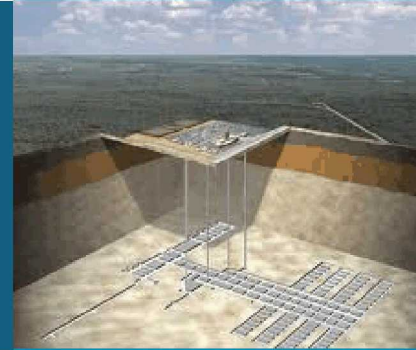
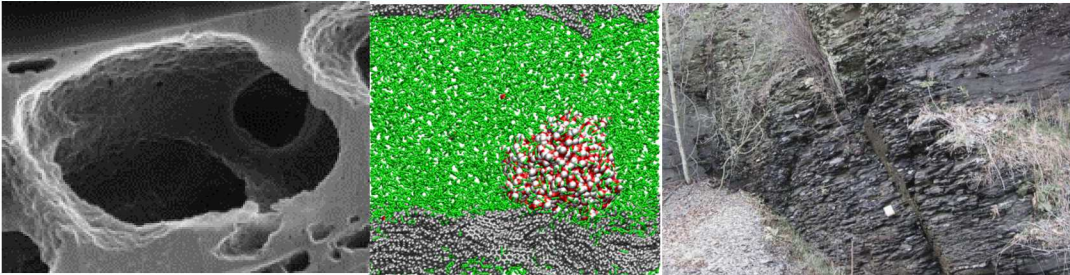


# Nanogeochemistry of radionuclide reaction and migration in subsurface environments



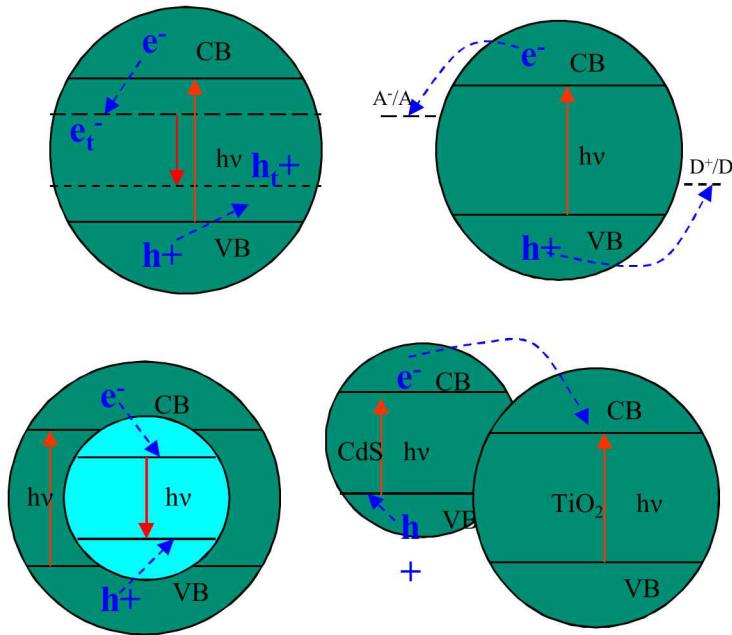
PRESENTED BY

Yifeng Wang

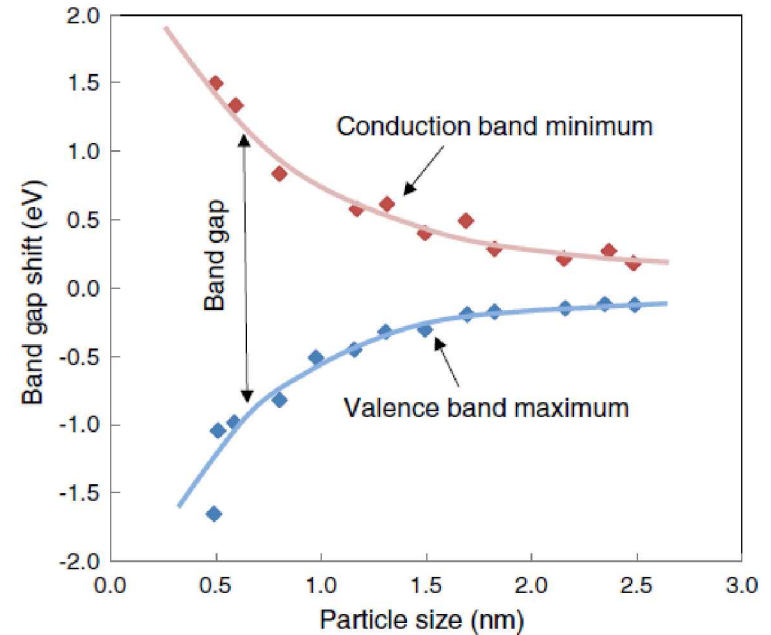


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# Nanoscience: Size-Dependent Material Properties

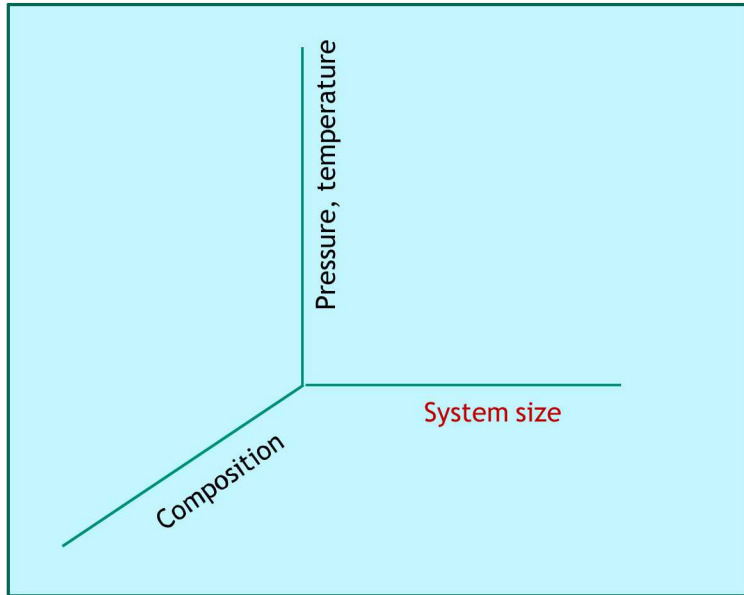


Photophysical/Photochemical Processes  
in Semiconductor Nanoparticles  
(Roduner, 2006)



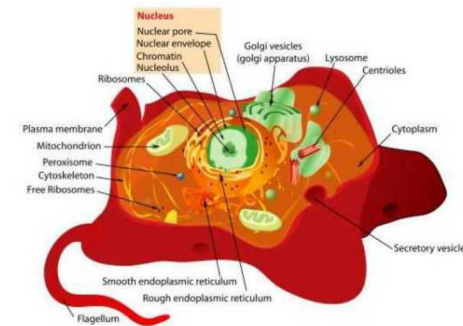
Size-dependent CdS band gap

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

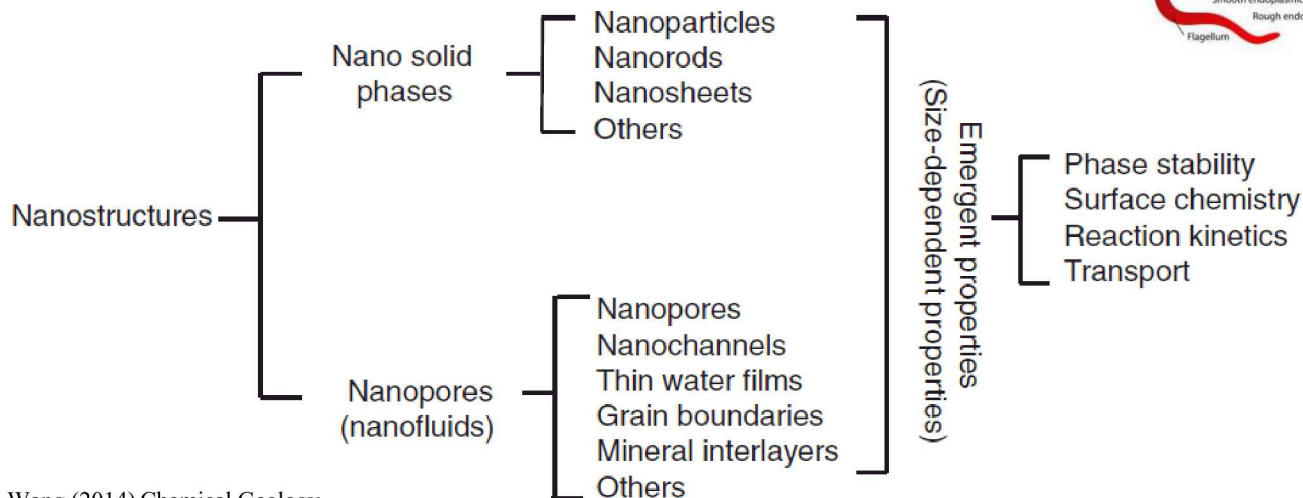


**Nanogeochemistry:** Understand emergent properties of geochemical systems under nano-scale structural constraints or organizations.

