

*American Chemical Society 247<sup>th</sup> Meeting*

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**Nanogeochemistry: Nanostructures, emergent properties, and their implications to chemical reactions and mass transfers**

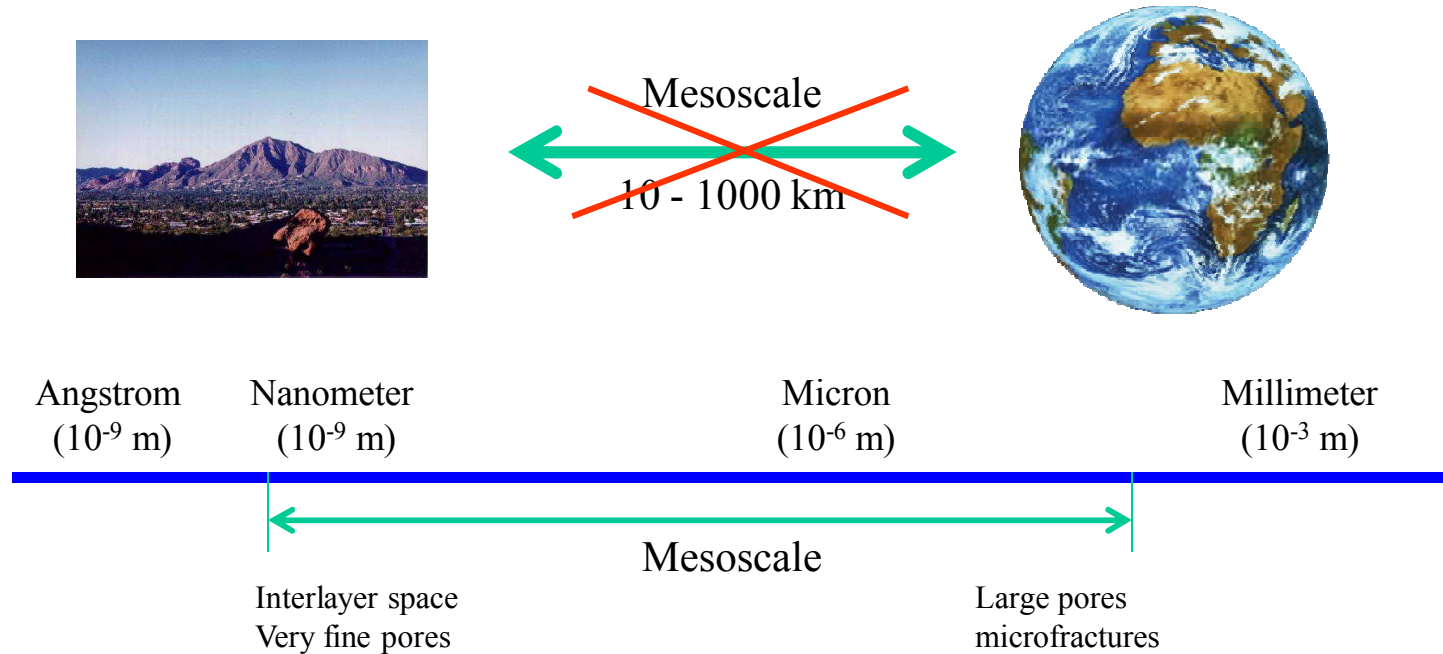
**Yifeng Wang**

**Sandia National Laboratories**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA**

# Mesoscale

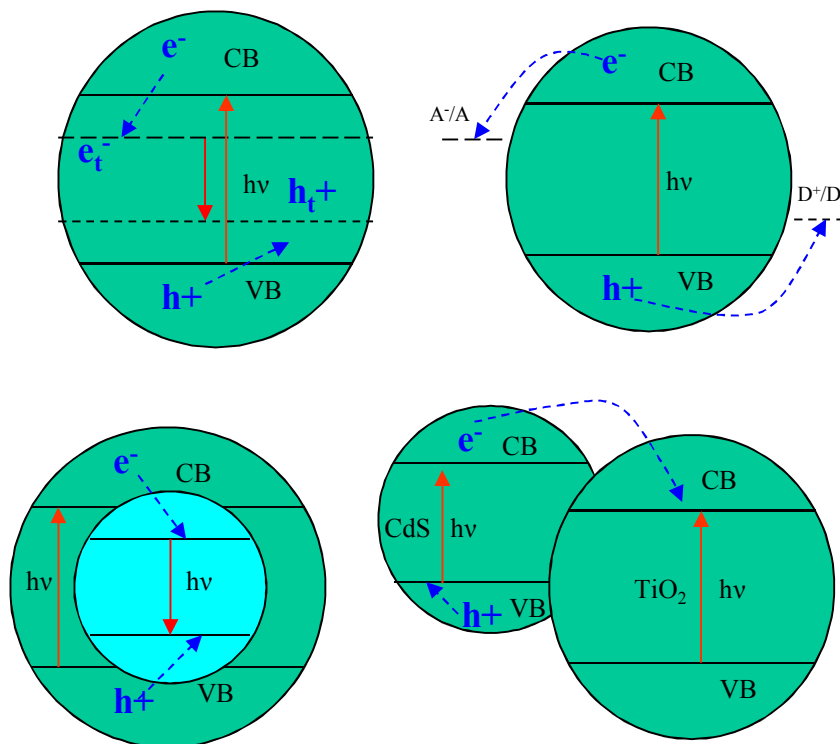
What is the mesoscale?



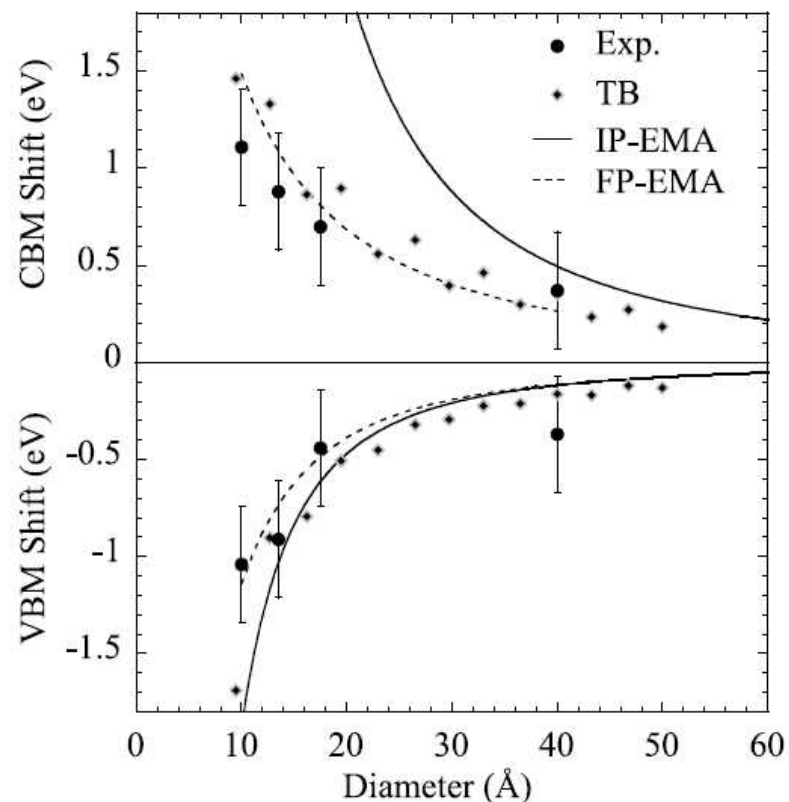
Why mesoscale?

