

A Flow Battery for Grid-Scale Energy Storage

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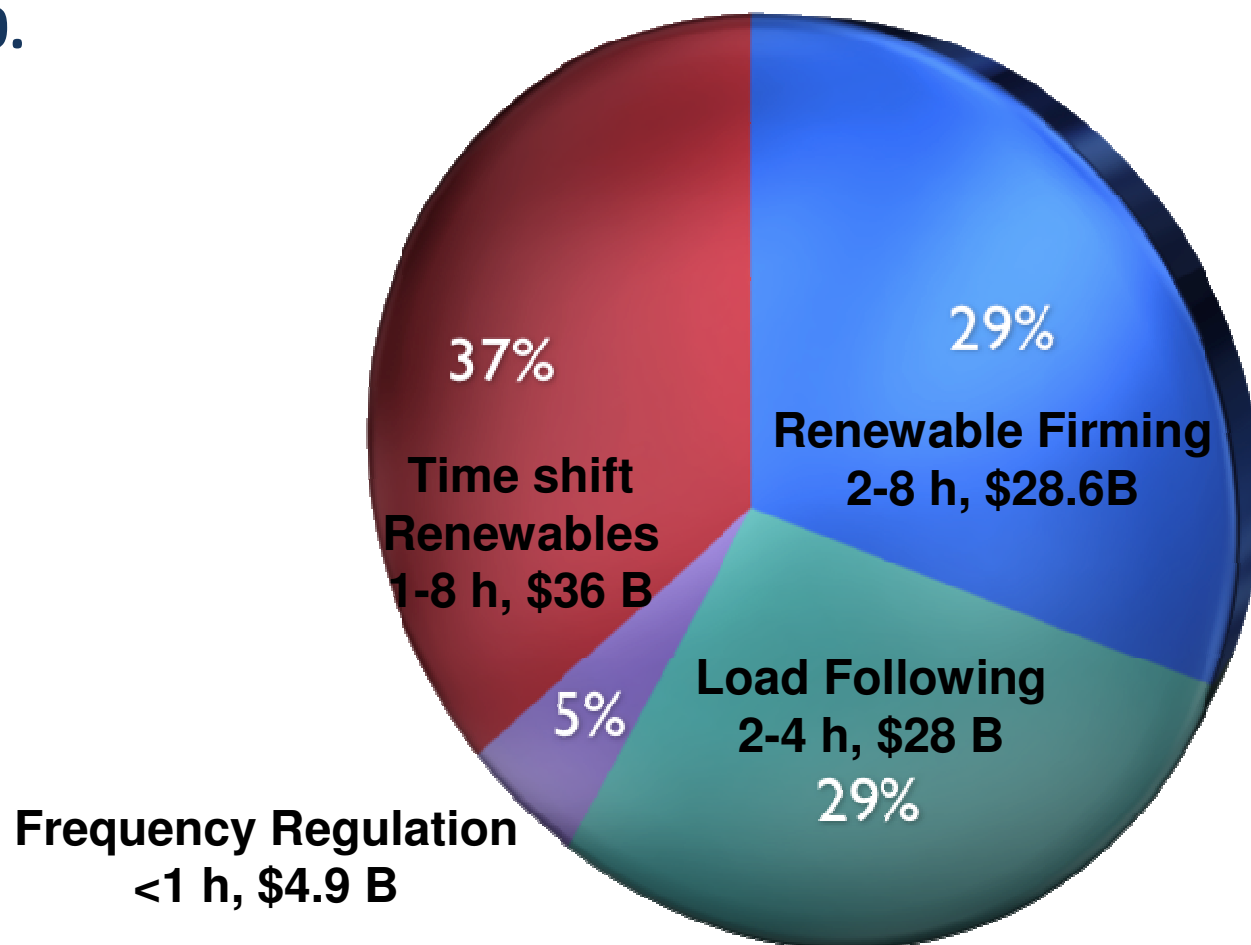
NCCAVS Conference
San Jose, CA

February 22, 2012

Renewable energy standards (e.g., 30% renewables by 2020 in California) will require
of energy back-up

Now CA state bills require CPUC to examine targets for procurement of energy storage systems
of storage needed in a decade

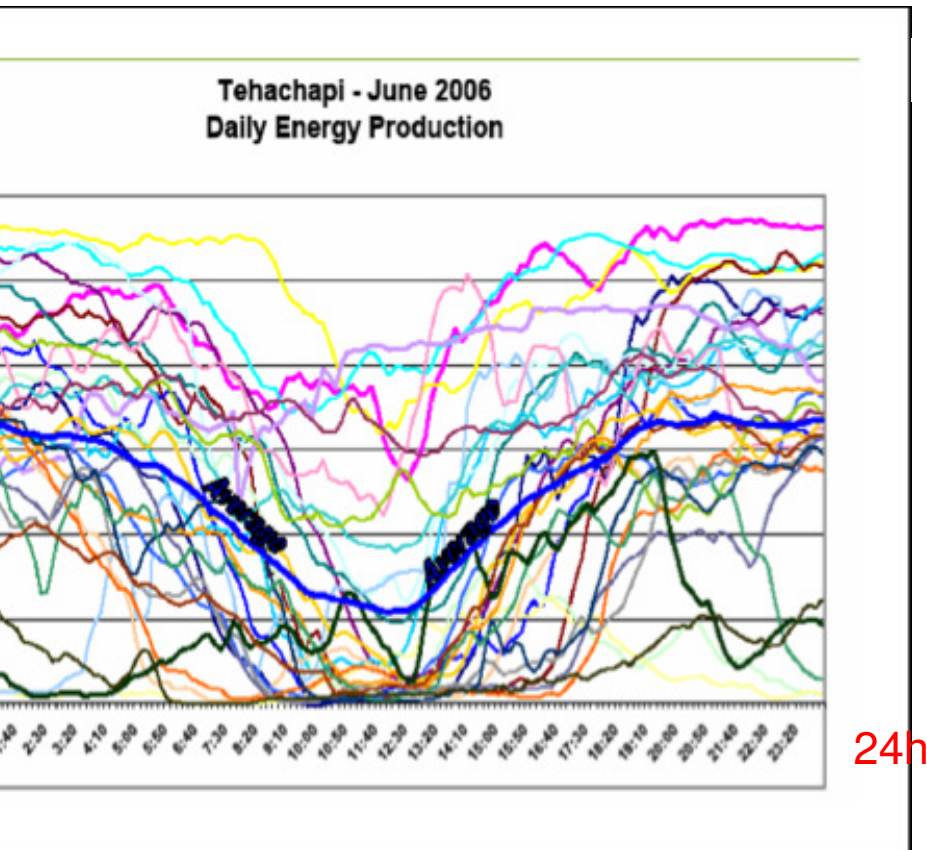
Initially a very large market (\$100B); in contrast, vehicle market expected to be \$10B
by 2020.



