

# **Hands-on electrochemical impedance spectroscopy**

## **Discussion session**

## Literature:

# ELECTROCHEMISTRY – 26240

## Sven Atlung

## Torben Jacobsen

## 2009

A collage of mathematical symbols and numbers, including  $\pi$ ,  $\infty$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\theta$ , and various numbers like 17, 2.7182818284, and 100.

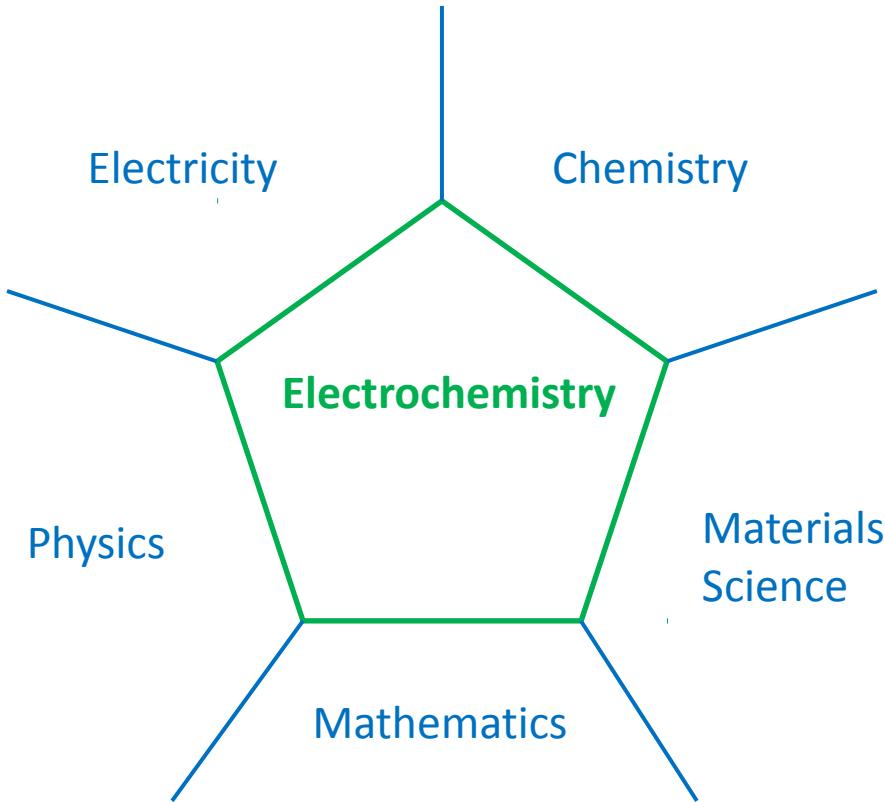
# Program for the day

- 10.00-10.30 General electrochemistry (shjj)
- 11.10-11.20 Relationship between EIS and electrochemical processes (shjj)
- 11.20-11.40 EIS techniques, (multi-sine, Laplace, etc) (shjj)
- Pause
- 11.50-12.30 Interpretation of EIS signals (Effect of double layer capacitance, Angle of tail, Temperature dependencies, Blocking electrode / non-blocking) (johh)
- Frokost
- 13.30-14.00 Equivalent circuits for EIS measurements, most used and why. (johh)
- 14.00-14.30 Data integrity and verification methods (Kramers-Krönig, etc) (johh)
- Pause
- 14.40-15.10 Battery characterization based on EIS parameters. (johh/shjj)
- 15.10-15.30 Examples, questions from students
- 15.30-16.00 Topic for next DBS meeting (Martin Søndergaard)
- 16.00-17.00 Laboratorie tur.

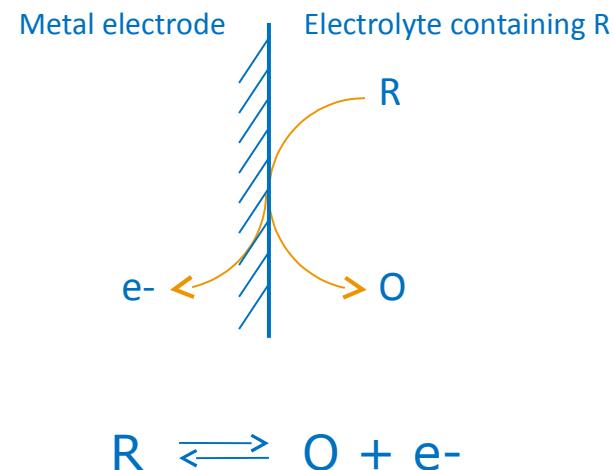
# Contents

- Introduction
- Electrode-Electrolyte Interface - The Double Layer
- Nernst equation and Volmer-Butler equation
- Electrolyte Conductivity – Thermal activation

# Electrochemistry is an Interdisciplinary Science



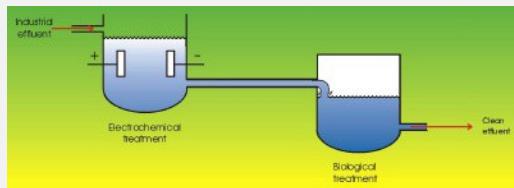
A simple electrochemical reaction:



Electrochemical reactions largely take place at interfaces – chemistry and physics of surfaces & interfaces important!

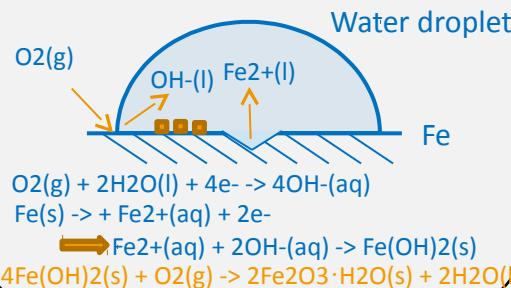
# Electrochemistry – Some Applications

## Environmental

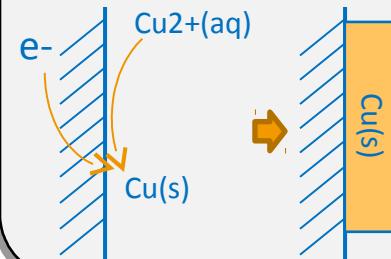


Direct oxidation of organics  
Electrokinetic remediation

## Corrosion

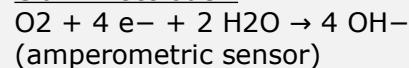


## Electroplating

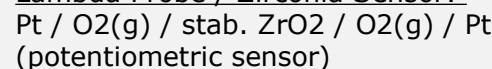


## Sensors / Analytical

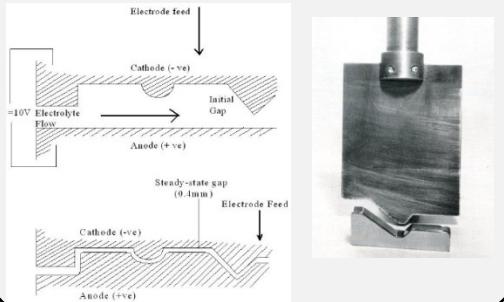
### Clark Electrode:



### Lambda Probe / Zirconia Sensor:



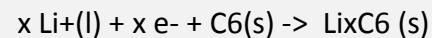
## Electrochemical Machining



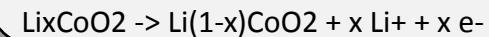
## Batteries Energy Storage



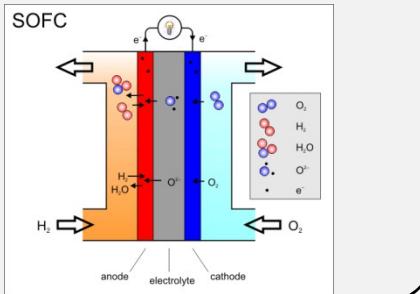
### Anode:



