



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Year
of the Periodic Table
of Chemical Elements

The Elements: #1

Hydrogen

„Fuel of the Universe“



Latin: Hydrogenium

Greek: υδρογόνο

Living Document of the H₂-Cluster

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¹H

Hydrogenium
1,0079

Occurrences

Universe

approx. 90% of all atoms, 9% He, 1%
„metals“

approx. 75% of the total mass

Sun (spectral type G2V)

approx. 80% of all atoms

approx. 50% of the total mass

Earth's surface

Oceans, earth's crust, atmosphere

approx. 15% of all atoms

approx. 0.9% of the total mass

Earth's body

almost exclusively in bound form
water, hydrocarbons, biomass

Abundance of Hydrogen Isotopes

Planet Earth

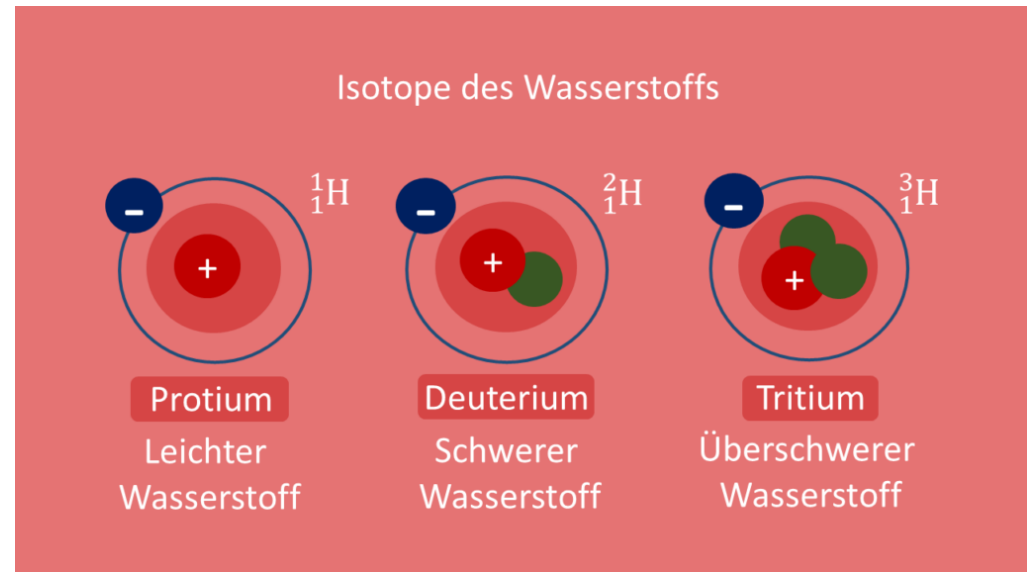
^1H	light hydrogen	Protium	99.99 %
^2H (D)	heavy hydrogen	Deuterium	0.015 %
^3H (T)	superheavy hydrogen	Tritium (β -Emitter)	10^{-15} %

Formation of tritium in the higher atmosphere:



Half-life:

$$\tau_{1/2}(^3\text{H}) = 12.32 \text{ years}$$



Production

- a) In the lab $\text{Zn} + 2 \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{ZnCl}_2 + \text{H}_2$ ($2 \text{H}^+ + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2$)
 $\text{CaH}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2$ ($2 \text{H}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + 2 \text{e}^-$) comprop.
- b) Technical $2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2$ (water electrolysis, SMR)
 $\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 3 \text{H}_2 + \text{CO}$ (steam reforming)
 $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{34} + 8 \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 16 \text{CO} + 17 \text{H}_2$ (partial oxidation, POX)
 $\text{C} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{CO}$ (coal gasification to water gas)
 $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} \rightarrow \text{C}_{n-1}\text{H}_{2n} + \text{H}_2 + \text{C}$ (thermal cracking of hydrocarbons)

Reactivity

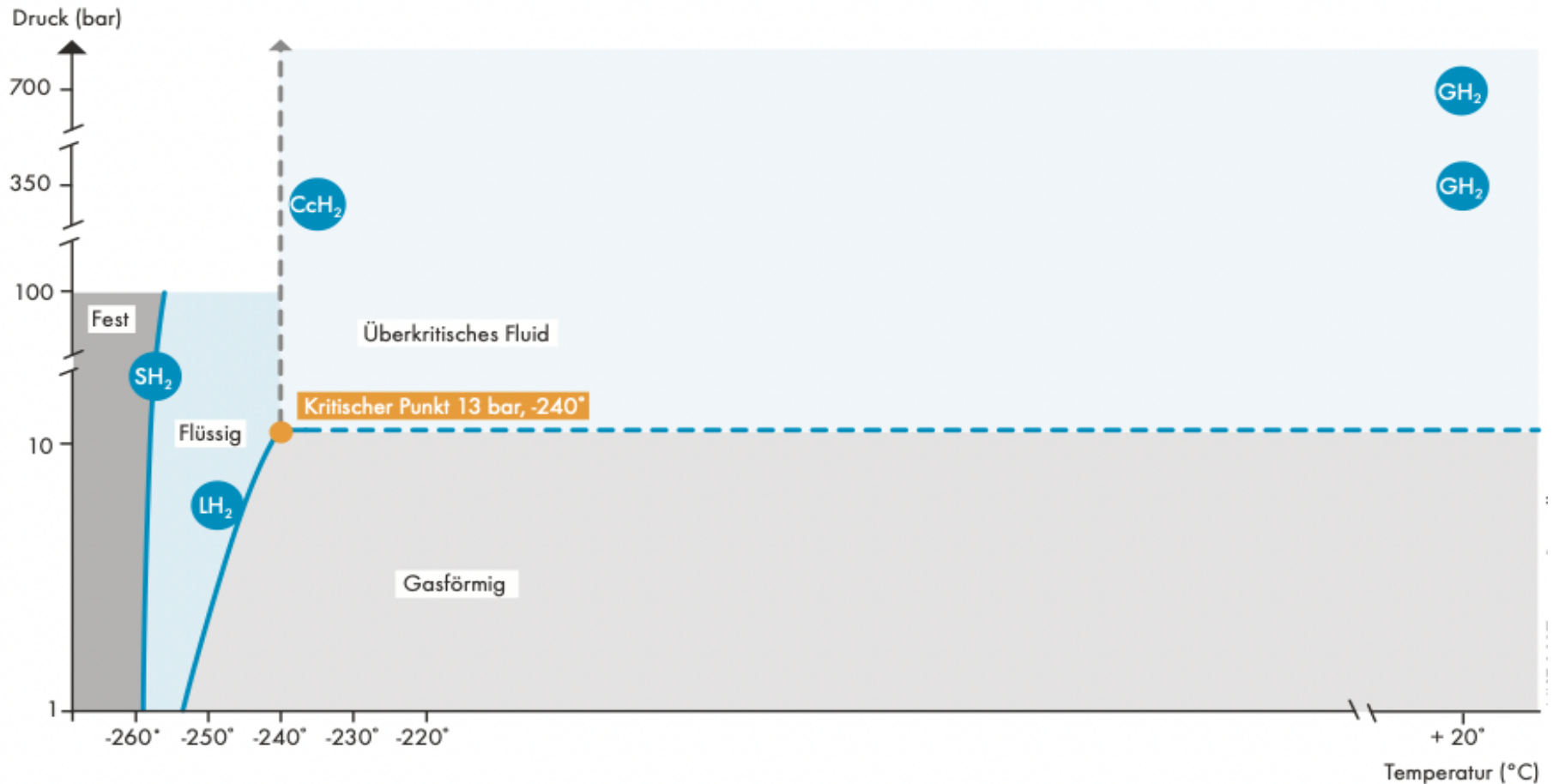
- › Molecular hydrogen is inert at ambient temperature: $\Delta H_{\text{diss.}} = 436 \text{ kJ/mol}$
- › The strongly exothermic oxygen reaction $\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ must be activated
 $\Rightarrow T > 400 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, UV radiation, sparks, Pt catalysts,
- › Atomic hydrogen is very reactive and reduces the oxides of „noble“ metals such as CuO , SnO_2 , PbO and Bi_2O_3 , to the metals
- › Formation of H atoms: microwaves, electric arcs, about 8% dissociated at $3000 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Physical Properties

Relative atomic mass	1.0079 g/mol
Atomic radius	52.7 pm („Bohr radius“)
Electron configuration:	1s ¹
Electronegativity:	2.2 (Pauling)
1 st ionization energy	13.598 eV
Oxidation states	+I, 0, -I (hydrides)
Normal potential	0.0 V (zero point, as reference electrode)
Melting point	-259.1 °C
Boiling point	-252.0 °C
Critical temperature	-234 °C
Density at 273 K	0.0899 kg/m ³
Solubility in water	22 ml per liter of water at 0 °C, 1013 mbar
Specific heat capacity	14304 J/kgK
Thermal conductivity	0.1805 W/mK (highest of all gases)
Isotopes	¹ H (Protium) stable ² H (Deuterium) stable ³ H (Tritium) β ⁻ -decay to ³ He

