



Advanced Materials for Chemical and Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage



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Professor

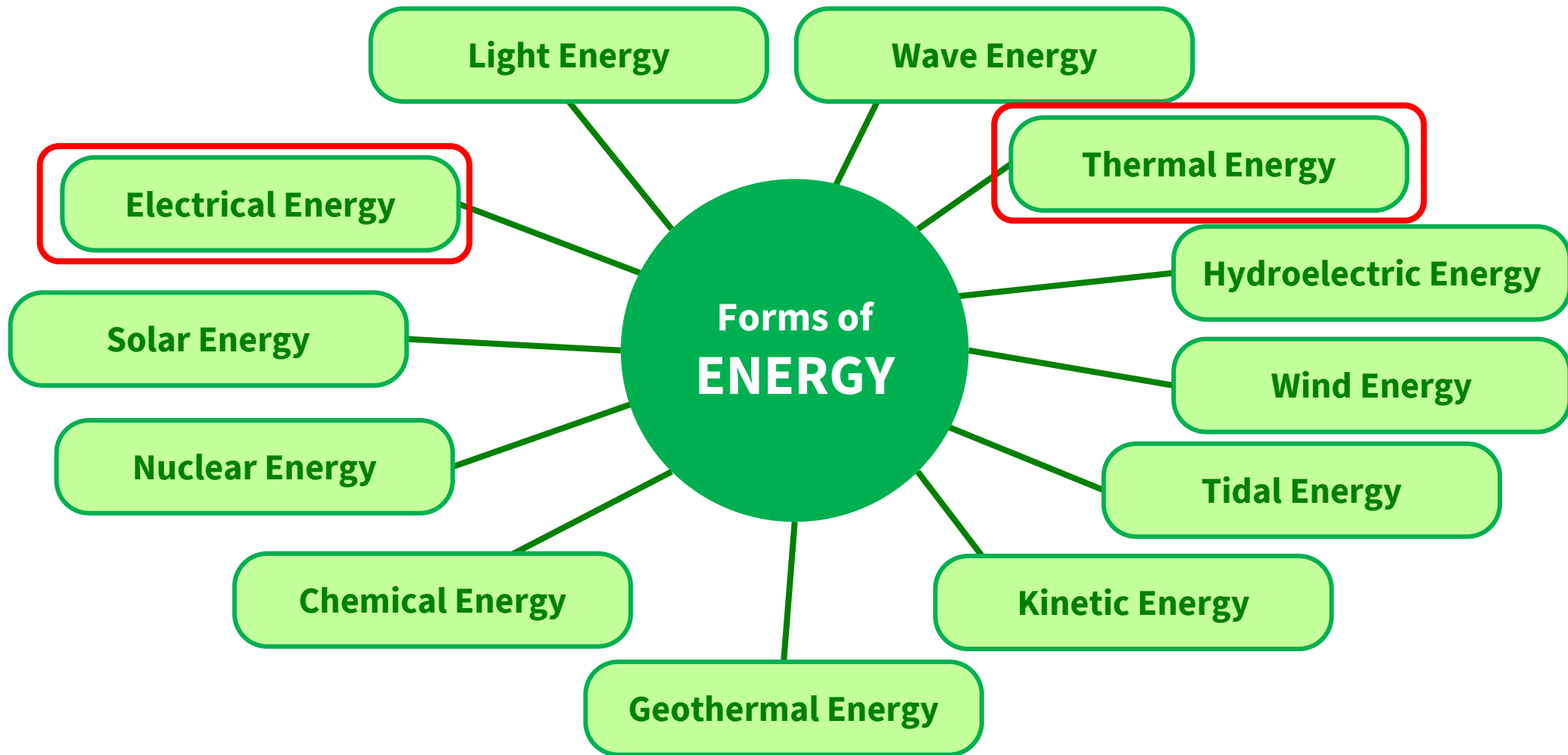
International Energy and Environment
Conference 2025 (IEEC)

8-10 September 2025, Ostrava

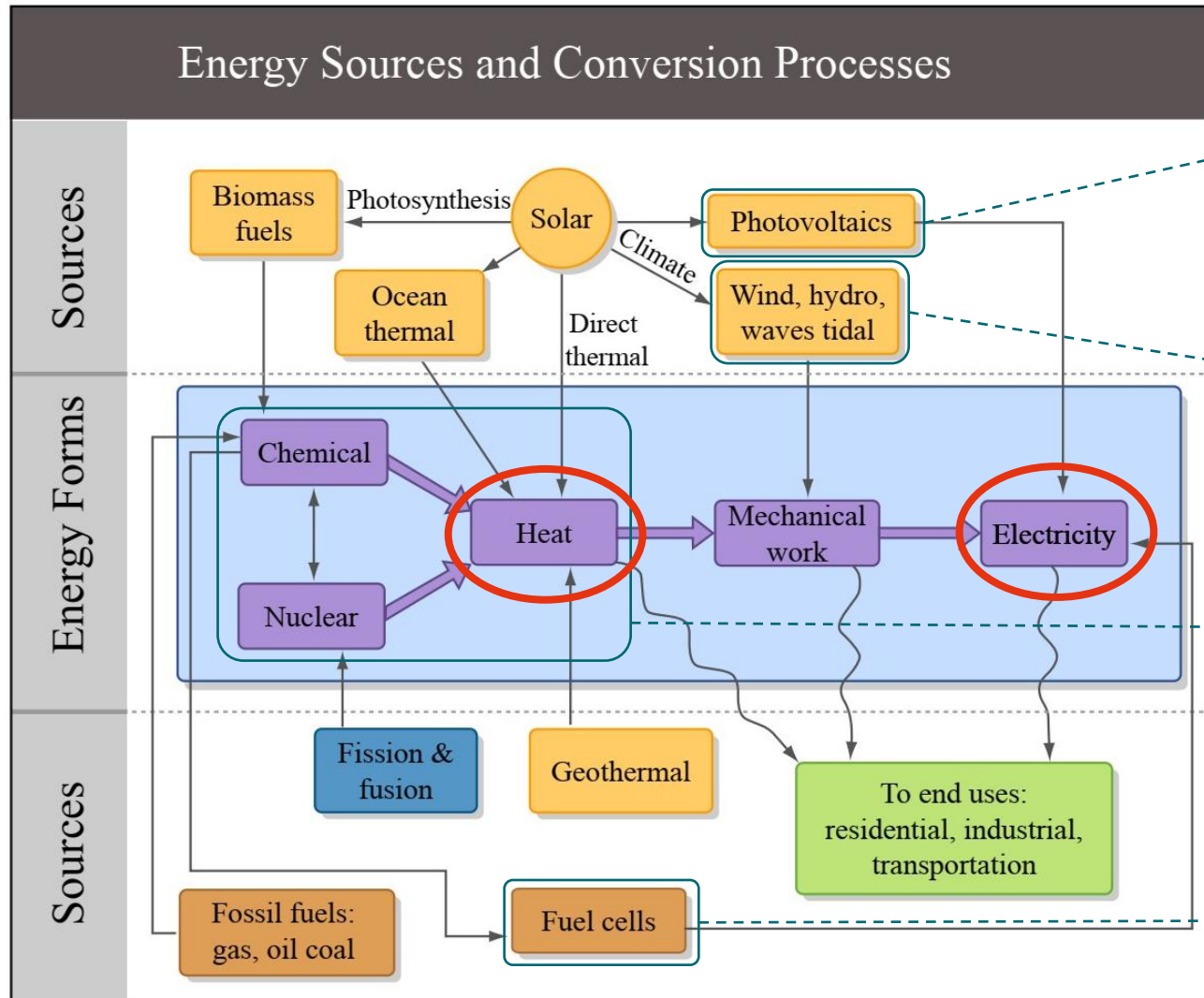


**Faculty of Materials
Science and Engineering**

Forms of Energy



Types of Energy Conversion Technologies



Electrical Energy Conversion – direct conversion of, e.g., solar energy to electricity

Kinetic Energy Conversion – harnessing the wind or water flow, or waves

Thermal Energy Conversion – indirect conversion of fuels or solar thermal energy to heat and eventually electricity or mechanical work

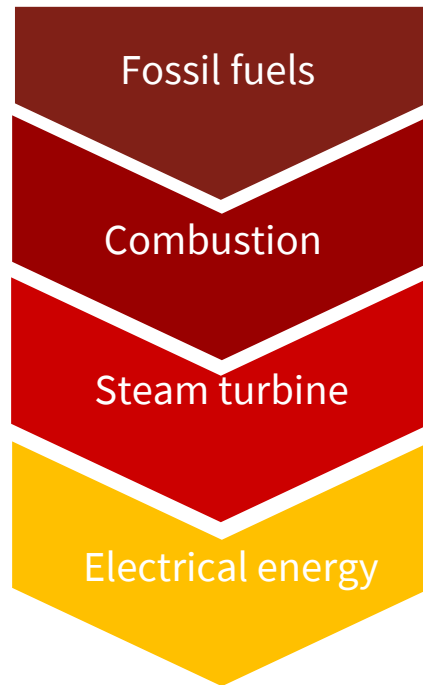
Chemical Energy Conversion – mostly fuel cell, converting hydrogen or hydrocarbons/alcohols;



„Production” of energy

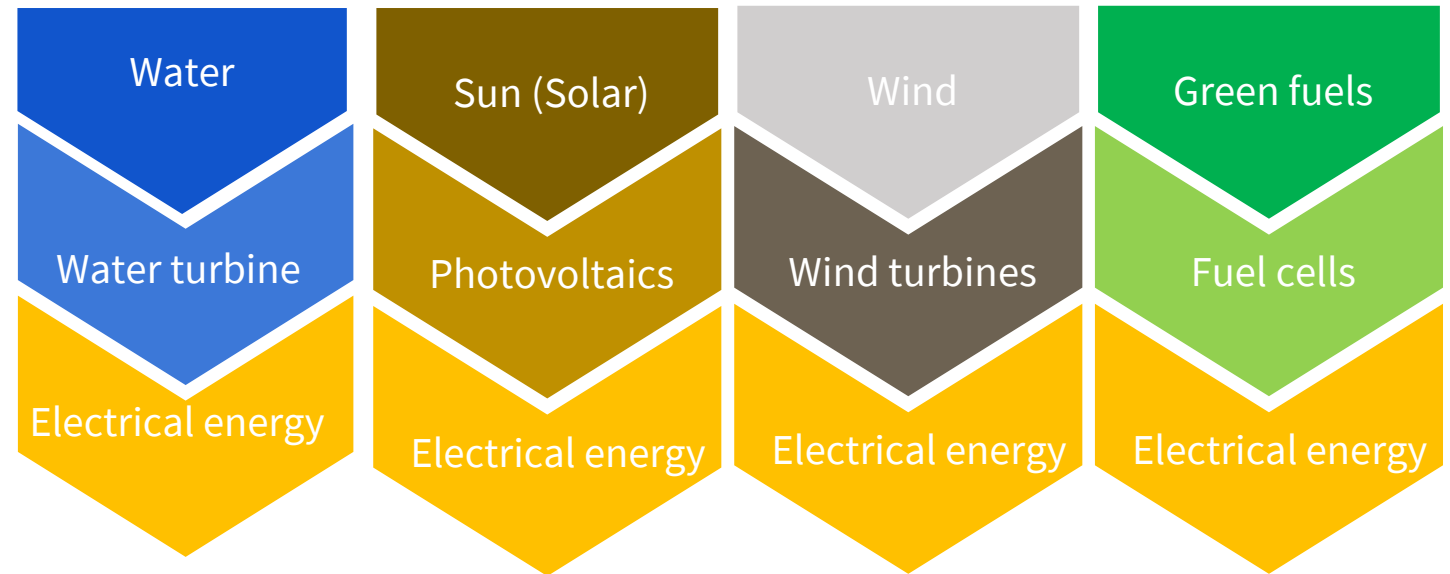
Conventional

The production of electricity and heat through the **combustion of fuels**, which include, for example, hard coal, lignite, oil, gas, biogases, biomass (plant and animal), peat



Non-conventional

Obtaining electricity and heat from alternative sources, including: flowing waters, geothermal waters, wind, sun, sea tides, green fuels, nuclear reactions, and ambient heat.



Energy distribution systems

• Centralized

- Classic system, a few or a dozen large or very large sources generate energy.
- Energy is transported to consumers over long distances through transmission and distribution networks.
- Electrical energy is usually produced from conventional energy sources.

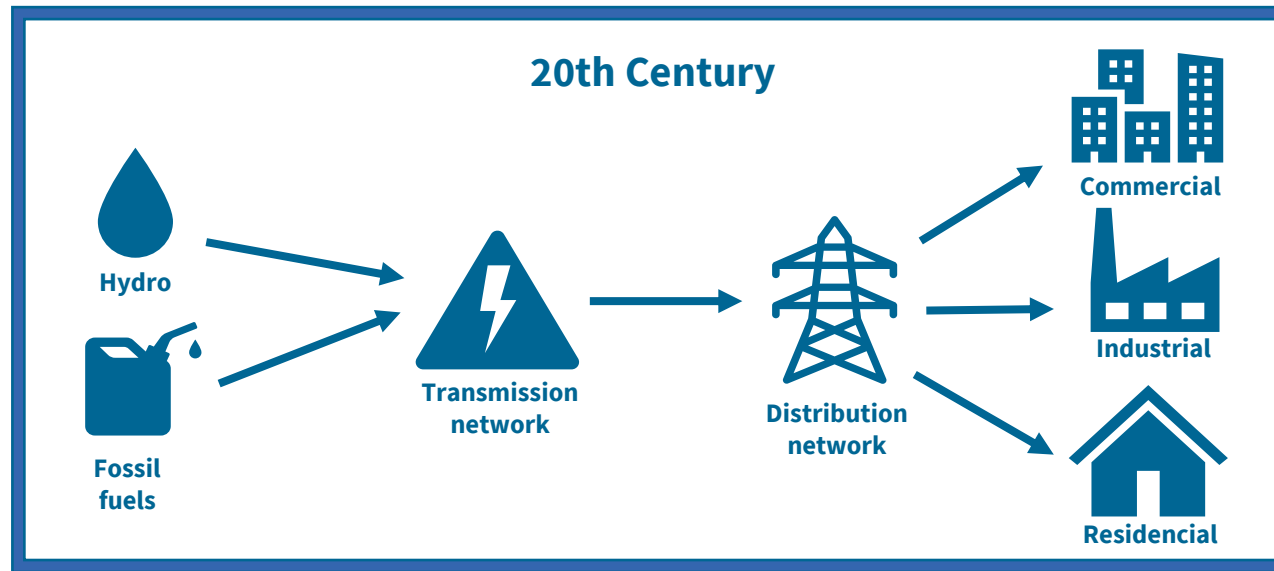


Distributed

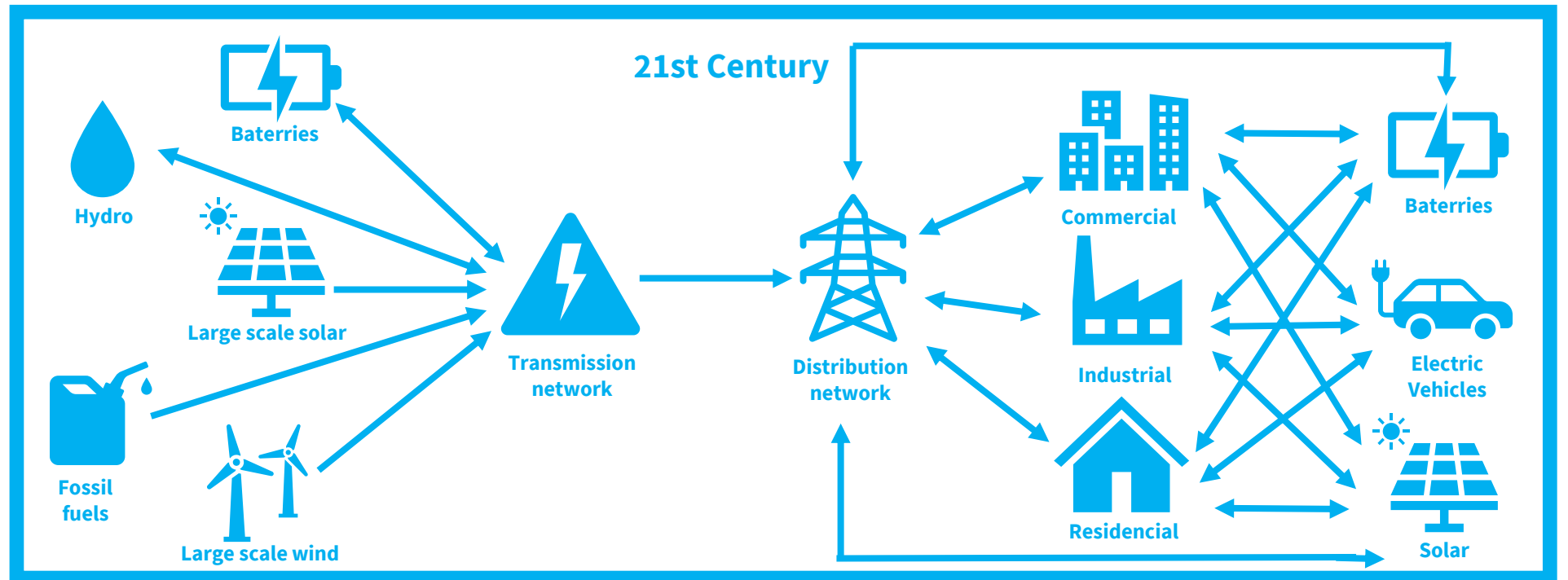
- The generation of energy by small units or production facilities, directly connected to distribution networks or located within the consumer's power grid.
- Usually producing electricity from renewable or non-conventional energy sources, often combined with heat generation (distributed cogeneration).



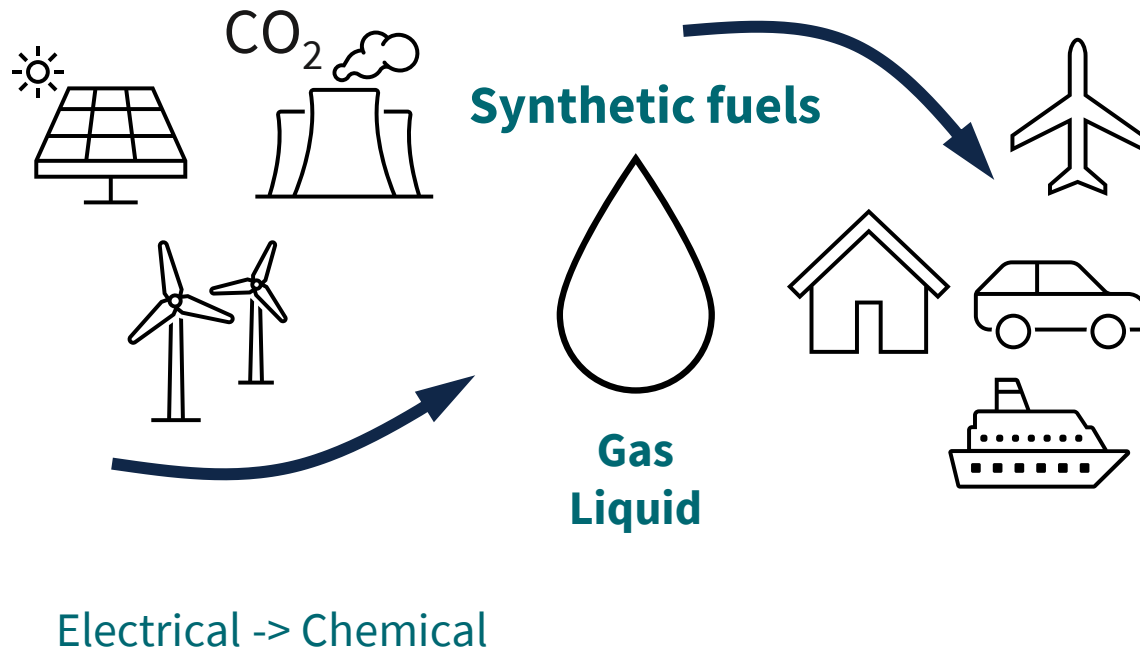
Future of energy distribution systems



New distribution strategy implies new energy generation and storage technologies

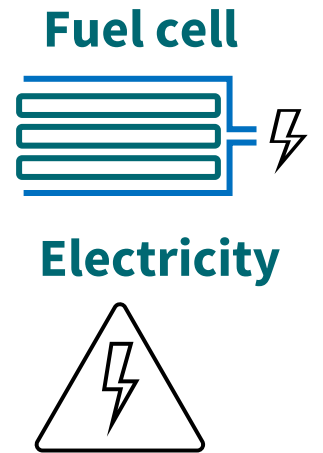


Perspective energy conversion and storage technologies



Chemical -> Electrical

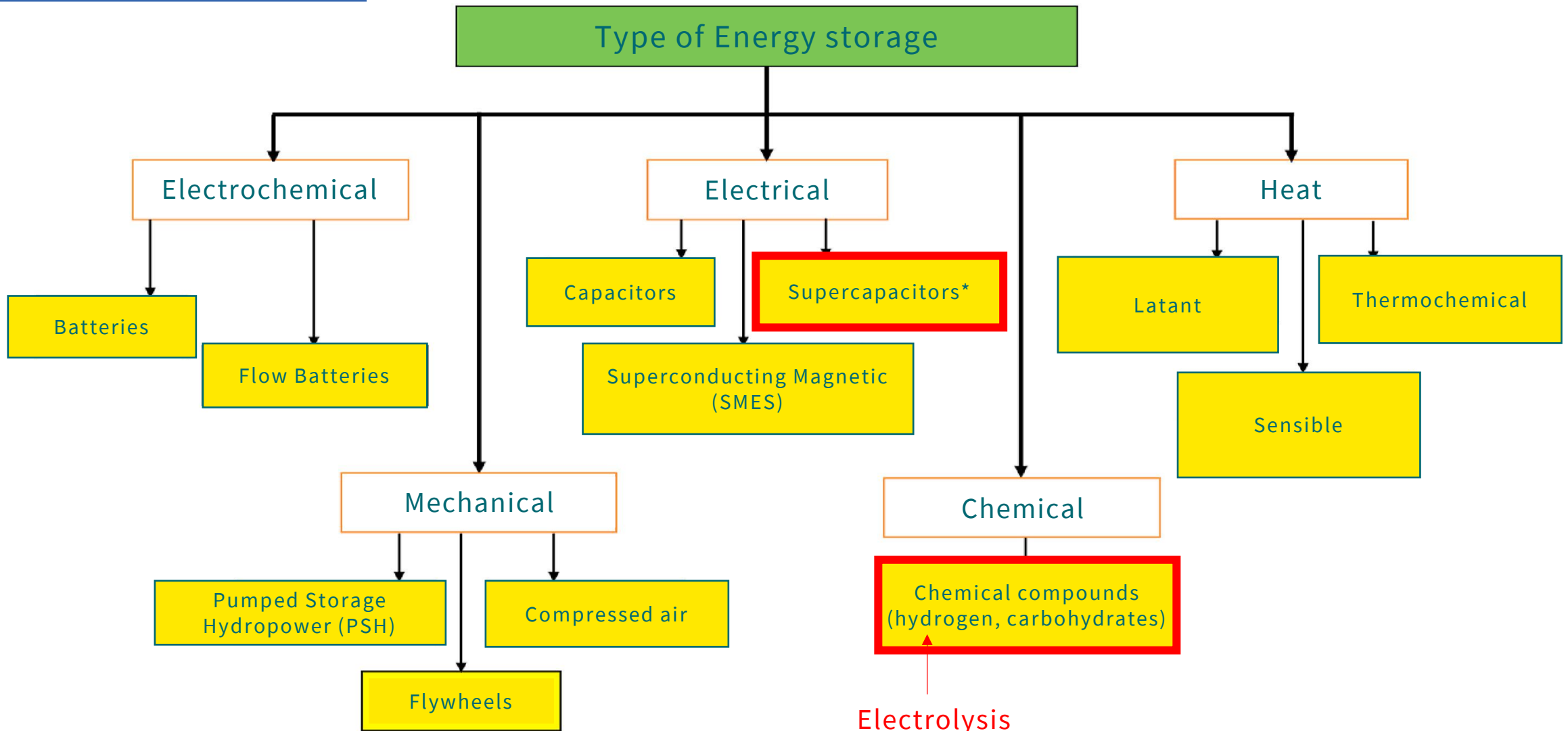
Synthetic fuels



Materials are of key importance

Types of Energy Storage Technologies

Ref.: A.A. Kebede et al., <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2022.112213>.

