



# Recent Developments in the Measurement of Diffusion in Zeolites

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Hervé Jobic (Villerbaunne – France)

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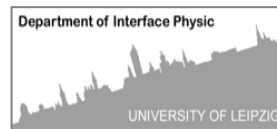
Johannes Lercher, Andreas Jentys (Munich – Germany)

Reiner Staudt, Andreas Möller (Leipzig, INC – Germany)

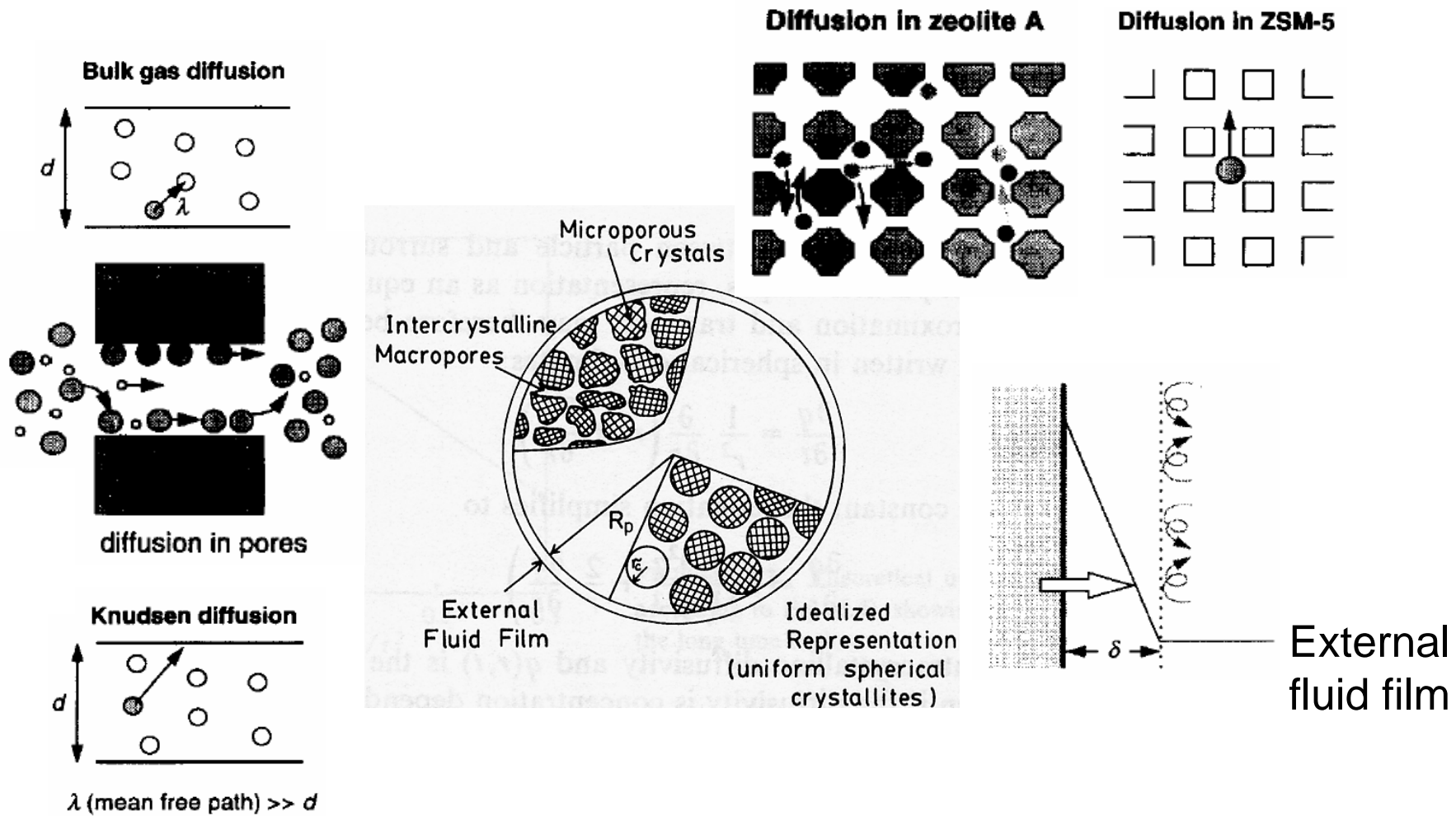
Douglas Ruthven (Maine – USA)

D.B. Shah (Cleveland – USA)

Wolfgang Schmidt (Mülheim – Germany)

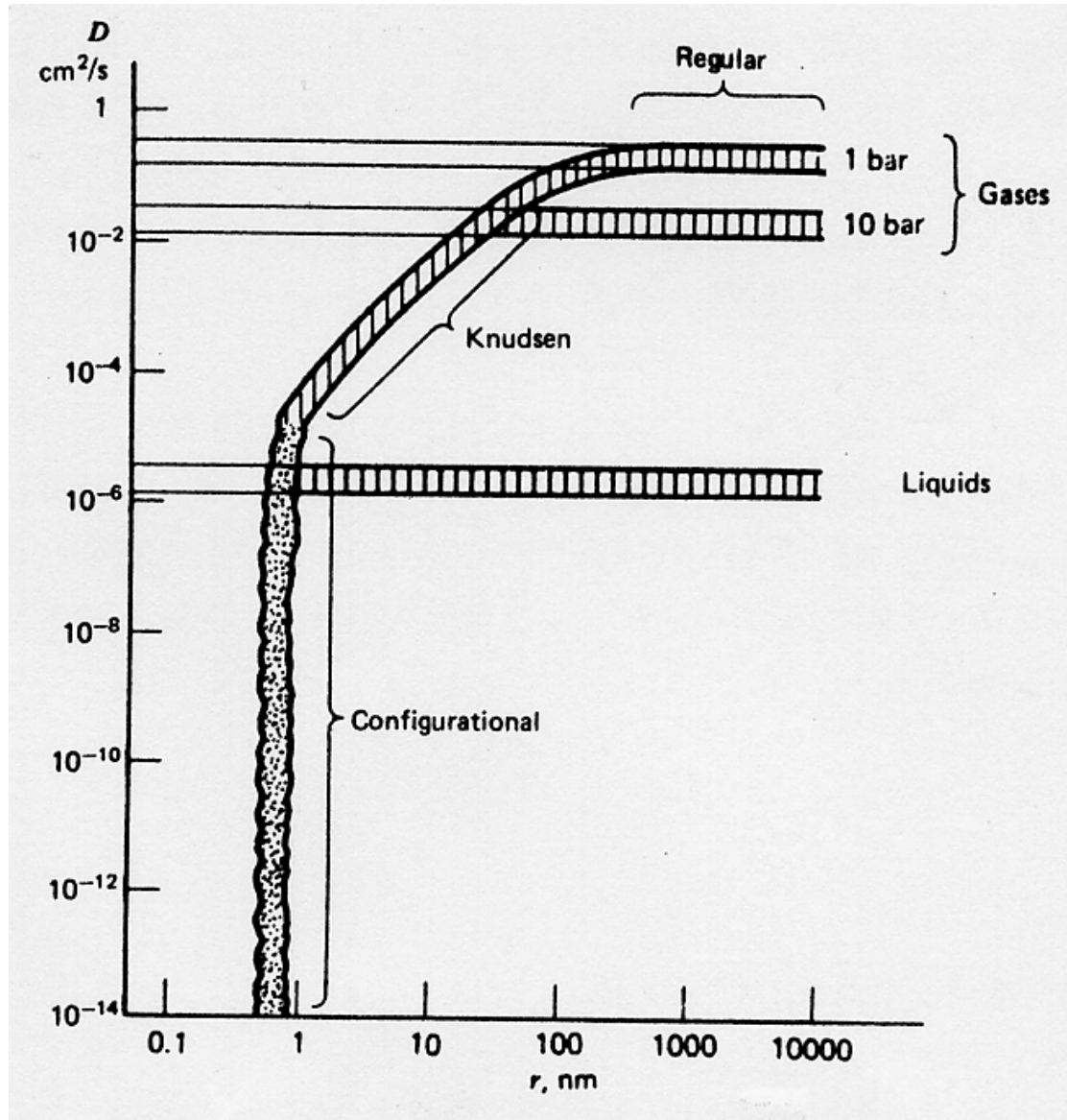


# Mass Transport Mechanisms



From Ruthven (1984) and Krishna and Wesselingh (1997)

# Range of diffusivities



## International Research Consortium



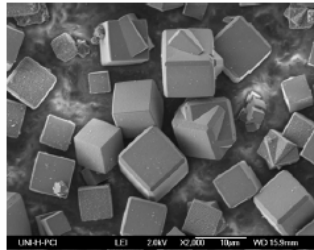
Kick-off meeting  
DECHEMA – House,  
Frankfurt, January 2004

On a hike before the  
progress meeting,  
Leipzig, September 2004

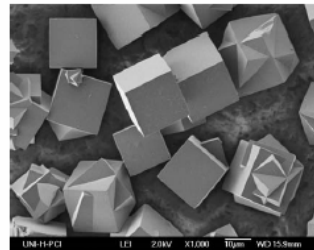
<http://www.diffusion-fundamentals.org>



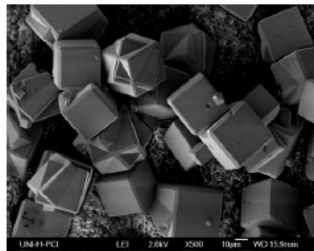
# Zeolite synthesis – Jürgen Caro, Wolfgang Schmidt



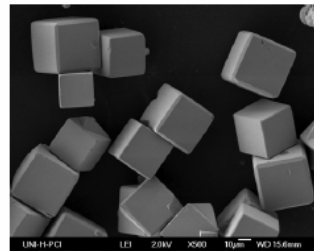
5 μm



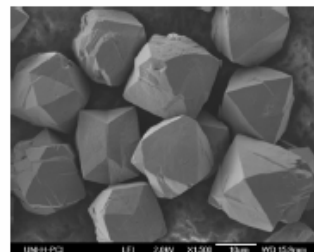
20 μm



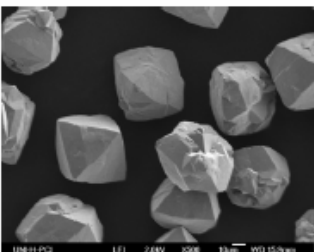
30 μm



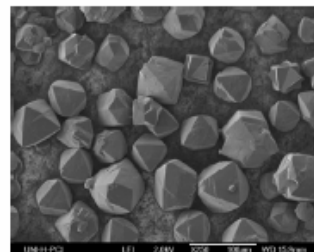
40 μm



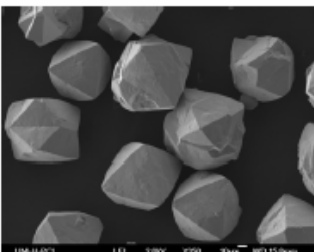
~15 μm



~50 μm

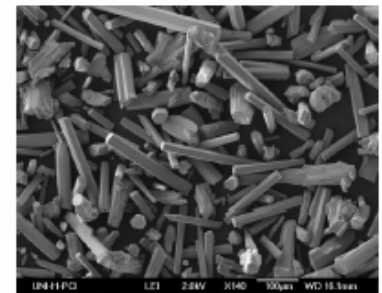
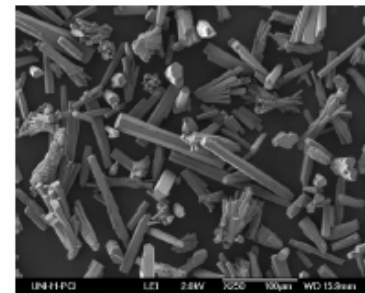
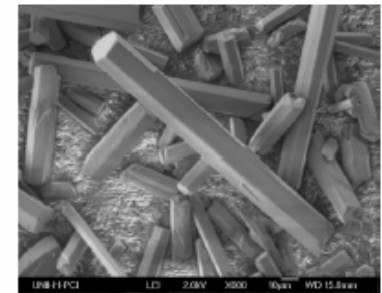
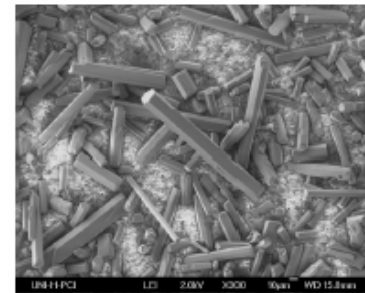


