Planar ZEBRA Battery for Renewable Integration and Grid Applications

John P. Lemmon

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Pacific Northwest
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Acknowledgements

- ARPA-E Storage Program

  PNNL directed R&D fund

- Staff at PNNL:

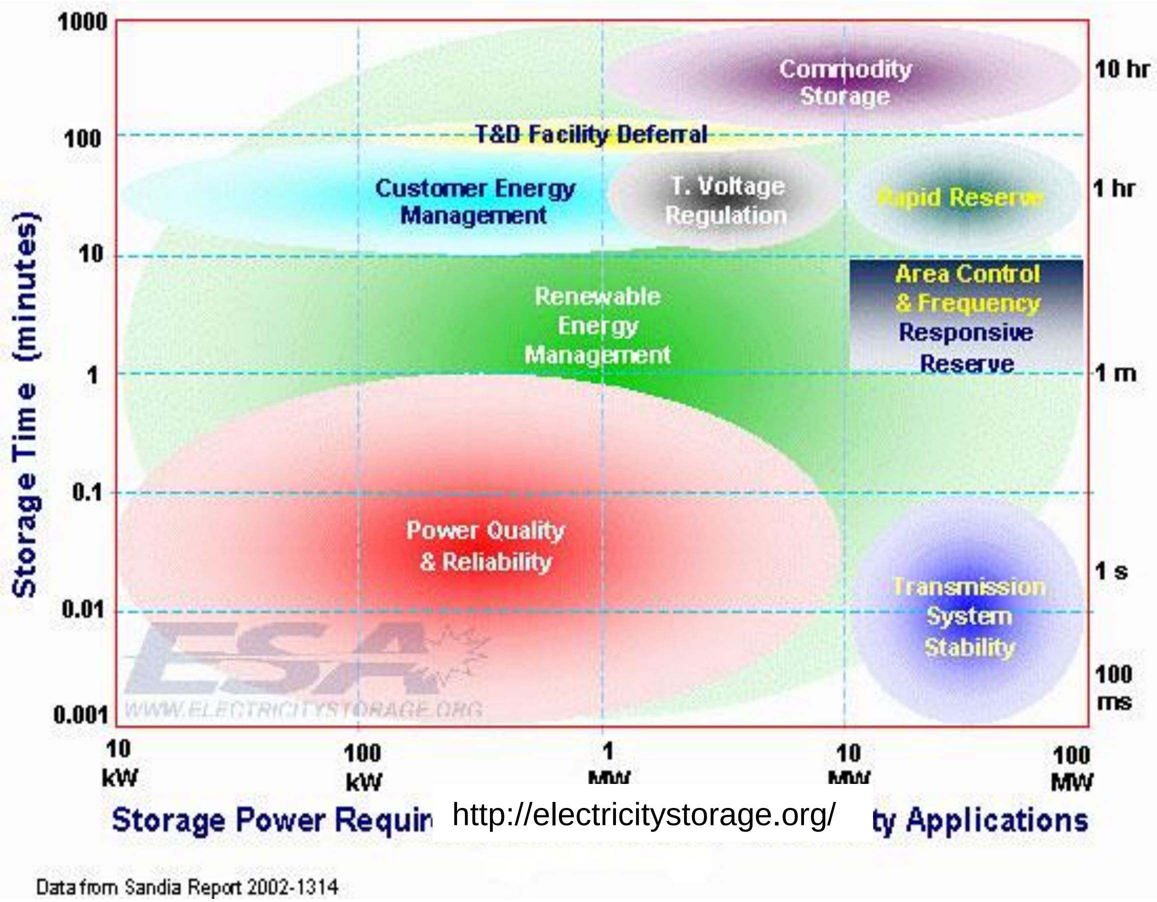
  Battery Team: Xiaochuan Lu, Guosheng Li, Vince Sprenkle ,Gary Yang, Kerry Meinhardt, Greg Coffey, Nathan Campbell, Eric Mast, Brent Kirby, Amy Chen, Jun Liu

  NMR Team: Jianzhi Hu, Mary Wu, Ju Feng

  Project support: Jud Virden, Gordon Graff

Technology and economic requirements

- **Energy/power**: depending on applications;
- **Quick response** preferable;
- **Discharge duration**: seconds ~ hours
- **Efficiency**: High, preferable;
- **Life**: >10~15yrs, >5,000 deep cycles, higher for shallow cycles, depending on applications;
- Safety



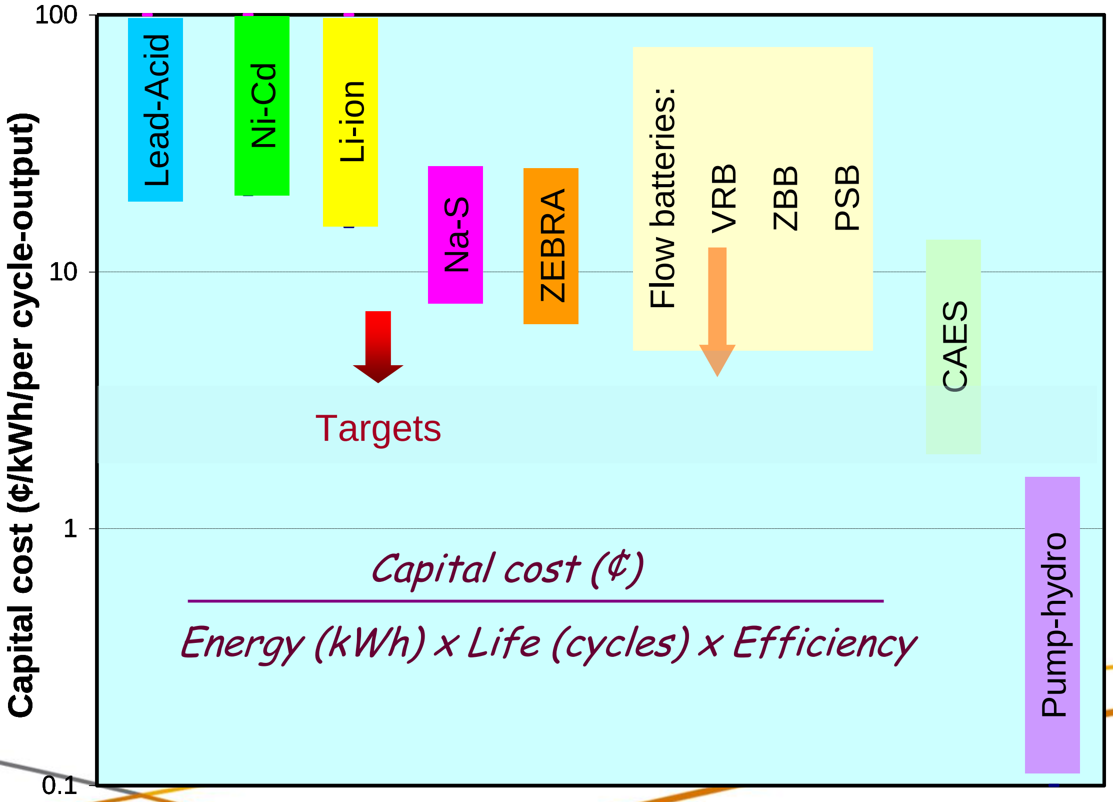
http://electricitystorage.org/

Data from Sandia Report 2002-1314

- **Costs**: low capital cost, life cycle cost, social cost (considering carbon effects)

Economic and technical challenges

- Cost at least 2~3 x higher for broad market penetration
- Better economy reliant on improved reliability, durability, life and efficiency, along with manufacturing
- Require science and technology advancement



$$\frac{\text{Capital cost (¢)}}{\text{Energy (kWh)} \times \text{Life (cycles)} \times \text{Efficiency}}$$

Life cycle cost: 4¢/kWh/cycle

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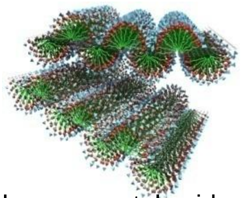
Electrochemical Energy Storage at PNNL

Transformational Materials Design and Synthesis

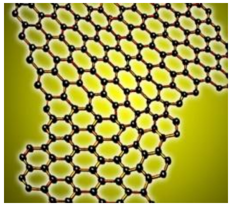
Key Focus:

- Synthesis and assembly of multifunctional nanomaterials
- Establish controlled defect chemistry and architectures
- Optimization of properties that effect transport and storage of charged species.

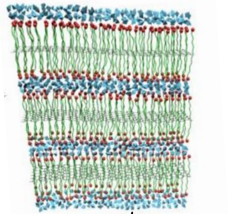
Molecular and Nano-scale Building Blocks



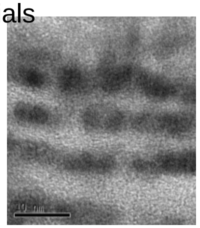
Polymers, metal oxides, surfactants, graphene sheets



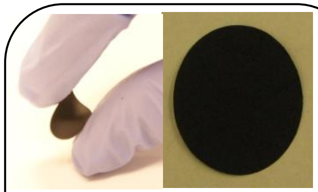
Self-Assembled Superstructures



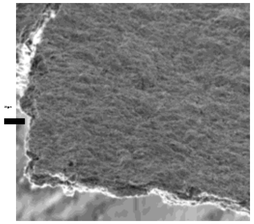
Multi-component nano-composites and nanoporous materials



High Performance Device Components

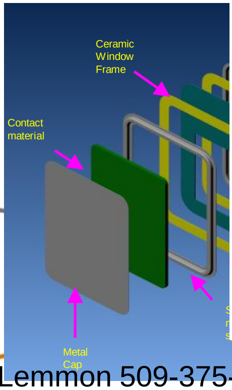


Electrodes for batteries, supercapacitors and sensors



High Power Planar Sodium Metal Halide

Large area planar cell → battery stack



High Performance Lithium Ion

1.5~1.7 V

CHEMICAL REVIEWS

REVIEW

pubs.acs.org/CR

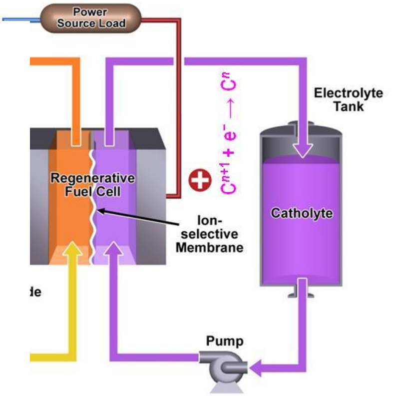
Electrochemical Energy Storage for Green Grid

Zhenguo Yang,* Jianlu Zhang, Michael C. W. Kintner-Meyer, Xiaochuan Lu, Daiwon Choi, John P. Lemmon, and Jun Liu

