

Contents

Preface.....	xiii
Foreword to the first edition	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
Abbreviations	xix
Symbols.....	xxi
 1 Introduction	 1
1.1 Hydrogen Fuel Cells – Basic Principles.....	1
1.2 What Limits the Current?	5
1.3 Connecting Cells in Series – the Bipolar Plate.....	6
1.4 Gas Supply and Cooling.....	10
1.5 Fuel Cell Types.....	14
1.6 Other Cells – Some Fuel Cells, Some Not.....	16
1.6.1 <i>Biological fuel cells</i>	17
1.6.2 <i>Metal/air cells</i>	17
1.6.3 <i>Redox flow cells or regenerative fuel cells</i>	18
1.7 Other Parts of a Fuel Cell System.....	19
1.8 Figures Used to Compare Systems	21
1.9 Advantages and Applications	22
References	24
 2 Efficiency and Open Circuit Voltage	 25
2.1 Energy and the EMF of the Hydrogen Fuel Cell.....	25
2.2 The Open Circuit Voltage of Other Fuel Cells and Batteries	30
2.3 Efficiency and Efficiency Limits	31
2.4 Efficiency and the Fuel Cell Voltage	34
2.5 The Effect of Pressure and Gas Concentration.....	35
2.5.1 <i>The Nernst equation</i>	35
2.5.2 <i>Hydrogen partial pressure</i>	38
2.5.3 <i>Fuel and oxidant utilisation</i>	39
2.5.4 <i>System pressure</i>	40
2.5.5 <i>An application – blood alcohol measurement</i>	41

2.6	Summary	42
	References	43
3	Operational Fuel Cell Voltages	45
3.1	Introduction.....	45
3.2	Terminology.....	47
3.3	Fuel Cell Irreversibilities – Causes of Voltage Drop.....	47
3.4	Activation Losses	48
3.4.1	<i>The Tafel equation</i>	<i>48</i>
3.4.2	<i>The constants in the Tafel equation.....</i>	<i>49</i>
3.4.3	<i>Reducing the activation overvoltage</i>	<i>52</i>
3.4.4	<i>Summary of activation overvoltage.....</i>	<i>53</i>
3.5	Fuel Crossover and Internal Currents	53
3.6	Ohmic Losses	56
3.7	Mass Transport or Concentration Losses	57
3.8	Combining the Irreversibilities	59
3.9	The Charge Double Layer.....	61
3.10	Distinguishing the Different Irreversibilities.....	63
	References	66
4	Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells.....	67
4.1	Overview	67
4.2	How the Polymer Electrolyte Works	69
4.3	Electrodes and Electrode Structure	72
4.4	Water Management in the PEMFC.....	75
4.4.1	<i>Overview of the problem</i>	<i>75</i>
4.4.2	<i>Airflow and water evaporation</i>	<i>76</i>
4.4.3	<i>Humidity of PEMFC air.....</i>	<i>80</i>
4.4.4	<i>Running PEM fuel cells without extra humidification.....</i>	<i>83</i>
4.4.5	<i>External humidification – principles</i>	<i>85</i>
4.4.6	<i>External humidification – methods.....</i>	<i>87</i>
4.5	PEM Fuel Cell Cooling and Air Supply	90
4.5.1	<i>Cooling using the cathode air supply.....</i>	<i>90</i>
4.5.2	<i>Separate reactant and cooling air.....</i>	<i>91</i>
4.5.3	<i>Water cooling of PEM fuel cells</i>	<i>93</i>
4.6	PEM Fuel Cell Connection – the Bipolar Plate.....	94
4.6.1	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>94</i>
4.6.2	<i>Flow field patterns on the bipolar plates</i>	<i>94</i>
4.6.3	<i>Making bipolar plates for PEM fuel cells.....</i>	<i>96</i>
4.6.4	<i>Other topologies.....</i>	<i>100</i>
4.7	Operating Pressure	102
4.7.1	<i>Outline of the problem</i>	<i>102</i>
4.7.2	<i>Simple quantitative cost/benefit analysis of higher operating pressures.....</i>	<i>103</i>