~50 μm



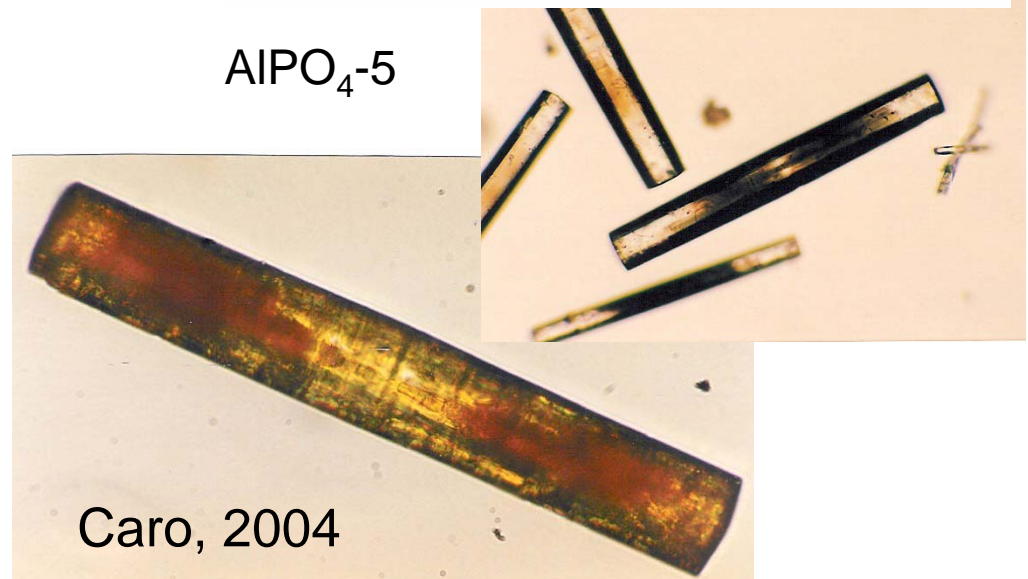
~80 μm

LTA



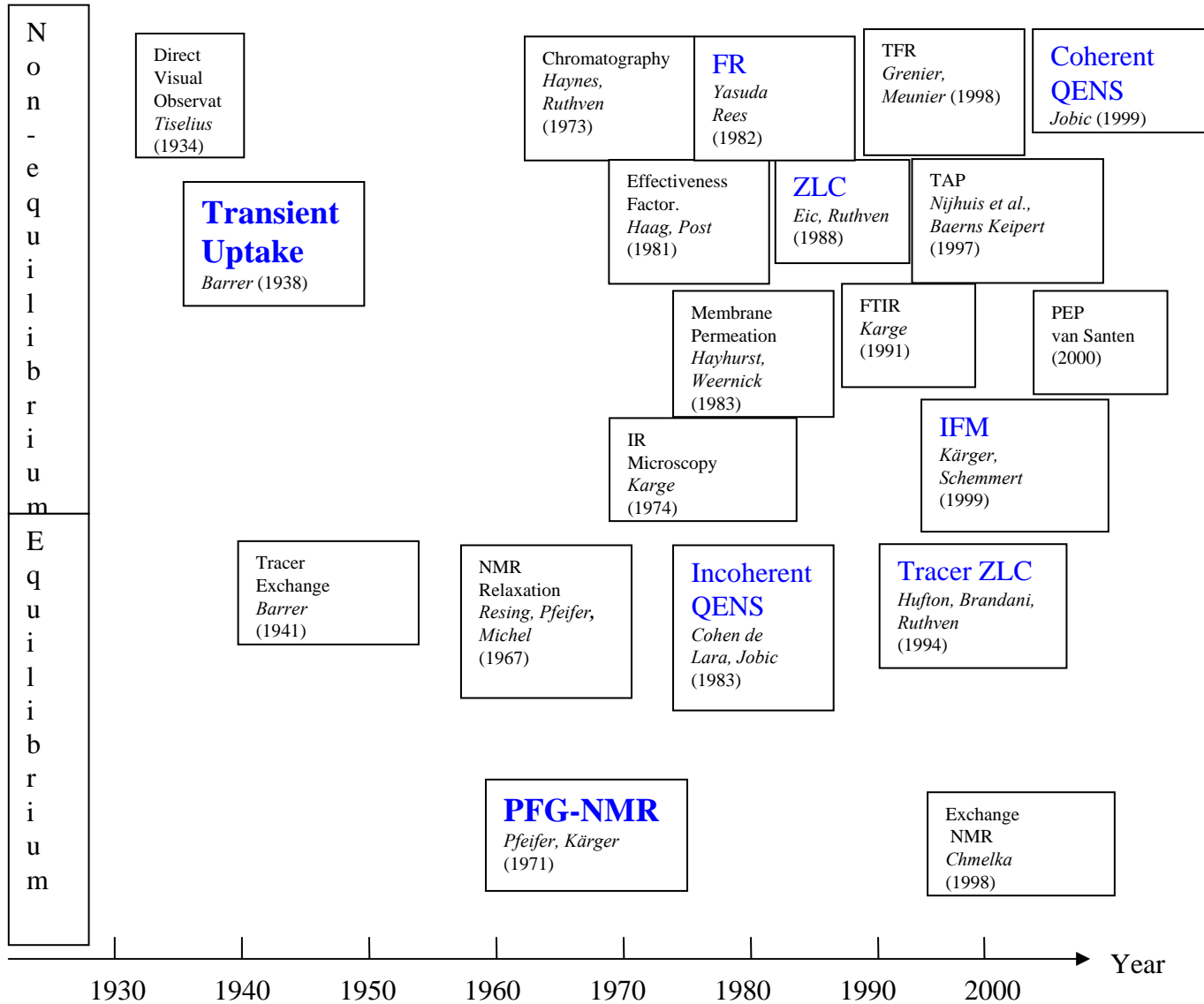
AIPO<sub>4</sub>-5

X

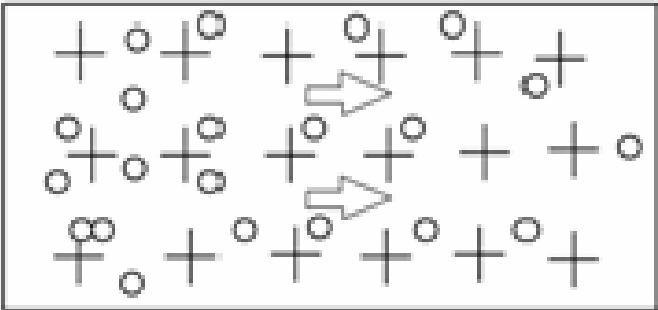


Caro, 2004

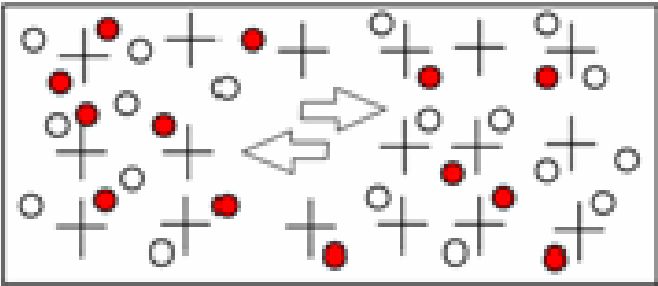
# Historical Development of Diffusion in Zeolites Measurements



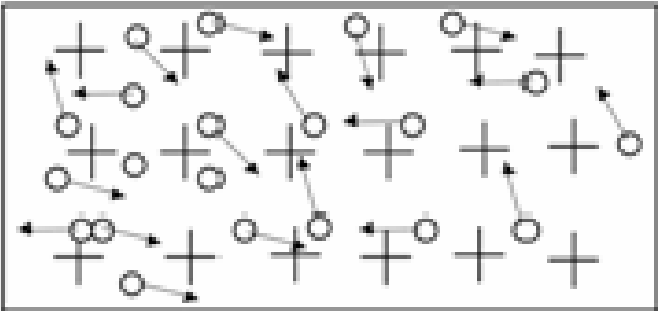
# Transport, Tracer and Self Diffusion



(a) Transport Diffusion



(b) Tracer Diffusion



(c) Self Diffusion

Most macroscopic methods measure mass transfer in the presence of a concentration gradient

Most microscopic methods measure self diffusion

# Microscopic vs Macroscopic measurements

- Microscopic

Measurement over very short time and length scales.

The RMSD is related to the diffusion coefficient through the Einstein equation.

**Limit on slower diffusing species.**

- Macroscopic

Measurement over the entire crystal length scale and process time scale.

Typically the gas phase concentration or pressure is monitored and through a mass balance the adsorbed phase composition is obtained.

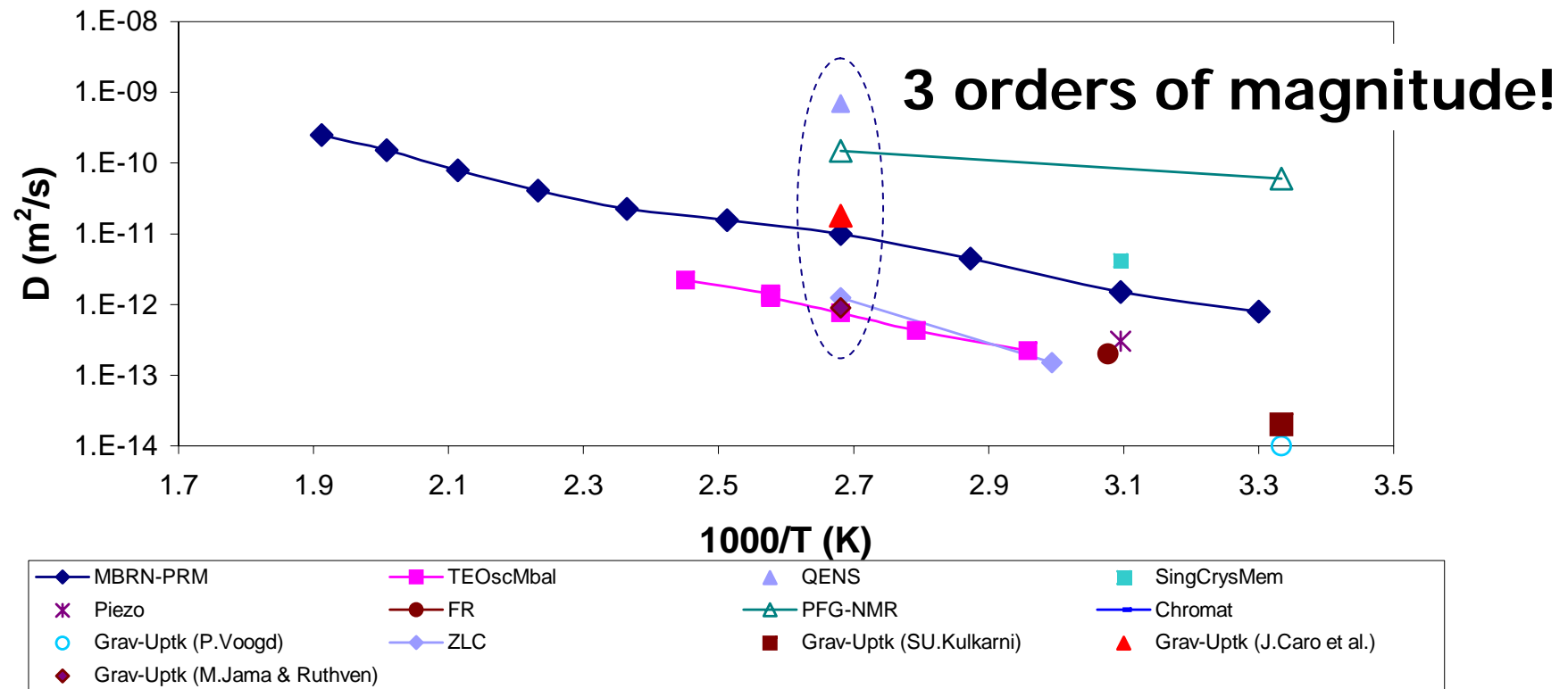
The mass flux under unsteady state conditions is typically measured.

