

A review on recent advances and trends in symmetrical electrodes for solid oxide cells

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Abstract

Symmetrical solid oxide cells (SSOCs) with identical air and fuel electrodes have gained significant scientific interest in the last decade because they offer several advantages over conventional cell configurations. Among other features, simpler fabrication, better chemical and thermo-mechanical compatibility between cell layers, and electrode reversibility, make them attractive for electricity generation, H₂ production and CO₂ electroreduction. This review offers an overview of the most recent advances in the field of SSOCs, paying special attention to the relationship between electrode composition, crystal structure and properties. With that aim, symmetrical electrodes are classified in four groups according to their redox stability, i.e. single phases, composites, electrodes with exsolved metal particles and those that suffer a drastic phase transformation under reducing conditions, known in the literature as quasi-symmetrical electrodes. Furthermore, an outlook of other cell configurations with increased scientific interest are also discussed, i.e. symmetrical protonic fuel cells (H-SSOCs) and solid electrolyzers for CO₂ electroreduction. With this overview in mind, the authors would like to highlight the challenge ahead of finding electrode materials that optimally work under both oxidizing and reducing conditions in terms of redox stability and electrochemical properties, and further conclude on the future development of SSOCs.

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Acknowledgments

References

1. Introduction

Given the need for clean and renewable energy sources, new technologies are being explored to substitute conventional fuel combustion processes with low energy conversion efficiencies as well as to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that are harmful to the environment [1,2]. In this context, fuel cells are a promising technology for fuel-to-power conversion with an efficiency up to 80% and a low carbon footprint [3–5]. Among the different fuel cells, solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) are among the most promising ones due to their capability of working with a wide variety of fuels, including hydrogen, natural gas, coal gas and other renewable fuels (e.g. methanol, ethanol and CO) [6–8]. In addition, SOFCs can operate in reverse mode as Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell (SOEC) to produce hydrogen gas from renewable energy sources.

The main components of a Solid Oxide Cell (SOC) are: (i) the air electrode (oxidizing atmosphere) for the oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) and oxygen evolution reaction (OER); (ii) the fuel electrode (reducing atmosphere) for the hydrogen oxidation reaction (HOR) and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER); and (iii) the electrolyte through which oxide ions or protons are transported. Since research on SOC's started in the early 1980s, most of the focus has been put on the synthesis and characterization of new materials that can be used as any of the aforementioned cell components [9–12]. The most commonly used fuel electrode material is a composite made of a mixture of NiO and YSZ (yttria-stabilized zirconia) powders, which under reducing conditions form a Ni-YSZ cermet, showing excellent catalytic activity, mixed ionic-electronic conductivity and good current collector properties. The traditional air electrode is $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{MnO}_{3-\delta}$ (LSM) due to its better phase stability, high electrical conductivity and electrocatalytic activity towards oxygen reduction reactions at elevated temperatures ($T > 800\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) [13,14]. Alternative mixed ionic-electronic conductors (MIECs) have also been investigated for intermediate temperature applications (500-800 $^\circ\text{C}$), such as $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.8}\text{Fe}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, $\text{Sm}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{CoO}_{3-\delta}$ and $(\text{Gd,Pr})\text{BaCo}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ [15–18]. Among the electrolytes, $\text{Zr}_{0.84}\text{Y}_{0.16}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$ (YSZ), $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LSGM) and $\text{Ce}_{0.8}\text{Gd}_{0.2}\text{O}_{1.9}$ (GDC) are the standard oxide ion conductors, while doped-Ba(Ce,Zr) $\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ are the most widely used proton conductors [9,19–21].

Non-identical materials with specific properties are usually used for the air and fuel electrodes, as they exhibit different properties in oxidizing and reducing atmospheres in terms of electrical conductivity, phase stability and electrocatalytic activity [9,22]. However, the use of two different electrodes increases the production cost of the cells as a consequence of the different fabrication and thermal treatment steps needed. Therefore, an increasing effort has been devoted to developing alternative electrode materials that can potentially be used as both air and fuel electrodes in an alternative cell configuration known as symmetrical solid oxide cells (SSOCs) [23,24]. The advantages of SSOCs over conventional SOC's rely not only on their simplified cell fabrication process, as both electrodes have the same composition, but also on their improved chemical and thermo-mechanical compatibility between the different cell components [25]. Special attention is paid to the electrode/electrolyte interface, minimizing thermal and lattice expansion mismatch between the cell layers and avoiding the formation of non-desired reaction products [26]. Another relevant property of SSOCs

relies on their reversibility, meaning that the oxidizing and reducing atmospheres to which electrodes are exposed can be reversed [27,28]. This confers important advantages to prevent detrimental effects associated with sulfur poisoning and carbon deposition in the electrodes by simply switching the gas flow or alternating operation between fuel and electrolysis modes, making possible the implementation of this technology for power generation (SOFC), hydrogen production (SOEC) and CO₂ electroreduction processes [28–32]. This feature gives a great flexibility of use to these electrochemical devices, as the stored chemical energy can be delivered under demand as electrical energy.

The field of SSOCs have thereby aroused a great interest among the scientific community in the last 15 years, with 115 publications and over 2900 citations registered in 2020 (data source: Scopus database). Pioneer studies in SSOFC technology started in 2006 when Bastidas *et al.* and Ruiz-Morales *et al.* revealed promising results for La(Cr,Mn)O₃-based electrodes, becoming a real alternative to the traditional approach based on Ni-cermet anode supported cells [12,33]. From this point onwards, great efforts have been made to implement MIECs derived from perovskite-type compounds, such as LaMnO₃, (La,Sr)FeO₃ and (La,Sr)CoO₃; however, they exhibit low redox stability to be used under reducing atmospheres. In order to overcome this drawback, much investigation has been devoted to modifying the electrode composition by doping with elements with better redox stability in the B-site of the perovskite structure (*e.g.* Sc, Ti, Mo, W, Nb and Zr) [34]. Alternatively, layered perovskites with compositions of Sr₂Fe_{1.5}Mo_{0.5}O_{6-δ}, PrBaMn₂O_{5+δ} and La₂MnO_{4+δ} have also been proposed for SSOC electrodes due to their inherent phase stability and good electrical conductivity in both oxidizing and reducing environments. In addition, they possess faster ionic conduction than single-perovskites, thereby showing high activity for ORR [35–37].

Although improved symmetrical electrodes have been reported in the last few years, their low electronic conductivity and poor electrocatalytic activity in fuel conditions, compared to the conventional Ni-YSZ cermets, are the main drawbacks for their potential application [38]. In order to overcome this issue, the direct infiltration of active metals, such as Ru, Pd, Ni, onto the electrode surface has proven to be a good approach to enhance the overall electrode performance. Alternatively, these active metals can be directly incorporated as dopants within the crystal structure. They stay in the crystallographic phase in oxidizing conditions, while they are exsolved as metal nanoparticles on the surface in a reducing atmosphere without phase transformation and little lattice volume variation, which is beneficial for the mechanical stability of the cell [39]. In some cases, traditional air electrodes such as La₂NiO_{4+δ} (LNO), La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.8}O_{3-δ} (LSCF) and Ba_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}O_{3-δ} (BSCF) have been tested for applications in SSOCs, suffering a severe phase transformation under reducing atmosphere into multiple phases, including metal particles that improved their electrocatalytic properties. These materials are known in the literature as quasi-symmetrical electrodes because the phase composition of the fuel and air electrodes is different. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that this phase decomposition should be reversible in air, being possible to regenerate the original electrode composition by switching the gas feed [40–42].

With this in mind, the present review aims to give an overview of the latest advances in the field of SSOCs, paying special attention to the relationship between material composition and properties. In the last few years, new trends and perspectives in symmetrical electrode materials have been implemented for potential application in SSOFC and symmetrical solid electrolysis cell (SSOEC) systems with both oxide-ion and proton conducting electrolytes, as shown in **Fig. 1a** and **b**. Protonic cells have increasingly gained ground on the field of SSOCs, as they can operate at relatively low temperatures (500-800 °C), thereby offering benefits such as improved performance and durability [43–46]. Similarly, SSOECs in the context of CO₂ electroreduction have increasingly become of interest due to its impact on global warming [47–49]. **Fig. 1c-f** presents an overview of the main electrode compositions that are discussed here, and summarize the outline of the present review: (c) single phases, (d) composite electrodes, (e) electrodes with exsolved nanoparticles and (f) quasi-symmetrical electrodes.

Apart from focusing on the intrinsic properties and reversibility of the electrode materials, other aspects such as microstructure, morphology and electrode architecture design will be also addressed, as they are crucial to increase the electrocatalytic activity and extend the durability of SSOCs [10,50]. Special attention will be given to alternative synthesis methods and electrode deposition techniques, such as sol-gel, freeze-drying, templating method, infiltration technique and spray-pyrolysis deposition, which improves the electrode microstructure and electrochemical properties in comparison to materials prepared by the traditional solid state reaction method at high sintering temperatures [51–58]. These strategies have proven to be more cost-effective by providing optimized properties for all cell components, although special consideration should be paid to possible detrimental reactions between the different layers of the cell.

We believe that this study provides insightful information to keep up to date the state-of-the art of SSOCs and, consequently, boost their most immediate development. To this aim, not only the latest findings are discussed but also the main drawbacks of the technology are pointed out in order to identify the main challenges ahead and future perspectives, including new electrode compositions and alternative preparation methods in order to obtain efficient and durable electrodes at low operating temperatures.

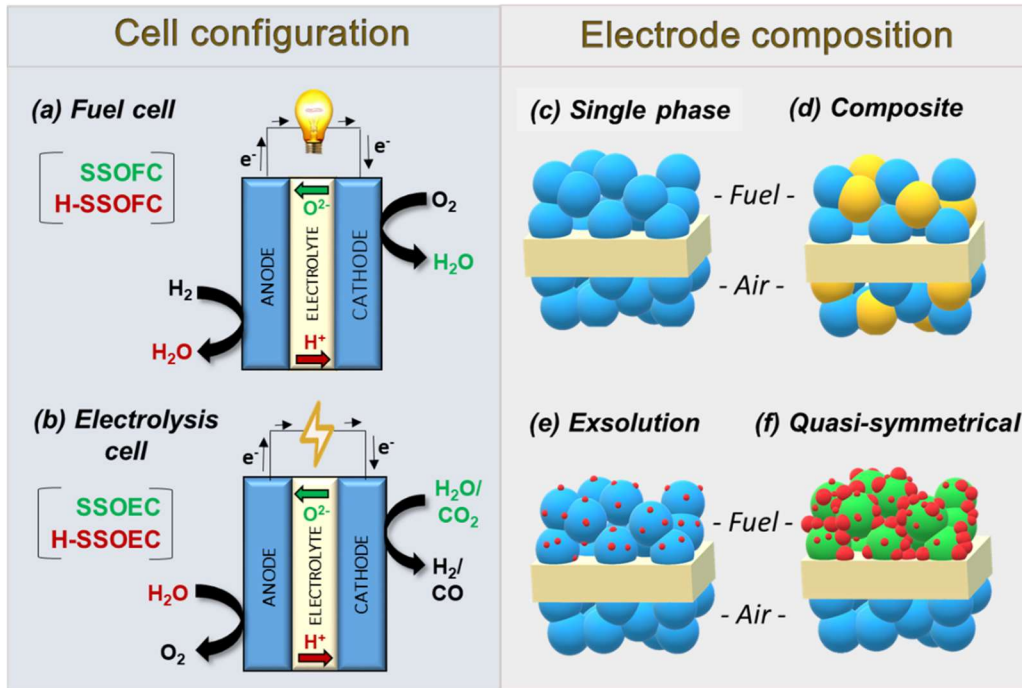


Figure 1. The two main application of symmetrical electrodes: (a) fuel cell and (b) electrolysis cell, including both oxidation and proton conducting electrolytes. Most studied electrode compositions in SSOCs: (c) single phases, (d) composites, (e) electrodes with exsolved nanoparticles and (f) quasi-symmetrical electrodes.

2. Symmetrical electrodes with single perovskite-type structure

2.1. La(Cr,Mn)O₃-based electrodes

Lanthanum chromites, widely employed as interconnect materials for SOFCs due to their remarkable stability at high temperatures in a wide range of oxygen partial pressures ($1-10^{-24}$ atm), were the first electrodes considered for SSOFCs [59]. Traditionally, a co-doping approach on both A- and B-sites of the perovskite has been employed in order to enhance their conductivity and electrocatalytic activity in both oxidizing and reducing conditions. In general, A-site doping with Sr^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Ba^{2+} is used to increase the concentration of oxygen vacancies and to improve the ionic and electronic conductivity. However, the introduction of cations with better redox stability in the B-site, such as Sc, Ti, Mo, W, Nb and Zr, improves the phase stability under reducing conditions and diminishes the thermal expansion coefficients. In the following paragraphs, a summary on the electrochemical performance of La(Cr,Mn)O₃-based electrodes in SSOCs is presented, and the most relevant compositions and properties are given in **Table 1**.

The partial incorporation of Mn in LaCrO₃-based electrodes enhances the catalytic activity towards hydrocarbon oxidation without detrimental effects on the redox stability in a H₂ atmosphere [60,61]. In 2003, Irvine *et. col.* proposed a Sr- and Mn- co-doping strategy to develop the La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{0.5}Mn_{0.5}O_{3- δ} (LSCM) anode material [62,63], which rendered a promising performance when fueled with H₂ and CH₄, achieving area specific resistance (ASR) values of 0.2 and 0.9 Ω cm² at 900 °C, respectively [62]. Later, the properties of LSCM for ORR were predicted by density functional theory (DFT) [64] and confirmed by electrochemical measurements

[65]. In this way, the first SSOFC based on LSCM electrode on YSZ electrolyte, proposed in 2006 by Bastidas *et al.*, rendered a maximum power density (MPD) of 300 and 230 mW cm⁻² at 900 °C in H₂ and CH₄, respectively [33]. Simultaneously, Ruiz-Morales *et al.* prepared the LSCM-YSZ composite electrode by mixing the powders with poly(methyl-methacrylate) (PMMA) microspheres as pore formers to tailor the porosity. The LSCM-YSZ|YSZ(250µm)|LSCM-YSZ cell rendered an improved MPD of 546 and 347 mW cm⁻² at 950 °C when fueled with H₂ and CH₄, respectively [12]. The addition of GDC to LSCM-YSZ was also tested with the aim of improving the ionic conductivity; however, the power output was not improved (400 mW cm⁻² at 950 °C in H₂) because the electrode microstructure was not optimized with PMMA templates, demonstrating the great importance of the electrode design on the cell performance [66]. In this context, several efforts have been made to tailor the microstructure and boost the electrochemical performance of LSCM symmetrical electrodes. Among them, the implementation of an aqueous gel-casting method [67], combustion synthesis [68], infiltration of LSCM into a highly porous YSZ scaffold [69] and the infiltration of Ce_{0.8}Gd_{0.2}O_{1.9} (GDC)/Ce_{0.8}Sm_{0.2}O_{1.9} (SDC) particles into LSCM-YSZ composite [66,67,69,70], have demonstrated to improve the electrochemical properties for both ORR and HOR. However, the MPD values were still modest, ranging from 250 to 450 mW cm⁻² at 850 °C, due to the low electrocatalytic activity of the electrodes for ORR as well as the high temperatures needed for the synthesis of LSCM (above 1200 °C), increasing drastically the grain size of the powders, and consequently worsening the electrochemical properties (**Table 1**).

In order to enhance the electrochemical activity, several B-site doping strategies have been deeply investigated. For instance, Peña-Martínez *et al.* studied the La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{0.5}B_{0.5}O_{3-δ} (B= Fe, Mn and Al) series. The lowest ASR values in air in contact with LSGM electrolyte were obtained for Al-doped electrode, 1 Ω cm² at 800 °C, compared to 20 Ω cm² for LSCM [71]. In another study, Rath *et al.* explored the doping effects of several aliovalent transition metals on La_{0.7}Ca_{0.3}Cr_{0.8}B_{0.2}O_{3-δ} (B= Ti, Mn, Fe, Co and Ni). In all cases, minor segregations of Cr₂O₃ were detected after calcination in air at 800 °C although this impurity was removed after treating the electrodes in a hydrogen atmosphere at 800 °C for 2 h. ASR values in H₂ ranged from 0.36 to 0.12 Ω cm² at 800 °C, increasing the catalytic activity for HOR in the following order: Ti < Co < Fe ≈ Ni < Mn [72].