- Emergent properties
- Key linkage between micro to macro (e.g. Wang et al., 2012, ES&T)

# Size-Dependent Material Properties



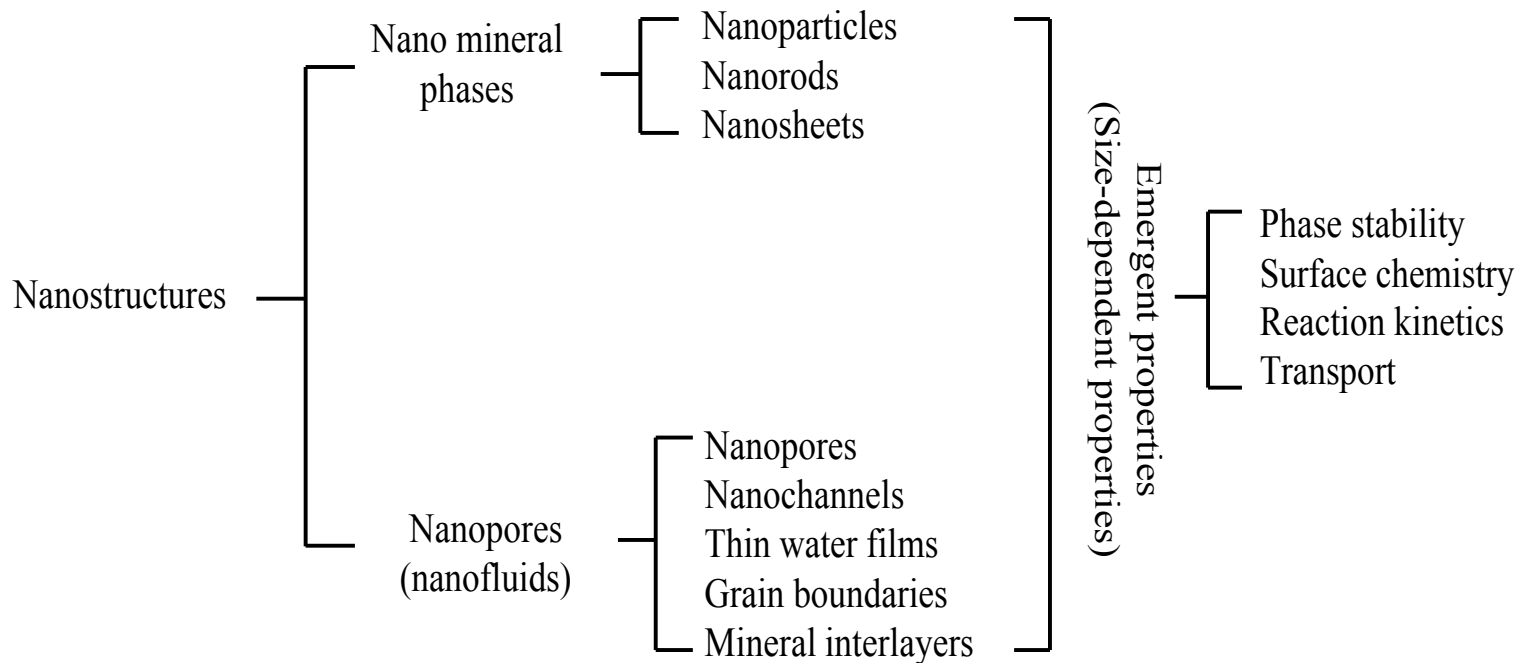
Photophysical/Photochemical Processes  
in Semiconductor Nanoparticles  
(Roduner, 2006)



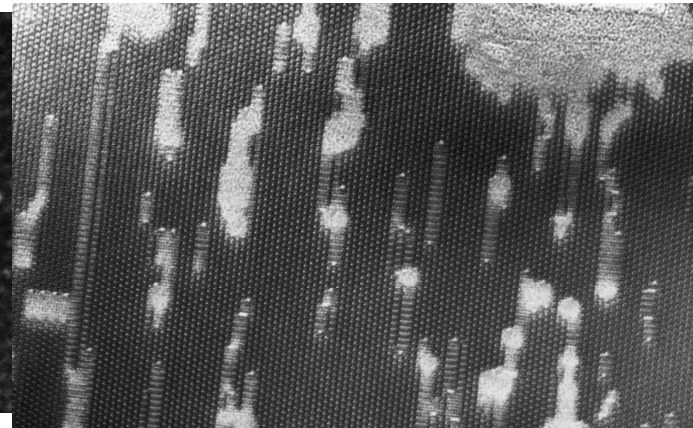
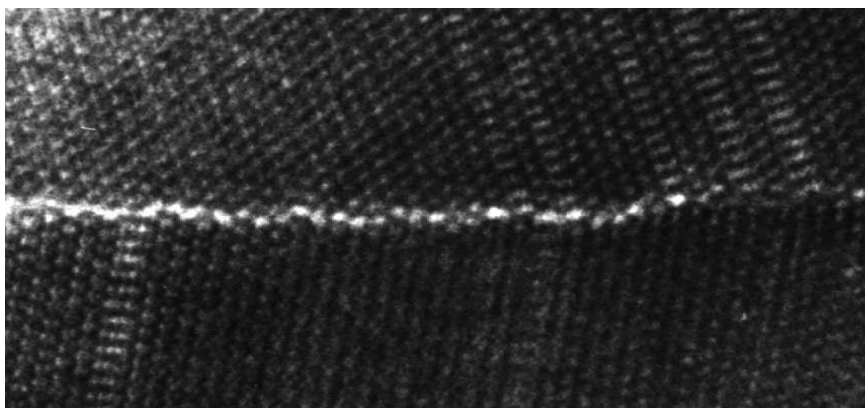
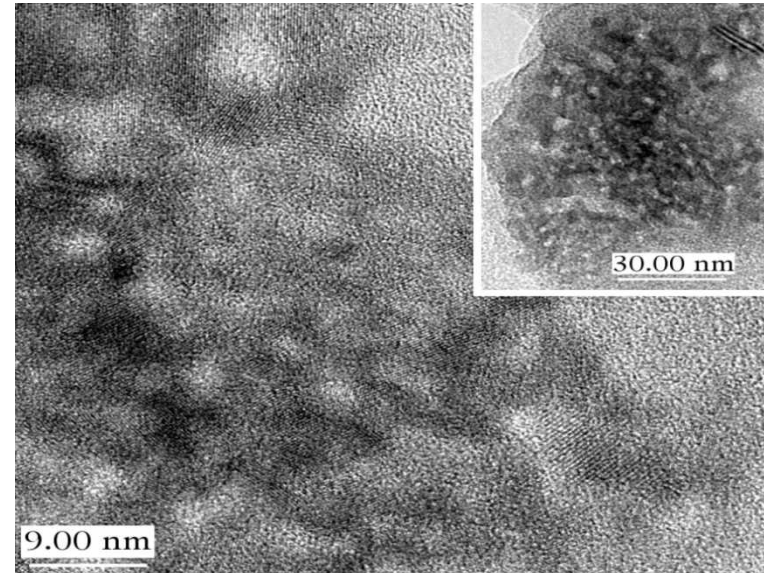
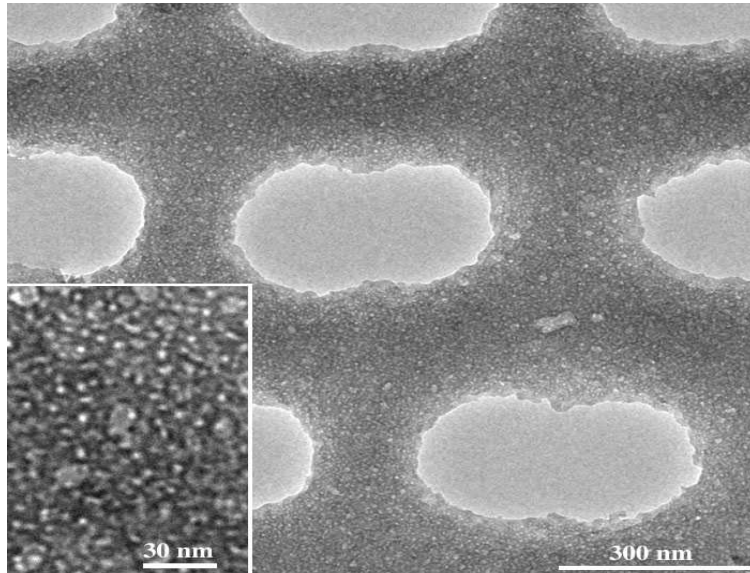
Size-dependent CdS band gap