4.7.3	<i>Other factors affecting choice of pressure</i>	108
4.8	Reactant Composition	110
4.8.1	<i>Carbon monoxide poisoning</i>	110
4.8.2	<i>Methanol and other liquid fuels</i>	111
4.8.3	<i>Using pure oxygen in place of air</i>	111
4.9	Example Systems	112
4.9.1	<i>Small 12-W system</i>	112
4.9.2	<i>Medium 2-kW system</i>	114
4.9.3	<i>205-kW fuel cell engine</i>	117
	References	118
5	Alkaline Electrolyte Fuel Cells	121
5.1	Historical Background and Overview	121
5.1.1	<i>Basic principles</i>	121
5.1.2	<i>Historical importance</i>	121
5.1.3	<i>Main advantages</i>	122
5.2	Types of Alkaline Electrolyte Fuel Cell	124
5.2.1	<i>Mobile electrolyte</i>	124
5.2.2	<i>Static electrolyte alkaline fuel cells</i>	127
5.2.3	<i>Dissolved fuel alkaline fuel cells</i>	129
5.3	Operating Pressure and Temperature	132
5.4	Electrodes for Alkaline Electrolyte Fuel Cells	134
5.4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	134
5.4.2	<i>Sintered nickel powder</i>	134
5.4.3	<i>Raney metals</i>	135
5.4.4	<i>Rolled electrodes</i>	135
5.5	Cell Interconnections	137
5.6	Problems and Development	137
	References	138
6	Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	141
6.1	Introduction	141
6.2	Anode Reaction and Catalysts	143
6.2.1	<i>Overall DMFC reaction</i>	143
6.2.2	<i>Anode reactions in the alkaline DMFC</i>	144
6.2.3	<i>Anode reactions in the PEM direct methanol FC</i>	144
6.2.4	<i>Anode fuel feed</i>	146
6.2.5	<i>Anode catalysts</i>	147
6.3	Electrolyte and Fuel Crossover	148
6.3.1	<i>How fuel crossover occurs</i>	148
6.3.2	<i>Standard techniques for reducing fuel crossover</i>	149
6.3.3	<i>Fuel crossover techniques in development</i>	150
6.4	Cathode Reactions and Catalysts	151
6.5	Methanol Production, Storage, and Safety	152

6.5.1	<i>Methanol production</i>	152
6.5.2	<i>Methanol safety</i>	153
6.5.3	<i>Methanol compared to ethanol</i>	155
6.5.4	<i>Methanol storage</i>	156
6.6	Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Applications	157
	References	160
7	Medium and High Temperature Fuel Cells	163
7.1	Introduction	163
7.2	Common Features	165
7.2.1	<i>An introduction to fuel reforming</i>	165
7.2.2	<i>Fuel utilisation</i>	166
7.2.3	<i>Bottoming cycles</i>	168
7.2.4	<i>The use of heat exchangers – exergy and pinch technology</i>	174
7.3	The Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cell (PAFC)	177
7.3.1	<i>How it works</i>	177
7.3.2	<i>Performance of the PAFC</i>	182
7.3.3	<i>Recent developments in PAFC</i>	184
7.4	The Molten Carbonate Fuel Cell (MCFC)	187
7.4.1	<i>How it works</i>	187
7.4.2	<i>Implications of using a molten carbonate electrolyte</i>	190
7.4.3	<i>Cell components in the MCFC</i>	190
7.4.4	<i>Stack configuration and sealing</i>	195
7.4.5	<i>Internal reforming</i>	196
7.4.6	<i>Performance of MCFCS</i>	198
7.4.7	<i>Practical MCFC systems</i>	202
7.5	The Solid Oxide Fuel Cell	207
7.5.1	<i>How it works</i>	207
7.5.2	<i>SOFC components</i>	209
7.5.3	<i>Practical design and stacking arrangements for the SOFC</i>	213
7.5.4	<i>SOFC performance</i>	220
7.5.5	<i>SOFC combined cycles, novel system designs and hybrid systems</i>	221
7.5.6	<i>Intermediate temperature SOFCs</i>	225
	References	226
8	Fuelling Fuel Cells	229
8.1	Introduction	229
8.2	Fossil Fuels	232
8.2.1	<i>Petroleum</i>	232
8.2.2	<i>Petroleum in mixtures: tar sands, oil shales, gas hydrates, and LPG</i>	233
8.2.3	<i>Coal and coal gases</i>	234
8.2.4	<i>Natural gas</i>	235