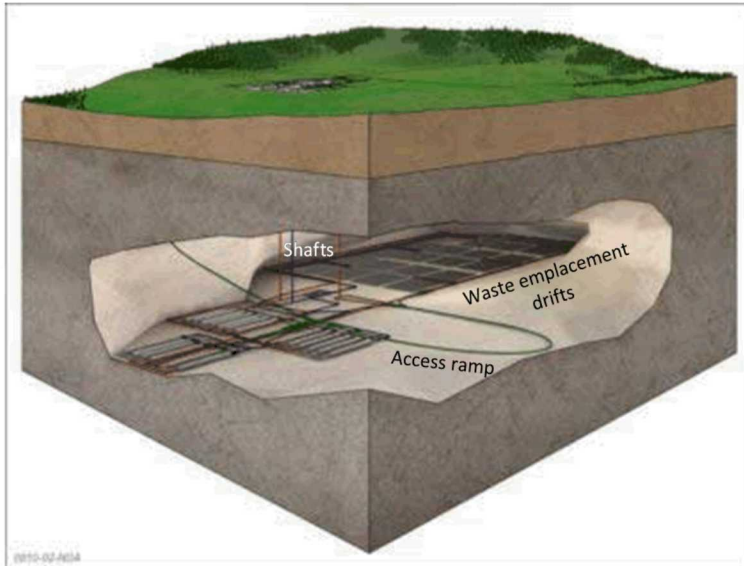
**Rule of thumb:** <100 nm



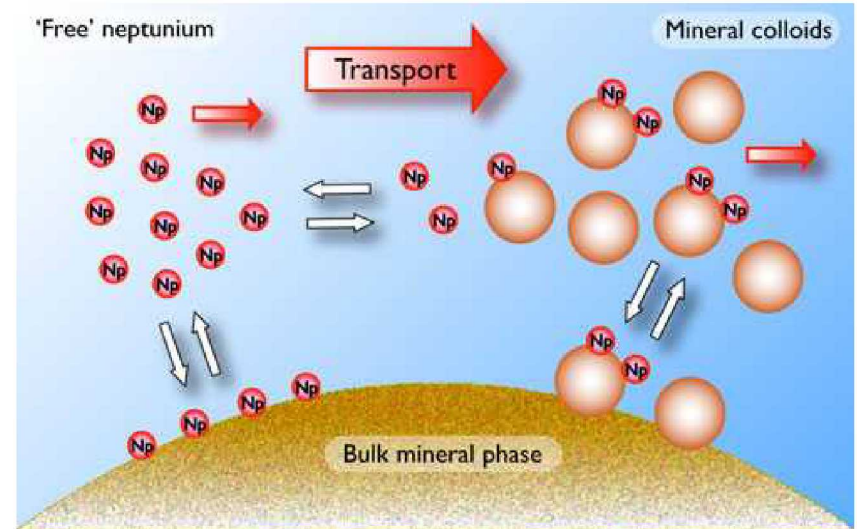
<http://tamiport.hubpages.com/hub/Cell-Biology-Differences-Between-Prokaryotic-and-Eukaryotic-Cells#slide2150310>



# Colloid-facilitated radionuclide transport



<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cumbria-21253673>



<https://eesa.lbl.gov/radioactive-contamination-over-geologic-time/>

## Key radionuclides:

Pu-239, Th-230, Am-241 - Strong interaction (colloids)

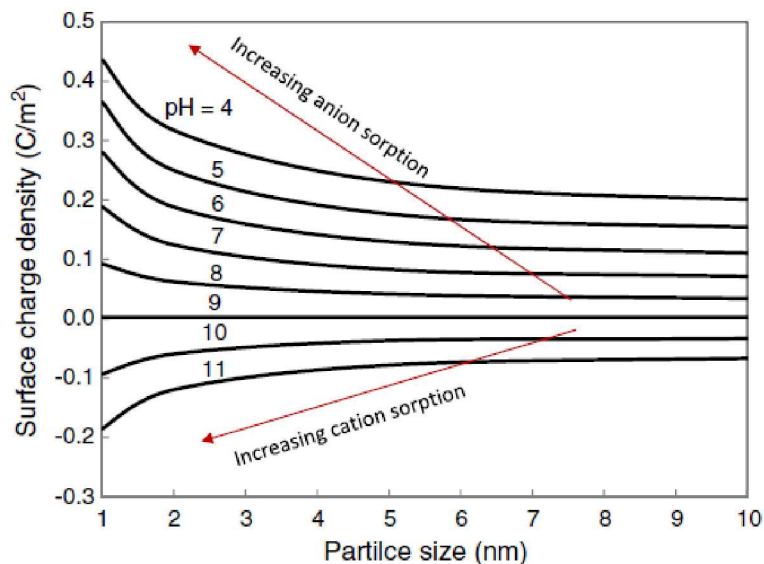
U-238, Np-237 - Moderate interaction

I-129, Tc-99 - Weak interaction (anions)

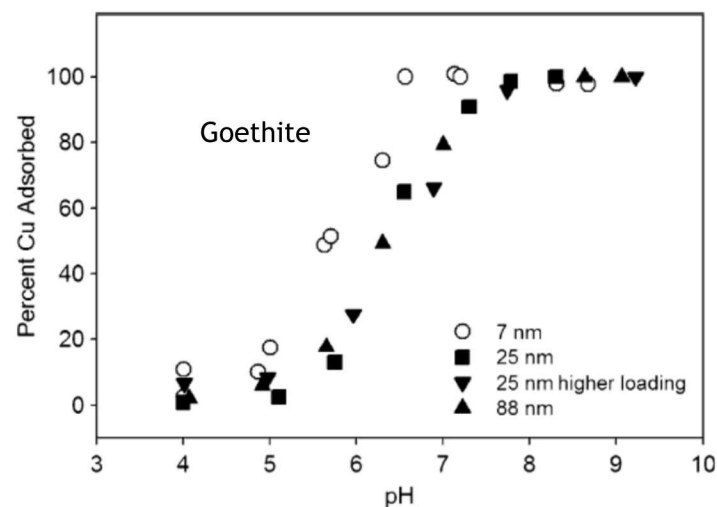
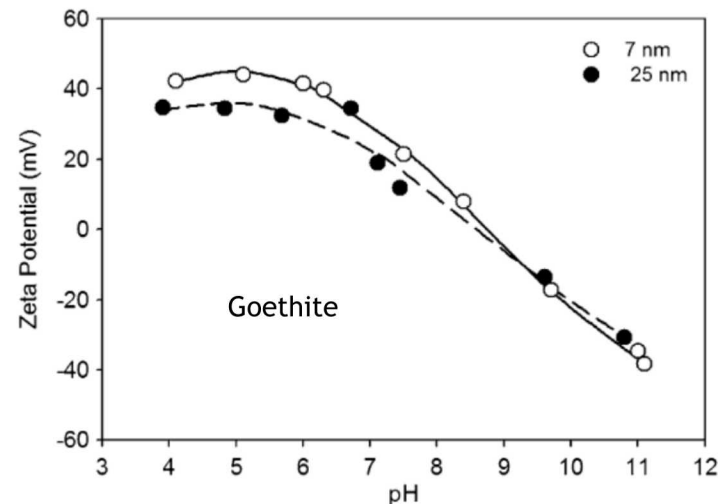
Colloids: ~1 - 1000 nm

Nanoparticles: ~1 - 100 nm

# Surface charge and sorption capability of nanoparticles

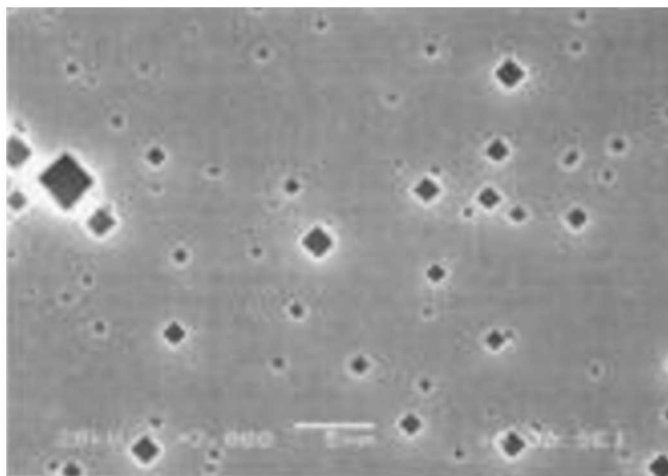
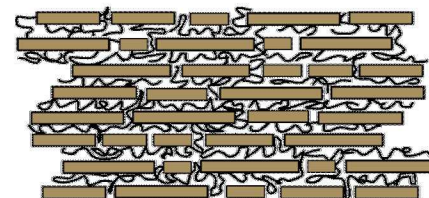
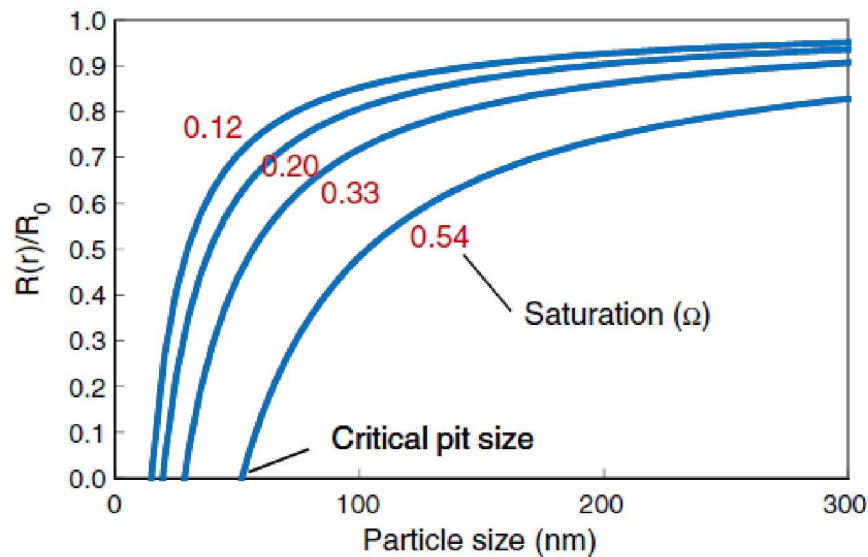


Surface charge density predicted by Monte-Carlo simulations for goethite nanoparticles (Abbas et al., 2008)