**Limit on faster diffusing species.**



# Some recent measurements...

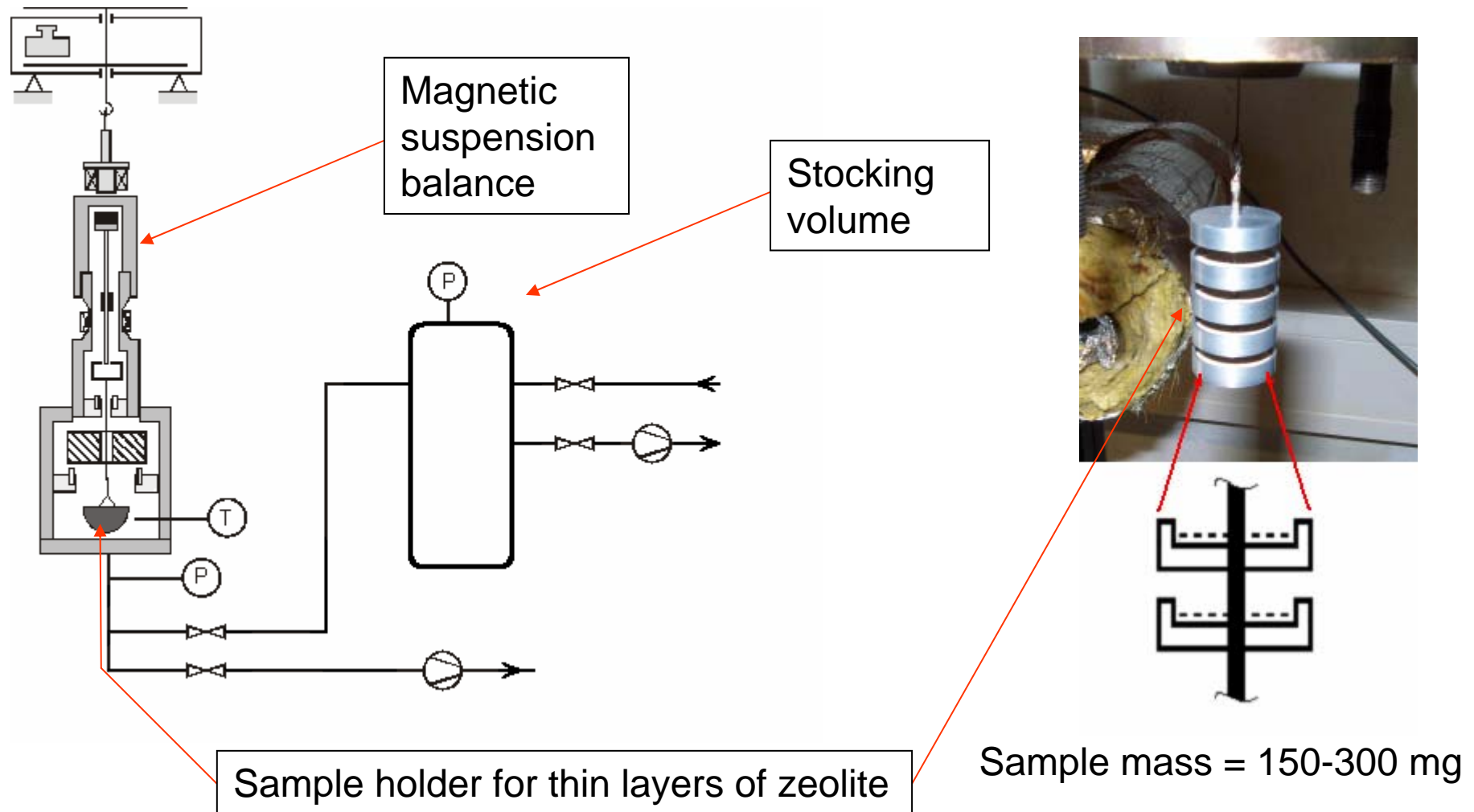
## n-Hexane in Silicalite after 1989



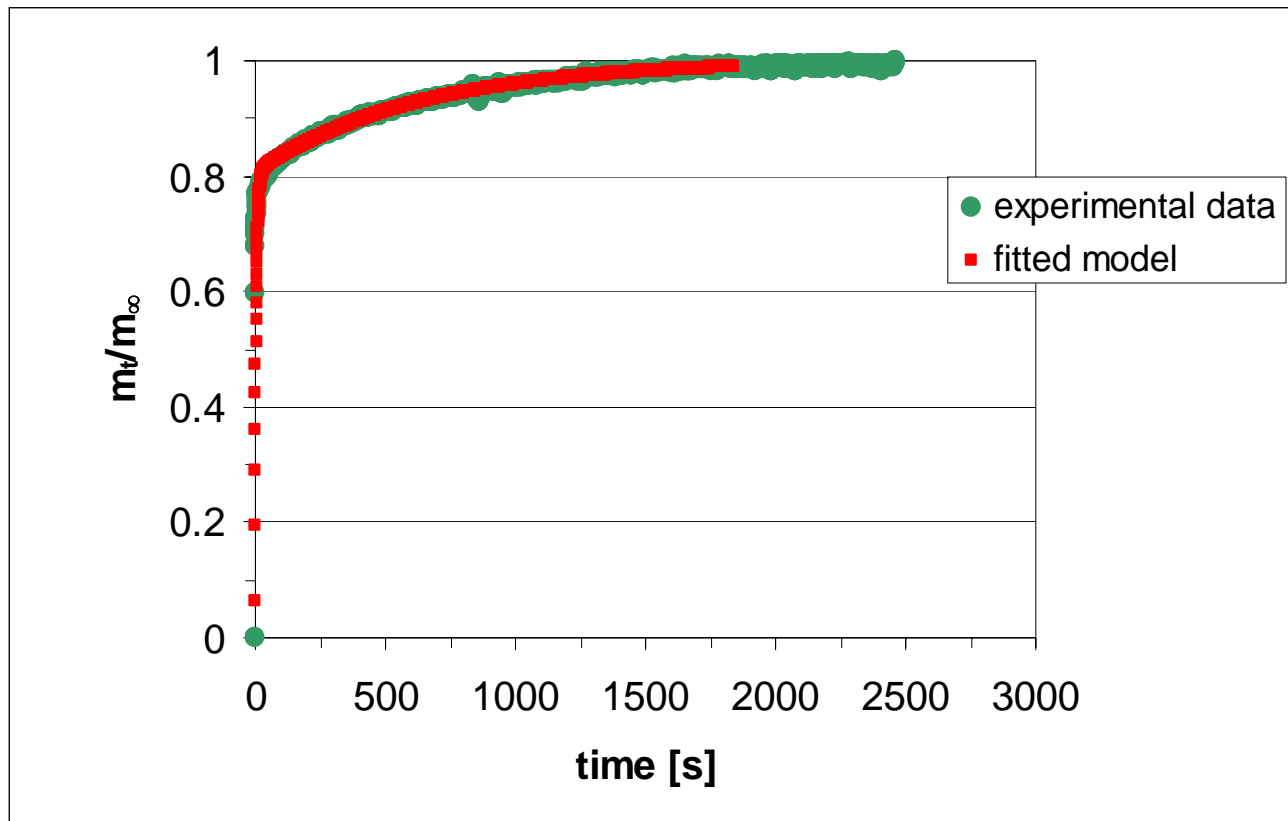


# Gravimetric uptake – Reiner Staudt

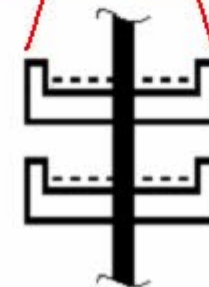
Measurement: transport D at medium to high concentrations



# Gravimetric uptake – System at INC Leipzig

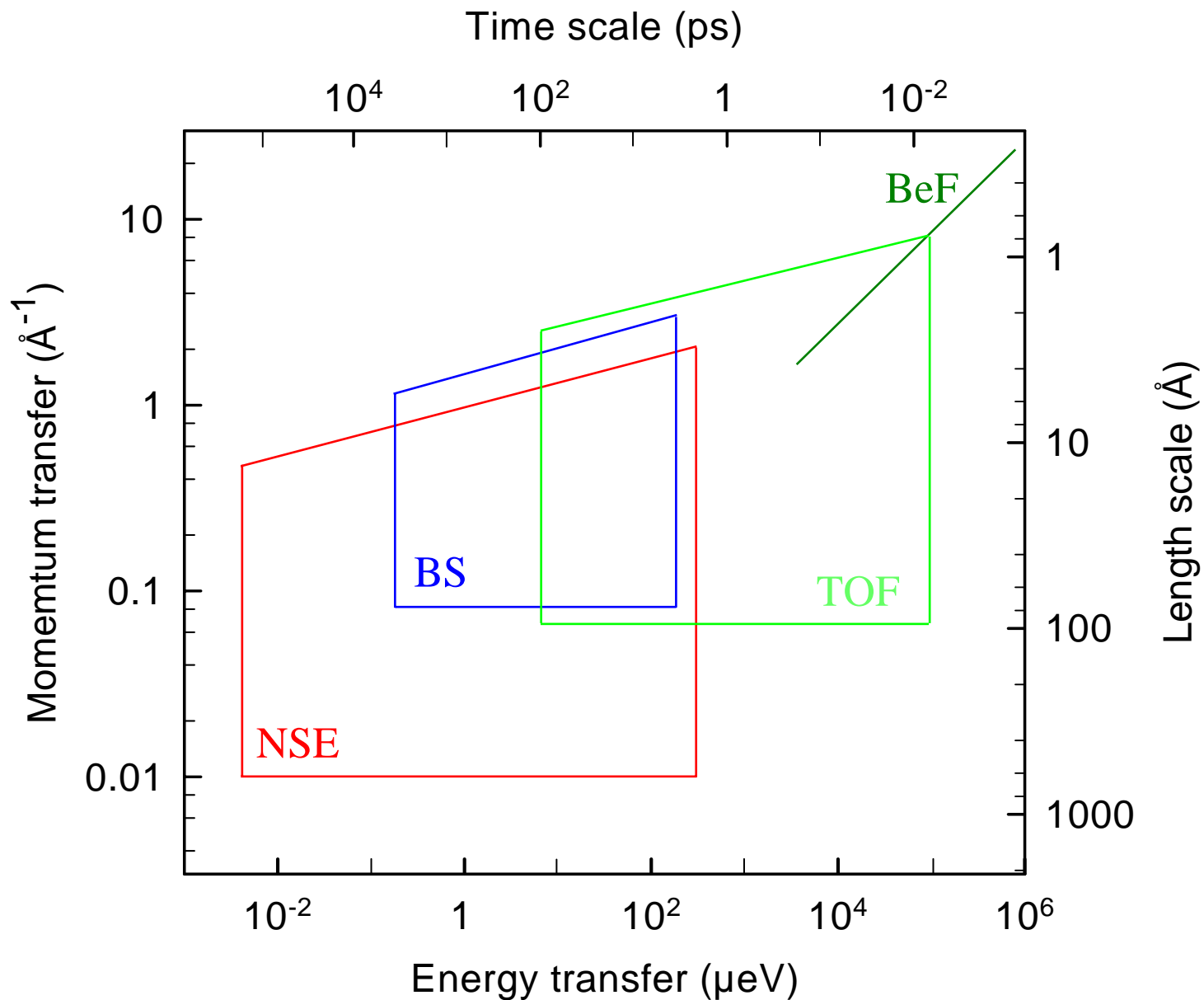


n-Butane in Silicalite – strong heat effects. Staudt 2005



Almost a monolayer on each tray.

# QENS/NSE – Length and Time Scales – Hervé Jobic



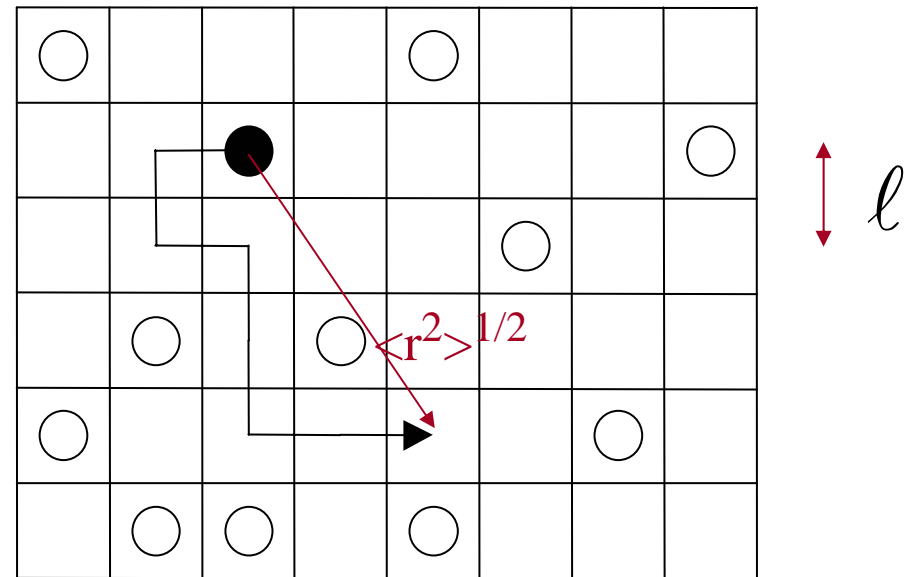
# QENS/NSE what is measured

QENS, NSE (coherent scattering: D, C, N, O...)

