



SAND2016-2464C

# Study of Nanoparticle Formation in Zeolites Using Simultaneous Pair Distribution Function & Infrared Spectroscopy Measurements

**Tina M. Nenoff,<sup>1</sup> H. Zhao<sup>2,3</sup>, K.A. Beyer<sup>2</sup>, M. A. Newton<sup>4</sup>,  
K.W. Chapman<sup>2</sup>, P.J. Chupas<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Sandia National Laboratories, Nanoscale Sciences Department, Albuquerque, NM 87185, USA; tmnenof@sandia.gov

<sup>2</sup> Argonne National Laboratory, X-ray Science Division, Advanced Photon Source, Argonne, Illinois, 60439, USA

<sup>3</sup> University of Idaho, Chemical & Materials Engineering, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402, USA

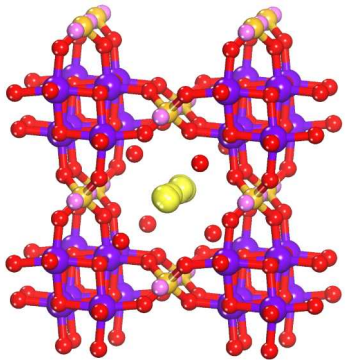
<sup>4</sup> European Synchrotron Radiation Facility 6, Rue Jules Horowitz, BP-220, Grenoble, F-38043, France

ENFL, 2016 Spring ACS National Meeting  
San Diego, CA  
March 15, 2016

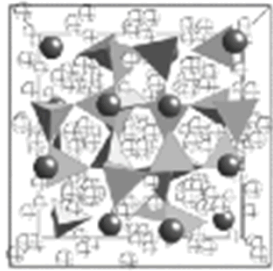
Separations and waste forms research is currently funded under the DOE/NE-FCR&D Separations and Waste Form Campaign.

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. Work done at Argonne and use of the Advanced Photon Source, an Office of Science User Facility operated for the U.S. DOE/Office of Science by Argonne National Laboratory, was supported by the US DOE, Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357

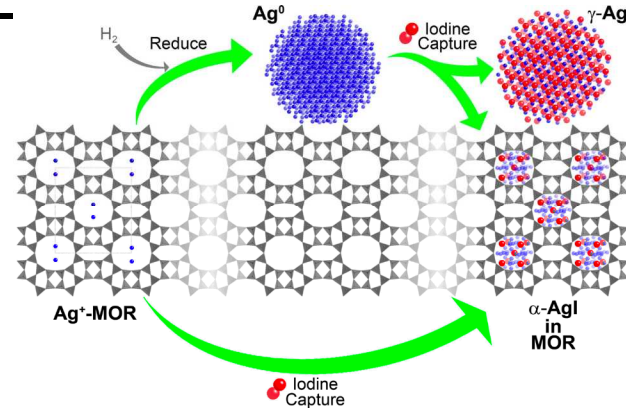
# Introduction: Environmental & Energy Applications of Zeolites



*CST, Cs<sup>+</sup> removal from water to Pollucite Waste Form*



*R&D100 1996  
 JACerS, 2009, 92(9), 2144  
 JACerS, 2011, 94(9), 3053  
 Solvent Extr. & Ion Exch, 2012, 30, 33*

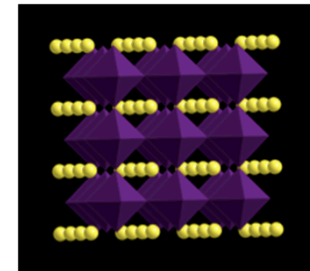
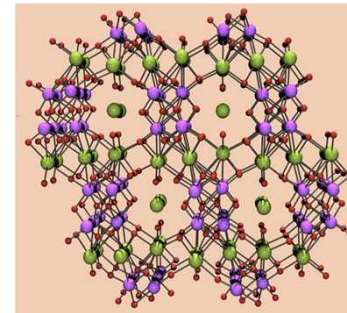


*Ag-MOR  
 I<sub>2</sub>(g) capture & mechanisms*

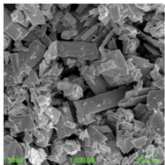
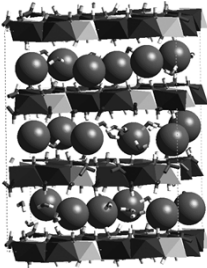
*JACS, 2010, 132(26), 8897  
 J Phys Chem Letters, 2011, 2, 2742*

*Applied Geochem, 2011, 26, 57*

***Fundamental Research to Applied to Commercial Products  
 Design the Separation Material To Develop the Waste Form***



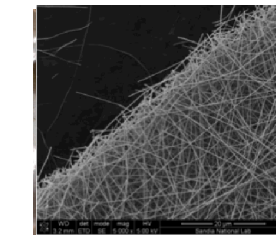
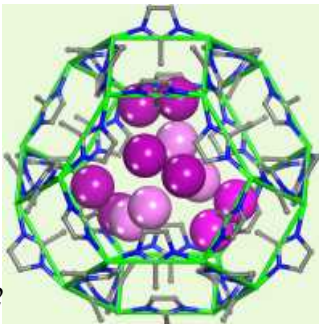
*Sr<sup>2+</sup> getter, 1-step to Perovskite waste form  
 JACS, 2002, 124(3), 1704*



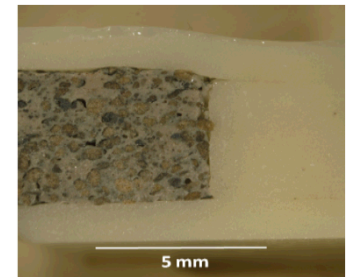
*In-situ Iodine removal from water*

*I<sub>2</sub>/MOF, Isolation to Waste Form*

*JACS, 2011, 133(32), 12398  
 Ind. Eng. Chem. Res, 2012, 51(2), 614  
 US Patent Application, 2012*



*Nanoporous Nanofibers  
 Volatile Gas Removal  
 US Patent Application, 2011*



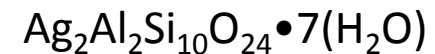
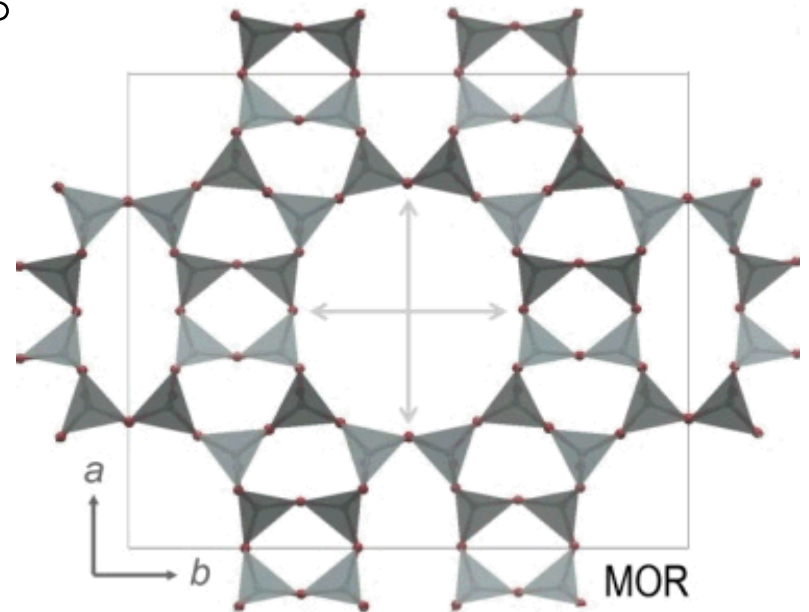
*Universal Core-Shell Glass Waste Form Iodine & Getter  
 JACerS, 2011, 94(8), 2412*

# Zeolite System of Interest: Silver Mordenite

- Si:Al=5
- Ag-exchanged then reduced to  $\text{Ag}^\circ$   
(3%  $\text{H}_2$  reducing stream)

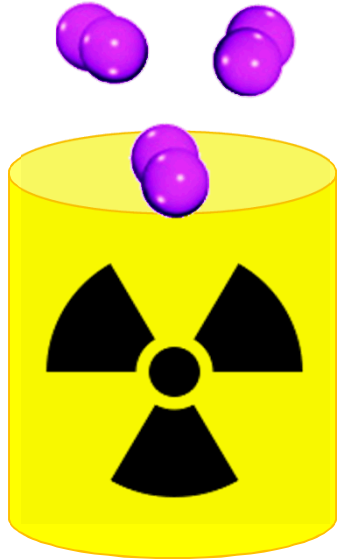
Pore network:

- 12-member ring channels along c-direction ( $\sim 7.0 \times 6.5 \text{ \AA}$ )
- 8-member ring pores
- Applications in *radioiodine* capture and *catalysis* (e.g.  $\text{NO}_x$ )



12 MR,  $7.0 \times 6.5 \text{ \AA}$

# Example Target Radiological Gas: Iodine ( $I_2$ , HI, Org-I)



$^{129}I$  half life ~ 17 million years

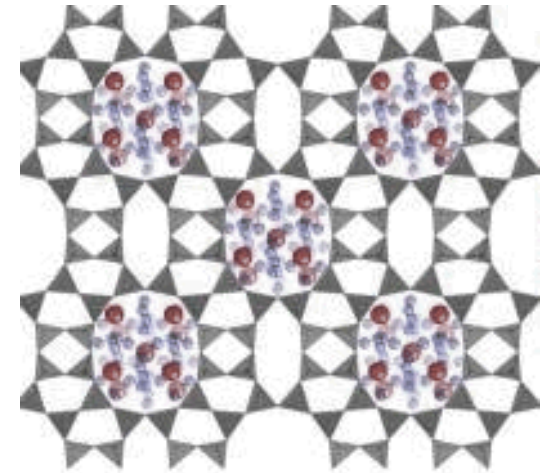
$^{131}I$  half life ~ 8 days

involved in metabolic reactions  
in humans (thyroid)

Ag-exchanged mordenite (MOR)

Benchmark  $^{129}I_2$  “getter”

Forms AgI within pores



- Must be Captured in Nuclear Energy & Environmental Settings
- $Ag^+$  in Zeolite Pores is reduced  $Ag^0$  before use in sorbent beds
- The distribution of supported  $Ag^0$  (inside vs outside pores) impacts the distribution of AgI (inside vs outside pores)

**Challenge:** *To understand AgI nanoparticle (NP) formations on the nanoscale and to ultimately control the (1) synthesis of Ag-MOR and (2) Ag distribution in MOR*

# Nanoscale Structure-Property Analysis Utilizing Pair Distribution Function (PDF) Analysis

The PDF,  $G(r)$ , is related to the **probability** of finding an atom at a distance  $r$  from a reference atom. It is the Fourier transform of the total structure factor,  $S(Q)$ .

$$G(r) = 4\pi r \rho_0 [\underbrace{g(r)}_{\text{probability}} - 1] = (2/\pi) \int Q [\underbrace{S(Q)}_{\text{structure factor}} - 1] \sin(Qr) dQ$$

The structure factor,  $S(Q)$ , is related to coherent part of the diffraction intensity

$$S(Q) = 1 + \underbrace{[I^{coh}(Q) - \sum c_i |f_i(Q)|^2]}_{\text{diffraction intensity (corrected)}} / |\sum c_i f_i(Q)|^2$$

Apply corrections for background, absorption, Compton & multiple scattering

Function of  $r$ /distance  
Intensity is related to probability of finding pair atoms separated by given distance  
Opportunity to see ALL atoms

# PDF measurements: APS/ANL Collaboration

Does it matter which synchrotron?

*Yes. Only higher energy storage rings produce significant fluxes of high energy X-rays*

High energy X-rays are a unique strength of the *Advanced Photon Source* (in the western hemisphere)

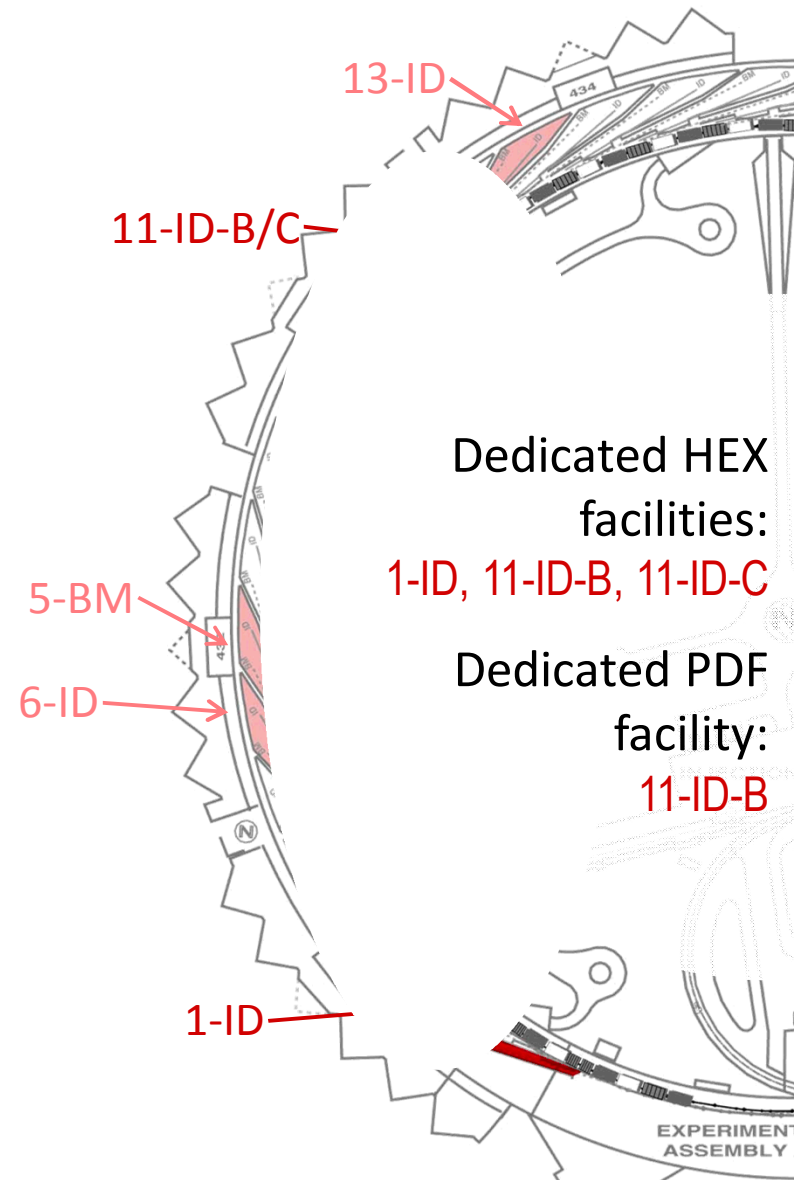
- 3 dedicated high energy beam lines
- 1 dedicated PDF beamline

APS 11-ID-B: Dedicated PDF facility

- 58 or 90KeV high energy X-rays
- typical wavelengths = 0.1 - 0.2Å

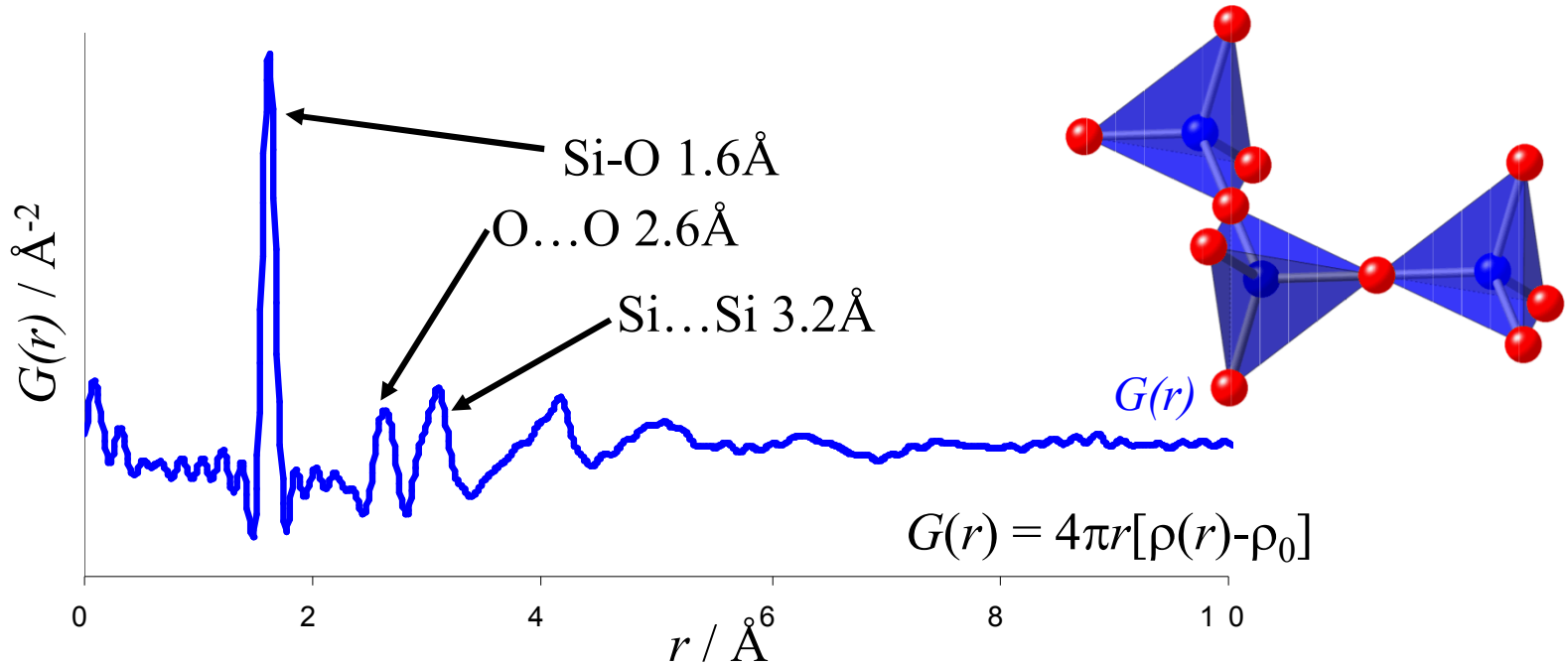
For our experiments:

$Q > 20\text{\AA}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  to  $2\Theta = 180$  results in  $Q_{\text{max}} = 8\text{\AA}$



# PDF Provides Insight Into Short Range Structural Order eg., Amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub> (Glass)

- a weighted histogram of ALL atom-atom distances



Peak position	↔	Bond length / distance
Peak area	↔	Coordination #, scattering intensity
Peak width	↔	Disorder, bond angle distribution
Peak $r_{max}$	↔	Particle size, coherence

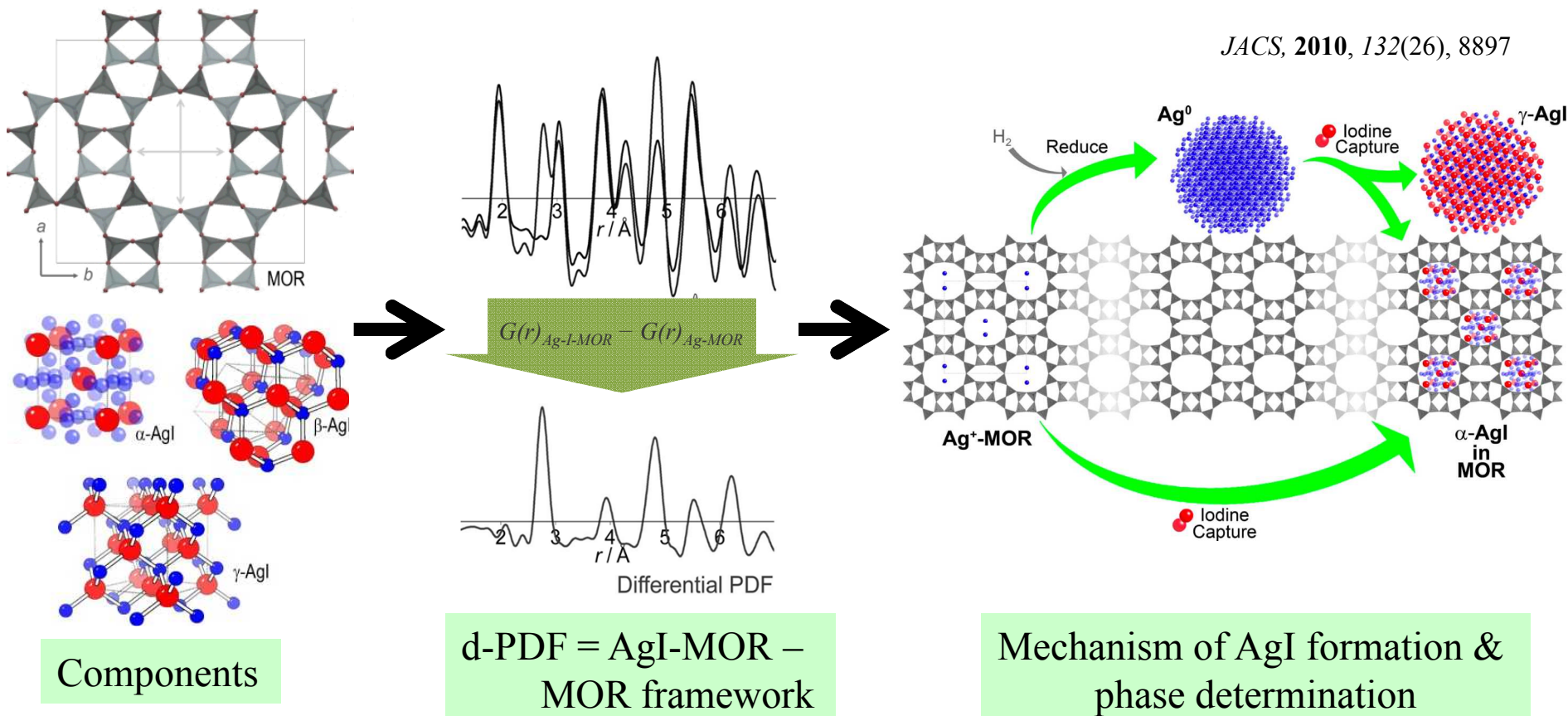
} → **Structural Modeling**

*Application to Zeolites to Examine Short Range Interactions of Guests in Pores*

# Determine Mechanism of AgI Nanoparticle (NP) Formation in Zeolite MOR

Allows for determining short range guest interactions (eg., AgI) within porous materials

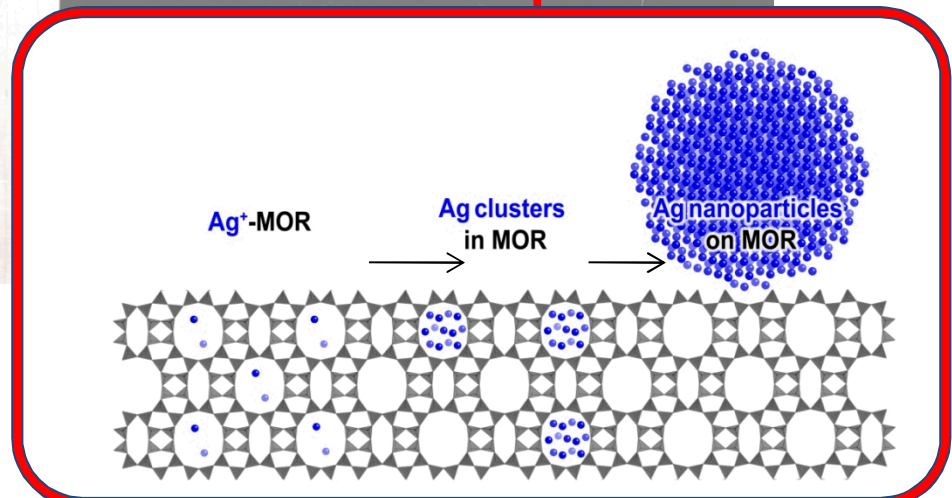
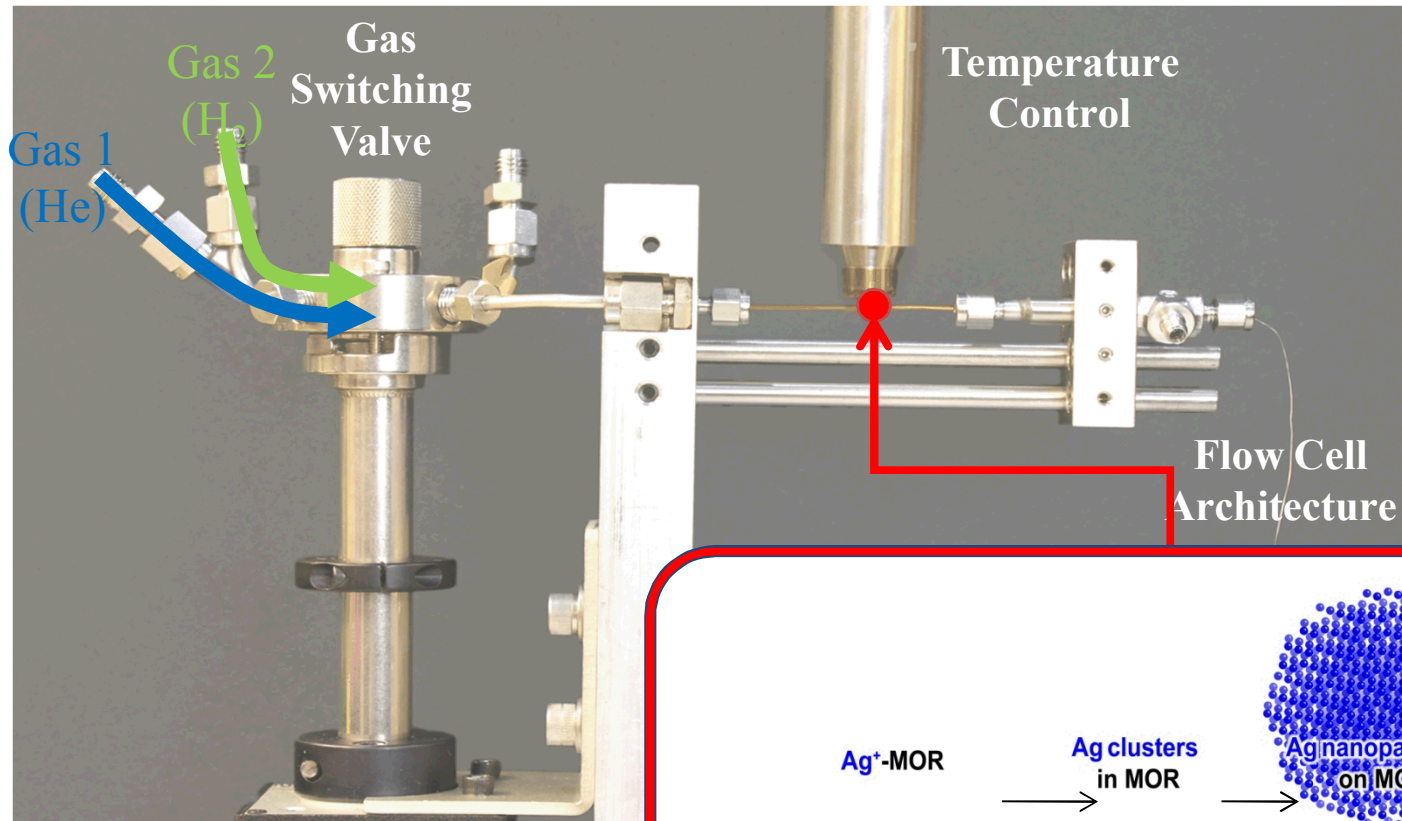
*JACS*, 2010, 132(26), 8897



