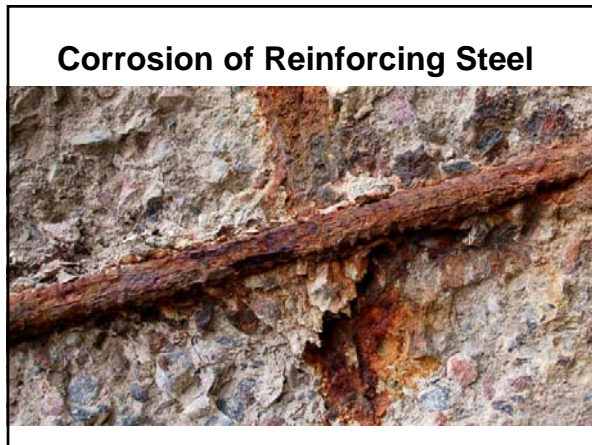
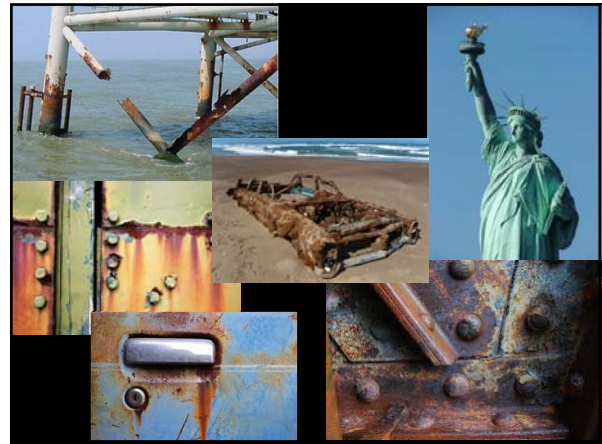


Why Does Rebar Corrode in Concrete?
(in plain language)

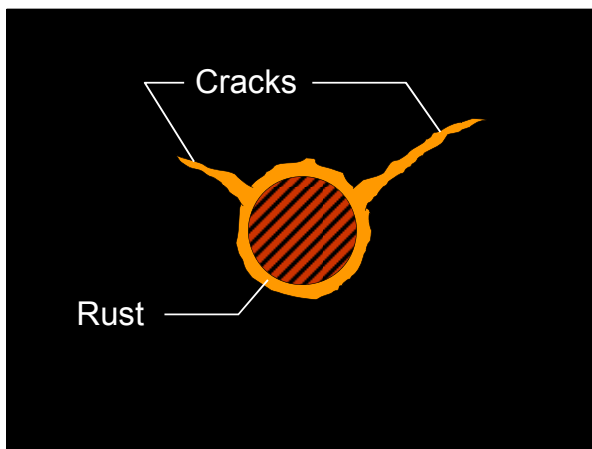
Ken Hover, P.E.,
Cornell University

INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE | 2018 Fall Convention | RESILIENCY | November 7-9 | Omaha, Nebraska



Sequence of Deterioration

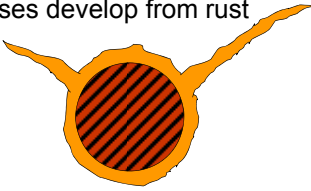
- Penetration of oxygen, salt, CO₂, water
- Volume expansion of rust
- Concrete cracking
- Accelerated corrosion
- Loss of steel cross section

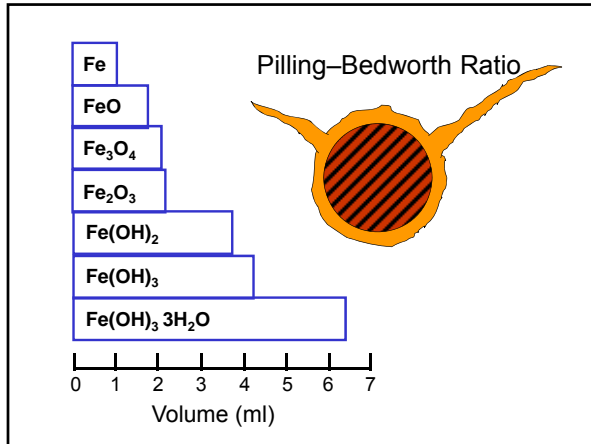


Expansion of corrosion products

"Piling-Bedworth Ratio": volume of rust occupies 4 to 10 times the volume of parent metal.

- Bursting stresses develop from rust expansion





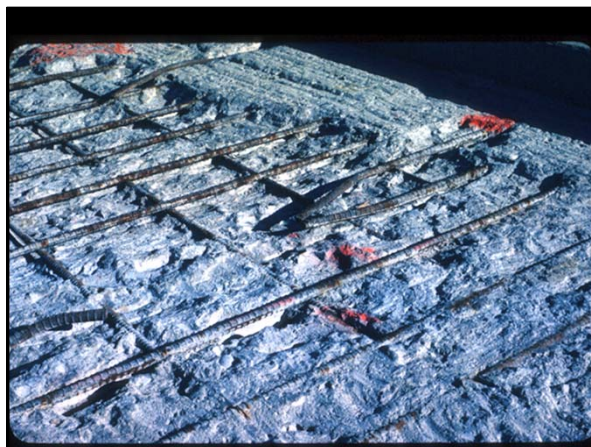
Principal Causes

- Chloride induced corrosion:
 - Deicing salts
 - Seawater
 - Chloride admixtures
- Carbonation effects



Impact of corrosion

- Rust-stains, reduction in ride-quality
- Loss of Serviceability
 - Cracking, increased penetration
- Loss of load capacity and reliability
 - Loss of concrete cover
 - Loss of bond
 - Loss of steel cross section





