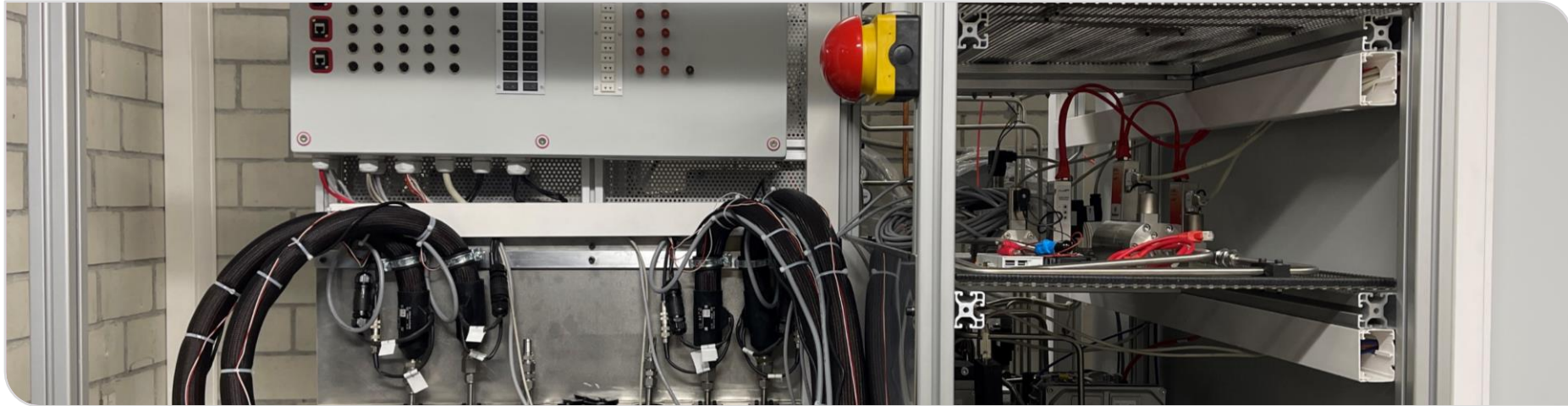


PEMFC System Evaluation: A Comprehensive Test Bench Approach across Cell, Stack and System Levels

Johannes Knaier, M. Sc.

IPEK – Institute of Product Engineering at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)



System Level

Hydrogen supply

- Hydrogen tank
 - Choke valve
- Anode recirculation
 - Active / passive recirculation pump
 - Purge valve
 - Condensate separator

Air supply

- Air compression
 - Turbo compressor
- Air humidification
 - Membrane humidifier
- Air purification
 - Air filter

Thermal management

- Coolant supply
 - Coolant pump
 - Heat exchanger
- Heat supply
 - Heating elements

Power electronics

- Voltage converter
- Battery system
- Control and regulation technology

PEMFC test bench

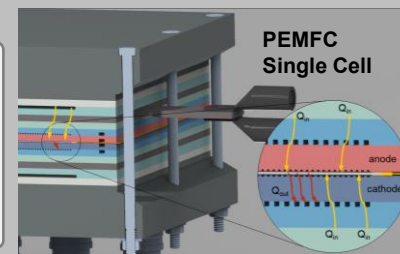


Legend: Levels, *subsystems* & sub-subsystems

Stack Level

Fuel cell stack

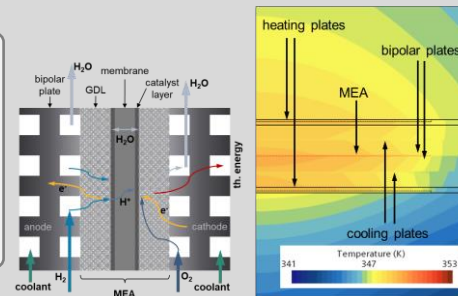
- Sealing concept
- Compression concept
- Insulation
- Current collector
- Media modules



