

Continuous Process Intensification

L1: General Introduction to Process Intensification

Anil Kumar



GenZ Materials
Continuous Process Intensification



Technical sessions		
10:00 – 11:15	Tutorial 1 (FCPI): Introduction to Continuous Process Intensification	75 min
11:15 – 11:45	High Tea	
11:45 – 13:30	Tutorial 2 (FCPI): Tools, industrial examples & tutorial on how to intensify processes via continuous flow from lab to production	105 min
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Tutorial 3 (FCPI): Introduction to Electro Organic Chemistry: Synthesis, tools and Processes	90 min
15:30 – 16:00	Tea break	
16:00 – 17:30	Tutorial 4 (IICT): Process Engineering- Use cases with Engineering interventions	90 min
19:00 – 21:00	Social hour	
Workshop (Day 2): 3 rd July 2026		
09:30 – 11:00	Tutorial 5 (FCPI): Introduction to Mechano Organic Chemistry: Synthesis, tools and Processes	90 min
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break	
11:30 – 13:10	Tutorial 6 (FCPI): How to Intensify Processes via Electro and Mechano Chemistry	100 min
13:10 – 13:30	Formal closing of theory session Vote of thanks	
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 17:30	Exhibits Demonstration Session	180 min
17:30 – 18:00	Certificate collection Feedback from participants	30 min

Agenda

- **Future of Chemical Manufacturing**

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- **What is Process Intensification**

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(Flow, Electro, Photo, Mechano)

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- **How to think in this new paradigm (POC to Production)**

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- **Do's and do not's of continuous process intensification**

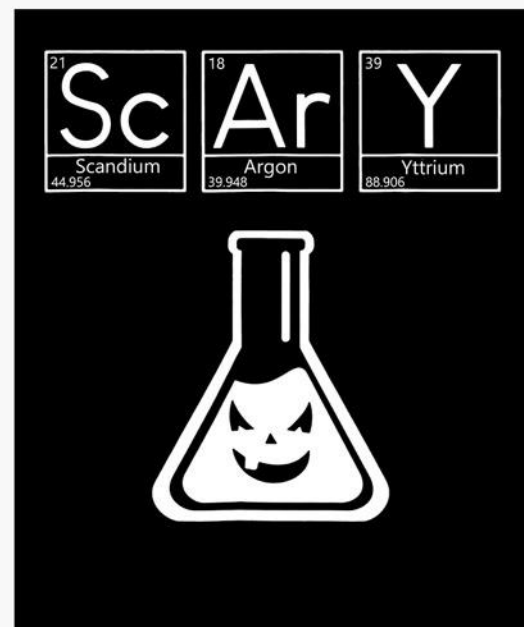
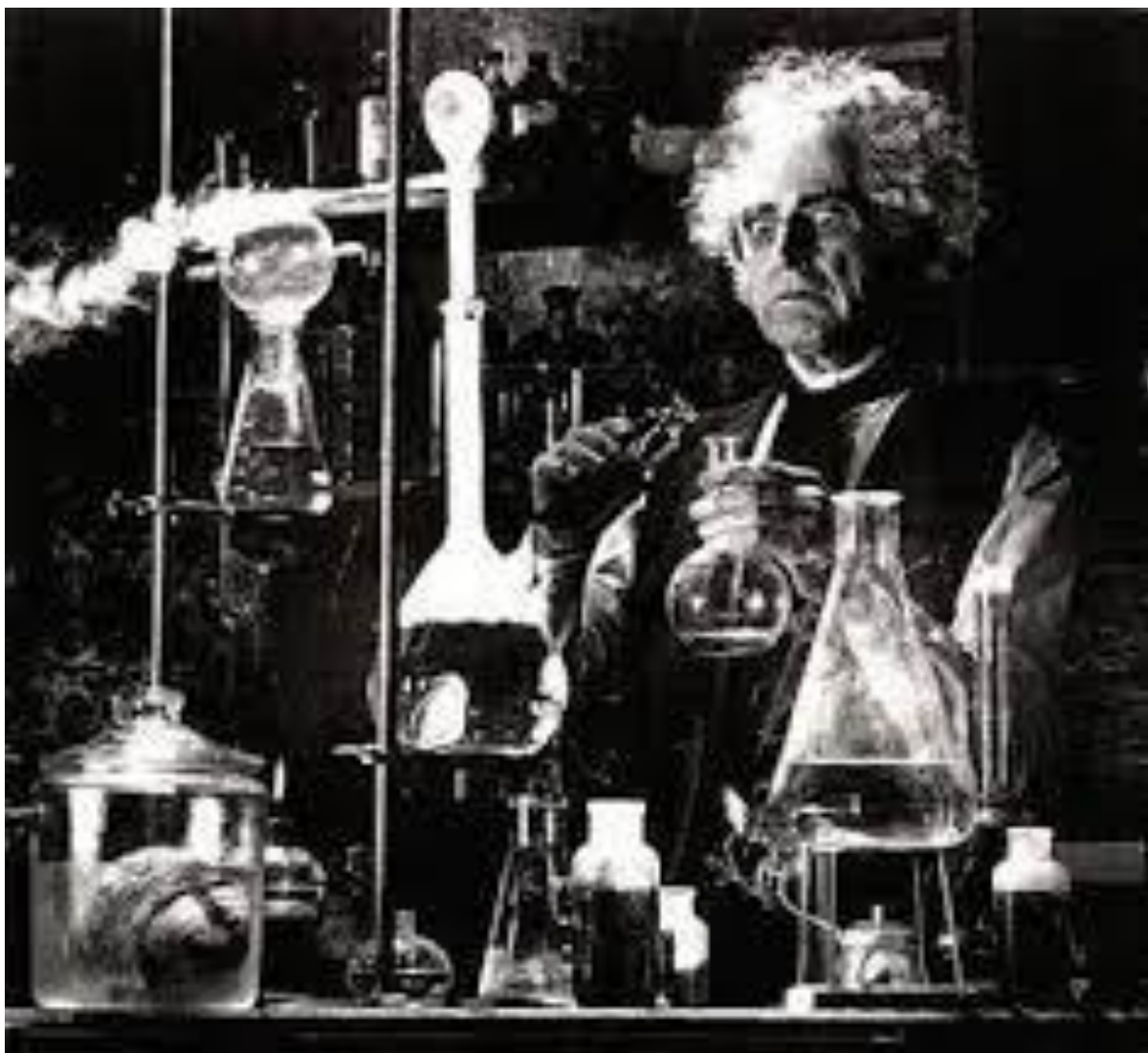
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- **How to choose the right tools**
- **Process Engineering**

Chemistry: Catch 22



Chemistry: Catch 22

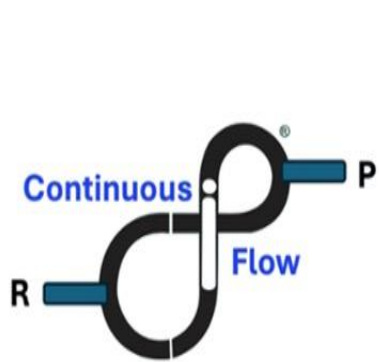


Chemistry: Catch 22

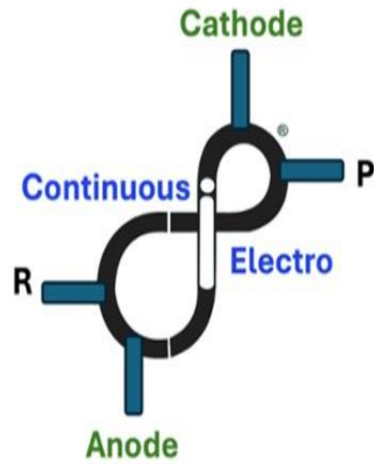


A day in the life of Estanislao Cervera (41) Madrid, 23 March 2015 © Every Thing We Touch

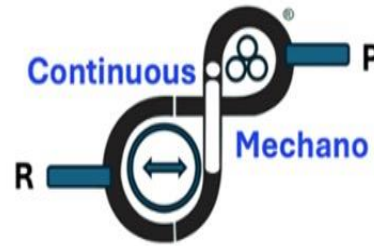
Continuous Process



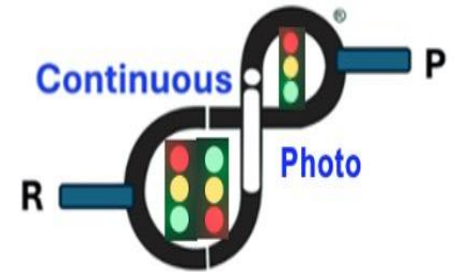
Flow



Electro



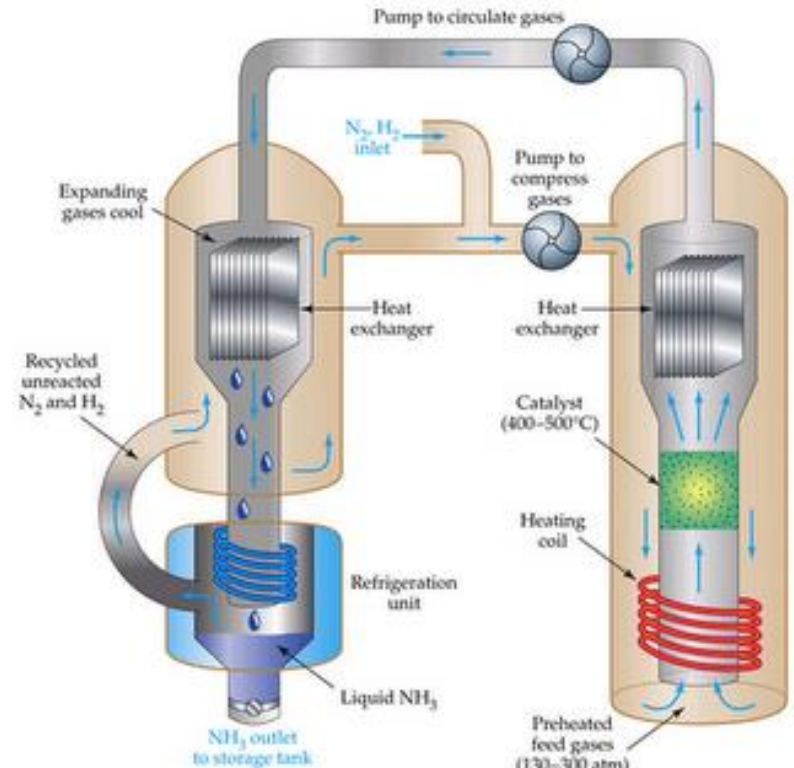
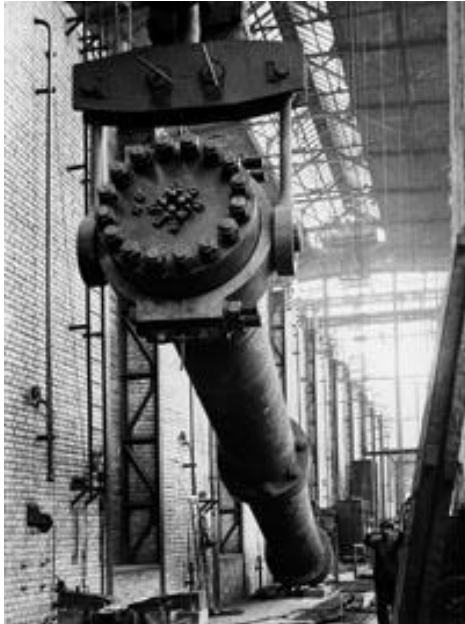
Mechano



Photo

Continuous Process

What's the Big Deal?



