

# Functionalization of Metal Surfaces using Hydride Intermediates

D. B. Robinson, Christopher G. Jones, Aidan W. Higginbotham, Roopjote K. Atwal, Ryan K. Nishimoto, Joshua D. Sugar, Maher Salloum, Farid El Gabaly (Sandia)

D. M. Benson, J. L. Stickney (U. of Georgia)

Sita Gurung, Patrick J. Cappillino (U. Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

AiMES 2018 ECS-SMEQ Joint Meeting, Oct 2018

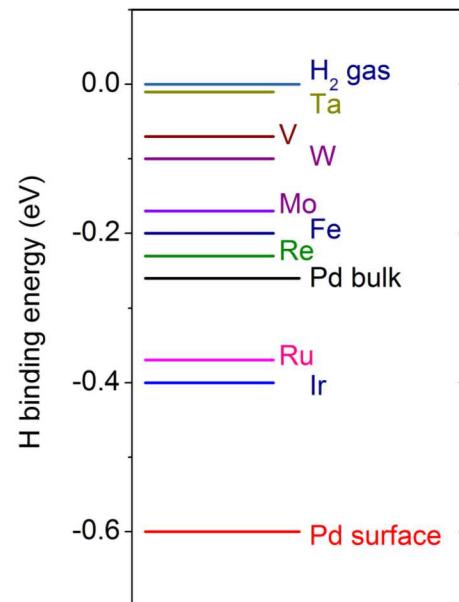
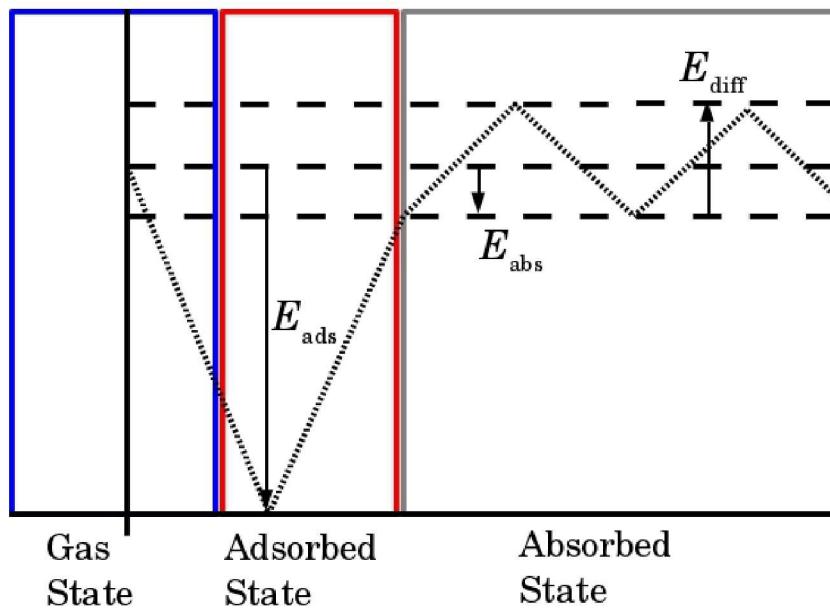
# Outline

- Goal: improve hydrogen reaction kinetics at surfaces
- Strategy: Use H surface reactivity to modify composition
  - Atomic-layer electroless deposition
    - Pd powder substrates
    - Pd film substrates
    - Pt powder substrates
- Strategy: Use H surface reactivity to modify surface area
  - Growth of nanoporous Pd on Pd by bulk hydriding
- Solution-phase path to surface and bulk hydriding

# Surface modification should improve kinetics of hydriding and dehydriding Pd



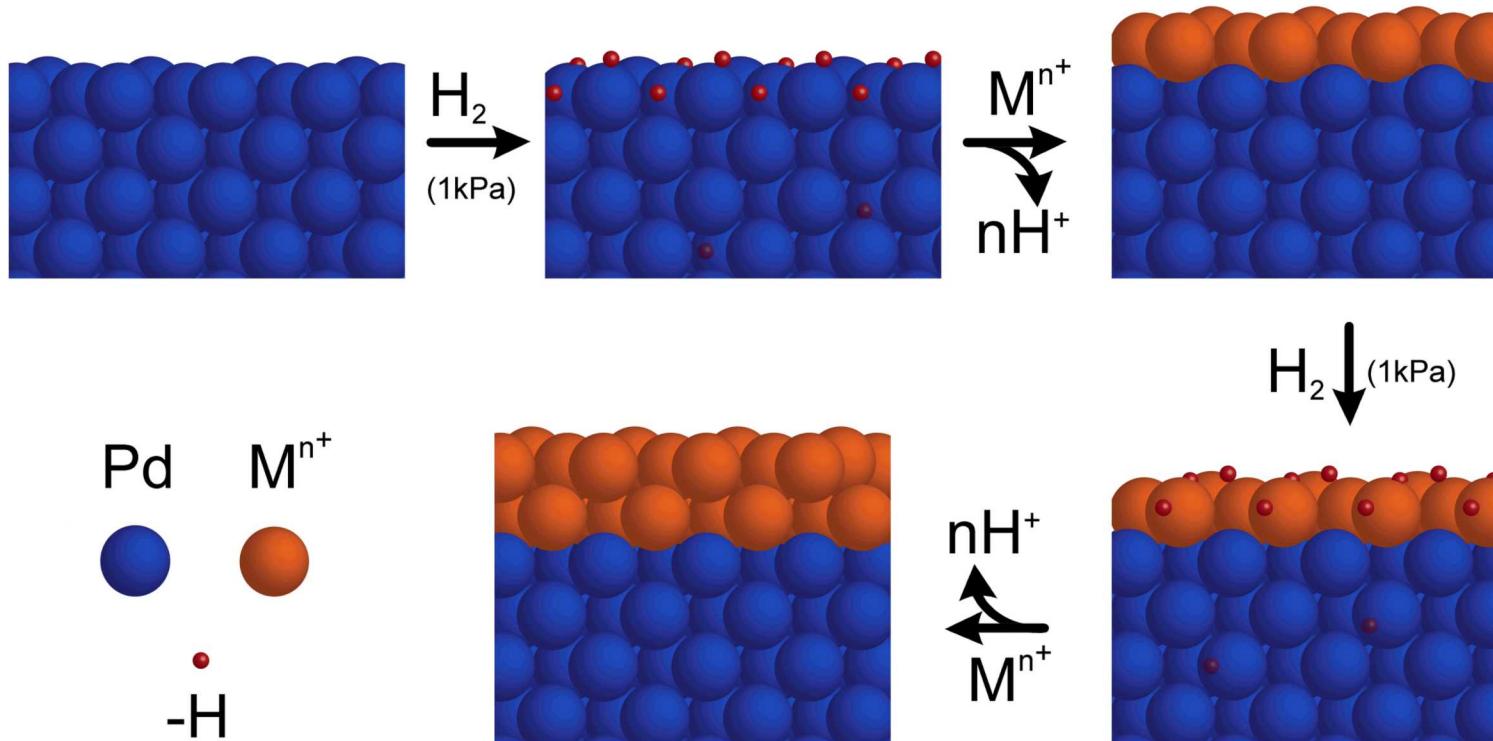
- Surface Pd-H is very stable
- High surface site occupancy
- Large activation barrier
- Near-surface alloys destabilize surface hydrides
- May then improve absorption kinetics



J. Greeley, M. Mavrikakis.  
J. Phys. Chem. B 2005,  
109, 3460-3471

M. Salloum, S.C. James, D. B. Robinson. Chem Eng Sci. 2014  
10.1016/j.ces.2014.09.001

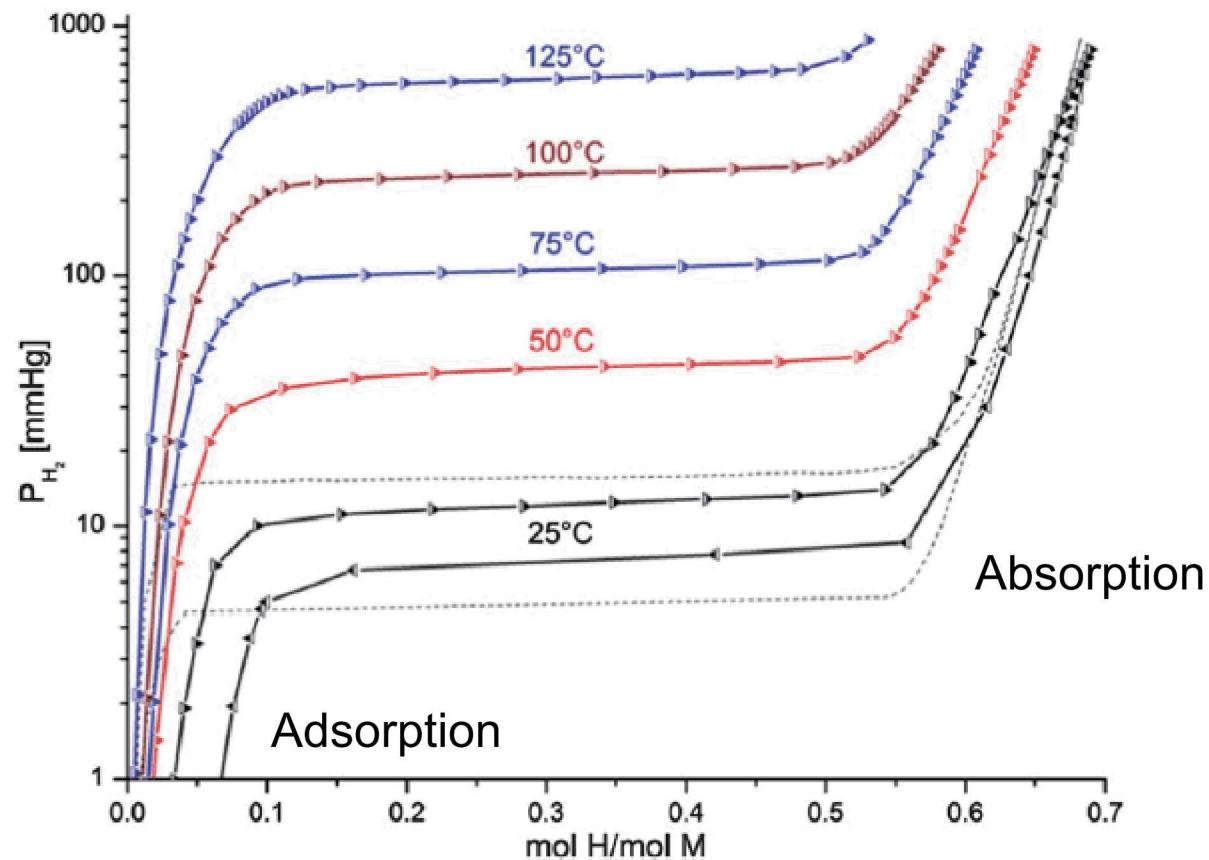
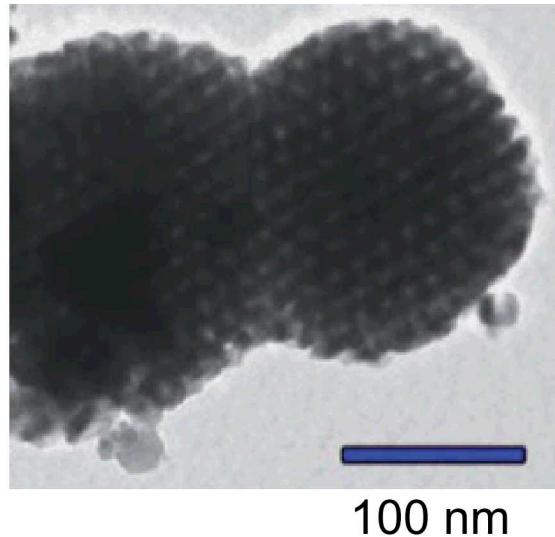
# Atomic-Layer Electroless Deposition (ALED)



