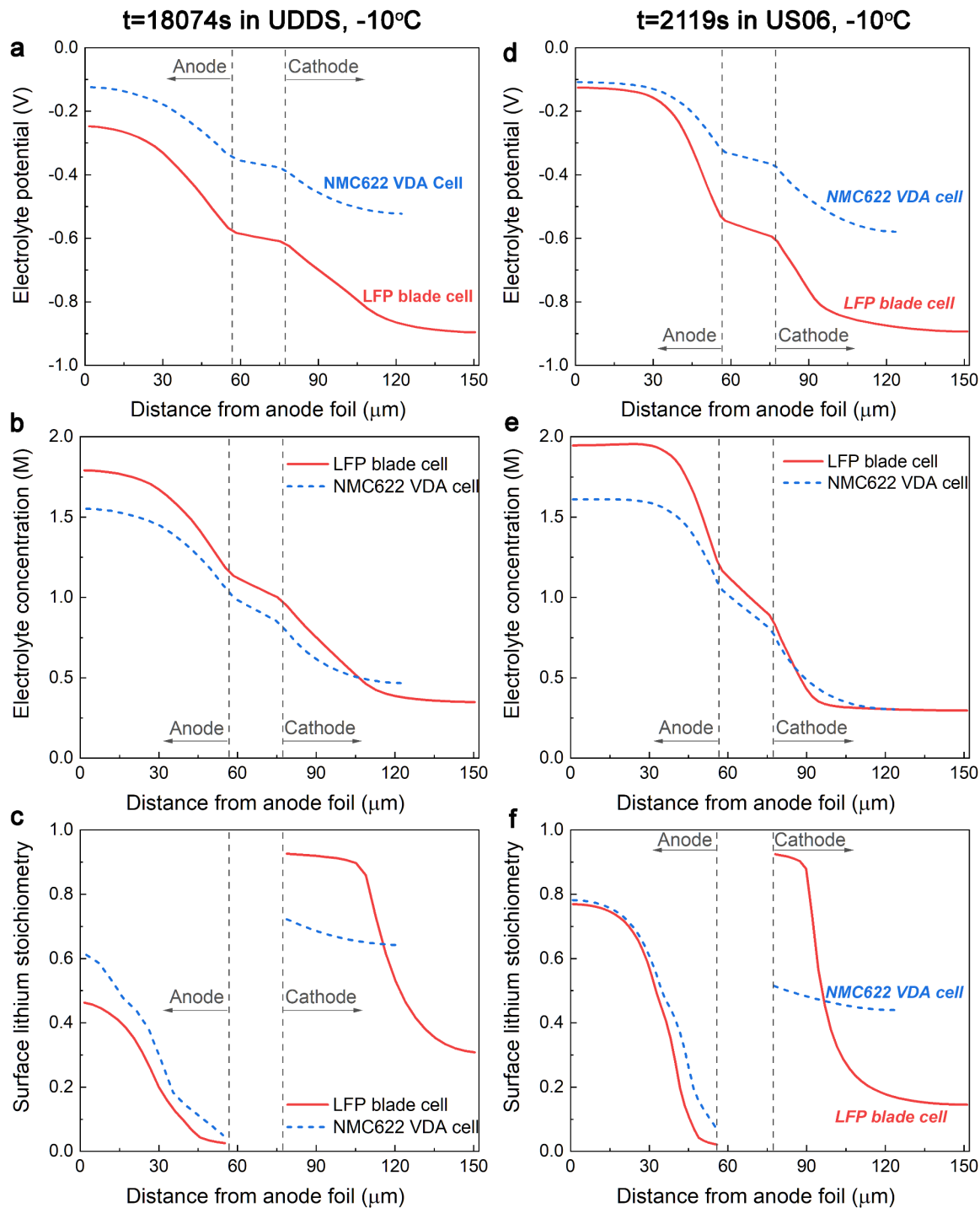
Supplementary Fig. 5| Peak specific power of the LFP blade cells and NMC622 VDA cells. Comparison of the peak specific power of the LFP blade battery and NMC622 prismatic battery (VDA-BEV2 standard) at (a,b) 80% SOC, (c,d) 50% SOC, and (e,f) 10% SOC in different temperatures. (a,c,e) are at the cell level, and (b,d,f) are at the pack level. The LFP blade battery has a higher gravimetric cell to pack ratio (GCTP) than the conventional NMC622 VDA battery. The peak power is evaluated by a 10-sec discharge at a constant voltage of 2.4V for the LFP cell and 2.7V for the NMC622 cell, which represents the maximum power the cells can deliver at a given state.



