

The background of the slide is a 3D molecular simulation. It features a complex network of orange and yellow rods and spheres, representing a polymer or a protein structure. The rods are thick and have a segmented appearance, while the spheres are smaller and more uniform. The overall color scheme is warm, with shades of orange, yellow, and brown against a dark background.

# MOLECULAR SIMULATION

From Algorithms to Applications

second edition

## Introduction

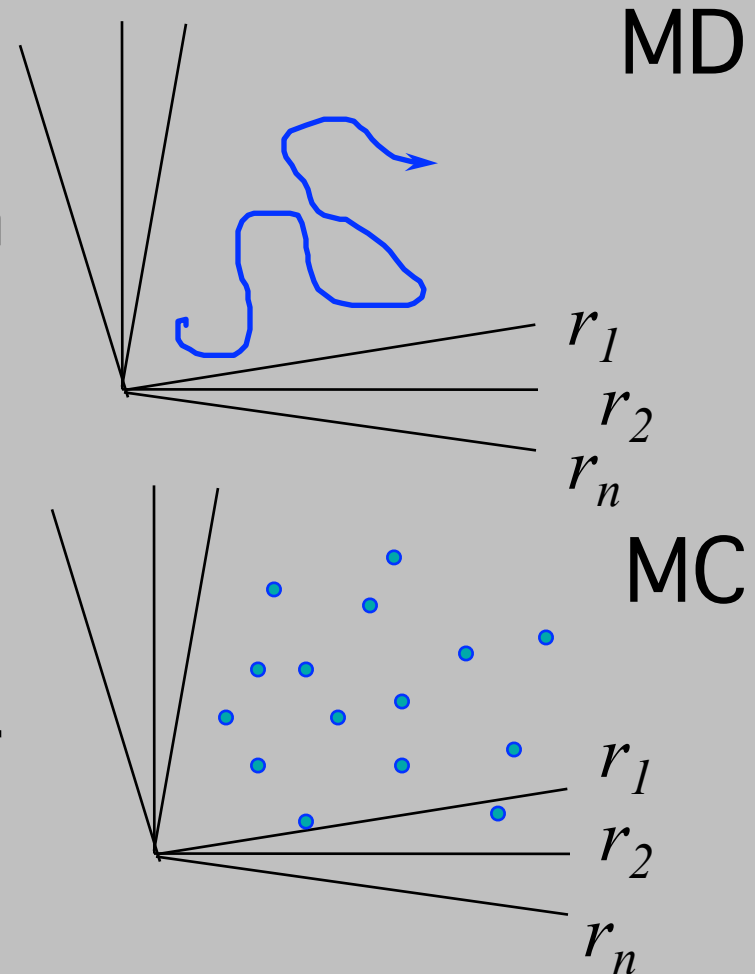
Daan **Frenkel** & Berend **Smit**

# Introduction

- Why to use a simulation
- Some examples of questions we can address

# Molecular Simulations

- **Molecular dynamics:**  
solve equations of motion
- **Monte Carlo:**  
importance sampling
- Calculate thermodynamic and transport properties for a given intermolecular potential



# Uses of Molecular Dynamics

Exact= in the limit of *infinitely* long simulations the error bars can be made *infinitely* small

If one could envision an experimental system of these N particles that interact with the potential.

The idea is to use an *intermolecular potential* “*exactly*” compute the *thermodynamic* and *transport* properties of the system

We assume we have been given!

Diffusion coefficient  
Viscosity  
...

Pressure  
Heat capacity  
Heat of adsorption  
Structure  
...

# Why Molecular Simulations

Paul Dirac, after completing his formalism  
of

quantum mechanics: “*The rest is  
chemistry...*”.

This is a heavy burden the shoulders of  
“chemistry”:

# Intermolecular potential

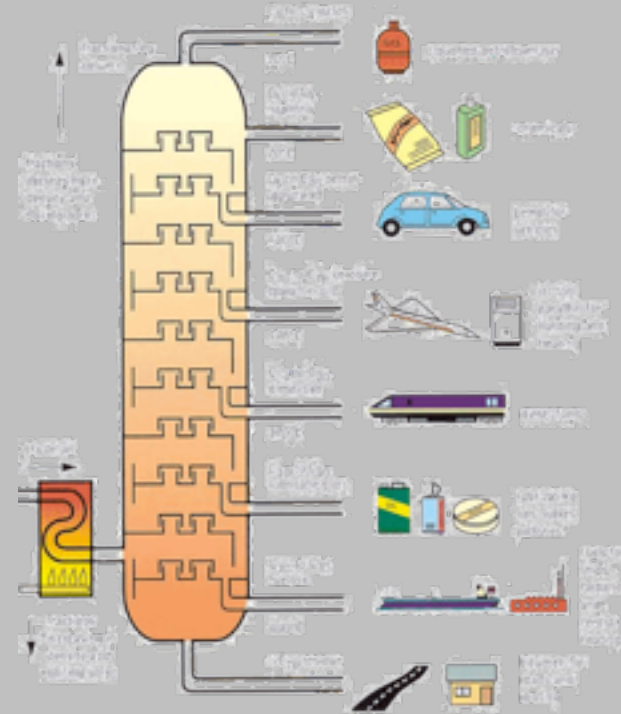
The intermolecular potential can:

- Mimic the experimental system as accurate as possible:
  - Replace experiments (dangerous, impossible to measure, expensive, ...)
- Make a model system:
  - Test theories that can not directly be tested with experiment

If we know/guess the “true” intermolecular potential

# Example 1: Mimic the “real world”

## Critical properties of long chain hydrocarbons

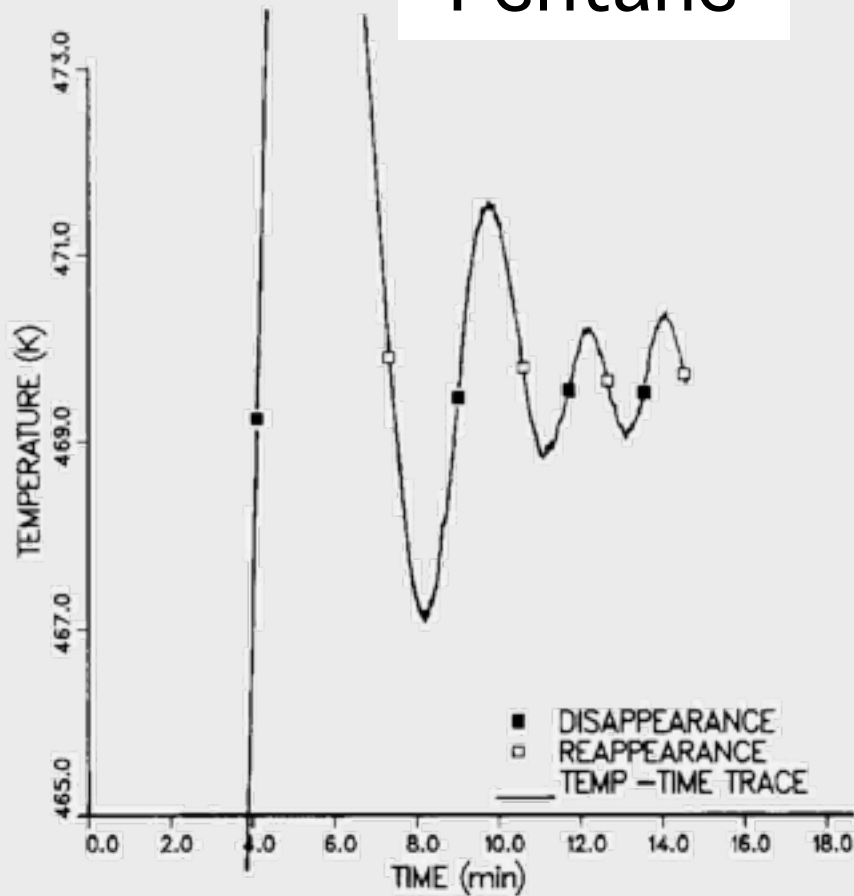


To *predict* the thermodynamic properties (boiling points) of the hydrocarbon mixtures it is convenient (=Engineering models use them) to know the critical points of the hydrocarbons.

