A Bifunctional Ceramic Fuel Cell Energy System (Progress Report 2016-2017)

> Prof. Kevin Huang Department of Mechanical Engineering University of South Carolina Columbia, SC29201







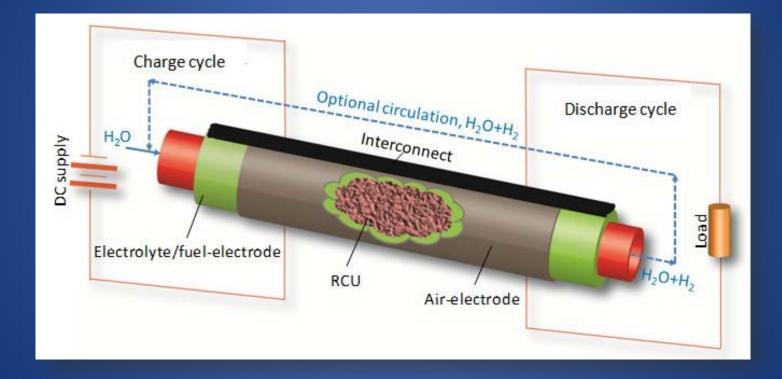
Present to DOE NETL 18th Solid Oxide Fuel Cell project review meeting, June 12-14, 2017, Pittsburgh

Outline

- The bifunctional ceramic fuel cell system
- Recent progress in IT-SOIARB development

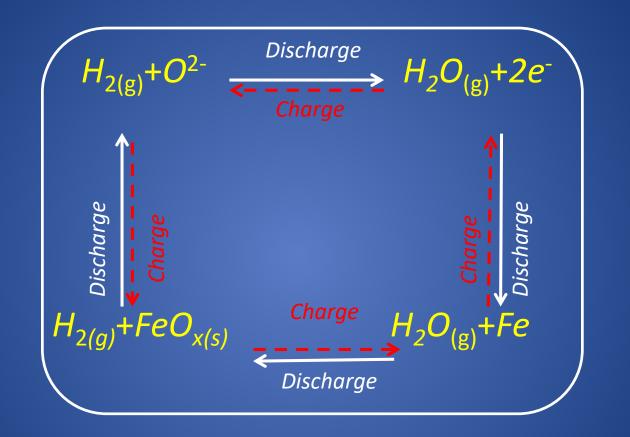
 Button cell (500°C)
 Dilution III (6500°C)
 - Pilot cell (650°C)
- Recent progress in IT-cathode development
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgement

The Bifunctional SOFC



Xu and Huang et al. Energy Environ. Sci., 4 (2011) 4942–4946

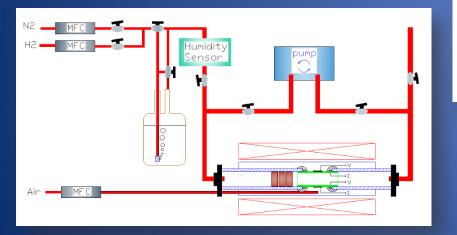
The Chemistry



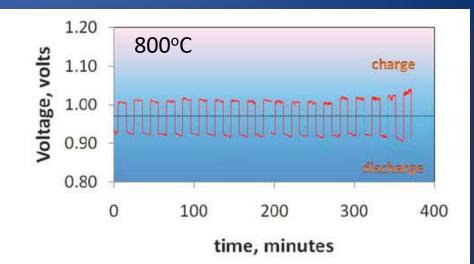
Overall Reaction: $Fe + x/2O_2 \stackrel{\text{discharge}}{\leftarrow} FeO_x$

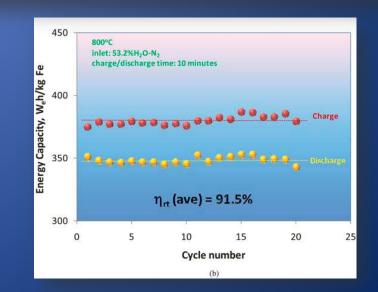
<u>Solid Oxide Iron Air Redox Battery (SOIARB)</u>

A SOFC with Energy Storage Functionality



Xu and Huang et al, Energy Environ. Sci., 2011, 4, 4942–4946





Recent Progress in IT-SOIARB Development

Battery Materials for 500°C-SOIARB (Button Cell)

