

# Modern Methods in Heterogeneous Catalysis Research

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## Diffuse Reflectance IR and UV-vis Spectroscopy

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# Outline

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## 1. Introduction & Challenges

## 2. Fundamentals of Transmission and Reflection Spectroscopy

- Lambert-Beer law
- Scattering and reflection phenomena
- Schuster-Kubelka-Munk theory

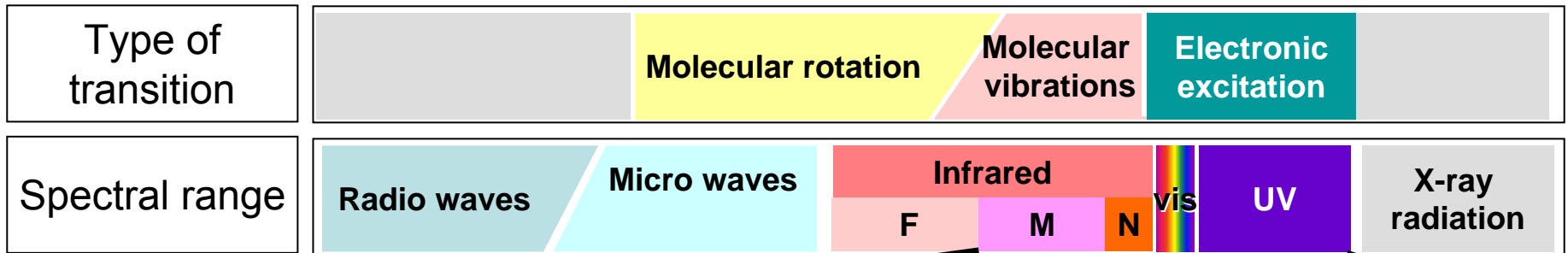
## 3. Experimental

- Integrating spheres
- Mirror optics
- Fiber optics

## 4. Applications

- Bulk structure
- Surface species / functional groups
- Probing surface sites
- Reaction intermediates and products
- Gas phase analysis

# MIR - NIR – vis – UV



	Mid IR (MIR)	Near IR (NIR)	UV-vis
<b>Wavenumber / <math>\text{cm}^{-1}</math></b>	3300 to 250	12500 to 3300	50000 to 12500
<b>Wavelength / nm</b>	3000 to (25000-40000)	(700-1000) to 3000	200 to 800
<b>Energy / eV</b>			6.2 to 1.5

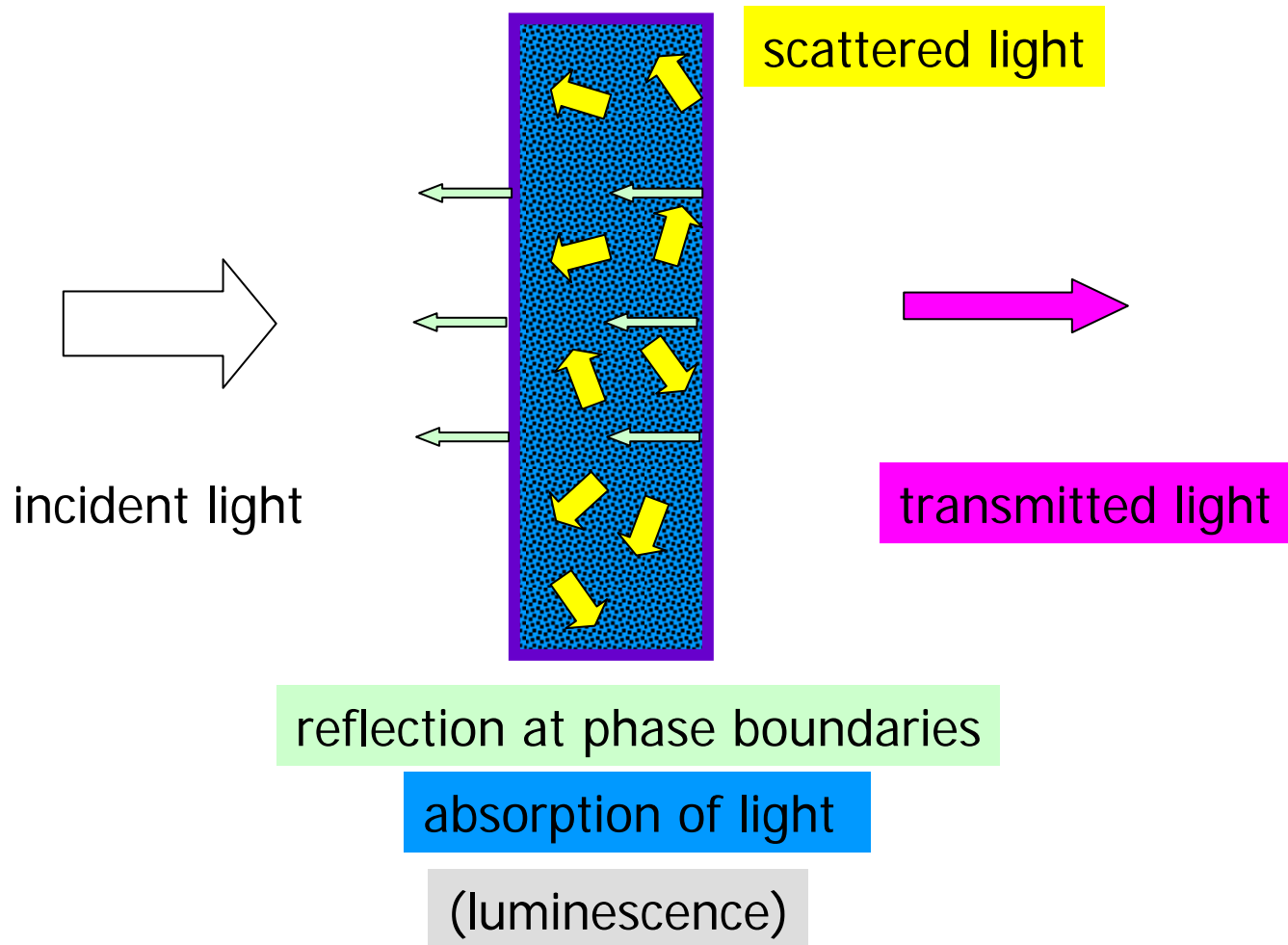
➤ electronic transitions, vibrations (rotations)

# Spectroscopy with Powder Samples



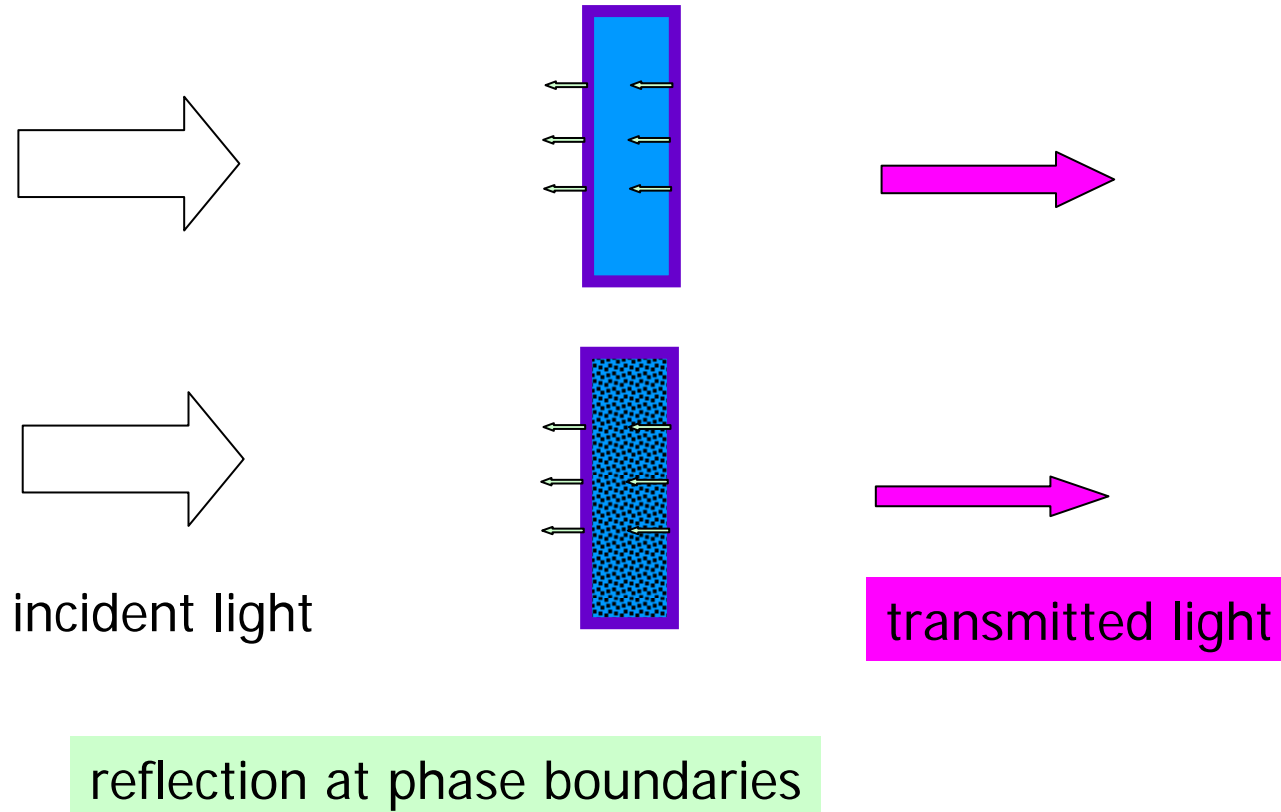
- How to measure spectra of a powderous solid?
- Absorption as a function of wavelength, qualitatively and quantitatively

# Interaction of Light with Sample



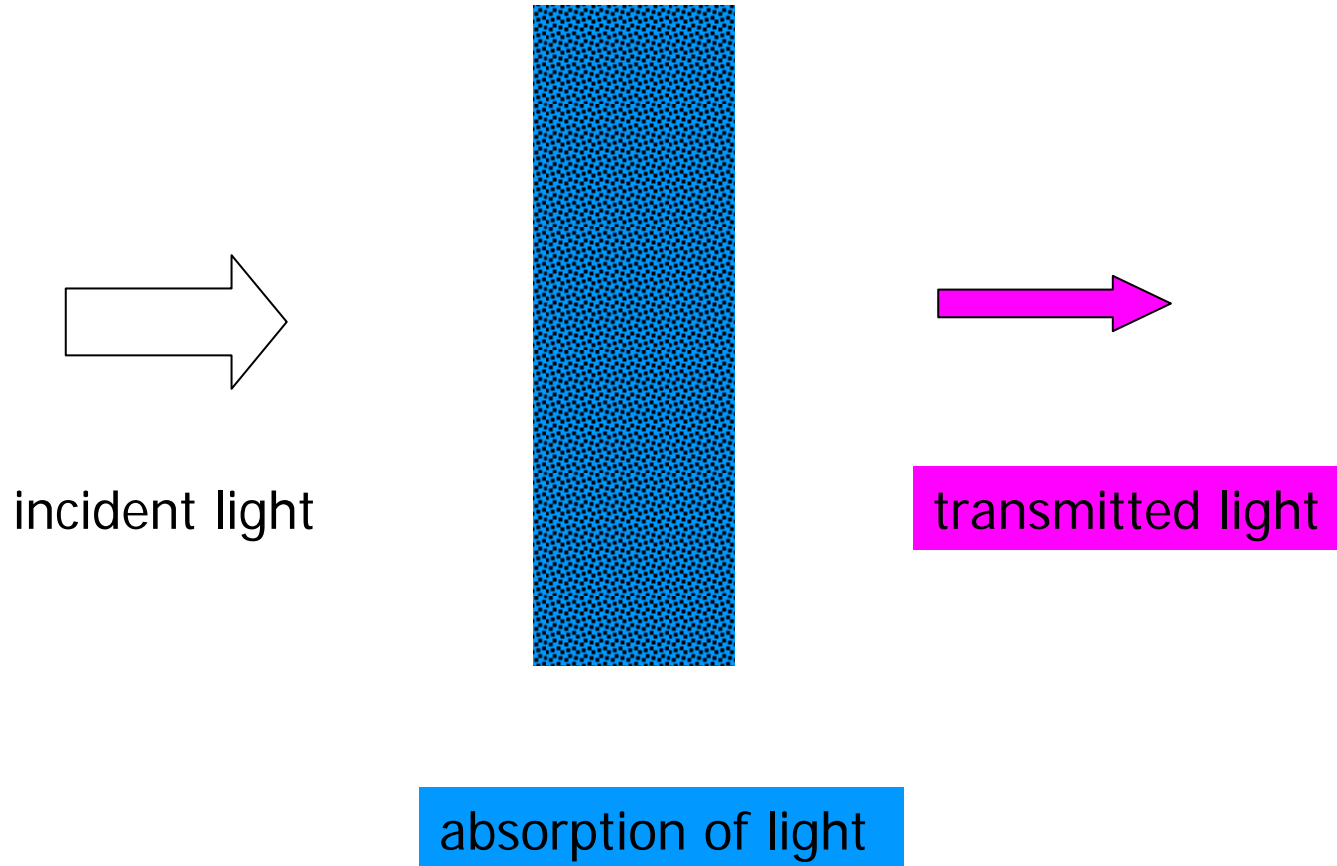
- how to extract absorption properties from transmitted light?
- how to deal with reflection and scattering?

# How to Deal with Phase Boundary Reflection



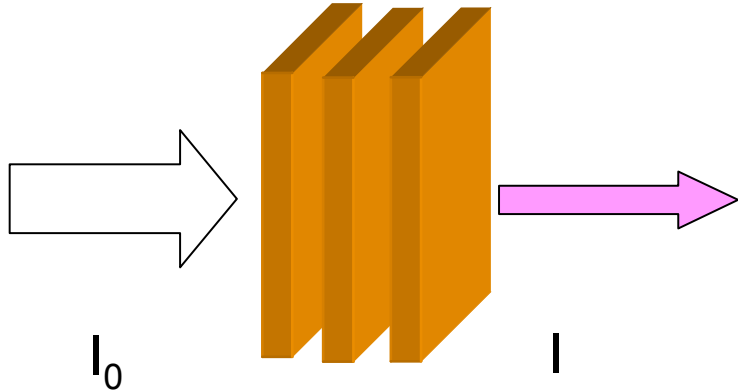
- fraction of reflected light can be eliminated through reference measurement with same materials (cuvette+ solvent)

# Interaction of Light with Sample



- Absorption properties from transmitted light?

# Transmitted Light and Sample Absorption Properties



$$\tau = \frac{I}{I_0}$$

$\tau$ : transmittance

$$dI = -I k dl = -I \kappa c dl$$

decrease of  $I$  in an infinitesimally thin layer

$c$ : molar concentration of absorbing species [ $\text{mol}/\text{m}^3$ ]  
 $\kappa$ : the molar napierian extinction coefficient [ $\text{m}^2/\text{mol}$ ]

$$\int_{I_0}^I \frac{dI}{I} = - \int_0^l \kappa c dl$$

separation of variables and integration  
sample thickness:  $l$

$$\ln \frac{I}{I_0} = - \kappa c l$$



# Transmitted Light and Sample Absorption Properties

$$\tau = \frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-\kappa c l} = 1 - \alpha$$

Lambert-Beer Law

$$A_e = B = \kappa c l = -\ln(\tau)$$

napierian absorbance  
*Napier-Absorbanz*

$$A_{10} = \varepsilon c l = -\log(\tau)$$

(decadic) absorbance  
*dekadische Absorbanz*  
standard spectroscopy  
software uses  $A_{10}$ !