Scalable, room temperature, works with insulating support,  
applies to “rough” surfaces with high surface area

Patrick J. Cappillino et al., Langmuir 30 (2014) 4820 10.1021/la500477s

# Absorption of $\text{H}_2$ gas by Pd

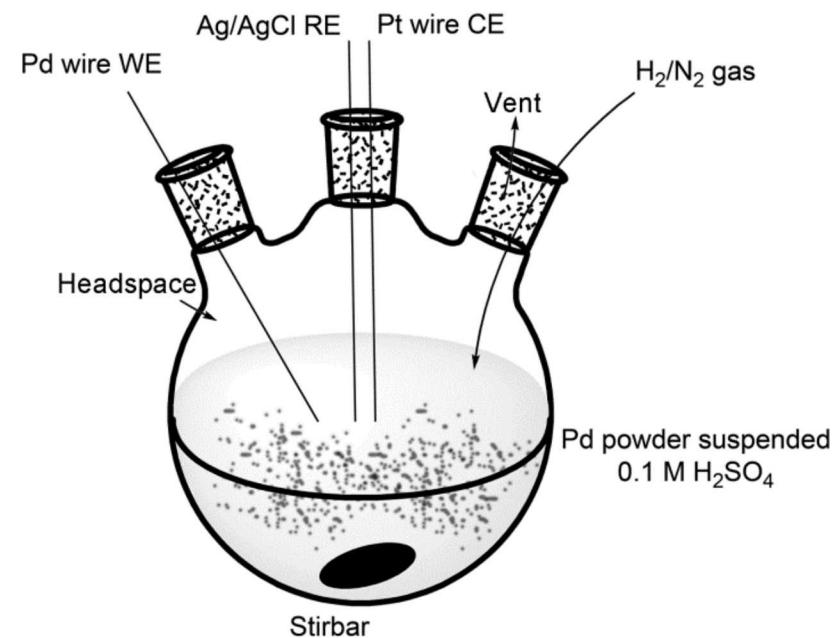


Only surface, dilute bulk hydride  
below a transition pressure

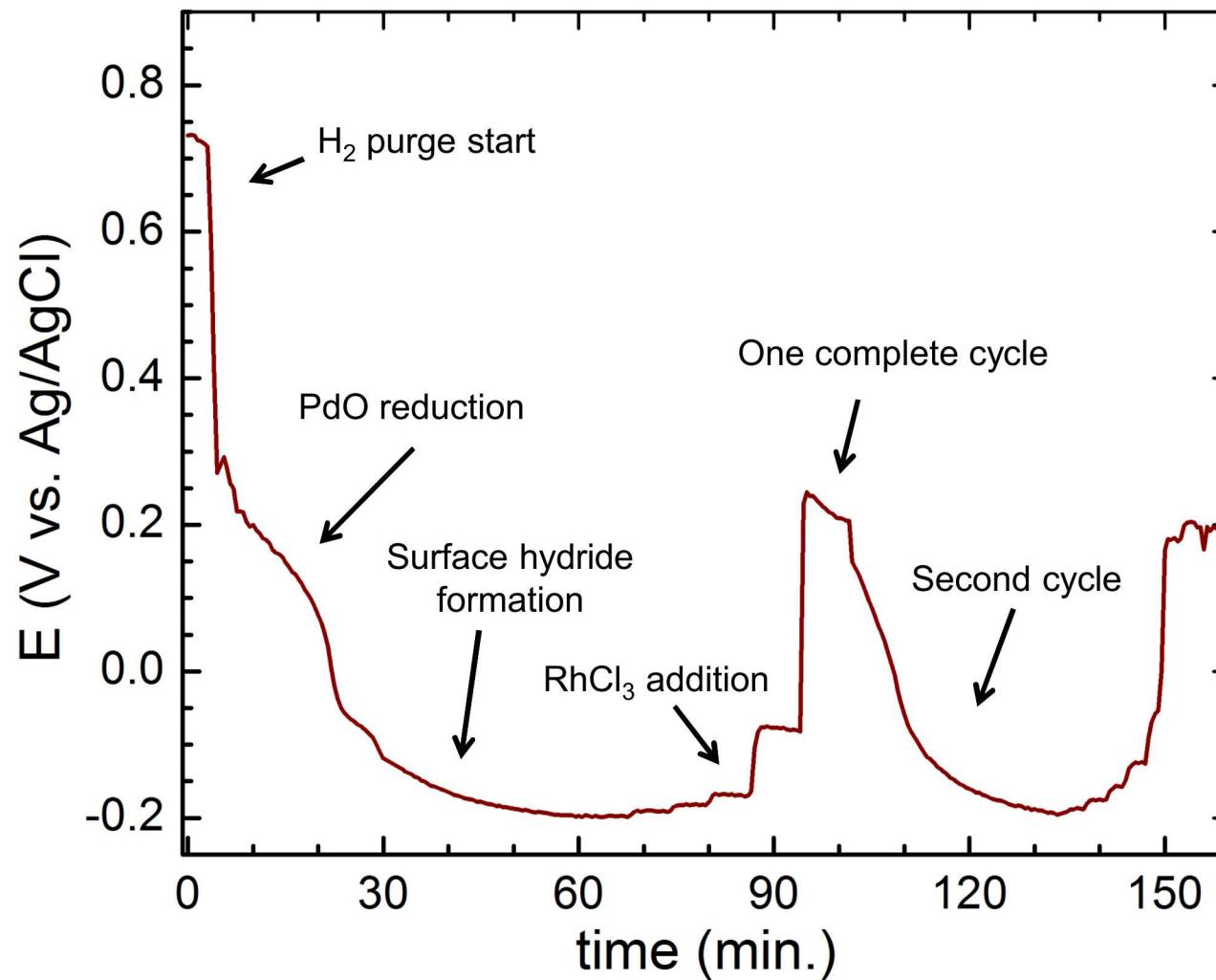
# Simple Apparatus for ALED

---

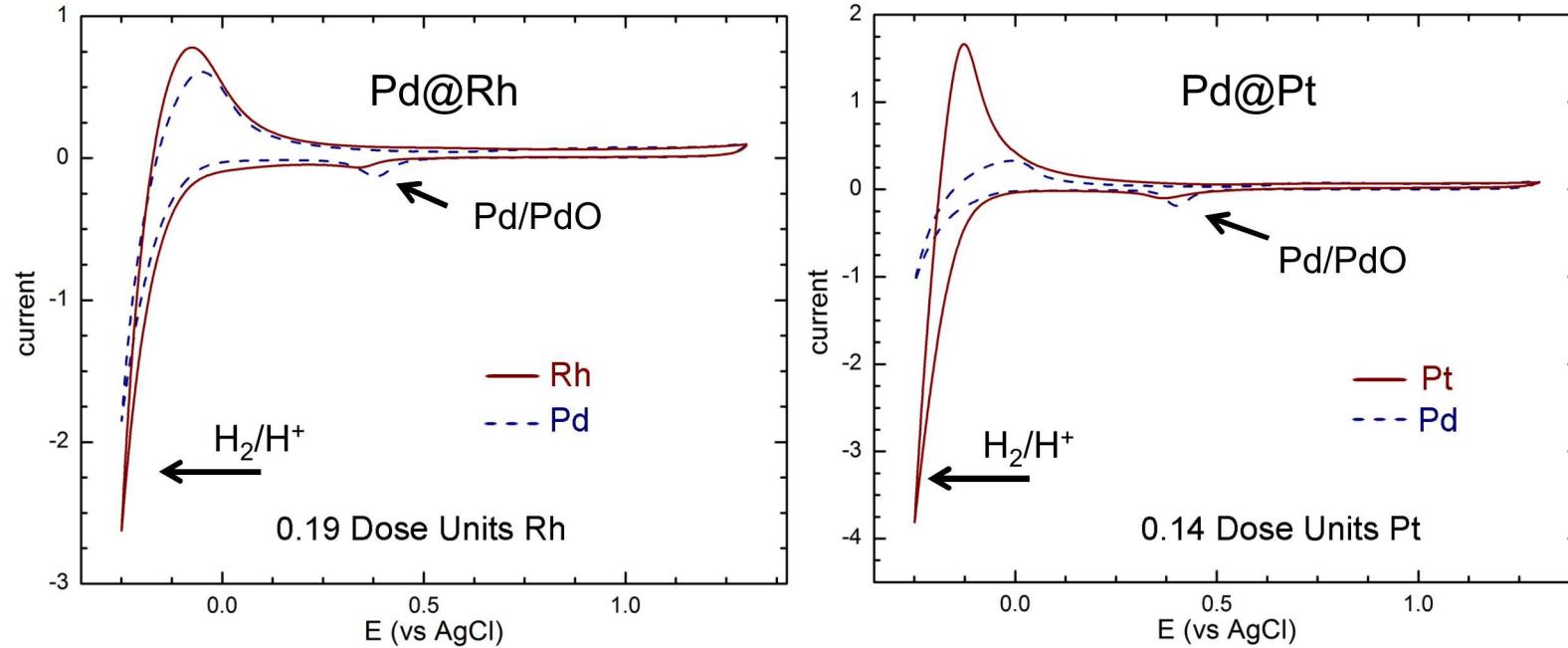
- Pd powder suspended in electrolyte
- Reagent gas ( $1\% \text{ H}_2/\text{N}_2$ )/inert gas source
- Metal salt solution added by syringe
- Electrodes to measure progress of reaction



# Monitor open circuit potential to follow reaction



# Cyclic voltammetry of Pd test wire before and after deposition of adlayer of Rh (left) and Pt (right)

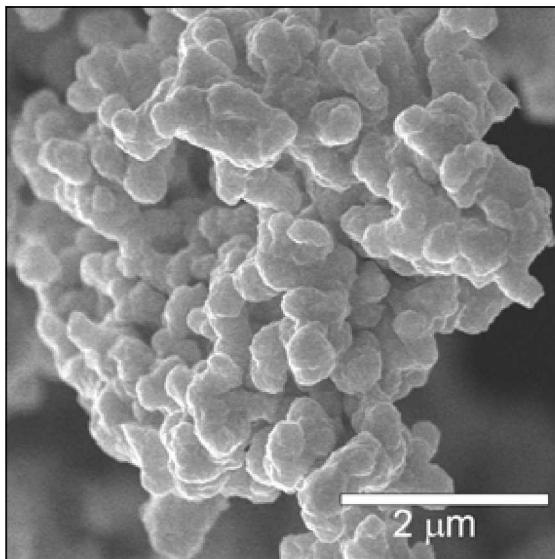


CV shows that adlayer inhibits surface Pd/PdO redox couple and suggests improved hydride/dehydride kinetics.

