

Novel ionomers and electrode structures for improved PEMFC electrode performance at low PGM loadings



Tufts UNIVERSITY | School of Engineering

 Michigan
Technological
University
1885

 **FCPAD**
FUEL CELL PERFORMANCE
AND DURABILITY

DoE Annual Merit Review

Washington, DC, April 30, 2019

Project FC155: PI: Andrew Haug, 3M

BUDGET & Status

Timeline

- Project start date: 10/1/16
- Project end date: 9/30/19
- 29 of 36 months complete @ AMR

Budget

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Total Project Budget: | \$3,245,349 |
| • Total Recipient Share: | \$649,071 |
| • Total Federal Share: | \$2,596,278 |
| • Total Project Costs: [*] | \$2,148,352 |
| • Current Recipient Share: | \$428,089 |
| • Current DOE Share: | \$1,712,356 |

^{*} As of 1/31/19

^{**} Sub expenses as of 1/1/19

Running roughly 3 months underspent

Barriers addressed

- Cost, durability, performance
- Operational robustness

Partners

- SUBCONTRACTORS
 - Michigan Technological University
 - Tufts University
 - FCPAD:
 - LBNL, ORNL, NREL, LANL, ANL
- PROJECT LEAD:
 - 3M

Key Barrier: Cathode Transport limitations

Dispersed Cathodes at SEF's below $100 \text{ cm}^2_{\text{PGM}}/\text{cm}^2_{\text{planar}}$

- Transport losses become significant

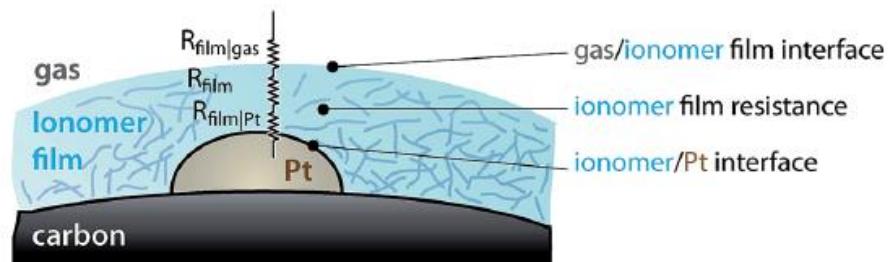
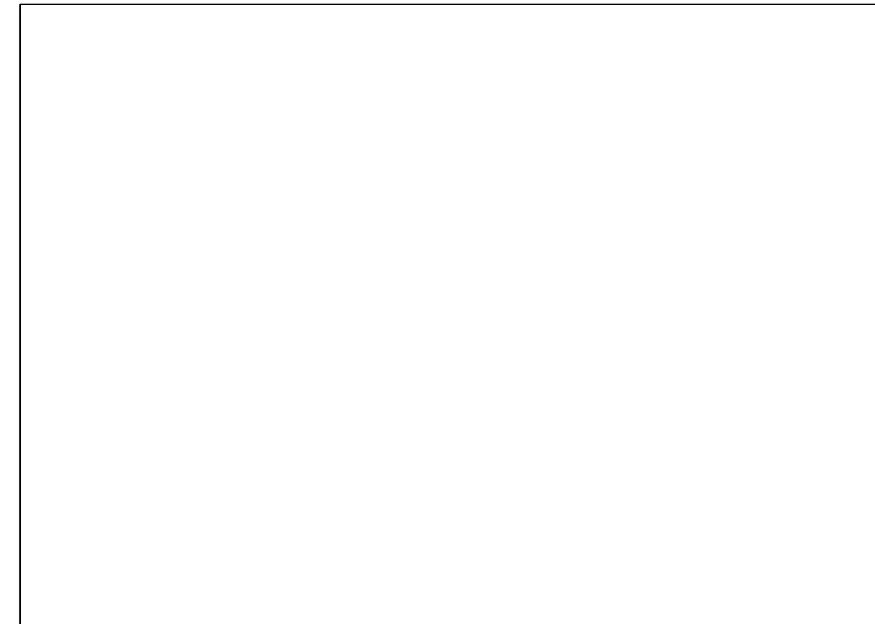
Traditional NSTF cathodes break this trend

- SEF's as low as 10.

Likely that oxygen transport through ionomer
near the reaction site is a key limitation

FC155 goal is to

- Understand and improve Ionomer, bulk & local electrode transport
- Integrate NSTF into a dispersed electrode
- Maintain NSTF activity and durability
- Achieve high performance and robustness



A. Weber, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2014, 2, 17207–17211

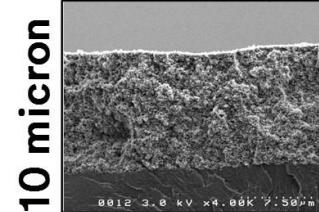
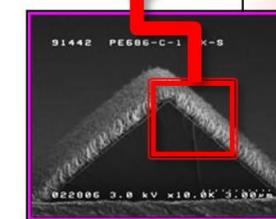
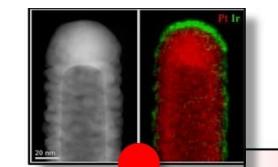
IMPROVED IONOMER

2 methods to improve transport

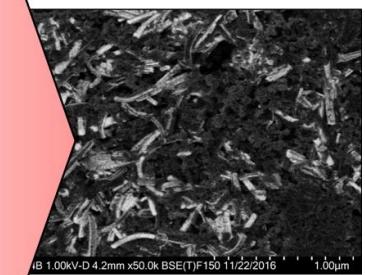
Dispersed NSTF

Incorporate NSTF into powdered electrode

- 10-100X thicker than NSTF
- Contains ionomer
- Improved operational robustness
- Not constrained to planar NSTF loadings



COMBINE



Relevance, Objectives & Status

| METRIC | | 2020 ¹ Target | FC155 Target | 3/2017 | 3/2018 | 2/2019 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PGM total loading, mg/cm ² | | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.102 ² | 0.102 ² | 0.095 ² |
| PGM total loading, g / kW [150 kPa abs] | NSTF Ionomer | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.172 ² 0.125 ^{2,4} | 0.172 ² 0.21 | 0.172 ² 0.36 |
| Mass activity @ 900 mV iR-free, A/mg | NSTF Ionomer | 0.44 | 0.44+ | 0.28+ 0.15 | 0.28+ 0.21 | 0.31 0.36 |
| <u>Support AST</u> , % mass activity loss, 5k cycles | NSTF Ionomer | < 30 | < 30 | 28% (Pt) | <10% (Pt) | <10% (Pt) 27% (PtCo) |
| Electrocatalyst AST, mV loss @ 0.8 A/cm ² | NSTF Ionomer | < 30 | < 30 | NA | 80 ⁵ 134 ⁵ | 80 ⁵ 69 ⁵ |
| Electrocatalyst AST, % Mass activity loss | NSTF Ionomer | < 40 | < 40 | 45% (Pt) 83% (Pt) | 40% (Pt) 54.5% | 41% (Pt/Ir) 54.5% |
| MEA Robustness (cold/ hot / cold transient) | NSTF Ionomer | 0.7/0.7/0.7 | >0.7/>0.7/>0.7 | 0.83/0.79/>1.0 | 0.93/0.84/0.90 0.97/0.90/0.94 | 0.93/0.84/0.90 0.97/0.90/0.94 |
| Ionomer Conductivity (S/cm, 80C, 50%RH) | | --- | 0.087 | 0.050 | 0.070 | 0.099 |
| Ionomer Bulk O ₂ perm (mol·cm·s ⁻¹ ·cm ⁻² ·kPa ⁻¹), 80C, 50RH | | --- | 1.8E-13 | 2.0E-13 | 2.3E-13 | 2.1E-13 |

¹ All metrics and DOE 2020 targets are taken from DE-FOA-0001412² 0.025 mgPt/cm² anode³ 3M transient protocols used for NSTF testing⁴ At 0.661V for 80/68/68C, 7.5 psig, 0.686V for 90/84/84C, 21/6 psig⁵ At 70/70/70C, 0 psig

Collaboration & Coordination

Ionomers

Membranes

Thin films

Electrodes

CCMs

**INTEGRATE
to
Cathode**

NSTF[POWDER]

Electrodes

CCMs

MTU

Washburn
Hele Shaw, AFM
AFM, PNM model
STEM

TUFTS

nanoCT
Electr. Cond.
InoperandoCT
Electrode Cond.

FCPAD

GISAXS, WAXS
SEM, STEM
AST testing, RDE
Water uptake
Conductivity

3M

O₂ perm
Perf Testing
AST testing

Progress and Objectives

Milestone Summary Table

| | | | Q/M | % |
|------|------------|---|-------|-----|
| TASK | BP1 | Go/NoGo: NSTF electrode ECSA >= 15 m ² /g, 40 cm ² / cm ² , 0.7 robustness. Ionomer bulk O ₂ perm + conductivity > 3M825 baseline | | 100 |
| | 1,2 | Synthesize IMIDE#1, Make 20+ grams of NSTF 25 ugPt/cm ² powder. | 1/3 | 100 |
| | 1,2,4 | Validate DoE AST tests, specialty tests, run baseline with 3 ICs, 3 loadings.. | 2/6 | 100 |
| | 1, 2 | Characterize ionomer, Pt/C, and powder NSTF (SEM, TEM, NanoCT, etc) | 3/9 | 100 |
| | 1,2,4 | NSTF powder electrode >= 0.30 A/mg Pt, NanoCT disp NSTF, | 4/12 | 100 |
| TASK | BP2 | Go/NoGo: Ionomer exceeds 3M825 O ₂ perm by 33% with similar or improved conductivity. 0.35 A/mg Pt, 0.175 g/kW power output | | 75 |
| | 4 | Reaction-kinetics model added to PNM framework. PNM predicts pol curves at T = 40 °C and 80°C. | 5/15 | 100 |
| | 2 | NSTF Cathode ECSA >= 25 m ² /g. | 6/18 | 100 |
| | 4 | MTU/Tufts: Baseline structures, electrochem input to PNM, delivering initial predictions. | 7/21 | 100 |
| | 2 | NSTF activity >=0.35 A/mg Pt in an electrode. 0.2 g/kW with NSTF containing electrode. *0.31 A/gm _{PGM} achieved with NSTF, 0.36 A/mg _{PGM} with durable dispersed alloy | 8/24 | 95* |
| TASK | BP3 | END: See Targets slide | | 60 |
| | 4 | MTU/Tufts: PNM - continuum predicts pol curves for T = 40 and T = 80C within 10% | 9/27 | 80 |
| | 1-3 | Support AST targets achieved. Metal cycle AST <40% activity loss. | 10/30 | 100 |
| | 1 | Ionomer with 50% greater O ₂ permeability and 50% greater H ⁺ conductivity than 3M825 | 11/33 | 100 |
| | 1-3 | >=0.44 A/mg PGM in electrode. Metal AST <=30% activity loss. 0.125 g/kW. | 12/36 | 40 |