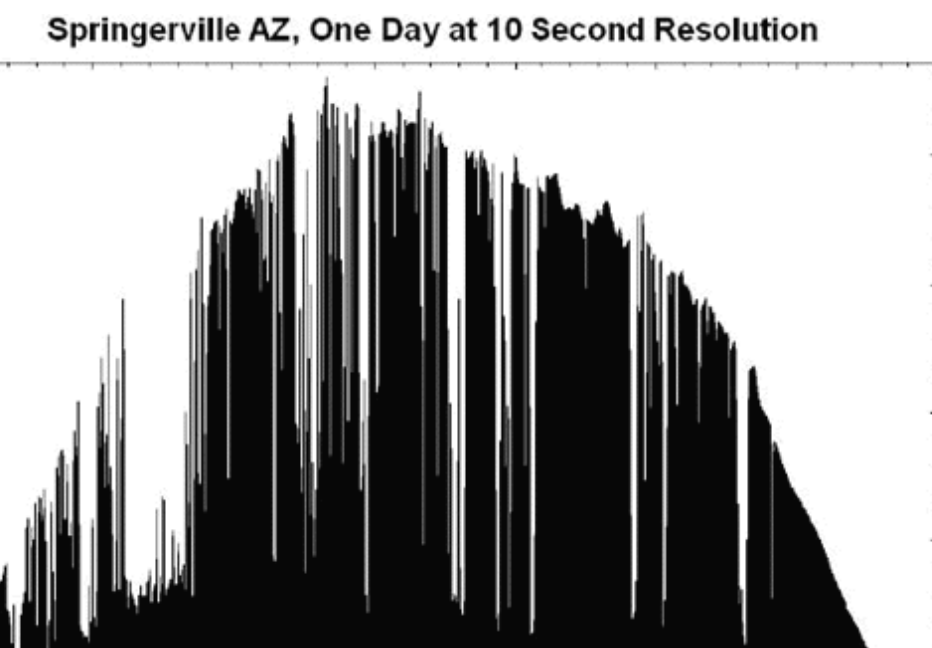
Source: Extracted from E

Need a source of back-up electricity in the range of 1 to 8 h

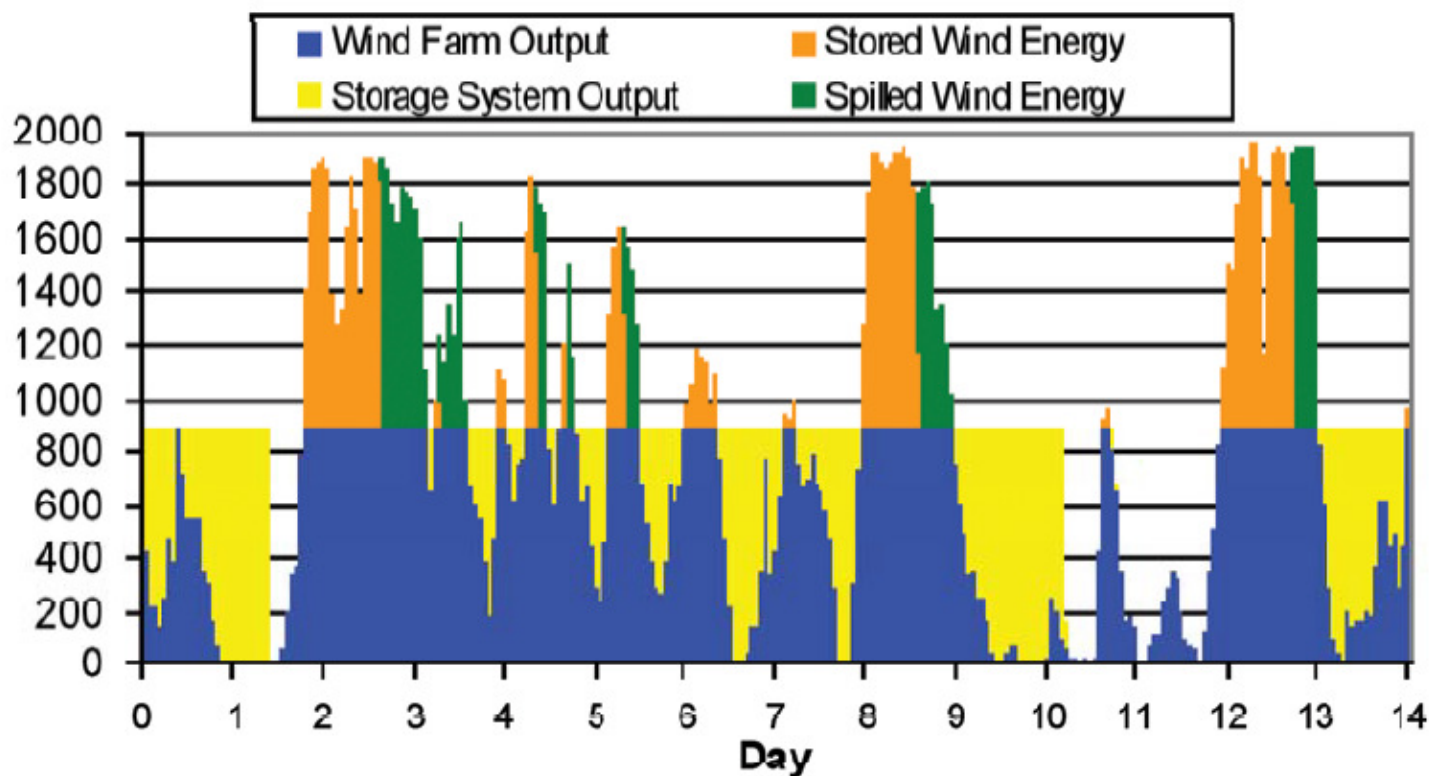
Wind



- Stabilize grid power at 60Hz given intermittent generation assets (in solar, wind)
- Requirements
 - ↪ High power (MW)
 - ↪ Fast ramp rate (seconds)
 - ↪ High efficiency (70-90%)
 - ↪ Short discharge times (< 1 hour)



Solar

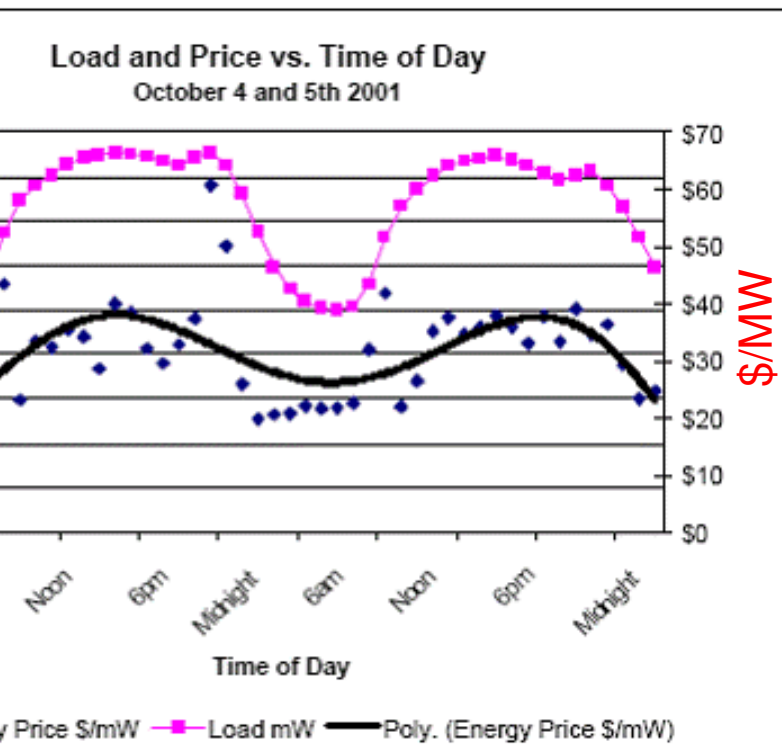


Source: Denholm, Paul. (October 2006). "Creating Baseload Wind Power Systems Using Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage Concepts." Poster presented at the University of Colorado Energy Initiative/NREL Symposium. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/40674.pdf>

shifting of intermittent assets to high-value periods

ar requirements to Grid Reliability, but longer discharge time

3 day



Electric Plan (2005)

- Capture low-cost electricity for peak use
 - Replace spinning reserves
 - Provide backup for “Never-Off” system
 - Industrial, commercial, institutional customers
 - Siting near point-of-use
- ↳ Perceived safety is critical – may hinder adoption

Batteries can be designed to meet all of these requirements, and in some cases, simultaneously.

Simply design to the largest energy and power requirements, then verify overall cost reduction

onal Battery

energy density

CoO₂; concentration of Li = 46 mol Li/l of oxide =
Ah/l

e = 3.6

er power density

ance ~ 30 ohm cm² due to solid state diffusion

function of E/P

$$\text{Total Cost (\$/kWh)} \sim 600x(P/E)^{1/2}$$

$$\sim 600x(1/t_d)^{1/2}$$

ost of constructing the battery with the
r energy and power are coupled.

related to high cost of active materials.

• Flow Battery

↪ Low energy density

➤ Ex. 1 M Br₂ solutions = 54 Ah/l (factor of 23 t

➤ V = 1 V

↪ High power density

➤ Resistance ~ 0.3 ohm cm² (a factor of 100 tim

↪ Cost

➤ The power and energy are literally separate e

Power unit Tanks

$$\text{Total Cost (\$/kWh)} = (\$/kW)/t_d + \$/kWh$$

$$= \$/m^2 * ASR / [\eta^{1/2}(1-\eta^{1/2})U^2] / t_d$$

These batteries are preferred if you can o
inexpensive materials with a high-rate po

• Low resistance

• High voltage but within electrolyte stabl

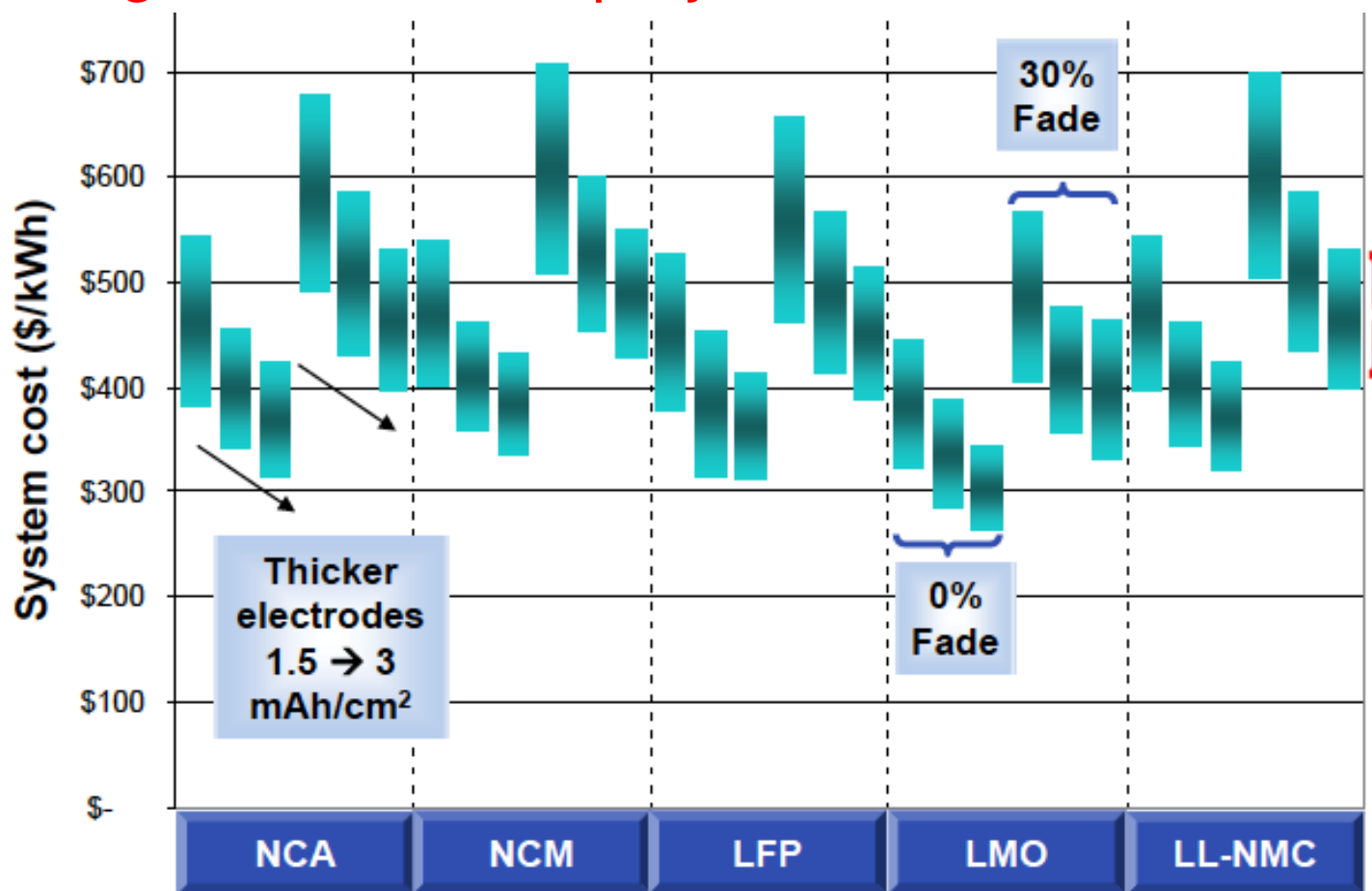
Both can be designed to meet the power and energy