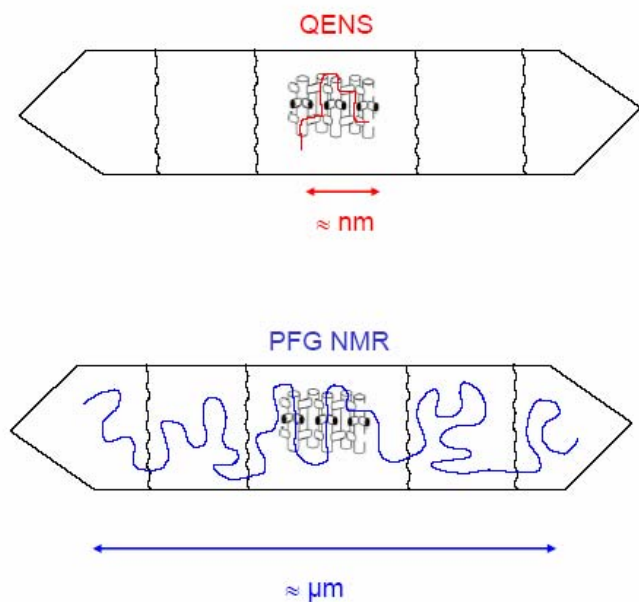
Transport diffusivity

QENS (incoherent scattering: H)

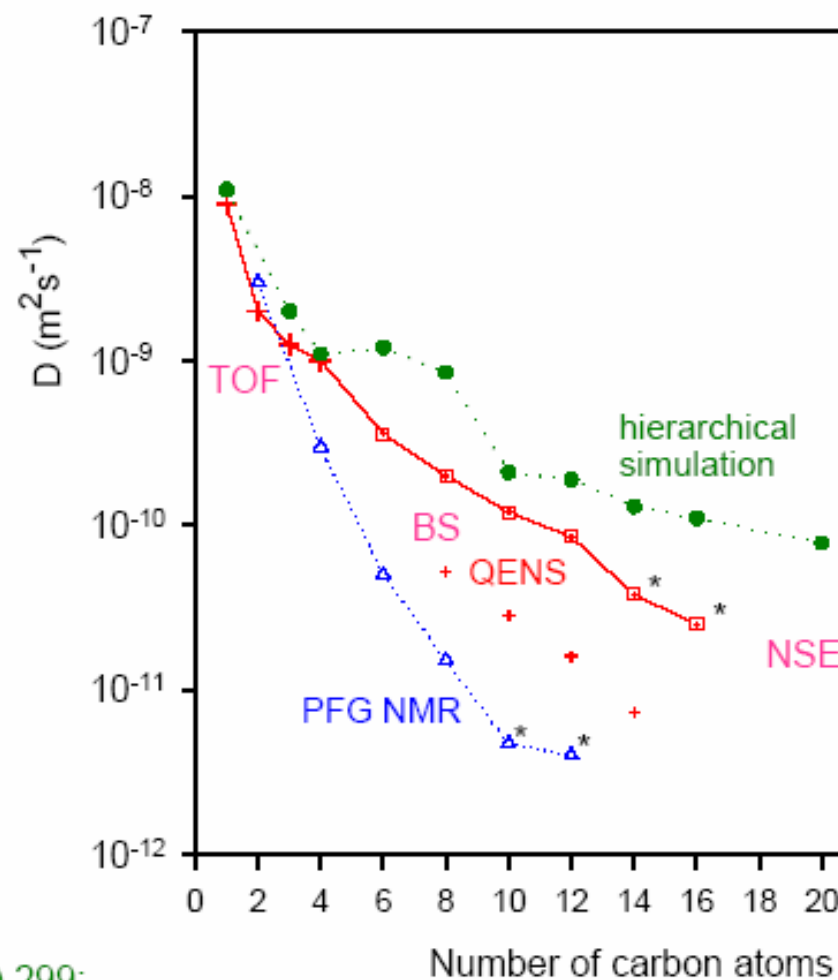
$$D_{\text{Self}} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{\langle r^2(t) \rangle}{t} = \frac{\ell^2}{6\tau}$$



For some system both  $D_{\text{Self}}$  and  $D_{\text{Trans}}$  can be measured, but only over short length/time scales.



$D_s$  *n*-alkanes / silicalite  
 (T = 300 K)

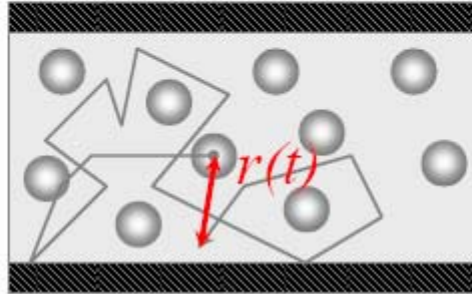


Microp. Mesop. Mater. 90 (2006) 299;  
 J.Phys. Chem. B 110 (2006) 1964

# PFG-NMR – Jörg Kärger

$$\langle r^2(t) \rangle = 2Dt$$

self-diffusion



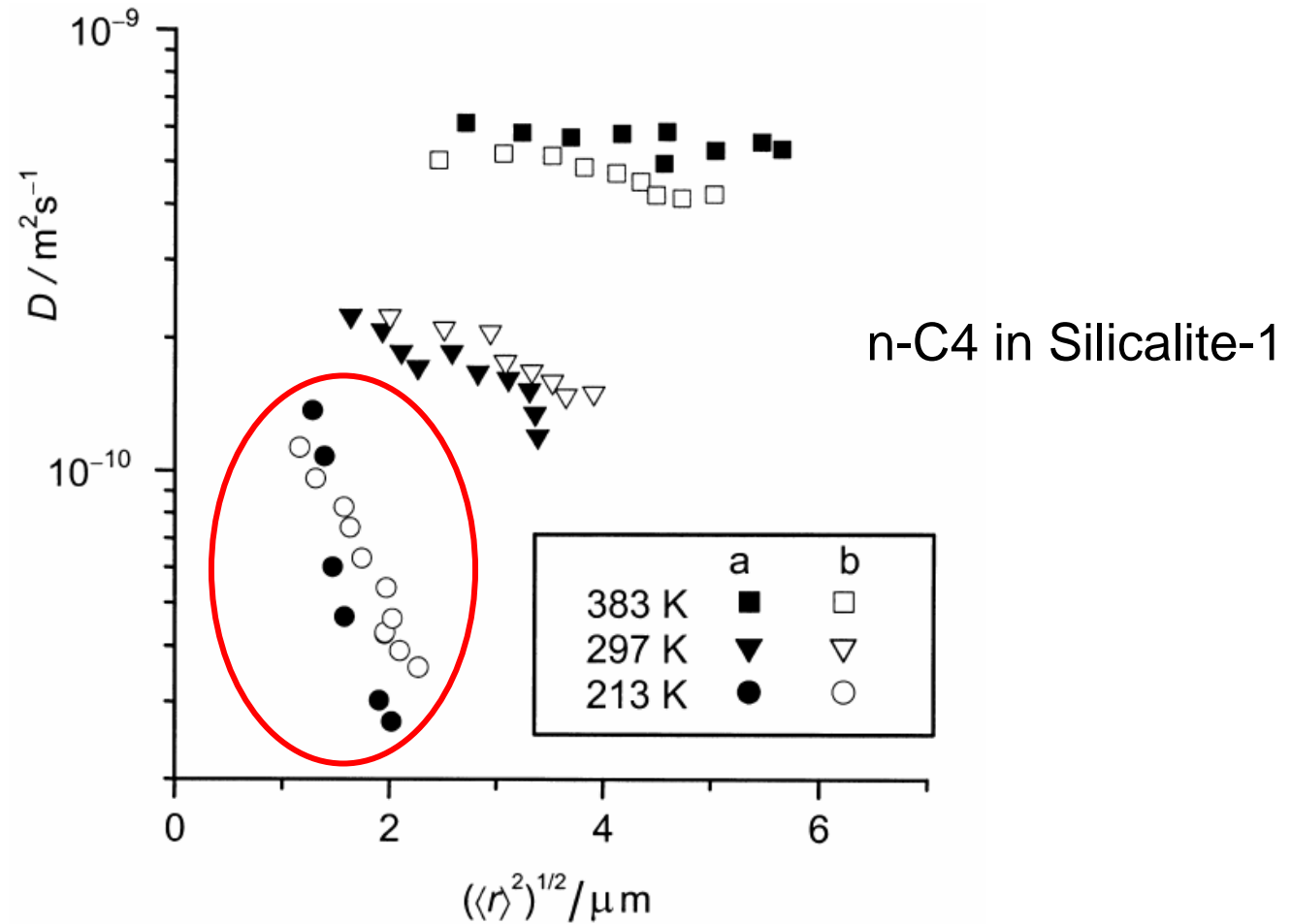
The attenuation of the NMR signal  $\psi$  is given by

$$\psi(t, \gamma\delta g) = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\gamma^2\delta^2g^2\langle r^2(t) \rangle\right]$$

The lower limit of detection is 100 nm for the displacement and an observation time of the order of 100 ms.

i.e. a minimum  $D_{\text{Self}} \approx 10^{-14}\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$

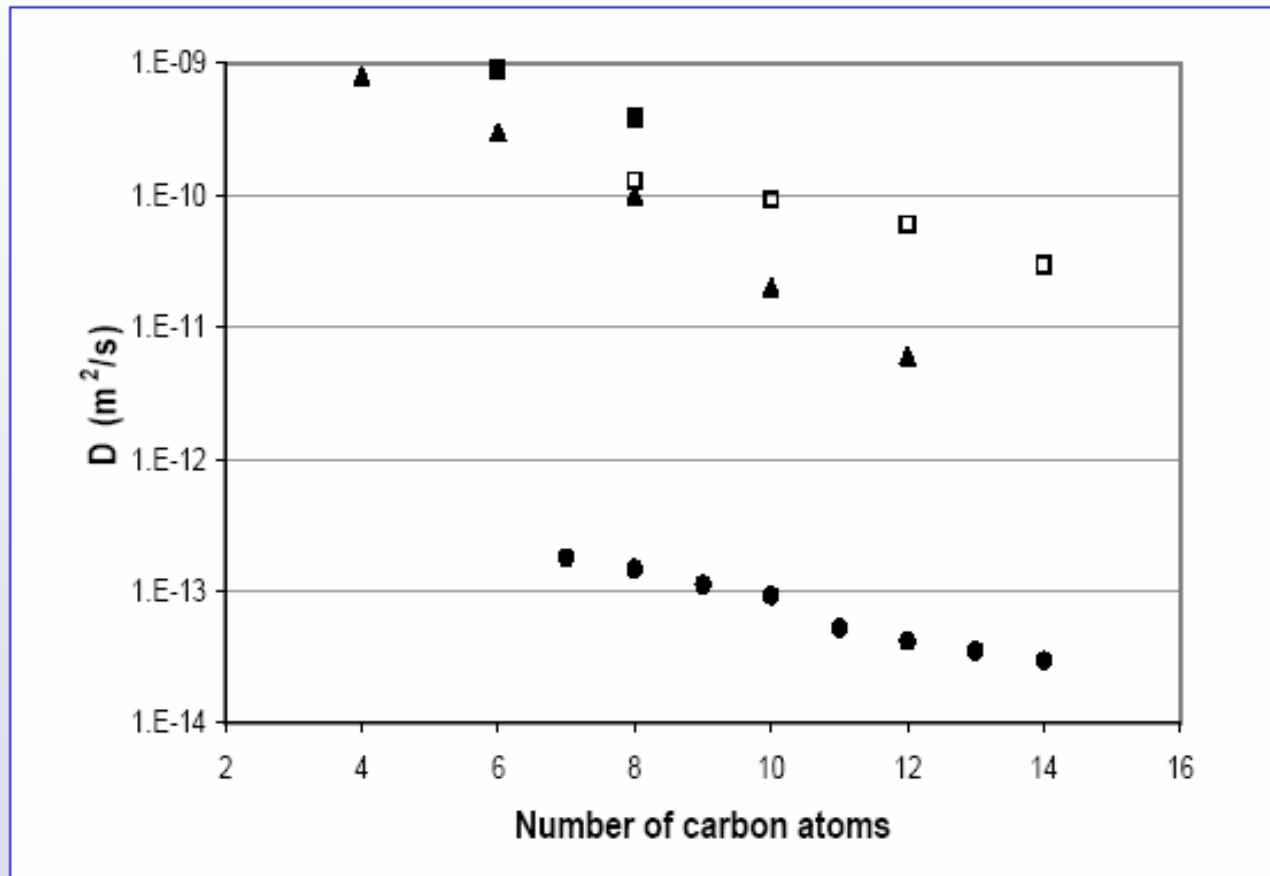
# PFG-NMR – evidence of internal barriers



**Figure 8.** Dependence of PFG NMR diffusivities on the mean diffusion path for butane in two different samples of silicalite-1 (open and filled symbols) at 3 K (○,●), 297 K (▽,▼), and 383 K (□,■) [34].



