
3rd EFB + Heat Workshop Review

Bruges, 22-23rd May 2019

Bruges, at a Glance

- **Cosponsored by CENELEC and CBI**
 - Developed and orchestrated by Dr. Eckhard Karden
- **Attendees joining from:**
 - Academia (ex. Fraunhofer Institute, University of Aachen, etc.)
 - Battery Manufacturers (ex. Clarios, EPM, Fiamm, etc.)
 - Additive Suppliers (ex. Cabot, EnerG2, Hammond, etc.)
 - OEM (ex. Ford, PSA, etc)
 - Specification-Setting Committees (ex. CENELEC)
- **Workgroup Topics**
 - A. Testing battery durability for start/stop microcycling
 - B. Water loss and oxygen cycle in real-world EFB operation
 - C. Measuring DCA and water loss in test cells **[Highest Attendance in AM]**
 - D. Test methods for battery durability in hot climate **[Highest Attendance in PM]**
 - E. Corrosion under PSoC microcycling conditions
 - F. Measuring gas evolution directly

By The Numbers:

>88 = Number of Attendees

2 = Number of Days

6 = Number of Workshop Topics

6 = Hours of Plenary + Parallel Workshops

3 = Hours of Argonne Updates

11,675 = Max Miles Traveled by Attendee

A: Testing Durability for Start/Stop Microcycling

Moderator: Roberto Aliberti, Torsten Hildebrandt, and Christian Mondoloni

- **Negative lug thinning**
 - Not a real-world failure mechanism
 - A 2^o effect of NAM sulfation which forces grid to sacrifice itself
- **Failure modes in different geographies**
 - Stratification/Sulfation/Undercharge
 - N. Europe, N. USA,
 - Cyclic Wear/PAM Degradation
 - Never dominant, but found everywhere to varying extents
 - Corrosion
 - S. Europe, S. USA, S. China
 - Noted that AM quality, not just geography, defines failure mode
- **Selecting Start/Stop batteries based on MHT results**
 - Low temp/mileage/S-S capacity: $640 \cdot C_n$ expected, +10-30% with no S/S
 - High temp/mileage/S-S capacity: $320-640 \cdot C_n$ expected, no increase with S/S off (change in failure mode to corrosion)
- **Request for standardized teardown procedure**



B: H₂O Loss / O₂ Cycle in Real-World EFB Operation

Moderators: Eberhard Meissner, Plamen Nikolov, Daisuke Hosaka

- Continued Investigation of O₂ formation/reduction cycle in EFB

- Accepted as mechanism by which less water is lost than expected
 - Absorbs 1-2 mA/Ah in CC CHR, DCH, and RST
- In high-temp EFB studies, O₂ bubble growth, diffusion, and solubility can be modelled to provide experimental evidence for the cycle
- Separator back web needs optimized for maximal O₂ availability
- Temp. dependency test suggested, along with other evaluations
- O₂ is detected at higher than stoichiometric amounts suggesting H₂ “leakage” limits recombination
- Review of cycle in various battery designs (FLD, AGM) suggested

- Parting Thought

- Can a battery be designed to maximize this oxygen cycle and lower water loss?

- Hydrogen evolution reaction on the surface of Pb;
- Hydrogen evolution reaction on the surface of Carbon;
- Oxygen reduction reaction on the surface of Pb – needs electrons; consumes additional current;
- Oxygen reduction reaction on the surface of C – needs electrons; consumes additional current;
- Oxidation of Pb with simultaneous formation H₂ gas and PbSO₄ – increase water loss;
- Subsequent reduction of the formed PbSO₄ back to Pb – needs electrons; consumes additional current and provokes NAM microstructure transformation



B: H₂O Loss / O₂ Cycle in Real-World EFB Operation

Moderators: Eberhard Meissner, Plamen Nikolov, Daisuke Hosaka

- Experiments and models for NAM reactions during PSoC
 - NAM non-homogeneity noted to create areas where self-DCH and gassing are possible
 - Fullsize-plate cell testing recommended to measure H₂/O₂/reference electrode potentials through microcycling
 - Effects of surface area increasing additives discussed
 - Increased surface area directly from additive (direct)
 - Increased Pb surface area brought about by additive (indirect)
 - Fast rate CV simulates PSoC and shows lower hydrogen evolution than steady-state overcharge situations

- Why do EFB/EFB+C show similar H₂O consumption in microcycling?

