

Contents

Preface XV

List of Contributors XIX

1	Direct Methanol Fuel Cells: History, Status and Perspectives	1
	<i>Antonino Salvatore Aricò, Vincenzo Baglio, and Vincenzo Antonucci</i>	
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Concept of Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	2
1.2.1	Principles of Operation	2
1.2.1.1	DMFC Components	2
1.2.1.2	DMFC Operation Mode	3
1.2.1.3	Fuel Cell Process	3
1.2.2	Performance, Efficiency and Energy Density	4
1.2.2.1	Polarization Curves and Performance	4
1.2.2.2	Fuel Utilization	5
1.2.2.3	Cathode Operating Conditions	7
1.2.2.4	Heat Production	8
1.2.2.5	Cell Efficiency	9
1.2.2.6	Energy Density	9
1.3	Historical Aspects of Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Development and State-of-the-Art	10
1.3.1	Historical Development of Methanol Oxidation Catalysts	10
1.3.2	Status of Knowledge of Methanol Oxidation Process and State-of-the-Art Anode Catalysts	14
1.3.2.1	Oxidation Mechanism	14
1.3.2.2	Pt-Ru Catalysts	15
1.3.2.3	Alternative Anode Formulations	19
1.3.2.4	Practical Anode Catalysts	19
1.3.2.5	Anode Catalysts for Alkaline DMFC Systems	20
1.3.3	Technological Advances in Electrolyte Development for DMFCs	21
1.3.4	State-of-the-Art DMFC Electrolytes	24
1.3.4.1	General Aspects of DMFC Electrolyte Development	24

1.3.4.2	Proton Conducting Membranes	24
1.3.4.3	Membranes for High Temperature Applications	26
1.3.4.4	Alkaline Membranes	29
1.3.4.5	Effects of Crossover on DMFC Performance and Efficiency	32
1.3.5	Historical Development of Oxygen Electroreduction in DMFCs	33
1.3.6	Status of Knowledge of Oxygen Reduction Electrocatalysis and State-of-the-Art Cathode Catalysts	33
1.3.6.1	Oxygen Reduction Process	33
1.3.6.2	Pt-Based Catalysts and Non-noble Metal Electrocatalysts	35
1.3.6.3	Alternative Cathode Catalysts	37
1.3.7	DMFC Power Sources in the 'Pre-1990 Era'	39
1.4	Current Status of DMFC Technology for Different Fields of Application	40
1.4.1	Portable Power Sources	40
1.4.2	Transportation	53
1.4.3	Technology Development	60
1.4.3.1	DMFC Technology	60
1.4.3.2	Catalyst Preparation	61
1.4.3.3	Electrode Manufacturing and Membrane Electrode Assemblies Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEAs)	61
1.4.3.4	Stack Hardware and Design	62
1.4.3.5	DMFC Systems	64
1.5	Perspectives of Direct Methanol Fuel Cells and Techno-Economical Challenges	65
	References	70
2	Nanostructured Electrocatalyst Synthesis: Fundamental and Methods	79
	<i>Nitin C. Bagkar, Hao Ming Chen, Harshala Parab, and Ru-Shi Liu</i>	
2.1	Introduction	79
2.2	Fundamental Understanding of the Structure–Activity Relationship	80
2.2.1	Particle Size Effect	81
2.2.2	Crystal Facet Effect	82
2.3	Synthetic Methods of Conventional Carbon-Supported Catalysts	85
2.3.1	Impregnation Method	87
2.3.2	Colloidal Method	88
2.3.2.1	Polyol Synthesis	89
2.3.3	Microemulsion Method	93
2.4	Synthetic Methods of Novel Unsupported Pt Nanostructures	95
2.4.1	Template-Based Synthesis	95
2.4.1.1	Soft Template	96
2.4.1.2	Hard Template	96
2.4.2	Galvanic Replacement Reaction	99
2.4.2.1	Platinum Nanospheres	99
2.4.2.2	Platinum Nanotubes	99