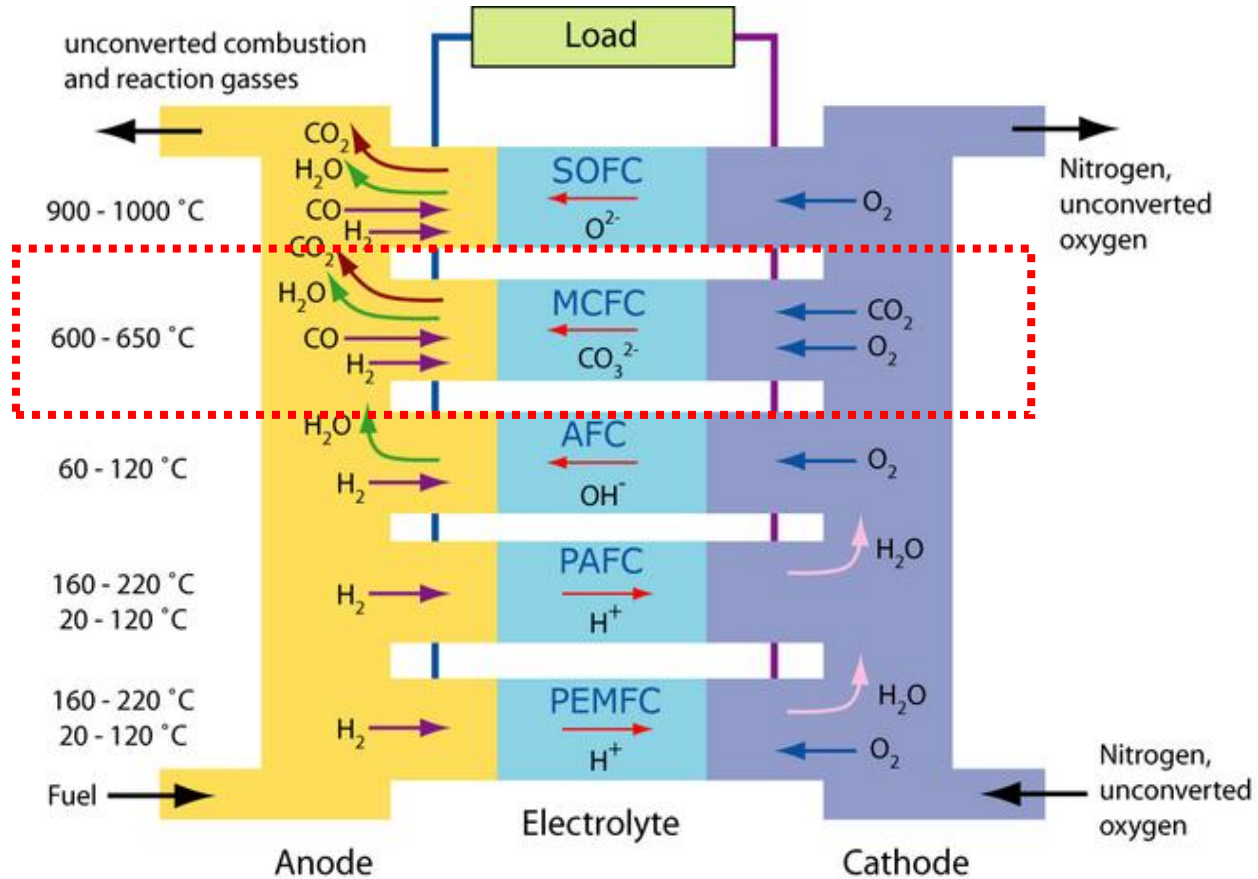


Electrolysis

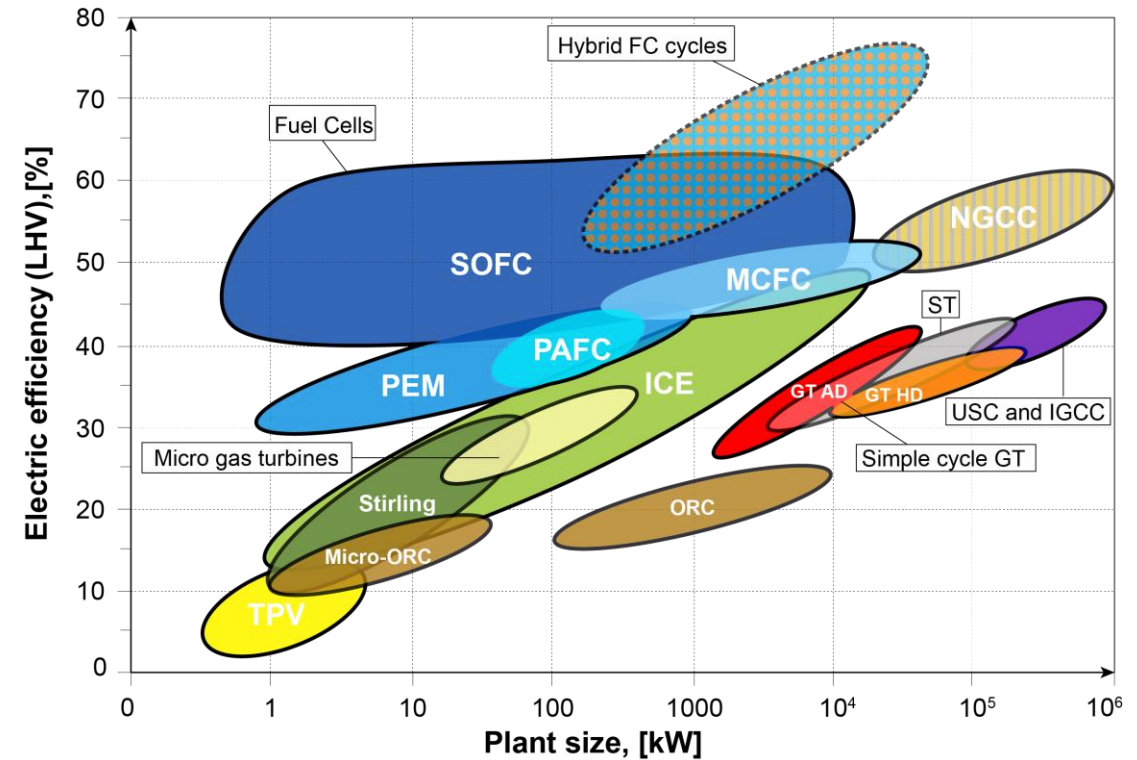
Materials are of key importance



Fuel Cells - principles



Fuel cells are classified primarily by the kind of electrolyte



<https://www.gecos.polimi.it/research-areas/hydrogen-fuel-cells-and-electrochemical-energy-systems/>

Fuel cell overall efficiency

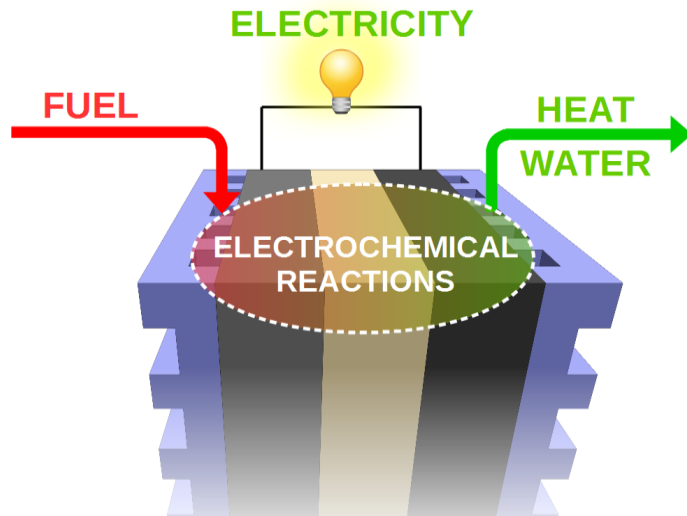
Fuel Cells - principles

Fuel Cell Type	Common Electrolyte	Operating Temperature	Typical Stack Size	Electrical Efficiency (LHV)	Applications	Advantages	Challenges
Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM)	Perfluoro sulfonic acid	<120°C	<1 kW - 100 kW	60% direct H ₂ ⁱ 40% reformed fuel ⁱⁱ	- Backup power - Portable power - Distributed generation - Transportation - Specialty vehicles	- Solid electrolyte reduces corrosion & electrolyte management problems - Low temperature - Quick start-up and load following	- Expensive catalysts - Sensitive to fuel impurities
Alkaline (AFC)	Aqueous potassium hydroxide soaked in a porous matrix, or alkaline polymer membrane	<100°C	1 - 100 kW	60% ⁱⁱⁱ	- Military - Space - Backup power - Transportation	- Wider range of stable materials allows lower cost components - Low temperature - Quick start-up	- Sensitive to CO₂ in fuel and air - Electrolyte management (aqueous) - Electrolyte conductivity (polymer)
Phosphoric Acid (PAFC)	Phosphoric acid soaked in a porous matrix or imbibed in a polymer membrane	150 - 200°C	5 - 400 kW, 100 kW module (liquid PAFC); <10 kW (polymer membrane)	40% ^{iv}	Distributed generation	- Suitable for CHP - Increased tolerance to fuel impurities	- Expensive catalysts - Long start-up time - Sulfur sensitivity
Molten Carbonate (MCFC)	Molten lithium, sodium, and/or potassium carbonates, soaked in a porous matrix	600 - 700°C	300 kW - 3 MW, 300 kW module	50% ^v	- Electric utility - Distributed generation	- High efficiency - Fuel flexibility - Suitable for CHP - Hybrid/gas turbine cycle	- High temperature corrosion and breakdown of cell components - Long start-up time - Low power density
Solid Oxide (SOFC)	Yttria stabilized zirconia	500 - 1000°C	1 kW - 2 MW	60% ^{vi}	- Auxiliary power - Electric utility - Distributed generation	- High efficiency - Fuel flexibility - Solid electrolyte - Suitable for CHP - Hybrid/gas turbine cycle	- High temperature corrosion and breakdown of cell components - Long start-up time - Limited number of shutdowns

Source: US DOE (2010). *Fuel Cell Factsheet*

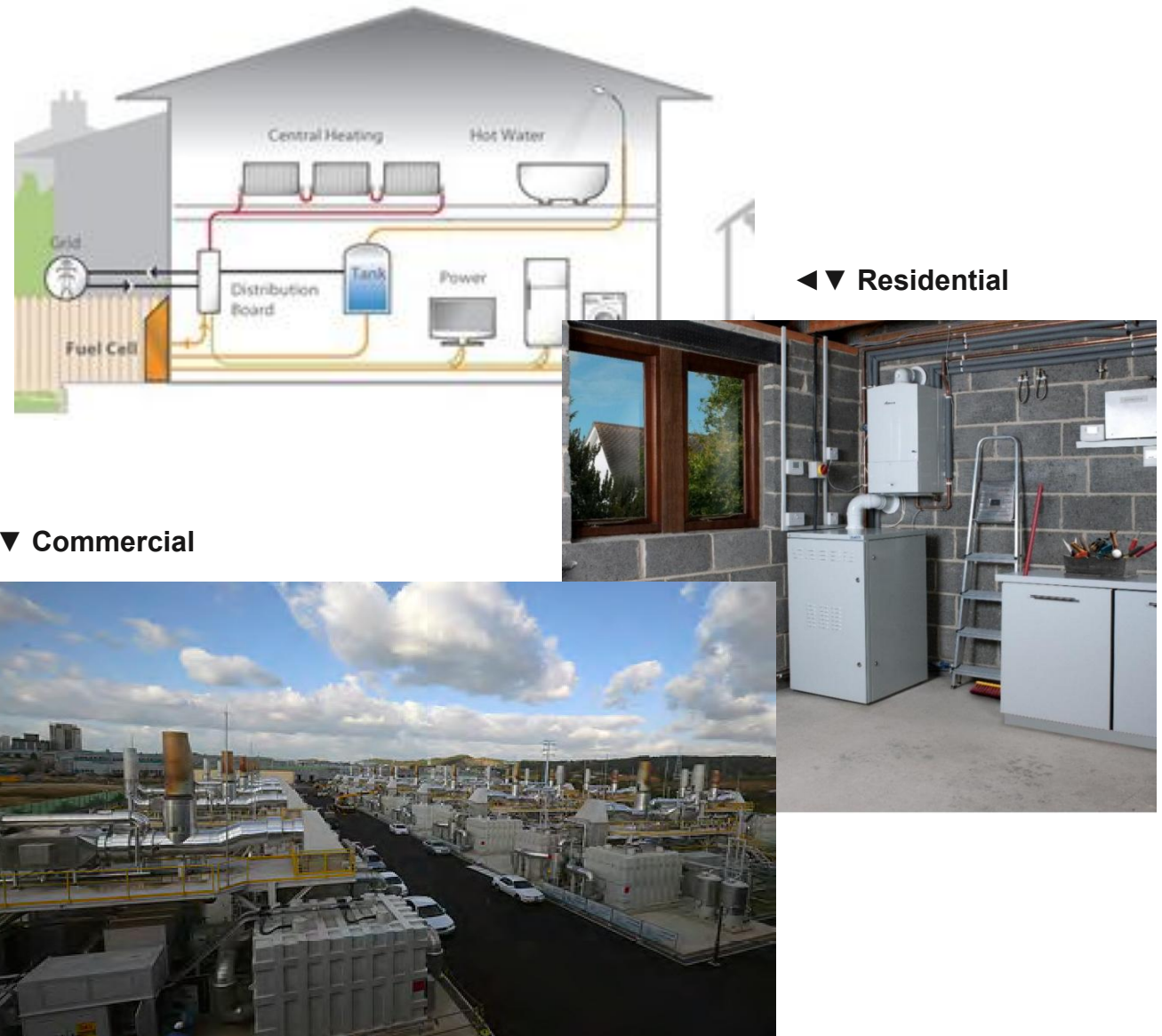
High-temperature fuel cells

Molten carbonate fuel cells (MCFCs) are the one of the most promising high efficiency and sustainable power generation technologies. MCFCs convert chemical energy of **fuel (hydrogen)** into **electricity, heat and water** through electrochemical reactions.



Main features:

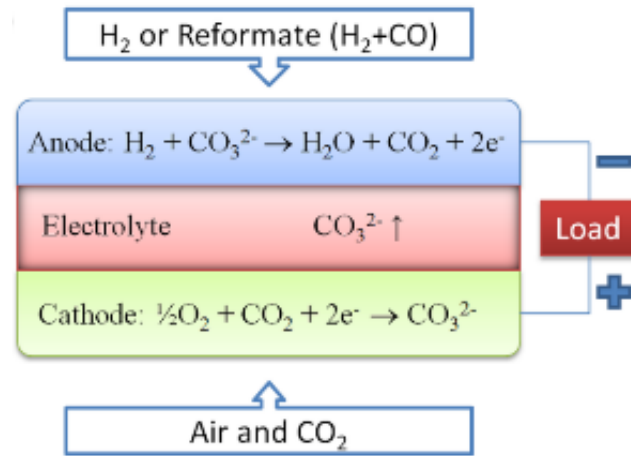
- 300 kW–2.8 MW units, commercially available,
- combination of heat and power with gas expansion turbine delivers up to 65% efficiency,
- fuels: natural gas, anaerobic digester gas with internal reforming, sewage gas, natural gas and biogas compatible,
- average 10 000h lifetime,
- possible to employ in electrical utilities, industrial, and military applications.



The world's largest operating fuel cell power plant (59 MW), located in Hwaseong, South Korea

Materials for molten carbonate fuel cells (MCFCs)

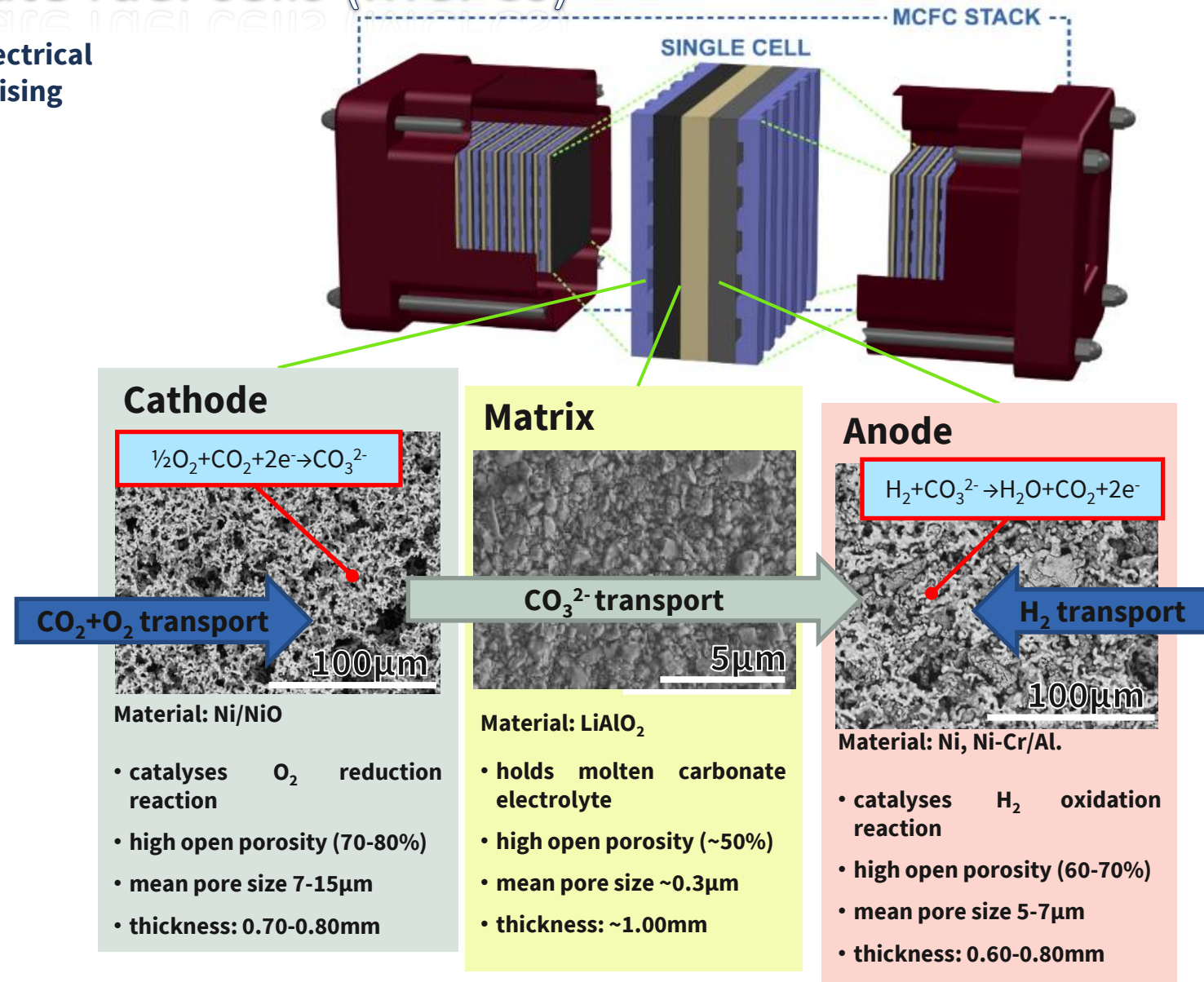
Molten carbonate fuel cells are highly efficient **chemical to electrical energy converters** and emerges as the one of the **most promising sustainable power generation technologies**.



MCFC stacks are assemblies of **single cells**, where each single cell comprises of **porous** components:

- **cathode**,
- **anode**,
- **electrolyte matrix**.

The **electrolyte** – mixture of (Li/K)₂CO₃ or (Li/Na)₂CO₃ – is kept in molten state in MCFC operating conditions (600-700 °C).