Madden et al., 2006, GCA

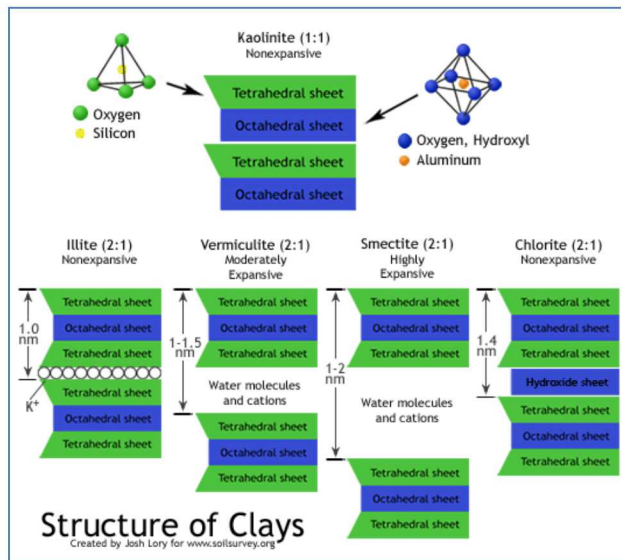
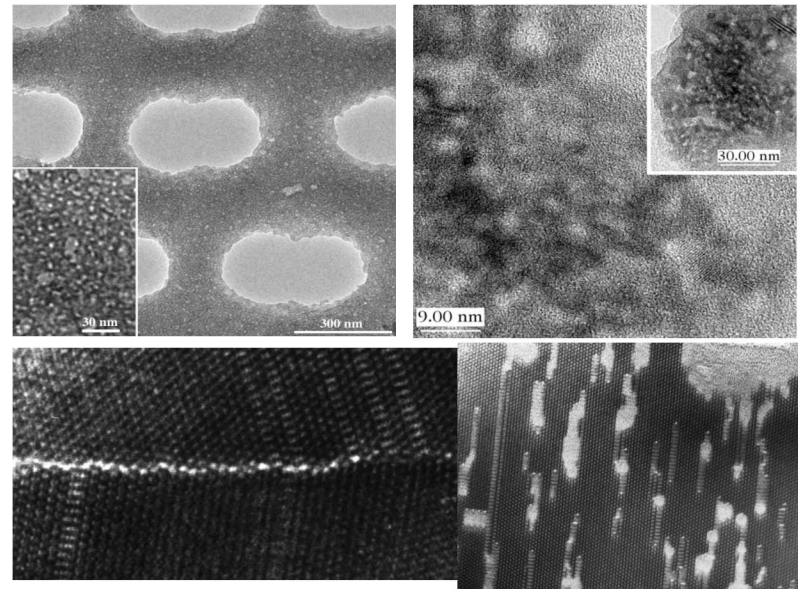
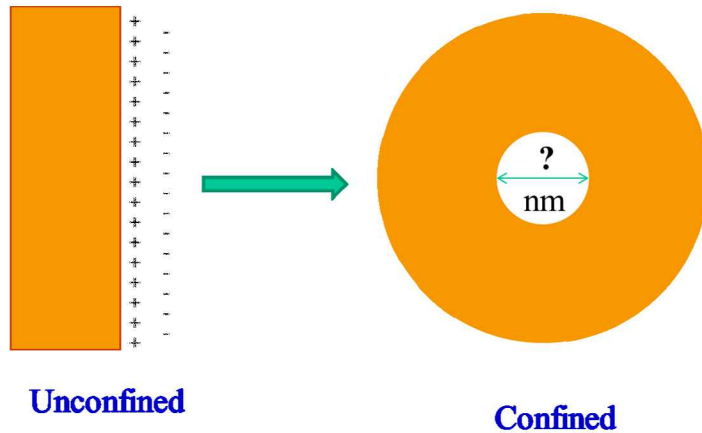
## 6 Self-inhibiting mechanism for nanoparticle dissolution



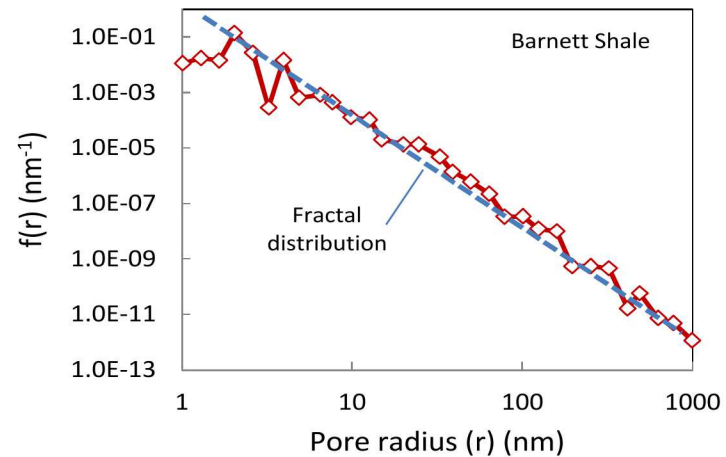
Self-inhibiting mechanism (Tang et al., 2004)

- Resistance to dissolution
- Persistence of true colloids

# Effects of Nanopore Confinement

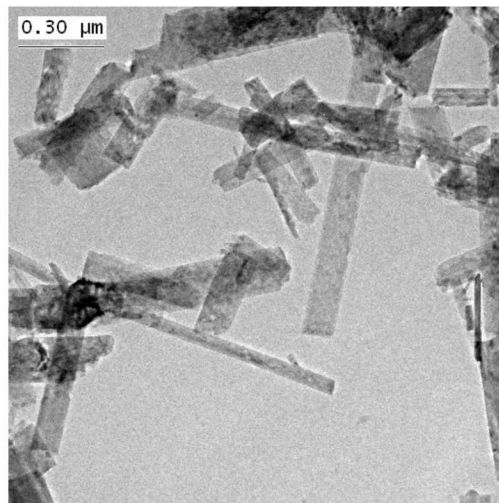
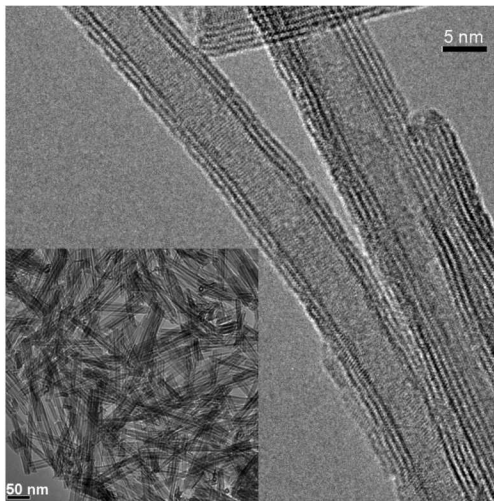


Wang et al., 2003, Geology

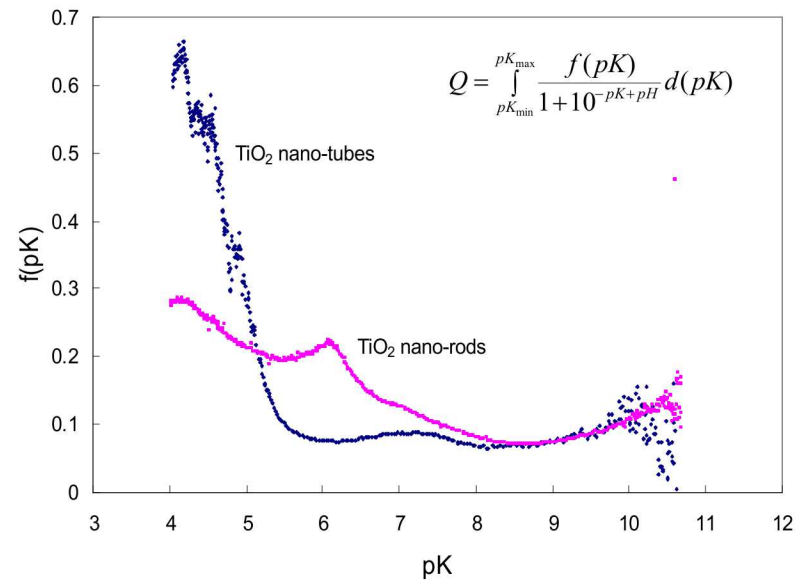
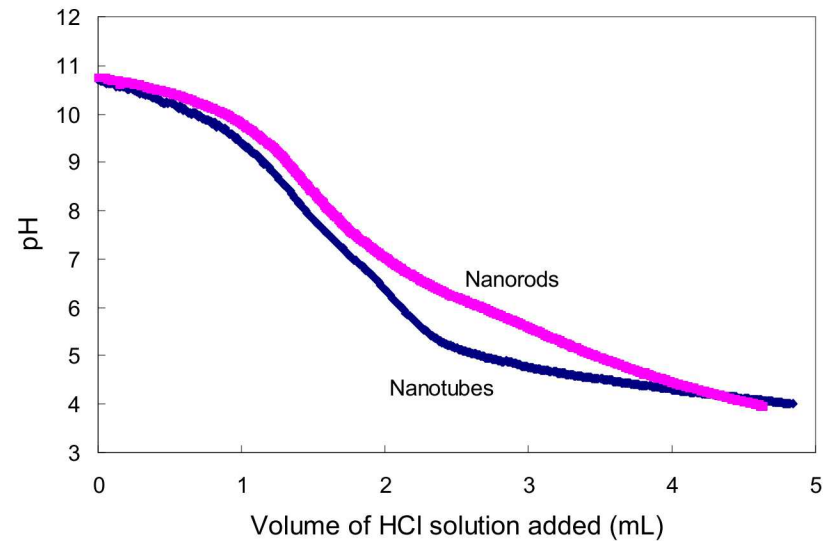


Clarkson et al. (2012)