Chen *et al.* studied the La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{0.3}Fe_{0.7}O_{3-δ} symmetrical electrode, which showed low ASR values of 0.10 and 0.40 Ω cm² in oxidizing and reducing conditions at 800 °C, respectively [73]. An LSGM electrolyte supported cell with a La_{0.4}Ce_{0.6}O_{2-δ} (LDC) protective interlayer achieved a stable MPD of 300 mW cm⁻², operating with H₂ at 800 °C. Interestingly, the cell showed a remarkable phase stability against carbonation and sulfur poisoning in an atmosphere of 50% H₂-CO and 10 ppm H₂S. A related A-site deficient electrode, (La_{0.8}Sr_{0.2})_{0.95}Cr_{0.7}Fe_{0.3}O_{3-δ}, was also investigated, revealing a small segregation of FeO_x in reducing environments [74]. However, the ASR values were relatively elevated, *i.e.* 3.8 and 12 Ω cm² in air and 5% H₂-N₂, respectively, at 950 °C. Recently, Skinner *et col.* studied the electrical conductivity and oxygen diffusion behavior of A-site deficient (La_{0.8}Sr_{0.2})_{0.95}Cr_xFe_{1-x}O_{3-δ} (x= 0.3, 0.5 and 0.7) electrodes [75,76]. The conductivity increased with the Cr-content, while the surface exchange coefficients decreased up to two order of magnitudes, *i.e.*

1.1×10^{-10} and $8.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at $950 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for $x = 0.3$ and 0.7 , respectively, revealing that great efforts are needed to deeply understand the properties of these materials under oxidizing conditions.

A-site doping strategies have also been explored in order to improve the electrochemical properties of LSCM. One of the first attempts was proposed by Zhang *et al.* by testing different compositions of the $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{A}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LACM, A = Ca, Sr and Ba) series [70]. The materials exhibited similar conductivity values, *i.e.* 26.5 and 29.9 S cm^{-1} for LSCM and LCCM in air, respectively, at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, as well as comparable ASR values, $\sim 0.5 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air at $900 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Ca-doped LaCrO_3 has also been widely studied as symmetrical electrodes due to its higher electronic conductivity compared to LSCM under reducing atmosphere *i.e.* 0.3 and 3 S cm^{-1} for LSCM and $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{CrO}_{3-\delta}$ (LCC), respectively, in 10% $\text{H}_2\text{-N}_2$ at $700 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [77,78]. Zhang *et al.* investigated LCC-GDC composite electrodes by both the physical mixing powder method [79] and the infiltration technique [80], showing the infiltrated electrodes higher MPD values of 400 and 200 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 and city gas containing H_2S , respectively. In another study, the Cr-deficient composite electrode, $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{0.97}\text{O}_3\text{-YSZ}$, showed higher conductivity values, 62 S cm^{-1} at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air, but modest values of MPD were achieved, 50.7 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ using H_2 [81].

In 2020, Wan *et al.* prepared a symmetrical composite electrode based on Bi-doped lanthanum chromite, $\text{La}_{0.65}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}\text{-SDC}$ [82]. High ASR values were obtained in air, $2.90 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, attributed to the inherent poor activity of these materials for ORR. In contrast, competitive ASR values were achieved working as anode, $0.32 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 , rendering MPDs of 280, 260 and 240 mW cm^{-2} using H_2 , syngas and ethanol as fuels, respectively (**Fig. 2 a-d**). It has to be commented that the redox stability of these materials was not studied, despite the high reducibility of Bi and Fe, which could be partially reduced to Bi-Fe metal, explaining the improved efficiency of the anode.

The incorporation of Ce in LSCM was similarly investigated due to the high catalytic activity of $\text{Ce}^{4+}/\text{Ce}^{3+}$ species for hydrocarbon oxidation [83,84]. $\text{La}_{0.75-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ ($x = 0\text{-}0.375$) series showed better electrochemical performance in H_2 with increasing Ce-doping [85]. Similarly, Song *et al.* confirmed the better catalytic activity of $\text{La}_{0.75}\text{Sr}_{0.25-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ ($x = 0\text{-}0.15$) from O_2 -temperature programmed desorption (TPD) and H_2 -temperature programmed reduction (TPR) [86,87]. Highly Ce-doped samples ($x > 0.15$) showed poor resistance to sulfur poisoning. The optimal composition in terms of performance and stability, $\text{La}_{0.75}\text{Sr}_{0.125}\text{Ce}_{0.125}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, showed a modest MPD of 33.12 mW cm^{-2} at $900 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in wet H_2 and 1% H_2S as a consequence of the thick YSZ electrolyte.

The classical $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{MnO}_{3-\delta}$ (LSM) cathode was also investigated as a potential candidate for symmetrical electrode. No phase transformation was observed under reducing conditions up to at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; however, modest ASR values were obtained for the LSM-GDC composite electrodes, 1.44 and 5.19 $\text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and H_2 , respectively, at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The MPD of the symmetrical LSM-GDC electrode on a YSZ-supported cell rendered 150.8 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ with negligible degradation for 140 h of stability test at $700 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [88]. A Sc-doping

strategy was also explored, $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{Sc}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LSSM) showed greater electrical conductivity than the typical LSCM under both anode and cathode operating conditions, as well as excellent chemical and structural stability. A symmetric cell with scandium-stabilized zirconia electrolyte showed a stable MPD of 310 and 130 mW cm^{-2} at 900 °C, respectively, when operating on wet H_2 and wet CH_4 [89].

Alternative chromite-based compounds have also been proposed as highly efficient fuel electrode materials, such as $\text{Pr}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [90], $\text{La}_{0.70}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{0.85}\text{Ni}_{0.15}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [91], $\text{Y}_{0.9}\text{Sr}_{0.1}\text{Cr}_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [92], $\text{Y}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{1-x}\text{Cu}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [93] and $\text{La}_{0.65}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [94], but their application in SSOCs is restricted due to their low ORR activity. Further efforts in microstructural optimization is needed to consider them as promising symmetrical electrodes, despite their remarkable and stable performance under reducing conditions.

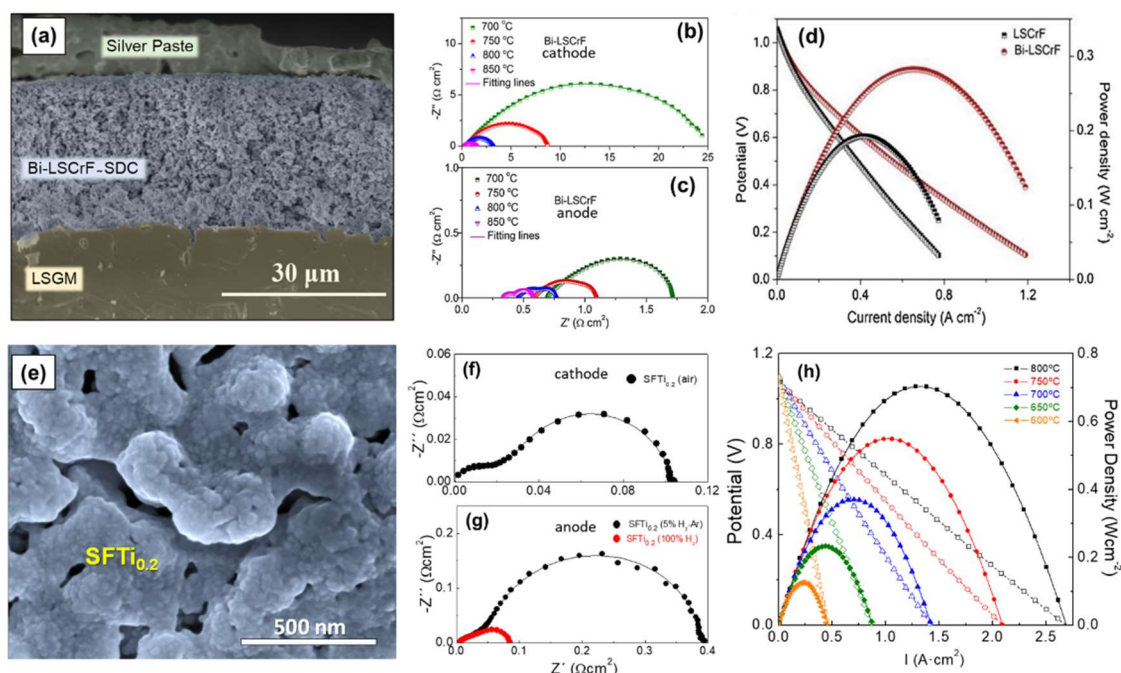


Figure 2. (a) SEM image of the $\text{La}_{0.65}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -SDC symmetrical electrode on LSGM electrolyte. Impedance spectra in (b) air and (c) H_2 at different temperatures and (d) Voltage and power density curves of the symmetrical cells in H_2 at 800 °C. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [82]. (e) SEM images of the $\text{Sr}_{0.98}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (SFT) by spray-pyrolysis deposition. Impedance spectra in (f) air and (g) H_2 at 700 °C. (h) Voltage and power density curves of the symmetrical electrode on LSGM electrolyte. Reprinted with permission, Royal Society of Chemistry [95].

2.2. (La,Sr)FeO₃-based electrodes

Most of the highly efficient air electrodes for classical SOCs are based on doped- $\text{LaFeO}_{3-\delta}$ and $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ perovskites [96,97]. However, these materials usually present poor redox stability to be used as fuel electrodes due to phase transformation or decomposition under reducing conditions. As previously mentioned, the redox stability of these electrodes could be enhanced by adequate doping in the B-site of the perovskite with less reducible cations, such as Mo, W, Ta, Nb, Zr, Ti and Sc. In this section, doping and microstructural strategies used on (La,Sr)FeO₃-based electrodes for SSOCs are discussed (Table 1).

It is well known that $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ exhibits different crystal structures depending on the lattice oxygen stoichiometry. In particular, $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ crystallizes in a cubic perovskite in oxidizing atmospheres with disordered oxygen vacancies, and it transforms in reducing atmospheres into a brownmillerite-type structure with oxygen-vacancy ordering, which is detrimental for the electrochemical properties due to the reduced oxide ion mobility [98,99]. Moreover, the easy reduction of Fe^{4+} to Fe^{3+} causes an excessive oxygen deficiency and a decrease of the electron hole charge carriers, and as a consequence the electronic conductivity is drastically reduced, limiting its potential application as fuel electrodes [100,101]. In order to improve the redox stability of $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$, different studies have adopted a doping strategy in the B-site of the perovskite. In 2014, Fernández-Ropero *et al.* investigated the $\text{SrFe}_{0.75}\text{B}_{0.25}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (B= Cr, Mo, W, Ti, Zr, V and Nb) electrodes for their application in SSOFCS [102]. All doped materials crystallized with a cubic perovskite-type structure in both air and hydrogen atmosphere, contrary to the undoped one. The lowest ASR values were reported for Ti-doped electrodes, *i.e.* 0.25 and 1.5 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at 700 °C in air and 5%- H_2 , respectively.

Later, the electrochemical properties of $\text{Sr}_{0.98}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ were further improved by using a spray-pyrolysis deposition technique to obtain nanostructured electrodes [95]. The spray-pyrolysis deposition was carried out at 250 °C on LSGM electrolyte and the electrodes were sintered at only 800 °C, obtaining a particle size of 50 nm compared to 500 nm for the screen-printed electrodes with the same cation composition at 1100 °C (**Fig. 2e-f**). This resulted in higher TPB density for the electrochemical reactions, achieving ASR values as low as 0.1 and 0.07 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at 700 °C in air and wet H_2 , respectively, much better than those reported for a screen-printed electrode, *i.e.* 0.25 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air at 700 °C [102]. A cell with LSGM electrolyte (300 μm) achieved a remarkable MPD of 700 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C. Great MPD values of 700 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C were also found for $\text{SrFe}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (SFT)- $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{0.18}\text{Zn}_{0.02}\text{O}_{2.8}$ (LSGMZ) (2:1) composite electrode [103].

Mo-doped SrFeO_3 are among the most studied symmetrical electrodes in the last few years; however, there exist discrepancies in the literature regarding the real crystal structure of these compounds. In general, electrodes with low Mo-content, *i.e.* $\text{SrFe}_{1-x}\text{Mo}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ ($x < 0.2$), exhibit a single cubic perovskite-type structure [104,105], but it is not completely clear if the electrodes with $x \geq 0.25$ crystallize as a $\text{SrFe}_{0.75}\text{Mo}_{0.25}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ single or a $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_6$ double perovskite [24]. Recently, Merkulov *et al.* studied $\text{SrFe}_{0.7}\text{Mo}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ by electron diffraction and weak superstructure reflections, corresponding to an ordered double perovskite, were observed [106,107]. Since many authors have considered that the most studied composition, *i.e.* $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$, has a double perovskite-type structure, the Mo-doped SrFeO_3 electrodes are discussed in the next section.

Further research on W-doped $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ single perovskite symmetrical electrodes showed a phase transformation on W-doping from a single cubic perovskite for $\text{SrFe}_{0.9}\text{W}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ to tetragonal phase for $\text{SrFe}_{0.8}\text{W}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$. The chemical stability and electrochemical properties of the electrodes improved with increasing W-doping, meanwhile the thermal expansion coefficient decreased ($17.9 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ for $\text{SrFe}_{0.8}\text{W}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$) [108]. The same composition, investigated by Cao *et al.* [109], achieved very low ASR values of 0.084 and 0.20 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and H_2 , respectively, at 800 °C and a MPD of 931 mW cm^{-2} at 850 °C (**Fig. 3a-d**).

Composite symmetrical electrodes of $\text{SrFe}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC ($x=0 \leq x \leq 0.35$) were also tested, showing good phase stability in reducing conditions for Zr-content $x \geq 0.1$ [110]. One of the main benefits of Zr-doping was a reduction of the thermal expansion coefficient (TEC) in air, from $44 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ for the pristine material to $32 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ for $x=0.25$. However, these values are larger than those observed for $\text{Mo}^{6+}/\text{W}^{6+}$ -doped $\text{SrFeO}_{3-\delta}$ ($\sim 15\text{--}20 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$), indicating that high valence transition metals are more suitable to lower the TEC of these materials and to improve the mechanical compatibility with the electrolytes [108,111]. The best results were found for the composition $\text{SrFe}_{0.75}\text{Zr}_{0.25}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC, achieving a MPD of 425 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 [110]. A similar composition, $\text{BaFe}_{0.9}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, achieved ASR values of 0.005 and $1 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and H_2 , respectively, with good stability in H_2 for 100 h [112]. Si-doping in SrFeO_3 was also investigated; the conductivity of $\text{SrFe}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ ($x \leq 0.15$) series reached its maximum for $x=0.1$, with a value of 35.3 S cm^{-1} , compared to 26.3 S cm^{-1} for $x=0$ at $700 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air [113]. Moreover, the Si-doping avoided the transformation of SrFeO_3 perovskite into $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_5$ brownmillerite phase in reducing conditions. The ASRs were also improved after Si-doping with values of 0.25 and $0.08 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ for $x=0$ and $x=0.1$, respectively, at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air (**Table 1**).

Similarly, $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-y}\text{B}_y\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ electrodes, where B is a transition metal, have been widely investigated as symmetrical electrodes. In general, the substitution of La^{3+} by Sr^{2+} creates oxide-ion vacancies in the lattice, increasing the ionic conductivity, whereas B-site doping is used to improve the redox stability [114,115]. However, Traversa *et. col.* have proposed the conventional $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ (LSF) cathode as a stable symmetrical electrode without phase transformation after annealing in H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 h. In order to avoid the well-known reaction between LaFeO_3 -based materials and the YSZ electrolyte, a GDC protective interlayer was deposited by screen-printing, enhancing the performance of the single cell up to 387 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 [116]. A related composition, $\text{Sm}_{0.95}\text{Ce}_{0.05}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ (SCFO), also showed a good stability in reducing conditions [117], suggesting that B-site doping is not needed to achieve sufficient redox stability at temperature lower than $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Moreover, the commonly used $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ - $\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{Gd}_{0.1}\text{O}_{1.95}$ (LSCF-GDC) air electrode was also tested as symmetrical electrode in SOEC mode, showing no phase transformation in reducing conditions. The current density reached 0.5 A cm^{-2} at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and 1.3 V, while the hydrogen production rate was up to $3.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ [118]. However, recent studies have reported that LSCF transforms under reducing atmosphere into a Ruddlesden-Popper type structure with Fe-Co metal segregation [119]. Other studies have also reported low phase stability for the same electrode materials under reducing conditions. For instance, Kulkarni *et al.* observed by synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction a severe decomposition of LSCF into multiple phases: La_2O_3 , SrO , LaSrFeO_4 , $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3$ and Fe-Co nanoparticles in H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 50 h [120]. Such differences could be explained by the different reduction kinetics of these materials, which depend on several factors such as temperature, gas composition and oxygen partial pressure, but also morphological characteristics, *i.e.* grain size and porosity. Hence, the discrepancies between these studies are possibly related to insufficient annealing time under reducing atmosphere. Thus, further research is needed to reach more solid conclusions on this matter.

Niu *et al.* reported an enhancement of the electrochemical performance for the Nb-doped and A-site deficient $(\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4})_{0.9}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{Nb}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ symmetrical electrode in comparison with the stoichiometric material, attributed to an increase of the oxygen vacancy concentration [121]. Other Nb-doped ferrites have been investigated. For instance, Kong *et al.* impregnated $\text{La}_{0.9}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -SDC composite electrode into a $\text{Zr}_{0.8}\text{Sc}_{0.2}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$ (SSZ) scaffold, reaching a MPD of 528 mW cm^{-2} in H_2 at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, and interestingly comparable values were found when CO or syngas were used as fuel [122]. Promising results were also obtained for $\text{Pr}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ electrodes impregnated with GDC nanoparticles, which achieved ASR values as low as 0.04 and $0.31 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and H_2 , respectively. Moreover, these electrodes were stable when operated with CH_4 fuel for 384 h [123].

