



# The FFC Cambridge Process: Principle, Practice and Prospect

with a Focus on Titania, Ilmenite and Ti-Rich Slag

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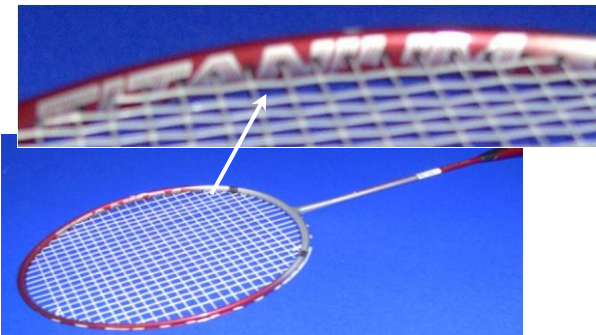
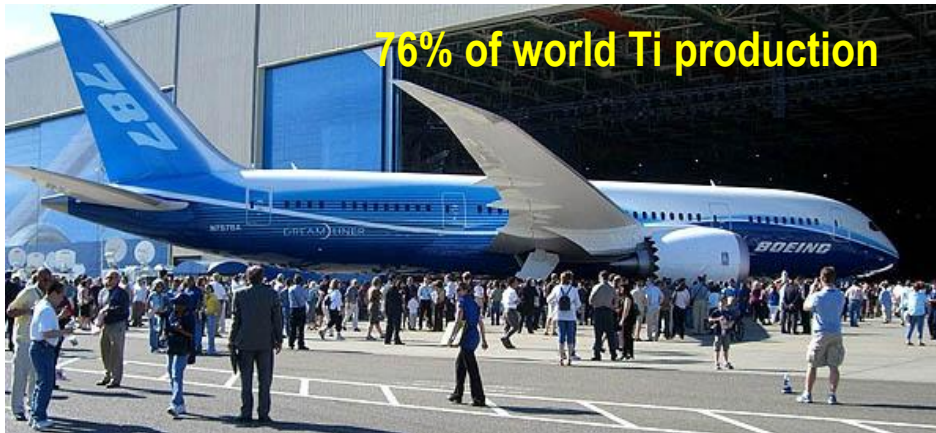
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# Titanium Economy



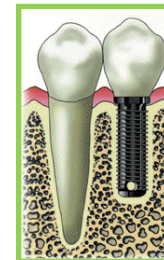
Titanium badminton racket



Citizen Eco-Drive  
titanium watch



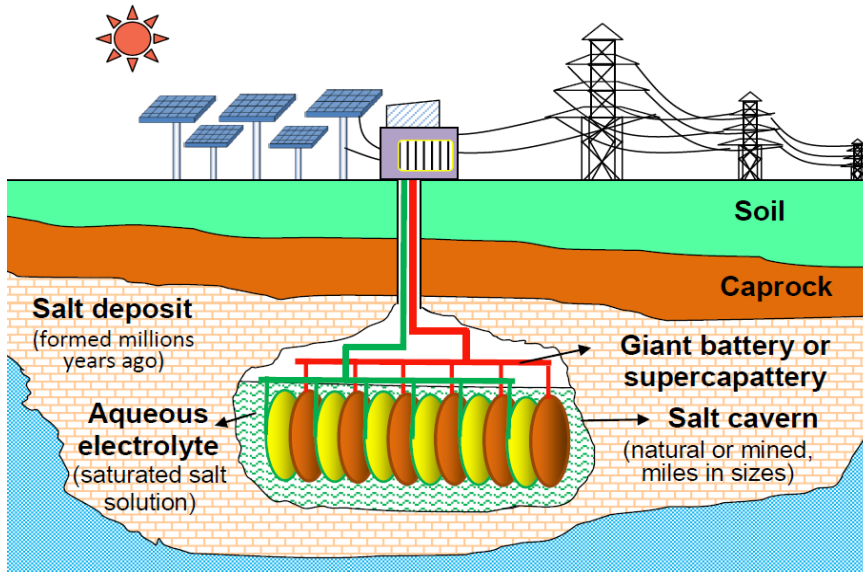
Titanium  
ring



Titanium implants

# Titanium Supercapattery

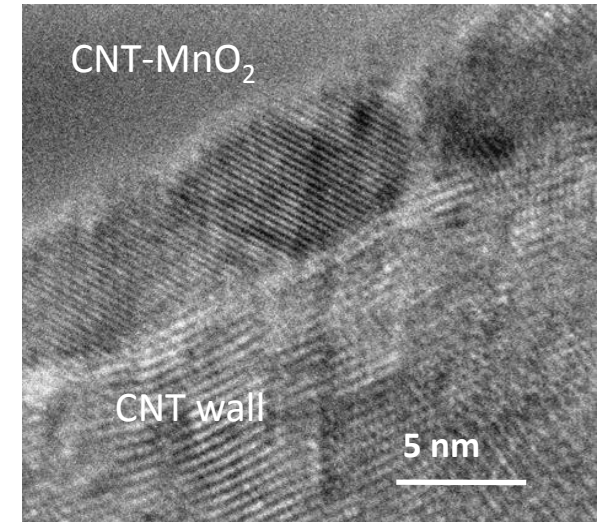
Electricity in Salt Caverns (> MW)



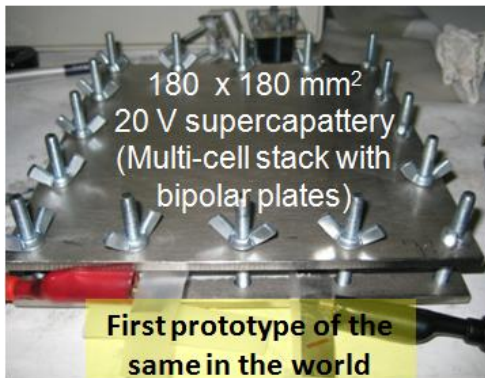
Aqueous electrolyte: high conductivity, high heat capacity, wide temperature range, low environmental impact, and **"Free"**.



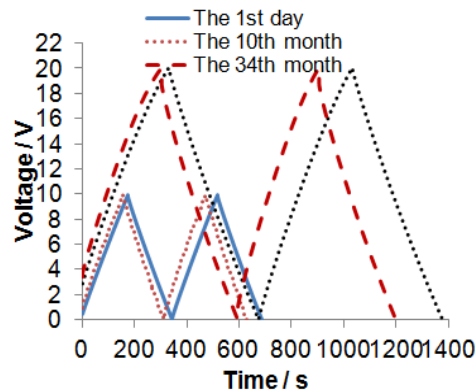
Seawater is highly corrosive to many metals, including stainless steel.



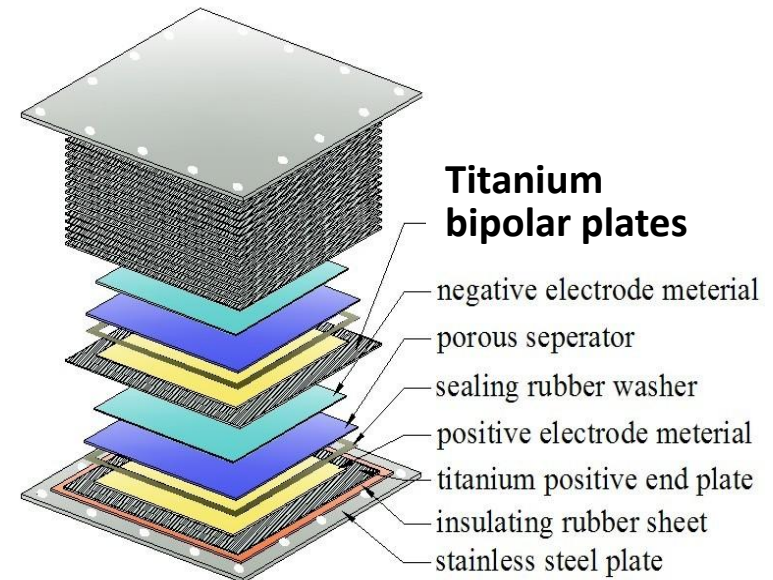
**Crucial material:** C-nanotubes coated with metal oxide or conducting polymer for use in aqueous chloride electrolytes.



Maximum stack power: > 300 W.



On-going test since 07/2009.





# Titanium vs. Steel

## World Production (mt/yr)

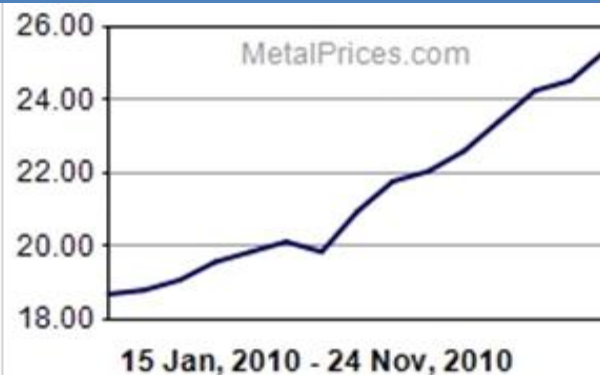
	2008	2009
Raw steel	1,330	1,100
Titanium	0.16	0.11

## Market Price (\$/kg)

Cold rolled steel

vs.

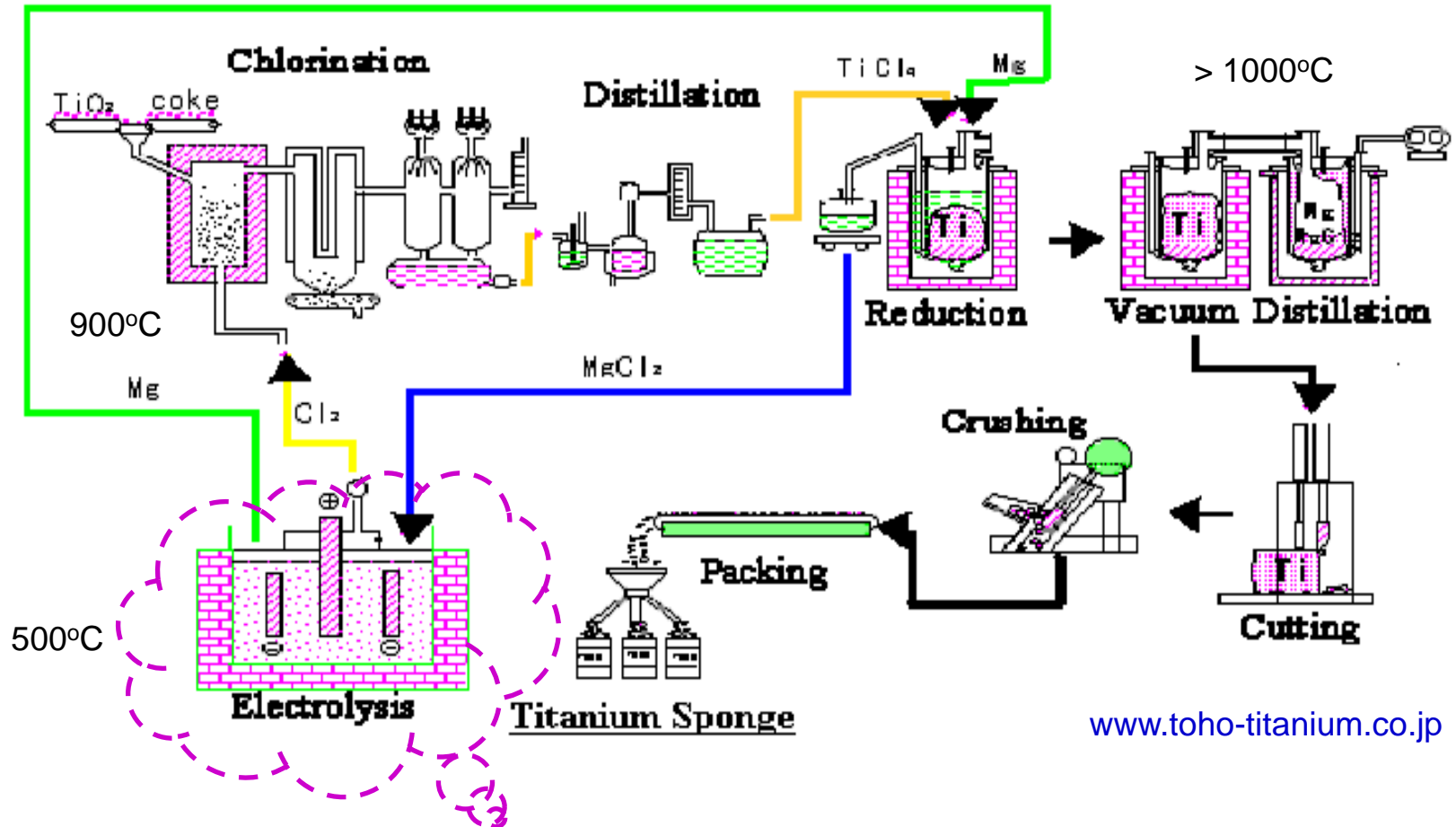
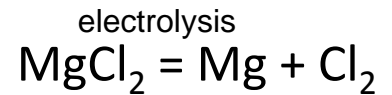
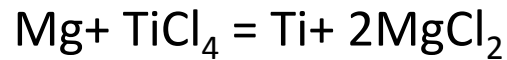
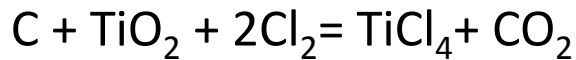
Ti-6Al-4V ingot



## Energy consumption

**Steel:** 6~8 kWh/kg    **Titanium:** ~55 kWh/kg

# Titanium extraction by the Kroll Process



[www.toho-titanium.co.jp](http://www.toho-titanium.co.jp)

Regeneration of  $\text{Mg}$  and  $\text{Cl}_2$  by molten salt electrolysis makes the modern Kroll Process an **indirect but inefficient** electrolytic process.

# Limitations of the Kroll Process

## The Kroll Process

- operates in a batch reactor at a scale of a few tonnes (d. & h: ~1.5 & ~8 m),
- takes two weeks for each production cycle,
- uses expensive feed materials ( $\text{Cl}_2$ , Mg & C),
- **consumes ~55 kWh/kg-Ti**,
- *vs. cheapest manmade material~: 6 kWh/kg-steel*
- and emits about equal amount of  $\text{CO}_2$ .



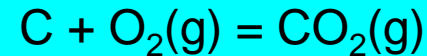
As produced  
Ti sponge



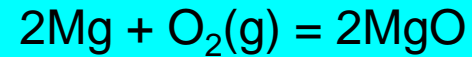
Ti ingot (via arc melting)

<http://www.toho-titanium.co.jp/en/products/sponge.html>

Energy content in C and Mg:



$$\Delta G^\circ_{(300-2000\text{K})} = -9.2 \text{ kWh/kg-C}$$



$$\Delta G^\circ_{(1000\text{K})} = -11.3 \text{ kWh/kg-Mg}$$



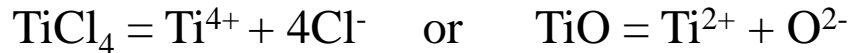
“It might, however, be fair to say, that titanium will be made competitively by **fusion electrolysis** within the next 5 to 10 years.”

