



Reactive and hybrid separations of chemicals and bioactive substances: modelling and optimisation

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ESCAPE 17, București, May, 29th, 2007





Palaeontology

study of prehistoric life forms on Earth through the examination of plant and animal fossils





Palaeontologist

researcher working on...



**Distillation
Absorption
Extraction**

Adaptive Palaeontologist

researcher working on...



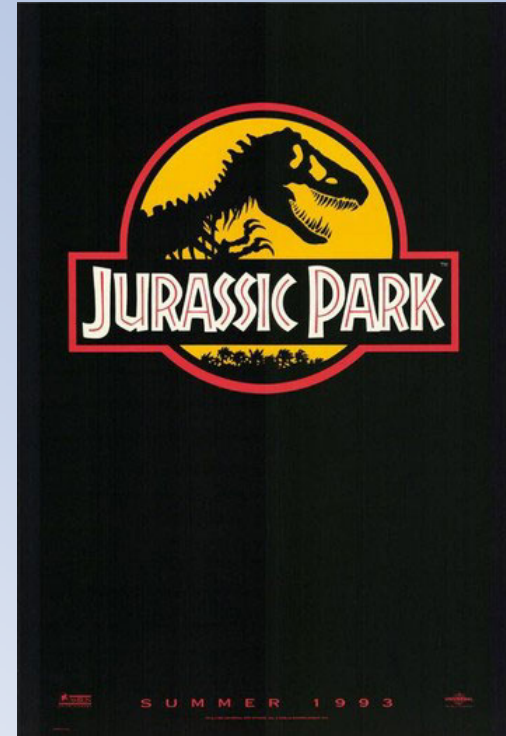


Palaeontologist

researcher working on...



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researcher working on...



(Bio)reactive and Hybrid Separations



Bioseparations

- Bioextraction
- Membrane adsorption
- Downstream Processing

Hybrid Bioseparations

- Distillation & membranes
- ...
- ...

**Distillation
Absorption
Extraction
Membranes**

- Reactive distillation
- Reactive absorption
- Reactive extraction
- Membrane reactor

- Distillation & membranes
- Extraction & crystallization
- Distillation & crystallization

Reactive Separations

Hybrid Separations



(Bio)reactive and Hybrid Separations



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Hybrid Separations



(Bio)reactive and Hybrid Separations



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**Distillation
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Membranes**

- *Reactive distillation*
- *Reactive absorption*
- Reactive extraction
- *Membrane reactor*

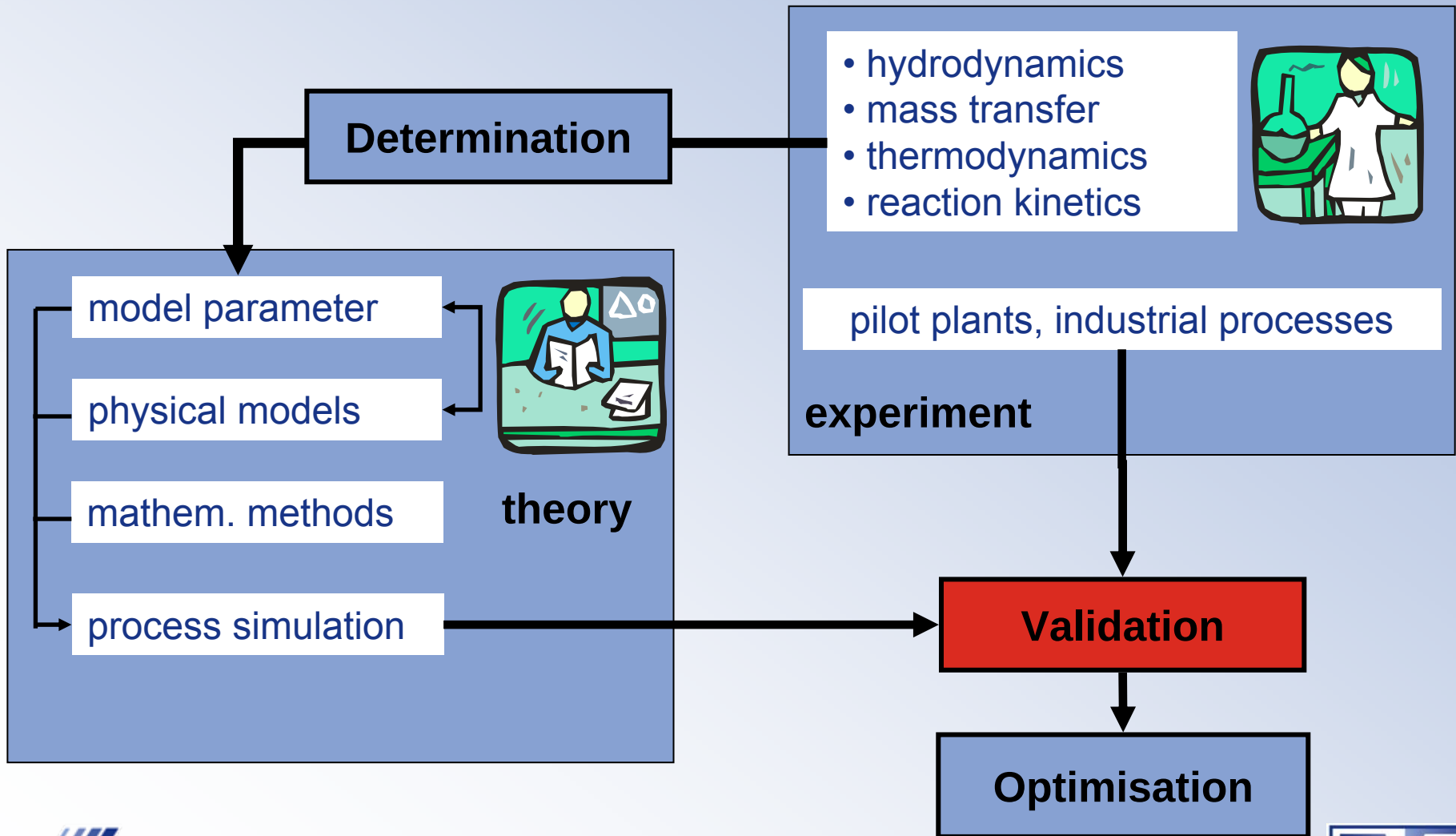
- Distillation & membranes
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Reactive Separations

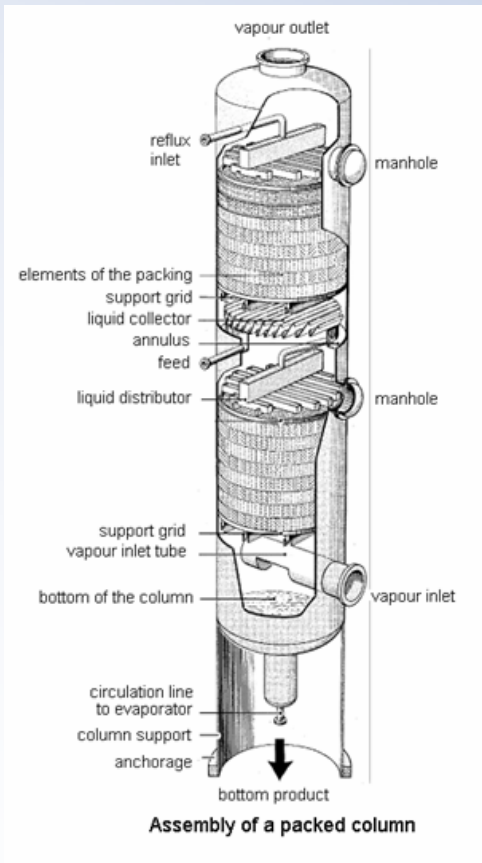
Hybrid Separations



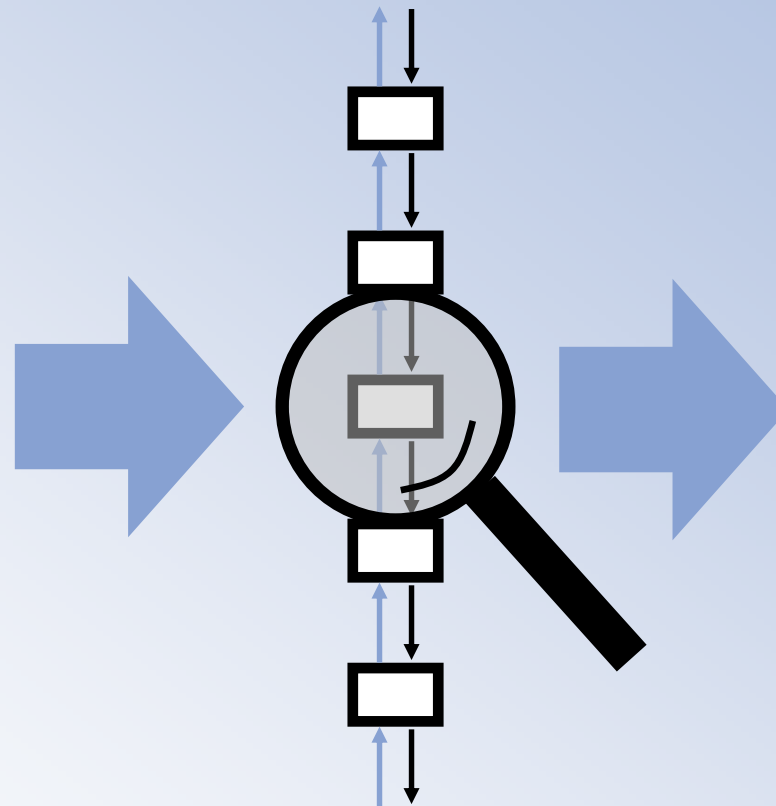
Interaction of Experiment and Theory



Reactive Separations: Modelling Concept



Apparatus



Segmented
column

- black-box
- short-cut
- equilibrium stage model
- rate-based approach
- CFD

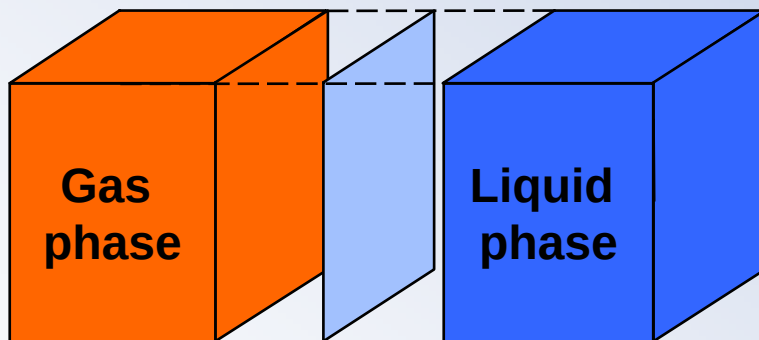
Stage model





Equilibrium Stage Model

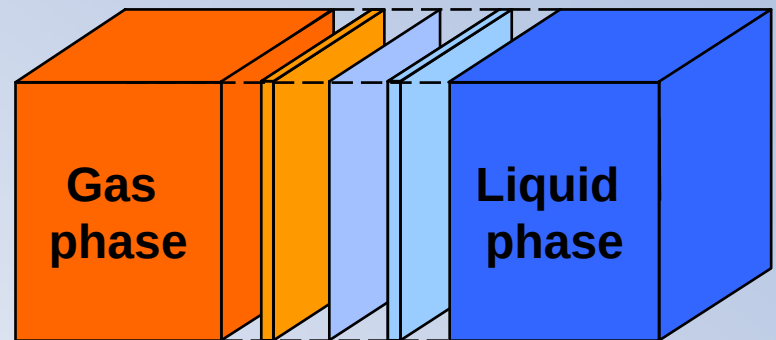
Sorel E.,
Rectification de l'Alcool (1893)



- gas and liquid phase in equilibrium
- efficiency factor to consider the influence of column internals
Packing: HETP
Tray: η (Tray efficiency)
- Reaction in bulk phase

Rate-Based Model

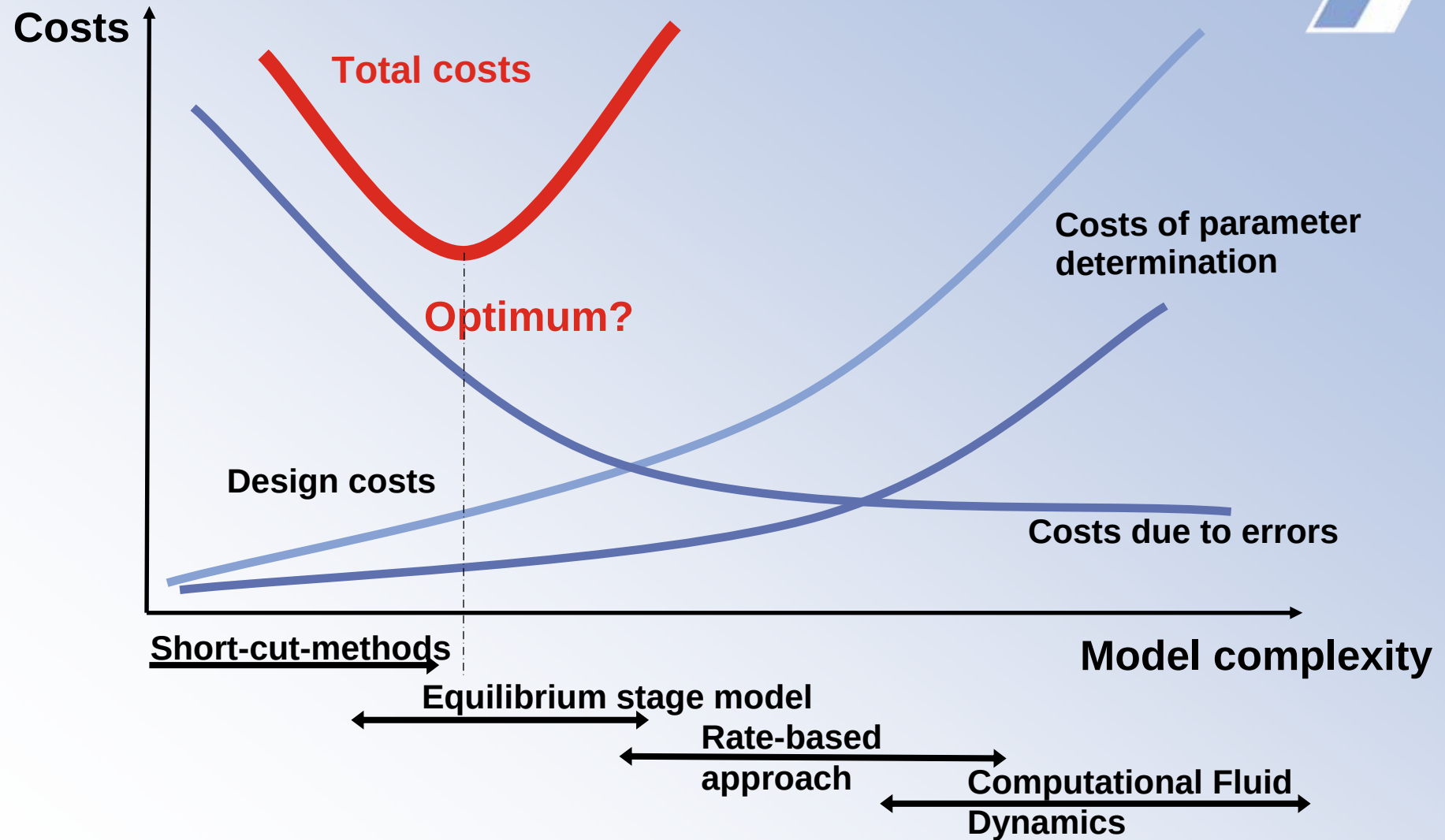
Taylor R., Krishna R.,
Chem. Eng. Sci. 55 (2000)



- only interface in equilibrium
- interfacial area and mass transfer coefficient for different column internals
- reaction in film and bulk phase
- influence of reaction on mass transfer rate



Costs of Computer Aided Process Design



Catalytic Distillation



Synthesis of propyl propionate



Esterification

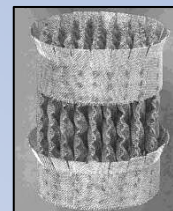
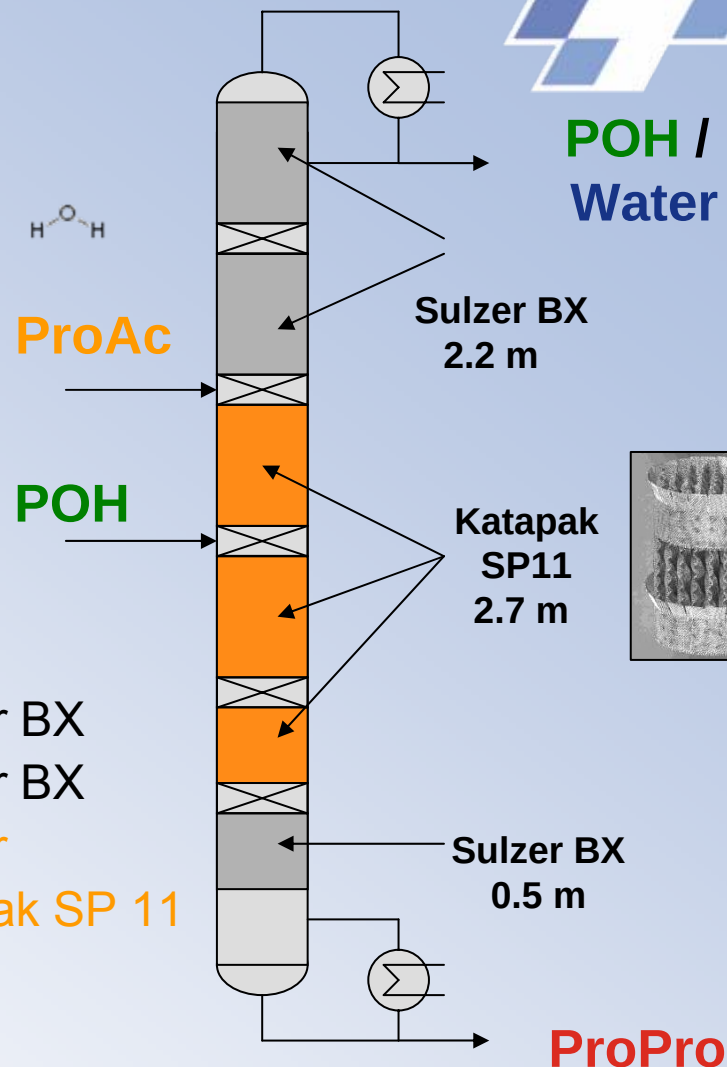
Column diameter: 50 mm

Height of packing: 5.4 m

Rectifying section: 2.2 m Sulzer BX

Stripping section: 0.5 m Sulzer BX

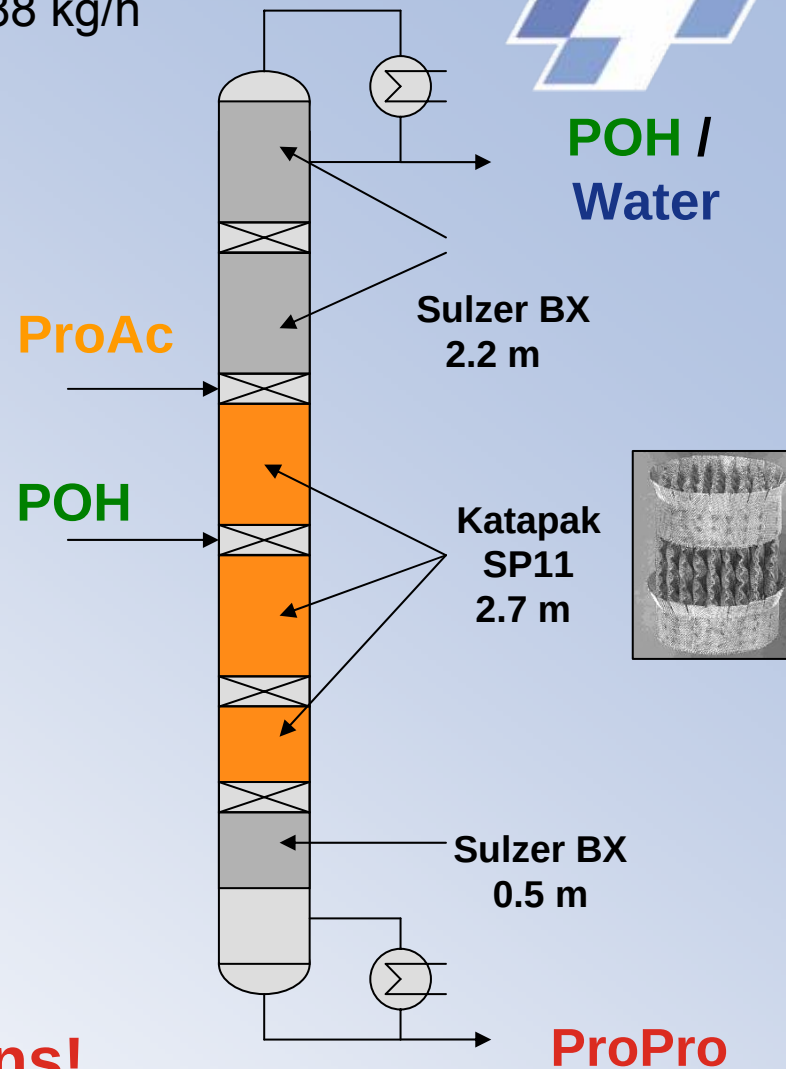
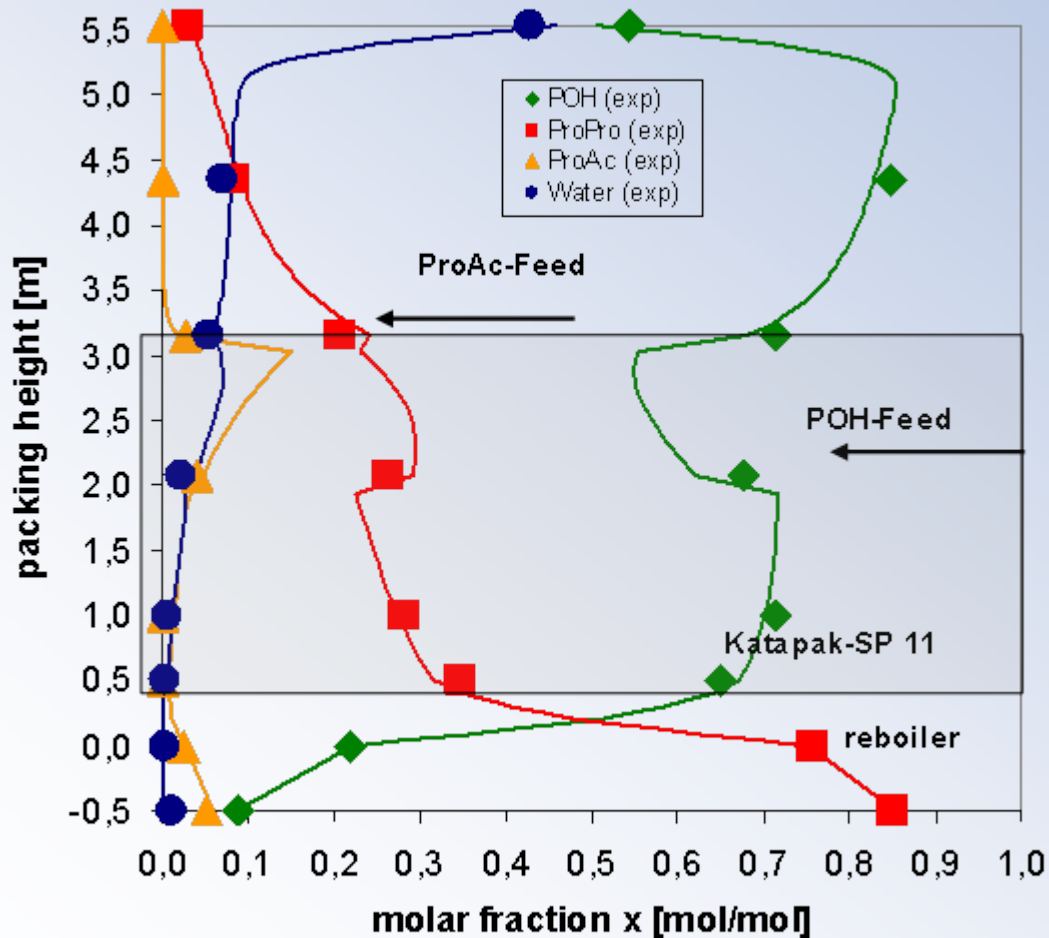
Catalytic section: 2.7 m Sulzer
Katapak SP 11