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352, United States

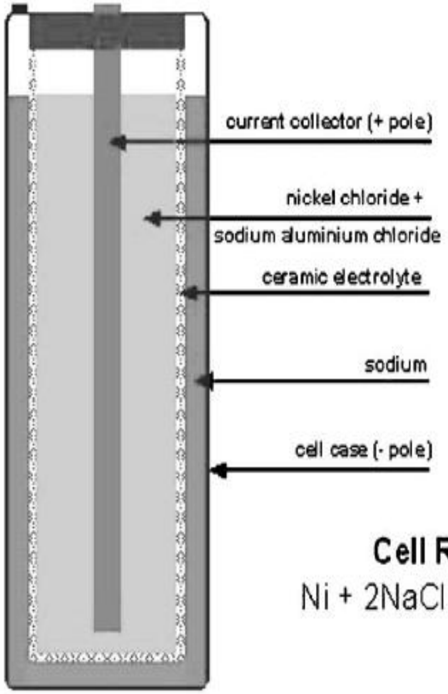
TiO_2-base co rane Olivine $LiFePO_4$

Redox Flow Batteries V based and PV Charging



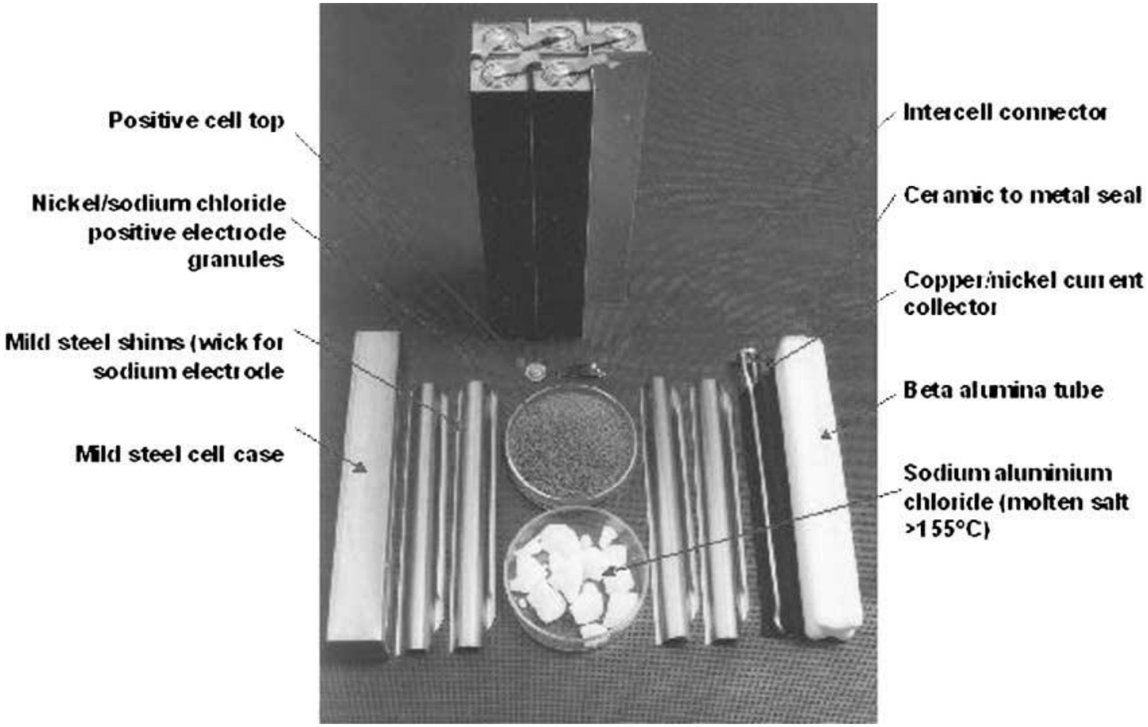
Na–Metal Halide - ZEBRA Battery

Beta Research and Development Ltd.



Cell Reaction

$Ni + 2NaCl \Leftrightarrow Na + NiCl_2$



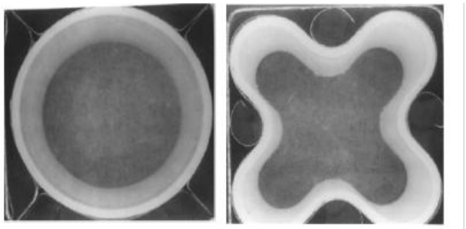
Advantages: High energy density, cycle life, short circuit failure mode, low cost materials, manufactured in discharged state.
Disadvantages: High IR, molten Na, high operating temperature.

Sudworth, J. L. *J. Power Sources,* **100**, 2001, 149-163

Na–Metal Halide - ZEBRA Battery

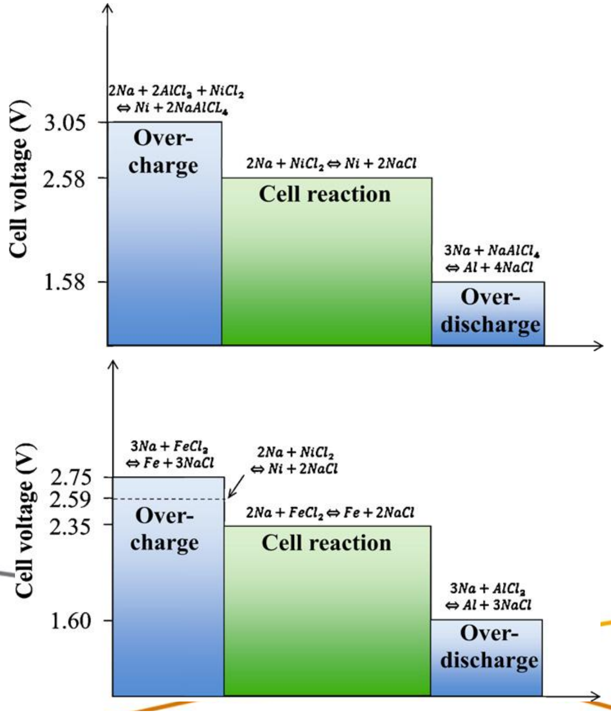
Beta Research and Development Ltd. high power cells.

Decrease geometric factor.

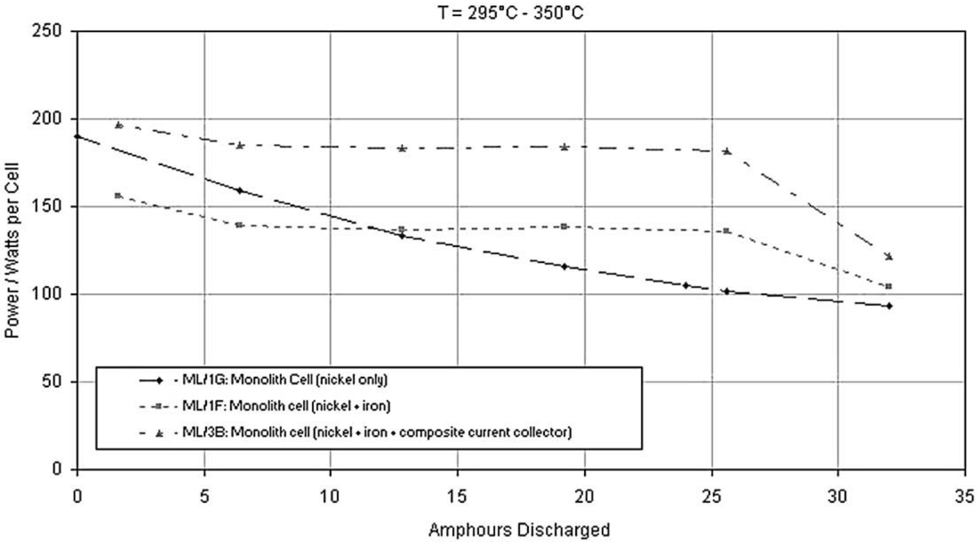


BASE Tubes, (1-2mm)

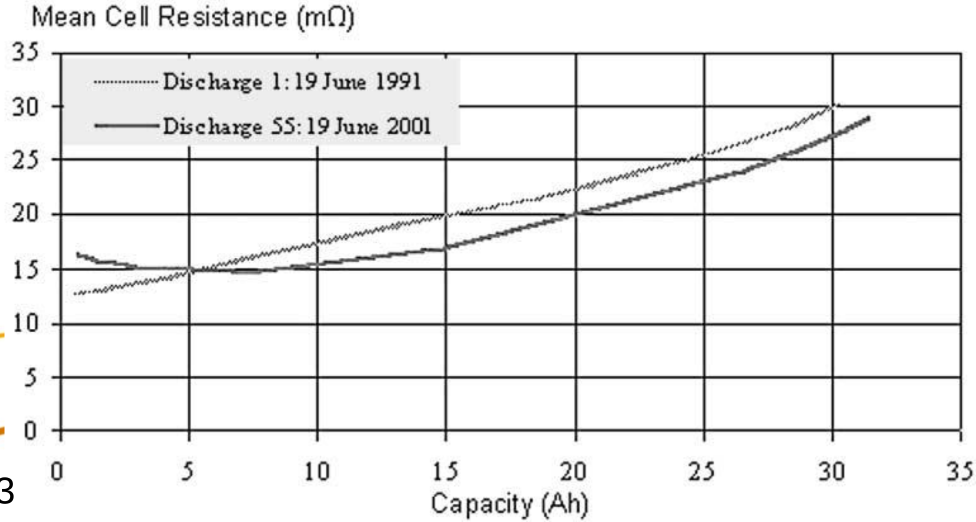
Mixed Fe and Ni cathode.



Pulsed power characteristics vs DoD

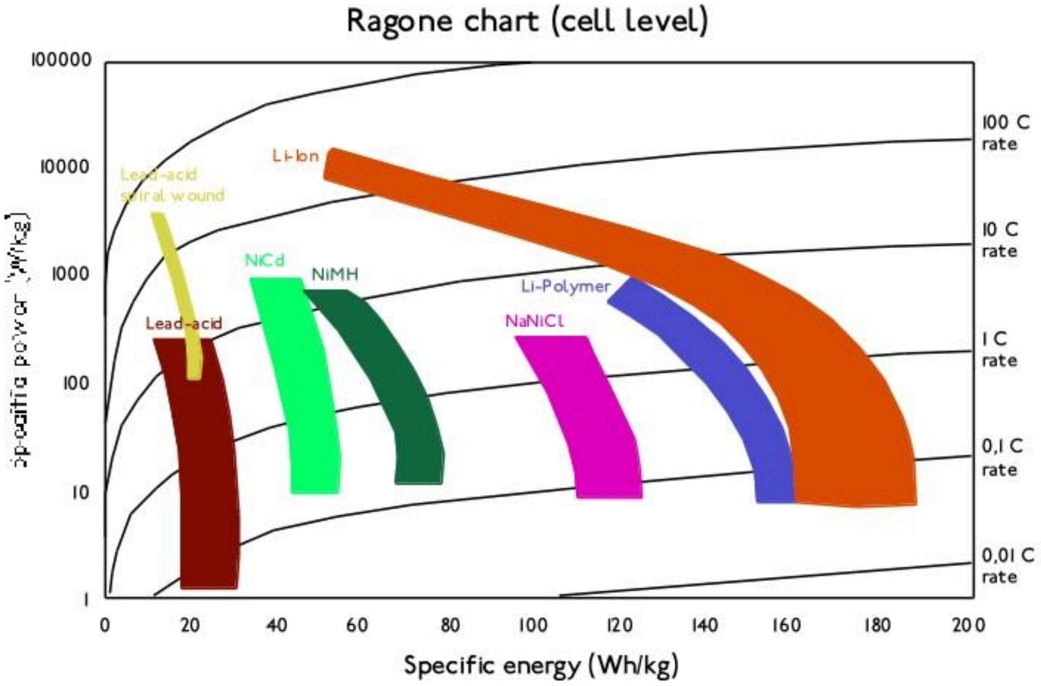


Effects of self discharge and freeze thaw cycles.