Only kinetic experiments carried out with different techniques on the same crystals can detect the existence of internal barriers!

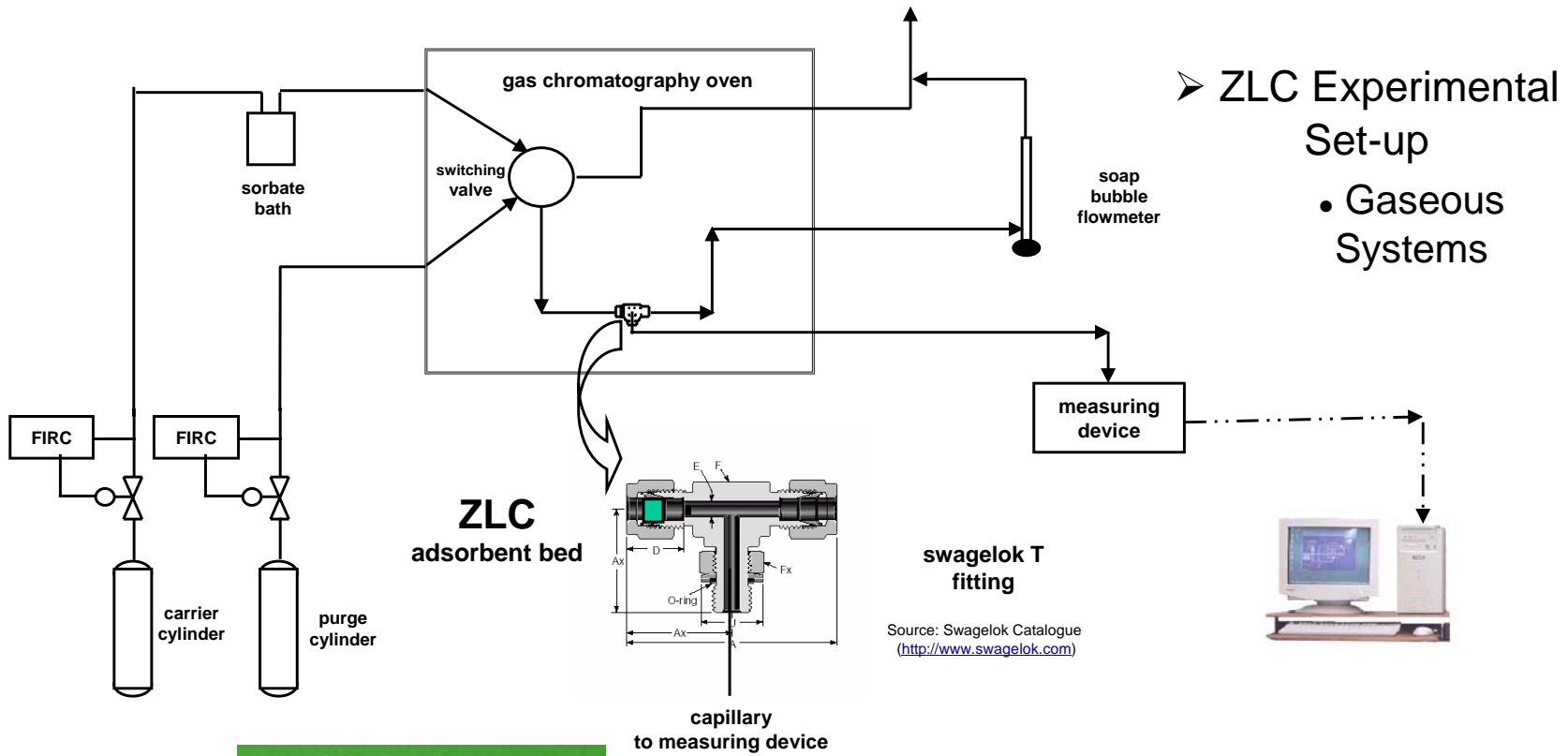


*n*-alkanes in MFI at a loading corresponding to 6 carbons per channel crossing.

Comparison of experimental results at 423K.

■ QENS new data; □ QENS; ▲ PFG-NMR ; ● ZLC.