(Lüning et al., 1999, Solid State Communication)

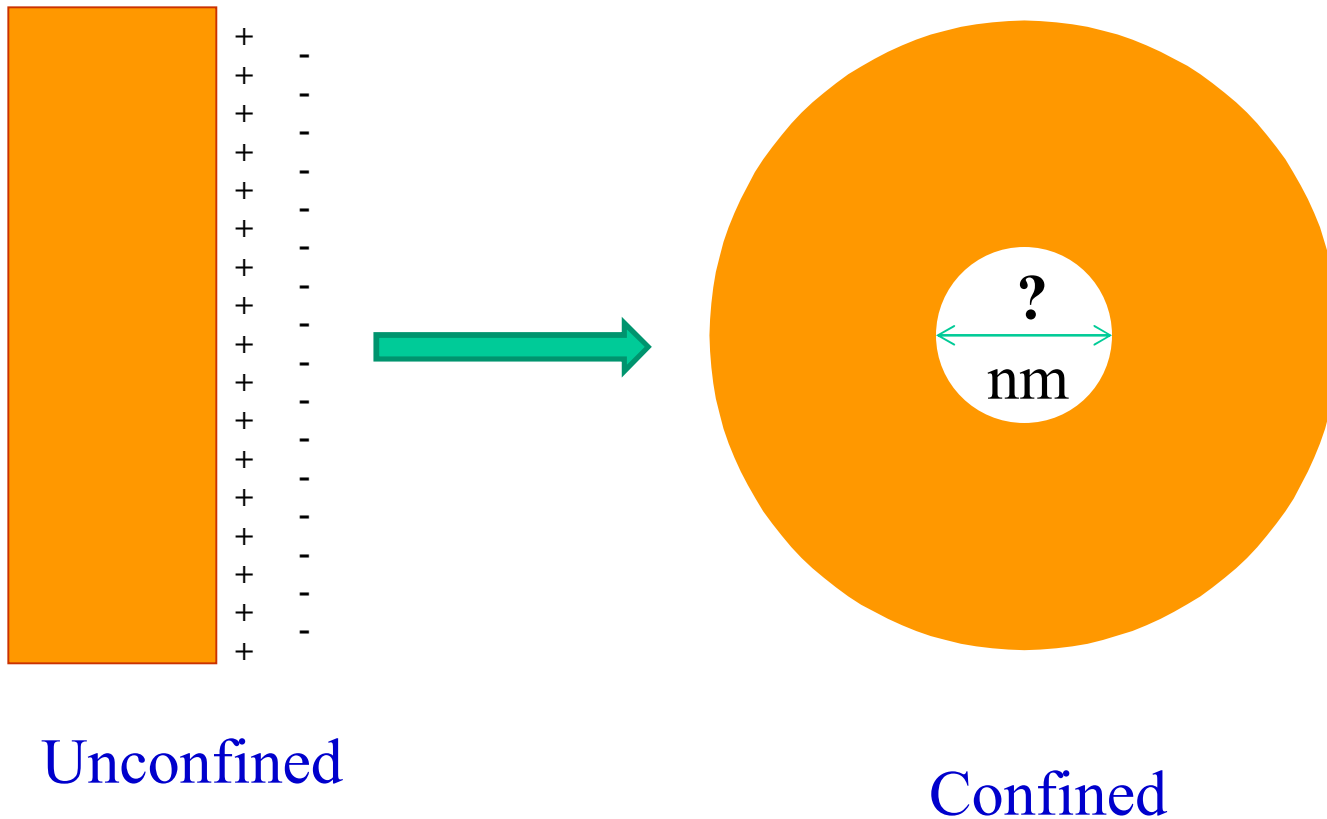
# Systematics of Nanogeochemistry



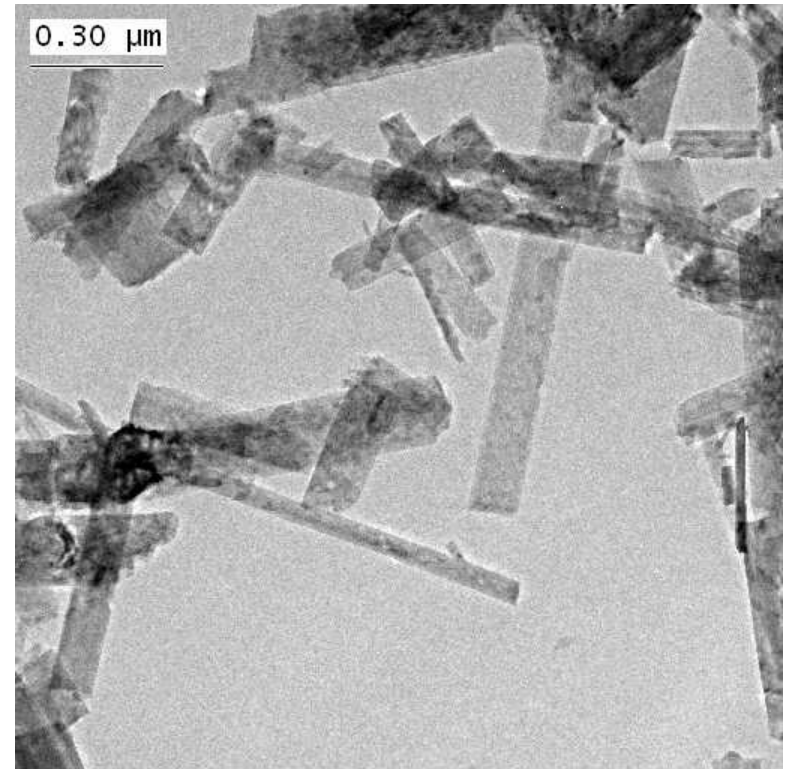
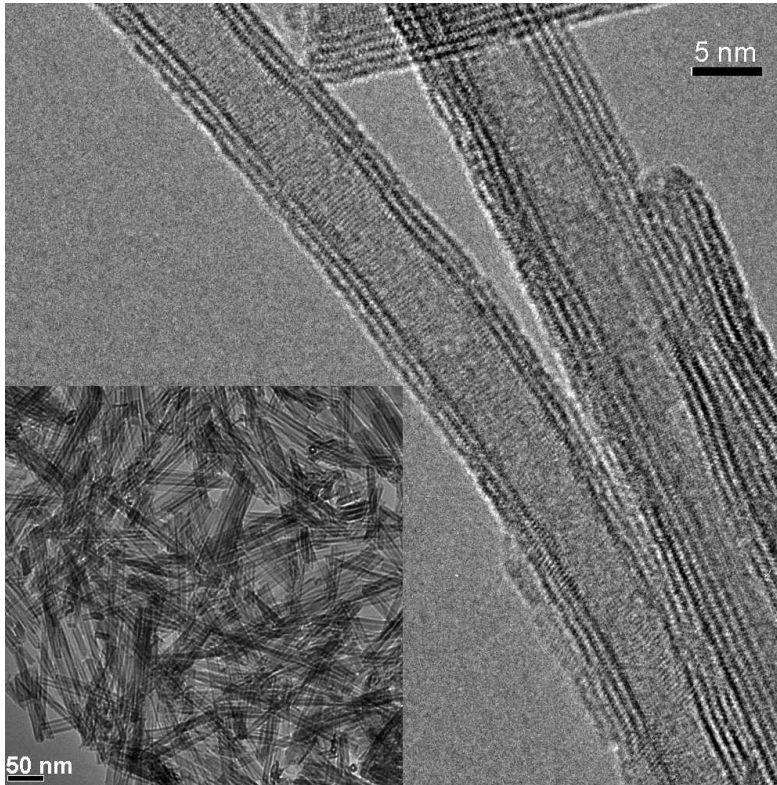
# Nanopores in Geologic Materials