Physical Properties

T-p phase diagram of Hydrogen



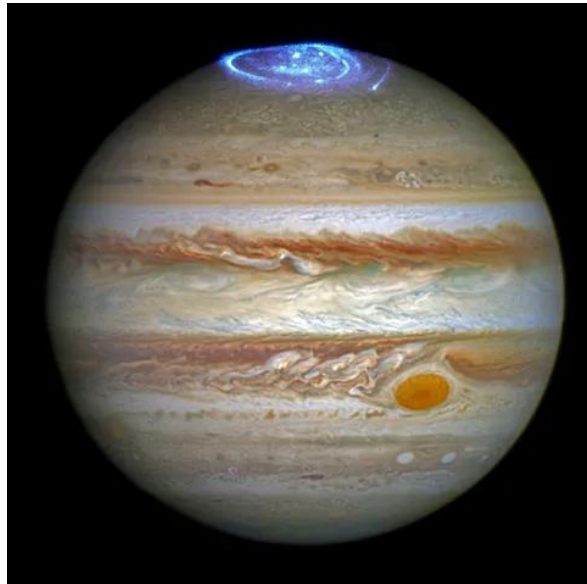
Physical Properties

Solid Hydrogen

~ $1.1 \cdot 10^6$ bar

~ $1.5 \cdot 10^6$ bar

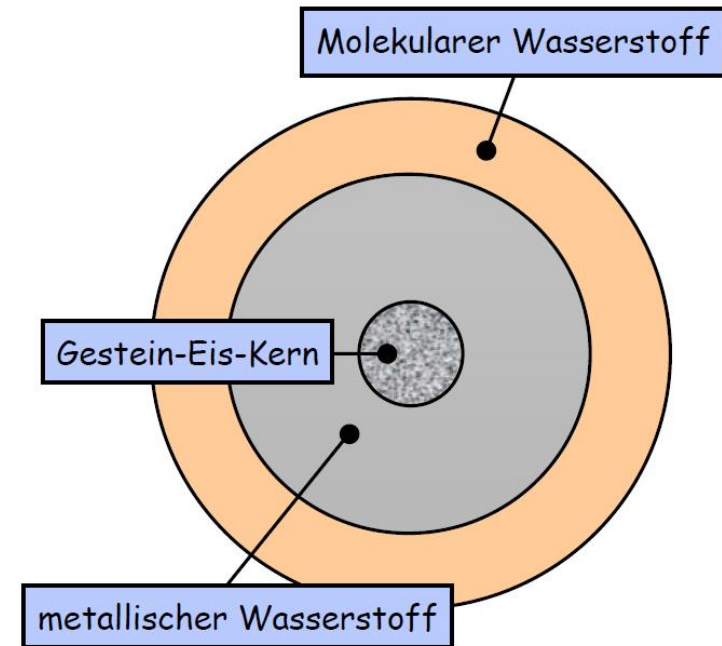
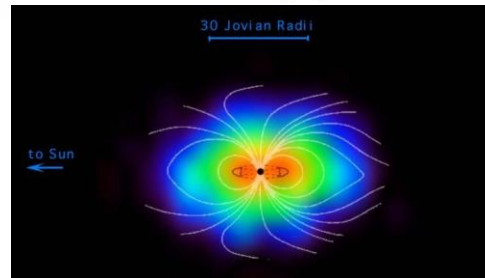
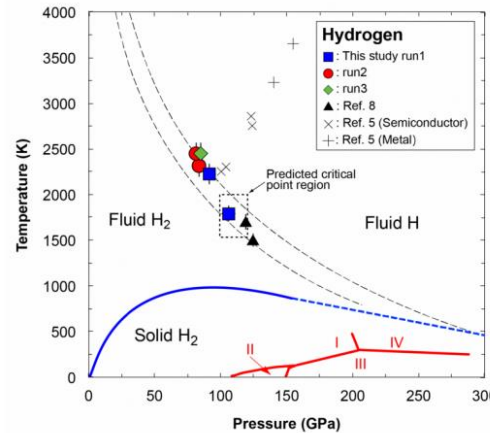
molecular (transparent, insulator) → molecular (electrically conductive)
→ atomic metal (superconducting through metal hydrides: MeH_x ?)



Jupiter

~ 318 Earth masses

~ 60 Jupiter radii magnetic field



Inner structure

Physical Properties

Thermal splitting of H₂ into radicals

Temperature [°C]	1500	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000
Fraction of neutral H	10 ⁻³ %	0.08%	8%	62%	95%	99%

„Colorimetry“

- **Green hydrogen** Through electrolysis with electricity from PV, wind and hydropower
- **Gray hydrogen** Through steam reforming
- **Blue hydrogen** Grey hydrogen, where the CO₂ is captured and stored
- **Turquoise hydrogen** Through thermal decomposition of methanol
- **Red hydrogen** Red hydrogen Through electrolysis with electricity from nuclear power plants
- **White hydrogen** Through geochemical processes in reservoirs

Physical Properties

Neutral Hydrogen H⁰ (HI)

1s¹ → ground state: n = 1

Hyperfine structure transition at 21.11 cm (1.420 GHz) due to spin-spin-coupling

Predicted in 1944 by van de Hulst
Discovered in 1951 by Ewen & Purcell

Used for distribution and kinematics of the neutral gas in the Milky Way

Fine structure transition (LS-splitting)
 $2p_{3/2} - 2p_{1/2}$ 28.37 cm (1.06 GHz)

Balmer series transitions in the VIS:

5-2 434.047 nm

4-2 486.133 nm

3-2 656.272 nm

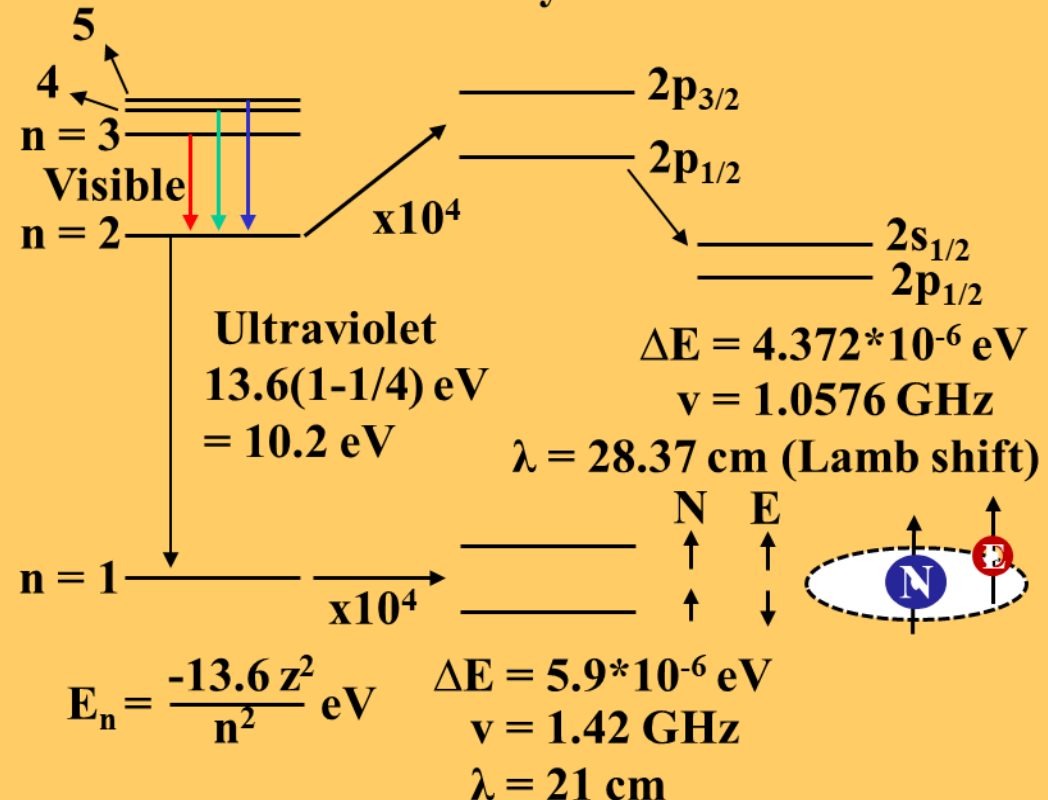
Neutral Hydrogen (HI) energy levels

Visible: $\Delta E = 4.5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}$ (< thermal energy)

$$4.5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV} = 3/2 k_B T \text{ at } 0.35 \text{ K}$$

$\nu = 10.9 \text{ GHz}$ Doppler broadening $\sim 4 \text{ GHz}$

$\lambda = 2.8 \text{ cm}$ barely resolvable



Physical Properties

Buoyancy due to the lowest density of all gases

$$\rho(\text{H}_2) = 0.09 \text{ g/l} = M(\text{H}_2)/V_M \quad \text{compare to } \rho(\text{air}) = 1.29 \text{ g/l}$$

Buoyancy: $\rho(\text{air}) - \rho(\text{H}_2) = 1.2 \text{ g/l}$ bzw. 1.2 kg/m^3

→ **First gas balloon by
Jacques Charles, December 01st, 1783 (Paris City Palace)**

Highest diffusivity v of all gases

$$v \sim 1/(M)^{1/2}$$

Effusion from containers and hydrogen diffuses relatively easily even through metals such as iron, platinum or palladium!

History

Discovery of Hydrogen

Sir Henry Cavendish

1766

- Through the effect of sulphuric acid on metals
- Isolation of the gas and first description of its properties > "Flammable air"
- Reaction of hydrogen and oxygen produces water

Naming

Antoine Lavoisier

1783

First electrolysis of water

Paets van Troostwijk

1789

Fuel cells

Sir William Grove

1839

„Galvanic gas battery"

Cold combustion of hydrogen and oxygen:



History

Solubility of Hydrogen in Pd **Thomas Graham** **1866**

Visionary prediction: **Jules Verne** **1870**
"Water is the coal of the future. The energy of tomorrow is water that has been decomposed by electric current. The elements of water broken down in this way, hydrogen and oxygen, will secure the earth's energy supply for the unforeseeable future."

