

Multistage Electrodeposition of Supported Platinum-based Nanostructured Systems for Electrocatalytic Applications

T. S. Mkwizu, M.R. Modibedi and Mkhulu K. Mathe*

*kmathe@csir.co.za



our future through science

Overview

- Acknowledgements
- Rationale
- Chemical routes to Nanoparticulate Multimetallic Electrocatalysts
- Experimental Approach
- Results
- Conclusions

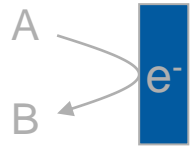
Acknowledgements

- **Tumaini Mkwizu, MSM, CSIR and University of Pretoria, South Africa**
- **Dr. Mmalewane Modibedi, MSM, CSIR, South Africa**
- **Prof. Ignacy Cukrowski, University of Pretoria, South Africa**
- **Prof. John Stickney, University of Georgia, USA**
- **National Centre for Nano-Structured Materials, MSM, CSIR, South Africa**



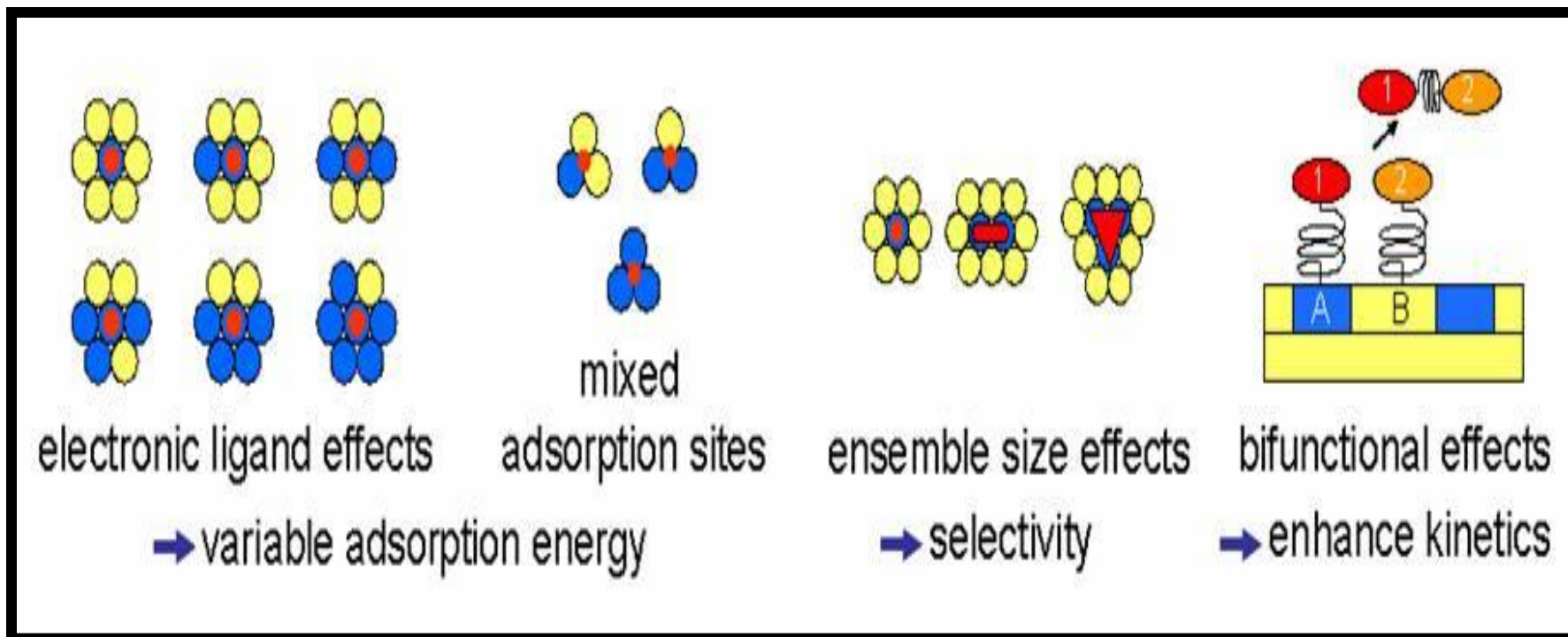
Introduction

- **Electrocatalysis** concerns rates of interfacial chemical reactions - between electrodes (solid surfaces) and molecules in solution or gas phase.
- Properties of electrodes (e.g. Catalytic/Electrocatalytic Activity) depend on variation of the **particle sizes, shapes,** and **dispersion** of constituent elements of the given electrode surface.
- Applications areas: Fuel cells, electrochemical sensors, electrolyzers



Introduction

Atomic-level processes during electrocatalysis

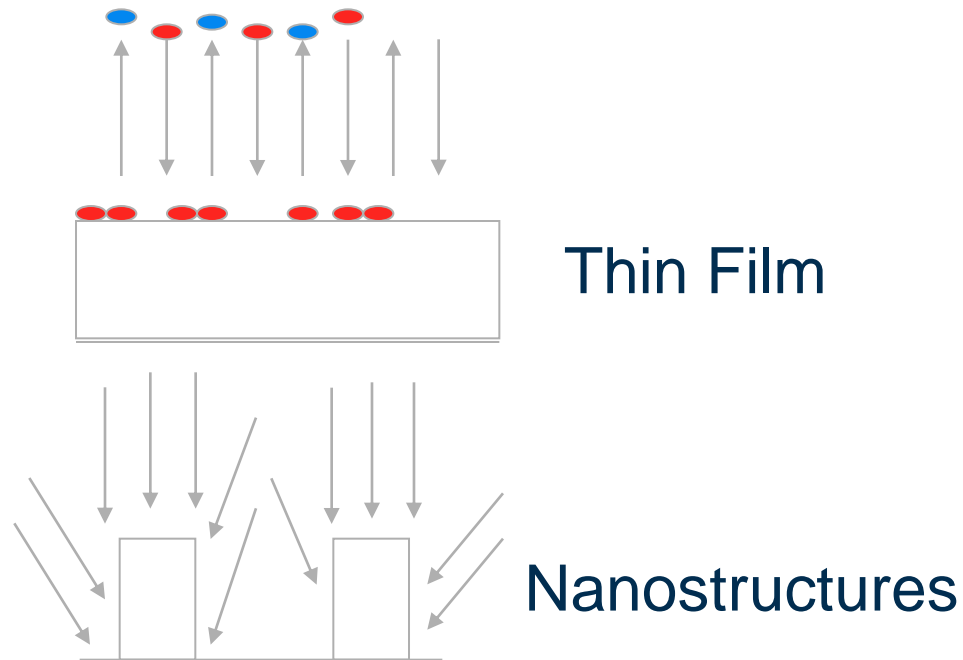


www.uni-ulm.de/.../Model_Electrocatalysis.htm

Catalytic Active Sites (Active reaction area)