Important metrics: **Performance** (energy efficiency rather than energy density), **cost**, **life**, and **safety**

Typically, choice of battery is a compromise

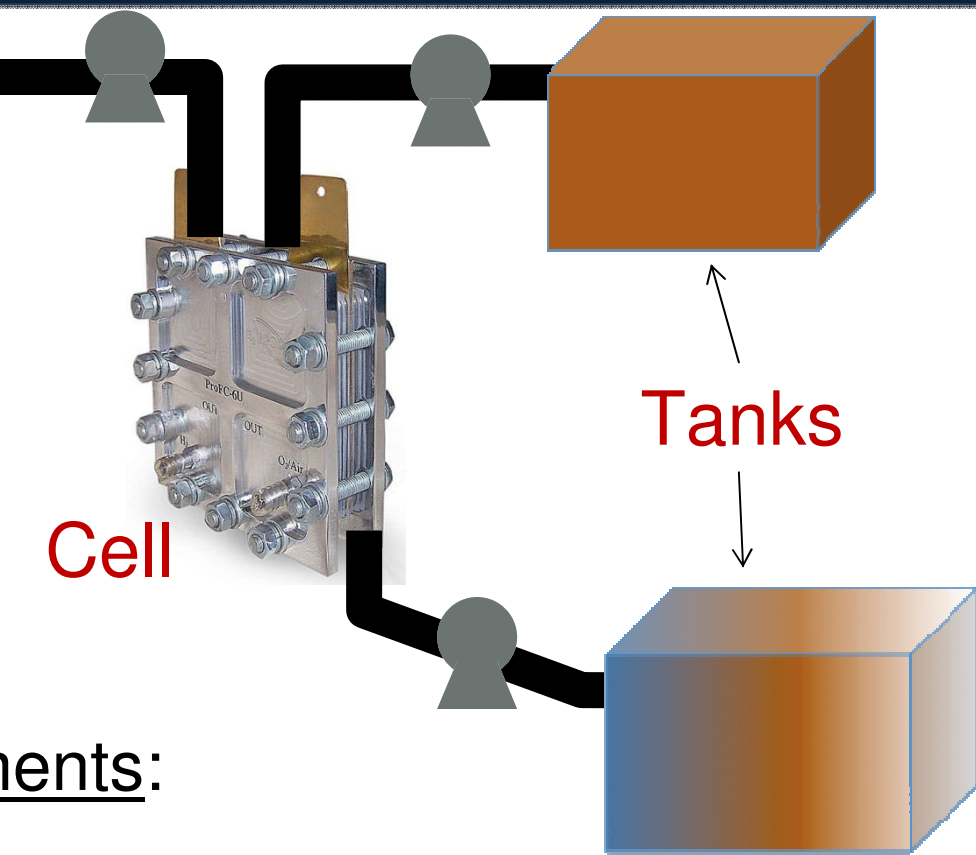
For grid storage, main challenge is cost. Target: \$100/kWh (gas turbine)

High-volume cost projections for Li-ion batteries



← Target

Source: TIAx, DOE
Merit Review, 20



- Separation of energy and power
- Energy dictated by size of tanks
- Power depends on size of cell
- Cell is typically expensive

ments:

good reversibility

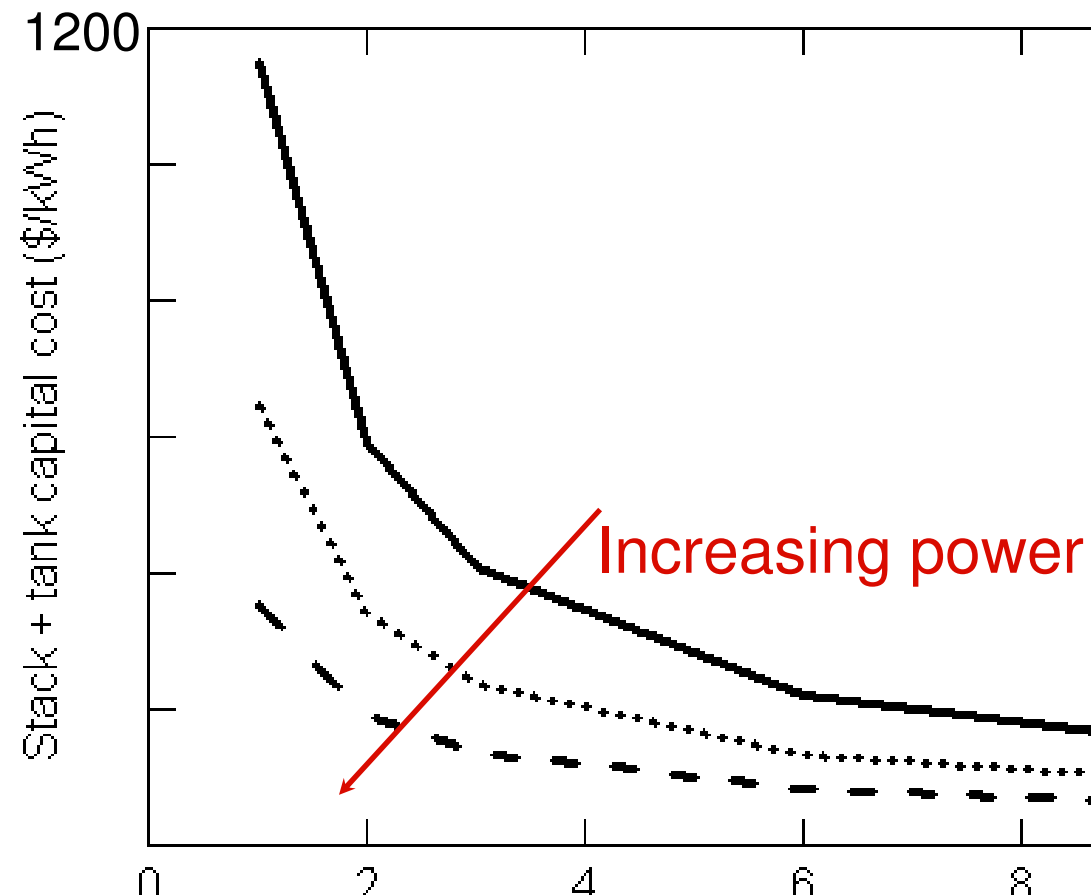
chemicals that are inexpensive

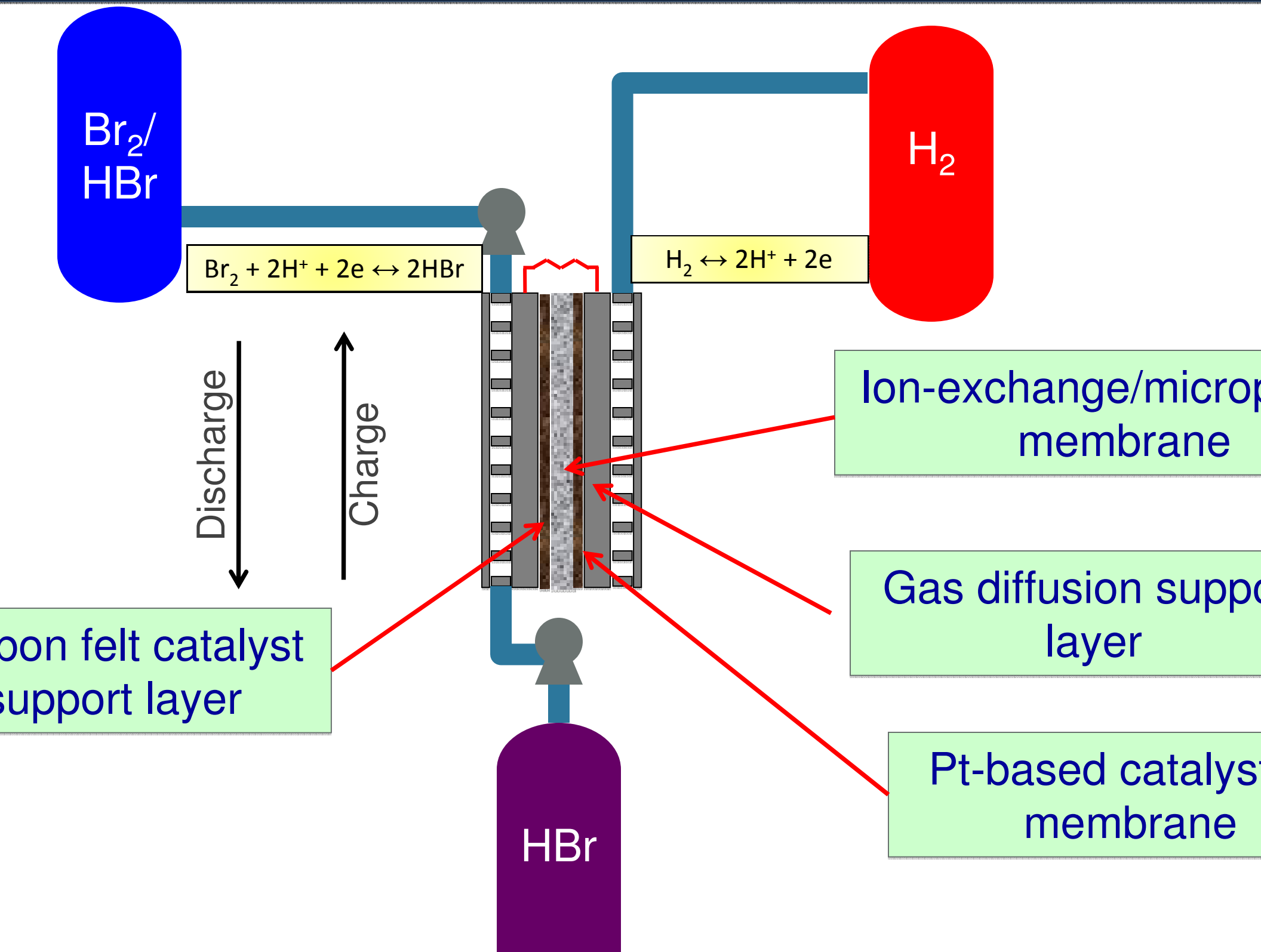
inexpensive cell components

a high power device

for the power, lower the number of cells

structural changes (e.g., plating)



