



Laboratoire des Matériaux, Surfaces
et Procédés pour la Catalyse

Size, microstructure and texture in heterogeneous electrocatalysis

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Фрумкинские Чтения, Москва, МГУ, 15 октября 2010 г.



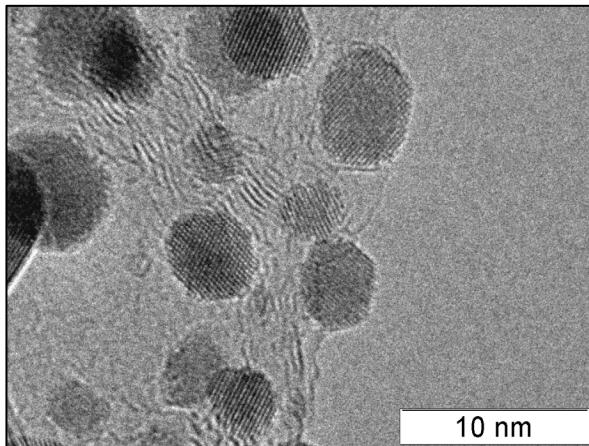
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Introduction

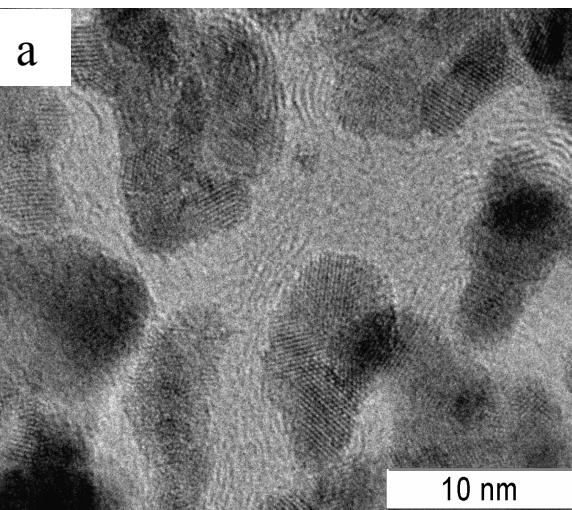
5%Pd/C



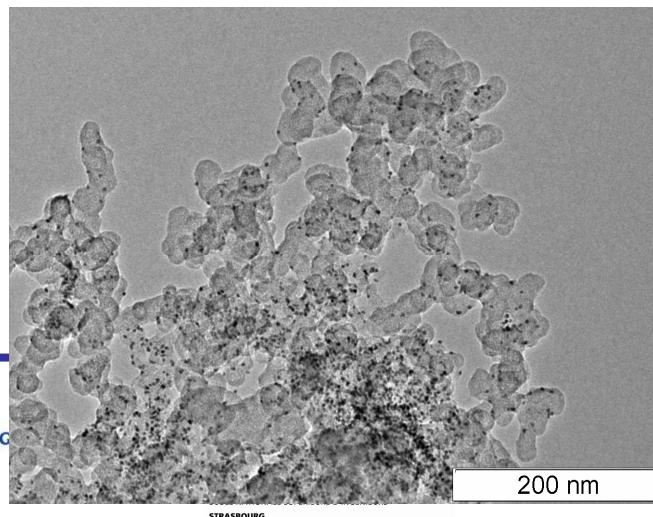
Heterogeneous electrocatalysis:

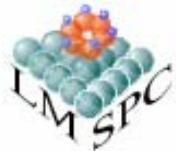
Size
Structure
Microstructure
Texture

50wt%PtRu/C



20wt%Pt/C





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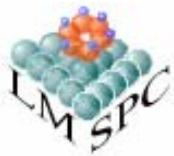
Outline

- ❖ Part 1: Design of nanosized and nanostructured materials
- ❖ Part 2: Particle size effects
- ❖ Part 3: Microstructure effects
- ❖ Part 4: Catalytic layer texture effects



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Part 1:

Design of nanosized and nanostructured materials



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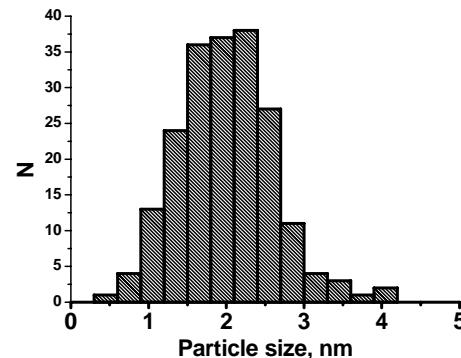
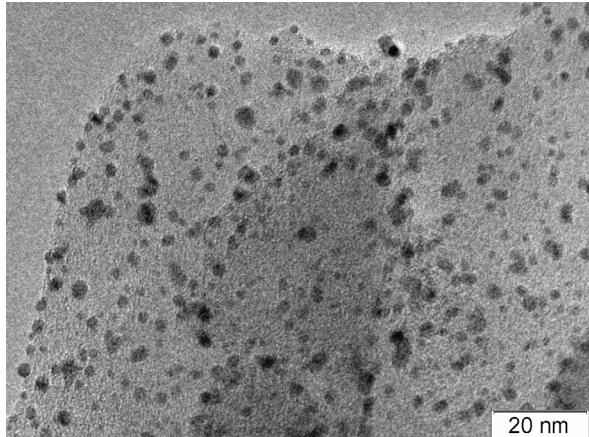
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Control of the particle size and dispersion

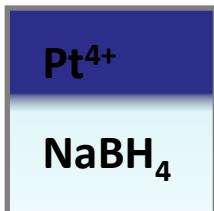
Pt supported on carbon

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Deposition-reduction method of Pt/C preparation (P.A. Simonov , BIC)

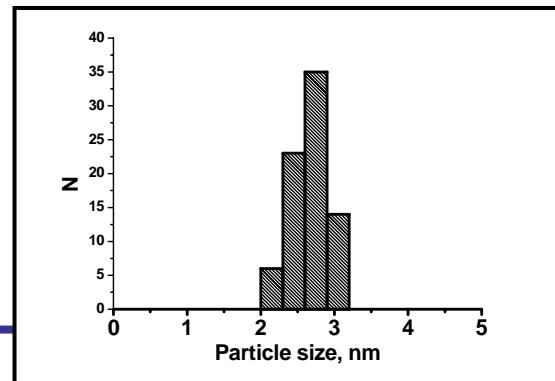
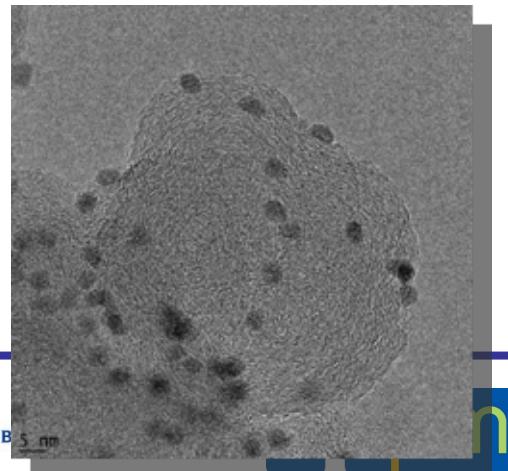


Phase transfer synthesis of alkylamine stabilized Pt nanoparticles (A. Kuznetsov, UdS)



Organic phase

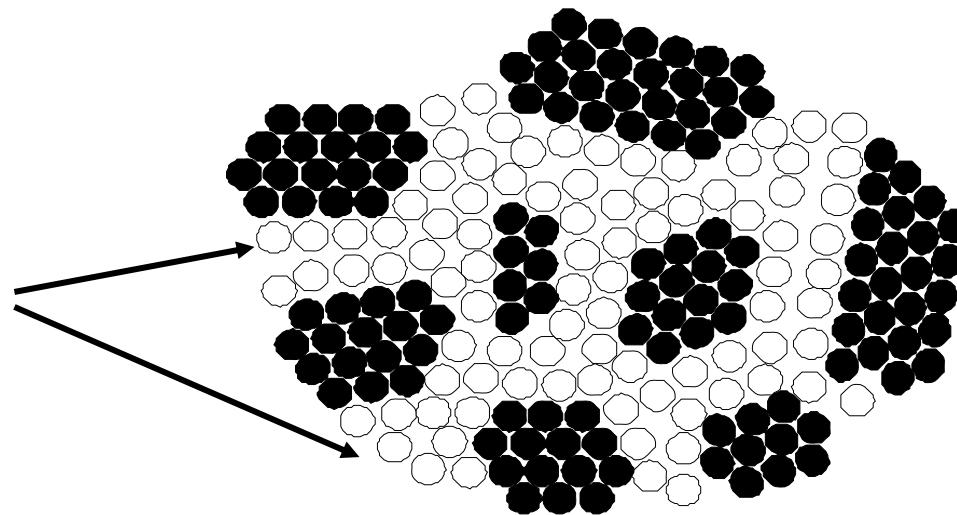
Aqueous phase



Nanostructured materials

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Intergrain
boundaries

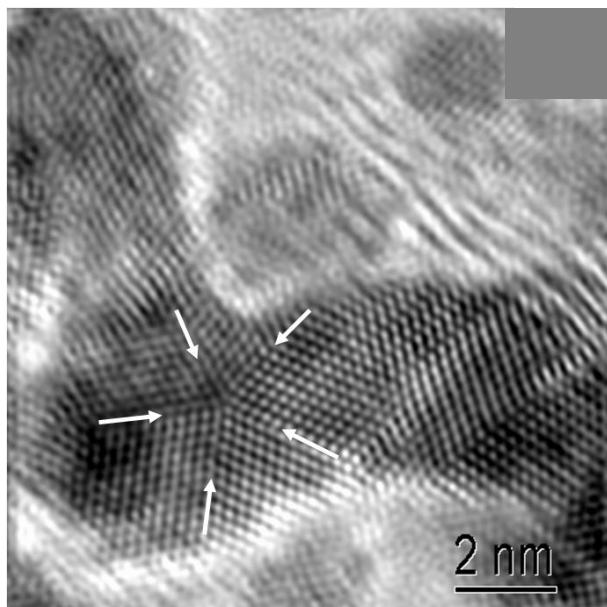


H. Gleiter, *Nanostruct. Mater.* 1 (1992) 1.

Wet chemical preparation of nanostructured materials

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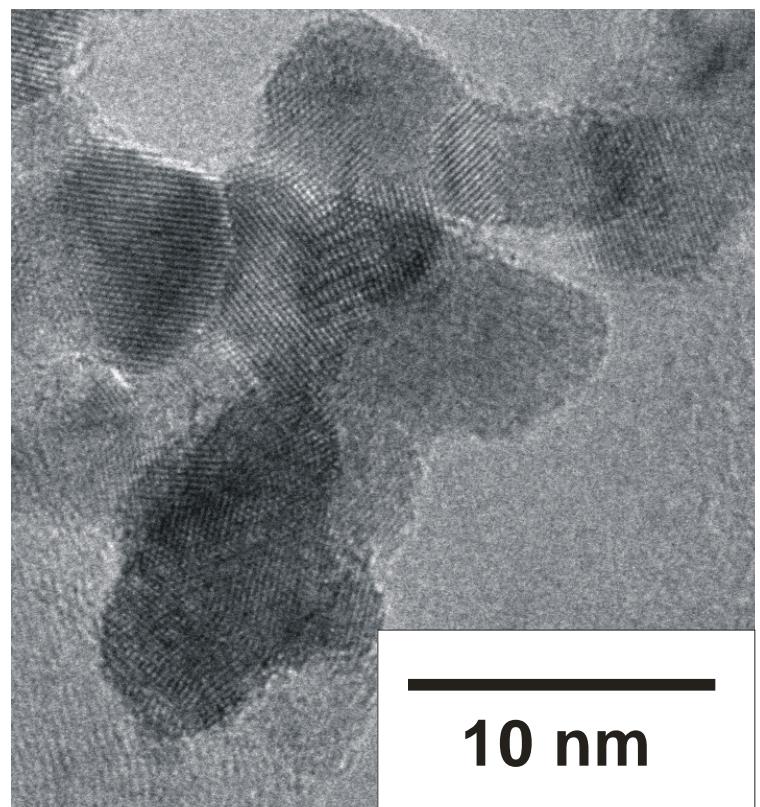
Ordered multiple-twinned particles (FT HRTEM)