- At 60 °C, over-voltages are biased for PAM gassing (O₂), PAM is often the same between EFB and EFB+C → *Gassing will be similar*
- EFB produces more H₂ in urban, EFB+C produces more H₂ in highway cycling → *Gassing will be similar*

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C: Measuring DCA and Water Loss in Test Cells

Moderators: Matt Raiford, Shane Christie, Adam Strong, Paul Everill, Sophia Matthies, Begum Bozkaya, Benjamin Hubner, Jesus Valenciano

• Best practices for 2V cell manufacture

- Manual attracted much attention, but time not sufficient to red
- New version distributed alongside workshop notes
- Audio conferences planned to continue work on open items

• Cell design for DCA measurements

- Frequently 2P/1N design to focus on NAM effects
- Industrially MFR plates preferred for higher reproducibility
- Connections are key, welding of wires to tabs recommended
- Leak-free sealing vital for application-relevant observations
- Void spaces in cells to be avoided:
 - Silica beads
 - Spacers
- Heat uniformity during test is preferred
- Acrylic instead of ABS for 3D cell printing



For which purpose / type of tests was this cell designed?

- DCA (EN50342-6:2015), HPPC (U.S. DoE), Voltammetric Techniques (requires reference electrode)
- Used to determine response in NAM-limited cycle tests

Features/Problems of this cell design & manufacture

- This cell design is a workhorse. Cell assembly is rapid, with re-usable and easy-to-source parts.
- 300+ cells made and tested so far in 2019
- Tank formation and calendar-assisted pasting provides high-throughput of good quality electrodes
- Temperature controlled by water bath – good heat transfer through thin polypropylene walls
- Transparent – direct observation of electrolyte level and gas evolution is possible
- Closed, but not sealed

Session C
EFB & Heat Workshop, Braga 2019



Sealed container for single plate cell test

Type of tests:

- Single plate formation
- Mass utilization [C_{20}]
- Cycling behavior [C_5]
- High-rate discharge [CCA]
- Overcharge (Tafel) plot
- Impedance spectroscopy [EIS]
- Bare grid corrosion

Features:

- Shaped as one single piece
- Stable, Leakproof
- Expensive

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EFB & Heat Workshop, Braga 2019



For which purpose / type of tests was this cell designed?

- Cycling tests (AK 3.4, $\pm 7_{20}$, 2.6 V, 85 cycles per unit at 25 °C) and float charging at elevated temperature (35 and 45 °C, 2.5 V float charging for 258 h per unit)
- Check-ups: EIS with superposed DC-currents (± 0.5 to $\pm 10 I_{D0}$) and capacity tests ($4I_{D0}$ to 1.8 V)
- 225 full-cycle equivalents reached and more than 4000 h float charging

Features/Problems of this cell design & manufacture

- Dilatation of the grid during corrosion generates pressure on the lead wire connection and the separator on the bottom: hanging the plates on the cell lid
- Stratification and water loss: frequently refilling and mixing system
- Plate connection: Welding of lead wires on wet lugs! It would be better having dry lugs

Session C
EFB & Heat Workshop, Braga 2019



C: Measuring DCA and Water Loss in Test Cells

Moderators: Matt Raiford, Shane Christie, Adam Strong, Paul Everill, Sophia Matthies, Begum Bozkaya, Benjamin Hubner, Jesus Valenciano

• Running DCA tests in cells

- Cell quality is critically important
- All participants sought to keep 2V design as close to 12V as possible
- 2P/1N is sufficient, at least for comparative studies
- DCA is best tested with field-relevant profiles (ex. 50342-6, Ford B)
- PAM:NAM ratio AND AM:Electrolyte ratio are both critical
- 2V cells correlate well to full-scale, but A/Ah magnitude is higher
- Acid adjustment necessary to mimic 80% SoC if AM:E not balanced
- DCA is limited by the NAM regardless of scale/geometry
- DCA downscaling is instrument dependent but detailed in Appendix

• Vapor-tight cell designs

- Rubber plugs > silicon around terminals
- Pressurize cell (0.4 bar) to test for leaks

• Water-consumption testing cell designs

- Water consumption is best measured from field-relevant protocols
- New KLT at 75 °C is appropriate for water loss in PSoC testing (3-4w)
- Use of eGas device will prove difficult on cell level; burette instead?



For which purpose / type of tests was this cell designed?

- Additive screening for negative and positive plates (such as carbon, silica, etc.)
- Applied tests: DCA (EN50342-6:2015), Run-in DCA (Test B, Ford), CA Test 2 (S 0101:2014), CCA (adapted from EN), Endurance Test 17.5 DoD (EN50342-6:2015), Charge Acceptance Test (VW 75073_2017)

Features/Problems of this cell design & manufacture

- Variable separators and spacers allow variable usage from 1N1P up to 3N2P
- Electrodes contacted via molten lead wire and soldered copper wire
- Dryout prevented by sealed lid coupled with degassing plug (vapour diffusion inhibited by flame retardant device)
- Usage of reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) as reference for half-cell potential measurements
- Transparent lid
- Container formation, 36 h
- It should be optimized for tests at elevated temperatures

Researcher: DFB & Fuel Innovation, August 2019



Black Diamond Structures:
Motorcycle-Scale 2V Cell

20h rate capacity: 5.25 Ah	max. test current used: ~40 A	plate set*: 3P/2N
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*modified plates enveloped by separator

For which purpose / type of tests was this cell designed?

