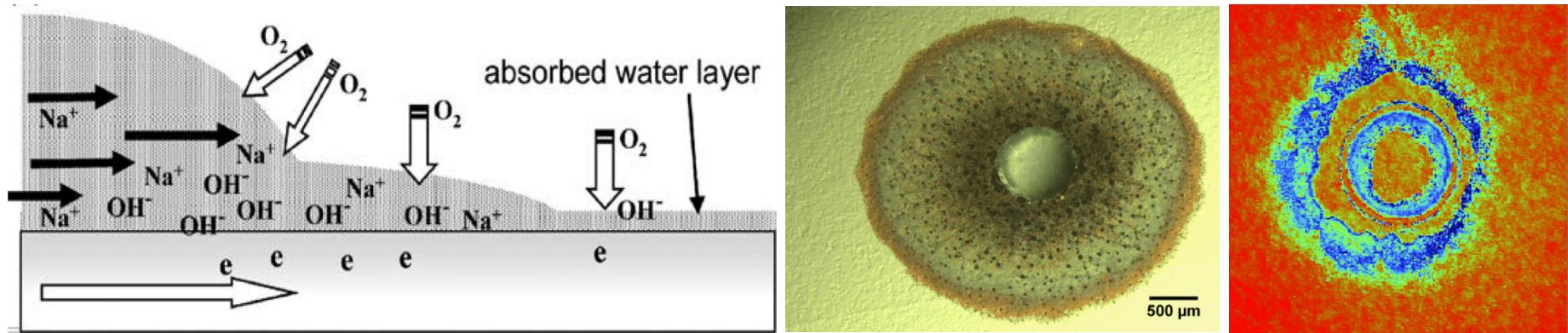


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Beyond Evans Drop: Electrolyte Evolution during Atmospheric Corrosion

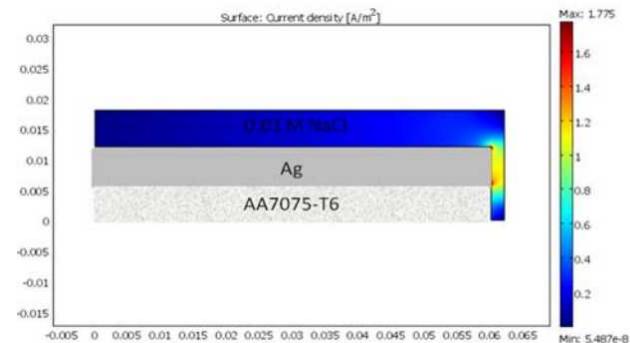
Eric Schindelholz, Harry Moffat, Kevin Zavadil, Rob Sorensen



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# Electrochemical Modeling of Atmospheric Corrosion

- Electrolyte geometry can govern corrosion damage distributions and kinetics
- Limited experimental options for directly probing corrosion reactions hinders mechanistic insight
- Rich opportunity space for integrated computational and experimental approach



Shi, Kelly, 2013

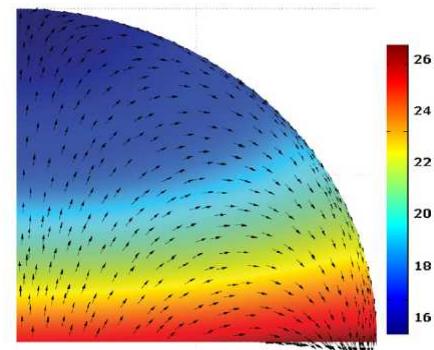


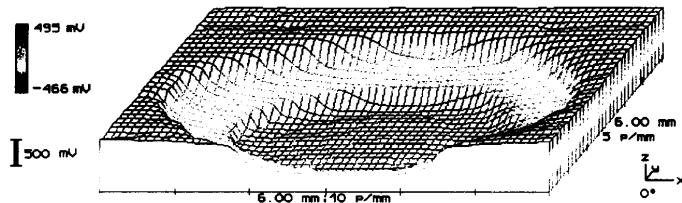
Fig. 10.  $(C_{Zn^{2+}}/C_{Zn^{2+}0})$  of zinc ions and arrow plot of current density vectors showing separation of metal surface into anodic and cathodic regions over time.