Haber-Bosch process: More than 100 Years Old

Continuous Process

What's the Big Deal?



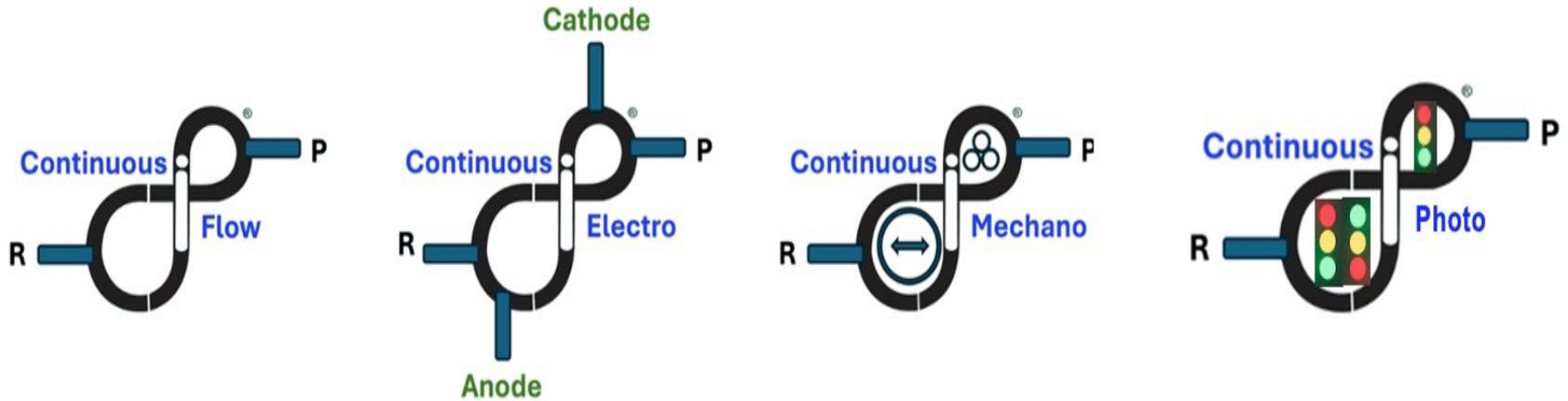
Continuous Process

What's the Big Deal?



Continuous Process

What's the Big Deal?



Flow

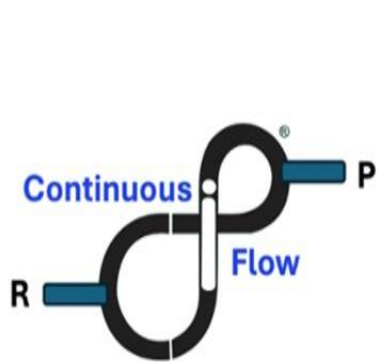
Electro

Mechano

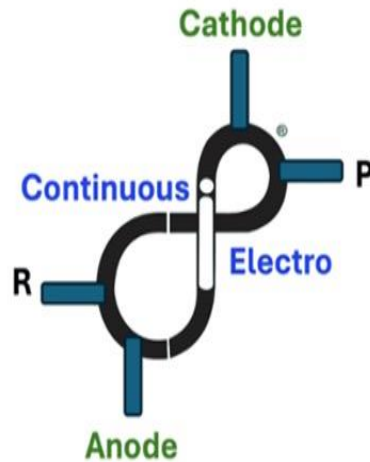
Photo

Continuous Process

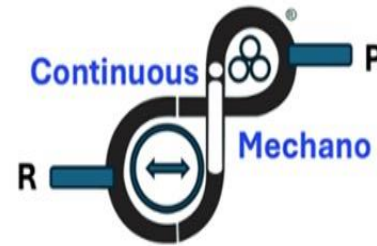
Intensified



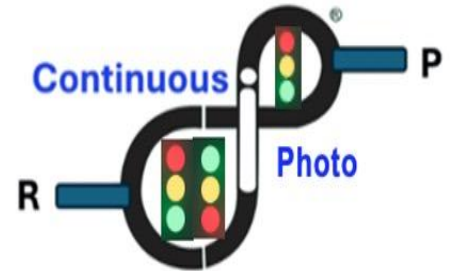
Flow



Electro



Mechano



Photo

Continuous Process



Process Intensification Expert in Chemicals/Materials Domain

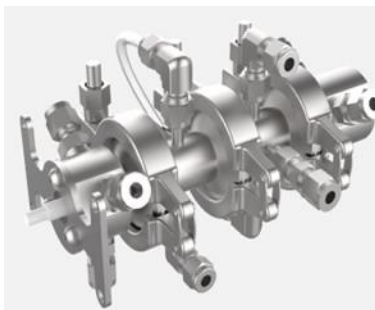
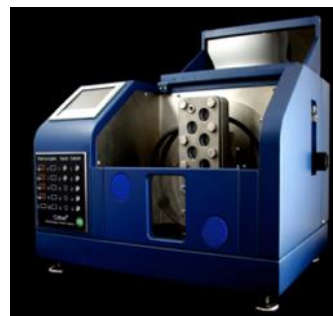
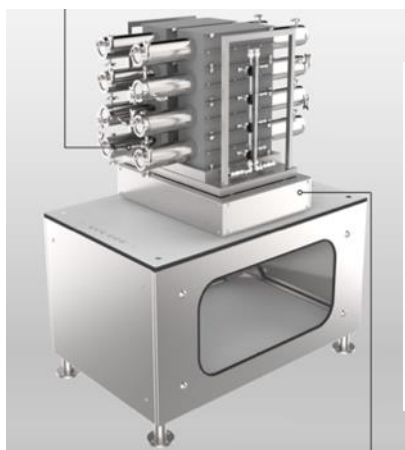
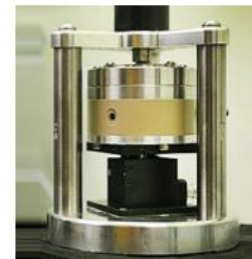
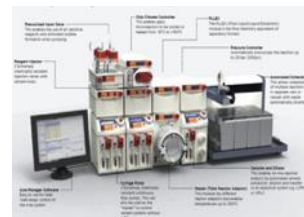
Develop Economical and Sustainable Processes

USP: Reduce Carbon Footprint without additional cost

END to End Solution: from POC to COMMERCIAL

Facilities

Flow, Electro, Photo and Mechano



From mg to production scale

Industrial Collaboration

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ➤ <i>UPL</i> | ➤ <i>Syngene</i> | ➤ <i>Mangalam</i> |
| ➤ <i>Syngenta</i> | ➤ <i>Glochem</i> | ➤ <i>EISAI</i> |
| ➤ <i>Glandpharma</i> | ➤ <i>Sun Pharma</i> | ➤ <i>Merck/Aldrich</i> |
| ➤ <i>Jubilant Ingrevia</i> | ➤ <i>SABIC</i> | ➤ <i>SRF Chemicals</i> |
| ➤ <i>Rusan Pharma</i> | ➤ <i>Jay Chemicals</i> | ➤ <i>SAMI Labs</i> |
| ➤ <i>Anthem</i> | ➤ <i>Rupak</i> | ➤ <i>Sakar Healthcare</i> |
| ➤ <i>Kpatel Chemo</i> | ➤ <i>Jubilant Ingrevia</i> | ➤ <i>Delta Finochem</i> |
| ➤ <i>Transpek</i> | ➤ <i>Lupin</i> | ➤ <i>Medilux Labs</i> |
| ➤ <i>Synergia</i> | ➤ <i>Arthi Industries</i> | ➤ <i>TBRL</i> |
| ➤ <i>Dr. Reddy's Lab</i> | ➤ <i>Metrochem</i> | ➤ <i>DRILS</i> |
| ➤ <i>Virupaksha</i> | ➤ <i>Alkem</i> | ➤ <i>Samnan</i> |
| ➤ <i>Deepak Nitrite</i> | ➤ <i>Arch Pharma</i> | ➤ <i>MetaX</i> |
| ➤ <i>Shri Sufurics</i> | ➤ <i>Valiant</i> | |

Chemistry & Chem Eng

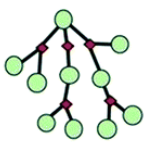
Language of Chemistry itself is changing very fast

- **Solution phase chemistry above the bp of the solvent**
- **Inter over Intra molecular reactions**
- **Reactions above the decomposition temperature**
- **Homogeneous vs Heterogeneous Kinetic**
- **Time resolved synthesis (Retro Synthesis)**
- **Chemistry without chemicals (Electrochemical)**
- **Chemistry without solvents (Mechanochemical)**