2.4.2.3	Nanoporous Platinum	101
2.4.2.4	Hollow Platinum Nanochannels	102
2.4.2.5	Bimetallic Clusters	103
2.4.3	Electrochemical Synthesis	104
2.4.3.1	Spherical Platinum Clusters	104
2.4.3.2	Nanoporous Platinum	105
2.4.3.3	Tetrahexahedral Platinum Nanostructures	106
2.5	Conclusions	108
	References	110
3	Electrocatalyst Characterization and Activity Validation – Fundamentals and Methods	115
	<i>Loka Subramanyam Sarma, Fadlilatul Taufany, and Bing-Joe Hwang</i>	
3.1	Introduction	115
3.2	Direct Methanol Fuel Cells – Role of Electrocatalysts	117
3.2.1	Role of Anode Electrocatalysts – Methanol Oxidation Reaction (MOR)	118
3.2.2	Role of Cathode Electrocatalysts – Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)	119
3.3	Characterization Techniques for Anode and Cathode Catalysts	121
3.3.1	Fundamental Aspects	121
3.3.2	Evaluation of Catalyst Crystallite Size, Elemental Composition, Morphology, Dispersion	122
3.3.2.1	X-ray Diffraction (XRD)	122
3.3.2.2	Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)	124
3.3.2.3	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	125
3.3.2.4	Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)	125
3.3.2.5	Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS/EDX)	125
3.3.3	Elucidation of Nanostructural Characteristics of Electrocatalysts – Alloying Extent or Atomic Distribution, Electronic Structural Features, State of Catalyst Species, Surface Composition, Segregation Phenomena	126
3.3.3.1	X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy	126
3.3.3.2	X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)	132
3.3.3.3	Electrochemical-Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (EC-NMR)	133
3.3.3.4	Low-Energy Electron Diffraction (LEED)	134
3.3.3.5	Auger Electron Spectroscopy (AES)	134
3.3.3.6	Low-Energy Ion Scattering (LEIS)	135
3.3.3.7	Temperature Programmed Reduction (TPR)	135
3.4	Evaluation of Electrocatalyst Activity, Electrochemical Active Surface Area, Catalyst – Adsorbate Interactions, and Activity Validation Techniques	136
3.4.1	Cyclic Voltammetry (CV)	136
3.4.1.1	Applications	137

3.4.1.2	State of the Pt-Based Catalysts	137
3.4.1.3	Qualitative Indicator for the Activity of Pt-Based Catalysts Towards ORR	139
3.4.1.4	Qualitative Indicator for the Activity of Pt-Based Catalysts Towards MOR	139
3.4.1.5	Reversibility of $H_{ads/des}$ Reaction and Roughness Factor (RF) of Pt-Based Catalysts	140
3.4.1.6	Electrochemical Active Surface Area (ECASA) and Particle Size of Pt-Based Catalysts	140
3.4.2	Adsorptive CO-Stripping Voltammetry (CO_{ads} -SV)	141
3.4.3	Underpotential Deposition (UPD)	143
3.4.3.1	Surface Composition of Pt-Based Catalysts Through the Cu-UPD method	145
3.4.4	Rotating Disk Electrode (RDE)	146
3.4.5	Rotating Ring-Disk Electrode (RRDE) Method	148
3.4.6	Linear Sweep Voltammetry (LSV)	149
3.5	Conclusions and Outlook	155
	References	156
4	Combinatorial and High Throughput Screening of DMFC Electrocatalysts	165
	<i>Rongzhong Jiang and Deryn Chu</i>	
4.1	Introduction	165
4.2	Common Procedures for the Development of DMFC Catalysts	168
4.3	General Methods for Combinatorial and High Throughput Screening	169
4.4	Methods of Combinatorial Synthesis	171
4.4.1	Chemical Synthesis	171
4.4.2	Electrochemical Synthesis	173
4.4.3	Physical Synthesis	174
4.5	Electrode Arrays for High Throughput Screening	175
4.5.1	Direct Electrode Array and Automated Screening Method	175
4.5.2	Material Spot Array on a Single Electrode and Optical Screening Method	177
4.5.3	Indirect Electrode Array on a Single Conductive Substrate and Electrolyte Probe Screening Methods	179
4.6	Other Screening Methods for Catalyst Discovery	182
4.6.1	Infrared (IR) Thermography	183
4.6.2	Scanning Mass Spectrometry	183
4.6.3	Scanning Electrochemical Microscope (SECM)	185
4.7	Combinatorial Methods for DMFC Evaluation and Data Analysis	187
4.7.1	Micro Fuel Cell Array	187
4.7.2	A Method for High Throughput Screening of DMFC Single Cells	189
4.7.3	Data Analysis of Combinatorial Results	190

