



Equipe Chimie et Ingénierie des Procédés

Industrial and indoor air treatment by catalytic oxidation over an innovative support coming from recycled glass wastes

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Context of the study

- ❖ Air pollution is a major health concern
- ❖ Main focus on VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) removal
 - toxic for human health
 - disturb the chemical balance in the atmosphere
- ❖ More and more stringent laws about the decrease in VOCs' emissions
 - - 43% emissions for 2020
 - - 52% emissions for 2030
- ❖ 2 targeted fields
 - industrial air treatment
 - indoor air treatment



Context of the study

- ❖ **Various processes are used to eliminate VOCs**
 - recovery processes (adsorption, condensation, physical scrubbing, etc.)
 - destroying processes (biodegradation, chemical scrubbing, **catalytic oxidation**, etc.)
- ❖ Among these processes, **catalytic oxidation** has good performances for the treatment of complex mixtures and/or low concentrated pollutants
- ❖ **Catalytic oxidation needs a catalyst for kinetic improvement**
 - increase in production and decrease in reactor volume
 - lower Temperature and Pressure
 - decrease in energy consumption and environmental impact
- ❖ Use of **heterogeneous catalysts** (easier to recover)



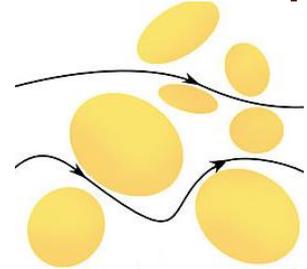
Context of the study

❖ Various types of catalysts

- acids
- metal oxides
- **metals : Fe, Co, Ni, Pd, Ru, Rh, Pt...**

❖ Sorption of metals on a porous support → **open cell foams**

→ increase in convection and radial stirring



❖ Different types of foams :

- metal foam (very expensive, need of a Al_2O_3 washcoat layer)
- ceramic foam (multi-step synthesis, energy consuming)
- **glass foam → recycling of glass wastes**



→ **Goal : development of an original support (glass foam) for air treatment by catalytic oxidation using O_3 and O_2 as oxidants**

Outline

- 1) Glass foam synthesis**
- 2) Impregnation of metals on the glass foams**
- 3) Use of impregnated glass foams in catalytic oxidation for VOCs removal**



Glass foam synthesis

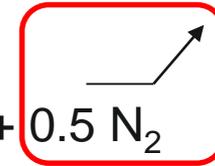
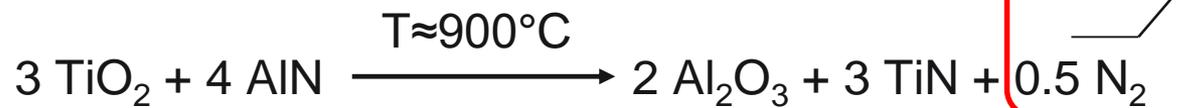
❖ Use of crushed glass coming from **recycling (circular economy)**

- glass bottles
- screens
- industrial glass wastes...

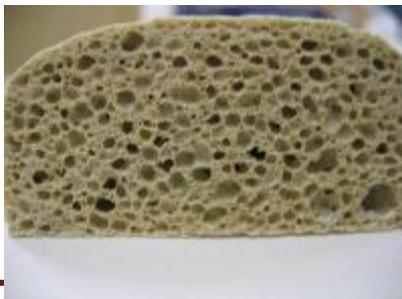


❖ Addition of foaming agents (AlN, MnO₂) and doping agents (TiO₂, Fe₂O₃)

