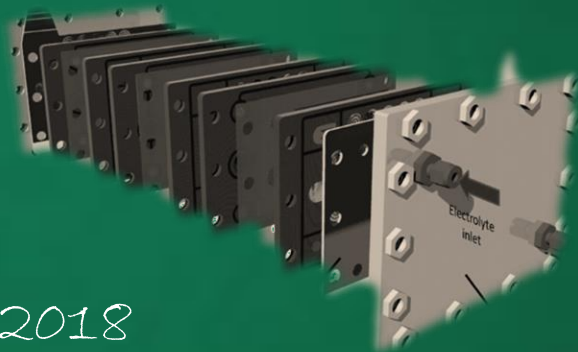


# Autumn School Flow Battery



Barcelona - 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> of November 2018

**LEITAT**  
managing technologies

**IREC**  
Institut de Recerca en Energia de Catalunya  
Catalan Institute for Energy Research

**UAB**  
Universitat Autònoma  
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UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

**JENA  
BATTERIES**

# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Pere L. Cabot

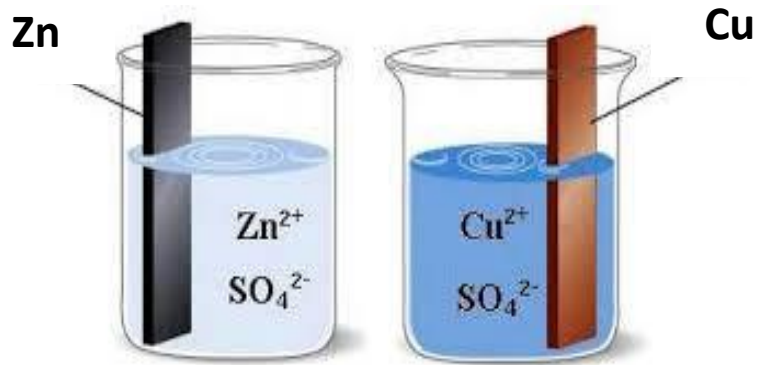
## Electrochemistry

studies the properties and processes taking place in heterogeneous systems in which there is a potential difference between the constituent phases

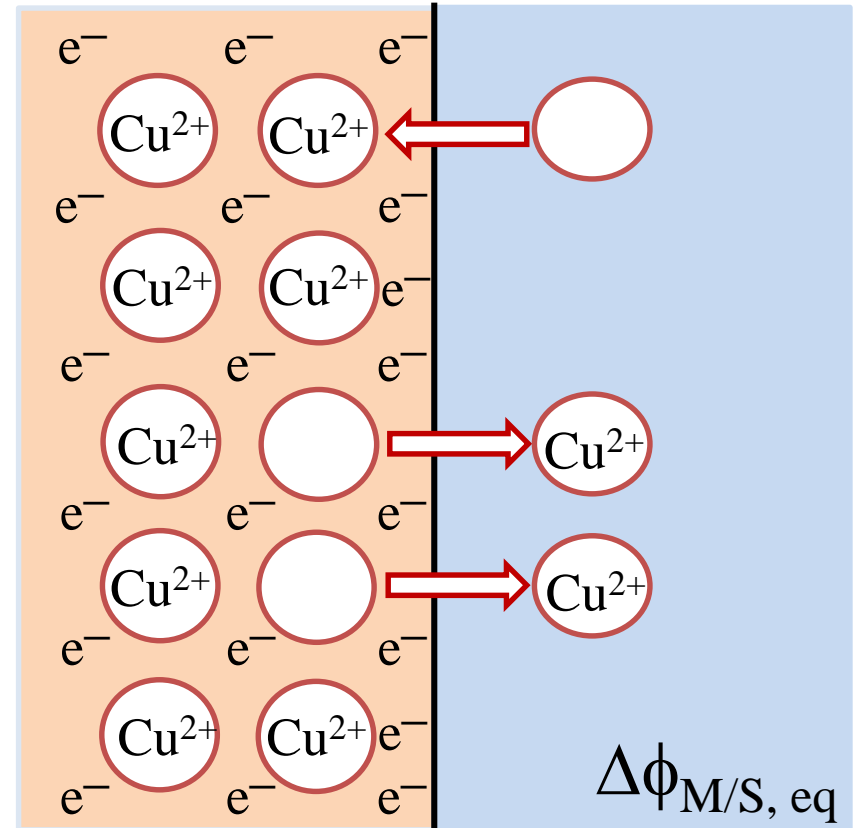
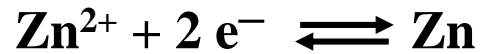
### REDOX reactions



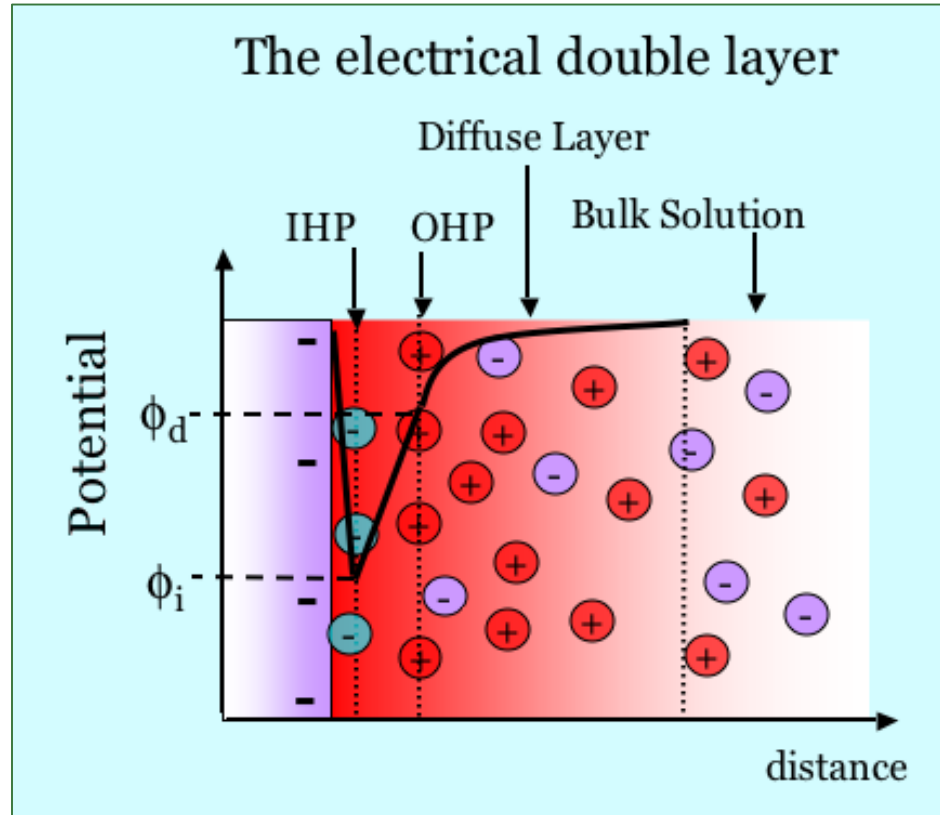
# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