### Cathode:

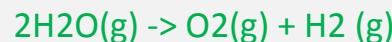


## Fuel Cells



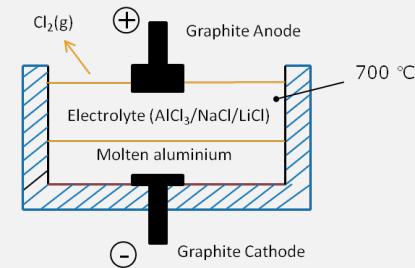
## Electrolysers

### Chemicals Production by Electrolysis

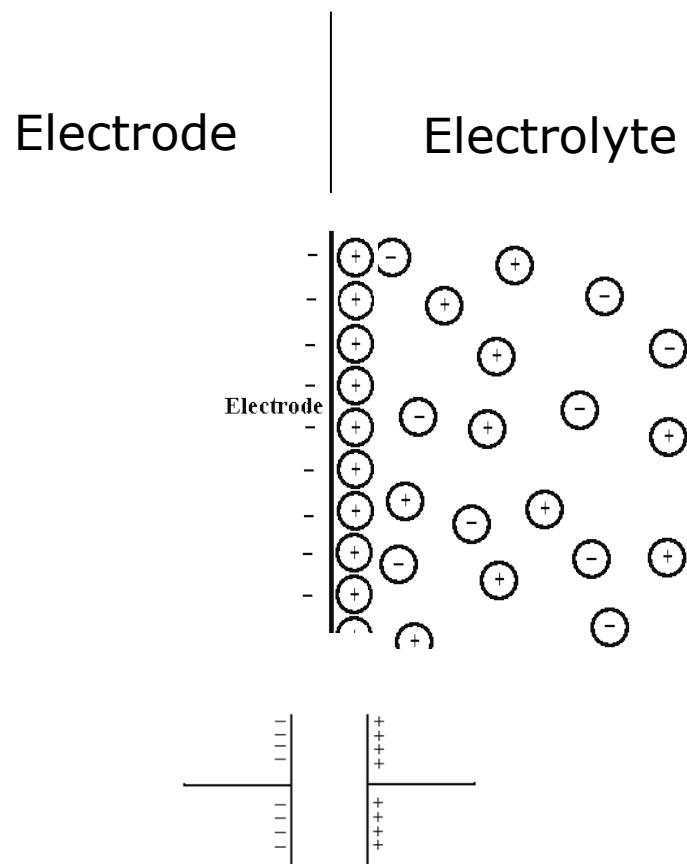


Gas Production is a big industry  
Chlor-Alkali, Hydrogen

## Electrowinning/refinement



# Double layer – Definition



# Electrode potentials – Definition

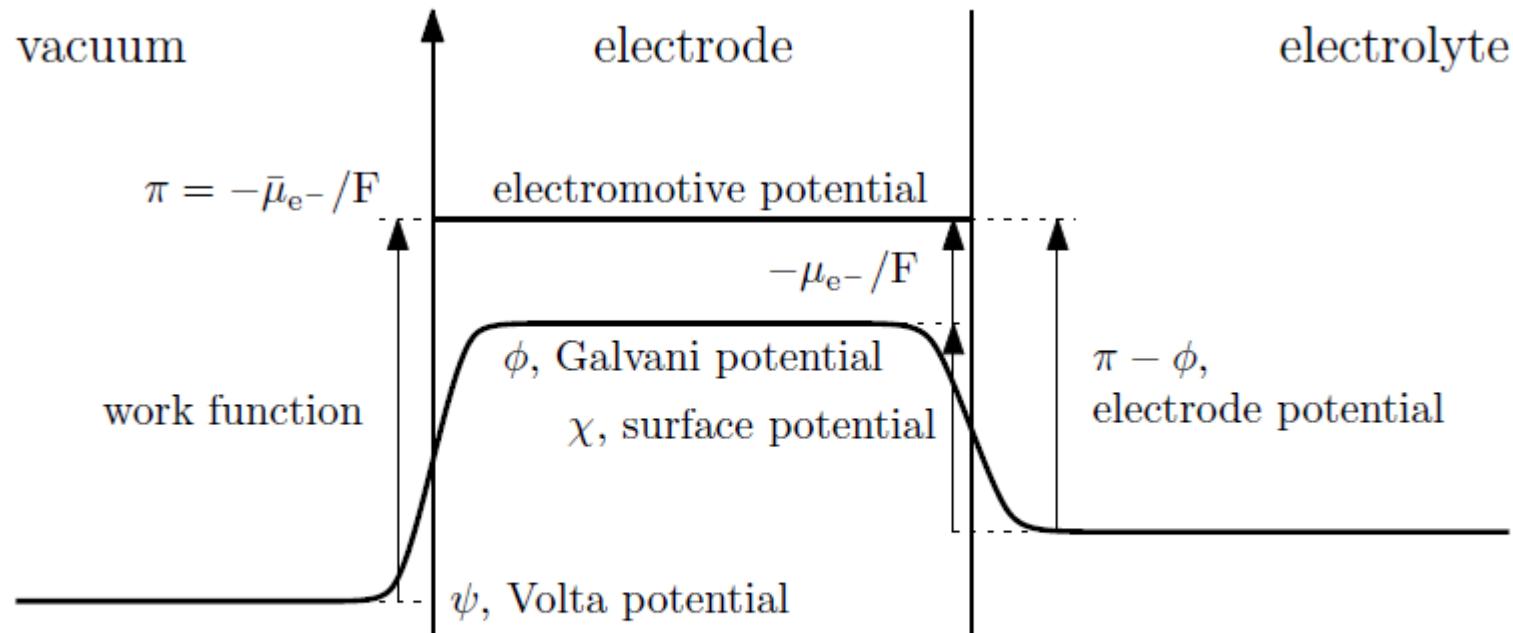
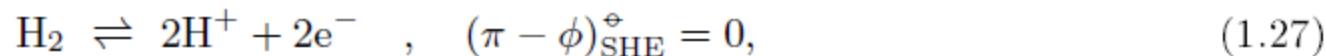
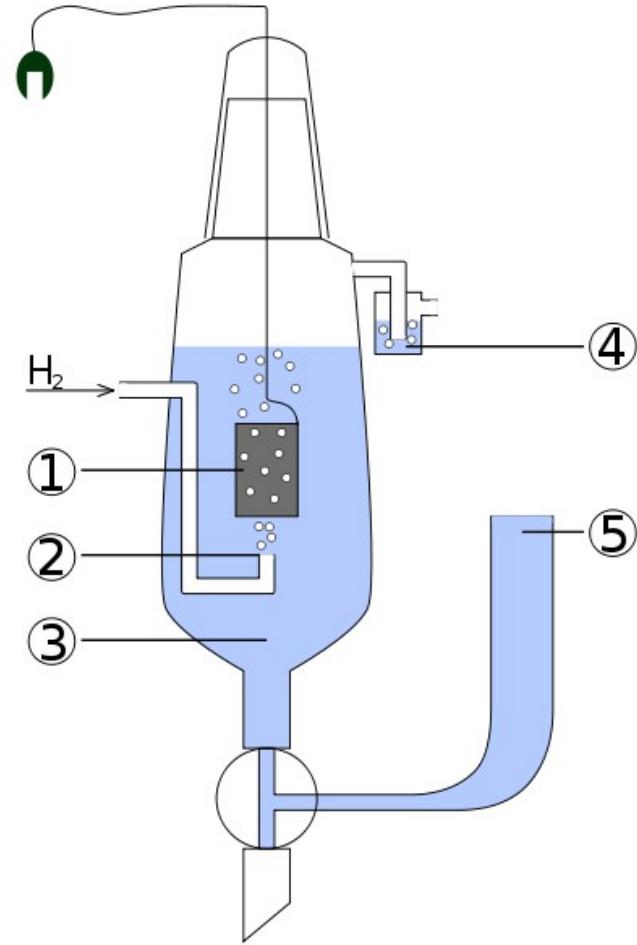


Figure 1.2: Potentials at the electrode – electrolyte interface.

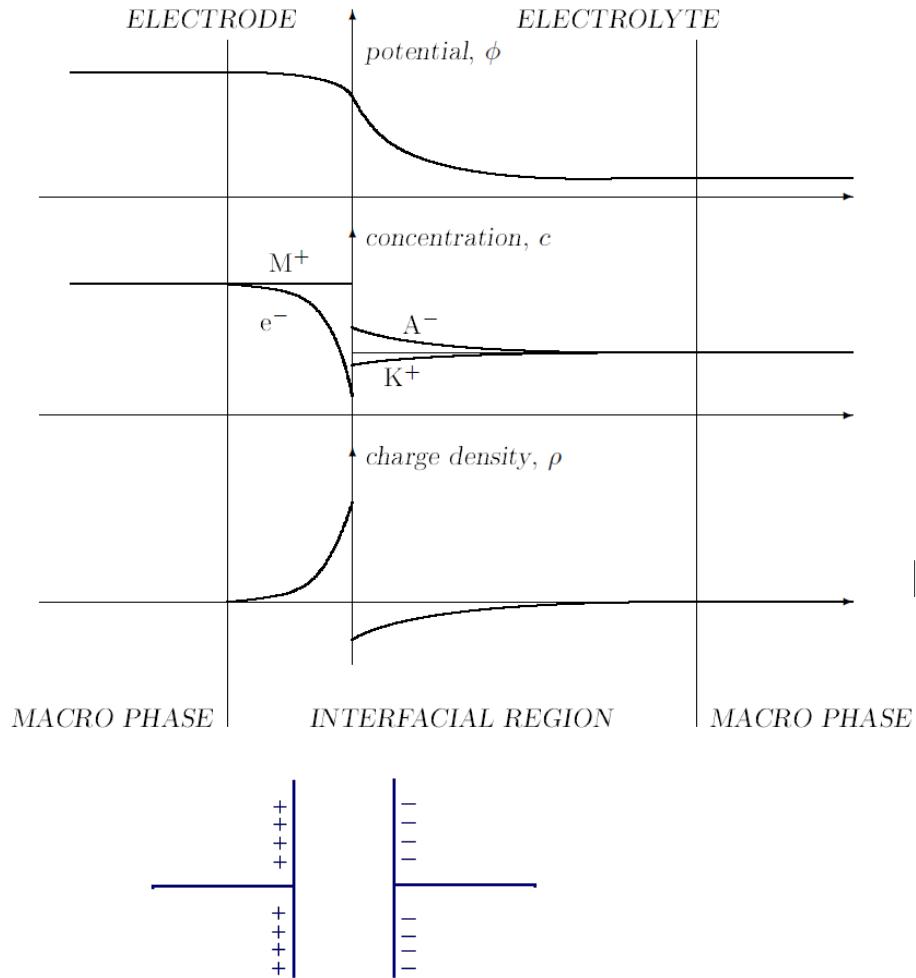


# Standard Hydrogen Electrode (wikipedia)

1. [platinized](#) platinum electrode
2. hydrogen blow
3. solution of the acid with activity of  $H^+ = 1$  mol dm $^{-3}$
4. hydroseal for prevention of the oxygen interference
5. reservoir through which the second half-element of the galvanic cell should be attached. The connection can be direct, through a narrow tube to reduce mixing, or through a [salt bridge](#), depending on the other electrode and solution. This creates an ionically conductive path to the working electrode of interest.