**Challenge:** To understand Ag nanoparticle (NP) formations (time, temp) on the nanoscale and to ultimately control the (1) synthesis of Ag-MOR and (2) Ag distribution in MOR

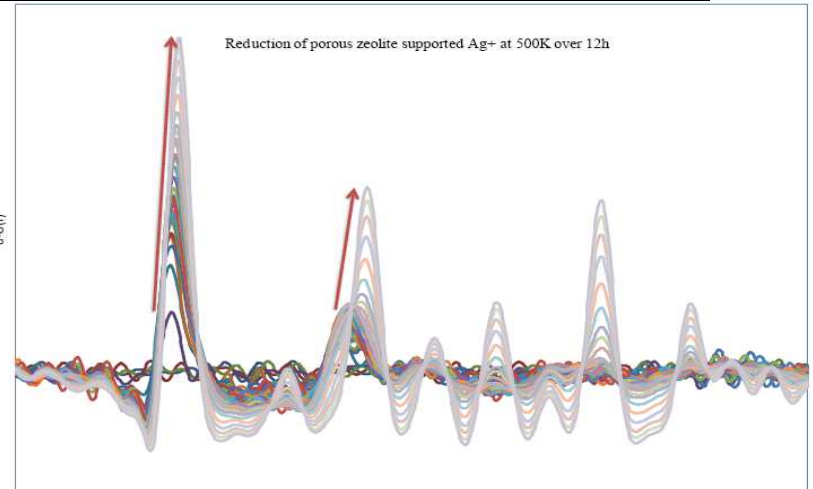
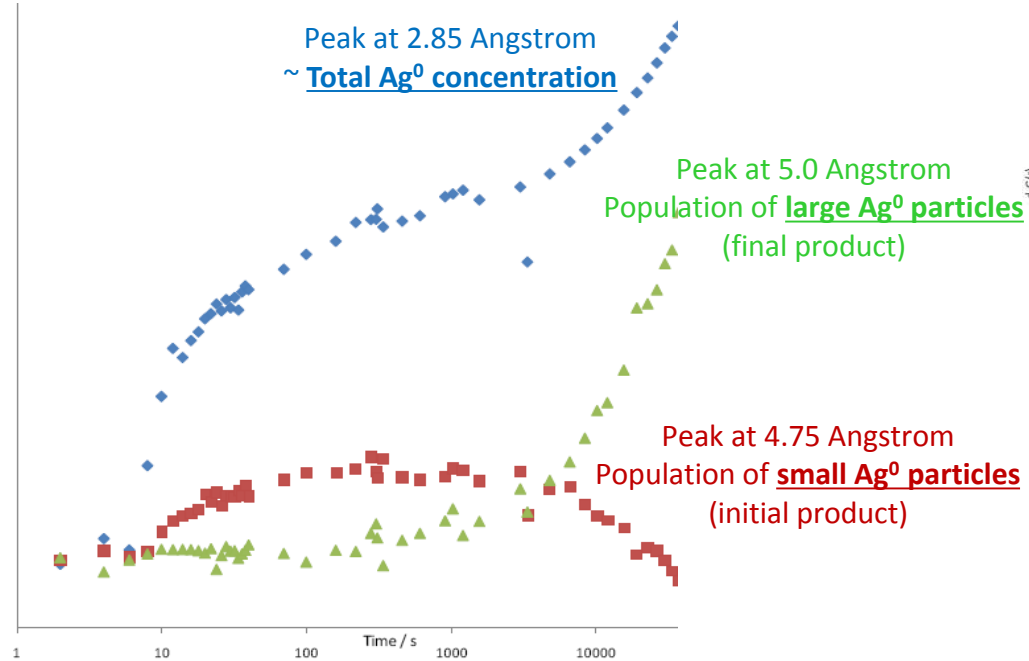
# Determine Mechanisms and Kinetics of $\text{Ag}^+$ to $\text{Ag}^0$ NP Formation in Zeolites

Study Conversion and Migration of  $\text{Ag}^+$  to  $\text{Ag}^0$  in MOR



In situ  $\text{I}_2$  sorption on  $\text{Ag}$ -MOR using PDF setup at 11-ID-B beamline at APS/ANL

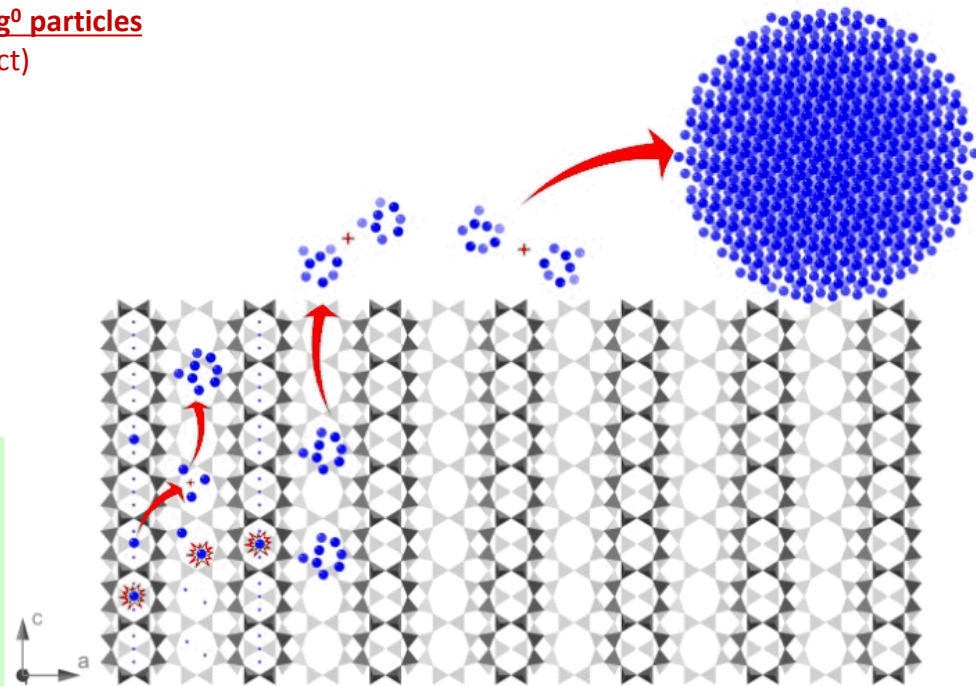
# Multi-step Mechanism for Silver Particle Growth on a Porous Zeolite