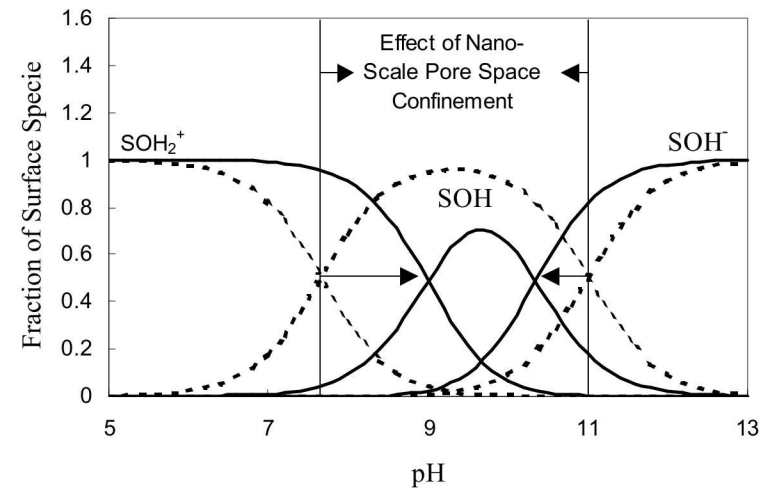
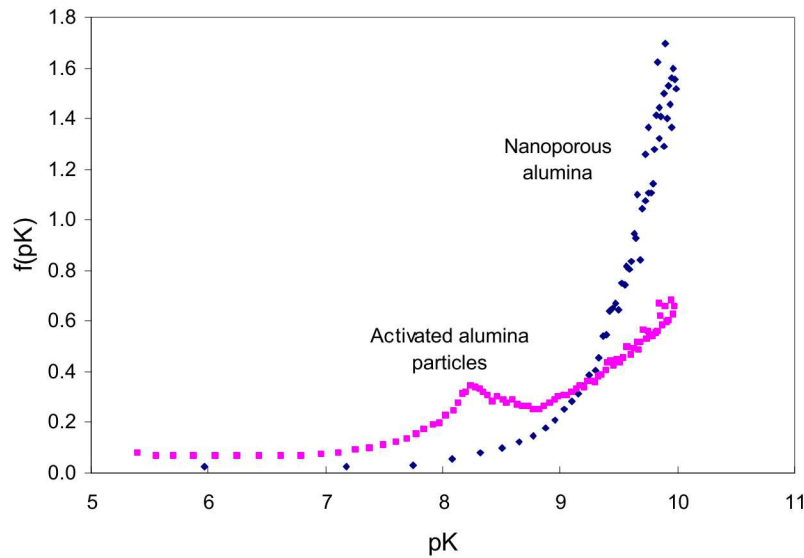
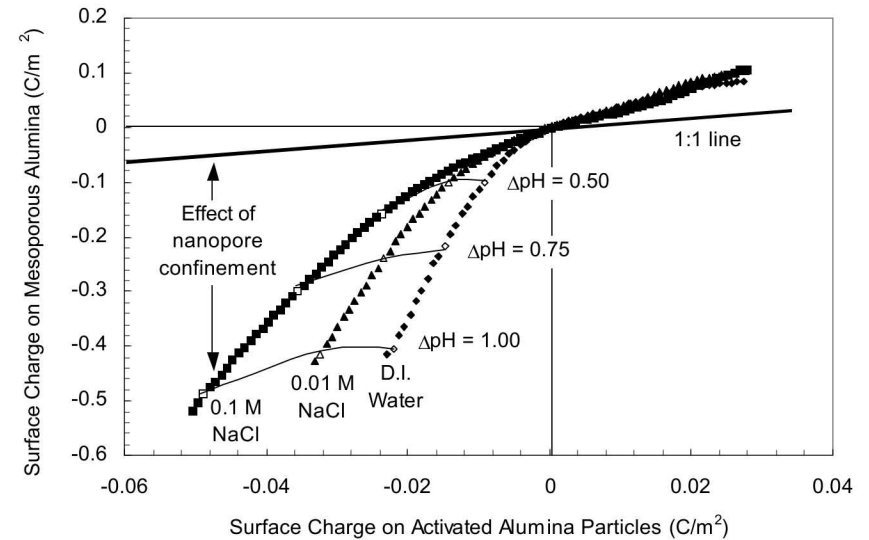
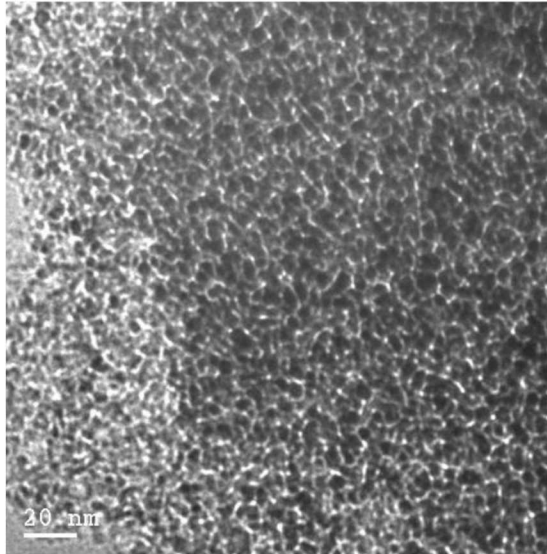
# Model Systems for Studying Nanopore Confinement



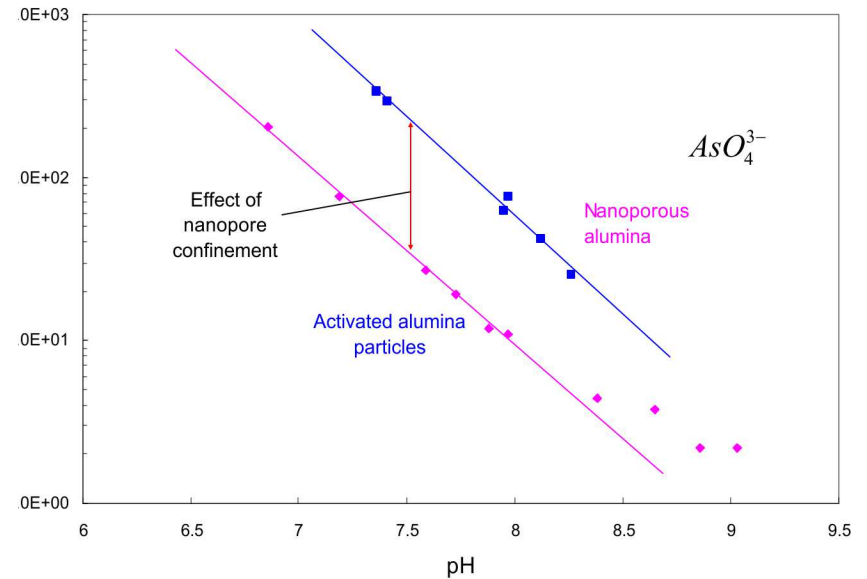
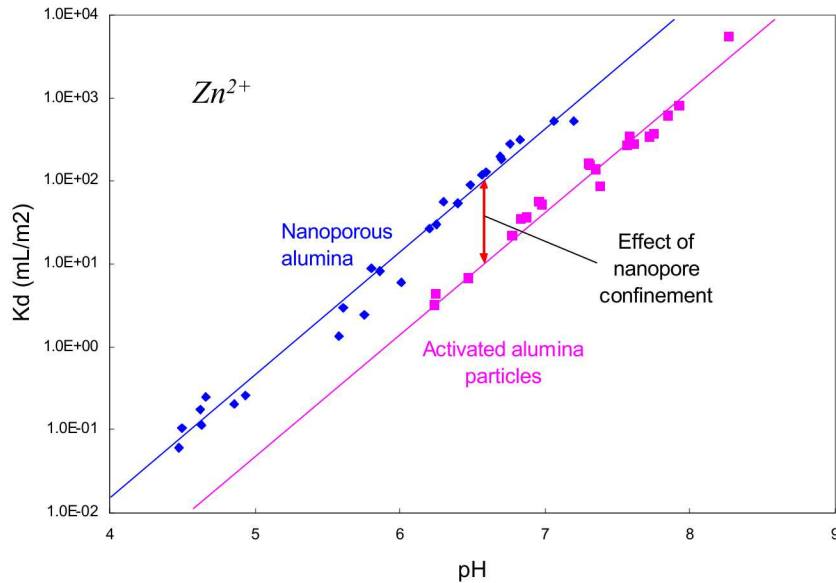
Wang et al. (2008)



