



# Chemistry of Materials, Energy and Environment for a clean and sustainable world

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INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY OF MATERIALS, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



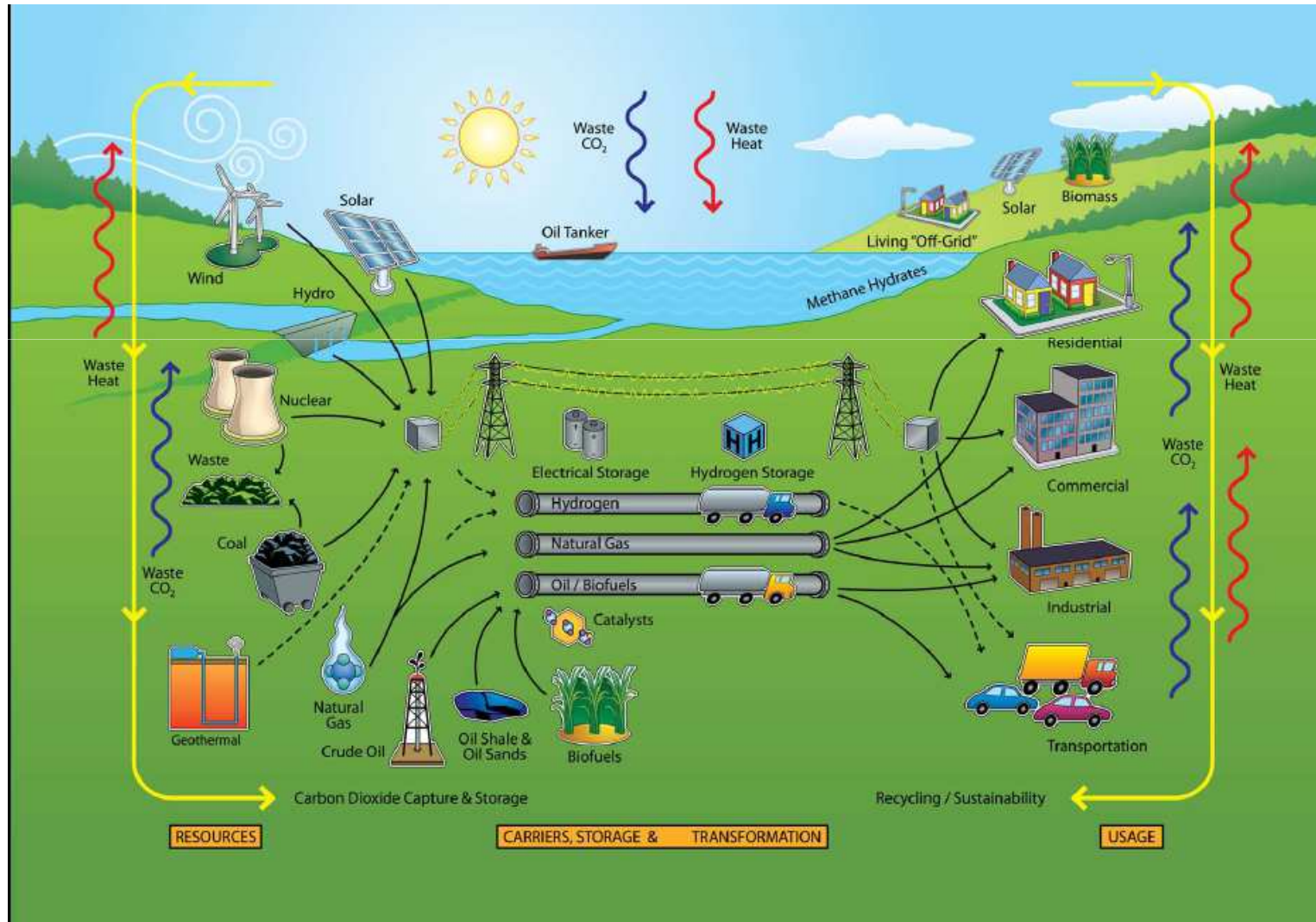
# INQUIMAE



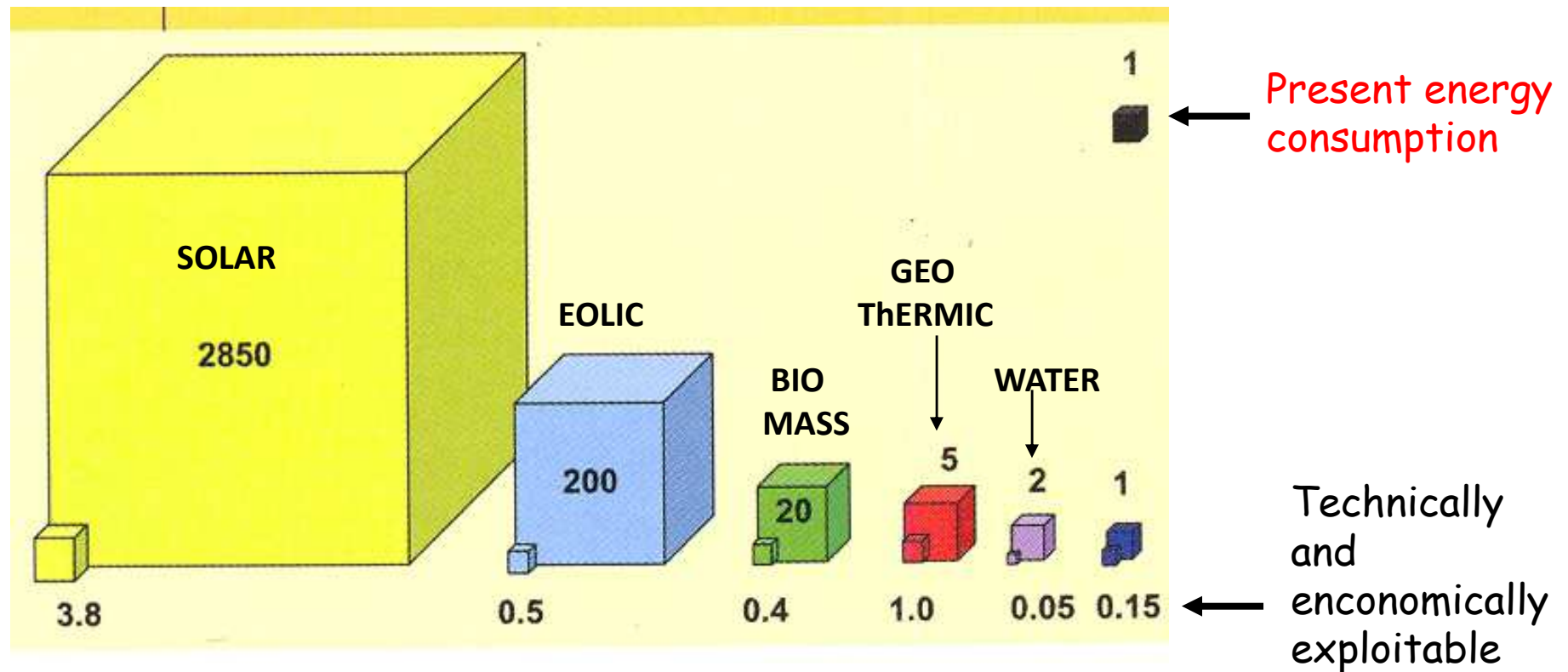
## ORGANIZATION



# Chemistry in the cycle of production, transport and consumption of energy

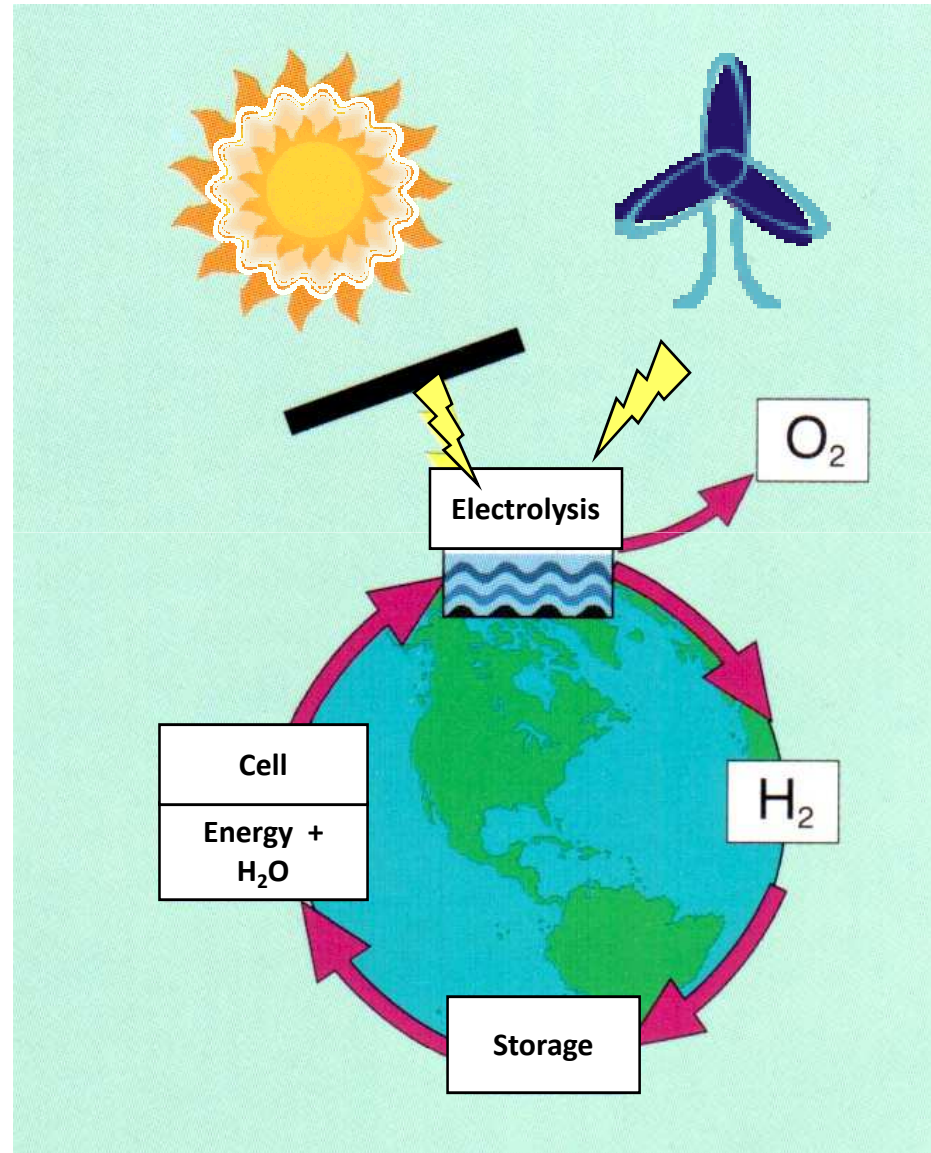


# Renewable resources in relation to world energy consumption

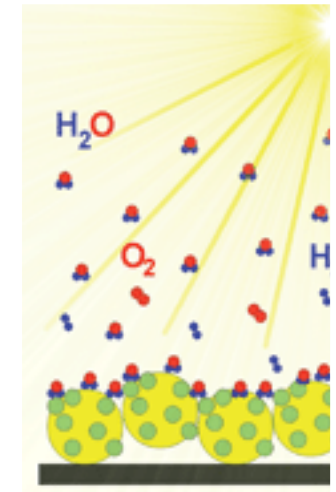




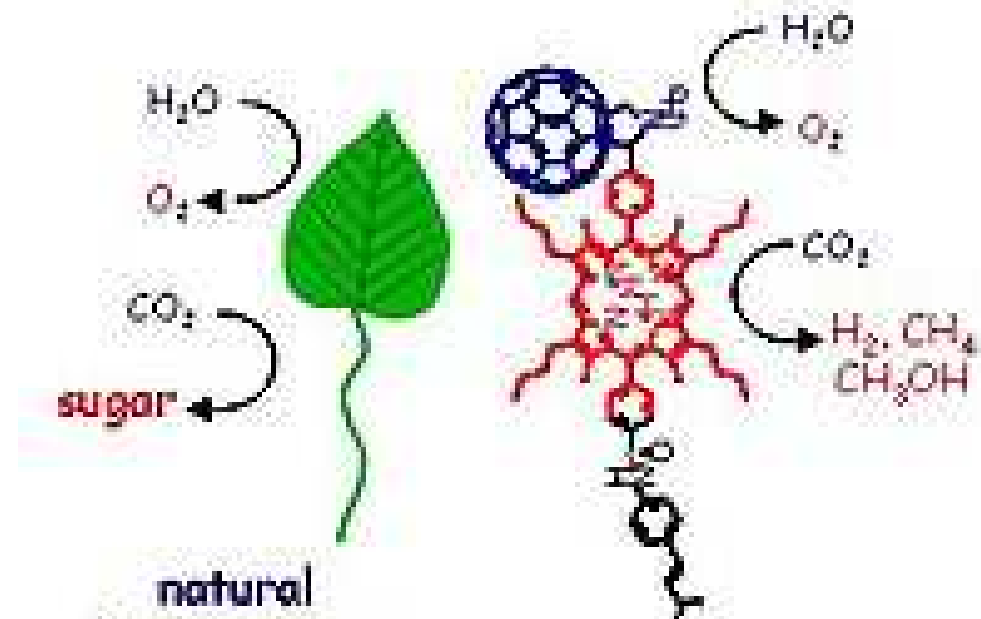
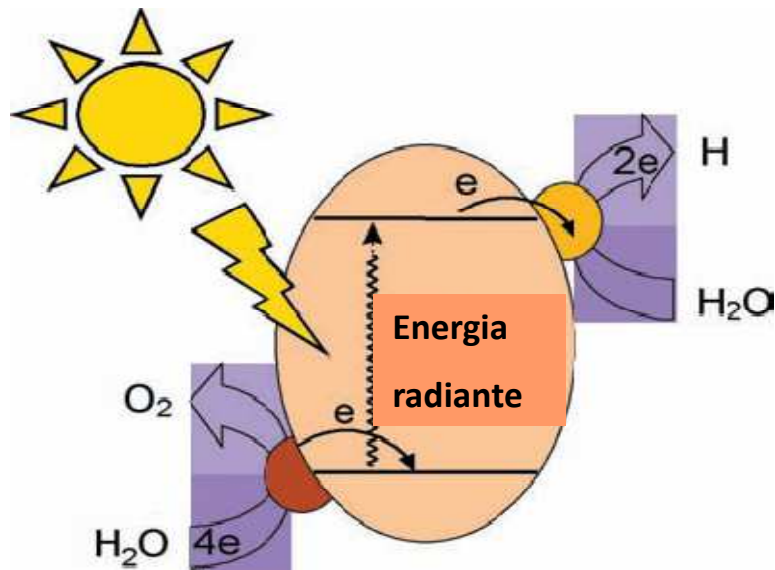
# Renewable sources > Clean alternative



# Hydrogen for water splitting



Challenges: wavelength for the process out of UV range (~2% solar radiation) and move into visible range