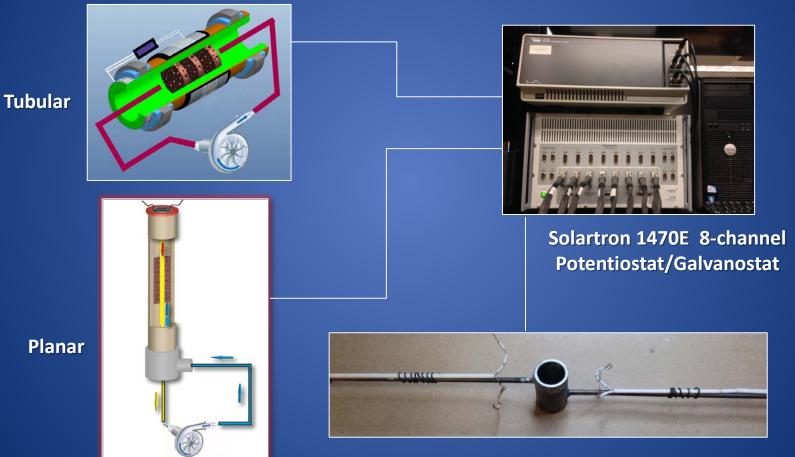
• **RSOFC**:

- Electrolyte: 30µm Sc-ZrO₂
- Cathode: 20 μ m LSM+BYC
- Anode: 500 μm Sc-ZrO₂+Ni
- Oxygen shuttle gas:
 - 80%H₂-20%H₂O for 500°C
 - 65%H₂-35%H₂O for 800°C

• RCU:

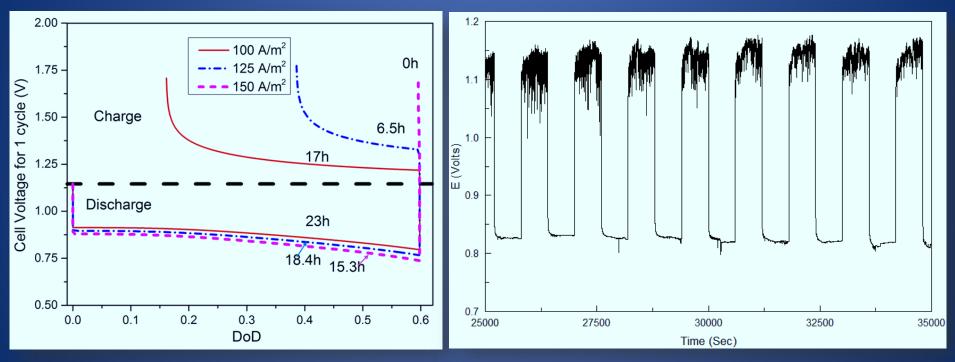
- Fe-Fe₃O₄ for <600 °C
- Fe-FeO for \geq 600 °C

Button Battery Cell Testing Apparatus



Simplified planar

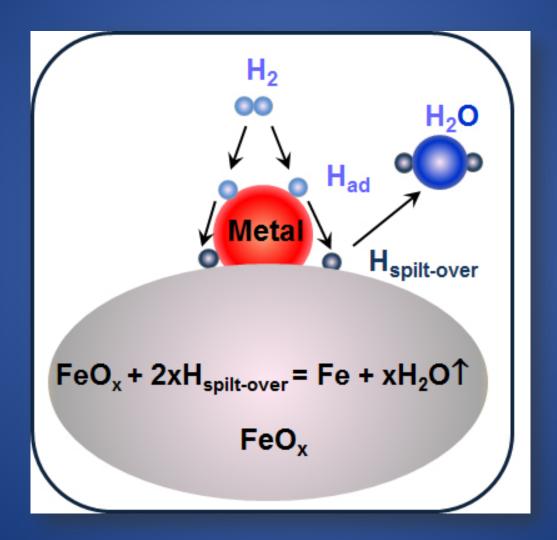
Kinetic Issues at IT Range



Jin and Huang et al, Journal of Power Sources, Vol. 280 (2015), 195-204

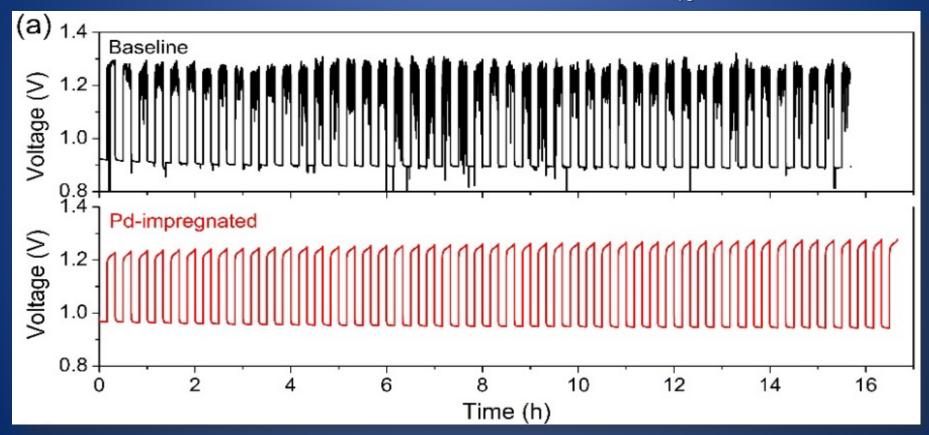
500 °C, J=10 mA/cm^{2,} t= 10 minute, C/5.5, U_{Fe}=3.1%

