

RISER REACTOR  
 THERMOBALANCE  
 PACKED BED

BERTY REACTOR  
 FLUID BED

TAP  
 MULTITRACK

# Catalyst testing & Kinetic studies

## Information wanted

- ➡ Intrinsic reaction rate data
- ➡ Not obscured by parasitic phenomena
  - 👉 reactor characteristics
  - 👉 mass and heat transport phenomena
  - 👉 user manipulations
  - 👉 catalyst misbehaviour
    - 👉 deactivation/fouling

## For

- Comparison activities and selectivities
- Kinetic modelling

# Catalytic reactor design equation

plug-flow, steady state

conversion  $i$

stoichiometric coefficient  $i$

deactivation function

rate expression

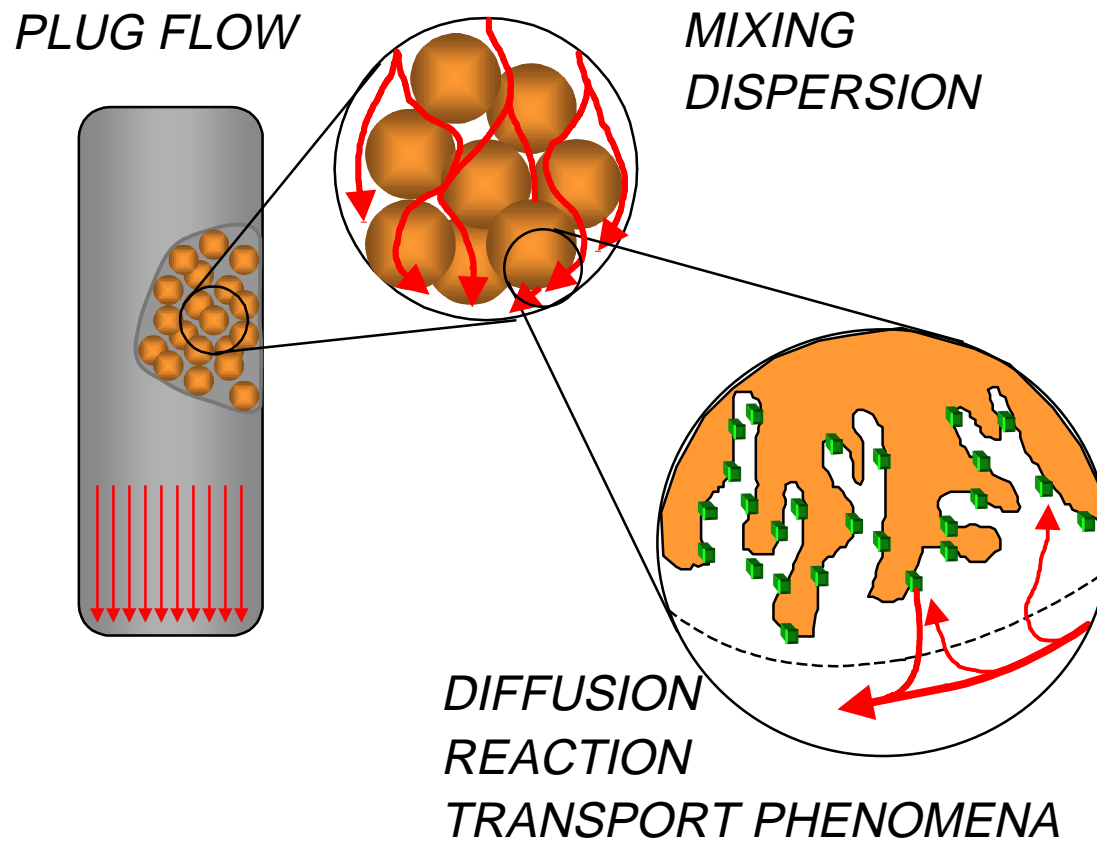
'space time'

catalyst effectiveness

$$\frac{dx_i}{d(W/F_i)} = -\nu_i \cdot \eta \cdot r \cdot \Phi$$

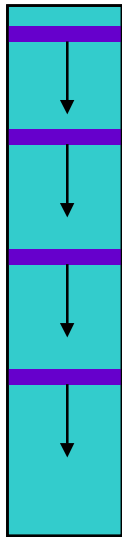
*Eliminate deviations ideal reactor behaviour, low catalyst effectiveness and deactivation*

