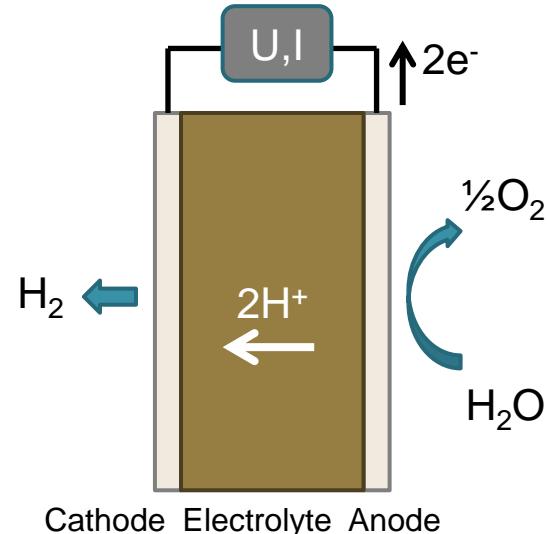




## Fundamentals of materials for high temperature fuel cells, electrolysers, and gas separation membranes

Truls Norby

University of Oslo, Department of Chemistry, SMN, FERMiO, Gaustadalléen 21, NO-0349 Oslo, Norway



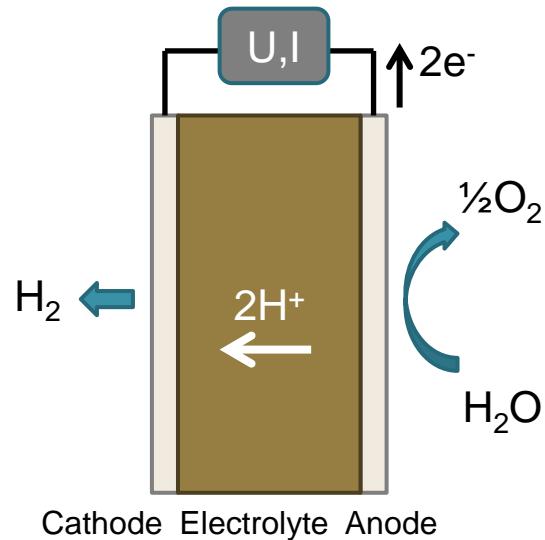
Thanks to students and scientists at UiO,  
CoorsTek MS AS, ITQ Valencia, NTNU,  
and SINTEF and for project funding from  
RCN (FOXCET, ROMA, NaProCs,  
PROTON, METALLICA) and EU FCH  
(ELECTRA)

### Outline

- Solid HT vs liquid LT
- Solid ion conductors
  - Charge carriers
  - Mobility
  - Trapping
  - Space charge
- Electrodes & surfaces
- Solid HT vs liquid LT

# The membrane

$$\sigma_i = z_i e c_i u_i = z_i F C_i u_i$$



# Solids vs liquids

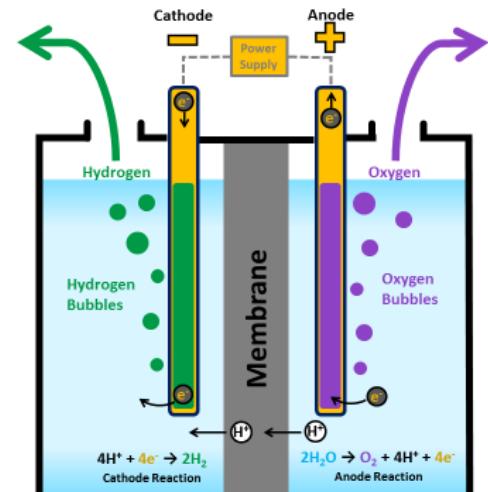
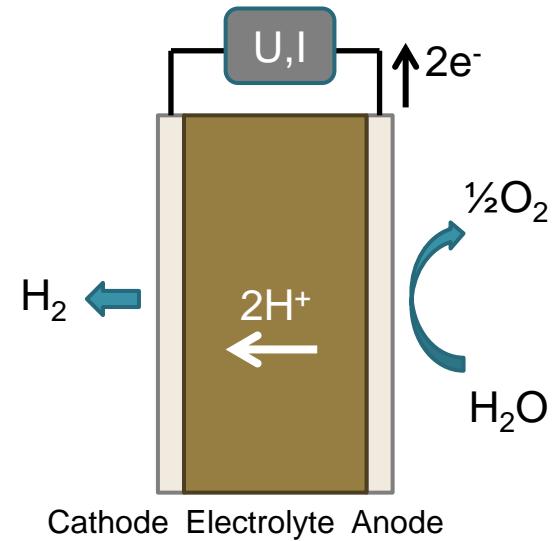
# HT vs LT

- ▶ Solid electrolytes: Ionic compounds
- ▶ Liquid electrolytes: Covalent liquids (or ionic liquids)

- ▶  $\text{BaZrO}_3 \quad E_g \approx 3.2 \text{ eV}$
- ▶  $\text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \quad E_g \approx 7 \text{ eV}^*$

\* C. Fang, Wun-Fan Li, R.S. Koster, J. Klimeš, A. van Blaaderen, M.A. van Huis, «The accurate calculation of the band gap of liquid water by means of GW corrections applied to plane-wave density functional theory molecular dynamics simulations», *PCCP*, 2015, **17**, 365-375.

- ▶ Which has the higher mobility of ionic charge carriers?
- ▶ Which has the higher mobility of electronic charge carriers?
- ▶ Which has stronger trapping?
- ▶ Which has more charge separation and space charge effects?
- ▶ Which has better electrode kinetics?
- ▶ Which has better thermal management and integration?



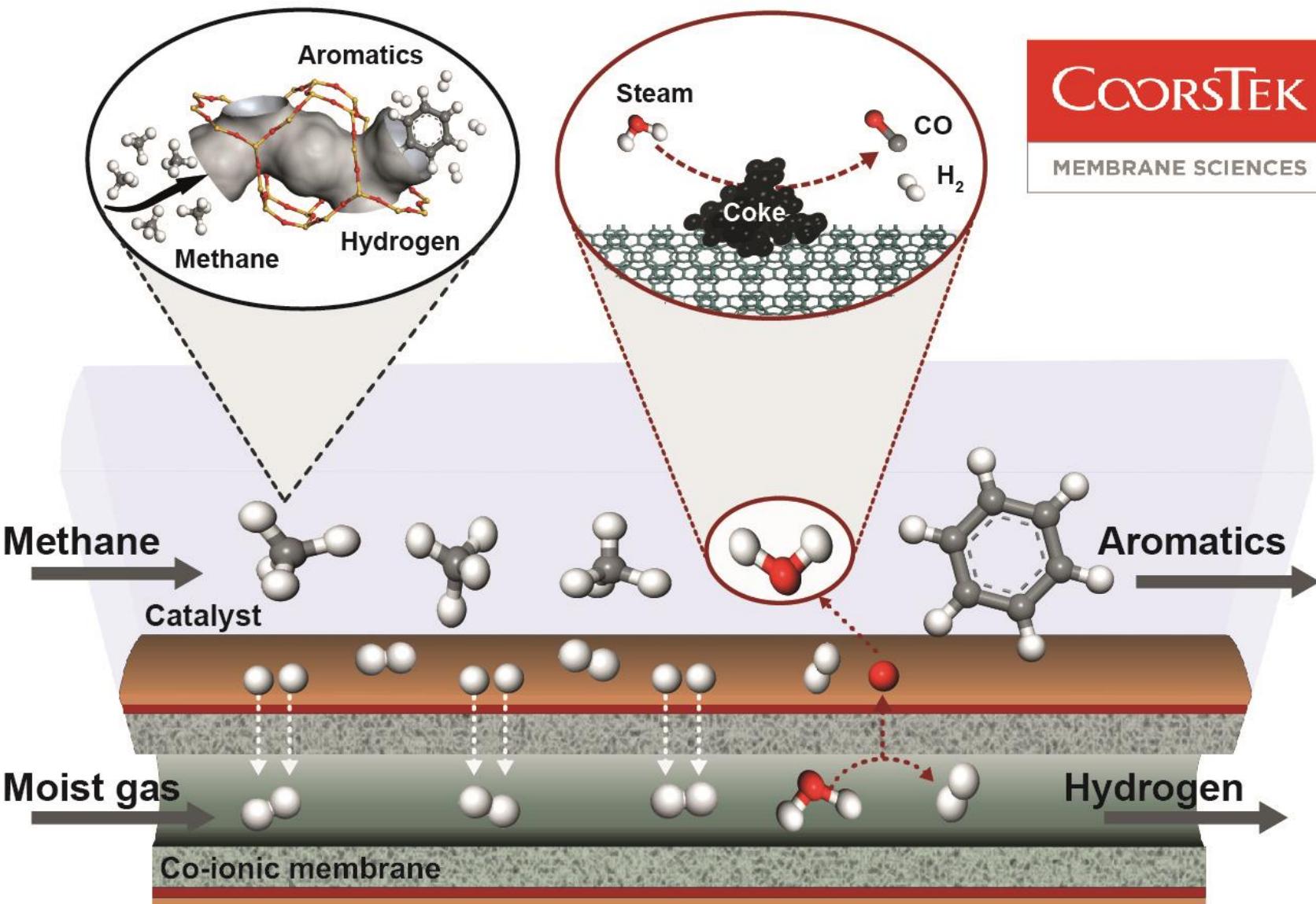
# Solids vs liquids

# HT vs LT

- ▶ H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells «easy»; Liquid LT or solid-state HT
- ▶ C-containing fuels: HT solid-state or ionic liquids
- ▶ H<sub>2</sub>O→H<sub>2</sub> electrolysers: Liquid LT, solid-state HT.
  - ▶ Faradayic vs thermal efficiency
- ▶ Electrochemical and catalytic reactors and pumps: HT
- ▶ Mixed conducting gas separation membranes: HT
  - ▶ Solid-state. Can ionic liquids be used?
- ▶ Li ion batteries?

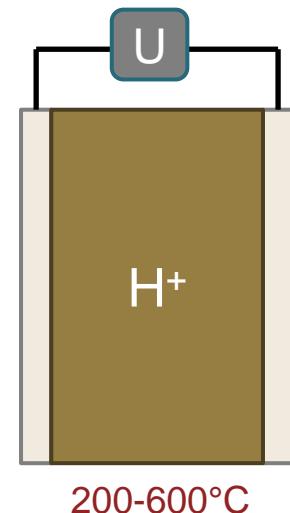
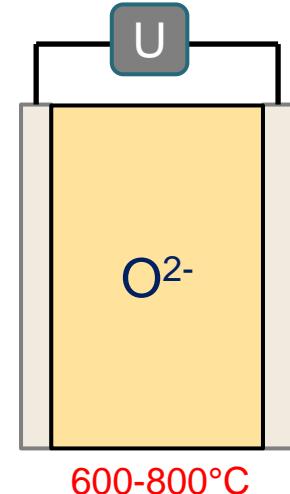


# Catalytic dehydrogenation of natural gas using proton and co-ionic ceramics



# Solid-state ionic conductors

- ▶  $O^{2-}$ 
  - ▶ Acceptor-doped, vacancy mechanism
    - ▶  $Y:ZrO_2$ ,  $Gd:CeO_2$ ,  $Sr,Mg:LaGaO_3$
  - ▶ Inherently disordered
    - ▶  $\delta\text{-}Bi_2O_3$ ,  $La_2Mo_2O_9$ ,  $La_{10}O_{3+\delta}(SiO_4)_6$ ,  $Ca_{12}Al_{14}O_{33}$ ,
- ▶  $H^+$ 
  - ▶ Acceptor-doped, hydratable (protonatable)
    - ▶  $Y:BaZrO_2$ ,  $Sr:LaNbO_4$
  - ▶ Inherently disordered, hydratable (protonatable)
    - ▶  $La_{28}W_7O_{54}$ ,  $Ca_{12}Al_{14}O_{33}$
  - ▶ Solid acids, inherently disordered
    - ▶  $CsH_2PO_4$ ,  $CsHSO_4$
- ▶  $H_3O^+$ ,  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ 
  - ▶  $\beta\text{-}Al_2O_3$
  - ▶  $La_{2/3-x}Li_{3x}V_{1/3-2x}TiO_3$



# Charge carrier trapping

- ▶ Charge carriers charge compensated by

- ▶ Dopants

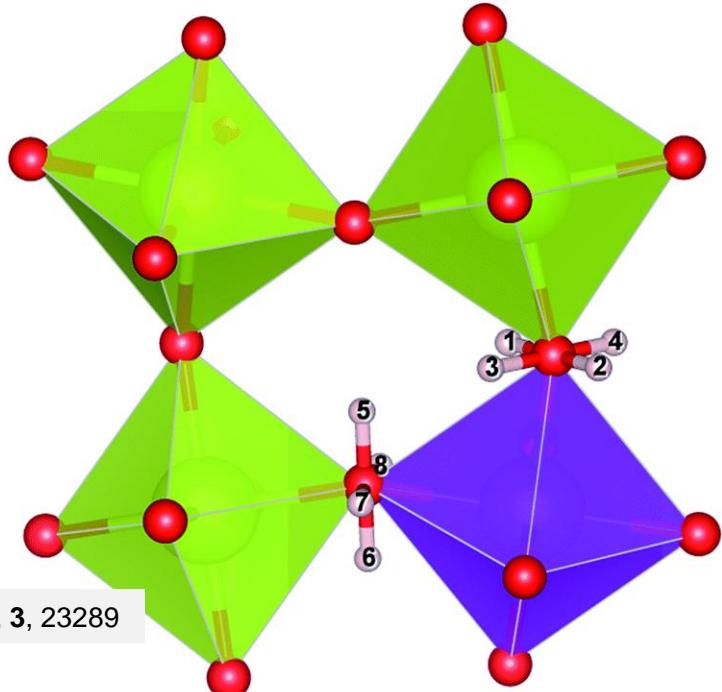
- ▶ Attracted to and associates with (trapped at) immobile dopant
  - ▶ Dissociation energy adds to enthalpy of mobility

- ▶ Similar to aqueous acids

- ▶ Dissociation (protolysis)

