

Composites

Composite Materials

- Modern applications require materials with unusual combinations of properties
- These properties might even be contradictory
- Nature gives good examples: Wood (strong and flexible cellulose fibers embedded in stiff lignin) or bone (strong and soft collagen combined with hard and brittle apatite)

What kind of geometrical arrangements are generally possible?

Main divisions of Composite Materials

Composites

Particle-reinforced

Large
particles
or
Dispersion
strengthened

Fiber-reinforced

Continuous
(aligned)
or
Discontinuous
(short)

Structural

Laminates
or
Sandwich
panels

What geometrical information do we need?

In order to describe the dispersed phase in the matrix the following terms are needed

- Concentration
- Size
- Shape
- Distribution
- Orientation

Particle reinforced composites

Large particle composite

Main goal here is an improvement of mechanical properties

Rule of mixture for elastic modulus

Upper bound

$$E_c(u) = E_m V_m + E_p V_p$$

Lower bound

$$E_c(l) = \frac{E_m E_p}{V_m E_p + V_p E_m}$$

- Polymers with fillers
- Concrete

Dispersion strengthened composites

Think tempered martensite

Fiber reinforced composites

Fiber reinforced composite materials are the technologically most important form of composite materials

Typical examples are

- Glass fiber reinforced polymers
- Carbon fiber reinforced polymers

The performance of such fiber reinforced composites – if everything else (fiber length, orientation etc.) is taken care of – critically depend on the interfacial bonding between fiber and matrix

This leads to a number of strategies to improve this bonding

- Plasma activation
- Chemical functionalization

Layered composites

- Laminar composites and sandwich panels are the standard macroscopic technologically exploited forms of “layered” composite systems
- Coating technology allows to create relative complex layered composite structures with relative ease

Here structures range from

MBE superlattices to “standard” multi-layers

- However, these layered systems should not be confused with functional layered systems
- Example: Quest for ultimate technological hardness

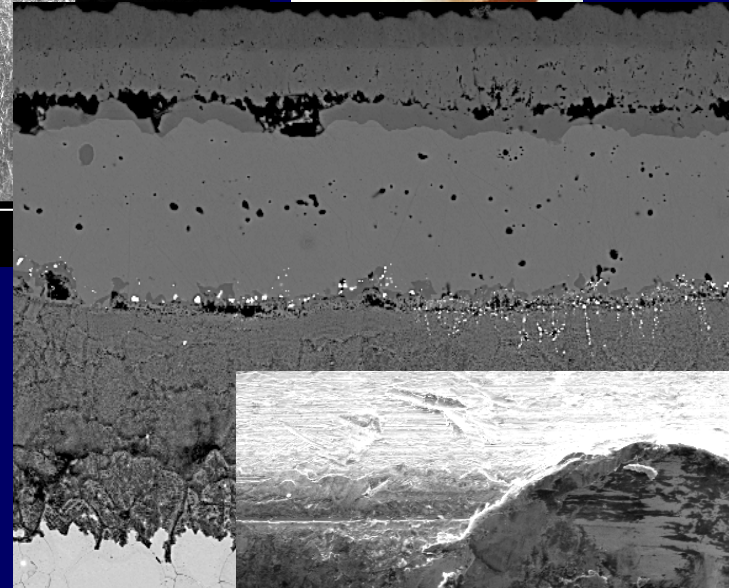
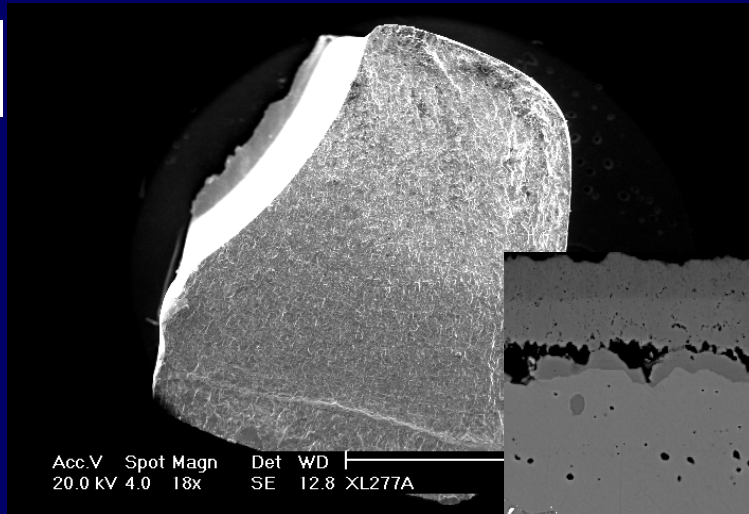
A scanning electron micrograph (SEM) showing a cross-section of a material with a prominent, jagged crack running vertically through the center. The crack reveals a rough, layered internal structure. The surrounding material surface is relatively smooth but shows some fine scratches and texture. The lighting highlights the three-dimensional nature of the crack edges.