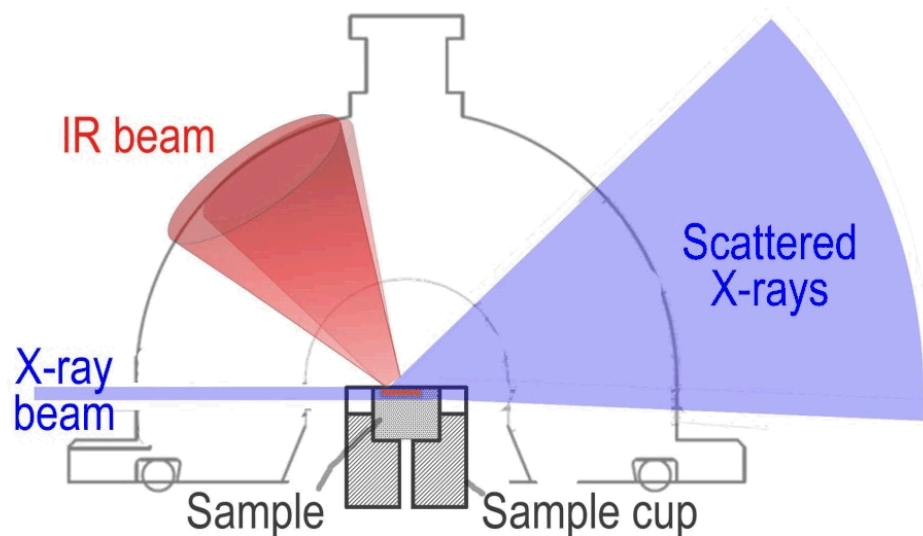
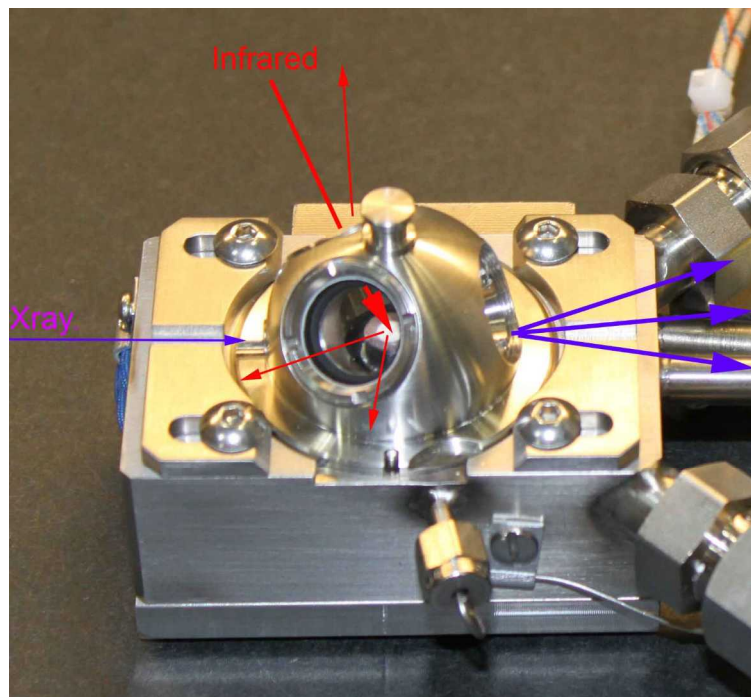
## Mechanism Pathway Determined

*J Phys Chem Letters*, 2011, 2, 2742

- i) Ag<sup>+</sup> reduction in 12MR and 8MR “Red star”
- ii) Ag<sup>0</sup> migration from 8MR to 12MR
- iii) Ag<sup>0</sup> form clusters within 12MR channels
- iv) Clusters migrate to zeolite surface
- v) Clusters aggregate as nanoparticles



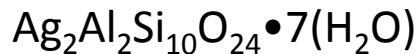
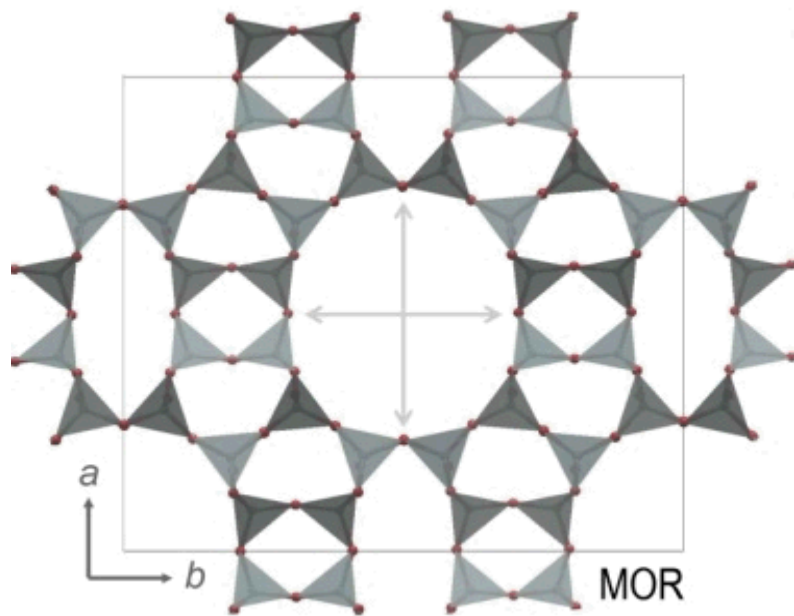
# Simultaneous Diffuse Reflectance IR Spectroscopy (DRIFTS) and PDF Analysis



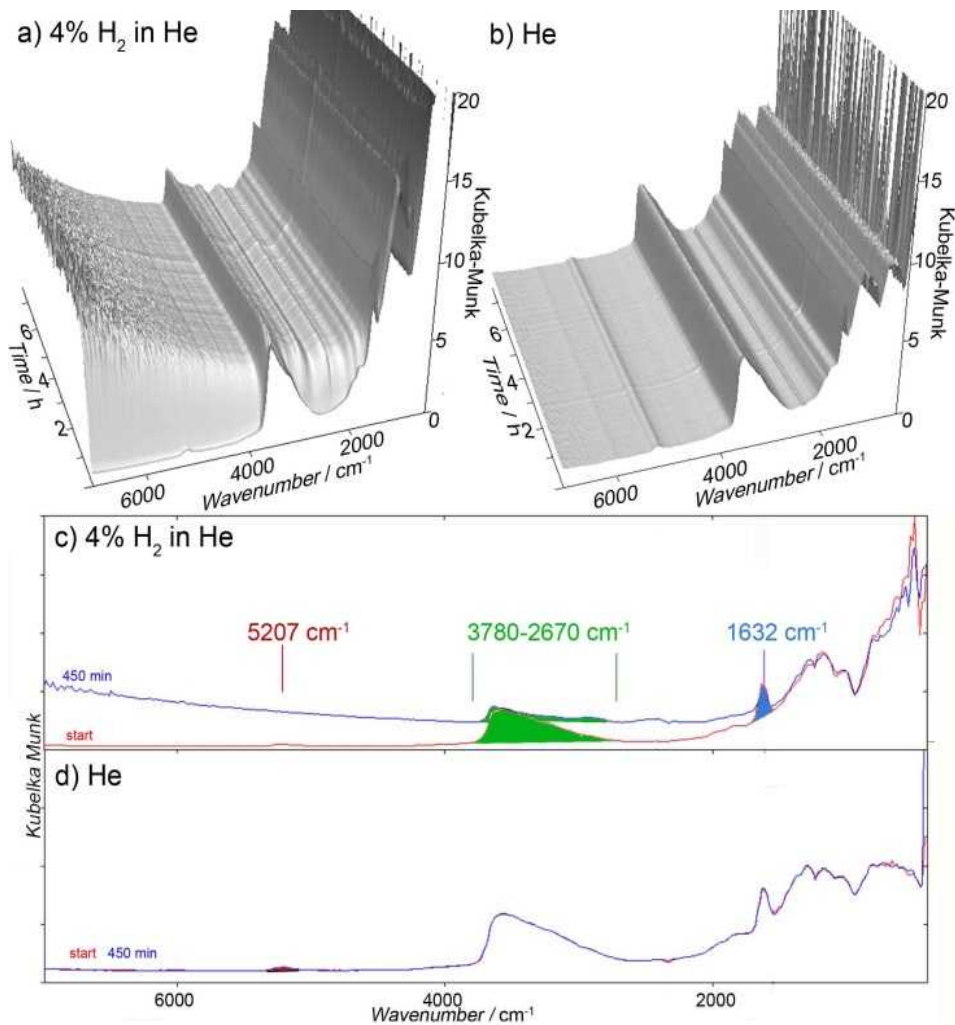
- Infra-red spectroscopy is highly sensitive to H<sub>2</sub>O/OH molecular speciation
- PDF+IR measurements can be performed simultaneously on the same sample region without compromise to the data

