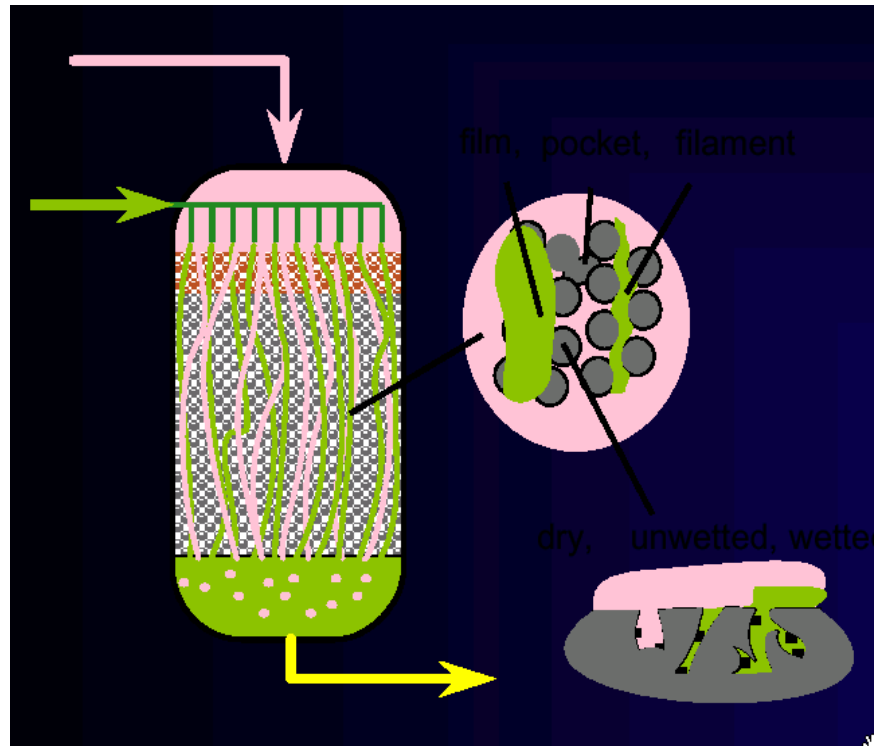


# Catalytic three-phase reactors

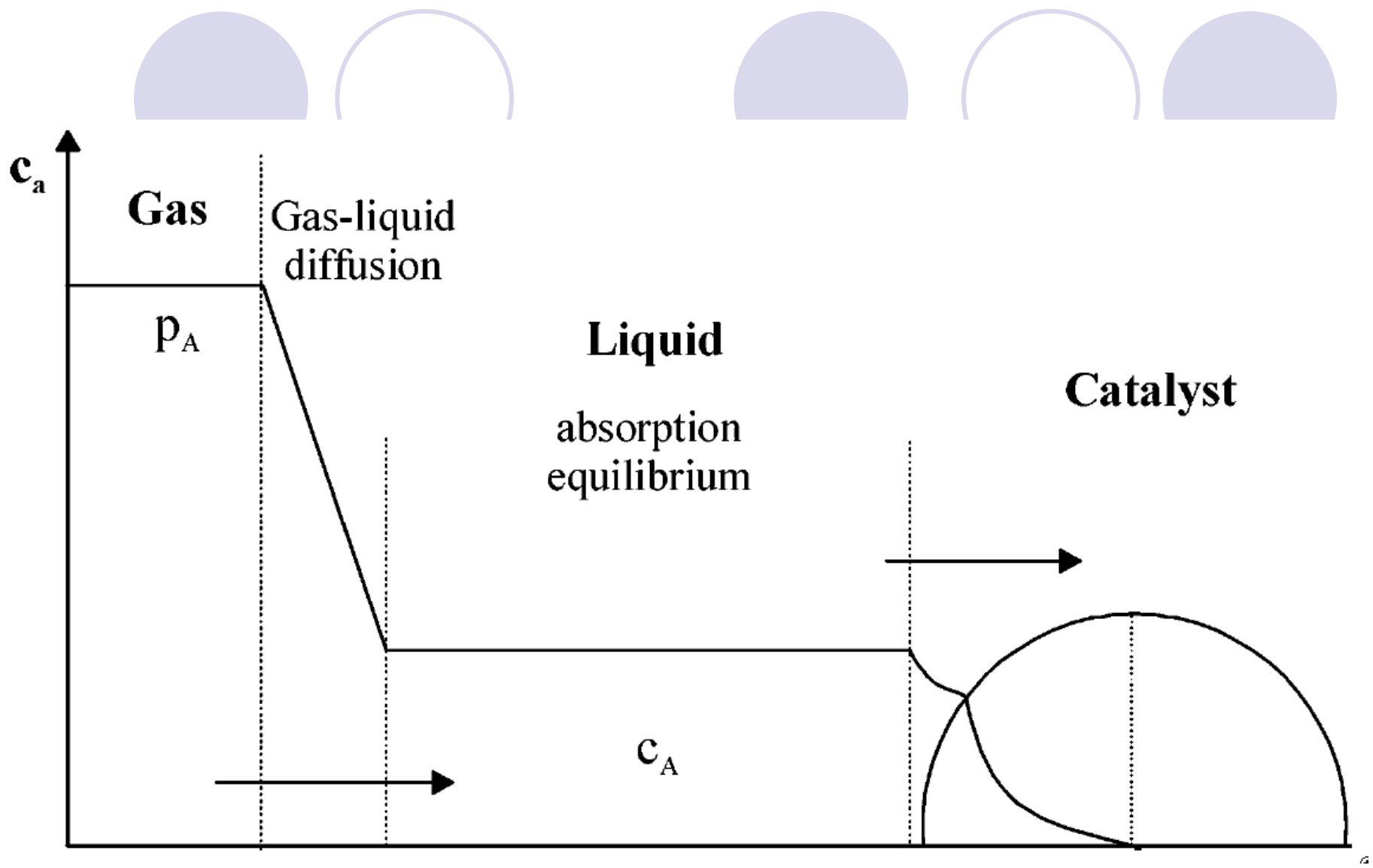


- Gas, liquid and solid catalyst

# Function principle



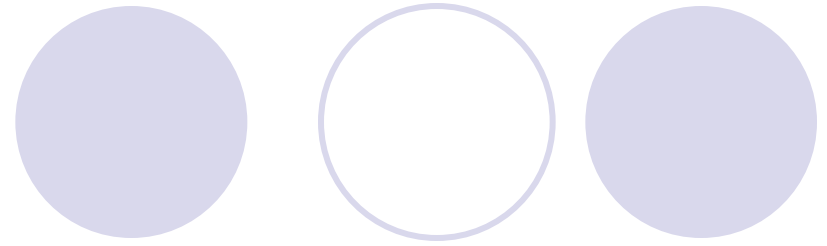
- Some reactants and products in gas phase
- Diffusion to gas-liquid surface
- Gas dissolves in liquid
- Gas diffuses through the liquid film to the liquid bulk
- Gas diffuses through the liquid film around the catalyst particle to the catalyst, where the reaction takes place
- Simultaneous reaction and diffusion in porous particle



# Three-phase reactors – catalyst

- Small particles (micrometer scale  $< 100$  micrometer)
- Large particles ( $< 1\text{cm}$ )

# Catalyst design



## Catalyst Shapes



Sphere



Pellet



Cylindrical  
Extrudate



Trilobe



Hollow  
Extrudate



Ring

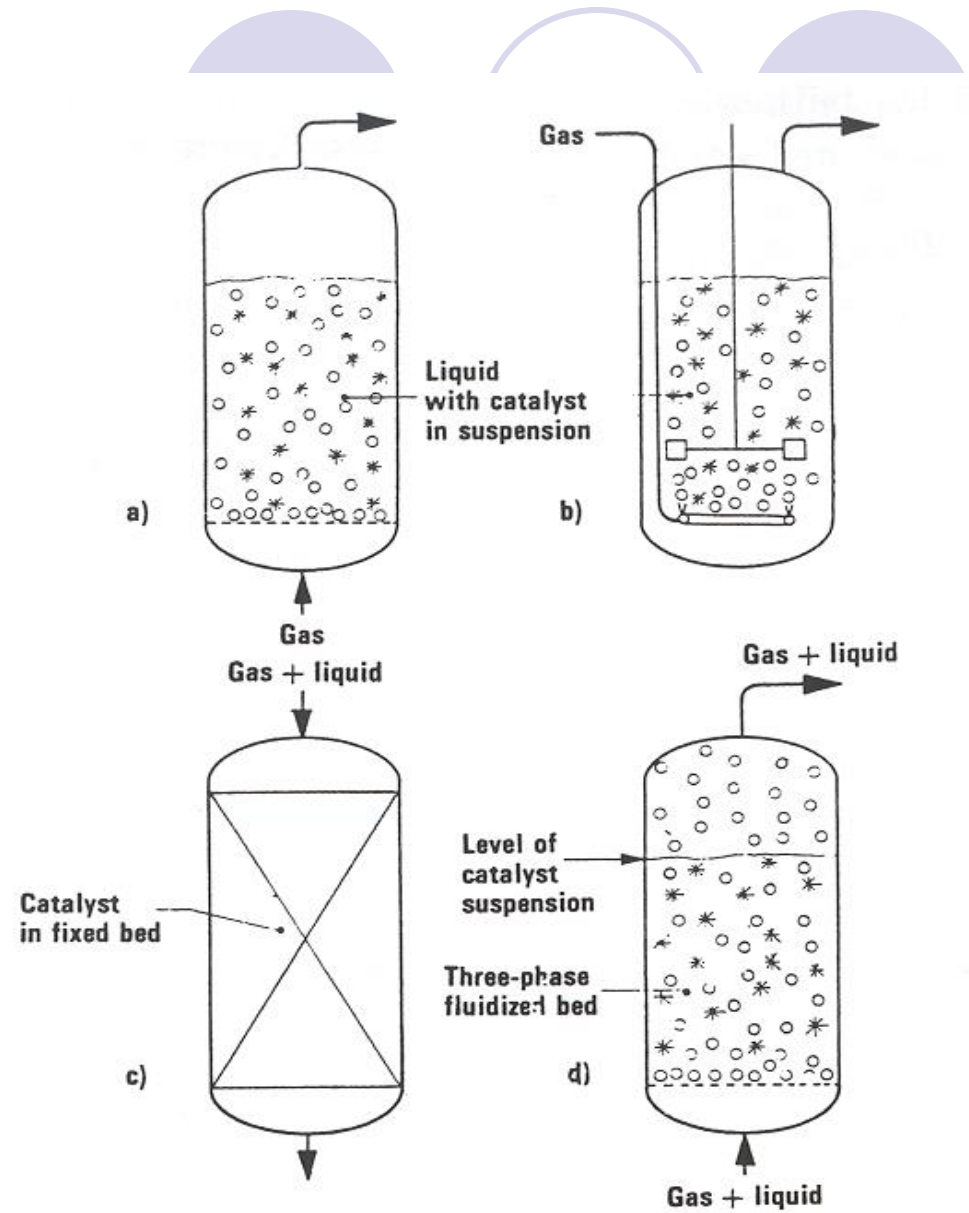


Wagonwheel

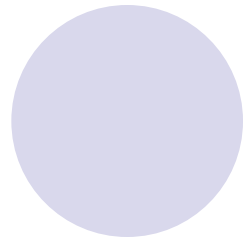
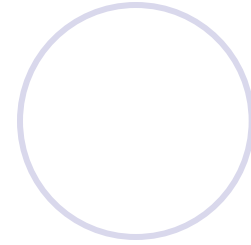
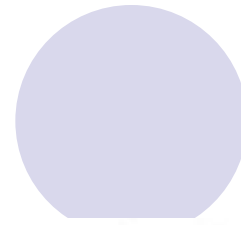
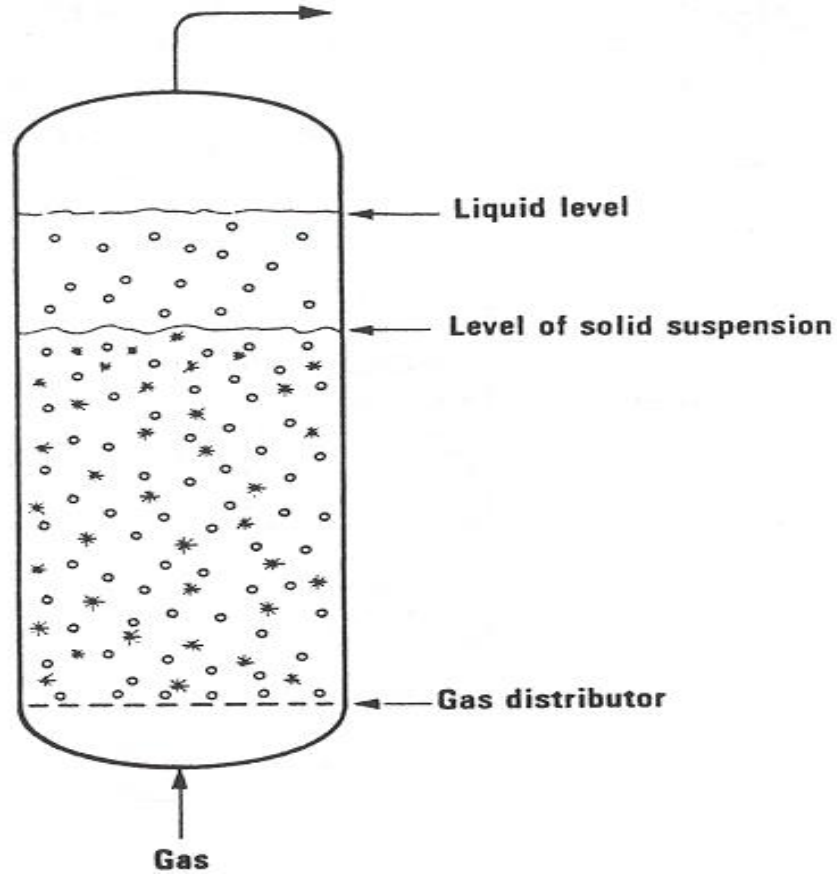


Minilith

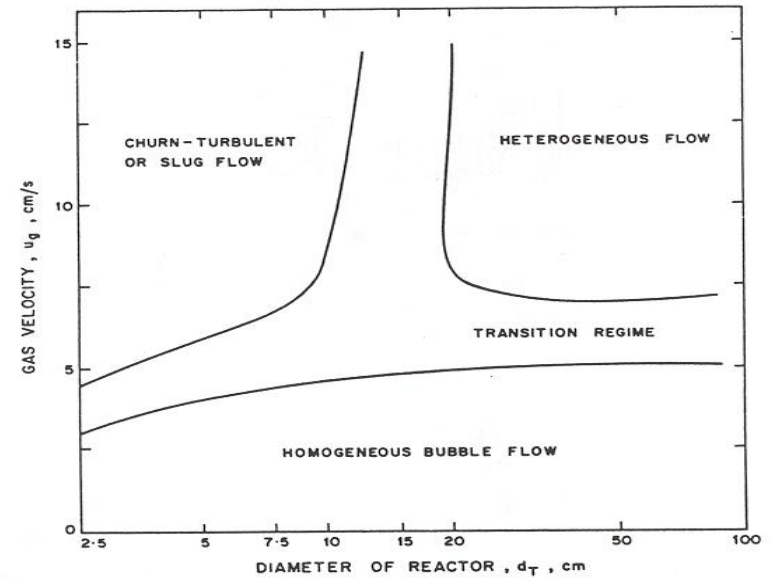
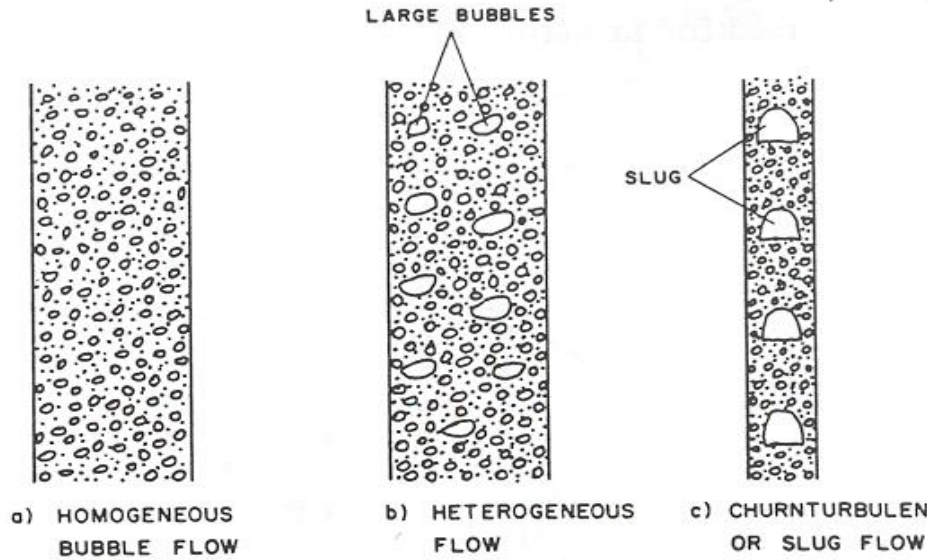
# Reactors



# Bubble column



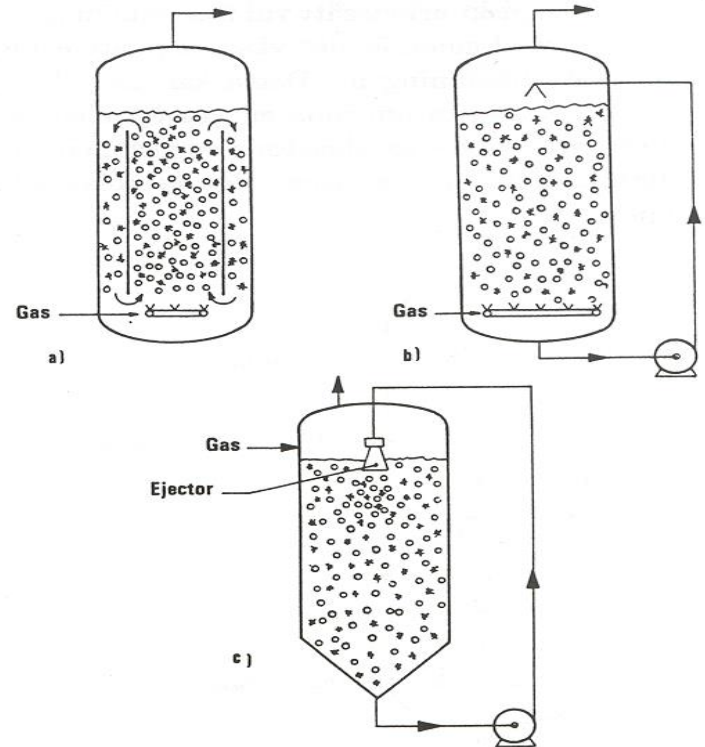
# Flow pattern in bubble column



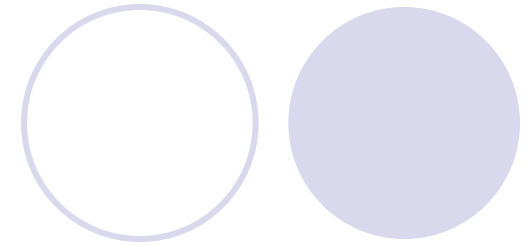


# Tank reactor

- Often called slurry reactor



# Packed bed – trickle bed

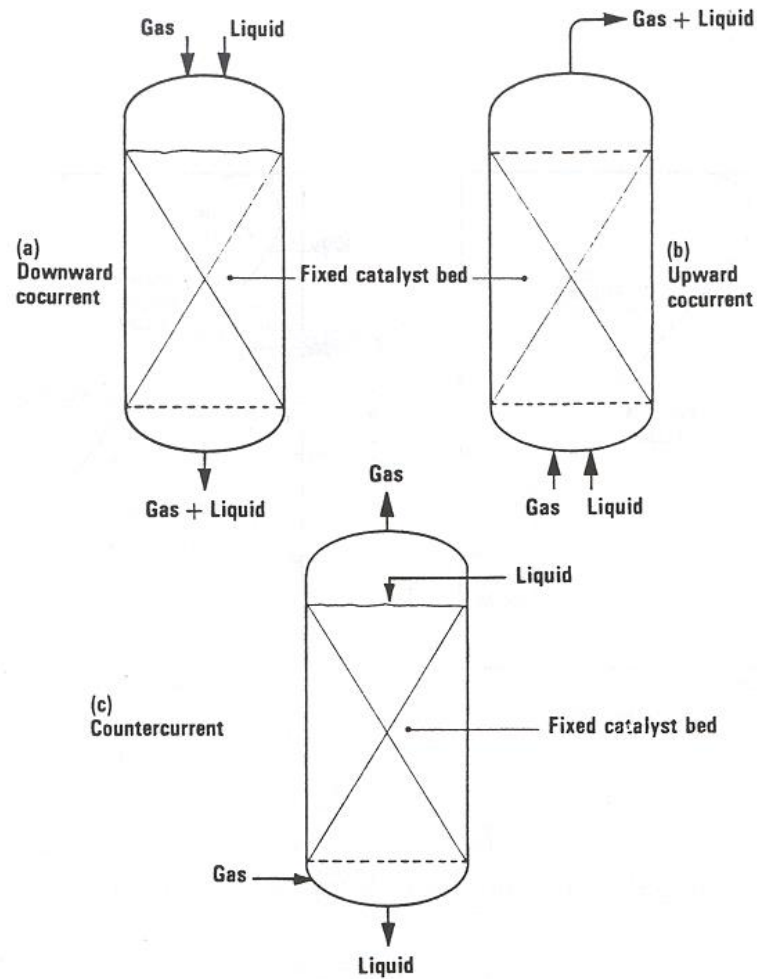


- Trickle bed

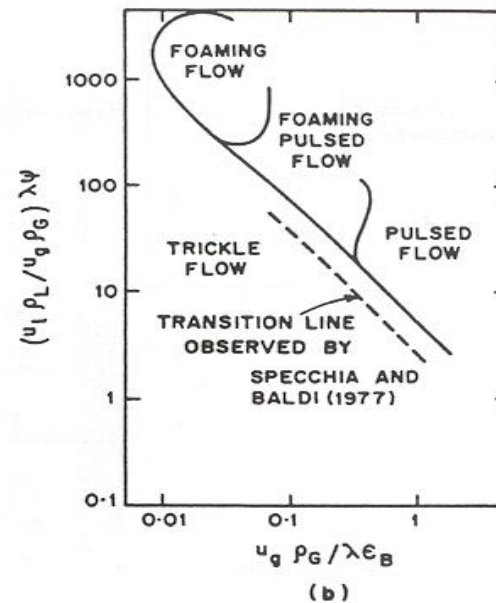
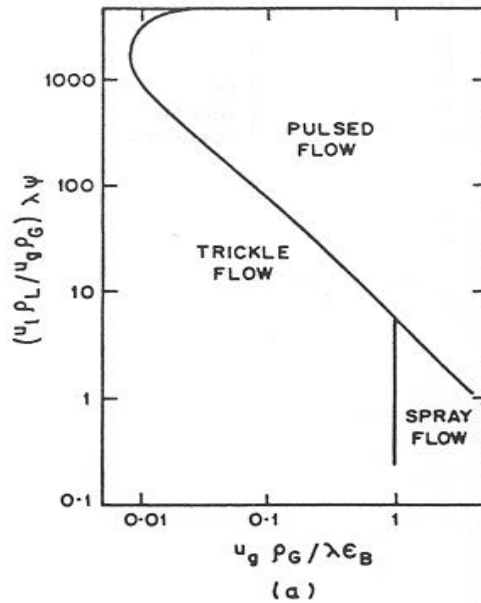
- Liquid downflow – trickling flow

- Packed bed, if liquid upflow

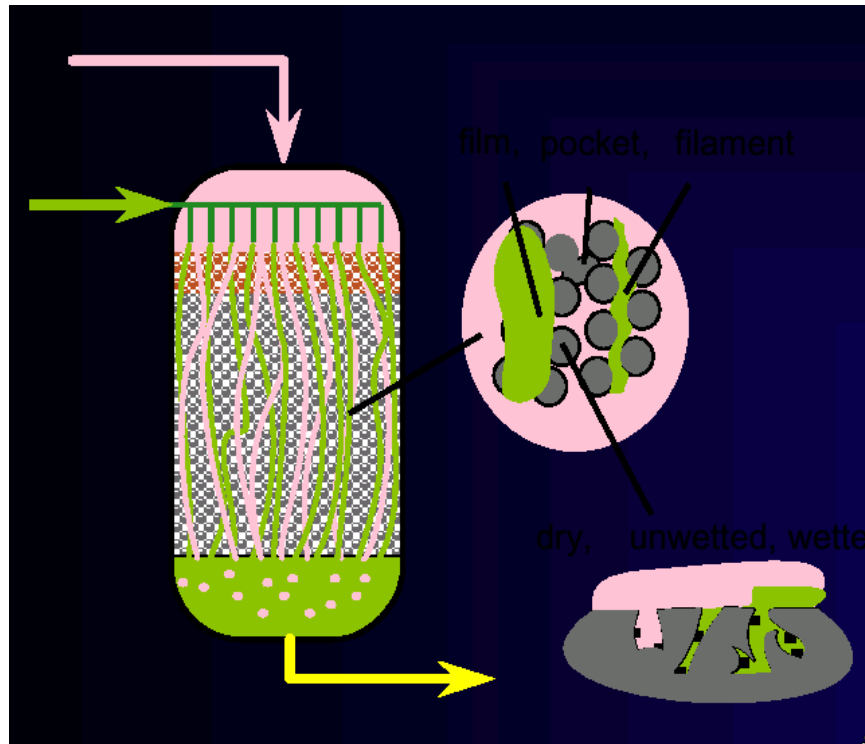
# Packed bed- fixed bed – trickle bed



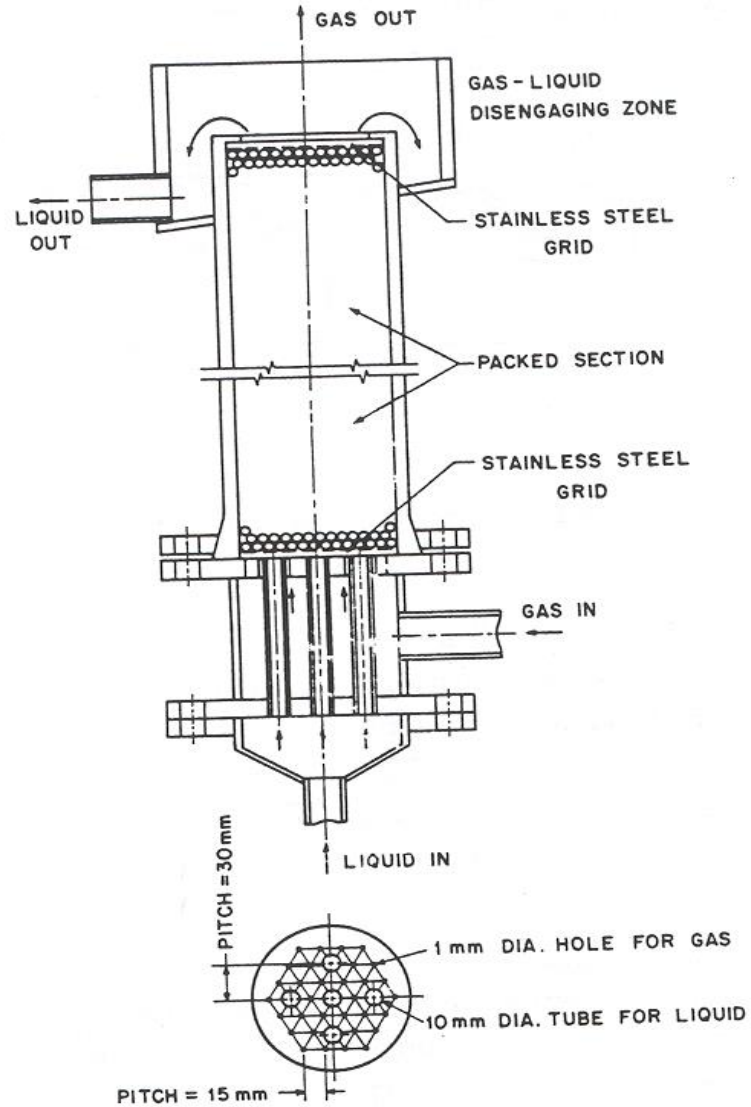
# Flow chart: trickle bed



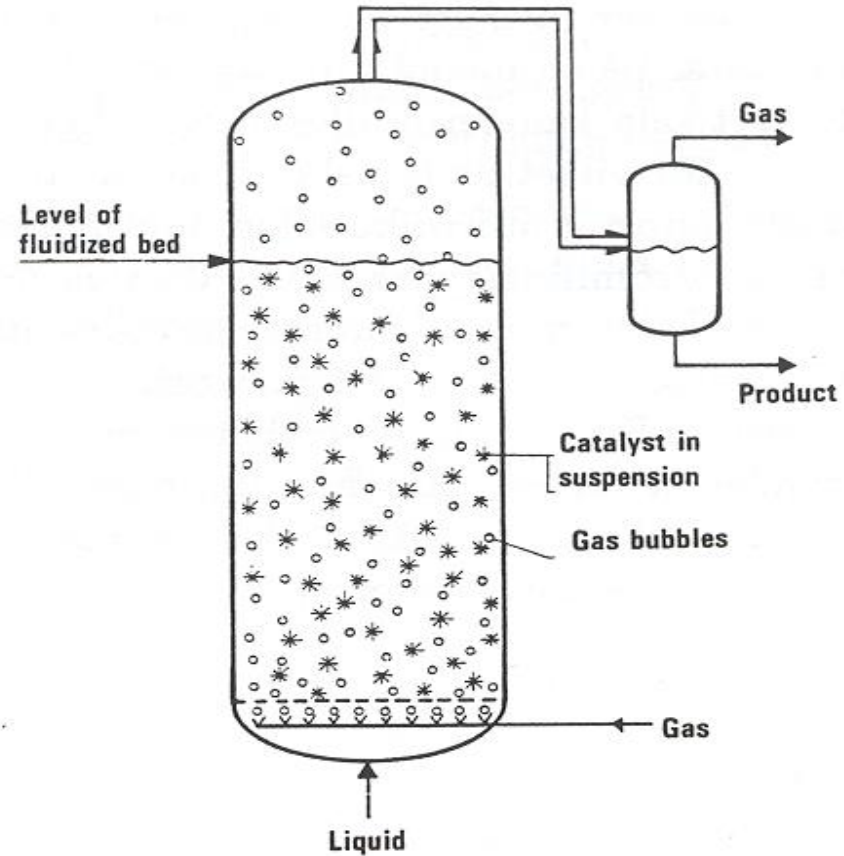
# Trickle flow



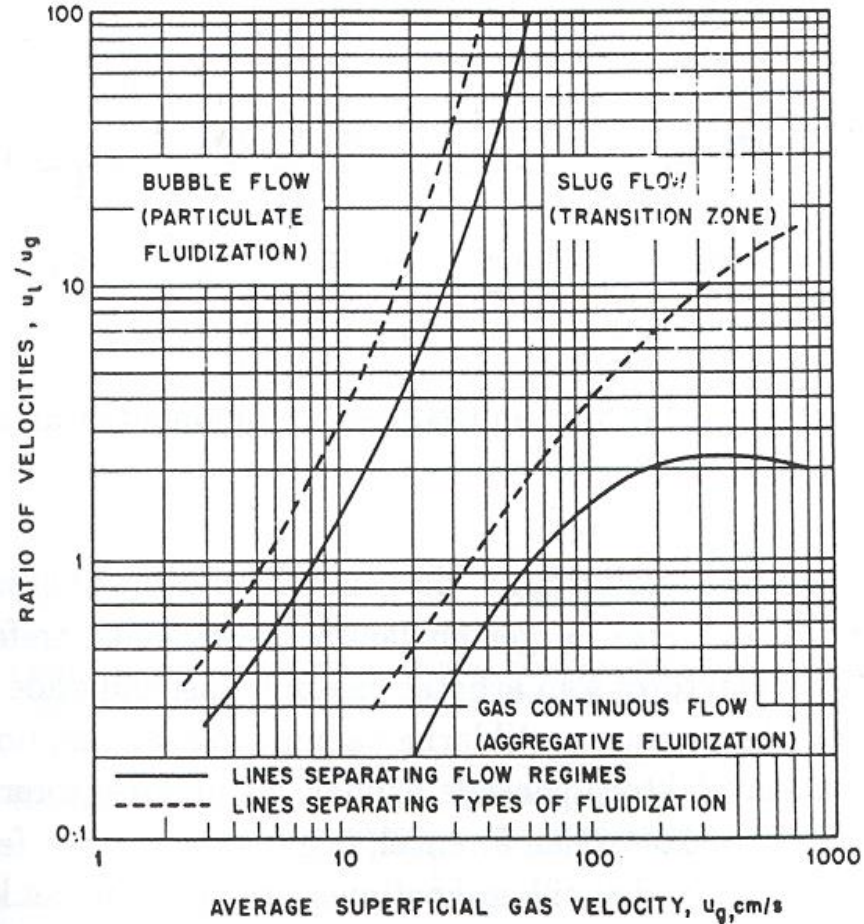
# Packed bed



# Three-phase fluidized bed

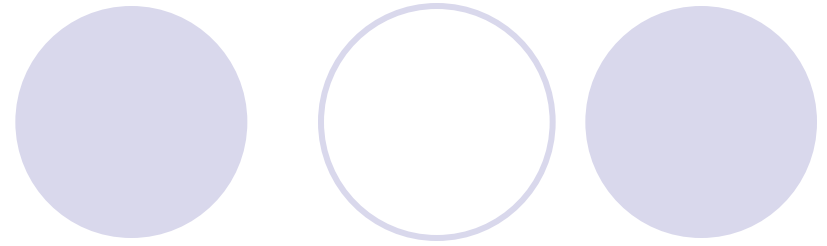


# Fluidized bed – flow chart

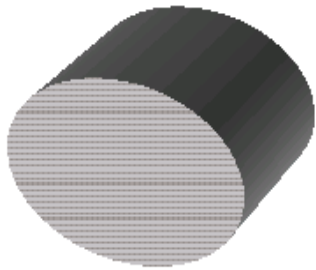




# Monolith catalysts

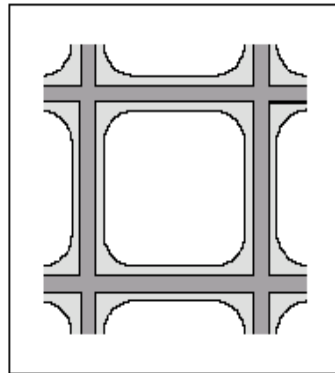


Monolithic catalyst



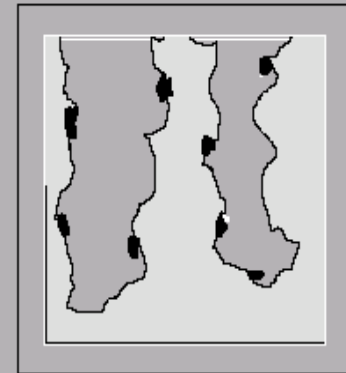
monolithic substrate

Channel



washcoat

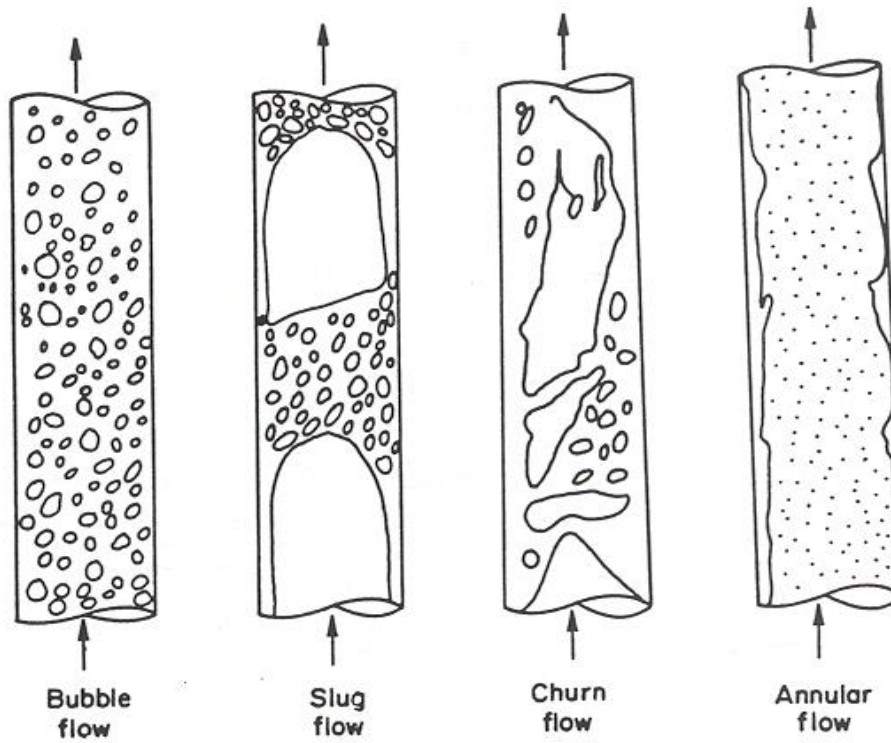
Catalytic layer



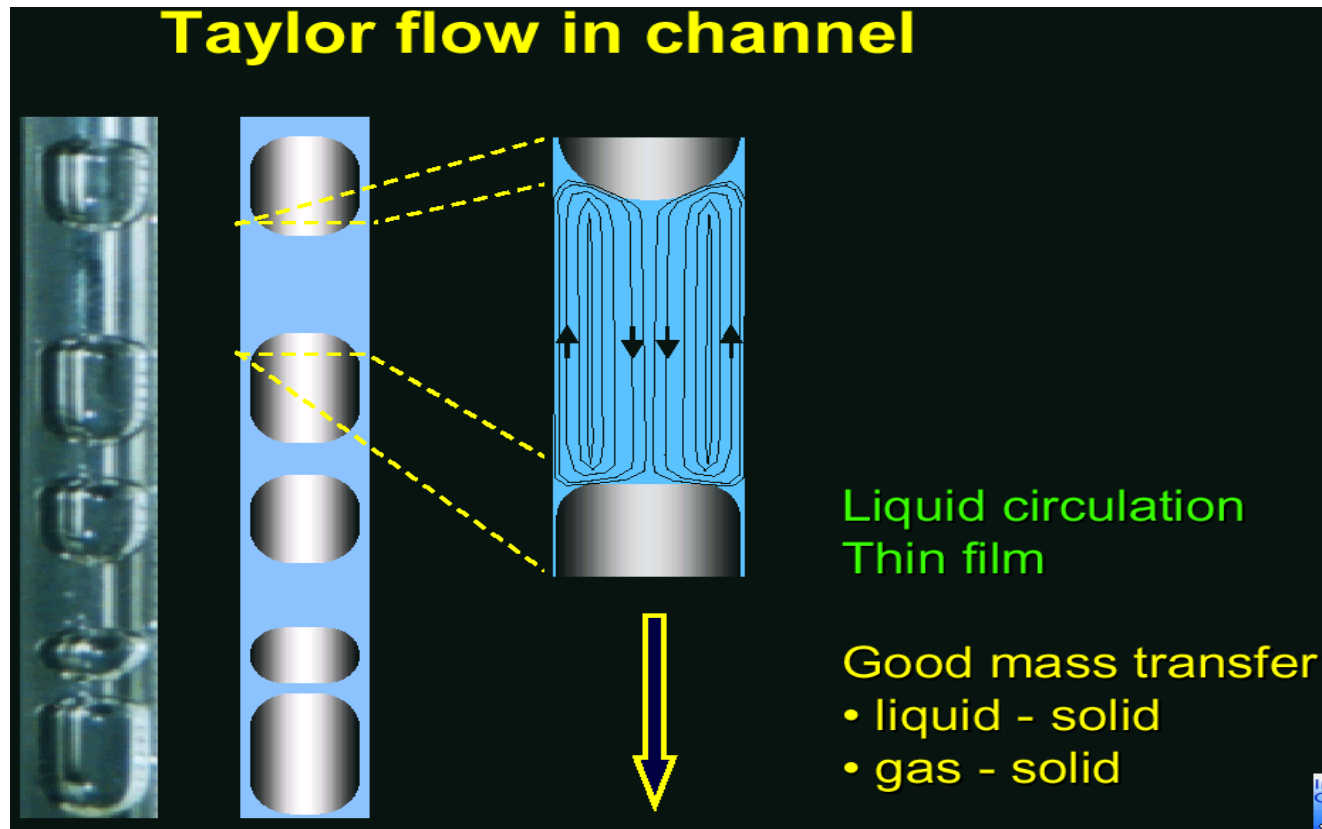
catalytic species



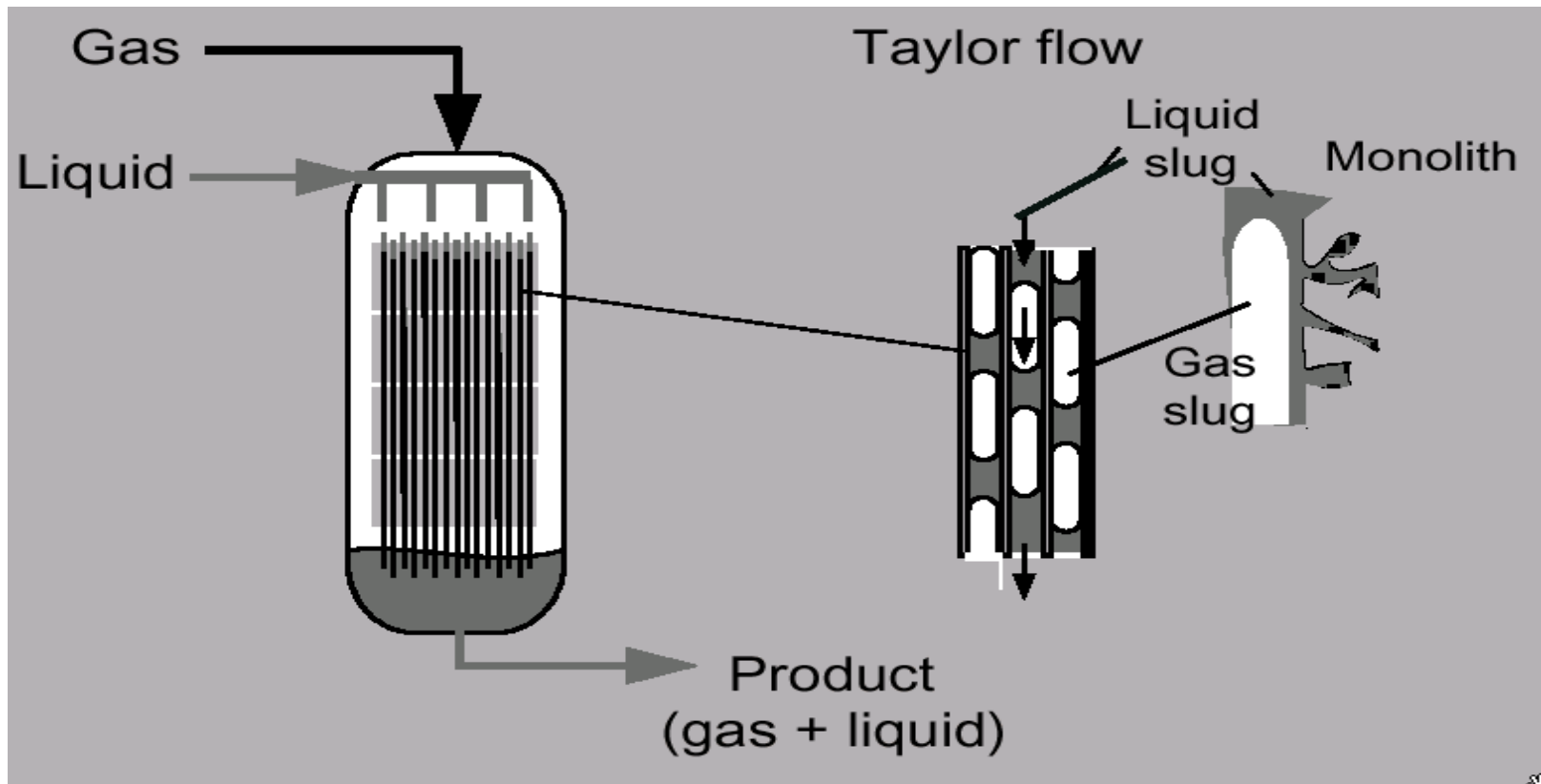
# Flow in monoliths



# Monolith channel

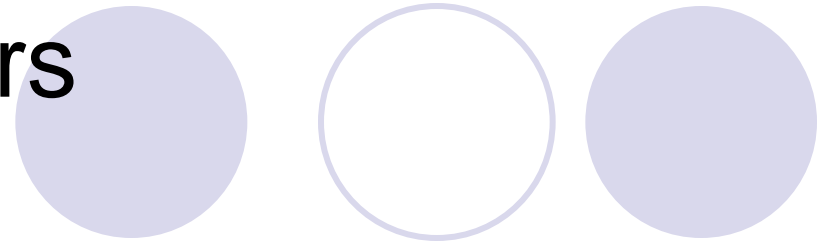


# Three-phase monolith reactor



# Three-phase reactors

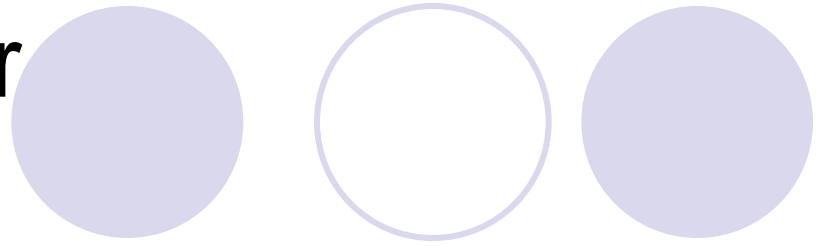
## Mass balances



- Plug flow and axial dispersion
  - Column reactor
  - Tube reactor
  - Trickle bed
  - Monolith reactor
- Backmixing
  - Bubble column
  - Tank reactor

