

# European Network on New Sensing Technologies for Air Pollution Control and Environmental Sustainability - *EuNetAir*

COST Action TD1105

## Final Meeting at PRAGUE (CZ), 5-7 October 2016

### *New Sensing Technologies for Air Quality Monitoring*

Action Start date: 01/07/2012 - Action End date: 15/11/2016 - EXTENSION: 15/11/2016

## Emerging Sensing Materials for Air Quality Monitoring



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# Plan

- Scientific context and objectives in the Action
- Research facilities available in ICMUB
- Current research activities in ICMUB
- Molecular materials:
  - Cavitands: Selective or not?
  - Solution processing: The example of phthalocyanines
- Polymers:
  - Dielectric materials
  - Conducting polymers
- Suggested R&I Needs for future research

# Scientific context and objectives in the Action

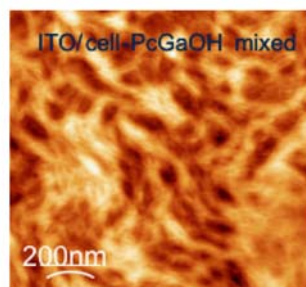
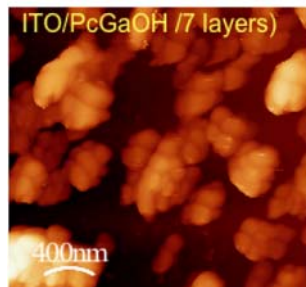
**Sub-WG 1.3: Emerging sensor materials for air-pollution detection**  
molecular materials, organic/inorganic, hybrid, nanocomposites, polymers ...

- **Background / Problem statement:**

- **Interest: The tuning of properties by molecular engineering**

morphology, roughness and specific surface, hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity, processability, electrical properties

- **One way: to combine materials for improving chemosensing**



AFM images (1 mm x 1 mm) of a pure HOGaPc film (left) and a hybrid film cellulose/HOGaPc film;

Langmuir 23 (2007) 3712-3722

- **Brief reminder of MoU objectives:**

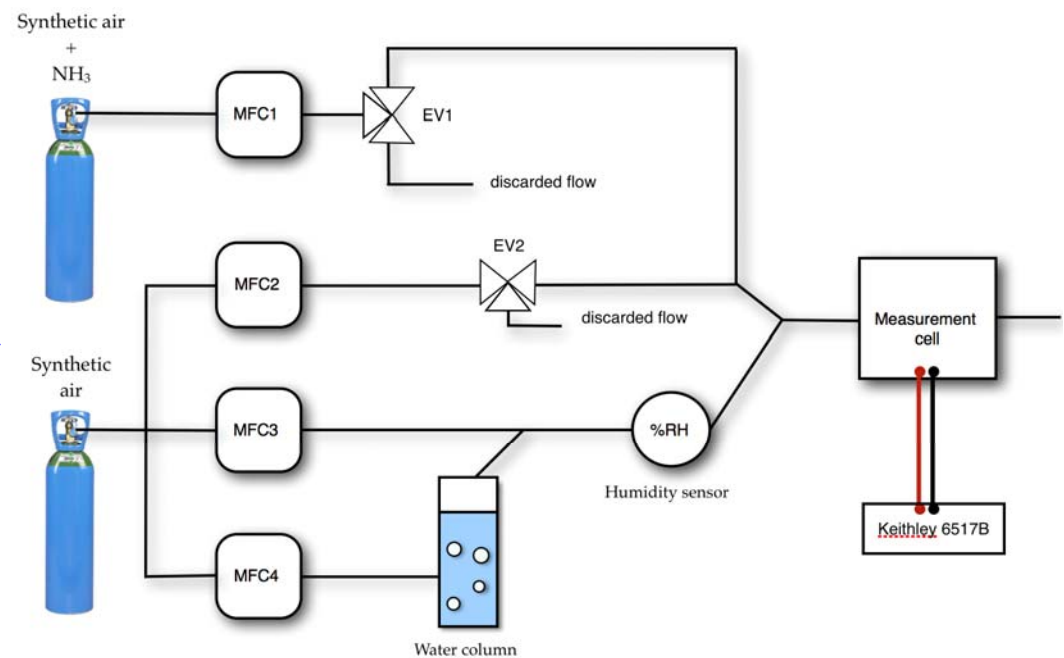
selectivity, low-cost: solution processing (e.g. printing techniques ...),  
low-power consumption (can operate at room temperature)

# Research Facilities available in ICMUB

- Research Facilities:
- Synthesis
- Solution processing and secondary vacuum chamber
- Electrical and electrochemical measurement set-ups
- Workbenches: O<sub>3</sub> (generator/analyser, ppb range), NH<sub>3</sub> (ppm range), BTX (ppm range), humidity



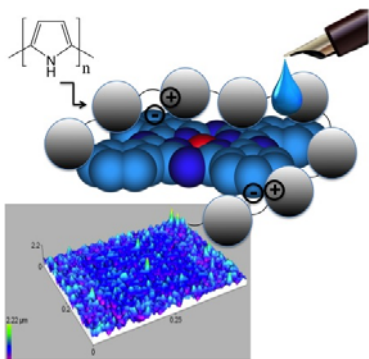
**Chemistry**  
**Electrochemistry**  
**Electronics**



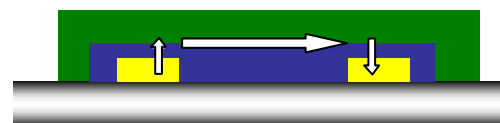
# Current research activities in ICMUB

- **Current research topics at the ICMUB:**

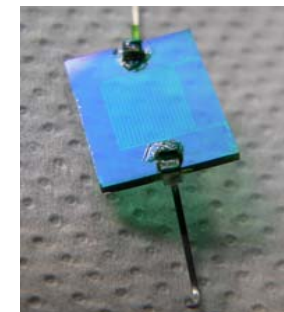
- New materials



- New transducers



**MSDI** Org. Electron., 26, 2015



- **Brief list of ongoing research topics of the ICMUB:**

- Humidity-insensitive ammonia sensors
- Molecular Semiconductor- Doped Insulator (MSDI) heterojunctions as new conductometric transducers
- New polymer/macrocycle hybrid materials
- Electrochemical modification of electrodes