*How does adsorbed water and –OH species in pores affect Ag cluster formation in Zeolites?*

# DRIFTS: Data Collection of $\text{Ag}^+$ - MOR Under Reducing or Inert Atmosphere



12 MR,  $7.0 \times 6.5 \text{ \AA}$



The **time resolved DRIFTS** data for  $\text{Ag}^+$ -MOR during heating at 400 K under (a) reducing and (b) inert atmospheres, and (c and d, respectively) corresponding before-and-after data

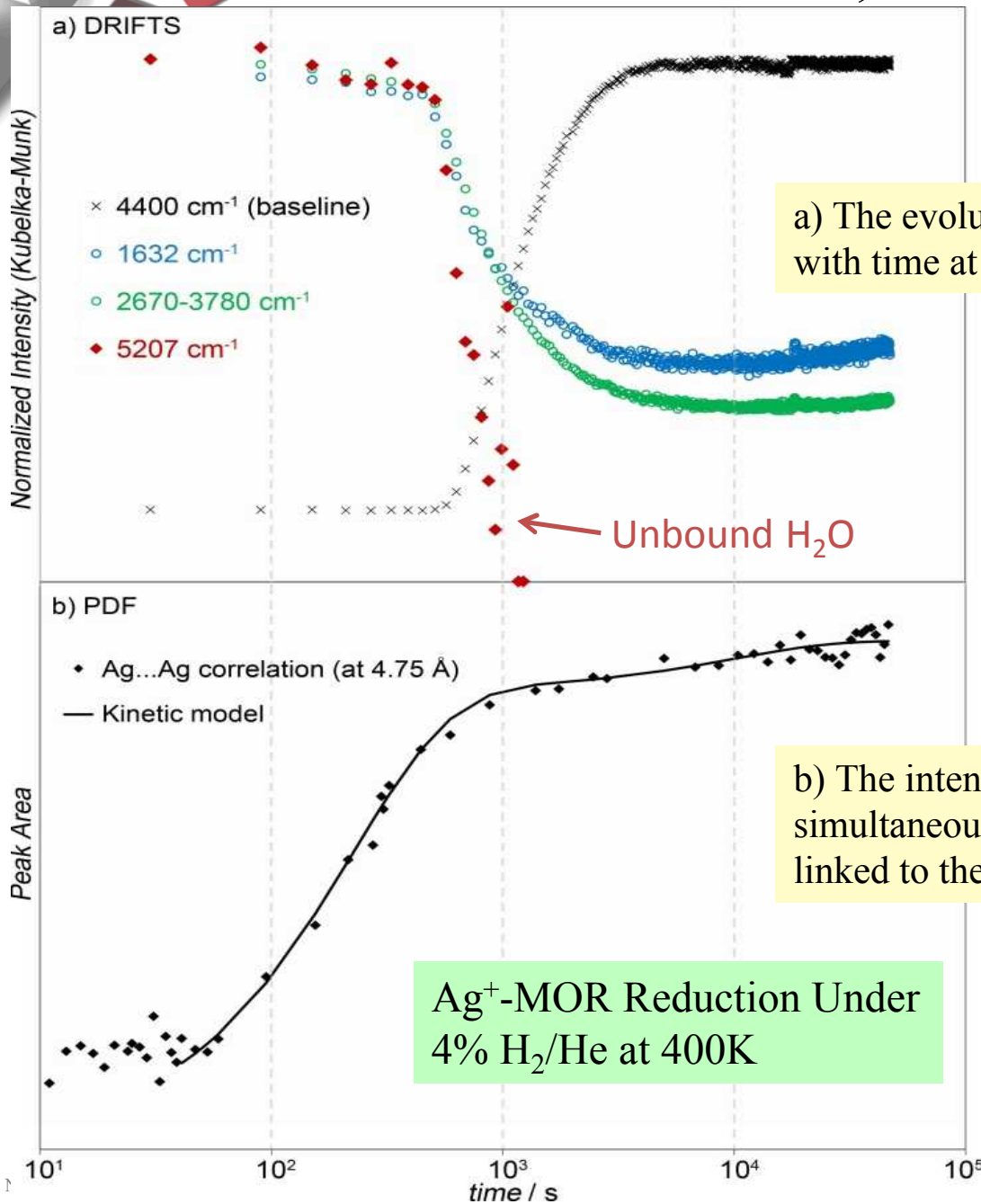


# Position and Assignments of Peaks in DRIFTS data

---

Peak / $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Assignment
1632	Molecular $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (free/weakly bound to $\text{Ag}^+$ cations and bound to Bronsted acid sites)
3250	Acidic OH group
3450	Molecular $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (free/weakly bound and bound to aluminosilicate lattice)
3585, 3605, 3610	Si-OH
3680	AlOH group
5207	Molecular $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (free/weakly bound, combined bending and stretching)

# As 400K, Water/-OH Species Evolve Out, Ag NPs Form

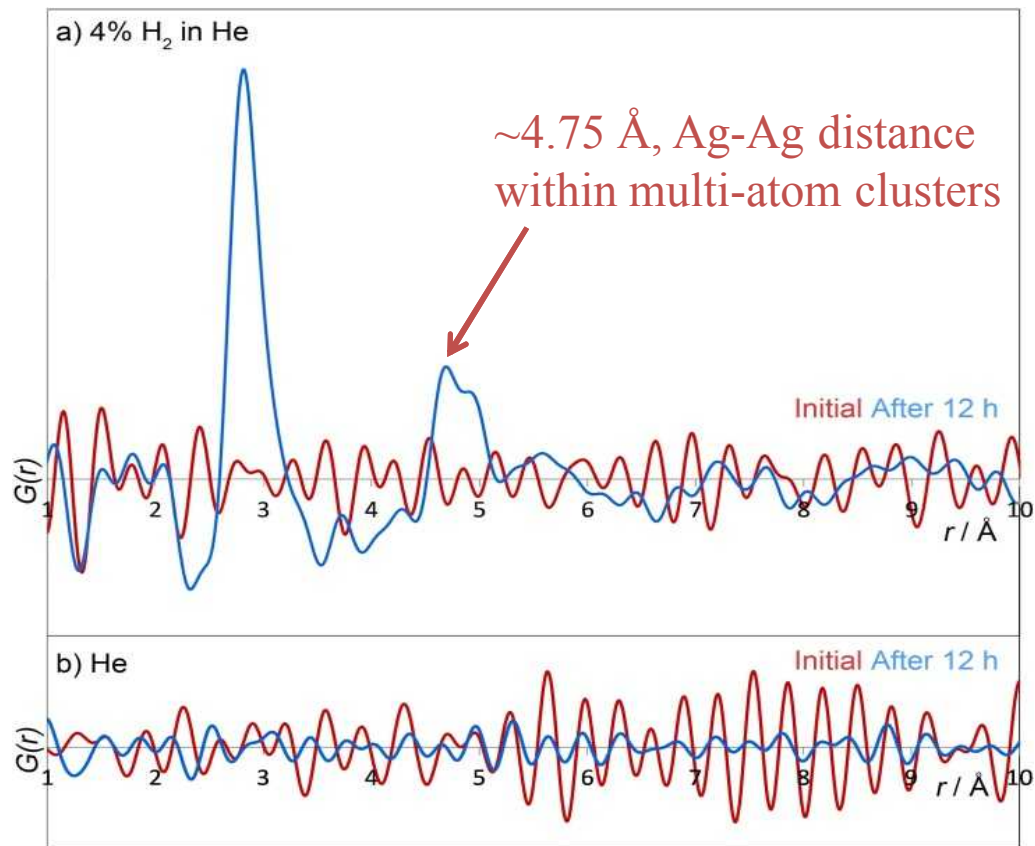


a) The evolution of water and -OH molecules with time at 400K; from time-resolved DRIFTS data.

b) The intensity of the peak at 4.75 Å in the simultaneously collected time resolved PDF data, linked to the multi-atom Ag cluster population.