Mo-doping has also been intensively investigated to enhance the redox stability of LSF electrodes. Bian *et al.* reported rather low ASR values of $0.08 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and $0.09 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in H_2 for $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ and an excellent MPD value of 640 mW cm^{-2} at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, while a current of -1 A cm^{-2} was obtained at 1.3 V in SOEC mode [124]. The same composition has been tested with CO fuel, obtaining a MPD of 474 mW cm^{-2} at $750 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [125]. A similar composition, $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, showed a good phase stability in reducing conditions with a remarkable MPD of 481 mW cm^{-2} at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, using ethanol as fuel; however, the possible Co-Fe exsolution at such high working temperature was not investigated [126]. Recently, W-doping was also explored in $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{W}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, achieving low ASR values of 0.08 and $0.16 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and H_2 , respectively, and a remarkable MPD of 617 mW cm^{-2} at the same temperature [127].

An alternative Ga-doping strategy was also tested for LSF, the $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ga}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ symmetrical electrode showed good stability in wet H_2 up to $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [128]. The conductivity values were 47.5 S cm^{-1} in air and 0.42 S cm^{-1} in $5\%-\text{H}_2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. A LSGM-supported cell rendered an MPD of 489 mW cm^{-2} in wet H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Similar findings were observed for Sc-doped LSF, the $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Sc}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ symmetrical electrode exhibited decent electrochemical properties, *i.e.* $0.015 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and $0.29 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [129].

Other Fe-containing single perovskites have been reported in the literature as potential candidates for symmetrical electrodes. Yang *et al.* successfully incorporated Mo in the highly efficient $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (BSCF) SOFC cathode for its implementation in SSOC (**Fig. 3e-g**). The $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (BSCFM) electrode showed improved redox stability over time and very low ASR values in H_2 ($0.035 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). The power output of a YSZ-supported cell reached 418 mW cm^{-2} at $700 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ without any degradation for 115 h [130]. In another study, $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (BSFM) on a LSGM electrolyte showed surprising low ASR values, *i.e.* $0.007 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ and $0.047 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and humidified H_2 , respectively [131]. In contrast, higher ASR values were obtained for the same electrode deposited onto a GDC electrolyte. The similar lattice cell parameters between BSFM and LSGM electrolytes have been suggested to be responsible for the improved electrochemical performance, obtaining an exceptional MPD of 2280 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 . These results suggested the importance of tailoring and controlling the properties of the electrode/electrolyte interfaces [131].

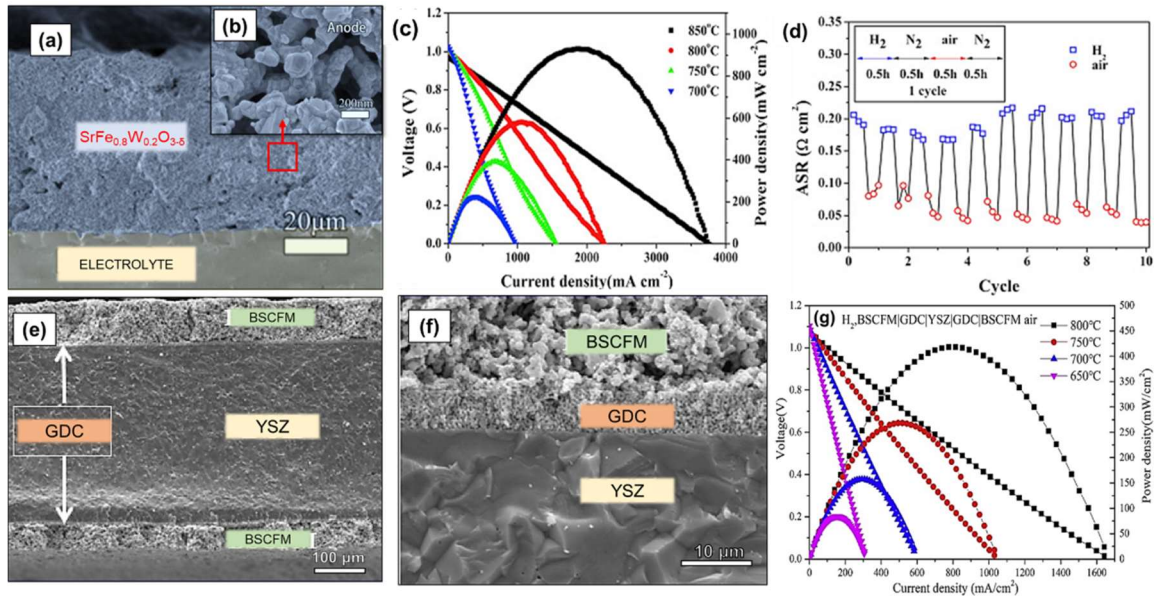


Figure 3. (a,b) SEM images at different magnifications of $\text{SrFe}_{0.8}\text{W}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ electrode on LSGM electrolyte, (c) I-V-P curves of the electrolyte-supported SSOFC in H_2 at different temperatures and (d) redox stability of the symmetrical electrode over 10 cycles at 800 °C. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [109]. (e,f) SEM images of the BSCFM|GDC|YSZ|GDC|BSCFM single cell at different magnifications and (g) I-V-P curves of the single cell in H_2 at different temperatures. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [130].

2.3. (La,Sr)TiO₃-based electrodes

Titanates have been considered as one of the most promising alternative anode to conventional Ni-cermets because of their excellent stability under reducing atmospheres, high tolerance towards sulfur-containing fuels and low cost [132]. In particular, the high electronic conductivity of these materials in reducing conditions is due to the partial reduction of Ti^{4+} to Ti^{3+} . On the contrary, their poor ionic-electronic conductivity in oxidizing atmosphere have made them unsuitable for air electrodes. $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{TiO}_{3+\delta}$ (LST) are the most widely investigated fuel electrodes for SOFCs [132] and CO_2 electrolysis [133]. In order to improve the properties to work simultaneously as air and fuel electrodes, several doping strategies in the B-site of the perovskite have been explored by replacing Ti with other transition metals with variable oxidation states, such as Fe, Mn and Co. In this section, a summary of titanates-based symmetrical cells is presented together with some properties in **Table 1**.

Canales-Vazquez *et al.* studied the performance of Fe-doped LST, $\text{La}_{1/3}\text{Sr}_{2/3}\text{Ti}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_x\text{O}_{3+\delta}$ with different Fe-content ($x=1/8-0.5$). The electronic conductivity in air increased notably with Fe-content, while minor changes were observed in reducing atmospheres [134]. In addition, the electrocatalytic activity under both oxidizing and reducing conditions was also improved, which makes these electrodes suitable for SSOFC applications. Other related compositions, such as $\text{La}_{0.3}\text{Sr}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{O}_{3+\delta}$ (LSTF07) and LSTF07-CeO₂ composites, have also been investigated, but only as fuel electrodes [135–137].

Regarding the Co-doped $\text{La}_{0.2}\text{Sr}_{0.8}\text{TiO}_{3+\delta}$ (LST) electrodes, Napolitano *et al.* investigated the structural parameters and charge compensation mechanisms on Co-doping. The electronic conductivity increased with Co-content, making them suitable for SSOC applications [138–140]. A similar composition, $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, was tested by Martínez-Coronado *et al.* [141], not showing any phase transformation in reducing conditions despite the high Co-content of this electrode. The conductivity values were of 25 S cm^{-1} in air and 0.05 S cm^{-1} in 5% H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The MPD obtained by the LSCT|LDC|LSGM|LDC|LSCT cell in H_2 was 110 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [141]. The doping of $(\text{La,Sr})\text{TiO}_3$ with other transition metals, such as Mo and Mn, has also been investigated. In particular, the increase of Mo-content in $(\text{La,Sr})\text{Ti}_{1-x}\text{Mo}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ reduced the bond energy between metal and oxygen ions in the perovskite and, consequently, the concentration of the $\text{Mo}^{5+}/\text{Mo}^{6+}$ redox couple increased, leading to higher electronic conductivity and lower ASR. Nevertheless, these materials were only tested as fuel electrodes [142,143].

In another study, the A-site deficient $\text{La}_{0.2}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Ca}_{0.45}\text{TiO}_{3-\delta}$ (LSCaT) perovskite was proposed as a potential electrode/electrolyte material for SOFCs due to its different properties under both oxidizing and reducing atmospheres [144]. The success of this material at different redox conditions was attributed to its different conducting properties at low and high oxygen partial pressures ($p\text{O}_2$), as well as its high ionic conductivity at the intermediate $p\text{O}_2$ range. It has to be noted that excellent results have recently been reported for titanate-based fuel electrodes for CO_2 electrolysis, such as $\text{Sr}_{0.95}\text{Ti}_{0.8}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{Mn}_{0.1}\text{O}_3$ [145], $(\text{La}_{0.2}\text{Sr}_{0.8})_{0.85}\text{Ti}_{0.8}\text{Cr}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [146], $(\text{La}_{0.2}\text{Sr}_{0.8})_{0.9}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.4}\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [147] and $\text{La}_{0.43}\text{Ca}_{0.37}\text{Rh}_{0.06}\text{Ti}_{0.94}\text{O}_3$ [148].

As previously mentioned, most of the research about $(\text{La,Sr})\text{TiO}_3$ -based perovskites is focused on their application as fuel electrodes for SOFC and SOEC applications, and rarely as symmetrical electrodes. This is because of the difficulty to synthesize titanate-based electrodes with high mixed ionic-electronic conductivity in both air and fuel environments, therefore a trade-off should be found between the conductivity and catalytic activity in each electrode condition. To overcome this problem, further research should not only be focused on electrode composition, but also on the microstructure optimization. One of the main limitations of titanates is the low reduction kinetic, which could be improved by obtaining electrodes with nanometric particle size. Another approach is the incorporation of noble metals and active interlayers to improve their properties [51,132].

Table 1. Most relevant symmetrical electrodes with single perovskite-type structure. Area specific resistance (in air and H₂) and power/current density are given at 800 °C. In those case, where not data are available at 800 °C, the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} (Ω cm ²)	ASR ^{H₂} (Ω cm ²)	P (mW cm ⁻²)	Electrolyte	Ref.
La _{0.75} Sr _{0.25} Cr _{0.5} Mn _{0.5} O _{3-δ}	LSCM	0.35 ^{900°C} (wet O ₂)	0.30 ^{900°C}	300 ^{900 °C} (H ₂) 230 ^{900 °C} (CH ₄)	YSZ	[33]
La _{0.75} Sr _{0.25} Cr _{0.5} Mn _{0.5} O _{3-δ} -YSZ	LSCM-YSZ	0.27 ^{900°C}	0.34 ^{900°C} (H ₂) 0.67 ^{900°C} (CH ₄)	546 ^{950 °C} (H ₂) 347 ^{950 °C} (CH ₄)	YSZ	[12]
La _{0.75} Sr _{0.25} Fe _{0.7} Cr _{0.3} O _{3-δ}	LSFCr	0.105	0.40	300 (H ₂)	LSGM/LDC	[73]
Pr _{0.7} Ca _{0.3} Cr _{0.6} Mn _{0.4} O _{3-δ}	PCaCM	4	30 (5% H ₂)	250 ^{950 °C} (H ₂) 160 ^{950 °C} (CH ₄)	YSZ	[90]
La _{0.65} Bi _{0.1} Sr _{0.25} Cr _{0.5} Fe _{0.5} O ₃ -SDC	BiLSCrF-SDC	2.90	0.32	280 (H ₂) 260 (syngas) 240 (C ₂ H ₅ OH)	LSGM	[82]
La _{0.7} Ca _{0.3} CrO ₃ -GDC	LCaCr-GDC	-	-	400 (H ₂) 200 (city gas)	LSGM	[80]
La _{0.8} Sr _{0.2} MnO _{3-δ} -GDC	LSM-GDC	1.44	5.19	150.8	YSZ	[88]
La _{0.8} Sr _{0.2} Sc _{0.2} Mn _{0.8} O _{3-δ}	LSSM	0.18 ^{850 °C}	-	310 ^{900 °C} (H ₂) 130 ^{900 °C} (CH ₄)	SSZ	[89]
La _{0.8} Sr _{0.2} FeO _{3-δ}	LSF	0.31	0.58	387 (H ₂)	YSZ	[116]
Sr _{0.98} Fe _{0.8} Ti _{0.2} O _{3-δ} -GDC	SFT-GDC	0.17 ^{700 °C}	0.07 ^{700°C}	700 (H ₂)	LSGM	[95]
SrFe _{0.8} Ti _{0.2} O _{3-δ} -LSGMZ	SFT-LSGMZ	-	-	700 (H ₂)	LSGMZ	[103]
SrFe _{0.8} W _{0.2} O _{3-δ}	SFW	0.084	0.20	931 ^{850 °C} (H ₂)	LSGM	[109]
SrFe _{0.75} Zr _{0.25} O _{3-δ} -GDC	SFZ-GDC	0.10 ^{750°C}	0.17 ^{750°C}	425 (H ₂)	LSGM	[110]
BaFe _{0.9} Zr _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	BFZ	0.005	1	1097 (H ₂)	LSGM	[112]
SrFe _{0.9} Si _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	SFS	0.08	0.17 ^{600 °C} (5% H ₂)	-	GDC	[113]
Pr _{0.4} Sr _{0.6} Co _{0.2} Fe _{0.7} Nb _{0.1} O ₃ -GDC	PSCFN-GDC	0.04	0.31	-	LSGM	[123]
La _{0.5} Sr _{0.5} Fe _{0.9} Mo _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	LSFM	0.08 ^{850°C}	0.09 ^{850°C}	640 ^{850°C} (H ₂)	LSGM	[124]
La _{0.7} Sr _{0.3} Fe _{0.7} Ga _{0.3} O _{3-δ}	LSFG	-	-	489 (H ₂)	LSGM	[128]
La _{0.6} Sr _{0.4} Fe _{0.9} Sc _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	LSFS	0.015	0.29	560 (H ₂)	LSGM	[129]
Ba _{0.5} Sr _{0.5} Mo _{0.1} Fe _{0.9} O _{3-δ}	BSMF	0.007	0.047	2280 (H ₂)	LSGM	[131]
La _{0.5} Sr _{0.5} Co _{0.5} Ti _{0.5} O _{3-δ}	LSCT	-	-	110 (H ₂)	LSGM	[141]
CaFe _{0.4} Ti _{0.6} O _{3-δ}	CaFT	1	1	58 (H ₂)	YSZ	[149]

3. Symmetrical electrodes with layered perovskite structure

3.1. Sr₂Fe_{1.5}Mo_{0.5}O_{6-δ}-based double perovskites

Since Liu *et al.* implemented the Sr₂Fe_{1.5}Mo_{0.5}O_{6-δ} (SFM) double-perovskite for SSOFCS, great efforts have been dedicated to the development of related compositions as both air and fuel electrodes (**Table 2**) [24]. This

symmetrical electrode is highly promising because it exhibits high electrical conductivity in both air (550 S cm^{-1}) and H_2 (310 S cm^{-1}) atmospheres, as well as excellent redox stability, electrocatalytic activity in H_2 and CH_4 and high sulfur tolerance. However, recent reports have shown somewhat lower conductivity values in the range of $10\text{-}50 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ [150–153]. In addition, density functional theory (DFT) calculations revealed that the good catalytic activity for ORR is due to the high ionic conductivity induced by the elevated concentration of oxygen vacancies.

Recently, several approaches have been proposed to improve the electrochemical properties of the pristine SFM for its implementation in SSOCs. Osinkin *et al.* proposed to mix SFM with $\text{Ce}_{0.8}\text{Sm}_{0.2}\text{O}_{1.9-\delta}$ (SDC), which was then topped with SFM as current collector. This cell configuration achieved power densities of $250\text{-}500 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 in a LSGM supported cell [154,155]. The same authors studied the CO oxidation kinetics and redox cycling stability of SFM, showing no changes in the polarization resistance after fast gas cycling [156]. Liu *et al.* prepared SFM electrodes by infiltration onto a LSGM porous scaffold obtained by tape-casting, and the cells were subjected to a fast heating/cooling rate of $200 \text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ in order to avoid the formation of insulating SrMoO_4 scheelite as secondary phase [157]. No interfacial crack formation was detected due to the similar thermal expansion coefficients between both materials. SFM was also infiltrated into a porous LSGM scaffold, obtained by phase inversion tape-casting [158]. This optimized porosity of the electrodes resulted in a high power density of 703 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ compared to 390 mW cm^{-2} for a cell fabricated by traditional tape-casting method. Bernadet *et al.* also studied $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ electrodes on zirconium-based electrolytes with a GDC interlayer to avoid reactivity between the materials, achieving -1.4 A cm^{-2} at 1.3 V and $900 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in SOEC mode [159].