→ *Photocatalytic water splitting is the primary energy process of the biosphere!*

Liquid Hydrogen **James Dewar** **1898**

Bohr's atomic model **Nils Bohr** **1913**

Atomic bond in the hydrogen molecule **W. Heitler & F. London** **1927**
1s - 1s σ bond

Discovery of deuterium **Harold Clayton Urey** **1931**

History

Risks associated with the use of hydrogen: Flammable, explosive gas

Zeppelin LZ129 „Hindenburg“ explosion, Lakehurst, NJ May 6th, 1937

Challenger explosion after take-off, Cape Canaveral, FL Jan 28th, 1986

**Installation of H₂ furnace „Hector“ FH Münster, Dpt. CE May 14th, 2008
(T_{max} ~ 1850 °C: Accident free operation so far!)**

Superconductivity in LaH₁₀ at 250 K M.I. Eremets 2019

Superconductivity in C-S-H₂ at 288 K, 267 GPa R.P. Dias 2020

Superconductivity in LuH₂:N at 294 K, 1 MPa R.P. Dias 2023

Applications

Hydrogenations, reducing agents, fuel, ammonia synthesis & energy sources

1. Hydrogenation of C=C bonds \Rightarrow Hardening of vegetable oils (\rightarrow margarine), hydrotreating of crude oil: $R-CH=CH-R + H_2 \rightarrow R-CH_2-CH_2-R$

2. Reducing agent \Rightarrow Metallurgy: Mo, W, Ge, Co, steel etc.
 $WO_3 + 3 H_2 \rightarrow W + 3 H_2O$

3. Ammonia synthesis \Rightarrow Haber-Bosch process
 $N_2 + 3 H_2 \rightarrow 2 NH_3$

4. Fuel for space probes and spacecrafts \Rightarrow Space Shuttle \Rightarrow liquid tank



solid rockets $8 Al + 3 NH_4ClO_4 \rightarrow 4 Al_2O_3 + 3 NH_3 + 3 HCl$

steering rockets $2 NO_2 + CH_3N_2H_3 \rightarrow 2 N_2 + CO_2 + 2 H_2O + H_2$

5. Energy source: precursor for synthetic fuels such as NH_3 , N_2H_4 , $CH_3N_2H_3$, methane, methanol, ethanol, triphenyltoluene (TPT), and so on

6. Methanol synthesis: $CO + 2 H_2 \rightarrow CH_3OH$



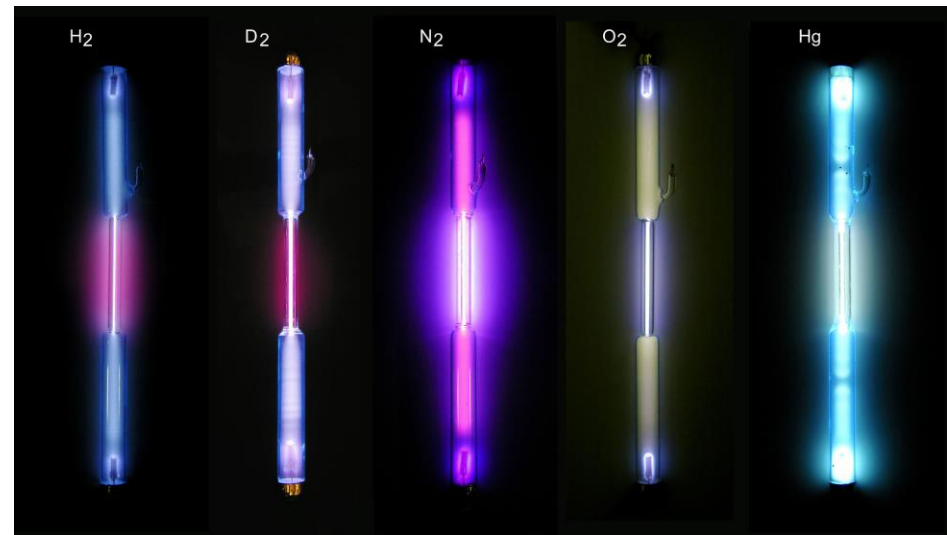
Applications

Energy source

- Autogenous welding H_2/O_2 oxy-fuel gas blowers up to 3000 °C
- Fuel cells H_2 60 MJ/kg at 50% efficiency
- Rocket engines H_2 120 MJ/kg
- Aircraft turbines Kerosene 43 MJ/kg
- **Nuclear fusion (ITER) D_2/T_2 72 TJ/kg (energy source of stars)**

Light sources

- Hydrogen spectral lamp
- Deuterium lamps for VUV spectroscopy



Source: Wikipedia

Applications

Fuel cells

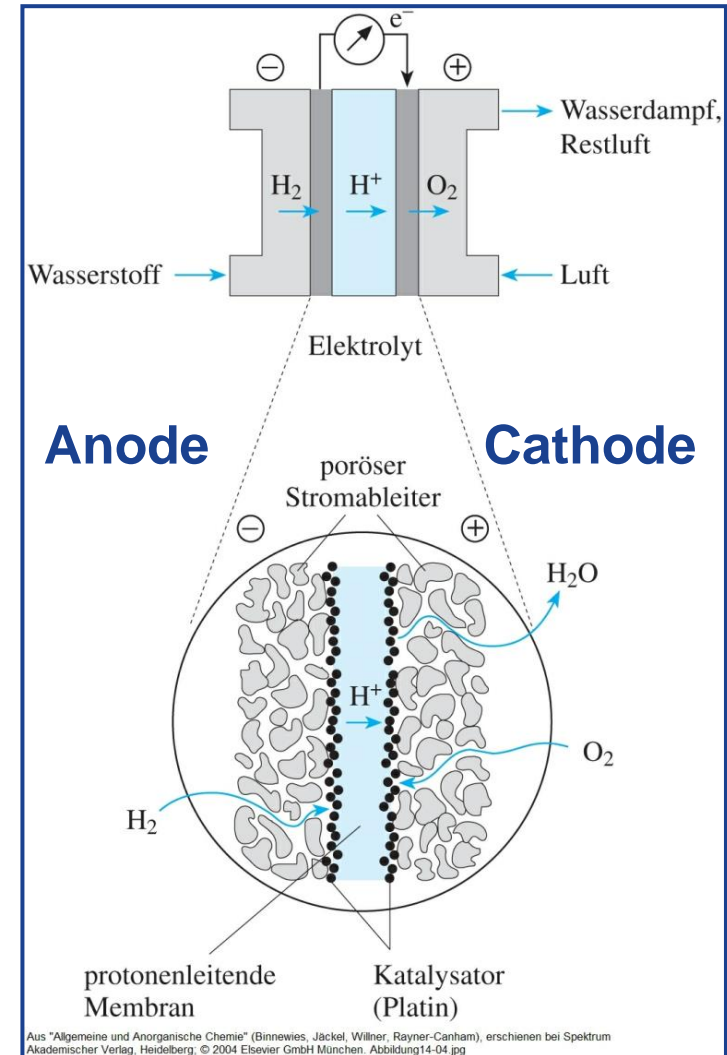
= galvanic cells that converts chemical reaction energy of a continuously supplied fuel and an oxidizing agent into electrical energy:



$$\Delta_r H^0 = - 572 \text{ kJ/mol} , U = 0.5 - 1.0 \text{ V}$$

⇒ Decentralized energy generation + electric vehicles

Structure of a fuel cell



Aus "Allgemeine und Anorganische Chemie" (Binnewies, Jäckel, Willner, Rayner-Canham), erschienen bei Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg. © 2004 Elsevier GmbH München. Abbildung14-04.jpg

Hydrogen Storage as Hydrides

Motivation

- Safe storage
- Hydrogen densities as in the liquid or higher
- No loss during storage
- Storage is reversible

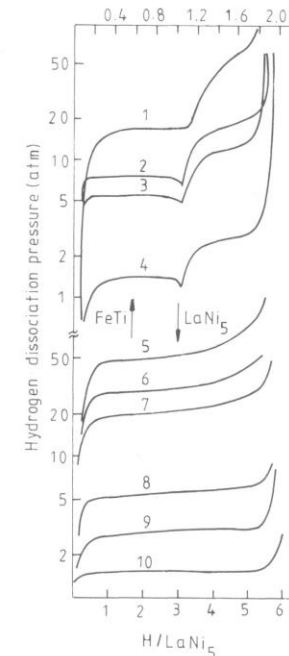
Requirements for hydride storage

- low mass
- fast kinetics for hydrogen absorption
- large reversible storage capacity
- exothermic hydrogenation reaction
- endothermic reverse reaction