Cole et al., 2011

# Evans Drop

## Differential Aeration Cell

Diffusion limited  $O_2$  reduction kinetics control attack rate and damage distribution



Chen and Mansfeld, 1997

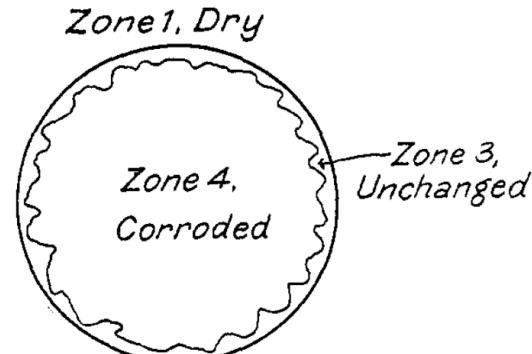
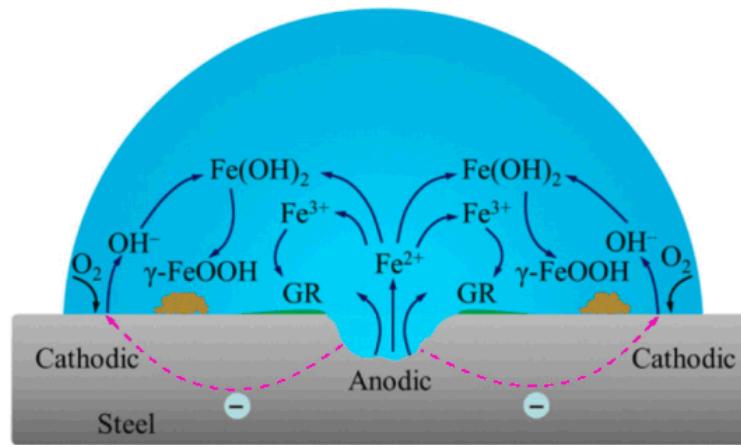


Figure 2—Effect of Drop of Distilled Water on Zinc

Evans, 1926



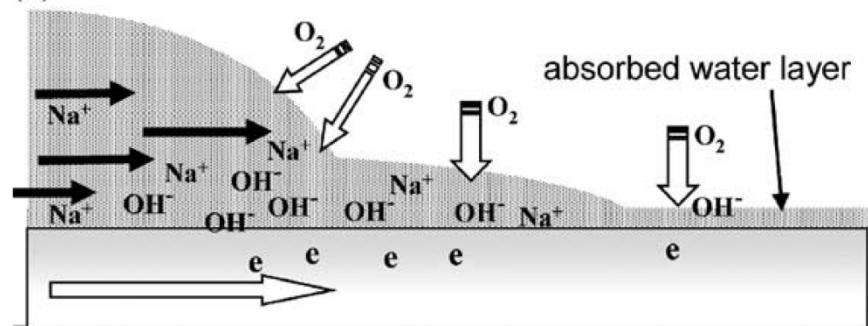
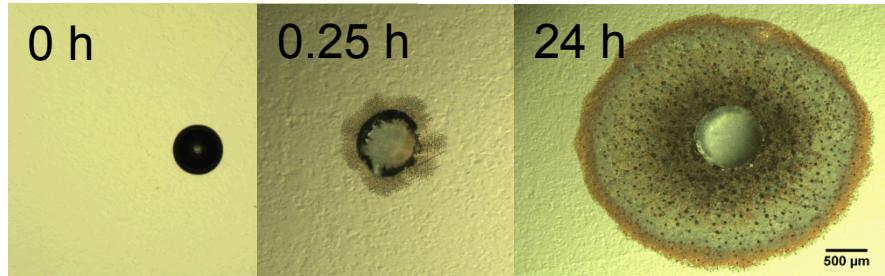
Li and Hihara, 2012

# Divergence from Evans Drop

## Secondary Spreading

### rate and extent

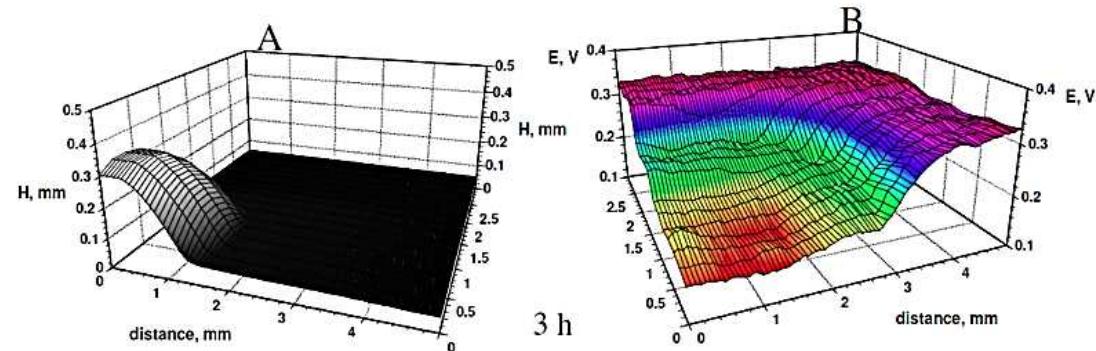
- initial drop size and chemistry
- substrate alloy
- environment ( $P_{CO_2}$ , RH)