# Model Systems for Studying Nanopore Confinement (cont.)

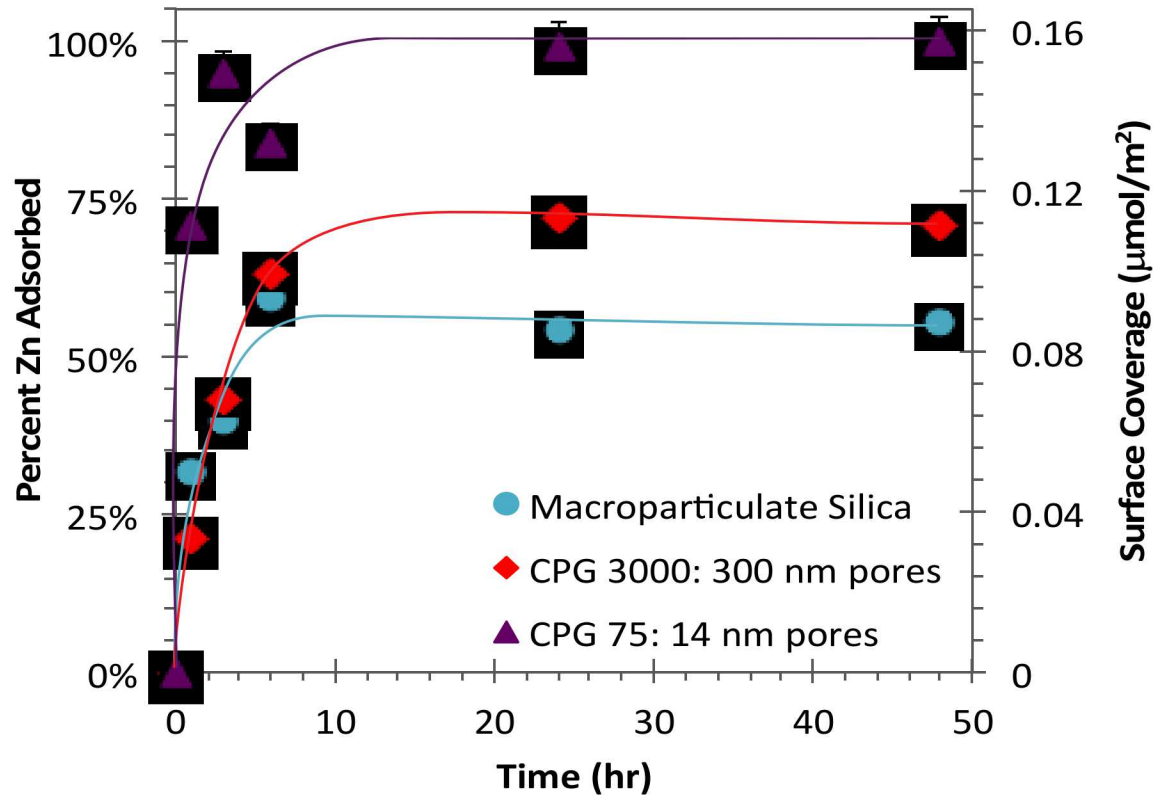


# Nanoconfinement and Ion Sorption

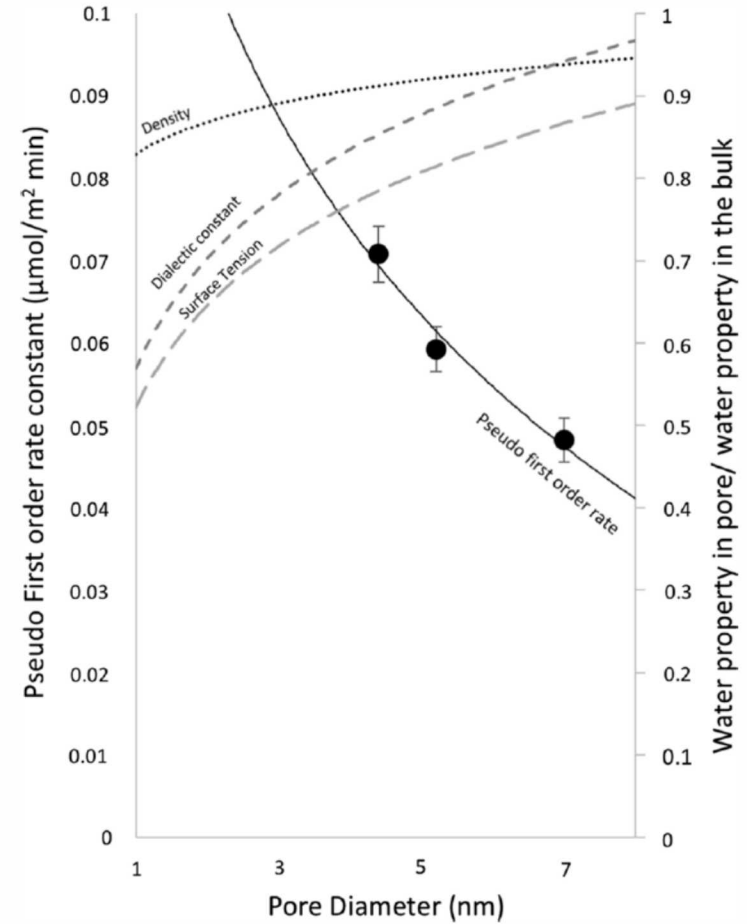
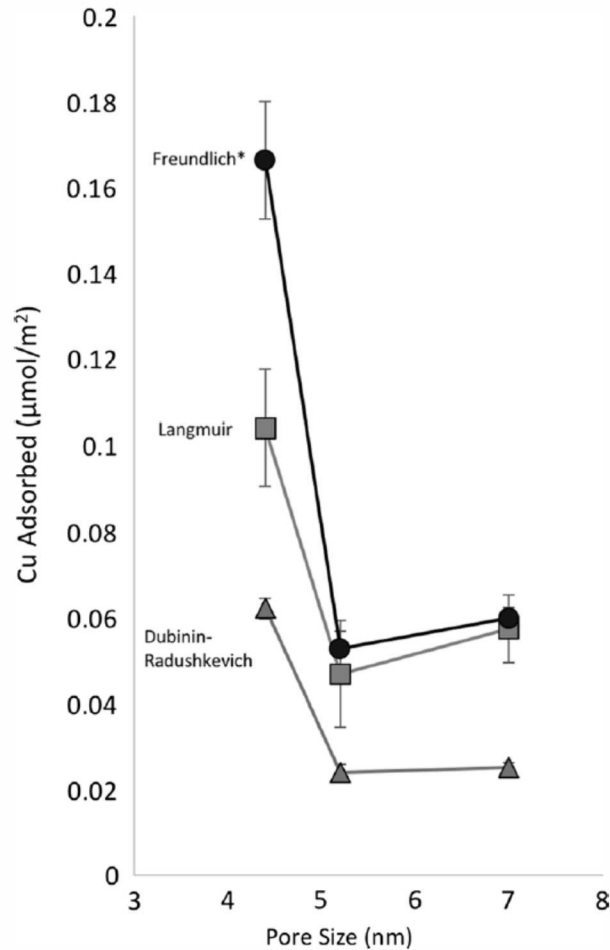


Nanopore confinement enhances ion sorption onto a solid-water interface for both cations and anions.

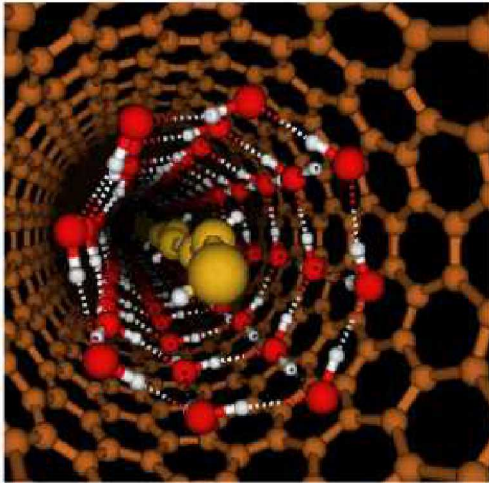
# $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ sorption on to controlled pore glass (Nelson et al., 2014)



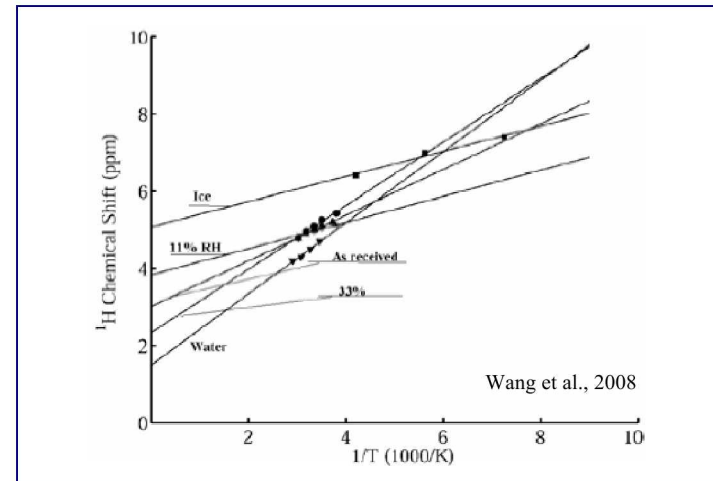
# Cu(II) sorption onto mesoporous silica (Knight et al., 2018)



# Effect of Nanopore Confinement on Water

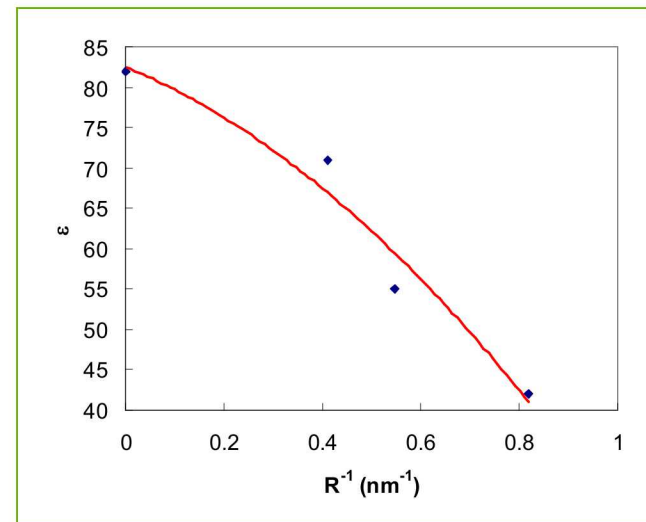
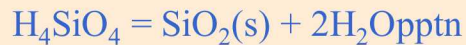