Cell Level

Fuel cell

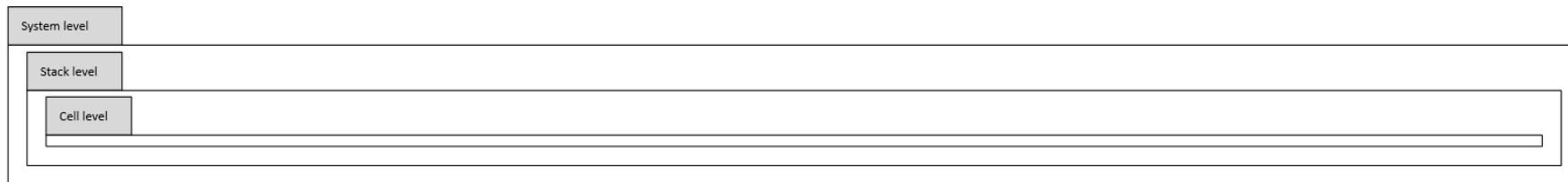
- Bipolar plates
- Polymer membrane
- Subgasket
- Gas diffusion layer



Subject Introduction

Driving cycles, load profiles and system interactions in FCEV

Driving condition External framework Environment/ weather & road situations Driving distance/ long vs. short	Driving cycle Start & Stop System start up/ start of the driving cycle System shut down / end of the driving cycle	Driving cycle Acceleration Overtaking maneuver/ ascent Increasing power demand	Driving cycle Idling Running system with out power output/ descent Decreasing power demand	Driving cycle Speed cycling Dynamic driving situation/ usually city miles Dynamic power demand	Driving cycle Constant speed Long distance/ usually highway miles Constant power demand
PEMFC load profile Potential cycling Variable gas flow rates Variable H ₂ O production Variable thermal output Inconsistent gas supply	PEMFC load profile Open circuit voltage No fuel flow rates Low H ₂ O production [3] No thermal output Severe gas crossover [3] High cathode potential [3]	PEMFC load profile Extra-high current density High gas flow rates High H ₂ O production [1] High thermal output [1] Gas starvation	PEMFC load profile Extra-low current density Low gas flow rates [5] High H ₂ O (l) production [1] Low thermal output Severe gas crossover High overall cell voltage [1]	PEMFC load profile Current density cycling Variable gas flow rates Variable H ₂ O production [3] Variable thermal output [3] Gas starvation [3]	PEMFC load profile Constant current density Constant gas flow rates Constant H ₂ O production Constant thermal output Consistent gas supply Optimal load profile [1]



Subject Introduction

Driving cycles, load profiles and system interactions in FCEV

PEMFC load profile Potential cycling	PEMFC load profile Open circuit voltage	PEMFC load profile Extra-high current density	PEMFC load profile Extra-low current density	PEMFC load profile Current density cycling	PEMFC load profile Constant current density
Variable gas flow rates	No fuel flow rates	High gas flow rates	Low gas flow rates [5]	Variable gas flow rates	Constant gas flow rates
Variable H ₂ O production	Low H ₂ O production [3]	High H ₂ O production [1]	High H ₂ O (l) production [1]	Variable H ₂ O production [3]	Constant H ₂ O production
Variable thermal output	No thermal output	High thermal output [1]	Low thermal output	Variable thermal output [3]	Constant thermal output
Inconsistent gas supply	Severe gas crossover [3]	Gas starvation	Severe gas crossover	Gas starvation [3]	Consistent gas supply
	High cathode potential [3]		High overall cell voltage [1]		Optimal load profile [1]

System level	Stack level	Cell level	PEMFC Bipolar plates	PEMFC Polymer membrane	PEMFC Subgasket	PEMFC Gas diffusion layer
			Flow field Coating	Catalyst Thickness	MEA stiffness Sealing and insulation of MEA to BPP	Porosity Hydrophilic vs. hydrophobic
System level	Stack level	Cell level	PEMFC Stack Sealing concept	PEMFC Stack Compression concept	PEMFC Stack Media modules	PEMFC Stack Current collector
			Positioning and dislocation Dependent on temperature	Stack breathing Force distribution	Fluid distribution Connection interface stack/ system level	Internal conductivity Bridging electron flow with ext system

Subject Introduction

Driving cycles, load profiles and system interactions in FCEV

System level	Stack level	Cell level			
		PEMFC	PEMFC	PEMFC	PEMFC
		Bipolar plates	Polymer membrane	Subgasket	Gas diffusion layer
		Flow field ----- Coating	Catalyst ----- Thickness	MEA stiffness ----- Sealing and insulation of MEA to BPP	Porosity ----- Hydrophilic vs. hydrophobic
		PEMFC Stack Sealing concept	PEMFC Stack Compression concept	PEMFC Stack Media modules	PEMFC Stack Current collector
		Positioning and dislocation ----- Dependent on temperature	Stack breathing ----- Force distribution	Fluid distribution ----- Connection interface stack / system level	Internal conductivity ----- Bridging electron flow with external system
		PEMFC System Hydrogen supply management	PEMFC System Air supply management	PEMFC System Thermal & water management	PEMFC System Electrical power management
		Hydrogen tank and choke valve ----- Anode recirculation and purge valve	Air compression ----- Air purification	Coolant supply and heat exchanger ----- Air humidifier	Voltage converter and battery system ----- Control and regulation unit