Multiple-twinned particles
with intersecting grain
boundaries
Pentagonal bipyramids with
5-fold symmetry axis

Multiple-twinned
particles with
parallel GBs:
Formation of
dislocation
planes

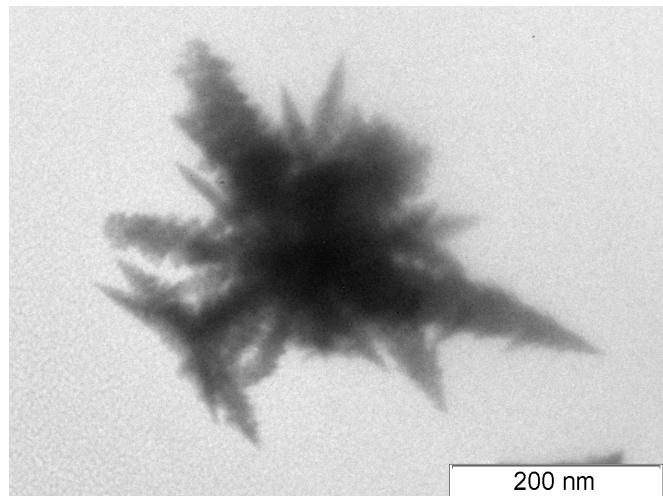
Disordered intercrystalline
grain boundaries (HRTEM)



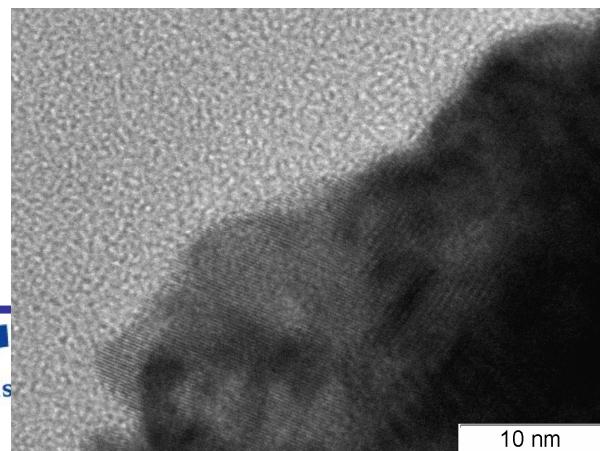
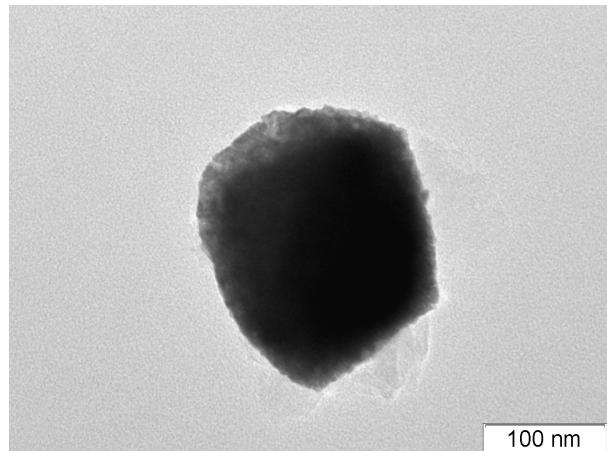
Electrochemical preparation of nanostructured materials

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Pt/GC deposited at 115 mV vs. RHE



Pt/GC deposited at 185 mV vs. RHE

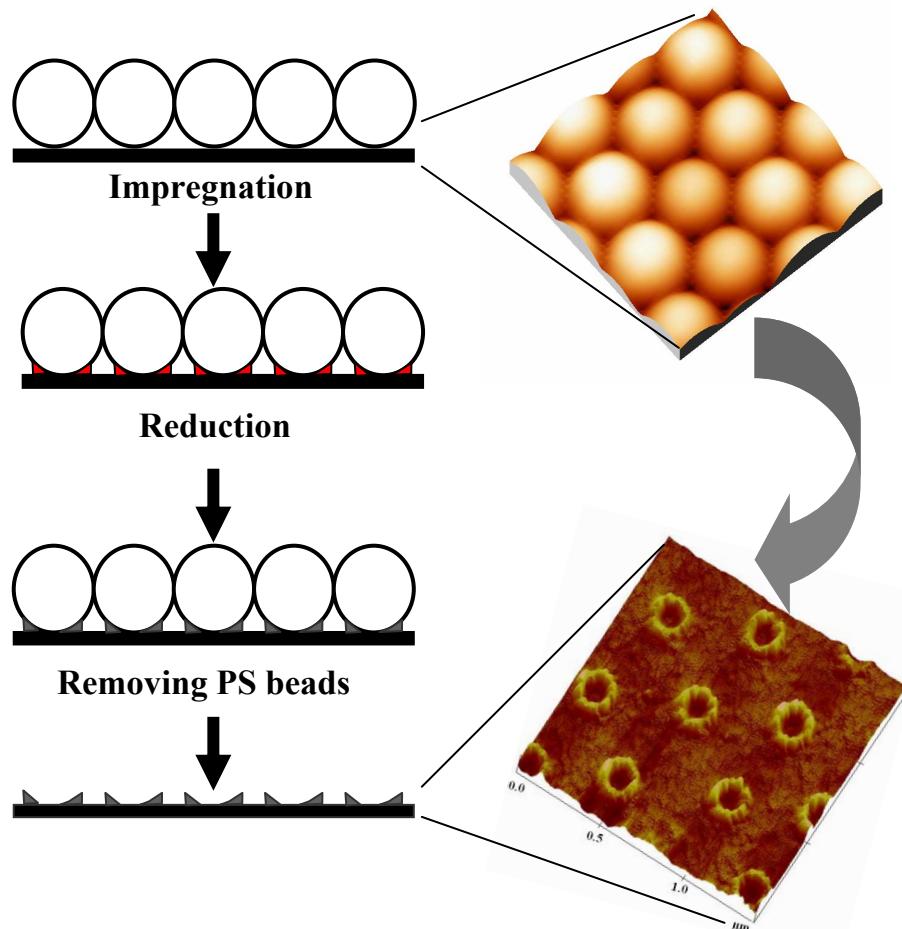


A.N. Simonov,
O.V. Cherstiouk,
S.Yu. Vassiliev,
V.I. Zaikovskii,
A. Yu. Filatov,
N.A. Rudina, E.R.
Savinova, G.A. Tsirlina,
in preparation.

2D nanoparticle arrays

PS nanosphere lithography

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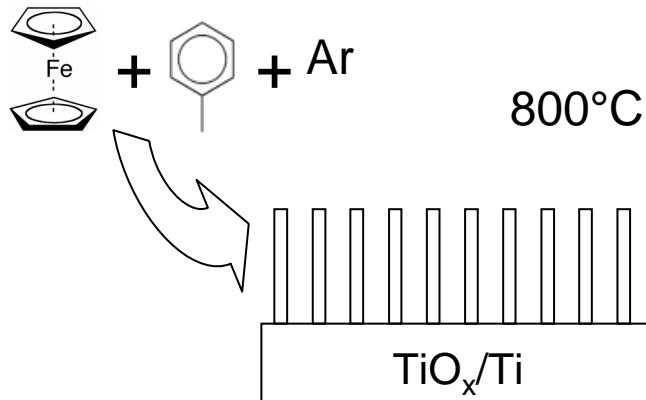


Maryam Bayati, Piotr
Patoka, Michael Giersig,
Elena R. Savinova,
Langmuir 2010

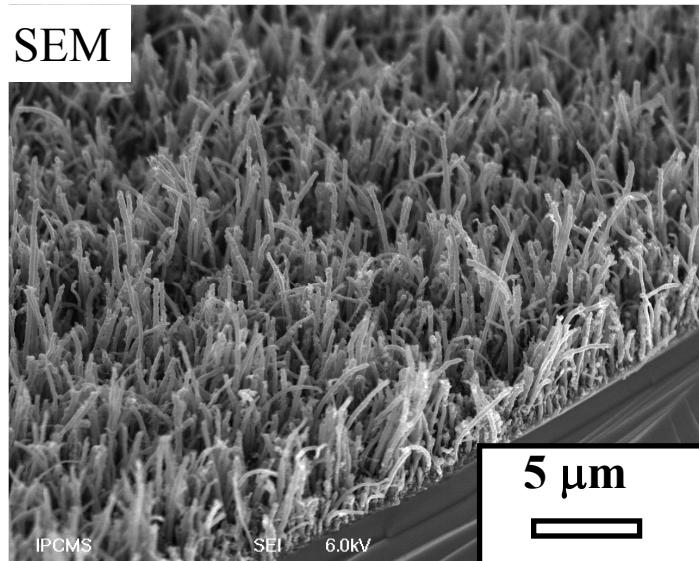
3D electrode arrays

Pt supported on vertically aligned CNFs

catalytic chemical vapor deposition

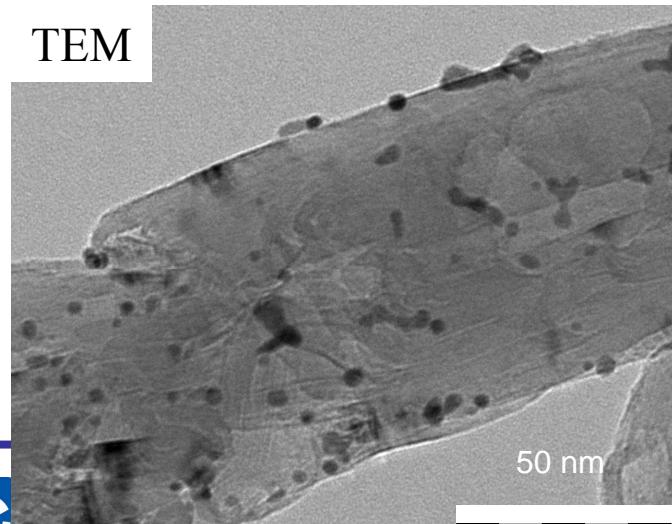


SEM



5 μ m

TEM



*P. S. Ruvinskiy, A. Bonnefont, M. Houllé,
C. Pham-Huu, and E.R. Savinova,
Electrochim. Acta, 55 (2010) 3245-3256.*