TASK1: Ionomer Development

Bulk O₂ Perm, Conductivity

Bulk O₂ permeability

- GM (Zhang ECS 2013) method

Imide #4 (vs 825): **+92%**

Imide #6 (vs 825): **+105%**

Imide #8 (vs 825): **+64%**

Bulk conductivity

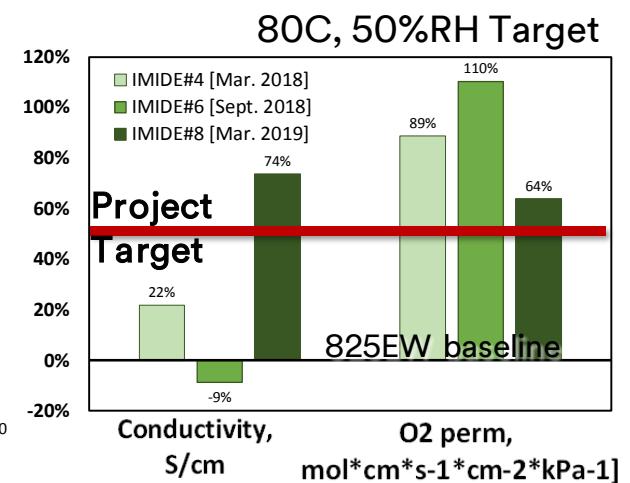
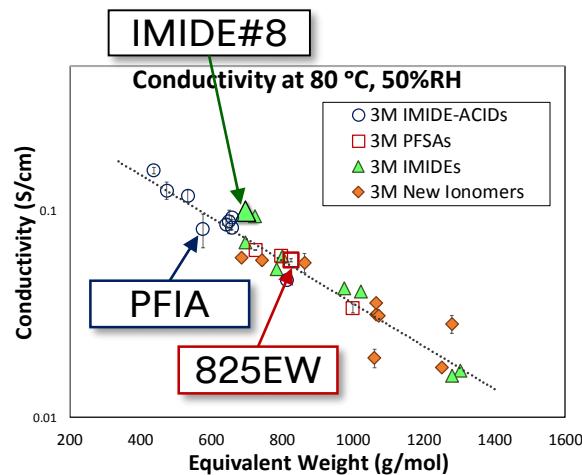
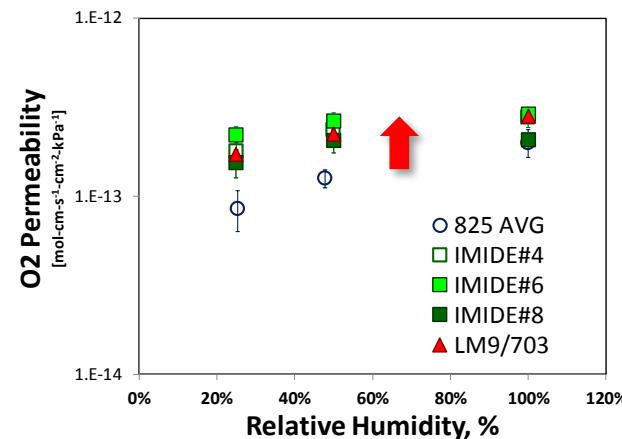
- 4 point probe

IMIDE#4 (vs 825): **+22%**

IMIDE#8 (vs 825): **+74%**

2nd Validation of Imide#6

- Oxtran O₂ transmission
 - (vs 825): **+64%** [23C, 0%RH]



TASK1: Ionomer Structure

Thin film, LBNL

Ionomer thin films have been evaluated

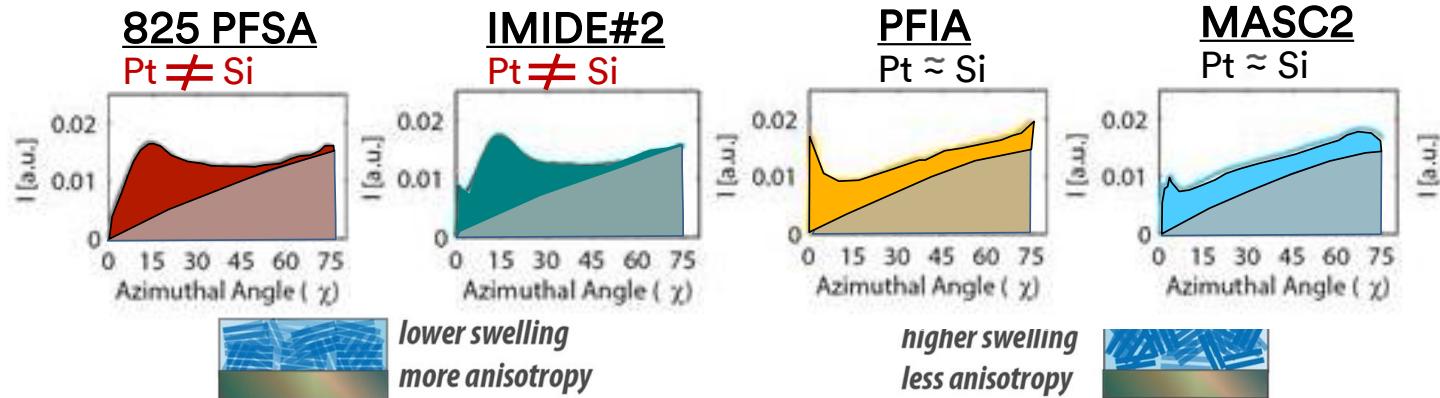
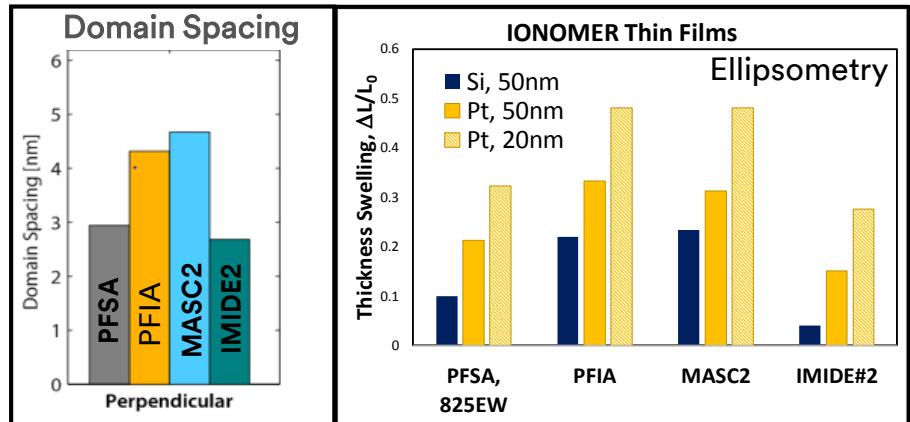
- GISAXS, Ellipsometry
- On Pt and Si substrates

PFIA and MASC thin films have

- Larger ionomer domain spacing
- Stronger nano-phase separation
- Reduced preferential orientation parallel to Pt/Si
- More swell with Pt vs. Si

PFSA & IMIDE#2 more oriented on Pt

- More likely to lay flat on catalyst



TASK1: Ionomer Conductivity, Uptake

Electrode, Tufts/MTU

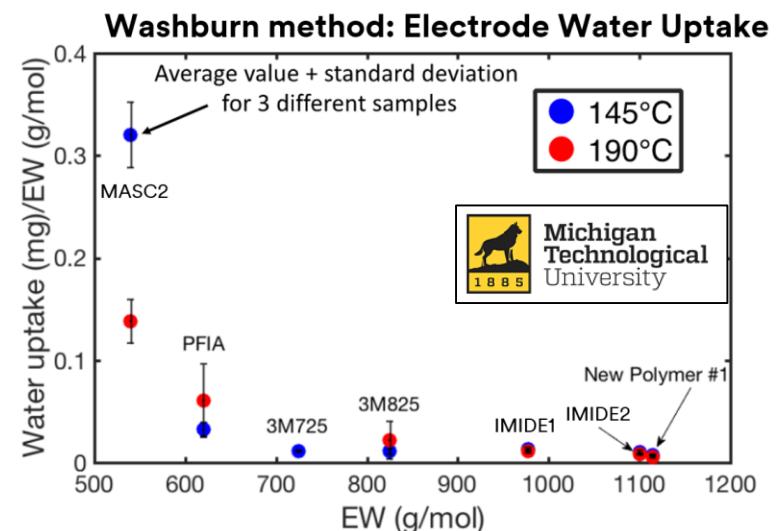
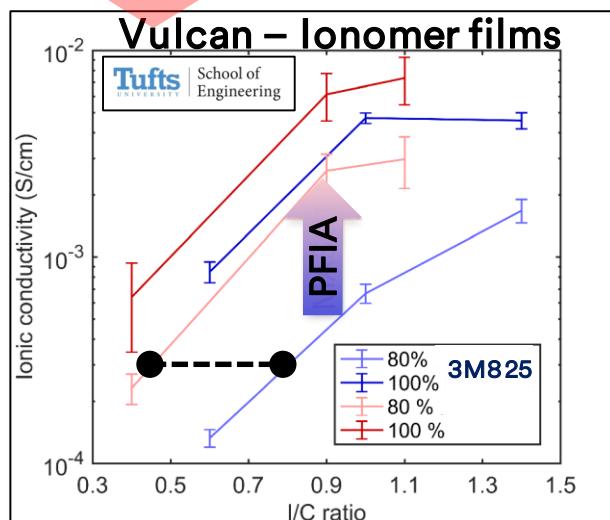
MTU: Water uptake vs. IONOMER