# The ZLC apparatus

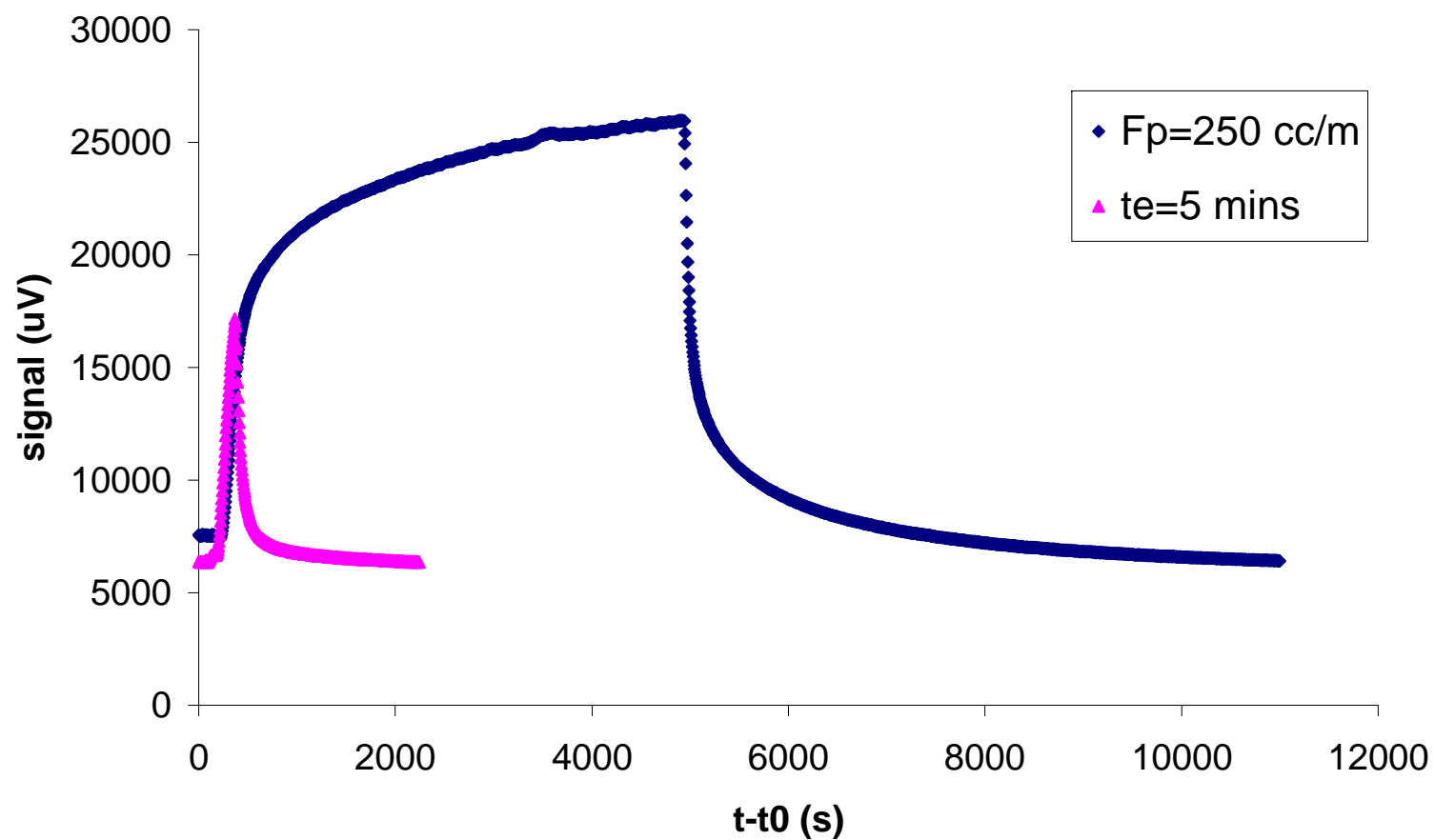


- ZLC Experimental Set-up
  - Gaseous Systems



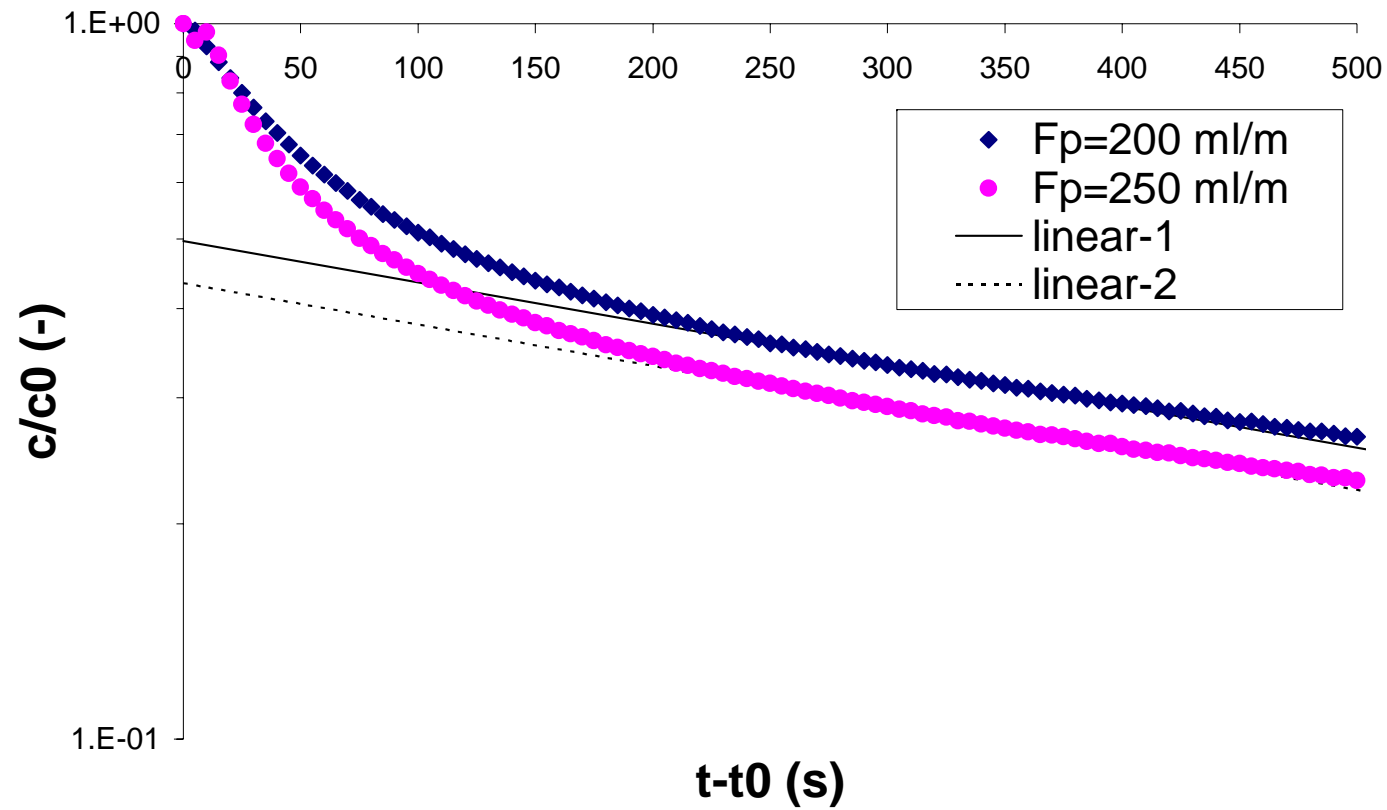
# Experimental Signals - Silicalite

n-decane T=125 C, P=0.006 Torr



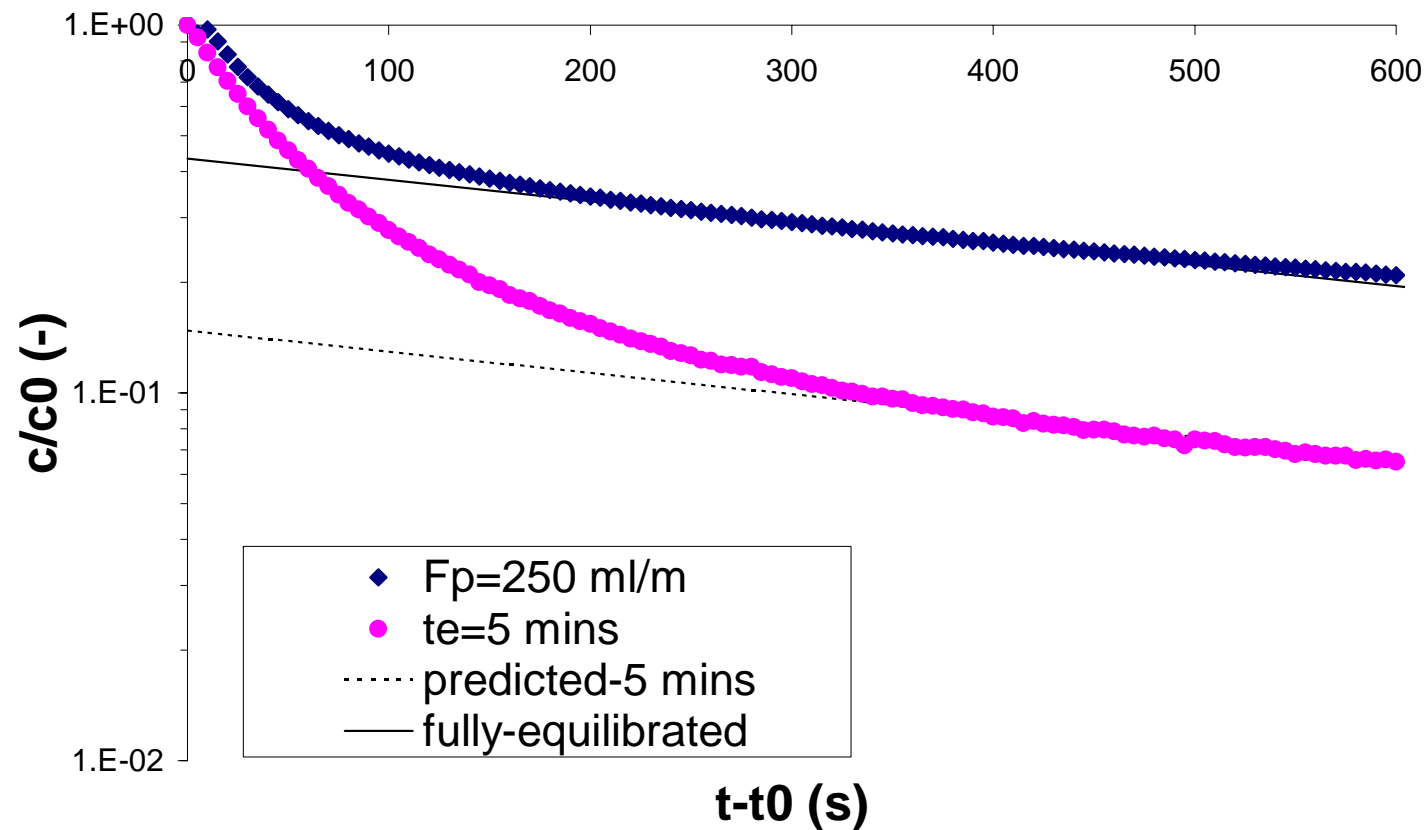
# Determination of $D_0$

n-decane, 125C, P=0.006 Torr



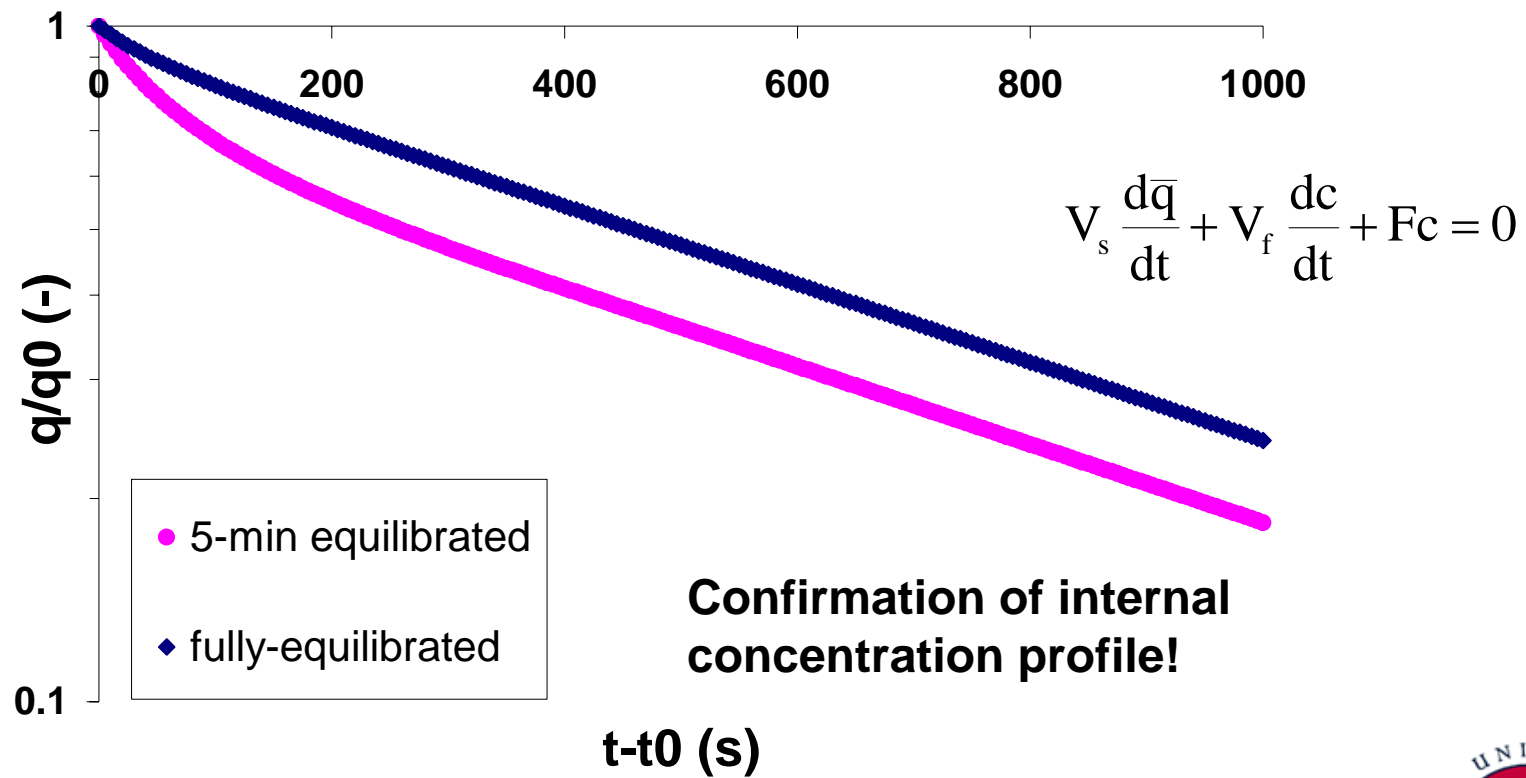
# Check $D_0$ with Partial-Loading Experiment

n-decane, 125 C, P=0.006 Torr

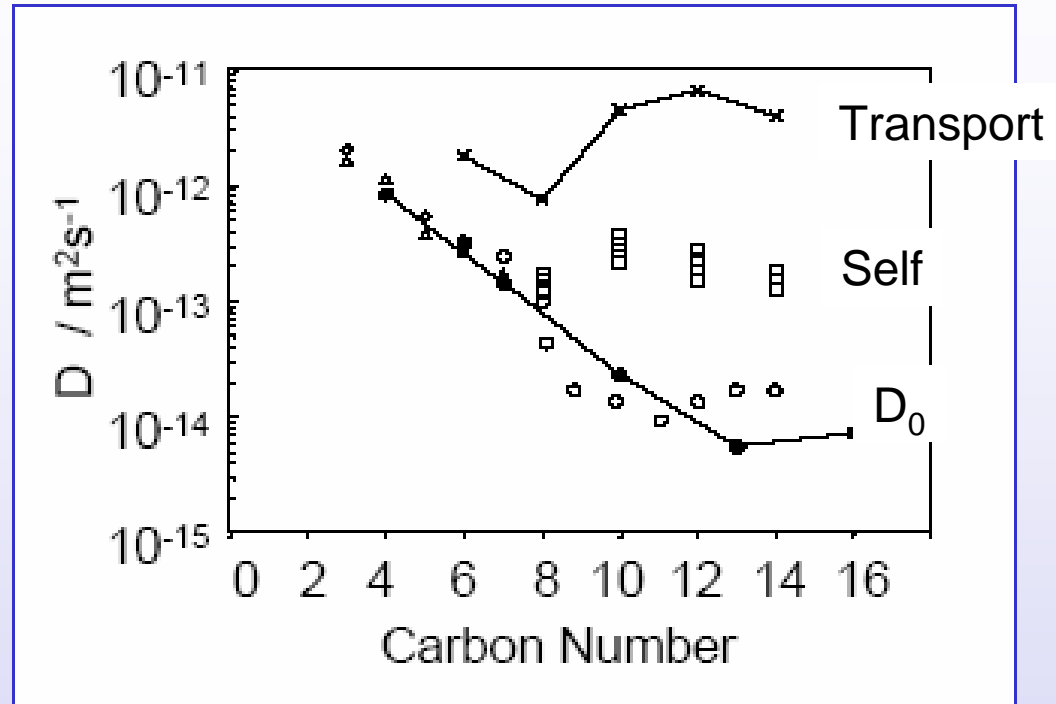


# Adsorbed Phase Concentration

n-decane, 125C, P=0.006 Torr



# Diffusion of n-alkanes in 5A



*n*-alkanes in NaCaA:

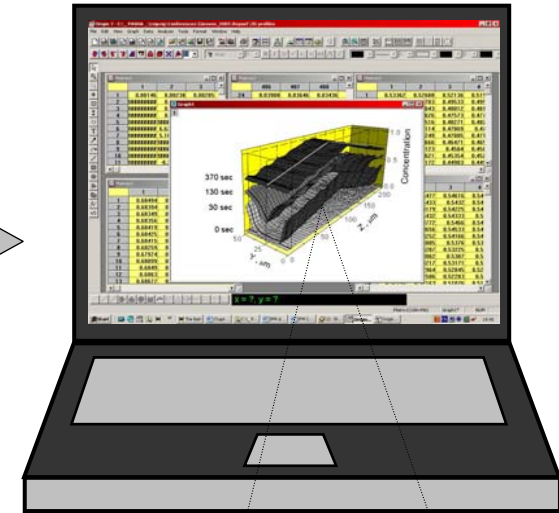
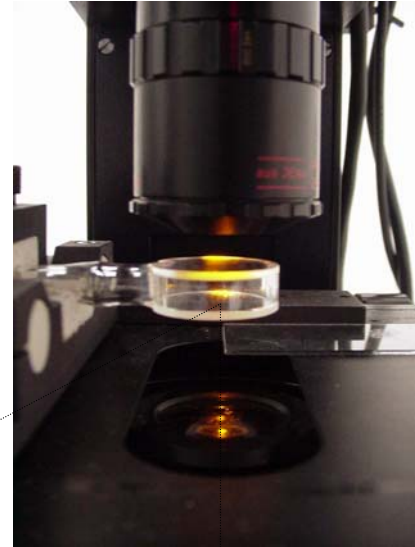
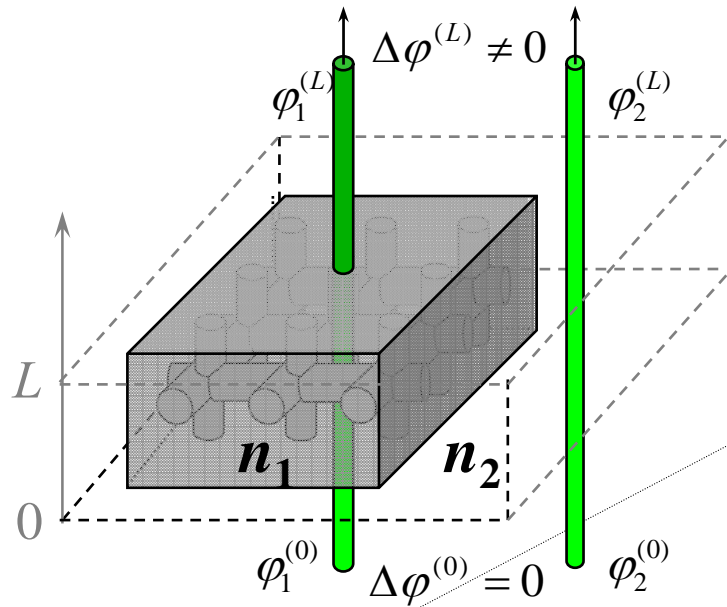
Variation of diffusivity with carbon number (at 473K).