Kolesnikov et al., 2004



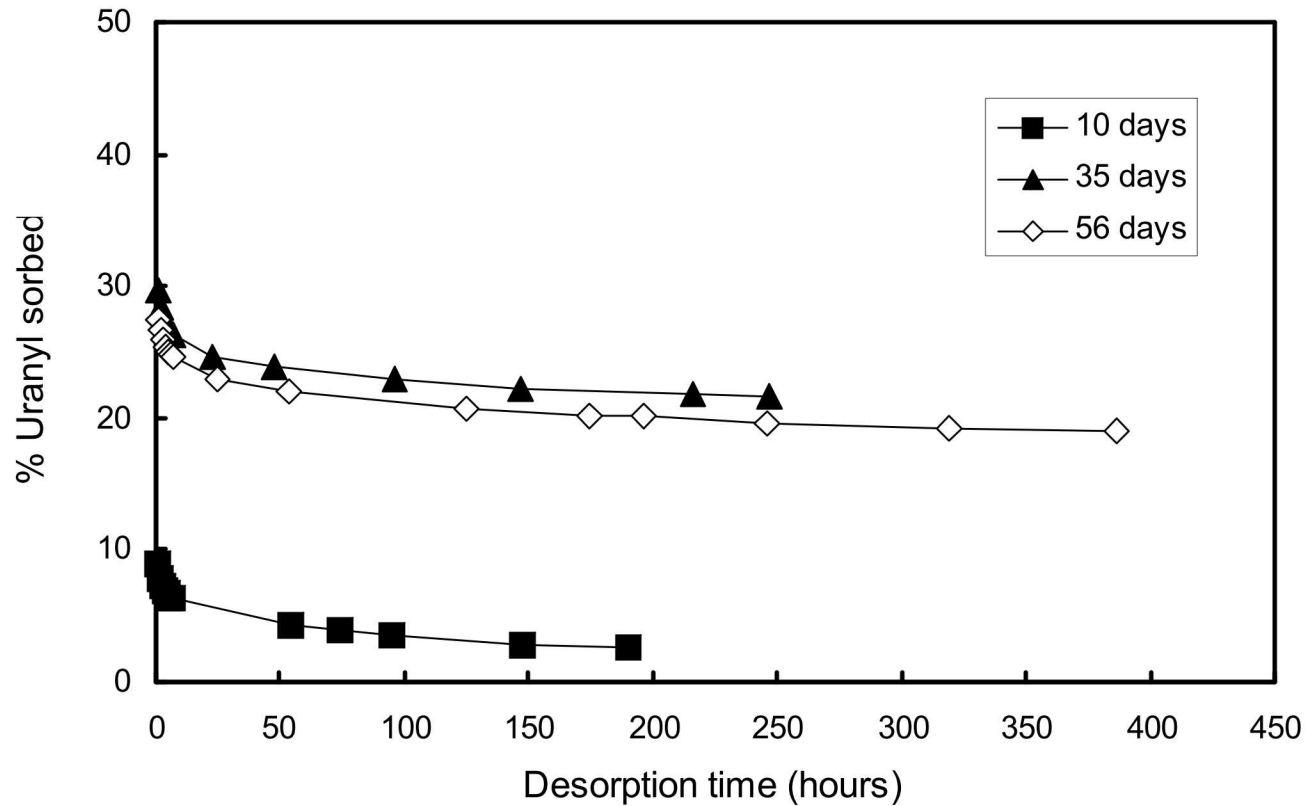
## Postulations:

Water molecules in nanopores are more restrained.



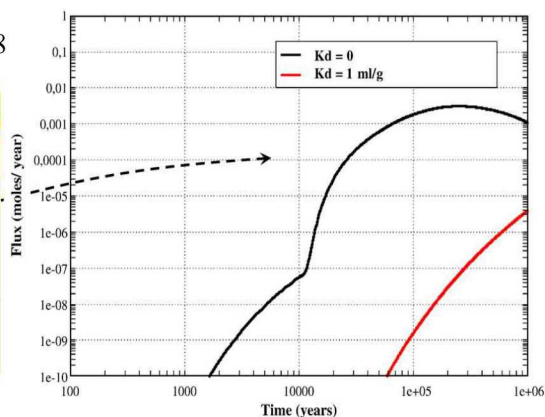
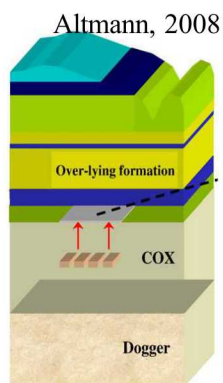
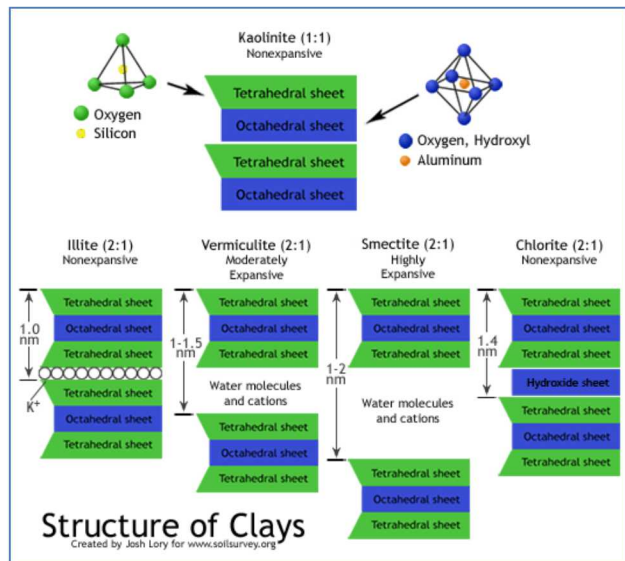
Senapati & Chandra, 2001, J. Phys. Chem.

# Uranyl Desorption from Synthetic Porous Goethite

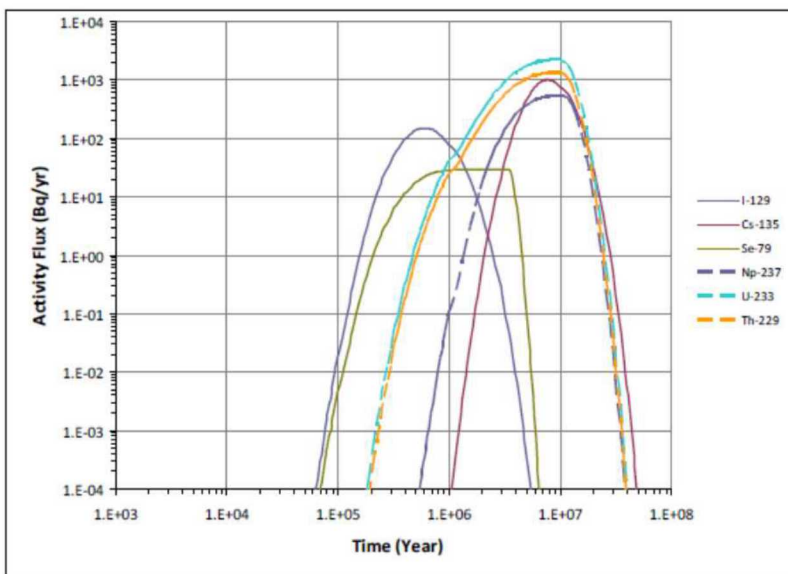


Wang et al., 2003, Geology

# Can an anion such as iodide get into interlayers of clay materials?



| Clay Mineral                                        | Column $K_D$ Value (mL/g) | Batch $K_D$ Value (mL/g) | Ref.                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Opalinus (Illite)                                   | 0.008-0.02                |                          | Van Loon et al., 2003    |
| Montmorillonite                                     | 0.57                      |                          | Sato et al., 1992        |
| Callovo-Oxfordian (Interstratified illite/smectite) |                           | 0.15-0.37                | Bazer-Bachi et al., 2006 |
| Illite                                              |                           | 27.7                     | Kaplan et al., 2000      |
| Montmorillonite                                     |                           | -0.33                    | Kaplan et al., 2000      |

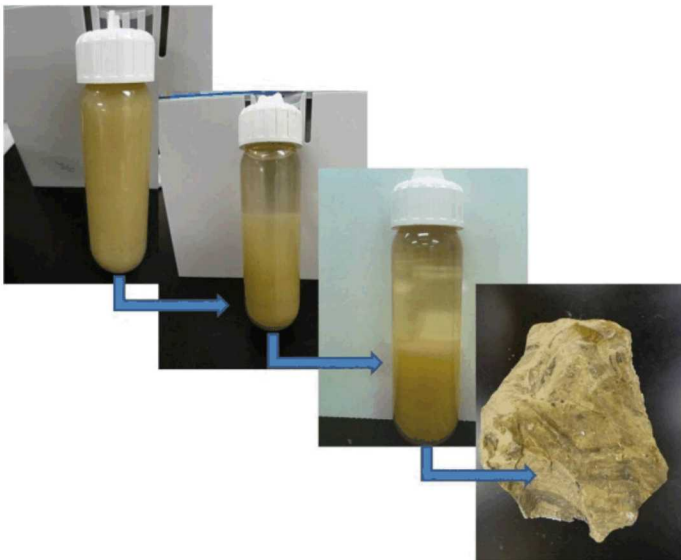


Generic clay repository

## 7 clays under

**consideration:** All clays obtained from the clay bank repository (Purdue Univ.)

- Kaolinite
- Ripidolite
- Illite
- Illite/Smectite
- Montmorillonite
- Palygorskite
- Sepiolite



Miller et al. (2015)

## Sorption experiments:

- **N<sub>2</sub> BET (external surface)**
- **Methylene Blue (MB) (total surface including interlayer)**
  - Na-exchanged clays
  - Variable amounts of MB were added until clay surface was saturated
- **BaCl<sub>2</sub> Exchange (total surface including interlayer)**
  - Excess of barium displaces native cations
  - Measure native cation release
- **Iodide**
  - Solid:Liquid ratio: 100g/L
  - No specific pH control; 'natural' pH of clay
  - Seven day reaction time