# Double layer – Definition



Equilibrium potential :

$$\pi - \phi)^{eq}$$

Over voltage :

$$\eta = (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{eq}$$

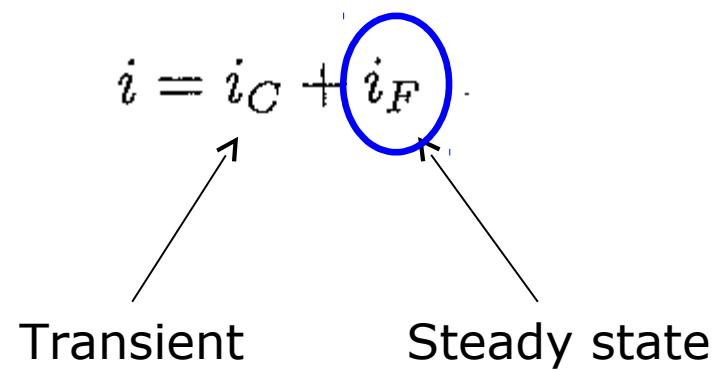
Capacitance :

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Second level  
Capacitive current :

$$i_C = C \frac{d(\pi - \phi)}{dt} = C \frac{d\eta}{dt}$$

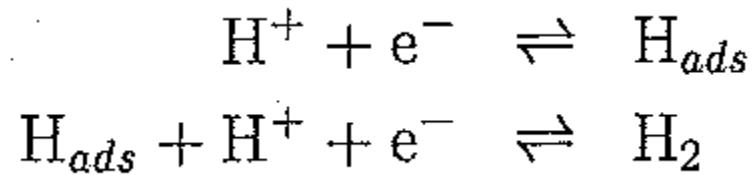
# Electrode current

$$i = i_C + i_F$$


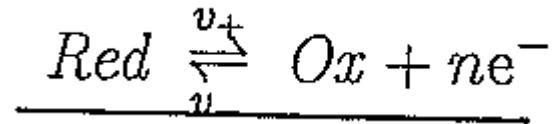
The diagram illustrates the decomposition of the total electrode current ( $i$ ) into two components:  $i_C$  and  $i_F$ . The equation  $i = i_C + i_F$  is centered, with  $i_C$  pointing to the left and  $i_F$  pointing to the right. Below the equation, the word "Transient" is positioned under the arrow pointing to  $i_C$ , and the words "Steady state" are positioned under the arrow pointing to  $i_F$ . A blue circle highlights the term  $i_F$ .

# Electrode reaction:

- Example: H<sub>2</sub> evolution on a pt-electrode



Adsorption rate depends of the number of free sites



# Electrode reaction in equilibrium

-Exchange current

$$i_o = i_+ = -i_- = nFv_o = nFv_{+,eq} = nFv_{-,eq}$$

$$v_+ = [Red]k_+,$$

$$v_- = [Ox]k_-,$$

$$\frac{k_+}{k_-} = \frac{[Ox]}{[Red]}$$

# Electrode reaction in equilibrium

-Nernst equation

$$\bar{\mu}_{Red} = \bar{\mu}_{Ox} + n\bar{\mu}_{e^-}$$

Assuming all charged species except  $e^-$  are present in the solution

$$\mu_{Red} + z_{Red}F\phi = \mu_{Ox} + z_{Ox}F\phi + n\bar{\mu}_{e^-}$$

$$z_{Ox} - z_{Red} e^- = -F\pi$$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi - \phi &= \frac{\mu_{Ox} - \mu_{Red}}{nF} + \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \frac{a_{Ox}}{a_{Red}} \\ &= (\pi - \phi)^* + \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \frac{a_{Ox}}{a_{Red}}\end{aligned}$$

# Electrode reaction

-reaction rate constant relation

$$\frac{k_+}{k_-} = \exp \left[ \left\{ (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{\circ} \right\} \frac{nF}{RT} \right]$$

$$k_+ = k_+^{\circ} \exp \left[ (1 - \alpha) \left\{ (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{\circ} \right\} \frac{nF}{RT} \right]$$

$$k_- = k_-^{\circ} \exp \left[ -\alpha \left\{ (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{\circ} \right\} \frac{nF}{RT} \right]$$

$$\boxed{k_+ = k_+^{ref} \exp \left[ (1 - \alpha)n \left\{ (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{ref} \right\} \frac{F}{RT} \right]}$$
$$k_- = k_-^{ref} \exp \left[ -\alpha n \left\{ (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{ref} \right\} \frac{F}{RT} \right] \quad (4.24)$$

# Electrode reaction

## -Volmer-Butler equation

$$i = i_+ + i_- = nF(v_+ - v_-) \quad \boxed{\eta = (\pi - \phi) - (\pi - \phi)^{eq}}$$

$$v_+ = [Red]k_+^{eq} \exp \left[ (1 - \alpha)n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right]$$

$$v_- = [Ox]k_-^{eq} \exp \left[ -\alpha n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right]$$

=

At the equilibrium potential, i.e.  $\eta = 0$ , we have  $v_+ = v_- = v_o = \frac{i_o}{nF}$

$$\boxed{i = i_o \left( \exp \left[ (1 - \alpha)n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right] - \exp \left[ -\alpha n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right] \right)}$$

# Electrode reaction

-small overvoltage

$$\epsilon \simeq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exp[\epsilon] \simeq 1 + \epsilon + \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} + \dots$$

$$i_F = i_o \left( 1 + (1 - \alpha)\eta \frac{nF}{RT} - \left( 1 - \alpha\eta \frac{nF}{RT} \right) \right) = i_o \eta \frac{nF}{RT} = \frac{\eta}{R_r}$$

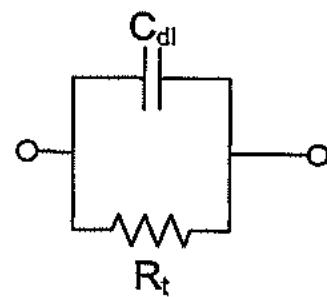
$$R_r = \frac{RT}{i_o nF}$$

# Equivalent circuit

- The total current is the sum of two currents

$$i = i_C + i_F$$

- Therefore, the equivalent circuit for the electrode/electrolyte interface is a parallel connection between a capacitor and a resistor:



# Electromotive force

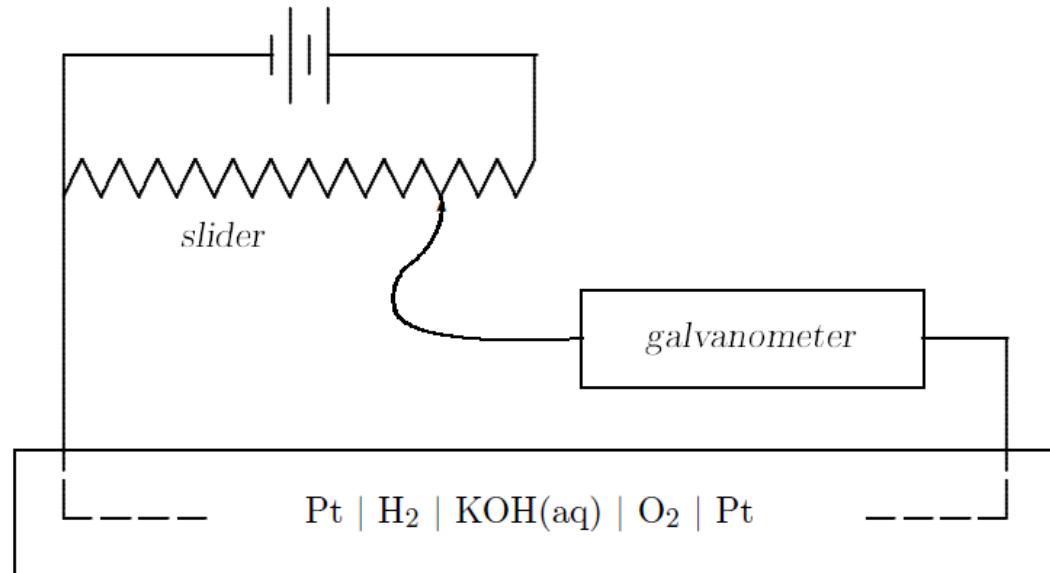
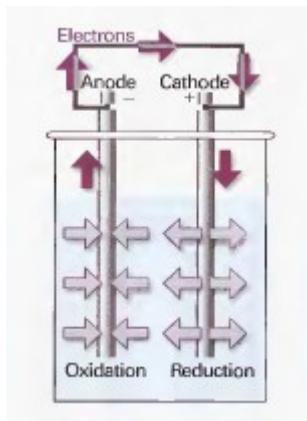
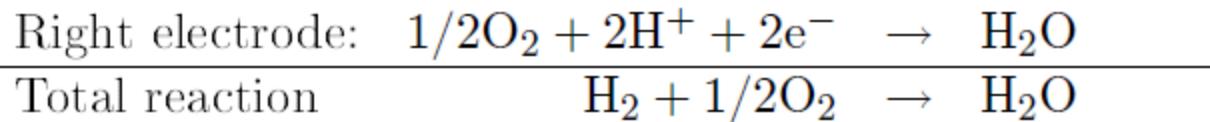
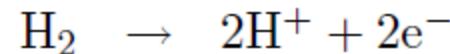


Figure 1.1: Determination of electromotive force by a compensation bridge.

positive charge from the left to the right inside the element are positive.

