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Thermal and Electrochemical Performance Assessment of a High Temperature PEM Electrolyzer

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Thermal and Electrochemical Performance Assessment of a High Temperature PEM
2	Electrolyzer
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10	
11	Abstract
12	In this paper, detailed effects of operating conditions and design parameters including temperature,
13	pressure, gas diffusion layer (GDL) thickness, membrane thickness and GDL porosity on the
14	performance of a high temperature proton exchange membrane electrolyzer cell (PEMEC) are
15	studied. A CFD analysis is carried out using a finite volume method based on a fully three-
16	dimensional model. The model is verified against experimental data and the realistic effects of
17	varying operating conditions are considered. The results indicate that decrease of operating
18	temperature from 403 K to 373 K results in reduction of hydrogen concentration at the membrane-
19	catalyst interface from $2.2 \times 10^{-4}$ to $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$ mol/m <sup>3</sup> . The temperature and hydrogen concentration
20	under rib area of channel are relatively higher due to the accumulation of water under this area that
21	leads to higher electrochemical rate. An increase of GDL thickness from 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm at a
22	voltage of 1.65 V leads to reduction of current density from 0.426 A/cm² to 0.409 A/cm². The
23	porosity of the GDL has no significant effect on the polarization curve. The current density of the
24	PEMEC for a membrane thickness of 50 $\mu m$ at voltage of 1.6 V is 48% higher than a membrane
25	thickness of 200 $\mu m$ .
26	
27	<b>Keywords:</b> Proton exchange membrane electrolyzer; Three-dimensional model; CFD simulation;
28	High temperature electrolysis; Membrane; Gas diffusion layer
29	1. Introduction
30	There is a rising global demand for renewable and clean energy resources as an alternative to fossil
31	fuels. Renewable energy resources such as solar and wind energy are expected to increasingly

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