



12º Encontro Brasileiro sobre Adsorção  
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# ***Numerical solution of diffusion mass transfer model in adsorption systems***

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**LEPAC**

Lab. de Eng. de Processos  
Assistida por Computador



- ✓ Mass Transfer Mechanisms
- ✓ Diffusion Mass Transfer Models
- ✓ Solving Diffusion Mass Transfer Models
- ✓ Parameter Estimation



# Mass Transfer Mechanisms



- ✓ Batch Operation
- ✓ Stirred-Tank
- ✓ Liquid Phase
- ✓ Spherical Adsorbent Particles

# Mass Transfer Mechanisms

The overall rate of adsorption rate on a porous solid includes the following three simultaneous steps:

- ✓ External Mass Transfer
- ✓ Intraparticle Diffusion
- ✓ Adsorption on Active Site

# External Mass Transfer

- ✓ It represents the movement of the adsorbate (molecules/ions) from bulk solution to the external surface of adsorbent particle.
- ✓ It is governed by external mass transfer coefficient.

# Interparticle Diffusion

- ✓ It represents the movement of the adsorbate (molecules/ions) inside the particle.
- ✓ It occurs by:
  - ✓ Effective pore volume diffusion (Fick's diffusion)
  - ✓ Surface diffusion
  - ✓ Combination of both mechanisms

## Effective pore volume diffusion

- ✓ It describes the transport of the adsorbate (molecules/ions) in the liquid phase inside of the particle.
- ✓ It is represented by the effective pore volume diffusion coefficient.