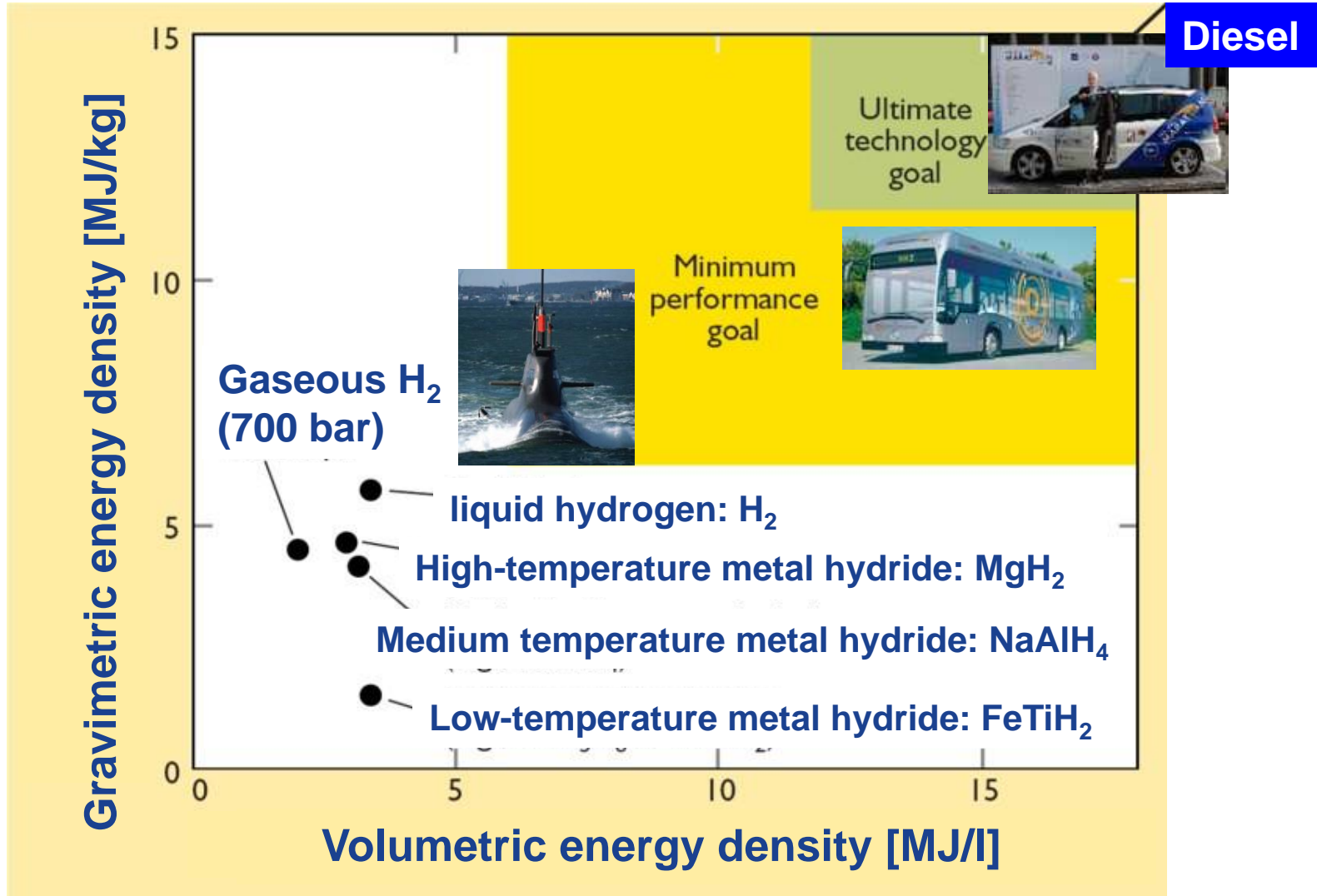
Examples

- Pd, V, Nb too low H₂ uptake
- Ti, Zr, SEE store large amounts of H₂, but almost irreversible reaction
- LaNi₅ (CaCu₅-type, P6/mmm) + 3 H₂ → LaNi₅H₆ (25% lattice expansion, P31m)
- FeTi (CsCl-type)

Figure 7.11. Pressure–composition isotherms of LaNi₅ hydride and FeTi hydride. 1, 343 K; 2, 313 K; 3, 303 K; 4, 273 K; 5, 413 K; 6, 393 K; 7, 373 K; 8, 333 K; 9, 313 K; 10, 293 K. (After Cohen & Wernick, 1981.)

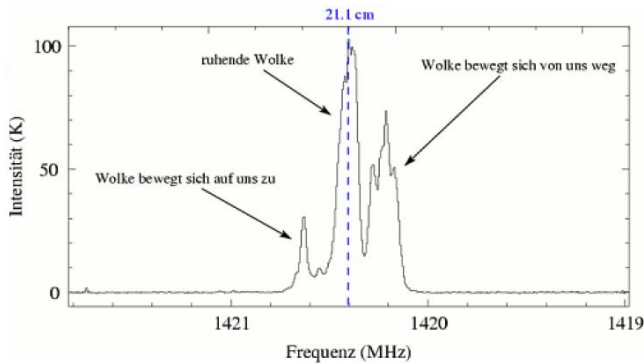


Hydrogen Storage Status



Analytics

› Astronomy



› Biology & Chemistry

› Electrochemistry

› Medicine

21.11 cm hydrogen line (1420.4 MHz) HI emission line in radio astronomy:

- Gas temperature
- Magnetic field strength
- Structure and kinematics of galaxies/clusters

¹H-NMR spectroscopy (nuclear spin ¹H: I = ±1/2):

- Structure elucidation of (bio)molecules

Normal hydrogen electrode

- Reference electrode in CV, coulometry, and so on

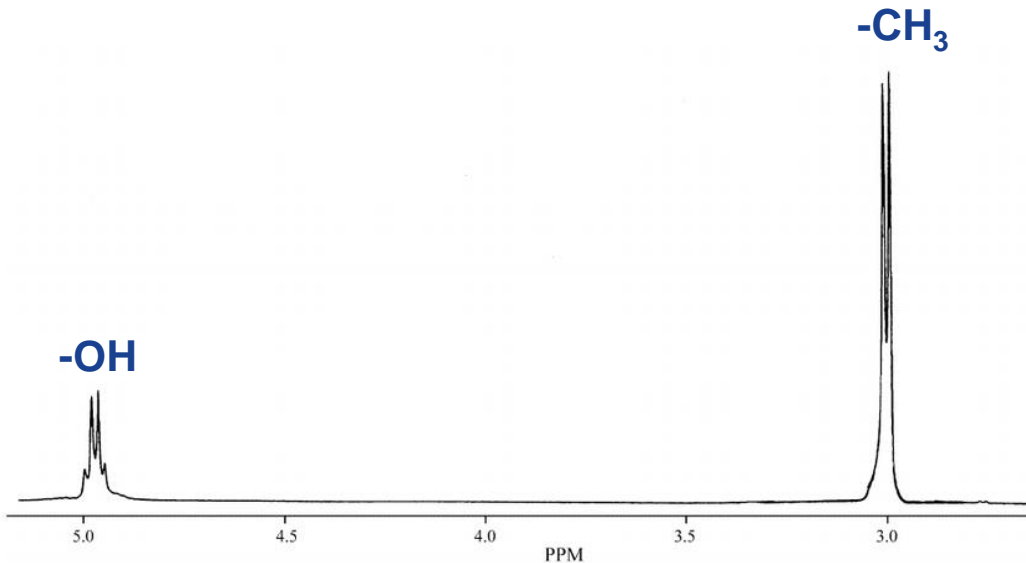
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRT, T1-Relaxation)