- All using I/C=0.9, 10V50E
- Water uptake increases for PFIA, MASC

Tufts evaluating IONOMER conductivity

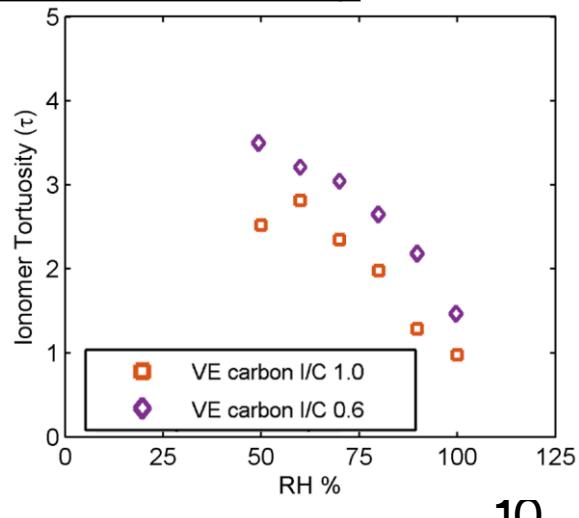
- DC Technique using H₂ pump
- PFIA conductivity @ 80%RH: 8,12X [vs 825, 1000EW]
- $I_{\text{PFIA}}/C = 0.4$ equivalent to $I_{825}/C = 0.8$

KEY



Tufts evaluating IONOMER tortuosity

- Compare DC Technique and AC(EIS) techniques
- Ratio results to estimate H⁺ tortuosity vs. RH



TASK1:**Ionomer Local Gas Transport**

Electrode, NREL/LBNL/3M

Less ionomer reduces resistance

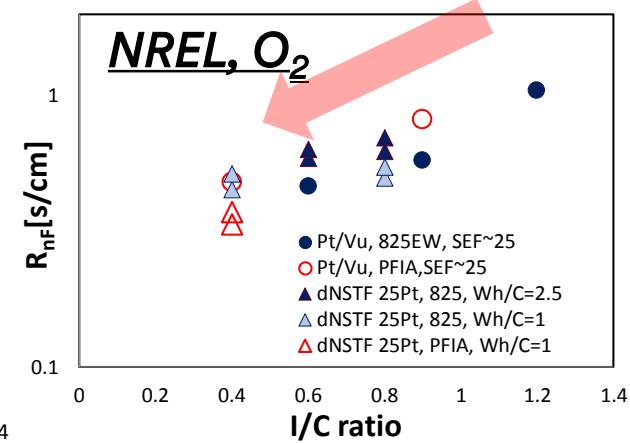
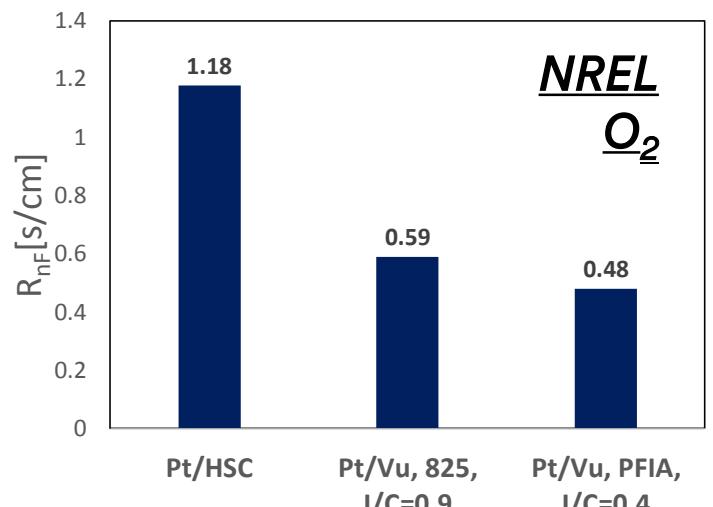
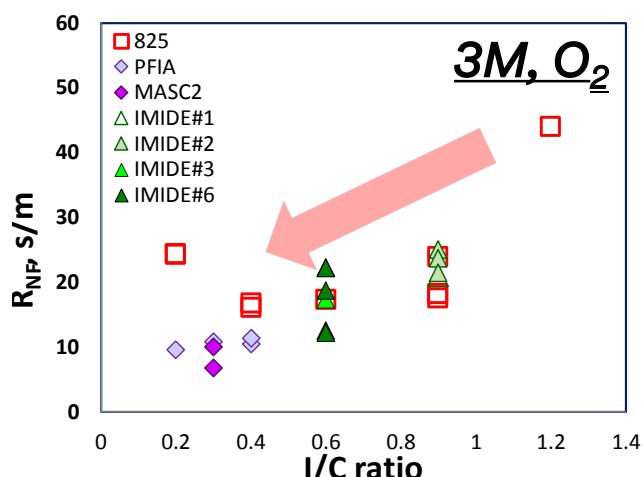
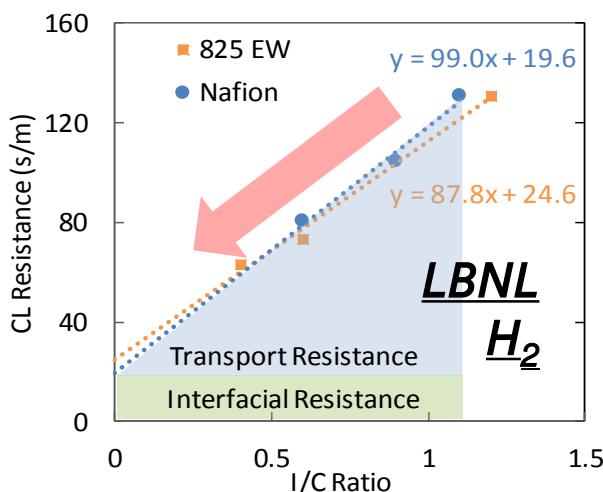
- I/C=0.9 to 0.4 reduced resistance 19-33%
- Seen for H₂ & O₂ transport
- dNSTF and Pt/C systems

Not yet clear differentiation of ionomer type

- Results similar to PFSA baselines at 3M, NREL
- Testing more now at NREL

UNUSUAL Behavior with I/C<0.4

- 825 PFSA shows increase vs. I/C=0.4
- PFIA & MASC2 do not
- Possible agglomeration, catalyst de-activation at <100%RH



TASK1+3: Ionomer Integration

I/C vs. Activity

Lower I/C = Higher catalyst activity

- Low-Mid SA carbons
- Gr2 carbon activity increased 61%
- Consistent with Shinozaki et al (on RDE)

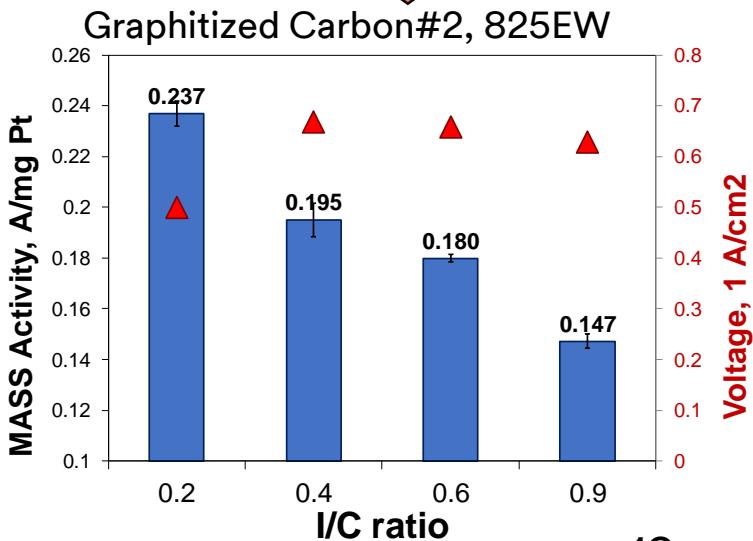
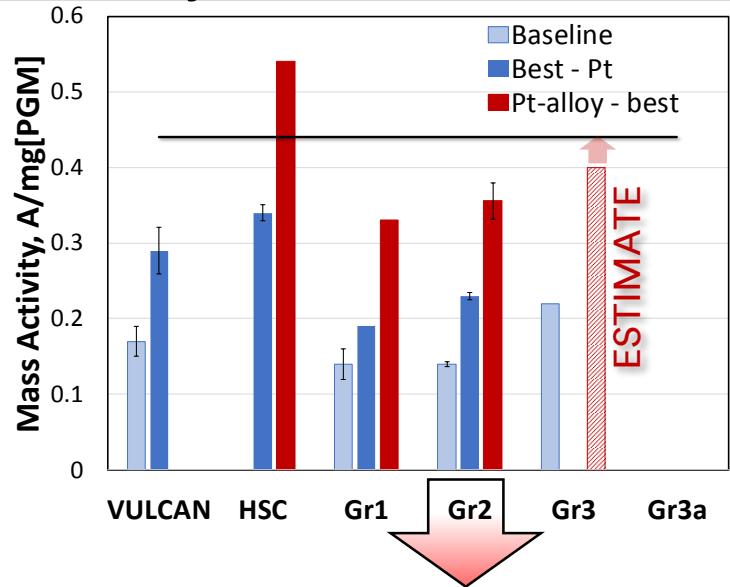
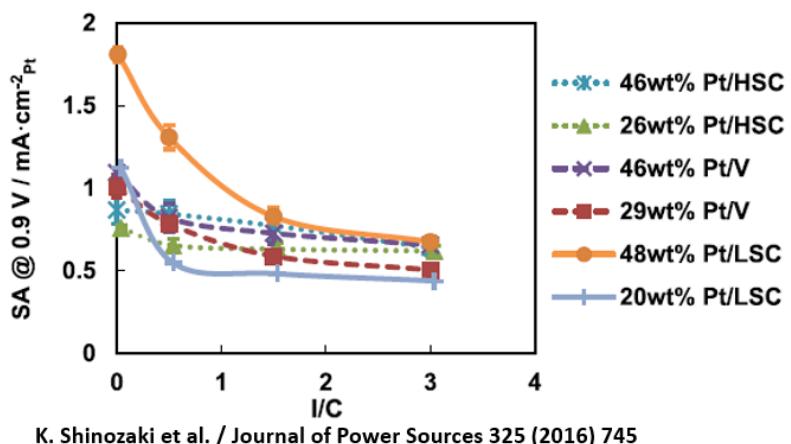
Near 0.3 A/mgPt with Pt/Vu

Pt-alloy/Gr2 = 0.36 A/mgPt

- BP2 GNG

Gr3, Gr3a promise higher activity

- 3000+ support cycles



TASK1+2+3: Ionomer Integration

Processing, ANL

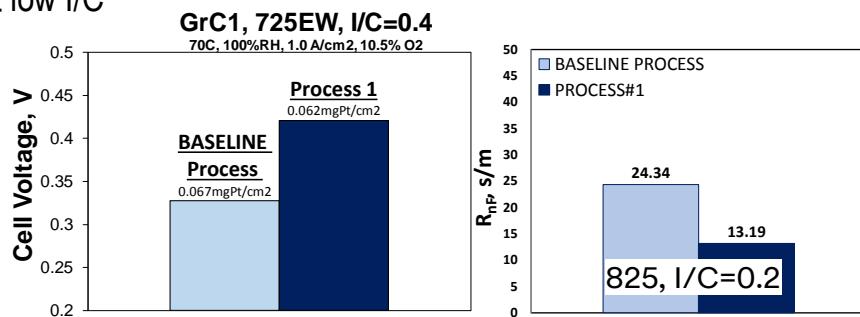
Aggregates & Agglomerates influenced by

- C-type, %M, Ionomer type, I/C ratio
- ANL using USAXS to quantify
- Low I/C & dNSTF electrodes more agglomerated