# Phenomena in catalytic reactor (two-phase: fluid-solid)



# Packed bed reactor - assumptions

*ideal*

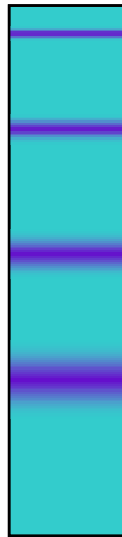


plug flow  
isothermal

*equal  $\tau$ ,  $T$*

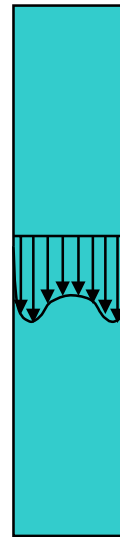


*real life*

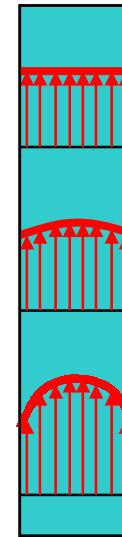


axial  
dispersion

*$\tau$  varies*



velocity  
profile



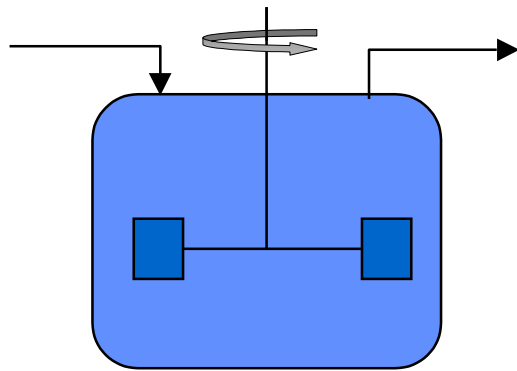
radial  
temperature  
gradient

*$T$  varies*

*impact on observed conversion levels*

# CSTR - assumptions

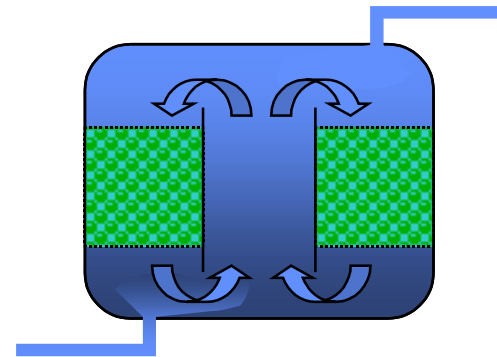
*ideal*



well mixed  
isothermal

- *instantaneous mixing*
- *equal conditions*

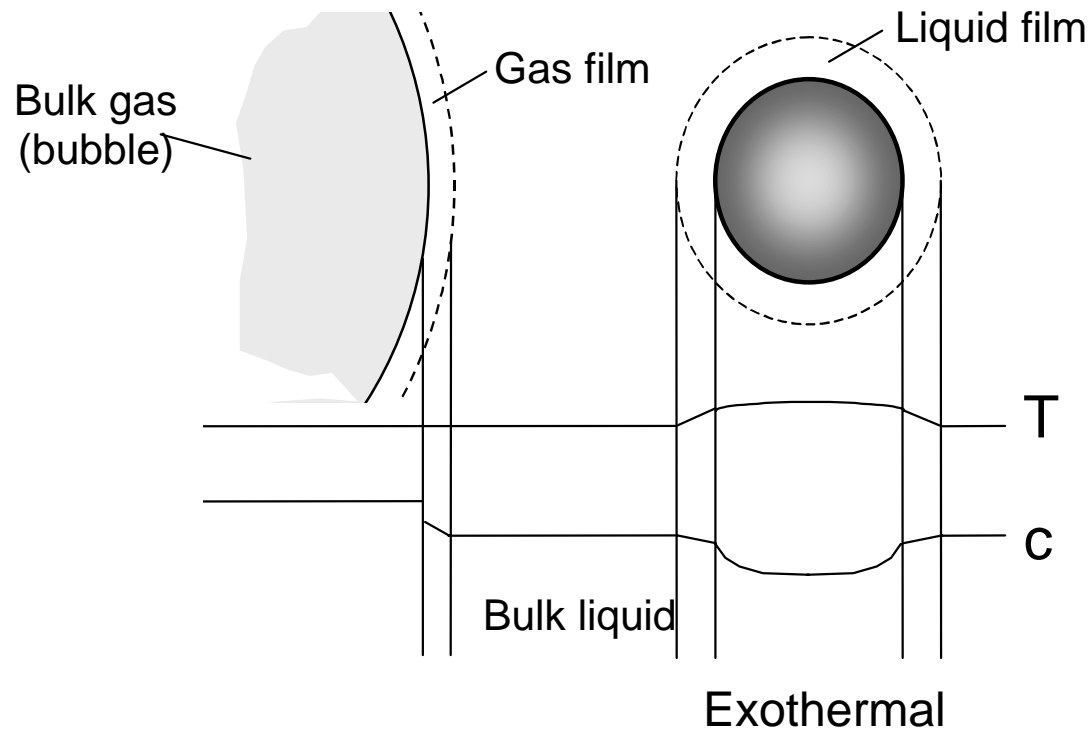
*reality*



recirculation

- *local concentration gradients*
- *conversion over bed*

# Gradients at Particle Scale Gas/liquid/solid Slurry Reactor



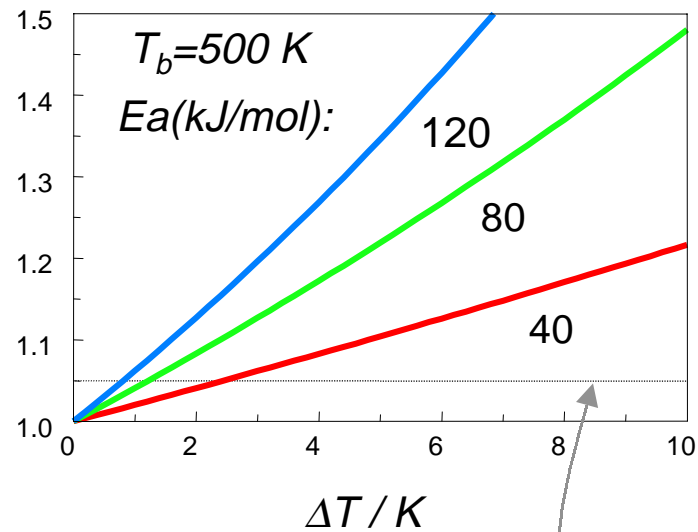


# Effect temperature rise

How much increases rate constant ?

$$\frac{k(T_s)}{k(T_b)} = \exp\left\{-\frac{E_a}{RT} \cdot \left(\frac{T_b}{T_s} - 1\right)\right\} = \exp\left\{\gamma_b \left(\frac{\Delta T}{T_b + \Delta T}\right)\right\}$$

$k(T_s)/k(T_b)$



*A few degrees  
already critical !*

5% criterion

# Criteria - experimental verification

Criterion:  $\frac{r_{v,obs}}{r_{v,chem}} = 1 \pm 0.05$

*5% deviation*

*observed rate*

*External transfer:*

$$Ca = \frac{r_{v,obs}}{a' k_f c_b} < \frac{0.05}{n}$$

*reaction order*

$$a' = \frac{S_p}{V_p}$$

*mass transfer coefficient*

*particle properties*

# When mass transport limitations?

## 5% Criterion

Internal transfer:  $\Phi = \eta \phi^2 \left( \frac{n+1}{2} \right) < 0.15$

External transfer:  $Ca < \frac{0.05}{n}$

$$\eta_i \phi_G^2 = \frac{r_{v,obs}}{a'^2 \cdot D_{eff} \cdot c_b}$$

$$Ca = \frac{r_{v,obs}}{a' k_f c_b}$$

Also:  $\Phi = \frac{Bi_m}{s} \cdot Ca$

while  $Bi_m > \sim 10$   
 $s=1,2,3$  (geometry)



Weisz-Prater more severe than Carberry criterion

# When temperature effects?

5% Criterion

External transfer:

$$|\beta_e| \gamma_b Ca < 0.05$$

Internal transfer:

$$\frac{|\beta_i| \gamma_s (\eta_i \phi^2)}{2} < 0.05$$

$$\gamma_b = \frac{E_a}{RT_b}$$

10-20

Prater numbers

$$\beta_e = \frac{(-\Delta H)k_f c_b}{hT_b}$$

$\frac{\beta_e}{\beta_i}$	10-10 <sup>4</sup>	gas-solid
	10 <sup>-4</sup> -0.1	liquid-solid