Tsuru et al, 2004

# Impact of Secondary Spreading

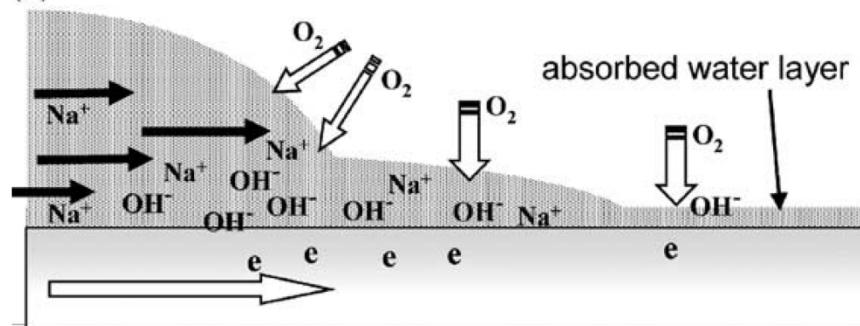
High potential areas in secondary spreading regions



$$I_{m,drop} = I_{O_2,drop} + I_{O_2,film}$$

Chen, 2005

To what extent do films contribute to cathodic current?



# Study Framework

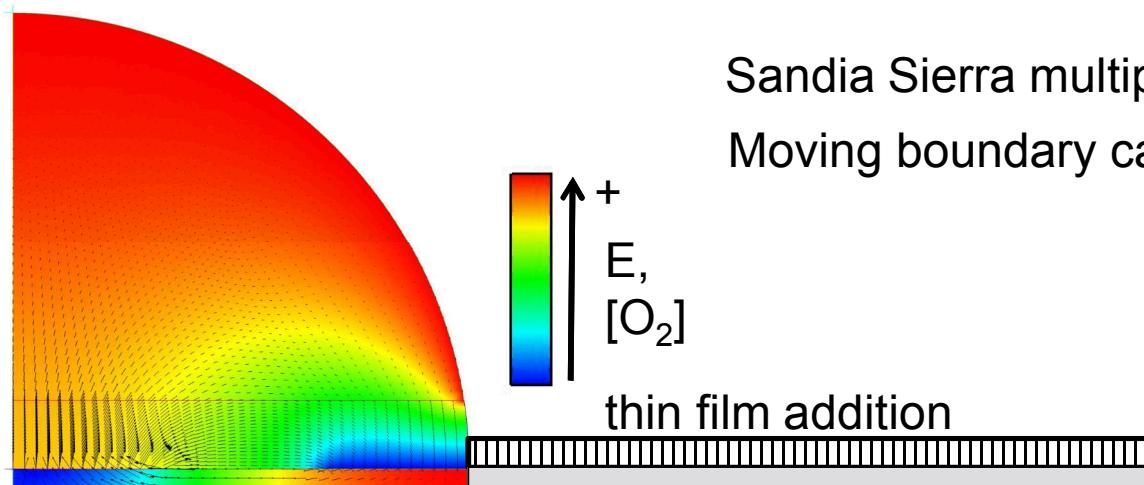
## Driving Question

How do secondary films impact corrosion kinetics and damage distributions?

## Approach

- Electrochemical continuum model of droplet-film system to predict influence of electrolyte geometry and physicochemical attributes on anode-cathode distributions
- Define physicochemical properties of film and realize influence of film and drop size on corrosion rates and damage distributions to inform model – Cu, NaCl

# Droplet-Film Model: Construct



Sandia Sierra multiphysics architecture  
Moving boundary capability – electrolyte evolution

**Governing Equation- Nernst Planck   Boundary Conditions: Butler-Volmer**  
 $O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e^- \rightarrow 4OH^-$

$$\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t} = \nabla \left( -D_i \nabla c_i - z_i \frac{D_i F}{RT} \nabla \phi \right)$$