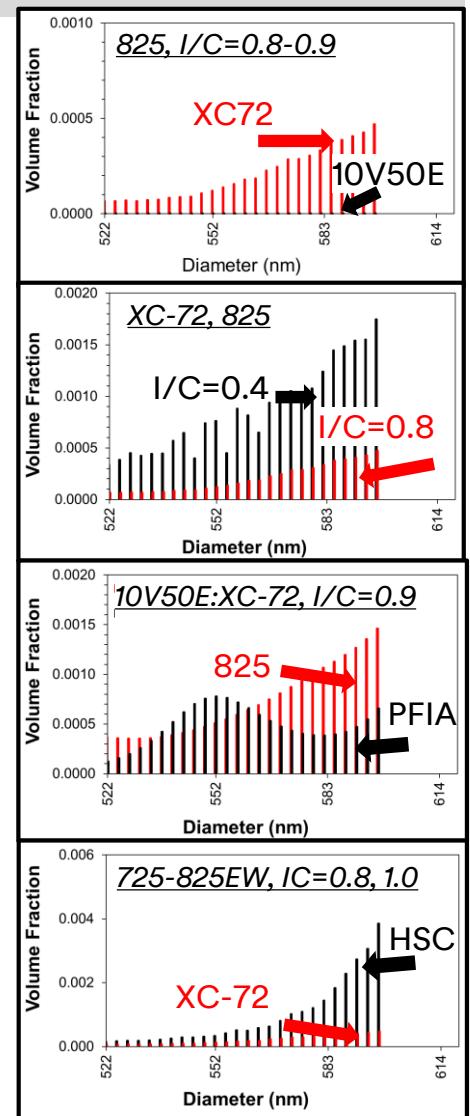
PFIa reduces agglomeration

Processing can reduce agglomeration

- & Increase performance at low I/C



| | Type 1 | vs | Type 2 | >400nm Aggl. |
|-----------|-------------------------|----|--------------------|------------------------|
| C-type | HSC | | XC72 | 7X |
| %M/C | XC72 | | 10V50E | 50X |
| I/C | 0.4 | | 0.8 | 3X |
| Ionomer | 825 | | PFIA | 2X |
| Electrode | dNSTF, XC72, I/C=0.4 | | 10V50E Baseline | ~75X (500X for HSC) |



TASK1,3: BEST in CLASS

CCM Package SPECS:

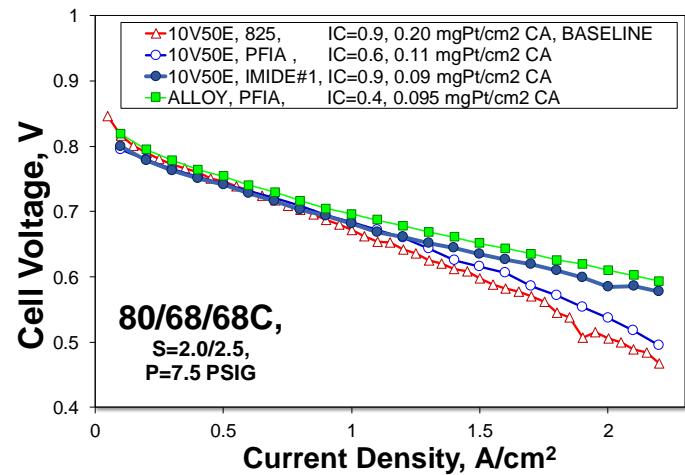
- 0.025 mg Pt/cm² anode
- Better membrane, GDL

Alloy M/Carbon, PFIA, I/C=0.4

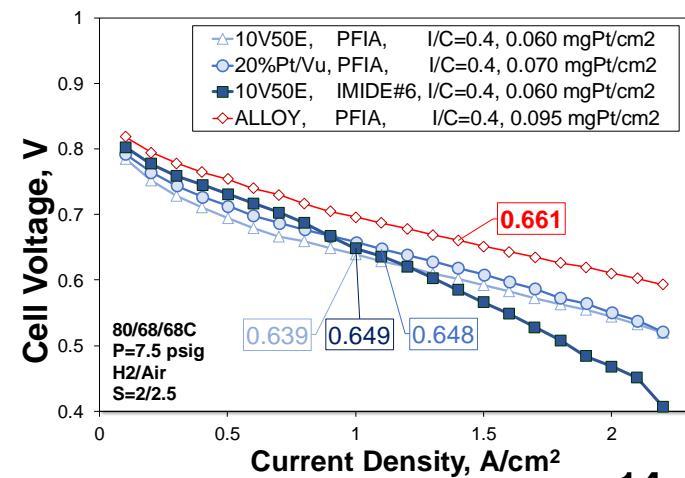
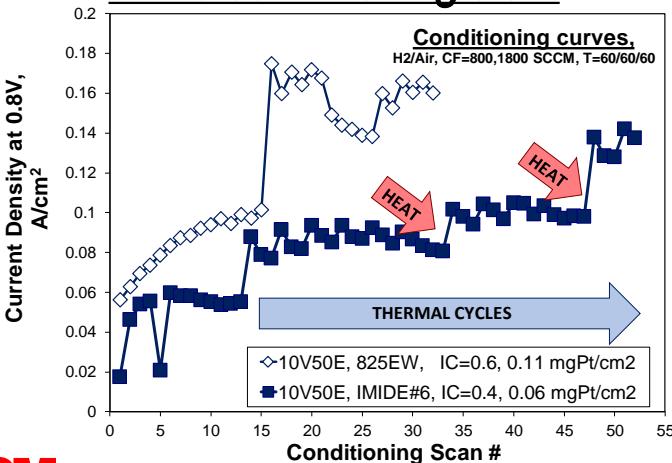
- 0.125 g/kW @ 0.661V [80C, 7.5 psig]
- 0.125 g/kW @ 0.686V [90C, 21.6psig]

Good Pt/C performance at <0.07 mg Pt/cm²

- Imides shows H₂/Air gains



Imide conditioning slow



TASK1,3 : BEST in CLASS

with Durability

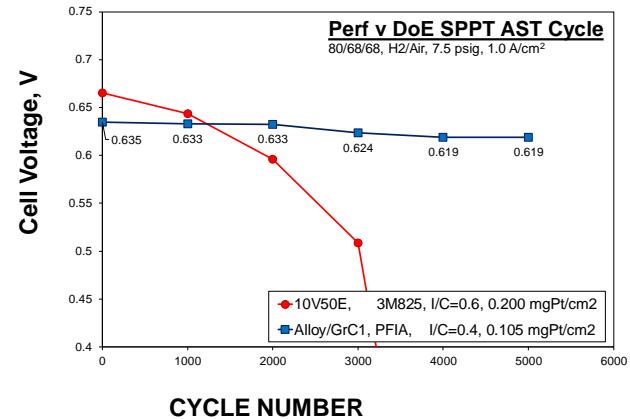
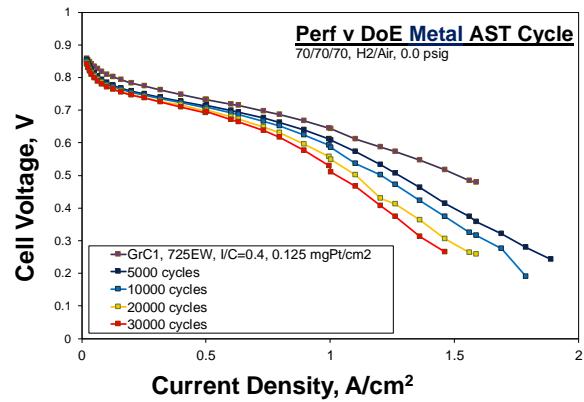
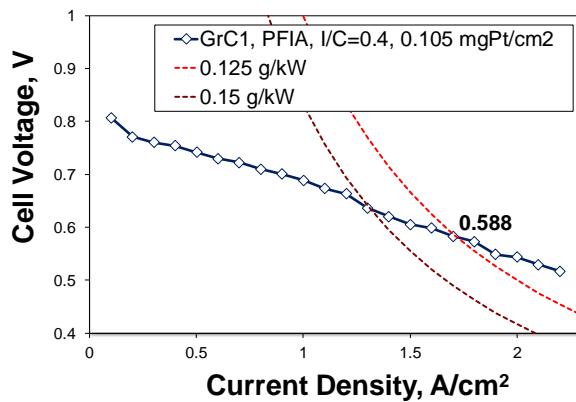
Initial attempts have combined

- Activity & conductivity gains with
- Support stability
- Metal stability

Areas of focus/improvement

- Low initial surface area – increase this
- Metal stability
- Optimizing balance of parts

| Property | Performance |
|---|---|
| Initial activity, A/mgPt | 0.31 |
| Local O ₂ resistance, S/cm | -25.9% [vs baseline] |
| Electrode ionomer thin film conductivity | 8X vs. 825 12X vs. 1000 |
| Process Improvement | 18% power [@0.067 mgPt/cm ²] |
| Support stability | 5000+ cycles |
| Metal Stability (will improve with package optimization) | -39.6% ECSA -69mV (0.8 A/cm ²) -39mV (0.5 A/cm ²) |



