

Batterie- und Brennstoffzellensysteme

# (Langzeit-) Stabilität von SOFC-Komponenten

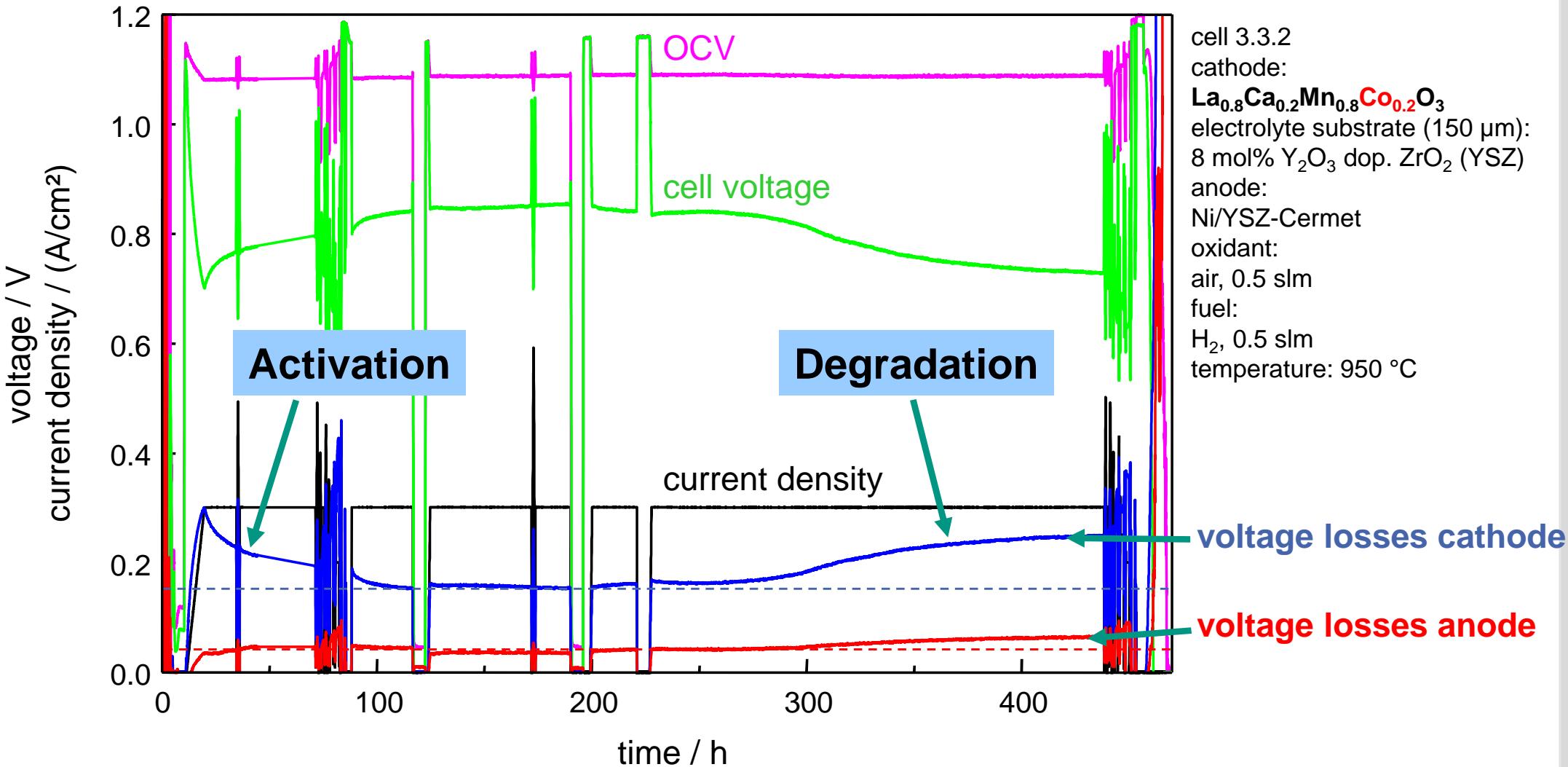
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phone: 0721/608-7572, fax: 0721/608-7492  
[andre.weber@kit.edu](mailto:andre.weber@kit.edu)



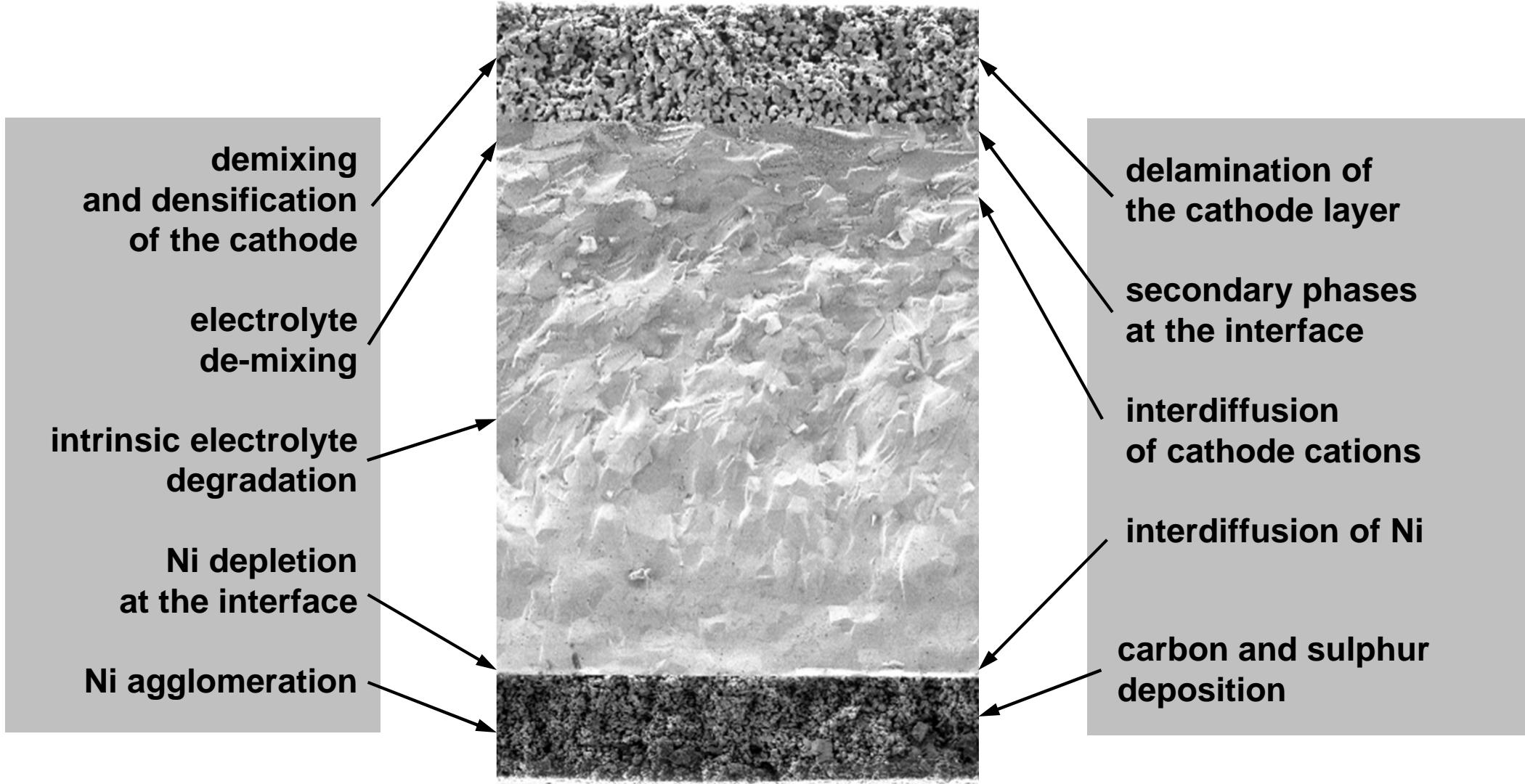
# Example

## Activation and Degradation of an $(\text{La},\text{Sr})(\text{Mn},\text{Co})\text{O}_3$ -Cathode

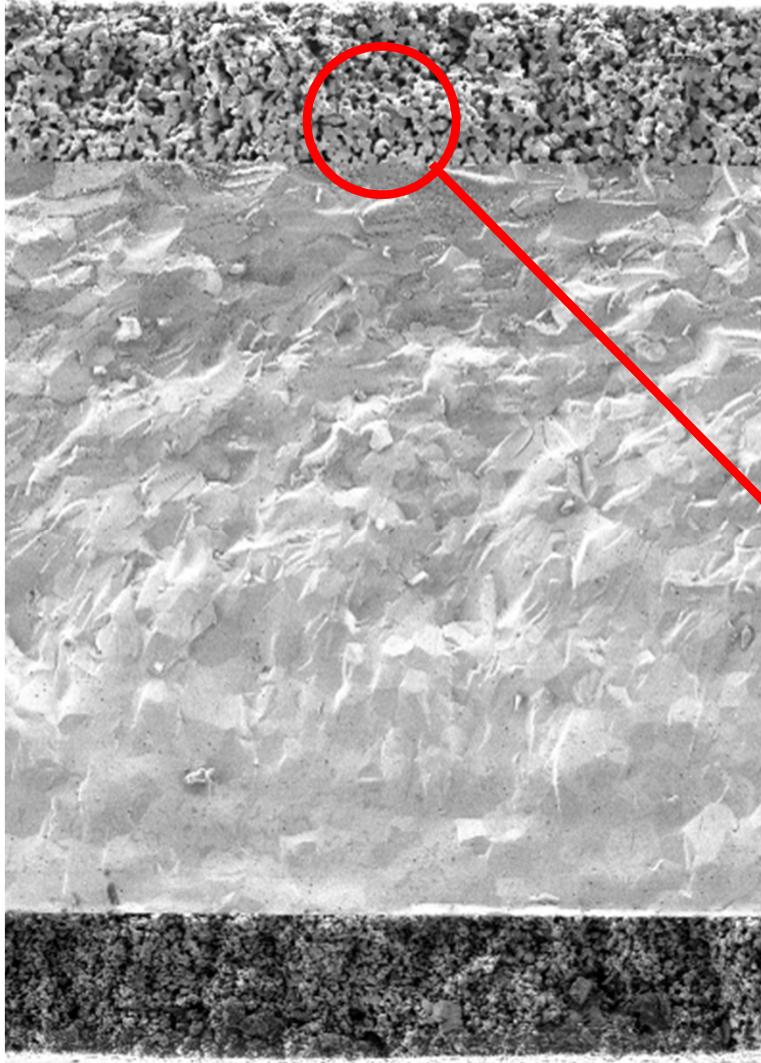


# Examples

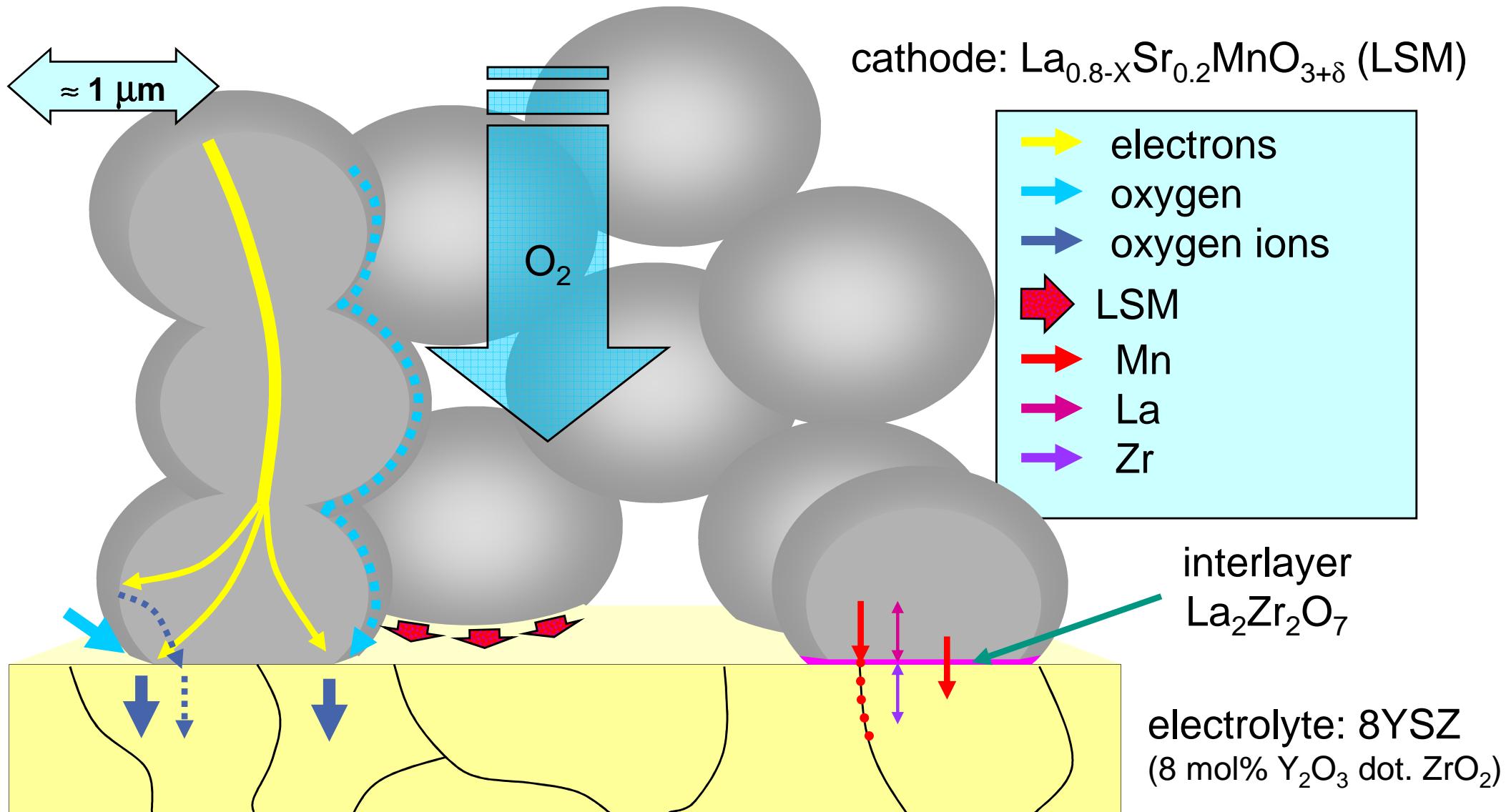
## Microstructural and chemical changes during operation



# Kathode: Formierung

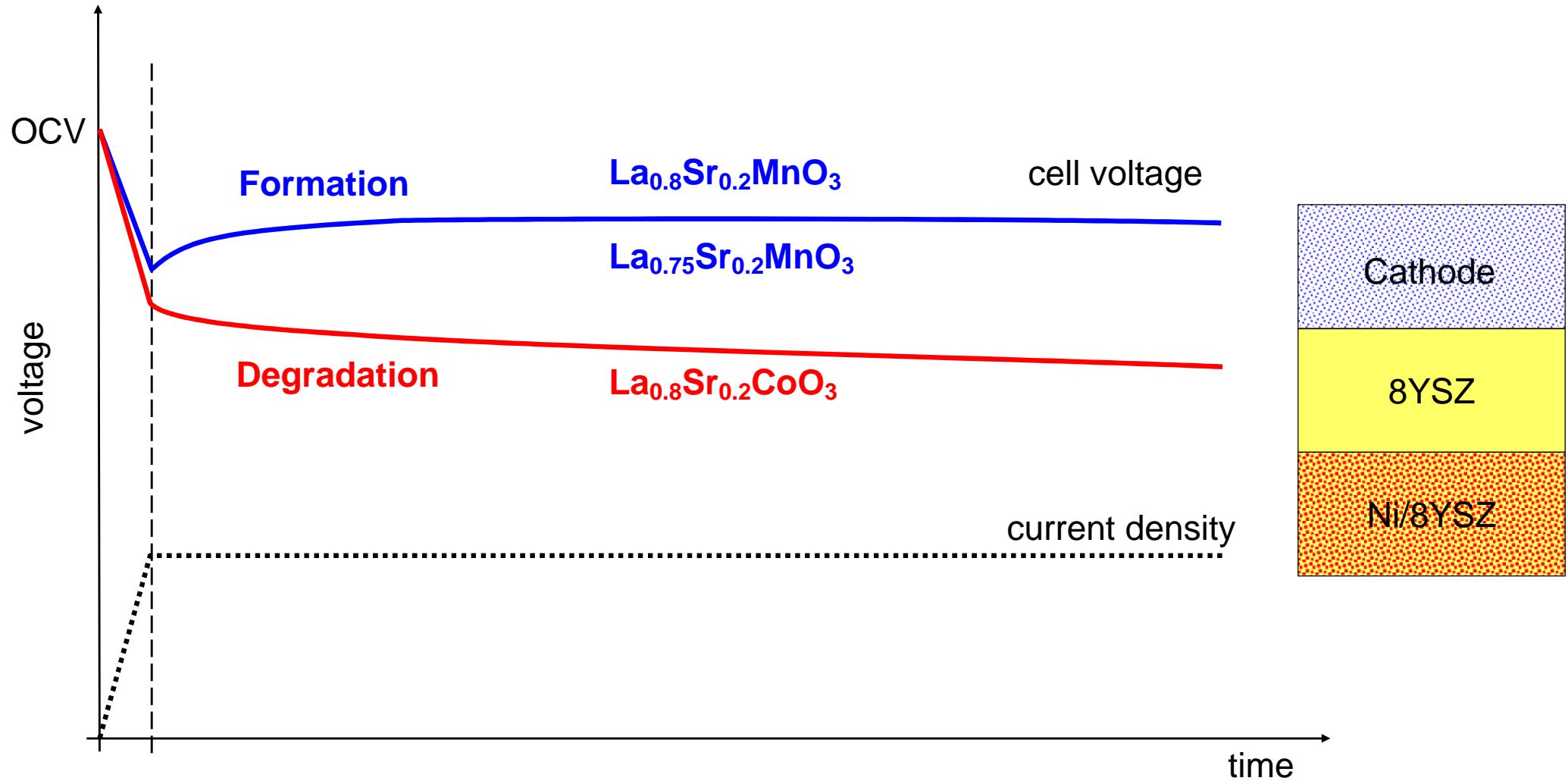


# Cathode Degradation Transport Processes



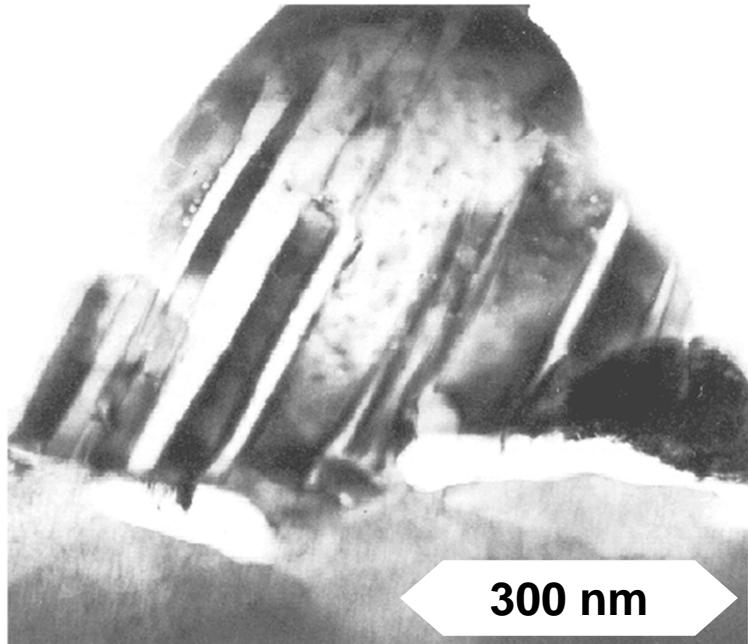
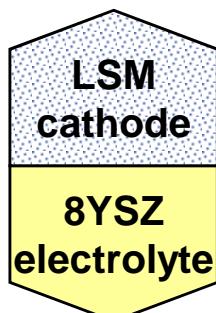
# Startup Behavior of SOFC Single Cells and Stacks

## Formation and Degradation



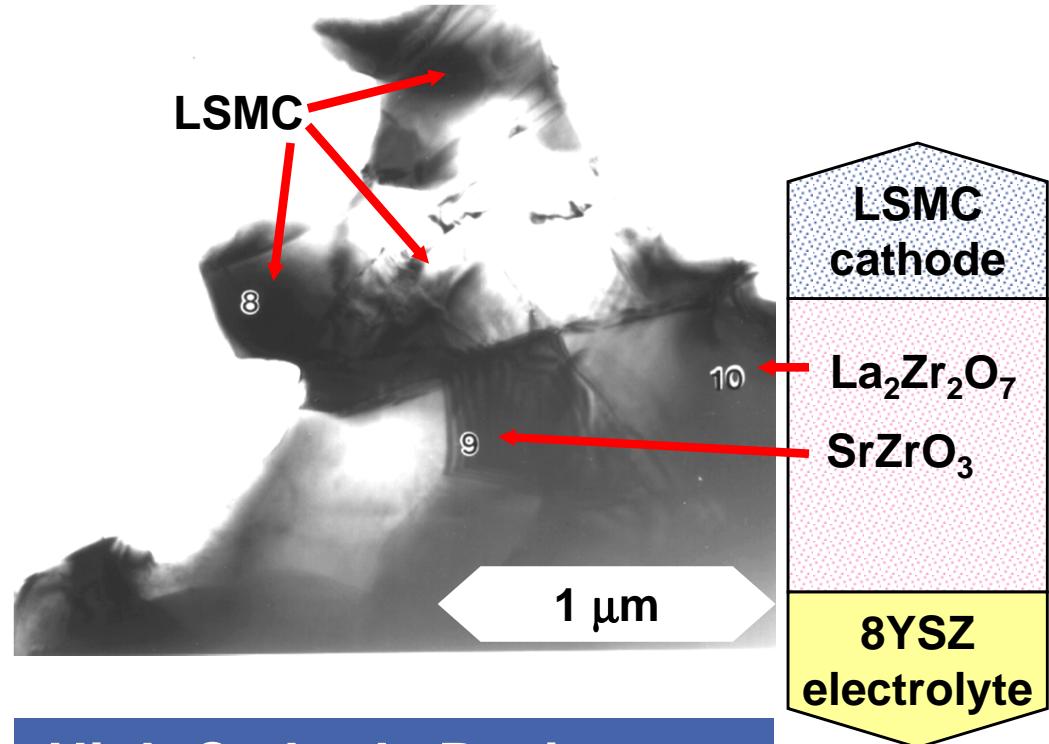
# Cathode Degradation Growth of Secondary Phases at the Cathode/Electrolyte-Interface

**Interface LSM/8YSZ**  
(LSM:  $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{MnO}_{3+\delta}$ )



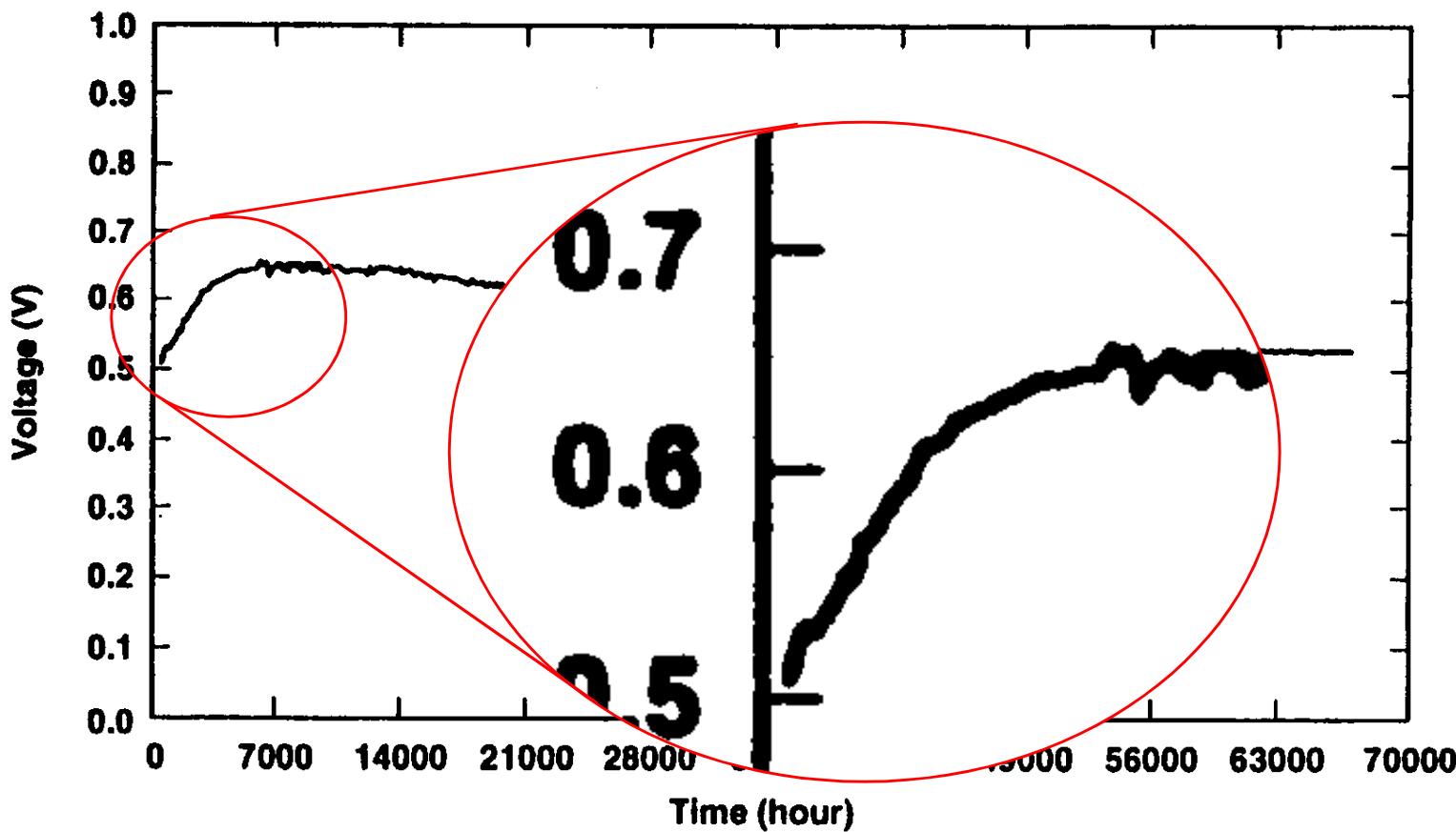
Decreased Cathode Resistance  
due to Formation

**Interface LSMC/8YSZ**  
(LSMC:  $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3+\delta}$ )



High Cathode Resistance  
due to Secondary Phases

# SOFC: Formation and Long Term Test of a tubular Cell Siemens-Westinghouse SWPC (1997)



$V_{\text{start}} : 0.50 \text{ V}$   
 $V_{\text{max}} : 0.65 \text{ V}$

- ▶  $V_{\text{max}}$ : Point of max. performance
- ▶ time to  $V_{\text{max}}$  :  
 $\approx 5.000 \text{ hours}$

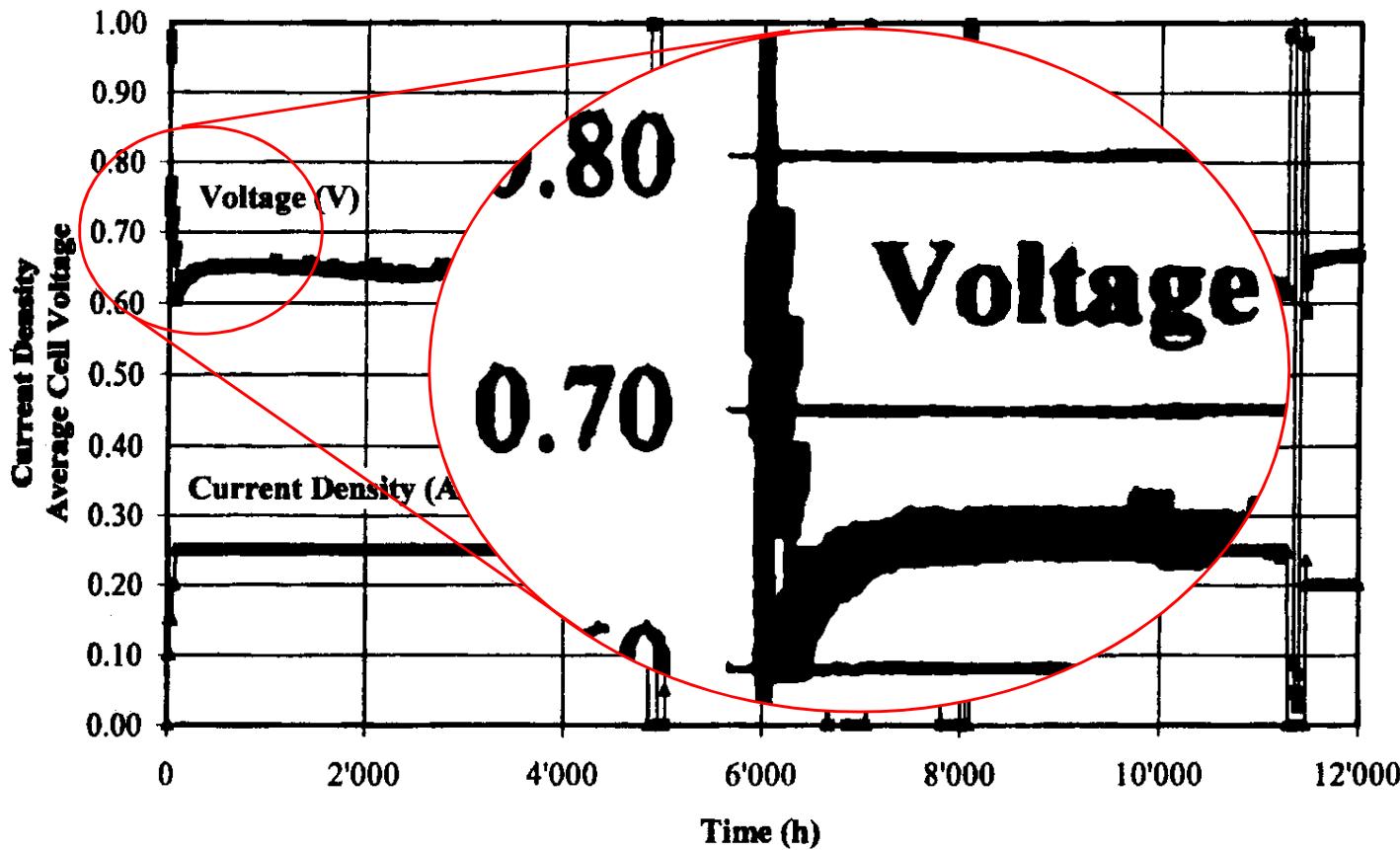
Fig. 1. Long term test of an early-technology PST cell.