Future of Chemical Manufacturing

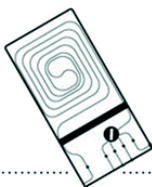


AI & ML: Automation



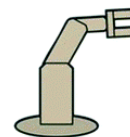
Route section

- Retrosynthetic planning
- Condition recommendation
- Pathway evaluation



Process development

- Specification of residence time, concentrations
- Module selection

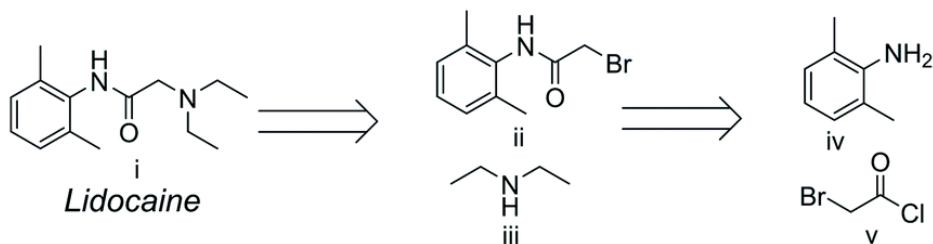


Reaction execution

- Recipe-driven synthesis
- Robotic reconfiguration
- Process monitoring

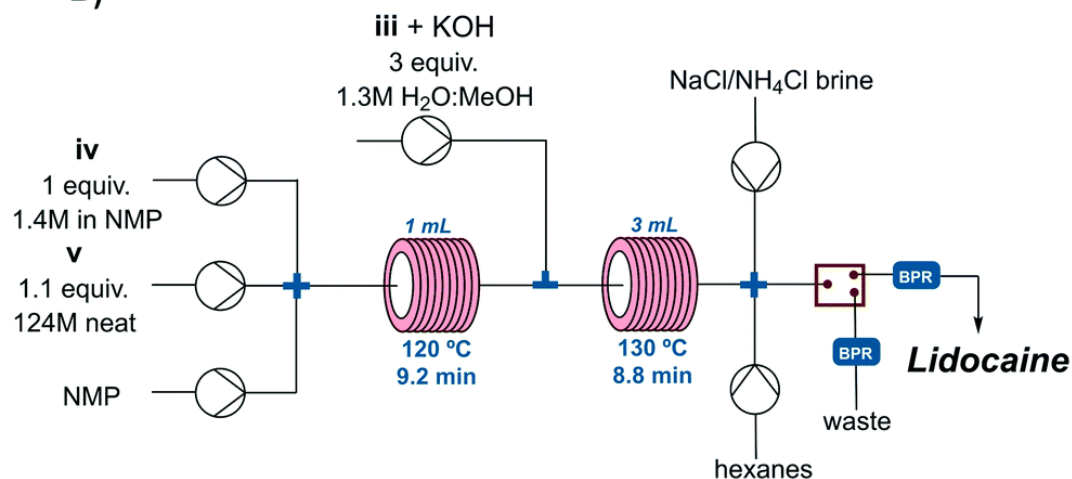
A)

Synthetic routes proposed by the program

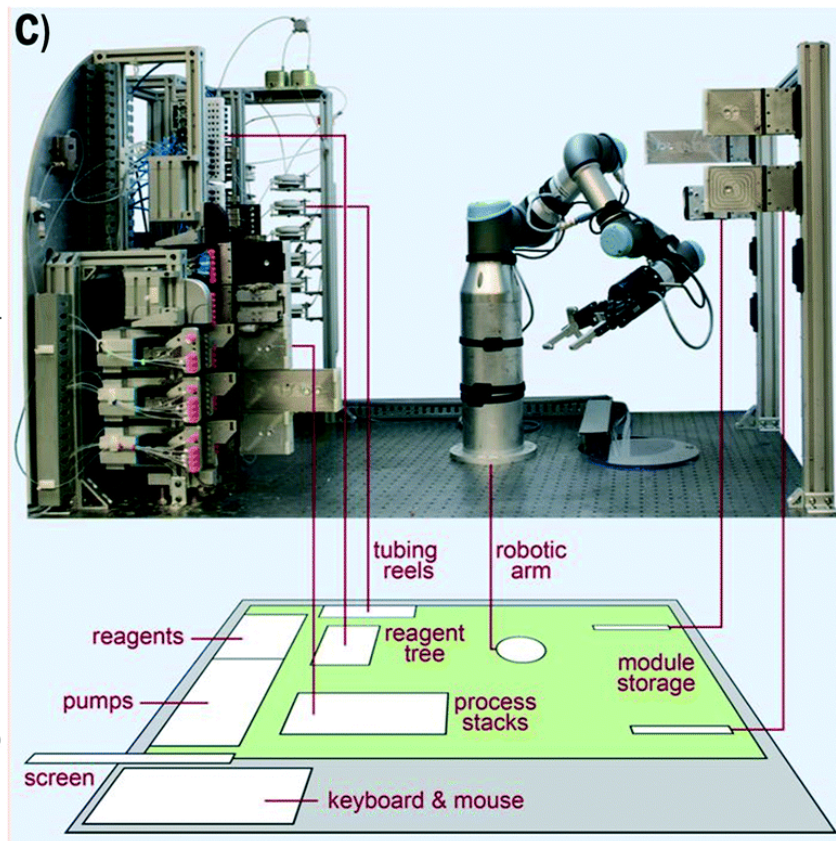


B)

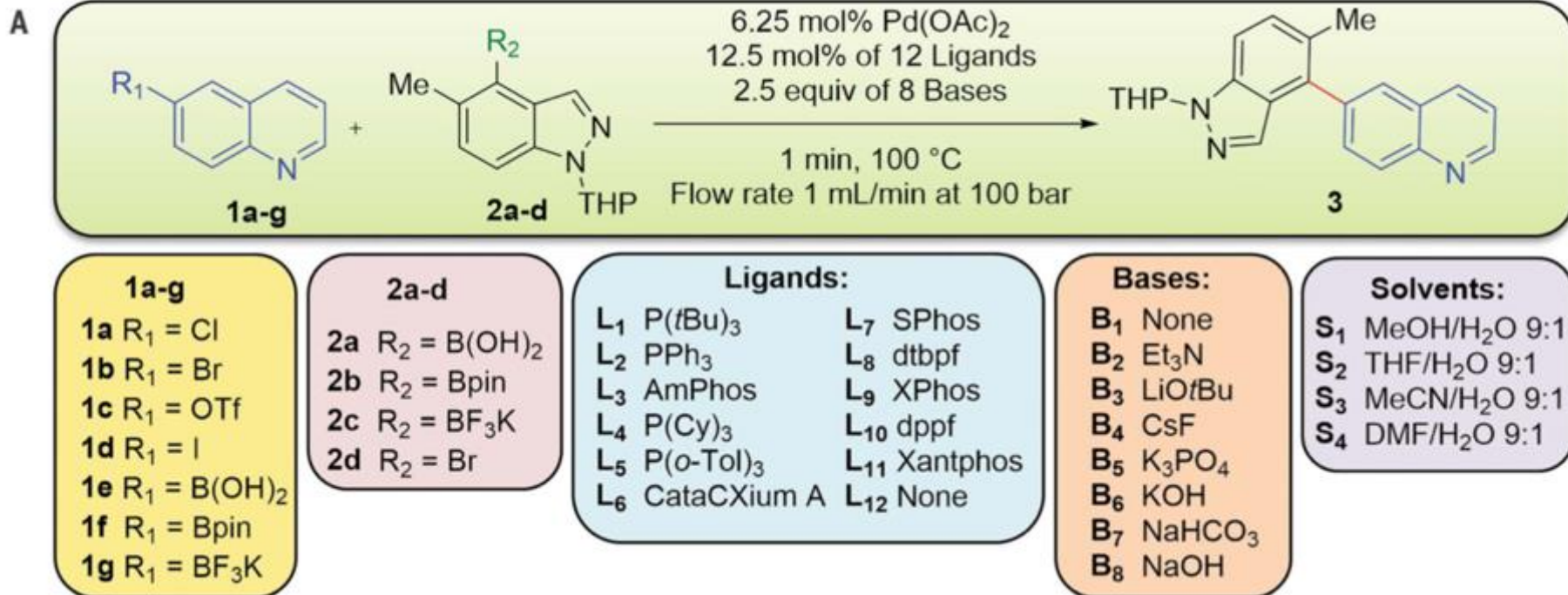
Continuous flow implementations of the proposed route



C)