- ▶ Inherent disorder

- ▶ No trapping



A. Løken *et al.*, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2015, **3**, 23289

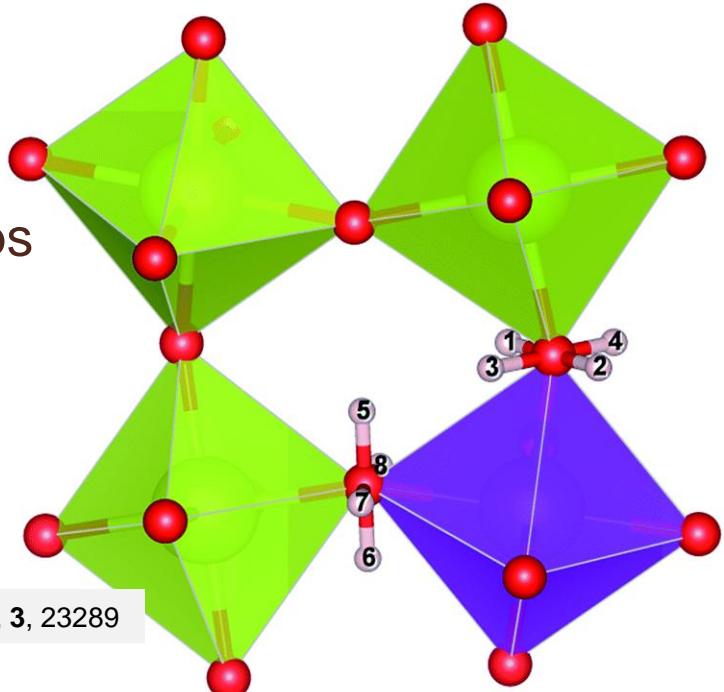
# Charge carrier trapping

- ▶ Percolation thresholds

- ▶ Effect of trapping varies with dopant level in a complex manner

- ▶ Paired dopant traps

- ▶ May reduce the number of effective traps
- ▶ May reduce hydratability



A. Løken *et al.*, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2015, **3**, 23289

# Interfaces and extended defects

## Charge separation

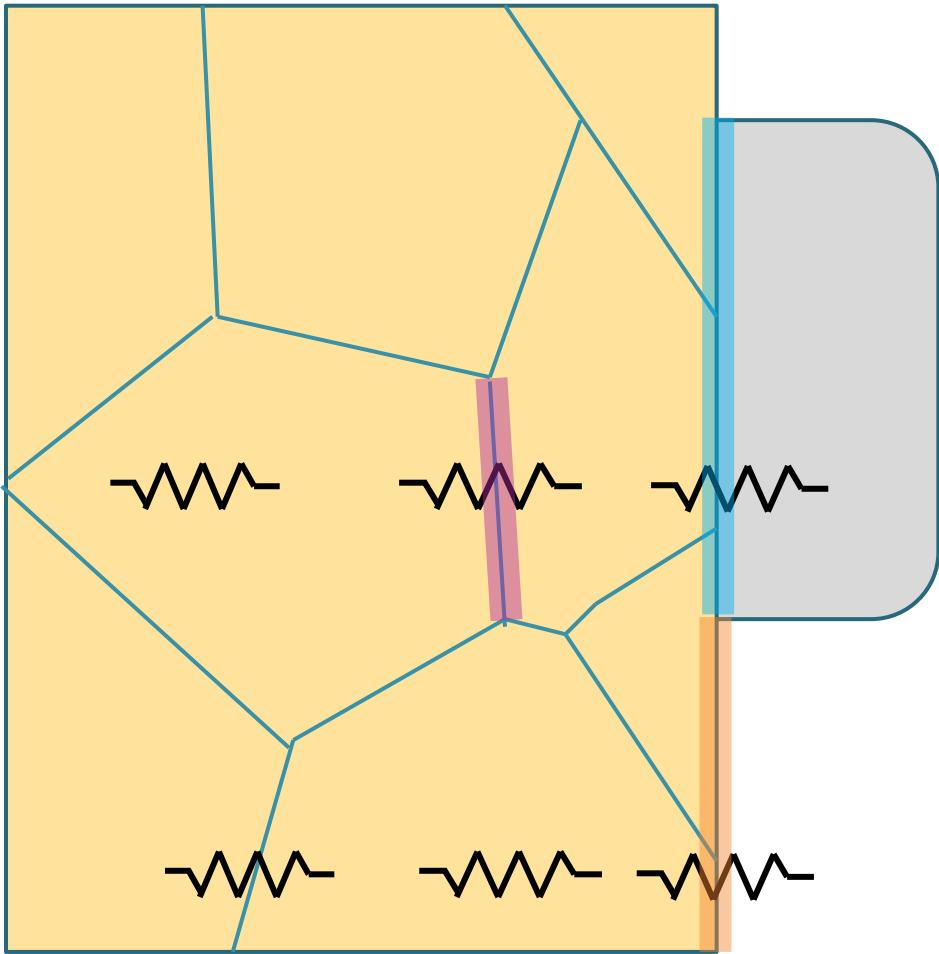
## Space charge regions

## Enrichment or depletion of charge carriers



# Space charge

- ▶ Bulk
- ▶ Grain boundaries
- ▶ Surfaces, electrodes



SOFC

$2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

$2\text{H}_2$

1 pF

bulk

1 nF

grain  
boundary

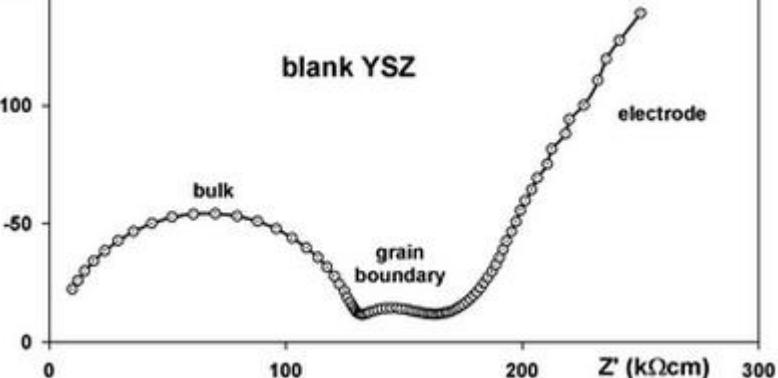
1  $\mu\text{F}$

electrode

blank YSZ

electrode

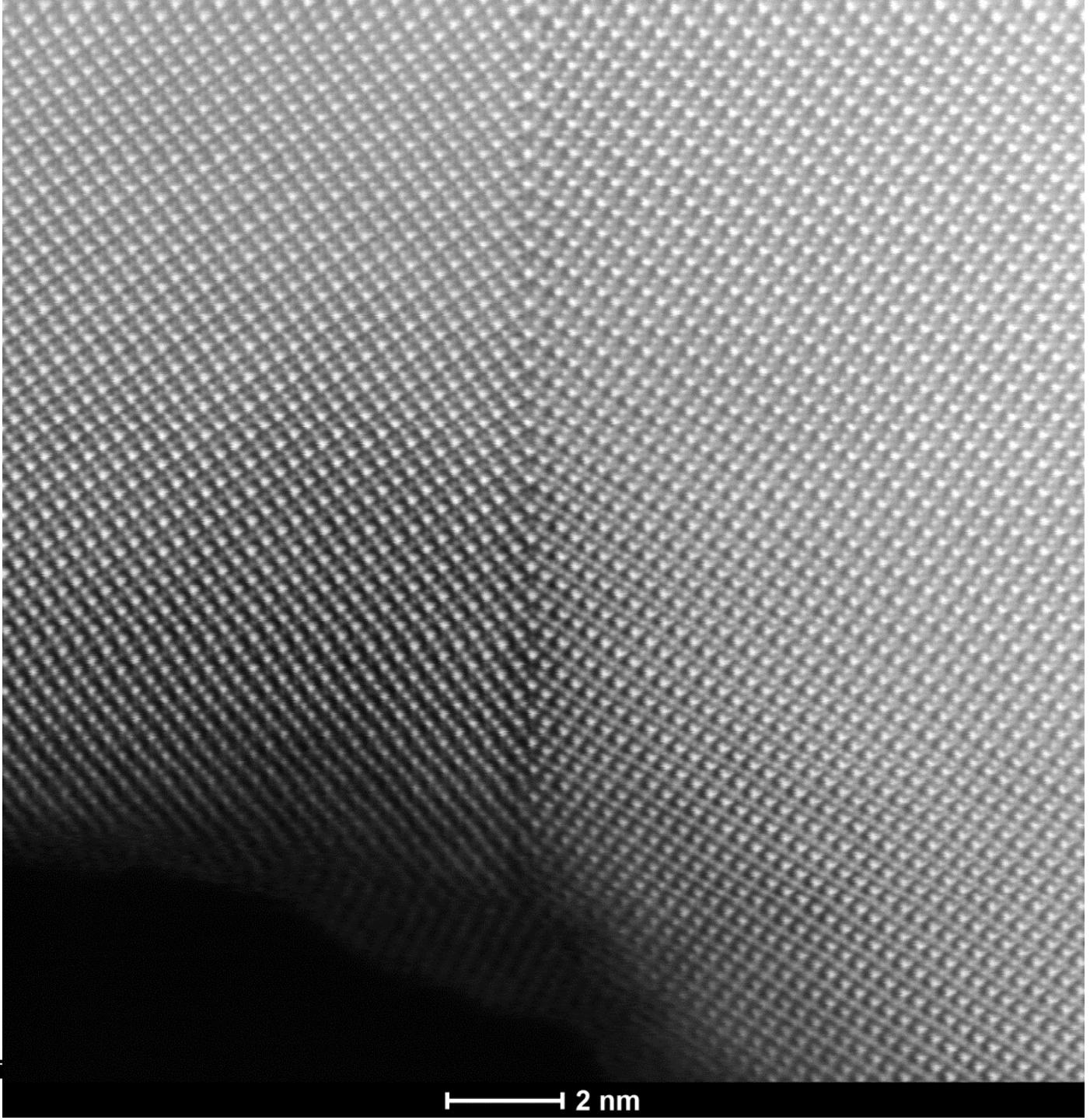
$Z'' (\text{k}\Omega\text{cm})$



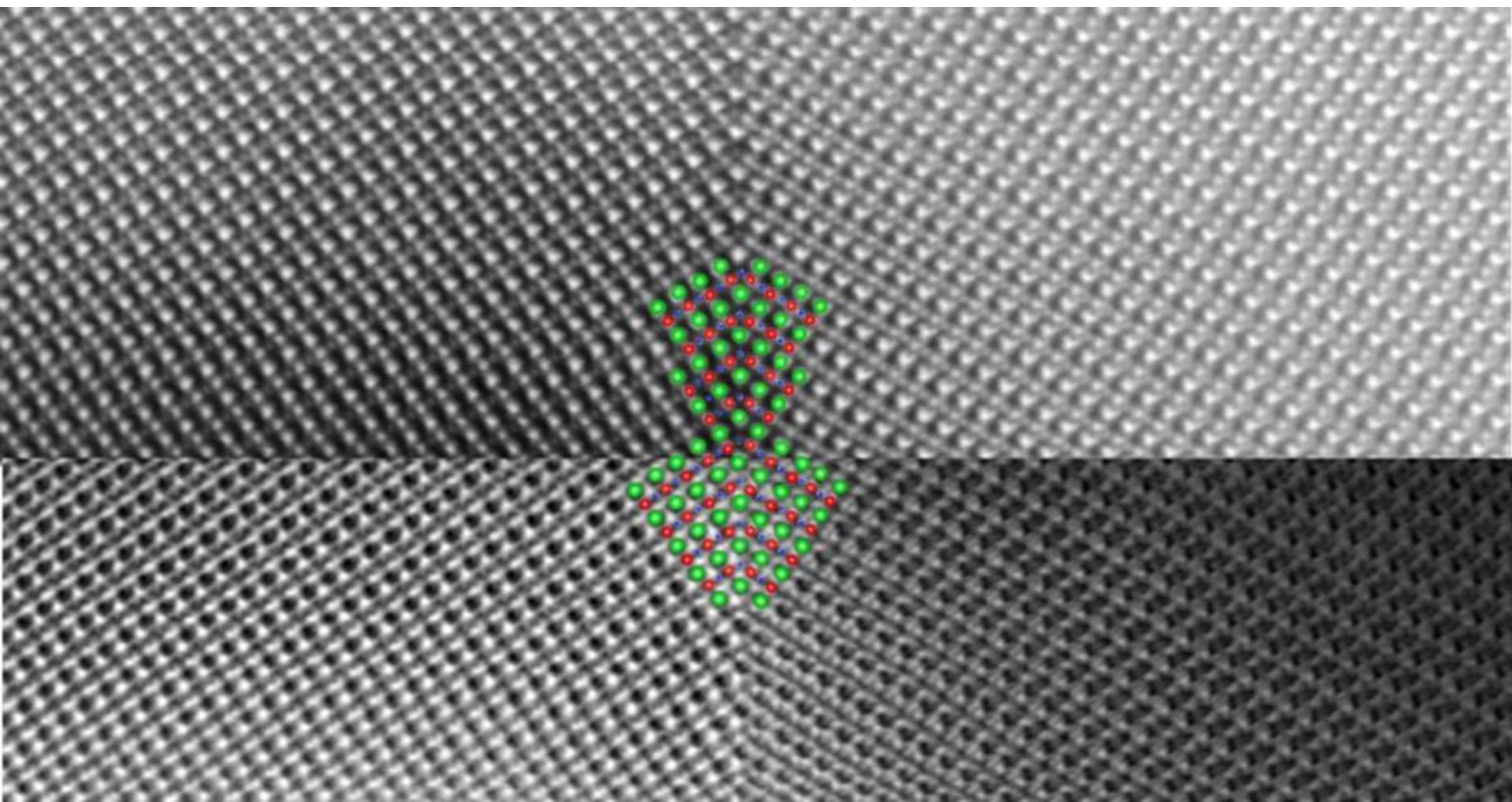
Ruiz-Morales *et al.*, *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2008

Grain boundary in  
10%Y-doped BaZrO<sub>3</sub>

Sample/photo: Adrian  
Lervik / Phuong D.  
Nguyen



Grain boundaries in 10%Y-doped BaZrO<sub>3</sub>  
Sample/photo: Adrian Lervik/Phuong D. Nguyen



# TEM electron holography

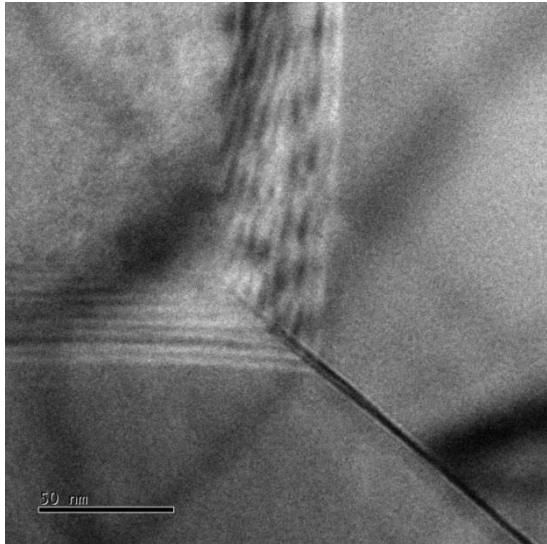
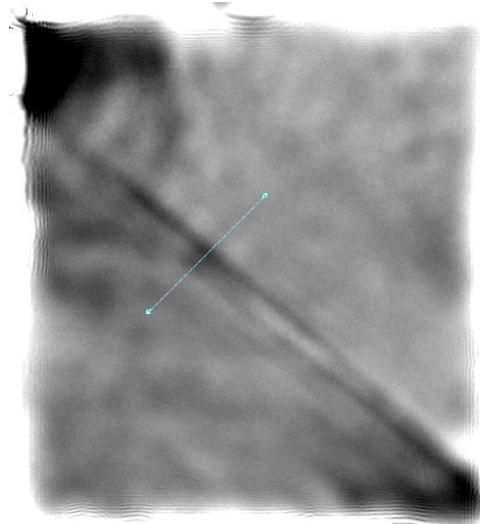
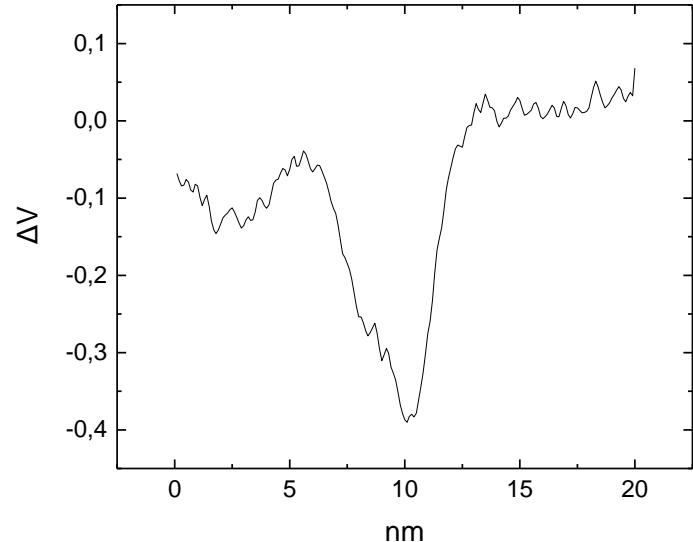


Image of grain boundary



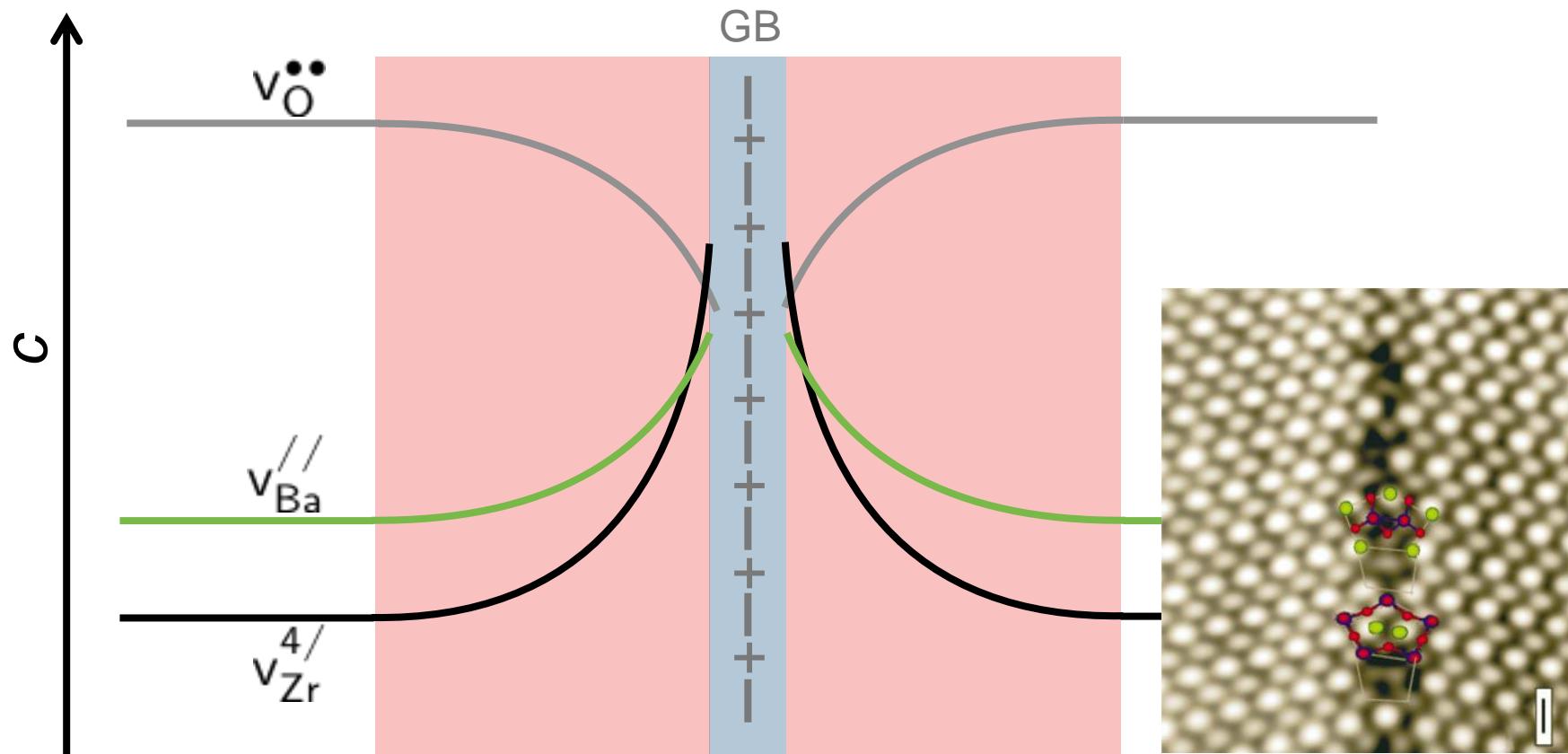
Reconstructed phase map



Potential profile from line scan.  
Tentatively, the grain boundary core is negative, not positive as expected.