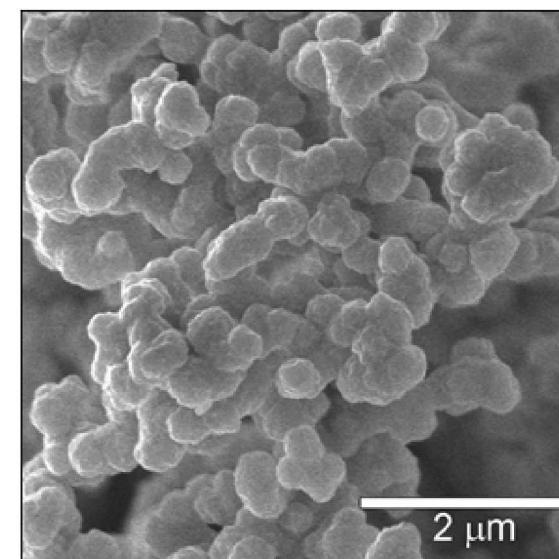
“Dose Unit” is approximately one metal ion introduced per surface metal atom.

# No change to particle morphology after two cycles of ALED of Rh on Pd

---

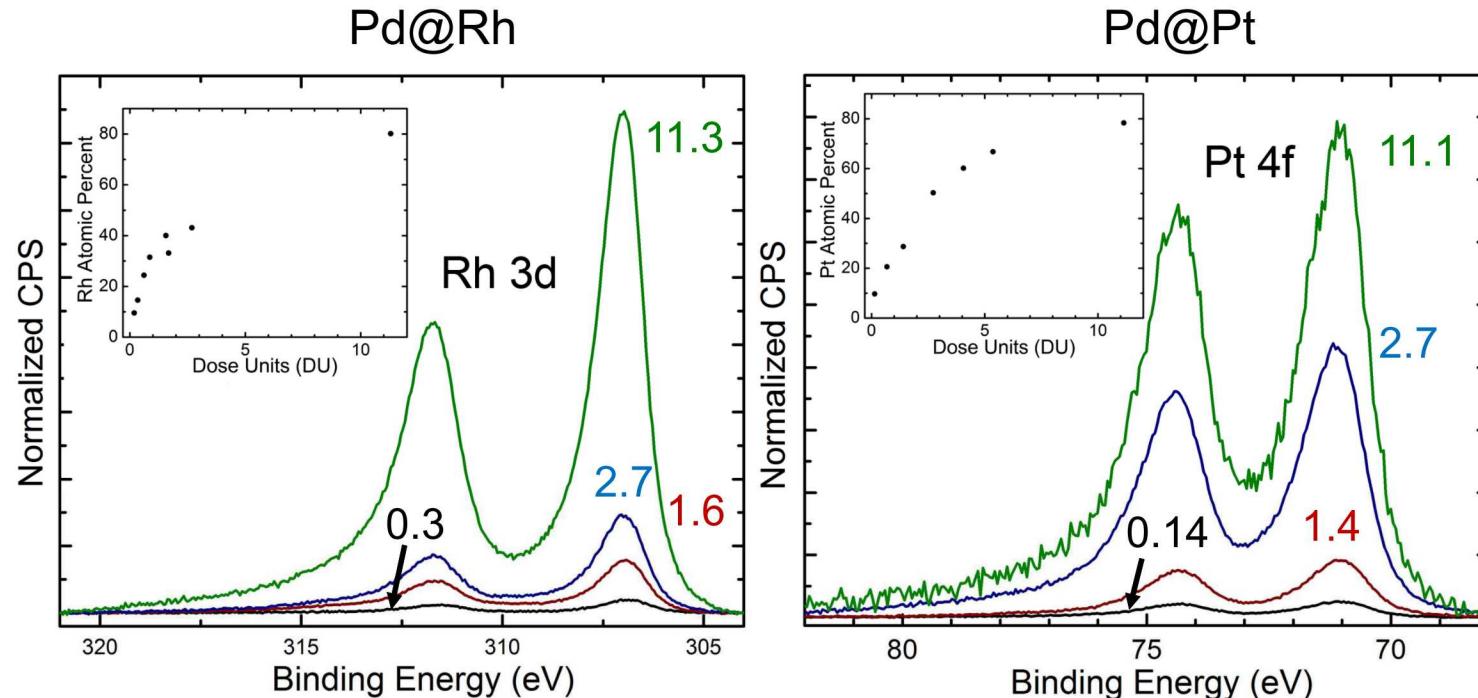


Pd powder before deposition



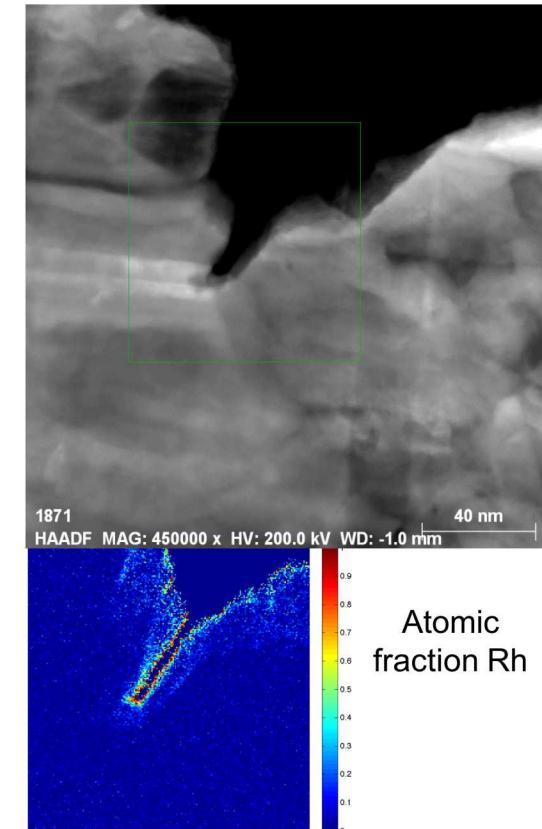
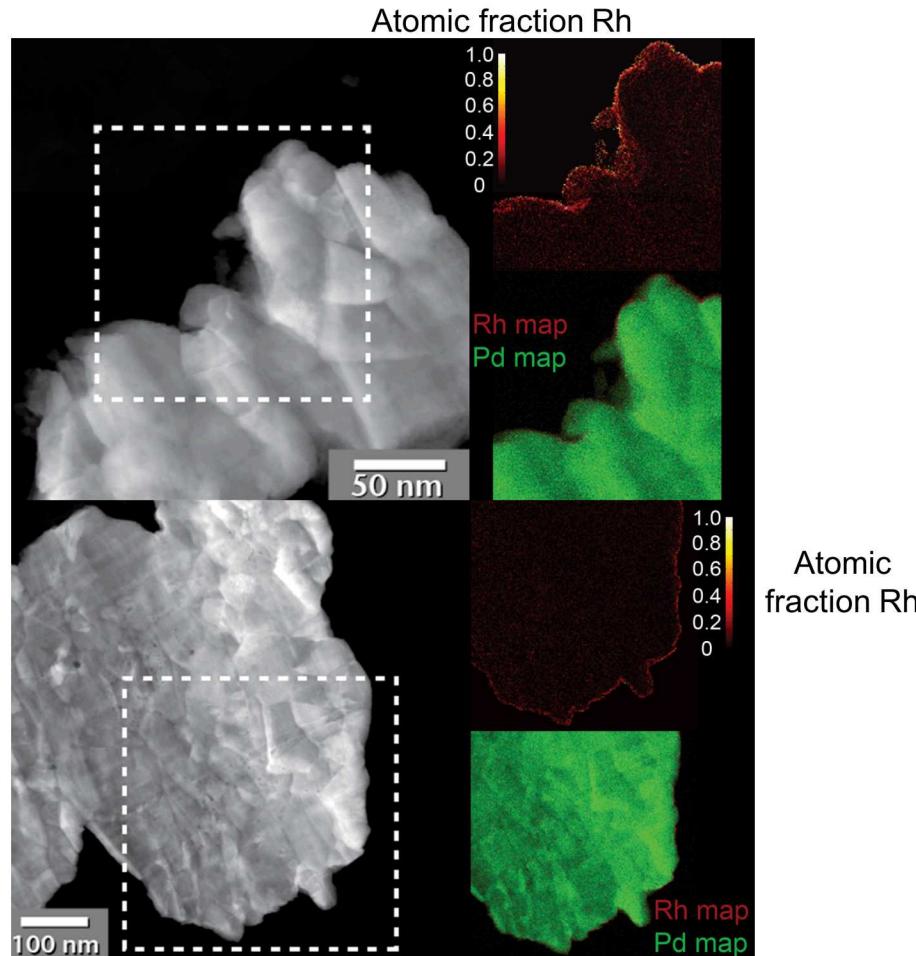
Pd powder after 2 cycles of ALED

# More cycles, more metal deposited (by X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy)



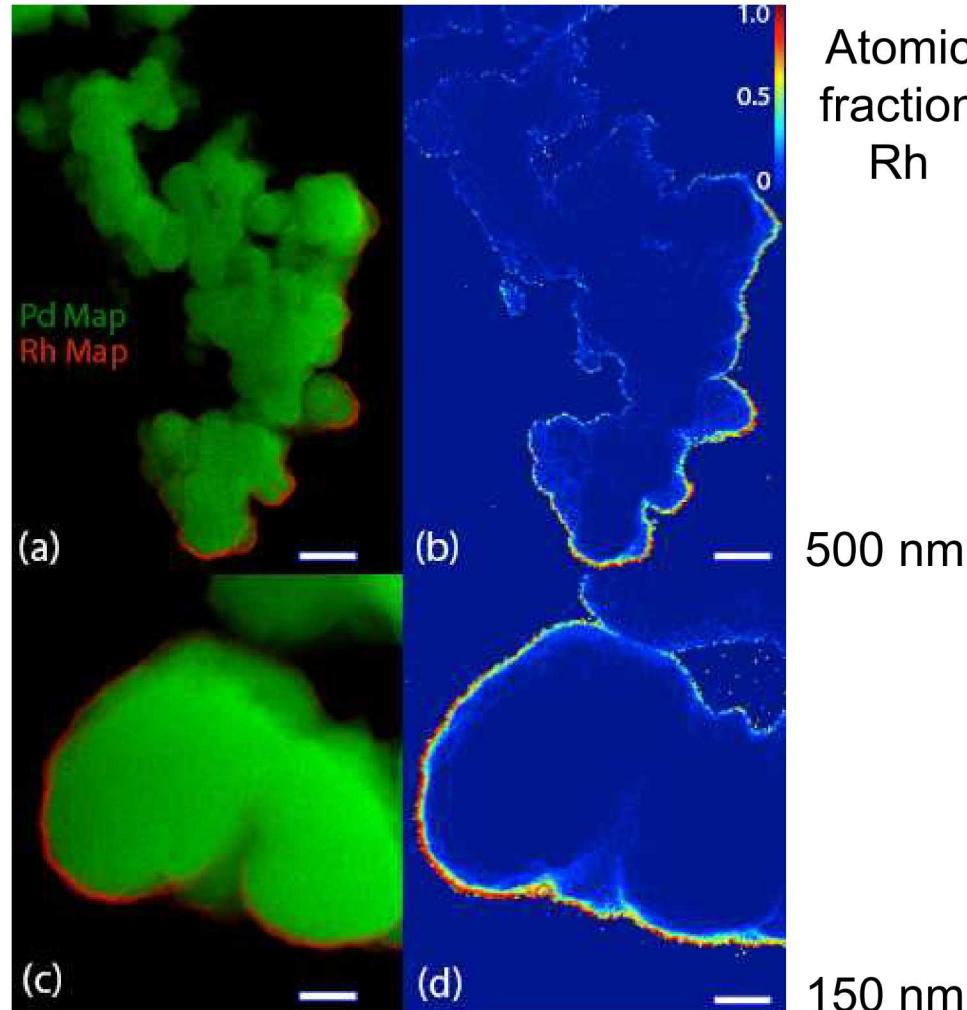
Rh and Pt peaks normalized to Pd peak at 335 eV  
 Numbers on curves indicate dose units