4.8	Challenge and Perspective	190
	References	193
5	State-of-the-Art Electrocatalysts for Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	197
	<i>Hanwei Lei, Paolina Atanassova, Yipeng Sun, and Berislav Blizanac</i>	
5.1	Introduction	197
5.2	Electrocatalysis and Electrocatalysts for DMFC	198
5.2.1	Electrocatalysis for Methanol Oxidation	198
5.2.2	Electrocatalyst Development	199
5.2.3	Spray Conversion Reaction Platform for Electrocatalyst Manufacturing	202
5.3	DMFC Electrocatalyst Characterization and Evaluation	203
5.3.1	Physical Characterization	204
5.3.2	Electrochemical Evaluation	208
5.3.2.1	Thin Film Rotating Disc Electrode (TFRDE) Catalyst Characterization	208
5.3.2.2	Fuel Cell Evaluation	210
5.3.3	Durability Study	212
5.4	DMFC Performance Advancement via MEA Design	215
5.4.1	Electrocatalyst Layer Design	215
5.4.2	Hydrocarbon Membrane for DMFC Performance Improvement	217
5.4.3	Other Aspects of DMFC Catalyst Development	220
5.5	Prospects for DMFC	222
5.6	Conclusions	222
	References	224
6	Platinum Alloys as Anode Catalysts for Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	227
	<i>Ermete Antolini</i>	
6.1	Introduction	227
6.2	Phase Diagram vs. Activity: New Chances for DMFC Anodes	229
6.2.1	PtRu Catalysts: The Effect of Alloying and Ru Oxide Presence	229
6.2.2	PtSn Catalysts: Activity of PtSn Alloys and Non-Alloyed Pt-SnO _x	233
6.2.3	Pt-Co and Pt-Ni Catalysts: Effect of Alloying and CoO _x and NiO _x Presence	235
6.3	Preparation Methods of Pt Alloys	238
6.3.1	Unsupported Catalysts	238
6.3.2	Supported Catalysts	240
6.4	Activity Evaluation of Pt Alloys	242
6.4.1	Pt-Based Binary Catalysts	243
6.4.1.1	Pt-W	243
6.4.1.2	Pt-Mo	244
6.4.1.3	Pt-Au	245
6.4.2	Ternary Pt-Ru-Based Catalysts	246

6.5	Stability of Pt-Ru Catalysts in DMFC Environment	248
6.6	Conclusions	250
	References	251
7	Methanol-Tolerant Cathode Catalysts for DMFC	257
	<i>Claude Lamy, Christophe Coutanceau, and Nicolas Alonso-Vante</i>	
7.1	Introduction	257
7.2	Thermodynamics and Kinetics of the Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)	258
7.2.1	The ORR at a Platinum Electrode in a DMFC	258
7.2.2	Concepts for Novel Oxygen Reduction Electrocatalysts	261
7.3	Experimental Details	264
7.3.1	Determination of the Methanol Crossover of Proton Exchange Membranes	264
7.3.1.1	Experimental Procedures	264
7.3.1.2	Results	266
7.3.2	Electrochemical Measurements (Voltammetry, RDE, RRDE, etc.)	269
7.3.2.1	Experimental Set-Up	269
7.3.2.2	Analysis of the Data	269
7.4	Synthesis and Characterizations of Nanostructured Catalysts for the ORR	272
7.4.1	Platinum-Based Catalysts and Electrodes	272
7.4.1.1	Synthesis of Platinum-Based Catalysts by the Carbonyl Complex Route	273
7.4.1.2	Synthesis of Platinum-Based Catalysts by the Colloidal Route	273
7.4.1.3	Physicochemical Characterizations of the Catalysts	274
7.4.1.4	Electrochemical Characterization of the Catalysts	275
7.4.2	Syntheses and Characterization of Transition Metal Macrocycles	278
7.4.2.1	Syntheses of Transition Metal Phthalocyanines	279
7.4.2.2	Syntheses of Transition Metal Porphyrins	280
7.4.2.3	Synthesis of Transition Metal Tetraazaannulenes	281
7.4.2.4	Characterization of the Macrocycles	281
7.4.2.5	Preparation of Macrocycle Electrodes and Characterization of their Activity	282
7.4.3	Transition Metal Chalcogenide Catalysts and Electrodes	289
7.4.3.1	Synthesis of Metal Chalcogenides	289
7.4.3.2	Physicochemical Characterizations	292
7.4.4	Fuel Cell Tests	294
7.5	Catalyst Tolerance in the Presence of Methanol	296
7.5.1	Behavior of PtM/C Catalysts for the ORR in the Presence of Methanol	296
7.5.2	Behavior of Transition Metal Macrocycles for the ORR in the Presence of Methanol	300
7.5.3	Transition Metal Chalcogenides	302
7.5.4	Other Non Pt-Based Catalysts	304