Pd as a Catalyst to Boost Rechargeability



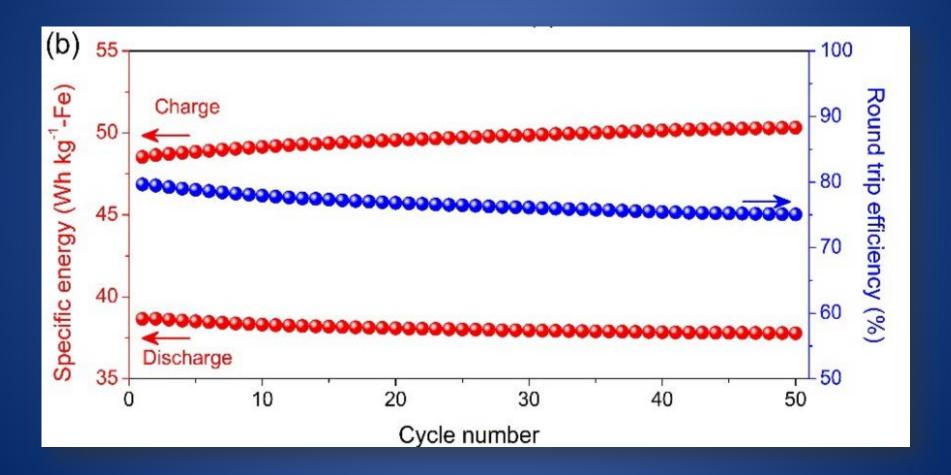
Cycleability Comparison

500 °C, J=10 mA/cm^{2,} t= 10 minute, C/5.5, U_{Fe}=3.1%



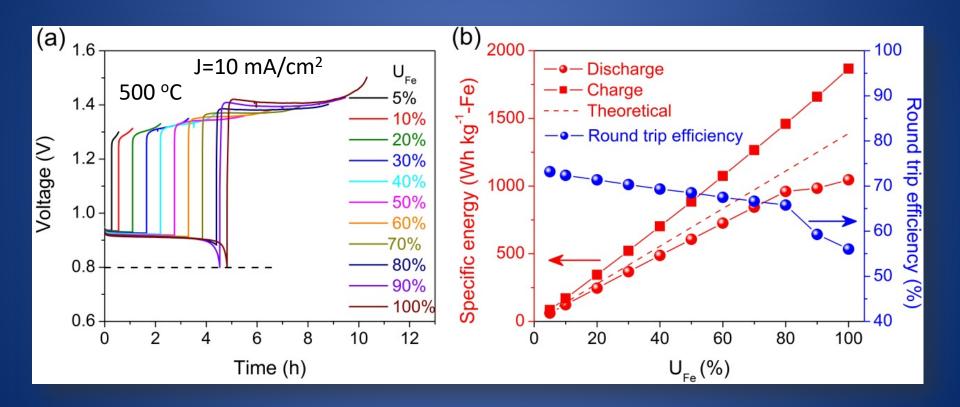
Zhang and Huang, ACS Energy Letters, 1, 1206-1211 (2016)

Capacity and Efficiency



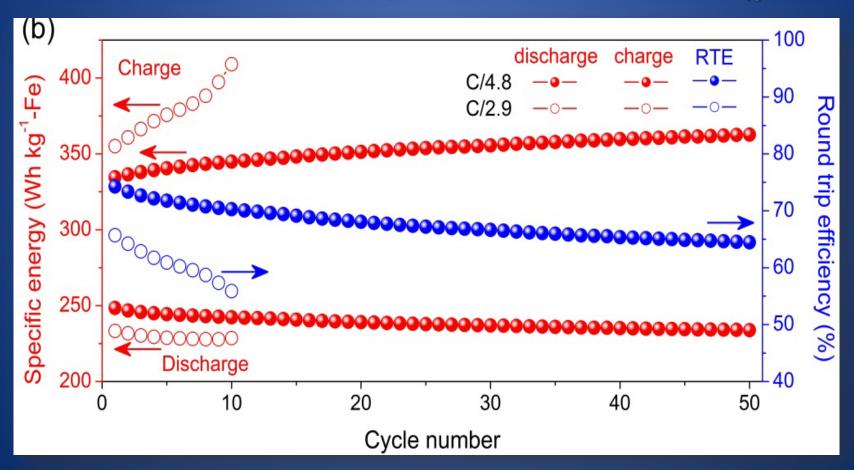
Zhang and Huang, ACS Energy Letters, 1, 1206-1211 (2016)