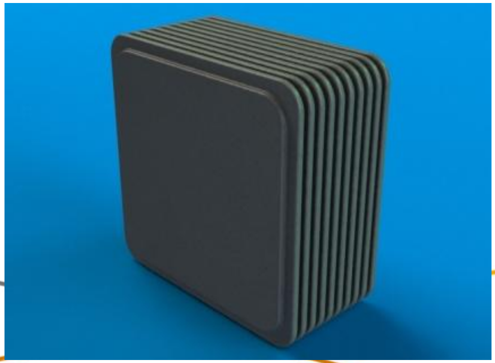
Sudworth, J. L. *J. Power Sources*, **100**, 2001, 149-163

Na-metal halide battery development

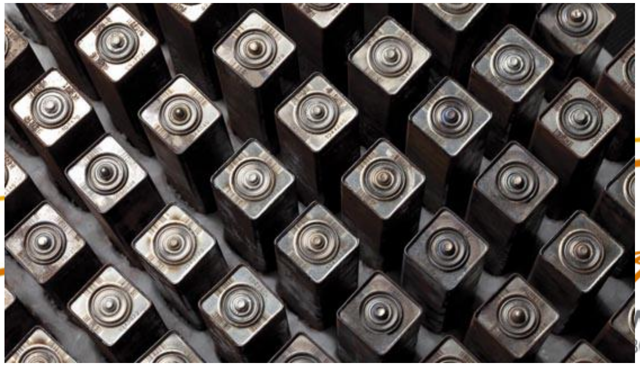


- ☐ MESDEA and FZ Sonick (joint venture b/w FIAMM MESDEA) for both mobile and stationary applications

- ☐ Eagle Picher developing planar designs



- ☐ General electric for locomotive and backup power applications



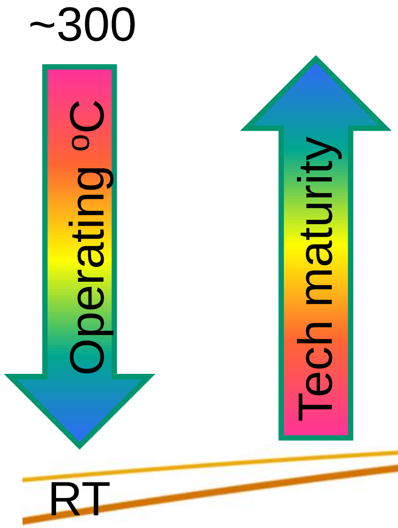
Na-Battery Focus Areas at PNNL

Progression of sodium battery technology

- Gen 1: High Temperature (250-300°C), BASE
  - Modular planar design (flat plate), tunable power and energy.
  - Multi-metal cathode, decrease Ni.
  - Need for better fundamental understanding – additives, mass transport.

- Gen 2: Reduced Temperature (110-250°C),
  - Approach to low cost and higher power density.
  - Na ion conducting membrane.
  - Stable catholyte

- Gen 3: Low Temperature (RT- 90°C),
  - Approach to Na-ion (polymer membrane)
  - Anode materials
  - High energy capacity cathode.



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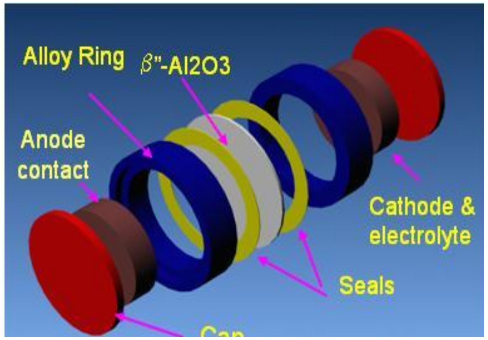
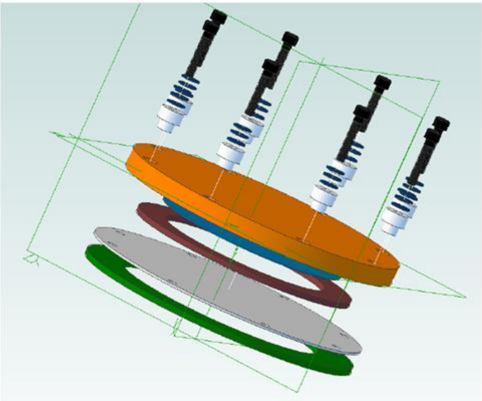
Path to Planar Na Battery

3.0cm^2 Button Cell



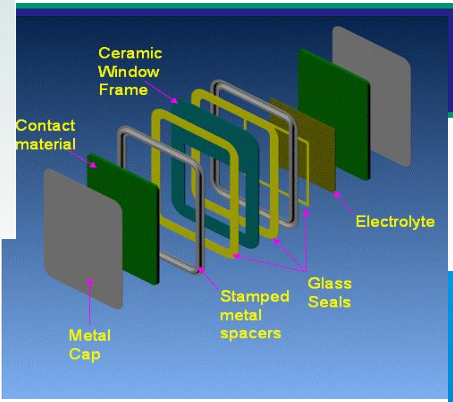
Materials development and performance testing.

64cm^2 XL-Button Cell



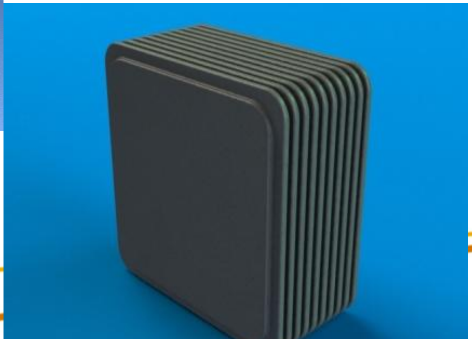
Materials scale-up with large-scale performance and life testing.

100cm^2 Planar Cell



Manufacturing friendly components and fabrication techniques.

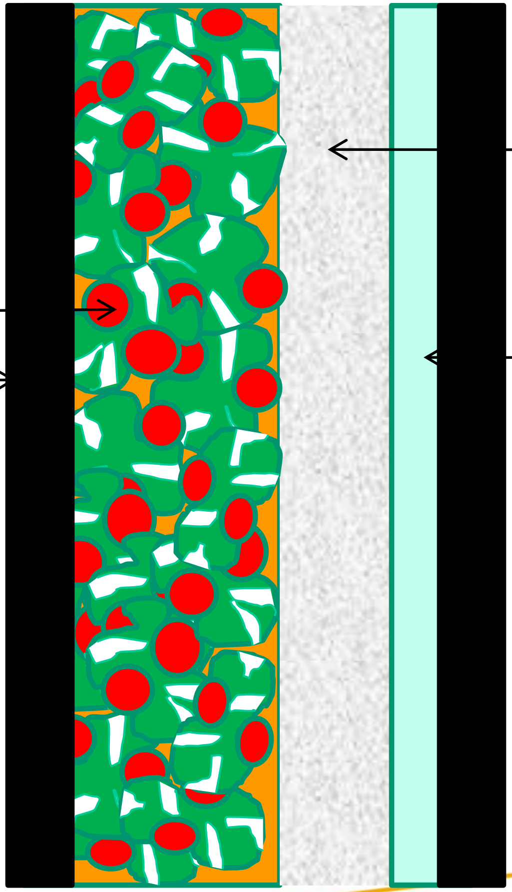
200cm^2 Stack



Modular stack design with performance and life testing.

Na-$NiCl_2$ Battery Description

Discharged State
Ni + 2NaCl



Cathode
1) Ni
2) NaCl
3) FeS, NaI
4) $NaAlCl_4$

Cathode
Current Collector

BASE

Anode Compartment

Anode
Current collector

BASE Conversion Process

Mixed region of β and β”
$Na_2O \cdot nAl_2O_3$ (5.33 ≤ n ≤ 8.5).

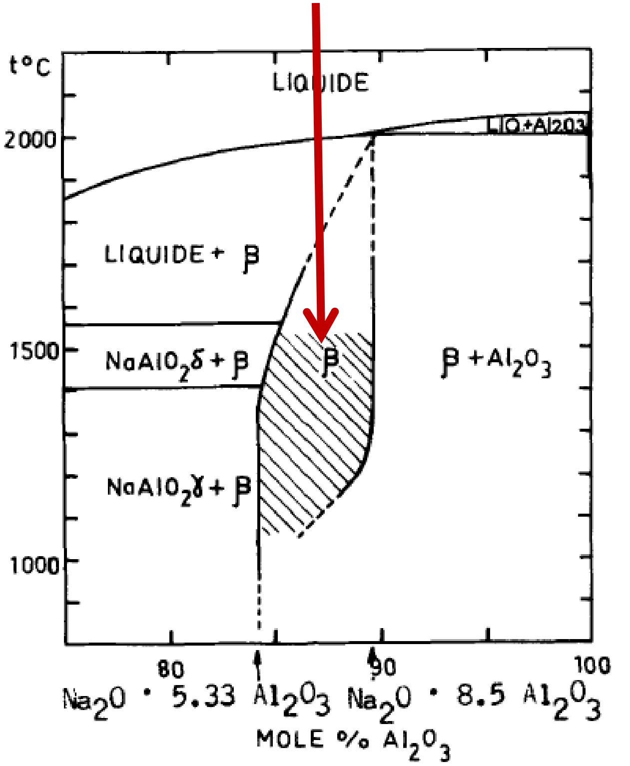
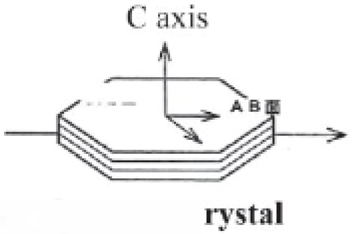
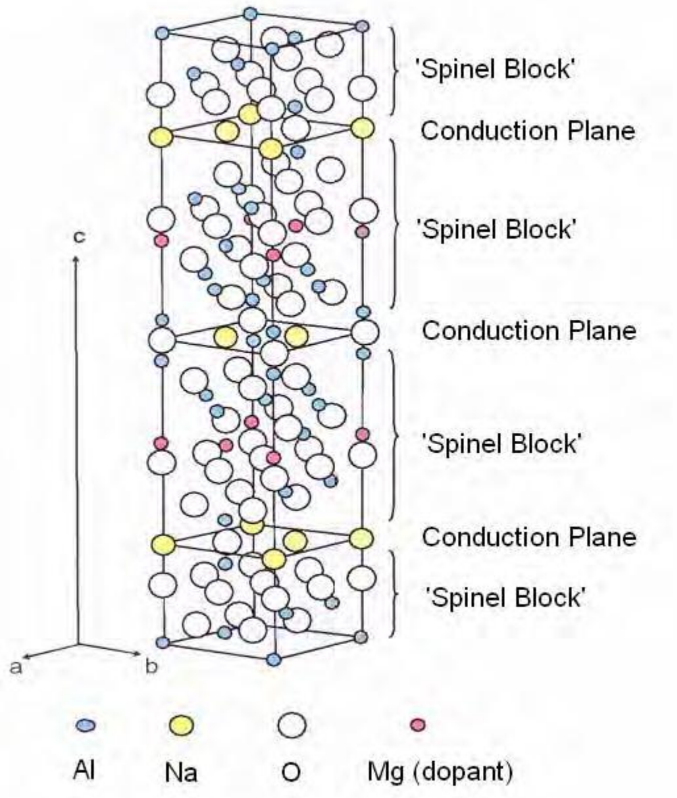