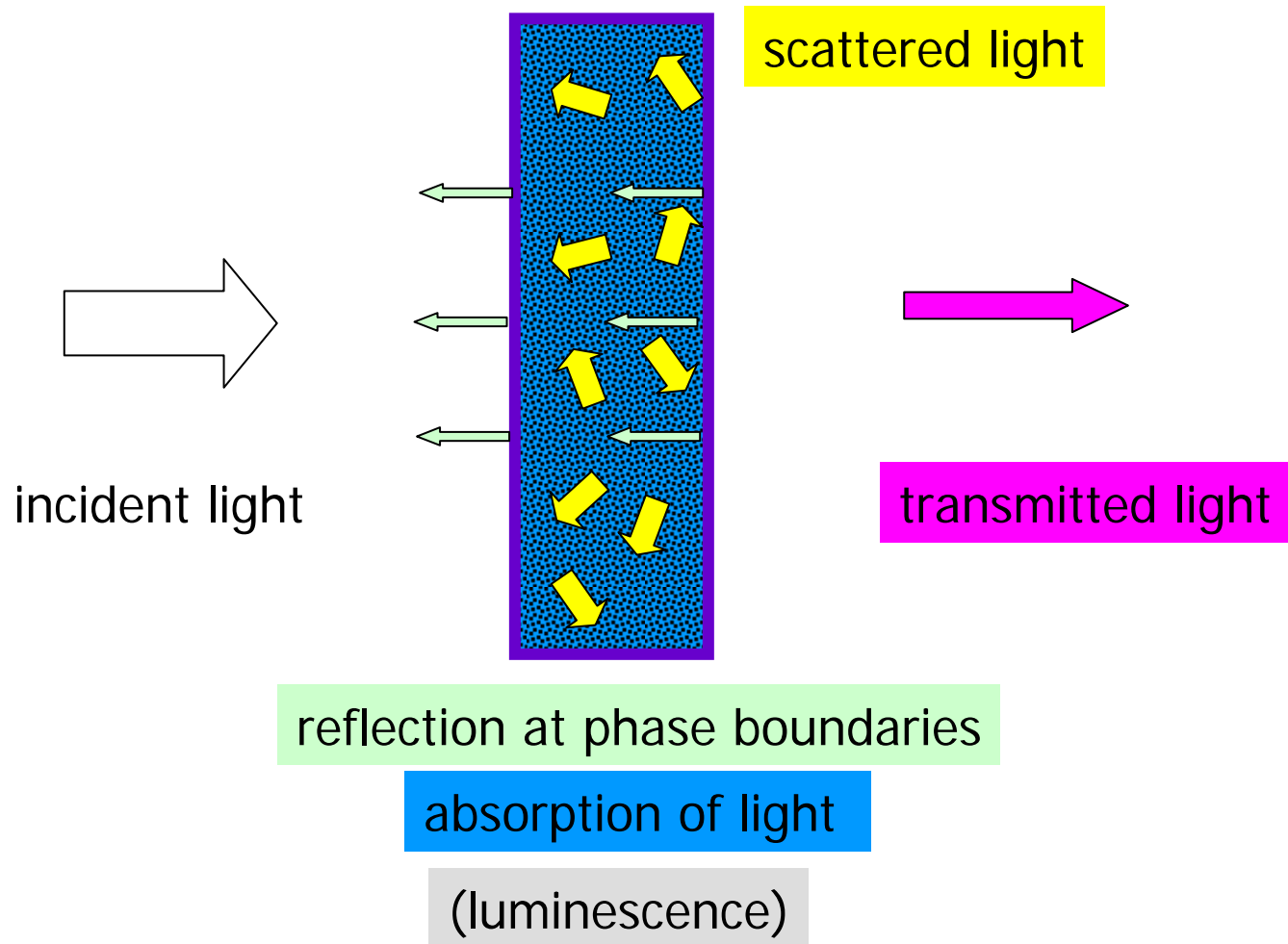
extinction E (means absorbed + scattered light)

absorbance A ( $A_{10}$  or  $A_e$ )

optical density O.D.

all these quantities are DIMENSIONLESS !!!!

# Interaction of Light with Sample



# Scattering

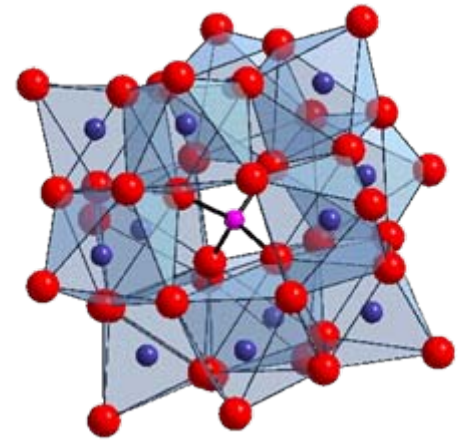
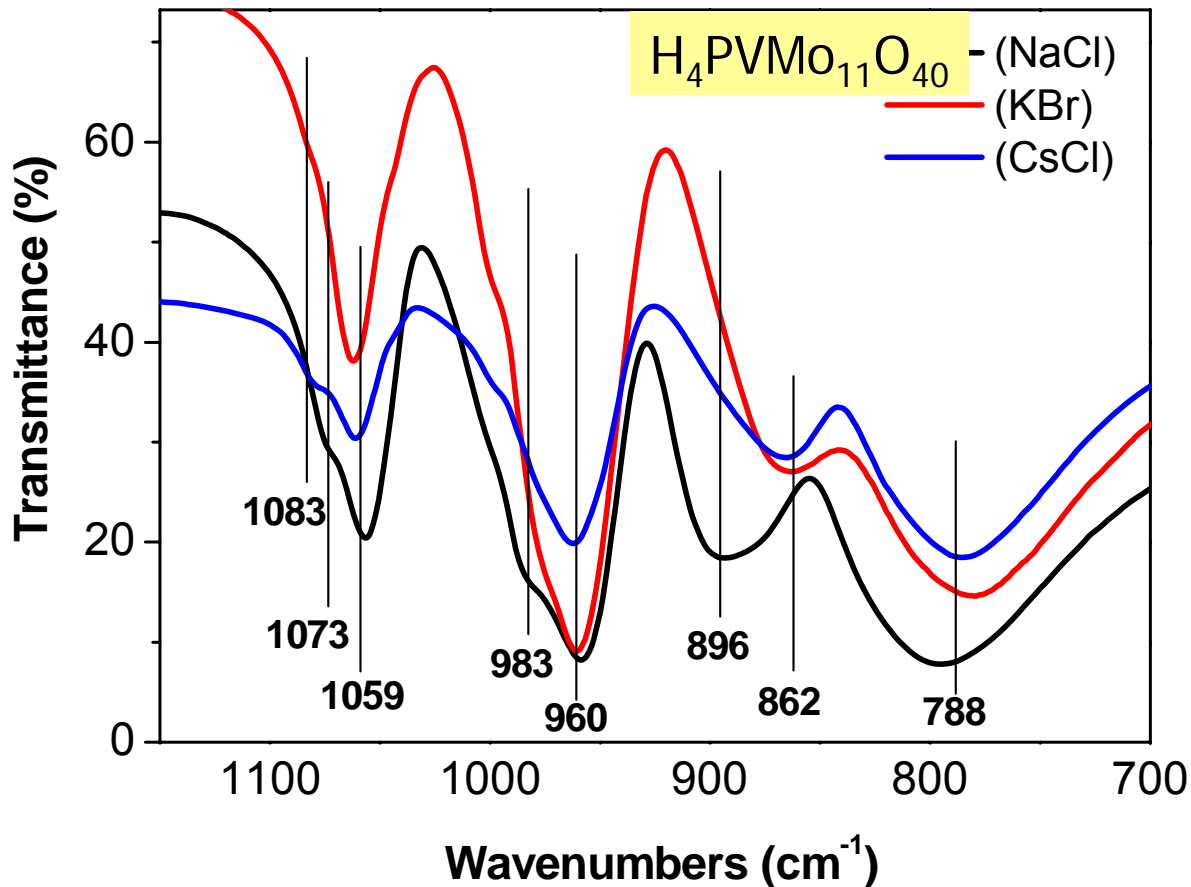
- Scattering is negligible in molecular disperse media (solutions)
- Scattering is considerable for colloids and solids when the wavelength is in the order of magnitude of the particle size

	<b>Wavenumber</b>	<b>Wavelength</b>
<b>Mid-IR (MIR)</b>	3300 to 250 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	3 to (25-40) $\mu\text{m}$
<b>Near-IR (NIR)</b>	12500 to 3300 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	(700-1000) to 3000 nm
<b>UV-vis</b>	50000 to 12500 $\text{cm}^{-1}$	200 to 800 nm

- Scattering is reduced through embedding of the particles in media with similar refractive index: KBr wafer (clear!) technique, immersion in Nujol

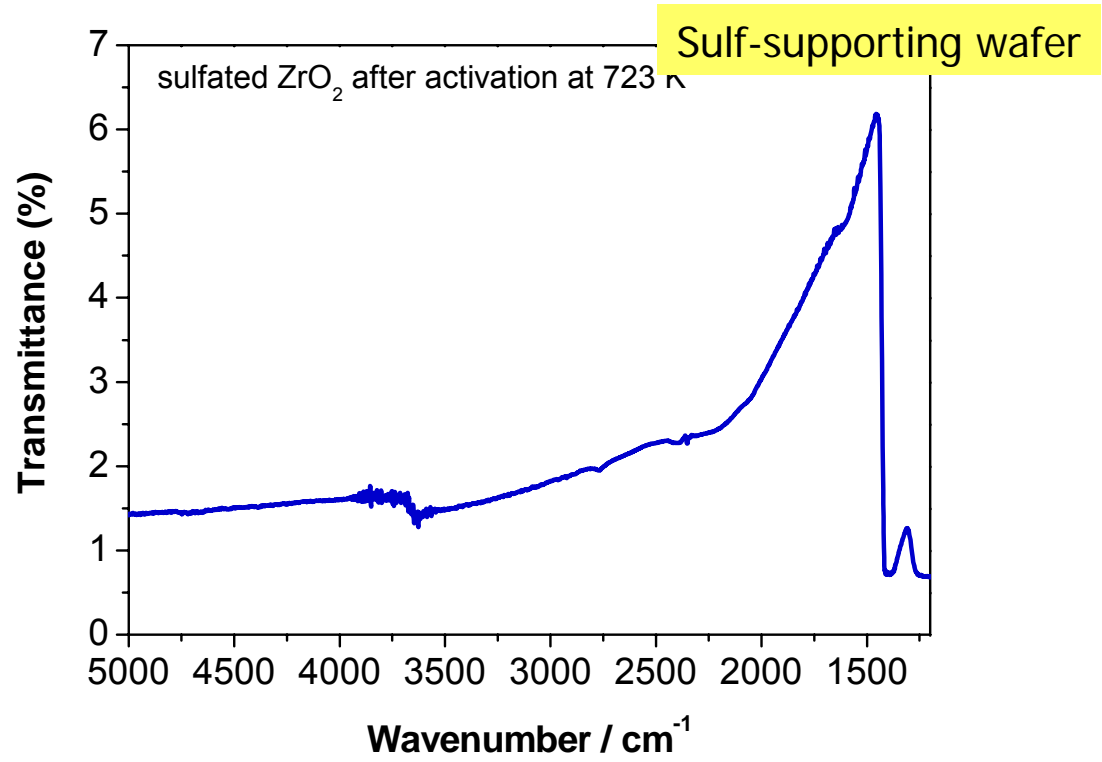


# But.....Reaction with Material Used for Embedding



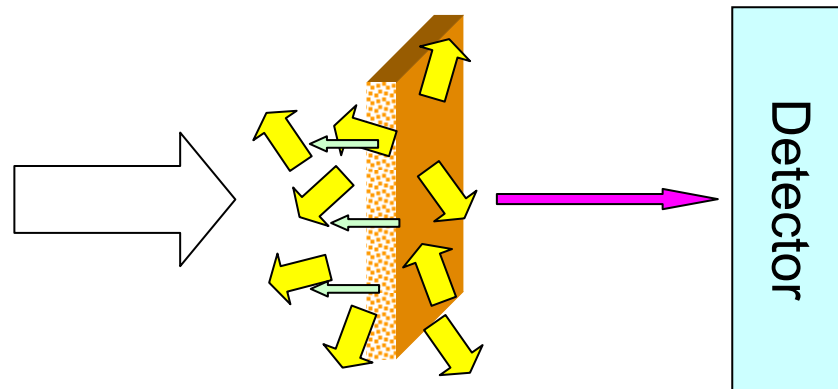
- Reaction with diluent possible
- Dilution usually not suitable for experiments at high T/ with reactive gases

# Limitations of Transmission Spectroscopy

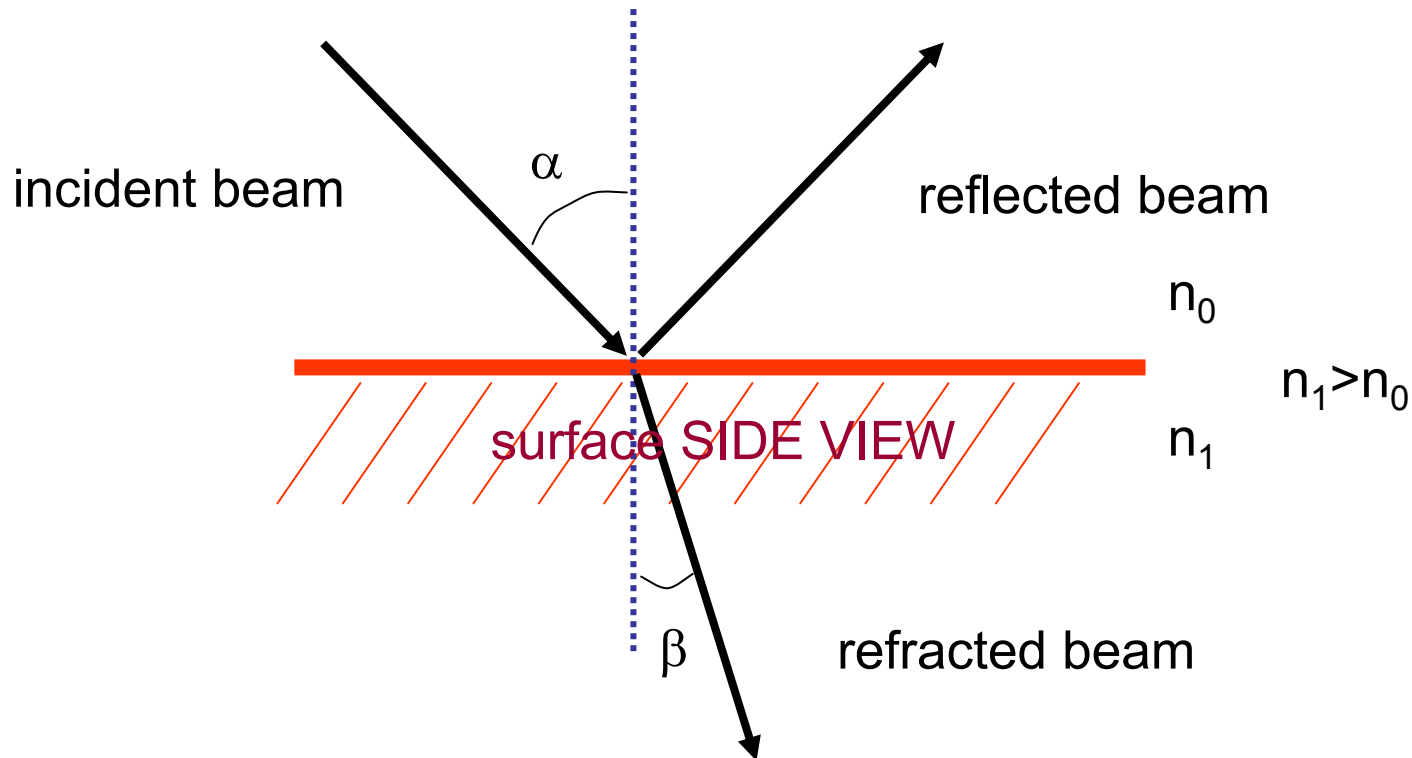


# Can We Use the Reflected Light?

- Instead of measuring the transmitted light, we could measure the reflected light
- Can we extract the absorption properties of our sample from the reflected light?