Numerous doping strategies have also been explored to further improve the electrochemical properties of SFM. Firstly, Song *et al.* partially substituted Fe by Co in $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5-x}\text{Co}_x\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ (SFCM, $0 \leq x \leq 1$) series. The electrodes were structurally stable in both air and $5\% \text{ H}_2$, despite the high Co-content of these materials. The values of power density in a symmetrical cell with LSGM electrolyte increased with Co-doping from 25 mW cm^{-2} for $x=0$ to 42.6 mW cm^{-2} for $x=0.5$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in $3\% \text{ H}_2$ [160]. These values were surprisingly low despite the thin LSGM electrolyte used $\sim 200 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (**Table 2**). In contrast, the $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.3}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ -GDC composite electrode showed surprisingly low ASR values of 0.036 and $0.047 \text{ }\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $850 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and H_2 , respectively, and a MPD of 986 mW cm^{-2} at the same temperature [161]. $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeCo}_{0.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ also showed a high conversion of H_2S into SO_2 and no obvious degradation was observed when the cell was fueled with $0.05\% \text{ H}_2\text{S-N}_2$ gas at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [162]. A complete substitution of Fe by Co was also tested, $\text{Sr}_2\text{Co}_{1+x}\text{Mo}_{1-x}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ ($x=0.1, 0.15$ and 0.2) [163], although dos Santos *et al.* reported decomposition of $\text{Sr}_2\text{CoMoO}_{6-\delta}$ into a mixture of double-perovskite, Sr_3MoO_6 and Co-metal above $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in $5\% \text{ H}_2$ atmosphere [164].

Gou *et al.* also studied the influence of Nb-doping in SFM; the composition $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.4}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ showed slightly higher conductivity values in both air and H_2 , as well as ASR values of $0.098 \text{ }\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and $1.5 \text{ }\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in $5\% \text{ H}_2\text{-Ar}$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, which were relatively lower than those observed for the undoped SFM, 0.134 and $2.0 \text{ }\Omega \text{ cm}^2$, in air and $5\%\text{-Ar}$ [153]. In another study, a related Sr-deficient electrode, $\text{Sr}_{1.9}\text{FeNb}_{0.9}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$, was

prepared and impregnated with Pd nanoparticles to improve its electrocatalytic activity [165]. The ASR values decreased from 0.469 to 0.097 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air at 800 °C after Pd-impregnation (Table 2). An LSGM- electrolyte supported cell achieved an MPD of 935 and 196 mW cm^{-2} at 850 °C in H_2 and CH_4 , respectively

Ca-doping has also been proposed to enhance the electronic conductivity of SFM in reducing conditions, [166]. The conductivity of $\text{Sr}_{2-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ ($x \leq 0.5$) series in wet H_2 increased from 39.9 S to 55.68 S cm^{-1} for $x=0$ and $x=0.25$, respectively. The best electrochemical properties were found for $x=0.25$ with very low ASR values at 800 °C of 0.094 and 0.198 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$, in air and H_2 , respectively (Fig. 4a-c).

Fe was also substituted by Mn in SFM, the $\text{Sr}_2\text{MnMoO}_{5+\delta}$ (SMM) symmetrical electrode was infiltrated into a porous NiO-SDC scaffold, showing *in-situ* exsolution of SrMoO_4 nanoparticles. The symmetrical cell SMM-NiO-SDC|SDC|NiO-SDC-SMM rendered an MPD of 245 mW cm^{-2} in CH_4 and 183 mW cm^{-2} in $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ at 800 °C. However, a long-term stability test during 320 h revealed an increase of the cell resistance due to detrimental carbon deposition [167].

3.2. K_2NiO_4 -type, $\text{PrBa}(\text{Mn,Fe})_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ and other layered perovskites

In recent years, several double perovskites and Ruddlesden-Popper (RP) type electrodes such as $\text{GdBaCo}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$, $\text{PrBaCo}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$, and $\text{La}_2\text{NiO}_{4+\delta}$ have demonstrated excellent electrochemical properties for ORR but poor redox stability to be used as fuel electrodes [36,168,169]. In the same way as single perovskite-type electrodes, the redox stability of these materials has been improved through adequate doping to be used in SSOCs (Table 2).

The Ruddlesden-Popper structure (RP), with a general $\text{A}_{n+1}\text{B}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ ($n=1, 2, \dots$) structure, is composed of perovskite layers (ABO_3) and rock salt layers (AO) alternately ordered along the c-axis, where n represents the number of consecutive perovskite layers that are sandwiched between two rock-salt layers [170]. Among the different electrodes with this structure, $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ ($n=1$) has demonstrated good redox stability up to 900 °C in diluted H_2 for application in SSOCs [171]. However, the first studies reported high ASR values of 0.87 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and 2.07 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in 5% H_2 . Sandoval *et al.* further studied the $\text{La}_x\text{Sr}_{2-x}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ series ($0.25 \leq x \leq 0.6$) and the highest values of conductivity were found for $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$, *i.e.* 35.6 S cm^{-1} in air and 1.9 S cm^{-1} in 3% H_2 -Ar at 800 °C [172]. Later on, the same group concluded that a protective GDC barrier layer is needed to avoid the formation of reaction products at the electrode/electrolyte interface when YSZ or LSGM are used as electrolytes due to interdiffusion of Sr [173,174].

Shen *et al.* proposed two different infiltration methods to improve the electrochemical properties of $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ symmetrical electrodes. In the first work, a $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ porous scaffold was coated by SDC and NiO nanoparticles by infiltration. The $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ -SDC-NiO composite electrode showed excellent electrochemical activity in both oxidizing and reducing atmospheres with an MPD of 614 and 378 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C with H_2 and CH_4 fuels, respectively [175]. In a second report, a SDC scaffold was infiltrated

with $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ and NiO nanoparticles [176], obtaining an MPD of 714 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The improved MPD achieved for $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ -NiO impregnated into SDC was attributed to the higher oxide-ion conductivity of the SDC scaffold compared to the $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ skeleton with predominant electronic conductivity, as well as the higher electrocatalytic activity of $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4}\text{MnO}_{4+\delta}$ nanoparticles for both ORR and fuel oxidation.

A related composition with Fe instead of Mn, $\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{1.2}\text{FeO}_{4+\delta}$, revealed a good stability in both oxidizing and reducing atmospheres. Unfortunately, high ASR values of 1.85 and $5.82 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ were found in air and $5\% \text{ H}_2\text{-Ar}$ at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, respectively, presumably attributed to the high synthesis temperatures $\sim 1380 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, resulting in excessive grain growth and poorer performance [177]. In another study, Ling *et al.* studied the influence of La-doping in an oxygen-deficient RP-type structure, $\text{Sr}_3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{7+\delta}$ ($n=2$), obtaining new electrodes for SSOFCs with $\text{La}_x\text{Sr}_{3-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{7-\delta}$ ($x=0, 0.25$ and 0.5) composition. The partial substitution of Sr with La improved both the electrical conductivity and electrochemical performance, obtaining the best MPD for $x=0.5$ with a value of 480 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 on YSZ/GDC electrolyte [178].

Other RP-type electrodes have been reported in recent years. For instance, Durán *et al.* studied the $\text{La}_4\text{BaMn}_5\text{O}_{13+\delta}$ ($n=4$) electrode, which showed good redox stability and chemical stability with barium zirconate proton-based conductor electrolytes [179]. Preliminary results showed high conductivity values at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, *i.e.* 178 and 33 S cm^{-1} in air and H_2 , respectively.

Double perovskites have traditionally been tested as air or fuel electrodes independently [180–182], but recently some compositions have also been implemented in SSOCs. Among them, $\text{PrBaMn}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ (PBMO) is one of the most promising symmetrical electrodes due to its remarkable redox stability and high tolerance to carbon coking and H_2S poisoning. Furthermore, an excellent catalytic activity has been demonstrated when fueled with hydrocarbons [182]. It has to be noted that $\text{PrBaMn}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ double perovskite is typically obtained after reduction of $\text{Pr}_{0.5}\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{MnO}_{3-\delta}$ single perovskite [182,183]. Preliminary results on PBMO infiltrated into LSGM revealed that BaO and Pr_2O_3 secondary phases appeared when calcined in air at $1000 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ but not reaction was observed at lower temperatures [183]. Recently, Pr_6O_{11} nanoparticles were infiltrated into a PBMO scaffold and the ASR values decreased significantly from 0.25 to $0.016 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and from 0.46 to $0.20 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [184].

An alternative composition with Ca-doping, $\text{PrBa}_{0.8}\text{Ca}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$, was proposed as a highly efficient and fuel versatile electrode for SSOC [185]. In order to improve the electrode performance, a $15 \text{ wt.}\%$ of $\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.5}$ catalyst was infiltrated in both air and fuel electrodes. No secondary phases were found after annealing the electrodes in air and H_2 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. A LSGM supported cell with a CeO_2 -based protective layer rendered MPDs of 1101 , 740 and 470 mW cm^{-2} in H_2 , CH_4 and C_8H_{18} , respectively, at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; and an excellent carbon coking tolerance was observed after 250 h of stability test.

In another study, Chen *et al.* tested the layered perovskites $\text{PrBaFe}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ and $\text{PrBaFe}_{1.6}\text{Ni}_{0.4}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ as symmetrical electrode [186]. The Ni-doped electrode showed surprisingly low ASR values of $0.034 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at

650 °C in H₂, possibly due to Ni-exsolution, which was not confirmed by additional experiments such as XRD and SEM. A Mo-doping strategy was also tested in (PrBa)_{0.95}(Fe_{0.9}Mo_{0.1})₂O_{5+δ}, rendering a high and stable MPD of 1050 and 400 mW cm⁻² in H₂ and CH₄, respectively, at 800 °C for 1060 h [187]. Zhang *et al.* observed similar results with W-doping, (PrBa)_{0.95}(Fe_{0.95}W_{0.05})₂O_{5+δ}, achieving ASR values of 0.031 and 0.12 Ω cm² in air and H₂, respectively, at 800 °C (**Fig. 4d-f**). In addition, high power outputs were achieved when fueled with hydrocarbons: 610, 624 and 448 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C for syngas, ethane and propane, respectively [188]. Other similar compositions such as PrBa(Fe_{0.8}Sc_{0.2})₂O_{5+δ} [189] and (PrBa)_{0.95}(Fe_{0.9}Mo_{0.1})₂O_{5+δ}-SDC [190] have also demonstrated promising results as SSOC electrodes (**Table 2**).

The GdBaFe₂O_{5+δ} double perovskite also showed excellent phase stability in both oxidizing and reducing conditions up to 900 °C, as well as a remarkable resistance to carbon deposition [191]. The ASR values were 0.073 Ω cm² in air and 1.91 Ω cm² in H₂ at 800 °C on a LSGM electrolyte supported cell with SDC protective inlayer. Power outputs of 858, 696 and 101 mW cm⁻² using H₂, wet syngas and wet CH₄, respectively, were measured at 800 °C.

Recently, SmBaMn_{1.9}Mg_{0.1}O_{5+δ} electrodes with orthorhombic and tetragonal symmetry in air and H₂ atmosphere, respectively, were tested as symmetrical electrodes rendering ASR values of 0.296 and 0.67 Ω cm² in air and H₂, respectively, at 800 °C. Redox tests revealed that the Mg-doping considerably reduced the chemical-induced expansion, improving the thermomechanical compatibility with the LSGM electrolyte. The LSGM-supported cell showed a MPD of 317 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C [192].

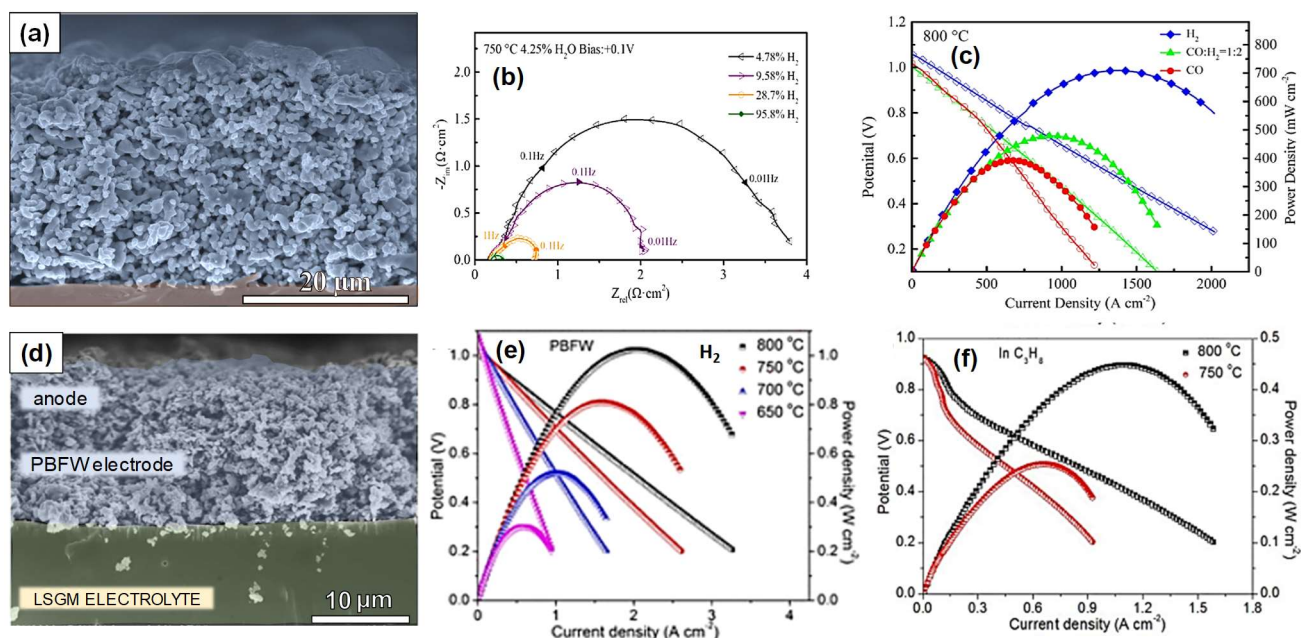


Figure 4. (a) SEM image of Sr_{1.75}Ca_{0.25}Fe_{1.5}Mo_{0.5}O_{6-δ} electrode on LSGM electrolyte, (b) Nyquist spectra under different hydrogen partial pressures (pH₂) and (c) I-V-P curves of the LSGM-supported symmetrical cell at 800 °C with different fuels. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [166]. (d) SEM image of the PBFM electrode on LSGM, (e,f) I-V-P curves of the symmetrical cell at different temperatures when H₂ and C₃H₈ were used as fuels, respectively. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [188].