Loss of Steel Section

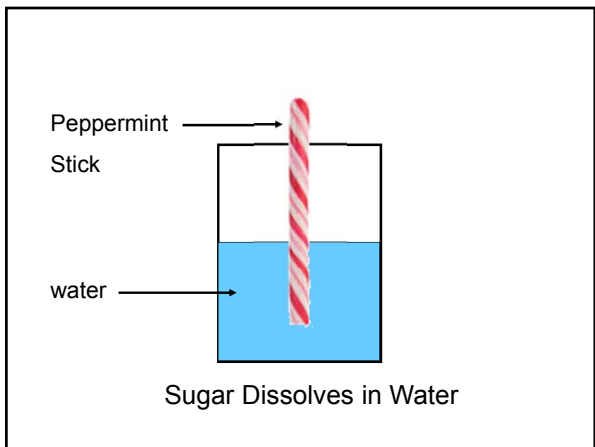
- Can be critical for shear
- Critical for non-redundant sections

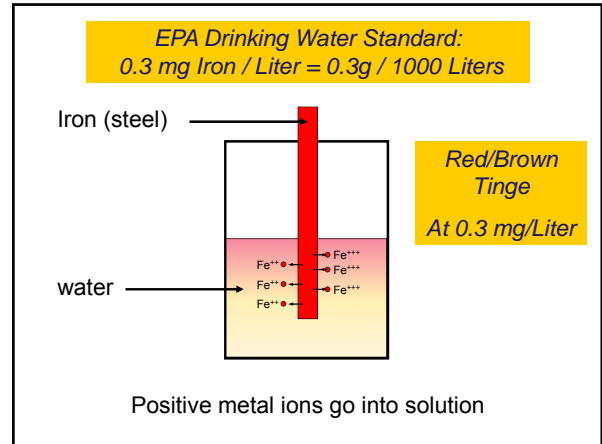
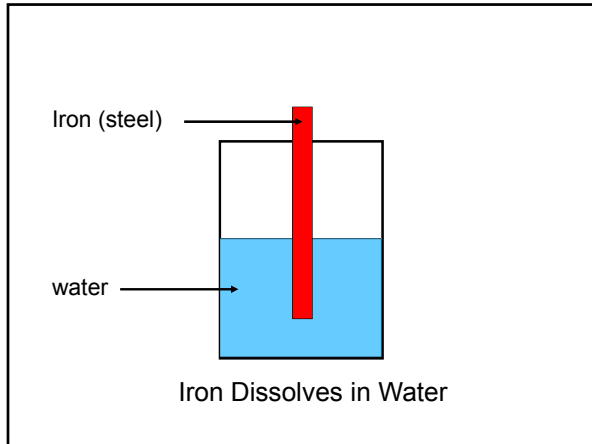


Background

Rodents!

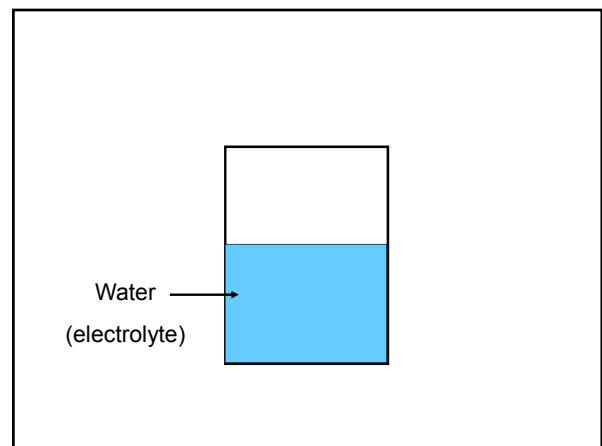
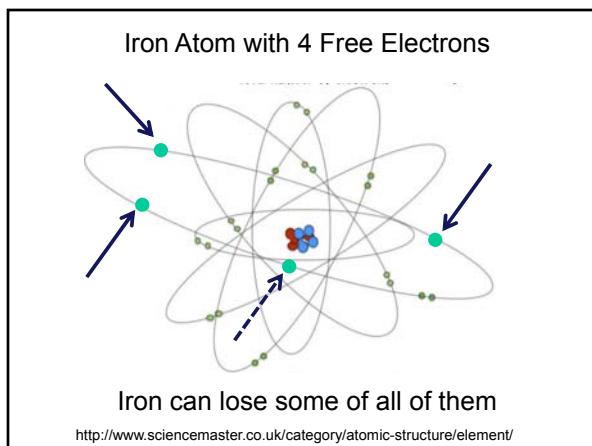
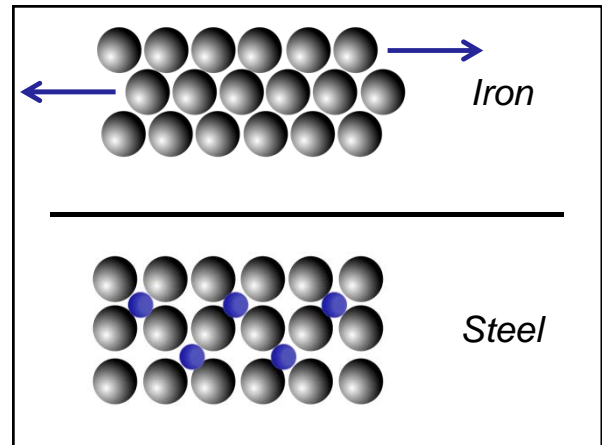
Latin: Rōdere to gnaw,
Corrodere-to gnaw through.