<http://www.chimica-online.it/download/pila-daniell.htm>

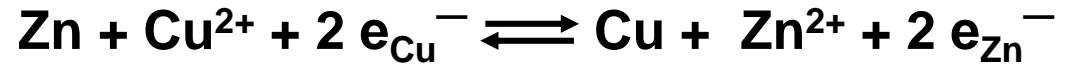


# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS





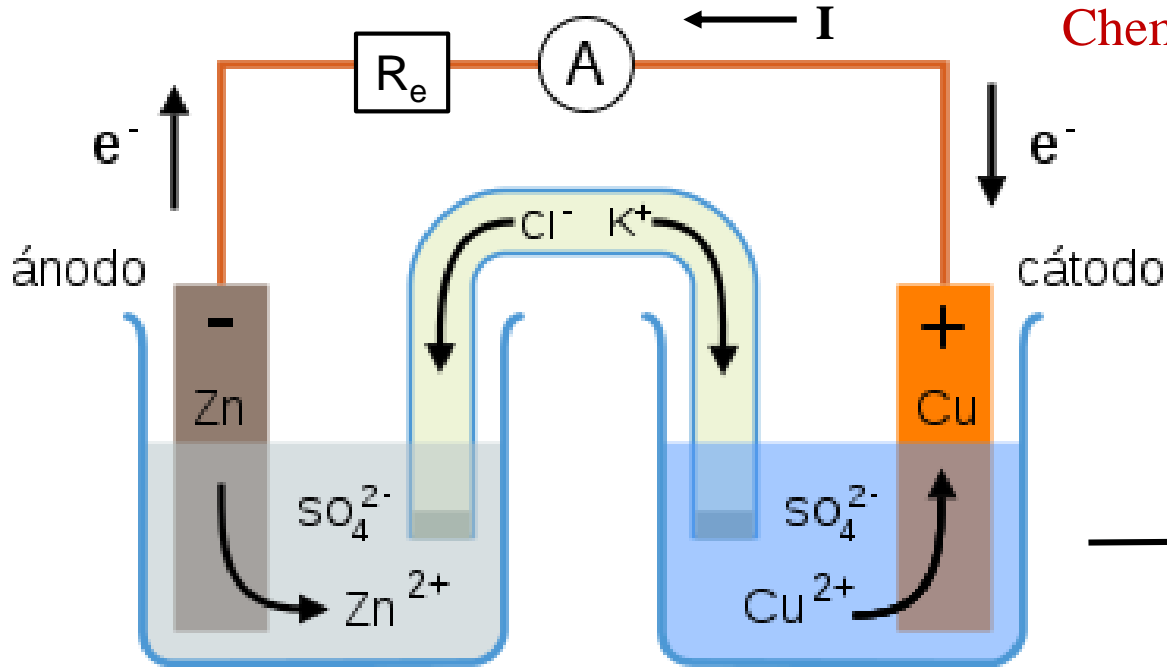
**OPEN CIRCUIT**



**NERNST EQUATION**

$$E = E^{\circ} - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \frac{a_{\text{Cu}} a_{\text{Zn}^{2+}}}{a_{\text{Zn}} a_{\text{Cu}^{2+}}}$$

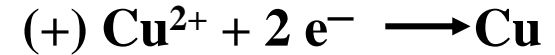
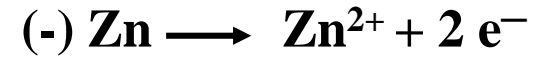
# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



Chemical reaction related to the cell

Net current.

Spontaneous process



## Galvanic cells

(direct conversion of chemical to electrical energy)

**Batteries**: anodic and cathodic reactants stored internally and cannot be replaced

Primary: only one discharge (irreversible reactions)

Secondary or accumulators: repetitive cycles of charge-discharge (reversible reactions)

**Fuel Cells**: anodic (fuel) and cathodic (oxidizing) reactants externally and continuously fed

**(Redox) Flow Batteries**: reversible cell with external storage of electrolyte (they may be used like fuel cells or like rechargeable batteries)

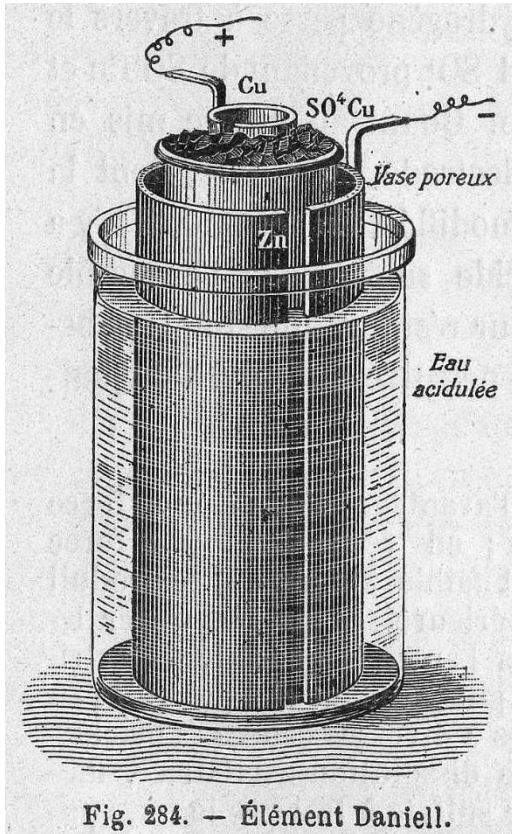
**Hybrid Cells**: one electrode operates as in a battery, the other as in a fuel cell