S. C. Singhal, Recent Progress in Tubular Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Technology, Proc. 5th Int. Symposium on SOFC,  
Ed. U. Stimming, S. C. Singhal, H. Tagawa, W. Lehnert, The Electrochemical Society, PV 97-40, 37-50, (1997)



# SOFC: Formation and Long Term Test of a 5-cell Stack

## Sulzer Hexis (1999)



**Figure 2:** Negligible degradation of a five cell stack

$V_{\text{start}} : 0.60 \text{ V}$

$V_{\text{max}} : 0.65 \text{ V}$

►  $V_{\text{max}}$ : Point of max. performance

► time to  $V_{\text{max}}$  :

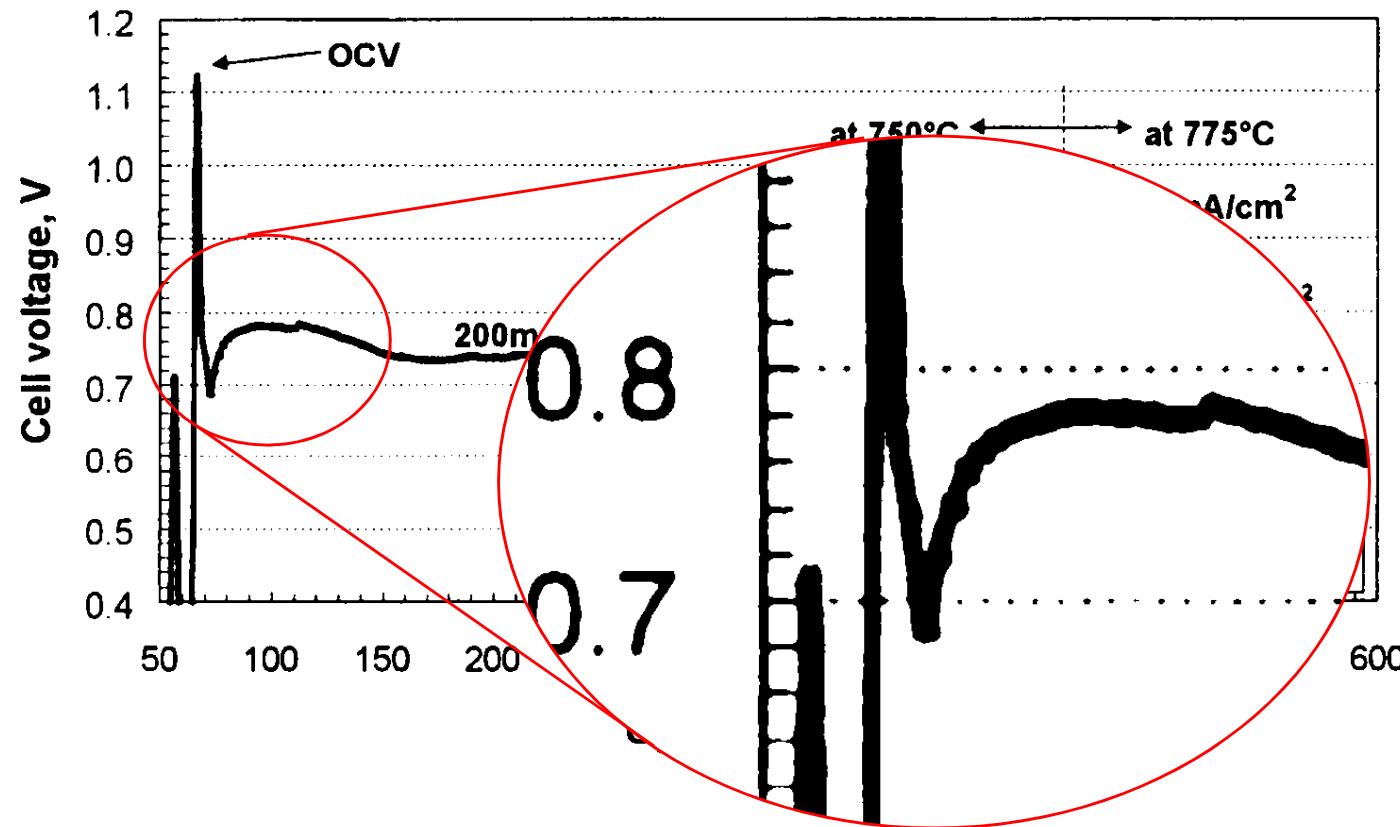
$\approx 200 \text{ hours}$

R. Diethelm, M. Schmidt, Status of the Sulzer Hexis Product Development, Proc. 6th Int. Symp. on SOFC,  
Ed. S. Singhal und M. Dokiya, The Electrochemical Society, PV 99-19, 60-67, (1999)



# SOFC: Formation and Long Term Test of a planar Cell

## Ceramic Fuel Cells Ltd. CFCL (1999)



**Figure 2.** Cell performance at 750 and 775°C tested in alumina assembly

K. Föger et al., Demonstration of Anode Supported Cell Technology in kW Class Stack, Proc. 6th Int. Symp. on SOFC,  
Ed. S. Singhal und M. Dokiya, The Electrochemical Society, 95-100, PV 99-19, (1999)



# SOFC: Formation and Long Term Test of a 1 kW Stack

## Mitsubishi Heavy Industries MHI (1999)

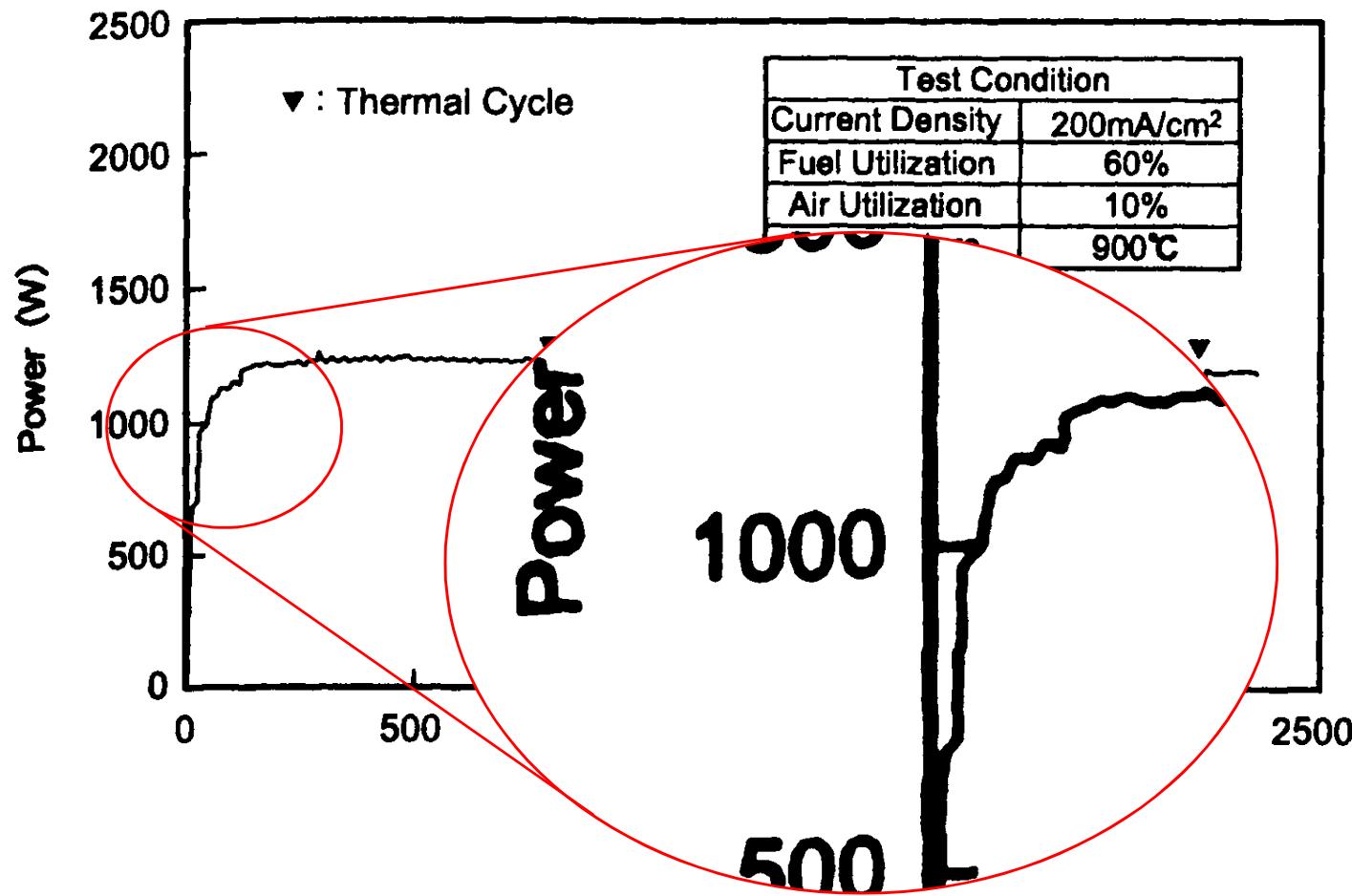


Fig. 12 Endurance Test of 1kW Module with Co-Sintered Cell Stack

H. Mori et al., Pressurized 10 kW Class Module of SOFC, Proc. 6th Int. Symp. on SOFC,  
Ed. S. Singhal und M. Dokiya, - The Electrochemical Society, PV 99-19, 52-59, (1999)



$P_{start}$  : 700 W

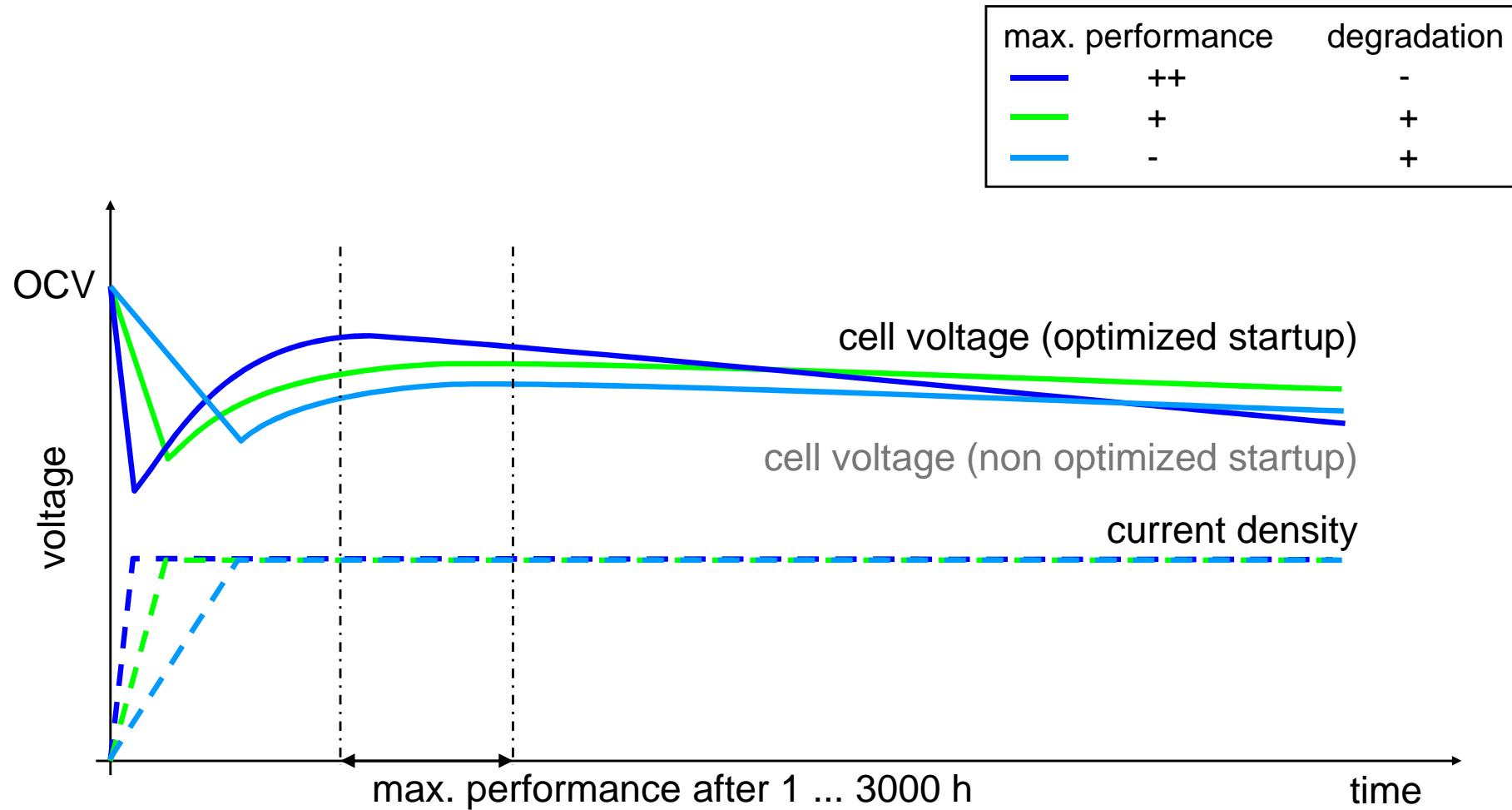
$P_{max}$  : 1250 W

►  $P_{max}$ : Point of max. performance

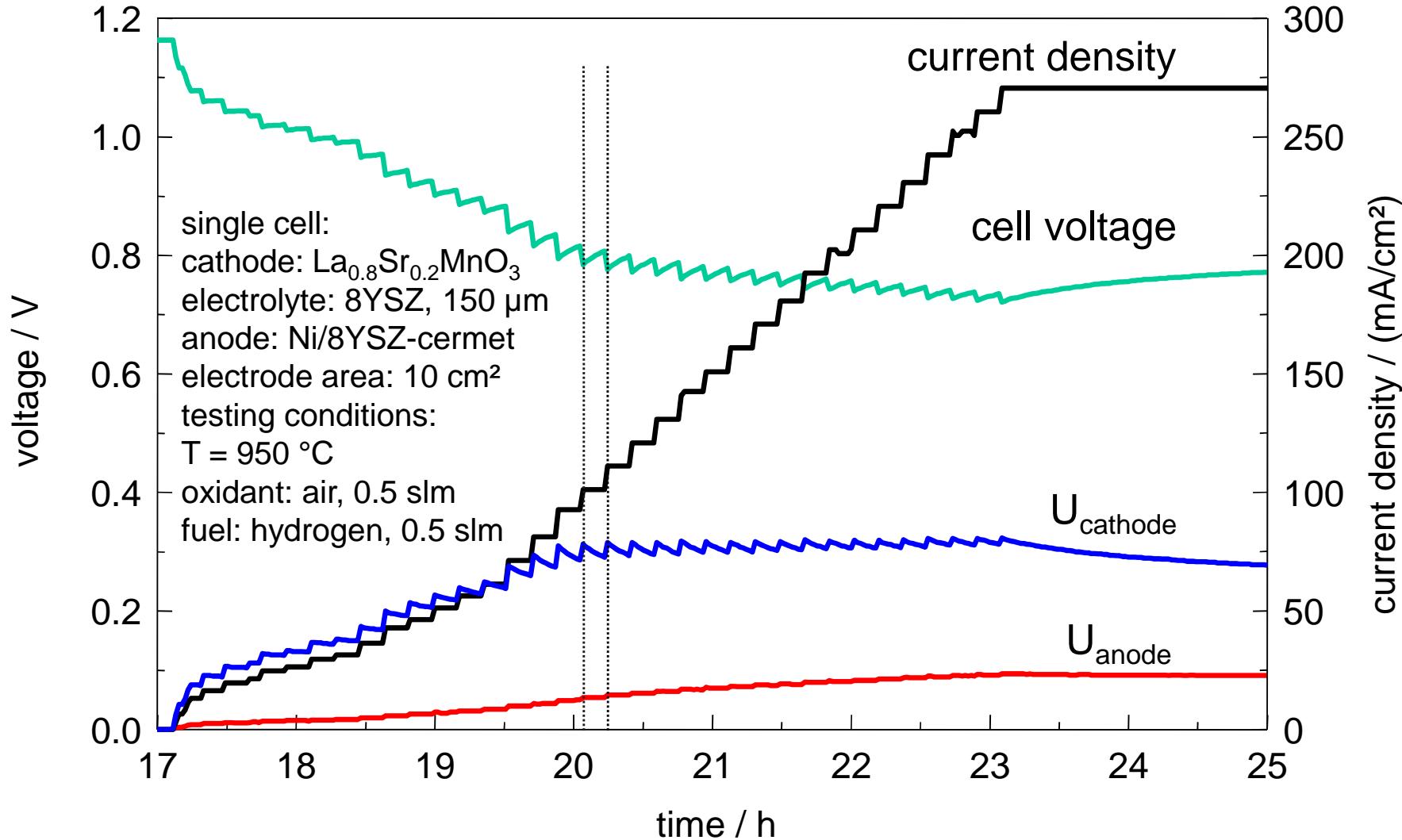
► time to  $P_{max}$  :  
≈ 300 hours

# Startup Behavior of SOFC Single Cells and Stacks

## Formation and Degradation

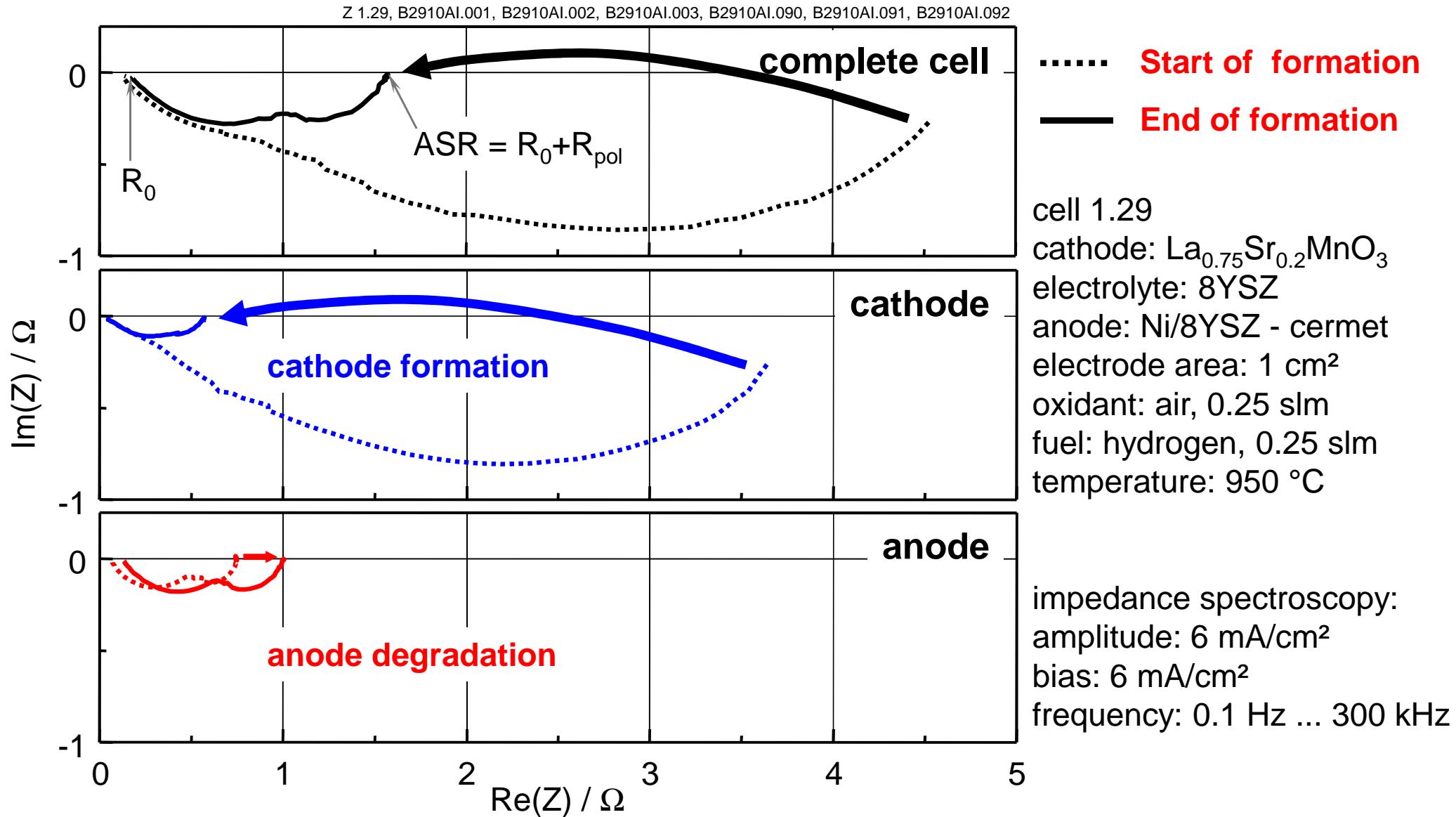


# Cell Dynamics during Formation



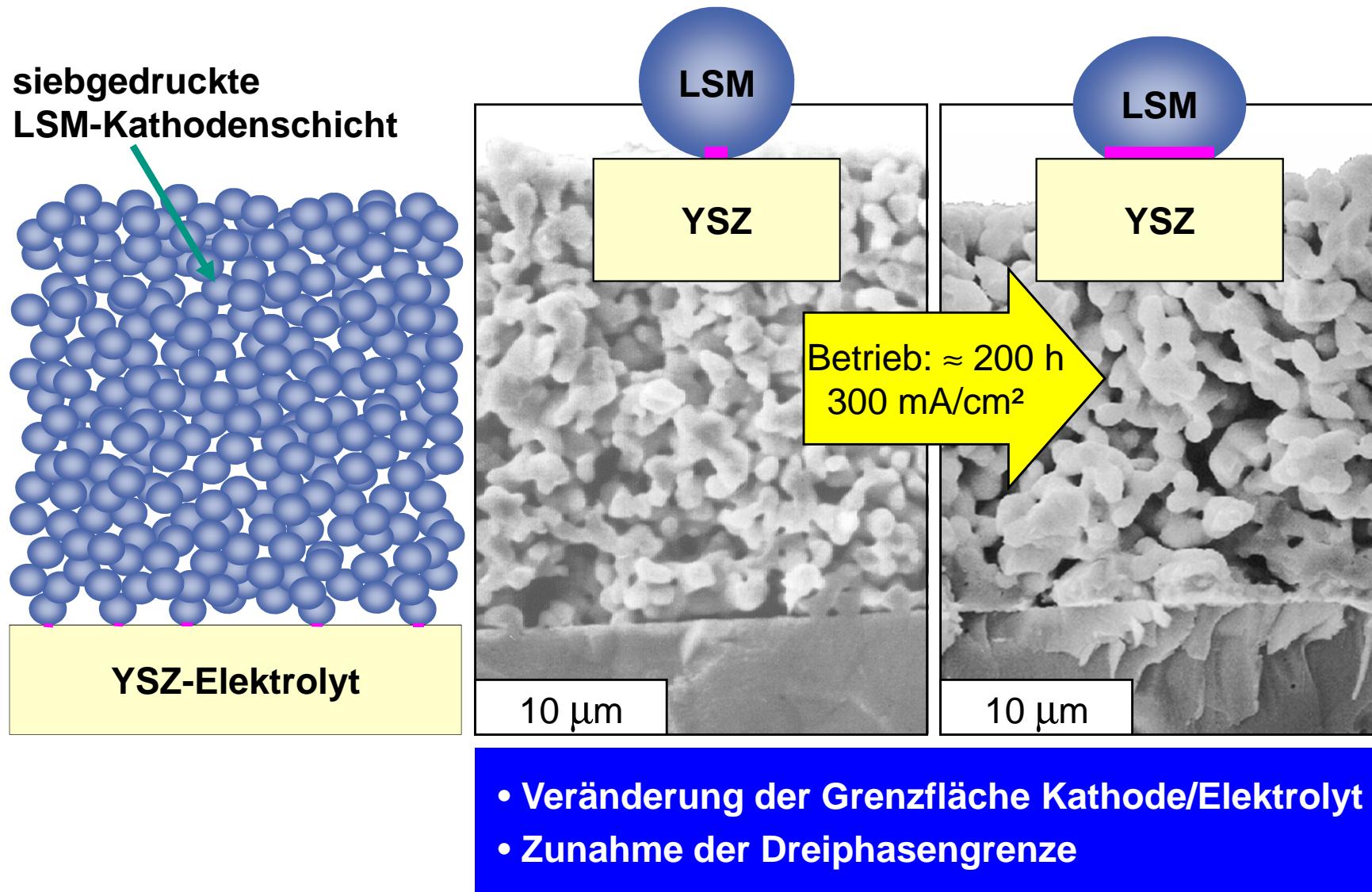
# Cell Dynamics during Formation

Impedance Spectra of a single cell (Cathode:  $\text{La}_{0.75}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{MnO}_3$ )