8.3	Bio-Fuels	236
8.4	The Basics of Fuel Processing	238
8.4.1	Fuel cell requirements	238
8.4.2	Desulphurisation	239
8.4.3	Steam reforming	241
8.4.4	Carbon formation and pre-reforming	244
8.4.5	Internal reforming	246
8.4.6	Direct hydrocarbon oxidation	248
8.4.7	Partial oxidation and autothermal reforming	248
8.4.8	Hydrogen generation by pyrolysis or thermal cracking of hydrocarbons	250
8.4.9	Further fuel processing – carbon monoxide removal	250
8.5	Practical Fuel Processing – Stationary Applications	252
8.5.1	Conventional industrial steam reforming	252
8.5.2	System designs for natural gas fed PEMFC and PAFC plants with steam reformers	253
8.5.3	Reformer and partial oxidation designs	257
8.6	Practical Fuel Processing – Mobile Applications	263
8.6.1	General issues	263
8.6.2	Methanol reforming for vehicles	264
8.6.3	Micro-scale methanol reactors	267
8.6.4	Gasoline reforming	269
8.7	Electrolysers	270
8.7.1	Operation of electrolyzers	270
8.7.2	Applications of electrolyzers	272
8.7.3	Electrolyser efficiency	272
8.7.4	Generating at high pressure	273
8.7.5	Photo-electrolysis	275
8.8	Biological Production of Hydrogen	275
8.8.1	Introduction	275
8.8.2	Photosynthesis	276
8.8.3	Hydrogen production by digestion processes	278
8.9	Hydrogen Storage I – Storage as Hydrogen	279
8.9.1	Introduction to the problem	279
8.9.2	Safety	280
8.9.3	The storage of hydrogen as a compressed gas	282
8.9.4	Storage of hydrogen as a liquid	284
8.9.5	Reversible metal hydride hydrogen stores	286
8.9.6	Carbon nanofibres	289
8.9.7	Storage methods compared	291
8.10	Hydrogen Storage II – Chemical Methods	293
8.10.1	Introduction	293
8.10.2	Methanol	293
8.10.3	Alkali metal hydrides	295
8.10.4	Sodium borohydride	297

8.10.5	<i>Ammonia</i>	301
8.10.6	<i>Storage methods compared</i>	304
	References	305
9	Compressors, Turbines, Ejectors, Fans, Blowers, and Pumps	309
9.1	Introduction.....	309
9.2	Compressors – Types Used.....	310
9.3	Compressor Efficiency	312
9.4	Compressor Power	314
9.5	Compressor Performance Charts	315
9.6	Performance Charts for Centrifugal Compressors.....	318
9.7	Compressor Selection – Practical Issues	320
9.8	Turbines.....	321
9.9	Turbochargers	325
9.10	Ejector Circulators.....	326
9.11	Fans and Blowers.....	327
9.12	Membrane/Diaphragm Pumps	328
	References	330
10	Delivering Fuel Cell Power	331
10.1	Introduction.....	331
10.2	DC Regulation and Voltage Conversion.....	332
10.2.1	Switching devices.....	332
10.2.2	Switching regulators	334
10.3	Inverters.....	339
10.3.1	Single phase.....	339
10.3.2	Three phase.....	344
10.3.3	Regulatory issues and tariffs	346
10.3.4	Power factor correction	348
10.4	Electric Motors	349
10.4.1	General points.....	349
10.4.2	The induction motor	350
10.4.3	The brushless DC motor	352
10.4.4	Switched reluctance motors	355
10.4.5	Motors efficiency	357
10.4.6	Motor mass	361
10.5	Fuel Cell/Battery or Capacitor Hybrid Systems.....	362
	References	367
11	Fuel Cell Systems Analysed	369
11.1	Introduction.....	369
11.2	Energy Systems.....	370
11.3	Well-To-Wheels Analysis.....	371
11.3.1	Importance of well-to-wheels analysis.....	371

11.3.2	<i>Well-to-tank analysis</i>	372
11.3.3	<i>Main conclusions of the GM well-to-wheels study</i>	374
11.4	Power-Train or Drive-Train Analysis.....	375
11.5	Example System I – PEMFC Powered Bus	377
11.6	Example System II – Stationary Natural Gas Fuelled System.....	382
11.6.1	<i>Introduction</i>	382
11.6.2	<i>Flow sheet and conceptual systems designs</i>	382
11.6.3	<i>Detailed engineering designs</i>	386
11.6.4	<i>Further systems analysis</i>	387
11.7	Closing Remarks	388
	References	389
Appendix 1	Change in Molar Gibbs Free Energy Calculations	391
A1.1	Hydrogen Fuel Cell.....	391
A1.2	The Carbon Monoxide Fuel Cell.....	393
	References	394
Appendix 2	Useful Fuel Cell Equations	395
A2.1	Introduction.....	395
A2.2	Oxygen and Air Usage	396
A2.3	Air Exit Flow Rate	397
A2.4	Hydrogen Usage.....	398
A2.5	Water Production.....	399
A2.6	Heat Produced.....	399
Index		401