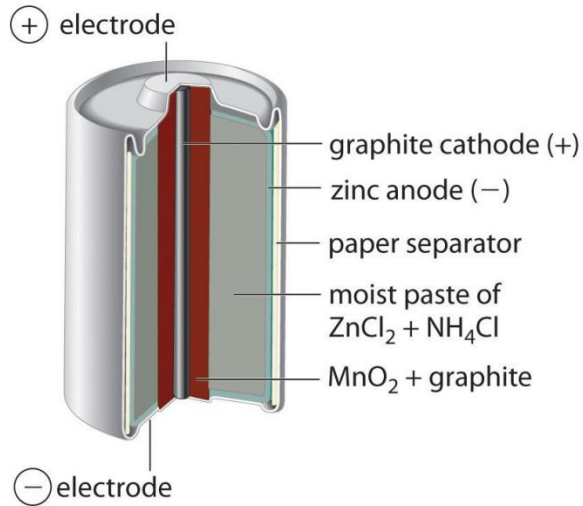
## Primary cells

### Daniell cell (1836)

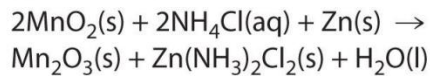
[https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pila\\_Daniell#/media/File:%C3%89I%C3%A9ment\\_Daniell.jpg](https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pila_Daniell#/media/File:%C3%89I%C3%A9ment_Daniell.jpg)



# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS

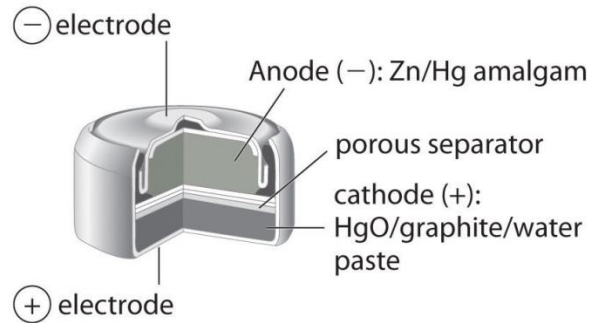


cell reaction:

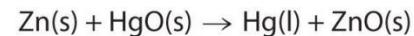


**(a) Leclanché dry cell**

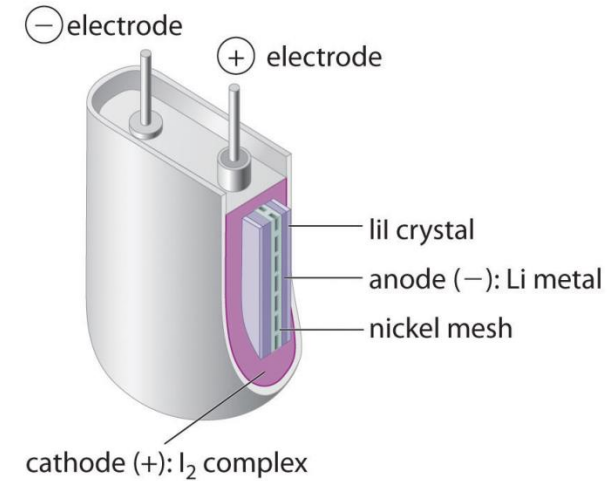
## Primary cells



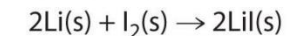
cell reaction:



**(b) Button battery**



cell reaction:



**(c) Lithium-iodine battery**

[http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical\\_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case\\_Studies/Commercial\\_Galvanic\\_Cells](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case_Studies/Commercial_Galvanic_Cells)

## Secondary cells

Discharge  
(galvanic cell)

Zn/Ag<sub>2</sub>O cell

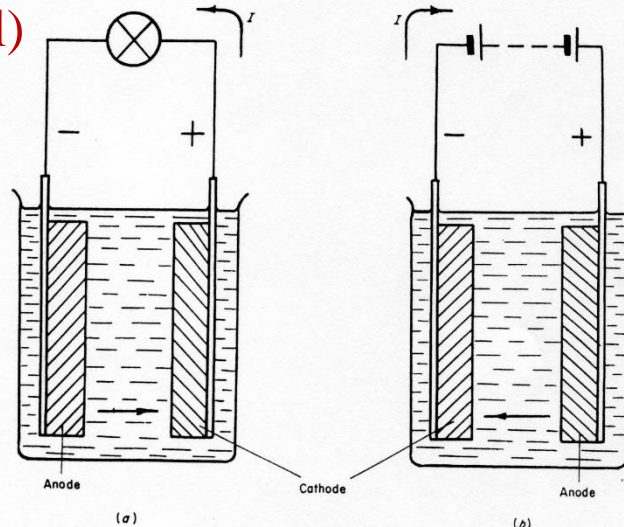
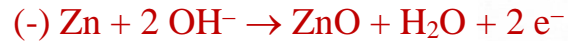
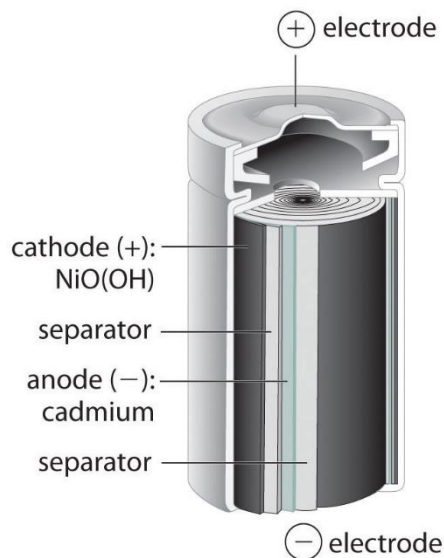


Fig. 2. Current direction (a) in a discharging cell, and (b) in a storage cell being charged or in an electrolyser.