natural photosynthesis

artificial photosynthesis

Biomimetics, copy Nature?

# Energy storage is critical for the use of renewable energies for electronic devices and electric vehicles (EV y HEV)



1.2 MW, 7.2 MWh Distributed Energy Storage System in Chemical Station, North Charleston



Li-ion batteries:



Cell phone 1 Ah  
1 A.h 3,6 V



Laptop  
4-5 A.h 11 V

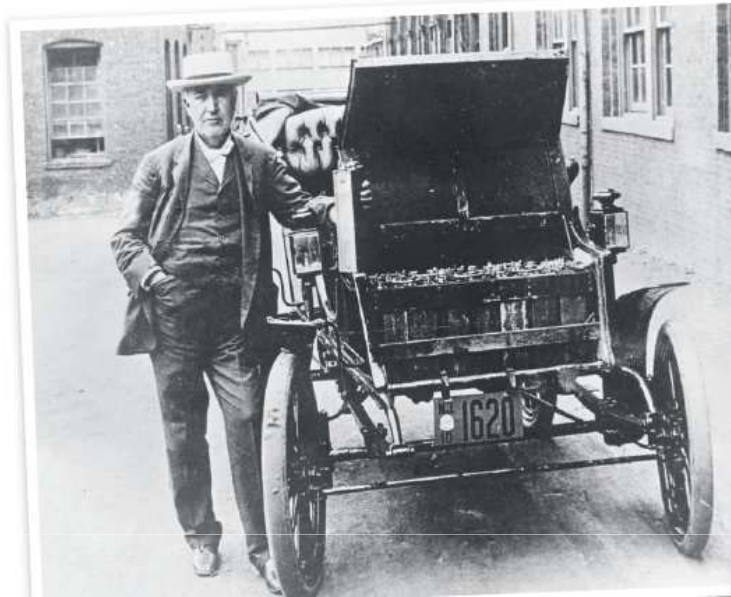


Electric Vehicle  
100 A.h

**US in 1900**  
1500 electric cars compared  
with 1000 ICE cars



## Chemistry of Materials for Energy Storage with low Environment Impact



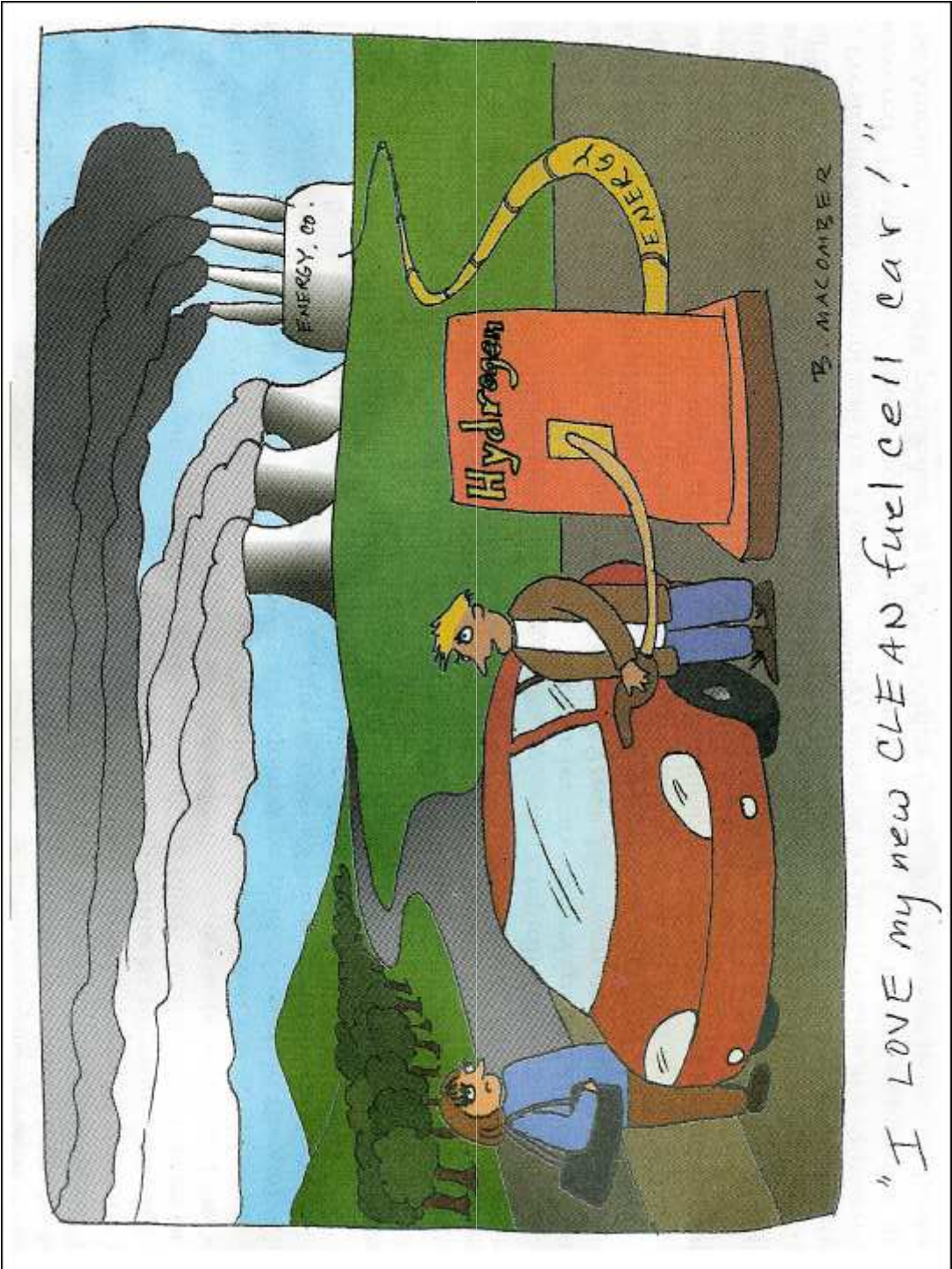
- a) Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)
- b) Plugged Electric Vehicles
- c) Electric Vehicles (EV)