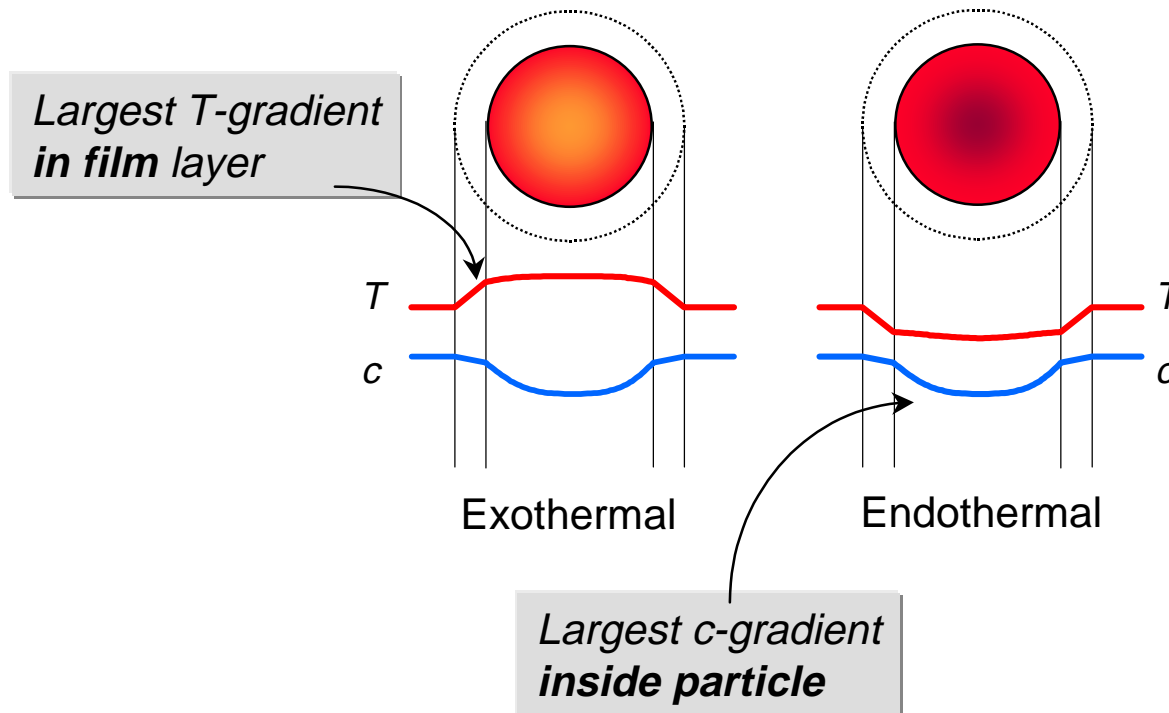
$$\beta_i = \frac{D_e(-\Delta H)c_s}{\lambda_e T_s}$$

0-0.3 (exothermal)



External gradient criterion more severe than internal criterion

# Temperature and concentration profiles



# Temperature gradient in catalyst bed

$$\frac{E_a}{R T_w} \left| \frac{(-\Delta H_r) r_{v,obs} r_t^2}{\lambda_{eff,b} T_w} \right| (1-\varepsilon_b)(1-b) \left( \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{Bi_w} \frac{d_p}{d_t} \right) < 0.05$$

$$\frac{\text{criterion bed T - gradient}}{\text{criterion film T - gradient particle}} \approx \left( \frac{r_t}{r_p} \right)^2 \cdot \left( \frac{\lambda_{p,eff}}{\lambda_{b,eff}} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{s^2(1-\varepsilon_b)}{8} \right) \gg 1$$



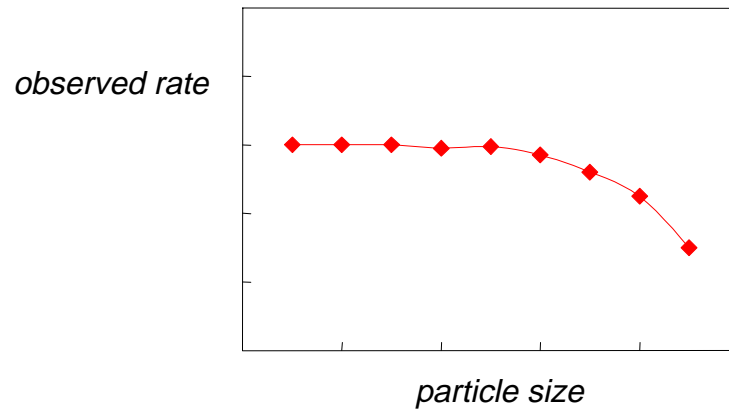
*temperature gradient in bed always develops first !*

Summary:

$$(T - grad)_{bed} > (T - grad)_{ext} > (c - grad)_{int}, (T - grad)_{int} > (c - grad)_{ext}$$

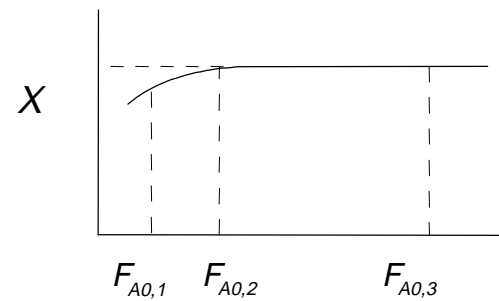
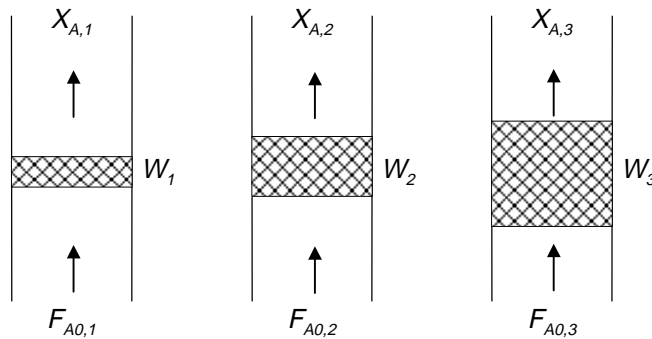
# Diagnostic tests mass transport limitations