# Molecular materials

**Weak intermolecular interactions play a key role:**

**-From molecules to materials** (structure and morphologies depend on these interactions)

**-Between sensing materials and target gaseous species**

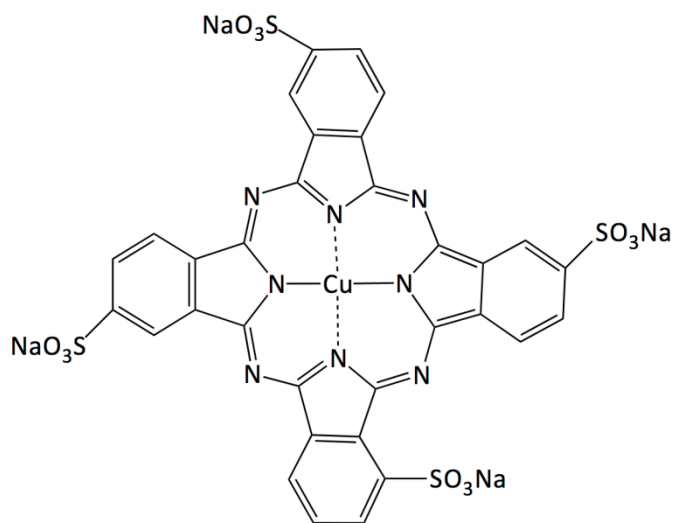
**They are Van der Waals,  $\pi$ - $\pi$ , dipole-dipole, H-bonds, ...**

**Structure and morphology are highly related to the processing techniques**

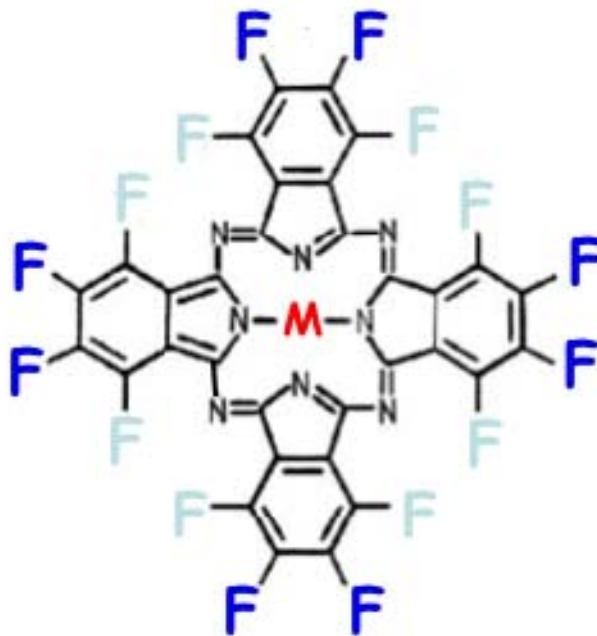
**Adsorption and desorption can occur at RT.**

# Molecular engineering

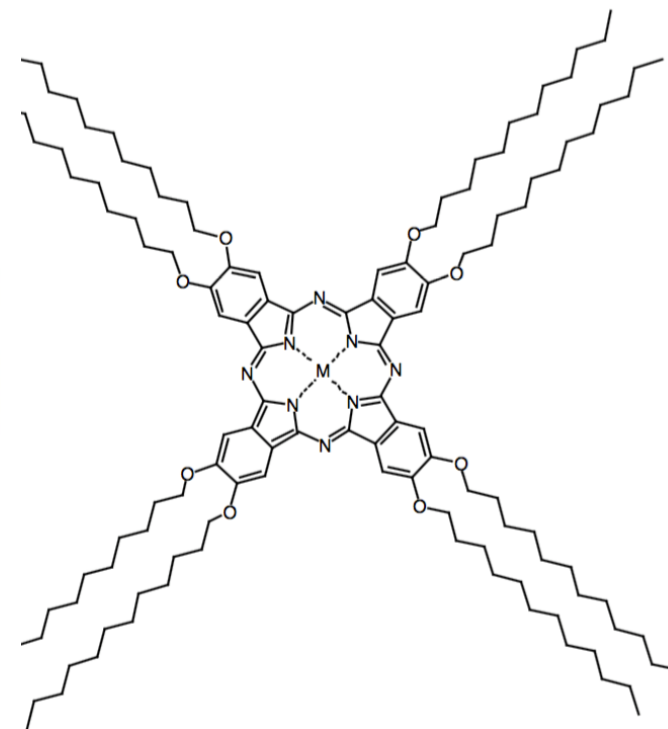
**Ionic substituents**  
→ solubility in water



**Withdrawing substituents**  
→ n-type materials



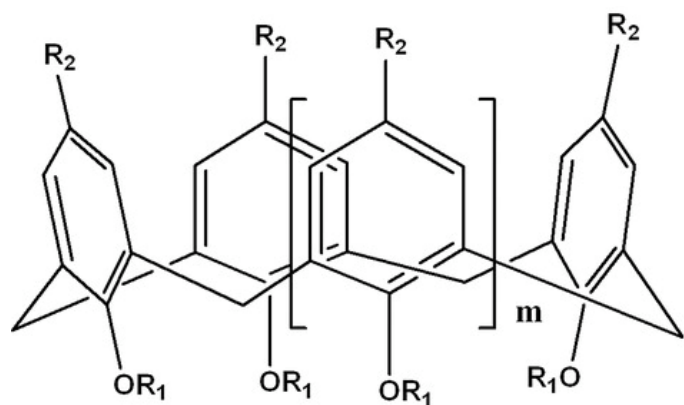
**Long alkyl substituents**  
→ solubility in organic solvents



# Cavitands

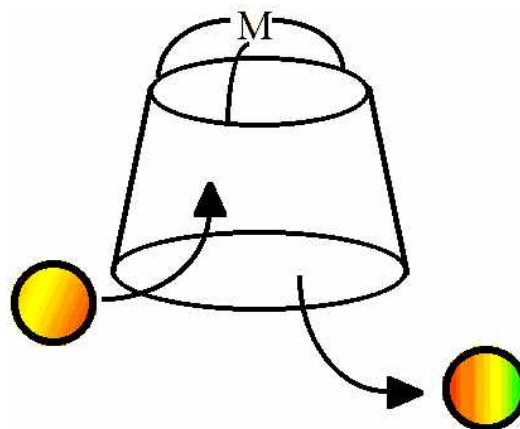
## Selectivity?