14 Terawatts world energy consumption

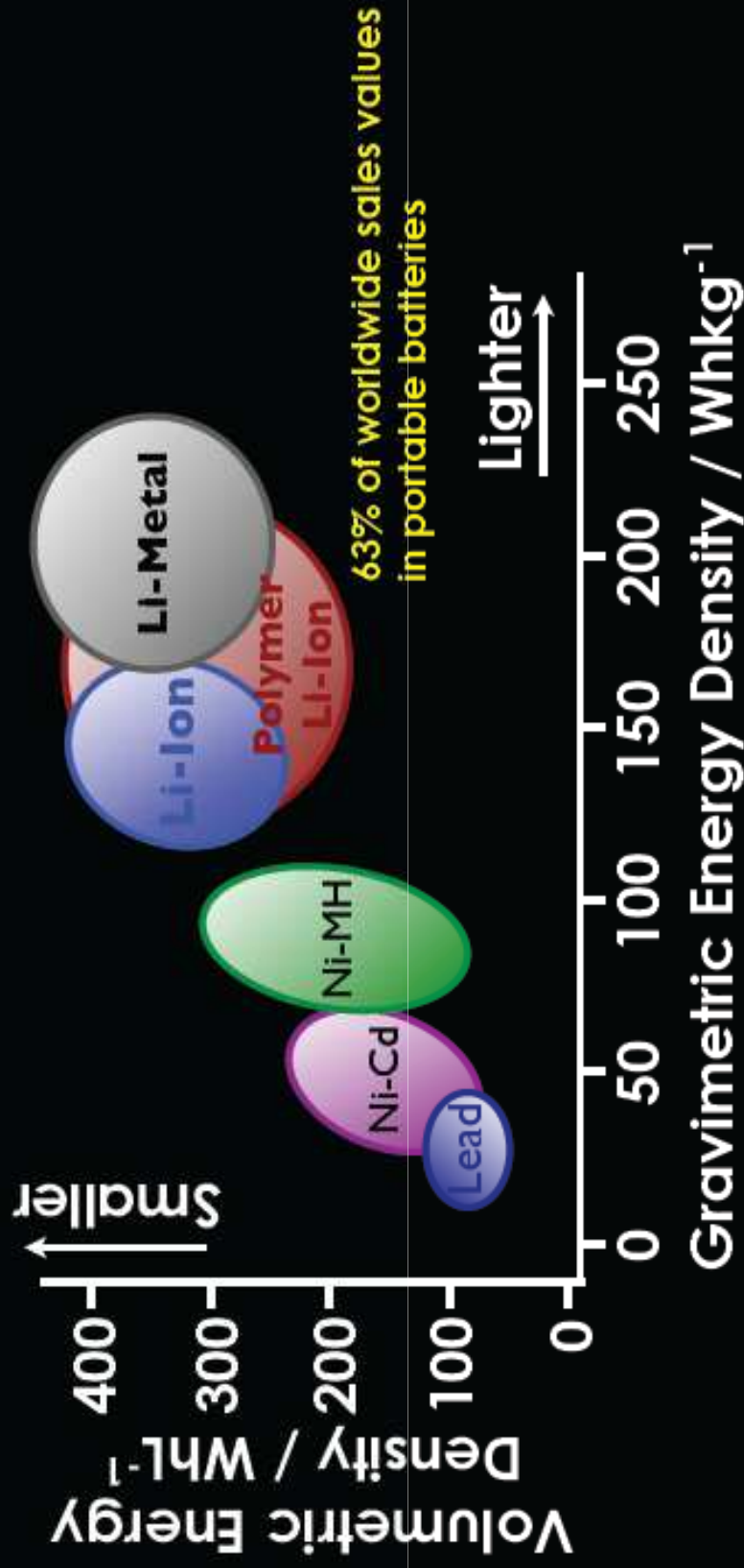
34% Petroleum and 40% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
Gasoline 13.000 Wh/kg (1700 Wh/kg)

Capacity 125 kWh for 250 Wh/miles  
500 miles/800 kilometers

$2\text{Li} + \text{O}_2 = \text{Li}_2\text{O}_2$  11.680 Wh/kg

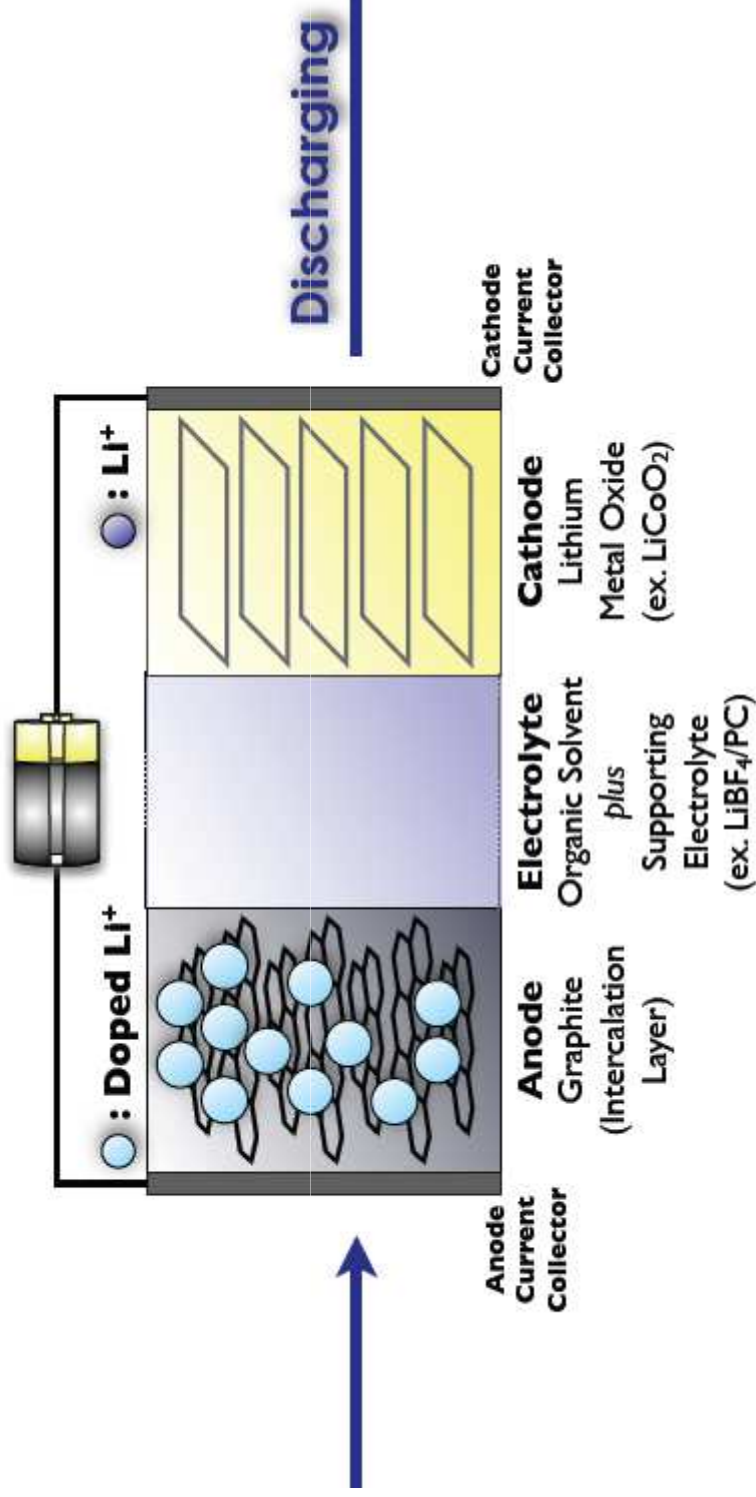


"I LOVE my new CLEAN fuel cell car!"



J.-M. Tarascon & M. Armand, *Nature*, 414 359 (2001)