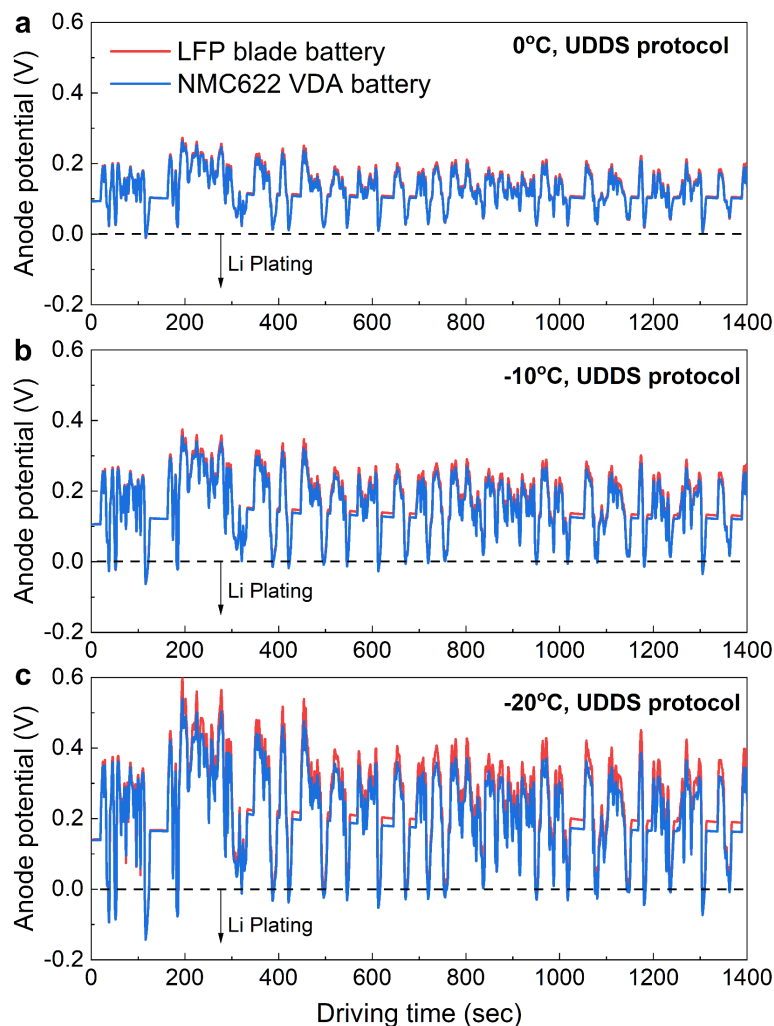
Supplementary Fig. 6| Peak power density of the LFP blade cells and NMC622 VDA cells. Comparison of the peak power density of the LFP blade battery and the NMC622 prismatic battery (VDA-BEV2 standard) at (a,b) 80% SOC, (c,d) 50% SOC, and (e,f) 10% SOC in different temperatures. (a,c,e) are at the cell level, and (b,d,f) are at the pack level. The LFP blade battery has a higher volumetric cell to pack ratio (VCTP) than the conventional NMC622 VDA battery.