Table 2. Most relevant symmetrical electrodes within layered perovskite-type structure. Area specific resistance (in air and H₂) and power/current densities are given at 800 °C. In those case, where not data are available at 800 °C, the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} (Ω cm ²)	ASR ^{H₂} (Ω cm ²)	P (mW cm ⁻²)	Electrolyte	Ref.
<i>Sr₂Fe_{1.5}Mo_{0.5}O_{6-δ}-type</i>						
Sr ₂ Fe _{1.5} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ}	SFM	0.24	0.27	650 ^{850°C} (H ₂) 100 ^{850°C} (CH ₄)	LSGM	[24]
Sr ₂ Fe _{1.4} Nb _{0.1} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ}	SFNM	0.098	1.5 (5% H ₂)	531.5 (H ₂)	LSGM	[153]
Sr ₂ Fe _{1.5} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ} -SDC	SFM-SDC	0.29	0.12	220 (H ₂)	LSGM	[154]
Sr ₂ Fe _{1.5} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ}	SFM	0.5	1	1.4 A cm ⁻² ^{900°C} (at 1.3V)	YbScSZ	[159]
Sr ₂ FeCo _{0.5} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ}	SFCM	-	-	42.6 (3%-H ₂)	LSGM	[160]
Sr ₂ Fe _{1.3} Co _{0.2} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ} -GDC	SFCM-GDC	0.036	0.047 ^{850°C}	986 (H ₂)	LSGM	[161]
Ca _{0.25} Sr _{1.75} Fe _{1.5} Mo _{0.5} O _{6-δ}	CaSFM	0.094	0.198	709 (H ₂) 480 (syngas) 392 (CO)	LSGM	[166]
Sr ₂ MnMoO _{5+δ}	SMMO ₅	-	-	245 (CH ₄) 183 (C ₂ H ₅ OH)	SDC	[167]
<i>K₂NiO₄-type and PrBa(Mn,Fe)₂O_{5+δ}</i>						
La _{0.4} Sr _{1.6} MnO _{4+δ}	LSMO ₄	0.87	2.07	59 (H ₂)	LSGM	[171]
La _{0.4} Sr _{1.6} MnO _{4+δ} - NiO-SDC	LSMO ₄	0.17 ^{700 °C}	-	614 (H ₂) 378 (CH ₄)	SDC	[175]
La _{0.8} Sr _{1.2} FeO ₄	LSFO ₄	1.85	8	73 (H ₂)	LSGM	[177]
La _{0.5} Sr _{2.5} Fe ₂ O _{7-δ} - GDC	LSFO ₇ -GDC	-	-	480 (H ₂)	YSZ/GDC	[178]
PrBaMn ₂ O _{5+δ} - Pr ₆ O ₁₁	PBMO ₅ -Pr ₆ O ₁₁	0.016	0.20	423 (H ₂) 227 (CH ₄)	YSZ	[184]
PrBa _{0.8} Ca _{0.2} Mn ₂ O _{5+δ}	PBCaMO ₅	-	-	1101 (H ₂) 740 (CH ₄) 470 (C ₈ H ₁₈)	LSGM	[185]
(PrBa) _{0.95} (Fe _{0.9} Mo _{0.1}) ₂ O _{5+δ}	PBFMO ₅	0.027	0.074 (5% H ₂) 0.86(CH ₄)	1050 (H ₂) 400 (CH ₄)	LSGM	[187]
(PrBa) _{0.95} (Fe _{0.95} W _{0.05}) ₂ O _{5+δ}	PBFWO ₅	0.031	0.12	1020 (H ₂) 610 (syngas) 624 (C ₂ H ₆) 448 (C ₃ H ₈)	LSGM	[188]
PrBa(Fe _{0.8} Sc _{0.2}) ₂ O _{5+δ}	PBF _{SO} ₅	0.05	0.18	713 (H ₂) 275 ^{900 °C} (CH ₄)	LSGM	[189]
(PrBa) _{0.95} (Fe _{0.9} Mo _{0.1}) ₂ O _{5+δ} - SDC	PBFMO ₅ -SDC	-	-	0.51 A cm ⁻² ^{800°C} (at 1.3V)	LSGM	[190]
GdBaFe ₂ O _{5+δ}	GBFO ₅	0.073	1.911	858 (H ₂) 696 (syngas) 101 (CH ₄)	LSGM/SDC	[191]
SmBaMn _{1.9} Mg _{0.1} O _{5+δ}	SBMMO ₅	0.296	0.67	317 (H ₂)	LSGM	[192]

4. Electrodes with exsolved metal nanoparticles

A wide variety of oxide materials decorated with active metal nanoparticles have exhibited improved catalytic performance for different energy applications [39,193]. In particular, metal exsolution is a promising approach to improve the fuel oxidation properties of SOFC electrodes [194]. Moreover, the bimetallic nanoparticles have recently demonstrated to be even more interesting than single-metal nanoparticles due to the synergistic effects of the different metals, being Fe-Ni and Fe-Co the most employed systems [195]. Several strategies have been implemented to promote metal exsolution in oxide materials, such as A-site deficiency in perovskites, a phase transformation during reduction, cation exsolution induced by lattice strain, and by applying a DC bias [39,196]. In general, the exsolution is a reversible process during the oxidation/reduction cycles, producing finer and higher dispersion of nanoparticles on the electrode surface in comparison to nanoparticles deposited by wet-infiltration, thereby exhibiting lower particle agglomeration and improved durability [197]. Moreover, the possible deactivation of the nanoparticles due to carbon and sulfur depositions could be reverted by oxidizing the fuel electrode, a fact that makes these materials potential candidates for SSOCs. The following three subsections are dedicated to study symmetrical electrodes with different exsolved metal particles, where the main compositions and properties are summarized in **Table 3**.

1.1. Symmetrical electrodes with Ni and Ni-Fe exsolution

Nickel-doped materials are among the most investigated fuel electrodes due to their ability to form Ni nanoparticles in reducing conditions with improved electrocatalytic activity for H₂ and hydrocarbon oxidation [198–200]. One of the first attempts was performed with the traditional LSCM symmetrical electrode by partially substituting Mn or Cr by Ni. For instance, La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{0.5-x}Ni_xMn_{0.5}O_{3-δ} (x= 0.06 and 0.2) and La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{0.5}Mn_{0.5-x}Ni_xO_{3-δ} (x= 0-0.3) series showed Ni-exsolved nanoparticles after reducing in H₂ [201,202] (**Table 3**).

The Ni-doped strategy has also been widely employed in (La,Sr)FeO₃-based SSOC electrodes, showing either Ni or Ni-Fe exsolved nanoparticles depending on the reducing conditions. For instance, Tian *et al.* reported *in-situ* exsolved Ni-Fe nanoparticles in La_{0.6}Ca_{0.4}Fe_{0.8}Ni_{0.2}O_{3-δ}-Ce_{0.9}Gd_{0.1}O_{1.95} composites, which greatly improved the electrochemical properties of the fuel electrode. The ASR values in air, H₂ and CO₂ were 0.24, 0.13 and 0.47 Ω cm² at 800 °C, respectively. A YSZ-supported cell showed a MPD of 300 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C in H₂ [203]. A related composition with Ce-doping, La_{0.6}Ce_{0.1}Sr_{0.3}Fe_{0.9}Ni_{0.1}O_{3-δ}, showed a drastic enhancement of the performance in wet CH₄ compared to the undoped electrode, 522 and 221 mW cm⁻², respectively, on a LSGM electrolyte at 850 °C [204]. This is one of the best results reported in the literature for hydrocarbon fueled SSOCs, confirming the high catalytic activity of Ce-doped materials under CH₄ operation.

Different Ti-based perovskites have also been doped with Ni to combine the high redox stability of titanate based materials with Ni-exsolution. The conductivity of La_{0.875}Sr_{0.125}Ti_{1-x}Ni_xO₃ (LSTNx) series increased in air with increasing Ni-content, from 2.8×10⁻³ S cm⁻¹ for LSTN0.1 to 3.5×10⁻² S cm⁻¹ for LSTN0.5 at 800 °C, while

it drastically decreased in reducing conditions, from 0.7 S cm^{-1} for LSTN0.1 to $2.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ for LSTN0.5 at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [205]. The nickel exsolution was further studied by the same research group, concluding that this process was limited by the slow reduction kinetics at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in diluted H_2 [206].

A related Ni-doped ferrite, $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{Ni}_{0.3}\text{O}_3$, showed a maximum conductivity of 318 and 1.1 S cm^{-1} at $700 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in air and H_2 , respectively, and low ASR values of 0.05 and $0.20 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and H_2 , respectively; however, the authors did not find any signs of Ni exsolution after 24 h reduction at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ by XRD and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy [207]. In another study, $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ni}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LSFNx) series ($x = 0, 0.1$ and 0.2) were reduced at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and Ni-exsolution was not detected by XRD; however, high-resolution TEM revealed the presence of Ni-metal on the electrode surface [208]. Hence, the discrepancies between both works seem to be associated with the different characterization techniques employed, implying that high-resolution electron microscopy techniques are needed to identify these highly dispersed metal nanoparticles.

Recently, A-site deficient $(\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3})_{1-x}(\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3})_{0.9}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ ($x = 0.1, 0.2$ and 0.3) single perovskites were explored as symmetrical electrodes [209]. The best results were found for $x = 0.3$ with ASR values of 0.043 and $0.17 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and H_2 , respectively. The influence of Ca- and Ba-doping in $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{A}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.4}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{A} = \text{Ca}$ and Ba) was studied, where Ca-doped electrode showed La_2O_3 segregation and also higher performance than the corresponding Ba-doped electrode [210].

An improvement of the electrochemical properties has also been achieved in Ni-doped SFM double perovskite. Osinkin *et al.* observed a higher electrochemical activity in both oxidizing and reducing conditions for $\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Fe}_{1.4}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ due to Ni-Fe exsolution after a heat treatment at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in wet H_2 [211]. A LSGM supported cell showed an MPD of 500 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 .

Xu *et al.* tested the influence of Ni-metal exsolution in the $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}(\text{MnNi}_{0.1})\text{O}_{4+\delta}$ -SDC composite electrode [212] (**Fig. 5a,b**). The excess of Ni in the B-site of the RP-type structure slightly increased the activity for ORR and greatly enhanced the performance for HOR, although the ASR values in 5% H_2 -Ar were rather high (**Table 3**).

1.2. Symmetrical electrodes with Fe and Fe-Co exsolution

Fe-Co nanoparticle exsolution has been extensively studied in fuel electrodes for SOCs, as it confers improved stability, coking/sulfur tolerance, as well as high electrocatalytic activity for fuel oxidation [195]. Electrode materials with high Fe-Co-content usually exhibit a phase transformation in H_2 from single perovskite to RP-type structure, which is accompanied by exsolution of metal nanoparticles [194,196]. Since no severe phase change occurs during this process, these electrodes are classified into electrodes with exsolved metal particles instead of quasi-symmetrical electrodes (Q-SSOC).

The first studies were performed in traditional air electrodes, such as LSCF, by adequate doping in the B-site of the perovskite to enhance the redox stability [213,214]. For instance, Song *et al.* studied the $\text{La}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3-x}\text{Co}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LSFTC, $x = 0-0.2$) series, which transform into a mixture of perovskite, RP-type

phase and Fe-Co metallic nanoparticles in H₂ [214]. A similar behavior was observed for La_{0.4}Sr_{0.6}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.7}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} [213] and Pr_{0.4}Sr_{0.6}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.7}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} [215] (**Table 3**). Later on, A-site deficient (Pr_{0.4})_xSr_{0.6}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.7}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} ($x = 0.9 \leq x \leq 1.1$) was tested in SSOFCs, showing the composition of $x = 1.05$ the lowest ASRs in both air (0.025 Ω cm²) and H₂ (0.2 Ω cm²) at 800 °C [216], fact that is attributed to the A-site nonstoichiometric facilitating metal particle exsolution.

Zhou *et al.* prepared a layered perovskite, La_{0.8}Sr_{1.2}Fe_{0.9}Co_{0.1}O_{4±δ} (LSFCO₄), by Co-doping the pristine La_{0.8}Sr_{1.2}FeO_{4±δ} electrode. The ASR in air drastically decreased due to an enhancement of the mixed ionic-electronic conductivity after Co-doping, which greatly improved the electrochemical properties in reducing conditions. The LSCFO₄-GDC composite electrode achieved ASR values of 0.21 Ω cm² in air and 0.93 Ω cm² in 5% H₂, while a MPD of 325 mW cm⁻² was obtained at 800 °C in H₂ on a LSGM electrolyte supported cell [217]. LaSr₃Fe₂CoO_{10-δ} ($n = 3$) with RP-type structure was also studied, which showed negligible degradation during 100 h of operation at 700 °C and reached a MPD of 351 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C in H₂ in a YSZ-supported cell [218]. Another RP-type electrode was investigated by Chung *et al.*, La_{1.2}Sr_{0.8}Mn_{0.4}Fe_{0.6}O_{4±δ}-GDC, which transformed after reduction into La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Mn_{0.2}Fe_{0.8}O_{3-δ} single perovskite, a process that was fully reversible. The phase transformation was accompanied by Fe-exsolution, showing the LSGM-supported cell a MPD of 770 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C in H₂ [219].

Sr₂Co_{0.4}Fe_{1.2}Mo_{0.4}O_{6-δ} double perovskite also showed a phase transformation after reduction into Sr₃Co_{0.1}Fe_{1.3}Mo_{0.6}O_{7-δ} ($n = 2$) RP-type phase with Co-Fe nanoparticles distributed on the electrode surface, being this process reversible after calcining at 900 °C in an oxidizing environment [27] (**Table 3**). In contrast, Sr₂Ti_{0.8}Co_{0.2}FeO₆ double perovskite also showed Co-Fe nanoparticles in reducing conditions but without any phase transformation [220]. Recently, a similar double perovskite, Sr₂ScTi_{0.5}Mo_{0.5}O₆, presented excellent electrochemical activity for ORR and HOR, which the authors attributed to Ti-metal exsolution [221]. High stability was reported by employing *in-operando* gas switching between CH₄ and air, reaching an MPD of 218 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C in CH₄.

Other highly reducible transition metals have been investigated for metal exsolution in SSOFC electrodes, the A-deficient (La_{0.6}Sr_{1.4})_{0.95}Mn_{1-x}B_xO₄ ($x = 0$ and 0.1, B = Co, Ni and Cu) Ruddlesden-Popper phases achieved Co, Ni and Cu nanoparticle exsolution after reduction [222]. Higher electrical conductivity with lower activation energy was achieved for the B-site doped materials, obtaining the lowest ASR values for (La_{0.6}Sr_{1.4})_{0.95}Mn_{0.9}Cu_{0.1}O₄-SSZ composite electrode (**Table 3**).

1.3. Symmetrical electrodes with exsolution of noble metals

Among the different noble metals for particle exsolution, Ru has demonstrated to be a promising alternative to Ni due to its higher catalytic activity towards hydrocarbon oxidation, better thermal stability and coking resistance [223,224]. In particular, Barnett *et col.* compared the influence of Ni- and Ru-doping on La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}Cr_{1-x}M_xO_{3-δ}, (M = Ni and Ru, $x < 0.31$) for their implementation as anode material [223]. After a stability test at 800 °C for 300 h, Ru-doped samples showed higher nanoparticle concentration, better thermal

stability and finer grain size (5 nm diameter) compared to Ni-doped samples (~50 nm diameter), findings that explain the better electrochemical performance of Ru-doped electrodes. For that reason, Ru-doping strategy has been proposed to enhance the electrochemical properties of several SSOC electrodes in reducing conditions, despite its higher price in comparison with Ni [224-230]. For instance, a Ru/Ce-codoped, SrFeO₃, was also investigated as symmetrical electrode [225]. Sr_{0.8}Ce_{0.2}FeO_{3-δ} was a single phase at 1250 °C, but CeO₂ segregation was found during the cooling process in air. The Ru/Ce-codoping in Sr_{0.8}Ce_{0.2}Fe_{0.95}Ru_{0.05}O_{3-δ} stabilized the perovskite structure in air, but SrO, CeO₂ and Ru-metal nanoparticles were observed after reduction due to superficial electrode decomposition. The formation of multiple phases on the electrode surface limited the grain growth and was the responsible of the very small size of the Ru particles ~10 nm. Remarkable power densities were obtained in a symmetrical LSGM supported cell, *i.e.* 846 and 310 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C for H₂ and C₃H₈, respectively (**Fig. 5c,d**). The authors concluded that the exsolution of Ru-metal was critical for H₂ oxidation, the CeO₂ helped the absorption of propane molecules, while SrO improved the coke resistance in hydrocarbon fuels.

The influence of Ru-doping in the A-deficient (La_{0.8}Sr_{0.2})_{0.9}Mn_{0.8-x}Sc_{0.2}Ru_xO_{3-δ} perovskite was also studied by Zhou *et al.* [226]. Despite Ru nanoparticles were only detected after reduction in the fuel electrode, the electrochemical performance was greatly improved in both air and 5% H₂, with ASR values of 0.23 and 0.52 Ω cm², respectively, at 800 °C. Similarly, a Ru-doped strategy has been employed to promote the formation of oxygen vacancies in SmFeO₃ orthorhombic perovskite. The composition Sm_{0.9}Sr_{0.1}Fe_{0.9}Ru_{0.1}O_{3-δ} (SSFR) showed excellent redox stability, but the exsolution of Fe-Ru nanoparticles in reducing conditions was not investigated [227]. The MPD of the SSFR|SDC|SSFR cell was 119 mW cm⁻² at 800 °C in H₂. In contrast, a similar A-site deficient perovskite symmetrical electrode, Sm_{0.70}Sr_{0.20}Fe_{0.80}Ti_{0.15}Ru_{0.05}O_{3-δ}, showed Ru exsolution in reducing conditions, contrary to that of the A-site stoichiometric composition, demonstrating the importance of A-site deficiency on the exsolution of metal particles in B-site. The Ru-exsolution was linked to the lower ASR values, *i.e.* 0.13 and 0.11 Ω cm² in air and 5% H₂ at 800 °C, respectively, slightly lower than those observed for the stoichiometric electrode 0.24 and 0.37 Ω cm² in air and 5% H₂, respectively [228].

Pd-doping has also been investigated to enhance the electrochemical activity of SSOC electrodes in reducing conditions. Marcucci *et al.* studied the effect of Pd-doping in La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Fe_{0.95}Pd_{0.05}O_{3-δ} electrode (LSFPd). A reversible partial phase transformation was observed from a single perovskite to a mixture of phases, including a RP-type structure, Pd and Fe nanoparticles, upon switching between oxidizing and reducing conditions [229]. The influence of GDC addition on the electrochemical properties of LSFPd was also investigated; the ASR values in air increased from 0.21 Ω cm² for LSFPd to 0.91 Ω cm² for LSFPd-GDC composite at 750 °C, while a drastic decrease was observed in H₂ from 5.69 to 0.08 for LSFPd and LSFPd-GDC, respectively. The main role of GDC was to provide morphological and microstructural stability under reducing conditions, as well as to improve the charge transfer and H₂ oxidation reactions due to its high ionic and electronic conductivity. The LSFPd-GDC/LSGM/LSFPd cell rendered an MPD of 350 mW cm⁻² in H₂ at 750 °C, higher than those observed for the Pd-free symmetric cell (268 mW cm⁻²) measured under the same

operating conditions. These findings confirmed that Pd-exsolution is a promising approach to promote the electrocatalytic properties in the anode.