7.6	Summary and Outlook	306
	References	308

8 Carbon Nanotube-Supported Catalysts for the Direct Methanol Fuel Cell

Chen-Hao Wang, Li-Chyong Chen, and Kuei-Hsien Chen

8.1	Introduction	315
8.2	Preparation of Carbon Nanotube-Supported Catalysts	316
8.2.1	Functionalization of Carbon Nanotubes	316
8.2.2	Polymer-Modified CNTs	317
8.2.3	Impregnation Method	318
8.2.4	Colloidal Method	322
8.2.5	Electrodeposition Method	323
8.3	Characteristics of the Carbon Nanotube Electrode	325
8.3.1	Electrochemical Behavior of the CNT Electrode	325
8.3.2	Durability of the CNT Electrode	329
8.4	Electrochemical Behavior of Carbon Nanotube-Supported Catalysts	331
8.4.1	Methanol Oxidation Reaction	331
8.4.2	Oxygen Reduction Reaction	337
8.4.3	Electrochemical Impedance Analysis	340
8.5	Direct Growth of Carbon Nanotubes as Catalyst Supports	341
8.5.1	Direct Growth of CNTs on Carbon Cloth (CNT-CC)	342
8.5.2	Appearance of CNT-CC-Supported Catalysts	344
8.5.3	Electrochemical Behavior of CNT-CC-Supported Catalysts	344
8.6	Conclusion	348
	References	348

9 Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalysts for Direct Methanol Fuel Cells

Chanho Pak, Ji Man Kim, and Hyuk Chang

9.1	Introduction	355
9.2	Mesoporous Carbon	356
9.2.1	General Aspects of Mesoporous Carbon	356
9.2.2	Synthesis of Mesoporous Carbon	357
9.2.2.1	Synthesis of OMC Materials via Nano-Casting Method	357
9.2.2.2	Synthesis of OMC Materials via Direct Self-Assembly Approach	359
9.2.3	Characteristics of Mesoporous Carbon	360
9.3	Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalyst	363
9.3.1	Concepts of Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalyst	363
9.3.2	Preparation Methods for Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalyst	364
9.3.3	Characterization of Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalyst	366
9.4	Fuel Cell Performance of Mesoporous Carbon-Supported Catalyst	367

9.5	Summary and Prospect	373
	References	375
10	Proton Exchange Membranes for Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	379
	<i>Dae Sik Kim, Michael D. Guiver, and Yu Seung Kim</i>	
10.1	Introduction	379
10.2	Synthesis of Polymer Electrolyte Membranes for DMFC	380
10.2.1	Synthesis and Properties of PEMs Containing Aliphatic Polymers	380
10.2.2	Synthesis of Sulfonated Poly(aryl ether) Copolymers	385
10.2.2.1	Post-Sulfonation of Polymers	385
10.2.2.2	Direct Copolymerization of Sulfonated Monomers	388
10.2.2.3	Other Synthetic Strategies: Introducing Sulfonic Acid Groups	397
10.2.2.4	Properties of Sulfonated Poly(arylene ether) Copolymers	402
10.2.3	Single Cell Performances	403
10.3	Conclusions	412
	References	412
11	Fabrication and Optimization of DMFC Catalyst Layers and Membrane Electrode Assemblies	417
	<i>Liang Ma, Yunjie Huang, Ligang Feng, Wei Xing, and Jiujuan Zhang</i>	
11.1	Introduction	417
11.2	Components for DMFC Catalyst Layer Optimization	419
11.2.1	Catalysts for the Methanol Oxidation Reaction (MOR)	419
11.2.2	Catalysts for the Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR)	423
11.2.3	Ionomer in the Catalyst Layer	424
11.2.4	Components Related to Mass Transport	430
11.3	Catalyzed DMFC Electrode Structure and Fabrication Process	433
11.3.1	Fabrication Process of DMFC Electrode	433
11.3.2	Novel Structures with Extended Reaction Zone	436
11.4	Other Electrode Fabrication Methods for DMFCs	438
11.4.1	Electrodeposition	438
11.4.2	Sputtering	438
11.4.3	Chemical Reduction Method	439
11.4.4	Dry Production Techniques	439
11.4.5	Glue Method	440
11.4.6	Sedimentation Method	440
11.4.7	Breathing Process	441
11.5	Summary	441
	References	441
12	Local Current Distribution in Direct Methanol Fuel Cells	449
	<i>Andrei A. Kulikovskiy and Klaus Wippermann</i>	
12.1	Introduction	449
12.2	Model	451
12.2.1	General Description	451