Ag<sup>+</sup>-MOR Reduction Under 4% H<sub>2</sub>/He at 400K

# PDF: Direct Observation of the effect of Dehydration on Ag NP Formation

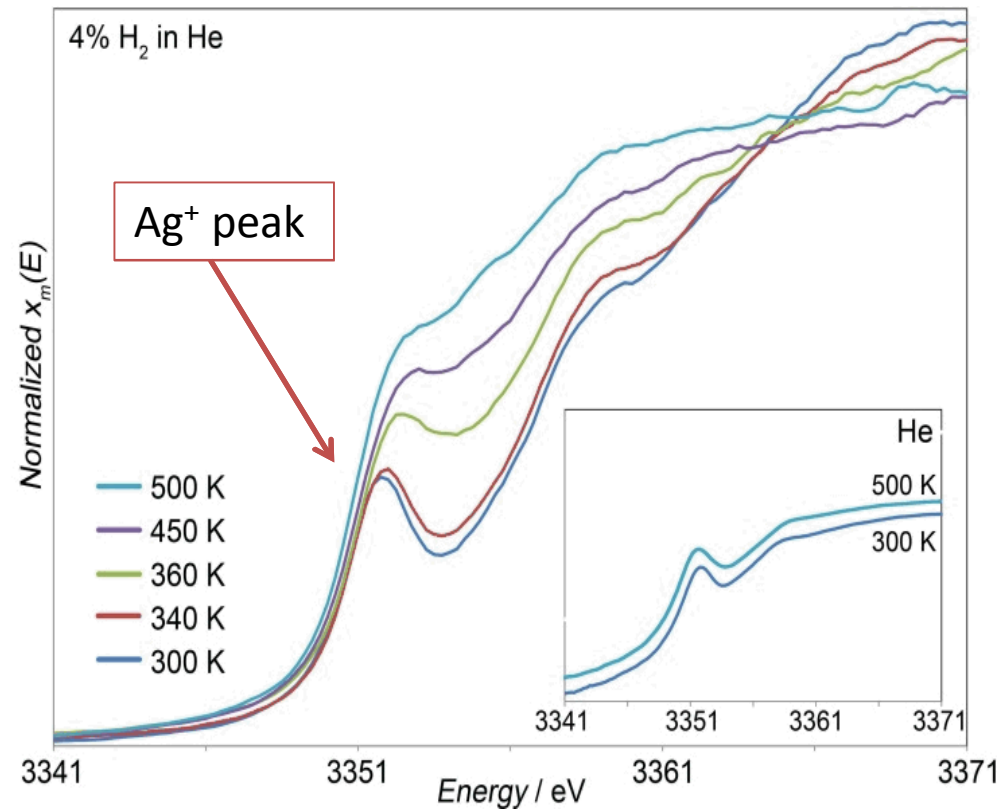


PDF for Ag<sup>+</sup>MOR before and after heating at 400 K in reducing (a) and inert (b) atmosphere.

*Larger amplitude artifacts in initial data reflect the shorter acquisition times used early in the reaction.*

# XANES: Direct Observation of the effect of Dehydration on Ag<sup>0</sup> NP Formation

X-ray Absorption Near Edge Spectroscopy (XANES), evidence of change in oxidation state of silver from ion (+1) to metal with temperature

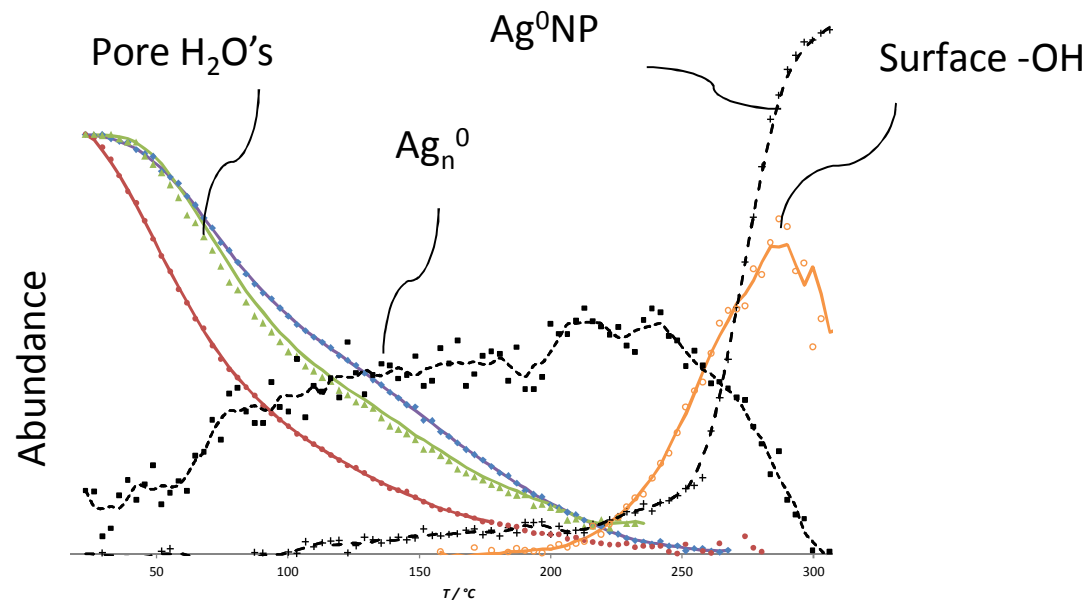
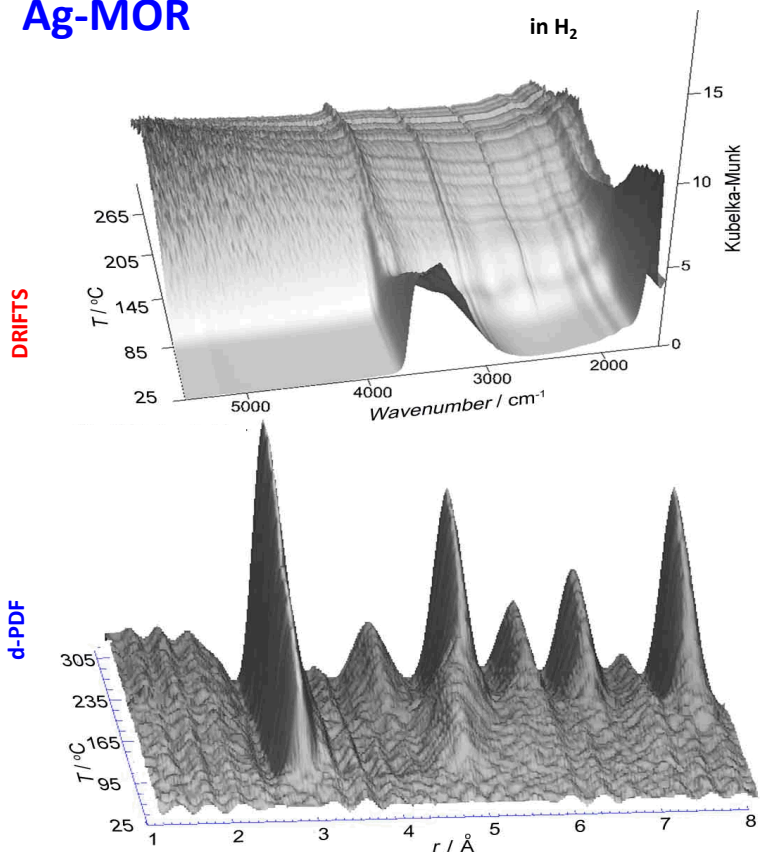


Ag L(III) edge XANES data for ramping Ag<sup>+</sup>MOR in inert (inset) and reducing atmospheres.

# Direct Observation of the effect of Dehydration on Ag NP Formation

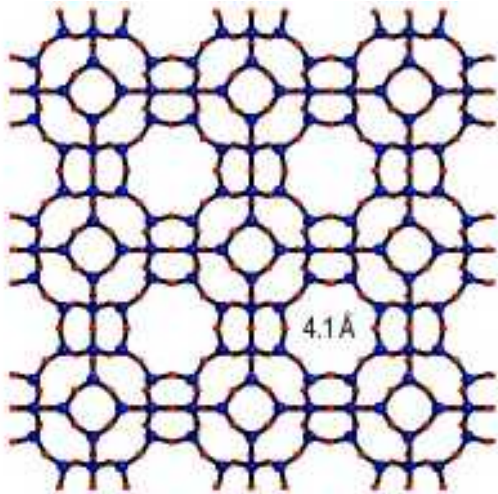
In prep, 2016

Ag-MOR

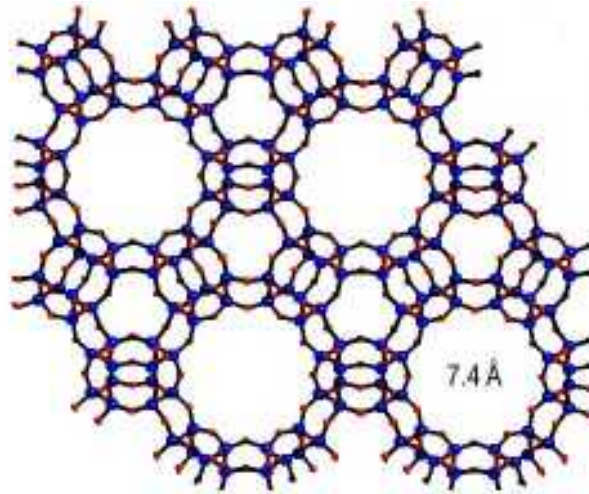


Initial Data, Ag-MOR in H<sub>2</sub>:  
Correlation identified between -OH surface functionalization and Ag NP migration to the outer surface of the MOR