based on size,  
hydrophobicity of the cavity,  
specific host-guest interactions



$m = 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6$

**Calixarenes**



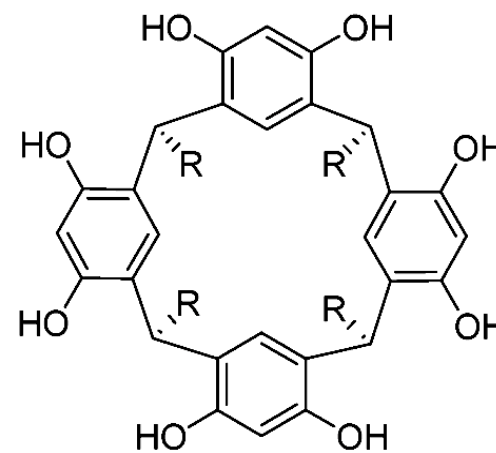
## Selectivity?

Actually, in the case of BTX,  
R is correlated with the  $P_{\text{sat}}$ .

$$P_{\text{sat.}}(X) < P_{\text{sat.}}(T) < P_{\text{sat.}}(B)$$

$$R(X) > R(T) > R(B)$$

A.V. Nabok et al., Sensors & Actuators: B. 1997

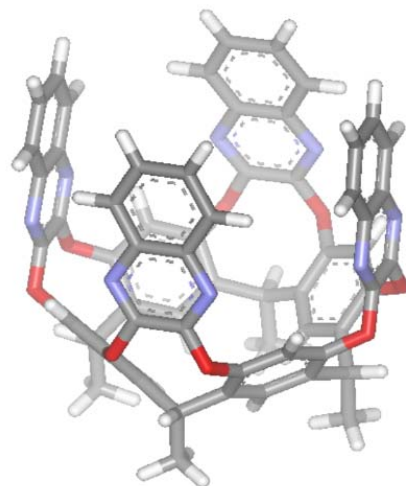
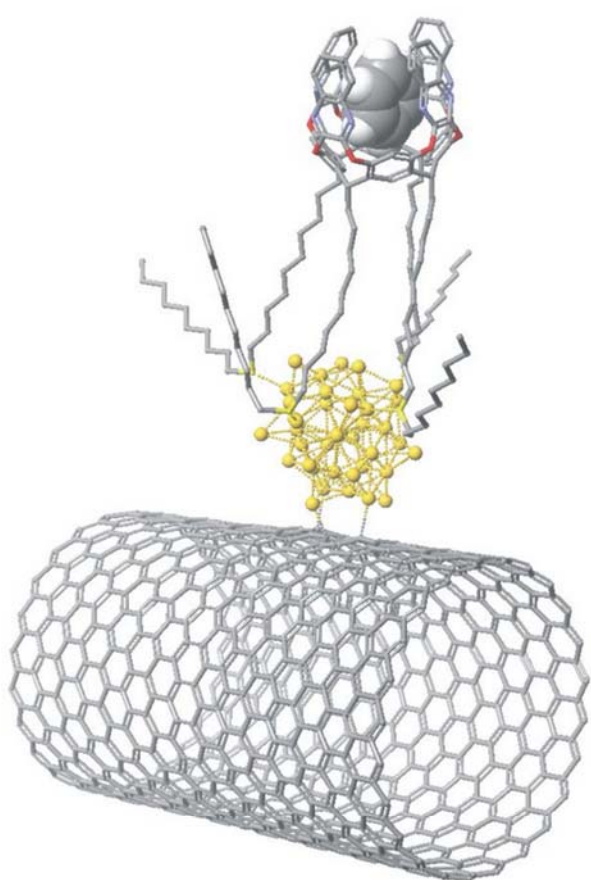


**Resorcinarenes**

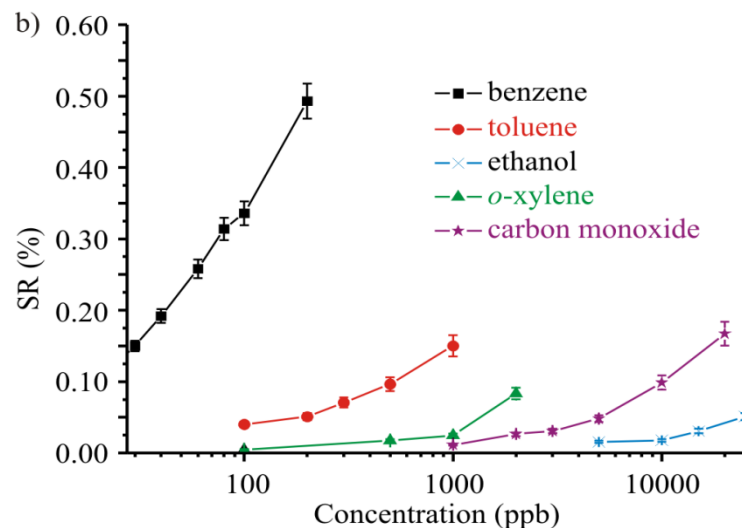
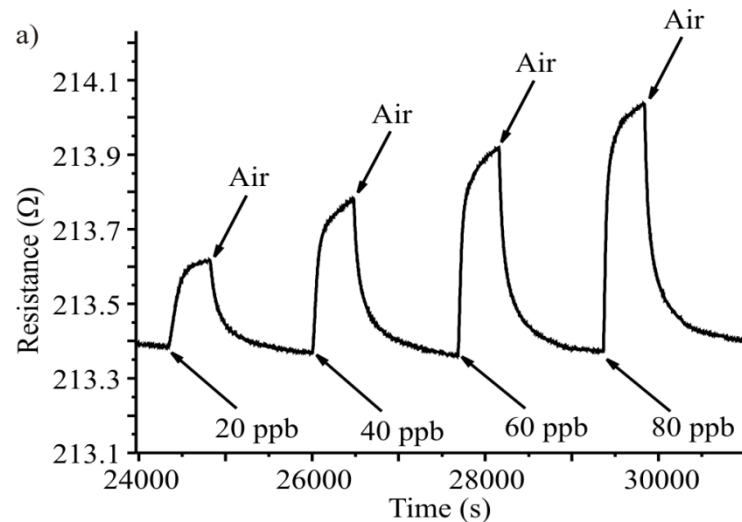