Left electrode:



$$\epsilon = \pi_{right} - \pi_{left}$$

$$\epsilon = -\frac{\Delta G}{nF}$$

$$\epsilon = -\frac{\Delta G^\circ}{nF} + \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \left[ \frac{a_{Ox_r} a_{Red_l}}{a_{Red_r} a_{Ox_l}} \right]$$

# Emf and thermodynamic functions from the total reaction

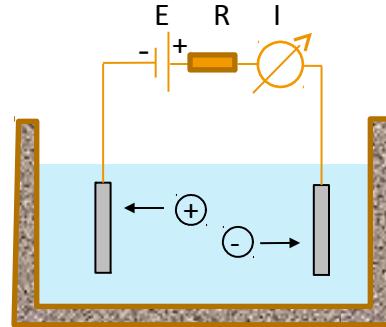
$$\epsilon = -\frac{\Delta G}{nF}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial T}\right)_p = -\frac{1}{nF} \left(\frac{\partial \Delta G}{\partial T}\right)_p = \frac{\Delta S}{nF} \quad (1.16)$$

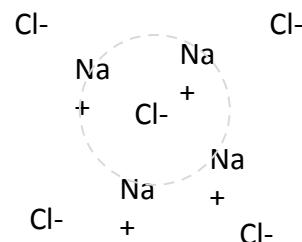
$$\Delta H = \Delta G + T\Delta S = -nF \left( \epsilon - T \left( \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial T}\right)_p \right) \quad (1.17)$$

# Conductivity in Electrolytes

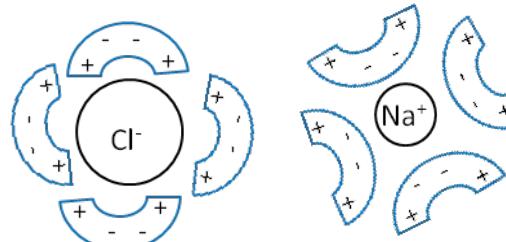
Transition from electronic to ionic conductivity in an electrochemical cell



## Liquid Electrolytes

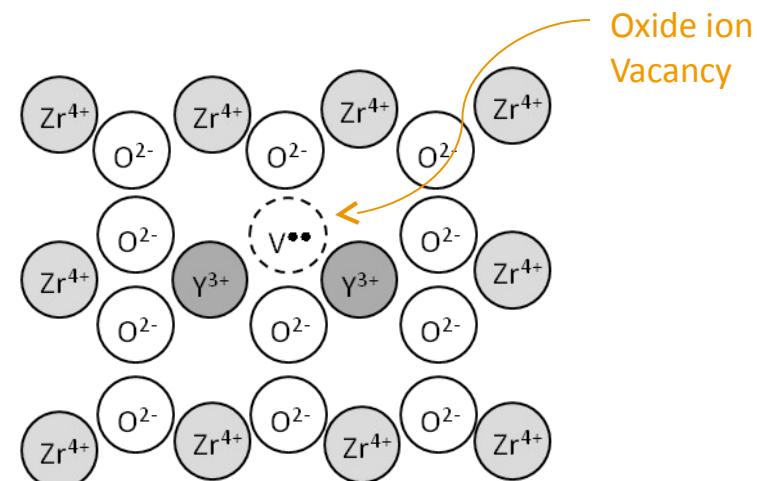


## Liquid Electrolytes Ionic solvation of NaCl



## Solid Electrolytes

View down the 110 plane in YSZ



# Defects and Kröger Vink notation

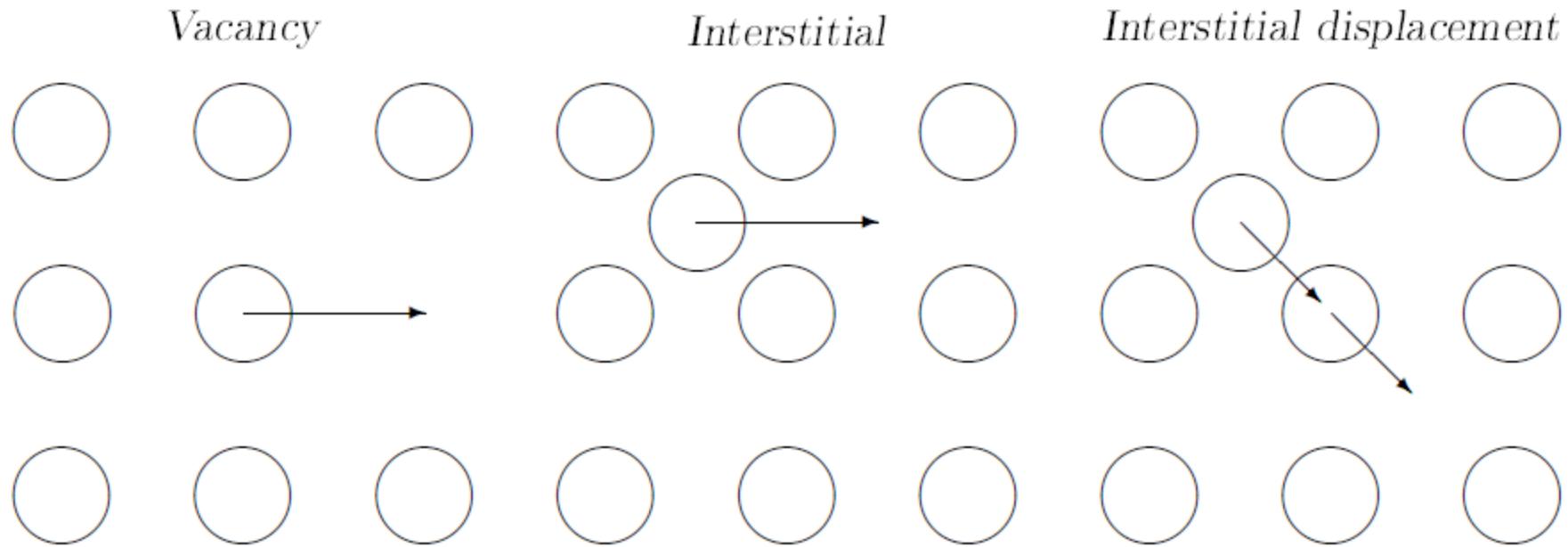


Figure 2.2: *Transport mechanisms in a lattice*

# An Ion in an Electric Field

Probability of an ion having the energy  $u$   
(Boltzmann distribution):

$$\exp[-u/kT]$$

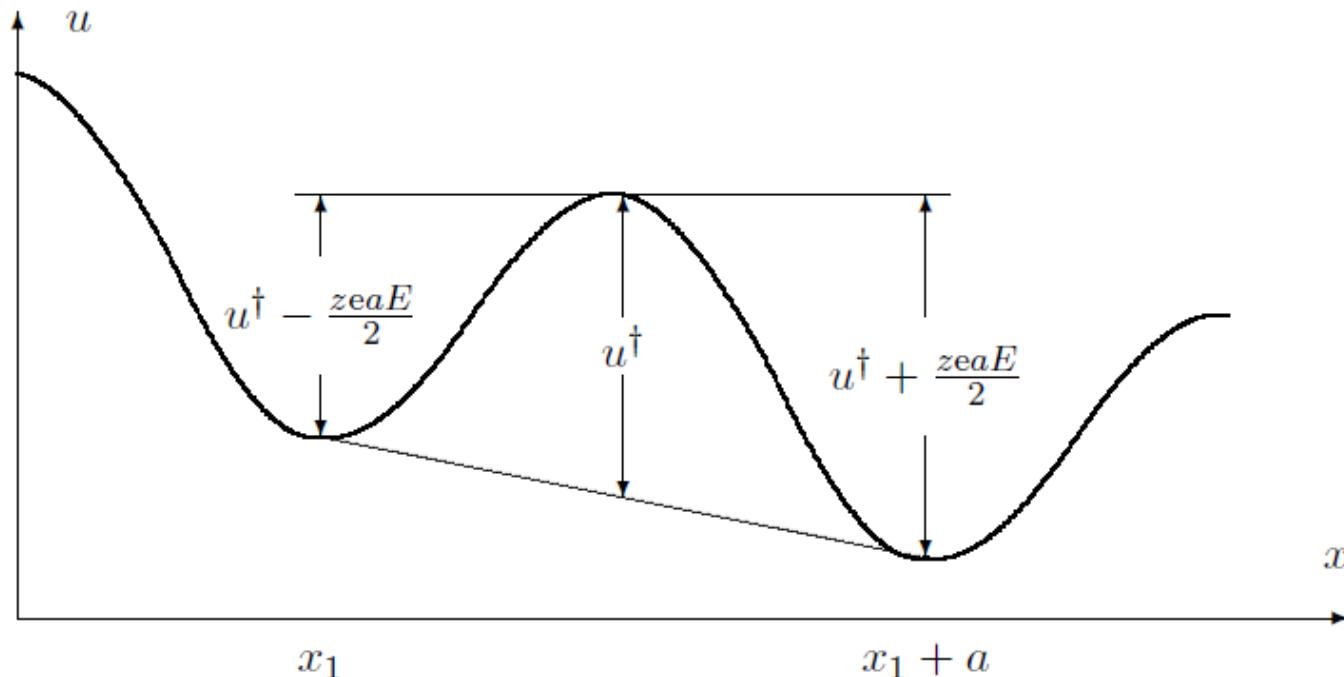


Figure 2.3: Potential energy,  $u$ , for an interstitial ion in an electric field with field strength,  $E$ , as function of the position,  $x$ .  $a$  is the lattice constant.