Fig. 1. Existence range of β-alumina. β + β” coexist in the cross hatched region of the diagram.

Fally, et al JECS 120[10] 1973

β” - phase
$Na_2O \cdot 5.33Al_2O_3$



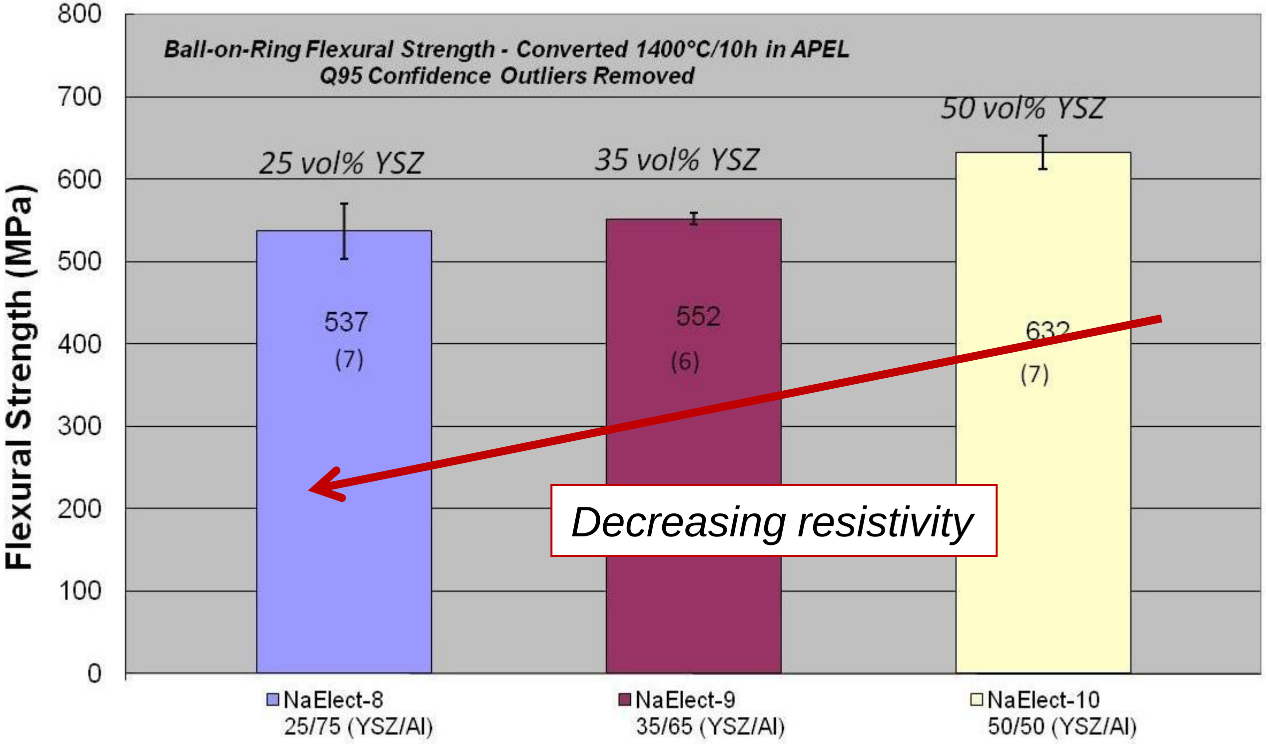


Journal of Ceramic Processing Research. Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 86~91 (2010)

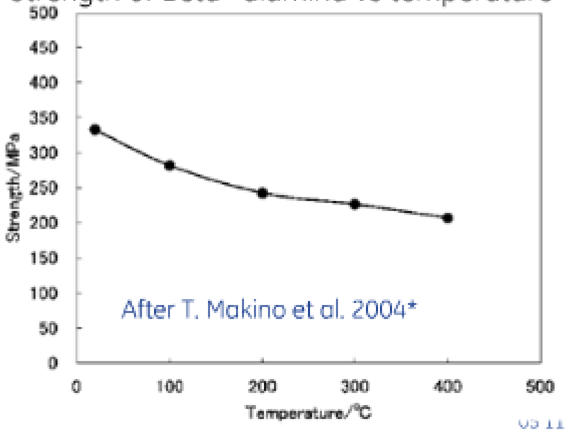
Complete conversion of Al_20_3 to BASE is critical to consistent performance. Other factors influencing performance include, grain size, orientation, and density to avoid failure modes.

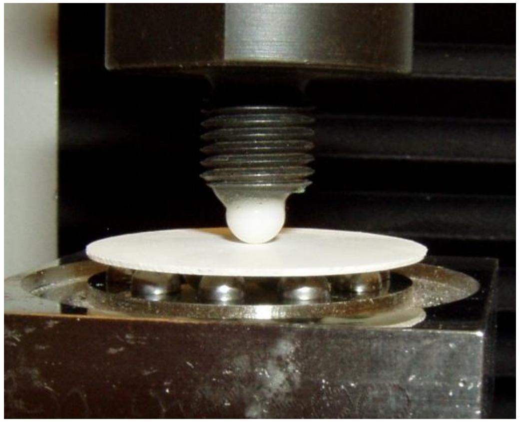
BASE Strength Properties

Flexural Strength (Mpa) vs Volume % YSZ in BASE



Strength of Beta"-alumina vs temperature



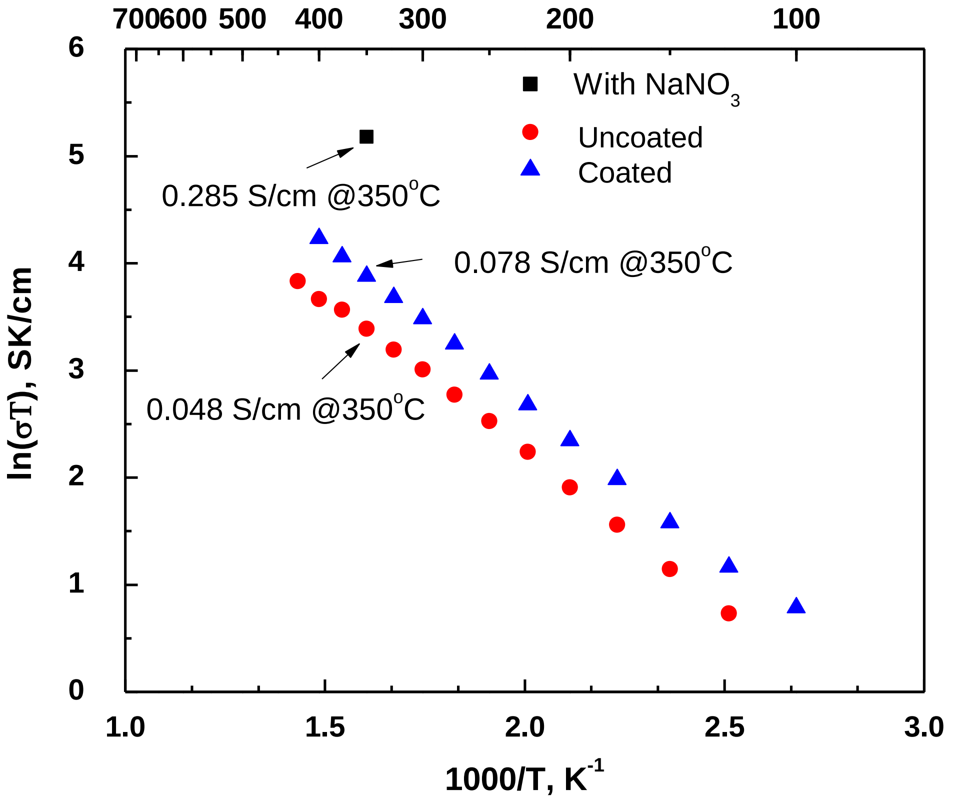


Optimize BASE formulation for strength and conductivity.