Buchaly C., Kreis P., Górak, A.,
Chemical Engineering and Processing
Sep (2007) accepted

Catalytic Distillation

$\chi_{\text{POH/ProAc}}$ 2.0; RR 2.5; feed: 2.0 kg/h; distillate 0.88 kg/h



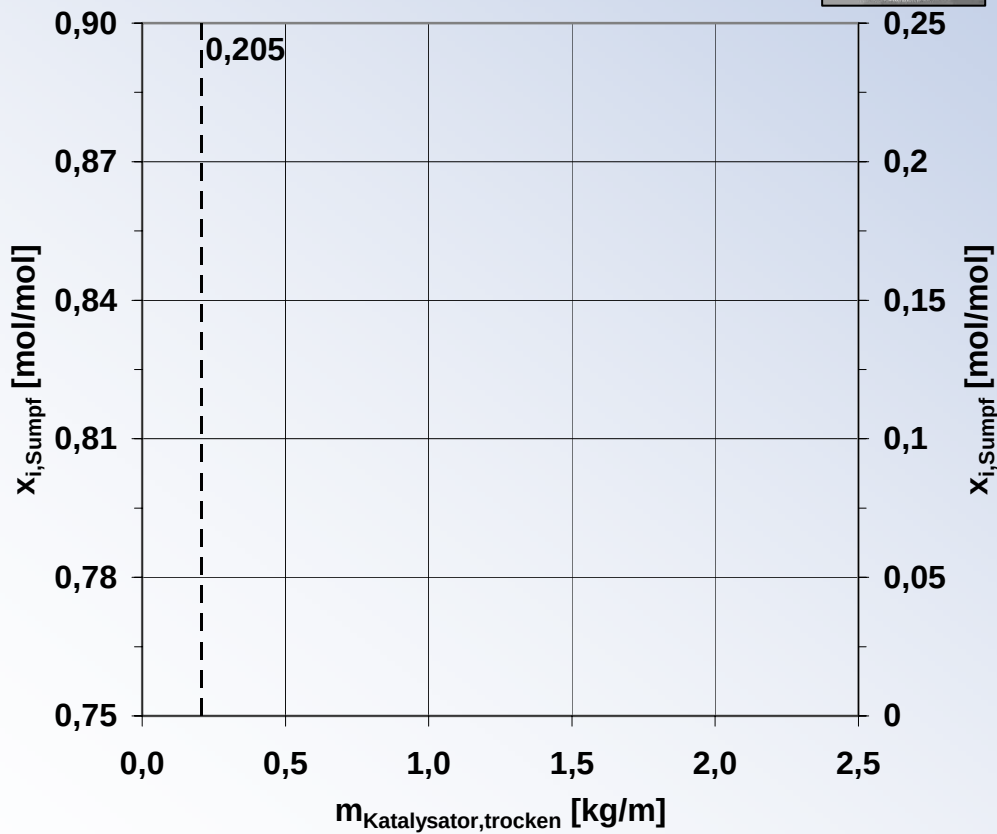
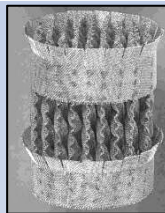
Results from rate-based simulations!

Catalytic Distillation



- Katapak SP-11 (DN50)

➡ $m_{\text{catalyst,dry}} = 0,205 \text{ kg/m}$

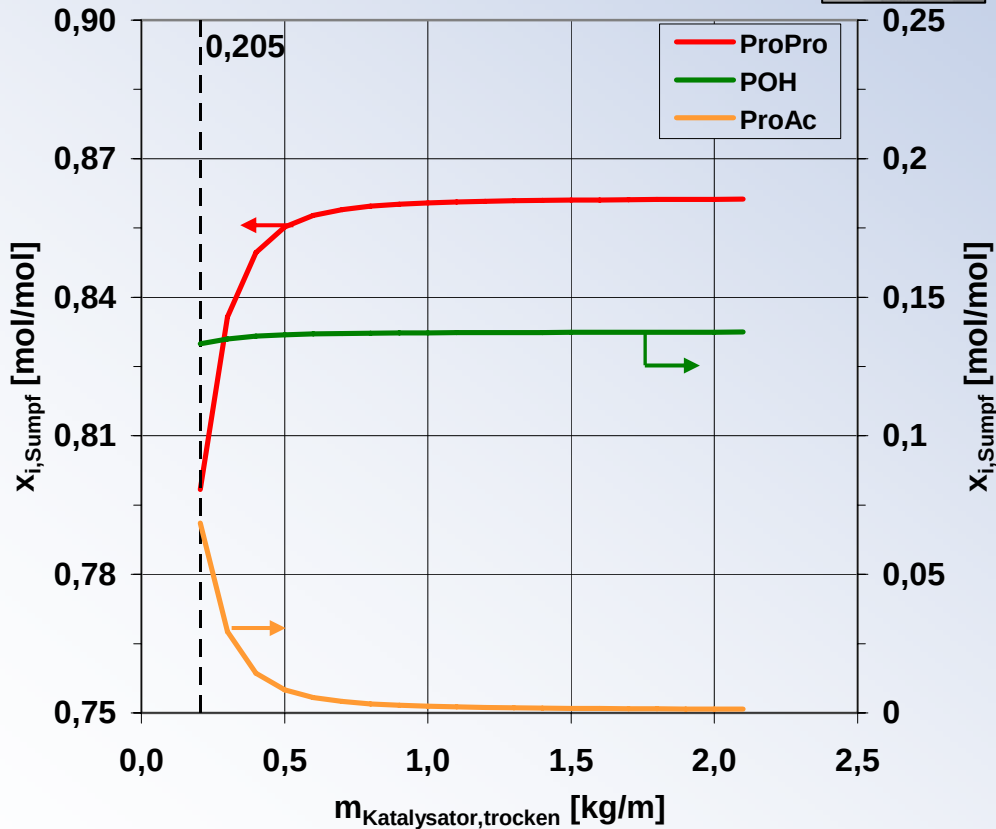
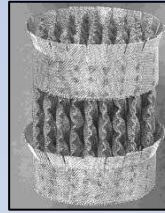


Catalytic Distillation



■ Katapak SP-11 (DN50)

➡ $m_{\text{catalyst,dry}} = 0,205 \text{ kg/m}$



■ rate based model

- validated reference model
- mass transport limitation & reaction kinetics

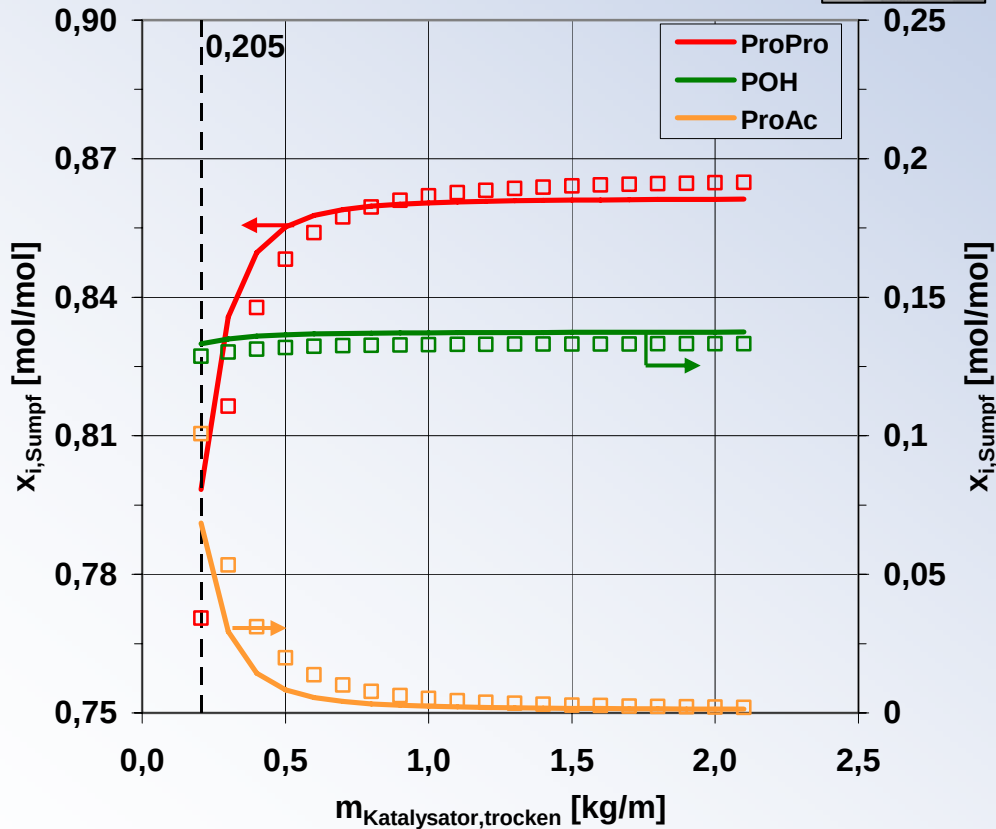
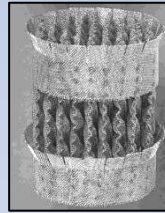


Catalytic Distillation



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■ EQ model with reaction kinetic

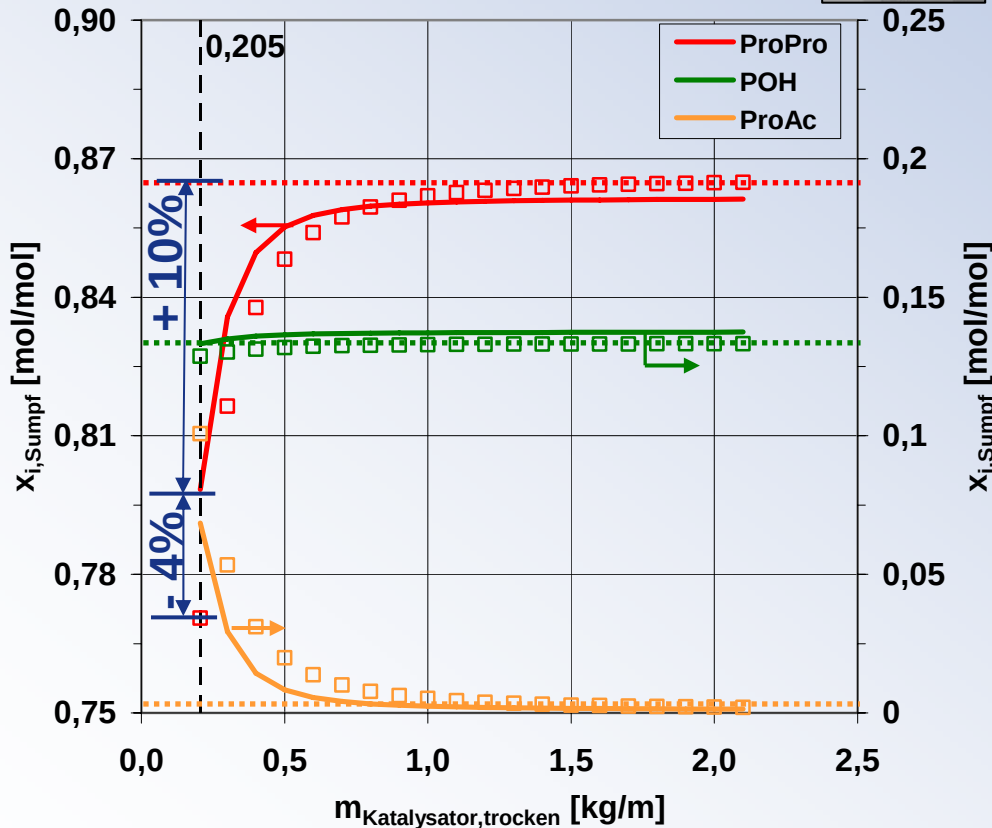
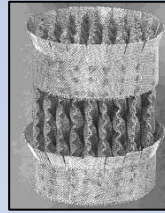
- no mass transport limitation
- reaction rate $\ll$ mass transport rate

Catalytic Distillation



■ Katapak SP-11 (DN50)

➡ $m_{\text{catalyst,dry}} = 0,205 \text{ kg/m}$



■ rate based model

- validated reference model
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■ EQ model with reaction kinetics

- no mass transfer limitation
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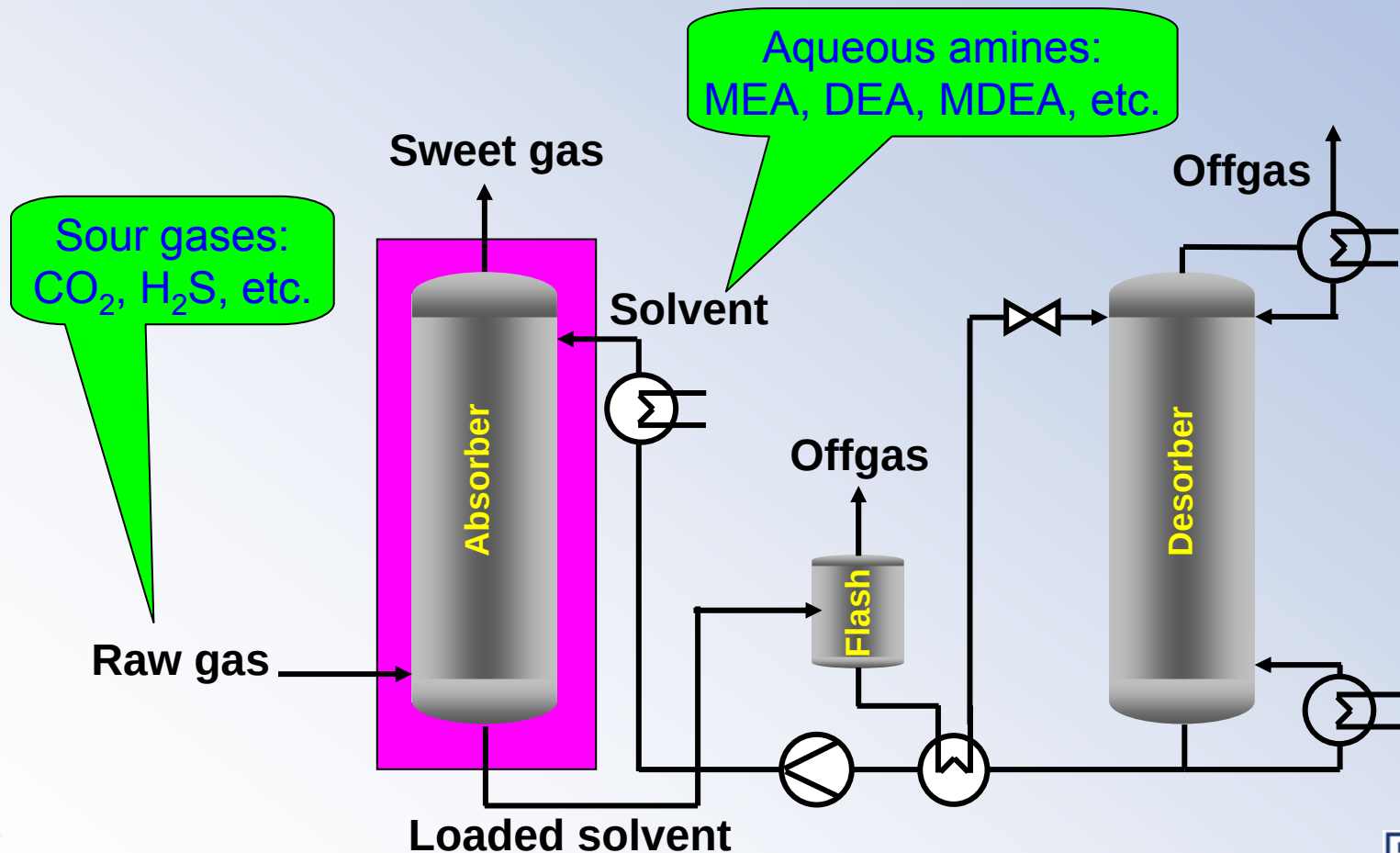
■ EQ model with reaction equilibrium

- most simple model (VLE, K_{eq})

Equilibrium stage model is a good first approximation



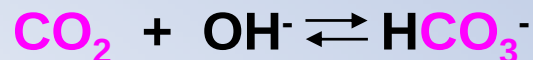
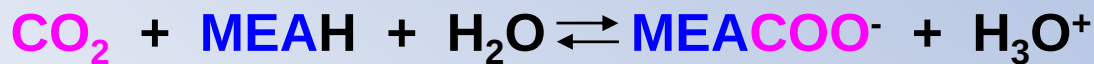
Rate based modelling of sour gas absorption with aqueous amine solutions



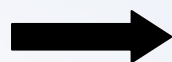
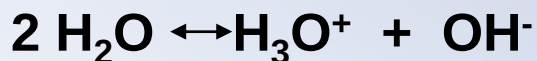


Studied system: **MEA**H-H₂O and **CO**₂

Kinetically controlled reactions:



Instantaneous reactions:



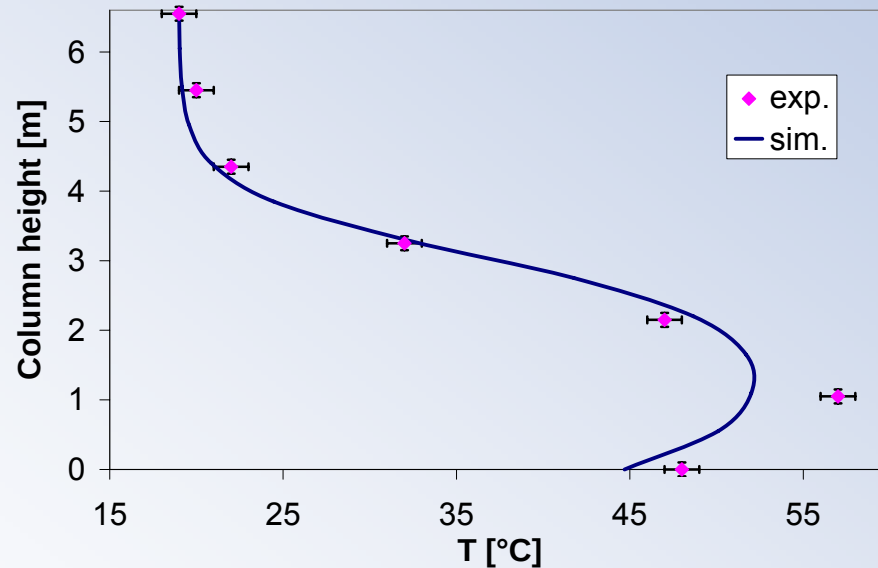
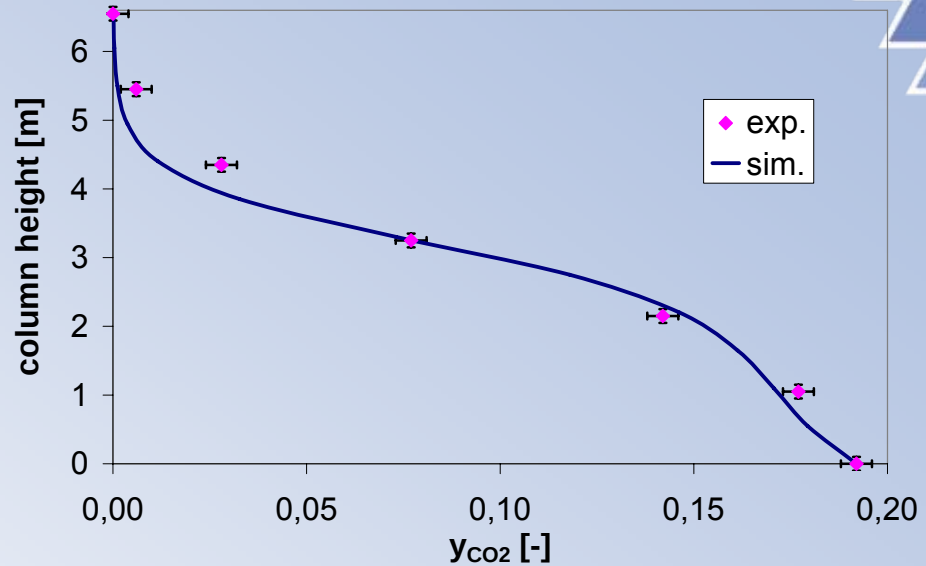
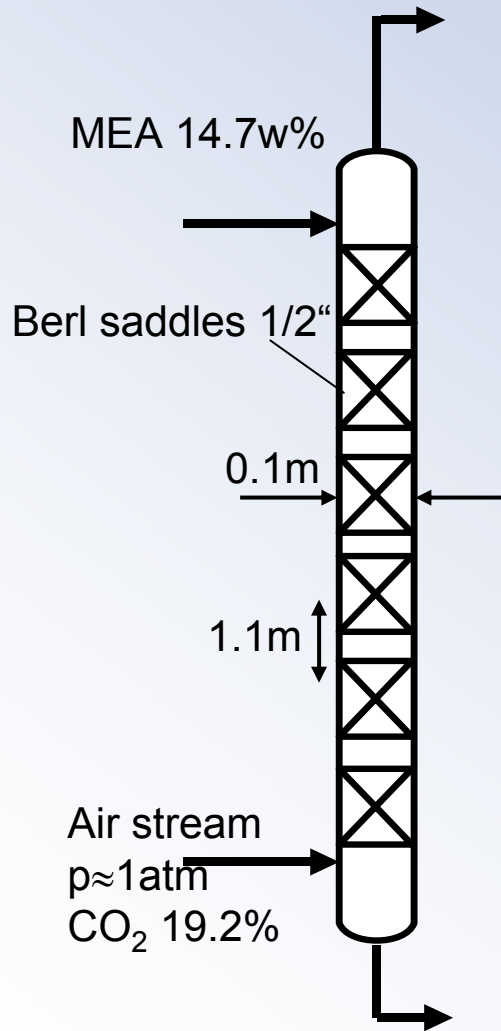
Complex system:

- Parallel reactions
- Consecutive reactions
- Electrolytes



Reactive Absorption

Experiments: Tontiwachwuthikul et al., *Chem. Eng. Sci.* 47 (1992)



Rate-based approach is a MUST!