Results by Tarjei Bondevik, PhD fellow in the FOXCET project

# Enhanced transport *along* grain boundaries



$\text{SrTiO}_3/\text{BaZrO}_3/\text{MgO}$

600 °C

Film (multi layers,  
layer thickness 8~11 nm)

position1

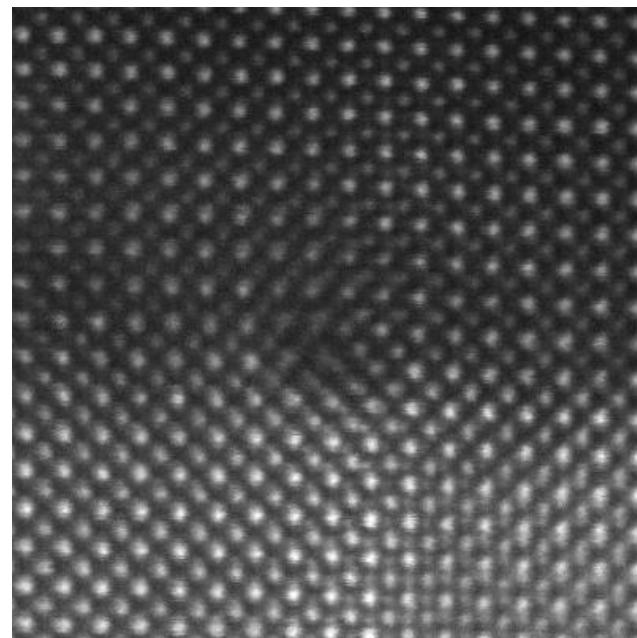
$\text{BaZrO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$  interface

$\text{BaZrO}_3$  [100] (001)/ $\text{SrTiO}_3$  [100] (001)

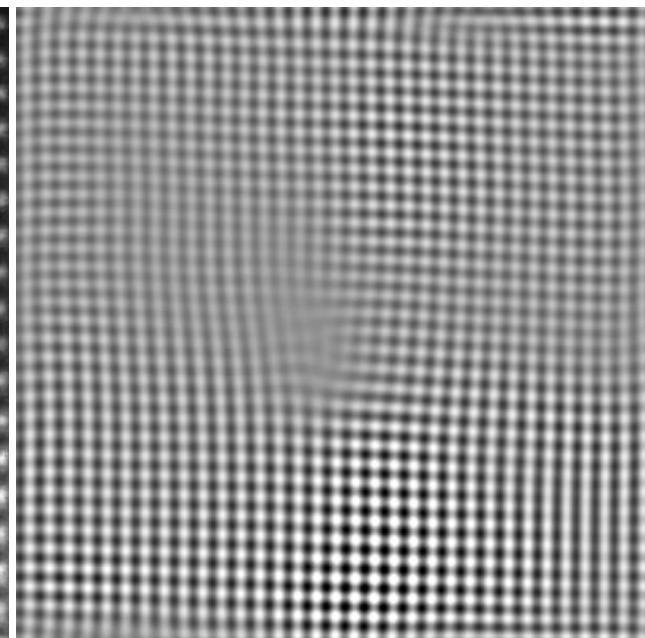
There is dislocation ( $\varepsilon_{xx}$   
and  $\varepsilon_{yy}$ ) at the interface  
(flat).

Geometric phase  
analysis (GPA)

HAADF-STEM



Fourier filtered



$\varepsilon_{xx}$

$\varepsilon_{yy}$

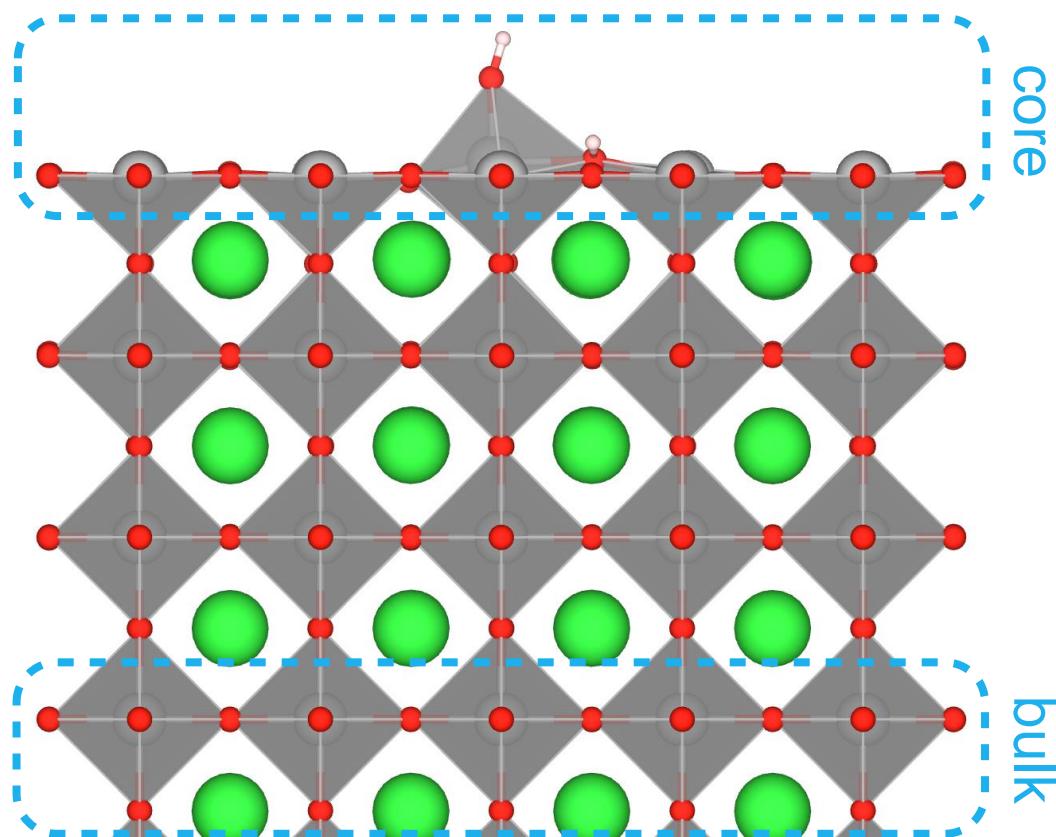
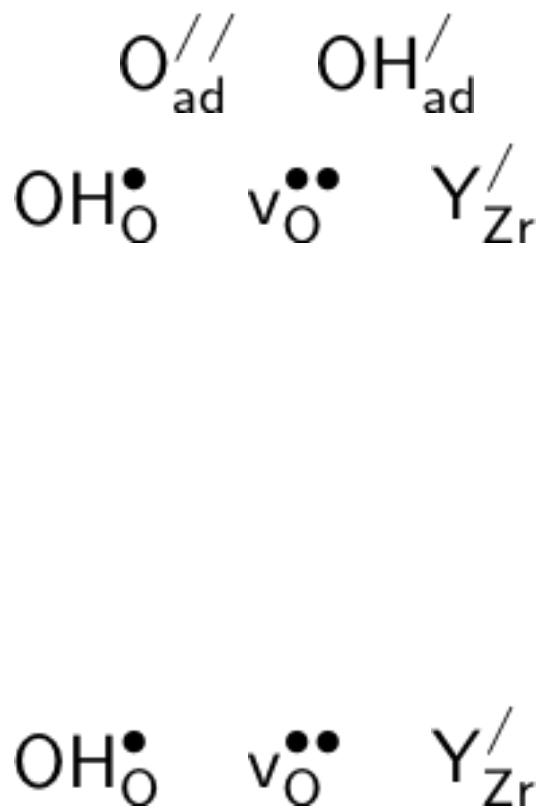
1  
-1

Sample by PLD: Sarmad Saeed  
STEM imaging and analysis: Wei Zhan

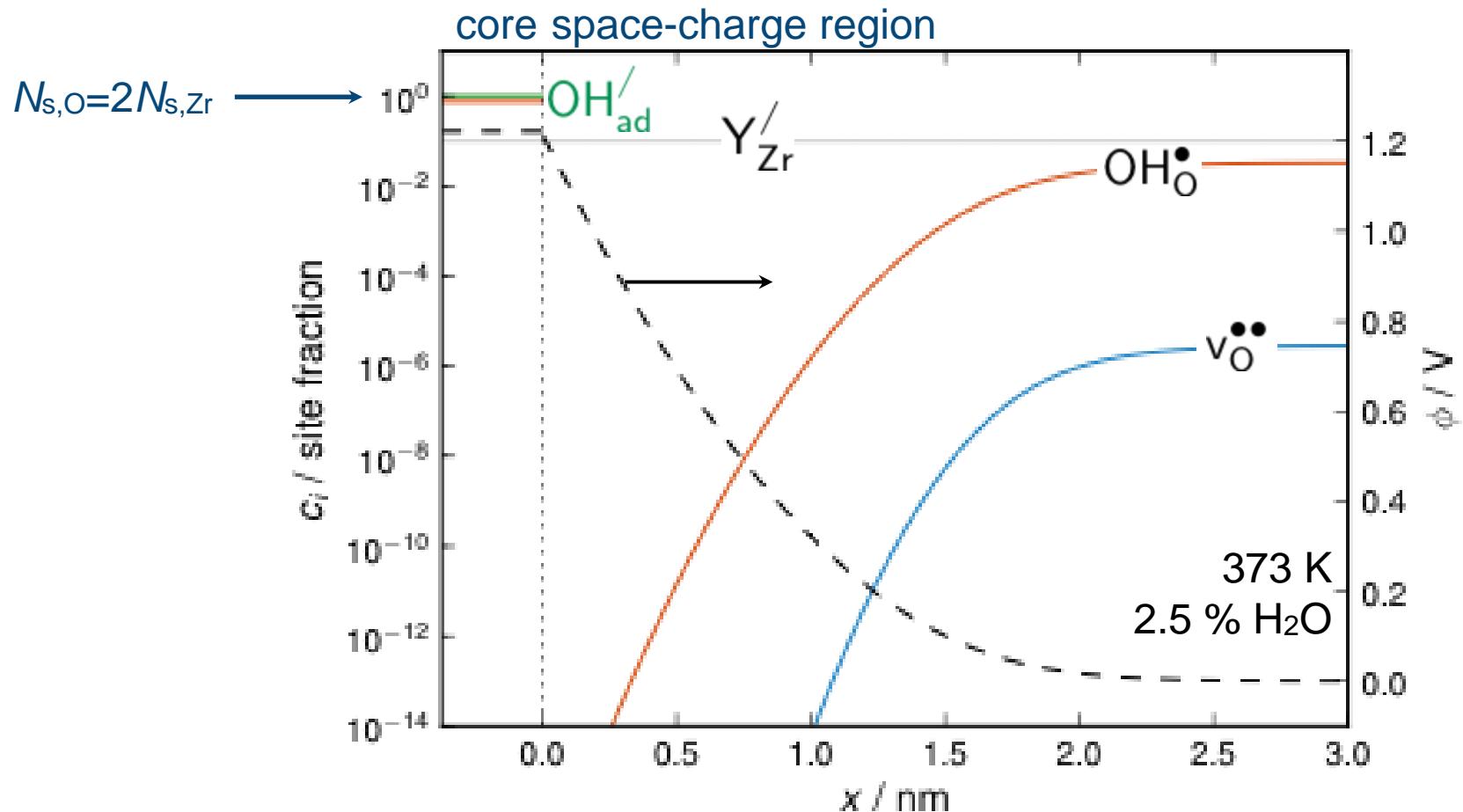


# Jonathan Polfus, SINTEF; DFT modelling of interfaces Surface space-charge model

J.M. Polfus, T.S. Bjørheim, T. Norby, R. Bredesen, “**Surface Defect Chemistry of Y-substituted and hydrated BaZrO<sub>3</sub> with Subsurface Space-Charge Regions**”, *J. Materials Chemistry A*, **4** [19] (2016) 7437-7444.



