



# Electronic and ionic conductivity in metal oxides

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## **Electrical conductivity**



Superconductivity: by cooling resistivity drops to zero

Conductivity of metals decreases with temperature. Increased interaction of electrons with lattice!

Conductivity of insulators and semiconductors increases with temperature. Concentration of carriers increases!

# Electrical resistivity of ceramic (oxide) materials – over 20 orders of magnitude



## Electronic charge distribution in the basic solid types (chemical bond point of view)



After N.W. Ashcroft, N.D. Mermin, "Solid State Physics", Philadephia, 1976

## Metals, semiconductors, insulators

Semiconductors: electrons are excited over the band gap and occupy energy levels in conductivity band. Holes are created in valence band. The process is thermally activatedconductivity increase with temperature.



Conductivity can be increased by a doping. Through the doping energy levels within band gap will be created.

A material with an energy gap >2.5 eV is an insulator.

## Electron in a (1D) solid



#### For more energetic electrons when $\lambda \rightarrow a$ ????





## No carriers - no conductivity

Na <sub>2</sub> O	Na⁺ 2p <sup>6</sup> 3s <sup>0</sup>	O <sup>2-</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	Noble gas configuration: insulator
MgO	Mg <sup>2+</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup> 3s <sup>0</sup>	O <sup>2-</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	insulator
TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ti <sup>4+</sup> 3d <sup>0</sup> 4s <sup>0</sup>	O <sup>2-</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	insulator
	Free c	arriers?	
TiO	Ti <sup>2+</sup> 3d <sup>2</sup> 4s <sup>0</sup>	O <sup>2-</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	Free d-electrons: metal
NiO	Ni <sup>2+</sup> 3d <sup>8</sup> 4s <sup>0</sup>	O <sup>2-</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup>	Insulator But why???





NiO- NaCl structure Ni  $3d^84s^0$ 

Energy

Is insulator! Why not a metal?



## Why not metal?

CuO  $Cu^{2+}$   $3d^{9}4s^{0}$ 

CoO  $Co^{2+}$   $3d^{7}4s^{0}$ 

MnO Mn<sup>2+</sup>  $3d^{5}4s^{0}$ 

 $Cr_2O_3$   $Cr^{3+}$   $3d^34s^0$ 

Whatever is the crystal field splitting the orbitals are not fully occupied!!!

Odd number of d electronsall this oxides should be metals but are insulators



## **Mott-Hubbard insulators**

•The d-levels in most of the transition metal oxides are partially filled, therefore, the band theory predicts electron delocalization and metallic properties.

•According to band structure calculations half of the known binary compounds should be conducting.

•In reality, many oxides show insulating behavior, implying that the d-electrons are localized.

•Short-range Coulomb repulsion of electrons can prevent formation of band states, stabilizing localized electron states.



The Nobel Prize in Physics 1977: Philip Warren Anderson, Sir Nevill Francis Mott and John Hasbrouck van Vleck "for their fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems".



### **Mott-Hubbard insulators**

Coulomb repulsion is described in terms of a *correlation energy*, Hubbard-U, which is the energy penalty for transferring an electron between two adjacent sites.





 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{Ni}^{2+}+\mathsf{Ni}^{2+}\to\mathsf{Ni}^{3+}+\mathsf{Ni}^{+}\\ \mathsf{d}^{8}+\mathsf{d}^{8}\to\mathsf{d}^{7}+\mathsf{d}^{9} \end{array}$ 



If U > W, the d band of the transition metal is splitted into sub-bands. For an electron transfer an energy barrier Umust be overcome and the material is insulating.

Mott-Hubbard (MH) insulator.

At the point where  $W \sim$ U, the bands overlap. Beyond this point, there is no energy gap and the material is metallic.

The effect of the electron repulsion makes even the half-filled band insulating when the interaction between atoms (band width W) is small.

#### **Pressure and temperature dependence**

Every material under high pressure will have metallic properties
Insulator-Metal transition can be achieved increasing temperature (thermally induced carriers) or doping



## Phase diagram of $V_2O_3$



FIG. 3. Generalized phase diagram of transition temperature versus both pressure and at.<sup>6</sup>% Cr and Ti in  $V_2O_3$ : Closed circles are from mixed oxides at 1 atm; solid and open squares are  $V_2O_3$  on increasing and decreasing pressure, respectively; solid and open triangles are  $(V_{0.96}Cr_{0.04})_2O_3$  on increasing and decreasing pressure. There are large experimental uncertainties (±2 kbar) in the pressure calibration below 10 kbar and therefore in the M-I phase boundary.