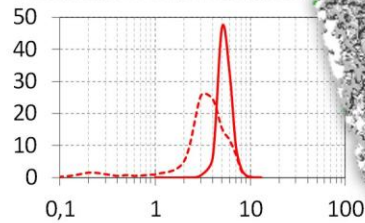
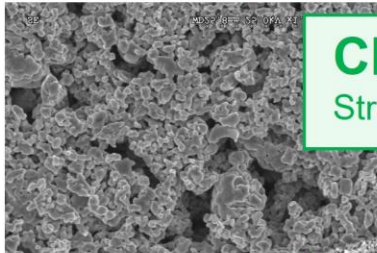


Concept for materials development

Electrochemical reactor
(Norecs) – fuel cell testing rig

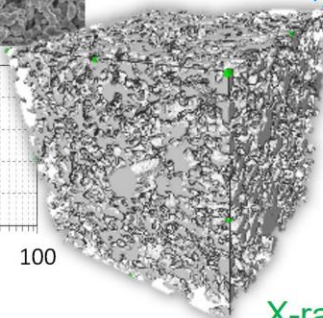


SEM, EDS



Porosimetry

Characterization
Structure and Properties



X-ray, FIB tomography

Manufacturing

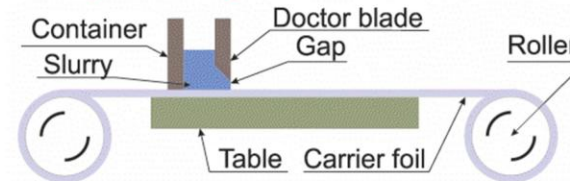
Substrates



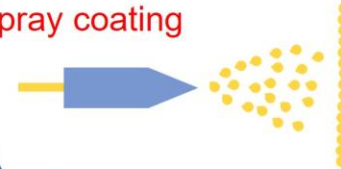
Slurry



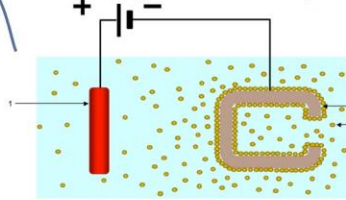
Tape casting



Spray coating

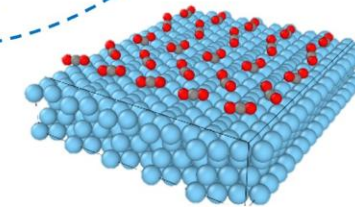


Electrophoretic deposition

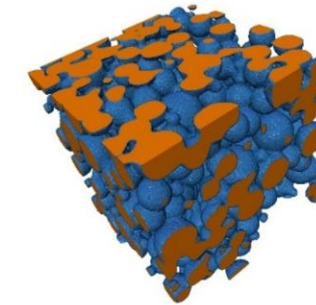


NOVEL MATERIALS

Modeling



Atomic model of ionic transport

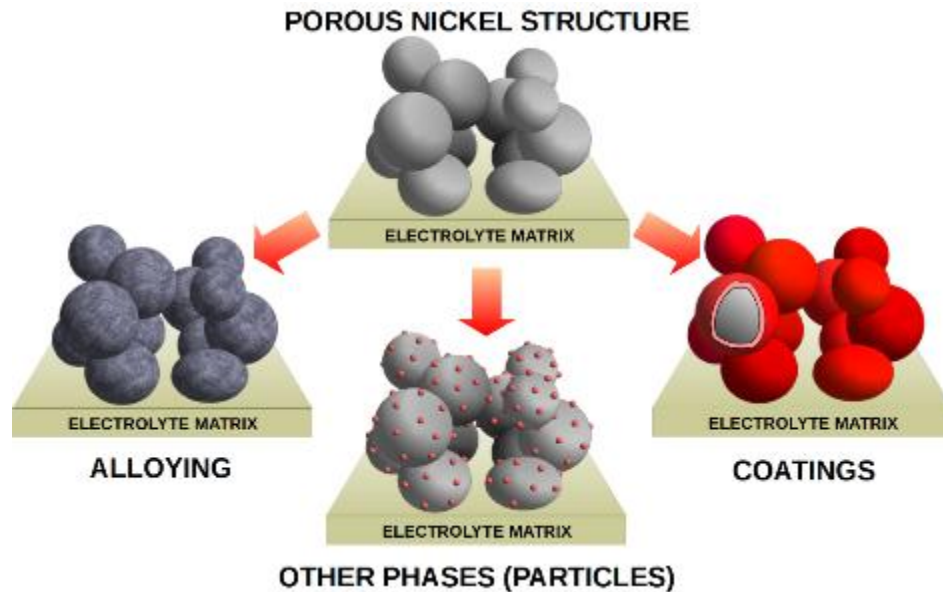


Model of MCFC cathode
microstructure

Concept for materials development - fabrication

Two main factors governing the performance of molten carbonate fuel cell materials

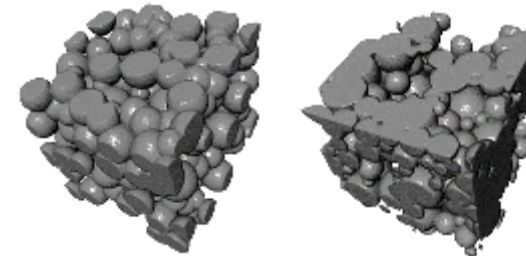
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION



MICROSTRUCTURE

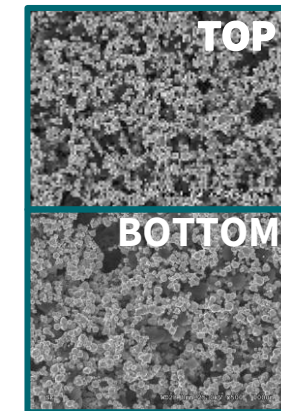
Isotropic

modification of pore size distribution, porosity with porogen additions



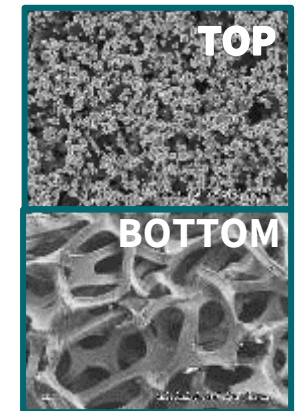
mono- vs. bi-modal

Layered



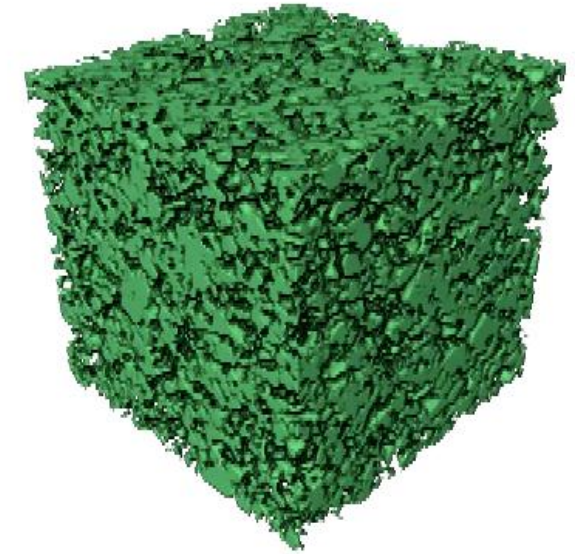
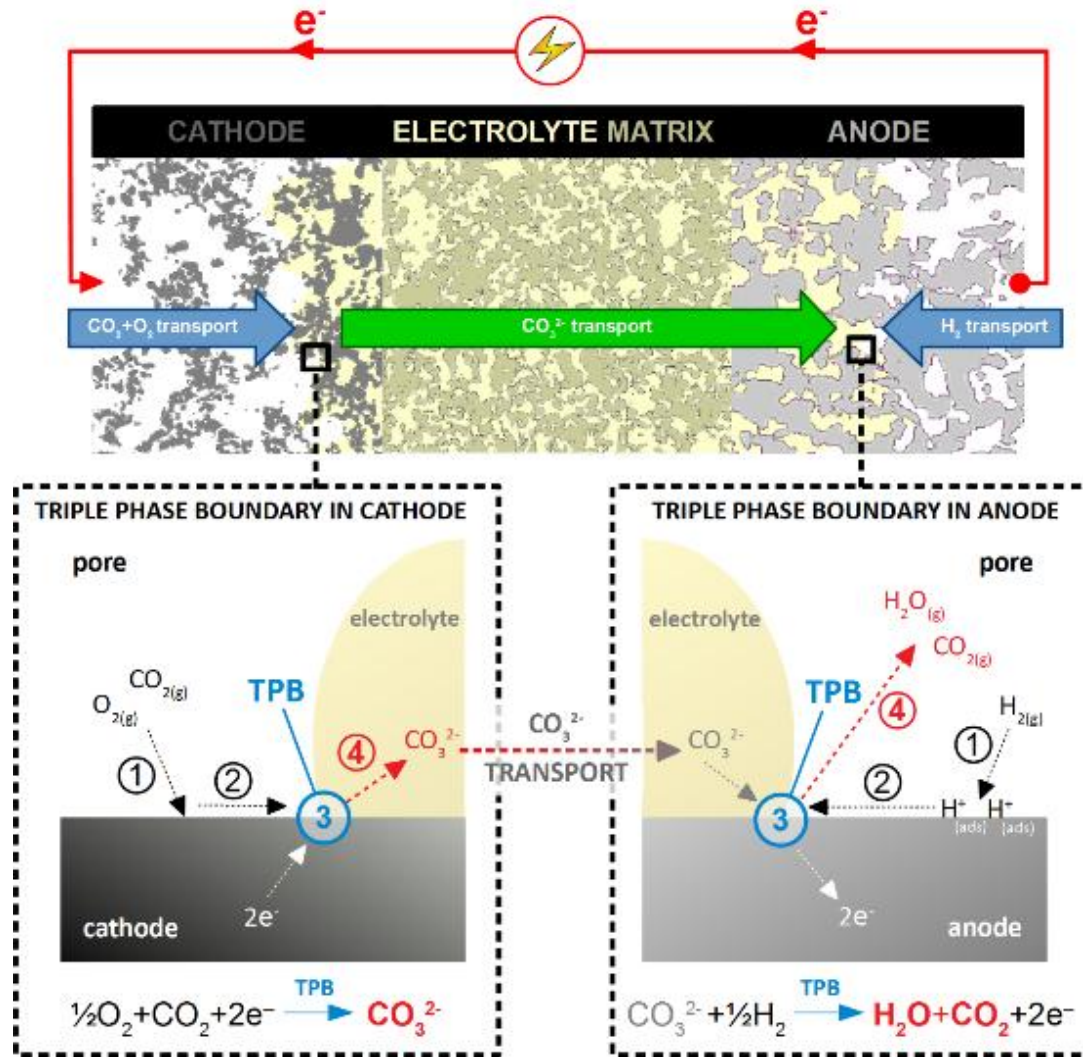
Tape cast layers

vs



Tape cast layer
onto foam support

Molten Carbonate Fuel Cell - Processes

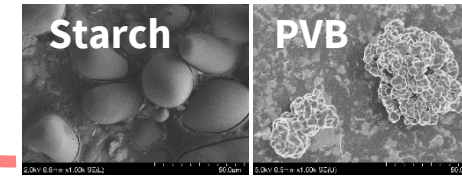


Elemental reaction steps:

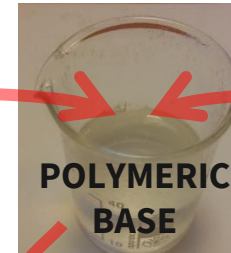
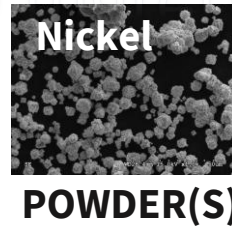
- ① Adsorption of molecules
- ② Surface diffusion
- ③ Reaction at TPB
- ④ Desorption of products

The open-porous microstructure, apart from the chemical composition, is of great importance for the fuel cel performance.

Manufacturing of green materials



POROGEN(S)



POLYMERIC BASE

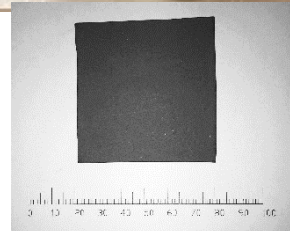
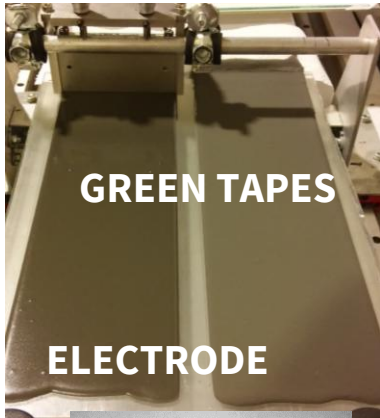
SLURRY



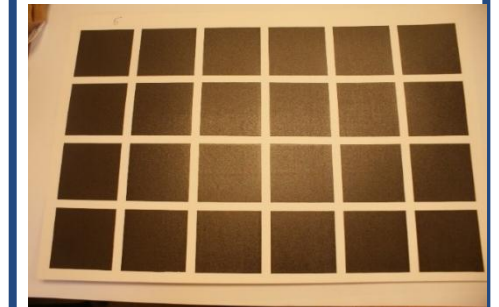
FORMING

FORMING

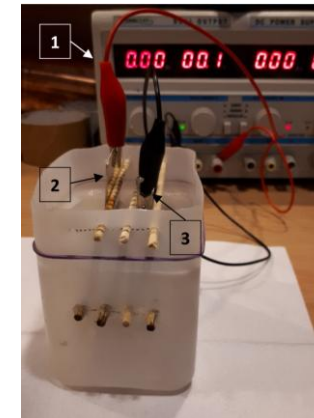
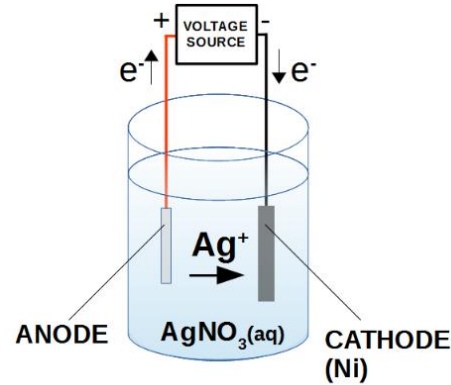
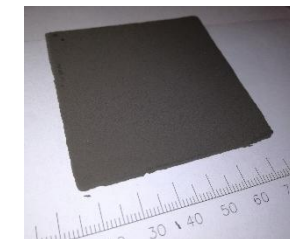
Tape casting



Screen printing



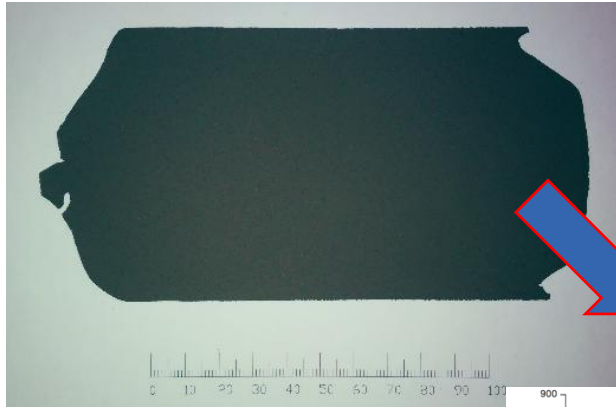
ELECTRODE



**Electrochemical treatment
(Ni+Ag)**

Heat treatment

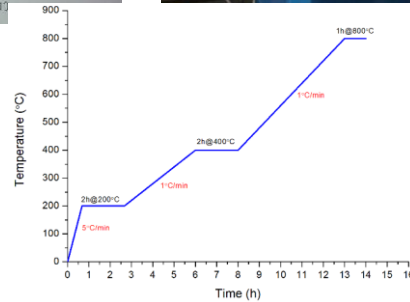
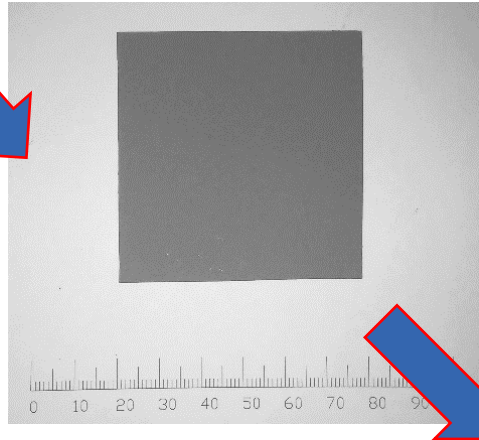
GREEN TAPE



FIRING

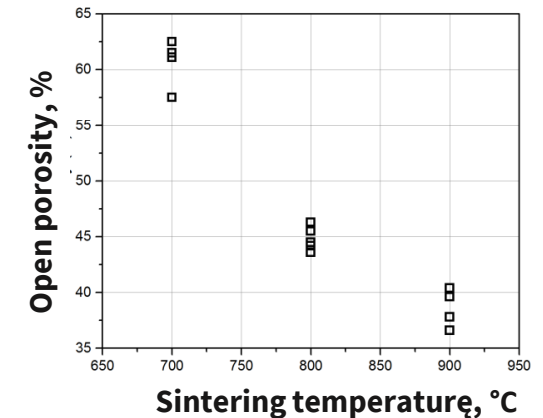


ELECTRODE



Heat treatment of green tapes can be separated in two steps:
1) removing volatile content and binder residues,
2) sintering of powders

CHARACTERIZATION AND TESTING



Open-porous structure of MCFC components is obtained after sintering. Porosity level is an effect of slurry composition and parameters of heat treatment: temperature (800-1000°C), time and atmosphere (commonly 100% hydrogen).

In the present work we sintered nickel-based porous electrodes using $\text{N}_2 + 5\%\text{H}_2$ atmosphere.

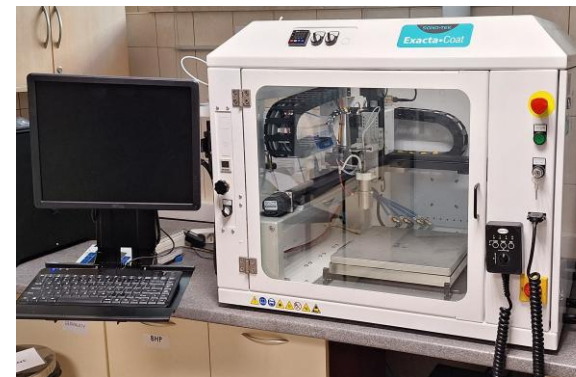
Fabrication - equipment

<https://www.wim.pw.edu.pl/Badania-i-nauka/Aparatura-badawcza>

Tape caster



High-temperature atmospheric tube furnace
Czylok, Poland



Ultrasonic spray coater Exacta Coat
SONO-TEK

Planetary Centrifugal Vacuum Mixer
Thinky ARV 930 TWIN



Planetary ball mill
Retch PM400



Programmable, atmosphere
furnace Czylok FCF-V70C/R

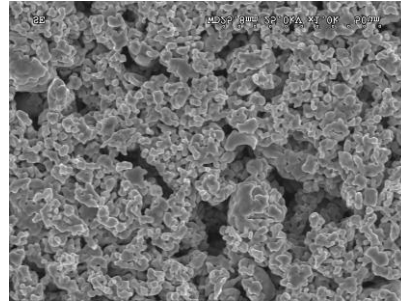
Microwave reactor
MAGNUM II, ERTEC-Poland



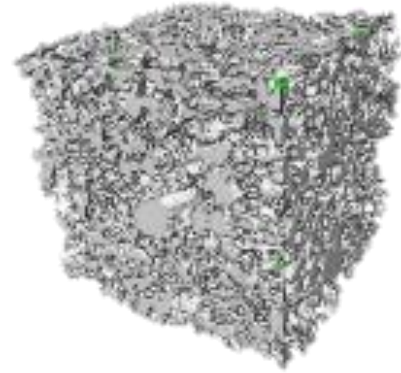
Characterization techniques

MICROSTRUCTURE CHARACTERIZATION

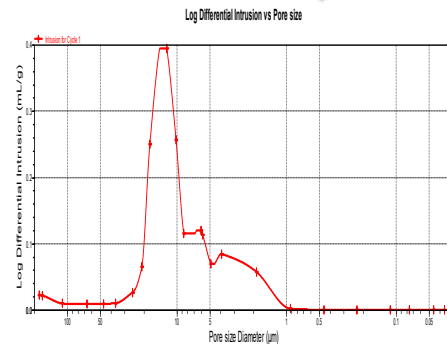
SEM
(morphology)



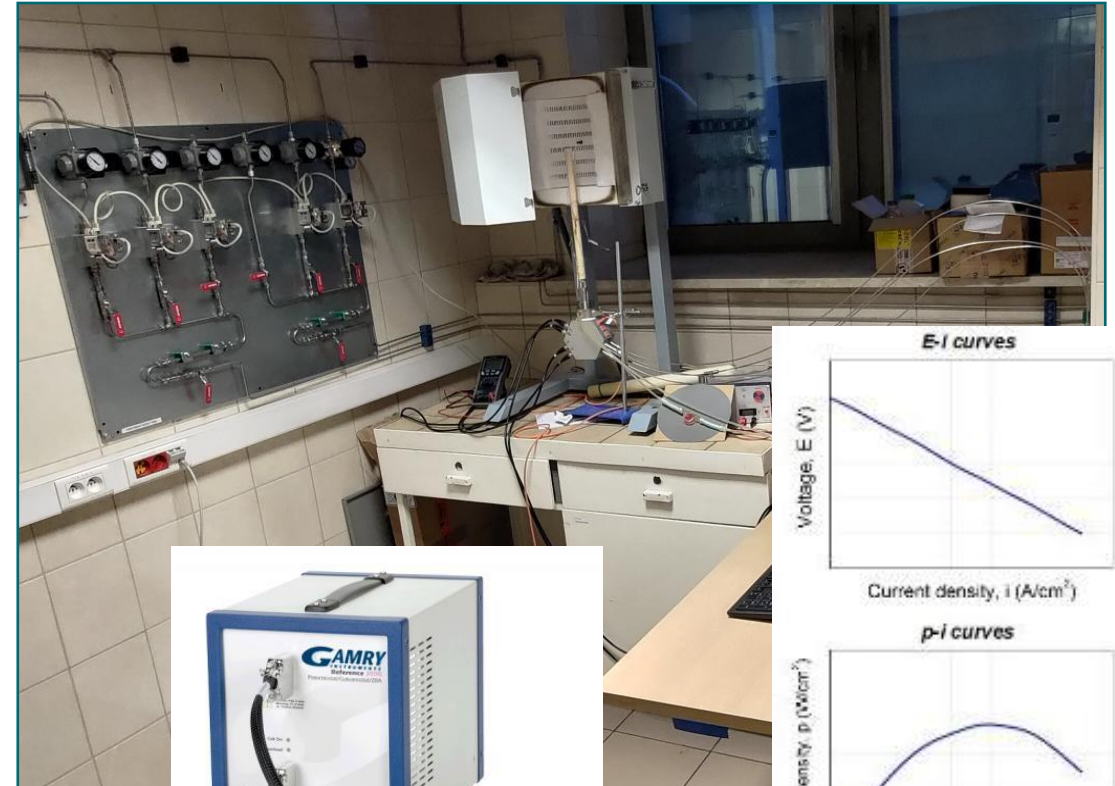
μ CT
(3D imaging)