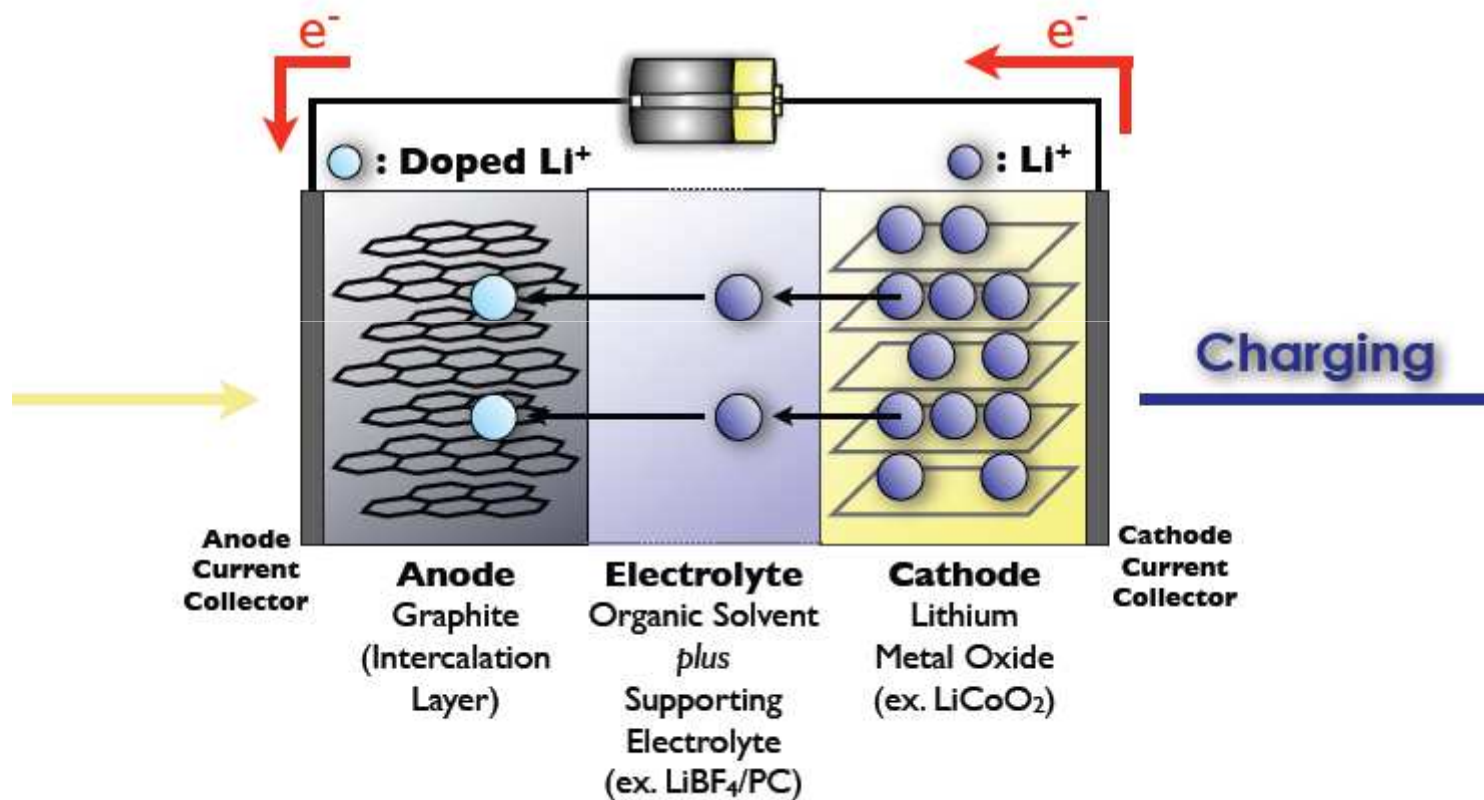
# Fully Charged State



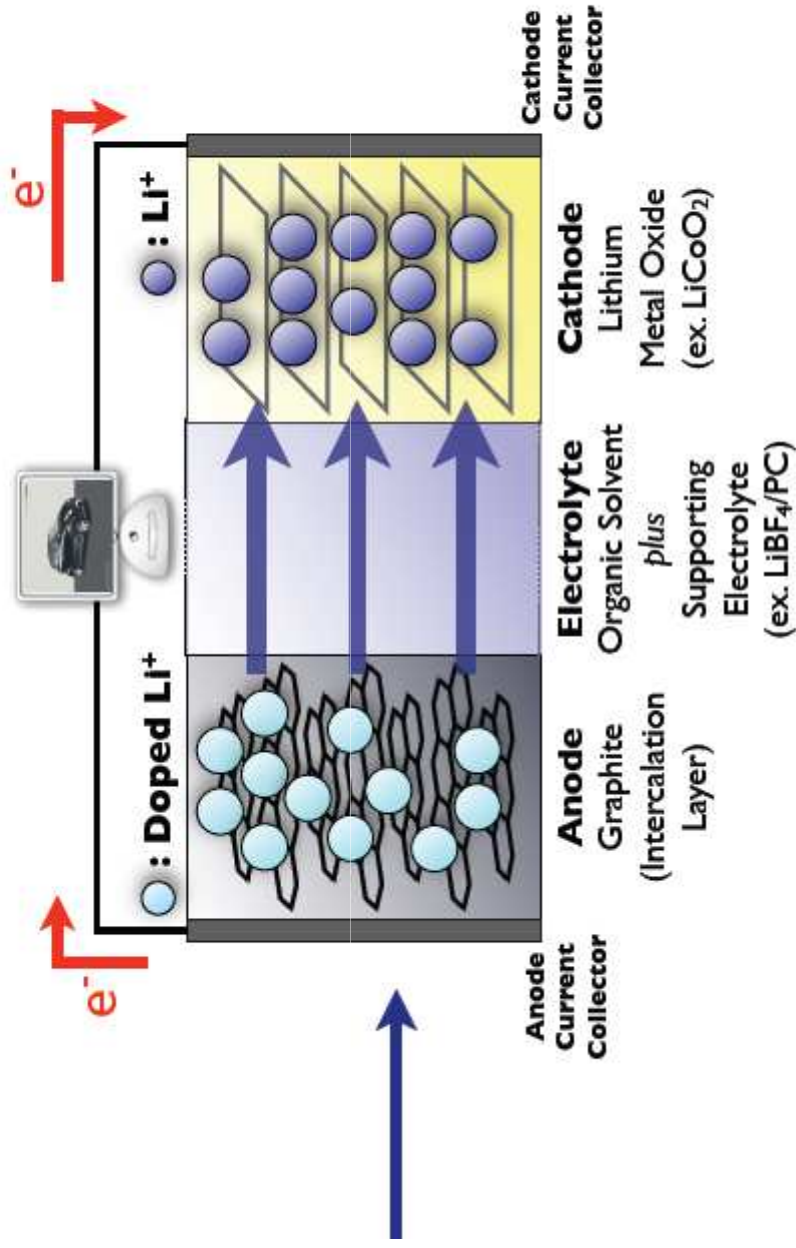


# Mechanism of Lithium-ion Batteries

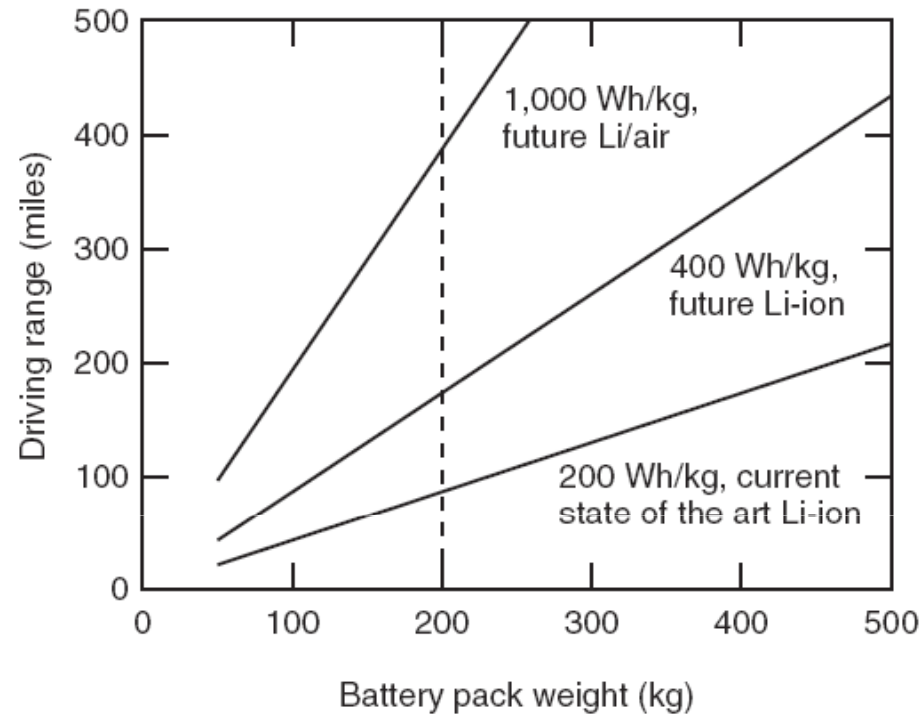
rocking chair



# Fully Discharged State



## OBJECTIVE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

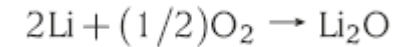
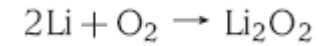
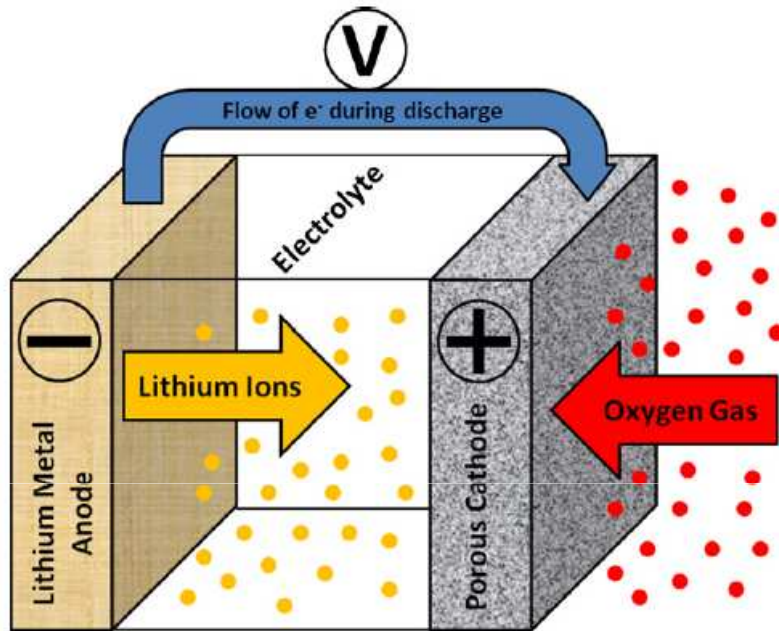


**Figure 1.** Driving range and battery weight for different cell-level specific energy values. It is assumed the battery cells weigh 70% of the battery pack, the Li/air cell has an 83% energy efficiency, the Li-ion cells have a 93% energy efficiency, and 300 Wh/mile are required from the battery. The range is given at the beginning of a battery's life and assumes 100% of the capacity can be used; in practice not all the energy can be used, and the available energy falls with increasing battery age. The US Department of Energy has a goal for an EV battery of 200 kg.<sup>176</sup>

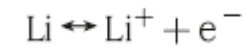
### A Critical Review of Li/Air Batteries

J. Christensen, P. Albertus, R.S. Sanchez-Carrera, T. Lohmann, B. Kozinsky, R. Liedtke, J. Ahmed, A. Kojica, *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, **159 (2) R1-R30 (2012)**

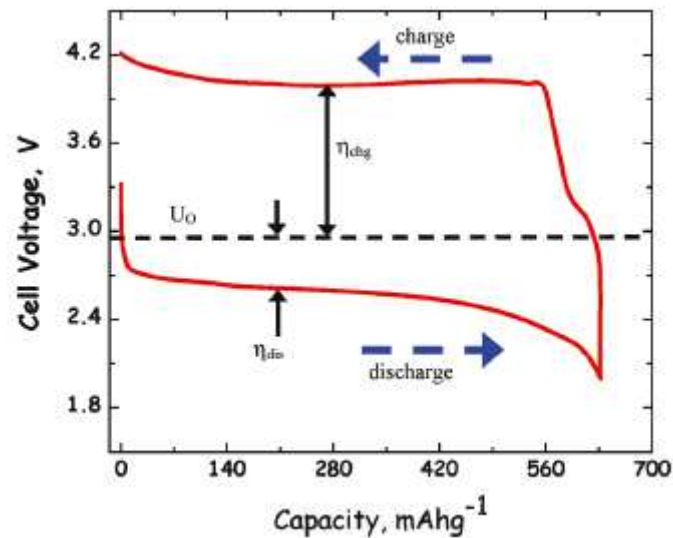
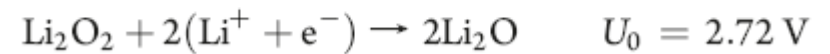
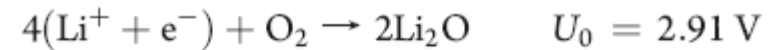
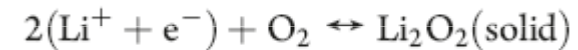
# Lithium Air Rechargeable Battery