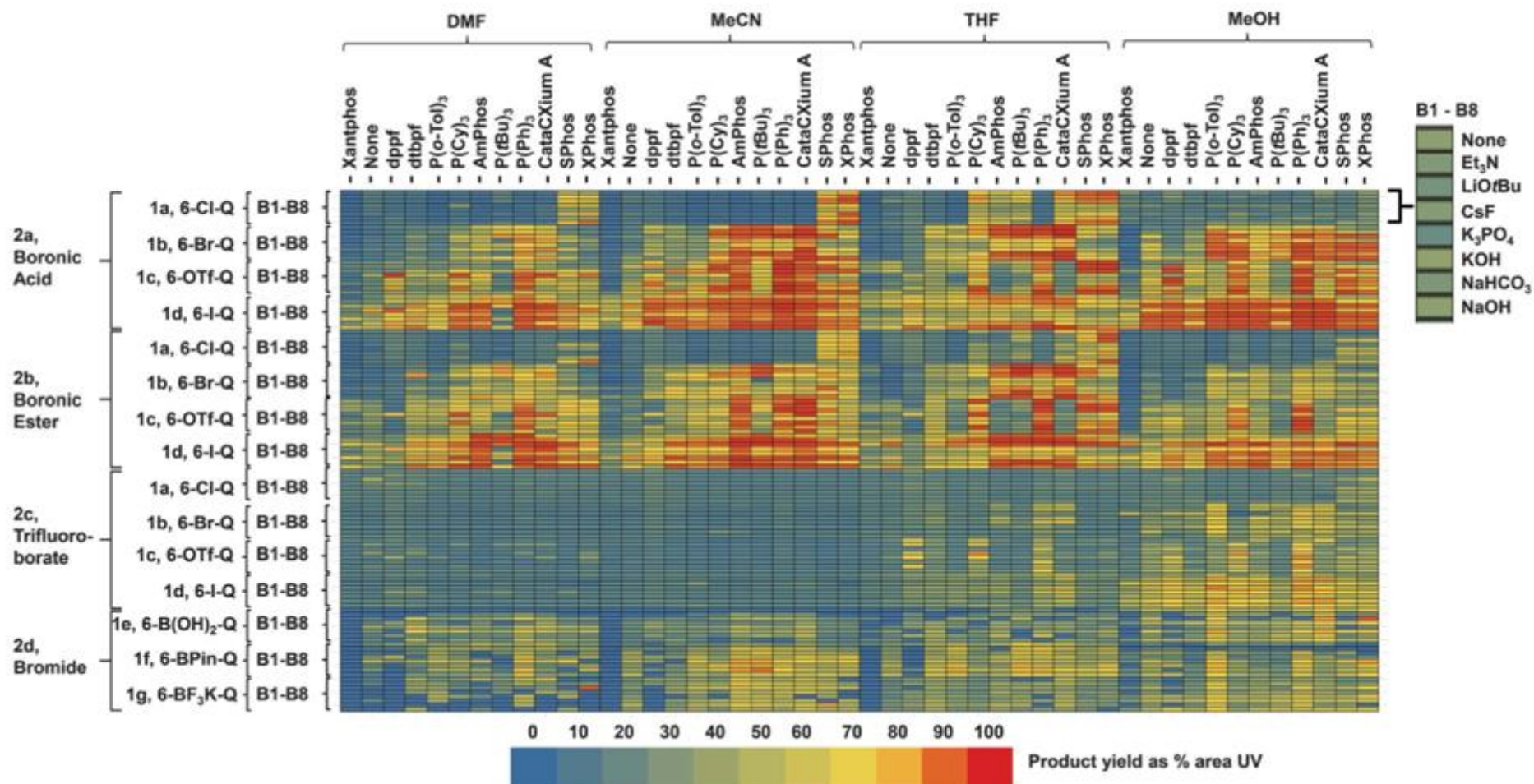


Autonomous Synthesis



A total of 5760 reactions evaluated in 3 days

Ultrafast Optimization



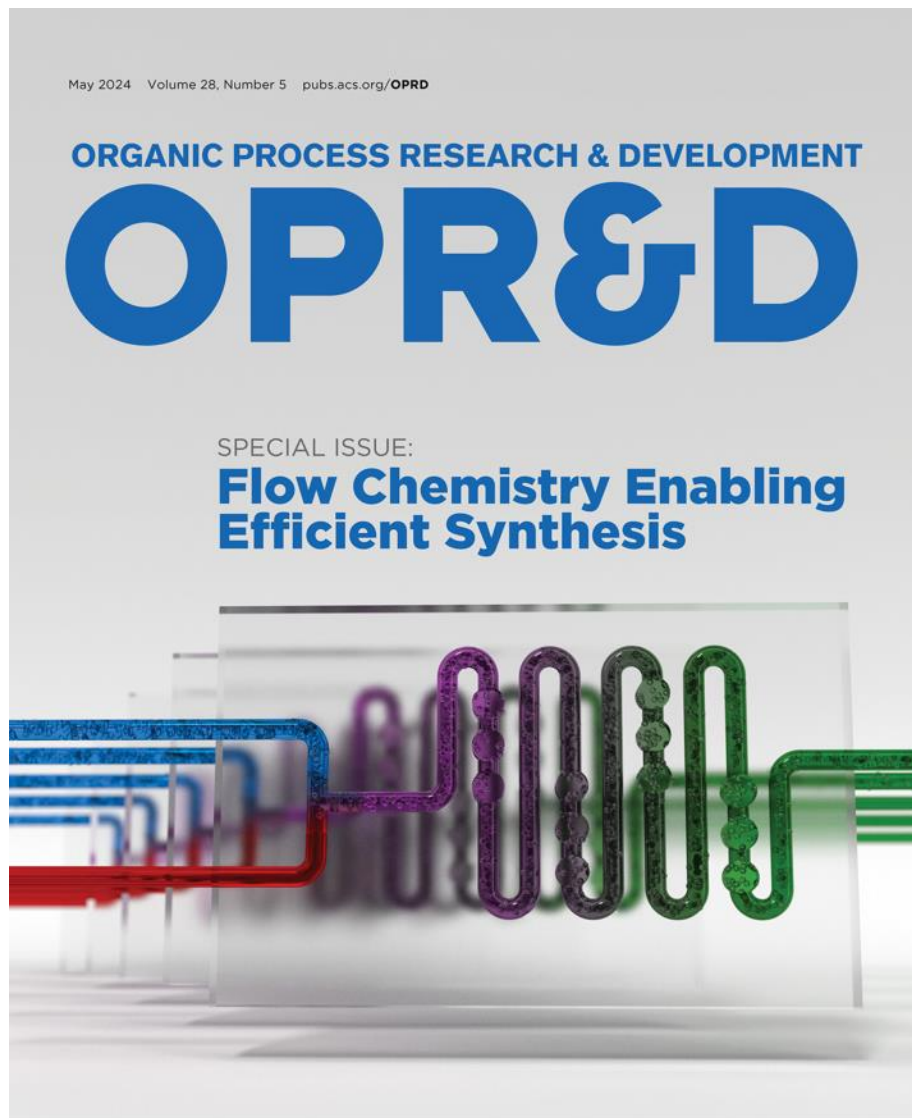
Common Observations

- **Flow is only when there is problem with batch**
- **Flow is too expensive**
- **Flow is not possible at large scale**
- **Flow is still at development stage (too many issues)**
- **Flow does not work**

THINK IN FLOW AND NOT RUN BATCH IN FLOW

Flow is (will be) everywhere at every scale

Continuous Production



May 2024 Volume 28, Number 5 pubs.acs.org/OPRD

ORGANIC PROCESS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

OPRD

SPECIAL ISSUE:

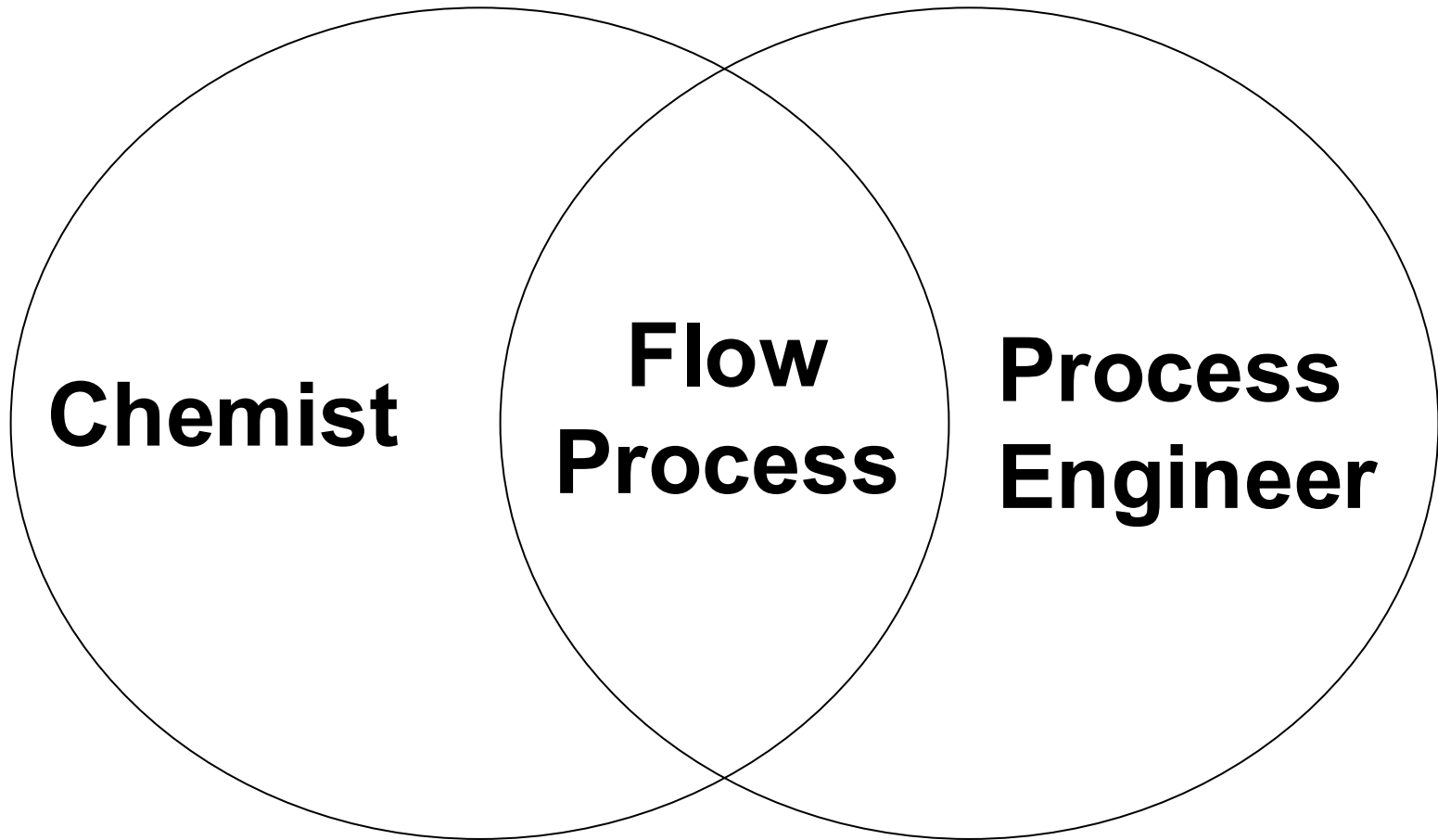
**Flow Chemistry Enabling
Efficient Synthesis**

OPRD, May 2024

5th Special issue on Flow

Continuous manufacturing today
is a mainstream technology
that is widely implemented across
fine chemicals, agrochemicals,
and pharmaceuticals....

Continuous Production



There is no **“ONE SOLUTION”** for everything

There is **“A SOLUTION”** for almost everything 31

Continuous Production

Engineering Approach:

Design and fabricate continuous reactor for a process

No definite time-lines

Inherent risk in fabrication (Quality and Certification)

Science Approach:

Design chemistry to suit a given continuous flow reactor

Definite and shorter time-lines (Few Weeks)

No Fabrication Risk (Standardized Quality with Certification)

Process Intensification

What is a Chemical Reaction ?

Process Intensification

What is a Chemical Reaction ?

Breaking and Formation of Chemical Bonds

Process Intensification

What is a Chemical Reaction ?

Breaking and Formation of Chemical Bonds

Vibrational and Rotational Motions

Process Intensification

What is a Chemical Reaction ?

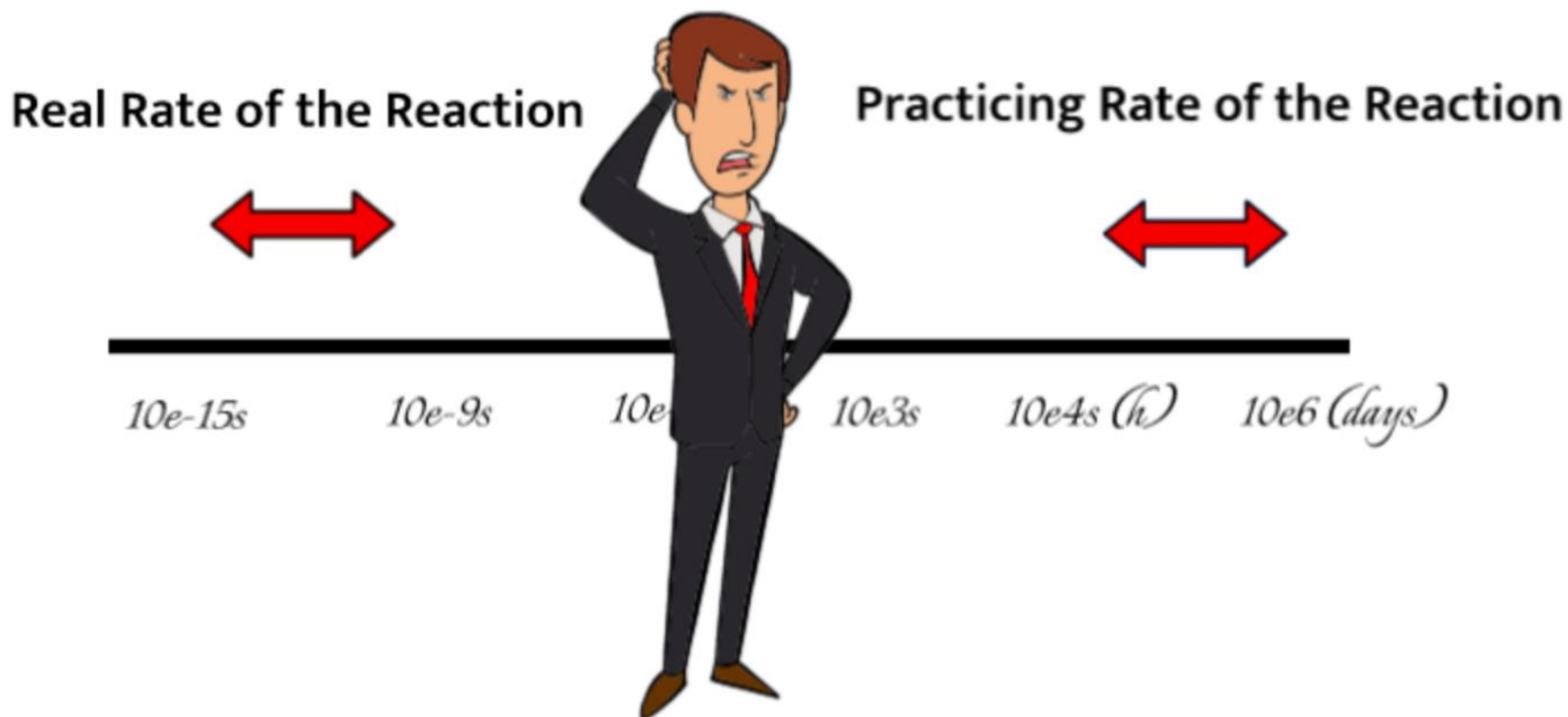
Breaking and Formation of Chemical Bonds