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Part 1: Conclusions

- Modern nanotechnology approaches allow preparation of nanosized and nanostructured materials with well defined particle size and microstructure
- Importance of post-mortem and in situ characterization

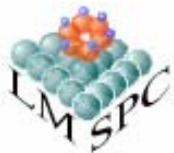


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Part 2: Particle size effects

*Influence of the particle size on
H, O/OH and CO
adsorption/reaction*



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Particle size effects in electrocatalysis



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Electrochimica Acta 48 (2003) 3851–3860

ELECTROCHIMICA
Acta

www.elsevier.com/locate/electacta

Model approach to evaluate particle size effects in electrocatalysis:
preparation and properties of Pt nanoparticles supported on GC and
HOPG

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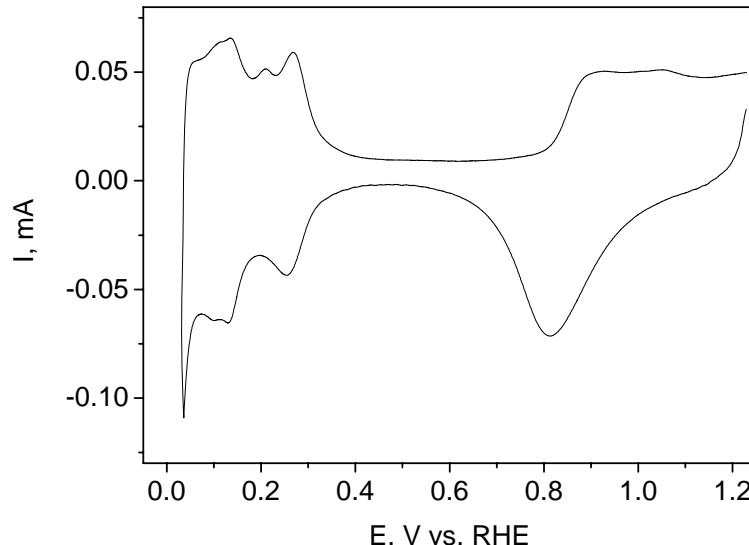
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H_{UPD}: measurement of the Pt surface area

CV of Pt foil in 0.1 M H₂SO₄ at 20 mV/s

Extended electrode surfaces:

S. Trasatti and O. A. Petrii, *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*, **327**, 353-376 (1992).



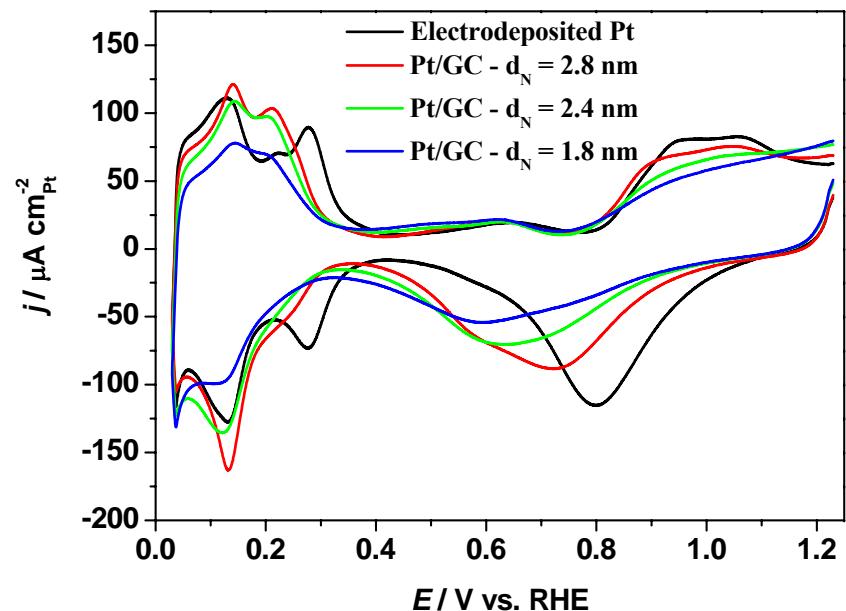
Nanomaterials:

- electrochemisorption: H_{UPD}, CO stripping, Cu_{UPD}, etc.
- physical characterization methods: TEM, XRD, STM, etc.
- gas phase chemisorption

Adsorption properties of Pt/C: influence of the particle size on H_{UPD}

CVs in supporting electrolyte: H₂SO₄ 0.1 M

Pt/C



- Increased irreversibility of the surface oxide reduction

- Decrease of the H_{UPD} coverage

Ensemble effect?

3-fold and 4-fold hollow sites:

Influence of the (surface) oxide?

Data replotted from:

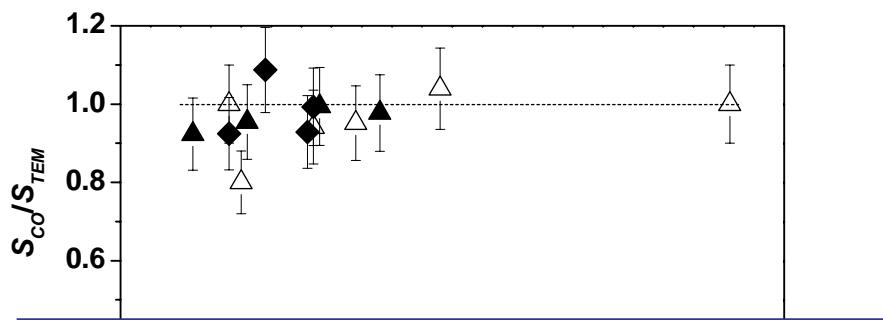
F. Maillard et al., *Faraday Discussions*, **125**, 357-377 (2004).

F. Maillard et al., *PCCP*, **7**, 385-393 (2005).

H_{UPD} versus CO stripping

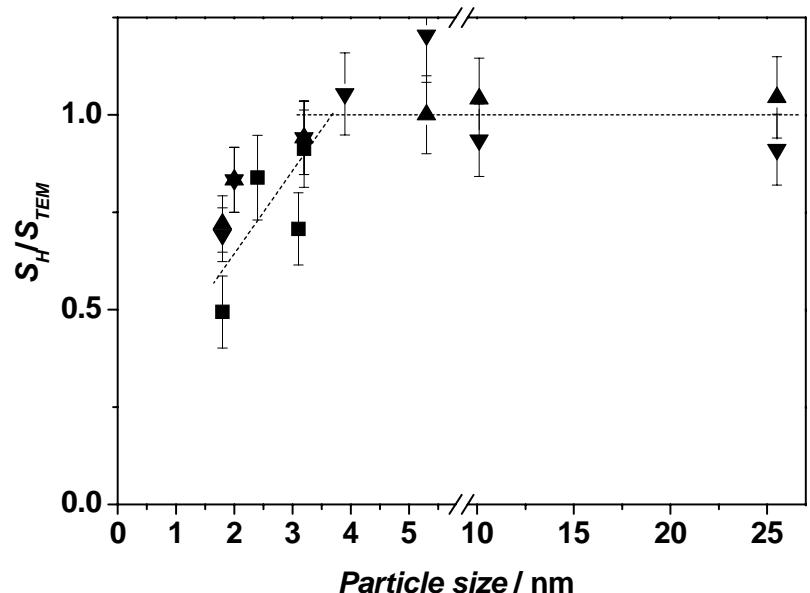
Surface area determination: Pt supported on carbon

CO stripping



Conventional method of the surface evaluation based on H_{UPD} coulometry is inappropriate for particles with the size below 3.5 nm

H_{UPD}



F. Maillard, et al., *Faraday Discussions*, **125**, 357-377 (2004).

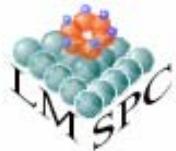
F. Maillard, et al. PCCP, **7**, 385-393 (2005).

L. Genies et al., *Electrochimica Acta*, **44**, 1317-1327 (1998).

H. Ye et al., *Langmuir*, **23**, 11901-11906 (2007).

A. Kabbabi, PhD Thesis 1994.

B. Z. Jusys and R. J. Behm, *J.Phys.Chem. B*, **105**, 10874-10883 (2001).

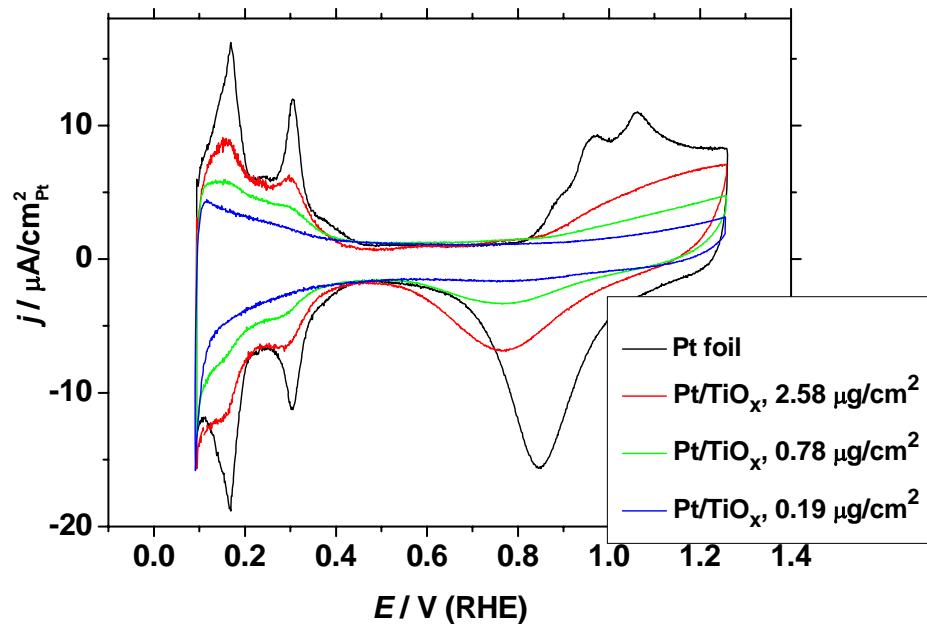


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Adsorption properties of Pt: Influence of the particle size on H and O/OH adsorption

Pt/TiO_x

CVs in supporting electrolyte: H₂SO₄ 0.1 M, 0.01 V/s



Pronkin et al.