- Imaging in diagnostics

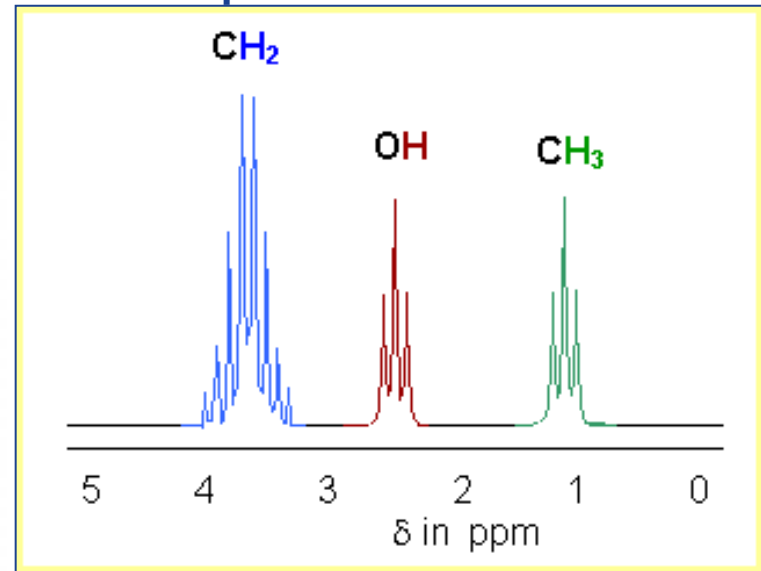
Analytics

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ Spectroscopy

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of methanol at 253 K



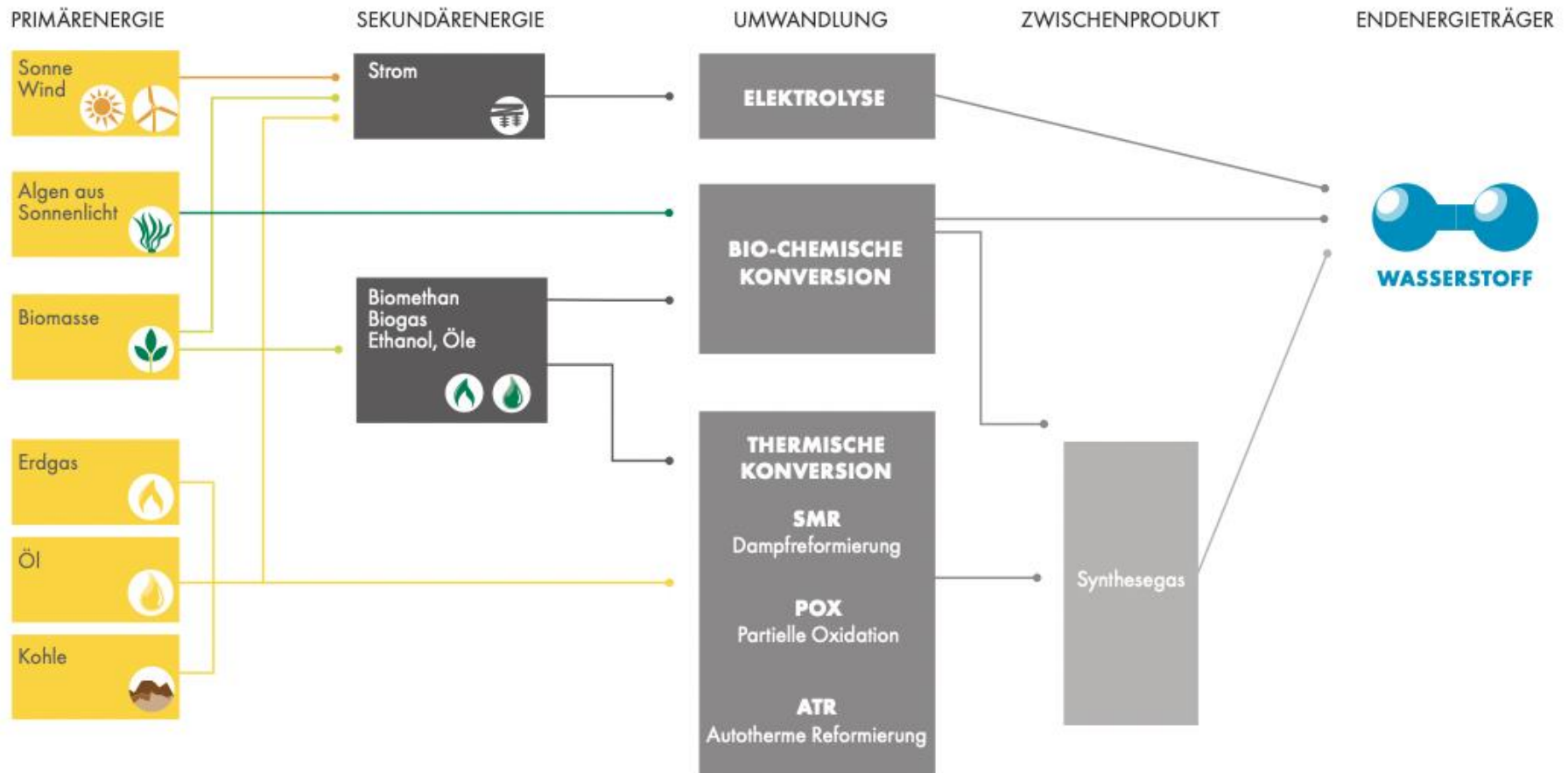
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of ethanol at 77 K



1. Each type of proton gives its own NMR signal, here 2 or 3 types
2. NMR signals split into M lines through interaction with the neighboring protons: $M = (n+1)*(m+1)$ with n, m = number of equivalent adjacent protons

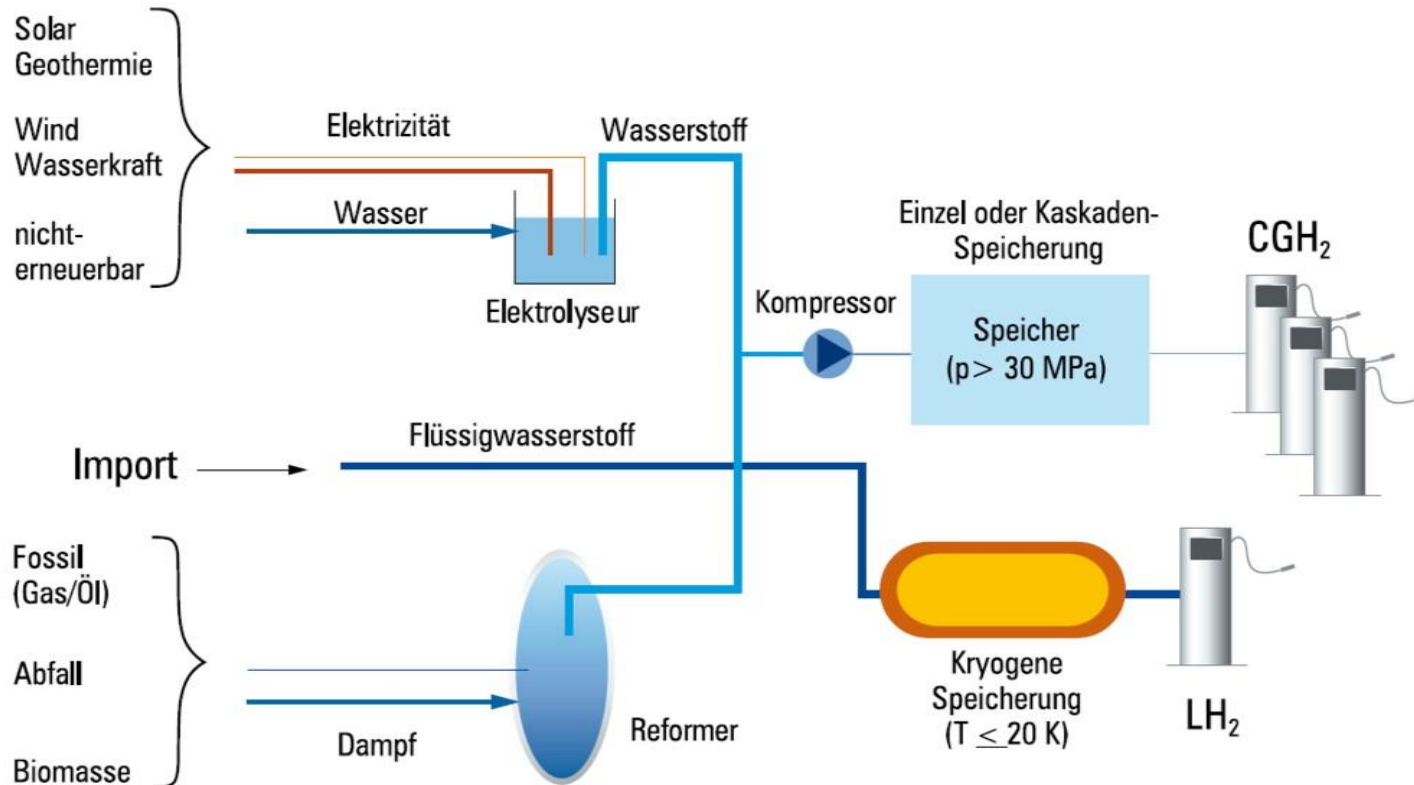
Hydrogen Production (Overview)

Ref.: J. Adolf, C. H. Balzer, J. Louis, U. Schabla, M. Fishedick, K. Arnold, A. Pastowski, D. Schüwer, Shell Wasserstoffstudie, Energie der Zukunft?, Hamburg, 2017



Hydrogen: Unde venis – Quo vadis?

Source: Deutscher Wasserstoff- und Brennstoffzellenverband „Woher kommt die Energie für die Wasserstoffherzeugung - Status und Alternativen“: http://www.hyweb.de/Wissen/docs2006/DWV_Woher-H2_NOV2006.pdf



Hydrogen through Steam Reforming

48% H₂ worldwide from natural gas,
methane (CH₄)



→ High energy consumption and CO₂-
formation

Advantage: centralized production enables
CO₂ sequestration or carbon capture and
storage (CCS)

R&D: New catalysts for microreformers

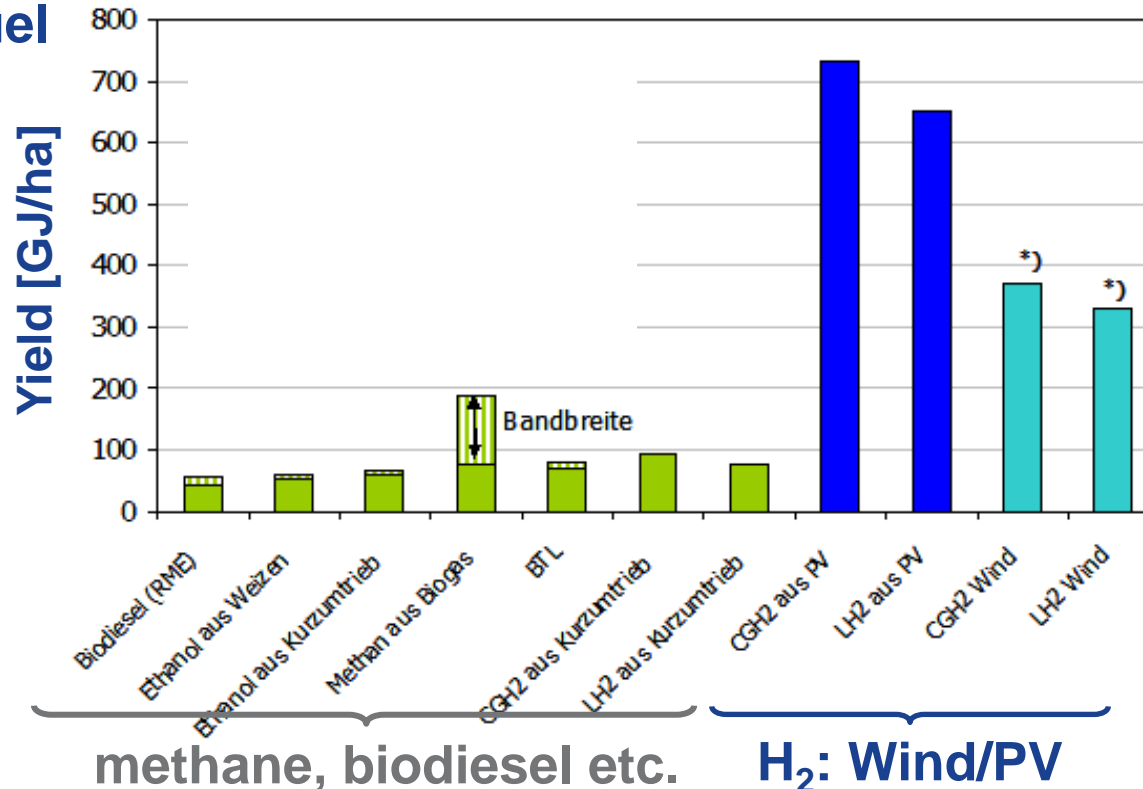


Steam reforming plant in
Brunsbüttel (Linde AG)