(W. Kroll, **1959**, Extractive Metallurgy Division Lecture, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum Engineers)

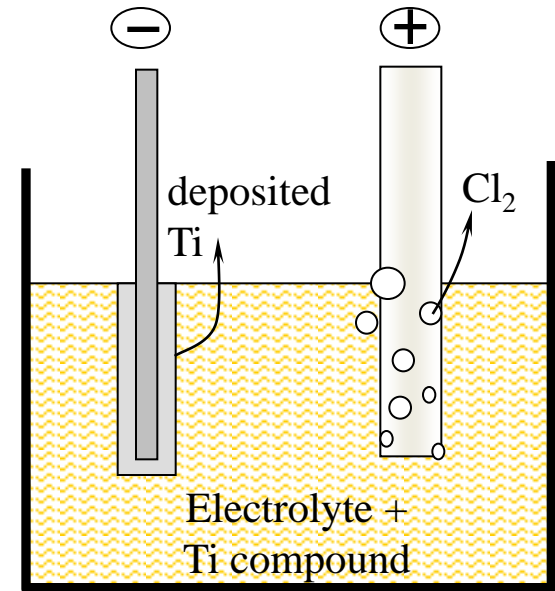
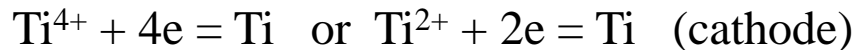
# Electrolytic Extraction

## Conventional concept of electrolysis

Dissolving titanium compounds (e.g.  $\text{TiCl}_4$  and  $\text{TiO}$ ) in molten salts



Electrowinning titanium from the molten salt solution (electro-deposition)



$$\text{energy} = nFEW / mM = 6.72 \text{ kWh/kg-Ti}$$

n: number of electrons transferred (4)

F: Faraday constant (96500 C/mol)

E: voltage of electrolysis (3.0 V)

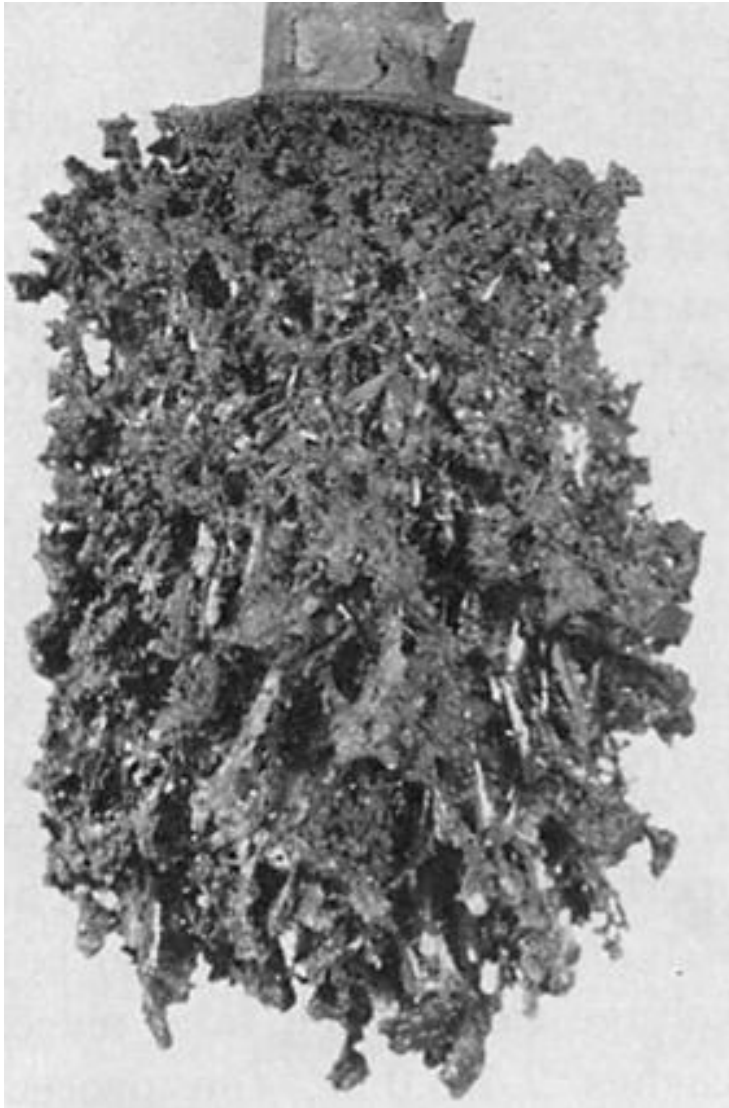
W: mass of titanium produced (1 t =  $10^6$  g)

m: number of joules per kWh ( $3.6 \times 10^6$  J)

M: molar mass of titanium (47.88 g)

**Kroll Process:**  
**~55 kWh/kg-Ti**

**Advantage: Cost = £0.10 (UK) x 6718 = £671.8 / tonne Ti**



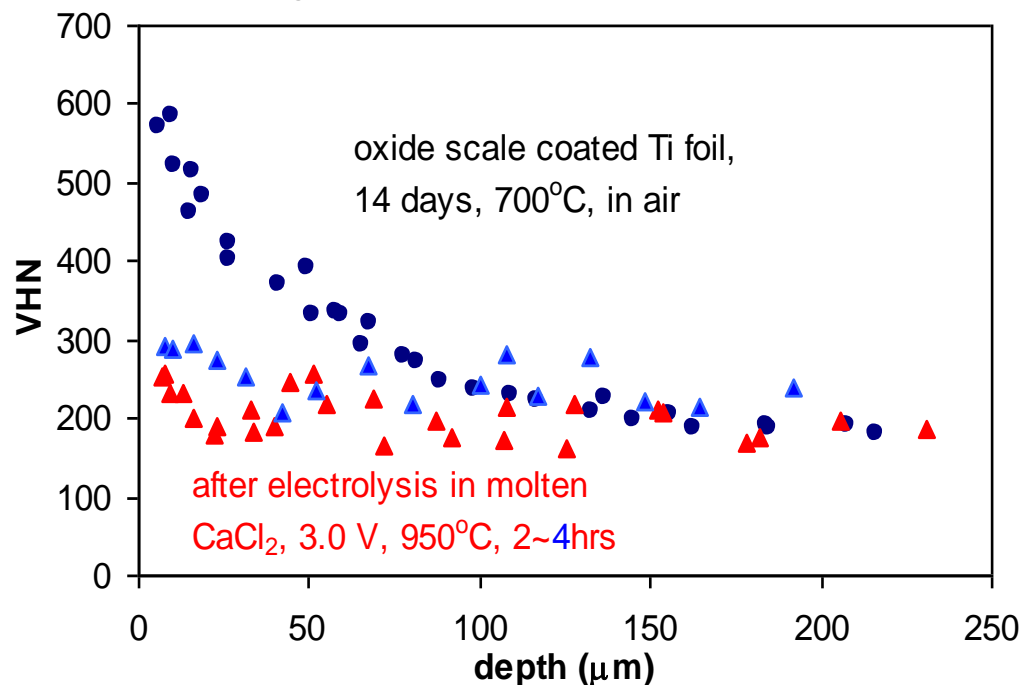
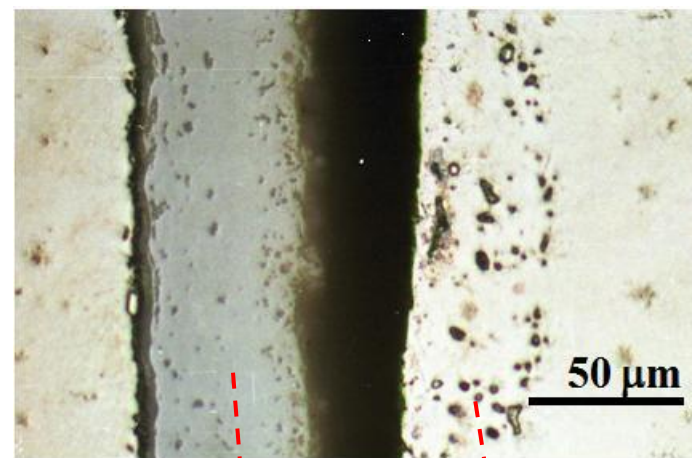
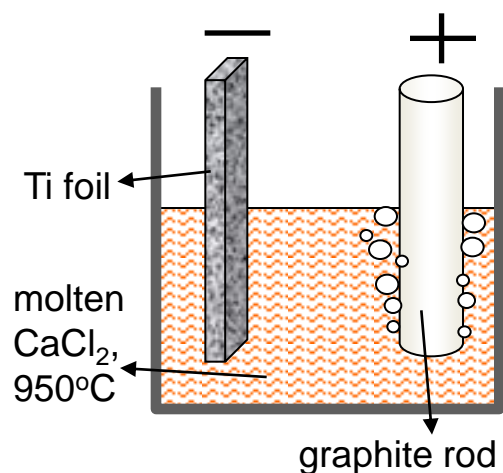
The dendritic deposit of titanium from  $K_2TiF_6$  in 850-950°C molten NaCl.

[M. A. Steinberg, M. E. Sibert, S.S. Carlton, & E. Wainer, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 102 (1955) 252.]

Production of titanium by **electro-deposition** from a solution has been researched for more than half a century, supported by billions of dollars around the world, **yet it still has not succeeded at the industrial scale.**



# Reduction of Solid $\text{TiO}_2$ ---- The Discovery in Late 1996



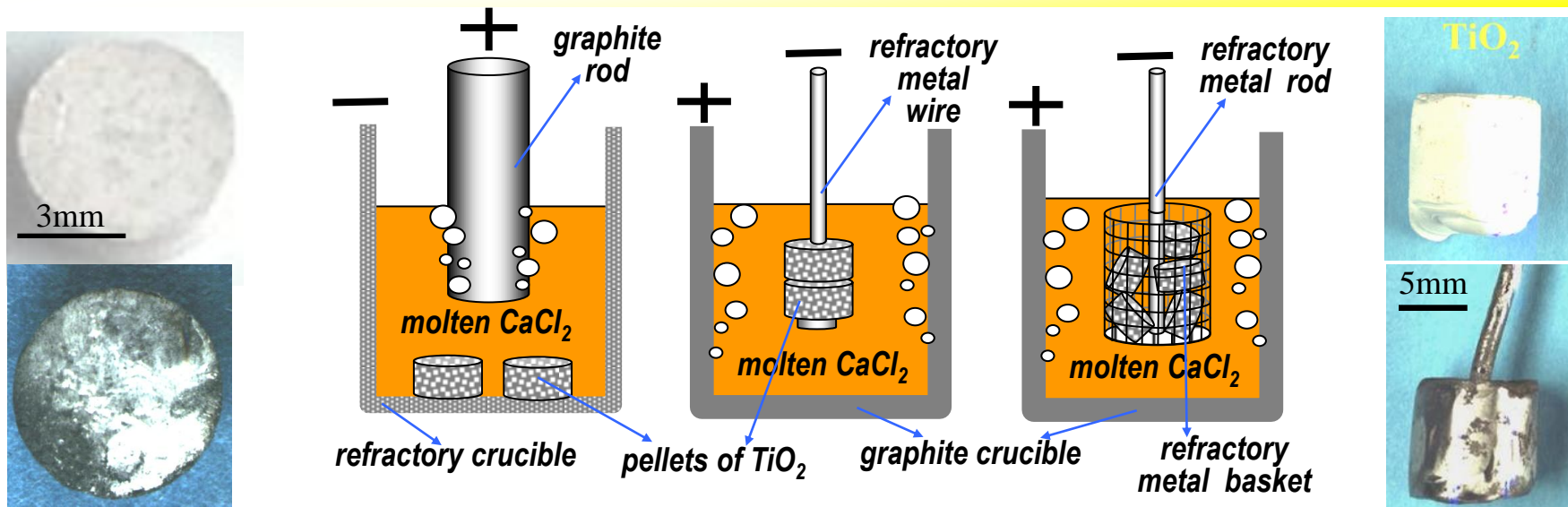
## Question:

Are these observations an indication of electrochemical reduction of **solid**  $\text{TiO}_2$  that is an **insulator**?

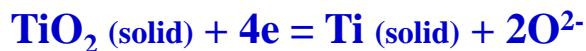


# Electro-Reduction of Solid Metal Oxides in Molten Salts

## ---The FFC Cambridge Process via Oxygen Ionisation



**Cathode:**



**Graphite or Inert Anode:**



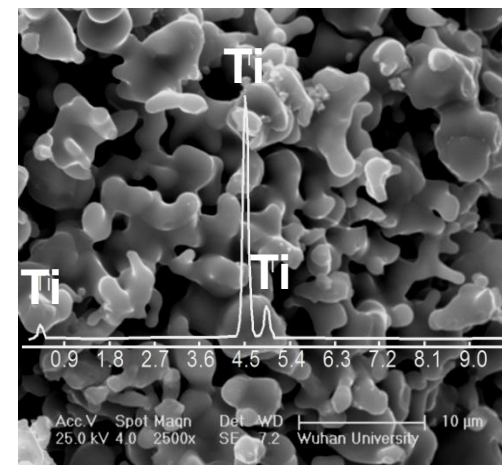
**Overall cell reaction (inert anode) :**



**Inert Anode**

$\text{SnO}_2$ ;  
 $\text{CaRuO}_3$ - $\text{CaTiO}_3$ ;  
 Solid  $\text{O}^{2-}$   
 conductor;  
 Cermets

**$\text{O}^{2-}$  cond. electrolyte**  
 $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{BaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{LiCl}$ ...



- (1) Chen, Fray, Farthing, *Nature*, 407(2000)2570.
- (2) Schwandt, Fray, *Electrochim. Acta*, 51 (2005) 66.
- (3) Jiang, Hu, ..., Jin, Chen, *Angew. Chem. Int. Edit.*, 45 (2006) 428.
- (4) Li, Jin, Huang, Chen, *Angew. Chem. Int. Edit.*, 49 (2010) 3203.
- (5) Jiao, Fray, *Mater. Metall. Trans. B*, 41 (2010) 74.
- (6) Zhao, Lu, Zhong, ... *Electrochim. Acta* 55 (2010) 2996.

**Table 1** Gibbs free energy change ( $\Delta G$ ) and decomposition voltage ( $E_d$ ) of typical oxides at 900 °C and melting point of the compounds, (m.p.)<sub>comp</sub>, and the metals (m.p.)<sub>m</sub>

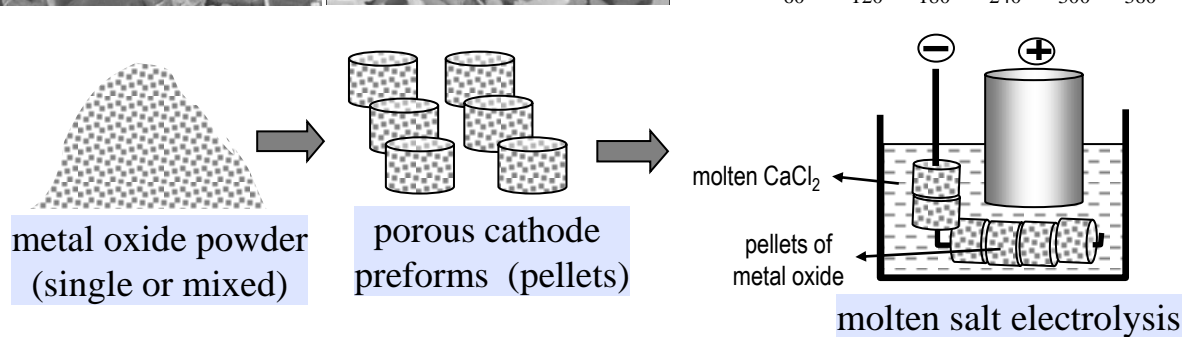
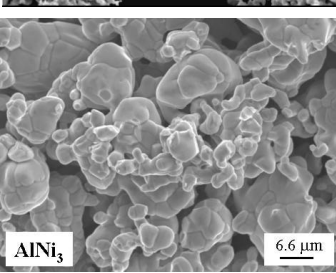
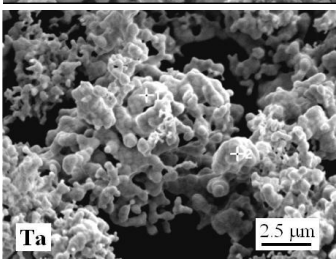
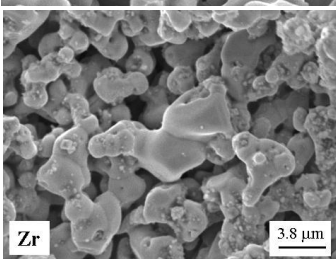
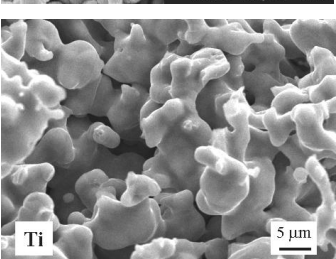
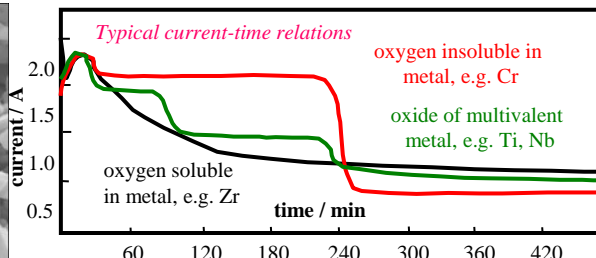
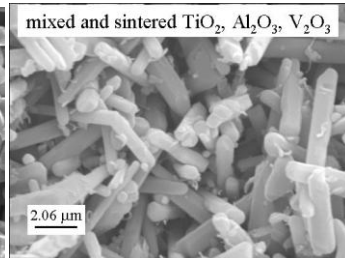
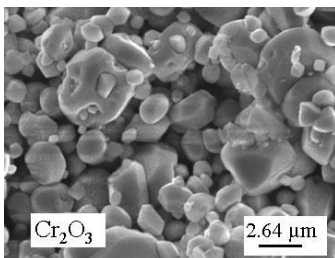
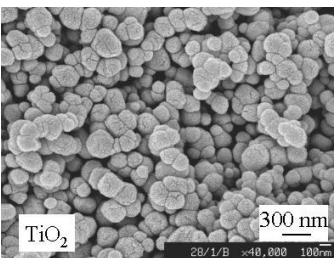
Reaction	$\Delta G/\text{kJ}$	$V_d/V$	(m.p.) <sub>comp</sub> /°C	(m.p.) <sub>m</sub> /°C
$\text{LiCl(l)} = \text{Li(l)} + 0.5\text{Cl}_2\text{(g)}$	365.872	3.792	610	181
$\text{CaCl}_2\text{(l)} = \text{Ca(l)} + \text{Cl}_2\text{(g)}$	667.414	3.459	782	842
$\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Y} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1565.120	2.704	2690	1526
$\text{Tb}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Tb} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1534.838	2.651	2410	1359
$\text{Dy}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Dy} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1518.622	2.623	2408	1411
$\text{BeO} = \text{Be} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	494.328	2.562	2578	1287
$\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Nd} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1478.091	2.553	2320	1016
$\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Pr} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1475.931	2.549	2300	931
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{La} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1461.984	2.525	2305	920
$\text{CaO} = \text{Ca(l)} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	486.360	2.520	2900	842
$\text{HfO}_2 = \text{Hf} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	901.734	2.336	2774	2233
$\text{Li}_2\text{O} = 2\text{Li(l)} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	441.317	2.287	1570	181
$\text{UO}_2 = \text{U} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	881.835	2.285	2827	1135
$\text{MgO} = \text{Mg(l)} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	440.458	2.283	2830	650
$\text{ZrO}_2 = \text{Zr} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	877.558	2.274	2677	1855
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Al(l)} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1303.568	2.252	2054	660
$\text{TiO} = \text{Ti} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	430.472	2.231	1750	1668
$\text{CeO}_2 = \text{Ce} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	846.748	2.194	2400	799
$\text{TiO}_2 = \text{Ti} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	732.128	1.897	1800	1668
$\text{SiO}_2 = \text{Si} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	700.324	1.815	1710	1414
$\text{B}_2\text{O}_3\text{(l)} = 2\text{B} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	981.640	1.696	450	2075
$\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5 = 2\text{Ta} + 2.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1533.416	1.589	1880	3017
$\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{(l)} = 2\text{V} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	852.721	1.473	1970	1910
$\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5 = 2\text{Nb} + 2.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1390.475	1.441	1460	2477
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Cr} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	827.988	1.430	2450	1907
$\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Ga(l)} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	708.586	1.224	1725	30
$\text{CO(g)} = \text{C} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	215.491	1.117	-205	4492
$\text{V}_2\text{O}_5\text{(l)} = 2\text{V} + 2.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	1059.364	1.098	685	1910
$\text{CO}_2\text{(g)} = \text{C} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	396.040	1.026	-57	4492
$\text{FeO} = \text{Fe} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	187.614	0.972	1370	1538
$\text{WO}_3 = \text{W} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	543.804	0.939	1473	3422
$\text{GeO}_2 = \text{Ge} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	355.164	0.920	1116	938
$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 = 2\text{Fe} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	516.287	0.892	1565	1538
$\text{SnO}_2 = \text{Sn(l)} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	338.464	0.877	1630	232
$\text{MnO}_2 = \text{Mn} + \text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	308.893	0.800	535	1246
$\text{MoO}_3 = \text{Mo} + 1.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	456.796	0.789	795	2623
$\text{NiO} = \text{Ni} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	133.576	0.692	1960	1455
$\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4 = 3\text{Co} + 2\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	460.145	0.596	900	1495
$\text{Cu}_2\text{O} = 2\text{Cu} + 0.5\text{O}_2\text{(g)}$	83.206	0.431	1230	1085