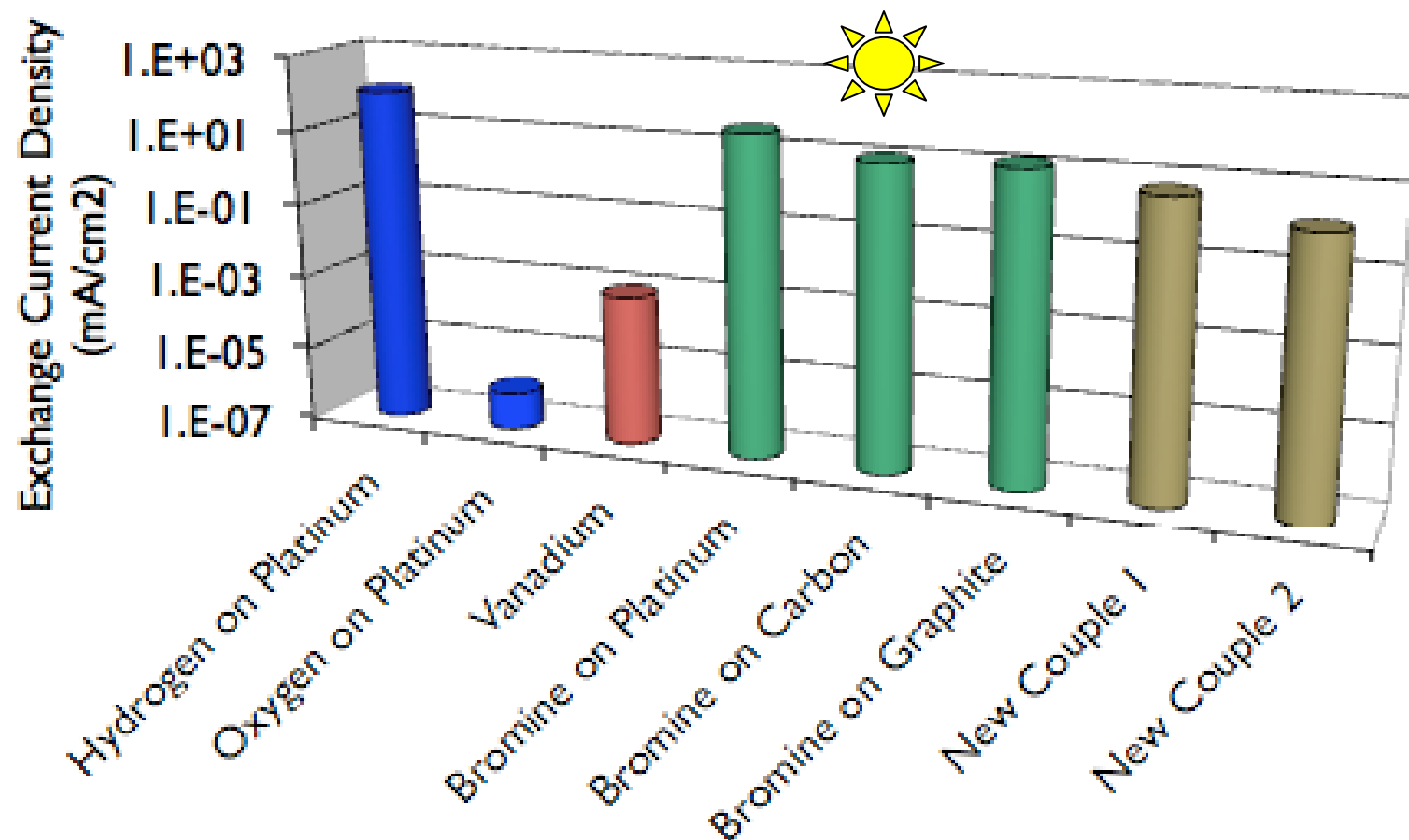


Cell resistance = Ohmic + charge transfer + mass transfer

Membranes
and contact

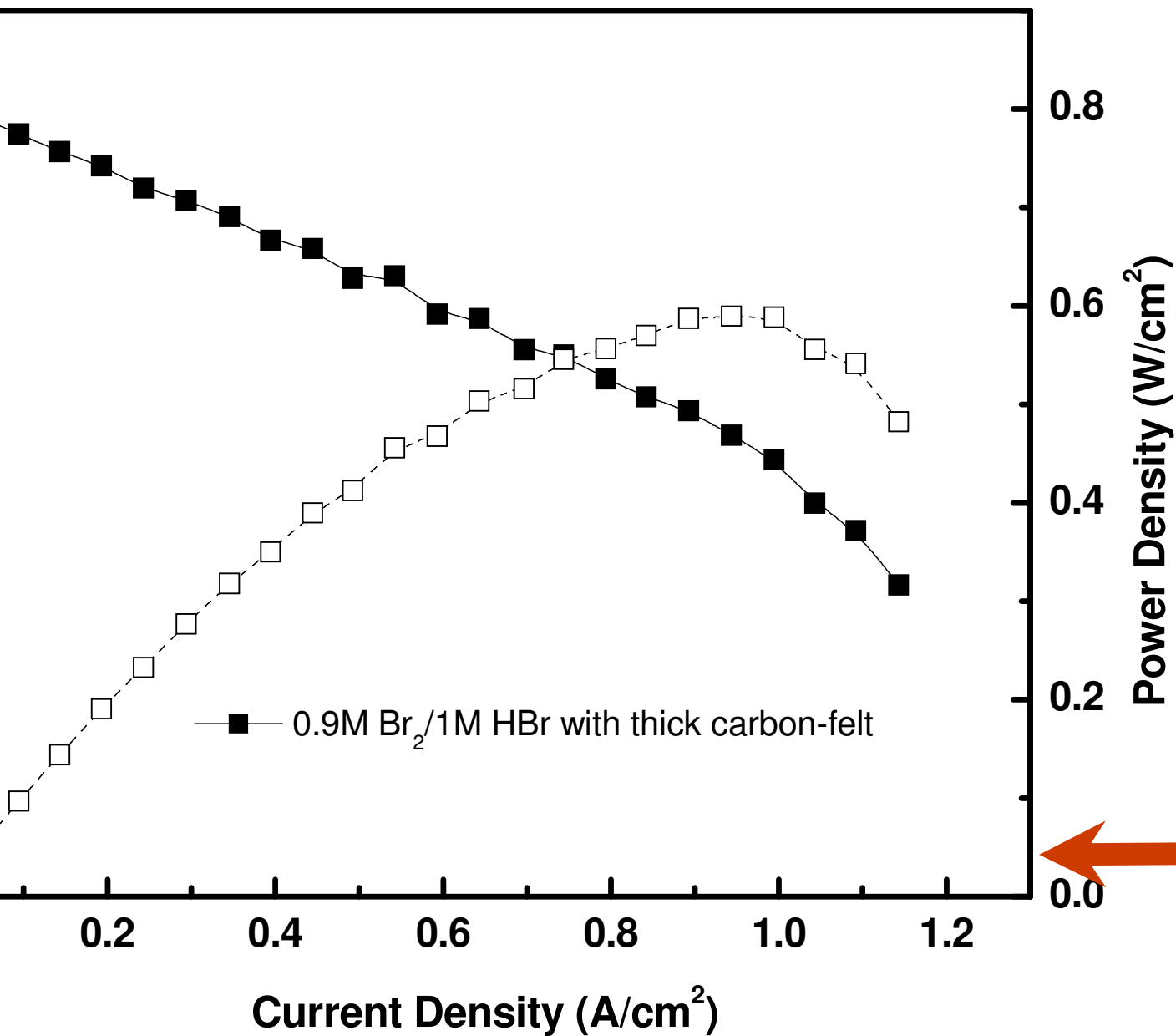
Kinetically fast
reactions

Better cell
design



Rotating disc studies

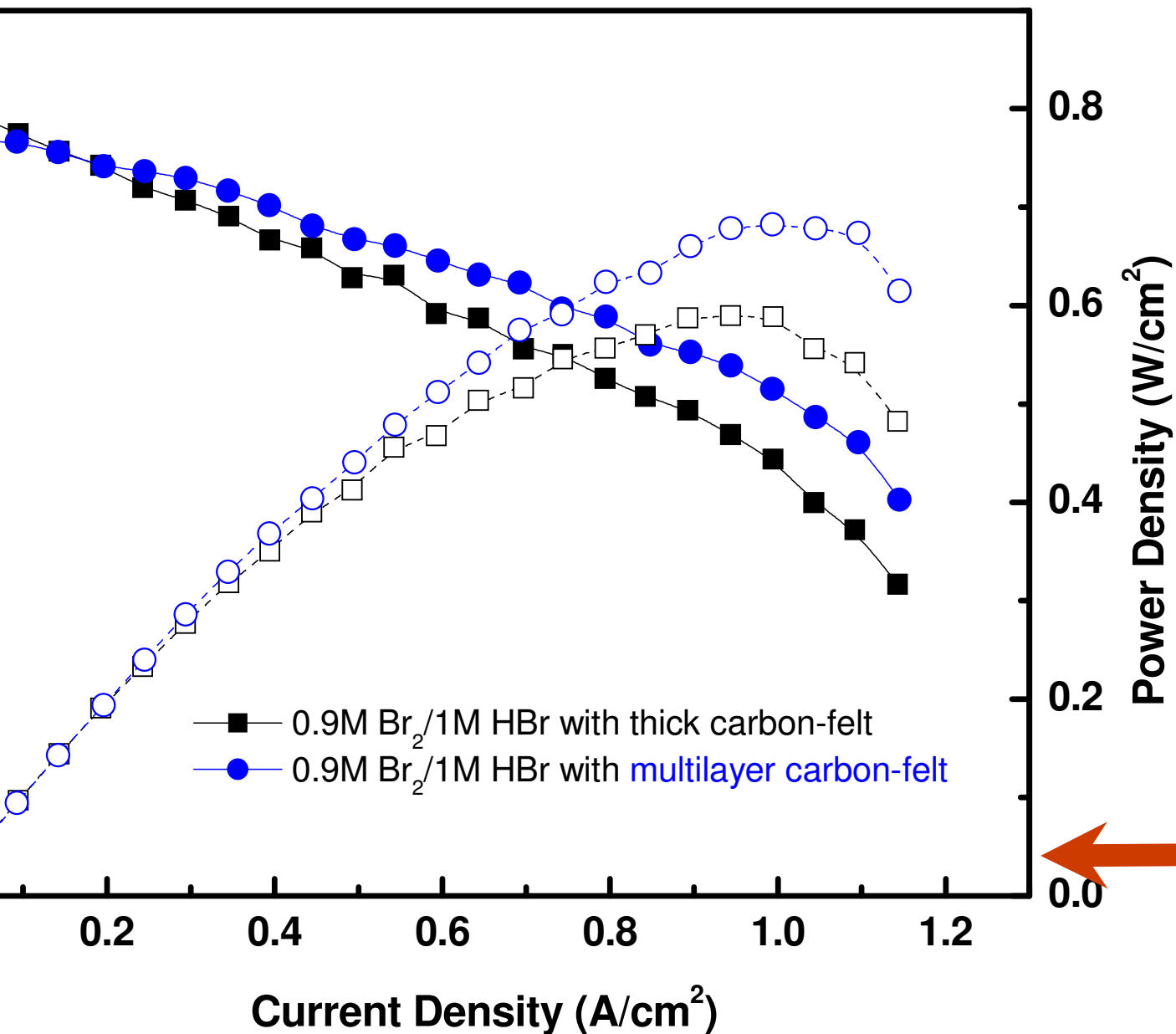