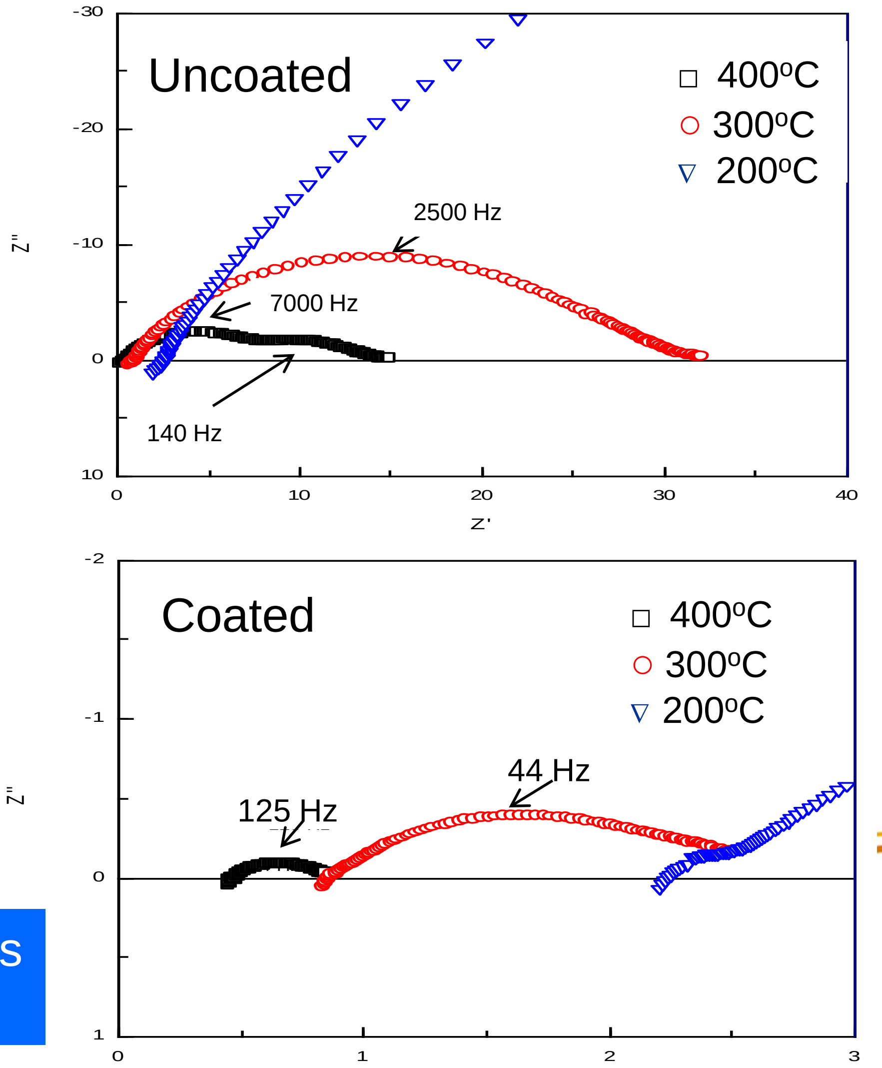
- *Ball on Ring flexural testing on 1.0" diameter converted BASE. 25 to 50% YSZ content.*

BASE Surface Properties(1mm)

Effect of BASE coating on β"-Al_2O_3 (Ionotec) conductivity at $200 mA/cm^2$ in Na/BASE/Na cell.

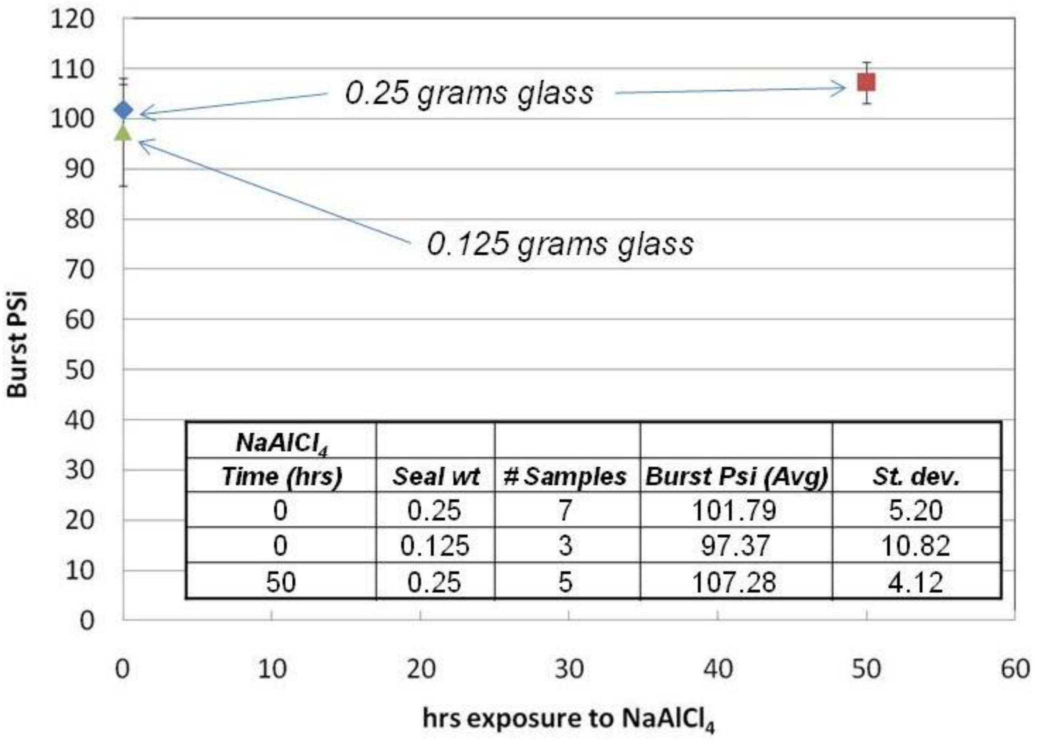


Comparison of interfacial resistance using EIS of Ionotec BASE in Na/BASE/Na Cell



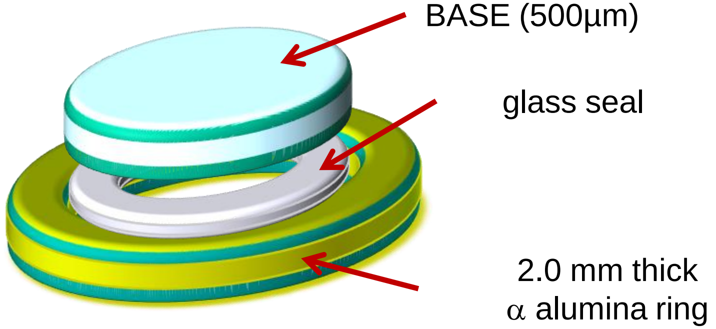
Large decrease in interfacial resistance as a function of surface and coating agents.

BASE/Seal Differential Pressure Test and Chemical Stability

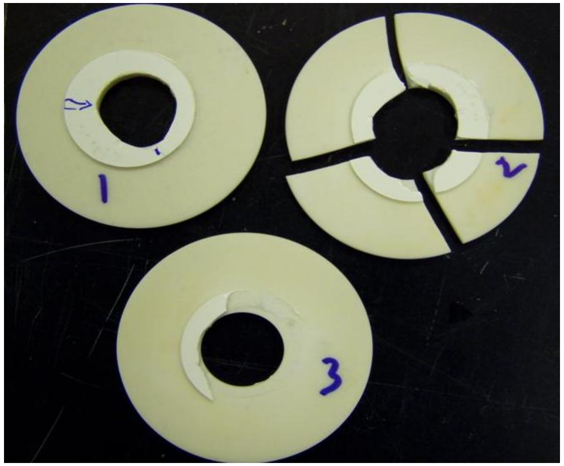


$NaAlCl_4$ Time (hrs)	Seal wt	# Samples	Burst Psi (Avg)	St. dev.
0	0.25	7	101.79	5.20
0	0.125	3	97.37	10.82
50	0.25	5	107.28	4.12

Schematic of pressure sample assembly

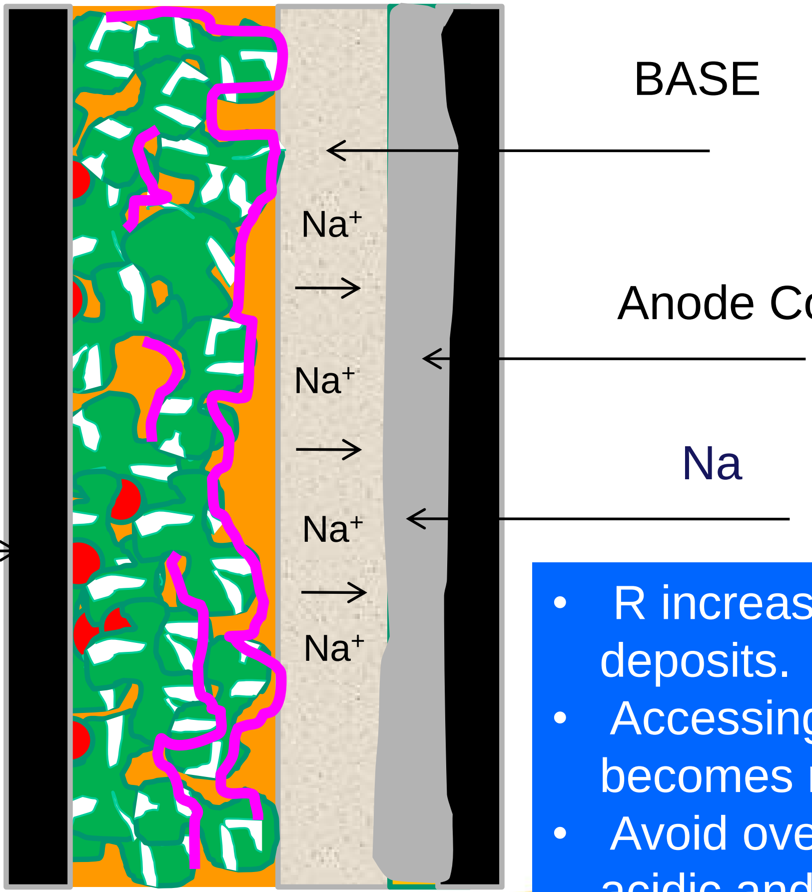


Failure Modes



Differential pressure in cell can reach 2 atm on cycling. Current seal holds 6atm DP, with only one failure at the seal. Larger cells use current collector as support structure.