Fe-utilization vs Capacity and Efficiency



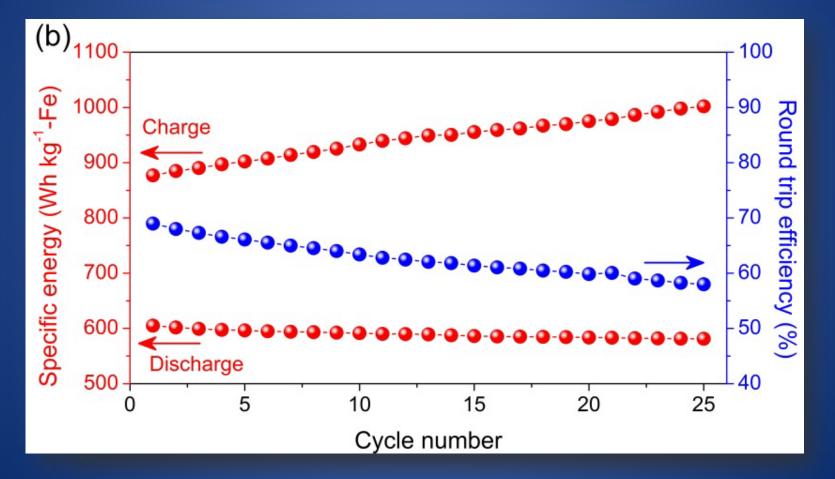
C-rate vs Capacity and Efficiency

500 °C, C/4.8=11 mA/cm² for 1 hr cycle, C/2.9=18.5 mA/cm² for 0.6 h, U_{Fe}=21%



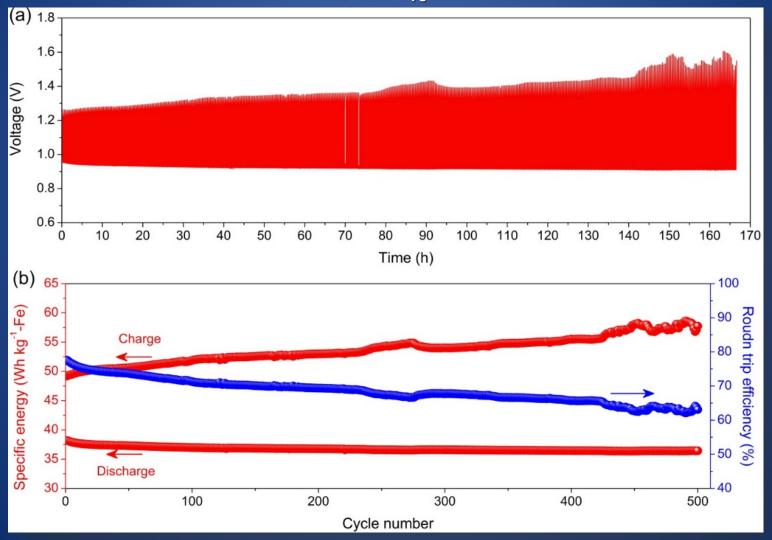
Combined U_{Fe} and C-rate Effect

500 °C, J=10 mA/cm^{2,} t= 2.65 h, U_{Fe}=50%



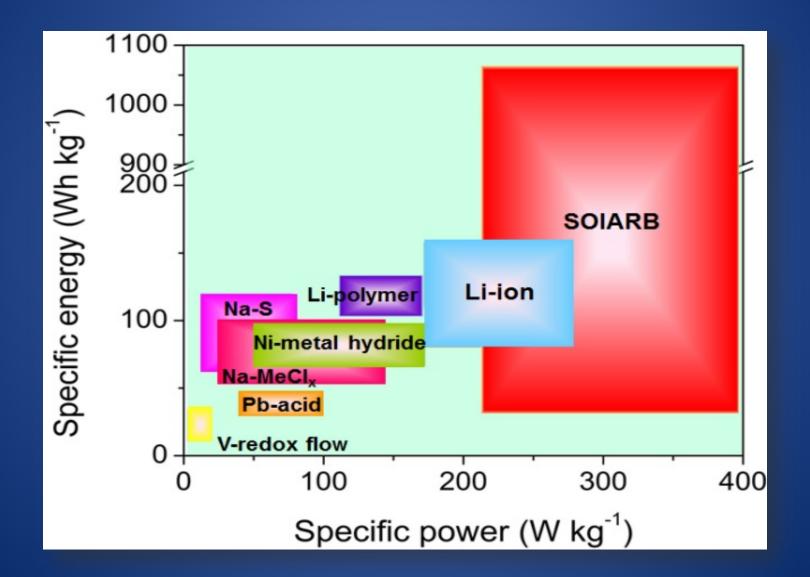
Durability Test

J=10 mA/cm^{2,} C/5.5, U_{Fe}=3.1%, 500°C,

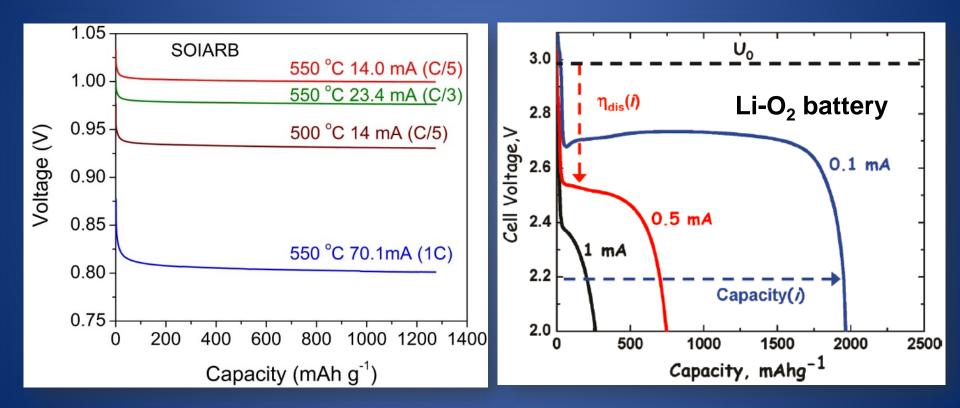