# Cavitands

Covalently attached **quinoxaline-bridged resorcin[4]-arene** cavitands to gold nanoparticles anchored on oxygen plasma treated carbon nanotubes



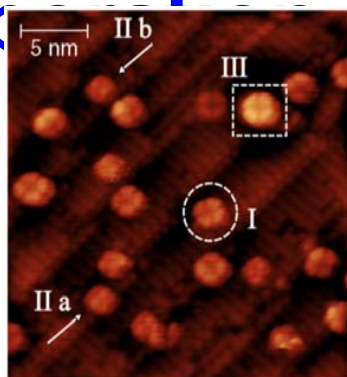
**Selectivity towards benzene**



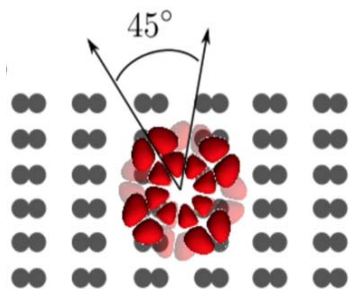
E. Llobet, et al., Adv. Funct. Mater., 2015

# Solution Processing versus Vacuum

evaporation



STM image of LuPc<sub>2</sub> on vicinal Si  
Different molecular orientations and adsorption geometries are pointed out



A sketch of the proposed adsorption geometry of type I molecule

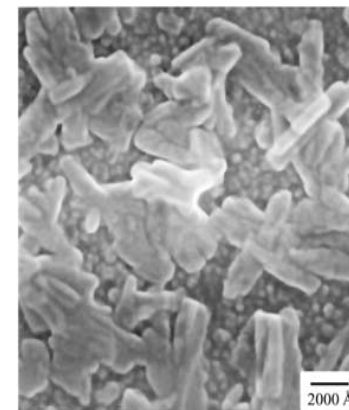
## Vacuum Evaporation

### Submonolayer

Interaction with the substrate

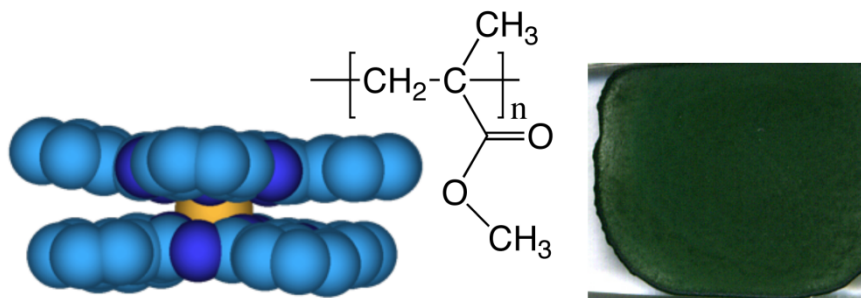
### Thick film

Intermolecular interactions



STM evaporated LuPc<sub>2</sub> film, thickness = 1400 Å

## Solution Processing



LuPc<sub>2</sub> / PMMA (80/20 w/w) (polymethylmetacrylate):  
by solvent-cast or spin-coating

N. Witkowski et al., Experimental and theoretical study of electronic structure of lutetium bi-phthalocyanine, J. Chem. Phys., 138, 234701, 2013;

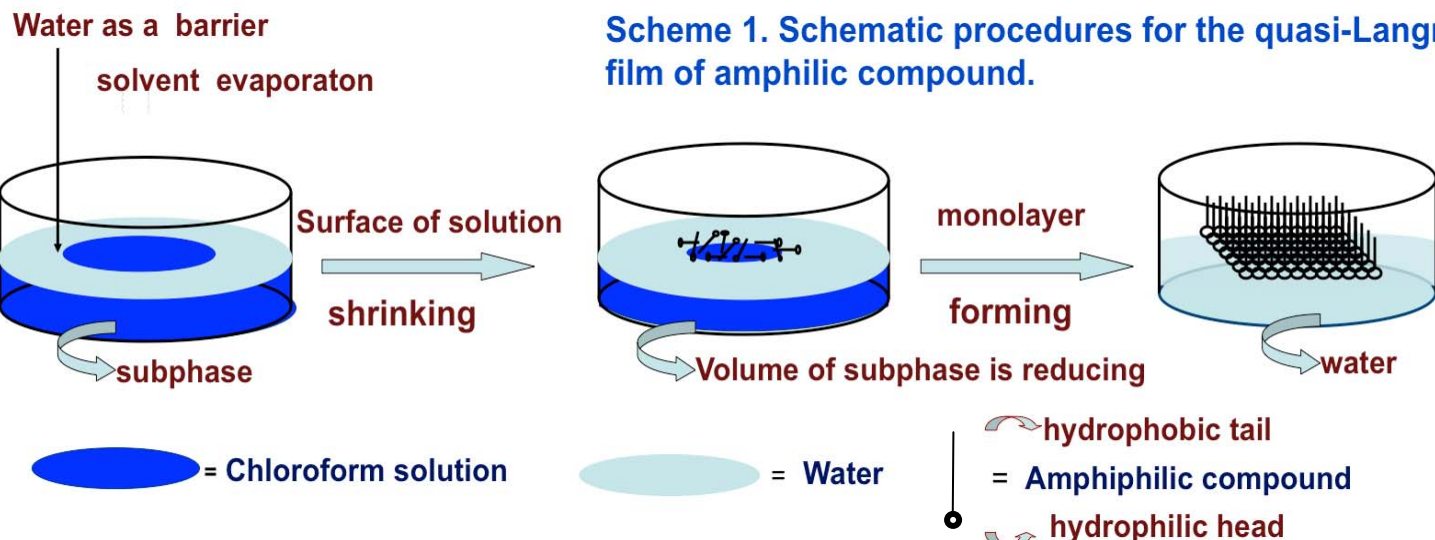
V. Parra et al., Electrical transduction in phthalocyanine-based gas sensors: from classical resistors to new functional structures,

J. Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines, 13(1), 84-86, 2009.