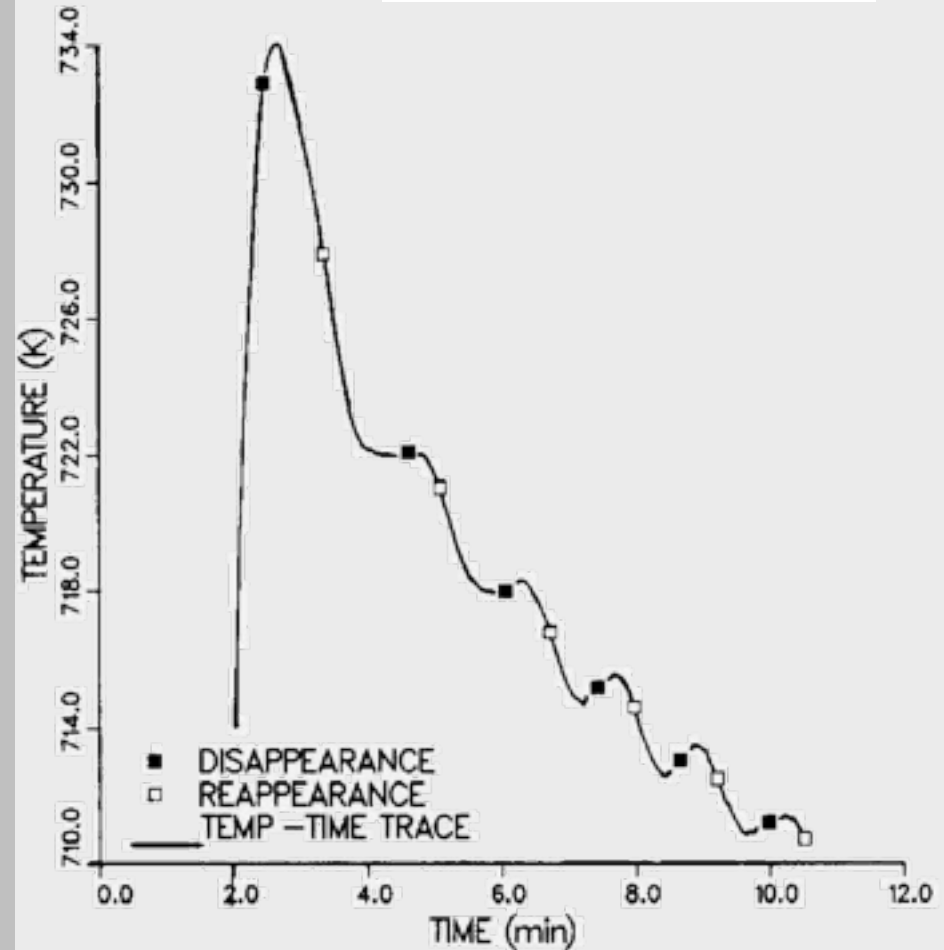


# Critical points of long chain hydrocarbons

## Pentane



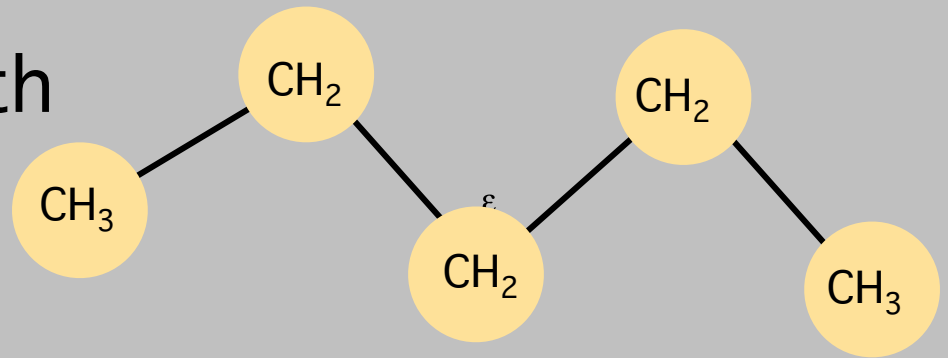
## Heptadecane



# Hydrocarbons: intermolecular potential

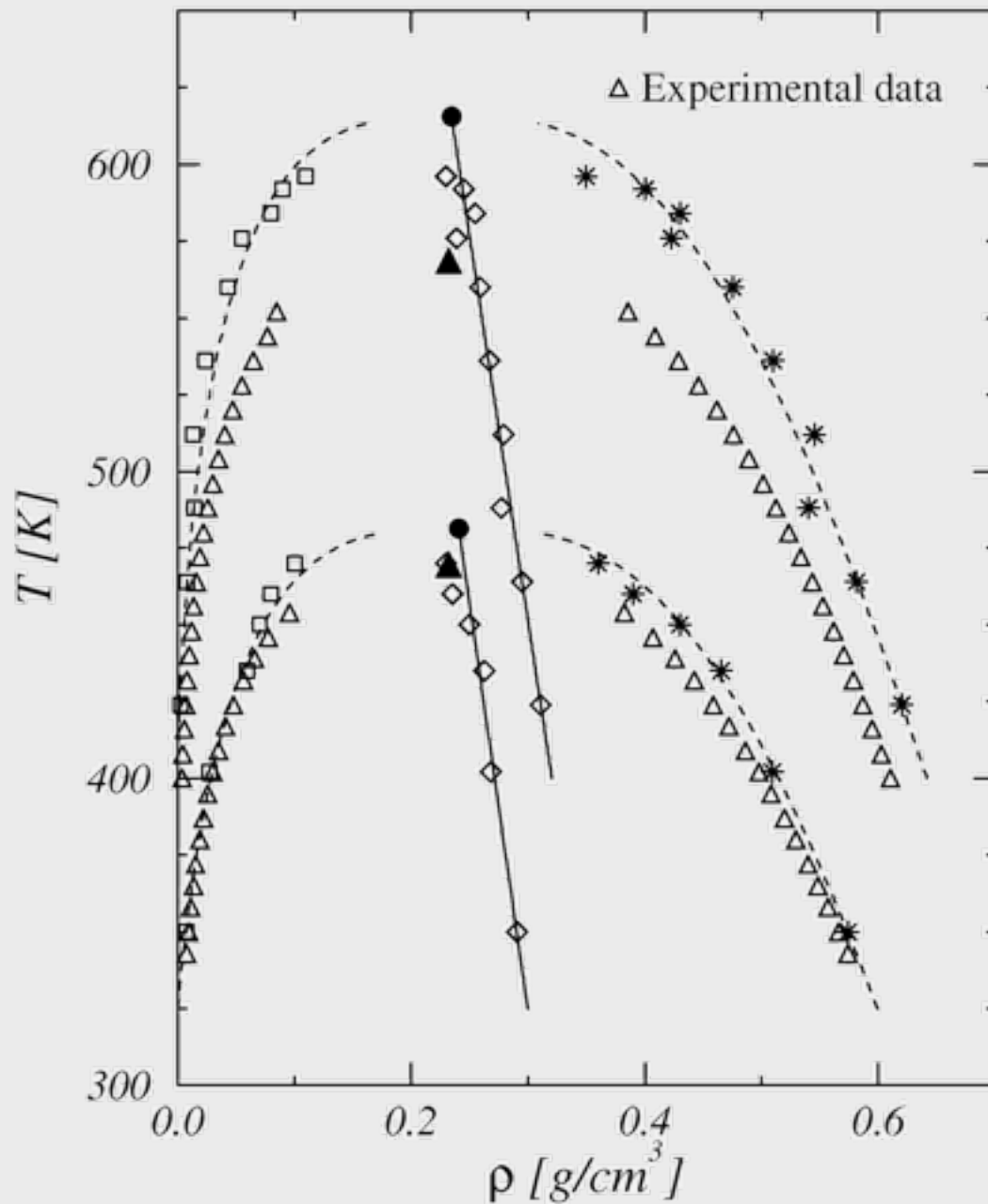
## United-atom model

- Fixed bond length
- Bond-bending
- Torsion
- Non-bonded: Lennard-Jones



$$u(r) = 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$

# OPLS (Jorgensen) Model



Molecular dynamics: press enter and see ...

