# Materials for hydrogen economy: past, current and future







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# Mer du Nord Bruxelles Saint-Gilles Bruxelles Woluwe Tournai Mons Charleroi FRANCE LUXEMBOURG

PAYS - BAS



## **Intermittent Energy Sources**

- Wind Tide
- Sun
   Wave
- Hydro
- ⇒ Difficult to integrate to base power





#### Figure A.30 – 2009/10 Daily Peak and Wind Generation

## Energy vectors

## **WIND FARMS PAID £7M TO SWITCH OFF'**

UK Press Association on Google News, 11 October, 2011.

Wind farms operators have been paid nearly £7 million this year to switch off turbines, the Government has said.

'Seventeen wind farms across the UK were told to shut down on a total of 37 days, with the farms' owners compensated for not generating power.

'So-called "constraint payments" are made when too much electricity floods the Grid, with the network unable to absorb the power generated.

http://www.windbyte.co.uk/windpower.html

We need an energy vector which will transport energy from the production site to the user. Electricity is a good energy vector but it could not be stored in large quantity. Thus, we need another type of energy vector.

## Energy vectors



GREENING' THE LAND

We need an energy vector which will transport energy from the production site to the user. Electricity is a good energy vector but it could not be stored in large quantity. Thus, we need another type of energy vector.

## Hydrogen economy

• Hydrogen, in various forms (gas, liquid, hydrides) is used to store and transport energy

• Hydrogen is traded, as now oil

• Reduce dependency on fossil fuels for: ecological, polytical and economical reasons ...this has more to do with energy production

## Energy density



Lithium-ion batteries up to 1 MJ/kg

For practical applications hydrogen storage density has to be increased



## Hydrogen storage is the main issue

Especially for mobile applications, e.g. transport



## Approaches to storage

- close packing of H atoms (volume density)
- light container
- H release, reversibility (thermodynamics)
- low cost and safety

(weight density) (materials science)

Liquid hydrogen 71 kg  $H_2/m^3$ , 100 % wt. 1 bar, 20 K

Compressed hydrogen 33 kg  $H_2/m^3$ , 13 % wt. 700 bar, 298 K

Physical adsorption 20 kg  $H_2/m^3$ , 4 % wt. 70 bar, 65 K



Chemical absorption 150 kg H<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>, 18 % wt. 1 bar, 298 K







## Stationary applications







Typical Layout of a metal hydride storage system with heat exchang and hot water taps for dehydriding





184 DER SPIEGEL 3/1996

## Mobile applications













## Hydrogen for vehicles

Hydrogen could be used directly in Internal combustion engine (ICE) or with a fuel cell (FC)

#### ICE:

- Low cost
- Well known engine
- Production of NO<sub>X</sub>
- Low efficiency
- Noise



FC:

- High cost
- New type of engine
- Pollution free
- High efficiency
- Silent



## Batteries vs hydrogen



We should not oppose « batteries » to hydrogen + FC: both are chemical means of energy storage, used in electrically driven cars Both revolutionize the cars we know

## Hydrogen car

#### Toyota Mirai, 700 bar, 5 kg H<sub>2</sub>, filled by precooled gas



## Carbon reinforced fuel tank

#### Burst test sample, HyTREC facility, Fukuoka, Japan



## HyTREC test facility, Fukuoka prefecture

#### Helps industries to implement hydrogen technologies



## Happy driver

#### HyTREC facility, Fukuoka, Japan



## Strategic Road Map for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells









<u>Phase 3</u> Establishment of a zero-carbon emission hydrogen supply system throughout the manufacturing process



Full-fieldged operation of manufacturing, transportation and storage of zero-carbon emission hydrogen, by combining the manufacturing technology with a CCS process or with making use of domestic and overseas renewable energy

Market scale of the equipment and infrastructure businesses related to hydrogen and fuel cells in JapanApprox. 1 trillion yen in 2030  $\rightarrow$  Approx. 8 trillion yen in 2050