# Electro-Reduction of Solid Metal Oxides in Molten Salts ---Thermodynamics

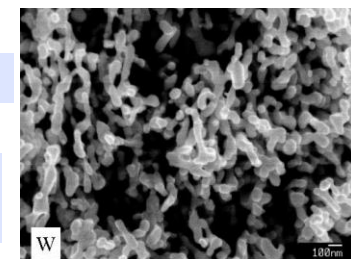
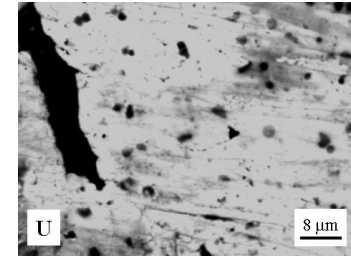
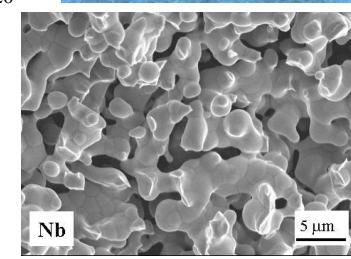
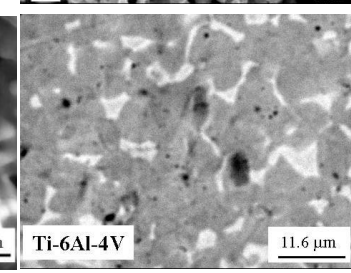
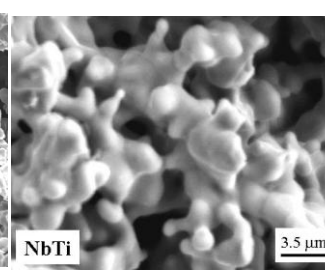
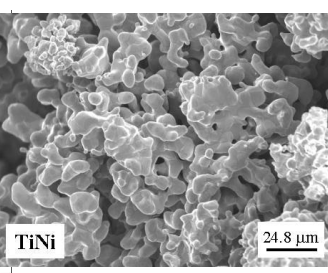
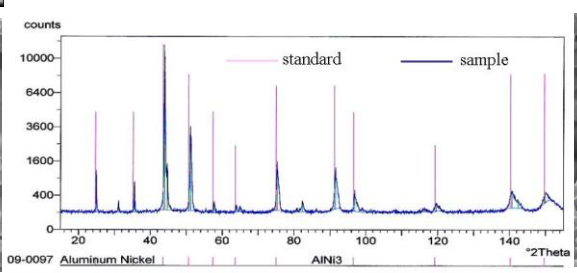
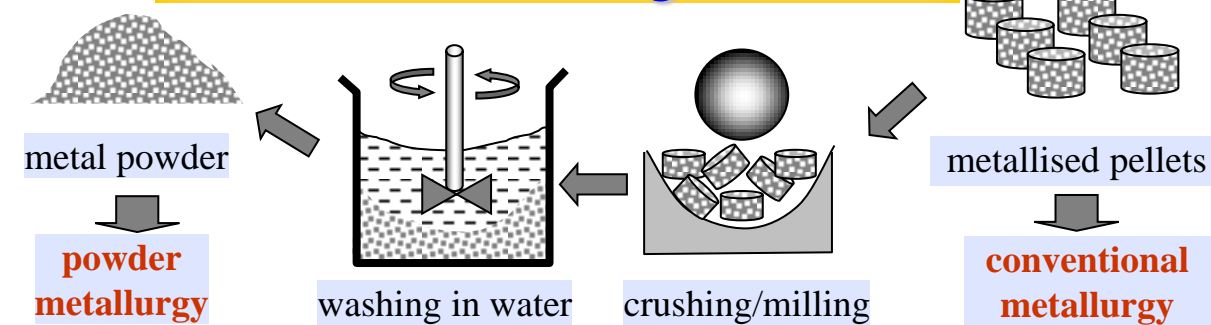
(1) HSC Chemistry

(2) Wang DH, Jin XB, Chen GZ,  
*Annu. Rep. Prog. Chem., Sect. C:*  
*Phys. Chem.*, 104 (2008) 189-234.

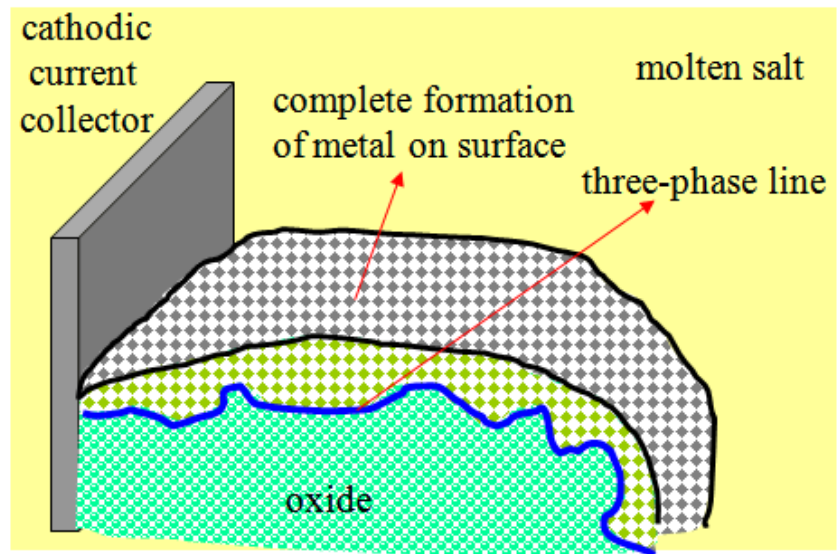
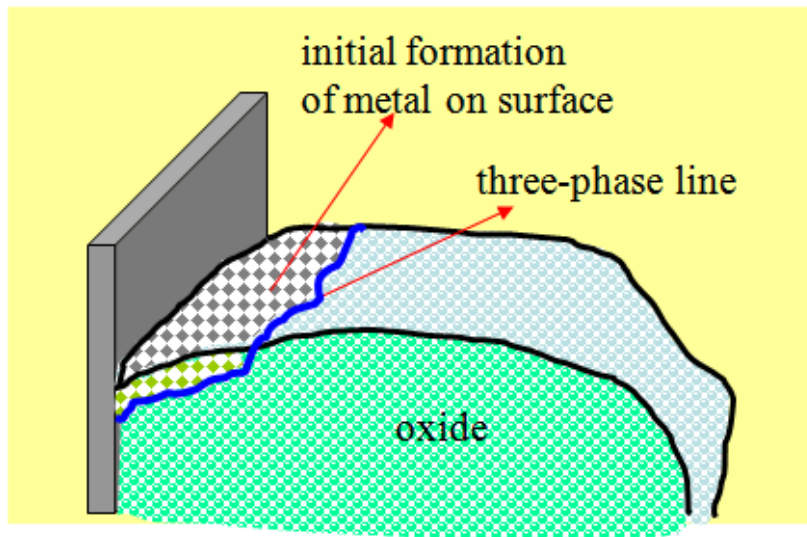
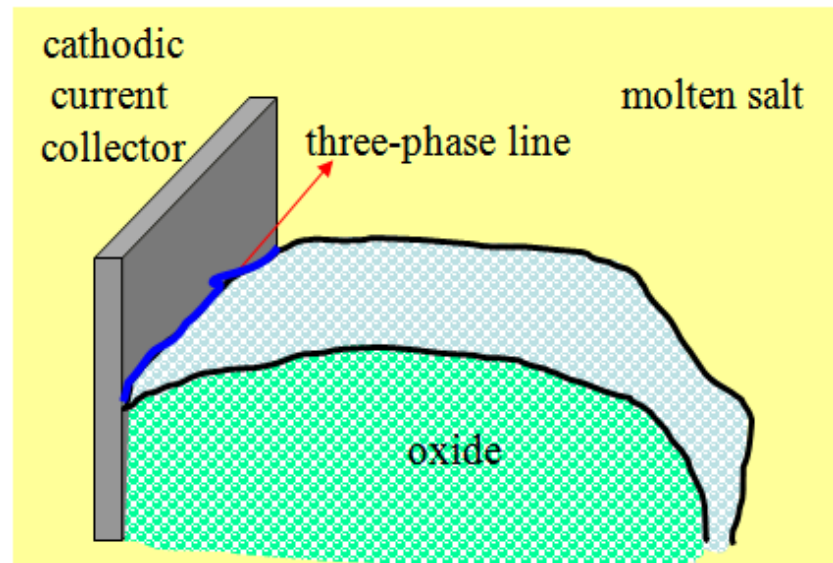
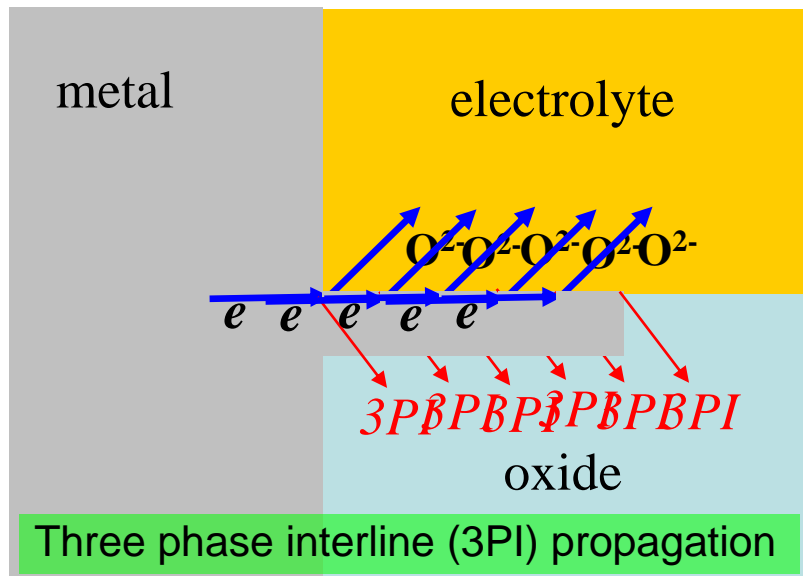




## The FFC Cambridge Process

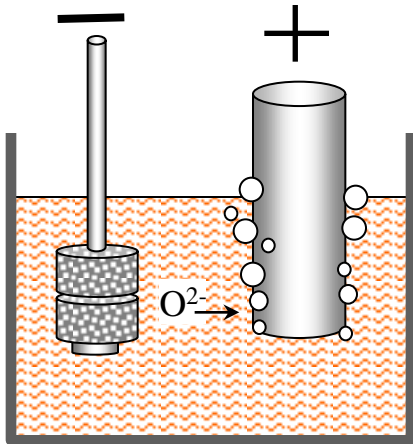


# Electrolysis of Insulating Solid Oxide: 3PI Mechanism

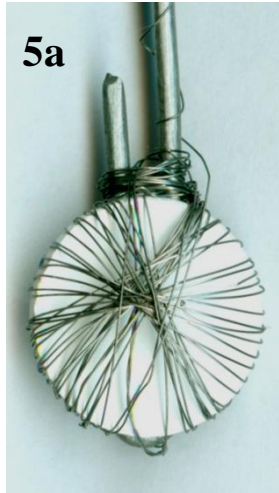




# Electro-Reduced Cylindrical Pellets

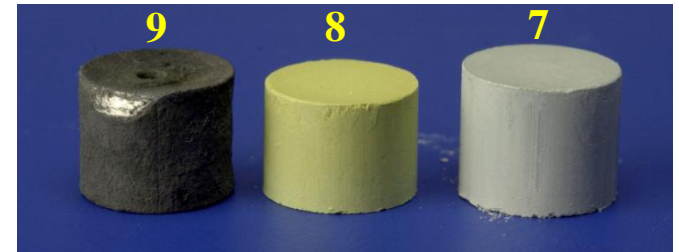


3.0 V, 950°C, molten  $\text{CaCl}_2$



5. Die-pressed  $\text{TiO}_2$  pellet.  
6. After electrolysis in  $\text{CaCl}_2$ .

M Ma et al, *J. Alloys Compd.* 420 (2006) 37



7. Die-pressed  $\text{NiO}+\text{TiO}_2$  pellet.  
8. After sintering in air (950 °C).  
9. After electrolysis in  $\text{CaCl}_2$



1. Slip cast & sintered  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  
2. Slip cast & sintered mixed  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$   
3,4. Electro-reduced in molten  $\text{CaCl}_2$  at 3.1 V, 950°C