Modeling Gas Absorption Processes

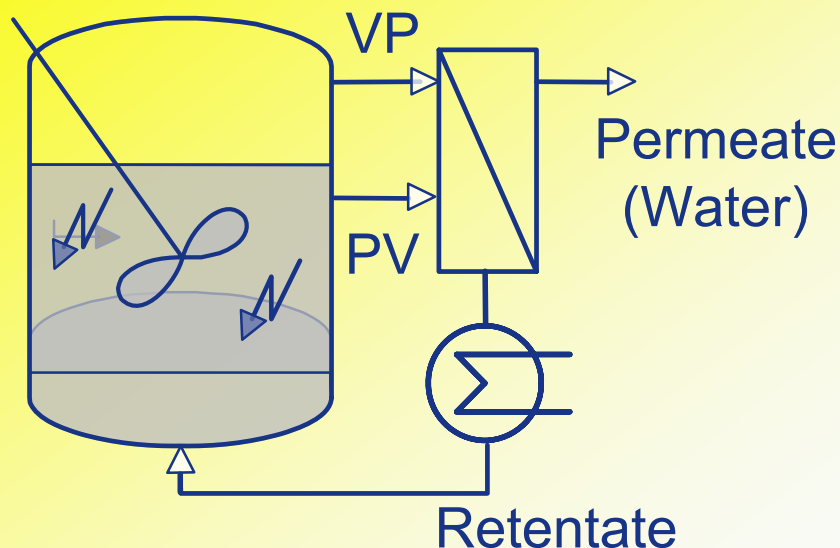
- Based on Aspen Custom Modeler, Kucka et al. (2003) developed one of the most rigorous rate-based models to simulate acid gas absorption by aqueous amine solutions.
- Kucka et al. (2003) summarized that rigorous, first principles based mathematical models for amine acid gas treating processes should consider:
 - Electrolyte thermodynamics,
 - Reaction kinetics,
 - Heat and mass transfer resistance,
 - Column configuration and hydrodynamics.

Kucka, L., Müller, I., Kenig, E.Y., Górak, A., "On the Modeling and Simulation of Sour Gas Absorption by Aqueous Amine Solutions," *Chem. Eng. Sci.*, **58**, 3571-3578 (2003)

Membrane Reactor



- Dewatering of heterogeneously catalyzed batch esterification by pervaporation to shift equilibrium
- Experimental investigation of pilot scale membrane reactor
- Process analysis of membrane reactor
- Scale up of flat membrane modules (lab scale to pilot scale)

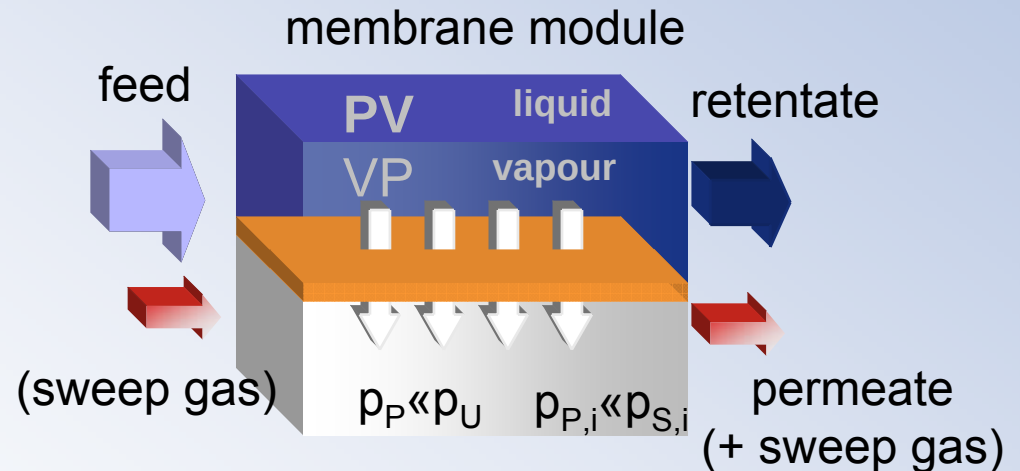
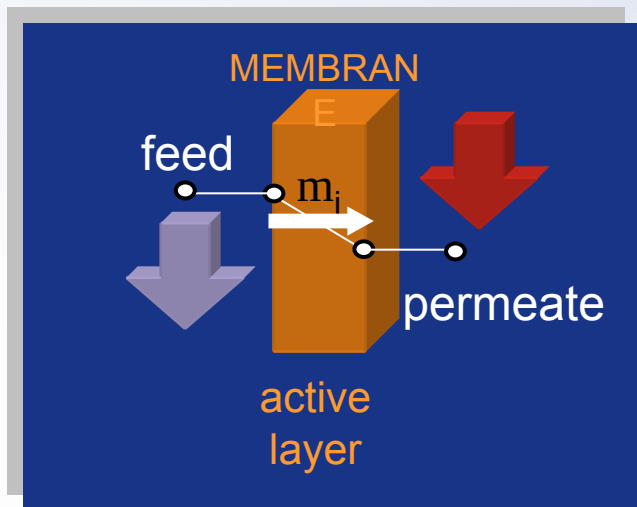


Membrane reactor equipped with 0.5 m² membrane area from Sulzer Chemtech



Separation of liquid (PV) / vapour (VP) mixtures

- application of „dense“ polymeric membranes or inorganic membranes
- mass transport: sorption, diffusion and desorption ->SDM
- driving force: difference in chemical potential

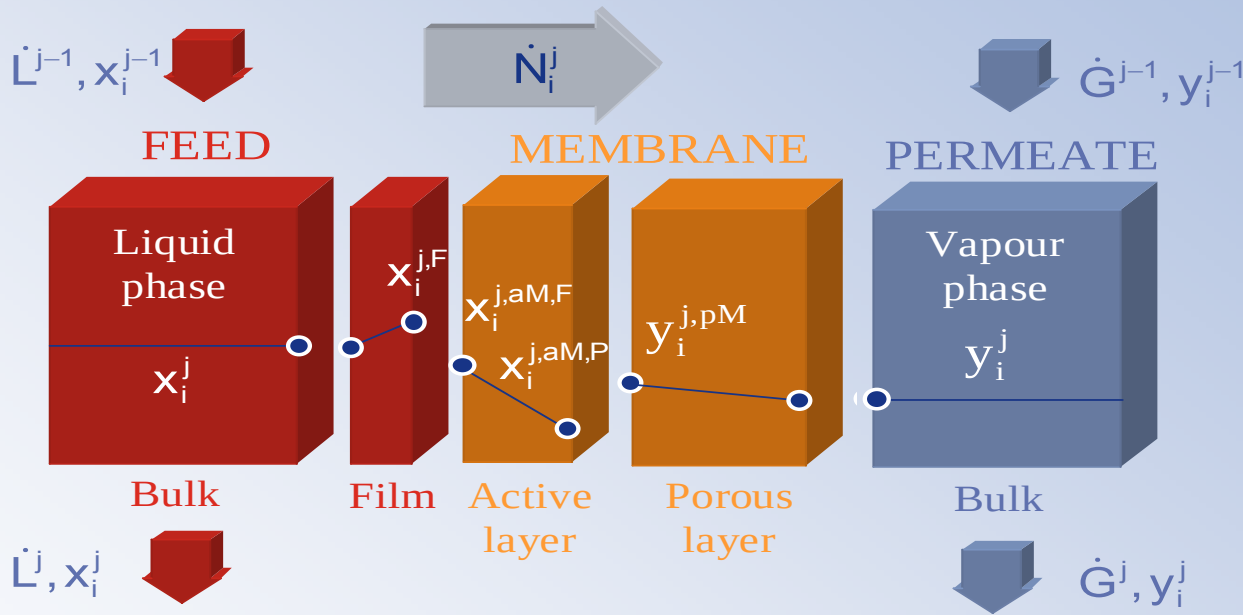


$$N_i^j = Q_i^j \cdot \Delta D F_i^j$$

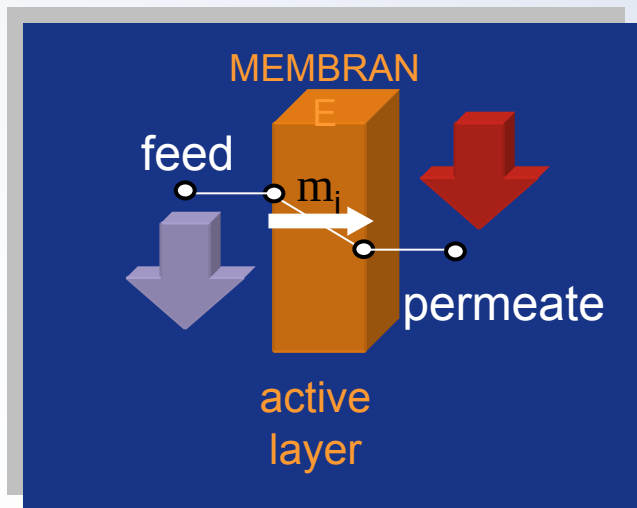
flux = permeance x driving force



Membrane Reactor



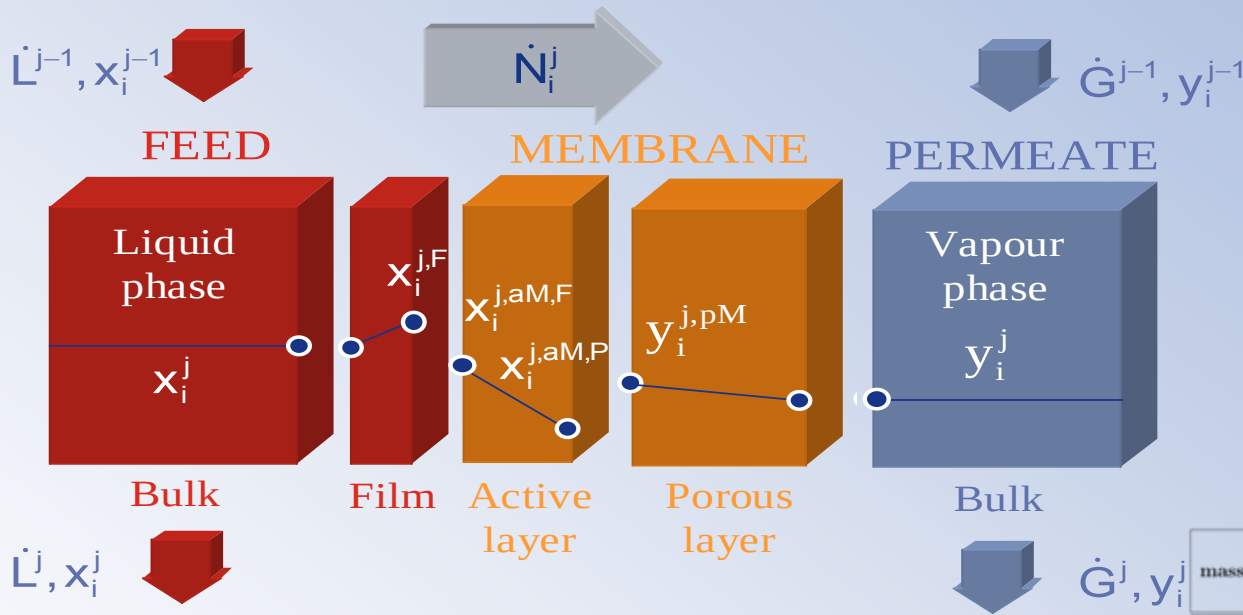
**Rate based
modelling
of membrane
separation**



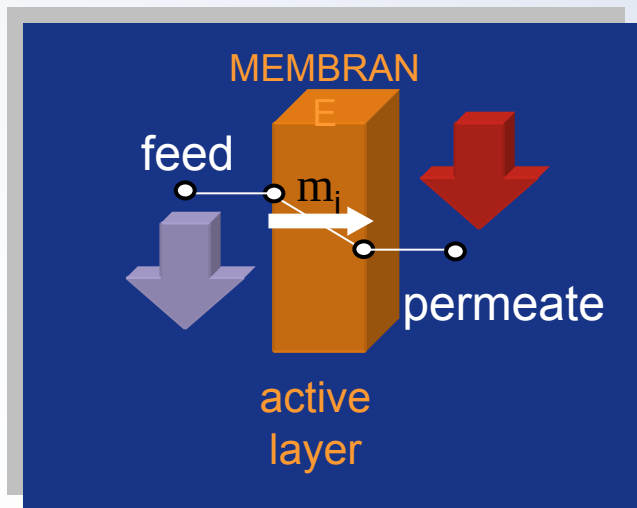
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Membrane Reactor



Rate based modelling of membrane separation

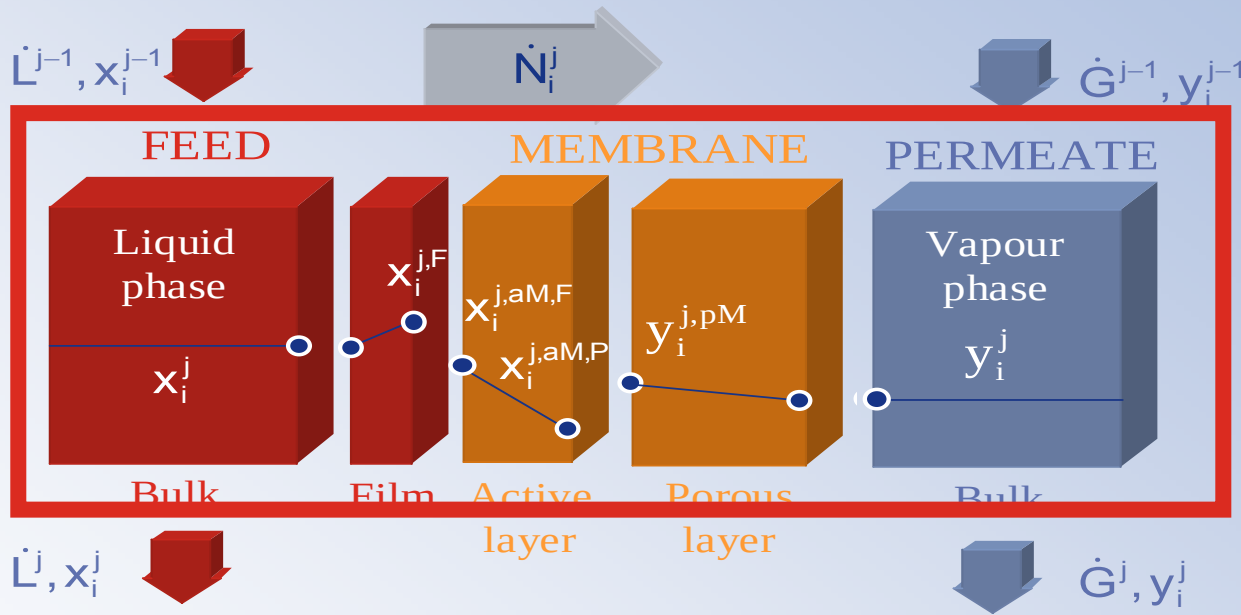


mass transport model	permeance Q
short-cut model (SC)	Q_i^0 constant
Arrhenius (AR)	$Q_i^0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_i}{R}\left(\frac{1}{T^0} - \frac{1}{T}\right)\right)$ T-dependent
Meyer-Blumenroth (MB)	$\frac{\bar{D}_i(T)}{\bar{\gamma}_i}$ DF: activities
Hömmereich (HÖ)	$A_i^* \frac{b_i(T) \cdot a_i^F}{1 + b_i(T) \cdot a_i^F} \cdot \frac{1}{a_i}$ DF: activities
sorption/diffusion (SD)	$\frac{\bar{\epsilon}_i(T) \cdot \bar{D}_i(T)}{\bar{f}_i} \cdot \frac{1}{\delta_M}$ DF: fugacities

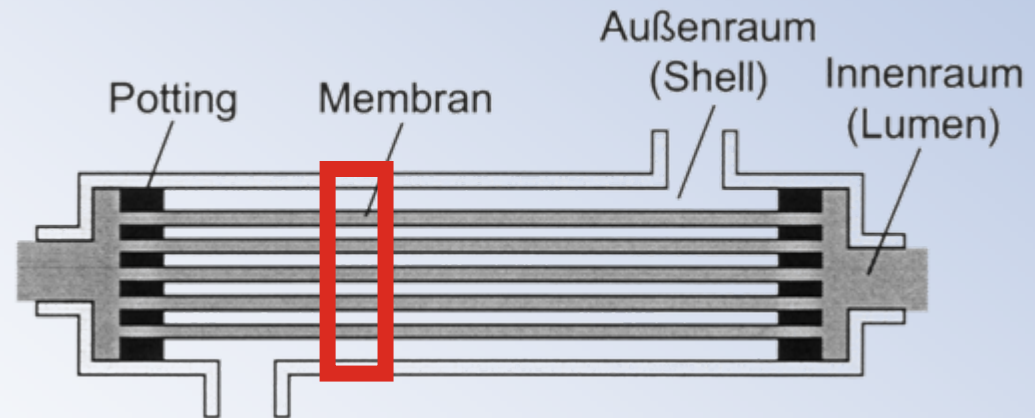
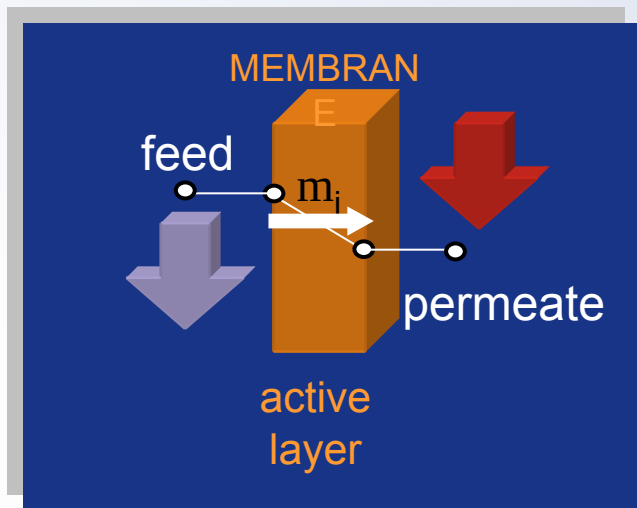
$$\dot{N}_i^j = Q_i^j \cdot \Delta DF_i^j$$

flux = permeance x driving force

Membrane Reactor



**Rate based
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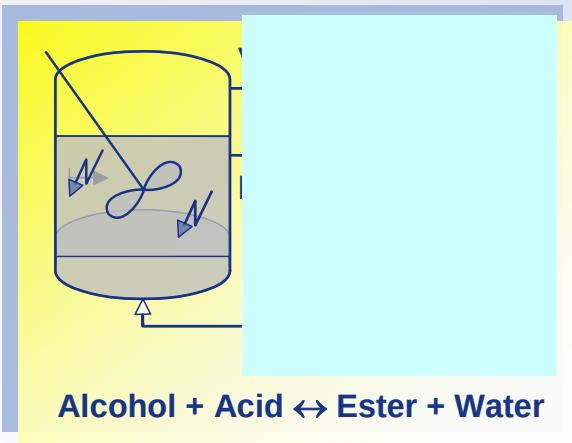
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flux = permeance x driving force

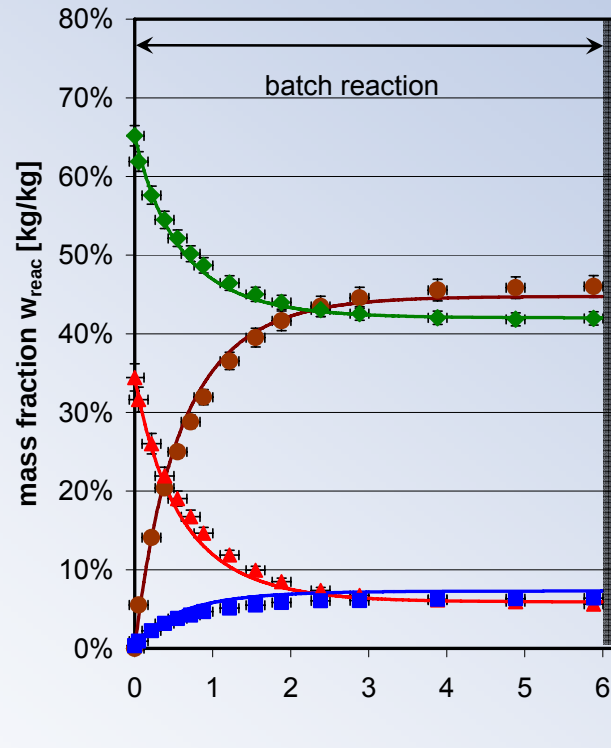
Membrane Reactor

- Initial alcohol to acid ratio: 2.3 : 1
- Batch reaction at 83°C in fixed bed side reactor with Amberlyst 46

➡ propionic acid conversion: 83% after 6 hours



exp. vs. sim.