Subject Introduction

Driving cycles, load profiles and system interactions in FCEV

S y s t e m				
	Positioning and dislocation Dependent on temperature	Stack breathing Force distribution	Fluid distribution Connection interface stack/ system level	Internal conductivity Bridging electron flow with ext system
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	Hydrogen tank and choke valve Anode recirculation and purge valve	Air compression Air purification	Coolant supply and heat exchanger Air humidifier	Voltage converter and battery system Control and regulation unit

Key factor Mechanical vibration Certain frequencies and amplitudes have an effect on water transport and can cause flooding [8] (decrease in current density) Causes shear stresses between BP, GDL and MEA and leads to MEA thinning [9] (increase in hydrogen crossover rate)	Key factor Low water production / dehydration Increased membrane resistance and decreased proton conductivity [6, 7] (reducing overall efficiency) Membrane thinning [4] (increase of gas crossover) Formation of pin holes in membrane [4] (enhance membrane degradation)	Key factor Cathode flooding Found at high current densities, where more water is created and a higher electro-osmosis flux occurs [1] (local gas starvation)	Key factor Anode flooding Occurs at low current densities, where fuel flow rates are insufficient to prevent the accumulation of liquid water [5] (local gas starvation)	Key factor Fuel starvation Insufficient hydrogen supply leads to a voltage drop due to imbalanced electro-chemical reactions [10] Causes the anode to undergo undesirable oxidation reactions [3, 11] (results in carbon corrosion)	Key factor Air starvation Lowers output voltage due to abrupt decrease of cathode potential [3] (overall air starvation can lead to cell reversal) Due to high potential difference, hydrogen can diffuse to cathode side and react directly with oxygen [3] (causing the formation of hot spots)
		Key factor Pressure	Key factor Temperature	Key factor	

Subject Introduction

Driving cycles, load profiles and system interactions in FCEV

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Key factor Pollutants & impurities Results from improper hydrogen fuel or air contamination CO, CO₂, NH₃, H₂S, SO₂ can lead to degradation [2]	Key factor Freezing & thawing Ice formation leads to expansion and mechanical stress	Key factor Pressure Pressure plays a pivotal role, influencing electrochemical reaction rates, cell voltage, gas diffusion, water management, membrane hydration and mechanical stress.	Key factor Temperature Temperature exerts a significant influence on the water balance and the diffusion rates of H₂ and O₂.	Key factor Humidity cycling Fluctuations in humidity lead to cyclic expansion and contraction of the membrane (mechanical stress and potential cracks and pinholes)	

→ Research objectives – state of research

- Performance improvement
- Extension of service life
- Reduction of costs

- Material research [1-24]
- System integration and optimization [26-43]
- Operating strategies and management [51-62]

→ Research gap: Research tends to focus on one of these areas

- Holistic view often falls by the wayside
 - Interactions between balance of plant components are often not considered
 - No consistent external framework