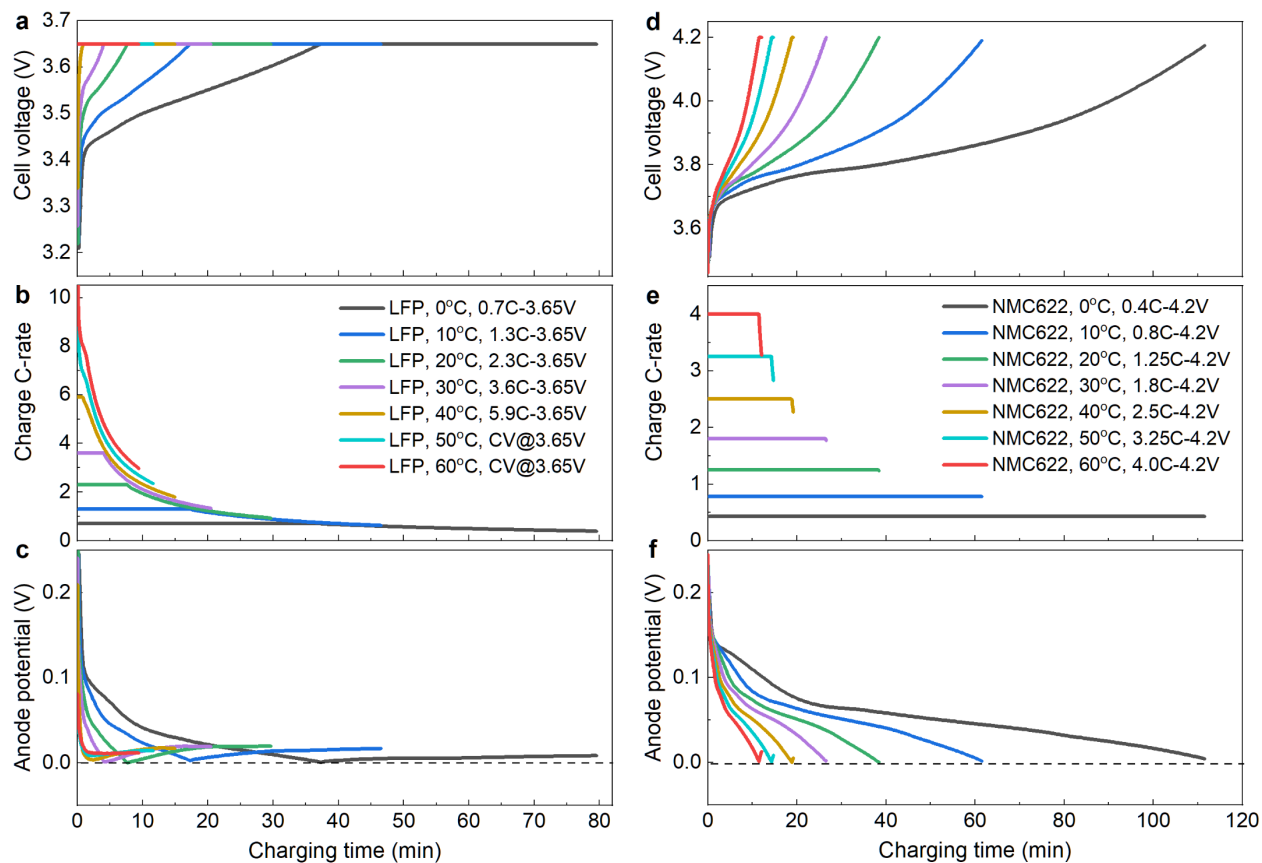
Supplementary Fig. 7| City and highway driving profiles. The profiles of **(a,b)** vehicle velocity and **(c,d)** battery pack power under the US EPA-defined driving cycles of **(a,c)** Urban Dynamometer Driving Schedule (UDDS) and **(b,d)** US06 high acceleration aggressive driving. The velocity profiles are converted to battery power profiles through a vehicle dynamics model (*see Methods*) based on the specifications of Nissan Leaf. The vehicle carries a 40kWh battery pack, which consists of either 62 of the 202Ah LFP cells or 69 of the 158Ah NMC622 cells shown in Table S2. The driving cycle is repeated until the single-cell voltage reaches the cutoff value (2.4V for the LFP cell and 2.7V for the NMC622 cell), and the driving range shown in Figs. 3 and 5 are calculated by integrating the velocity profiles over time. The cases without regenerative braking (the solid bars in Fig. 3c&d) considers only the battery discharge power (i.e., the positive values of battery power in Supplementary Fig. 7c&d are replaced with zero).