## 1. Particle size variation

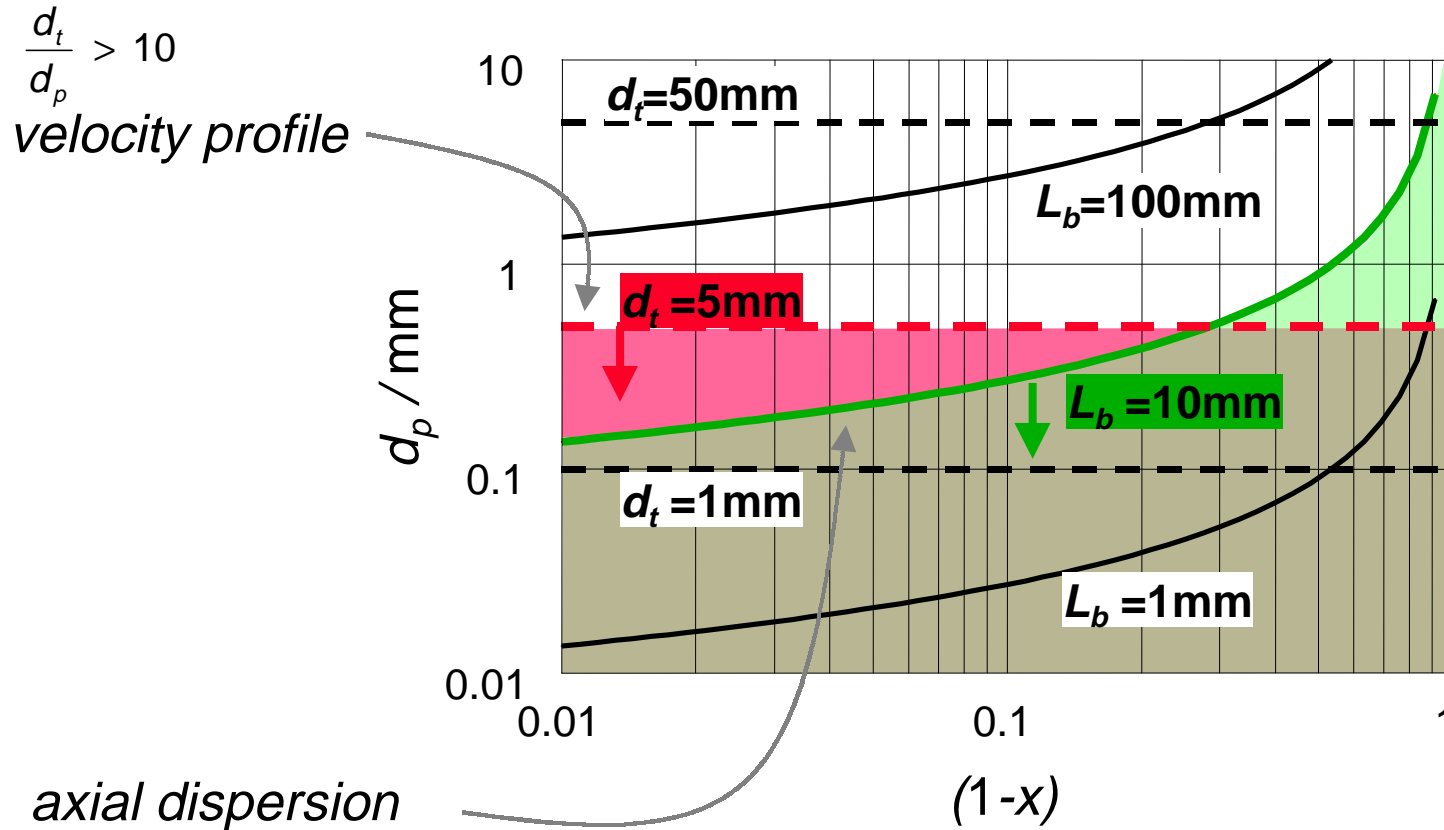


*egg-shell catalysts?*

## 2. Flow rate variation at constant space time!



# Nonideal reactor behaviour



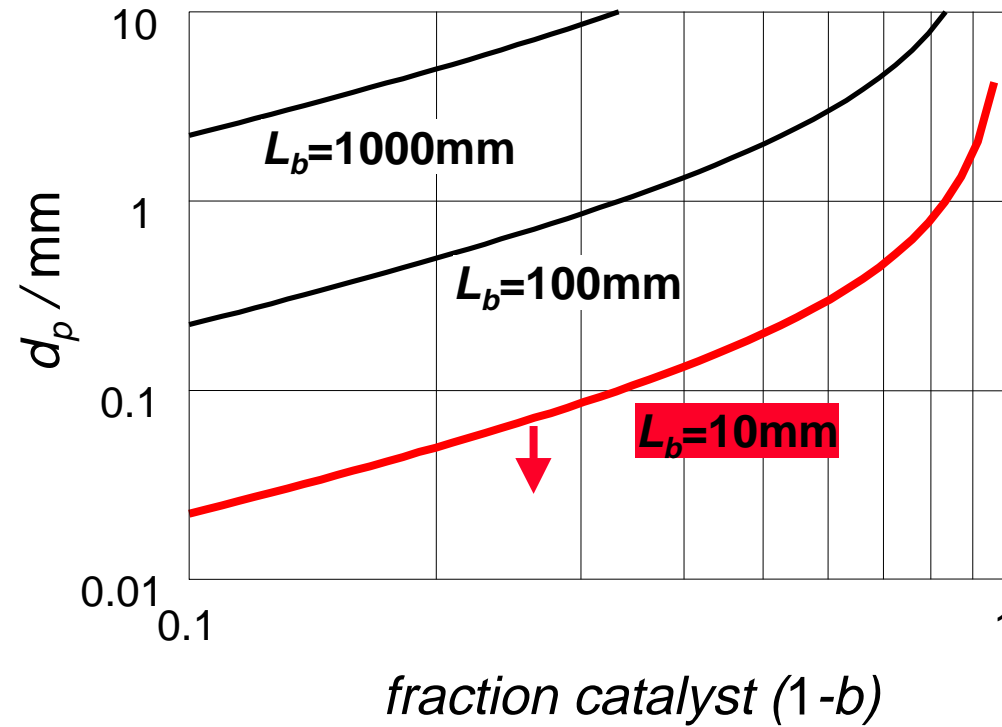
$$\frac{L_b}{d_p} > \frac{20n}{Bo} \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right)$$