Vibrational and Rotational Motions

Time-Scale ~ Femtoseconds

Process Intensification

How We Practice Chemistry in real life is very different



Process Intensification

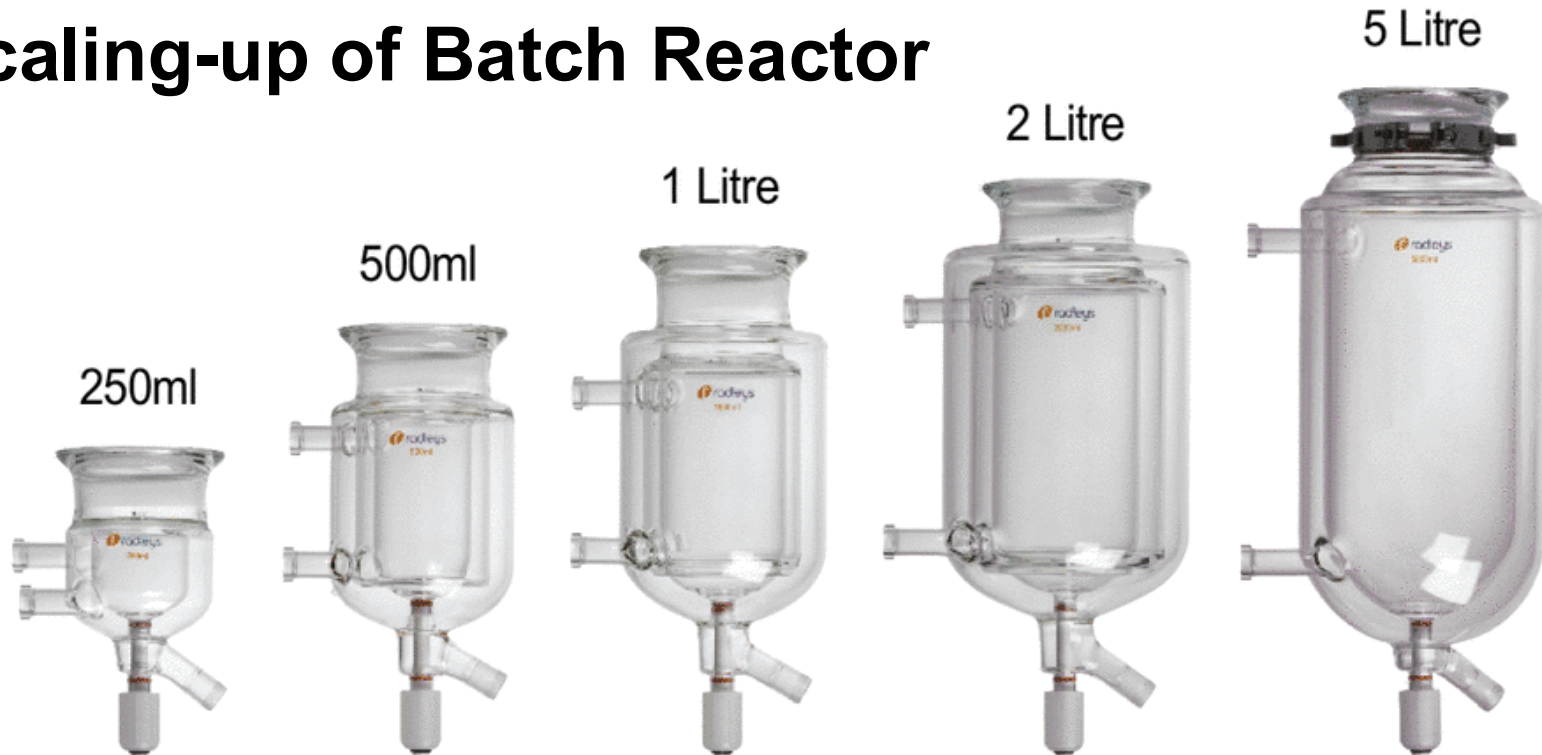
Reactions should happen in sub-nano second time scale

Dangerous due to technological limitations

Heat-Transfer dictates the rate in Batch Reactors

Process Intensification

Scaling-up of Batch Reactor



———— Heat Transfer Deteriorates ———→

$$\frac{A}{V} = \frac{1}{V^{1/3}}$$

Heat Management

Heat Generation

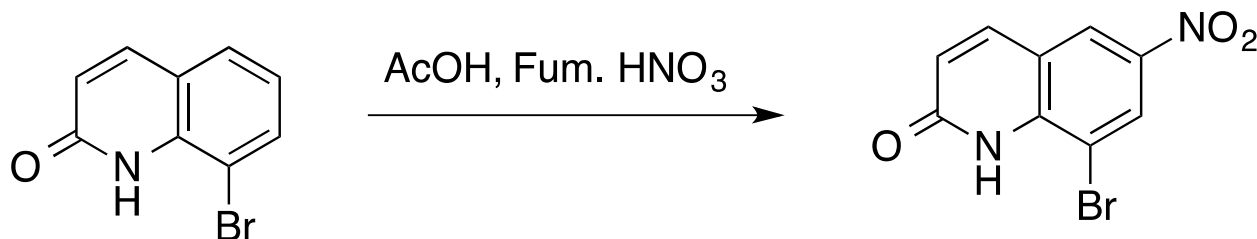
ΔH can be calculated or measured

DSC: Onset of Decomposition and heat generation

If the heat generation is alarming (>300 J/g), one has to make sure that system is always below this decomposition temperature

Heat Management

Novartis



Extremely Exothermic Reaction: Onset at 130 °C (1373 J/g)

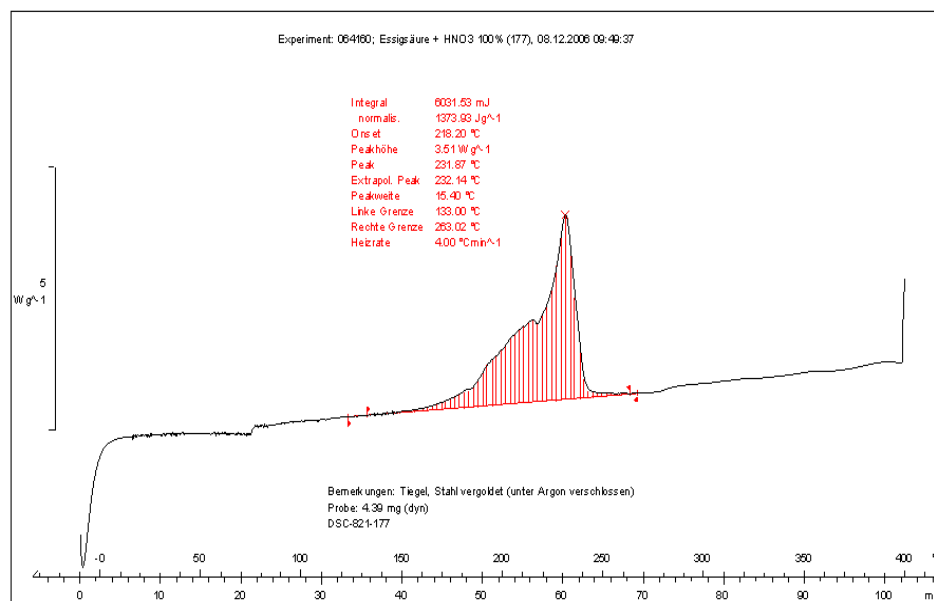


Abb. [6]: Dynamischer DSC-Thermostabilitätstest der Mischung Essigsäure/ Salpetersäure.