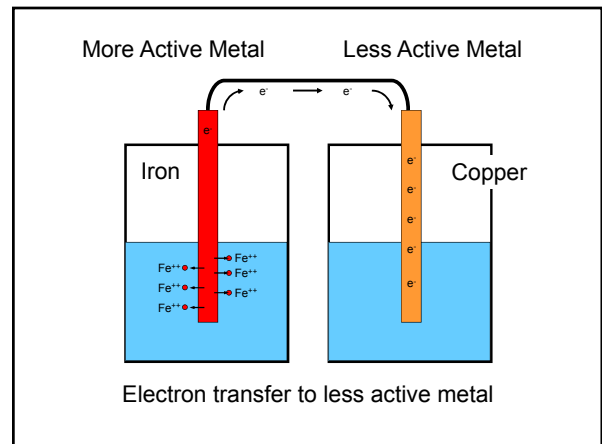
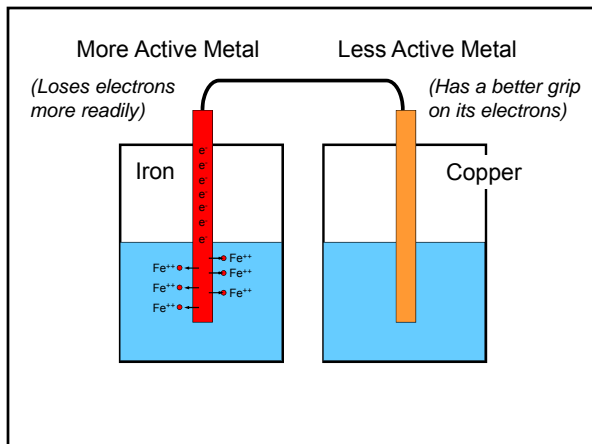
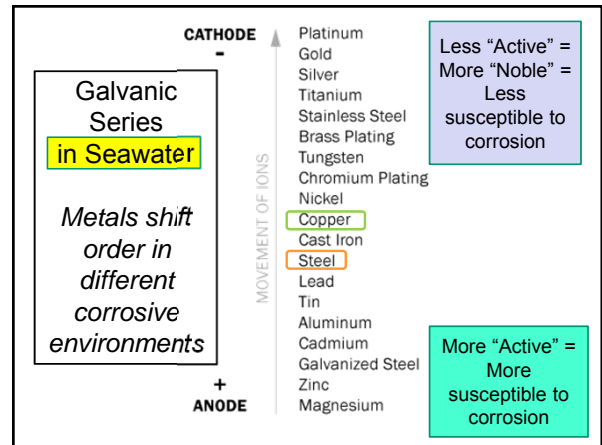
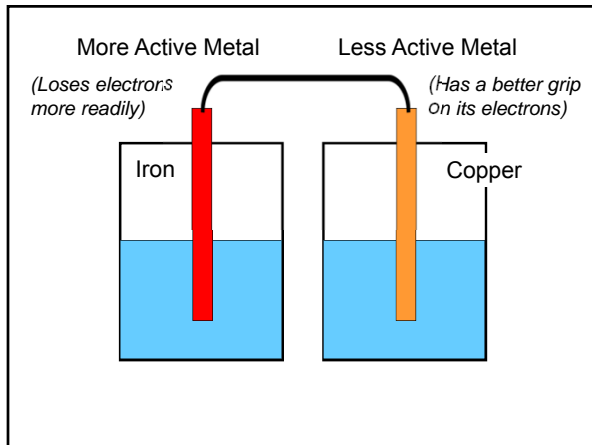
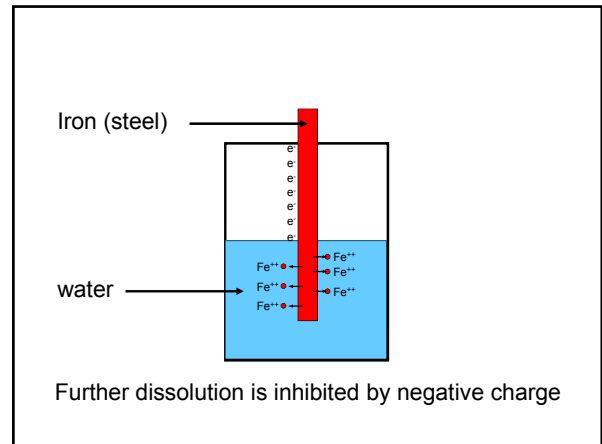
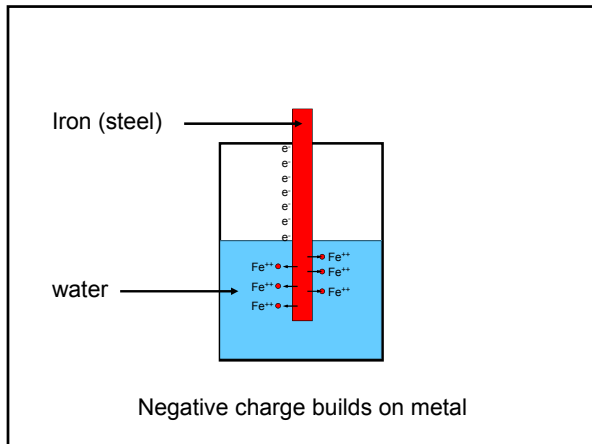