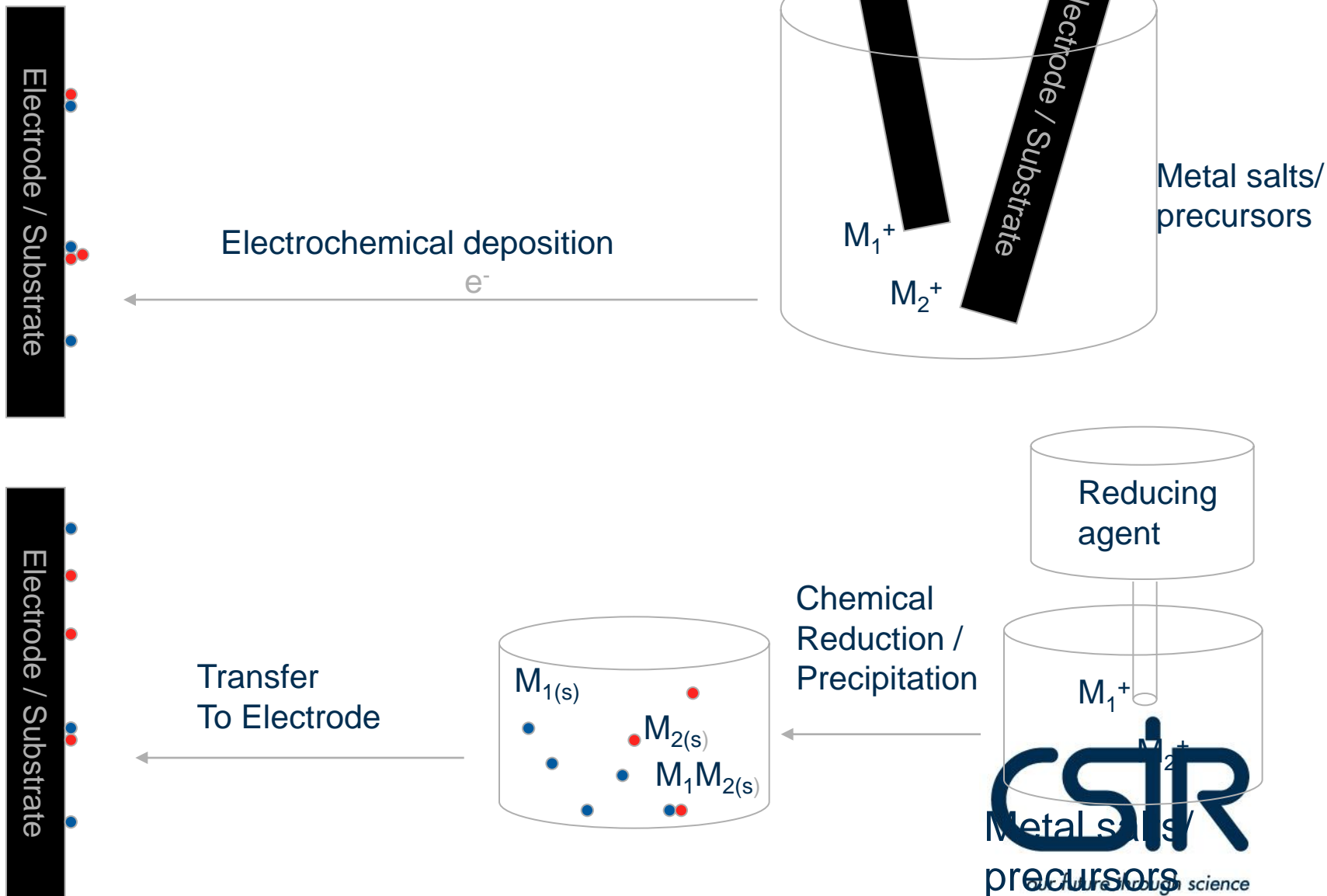
Surface-to-Volume ratio

Transport of reactants and products

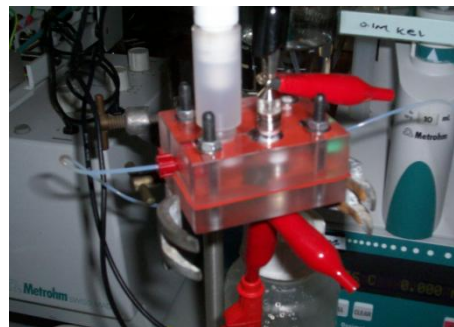
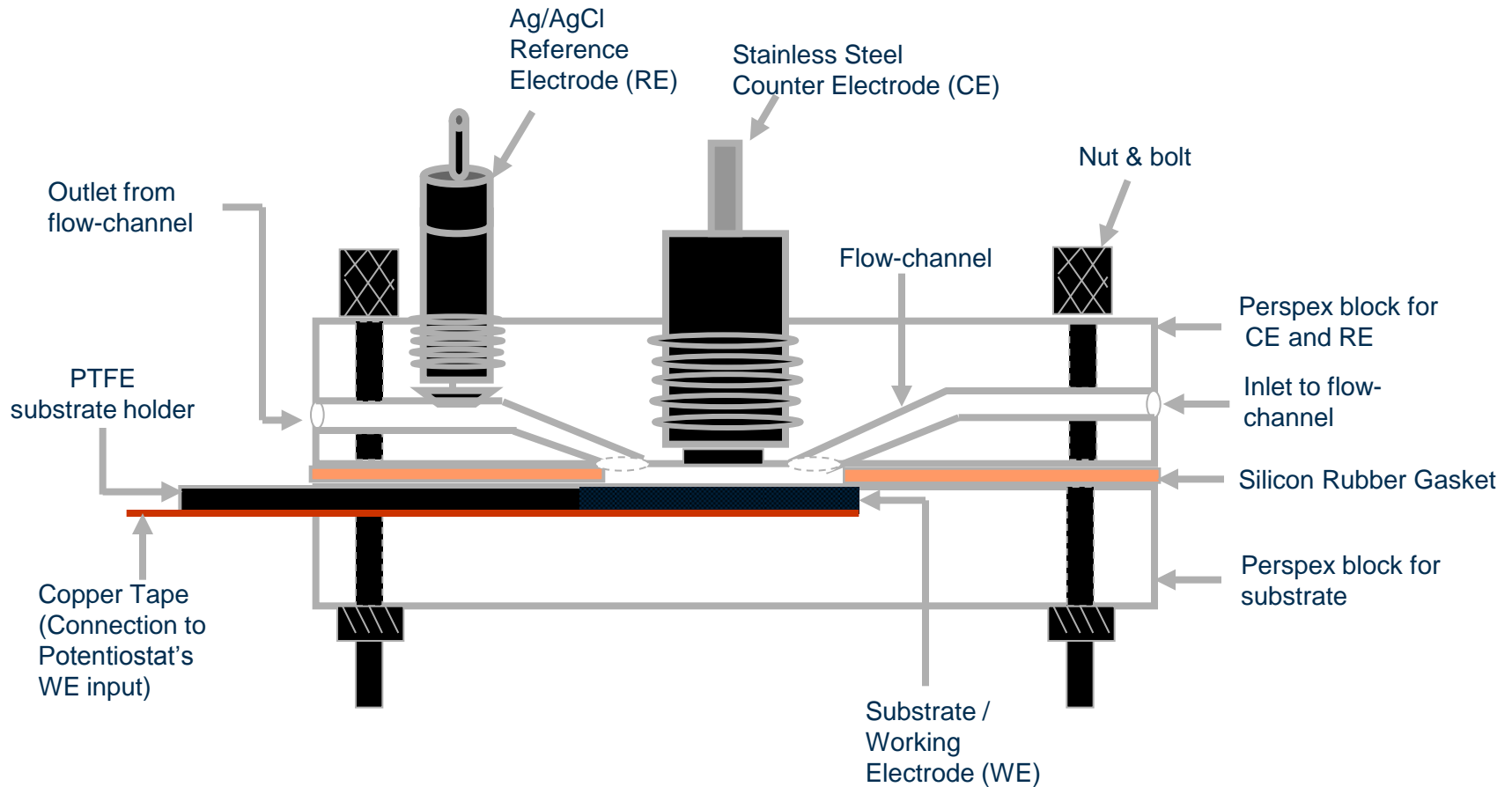