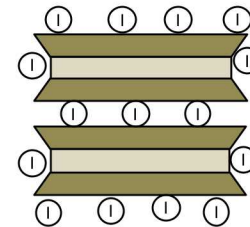
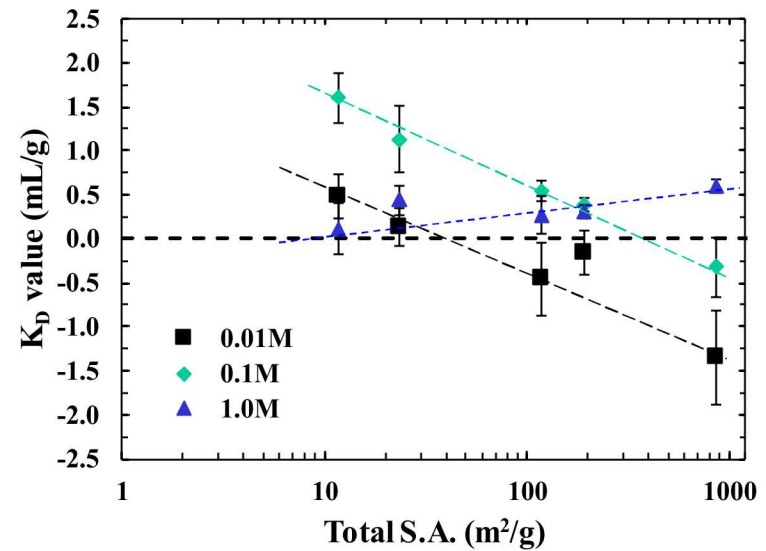
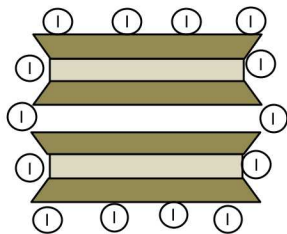
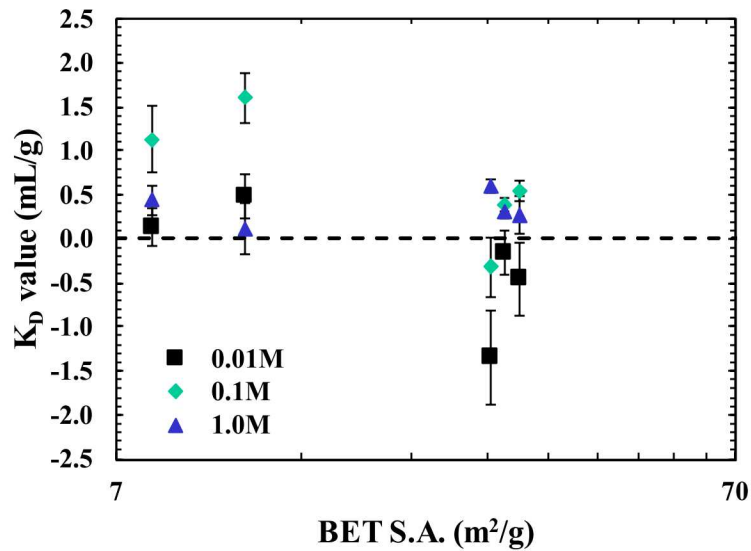
| Concentration (M) | NaCl | NaBr | KCl |
|-------------------|------|------|-----|
| 1.0               | X    |      |     |
| 0.1               | X    | X    | X   |
| 0.01              | X    |      |     |

Iodide uptake is dependent on ionic composition of swamping electrolyte.

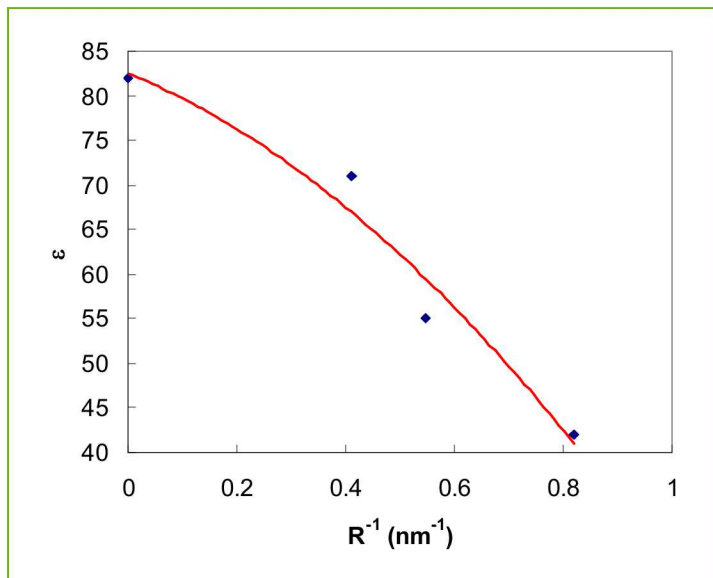
|         |   |                 | CEC meq/100g | K <sub>D</sub> [mL/g] (Std. Dev.) |              |              |
|---------|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|         |   |                 |              | NaCl                              | NaBr         | KCl          |
| Layered | { | Kaolinite       | 4.61         | 1.61 (0.28)                       | 0.02 (0.63)  | -0.01 (0.22) |
|         |   | Ripidolite      | 6.03         | 1.13 (0.38)                       | -0.16 (0.72) | -0.31 (0.17) |
|         |   | Illite          | 27.61        | 0.54 (0.12)                       | 0.13 (0.002) | -0.50 (0.24) |
|         |   | Illite.Smectite | 30.39        | 0.38 (0.08)                       | -0.01 (0.11) | -0.49 (0.11) |
|         |   | Montmorillonite | 151.92       | -0.32 (0.35)                      | -0.58 (0.07) | -1.69 (0.90) |
| Fibrous | { | Sepiolite       | 8.98         | 0.01 (0.28)                       | 0.79 (0.14)  | 0.11 (0.30)  |
|         |   | Palygorskite    | 29.22        | 0.24 (0.30)                       | 1.26 (0.05)  | 0.99 (0.17)  |

All electrolytes at 0.1M

$K_D$  values trend with total surface area, suggesting interactions with negatively charged surfaces.



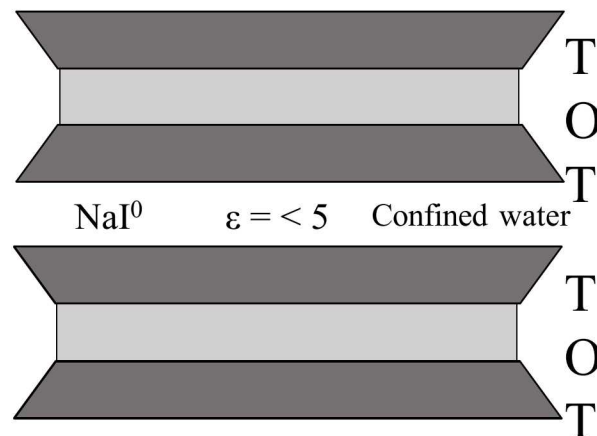
Data is consistent with ion pair formation caused by reduced dielectric constant of confined water.



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

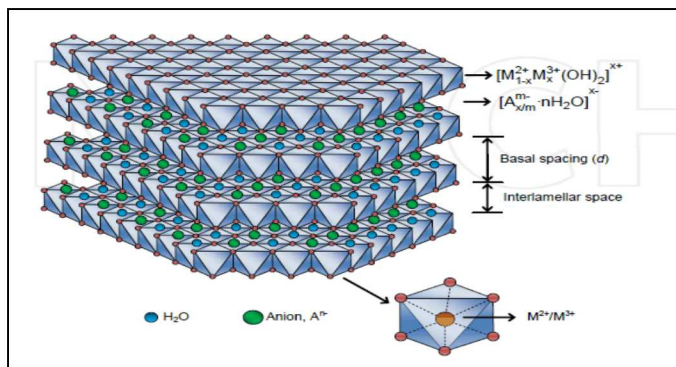
Bulk water  
 $\epsilon = 78.5$

$\text{Na}^+$   
 $\text{I}^-$

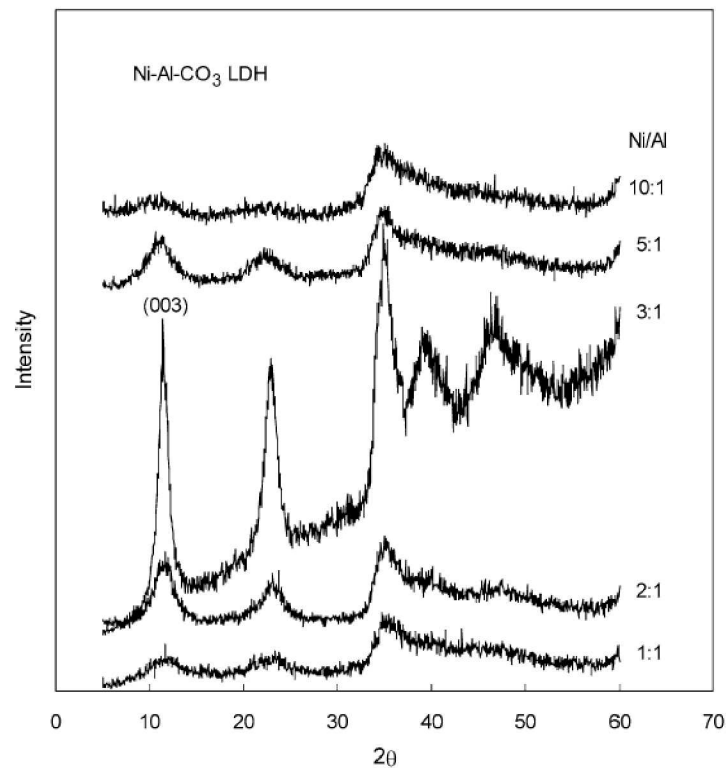
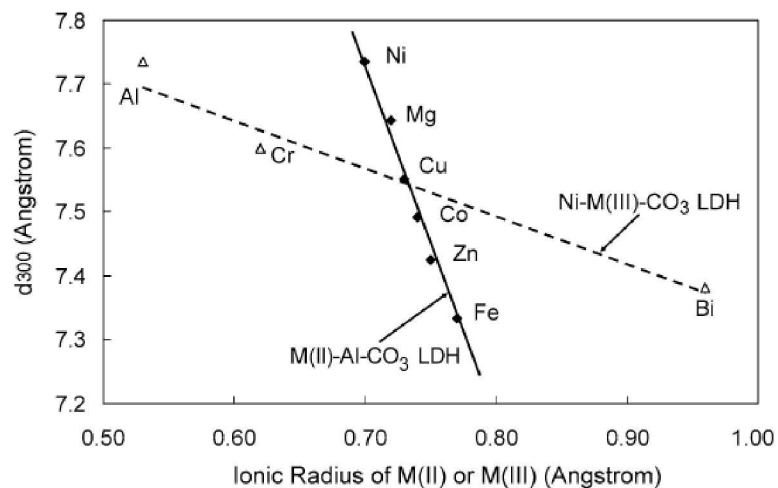