TASK2: Powdered NSTF

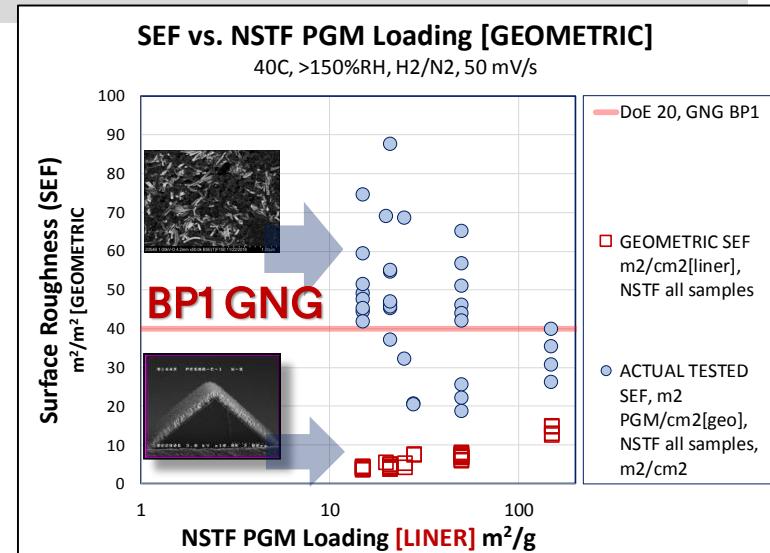
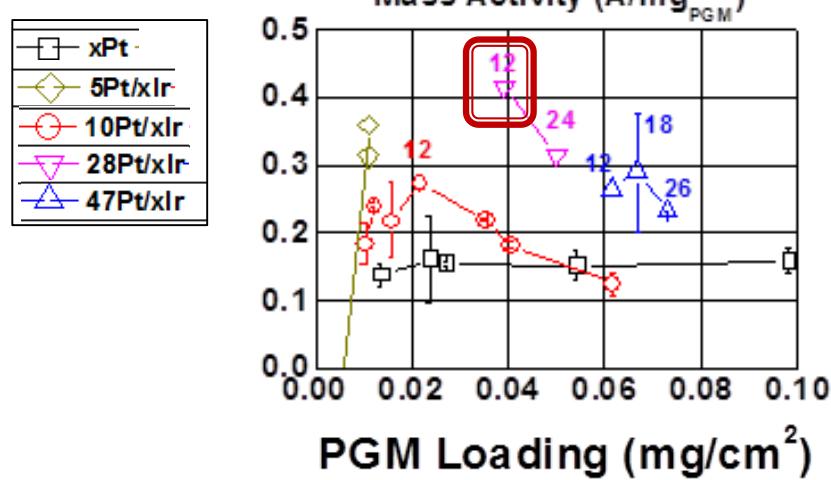
Powdered NSTF

- Eliminates geometric constraint
- Requires new variables (Wh/C, I/C)

Task 2 Targets met: ECSA, SEF

New materials coming

- ECSA= 28-30 m²/g at 40C
- 0.4 A/mgPt with no transmission metals



| TARGET | Status | Key issue |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| ECSA = 25 m ² /g | Complete | |
| Surface Roughness | Complete | |
| Operating range | Complete | Ensure with downselects |
| Metal AST – ECSA | Complete | |
| Support AST | Complete | |
| Metal AST – 0.8 A/cm ² | 80 mV | H+ transport |
| Activity | 0.31 | Electrode Structure (Pt/Ir) Transition metal loss (Pt-alloy) |

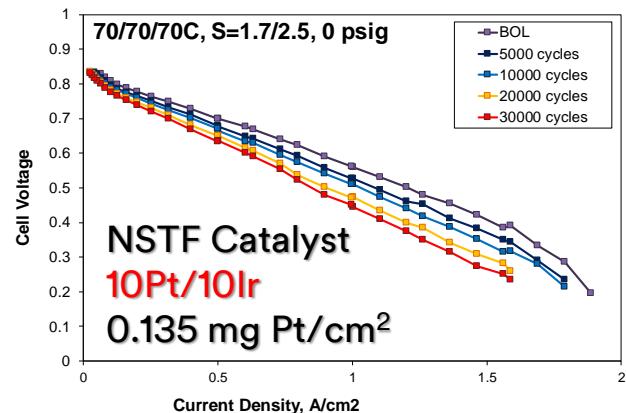
TASK2:**dNSTF, Performance Root Cause**

ANL, LANL, LBNL, NREL, ORNL, MTU, Tufts

Mid-High current performance loss

- Lower I/C Improves high currents
- Lower Wh/C Improves high currents
- PFIA Improves @ high currents
- Local O₂ transport EXCELLENT
- Agglomeration is SEVERE
- Proton Transport Poor and RH sensitive

Next slides show the above in detail

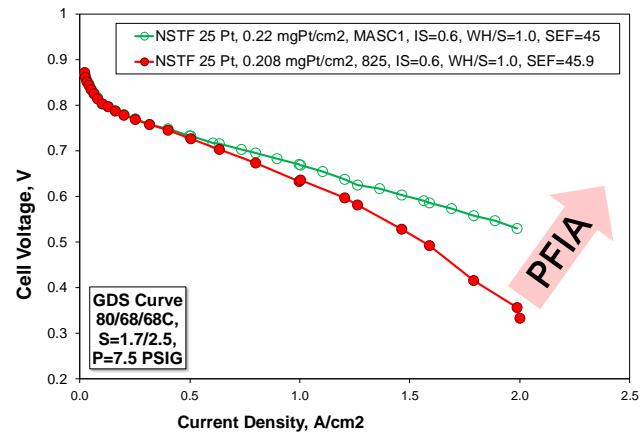


So much performance loss
Only 15%ECSA loss!!!

ANL work

| | Type 1 | vs | Type 2 | >400nm Agglomeration |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| C-type | HSC | | XC72 | 7X |
| %M/C | | XC72 | 10V50E | 50X |
| I/C | 0.8 | | 0.4 | 3X |
| Ionomer | 825 | | PFIA | ~2X |
| Electrode | dNSTF, XC72, I/C=0.4 | | 10V50E Baseline | ~75X (500X for HSC) |

dNSTF electrode HIGHLY agglomerated



TASK2,3: dNSTF, Performance Root cause

NREL/LANL/3M

Reduced O₂ transport resistance

- More carbon, less ionomer
- I/C=0.8 to 0.4 reduced resistance ~31%
- Wh/C=2.5 to 1.0 reduced resistance ~15%

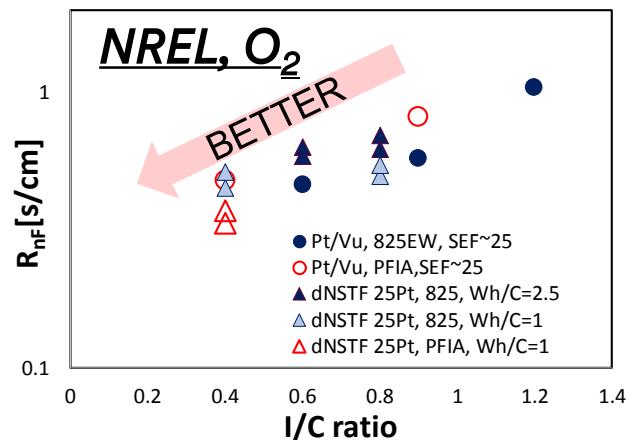
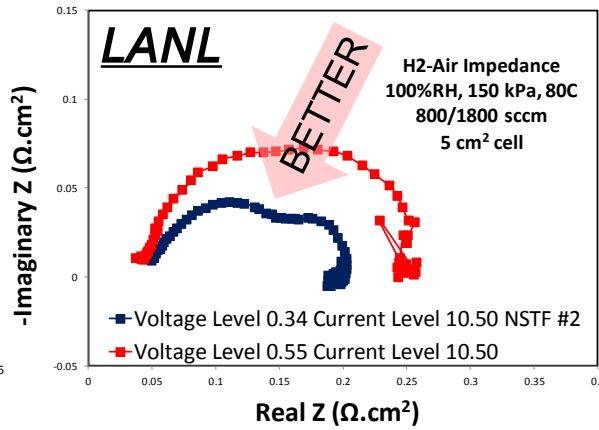
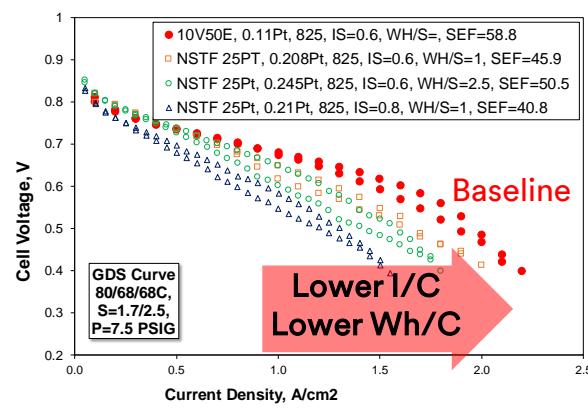
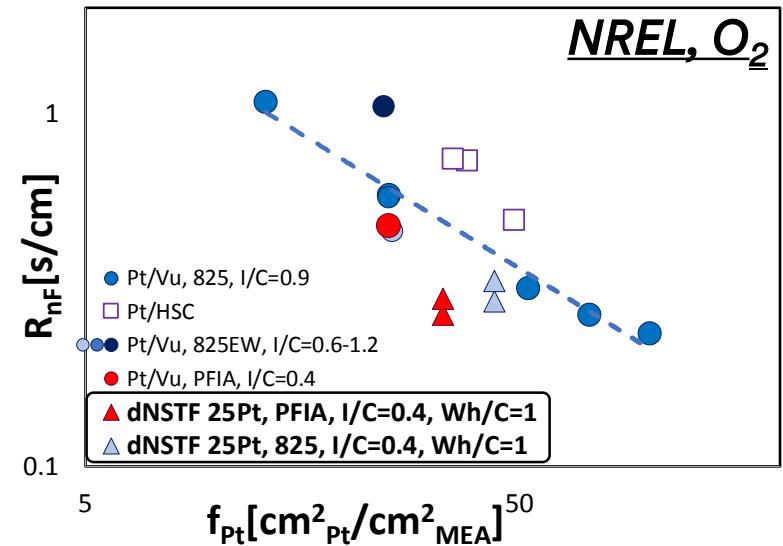
Best local transport achieved (NREL)

- NSTF25Pt, PFIA, I/C=0.4, Wh/C=1.0
- -39.6% vs. Baseline 10V50E
- -61.4% vs. Pt/HSC

Impedance verifies transport gains

Transport Gains = performance gains.

O₂
transport
Is Great!