# STEM-EDS demonstrates conformal coating on Pd@Rh, 2 cycles

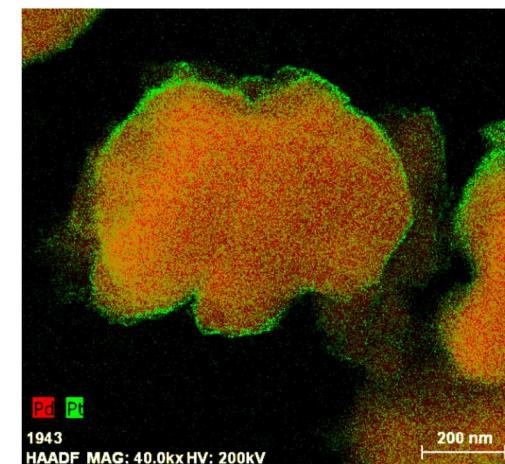
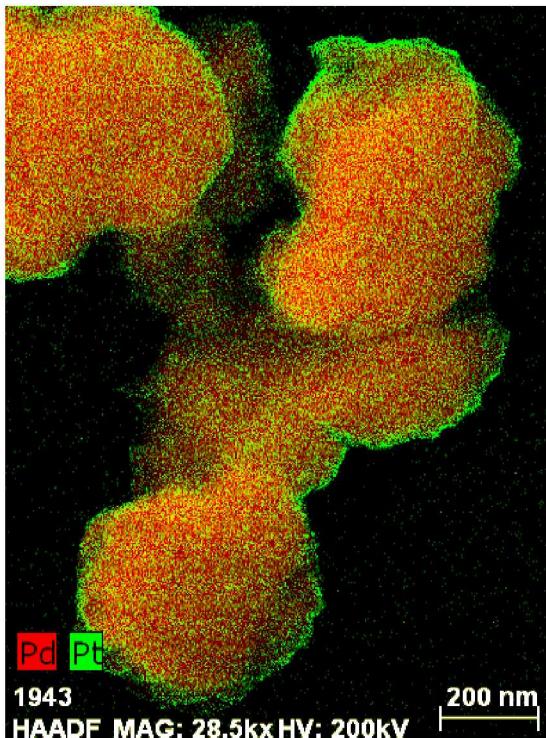


Coating is present in narrow regions

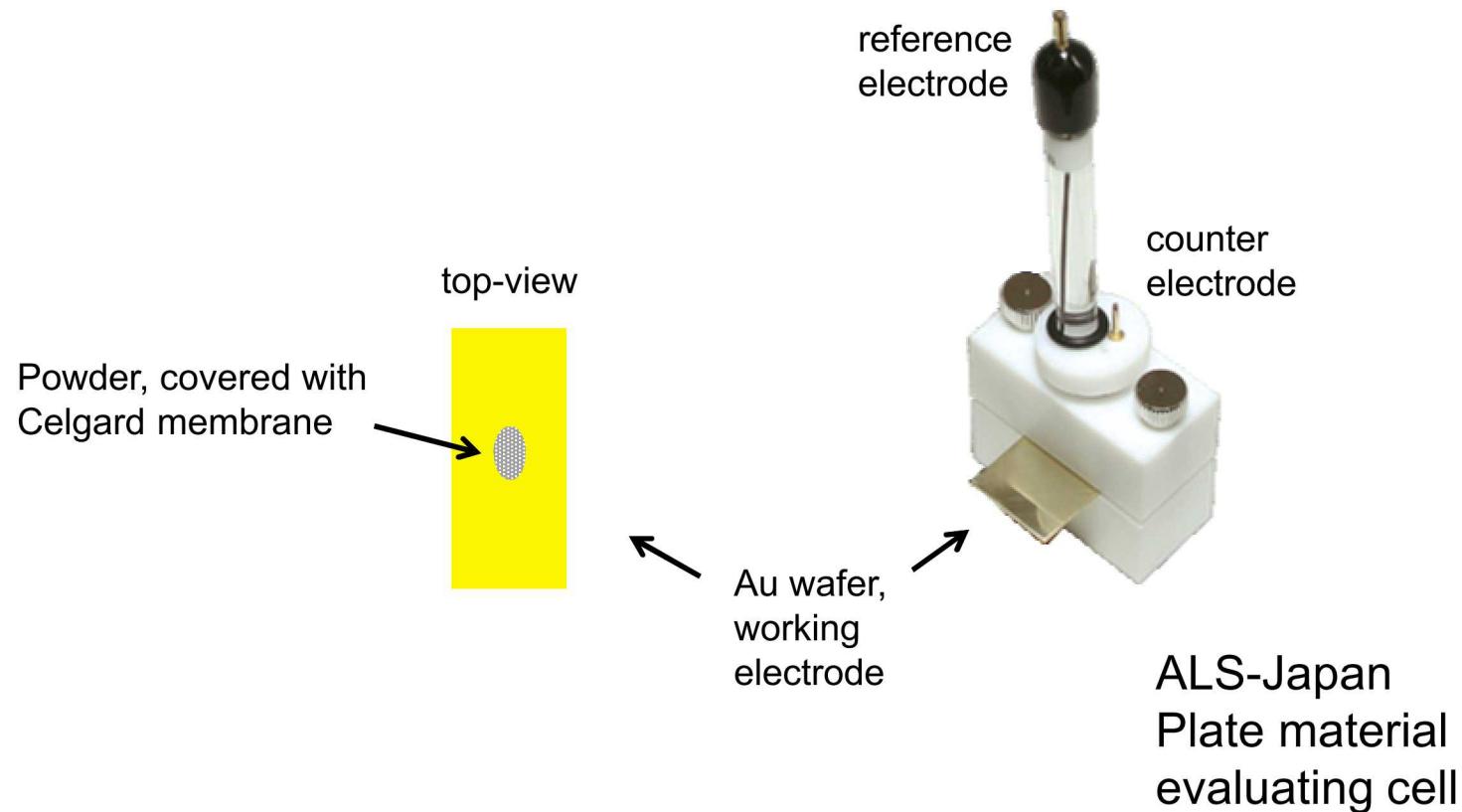
# STEM-EDS demonstrates conformal coating on Pd@Rh, 8 cycles as well, some thickness variation



# STEM-EDS demonstrates conformal coating on Pd@Pt, 1 cycle

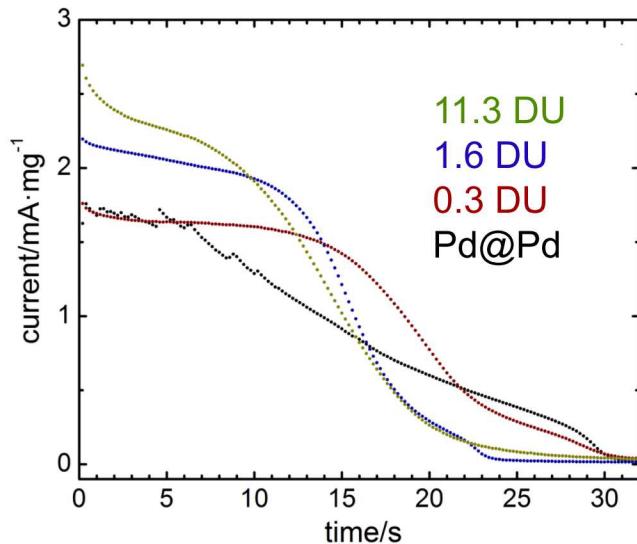


# Direct measurement of hydrogen desorption on powders

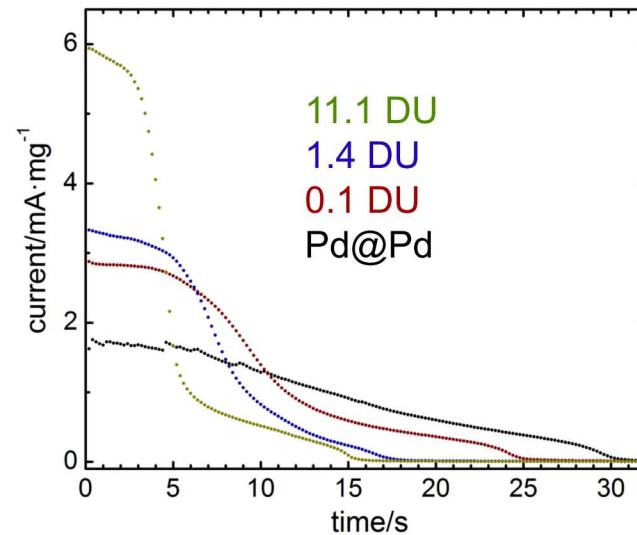


# Hydrogen desorption from powders

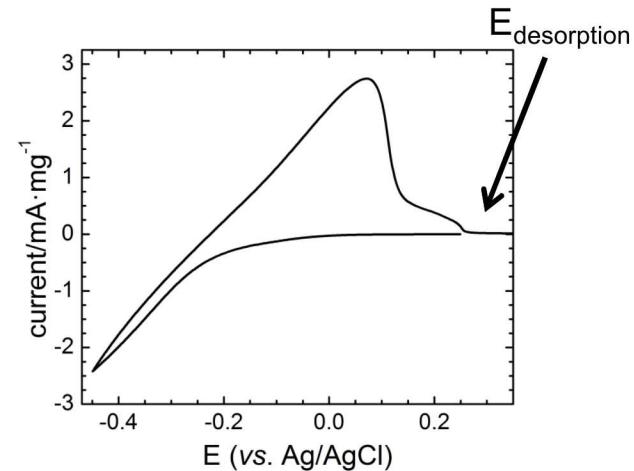
Pd@Rh



Pd@ Pt

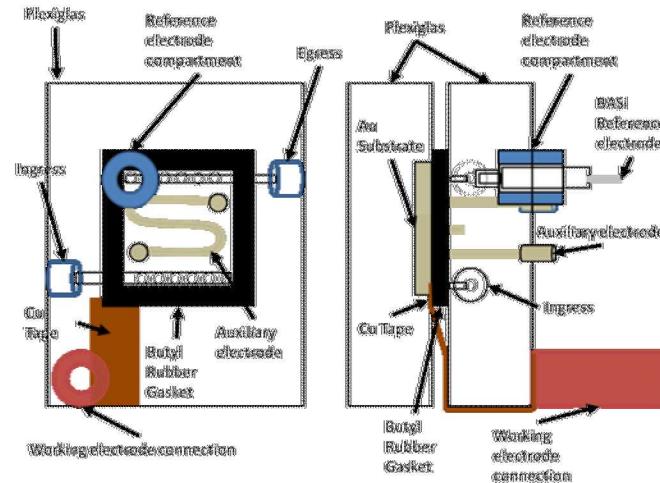
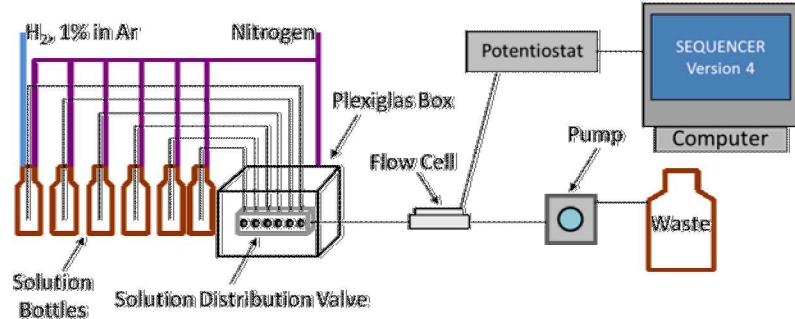