Electrocatalyst particles have to maintain electronic contact with support

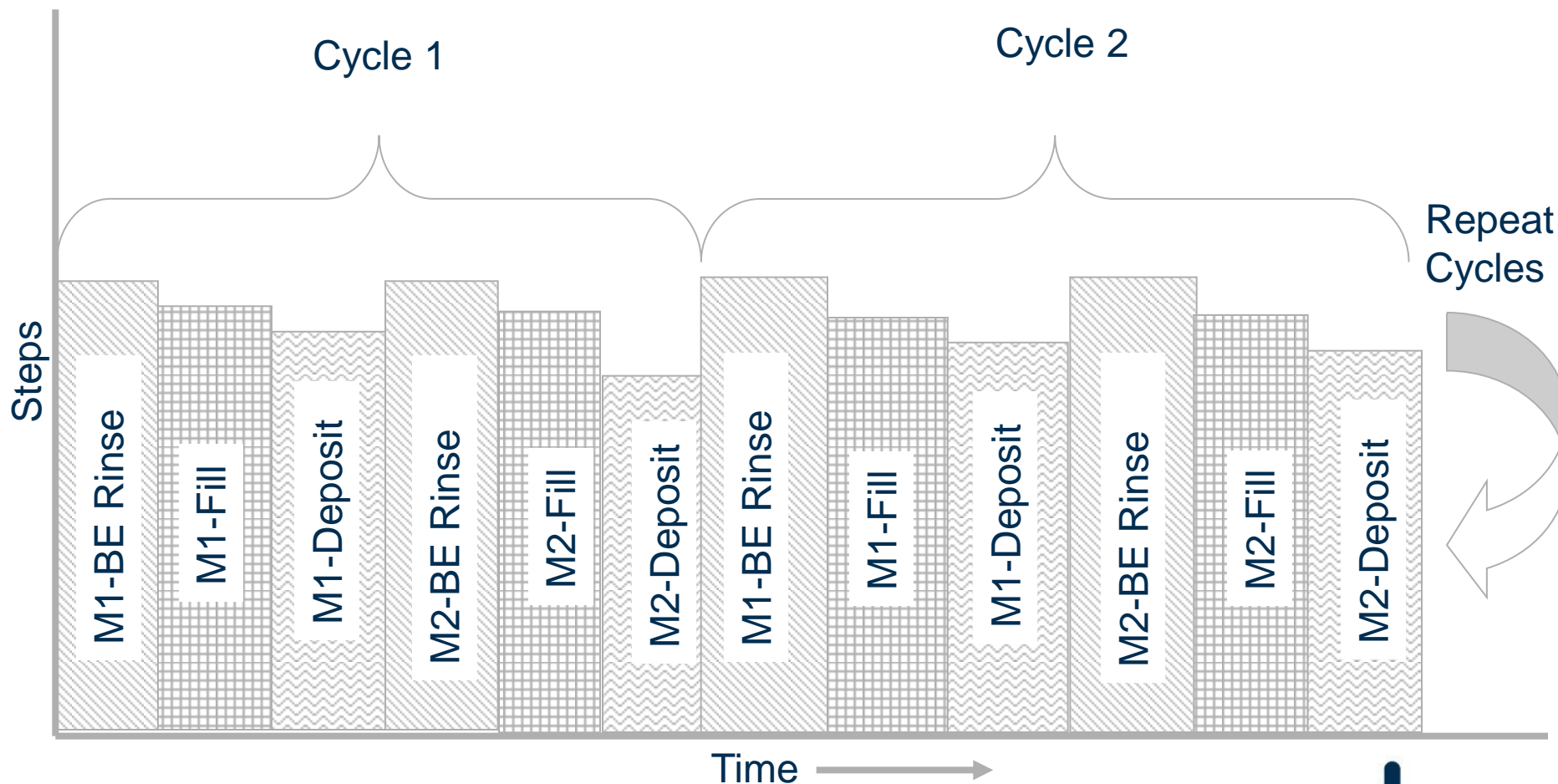
Chemical routes to Nanoparticulate Multimetallic Electrocatalysts



Flow-cell setup



Sequential deposition

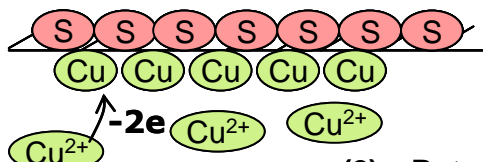


Noble-Metals studied = Pt, Ru, Au, Pd
Substrates = Carbon materials, Gold films

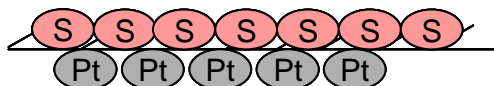
Sequential deposition coupled to Surface-limited Redox-replacement reactions (SLRR): Synthesis of multilayered bimetallic RuPt electrocatalyst



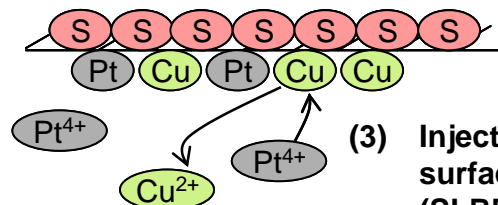
(1) Clean substrate with blank electrolyte (BE);
Inject Cu^{2+} solution at $E \gg E_{\text{Cu-Cu}^{2+}}$



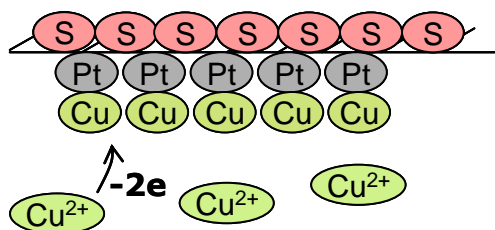
(2) Potentiostatic electrodeposition at $-E_{\text{dep}} > E_{\text{Cu-Cu}^{2+}}$ (Underpotential Deposition (UPD)) or $-E_{\text{dep}} < E_{\text{Cu-Cu}^{2+}}$ (small Overpotential Deposition (OPD)) - to produce sacrificial Cu adlayer on active sites of the substrate; Rinse with BE



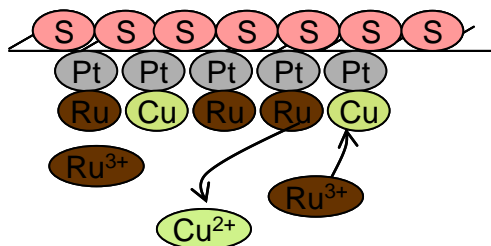
(4) Pt nanodeposit on substrate;
Rinse with BE and inject Cu^{2+} solution at $E \gg E_{\text{Cu-Cu}^{2+}}$



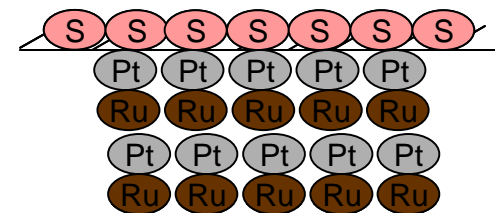
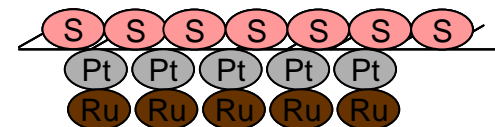
(3) Inject H_2PtCl_6 solution and allow surface-limited redox-replacement (SLRR) of Cu by Pt at open circuit (OC)