Anode

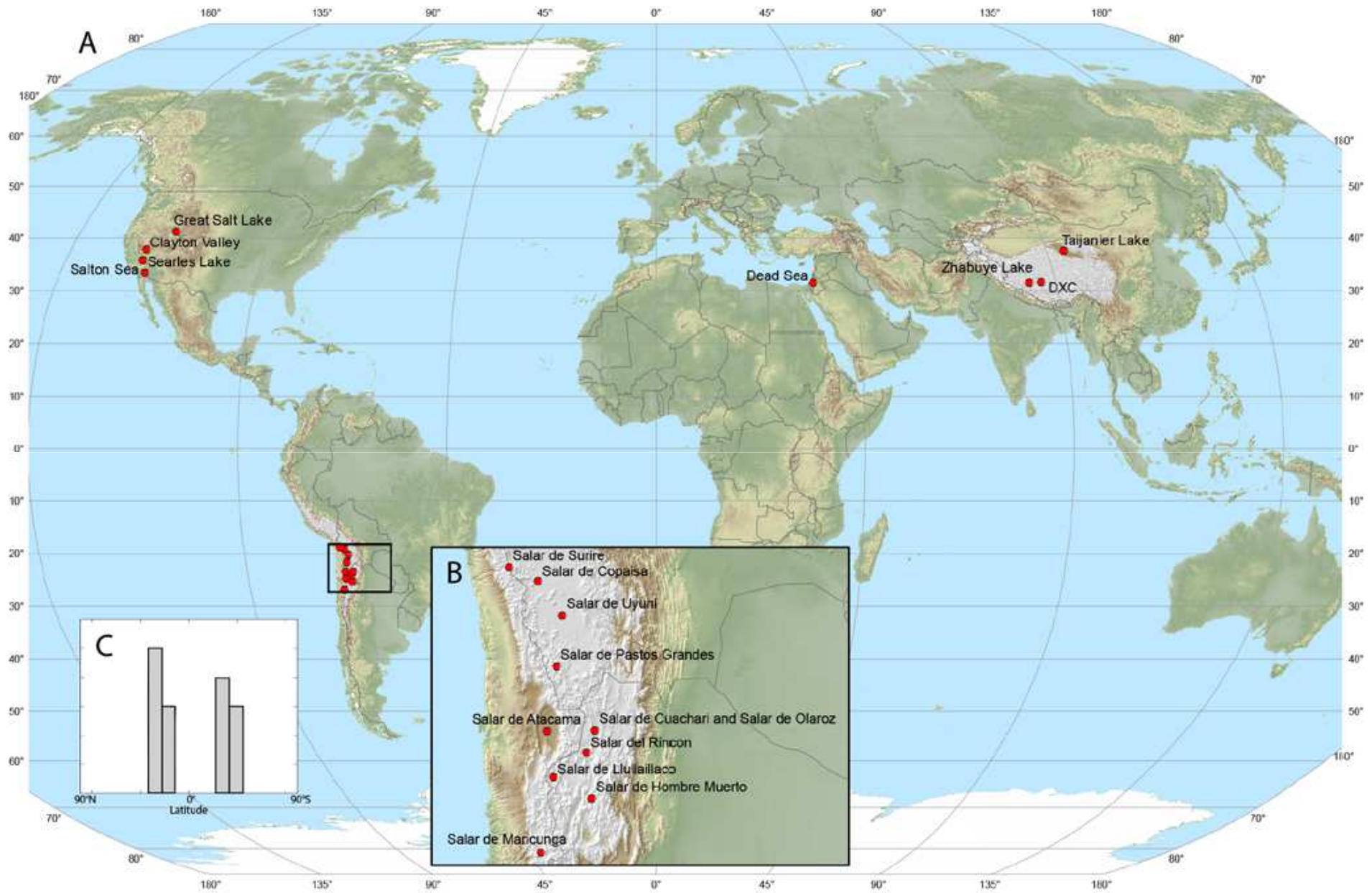


Cathode





# WORLD MAP OF LITHIUM RESOURCES





lithium  
in airfall tuffs  
from nearby volcano

lithium  
delivered  
in windblown  
dust

lithium  
weathered from  
older rocks

lithium delivered  
in solution  
from connected  
basin

- Neogene volcano
- Salar
- Proximal alluvial fan
- Other modern basin fill
- Older basin fill, now exhumed
- Bedrock, undifferentiated

pre-concentrated lithium  
from exhumed  
basinal strata

lithium sequestered  
around hot springs  
in clays

evaporative  
concentration  
of lithium

SALAR WITH  
LITHIUM BRINE

evaporation  
ponds

connecting  
basinal brines

### LITHIUM SOURCES, PATHWAYS, AND SINKS

lithium  
delivered  
in magmatic  
fluids

#### MECHANISMS FOR CONCENTRATING LITHIUM IN BRINES:

1. Evaporation
2. Hydrothermal fluids react with aquifer and liberate Li

#### MECHANISMS FOR REMOVING LITHIUM FROM BRINE POOL:

1. Brine spills out of basin
2. Brine leaks out from bottom of basin
3. Li minerals crystallize from saturated brine
4. Li clays crystallize from hydrothermal fluids
5. Li brines trapped in fluid inclusions in halite

#### POTENTIAL SOURCES OF LITHIUM IN BRINE

1. Older bedrock
2. Primary magmatic-hydrothermal fluids
3. Volcanic ash
4. Loess
5. Exhumed basin deposits (recycled Li)
6. Groundwater leaks in from adjacent basin

magma or advected  
hot rocks at depth





**SALT LAKES AT PUNA NORTH WEST ARGENTINA**



### Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

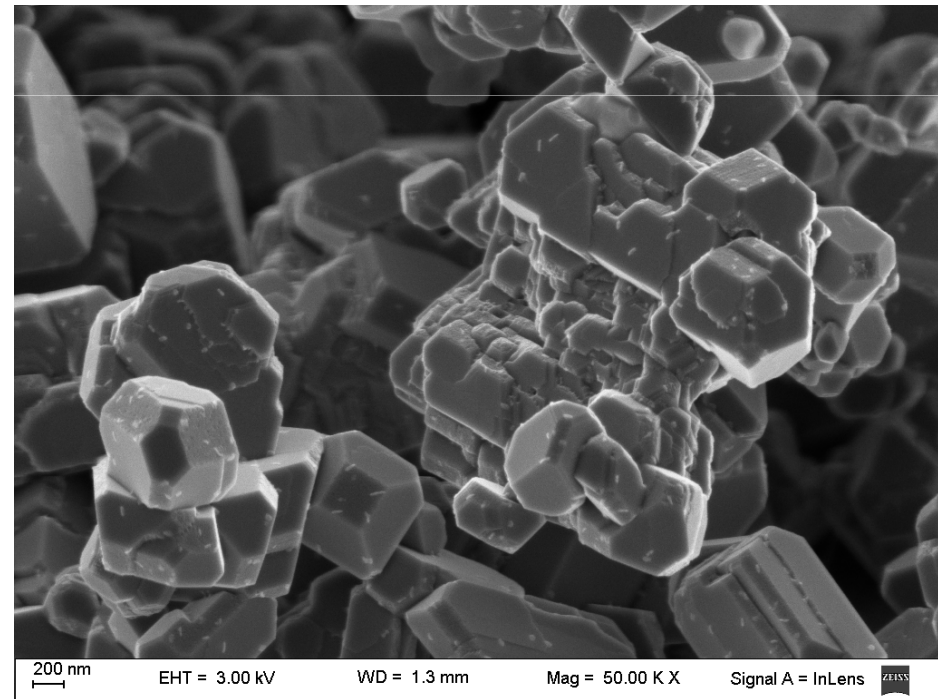
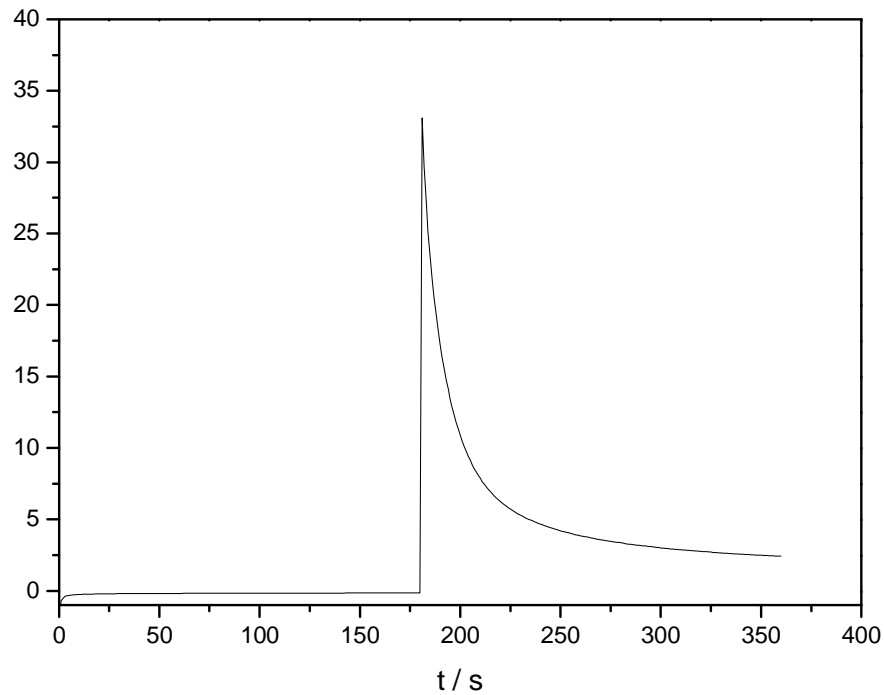
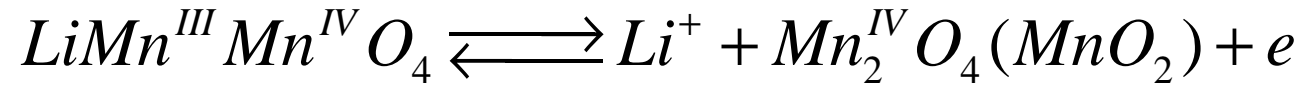
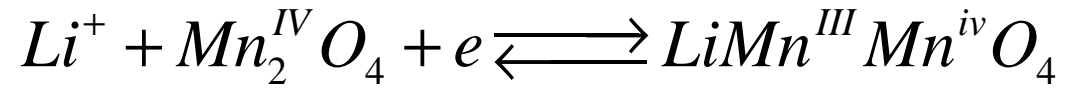
<b>EFS ID:</b>	13787317
<b>Application Number:</b>	61702985
<b>International Application Number:</b>	
<b>Confirmation Number:</b>	1853
<b>Title of Invention:</b>	METHOD AND ELECTROCHEMICAL DEVICE FOR LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LITHIUM RECOVERY FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS
<b>First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:</b>	Ernesto Julio CALVO
<b>Customer Number:</b>	26111
<b>Filer:</b>	Jaime M. Canaves/Marianne Wood
<b>Filer Authorized By:</b>	Jaime M. Canaves
<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>	3181.0020000/EJH/JCA
<b>Receipt Date:</b>	19-SEP-2012
<b>Filing Date:</b>	
<b>Time Stamp:</b>	16:29:12
<b>Application Type:</b>	Provisional

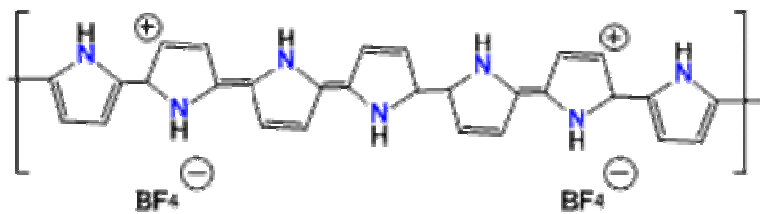
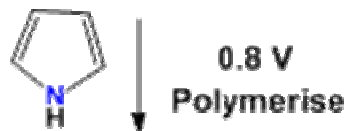
**Lithium Recovery  
from Salt lakes brines  
with low environment  
impact**