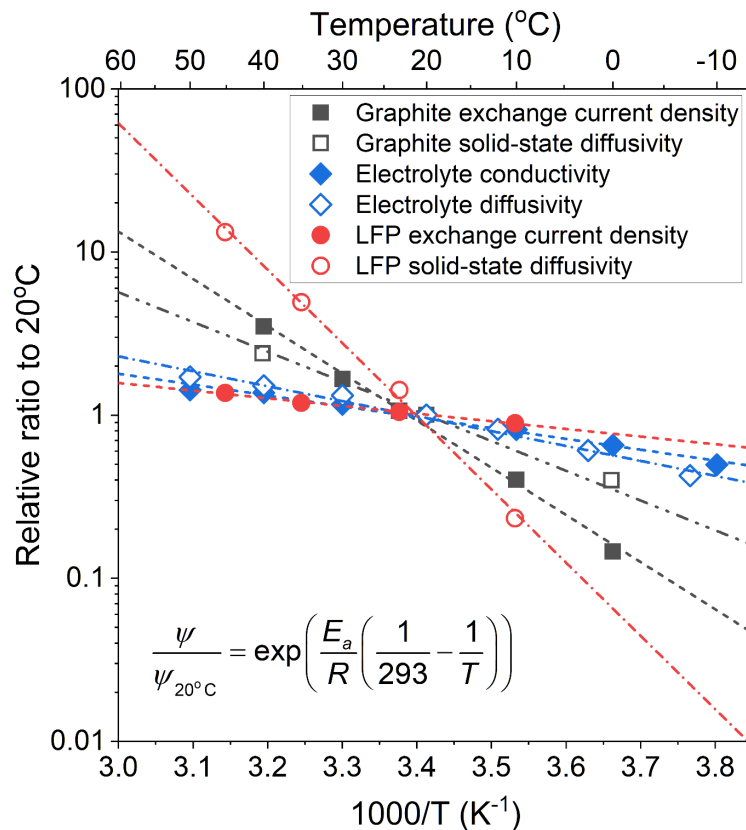
Supplementary Fig. 8 | Thicker LFP cathode leads to larger mass-transfer resistance. Distributions of (a,b) electrolyte-phase potential, (c,d) electrolyte concentration, and (e,f) lithium surface stoichiometry across the thickness of the LFP and NMC622 cells at the time when the LFP cell reaches the 2.4V cutoff voltage during (a-c) UDSS and (d-f) US06 cycling at -10°C. The thickness of the LFP cathode is 1.6x of the thickness of the NMC622 cell at the same areal capacity of 3 mAh/cm².



Supplementary Fig. 9| Li plating induced by regenerative braking at freezing temperatures. Evolution of the anode potential (at the anode-separator interface) in the graphite-LFP and graphite-NMC622 cells under the UDDS driving cycle at different ambient temperatures: **(a)** 0°C, **(b)** -10°C, **(c)** -20°C. Only the results in the first cycle are presented. Li plating occurs when the anode potential becomes negative.