Market scale: 7.46 Billion EU in 2030, 59.7 Billion EU in 2050

## Hydrogen programs in the Western world

Japan: implementation of the strategic plan, on all levels Run by the government + regional initiatives

EU: trying to lunch to the markets. Research is limited only to high TRLs within Fuel Cell Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU). Run by big industry that is also defining the policy

USA: slow recovery after halting the hydrogen program by Obama's administration. Centres of excellentce operated by the DOE Mostly academic + initiatives of some states (California)

## Hydrogen landscape is defined by

Cheap oil: less motivation

Big public and polytical attention to Li-ion batteries

Large investment made into the compressed hydrogen gas

These are constraints of today!

## Fundamental drivers of hydrogen economy

High energy density

#### Much cheaper and much safer than Li-ion batteries

Raw materials are less critical

## **Residential systems**



H2One, Toshiba *Kyushu Resort Hotel* one-week's supply of electricity and hot water for 300 people using  $CO_2$ -free hydrogen energy

## Enhancing the electrical grid



MYRTE, Corsica  $Sun \rightarrow H_2 \rightarrow$ electricity to the grid on demand

## Large scale stationary systems



## Hybrid cars: run on hydrogen



## Commercial hydrogen cars from 3 manufacturers

Kyushu University, Japan



## Japanese vision of the future

#### Renewable energy + H-storage + distribution



## Hydrogen storage: main classes

Intermetallic solid solutions & compounds: LaNi<sub>5</sub>-H, FeTi-H, Mg<sub>2</sub>FeH<sub>6</sub>

Amides:  $LiNH_2 + 2LiH \leftrightarrow Li_3N + H_2$ 

Alanates:  $NaAlH_4 \leftrightarrow NaH + Al + H_2$ (Ti-catalyzed reversibility)

**Borohydrides:**  $LiBH_4 + MgH_2 \leftrightarrow MgB_2 + LiH + H_2$ (reactive hydride composite)

Catalyzed hydrolysis:  $NaBH_4 + H_2O \rightarrow NaBO_2 + H_2$ 

Liquid organic hydrogen carriers



## Solid-state hydrogen storage

#### DOE goal: 5.5 wt. % $H_2$ for the complete system



Complex hydrides Light: Z = 1-14

Too heavy

Too stable, non-reversible Porous systems MOFs & carbons

Interact weakly with H<sub>2</sub>

M-H accumulators Future: stationary use

Aimed for mobile applications

Different bonding:

interstitial H covalent M-H (M = B, N, A1...) physisorbed H<sub>2</sub>

## Metallic hydrides



#### $\alpha$ -Phase: Solid Solution

#### β-Phase: Hydride Phase

Schlapbach & Züttel, Nature, 414, 353-358, 2001

	p <sub>eq</sub> at RT	
10 <sup>-24</sup>	1.7	<u> </u>
LaH <sub>3</sub>	LaNi <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6.7</sub>	NiH <sub>0.8</sub>

 $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ RT ln (p<sub>eq</sub>) =  $\Delta H - T\Delta S$ 

## Hydrogen in metals

#### LaNi<sub>5</sub>H<sub>6</sub> **« Geometric » model** (Westlake, 1983)

- atoms are rigid spheres
- "interstitial" hole size > 0.38Å
- H-H > 2.1 Å (H-H blocking)





Actually, there is a rich chemistry of M-H interactions

#### Synchrotron: real structure





La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>2</sub> Tetragonal 7.64 3.94 Å

La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>2</sub>H<sub>8</sub> Monoclinic 11.84 7.82 11.96 Å 92.78 °



#### Metal atom shifts < 0.65 Å



## Metal-hydride complexes [Ni<sub>2</sub>H<sub>7</sub>]<sup>7-</sup> & [Ni<sub>4</sub>H<sub>12</sub>]<sup>12-</sup>



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 $T_{dec}$  depends on the electronegativity of the complex-forming metal