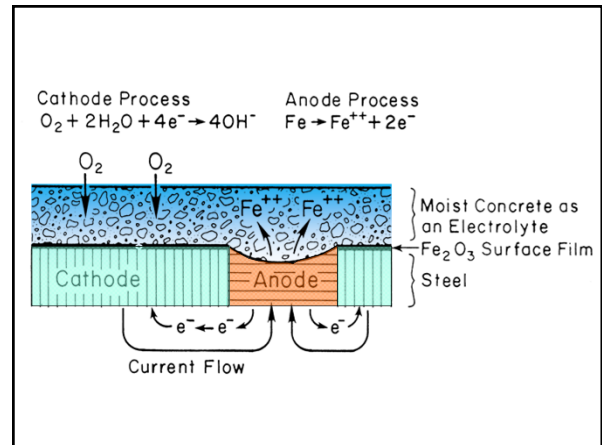
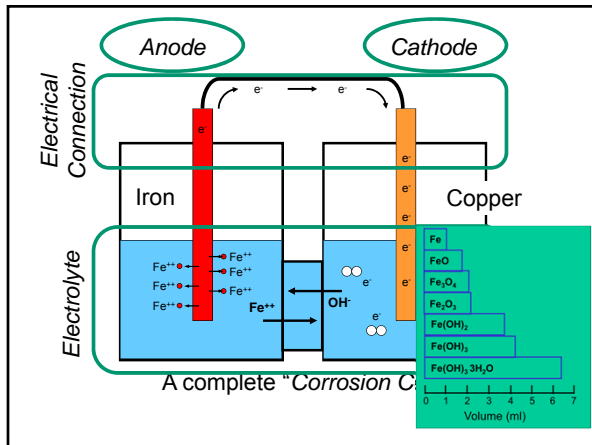
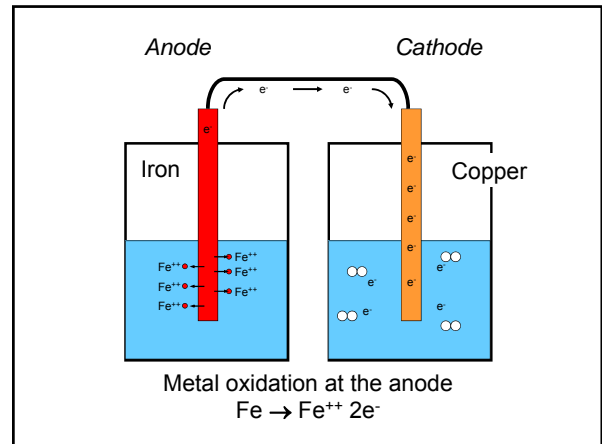
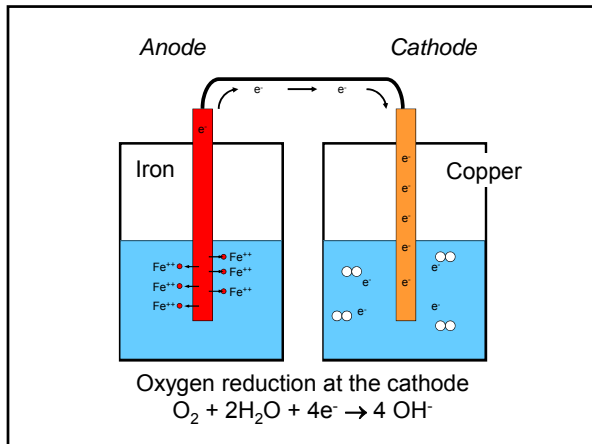


Corrosion is an electrochemical process

- Corroding element = anode
- Non corroding element = cathode
- Anode and Cathode in electrical contact
- Immersed in an Electrolyte
- Cathode reaction determines rate





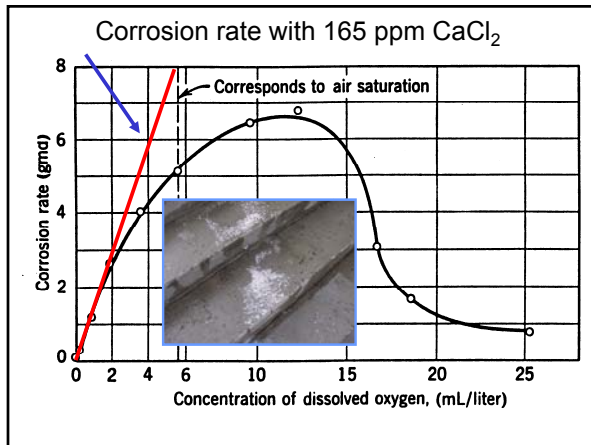
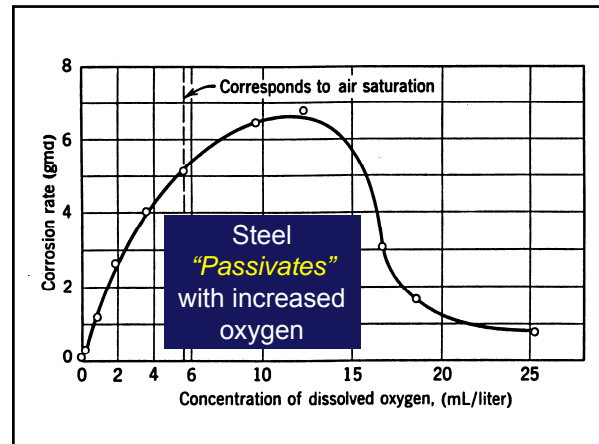


- ## Required Components
- Iron (steel)
 - Water
 - Oxygen



Influence of Salt (Sodium Chloride or Calcium Chloride)

- Crystallization pressure
- Osmotic pressure
- Thermal shock
- Chemical attack
- Increased electrical conductivity
- Destabilization of steel passivity