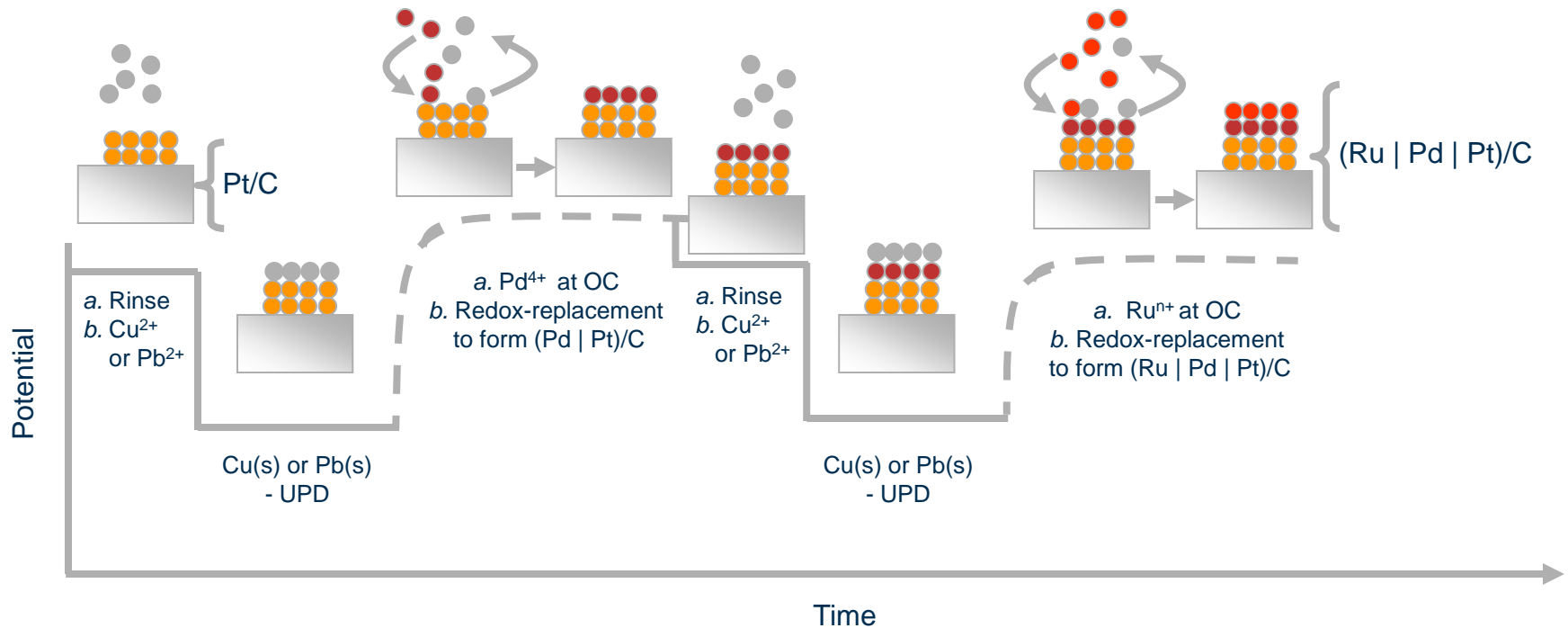
(5) Potentiostatic electrodeposition at $-E_{\text{dep}}$ to produce sacrificial Cu adlayer on active sites on Pt adlayers; Rinse with BE



(6) Inject RuCl_3 solution and allow surface-limited redox-replacement (SLRR) of Cu by Ru at OC

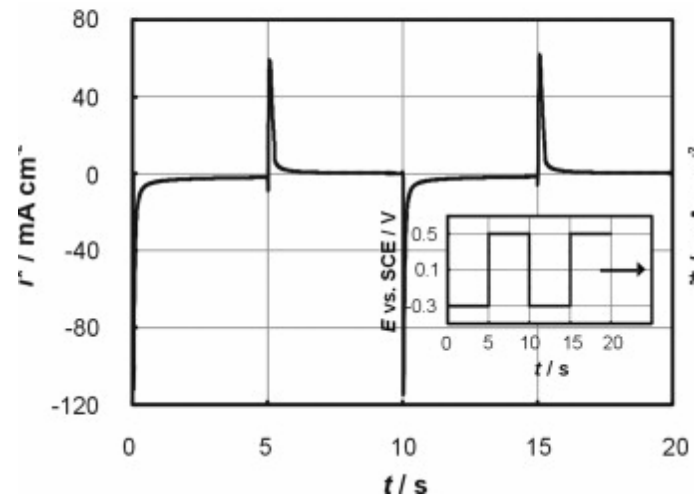
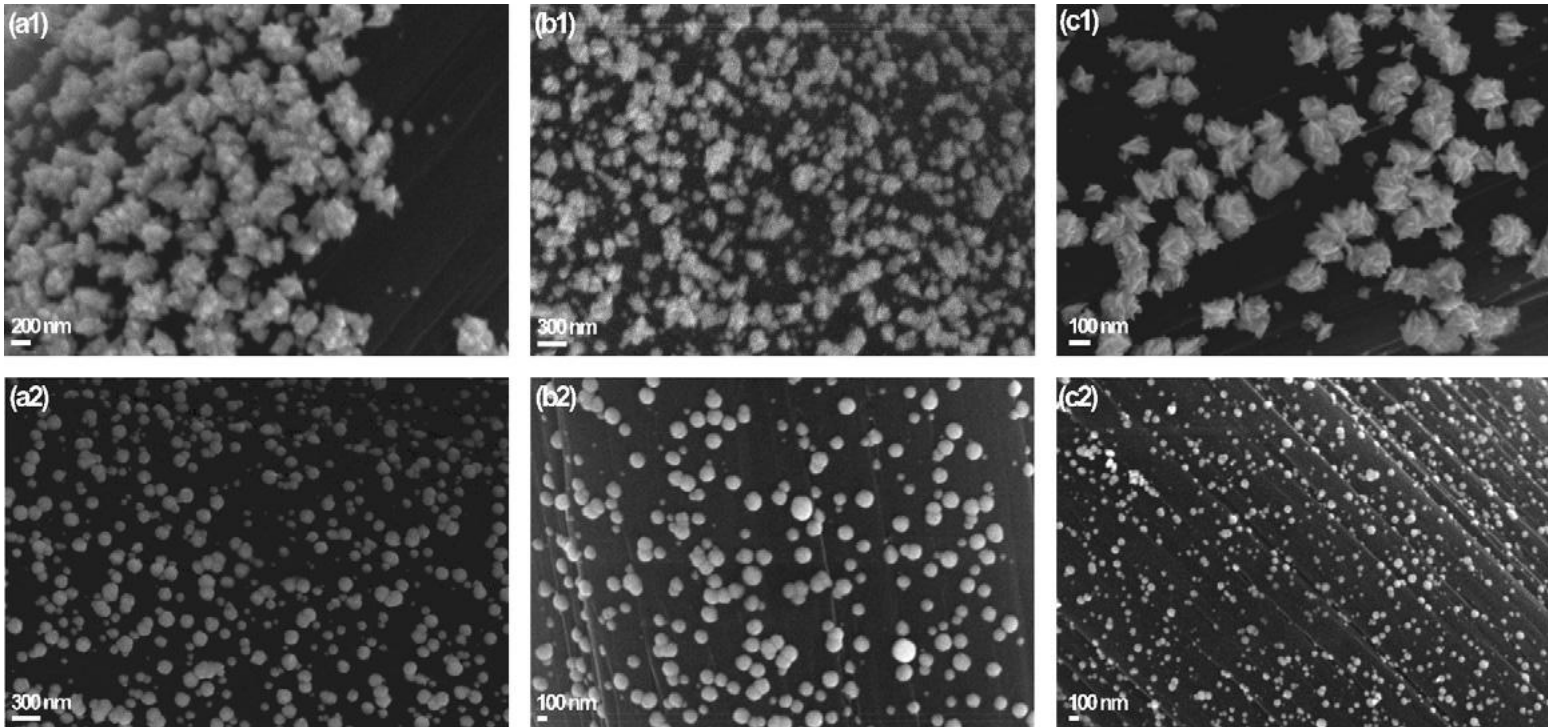