 $M(BH_4)_n$ 



Rude et al., Phys. Status Solidi A 208 (2011) 1754

## M[M'<sub>n</sub>(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>m</sub>] Bimetallic borohydrides: 2 bonding schemes





[Sc(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> is a complex anion
Na is a countercation

Černý et al., JPCC, 114 (2010) 1357

[Zn<sub>2</sub>(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>5</sub>]<sup>-</sup> is a complex anion
Li is a countercation

Ravnsbæk et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 48 (2009) 6659

## K[Zn(BH<sub>4</sub>)Cl<sub>2</sub>] Combined use of BH<sub>4</sub> and Cl ligands

Complex anion [Zn(BH<sub>4</sub>)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>

These compounds decompose at ~100°C
controlled charge transfer to BH<sub>4</sub>



Ravnsbæk et al., Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., (2010) 1608

## Polynuclear complexes

Complex anion [Ce<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>12</sub>]<sup>-</sup>

 $LiCeCl(BH_4)_3$ 

Li-ion conductor at room T



Li disorder: XRD + NPD + DFT



Ley et al., Chem. Mater., 24 (2012) 1654

Li

Paddle-wheel mechanism

 $LiCeCl(BH_4)_3$  is a good Li-ion conductor

Ley et al., Chem. Mater., 24 (2012) 1654

NMR data are governed by a combined effect of two types of motion. They suggest that the Li ion jumps and the reorientational jumps of BH<sub>4</sub> groups in LiLa(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Cl may be correlated.

Li

La

Skripov et al., JPCC, 117 (2013) 14965

 $(Li,Na)_2B_{12}H_{12}$  reaches 0.79 S/cm at 550 K

He et al., Chem. Mater., (2015) 5483



## Synthetic screening & fast characterization



#### New structures from mixtures of unknown phases

#### "Decomposition-aided indexing" + solution from difference curves

Z. Kristallogr. 2011, 226, 882-891.



## Automated gas dosing



Lab: Mo rotating anode, focusing mirror, IP detector, gas + cooler/heater



Synchrotrons: SNBL/ESRF, MS/SLS(PSI), ID15/ESRF, I11/DiamondNeutrons: NIST, HRPT/SINQ(PSI), E9/Berlin42

## $Mg(BH_4)_2$ Less ionic – the first porous borohydride



α-phase, the unoccupied voids are shown as large spheres They account for 6.4% of the space Filinchuk *et al.*, Chem. Mater., 21 (2009) 925

#### The first open-pore hydrides $\gamma$ -Mg(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and $\gamma$ -Mn(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>



Filinchuk et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 50 (2011) 11162 Richter et al., Dalton Trans., 44 (2015) 3988 44





 $\gamma$ -Mg(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

Pressure-collapsed, amorphous: ultra-dense hydride, 145 g H / litre



## Heats of adsorption from diffraction



 $\ln \frac{P_1}{P_2} = \frac{\Delta h}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) - \text{derived from Clausius-Clapeyron equation}$ 

Group of Michel Hirscher: confirms 3 wt % H<sub>2</sub>, 5.8 kJ/mole H<sub>2</sub>

## $\gamma$ -Mg(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> The first open-pore hydride: gas loading



Filinchuk et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 50 (2011) 11162



#### BH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> is coordinated linearly via edges

Filinchuk et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 50 (2011) 11162

- ✓ The hybrid hydrides are designed and obtained for the first time
- ✓ High BH<sub>4</sub> dynamics may allow for higher reactivity
- ✓ We are going for porous Im-BH₄ frameworks, using substituted imidazolates New compositions are obtained with methyl- and benzimidazolates

Porosity can allow for reactions inside the pores !