# Three-phase reactor

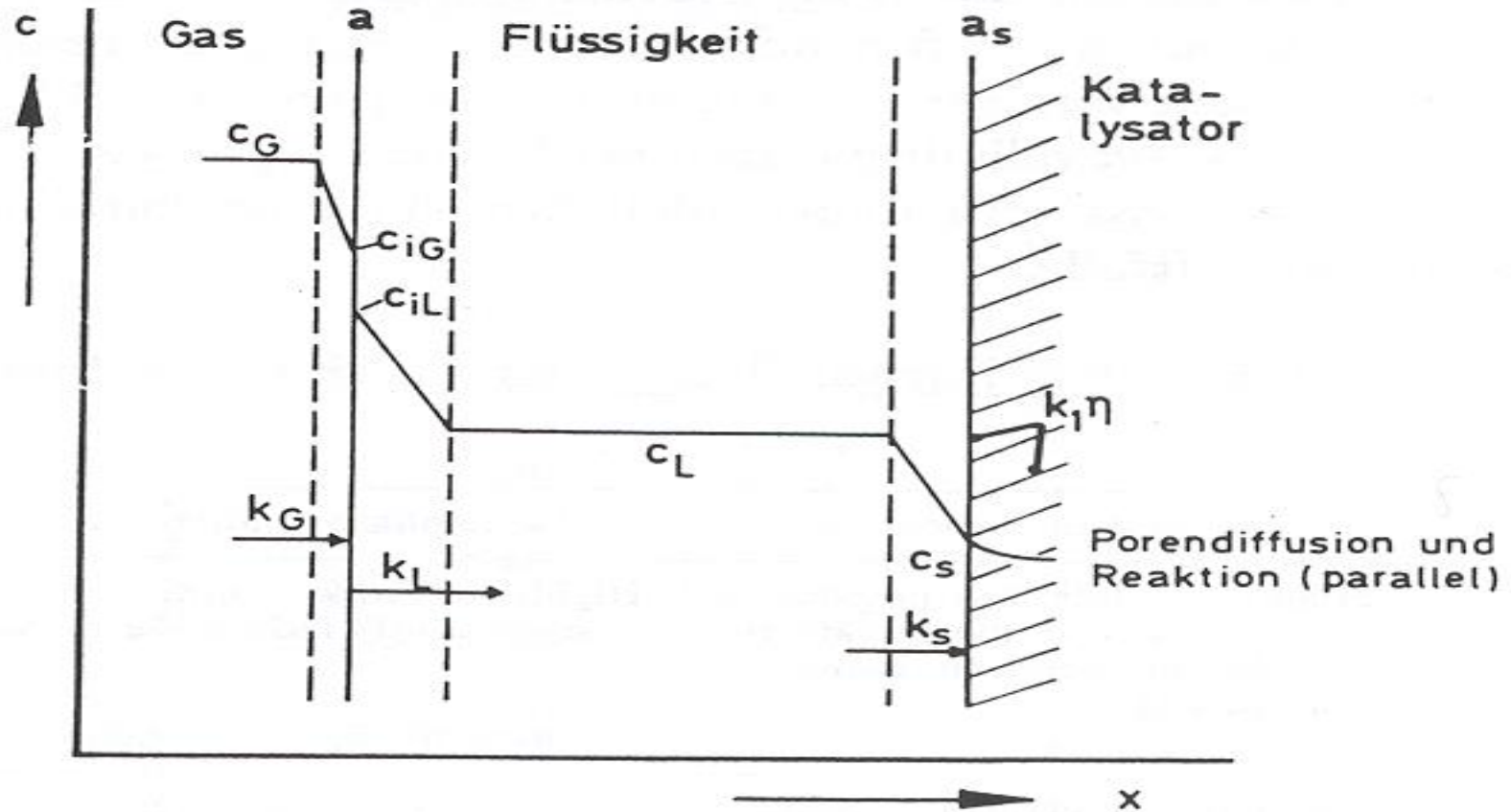
## Mass balances



- Mass transfer from gas to liquid, from liquid to catalyst surface
- Reaction on the catalyst surface
- In gas- and liquid films only diffusion transport
- Diffusion flow from gas to liquid

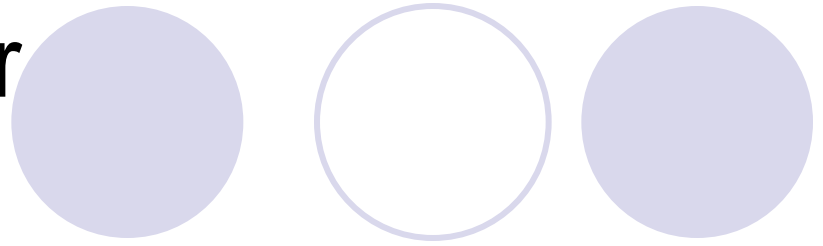
$$N_{Li}^b = \frac{c_{Gi}^b - K_i c_{Li}^b}{\frac{K_i}{k_{Li}} + \frac{1}{k_{Gi}}}$$

# Three-phase reactor Mass transfer



# Three-phase reactor

## Mass balances



- For physical absorption the fluxes through the gas- and liquid films are equal

$$N_{Li}^b = N_{Li}^s = N_{Gi}^s = N_{Gi}^b$$

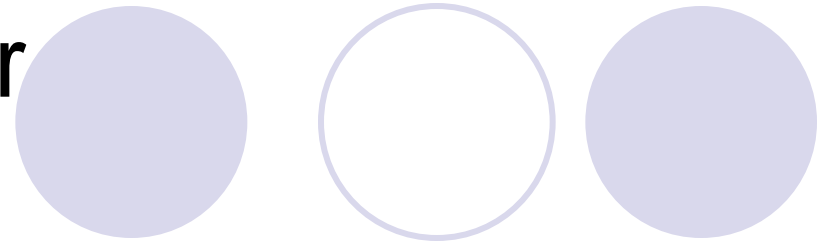
- Flux from liquid to catalyst particle = component generation rate at steady state

$$N_{Li}^s A_p + r_i m_p = 0$$



# Three-phase reactor

## Mass balances



- Flux through the liquid film defined with concentration difference and liquid-film coefficient

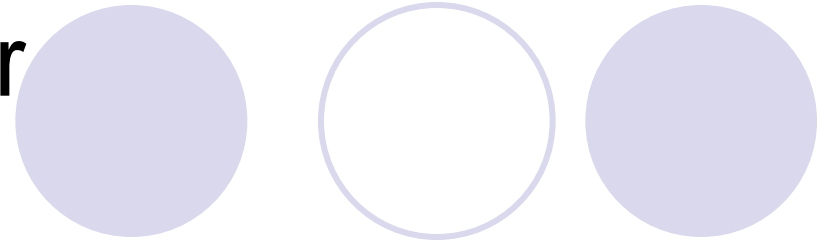
$$N_{Li}^s = k_{Li}^s (c_{Li}^b - c_{Li}^s)$$

- Catalyst bulk density defined by

$$\rho_B = \frac{m_{cat}}{V_L} = \frac{m_{cat}}{\varepsilon_L V_R}$$

# Three-phase reactor

## Mass balances

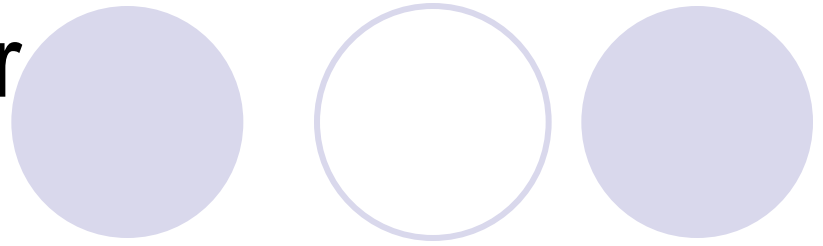


$$N_{Li}^s = k_{Li}^s (c_{Li}^b - c_{Li}^s) a_p = -\varepsilon_L \rho_B r_i$$

- $a_p$  = total particle surface/reactor volume

# Three-phase reactor

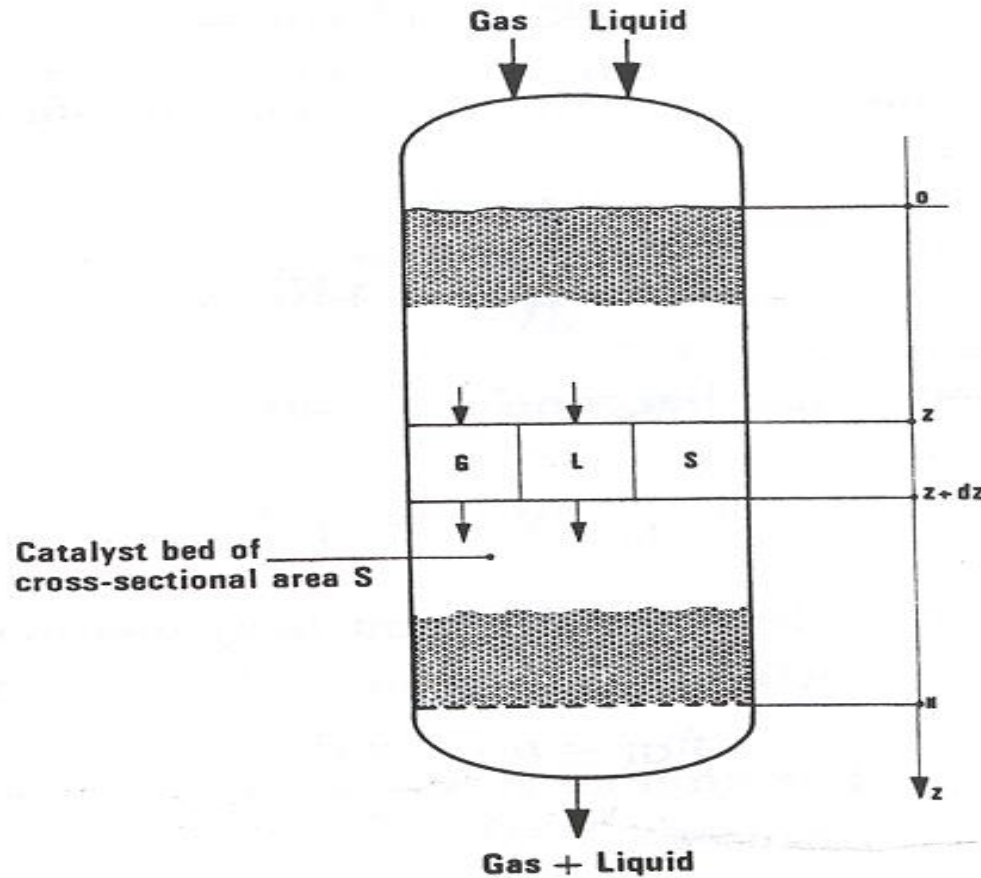
## Mass balances



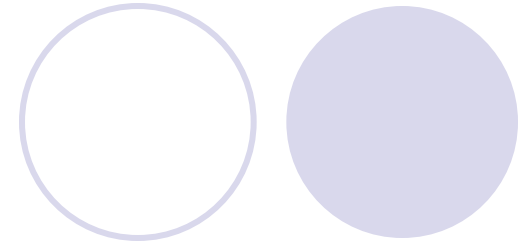
- If diffusion inside the particle affects the rate, the concept of effectiveness factor is used as for two-phase reactor (only liquid in the pores of the particles)
- The same equations as for two-phase systems can be used for porous particles

$$R_j = \eta_{ej} R'_j(c_B)$$

# Three-phase reactor – plug flow



# Three-phase reactor - plug flow, liquid phase



- For volume element in liquid phase

$$\dot{n}_{Li,in} + N_{Li}^b \Delta A = \dot{n}_{Li,ut} + N_{Li}^s \Delta A_p$$

- Liquid phase

$$\frac{d \dot{n}_{Li}}{dV_R} = N_{Li}^b a_v + N_{Li}^s a_p$$
Two arrows originate from the terms  $N_{Li}^b a_v$  and  $N_{Li}^s a_p$  in the equation above. One arrow points from  $N_{Li}^b a_v$  to the derivative term  $\frac{d \dot{n}_{Li}}{dV_R}$ , and the other points from  $N_{Li}^s a_p$  to the same derivative term.



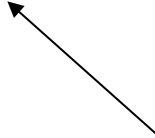
# Three-phase reactor

## Plug flow - gas phase

- For volume element in gas phase

$$\dot{n}_{Gi,in} = \dot{n}_{Gi,out} + N_{Gi}^b \Delta A$$

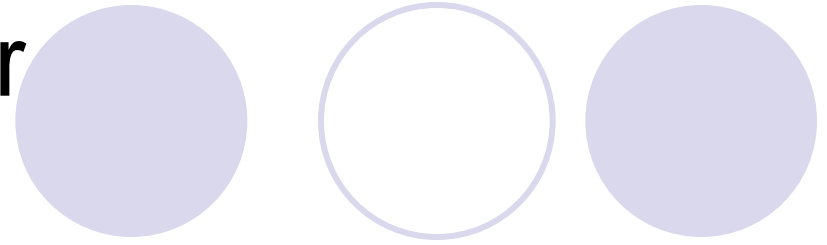
- Gas phase

$$\frac{d\dot{n}_{Gi}}{dV_R} = \pm N_{Li}^b a_v$$


- - concurrent
- + countercurrent

# Three-phase reactor

## Plug flow



- Initial conditions

- Liquid phase

$$\dot{n}_{Li} = \dot{n}_{0,Li}$$

$$V_R = 0$$

- Gas phase, concurrent

$$\dot{n}_{Gi} = \dot{n}_{0,Gi}$$

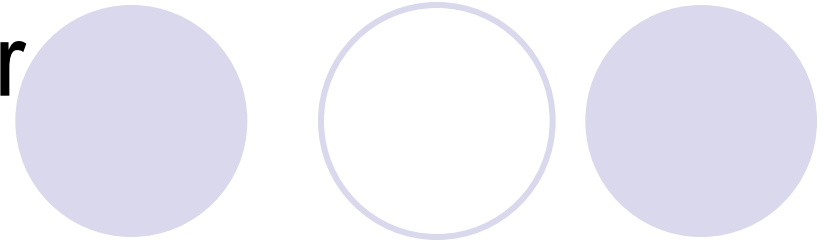
$$V_R = 0$$

- Gas phase, countercurrent

$$\dot{n}_{Gi} = \dot{n}_{0,Gi}$$

$$V = V_R$$

# Three-phase reactor - plug flow model



- Good for trickle bed
- Rather good for a packed bed , in which liquid flows upwards
- For bubble column plug flow is good for gas phase but not for liquid phase which has a higher degree of backmixing



# Three-phase reactor - complete backmixing

- Liquid phase

$$\frac{\dot{n}_{Li} - \dot{n}_{0Li}}{V_R} = N_L^b a_v - N_L^s a_p$$

- Gas phase

$$\frac{\dot{n}_{Gi} - \dot{n}_{0Gi}}{V_R} = N_L^b a_v$$

# Three-phase reactor - semibatch operation

- Liquid phase in batch
- Gas phase continuous

$$\frac{dn_{Li}}{dt} = (N_L^b a_v - N_L^s a_p) V_R$$

$$\frac{dn_{Gi}}{dt} = -\dot{n}_{Gi} - N_{Li}^b a_v V_R + \dot{n}_{0Gi}$$

- Initial condition

$$n_{Li} = n_{0Li} \quad t = 0$$

$$n_{Gi} = n_{0Gi} \quad t = 0$$

# Parameters in three-phase reactors

- Gas-liquid equilibrium ratio ( $K_i$ ) from
  - Thermodynamic theories
  - Gas solubility in liquids (Henry's constant)
- Mass transfer coefficients  $k_{Li}$ ,  $k_{Gi}$ 
  - Correlation equations

$$k_{Li} = \frac{D_{Li}}{\delta_L} \qquad k_{Gi} = \frac{D_{Gi}}{\delta_G}$$

# Numerical aspects



- CSTR – non-linear equations
  - Newton-Raphson method
- Reactors with plug flow (concurrent)
  - Runge-Kutta-, Backward difference -methods
- Reactors with plug flow (countercurrent) and reactors with axial dispersion (BVP)
  - orthogonal collocation

# Examples



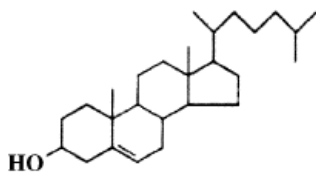
- Production of Sitostanol

- A cholesterol suppressing agent
- Carried out through hydrogenation of Sitosterol on Pd catalysts (Pd/C, Pd/Zeolite)

- Production of Xylitol

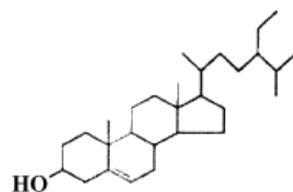
- An anti-caries and anti-inflammatory component
- Carried out through hydrogenation of Xylose on Ni- and Ru-catalysts (Raney Ni, Ru/C)

# Example: from cholesterol to sitostanol

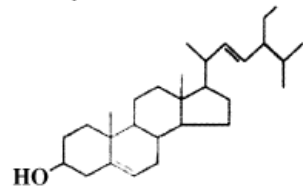


Cholesterol

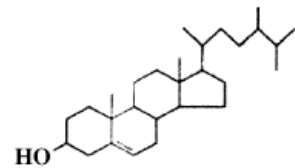
## Phytosterols



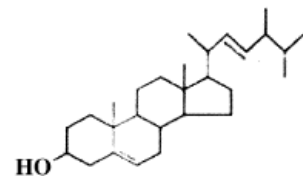
$\beta$ -Sitosterol



Stigmasterol

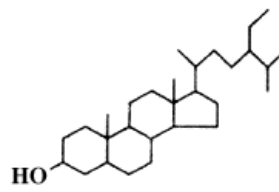


Campesterol

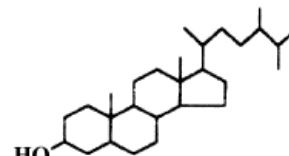


Brassicasterol

## Phytostanols



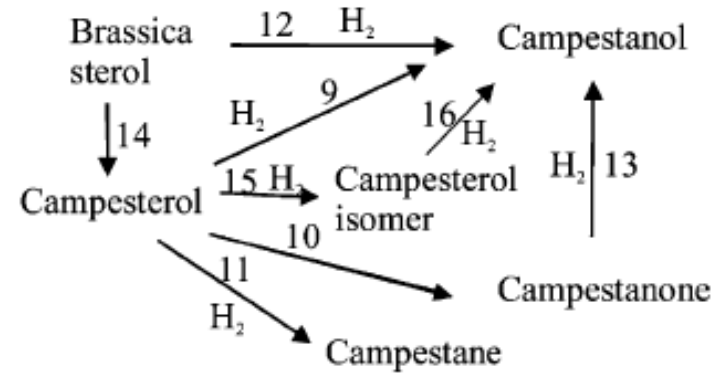
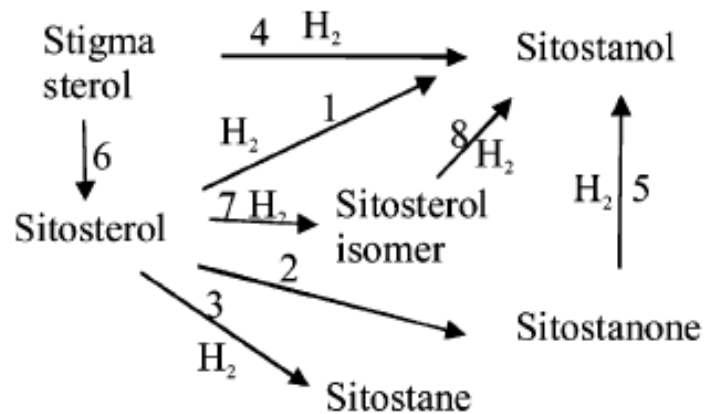
$\beta$ -Sitostanol



Campestanol

# Reaction scheme

A superficially complicated scheme



# From laboratory scale to industrial scale



Slurry, three-phase reactor

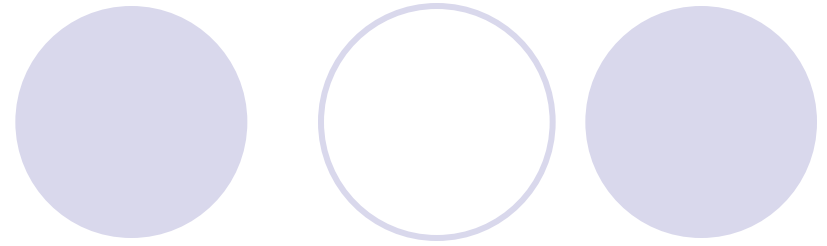
Lab reactor, 1 liter, liquid amount 0.5 kg

Large scale reactor, liquid amount 8080 kg

Simulation of large-scale reactor based on  
laboratory reactor



# Catalytic reactor

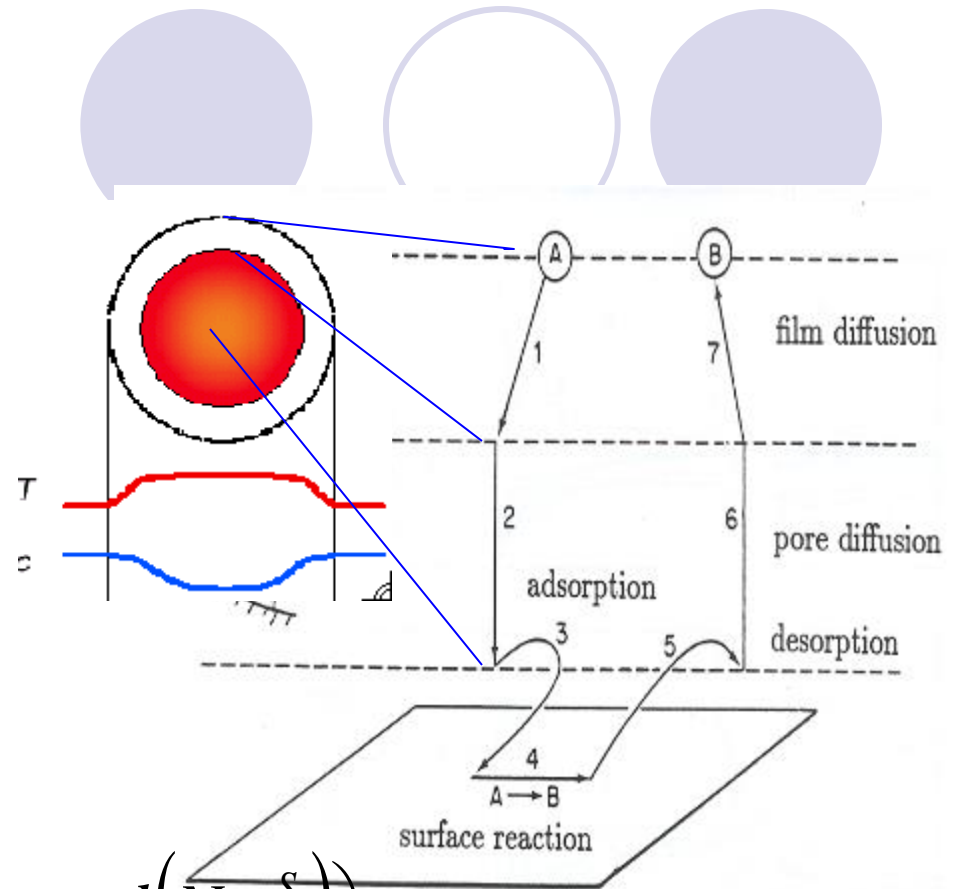


- Semi-batch stirred tank reactor

- Well agitated, no concentration differences appear in the bulk of the liquid
- Gas-liquid and liquid-solid mass transfer resistances can prevail
- The liquid phase is in batch, while gas is continuously fed into the reactor.
- The gas pressure is maintained constant.
- The liquid and gas volumes inside the reactor vessel can be regarded as constant

# Mathematical modelling

Reaction, diffusion and catalyst deactivation in porous particles



Particle model

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \varepsilon_p^{-1} \left( r_i \rho_p - r^s \frac{d(N_i r^s)}{dr} \right)$$

Rates

$$r_i = \sum_j \nu_{ij} R_j a_j$$

# Model implementation

$$N_i = -D_{ei} \left( \frac{dc_i}{dr} \right) \quad , \text{ where } D_{ei} = (\varepsilon_p / \tau_p) D_{mi}$$

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} \varepsilon_p^{-1} = \left( \rho_p \sum v_{ij} R_j a_j + D_{ei} \left( \frac{d^2 c_i}{dr^2} + \frac{s}{r} \frac{dc_i}{dr} \right) \right)$$

Boundary conditions

$$\frac{dc_i}{dr} = 0 \quad r = 0$$

$$D_{ei} \left( \frac{dc_i}{dr} \right)_{r=R} = k_{Li} (c_i - c_i(R)) \quad r = R$$

# Catalytic reactor, mass balances

Liquid phase mass balance

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = N_i a_p - N_{GLi} a_{GL}$$

Liquid-solid flux

$$N_i = k_{Li} (c_i - c_i(R))$$

Gas-liquid flux

$$N_{GLi} = \frac{c_{Gi}^b - K_i c_{Li}^b}{\frac{K_i}{k_{Li}} - \frac{1}{k_{Gi}}}$$

# Numerical approach



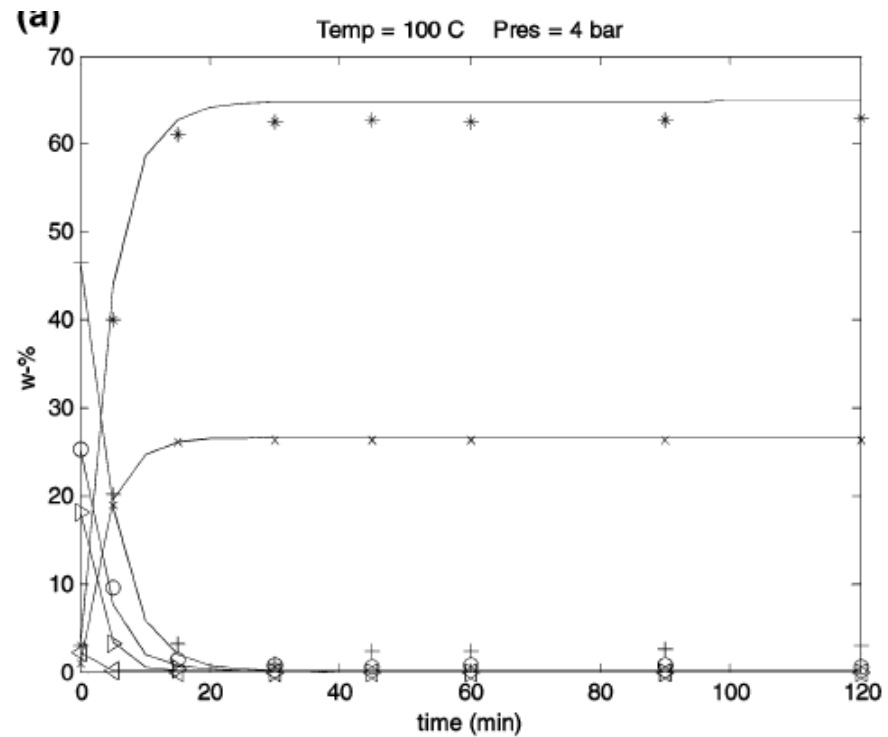
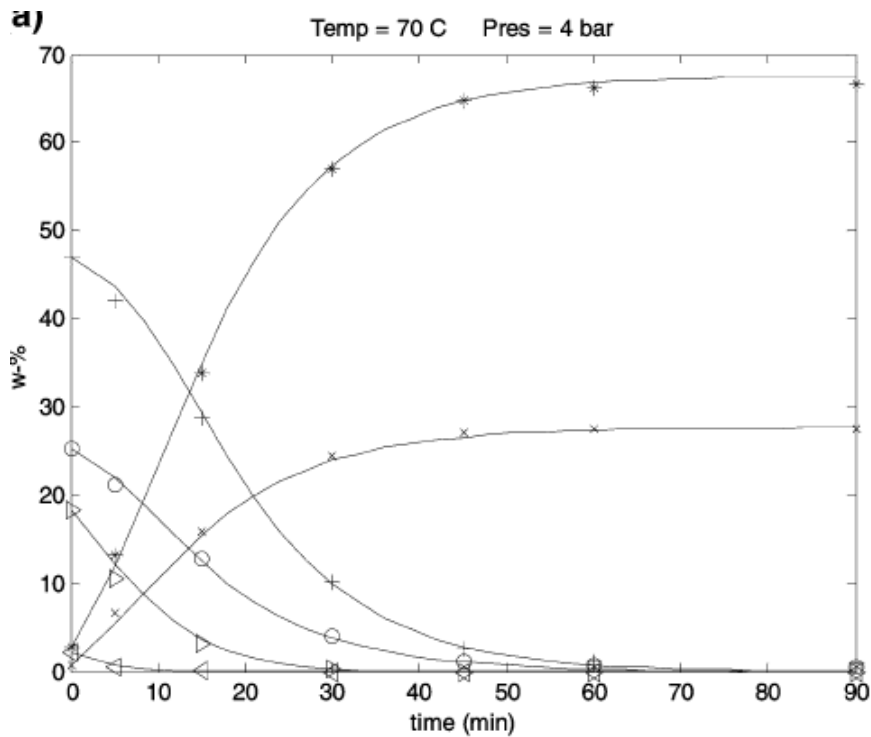
- PDEs discretized with finite difference formulae
- The ODEs created solved with a stiff algorithm (BD, Hindmarsh)

# Rate equations

Surface reaction, rate determining  
Essentially non-competitive adsorption of  
hydrogen and organics

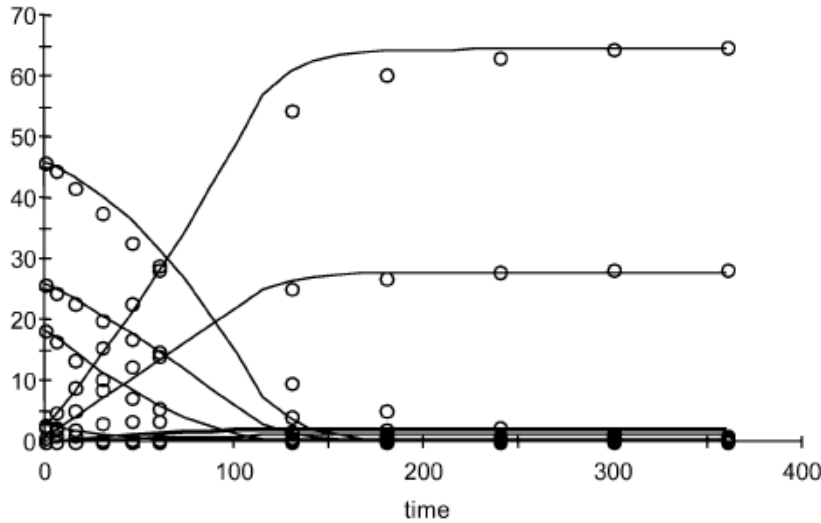
$$r_j = \frac{k_j K_A K_{H_2} c_j c_{H_2}}{(1 + \sum K_i c_i)(1 + K_{H_2} c_{H_2})}$$