NSE x

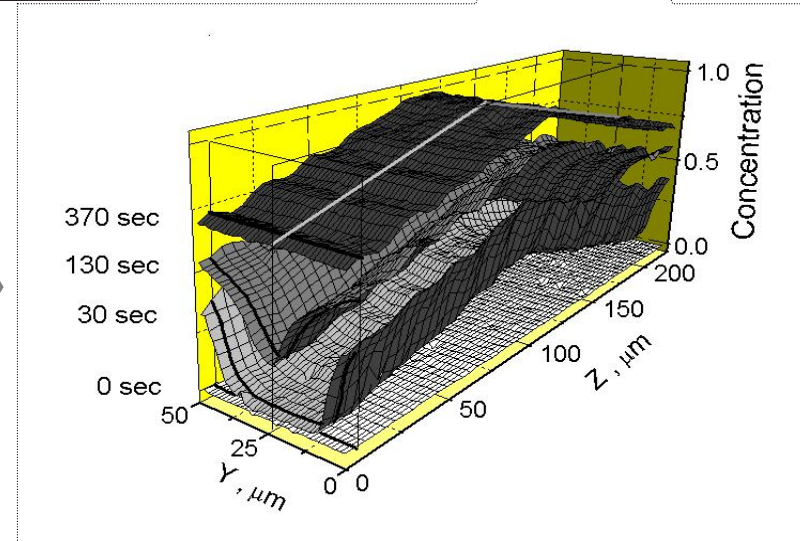
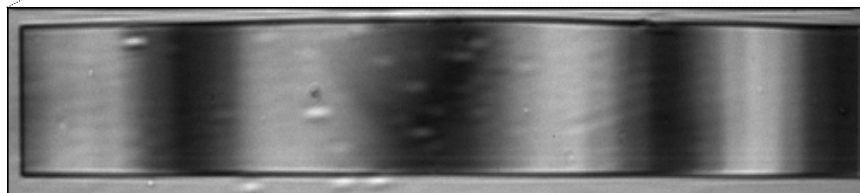
ZLC ● and ○

PFG NMR data at 1 molecule/cage Δ and □, and 2 molecules/cage ◇.

# IFM Technique



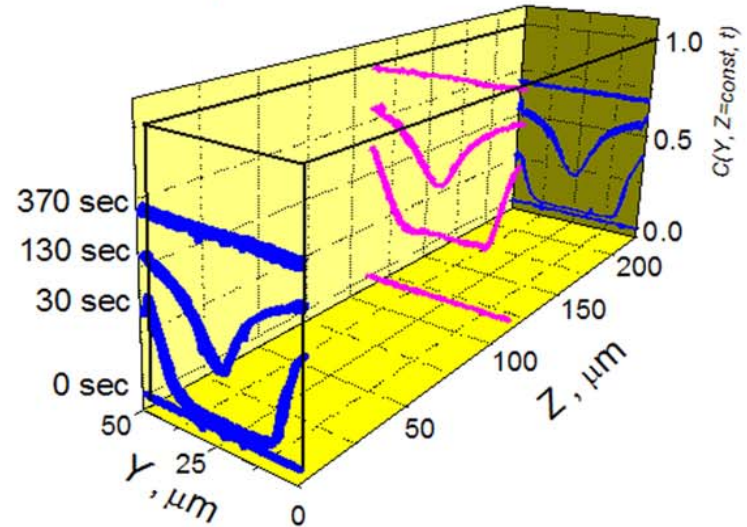
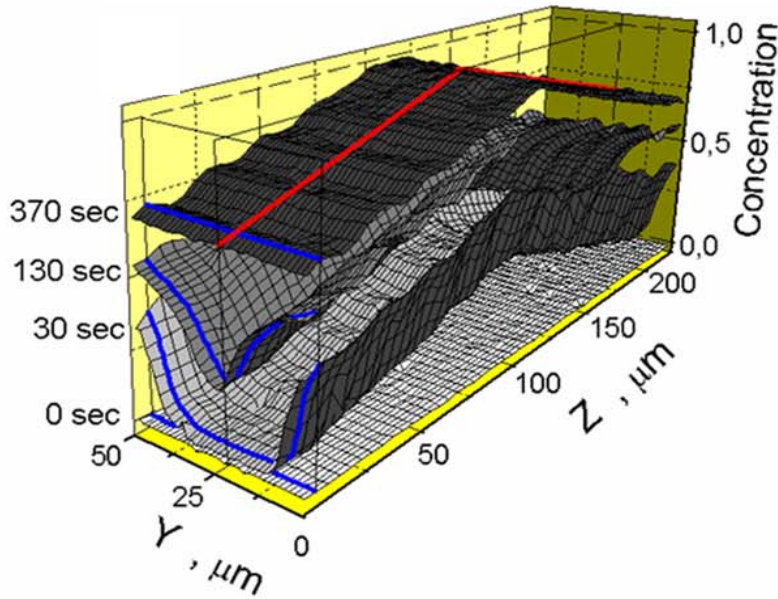
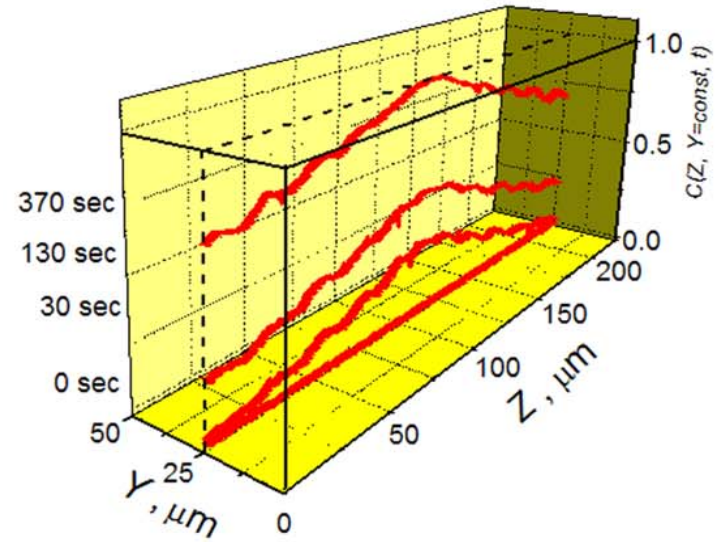
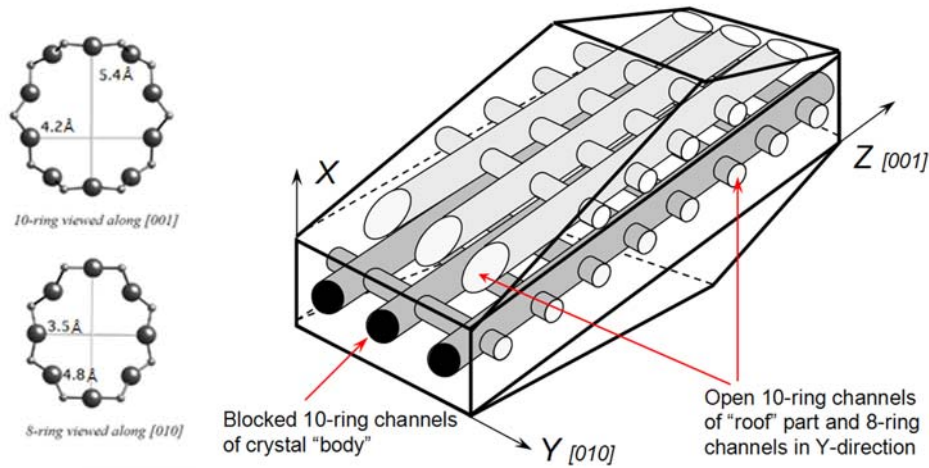
$$\Delta\varphi \sim \Delta n \sim \Delta c$$



Spatial resolution:  $0.5 \mu\text{m} \times 0.5 \mu\text{m}$



# Directions of methanol adsorption in Ferrierite crystal



# Darken Correction

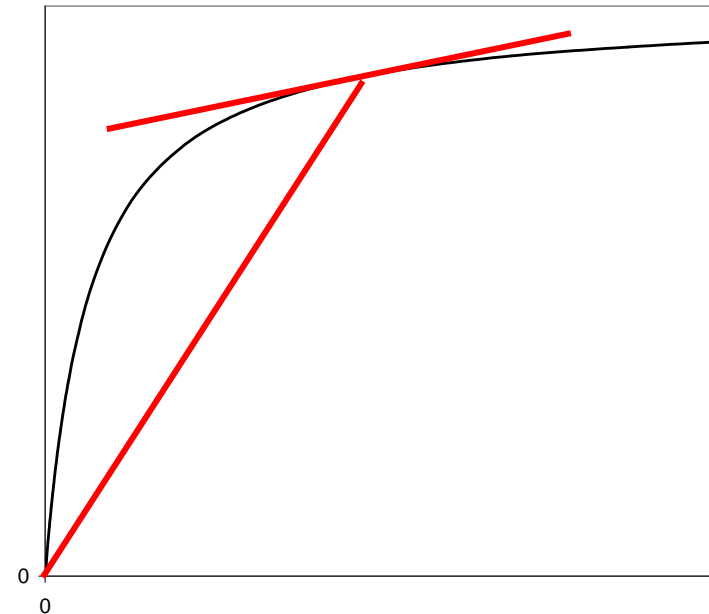
$$\frac{d \ln P_A}{d \ln q} = \frac{q}{P_A} \bigg/ \frac{dq}{dP_A}$$

↓ Secant      ↓ Tangent

Langmuir

$$\frac{d \ln P}{d \ln q} = \frac{1}{1 - q/q_s} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } P = 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } P = \infty \end{cases}$$

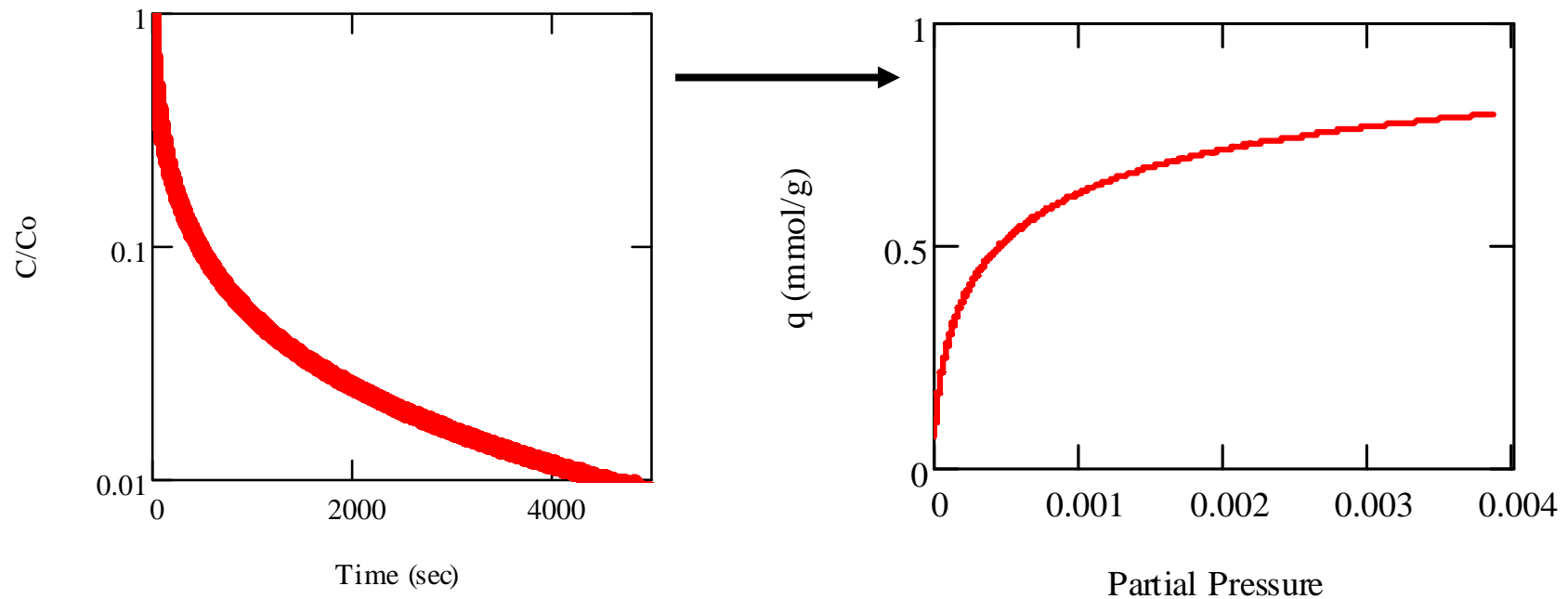
Need VERY ACCURATE equilibrium data to evaluate the derivative.