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Part 2: Conclusions

- Particle size strongly affects adsorption and electrocatalytic properties of metals (oxides?)
- Conventional approaches utilized for the measurement of the surface area may not be applicable to nanomaterials



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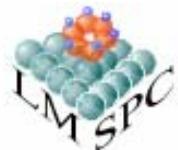
Part 3: Microstructure effects



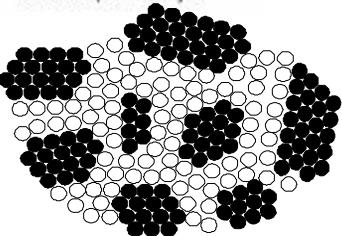
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Microstructure effects in CO and MeOH oxidation on Pt and PtRu electrodes

PAPER

www.rsc.org/pccp | Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics

On the influence of the metal loading on the structure of carbon-supported PtRu catalysts and their electrocatalytic activities in CO and methanol electrooxidation

Alexei N. Gavrilov,^a Elena R. Savinova,^{*bc} Pavel A. Simonov,^b
Vladimir I. Zaikovskii,^b Svetlana V. Cherepanova,^b Galina A. Tsirlina^a and
Valentin N. Parmon^b

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Surface Science 603 (2009) 1892–1899



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The assessment of nanocrystalline surface defects on real versus model catalysts probed via vibrational spectroscopy of adsorbed CO

Elena R. Savinova ^{a,*}, Francoise Hahn ^b, Nicolas Alonso-Vante ^b

^a l'Ecole Européenne Chimie Polymères Matériaux, Université Louis Pasteur, UMR 7515 du CNRS-UdS-ECPM, 25 rue Becquerel, F 67087 Strasbourg, France

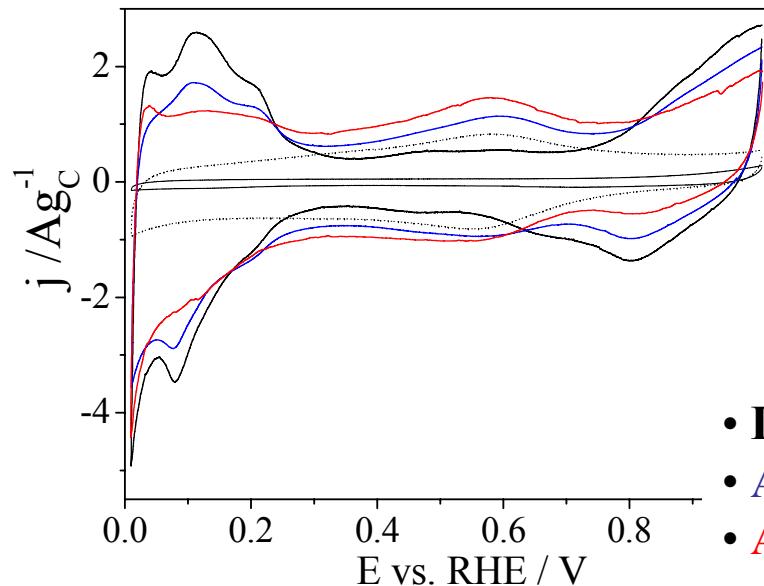
^b Laboratory of Electrocatalysis, UMR-CNRS 6503, Université de Poitiers, F-86022 Poitiers, 40, avenue du recteur Pineau, France



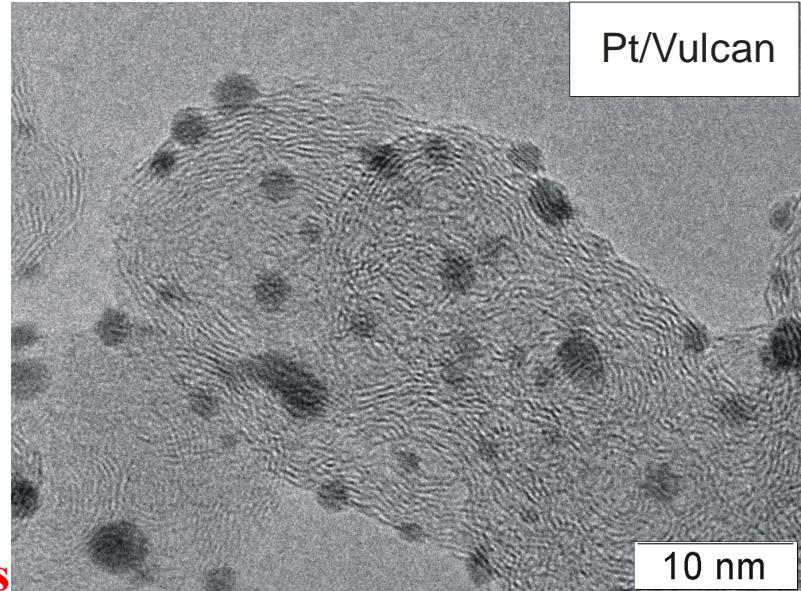
Microstructure effects in Pt/C degradation

Cyclic voltammograms for Pt/C samples and corresponding carbon supports before and after corrosion

Vulcan XC-72



- **Initial**
- **After 8 hours**
- **After 82 hours**



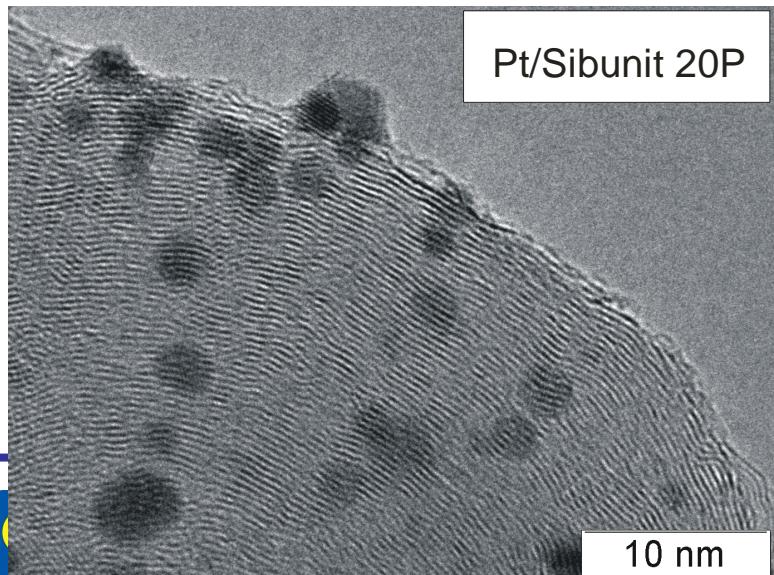
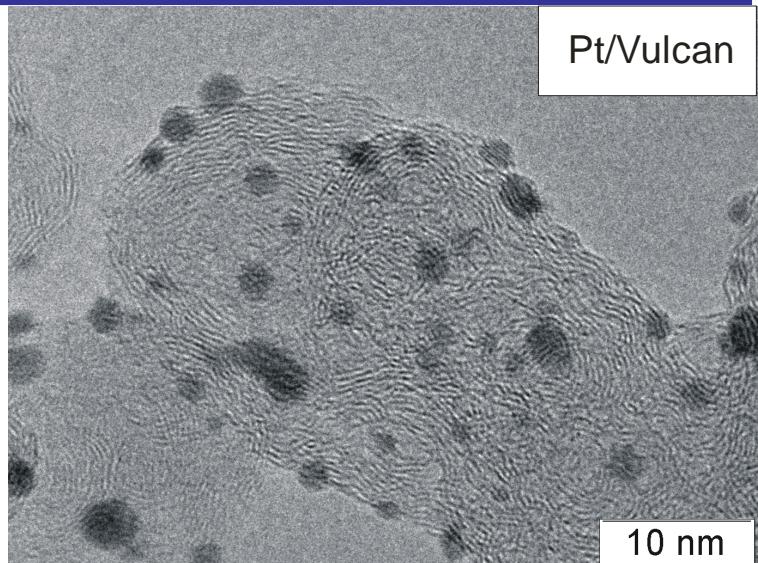
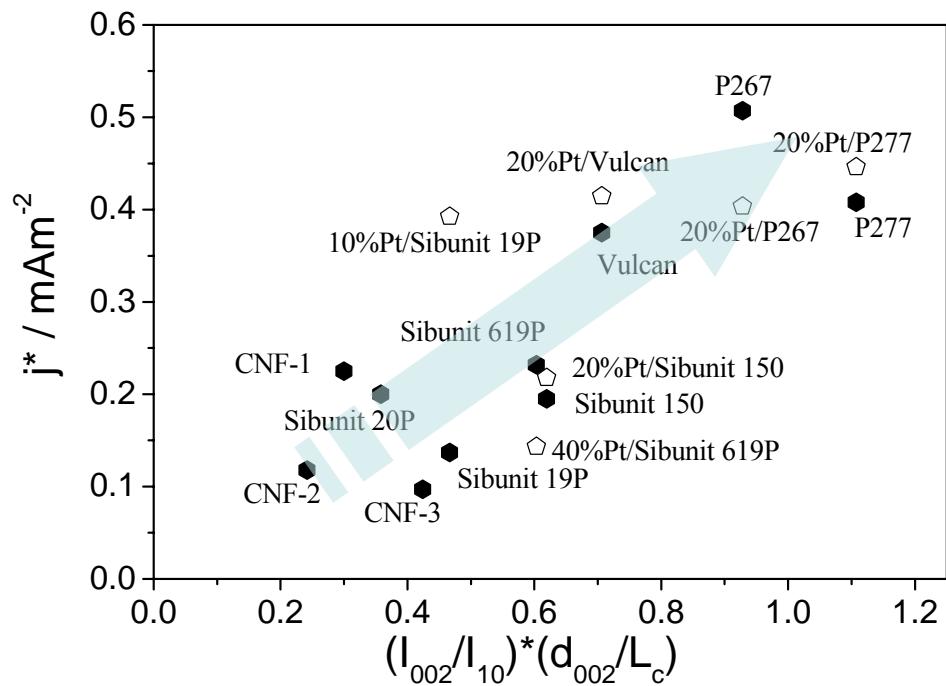
Model accelerated corrosion studies
were performed in 2 M H₂SO₄ at
80°C at 1.2 V

Carbon corrosion

Influence of Microstructure

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Influence of structural parameter