# Bed dilution

*inhomogeneous distribution  
catalyst by-passing*

$$\frac{2.5 b d_p}{(1-b) L_b} < 0.05$$



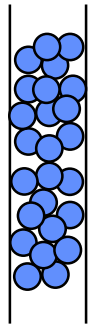
# Small tube diameters

Sie 1996

$$\frac{L_b \cdot D_{rad}}{r_t^2 \cdot u} > 8 \cdot (\kappa/\varepsilon) \cdot n \cdot \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right)$$

$$SV(\text{gas}) = 10000 \text{ h}^{-1}$$

$$SV(\text{liquid}) = 1 \text{ h}^{-1}$$

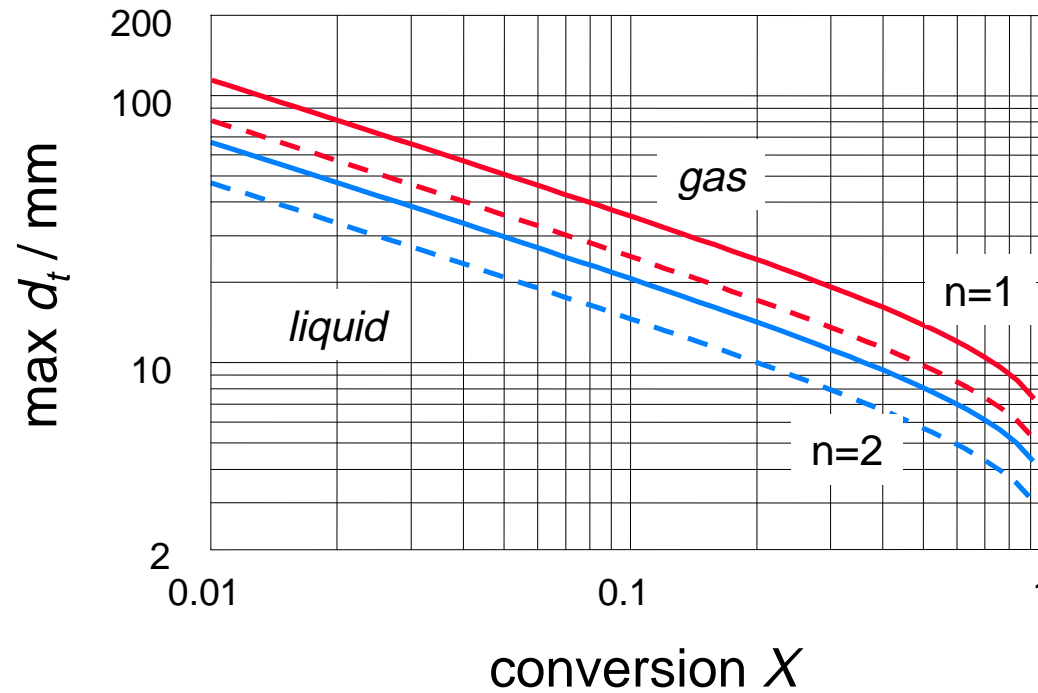


$$d_t/d_p < 5:$$

$$\kappa = 0.04$$

$$\varepsilon_b = 0.4$$

$$d_t^2 < \frac{5D_{rad}}{SV \cdot n \cdot \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right)}$$



**maximum tube diameter !**

# Criteria recirculation reactors

*rate over bed changes less than 5%*

- Concentration effects

$$\frac{x}{(1-x)(1+R_c)} < \frac{0.05}{n}$$

- Temperature effects

$$\frac{E_a}{RT_b} \cdot \left| \frac{r_{obs} \cdot (-\Delta H_r)}{\tilde{C}_{pf} T_b} \right| \cdot \frac{W}{F_{tot}} = \gamma_b \cdot \left| \frac{(-\Delta H_r)}{\tilde{C}_{pf} T_b} \right| \cdot \frac{y_0 \cdot x}{(R_c + 1)} < 0.05$$

# Reaction order - Activation energy

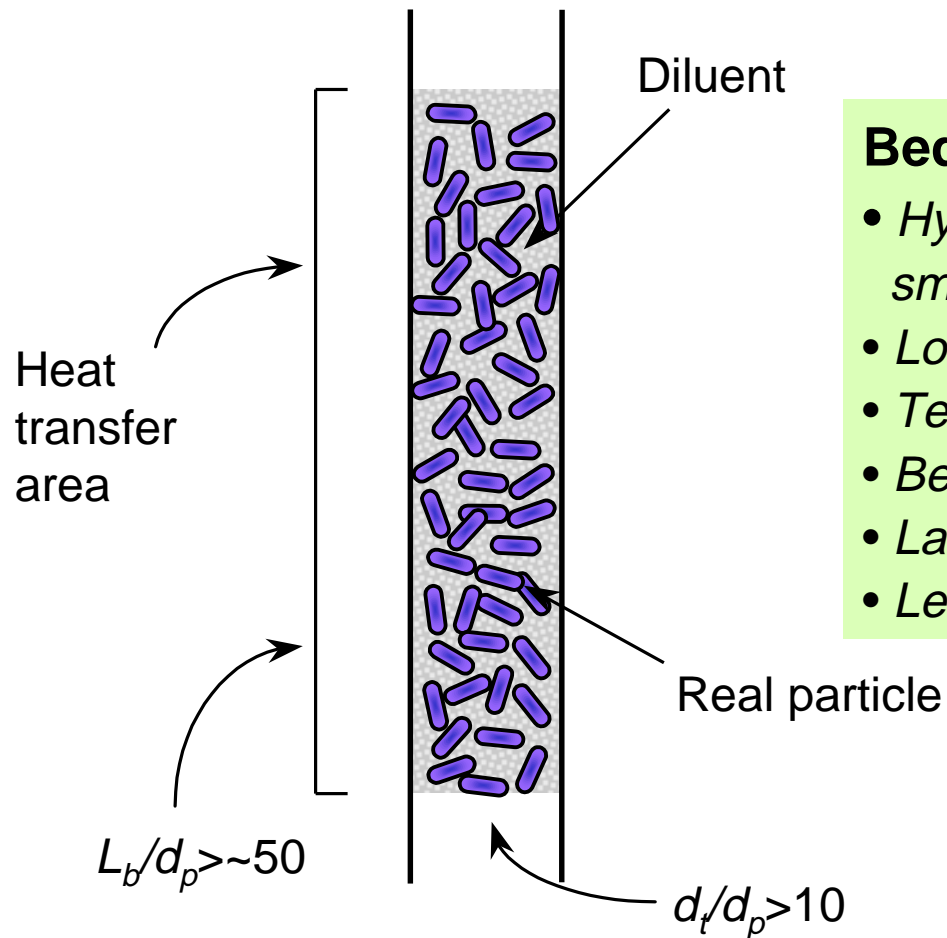
*rate expression*  $r = \frac{k_2 N_T K_A p_A}{(1 + K_A p_A + K_B p_B)}$