Materials Degradation

Materials Degradation

mechanical

fatigue
fracture

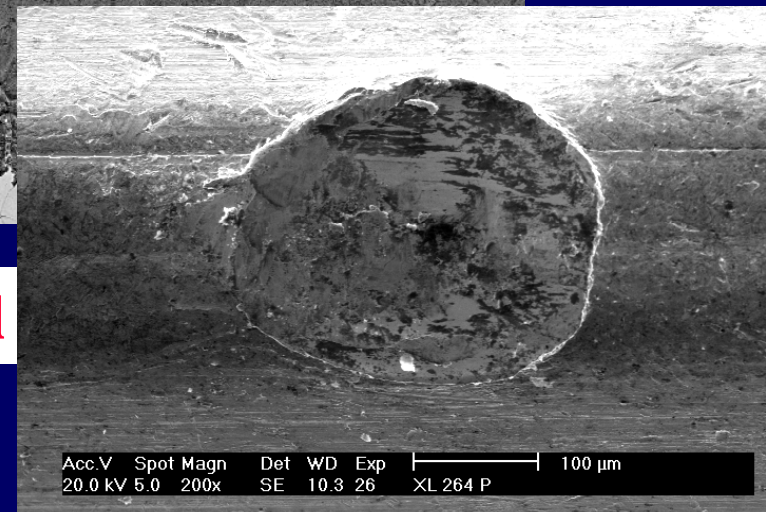


chemically

aqueous corrosion
high-temperature corrosion

tribological

abrasion
wear



Electrochemical Corrosion

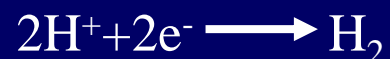
→ approx. 5% of a nations income is spent on corrosion
rust, HT corrosion..