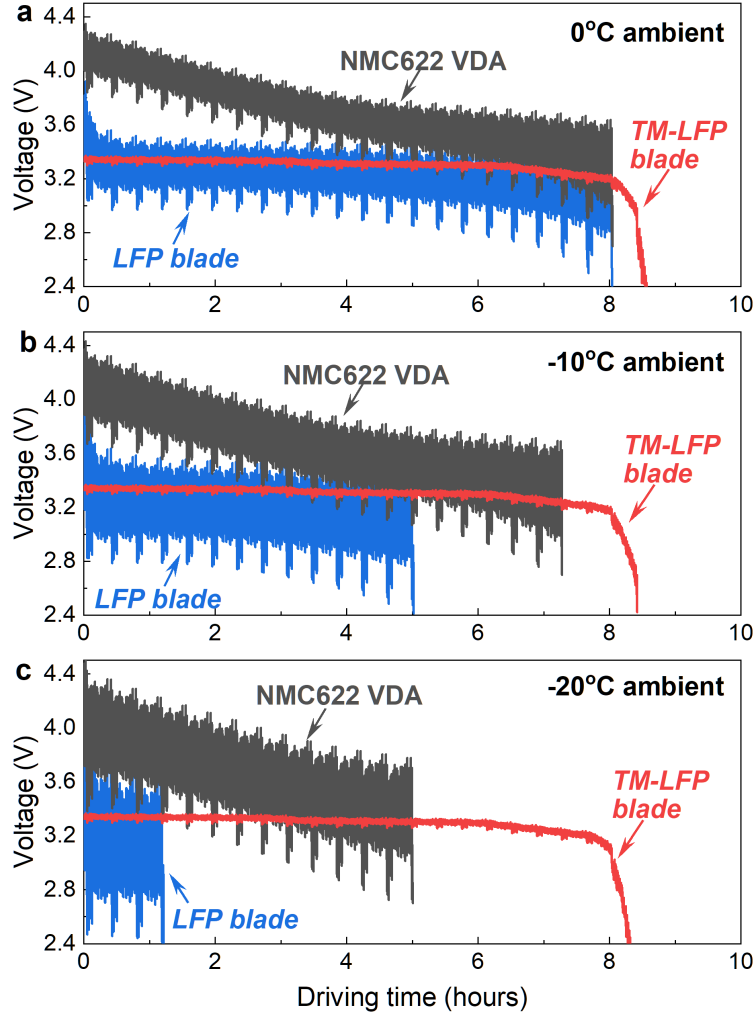


Supplementary Fig. 10| Temperature effects on the maximum charge rate of LFP and NMC622 cells. Evolutions of **(a,d)** cell voltage, **(b,e)** charge C-rate, and **(c,f)** the anode potential (at anode-separator interface) during charging of the **(a-c)** graphite-LFP and **(d-f)** graphite-NMC622 cells at the maximum charge rate without Li plating (anode potential >0V). The LFP and NMC622 cells have the same anode design: the anode areal capacity is 3.3 mAh/cm² (N-P ratio 1.1) and the anode porosity is 0.27.

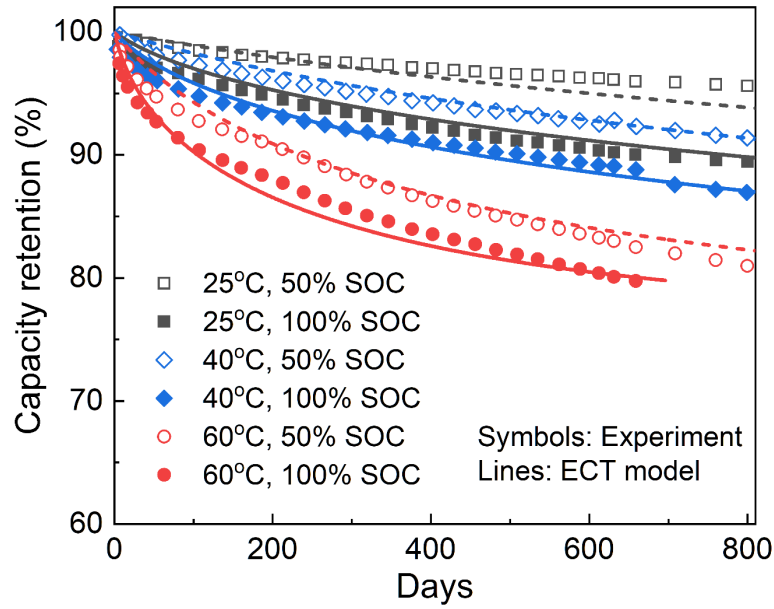


Supplementary Fig. 11| Elevated temperature accelerates all electrochemical and transport processes.