# Formierung von SOFC-Kathoden

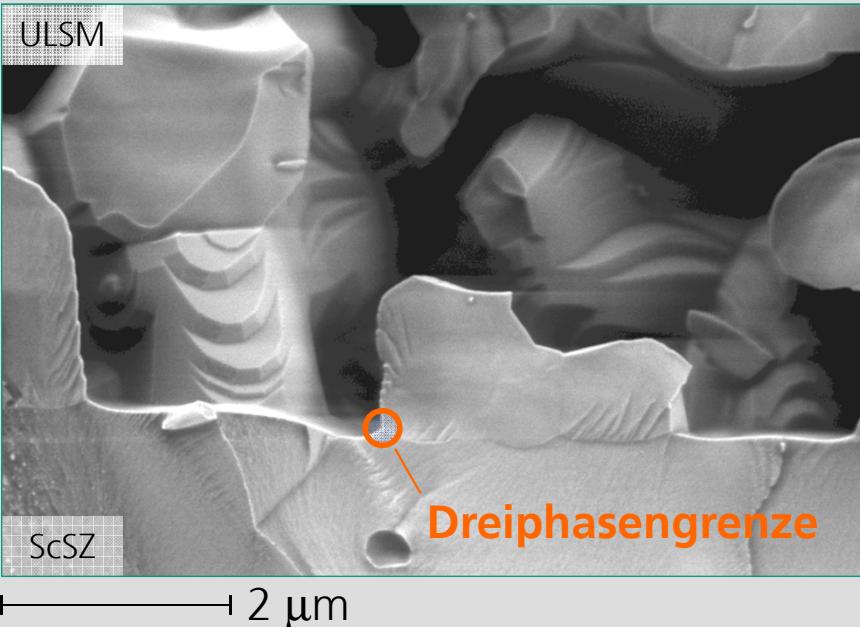
## Veränderung der Mikrostuktur der LSM-Kathode



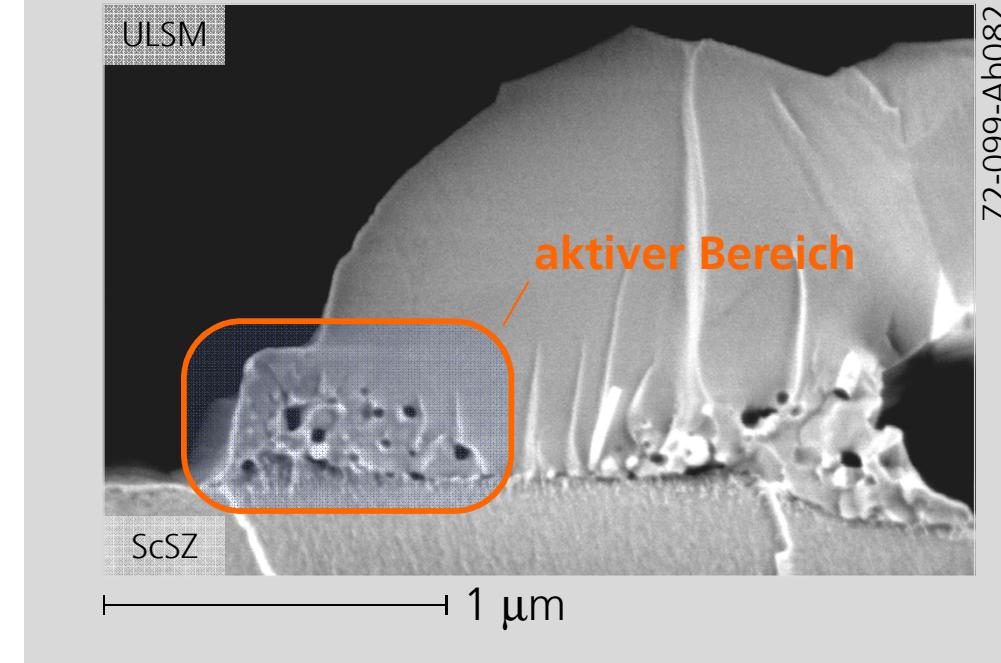
# Ergebnisse und Diskussion

## REM: Grenzfläche Kathode-Elektrolyt vor und nach Aktivierung

unbelastete MEA



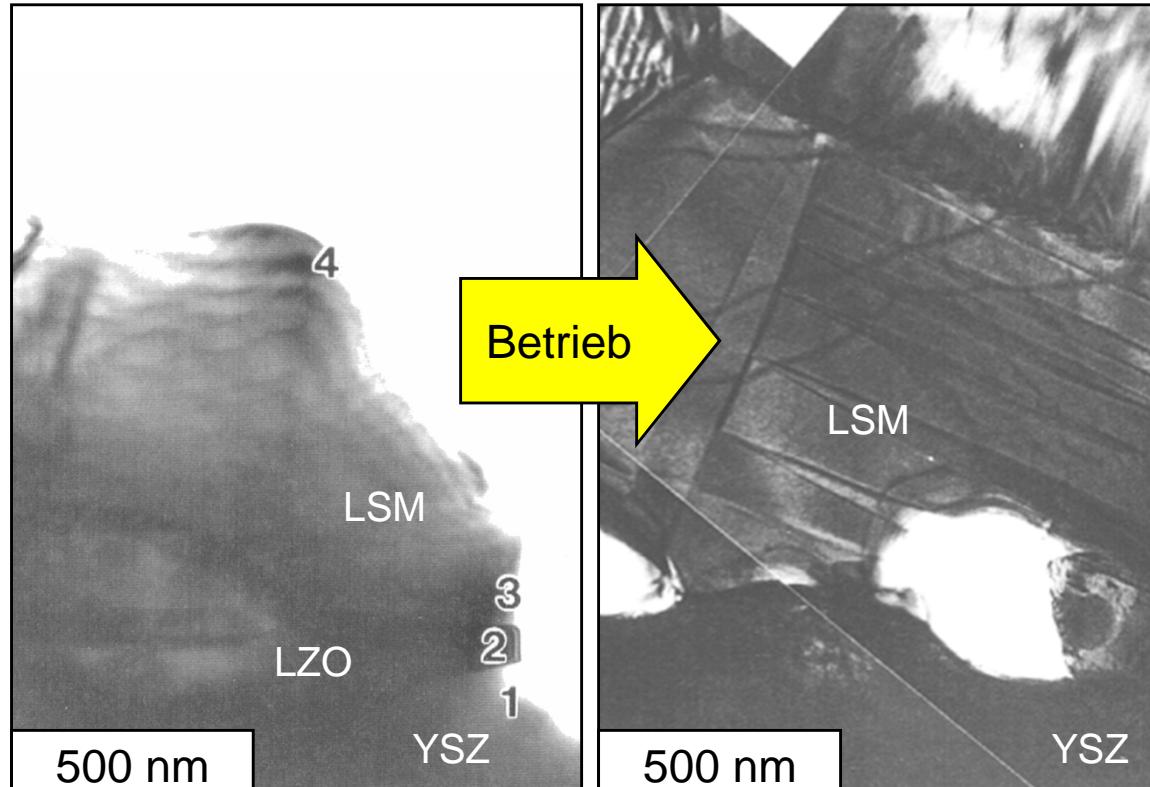
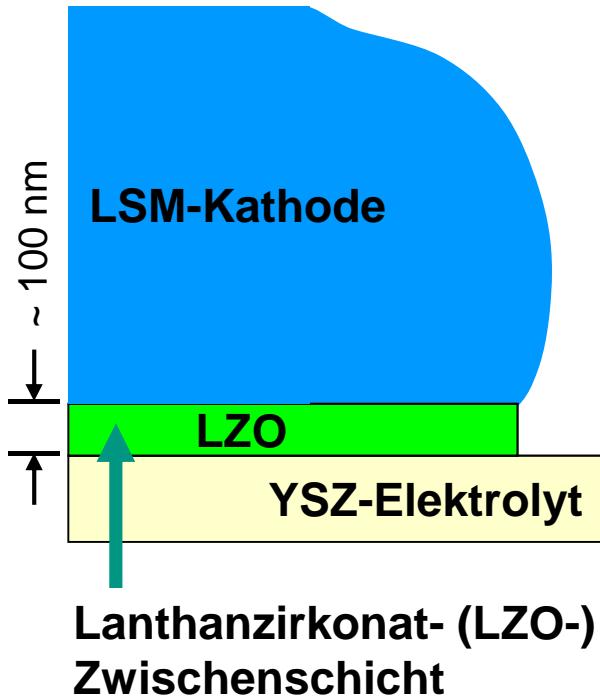
nach Aktivierung



- Bildung eines porösen Bereichs im ULSM-Korn nahe der Grenzfläche unter Belastung
- Reaktionsraum vergrößert ⇒ höhere elektrochemische Leistungsfähigkeit der Kathode

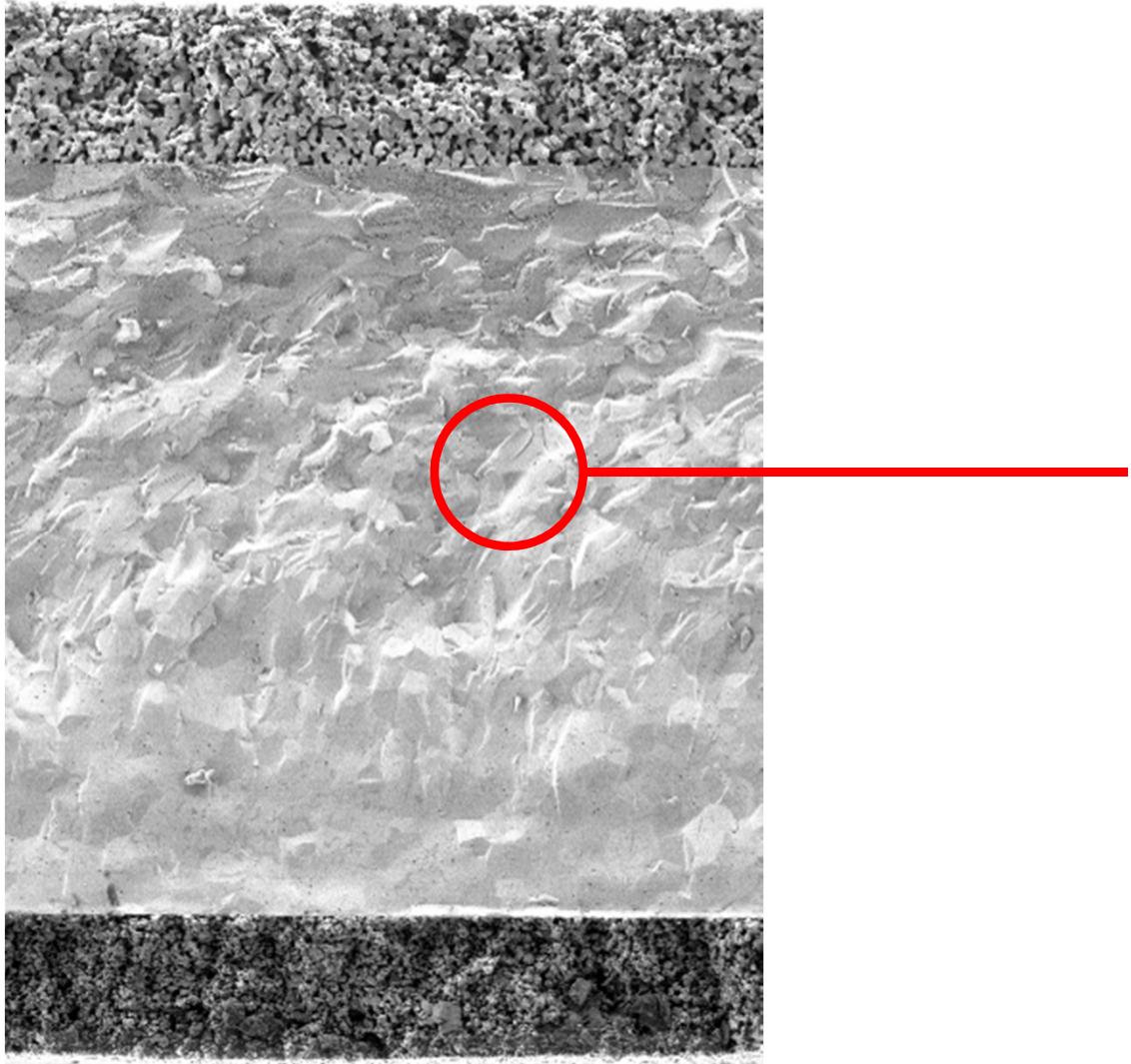
# Formierung von SOFC-Kathoden

## Veränderung der Grenzfläche Kathode/Elektrolyt

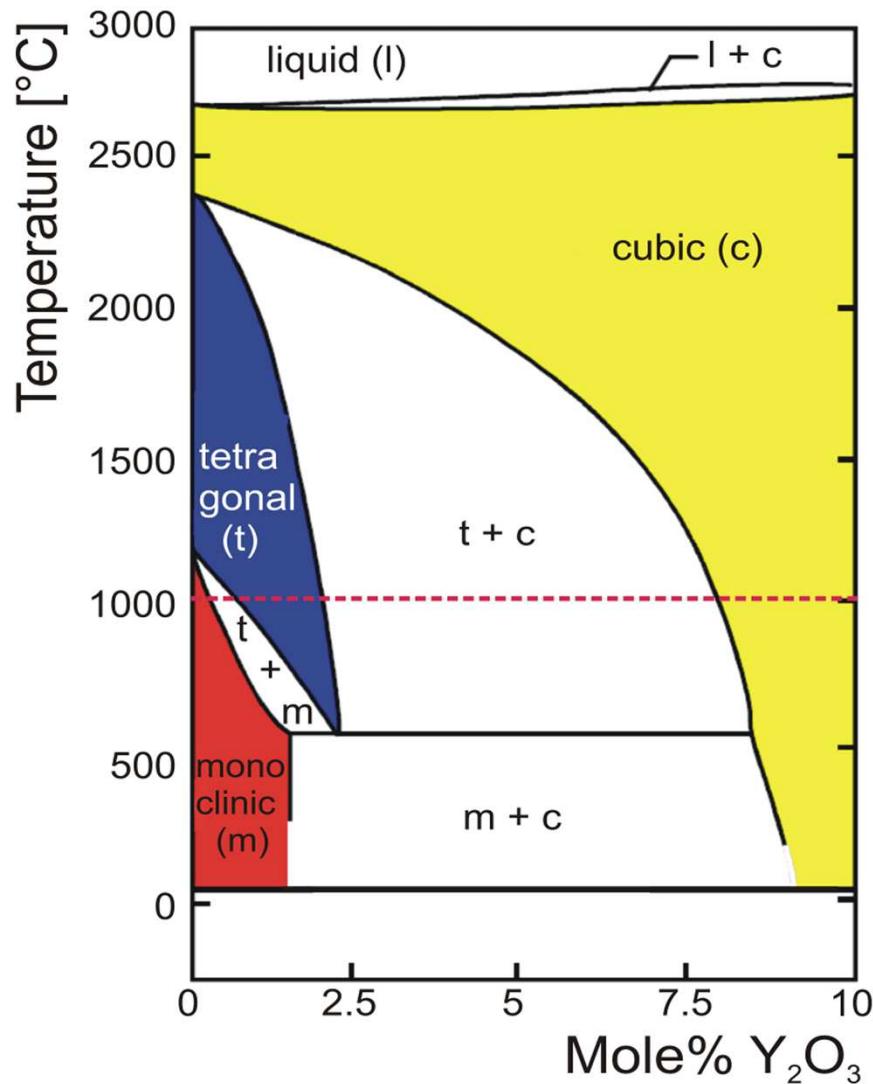


- Abbau der LZO-Zwischenschicht
- Ausbildung von Mikroporen

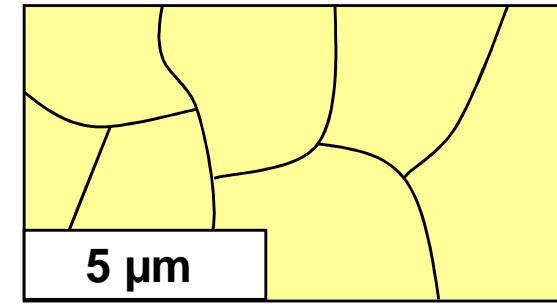
# Elektrolyt: Verlust ionischer Leitfähigkeit



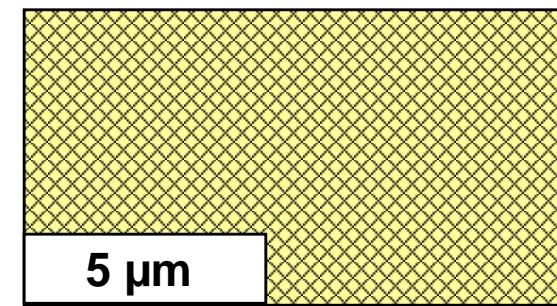
# Yttria doped Zirconia (YSZ) Phase Diagram



**FSZ**  
**Fully Stabilized**  
**Zirconia**  
**cubic**  
 $\geq 8 \text{ mol\% } \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$

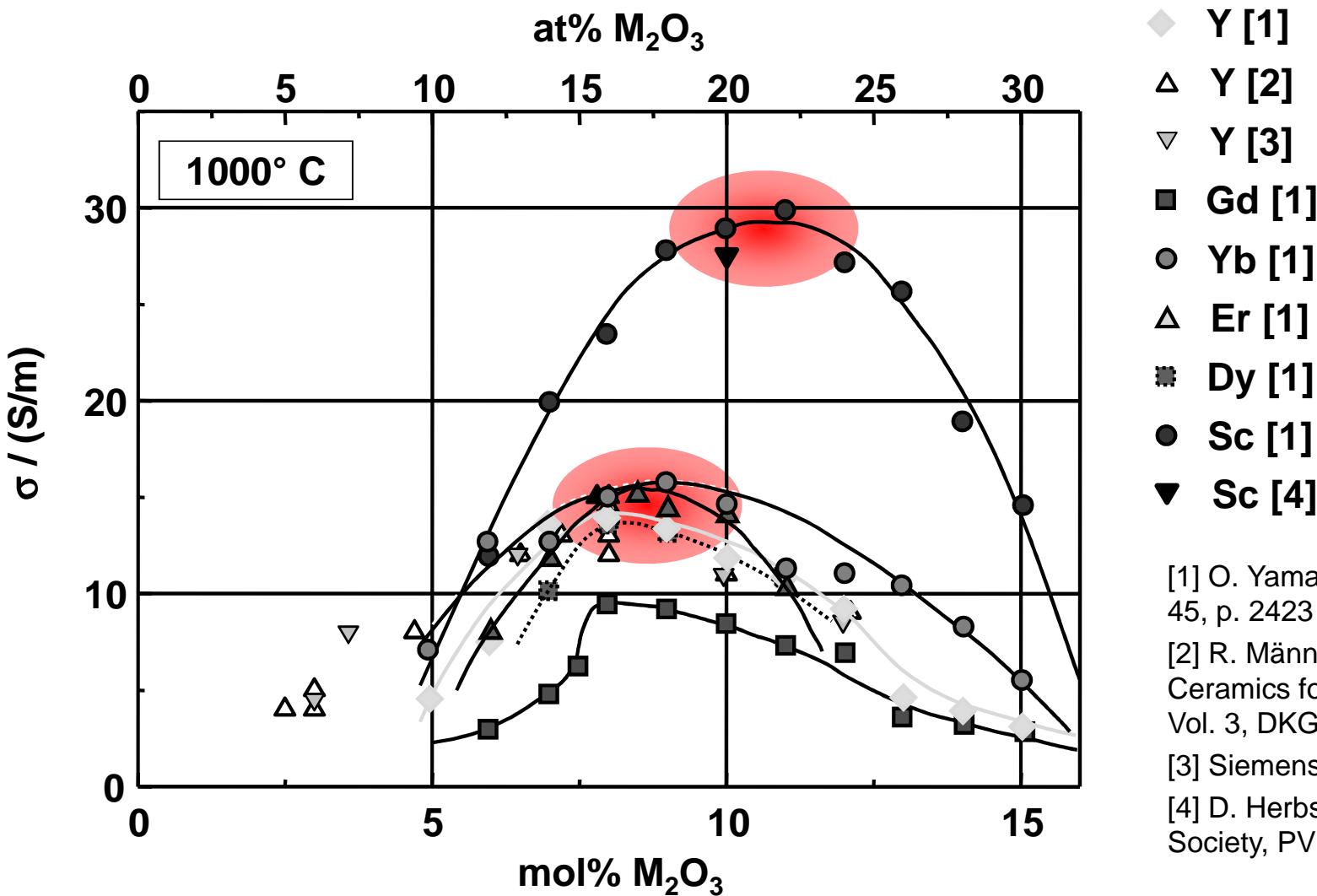


**TZP**  
**Tetragonal**  
**Zirconia**  
**Polycrystal**  
**tetragonal**  
 $\leq 3 \text{ mol\% } \text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$



# Electrical Conductivity of Fluorites $ZrO_2 - Me_2O_3$

## Impact of various dopants on the conductivity of $ZrO_2$



[1] O. Yamamoto, Electrochimica Acta 45, p. 2423 (2000)

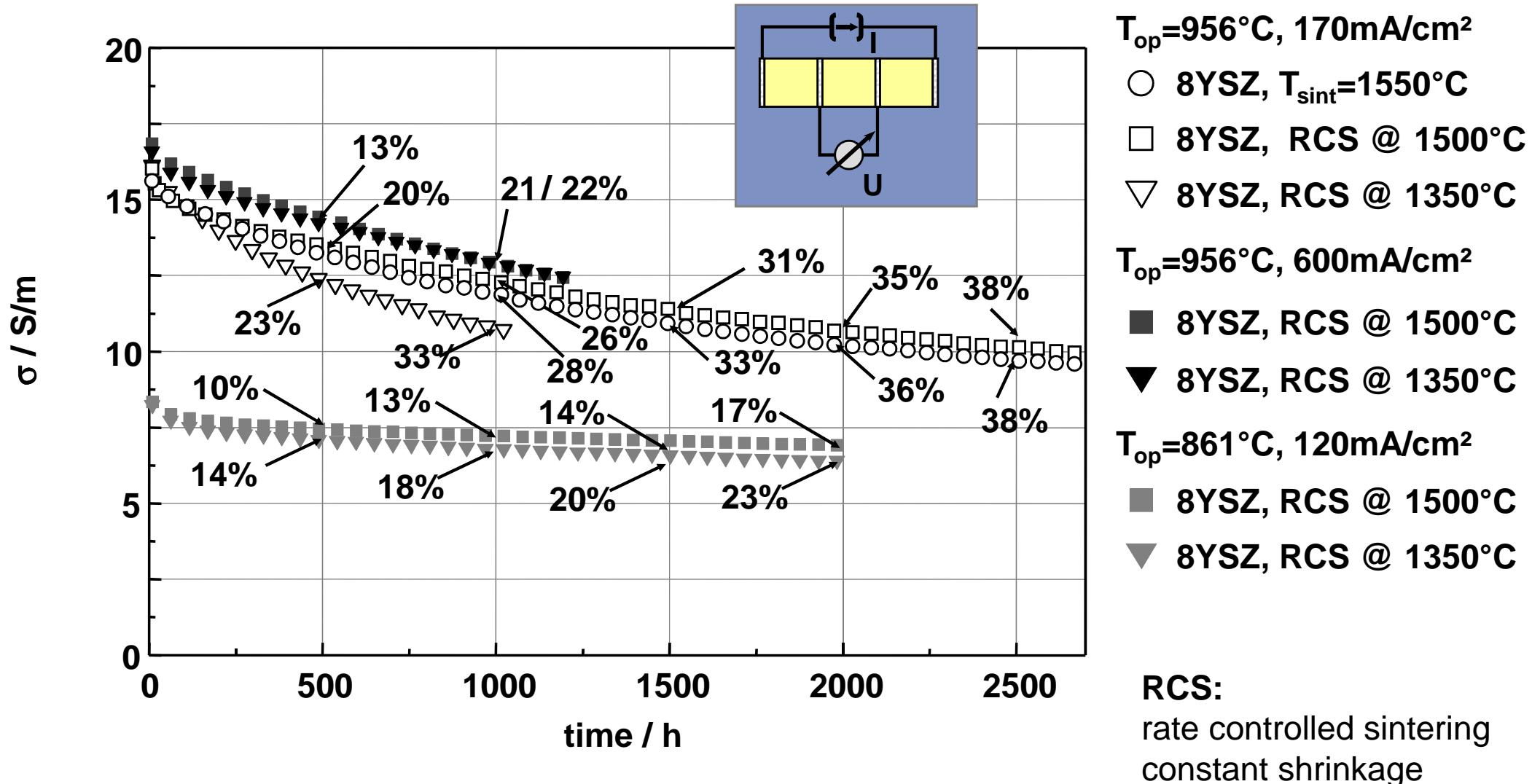
[2] R. Männer, Electroceramics and Ceramics for Special Applications, Vol. 3, DKG (1992)