oxidation reactions – metal gives up electrons



anodic reaction

reduction reactions – species accepts electrons



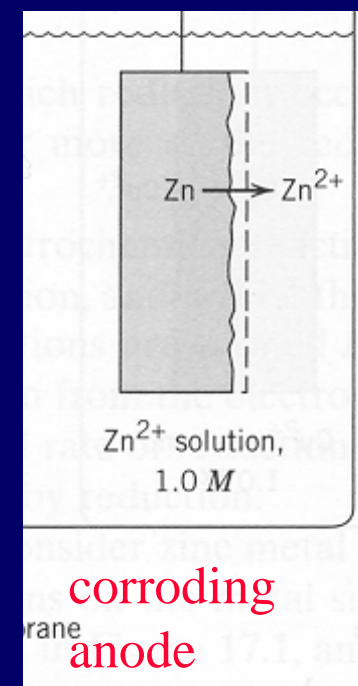
cathodic reaction

electrochemical reaction: two half reactions



galvanic couple: $Fe^{2+} + Zn \Rightarrow Fe + Zn^{2+}$: potential: 0.323V

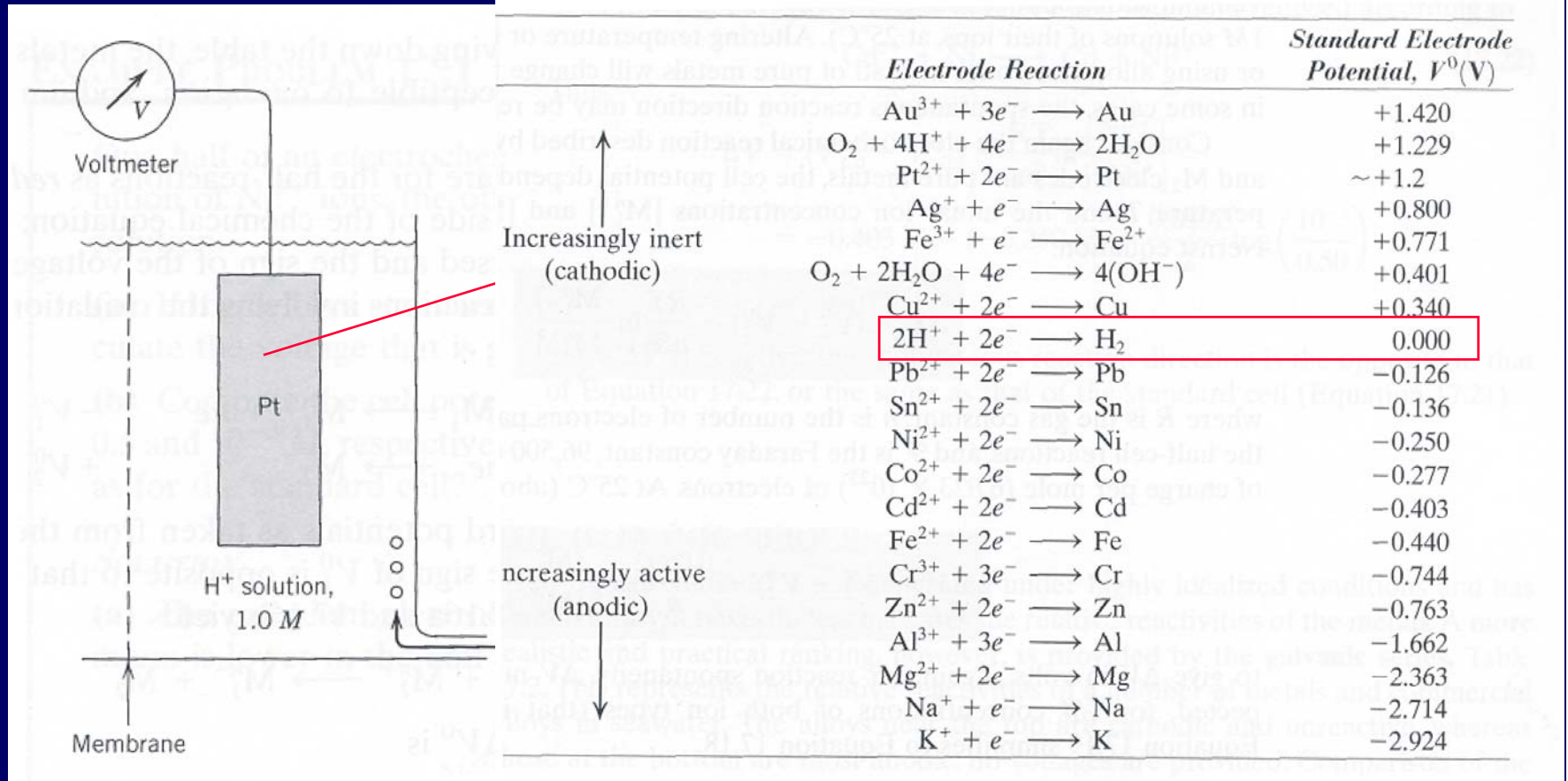
but: $Cu^{2+} + Fe \Rightarrow Cu + Fe^{2+}$: potential: 0.780V