## Reactive hydride composites



#### reversible



wt.%

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## Facilities

H<sub>2</sub>FC/IFE, SNBL/ESRF, NIST, SINQ, HMI, SLS/PSI



450

500

400

MgH<sub>2</sub>

2 LiBH<sub>4</sub> + MgH<sub>2</sub>

LIBH<sub>4</sub>

LINH<sub>2</sub>

LINH<sub>2</sub>

## Gas cells – sapphire tube



#### Short mount – fits into Lab setups

• Left + right handed threads to avoid capillary twisting

Jensen et al., J. Appl. Cryst, 43 (2010) 1456

## Single-crystal sapphire tube



- Background-free
- Inert
- Robust
- Expensive
- Absorbing X-rays

Suitabe for a very high-P systems or for highly reactive samples

## Reactive hydride composites: practice



Sudik *et al.*, JPCC 113 (2009) 2004 Ammonia, amidoboranes etc.







- ✓ Given its high polarizing power defined by the exceptional charge-to-radius ratio Al<sup>3+</sup> stands on its own in the bimetallic MAl(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, MAl(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> and MAl(NH<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub> series
- The activation of neutral molecules, namely ammonia and ammonia borane, requires highly polarizing cation
- ✓ Low weight, high natural abundance
- Chemistry of Al complexes with B- and N-based hydrides has been explored only recently.



## Started as a way to stabilize $Al(BH_4)_3$



 $AlCl_3 + 3LiBH_4 \rightarrow Al(BH_4)_3 + 3LiCl$  $Al(BH_4)_3 + MBH_4 \rightarrow M[Al(BH_4)_4]$ 

No chlorine anions: higher H-content!

#### M = K Dovgaliuk *et al.*, JPCC, 118 (2014) 145 Knight, et *al.*, JPCC, 117 (2013) 19905



#### $NH_4[Al(BH_4)_4] \rightarrow Al(BH_4)_3 \cdot NHBH + 3H_2$ at 35 °C



 $Al(BH_4)_3 + NH_4BH_4 \rightarrow NH_4[Al(BH_4)_4]$ 





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Al-H(B)

## Versatile source of H for RHCs



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## Molecular complexes

 $Al(BH_4)_3 + NH_3BH_3 \rightarrow Al(BH_4)_3 \cdot NH_3BH_3$ 

Stabilizes the very unstable  $Al(BH_4)_3$ 

AB is coordinated via the boron side



Dovgaliuk et al., Chem. Mater. 2015, 27, 768-777.

## Mild & endothermic dehydrogenation

Gravimetric, volumetric and MS studies indicate release of pure H<sub>2</sub> @ 70 °C

Al-H(B)

 $Al(BH_4)_3 \cdot NH_3BH_3 \rightarrow Al(BH_4)_3 \cdot NHBH + 2H_2$ 





## Tuning the AlL<sub>3</sub>·R-NH<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>3</sub> system

Al(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·NH<sub>3</sub>BH<sub>3</sub> is the promising system for the reversible dehydrogenation of AB: endothermic + pure hydrogen desorbed.
 The second decomposition step is the problem.

To get around:

- replace BH<sub>4</sub> by other ligands L, like Cl
- use  $BH_3NH_2R$  to stabilize  $Al(BH_4)_3$ ·NHBH and to test the reversibility

## Tuning the AlL<sub>3</sub>·R-NH<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>3</sub> system

I – Change of  $NH_3BH_3$  to other ligands ( $CH_3NH_3BH_3$ , ( $CH_2NH_2BH_3$ )<sub>2</sub> etc.)

Al-H(B)



Works well

## Tuning the AlL<sub>3</sub>·R-NH<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>3</sub> system

II – Change of Al(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> to AlL<sub>3</sub> (L = F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, H<sup>-</sup>)

Al-H(B)



Works well

## $2 \operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{-NH}_2\operatorname{BH}_3 + 2 \operatorname{AlCl}_3 \rightarrow [\operatorname{Al}(\operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{-NH}_2\operatorname{BH}_3)_2\operatorname{Cl}_2][\operatorname{AlCl}_4]$

Twice more AB per Al



Al-based amidoborane

 $NaAlH_4 + 4 NH_3BH_3 \rightarrow Na[Al(NH_2BH_3)_4] + 4 H_2$ 

