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Novel Utilization of Elemental Sulfur for Nanocomposite Materials and Energy Storage



Jeffrey Pyun, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Arizona ACS PRF #51026-ND10



Motivation and opportunities:

- 1. approximately 7 million tons of excess elemental sulfur generated annually from the hydrodesulfurization in petroleum refining.
- 2. Limited technologies and chemistry to utilize sulfur (e.g, sulfuric acid production, fertilizers, specialties)
- 3. Opportunity to develop new synthetic chemistry to enable utilization of sulfur as alternative feedstock for polymers and materials



Li-S Batteries

Liquid Sulfur

Project Accomplishments:

1) Utilization of liquid sulfur as solvent for bulk polymerization

2) Preparation of chemically stable and processable sulfur copolymers

Sulfur Copolymers

3) Use of copolymers as cathode materials for Li-S batteries





Sulfur Rich Copolymers from Elemental Sulfur: "Inverse Vulcanization"















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