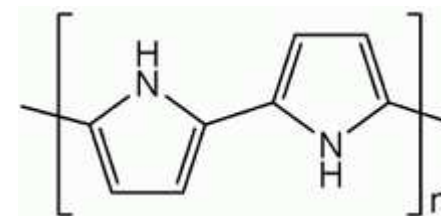


## LITHIUM CAPTURE FROM BRINE

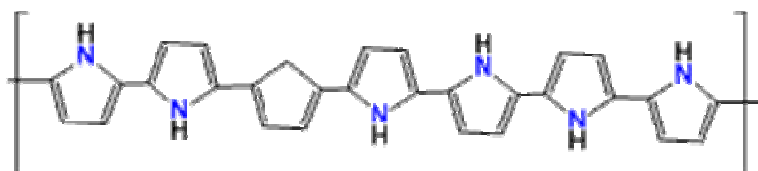




**Polypyrrole**  
**Oxidised form**  
 Bipolaron Unit

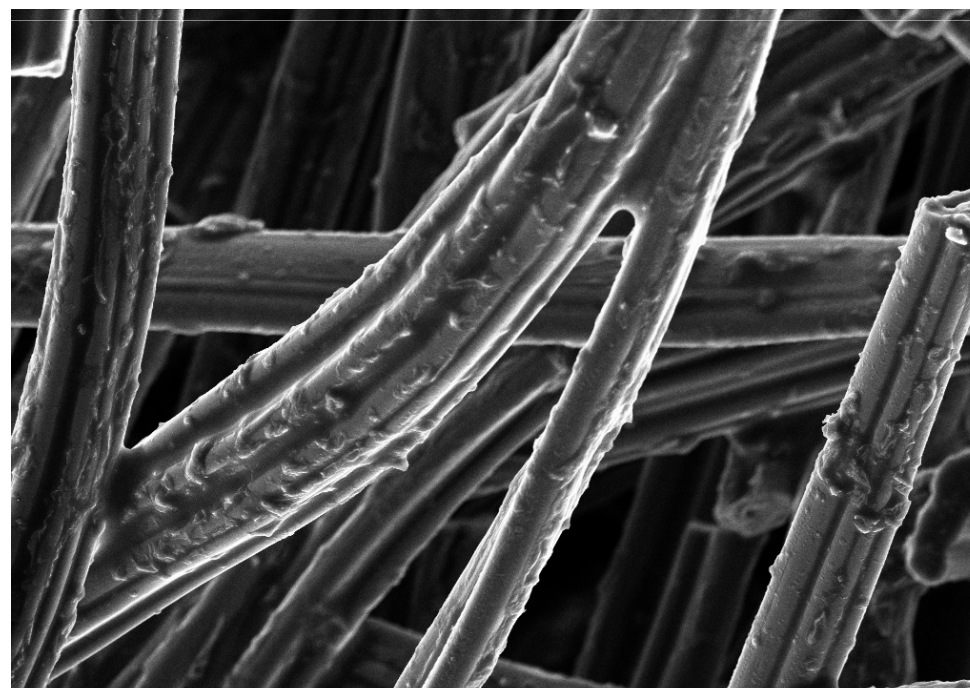


Reduced ↔ Oxidise



**Polypyrrole**  
**Reduced form**

## CHLORIDE CAPTURE



10 μm

EHT = 10.00 kV

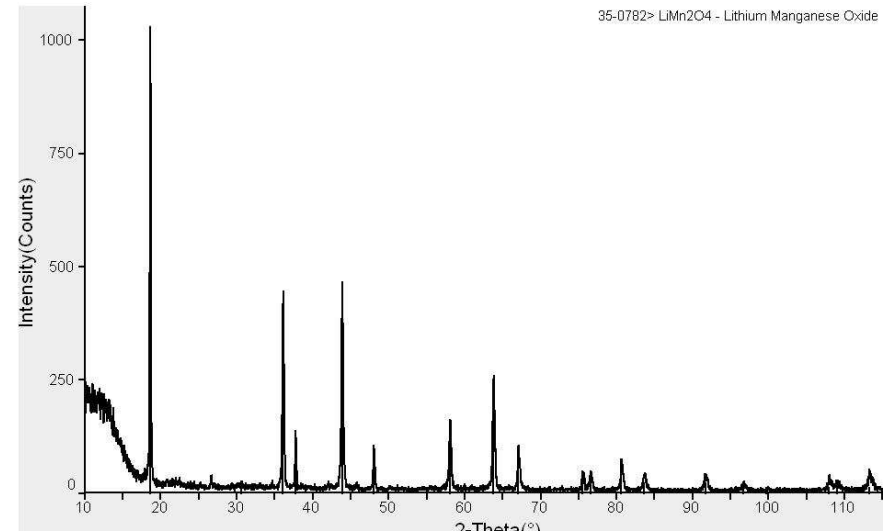
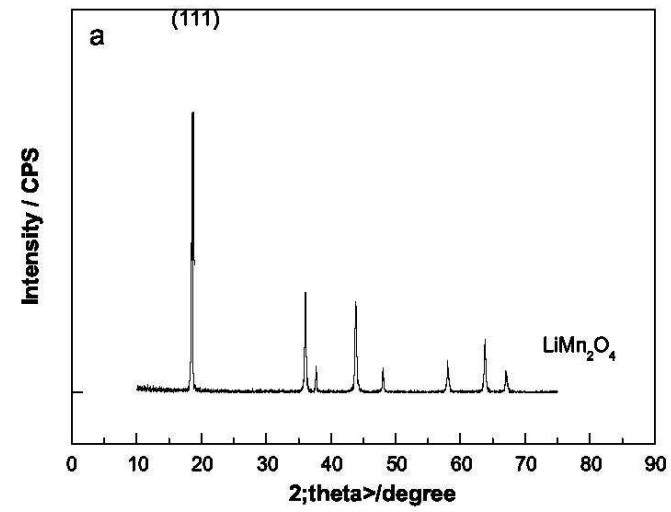
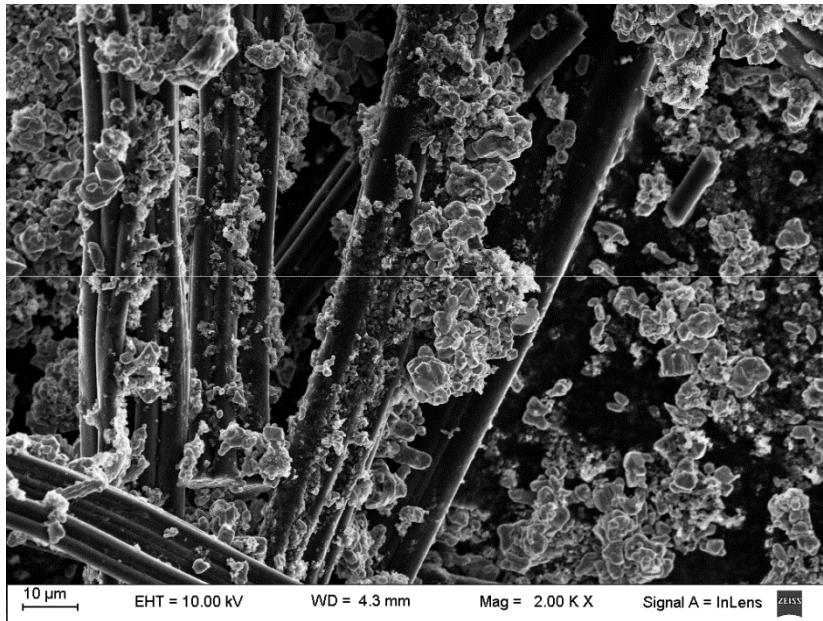
WD = 4.2 mm