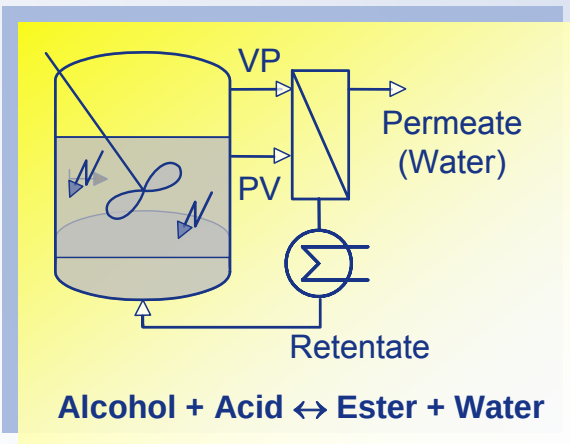


time [h]

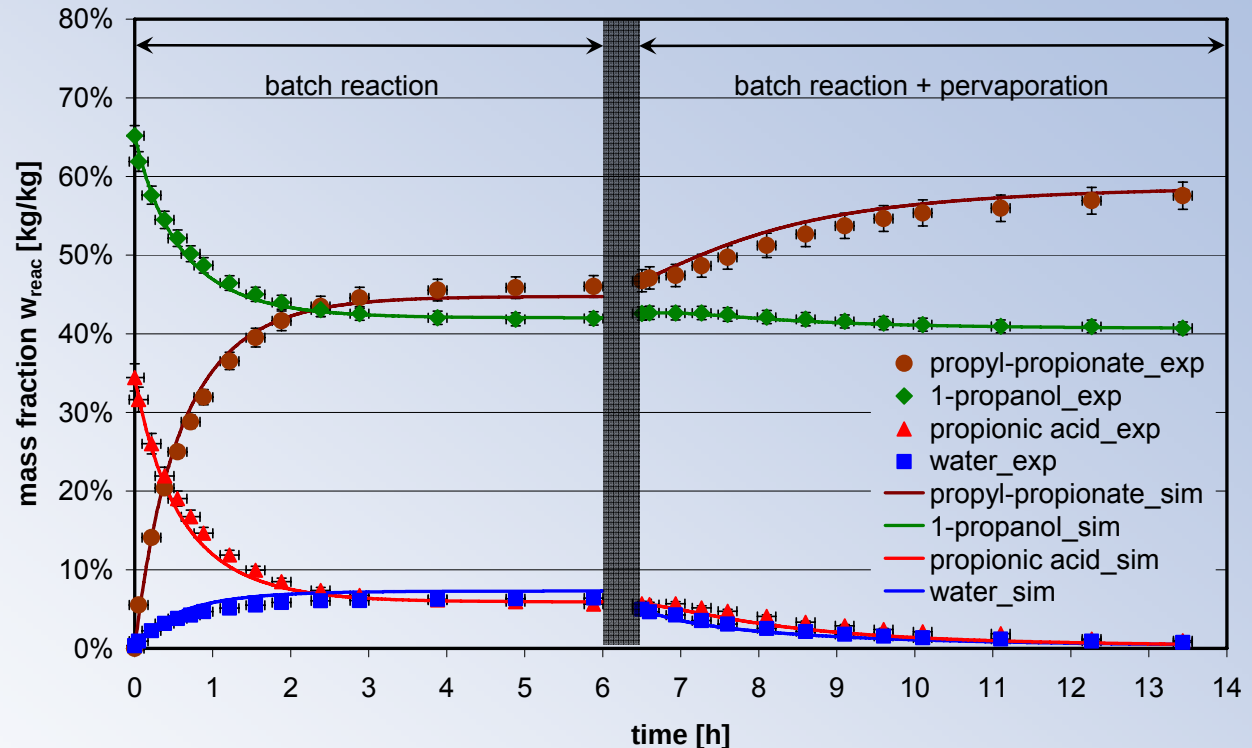
Membrane Reactor

- Initial alcohol to acid ratio: 2.3 : 1
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➔ propionic acid conversion: 83% after 6 hours



exp. vs. sim.



- Batch reaction at 83°C and pervaporation at 85°C

➔ propionic acid conversion: 99% after 13.5 hours

(Bio)reactive and Hybrid Separations



Bioseparations

- Bioextraction
- Membrane adsorption
- Downstream Processing

Hybrid Bioseparations

- Distillation & membranes
- ...
- ...

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- Extraction & crystallization
- Distillation & crystallization

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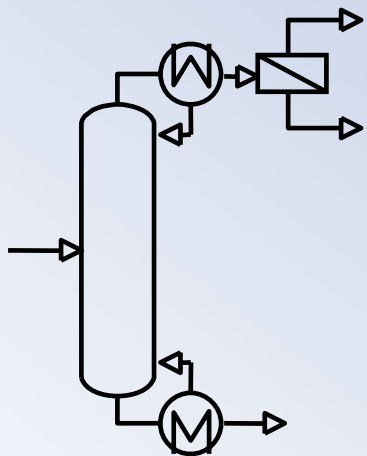
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- *Extraction & crystallization*
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Reactive Separations

Hybrid Separations



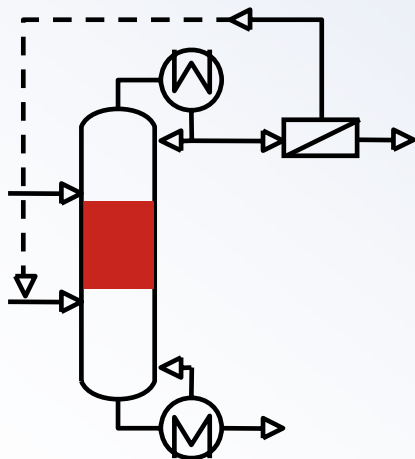
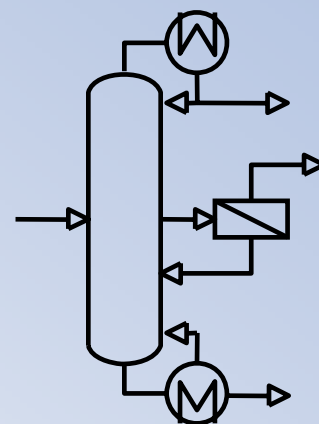


- **Azeotropic binary mixtures**

Splitting of azeotropes with VP
(Bio-Ethanol)

- **Non-ideal multicomponent mixtures**

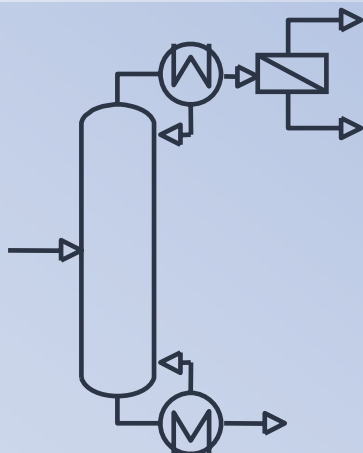
Selective removal of one component



- **Multicomponent reacting mixtures**

Recovering of educts with VP



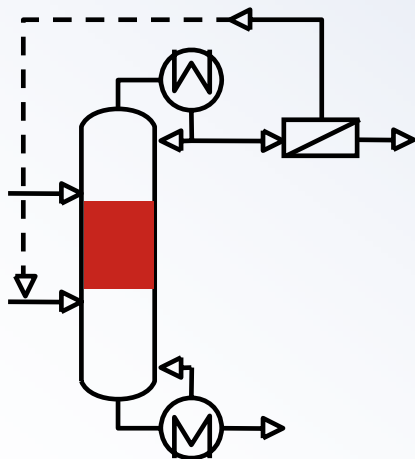
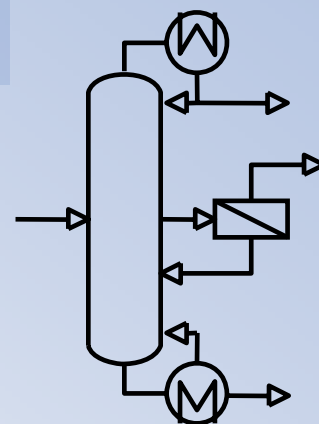


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- **Multicomponent reacting mixtures**

Recovering of educts with VP

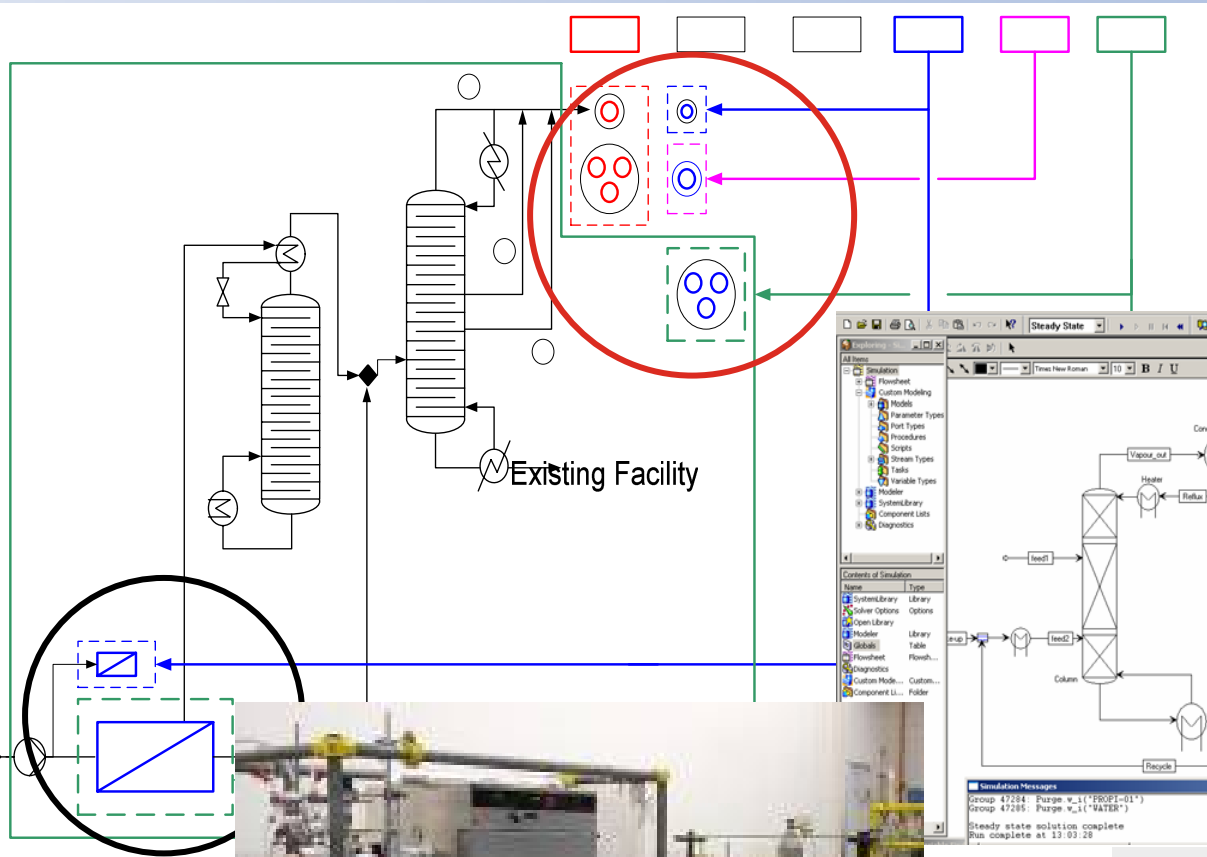


Bioethanol production

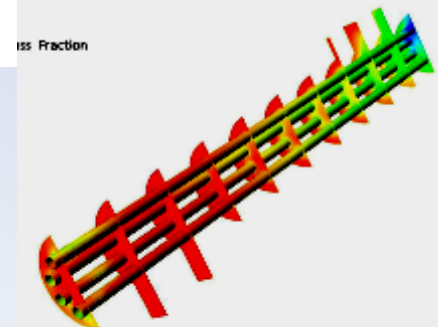
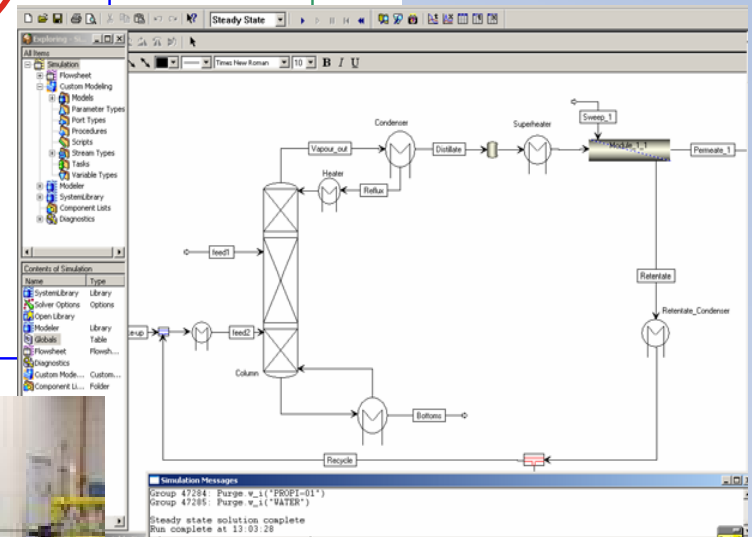


Detailed
modelling,
simulation &
optimization

Fermentation
broth

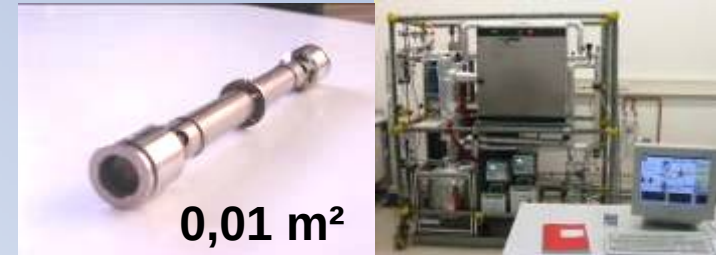
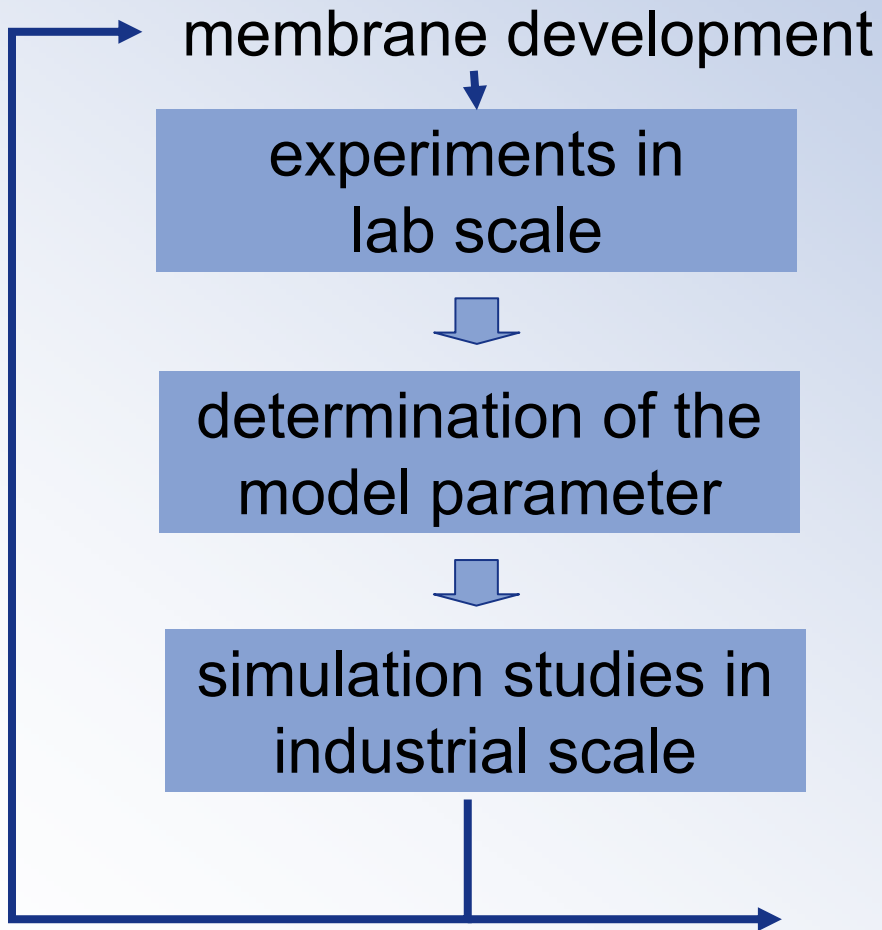


lab & pilot plant
experiments for
model validation





Integrated material and process development procedure



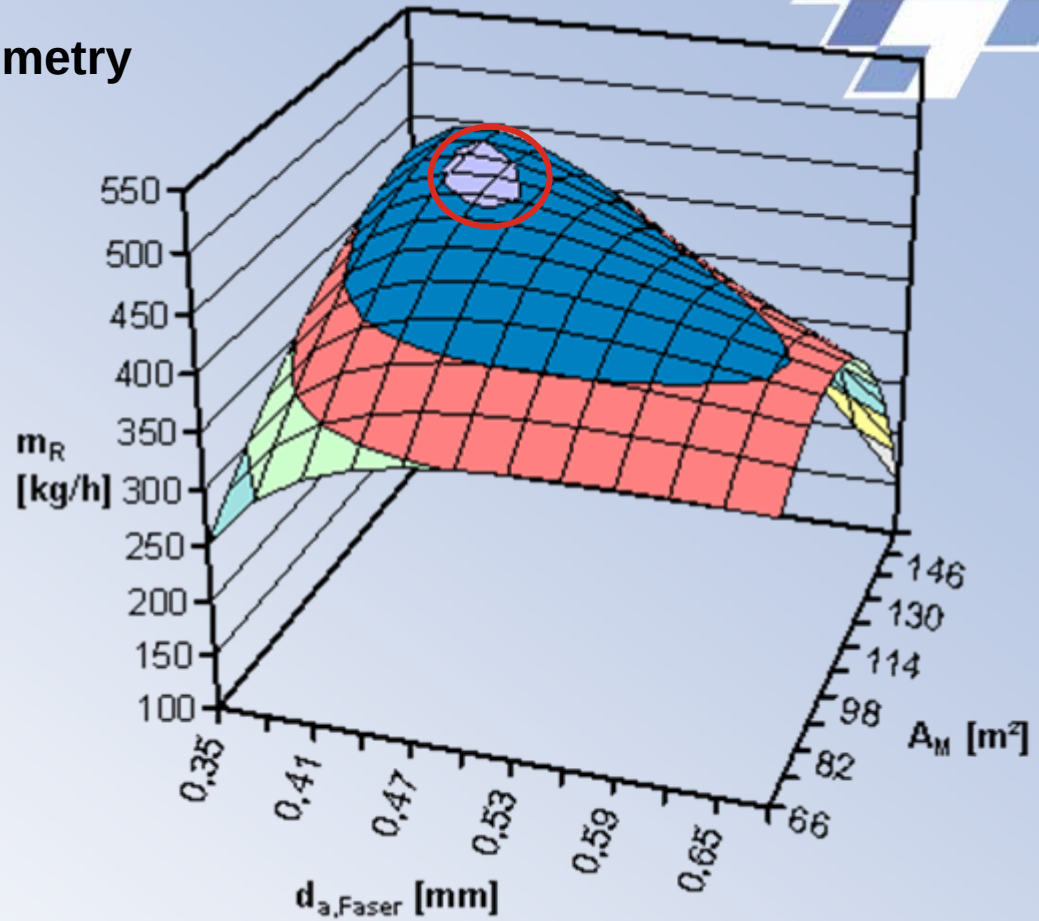
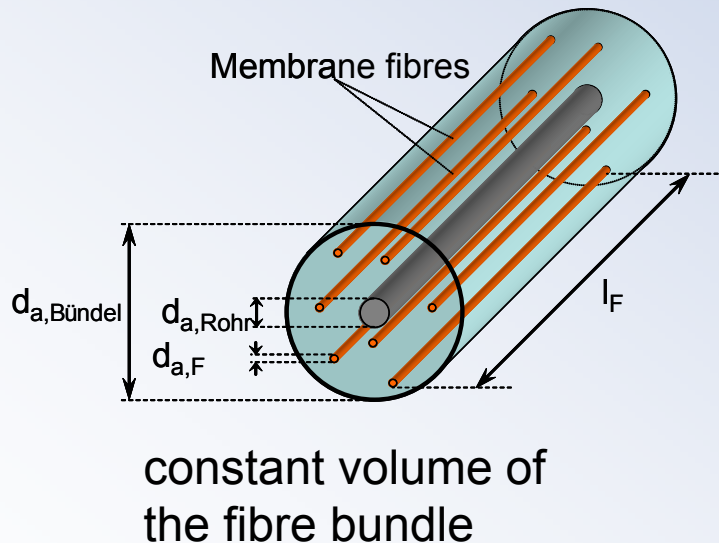
optimal membrane

Courtesy Whitefox Techn.