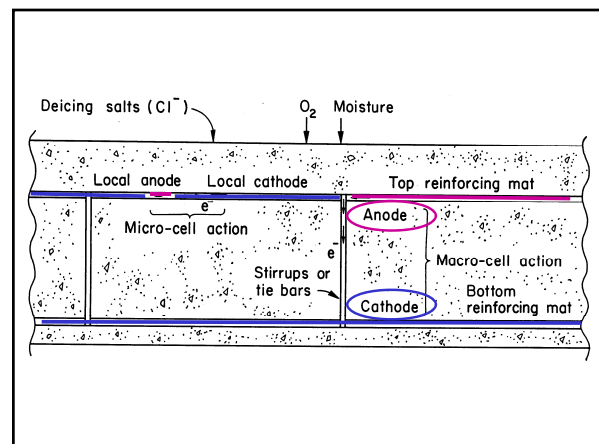


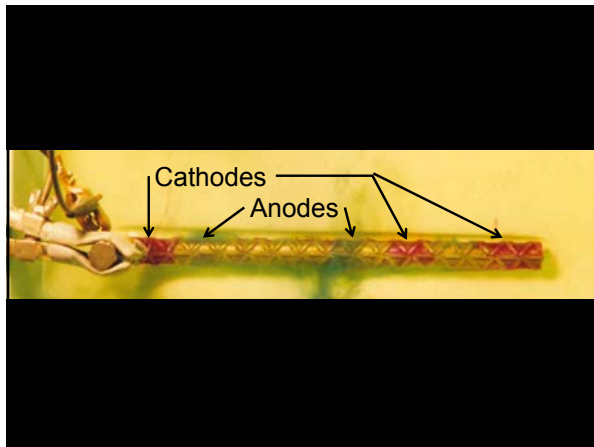
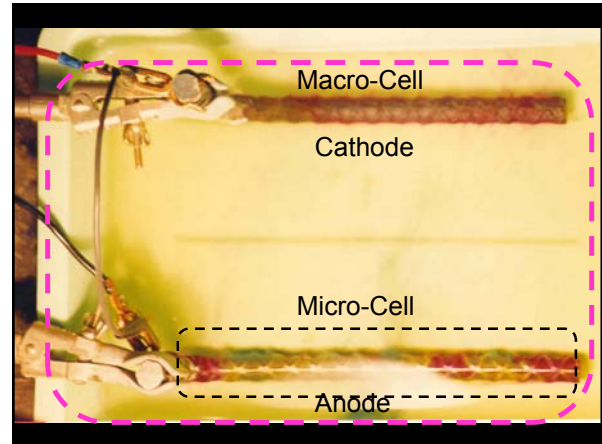
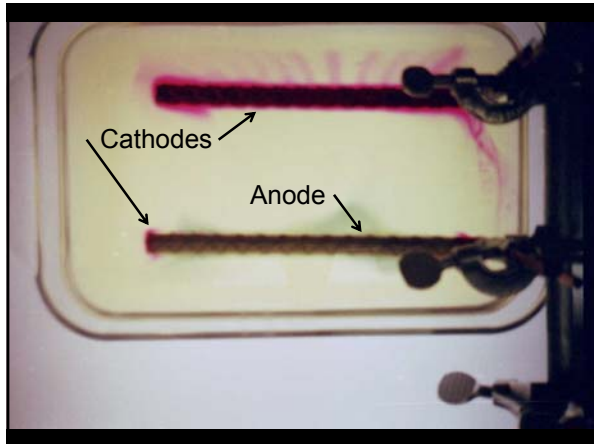
ACI 222R

Category	Chloride Limit (new constr.) % of cement		
	Test Method		
	Acid Sol.	Water Soluble	
	ASTM C1152	ASTM C1218	Soxhlet
Pretressed	0.08	0.06	0.06
Reinf wet	0.10	0.08	0.08
Reinf dry	0.20	0.15	0.15

Corrosion Cells Applied to Concrete Structures

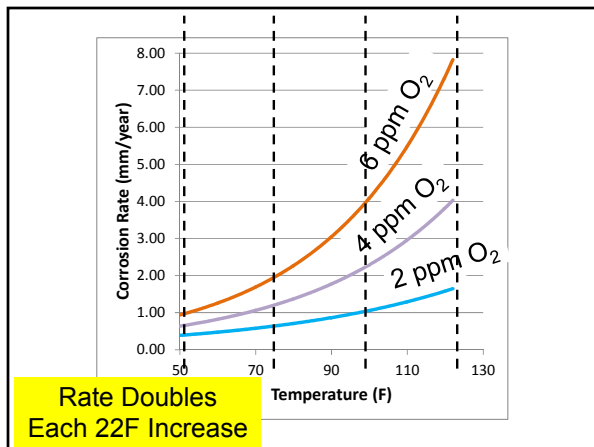
- Macro cells
- Micro cells





Rate-Limiting Step

- Oxygen Reduction
- Anode Size
- Oxygen partial pressure
- Oxygen permeability
- Temperature (accumulate salt in winter, corrode in summer) Warm garage, warm sea water, hot water heater

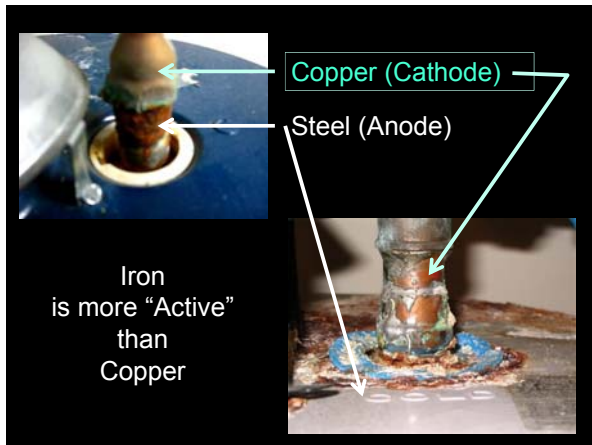
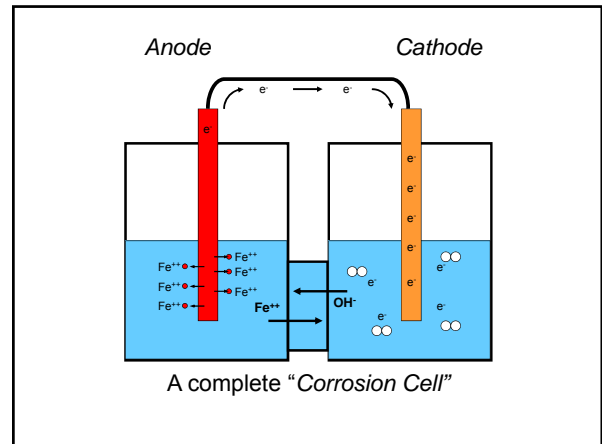


Types of Cells

- Differential
 - Metals Steel water tank / Copper pipe
 - Salt Concentration Parking garage
 - Oxygen Concentration Bridge deck
 - Temperature
- Stray Current
- Pitting
- Under-film