- Powders charged with  $\text{H}_2$  by applying 1.5 mA for 60s
- Poised at 0.27 V vs. Ag/AgCl to desorb hydrogen ( $t_0$ )
- More adlayer metal yields faster dehydriding in this dose range
- Pt adlayer yields faster dehydriding kinetics than Rh



# ALED on thin films

## Schematic of E-ALD System

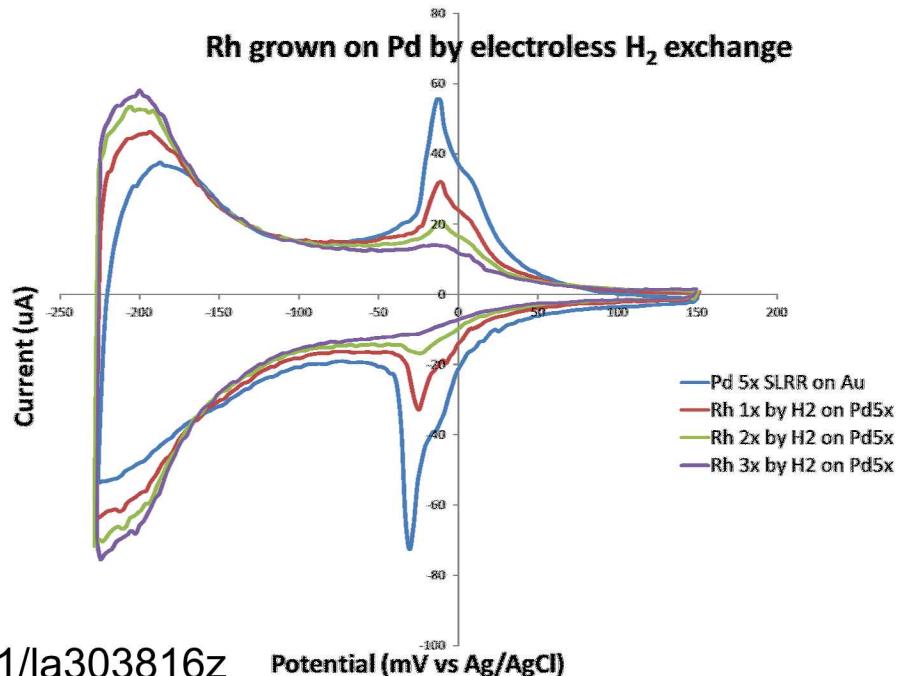


### Reagents:

0.1 mM RhCl<sub>3</sub> 10mM HCl 100mM H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>  
 0.1 mM PdCl<sub>2</sub> 50mM HCl  
 2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> in 100 mM H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>  
 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> blank

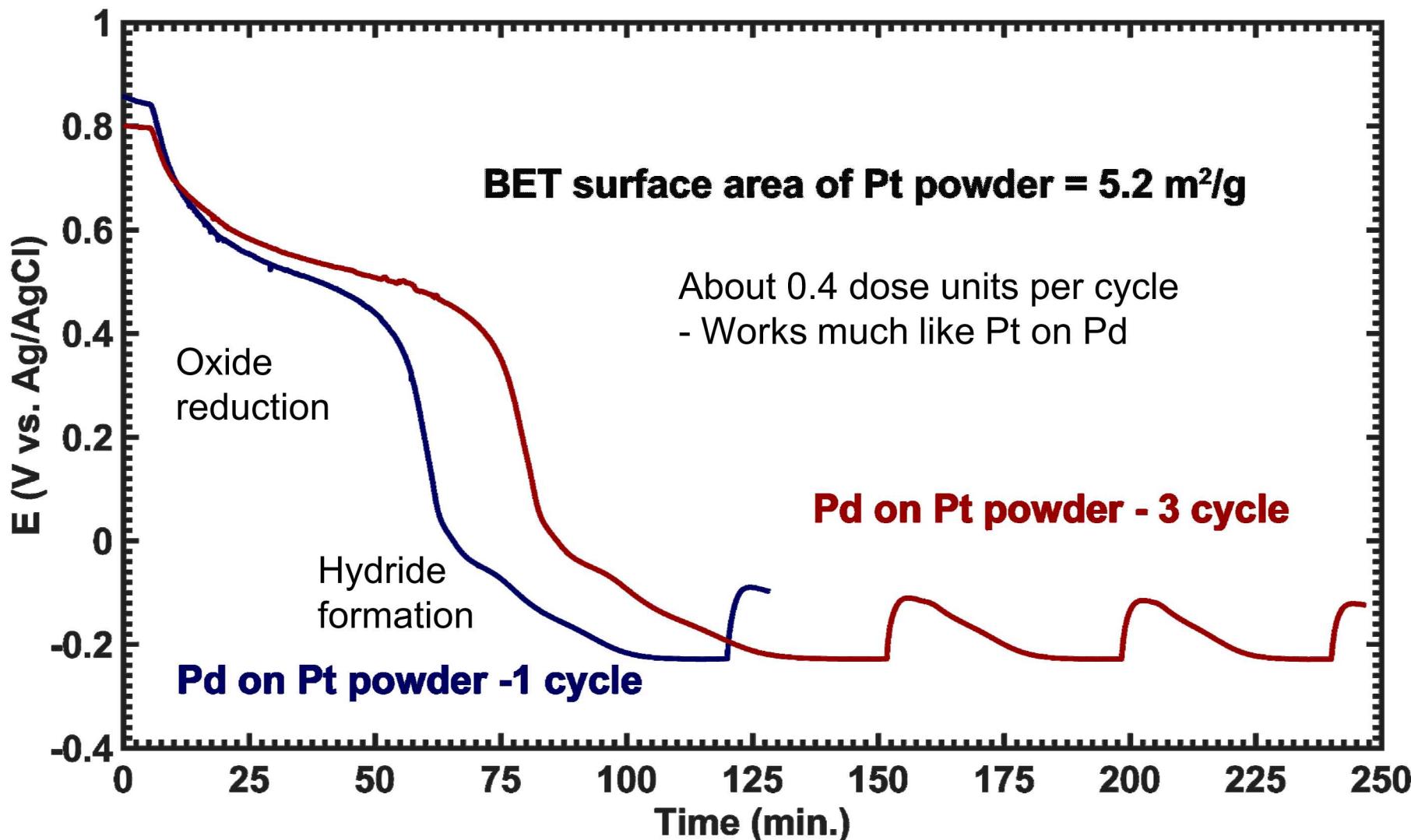
### Grow Pd on Au by E-ALD\*

Similar amounts bulk, surface hydride  
 Rh suppresses surface H peak (-50 mV),  
 Improves hydrogen desorption kinetics