Lectures on Free Energies and Phase Equilibrium

Lectures on advanced Monte Carlo

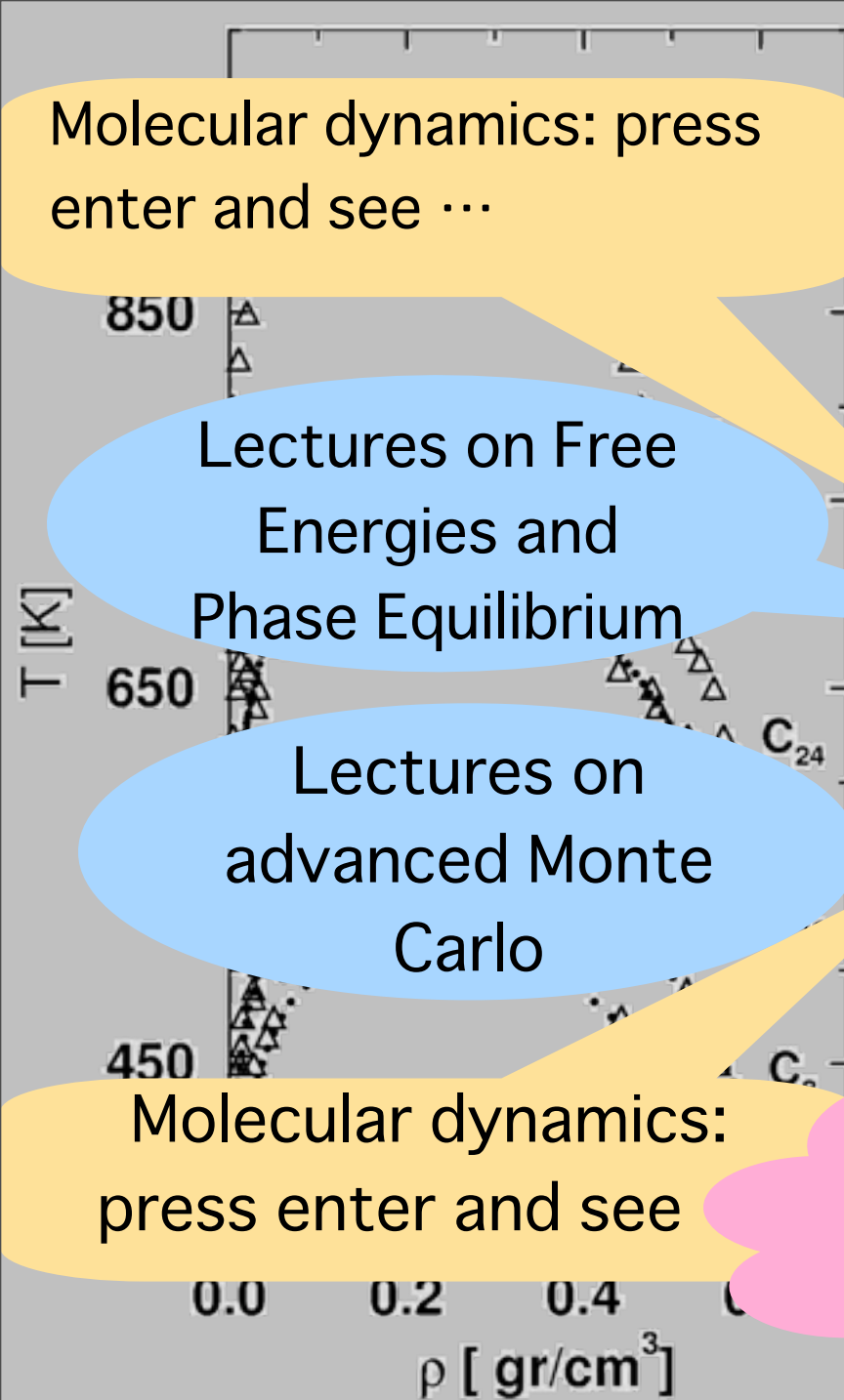
Molecular dynamics: press enter and see

*But my system is extremely small, is the statistic reliable?*

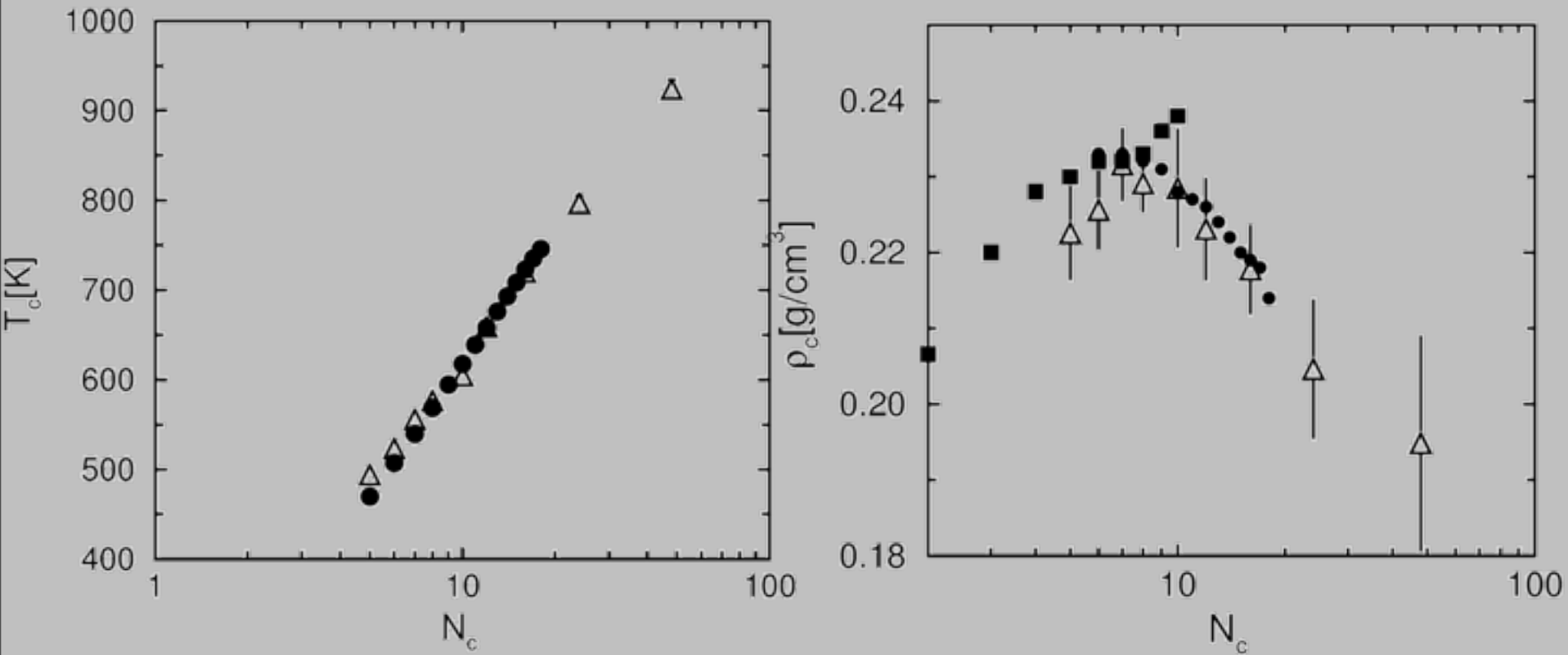
Computational issues:

- How to compute vapour-liquid equilibrium?
- How to deal with long chain

*But C48 moves much slower than methane (C1). Do I have enough CPU time*



# Critical Temperature and Density



Nature **365**, 330 (1993).