❖ Heating at T around 900°C during 30 min – 4 h



Creation of gas bubbles which trigger the porous structure of the glass foam



Properties of the glass foams

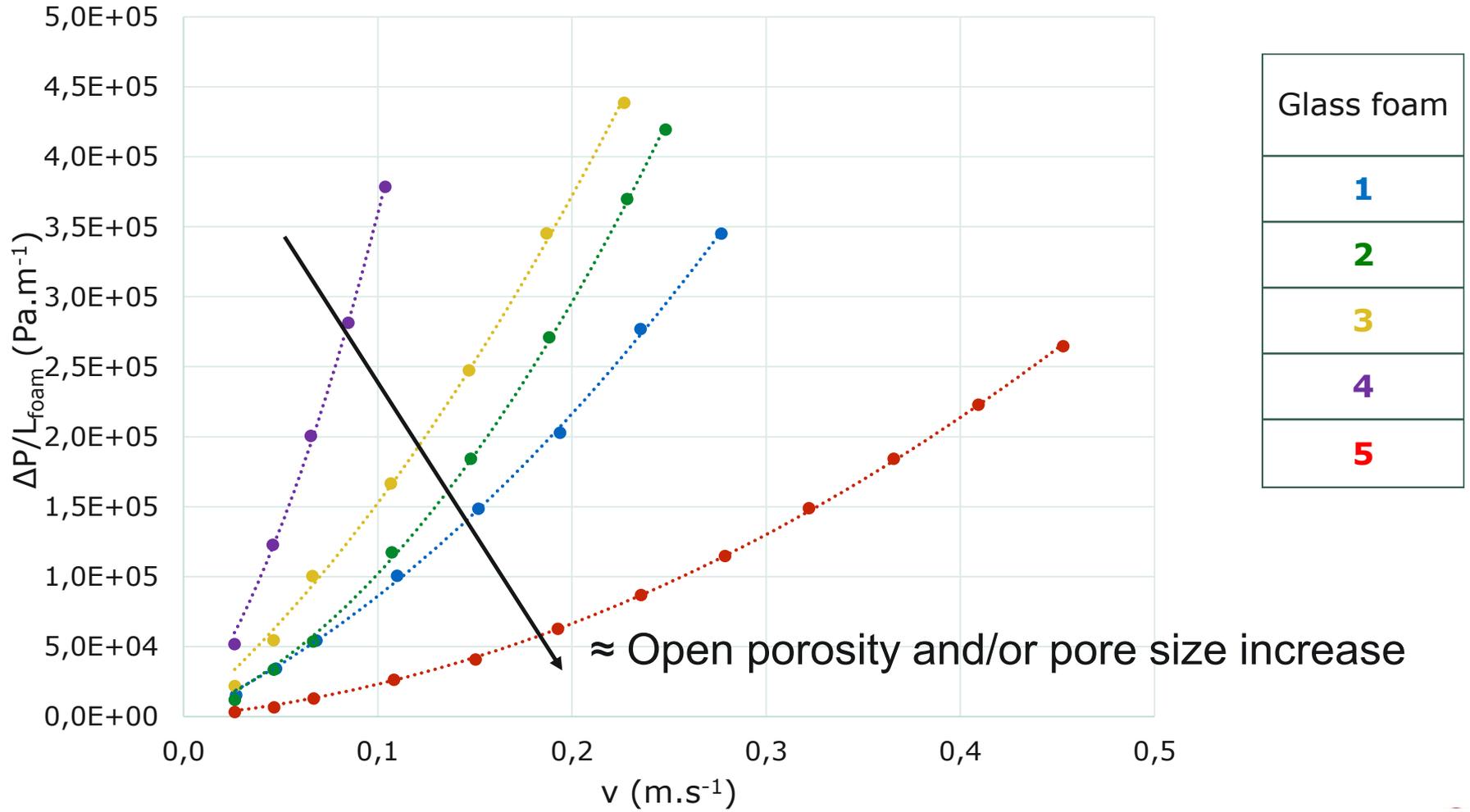
- ❖ Different properties depending on the quantity and type of foaming/doping agents

Glass foam	Look of the glass foam	d_p average (mm)	Open porosity (%)	Contact angle (°)
1		0.199	90	76
2		0.331	90	74
3		0.186	73	-
4		0.109	77	47
5		0.427	92	76



Properties of the glass foams

❖ Linear pressure drop in function of the speed of air circulation



Properties of the glass foams

❖ Influence of operating conditions during the synthesis

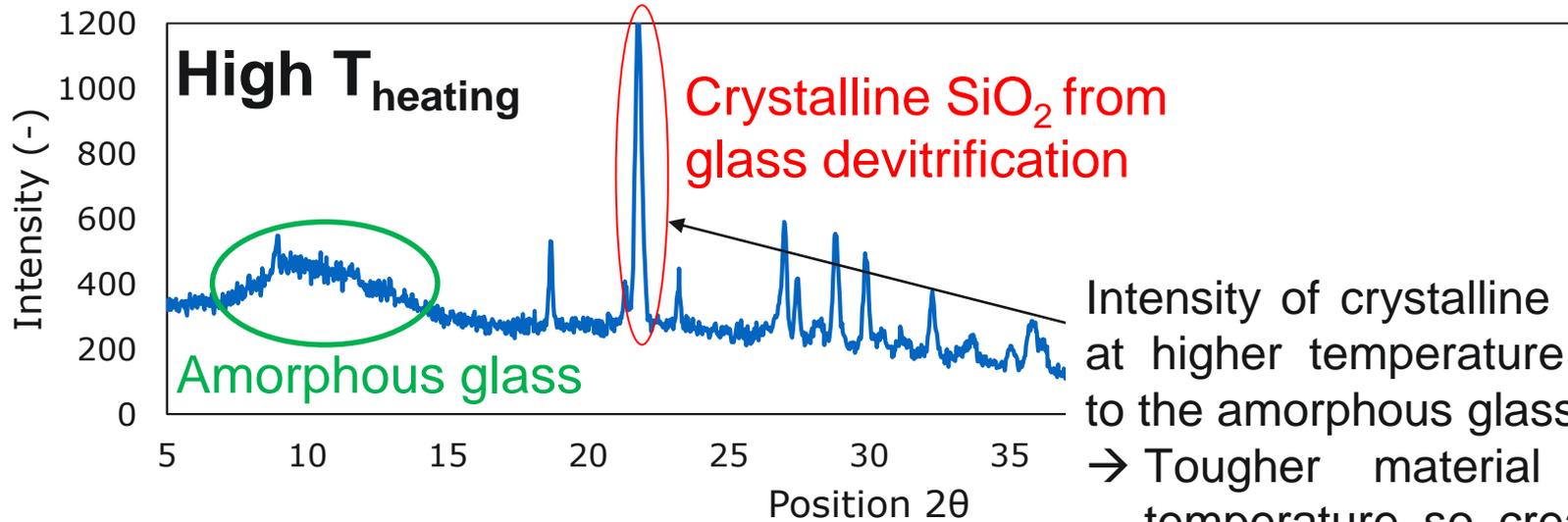
Base case :