Temperature: RT; flowrate: 200 ml/min



- Carbon-felt electrode
Max. performance: 0.6

Typical flow
batteries

Temperature: RT; flowrate: 200 ml/min

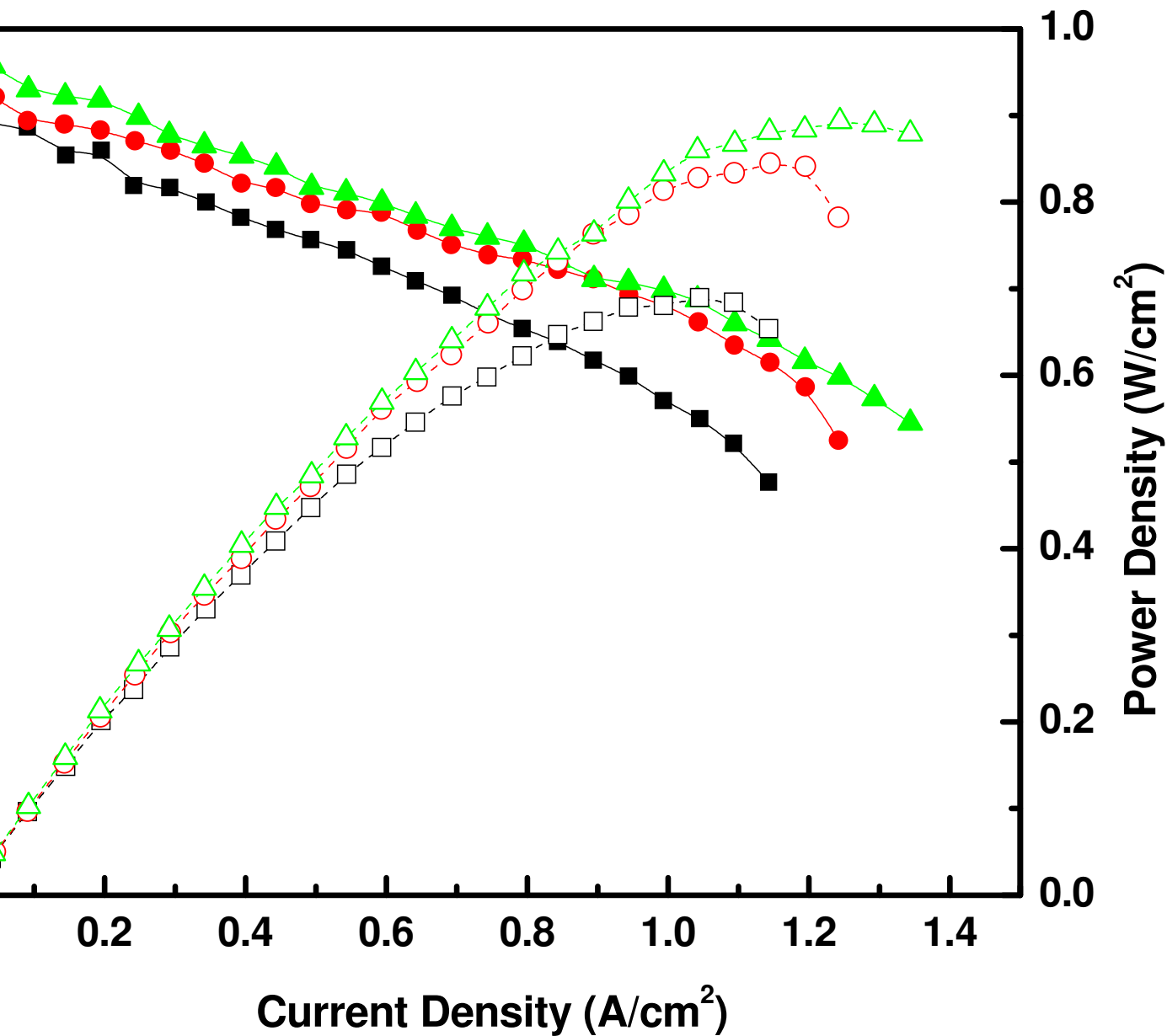


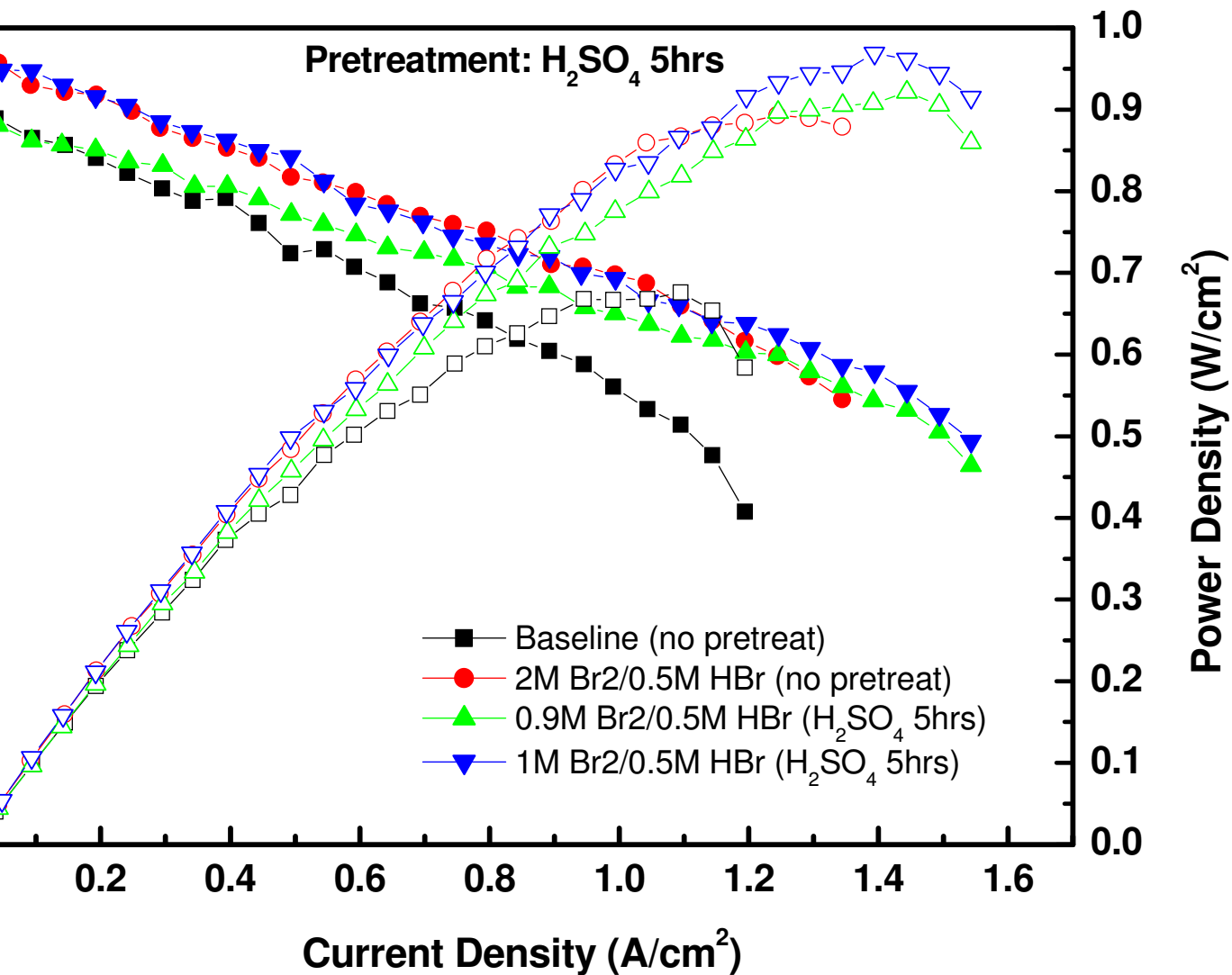
- **Carbon-felt electrode**
Max. performance: 0.55