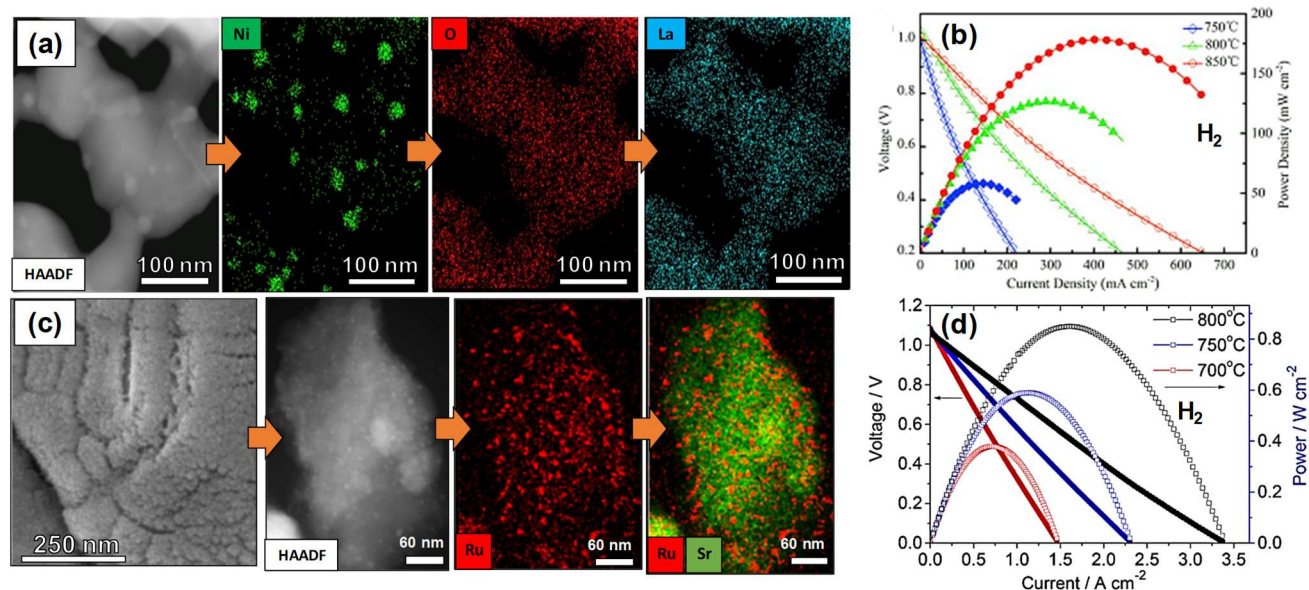


Figure 5. (a) STEM images of the reduced $(\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{Mn})\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{4+\delta}$ electrode, showing exsolution of Ni nanoparticles, and (b) I-V-P curves of the $(\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{Mn})\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{4+\delta}$ -SDC symmetrical electrode on LSGM electrolyte at different temperatures in H_2 fuel. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [212]. (c) SEM image of $\text{Sr}_{0.8}\text{Ce}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Ru}_{0.05}\text{O}_3$ after annealing in H_2 at 800°C and HAADF-STEM and EDS images after reduction and (d) I-V-P curves of the symmetrical cell on LSGM electrolyte at different temperatures. Reprinted with permission, American Chemical Society [225].

Table 3. Most relevant symmetrical electrode with metal exsolved nanoparticles. Area Specific Resistance (in air and H_2) and power/current densities are given at 800°C . In those case, where not data are available at 800°C , the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} ($\Omega\text{ cm}^2$)	ASR ^{H₂} ($\Omega\text{ cm}^2$)	P (mW cm^{-2})	Electrolyte	Ref.
<i>Ni exsolution</i>						
$\text{La}_{0.75}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.3}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSCMN	1.6	1.1 (5% H_2 -Ar)	-	YSZ	[202]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Ca}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC	LCaFN-GDC	0.24	0.13	300 (H_2)	YSZ/GDC	[203]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Ce}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LCSFN	-	-	650 (H_2) 200 (CH_4)	LSGM	[204]
$\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{Ni}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSTFN	0.047	0.201	402 (H_2)	LSGM	[207]
$\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ni}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSFN	0.1	0.06	540 (H_2)	LSGM	[208]
$(\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3})_{0.7}(\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3})_{0.9}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSFTN	0.043 ^{750 °C}	0.17 ^{750 °C}	-	LSGM	[209]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -YSZ	LSFN-YSZ	-	-	400 ^{750°C} (C_3H_8) 230 ^{750°C} (CH_4)	YSZ	[230]
$\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Fe}_{1.4}\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$	SFNM	0.08	0.11	500 (H_2)	LSGM	[211]

$(\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{1.5}\text{Mn})\text{Ni}_{0.1}\text{O}_{4+\delta}$ -SDC	LSMNO ₄ -SDC	0.6	3.51	126 (H ₂)	LSGM	[212]
<i>Fe-Co exsolution</i>						
$\text{La}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSCFN	-	-	500 ^{850 °C} (H ₂)	LSGM	[213]
$\text{La}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.25}\text{Co}_{0.05}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSFTC	0.1 ^{750 °C}	0.4 ^{750 °C}	450 ^{850 °C} (H ₂)	LSGM	[214]
$\text{Pr}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	PSCFNb	0.075	-	960 (H ₂) 600 (CH ₄) 940 (C ₃ H ₈)	LSGM	[215]
$\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{1.2}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Co}_{0.1}\text{O}_{4+\delta}$ -GDC	LSFCO ₄ -GDC	0.21	0.93 (5% H ₂ -Ar)	325 (H ₂)	LSGM	[217]
$\text{Sr}_2\text{Co}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{1.2}\text{Mo}_{0.4}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$	SCFMO ₄	0.055	0.14	802 (H ₂) 271 (CH ₄)	LSGM	[27]
$\text{LaSr}_3\text{Fe}_2\text{CoO}_{10-\delta}$	LSFCO ₁₀	-	-	351 (H ₂)	YSZ/GDC	[218]
$\text{La}_{1.2}\text{Sr}_{0.8}\text{Mn}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{O}_4$	LSMFO ₄	-	0.59	770 (H ₂)	LSGM	[219]
$\text{Sr}_2\text{Ti}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{FeO}_6$	STCFO ₆	0.12	0.38	555 (H ₂)	LSGM	[220]
$(\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{1.4})_{0.95}\text{Mn}_{0.9}\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{O}_4$ -SSZ	LSMCu-SSZ	0.12 ^{750 °C}	0.32 ^{750 °C}	623 ^{750 °C} (H ₂)	SSZ	[222]
<i>Noble metal exsolution (Ru and Pd)</i>						
$\text{Sr}_{0.8}\text{Ce}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Ru}_{0.05}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	SCFR	-	-	846 (H ₂) 310 (C ₃ H ₈)	LSGM	[225]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Ce}_{0.1}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Ru}_{0.05}\text{O}_3$ -GDC	LCSFR-GDC	0.11	0.32	904 (H ₂)	LSGM	[231]
$(\text{La}_{0.8}\text{Sr}_{0.2})_{0.9}\text{Sc}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.8-x}\text{Ru}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSSMR	x= 0 (0.23) x= 0.05 (0.56)	x= 0 (3.6) x= 0.05 (0.52) (5%H ₂ -N ₂)	318 (H ₂) 0.54 A cm ⁻² 750 °C (1.5 V)	SSZ	[226]
$\text{Sm}_{0.70}\text{Sr}_{0.20}\text{Fe}_{0.80}\text{Ti}_{0.15}\text{Ru}_{0.05}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	SSFTR	0.13	0.11	476 (H ₂)	SDC	[228]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{Pd}_{0.05}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -SDC	LSFPd-GDC	0.91 ^{750 °C}	0.08 ^{750 °C}	350 ^{750 °C} (H ₂)	LSGM	[229]
$\text{LaCo}_{0.3}\text{Fe}_{0.67}\text{Pd}_{0.03}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -SDC	LCFP-GDC	0.02 ^{750 °C}	-	535 ^{750 °C} (H ₂)	SDC	[232]

5. Electrode materials for quasi-symmetrical SSOCs

One of the limitations of traditional SSOCs, as the aforementioned studies have shown, is to find a material with sufficient electrical conductivity and electrocatalytic activity for simultaneous use as both air and fuel electrodes, especially at intermediate temperatures. A new approach based on Quasi-Symmetrical electrodes (Q-SSOC) is gaining increased attention in last few years, where the symmetrical electrode suffers a severe phase transformation in reducing atmospheres, accompanied with the formation of large amounts of metal particles that greatly enhance the electrical conductivity and electrochemical properties. In this context, several traditional MIECs have been tested as Q-SSOC, such as $\text{Pr}_{0.5}\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.25}\text{Fe}_{0.75}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ [233], $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$

[234] and La_2NiO_4 , [235], which showed an improved performance compared to traditional SSOC approach based on redox stable electrodes.

In this section, only electrodes that show a complete or severe phase transformation in reducing conditions are discussed, excluding those that exhibit a single-phase transition (*i.e.* single to layered perovskite), which are classified as exsolved electrodes in the previous section. The most relevant Quasi-Symmetrical electrodes are summarized in **Table 4**, including the main properties.

In the attempt to stabilize the $\text{Pr}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ air electrode for its implementation in SSOC, Zhang *et al.* incorporated different amounts of Mo in the B-site of the perovskite, $\text{Pr}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}(\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8})_{1-x}\text{Mo}_x\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (PSCFM x) ($x=0-0.2$) [236]. This new electrode underwent a partial decomposition into SrFeLaO_4 , Pr_2O_3 and Co-Fe metal when reduced at 900 °C for 2 h in H_2 . It should be highlighted that the original oxidized phase was recovered after successive air/ H_2 cycles, confirming the reversibility of the phase transformation. An LSGM-supported cell with PSCFM0.05 as symmetrical electrode reached an MPD of 493 and 160 mW cm^{-2} in H_2 and CH_4 , respectively, at 850 °C. Similar findings were found by Lu *et al.* with $\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ electrode [237] (**Table 4**).

In another study, Zhao *et al.* studied the $\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ single perovskite, the following phases were obtained after reduction process at 800 °C: $(\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ and $(\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4})_2\text{FeO}_4$ both with RP-type structure, as well as Fe-metal [238]. A YSZ-based cell generated an MPD of 502 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C. The same electrode was recently tested by Yang *et al.*, but different phases were identified after reduction: $\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$ single perovskite and $(\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4})_3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ RP-type structure [239]. In addition, a remarkable current density under SOEC mode was achieved, *i.e.* -1.39 A cm^{-2} at 800 °C at 1.6 V. Tao *et al.* also tested the traditional $\text{PrNi}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ air electrode, prepared by infiltration method into a LSGM porous scaffold, for Q-SSOFC. The single perovskite suffered a phase transformation in fuel conditions into Pr_2O_3 and Fe-Ni nanoclusters that were quickly recovered to their initial phase after re-oxidation at 800 °C with the presence of a little fraction of Pr_6O_{11} , reaching an excellent MPD of 663 mW cm^{-2} with wet CH_4 at 800 °C [240].

Cu-doping was implemented in the LSCF air electrode, $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Cu}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$, which exhibited a reversible phase transformation from a single perovskite in air to a mixture of phases in reducing conditions: SrFeLaO_4 RP phase, LaFeO_3 single perovskite and Cu-metal, reaching power densities of 577 and 482 mW cm^{-2} in H_2 and syngas at 800 °C, respectively [241]. Duan *et al.* found that $\text{LaCo}_{0.6}\text{Ni}_{0.4}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ - $\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{Gd}_{0.1}\text{O}_{1.95}$ composite electrode decomposed into multiple phases at 700 °C in H_2 , including $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3$ and a Ni-Co alloy. Very low ASR values were obtained in both air and H_2 atmospheres, 0.046 and 0.037 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$, respectively, with an MPD of 562 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C in H_2 (**Fig. 6a-c**). A high current density of 2.32 A cm^{-2} at 800 °C and 2.0 V was also obtained in SOEC mode [41]. Similar results were observed by Han *et al.* in $\text{LaNi}_{0.82}\text{Fe}_{0.18}\text{O}_3$ -NiO composite infiltrated into a LSGM scaffold, showing a complete decomposition into La_2O_3 , LaFeO_3 and Fe-Ni nanoparticles, and a surprising high MPD of 928 mW cm^{-2} at 650 °C in a LSGM-electrolyte supported cell [40]. However, the

stability after successive oxidation/reduction cycles was not evaluated, which is an important issue due to the hydration/carbonation of lanthanum oxide in air atmosphere.

The traditional La_2NiO_4 RP-type phase was also tested for Q-SSOC, which presented a partial phase decomposition in H_2 atmosphere into a La_2NiO_4 -related phase, La_2O_3 and Ni-metal. A MPD of 245 mW cm^{-2} was obtained at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 [235]. It is also worth noting that the segregation of La_2O_3 might lead to the formation of insulating $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ at the electrode/YSZ interface at rather low temperature as $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [242], which was not investigated. Similar electrode decomposition was observed for the Pr_2NiO_4 -SDC composite, showing Pr_2O_3 and Ni-metal in reducing conditions. The best electrochemical properties were found for Pr_2NiO_4 -SDC (60:40 wt.%) with ASR values as low as $0.068 \text{ } \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. A SDC-supported cell ($210 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ thickness) rendered an MPD of 375 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ with almost negligible degradation in a long term stability test at $750 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 168 h [243].

The $\text{PrBaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ double perovskite air electrode was also studied for Q-SSOFC with different fuels, achieving remarkable MPD values of 563, 439 and 221 mW cm^{-2} in H_2 , liquefied petroleum gas and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$, respectively, at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [42]. $\text{PrBaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ decomposed into $\text{PrBaFe}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$, $\text{Ba}_6\text{Pr}_2\text{Fe}_4\text{O}_{15}$ and Co_3Fe_7 nanoparticles in reducing atmosphere, which was reversible after calcining in air at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (**Fig. 6d-f**). However, the SEM image clearly showed a significant change of the electrode microstructure in air and H_2 atmospheres, which could be detrimental for the mechanical stability.

Chen *et al.* proposed a novel cell design consisting of a GDC electrolyte sandwiched between two Ni-foams current collectors, which were infiltrated with $\text{Ni}_{0.8}\text{Co}_{0.15}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{LiO}_2$ electrode. During the cell operation, small amounts of Li_2CO_3 and NiO were formed on the air electrode surface, which presumably improved the ionic conductivity and lowered the activation energy for ORR. Furthermore, decent MPD was obtained at quite low temperature, *i.e.* 159 mW cm^{-2} at $550 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, but no stability/cyclability tests were presented [244].

Other different Ni-based electrodes/cermets have been studied in recent years. Zhang *et al.* reported the performance of $\text{Li}_{0.3}\text{Ni}_{0.7}\text{O}$ as symmetrical electrode, showing power densities up to 503 mW cm^{-2} at $600 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 , with a relatively good stability over time [245]. It has to be noted that the original phase was not recovered during the re-oxidation process and diffraction peaks attributed to Li_2O were not detected in the XRD patterns, explained by the amorphization or sublimation at high temperature. ZnO-NiO-SDC- Na_2CO_3 and NiCuZnO_x (**Table 4**) electrodes were also tested with an oxide-ion-carbonate electrolyte (SDC- Na_2CO_3), showing a very high power output at low temperatures, *i.e.* 1257 mW cm^{-2} at $520 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 for ZnO-NiO-SDC- Na_2CO_3 electrode [246,247]. These exceptional results could be explained by the implementation of the mixed electrolyte and the formation of Ni-metal in the fuel electrode. On the other hand, a $\text{Ni}_{0.7}\text{Co}_{0.3}\text{O}$ -SDC cermet, which showed high redox reversibility, rendered a modest MPD of 200.2 mW cm^{-2} at $800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in H_2 [248].

Although the quasi-symmetrical electrodes exhibit improved electrochemical properties due to a significant segregation of metal particles, which increases the electronic conductivity in fuel conditions. The formation of multiple phases and the important microstructural change of electrodes during the oxidation/reduction cycles

could negatively affect the mechanical stability of the cell. For instance, lanthanides and alkaline earth-rare elements are susceptible to hydration and carbonation under the operation conditions of a SOFC. In addition, these phases could react with the electrolyte; hence further studies are need to confirm long-term stability and reversibility of these symmetrical electrodes.