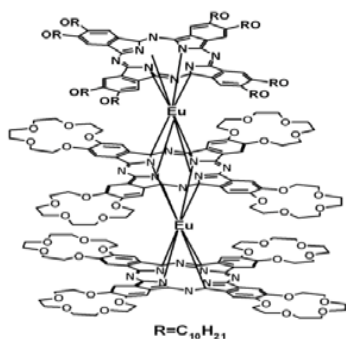


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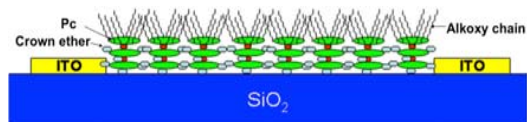
# The quasi-Langmuir-Shäfer Technique



Scheme 1. Schematic procedures for the quasi-Langmuir film of amphilic compound.

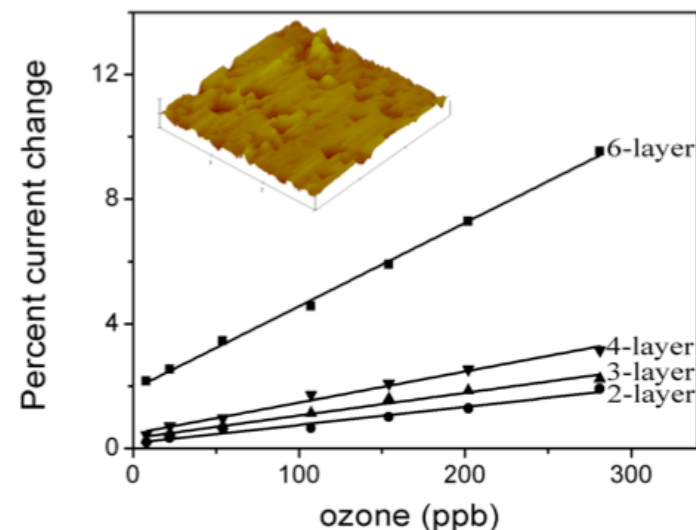


$\text{Eu}_2\text{Pc}_3$



resistor

Current increases under ozone

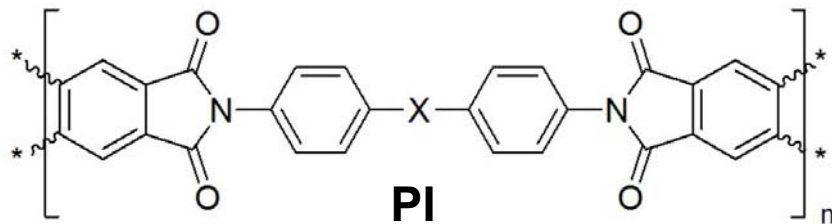


Y. Chen, M. Bouvet\*, T. Sizun, Y. Gao, C. Plassard, E. Lesniewska, J. Jiang, Facile approaches to built ordered amphiphilic tris(phthalocyaninato) europium Triple-decker complex thin films and their comparative performances in ozone sensing, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 12, 12851-12861, 2010. (Hot paper)

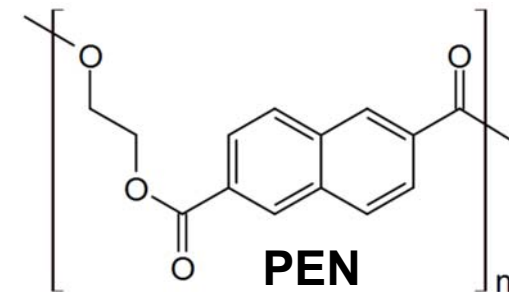
# Dielectric polymers

Associated to capacitive or acoustic transducers, their response = f(dielectric constant)

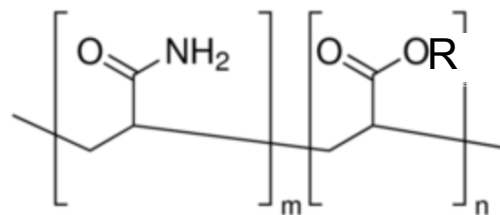
- **Polyimide (PI)**, cellulose acetate, polycellulose acetate butyrate, polymethylmethacrylate and polyvinylpyrrolidone, **polyethylene-naphthalate (PEN)**



**Sensitive to relative humidity**



- **Acrylamide-isoctylacrylate copolymers** are preferred for **CO<sub>2</sub>** sensing



**Specific effects:**

- **swelling**
- **temperature** induces an increase of the motion of polymer chains segments, above  $T_g$  (or for low  $T_g$  polymers) diffusion of gases is higher

The interaction of polymers with VOCs can be described using **linear solvation energy relationship (LSER)** that takes into account dispersion, polarizability, dipolarity, basicity, acidity and hydrogen bonding interactions.

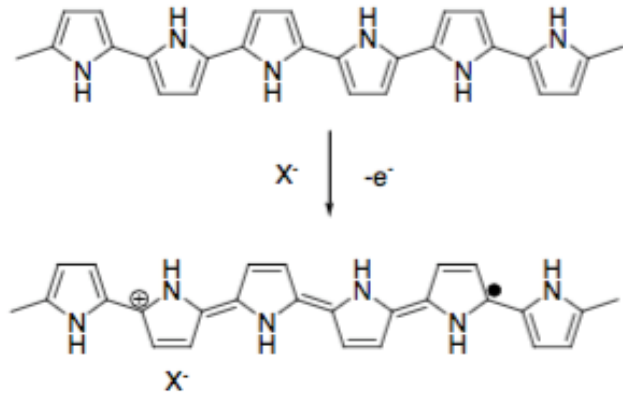
U. Altenberend, A. Oprea, N. Barsan, U. Weimar, Contribution of polymeric swelling to the overall response of capacitive gas sensors, *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.*, 2013, 405, 6445–6452; J.W. Grate, Hydrogen-Bond Acidic Polymers for Chemical Vapor Sensing, *Chem. Rev.* 108 (2008) 726–745