TASK2,3: dNSTF, Performance Root cause

NREL / LANL / Tufts

Evaluating key variables

- Gas transport resistance
- Change with P_{O_2} is small
- H⁺ resistance (transmission line)
- Performance vs. RH (LANL)

It's Good
Not kinetic
Low & RH sens.
RH sensitive

Impedance in H₂/Air

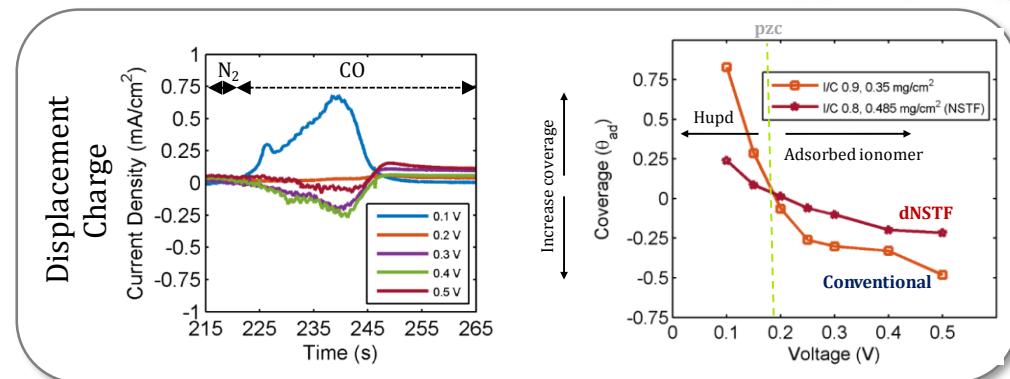
- Low current densities, NSTF much worse
- High current densities, NSTF much better

Dispersed NSTF is likely proton transport limited

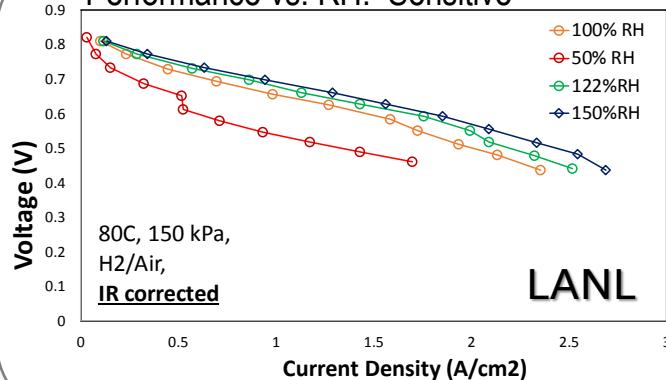
Tufts performed CO stripping

- Disp. NSTF vs. M/C (10V50E)
- **Ionomer coverage of whiskers likely low**
 - Due to agglomeration?
 - Contributing to poor conductivity?

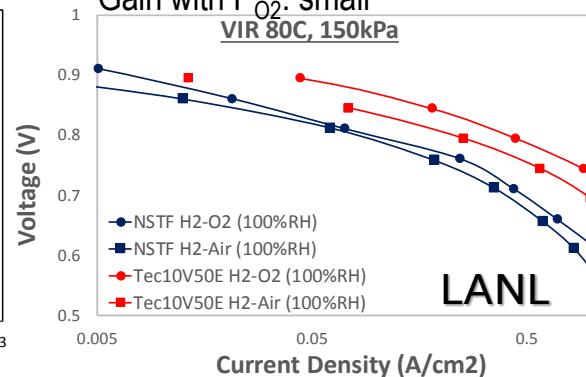
Tufts UNIVERSITY | School of Engineering



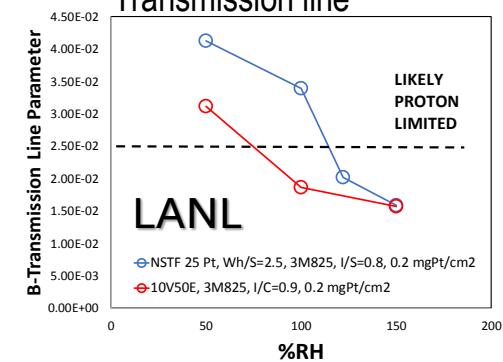
Performance vs. RH: Sensitive



Gain with P_{O₂}: small

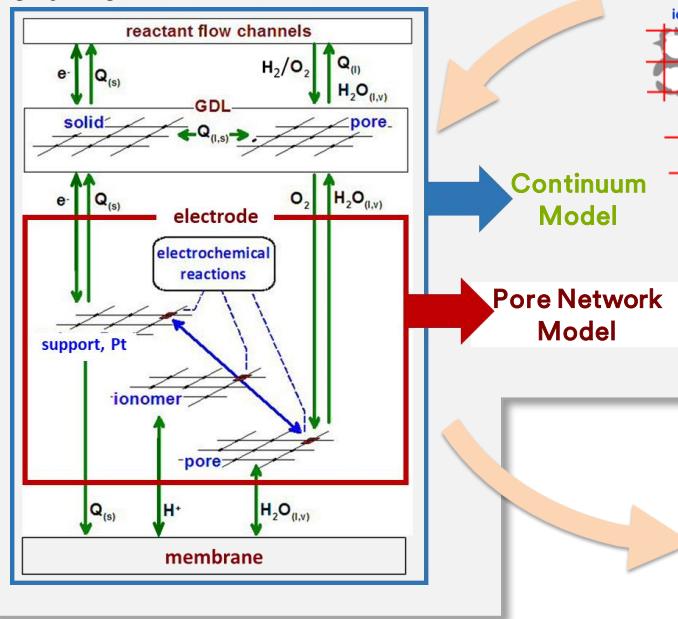


Transmission line



TASK4: Tufts-MTU Electrode Transport Model

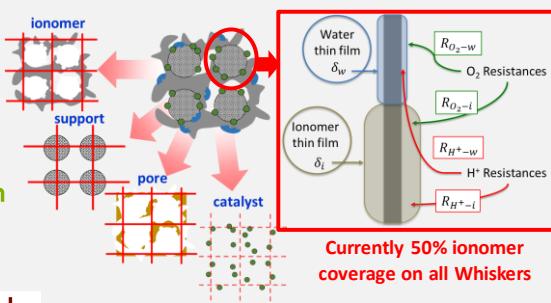
Cathode/Anode transport fluxes Model between the membrane and the gas channel



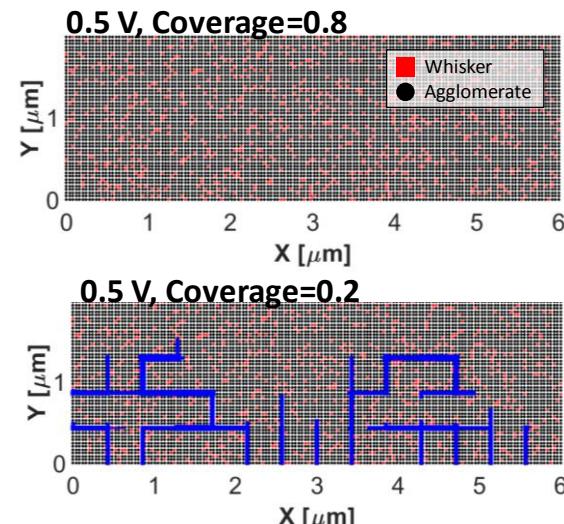
Investigating impacts of whisker coverage by ionomer

- Impacts what the electrode pores see
- Impacts local conductivity
- **Low coverage = more pore flooding**

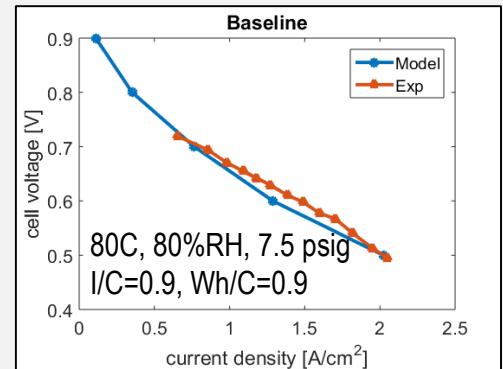
Electrode network approach



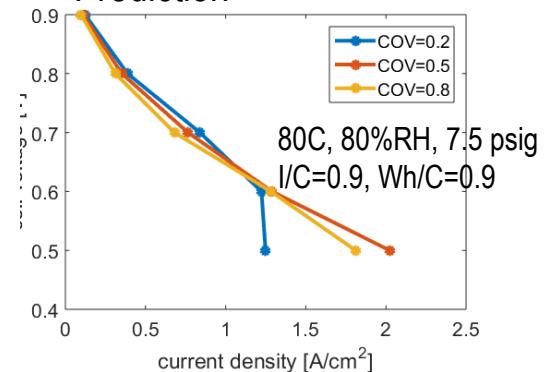
Continuum Model
Pore Network Model



Calibration & Validation of the coupled model



Prediction



TASK 2: Best in Class performance

NSTF 25 ug/cm² [PLANAR] + PFIA

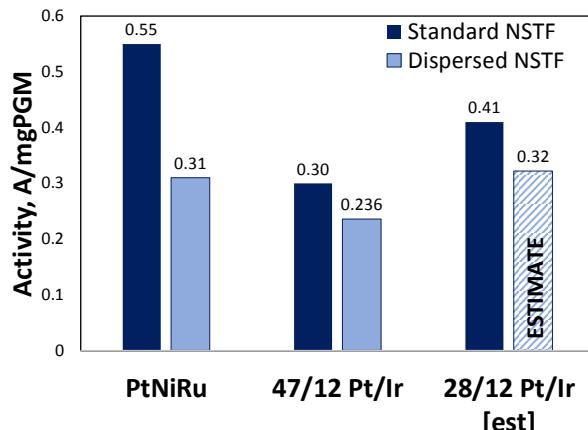
- Best performance
- Mostly overcomes resistance loss issue
- Best local transport of any electrode tested (NREL)

NSTF 28 ug/cm² [PLANAR] PtNiRu + IMIDE#1

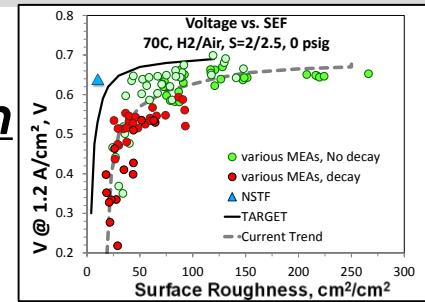
- 0.31 A/mg_{PGM}, highest activity to date