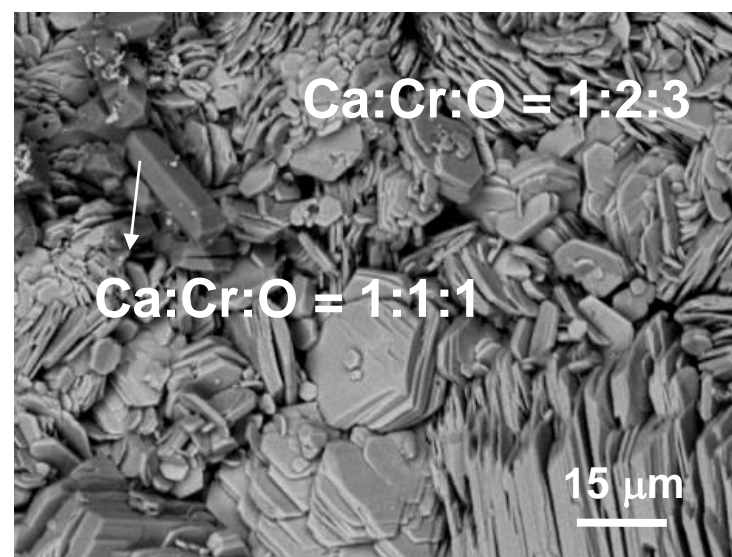
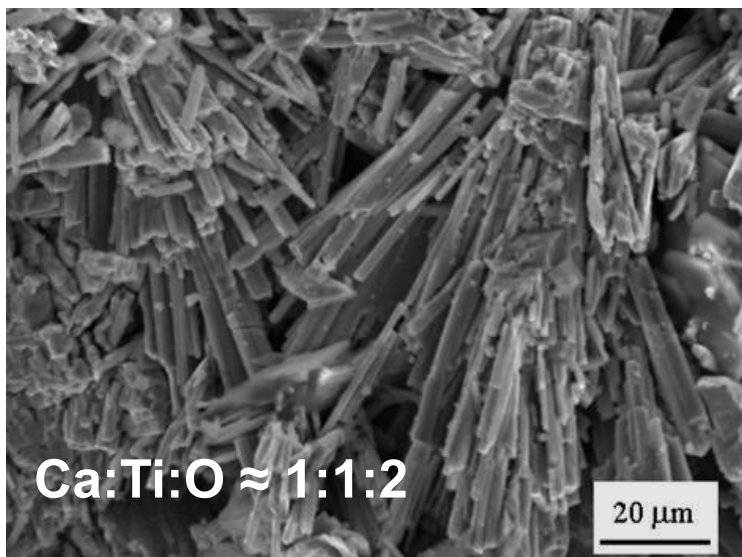
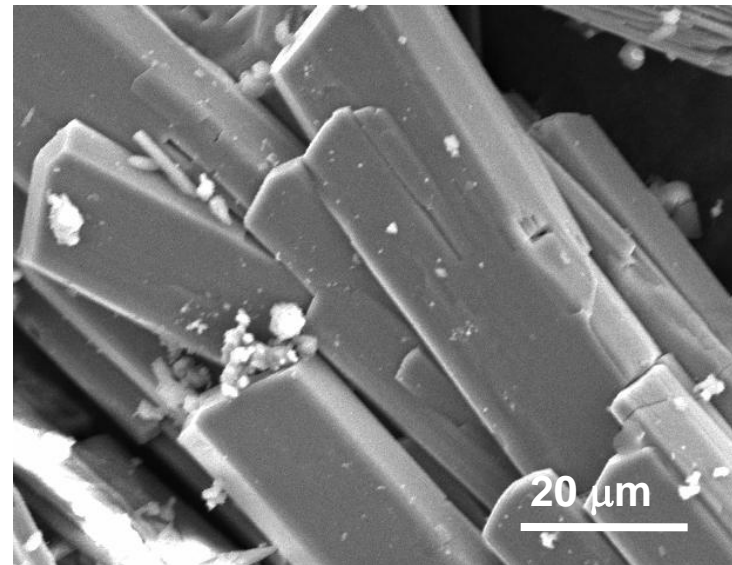
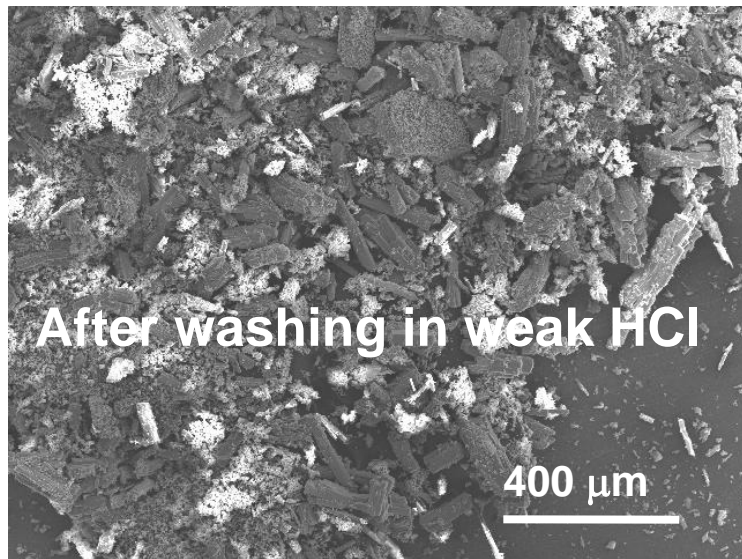
Product purity: > 99.8%  
Main impurity: O < 2000 ppm  
E.C.: < most, if not all, exiting technologies.

C.E.: ☹ 10 ~ 90 % ☺



# Intermediate Products from Partial Electro-reduction

$\text{Ca}_x\text{M}_y\text{O}_z$  crystallites in partially reduced oxide pellets

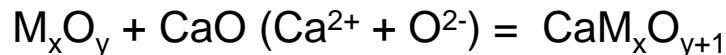


# In situ Perovskitisation

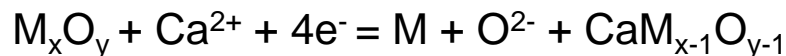
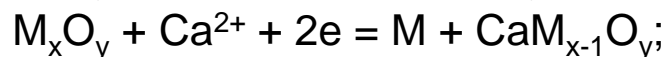
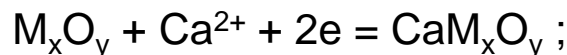
Chen, Fray, *J. Electrochem. Soc.* 149 (2002) E455;

Chen, Fray, *Light Metals* 2004, (2004) 881.

*Chemical reaction due to CaO saturation*



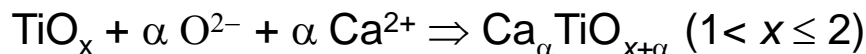
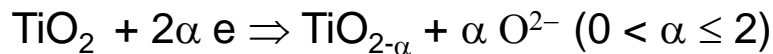
*Electro-intercalation, or -chemisorption*



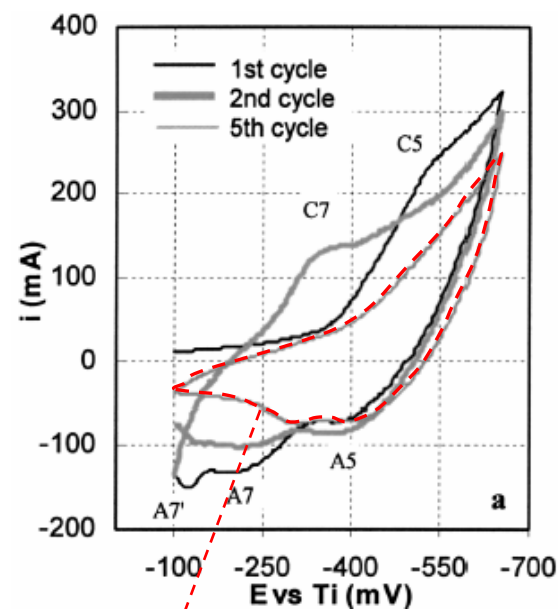
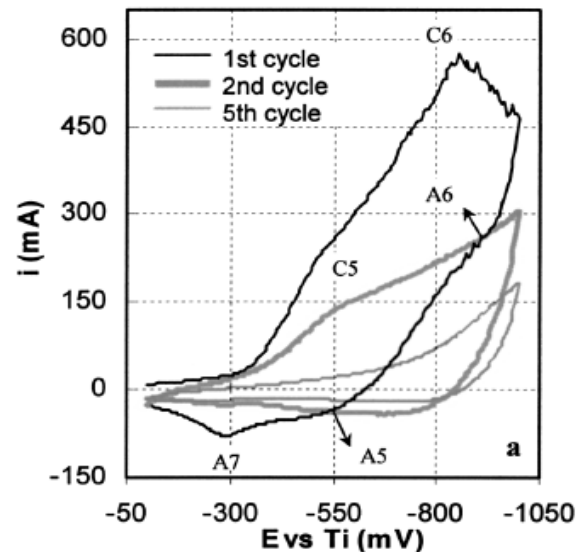
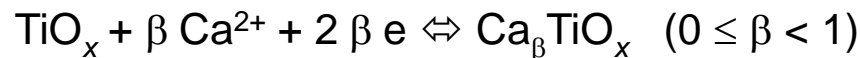
.....

Jiang et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 45 (2006) 428.

Chemical perovskitisation



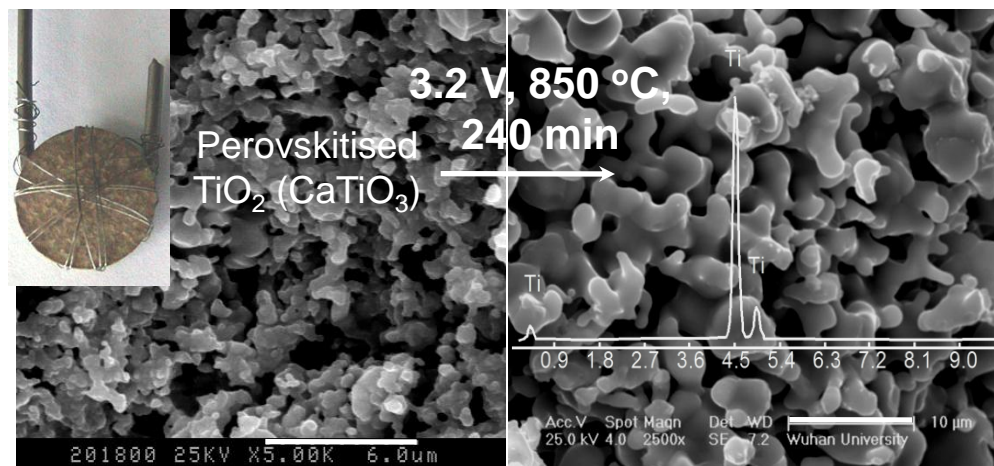
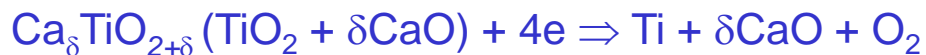
Electrochemical perovskitisation



reproducible CV

# Fast Electro-Reduction of Pre-Perovskitised $\text{TiO}_2$

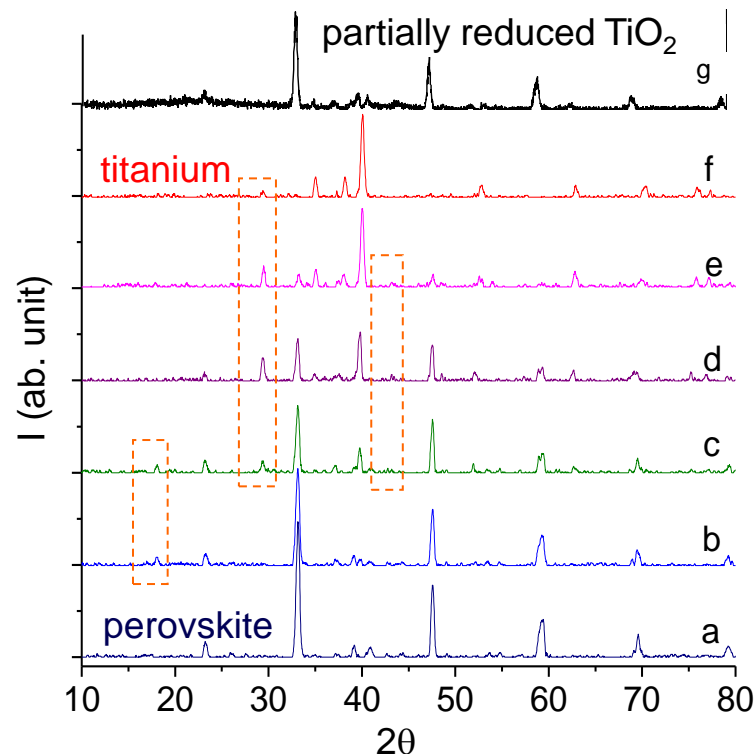
Pre-Perovskitisation increases electrolysis speed and efficiency (~50%).



## XRD analysis of different phases in electrolysis products

$\text{TiO}_2$ 900 °C	3.0 V, 0.5 h	$\text{Ca}_x\text{TiO}_y$ (81.3 %) + $\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_3$ (18.7 %)
	3.0 V, 2 h	$\text{Ca}_x\text{TiO}_y$ (83.7) + $\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_3$ (10.6) + $\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_5$ (5.7)
	3.0 V, 4 h	$\text{Ca}_x\text{TiO}_y$ (89.9) + $\text{TiO}$ (11.1)
$\text{CaTiO}_3$ 850 °C	2.8 V, 5 h	Ti (87.2) + X (12.8)
	2.6 V, 5 h	Ti (51.8) + $\text{Ca}_x\text{TiO}_y$ (38.8) + X (9.4)
	2.4 V, 15 h	Ti (50.1) + $\text{Ca}_x\text{TiO}_y$ (37.7) + X (12.2)

Jiang et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 45 (2006) 428.



XRD patterns. (a) Synthetic  $\text{CaTiO}_3$ . (g) partially reduced  $\text{TiO}_2$ . (b-f) After electrolysis in molten  $\text{CaCl}_2$  at 3.2 V and 850°C for 10 (b), 30 (c), 60 (d), 120 (e) and 240 min (f).

**~50% improvement  
in E.C. and C.E.**

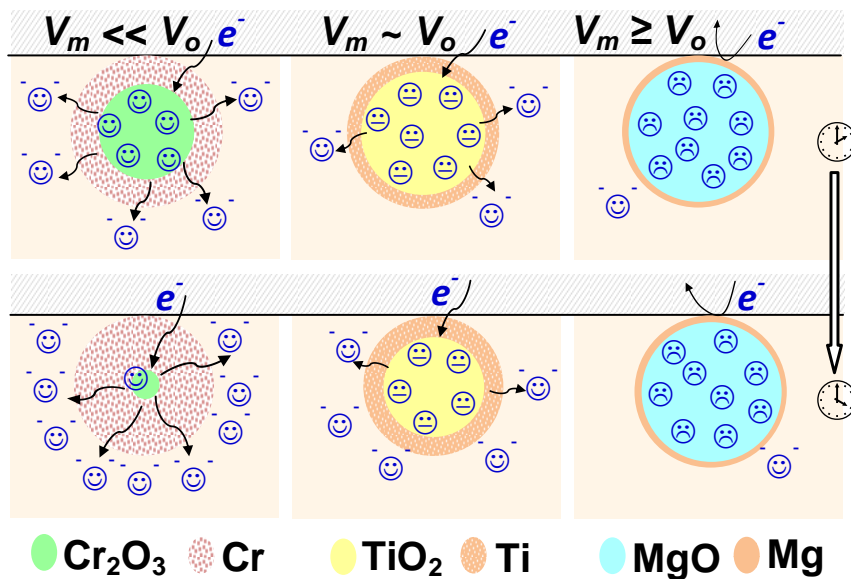


# Molar Volume Ratios of Selected Metal/Oxide Couples

M / MO <sub>x</sub>	Ta / Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Cr / Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Zr / ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Al / Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Mg / MgO	Ti / TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ti / Ti <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Ti / TiO	Ti/ Ti <sub>2</sub> O
V <sub>m</sub> /V <sub>o</sub>	0.40	0.50	0.66	0.78	<b>1.25</b>	0.63	0.74	0.91	≥ 1 ?

Pilling-Bedworth Equation: 
$$\frac{V_m}{V_o} = \frac{M_o / (n\rho_o)}{M_m / \rho_m}$$

$n = 1$  for TiO<sub>2</sub> and MgO,  
 $n = 2$  for Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>,  
 $n = 3$  for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>



No successful electro-reduction of MgO to Mg metal is reported.

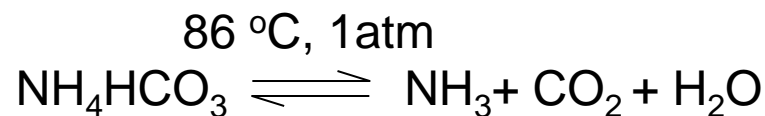
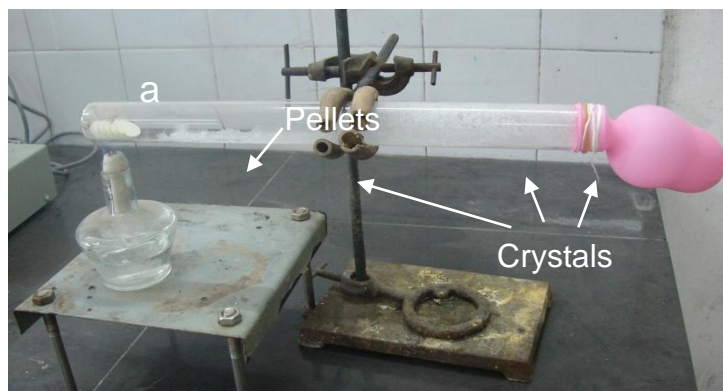
S Tan et al, *J. Alloy Compd.* 504 (2010) 134.