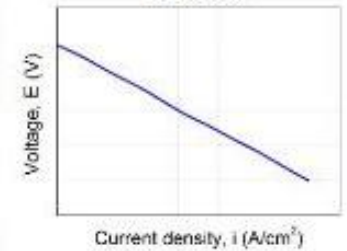
POROSIMETRY
(porosity, pore size distribution)



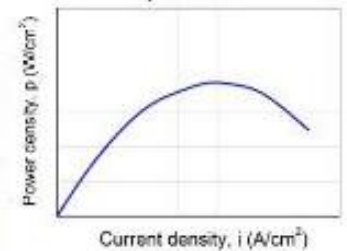
PERFORMANCE TESTING



E-I curves

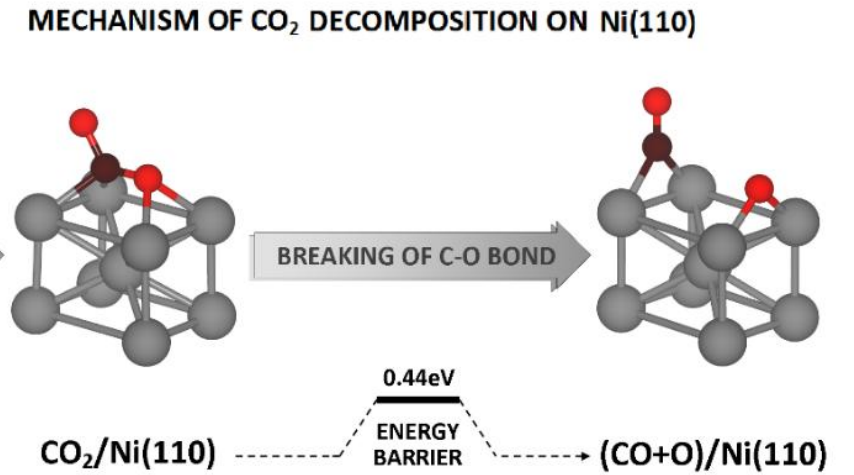
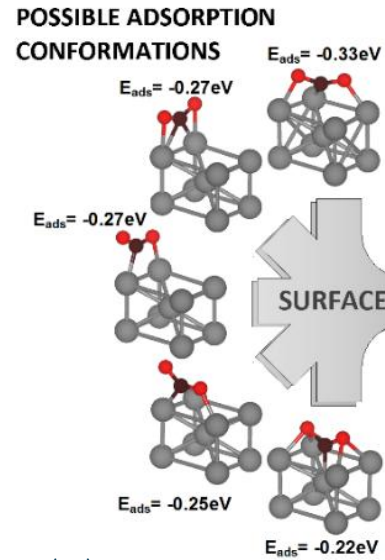
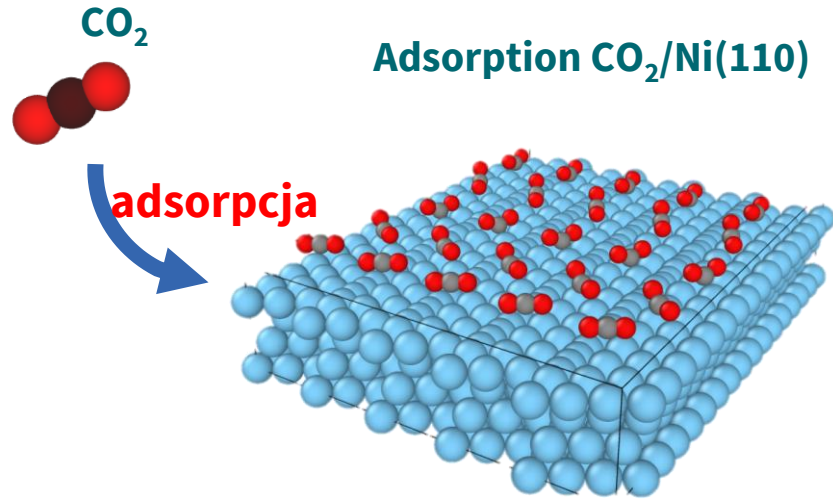


p-i curves



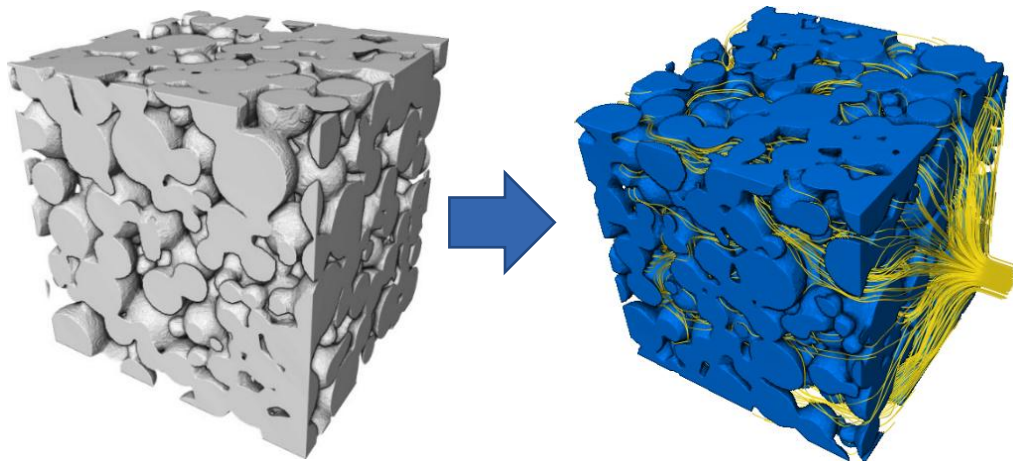
Multiscale modelling

Atomic scale

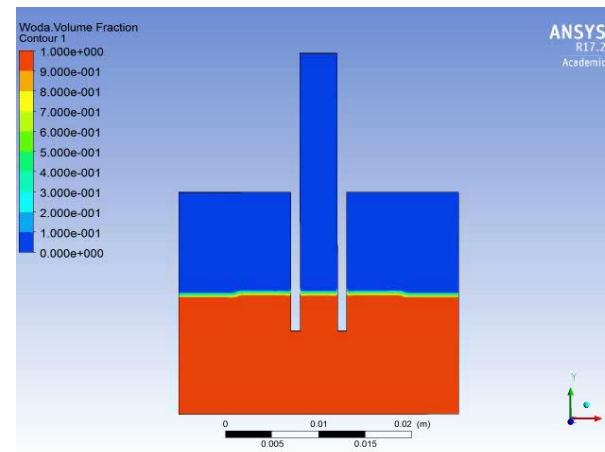


Czelej, K., Cwieka, K., Wejrzanowski, T., Spiewak, P., Kurzydłowski, K.J., Catal. Commun. (74) 2016

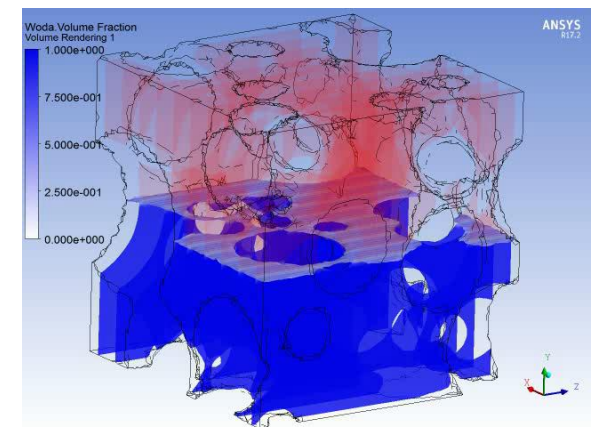
Mesoscale



Gas flow



Liquid electrolyte infiltration

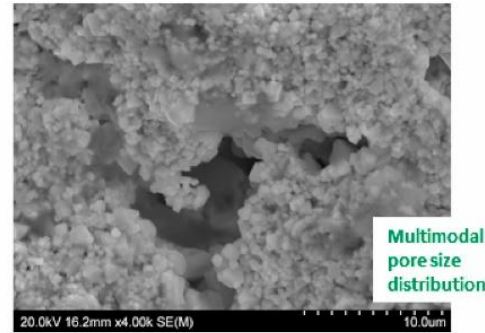
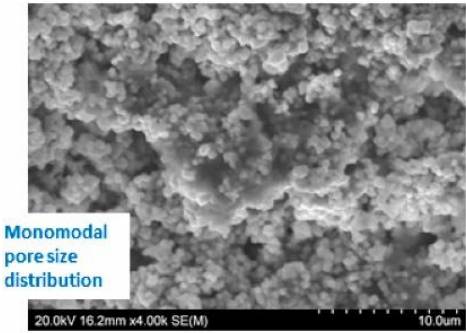
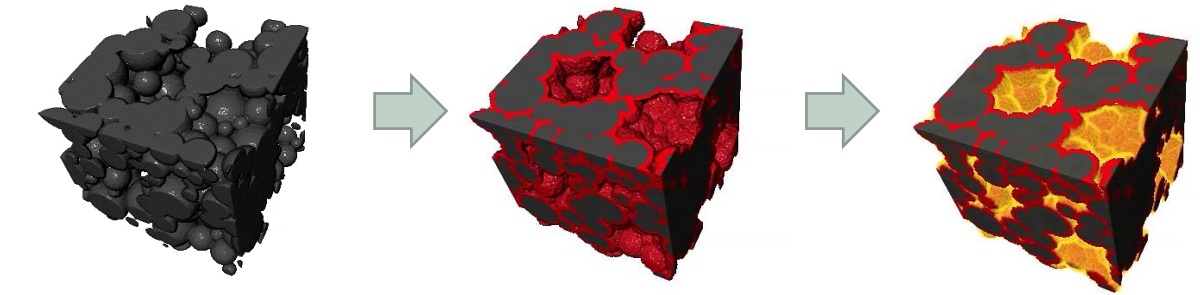
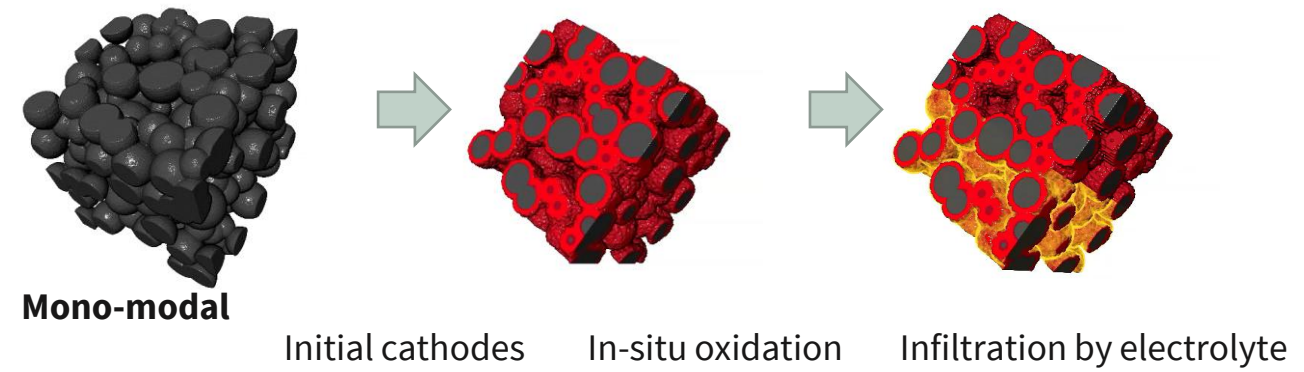


Haj Ibrahim S., Neumann M., Klingner F., Schmidt V., Wejrzanowski T., Materials and Design 133 (2017)

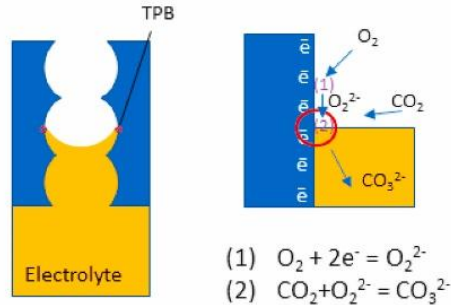
S. Haj Ibrahim, T. Wejrzanowski, P. Sobczak, K. Cwieka, A. Lysik, J Skibinski, G.J. Oliver, Journal of Power Sources 491 (2021) 229562.

Milestone 1

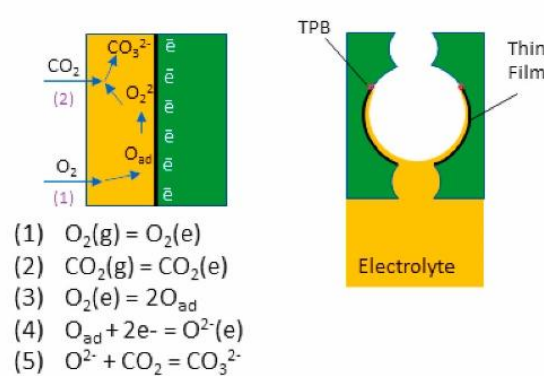
Application of porogens



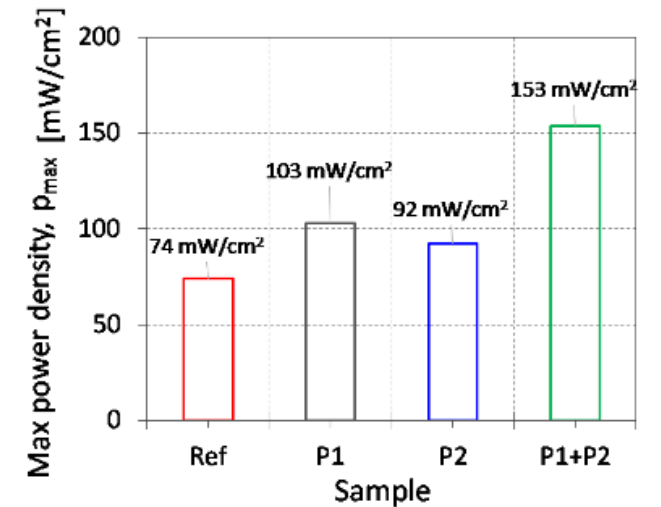
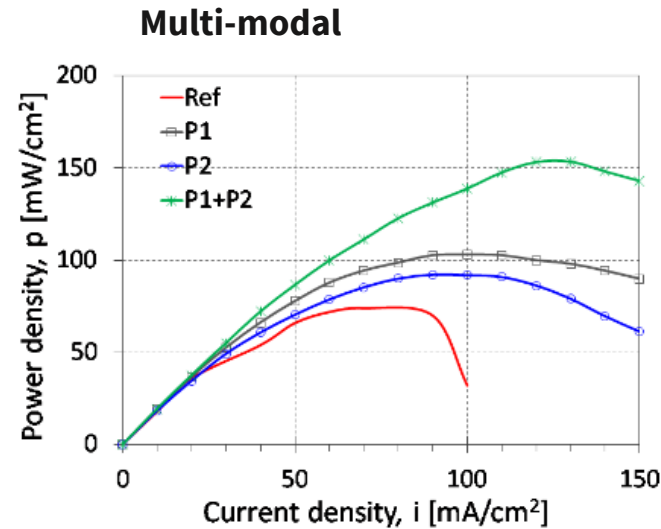
Triple phase boundary mechanism



TPB + Thin film mechanism

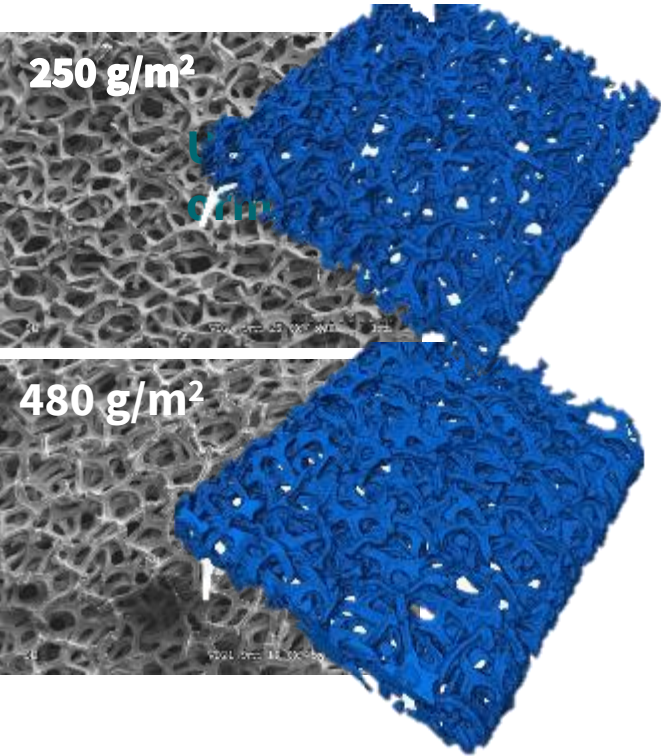
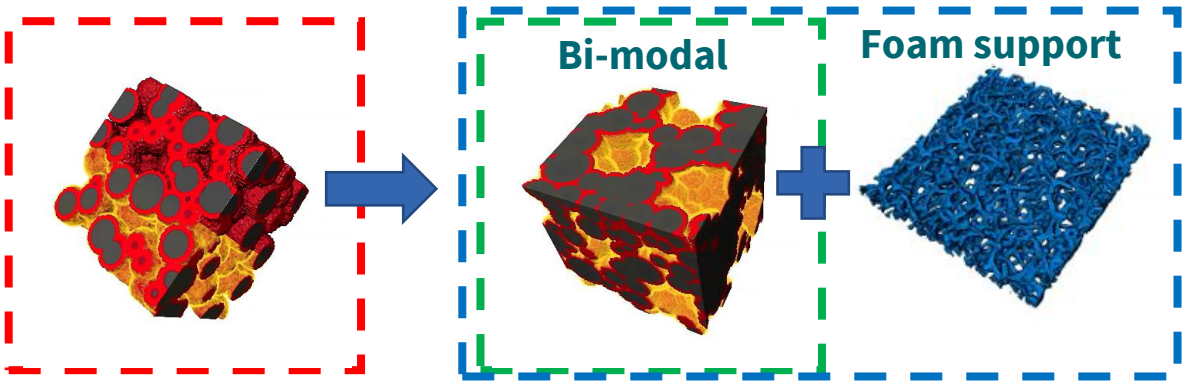


Multi-modal porosity of the cathode is **beneficial** for MCFC operation

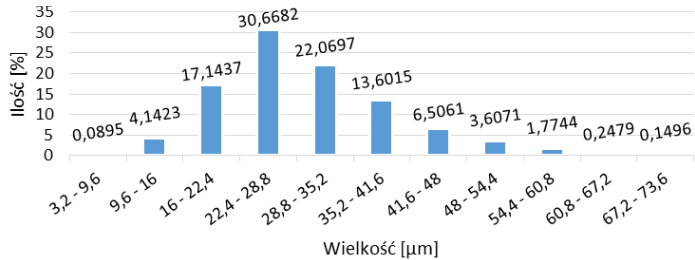


Milestone 2

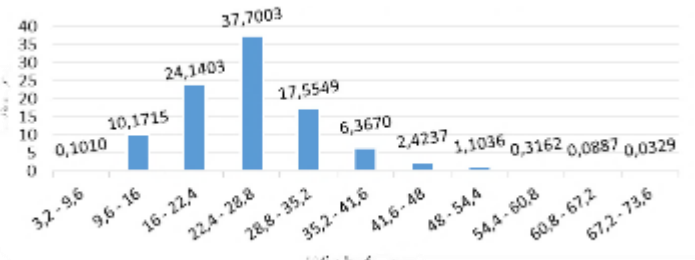
Application of nickel foam support



Pore size distribution in foam suport (250g/m²)



Pore size distribution in foam suport (480g/m²)

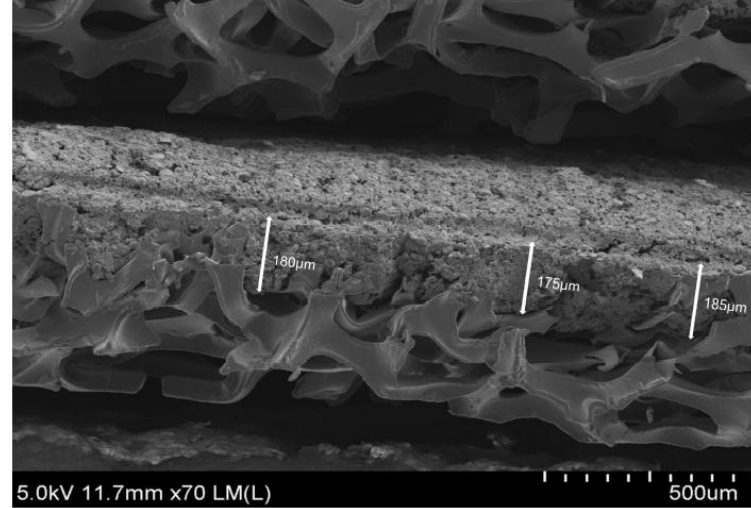


Lp.	Surface density [g/m²]	Support thickness [mm]	Top layer thickness [mm]
1	250	0,5	0,4
2	480	0,5	0,4
3	250	0,5	0,3
4	480	0,5	0,3
5	250	0,5	0,6
6	480	0,5	0,6

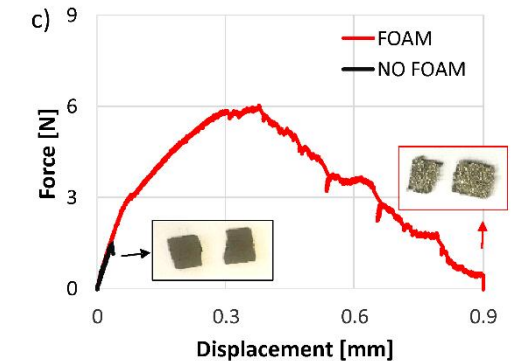
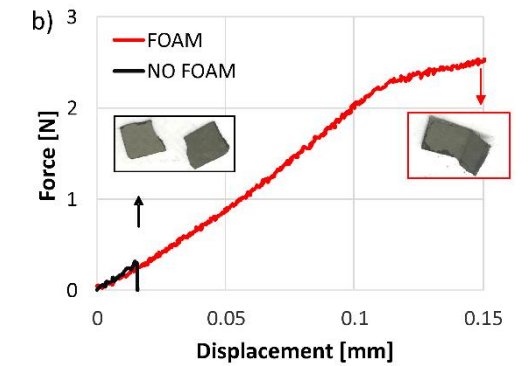
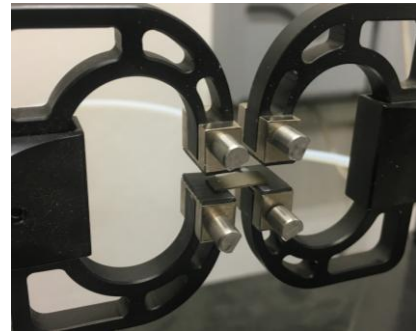
	Open porosity [%]	
	Archimedes	µ-XCT
Foam 250 g/m²	89,02	80,19
Foam 480 g/m²	81,60	78,60
Top layer	67,35	n.a.