# Kinetics in laboratory scale

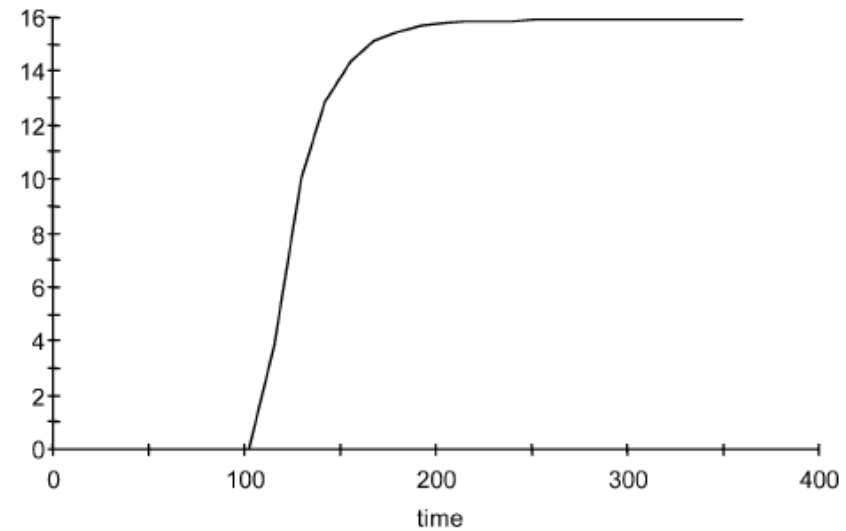


Concentrations as a function of reaction time

# Kinetics in plant scale



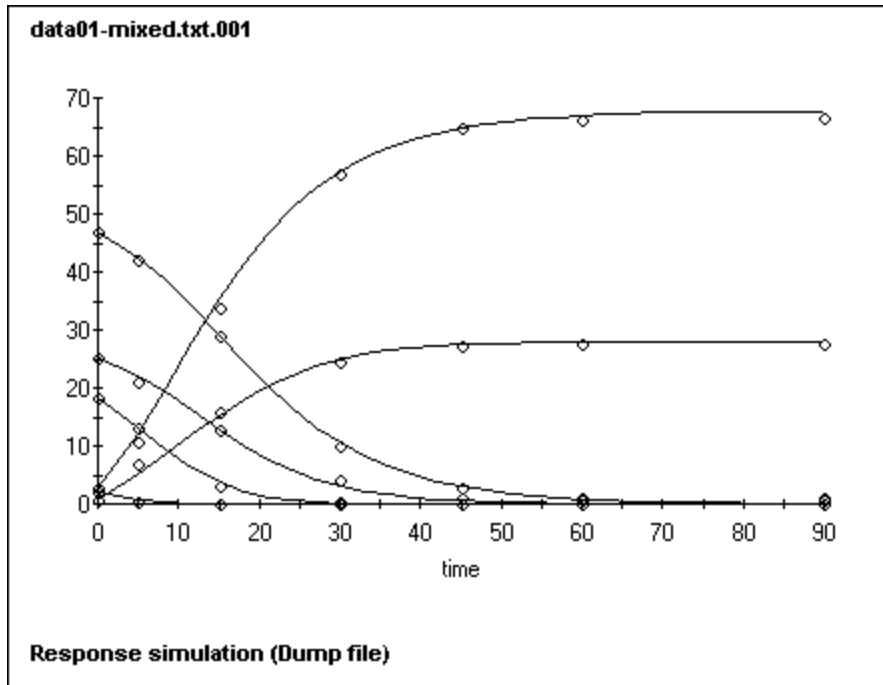
Concentration of organics



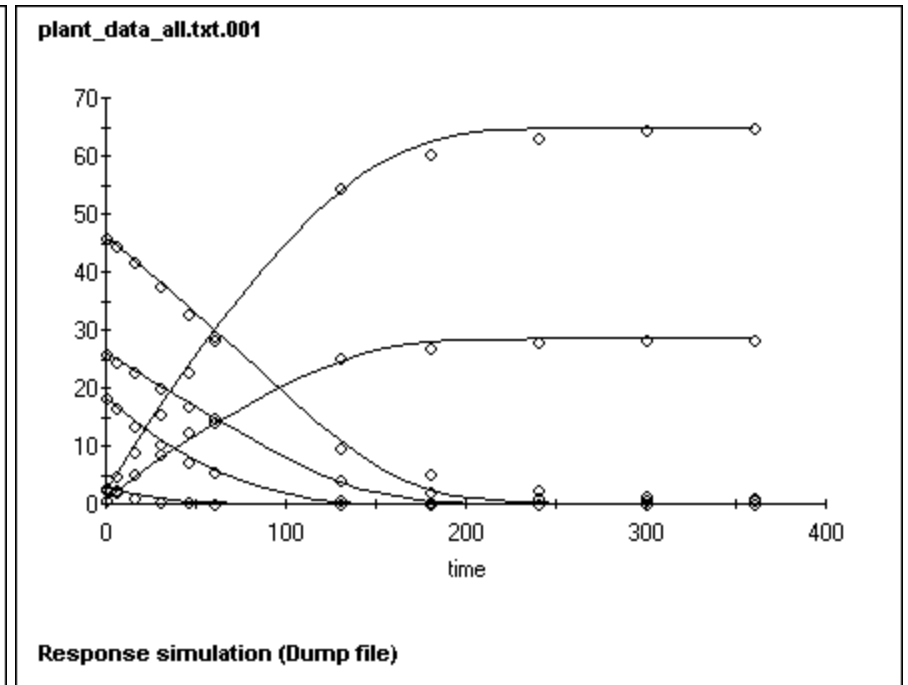
Hydrogen concentration in liquid phase



# Comparison of lab and plant scale

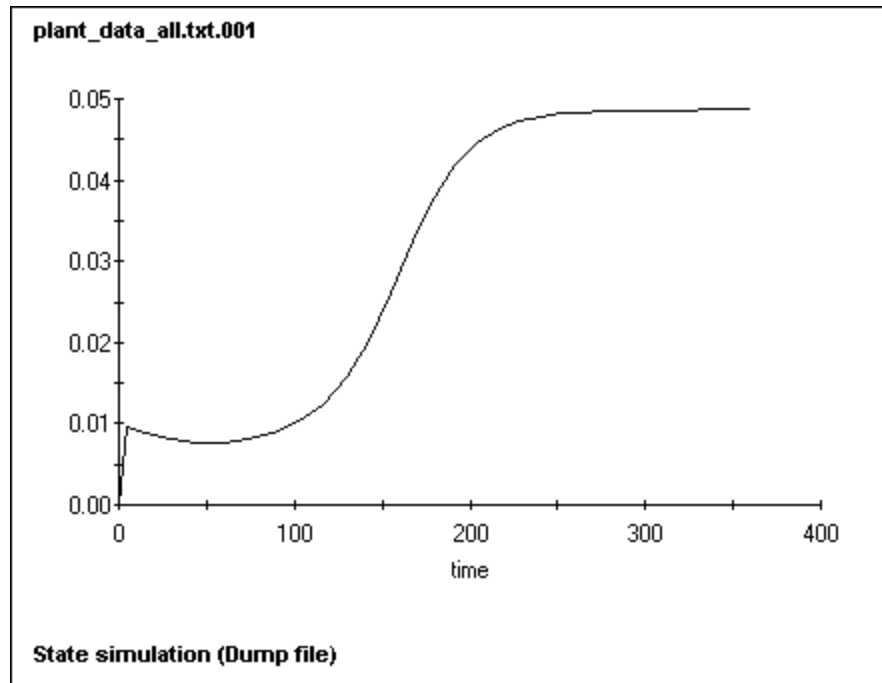


Laboratory

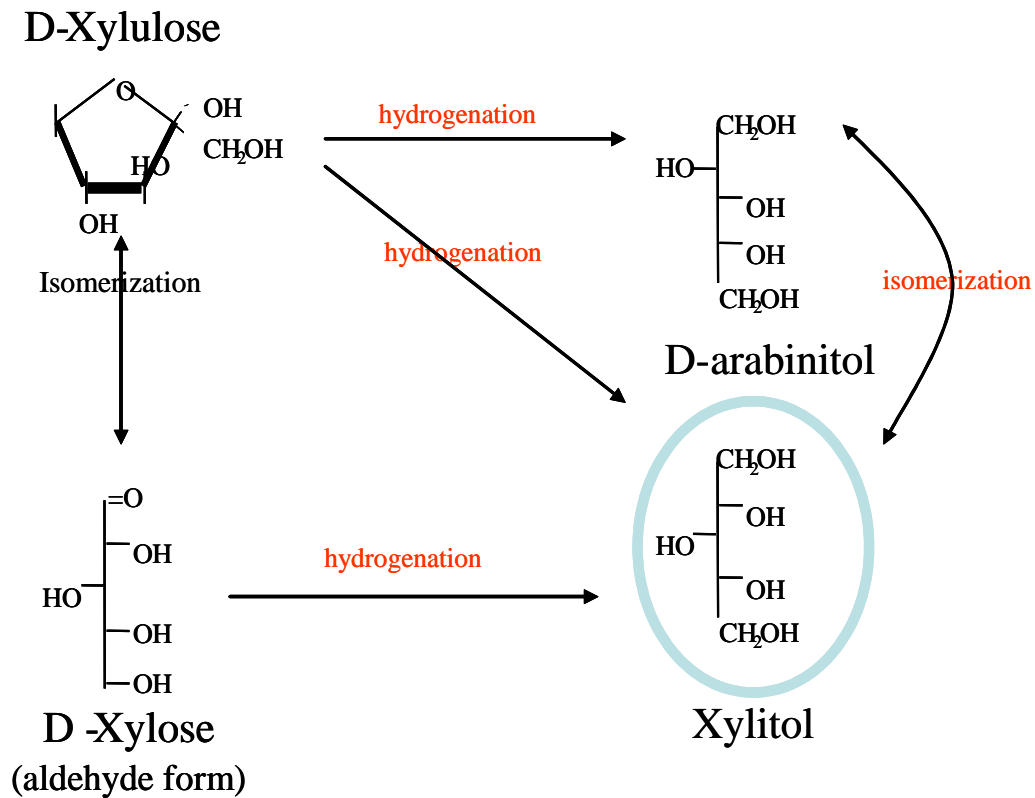


Factory

# Hydrogen concentration in liquid phase in plant scale



# Hydrogenation of Xylose

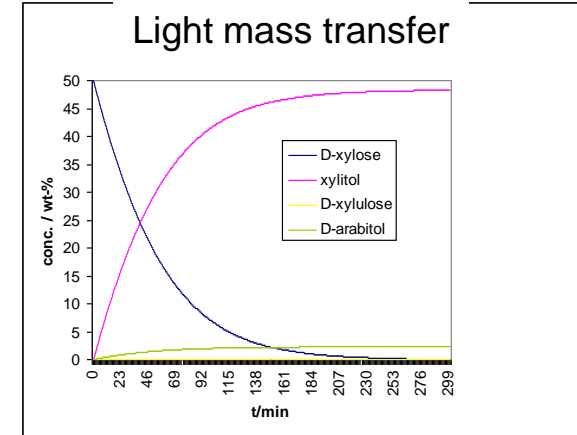
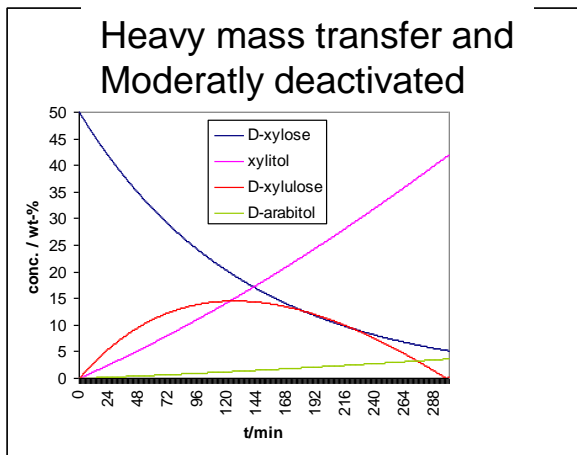
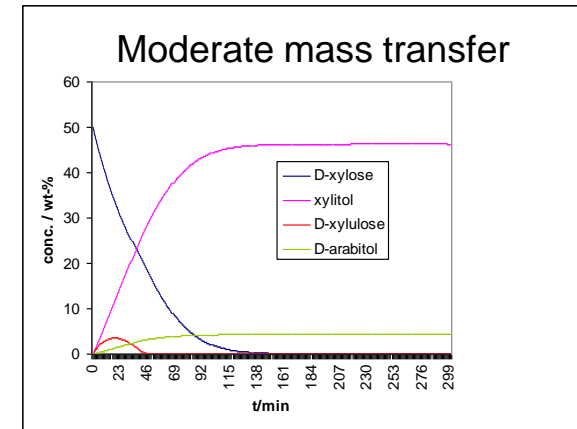
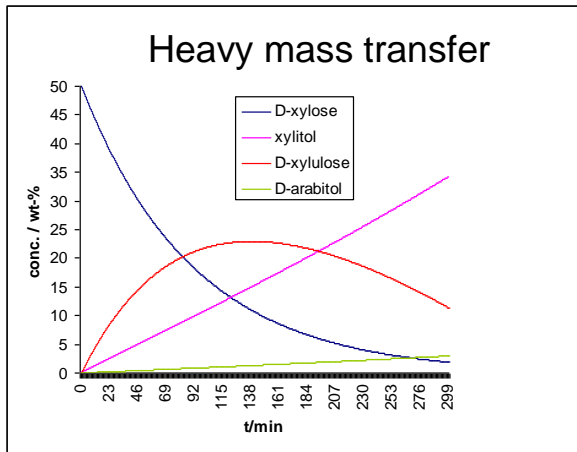


# Modelling results

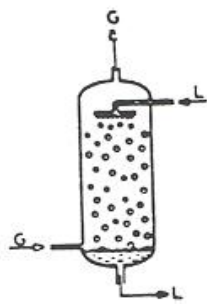
## Xylose hydrogenation



Effect of external mass transfer



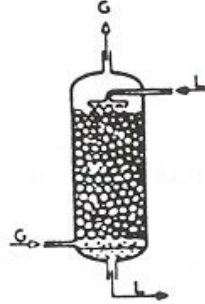
# Gas-liquid reactors



spray column



wetted wall



packed



bubble

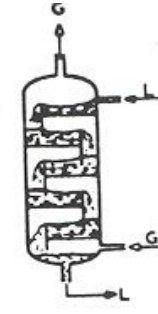
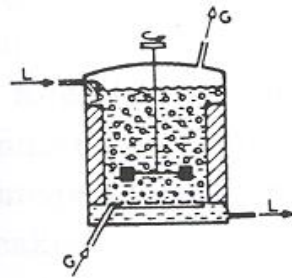
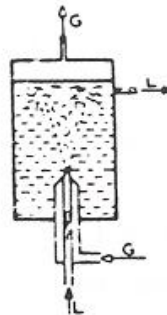


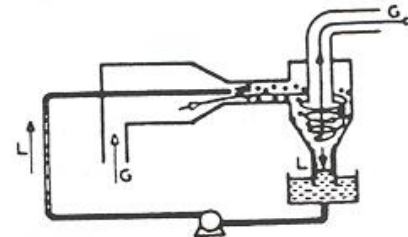
plate column



tank reactor



ejector reactor



Venturi scrubber

# Gas-liquid reactors



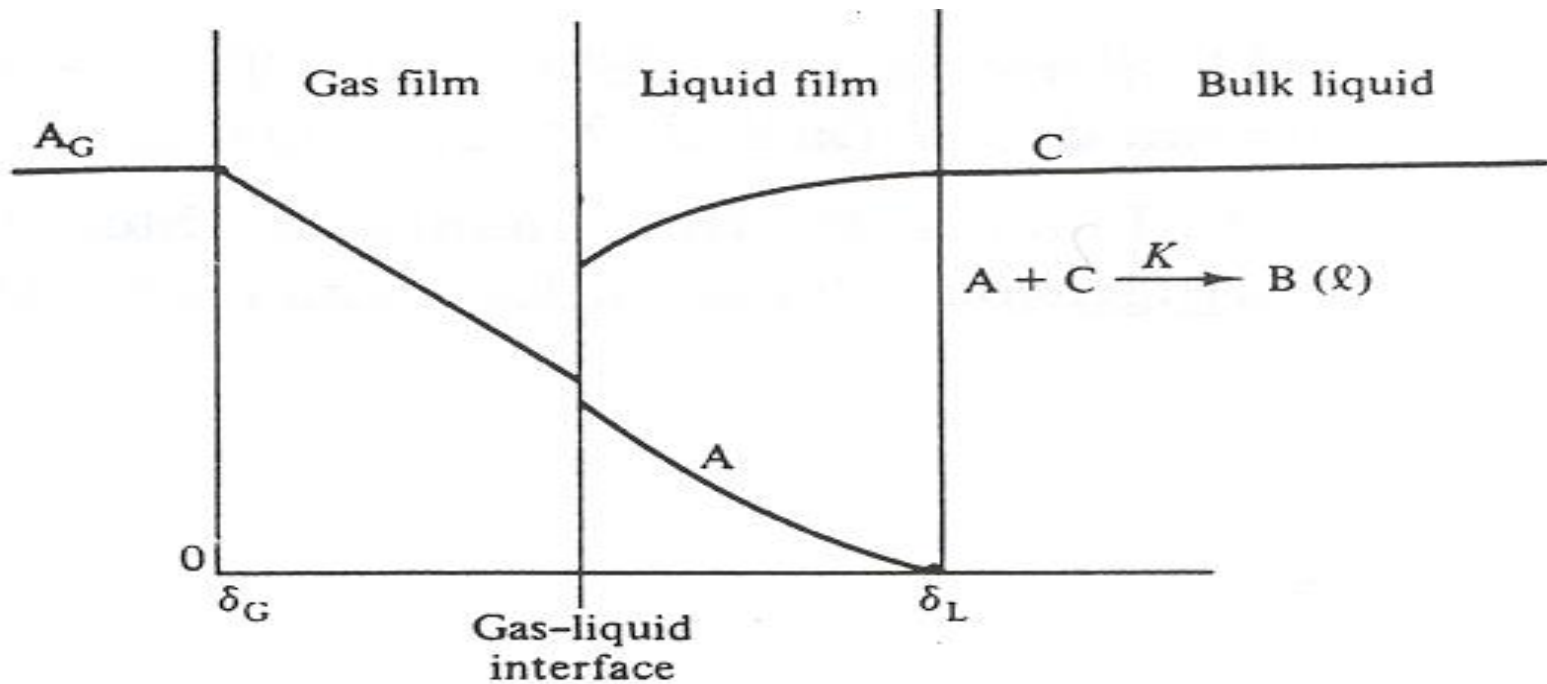
- Non-catalytic or homogeneously catalyzed reactions
  - Gas phase
  - Liquid phase ( + homogeneous catalyst)
- Components i gas phase diffuse to the gas-liquid boundary and dissolve in the liquid phase
- Product molecules desorb from liquid to gas or remain in liquid

# Gas-liquid reactions



- Synthesis of chemicals
- Gas absorption, gas cleaning
- Very many reactor constructions used, depending on the application

# Gas-liquid reaction: basic principle



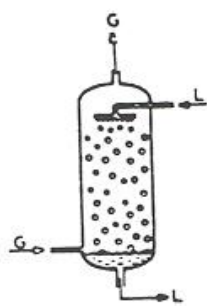


# Gas-liquid reactor constructions



- Spray column
- Wetted wall column
- Packed column
- Plate column
- Bubble columns
- Continuous, semibatch and batch tank reactors
- Gas lift reactors
- Venturi scrubbers

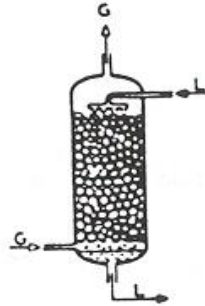
# Gas-liquid reactors - overview



spray column



wetted wall



packed



bubble

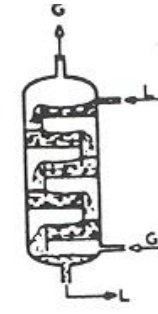
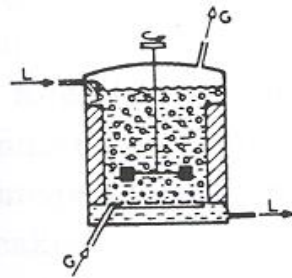
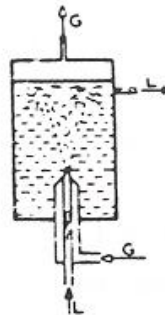


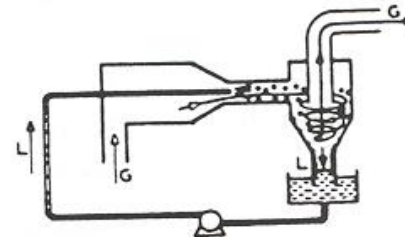
plate column



tank reactor

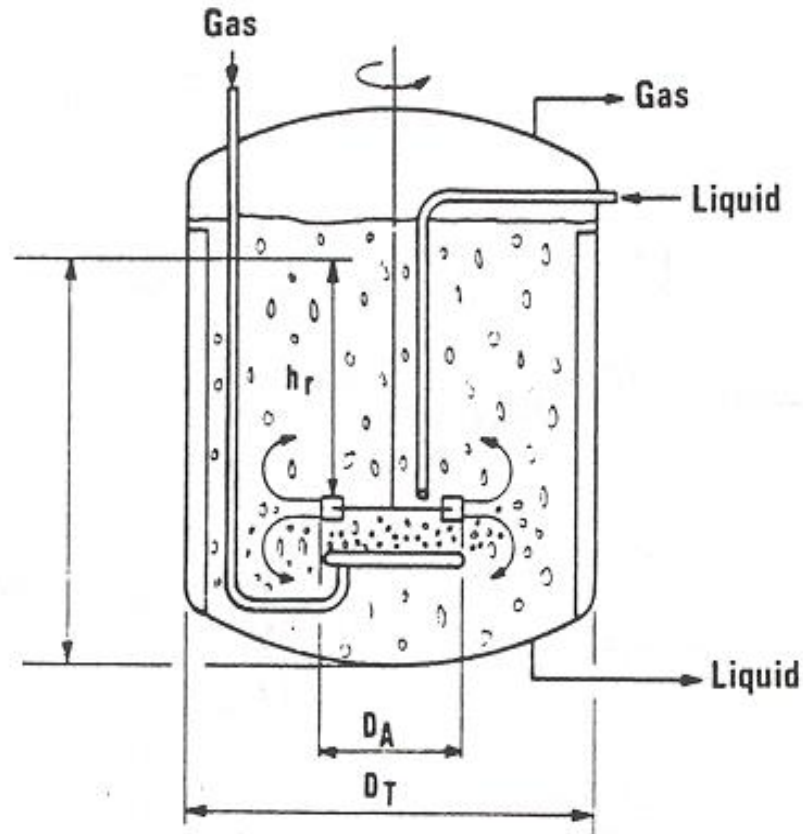


ejector reactor

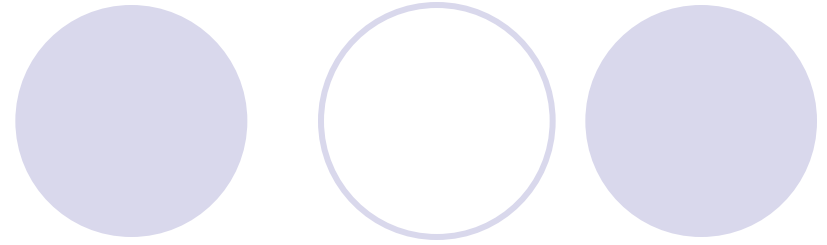


Venturi scrubber

# Tank reactor



# Gas-liquid reactors



- Packed column

- Absorption of gases

- Countercurrent principle: gas upwards, liquid downwards

- Column packings

- enable a large gas-liquid contact area

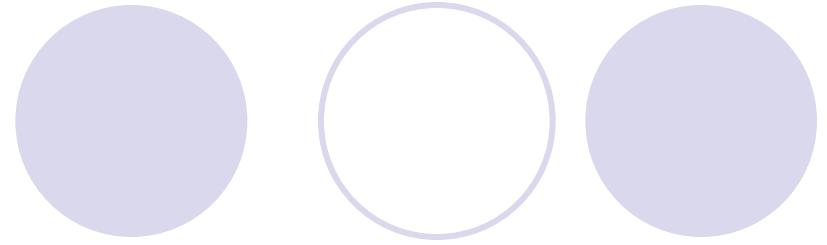
- made of ceramics, plastics or metal

- good gas distribution because of packings

- channeling can appear in liquid phase; can be handled with distribution plates

- Plug flow in gas and liquid phases

# Gas-liquid reactors



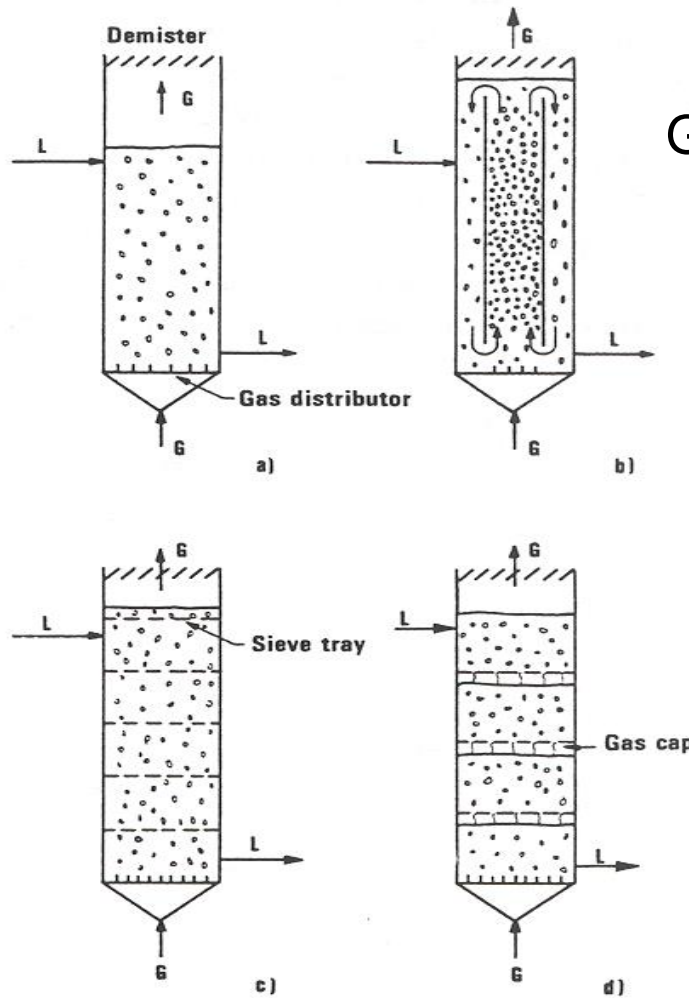
- Plate column

- Absorption of gases
- Countercurrent
- Various plates used as in distillation, e.g.
  - Bubble cap
  - Plate column

- Packed column

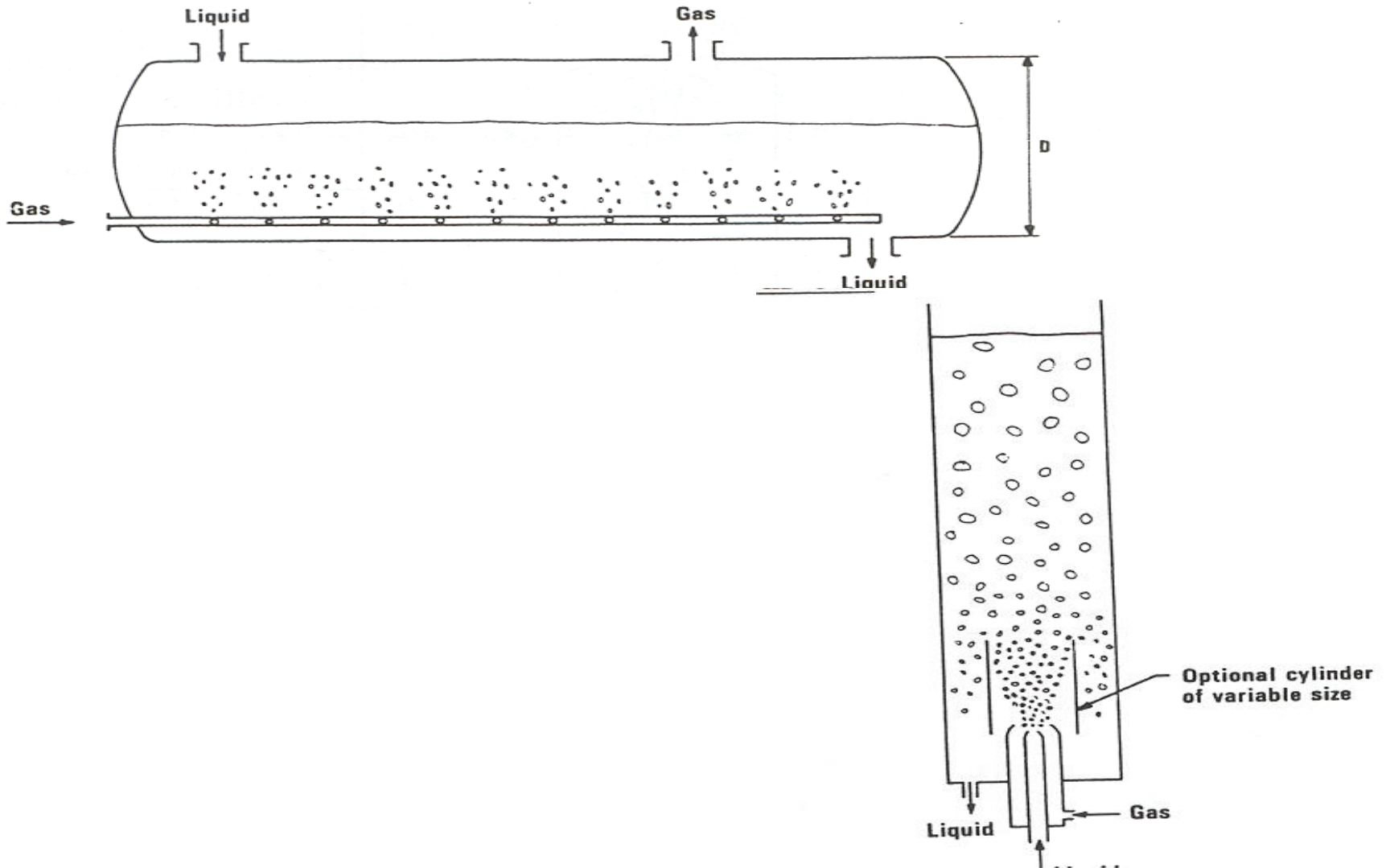
- Absorption of gases
- Countercurrent
- A lot of column packings available; continuous development

# Bubble column

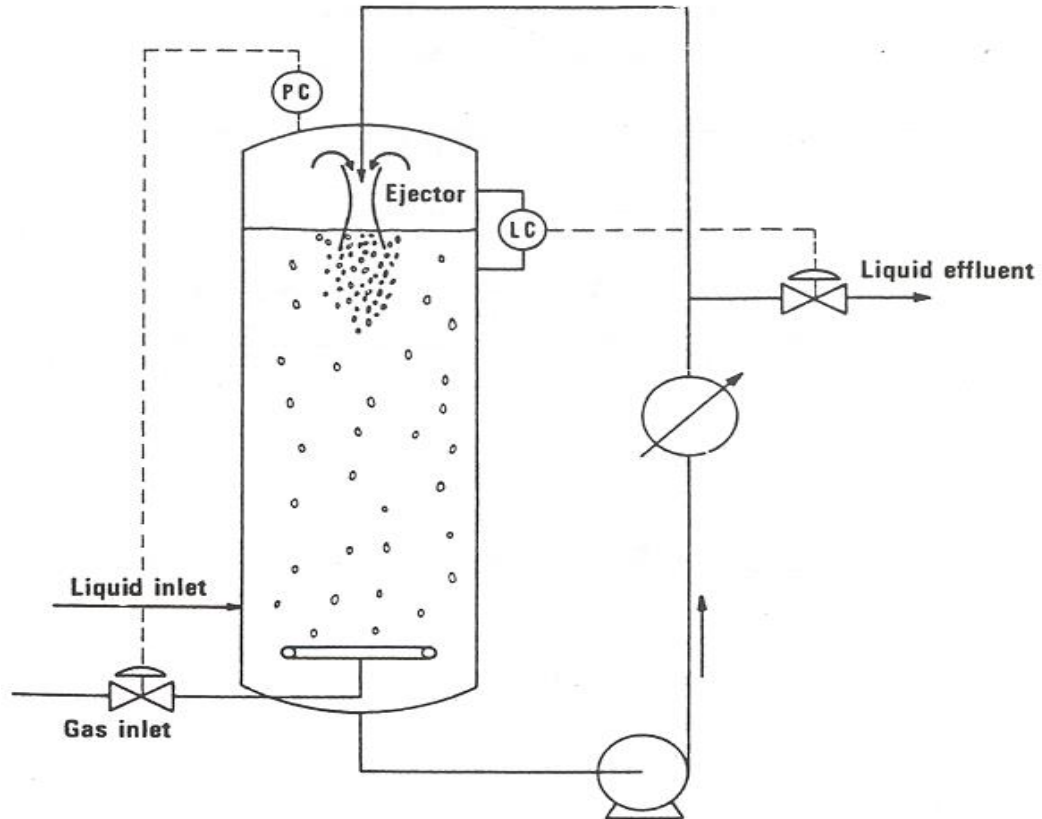


Gas-lift -reactor

# Bubble column – design examples

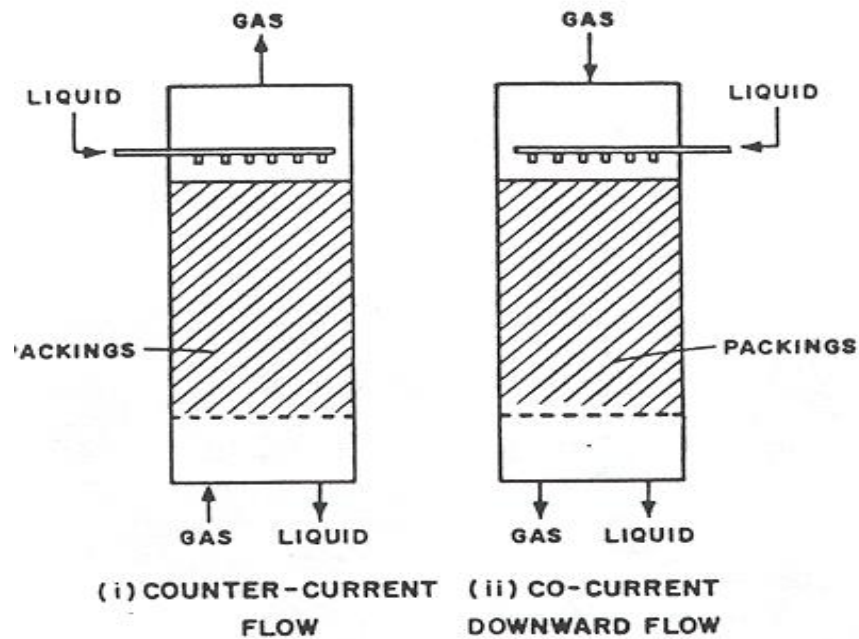


# Bubble column





# Packed column



(a) PACKED COLUMN

CONTINUOUS PHASE : GAS

DISPERSED PHASE : LIQUID

PACKING : USUALLY AN INERT MATERIAL

# Packings



**Miniring**



**Raschig ring**



**Lessing ring**



**Berl saddle**



**Intalox ring**



**Intalox saddle**

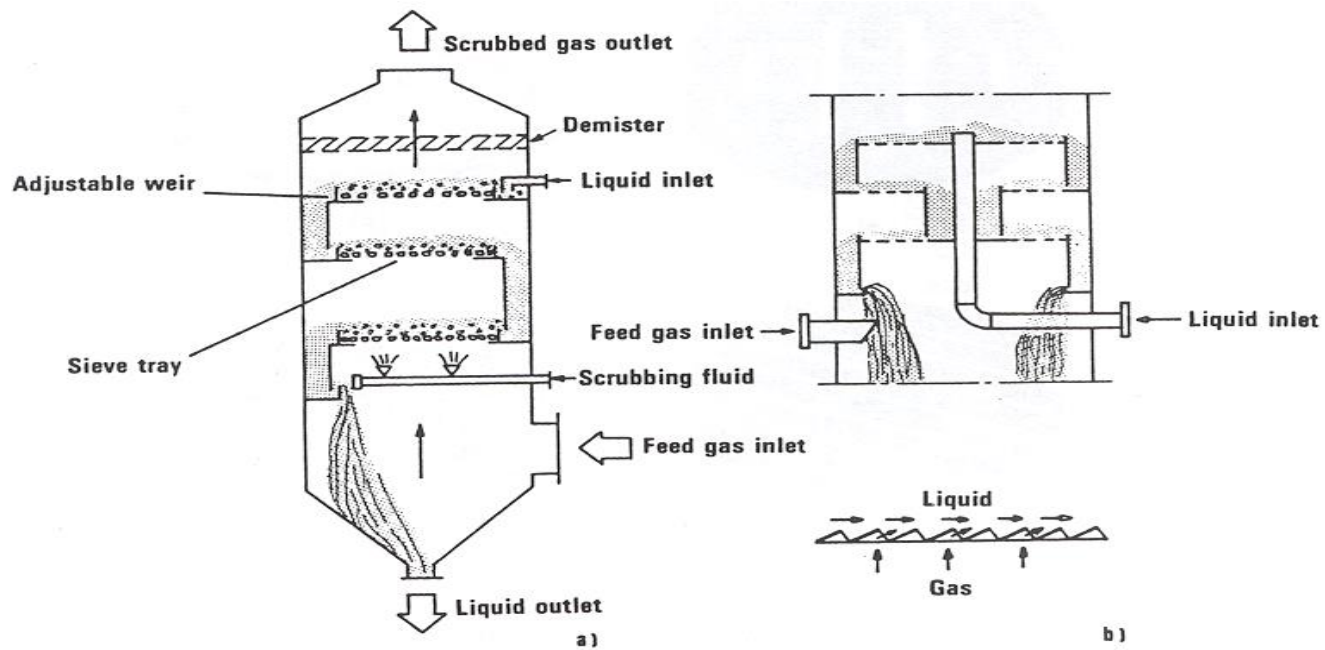


**Tellerette**

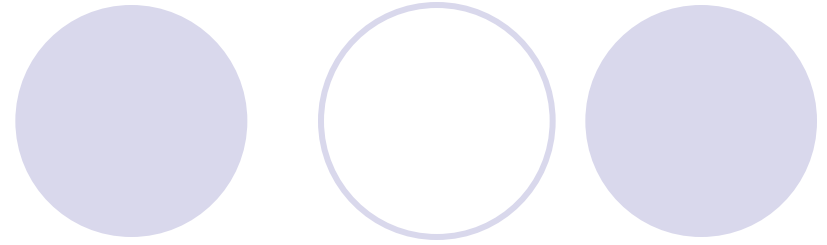


**Pall ring**

# Plate column



# Gas-liquid reactors



- Gas scrubbers

- Spray tower

- Gas is the continuous phase

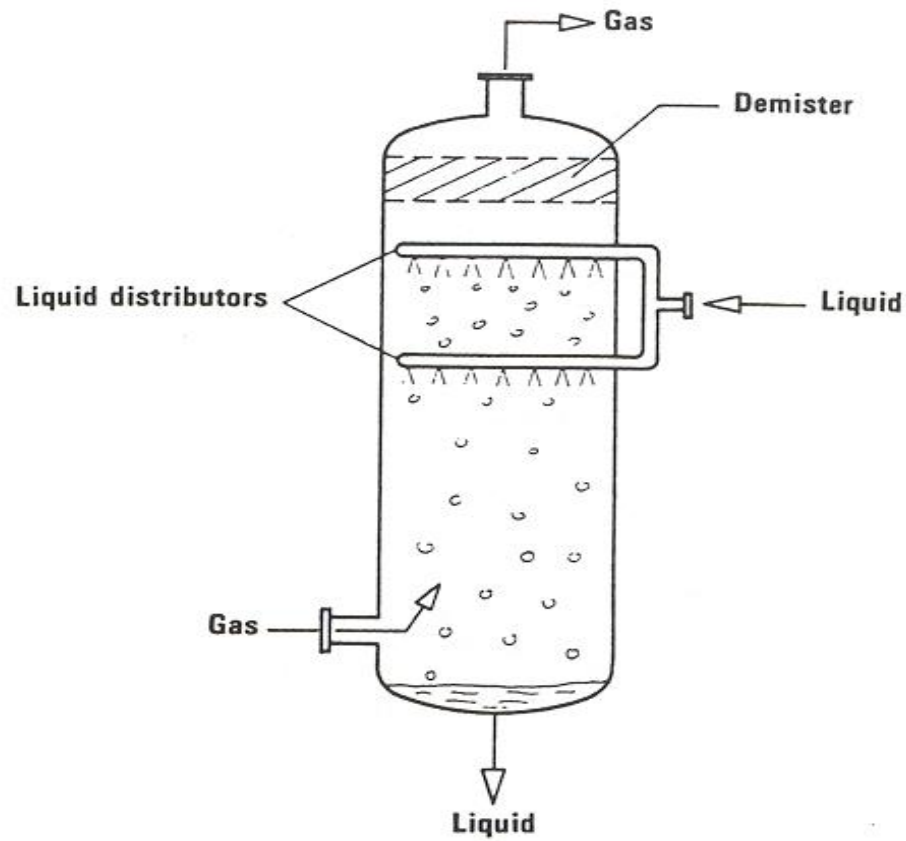
- In shower !

- Venturi scrubber

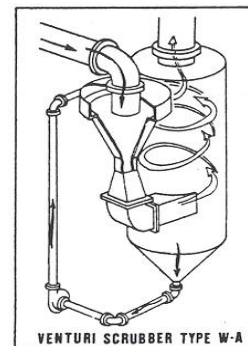
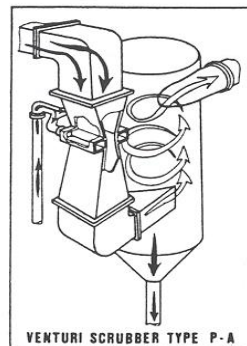
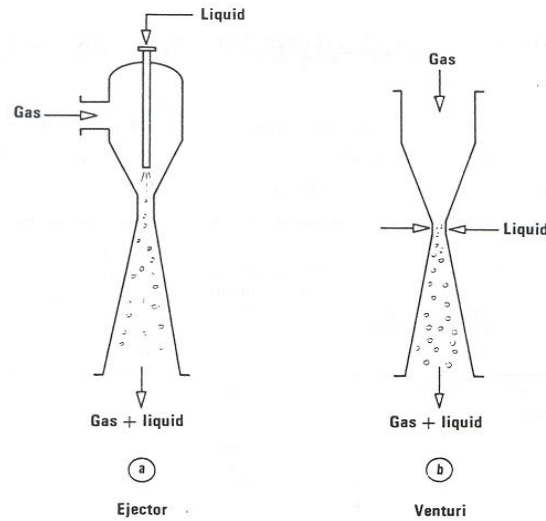
- Liquid dispergation via a venturi neck

- For very rapid reactions

# Spray tower

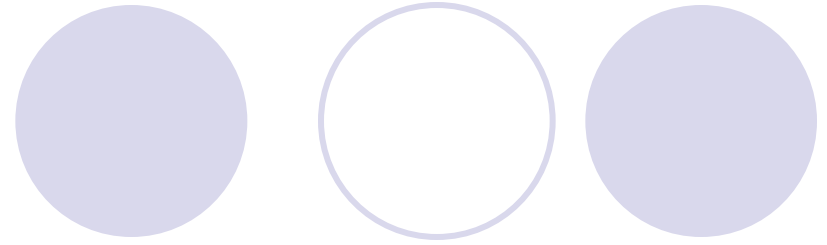


# Venturi scrubber



Technological details of Venturi scrubbers.  
Type PA, with liquid injection by nozzles.  
Type WA, with liquid stripping at neck.