Apart from  $V_{Mg}/V_{MgO} > 1$ , Mg metal does not dissolve oxygen, but Ti metal does.

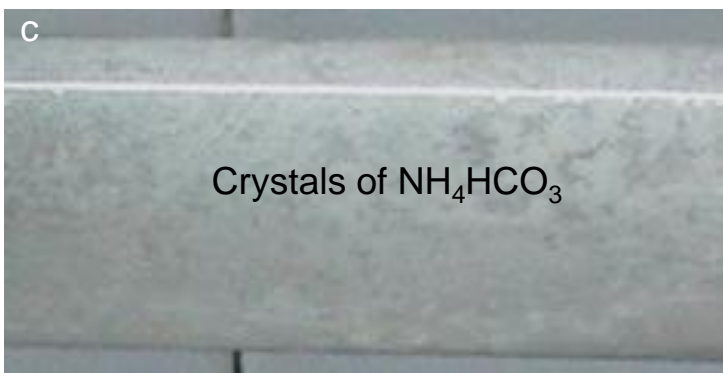
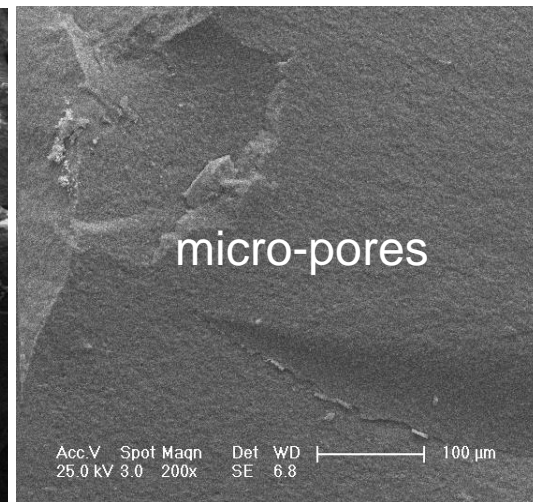
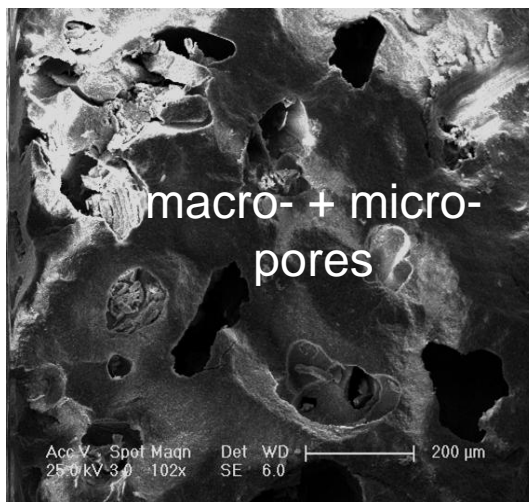
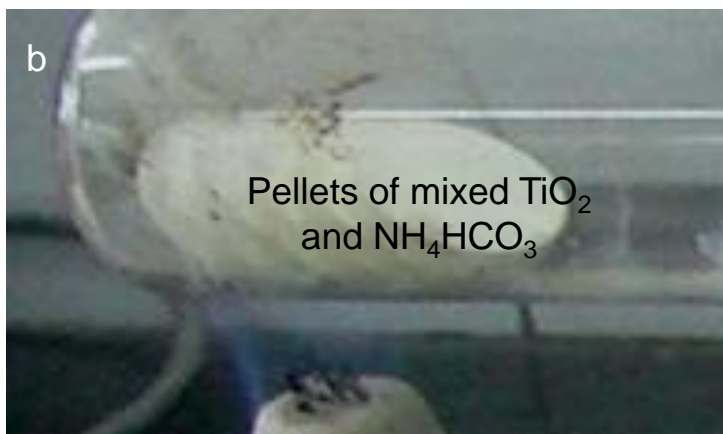
Smaller particle and greater metal / electrolyte interface are needed to promote O transfer.

W Li et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 49 (2010) 3203.

# Recyclable $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ for Highly Porous $\text{TiO}_2$ Precursor



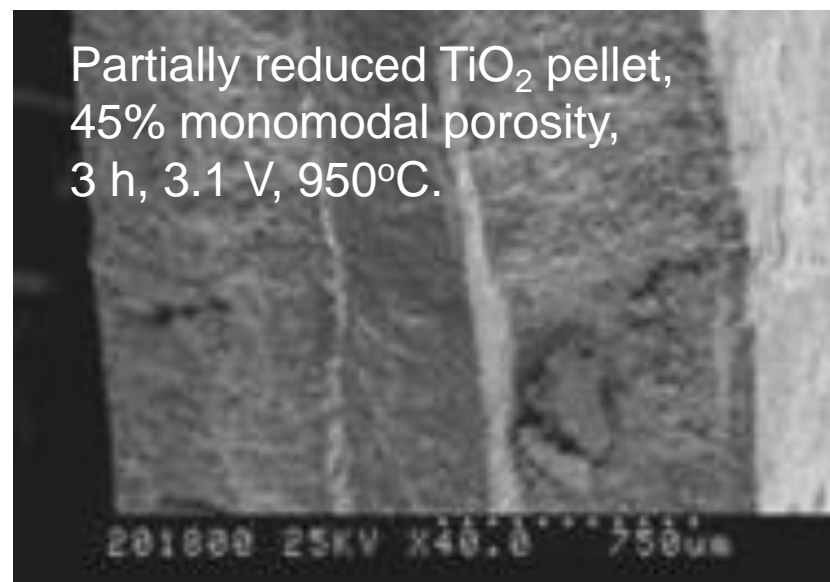
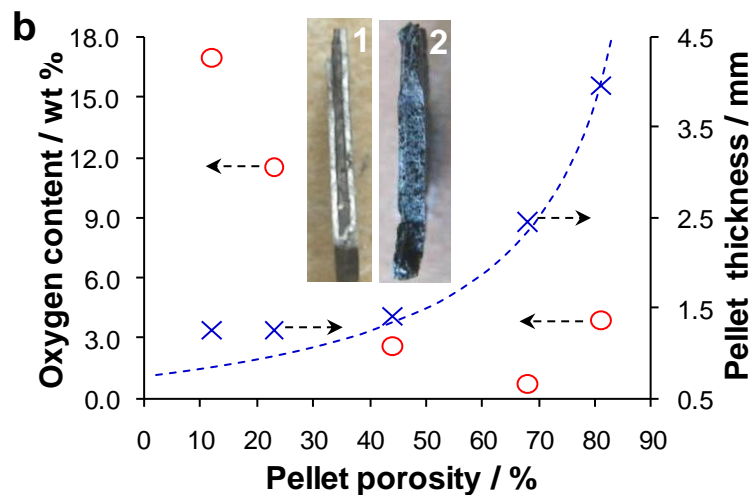
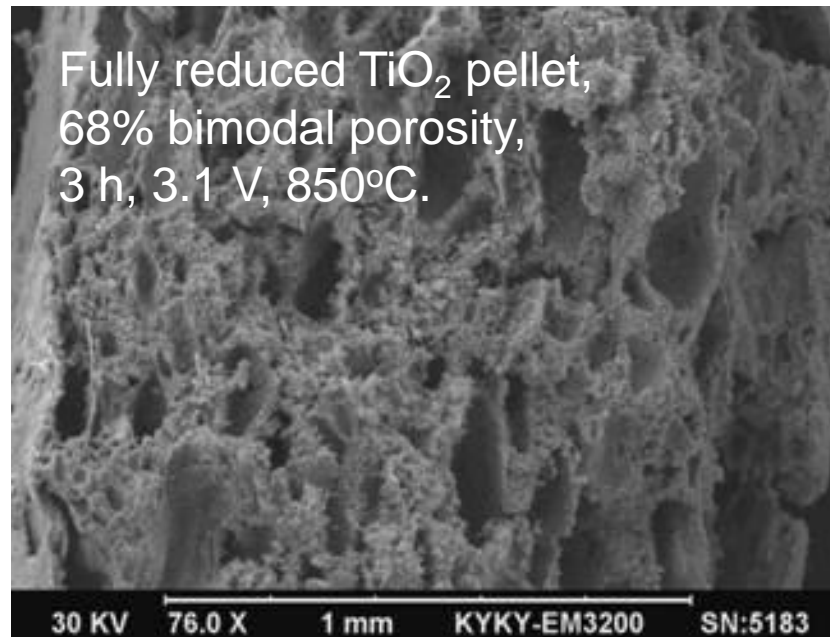
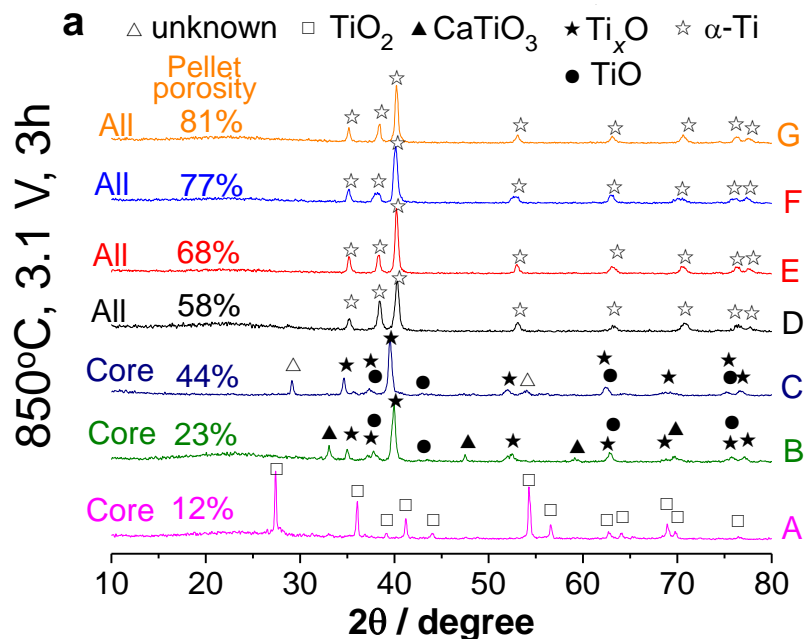
Recovery of  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3 > 97\%$



SEM images of  $\text{TiO}_2$  pellet prepared with (left) and without (right) using  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  as fugitive porogenic agent.

W Li et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 49 (2010) 3203.

# Fast Electro-Reduction of Highly Porous TiO<sub>2</sub> Precursor



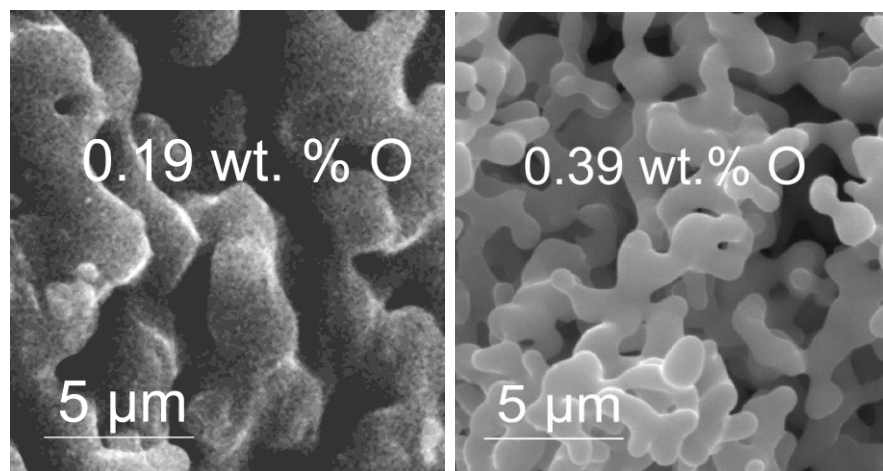
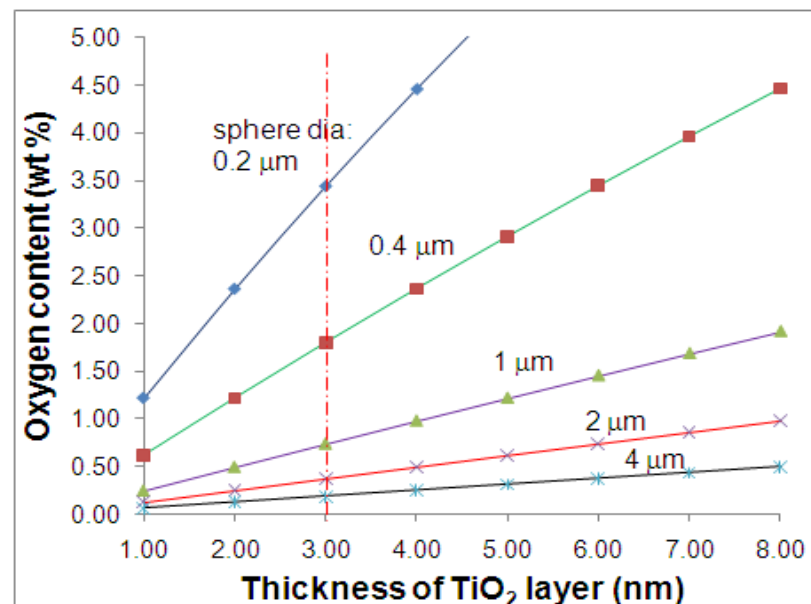


# Oxygen content vs. particle size: Surface oxide layer

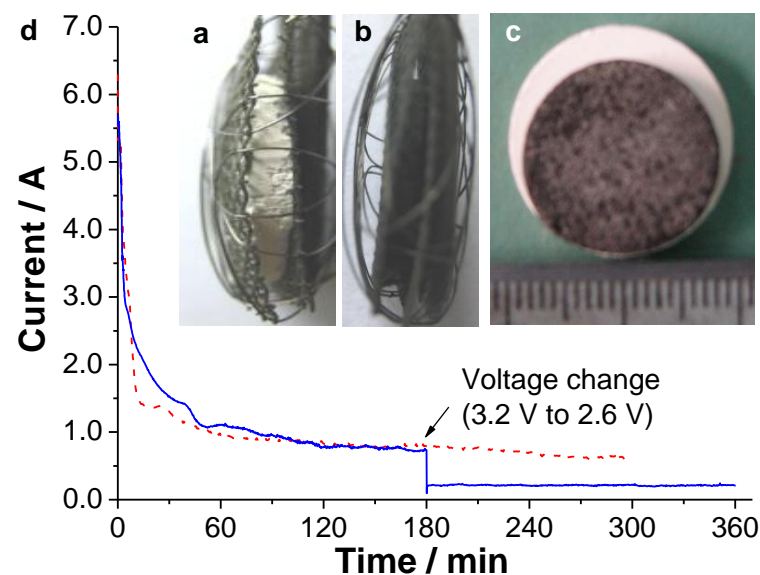
Product oxygen content & process efficiency, for electrolysis of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , 68% porosity, 850 °C.

Electrolysis conditions	Oxygen content (wt %)	Current efficiency (%)	Energy consumption (kWh/kg-Ti)
3.0 V, 3 h	1.45	54.4	12.3
3.2 V, 3 h	0.68 <sup>a</sup>	36.3	19.2
3.2 V, 5 h	0.39	28.7	24.9
3.2 V, 3 h + 2.6 V, 3 h	0.19	32.3	21.5

<sup>a</sup> Average of five analyses with maximum error =  $\pm 0.35$ .

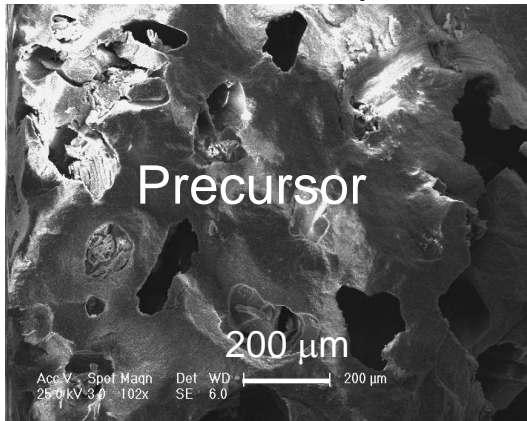


W Li et al, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 49 (2010) 3203.