# Potential and concentration profile: 373 K



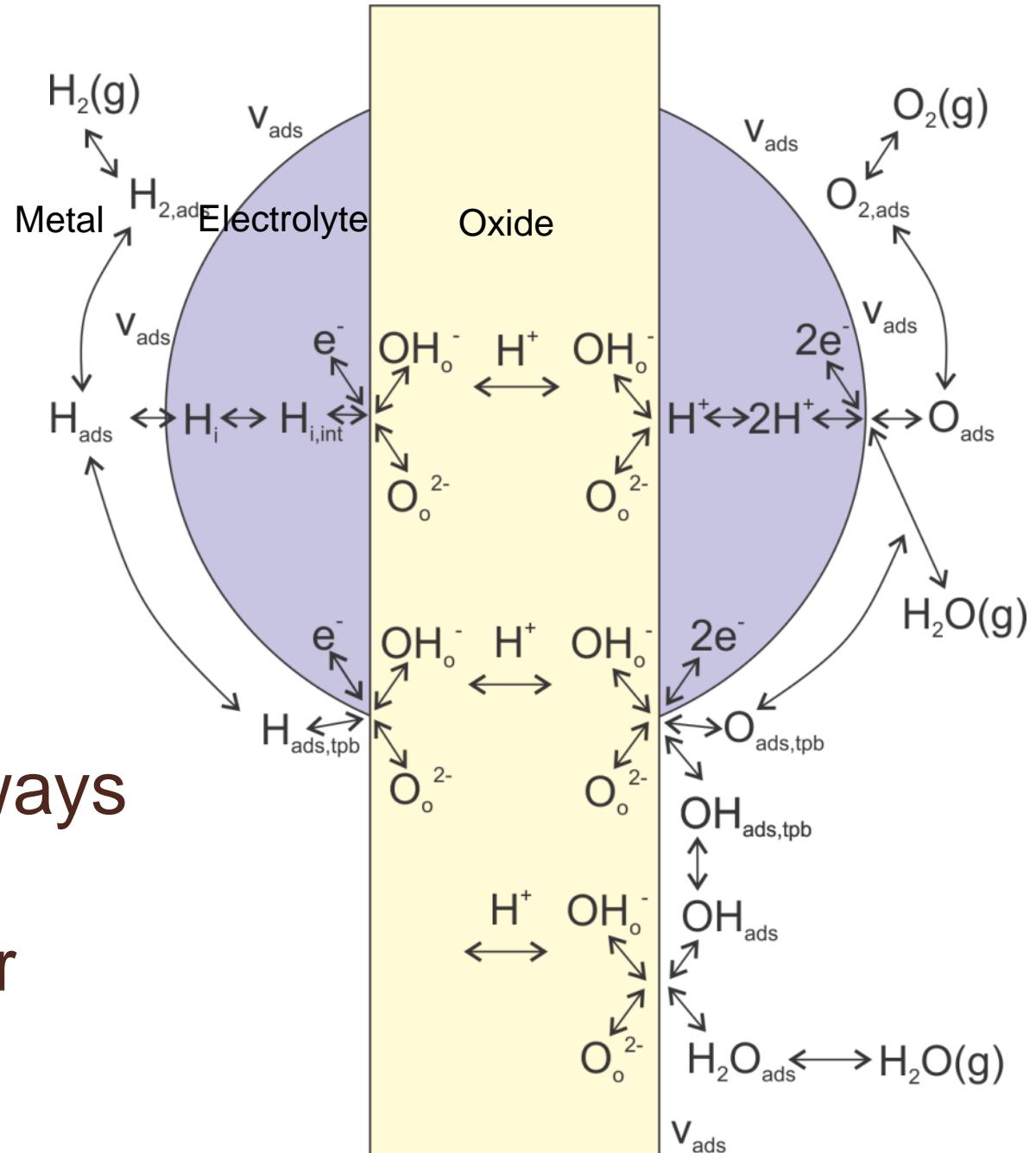
# Electrodics



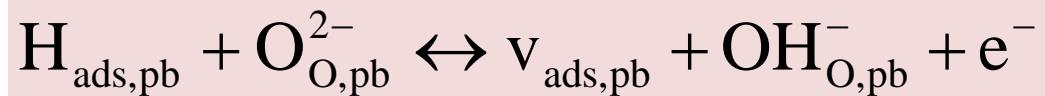
## Electrodes

## Reaction pathways

## Charge transfer

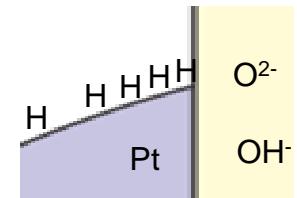


# Charge transfer (ct) in H<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O; Pt, Cu on BZCY

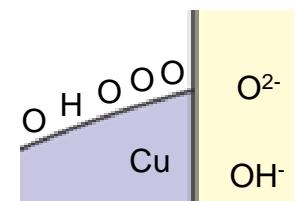


$$G_{ct,red}^{eq} = \frac{1}{R_{ct,red}^{eq}} = \frac{n_{red} e i_{0,red}}{kT} = \frac{(n_{red} e)^2}{kT} k_{ct,red}^0 Q_{react,red}^{\beta_{red}} Q_{prod,red}^{1-\beta_{red}}$$

$$G_{ct,Pt/BZCY,red}^{eq} = \frac{1}{R_{ct,Pt/BZCY,red}^{eq}} = 1000 \text{ S/cm} \exp\left(-\frac{0.93 \text{ eV}}{kT}\right) p_{H_2}^{-1/4}$$



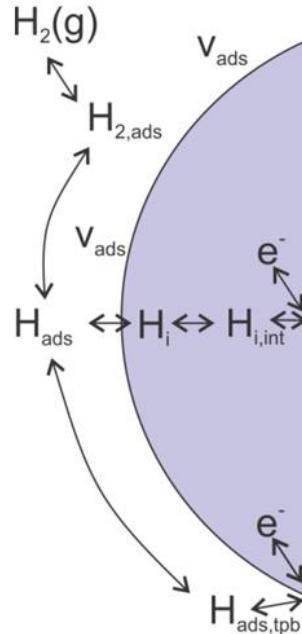
$$G_{ct,Cu/BZCY,red}^{eq} = \frac{1}{R_{ct,Cu/BZCY,red}^{eq}} = 160 \text{ S/cm} \exp\left(-\frac{0.82 \text{ eV}}{kT}\right) p_{H_2}^{+3/4}$$



S.A. Robinson, C. Kjølseth, T. Norby, "Comparison of Cu and Pt point-contact electrodes on proton conducting BaZr<sub>0.7</sub>Ce<sub>0.2</sub>Y<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>3-d</sub>", submitted.

# Mass transfer (MT) in H<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O; Pt, Cu on BZCY

- ▶ Adsorption
- ▶ Dissociation
- ▶ Dissolution
- ▶ Diffusion



$$G_{mt,Pt/BZCY,red}^{eq} = \frac{1}{R_{mt,Pt/BZCY,red}^{eq}} = 2.6 \text{ S/cm} \exp\left(-\frac{0.73 \text{ eV}}{kT}\right) p_{H_2}^{1/2}$$

Pt mediocre H<sub>2</sub> catalyst

$$G_{mt,Cu/BZCY,red}^{eq} = \frac{1}{R_{mt,Cu/BZCY,red}^{eq}} = 10000 \text{ S/cm} \exp\left(-\frac{1.21 \text{ eV}}{kT}\right) p_{H_2}^{1/2}$$

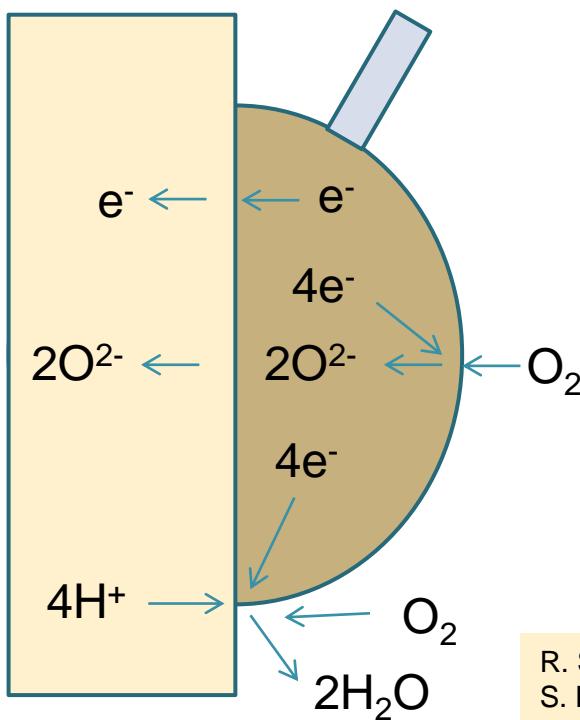
Cu poor H<sub>2</sub> catalyst. Uses more tpb surface

S.A. Robinson, C. Kjølseth, T. Norby, "Comparison of Cu and Pt point-contact electrodes on proton conducting BaZr<sub>0.7</sub>Ce<sub>0.2</sub>Y<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>3-d</sub>", submitted.

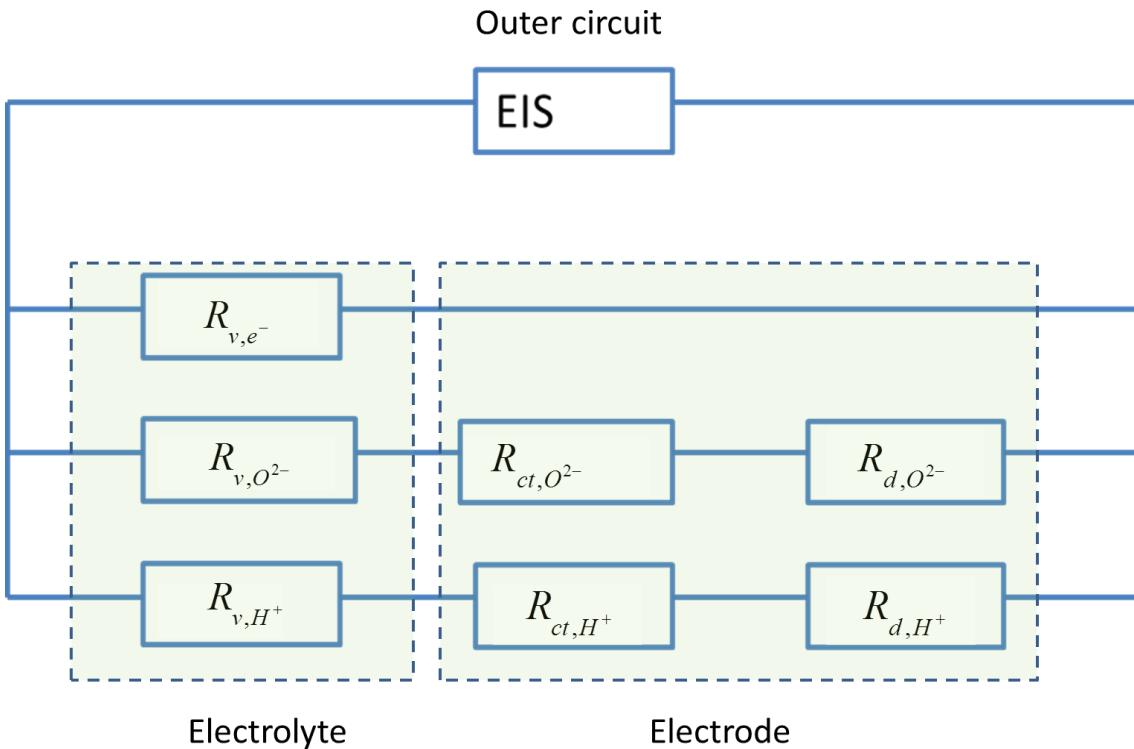
# PCFC oxygen electrodes (cathodes)

- ▶ Mixed conductivity: protons, oxide ions, electrons (holes)

Typical  
oxide H<sup>+</sup>  
conductor



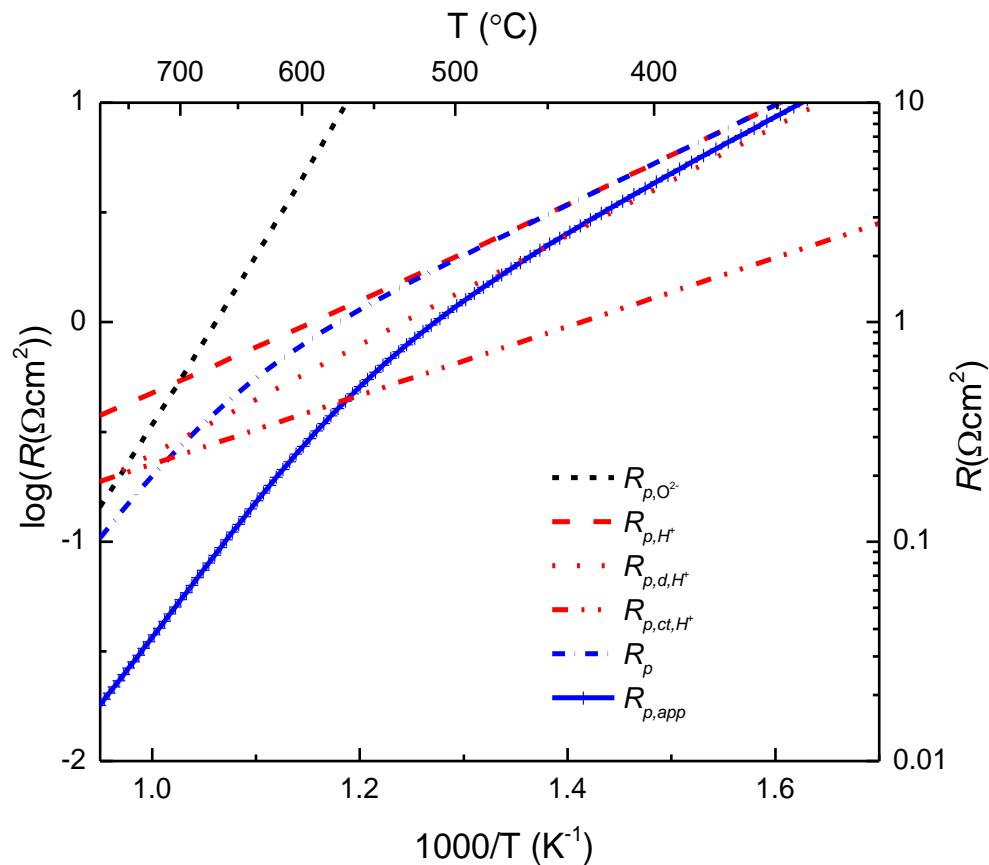
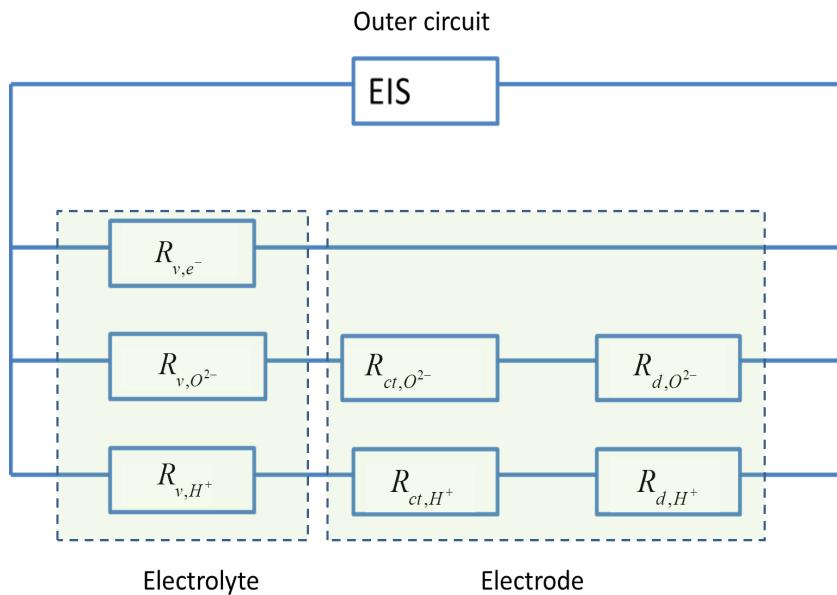
Typical  
PCFC  
cathode



R. Strandbakke, V. Cherepanov, A. Zuev, D.S. Tsvetkov, C. Argirasis, G. Sourkouni-Agirasis, S. Prunte, T. Norby, "Gd- and Pr-based double perovskite cobaltites as oxygen side electrodes for proton ceramic fuel cells and electrolyser cells", *Solid State Ionics*, **278** (2015) 120.

# Perovskite electrode on $\text{BaZr}_{0.7}\text{Ce}_{0.2}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{O}_3$ (BZCY)

- ▶ Modelling by fitting all data
- ▶ Protons vs oxide ions
- ▶ Effect of electronic conduction
- ▶ CT and MT(d)



# Jamnik & Maier 1995; Shouldn't electrodes have space charge layers, too?

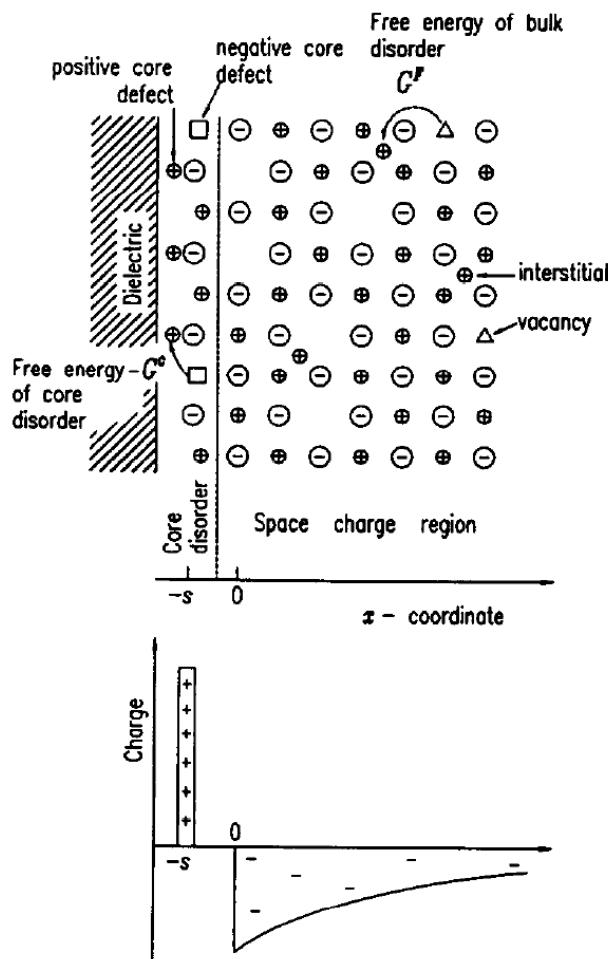


Fig. 1. Schematic picture of the A/MX interface describing the core and the space charge region.