- Additive screening
- EN 50342-6 DCA
- 17.5% DoD

Features/Problems of this cell design & manufacture

- PROS/CONS: Small size allows for high-throughput, plate sets locked by defined case size, custom moulded contacts high-current stable, not good for water consumption, design is hard to "dump and refill" if protocol demands it
- PASTING: 1 kg PbO batch size, twisted-gate double-planetary mixer, hand-pasted, 32-36 h cure/dry, protocol matching industrial partners, PAM plates are provided from a partner to remove variability from a second in-house built electrodes
- TERMINALS: Use "hot-Pot" hand-held smeltes to melt pure Pb and Sn. Tabs are tin dipped, then plate stacks are manually pressed together and held upside down in a method-Pb-filled, 3D-printed tab/pod mould
- FORMATION: Case (polypropylene, polycarbonate) formed, 28h, 0.1C, 1.25 spgr acid (75 mL)
- QUALITY CONTROL: PbO free-Pb% and particle size, water purity to BS 4974 standards, acid <30ppm Fe, paste density/moisture, content/crunch, paste weight per plate, dry plate weight

Researcher: DFB & Fuel Innovation, August 2019



ArcActive:
Full-Size Automotive Cell

20h Rate Capacity: 60-80 Ah	Max Test Current Used: 750 A	Plate Set*: 6P/7N - 8P/9N
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*modified plates enveloped by separator

For which purpose / type of tests was this cell designed?

- Run In DCA, CCA, DoD Cycling
- DCA [Ford Run-in (TestB), EN50342-6:2015], CCA [EN, SAE], DoD [17.5%, 50%]

Features/Problems of this cell design & manufacture

- Intent: Long-Term / High Quality (=quantitative) / Sealed-cell Reg. Testing
- Case: ABS/ PolyCarb Lid (machined) / Epoxy Sealant (validate compatibility first!) / PolyCarb Spacers (if req'd)
- Construction: Tab-terminat strip = Cast Post (internally developed tooling) / Puckered PE separators / Mild compression via spacers (subjective-art)
- Terminals: DIN (cast) - necessary for high currents. Soldered Pb tab for voltage-connection (alligator clip) independent of current-load connection.
- Formation: In-Cell, multi-shot. 10-22 hrs.

Researcher: CENELEC, August 2019



D: Test Methods for Durability in Hot Climates

Moderator: Eckhard Karden, Johnathan Wirth, Luca Brisotto

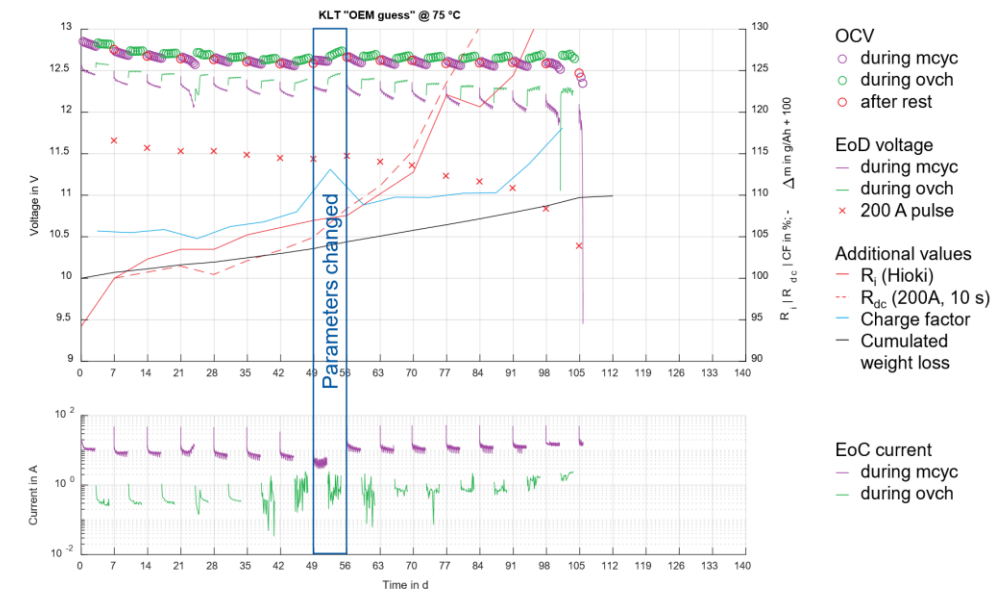
- **New Key Life Test (nKLT)**

- Good traction, many companies are reviewing over Summer '19
- Additional test metrics added
- Higher throughput version not chosen – less field relevant (less corrosion)
- Target duration (weeks) not set, awaiting 2019 data
- Excel sheet forwarded showing relevant KLT plot formatting
- Expanding test for more grid types, AGM+C
- Fleet testing required, unsure which geography (Vegas, China)