cathode

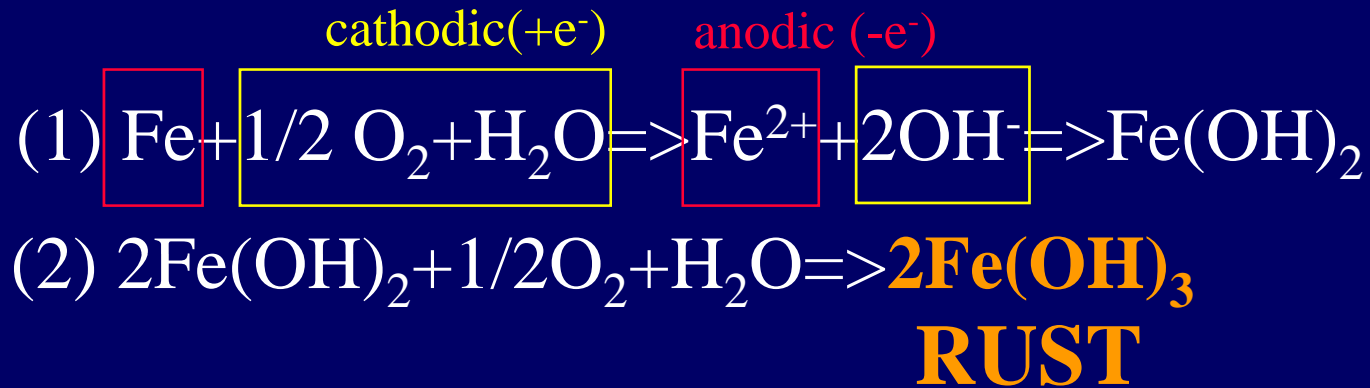
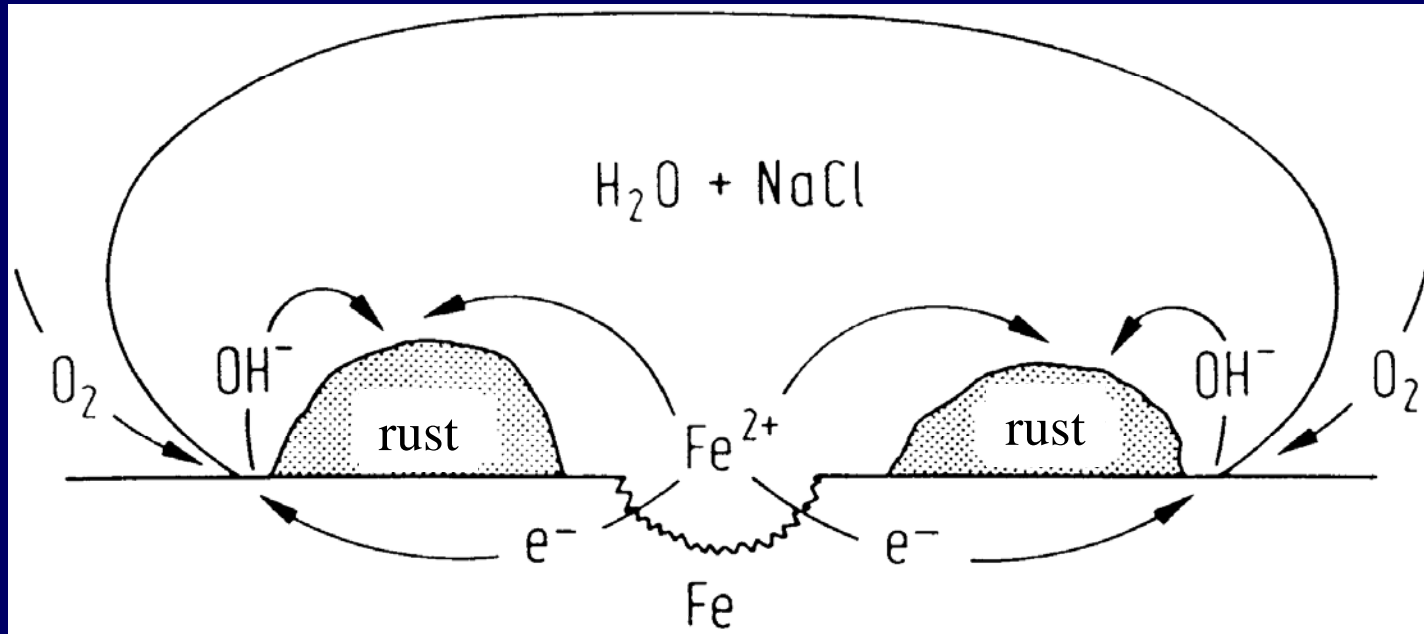
Standard Hydrogen Reference Half-Cell