## Example 2

# Methane Storage





# Methane cars: the technological obstacle

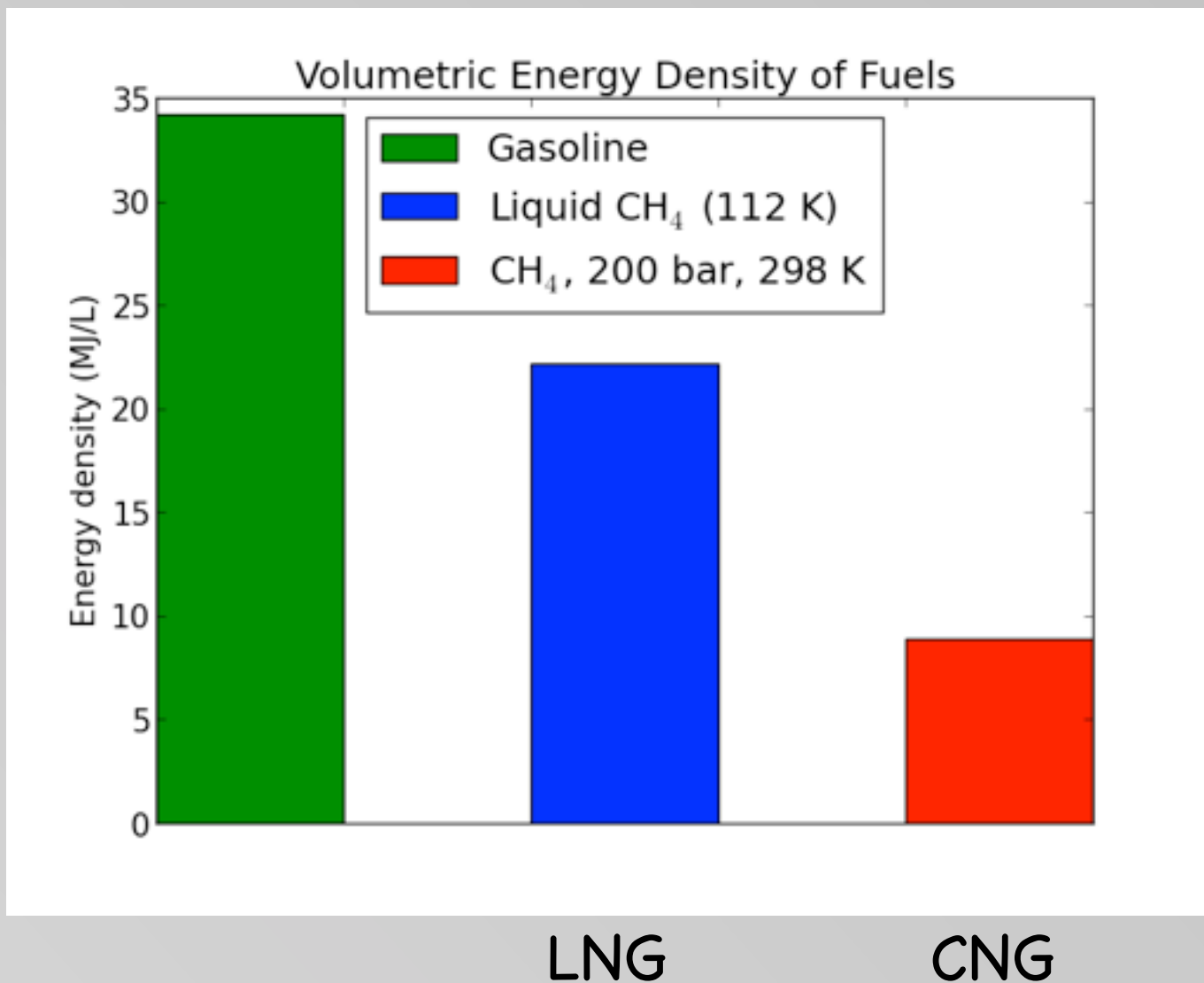


0.036 MJ



34.2 MJ

# Methane versus gasoline

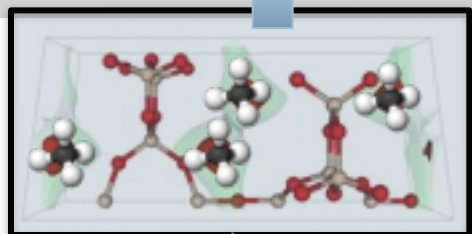


Makal *et al. Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2012** 41.23, 7761-7779.