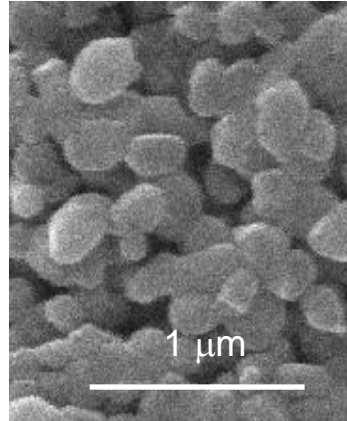


# Macro-Micro-Bimodal Porosity in Precursor and Product

Macro- and micro-pores



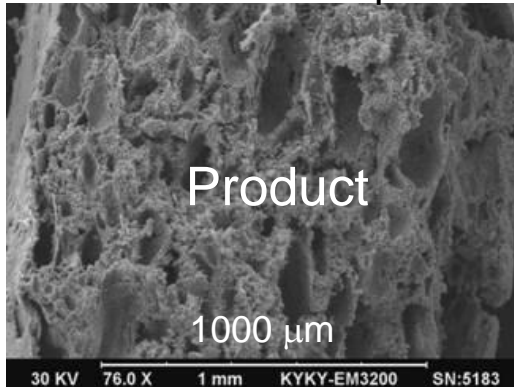
micro-pores



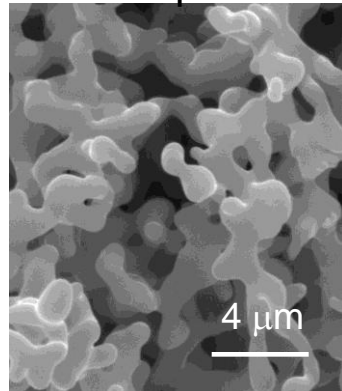
The macro-pores are **several million** times larger than the micro-pores in volume:



Macro- and micro-pores

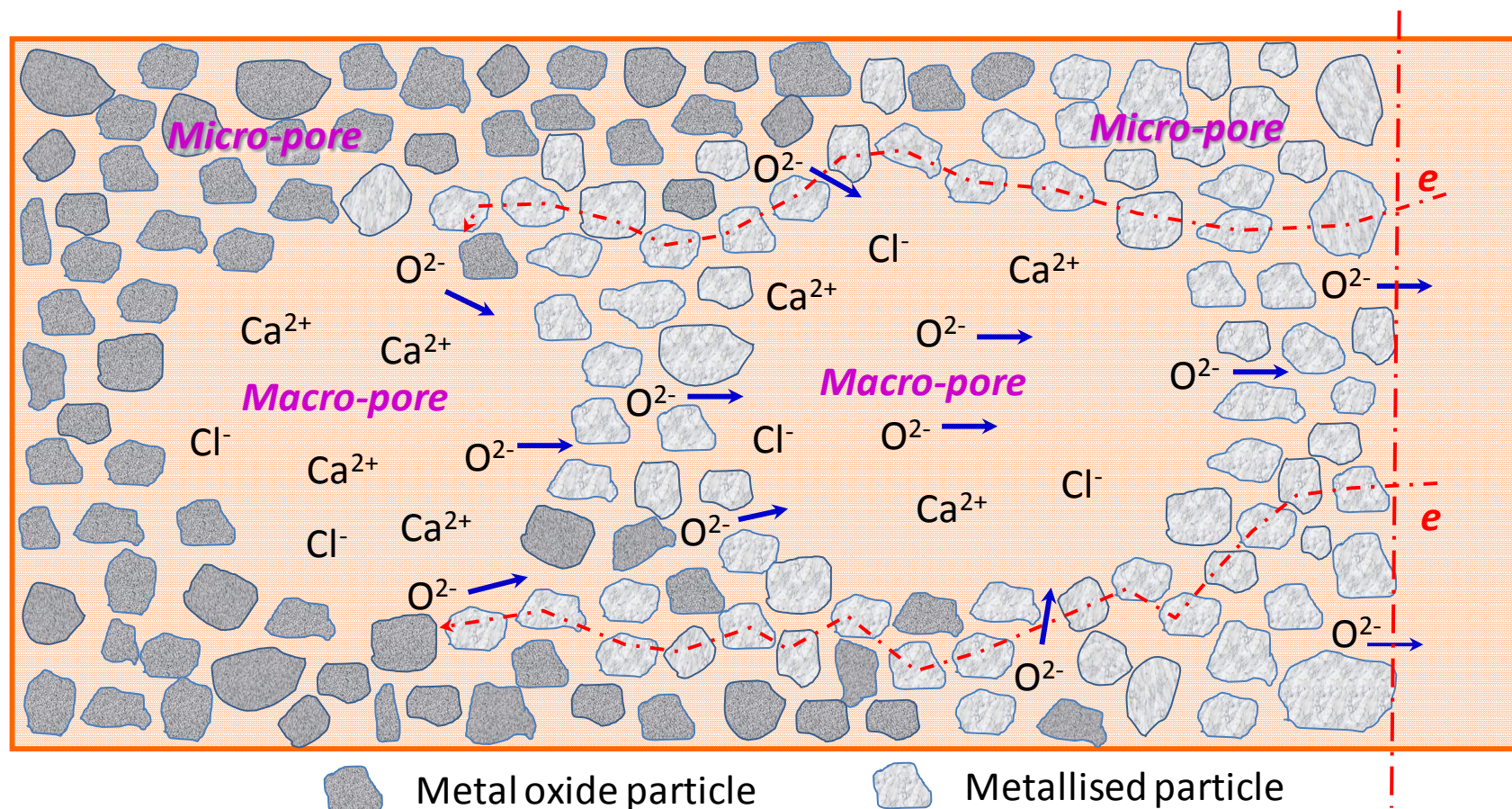


micro-pores



Local molten salt reservoirs for avoiding saturation of  $\text{O}^{2-}$  ions and **in situ perovskitisation**.

## Enhanced transfer of $O^{2-}$ ions in macro-micro-bimodal pores



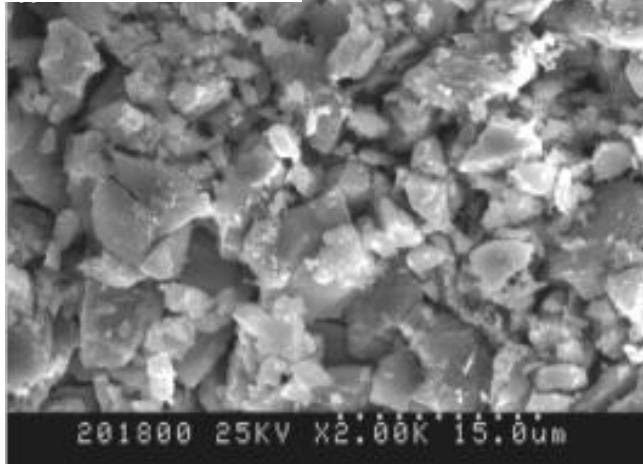
Avoidance of saturation of  $O^{2-}$  ions and of formation of perovskites.

Macro-pores:  $D \sim 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$  vs. Micro-pores  $D \sim 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$

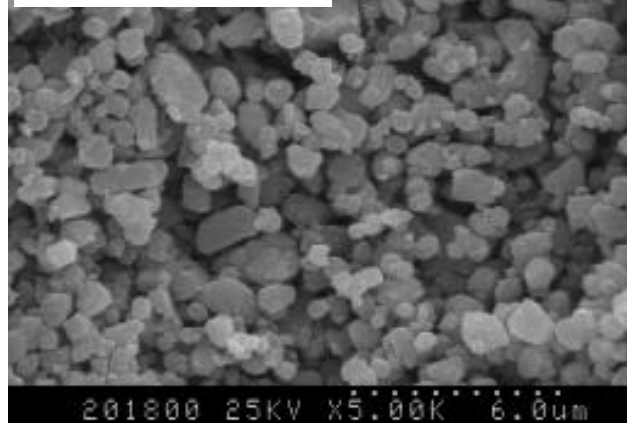


# Natural Ilmenite and mixed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ : SEM

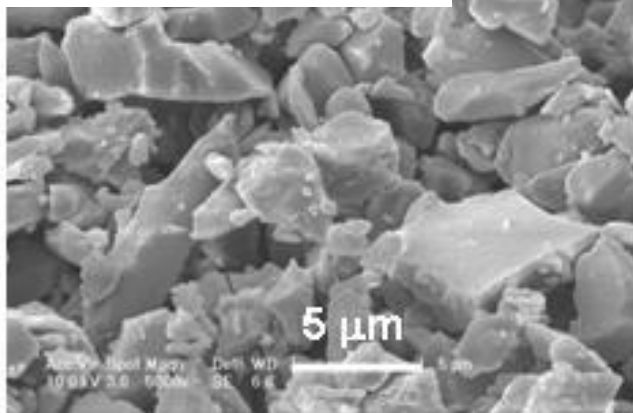
Natural Ilmenite



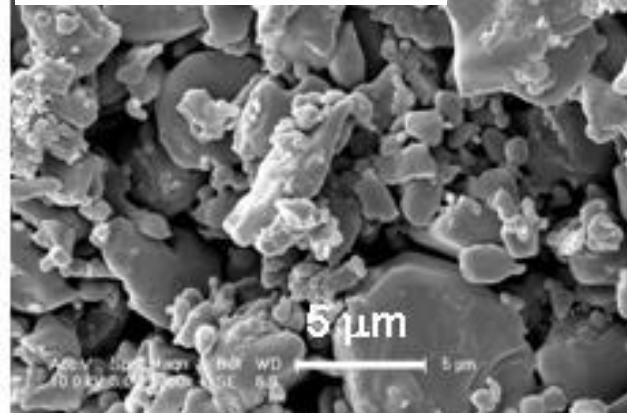
Natural Ilmenite  
( $2\text{TiO}_2 + \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )



$\text{TiO}_2 + 46.2 \text{ wt\% Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

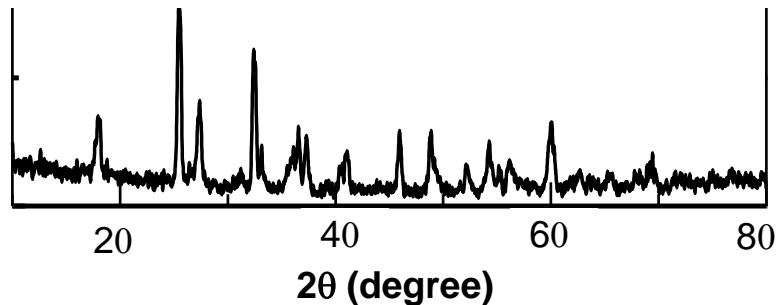


$\text{TiO}_2 + 82.9 \text{ wt\% Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

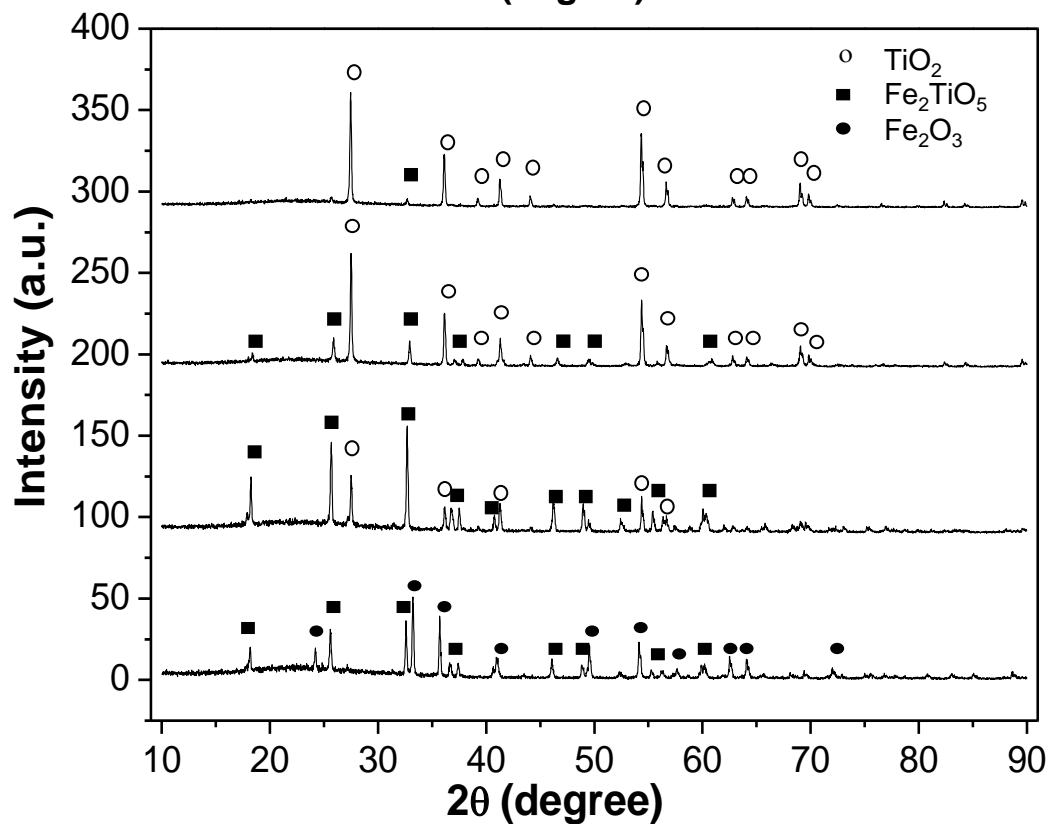


All SEM images of were taken from ground powders. The mixed  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  samples were prepared by firing at 1300 °C and re-milling.

# Natural ilmenite and mixed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ : XRD



A: natural ilmenite



B: 1.71 wt %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

C: 13.1 wt %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

F: 46.2 wt %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

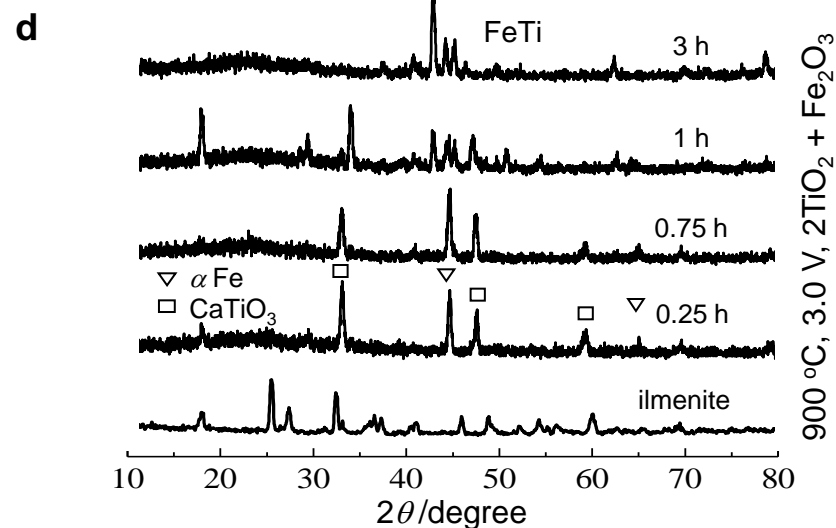
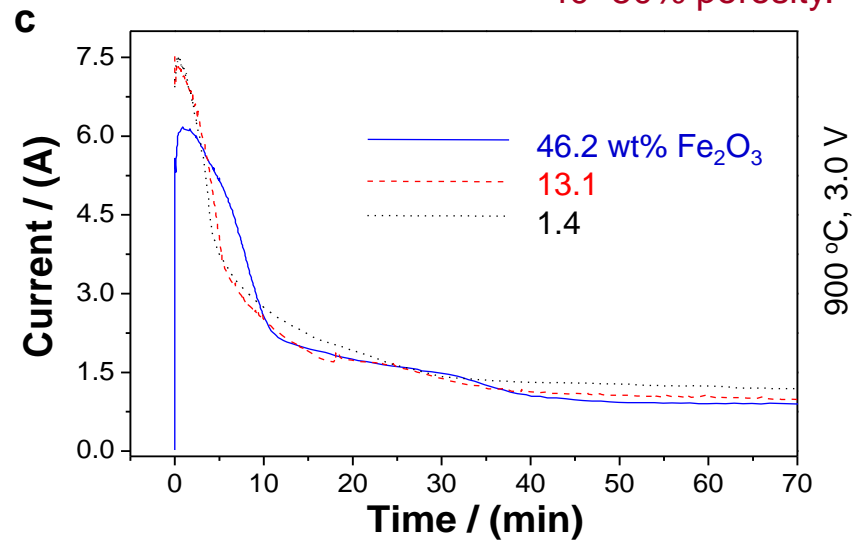
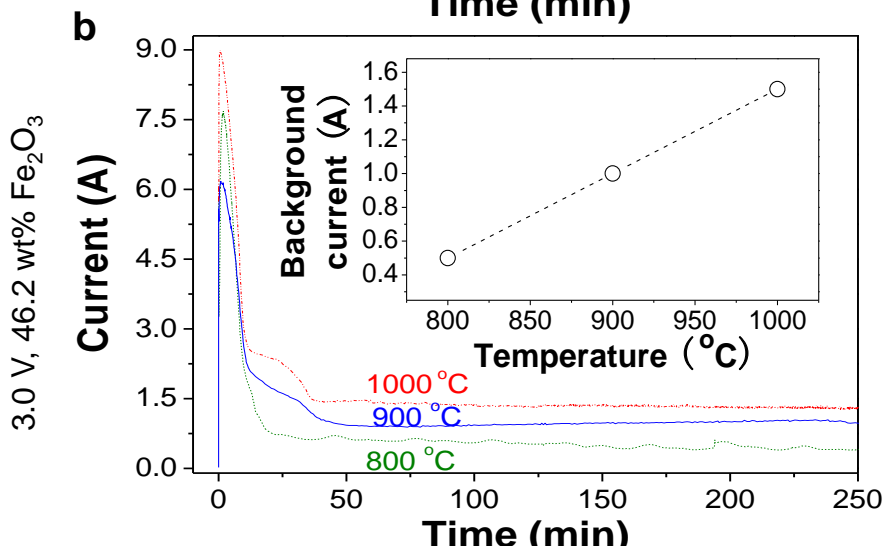
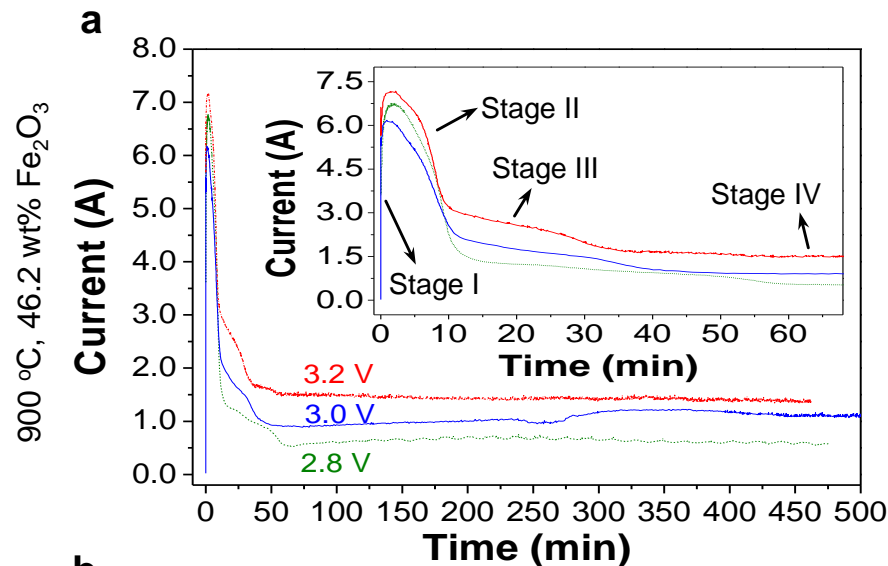
E: 82.9 wt %  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