Model accelerated corrosion studies
were performed in 2 M H₂SO₄ at
80°C at 1.2 V

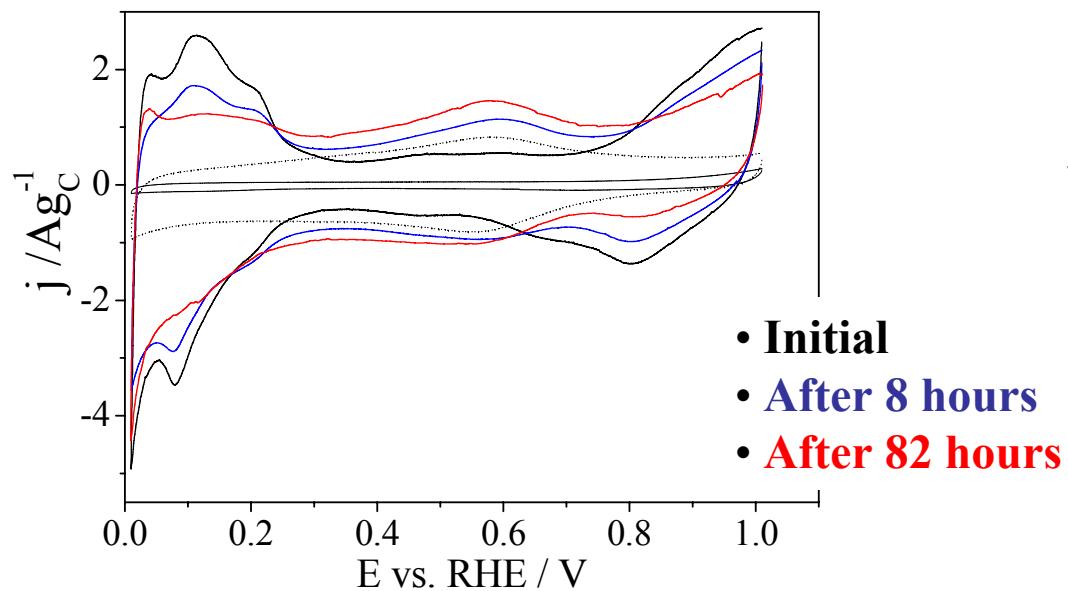
Corrosion of carbon-supported Pt catalysts

Influence of Microstructure

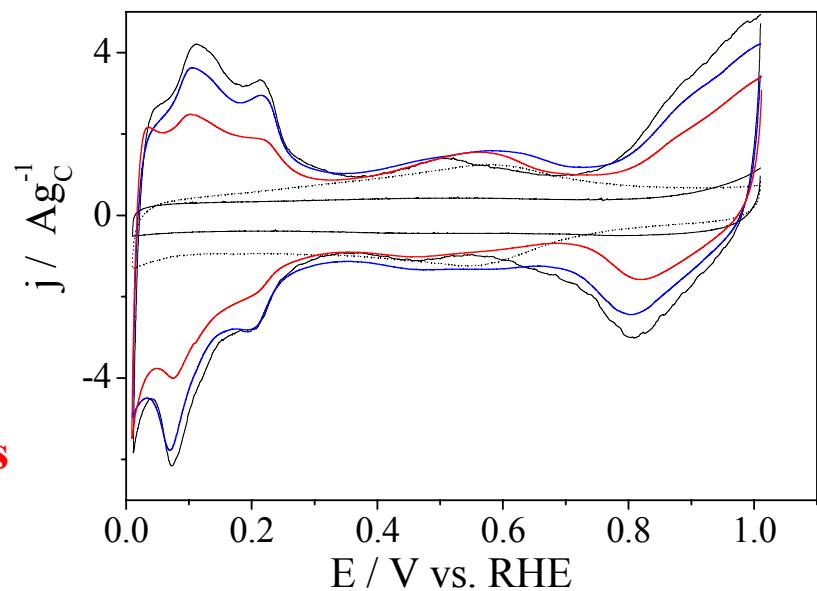
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Cyclic voltammograms for Pt/C samples and corresponding carbon supports before and after corrosion

Vulcan XC-72



Sibunit 619 P

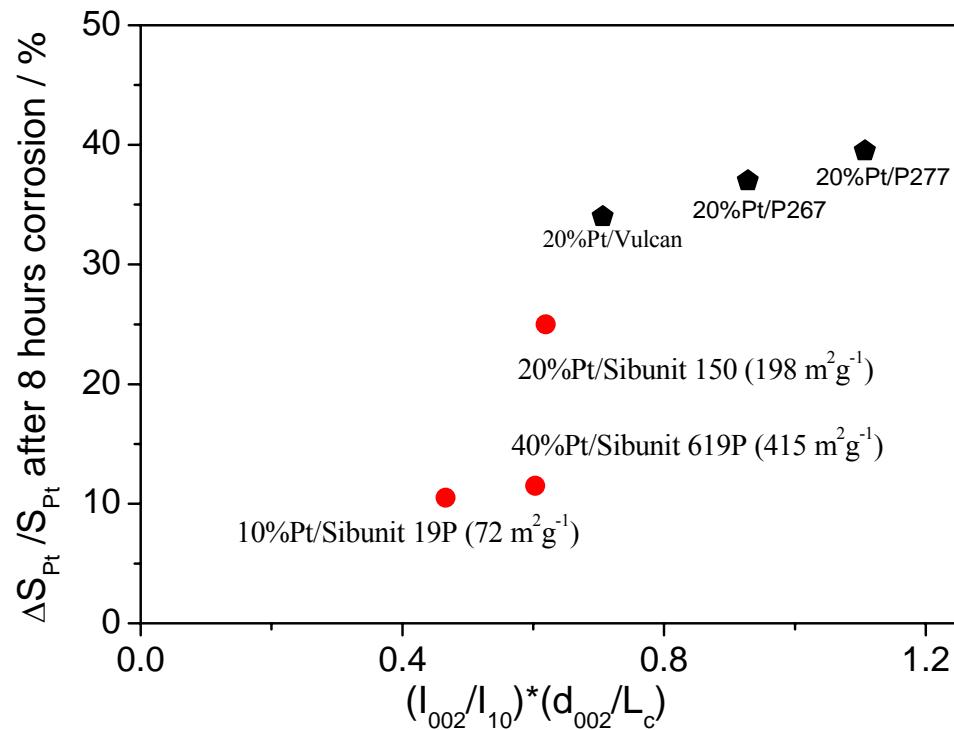


Corrosion of carbon-supported Pt catalysts

Influence of Microstructure

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Relative decrease of the surface area of supported Pt catalysts
after 8 hours of corrosion



The surface area of Pt is measured using the H_{UPD} charge



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Part 3: Conclusions

Presence of grain boundaries strongly affects electrocatalytic activity and stability of electrode materials



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Part 4:

Texture effects

*ORR on 3D ordered catalytic
layers*



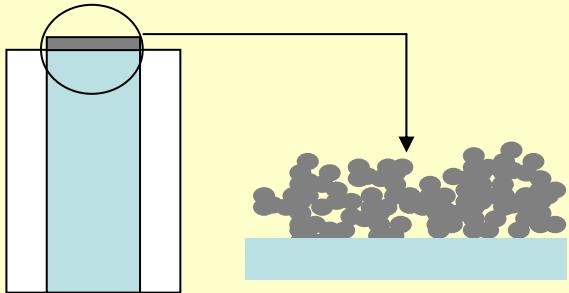
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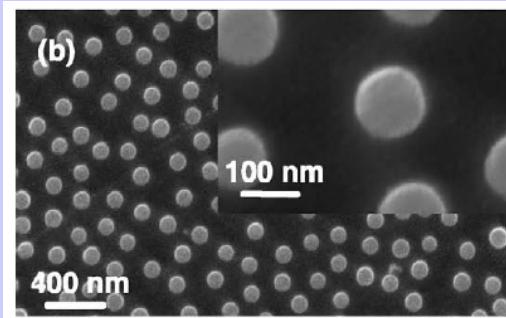
2D arrays and conventional thin layer approach

Thin-film RDE and RRDE method



T.J. Schmidt, et al. J. Electrochem. Soc. 145 (1998) 2354

2D microelectrode arrays



Y. E. Seidel, et al. Faraday Discuss., 2008, 140, 167

Advantages

- Allows studies of “real” catalysts
- No control of the particle interparticle distance
- Ill defined structure
- Mathematical modeling rests on apparent parameters (average pore size, tortuosity factor, etc.)

Limitations

Advantages

- Control of the separation distance → Well defined diffusion pattern
- Allow to disentangle reaction and diffusion

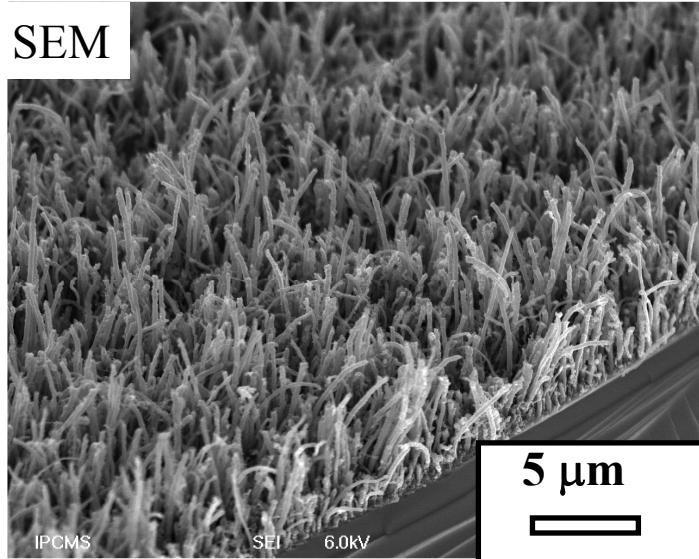
Limitations

- Smooth support → large particles
- “Material” gap between model and “real” electrodes
- Active surface area smaller than the geometric