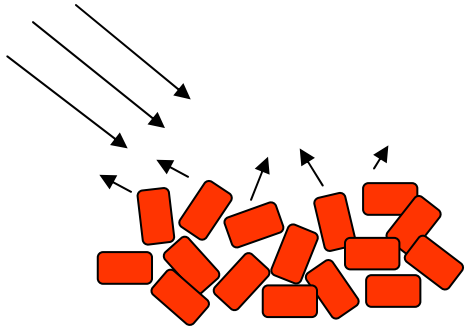


# Specular Reflection (Non-Absorbing Media)



- fraction of reflected light increases with  $\alpha$
- $\beta$  depends on  $\alpha$  and ratio of the refractive indices (Snell law)
- insignificant for non-absorbing media, for air/glass about 4%

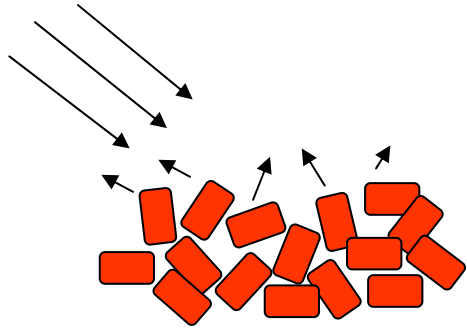
# Diffuse Reflection



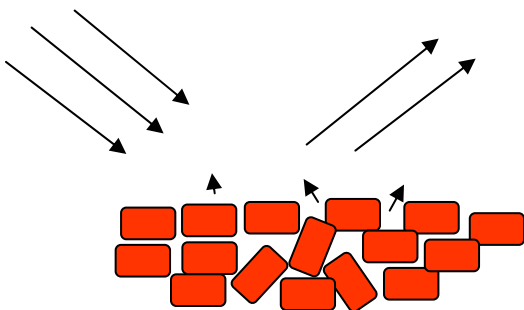
- Intensity of diffusely reflected light independent of angle of incidence
- Result of multiple reflection, refraction, and diffraction (scattering) inside the sample



# Diffuse Reflection



- Randomly oriented crystals in a powder: light diffusely reflected



- Flattening of the surface or pressing of a pellet can cause orientation of the crystals, which are “elementary mirrors”
- Causes “glossy peaks” if angle of observation corresponds to angle of incidence
- Solution: roughen surface with (sand)paper or press between rough paper, or use different observation angle!

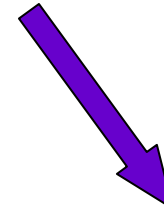
# Specular & Diffuse Reflection

Reflection of radiant energy at boundary surfaces

mirror-type  
(polished) surfaces



mat (dull, scattering)  
surfaces



**Specular**

mirror-type reflection  
mirror reflection  
surface reflection  
specular reflection  
*reguläre Reflexion*  
*gerichtete Reflexion*

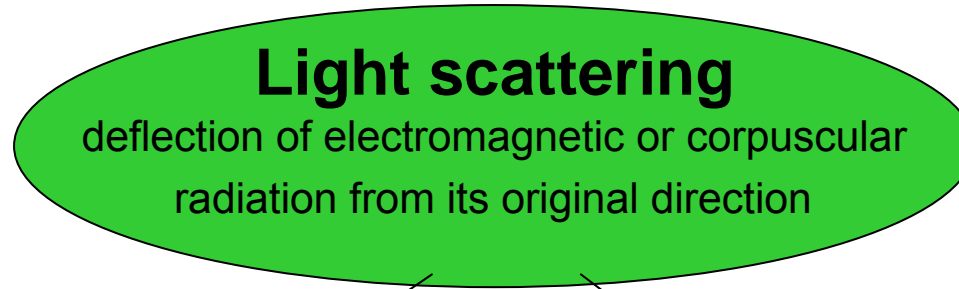
reflecting power called  
"reflectivity"

**Diffuse**

multiple reflections at  
surfaces of small  
particles

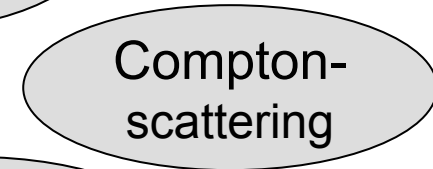
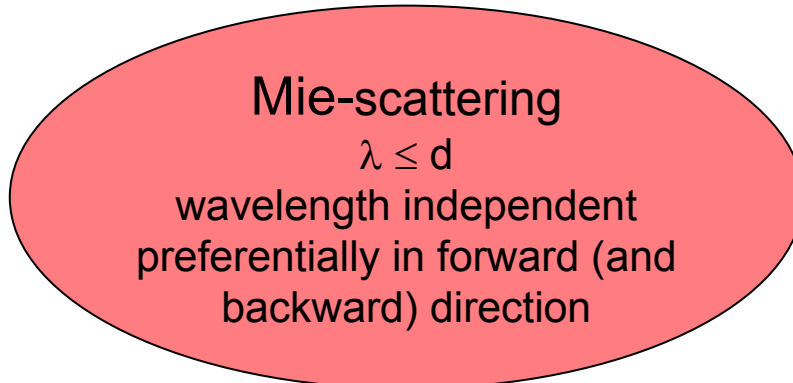
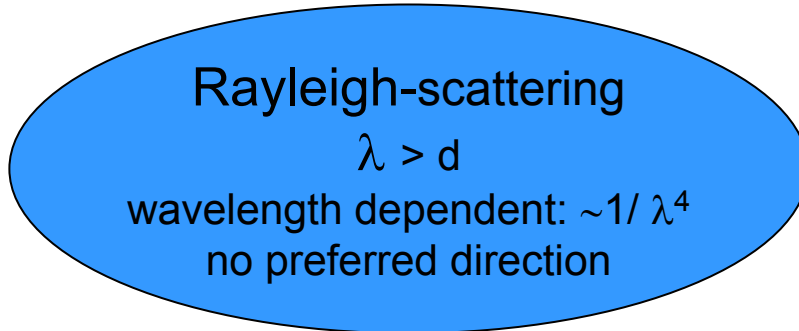
reflecting power called  
"reflectance"

# Scattering

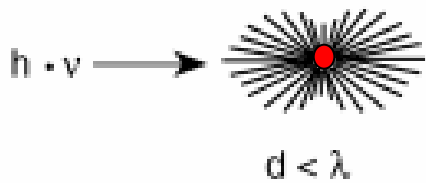


*elastic*

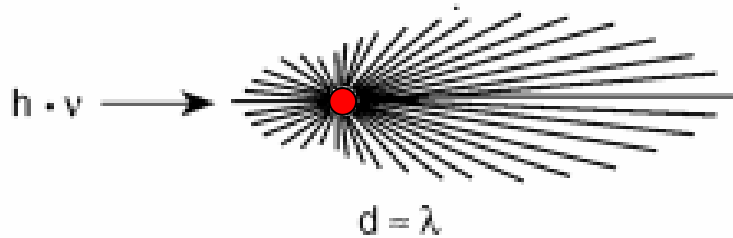
*inelastic*



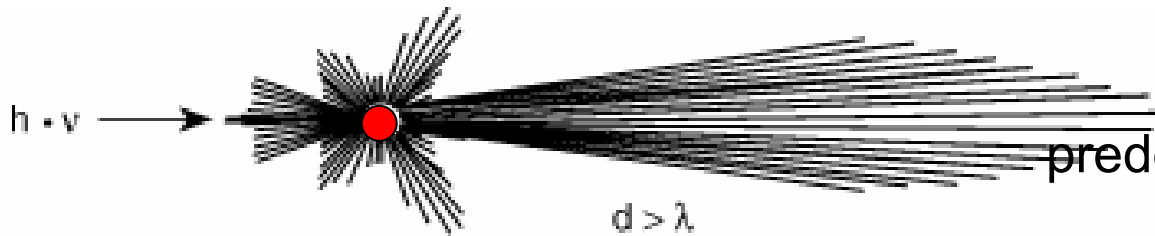
# Rayleigh- and Mie-Scattering



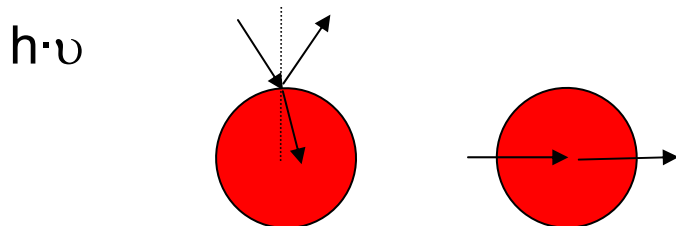
$d < \lambda$ : Rayleigh-Scattering  
isotropic distribution



$d = \lambda$ : Mie-Scattering  
in forward and backward directions

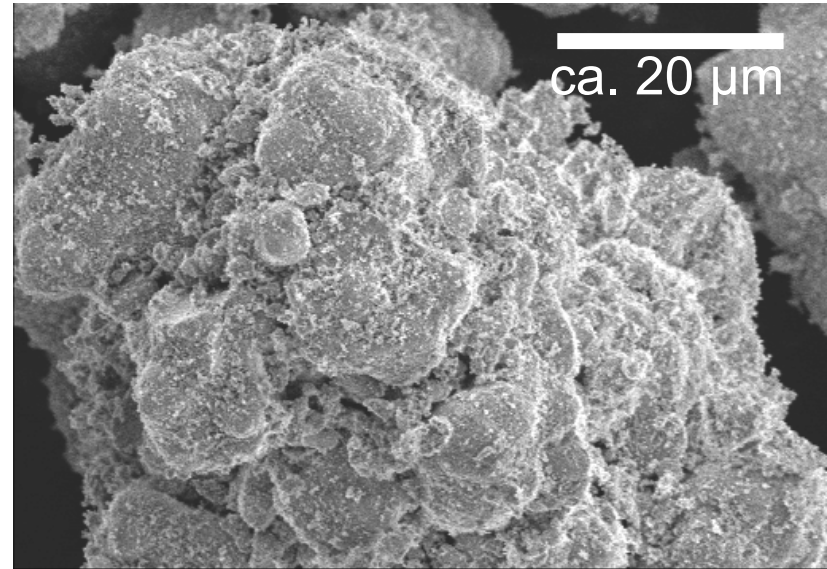
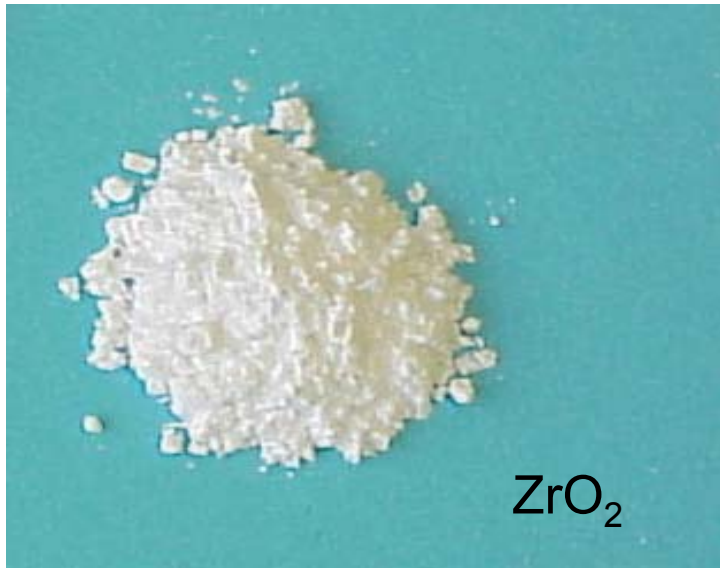


$d > \lambda$ : Mie-Scattering  
predominantly in forward direction



$d \gg \lambda$ : Mie-Theory approaches laws  
of geometric optics

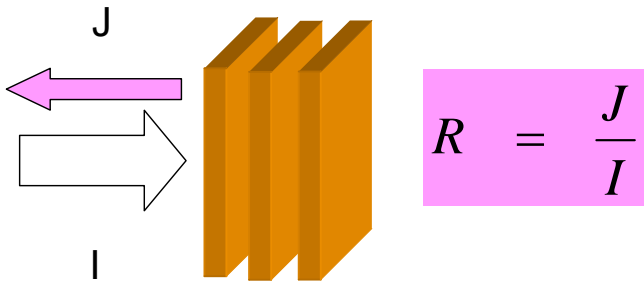
# Typical Catalyst Particles



scanning electron microscopy image

- Need theory that treats light transfer in an absorbing and scattering medium
- Want to extract absorption properties!

# A Simplified Derivation of the Schuster-Kubelka-Munk (or Remission) Function



$$dI = -I K dl - I S dl + J S dl$$

$$dJ = -J K dl - J S dl + I S dl$$

with  $K$ ,  $S$ : absorption and scattering coefficient [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]

Divide equations by  $I$  or  $J$ , respectively, separate variables, introduce  $R=J/I$

$$\int_{R_0}^{R_\infty} \frac{2dR}{R^2 - 2R\left(1 + \frac{K}{S}\right) + 1} = S \int_0^l dl$$

Integrate via partial-fraction expansion

# A Simplified Derivation of the SKM Function

Assume black background, so that  $R_0 = 0$

Make sample infinitely thick, i.e. no transmitted light (typical sample thickness in experiment ca. 3 mm)

$$R_\infty = \frac{S}{K + S + \sqrt{K(K + 2S)}}$$

2 constants are needed to describe the reflectance:

absorption coefficient  $K$

scattering coefficient  $S$

$$F(R_\infty) = \frac{(1 - R_\infty)^2}{2R_\infty} = \frac{K}{S}$$

Kubelka-Munk function  
remission function

for  $K \rightarrow 0$  (no absorption)  $R_\infty \rightarrow 1$ , i.e. all light reflected

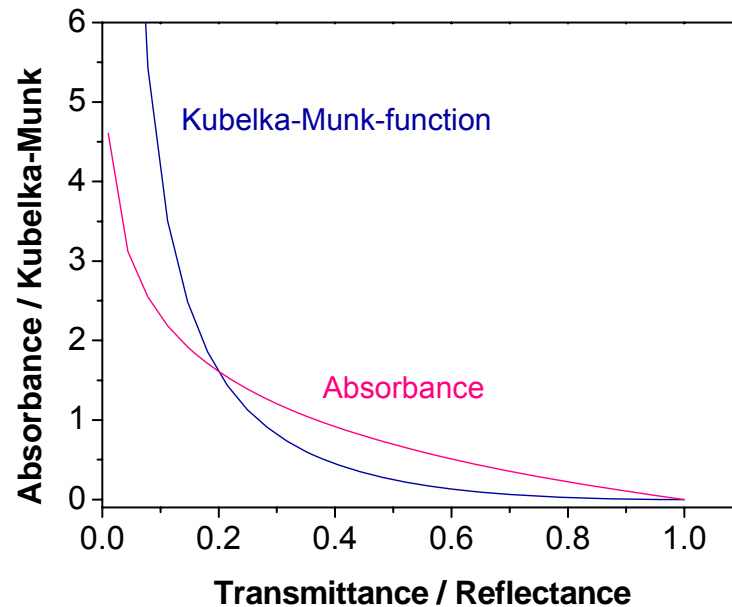
for  $S \rightarrow 0$  (no scattering)  $R_\infty \rightarrow 0$ , i.e. all light transmitted or absorbed

