

Pressurized Operation of a Planar Solid Oxide Cell Stack - DTU Orbit (08/11/2017)

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Solid oxide cells (SOCs) can be operated either as fuel cells (SOFC) to convert fuels to electricity or as electrolyzers (SOEC) to convert electricity to fuels such as hydrogen or methane. Pressurized operation of SOCs provide several benefits on both cell and system level. If successfully matured, pressurized SOEC based electrolyzers can become more efficient both energy- and cost-wise than PEM and Alkaline systems. Pressurization of SOFCs can significantly increase the cell power density and reduce the size of auxiliary components. In the present study, a SOC stack was successfully operated at pressures up to 25 bar. The pressure dependency of the measured current-voltage (I-V) curves and impedance spectra on the SOC stack are analyzed and the relation between various system parameters and pressure is derived. With increasing pressure the open circuit voltage (OCV) and the reaction kinetics (electrode performance) increases for thermodynamic and kinetic reasons, respectively. Further, the summit frequency of the gas concentration impedance arc and the pressure difference across the stack and heat exchangers is seen to decrease with increasing pressure following a power-law expression. Finally a durability test was conducted at 10 bar.

General information

State: Published

Organisations: Department of Energy Conversion and Storage, Applied Electrochemistry, Mixed Conductors

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Number of pages: 14

Pages: 205–218

Publication date: 2016

Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information

Journal: Fuel Cells

Volume: 16

Issue number: 2

ISSN (Print): 1615-6846

Ratings:

BFI (2017): BFI-level 1

Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes

BFI (2016): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 1.79 SJR 0.498 SNIP 0.62

Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes

BFI (2015): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2015): SJR 0.699 SNIP 0.787 CiteScore 2.02

Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes

BFI (2014): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2014): SJR 0.629 SNIP 0.816 CiteScore 2.05

Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes

BFI (2013): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2013): SJR 0.841 SNIP 0.848 CiteScore 1.99

ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes

BFI (2012): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2012): SJR 1.25 SNIP 1.008 CiteScore 2.76

ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes

BFI (2011): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2011): SJR 1.656 SNIP 1.238 CiteScore 3.31

ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2011): Indexed yes

BFI (2010): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2010): SJR 1.632 SNIP 1.243

Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes

BFI (2009): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2009): SJR 1.368 SNIP 1.12

Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes

BFI (2008): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2008): SJR 1.523 SNIP 1.226

Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2007): SJR 1.349 SNIP 1.086

Scopus rating (2006): SJR 1.194 SNIP 1.228

Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2005): SJR 0.45 SNIP 0.501

Web of Science (2005): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2004): SJR 0.232 SNIP 0.215

Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes

Web of Science (2001): Indexed yes

Original language: English

Durability, Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy, I-V curves, Planar, Pressure, Solid Oxide Cell, Stack, Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy

Electronic versions:

presurized.pdf. Embargo ended: 12/02/2017

DOIs:

10.1002/fuce.201500180

Source: FindIt

Source-ID: 2292082853

Publication: Research - peer-review › Journal article – Annual report year: 2016