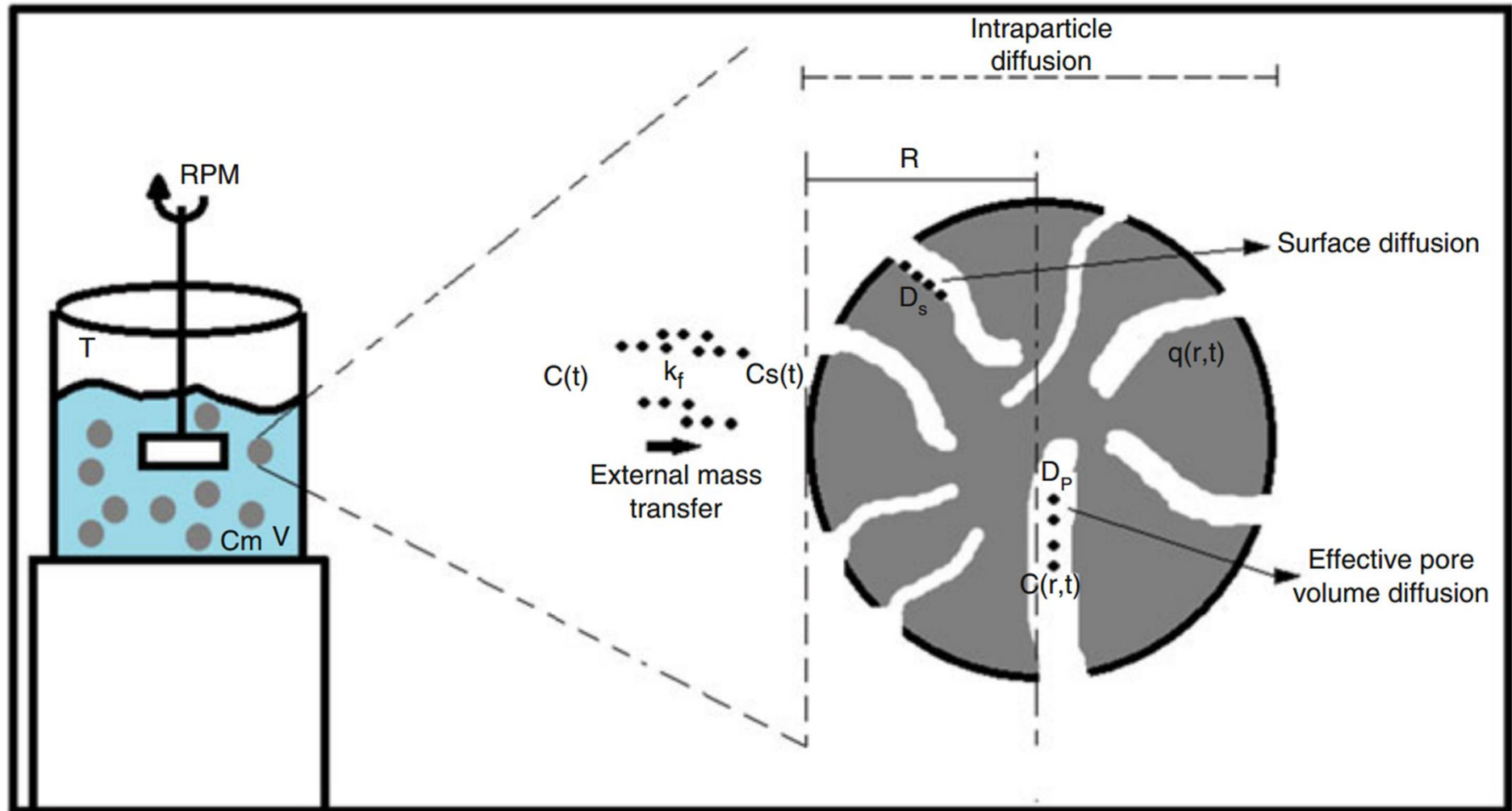
## Surface diffusion

- ✓ It is relative to the transport of the adsorbate over the surface of the adsorbent particles, from sites of higher energy to sites of lower energy.
- ✓ It is represented by the surface diffusion coefficient.

# Adsorption on Active Site

- ✓ It relative to the interaction of the adsorbate with the active sites of the adsorbent.
- ✓ It can be considered instantaneous and represented by the isotherm model equation.

# Mass Transfer Mechanisms



# Diffusion Mass Transfer Models



- ✓ They are constructed on the basis in the three consecutive steps:
  - ✓ External mass transfer
  - ✓ Intraparticle diffusion (effective pore volume diffusion, surface diffusion, or a combination of both mechanisms)
  - ✓ Adsorption on an active site



- ✓ They represent realistically the adsorption kinetics.
- ✓ One of the most complete diffusional models is the pore volume and surface diffusion model (PVSDM).

- ✓ Batch system adsorption occurs at constant temperature.
- ✓ Mass transport by convection within the pores is negligible.

- ✓ Intraparticle diffusion can occur by both pore volume diffusion and surface diffusion.
- ✓ Values of effective pore volume diffusion coefficient and surface diffusion coefficient are constant.
- ✓ Adsorption rate on an active site is instantaneous.



$$V \frac{dC_t}{dt} = -mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = C_0$$

$$\varepsilon_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial t} + \rho_p \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 \left( D_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} + \rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \right) \right]$$

$$t = 0, 0 \leq r \leq R, C_r = 0$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \right|_{r=0} = 0$$

$$D_p \left. \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R} + \rho_p D_s \left. \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

- ✓ To solve this model, it is considered that there exists a local equilibrium between the adsorbate concentration of the pore solution and the mass of adsorbate adsorbed on the pore surface.
- ✓ This equilibrium relationship is represented by the adsorption isotherm:

$$q = f(C_r)$$

✓ In case of Redlich-Peterson isotherm model equation:

$$q = \frac{k_{RP} C_r}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^\beta}$$

✓ From chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial t} \frac{\partial q}{\partial C_r} \longrightarrow \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial C_r} \left( \frac{k_{RP} C_r}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^\beta} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \frac{\partial q}{\partial C_r} \longrightarrow \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial C_r} \left( \frac{k_{RP} C_r}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^\beta} \right)$$

- ✓ Also, if the volume is constant, it is evident that adsorbate concentration from bulk solution and the mass of adsorbate per mass of adsorbent:

$$q_t = \frac{(C_0 - C_t)V}{m}$$

- ✓ Three models can be derived from the PVSDM model:
  - ✓ External mass transfer model (EMTM)
  - ✓ Pore volume diffusion model (PVDM)
  - ✓ Surface diffusion model (SDM)

- 
- ✓ It assumes that the movement of solute from the liquid phase to the adsorbent is only due to external mass transfer.
  - ✓ Intraparticle diffusion is instantaneous.
  - ✓ There is not a concentration gradient inside the particle.
  - ✓ Intraparticle diffusion resistance is considered to be insignificant.

$$V \frac{dC_t}{dt} = -mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = C_0$$

$$\varepsilon_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial t} + \rho_p \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 \left( D_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} + \rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \right) \right]$$

$$t = 0, 0 \leq r \leq R, C_r = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=0} = 0$$

$$D_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} + \rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$



$$V \frac{dC_t}{dt} = -mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = C_0$$

$$\left. \frac{m\varepsilon_p}{\rho_p} \frac{dC_r}{\partial t} \right|_{r=R} + m \frac{dq_t}{dt} = mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = 0, q_t = 0$$