- **Multi-layered C-felt electrode**
Max. performance: 0.70

Typical flow
batteries

Temperature: RT; flowrate: 200 ml/min

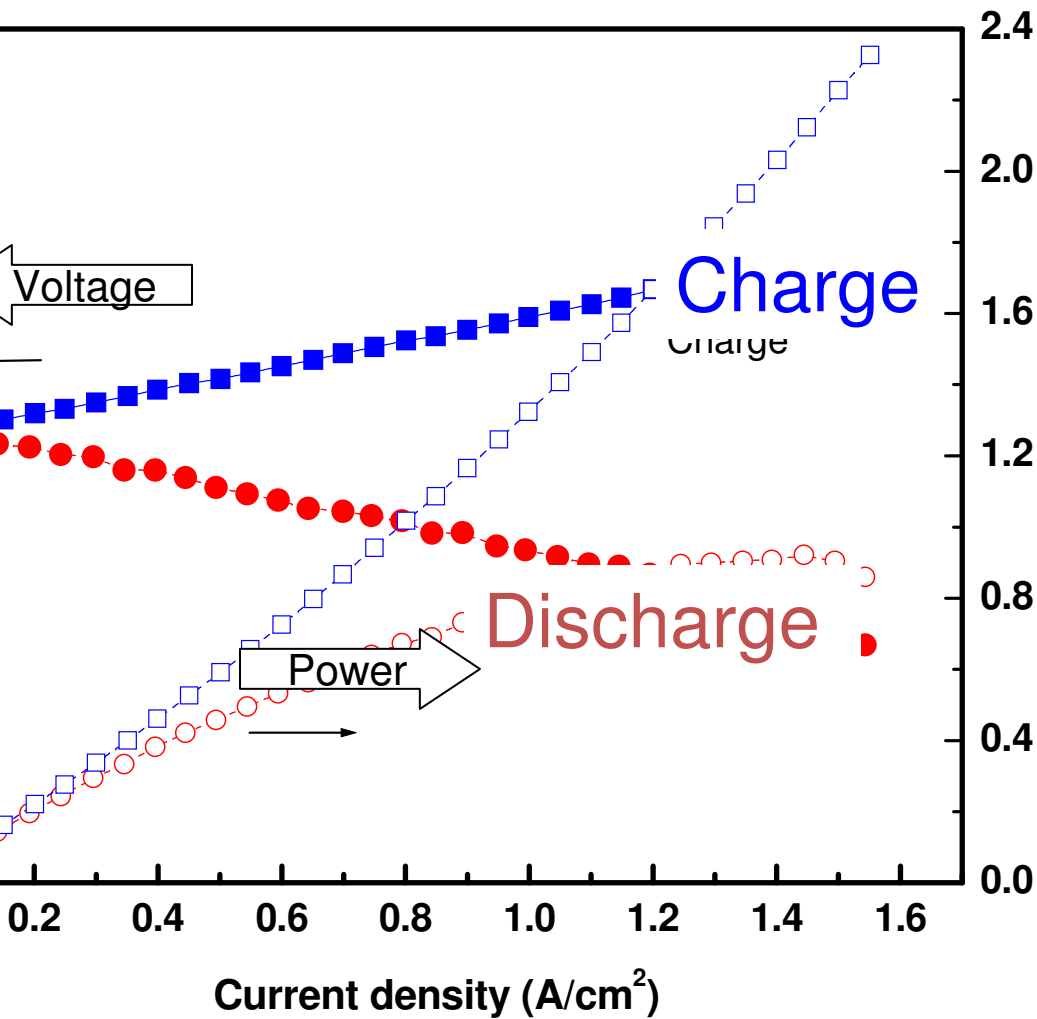




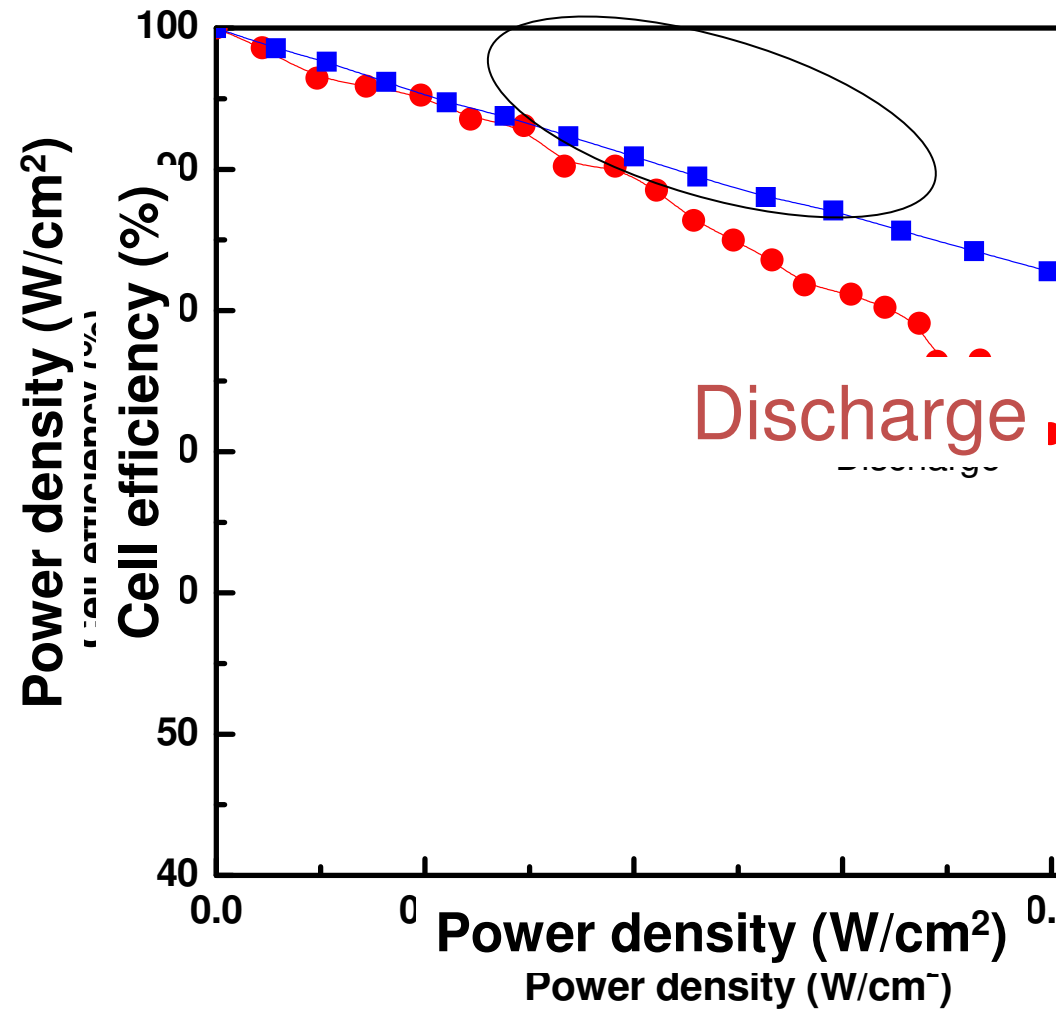
	Max PD (W/cm ²)	%	M (A)
Baseline	0.68	0.0	
2M Br ₂ /0.5M HBr (No pretreat)	0.89	31.7	
0.9M Br ₂ /1M HBr (H_2SO_4 pretreated)	0.92	36.2	
1M Br ₂ /0.5M HBr (H_2SO_4 pretreated)	0.97	43.5	

Performance from pretreated PM with H_2SO_4 was very reliable
 Max power : 0.92 (0.9M Br₂/1M HBr) and **0.97** (1M Br₂/0.5M HBr)
 Max current density: 1.54 A/cm²