Concept of 3D nanoparticle arrays

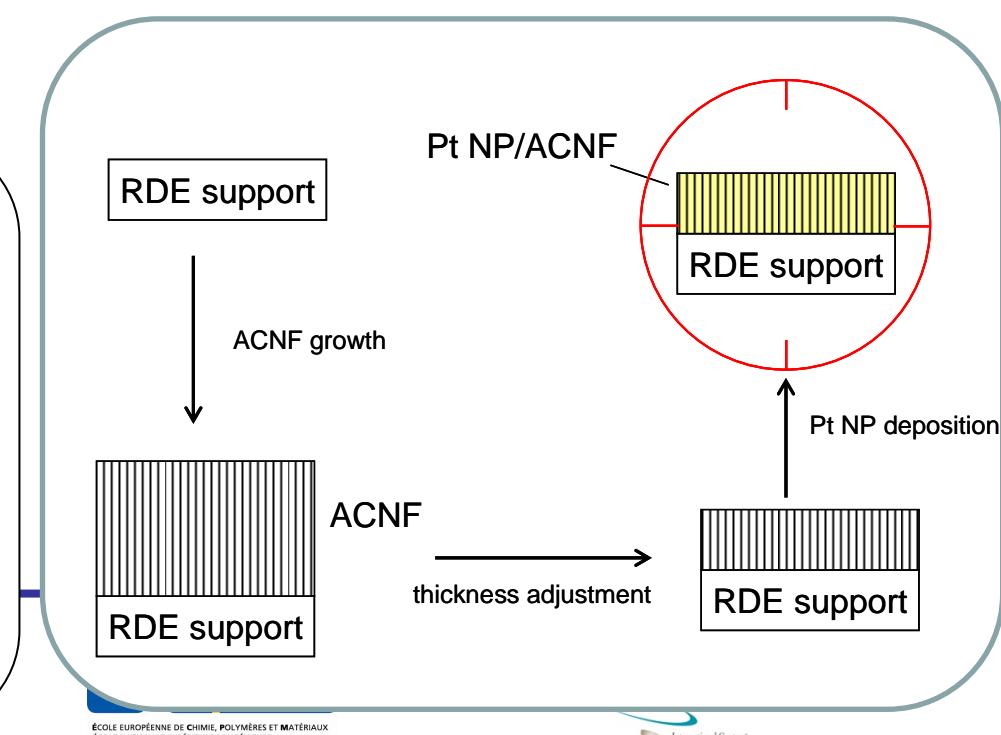
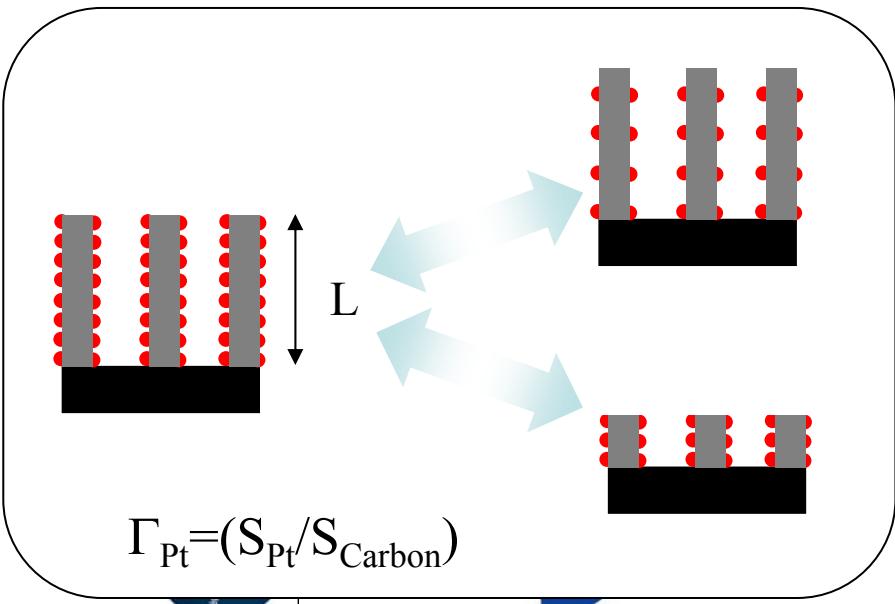
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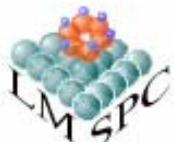
SEM



- $1 \mu\text{m} < L < 15 \mu\text{m}$
- $0.01 < \Gamma_{\text{Pt}} < 0.30$
- $0.05 < m_{\text{Pt}} < 40 \mu\text{g/cm}^2$
- $0.01 < S_{\text{Pt}} < 7 \text{ cm}^2$ ($A_{\text{geo}} = 0.2 \text{ cm}^2$)

Compare to:
40 wt % Pt/Vulcan $\Gamma_{\text{Pt}} \sim 0.19$





3D nanoparticle arrays: advantages

- ❖ **Supported nanoparticles** → model behavior of “real” catalysts
- ❖ Ordered structure → **control of the interfacial conditions** and **mass transport**
- ❖ Independent variation of key parameters: L, Γ_{Pt} , and nano-fiber density
- ❖ Wide variation of the active surface area
- ❖ Mathematical modeling based on actual rather than apparent parameters: pore diameter, length and tortuosity
- ❖ Of interest for fuel cell applications

P. S. Ruvinskiy et al. *Electrochim Acta* 55
(2010) 3245-3256
P.S. Ruvinskiy et al. *PCCP* 2010

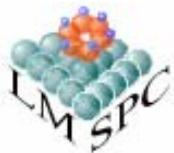
IRG



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What can one learn by applying 3D arrays in electrocatalysis?

- ❖ Disentangle *mass transport* and *kinetic effects*
- ❖ Study *kinetics* and *mechanisms* of electrochemical reactions on supported **nanoparticles** under **well defined mass transport conditions**
- ❖ Determine *effectiveness factor* of the catalytic particles



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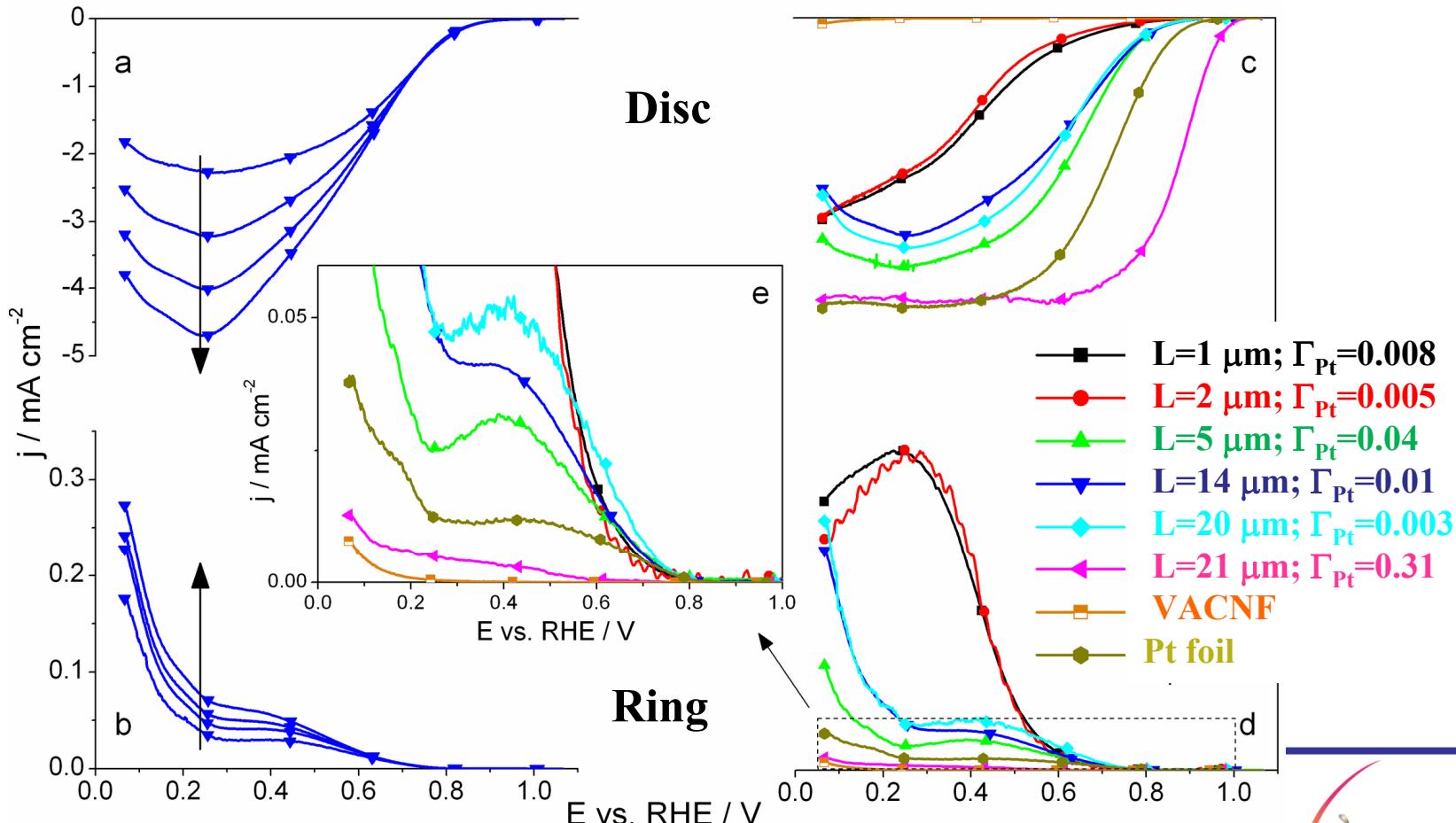


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RRDE study of the ORR

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Experimental RRDE curves for the ORR: O_2 saturated 0.1M H_2SO_4 , 30°C

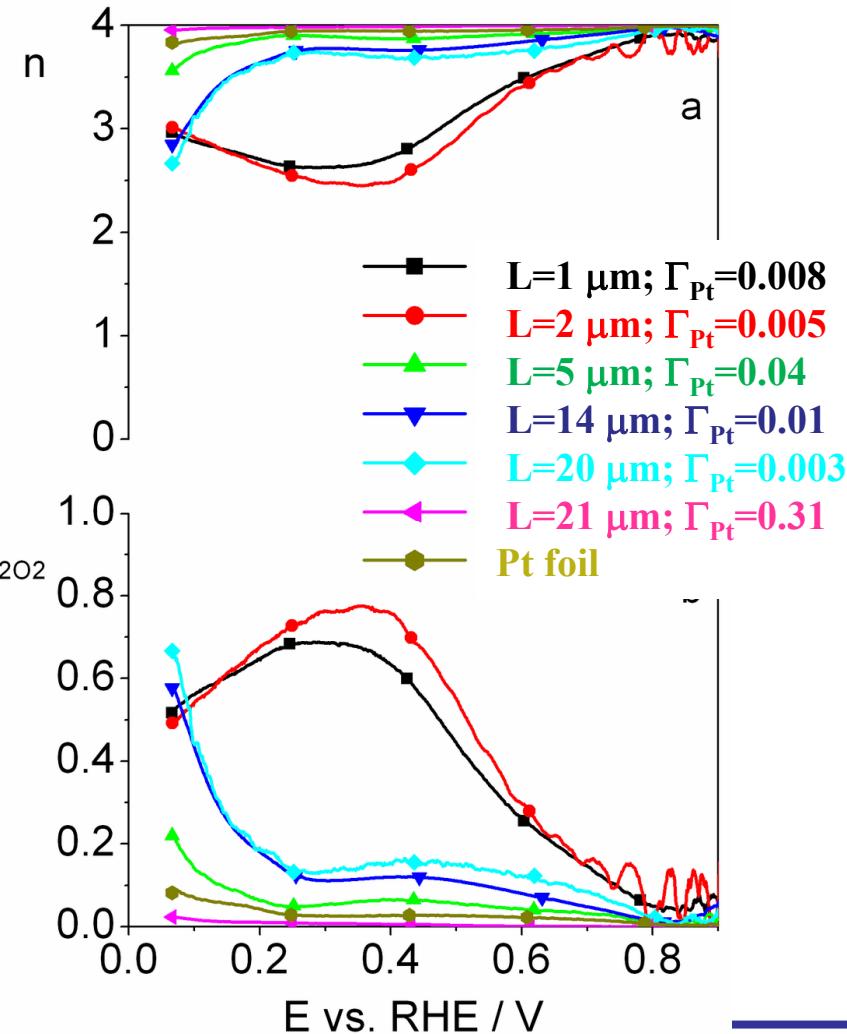


RRDE study of the ORR

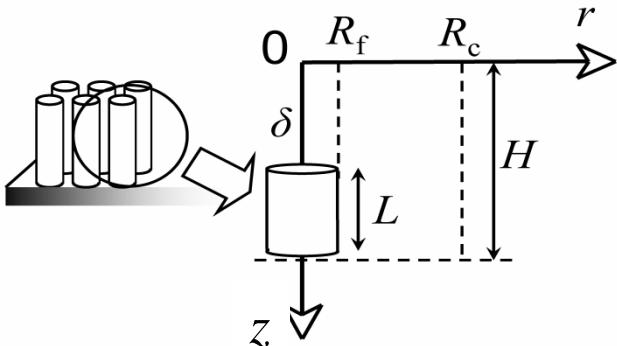
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$$n = \frac{4I_D}{\left[I_D + \left(I_R / N \right) \right]}$$

$$x_{H_2O_2} = \frac{2\left(I_R / N \right)}{\left[I_D + \left(I_R / N \right) \right]}$$