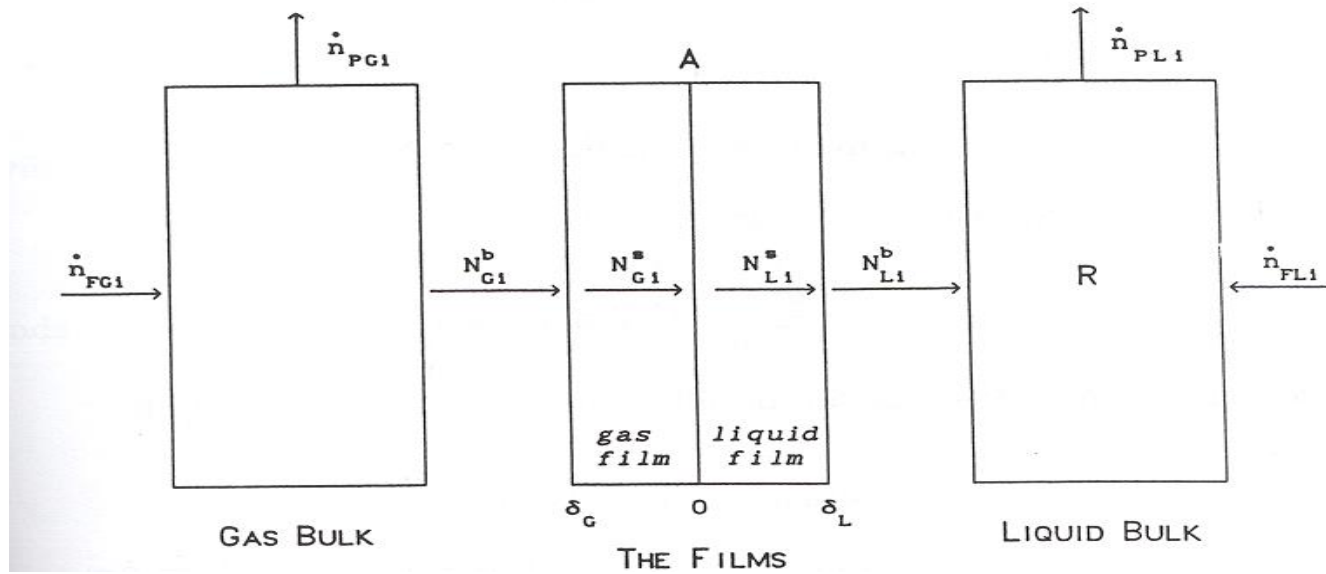
# Gas-liquid reactors



- Selection criteria

- Bubble columns for slow reactions
- Scrubbers or spray towers for rapid reactions
- Packed column or plate column if high reactant conversion is desired
-

# Mass balances

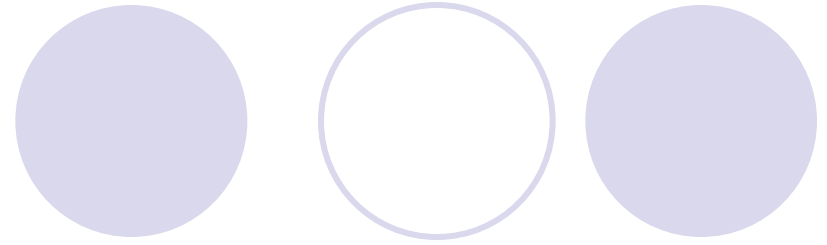


$$N_i A = \left( \right) \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^2 \text{s}} \left( \right) \text{m}^2$$



# Gas-liquid reactors

## Mass balances



- Plug flow

$$\dot{n}_{Li,in} + N_{Li}^b \Delta A + r_i \Delta V_L = \dot{n}_{Li,ut}$$

- Liquid phase  $\frac{d \dot{n}_{Li}}{dV_R} = N_{Li}^b a_v + \varepsilon_L r_i$

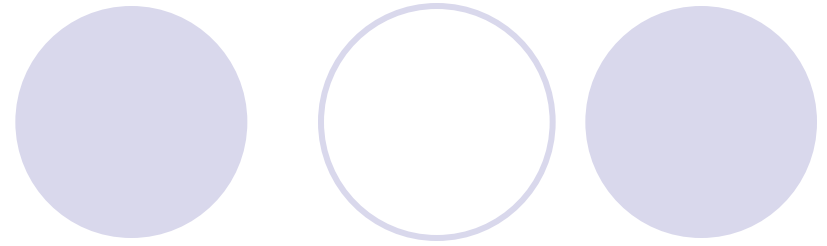
- Gas phase  $\frac{d \dot{n}_{Gi}}{dV_R} = \pm N_{Gi}^b a_v$

- $a_v$  = gas-liquid surface area/reactor volume

- $\varepsilon_L$  = liquid hold-up

# Gas-liquid reactions

## Mass balances



- Complete backmixing

$$\dot{n}_{Li,in} + N_{Li}^b A + r_i V_L = \dot{n}_{Li,ut}$$

- Liquid phase

$$\frac{\dot{n}_{Li} - \dot{n}_{0Li}}{V_R} = N_{Li}^b a_v + \varepsilon_L r_i$$

- Gas phase

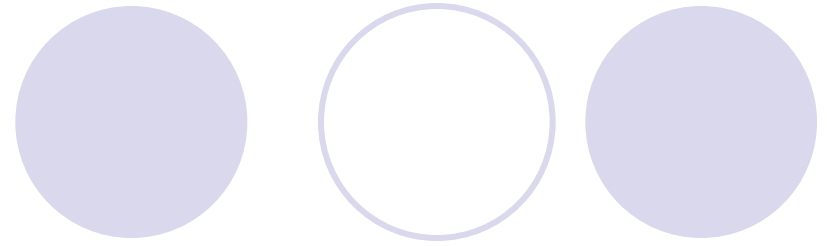
$$\frac{\dot{n}_{Gi} - \dot{n}_{0Gi}}{V_R} = -N_{Gi}^b a_v$$

- $a_v$  = gas-liquid surface area/reactor volume

- $\varepsilon_L$  = liquid hold-up

# Gas-liquid reactors

## Mass balances



- Batch reactor

- Liquid phase 
$$\frac{dn_{Li}}{dt} = (N_{Li}^b a_v + \varepsilon_L r_i) V_R$$

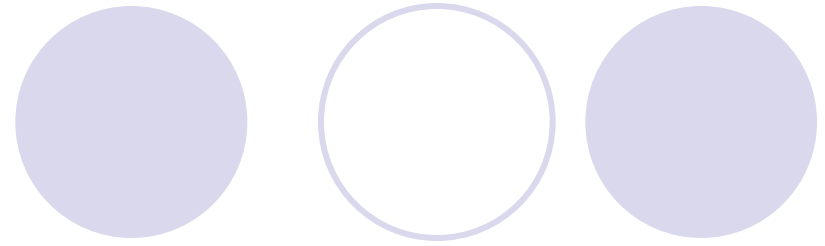
- Gas phase 
$$\frac{dn_{Gi}}{dt} = -N_{Gi}^b a_v V_R$$

- $a_v$  = interfacial area/reactor volume

- $\varepsilon_L$  = liquid hold-up

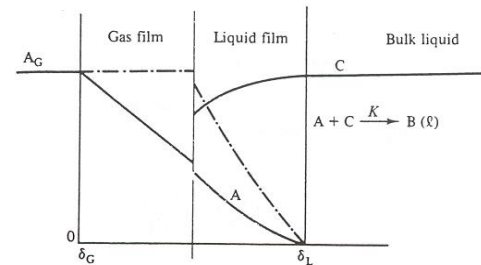
# Gas-liquid reactors

## - Gas-liquid film



- Fluxes in gas-liquid films

- $N_{Li}^b$        $N_{Gi}^b$



- Two-film theory

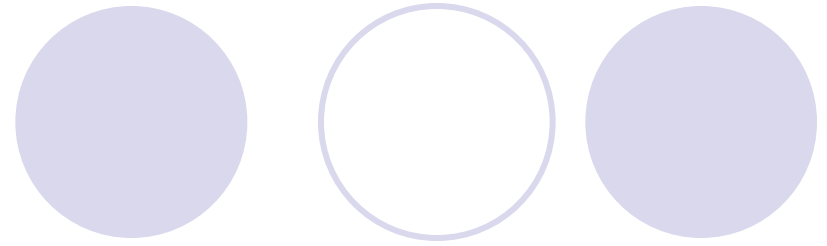
- Chemical reaction and molecular diffusion proceed simultaneously in the liquid film with a thickness of  $\delta_L$

- Only molecular diffusion in gas film, thickness  $\delta_G$

- Fick's law can be used:  $N_{Gi}^b = +D_{Gi} \left( \frac{dc_{Gi}}{dz} \right)_{z=\delta_G}$        $N_{Li}^b = -D_{Li} \left( \frac{dc_{Li}}{dz} \right)_{z=\delta_L}$

# Gas-liquid reactors

## Gas film



- Gas film, no reaction

$$\left( D_{Gi} \frac{dc_{Gi}}{dz} \right)_{in} A = \left( D_{Gi} \frac{dc_{Gi}}{dz} \right)_{ut} A$$

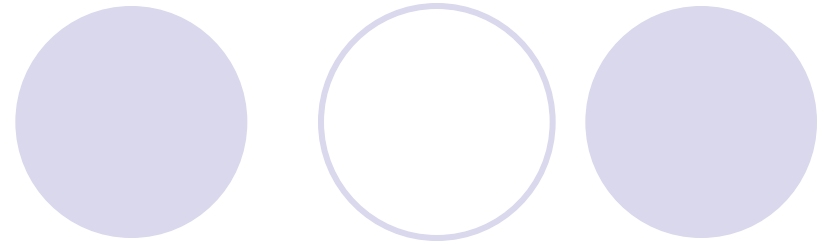
$$D_{Gi} \frac{d^2 c_{Gi}}{dz^2} = 0$$

$$N_{Gi}^b = k_{Gi} (c_{Gi}^b - c_{Gi}^s)$$

- Analytical solution possible
- The flux depends on the mass transfer coefficient and concentration difference

# Gas-liquid reactors

## Liquid film



- Diffusion and reaction in liquid film:

$$-\left(D_{Li} \frac{dc_{Li}}{dz}\right)_{in} A + r_i A \Delta z = -\left(D_{Li} \frac{dc_{Li}}{dz}\right)_{ut} A$$

$$D_{Li} \frac{d^2 c_{Li}}{dz^2} + r_i = 0$$

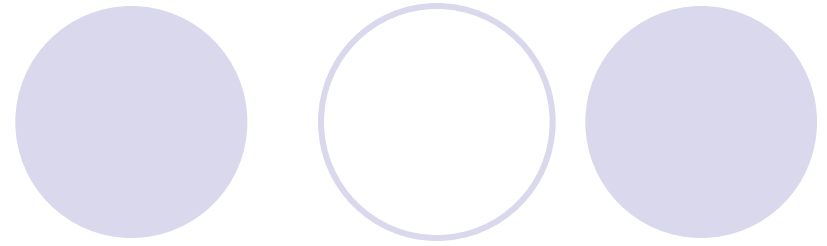
- Boundary conditions:

$$N_{Gi}^b = N_{Li} \quad \text{vid} \quad z = 0$$

$$c_{Li} = c_{Li}^b \quad \text{vid} \quad z = \delta_L$$

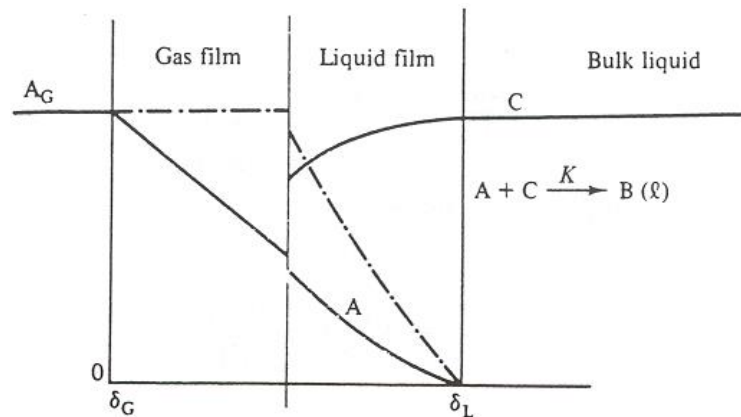
# Gas-liquid reactors

## Liquid film



- Liquid film

- Equation can be solved analytically for isothermas cases for few cases of linear kinetics; in other case numerical solution should be used





# Reaction categories

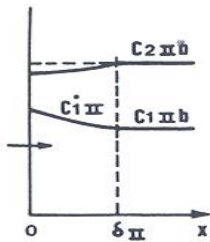
- Physical absorption
  - No reaction in liquid film, no reaction in liquid bulk
- Very slow reaction
  - The same reaction rate in liquid film and liquid bulk – no concentration gradients in the liquid film, a pseudo-homogeneous system
- Slow reaction
  - Reaction in the liquid film negligible, reactions in the liquid bulk; linear concentration profiles in the liquid film



# Reaction categories

- Moderate rates
  - Reaction in liquid film and liquid bulk
- Rapid reaction
  - Chemical reactions in liquid film, no reactions in bulk
- Instantaneous reaction
  - Reaction in liquid film; totally diffusion-controlled process

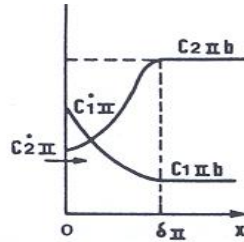
# Concentration profiles in liquid film



①

Slow reaction

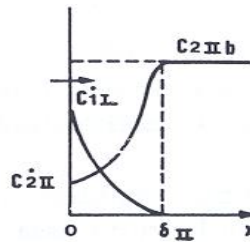
$$Ha < 0.3$$



②

Moderate-rate reaction

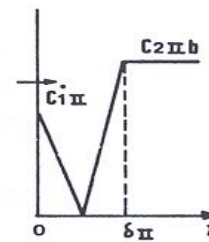
$$0.3 < Ha < 5$$



③

Fast reaction

$$Ha > 5$$

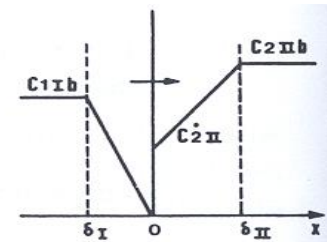


④

Instantaneous reaction

$$Ha > 5$$

$$\text{and } Ha/\mathcal{N}^2 > 10$$



⑤

Surface reaction

$$Ha > 5 \text{ and } Ha/\mathcal{N}^2 > 10$$

$$\text{and } \frac{C2_{IIb}}{C1_{Ib}} > \frac{k1I \sqrt{2D1I}}{k1II \sqrt{1D2II}}$$

# Enhancement factor

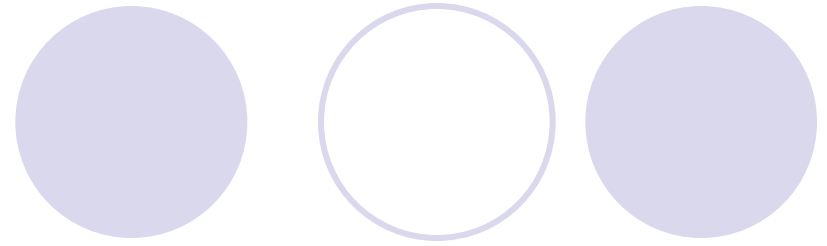
- Real flux/flux in the presence of pure physical absorption

$$E_A = \frac{N_{LA}^s}{\frac{c_{GA}^b - K_A c_{LA}^b}{\frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}}$$

- $E_A \geq 1$

# Gas-liquid reactors

- very slow reaction



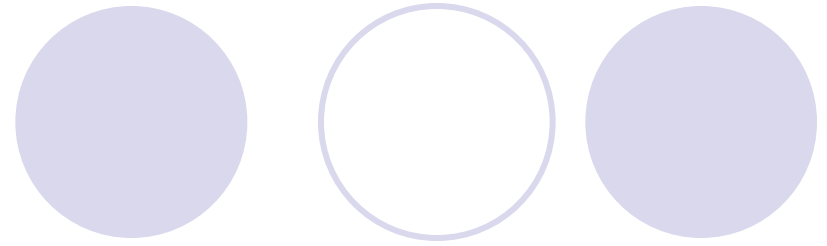
- No concentration gradients in the liquid film
- Depends on the role of diffusion resistance in the gas film

$$K_A = \frac{c_{GA}^s}{c_{LA}^b} \quad K_A = \frac{c_{GA}^b}{c_{LA}^b}$$

$$N_{GA}^b = N_{LA}^b = k_{GA} (c_{GA}^b - K_A c_{LA}^b)$$

# Gas-liquid reactors

## - slow reaction



- Diffusion resistance both in gas- and liquid- film retards the adsorption, but the role of reactions is negligible in the liquid film

$$N_{GA}^b = k_{GA} (c_{GA}^b - c_{GA}^s)$$

$$N_{LA}^b = k_{LA} (c_{LA}^s - c_{LA}^b)$$

$$N_{LA}^b = \frac{c_{GA}^b - K_A c_{LA}^b}{\frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}$$

# Gas-liquid reactors

- moderate rate in liquid film

- Chemical reactions in liquid film

$$N_{GA}^b \neq N_{LA}^b$$
$$N_{GA}^b = N_{GA}^s = N_{LA}^s$$

← Reaction in liquid film  
No reaction in gas film

$$K_A = \frac{c_{GA}^s}{c_{LA}^s}$$
$$D_{LA} \frac{d^2 c_{LA}}{dz^2} + r_A = 0$$

- The transport equation should be solved numerically



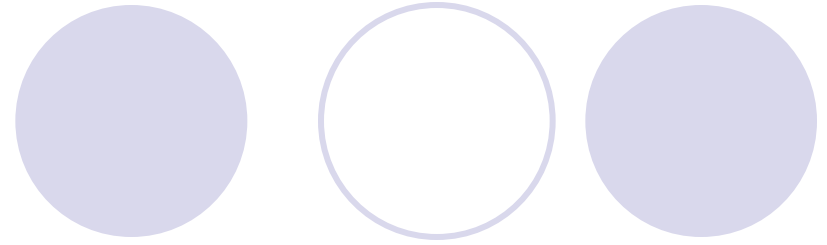
# Moderate rate in the liquid film

- Transport equation can be solved analytically only for some special cases:

- isothermal liquid film – zero or first order kinetics

Approximative solutions exist for rapid second order kinetics

# Moderate rate...



- Zero order kinetics

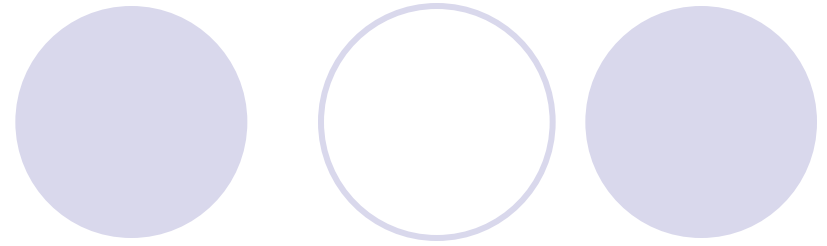
$$\frac{d^2 c_{LA}}{dz^2} = -\frac{\nu_A k}{D_{LA}}$$

$$N_{LA}^s = \frac{c_{GA}^b - K_A c_{LA}^b (M - 1)}{\frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}$$

$$M = -\frac{\nu_A k D_{LA}}{2k_{LA}^2 c_{LA}^b}$$



# Moderate rate...



- First order kinetics

$$\frac{d^2 c_{LA}}{dz^2} = -\frac{v_A k c_{LA}}{D_{LA}}$$

$$N_{LA}^s = \frac{c_{GA}^b - \frac{K_A c_{LA}^b}{\cosh(\sqrt{M})}}{\frac{\tanh \sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{M}} \frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}$$

$$M = -\frac{v_A k D_{LA}}{k_{LA}^2} = -\frac{v_A k}{D_{LA}} \delta_L^2$$

- Hatta number  $Ha = \sqrt{M}$  (compare with Thiele modulus)

# Rapid reactions



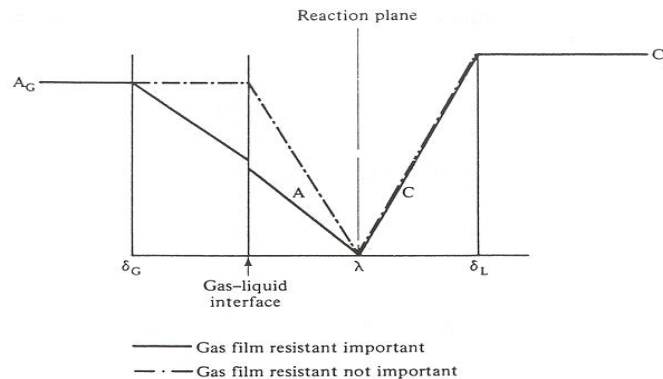
- Special case of reactions with finite rate
- All gas components totally consumed in the film; bulk concentration is zero,  $c_{LA}^b=0$

# Instantaneous reactions

- Components react completely in the liquid film

$$D_{LA} \frac{d^2 c_{LA}}{dz^2} = 0$$

- A reaction plane exists



- Reaction plane coordinate

$$z' = \frac{\frac{v_B \delta_L}{D_{LB} c_{LB}}}{\frac{v_A}{D_{LA} c_{LA}^s} + \frac{v_B}{D_{LB} c_{LB}^s}}$$

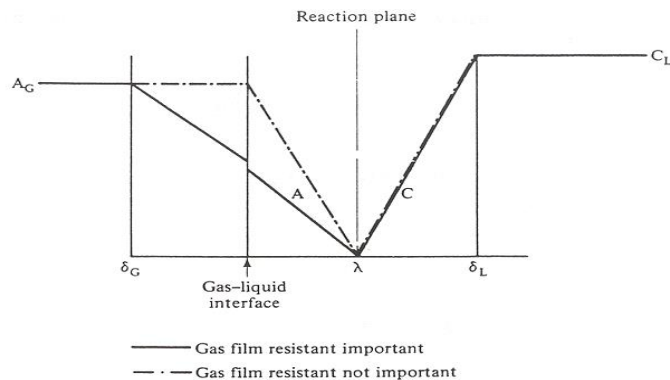
# Instantaneous reactions

- Enhancement factor:

$$E_A = 1 + \frac{v_A D_{LB} c_{LB}^b K_A}{v_B D_{LA} c_{GA}^b}$$

- Flux at the interface:

$$N_{LA}^s = \frac{c_{GA}^b + \frac{v_A D_{LB}}{v_B D_{LA}} K_A c_{LB}^b}{\frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}$$



# Instantaneous reactions

- Flux

$$N_{LA}^s = \frac{c_{GA}^b + \frac{v_A D_{LB}}{v_B D_{LA}} K_A c_{LB}^b}{\frac{K_A}{k_{LA}} + \frac{1}{k_{GA}}}$$

- Only diffusion coefficients affect !
- For simultaneous reactions can several reaction planes appear in the film

# Fluxes in reactor mass balances

- Fluxes are inserted in mass balances

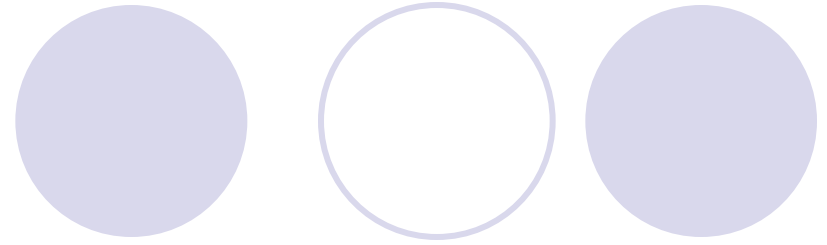
$$N_{Gi}^b = N_{Gi}^s = N_{Li}^s$$

- For reactants:
- For slow and very slow reactions: (no reaction in liquid film)

$$N_{Li}^b < N_{Li}^s$$

$$N_{Li}^b = N_{Li}^s$$

# General approach



- We are left with the model for the liquid film:

$$D_{Li} \frac{d^2 c_{Li}}{dz^2} + r_i = 0$$

$$N_{Li}^b = -D_{Li} \left( \frac{dc_{Li}}{dz} \right)_{z=\delta_L}$$

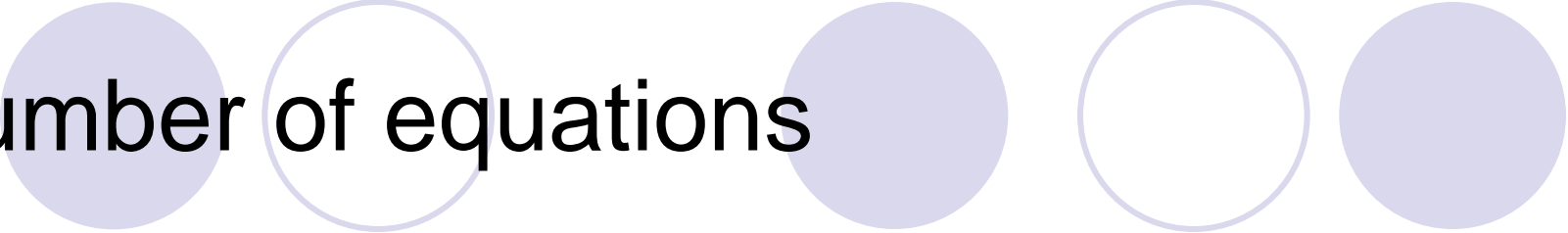


# Solution of mass balances

- Numerical strategy:
  - Algebraic equations
    - Newton-Raphson method
  - Differential equations, initial value problem (IVP)
    - Backward difference- and SI Runge-Kutta-methods
  - Differential equations, BVP
    - orthogonal collocation or finite differences



# Number of equations



- $N$  = number of components in the system
- $N$  eqs for liquid phase;  $N$  eqs for gas phase
- $N$  eqs for the liquid film
- Energy balances
  - 1 for gas phase
  - 1 for liquid phase
- $3N+2$  equations in total

# Mass transfer coefficients

- Flux through the gas film

$$N_{GA}^b = N_{GA}^s = k_{GA} (c_{GA}^b - c_{GA}^s)$$

- Partial pressures often used:

$$N_{GA}^b = N_{GA}^s = k'_{GA} (p_A - p_A^s)$$

- Ideal gas law gives the relation:  $k_{GA} = k'_{GA} RT$

# Gas-liquid equilibria

- Definition

$$K_A = \frac{c_{GA}^s}{c_{LA}^s}$$

- For sparingly soluble gases:

- Relation becomes

$$He_A = \frac{p_A^s}{c_{LA}^s}$$

$$He'_A = \frac{p_A^s}{x_{LA}^s}$$

- $K_A$  from thermodynamics; often Henry's constant is enough

$$K_A = \frac{He_A}{RT}$$

# Simulation example



- Chlorination of p-kresol

- p-cresol +  $\text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow$  monochloro p-kresol + HCl

- monochloro p-kresol +  $\text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow$  dichloro p-kresol + HCl

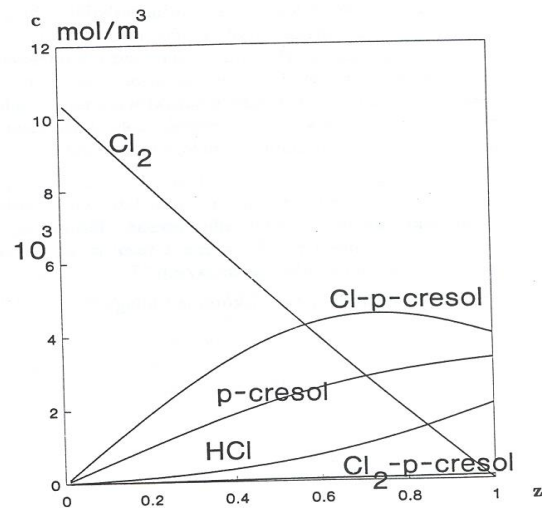
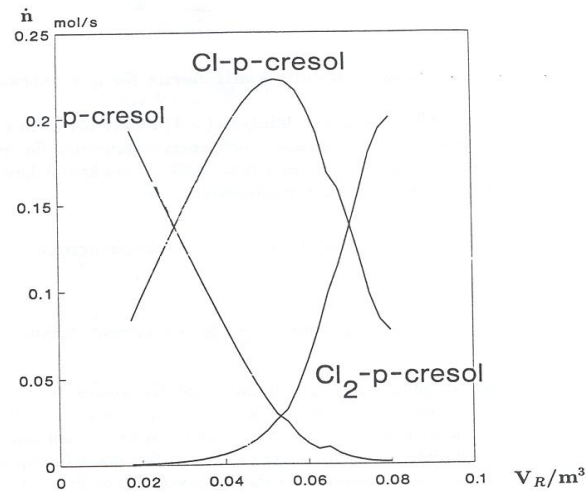
- CSTR

- Newton-Raphson-iteration

- Liquid film

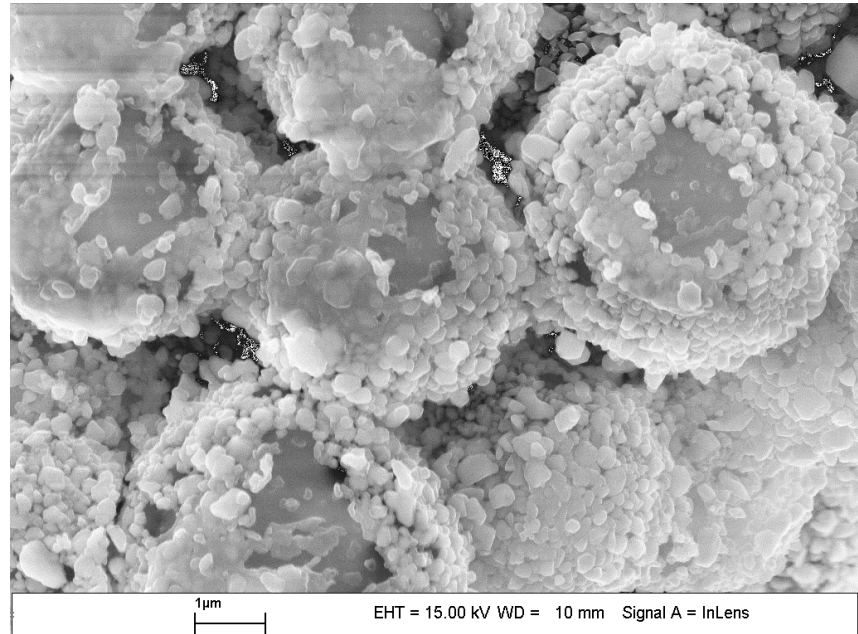
- Orthogonal collocation

# Chlorination of para-cresol in a CSTR



# Fluid-solid reactions

- Three main types of reactions:
  - Reactions between gas and solid
  - Reactions between liquid and solid
  - Gas-liquid-solid reactions



# Fluid-solid reactions

- The size of the solid phase

- Changes:

- Burning of charcoal or wood

- Does not change:

- oxidation of sulfides, e.g. zinc sulphide  $\rightarrow$  zinc oxide

# Reactors for fluid-solid reactions



- Reactor configurations

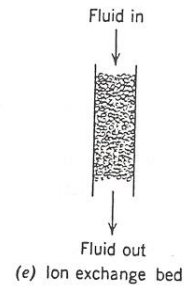
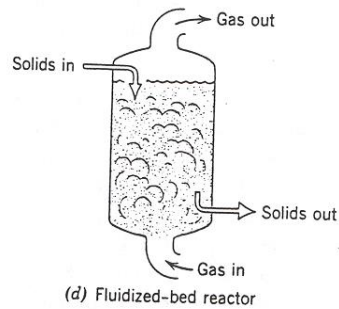
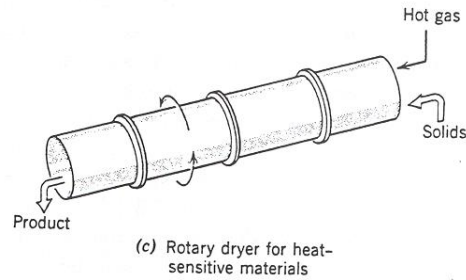
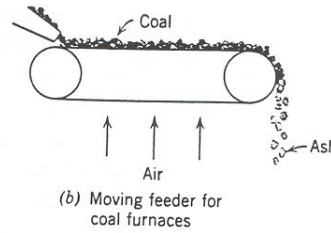
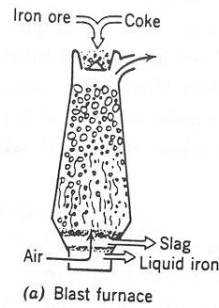
- Fluidized bed

- Moving bed

- Batch, semibatch and continuous tank reactors  
(liquid and solid, e.g. CMC production, leaching of minerals)



# Processes and reactors



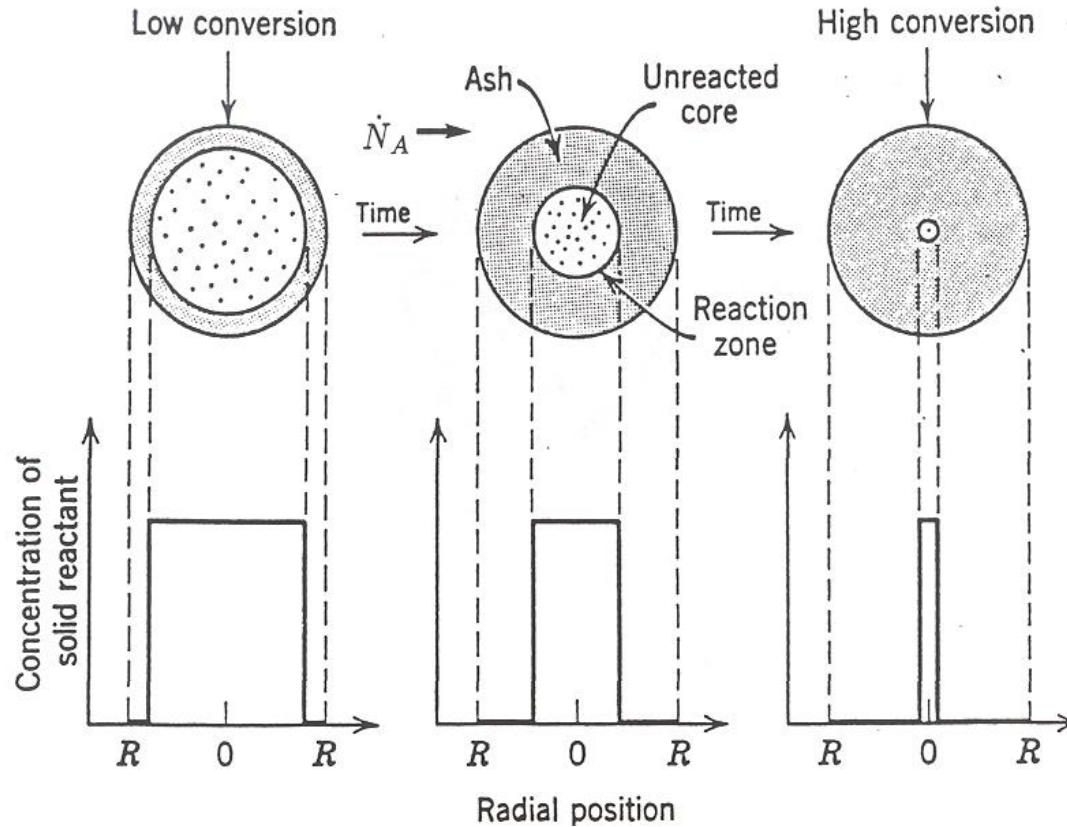
# Fluid-solid reaction modelling

- Mathematical models used
  - Porous particle model
    - Simultaneous chemical reaction and diffusion throughout the particle
  - Shrinking particle model
    - Reaction product continuously removed from the surface
  - Product layer model (shrinking core model)
    - A porous product layer is formed around the non-reacted core of the solid particle
  - Grain model
    - The solid phase consists of smaller non-porous particles (rasberry structure)

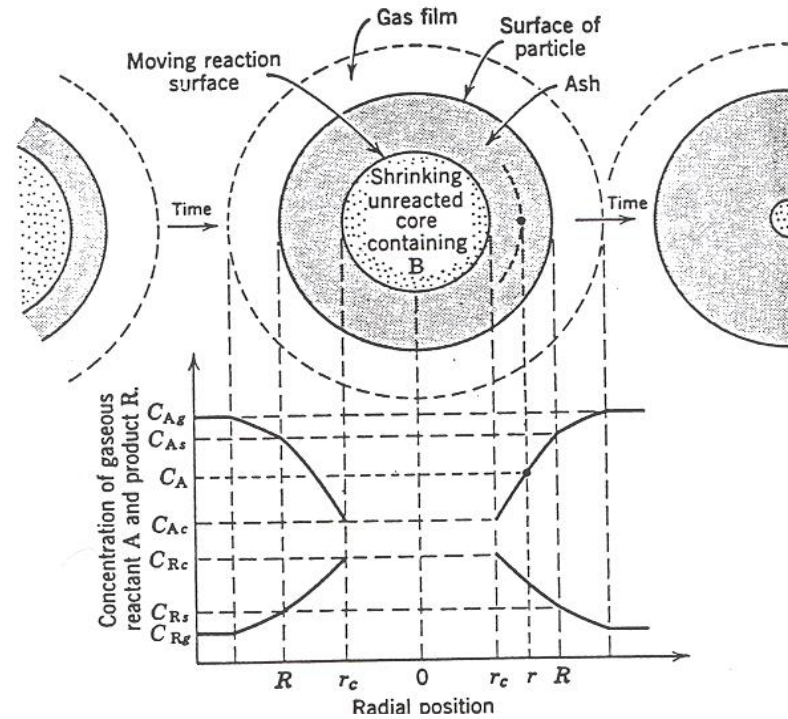
# Fluid-solid reactions

- Solid particles react with gases in such a way that a narrow reaction zone is formed
- Shrinking particle model can thus often be used even for porous particles
- Grain model most realistic but mathematically complicated

# Product layer

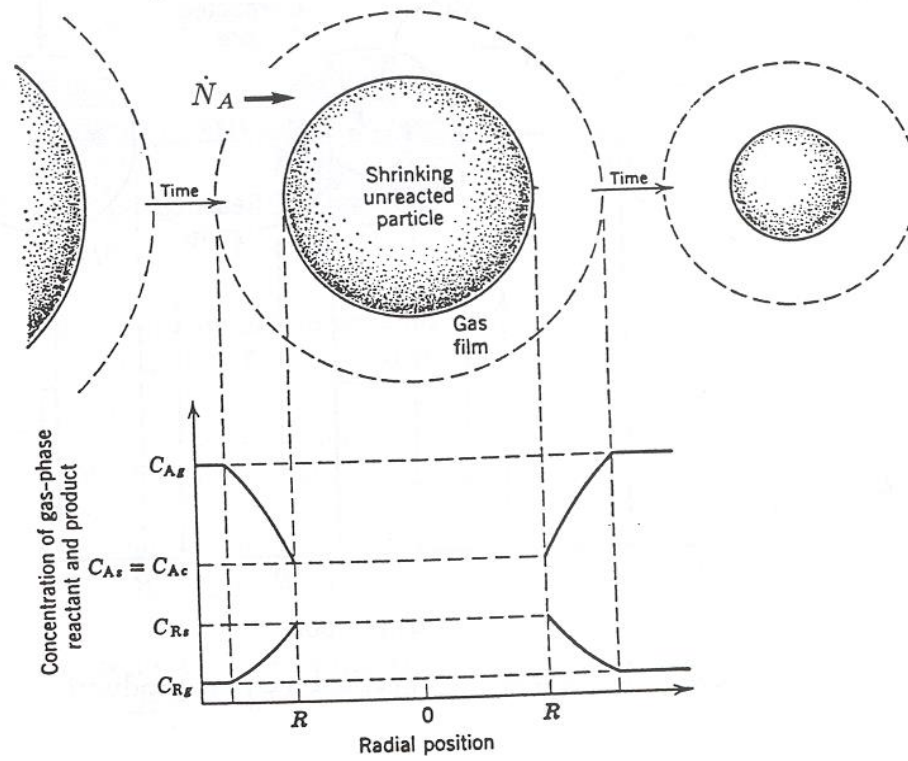


# Product layer

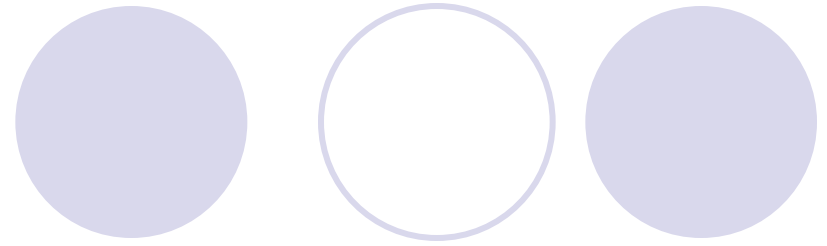
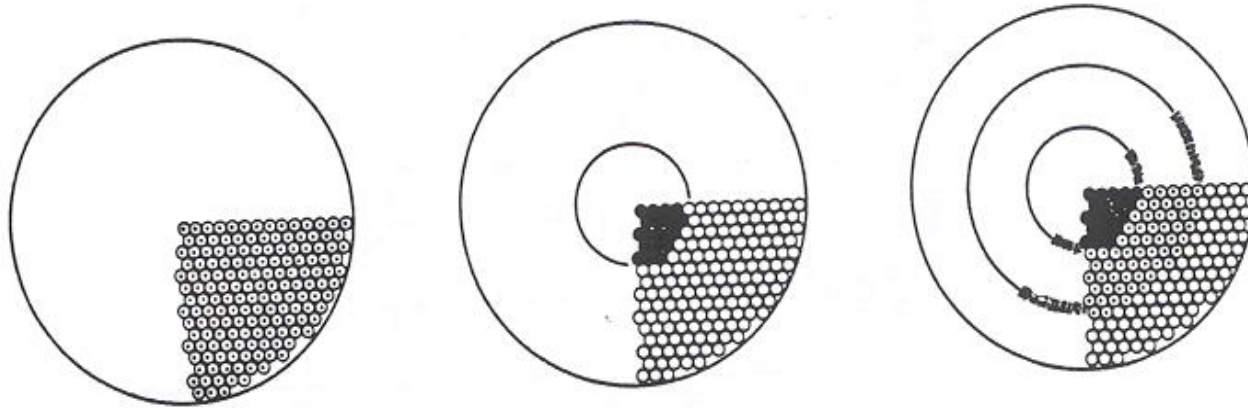