Zhang and Huang, ACS Energy Letters, 1, 1206-1211 (2016)

Ragone Plot



Comparison with Other Metal-Air Batteries



P. Adelhelm, et al. Beilstein J. Nanotechnol., 2015, 6, 1016; G. Girishkumar, et al. J Phys. Chem. Lett., 2010, 1, 2193.

Pilot Scale Battery Testing at Atrex

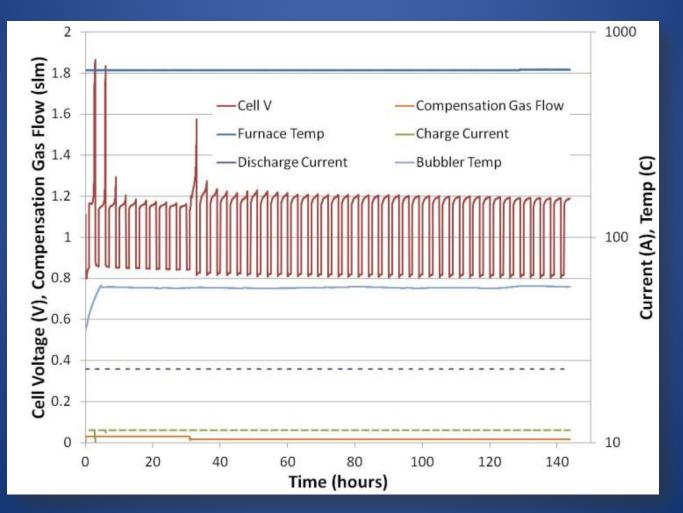




Atrex Anode Supported Tubular SOFC

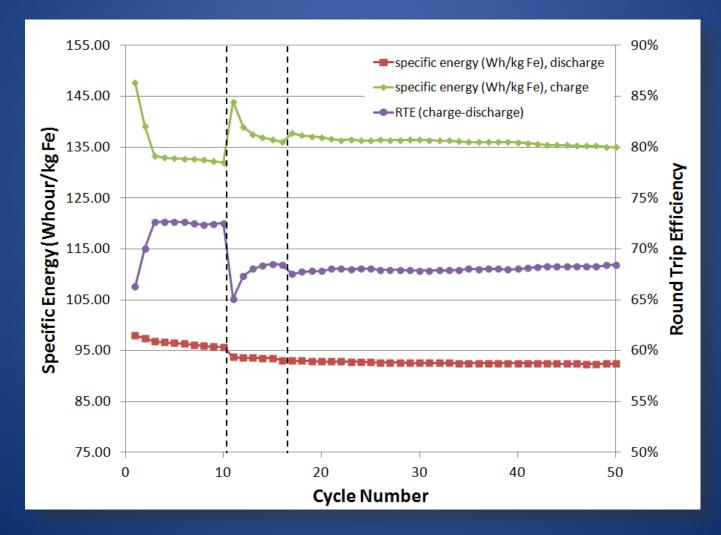
Pilot Battery Cycleability Testing

Discharge current: 23A (100 mA/cm²); charge current: 11.5A, Fe utilization: 12%; C/8