susceptibility to corrosion electromotive force series

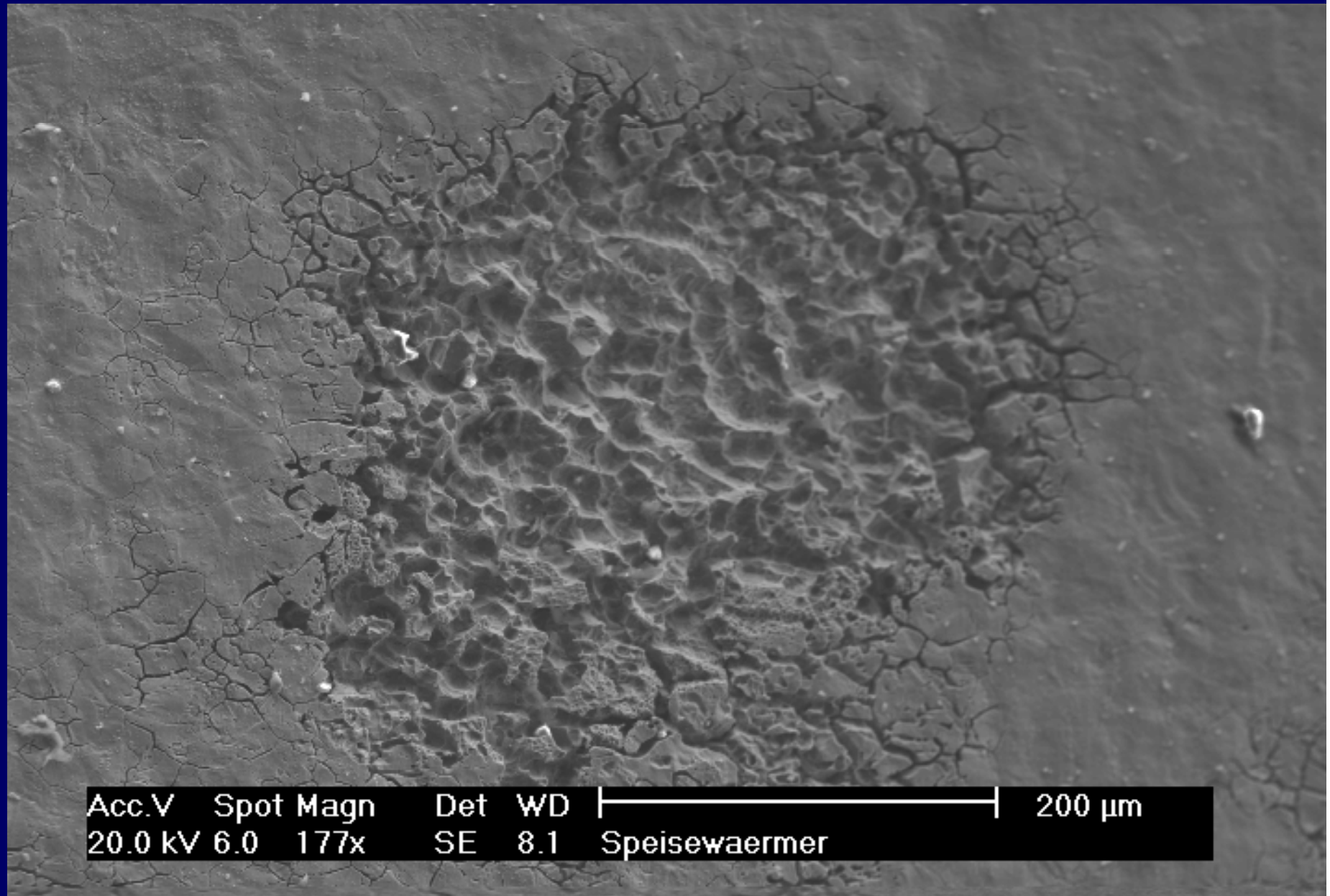


1M solution of H⁺ ions saturated with H₂ gas at 25°C/1atm
(mole/1000cm³)