# Confined vs. Unconfined Surface

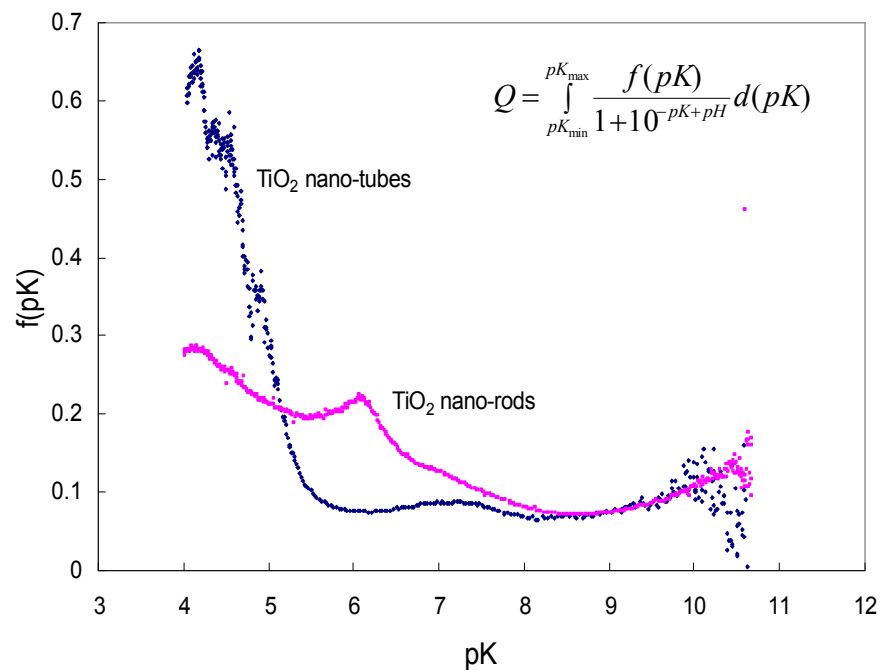
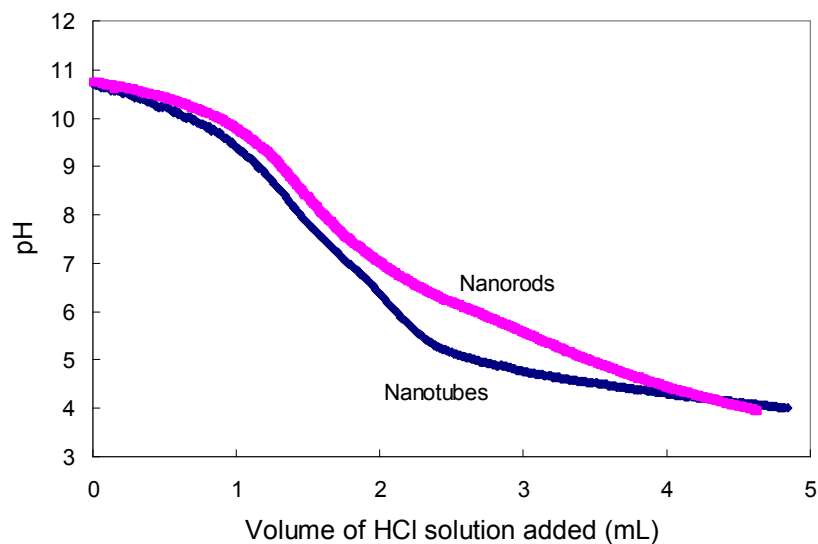


# Synthesis of $\text{TiO}_2$ Nanotubes and nanorods

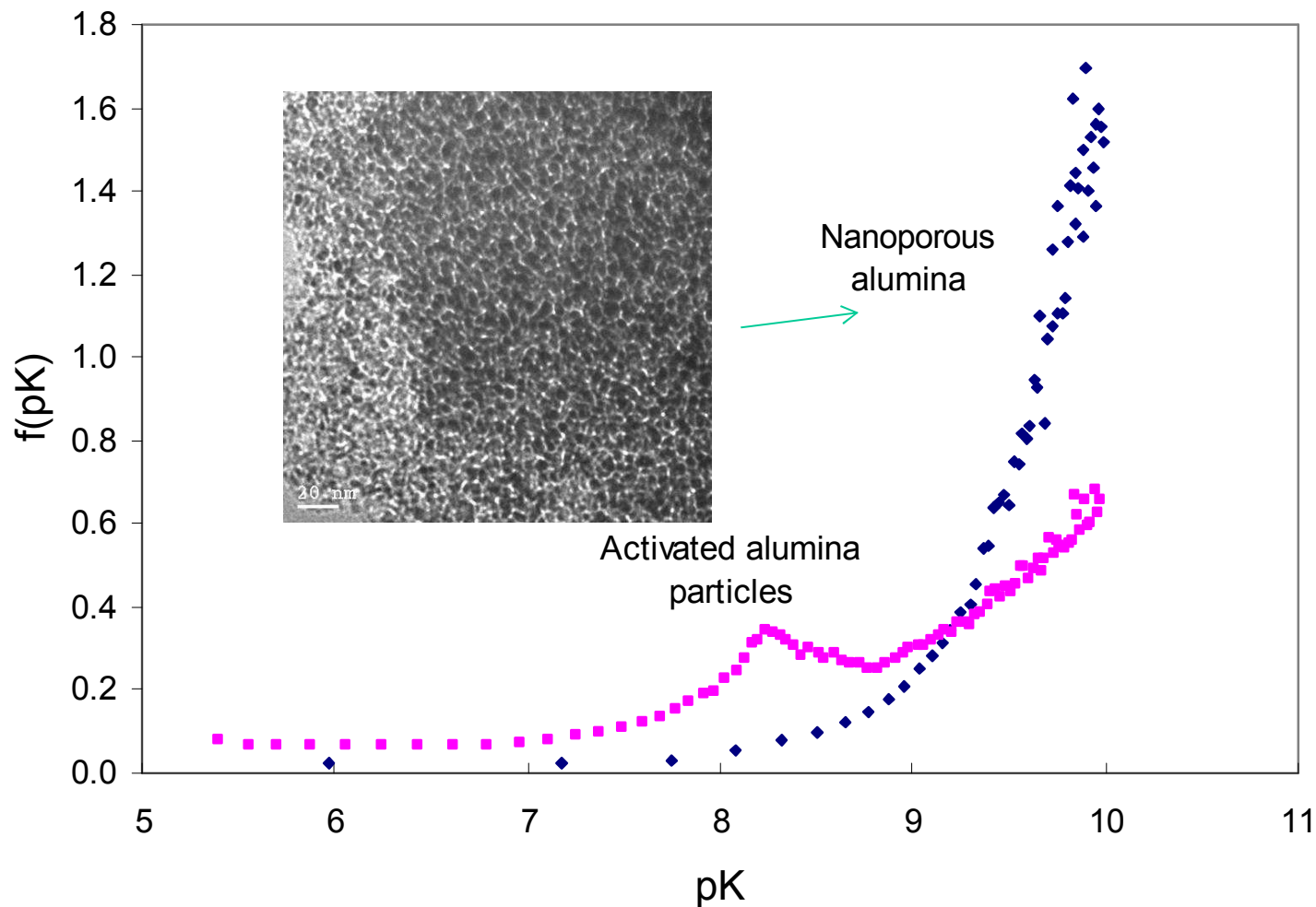


Wang et al. (2008)