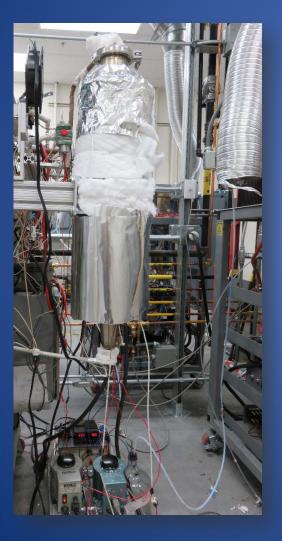


Pilot Battery Capacity and Efficiency

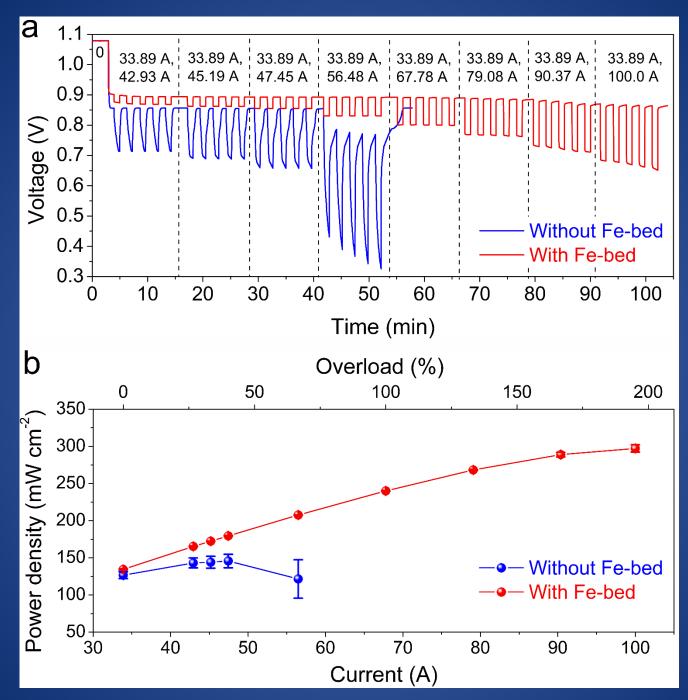
Discharge current: 23A (100 mA/cm²); charge current: 11.5A, Fe utilization: 12%; C/8



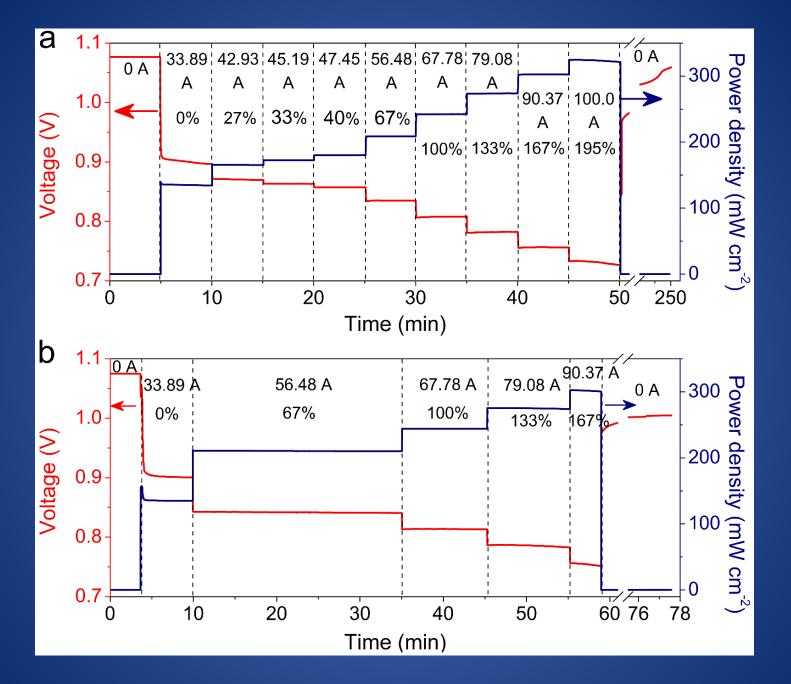
Separate Fe-bed Design at Atrex



- A vertical Fe-bed design
- A total of 2,590g Febed
- The capacity: 1,353Ah for Fe/FeO and 2,141Ah for Fe/Fe₃O_{4.}
- Operating current 11.5A
- C-rate of 1/10
- Fe-utilization of 20%