- 
- ✓ It is a simplification of the PVSDM model, used when the intraparticle diffusion is controlled only by pore volume diffusion.
  - ✓ Surface diffusion coefficient is neglected.

$$V \frac{dC_t}{dt} = -mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = C_0$$

$$\varepsilon_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial t} + \rho_p \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 \left( D_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} + \rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \right) \right]$$

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- 
- ✓ It is a simplification of the PVSDM model, used when the intraparticle diffusion is controlled only by surface diffusion.
  - ✓ Effective pore volume diffusion coefficient is neglected.

$$V \frac{dC_t}{dt} = -mSk_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

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$$t = 0, 0 \leq r \leq R, C_r = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=0} = 0$$

$$\rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

- ✓ If the external mass transfer is negligible, the boundary condition can be replaced by the adsorption isotherm, or by other boundary condition.

PVDM: 
$$D_p \frac{\partial C_r}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

SDM: 
$$\rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$



- ✓ Homogeneous surface diffusion model (HSDM) is another important diffusion model.
- ✓ It considers a dual mass transport mechanism across the hydrodynamic boundary layer surrounding the adsorbent particle and intraparticle resistance within the particle in the form of surface diffusion.

$$m \frac{dq_t}{dt} = mA k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

$$t = 0, C_t = C_0$$

$$-m \frac{dq_t}{dt} = V \frac{dC_t}{dt}$$

$$\rho_p \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 \left( \rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \right) \right]$$

$$t = 0, 0 \leq r \leq R, q = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=0} = 0$$

$$\rho_p D_s \frac{\partial q}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = k_F \left( C_t - C_{s(t)} \Big|_{r=R} \right)$$

- ✓ In the same way of the other models, HSDM requires a relation between the amount of adsorbate adsorbed on the adsorbent and the amount of the adsorbate in the bulk solution, which is given by the adsorption isotherm.

# Solving Diffusion Mass Transfer Models

# Solving Model Equations

- ✓ Numerical method of lines utilizes ordinary differential equations (ODEs) for the time derivative and finite differences on the spatial derivatives.
- ✓ In finite difference method, the derivatives in the partial differential equations (PDEs) are approximated by linear combinations of function values at the grid points.