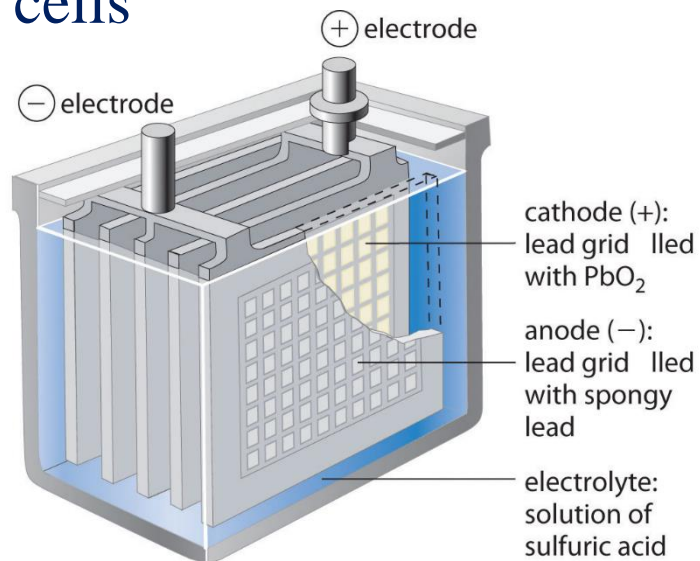
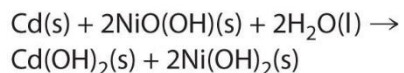
Charge  
(electrolytic cell)



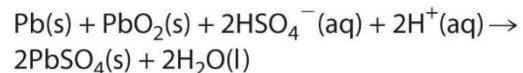
## Secondary cells



cell reaction:

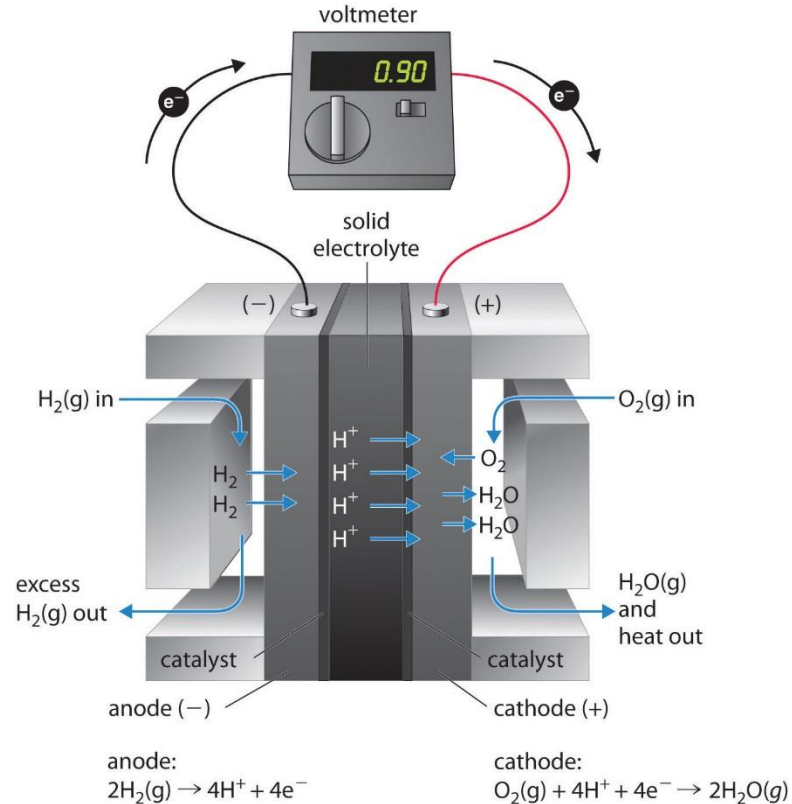


cell reaction:



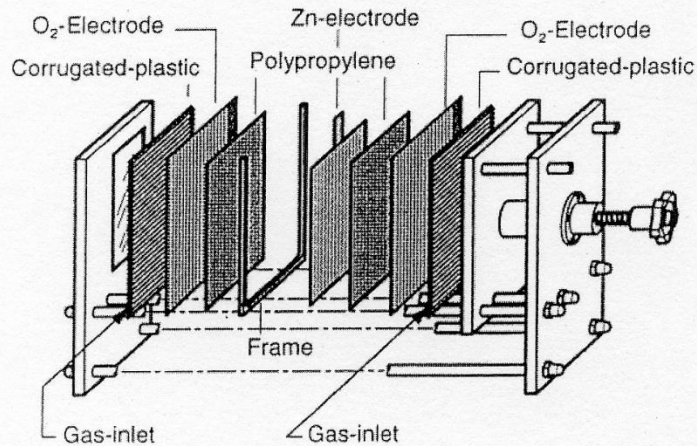
[http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical\\_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case\\_Studies/Commercial\\_Galvanic\\_Cells](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case_Studies/Commercial_Galvanic_Cells)

## Fuel Cells



## H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> Fuel Cell

[http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical\\_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case\\_Studies/Commercial\\_Galvanic\\_Cells](http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/Analytical_Chemistry/Electrochemistry/Case_Studies/Commercial_Galvanic_Cells)



**Fig. 13.45.** Schematic view of the Zn-air battery consisting of a single cell with a central Zn anode facing two bifunctional air electrodes. (Reprinted from K. Müller, R. Holze, and O. Haas, "Progress Towards a 20 Ah/12V Electrically Rechargeable Zinc/Air Battery," in *Batteries for Portable Applications and Electric Vehicles*, C. F. Holmes and A. R. Landgrebe, eds., Electrochemical Society Proc. PV 97-18, pp. 859–868, Fig. 2, 1997. Reproduced by permission of The Electrochemical Society, Inc.)