[3] Siemens, unpublished data

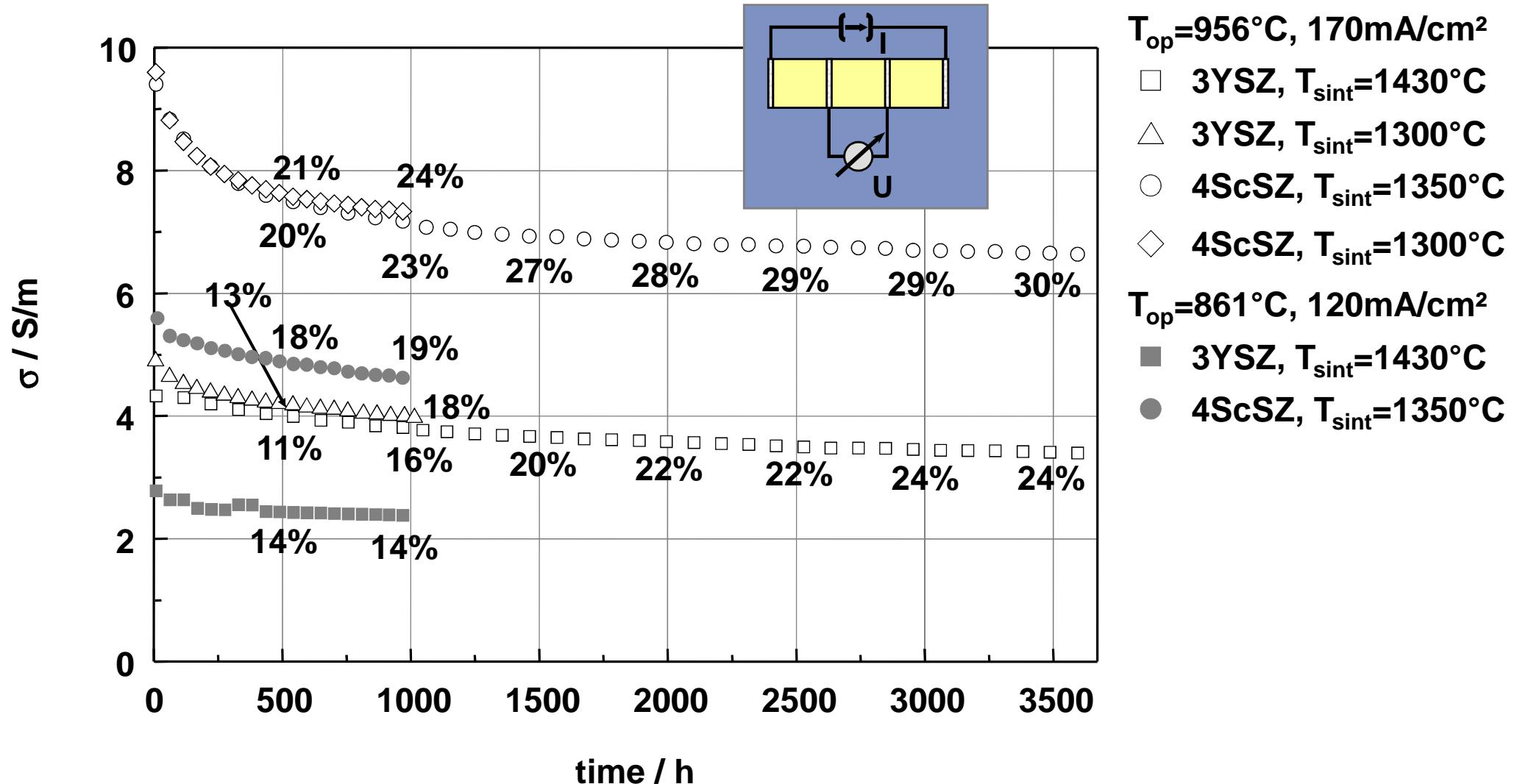
[4] D. Herbstritt, The Electrochemical Society, PV 2001-16, p. 349, (2001)

# Long term stability of of $\text{ZrO}_2 - \text{Me}_2\text{O}_3$ Oxide Ion Conductors

## FSZ: 8YSZ

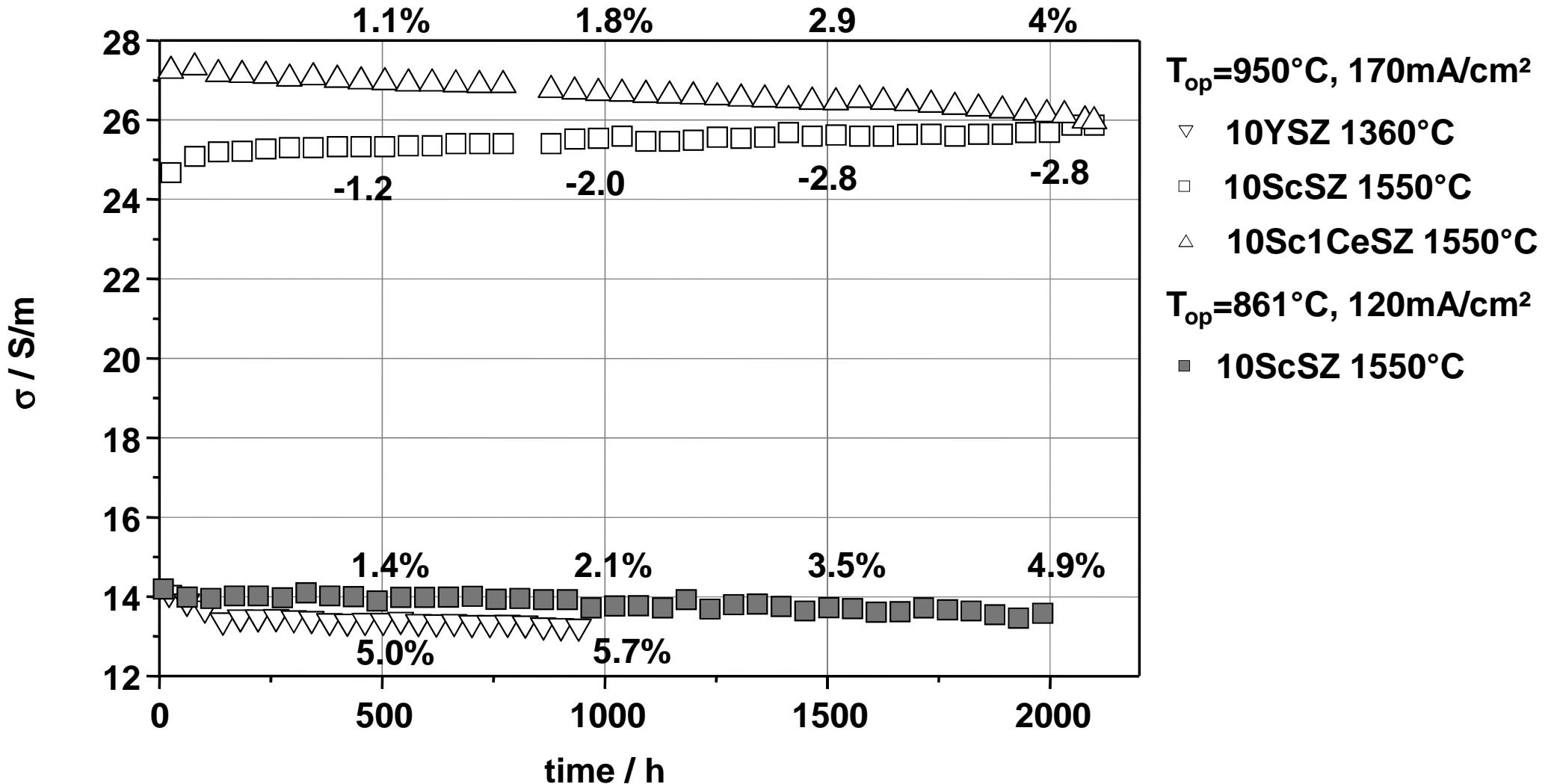


# Long term stability of of $\text{ZrO}_2$ – $\text{Me}_2\text{O}_3$ Oxide Ion Conductors TZP: 3YSZ and 4ScSZ

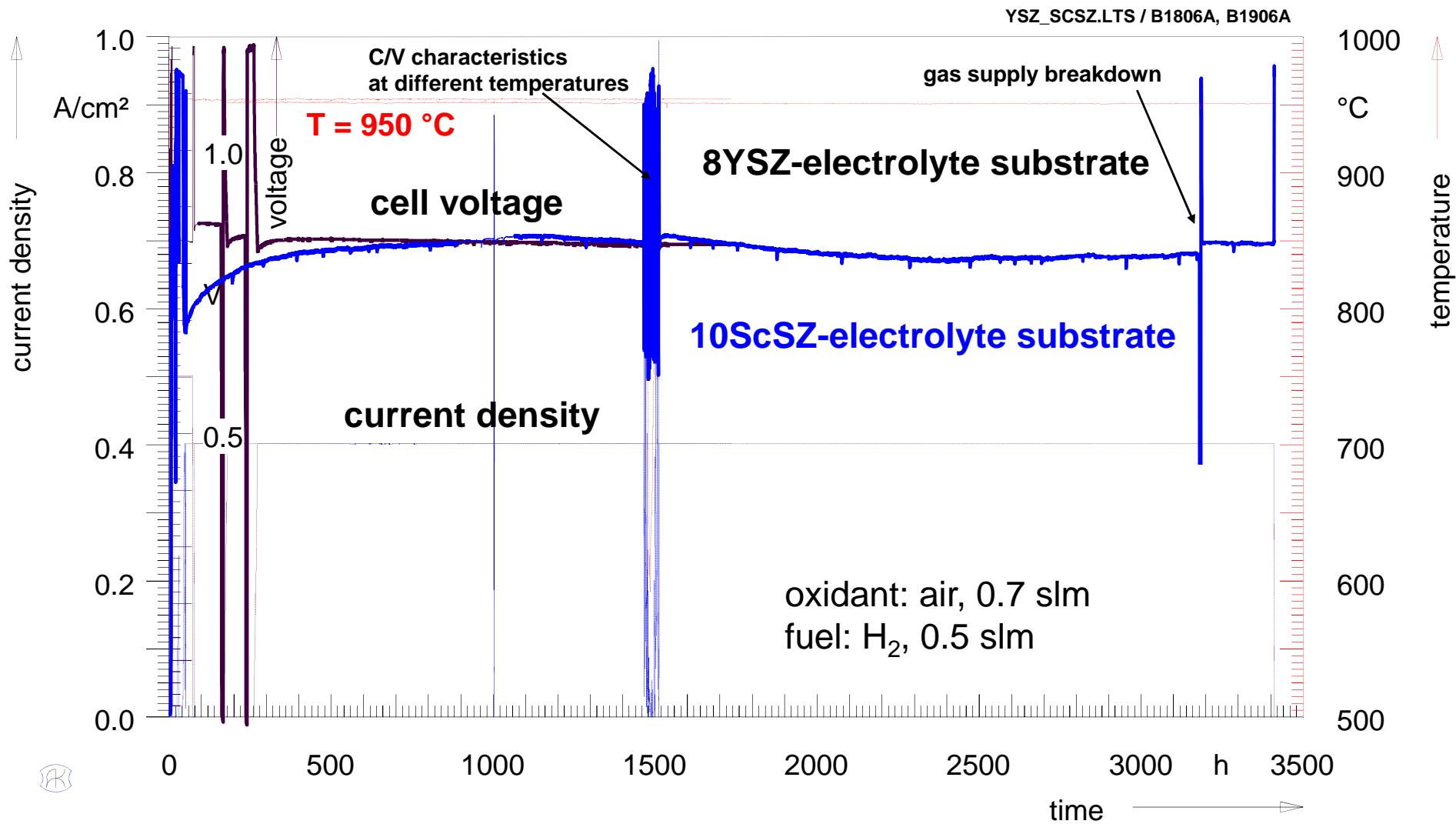


# Long term stability of of $\text{ZrO}_2 - \text{Me}_2\text{O}_3$ Oxide Ion Conductors

## FSZ: 10YSZ and 10ScSZ

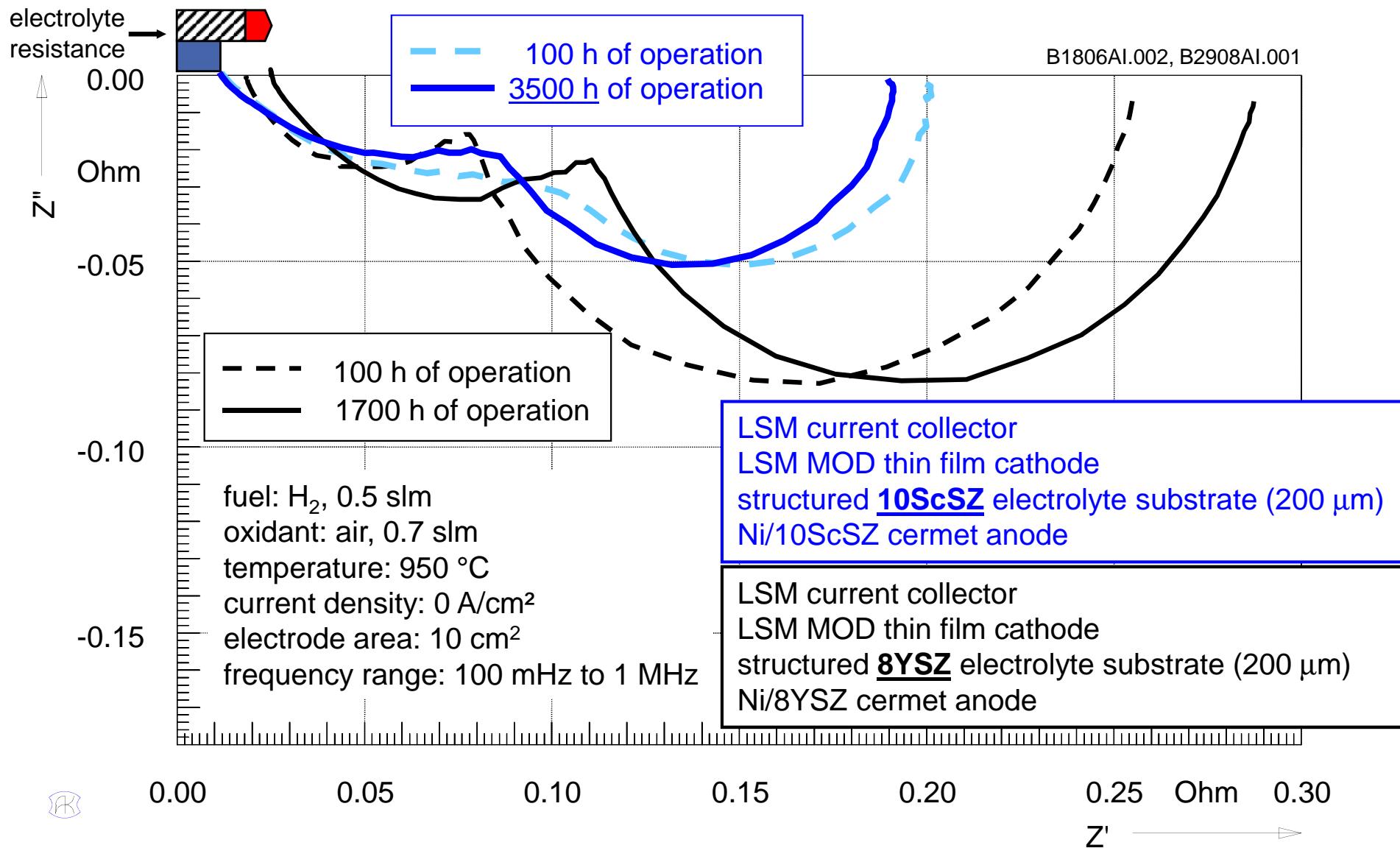


# Long Term Stability of Electrolyte supported Single Cells with 8YSZ and 10ScSZ Electrolyte Substrate



# Electrolyte Degradation (➡)

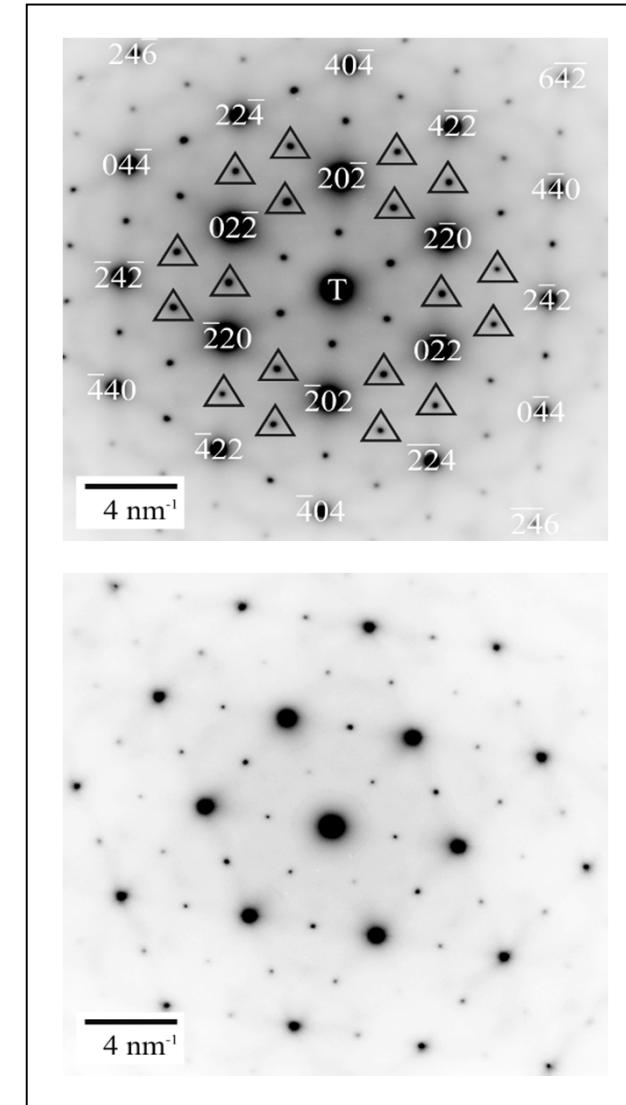
Long term stability: 10ScSZ (█) vs. 8YSZ (▨) at 950°C



# Electron diffraction: Tetragonal Phase

[110], [111], [112], [013], [123]

- Three variants of tetragonal phase:  
c-axis along all cubic  $<100>$ -axes
  - Double diffraction in thicker sample regions
- Clear identification of tetragonal phase  
(no superstructures!)



[111] 8YSZ

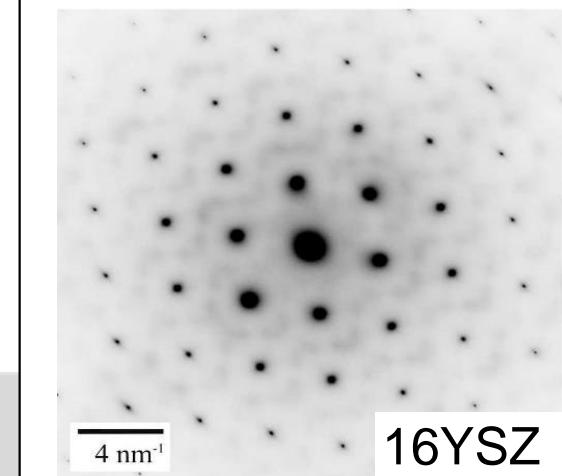
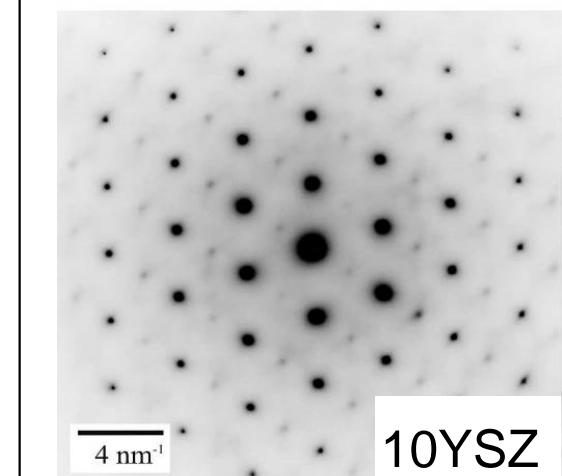
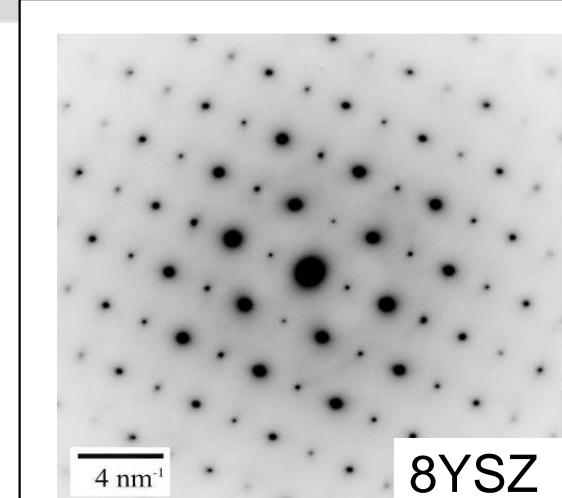
[www.iam.kit.edu/wet](http://www.iam.kit.edu/wet)



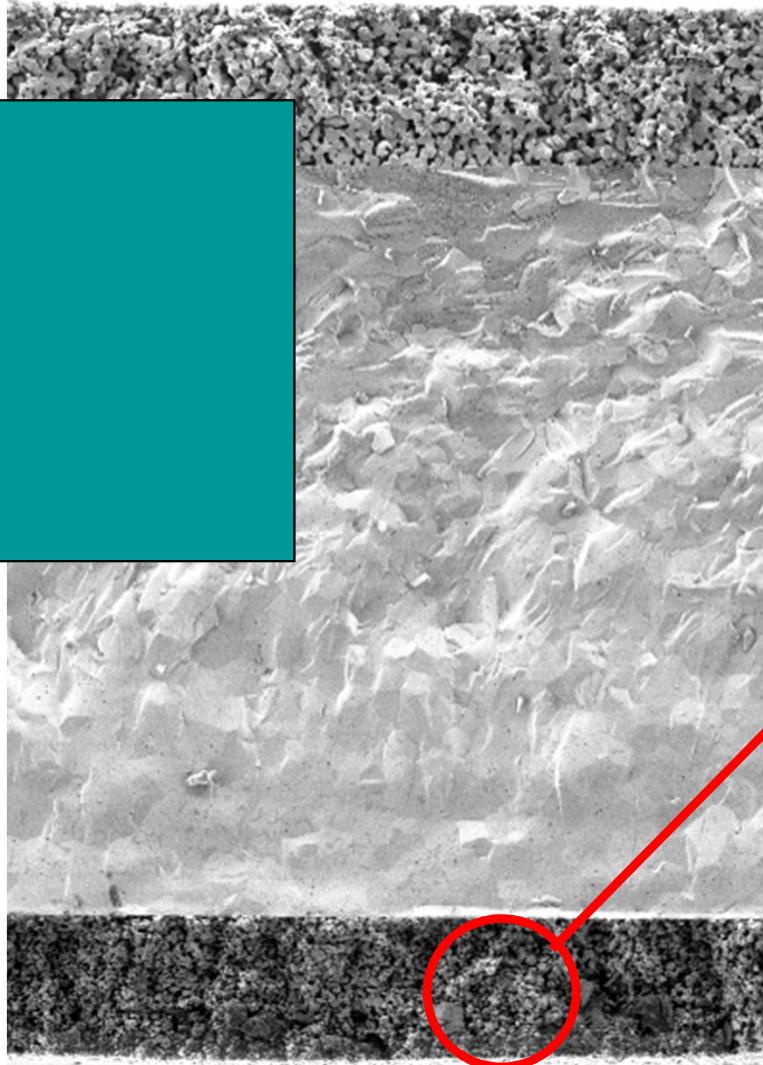
Institut für Angewandte Materialien  
Werkstoffe der Elektrotechnik

# Electron diffraction

- Exists in 8YSZ and 10YSZ, not in 16YSZ
  - Decreasing volume fraction with increasing doping concentration
- Dark field images with tetragonal intensity