All patterns were obtained from ground powders. The mixed  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  samples were prepared by firing at 1300 °C and re-milling.

Li GM, Jin XB, Wang DH, Chen GZ,  
*J. Alloy Compd.*, 428 (2009) 320-327.

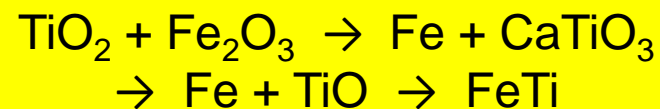
# Electrolysis of mixed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ in Molten $\text{CaCl}_2$

**Pellet:** 2mm th.;  
20 mm dia.; 3~5 g;  
40~50% porosity.



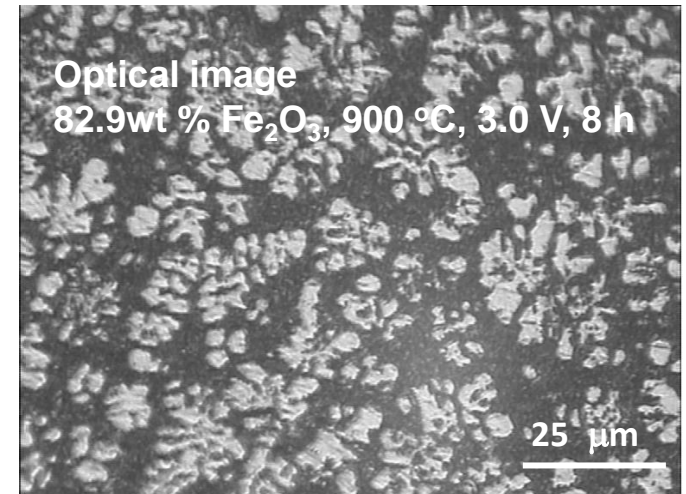
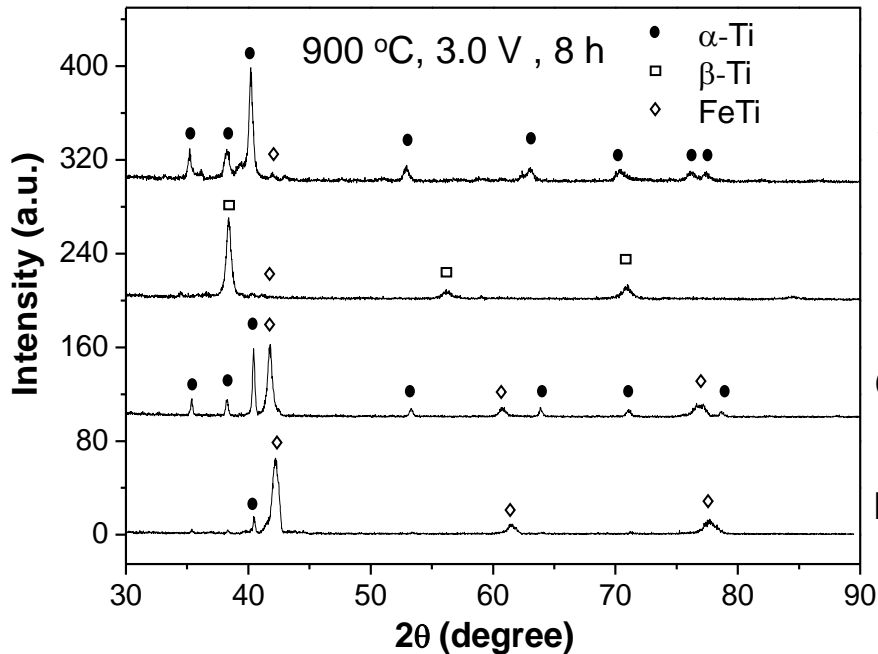
GM Li et al, *J. Alloy Compd.*, 428 (2009) 320.

M Ma et al, *Chem.-Eur. J.* 12 (2006) 5075-5081

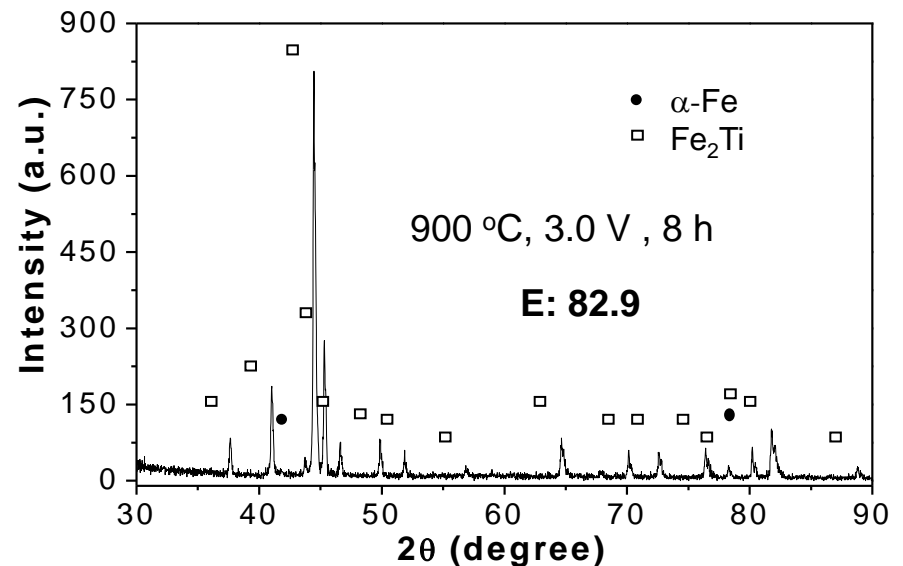
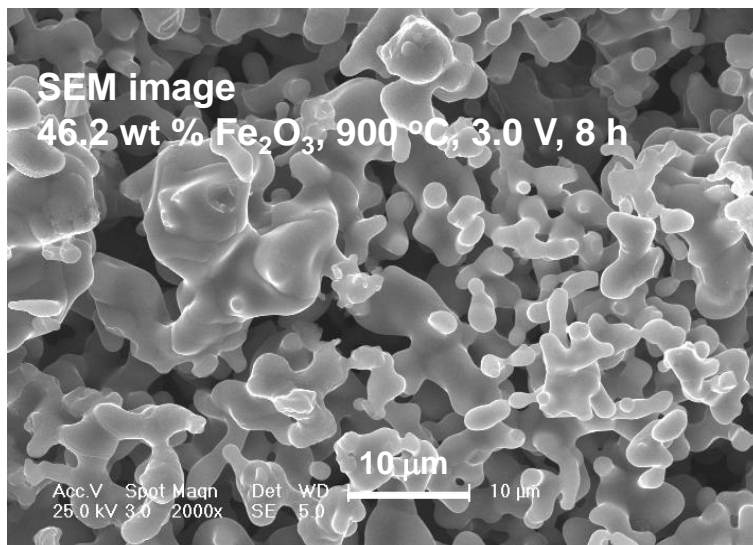




# Electrolysis of mixed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ in Molten $\text{CaCl}_2$



Arc-melted ingot,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{Ti}$  dendrite in  $\alpha$ -Fe



# Properties of Electrolytic Fe-Ti Alloys

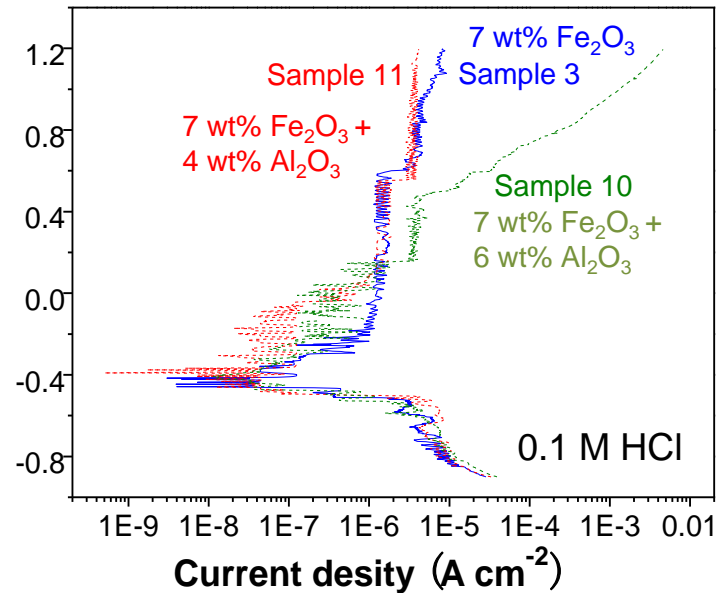
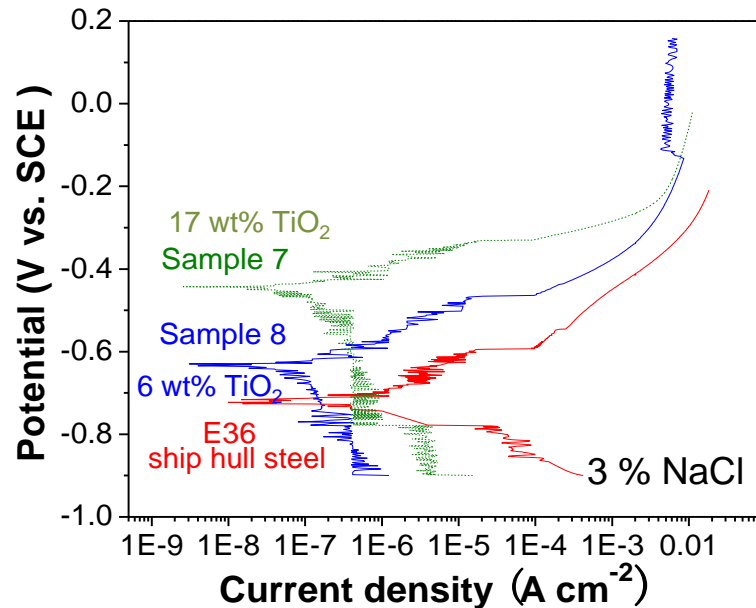
## Processing

As-prepared FFC Fe-Ti powers/pellets < ball milling; cold pressing  
arc-melted ingots → bulk properties.

## Hardness

Content of $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (mol %)	0	0.9	2.2	3.6	15-50	70.8	89.2
VHN	120	389	583	687	> 900	399	237

## Resistance to corrosion



# Potential for Production of Ti-Fe-Ni H<sub>2</sub> Storage Alloys (HAS)

2010 world energy need:  $2 \times 10^{14}$  kWh/yr

If  $\frac{1}{4}$  from H<sub>2</sub>:  $1.3 \sim 1.9 \times 10^{12}$  kg H<sub>2</sub> /yr

HSA need (5wt%):  **$3 \sim 5 \times 10^{10}$  kg**

World production

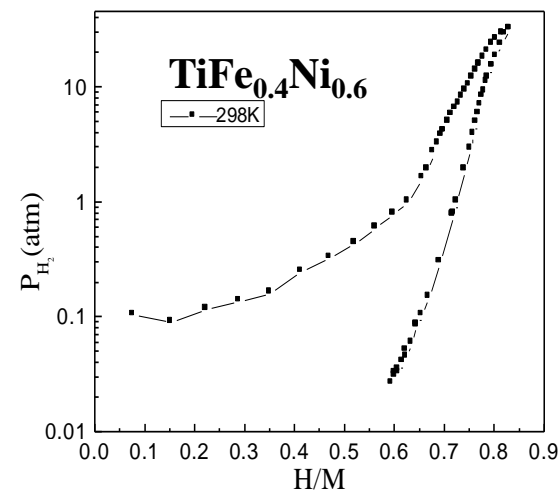
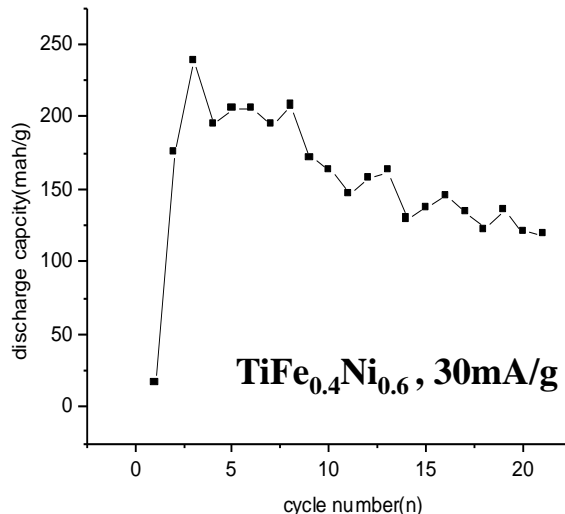
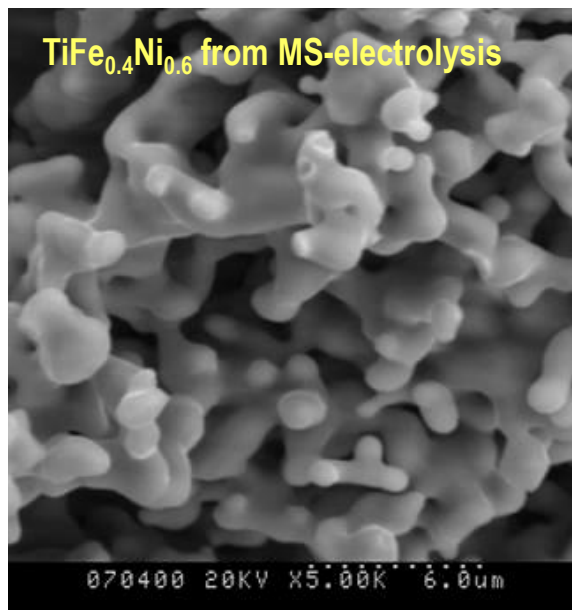
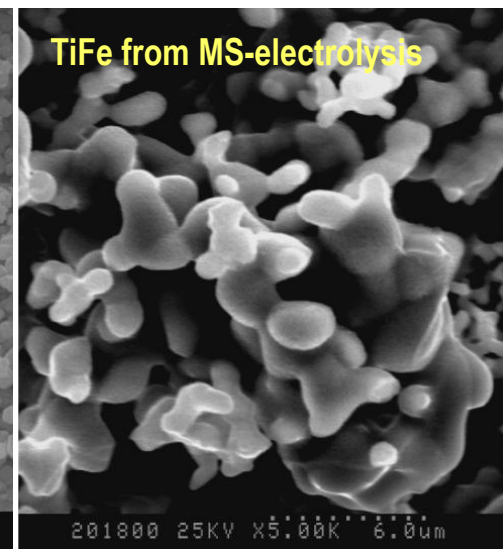
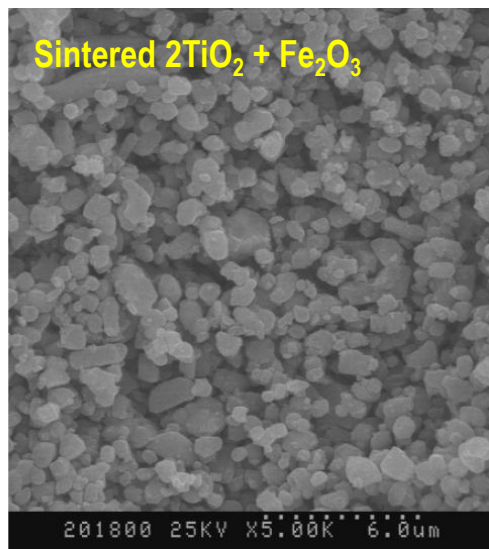
Steel:  $\sim 1.1 \times 10^{12}$  kg /yr