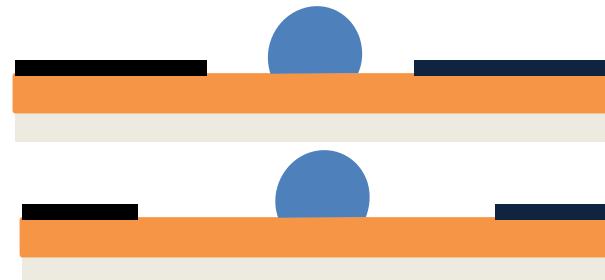
$$i_{O_2/OH} = -i_{o_{O_2/OH}} \exp \left( \frac{-2 \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha_{O_2}}{\alpha_{OH}} \right) F}{RT} (\Delta \phi_{O_2/OH}) \right)$$

$$i_{M/M^{x+}} = -i_{o_{M/M^{x+}}} \exp \left( \frac{-x \left( 1 + \alpha \frac{M}{M^{x+}} \right) F}{RT} (\Delta \phi_{M/M^{x+}}) \right)$$

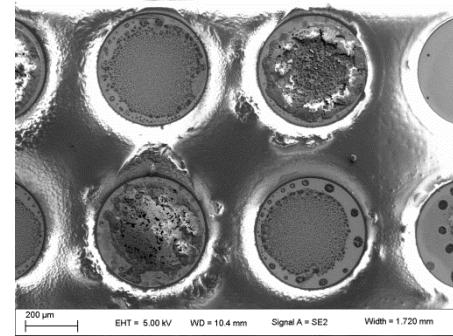
# Experimental: Restricted Cu Substrate

4M NaCl

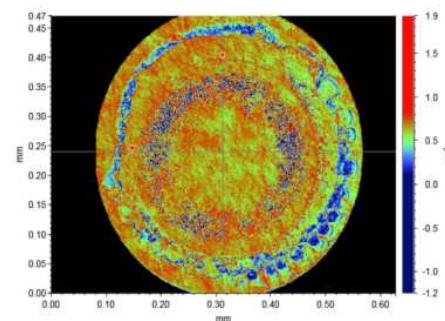
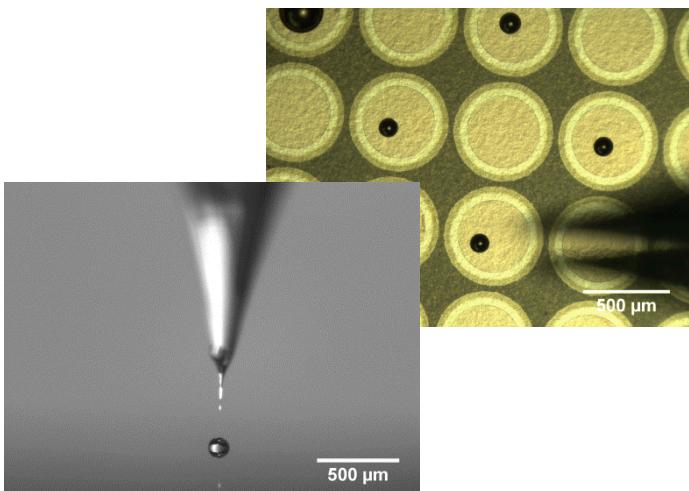
1  $\mu$ m  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$   
25  $\mu$ m Cu  
Quartz