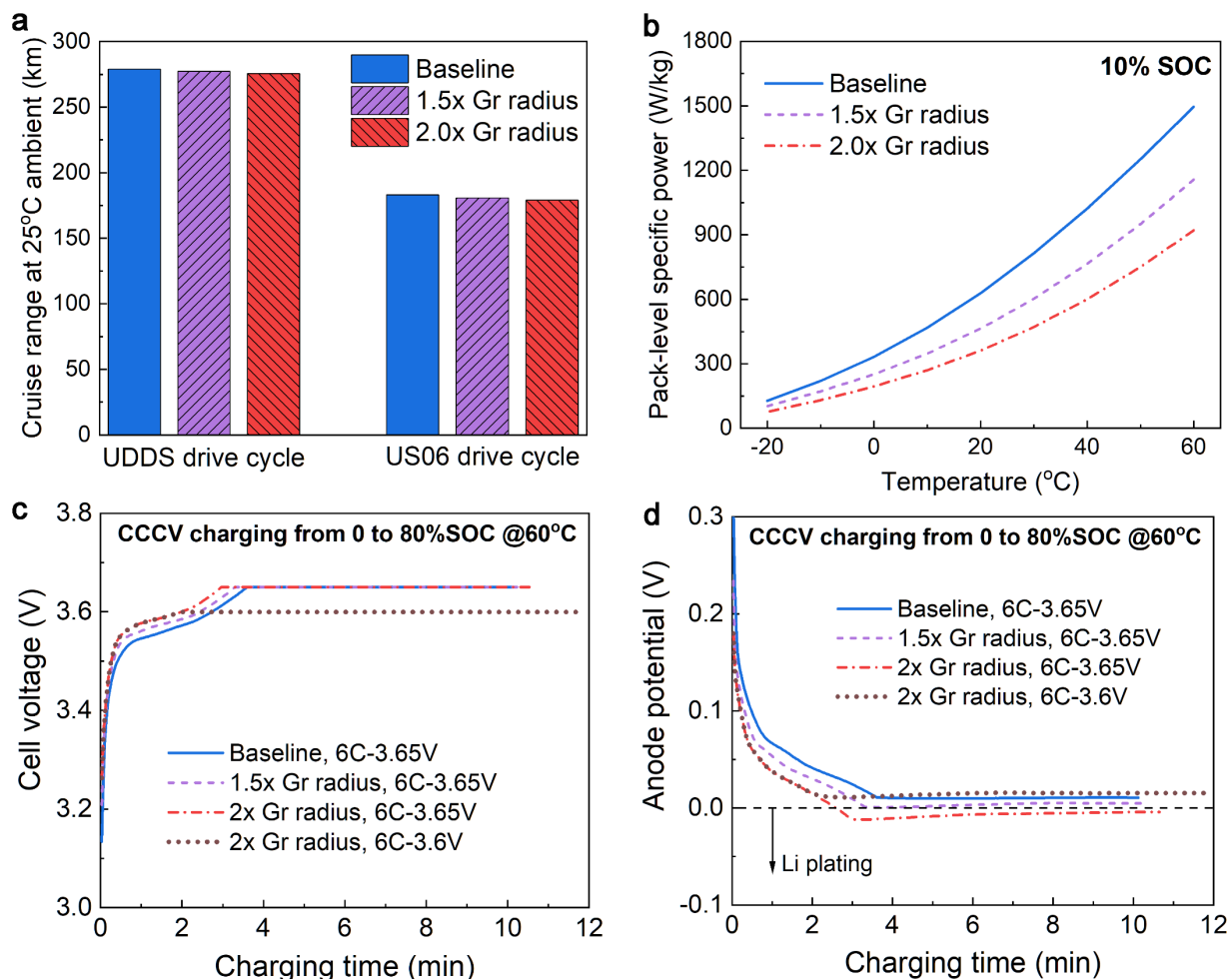
Relative ratio to the value at 20°C for graphite exchange current density¹⁸, graphite solid-state lithium diffusivity¹⁹, electrolyte conductivity²⁰, electrolyte diffusivity²⁰, LFP exchange current density¹⁶, and LFP solid-state lithium diffusivity¹⁶. All these parameters depend on the temperature, following the Arrhenius law (the inset equation).



Supplementary Fig. 12| All-climate cruise range with TM-LFP battery. Evolution of single-cell voltage under the Urban Dynamometer driving schedule (UDDS) at the ambient temperature of **(a)** 0°C, **(b)** -10°C, and **(c)** -20°C. Three types of cells are compared: LFP blade cells, NMC622 prismatic cells (VDA-BEV2 standard), and thermally-modulated (TM-) LFP blade cells. The regular LFP and NMC622 cells start the UDDS cycle at 100% state of charge (SOC) with their initial temperature equal to ambient temperature. The TM-LFP battery is preheated from ambient temperature to 60°C before the UDDS cycle, and we assume 1.35% battery energy consumption per 10°C temperature rise (e.g., the initial SOC of the TM-LFP battery is 91.9% at 0°C ambient, 90.55% at -10°C ambient, and 89.2% at -20°C ambient).