Batch process at 118 C for 15 min but at 0.1M scale

Process Intensification

Batch Reactor : SPEED vs CONTROL

Sacrifice Speed : Slow Down the Reactions

Process Intensification

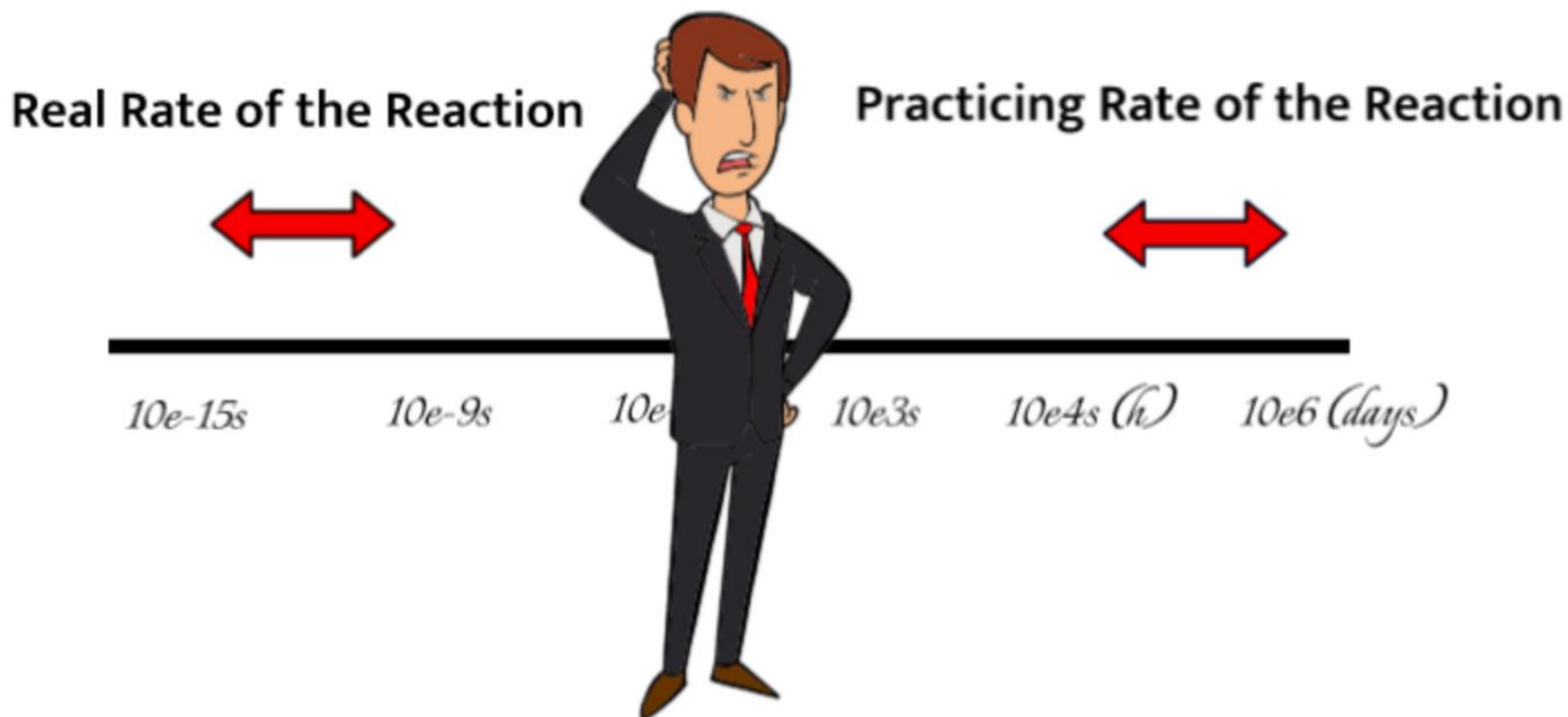
Batch Reactor : Technology is the Problem



Sacrifice Speed to Gain Control

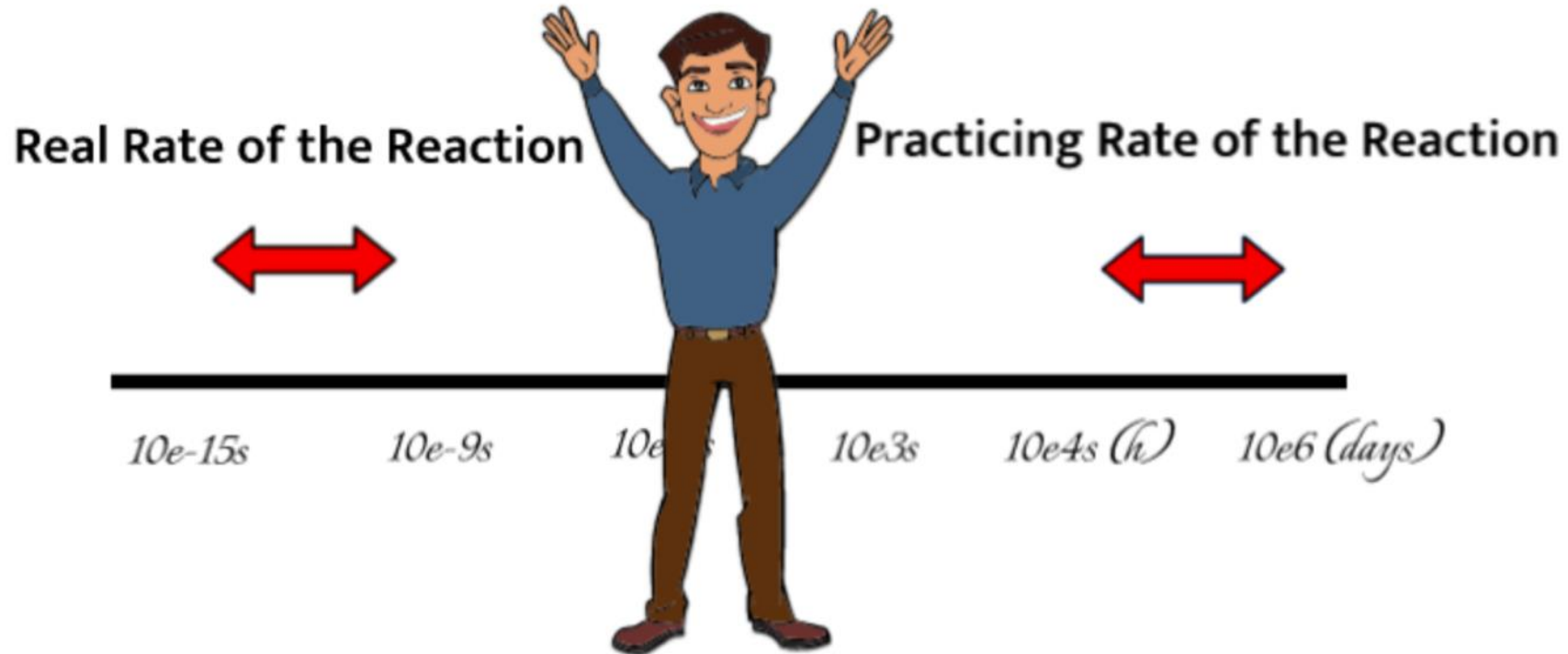
Process Intensification

How We Practice Chemistry in real life is very different



Process Intensification

Conventional Batch Reactors have Poor Heat Transfer Rate



Process Intensification



Chemist



Process Intensification

Batch Reactor : SPEED vs CONTROL

Sacrifice Speed : Slow Down the Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

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A = Fraction of Effective Collisions per unit time

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Molecules/time = (1/time) x molecules with E_a

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

A = Fraction of Effective Collisions per unit time

E_a/RT = Fraction of molecules with Activation Energy

Molecules/time = (1/time) x molecules with E_a

To Control Rate:

Control fraction of effective collisions

Control of mol with E_a

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

Transition State Theory:

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

Transition State Theory:

- **Number of Collision (Diffusion, Mixing, Conc.)**

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

Transition State Theory:

- **Number of Collision (Diffusion, Mixing, Conc.)**
- **Orientation**

Rate of Chemical Reactions

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

Transition State Theory:

- **Number of Collision (Diffusion, Mixing, Conc.)**
- **Orientation**
- **Activation Energy (Thermal or Mechanical)**

Rate of Chemical Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Rate of Chemical Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Add Solvent

Rate of Chemical Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Add Solvent **Low Throughput, more effluent**

Rate of Chemical Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Add Solvent **Low Throughput, more effluent**

Decrease Temperature **Higher energy cost**

Rate of Chemical Reactions

How does one control the rate of the reaction?

Add Solvent **Low Throughput, more effluent**

Decrease Temperature **Higher energy cost**

Change Chemistry

SPEED vs CONTROL

Reactivity of OMC

Decreasing Reactivity
(Increasing Functional Group Tolerance)



Decreasing Electronegativity difference
between Metal and Carbon

Process Intensification

How About SPEED & CONTROL ??

Process Intensification

How About SPEED & CONTROL ??

Continuous Flow Chemistry

Process Intensification

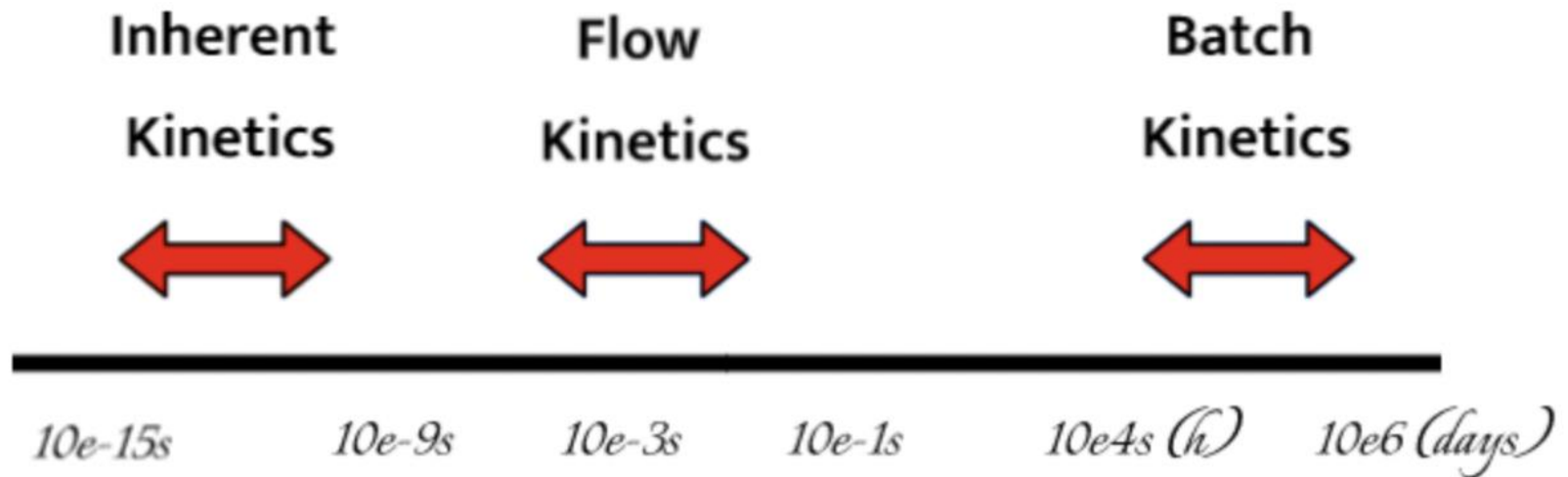
How About SPEED & CONTROL ??