NSTF 47/12 ug/cm² [PLANAR] Pt/Ir + IMIDE#1

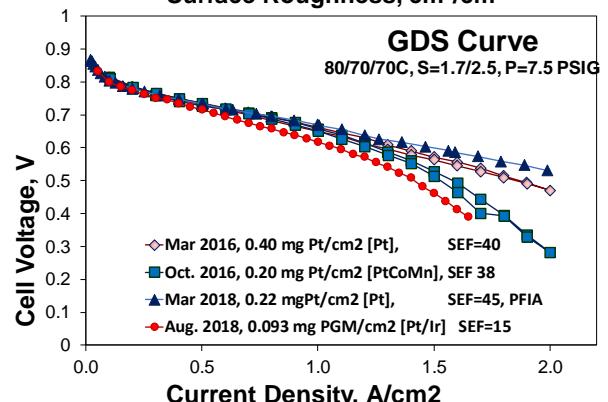
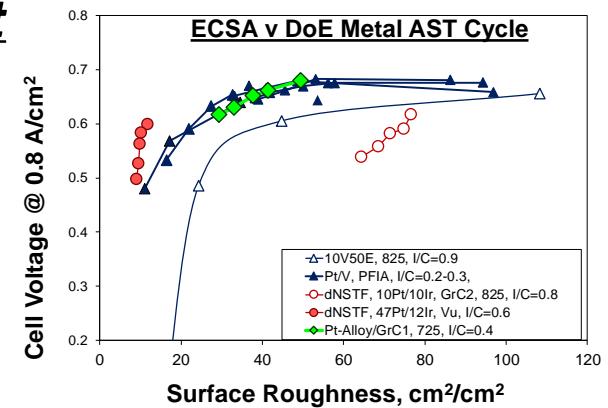
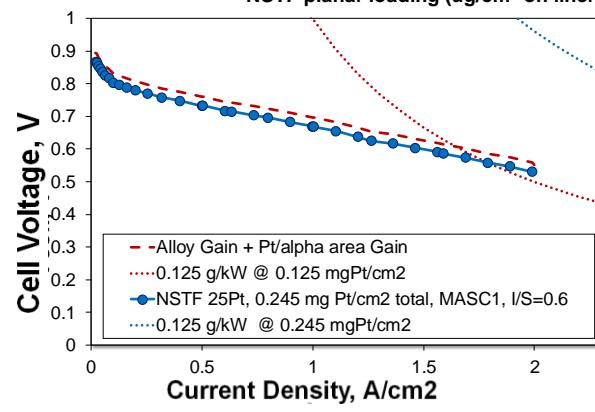
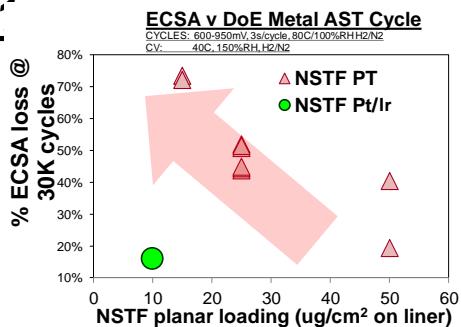
- 0.172 g/kW achieved without best in class package
- 78% activity retained in dispersed format
- Best local transport of any electrode tested [3M]
- 18% ECSA loss
- Can readily pass Support AST



Prediction



Achievement



SELECTED AMR Comments

AMR 2018

Overall, project was good on approach and accomplishments

Presentation was weak on collaboration

- Many results came after 5/2018
- Collaborations shed light on many issues

Multiple comments implying 3M is “layering” NSTF to make a cathode

- This work focuses mainly on dispersing, not layering, NSTF

The future work could be more detailed, and durability should be more thoroughly addressed

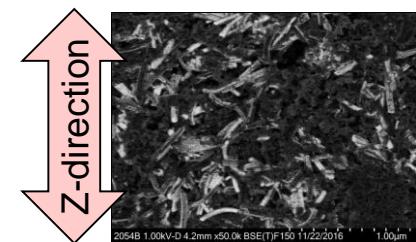
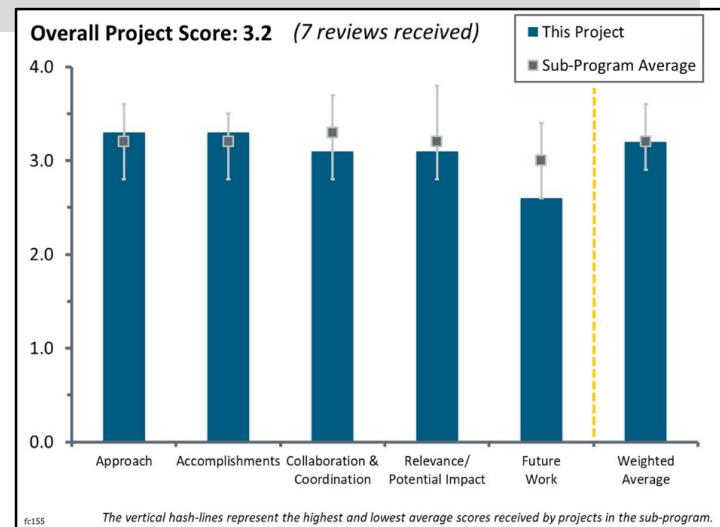
- Hopefully this presentation corrected this

The link between NSTF and novel electrode ionomers is not clear.

- NSTF catalyst was seen as a means to achieving activity and durability targets

Why MASC and imide-based ionomers was chosen is not clear

- Multi-acid side chain ionomers are more conductive
- Imides offer path to higher O₂ permeability



Summary

TASK 1: IONOMER

- **Achieved project targets** (ionomer with >50% oxygen permeability & conductivity vs. 3M825 PFSA)
- Characterized new ionomer thin films, evaluated electrodes, tested CCM for performance, durability
- Showed PFIA 8X more conductive as a thin film vs. 825PFSA, allowing low I/C operation
- Imide ionomers showing mixed gains at low RH H₂/Air operation, minimal at 100% RH or H₂/O₂ operation

TASK 2: DISPERSED NSTF

- Exceptional metal AST shown with Pt/Ir NSTF electrodes but unusual “resistance-like” loss
- Entire team root causing “resistance like” – pointing to protonic conduction issue
- High electrode agglomeration may be contributing to poor whisker coverage by ionomer
- Local gas transport is excellent – lowering I/C and Wh/C raises performance
- Activity of 0.31 A/mgPt achieved

TASK 3: ELECTRODE INTEGRATION

- Low I/C electrodes with PFIA: 18-31% less transport resistance, up to 61% activity gains, improved power
- Achieved 0.36 A/mgPt with Alloy on Graphitized carbon.
- Achieved support stability targets, getting close to metal stability targets
- NSTF transition metals leach out in electrode lowering activity. Pt/Ir active catalyst will be pursued as a result.
- **Achieved support stability targets, Achieved metal AST ECSA targets (NSTF)**

TASK 4: PNM model development in operation

- Looking into impacts of whisker coverage – and impact on water management.
- Will investigate agglomeration and ionomer properties on water management and performance.
- Look at whisker thermal differences vs. dispersed M/C catalysts.

FUTURE WORK

KEY ITEMS

- Resolve dispersed NSTF conductivity issue
- Link ionomer O₂ perm to performance gains

- Optimize new ionomers + durable M/C catalysts
- Optimize processing of low I/C systems
- Complete CCM package optimization for best cathode
- Achieve performance + durability targets

TASK1: IONOMER

- Develop additional ionomer with novel endgroups
- LBNL: Look at super-MASC, IMIDE#6 with GISAXS
- Link bulk membrane oxygen permeability to areas of performance enhancement
- Incorporate more conductive MASC into electrode
- Tufts: Look at imide thin film ionic conduction
- Tufts: CO stripping of low I/C, processed electrodes

TASK2: Dispersed NSTF

- Continue processing to improve conductivity
- ALL: Investigate “un-agglomerated” disp. NSTF electrodes
- Improve ionomer coverage of NSTF whiskers
- Further optimize NSTF 28/12 Pt/Ir to achieve >0.35 A/mgPt
- Incorporate more active materials
- LANL: Define conductivity trends of disp. NSTF electrodes
- Tufts: CO stripping of “processed” NSTF electrodes

TASK3: INTEGRATION

- ALL: Explore processing impacts on low I/C, MASC materials
- ANL,NREL: Further explore performance vs. agglomeration
- LANL: Low I/C conductivity evaluations for M/C materials
- Continue to incorporate NSTF with new ionomers
- Explore new incorporation methods with NSTF
- Optimize activities of new durable catalysts
- If needed: integrate NSTF & dispersed M/C materials
- Tufts: Ionic tortuosity vs. processing for Low I/C

TASK4: MODELING

- MTU: Continue to build fidelity
- MTU/TUFTSRoot cause dispersed NSTF performance issue
- Investigate agglomeration on performance
- Integration low I/C data & identify optimal configuration

BACKUP

Task 3: dNSTF and Transition Metal Issue

Ni and Co leach into electrode pre-test

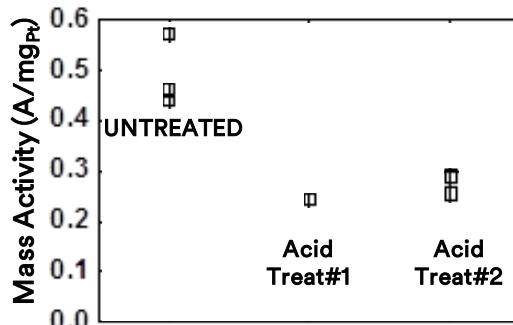
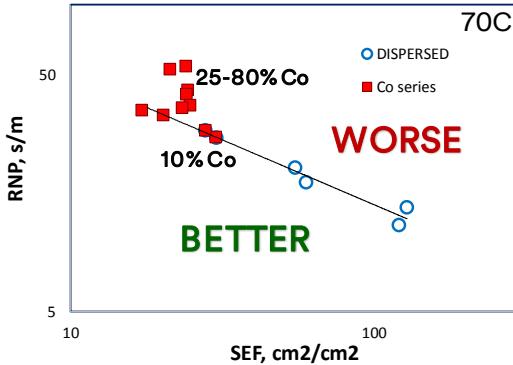
- PtNi Cathode ionomer is completely neutralized
- Co reduces local O₂ transport and performance

MITIGATION & Understanding Necessary

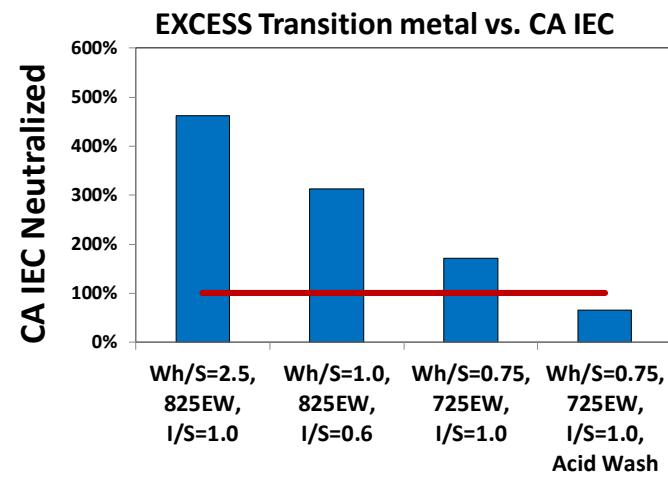
- Increase electrode ionomer & IEC
- Acid wash catalyst to remove excess Ni
- TMI operating window (NREL local transport)

