

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.

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