Iron Corrosion - Rust Formation



Forms of Corrosion



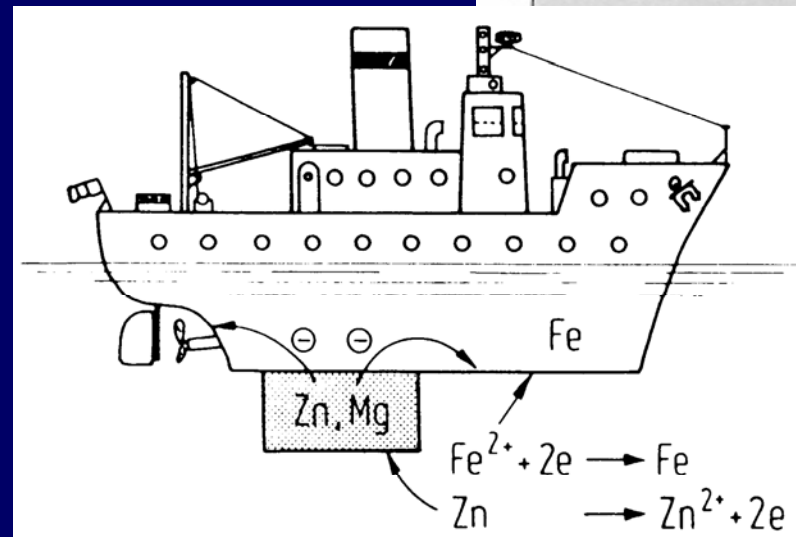
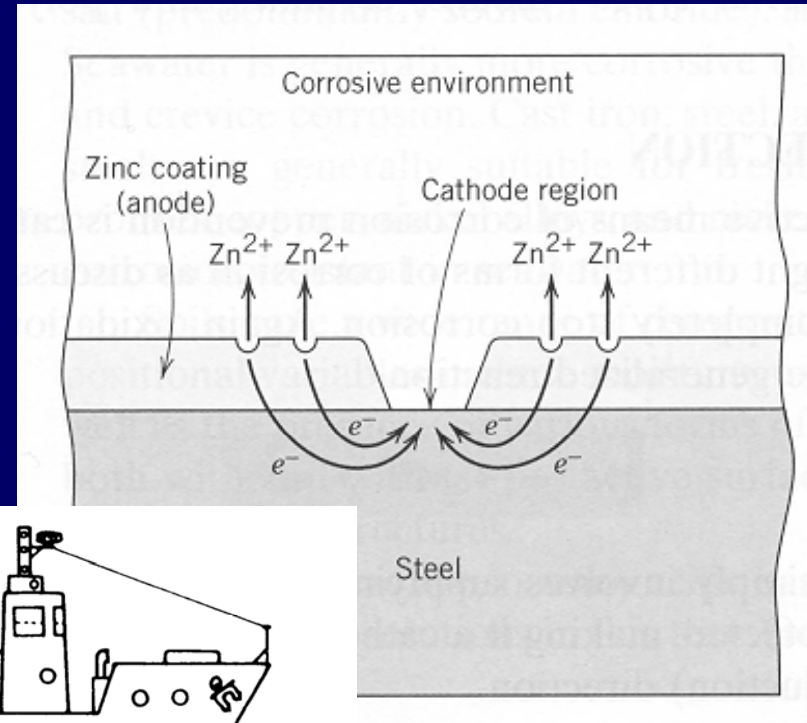
Corrosion Protection

galvanic protection – Zn coating

cathodic protection (sacrificial anode)

coatings/inhibitors (paint, enamel..)