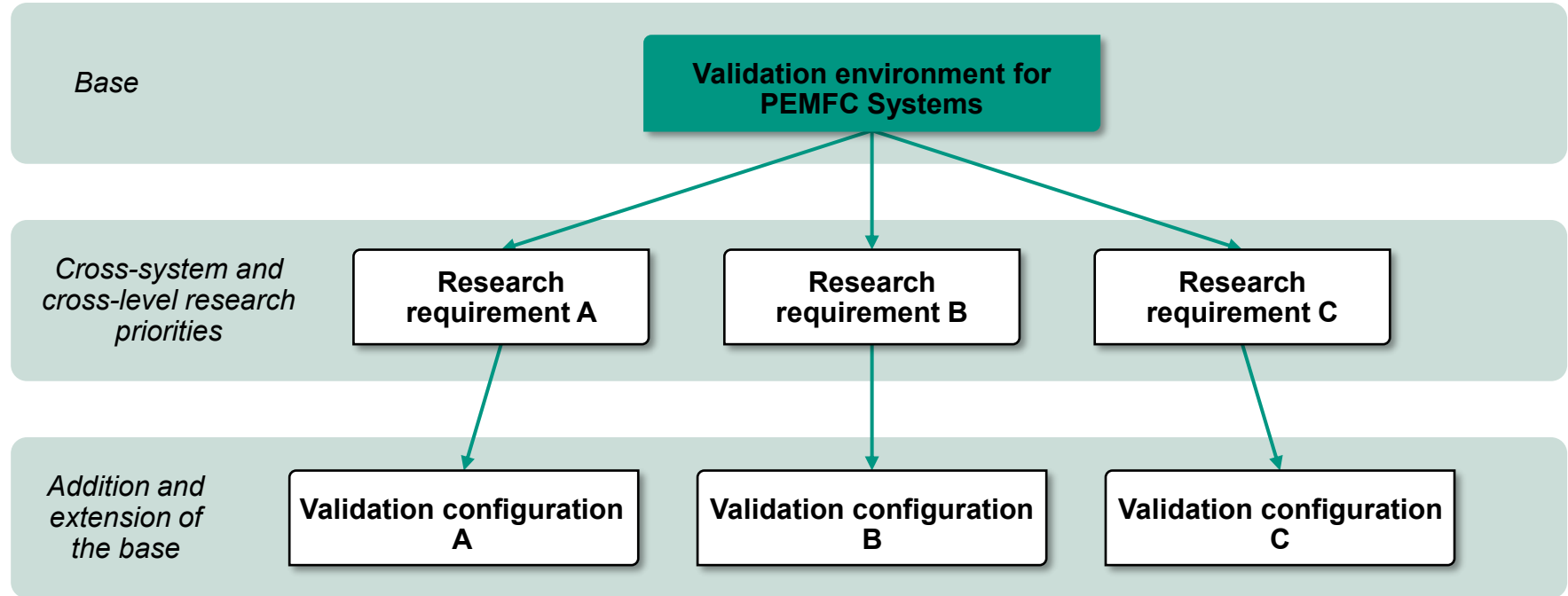
→ Research requirements:

A validation environment is required that emulates all balance-of-plant components relevant to the operation of the PEMFC, allowing the analysis of a complete PEMFC system with all its subsystems.

- Long-term value
 - Analysis of interactions between subsystems and their impact on the system-in-development
 - Research focus across subsystems and levels