# ZLC Measurement of Darken Correction

$$q^*V_s = \left( \int_0^\infty \frac{y}{1-y} dFt - \int_0^t \frac{y}{1-y} dFt - V_F \cdot y \right) \frac{P}{RT}$$

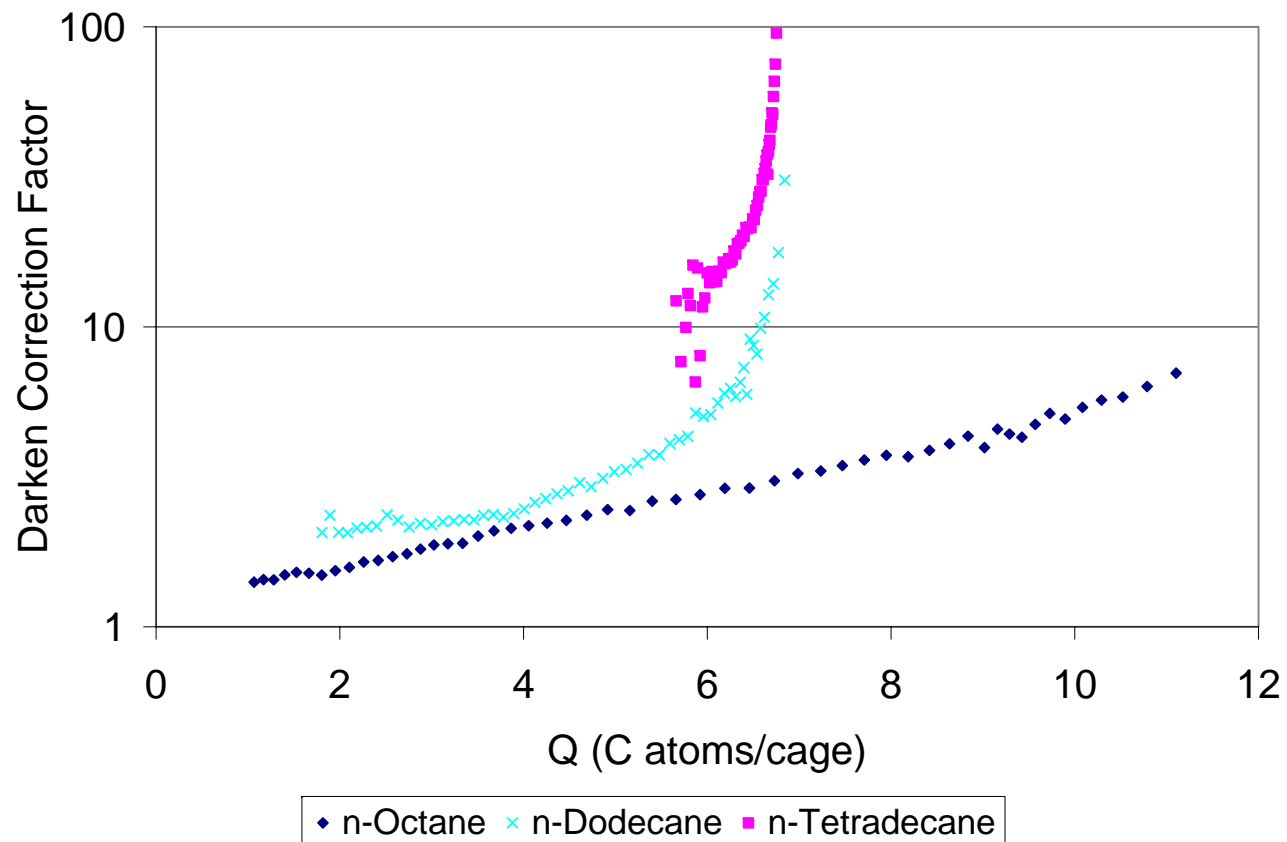
Federico Brandani, Douglas Ruthven, and Charles G. Coe  
Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 2003, 42, 1451-1461



Thousands of equilibrium data points in less than 2 hours!

# ZLC Measurement of Darken Correction

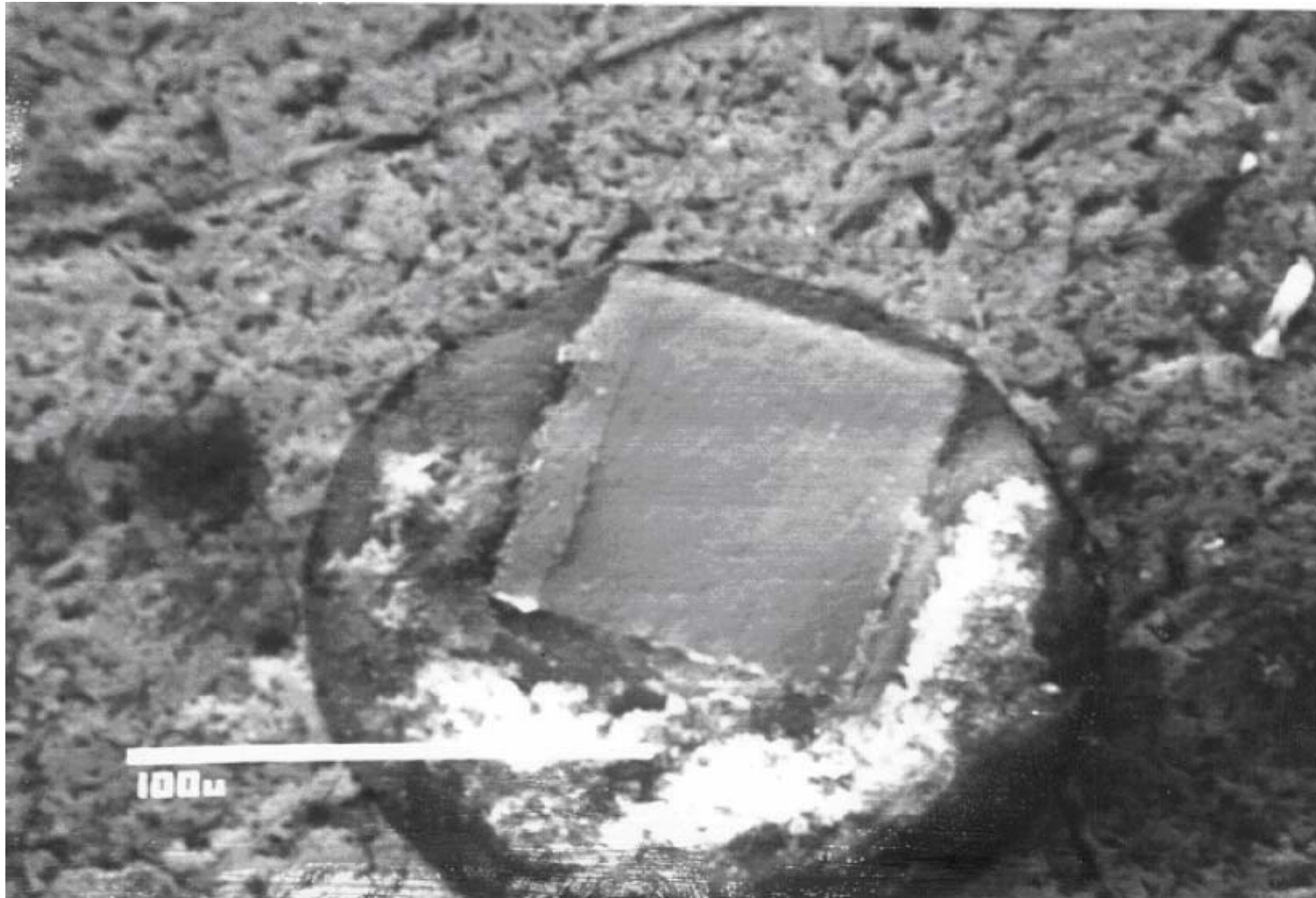
Experimental measurements carried out on 5A crystals at UOP (Douglas Galloway)



# **GOOD NEWS!!!**

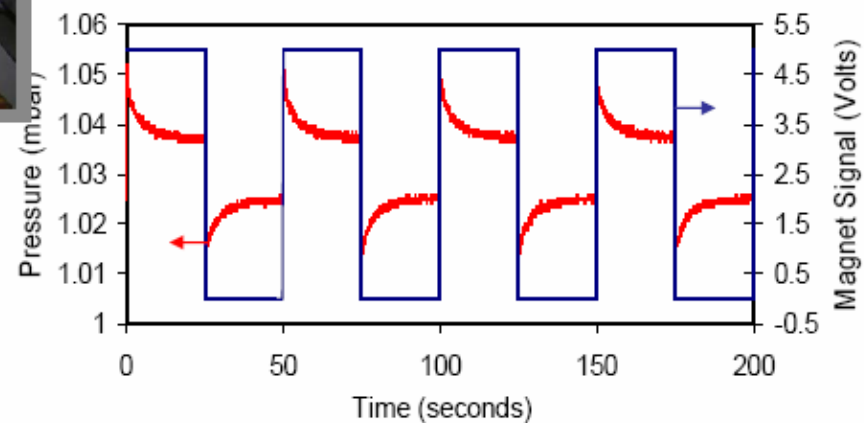
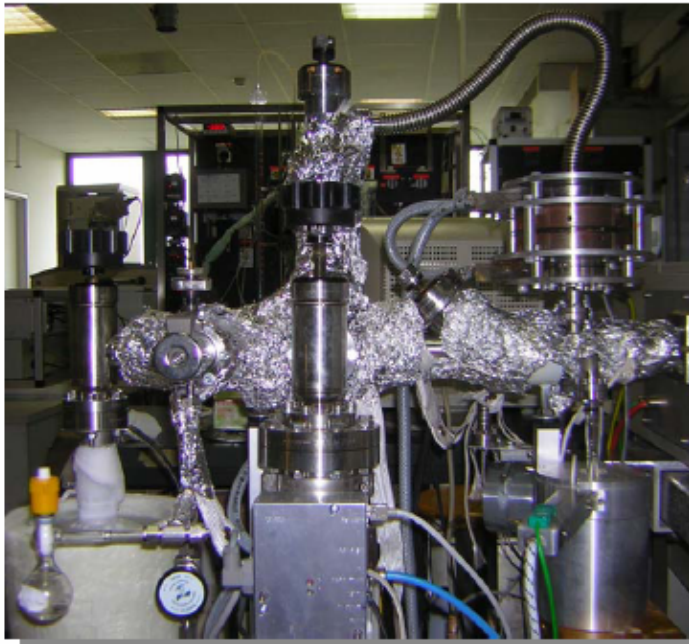
- New funding from DFG for continuation programme 2007-2009.
- Additional experimental techniques
- New materials
- Extend work to mixtures

# Single crystal membrane – D.B. Shah



# Frequency Response – Andreas Jentys

## *Square-wave volume modulation*



# Diffusion Fundamentals II

August 26-29, 2007

L'Aquila, Italy

[www.diffusion-fundamentals.org](http://www.diffusion-fundamentals.org)

[s.brandani@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s.brandani@ed.ac.uk)