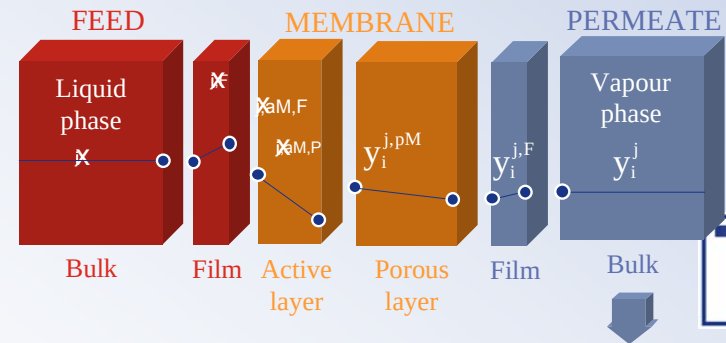


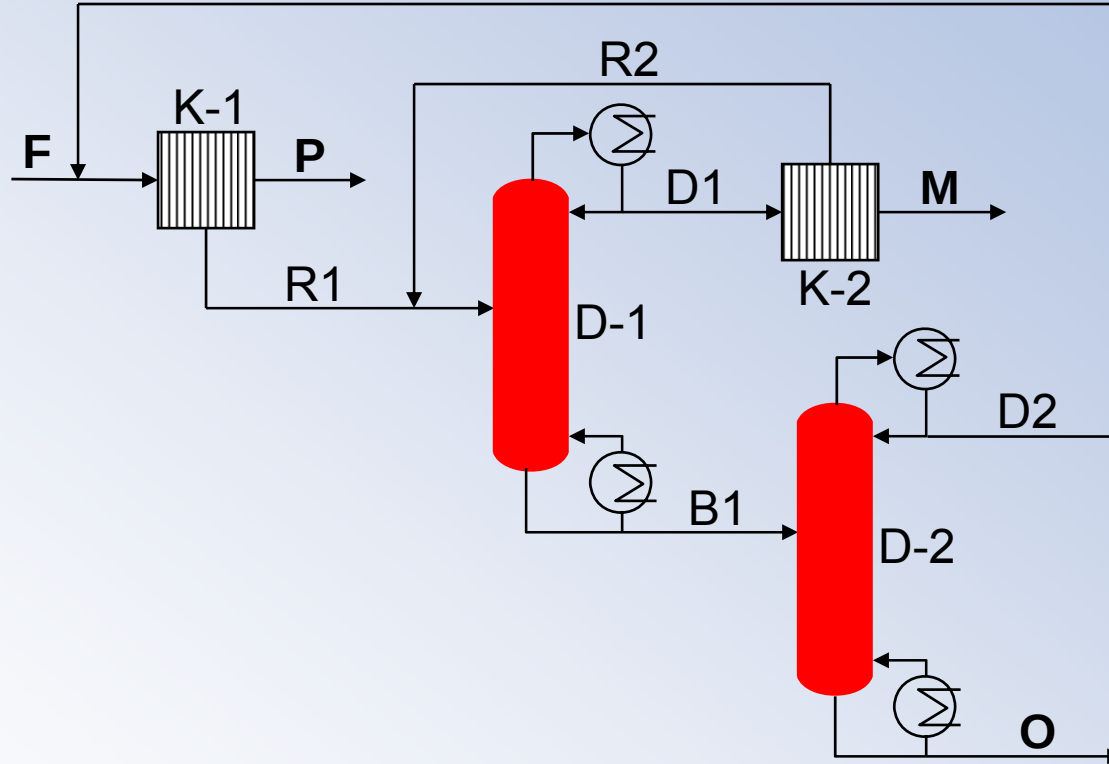
Optimization of the module geometry

- fibre diameter
- membrane area



Based on rigorous modelling
of membrane separation (VP)





Separation task

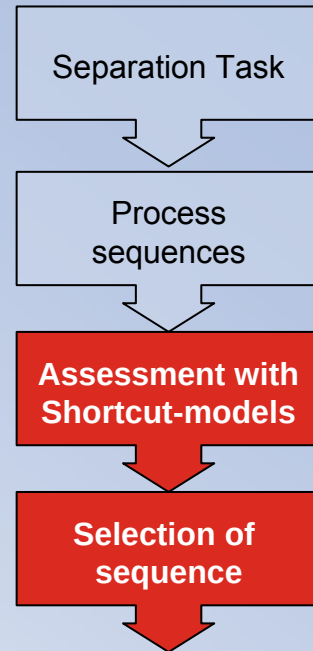
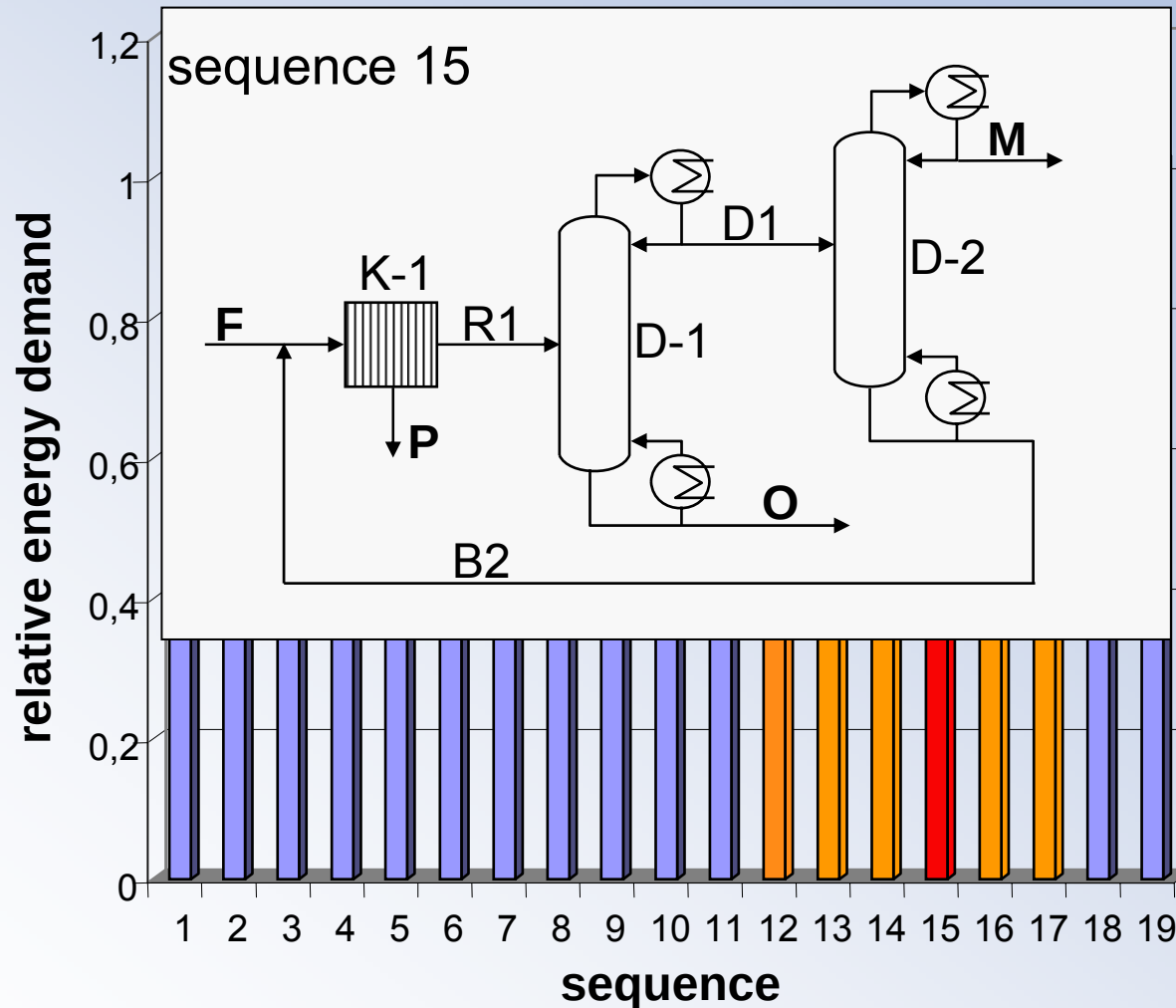
Process sequences

Is that the optimal structure?

- Separation of a ternary isomeric mixture
- Structural and operational degrees of freedom



Distillation and Crystallization



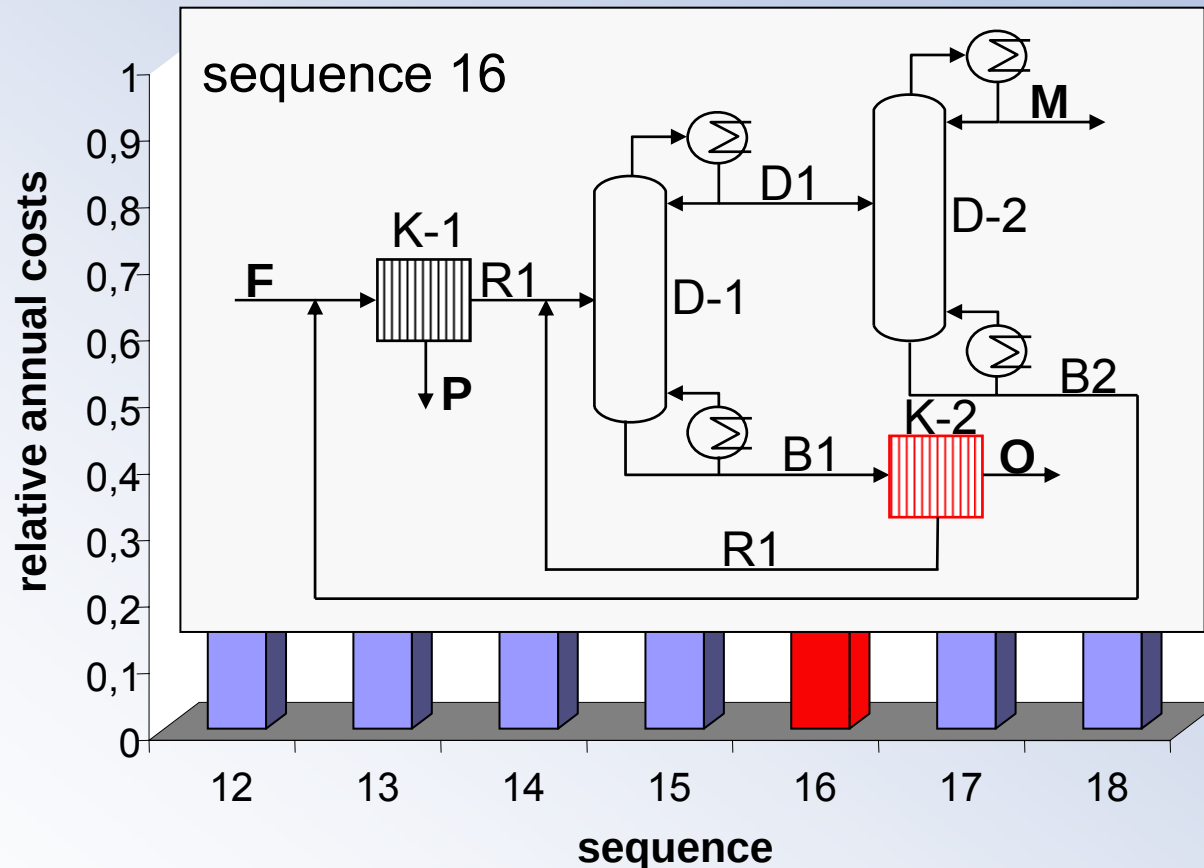
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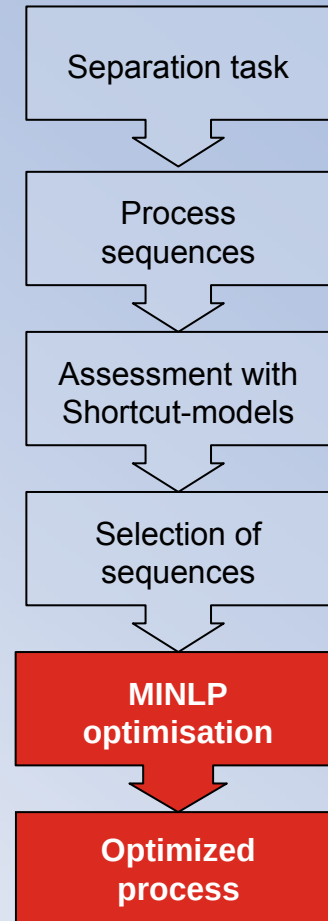
Bayer Technology Services



Distillation and Crystallization



- Sequence 16 with lowest total costs
- 65 % costs savings by hybrid process design



(Bio)reactive and Hybrid Separations



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Extraction
Membranes**

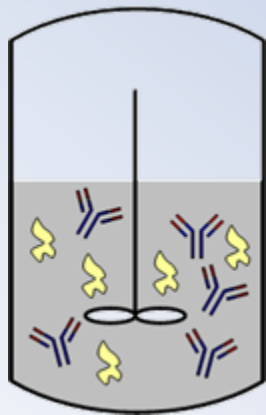
- Reactive distillation
- Reactive absorption
- Reactive extraction
- Membrane reactor

- Distillation & membranes
- Extraction & crystallization
- Distillation & crystallization

Reactive Separations

Hybrid Separations





Purification problem:

How to separate the target protein from impurities



Technologies for separation of bioactive substances

Samatou J., Wentink A.E., Rosa P., Azevedo A., Aires Barros D., Böcker W., Górak A., ESCAPE-17 (2007)

Chromatography



© Merck KgaA

Membrane Adsorption



© Sartorius AG

Extraction

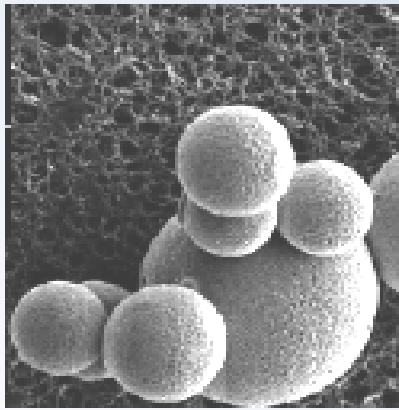


© Twente University

Integrated material and process development

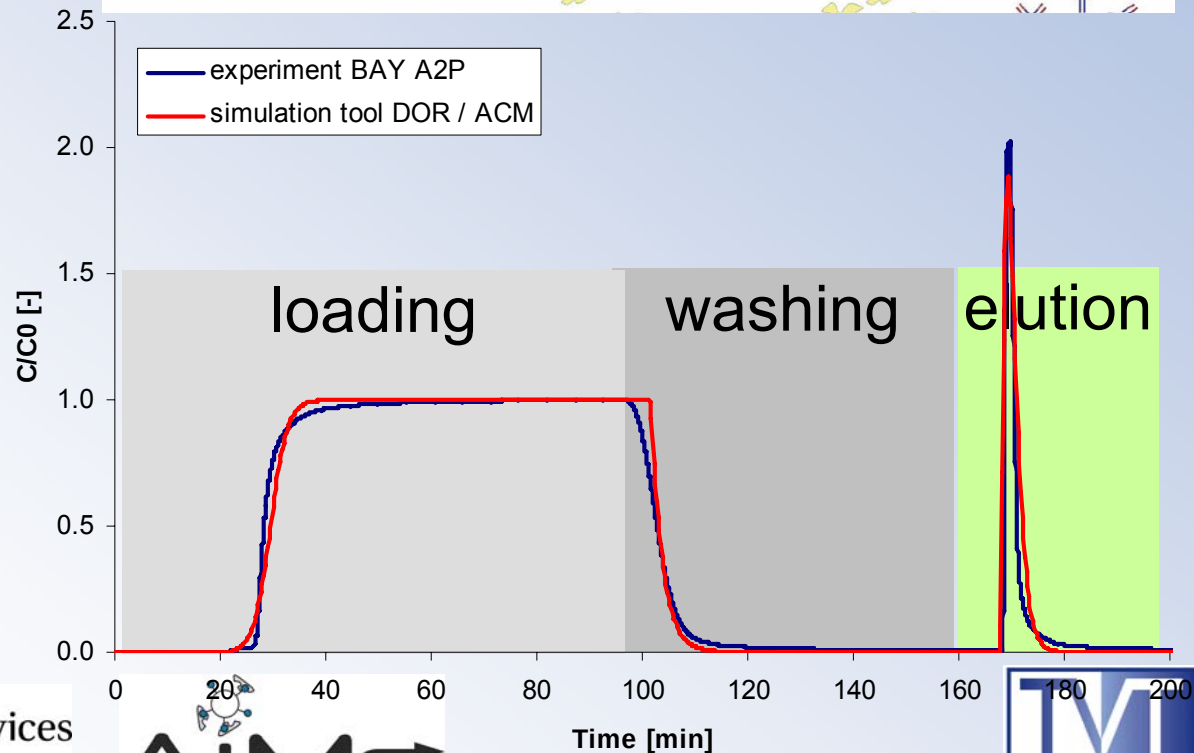
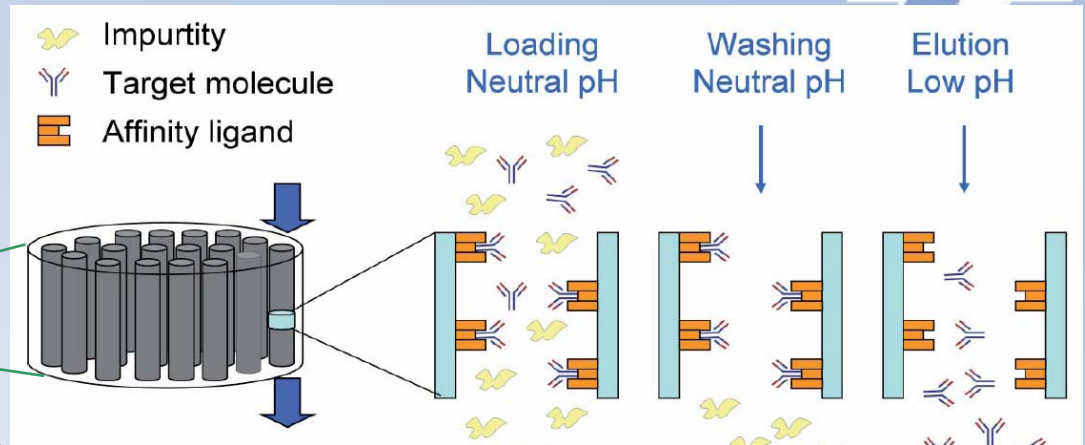
Membrane adsorbers

- Affinity membranes
- Ion-exchange membranes

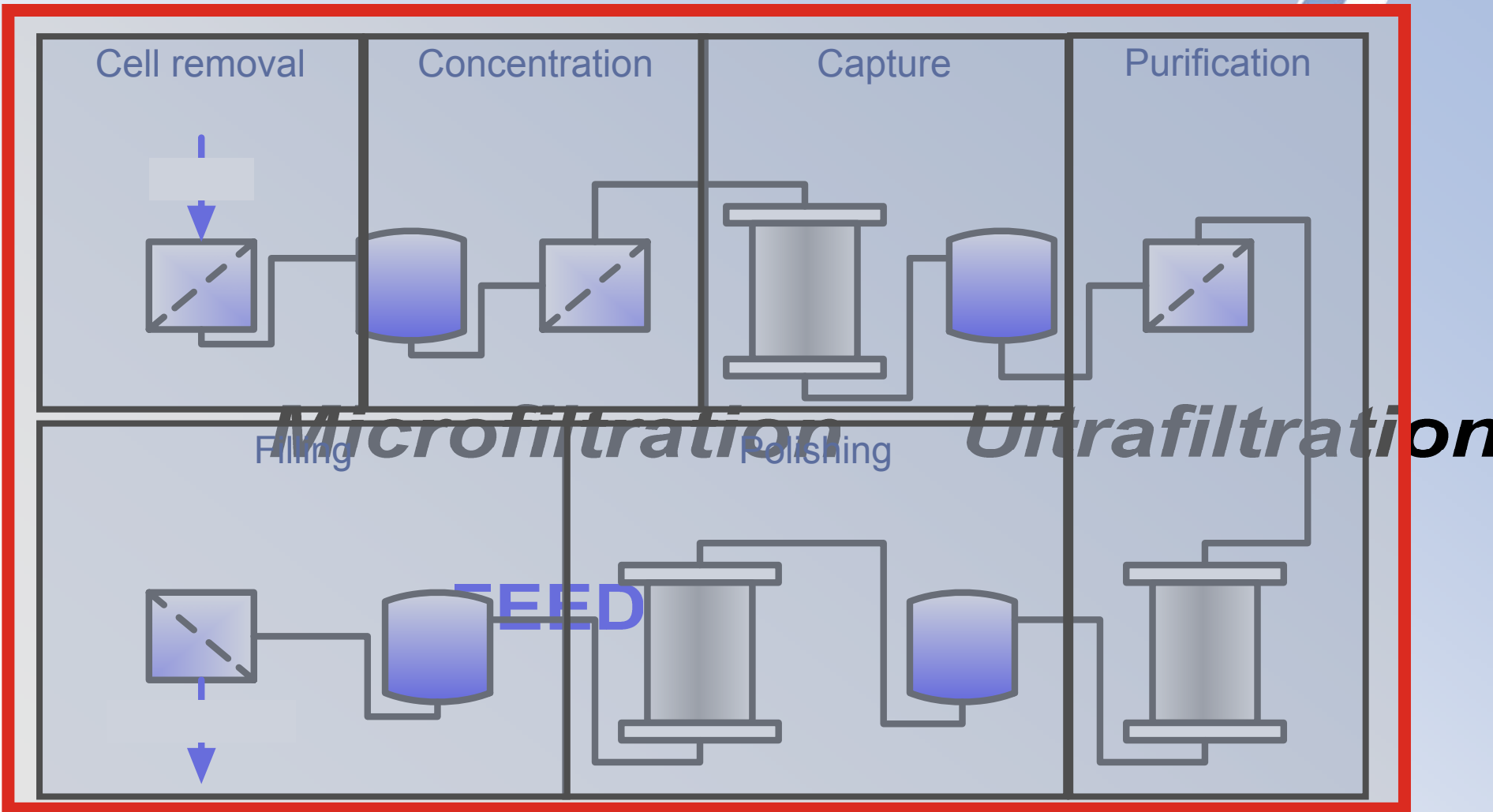


Courtesy Sartorius AG

Development of detailed mathematical models for process design and reliable scale up for different geometries