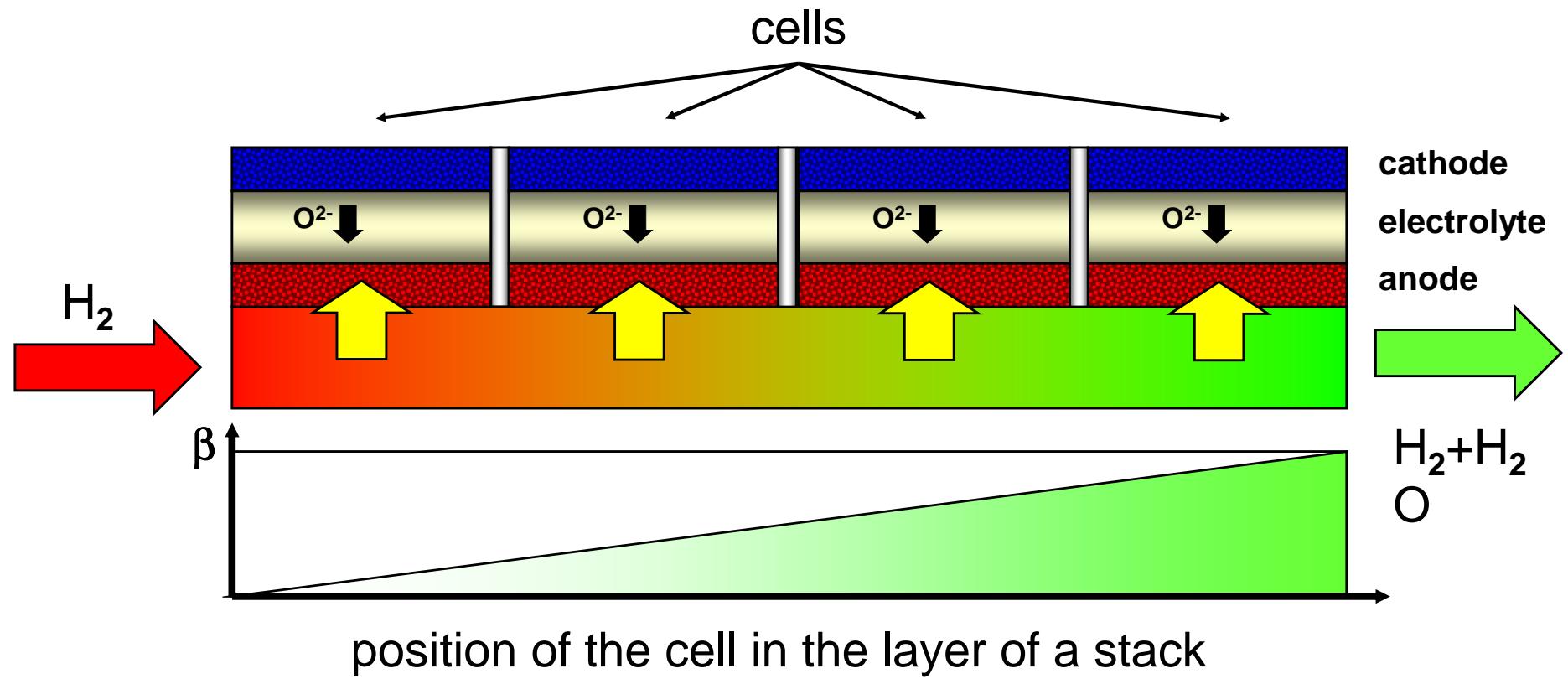


# Anode: Agglomeration der Nickel-Partikel



# Anode Degradation

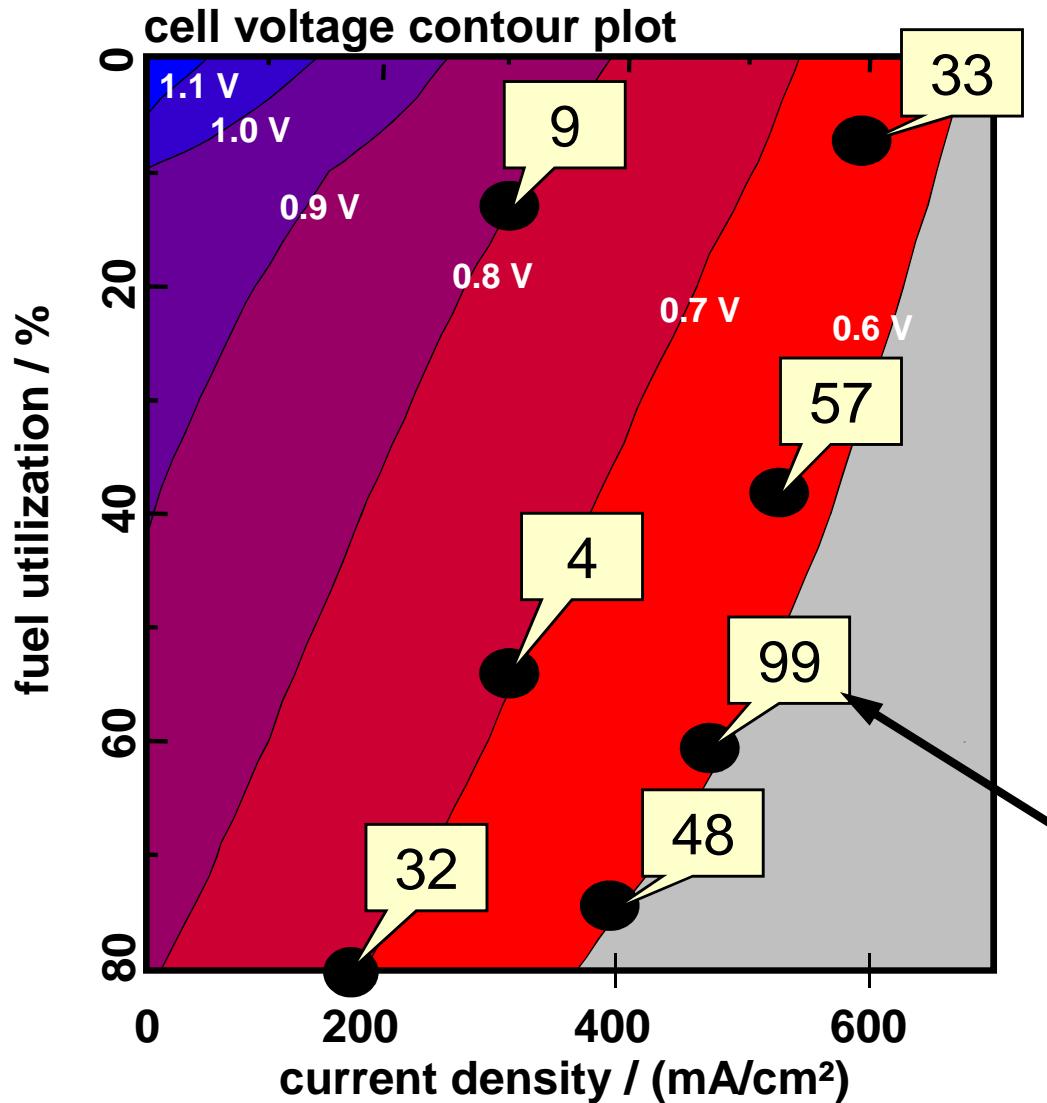
## Stack position and fuel utilization



$$\text{fuel utilization: } \beta = \frac{p(H_2O)}{p(H_2O) + p(H_2)}$$

# Anode Degradation

## Influence of current density and fuel utilization



**Performance plot**

**Long term measurements**

Operation time: 700 ... 1000 h

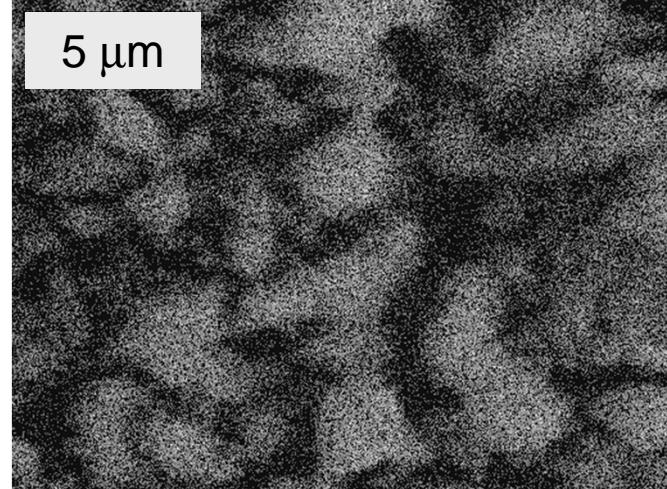
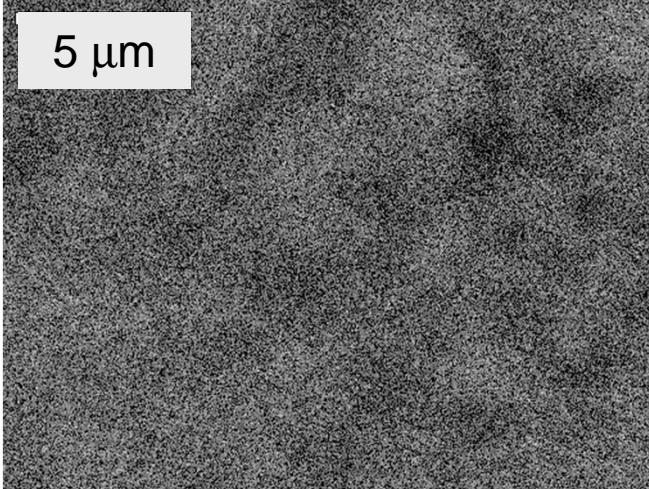
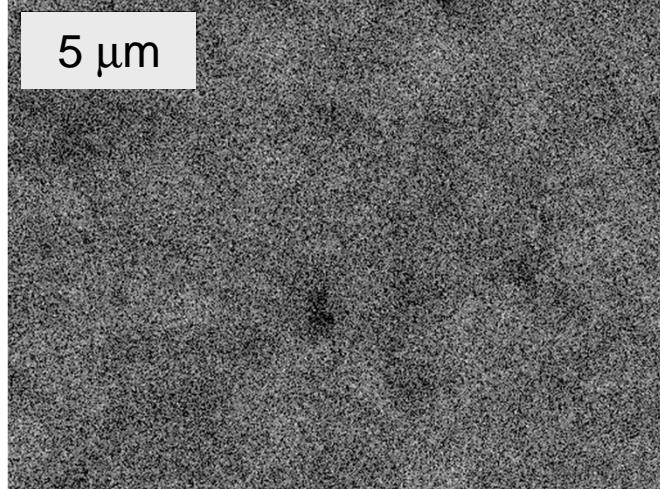
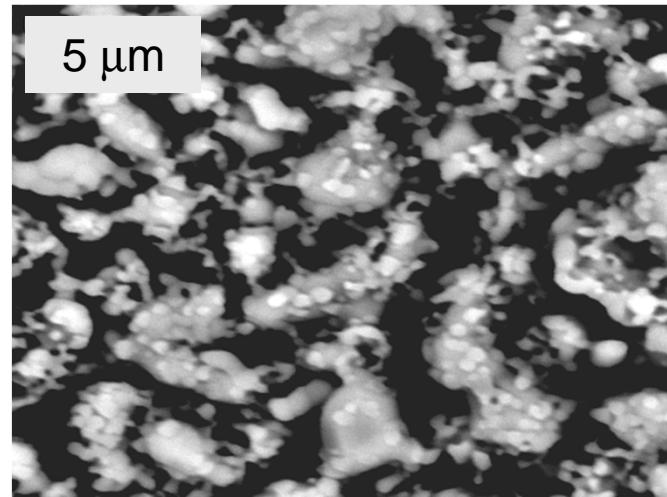
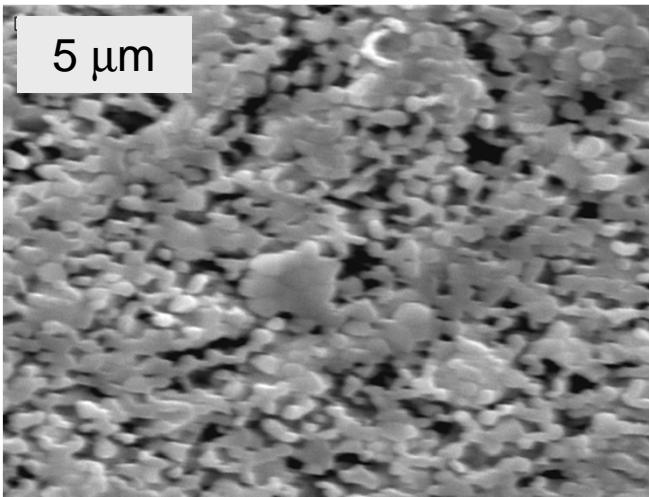
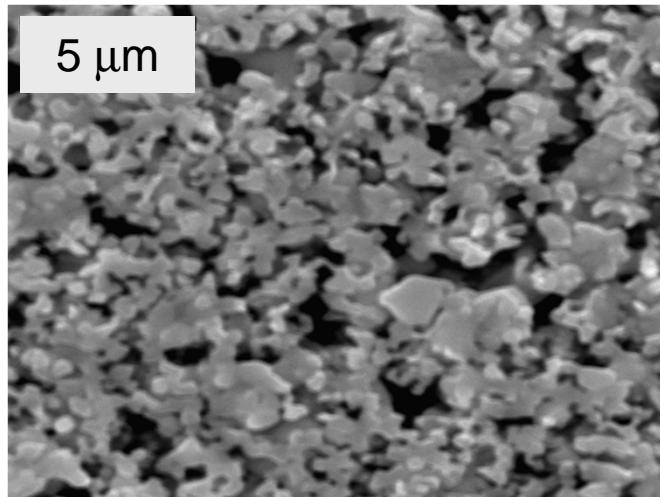
Temperature : 950 °C

Oxidant : air

**Aim: <1 mV/1000h**

**Degradation rates in mV/1000h**

# Anode Degradation Ni-Agglomeration

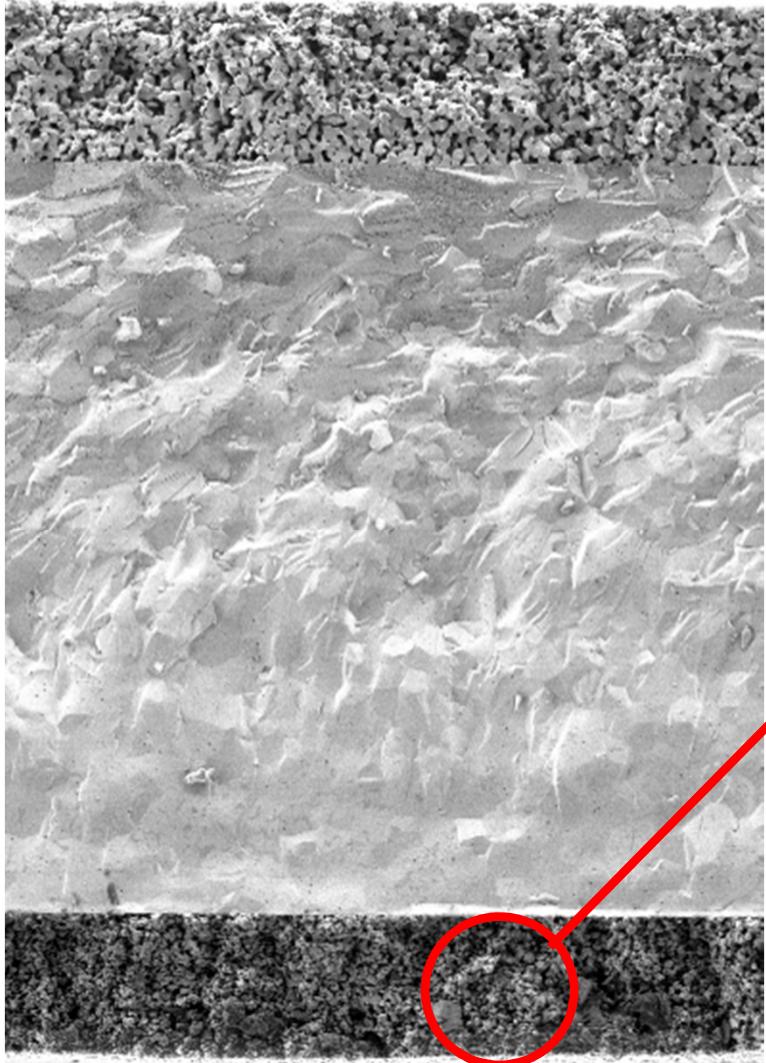


before operation

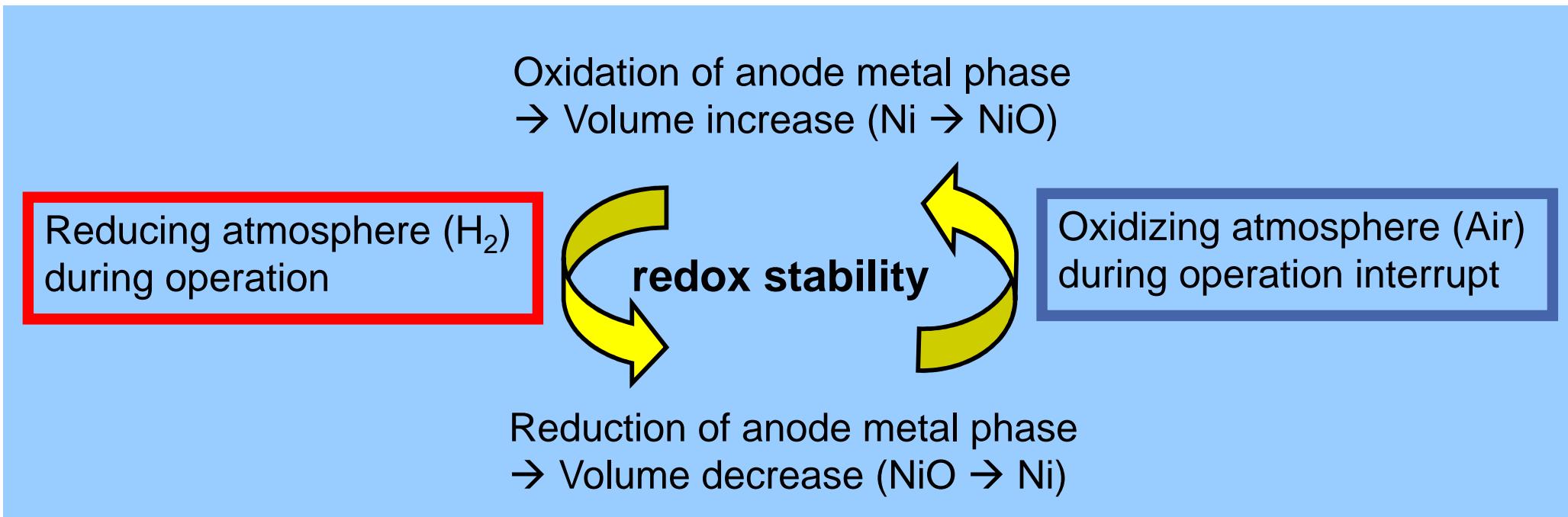
after operation 1000 h, 950 °C  
80 % fuel utilization, 0 A/cm<sup>2</sup>

after operation 1000 h, 950 °C  
80 % fuel utilization, 0.2 A/cm<sup>2</sup>

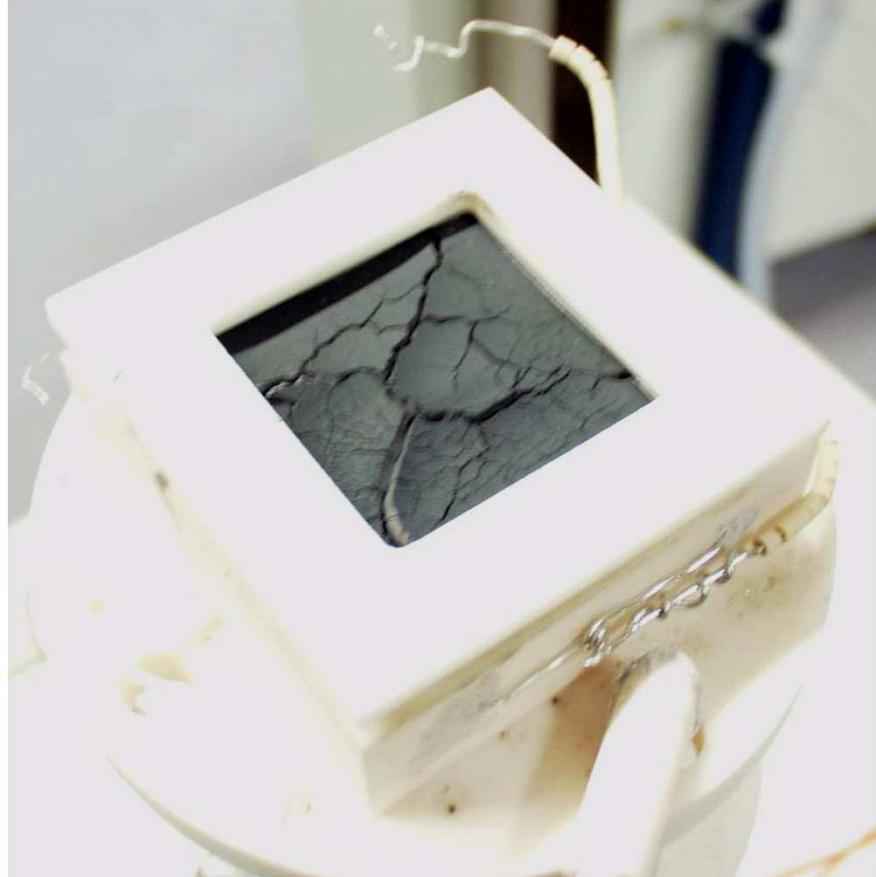
# Anode: Alterung unter Redox-Zyklen



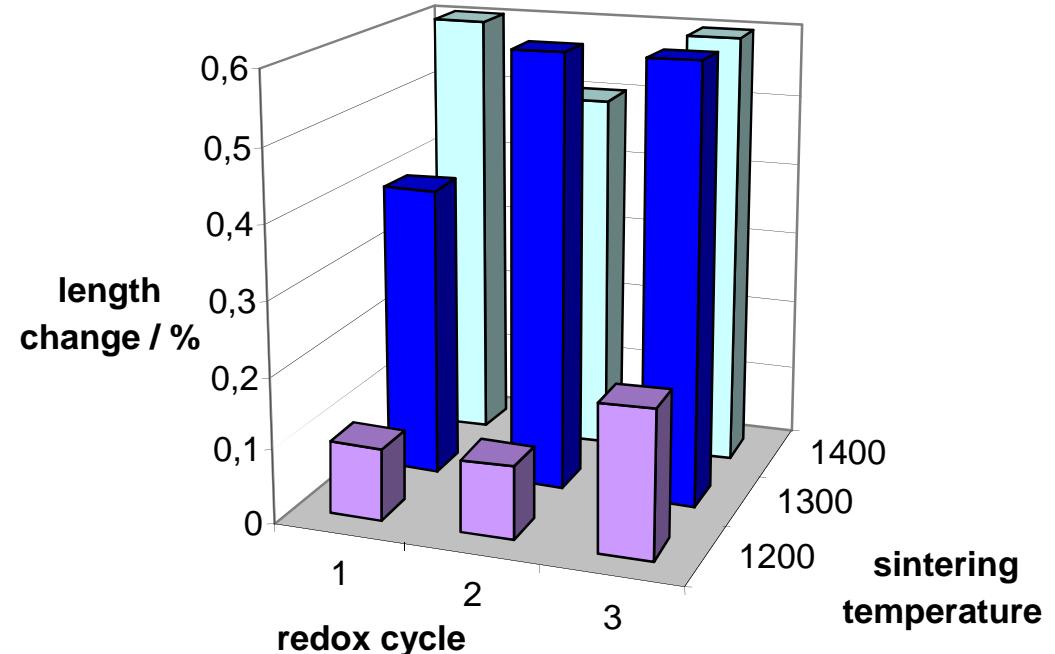
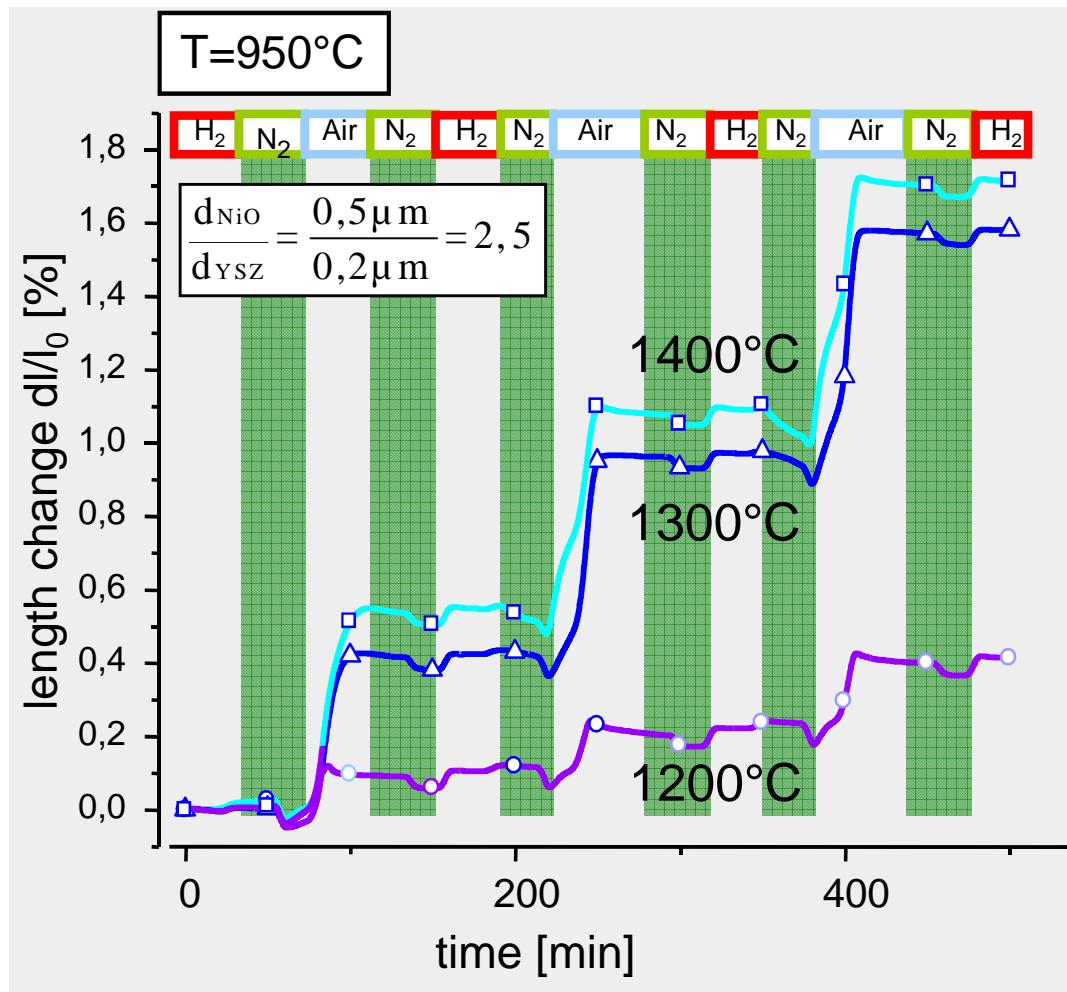
# Anode Redox-Stability



# Extrinsic Degradation Cracking of an Anode Supported Electrolyte after Redox-Cycling

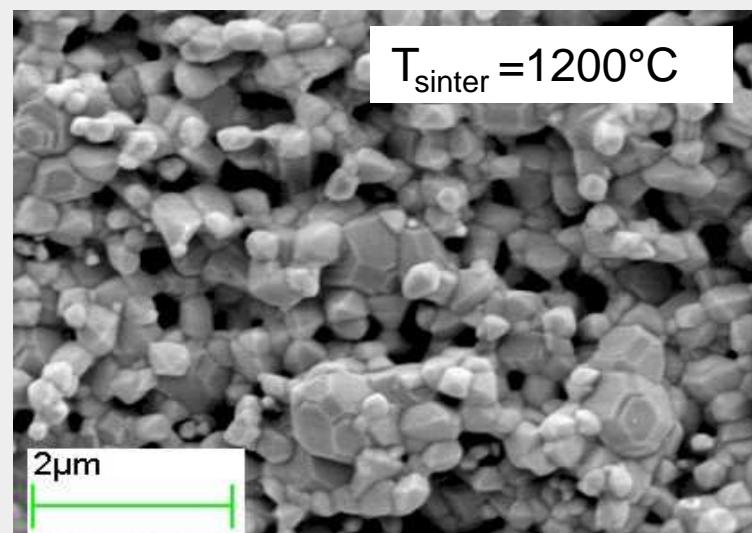


# Impact of Redox Cycle on Length Change of Ni/YSZ Bulks: Different Sintering Temperatures



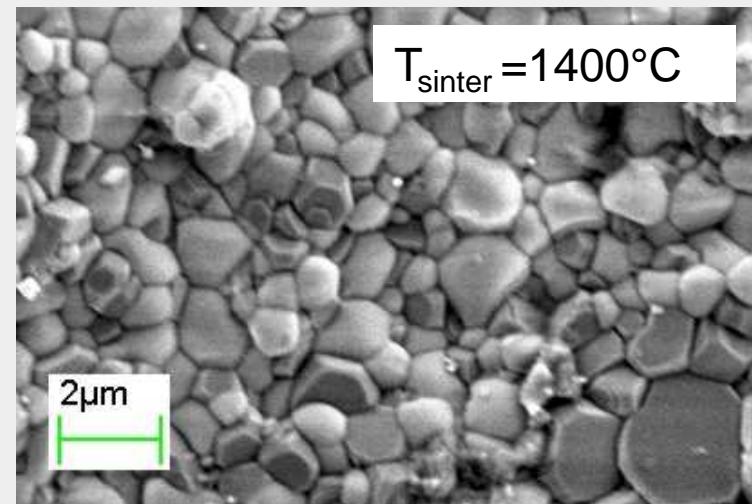
- minimum length change at lowest sintering temperature of 1200 °C

# Impact of Redox Cycles on Microstructure of Ni/YSZ Bulks Different Sintering Temperatures

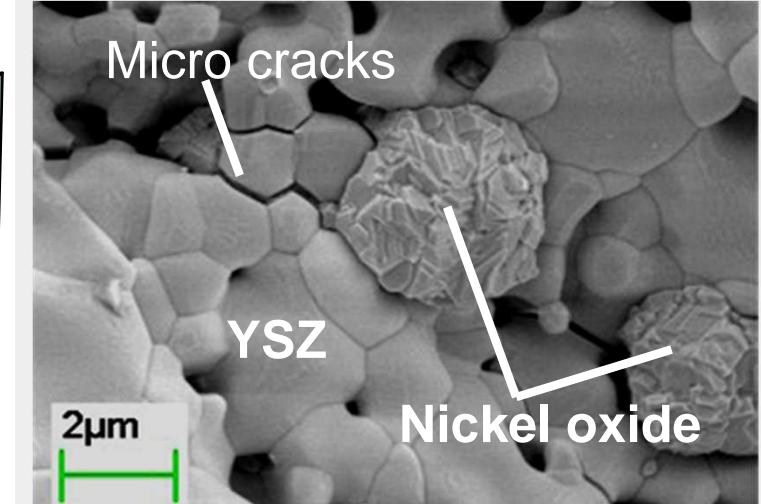
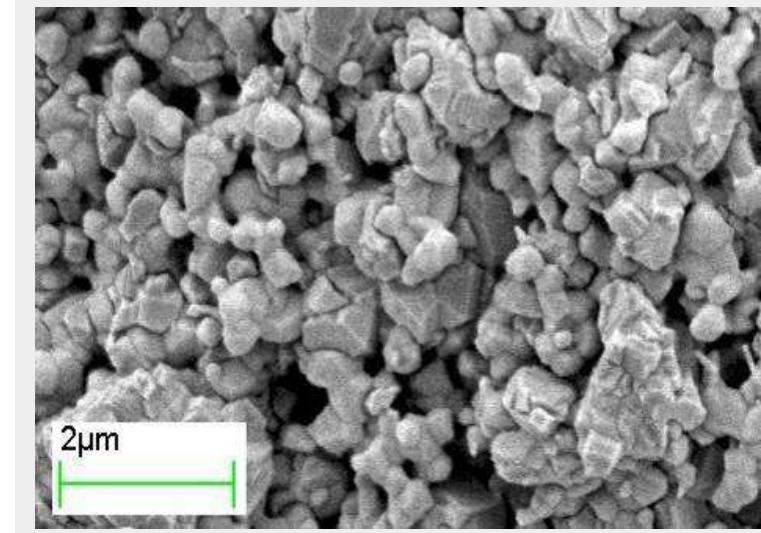
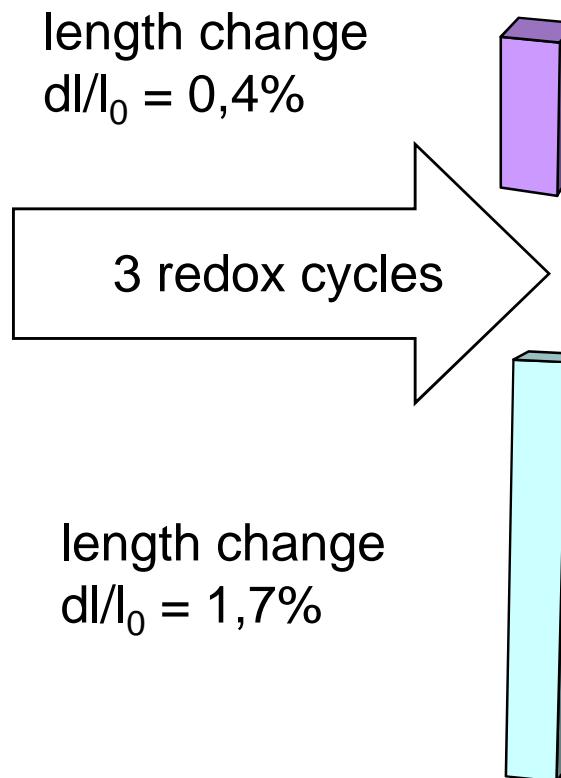