Model description



$R_f = 100 \text{ nm}$, $R_c = 300 \text{ nm}$

- Diffusion domain approximation: cylindrical unit cells which are diffusionally independent
- Liquid electrolyte ($0.1 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$) → potential distribution in the channel is not considered
- Diffusion is treated under steady-state

$$D_{A_i} \left(\frac{\partial^2 [A_i]}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial [A_i]}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 [A_i]}{\partial z^2} \right) = 0$$

- Simulation performed using a free finite element software Freefem+
- Three mechanisms for the ORR

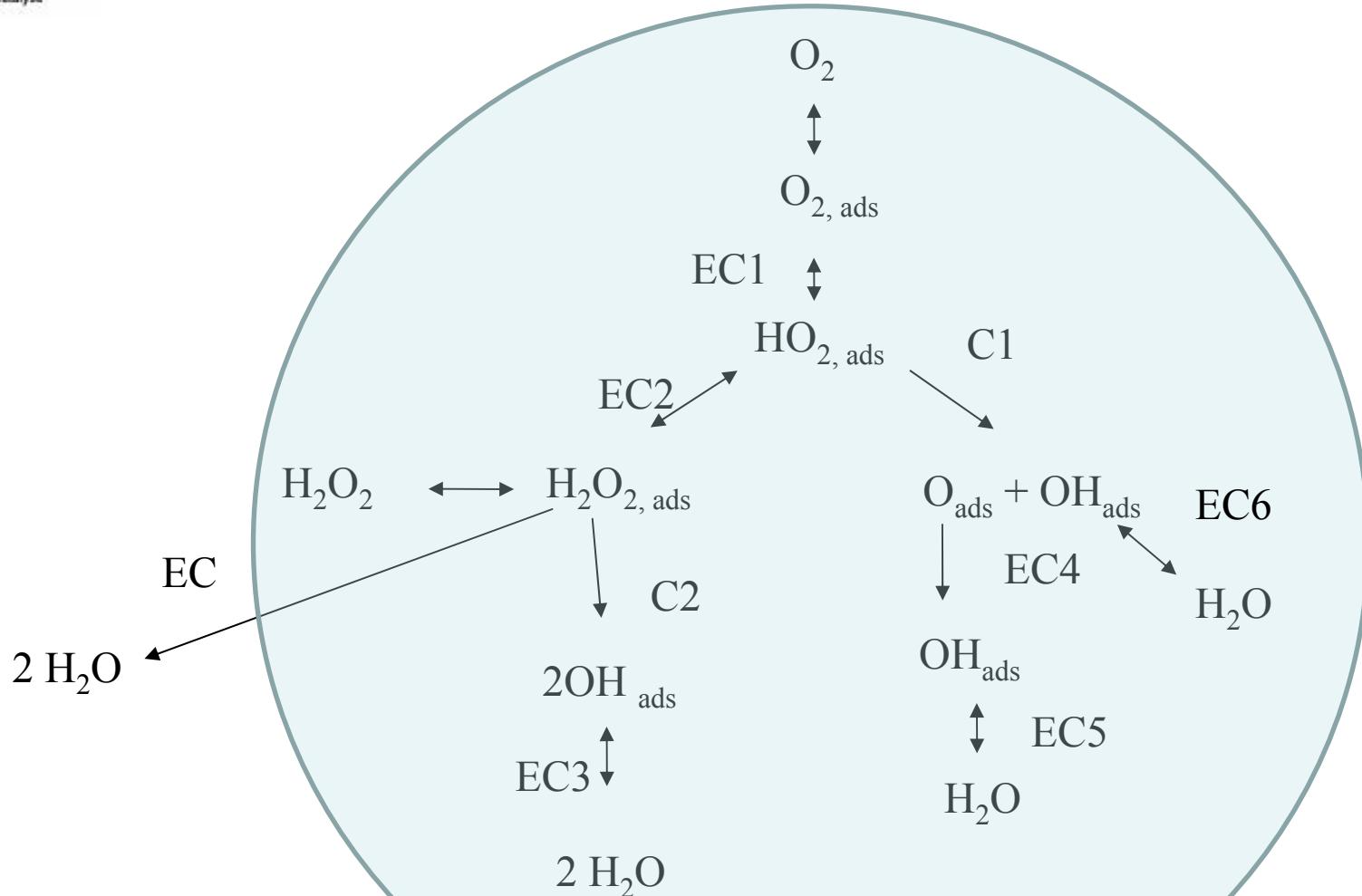
Modeling performed by A. Bonnefont

C. Amatore, J.-M. Saveant, D. Tessier, *J. Electroanal. Chem.* 147 (1983) 39.

T.J. Davies, R.G. Compton, *J. Electroanal. Chem.* 585 (2005) 63.

T.J. Davies, S. Ward-Jones, C.E. Banks, J.d. Campo, R. Mas, F.X. Munoz, R.G. Compton, *J. Electroanal. Chem.* 585 (2005) 51.