# Manipulation of Layered Double Hydroxide (LDH) Structure

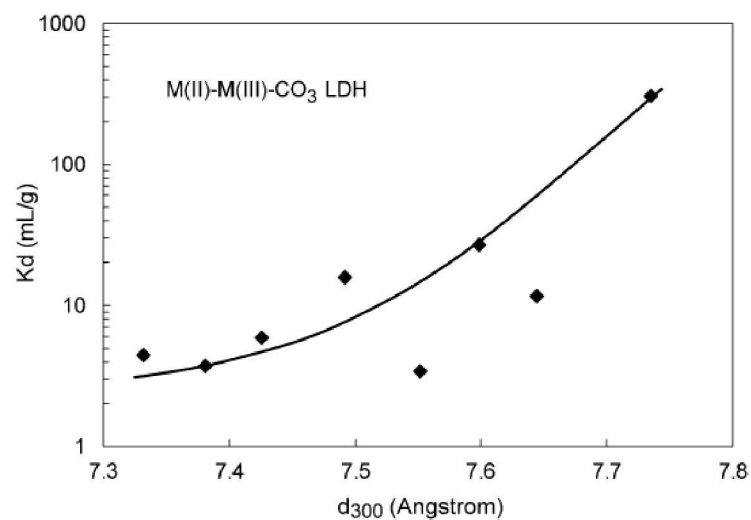
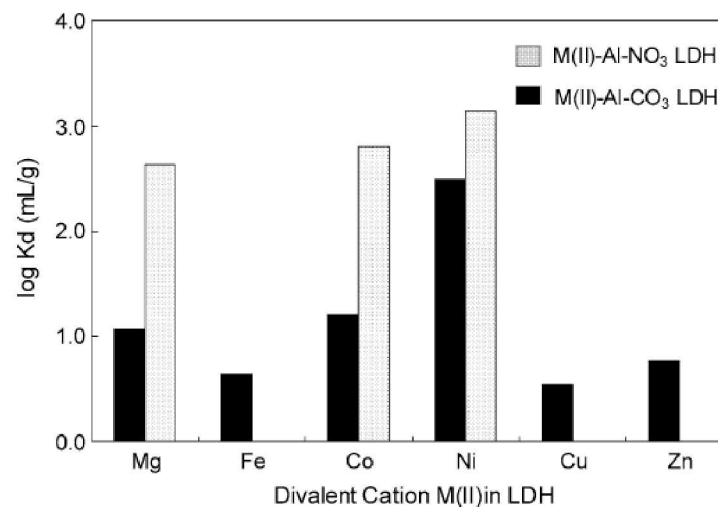
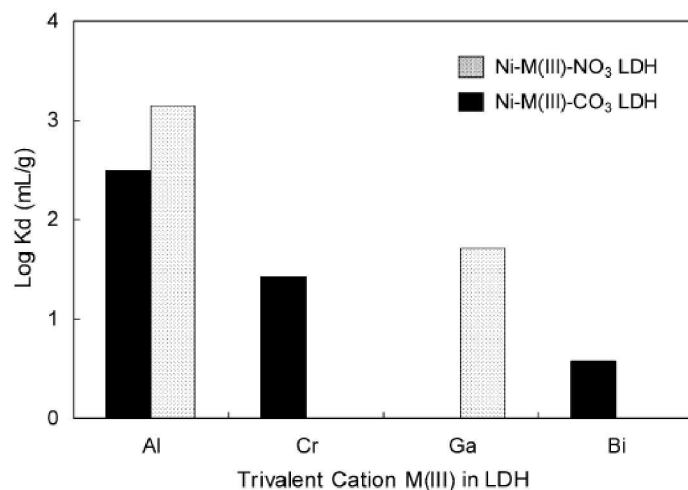


Tronto et al.  
(2013)



Wang and Gao (2006)

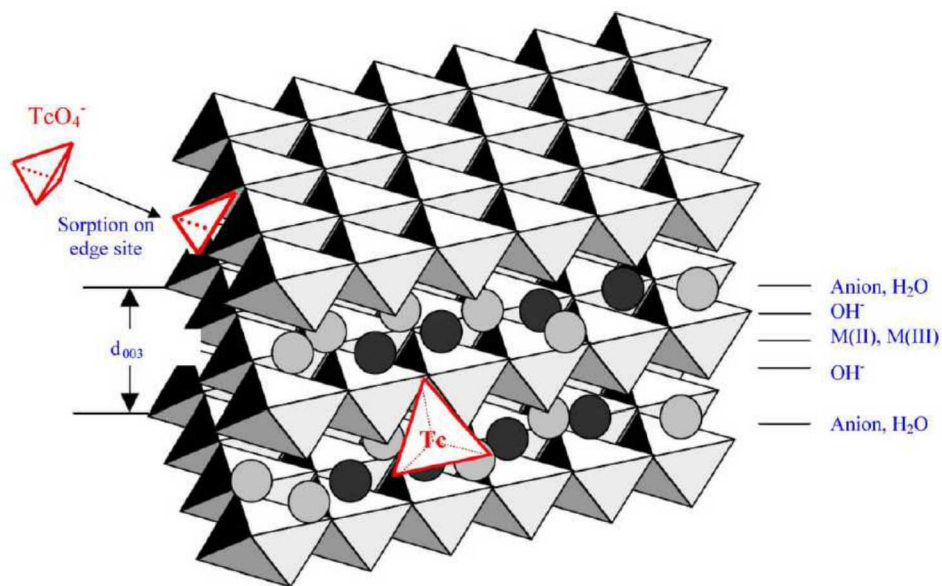
# Pertechnetate Sorption on LDHs



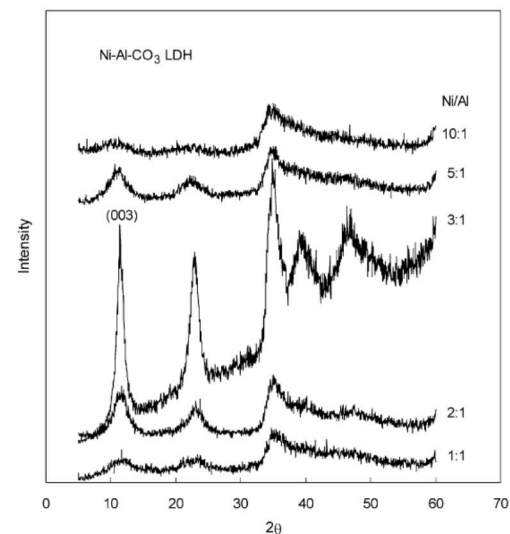
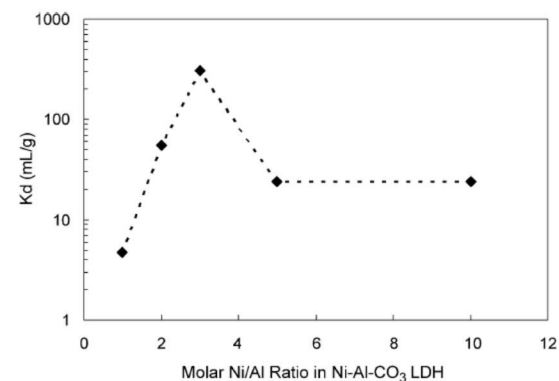
Further expansion of interlayer spacing (by intercalating SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) diminishes sorption (Kd = ~0).

Wang and Gao (2006)

# Pertechnetate Sorption on LDHs (cont.)



Wang and Gao (2006)



# Concluding remarks

## Emergent properties

- Novel mineral-fluid interface chemistry may emerge when the dimension of one of the phases is reduced to nanometers.

## Texture matters!

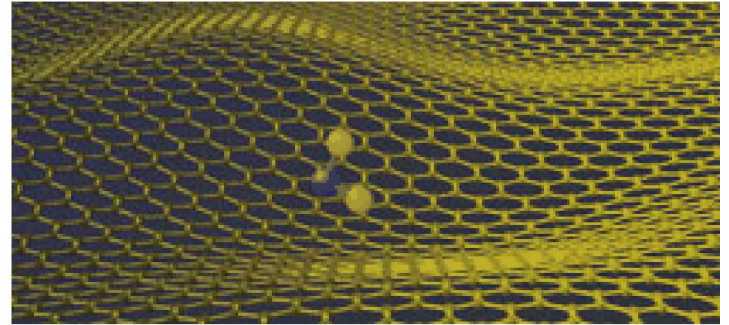
- Measurements on “isolated”, unconfined surfaces may not be representative of actual geologic materials.

## Perspectives

- Progress in nanoscience & technology
- Emergence of new properties (~40 identified in Wang 2014)

## Geochemical implications

- New perspectives for understanding fundamental geochemical processes
  - Shale gas/oil
  - Nanofluidics and radionuclide transport in the subsurface
- Development of novel materials for environmental applications
  - New generation of buffer materials for waste isolation



Graphene sensor

(Hadlington, 2008)

# Acknowledgments

## Contributors:

A. Miller  
H. Gao  
Ed Matteo  
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