# Transmission vs. Reflection Spectroscopy

- ❖ For quantification and to be able to calculate difference spectra: calculate absorbance / Kubelka-Munk function

$$A = -\ln T$$

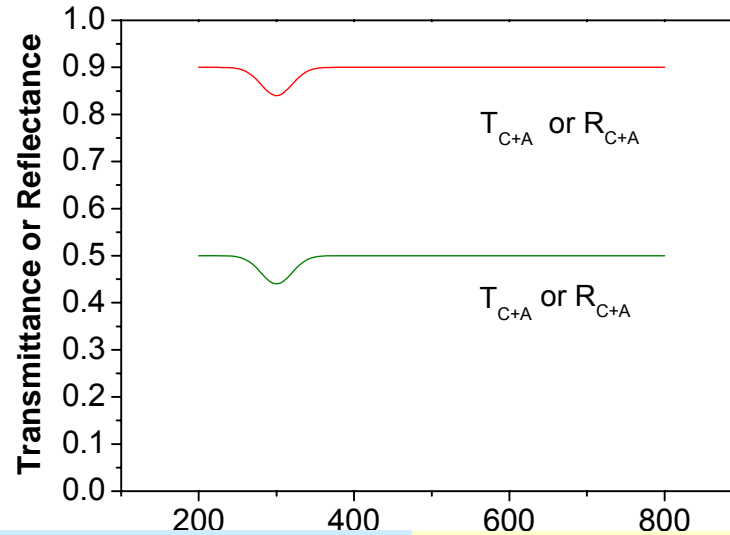
$$F(R) = \frac{(1-R)^2}{2R}$$



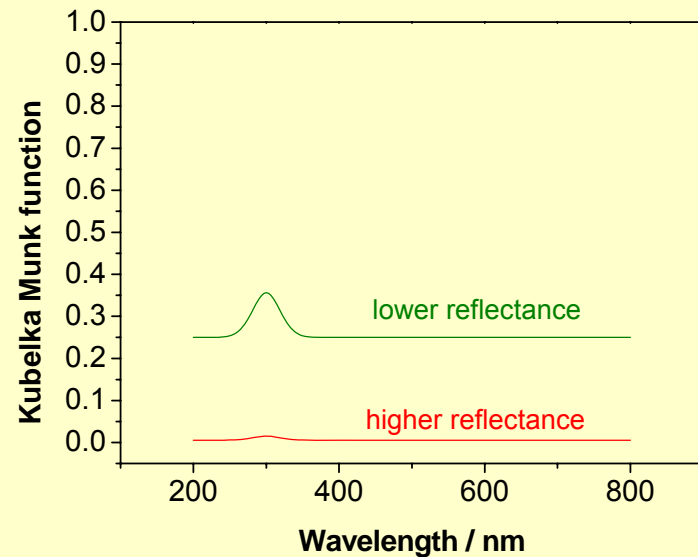
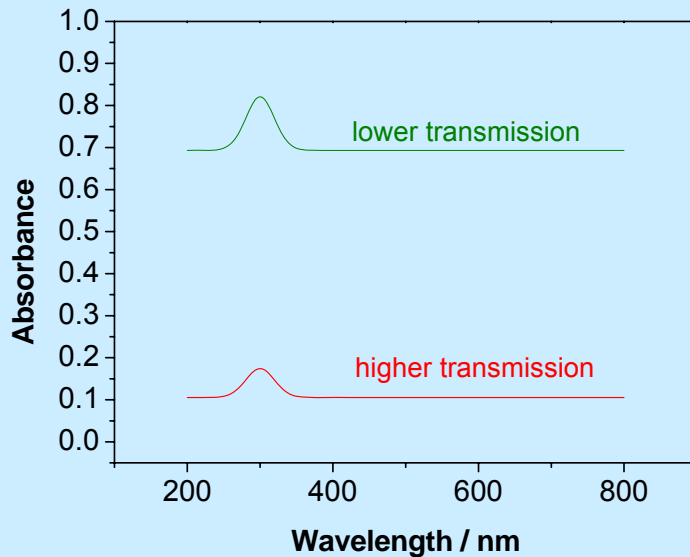


# Transmission vs. Reflection Spectroscopy

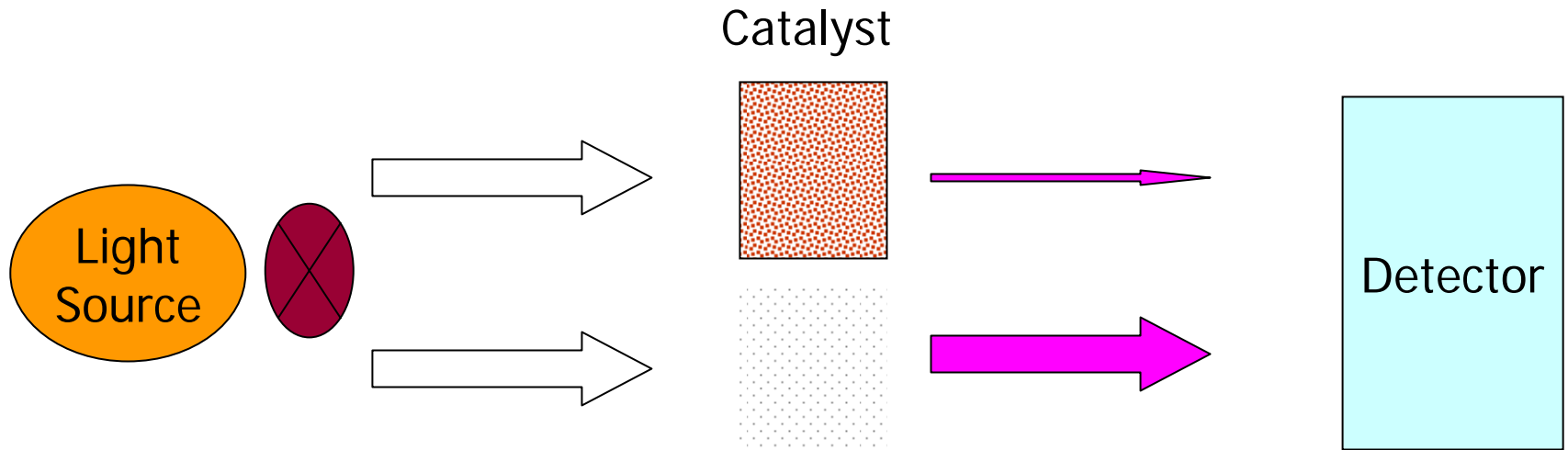
$$A = -\ln T$$



$$F(R) = \frac{(1 - R)^2}{2R}$$



# Spectroscopy in Transmission

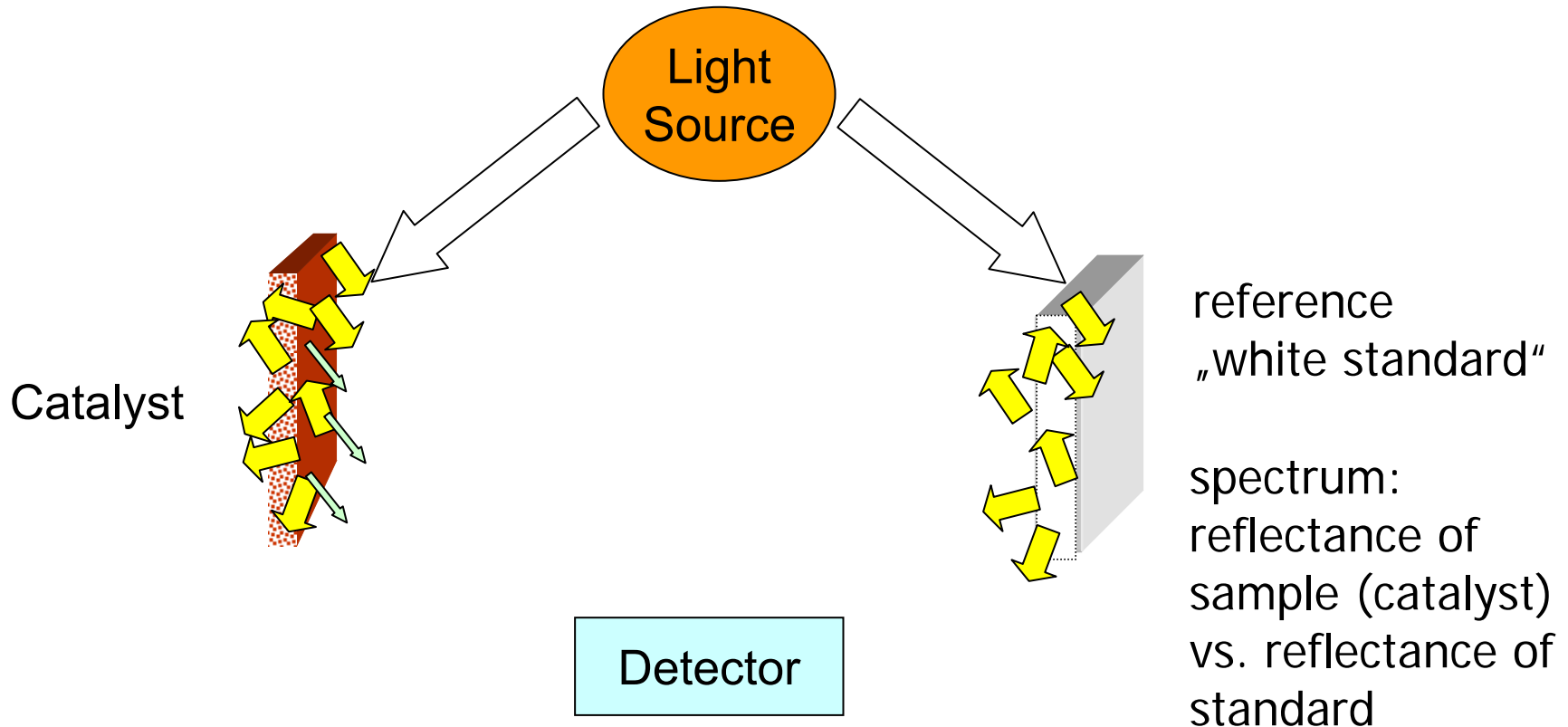


reference „nothing“  
= void, empty cell, cuvette  
with solvent

spectrum:  
transmission of  
catalyst vs.  
transmission of  
reference

- Double beam spectrometer: direct comparison sample - reference
- Single beam spectrometer: consecutive measurement

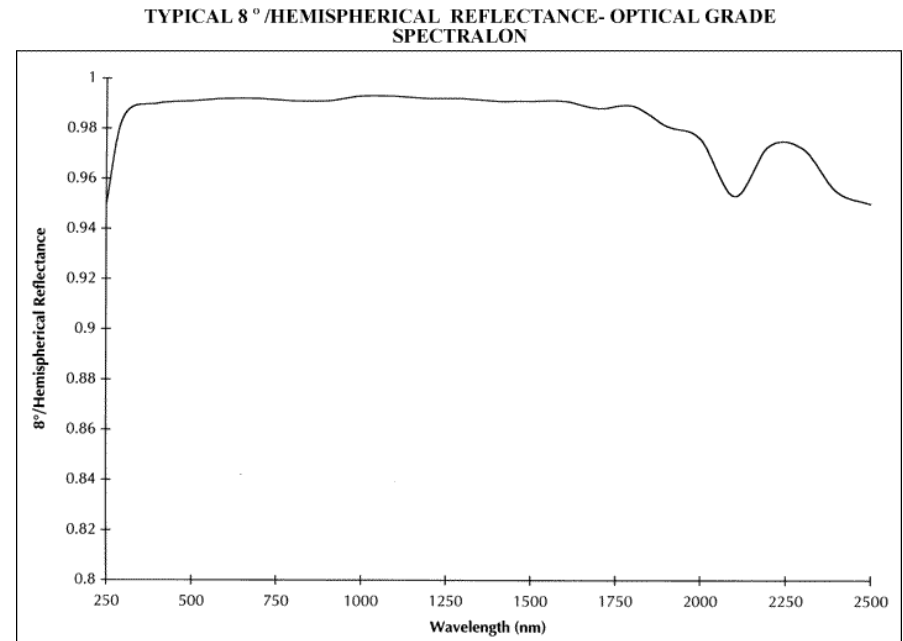
# Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy



- Need element that collects diffusely reflected light
- Need to avoid specularly reflected light
- Need reference standard (white standard)

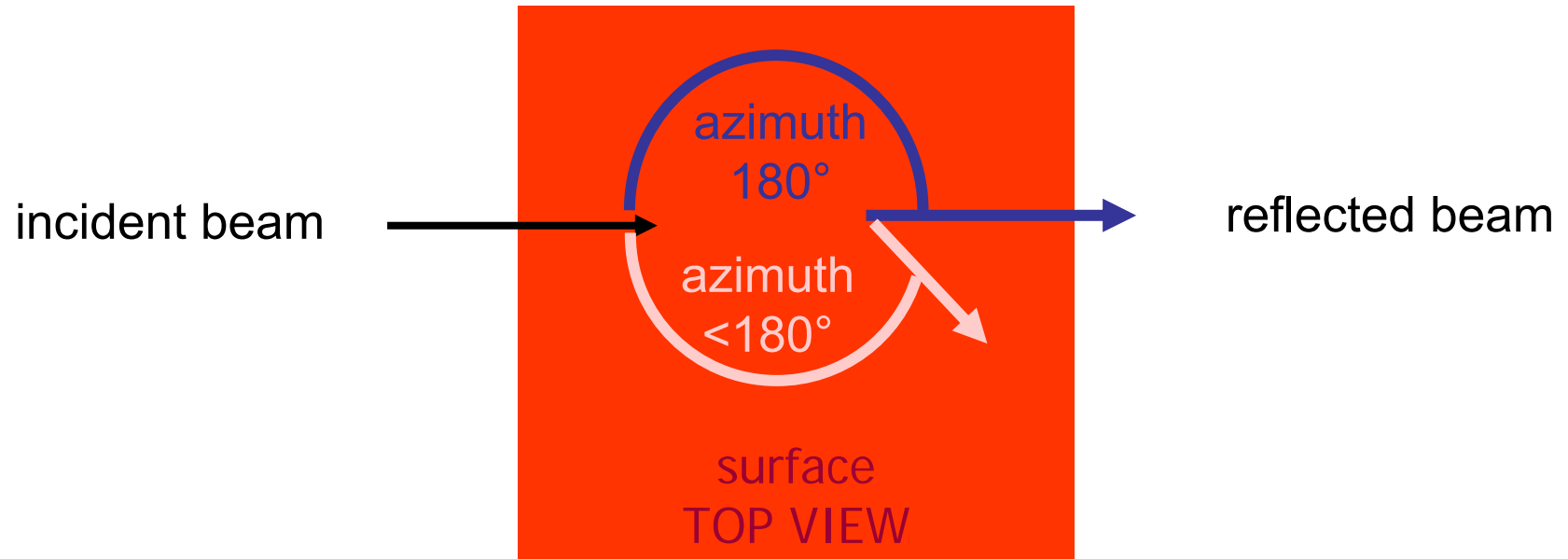
# White Standards

- KBr: IR (43500-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
- $\text{BaSO}_4$ : UV-vis
- MgO: UV-vis
- Spectralon: UV-vis-NIR



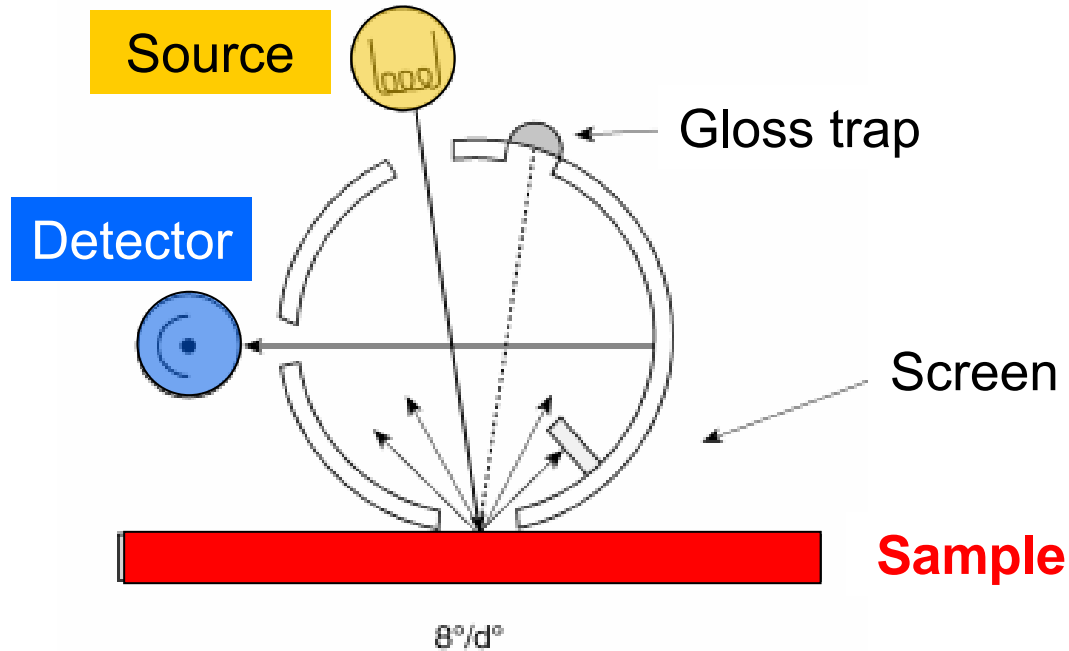
Spectralon® thermoplastic resin, excellent reflectance in UV-vis region

