• In situ studies of methanol fuel cells

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1. Pt/Ni cathode catalyst

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Homework Assignment #05: Chapter 5: 1, 3, 7, 9, 10 due Thursday, April 02, 2020

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1. Pt/Ni cathode catalyst

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Homework Assignment #05: Chapter 5: 1, 3, 7, 9, 10 due Thursday, April 02, 2020

Homework Assignment #06: Chapter 6: 1,6,7,8,9 due Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Mark I operando fuel cell



R. Viswanathan et al., "In-situ XANES study of carbon supported Pt-Ru anode electrocatalysts for reformate-air polymer electrolyte fuel cells", *J. Phys. Chem.* **B 106**, 3458 (2002).

- Transmission mode
- <1 mm of graphite
- Pt/Ru on anode
- Pd on cathode
- 35°C operating temp
- 1-2 min scan time



Mark II operando fuel cell



E.A. Lewis et al., "Operando x-ray absorption and infrared fuel cell spectroscopy", *Electrochim. Acta.* **56**, 8827 (2011).

- Air-breathing cathode
- Pd on anode
- 1.2 mg/cm^2 loading
- 50°C operating temp
- Pt L₃ and Ni K edges
- Continuous scan mode @





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U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Fuel Cell Test and Evaluation Center (FCTec)

Anode: 0 V vs. SHE $2 H_2 \longrightarrow 4 H^+ + 4 e^-$



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Anode: 0 V vs. SHE $2 H_2 \longrightarrow 4 H^+ + 4 e^-$

Cathode: 1.23 V vs. SHE $O_2 + 4 H^+ + 4 e^- \longrightarrow 2 H_2 O$



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Anode: 0 V vs. SHE $2 H_2 \longrightarrow 4 H^+ + 4 e^-$

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$$O_2 + 4 H^+ + 4 e^- \longrightarrow 2 H_2O$$

breaking $O\!-\!O$ bond is the rate limiting step





PtNi/Pd has higher open circuit voltage, similar performance to Pt/Pd.



Why is ORR improved with bimetallic catalyst?

PtNi/Pd has higher open circuit voltage, similar performance to Pt/Pd.



Why is ORR improved with bimetallic catalyst?

• Pt electronic structure modified

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Why is ORR improved with bimetallic catalyst?

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Why is ORR improved with bimetallic catalyst?

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- Static oxygen adsorbates inhibited



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PtNi/Pd has higher open circuit voltage, similar performance to Pt/Pd. Why is ORR improved with bimetallic catalyst?

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Using XAS to study the catalyst nanoparticles can help answer the first three questions

Pt/C and PtNi/C comparison



Q. Jia et al, "In Situ XAFS studies of the oxygen reduction reaction on carbon supported Pt and PtNi(1:1) catalysts", J. Phys. Conf. Series 190, 012157 (2009).

Pt/C and PtNi/C comparison



At highest potential, all catalysts are metallic and the Pt L_3 XANES shows significant difference between the Pt and PtNi catalysts

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Pt/C and PtNi/C comparison



At highest potential, all catalysts are metallic and the Pt L_3 XANES shows significant difference between the Pt and PtNi catalysts

Delta XANES shows a supression of Pt oxidation in the PtNi catalyst as a function of applied potential

Q. Jia et al, "In Situ XAFS studies of the oxygen reduction reaction on carbon supported Pt and PtNi(1:1) catalysts", J. Phys. Conf. Series 190, 012157 (2009).

PtNi structural model

Attempt to get global information about the oxygen

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Attempt to get global information about the oxygen

Fit all potentials with same metal core parameters for each catalyst

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Simultaneous fit of Pt and Ni edges in $\ensuremath{\text{PtNi/C}}$ with constraint on Pt-Ni distance

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Fit in k, k^2 , and k^3 weighting simultaneously

Attempt to get global information about the oxygen

Fit all potentials with same metal core parameters for each catalyst

Simultaneous fit of Pt and Ni edges in ${\rm PtNi/C}$ with constraint on Pt-Ni distance

Fit in k, k^2 , and k^3 weighting simultaneously

Apply M-O path constraints

- length common across potentials
- σ^2 fixed to 0.01
- Pt-O in PtNi/C at all potentials are refined with a common occupation #



"In Situ XAFS studies of the oxygen reduction reaction on carbon supported Pt and PtNi(1:1) catalysts", Q. Jia, E.A. Lewis, E.S. Smotkin, and C.U. Segre, *J. Phys. Conf. Series* **190**, 012157 (2009).