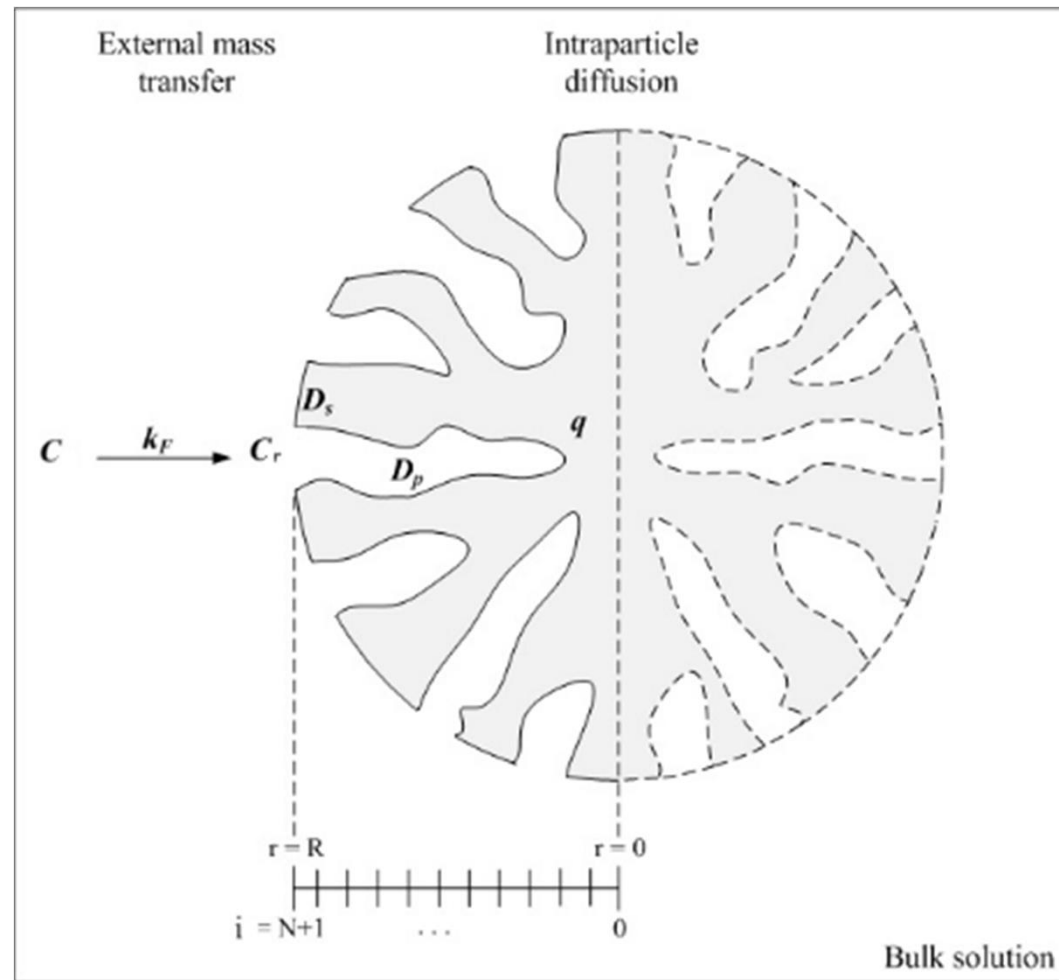
# Solving Model Equations

- ✓ Derivatives in the partial differential equation of diffusional transfer models are discretized into  $N + 1$  points on the spatial derivatives (radius), where  $N$  is the number of grid points.



# Discretization (grid points)

- ✓ Transport of adsorbate molecules from the bulk solution to the spherical particle.





# Discretization (grid points)

- ✓ In this way, it has  $C_r$  in different points  $i$  where  $i = 0$  is the grid point at  $r = 0$  and  $i = N+1$  is the grid point at  $r = R$ .
- ✓ Grid points are spaced equally with the step size given by:

$$h = \frac{R}{N + 1}$$



# Finite Approximation Functions

Difference	First-Order Formula	Second-Order Formula
<b>Forward Difference for First Derivative</b>	$\frac{d}{dx}f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{\Delta x}$	$\frac{d}{dx}f(x_i) = \frac{-3f(x_i) + 4f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i+2})}{2\Delta x}$
<b>Central Difference for First Derivative</b>	-	$\frac{d}{dx}f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i-1}))}{2\Delta x}$
<b>Backward Difference for First Derivative</b>	$\frac{d}{dx}f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}))}{\Delta x}$	$\frac{d}{dx}f(x_i) = \frac{3f(x_i) - 4f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i+2}))}{2\Delta x}$

# Finite Approximation Functions

Difference	First-Order Formula	Second-Order Formula
<b>Forward Difference for Second Derivative</b>	$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i) - 2f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i+2}))}{\Delta x^2}$	$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x_i) = \frac{2f(x_i) - 5f(x_{i+1}) + 4f(x_{i+2}) - f(x_{i+3}))}{\Delta x^2}$
<b>Central Difference for Second Derivative</b>	-	$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}))}{\Delta x^2}$
<b>Backward Difference for Second Derivative</b>	$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i) - 2f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_{i-2}))}{\Delta x^2}$	$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x_i) = \frac{2f(x_i) - 5f(x_{i-1}) + 4f(x_{i-2}) - f(x_{i-3}))}{\Delta x^2}$

# Finite Approximation Functions

- ✓ Temporal variation of the adsorbate concentration in bulk solution is rewritten in the discretized form:

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = -\frac{mSk_F}{V} (C - C_r^{N+1})$$

# Finite Approximation Functions

✓ Second-order central difference approximations of the first and second derivative can be used to solve the PDEs.

$$\varepsilon_p \frac{dC_r}{dt} + \rho_p \frac{dC_r}{dt} \frac{d}{dC_r^i} \left( \frac{k_{RP} C_r^i}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^{i\beta}} \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &2r \left[ D_p \left( \frac{C_r^{i+1} - C_r^{i-1}}{2h} \right) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \rho_p D_s \left( \frac{C_r^{i+1} - C_r^{i-1}}{2h} \right) \frac{d}{dC_r^i} \left( \frac{k_{RP} C_r^i}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^{i\beta}} \right) \right] + \\ &r^2 \left[ D_p \left( \frac{C_r^{i+1} - 2C_r^i + C_r^{i-1}}{h^2} \right) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \rho_p D_s \left( \frac{C_r^{i+1} - 2C_r^i + C_r^{i-1}}{h^2} \right) \frac{d}{dC_r^i} \left( \frac{k_{RP} C_r^i}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^{i\beta}} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \right\}$$