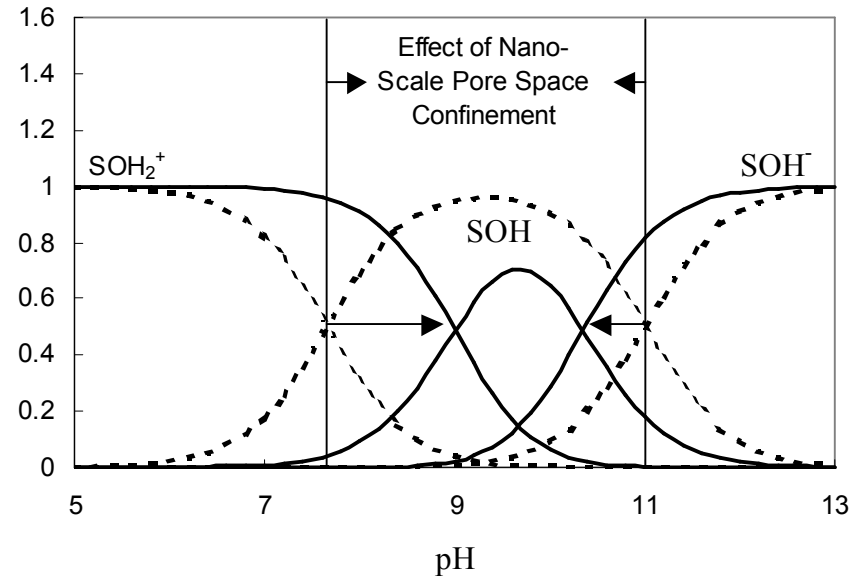
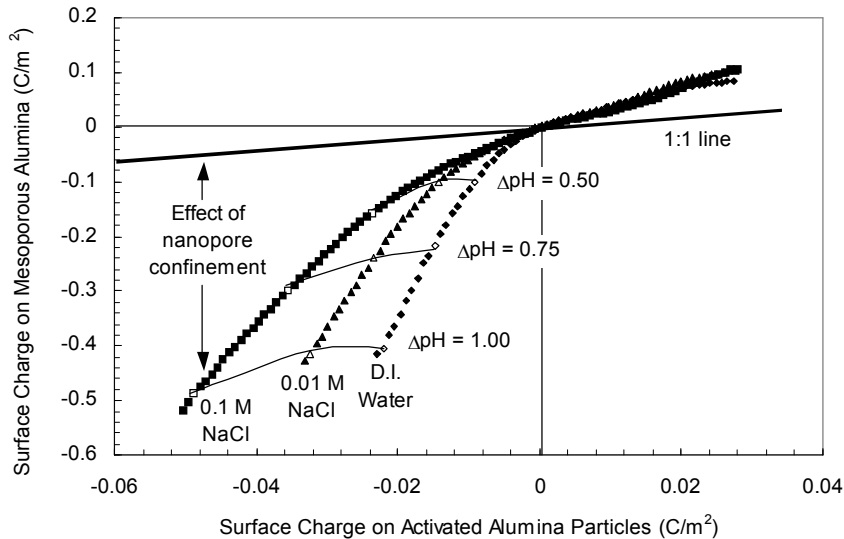
# Distribution of Acidity Constant



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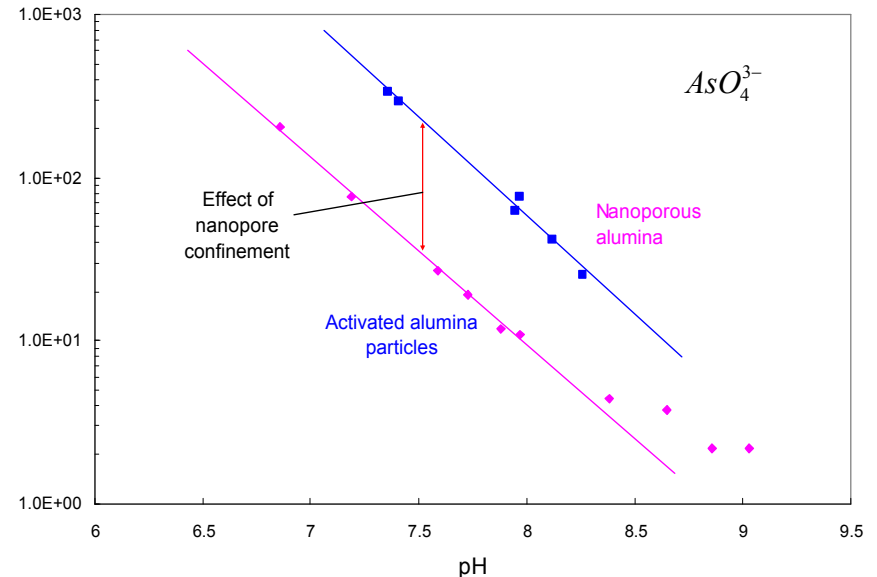
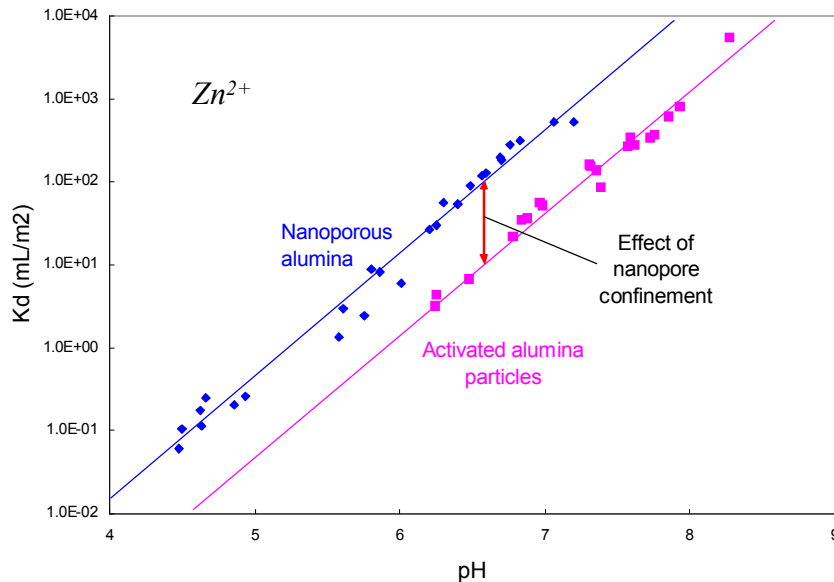
# Effect of Nanopore Confinement on Surface Chemistry



Nanoporous alumina has a higher surface charge density, which is less sensitive to ionic strength changes.

Nanopore confinement causes a solid-water interface to be more either positively or negatively charged.

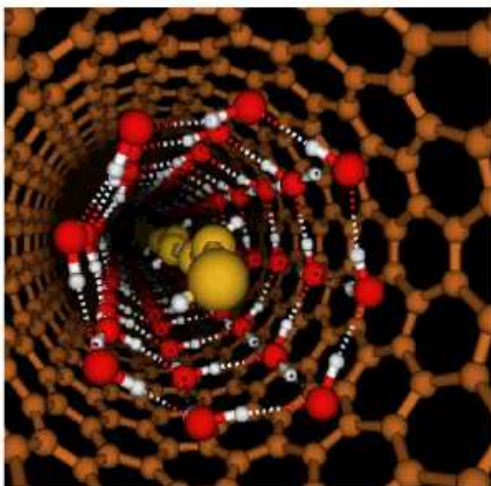
# Nanopore Confinement and Ion Sorption



Nanopore confinement enhances ion sorption onto a solid-water interface for both cations and anions.