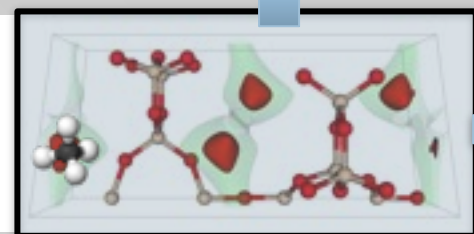


65 bar



$P_H = 65 \text{ bar}$

5.8 bar



$P_L = 5.8 \text{ bar}$

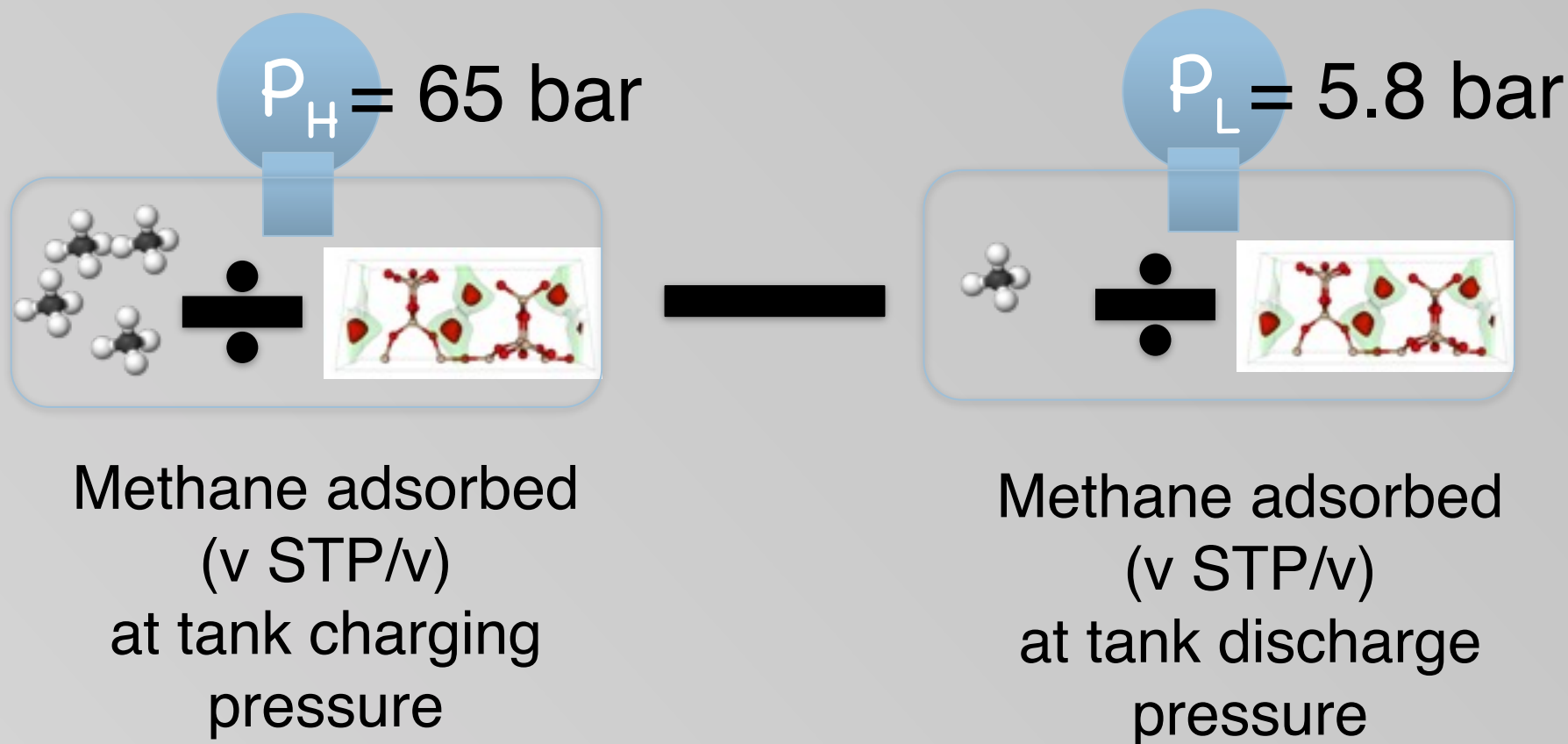


Insufficient  
flow



$\sim 1 \text{ bar}$

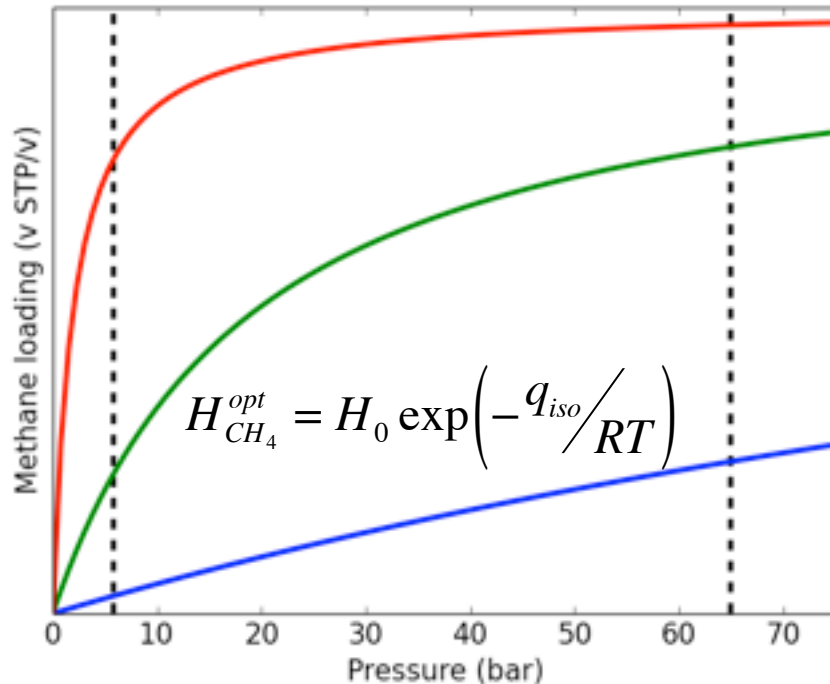
# The deliverable capacity



**ARPA-E (DOE) target:  $315 \text{ m}^3 \text{ STP methane/m}^3$  adsorbent**

# An optimal heat of adsorption?

Goal: maximize deliverable capacity



“For methane, an optimal enthalpy change of [16.2] kJ/mol is found.”

*Langmuir* 2006, 22, 1688–1700

## Optimum Conditions for Adsorptive Storage

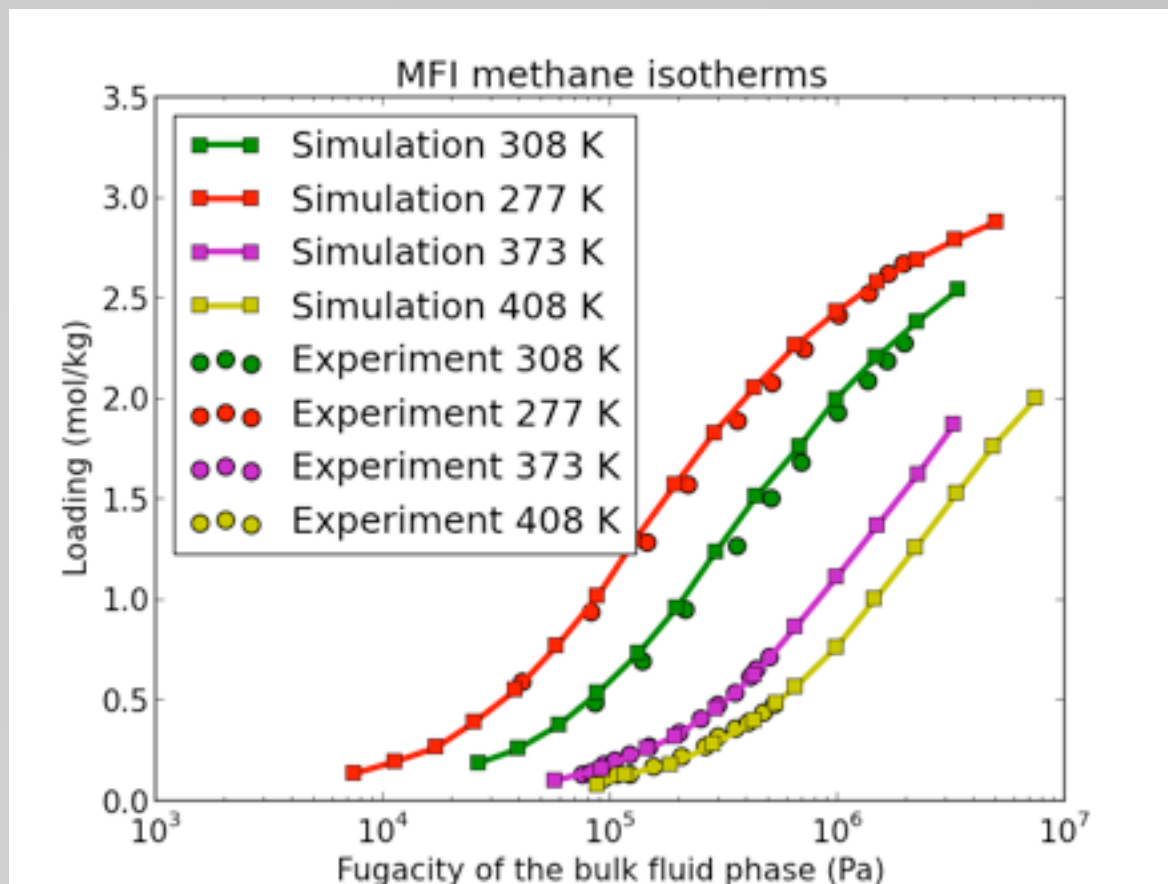
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Alan L. Myers\*