Concentration profiles in the product layer

# Shrinking particle



# Grain model



# Fluid-solid reactions

- Particle with a porous product layer
  - Gas or liquid film around the product layer
  - Porous product layer
  - The reaction proceeds on the surface of non-reacted solid material
    - Gas molecules diffuse through the gas film and through the porous product layer to the surface of fresh, non-reacted material



# Fluid-solid reactions

- Reaction between A in fluid phase and B in solid phase

$$RA = \left( \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^2 \text{s}} \right) \text{m}^2$$

- R=reaction rate, A=particle surface area
- Generated B= Accumulated B

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{M}{x_B \rho_P} v_B R(c^s)$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- Diffusion through the porous product layer (spherical particle)

$$D_{EA} \left( \frac{d^2 c_A}{dr^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{dc_A}{dr} \right) = 0$$

- Solution gives  $N_A = D_{eA} (dc_A/dr)$ :

$$N_A = \frac{D_{EA} (c_A^b - c_A^s)}{r \left( 1 - \frac{r}{R} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{Bi_M} \right) \right)} = -v_A R (c^s)$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- Fick's law is applied for the diffusion in the product layer gives the particle radius

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{M}{x_B \rho_p} \frac{v_B D_{eA} (c_A^b - c_A^s)}{(-v_A) r \left( 1 - \frac{r}{R} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{Bi_{AM}} \right) \right)}$$

- Surface concentration is obtained from

$$\frac{D_{ei} (c_i^b - c_i^s)}{r \left( 1 - \frac{r}{R} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{Bi_{iM}} \right) \right)} = -v_i R (c^s)$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- For first-order kinetics an analytical solution is possible
- Four cases – rate limiting steps
  - Chemical reaction
  - Diffusion through product layer and fluid film
  - Diffusion through the product layer
  - Diffusion through the fluid film

# Fluid-solid reactions

- Reaction time ( $t$ ) and total reaction time ( $t_0$ ) related to the particle radius ( $r$ )
- Limit cases
  - Chemical reaction controls the process – Thiele modulus is small -> Thiele modulus small
  - Diffusion through product layer and fluid film rate limiting -> Thiele modulus large

# Reaktorer med reaktiv fast fas

- Diffusion through the product layer much slower than diffusion through the fluid  $\rightarrow Bi_{AM} = \infty$
- Diffusion through fluid film rate limiting  $\rightarrow Bi_{AM} = 0$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- Shrinking particle

  - Phase boundary

  - Fluid film around particles

- Product molecules (gas or liquid) disappear directly from the particle surface

- Mass balance

In via diffusion through the fluid film + generated = 0

# Fluid-solid reactions

- First order kinetics

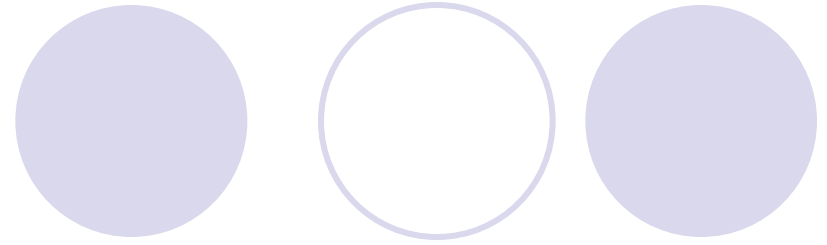
- Surface reaction rate limiting
- Diffusion through fluid film rate limiting

- Arbitrary kinetics

- A general solution possible, if diffusion through the fluid film is rate limiting



# Semibatch reactor



- An interesting special case

- Semibatch reactor

- High throughflow of gas so that the concentrations in the gas phase can be regarded as constant; used e.g. in the investigation of gas-solid kinetics (thermogravimetric equipment)
- Complete backmixing locally
- simple relations between the reaction time and the particle radius obtained

# Reaction time and particle radius

- Thiele modulus,  $\phi = -v_A k R / D_{eA}$  and Biot number,  $Bi_M = k_{GA} R / D_{eA}$

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = \frac{6(1 - (r/R)) + 3\phi(1 - (r/R)^2) - 2\phi(1 - (r/R)^3)(1 - 1/Bi_M)}{6 + \phi(1 + 2/Bi_M)}$$

- Special cases – large Thiele modulus  $\phi$ ;
- control by product layer and fluid film

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = \frac{3(1 - (r/R)^2) - 2(1 - (r/R)^3)(1 - 1/Bi_M)}{1 + 2/Bi_M}$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- **Product layer model**

- Large Thiele modulus,  $\phi = -v_A kR/D_{eA}$  and large Bi - control by product layer

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = 1 - 3(r/R)^2 + 2(r/R)^3$$

- Large Thiele modulus,  $\phi = -v_A kR/D_{eA}$  and small Bi - control by film

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = 1 - (r/R)^3$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

- **Product layer model**

- Small Thiele modulus,  $\phi = -v_A k R / D_{eA}$  and large Bi - control by chemical reaction

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = 1 - (r/R)$$

# Fluid-solid reactions

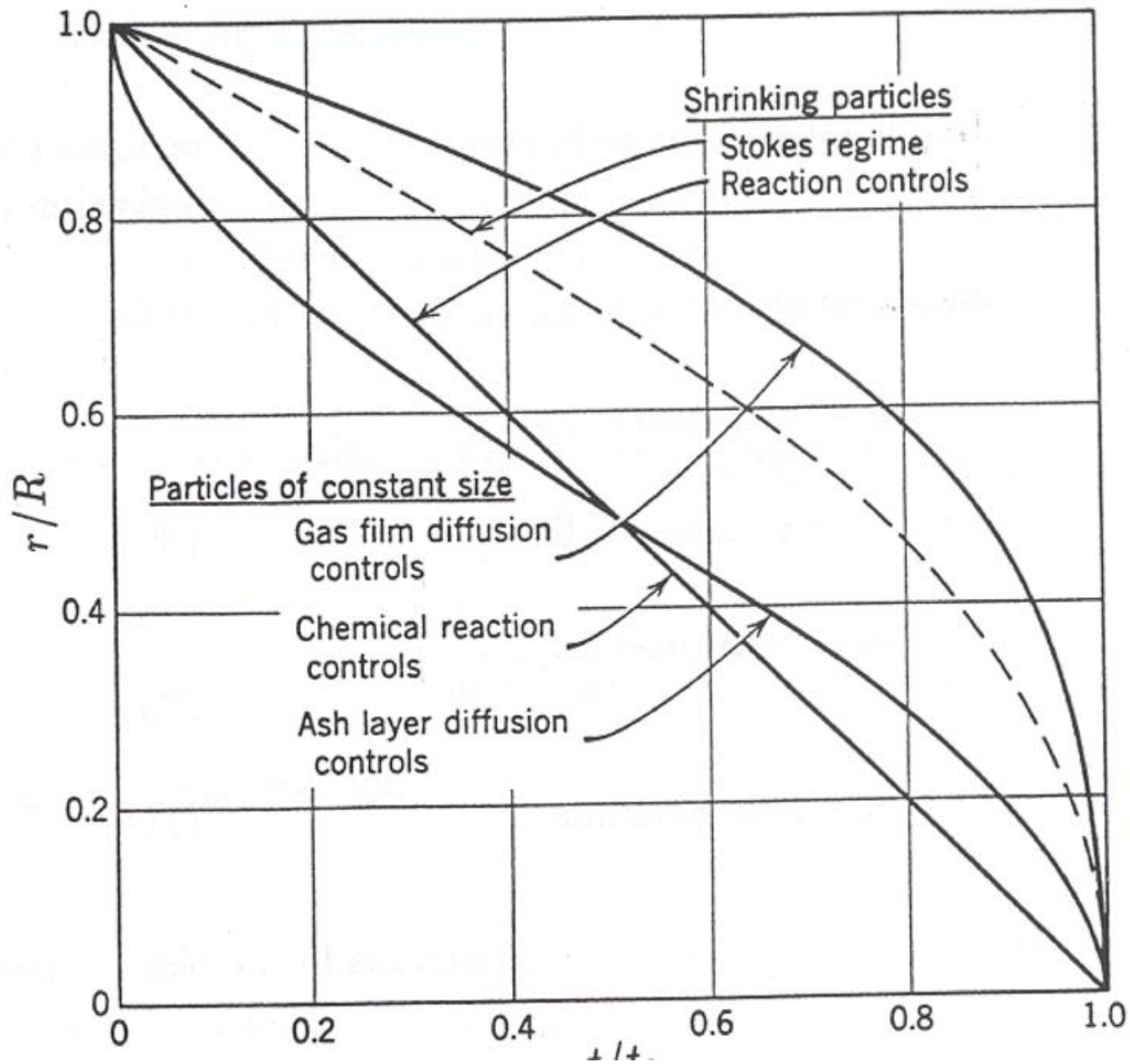
- **Shrinking particle model**

- Small Bi - control by film diffusion

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = 1 - (r/R)^2$$

- Large Bi - control by chemical reaction

$$\frac{t}{t_0} = 1 - (r/R)$$



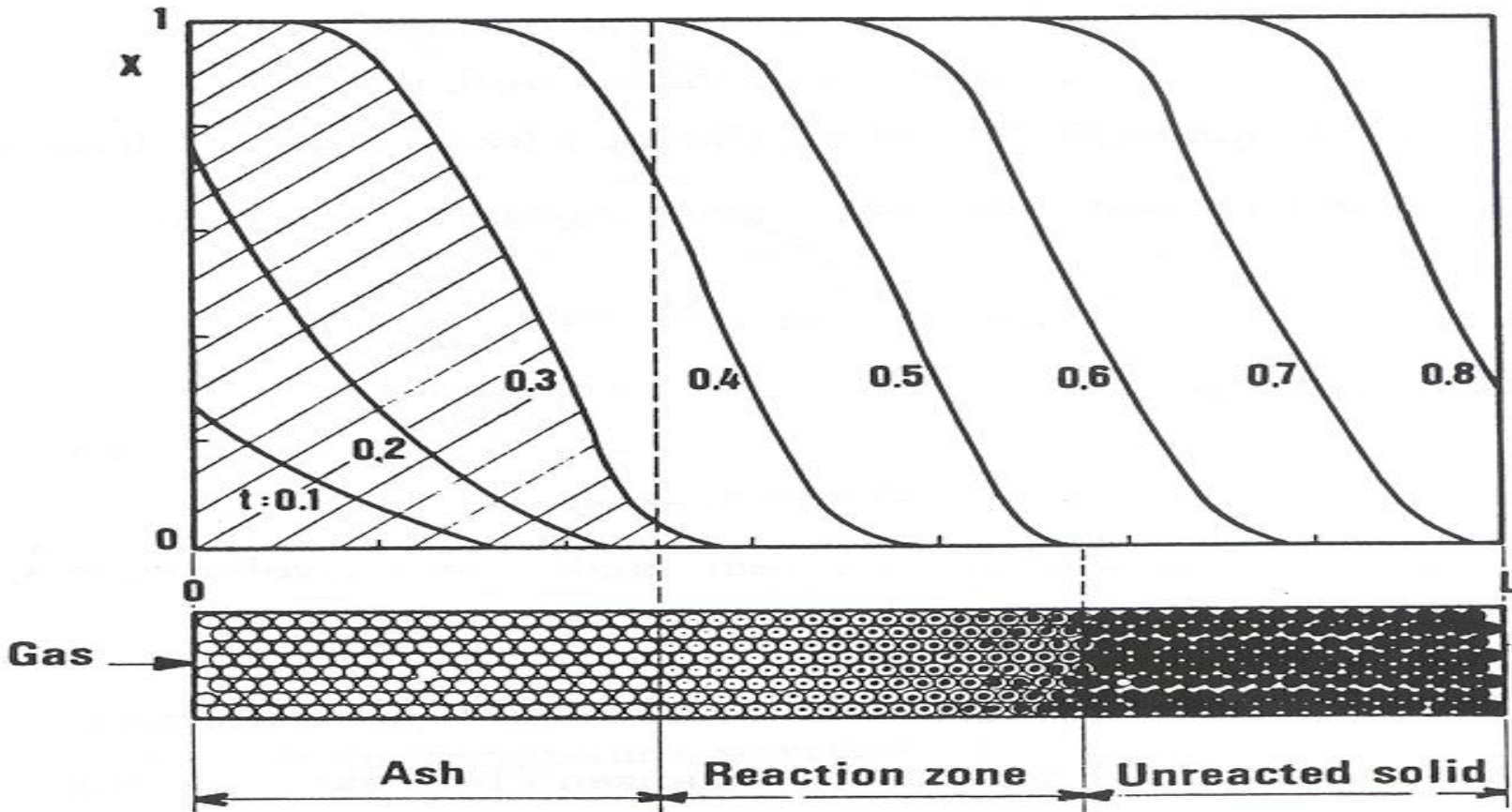
# Packed bed



## ○ Packed bed – operation principle

- Gas or liquid flows through a stagnant bed of particles, e.g. combustion processes or ion exchangers
- Plug flow often a sufficient description for the flow pattern
- Radial and axial dispersion effects neglected

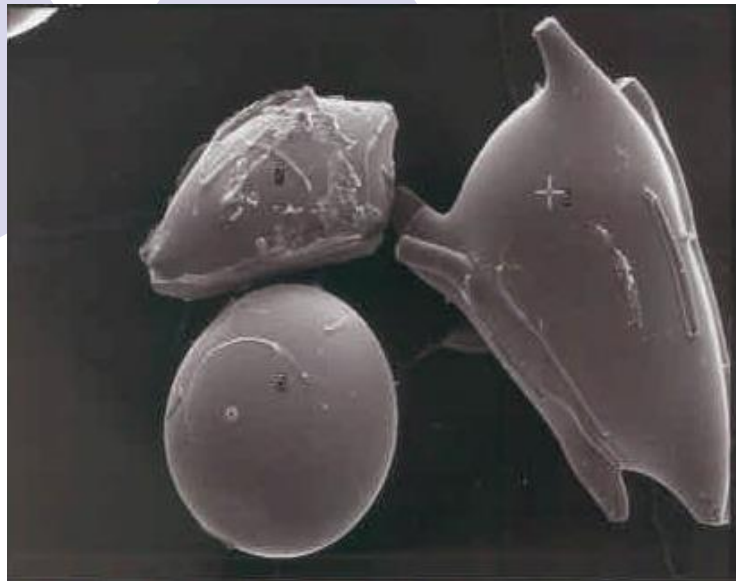
# Simulation of a packed bed





# Fluid-solid reactions: the roughness of even surfaces

Tapio Salmi and Henrik Grénman

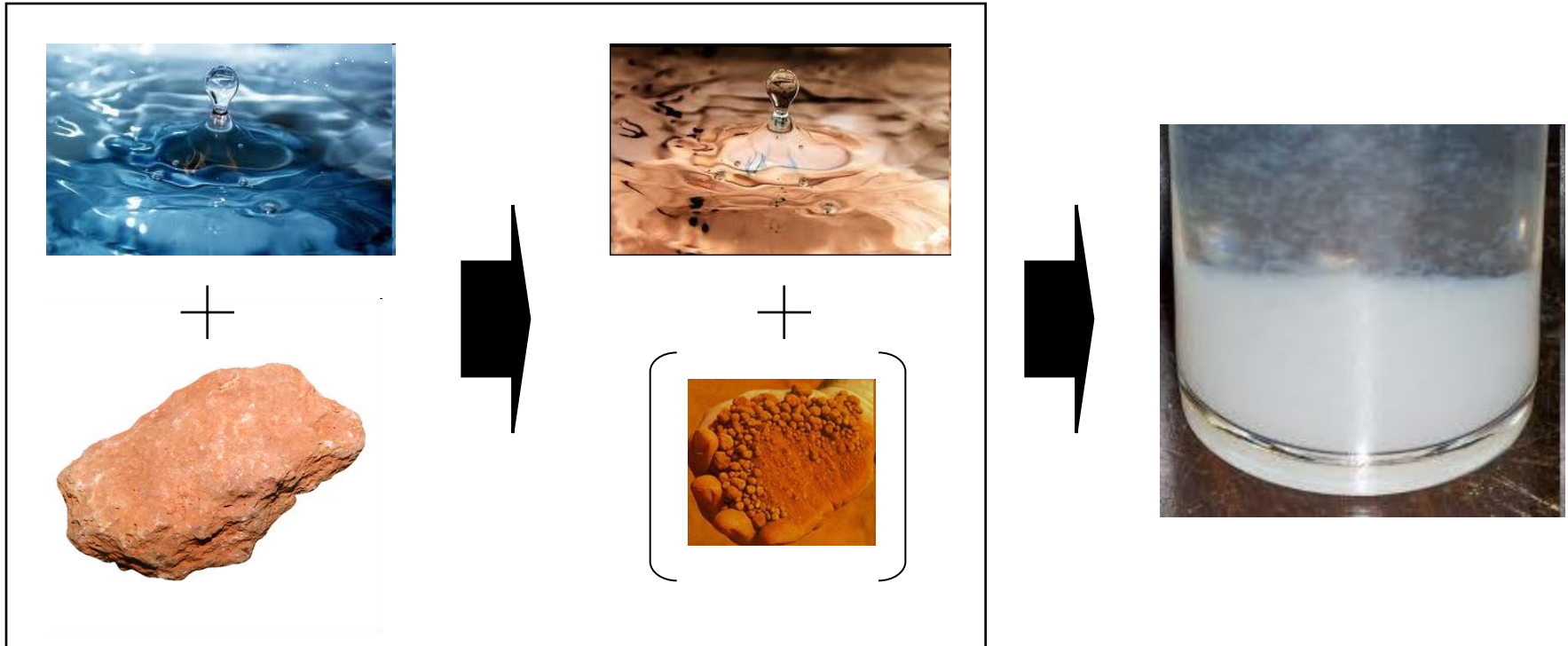




# Outline

- Background of solid-liquid reactions
- New methodology for solid-liquid kinetic modeling
  - Description of rough particles
  - General product layer model
  - Particle size distribution
- Conclusions

# Solid-liquid reaction kinetics



- The aim is to develop a mathematical model for the dissolution kinetics

# Why modeling is useful?

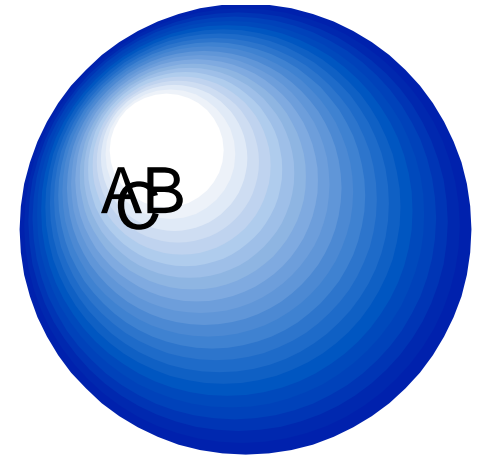


- Modeling helps in effective process and equipment design as well as control
- Empirical process development is slow in the long run
- The optimum is often not achieved through empirical development, at least in a reasonable time frame

# What influences the kinetics

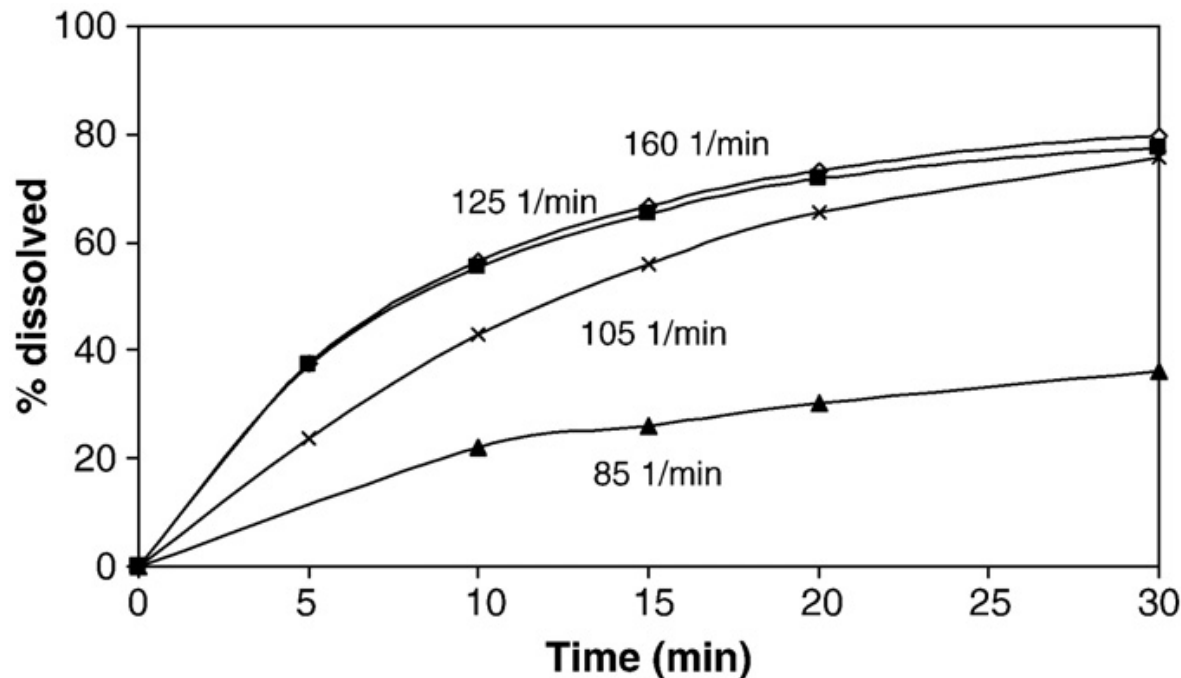


- Reaction rate depends on  $A$ 
  - Mass transfer
    - External
    - Internal (often neglected)
  - Intrinsic kinetics (the “real” chemical rates)



# Practical influence of mass transfer

- External mass transfer resistance can be overcome by agitation



- It is important to recognize what you actually are measuring

# What influences the kinetics

- Reaction rate depends on

- Surface area of solid

- Morphological changes

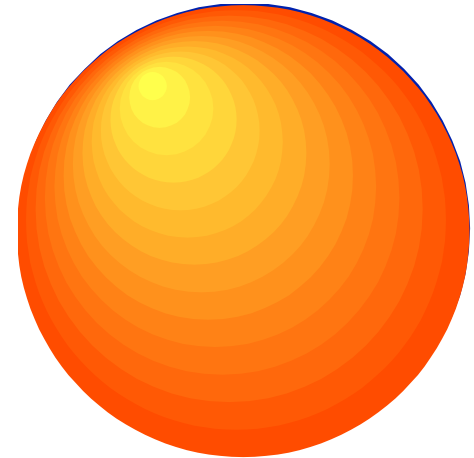
- Reactive surface sites on solid

- Heterogeneous solids

- Possible phase transformations in solid phase

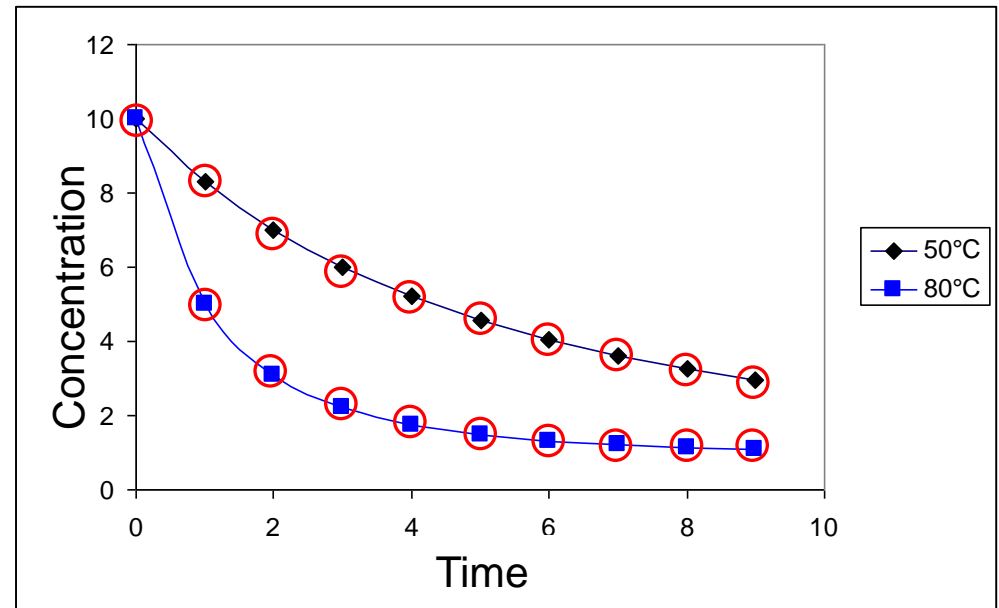
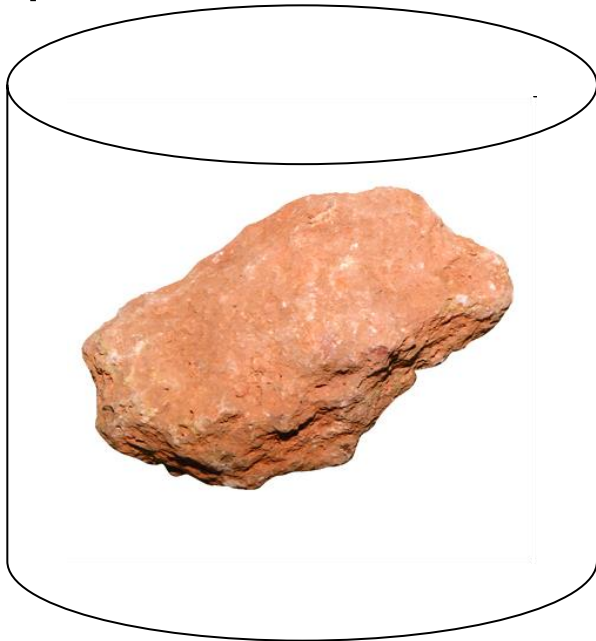
- Equilibrium considerations

- Complex chemistry in liquid phase



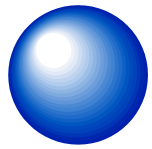
# Traditional methodology

The conversion is followed by measuring the solid or liquid phase





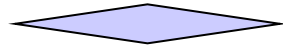
# Traditional hypothesis in modeling solid-liquid reactions



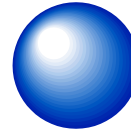
Sphere



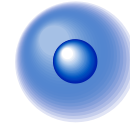
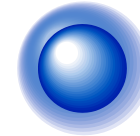
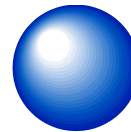
Cylinder



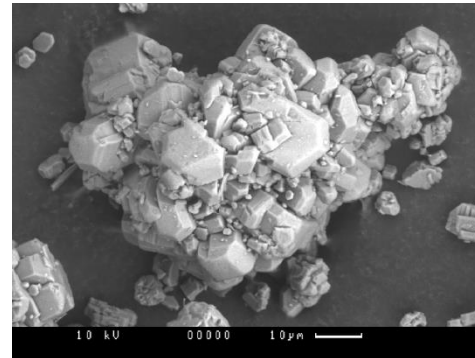
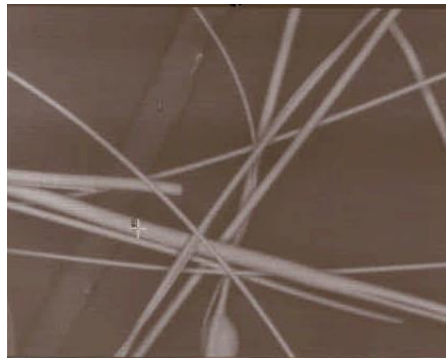
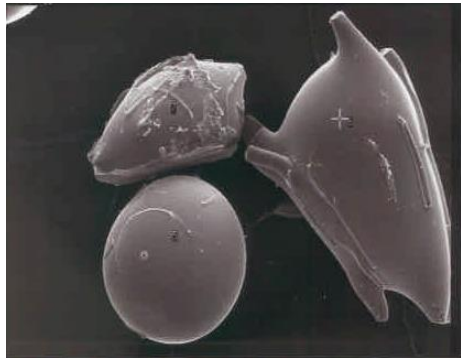
Slab



Shrinking particle



Shrinking core



# Traditional kinetic modeling – screening models from literature

- The kinetics depends on the surface area ( $A$ ) of the particles

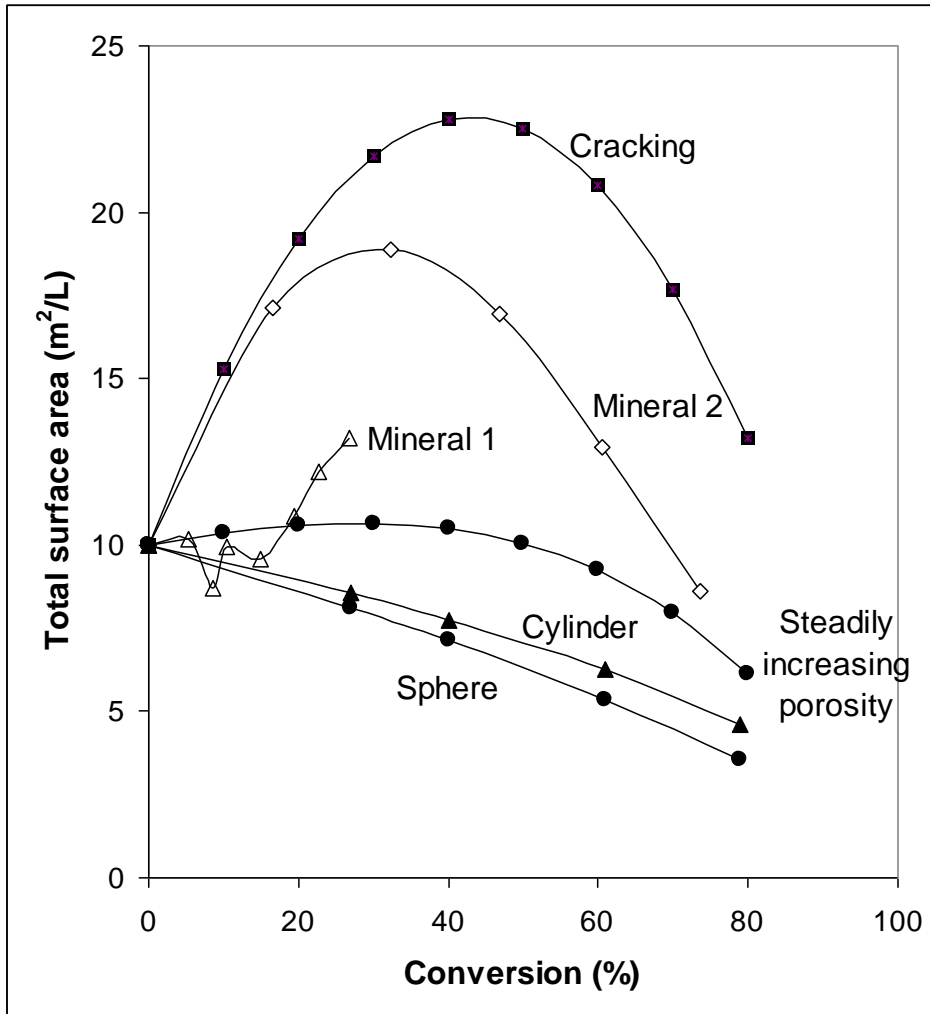
$$kt = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/3}$$

$$\frac{dc_{solid}}{dt} = -kA_{particles}c_{liquid}^{\alpha}$$

- Because of the difficulties associated with measuring the surface area on-line, the change is often expressed with the help of the conversion
- Experimental test plots are used to determine the reaction mechanism

nr	$g(\alpha)$	$f(c_s)$	Type of model
1	$-\ln(1-\alpha)$	$c_s/c_{0s}$	First-order kinetics
2	$(1-\alpha)^{1/2} - 1$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{3/2}$	Three-halves-order kinetics
3	$(1-\alpha)^{-1}$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^2$	Second-order kinetics
4	$1 - (1-\alpha)^{1/2}$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{1/2}$	One-half-order kinetics; two-dimensional advance of the reaction interface
5	$1 - (1-\alpha)^{1/3}$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{2/3}$	Two-thirds-order kinetics; three-dimensional advance of the reaction interface
6	$1 - (1-\alpha)^{2/3}$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3}$	One-thirds-order kinetics; film diffusion
7	$[1 - (1-\alpha)^{1/3}]^2$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{2/3}/(1 - (c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3})$	Jander; three-dimensional
8	$1 - 2\alpha/3 - (1-\alpha)^{2/3}$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3}/(1 - (c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3})$	Crank-Ginstling-Brounshtein, mass transfer across a nonporous product layer
9	$[1/(1-\alpha)^{1/3} - 1]^2$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{5/3}/(1 - (c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3})$	Zhuravlev-Lesokhin-Tempelmann, diffusion, concentration of penetrating species varies with $\alpha$
10	$[1 - (1-\alpha)^{1/2}]^2$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{1/2}/(1 - (c_s/c_{0s})^{1/2})$	Jander; cylindrical diffusion
11	$1/(1-\alpha)^{1/3} - 1$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{4/3}$	Dickinson, Heal, transfer across the contacting area
12	$1-3(1-\alpha)^{2/3}+2(1-\alpha)$	$(c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3}/(1 - (c_s/c_{0s})^{1/3})$	Shrinking core, product layer (different form of Crank-Ginstling-Brounshtein)

# Surface area of solid phase



- The change in the total surface area of the solid depends strongly on the morphology of the particles
- Models based on ideal geometries can be inadequate for modeling non-ideal cases
- The particle morphology can be implemented into the model with the help of a shape factor

# New methodology for general shapes

- The morphology can be flexibly implemented with the help of a shape factor ( $a$ )

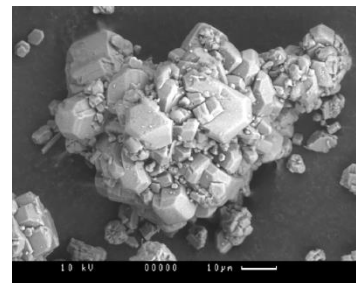
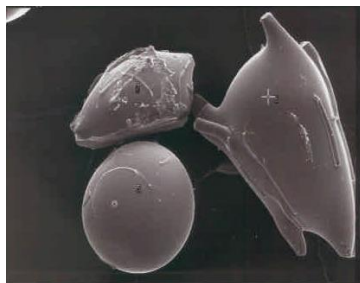
Reaction rate:  $\frac{dc_{solid}}{dt} = -kA_{particles} c_{liquid}^a$

Reaction rate:  $\frac{dc_{solid}}{dt} = -kc_{particles}^{1-x} c_{liquid}^a$

Shape factor:

$$a = \frac{A_P}{V_P} R_0$$

Geometry	Shape factor ( $a$ )	$x = 1/a$	$1-x$
Slab	1	1	0
Cylinder	2	1/2	1/2
Sphere	3	1/3	2/3
Rough, porous particle	high value	$\rightarrow 0$	$\rightarrow 1$



Geometry	Shape factor (a)	x= l/a	1-x
Slab	1	1	0
Cylinder	2	1/2	1/2
Sphere	3	1/3	2/3
Rough, porous particle	high value	→0	→1

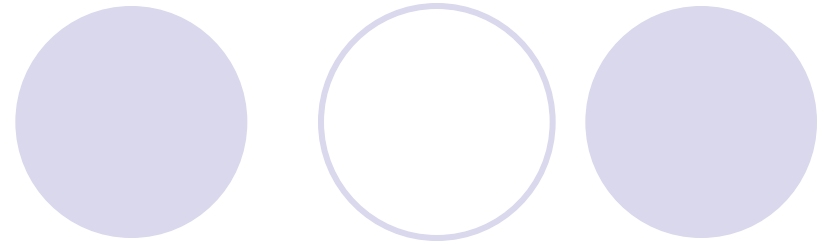
Often kinetics is closer to first order!

The roughness is always there,  $\sigma=1$  m<sup>2</sup>/g is not a perfect sphere!

- Detailed considerations give a relation between area (A), specific surface area ( $\sigma$ ), amount of solid (n), initial amount of solid ( $n_0$ ), and molar mass (M); a=shape factor

$$A = \sigma M n_0^{1/a} n^{1-1/a}$$

# New methodology



- The solid-liquid reaction mechanism should be considered from chemical principles, exactly like in organic chemistry!

$$\frac{dc_{prod}}{dt} = k c_{particle}^{1-x} f(c_{liquid})$$

Solid contribution      Liquid contribution

# The dissolution of zink with ferric iron

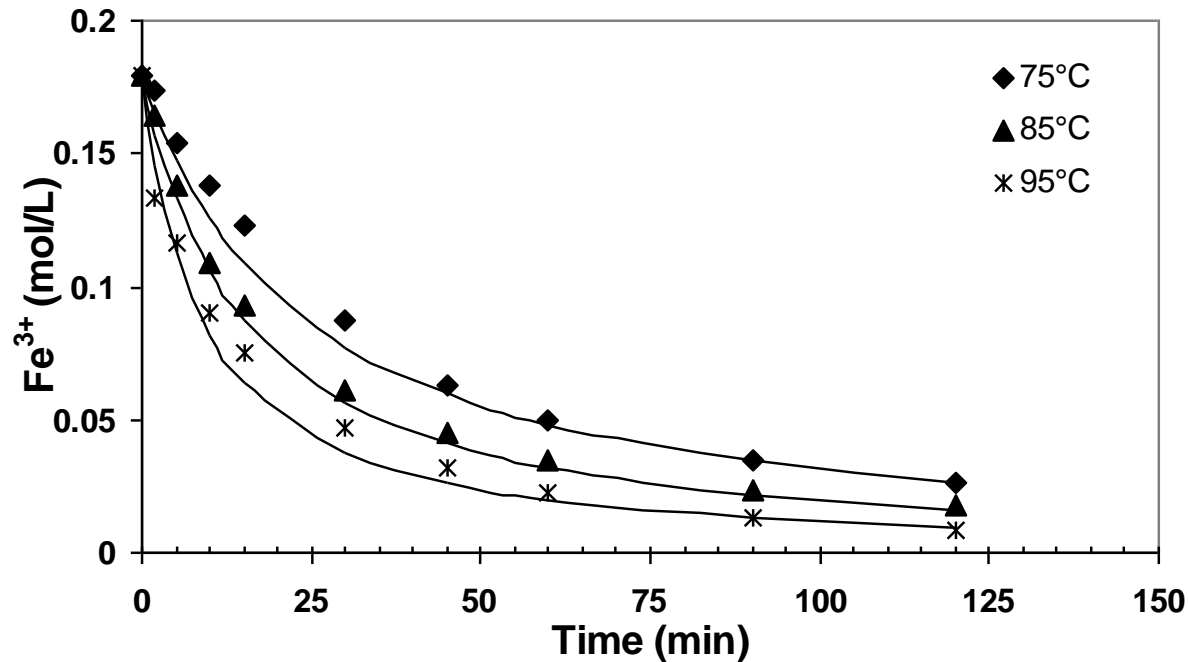


The mechanism gave the following rate expression

$$r = \frac{k(c_{\text{FeIII}}^2 - c_{\text{FeII}}^2 c_{\text{ZnII}} / K)}{D}$$

# The dissolution of zink with ferric iron

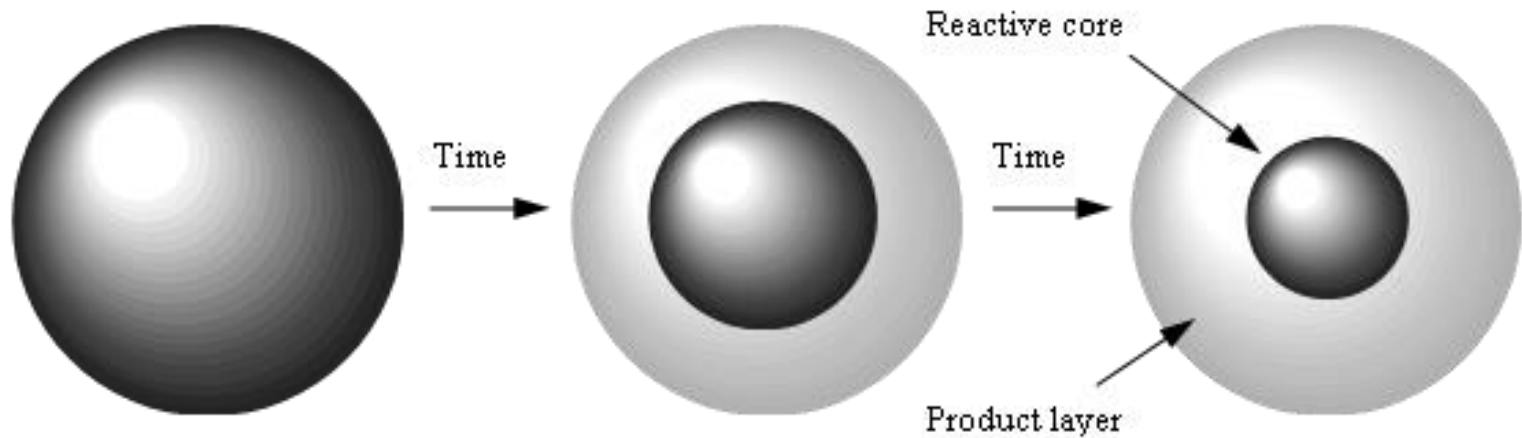
The reaction order is not  $2/3$  but clearly higher!