Milestone 2

Application of nickel foam support



Mechanical testing

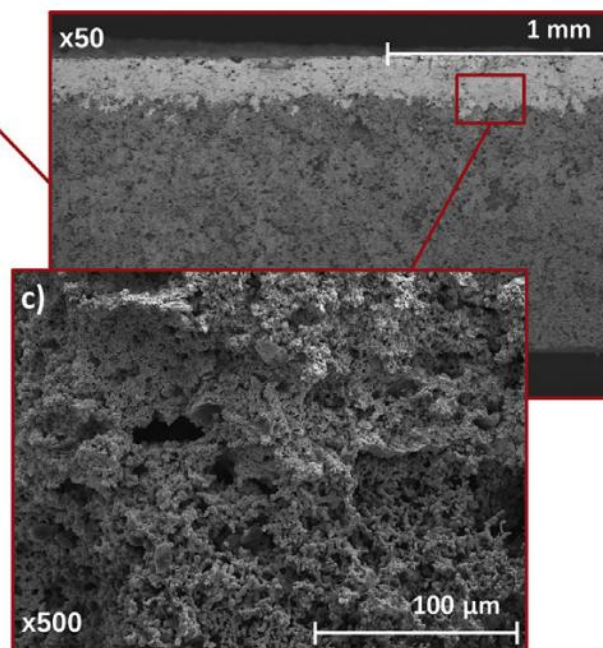
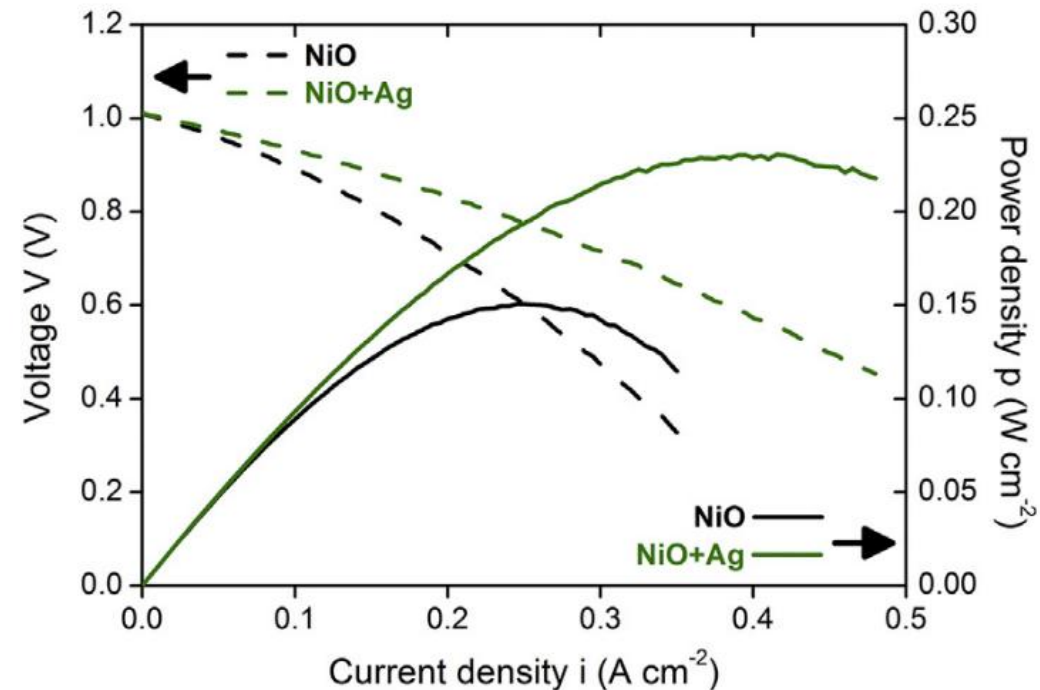
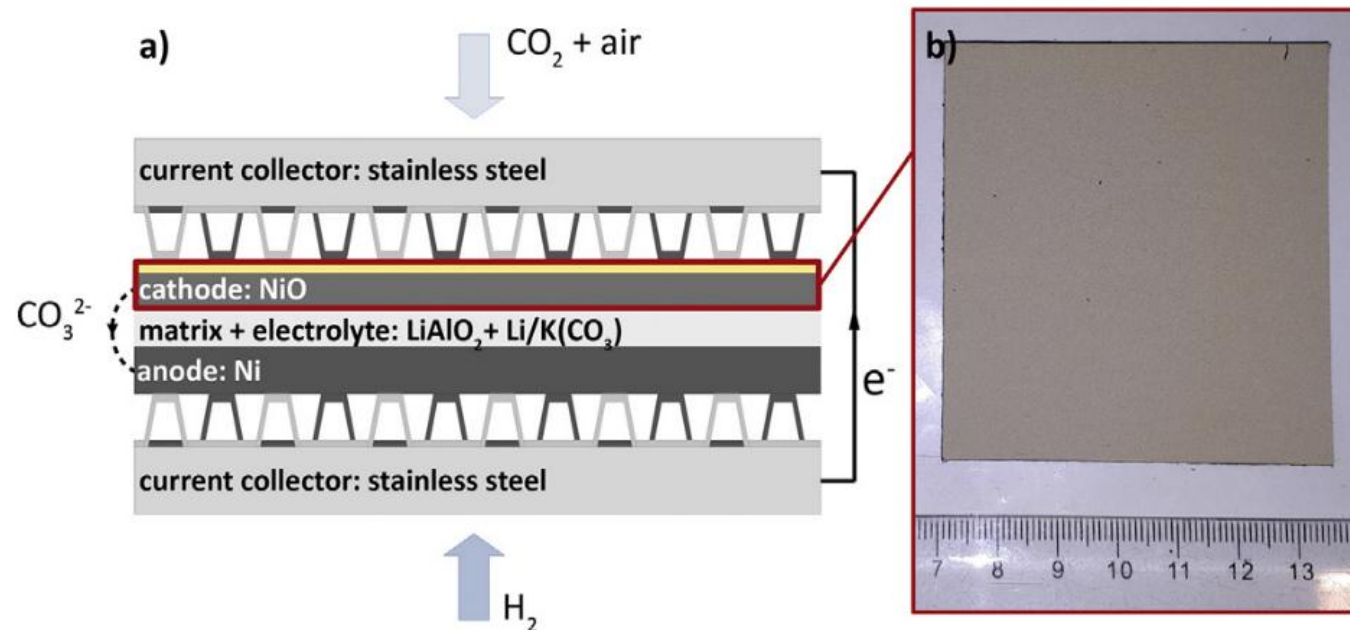


T. Wejrzanowski, K. Cwieka, J. Skibinski, T. Brynk, S. Haj Ibrahim, J. Milewski, W. Xing,
Metallic foam supported electrodes for molten carbonate fuel cells, Materials & Design 2020

Patent: Pat.241140 „Elektroda węglanowego ogniwa paliwowego o zwiększonej wytrzymałości mechanicznej”

Milestone 3

Application of silver coating



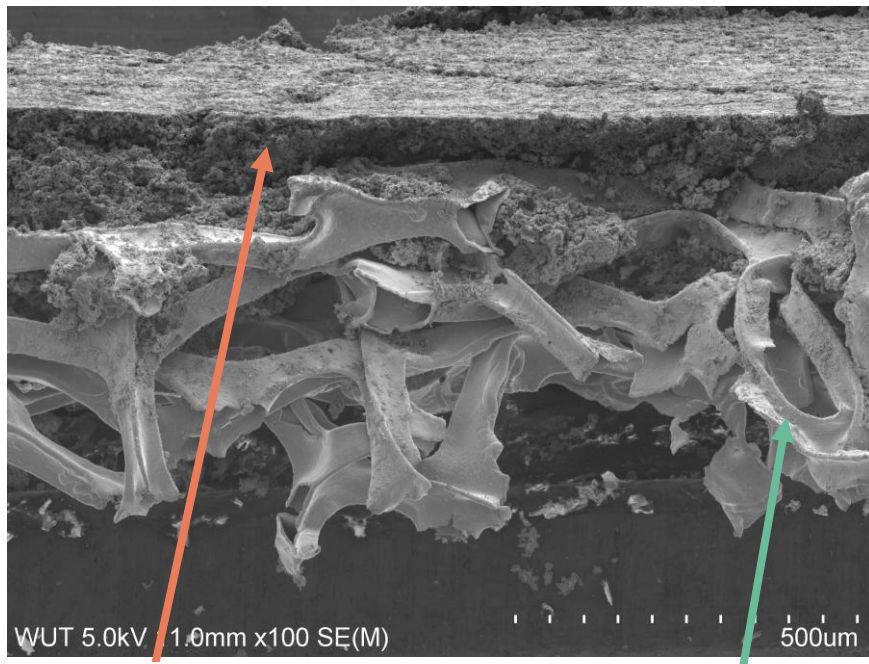
Aleksandra Lysik, Karol Cwieka, Tomasz Wejrzanowski, Jakub Skibinski, Jaroslaw Milewski, Fernando M. B. Marques, Truls Norby, Wen Xing, Silver coated cathode for molten carbonate fuel cells, June 2020, International Journal of Hydrogen Energy 45(38)

Karol Cwieka, A Lysik, Tomasz Wejrzanowski, Truls Norby, Wen Xing, Microstructure and electrochemical behavior of layered cathodes for molten carbonate fuel cell, Journal of Power Sources 500 (2021) 229949

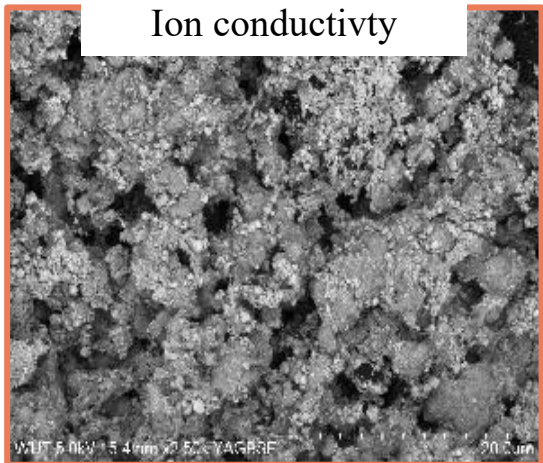
Patent: P.430869 Katoda węglanowego ogniwa paliwowego z warstwą spieku srebra

Milestone 4

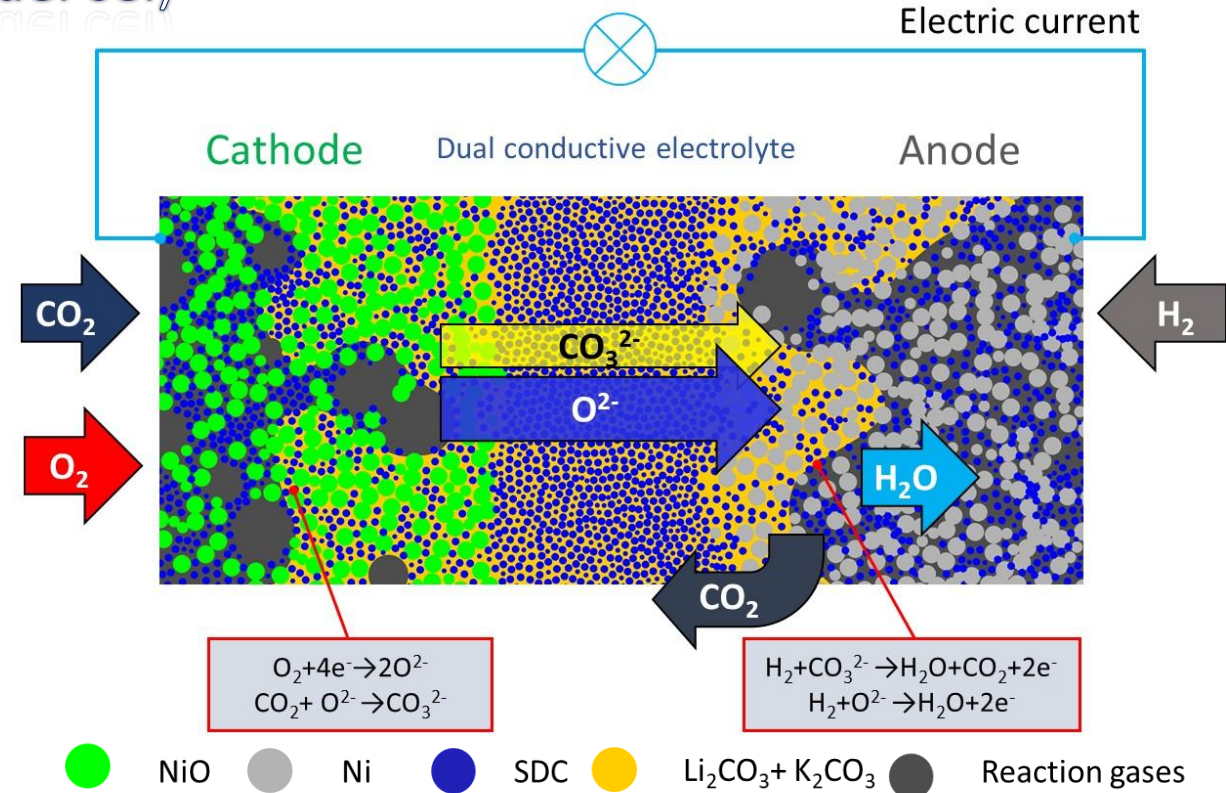
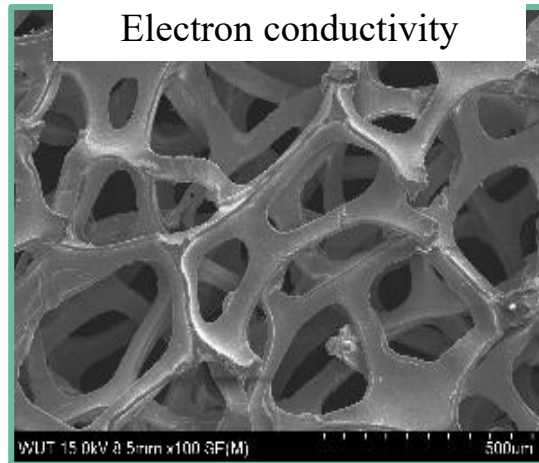
Hybrid MCFC/SOFC = COFC (Carbonate oxide fuel cel)



Ion conductivity



Electron conductivity



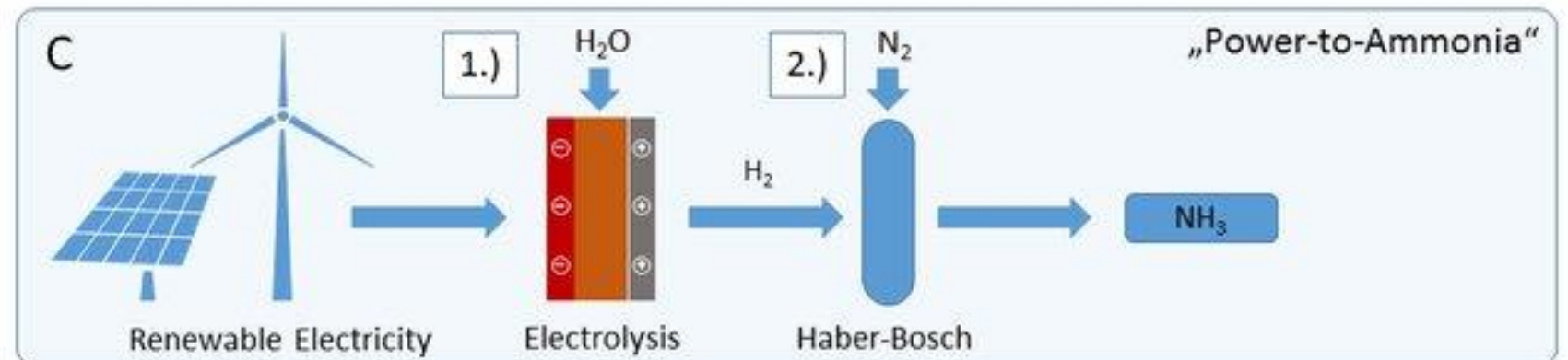
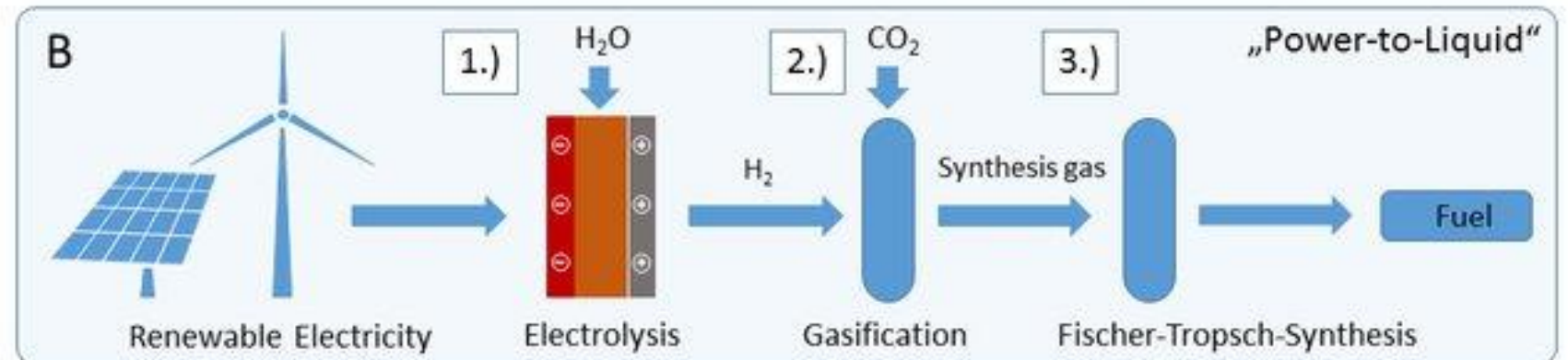
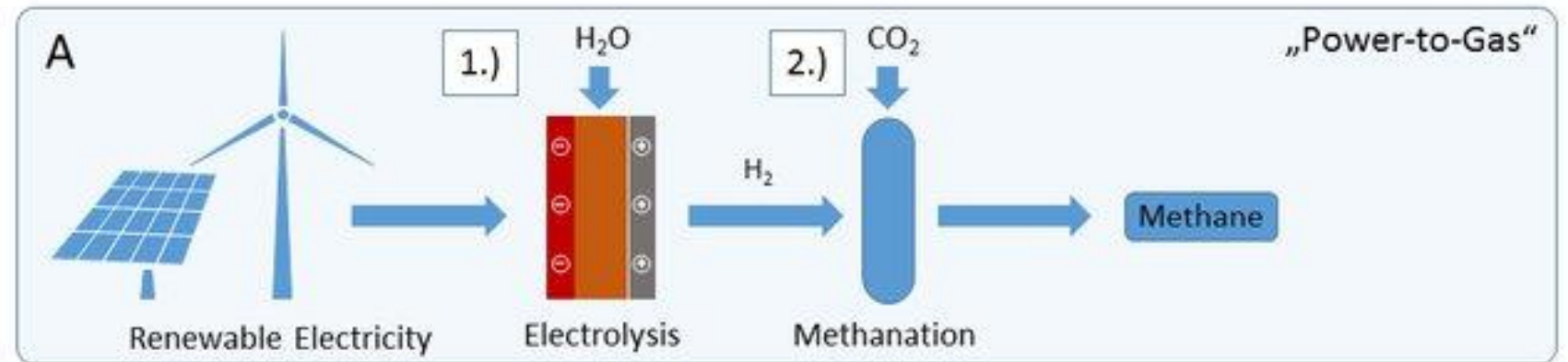
Komorowska, G.; Wejrzanowski, T.; Jamroz, J.; Jastrzębska, A.; Wróbel, W.; Tsai, S.-Y.; Fung, K.-Z. Fabrication and Characterization of a Composite Ni-SDC Fuel Cell Cathode Reinforced by Ni Foam. *Materials* 2022, 15, 4891. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma15144891>

Gabriela Komorowska, Jan Jamroz, Tomasz Wejrzanowski, Kamil Dydek, Rafał Molak, Wojciech Wróbel, Shu-Yi Tsai, Kuan-Zong Fung, Thermal treatment and properties of Ni-SDC cathode for high temperature fuel cells, *Materials Science for Energy Technologies* 6 (2023) 105-113