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Fits out to 3.5 Å in R-space and back Fourier Transforms

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The Pt catalyst shows a larger oxygen path contribution than the PtNi catalyst

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The Pt catalyst shows a larger oxygen path contribution than the PtNi catalyst

The Ni EXAFS is dominated by the presence of a significant Ni-O bond

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Fit results

	Pt/C		PtN	PtNi/C	
		Pt		Ni	
N _{Pt}	8.7 ± 0.2	N _{Pt}	6.1 ± 0.3	N _{Ni}	3.7 ± 0.2
R _{Pt-Pt}	2.749 ± 0.001	R _{Pt-Pt}	2.692 ± 0.003	R _{Ni-Ni}	2.572 ± 0.006
		N _{Ni}	3.4 ± 0.1	N _{Pt}	8.9 ± 0.5
			R _{Pt-Ni}	2.635 ± 0.004	
		N _{Total}	9.5 ± 0.4	N_{Total}	12.6 ± 0.7
R _{Pt-O}	2.02 ± 0.01	R _{Pt-O}	2.09 ± 0.03	R _{Ni-O}	1.90 ± 0.01

Note the Pt-Pt and Pt-O bond lengths as well as total metal near neighbors

"In Situ XAFS studies of the oxygen reduction reaction on carbon supported Pt and PtNi(1:1) catalysts", Q. Jia, E.A. Lewis, E.S. Smotkin, and C.U. Segre, *J. Phys. Conf. Series* **190**, 012157 (2009).

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Role of Ru in CO oxidation?

- PtRu bifunctional catalyst improves performance
- In commercial PtRu catalysts there is always a lot of inactive Ru-oxide (?)
- Ru signal dominated by metallic Ru environment
- How does Ru behave in the presence of reactants adsorbed on platinum surface?

Core-shell nanoparticles can resolve these questions

Ru-decorated Pt nanoparticles







Electrochemical performance



Without Methanol Low V peaks are H⁺ stripping Dip at ~ 0.5 V is oxygen stripping Ru shifts potential on all peaks

"In situ Ru K-Edge x-ray absorption spectroscopy study of methanol oxidation mechanisms on model submonolayer Ru on Pt nanoparticle electrocatalyst," C.J. Pelliccione, E.V. Timofeeva, J.P. Katsoudas, and C.U. Segre, *J. Phys. Chem.* C 117, 18904 (2013).
Electrochemical performance



Without Methanol Low V peaks are H⁺ stripping Dip at ~ 0.5 V is oxygen stripping Ru shifts potential on all peaks

With Methanol

Continual current growth is due to methanol oxidation

Ru improves current by removing the CO which blocks active sites

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Ru EXAFS



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Fit example: -225 mV without methanol



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Fit example: 675 mV without methanol



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Fit example: 675 mV with methanol



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Ru-M paths



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Ru-M paths



Without methanol

Ru-M distances are longer and RuO_2 is formed at high potentials

With methanol

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Ru-M paths



Without methanol

Ru-M distances are longer and RuO_2 is formed at high potentials

With methanol

Ru-M distances are shorter and remain the same at all potentials

"In situ Ru K-Edge x-ray absorption spectroscopy study of methanol oxidation mechanisms on model submonolayer Ru on Pt nanoparticle electrocatalyst," C.J. Pelliccione, E.V. Timofeeva, J.P. Katsoudas, and C.U. Segre, *J. Phys. Chem.* C 117, 18904 (2013).

Ru-O/C paths



Without methanol

With methanol

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Ru-O/C paths



Without methanol

Above 375 mV Ru-O paths appear and total number of Ru-O neighbors increases to that of RuO₂

With methanol

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Ru-O/C paths



Without methanol

Above 375 mV Ru-O paths appear and total number of Ru-O neighbors increases to that of RuO₂

With methanol

Ru has one low Z neighbor at all potentials (carbon); a second above 175 mV (oxygen) with constant bond lengths and slightly increasing numbers

"In situ Ru K-Edge x-ray absorption spectroscopy study of methanol oxidation mechanisms on model submonolayer Ru on Pt nanoparticle electrocatalyst," C.J. Pelliccione, E.V. Timofeeva, J.P. Katsoudas, and C.U. Segre, *J. Phys. Chem.* C 117, 18904 (2013).

Bi-functional mechanism



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• Reversibility in tin anode battery materials

- Reversibility in tin anode battery materials
 - 1. Modeling lithated Sn EXAFS

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 - 2. The Sn lithiation process

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 - 1. Modeling lithated Sn EXAFS
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 - 3. Fully reversible lithiation of Sn phosphide

Initial in situ Sn-based anode EXAFS



$Li_{22}Sn_5$ has 14 Sn-Li paths with distance of 3.4 Å or less. Model with three Sn-Li paths at "center of mass" locations

"In situ XAS study of the capacity fading mechanism in hybrid Sn $_3O_2(OH)_2$ /graphite battery anode nanomaterials," C.J. Pelliccione, E.V. Timofeeva, and C.U. Segre, *Chem. Mater.* **27**, 574-580 (2015).

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"Potential-resolved in situ x-ray absorption spectroscopy study of Sn and SnO₂ nanomaterial anodes for lithium-ion batteries," C.J. Pelliccione, E.V. Timofeeva, and C.U. Segre, J. Phys. Chem. C 120, 5331-5339 (2016).



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The Sn lithiation process



0.60V – Sn metal begins to break down and Li appears

0.45V - number ofLi reaches 11 and stabilizes at near full Li₂₂Sn₅

However, Sn fades rapidly due to electric conductivity loss. What can be improved?