Wrong reaction order in the kinetic model is the worst mistake!



# General product layer model



# General product layer model in a nutshell

$$\frac{(a-2)D_{ei}(c_{Li}^b - c_{Li}^s)}{R(1-(1-(a-2)/Bi_{Mi})(r/R)^{a-2})(r/R)} + \sum_{k=1}^S v_{ik}R_k(c_{Li}^s) = 0$$

$$D_{ei}\left(\frac{d^2c_i}{dr^2} + \frac{(a-1)}{r}\frac{dc_i}{dr}\right) = 0$$

$$N_i = -D_{ei}CR^{1-a} = -k_{Li}(c_{Li}^b - c_{Li}^*)$$

$$N_i = \frac{-(a-2)D_{ei}(c_{Li}^b - c_{Li}^s)}{R(1-(1-(a-2)/Bi_{Mi})(r/R)^{a-2})(r/R)}$$

$$N_iA = \sum_{k=1}^S v_{ik}R_k(c_{Li}^s)$$

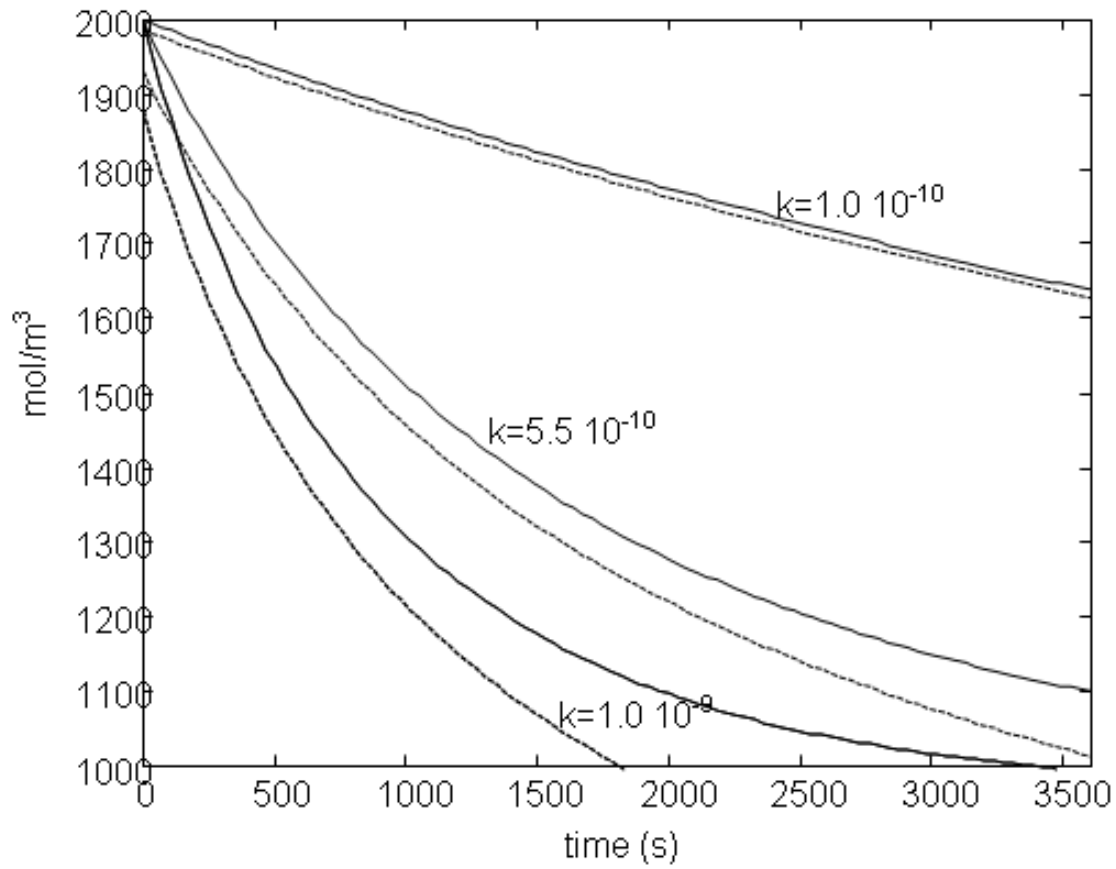
$$\frac{dn_i}{dt} = \sum_{k=1}^S v_{ik}R_kA$$

$$\frac{dc_j}{dt} = \frac{v_j\sigma M}{x_{0j}}c_{0j}^xc_j^{1-x}r$$

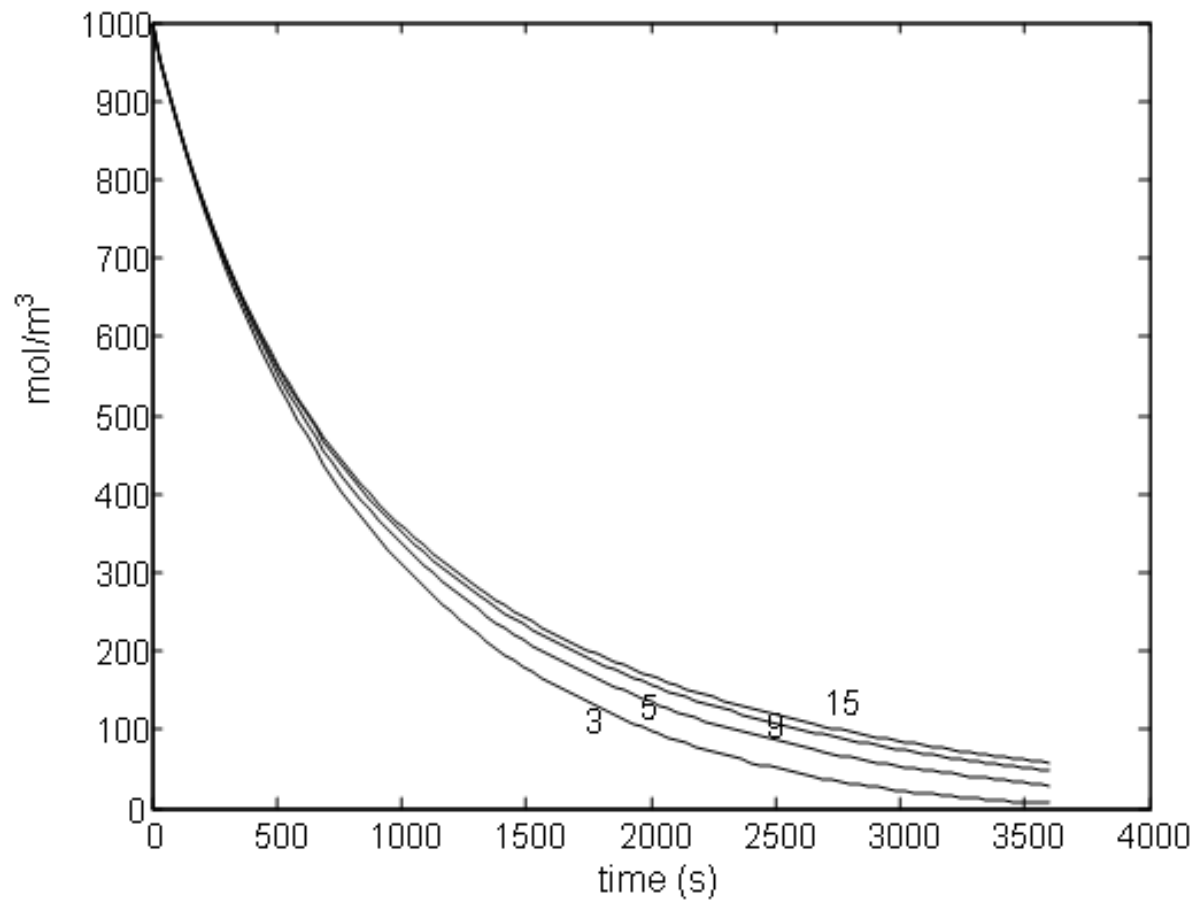
$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \frac{v_i\sigma M}{x_{0j}}c_{0j}^xc_j^{1-x}r$$

$$r = f(c_{Li}^s)$$

# Comparison of shrinking particle and product layer model



# Effect of shape factor

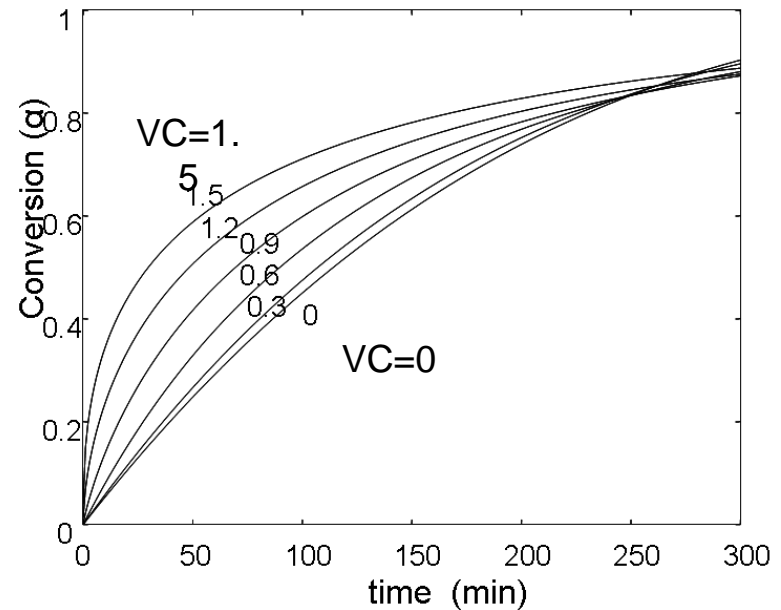
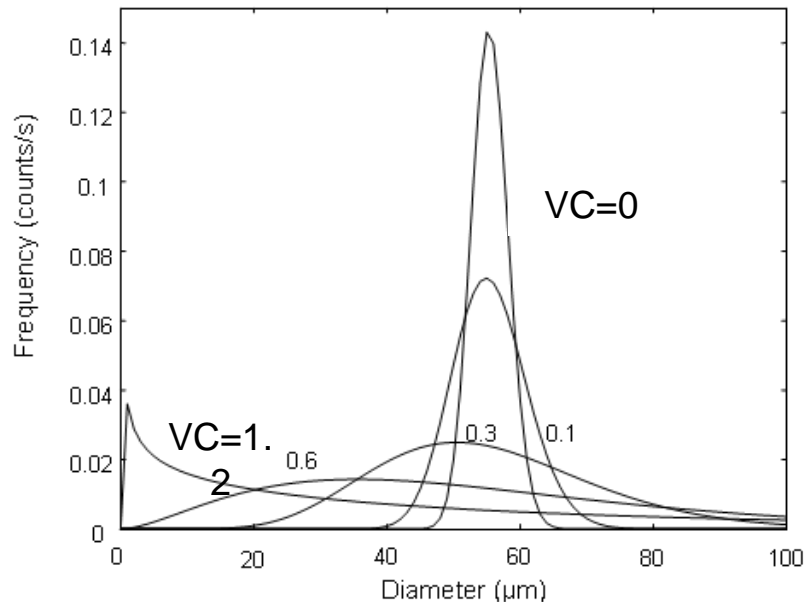


# Particle size distribution

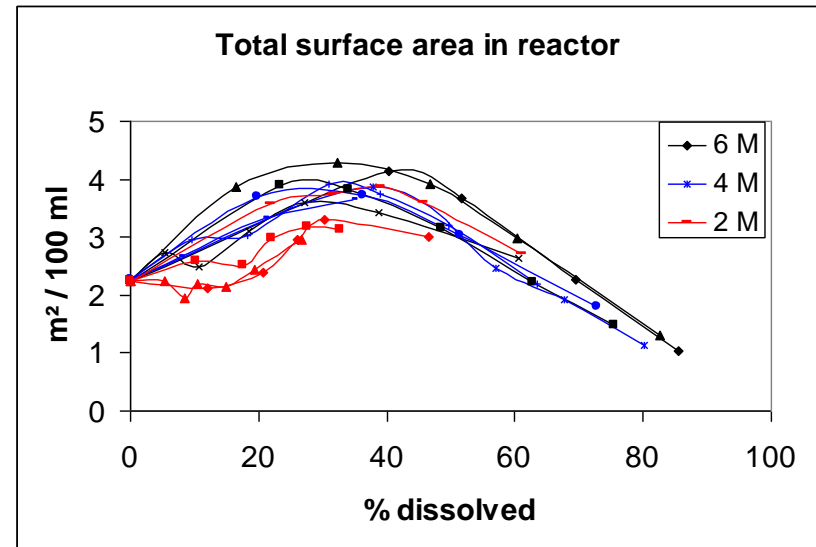
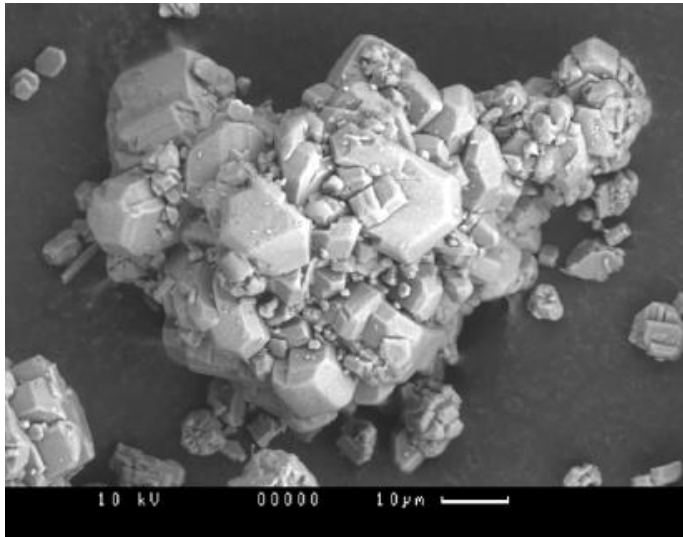
- If the particle size distribution deviates significantly from the Gaussian distribution, erroneous conclusions can be drawn about the reaction mechanism

VC = standard deviation / mean particle size

Shrinking sphere

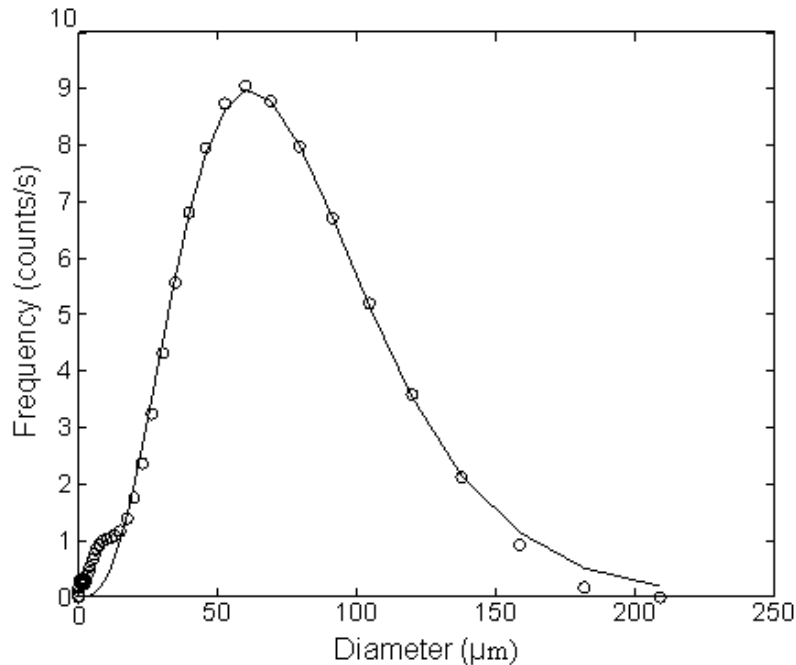


# Implementing the particle size distribution into modeling



- Gibbsite is rough/porous and cracks during dissolution
- The surface area goes through a maximum, non-ideal behavior

# Implementing the particle size distribution into modeling



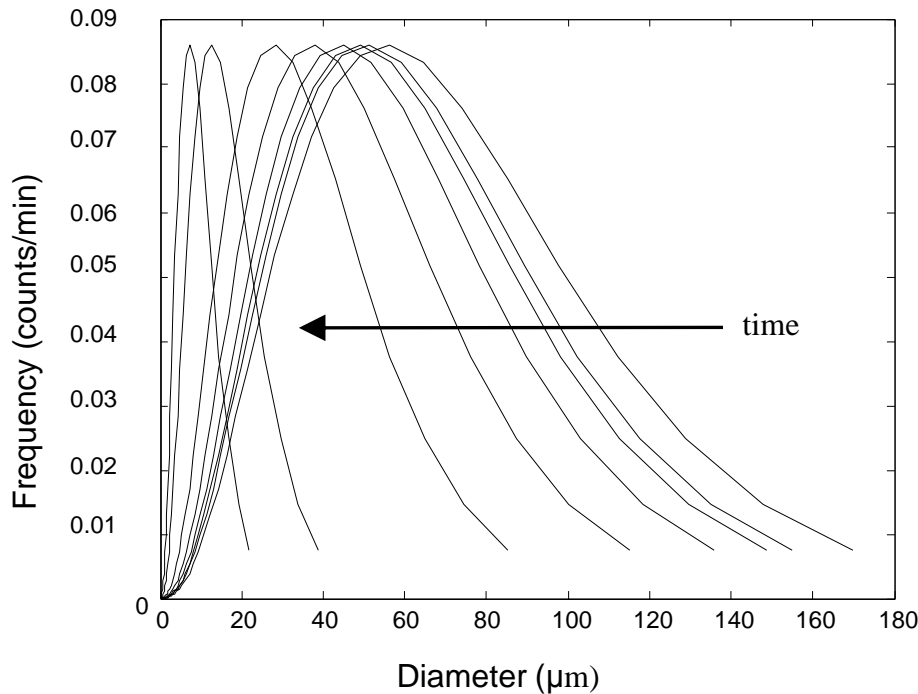
$$f(x) = x^{k_{SP}-1} \frac{e^{-x/\theta}}{\theta^k \Gamma(k_{SP})}$$

$$\Gamma(k_{SP}) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{k_{SP}-1} e^{-t} dt$$

$$Var(x) = k_{SP}\theta^2 \quad E(x) = k_{SP}\theta$$

- The Gamma distribution is fitted to the fresh particle size distribution and the distribution is divided into fractions
- The shape parameter ( $k$ ) and the scale parameter ( $\theta$ ) are kept constant

# Implementing the particle size distribution into modeling



$$\frac{c_t}{c_0} = \frac{m_t}{m_0} = \frac{V_t}{V_0} = X = 1 - \alpha$$

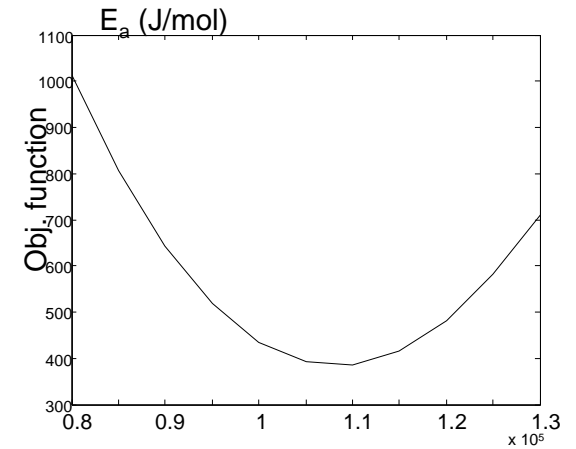
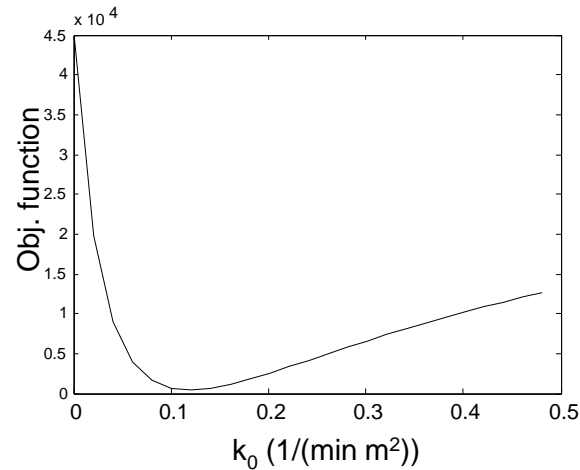
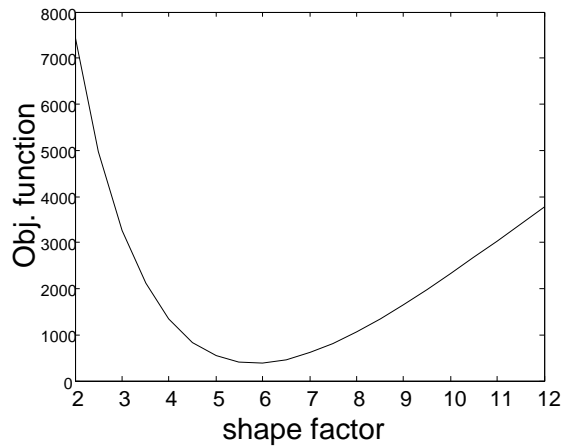
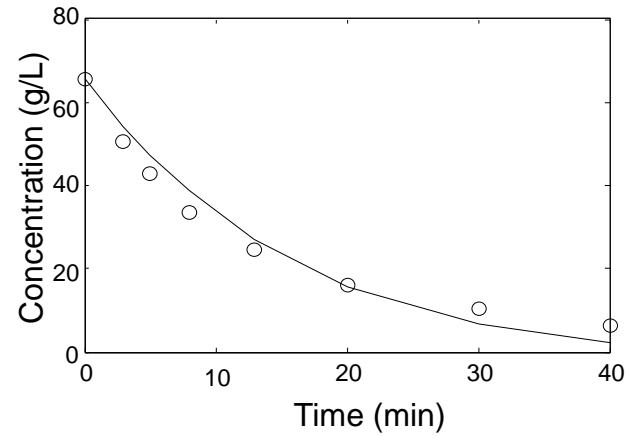
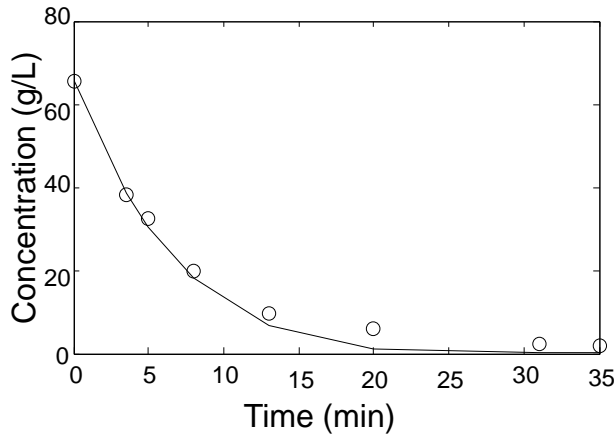
$$r_{i,t} = r_{i,0} \sqrt[a]{X}$$

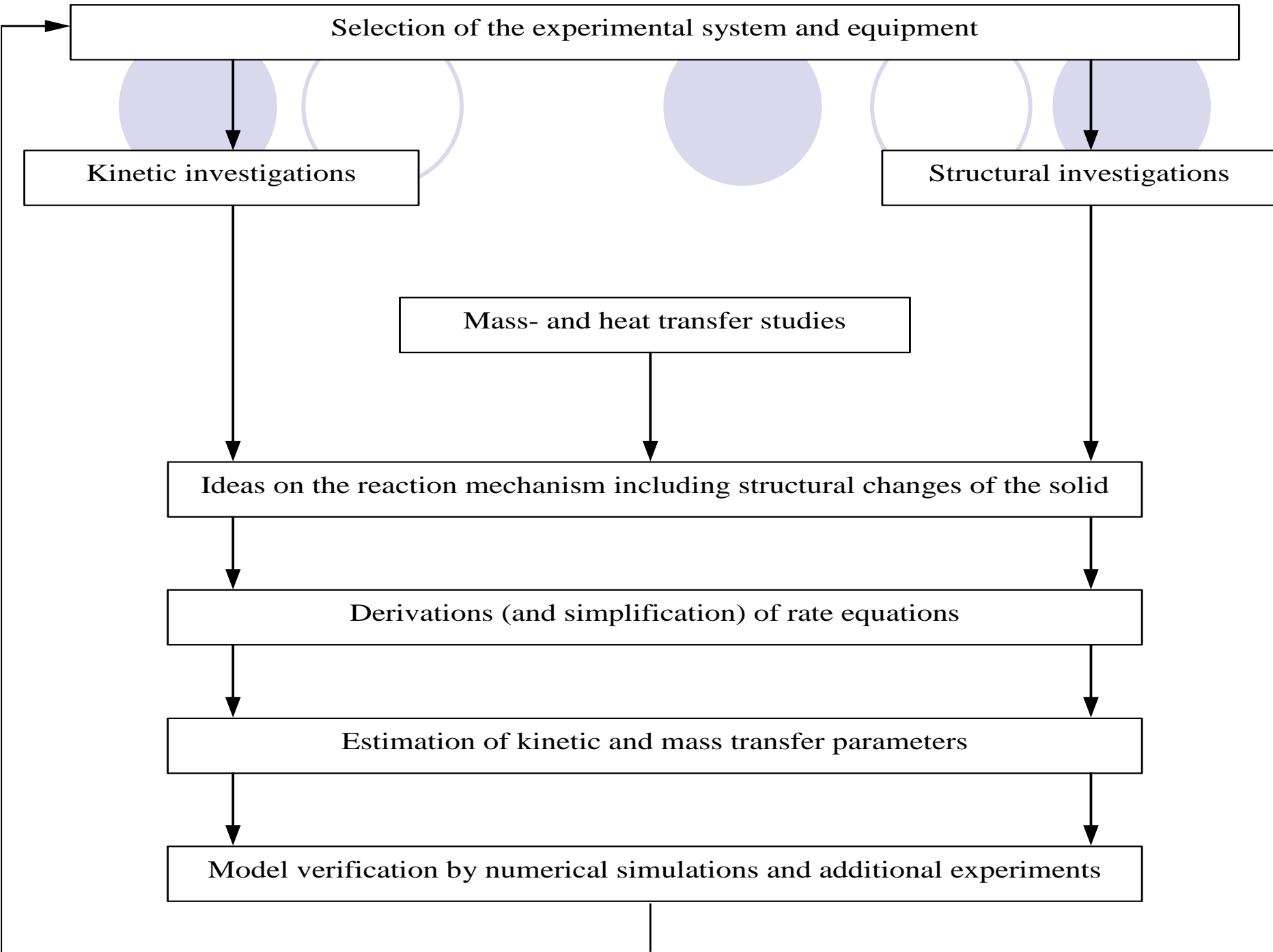
$$a = \frac{A_P}{V_P} R_0 \quad A_{r_{i,t}P} = \frac{a V_{r_{i,t}P}}{r_{i,t}P}$$

- A new radius is calculated for each fraction and each fraction is summed to obtain the new surface area in the reactor
- The new surface area is implemented into to rate equation



# The fit of the model and sensitivity analysis





Selection of the experimental system and equipment

Kinetic investigations

Structural investigations

Mass- and heat transfer studies

Ideas on the reaction mechanism including structural changes of the solid

Derivations (and simplification) of rate equations

Estimation of kinetic and mass transfer parameters

Model verification by numerical simulations and additional experiments

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide consists of two groups of three circles. The left group has a solid light purple circle on the left, a white circle with a light purple outline in the middle, and a solid light purple circle on the right. The right group has a solid light purple circle on the left, a white circle with a light purple outline in the middle, and a solid light purple circle on the right. The word "Conclusions" is written in a bold, dark red font, overlapping the first two circles of the left group.

# Conclusions

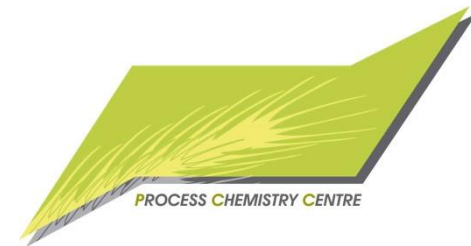
- Modeling is an important tool in developing new processes as well as optimizing existing ones
- Solid-liquid reactions are in general more difficult to model than homogeneous reactions
- Traditional modeling procedures have potholes, which can severely influence the outcome
- Care should be taken in drawing the right conclusions about the reaction mechanisms

# Things to consider in modeling

- Some important factors:
  1. Be sure about what you actually are measuring
  2. Evaluate if the particle size distribution needs to be taken into account ( $VC < 0.3$ )
  3. If the morphology is not ideal use a shape factor to describe the change in surface area (surface area, density and conversion measurements needed)
  4. Use sensitivity analysis to see if your parameter values are well defined

# Some relevant publications

- Salmi, Tapio; Grénman, Henrik; Waerna, Johan; Murzin, Dmitry Yu. Revisiting shrinking particle and product layer models for fluid-solid reactions - From ideal surfaces to real surfaces. *Chemical Engineering and Processing* 2011, 50(10), 1076-1084.
- Salmi, Tapio; Grénman, Henrik; Bernas, Heidi; Wärnå, Johan; Murzin, Dmitry Yu. Mechanistic Modelling of Kinetics and Mass Transfer for a Solid-liquid System: Leaching of Zinc with Ferric Iron. *Chemical Engineering Science* 2010, 65(15), 4460-4471.
- Grénman, Henrik; Salmi, Tapio; Murzin, Dmitry Yu.; Addai-Mensah, Jonas. The Dissolution Kinetics of Gibbsite in Sodium Hydroxide at Ambient Pressure. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research* 2010, 49(6), 2600-2607.
- Grénman, Henrik; Salmi, Tapio; Murzin, Dmitry Yu.; Addai-Mensah, Jonas. Dissolution of Boehmite in Sodium Hydroxide at Ambient Pressure: Kinetics and Modelling. *Hydrometallurgy* 2010, 102(1-4), 22-30.
- Grénman, Henrik; Ingves, Malin; Wärnå, Johan; Corander, Jukka; Murzin, Dmitry Yu.; Salmi, Tapio. Common potholes in modeling solid-liquid reactions – methods for avoiding them. *Chemical Engineering Science* (2011), 66(20), 4459-4467.
- Grénman, Henrik; Salmi, Tapio; Murzin, Dmitry Yu.. Solid-liquid reaction kinetics – experimental aspects and model development. *Rev Chem Eng* 27 (2011): 53–77

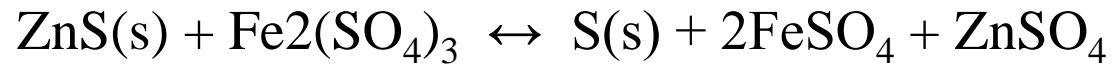


# **Mechanistic modelling of kinetics and mass transfer for a solid-liquid system: Leaching of zinc with ferric iron**

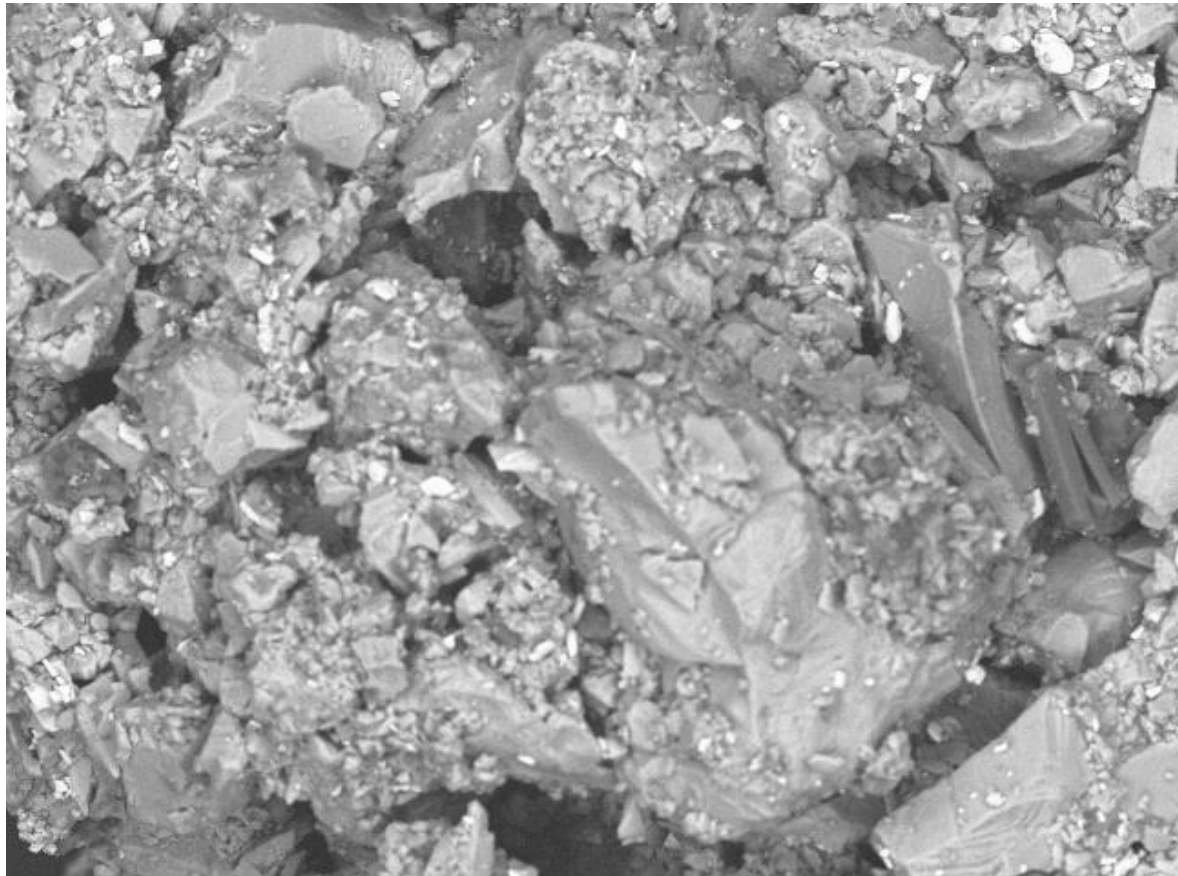
*Tapio Salmi, Henrik Grénman, Heidi Bernas, Johan Wärnå, Dmitry Yu. Murzin*

Laboratory of Industrial Chemistry and Reaction Engineering,  
Process Chemistry Centre,  
Åbo Akademi, FI-20500 Turku/Åbo, Finland

# Reaction system



SEM



10µm



# Experimental system

- Isothermal batch reactor
- Turbine impeller
- Ultrasound input
- SIA – analysis of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$

Experimental data of Bernas (Markus) & Grénman

*Markus et al, Hydrometallurgy 73 (2004) 269-282,*

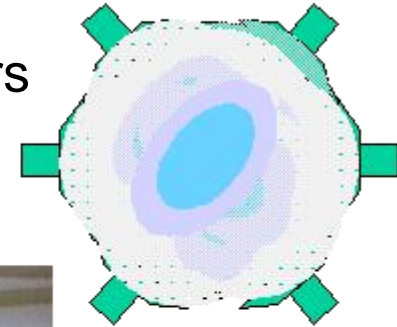
*Grénman et al, Chemical Engineering and Processing 46 (2007) 862-869*



# Multi-transducer ultrasound reactor



6 transducers



Generator (0-600W)

20 kHz

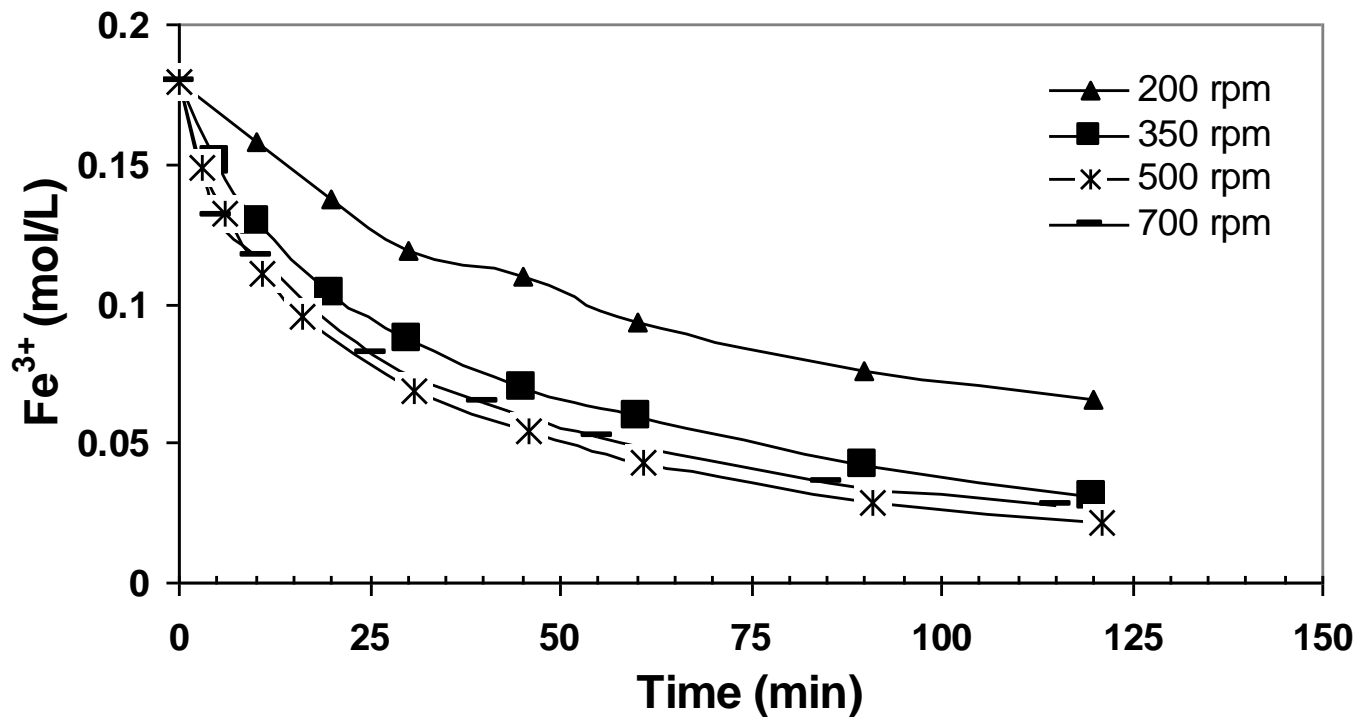
Reactor pot inserted

A time-variable

power input

# Experimental results - Stirring speed

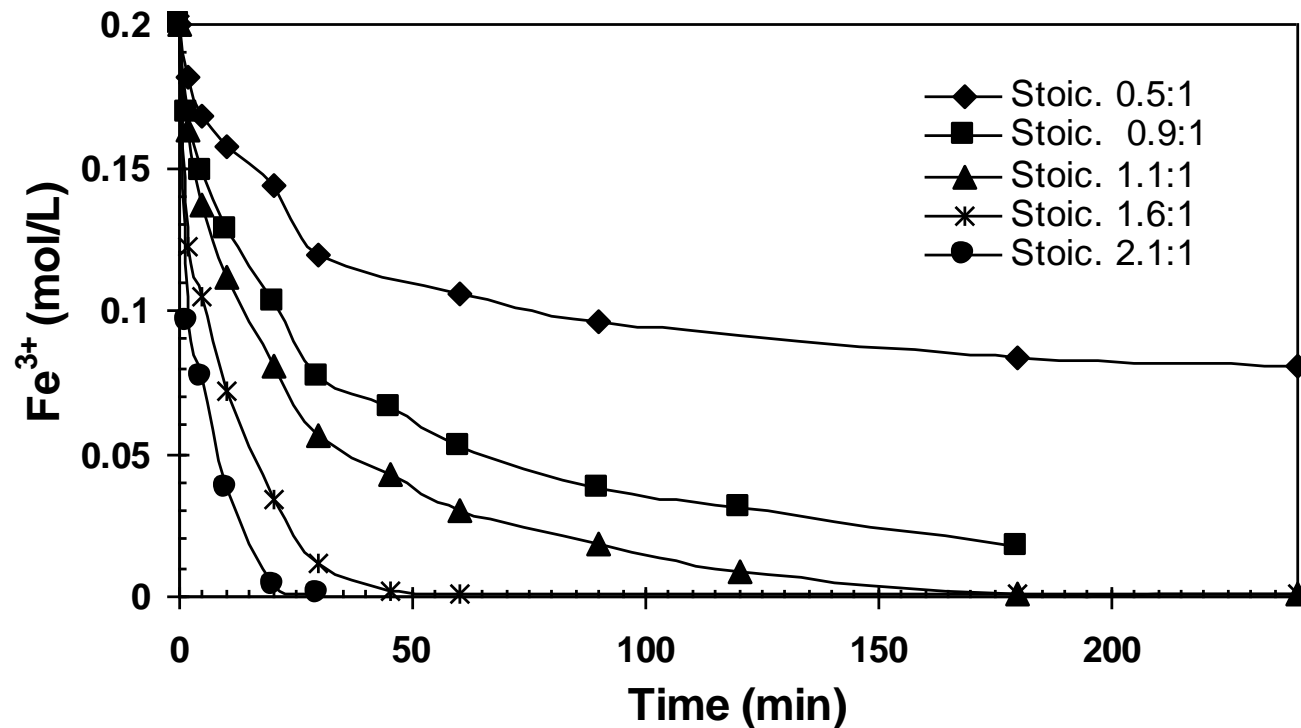
$T = 85^{\circ}\text{C}$  ,  $\text{Sphalerite} : \text{Fe}^{3+} = 1.1:1$



The effect of the stirring speed on the leaching kinetics.