Status: 1st Acid Treatments caused activity loss

- Similar result happen in ink with ionomer (acid)
- Shift focus more to non-transition metal catalysts (Pt/Ir)
- Work on heat treated NSTF for alloy retention



| Catalyst | State | % Transition Metal Retained |
|----------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| PtCoMn | Powder | 100 (Co) |
| | CCM/Untested | 33 |
| | Tested | 20 |
| PtNi | Powder | 100 (Ni) |
| | CCM/Untested | 72.5 |
| | Tested | 64 |



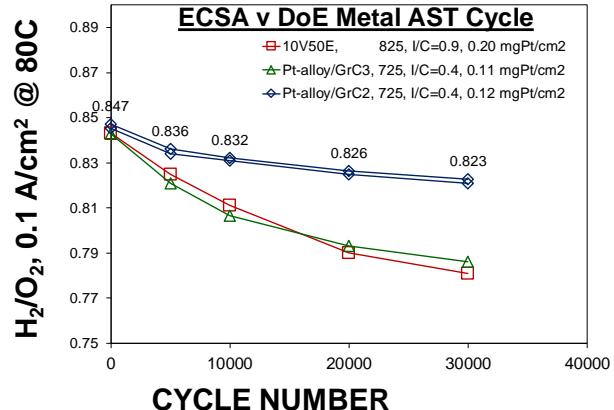
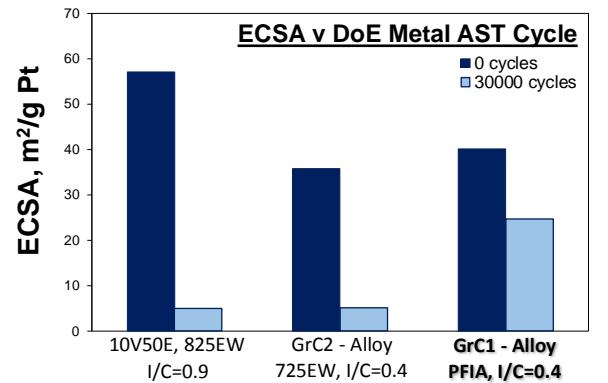
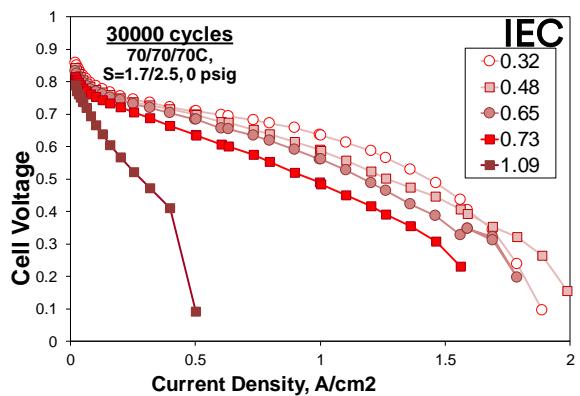
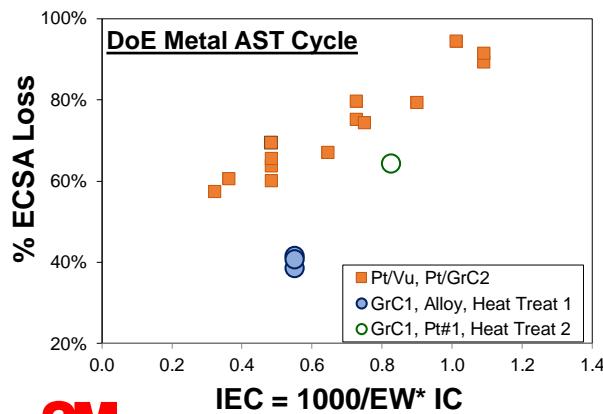
TASK 1,3: Electrode Integration for M/C catalysts

Additional Metal AST Work

OPTIMIZING Durable Carbons

- I/C and IEC vs. durability
- **Lowering IEC increases durability**
- Tested from 620 to 1200 EW
- End of life performance significantly improved
- Lower I/C limit where high currents suffer

Graphitized carbon choice makes a significant difference in metal stability

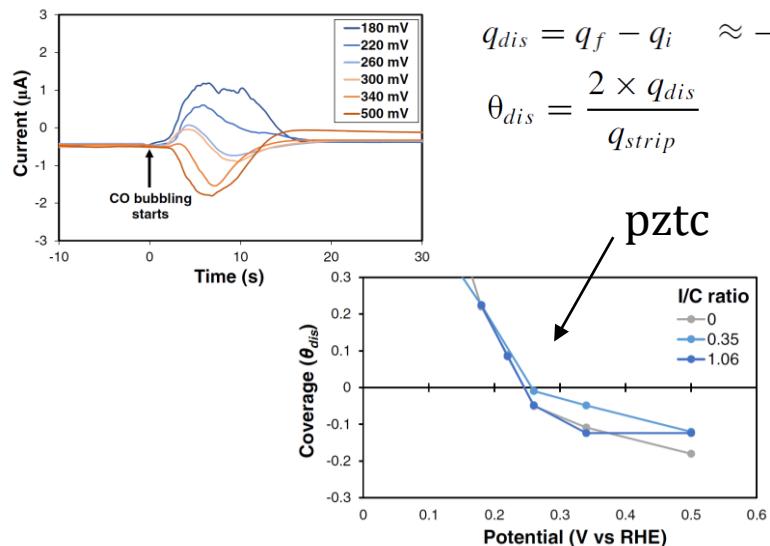


CO displacement Technique

- Developed by Feliu:**
 - Constant potential is applied and zero-charge CO displaces adsorbing species on Pt. Oxidative or reductive current can be measured, depends on what type of species are displaced:

$$Pt - Ca + CO \rightarrow Pt - CO + Ca^+ + e^-$$

$$Pt - An + CO + e^- \rightarrow Pt - CO + An^-$$
 - Measured displacement current densities are integrated. CO-adsorption takes place without change in oxidation state. We can then calculate the coverage using qstrip.

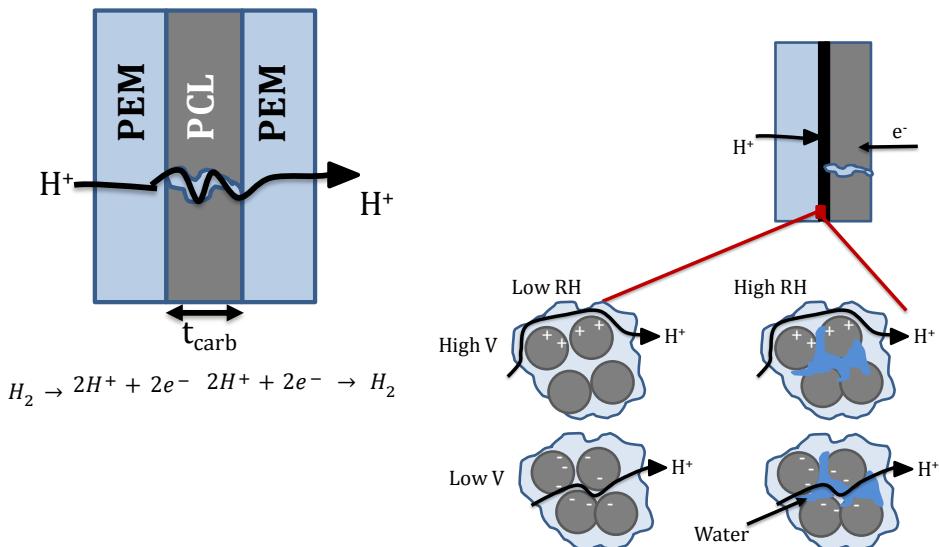


Garrick, T. R.; Moylan, T. E.; Yarlagadda, V.; Kongkanand, A., *J Electrochem Soc* 2017, 164 (2), F60-F64.



AC+DC electrode Technique

- DC Technique**
 - Easy to interpret data
 - Contact resistance and membrane resistance isolated
 - Protons pumped through membrane and PCL
 - Method captures ionomer tortuosity
- AC technique**
 - Does not capture layer tortuosity
 - Double layer capacitive charging since no Pt present
 - Capacitive charging only at PEM/electrode interface



TASK1: Novel Ionomer Development

Ex-Situ vs. In-Situ

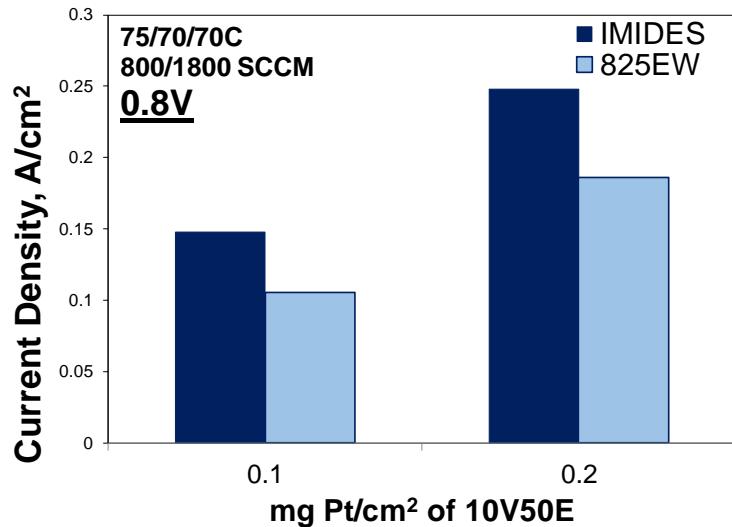
Imide-based materials show gains

- At H₂/Air, sub-saturated, high stoic
- Bulk O₂ perm also better drier
- Imides #1, 2, 3, 6 tested

Imide not showing H₂/O₂ activity gains

Results unlike 1200EW PFSA

- Shows H₂/O₂ activity gains



| | <u>ELECTRODE PERFORMANCE GAINS</u> | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| | BULK FILM | Local O ₂ Transport | Thin film Conductivity | In-cell Tests | Activity | dNSTF | Metal Stability |
| PFIA & MASC | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| IMIDES | YES | No, possibly low RH | Not Tested | H ₂ /Air, <100% RH | Variable | Not Yet | No |
| Low I/C | --- | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| PFIA + Low I/C | --- | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Focus is on Low surface area, durable carbons. Metal is on the surface & better interact with ionomer.

Acknowledgements

- **3M**
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