12.2.2	Basic Assumptions	452
12.2.3	Through-Plane Relations	453
12.2.4	Equations Along the Channel	454
12.2.5	Large Methanol Stoichiometry, Small Current	456
12.3	The Bifunctional Regime of DMFC Operation	459
12.3.1	Experimental	459
12.3.2	Experimental Results	461
12.3.3	Polarization Curves at Constant Oxygen Stoichiometry	462
12.3.4	Critical Air Flow Rate	464
12.4	Direct Methanol–Hydrogen Fuel Cells (DMHFCs)	466
12.4.1	Experiment	466
12.4.2	DMHFC: The Mechanism of Functioning	470
12.4.2.1	Potentials Across the Cell	470
12.4.2.2	Potentials Along the Channel	471
12.4.2.3	Potentials in the Galvanic Domain	473
12.4.2.4	The Transition Region: Hydrogen Cell	474
12.5	Bifunctional Activation of DMFC	476
12.5.1	Single Channel Cell	476
12.5.2	Activation of Square-Shaped Cells	480
12.6	Conclusions	482
12.7	List of symbols	483
12.7.1	Superscripts	484
12.7.2	Subscripts	484
12.7.3	Greek Symbols	485
	References	485
13	Electrocatalysis in the Direct Methanol Alkaline Fuel Cell	487
	<i>Keith Scott and Eileen Yu</i>	
13.1	Introduction	487
13.2	History of Alkaline Methanol Fuel Cells	488
13.3	Electrocatalysis of Methanol Oxidation in Alkaline Media	490
13.3.1	Mechanism of Methanol Oxidation in Alkaline Media	491
13.3.2	Precious Metal Catalysts	491
13.3.3	Non-Precious Metal Catalysts	494
13.3.4	Effect of pH and Electrolyte	496
13.4	Oxygen Reduction and Methanol Tolerant Electrocatalysts	498
13.4.1	Oxygen Reduction Mechanism in Alkaline Media	498
13.4.1.1	Cyclic Voltammetry of Pt/C and Pt/Ru/C Catalysts in 1 M NaOH	500
13.4.2	Non-platinum Electrocatalysts	502
13.4.3	Mixed Reduction Potential of Methanol with Oxygen	503
13.5	Direct Methanol Fuel Cells in Alkaline Media	506
13.5.1	Aqueous Electrolyte Media	506
13.5.2	Cationic Exchange Membranes	508
13.5.3	Invariant Electrolyte Media	511
13.6	Direct Alkaline Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells	511

13.6.1	Anion Exchange Membrane for Methanol Fuel Cells	511
13.6.2	Direct Methanol Alkaline Membrane Fuel Cell Performance	513
13.6.3	Membraneless Fuel Cell	517
13.7	Alkaline Fuel Cells with other Direct Liquid Fuels	518
13.8	Conclusions	520
	References	521
14	Electrocatalysis in Other Direct Liquid Fuel Cells	527
	<i>Sharon L. Blair and Wai Lung (Simon) Law</i>	
14.1	Introduction	527
14.1.1	Fuel Characteristics and Theoretical Comparison of Various Fuels	527
14.2	Electrocatalysis of Direct Formic Acid Fuel Cells	528
14.2.2	Anode Catalysts for DFAFCs	530
14.2.2.1	Pt-based Anode Catalysts	531
14.2.2.2	Alternative Pt Modifiers	536
14.2.2.3	Pd-Based Anode Catalysts	536
14.2.3	Cathode Catalysts for DFAFCs	541
14.2.4	Direct Formic Acid Fuel Cell Performance	541
14.2.5	Summary of Electrocatalysis in DFAFCs	545
14.3	Electrocatalysis of Direct Ethanol Fuel Cells	545
14.3.1	Anode Catalysts for DEFCs	546
14.3.1.1	Binary Catalysts	547
14.3.1.2	Ternary Catalysts	549
14.3.1.3	Anode Catalysts for Alkaline Electrolytes	550
14.3.2	Cathode Catalysts for DEFCs	551
14.3.3	Direct Ethanol Fuel Cell Performance	552
14.3.4	Summary of Electrocatalysis in DEFCs	553
14.4	Electrocatalysis of Direct Hydrazine Fuel Cells	554
14.4.1	Anode Catalysts for DHFCs	555
14.4.1.1	Noble Metal-based Anode Catalysts	556
14.4.1.2	Non-Noble Metal-based Anode Catalysts	557
14.4.2	Cathode Catalysts for DHFCs	558
14.4.3	Direct Hydrazine Fuel Cell Performance	558
14.4.4	Summary of Electrocatalysis in DHFCs	560
14.5	Other Direct Liquid Fueled Fuel Cells	561
14.5.1	2-Propanol	561
14.5.2	Ethylene Glycol	561
14.5.3	Other Liquid Organic Fuels for Fuel Cells	562
14.6	Summary	562
	References	563
	Index	567