## Hybrid cell

### Zn/air Semi-Fuel Cell



## Production of electrical energy from fossil fuels by means of the conventional technology:

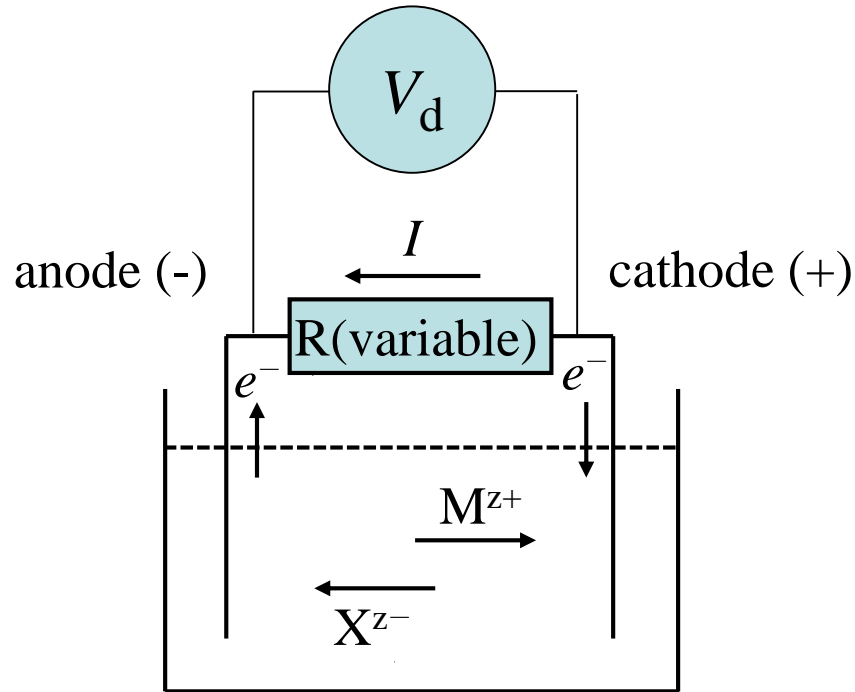
Chemical energy  $\rightarrow$  thermal (heat)  $\rightarrow$  mechanical  $\rightarrow$  electrical