Syntectic fuels

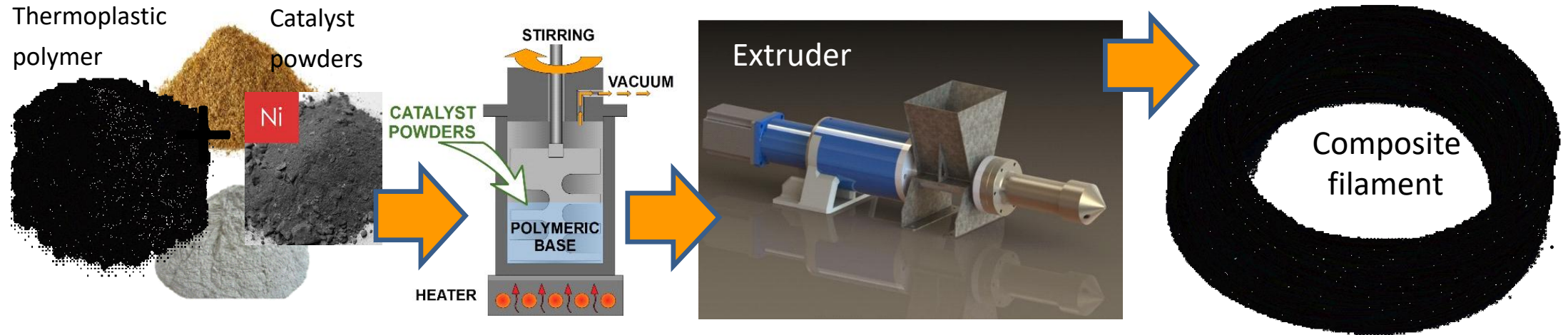
The concept

Energy storage

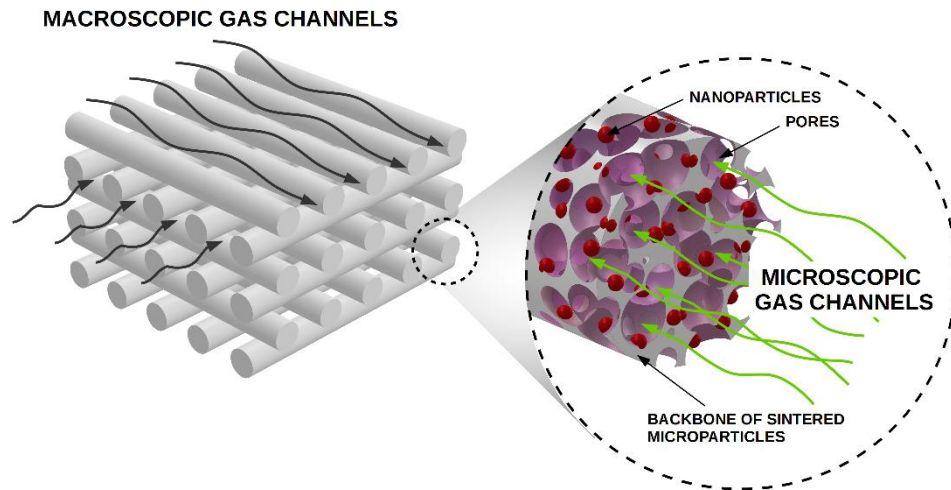


Hierarchical porous materials – 3D printing

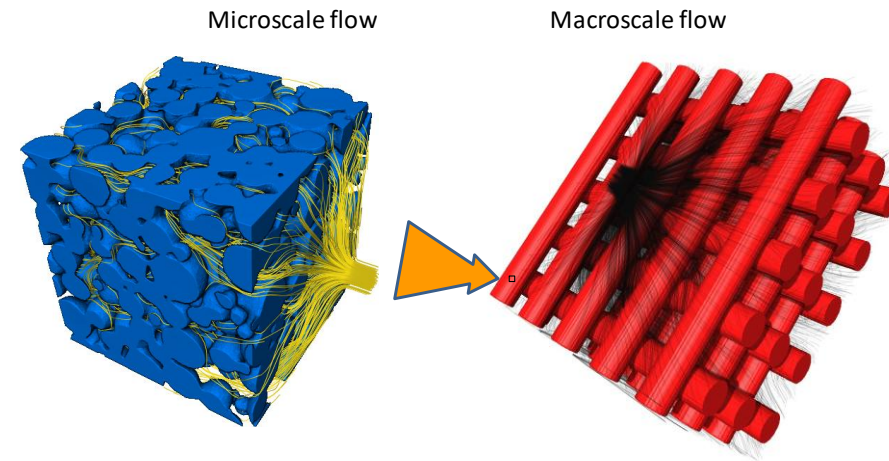
The concept



Fabrication of hierarchical open porous materials by application of 3D printing

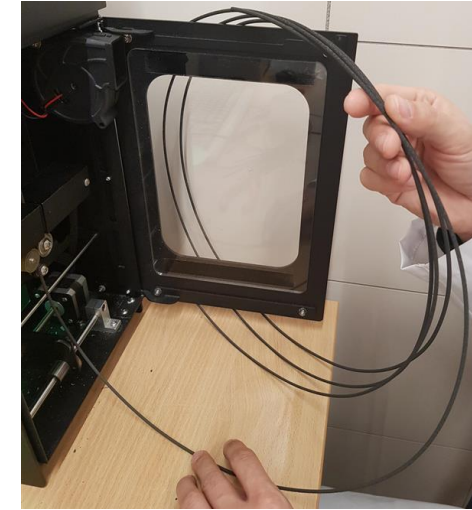
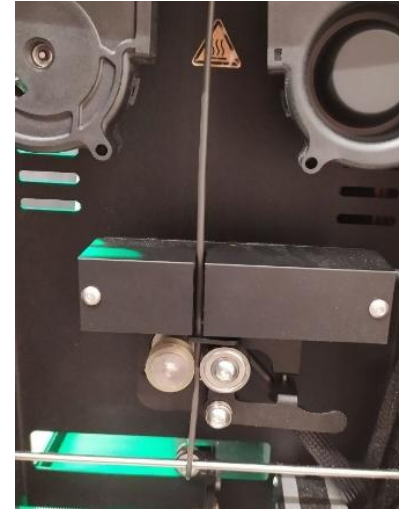
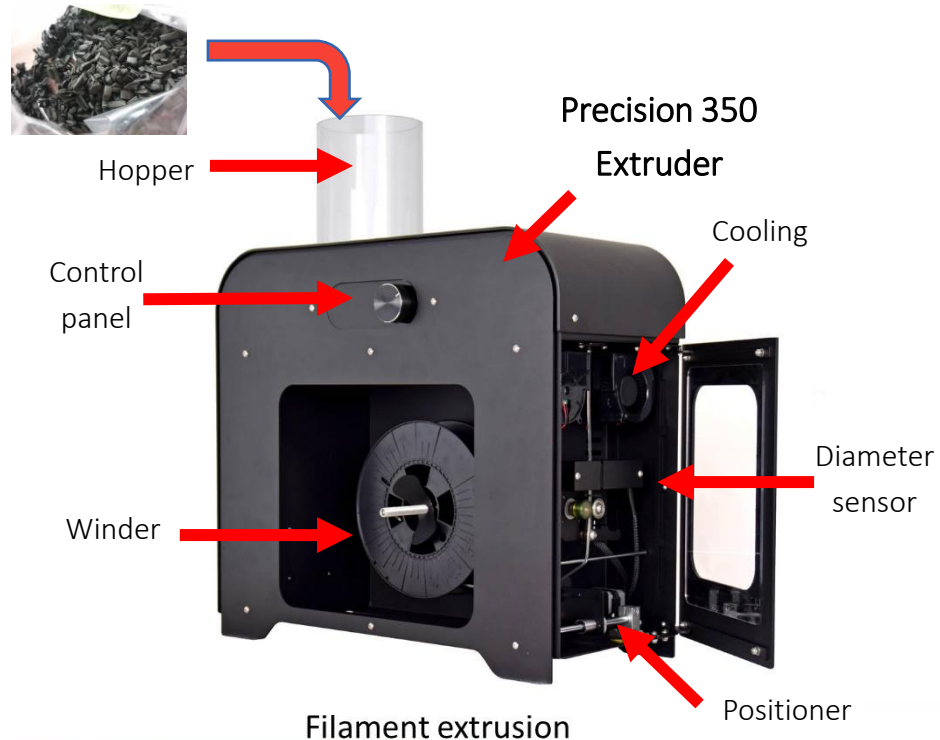


Schematic illustration of hierarchical open-porous microstructure of catalytic materials fabricated via 3D printing

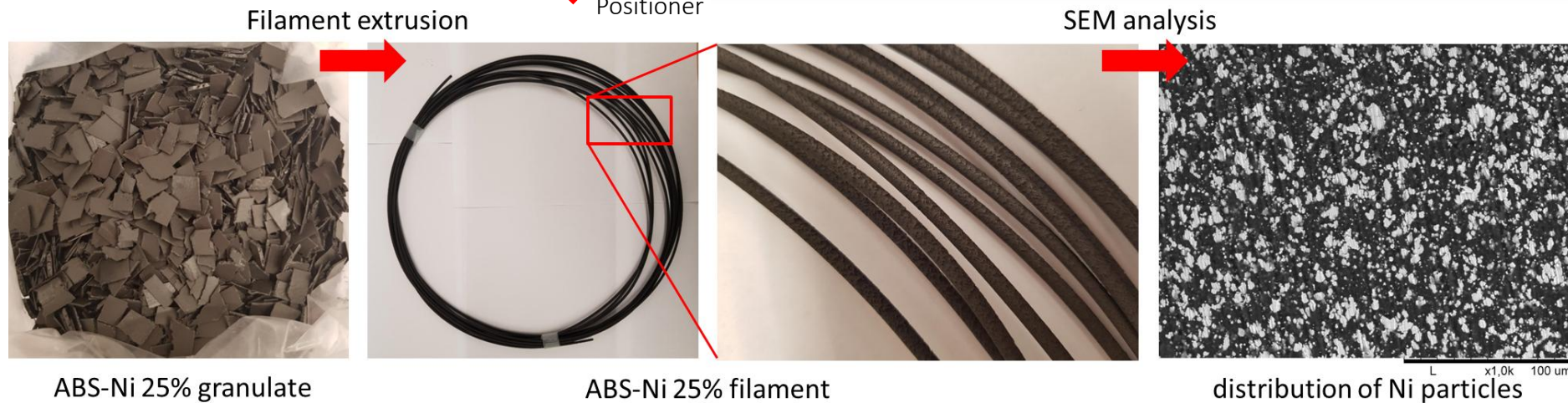


Multiscale modeling of reactive flow in hierarchical microstructure.

3D printing of hierarchical open-porous materials by FDM (Fused Deposition Modeling)

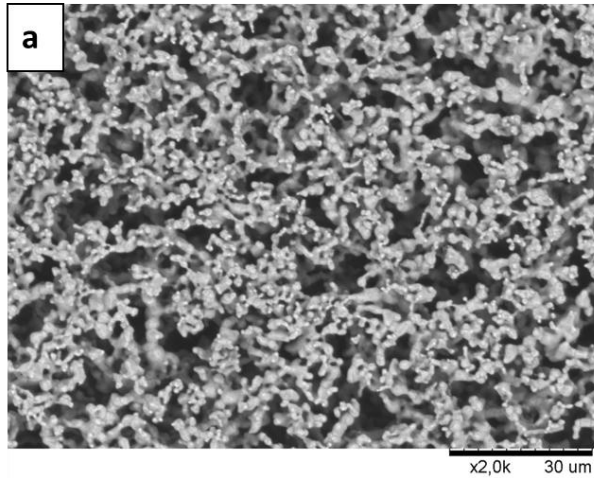


Filament diameter – 2,85 μm

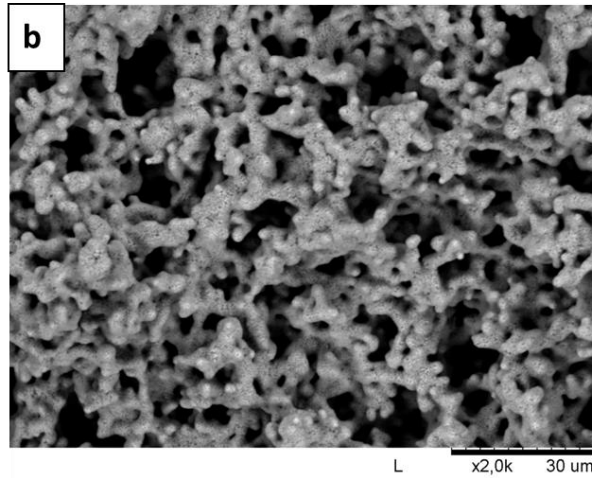


Porous structures in FDM 3D printing technology

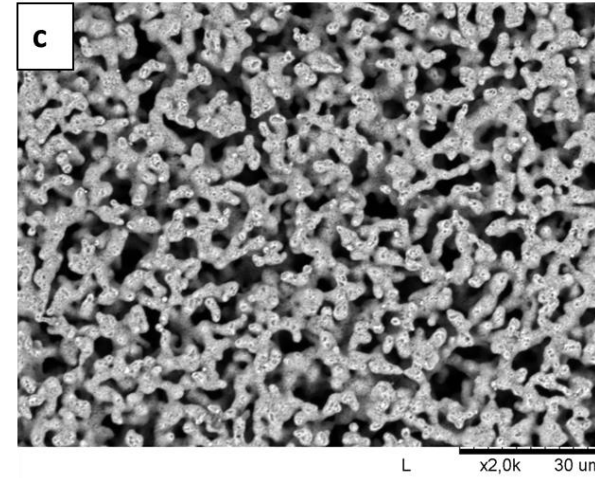
SEM images for prints after heat treatment:



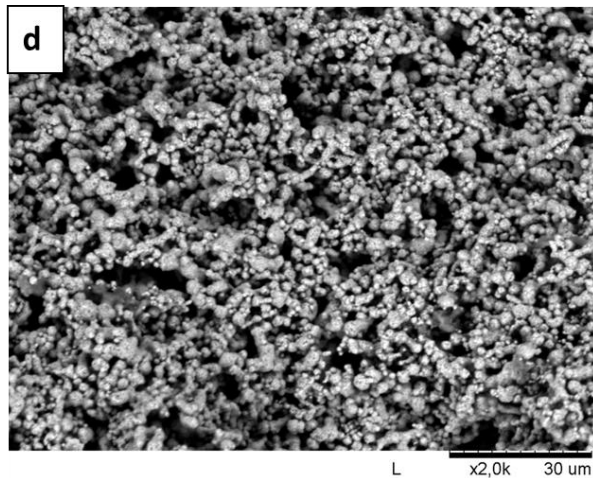
PLA-Ni 5% on Ni foam (a)



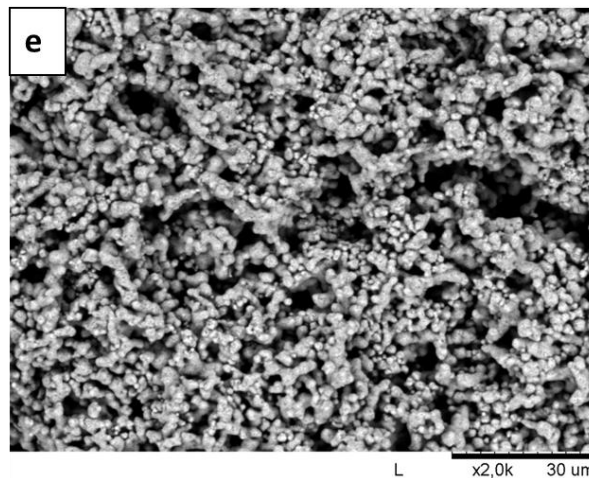
PVB-Ni 25% (b)



PVB-Ni 25% on Ni foam (c)



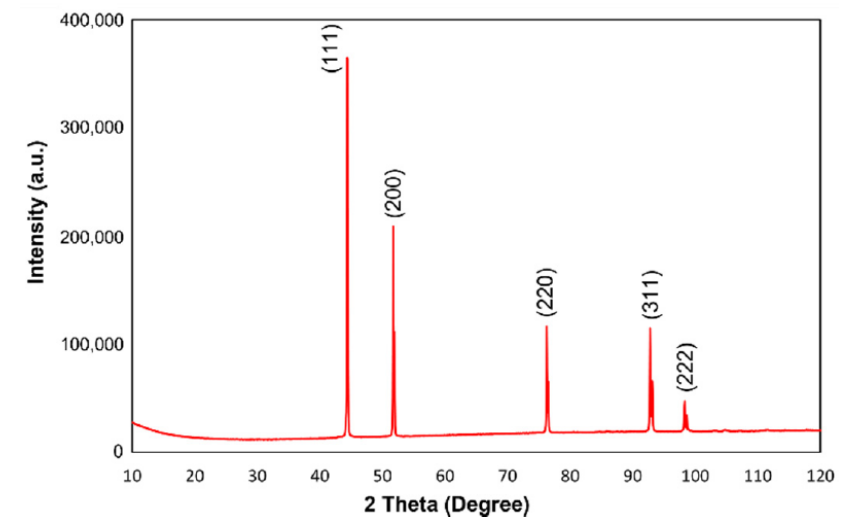
ABS-Ni 25% (d)



ABS-Ni 25% on Ni foam (e)

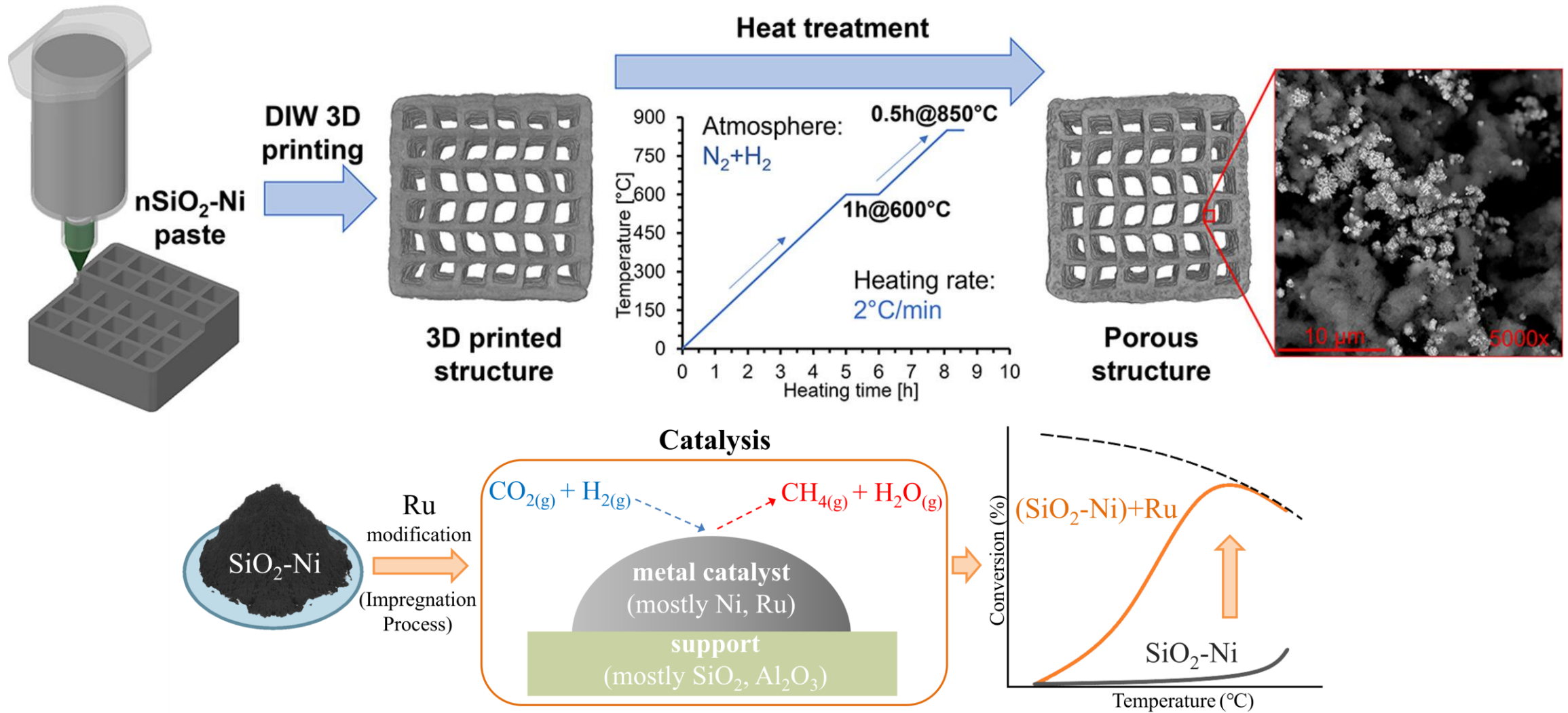
Uniform distribution of Ni particles in the composite -> **controlled porosity**

The produced materials are characterized by an **open pore structure**.