Continuous Flow Chemistry

Fast Reactions or Ultrafast Reactions

Process Intensification

Current State of the Art in Process Intensification

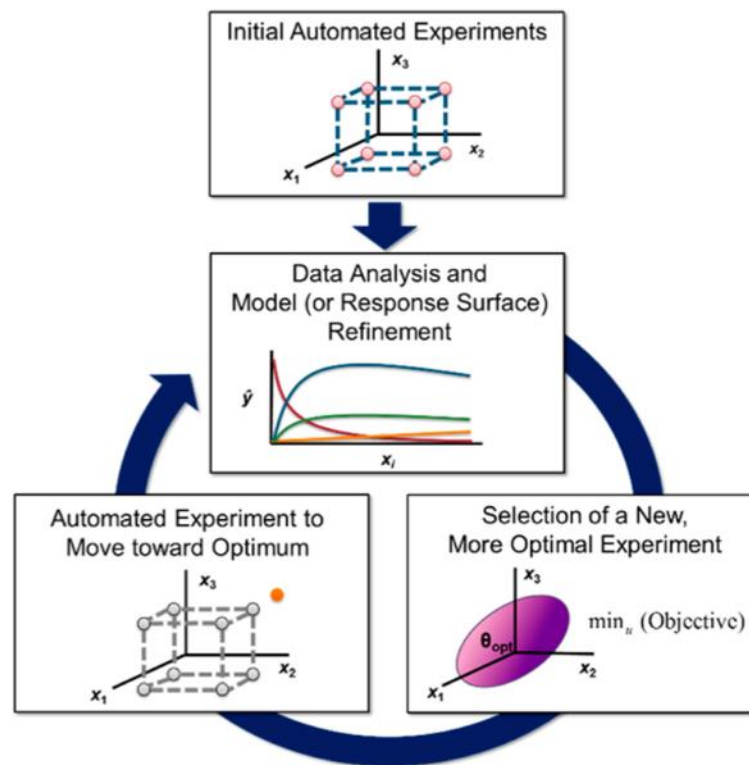
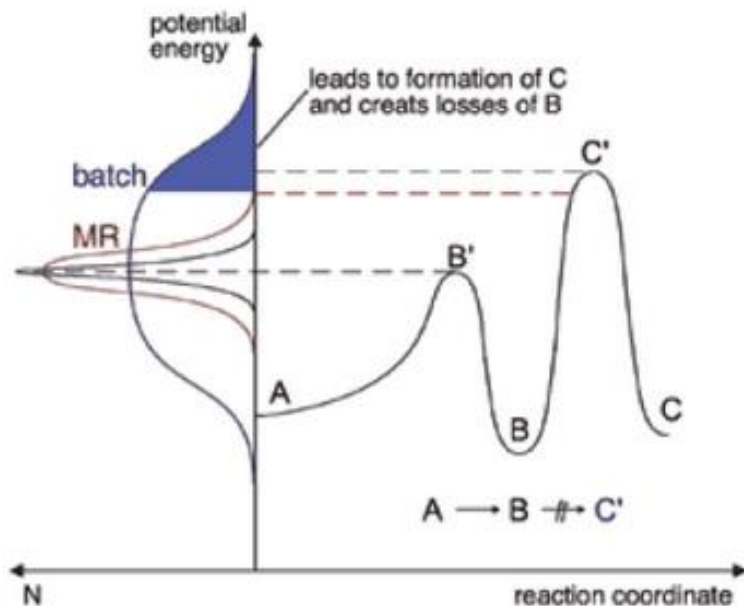


Why Conduct Fast Reactions

- **Rapid Construction of Chemical Libraries**
- **Rapid Synthesis of Radioactive Probes**
- **On Demand Rapid Synthesis**
- **Cost of Production per Unit Volume Decreases**
- **Handling of Hazardous Chemical Intermediates**
- **TIME RESOLVED SYNTHESIS**
- **New chemistry Space**
- **New Process Window**

Flow Process Benefits

Tighter Process Control & Automation

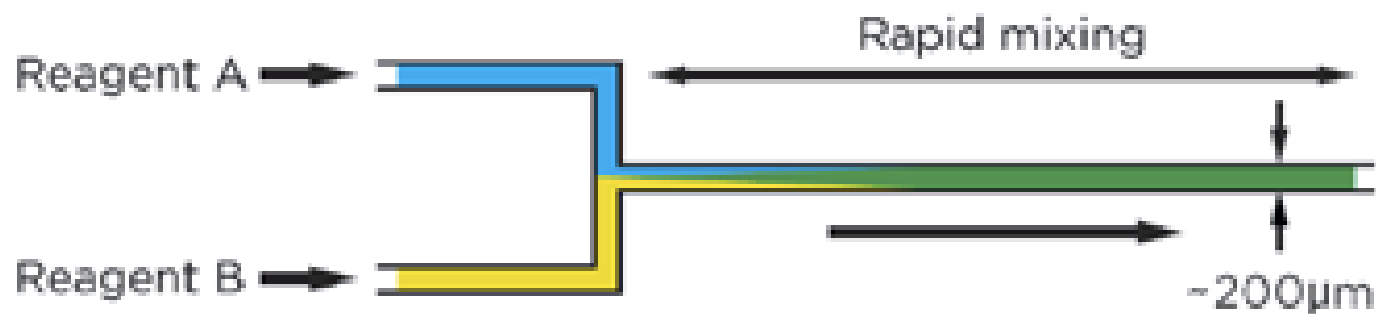
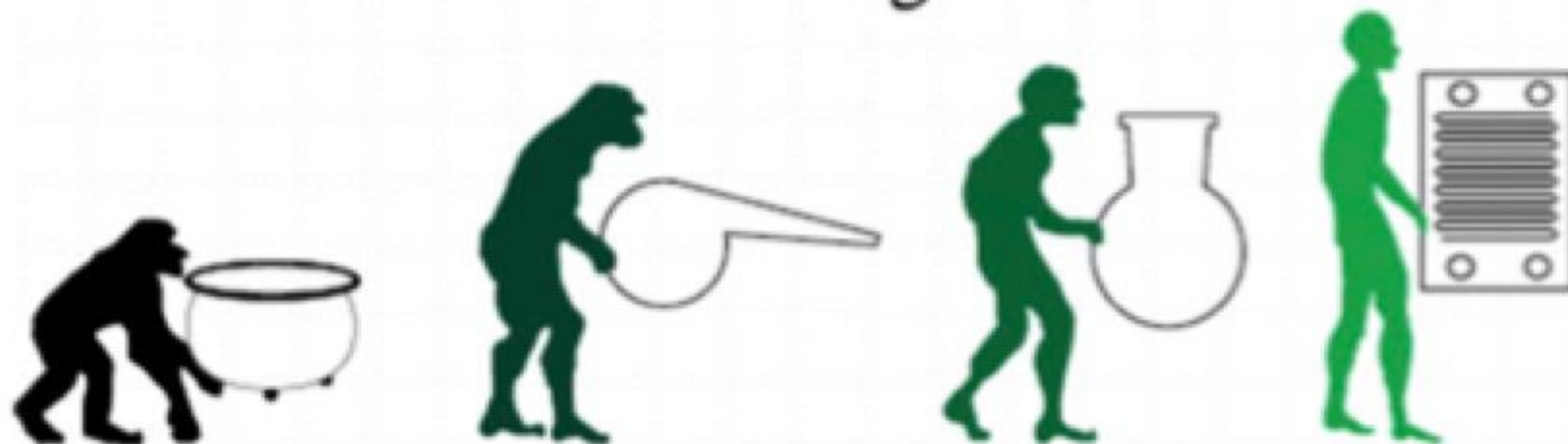


Reizmen and Jensen Acc. Chem. Res., 2016, DOI: 10.1021/acs.accounts.6b00261

<http://www.sigmaaldrich.com/technical-documents/articles/chemfiles/microreactor-technology.html>

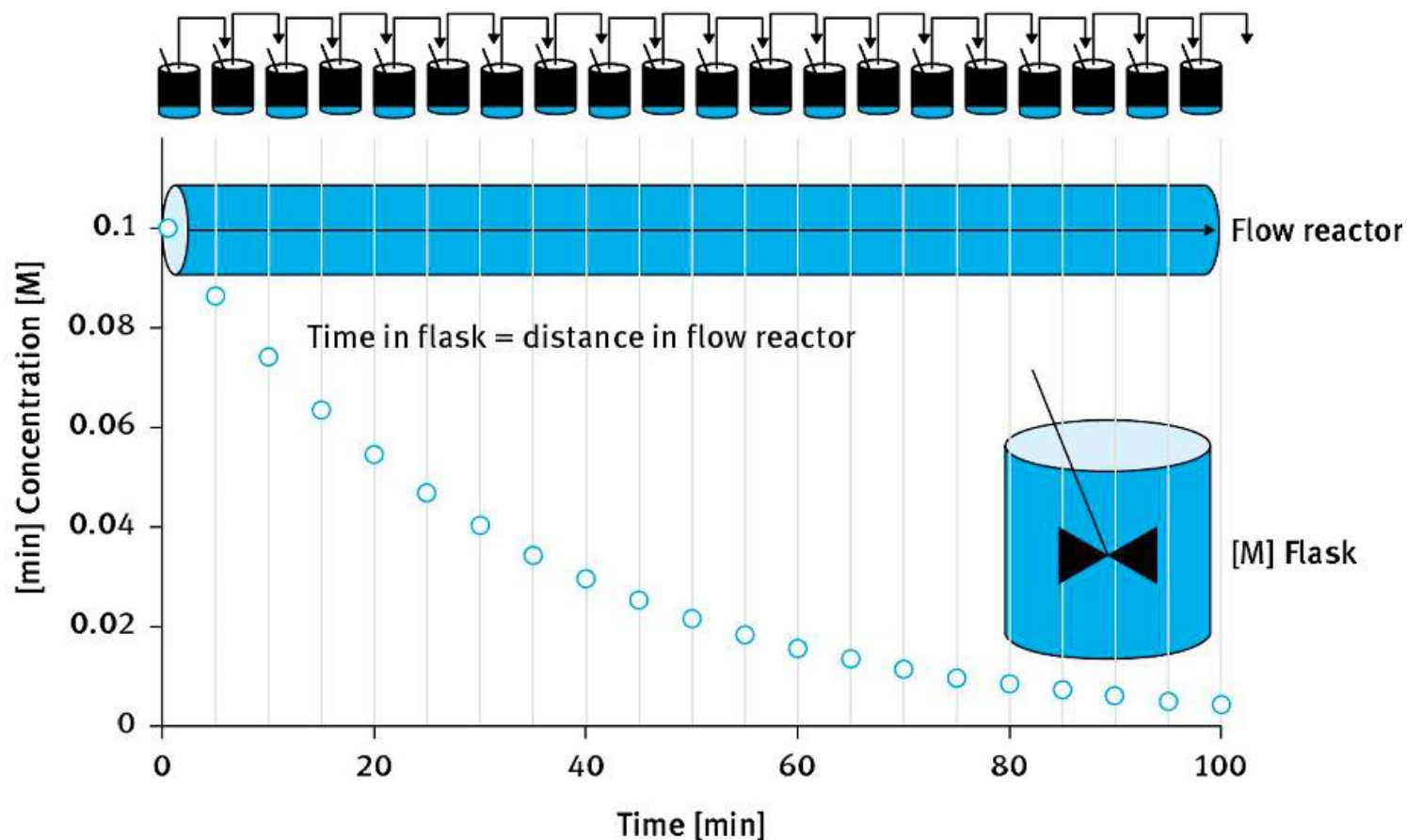
Continuous Flow Processes

Evolution of the Organic Reactor



Flow Process

Flow reactor = sequence of well-mixed flasks



— Heat Transfer and Mixing Improves —→

Process Intensification: The Goal



Flow Process Benefits

Exothermic Reactions

- Very good temperature control
- Accurate residence time control
- Efficient mixing
- Less chance for thermal run-away
- Higher productivity per volume
- High selectivity