CARNOT'S CYCLE

## Direct conversion in galvanic cells:

Chemical energy  $\rightarrow$  electrical



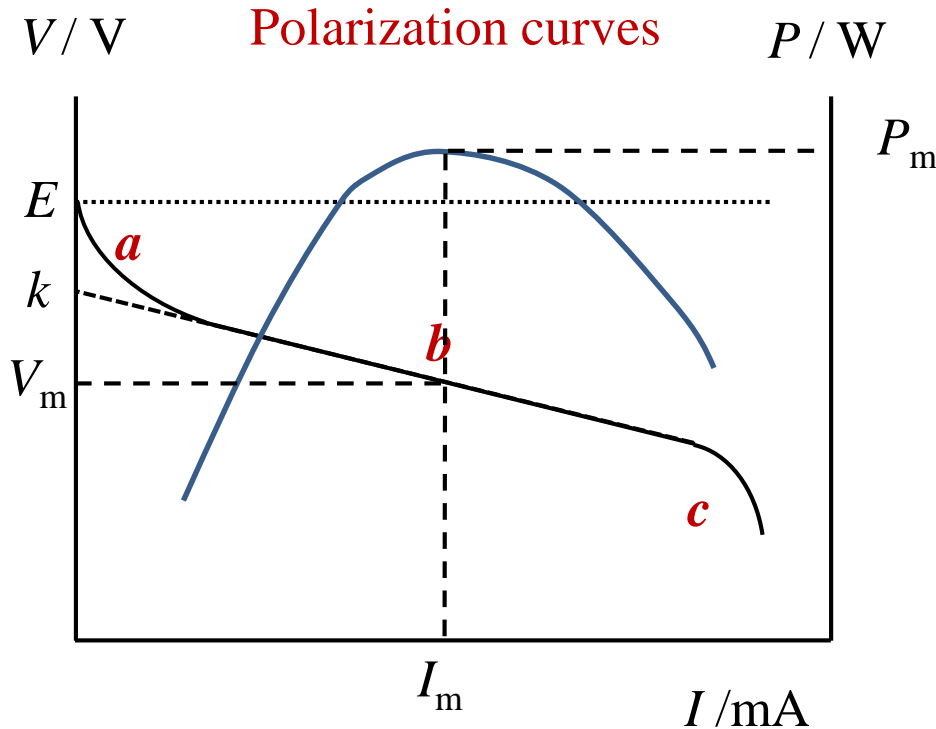
Measuring the discharge voltage

$$V_d = I R_{\text{ext}}$$

$$P = I V_d$$



# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



$$E = E_{\text{eq}(+)} - E_{\text{eq}(-)}$$

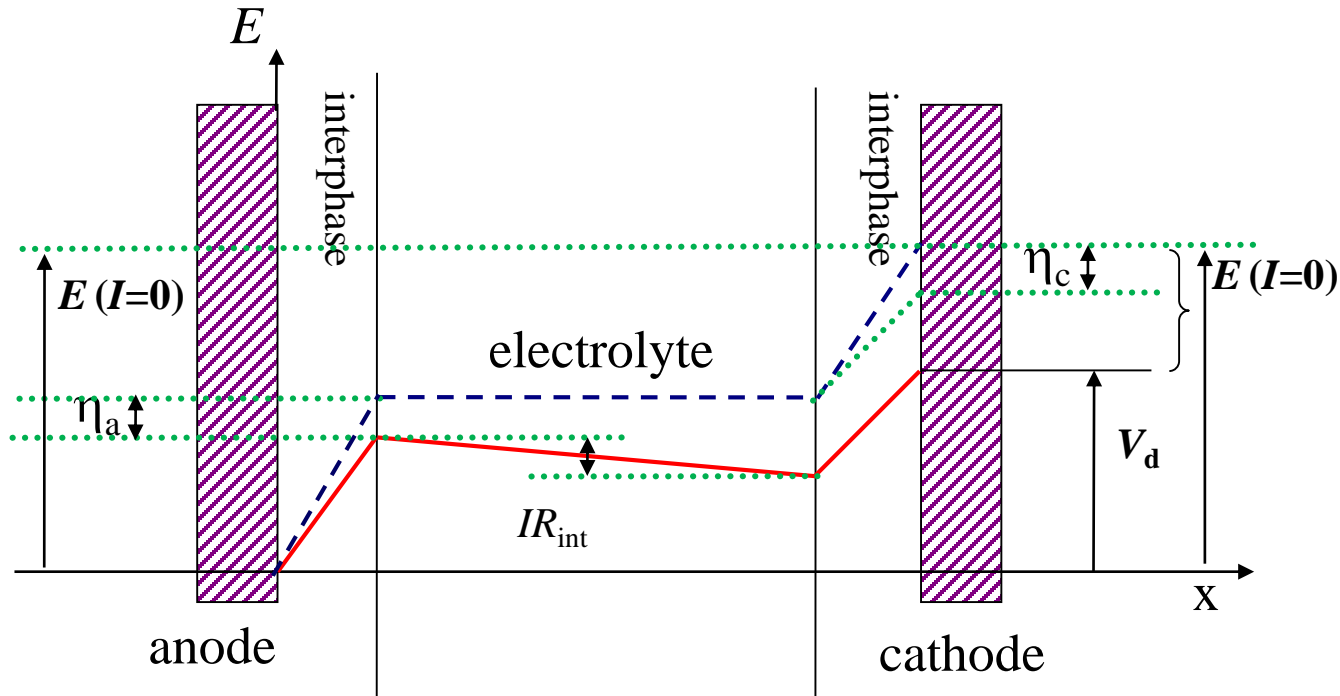
$$V_d = k - IR_{\text{int}}$$

$$P = I V_d = I (k - IR_{\text{int}})$$

$$P_m = I_m V_m$$

(with  $I_m = k / 2R_{\text{int}}$ )

# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



$$V = E_c - E_a - I R_{int} = E - |\eta_c| - \eta_a - I R_{int} < E$$

Major factors contributing to the cell performance:

- Activation control
- Diffusion control
- Ohmic control

## **BUTLER-VOLMER EQUATION**

(activation or charge-transfer control)

$$j = j_o [\exp (\alpha_{\text{ox}} F \eta / RT) - \exp (-\alpha_{\text{red}} F \eta / RT)]$$

$j_o$  is the exchange current density

$\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{red}}$  are the charge transfer coefficients

## ACTIVATION OVERPOTENTIAL

High field for the anodic reaction (Tafel):  $\eta_a \gg 0$  ( $\eta_a > 120$  mV)

$$j_a = j_{o,a} [\exp (\alpha_a F \eta_a / RT)]$$

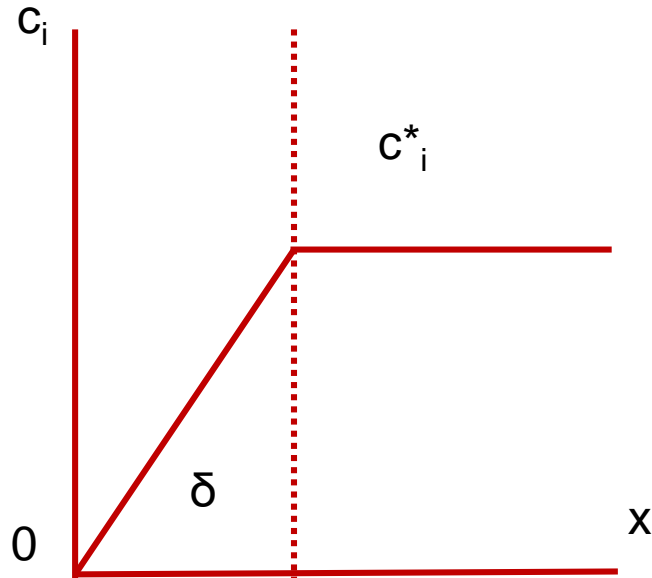
$$\eta_a = (RT / \alpha_a F) \ln (j_a / j_{o,a})$$

High field for the cathodic reaction (Tafel):  $\eta \ll 0$  ( $\eta < -120$  mV)

$$|j_c| = j_{o,c} [\exp (-\alpha_c F \eta_c / RT)]$$

$$\eta_c = - (RT / \alpha_a F) \ln |j_c / j_{o,c}|$$

## DIFFUSION OVERPOTENTIAL



**1st Fick's law:**  $J = -D (dc_i/dx)$

$$j = nFD (c^0 - c^*) / \delta$$

$D$ , diffusion coefficient

$n$ , number of electrons transferred

$c^0$  and  $c^*$ , concentration in the bulk and at the interface

$$j / j_L = (c^0 - c^*) / c^0 = 1 - (c^* / c^0)$$

$$j = j_0 [(c_R^* / c_R^0) \exp(\alpha_a F \eta / RT) - (c_O^* / c_O^0) \exp(-\alpha_c F \eta / RT)]$$

$$j = j_o [(1 - j_{ox} / j_{L,ox}) \exp (\alpha_{ox} F \eta / RT) - (1 - j_{red} / j_{L,red}) \exp (-\alpha_{red} F \eta / RT)]$$

