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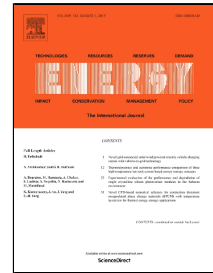
Modeling and analysis of short-period transient response of a single, planar, anode supported, solid oxide fuel cell during load variations

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1 Modeling and analysis of short-period transient response of a single,
2 planar, anode supported, solid oxide fuel cell during load variations

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7 **Abstract:** The main motivation for this study was to analyze transient responses of a solid
8 oxide fuel cell (SOFC) during load variations, which can possibly cause fuel starvation within
9 porous anode active layer and, consequently, accelerate the degradation rate of the SOFC.
10 Simulation approach was taken into consideration. For this purpose, three-dimensional (3-D)
11 dynamic model of a single, planar, anode supported SOFC was built. The model is also
12 briefly presented in this paper. The paper focuses on detailed transient analysis of current
13 density (J), power density (P), fuel utilization (FU) and electrical conversion efficiency (η)
14 after a step change of voltage (load). The simulation results also give us valuable data about
15 local mass fractions of fuel species that cannot be measured in realistic devices. It is shown
16 that fuel starvation occurs when the J (load) is increased by approximately 100% and FU is
17 above 0.85 at final value of J (when steady state is assumed). Moreover, the time-dependent
18 profile of FU give us guideline for setting appropriate inlet flow rate of fuel to prevent fuel
19 starvation. The results show that a SOFC with very thin ($d_s = 0.1$ mm) porous anode support
20 layer is prone to fuel starvation during large load variation. Using a thicker porous anode
21 support layer ($d_s = 0.5$ mm) is proposed to avoid fuel starvation and, consequently, mitigate
22 the degradation of a realistic SOFC. The P and η of modeled SOFC are also analyzed during
23 large load variations. The η increases with increasing the d_s from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm. The
24 results indicate the improvement of η by appropriate design and control of a realistic SOFC.

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