$T_{\text{sinter}} = 1200^\circ\text{C}$

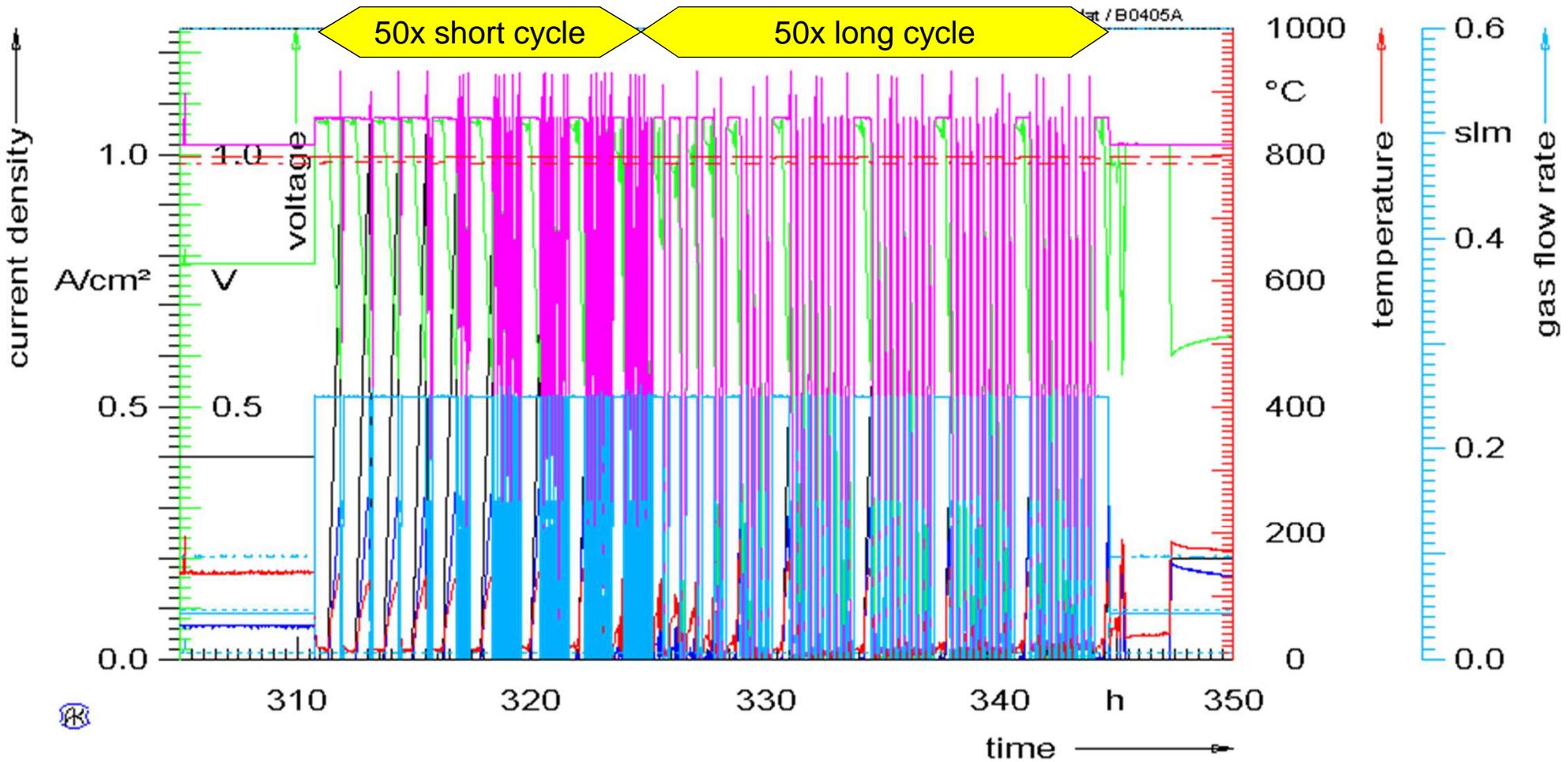
$d_{50}: \text{NiO} = 0,5\mu\text{m}$   
 $d_{50}: \text{YSZ} = 0,2\mu\text{m}$



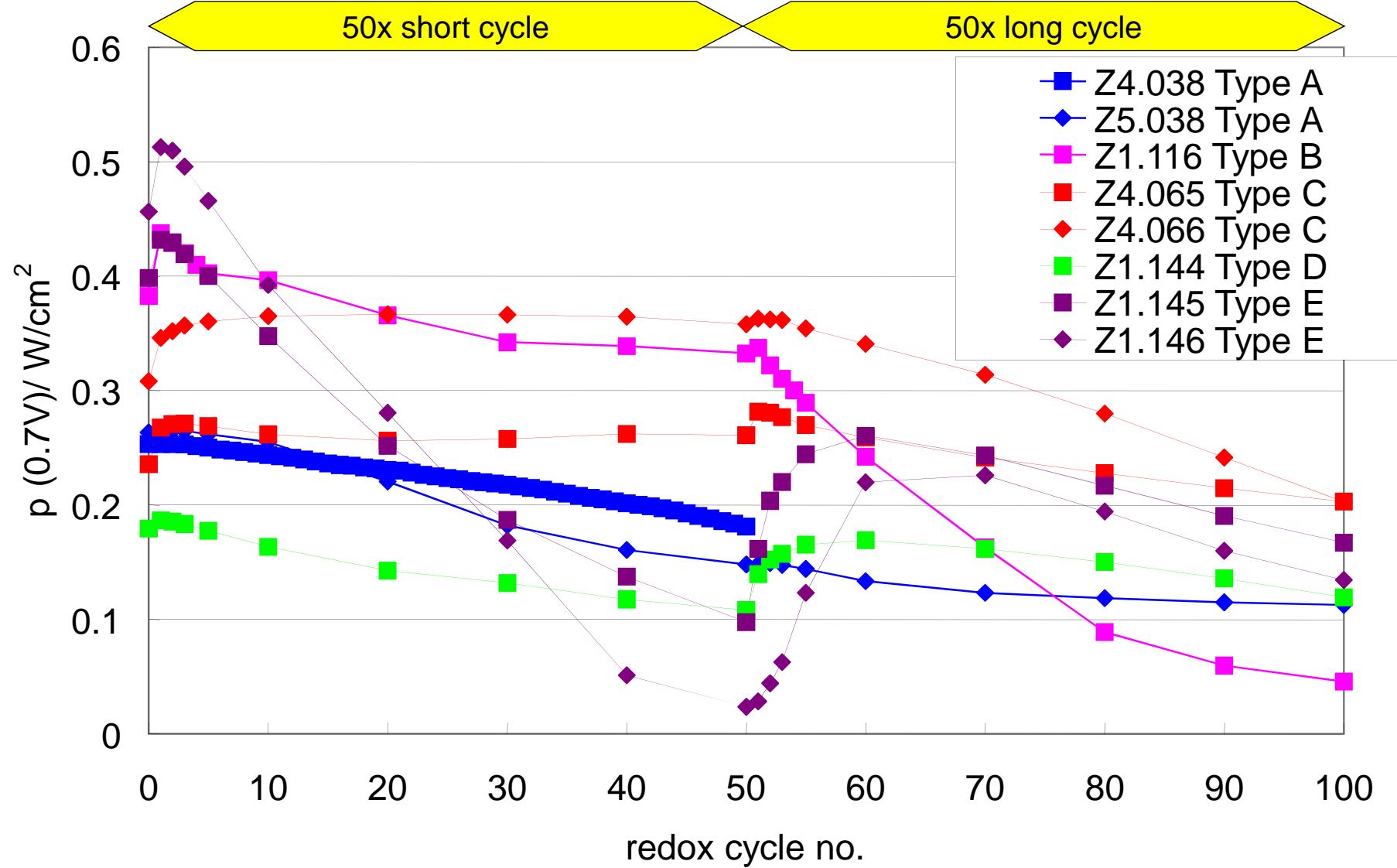
$T_{\text{sinter}} = 1400^\circ\text{C}$



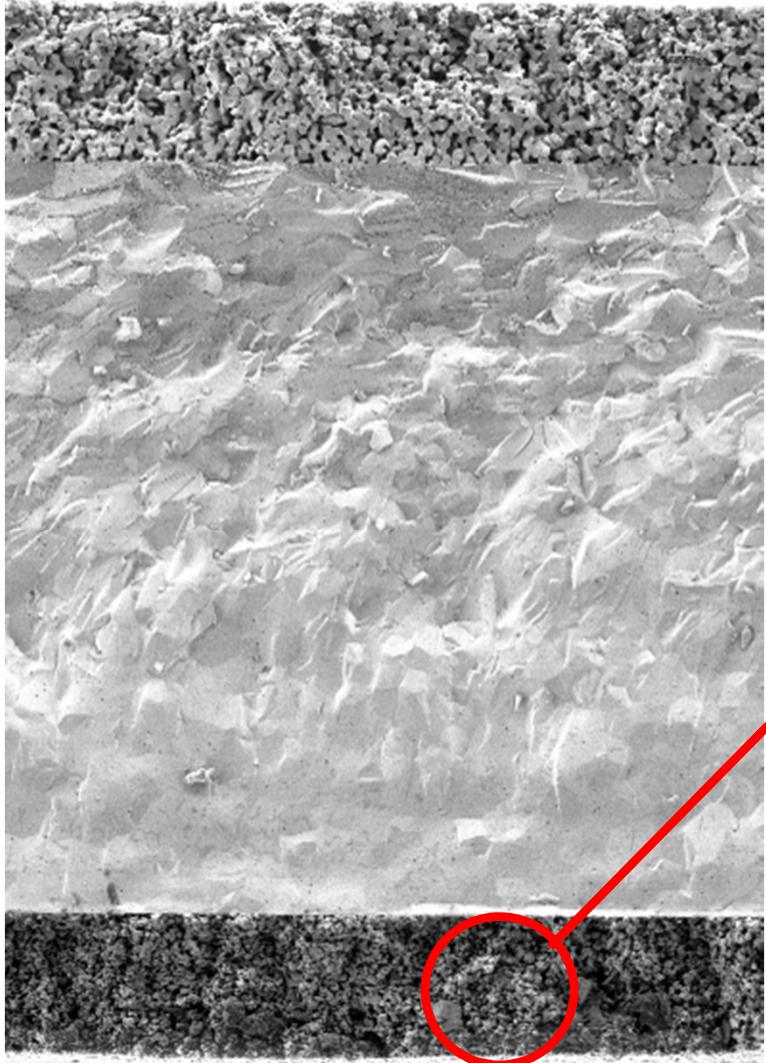
# Degradation Tests for SOFC Redox Stability (100 Redox-Cycles in 35 h)



# Redox Stability of Electrolyte Supported SOFC

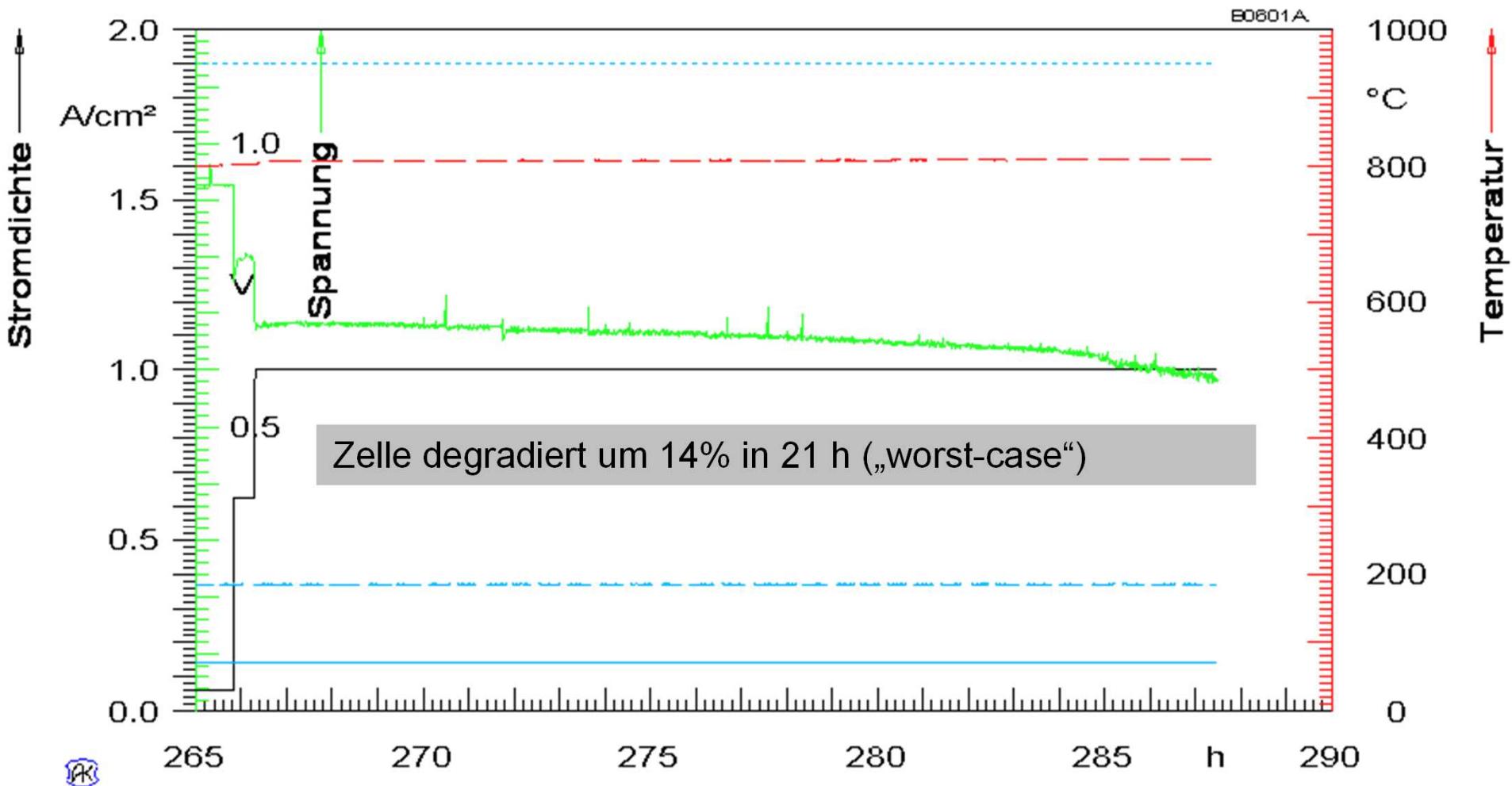


# Anode: Aufkohlung im Betrieb mit $C_nH_m$



# Operation on Hydrocarbons

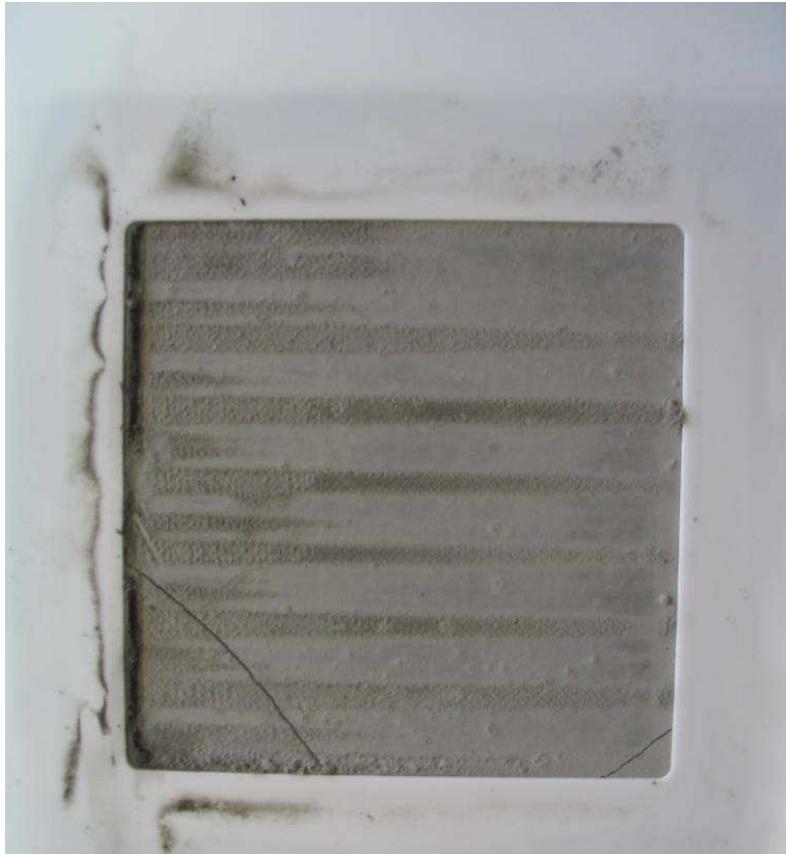
## Severe Degradation with higher Hydrocarbons $C_nH_m$



Gasgemisch:  $H_2$ , CO,  $H_2O$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $C_2H_2$  (Ethin),  $C_7H_8$  (Toluol), Methylnaphtalin ( $C_{11}H_{10}$ )

# Operation on Hydrocarbons

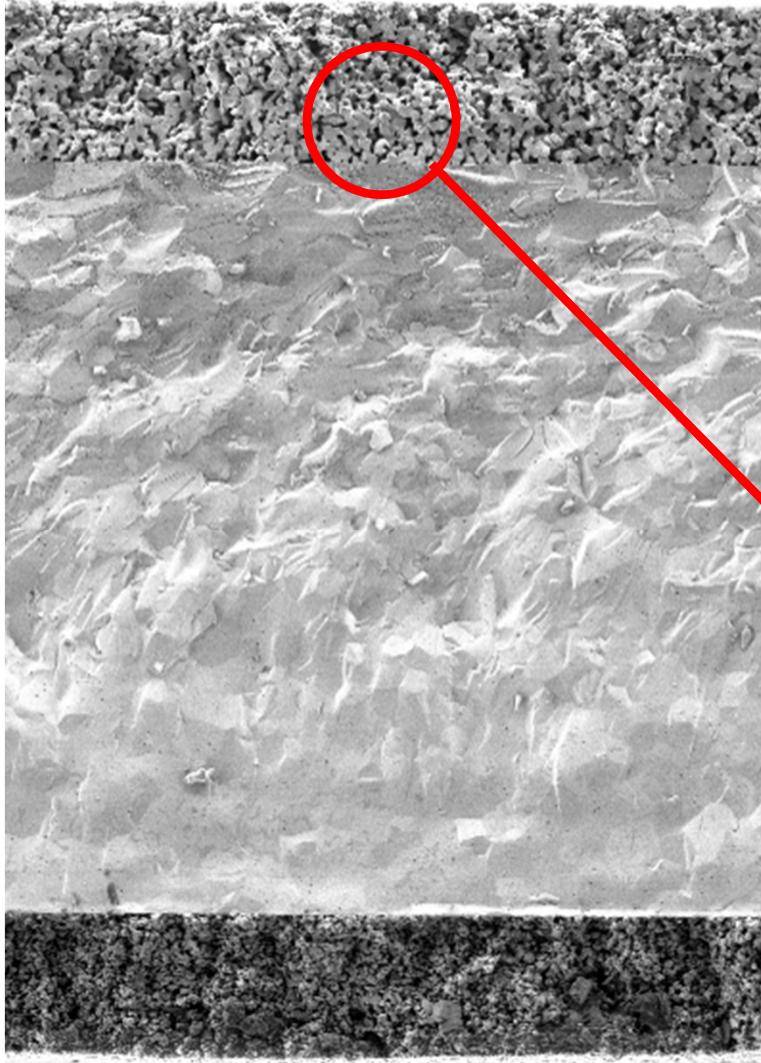
## Severe Degradation with higher Hydrocarbons $C_nH_m$



Flussrichtung

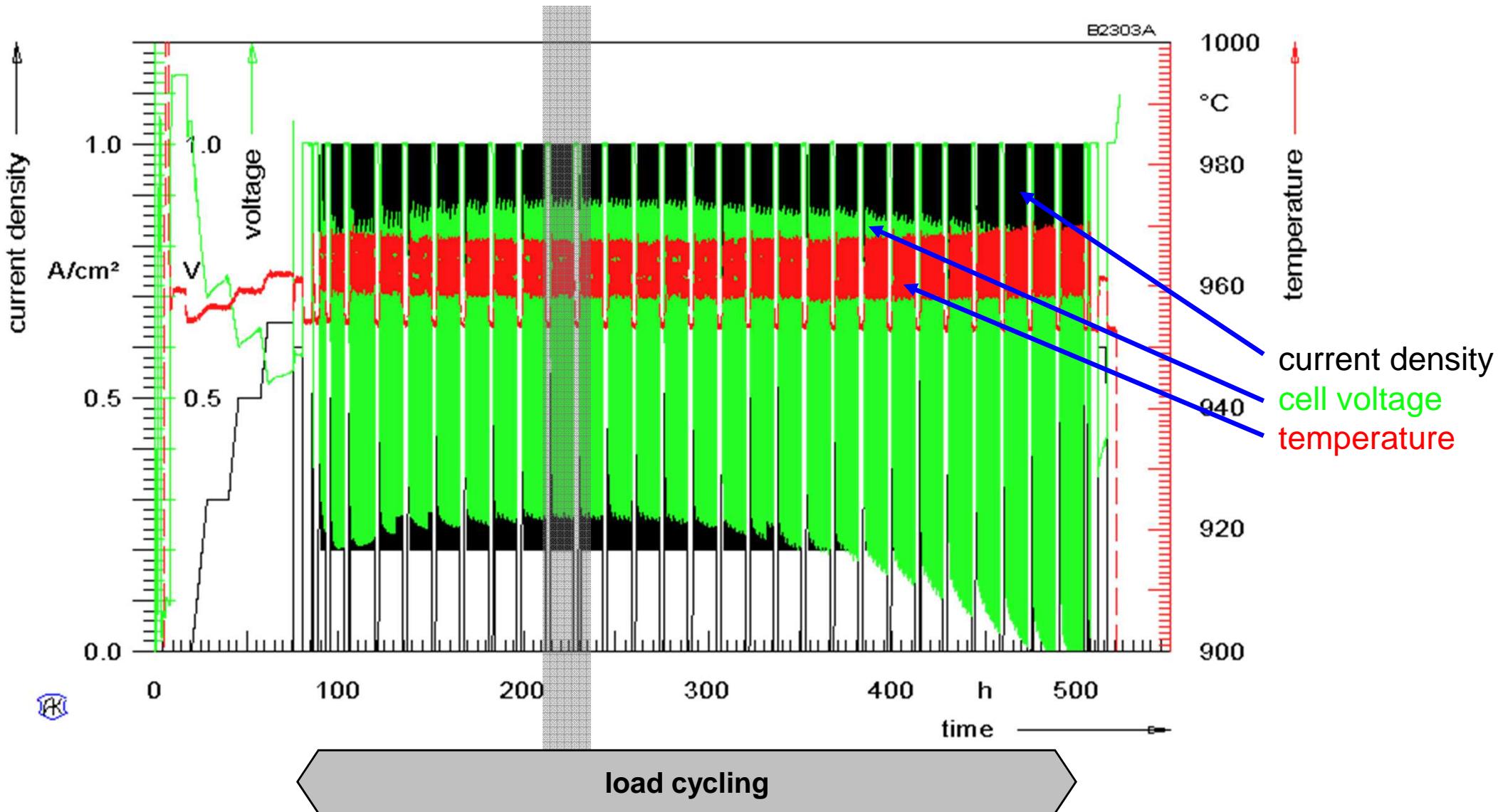
Aufgekohlte Zelle nach Betrieb mit einem Gasgemisch bestehend aus aus  $H_2$ ,  $CO$ ,  $H_2O$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $C_2H_2$  (Ethin),  $C_7H_8$  (Toluol) und Methylnaphtalin ( $C_{11}H_{10}$ )