# Experimental results

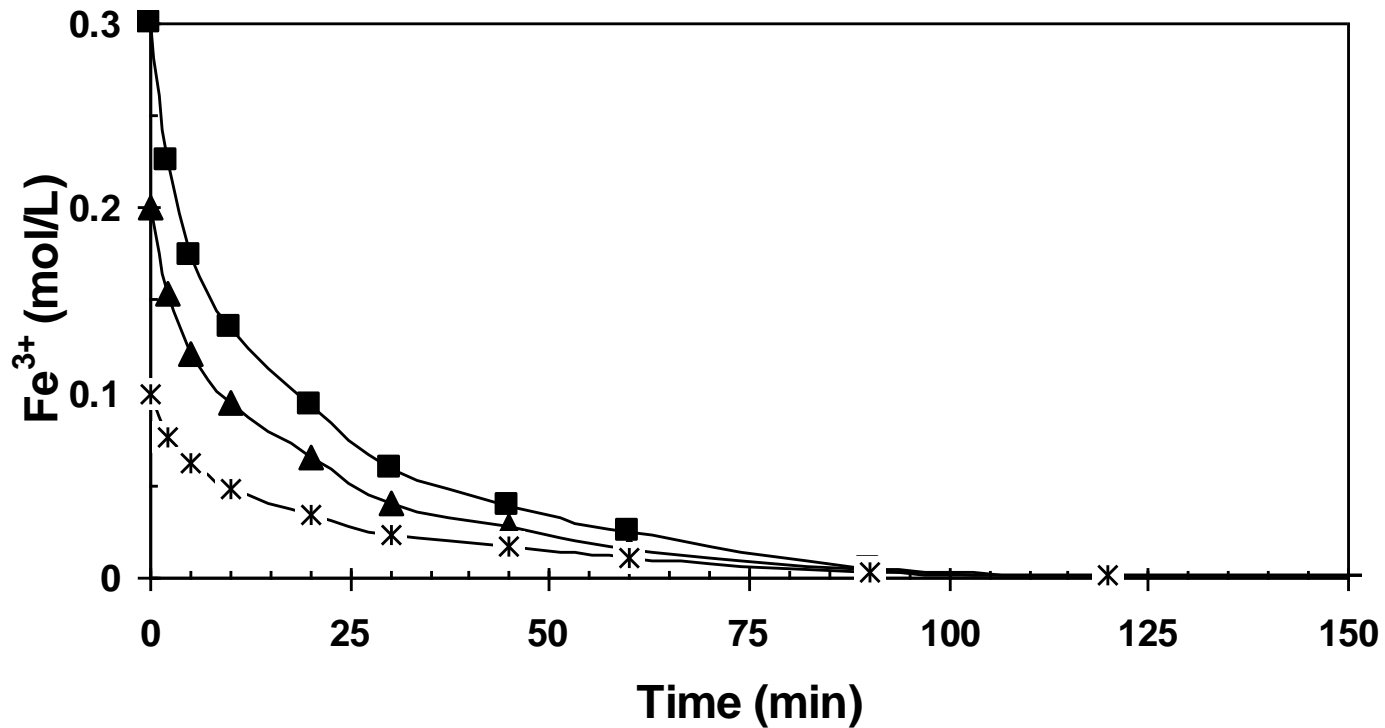
$$T = 85^{\circ}\text{C}, \quad C_{0\text{Fe(III)}} = 0.2 \text{ mol/L}$$



The effect of the zinc sulphide concentration on the leaching kinetics.

# Experimental results

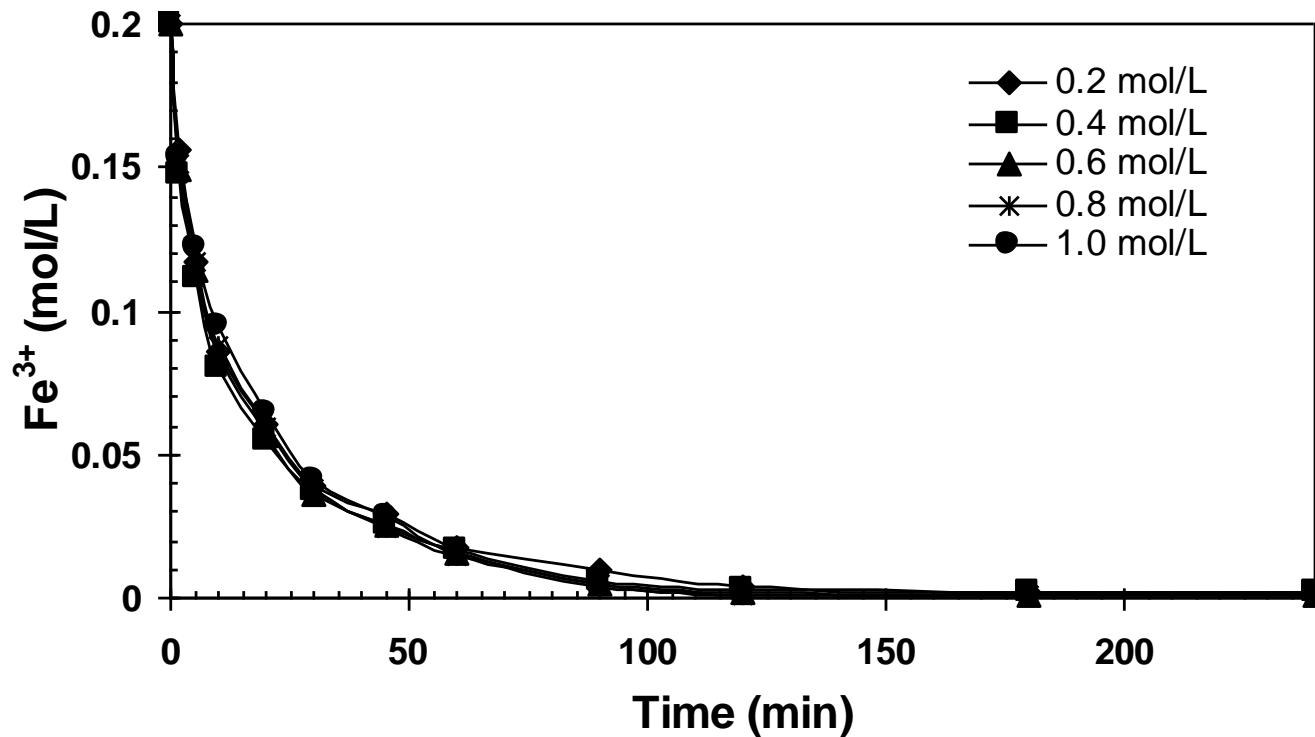
$T = 95^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Sphalerite :  $\text{Fe}^{3+} = 1.1:1$



The effect of the ferric ion concentration on the leaching kinetics.

# Experimental results

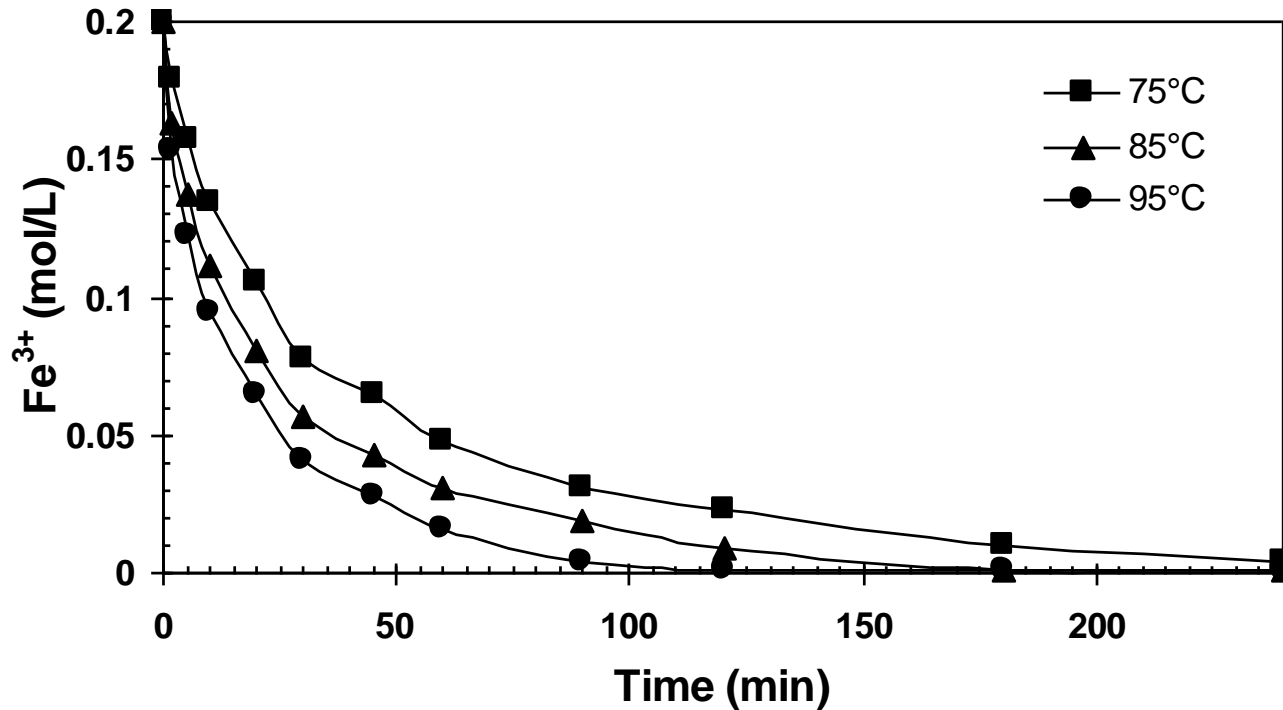
$T = 95^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Sphalerite :  $\text{Fe}^{3+} = 1.1:1$



The effect of sulphuric acid on the leaching kinetics.

# Experimental results - Temperature effect

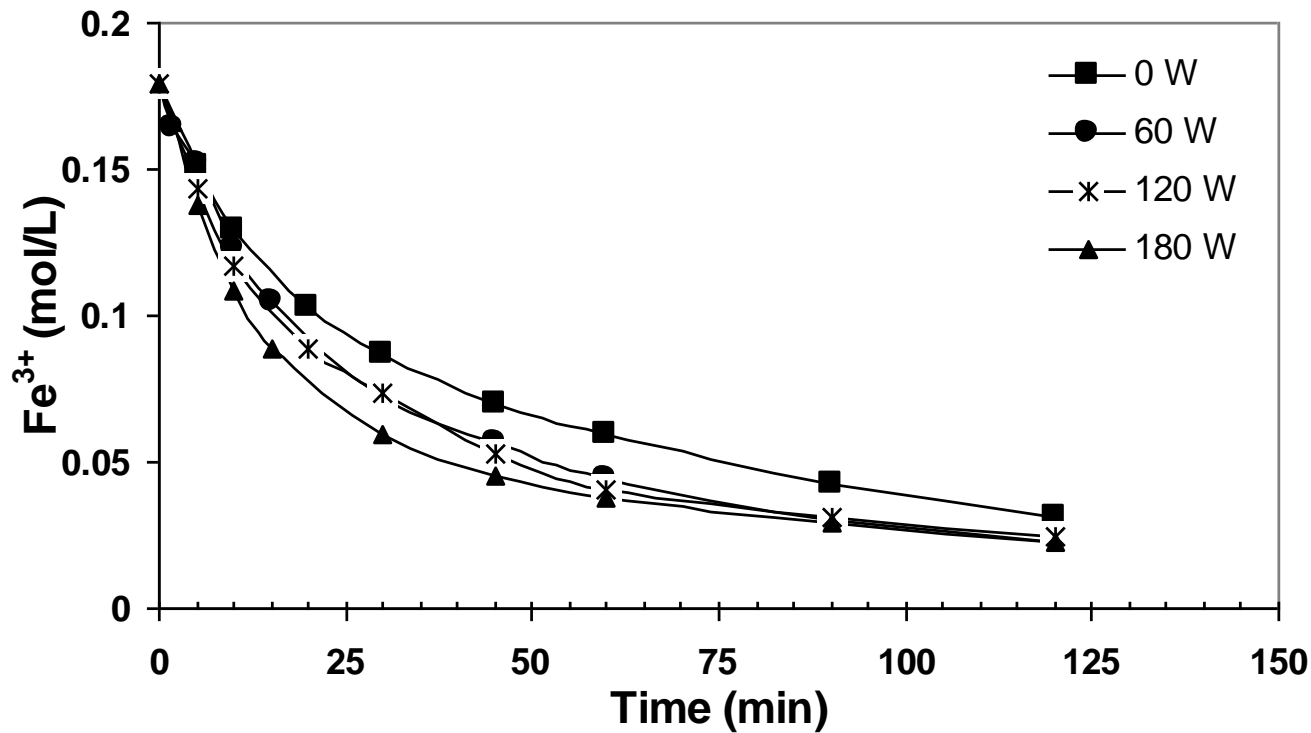
*Sphalerite* :  $Fe^{3+}$  = 1.1:1



The effect of temperature on the leaching kinetics.

# Experimental results - Ultrasound effect

*T = 85°C Stirring rate 350 rpm*



The effect of ultrasound on the leaching kinetics.

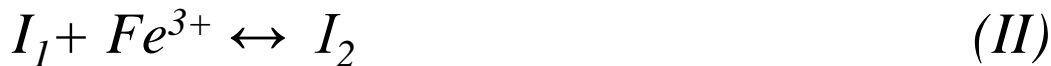


# Reaction mechanism and rate equations

- Surface reaction
- Stepwise process  
( first reacts one  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , then the second one! )
- Rough particles



# Three-step surface reaction mechanism



rates of steps (I-III)

$$r_1 = a_1 - a_{-1}c_{I1}$$

$$r_2 = a_2c_{I1} - a_{-2}c_{I2}$$

$$r_3 = a_3c_{I2} - a_{-3}$$

$$a_1 = k_{+1}c_{\text{FeIII}}$$

$$a_{-1} = k_{-1}$$

$$a_2 = k_{+2}c_{\text{FeIII}}$$

$$a_{-2} = k_{-2}$$

$$a_3 = k_{+3}$$

$$a_{-3} = k_{-3}c_{\text{FeIII}}^2c_{\text{ZnII}}$$

$c_{I1}$ ,  $c_{I2}$  and  $c_{I3}$  = surface concentrations of the intermediates.

# Development of rate equations

*Pseudo-steady state hypothesis*

$$r_1 = r_2 = r_3 = r$$

*Rate equation*

$$r = \frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 - a_{-1} a_{-2} a_{-3}}{a_{-1} a_{-2} + a_{-1} a_3 + a_2 a_3}$$

*Back-substitution of  $a_1 \dots a_{-3}$  gives*

$$r = \frac{k_{+1} k_{+2} k_{+3} c_{FeIII}^2 - k_{-1} k_{-2} k_{-3} c_{FeII}^2 c_{ZnII}}{D}$$

$$D = k_{-1} k_{-2} + k_{-1} k_{+3} + k_{+2} k_{+3} c_{FeIII}$$

$$r = \frac{k(c_{FeIII}^2 - c_{FeII}^2 c_{ZnII} / K)}{D}$$

# Rate equations

Final form

$$r = \frac{k_1 c_{FeIII}^2}{\beta + c_{FeIII}}$$

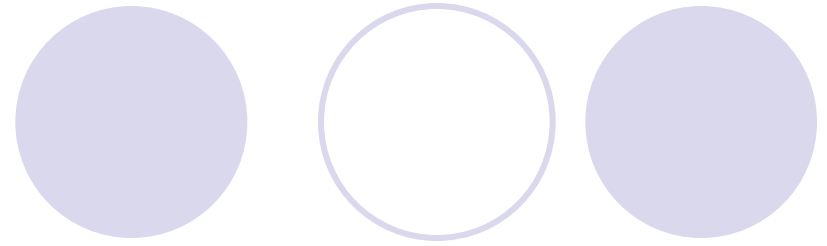
where  $\beta = (k_{-1}k_{-2} + k_{-1}k_{+3}) / (k_{+2}k_{+3})$

An alternative rate equation

$$r = \frac{k_1 c_H c_{FeIII}^2}{\beta c_H + c_{FeIII}}$$

NOT VALID FOR THIS CASE!

# Area & Shape factor



## *Development of a general approach*

The surface area ( $A$ ) can be expressed with a generalized equation

$$A = \frac{aM}{\rho_P R_0} n_0^x n^{1-x}$$

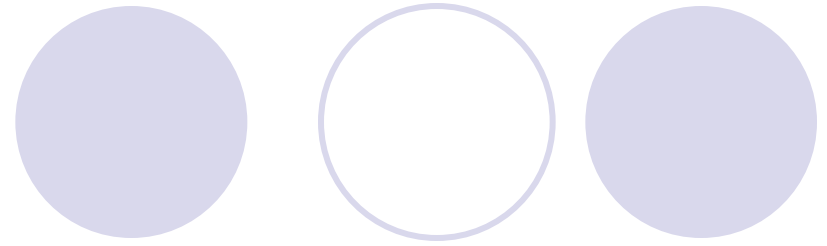
$n$  = amount of solid  
 $n_0$  = initial amount of solid  
Shape factor ( $a=1/x$ )

$$a = \frac{A_P}{V_P} R_0$$

$$a / R_0 = \frac{\sigma m_{0P}}{V_{0P}} = \sigma \rho_P$$

$$A = \sigma M n_0^{1/a} n^{1-1/a}$$

# Area & Shape factor



<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Shape factor (a)</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>1-x</b>
<b>Slab</b>	1	1	0
<b>Cylinder</b>	2	1/2	1/2
<b>Sphere</b>	3	1/3	2/3
<b>Irregular, 'rough' particle</b>	high value	0	1

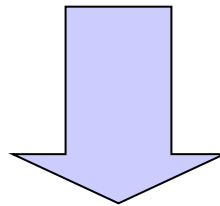
Reaction order can vary between 0 and 1!

# Mass balance for batch reactor

$$\frac{dc_{ZnS}}{dt} = \frac{v_{ZnS} \sigma M}{x_{0ZnS}} c_{ZnS} r'$$

$$\frac{dc_{FeIII}}{dt} = \frac{v_{FeIII} \sigma M}{x_{0ZnS}} c_{ZnS} r'$$

$$r' = \frac{\gamma e^{-E_a / RT} c_{ZnS} c_{FeIII}^2}{\beta + c_{FeIII}}, \quad \text{where} \quad \gamma = (k_1 \sigma M / x_{0ZnS})$$



$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = v_i r'$$



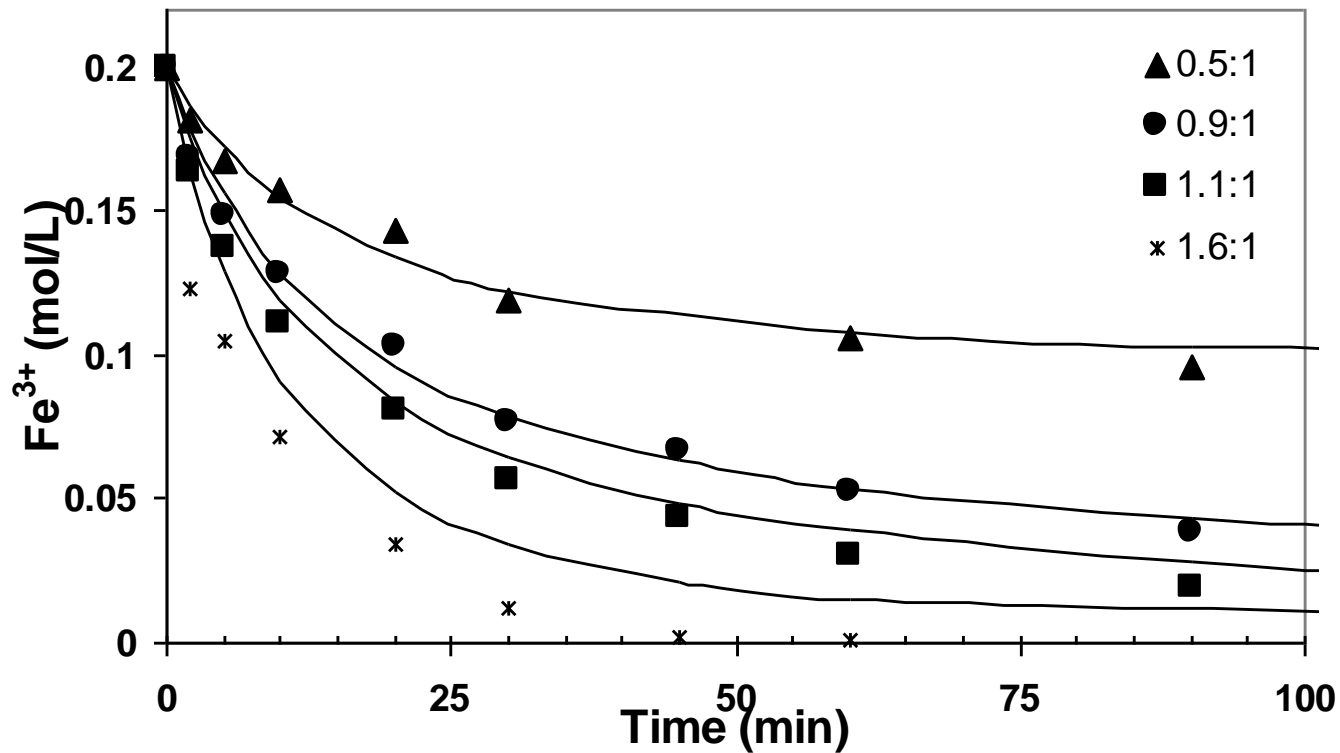
# Parameter estimation

*Nonlinear regression applied on intrinsic kinetic data*

Estimated Parameter		Parameter value	Est. Std. Error %
$\gamma$	(L / mol min)	0.331	4.5
$E_a$	(J / mol)	53200	4.8
$\beta$	(mol / L)	0.2	24.9

# Intrinsic kinetics - *Model fit*

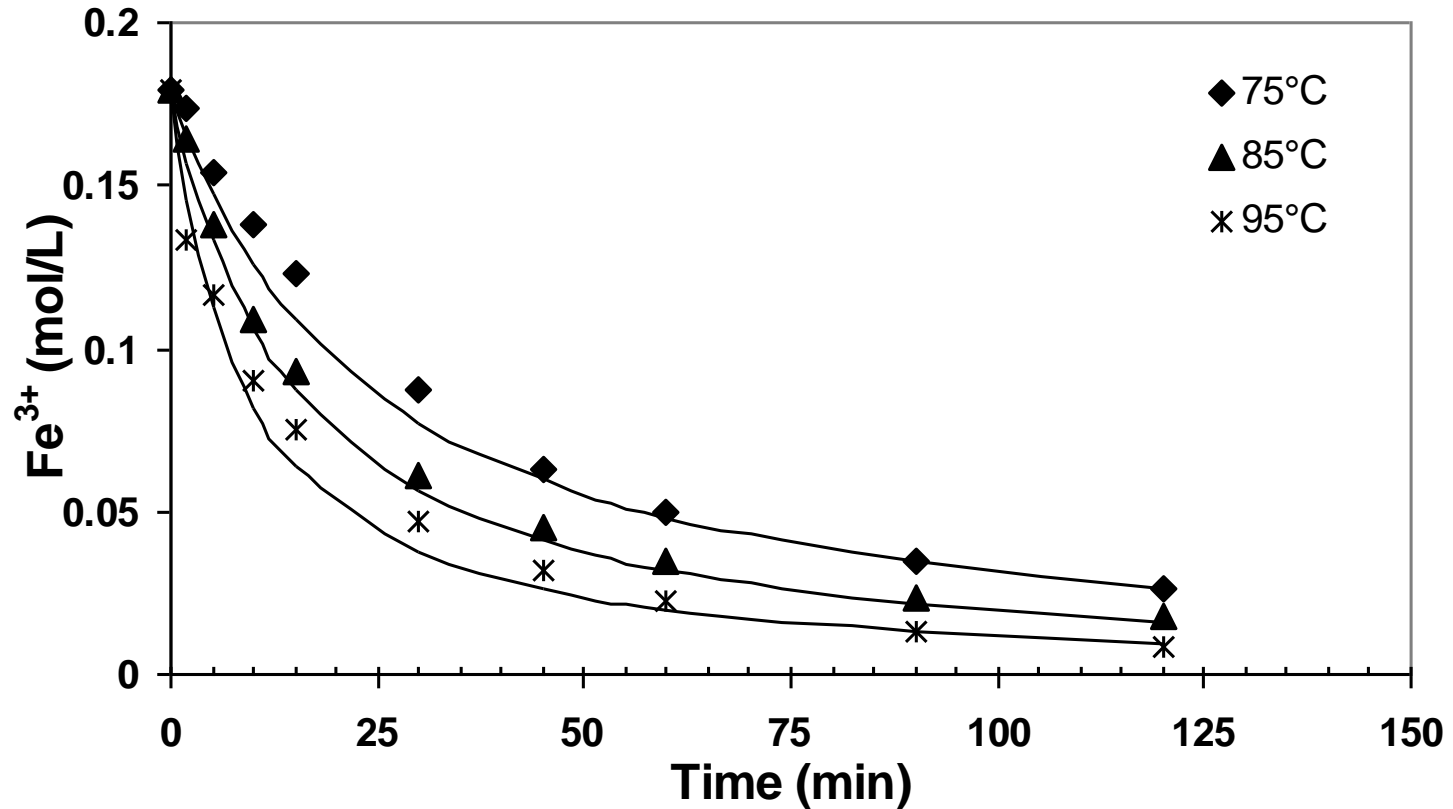
$T = 85^{\circ}\text{C}$



The effect of the ratio sphalerite : FeIII on the kinetics



# Intrinsic kinetics - *Model fit*



Temperature effect on the kinetics.

# Mass transfer limitations in Batch reactor

$$N_{Li}^s A + v_i r A = 0$$

where  $r_i = v_i r$  The mass transfer term ( $N_{Li}^s$ ) is described by Fick's law

$$k_{Li}(c_i - c_i^*) = \frac{-v_i k_1 c_i^{*2}}{\beta + c_i^*} \quad \beta' = \beta/c_i, \quad \gamma' = (-v_i k_1 c_i^*/k_{Li}), \quad y = c_i^*/c_i$$

The solution becomes

$$c_i^*/c_i = \frac{2\beta'}{\sqrt{(\beta'-1)^2 + 4(\gamma'+1)\beta'} + \beta'-1} \quad \longrightarrow \quad r = \frac{k_1 c_{FeIII}^{*2}}{\beta + c_{FeIII}^*}$$

# Liquid-solid mass transfer coefficient

## General correlation

$$Sh = a + b Re^{1/2} Sc^{1/3}$$

$$Re = \left( \frac{\varepsilon d^4}{\nu^3} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$Sc = \nu / D_i$$

$$Sh = k_{Li} d / D_i$$

$$k_{Li} = \frac{D_i}{d} \left( a + b \left( \frac{\varepsilon d^4}{\nu^3} \right)^{1/6} \left( \frac{\nu}{D_i} \right)^{1/3} \right)$$

$$k_{Li} = \frac{D_i}{d_0 z^{1/3}} \left( a + b \left( \frac{\varepsilon d_0^4 z^{4/3}}{\nu^3} \right)^{1/6} \left( \frac{\nu}{D_i} \right)^{1/3} \right)$$

where  $z = c_{ZnS} / c_{0ZnS}$ . The index (i) refers to Fe(III) and Fe(II)

# Correlations in rate equation

$$k_{Li} = \frac{D_i}{d_0 z^{1/3}} (2 + b' z^{2/9})$$

$$b' = b (\varepsilon d_0^4 / \nu^3)^{1/6} (\nu / D_i)^{1/3}$$

IF  $b' z^{2/9} \gg 2$  under stirring,

$$k_{Li} = \frac{D_i b'}{d_0 z^{1/9}} = \frac{b''}{z^{1/9}}$$

$$\gamma' = -\nu_{FeIII} x_{0ZnS} \gamma c_{FeIII} z^{1/9} / (\sigma M b''_{FeIII})$$

$$\gamma' = \frac{-\nu_{FeIII} \gamma c_{FeIII} \omega}{(c_{0ZnS} / c_{ZnS})^{1/9}}$$

$$\omega = x_{0ZnS} d_0^{1/3} / (\sigma M b (\varepsilon / \nu)^{1/6} D_{FeIII}^{2/3})$$

The surface concentration:

$$c_{FeIII}^* = \frac{2\beta c_{FeIII}}{\sqrt{(\beta - c_{FeIII})^2 + 4(\gamma' + 1)\beta c_{FeIII}} + \beta - c_{FeIII}}$$

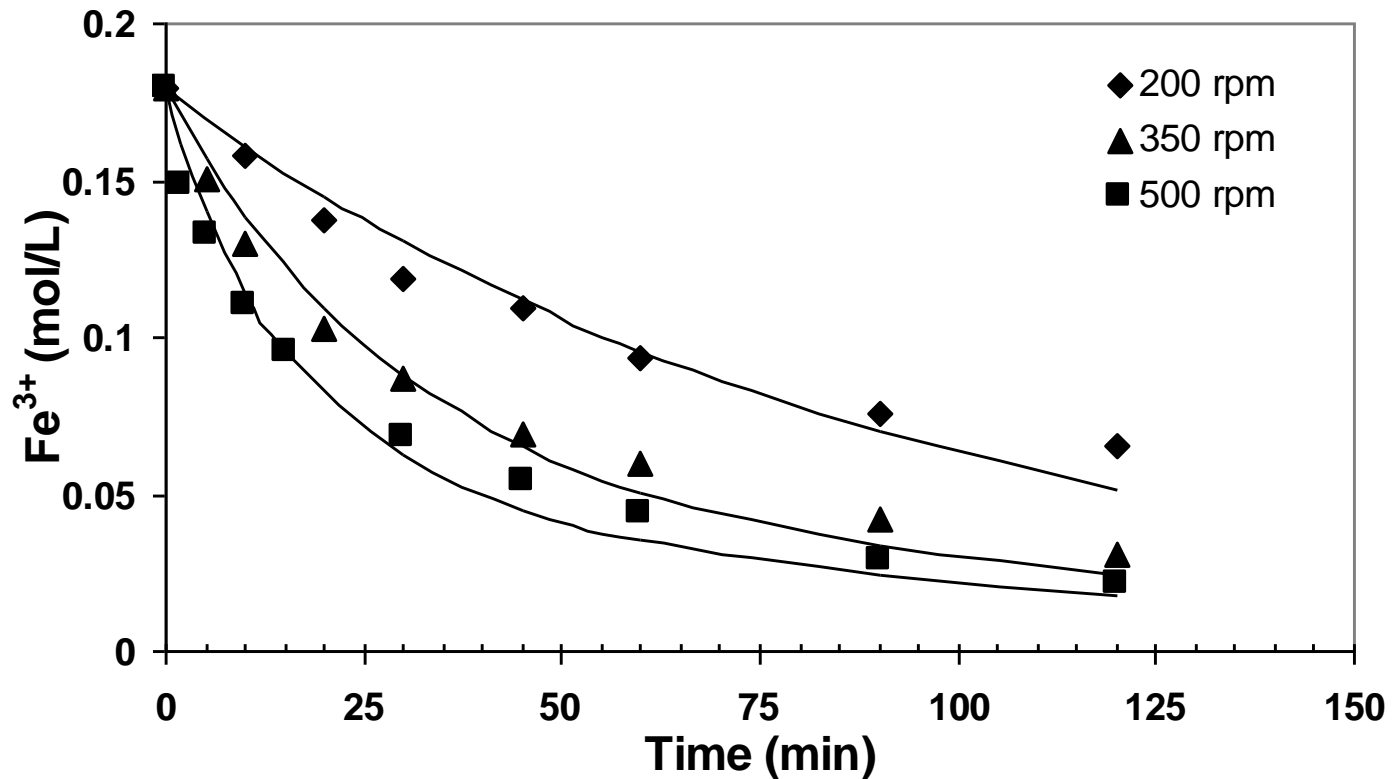
The rate:

$$r' = \frac{\gamma c_{ZnS} c_{FeIII}^{*2}}{\beta + c_{FeIII}^*}$$

# Determination of mass transfer parameter ( $\omega$ )

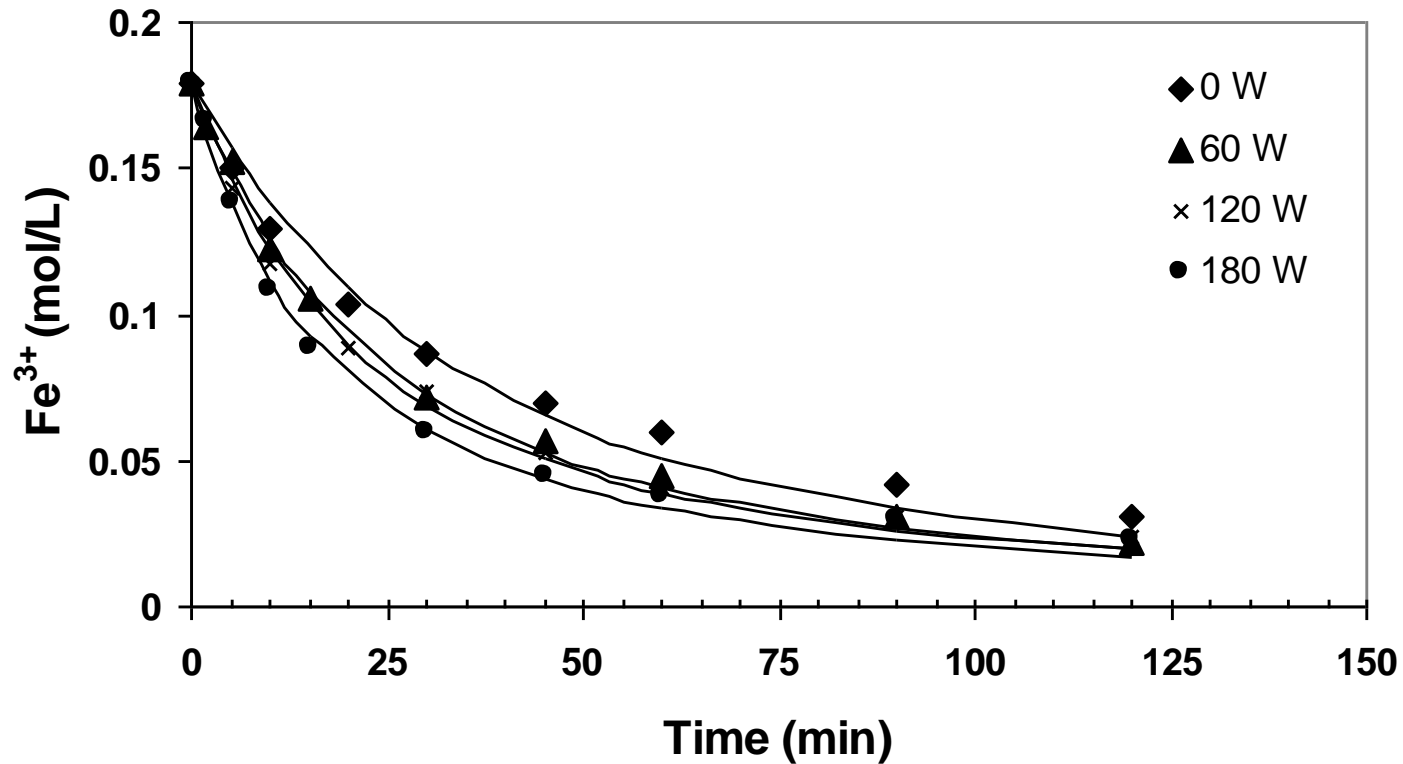
<b>Agitation rate &amp; US effect</b>		<b><math>\omega</math> (mol min / m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
200 rpm		50
350 rpm		14
500 rpm		2.4
350 rpm	<b>US 0 W</b>	14
350 rpm	<b>US 60 W</b>	6.8
350 rpm	<b>US 120 W</b>	5.8
350 rpm	<b>US 180 W</b>	1.67

# Modelling of kinetics and mass transfer

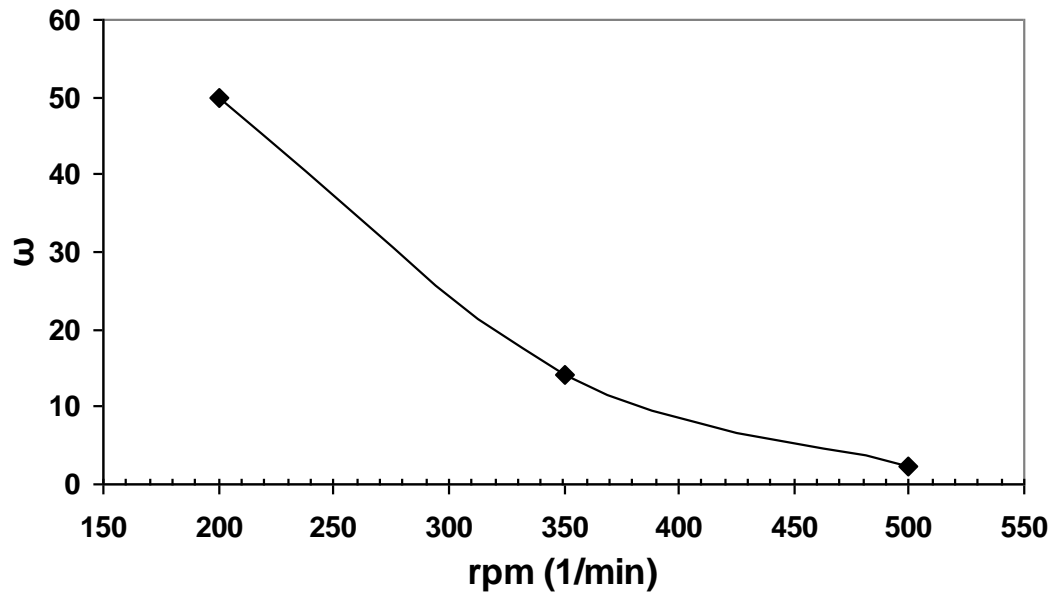


External mass transfer limitations – modelling of individual mass transfer parameters at different agitation rates.