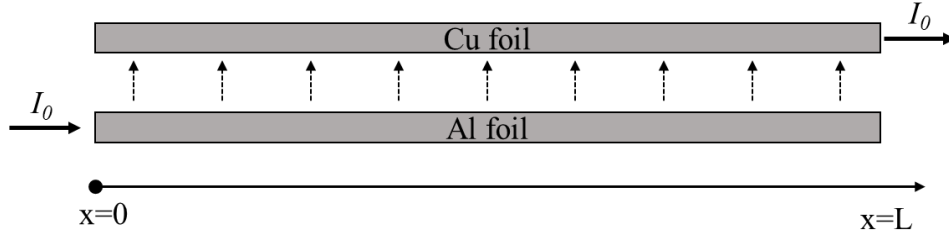


Supplementary Fig. 13| Validation of the aging model for the graphite-LFP cell. Comparison of the modeling results with experimental data on calendar aging of a graphite-LFP cell at different temperatures and state of charge (SOC). The experimental data are from Naumann et al.²¹, which were based on a commercial 3 Ah graphite-LFP cell from Sony/Murata.



Supplementary Fig. 14| Cell performance is insensitive to graphite BET area at the elevated temperature of 60°C. Comparison of the performance of a TM-LFP blade battery with different graphite particle sizes. **(a)** Cruise range at the ambient temperature of 25°C under the UDDS and US06 driving cycle with a 40-kWh TM-LFP blade battery pack. The starting battery SOC is 95.3%, assuming a consumption of 4.7% battery energy for preheating from 25°C to 60°C before the operation. **(b)** Peak specific power of the graphite-LFP blade cell at 10% SOC. The values are at pack level, assuming a gravimetric cell to pack ratio (GCTP) of 0.9. The peak power is evaluated with a 10-sec discharge pulse at a constant voltage of 2.4V. **(c&d)** Evolutions of **(c)** cell voltage and **(d)** anode potential during charging of the graphite-LFP cell at 60°C with constant-current-constant-voltage (CCCV) protocol. The baseline cell and the cell with a 1.5x graphite radius can be safely charged (without Li plating) using a 6C rate and 3.65V cutoff voltage. The same protocol induces Li plating for the cell with a 2x graphite radius. By lowering the upper cutoff voltage to 3.6V, the cell with 2x graphite radius can be charged with 6C and yields no Li plating.

Supplementary Note 1: Voltage loss along length of current collectors



Here, we analyze the voltage loss induced by electrons transfer along the anode and cathode foils of a blade-type cell. As sketched above, we assume that the current (in charging) flows into the aluminum foil at $x=0$ and flows out through the copper (Cu) foil at $x=L$. Since $\sigma_{Al}\delta_{Al} \approx \sigma_{Cu}\delta_{Cu}$, where σ is electronic conductivity and δ is foil thickness, we can assume a uniform distribution of the reaction current along the x-direction:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} I_{Al}(x) &= -\frac{d}{dx} I_{Cu}(x) = -\frac{I_0}{L} \\ I_{Al}|_{x=0} &= I_0, \quad I_{Al}|_{x=L} = 0 \\ I_{Cu}|_{x=0} &= 0, \quad I_{Cu}|_{x=L} = I_0 \end{aligned} \quad (S1)$$

Then we can get the current in the Al and Cu foils:

$$I_{Al}(x) = \left(1 - \frac{x}{L}\right)I_0 \quad I_{Cu}(x) = \frac{x}{L}I_0 \quad (S2)$$

If the cell has a single-side areal capacity of q (Ah/m²) and the charge C-rate is n , the current I_0 can be calculated as:

$$I_0 = 2nqbL \quad (S3)$$

where b is the foil width. As the voltage drop across the Al or Cu foil is the same, we calculate the voltage loss along the length of Al foil, as:

$$\Delta V = \int_0^L \frac{1}{\sigma_{Al}} \frac{I_0}{\delta_{Al}b} \left(1 - \frac{x}{L}\right) dx = \frac{I_0 L}{2\sigma_{Al}\delta_{Al}b} = \frac{nqL^2}{\sigma_{Al}\delta_{Al}} \quad (S4)$$

For a cell with $L=1$ m, areal capacity $q=30$ Ah/m², $\sigma_{Al}=3.5 \times 10^7$ S/m, $\delta=13 \times 10^{-6}$ m, a 6C charge results in a voltage difference of 0.4V. Thus, it is vitally important to have multi-tab design or “tab everywhere” design in order to reduce the electron-flow length and minimize the voltage spatial difference to say <10mV.

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