Na-$NiCl_2$ Battery Description



Charged State
$NiCl_2 \rightarrow Na$

Cathode
1) Ni
2) NaCl
3) FeS, NaI, NaF
4) $NaAlCl_4$
5) $NiCl_2$

Cathode
Current Collector

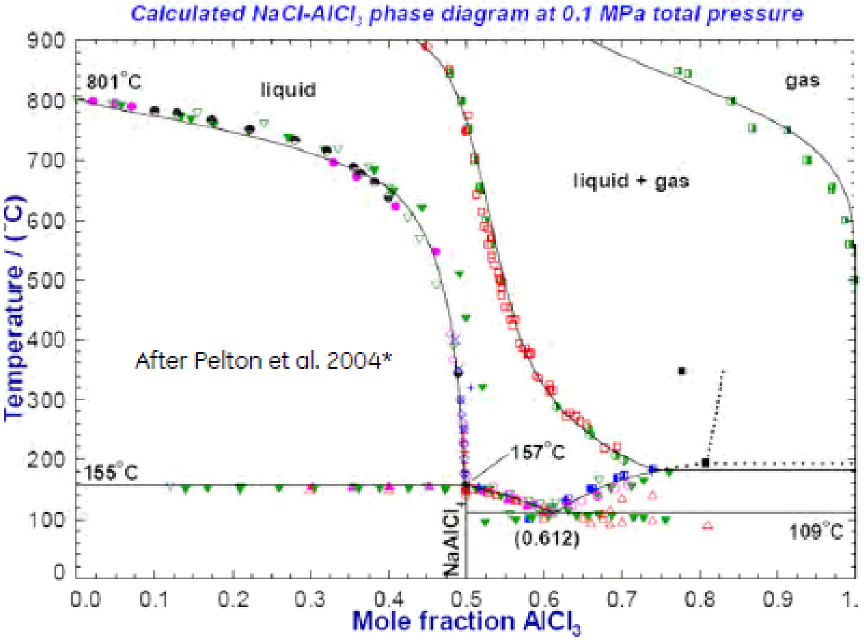
BASE

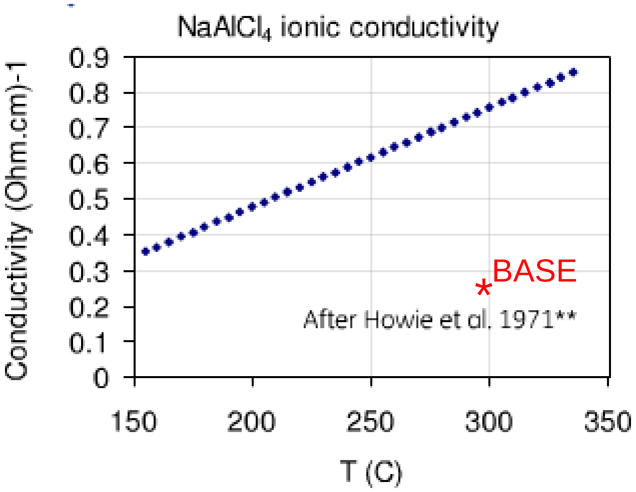
Anode Compartment

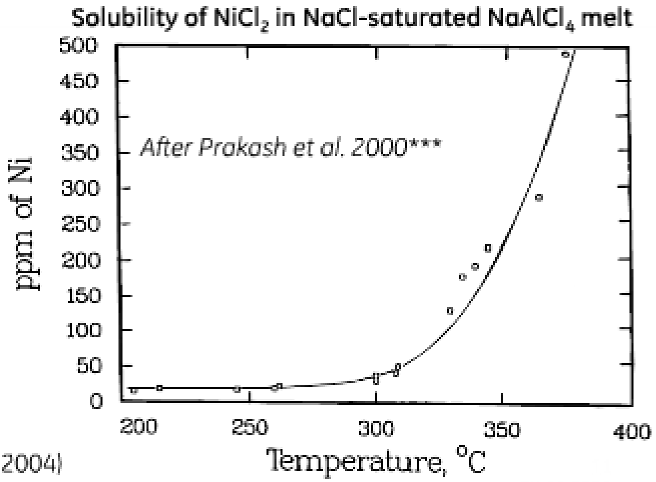
Na

- R increase as SOC as $NiCl_2$ deposits.
- Accessing NaCl deep in the cell becomes more difficult.
- Avoid over charging, melt turns acidic and $NiCl_2$ will dissolve.

Secondary Electrolyte ($NaAlCl_4$) Properties







Basic

- ($NiCl_4^{2-}$) formation.

Solubility increases w/ temperature swings > 320°C, renders Ni electrochemically inaccessible.

Acidic

- Ni^{2+} increased solubility
- Localized acidic areas

during high pulse power, Ni^{2+} detrimental to BASE

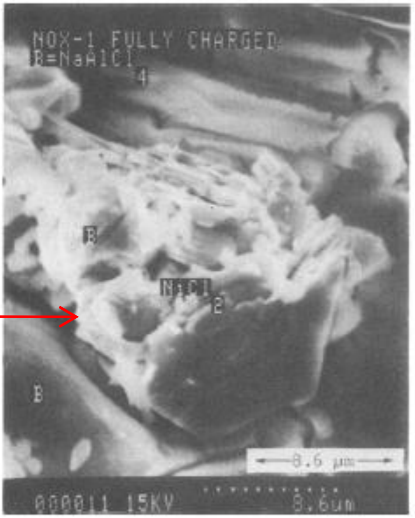
(2004)
86 (1971)

* C. Robelin et al. *J. Chem. Therm.* 36, 683 (2004)
** Howie et al *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.*, 33, 3686 (1971)
*** *J.Prakash et al., J. Electrochem. Soc., 147502 (2000)*

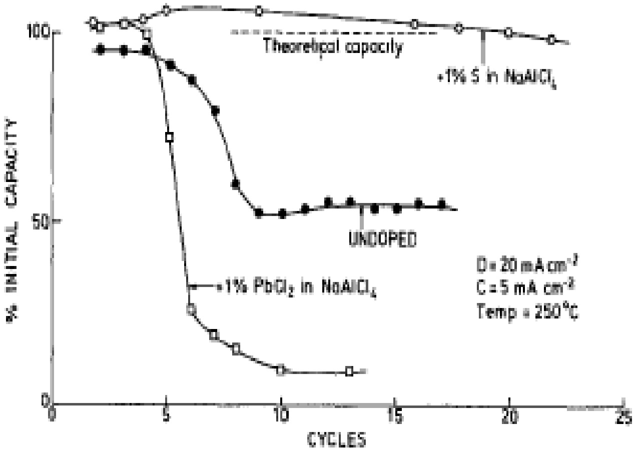
Non equilibrium conditions in melt affects performance and cycle life.

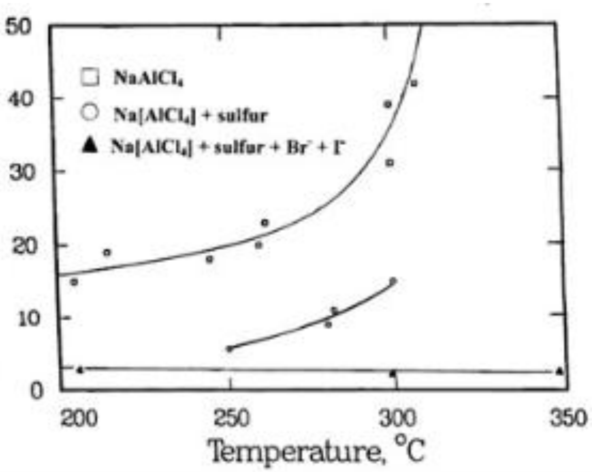
Cathode and SE ($NaAlCl_4$) Sulfur Additives

Role of S additives in charged state:



$NiCl_2/Ni$



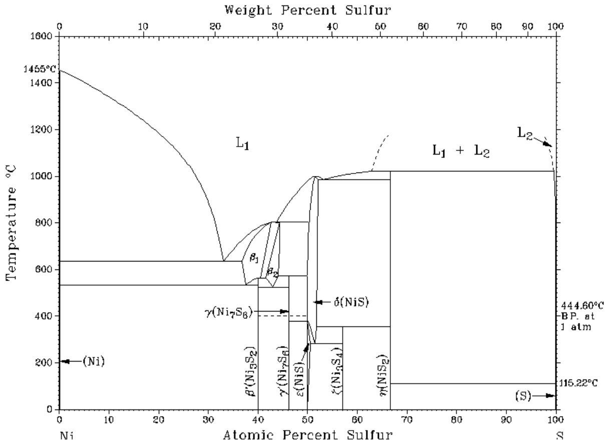


J. Electrochem. Soc., Vol. 136, No. 5, May 1989

Effect of S additive on cell capacity and $NiCl_2$ solubility in basic SE

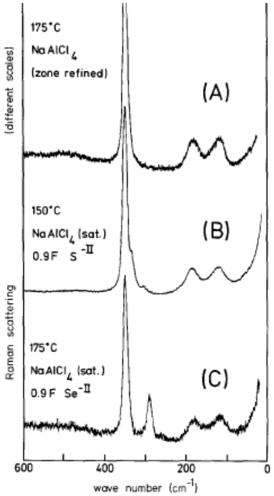
Sulfur distribution in cathode:

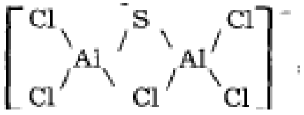
A) Reaction with Ni



J. Electrochem. Soc., Vol. 140, No. 12, December 1993

B) Complex formation





C) Electrochemical

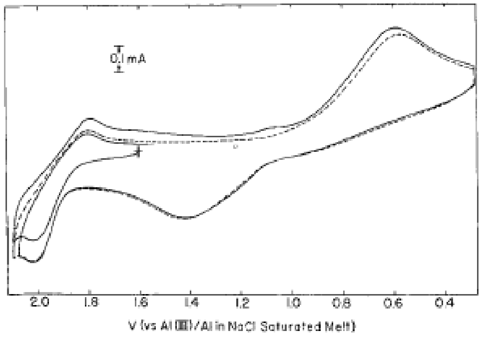
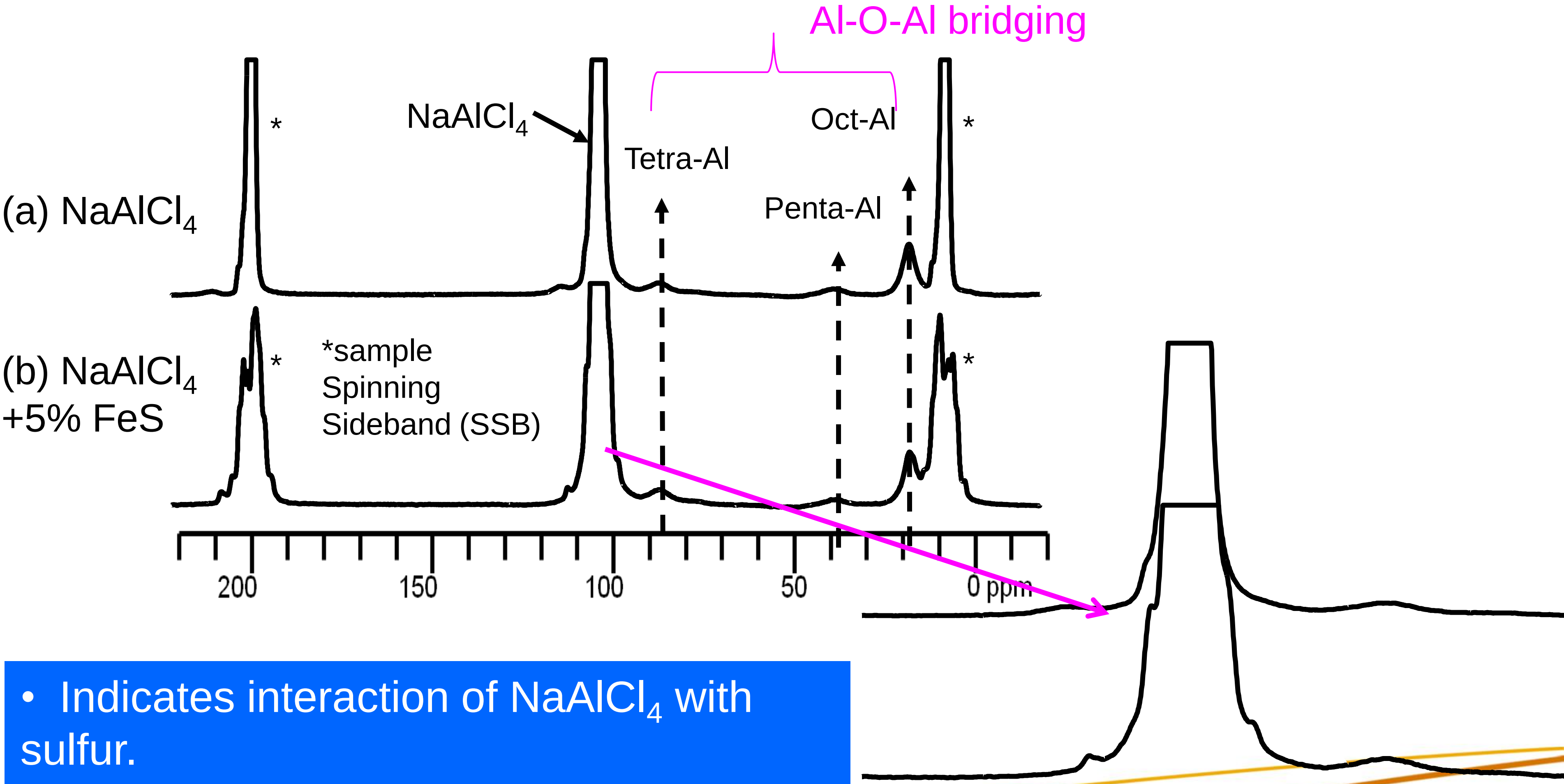