Endothermic Reactions

- Control over T, p and residence time
- High selectivity
- Accessing new chemistry
- Higher productivity per volume
- High atom efficiency

Reactions with gases

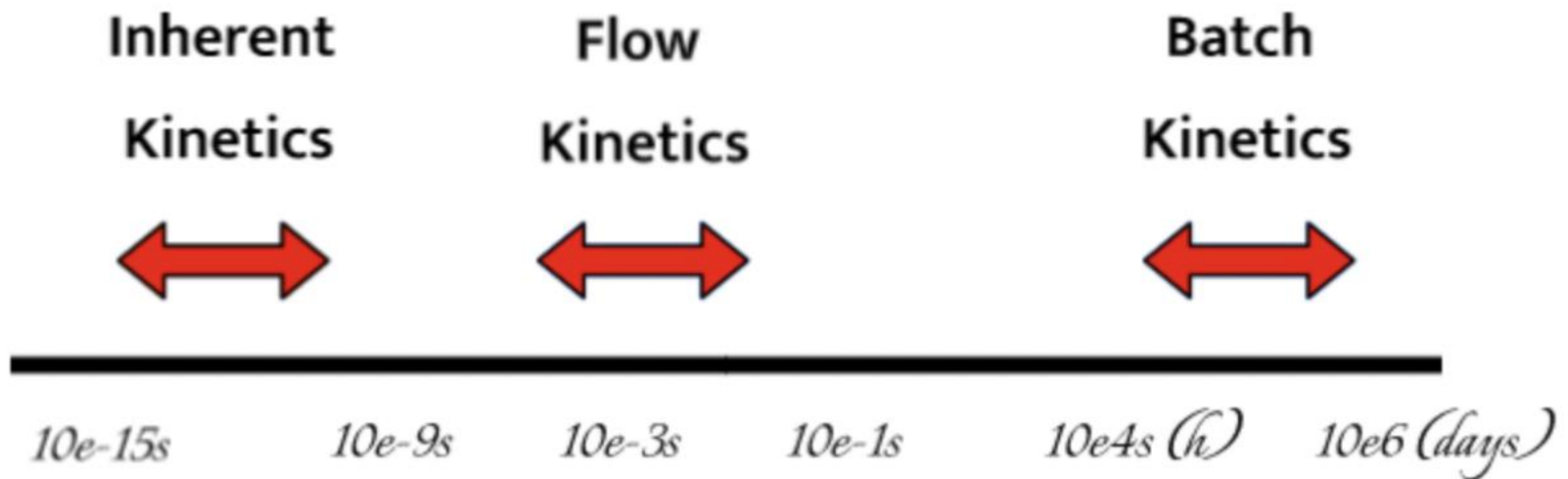
- Accurate gas flow regulation
- Increased safety
- Easy catalyst recycling
- High selectivity
- No Headspace

Scale up

- Increased safety
- Higher productivity per volume
- Selectivity
- Reproducibility

Process Intensification

Current State of the Art in Process Intensification



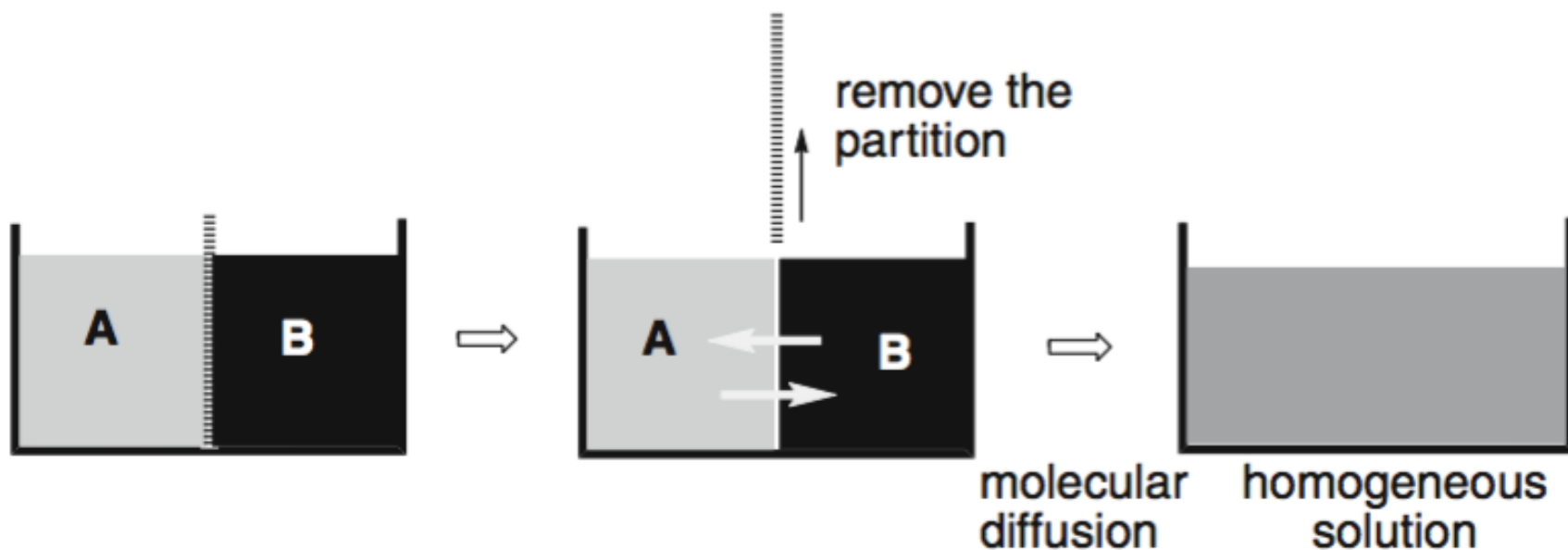
In theory: we can do reactions even in nano second

Rate of Chemical Reaction

Rate of mixing has to be faster than rate of reaction

SPEED vs CONTROL

Mixing



SPEED vs CONTROL

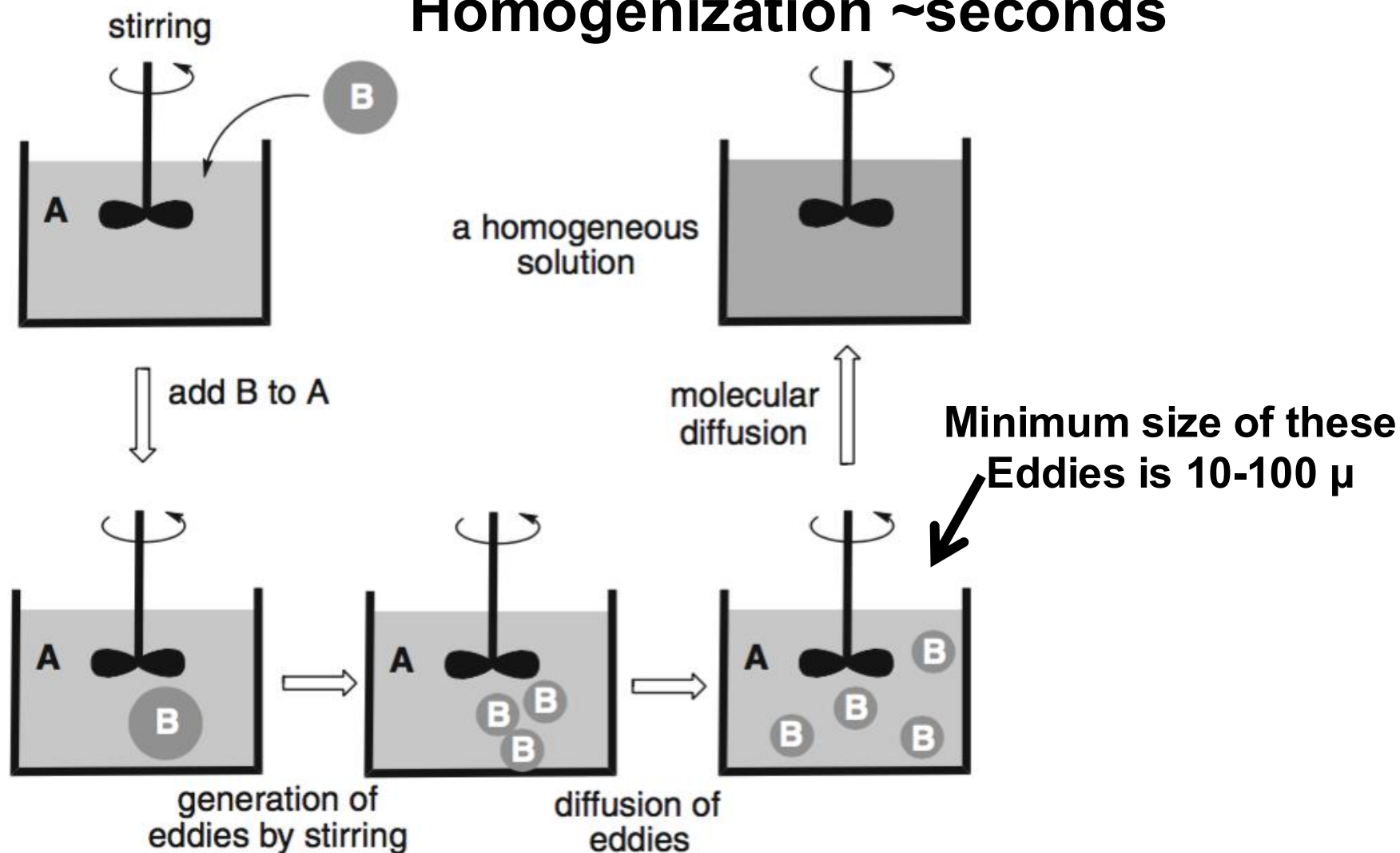
$$t = d^2/2D$$

D for small molecules range from $1\text{-}3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$

Diffusion distance (μm)	Diffusion time (s)	Note
1	0.0005	The size of a bacterium
10	0.05	The size of an animal cell
100	5	
1000 (1 mm)	500 (8.3 min)	
10,000 (1 cm)	50,000 (14 h)	

SPEED vs CONTROL

Homogenization ~seconds



SPEED vs CONTROL

Homogenization ~ seconds

Rate of the reaction ~ sub nanoseconds

**Therefore, Mixing and Heat-Transfer limit the
rate at which reactions can be carried out**

Summary

- **PI is to improvement the rate of the reaction**
- **Reactions should happen in sub-nanosecond time domain**
- **Heat Transfer (Technology) dictates the rate of the reaction**
- **For ultrafast reactions, rate of mixing becomes limiting factor**
- **Mixing has to be faster that rate of the reaction**
- **Improvement in mixing and heat transfer lead to PI**
- **Continuous Flow Technology allows PI**