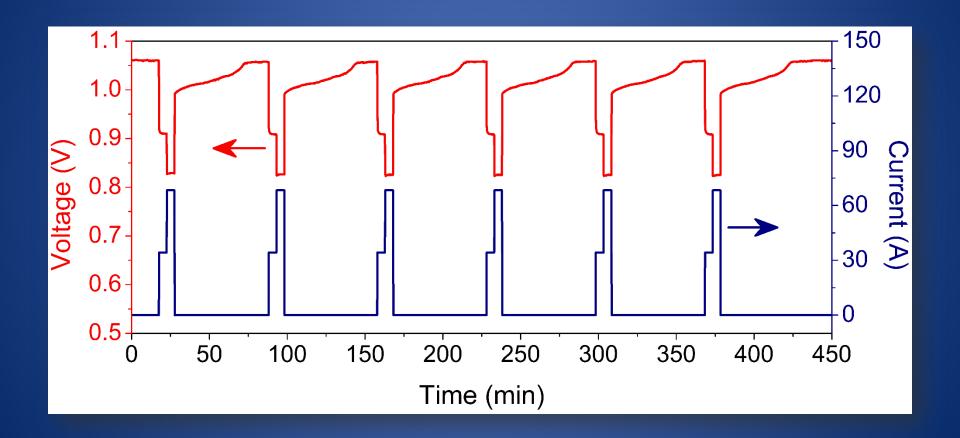


Zhang and Huang et al, Energy Environ. Sci., 2016, 9, 3746-3753



Zhang and Huang et al, Energy Environ. Sci., 2016, 9, 3746-3753

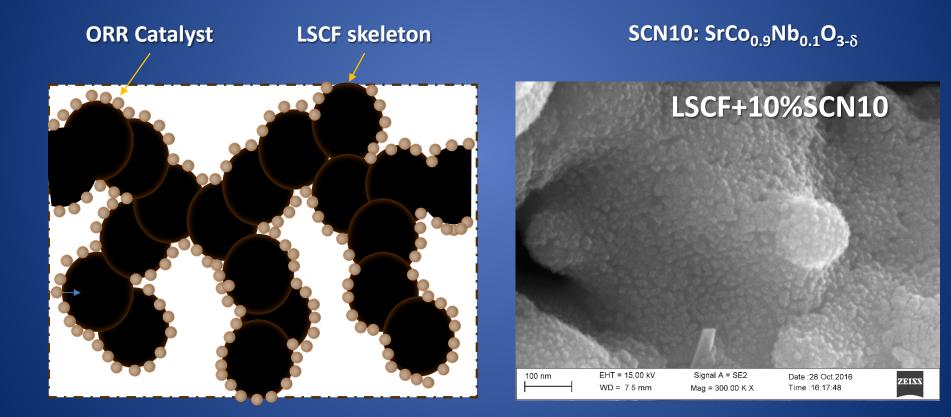
Regenerability



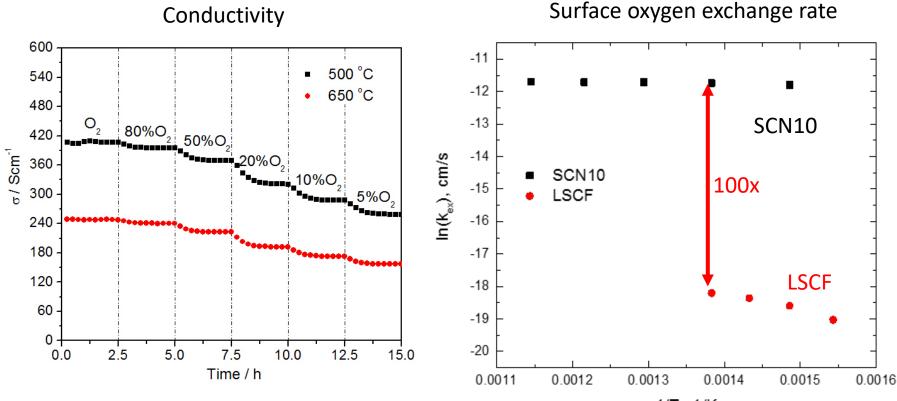
Zhang and Huang et al, Energy Environ. Sci., 2016, 9, 3746-3753