# Finite Approximation Functions

✓ Isolating  $\frac{dC_r}{dt}$  and simplifying:

$$\frac{dC_r}{dt} = - \left[ r \left( -C_r^{i+1} + 2C_r^i - C_r^{i-1} \right) + h \left( C_r^{i-1} - C_r^{i+1} \right) \right] \\ \frac{\left\{ -D_p a_{RP}^2 C_r^{i2\beta} + \left[ \rho_p D_s k_{RP} (\beta - 1) - 2D_p \right] a_{RP} C_r^{i\beta} - D_p - \rho_p D_s k_{RP} \right\}}{h^2 r \left\{ -\varepsilon_p a_{RP}^2 C_r^{i2\beta} + \left[ \rho_p k_{RP} (\beta - 1) - 2\varepsilon_p \right] a_{RP} C_r^{i\beta} - \varepsilon_p - \rho_p k_{RP} \right\}}$$

# Finite Approximation Functions

- ✓ Second-order forward difference approximations of the first derivative can be used to solve the boundary condition at  $r = 0$ :

$$C_r^0 = \frac{4C_r^1 - C_r^2}{3}$$

# Finite Approximation Functions

- ✓ Second-order backward difference approximations of the first derivative can be used to solve the boundary condition at  $r = R$ :

$$D_p \left( \frac{3C_r^{N+1} - 4C_r^N + C_r^{N-1}}{2h} \right) +$$

$$\rho_p D_s \left( \frac{3C_r^{N+1} - 4C_r^N + C_r^{N-1}}{2h} \right) \frac{d}{dC_r^{N+1}} \left( \frac{k_{RP}}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^{N+1\beta}} \right)$$

$$= k_F (C - C_r^{N+1})$$



# Boundary Condition

- ✓ Boundary condition at  $r = R$  has no analytical solution, i. e. it is not possible to solve explicitly the equation to obtain  $C_r^{N+1}$ .
- ✓ An implicit method to solve non-linear equation is required.
- ✓ The most common method for solving nonlinear algebraic equations is the Newton's method.



*fsolve*

- ✓ MatLab function that attempts to solve equations of the form:

$$f(x) = 0$$

- ✓ Based on trust-region modification of Newton method.

# ODE's Integration

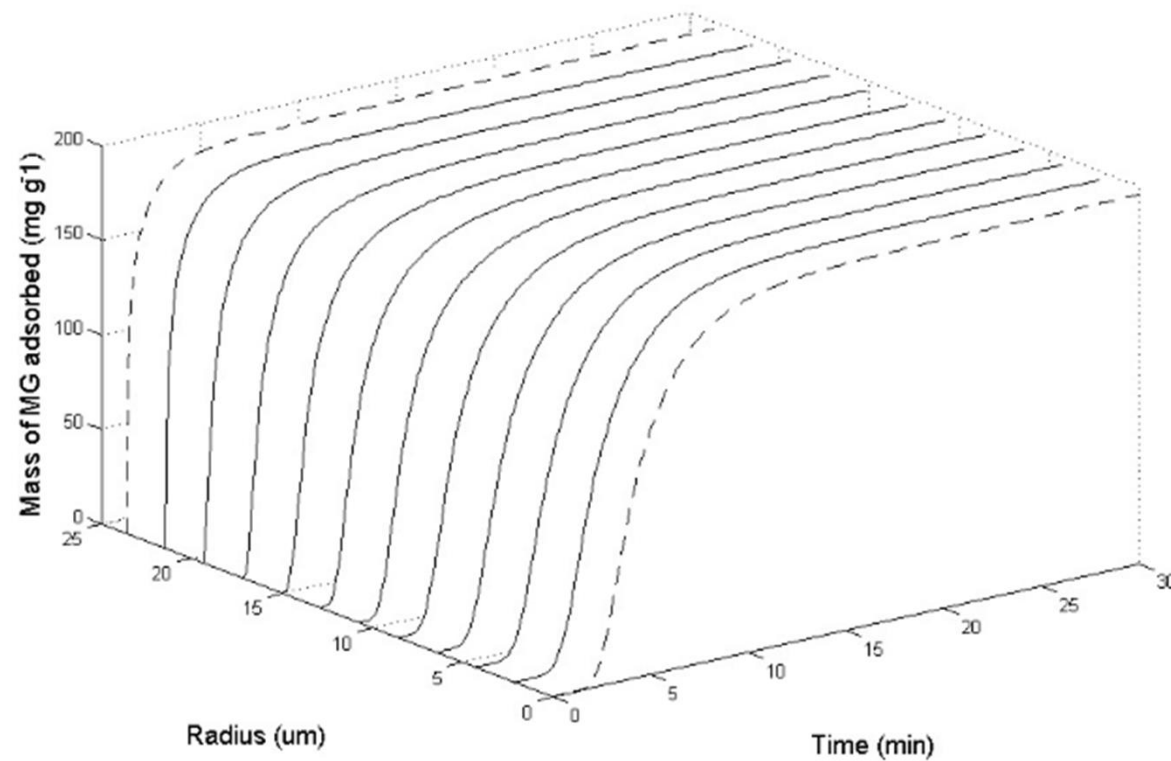
- ✓ Discretized PDEs yield ODE equation systems that are very stiff.
- ✓ To avoid a very small time step, an implicit method can be used, as the backward difference formula (BDF).