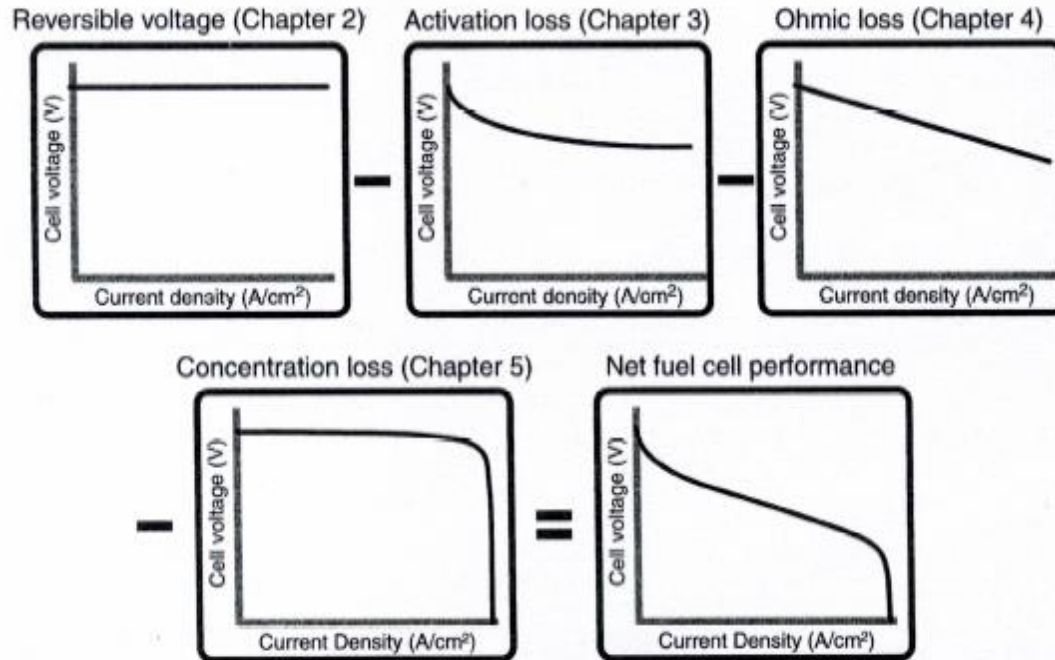
When  $j_{L,red} \ll j_o \gg j_{L,ox}$ , the term into [ ]  $\cong 0$

$$\eta_d = \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \frac{1 - \frac{j_{red}}{j_{L,red}}}{1 - \frac{j_{ox}}{j_{L,ox}}}$$

Anodic process in the cell ( $j_{L,red} \gg j_{red}$ ):  $\eta_{d,a} = - \frac{RT}{n_a F} \ln (1 - \frac{j_a}{j_{L,a}})$

Cathodic process in the cell ( $j_{L,ox} \gg j_{ox}$ ):  $\eta_{d,c} = \frac{RT}{n_c F} \ln (1 - \frac{j_c}{j_{L,c}})$

# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



Major factors contributing to the cell performance

## Kinetic equations for plain electrodes

$$V = I R_{\text{ext}} = E - \left\{ (RT / \alpha_a F) \ln (j_a / j_{o,a}) + (RT / nF) \ln (1 - [j_a / j_{L,a}]) \right\} - \\ - \left\{ (RT / \alpha_c F) \ln | j_c / j_{o,c} | + (RT / nF) \ln (1 - [j_c / j_{L,c}]) \right\} - I R_{\text{int}}$$

Linear region:

$$V = E - k_1 - I R_{\text{int}}$$

Limiting current:

$$V = E - k_2 - (RT / nF) \ln (1 - [j_a / j_{L,a}]) - (RT / nF) \ln (1 - [j_c / j_{L,c}])$$



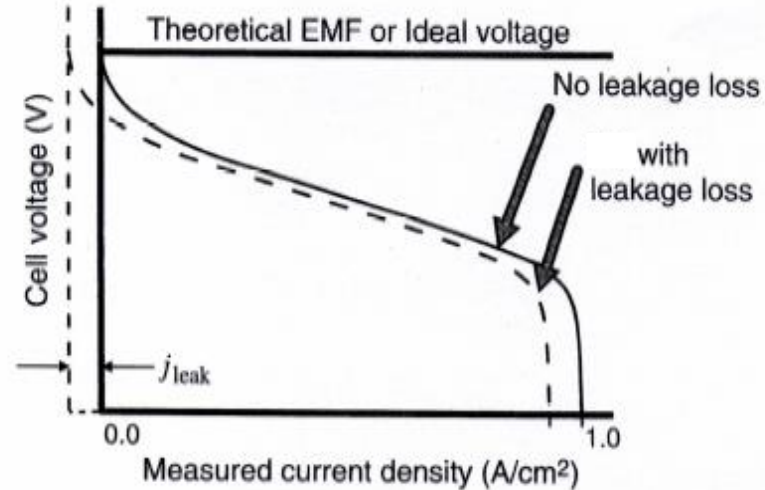
When  $j_a = |j_c| = |j|$

$$V_d = I R_{\text{ext}} = E - \{a_a + b_a \ln |j|\} - \{a_c + b_c \ln |j|\} - \\ - c \ln (|j_L| / [|j_L| - |j|]) - I R_{\text{int}}$$

It is necessary to fix 7 parameters:  $a_a, b_a, a_c, b_c, c, R_{\text{int}}$  and  $j_L$ .

When the cathode is limiting, 4 are enough:  $\alpha_c, j_{oc}, R_{\text{int}}$  and  $j_L$ .