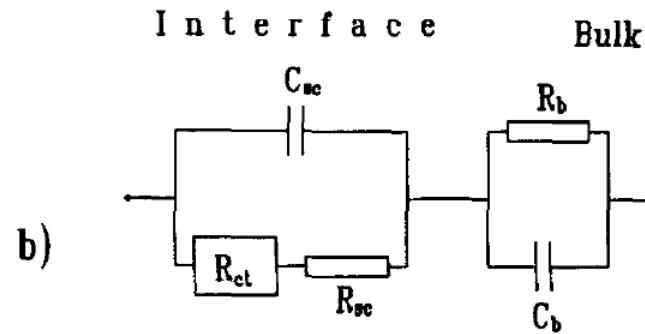
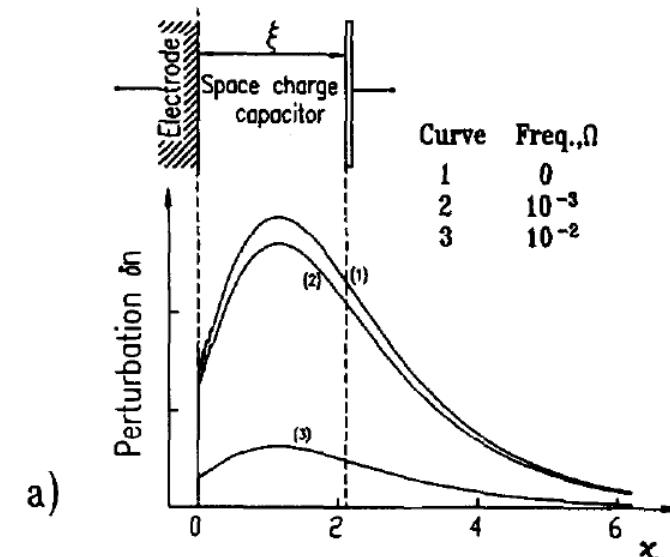
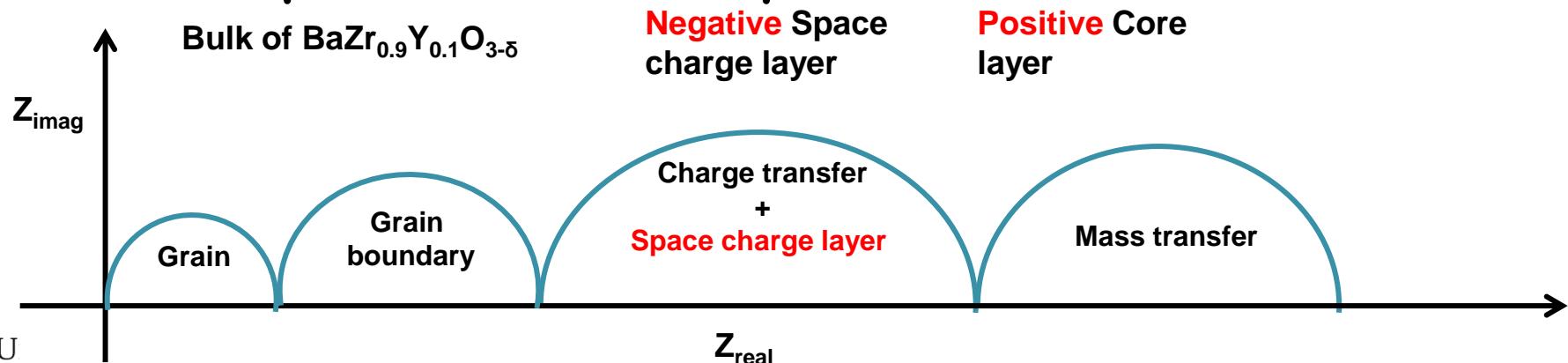
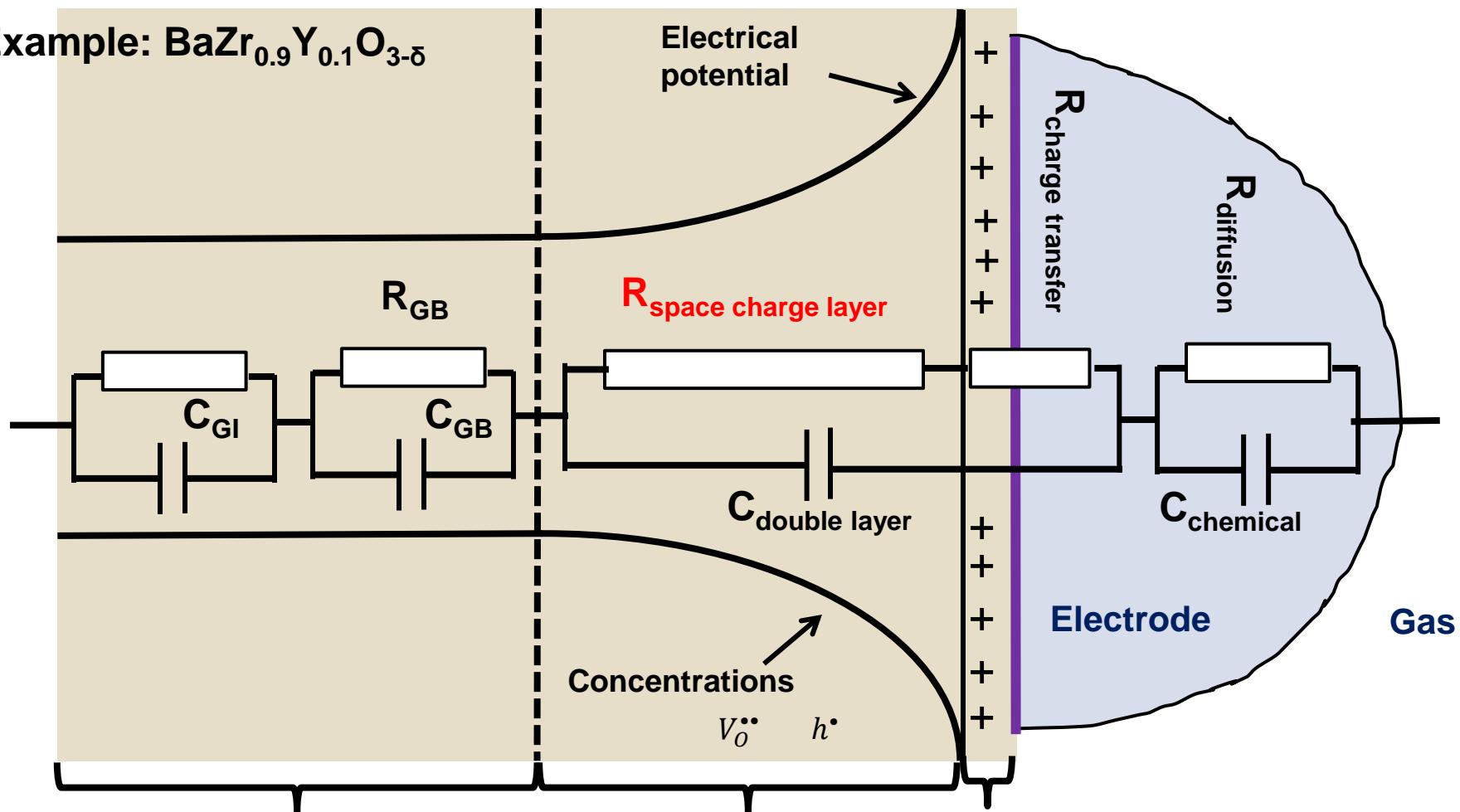


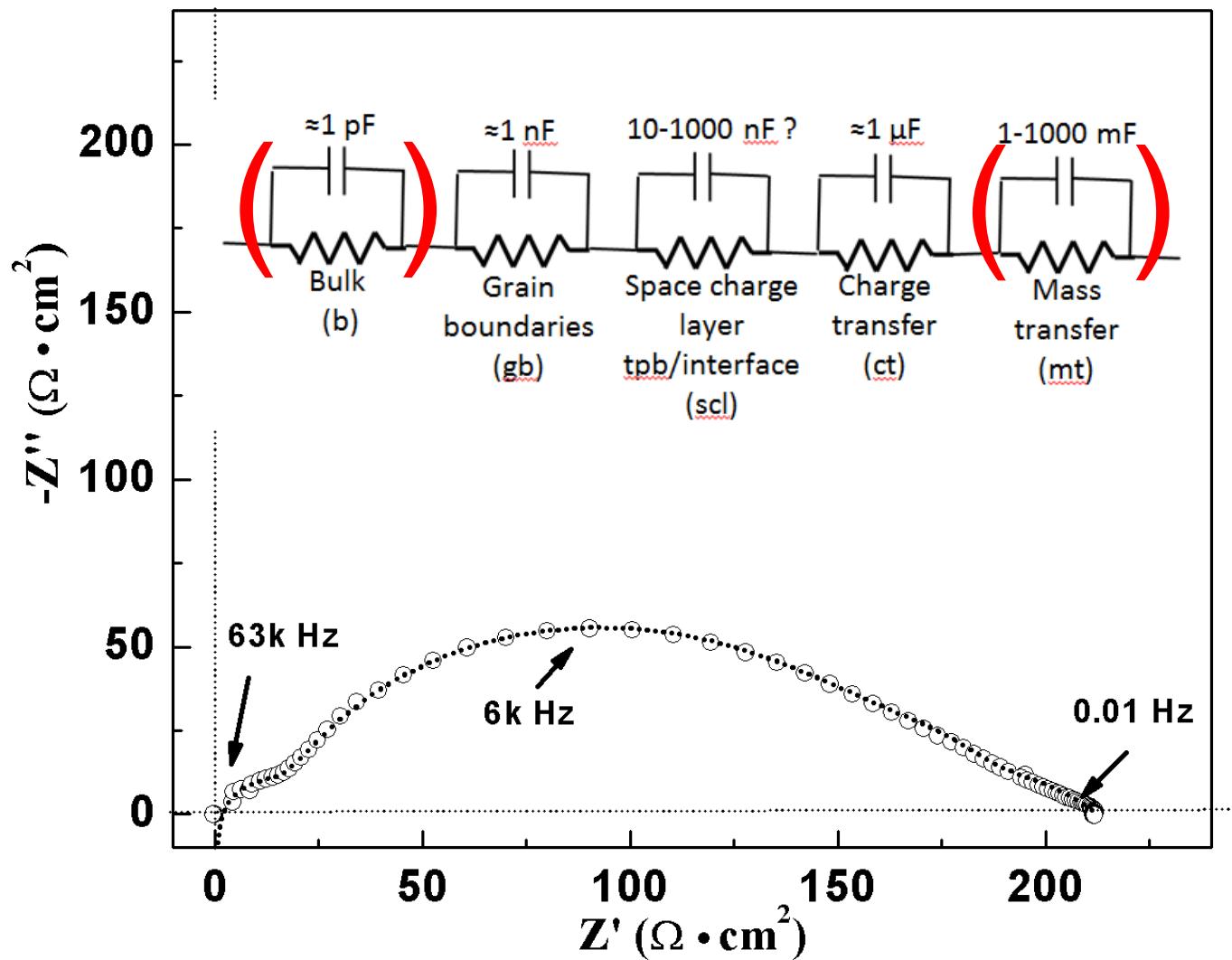
Fig. 3. (a) Perturbation of the mobile charge carrier density calculated for different frequencies of the excitation signal. (b) Equivalent circuit approximation of the calculated frequency response. The parameters are discussed in details in Ref. [23].

J. Jamnik, J. Maier, S. Pejovnik, *Solid State Ionics* 75 (1995) 51-58

Example:  $\text{BaZr}_{0.9}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$

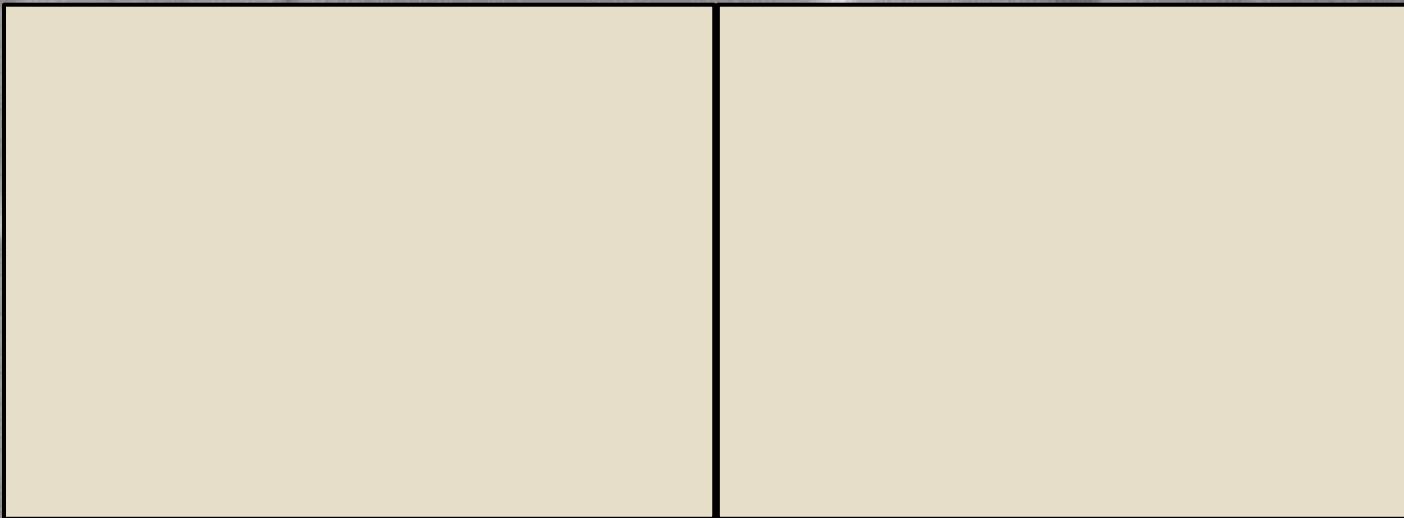


# B+GB+SCL+CT for nanograined Ni on BZY in H<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O



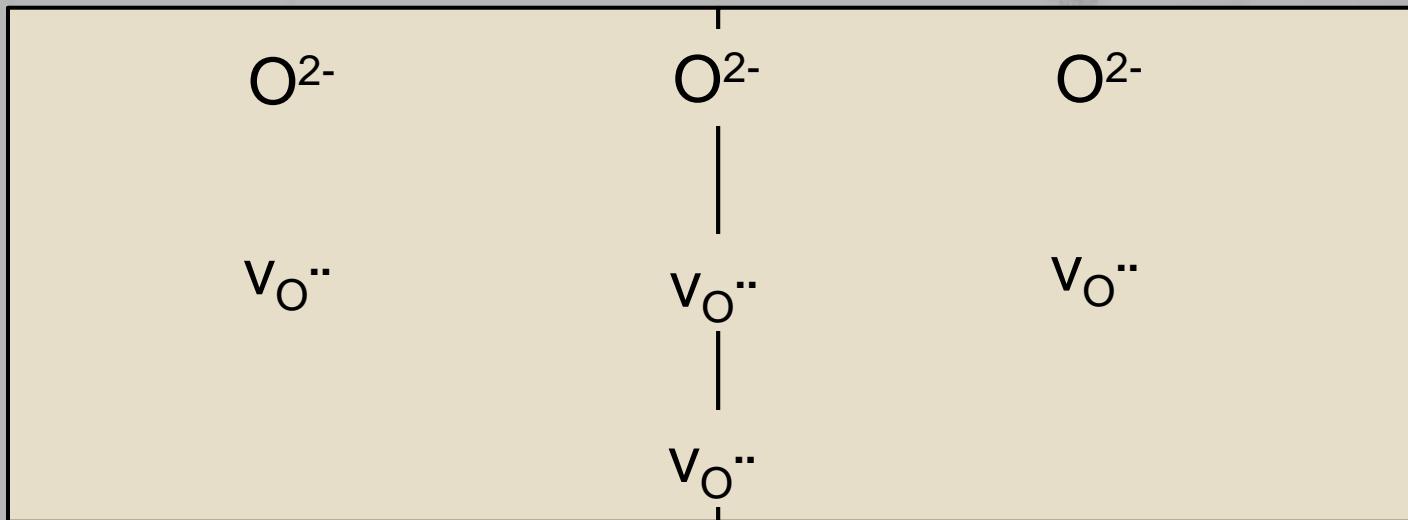
Min Chen, T. Norby, "Space Charge Layer Effect at the Ni/BaZr<sub>0.9</sub>Y<sub>0.1</sub>O<sub>3- $\delta$</sub>  Electrode Interface in Proton Ceramic Electrochemical Cells", under publication