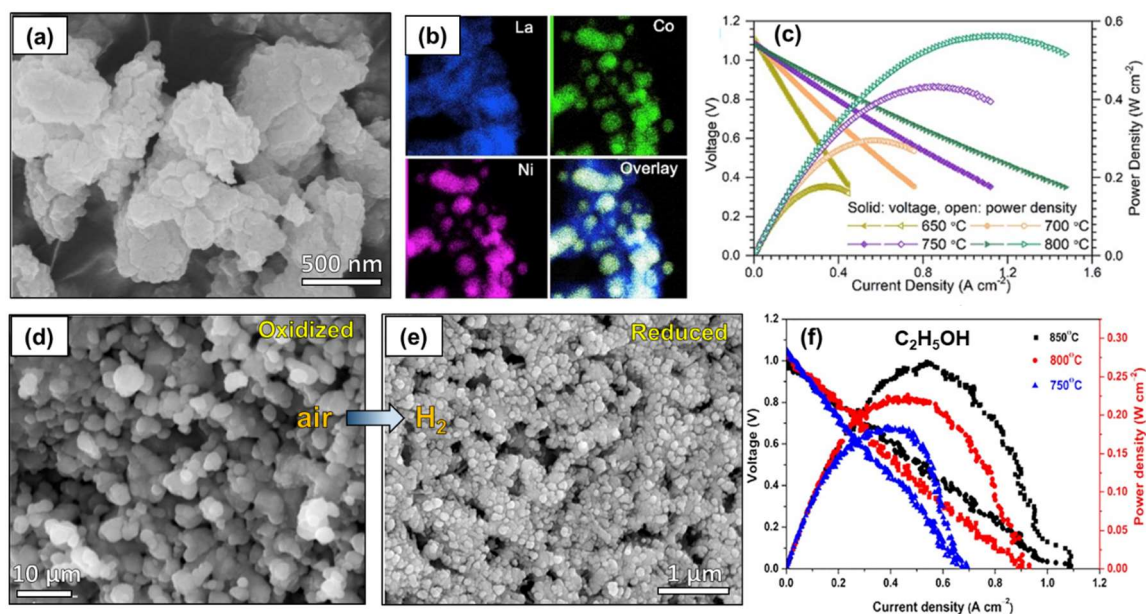


Figure 6. (a) SEM image of $\text{LaCo}_{0.6}\text{Ni}_{0.4}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (LCN) after successive air/ H_2 redox cycles, (b) HAADF-STEM and EDS images after reduction; and (c) I-V-P curves of the LCN-GDC symmetrical electrode on YSZ electrolyte at different temperatures in H_2 . Reprinted with permission, Elsevier, [41]. SEM images of $\text{PrBaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ in (d) air and (e) H_2 ; and (f) I-V-P curves of the symmetrical cell on LSGM electrolyte at different temperatures using $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ fuel. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier, [42].

Table 4. Properties of some quasi-symmetrical electrodes. Area specific resistance (in air and H_2) and power/current densities are given at 800 °C. In those case, where not data are available at 800 °C, the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} ($\Omega \text{ cm}^2$)	ASR ^{H₂} ($\Omega \text{ cm}^2$)	P (mW cm^{-2})	Electrolyte	Ref.
La_2NiO_4	LNO	2.09	-	245	YSZ-GDC	[235]
$\text{Pr}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}(\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8})_{0.95}\text{Mo}_{0.05}\text{O}_{3-\sigma}$	PSCFM005	0.21	0.85	493 ^{850 °C} (H_2) 160 ^{850 °C} (CH_4)	LSGM	[236]
$\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{Mo}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	PSFNM	0.6	0.25	500	LSGM	[237]
$\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$	PSF	0.20	0.15	502	YSZ-GDC	[238]
$\text{Pr}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{FeO}_{3-\delta}$	PSF	0.28	0.32	591 -1.39 A cm^{-2} (1.6 V)	LSGM	[239]
$\text{PrNi}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.6}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	PNF	0.02	0.06 (CH_4)	663 (CH_4)	LSGM	[240]
$\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Cu}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSFCu	-	-	577 (H_2) 482 (syngas)	ScSZ-SDC	[241]
$\text{LaCo}_{0.6}\text{Ni}_{0.4}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LCN-GDC	0.046	0.037	562 (H_2)	YSZ	[41]

				2.32 A cm ⁻² (2.0 V)		
PrBaFe _{1.8} Co _{0.2} O _{5+δ}	PBFC	0.026	0.316	563 (H ₂) 439 (L. petroleum) 221 (C ₂ H ₅ OH)	LSGM	[42]
Pr ₂ NiO ₄ -SDC	PNO-SDC	0.06	-	375	SDC	[243]
Ni _{0.8} Co _{0.15} Al _{0.05} LiO ₂ -Ni foam	-	0.31 ^{550 °C}	0.39 ^{550 °C}	159.7 ^{550 °C}	GDC	[244]
Li _{0.3} Ni _{0.7} O	LNO	-	-	503 ^{600 °C}	Ce _{0.8} (Gd,Y) _{0.2} O _{2-δ}	[245]
NiCuZnO _x	NCZO	-	-	680 ^{600 °C}	SDC-Na ₂ CO ₃	[247]
Ni _{0.7} Co _{0.3} O-SDC	NCO-SDC	0.071	-	200.2	YSZ-SDC	[248]

6. Symmetrical electrodes for proton conducting solid oxide cells (H-SSOCs)

Proton conducting solid oxide cells (H-SOC) have attracted the attention of researchers in the last years due to their better electrochemical performance at intermediate temperatures (500-700 °C) as a consequence of the higher mobility and lower activation energy of protons in comparison to oxide ions [43,249]. This lower operating temperature implies sluggish electrode kinetics but, in contrast, also brings several benefits for these devices, such as higher cell durability, lower operation costs and no dilution of fuels due to water formation [44,46]. The electrodes for H-SSOC require proton conduction to extend the TPB beyond the electrolyte/electrode interface. For this reason, the conventional SOC electrodes are mixed with a proton-conducting electrolyte. An alternative approach is to use triple-conducting electrodes with proton, oxide-ion and electron conductivity, such as BaCo_{0.4}Fe_{0.4}Zr_{0.1}Y_{0.1}O₃, PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_{1.5}Fe_{0.5}O_{5+δ} and PrNi_{0.5}Co_{0.5}O_{3-δ} [250–252].

Most of the investigation carried out in the development of H-SOC has been mainly focused on the traditional Ni-anode-supported cell; however, recent promising advances on proton conducting symmetrical solid oxide cells (H-SSOC) are attracting a growing interest over this traditional anode-supported cell configuration due to the advantages previously commented. The most relevant electrodes are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs and included in **Table 5**.

In one of the first studies on these cells, Li *et al.* studied the La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Fe_{0.8}Nb_{0.1}Cu_{0.1}O_{3-δ} perovskite as symmetrical electrode to cogenerate ethylene and electricity in a proton conducting cell with BaZr_{0.1}Ce_{0.7}Y_{0.1}Yb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} (BZCYYb) electrolyte, achieving MPD values of 182 and 90 mW cm⁻² for H₂ and C₂H₆, respectively, at 750 °C [253]. The results also revealed an enhancement of the phase stability in reducing atmospheres and a high coking resistance for the Cu-doped electrode. Similar findings in terms of power density were observed for the SrMo_{0.8}Co_{0.1}Fe_{0.1}O_{3-δ}-BaCe_{0.7}Zr_{0.1}Y_{0.2}O_{3-δ} composite electrode (**Table 5**) [254].

Nd_{1-x}Ba_xFe_{0.9}B_{0.1}O_{3-δ} electrodes (x= 0.4 and 0.6; B= Cu and Ni) were tested in a proton conducting cell with BaCe_{0.7}Zr_{0.1}Y_{0.2}O_{3-δ} (BZCY) electrolyte, where Nd_{0.6}Ba_{0.4}Fe_{0.9}Cu_{0.1}O_{3-δ} showed exsolved Fe-Cu nanoparticles

in reducing conditions (**Table 5**) [255]. Fu *et al.* tested the $(\text{LaSr})_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{O}_4\text{-BaZr}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.7}\text{Y}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ composite electrode on BZCY electrolyte, reporting Cu nanoparticle exsolution in reducing conditions [256]. This process was deeply studied by Density Functional Theory (DFT), concluding that the (100) orientation was the preferential surface orientation for the Cu-exsolution due to the lowest surface energy needed. In addition, MPDs of 573 and 396 mW cm^{-2} were obtained in humidified H_2 and CH_4 , respectively, at 800 °C (**Fig. 7a-c**).

In 2021, Kim *et al.* studied the $\text{PrBaFe}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ double perovskite on BZCY electrolyte, showing high redox stability and rather low ASR values both in air and H_2 , 0.20 and 0.28 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$, respectively, at 700 °C and a MPD of 301 mW cm^{-2} at the same temperature (**Fig. 7d-f**) [257].

The $\text{SrCe}_{0.9}\text{In}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}\text{-SrFe}_{0.75}\text{Mo}_{0.25}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (SCI-SFM) symmetrical composite electrode achieved ASR values of 3.28 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ and 1.83 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at 600 °C in air and 5% H_2 , respectively, but a very low MPD of 32 mW cm^{-2} at 800 °C was obtained due to the thick SCI electrolyte (0.4 mm) used [258].

Quasi-symmetrical electrodes with proton conductor electrolytes have also been investigated. For instance, Ba-doped Pr_2NiO_4 air electrode was tested with a $\text{BaCe}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.3}\text{Dy}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (BCZD) electrolyte [259]. In reducing conditions, $\text{Pr}_{1.9}\text{Ba}_{0.1}\text{NiO}_{4+\delta}$ (PBN) decomposed into $(\text{Pr,Ba})_2\text{O}_3$ and Ni nanoparticles. The PBN-BCZD|BCZD|PBN-BCZD cell rendered a MPD of 300 mW cm^{-2} at 600 °C [259]. More recently, Yu *et al.* proposed the implementation of $\text{BaCo}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.4}\text{Zr}_{0.1}\text{Y}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (BCFZY), one of the most efficient air electrodes for classical H-SOCs up to date due to the triple-conducting properties, as a quasi-symmetrical electrode. In reducing conditions, a mixture of $\text{Ba}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_5$, $\text{YBa}_4\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_{11}$, Co-Fe nanoparticles and zirconium-yttrium oxide phases was observed, but the BCFZY-SDC composition onto BZCY rendered good ASR values of 0.32 and 1.35 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ in air and 10% H_2 at 700 °C, respectively [260].

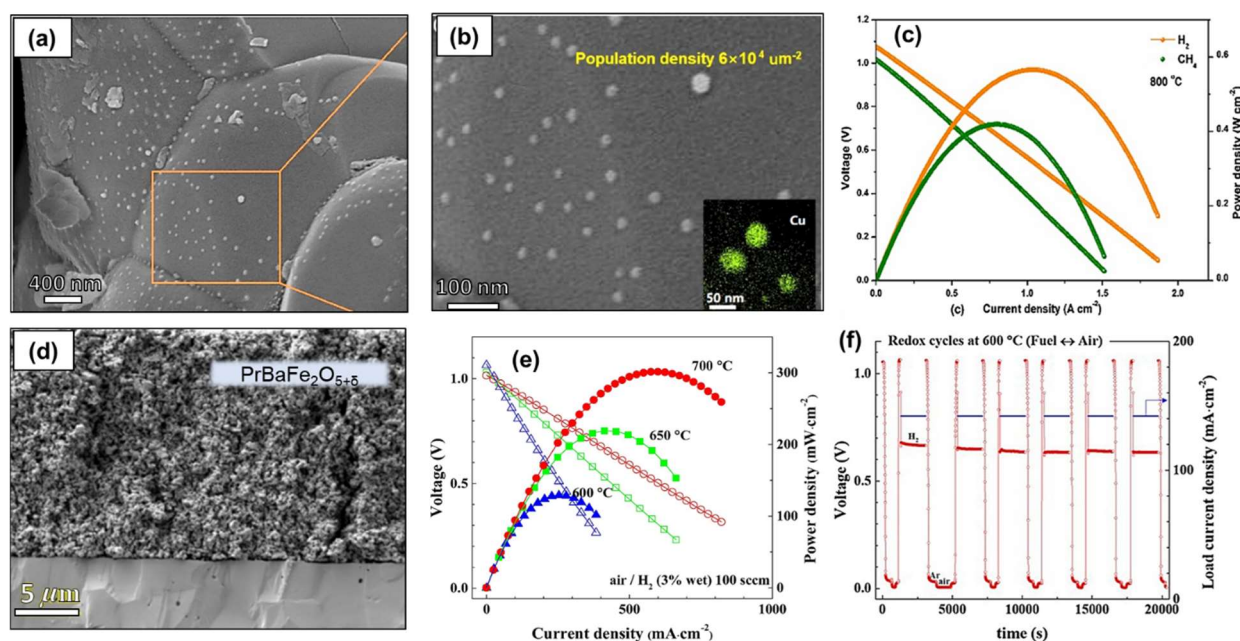


Figure 7. (a,b) SEM images of the reduced $(\text{LaSr})_{0.9}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{O}_4$ (LSFCu) electrode on BZCY electrolyte at different magnifications and (c) I-V-P curves of a single cell at 800 °C using H_2 and CH_4 fuels. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier, [256]. (d) SEM image $\text{PrBaFe}_2\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ (PBFO₅) symmetrical electrode on BZCY electrolyte, (e) I-V-P curves of the single

cell at different temperatures with H₂ fuel, and (f) redox cycling test of the cell by switching from H₂ to air under 140 mA cm⁻² at 600 °C. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier [257].

Table 5. Properties of several symmetrical electrodes employed in proton conducting fuel cells. Area specific resistance in air and H₂, and power/current densities are given at 750 °C. In those case, where not data are available at 750 °C, the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} (Ω cm ²)	ASR ^{H₂} (Ω cm ²)	P (mW cm ⁻²)	Electrolyte	Ref.
La _{0.6} Sr _{0.4} Fe _{0.8} Nb _{0.1} Cu _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	LSFNCu	-	-	182 (H ₂) 90 (C ₂ H ₆)	BZCYYb	[253]
SrMo _{0.8} Co _{0.1} Fe _{0.1} O _{3-δ} -BZCY	SMCF-BZCY	-	-	377 (H ₂) 268 (CH ₄)	BZCY	[254]
Nd _{0.6} Ba _{0.4} Fe _{0.9} Cu _{0.1} O _{3-δ}	NBFCu	1.1 ^{600 °C}	15.1 ^{600 °C}	-	BZCYYb	[255]
(LaSr) _{0.9} Fe _{0.9} Cu _{0.1} O _{4+δ} -BZCY	LSFCu-BZCY	0.19	0.36	573 ^{800 °C} (H ₂) 396 ^{800 °C} (CH ₄)	BZCY	[256]
PrBaFe ₂ O _{5+δ}	PBF	0.20 ^{700 °C}	0.28 ^{700 °C}	301 ^{700 °C} (H ₂)	BZCY	[257]
SrFe _{0.75} Mo _{0.25} O _{3-δ} -SCI	SFM-SCI	3.28 ^{600 °C}	1.83 ^{600 °C} (5% H ₂)	32 ^{800 °C} (H ₂)	SrCe _{0.9} In _{0.1} O _{3-δ} (SCI)	[258]
Pr _{1.9} Ba _{0.1} NiO _{4+δ} -BCZD	PBN-BCZD	-	-	300 ^{600 °C} (H ₂)	BCZD	[259]
BaCo _{0.4} Fe _{0.4} Zr _{0.1} Y _{0.1} O _{3-δ} -SDC	BCFZY-SDC	0.32 ^{700 °C}	1.35 ^{700 °C} (10% H ₂)	114.8 ^{650 °C}	BZCY	[260]

7. Symmetrical electrodes for electrochemical reduction of CO₂

Nowadays, the electroreduction of CO₂ is a promising technology for sustainable energy conversion and storage and likewise serves to mitigate the anthropogenic CO₂ emissions [47,261]. In this way, two mayor approaches based on ionic-liquid electrolytes at low operation temperature and solid oxide cells for high temperature applications have been proposed. Among them, high temperature solid oxide electrolyzer cells (SOEC) have had a much greater improvement in terms of redox reaction efficiencies, thereby achieving higher current density and stability than low temperature devices [7,48,262]. Most of the symmetrical electrodes proposed for CO₂ electroreduction are derived from similar compositions previously studied in SSOFC configuration [8], but alternative doping and microstructural strategies have been employed in order to enhance the efficiency. These are all discussed in this section and summarized in **Table 6**.

Lanthanum chromite electrodes were again the first symmetrical electrodes considered for CO₂ electroreduction in symmetrical solid oxide electrolyzer cells (SSOECs). In one of the first studies, Xu *et al.* tested the traditional LSCM-SDC composite electrode, achieving decent ASR values in air, *i.e.* 0.25 Ω cm² at 800 °C. On the contrary, very high ASR values were obtained in a CO₂ atmosphere, 5-10 Ω cm², which were further lowered to 0.5 Ω cm² when a DC current of 200 mA cm⁻² was applied [263]. The LSCM electrode was also tested for the electrochemical reduction of CO₂/H₂O into syngas (CO+H₂) in a proton conducting cell with

BaCe_{0.5}Zr_{0.3}Y_{0.16}Zn_{0.04}O_{3-δ} electrolyte [264]. Ru catalyst was also added by infiltration to enhance the electrochemical properties, and high chemical stability was observed in both oxidizing and reducing conditions. Addo *et al.* tested the La_{0.3}Sr_{0.7}Fe_{0.7}Cr_{0.3}O_{3-δ} electrode with a mixture CO₂/CO fuel, rendering an ASR of 0.94 Ω cm² when the feed ratio was 70:30 and a current density of -0.39 A cm⁻² at 1.5 V at 800 °C [265].

