





### CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

## With Oyama Group – Molecular Dynamics Study (Hybrid Inorganic / Organic membranes)

Membrane separation -- wide use in natural gas processing

## inorganic membrane



Selective layer (silica, palladium) Intermediate layer (alumina)

Support (alumina, stainless steel)



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## Hybrid Inorganic-Organic Membrane (exploit the reactivity of the Si-OR bonds)



Prepared by high-temperature thermal decomposition of organic precursors Polymer



- Phenyltriethoxysilane
- Other derivatives: Tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS)



## Experimental data (need high P & S)





## Two Specific Aims

- 1. Construct Inorganic/Organic Membrane by MD
- 2. Simulate Separation of  $CO_2/CH_4$  by MD

## AIM1-- Membrane Structure: Pore Creation and Insertion of Phenyl Groups

- Zhenxing Wang, Luke E.K. Achenie, Sheima Jativ Khativa and S. Ted Oyama, "Simulation study of carbon dioxide and





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AIM 1 – Phenyl Group & Partial Charge Effects – Initial MD							
	<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b> (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	CH <sub>4</sub> (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	Selectivity				
No Phenyl Groups No Charge	1.97×10 <sup>-4</sup>	6.66 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.30				
7Phenyl Groups No Charge	6.62×10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.52 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.63				
7 Phenyl Groups Partial Charge	1.18×10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.64 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	71.95				



- Zhenxing Wang, Luke E.K. Achenie, Sheima Jativ Khativa and S. Ted Oyama, "Simulation study of carbon dioxide and methane gas permeation in hybrid organic-inorganic membrane," Journal of Membrane Science., **387/388**, 30–39, 2012.



## **MD** Simulation

-- Gu, Yunfeng, Vaezian, Bita, Jatib Khatib, Sheima, Oyama, S. Ted, Wang, Zhenxing and Achenie, Luke, "Hybrid H2-Selective Membranes Prepared by Chemical Vapor Deposition," *Separation Science and Technology.* **47(12)**, 1698-1708, 2012.

-- Zhenxing Wang, Luke E.K. Achenie, Sheima Jativ Khativa and S. Ted Oyama, "Simulation study of carbon dioxide and methane gas permeation in hybrid organic-inorganic membrane," Journal of Membrane Science., **387/388**, 30–39, 2012.





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	Molecular dynamics study							
Results of models without phenyl group								
		CO <sub>2</sub> permeance (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	CH <sub>4</sub> permeance (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	selectivity				
	1	5.12 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	6.47 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.79				
	2	6.35 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	8.92 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.71				
	3	1.45 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.73 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.84				
	4	1.24 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	$2.04 \times 10^{-3}$	0.61				
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		Molecular dynamics study						
Permeance of models with phenyl group								
		# Ph Grps	CO <sub>2</sub> permeance (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	CH <sub>4</sub> permeance (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1</sup> )	selectivity			
	O4.0-1	1	2.87 × 10 <sup>-</sup> 4	1.66 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	17.3			
	O4.0-2	2	1.20 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.88 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	-			
	S 5.0 <mark>-2</mark>	2	1.14 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	8.53 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.34			
	S 5.0-4	4	1.10 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	5.33 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.06			
	S 5.3 <mark>-2</mark>	2	1.12 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.06 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.06			
12	S 5.3 <mark>-4</mark>	Compa	are with $Seleta$	ectivity of 19 from	0.91 Expts.			

## DEPARTMENT OF WirginiaTech CHEMICAL ENGINEERING 2<sup>nd</sup> Modeling Approach – Mixed Mechanisms Mechanism Schematic Activated diffusion Surface diffusion Knudsen diffusion Direction and velocity



## **Mixed Mechanism Diffusion Model**



## Micro-structure # 2



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Invent the Future

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING Multi-Scale modeling of chemical vapor deposition processes



- Application: •Used in the semiconductor industry to produce thin films on wafer substrate
- •Reflective window
- •Laser dooms
- •Nano sensors
- •Blue light diodes
- •Luminescent displays
- •Infra-red devices(anti reflection coating)

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1. T, Matsuoka, A. Ohki, T. Ohno, and Y.Kawaguchi, J. Cryst. Growth 138, 727, 1994.



## CVD of Zinc Sulfide

Gas phase reaction  $Zn(g) + H_2S \rightarrow ZnS(g) + H_2(g)$ Surface reactions  $Z n S (g) \rightarrow Z n S (s)$ 



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# Gas Phase reaction mechanism (ZnS) via DFT Molecular Modeling

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## Effect of substrate geometry on deposition rate



## **Uniform Deposition – Shape Optimization**

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Sharifi, Y. and Achenie, L.E.K. "Effect of substrate geometry on deposition rate in CVD," *Journal of Crystal Growth*, **304**, 520–525, 2007.

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## Cluster formation in Zinc Sulfide CVD

Cause:

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- 1. High temperature (973K)
- 2. Highly reactive precursors

Disadvantages:

- 1. Particle settlement(gravity)
- 2. Outflow of particles
- 3. Impurity and defects [1].
- 4. Inefficient Use of precursors

Control the cluster formation [2]:

- 1. Mechanism
- 2. Dynamics

What is the morphology of these particles?

[1] Wear 255 (2003) 115–120 [2] Journal of Crystal Growth 208 (2000) 259-263.



## Particle size and distribution

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0.00e+00

1.33e+17

2.66e+17



3.98e+17

5.31e+17

6.64e+17

7.97e+17

-- Sharifi, Y. and Achenie, L.E.K., "Particle Dynamics in a CVD Reactor: A Multiscale Approach," *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.*, **48(13)**, 5969-5974, 2009.

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## Summary

## Molecular Modeling as an Enabling Tool in Advanced Material Research



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## Thank You !!