Multi-stage electrodeposition

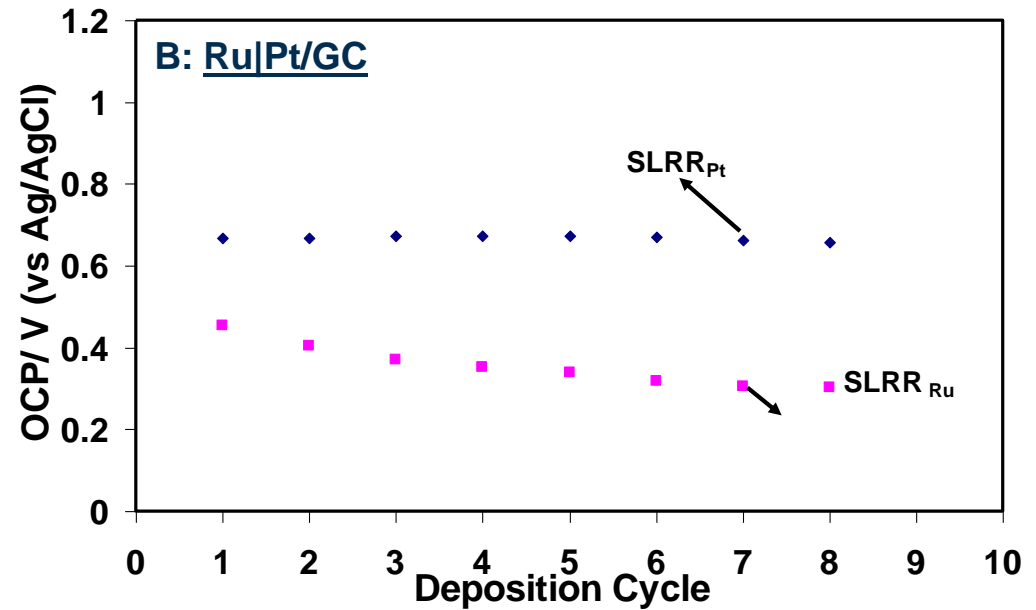
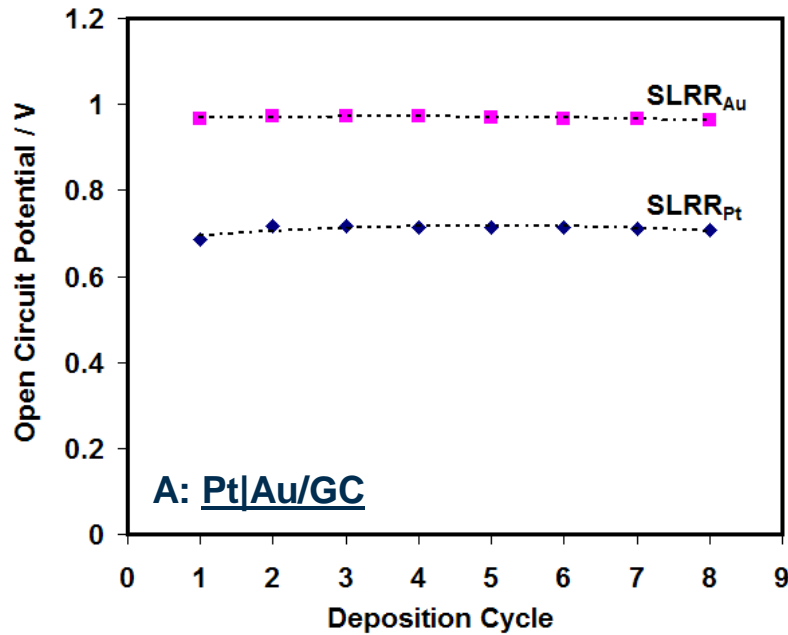


Noble-Metals studied = Pt, Ru, Au, Pd
Substrates = Carbon materials, Gold films

Example of Pulsed-Electrodeposition

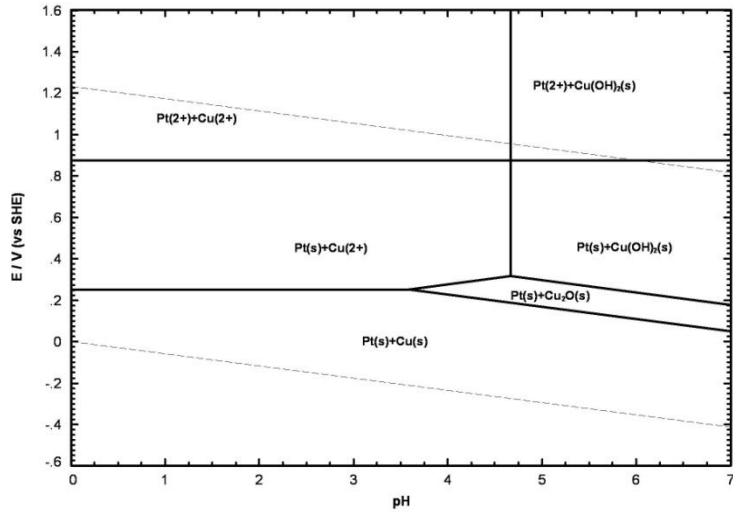


Maximum open circuit potential trends

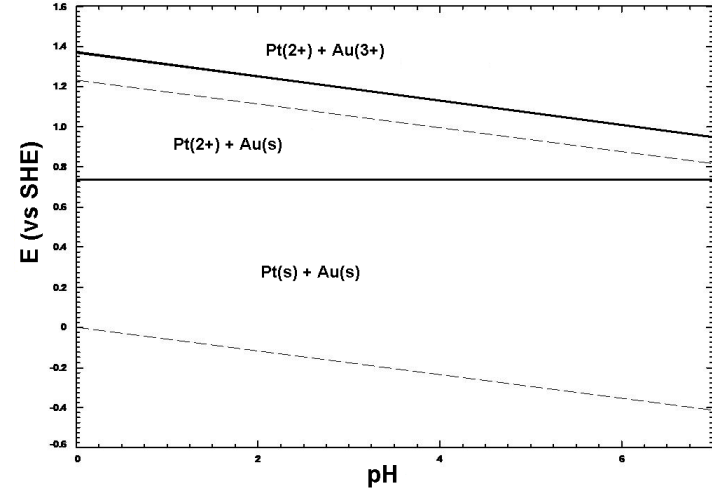


OCP (w.r.t Ag/AgCl) during SLRR steps with during deposition of A and B

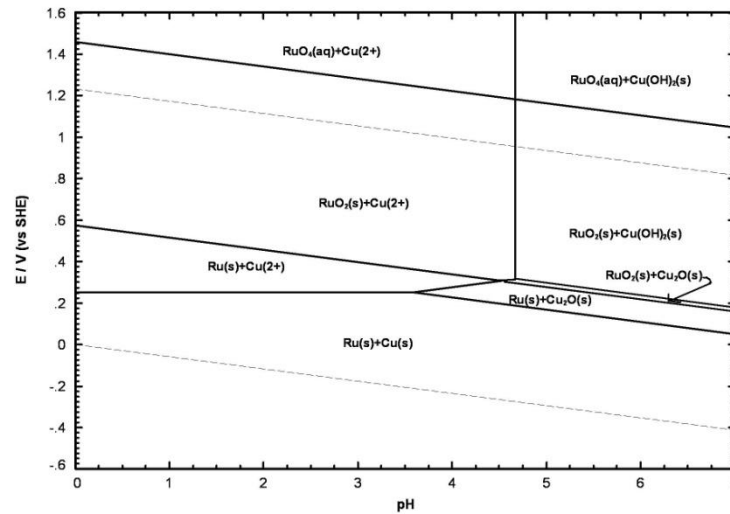
Thermochemical models



Pt-Cu-O-H at 298.15 K, 1 atm, fixed aqueous forms at 1 mol/Kg.

