

# CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 REVIEW ON THE CATHODE FLOW FIELD AND FLOODING .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>1.2.1 Macro Fuel Cells .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>1.2.2 Small and Micro Fuel Cells .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>1.3 OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2 FUNDAMENTALS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.1 STRUCTURE OF DMFC .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>2.1.1 Bipolar Plate.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>2.1.2 Gas Diffusion Layer (GDL).....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>2.1.3 Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>2.1.4 Active Layer .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<b>2.2 PRINCIPLE OF DMFC .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>2.2.1 Working Principle .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>2.2.2 Polarization Curve.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>2.2.3 Evaluation of Water Production.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>2.3 DRIVING FORCE IN CATHODE-SIDE MICRO-CHANNELS .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>2.3.1 Capillary Driving Force .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>2.3.2 Convective Driving Force.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<b>CHAPTER 3 DESIGN, FABRICATION AND EXPERIMENTS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>3.1 DESIGN OF MULTI-SECTIONAL FLOW FIELDS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>3.2 FABRICATION OF SILICON-BASED MULTI-SECTIONAL FLOW FIELD .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>3.3 EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>3.3.1 Preliminary Observation of Water Wetting Process.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>3.3.2 Set-up for Single DMFC Testing.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>4.1 PRELIMINARY TESTS ON SILICON-BASED CHANNELS.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>4.1.1 Wetting Process in Hydrophobic Channels.....</i>	<i>39</i>

4.1.2 Wetting Process in Hydrophilic Channels.....	40
<b>4.2 ASSEMBLY OF SINGLE DMFC .....</b>	<b>41</b>
4.2.1 Integration of DMFC.....	41
4.2.2 In-situ Visualization of Cathode side for Micro DMFC.....	42
4.2.3 Performance testing of micro DMFC .....	44
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONSLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>5.1 CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>5.2 FUTURE WORK .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>REFERENCE.....</b>	<b>58</b>



# List of Figures

FIG. 1-1 PRINCIPLE OF DMFC [2] .....	11
FIG. 1-2 SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF GAS FLOW DIRECTION WITH (A) PARALLEL AND (B) INTERDIGITATED FLOW FIELDS [3] .....	11
FIG. 1-3 VARIOUS FLOW FIELDS FOR DMFC [7] .....	12
FIG. 1-4 DIFFERENT TYPES OF FLOW FIELDS: (A) PARALLEL ; (B) INTERDIGITATED ; (C) SERPENTINE ; (D) MULTI-PARALLEL SERPENTINE [9-10] .....	12
FIG. 1-5 TOP VIEW OF (A) BIPOLAR PLATE DESIGN AND (B) MONOLITHIC DESIGN [11] ....	13
FIG. 1-6 DIFFERENT ARCHETYPES OF MICRO FUEL CELLS [14, 16, 17, 19] .....	13
FIG. 1-7 SCHEMATIC OF A 1CM <sup>3</sup> PUMP-LESS DMFC [21] .....	14
FIG. 1-8 SCHEMATIC OF NOVEL STRUCTURE FOR MICRO DMFC [22] .....	14
FIG. 1-9 SCHEMATIC OF THE DYNAMIC PROCESS OF WATER DROPLETS IN A .....	15
FIG. 1-10 SCHEMATIC OF WATER DROPLETS IN GAS FLOW CHANNELS OF PEMFC [24] ....	15
FIG. 2-1 A SCHEMATIC OF A POLARIZATION AND POWER DENSITY CURVES [26] .....	24
FIG. 2-2 SCHEMATIC OF A SMALL RECTANGULAR CHANNEL .....	24
FIG. 2-3 SCHEMATIC OF THE CONTACT ANGLE BETWEEN SOLID / LIQUID / AIR .....	25
FIG. 3-1 MARKS OF DIMENSIONS FOR MULTI-SECTION FLOW FIELD .....	32
FIG. 3-2 SCHEMATIC OF THE SILICON-BASED MULTI-SECTION FLOW FIELD .....	33
FIG. 3-3 SCHEMATIC OF SI-BASED FLOW FIELD FABRICATION PROCESS .....	33
FIG. 3-4 SCHEMATIC OF COMPLETED SI-BASED CHIP .....	34
FIG. 3-5 SCHEMATIC OF COMPLETED ALTERNATING THROUGH-CHANNEL SILICON CHIP.	35
FIG. 3-6 CALIBRATION CURVE OF MICRO ROTAMETER .....	36
FIG. 3-7 EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP OF DMFC TESTING SYSTEM .....	37
FIG. 3-8 SCHEMATIC OF MACHINED PMMA PLATE .....	38
FIG. 4-1 CONTACT ANGLE OF WATER ON HYDROPHILIC/HYDROPHOBIC TREATMENT SURFACE .....	45
FIG. 4-2 DYNAMIC PROCESS OF FLOW PATTERN FOR HYDROPHOBIC SILICON CHIP .....	46
FIG. 4-3 SHAPE OF LIQUID FILM FOR HYDROPHOBIC SILICON CHIP .....	46
FIG. 4-4 DYNAMIC PROCESS OF FLOW PATTERN FOR HYDROPHILIC SILICON CHIP .....	47
FIG. 4-5 DYNAMIC PROCESS OF FLOW PATTERN FOR HYDROPHILIC SI FLOW FIELD .....	48
FIG. 4-6 SEM IMAGES AND CONTACT ANGLES OF WATER ON CARBON PAPERS .....	49
FIG. 4-7 SCHEMATIC OF INTEGRATED SINGLE-DMFC .....	49
FIG. 4-8 SCHEMATIC OF WATER DROPLETS FORMATION IN THE FLOW FIELD .....	50
FIG. 4-9 VISUALIZATION OF WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THE FLOW FIELD .....	51
FIG. 4-10 VISUALIZATION OF WATER DROPLETS BEHAVIOR ON DIFFERENT SURFACES ....	51
FIG. 4-11 DYNAMIC PROCESS OF WATER FILM BEHAVIOR .....	52
FIG. 4-12 ACCUMULATIVE BEHAVIOR OF WATER FILMS WITH DIFFERENT FLOW RATES ...	53
FIG. 4-13 SCHEMATIC OF GOLD-PLATED MULTI-SECTIONAL FLOW FIELD .....	53
FIG. 4-14 POLARIZATION CURVES OF DMFC WITH SiO <sub>2</sub> AND AU-PLATED FLOW FIELDS .	54

# List of Tables

<b>TABLE 1-1 DIFFERENT TYPES OF FUEL CELLS [1] .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TABLE 4-1 AIR AND METHANOL STOICHIOMETRIC RATIOS FOR THE DMFC.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>TABLE 4-2 OPERATION CONDITIONS FOR TESTED SINGLE DMFC.....</b>	<b>55</b>