# Let's fly from high to low temperature...



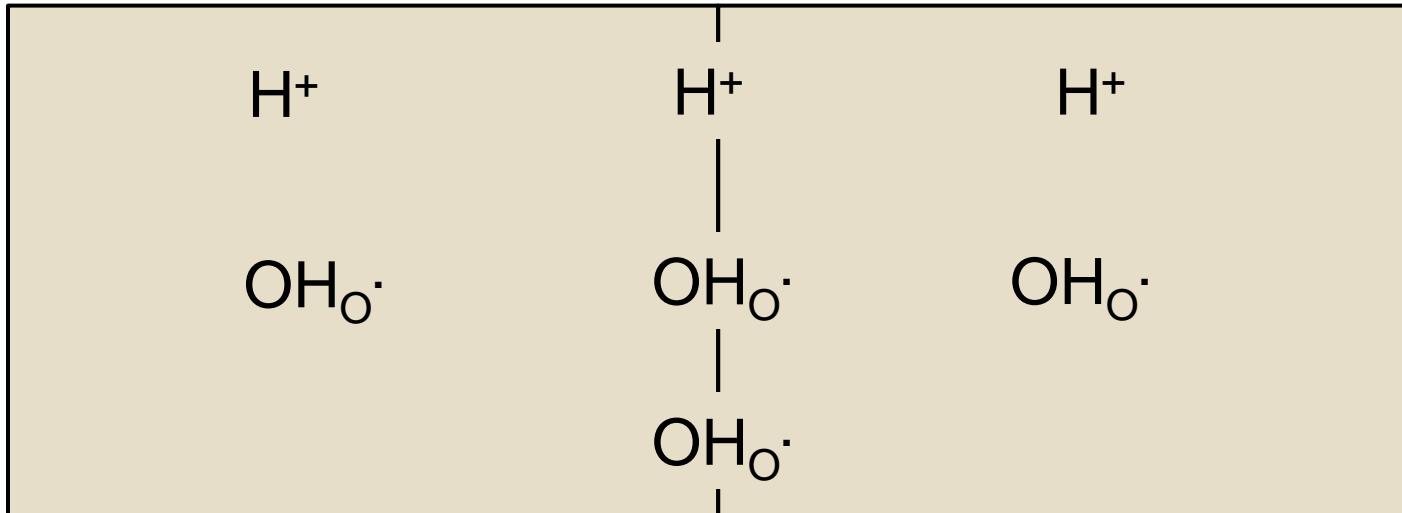
# Porous oxide ceramic

- ▶ Acceptor doped; oxygen vacancies
- ▶ High temperatures – dry atmospheres
- ▶ Bulk oxide ion conduction
- ▶ Grain boundary resistance



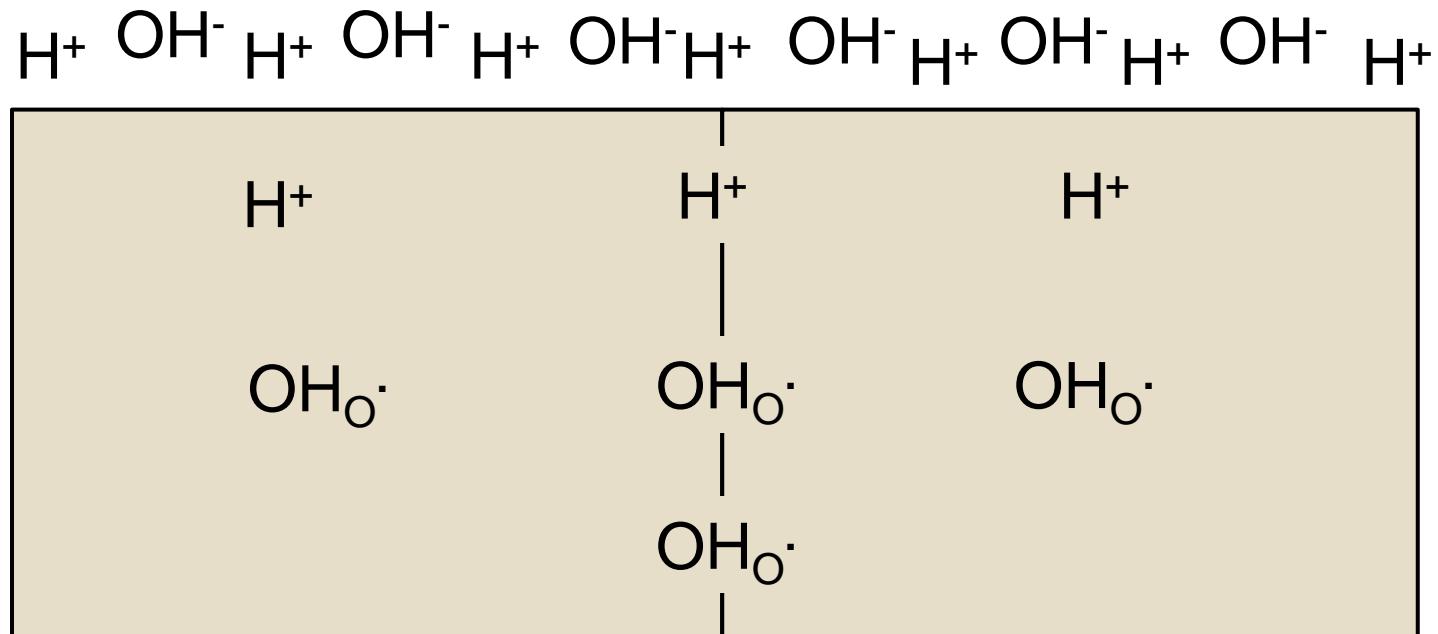
# Porous oxide ceramic

- ▶ Lower temperatures – wet atmospheres
- ▶ Hydrated, protonated
- ▶ Bulk proton conduction
- ▶ Grain boundary resistance



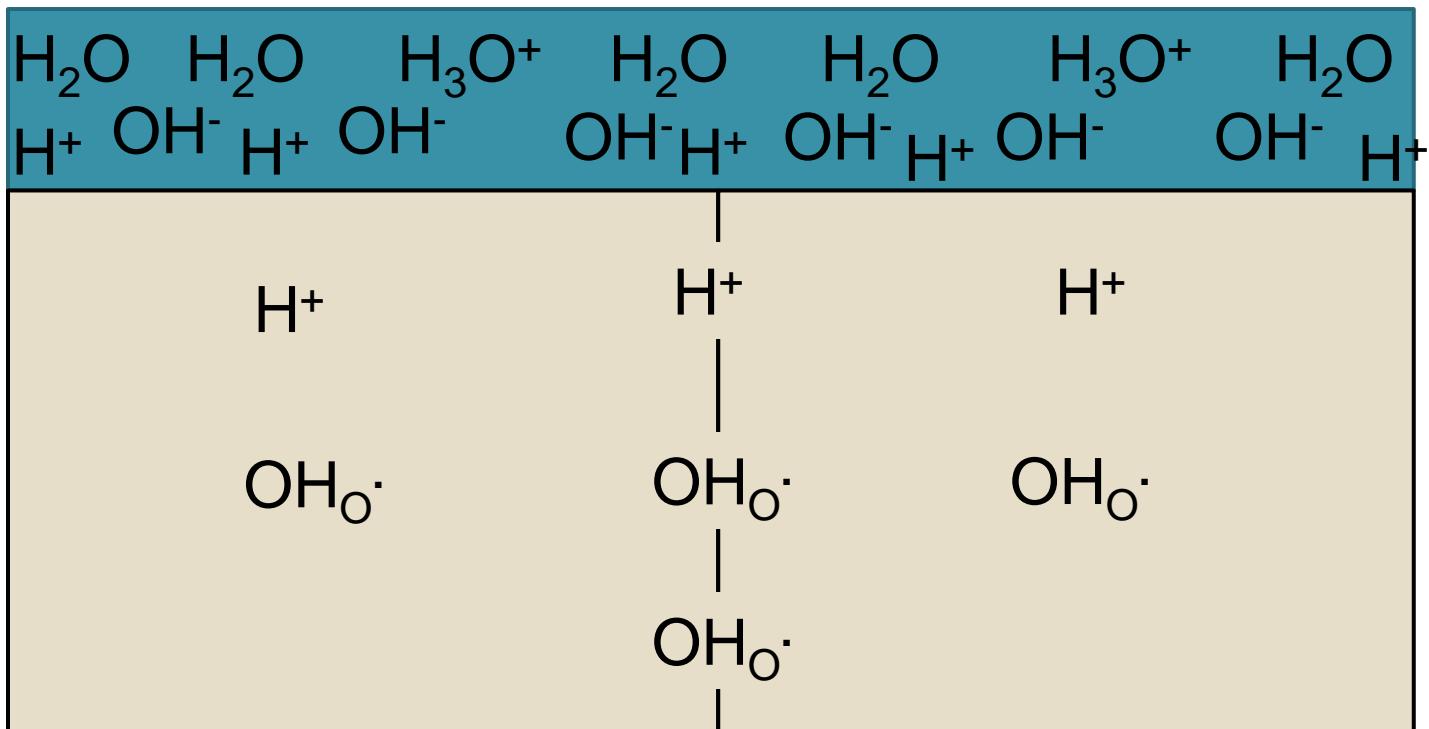
# Porous oxide ceramic

- ▶ Intermediate temperatures – wet atmospheres
- ▶ Surface chemisorbed water
- ▶ Surface proton conduction



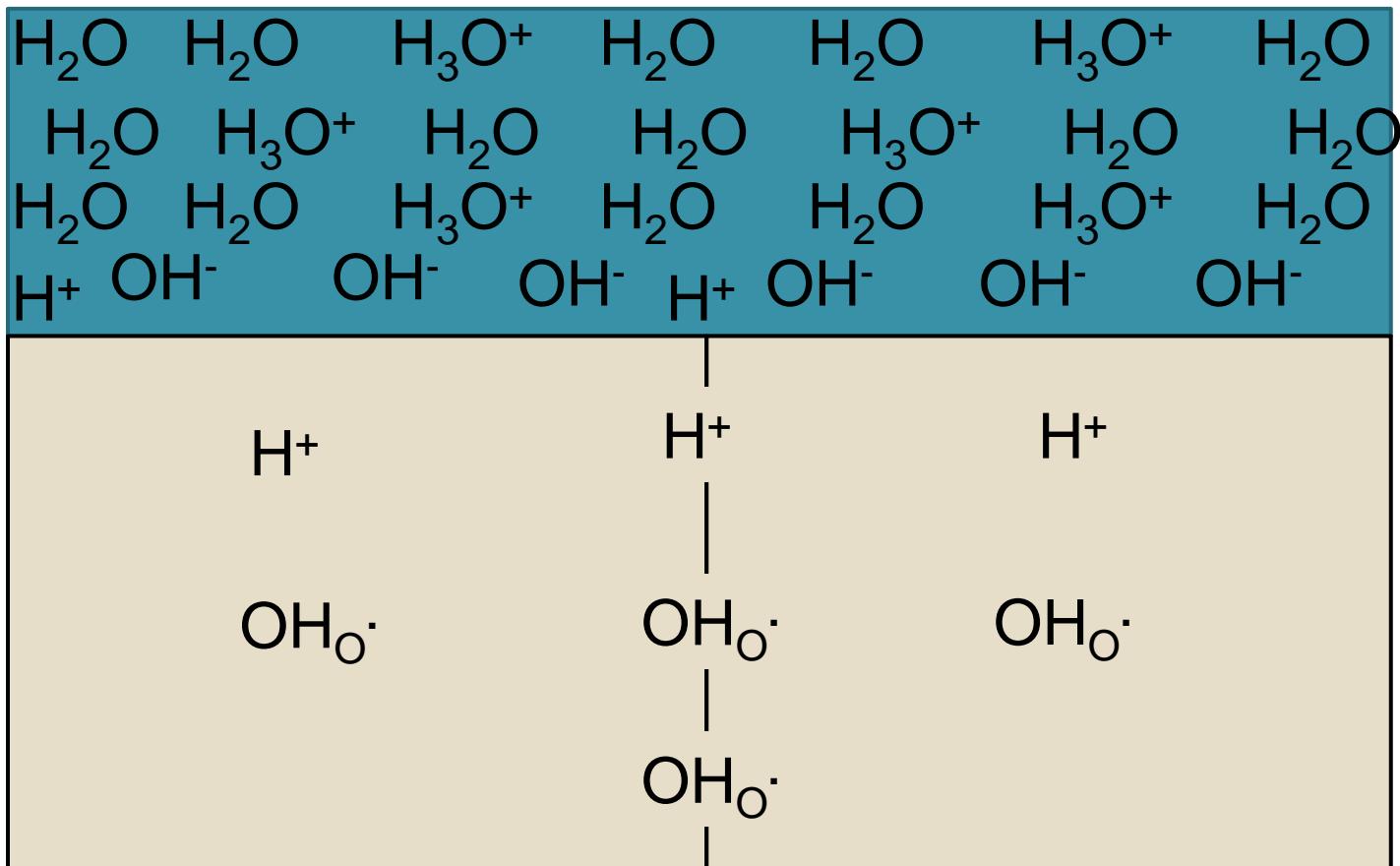
# Porous oxide ceramic

- ▶ Lower temperatures – wetter atmospheres
- ▶ Surface physisorbed water – one layer – «ice-like»