In the same way, lanthanum ferrite based electrodes have demonstrated remarkable results for CO₂ electroreduction, *i.e.* La_{0.6}Ca_{0.4}Fe_{0.8}Ni_{0.2}O_{3-δ}-Ce_{0.9}Gd_{0.1}O_{1.95} symmetrical electrode on YSZ electrolyte demonstrated a current density at 800 °C of -1.5 A cm⁻² at 2.0 V in CO₂ feed gas [203]. Later on, the same authors observed that these excellent results were linked to the synergetic effect of the phases formed after reduction, *i.e.* CaO, responsible for capturing the CO₂, and Ni-Fe nanoparticles, which highly boosted the electrocatalytic performance [266]. This hypothesis was confirmed when the results were compared to those reported by Tian *et al.* for La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Fe_{0.8}Ni_{0.2}O_{3-δ} (LSFN)-GDC electrodes, which showed a current density at 800 °C of -1.03 A cm⁻² at 2.0 V and a CO formation rate of 6.35 mL min⁻¹ cm⁻² [267,268] (**Fig. 8a-c**).

La_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Fe_{0.9}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} (LSFN) [269] and La_{0.4}Sr_{0.6}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.7}Nb_{0.1}O_{3-δ} (LSCFN) [270] also rendered high current density values for CO₂ electrolysis, showing that Co-doping led to exsolution of Co-Fe nanoparticles, improving the cell performance and preventing carbon deposition. In addition, the oxygen vacancies that were created as a result of the doping were also beneficial for the chemical absorption and activation of CO₂, fact that was confirmed by DFT calculations in another study with La_{0.4}Sr_{0.6}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.7}Mo_{0.1}O_{3-δ}-GDC [271]. The LSCFN-GDC|YSZ|LSCFN-GDC cell showed a current density at 800 °C of 0.44 A cm⁻² at 1.5 V in pure CO₂. These results were further improved by the same group when H₂O was incorporated into the steam feed [272] (**Table 6**).

The traditional LSCF-GDC air electrode was also tested as a symmetrical electrode in a SSOEC. A small amount of SrCO₃ was found after annealing in CO₂ at 800 °C for 220 h. The SSOEC delivered a current density of -1.01 A cm⁻² at 1.4 V and 800 °C and a Faraday efficiency of 98.8% [273]. Peng *et al.* evaluated a related composition, La_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}Fe_{0.9}Mn_{0.1}O_{3-δ}-GDC, for CO₂ electrolysis, obtaining a current density at 800 °C of -1.11 A cm⁻² at 2.0 V with a CO production rate of 6.4 mL min⁻¹ cm⁻² in the same conditions [274].

A Ti-doped LSCF air electrode, La_{0.3}Sr_{0.7}Fe_{0.7}Ti_{0.3}O₃, was also employed for CO₂ electrolysis with a current density of -0.51 A cm⁻² at 2 V and 800 °C, although the performance was severely limited by the thick YSZ|SDC electrolyte (~700 μm) [275].

Kyriakou *et al.* employed a Rh-doping strategy in an A-deficient lanthanum titanate, La_{0.43}Ca_{0.37}Rh_{0.06}Ti_{0.94}O₃-GDC, showing highly distributed Rh nanoparticles after reduction on the electrode surface that played a key role in the syngas production (CO+H₂) from CO₂ co-electrolysis and methane partial oxidation. The ASR values at 850 °C in air, H₂ and CH₄ were 5.89, 0.21 and 0.62 Ω cm², respectively. The current density was 1.57 A cm⁻² at 1.0 V using 40% CH₄-60% N₂ and 25% H₂O-25% CO₂-50% N₂ gas concentrations in the anode and cathode, respectively [148].

Regarding layered perovskites, most of the studies have been focused on $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ (SFM) due to its good stability in H_2 , CO_2 and CO , as well as improved properties as both fuel and air electrodes. The SFM electrode infiltrated onto porous YSZ scaffold showed ASR values of 0.064 and 0.153 $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at 750 °C in air and 50% CO-CO_2 , respectively. The power output obtained was 265 mW cm^{-2} in SOFC mode and the current density under electrolysis mode was -0.62 A cm^{-2} at 1.5 V [276]. The SFM-SDC composite was also tested for syngas production, generating a current density at 850 °C of -0.73 A cm^{-2} at 1.3 V, and showing a good CO_2 conversion rate of 58% (**Fig. 8d-f**) [277]. In order to further increase the efficiency for $\text{H}_2\text{O-CO}_2$ electrolysis, Fe-overdoping in $\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.6}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ -SDC was investigated, showing Fe nanoparticles that improved the electrochemical performance [278]. Additionally, $\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_6$ was infiltrated into a LSGM porous scaffold. The symmetrical cell displayed a remarkable current density at 800 °C of -1.24 A cm^{-2} at 1.5 V when CO_2 was employed as feed gas, showing a high durability and no evidence of carbon deposition for 53 h of stability test [279].

A new $\text{SrEu}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$ ($n= 2$) Ruddlesden-Popper-type electrode has also been proposed as a promising alternative to traditional layered perovskites, which showed excellent chemical and redox stability in CO_2 atmosphere, as well as high efficiency in air and $\text{CO}_2\text{-CO}$ feed gas (**Table 6**). The LSGM-supported cell rendered a stable current density at 800 °C of -1.27 A cm^{-2} at 1.5 V for 260 h [280].

Quasi-symmetrical electrodes have also been investigated for CO_2 electroreduction. The $\text{PrBaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$ double perovskite electrode showed improved performance for CO_2 electrolysis using 50% $\text{CO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ feed gas, achieving current densities at 850 °C of -0.65 A cm^{-2} at 1.3 V [42]. The MnCo_2O_4 spinel infiltrated into GDC scaffold in another quasi-symmetrical electrode for CO_2 reduction, achieving a current density at 800 °C of -0.75 A cm^{-2} at 1.5 V and a low degradation rate for 84 h of stability test [281].

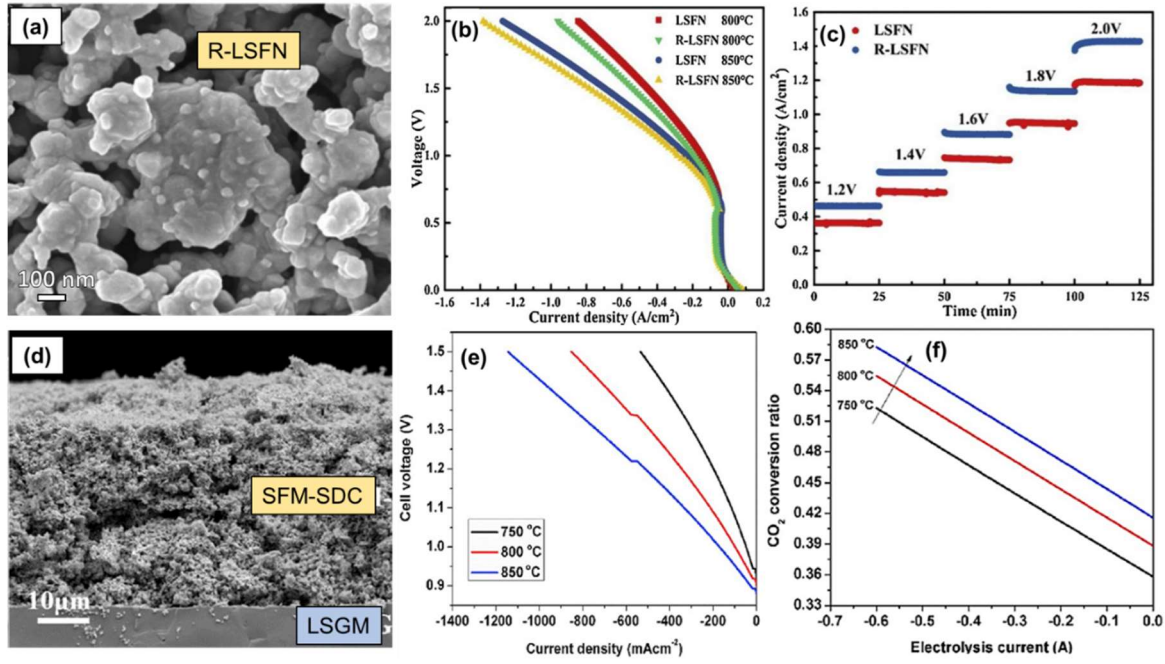


Figure 8. (a) SEM image of the reduced $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ (R-LSFN) symmetrical electrode on GDC/YSZ electrolyte, (b) I-V curves of the SSOEC and (c) short-term stability of the cell for CO_2 electrolysis at different voltages. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier, [268]. (d) Cross section SEM image of the SFM-SDC symmetrical electrode on a LSGM electrolyte, (e) I-V curves of the SSOECs for $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CO}_2$ electrolysis and (f) CO_2 conversion ratio at different temperatures. Reprinted with permission, Elsevier, [277].

Table 6. Properties of some symmetrical electrodes for CO_2 electroreduction. Area specific resistance (in air and CO_2) and current densities are given at 800 °C. In those case, where not data are available at 800 °C, the temperature is included.

Electrode	Abbreviation	ASR ^{air} ($\Omega \text{ cm}^2$)	ASR ^{CO₂} ($\Omega \text{ cm}^2$)	Current (A cm^2)	Electrolyte	Ref.
$\text{La}_{0.75}\text{Sr}_{0.25}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -SDC	LSCM-SDC	0.25	0.50	-0.18 A cm^2 (2.0 V)	YSZ	[263]
$\text{La}_{0.3}\text{Sr}_{0.7}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Cr}_{0.3}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$	LSFCr	0.5	0.94 CO_2 - CO (70:30)	-0.39 A cm^2 (1.5 V)	YSZ/GDC	[265]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Ca}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC	LCaFN-GDC	-	-	-1.5 A cm^2 (2.0 V)	YSZ/GDC	[203]
$\text{La}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Nb}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC	LSCFN-GDC	-	-	-0.638 A cm^2 , 850 °C (1.3 V) CO_2 : H_2 : H_2O (75:10:15)	YSZ/GDC	[272]
$\text{La}_{0.4}\text{Sr}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_3$ -GDC	LSCF-GDC	-	-	-1.01 A cm^2 (1.4 V)	YSZ	[273]
$\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{Mn}_{0.1}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ -GDC	LSFM-GDC	0.24	0.58	-1.11 A cm^2 (2.0 V)	YSZ/GDC	[274]
$\text{La}_{0.3}\text{Sr}_{0.7}\text{Fe}_{0.7}\text{Ti}_{0.3}\text{O}_3$	LSFT	-	-	-0.51 A cm^2 (2.0 V)	YSZ/SDC	[275]
$\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.5}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ -YSZ	SFM-YSZ	0.064 ^{750 °C}	0.153 ^{750 °C} CO - CO_2 (1:1)	-0.62 A cm^2 , 750 °C (1.5 V) 265 mW cm^2 , 750 °C	YSZ	[276]
$\text{Sr}_2\text{Fe}_{1.6}\text{Mo}_{0.5}\text{O}_{6-\delta}$ -SDC	SFM-SDC	-	-	-1.27 A cm^2 , 850 °C (1.6 V)	LSGM	[278]
$\text{Sr}_2\text{FeMoO}_{6-\delta}$ -LSGM	SFM-LSGM	-	-	-1.24 A cm^2 (1.5 V)	LSGM	[279]

$\text{PrBaFe}_{1.8}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{O}_{5+\delta}$	PBFC	0.04	-	$-0.65 \text{ A cm}^{-2, 850^\circ\text{C}}$ (1.3 V) $\text{CO}_2/50\%\text{H}_2\text{O}$	LSGM	[42]
$\text{SrEu}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_7$	SEFO ₇	$0.07^{850^\circ\text{C}}$	$0.48^{850^\circ\text{C}}$	$-1.27 \text{ A cm}^{-2, 850^\circ\text{C}}$ (1.5 V)	LSGM	[280]
$\text{MnCo}_2\text{O}_4\text{-SDC}$	MCO-SDC	-	-	$-0.75 \text{ A cm}^{-2, 800^\circ\text{C}}$ (1.5 V)	YSZ	[281]

8. Outlook and future perspectives

The main research advances in the development of new symmetrical electrodes in the last decade have been reviewed in this contribution. Based on the reported data, the original approach of using redox stable electrodes, *i.e.* chromites, ferrites and titanates, have demonstrated to be the most studied ones due to the inherent stability and reversibility of such materials. Among the different substitutions, high valence transition metals, such as Mo^{6+} and W^{6+} , lead to improved properties of these electrodes in terms of high mixed ionic-electronic conductivity, redox stability and electrocatalytic activity. Nevertheless, the main challenge of achieving high electrocatalytic performance under both oxidizing and reducing atmospheres still remains unaddressed. One of the most studied strategies to enhance the electrochemical performance of symmetrical electrodes in fuel conditions is the incorporation of active metals such as Ni, Ru and Pd into the crystal structure, in order to achieve metal exsolved nanoparticles with improved electrocatalytic properties. The exsolved particles generally show enhanced stability over time, avoiding the typical percolation process observed when noble metals are directly deposited by infiltration on the electrode surface. However, no deep research has been carried out on checking the reversibility and cycling stability of these electrodes, becoming necessary to know whether stable performances are obtained when alternatively working in fuel cell and electrolysis modes.

Another strategy that has gained significant attention in the last years is the use of quasi-symmetrical electrodes, where a drastic phase transformation occurs in fuel atmosphere with the segregation of large amounts of metal particles, thereby enhancing their electrical conductivity and electrocatalytic activity. However, significant structural and microstructural differences between the air and fuel electrodes could negatively affect the mechanical stability of the cell, especially when switching the air-fuel gas flow repeatedly. In particular, alkaline-earth oxides, formed during the transformation, are susceptible to carbonation and hydration under the usual operating conditions of a SOFC. Moreover, metals particles aggregates resulting in significant change of the electrode microstructure and porosity. This issue has not been considered in most of the studies about Q-SSOCs, appointing the need for further research to elucidate the long-term stability and reversibility of these electrodes.

It is also worth noting that most of the symmetrical electrodes have been investigated with oxide ion conductor electrolytes, such as YSZ, GDC and LSGM at the temperature range of 750-950 °C. Although proton-conducting electrolytes, *e.g.* doped- $\text{Ba}(\text{Ce},\text{Zr})\text{O}_3$, are more favorable for operating at reduced temperatures (500-700 °C) due to the higher proton conductivity. In this context, several symmetrical electrodes are being

investigated in H-SSOCs, achieving higher power outputs than the corresponding O-SSOCs due to lower ohmic resistance of the electrolyte, which represents one of the main drawbacks of conventional electrolyte-supported cell configuration.

Apart from the use of SSOCs for electrical energy and H₂ production, the recent implementation of symmetrical electrodes for CO₂ electroreduction have gained a great interest in the literature. Among all doping strategies, Ca-doping in quasi-symmetrical electrodes has rendered the most promising results since CaO shows high ability to capture CO₂. This, together with the presence of nanoparticle exsolution in the fuel electrode and the incorporation of a proton conducting electrolyte, could be the key to achieve greater performance while lowering the operating temperature. However, the long-stability of the electrodes should be further explored and verified, as it is of the utmost importance to determine both the carbonation and stability under high voltages during long operation times. Moreover, most of the current scientific studies with symmetrical electrodes are still focused on fuel cell mode, while only some of them are implemented on electrolysis cells, despite working in reversible mode is one of the most interesting properties of SSOCs.

Further efforts are required to obtain highly efficient SSOCs with improved performance and durability, becoming this issue an area of concern in future research. Demonstrating solid and consistent studies about SSOCs running without degradation under both fuel and electrolysis modes during long times could turn the situation around, replacing the actual Ni-cermet anode supported cells. The authors would like to note that many of the reported studies have overlooked the great influence of the electrode microstructure on the performance, which definitely can be detrimental for the ultimate SSOC commercialization. In fact, low temperature fabrication methods based on infiltration and spray-pyrolysis deposition have already demonstrated excellent results to obtain nanostructured electrodes with improved efficiency. It is therefore expected and desired that more research will relate to nanostructured electrodes in the future for their application in SSOCs.

Similarly, special effort should be put on innovating the cell designs to be competitive with the traditional Ni-anode supported cells with thin film electrolyte, because SSOCs are supported in a thick electrolyte with high ohmic resistance, and consequently poorer cell performance. Alternatively, a thin film electrolyte sandwiched between two porous layer scaffolds can be prepared and then the active symmetrical electrode could be infiltrated. Another possible strategy, which is still not explored in symmetrical SSOCs, is the use of active interlayers with good electrochemical properties in air and fuel environments. In this case, electrodes with high electronic conductivity but poor electrocatalytic activity such as (La,Ca)CrO₃ could be used as current collector layers. Despite finding a good balance between performance and cost of SSOCs still remains challenging due to the complexity of the redox systems, current research on symmetrical electrodes for solid oxide cells is highly promising and it is getting closer to becoming a real alternative to the traditional SOC technology.

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