Porous 3D printed materials – Direct Ink Writing (DIW)

Preparation of silica-nickel 3D structures using Direct Ink Writing technique



Mackiewicz, E., Wejrzanowski, T., Nowacki, R., Jaroszewicz, J., Marchewka, J., Wilk, Ł., Bezkosty, P., & Sitarz, M. (2023). 3D hierarchical porous structures printed from a silica-nickel composite paste. *Applied Materials Today*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmt.2023.101859>

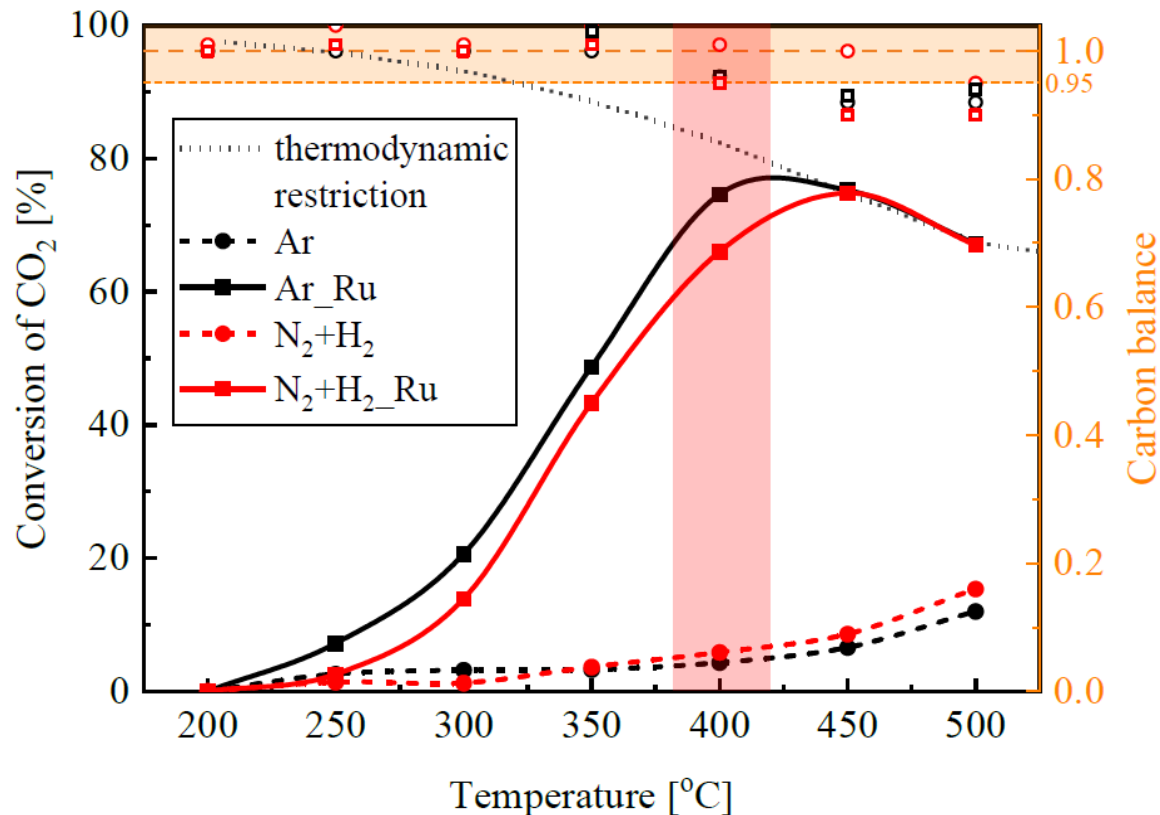
Ewelina Mackiewicz, Remigiusz Nowacki, Gabriela Komorowska, Tomasz Wejrzanowski, Impregnation of Composite 3D Prints for Enhanced Structural Stability, *International Journal of Precision Engineering and Manufacturing-Green Technology* (2025) 1-14.

Porous 3D printed materials – Direct Ink Writing (DIW)

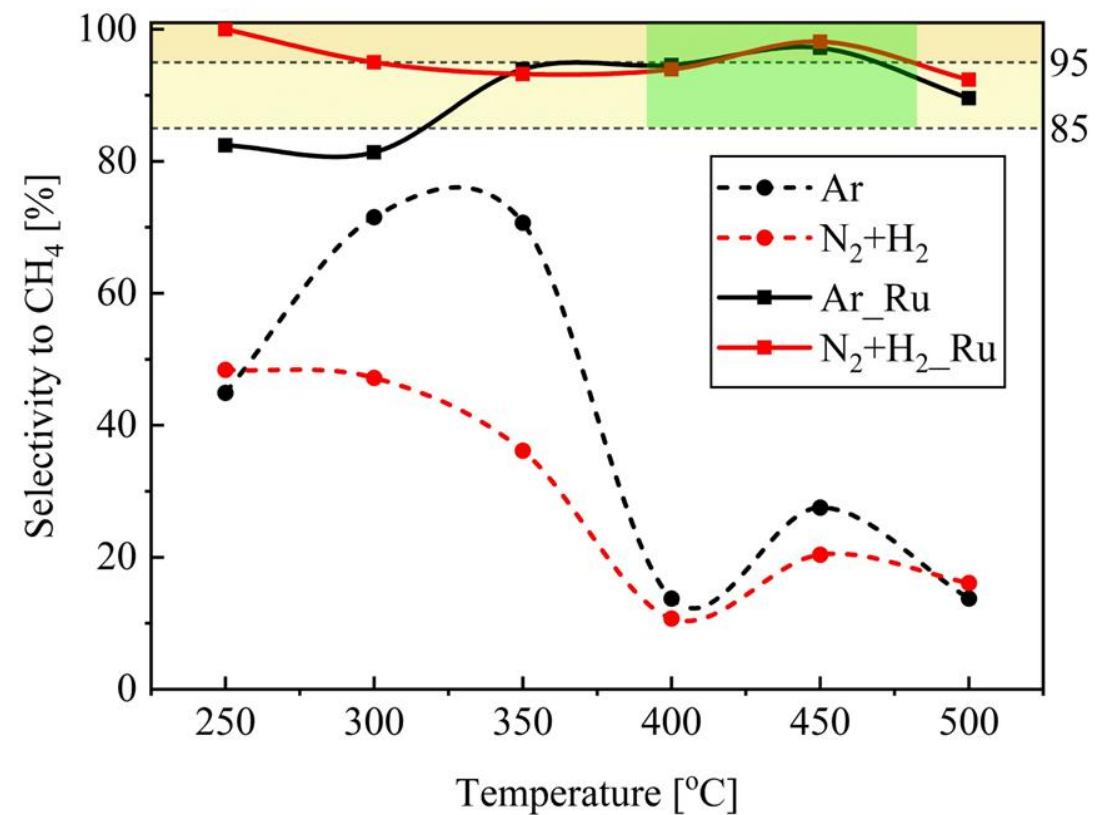
Methanation $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2$

The catalytic activity tests for the Ni catalysts and Ru-promoted catalysts :

CO_2 conversion and carbon balance



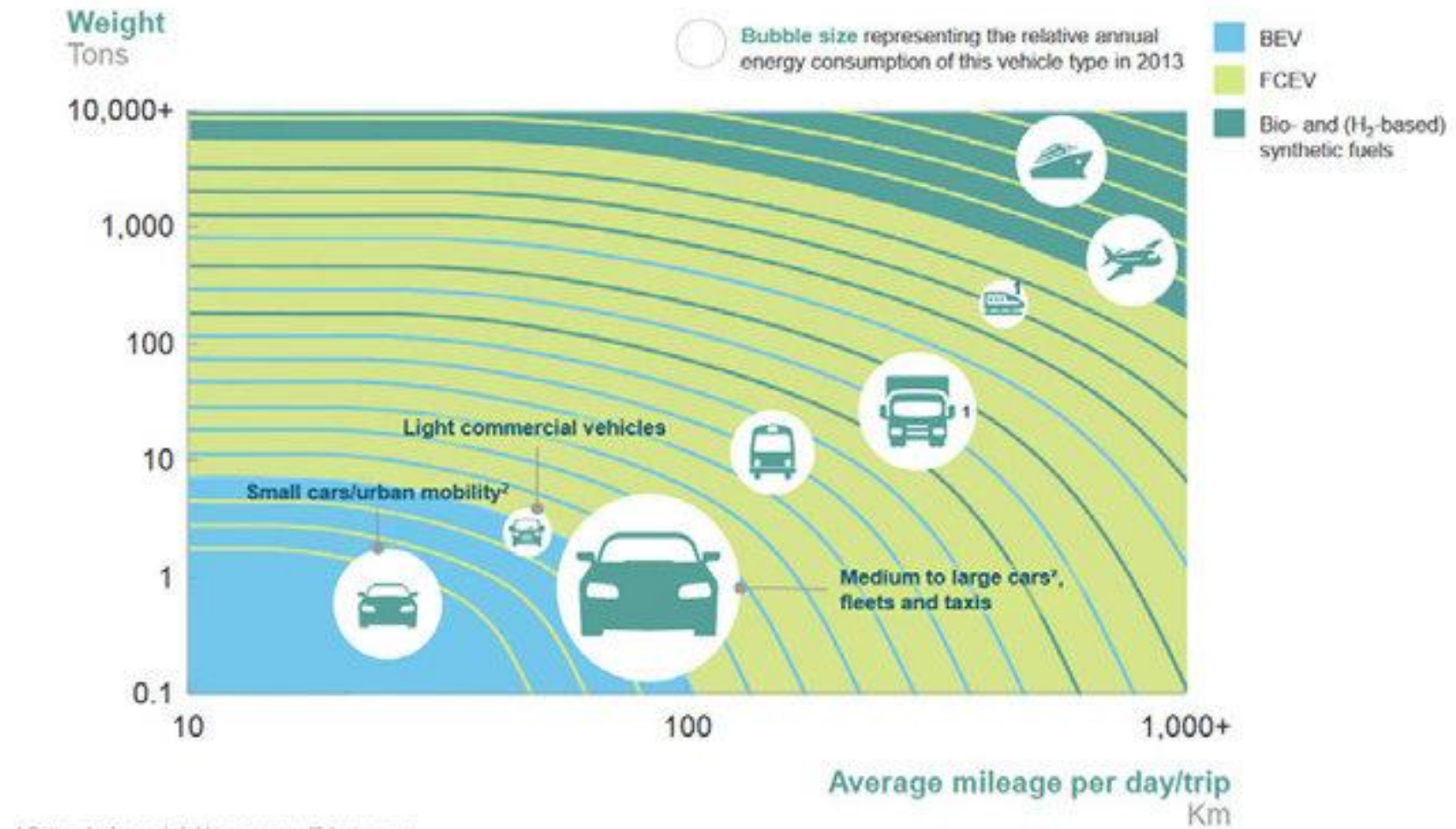
selectivity to CH_4



At 400 °C CO_2 conversion reached almost 75% and 66% for Ar_Ru and $\text{H}_2 + \text{N}_2$ _Ru, respectively

➡ Monolithic catalysts - tests

Hydrogen or/and batteries ?



¹ Battery-hydrogen hybrid to ensure sufficient power

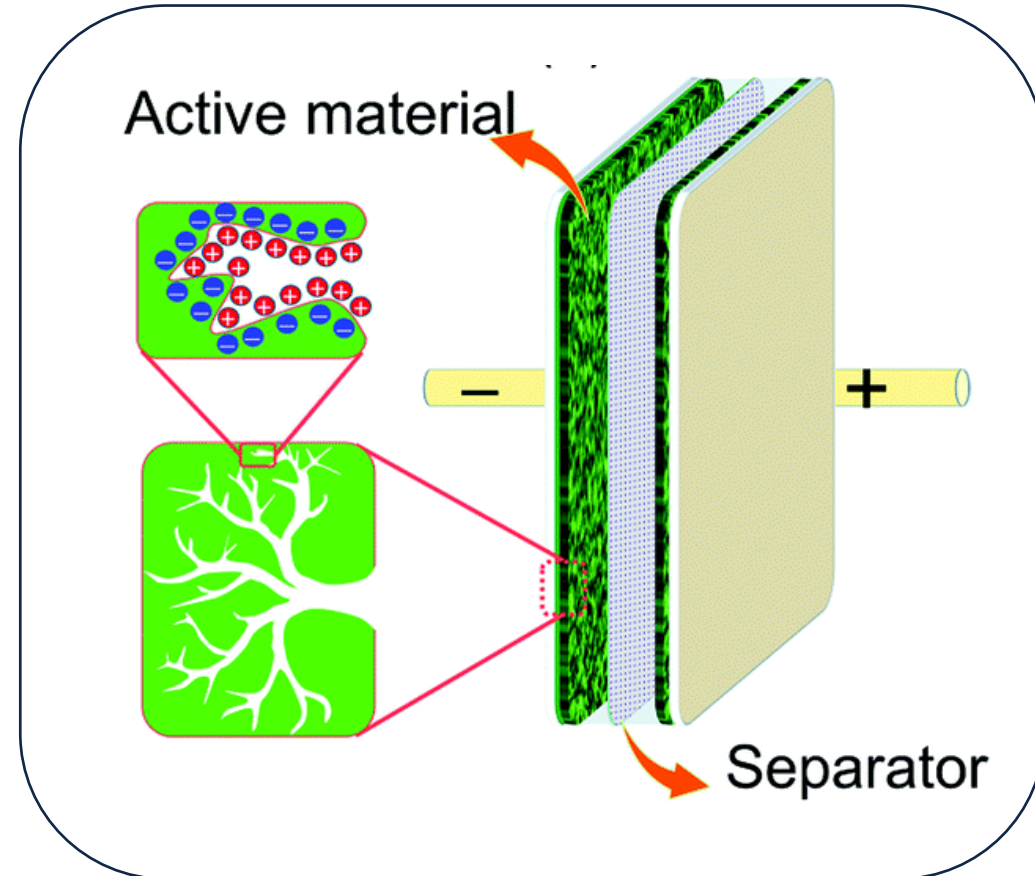
² Split in A- and B-segment LDVs (small cars) and C+-segment LDVs (medium to large cars) based on a 30% market share of A/B-segment cars and a 50% less energy demand

Source: Toyota, Hyundai, Daimler

Maybe something else? Supercapacitors

Supercapacitor: An advanced energy storage device.

- High power density (higher than batteries)
- Wide operating temperature range
- Long cycle life (over 10 years)
- Fast Charging
- Less weight
- Low cost



Typical construction of supercapacitor devices

Applications of supercapacitor devices

Supercapacitor Technology > Application

VINA Tech



Trams in Germany powered by supercapacitors use 30% less energy than their equivalents in other regions.

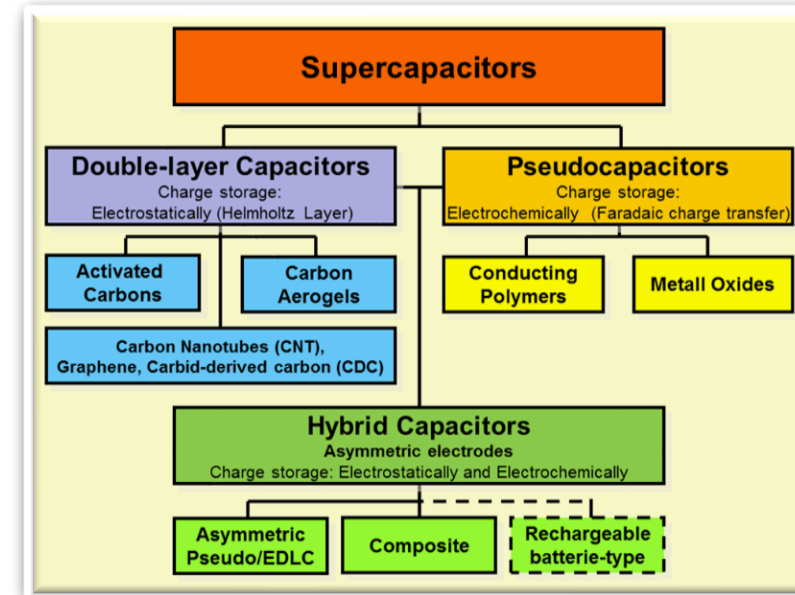
Ref: Supercapacitors take charge in Germany By Philip Ball Feature Editor Yury Gogotsi03, (2012)

Types and Classification of Supercapacitor

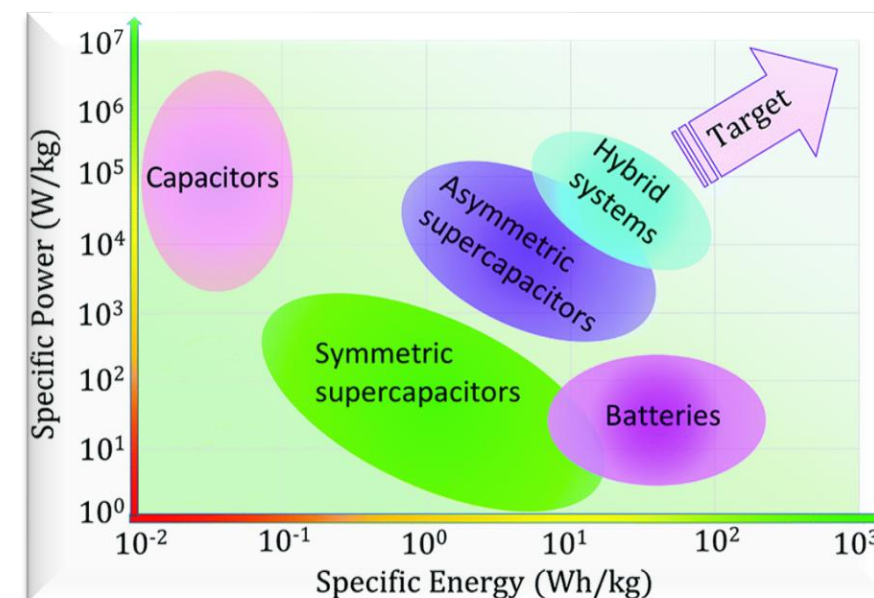
Objectives

A novel route for binder-free fabrication of porous electrodes

- Microwave-assisted hydrothermal method
- Fast and energy efficient
- Processing time few minutes
- Synthesis of various metallic/carbon compounds
- Novel porous nano architectures
- High surface area
- High electrochemical activity

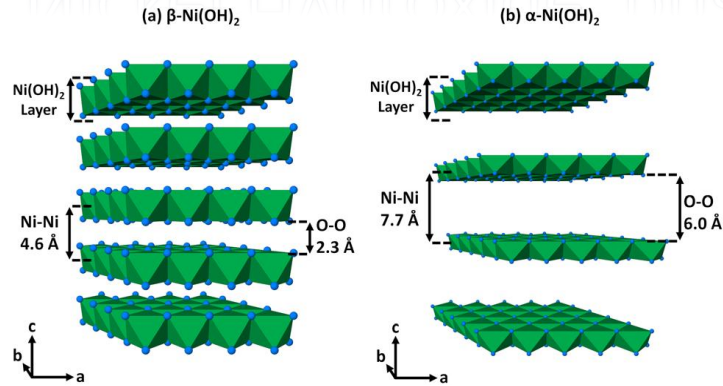


Types of supercapacitor devices



Ragone plot showing the specific power vs. specific energy of various energy storage devices.

Nickel Hydroxide phases and electrochemical characteristics



β -Ni(OH)₂

➤ Capacitance **X**

➤ Cyclic stability $\checkmark$

α -Ni(OH)₂

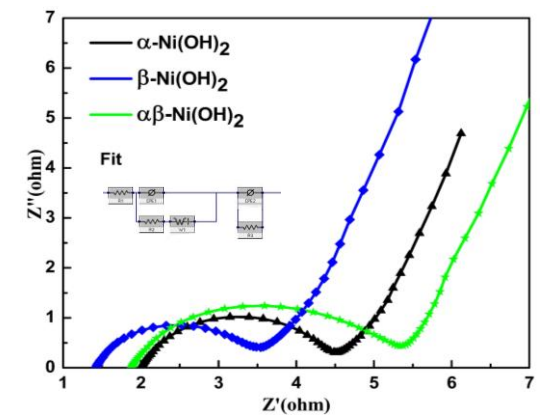
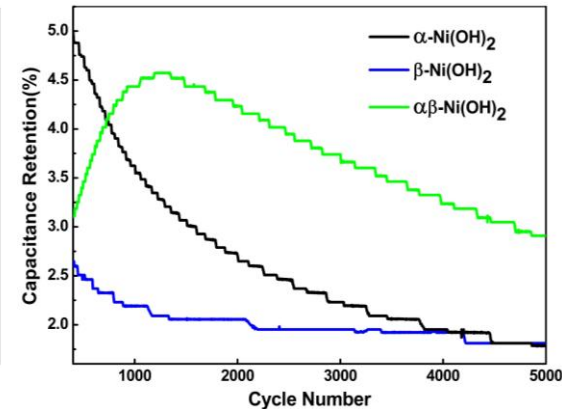
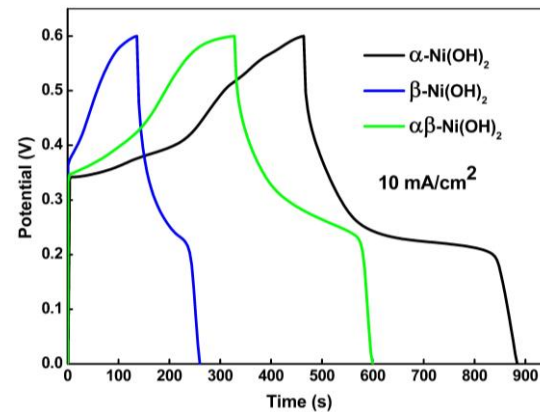
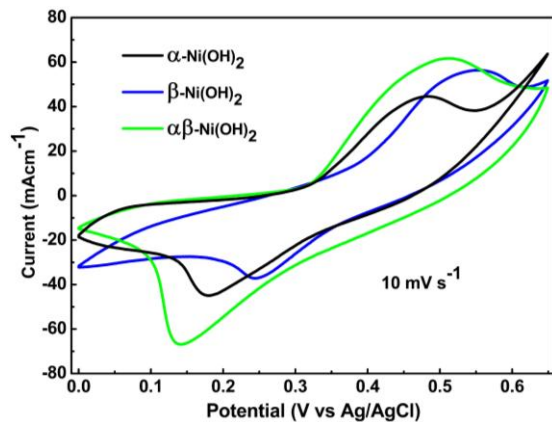
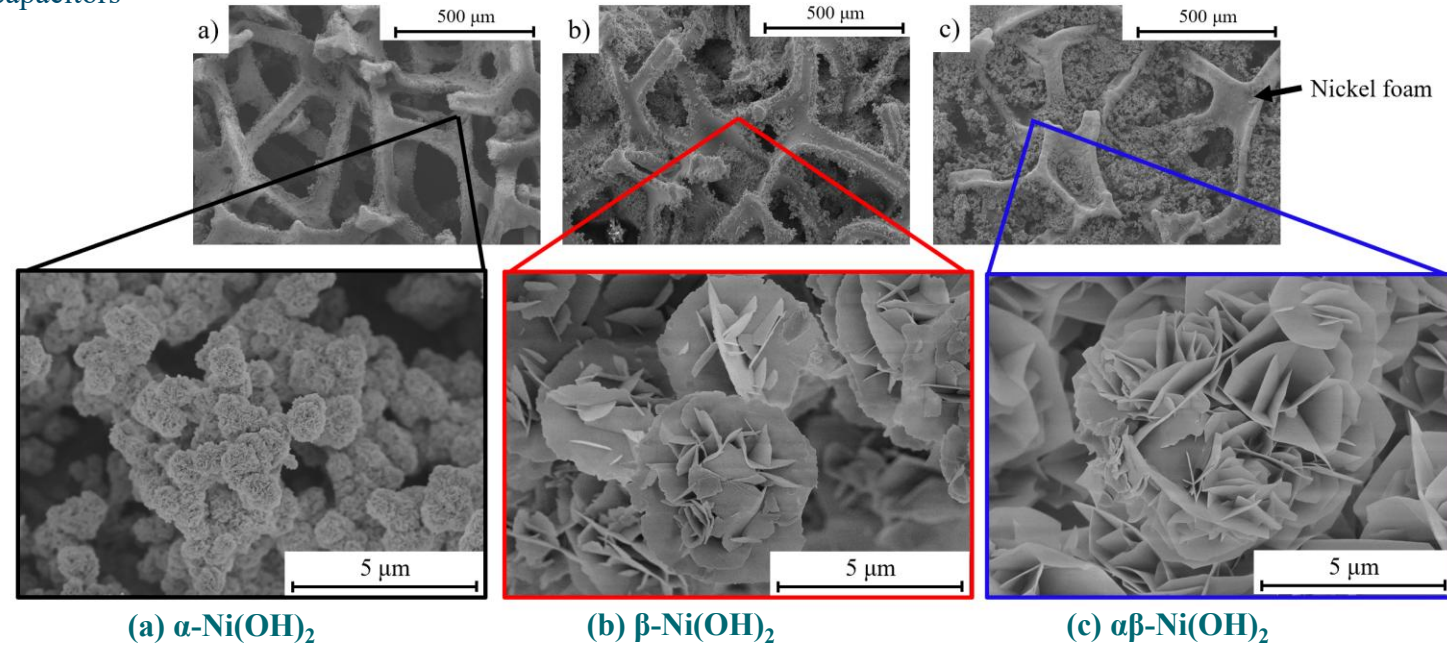
➤ Capacitance $\checkmark$

➤ Cycle stability **X**

Determination of layered nickel hydroxide phases in materials disordered by stacking faults and Interstratification Mater.