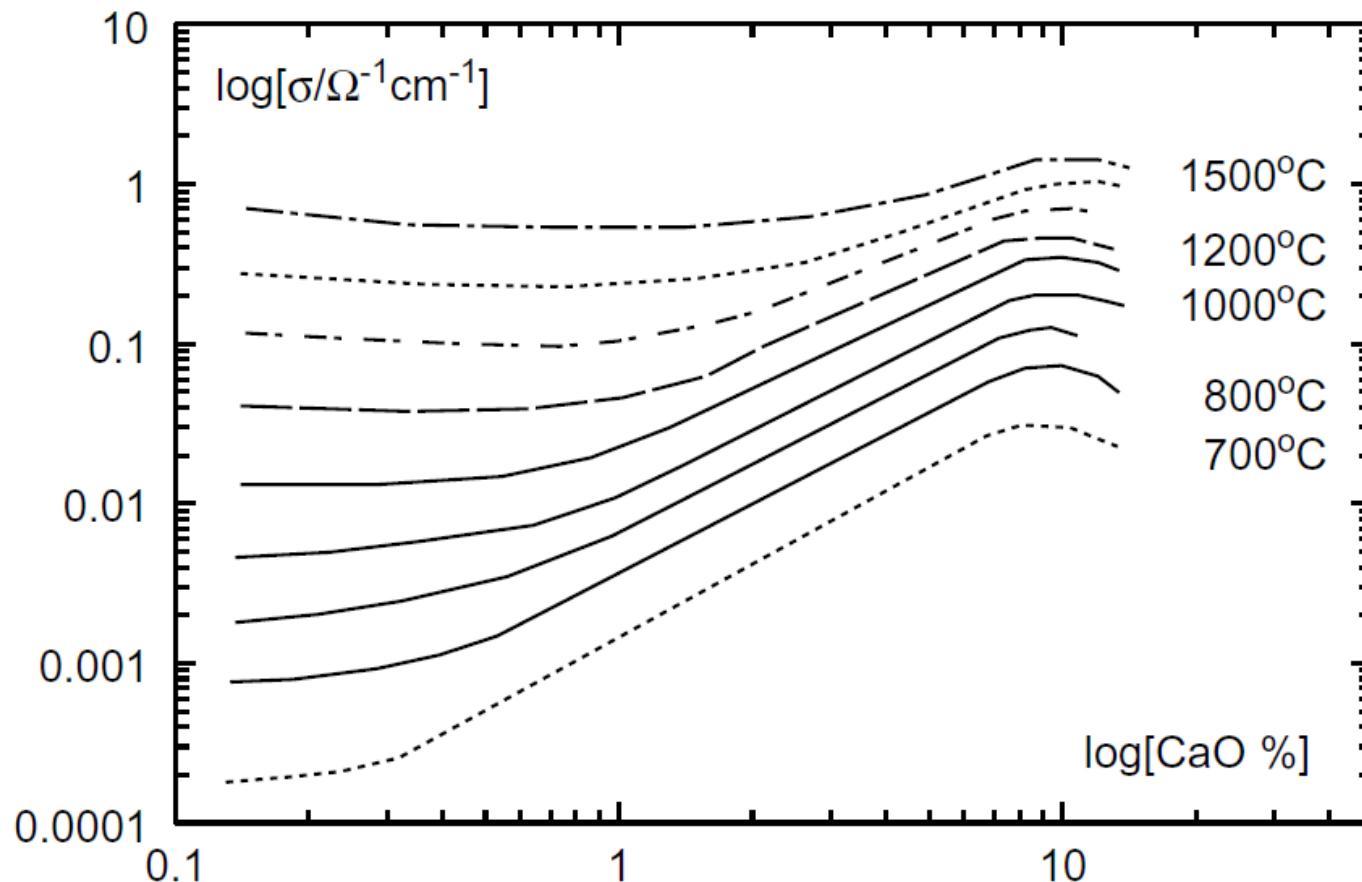
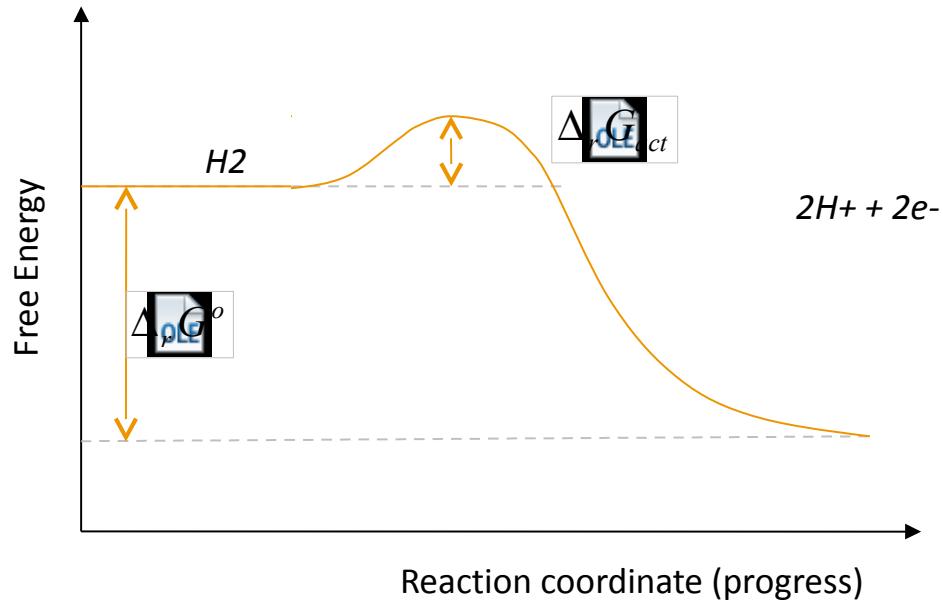


Figure 2.4: Conductivity of Ca doped  $\text{CeO}_2$ . R.N. Blumenthal, F.S. Brugner and J.E. Garnier, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, **120**, 1230 (1973).

# Electrode Kinetics

Charge Transfer Reactions have an Activation Energy



Arrhenius Equation

$$k = A e^{(-\Delta G_{act}/RT)}$$

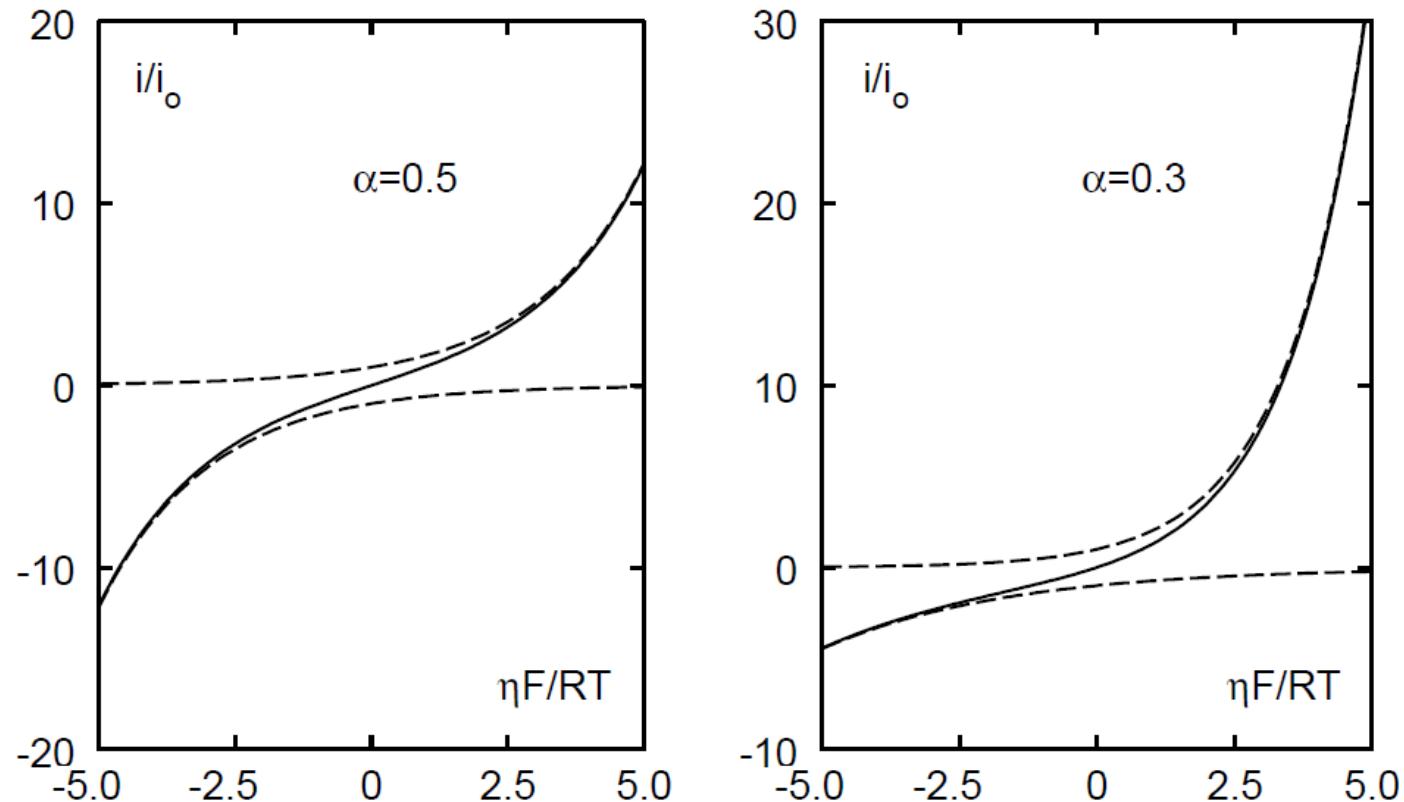


Figure 4.2: Currents vs. overvoltage for an elementary reaction calculated as  
(4.23) 
$$i = i_o \left( \exp \left[ (1 - \alpha)n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right] - \exp \left[ -\alpha n\eta \frac{F}{RT} \right] \right)$$

for  $n = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.5$  and  $\alpha = 0.3$ .  
—  $i$ , —  $i_+$  and  $i_-$ .