Recent Progress in IT-Cathode Development

The Approach: ORR Catalyst on LSCF

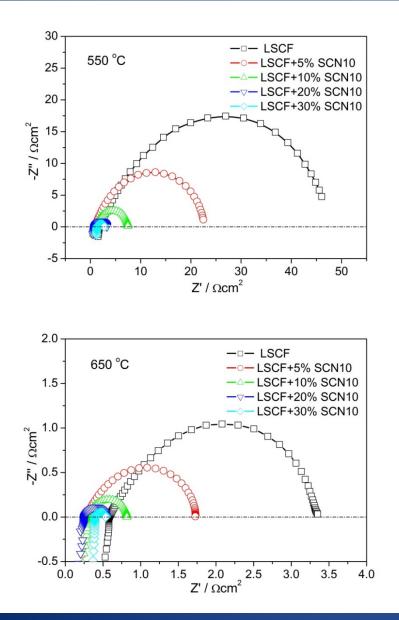


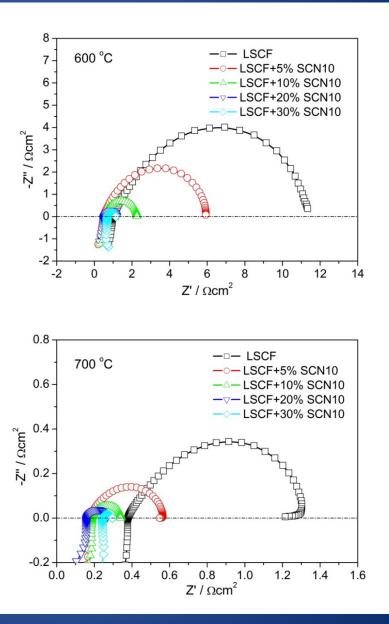
SCN10: SrCo_{0.9}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ}

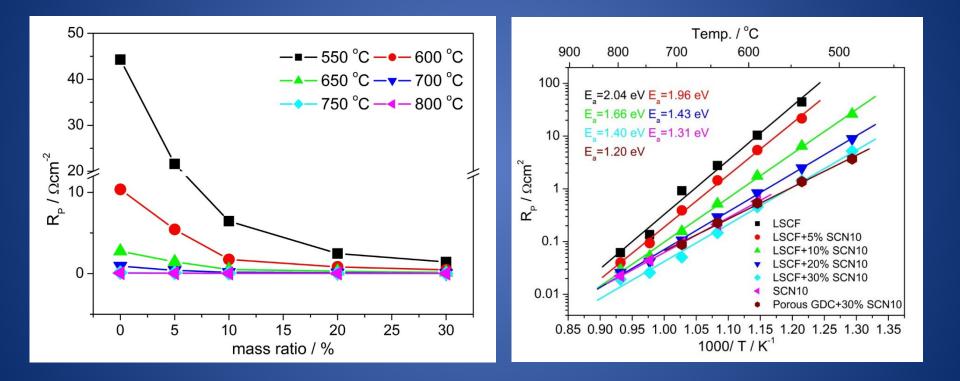


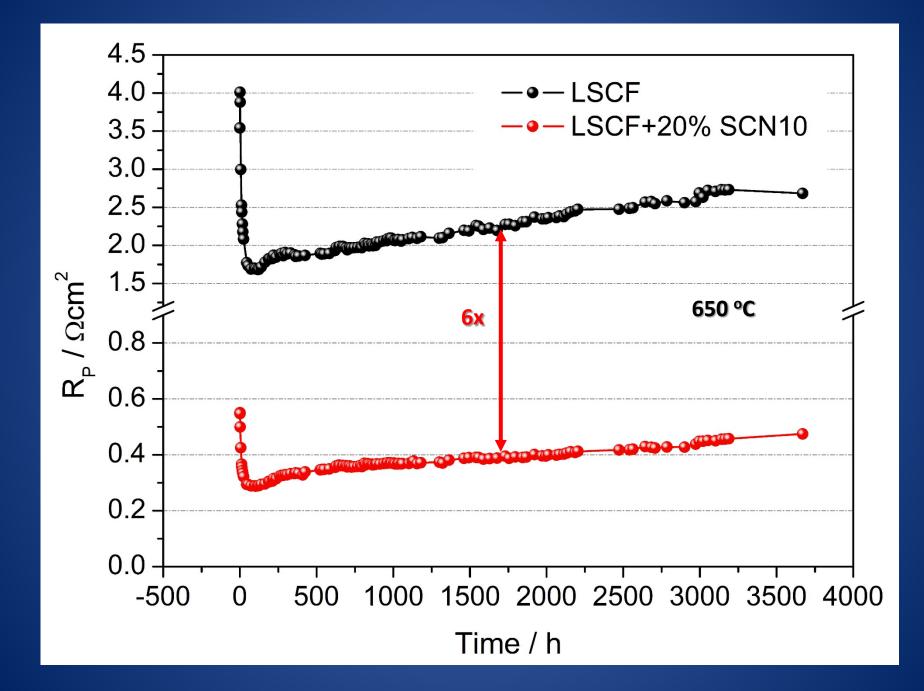
1/T , 1/K

UMD results









Summary

- The 500°C-SOIARB needs Pd as a catalyst to boost the kinetics of Fe₃O₄-reduction
- Cycleability of pilot scale Atrex battery cell has been successfully demonstrated at 650°C
- Fe-bed SOFC has potential applications in data center overload protection and fast ramping power for grid management
- SCN10-modified LSCF cathode shows low R_p and durable performance at IT range

Acknowledgement

- Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), U.S. Department of Energy, under Award number DE-AR0000492.
- Drs. Paul Albertus and Scott Litzelman for their suggestions and guidance to the project