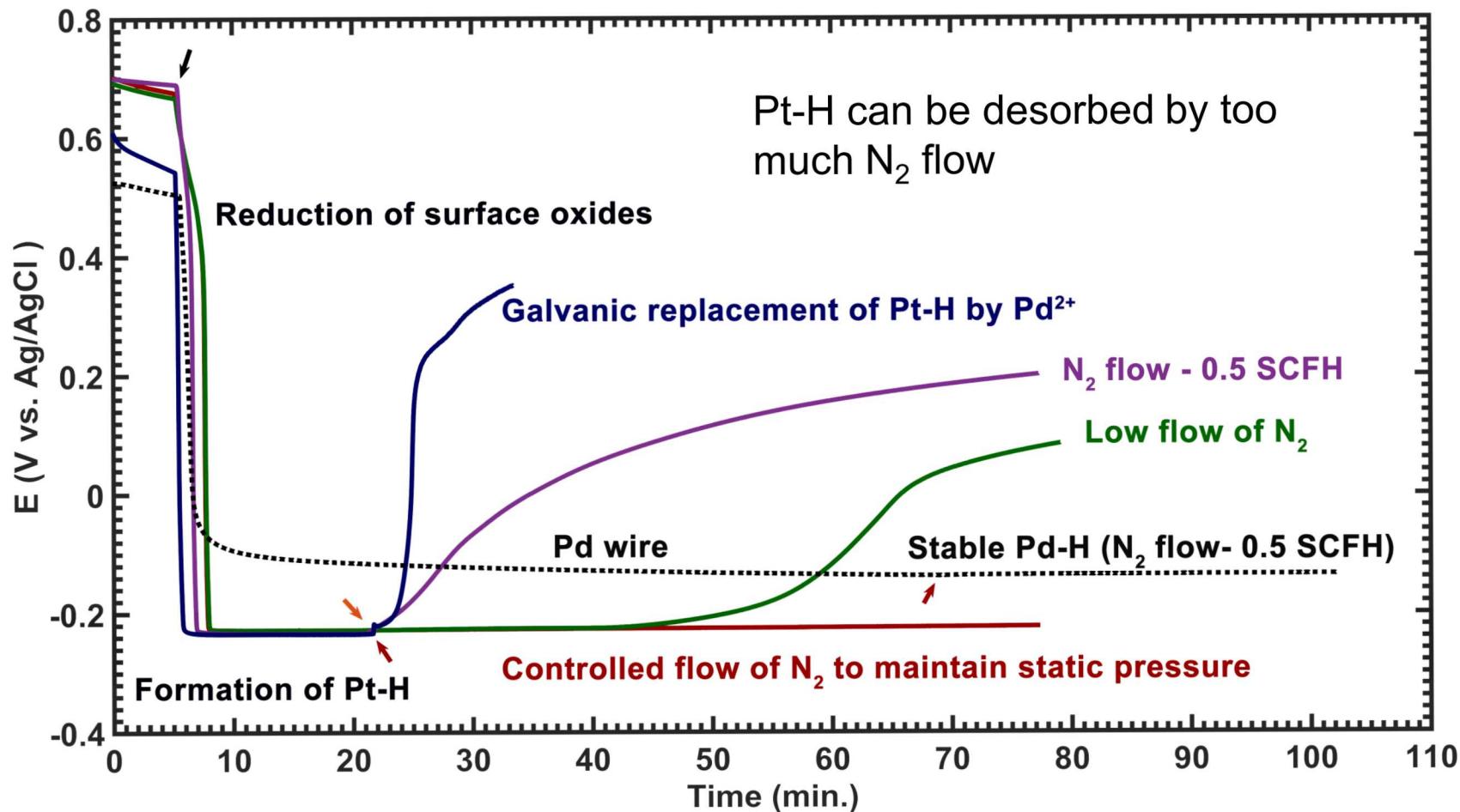


\*Sheridan et al., Langmuir 2013, 29, 1592 10.1021/la303816z

# Pd on Pt powder



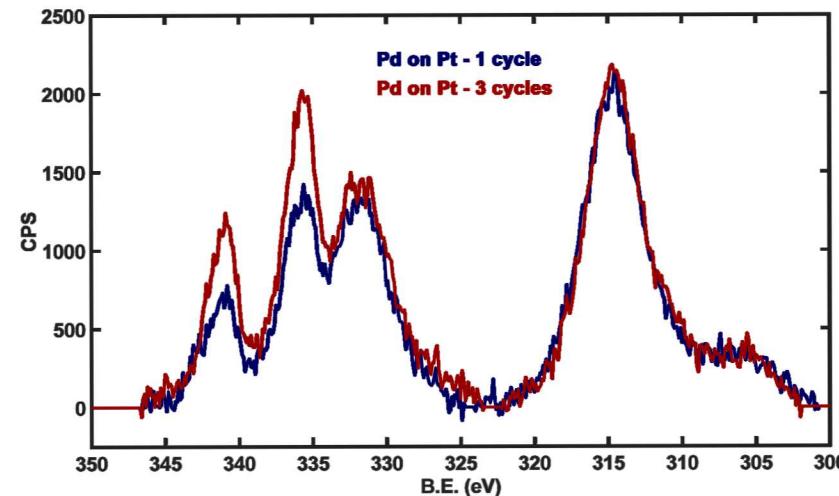
# Pt surface hydride stability



# Pd on Pt powder XPS

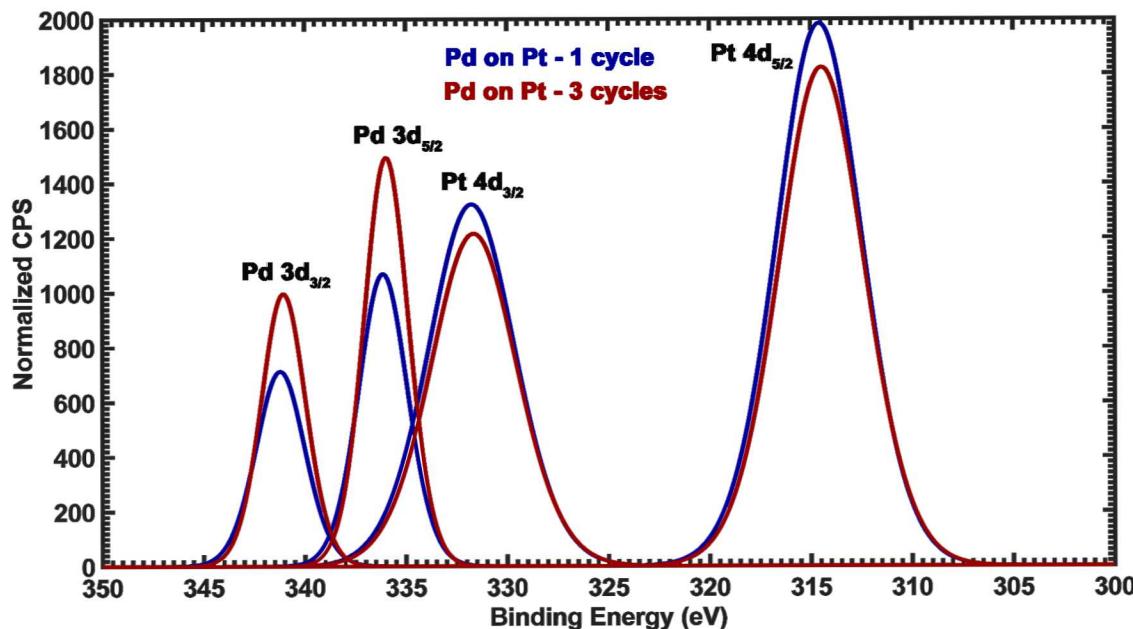
Surface Pd increases with increasing number of cycles

Raw spectra

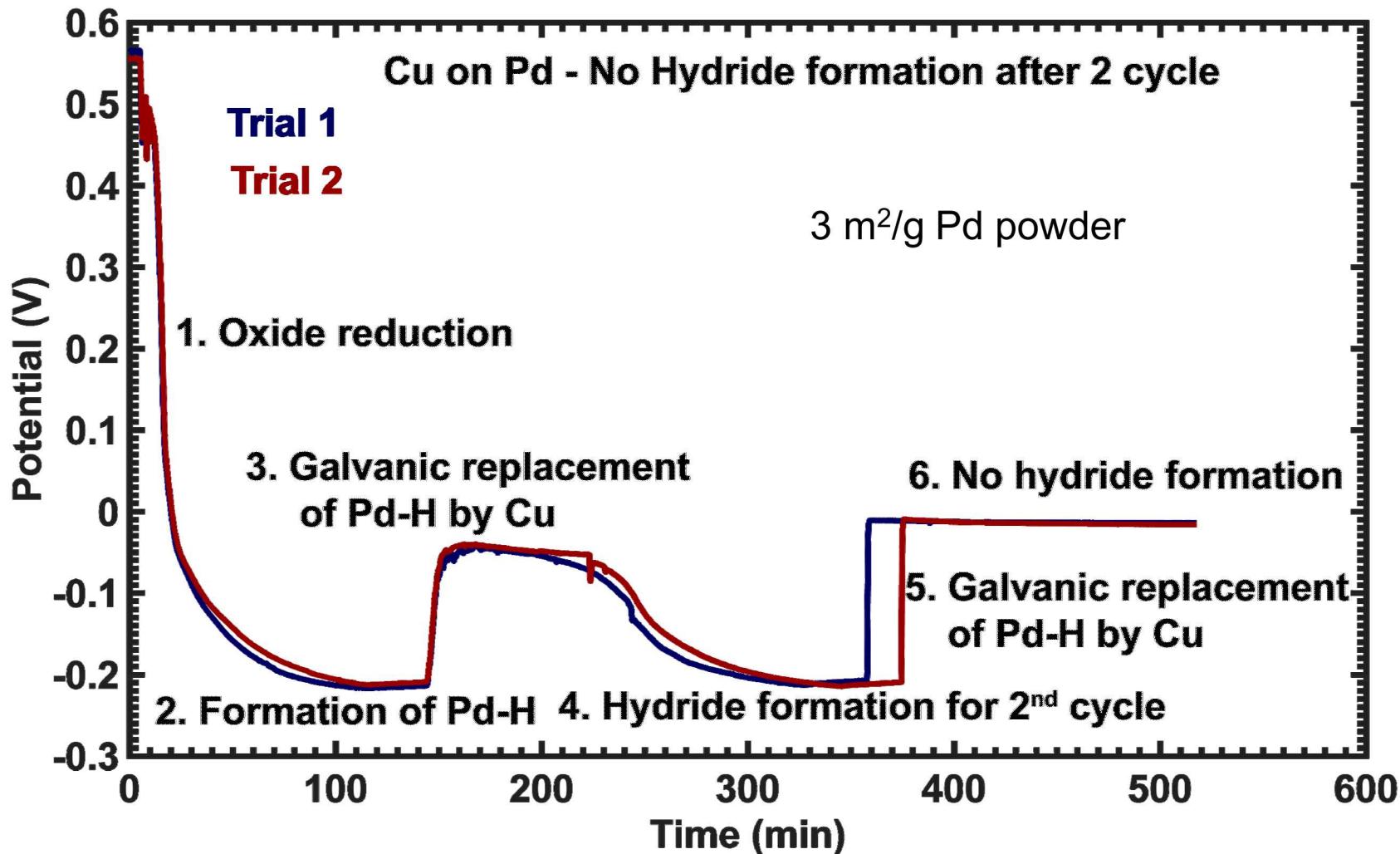


Background-corrected Gaussian fits

Sample	% Pd
1-cycle	23
3-cycle	29

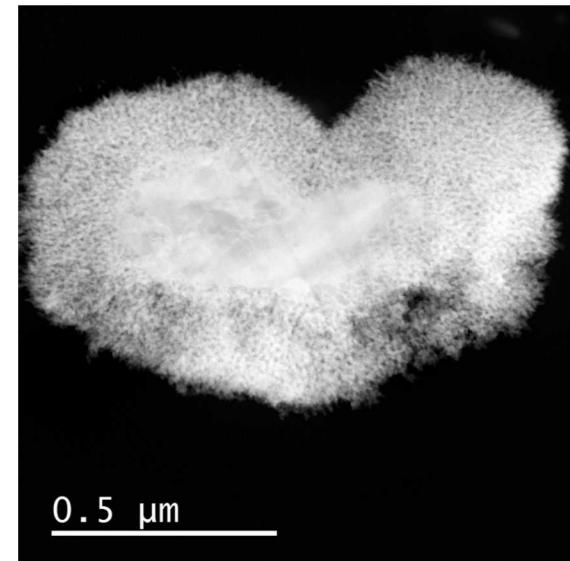


# ALED of Cu onto Pd powder



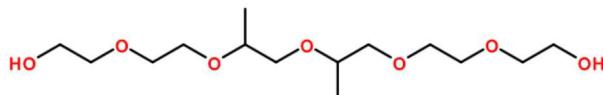
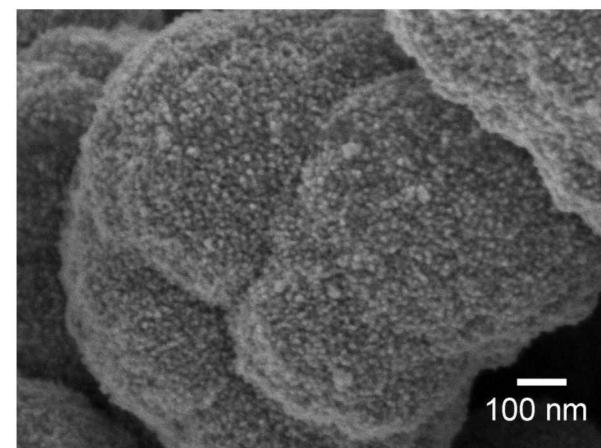
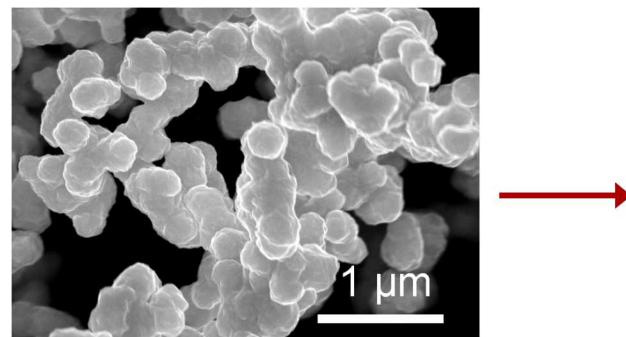
# Iterative Electroless Nanoporous Pd