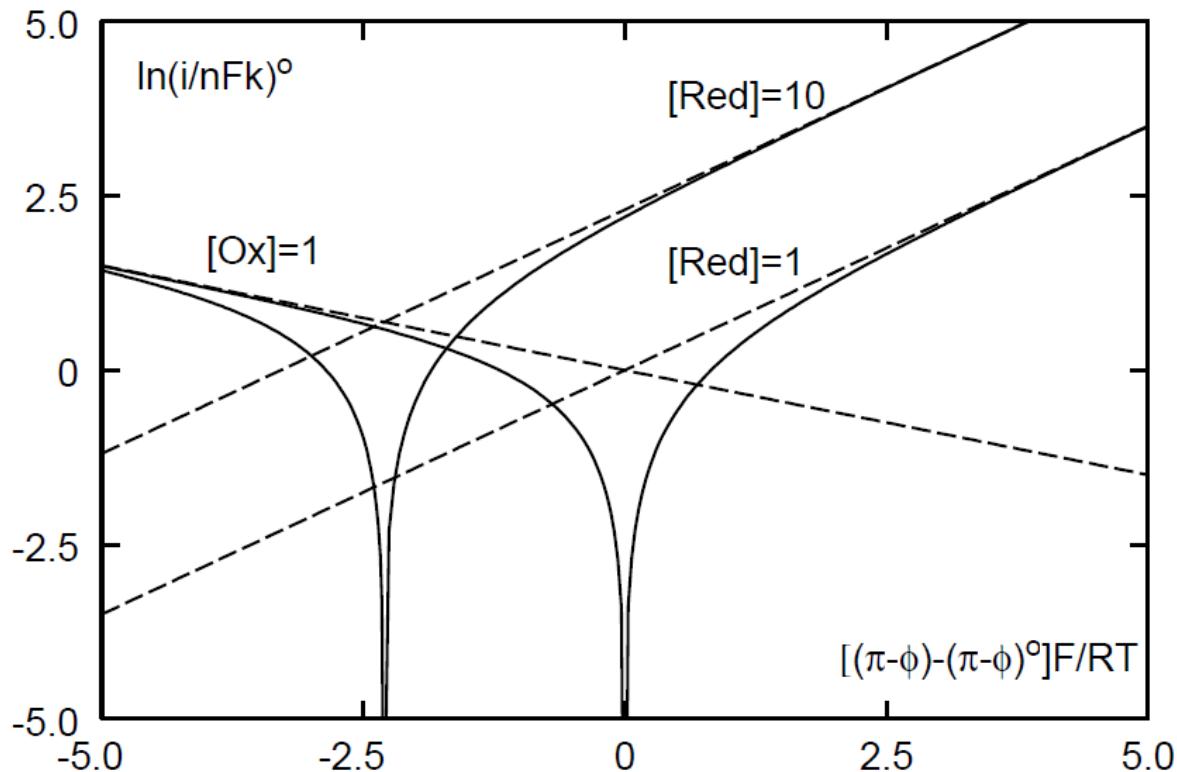
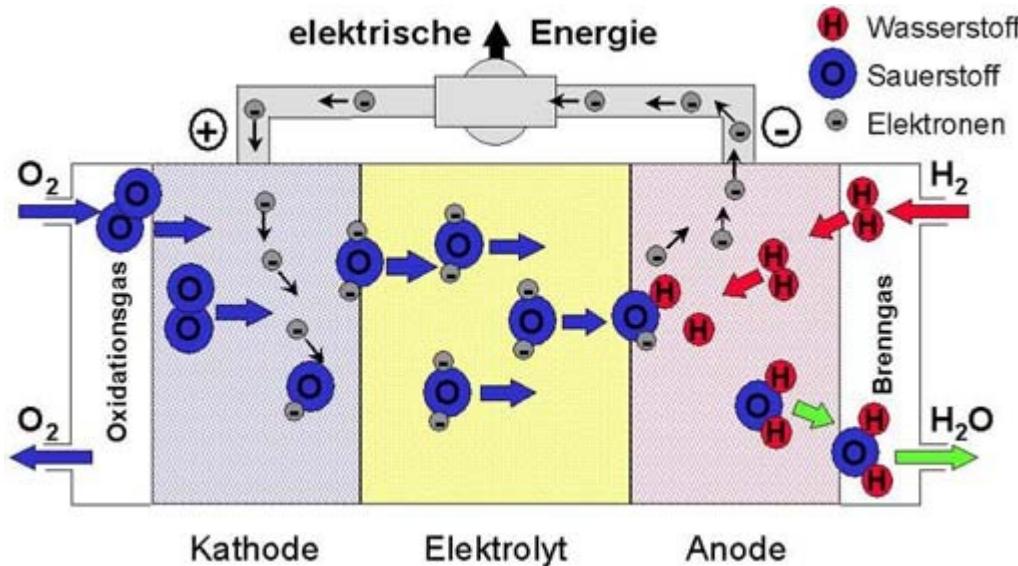


Figure 4.3: Tafel plot

—  $\ln \left[ \frac{i}{nFk^\circ} \right]$  calculated from eq. (4.18) for  $[Ox] = 1$ ,  $[Red] = 1$  and  $[Red] = 10$ .  
 - - - partial currents from eqs. (4.24) and (4.25).

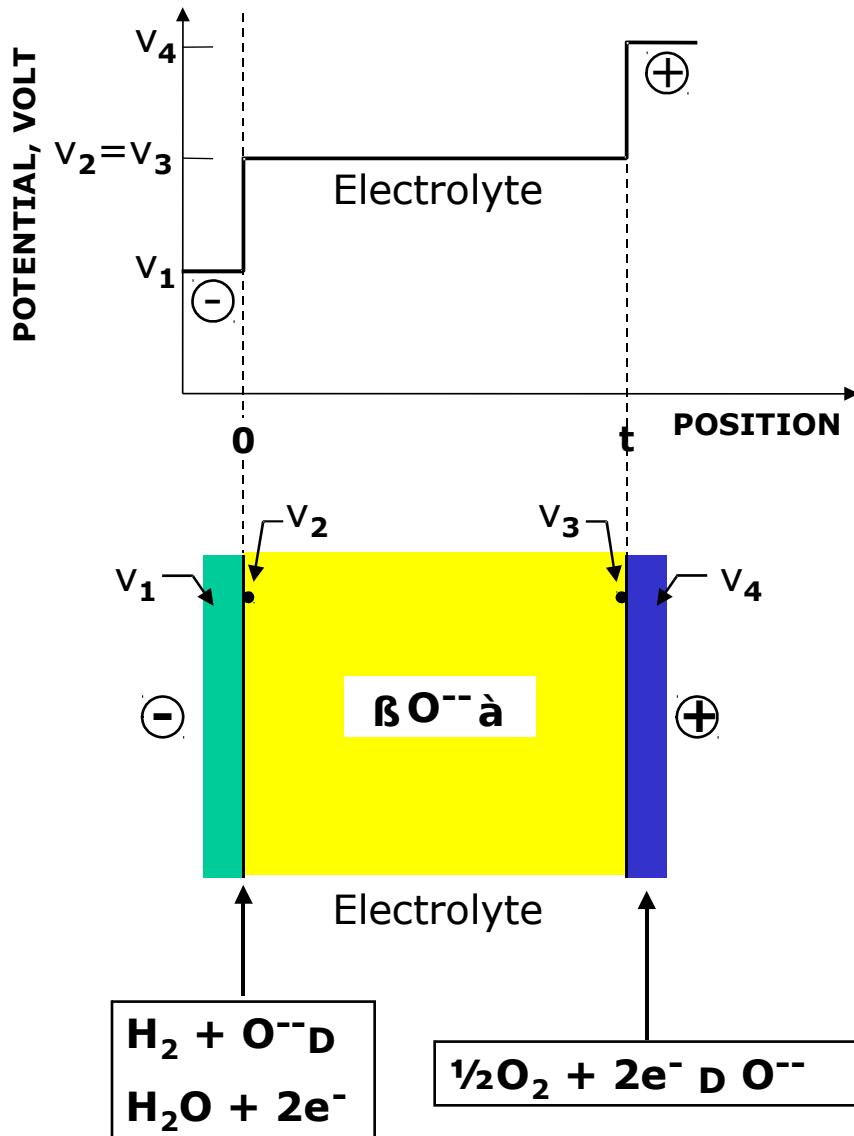
$$\frac{d \ln [i_+]}{d(\pi - \phi)} = \frac{(1 - \alpha)nF}{RT}, \quad \frac{d \ln [|i_-|]}{d(\pi - \phi)} = \frac{-\alpha nF}{RT} \quad (4.26)$$

# Solid Oxide Fuel Cell



- What is the potential  $\phi$  across the cell in
  - A: OCV (0 A/cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - B: Fuel cell operation
  - C: Electrolysis