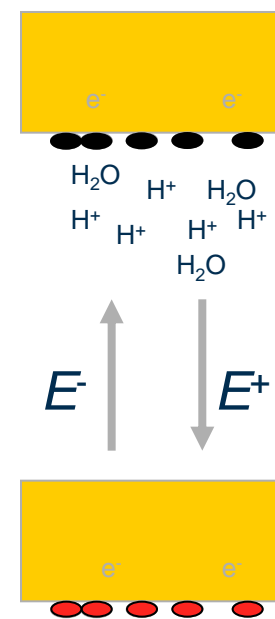
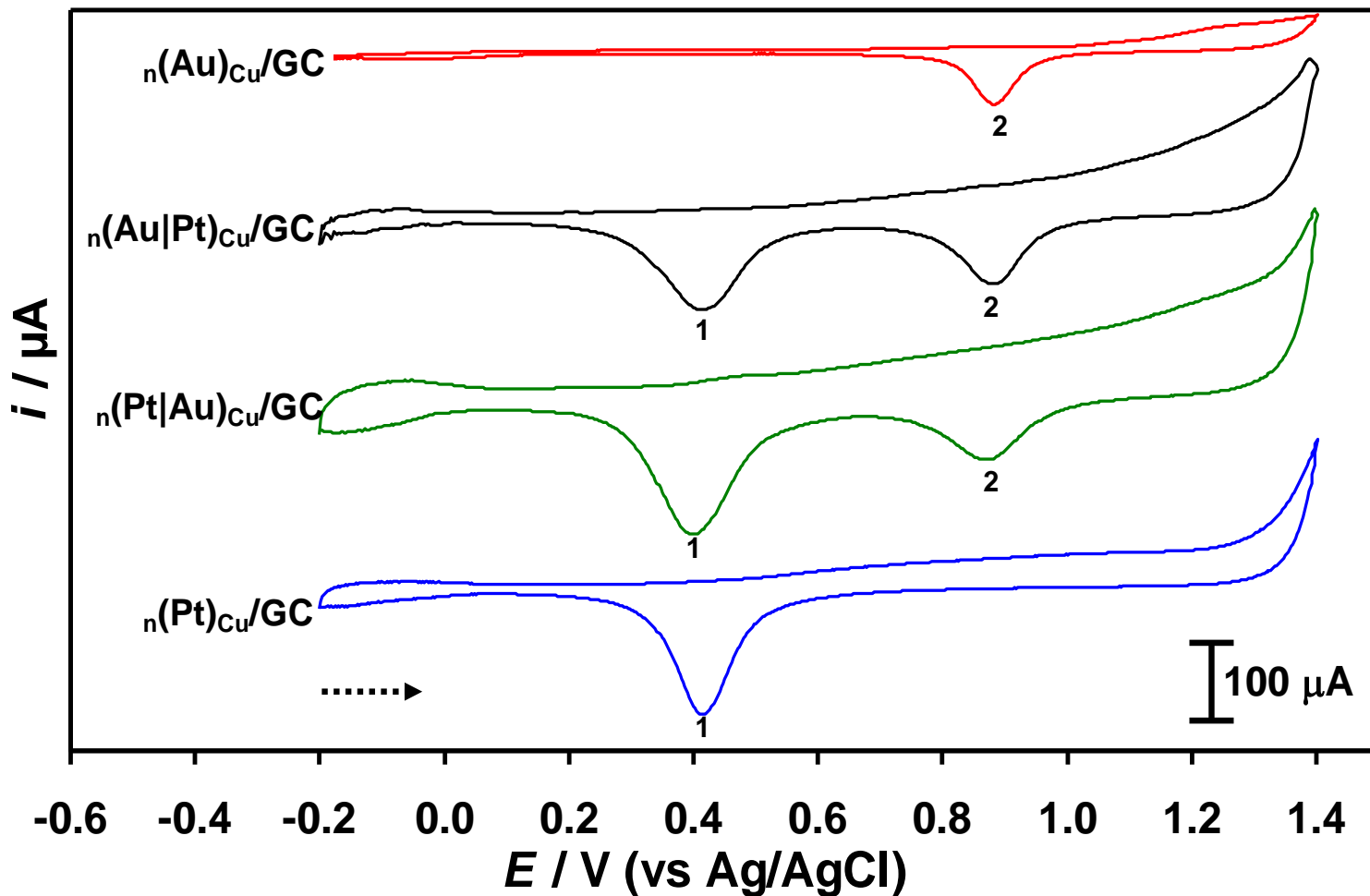


Pt-Au-O-H at 298.15 K, 1 atm, fixed aqueous forms at 1 mol / Kg.



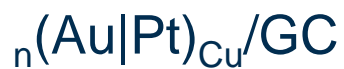
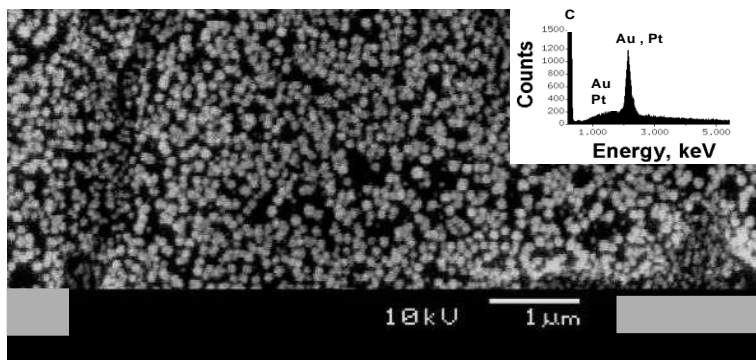
Ru-Cu-O-H at 298.15 K, 1 atm, fixed aqueous forms at 1 mol/Kg.

Surface Electrochemistry

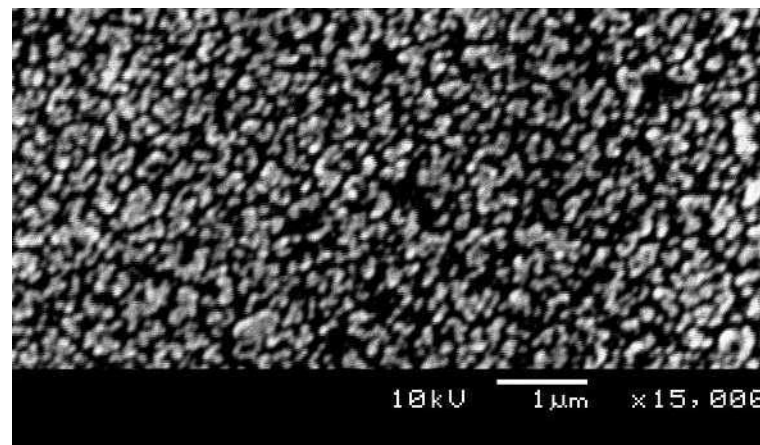


Electrolyte : 0.1 M HClO_4 (N_2 -saturated)

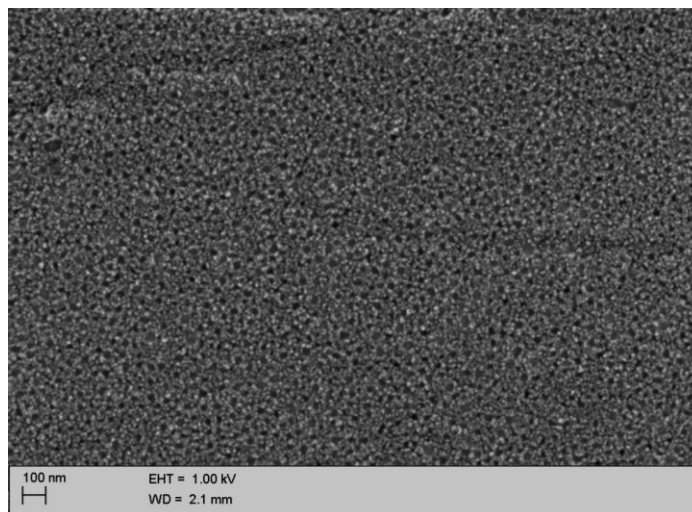
Surface and Bulk Characterisation – SEM, EDS