- Stepwise growth of nanoporous Pd with dilute micelle former
  - Place Pd film or powder in vented fritted tube
  - Flow H<sub>2</sub> (or dilute H<sub>2</sub>)
  - Pd + H<sub>2</sub> → PdH<sub>0.6</sub>
  - Purge headspace with N<sub>2</sub>
  - Add aqueous Pd<sup>2+</sup>, Pluronic F127, dilute HCl
  - PdH<sub>0.6</sub> + Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub> + F127 → porous Pd + HCl
  - Drain, repeat as desired, rinse



1 cycle

Pluronic F127 micelle former  
 $\text{EO}_{101}\text{PO}_{56}\text{EO}_{101}$   
 where  $\text{EO}_2\text{PO}_2\text{EO}_2$  is :



# Film thickness vs. cycle number

Film ideally grows exponentially

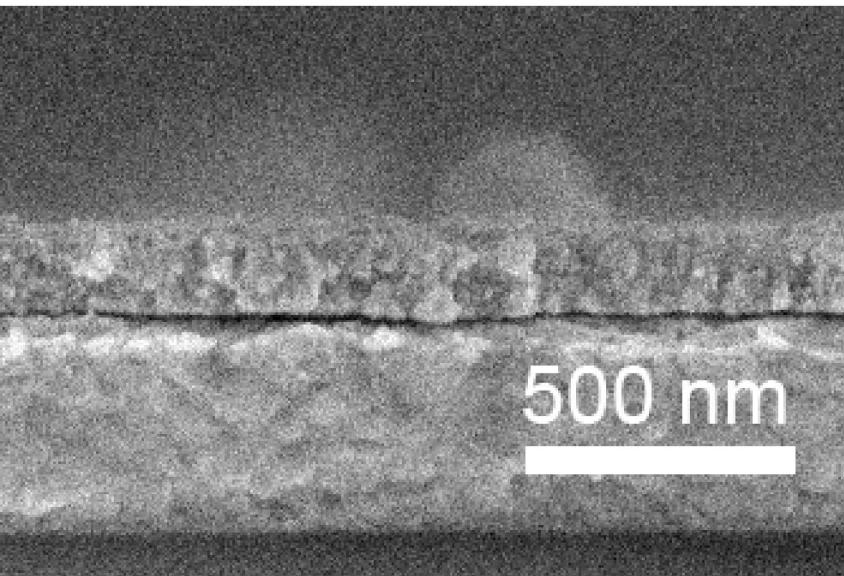
$$\sim (d_0/\phi) \times 1.3^n$$

$d_0$  = initial film thickness

$\phi$  = porosity

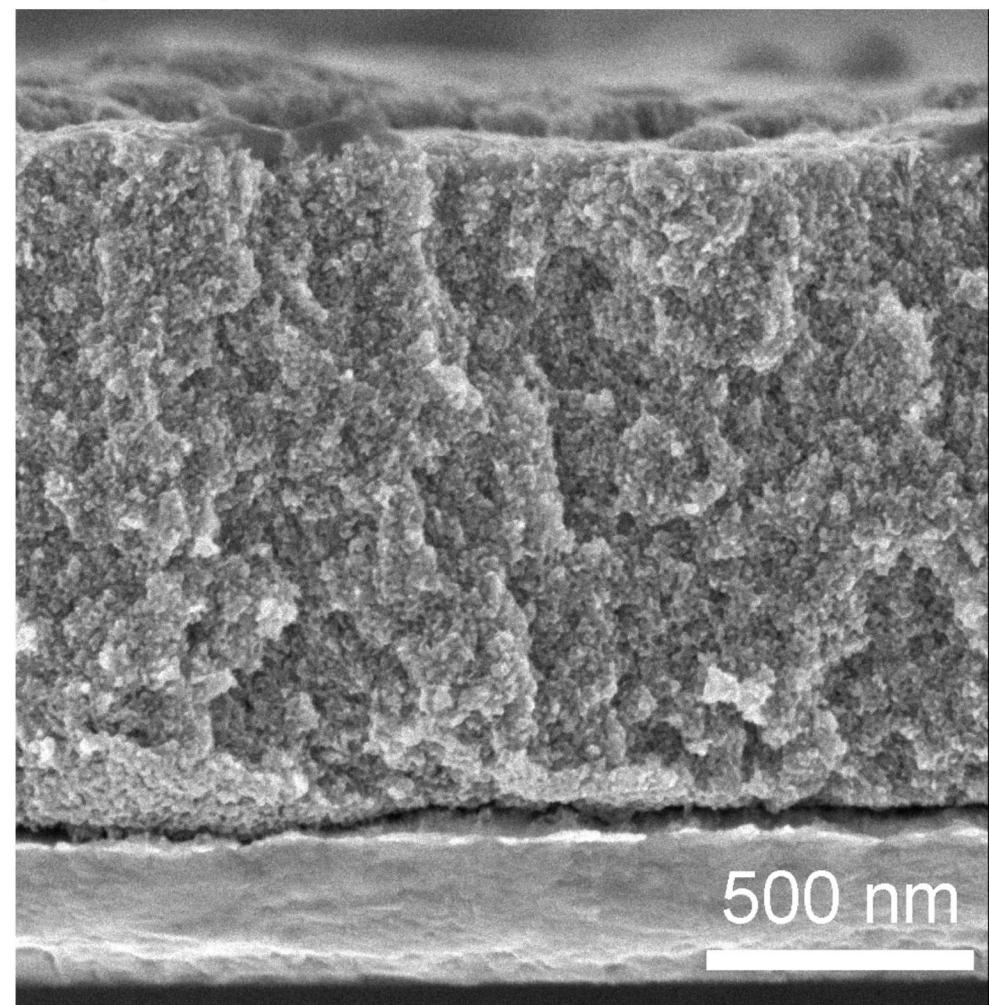
$n$  = number of cycles

1 cycle

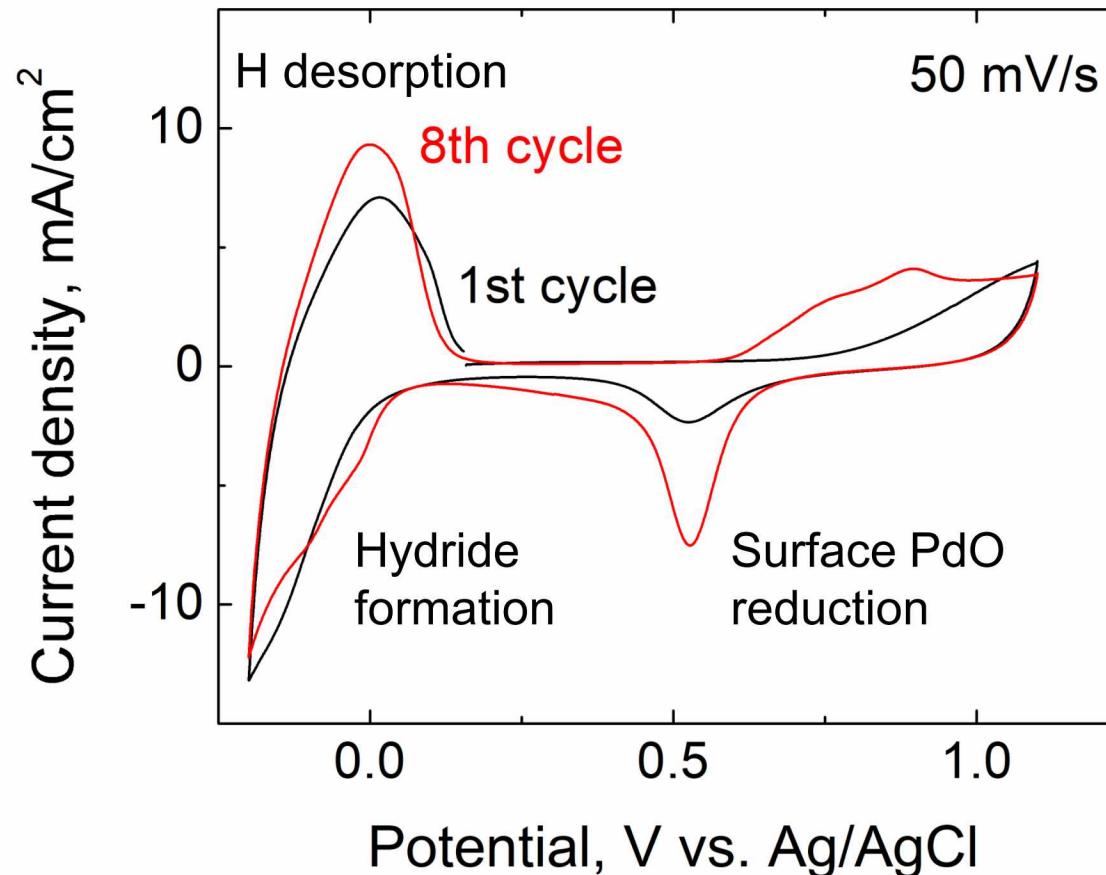


500 nm

3 cycles

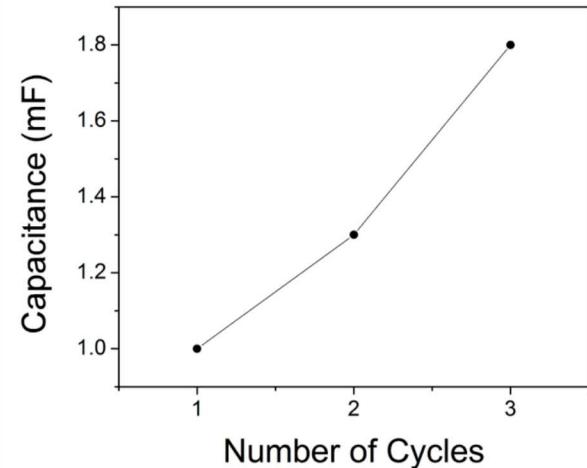
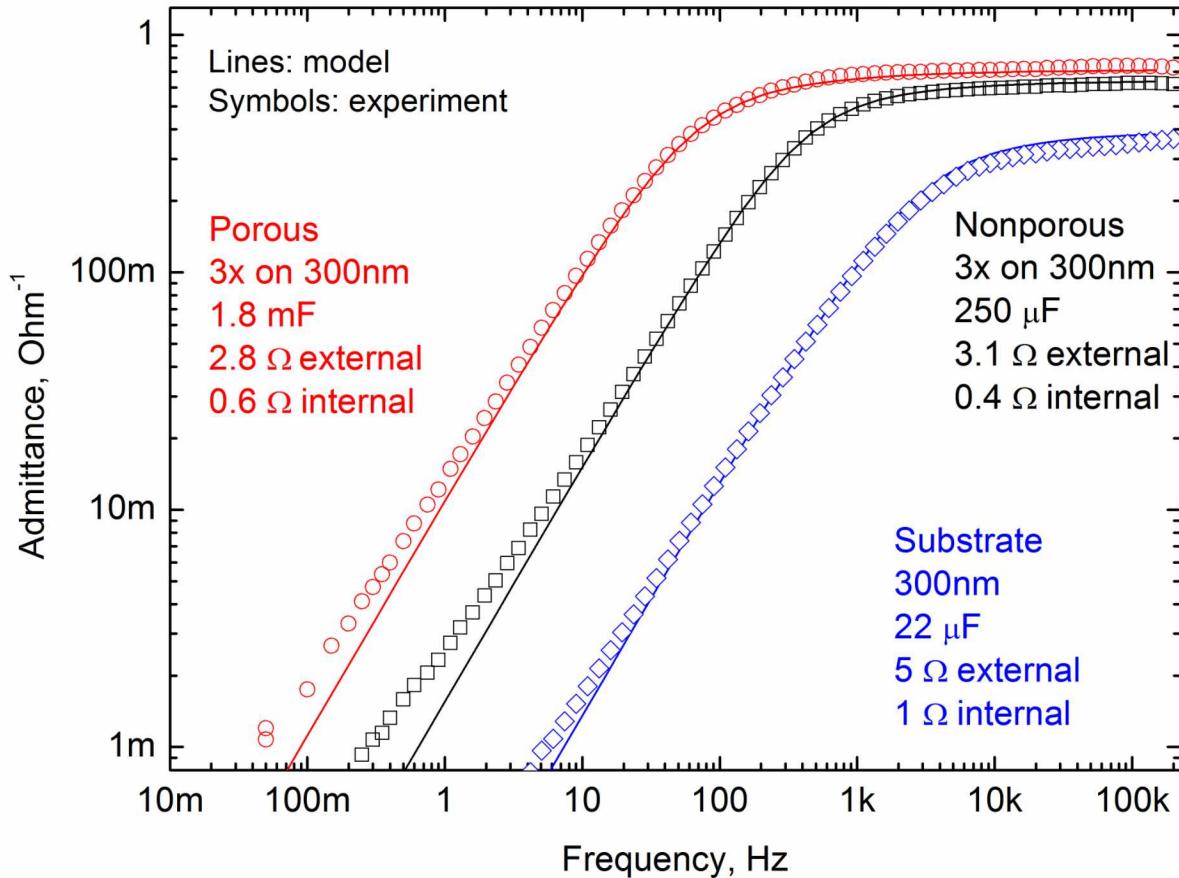