# Kathode: Alterung im Betrieb mit Lastzyklen



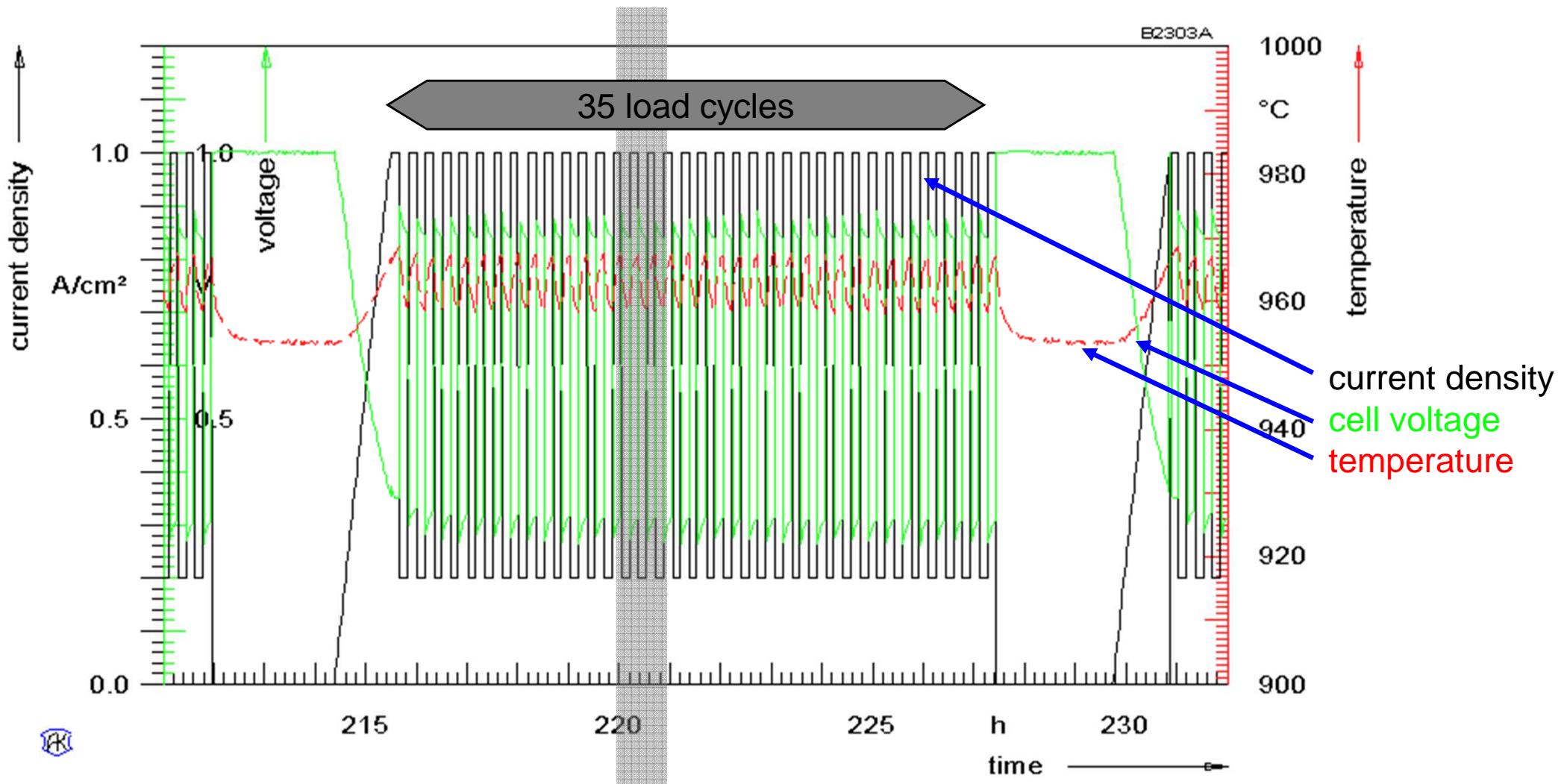
# Electrochemical Characterization of Degradation Phenomena

## Load Cycling Test (966 cycles within ~ 400 hours)



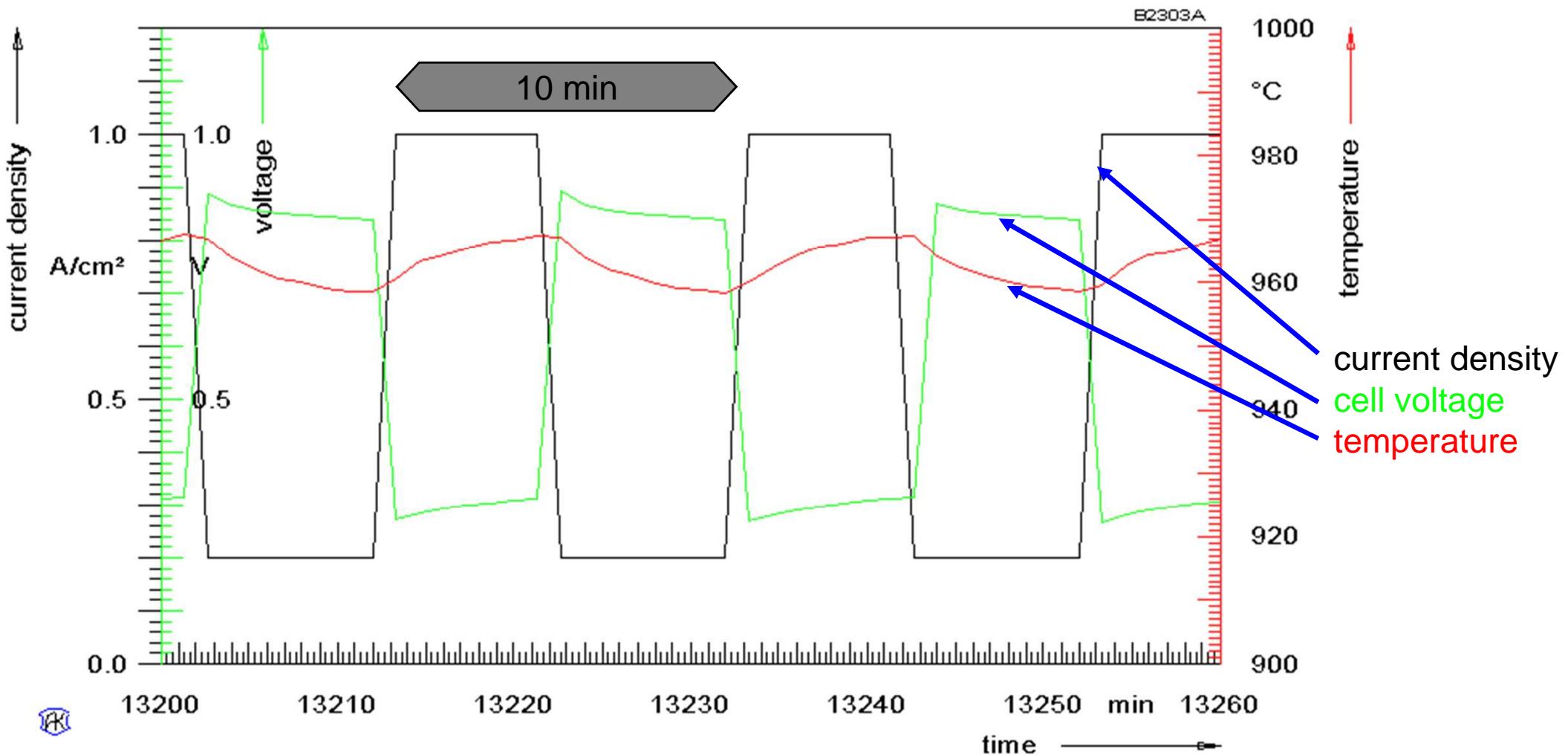
# Electrochemical Characterization of Degradation Phenomena

## Load Cycling Test



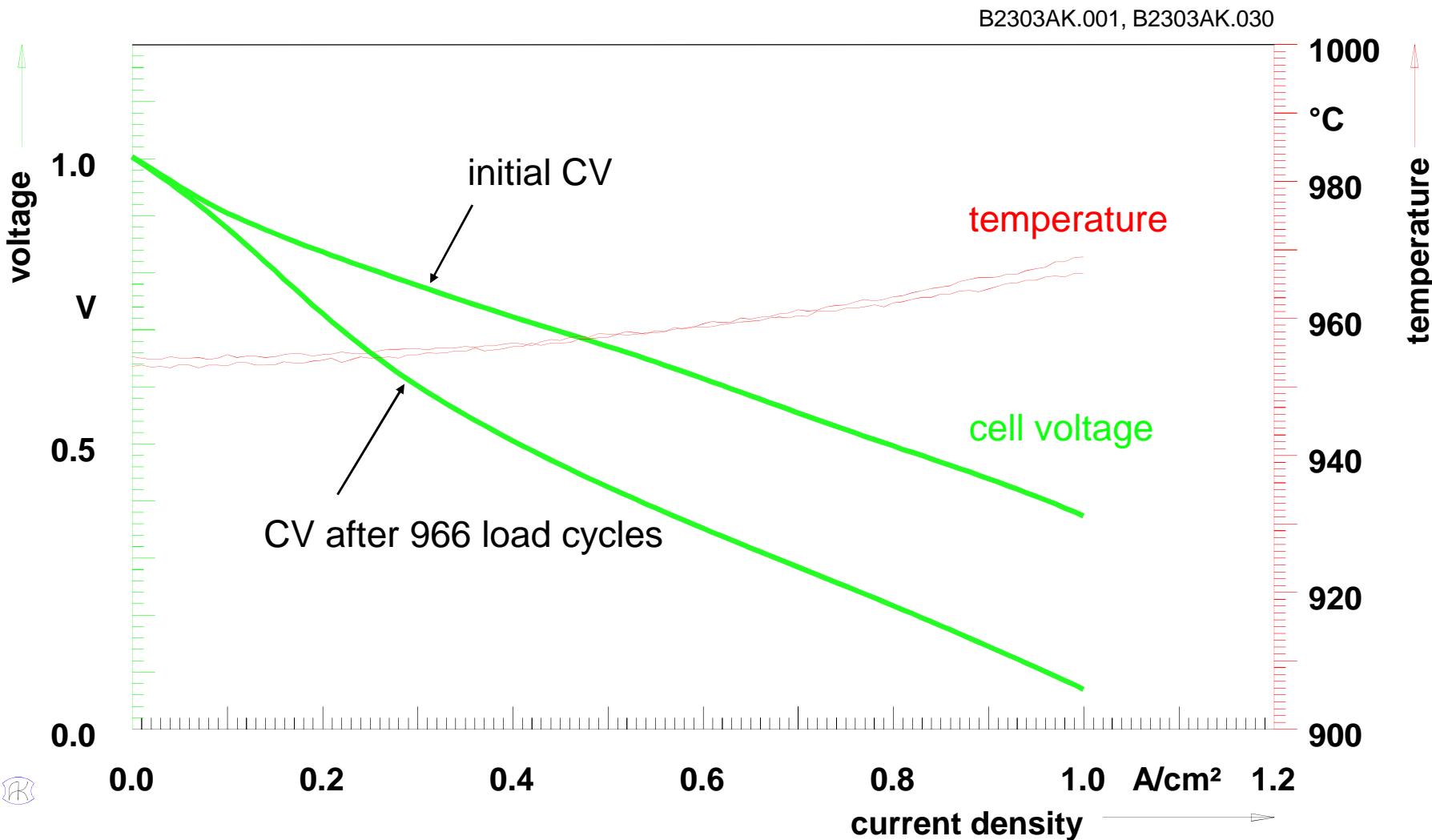
# Electrochemical Characterization of Degradation Phenomena

## Load Cycling Test



# Electrochemical Characterization of Degradation Phenomena

## CV-characteristic before and after Load Cycling Test



CV: current voltage characteristic



Institut für Angewandte Materialien  
Werkstoffe der Elektrotechnik

Quelle: IWE

[wwwIAMKITeduwet](http://wwwIAMKITeduwet)

# Modeling of Degradation Phenomena

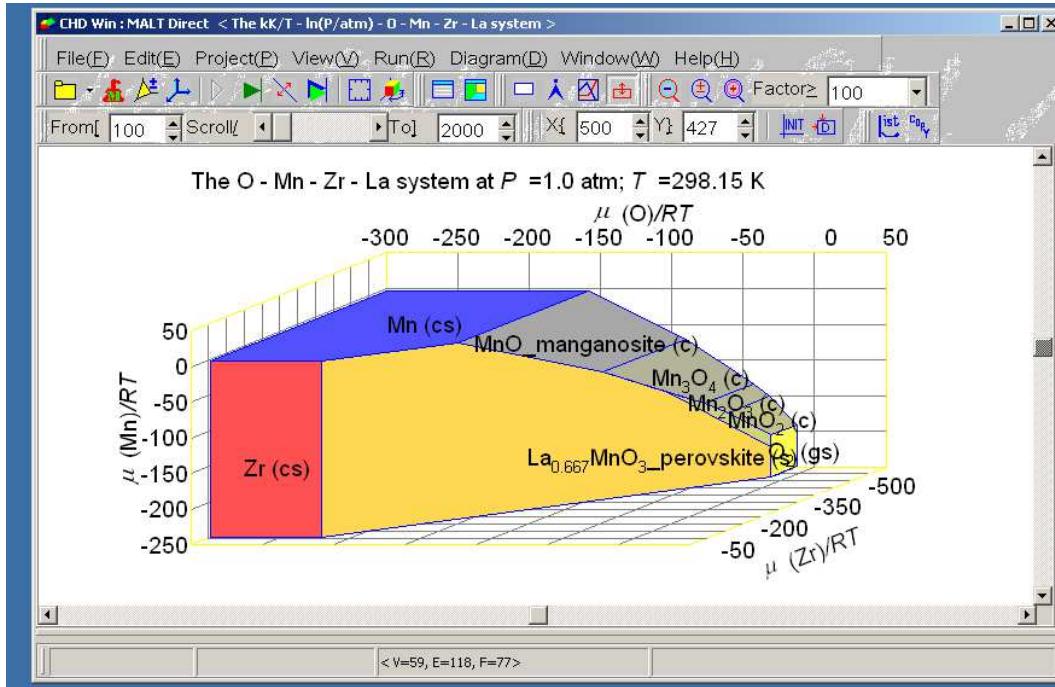
## Chemical Potential Diagrams and Thermodynamic Equilibrium Calculations

### MALT (MAterials oriented Little Thermodynamic database\*)

$\Delta_f G^\circ$ ,  $\Delta_f H^\circ$ ,  $S^\circ$ ,  $C_p^\circ$  at 298.15 K

temperature coefficients of heat capacities, transition temperatures, transition enthalpies

### Calculation of Chemical Potential Diagrams (CHD)



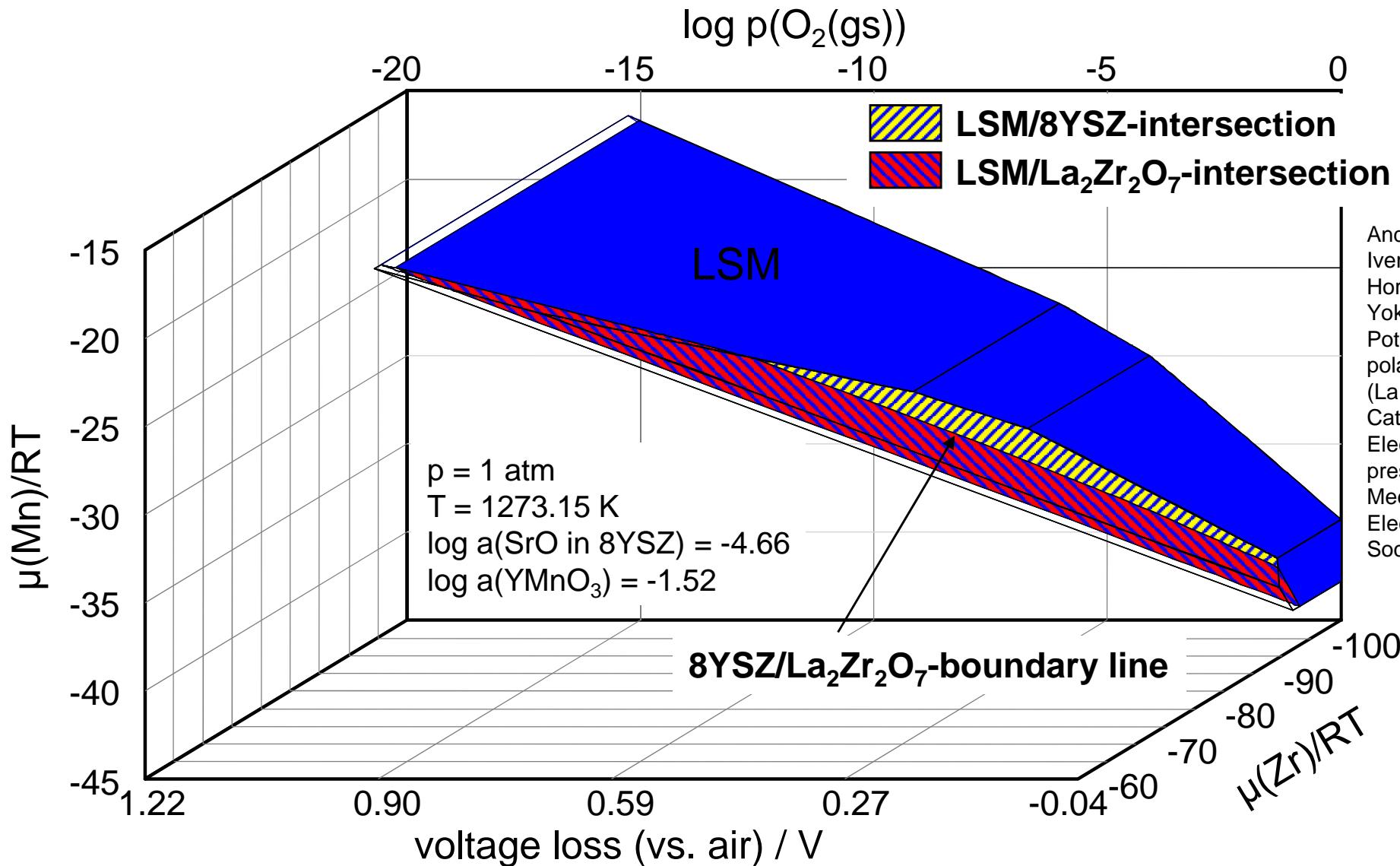
### Thermodynamic Equilibrium Calculations (GEM: Gibbs Energy Minimizer)

\* H. Yokokawa et al., *Thermochimica Acta* 245, 45-55 (1994)  
MALT for Windows, see <http://www.kagaku.com/malt/index.html>



# Modeling of Degradation Phenomena

## Chemical Potential Diagram for the polarized LSM / 8YSZ - Interface

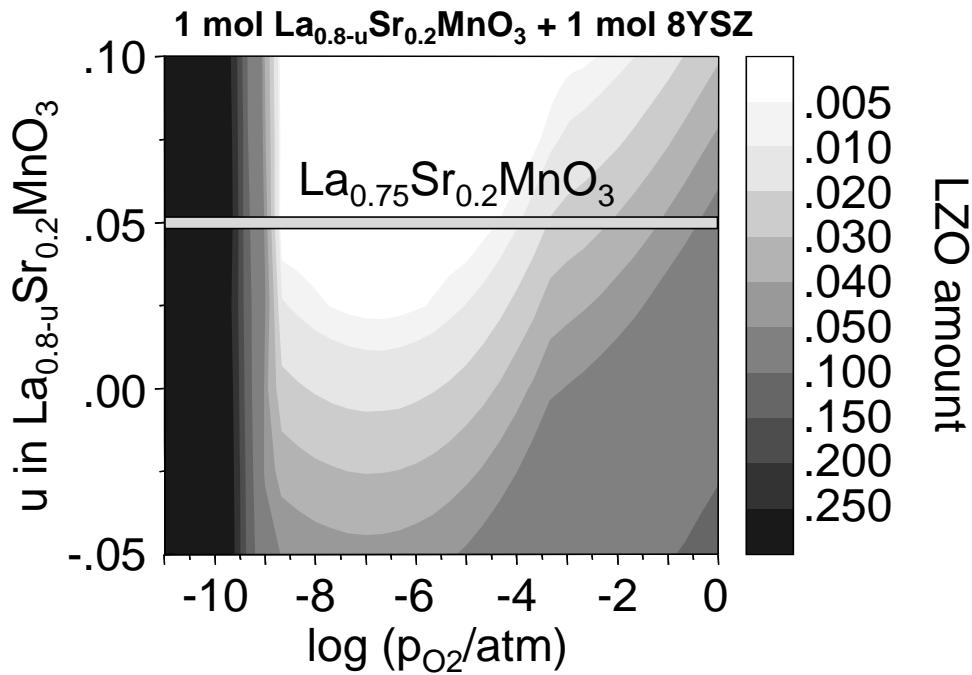


André Weber, Ellen Ivers-Tiffée, Teruhisa Horita, Harumi Yokokawa, Chemical Potential Diagrams for polarized (La,Sr)MnO<sub>3+d</sub>-Cathode/8YSZ-Electrolyte-Interfaces", presented at the 206th Meeting of The Electrochemical Society, 2004

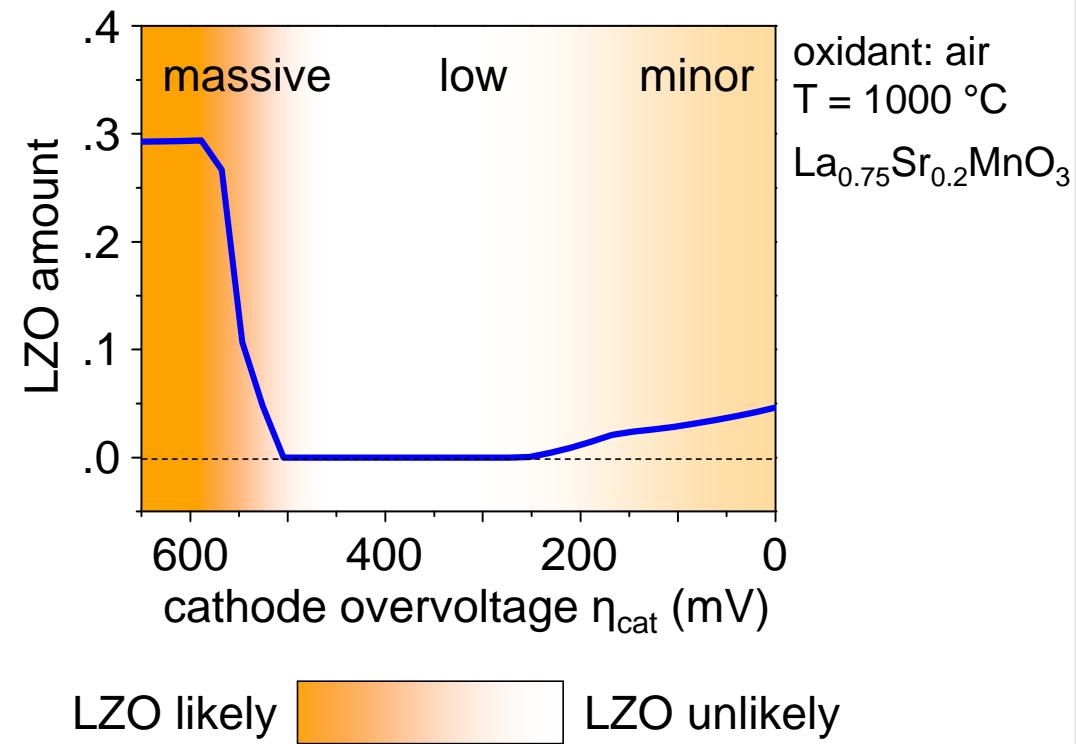
# Modeling of Degradation Phenomena

## Formation of insulating LZO-layers at the LSM/8YSZ Interface

calculated amount of LZO



impact of cathode overvoltage  $\eta_{\text{cat}}$

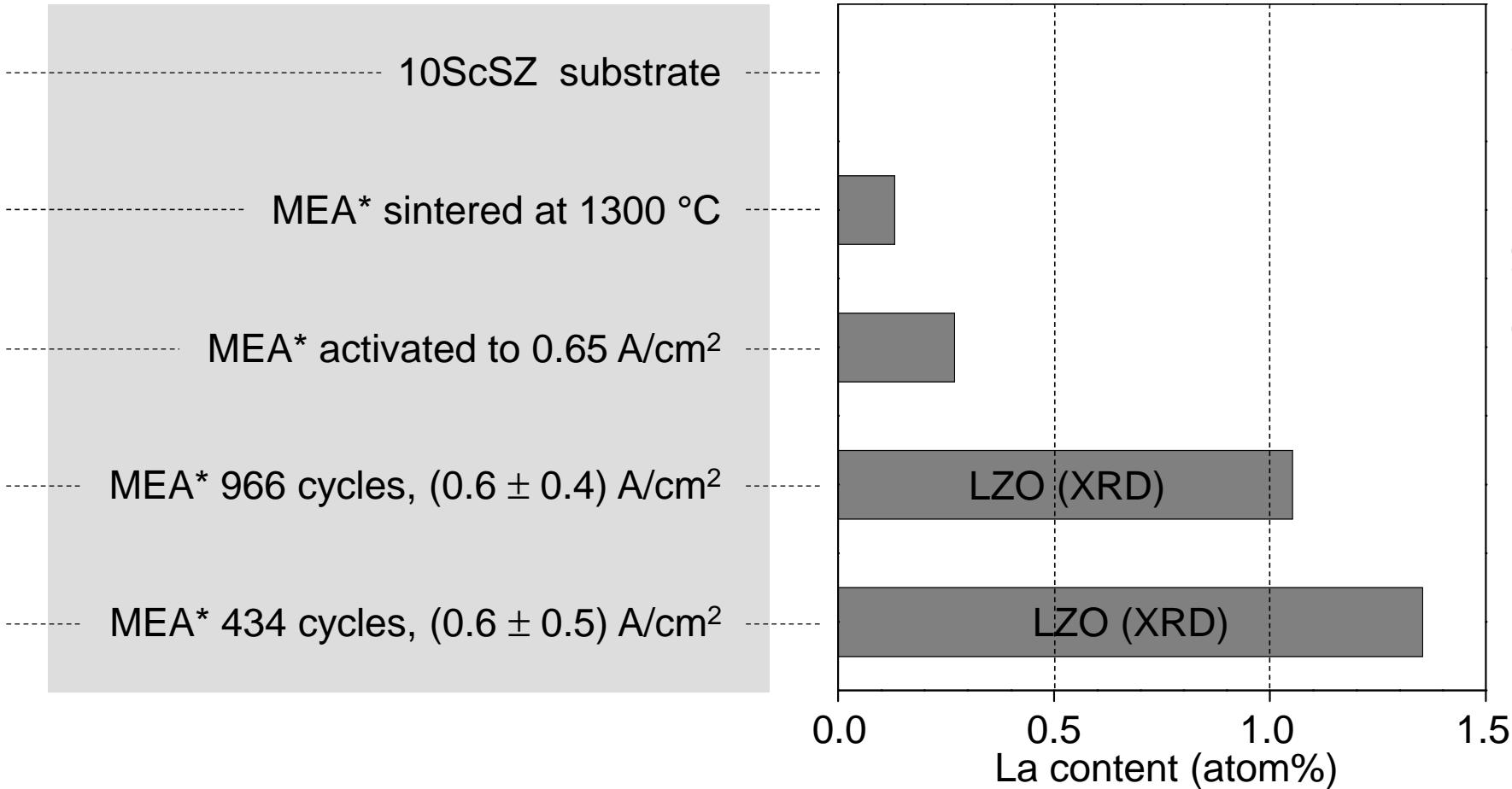
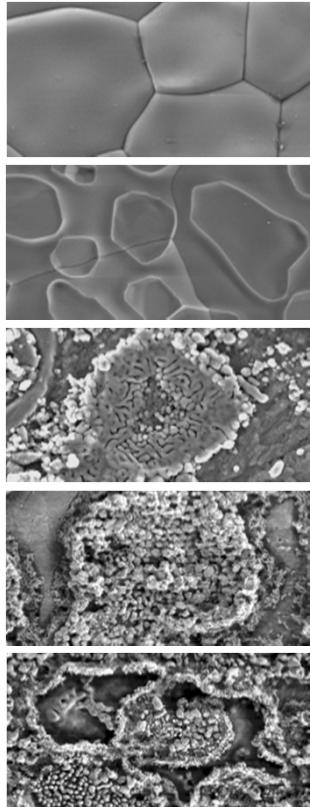


M. J. Heneka, E. Ivers-Tiffée: Degradation of SOFC Single Cells Under Severe Current Cycles. In: S. C. Singhal, J. Mizusaki (Hrsg.), Proc. 9th Int. Symp. on SOFC, PV 2005-07, The Electrochemical Society, 534-543 (2005)



# Analysis of Degradation Phenomena

## Impact of Load Cycles on LZO-layer at the LSM/8YSZ Interface

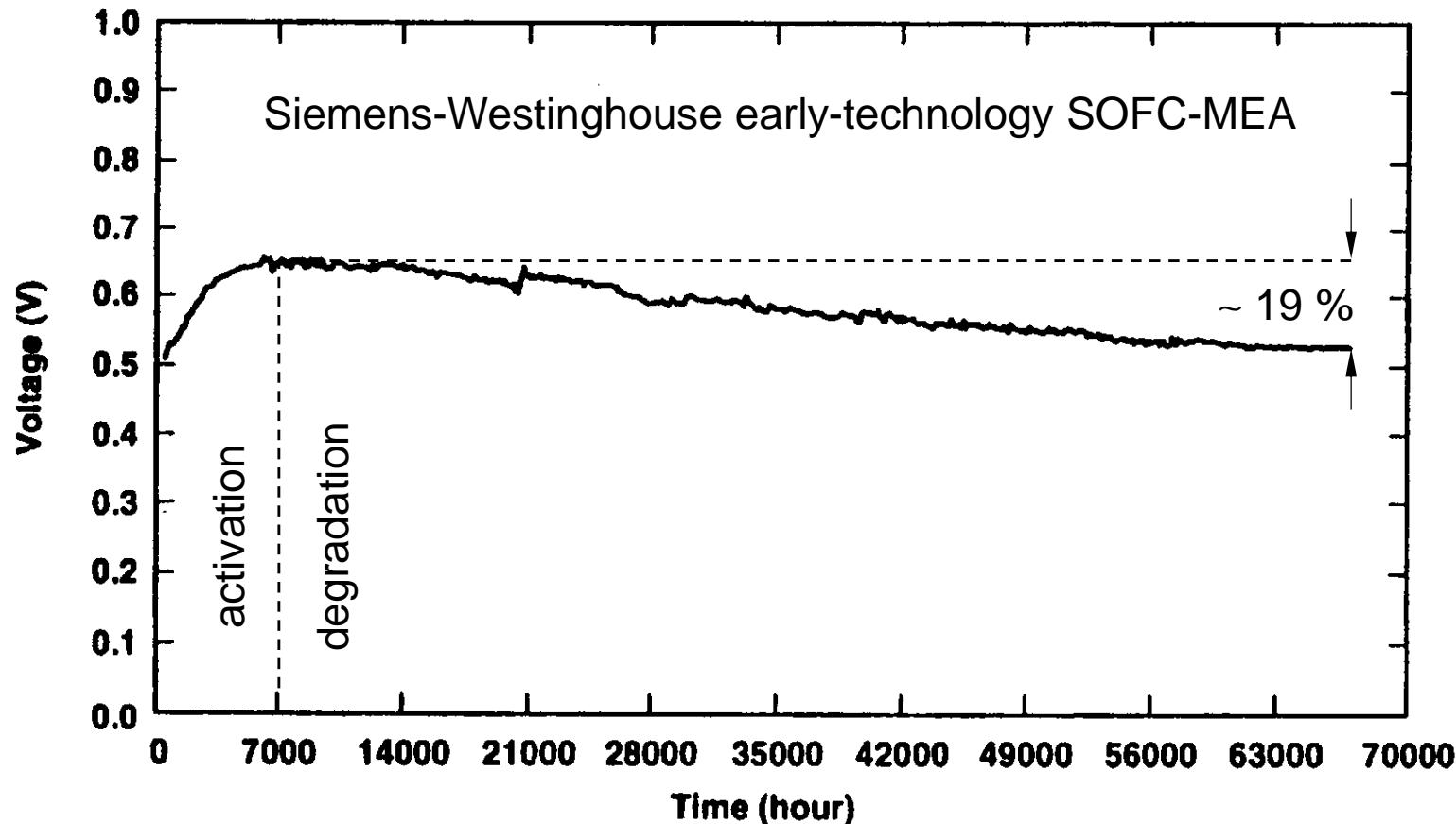


the more intensive the current treatment (amplitude/ cycles), the more the LZO-content increases.