# Potential Profiles in Solid Oxide Cells

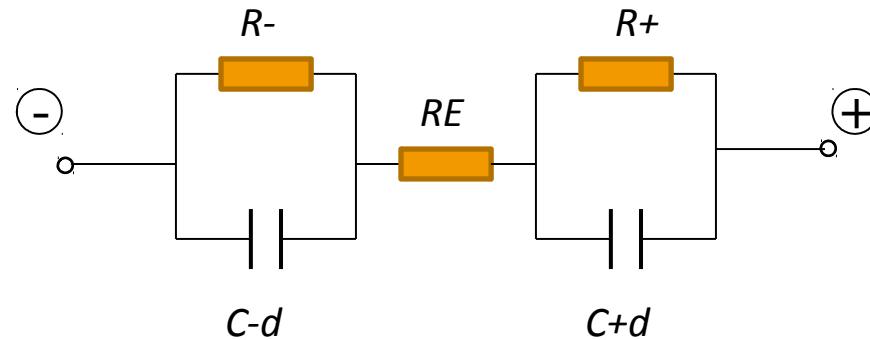
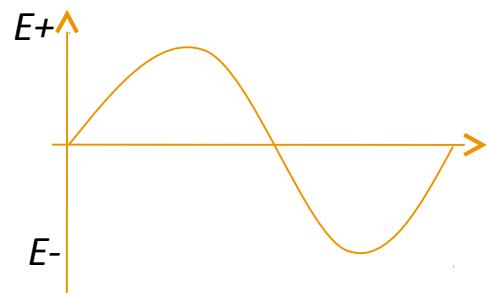
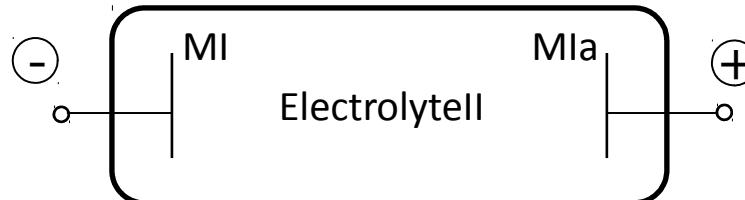
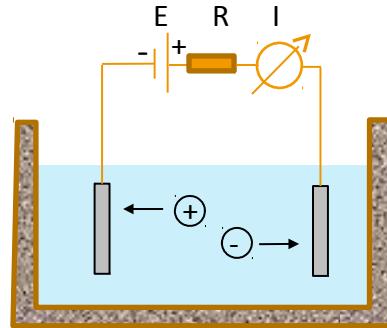


**Potential through the electrode supported cell with no current**

$$V4 - V1 = \text{Emf}$$

$$\text{Emf} = -\Delta G / (n * F)$$

# Measurement of Electrolytic Conductivity & Equivalent Circuits for Electrochemical Cells



# Equivalent Circuits for Batteries

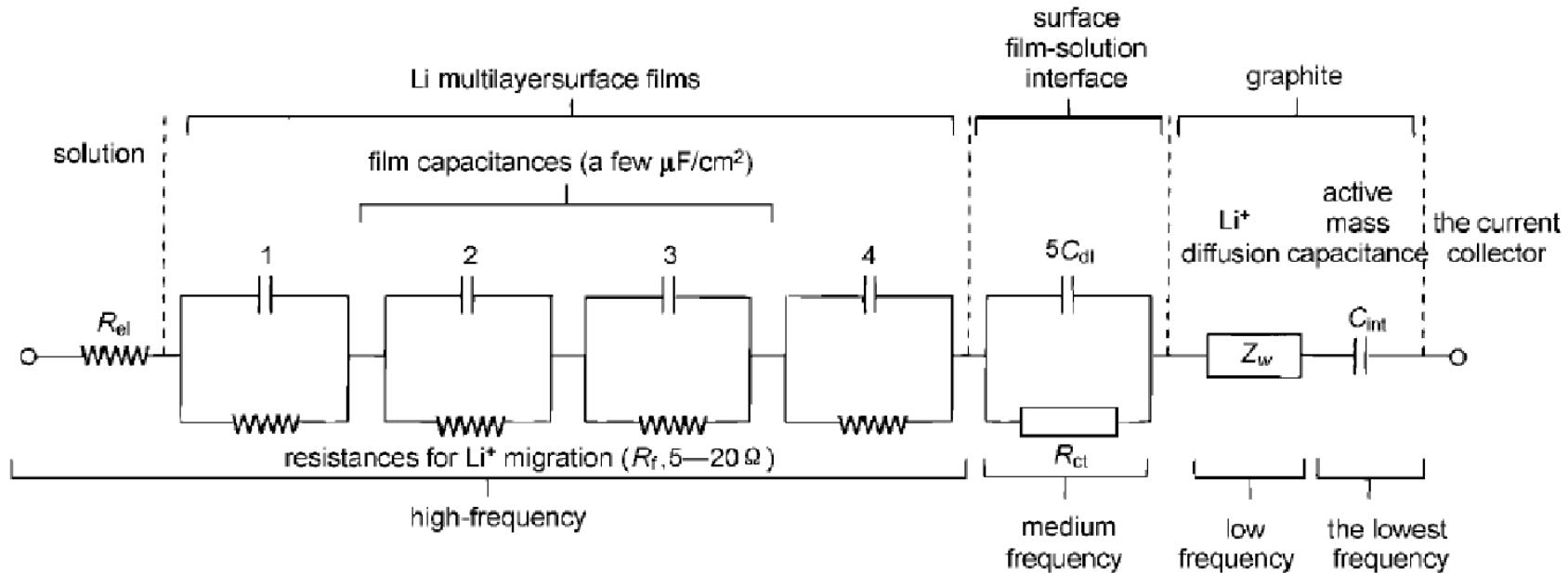


Fig. 2-2. EEC evolved by Aurbach used for analysis of impedance spectra of the lithium-ion insertion/desertion in the intercalation electrode[47].

# Equivalent Circuits for Batteries

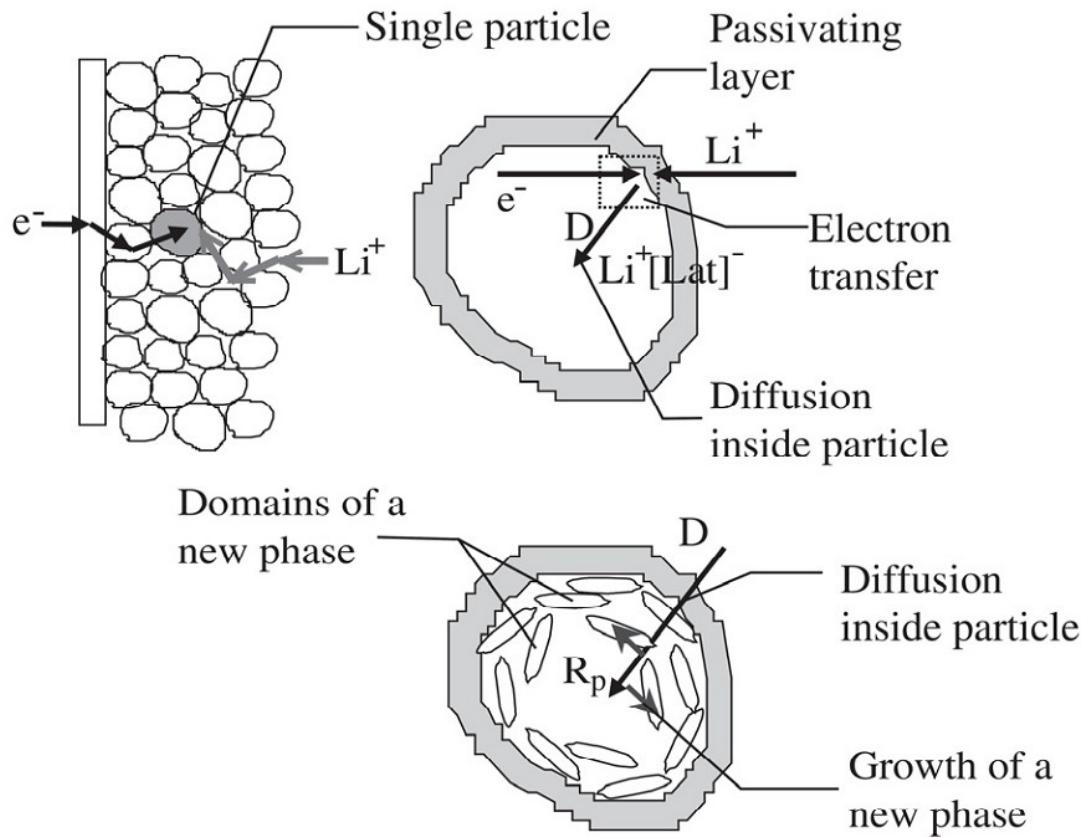


Fig. 2-3. Pictorial representation model for lithium-ion insertion/deinsertion into the intercalation electrode proposed by Barsoukov et al[12].