# Specular Reflection: Angular Distribution



- the intensity of the specularly reflected light is largest at an azimuth of  $180^\circ$

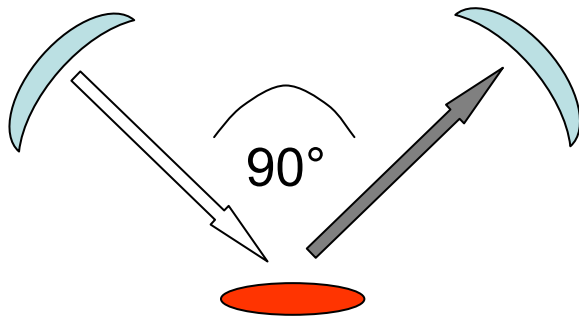
# Integrating Sphere



- the larger the sphere the smaller errors from the ports
- the larger the sphere the lower the intensity onto the detector
- typically 60-150 mm diameter
- coatings:  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , Spectralon (for UV-vis), Au

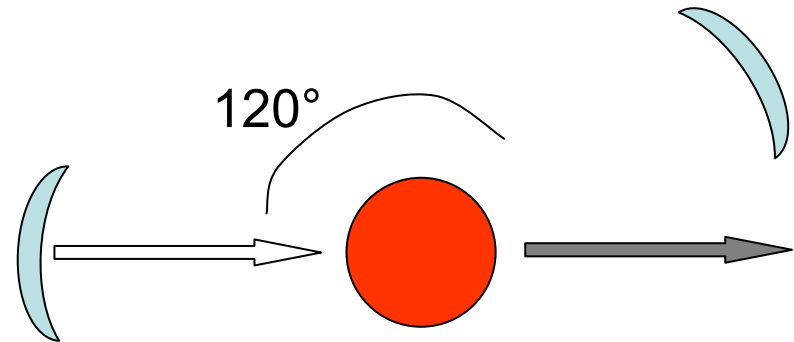
# How to Avoid Specular Reflection

SIDE VIEW



sample surface

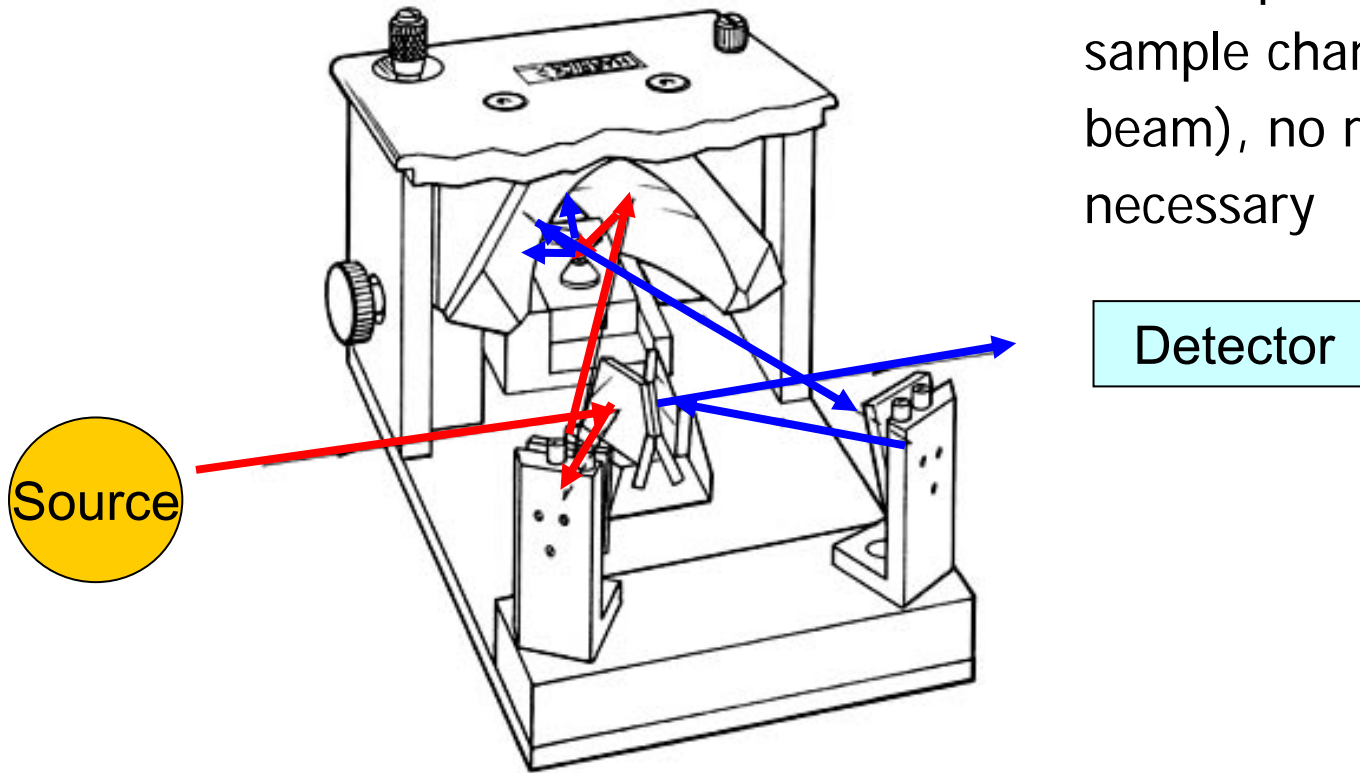
TOP VIEW



sample surface

- Specular reflection is strongest in forward direction
- Collect light in off-axis configuration

# Mirror Optical Accessory

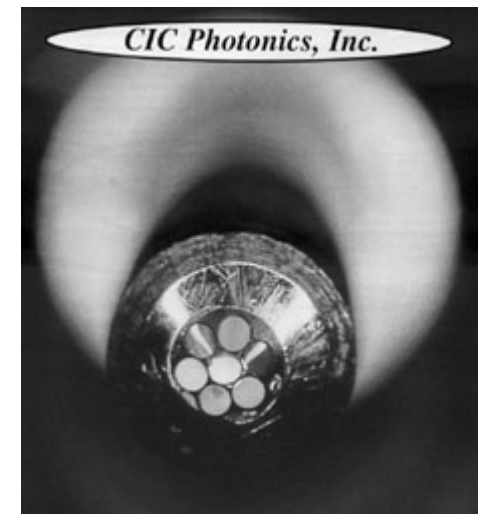
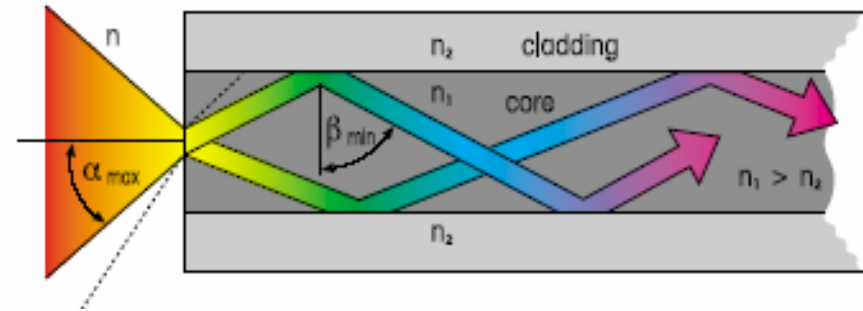
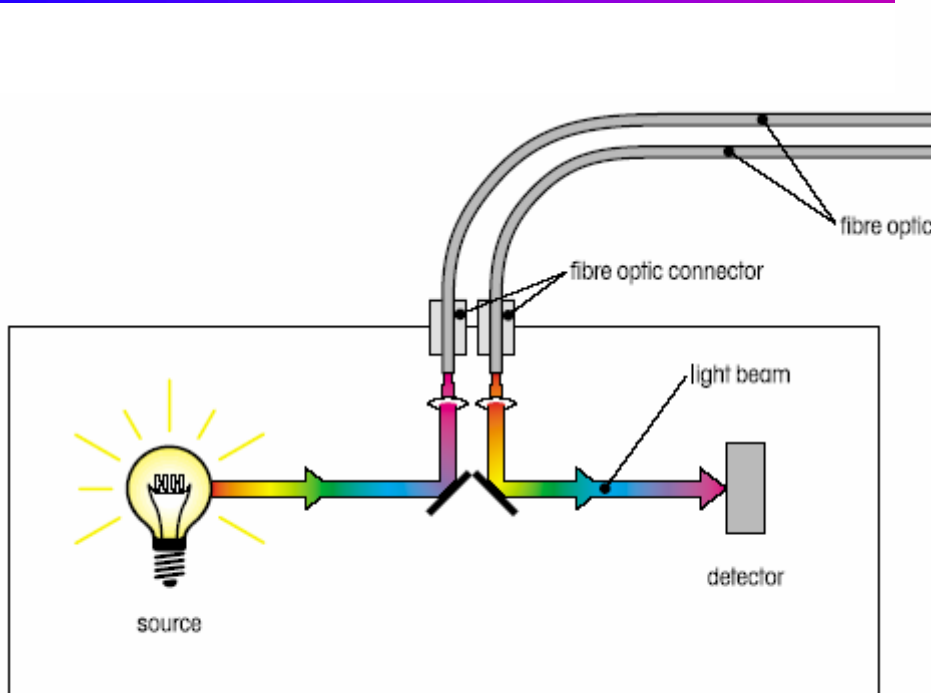


- can be placed into the normal sample chamber (in line with beam), no rearrangement necessary

- First ellipsoidal mirror focuses beam on sample
- Second ellipsoidal mirror collects reflected light
- 20% of the diffusely reflected light is collected



# Fiber Optics for UV-vis



- Light conducted through total reflectance
- Fiber bundle with 6 around 1 configuration: illumination through 6 (45°), signal through 1
- Avoids collection of specularly reflected light

# Methods in Catalysis Research

## IR spectroscopy

### Transmission

- Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR spectroscopy)

### Diffuse Reflectance

- Diffuse reflectance Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (DRIFTS)
- Collecting elements:
  - Mirror optics
  - Integrating spheres

## UV-vis spectroscopy

### [Transmission]

- UV-vis spectroscopy

### Diffuse Reflectance

- Diffuse reflectance UV-vis spectroscopy (DR-UV-vis spectroscopy or DRS)
- Collecting Elements:
  - Mirror optics
  - Integrating spheres
  - Fiber optics

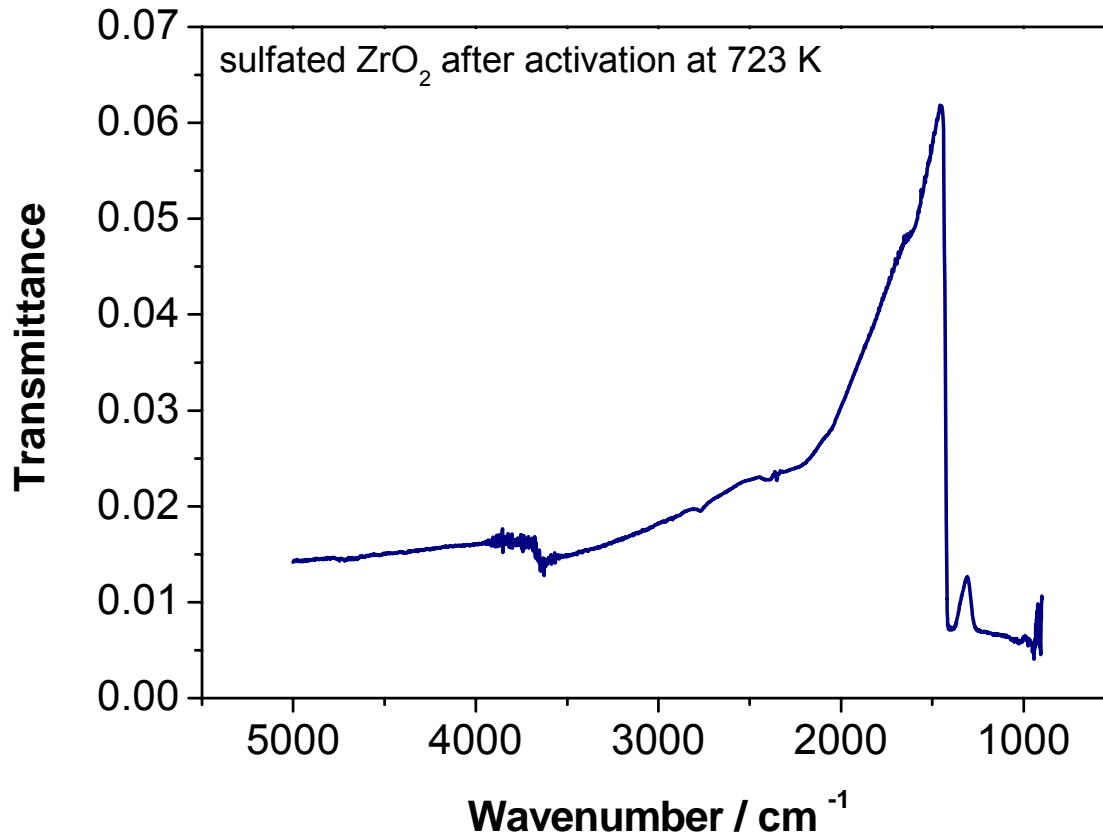
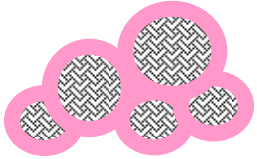
# Possible Transitions

Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
<b>Catalyst bulk</b>	Lattice, structural units	Band gap energy of semiconductors
<b>Catalyst surface</b>	Stretching and deformation modes of functional groups, vibrations of supported species: metal complexes	Charge transfer and d-d transitions of metal complexes, metal particles
<b>Adsorbates</b>	Probing of surface properties (functional groups), adsorbed reactants	Probing of surface properties, adsorbed reactants
	In situ: adsorbed reaction intermediates / products	In situ: reaction intermediates
<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	