85% RH, 25 °C,  
< 1 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>



spreading chemistry  
and distribution

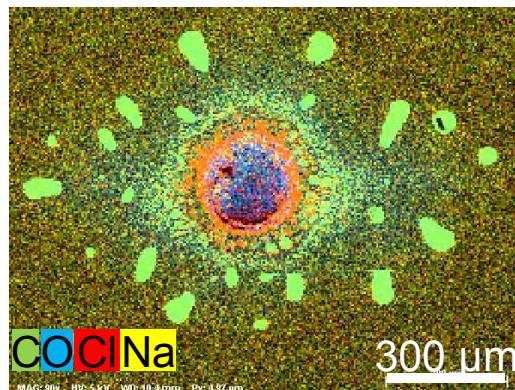
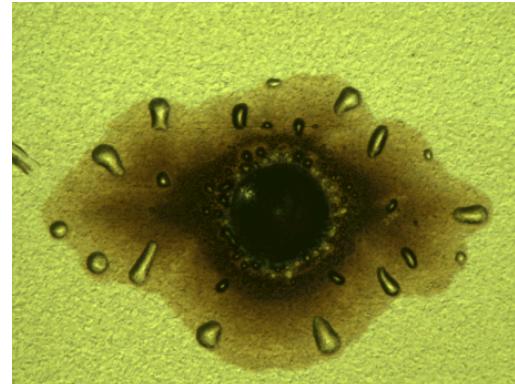
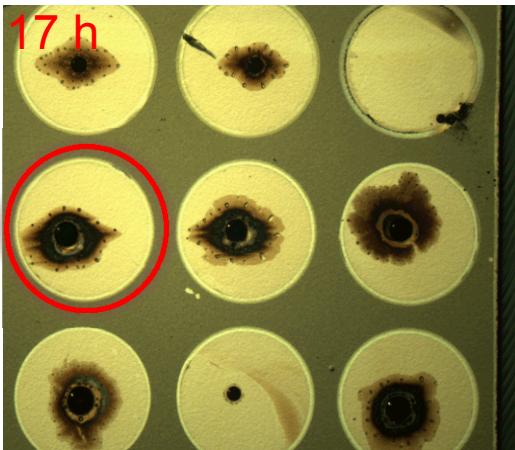
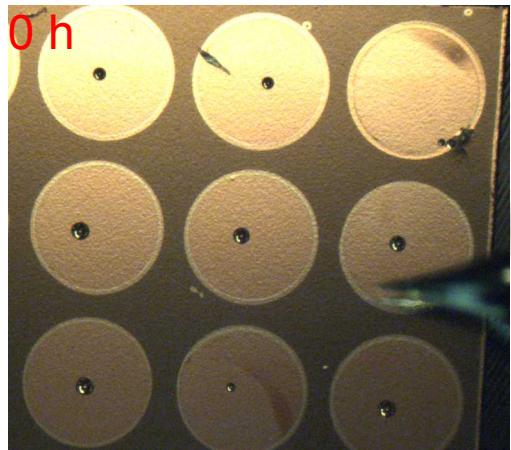