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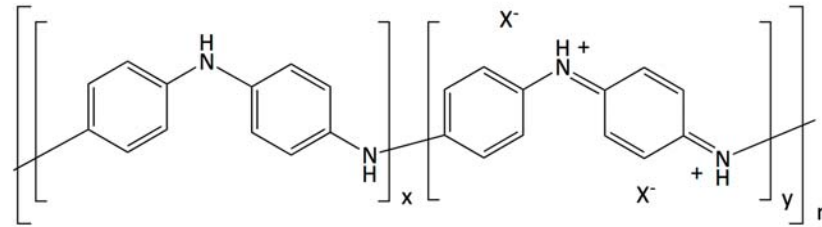
# Conducting polymers

## Polypyrrole



Partially oxidized = conductive form

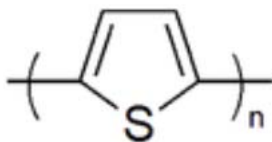
## Partially oxidized Polyaniline



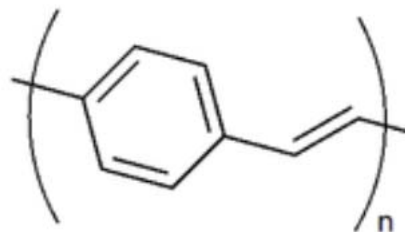
- Generally associated with conductometric transducers;
- Sensitive to redox active species, e.g.  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{NH}_3$

R.A. Potyrailo, C. Surman, N. Nagrajand and A. Burns, Materials and Transducers Toward Selective Wireless Gas Sensing, *Chem. Rev.*, 2011, 111, 7315–7354; D. T. McQuade, A. E. Pullen, T. M. Swager, Conjugated Polymer-Based Chemical Sensors, *Chem. Rev.*, 2000, 100, 2537–2574

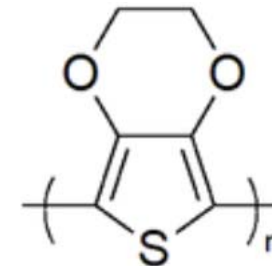
## Other conducting polymers



Polythiophene



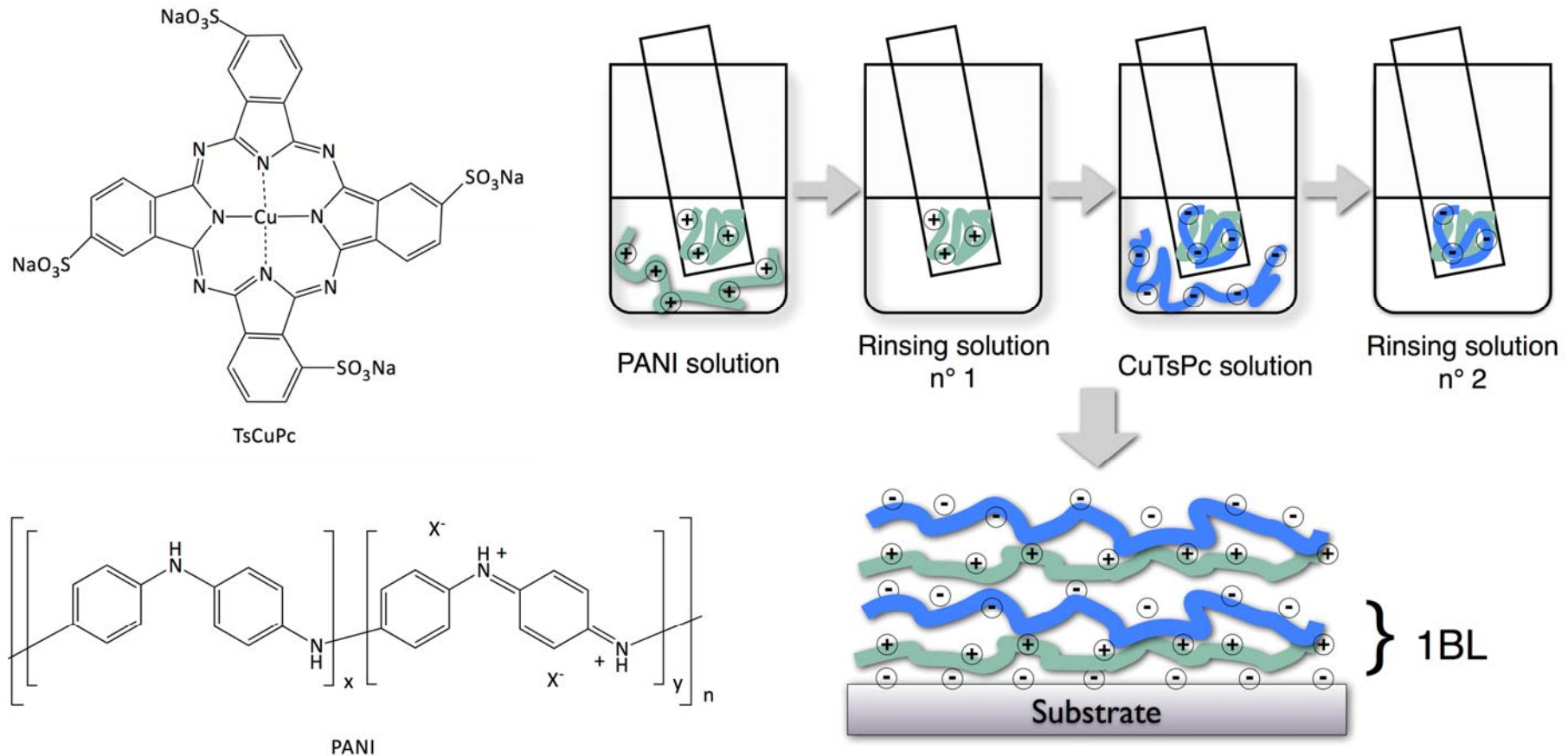
Poly(p-phenylene vinylene)