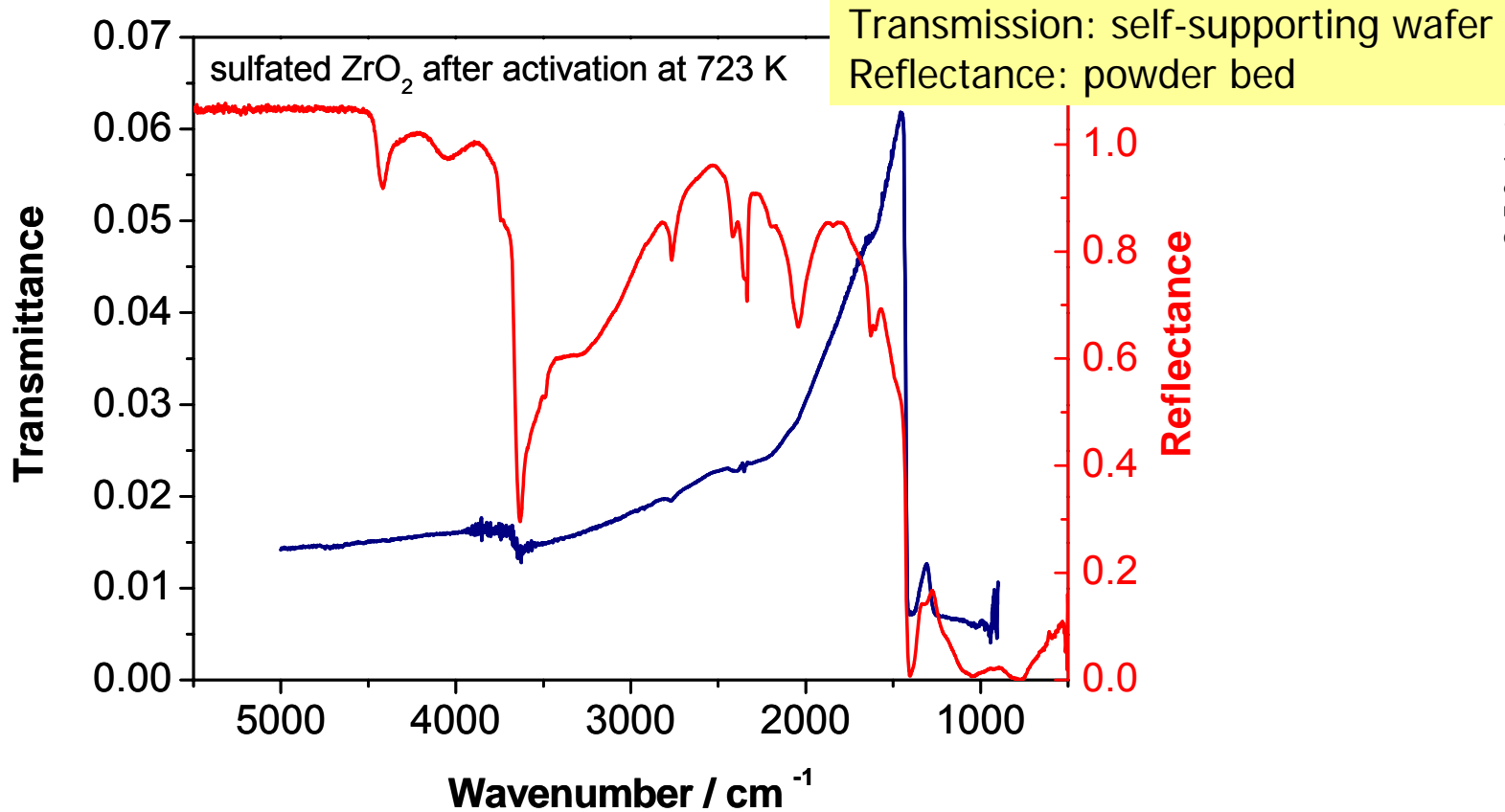
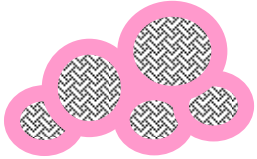
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# Limitations of Transmission IR Spectroscopy

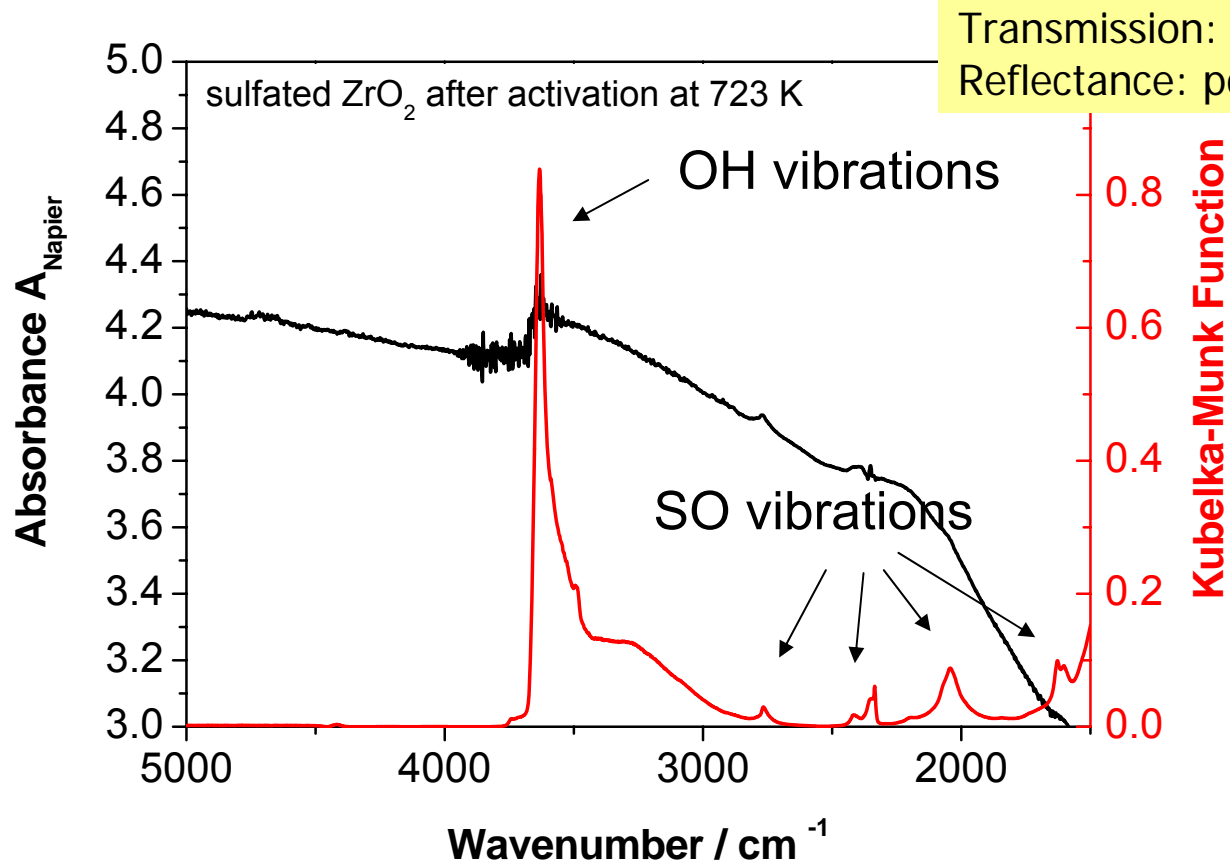


# Comparison Transmission - Diffuse Reflectance (IR)



- Spectra can have very different appearance
- Transmittance decreases, reflectance increases with increasing wavenumber

# Comparison Transmission - Diffuse Reflectance (IR)



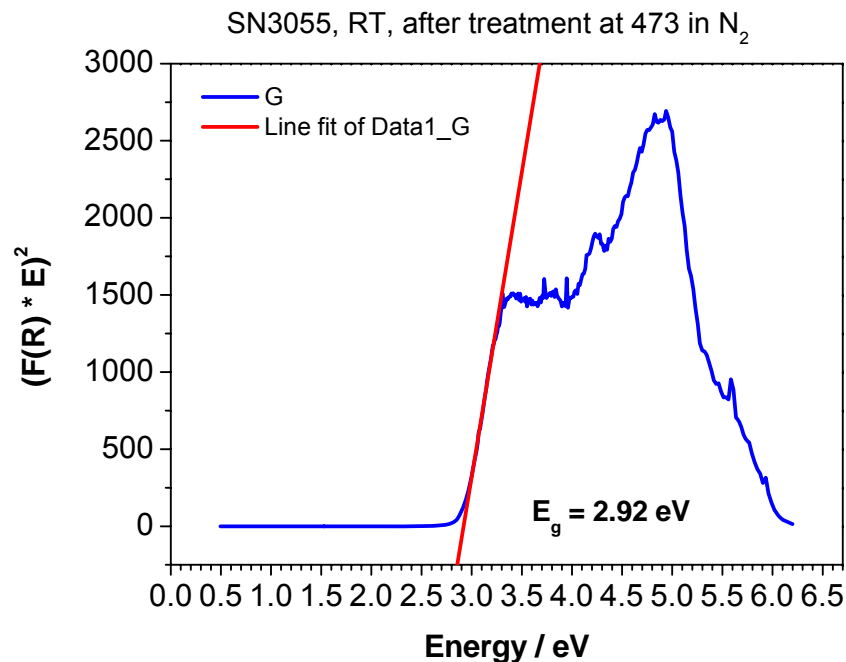
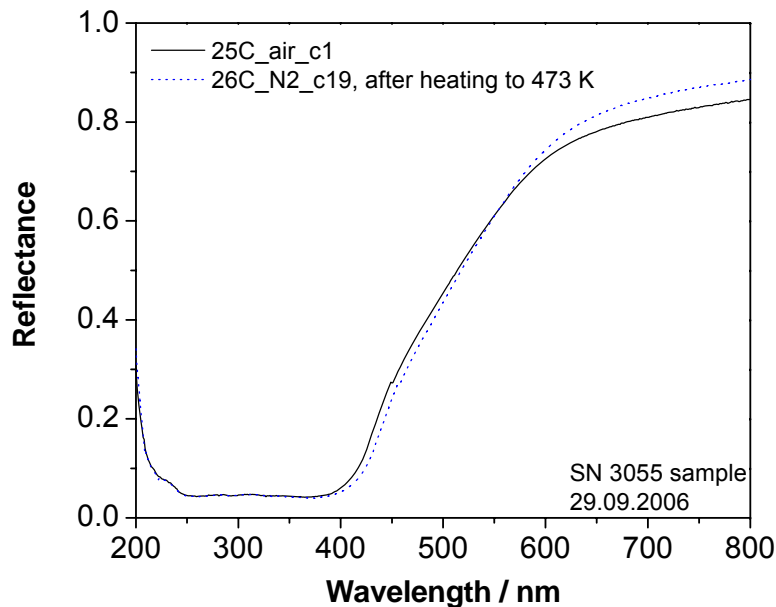
- Vibrations of surface species may be more evident in DR spectra

# Possible Transitions

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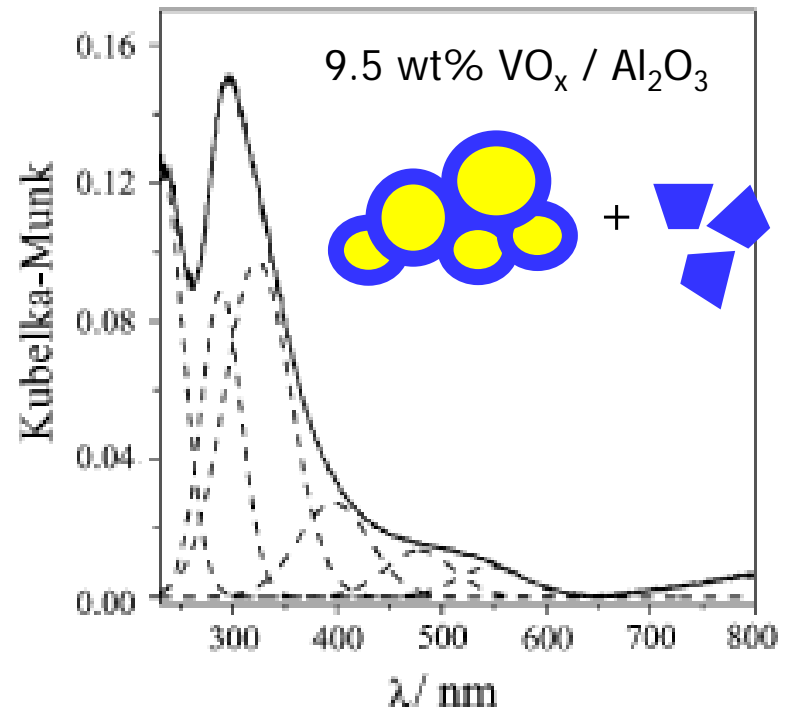
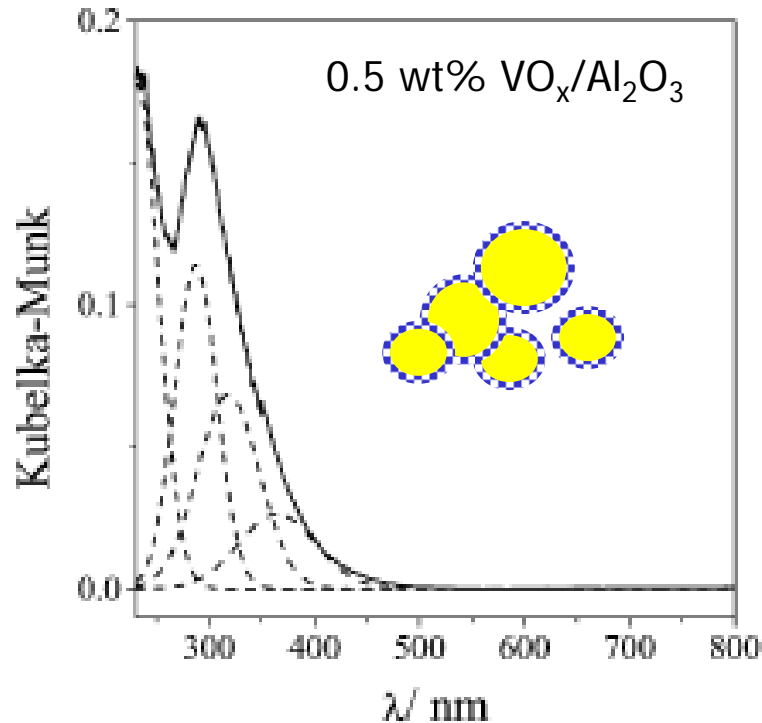
# Band Gap Determination (DR-UV-vis)



- Approximate composition " $C_6N_8H_z$ "
- Friedel-Crafts Acylation

Catalyst: F. Goettmann, MPI KG Golm  
Band gap determination: Weber, J. Catal. 1996

# Dispersed $V_xO_y$ Species (DR-UV-vis)

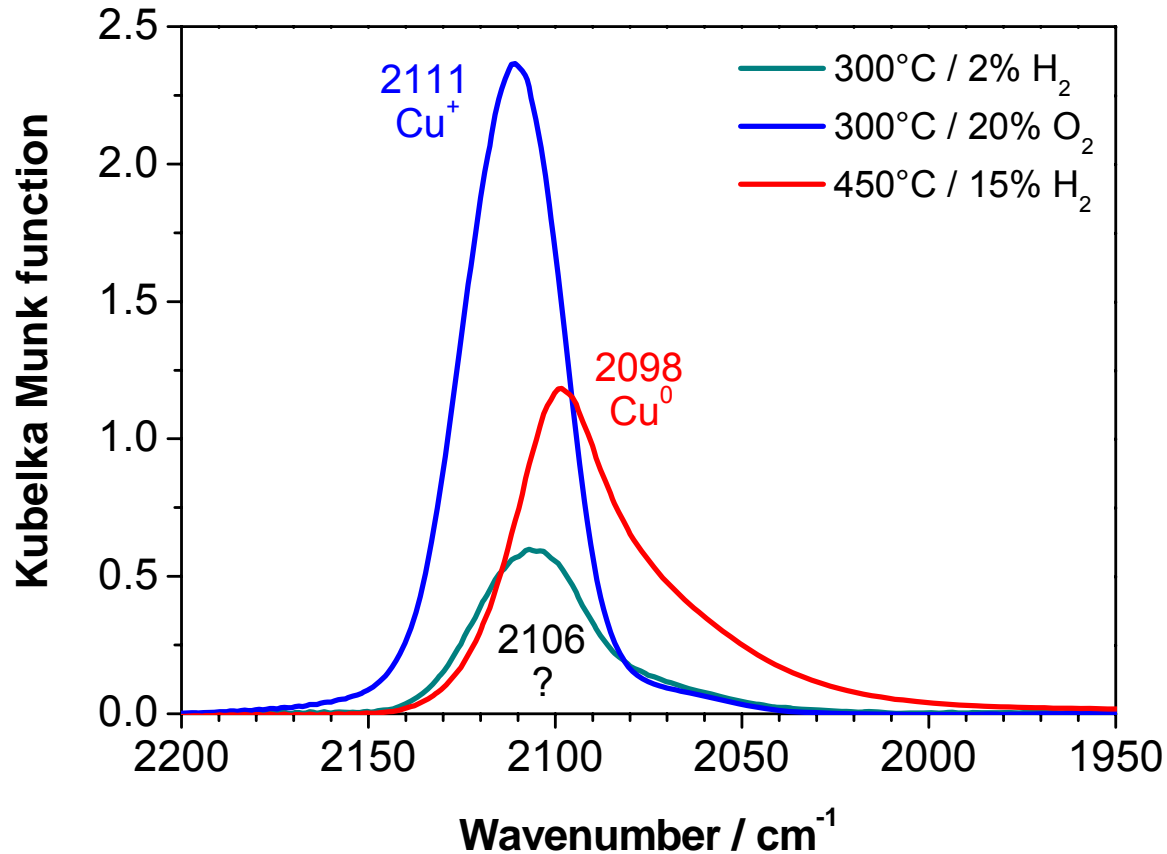
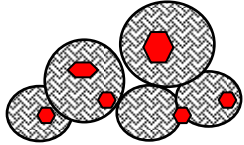