damage profiles

# Unrestricted Spreading: Chemistry

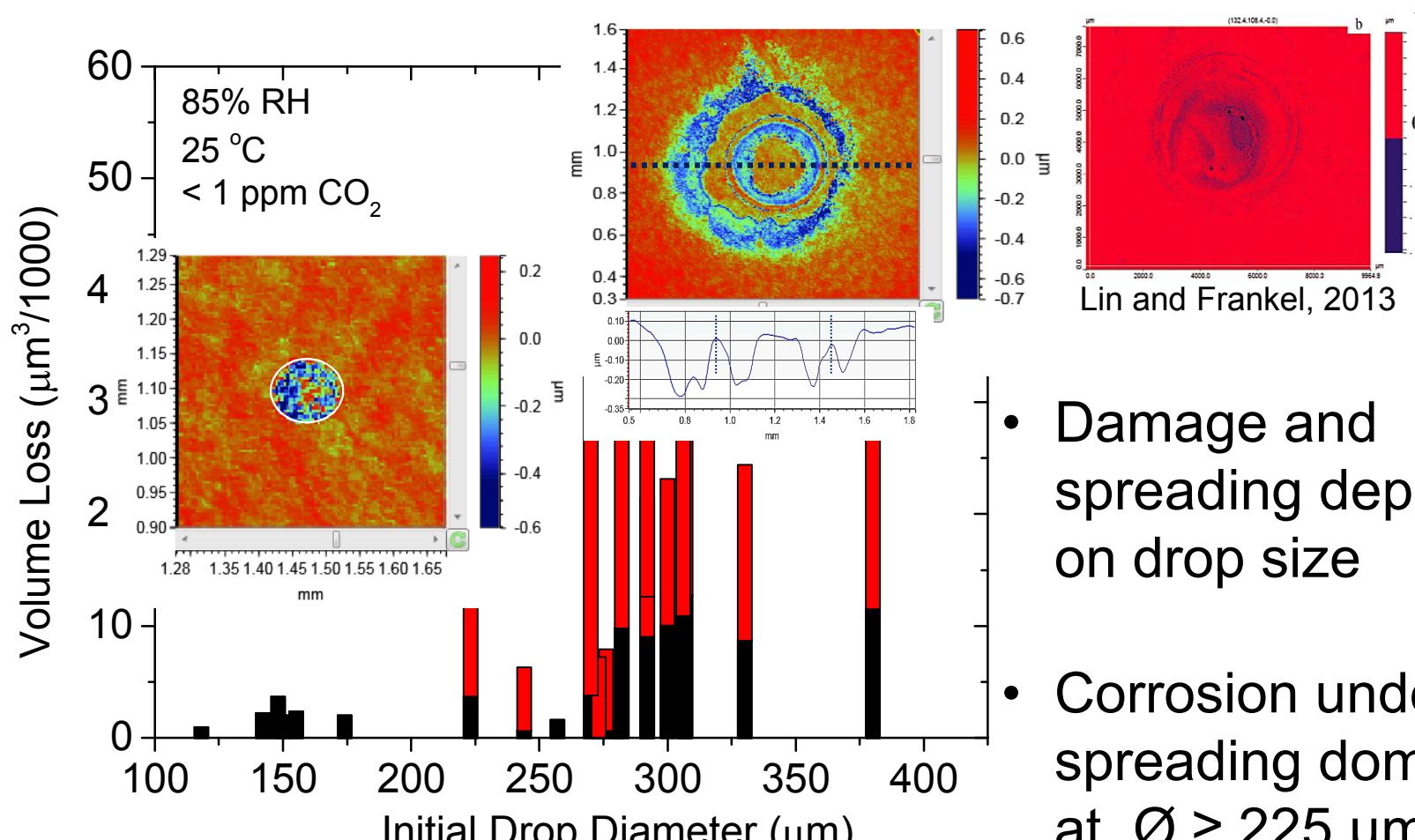
2mm Windows

85% RH, 25 °C,  