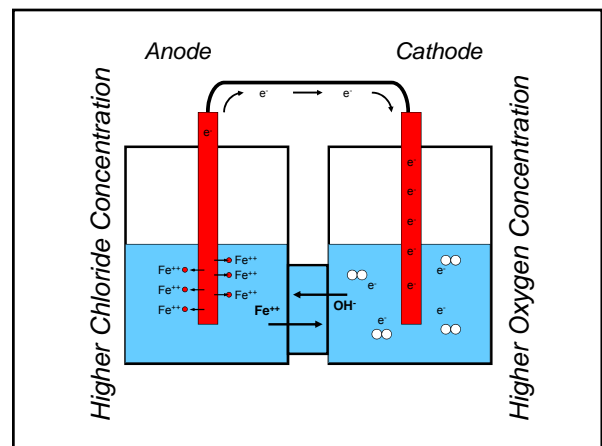
Differential metal cells

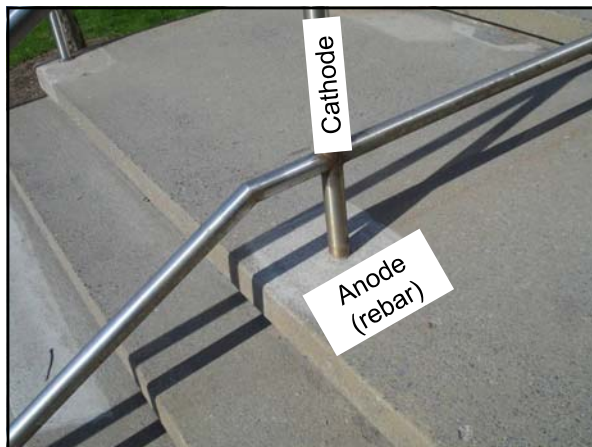
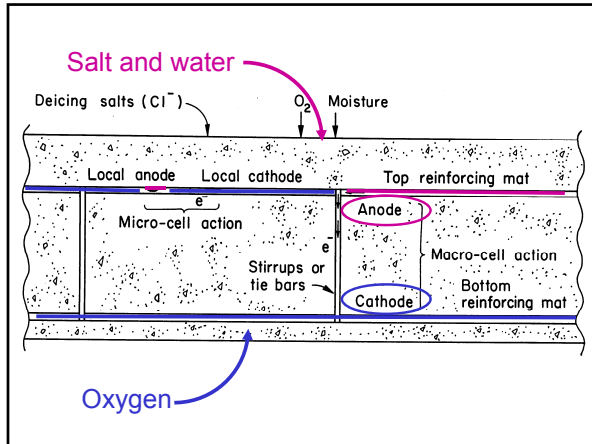
- Metal forms & embedments
- Galvanized components
- Bar Deformations

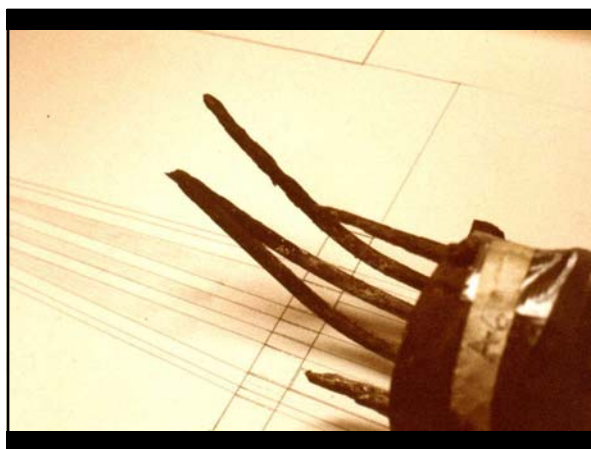
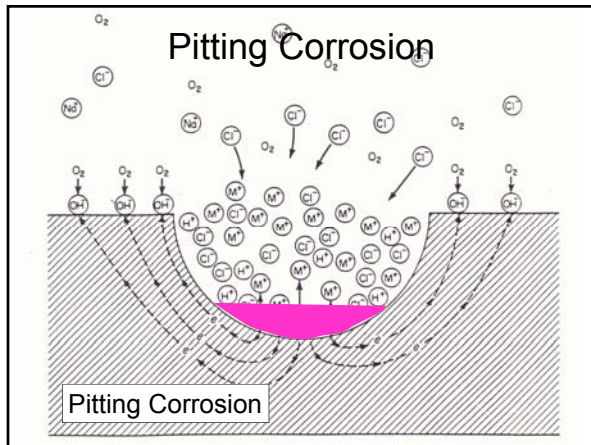
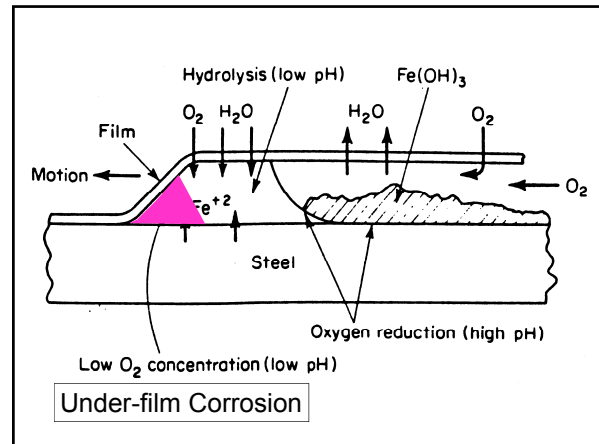


Differential concentration cells

- Variations in chloride content
- Variations in moisture content
- Variations in Oxygen concentration





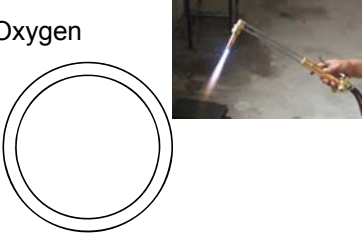


Corrosion Rate Determined by Cathode Reaction

- Large cathode-small most rapid corrosion.
- The bottom mat cathode; top mat anode.
- Pinholes in epoxy coatings become small anodes; uncoated steel becomes large cathode.