- CT bands at 359 and 376 nm: isolated octahedrally co-ordinated  $V^{5+}$  species
- CT bands at 468 and 535 nm: octahedrally co-ordinated  $V^{5+}$  species in  $V_2O_5$  clusters (XRD shows crystalline form of  $V_2O_5$ )

# Possible Transitions

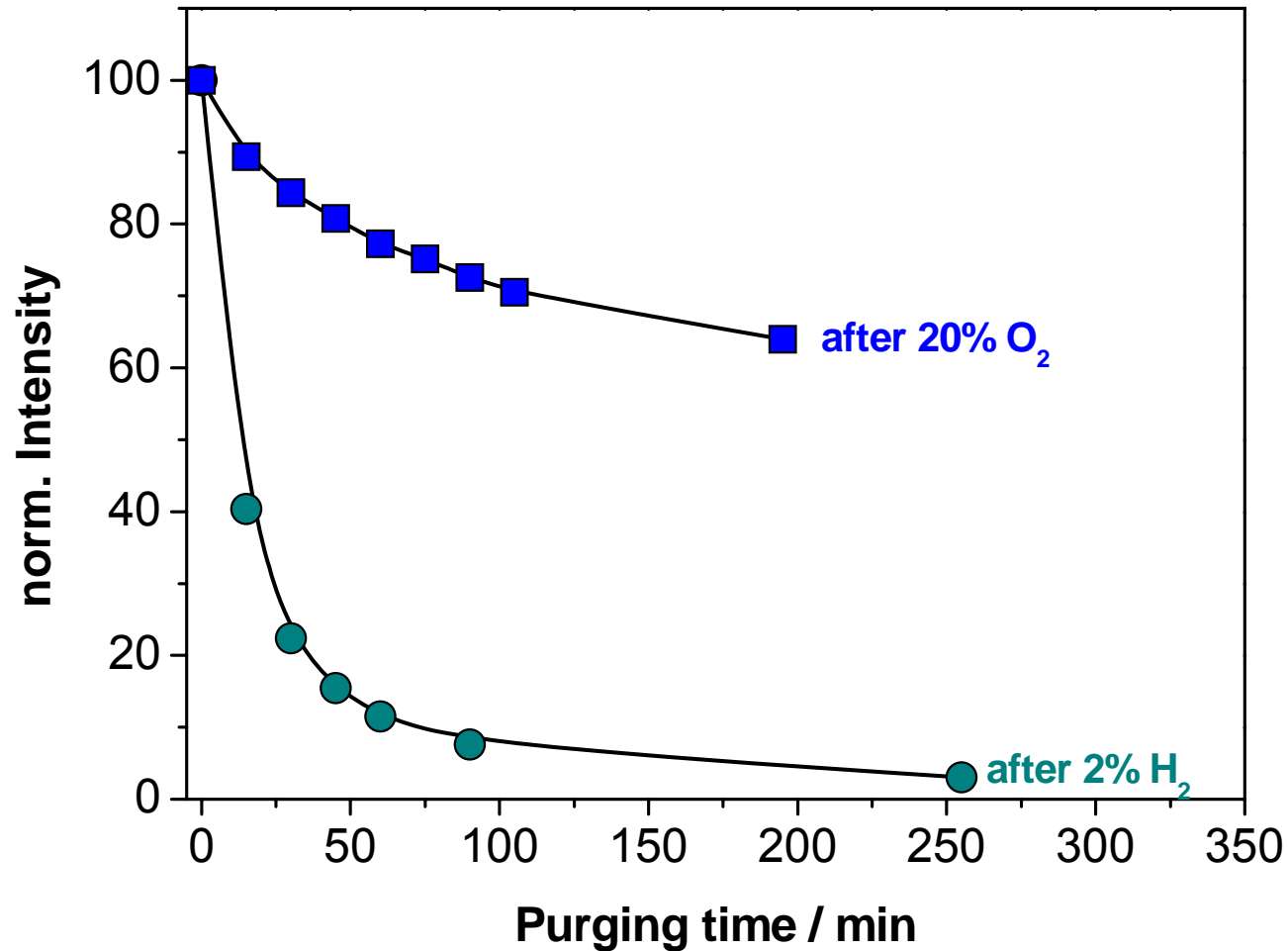
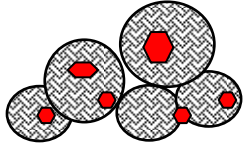
Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
<b>Catalyst bulk</b>	Lattice, structural units	Band gap energy of semiconductors
<b>Catalyst surface</b>	Stretching and deformation modes of functional groups, vibrations of supported species: metal complexes	Charge transfer and d-d transitions of metal complexes, metal particles
<b>Adsorbates</b>	Probing of surface properties (functional groups), adsorbed reactants	Probing of surface properties, adsorbed reactants
	In situ: adsorbed reaction intermediates / products	In situ: reaction intermediates
<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	

# CO Adsorption at RT on Cu/ZrO<sub>2</sub>



- Identification of copper oxidation states based on CO frequency can be ambiguous

# CO Desorption at RT on Cu/ZrO<sub>2</sub>



- Identification via stability of Cu-CO complex

# Possible Transitions

Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
<b>Catalyst bulk</b>	Lattice, structural units	Band gap energy of semiconductors
<b>Catalyst surface</b>	Stretching and deformation modes of functional groups, vibrations of supported species: metal complexes	Charge transfer and d-d transitions of metal complexes, metal particles
<b>Adsorbates</b>	Probing of surface properties (functional groups), adsorbed reactants	Probing of surface properties, adsorbed reactants
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<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	

# Hammett Indicators Adsorbed on Solids

TABLE 2-3 Basic indicators used for spectrophotometric determination of acid strength

Indicators	$pK_a$
Phenylazonaphthylamine	+4.0
<i>p</i> -Dimethylaminoazobenzene	+3.3
Aminoazobenzene	+2.8
Benzeneazodiphenylamine	+1.5
<i>p</i> -Nitroaniline	+1.1
<i>o</i> -Nitroaniline	-0.2
<i>p</i> -Nitrodiphenylamine	-2.4
2,4-Dichloro-6-nitroaniline	-3.2
<i>p</i> -Nitroazobenzene	-3.3
2,4-Dinitroaniline	-4.4
Benzalacetophenone	-5.6
<i>p</i> -Benzoyldiphenyl	-6.2
Anthraquinone	-8.1
2,4,6-Trinitroaniline	-9.3
3-Chloro-2,4,6-trinitroaniline	-9.7
<i>p</i> -Nitrotoluene	-10.5
Nitrobenzene	-11.4
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	-12.8

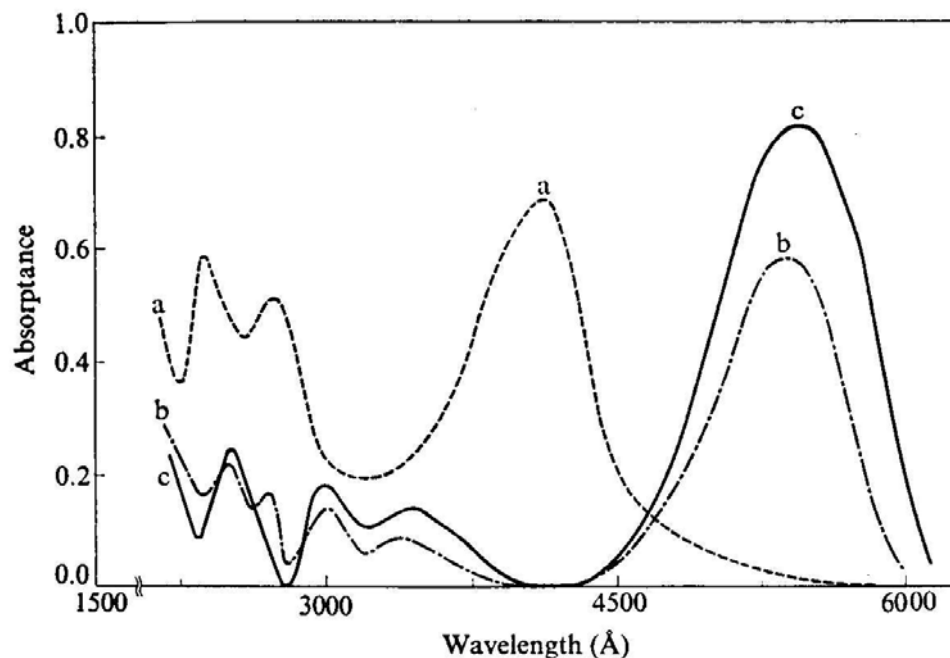
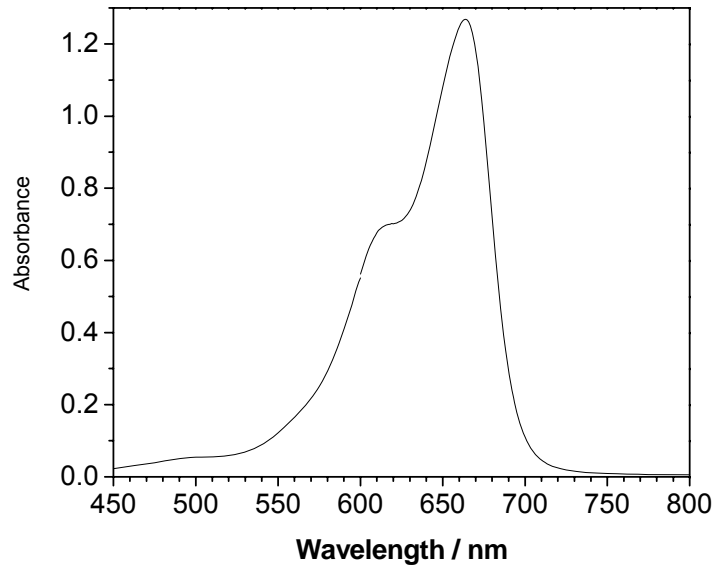
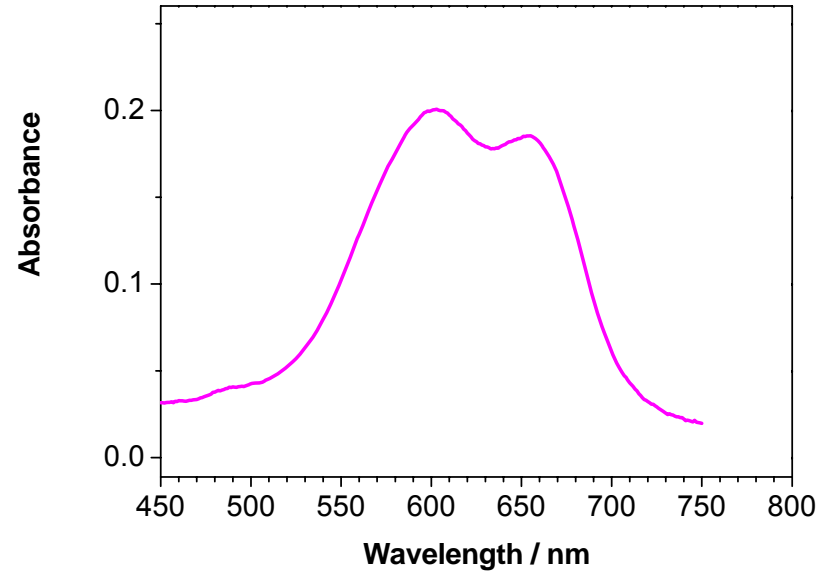


Fig. 2-1 Absorption spectra for phenylazonaphthylamine  
a: in isooctane solution, b: in ethanolic HCl, c: adsorbed on silica-alumina