Mag = 2.00 K X

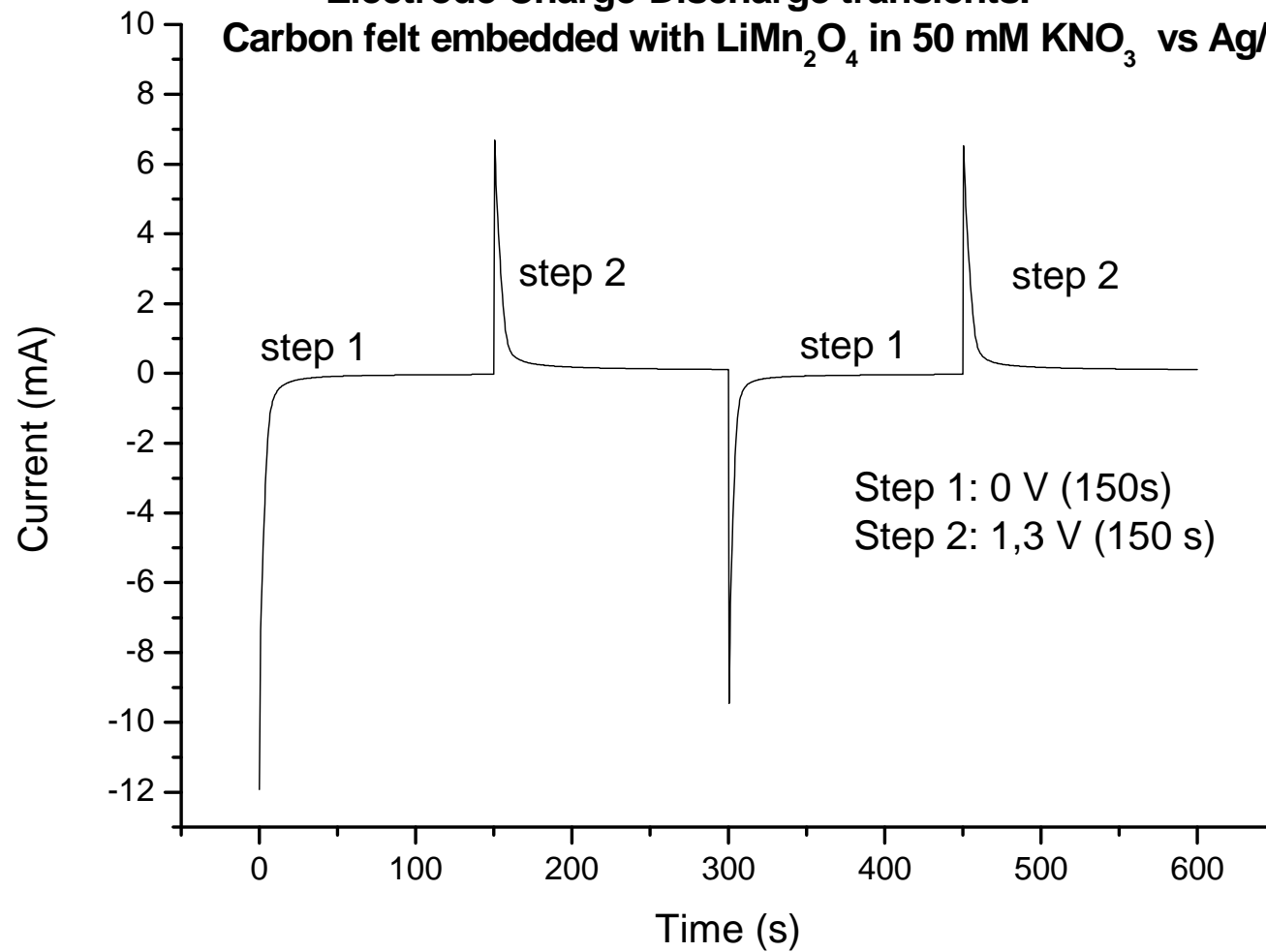
Signal A = InLens



# LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> CRYSTALS ON CARBON FELT FIBERS

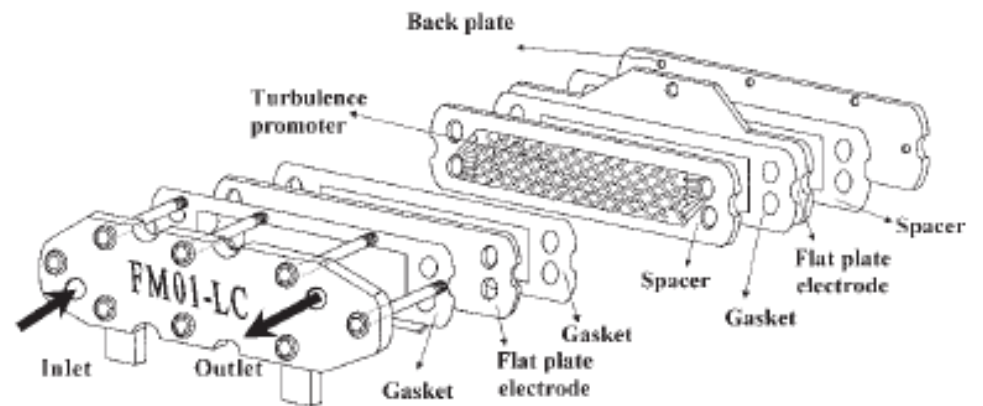
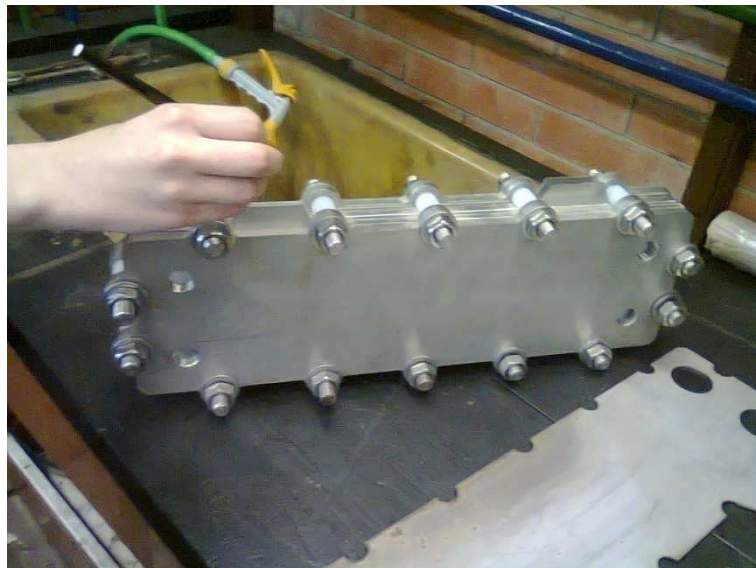
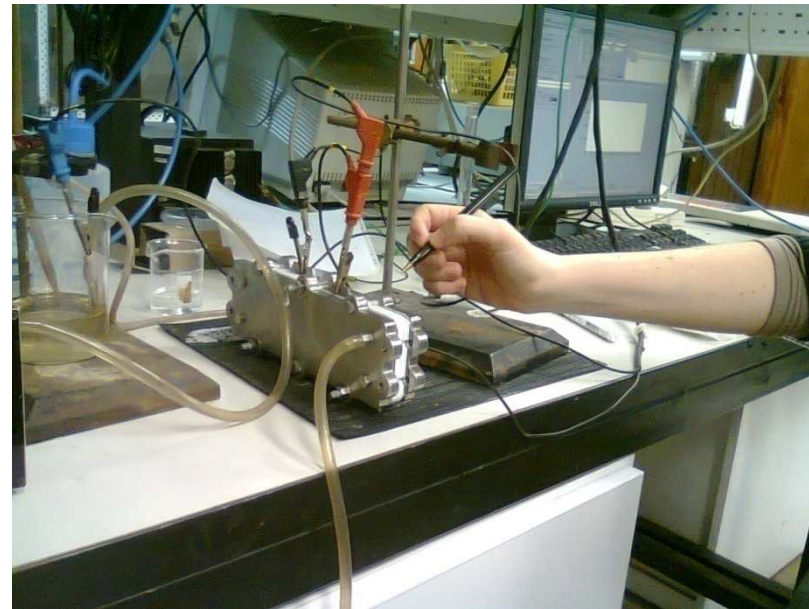
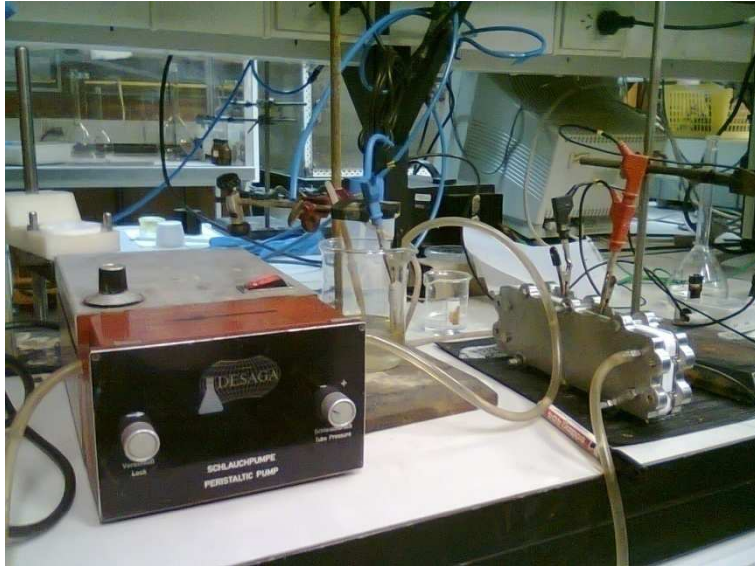


**Electrode Charge-Discharge transients.**  
**Carbon felt embedded with  $\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4$  in 50 mM  $\text{KNO}_3$  vs Ag/AgCl**