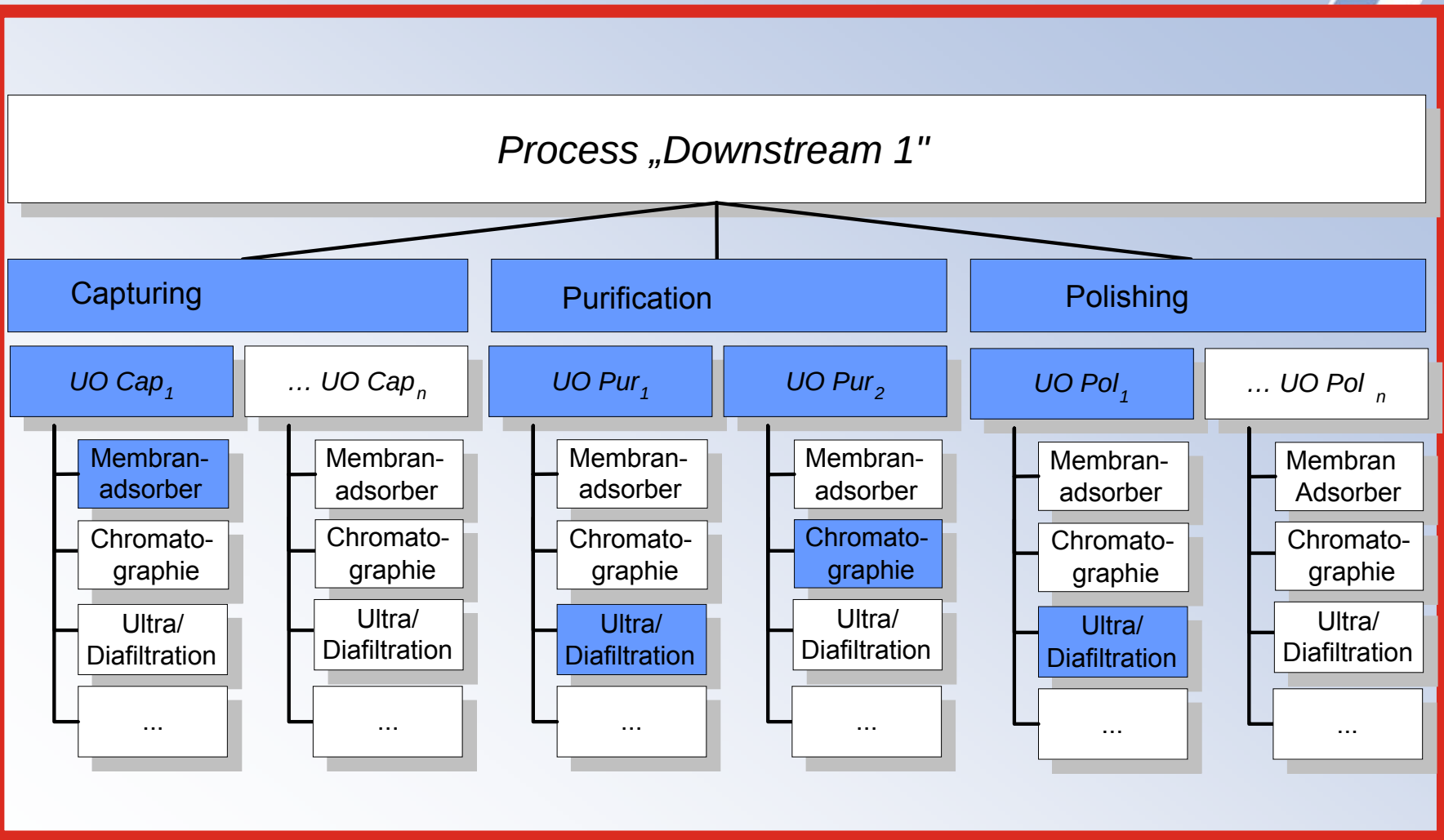


Generic process for purification of bioactive substances





Model structure in process model

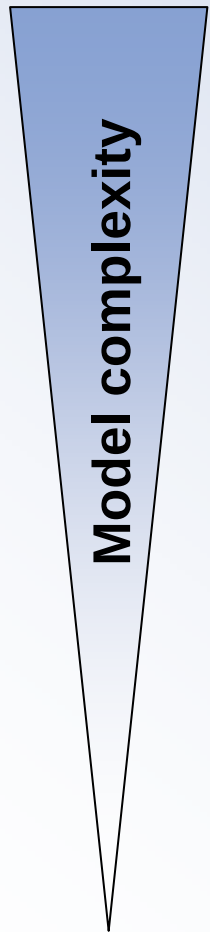


Downstream process





Implemented models

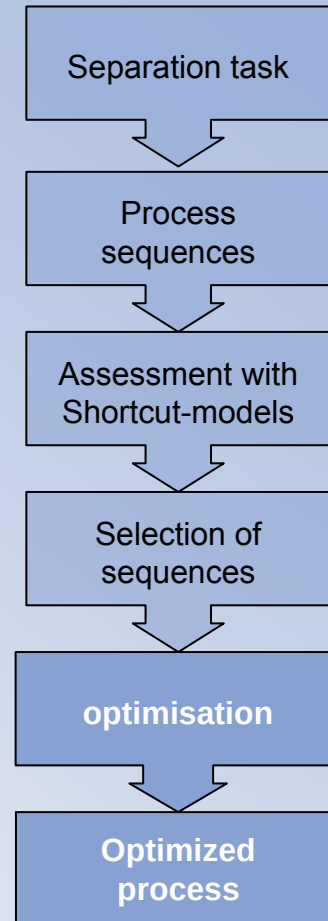
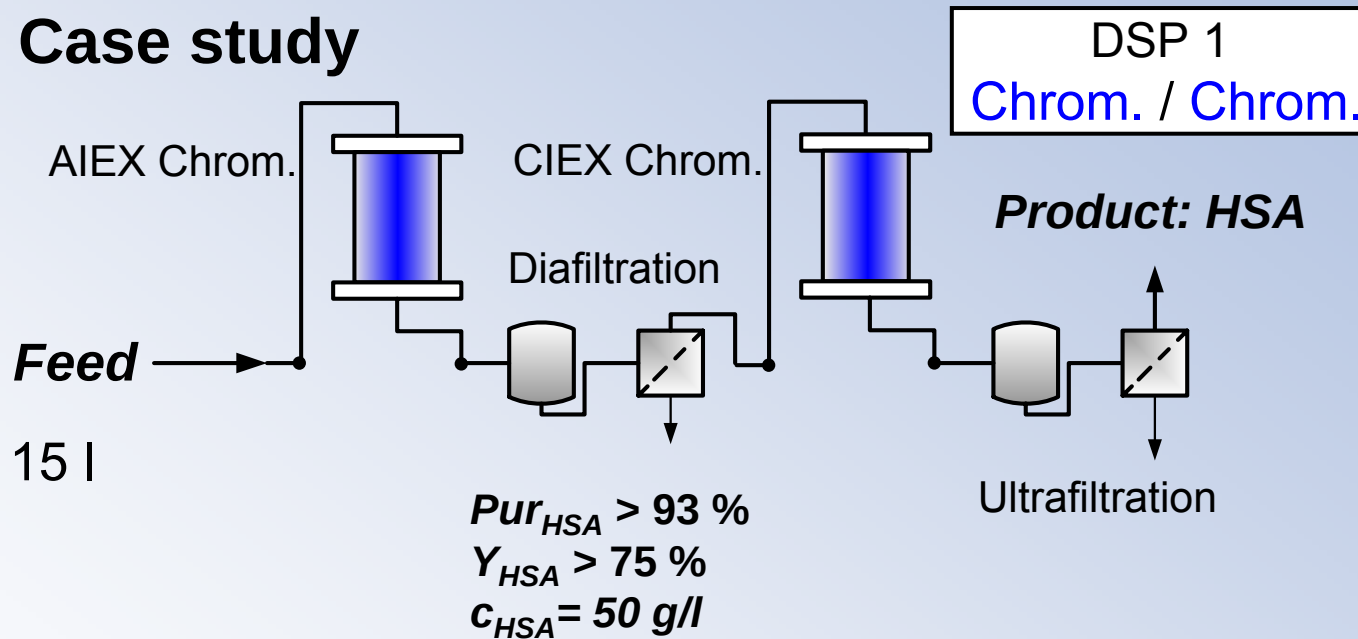


Chromatography (IEX, SEC)	Membrane adsorber (IEX)	Filtration (UF, DF, NF)
General rate model Convection, dispersion, film & pore diffusion		
Transport dispersive model Convection, dispersion, effective mass transfer	Transport dispersive model Convection, dispersion, radial diffusion	
Ideal stage model Convection, solid & liquid equilibrium	Ideal stage model Convection, solid & liquid equilibrium	Resistance model Membrane & gel resistance
Short Cut Yields	Short Cut Yields	Short Cut Yields





Case study



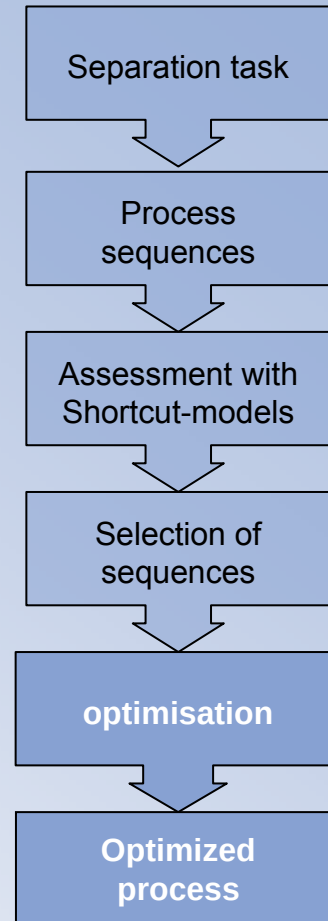
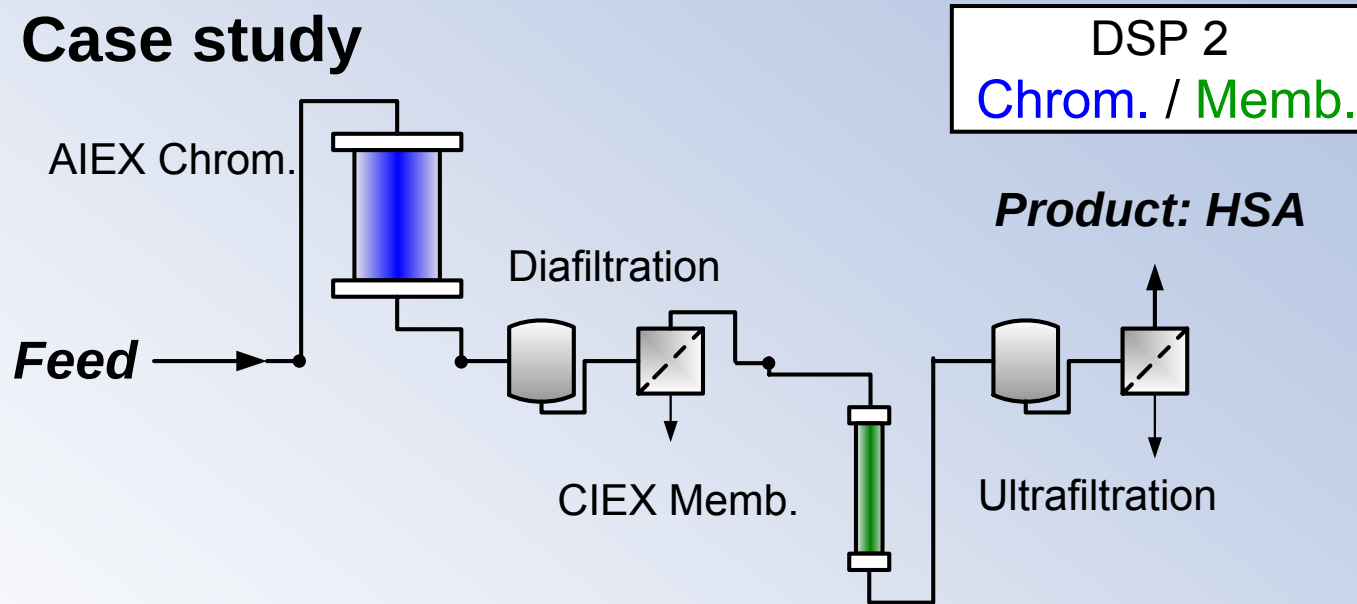
model parameters

- mass transfer models
- adsorption isotherms (membrane adsorber / chromatography)



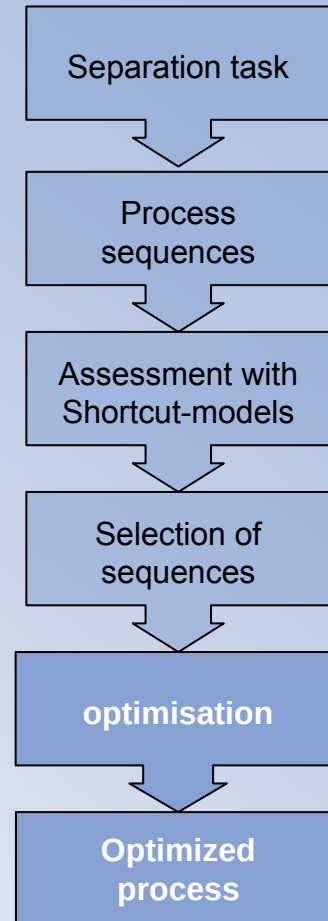
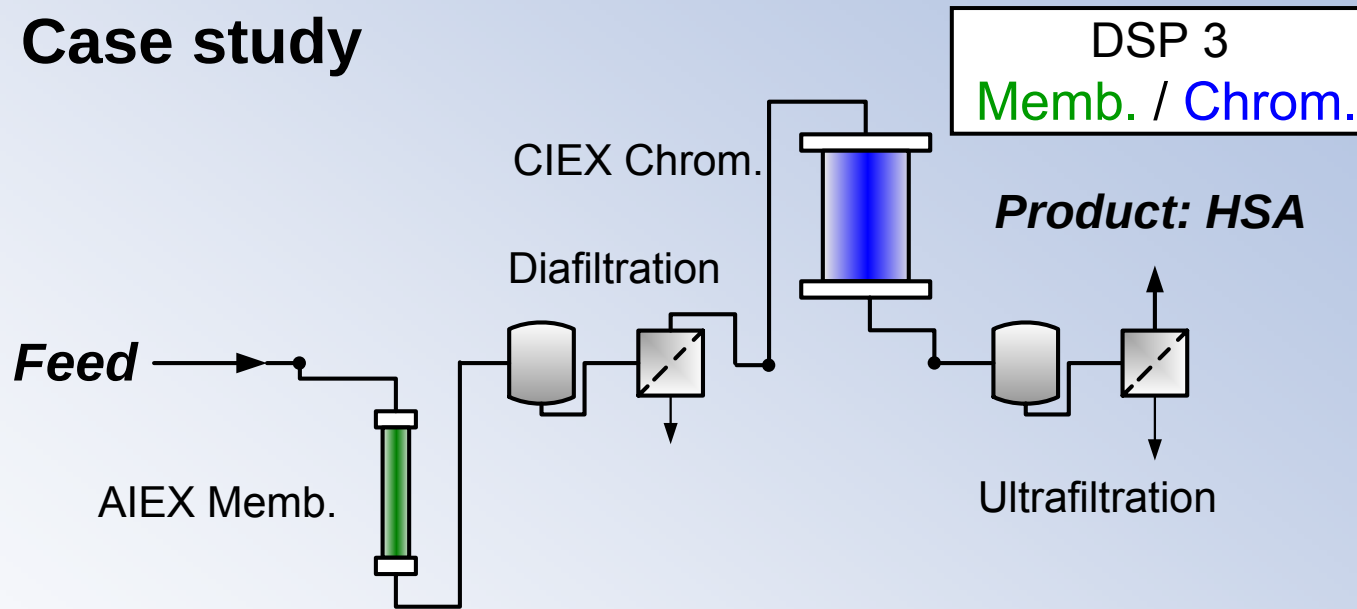


Case study



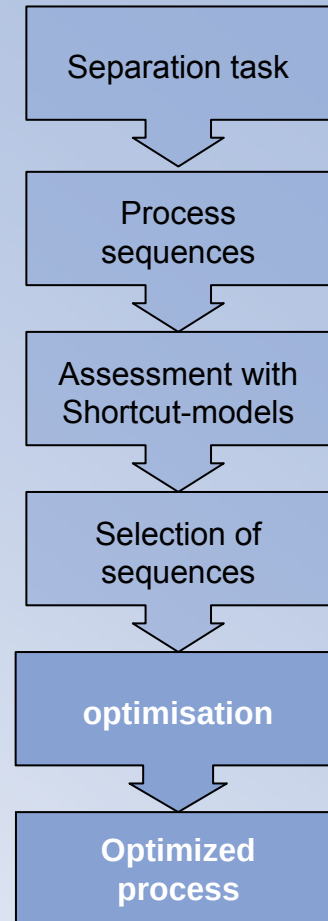
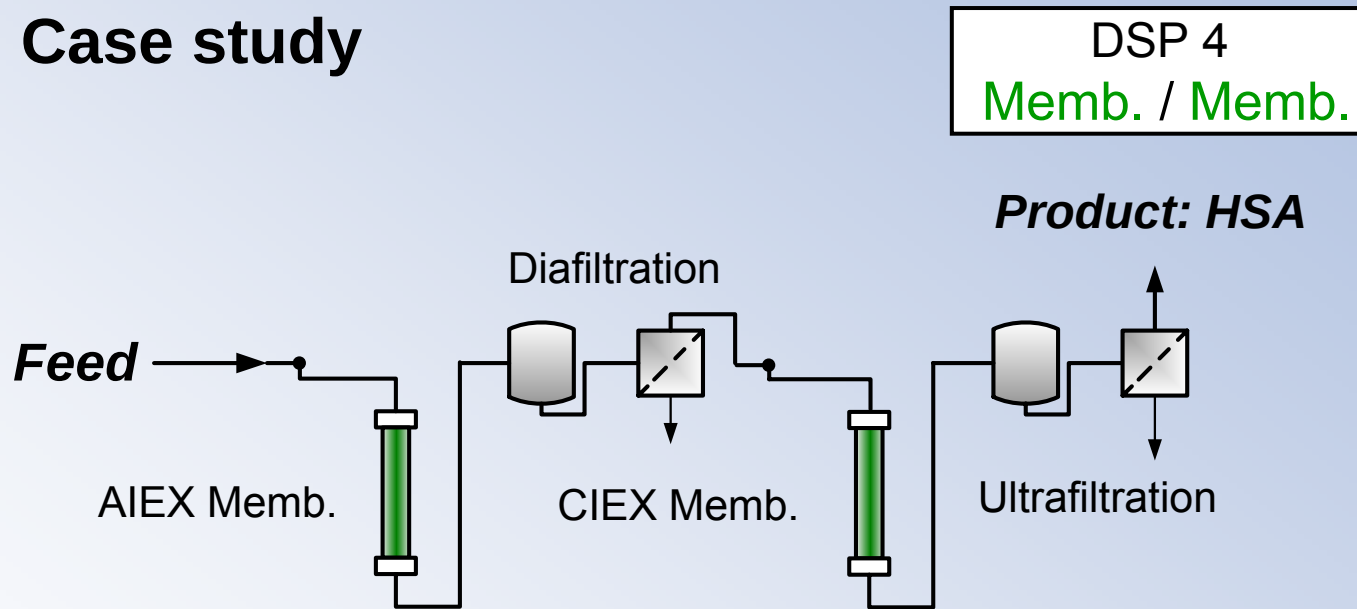


Case study





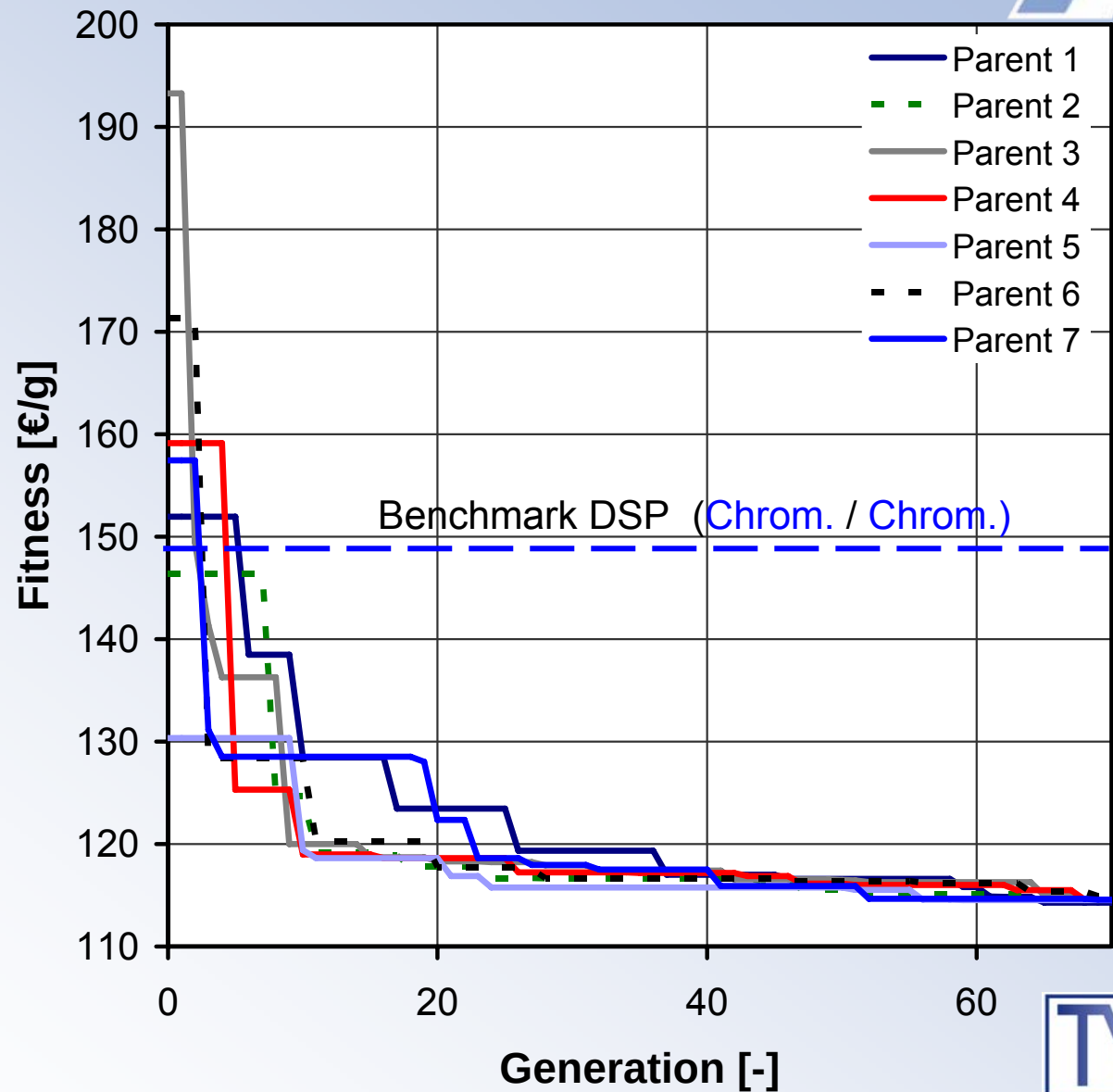
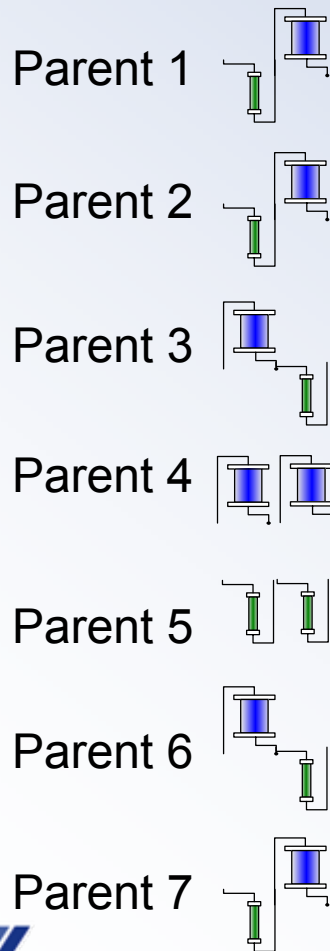
Case study