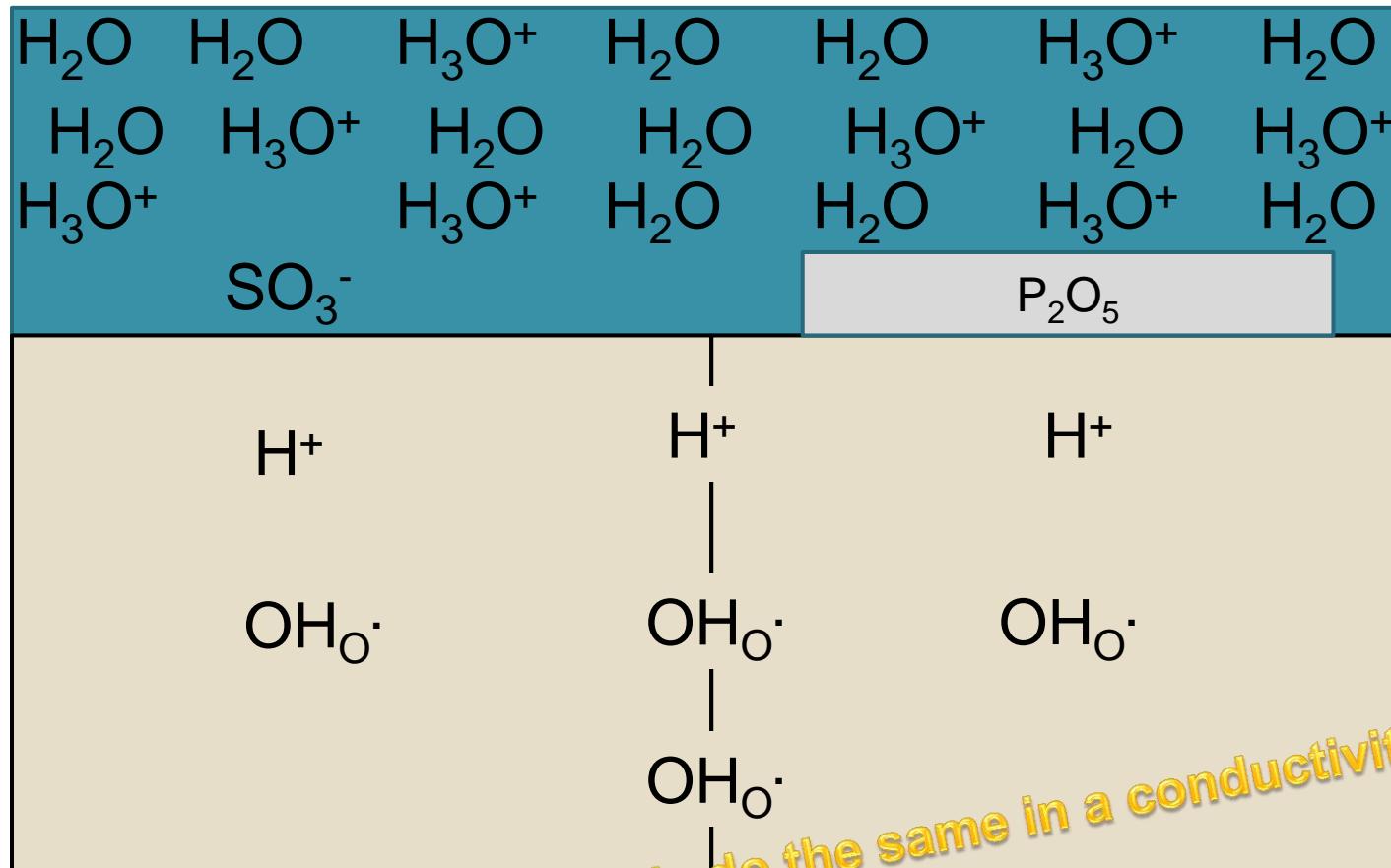
# Porous oxide ceramic

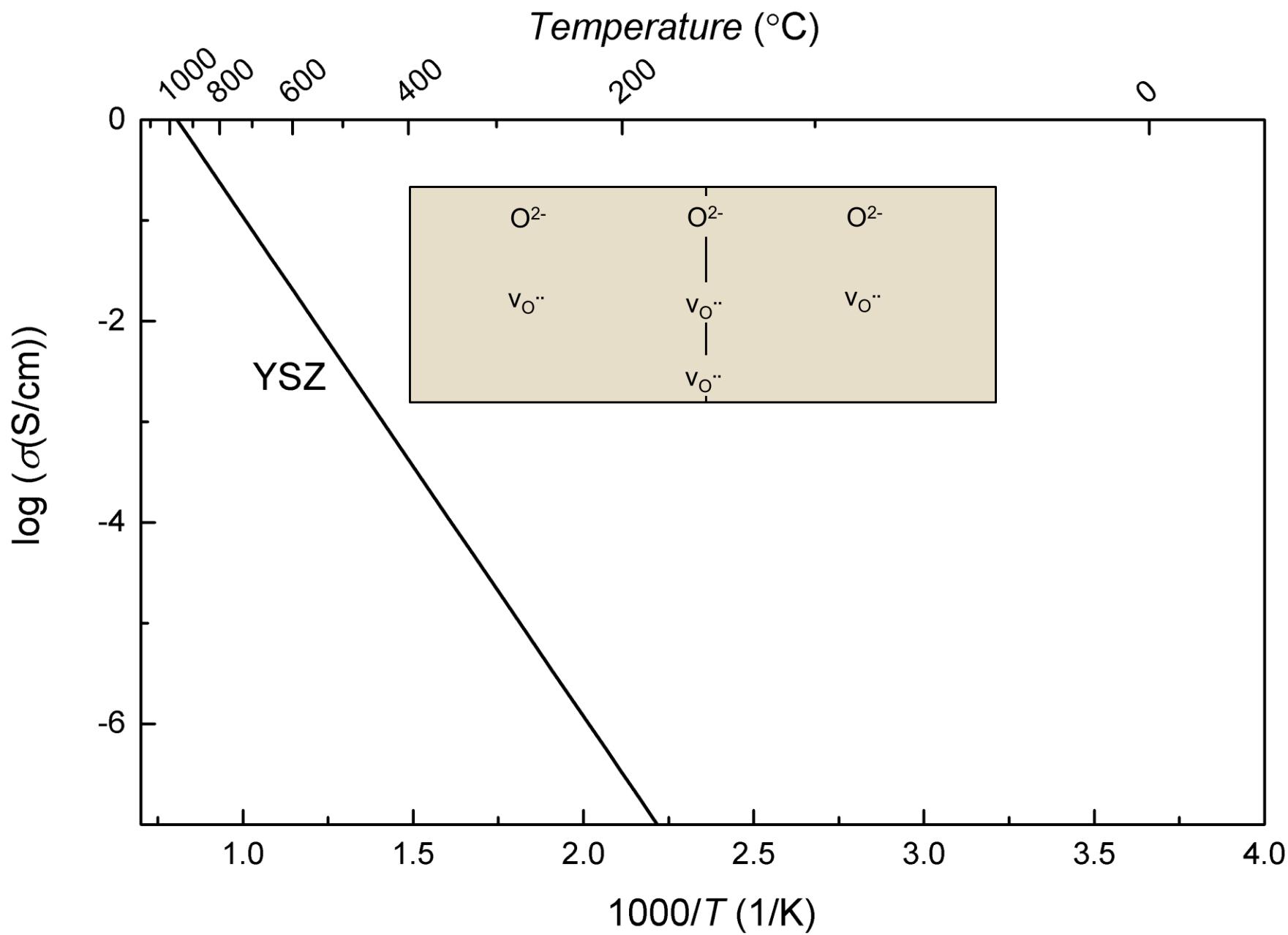
- ▶ Lower temperatures – wetter atmospheres
  - ▶ Surface physisorbed water – multilayer – «water-like»

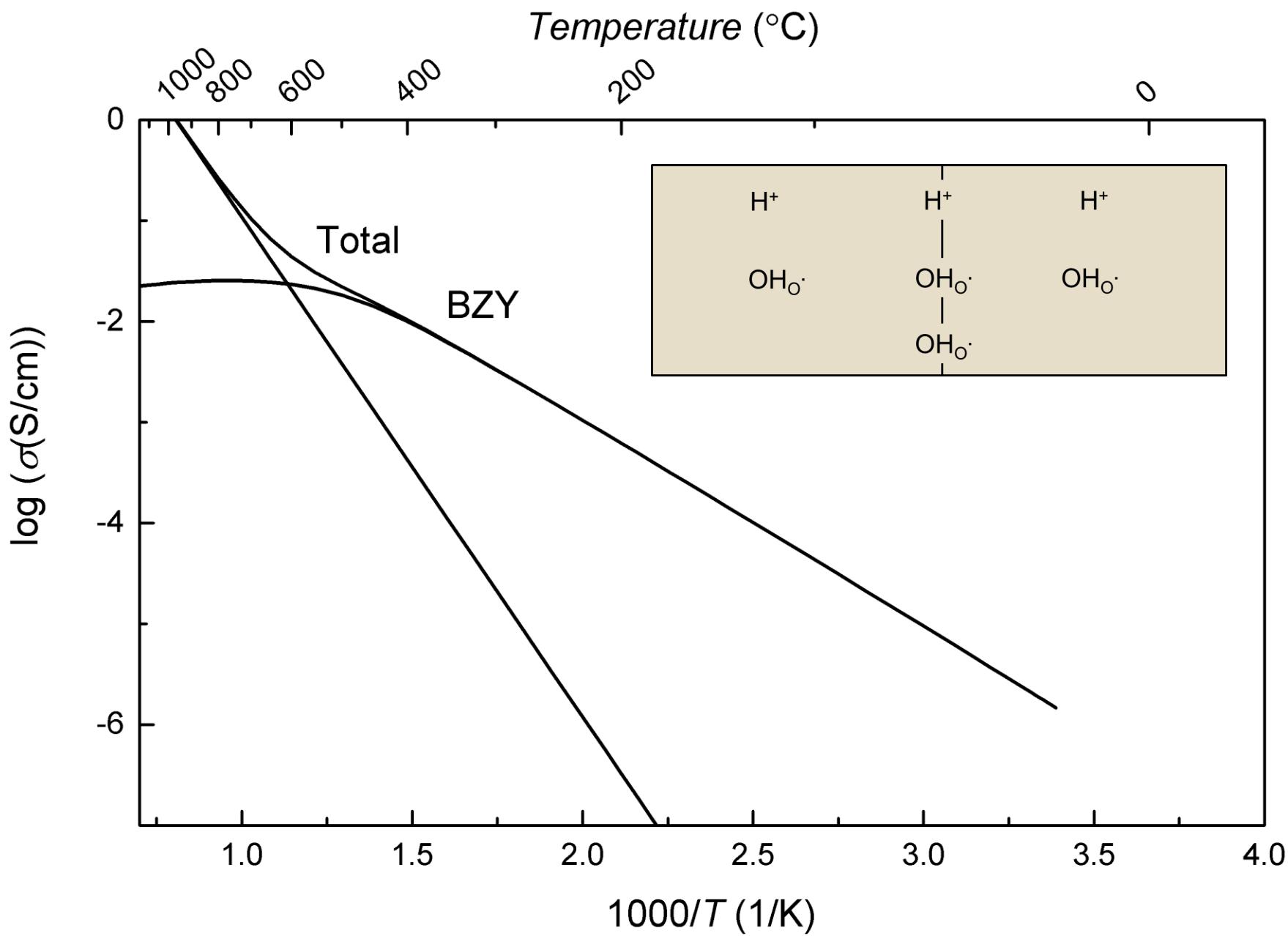


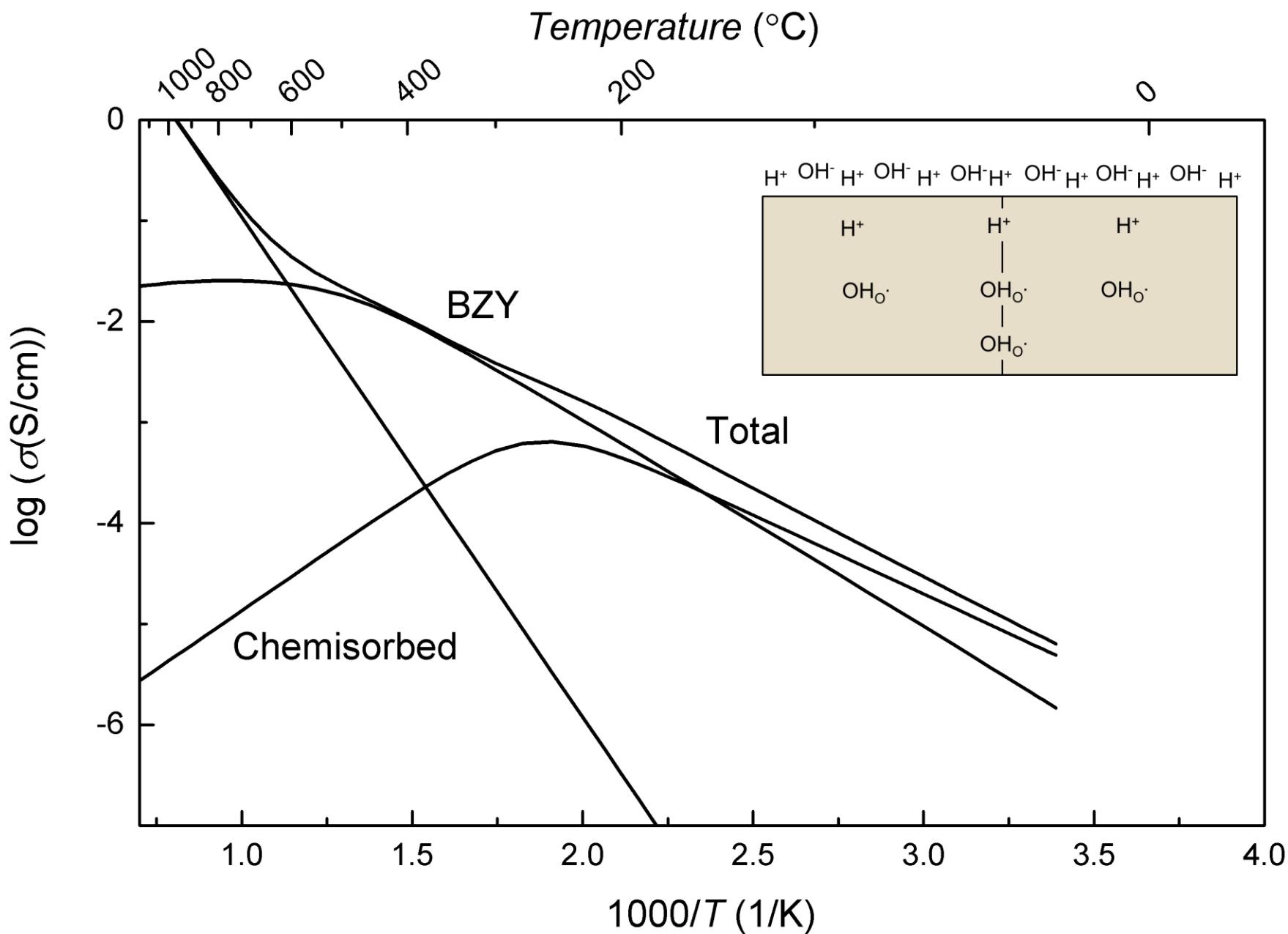
# Porous oxide ceramic

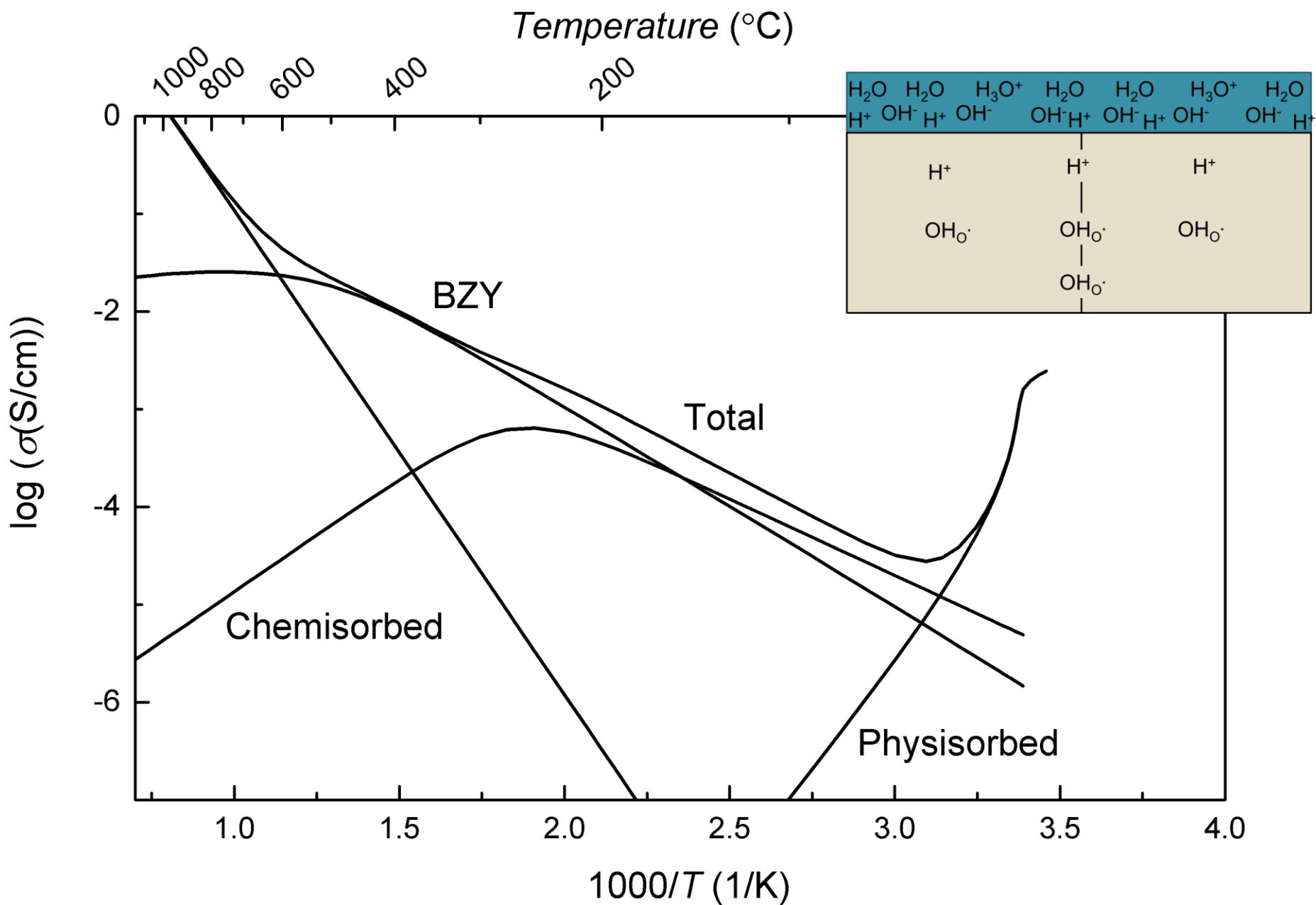
- ▶ Surface functionalization
- ▶ Acid surface groups. Secondary phases.