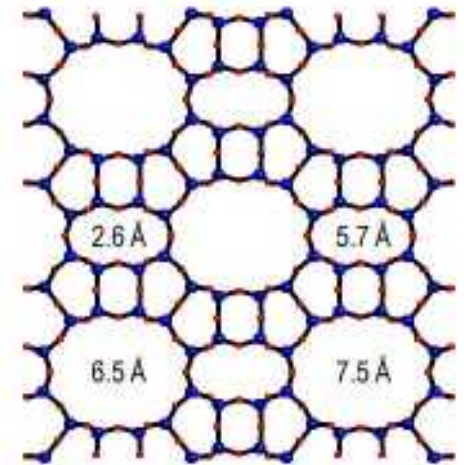
# Zeolite Hosts: Effect of Pore Size, Shape and Charge on Ag NP Formation



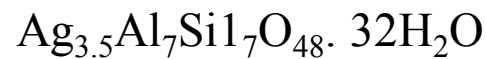
LTA (A)  
Si/Al = 1

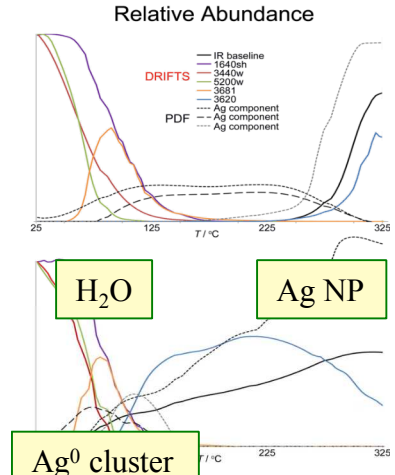
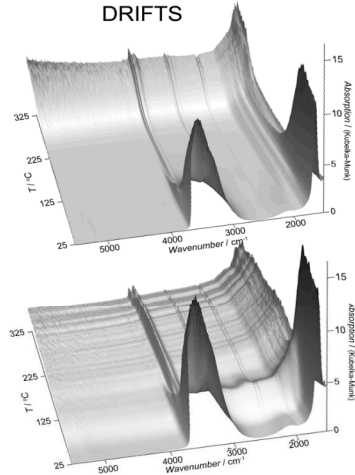
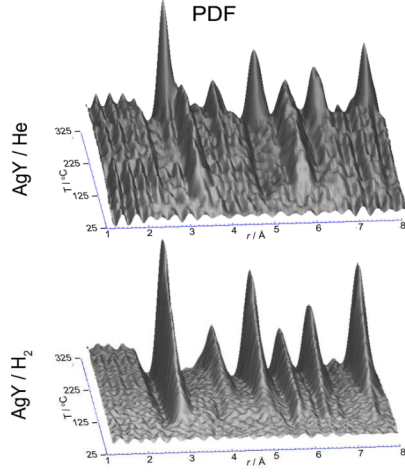


FAU (Y)  
Si/Al = 2.4



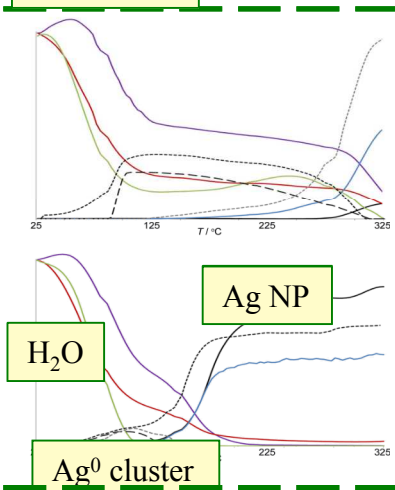
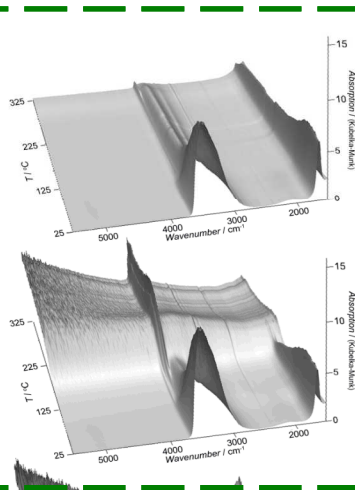
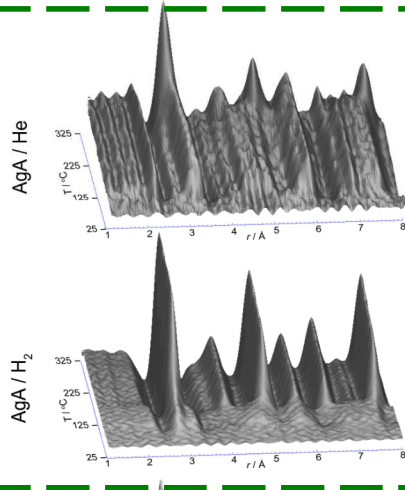
MOR  
Si/Al = 5



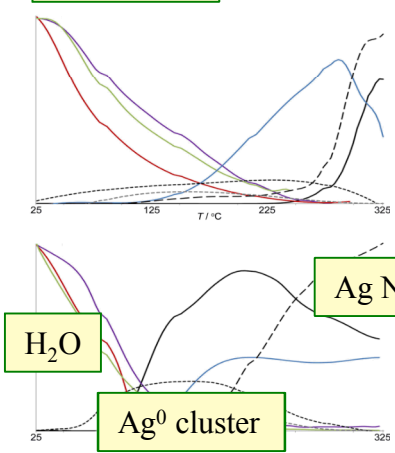
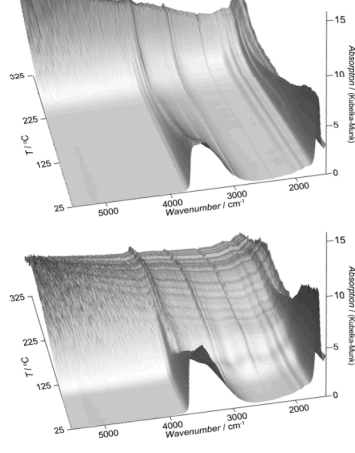
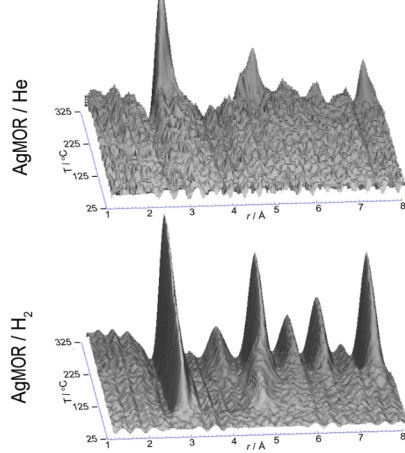


Y: Supercage

In situ **DRIFTS** data,  
 In situ **PDF** data  
 and the evolution  
 of selected features  
 with heating  
 (25 - 325°C).  
**Ag-Y, Ag-A, Ag-MOR**  
**Zeolites** in reducing (H<sub>2</sub>)  
 and inert (He) atmosphere.



A: small pore



MOR: med pore,  
 Tortuous pathway



# Conclusions

---

- *Success strategy for combining DRIFTS and PDF measurements, for the study of mechanisms and kinetics of silver nanoparticle formation within a zeolite*
- DRIFTS/PDF provide both an understanding of the molecular-level processes and structural changes that occur during the reaction
- Reduction of  $\text{Ag}^+$  leads to partial dehydration of the zeolite through release of water coordinated to  $\text{Ag}^+$
- Dehydration, itself, does not occur at these temperatures and does not contribute to reduction, confirming that the kinetics of  $\text{Ag}^+$  reduction is dominated by chemical reaction with hydrogen at 400 K.
- Cluster formation continues following loss of water coordinated to  $\text{Ag}^+$  ions after reduction; this is likely associated with the increased mobility of silver within the pores once water is removed.
- Simultaneous DRIFTS/PDF shows great potential to study the reactivity in heterogeneous catalysts and solid state materials.