## *ode15s*

- ✓ MatLab function that attempts to solve stiff differential equations and DAEs, variable order method.
- ✓ Based on the numerical differentiation formulas (NDFs). Optionally, it uses the backward differentiation formulas (BDF, also known as Gear method) that are usually less efficient.

# Case Study

- ✓ Mass of adsorbate adsorbed on each radial position over time.



# Parameter Estimation

- ✓ In case of Redlich-Peterson isotherm model equation:

$$q = \frac{k_{RP} C_r}{1 + a_{RP} C_r^\beta}$$

- ✓ The nonlinear least-square objective function to be minimized is defined as the sum of the differences between the experimental and model data of mass of adsorbate adsorbed on the pore surface:

$$\min |f(p)| = \sum_{j=1}^{NE} \sum_{i=1}^{NY} [q_{(i,j)} - \hat{q}_{(i,j)}]^2$$

- ✓ Calculated mass transport parameters:
  - ✓ External mass transfer coefficient (PVSDM, PVDM, SDM, HSDM)
  - ✓ Molecular diffusivity (PVSDM, PVDM)
  - ✓ Effective pore volume diffusion coefficient (PVSDM, PVDM)
  - ✓ Tortuosity factor (PVSDM, PVDM)



# Model Parameters

- ✓ Estimated mass transport parameters:
  - ✓ Surface diffusion coefficient (PVSDM, SDM, HSDM)
  - ✓ External mass transfer coefficient (EMTM)

- ✓ The nonlinear least-square objective function to be minimized is defined as the sum of the differences between the experimental and model data of adsorbate concentration.

$$\min |f(p)| = \sum_{j=1}^{NE} \sum_{i=1}^{NY} [C_{(i,j)} - \hat{C}_{(i,j)}]^2$$