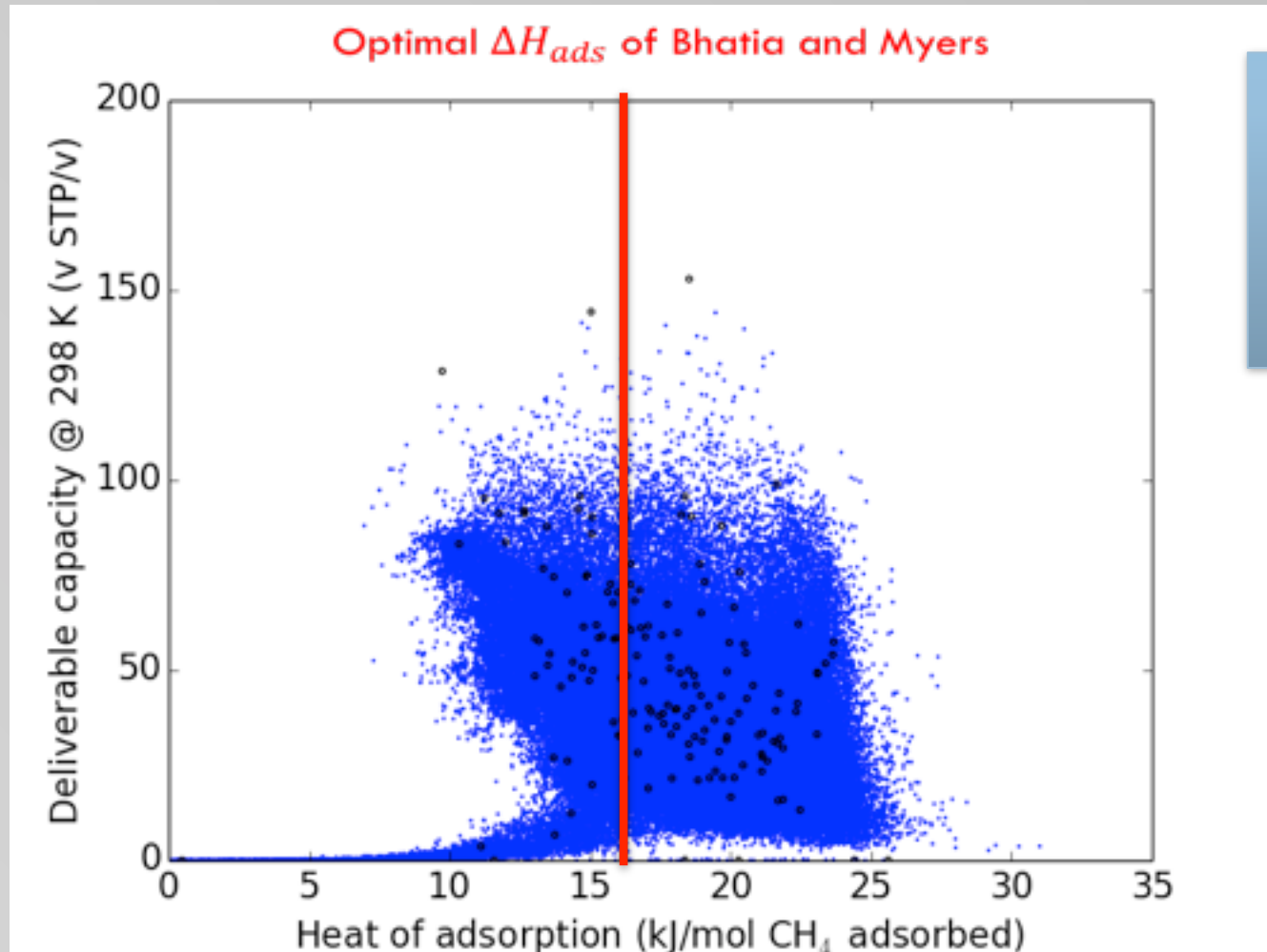
*Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104*

# In silico screening of zeolites



MFI expt'l data: Sun *et al.* (1998) *J. Phys. Chem. B.* 102(8), 1466-1473.  
Zhu *et al.* (2000) *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 2(9), 1989-1995.  
Force field: Dubbeldam *et al.* (2004) *Phys. Rev.* 93(8), 088302.

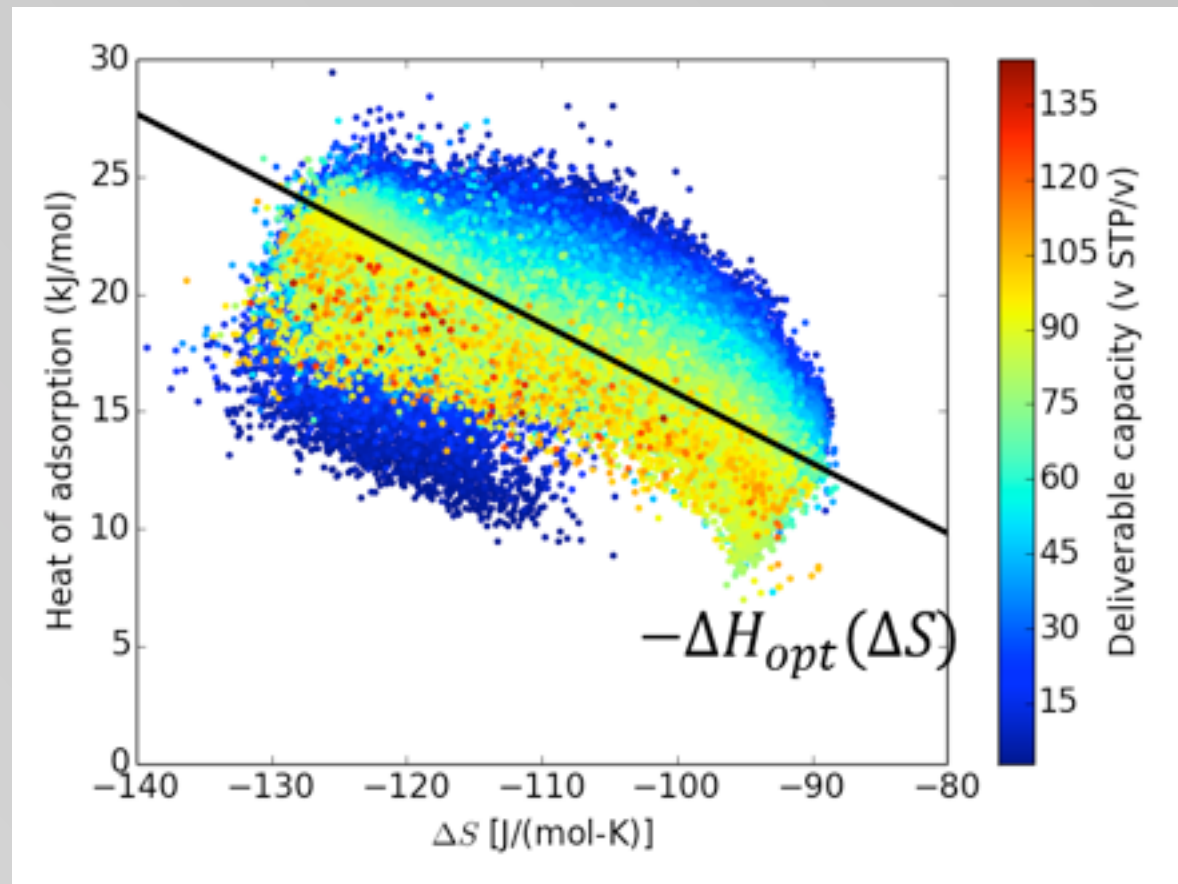
# In silico screening of zeolites



C. Simon *et al.* (2014) *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 16 (12), 5499-5513

# Enthalpy vs. entropy

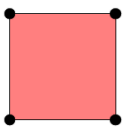
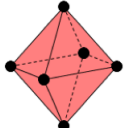