Fig. 2. Cyclic voltammogram at a glassy carbon electrode (area 0.07 cm^2) in a 1.8×10^{-2} molal sulfur solution in NaCl-saturated melt at 175°C. Scan rate 0.1 $V\text{-}sec^{-1}$. Potentials vs. Al(III)/Al reference electrode in NaCl-saturated melt.

Cathode and SE ($NaAlCl_4$) Sulfur Additives

Preliminary Results: Ultra-high field ^{27}Al MAS NMR at PNNL



- Indicates interaction of $NaAlCl_4$ with sulfur.
- Building high temperature cell with cycling capability.

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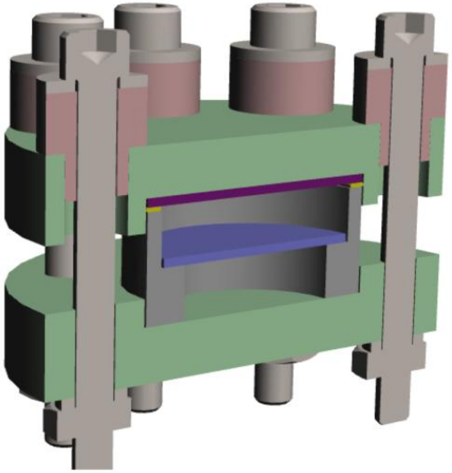
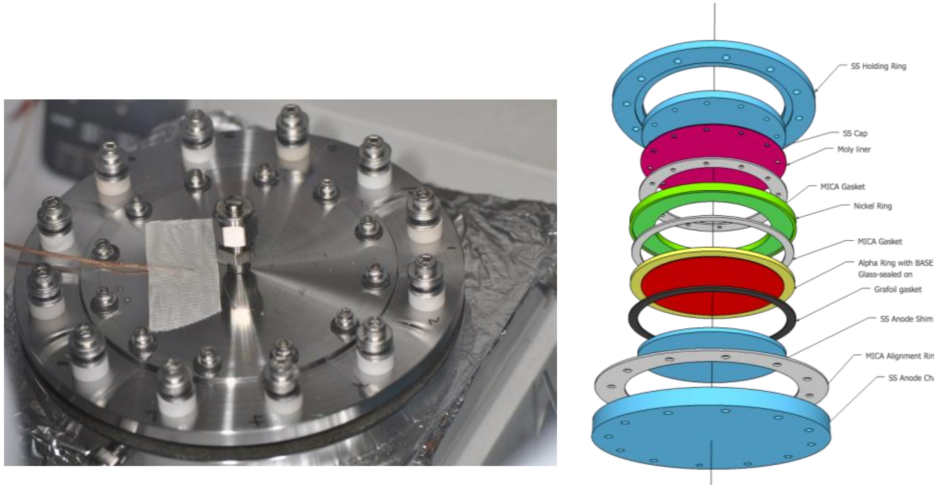
Cell Work Flow and Testing

Granule formulation → Ni, NaCl, Additives → Infiltrate



3cm^2 Research Cell (16 test stands)



64cm^2 Scale-up Cell 4 Test stands

High power charging remains challenging due to small voltage window and increased resistance as function of SOC.

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Na-Ni/NiCl$_2$ 3cm^2 Cell Reproducibility

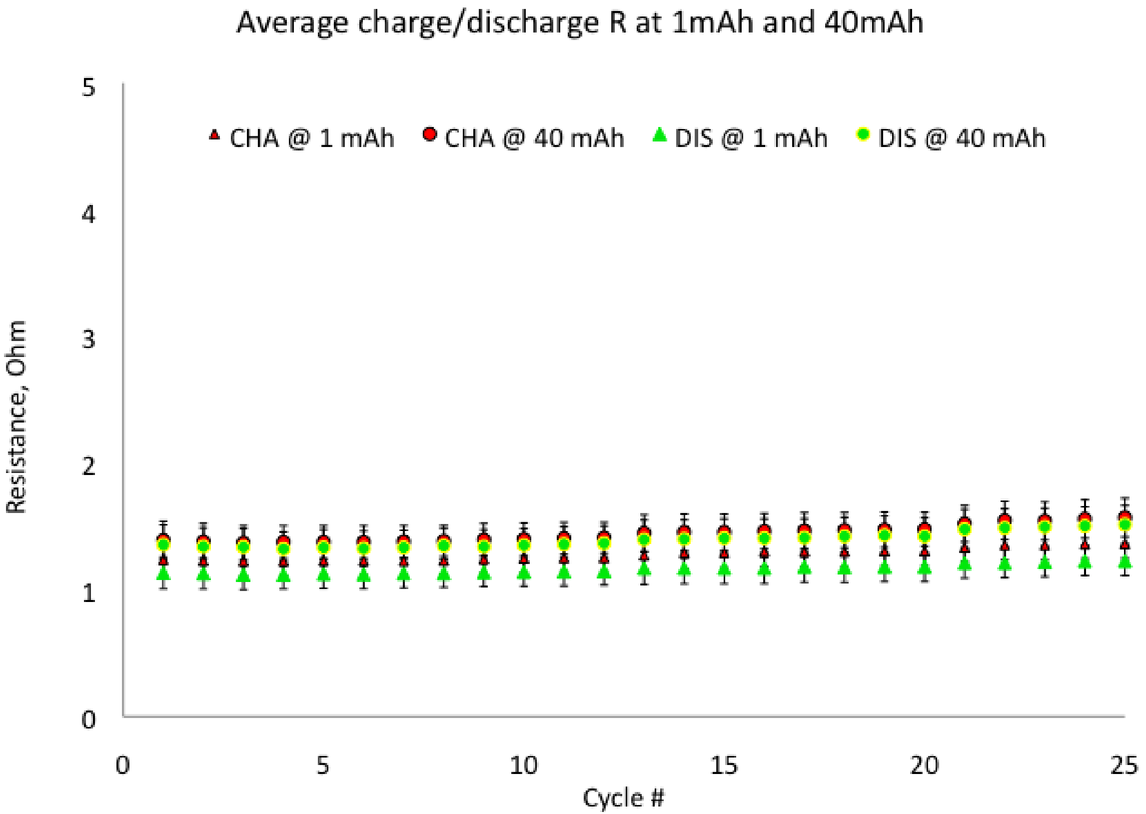
150 Whr at 1C at 280°C

- Calculated from 3 replicate cells.

- Minimum resistance is 1 Ohm due to BASE only.

- Maximum resistance before 3.0V cutoff is 4.5 Ohm.

- Minimize resistance rise with low current reset cycle every 50 cycle. Disrupt large NaCl crystal growth.



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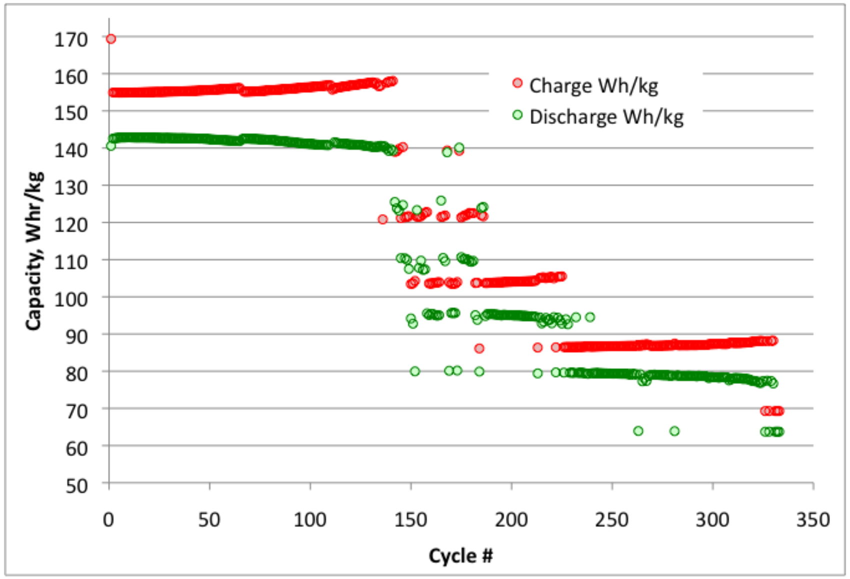
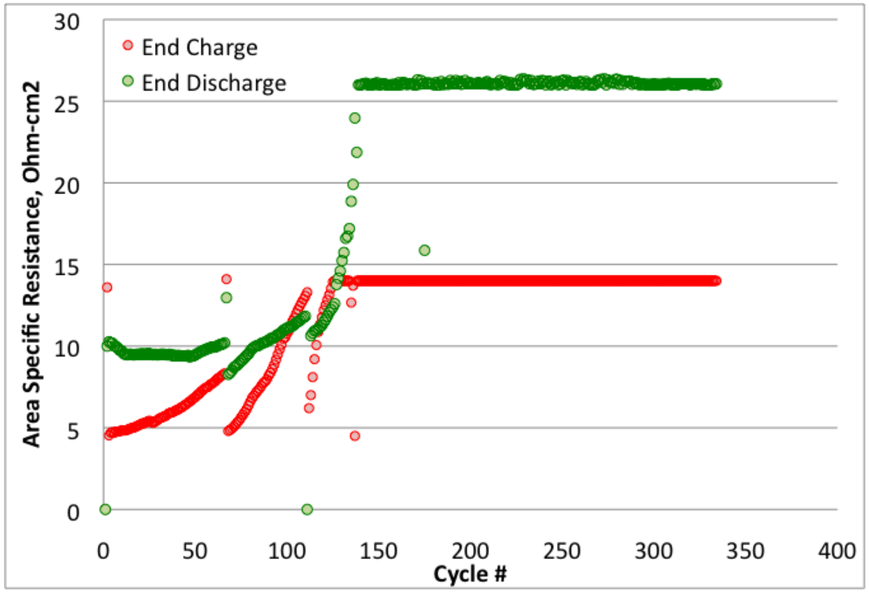
Na-Ni/$NiCl_2$ 3cm^2 Cell Performance

Cycle Conditions: 150Whr/kg (active cathode material) at 1C rate at 280°C

Whr/kg vs Cycles, (170mAhr cell)



ASR vs Cycles, (170mAhr cell)



Resistance rise at end of charge dominates overall resistance rise.