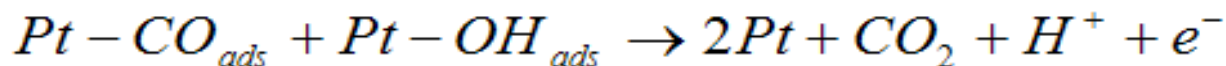
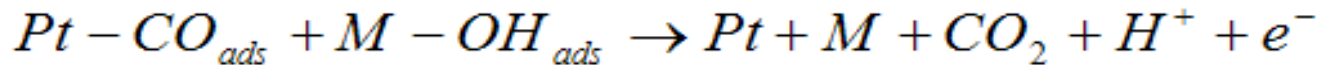
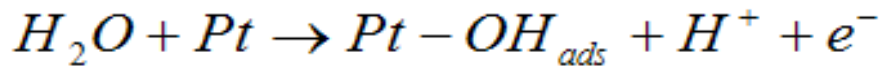
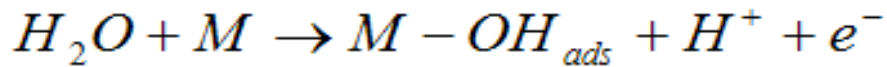
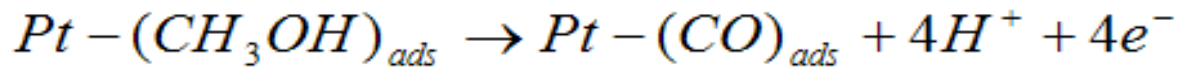
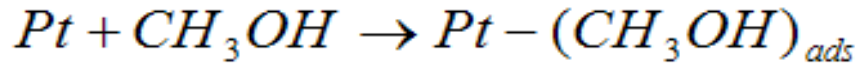
Sequential SLRR deposition



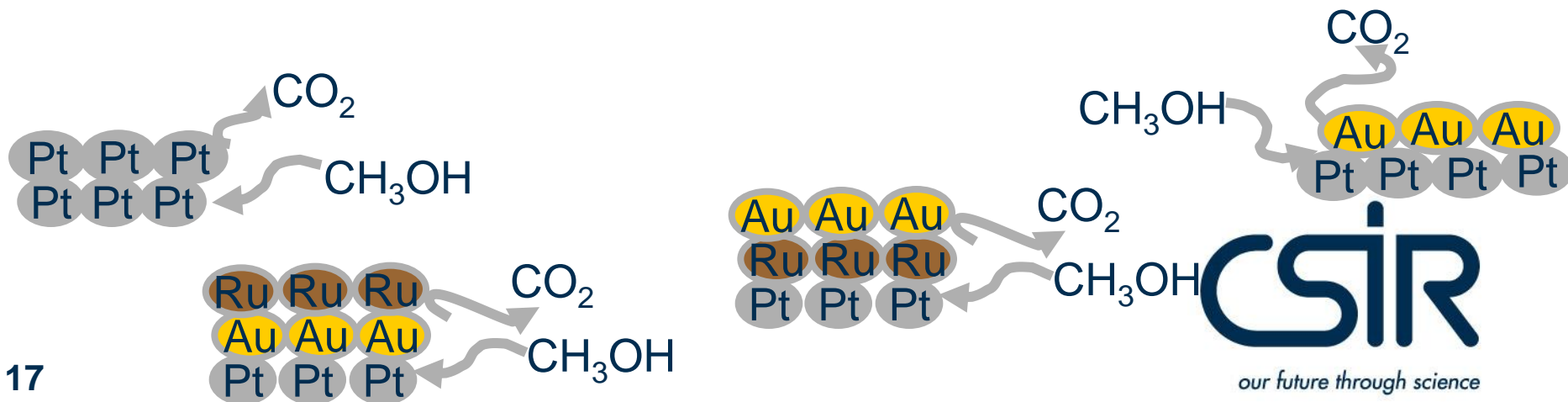
Electrochemical codeposition



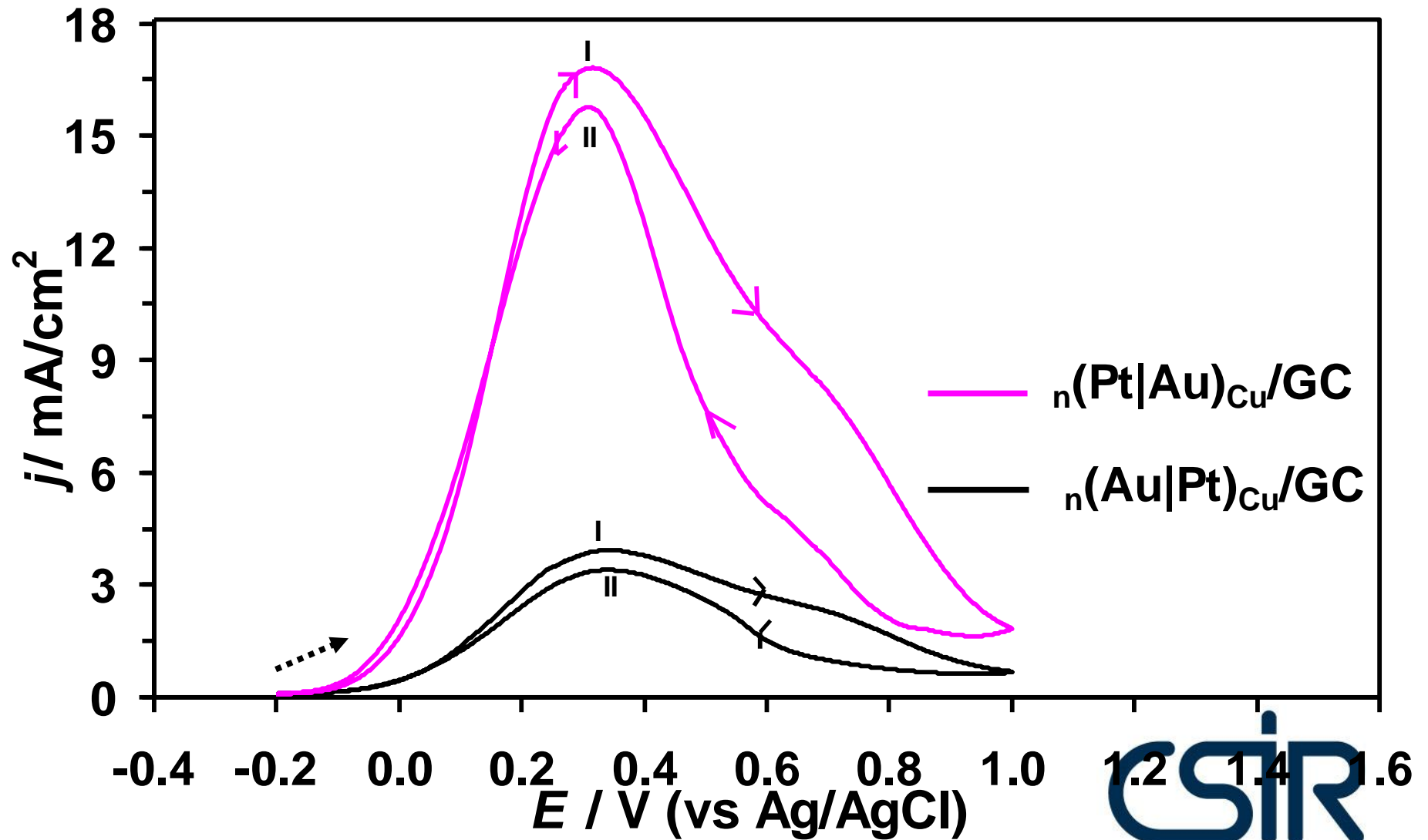
Electrocatalysis: Methanol Oxidation



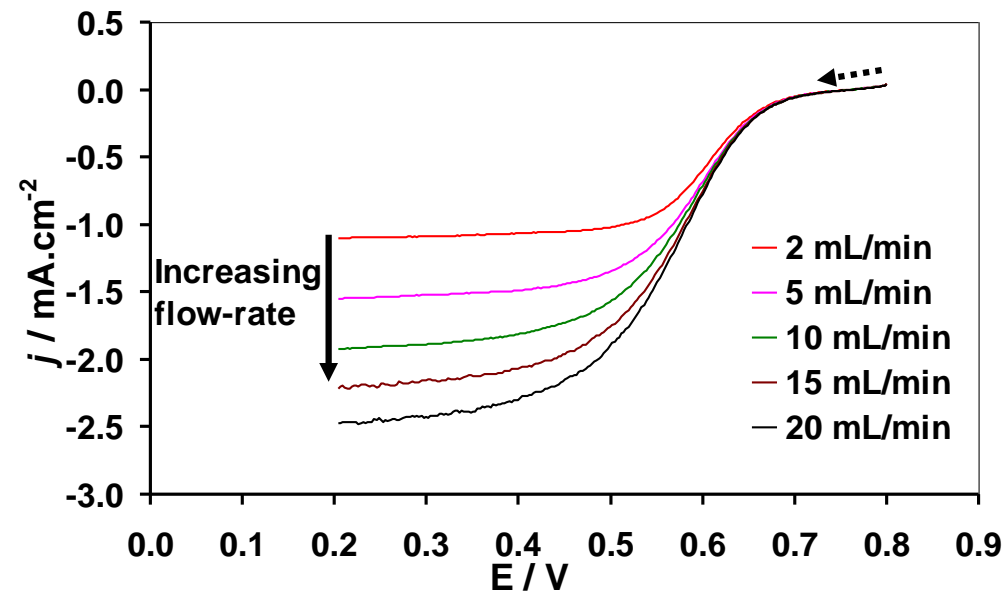
(M = Ru or Au)