## Mixed oxides (chemical pressure) Ti<sup>3+</sup> 0.81Å; V<sup>3+</sup> 0.78 Å; Cr<sup>3+</sup> 0.755 Å

•Pressure experiments for  $V_2O_3$ and  $(V_{0.96}Cr_{0.04})_2O_3$ 

D.B. McWhan et al., PRL, 23 (1969) 1384 <sub>17</sub>

## $V_2O_3$ metal-insulator transition



D.B. McWhan et al., PRL, 23 (1969) 1384

J. Feinleib and W. Paul, Phys. Rev. 155(1968) 841



NiS, CoS and CuS-metals NiO, CoO and CuO- (MH) insulators



electron configuration e.g. Mn<sup>2+</sup> 3d<sup>5</sup> has half-filled shell
other cations in the structure (as e.g. in perovskites ABO<sub>3</sub>)

Mott-Hubbard models assumes that the band gap is within d-band.
In many cases one has to consider ligands- e.g. oxide anions in oxides.
Additionally to W and U a third parameter has to be considered: Δ gap.

Oxygen p bands

Metal d bands





LaCuO $_3$  is a metal Cu 3d-band and O 2p-band overlap.  $E_{gap} \approx \Delta$ U is large



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## Examples







After: Schaumberg, Keramik

## Perovskites



after I. H. Inoue, Semicond. Sci. Technol., 20 (2005) 5112

## d<sup>1</sup> perovskites



## Oxygen nonstoichiometric 3d oxides

Table	5.5	Approximate	composition	ranges	for	some
non-st	oichic	ometric compo	unds	U		

Compound		Composition range*
TiO <sub>x</sub>	[≈TiO]	0.65 < x < 1.25
VO <sub>x</sub>	$[\approx 11O_2]$ $[\approx VO]$	1.998 < x < 2.000 0.79 < x < 1.29
Mn <sub>x</sub> O	[≈MnO]	0.848 < x < 1.000
Fe <sub>x</sub> O	[≈FeO]	0.833 < x < 0.957
$Co_xO$	[́≈CoÓ]	0.988 < x < 1.000
Ni <sub>x</sub> O	[≈NiO]	0.999 < x < 1.000
$CeO_x$	[≈Ce <sub>2</sub> Ō <sub>3</sub> ]	1.50 < x < 1.52
$ZrO_x$	[≈ZrO <sub>2</sub> ]	1.700 < x < 2.004
UO <sub>x</sub>	[≈UO <sub>2</sub> ]	1.65 < x < 2.25
$Li_x V_2 O_5$		0.2 < x < 0.33
$Li_x WO_3$	_	0 < x < 0.50
TiS <sub>x</sub>	[≈TiS]	0.971 < x < 1.064
$Nb_xS$	[≈NbS]	0.92 < x < 1.00
$Y_x$ Se	[≈YSe]	1.00 < x < 1.33
$V_x Te_2$	[≈VTe <sub>2</sub> ]	1.03 < x < 1.14

Does the electrical conductivity depend on oxygen content and cation doping?

\* Note that all composition ranges are temperature-dependent and the figures here are intended only as a guide.

## Lattice defects

Schottky- und Frenkel-defects in crystals



## Defect concentration $n/N_0$

$$\frac{n}{N_0} \cong \exp\left(\frac{-E_V}{kT}\right)$$

Temperature	Activation Energy eV			
[°C]	1	2	8	
100	3.10-14	1.10-27	1·10 <sup>-108</sup>	
500	3.10-7	<b>1·10</b> <sup>-13</sup>	8·10 <sup>-53</sup>	
1000	1.10-4	1·10 <sup>-8</sup>	<b>2.10</b> -32	
1500	1·10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.10-6	2·10 <sup>-23</sup>	
2000	6·10 <sup>-3</sup>	4·10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.10-18	



 $\text{Fe}_{\text{Fe}}$  ion can trap an electron from the valence band. In VB a hole is created.