- End of charge → $NiCl_2$
- Rising resistance →Loss of electron percolation path.
- End of discharge resistance increases later cycles.

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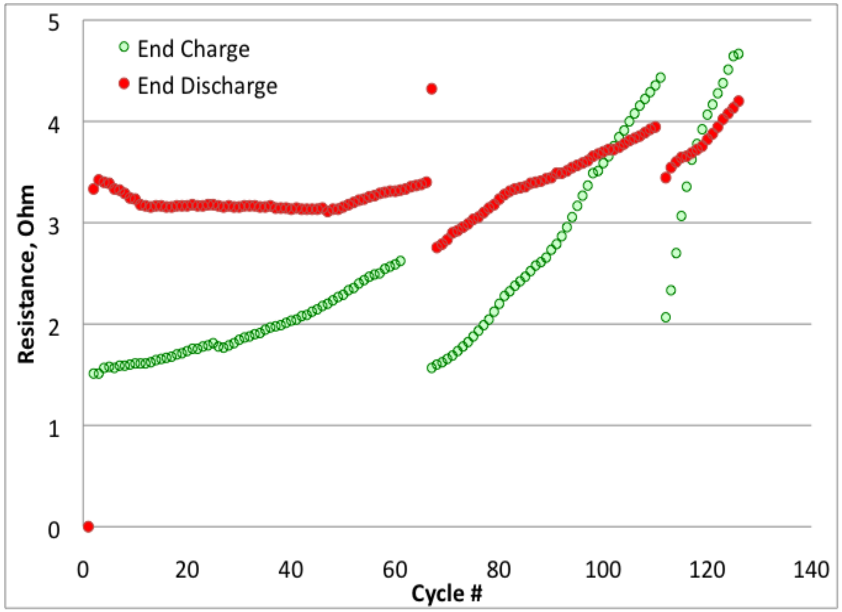
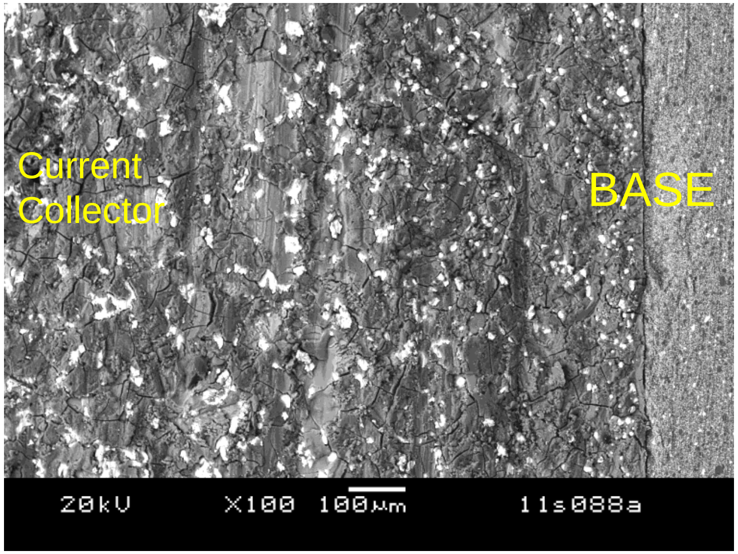
Na-Ni/$NiCl_2$ 3cm^2 Cell Tear Down

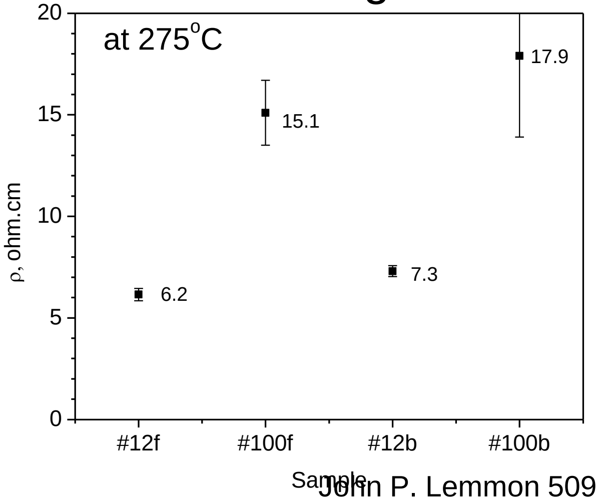
Cycle Conditions: 150Whr/kg (active cathode material) at 1C rate at 280°C

Resistance vs Cycles, (170mAhr cell)





Resistance vs Ni granule size



Probable cause for R increase

- Poor distribution of S additive.
- Decreased Ni granule size.
- Ni migration from BASE

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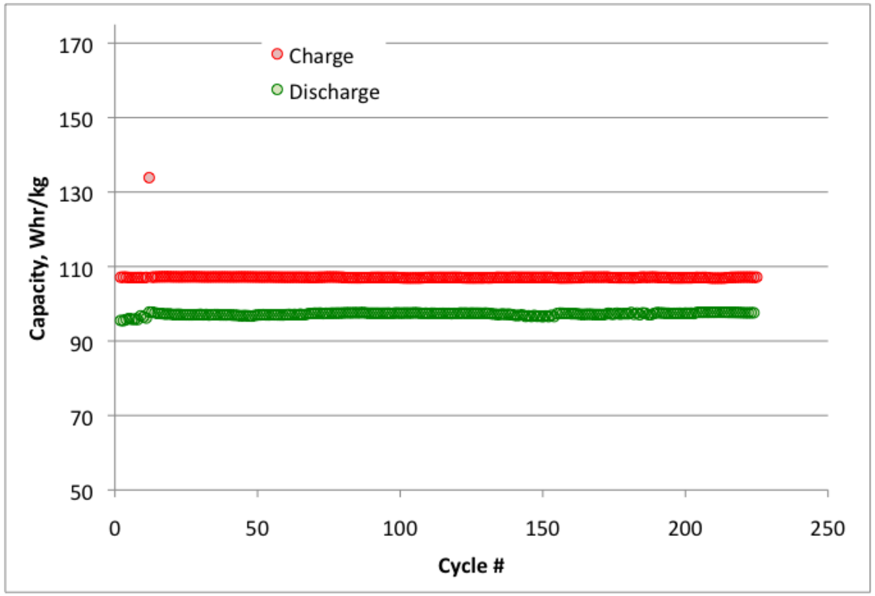
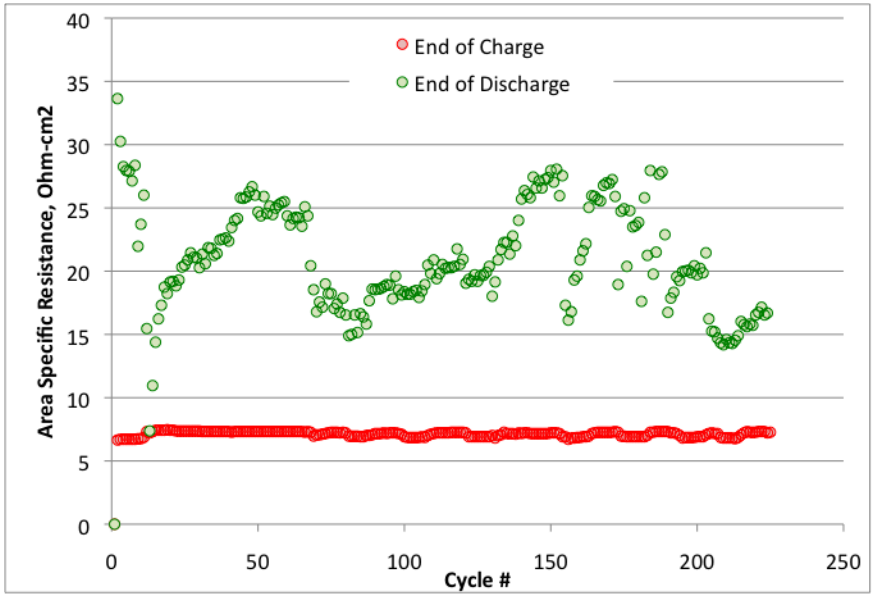
Na-Ni/$NiCl_2$ 64cm^2 Cell Performance

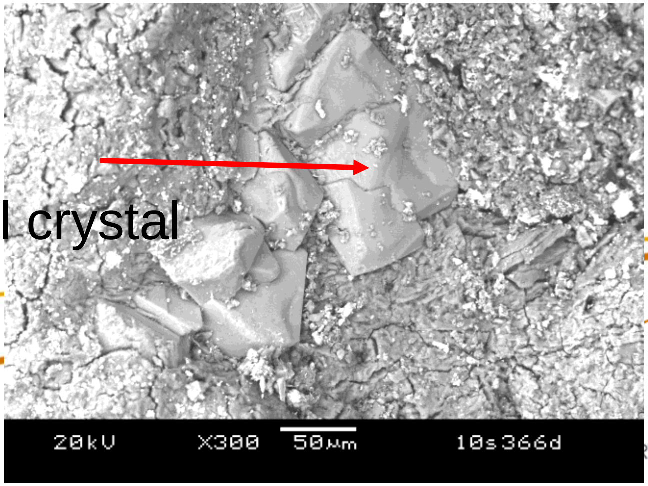
Cycle Conditions: 100Whr/kg (active cathode material) at 1C rate at 280°C





Performance analysis:

- For charging, larger amount of material, distribution of S additive.
- Decreased current density.
- NaCl grain grow effects discharge R.


NaCl crystal

Summary

- Planar configuration offers versatile power and energy cell design.
- ZrO_2 doped BASE lowers conversion temperature, improves strength.
- Reproducible BASE conductivity, however decrease by 3x compared to undoped BASE.
- Glass seal pressure tested to withstand differential pressure of up to 6 atm. Robust chemical resistance to $NaAlCl_4$
- Developed new anode side BASE coating with improved wetting.
- Over 100 cycles at 150Wh/kg at 1C rate, for baseline chemistry in 3cm^2 cells. Developing new chemistry and additive approach to increase cycle life.
- Over 300 cycles at 100Wh/kg at 1C rate at 280C° for 64cm^2 cells.
- Developing 200cm^2 cell, with 20-30Ahr capacity.
- Developing integrated triple cell mini-stack.

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