< 1 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>

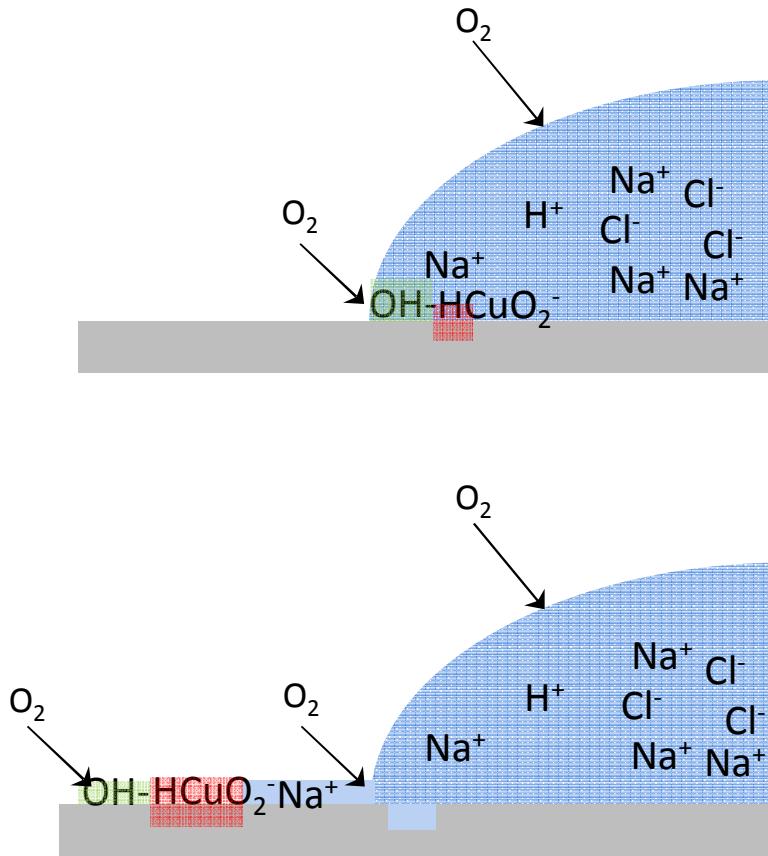
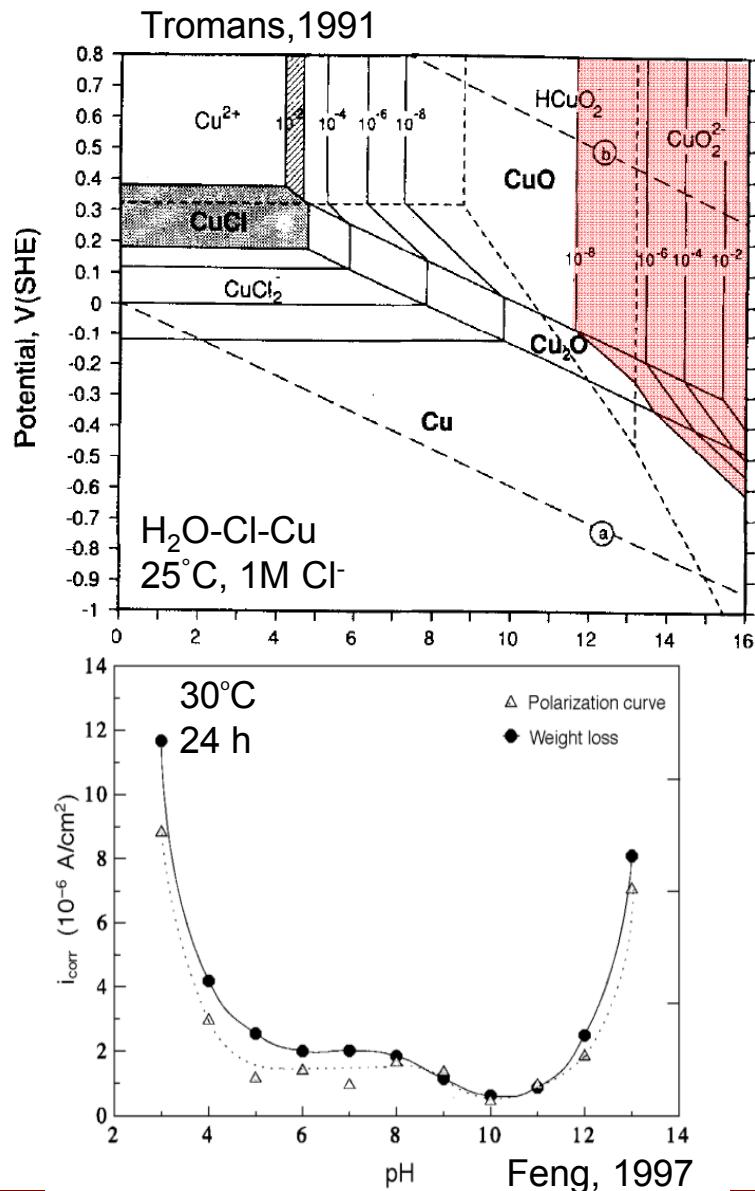