# Modelling of kinetics and mass transfer

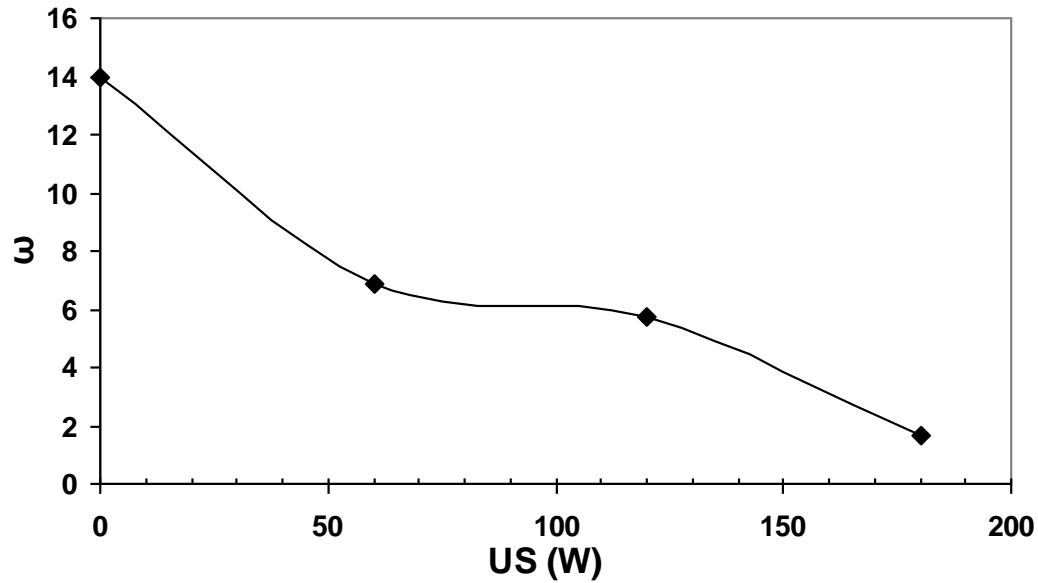


External mass transfer limitations – modelling of individual mass transfer parameters at different ultrasound inputs.



Mass transfer  
parameter

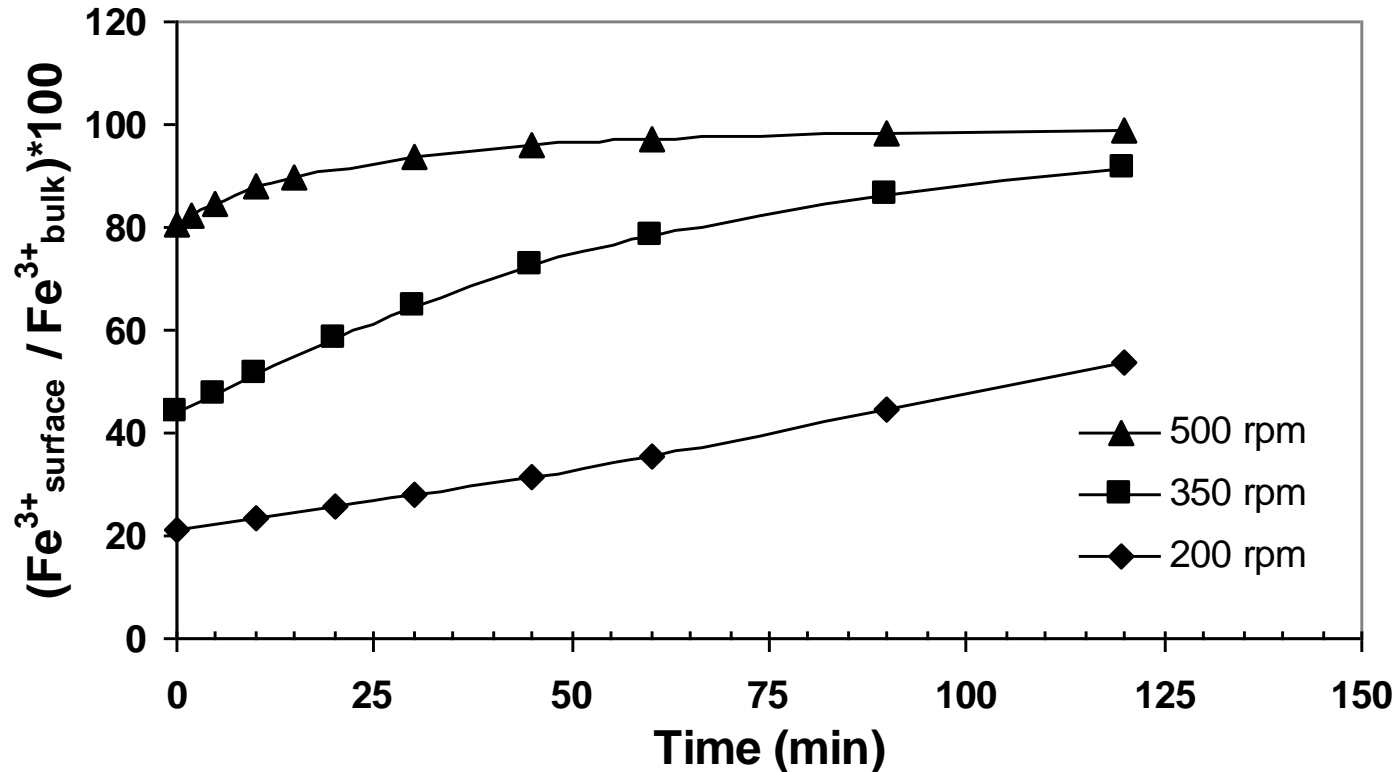
Normal agitation



Ultrasound

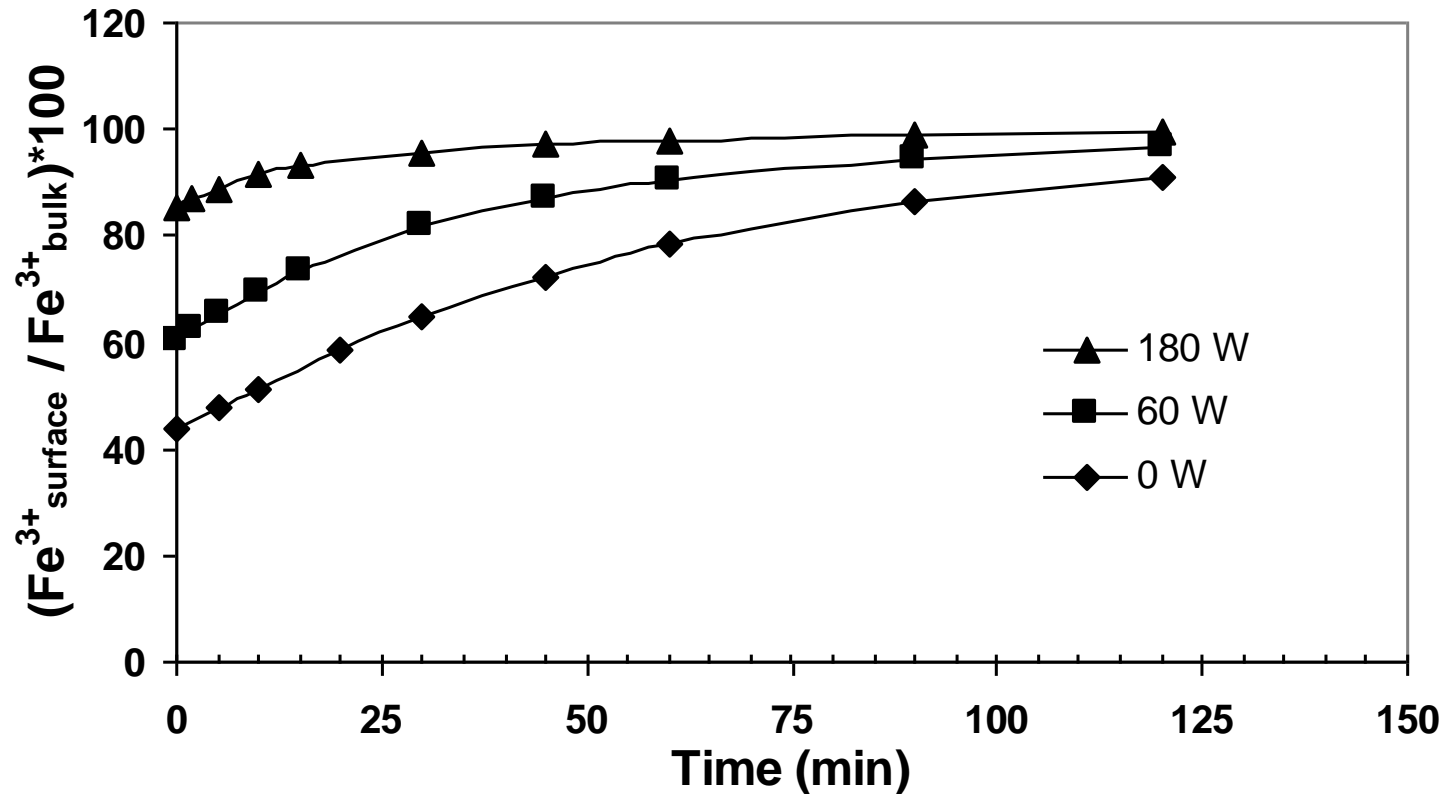


# The real impact of mass transfer limitations



The difference in the model based surface concentrations and measured bulk concentrations of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  at different stirring rates.

# The real impact of mass transfer limitations



The difference in the model based surface concentrations and measured bulk concentrations of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  at different ultrasound inputs.



# Conclusions

- A new kinetic model was proposed
- A general treatment of smooth, rough and porous surfaces was developed
- The theory of mass transfer was implemented in the model
- Model parameters were estimated
- The model works

# Modelling and simulation of porous, reactive particles in liquids: delignification of wood



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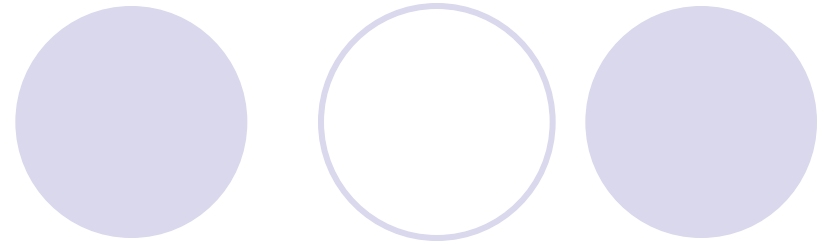
# Typical view of Finland



338000 km<sup>2</sup> of  
which 70% forest



# Papermaking

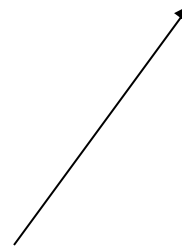
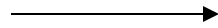
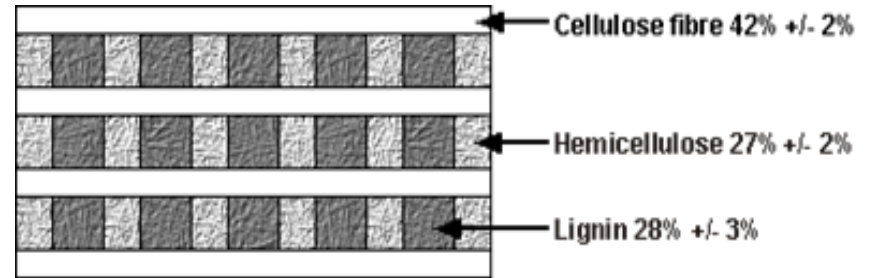


- **Wood chips**
- This is where paper making begins.
- A typical wood chip measures 40 x 25 x 10 mm.



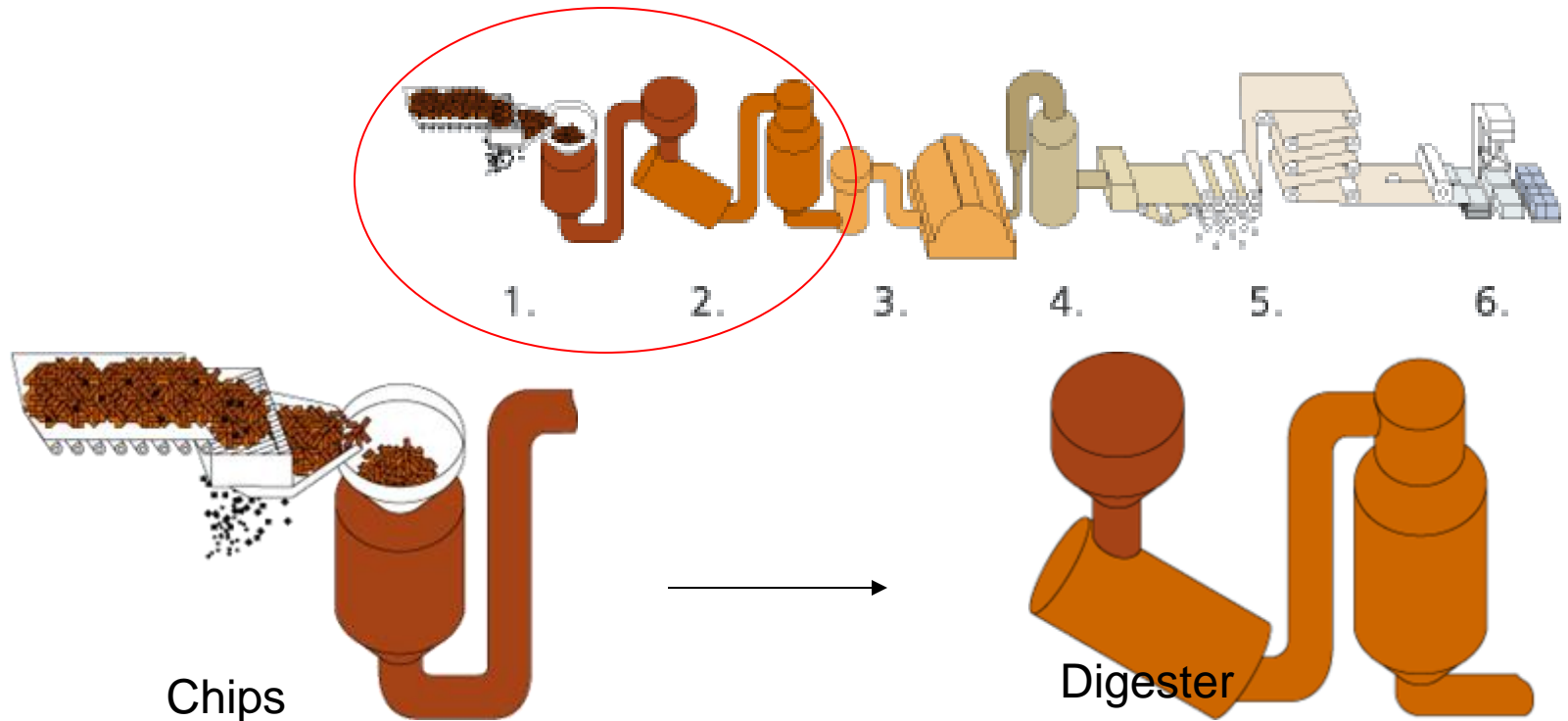
# Wood

- Each chip comprises water, cellulose wood fibres and the binding agent lignin.



# Pulp

- To make paper, we need to first make pulp, which is the process of breaking the wood structure down into individual fibers

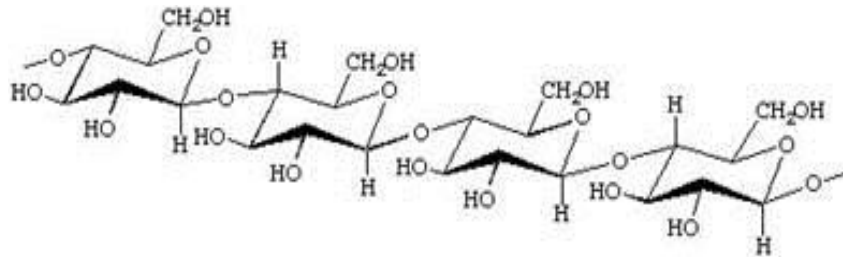




# Reactions

The reactions in chemical pulping are numerous. Typical pulping chemicals are NaOH and NaHS

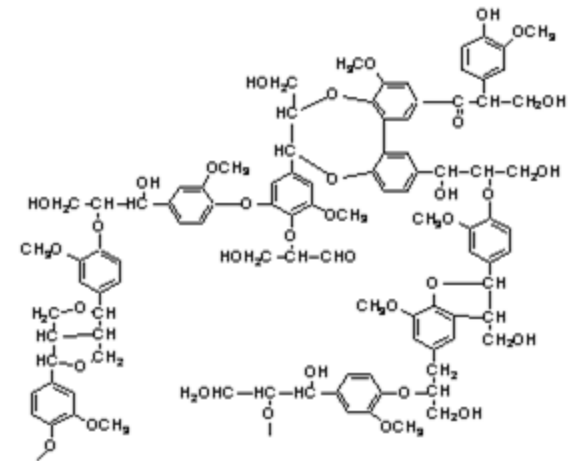
cellulose



Overall process:

***Lignin+Cellulose+Carbohydrates+Xylanes+OH+HS -> Dissolved components***

Part of Lignin molecule

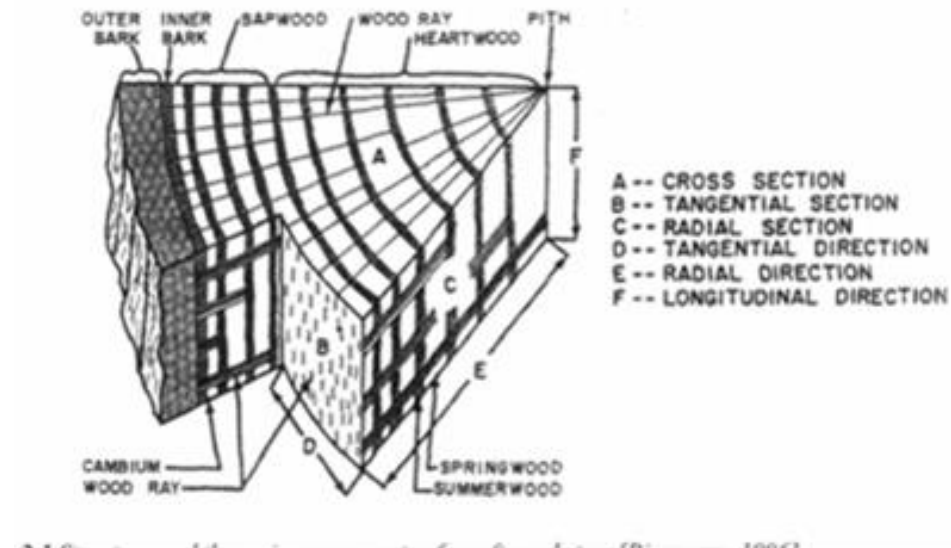


# Kinetic modelling of wood delignification

- Purdue model (Smith et.al. (1974) Christensen et al. 1983), 5 pseudocomponents
- Gustafson et al. 1983, 2 wood components  
Lignin and Carbohydrate, 3 stages
- Andersson 2003, 15 pseudocomponents
- Very few models available!

# Wood chip structure

- Wood material is built up of fibres
- We can expect different diffusion rates in the fibre direction and in the opposite direction to the fibres.



# Existing models



- The existing models for delignification of wood consider a 1 dimensional case with equal diffusion rates in all directions
- Is a 2- or 3-dimensional model needed ?

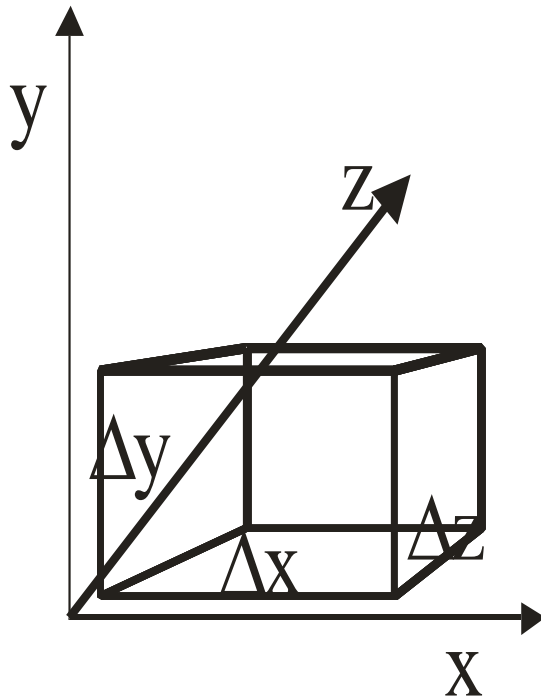


# Characteristics of our model

- Time dependent dynamic model
- Complex reaction network included
- Mass transfer via diffusion in different directions
- Structural changes of the wood chip included
- All wood chips of equal size
- Perfectly mixed batch reactor assumed

# Mathematical model, volume element

- 3D –model for a wood chip



$$\begin{aligned} (N_{ix} A_{yz})_{in} + (N_{iy} A_{xz})_{in} + (N_{iz} A_{xy})_{in} + r'_i \Delta V = \\ (N_{ix} A_{yz})_{out} + (N_{iy} A_{xz})_{out} + (N_{iz} A_{xy})_{out} + \frac{dn_i}{dt} \end{aligned}$$



# Mass balance for a wood chip

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \frac{D_i}{\varepsilon_p(t)} \left( \varepsilon'_x \frac{d^2 c_i}{dx^2} + \varepsilon'_y \frac{d^2 c_i}{dy^2} + \varepsilon'_z \frac{d^2 c_i}{dz^2} \right) + \frac{r'_i}{\varepsilon_p(t)}$$

Porosity

$$\varepsilon_p(t) = \sqrt[3]{\varepsilon'_x \varepsilon'_y \varepsilon'_z}$$

$$\varepsilon'_x = \frac{\varepsilon_x}{\tau_{px}}$$

# Boundary conditions



The concentrations outside the wood chip are locally known

$$c_i = c_{Li}$$

at the centre of the chip (symmetry)

$$dc_i/dx = dc_i/dy = dc_i/dz = 0$$



# Reactor model

Batch reactor model, ideal flow

$$\frac{dc_{Li}}{dt} = N_{ix} a_{yx} + N_{iy} a_{xz} + N_{iz} a_{xy} + r_i$$

Fluxes from wood chip

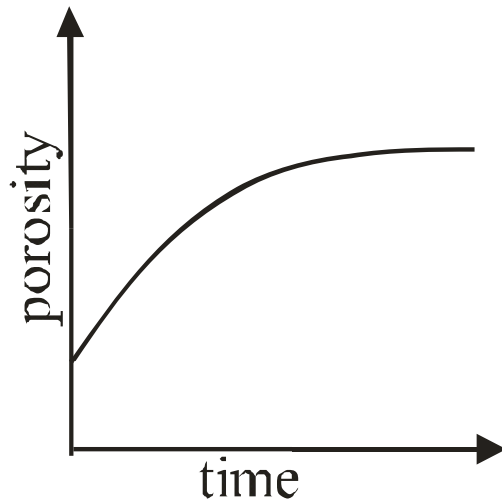
$$N_{ix} = -\varepsilon'_x D_i \left( \frac{dc_i}{dx} \right)_{x=Lx}$$

$$N_{iy} = -\varepsilon'_y D_i \left( \frac{dc_i}{dy} \right)_{y=Ly}$$

$$N_{iz} = -\varepsilon'_z D_i \left( \frac{dc_i}{dz} \right)_{z=Lz}$$

# Structural changes of the wood chip

Generally one can state that the porosity of the chip increases during the process, since lignin and hemicelluloses are dissolved



Change of porosity as a function of the lignin conversion

$$\eta_l = \frac{c_{0l} - c_l}{c_{0l}} = 1 - \frac{c_l}{c_{0l}}$$

$$\epsilon_p = \epsilon_{0p} + (\epsilon_\infty - \epsilon_{0p}) \left( 1 - (1 - \eta_l)^{\alpha'} \right)$$

# Kinetic models

Andersson model, 12 wood pseudocomponents

$$r_i = k_1 (c_{OH}^\alpha c_{HS}^\beta + k_2) W_i$$

Purdue model (Christensen et al), 5 wood pseudocomponents

$$\frac{-dC}{dt} = [k_i' \cdot (OH^-) + k_i'' \cdot (OH^-)^a \cdot (HS^-)^b] \cdot (C - C_0)$$

Gustafsson model, 2 wood components, 3 stages

Initial stage, >22% Lignin,

Bulk stage, 22% > Lignin > 2%

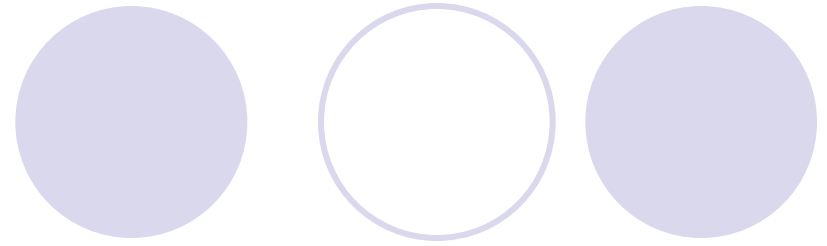
Residual stage < 2% Lignin

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = 36.2 \cdot T^{0.5} \cdot e^{\frac{-4807.69}{T}} \cdot L \quad \frac{dC}{dt} = 2.53 \cdot [OH]^{0.11} \cdot \frac{dL}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = \left[ e^{\frac{35.19 - 17200}{T}} \cdot [OH] + e^{\frac{29.23 - 14400}{T}} \cdot [OH]^{0.5} \cdot [S]^{0.4} \right] \cdot L$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = e^{\frac{19.64 - 10804}{T}} \cdot [OH]^{0.7} \cdot L$$

# Diffusion models



McKibbins

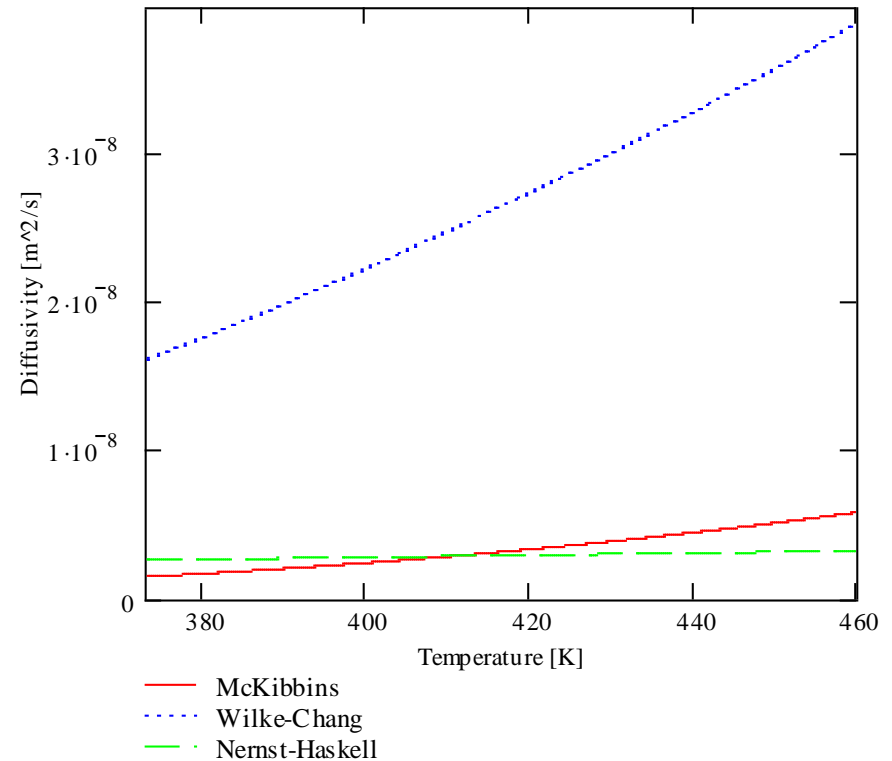
$$D_{NaOH,H_2O} = 5.667 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot \sqrt{T} \cdot e^{\frac{-4870}{1.9872T}}$$

Wilke-Chang

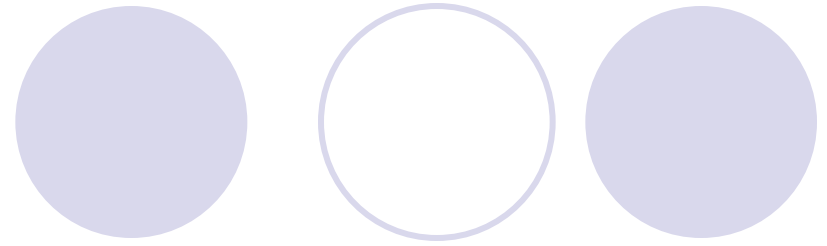
$$D_{AB} = \frac{7.4 \cdot 10^{-12} \cdot \sqrt{\phi \cdot M_B} \cdot T}{\mu_B \cdot V_A^{0.6}}$$

Nernst-Haskell (infinite dilution)

$$D^o = 8.931 \cdot 10^{-14} \cdot T \cdot \left( \frac{\lambda_+^0 \cdot \lambda_-^0}{\lambda_+^0 + \lambda_-^0} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{z_+ + z_-}{z_+ \cdot z_-} \right)$$



# Kappa number



The progress of delignification is by pulp professionals described by the Kappa number

$$\kappa = 500 \frac{L}{L + CH} + 5$$

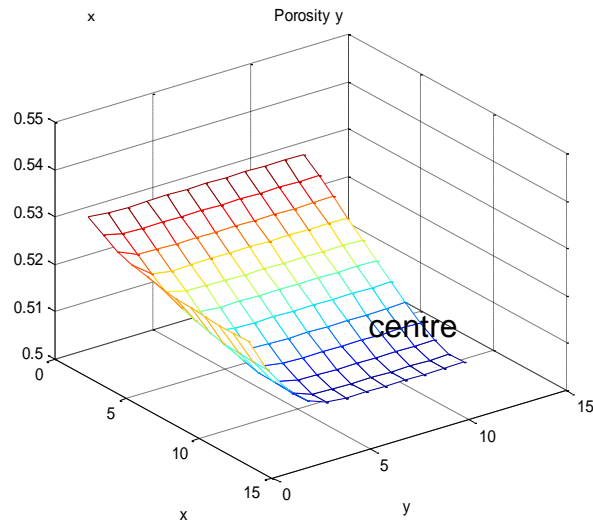
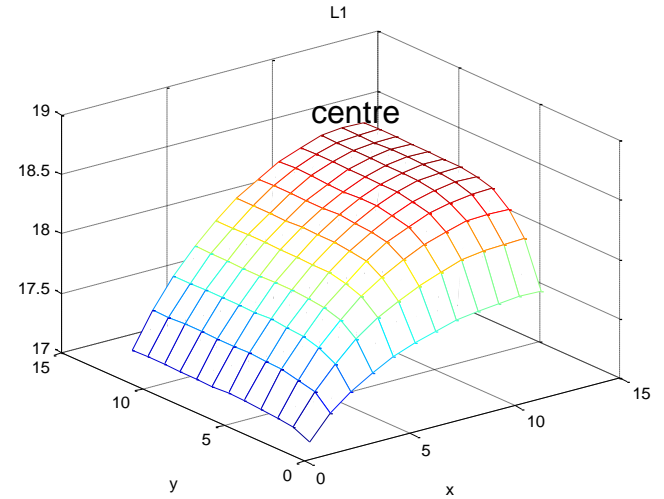
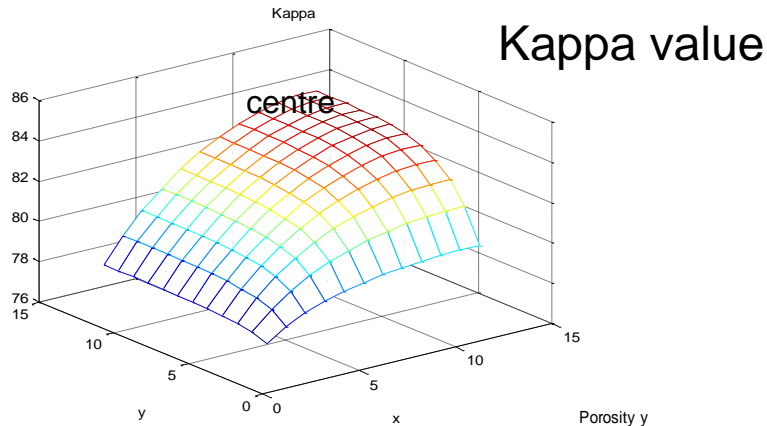
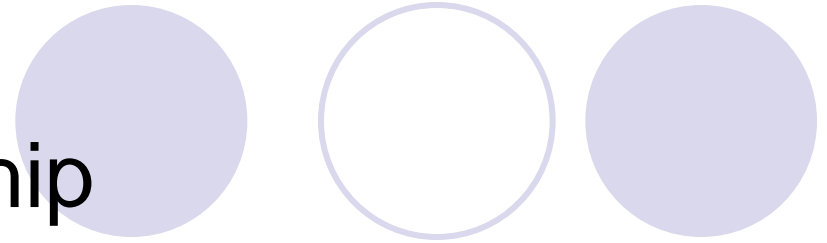
L = Lignin on wood, CH = Carbohydrates on wood

# Numerical approach



- Discretizing the partial differential equations (PDEs) with respect to the spatial coordinates ( $x, y, z$ ).
- Central finite difference formulae were used to approximate the spatial derivatives
- Thus the PDEs were transformed to ordinary differential equations (ODEs) with respect to the reaction time with the use of the powerful finite difference method.
- The created ODEs were solved with the backward difference method with the software LSODES

# Simulation results, profiles inside wood chip



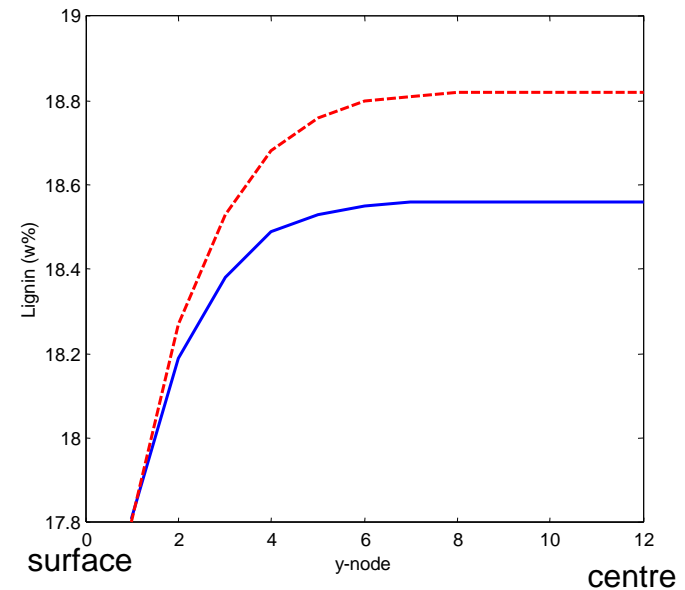
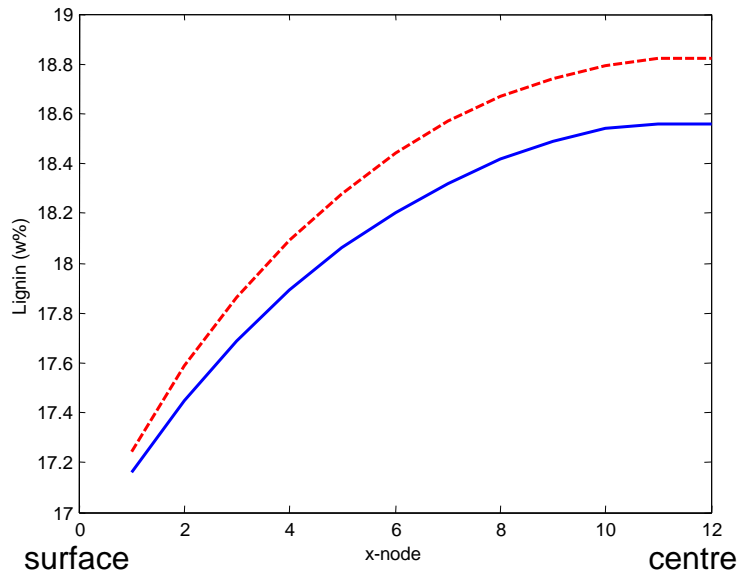
Lignin content

$T=170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

$C_{0,\text{NaOH}}=0.5\text{ mol/l}$

Porosity

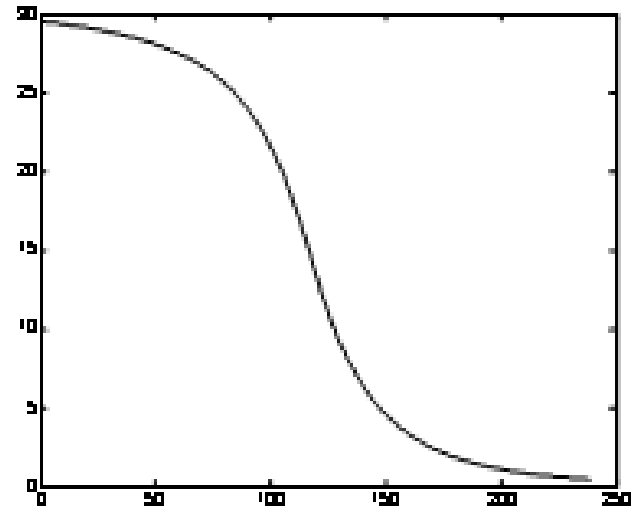
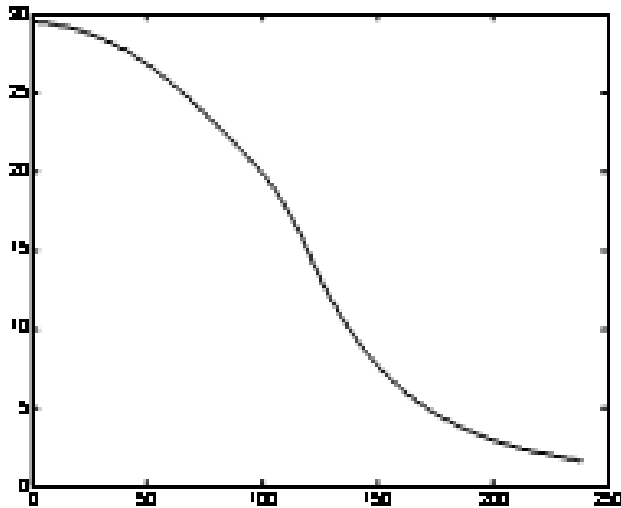
# The impact of 2-D model



**Red line, different diffusion rates in x and y directions**  
Blue line, same diffusion rates in x and y direction  
(Andersson kinetic model)



# Content of lignin on wood as a function of reaction time



Lignin concentration (w-%) in wood chip as a function of reaction time (min) with Andersson kinetic model (left) and Purdue kinetic model (right).

# Simulation software



- 2-D model for a wood chip in a batch reactor
- Different kinetic and diffusion models available
- Structural change model included (porosity)
- Dynamic model
  - all results can be presented as a function of reaction time
- Temperature and alkali concentration profiles can be programmed as a function of reaction time

# Conclusions



- A general dynamic model and software for the description of wood delignification
- Solved numerically for example cases, which concerned delignification of wood chips in perfectly backmixed batch reactors.
- Structural changes and anisotropies of wood chips are included in the model.
- The software utilizes standard stiff ODE solvers combined with a discretization algorithm for parabolic partial differential equations.
- Example simulations indicated that the selected approach is fruitful, and the software can be extended to continuous delignification processes with more complicated flow patterns.

Thank you!