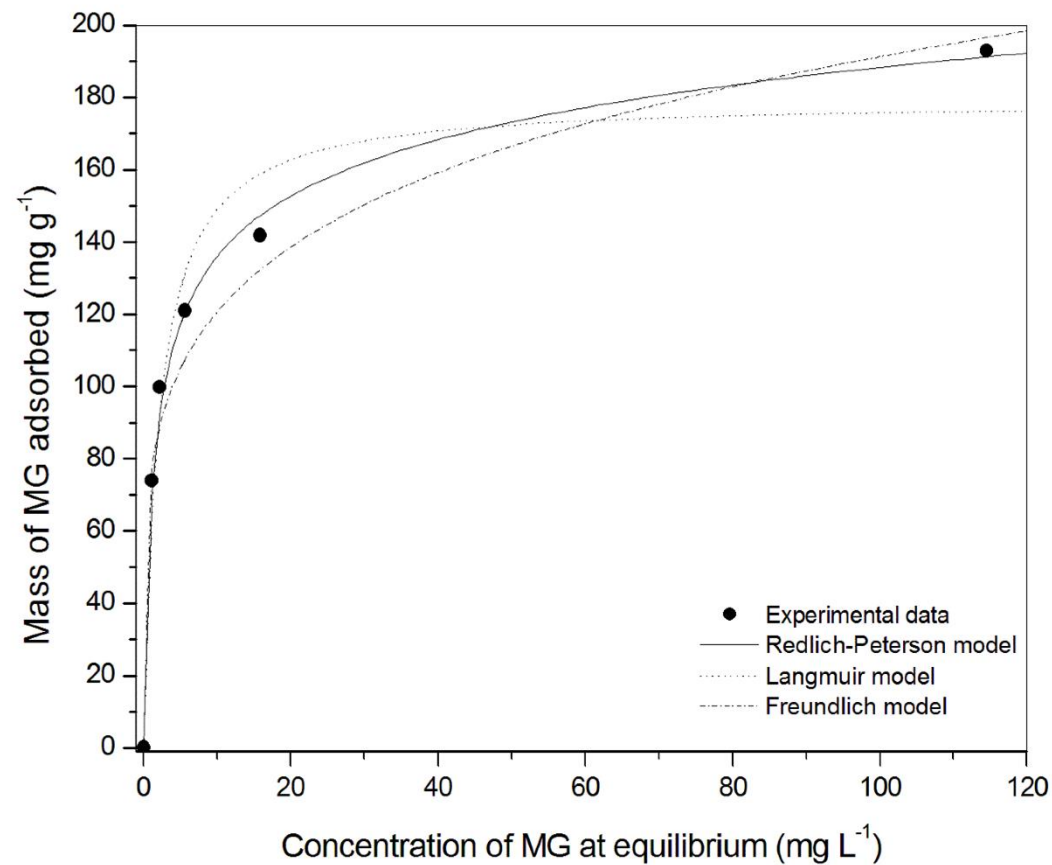


- ✓ Nonlinear least-square optimization can be used to estimate the isotherm and mass transport parameters.

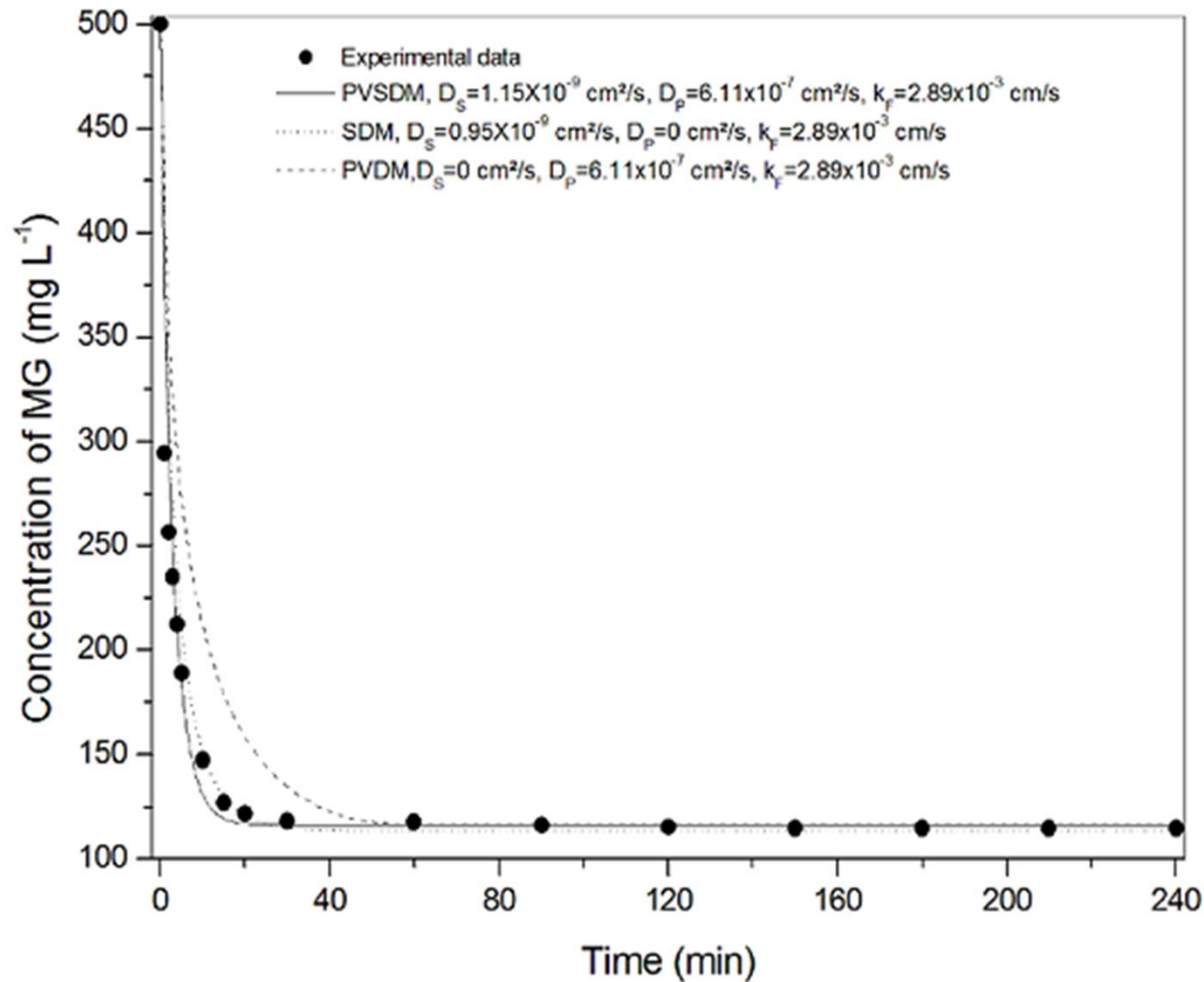
## *lsqnonlin*

- ✓ MatLab function that solves non-linear least squares problems (nonlinear data-fitting) problems with optional lower and upper bounds on the parameters.
- ✓ It implements two different algorithms:
  - ✓ Trust region reflective
  - ✓ Levenberg-Marquardt