Ohio Steel Fabricators Fiasco

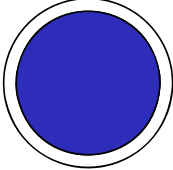
Steel pipe for Oxygen



The diagram shows a cross-section of a steel pipe with a double-line outer boundary and a single-line inner boundary. To the right is a small photograph showing a welder using a torch to weld a pipe.

Ohio Steel Fabricators Fiasco

Steel pipe for Oxygen

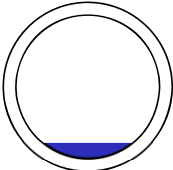


The diagram shows a cross-section of a steel pipe completely filled with a blue liquid, representing water used for a pressure test.

Pressure-Test with water

Ohio Steel Fabricators Fiasco

Steel pipe for Oxygen

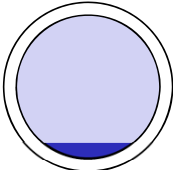


The diagram shows a cross-section of a steel pipe with a small amount of blue liquid at the bottom, representing the water being drained after a successful test.

Drain water (mostly) after successful test

Ohio Steel Fabricators Fiasco

Steel pipe for Oxygen

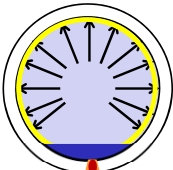


The diagram shows a cross-section of a steel pipe with blue liquid at the bottom and a light blue area above it, representing the pipe being pressurized with oxygen.

Pressurize with Oxygen

Ohio Steel Fabricators Fiasco

Steel pipe for Oxygen



The diagram shows a cross-section of a steel pipe with a small red dot at the bottom and arrows pointing outwards from it, representing a small anode causing continuous perforation of the pipe.

Large Cathode

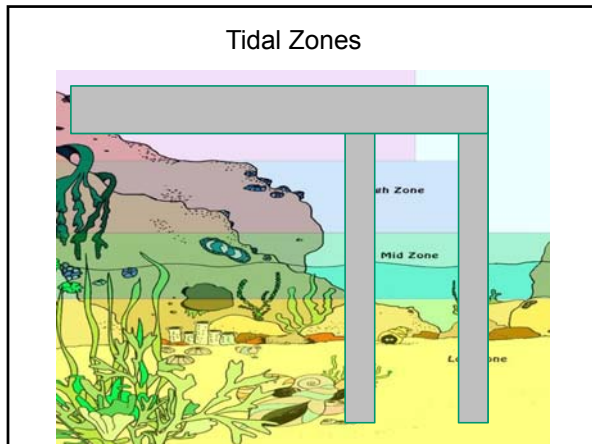
Small Anode

Continuous Perf. Of Pipe

Pressurize with Oxygen

Yet Another Corrosion Cell of Sorts

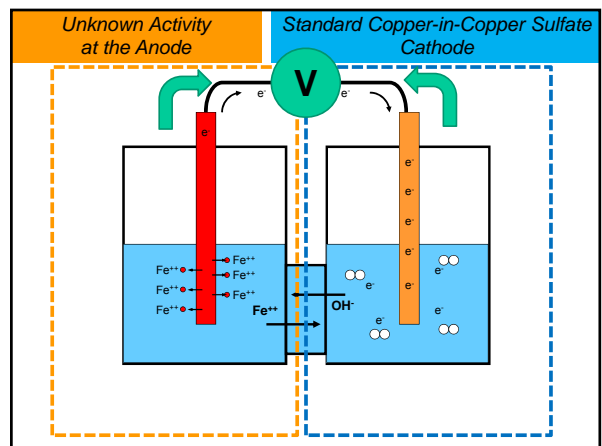
*Sometimes we feed the anode,
Sometimes we feed the cathode*

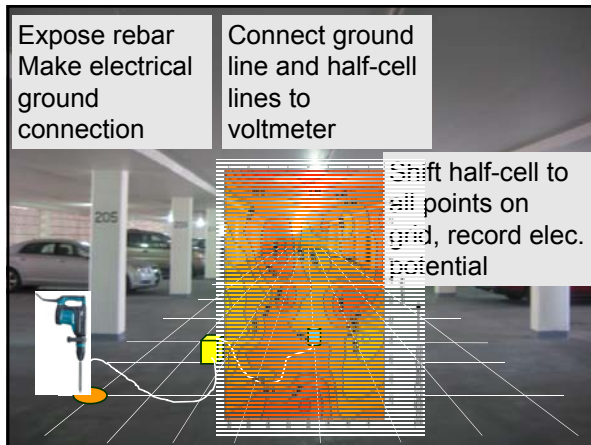
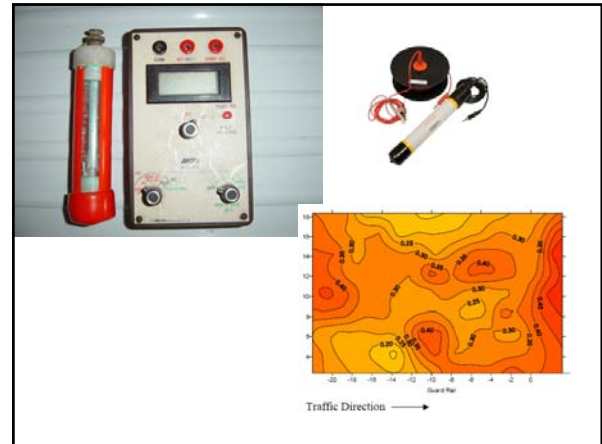
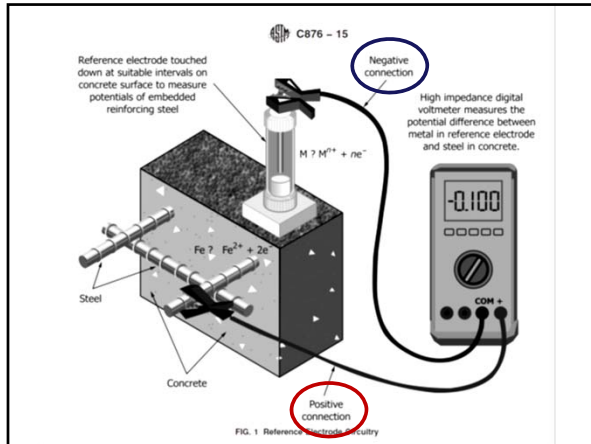