Reaction order	$n_A = 1 - \theta_A$	0 - 1
	$n_B = -\theta_B$	(-1) - 0
Activation energy	$E_a^{obs} = E_{a2} + (1 - \theta_A)\Delta H_A - \theta_B \Delta H_B$	

*depend strongly on occupancy!  
vary during reaction*

# Catalyst testing - Bed dilution

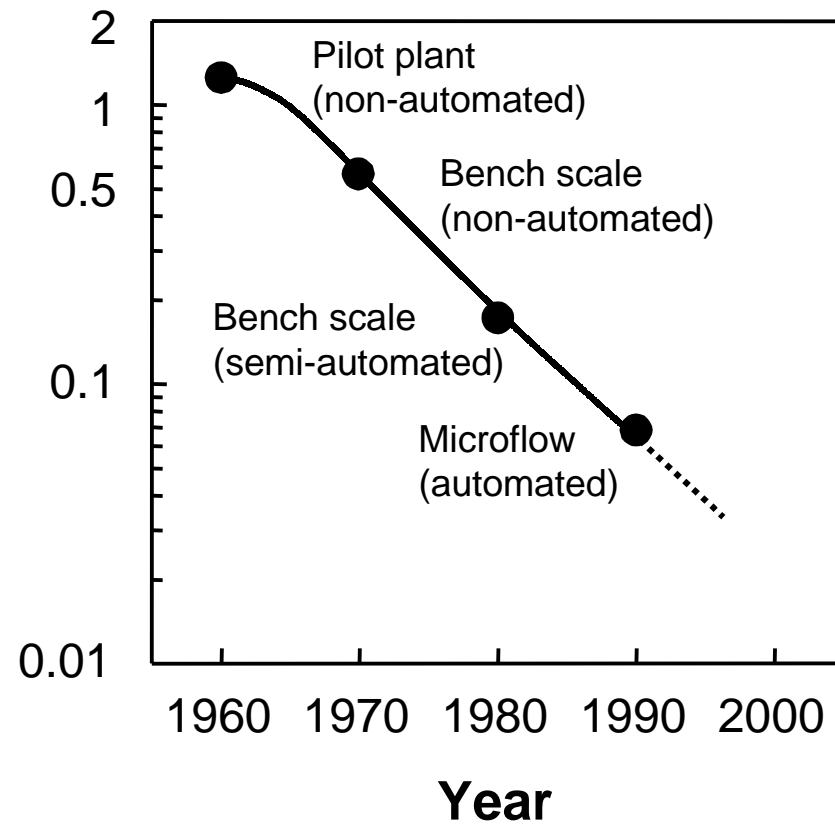
*decoupling hydrodynamics and kinetics*



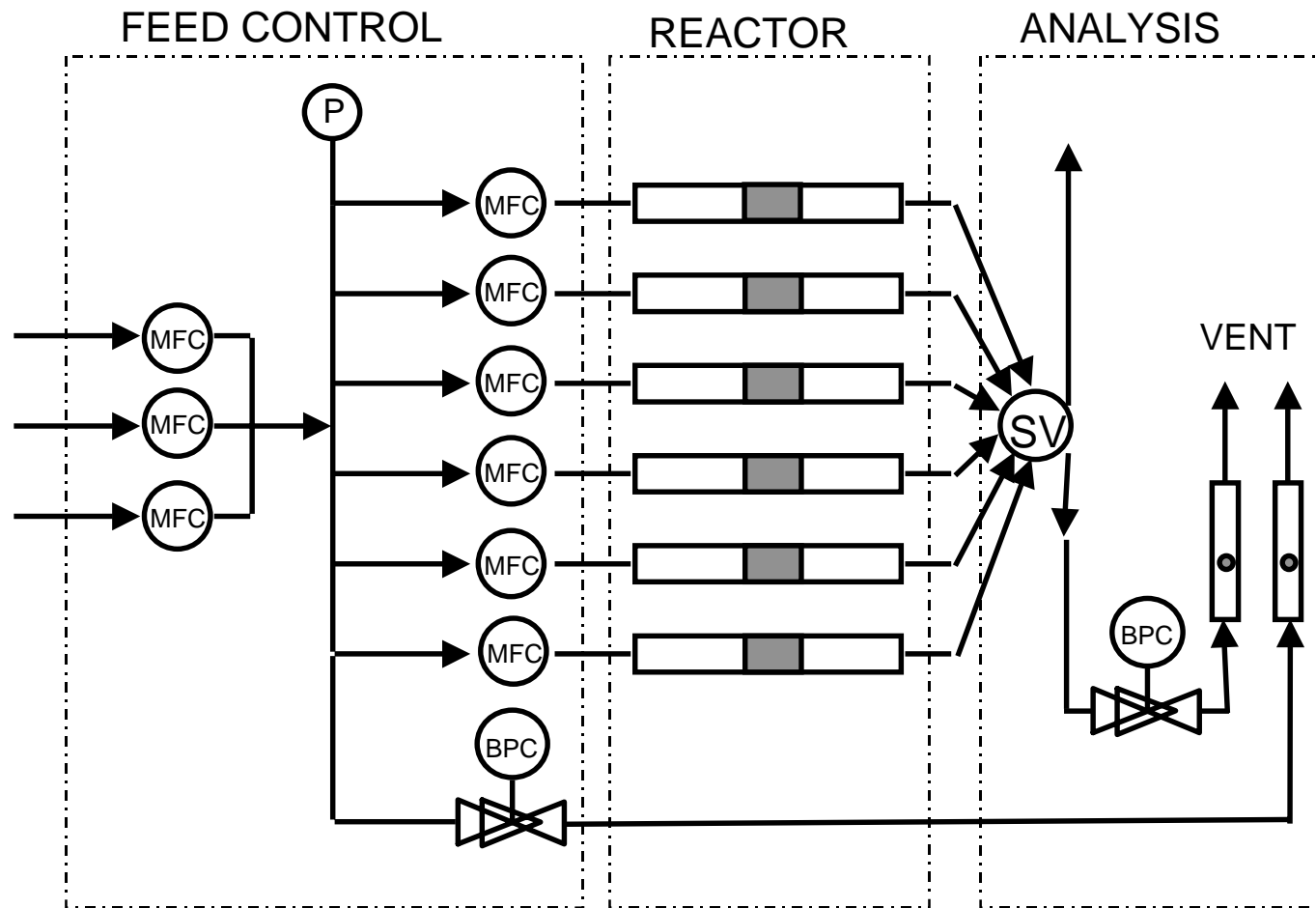
## **Bed dilution** (e.g. SiC)

- *Hydrodynamics determined by small particles (wetting, velocity)*
- *Longer bed, larger  $L/d_p$*
- *Testing of real catalyst particles*
- *Better heat conduction*
- *Larger heat transfer area*
- *Less heat produced per volume*

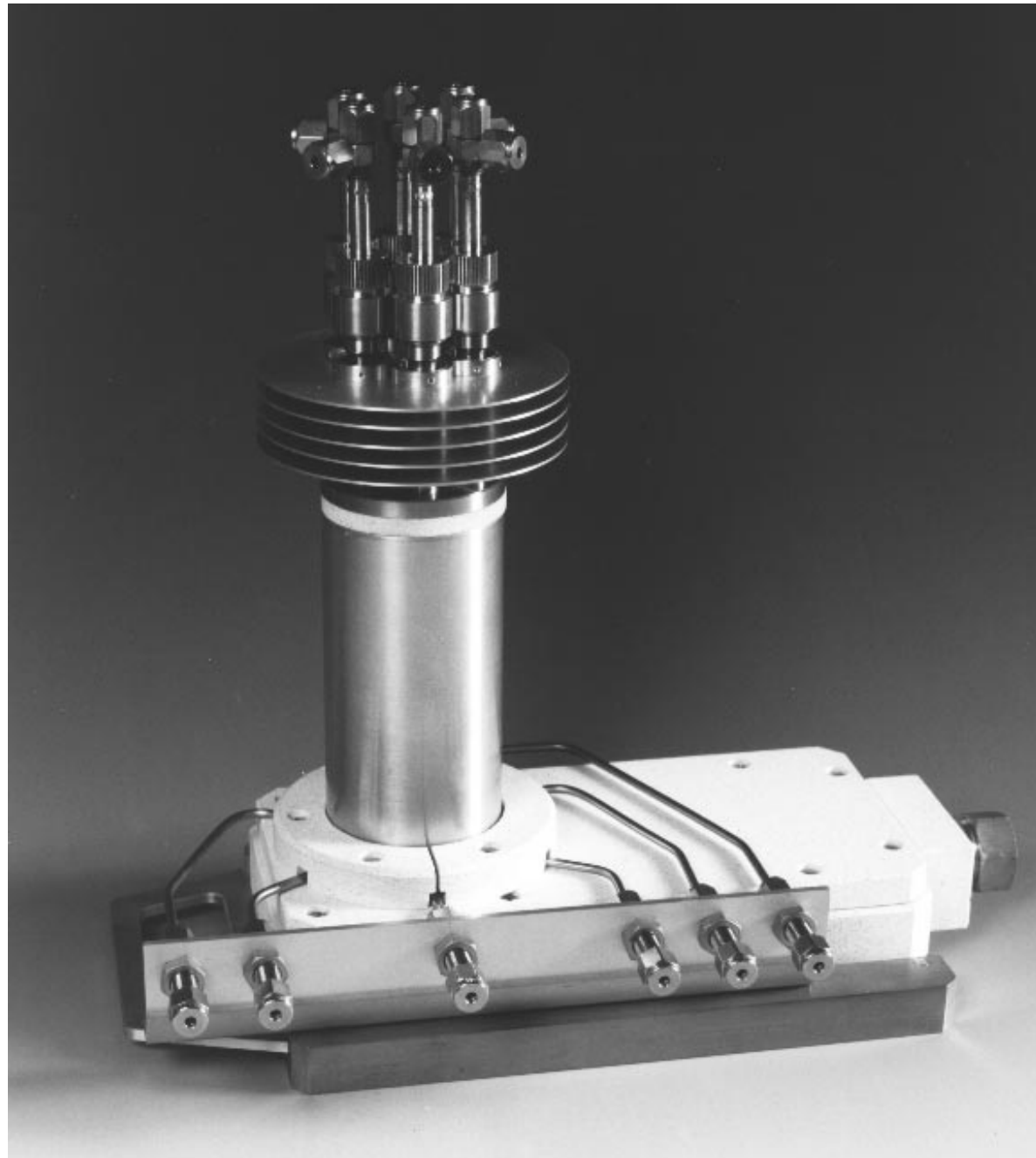
### Manhour per reactor hour



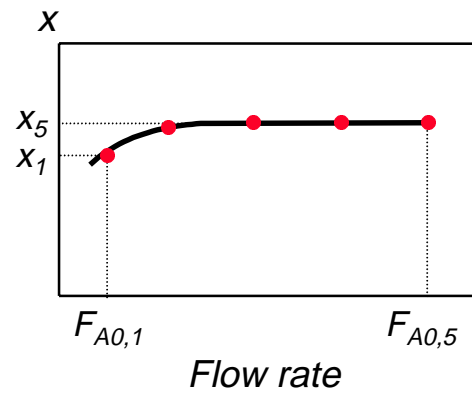
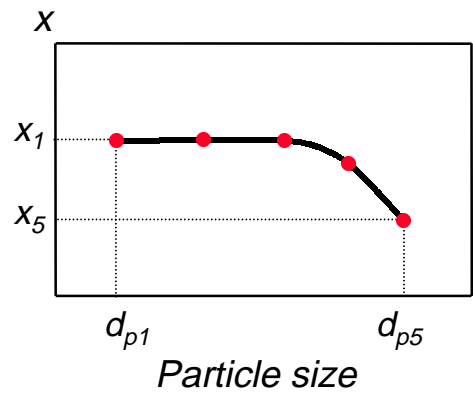
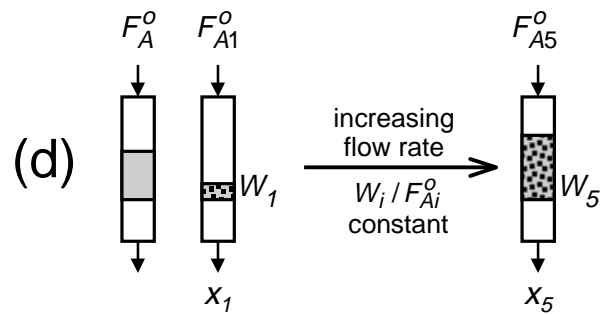
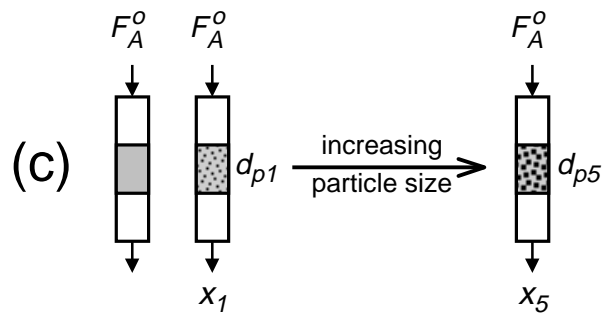
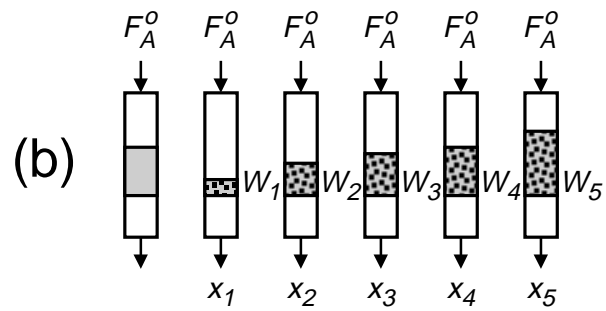
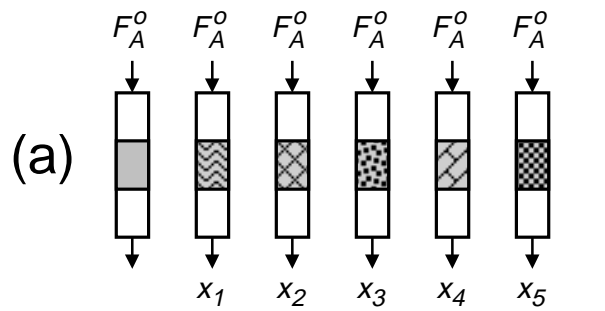
# Parallelization catalyst testing



## Six-flow reactor







reference catalyst

# Kinetics

*Procuring rate data laborious task*

*conversion vs. space time W/F  
temperature  
partial pressures / concentrations*

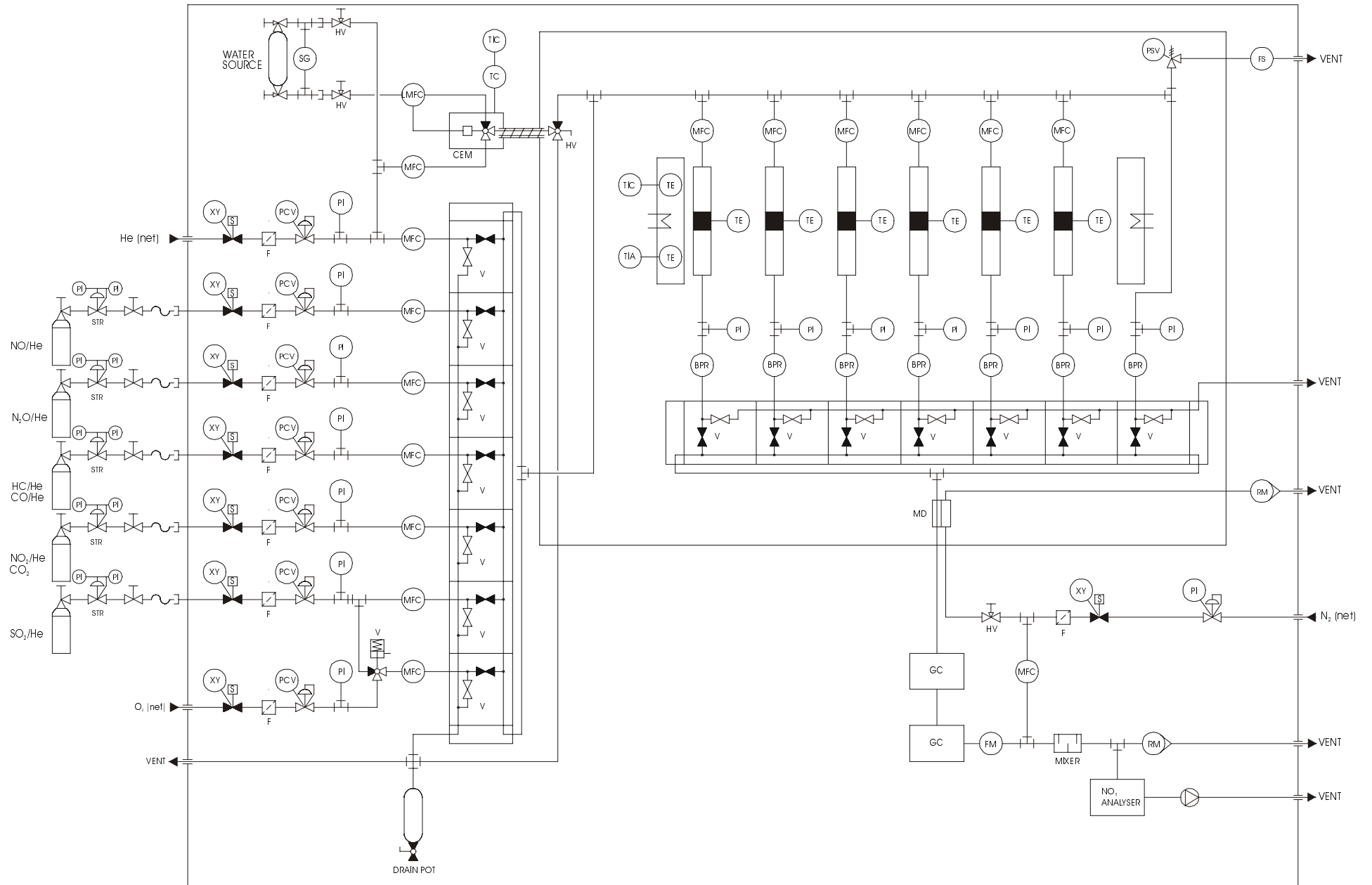
*Improve speed:*

- *PC controlled equipment*
- *Six-flow set-up (parallel reactors)*
- *Temperature scanning*
- *Sequential experimental design*



*Don't forget: stable catalyst, blank runs, duplicates  
check criteria*

# Set-up Six-flow reactor



# Useful references

F. Kapteijn, L. Singoredjo, N. J. J. Dekker and J. A. Moulijn  
*Kinetics of the Selective Catalytic Reduction of NO with NH<sub>3</sub> over Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-WO<sub>3</sub>/γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>*  
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