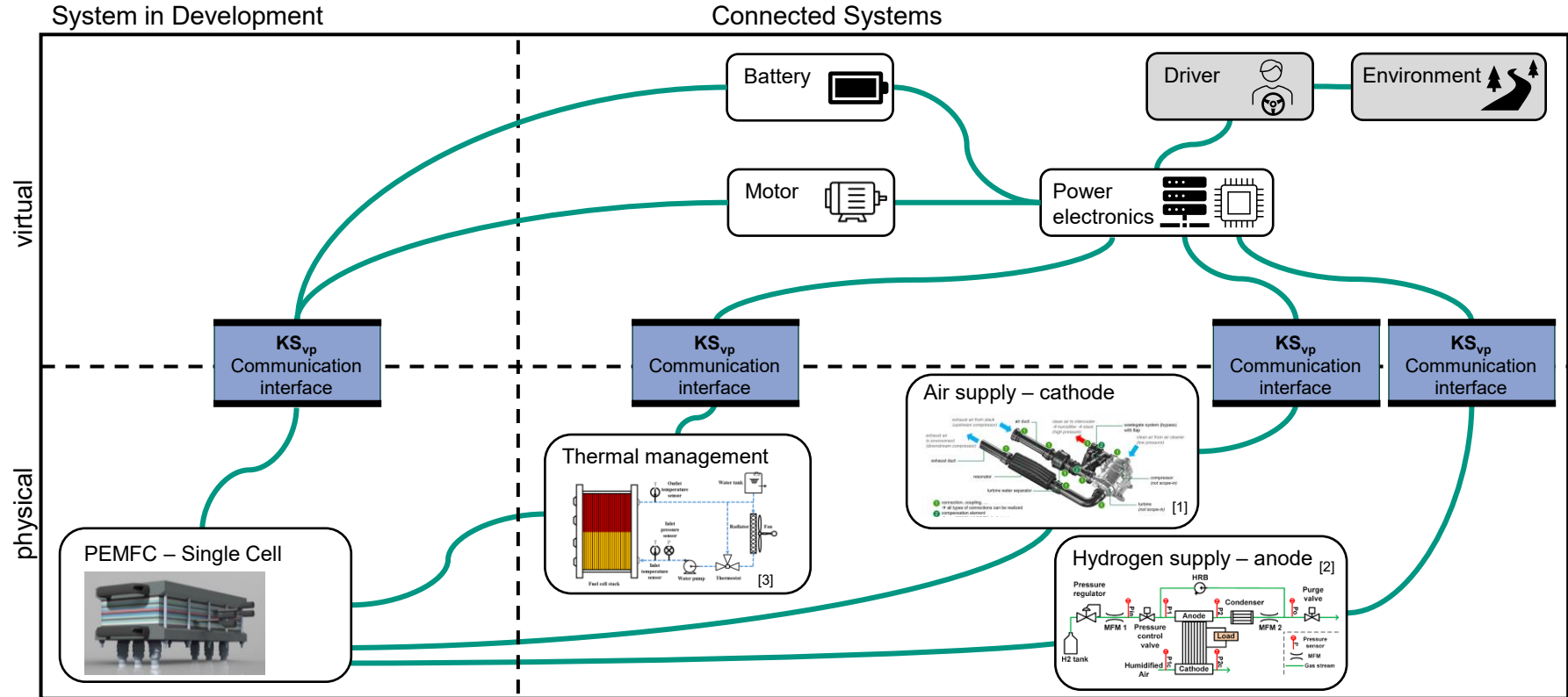
PEMFC System Evaluation

Validation environment



PEMFC System Evaluation

Model of the architecture of the base validation configuration – IPEK XiL

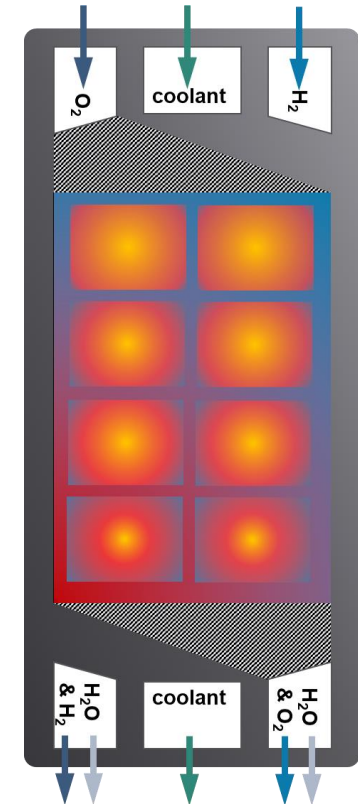
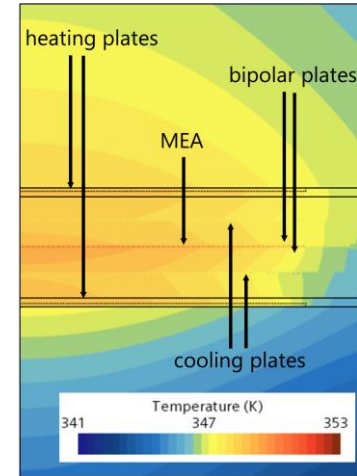
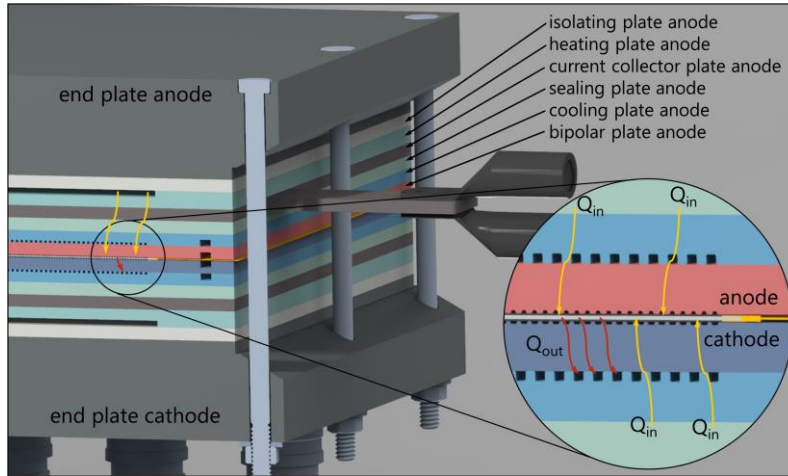