Wang et al., 2003, Mat. Res. Soc. Symp. Proc.; 2003, Geology

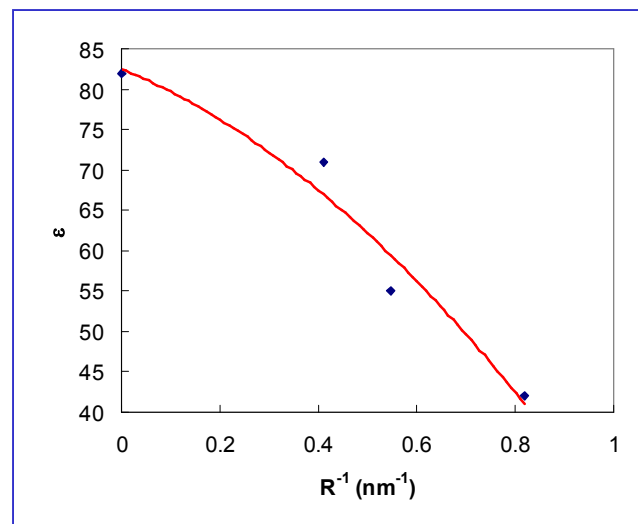
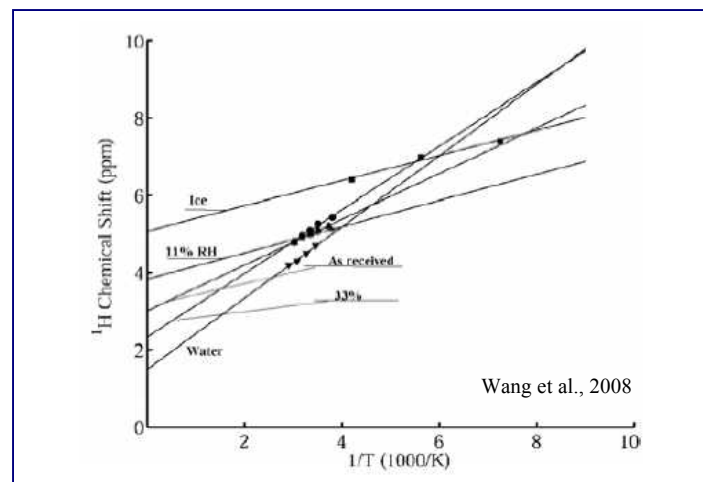
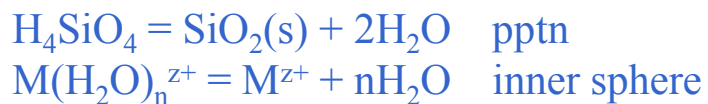
# Effect of Nanopore Confinement on Water