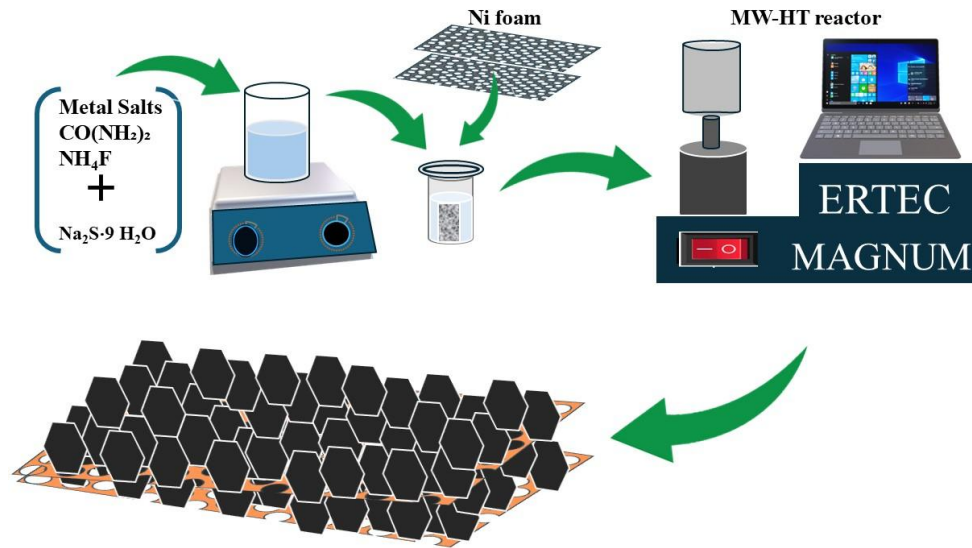
Chem. A, 2023, 11,789

Microwave-assisted hydrothermal synthesis of $\alpha\beta$ -Ni(OH)₂ nanoflowers on nickel foam for ultra-stable electrodes of supercapacitors

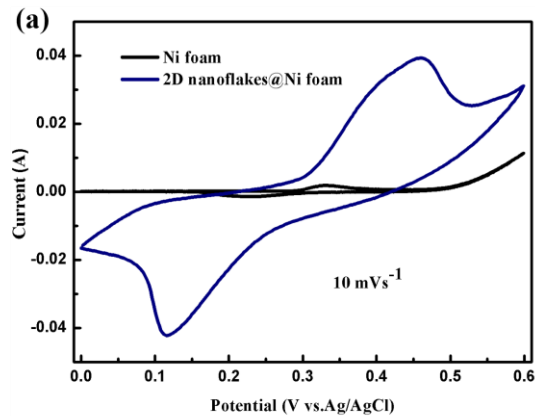


Muhammad Saleem Akhtar, Tomasz Wejrzanowski et al. Microwave-assisted hydrothermal synthesis of $\alpha\beta$ -Ni(OH)₂ nanoflowers on nickel foam for ultra-stable electrodes of supercapacitors <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2024.145284>

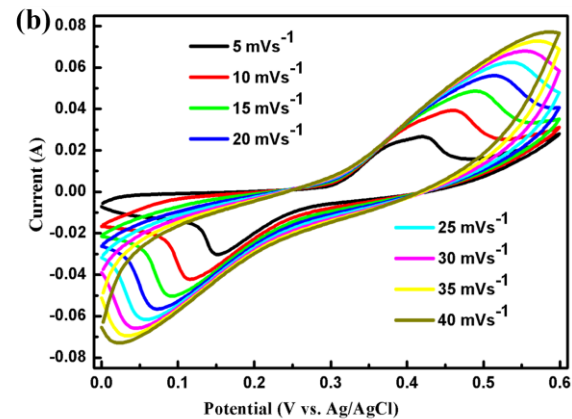
Novel 2D hexagonal nanoflakes Cerium/Nickel Sulfide in situ grown on nickel foam - Anode



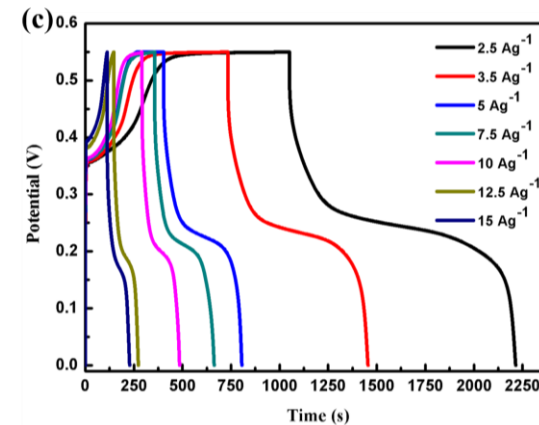
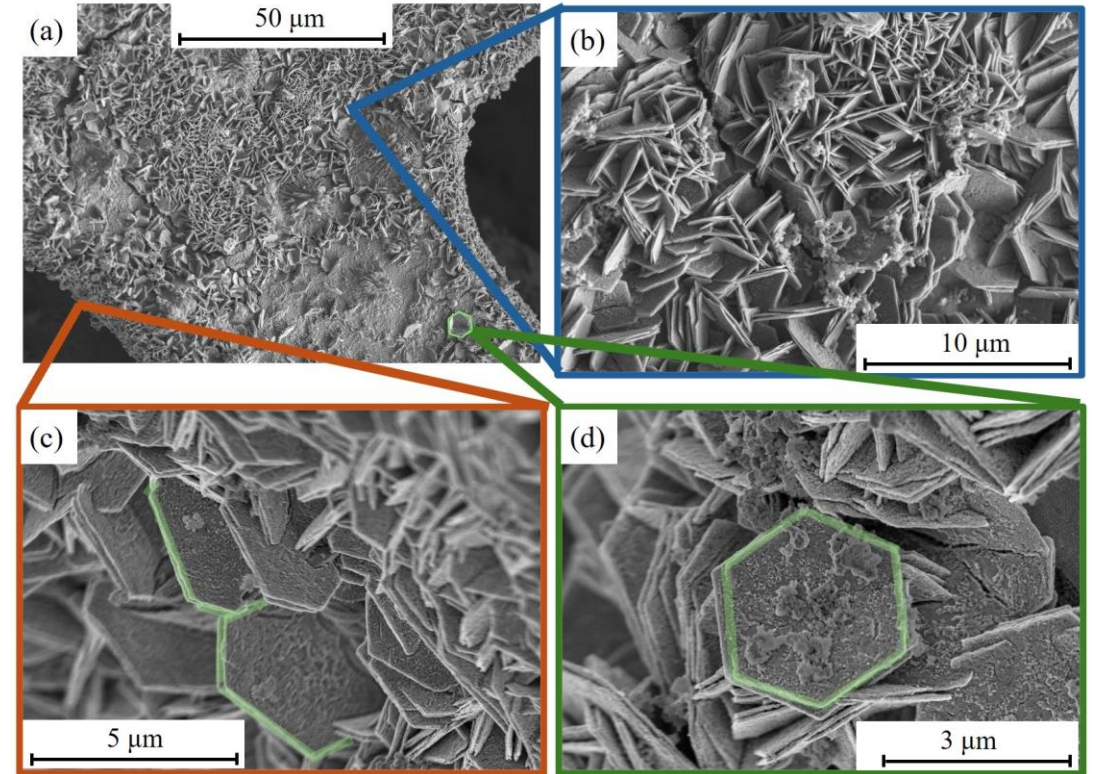
Comparative CV curves of bare Ni foam and 2D nanoflakes @ Ni foam



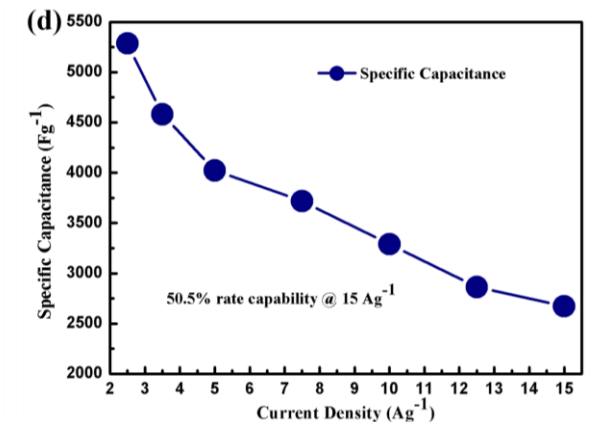
CV curves of 2D nanoflakes @ Ni foam at different scan rates



Exceptional performance due to its 2D morphology, achieving a **high capacitance** of 5286 Fg^{-1} with an **high energy density** of approximately 222.09 Wh/kg and a power density of 687.19 W/kg at a current density of 2.5 Ag^{-1}



GCD curves of 2D nanoflakes @ Ni foam



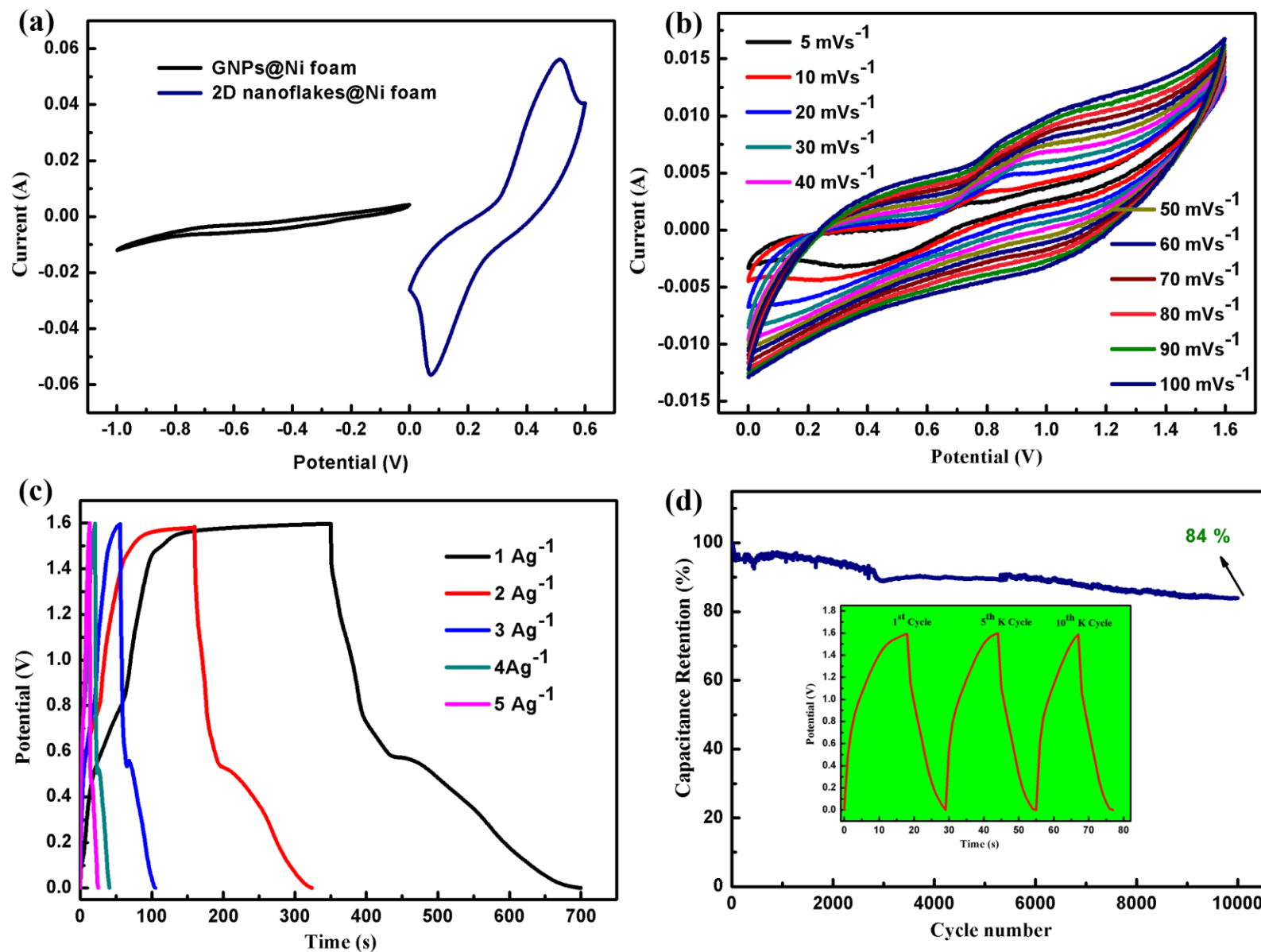
GCD curves of 2D nanoflakes @ Ni foam (d) capacitance vs. discharge current density

Novel 2D hexagonal nanoflakes Cerium/Nickel Sulfide anode + GNP cathode

GNP – Graphene nano-pellets

The device - Full asymmetric cell

The 2D nanoflakes @Ni foam//GNPs @Ni foam asymmetric supercapacitor exhibited an **high energy density** of 77.51 Wh/kg and a power density of 797.25 W/kg at a current density of 1 Ag⁻¹. Furthermore, the asymmetric device demonstrated **exceptional cyclic performance, retaining approximately 84% of its initial capacitance after 10,000 continuous charging/discharging cycles**



(a) CV curves of positive and negative electrodes (b) CV curves of 2D nanoflakes @Ni foam//GNPs@Ni foam (c) GCD curves of 2D nanoflakes @Ni foam//GNPs@Ni foam at different current densities (d) Cyclic performance of asymmetric supercapacitor

Hydrogen storage – new concepts

NEW PROJECT:

Cost- and resource-efficient storage of hydrogen at ambient temperature and at a maximum pressure of 3.5 MPa, NCDR, European, 2024-2027

Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology UMSICHT | Germany

AMAZEMET | Poland

JA-Gastechnology GmbH | Germany

VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, CEET; Energy Research center | Czech Republic

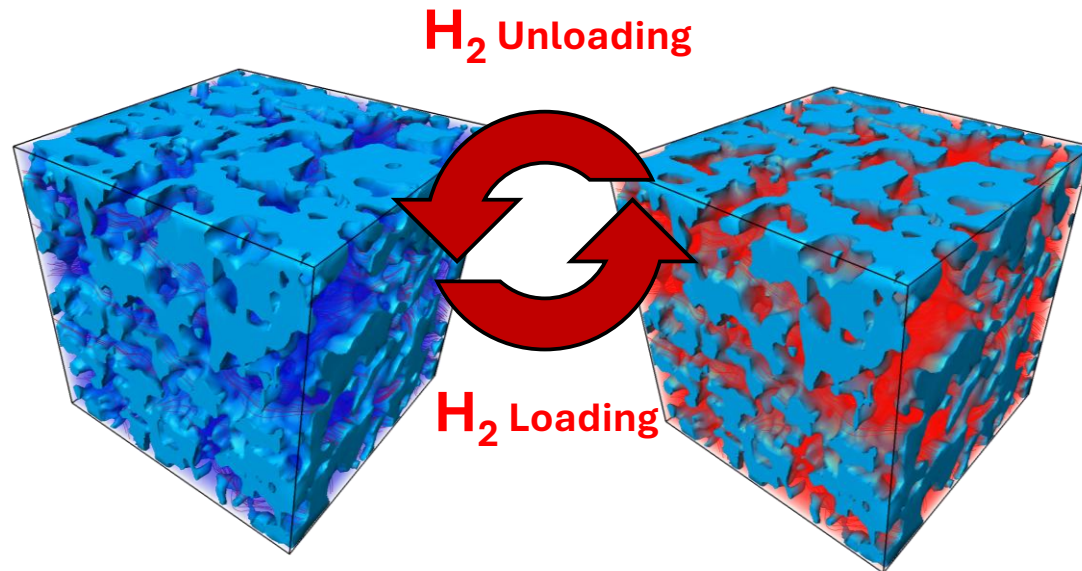
Faculty of Sciences of Monastir, University of Monastir | Tunisia

Warsaw University of Technology | Poland

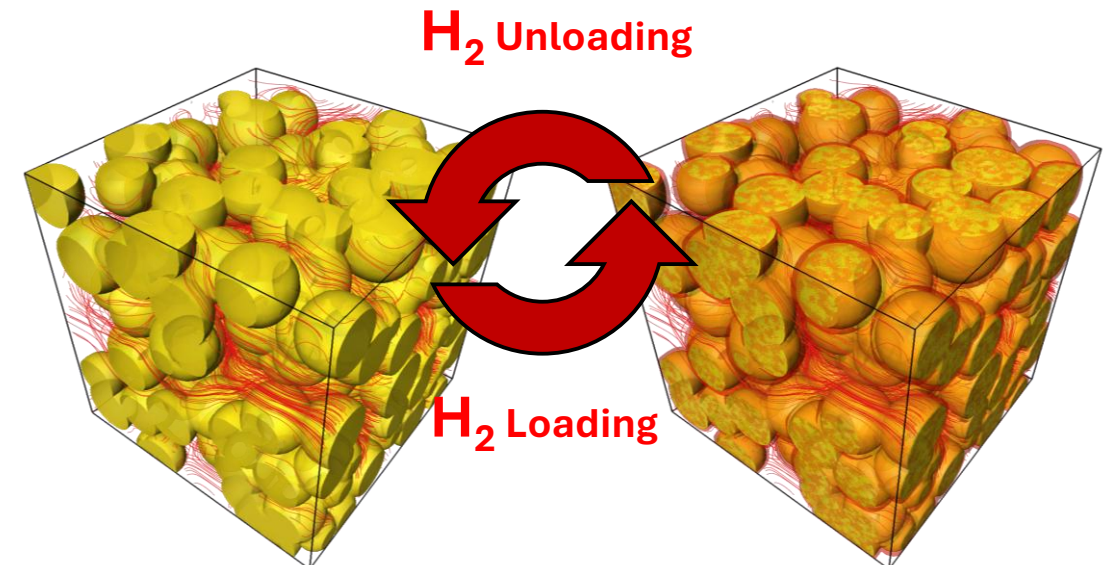
Institut für Nichtklassische Chemie e.V. | Germany

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. | Germany

Aerogel H₂ storage



HEA H₂ storage



Recent projects



1. High-performance molten carbonate fuel cells (MCFC), 2015-2018, PBS, NCRD
2. Innovative matrix materials for molten carbonate fuel cells (MATRIX), 2016-2019, Poland-Taiwan bilateral project, NCRD
3. Improved fabrication of fuel cells for extended durability, improvement of working parameters, in particular power per volume/mass unit of the fuel cell and reduction of investment and exploitation costs by application of alternative catalytic systems in printing technology (AUGUSTINE), 2016-2019, POIR.01.02.00-00-0045/16, NCRD
4. Development of technology for noble metals and rare earth elements recycling for fabrication of molten carbonate fuel cell elements (RECREATE), 2017-2020, POIR.01.02.00-00-0086/17-00, NCRD
5. Novel molten carbonate/ceramic composite materials for sustainable energy technologies with CO₂ capture and utilization (MOCO3), M-ERA_NET2/2016/04/2017, 2017-2020, NCRD
6. Development of the industrial scale of molten carbonate fuel cells and solid oxide electrolyzers for integration into power-to-gas installations (TENNESSEE), 2018-2020, POIR, NCRD
7. Cost- and resource-efficient storage of hydrogen at ambient temperature and at a maximum pressure of 3.5 MPa, NCDR, European, 2024-2027



1. Study of the influence of microstructure and chemical composition on catalytic properties of open-porous components of molten carbonate fuel cells, 2018-2021, OPUS, NSC
2. Study of the influence of microstructure on reactive flow process in open-porous components for high-temperature fuel cells, 2018-2021, PRELUDIUM, NSC
3. POB Technologie Materiałowe of Warsaw University of Technology within the Excellence Initiative: Research University (IDUB) program
4. Hierarchical porous structures fabricated by 3D printing technology 2019-2024, OPUS, NSC
5. Carbonate-oxide fuel cell, 2023-2026, OPUS, NSC



Thank you !

tomasz.wejrzanowski@pw.edu.pl