Formic Acid Oxidation



Oxygen reduction



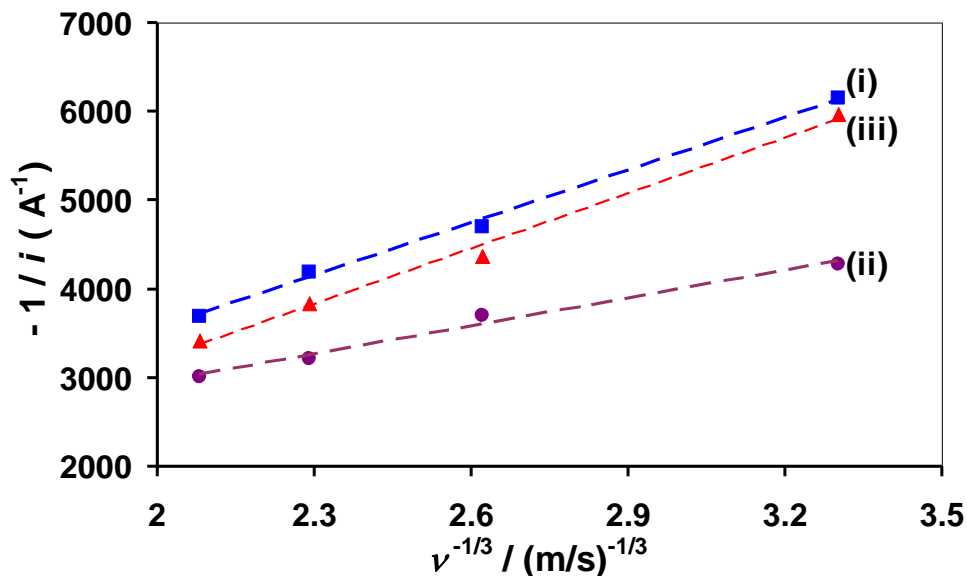
O₂-saturated 0.1 M HClO₄



Monometallic Pt
Bimetallic Au|Pt

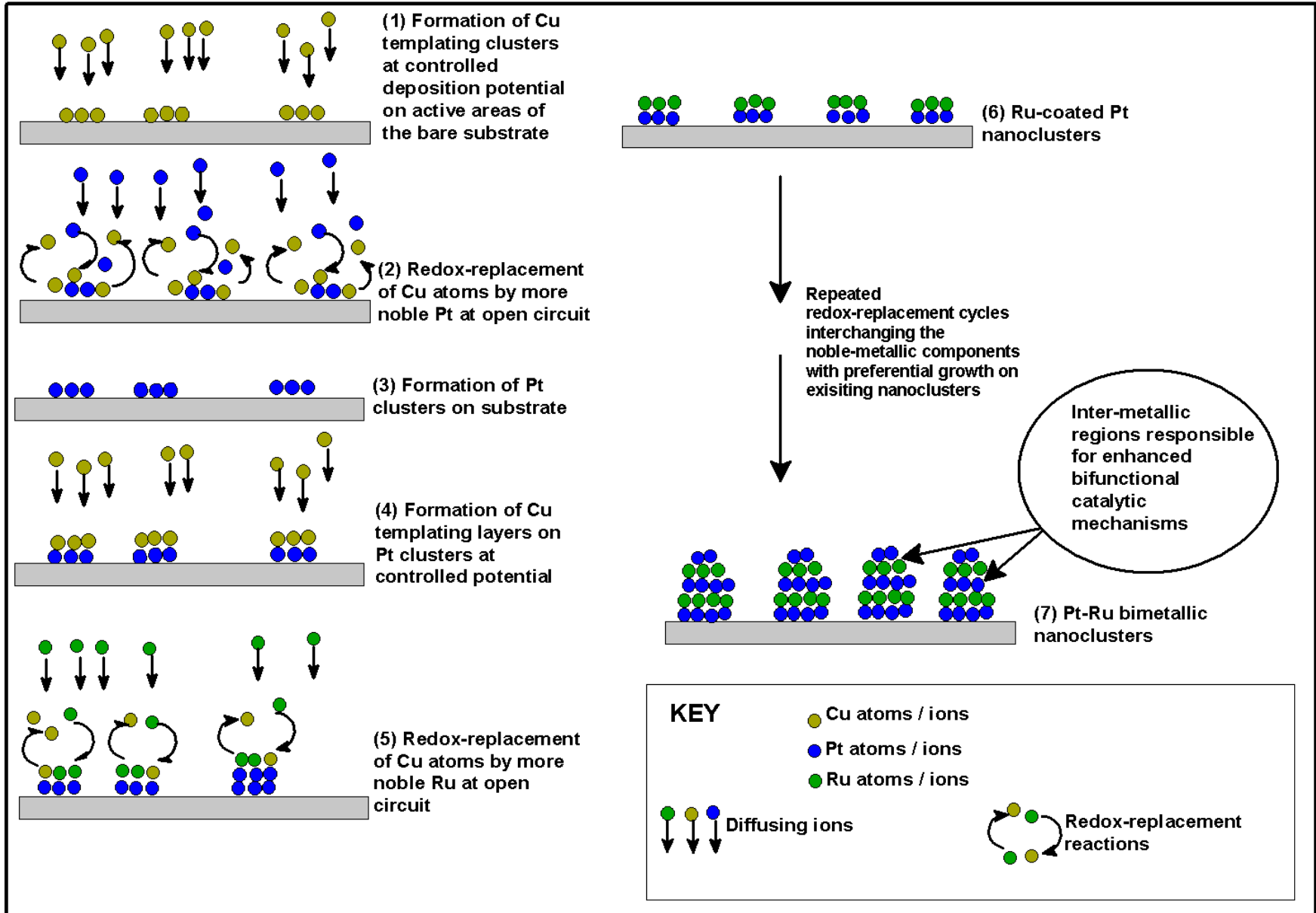


Bimetallic Ru|Pt



- i. $n(\text{Ru|Pt})_{\text{Cu}}/\text{GC}$
 - ii. $n(\text{Pt})_{\text{Cu}}/\text{GC}$
 - iii. $n(\text{Ru-Pt})_{\text{Cu}}/\text{GC}$
- $n = 8$

Conclusions



Conclusions

- The use of stepwise fabrication SLRR reactions at open-circuit results in:
 - more active electrocatalysts,
 - smaller particle sizes,
 - metallic forms generally form, and promotion of bifunctional mechanisms.
- SLRR reactions implemented with codeposition of noble-metal particles generally lead to: Multi-stage electrodeposition
- Multi-stage electrodeposition reactions can be useful in tuning electrocatalytic properties



CBD, Pretoria, South Africa



Union Building, Pretoria, South Africa



CSIR

our future through science

Thank You

CSIR

our future through science