- **Li-Ion battery applicability to the nKLT**

- Can 75 °C be tolerated?
- Does the BMS protect or limit the battery during nKLT?
- EPM (Bernd Engwicht)/Exide (Luca Brisotto)/Ford (Eckhard Karden) led conversation to find drop-in Lilon 12V battery and test via nKLT

KLT „OEM guess“ @ 75 °C



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16 Oct 2018 | Jonathan Wirth
Chair for Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage Systems

E: Corrosion Under PSoC Microcycling Conditions

Moderator: Jun Furukawa, Subhas Chalasani, Shawn Peng, Tim Fister

- **General discussion point**

- Do microhybrid tests trigger the same corrosion processes as other tests, just to a different extent, or completely different processes?

- **Current corrosion measurements:**

- Measurements taken from End-of-Life are too late
- Results vary based on washing and sample preparation
- Reference electrodes = higher PAM polarization speeds corrosion?

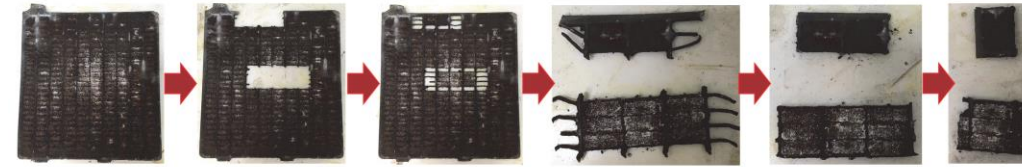
- **Proposed corrosion measurements:**

- O₂/H₂ ratio measurement via eGas or similar device
 - Missing oxygen = corrosion
- Additional teardowns/micrographs from start-of-life batteries
- Gas measurements, IR cameras, EIS could assist measurements

- **Limitation: Field testing will look different from test cells**

- Major caveat...

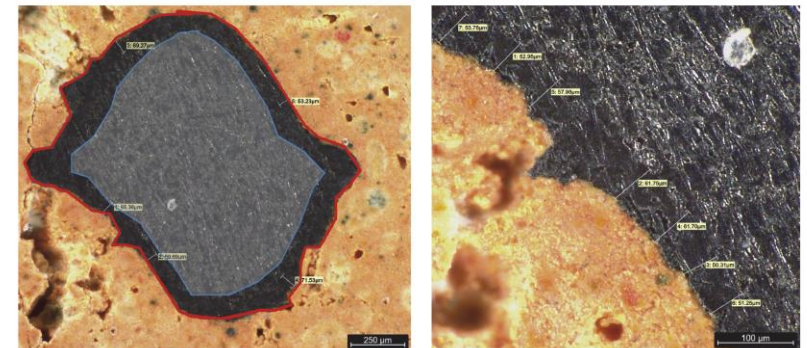
1. Steps for Sample Preparation continued



2. Cured Plate



Small Wires Measured



F: Measuring Gas Evolution Directly

Moderator: Heinz Rottmann

- Validation testing of eGas device has been generally positive
- Findings/Optimizations ongoing:
 - More moisture appears than expected at 60 °C
 - Leads to spikes in data recovery
 - Additional moisture trap could help
 - Need to determine if this truly affects conclusions
 - CO₂ content >5% has been observed in batteries/cells
 - Unclear if this is real or artifact, need more data
 - Vehicle tests present unexpected pressure differentials
 - May implement water or labyrinth chamber to mitigate
 - Sum of all gas measurements is over 100% (illogical)
 - Sensor calibration underway
 - Tubing material of construction in question
 - PVC = clear, helps with pH indicator; PTFE more durable
 - Optimal length/diameter of tubing
 - Shorter = more accuracy, longer = ease of use



Future Directions and Next Conference

- **Outstanding Follow Ups:**
 - Consider standardized teardown recommendation document
 - Continued updates to 2V Cell Building Recommendation Manual
 - Circulate 2V-modified EN-50342-6 DCA *[Done]*
 - Circulate nKLT data templates *[Done]*
- **EFB + Heat Workshops to continue per Dr. Karden**
 - Next location either Edinburgh or Sienna, TBD
 - Likely June 2020