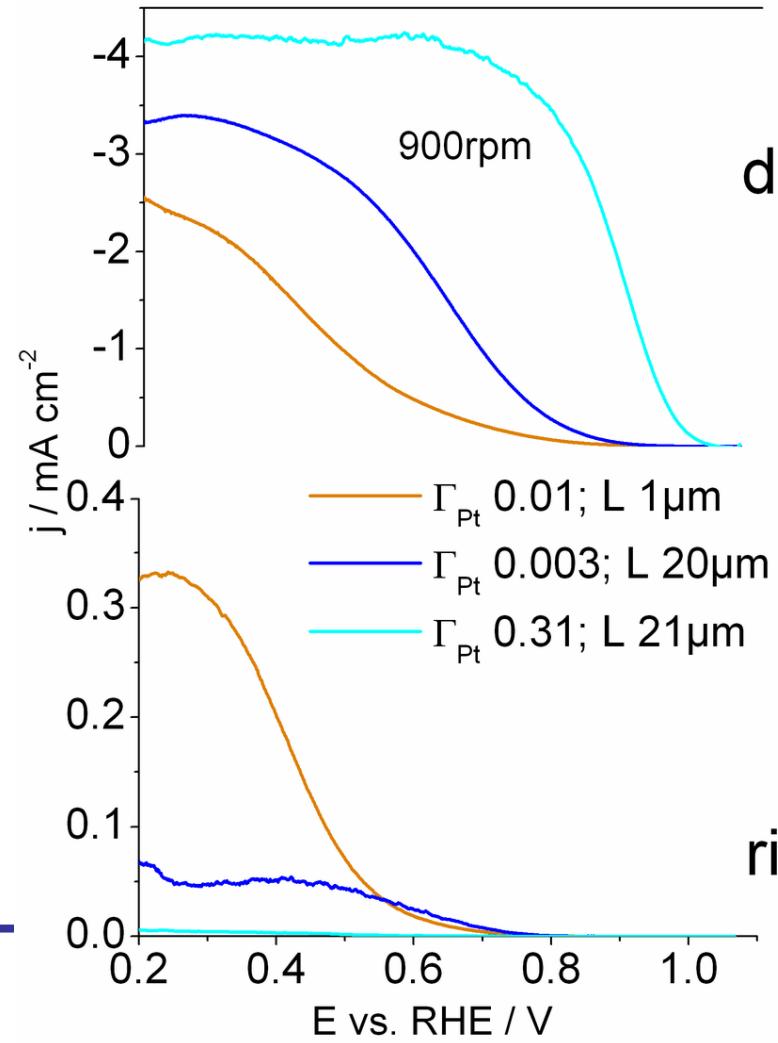
Tentative mechanism of the ORR



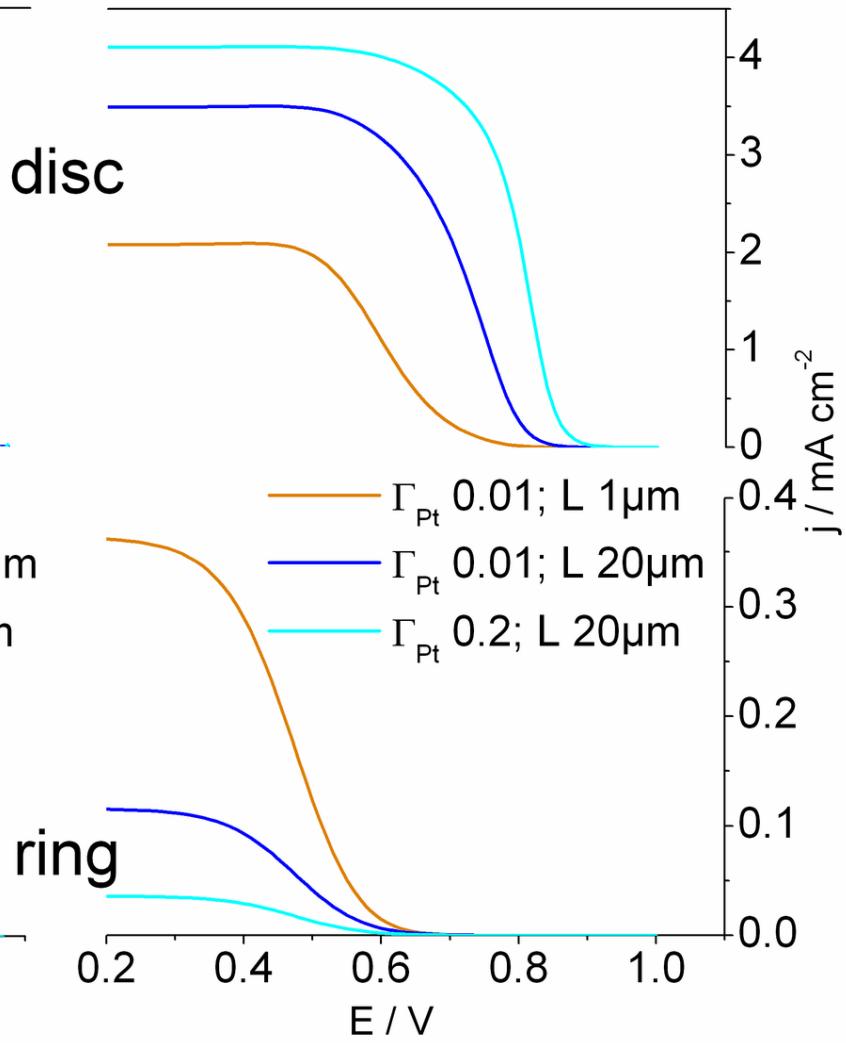
ORR: Experiment vs. Modeling

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Experiment



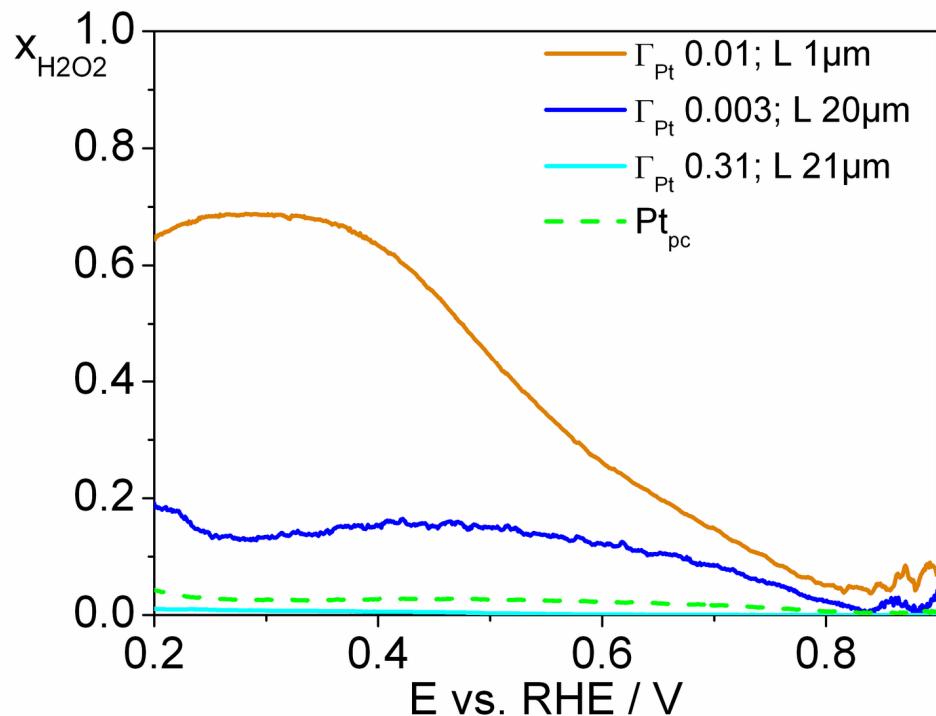
Modeling



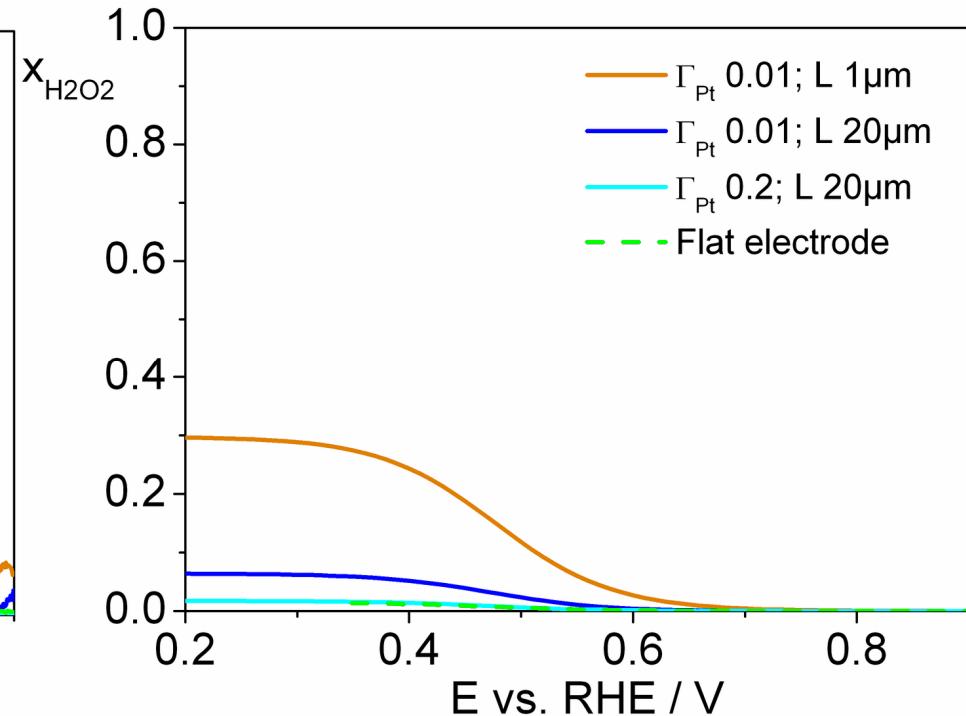
ORR: Experiment vs. Modeling

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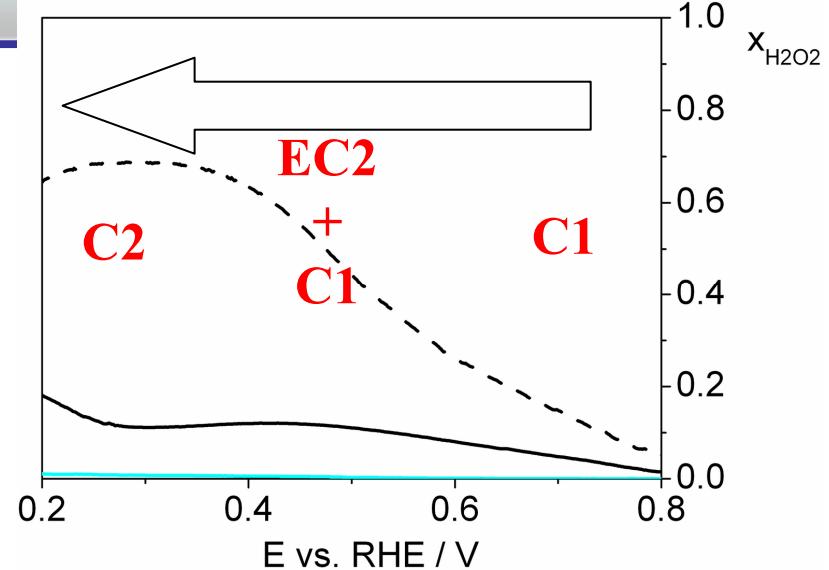
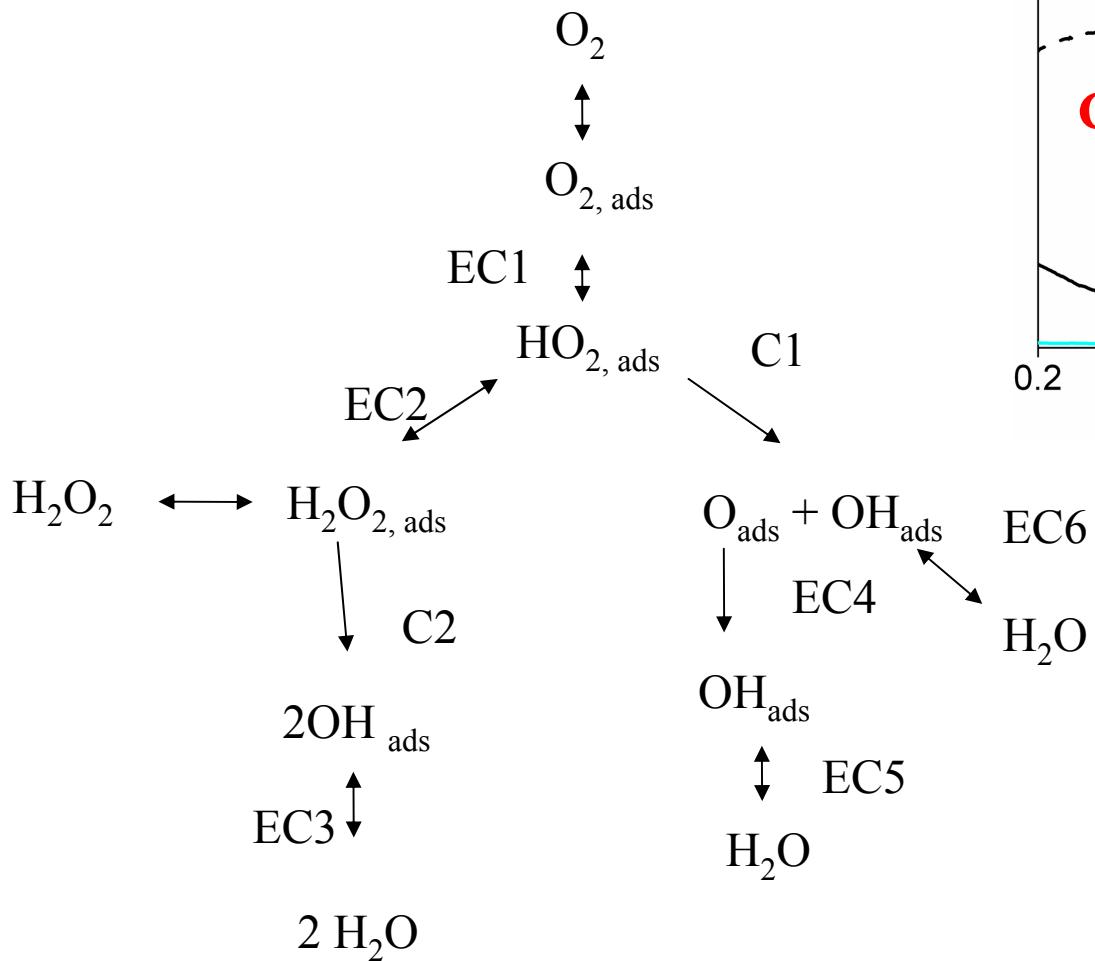
Experiment



Modeling



Tentative mechanism of the ORR

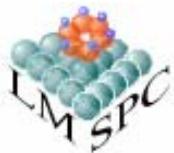




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Part 4: Conclusions

- 3D architecture strongly influences product distribution and effectiveness of the catalytic layers
- Application of 3D ordered catalytic layers allows to obtain novel information on the ORR
- Significant contribution of H_2O_2 -involving stage in ORR on Pt was demonstrated
 - Ultra-thin/low Pt-coverage layers lead to the escape of the H_2O_2 and a decrease of the specific catalytic activity
- Dual path ORR model is in agreement with experimental data



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