Results

Starting population

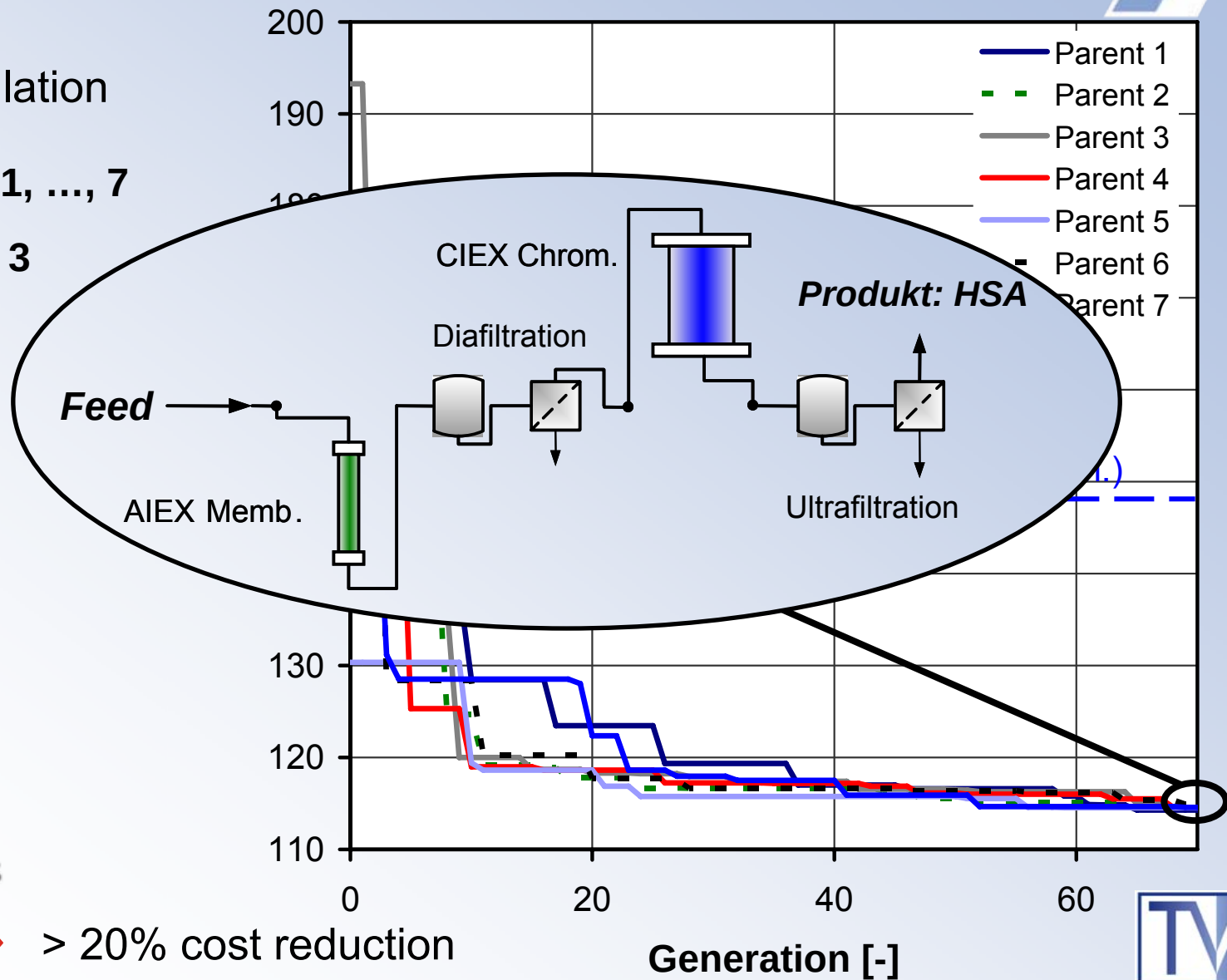


Results

End population

Parent 1, ..., 7

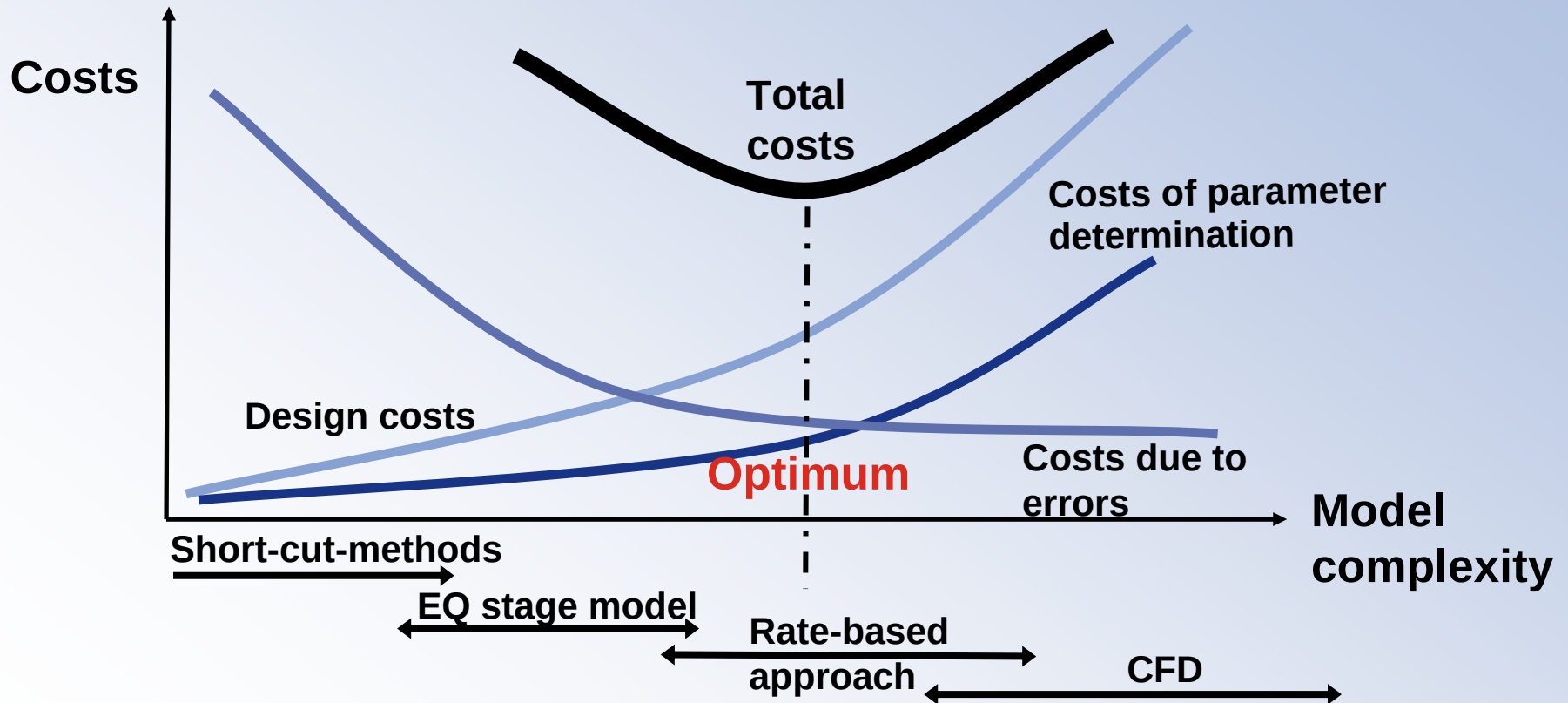
→ DSP 3



Recommendations: **Reactive absorption**



- **Rate-based** approach is a **MUST!**
- **Stefan-Maxwell** equations are usually not necessary
- **Film reaction** has to be included in the model

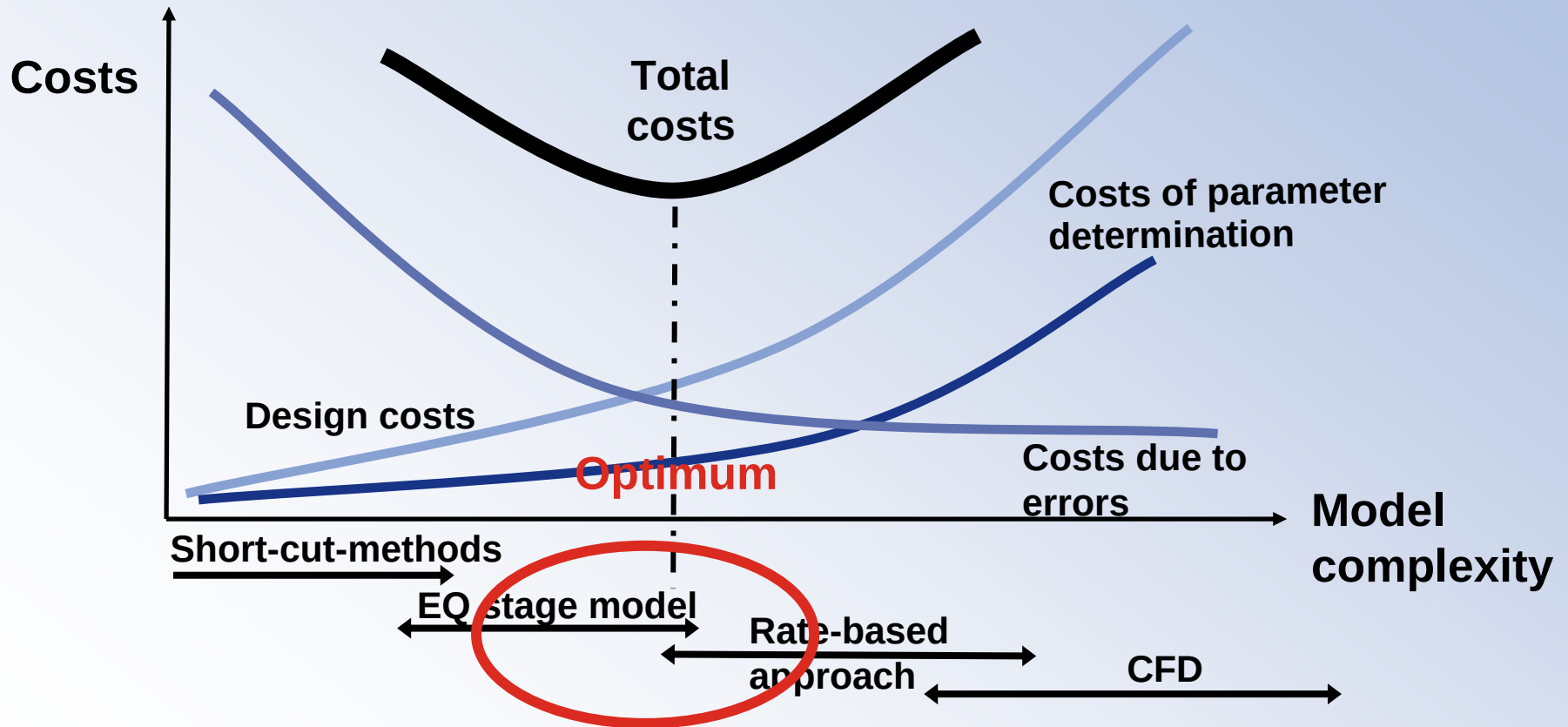


Summary



Recommendations: Reactive distillation

- **Rate-based** approach recommended but sometimes not necessary
- **Equilibrium reaction** is NOT sufficient

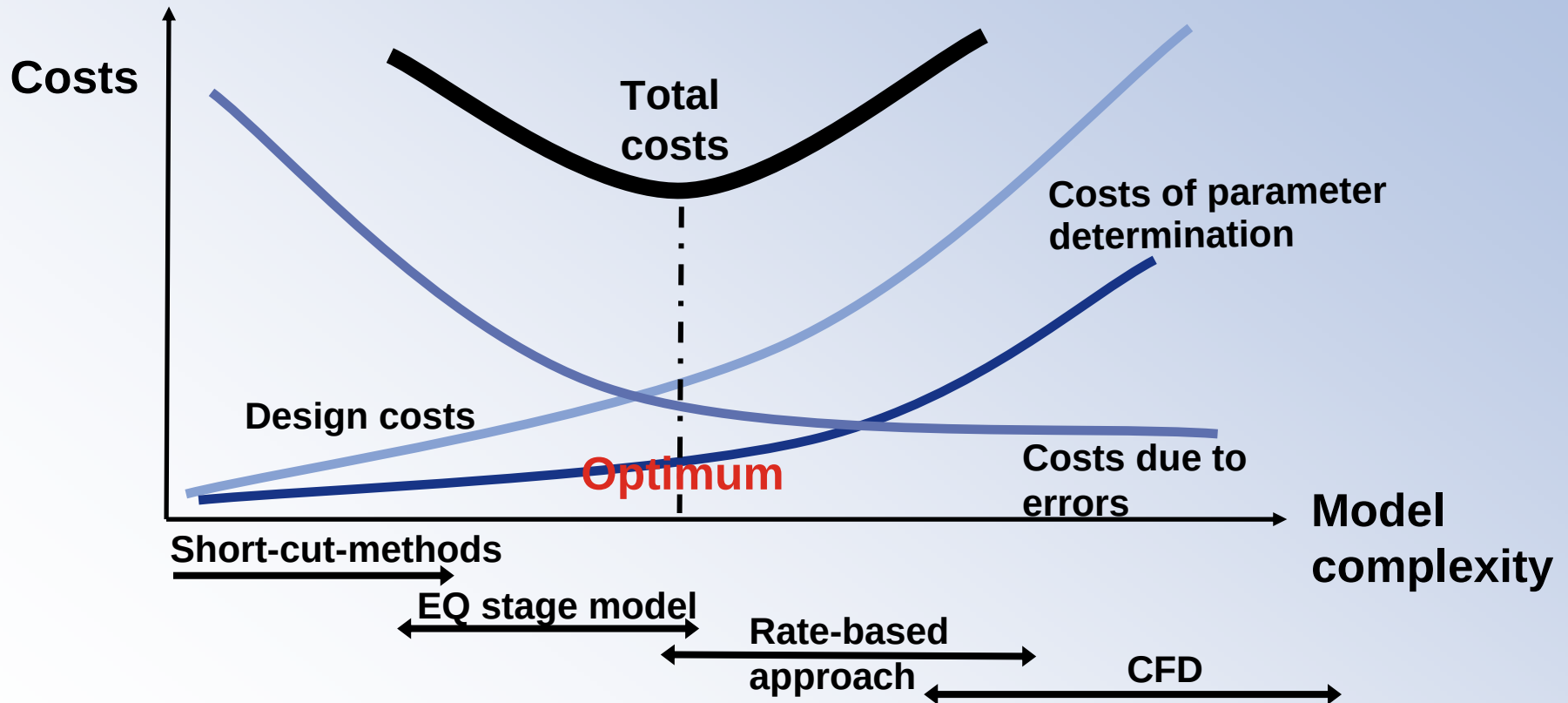


Summary

Recommendations: Hybrid processes

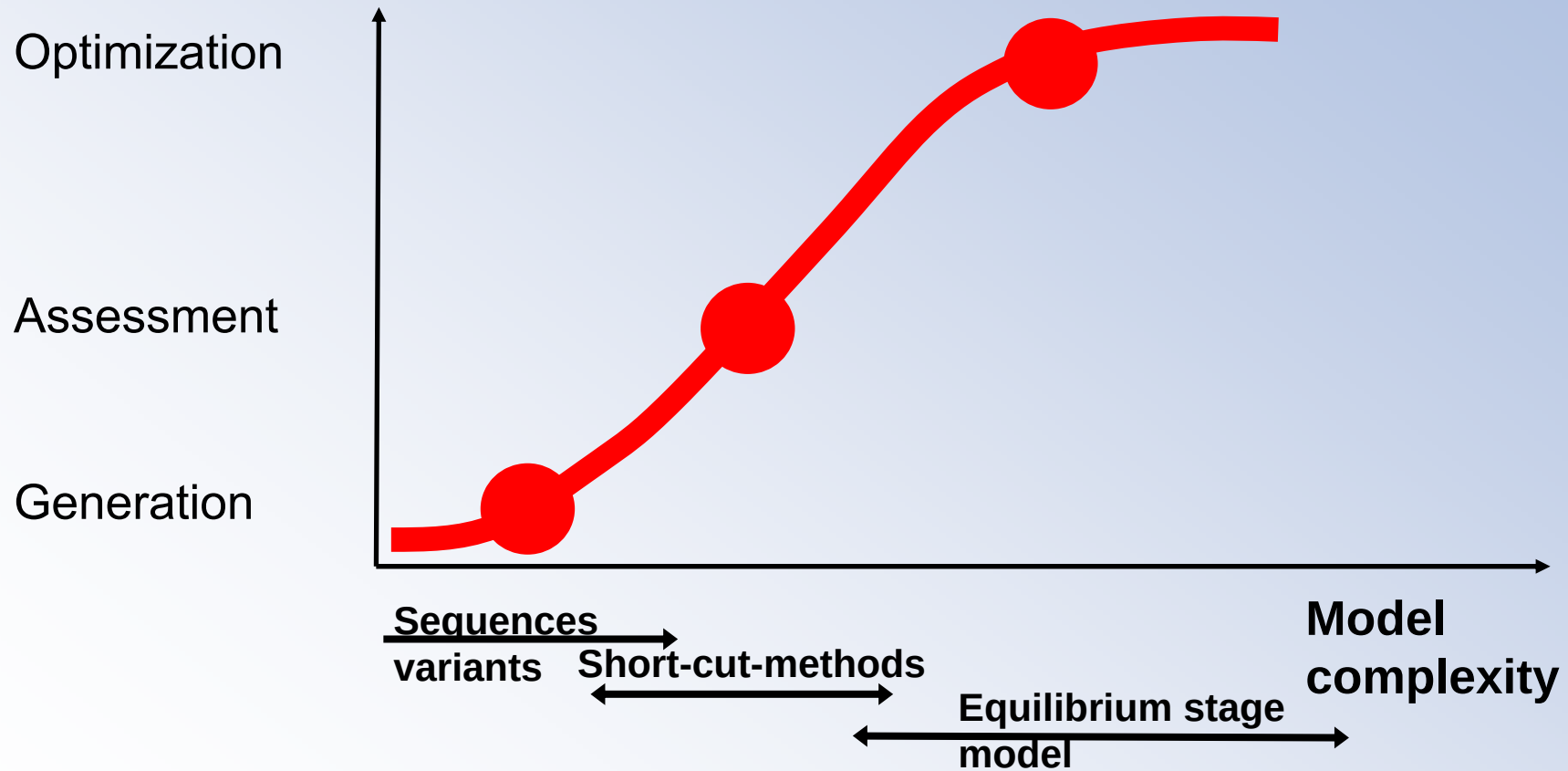


- optimal modelling depths strongly depends on investigated unit operations and chemical system



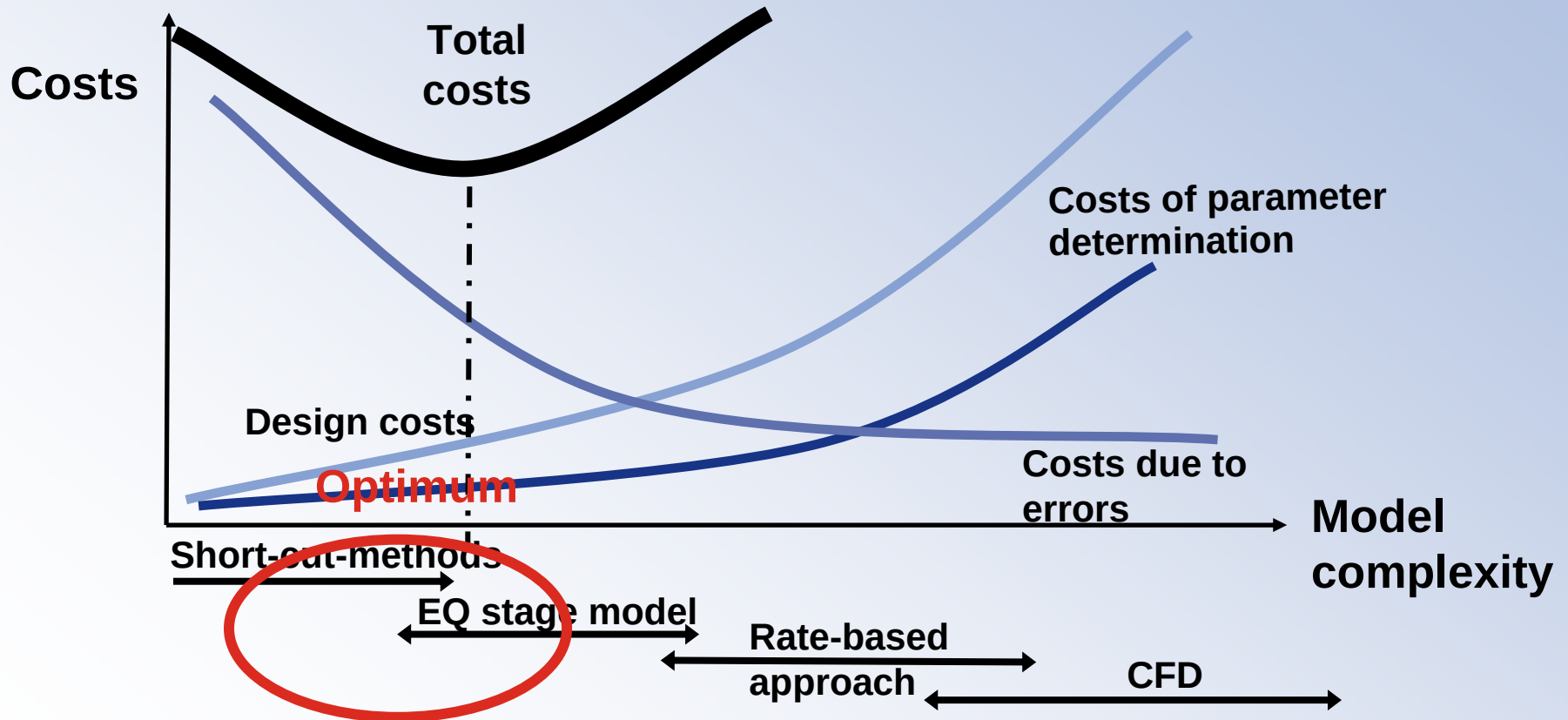
Summary





Recommendations: Bio(reactive)separations

- rather **simple models** should be used since the knowledge on biothermodynamics and hydrodynamics is limited