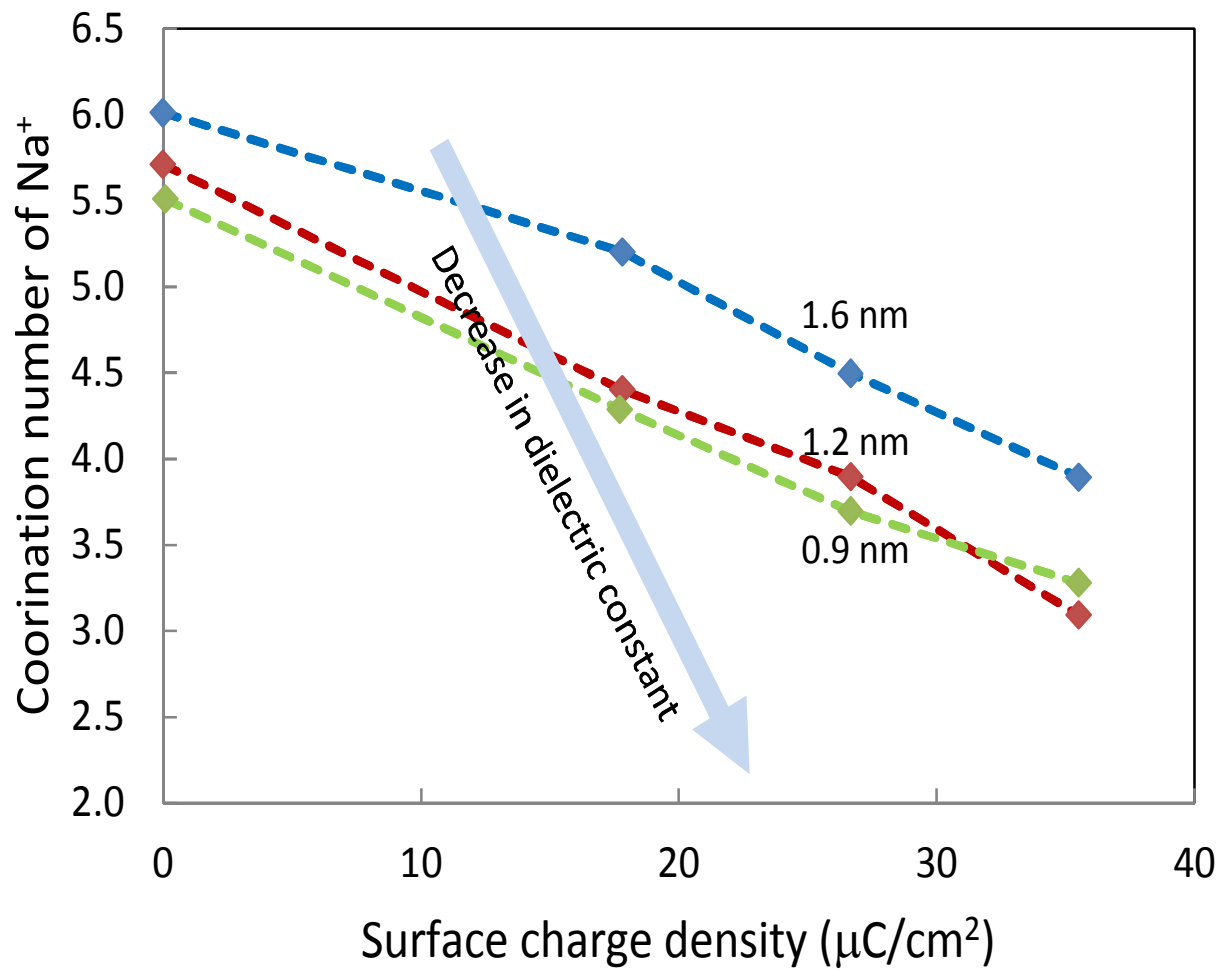
Kolesnikov et al., 2004

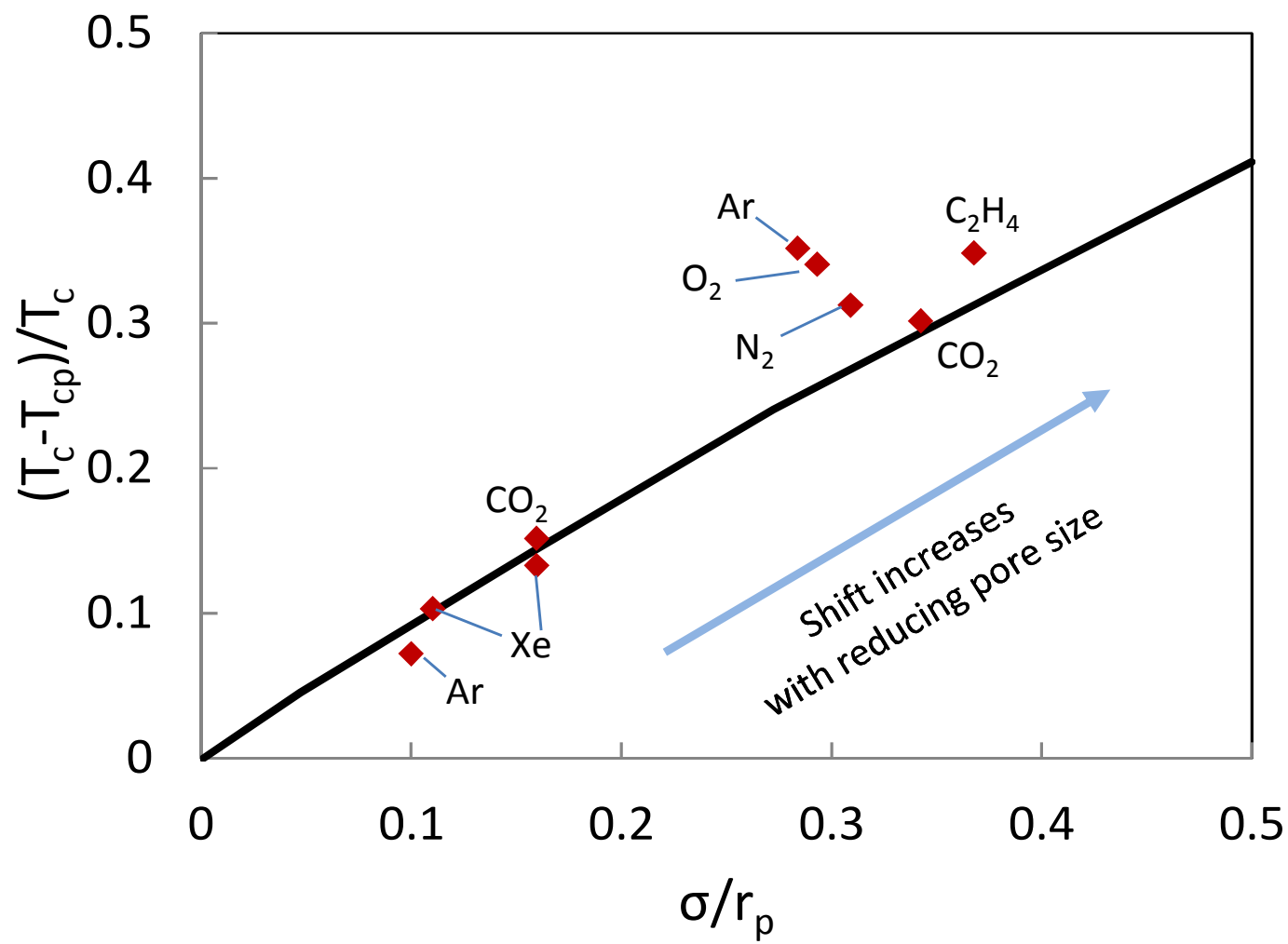
## Postulations:

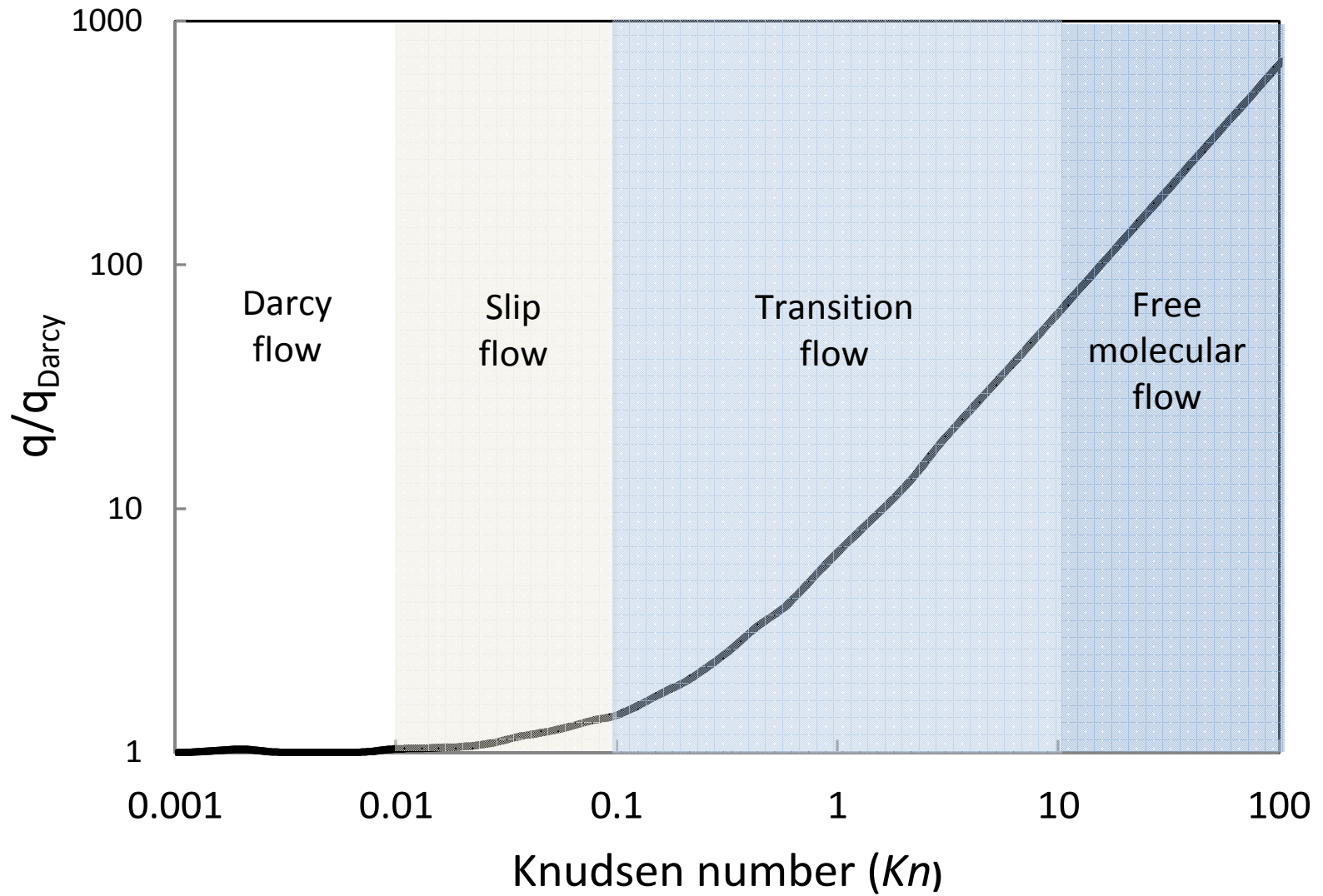
Water molecules in nanopores are more restrained.