M. J. Heneka, E. Ivers-Tiffée: Degradation of SOFC Single Cells Under Severe Current Cycles. In: S. C. Singhal, J. Mizusaki (Hrsg.), Proc. 9th Int. Symp. on SOFC, PV 2005-07, The Electrochemical Society, 534-543 (2005)

# Analysis of Fuel Cell Long-Term Stability

## Can we Afford Long-Term Measurements?



**duration**  
69,000 h  
8 years  
1989 – 1997

**assume**  
\$ 100 per day

**cost**  
\$ 300,000 total

**degradation**  
19 % total  
0.3 % / 1,000 h

**results**  
available after  
5...10 years

MEA: membrane-electrode assembly



Institut für Angewandte Materialien  
Werkstoffe der Elektrotechnik

Quelle: IWE

[www.iam.kit.edu/wet](http://www.iam.kit.edu/wet)

# Analysis of Fuel Cell Long-Term Stability

## Motivation for Accelerated Lifetime Testing

### **lifetime**

lifetime is a critical issue for the success of fuel cells at market.

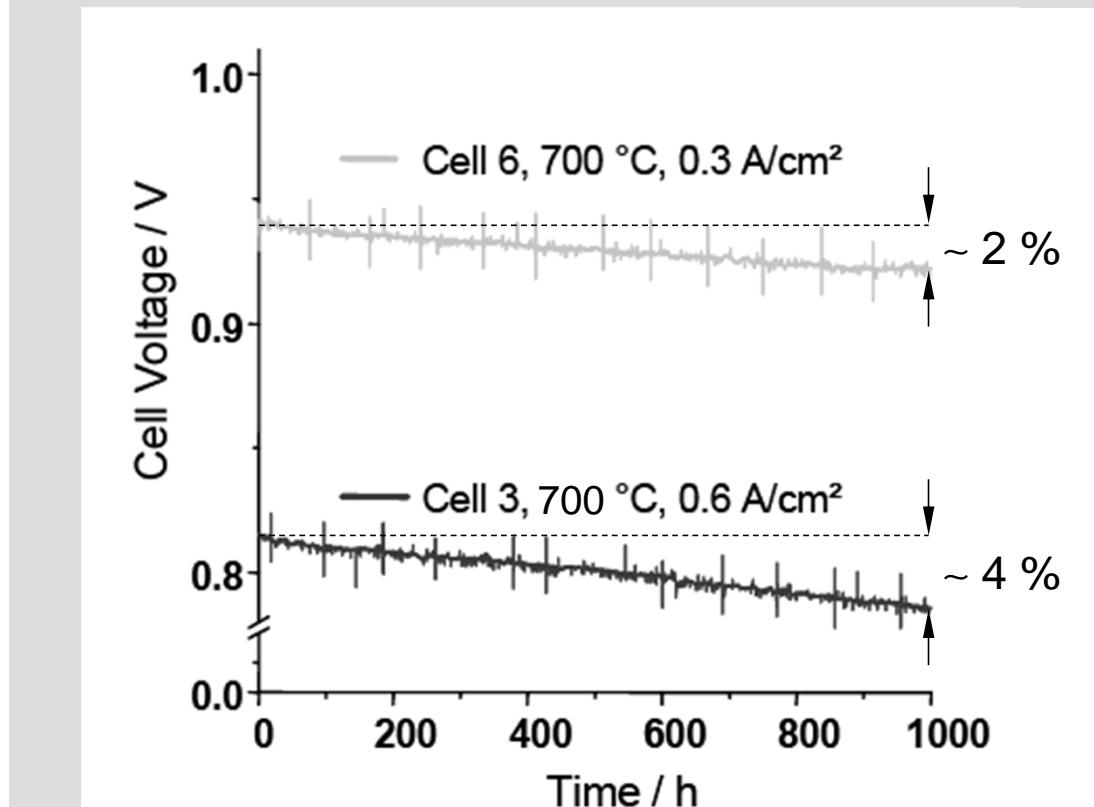
### **challenges**

- long-term measurements are time consuming and thus expensive.
- if the total damage obtained during long-term test is low, the physical degradation mechanisms are difficult to identify.

### **possible solution**

accelerated life testing (ALT) for fuel cell components and single cells

**example:** damage during long-term test may be low.



(M. Becker et al., SOFC IX, PV2005-07, 2005)



# Basic Concepts in Reliability Engineering

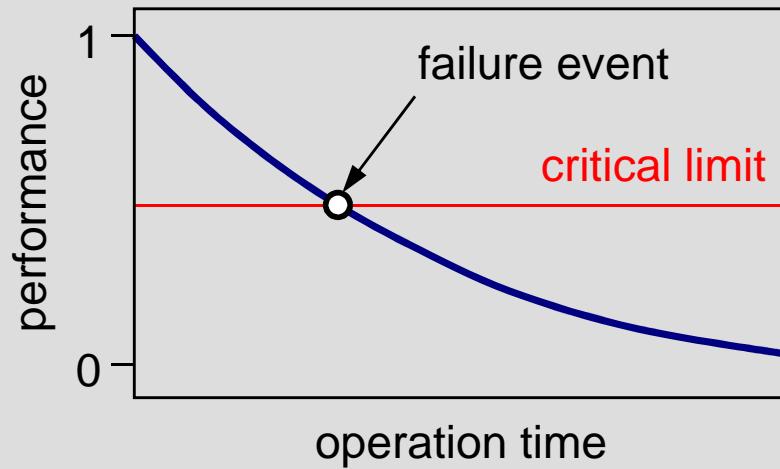
## Definition of Failure Event and Time-To-Failure

### soft failure

gradual performance loss until (pre-defined) critical level is reached.

#### example

- voltage/ power degradation in fuel cells



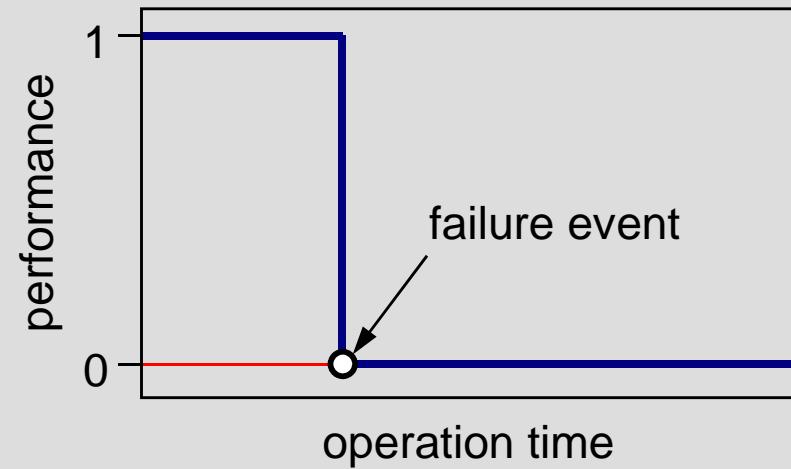
(Meeker et al., Technometrics, 40, 1998)

### hard failure

sudden loss of functionality – the device stops working.

#### example

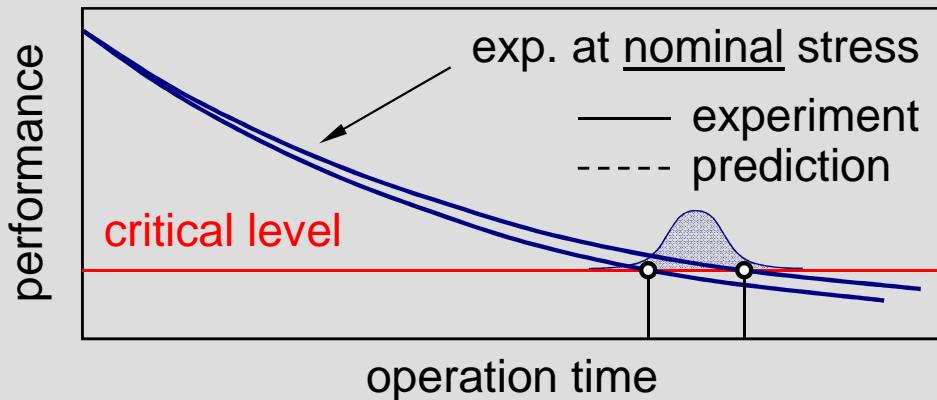
- light bulb burns out



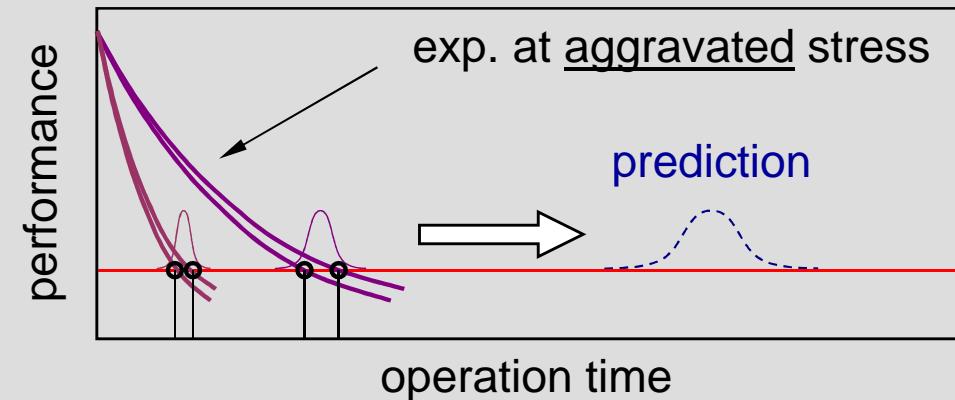
# Lifetime and Degradation Assessment

## Overview of Life Testing Methods

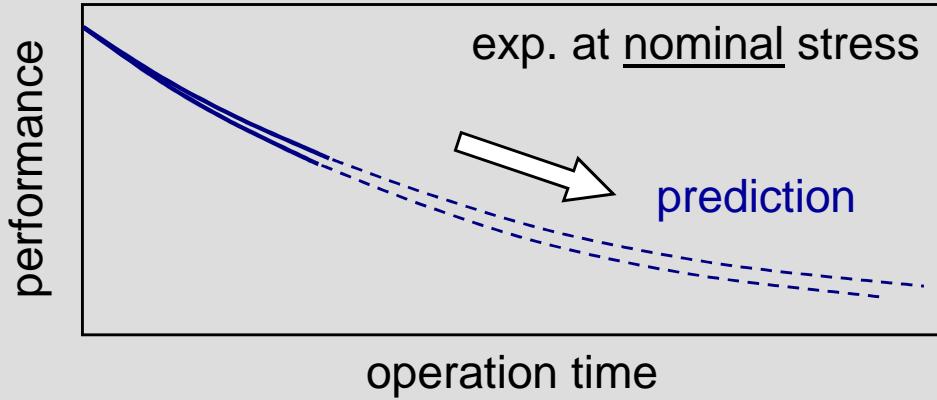
### "conventional" life testing



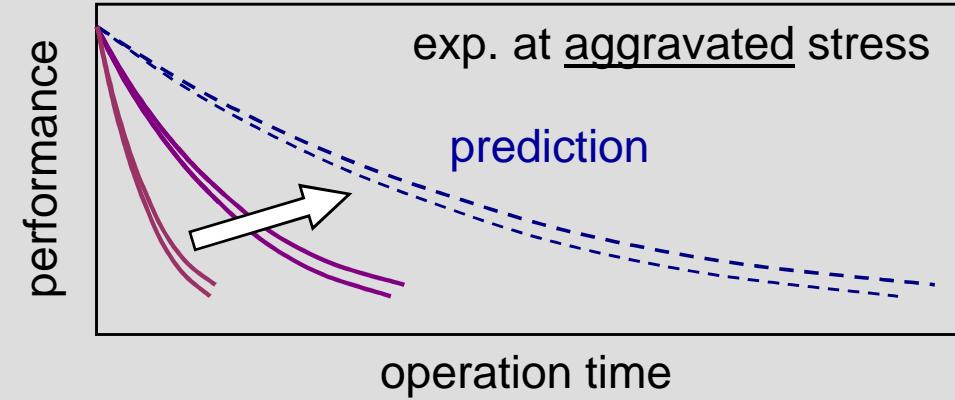
### accelerated life testing



### degradation testing



### accelerated degradation testing



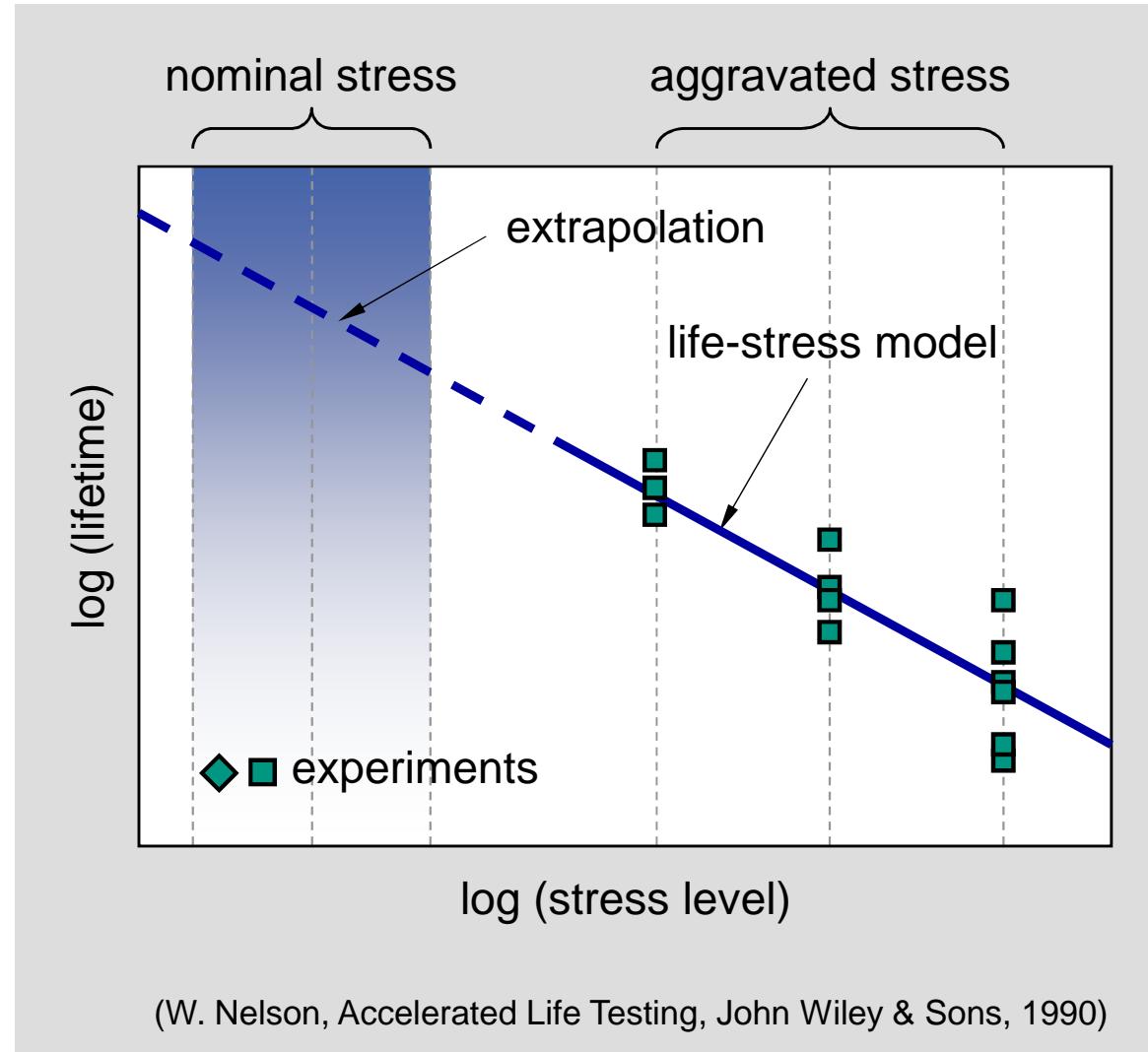
# Accelerated Life Testing Approach and Advantages

## approach

- degradation is accelerated by means of aggravated stress (current load, temperature, etc.).
- life-stress relationship is modelled by the use of failure data.
- extrapolation of life-stress model gives a prediction for service life at nominal stress.

## advantages

- physical consequences of degradation appear more clearly, mechanisms are identified more easily.
- precious measurement time is saved, lifetime is evaluated rapidly.



# Accelerated Life Testing

## Competing Failure Modes in Accelerated Testing

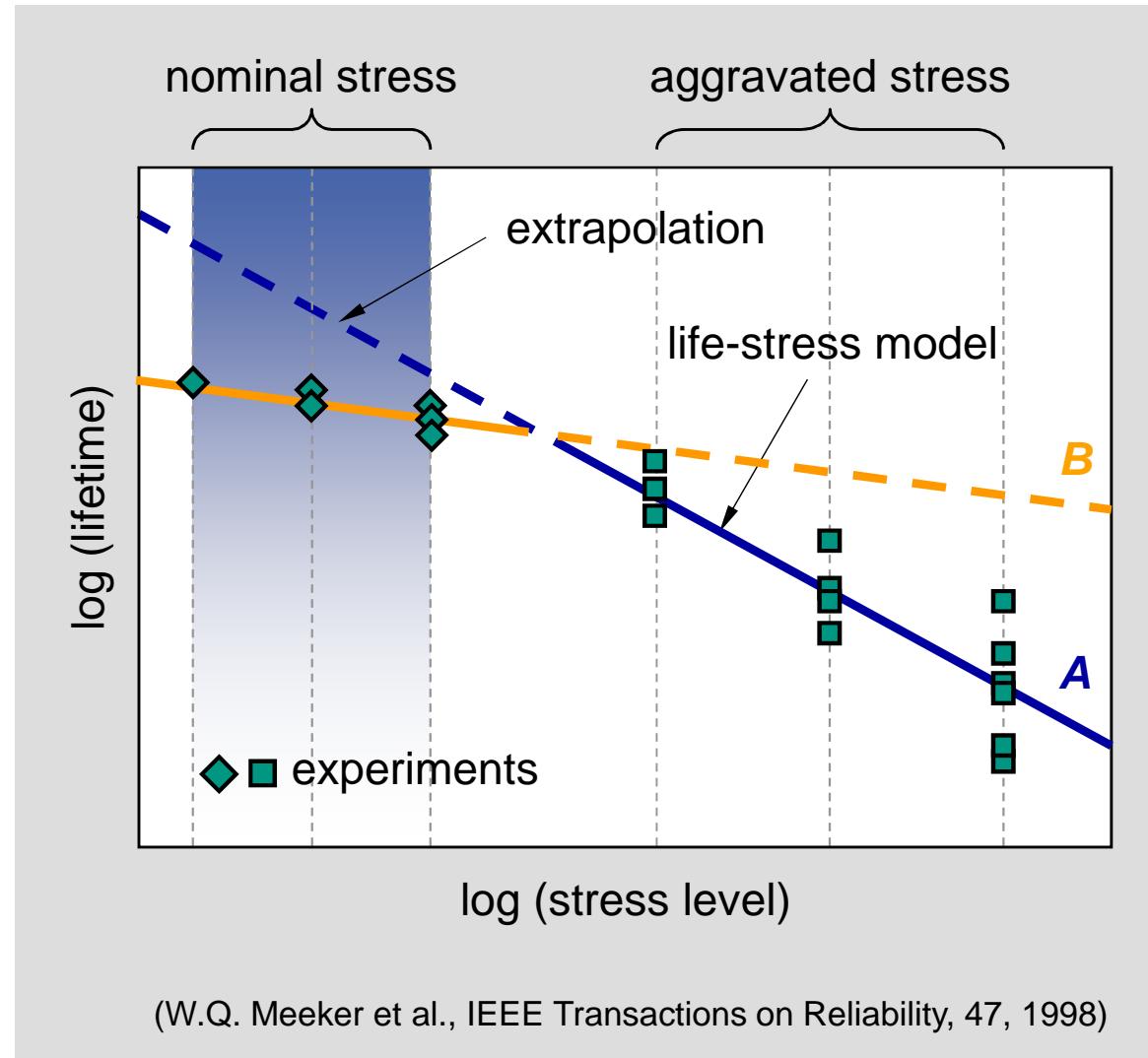
### difficulty

- if there are competing failure modes, accelerated life testing may lead to incorrect statements.

### example

- two degradation processes  $A$ ,  $B$ .
- degradation mechanism  $B$  is masked by failure mode  $A$  at aggravated stress levels.
- extrapolation of life-stress model to nominal stress levels will be wrong.

failure mechanisms  $A$ ,  $B$  need to be separated for correct life modelling!



(W.Q. Meeker et al., IEEE Transactions on Reliability, 47, 1998)

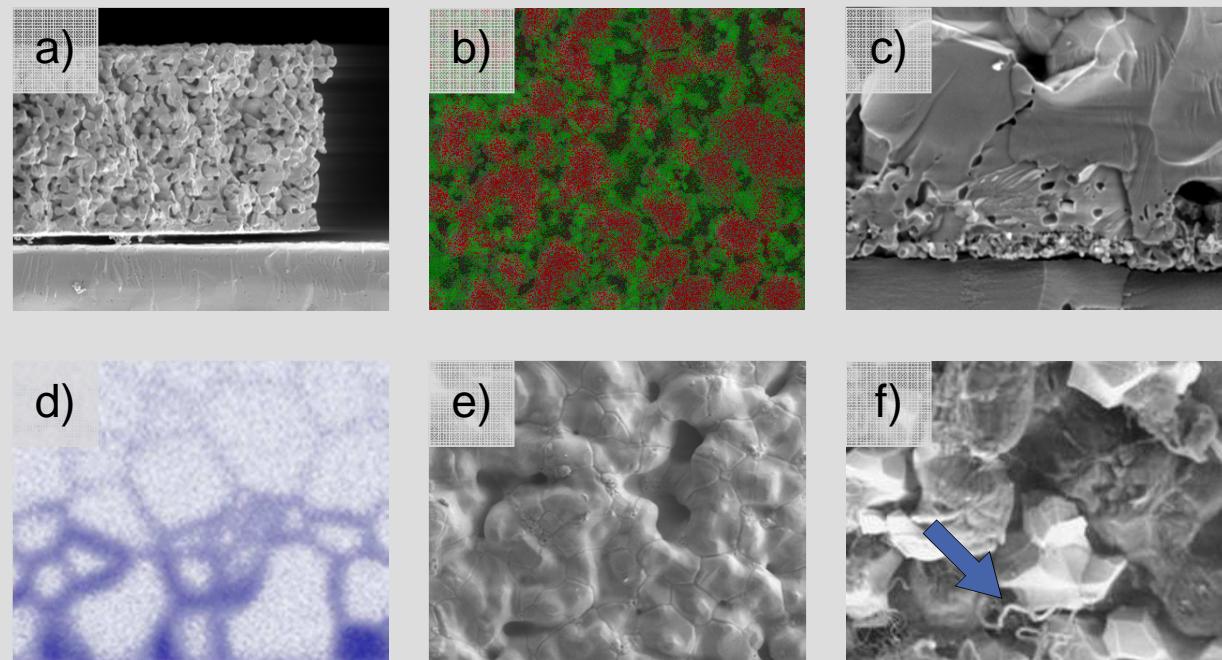
# Accelerated Life Testing

## Competing Degradation Processes in Solid Oxide Fuel Cells

### in SOFC

many potentially competing degradation mechanisms are known:

- a) delamination of layers
- b) agglomeration of catalyst particles
- c) formation of secondary phases
- d) interdiffusion and demixing
- e) densification of porous electrodes
- f) carbon deposition in anode
- g) electrolyte conductivity loss
- h) corrosion of interconnects
- i) etc.



⇒ in addition, activation processes that improve the performance are known (from cathodes).