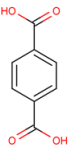
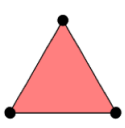
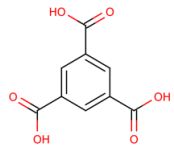
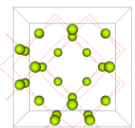
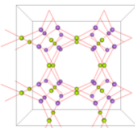
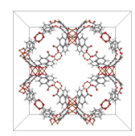
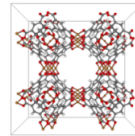
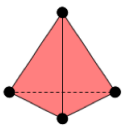


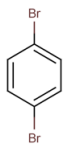

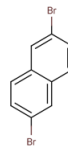
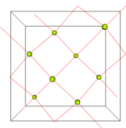
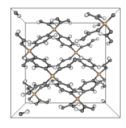
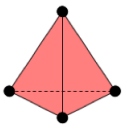

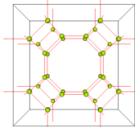
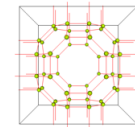
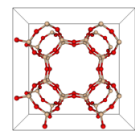
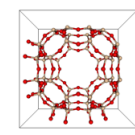
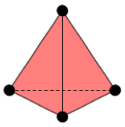


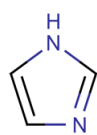

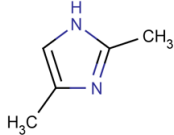
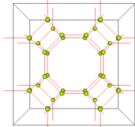
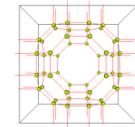
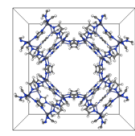
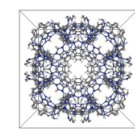
- $\Delta S$  not the same for all materials
- Wide range of  $\Delta H$  that yields optimal material



# Can we find a material that meets the DOE target?

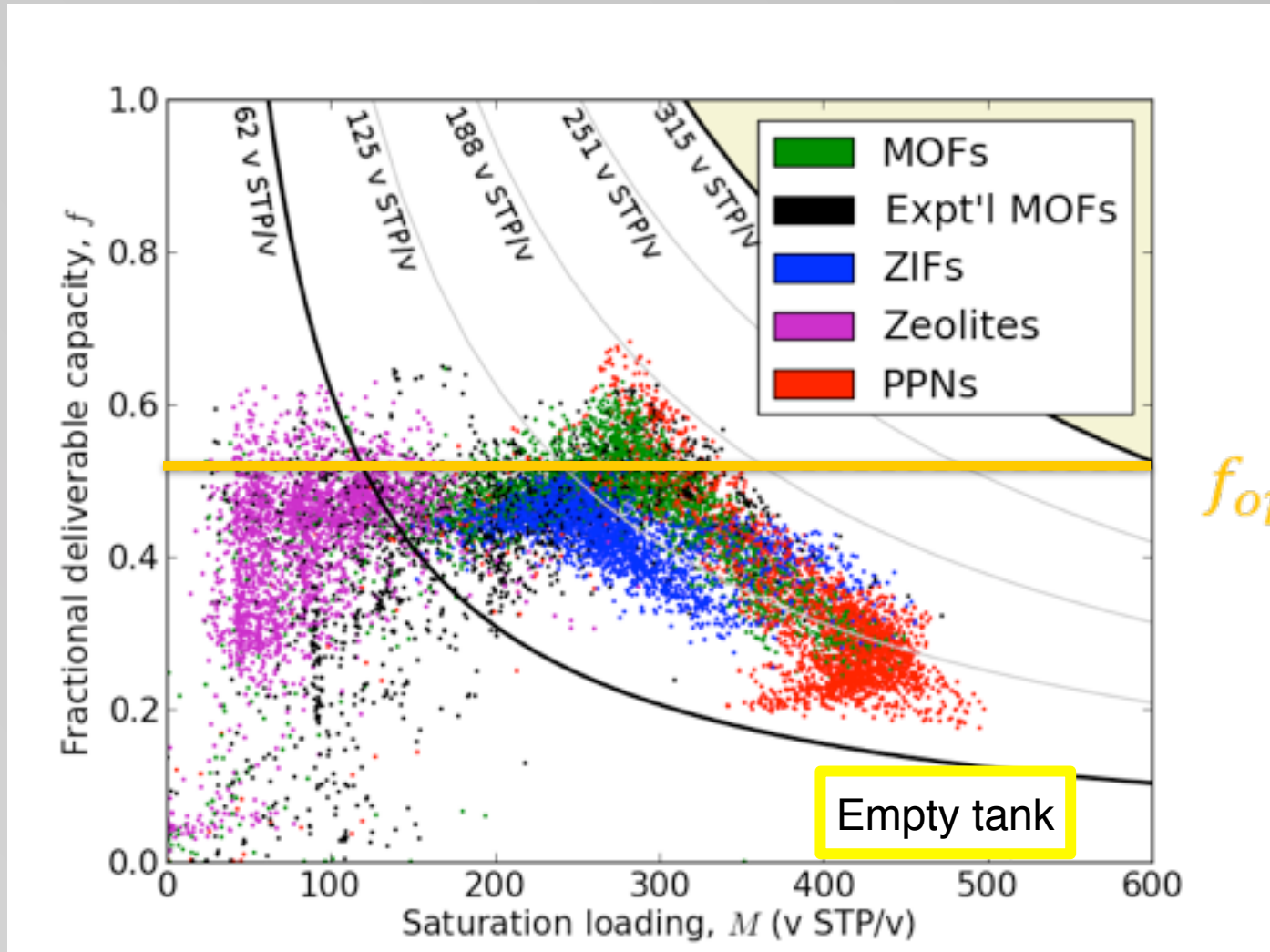
Screening > 100,000 materials

- zeolites
- Metal organic Frameworks, MOFs (Snurr and co-workers)
- zeolitic imidazolate frameworks, ZIFs, (Haranczyk)
- Polymer Porous Networks, PPNs (Haranczyk)

Material class	Building blocks				Topologies	
MOFs	 Cu—Cu	 	 	 	 	 
PPNs	 Si	 Ge	 	 	 	
Zeolites	 Si		 O		 	 
ZIFs	 Zn	 Fe	 	 	 	 



# Insight from the model



# Example 3: make a model

Your theory is **WRONG**  
it disagrees with the  
experiments

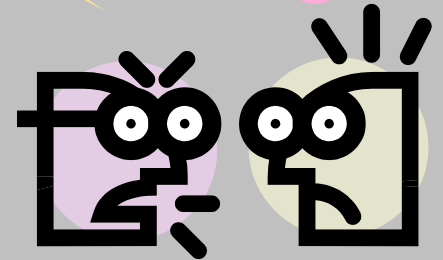
- Attractive forces are  
liquid equilibrium
- Theories predict the

**BUT:**

- There no molecules with *only* attractive  
interactions

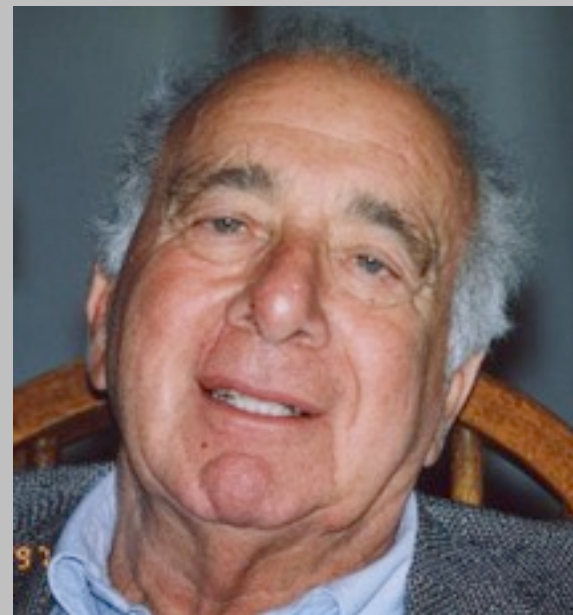
My theory is **RIGHT**:  
but this experimentalist  
refuses to use  
molecules that do not  
have any attractive  
interactions

How to test the theory?