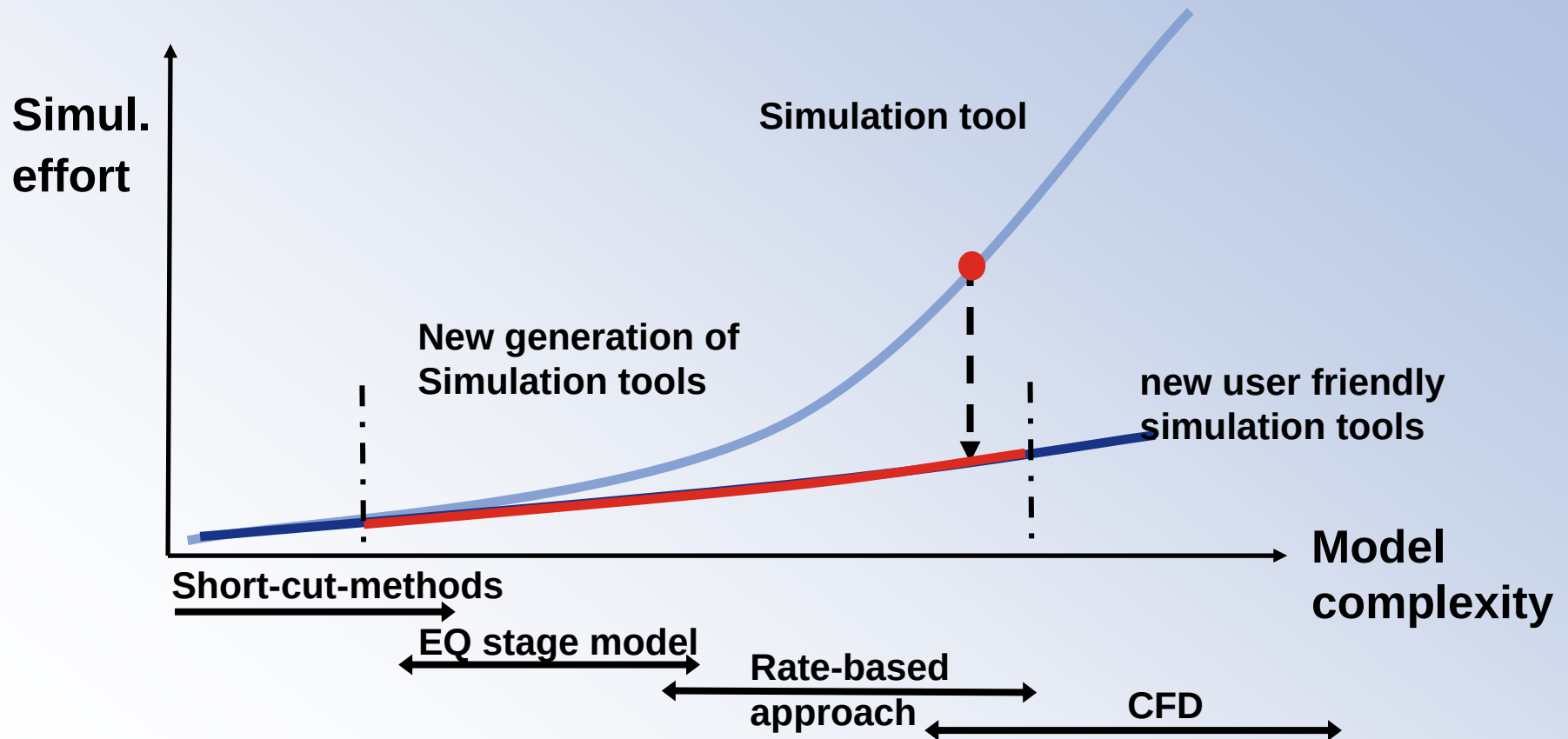
Summary



Recommendations: **Modelling & Simulation**



New generation of **simulation tools** enable user to chose the **optimal modelling depth** for each special separation task



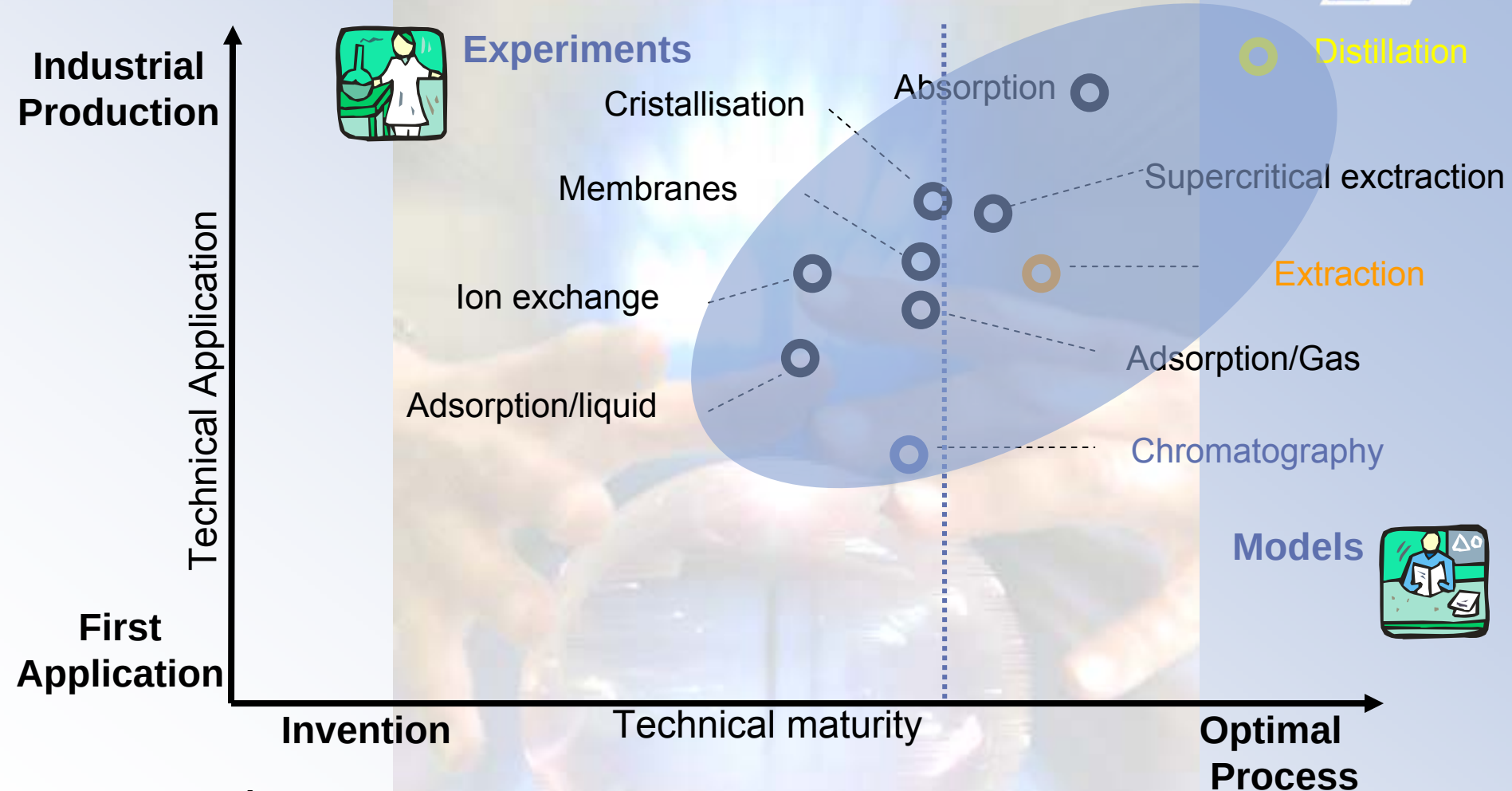
Summary



Outlook



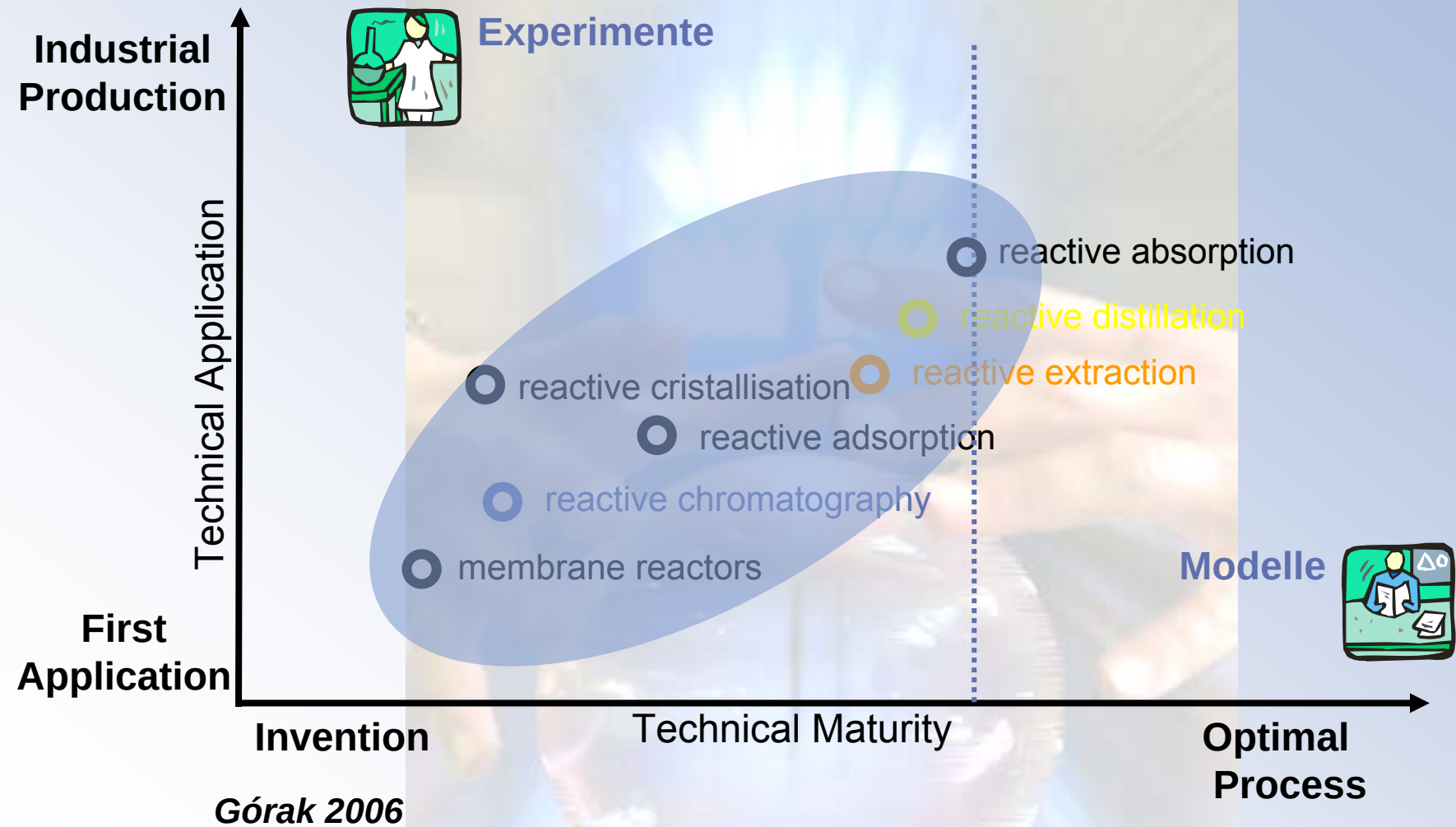
Outlook

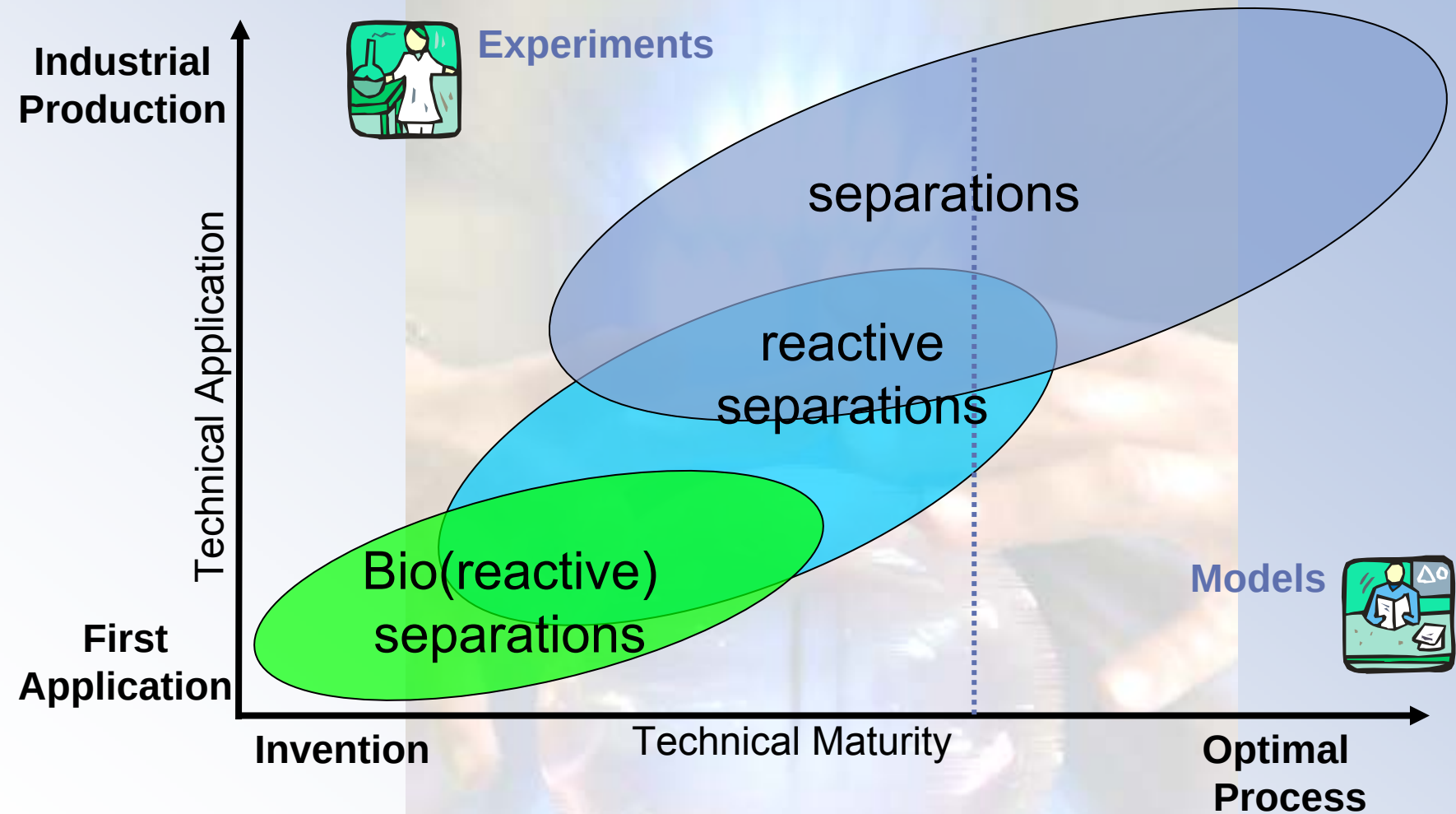


Górak 1995; Goedecke 2005

Classical separation processes







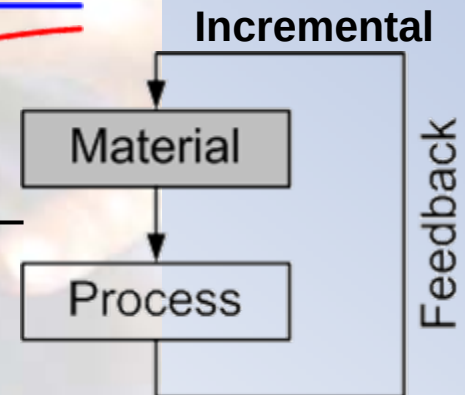
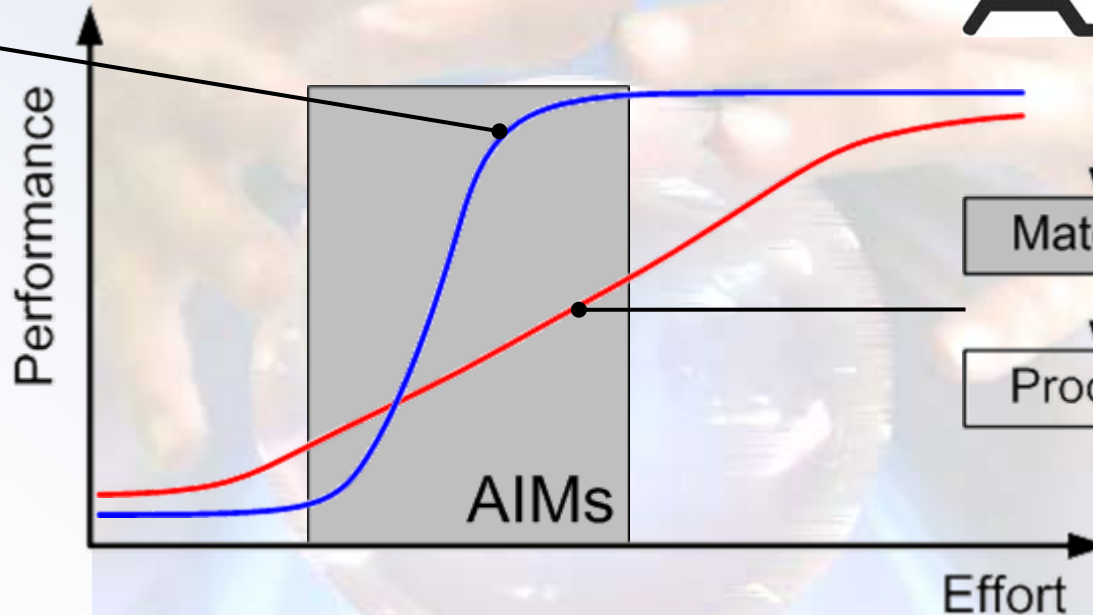


Integrated material und process development for

- monoclonal antibody purification
(adsorbents/membrane adsorbers, solvents/bioextraction)
- bioethanol production (membranes/distillation)



Integrated



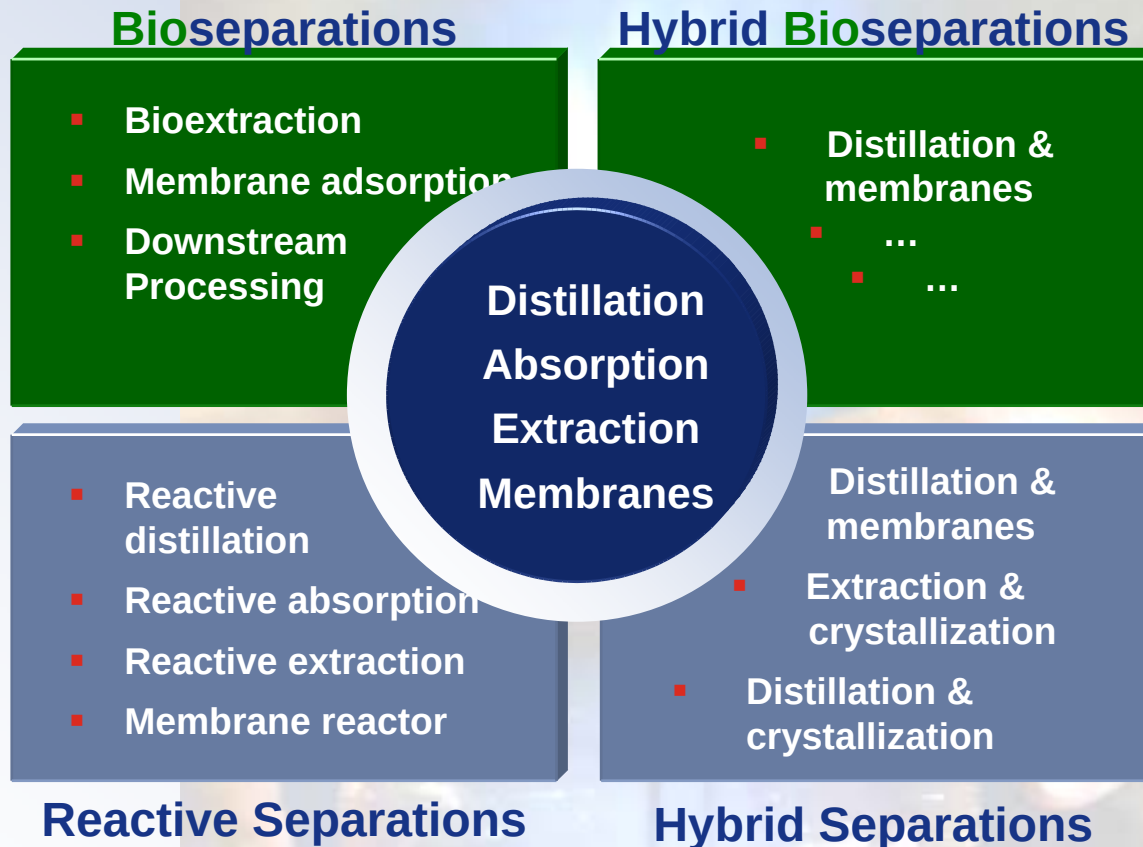
Design of a new class of interactive materials





Reactive and hybrid (bio)separations belong to the emerging area of Process Intensification

Charpentier, Ind.Eng.Chem.Res., (2007), 46, 4365



“The innovative character of Process Intensification is in nice harmony with the objectives of Process Systems Engineering: a symbiosis between them has high potential”

Moulijn, Stankiewicz, Grievink, Górak: ESCAPE 16 (2006)





Reactive and hybrid (bio)separations belong to the emerging area of Process Intensification

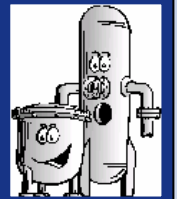
Charpentier, Ind.Eng.Chem.Res., (2007), 46, 4365

The devil is in the details

- Reaction kinetics
- Thermodynamics of electrolytes
- Charged biomolecules
- Aggregates and emulsions
- Hydrodynamics of viscous system
- Many more....

„No more of the old formula: Let's make it a foot bigger in diameter and 5 ft. higher just for good luck“

- Walter G. Whitman (1924)



“The innovative character of Process Intensification is in nice harmony with the objectives of Process Systems Engineering: a symbiosis between them has high potential”

Moulijn, Stankiewicz, Grievink, Górak: ESCAPE 16 (2006)



Acknowledgements



European Commission