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$Sn_4 \mathsf{P}_3/graphite \ composite \ anode$

 Sn_4P_3 synthesized by high energy ball milling, then ball milled again with graphite to obtain composite

"In situ EXAFS-derived mechanism of highly reversible tin phosphide/graphite composite anode for Li-ion batteries," Y. Ding, Z. Li, E.V. Timofeeva, and C.U. Segre, *Adv. Energy Mater.* **8**, 1702134 (2018).

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 Sn_4P_3 synthesized by high energy ball milling, then ball milled again with graphite to obtain composite





 Sn_4P_3 /graphite composite shows stable, reversible capacity of 610 mAh/g for 100 cycles at C/2 compared to rapidly fading pure Sn_4P_3 material.

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In situ EXAFS of Sn_4P_3 /graphite



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March 31, 2020 26 / 47

In situ EXAFS of Sn_4P_3 /graphite



Results for *in situ* coin cell are close to the capacity of the unmodified cell at C/4, indicating good reversibility by the 3^{rd} cycle.

"In situ EXAFS-derived mechanism of highly reversible tin phosphide/graphite composite anode for Li-ion batteries," Y. Ding, Z. Li, E.V. Timofeeva, and C.U. Segre, *Adv. Energy Mater.* **8**, 1702134 (2018).

Third cycle comparison

By the third lithiation and third delithiation, the difference between pure Sn_4P_3 and the Sn_4P_3 /graphite composite is clear.

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PHYS 570 - Spring 2020

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Third cycle comparison

By the third lithiation and third delithiation, the difference between pure Sn_4P_3 and the Sn_4P_3 /graphite composite is clear.



Even at the 100^{th} delithiation, the Sn₄P₃/graphite composite measured *ex* situ is showing the same features as at the 3rd cycle.

"In situ EXAFS-derived mechanism of highly reversible tin phosphide/graphite composite anode for Li-ion batteries," Y. Ding, Z. Li, E.V. Timofeeva, and C.U. Segre, *Adv. Energy Mater.* **8**, 1702134 (2018).

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Example fits

Fit EXAFS for bond lengths and coordination numbers



The Sn-O peak at OCV is due to ball milling, which introduces oxygen.



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Example fits

Fit EXAFS for bond lengths and coordination numbers



By the 3^{rd} lithiated state, the EXAFS is dominated by Sn-Li paths at 2.7 Å and 3.0 Å.



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Example fits

Fit EXAFS for bond lengths and coordination numbers



At the 3^{rd} delithiation, the Sn-P path reappears but at a shorter distance, in an amorphous SnP_x phase.



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Sn-Sn distance close to those of metallic Sn indicate the presence of small Sn clusters which may never fully lithiate

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Longer Sn-P distance characteristic of Sn_4P_3 is gone after initial conversion to the SnP_x amorphous phase is complete

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Only 2 Sn-Li paths present in this material

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Sn-O distances remain constant, likely indicative of surface contamination

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Sn-O neighbors decrease quickly, remaining small and partially reversible up to 100 cycles

Sn-P reversible after initial conversion with a slow decrease which correlates to capacity loss

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Very small Sn-Sn metallic clusters present throughout

The \sim 3.3 Sn-P neighbors in the delithiated state indicate a possibly tetrahedral Sn coordination in SnP_x

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Amorphous SnP_x fully formed at start of 3^{rd} cvcle



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- c. full lithiation
- d. Sn appears
- e. SnP_x appears

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- a. Sn lithiating
- **b**. SnP_x all gone
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- f. Sn delithiated

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• Clustering in oxide chromophores

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Chromophores based on YInO₃



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Chromophores based on YInO3



Base compound is white, dopant gives intense colors

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$YMn_{1-x}In_xO_3$ solid solution



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Color varies from bright blue to nearly black with optical absorption reflecting the same variation

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Diffraction patterns show a continuous shift in peak position which is typical of uniform solid solutions

C. Segre (IIT)



All samples are single phase

"Evolution of the local structure within chromophoric Mn-O₅ trigonal bipyramids in YMn_{1-x}In_xO₃ with composition," S. Mukherjee, H. Ganegoda, A. Kumar, S. Pal, C.U. Segre, and D.D. Sarma, *Inorg. Chem.* **57**, 9012–9019 (2018).

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Hypothesis: Smooth variation in bond distances & near neighbors

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The Mn is in the +3 state throughout the series and shows a single pre-edge peak

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Bimodal Mn local environment fits XANES



Fit endpoints with two different Mn local environments

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Fit endpoints with two different Mn local environments then fit all spectra with a linear combination of the two

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Detailed modeling of endpoint compositions



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Endpoint EXAFS fits describe all samples



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This must mean that the color is due to dilute Mn in the In-rich environment and that the color must be invariant across the series

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With the XAS results in mind, let's revisit the optical absorption results

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The Raman scattering data are also consistent with the XAS results

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$YMn_{1-x}Ga_xO_3$ diffraction data



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Will this bimodal environment be present in all systems based on this hexagonal structure? In other chromophore systems?