corrosion.protection-oriented design



High Temperature Corrosion

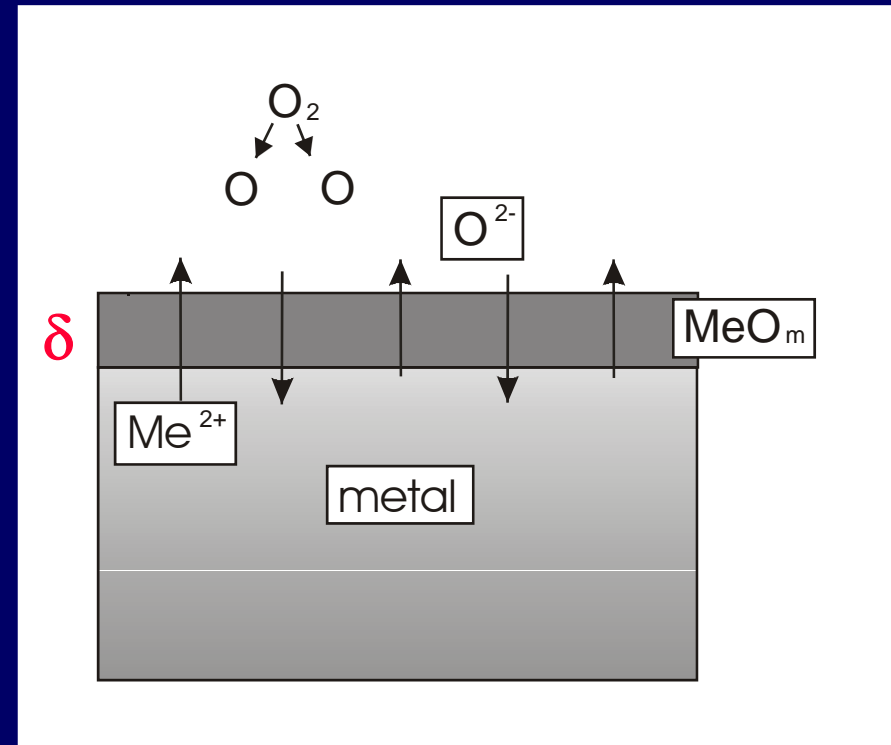
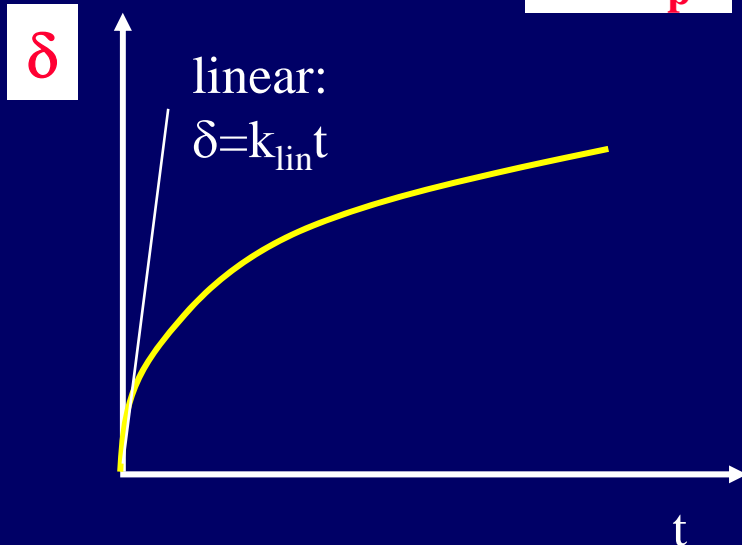


>500°C

rate is determined by diffusion through scale

non-porous and adherent scale:
parabolic rate law

$$\delta^2 = k_p t$$



(instead of δ often the weight gain W is measured)

Materials Selection

1 analysis of the application

- functional - structural
- loading conditions
- environment (T,atmosphere)
- safety requirements
- service life
- recycling
- cost
- design
- one ore more parts
- engineering design (FEM)



valves, e.g. exhaust valve

Materials Selection

2 materials preselection

- metal (steel, Aluminum..)
- polymer
- ceramic
- composite
- new material development

fulfillment of the loading criteria

cost/availability
manufacturing
joining
recycling

3 materials modification

- heat treatment
- coating (corrosion protection,
(wear resistance...)



Materials Selection

4 materials/component testing

- mechanical properties
- corrosion resistance
- prototype – testing under near service conditions

5 design modifications