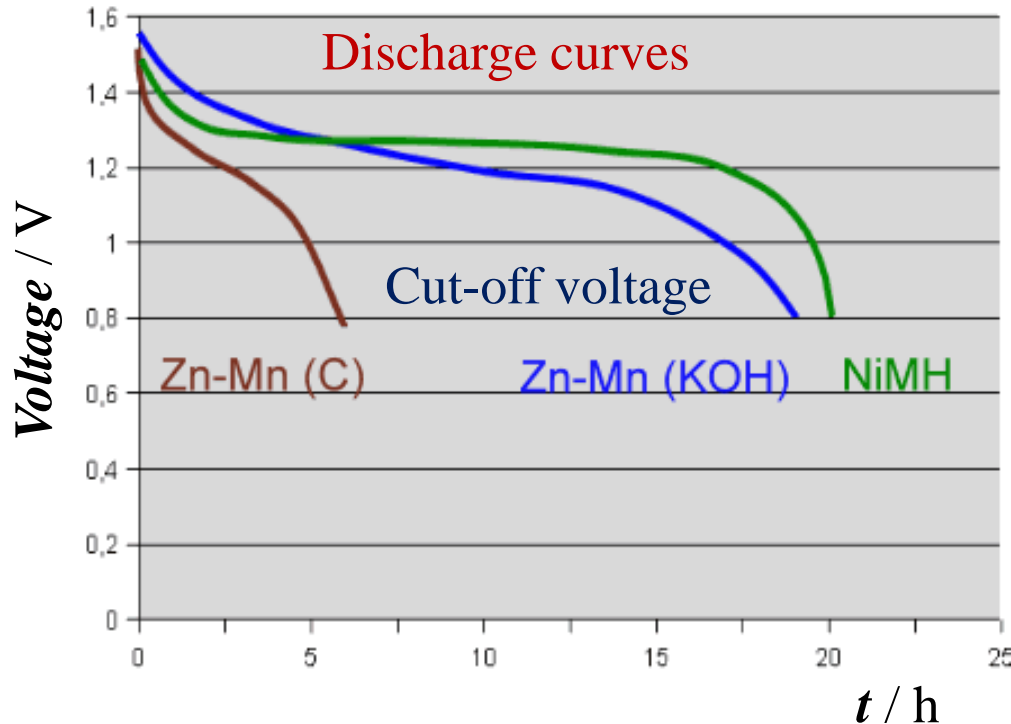
# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



$$V_d = IR_{ext} = E - \{a_a + b_a \ln [|j| + /j_{leak}]\} - \{a_c + b_c \ln [|j| + /j_{leak}]\} -$$

$$- c \ln \{ /j_L / [|j_L| - (/j| + /j_{leak})] \} - IR_{int}$$

# BATTERIES AS ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nimhcharakteristikrp.png>

## Cell properties:

**Capacity (Ah):**  $Q = It$

**Power (W):**  $P = IV$

**Power density (W kg<sup>-1</sup>)**

**Energy (Wh):**  $U = QV$

**Energy density (Wh kg<sup>-1</sup>)**

$$(\partial G / \partial \xi)_{P,T} = \sum \nu_i \mu_i = -nFE \quad (\text{sometimes called } \Delta G)$$

$$dG_{P,T} \leq \delta w_{\text{useful}} = \delta w_{\text{electric}} \Rightarrow \Delta G = \text{maximum useful work}$$

$$\Delta S = - (d\Delta G / dT) = nF (dE / dT)$$

$$\Delta H = \Delta G + T \Delta S = - Q_t \quad (Q_t = \text{heat delivered})$$

*Thermoneutral voltage*  $E_t = - \Delta H / nF = E - T (dE / dT) = Q_t / nF$

$$E_t > 0 \text{ if } \Delta H < 0$$

$$-\Delta H = nFE - nFT (dE/dT) = nFE + Q_S$$

( $Q_S$  = entropy term, energy not useful as electric energy)

$$Q_S = nF (E_t - E)$$

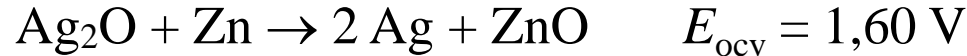
In discharge,  $V_d < E$  and the excess energy delivered as heat is done by

$$Q_U = nFE - nFV_d \quad (E \text{ y } V_d > 0)$$

Then, the overall heat delivered by the cell is

$$Q_P = Q_S + Q_U = nF (E_t - V_d)$$

## Theoretical specific consumption of the reactant per unit of energy ( $g_W^T$ )



$$W_{\text{max}} = nFE_{\text{ocv}}$$

$$g_W^T(\text{Ag}_2\text{O}) = 231,74 \text{ g} / 53,6 \text{ Ah} * 1,60 \text{ V} = 2,70 \text{ g/Wh}$$

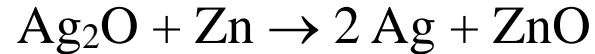
$$g_W^T(\text{Zn}) = 63,37 \text{ g} / 53,6 \text{ Ah} * 1,60 \text{ V} = 0,76 \text{ g/Wh}$$

## Usage coefficient of the reactant ( $\lambda$ ):

$$\lambda = g_W^T / g_W^P \text{ (normally between 0.2 and 0.98).}$$

Where  $g_W^P$  is the practical specific consumption of the reactant

Theoretical specific consumption of reactants per unit charge ( $g_Q^T$ )



$$F = 96486 \text{ C} = 26,8 \text{ Ah}$$

$$g_Q^T(\text{Ag}_2\text{O}) = 231,74 \text{ g} / 53,6 \text{ Ah} = 4,32 \text{ g/Ah}$$

$$g_Q^T(\text{Zn}) = 63,37 \text{ g} / 53,6 \text{ Ah} = 1,22 \text{ g/Ah}$$

Usage coefficient of the reactant ( $\lambda$ ):

$$\lambda = g_Q^T / g_Q^P \text{ (normally between 0.2 and 0.98).}$$

where  $g_Q^P$  is the practical specific consumption of the reactant

## Thermodynamic efficiency

(maximum)

$$\eta_{(T)} = E/E_t$$

## Voltage efficiency

$$\eta_{(V)} = V_d/E$$

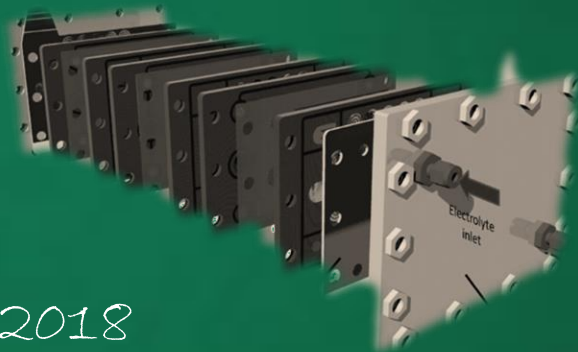
## Net efficiency

$$\eta_n = \lambda V_d/E_t = \lambda \eta_{(V)} \eta_{(T)}$$

$$(\eta_n = 60 - 80\%)$$



# Autumn School Flow Battery



Barcelona - 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> of November 2018

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