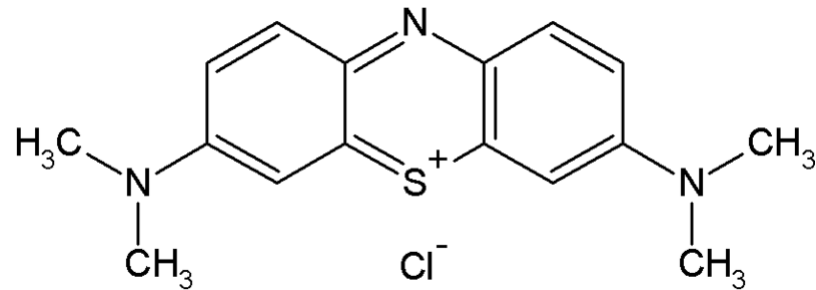
# Example



Methylene blue in aqueous solution



Methylene blue adsorbed on TiO<sub>2</sub>

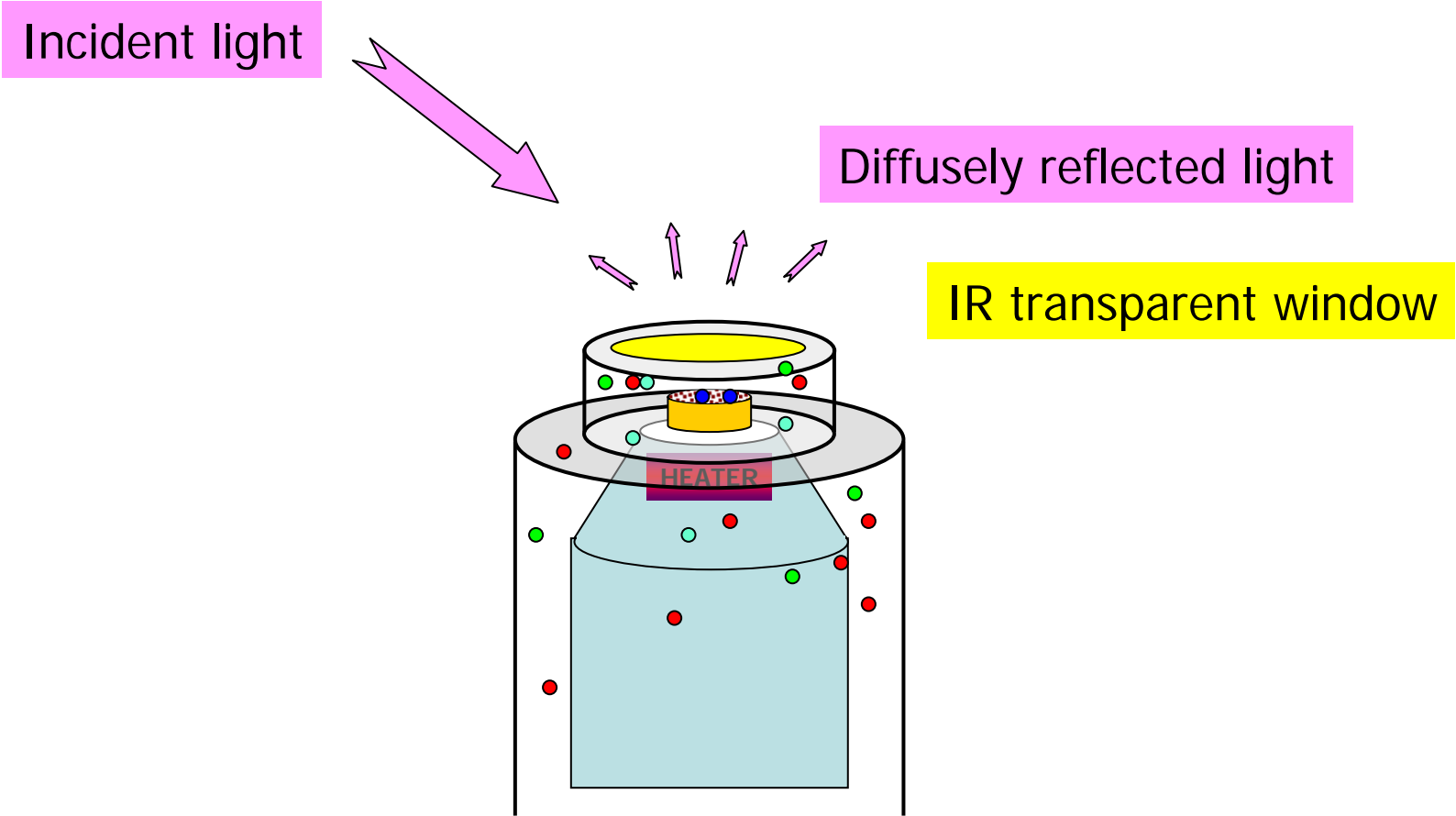




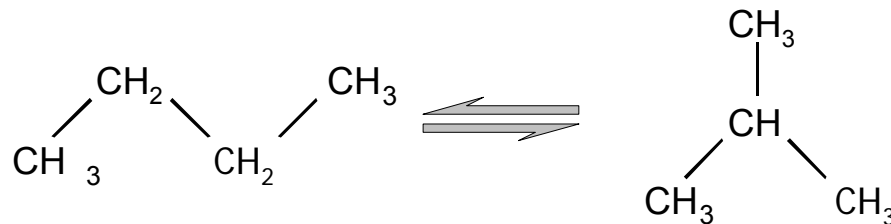
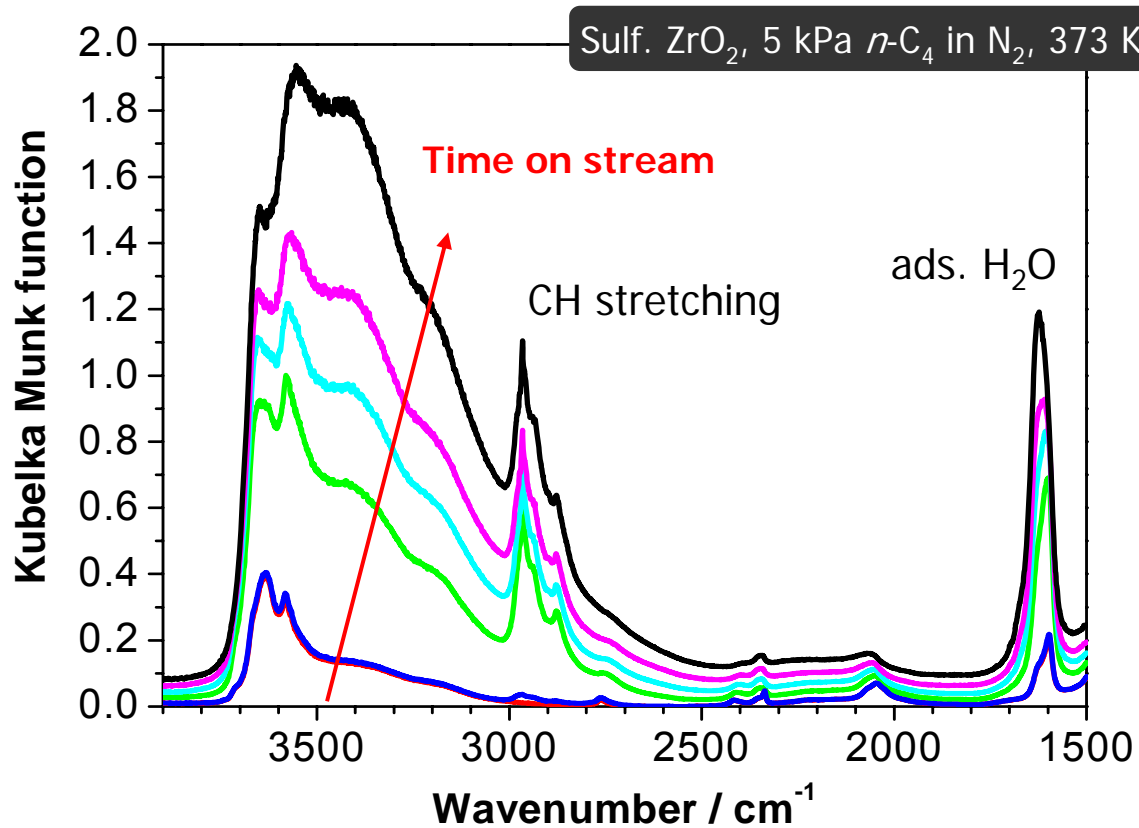
# Possible Transitions

Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
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	In situ: adsorbed reaction intermediates / products	In situ: reaction intermediates
<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	

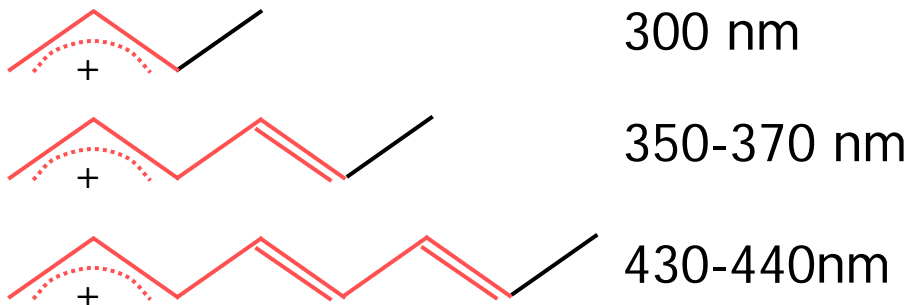
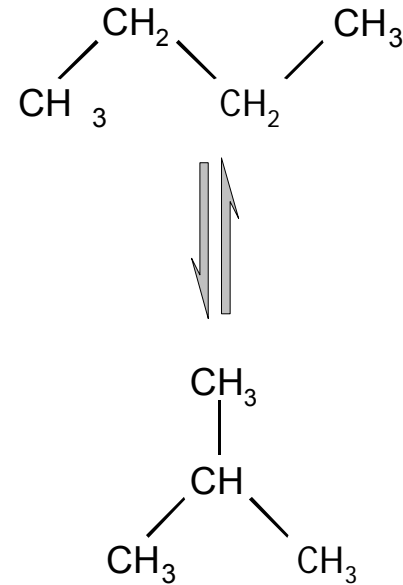
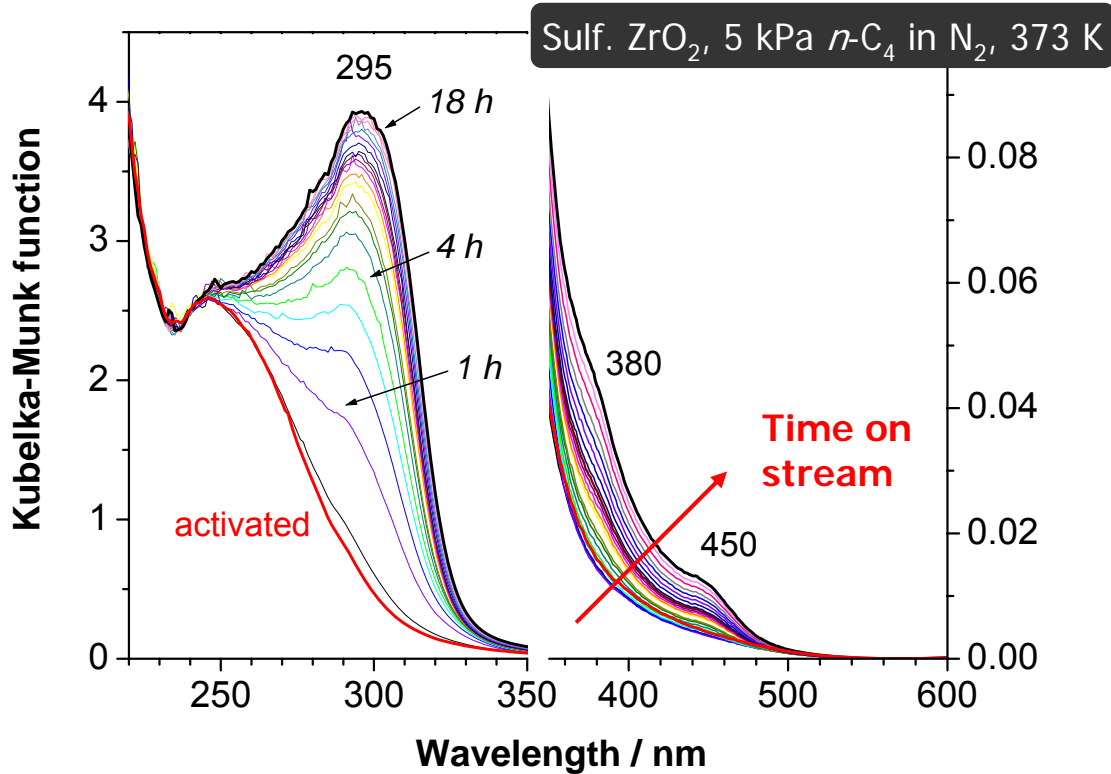
# Origin of Surface and Gas Phase Contributions



# DRIFTS: *n*-Butane Isomerization



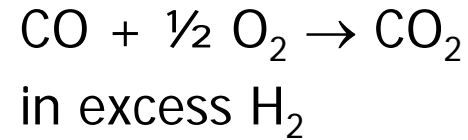
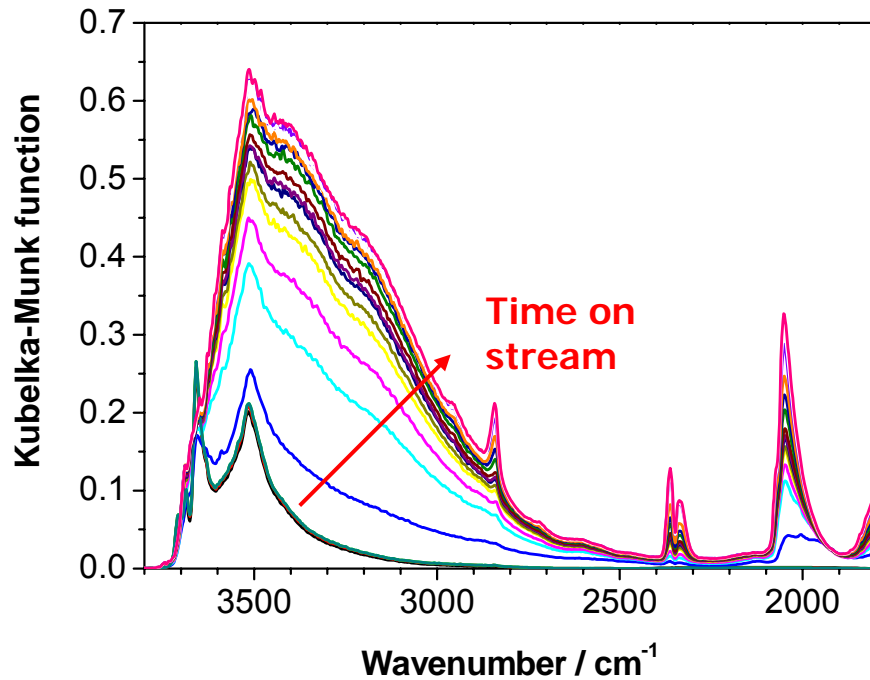
# DR-UV-vis: *n*-Butane Isomerization



# Possible Transitions

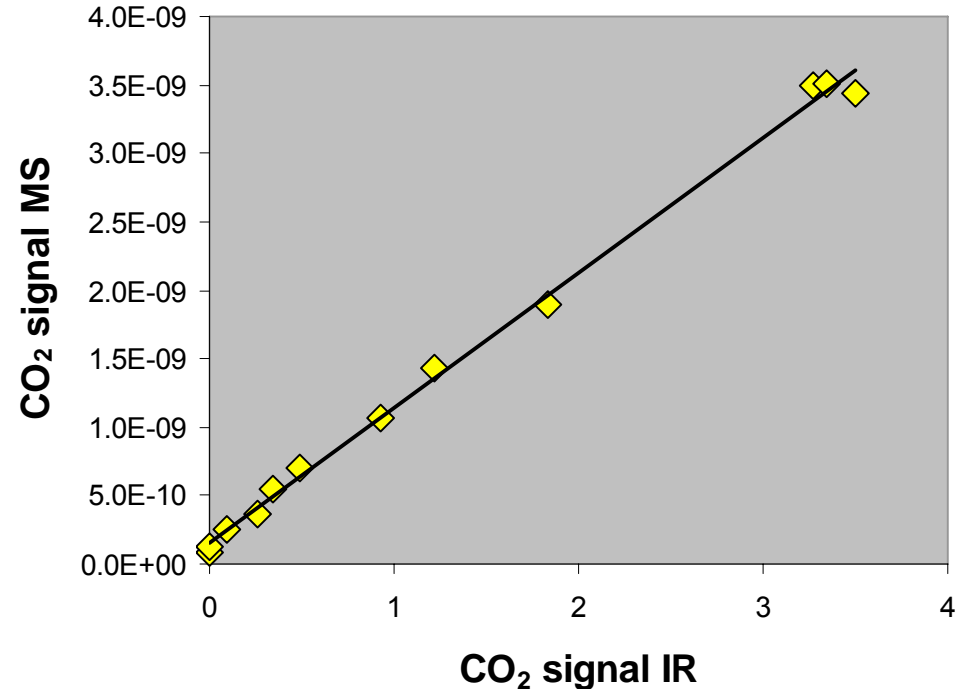
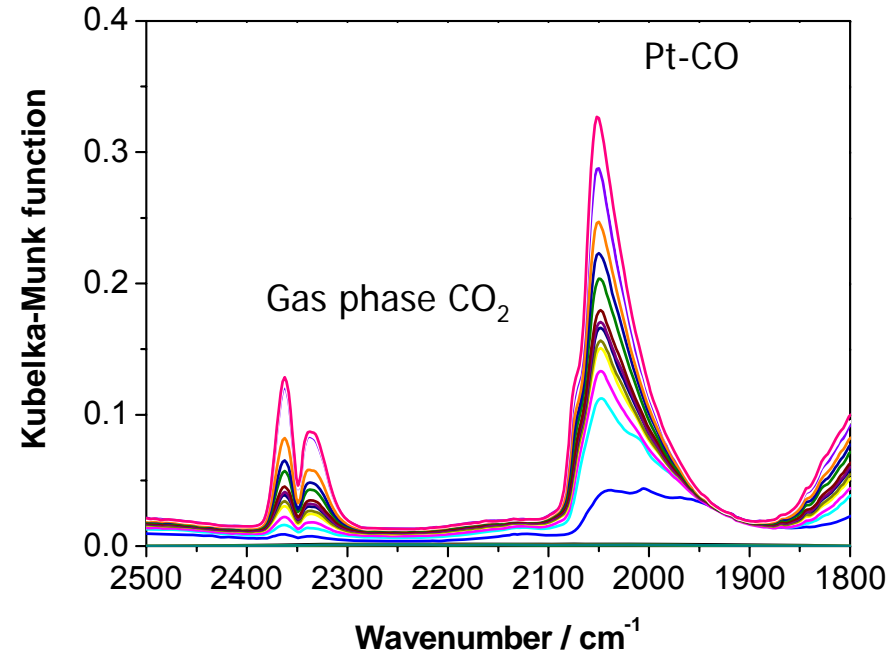
Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
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	In situ: adsorbed reaction intermediates / products	In situ: reaction intermediates
<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	

# DRIFTS: Preferential Oxidation of CO (PROX)



1% Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub> at  $T = 383 \text{ K}$ , 1% CO/1% O<sub>2</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>

# IR Gas Phase Analysis: PROX



- IR band area of CO<sub>2</sub> vibration corresponds to CO<sub>2</sub> MS signal in effluent gas
- Quantification of gas phase composition possible

# Possible Transitions

Transitions/ Contribution from	Vibrations	Electronic transitions
<b>Catalyst bulk</b>	Lattice, structural units	Band gap energy of semiconductors
<b>Catalyst surface</b>	Stretching and deformation modes of functional groups, vibrations of supported species: metal complexes	Charge transfer and d-d transitions of metal complexes, metal particles
<b>Adsorbates</b>	Probing of surface properties (functional groups), adsorbed reactants	Probing of surface properties
	In situ: adsorbed reaction intermediates / products	In situ: reaction intermediates
<b>Gas phase</b>	Can be unwanted Product analysis	



# Literature

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- G. Kortüm, "Reflectance Spectroscopy" / "Reflexionsspektroskopie" Springer 1969