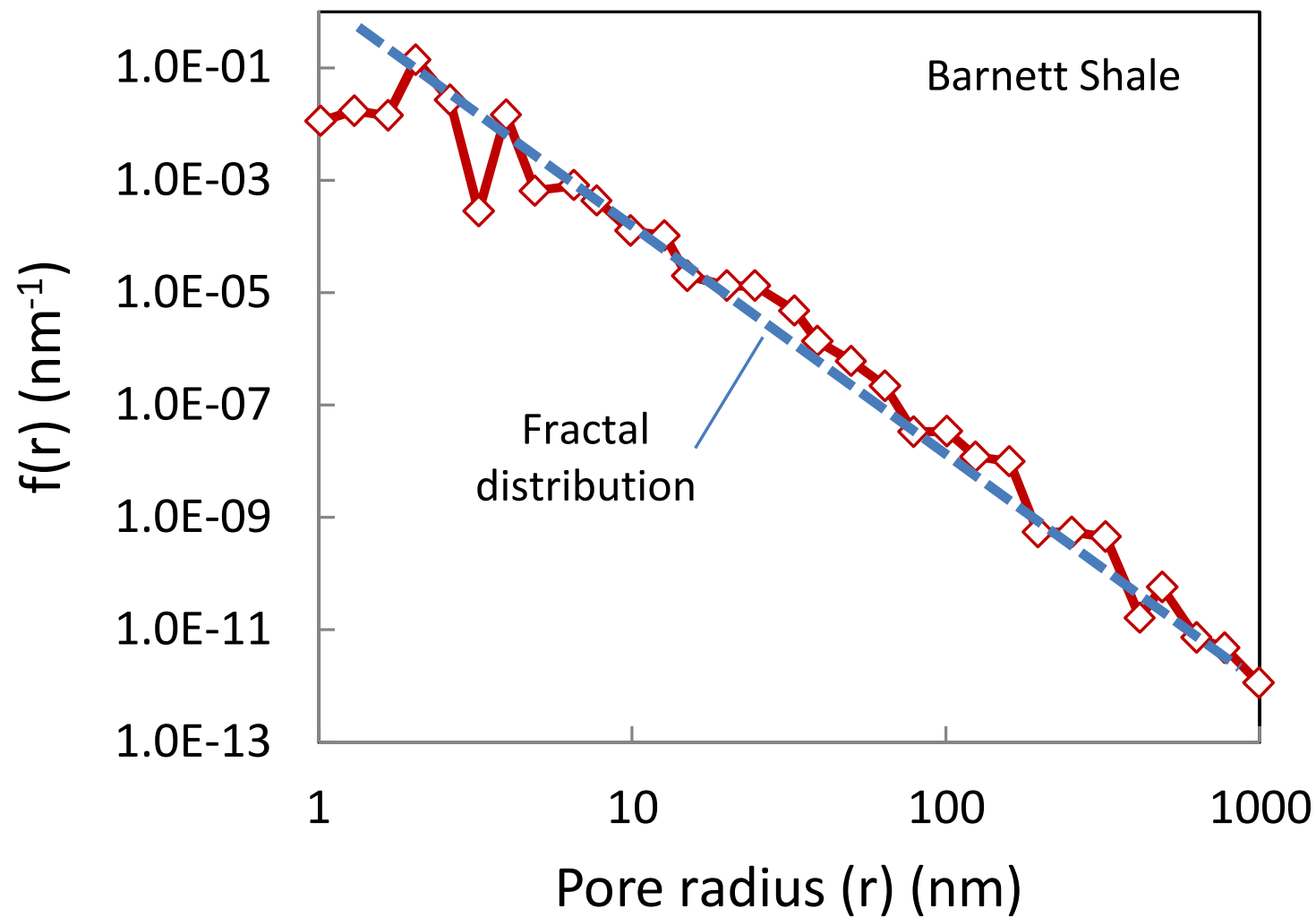


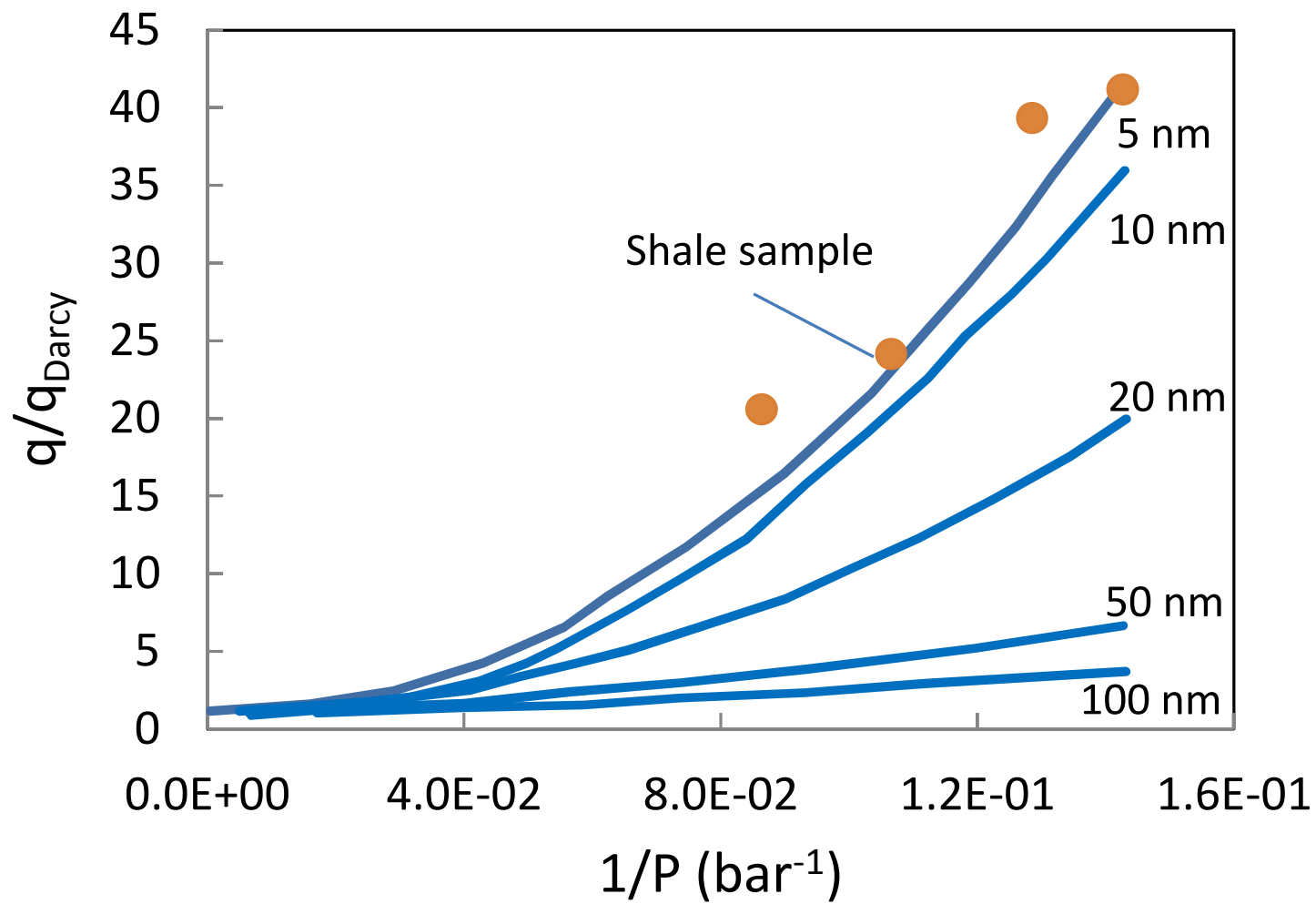
Senapati & Chandra, 2001, J. Phys. Chem.





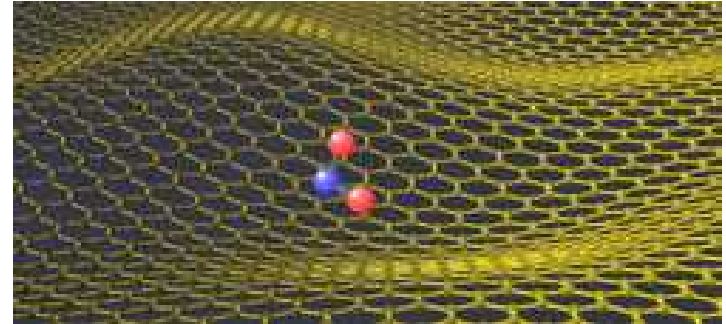






# Concluding Remarks

- Size matters!
  - Novel mineral-fluid interface chemistry may emerge when the dimension of one of the phases is reduced to nanometers.
- Texture matters!
  - Measurements on “isolated”, unconfined surfaces may not be representative of actual geologic materials.
- Perspectives
  - Progress in nanoscience & technology
  - Emergence of new properties through cooperative processes
- Geochemical implications (Wang et al., 2011, in Frontier in Geochemistry)
  - New perspectives for understanding fundamental geochemical processes
  - Development of novel materials for environmental applications



Graphene sensor

(Hadlington, 2008)

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