# Cyclic voltammetry of porous Pd film



300 nm thick Pd film sample after 1 growth cycle in 2 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$   
Surface redox cycles help clean Pd surface, including within pores

# Admittance of porous film

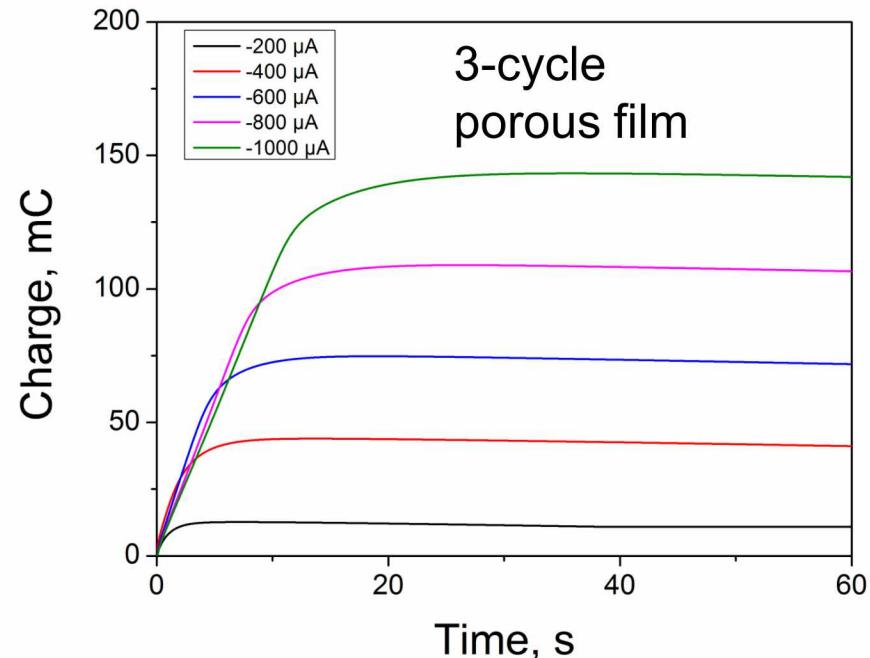
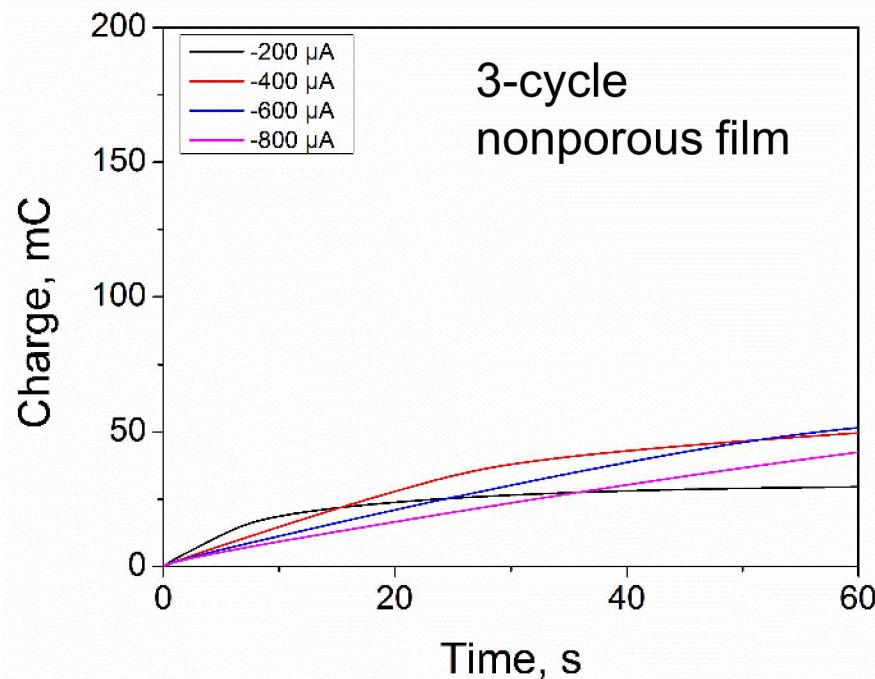


Admittance at 0.2 V vs Ag/AgCl, 10 mV zero to peak, 2 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .

Modeled as RC transmission line with external resistance.

Porous layer has highest capacitance, increasing with number of cycles.

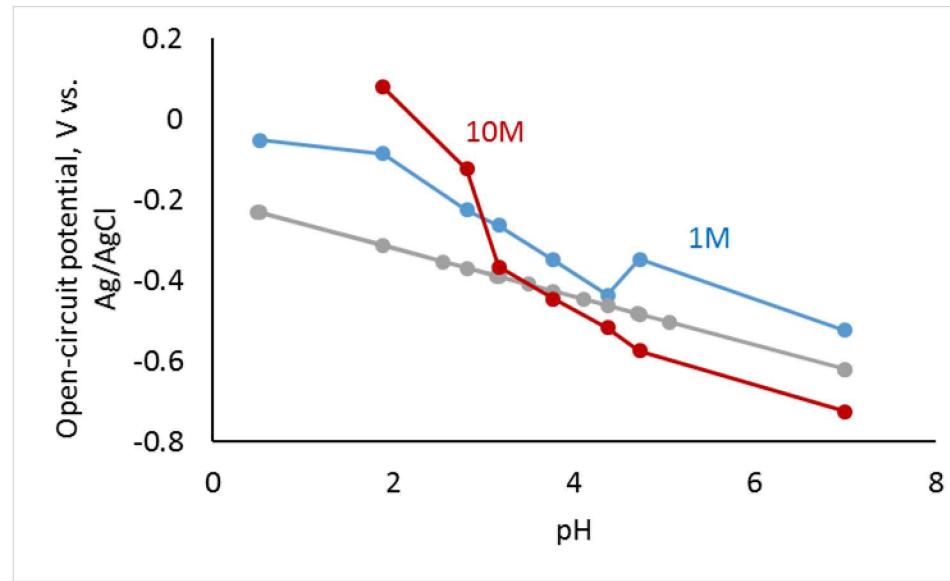
# $H_2$ desorption kinetics



Samples charged with  $H_2$  at given current for 180 s in 2M  $H_2SO_4$   
Discharged at 50 mV vs. Ag/AgCl

Porous film discharges more quickly and efficiently.

# Pd hydride formation without $\text{H}_2$



Formic acid/K formate mixtures tunably form surface, bulk hydride vs. pH, concentration. (pKa is 3.77)

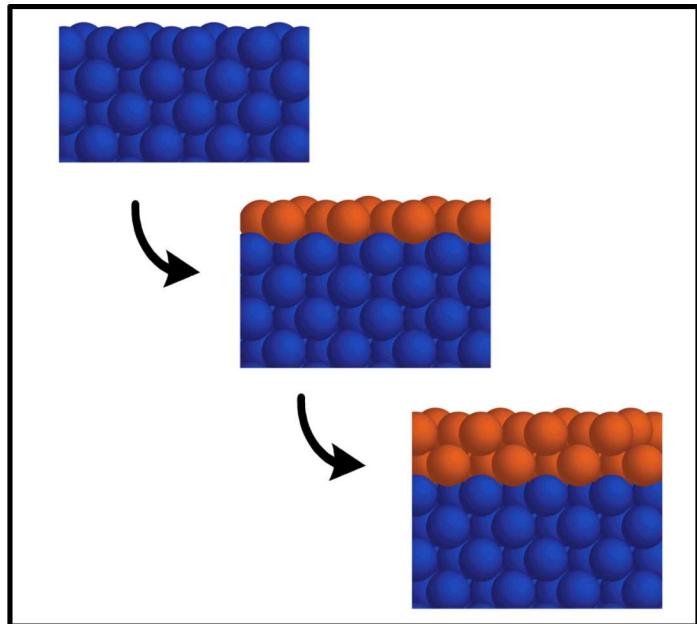
Straight gray line is expected open-circuit potential for a Pd hydride electrode.

L.D. Burke, F.A. Lewis, C. Kemball. "The Formation of Palladium Hydride by Reaction of Formic Acid at Palladium Electrodes." *J. Catalysis* 1966, 5 (3) 539-542  
[10.1016/S0021-9517\(66\)80074-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0021-9517(66)80074-X)

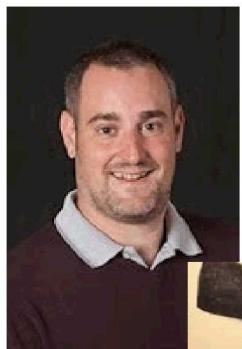
# Summary

---

- Hydrogen chemistry provides versatile methods to modify the composition and area of noble metal surfaces.
- STEM-EDS and XPS show conformal nm-scale adlayers can be formed from surface hydrides
- SEM and STEM show  $\mu\text{m}$ -scale porous layers can be formed from bulk hydrides
- Products show improved hydrogen adsorption and desorption kinetics



# Contributors and Acknowledgements



Patrick Cappillino  
Sita Gurung  
Pd on Pt, Cu on Pd  
UMass-Dartmouth



RJ Atwal, Aidan Higginbotham, Christopher G. Jones



Josh Sugar  
STEM-EDS



Farid El Gabaly  
XPS



Maher Salloum  
 $H_2$  kinetic modeling



John Stickney  
David Benson  
E-ALD, Film ALED  
U. of Georgia



Ryan Nishimoto  
SEM

[drobins@sandia.gov](mailto:drobins@sandia.gov)

Funded by Sandia Laboratory-Directed Research and Development program,  
Army Research Lab