PEDOT

# Layer by Layer Deposition of Conducting Polymers – Phthalocyanine Hybrid Materials

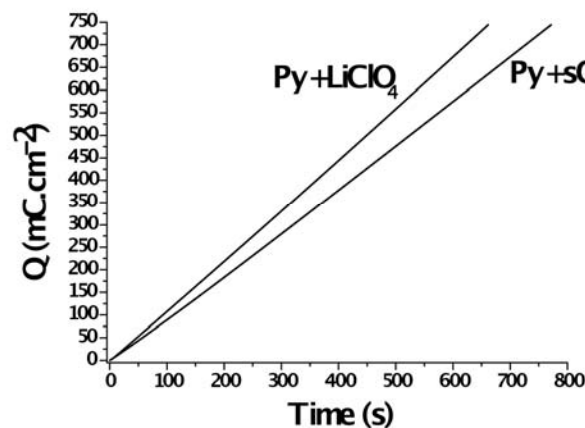
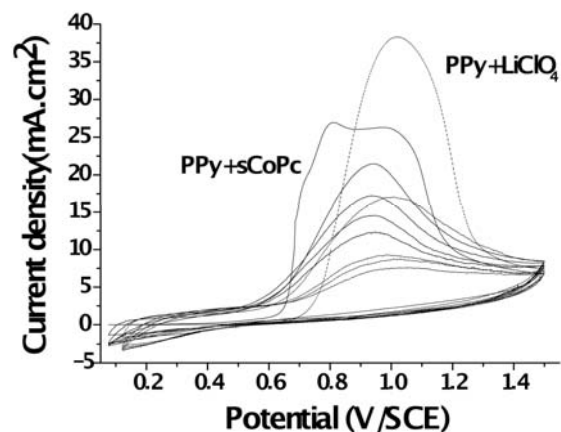
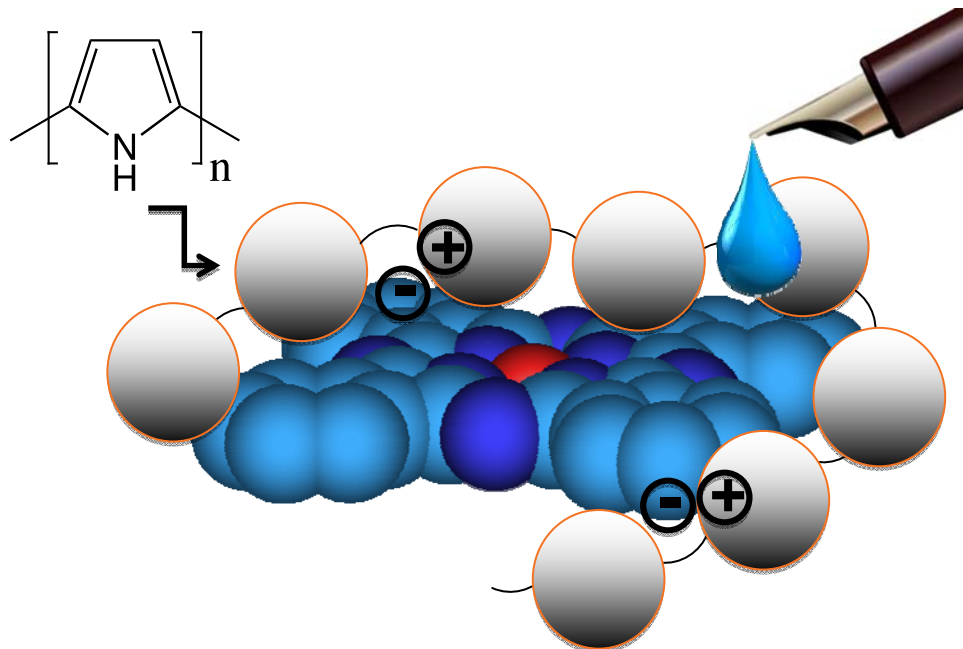
## Cationic and anionic polyelectrolytes



P. Gaudillat, F. Jurin, B. Lakard, C. Buron\*, J.-M. Suisse, M. Bouvet\*, "Water-stable Polyaniline-Phthalocyanine hybrid material for ammonia sensing in high humidity atmosphere", *Sensors*, 14(8), 13476-13495, **2014**.

# Electrodeposited Polypyrrole-phthalocyanine hybrid materials

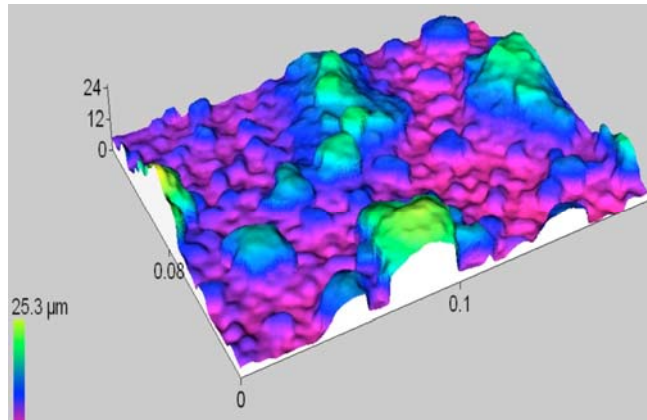
Electrooxidation of Pyrrole in the presence of sulfonated CoPc



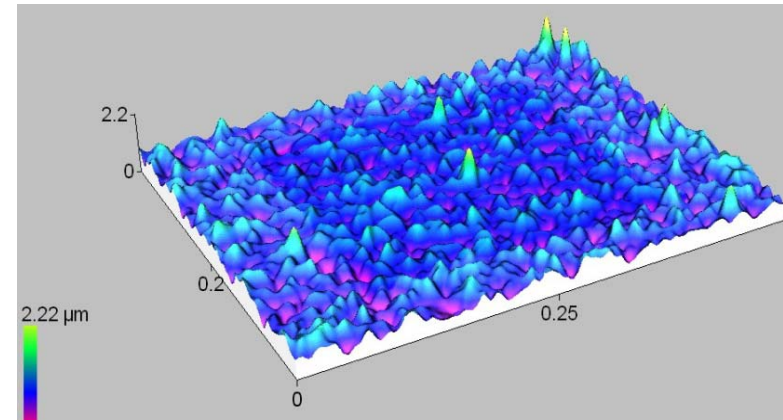
T. Sizun, T. Patois, M. Bouvet\*, B. Lakard\*, "Microstructured electrodeposited polypyrrole-phthalocyanine hybrid material, from morphology to ammonia sensing", J. Mater. Chem., 22, 25246-25253, 2012