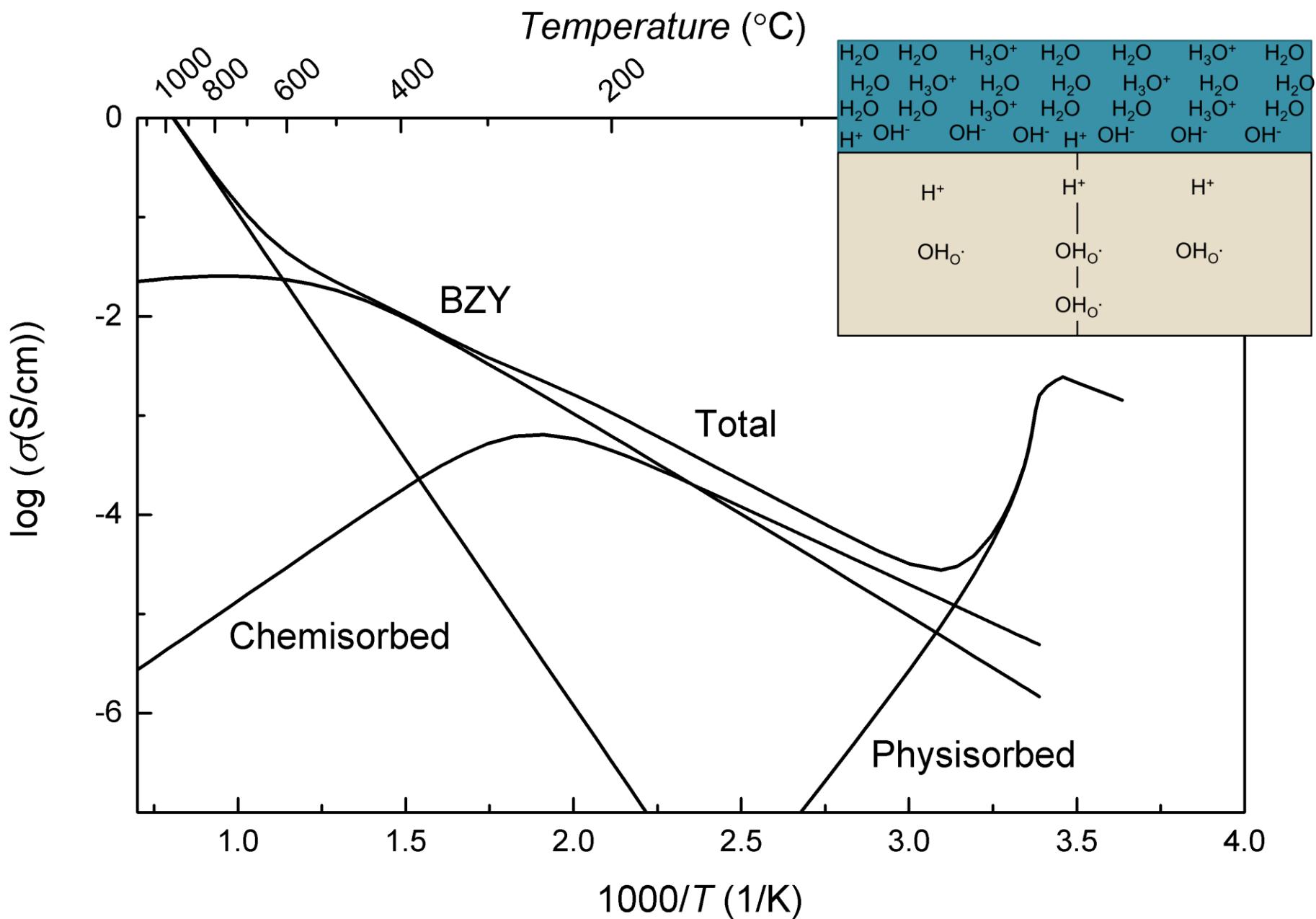


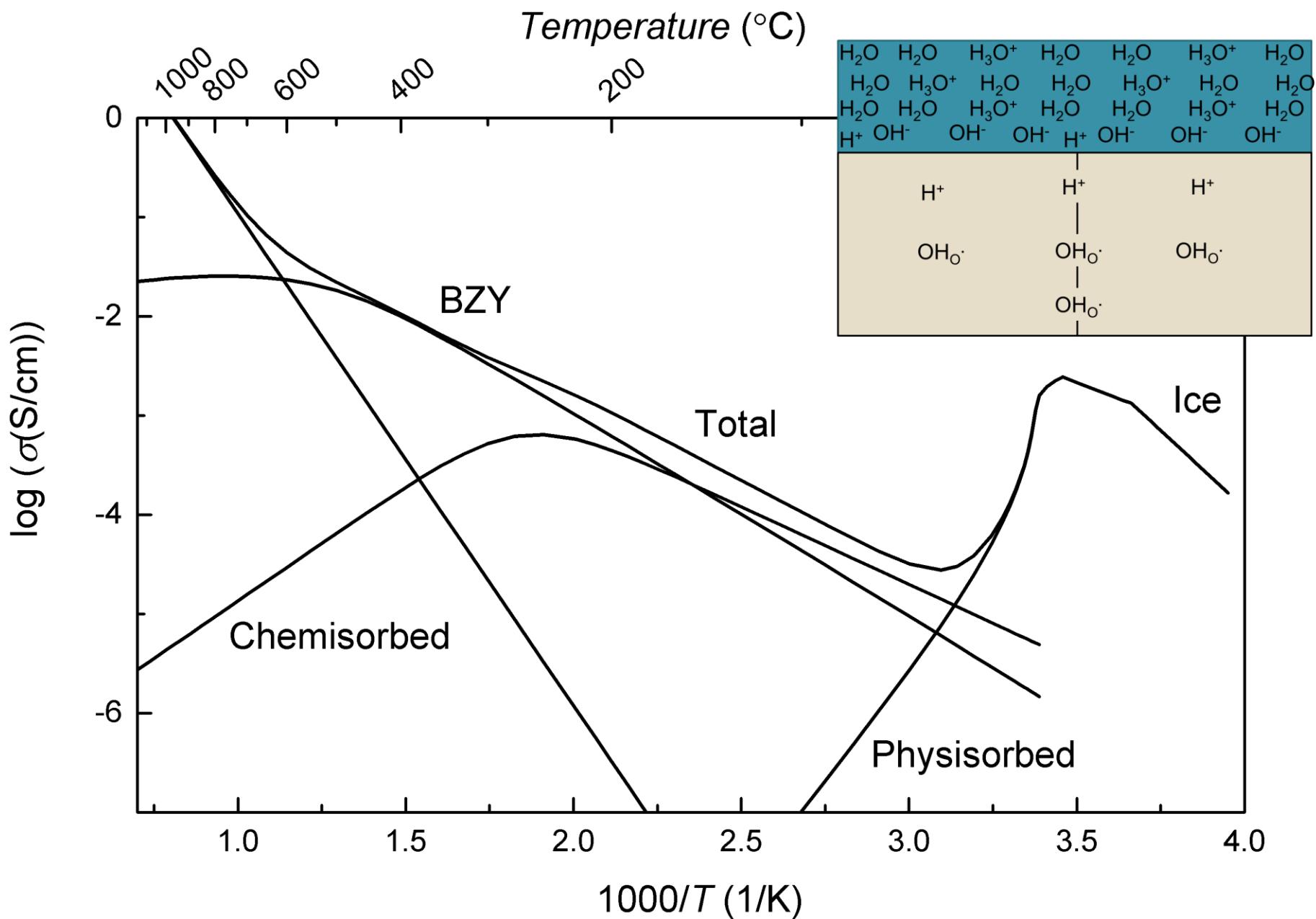


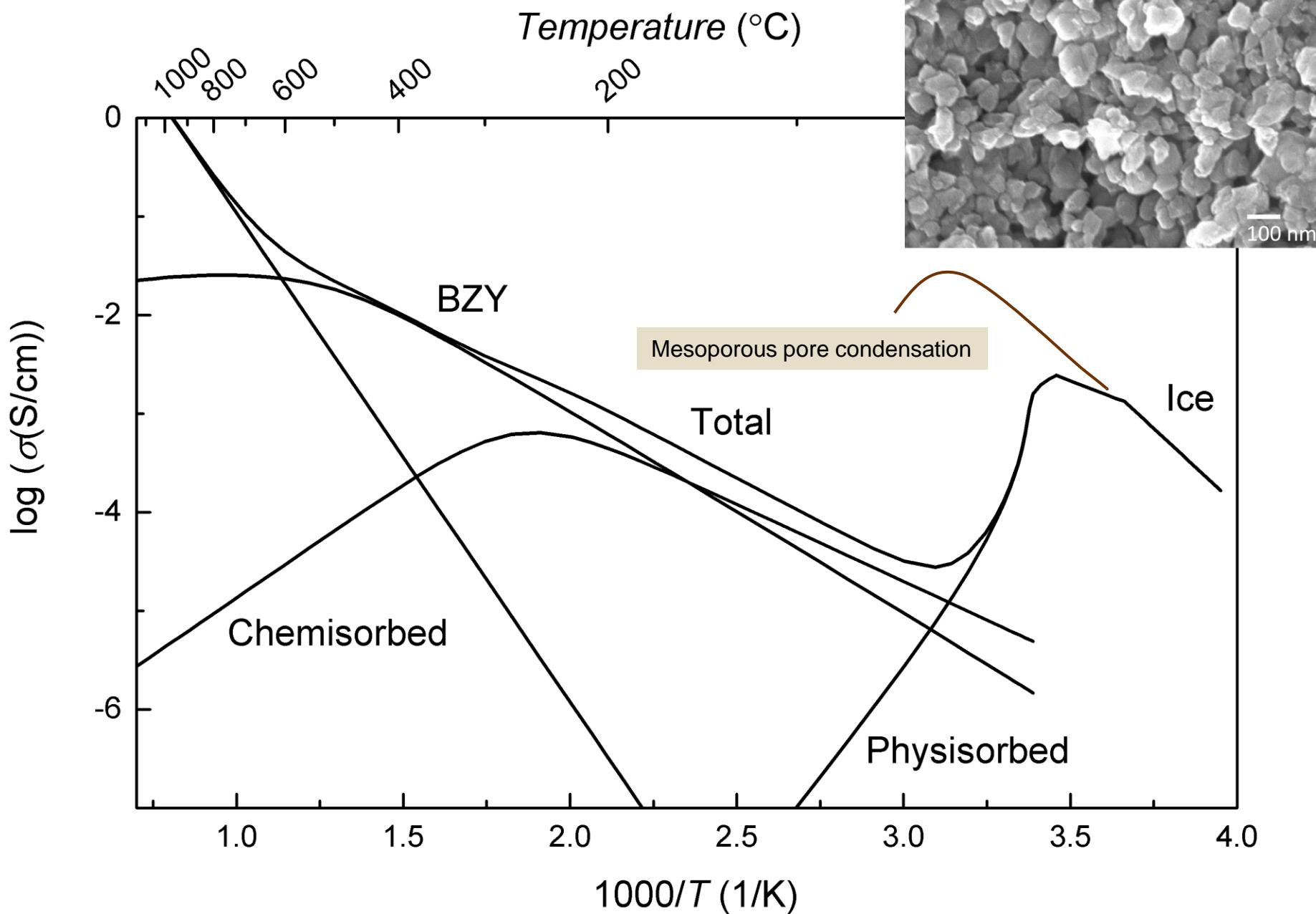


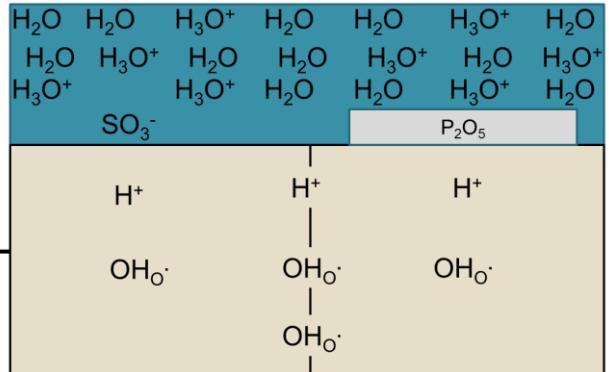
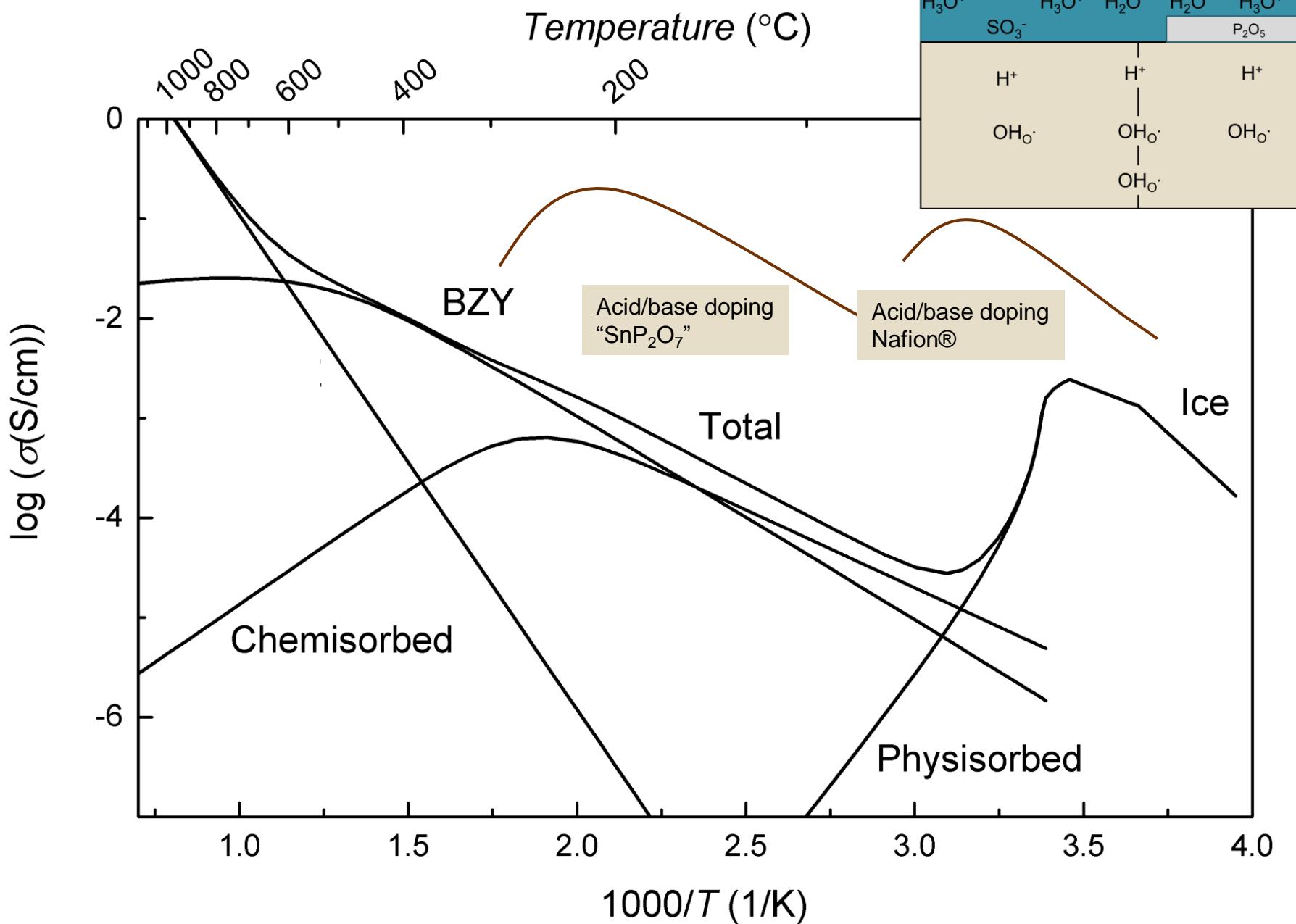






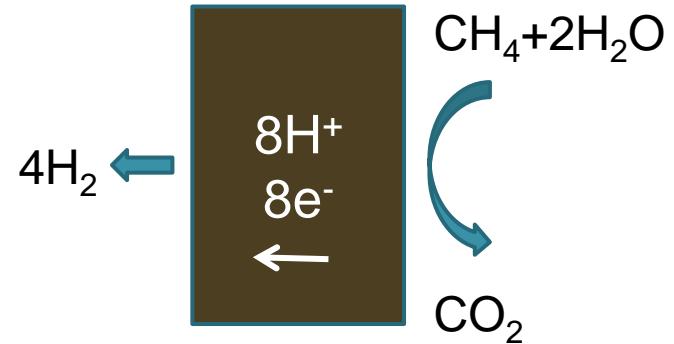






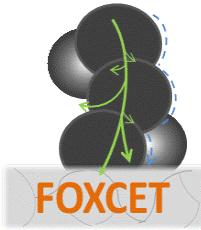
# Summary

- ▶ Solid electrolytes and mixed conductors
- ▶ Bulk transport
  - ▶ Defect thermodynamics
  - ▶ Defect mobilities
- ▶ Trapping
- ▶ Charge separation
  - ▶ Grain boundaries
  - ▶ Dislocations
  - ▶ Surfaces
  - ▶ Electrodes
- ▶ Electrodics
- ▶ Relationships between solid and liquid, HT and LT



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