Monitoring Ongoing Electrochemical Corrosion Activity

- Electrical potential

ASTM C876 - 15
Standard Test Method for Corrosion Potentials of Uncoated Reinforcing Steel in Concrete

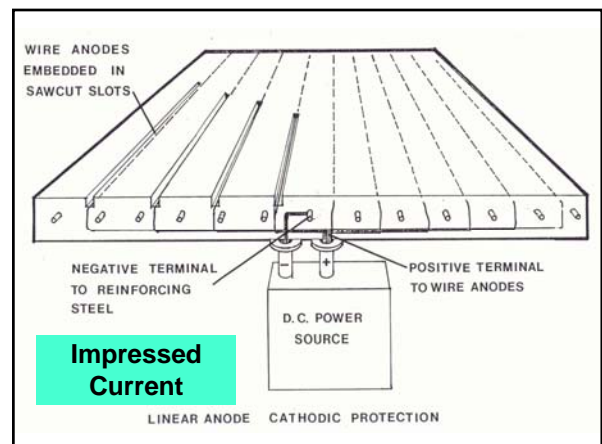
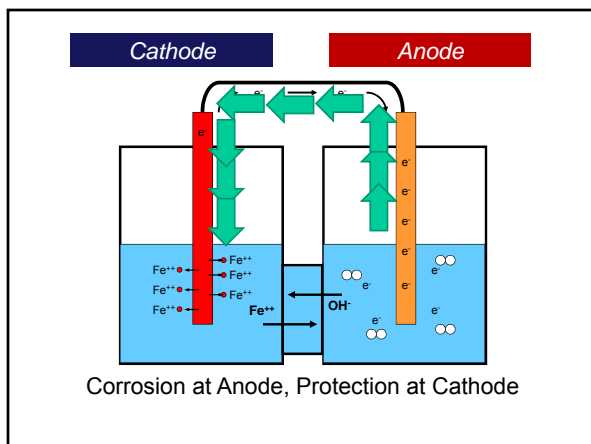


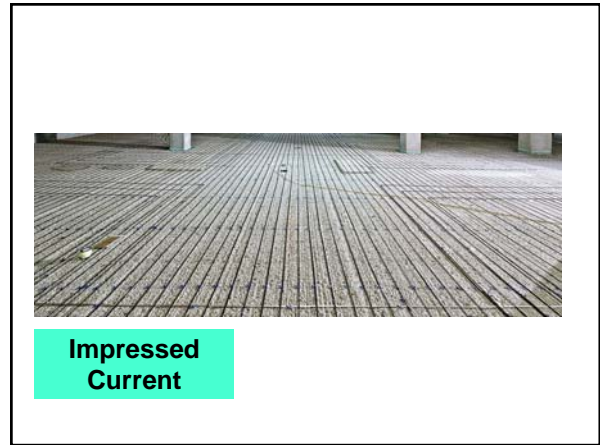
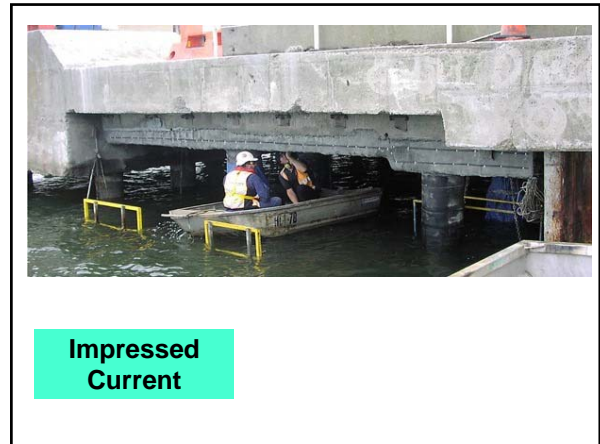
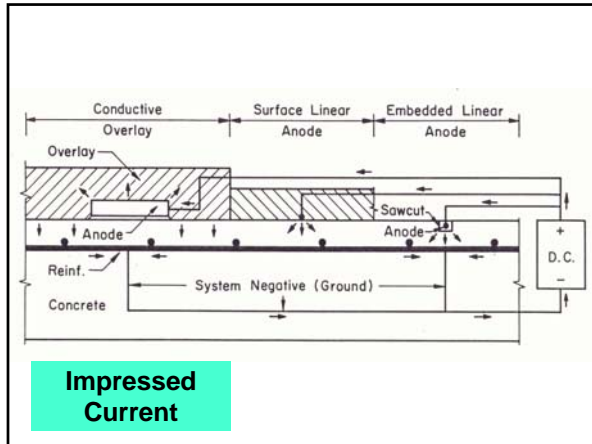


Cathodic Protection

General principles

- Negatively charge steel
- Generate OH⁻ at cathode
- Sacrificial Anodes
- Impressed current





A photograph showing a concrete wall with a grid of reinforcing steel. The wall is covered with a grid of steel bars, likely for a slab-on-grade or similar structure.

Thank you very much!

*Ken Hover, P.E.,
Cornell University
kch7@cornell.edu*

INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE | 2018 Fall Convention | RESILIENCY | November 7-9 | Omaha, Nebraska