Hydrogen from Biomass

Study by Ludwig Bolkow Systemtechnik GmbH 2007

If you produce hydrogen from photovoltaic or wind power plants on a field instead of producing biofuels on the same area, you get about 10 times more fuel



Source: http://www.hyweb.de/Wissen/docs2007/LBST-Analysis_Biofuels-vs-H2-wind-PV-yield_09OCT2007.pdf

Electrolytic Hydrogen Production

Total reaction: $2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2$

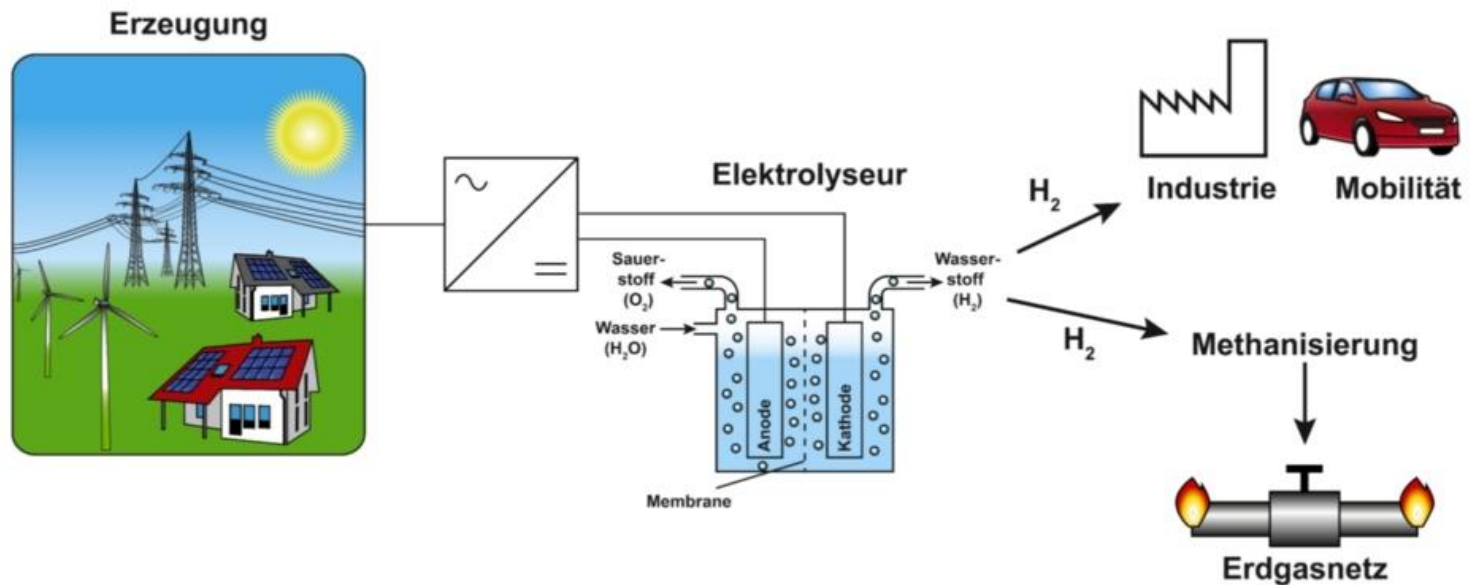
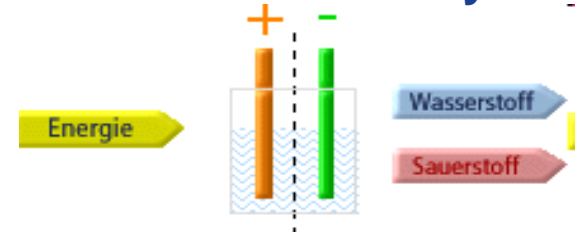
OER (Anode): $4 \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} + 4 \text{e}^-$

HER (Cathode): $4 \text{H}_2\text{O} + 4 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 4 \text{OH}^- + 2 \text{H}_2$

Efficiency: 60 – 85%

Process: Alkaline electrolysis, membrane electrolysis, HT vapor electrolysis

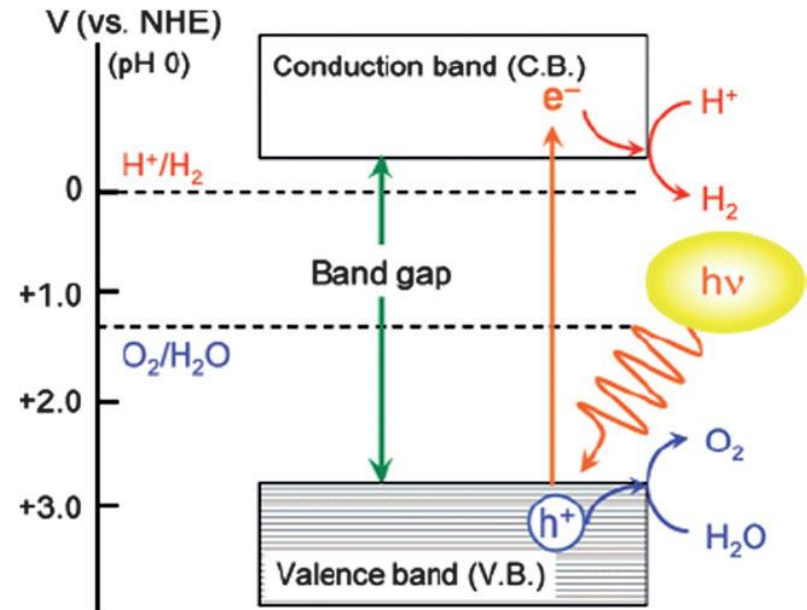
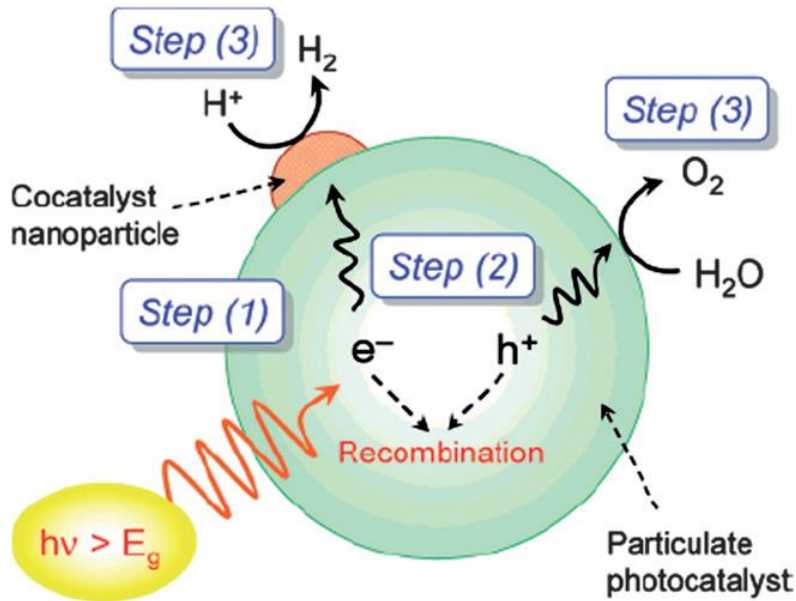
PEM water electrolyzer



Solar Hydrogen Production: Photocats

First system demonstrated in 1971 → TiO_2 with Pt as co-catalyst
Ref.: A. Fujishima and K. Honda, Nature 238 (1972) 38