Aluminium:  $\sim 2 \times 10^{11}$  kg/yr

Titanium:  $\sim 1.5 \times 10^8$  kg/yr

The cheapest HSA from existing method:

TiFe  $\sim$  \$10 /kg (FeTiO<sub>3</sub>:  $\sim$  \$0.05/kg)



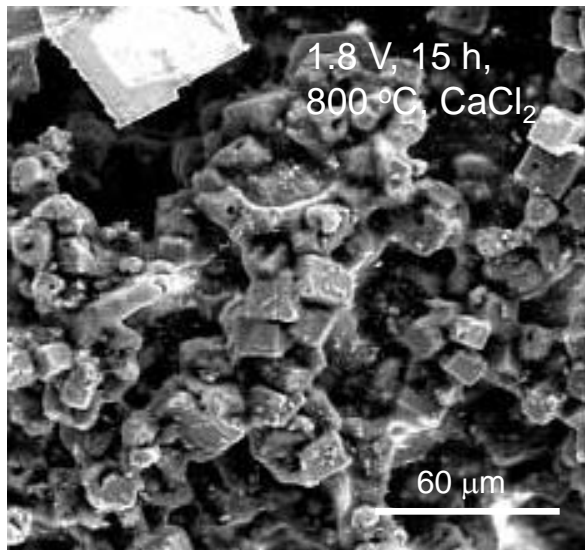
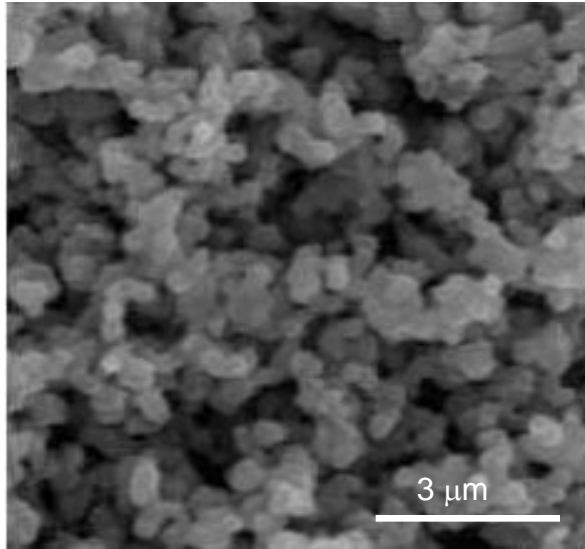
**3V, 900°C, 8hrs. C.E.: 75%; E.C. : 7.9 kWh/kg-alloy.**

M Ma et al, *Chem.-Eur. J.* 12 (2006) 5075-5081

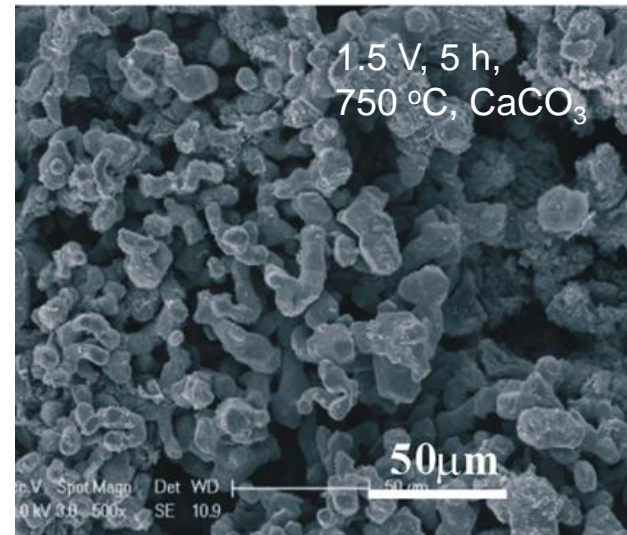
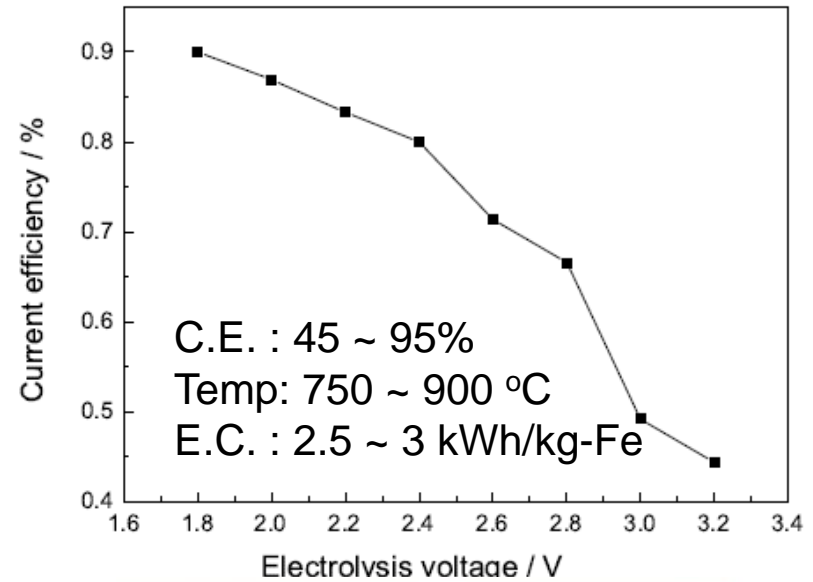
**Lab products performed better in thermal / electrochemical tests than HSAs from other methods.**



# FFC Steel

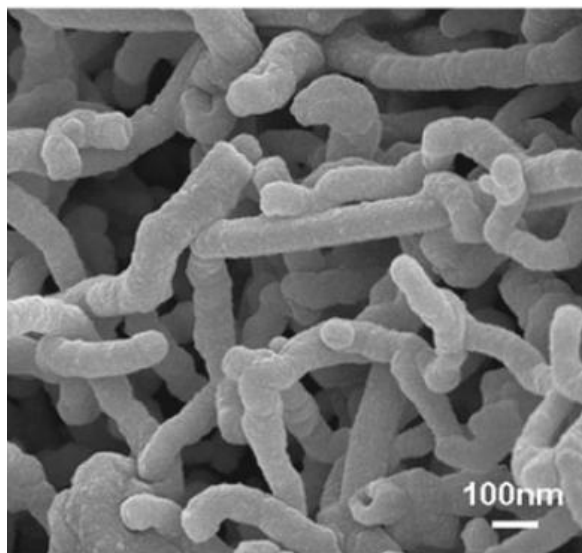
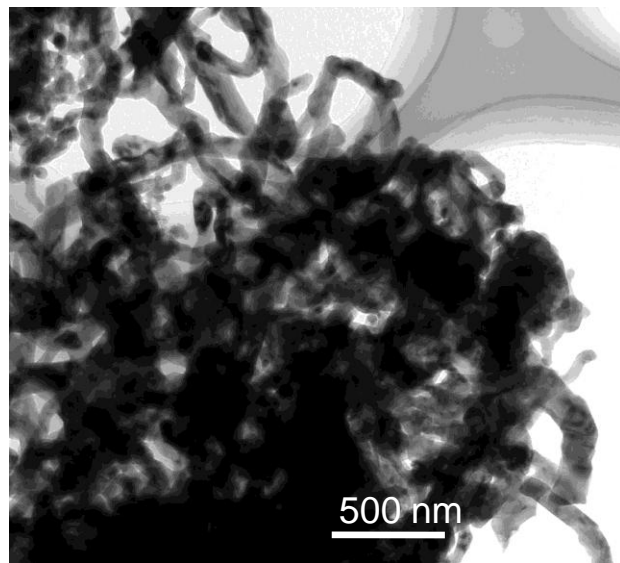
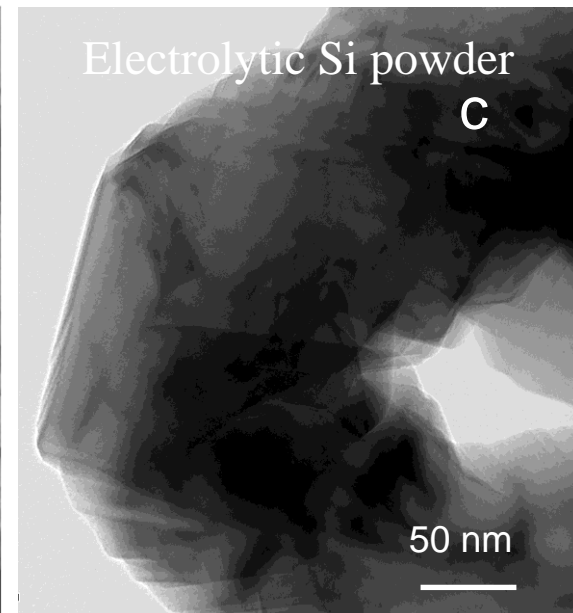
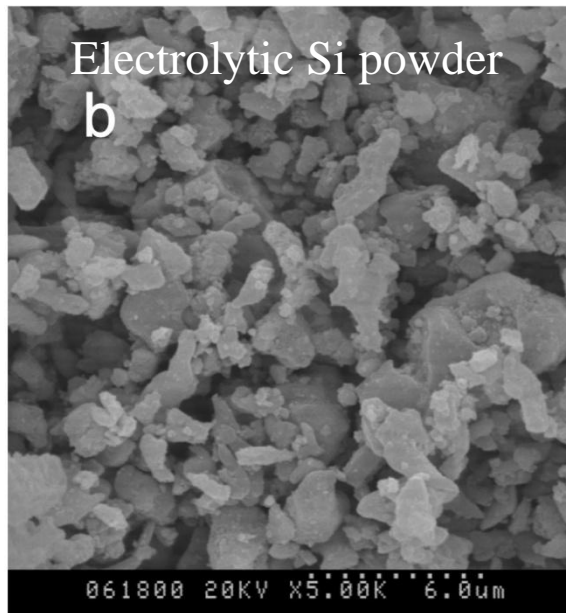
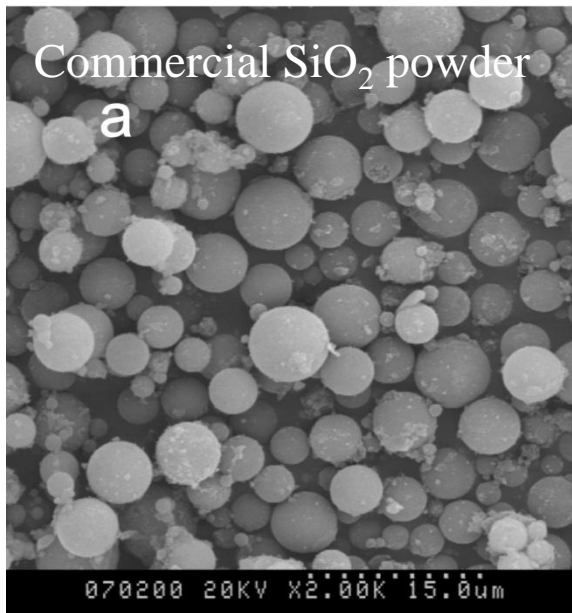


Li GM, Wang DH, Chen Z, *J. Mater. Sci. Technol.*, 25 (2009) 767



HY Yin, Wang DH et al *Electrochem. Commun.*, 13 (2011) 1521.

## FFC Silicon



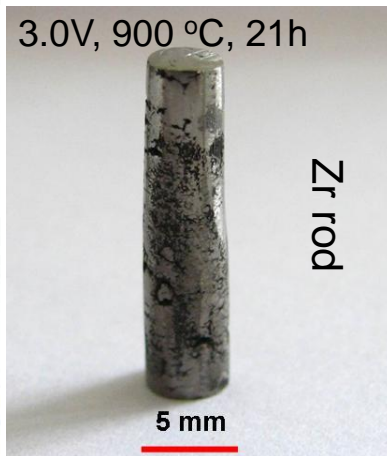
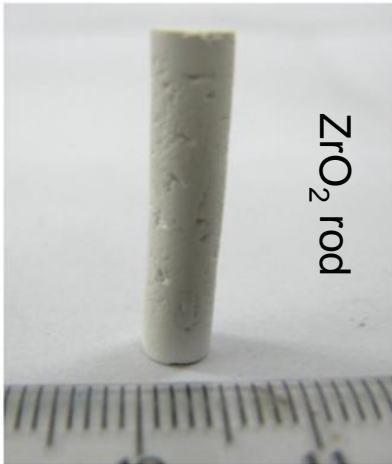
Purity: > 99.9 %  
C.E.: 70~90 %  
E.C.: 11~13 kWh/kg-Si

Xiao and Wang *et al.* Unpublished Results,  
Wuhan & Nottingham Universities (2007)

JY Yang *et al.* *Chem. Commun.*, 2009, 3273

# Near-Net-Shape Products: Dental Implant

JJ Peng, *PhD Thesis*, Wuhan University (2009)



Apparent density: 5.68 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
(Theoretical density: 6.51 g/cm<sup>3</sup>)

Young's modular: ca. 0.483 GPa  
(Human bone: 7~30 GPa)

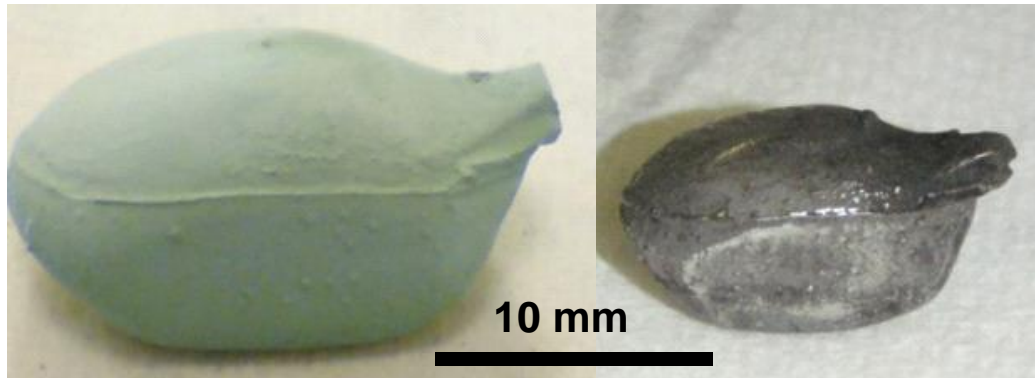
These two correlated properties are desirable for body fluid ingression and bone cell growth.



cf. Commercial Internet pages



## Near-Net-Shape Products: Miniature Golf Club Head



Direct electro-metallisation of a hollow oxide precursor (left) into a miniature golf-club-head of Ti-6Al-4V alloy (right).



Photo of titanium golf club head.



Cross-section of the miniature golf-club-head

- Minor or no shape distortion
- Near-net-shape production of Ti-6Al-4V components
- Significant densification
- Solid or hollow components.



## Commercialisation

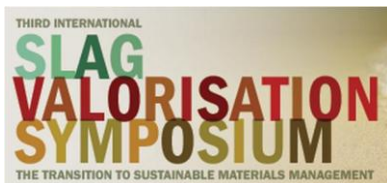


Metalysis holds exclusive licence  
of the FFC Cambridge Process



M. Jackson, *Materials World*, May 2007, p. 32

C. Schwandt, G.R. Doughty, D.J. Fray, *Key Eng. Mater.*, 436 (2010) 13.



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Past and present co-workers whose names appear  
in the references cited in this presentation

**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Your questions, please!**