- Spreading chemistry in accordance with previous studies
- After 17 hours, can spread > 2x original drop radius

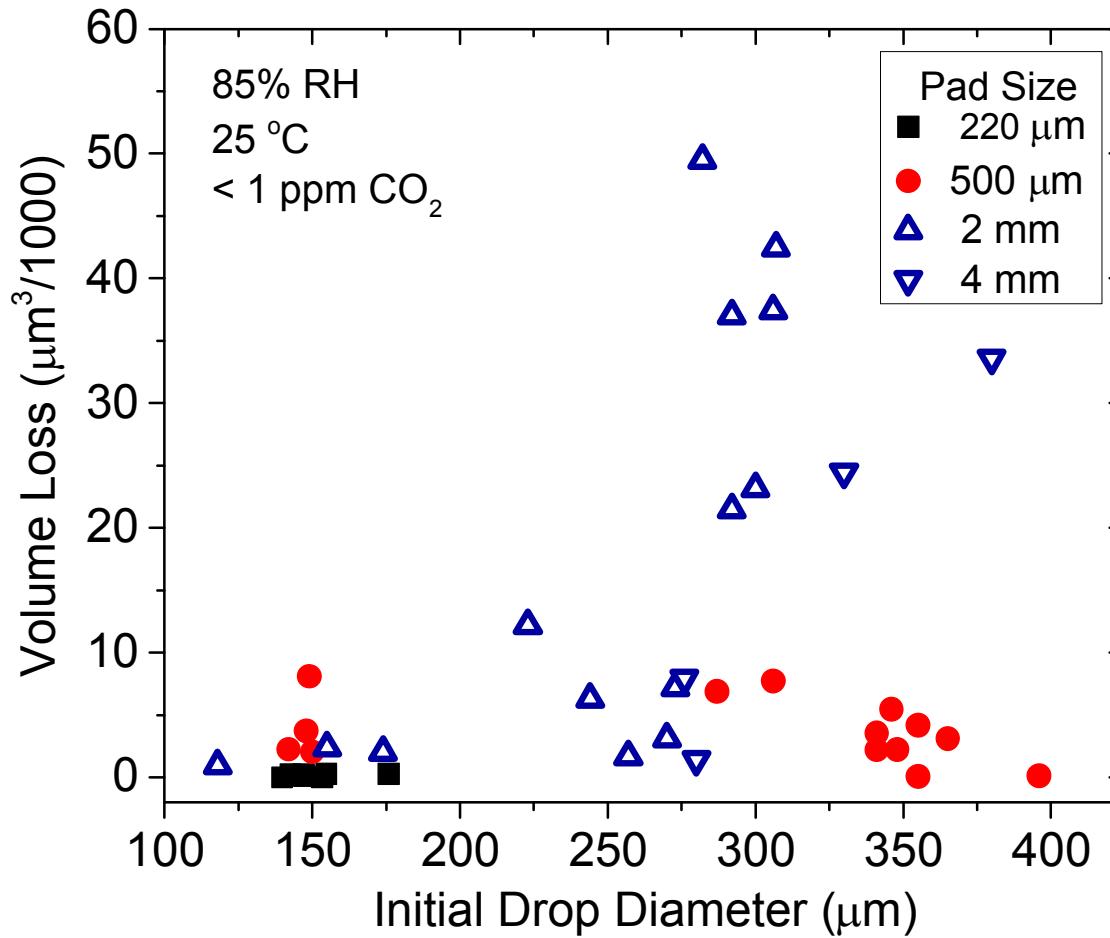
# Unrestricted Spreading: Damage



# Inverse, Spreading Evans Drop



# Restricted Substrates: Damage



- Corrosion loss strongly dependent on spreading S.S. at  $\varnothing \geq 225 \mu\text{m}$

# Conclusions

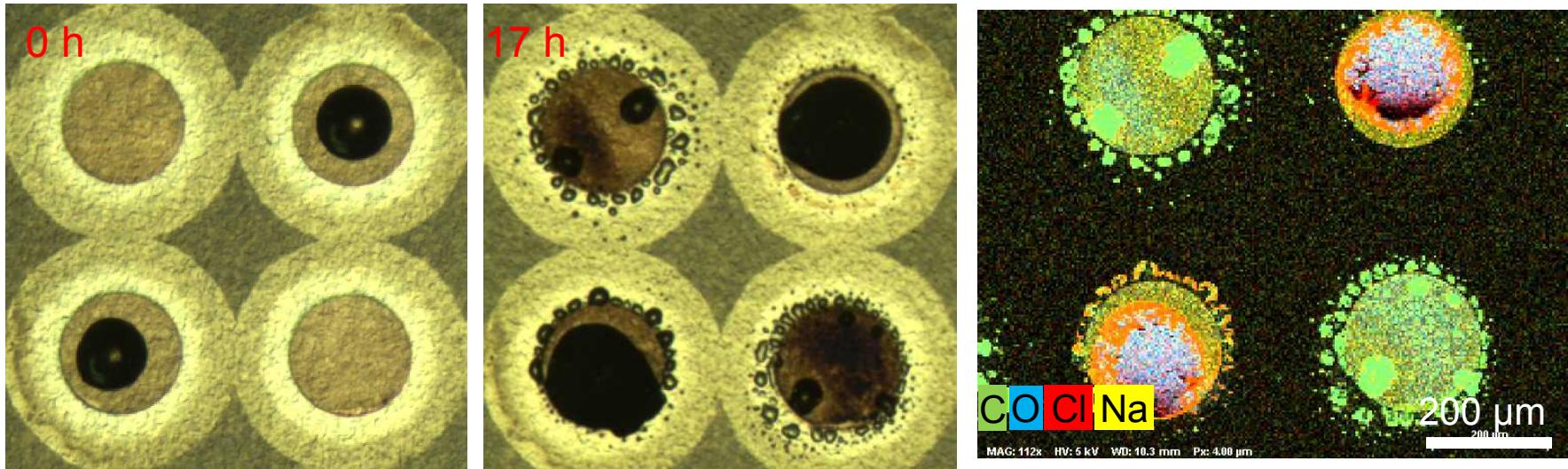
- Damage distribution and rate highly dependent on drop size/secondary spreading
- Larger drops exhibit inverse Evans drop behavior due to anodic dissolution in high pH regions near triple phase boundaries
- Efforts under way to develop droplet-film model to understand how film and droplet geometry and chemistry impact anode-cathode distributions and corrosion kinetics
- Future work will focus on acquiring physicochemical properties of secondary spreading region and electrochemical measures of system to inform model

# EXTRAS

# Restricted Substrates

220  $\mu\text{m}$  Windows

85% RH, 25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  
< 1 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>



- Development of S.S. chemistry over Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> with highest concentrations on non-deposited pads

# Divergence from Evans Drop