# PPy-sCoPc Hybrid materials

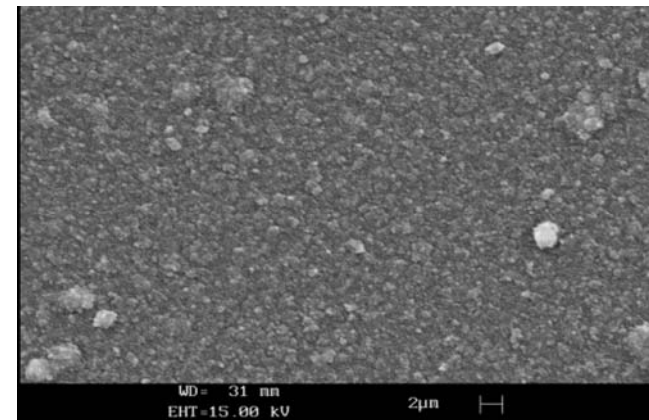
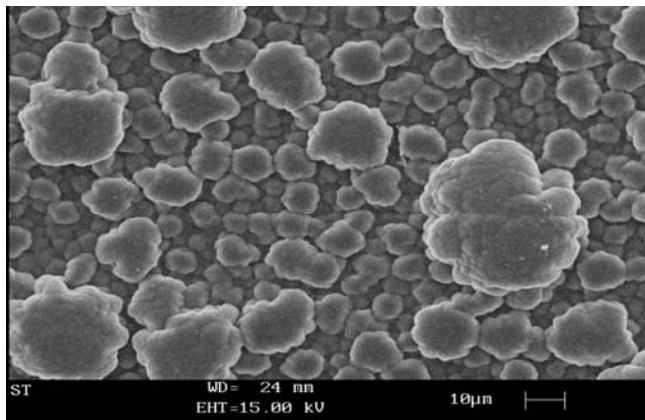
## PPy-LiClO<sub>4</sub>



## PPy-sCoPc



### Optical topomicroscopy

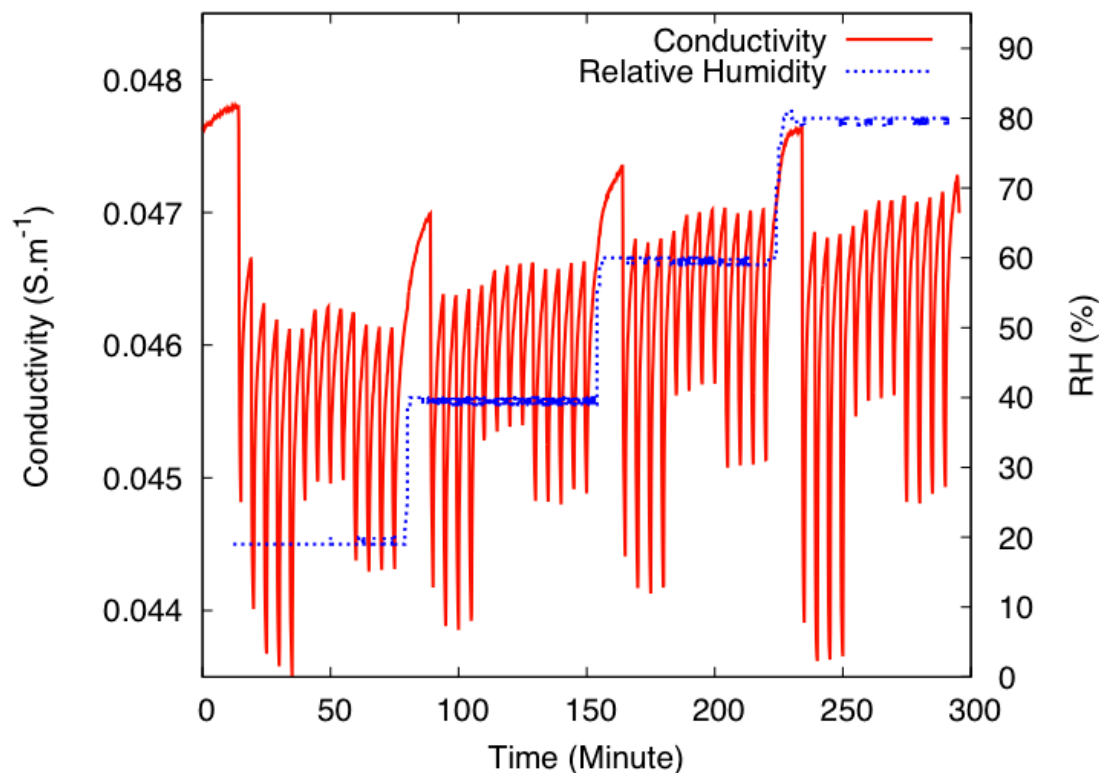


### Scanning electron microscopy

T. Sizun, T. Patois, M. Bouvet\*, B. Lakard\*, "Microstructured electrodeposited polypyrrole-phthalocyanine hybrid material, from morphology to ammonia sensing", J. Mater. Chem., 22, 25246-25253, 2012



## Ammonia effect on PPy-sCoPc



Higher sensitivity to NH<sub>3</sub> of the hybrid material,  
with a weak effect of rh in the 20-80% rh range

T. Sizun, T. Patois, M. Bouvet\*, B. Lakard\*, "Microstructured electrodeposited polypyrrole-phthalocyanine hybrid material, from morphology to ammonia sensing", J. Mater. Chem., 22, 25246-25253, **2012**

# Suggested **R&I Needs** for future research

- **Research directions as R&I NEEDS:**
  - to focus on the **structure and morphology** of sensing materials for a higher stability of the response of sensors (they depend on the processing techniques)
  - to study the compatibility with **humidity** (a key issue in AQM)  
The effect of rh on the response of sensors must be studied, not only at one particular value, but also in a broad rh range  
At RT, 100% rh  $\approx$  22 000 ppm,  
but 100% rh at 20°C correspond to 73% rh at 25°C.

# Acknowledgments

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CAP-BTX 2010 and OUTSMART 2015
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