# But we can simulate hard spheres ..

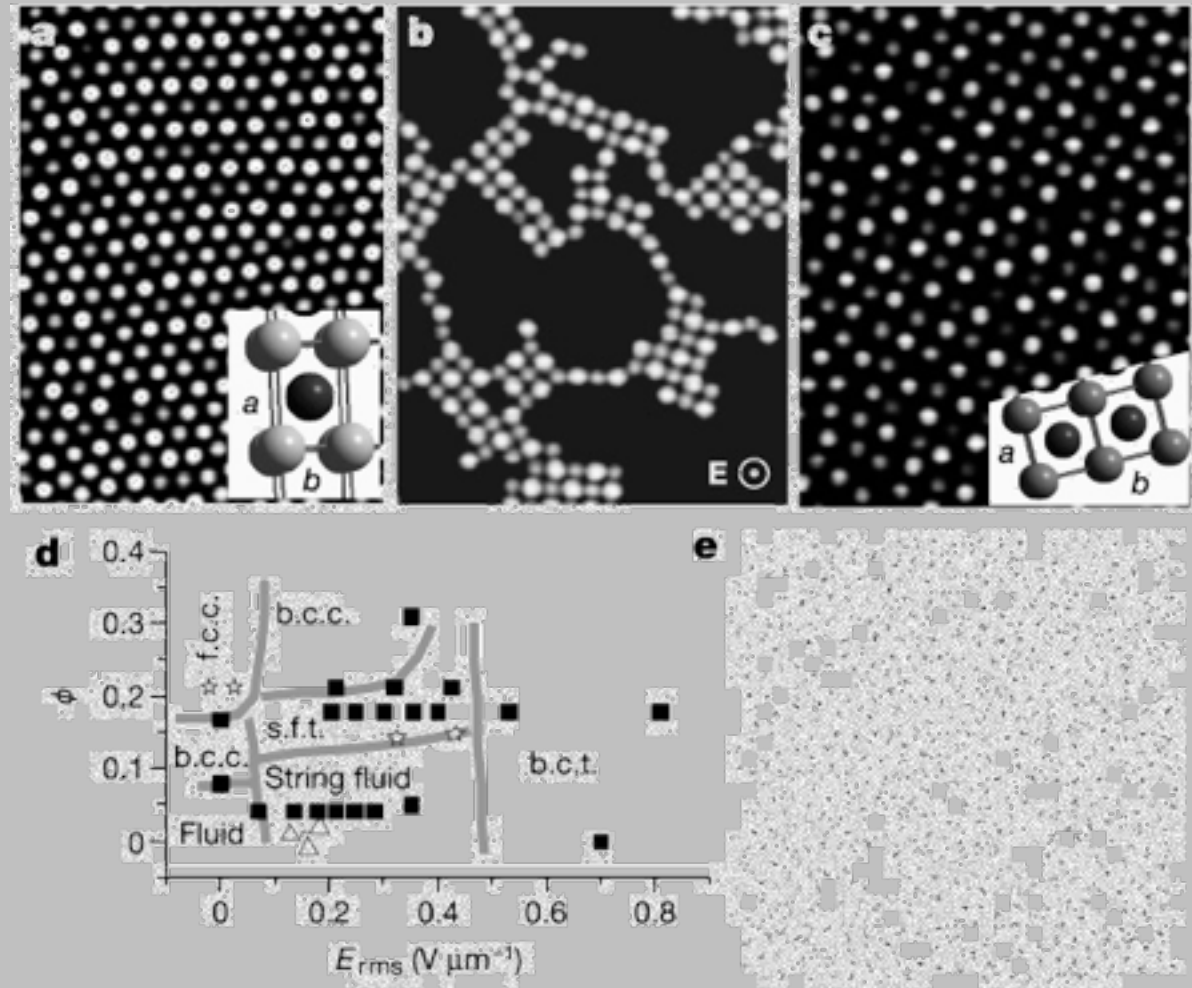
- Bernie Alder carried out Molecular Dynamics simulations of the freezing of hard spheres
- But, .... did the scientific community accept this computer results as experimental evidence ...
- ... during a Gordon conference it was proposed to vote on it ...
- ... and it was voted against the results of Alder



# Experiments are now possible

.. But not on molecules

but on colloids:



From the following article:

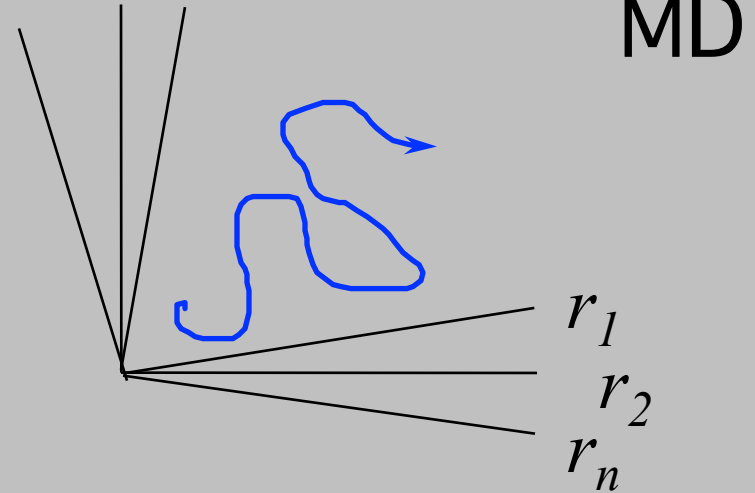
[A colloidal model system with an interaction tunable from hard sphere to soft and dipolar](#)

Anand Yethiraj and Alfons van Blaaderen  
Nature 421, 513-517 (30 January 2003)

# Molecular Dynamics

- Theory:

$$\mathbf{F} = m \frac{d^2 \mathbf{r}}{dt^2}$$



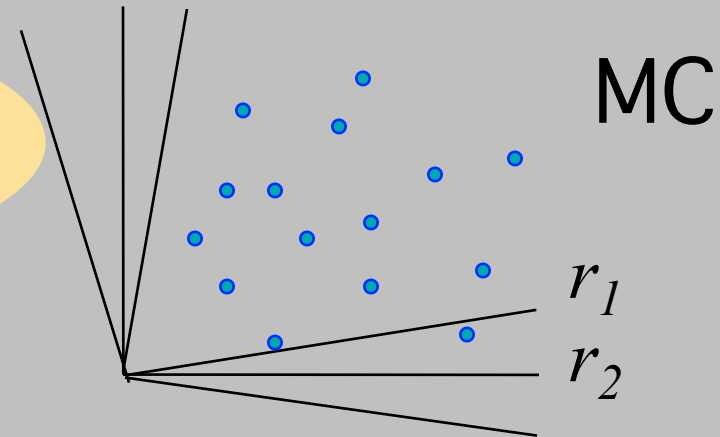
- Compute the forces on the particles
- Solve the equations of motion
- Sample after some timesteps

# Monte Carlo

What is the correct probability?  
Statistical Thermodynamics

- Generate a set of configurations with the *correct* probability
- Compute the thermodynamic and transport properties as averages over all configurations

How to compute these  
properties from a simulation?



# Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics

Problem: we have a set of coordinates and velocities -what to do with it?

- Statistical Thermodynamics
  - The probability to find a particular configuration
  - Properties are expressed in term of averages
  - Free energies
- Thermodynamics: relation of the free energies to thermodynamic properties