PEMFC System Evaluation

Validation configuration

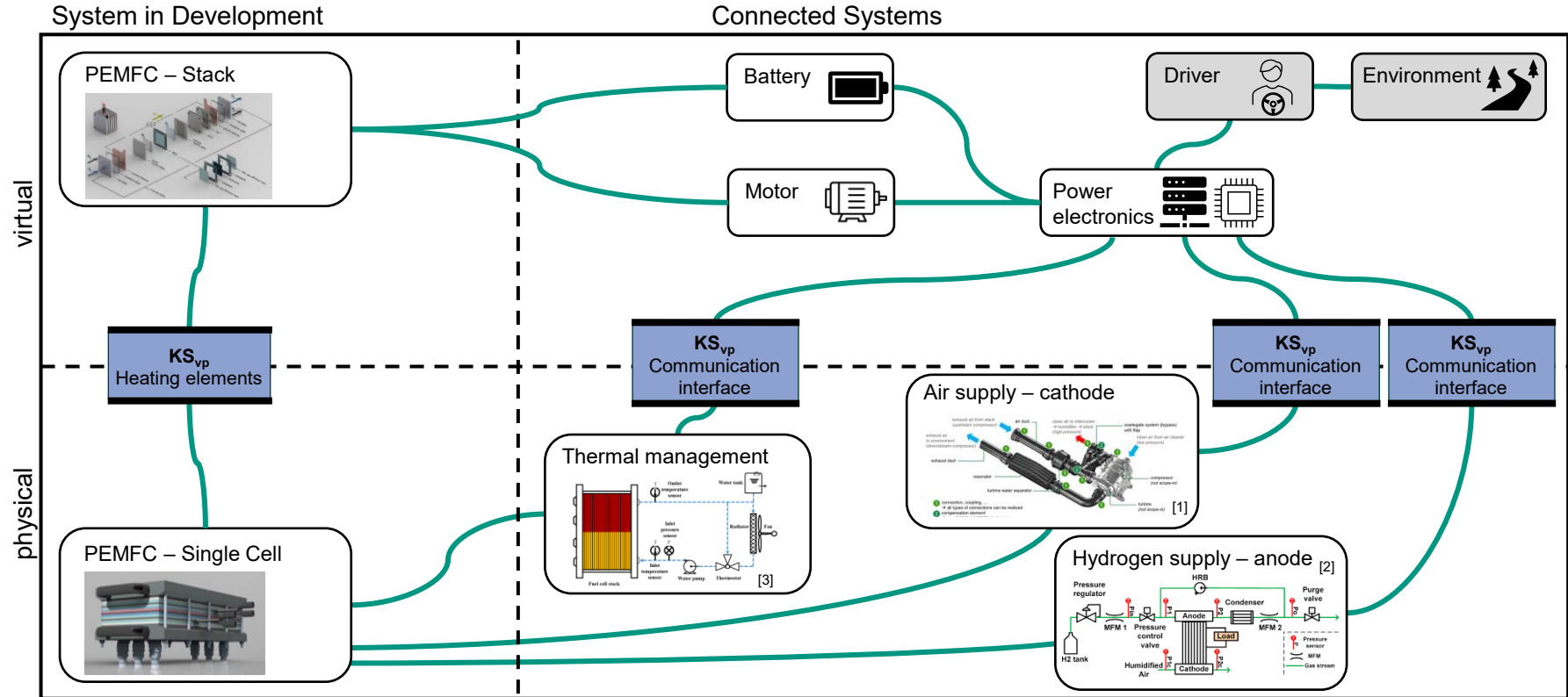
Validation configuration A

- Emulating thermal management of a complete fuel cell stack → *virtual System in Development*
 - PEMFC Stack through **heating elements** as “Koppelsystems”
 - Interactions of thermal distribution between neighboring cells and their impact on thermal management as *physical connected system*



PEMFC System Evaluation

Model of the architecture of the validation configuration A – IPEK XiL



Thank you for your attention!



INNOVATIONSCAMPUS
MOBILITÄT DER ZUKUNFT

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johannes.knaier@kit.edu, IPEK – Institute of Product Engineering

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