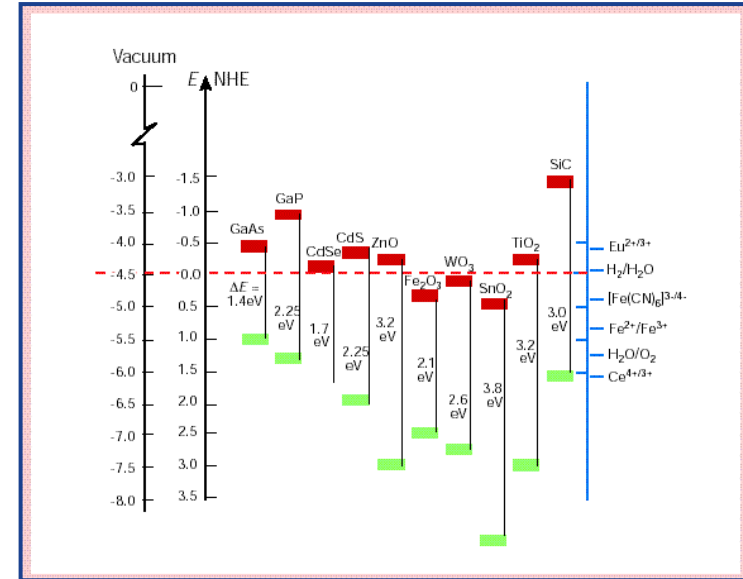
Water splitting theoretically possible from approx. 1000 nm (1.23 eV), in real systems the required energy is 690 nm (~1.8 V) due to overvoltage caused by interface effects



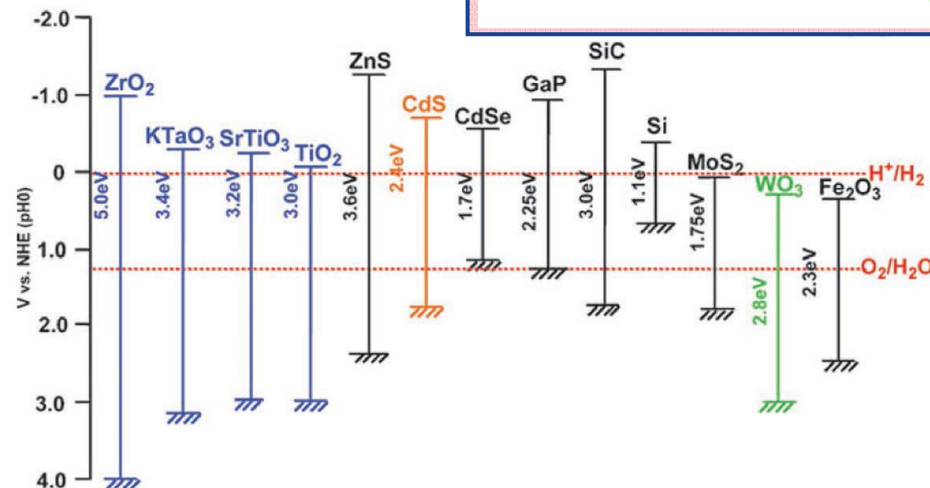
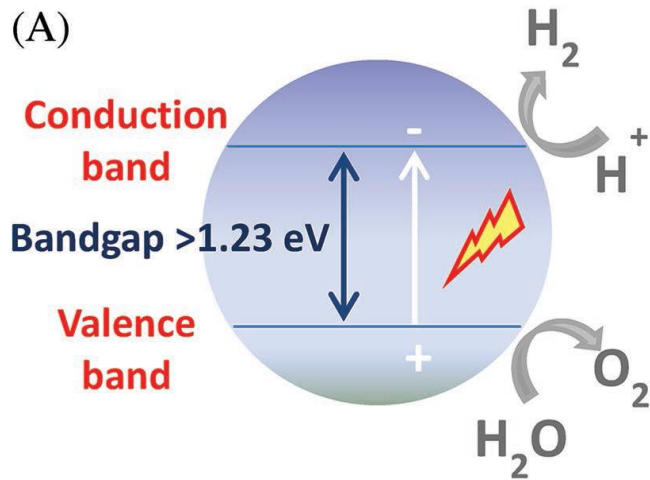
Solar Hydrogen Production: Photocats

Boundary conditions for inorganic materials

- Band gap** 2.0 – 3.0 eV
- VB** ~ -6.0 V below vacuum level
- CB** ~ -4.0 V below vacuum level

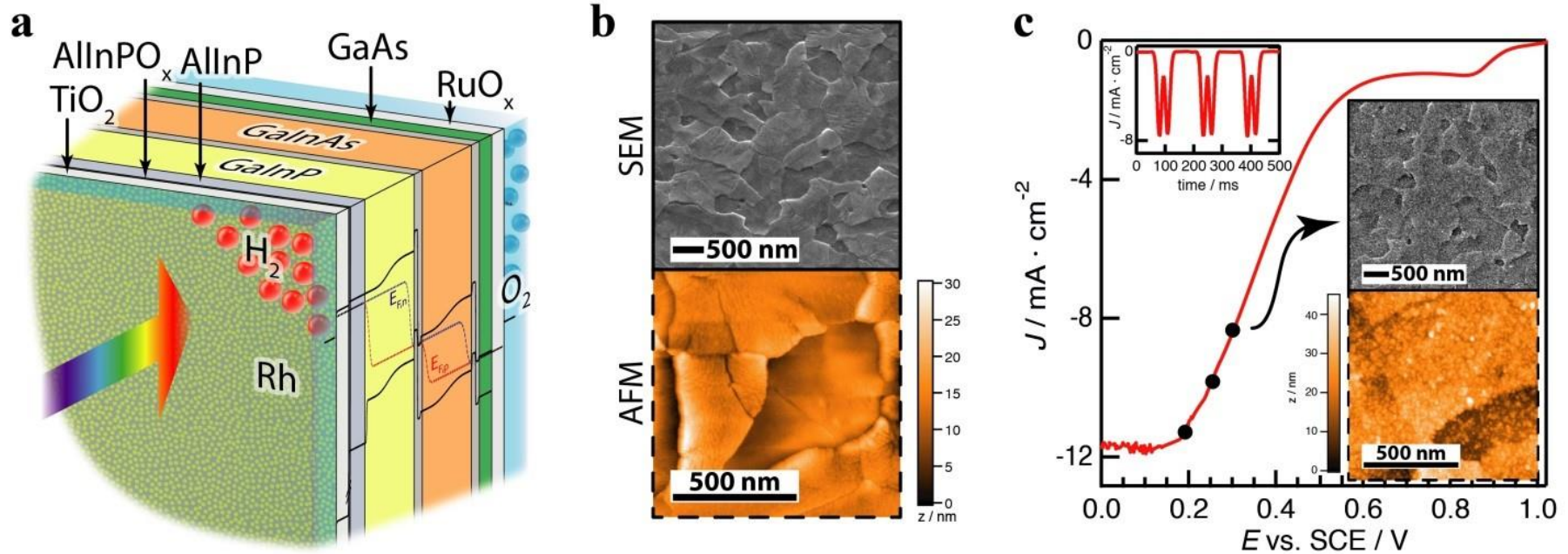


(A)



Solar Hydrogen Production: Record

Ref.: ACS Energy Letters 3 (2018) 1795, „Monolithic Photoelectrochemical Device for Direct Water Splitting with 19% Efficiency”



Cathode: Rh $2 \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2 \uparrow$

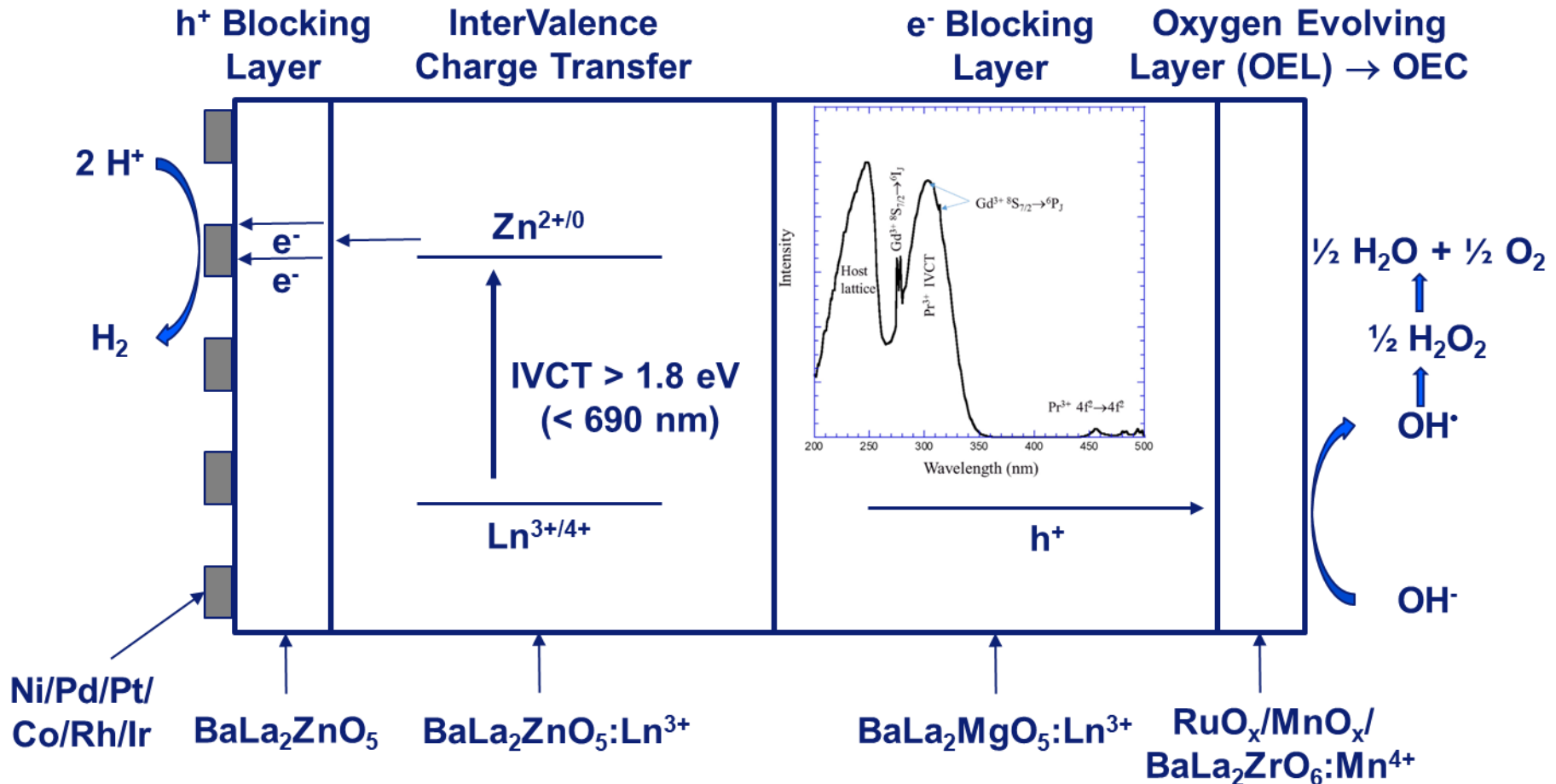
Anode: Ru^{II/III/IV}O_x $2 \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2 \text{H}^+ + 4 \text{e}^-$