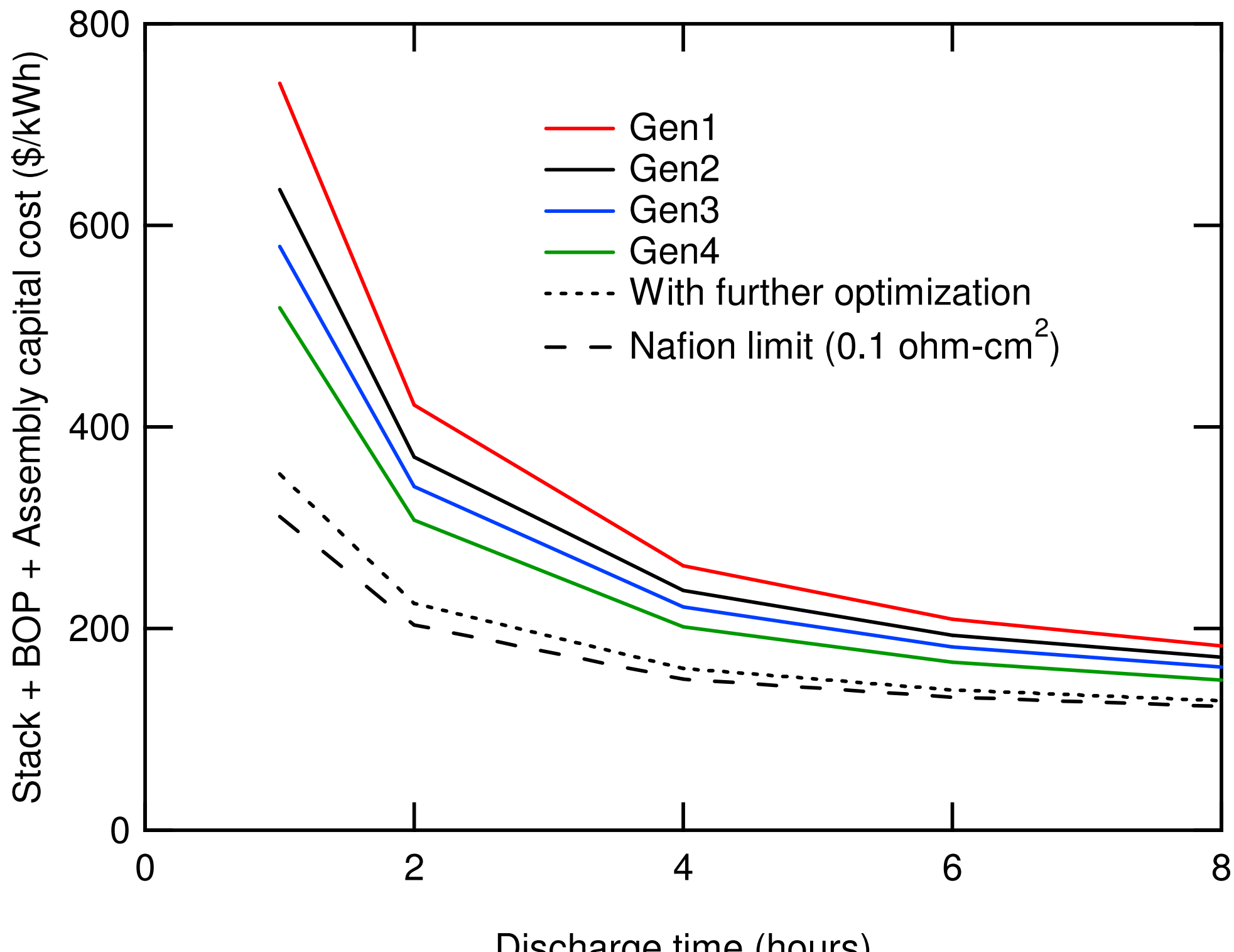
@ Room Temperature



Highly reversible;
no side reactions

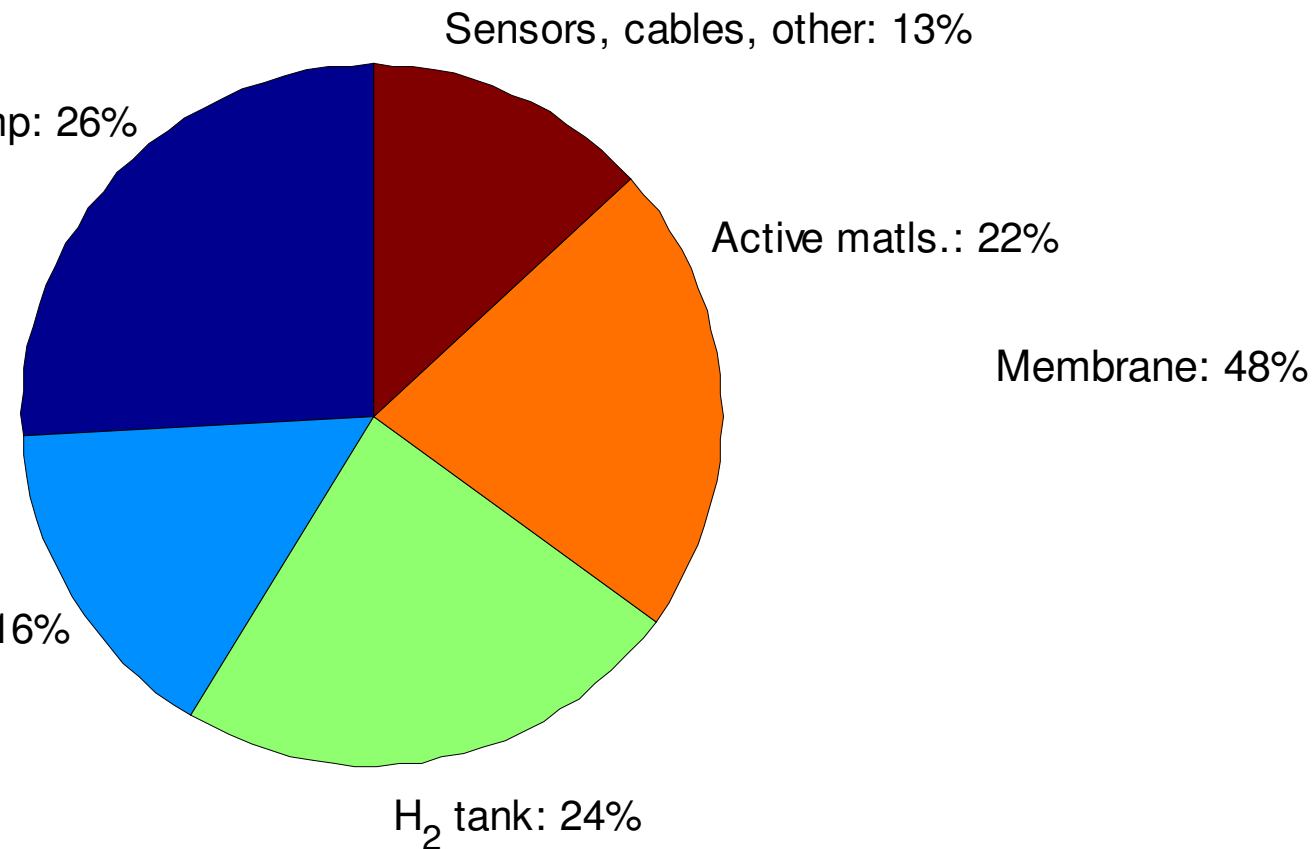


High power at high
efficiencies



Energy

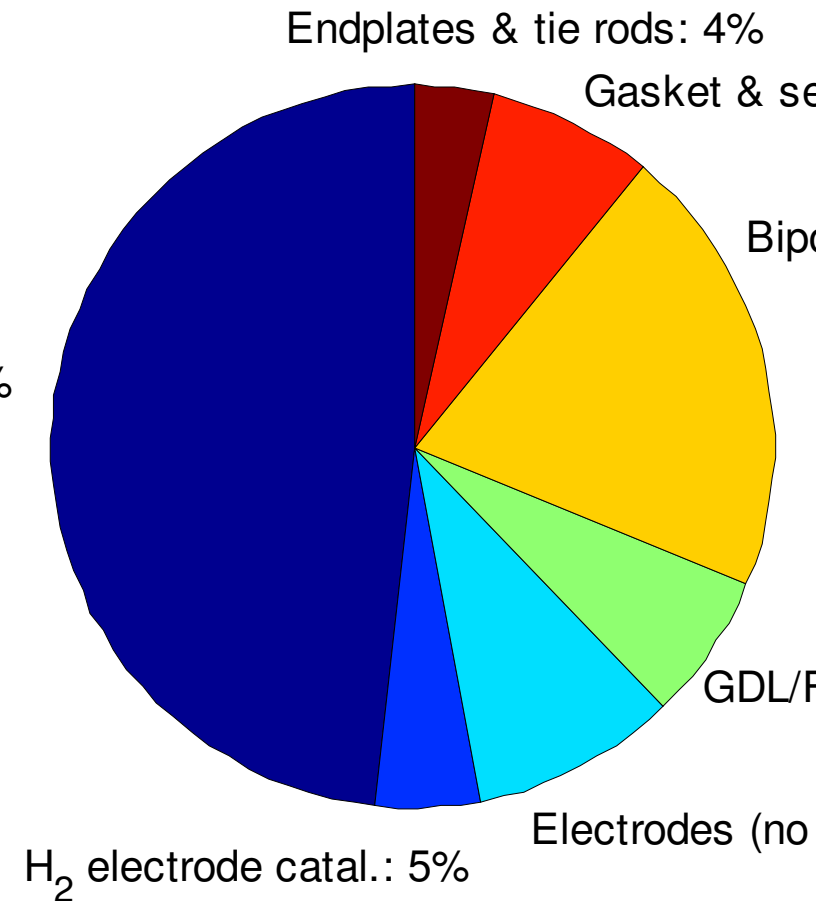
BOP cost = 158 \$/kWh



er pay for the H₂ tanks and
plates or pay for the pumps.