## Defect semiconductor. $Ni_{1-\delta}O$

In NiO nickel vacancies are created when oxidized with oxygen. The charge of the additional oxygen sites is compensated by oxidation of some nickel sites to Ni<sup>3+</sup>. Through the oxidation the volume of the material increases.

$$0.5O_2 + 2Ni_{Ni}^{\times} \xrightarrow{\text{NiO}} V_{Ni}^{//} + 2Ni_{Ni}^{\bullet} + O_O^{\times}$$



$$Ni_{Ni}^{\bullet} \xrightarrow{NiO} Ni_{Ni}^{\times} + h^{\bullet}$$

Ni<sup>3+</sup> sites are electron acceptors:

$$Ni_{Ni}^{\bullet} + e' + h^{\bullet} \xrightarrow{NiO} Ni_{Ni}^{\times} + h^{\bullet}$$

## Application ceramic semiconductors

NTC-*thermistors* (Negative Temperature Coefficient-thermal resistor)



$$\rho(T) = \rho_0 \exp\left(\frac{B}{T}\right) \quad B = -E_A / k$$

Till 300°C spinels: Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Till ca. 1000°C rare earth oxides eg.:70%Sm<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 30%Tb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



## Extrinsic ionic conductors



Oxides with fluorite structure  $(ZrO_2, ThO_2, CeO_2)$  doped with CaO, MgO,  $Y_2O_3$ ,  $Sc_2O_3$  and  $La_2O_3$  $Y_2O_3 \xrightarrow{ZrO_2} 2Y'_{Ce} + 3O^{\times}_{O} + V^{\bullet\bullet}_{O}$ 

Conductivity increase by a doping. Zr  $m{\cap}$ Fluorite structure ( $CaF_2$ -type) Intrinsic superionic conductor.  $\beta$ -aluminum oxide- Na<sup>+</sup> ionic conductor





 $\beta$ -aluminum oxide Na<sub>2</sub>O·11Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Layered structure of  $\beta\text{-aluminum}$  oxide

## $\beta$ -Aluminiumoxid II





For larger cations (K<sup>+</sup>, Tl<sup>+</sup>) lower conductivity is observed

#### **Sodium Sulfur Cell**



High energy density, high efficiency of charge/discharge (89-92%) and long cycle life, and is fabricated from inexpensive materials.

- Anode
- $2Na_{(l)} \rightarrow 2Na^+ + 2e^-$
- + Cathode  $2Na^+ + 5S_{(l)} + 2e^- \rightarrow Na_2S_{5(l)}$

The sodium is separated by a beta-alumina solid electrolyte (BASE) cylinder from the container of molten sulfur. High operating temperatures of 300 to 350 °C and the highly corrosive sodium polysulfides and sodium.

Discharging  $2Na_{(l)} + 5S_{(l)} \rightarrow Na_2S_{5(l)}$ 

Charging

 $Na_2S_{5(l)} \rightarrow 2Na_{(l)} + 5S_{(l)}$ 

#### Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC)

Electrochemical conversion device that produces electricity directly from oxidizing a fuel.  $\frac{1}{2}O_2 + H_2 \rightarrow H_2O$ 

Temperature range: 800-1000°C



## Solid electrolyte - Solid Oxide Fuel Cells



## SOFC. Solid Elektrolyte



•High stability in air and also strongly reduced atmosphere at high temperature

Tetragonal or cubic stabilized  $ZrO_2$  (3, resp. 8 mol%  $Y_2O_3$  in  $ZrO_2$ ). Thickness ~ 200 $\mu$ m.

Stability other materials (e.g. doped  $CeO_2$ ) in reduced atmosphere is not sufficient. Partial reduction gives electronic conductivity!





#### PostAuto Schweiz AG

#### Im Aargau fahren die ersten Postautos mit Brennstoffzellenantrieb

Mitteilung vom 09.11.2011

→zurück

PostAuto setzt als erstes Schweizer Unternehmen die Brennstoffzellentechnologie im öffentlichen Verkehr ein. Ab Fahrplanwechsel im Dezember 2011 fahren auf PostAuto-Linien in und um Brugg (AG) Brennstoffzellenpostautos. Der Langzeittest wird von verschiedenen Partnern massgeblich unterstützt, wie etwa vom Kanton Aargau, dem Bundesamt für Energie und der Europäischen Union.

In den nächsten fünf Jahren testet PostAuto den Brennstoffzellenantrieb und nutzt als erstes Schweizer ÖV-Unternehmen Wasserstoff als Treibstoff. Ab 11. Dezember 2011 nehmen fünf Brennstoffzellenpostautos in Brugg schrittweise den Linienbetrieb auf.

### Oxygen sensor (lambda sensor)

 $C_mH_n + (m+n/4)O_2 \rightarrow mCO_2 + n/2H_2O$ 



## Oxygen sensor (lambda sensor)







## Itinerant and localized electrons (holes) in solids

Mott-Hubbard transition

•Structure influence

Doping (stoichiometry)

Ions in solids as charge carriers