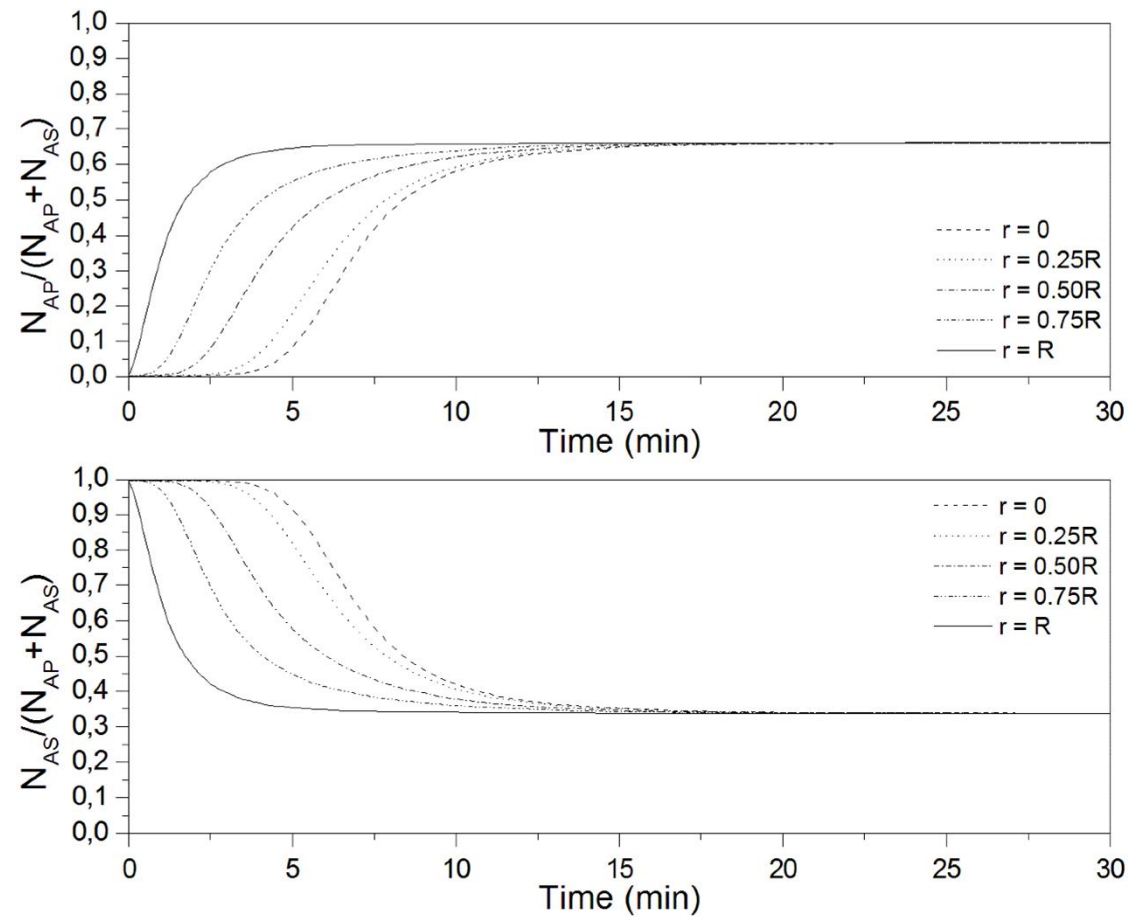
# Case Study



# Case Study



# Case Study



Any questions?

More information?







## Chemical Engineering Research and Design

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### Detailed numerical solution of pore volume and surface diffusion model in adsorption systems

P.R. Souza ✉, G.L. Dotto ✉, N.P.G. Salau  ✉

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# Adsorption Kinetics in Liquid Phase: Modeling for Discontinuous and Continuous Systems

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16h15-16h30

ID: 33 - INVESTIGATION OF PORE VOLUME AND SURFACE DIFFUSION ON ADSORPTION OF CRYSTAL VIOLET ONTO BENTONITE

Autoria: Paola dos Reis Souza; Guilherme Luiz Dotto; Nina Paula Gonçalves Salau

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# Thank You

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