Problems: Stability of electron & hole conductors (Ga,In)(P,As) $\rightarrow \text{PH}_3, \text{AsH}_3$

Absorption edge of TiO₂ ~ 3.2 eV

Solar Hydrogen Production: Ceramics

Composite ceramic perovskites → $\text{Ba}_2\text{La}(\text{Mg,Zn})\text{O}_5:\text{Ln}^{3+}$ (Ln = Ce, Pr, Tb)



Summary

Hydrogen is the primary energy fuel in the universe

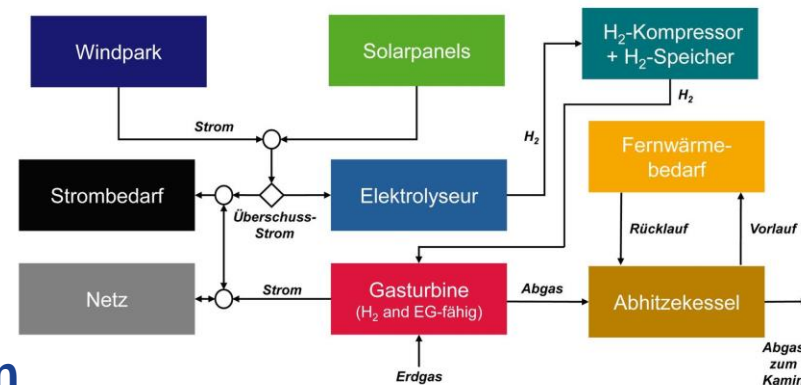
- Fusion of hydrogen to helium and metals (up to about Fe/Ni) in the stars provides energy for billions of years
- Fusion products: Heat + light + the elements of the periodic table

Hydrogen is an important reducing agent in the chemical industry and metallurgy

- Basis of ammonia and fertilizer production
- The future of steel production

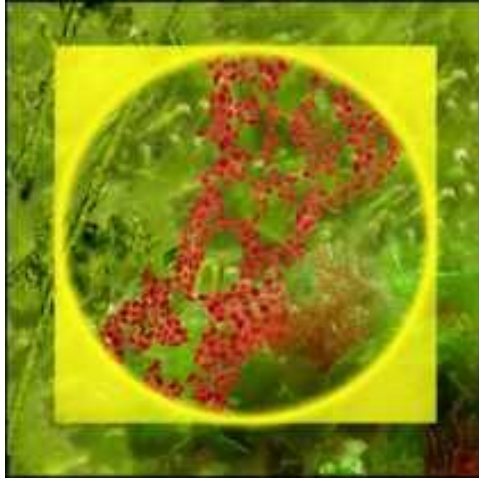
Hydrogen is the energy carrier of the future

- Fuel cells: Electricity generation
- Gas turbines: Electricity and heat generation
- Hydrogen combustion engines: Mobility
- Fusion reactors: Central power and heat generation

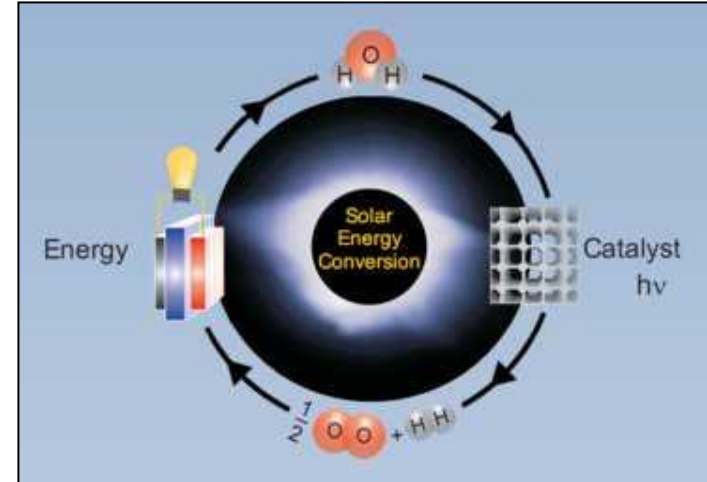


Outlook

Hydrogen as the basis of a global energy economy without polluting the earth's atmosphere with greenhouse gases (Ergo: entropy neutral!)



Photobiological H₂ generation with
[Mn₄Ca]ⁿ⁺-Cluster
approx. 1 billion years
development time



Photocatalytic H₂ generation with
inorganic oxides
R&D for about 50 years

Proposal: New global Manhattan Project of the 21st century

→ H₂ photoreactors as a "weapon" against the climate crisis

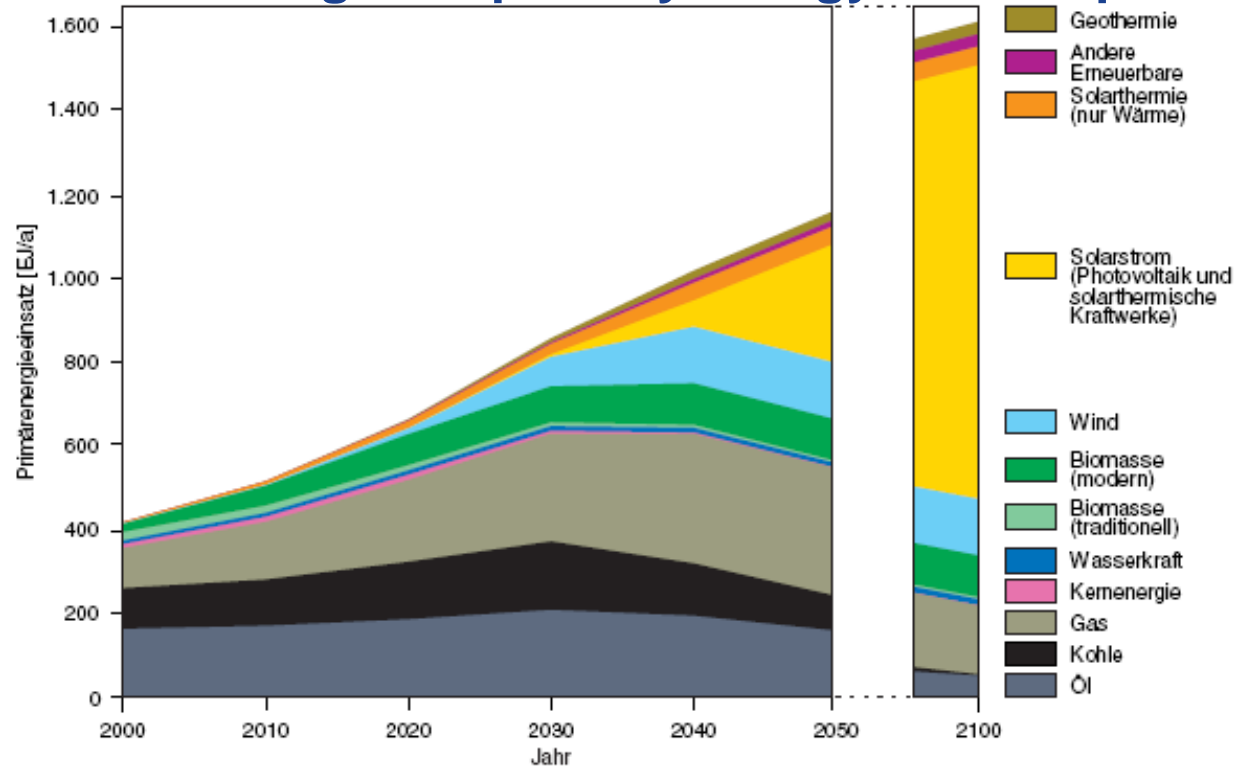
Let solar light do the job (Science 315, 2007, 789; PNAS 103, 2006, 15729)

Outlook

„Its time to act“

Date	Daily CO ₂
April 2013	398 ppm
April 2022	420 ppm
April 2023	423 ppm
April 2024	427 ppm
AGR	~ +4 ppm/y
April 2033	~ 463 ppm
April 2053	~ 550 ppm
April 2100	~ 750 ppm
~ 2 °C goal with a 50% probability no longer achievable	

Increase in global primary energy consumption



2000: 400 EJ/a → 2015: 580 EJ/a → 2100: 1200 EJ/a

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