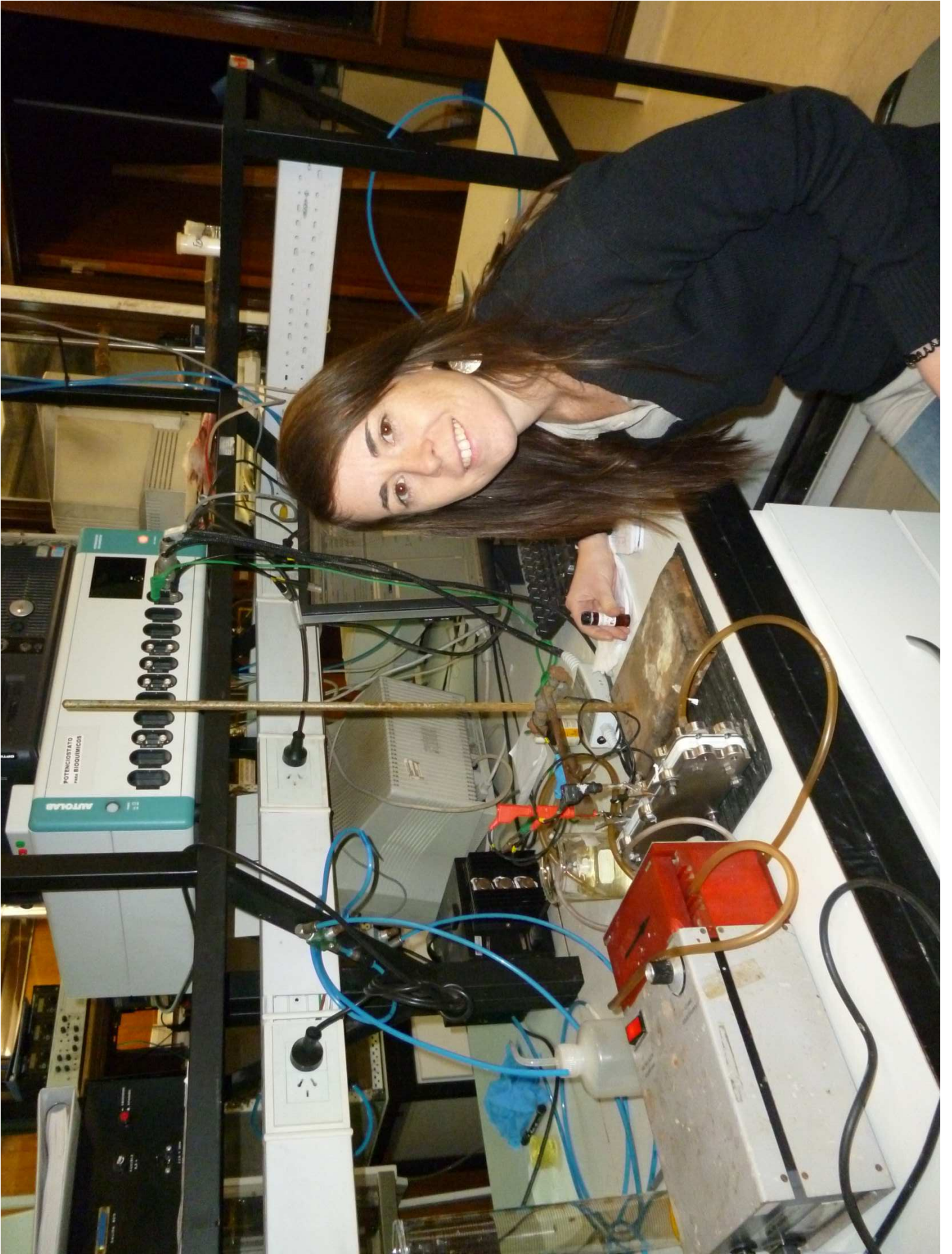




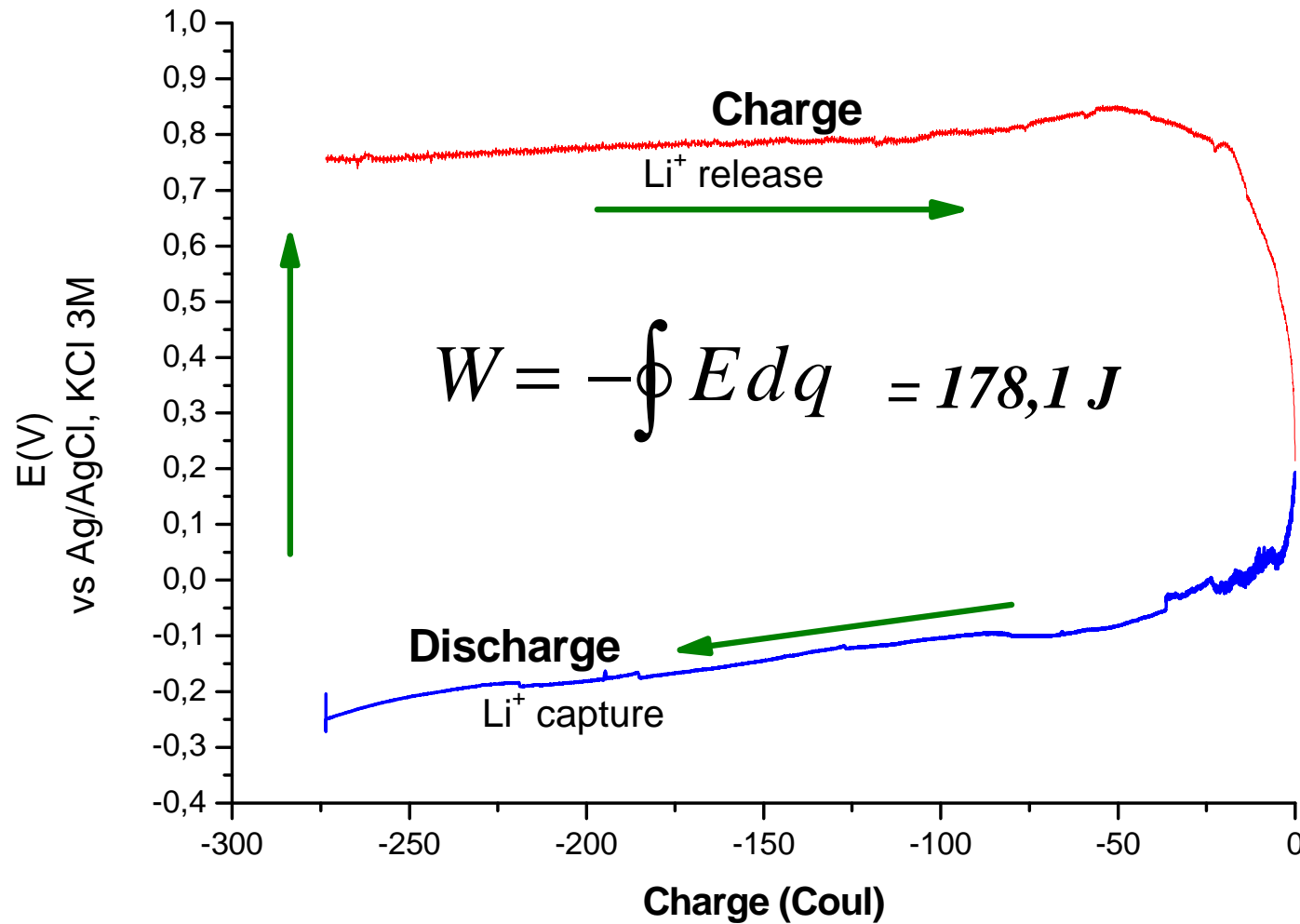
# Press Filter Cell type FM01





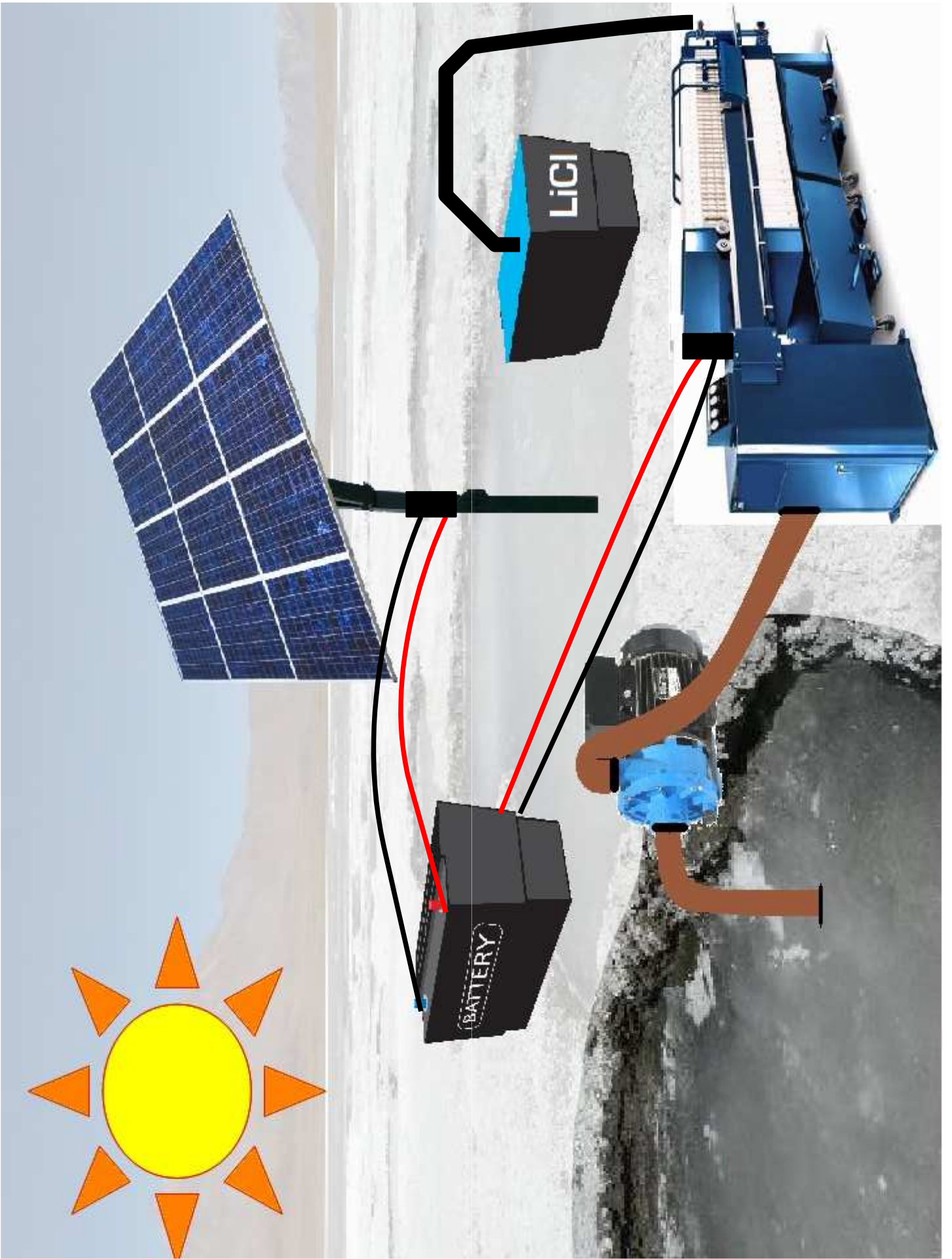


# Flow Cell - Electrical Work



0,2 Wh/Kg





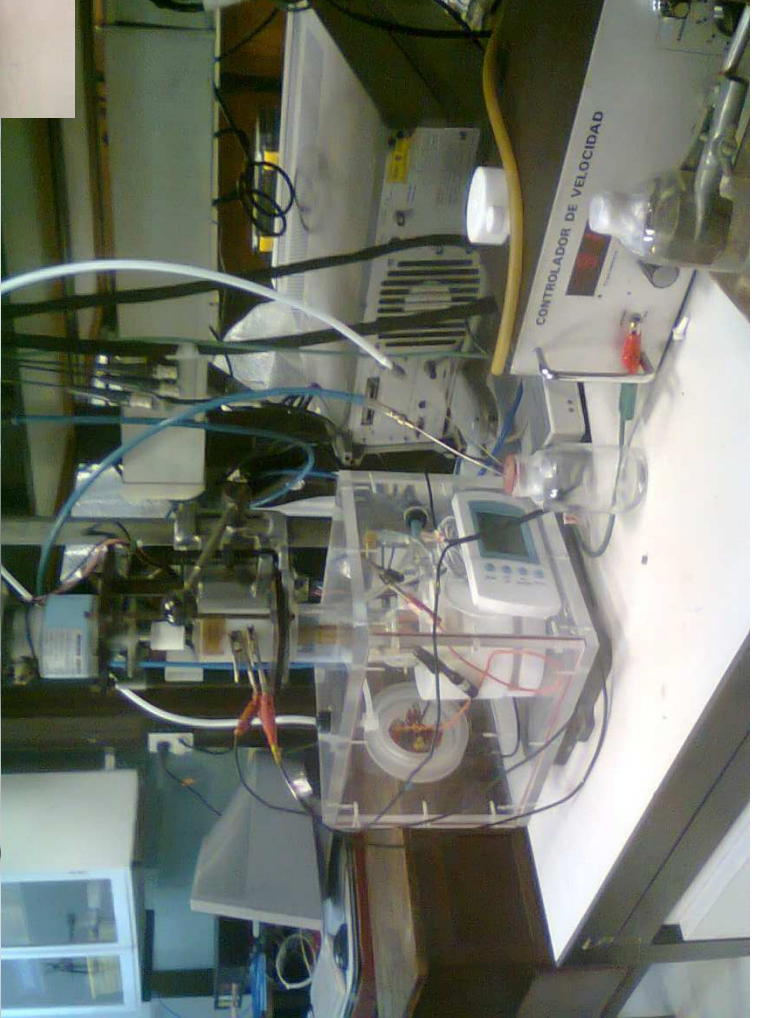
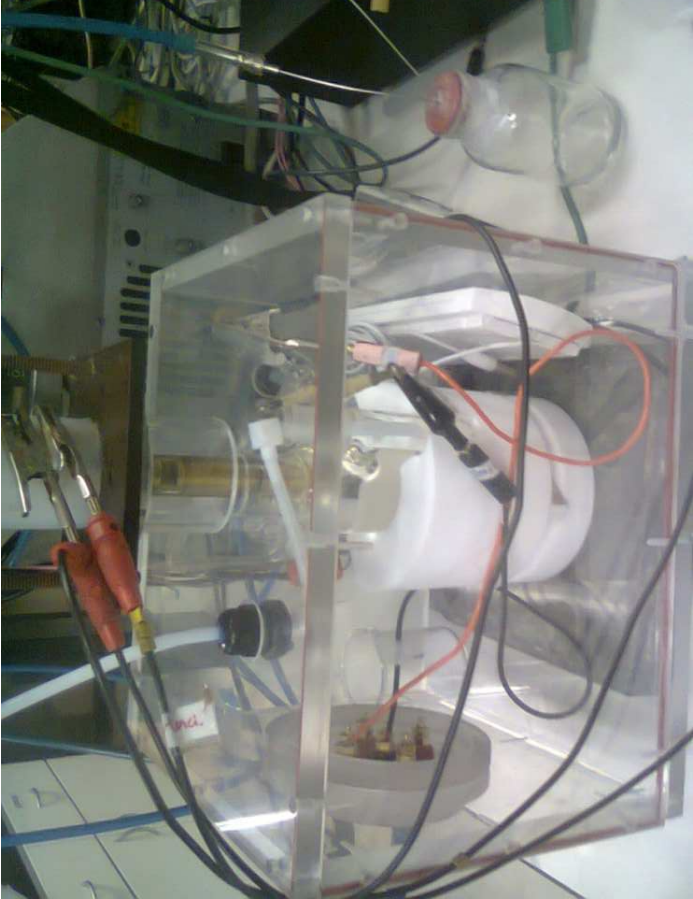
# ENERGY COST

- 200 Kwh/ton of Li
- Solar Panels 2000 \$us/ kW
- 50 kW → 200 kWh/day → 1 Ton Li/day
- Inversion 100.000 \$us → 800 m<sup>2</sup> → 30 years life → 11.000 Ton
  - 10 \$us/ton!!



# Advantages of Method

- Clean, no consumption of water,  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$
- Low energy cost (200 kWh/ton).
- Fast (hours vs. months evaporation)
- Selective ( $\text{Na}^+$  or  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  interferences)
- Produces battery grade LiCl in a single step.



## CONCLUSIONS

- Chemistry plays a key role in materials, energy and environment. But we need sustainable chemistry friendly with our environment.
- We need to develop chemistry to extract minerals with minimum environmental impact.
- In a post petroleum economy we need clean chemistry to produce fuels and feedstock (chemicals for pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, polymers, etc.).
- Sun → Electricity → Fuels
- We need to develop stable catalysts and mass production from earth abundant resources
- Training young scientists and engineers is key to the future success. Human Resources.
- Promote international cooperation.







THANK YOU