LITHIUM ION BATTERIES – NEW DEVELOPMENTS, Edited by Ilias Belharouak

# Equivalent Circuits for Batteries

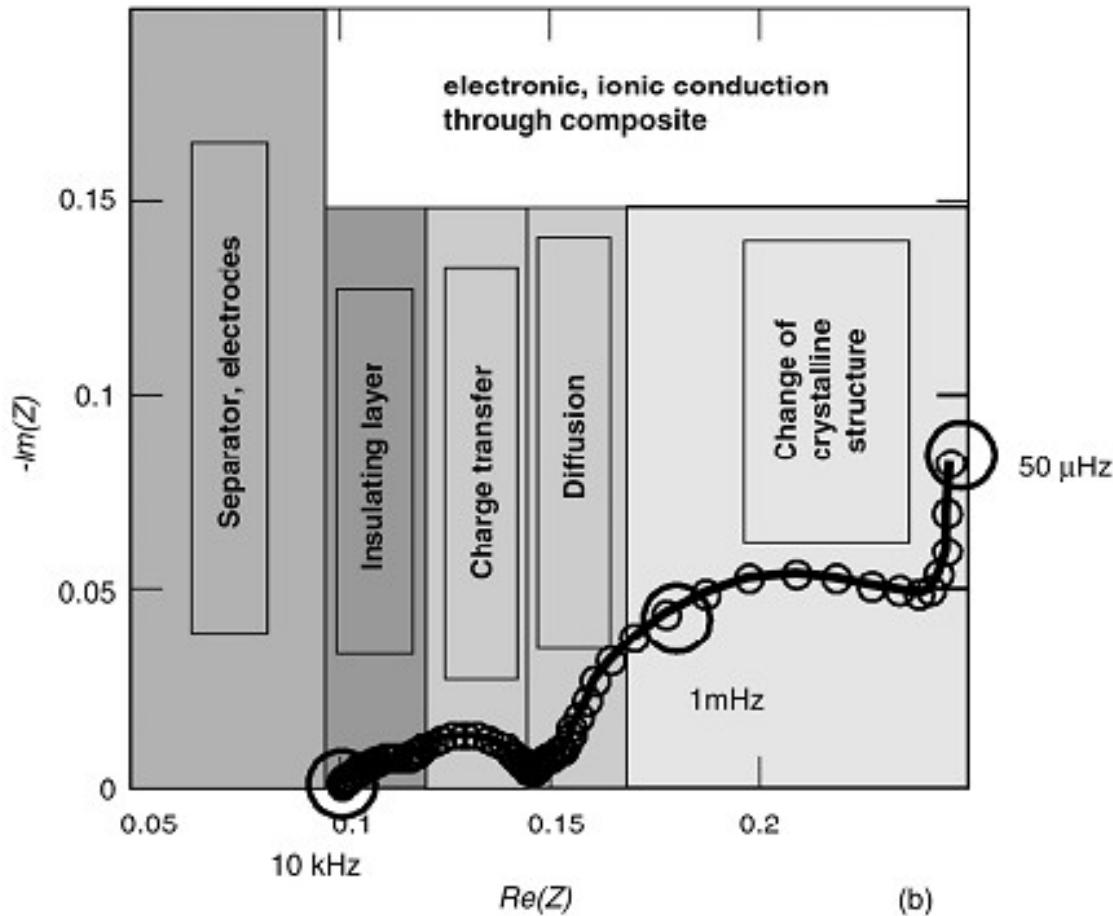
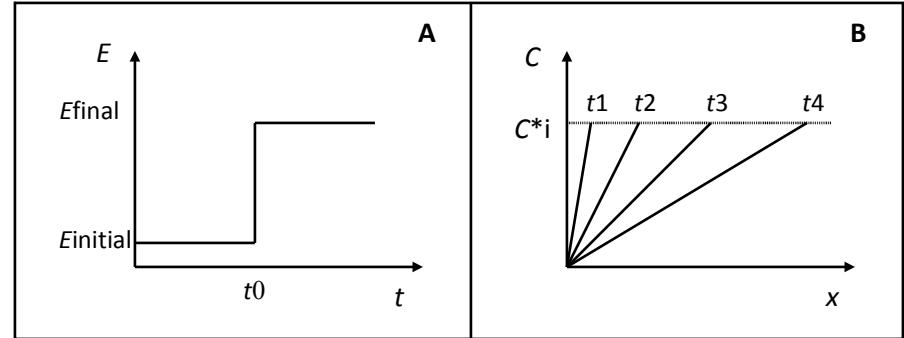
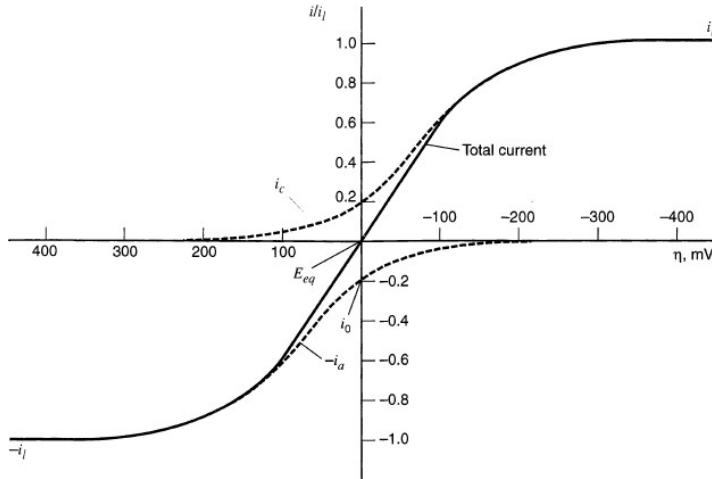


Fig. 2-4. Typical impedance spectra of intercalation electrode proposed by Barsoukov et al.[13].

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# Mass Transport Effects



## Mass Transport Effects in Electrochemical Cells

1. Migration (acts on ions, electric field driven)
2. Diffusion (acts on all dissolved – not solvent or balance gas - species, concentration gradient driven)
3. Convection (acts on all species, pressure gradient driven / depends on velocity of solution/gas)

Diffusion in a linear diffusion field (1-D concentration gradient):

$$J_i = D \frac{\partial c}{\partial x}$$

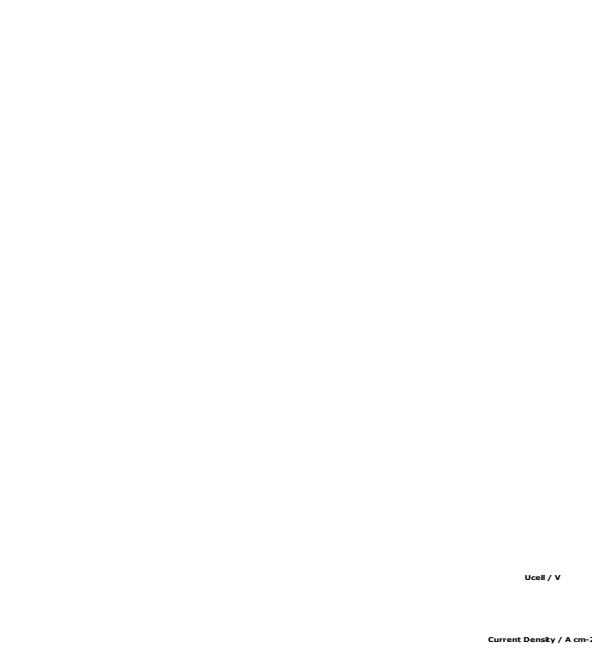
Nernst-Planck (Diffusion, Migration, Convection terms included)

$$J_i = -D_j \nabla c_j - \frac{z_j F}{RT} D_j c_j \nabla \phi + c_j v$$

# Polarisation of a Fuel Cell

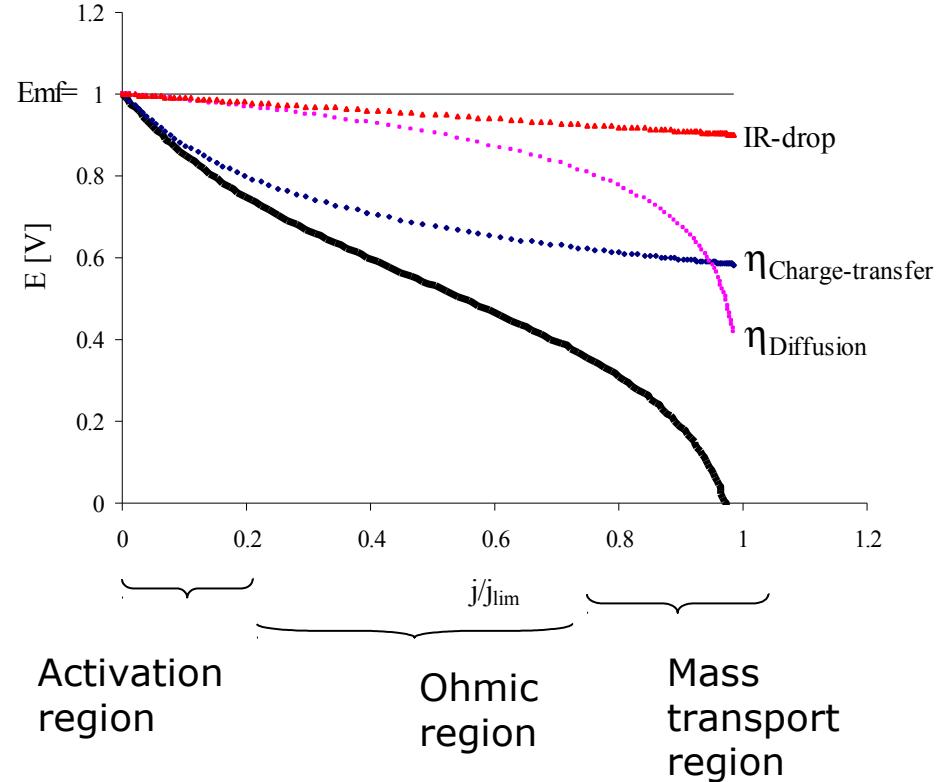
Secant Resistance:

$$ASR = \frac{OCV - U_{cell}}{j_{cell}}$$



Differential Resistance:

$$ASR = \frac{\Delta U_{cell}}{\Delta j_{cell}} \Big|_{j_{cell}}$$



# Concluding Remarks

You are welcome to contact me if you have questions, or want more information, reading tips etc

Søren Højgaard Jensen; [shjj@dtu.dk](mailto:shjj@dtu.dk), 4677 5849 (office)

## Further Reading

Electrochemical Methods, A. J. Bard & L. R. Faulkner, 2nd ed., Wiley, 2001

Electrochemistry, C. H. Hamann, A. Hamnett, & W. Vielstich, 2nd ed., Wiley-VCH, 1998

Fuel Cell Fundamentals, R. O'Hayre, S-W. Cha, W. Colella, F. B. Prinz, 2nd ed., Wiley, 2006