Power

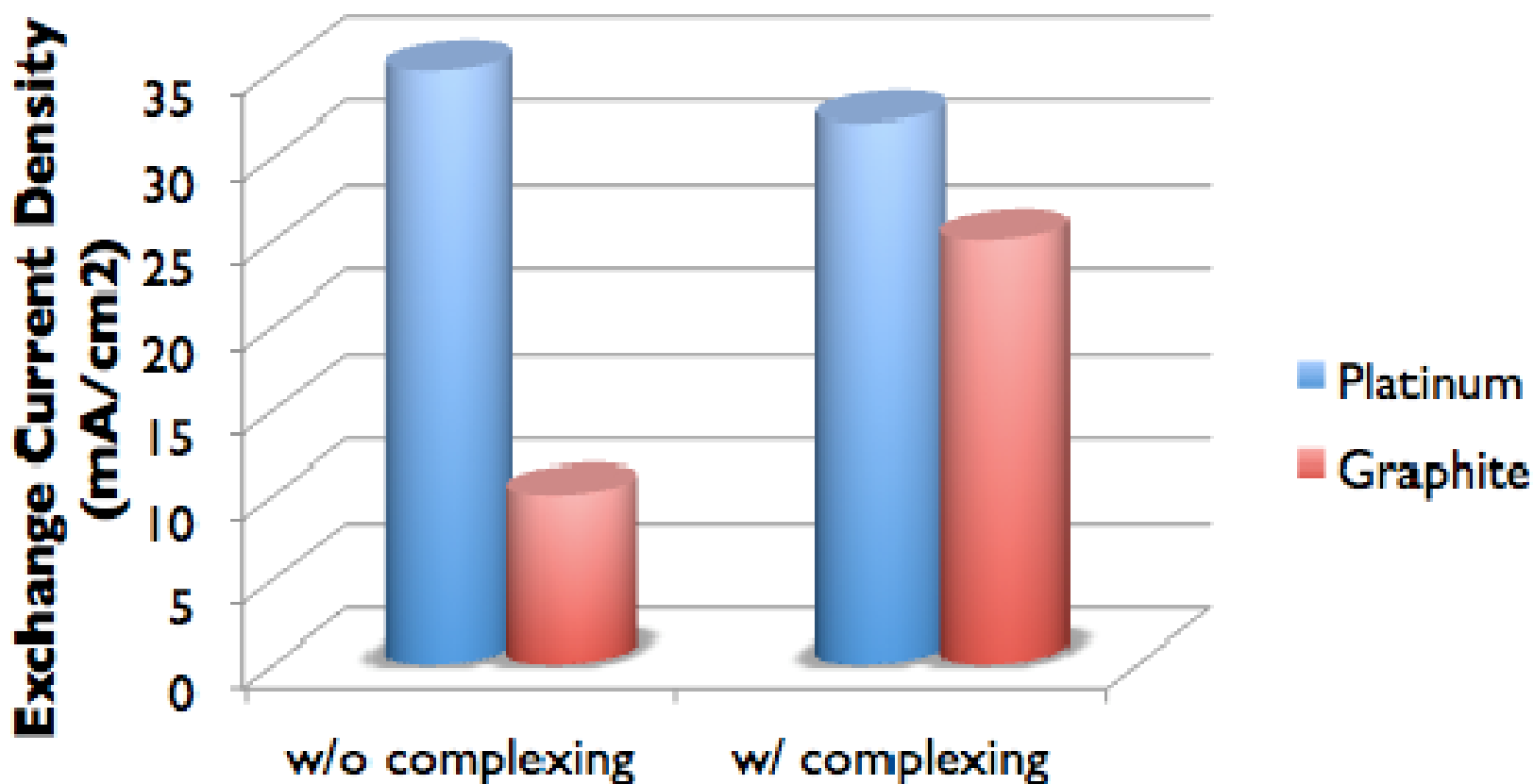
Stack cost = 97 \$/kWh



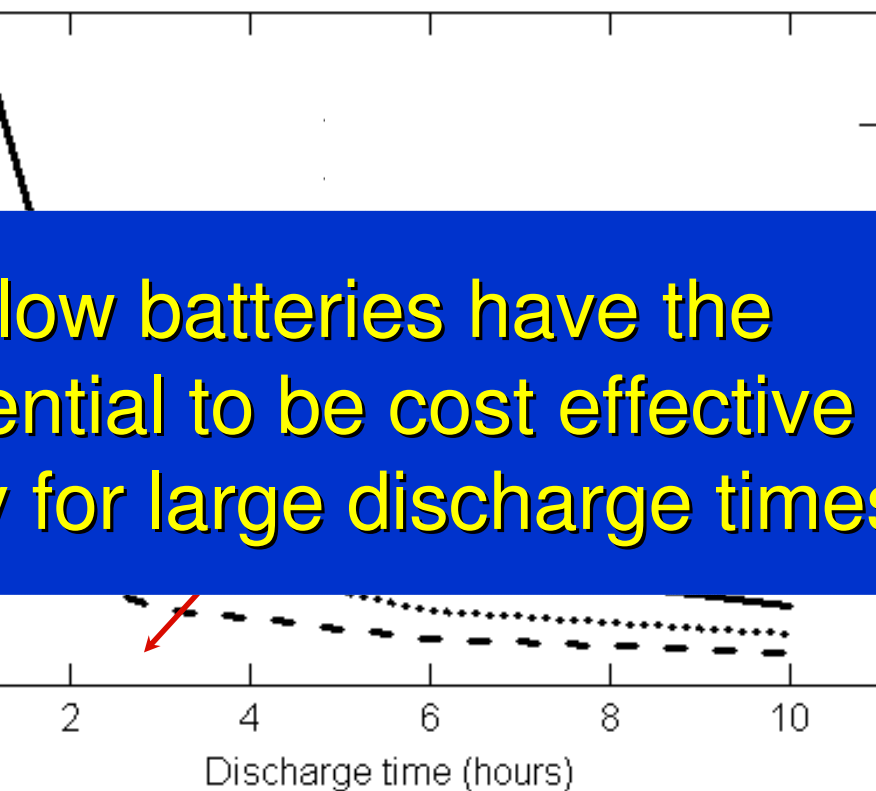
Focus on reducing membrane
and bipolar plate costs.

Br_2 is a problem as it's toxic with a low vapor pressure (boils at 58.8°C)

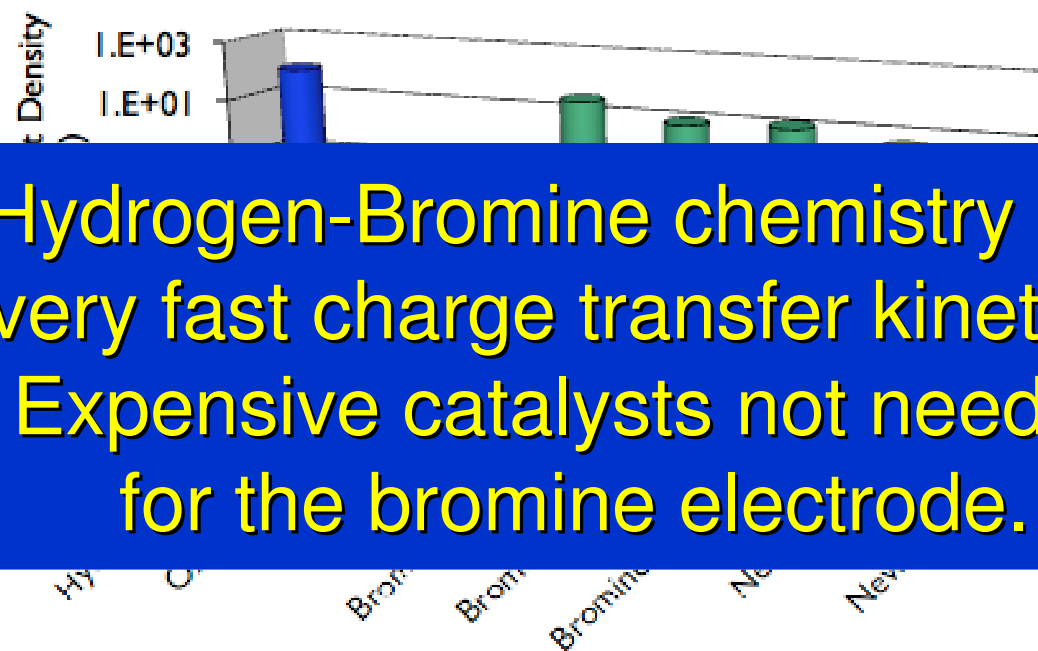
But perhaps we can find a complexing agent that keeps it in solution while maintaining its performance



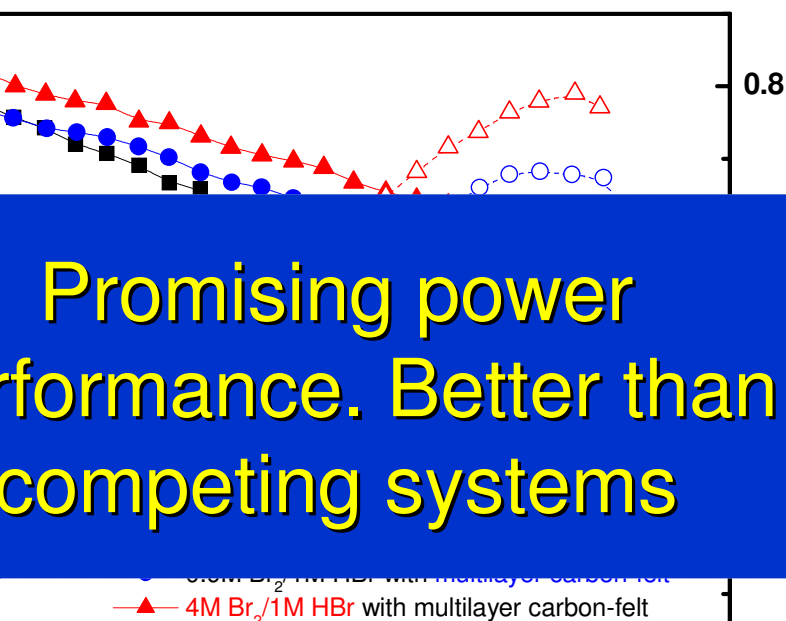
low batteries have the potential to be cost effective for large discharge times



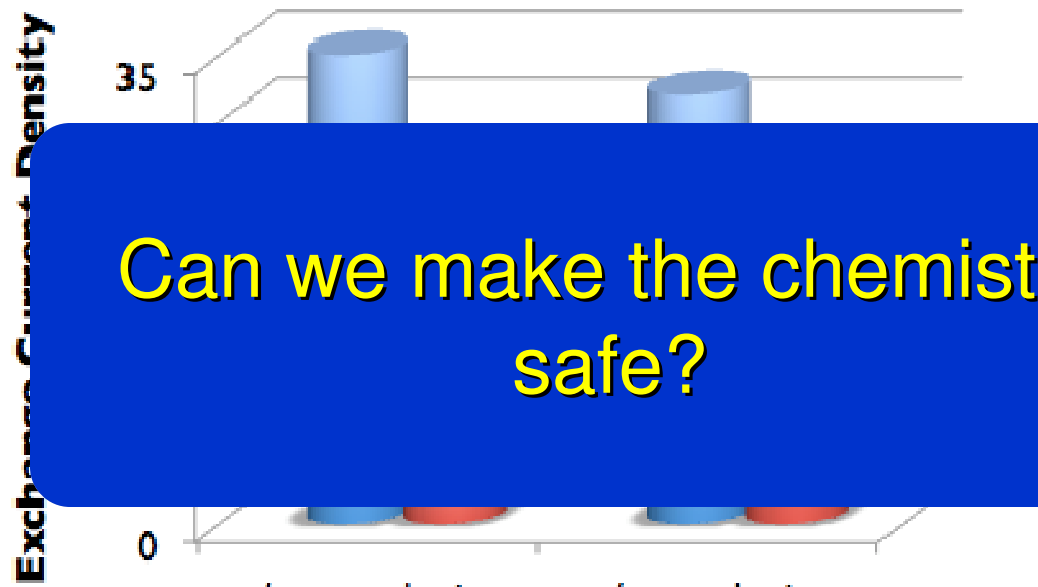
Hydrogen-Bromine chemistry very fast charge transfer kinetics. Expensive catalysts not needed for the bromine electrode.



Promising power performance. Better than competing systems



Can we make the chemistry safe?



ding from ARPA-E

ek Cho (Cell studies)
dgement (Catalysis studies)
Haussener (Transport modeling)

bertus (Cost Modeling)
anchez-Carrera and Boris Kozinsky (Catalyst theory)

t Choudhury (New membranes)

ebe (Catalyst structures)

nSite:

