

Micro-structured membrane reactors for WGS reaction

A. Helmi, F. Gallucci, M. Van Sint Annaland

PIN21

23rd May 2013

Newcastle University

This project is supported by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme Grant Agreement N° NMP3-LA-2011-262840 (DEMCAMER).

The present document reflects only the author's views and the Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein".

Outline

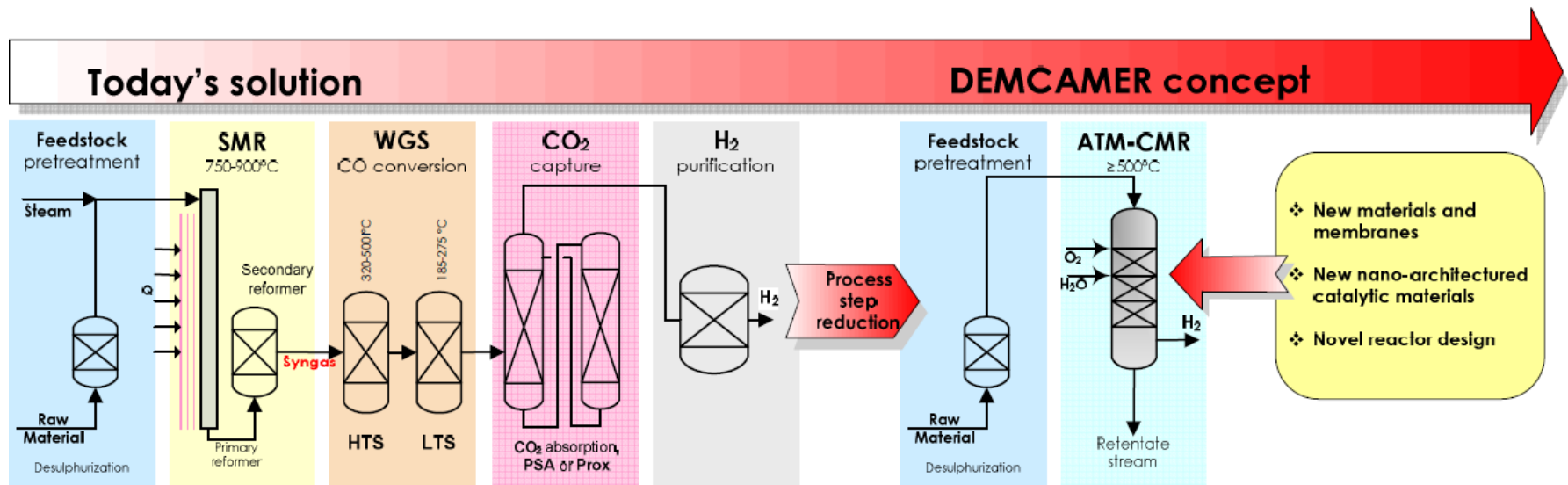
- **DEMCAMER**
- **Objectives**
- **Strategy**
- **Result and discussion**
- **Lab-scale reactors**

We all have a date with the planet

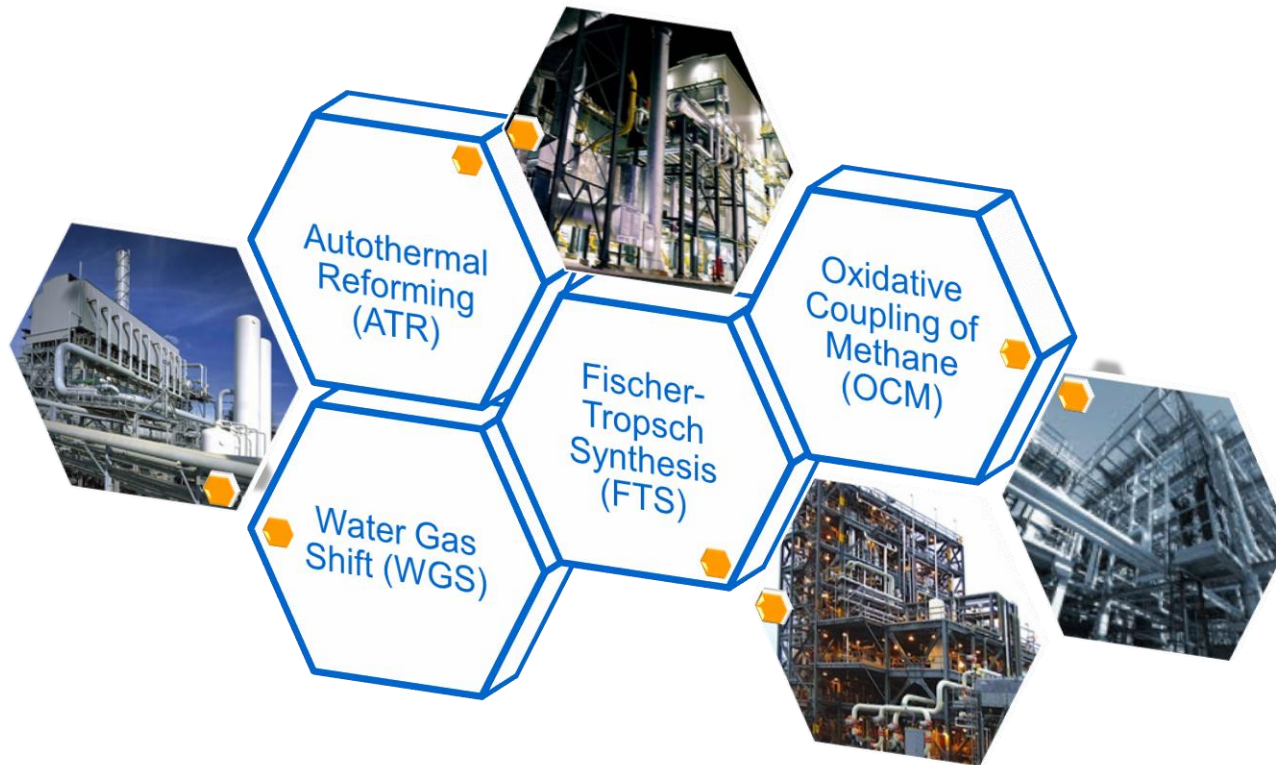


DEMCAMER

DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING OF CATALYTIC MEMBRANE REACTORS BY DEVELOPING NEW NANO-ARCHITECTURED CATALYTIC AND SELECTIVE MEMBRANE MATERIALS



Selected chemical processes



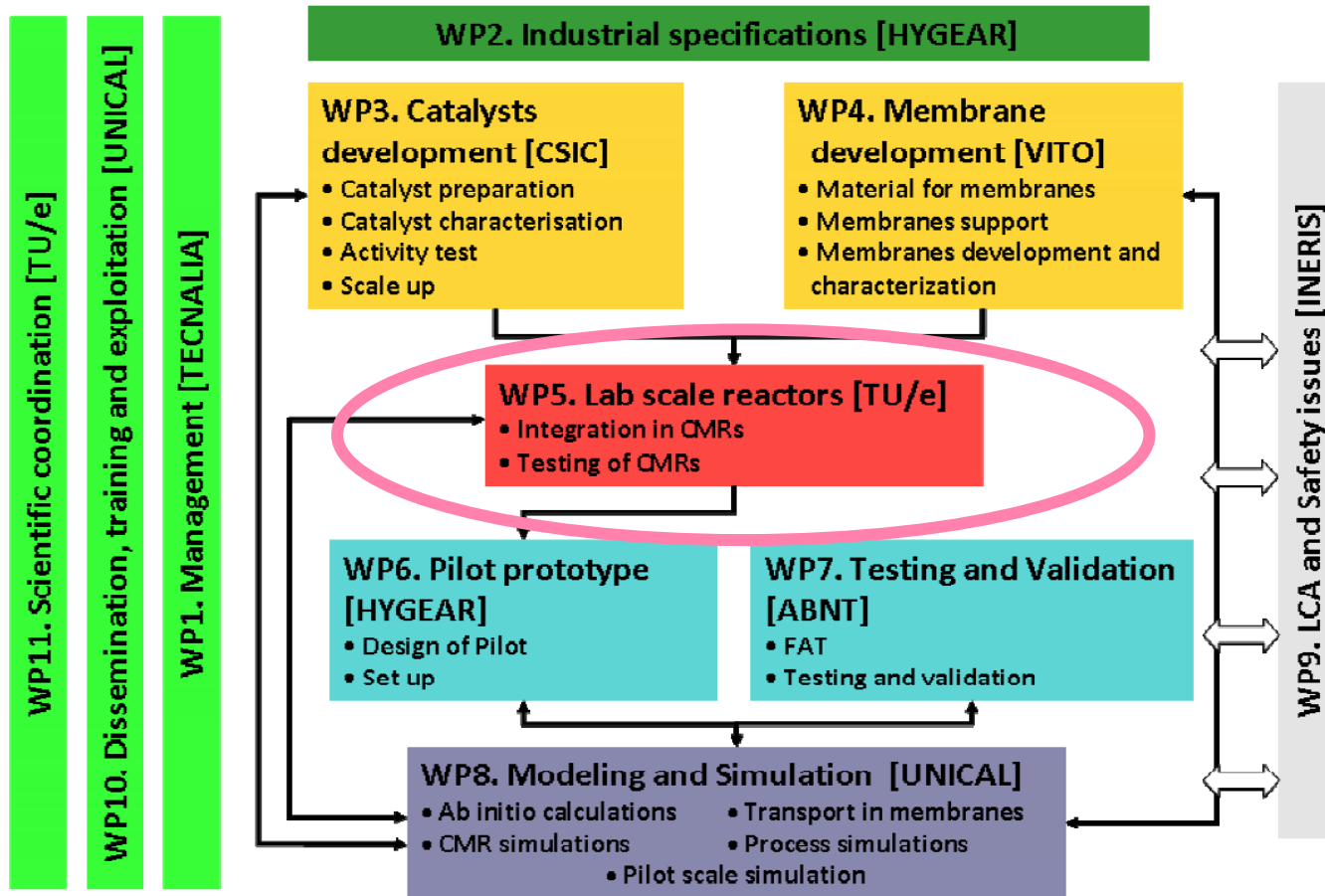
Composition consortium



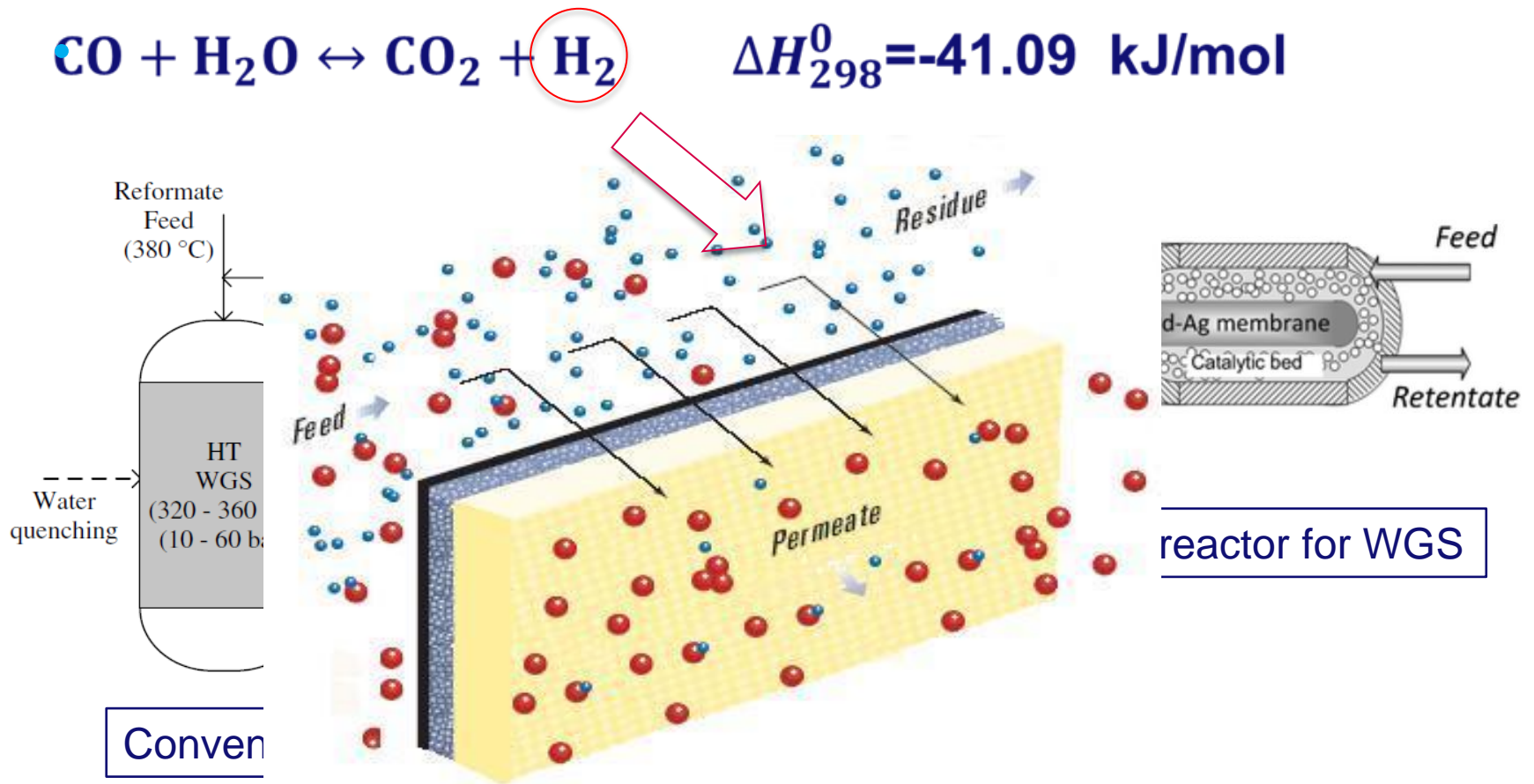
University of Calabria



Work packages



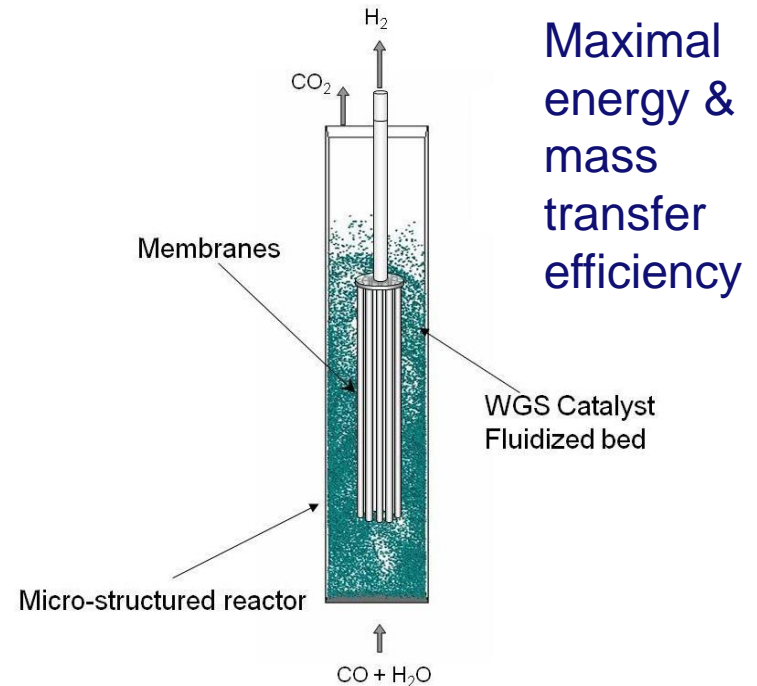
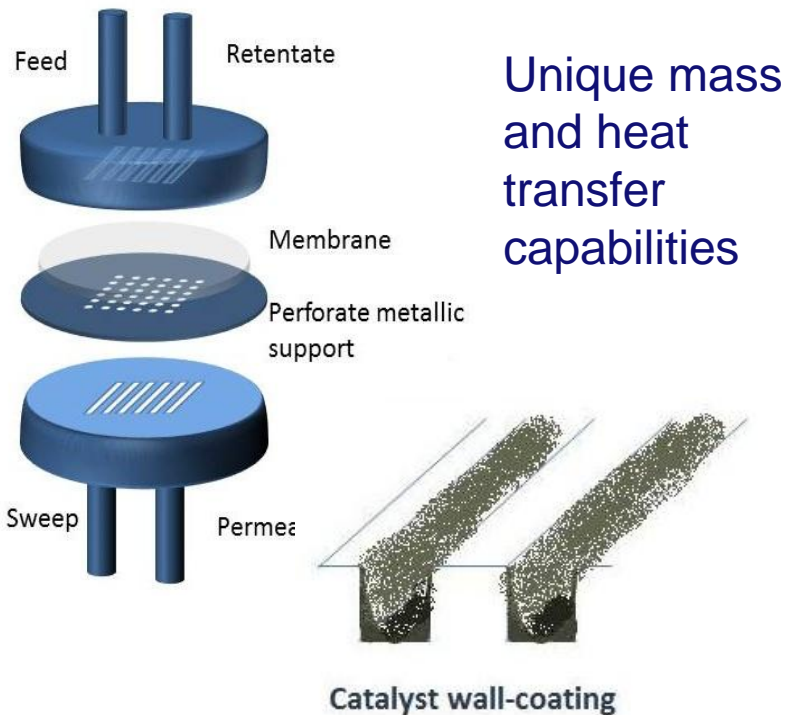
Water Gas Shift (WGS) reaction



Micro-structured membrane reactors

Maximization of membrane area

Complete process integration



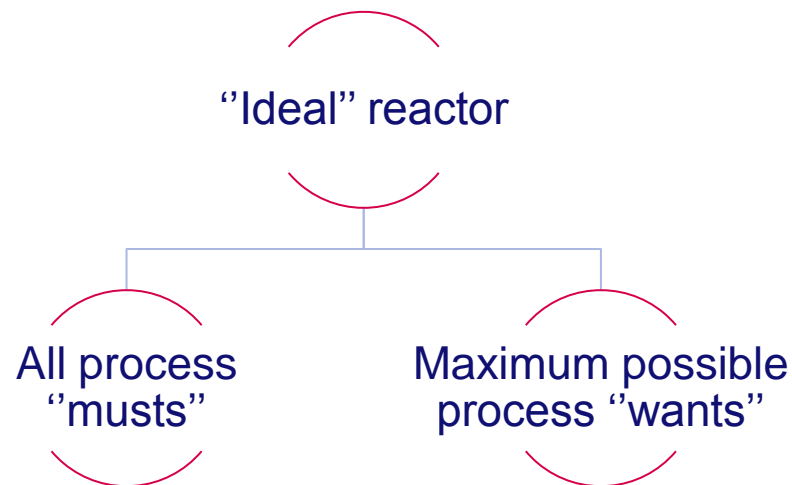
Objectives

- To evaluate different catalyst-membrane integration ways in order to optimize some reactor configurations (fluidized bed and packed bed micro-reactors)
- Test and validate the best designs based on the study of different concepts of membrane reactors at lab scale

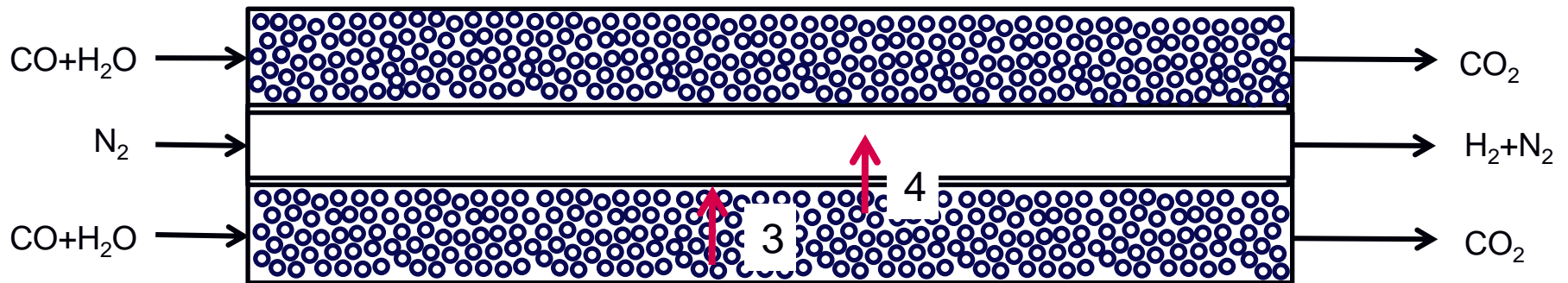
Strategy

- How do we arrive at the ideal multiphase reactor configuration meeting most closely with the process requirements?
- The problem is divided into three levels to be analyzed

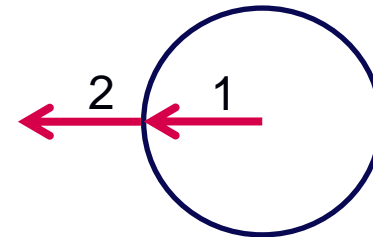
- Reaction
- Separation
- Reactor type



Mass transfer phenomena inside a PBMR



- 1) Internal mass transfer resistance
- 2) External mass transfer resistance
- 3) Resistance from bed to wall
- 4) Resistance through the membrane
- 5) Catalyst activity



Packed Bed Membrane reactor

1D pseudo-homogeneous

- Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varepsilon\rho_g) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\varepsilon\rho_g u) = 0$$

- Total momentum balance

$$\beta = 150 \frac{(1-\varepsilon)^2}{\varepsilon^3} \frac{\mu_g}{\rho_g d_\rho^2} + 1.75 \frac{(1-\varepsilon)}{\varepsilon^3} \frac{\varepsilon u}{d_\rho}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varepsilon\rho_g u) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\varepsilon\rho_g u^2) = -\varepsilon \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \beta \varepsilon \rho_g u - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\varepsilon\tau_g) + \varepsilon\rho_g g$$

Friction coefficient **TU/e** Technische Universiteit
Eindhoven
University of Technology

Packed Bed Membrane reactor

- **Component mass balance**

Trans membrane flux term depends on the membrane used

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varepsilon\rho_g\omega_i) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\varepsilon\rho_g u\omega_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\left(\rho_g D_{ax,i}\frac{\partial\omega_i}{\partial z}\right) + S_{r,i} - J_i$$

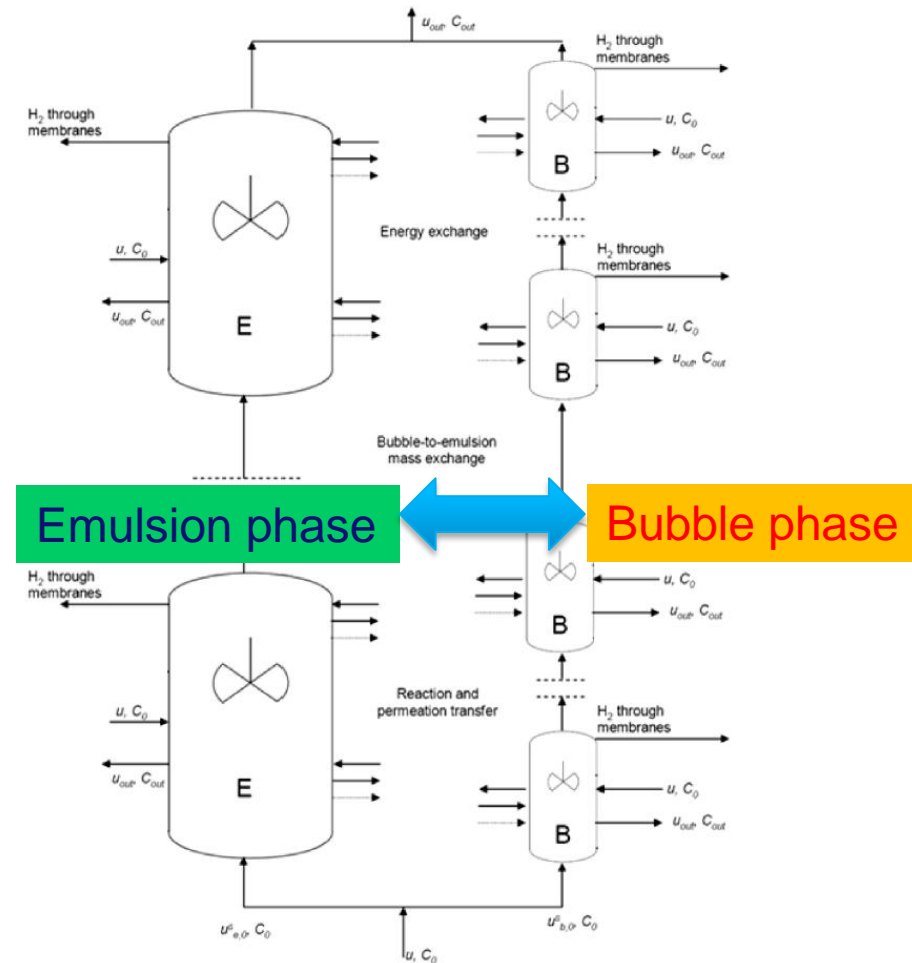
$$S_{r,i} = (1 - \varepsilon)\rho_g M_i \sum_{j=1}^{nr} \gamma_{ij} r_j$$

e.g. Richardson equation for permeation through thick Pd-based membranes

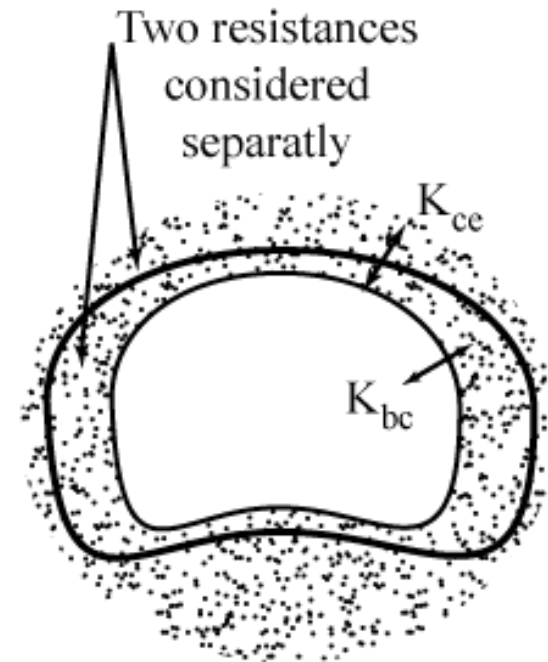
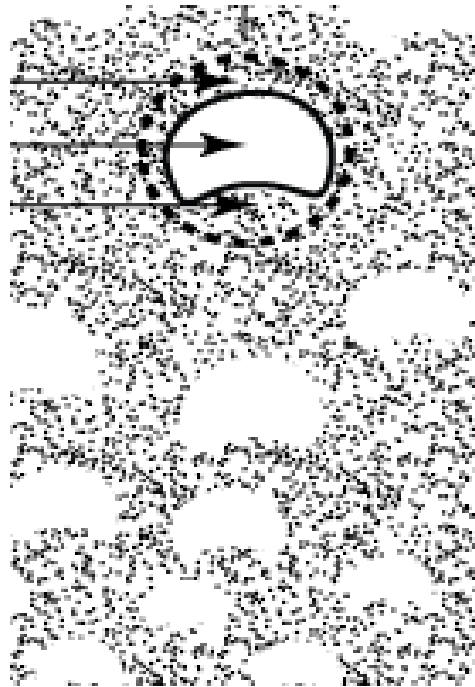
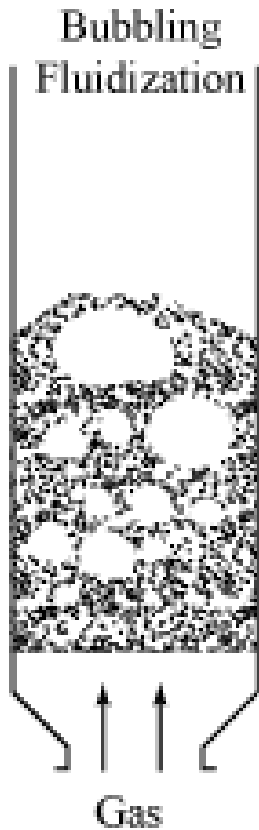
$$J_{H_2} = \frac{Pe^0 \exp\left(\frac{Ea}{RT}\right) (\sqrt{P_{H_2,upstream}} - \sqrt{P_{H_2,downstream}})}{\delta_m}$$

Fluidized bed Membrane reactor

- A typical two-phase model for a membrane assisted fluidized bed reactor can be used for simulation
- Membranes are immersed in the reactor
- Reactor consists of two phase. The bubble and the emulsion phase

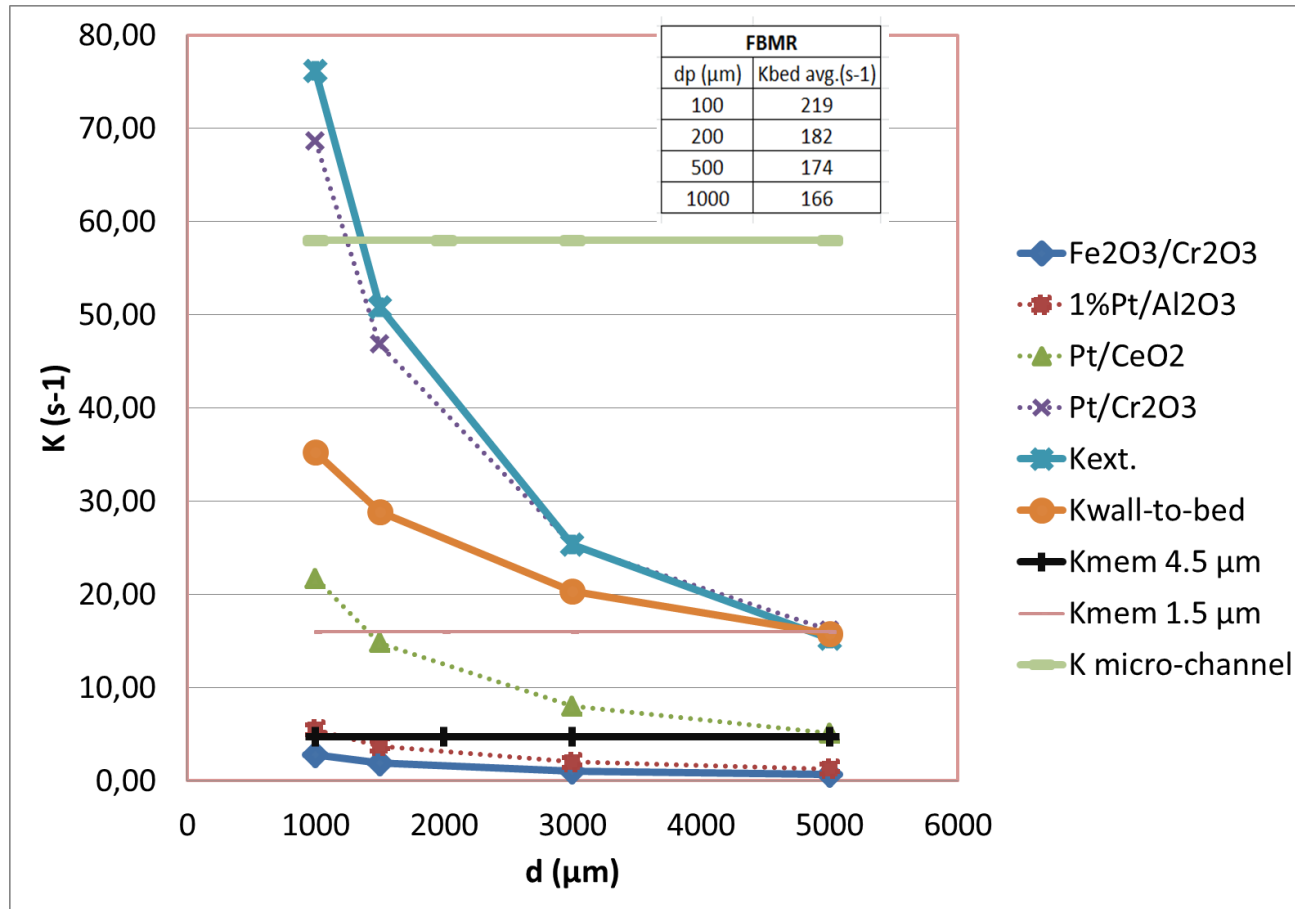


Mass transfer phenomena inside a FBMR



$$\frac{1}{K_{be}} = \frac{1}{K_{bc}} + \frac{1}{K_{ce}}$$

General maps



DEMCAMER target for membrane

Membrane code	Selective layer material / thickness	Black resin in the interphase	Temperature (°C)	Permeance H ₂ [10 ⁻⁸ (mol/m ² s Pa)]*	H ₂ /N ₂ ideal selectivity
DEMCAMER/R EFORCELL Projects target	<i>Pd alloy / <3 μm</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>10.000</i>
P19	Pd PVD / not measured	Yes	300	85	26.100
P20	Pd PVD / 4.0-4.2 μm	No	400	175	3.288
P44	Pd-Ag PVD / not measured	Yes	300	162	8.972
P47	Pd-Ag PVD / not measured	Yes	300	71	8.662
AIST (Pacheco et al. 2006)	Pd pore filling / 5 μm	N/A	300	170	1.000
AIST (Pacheco et al. 2008)	Pd pore filling / 5 μm	N/A	425	210	300
CSM (Hatlevik et al. 2010)	Pd-Au ELP / 2.3 μm	N/A	400	710	82.000
DICP (Goldbach and Xu 2011)	Pd-Au ELP / 2-3 μm	N/A	500	620	1.400
SINTEF (Peters et al. 2011a)**	Pd-Ag PVD / 2.8 μm	N/A	400	1.500	2.900
WPI (Ma 2009)	Pd ELP / 7 μm	N/A	450	96	4.500
REB (2003)	Pd-Ag / (4-5 μm)	N/A	400	8,12	-

[Gallucci, F., Fernandez, E., Corengia, P., van Sint Annaland, M., Chemical Engineering Science 92, \(2013\) 40-66.](#)

DEMCAMER target for catalyst

Catalyst type	BET area (m ² /g)	Rate at 450 °C (mmol/g cat. s)	Ea (KJ/mol)
DEMCAMER catalyst	75.2	1.864	52±1
Pt/Cr ₂ O ₃	22	0.174	41±2
Pt/Cr ₂ O ₃ -Fe ₃ O ₄	63	0.149	50±3
Pt/U ₃ O ₈	2.3	0.142	59±3
Pt/CeO ₂ -ZrO ₂	67	0.079	28±1
Pt/CeO ₂	122	0.055	52±1
Pt/MgO	77	0.034	41±1
Pt/V ₂ O ₅	6	0.032	52±3
Pt/Fe ₃ O ₄	29	0.022	55±3
Pt/MoO ₃	1.6	0.02	49±3
Pt/Al ₂ O ₃	272	0.014	47±1

[Ratnasamy C., Wagner J. P., Catalysis reviews: Science and Engineering, 51:3, 325-440](#)

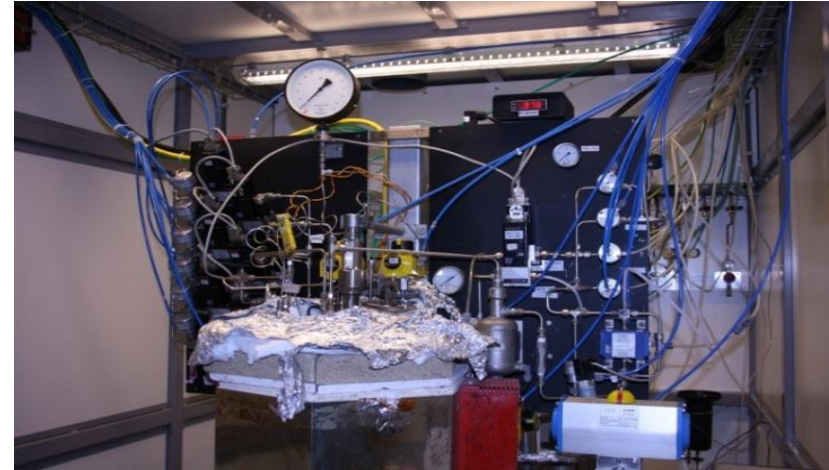
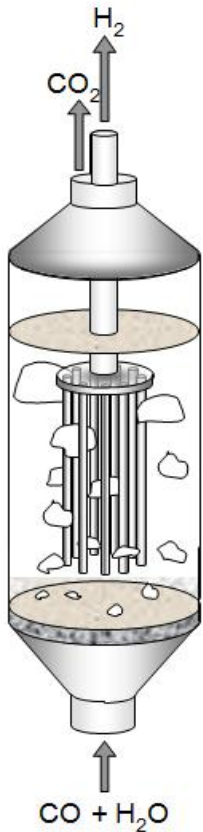
According to general maps:

- ✓ **At the presence of enough active catalyst and highly permeable membrane, extent of wall-to-bed mass transfer is the limiting phenomenon**
- ✓ **With the micro-structured membrane reactor large reduction in bed-to-membrane mass transfer limitations can be achieved**

Lab scale membrane reactors

- **Testing & Validation of Membrane Reactors at Lab-scale:**
 1. **Packed bed membrane reactor (PBMR)**
 2. **Fluidized bed membrane reactor (FBMR)**
 3. **Micro-channel membrane reactor**

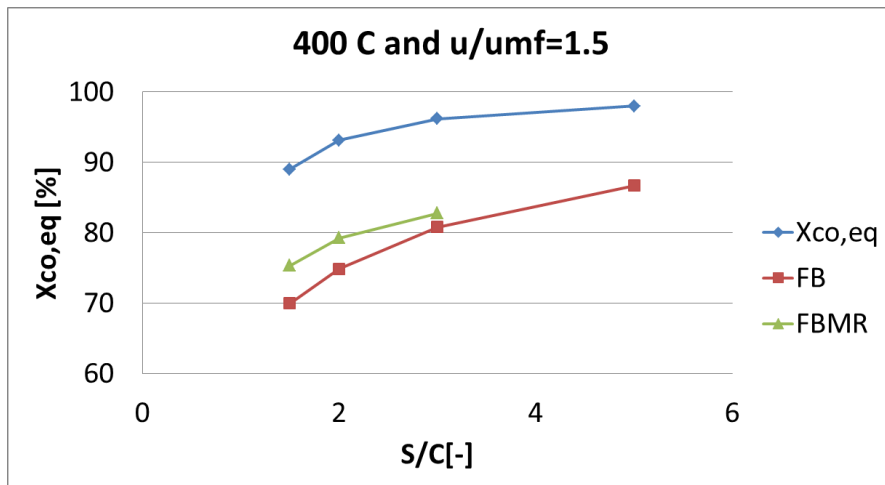
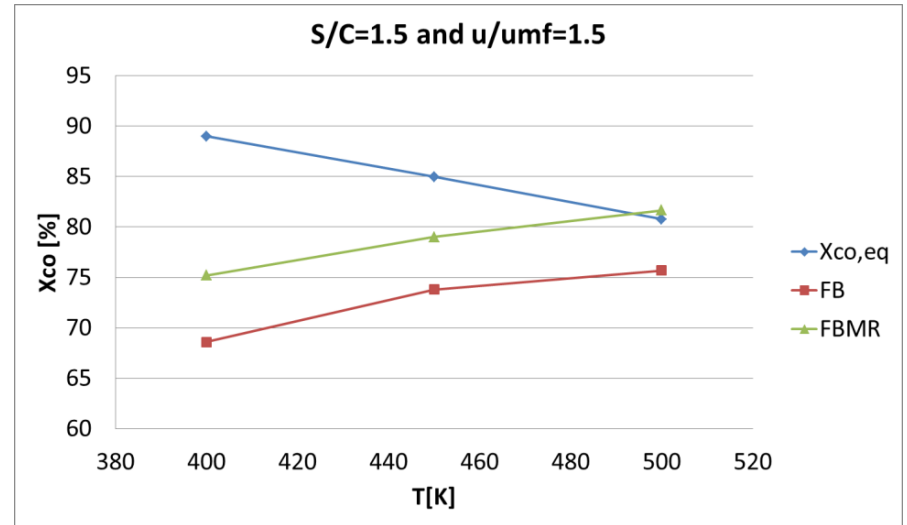
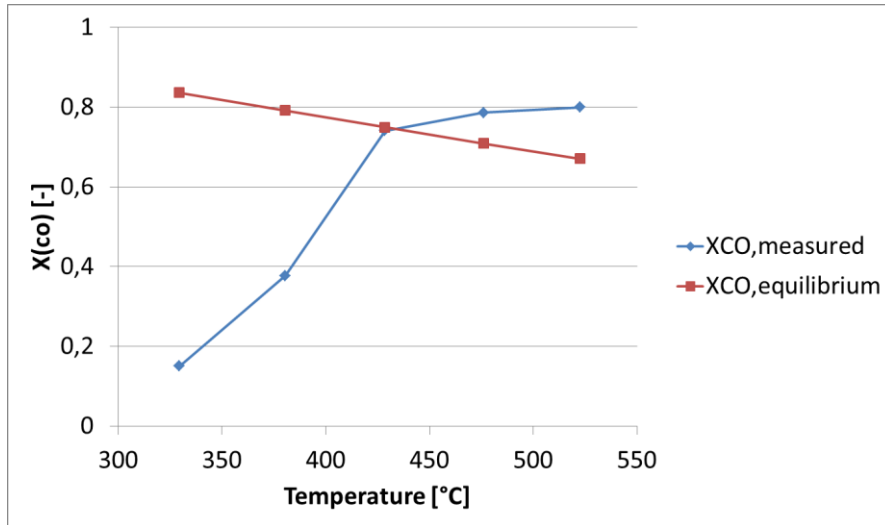
FBMR



Two options will be compared:

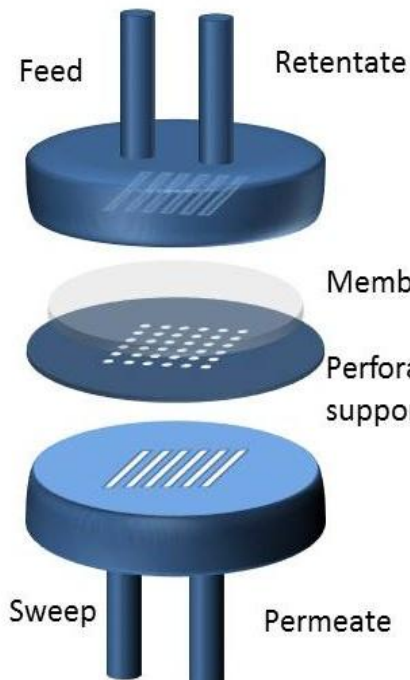
- 1) Small flat channels where the walls are the (flat) membranes confining a fluidized suspension
- 2) Small membrane tubes positioned closely together submerged into a fluidized bed

Results for FBMR



- Pd-based membranes can markedly enhance the fluidized bed reactor performance
- CO conversions higher than equilibrium value can be reached at high temperatures

Micro-channel membrane reactor



Channel dimensions:
(1x1x13) mm

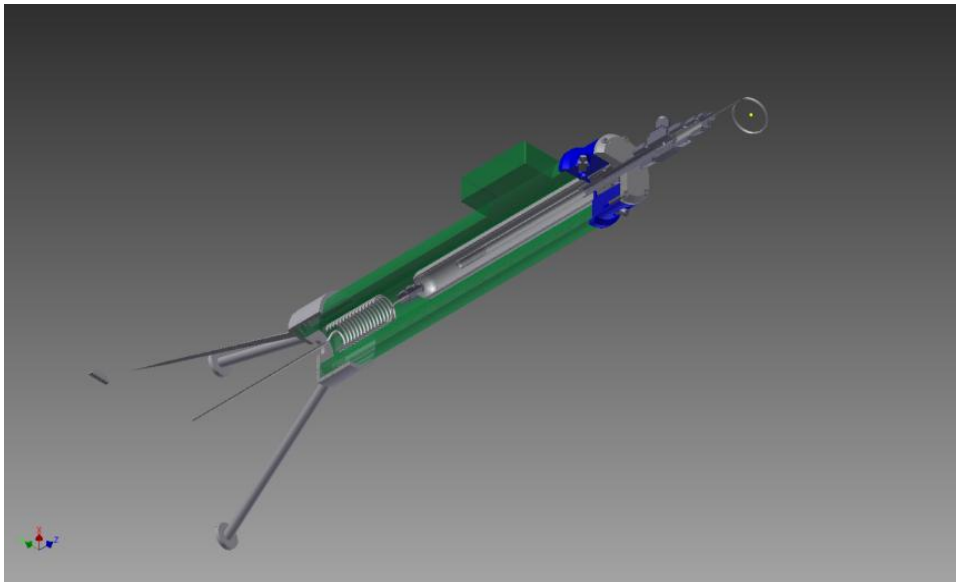


Catalyst wall-coating



PBMR (backup solution)

- 1 membrane tube inside the bed
- Highly active Pt based catalyst and highly permeable Pd based membrane



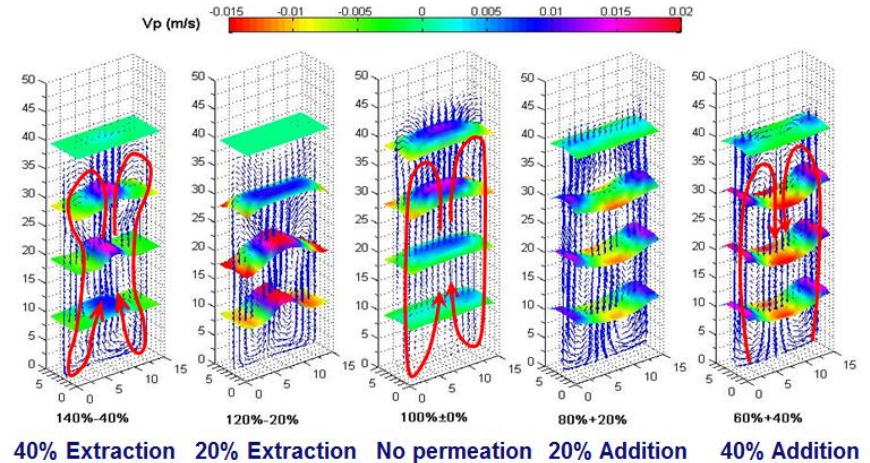
Summary & future work

- ✓ At the presence of enough active catalyst and highly permeable membrane, extent of wall-to-bed mass transfer is the limiting phenomenon
- ✓ With the micro-structured membrane reactor large reduction in bed-to-membrane mass transfer limitations can be achieved
- ✓ Membrane reactor concepts have been already developed for model validation and study the performance of the reactor concepts at lab scale

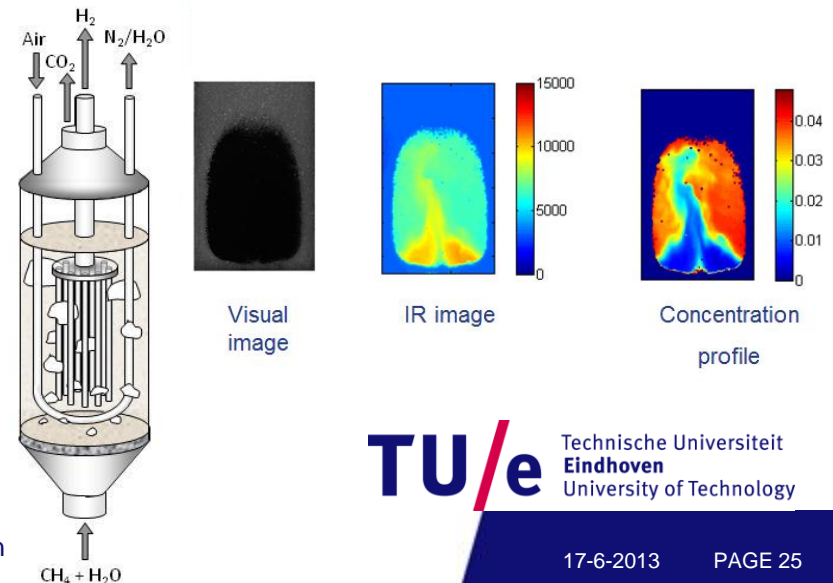
Ongoing projects on Micro FBMR

- Effect of gas permeation on hydrodynamics and heat & mass transfer (Tan, L.)

Solids circulation pattern



- Design of Micro FBMR for H₂ production (Dang T.Y.N.)



Thank you for your attention

This project is supported by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme Grant Agreement N° NMP3-LA-2011-262840 (DEMCAMER)