- Granulometry of the glass : $<100\mu\text{m}$
- T_{heating} around 900°C
- t_{heating} between 30min - 4h

	Average pore diameter d_p	Open porosity	Linear pressure drop
T_{heating} decreases		=	

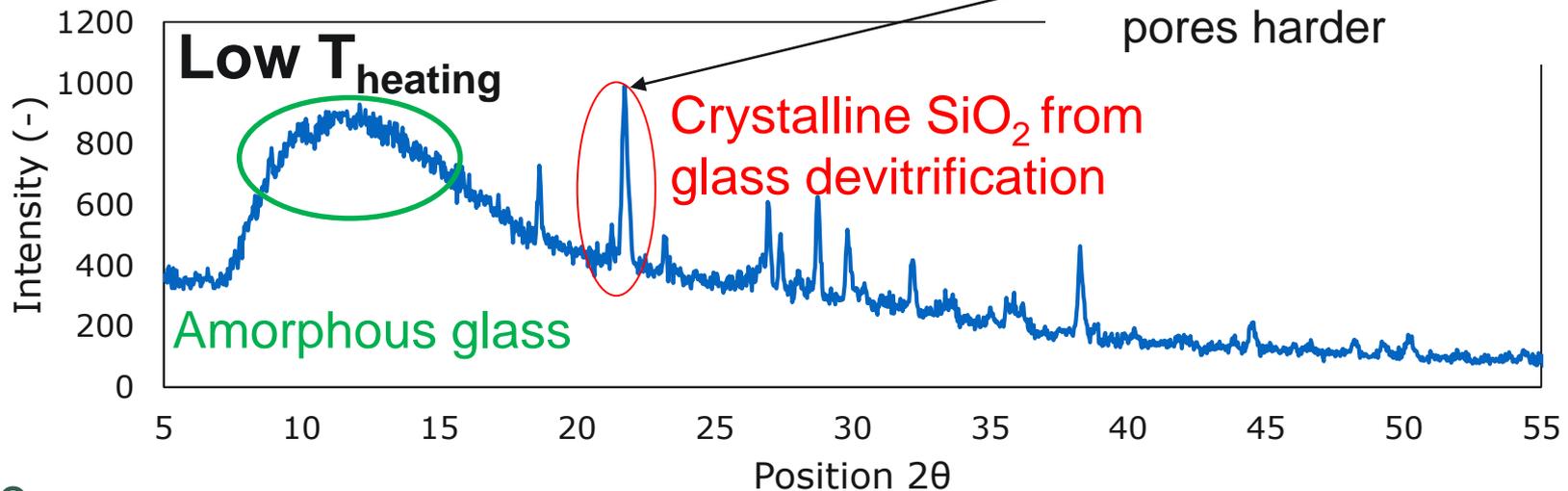
Properties of the glass foams

❖ X-Ray diffraction analysis of glass foam #4



Intensity of crystalline SiO_2 higher at higher temperature (compared to the amorphous glass)

→ Tougher material at higher temperature so creation of big pores harder



Properties of the glass foams

❖ Influence of operating conditions during the synthesis

Base case :

- Granulometry of the glass : $<100\mu\text{m}$
- T_{heating} around 900°C
- t_{heating} between 30min - 4h

	Average pore diameter d_p	Open porosity	Linear pressure drop
T_{heating} decreases		=	
t_{heating} increases		=	
Granulometry increases			

→ Modular properties of the glass foams depending on the composition and operating conditions during the synthesis

Comparison with other foams

Type of foam	Synthesis	d_p average (mm)	Open porosity (%)	Linear pressure drop at 0.1 m.s^{-1}
Glass foam	Eco-friendly (recycling of glass) and cheap (few steps and energy)	0.1 – 1.0	73 - 93	< 250-1500 Pa.m^{-1} for the « best foams »
Al₂O₃ ceramic foam from Vesuvius Inc.	Multi-step synthesis (complex) and energy consuming (1,500°C)	1.529*	75**	204*
		1.582*	85**	440*
Metal foam (stainless steel) from Glatt GmbH	Expensive material , need a washcoat layer (Al ₂ O ₃)	0.802*	95**	231*

* Mass transfer and pressure drop in ceramic foams: A description for different pore sizes and porosities, Incera Garrido et al., 2008, Chemical Engineering Science

** Manufacturer data

→ glass foams as support of metals are competitive with ceramic and metal foams

Outline

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- 2) Impregnation of metals on the glass foams**
- 3) Use of impregnated glass foams in catalytic oxidation for VOCs removal



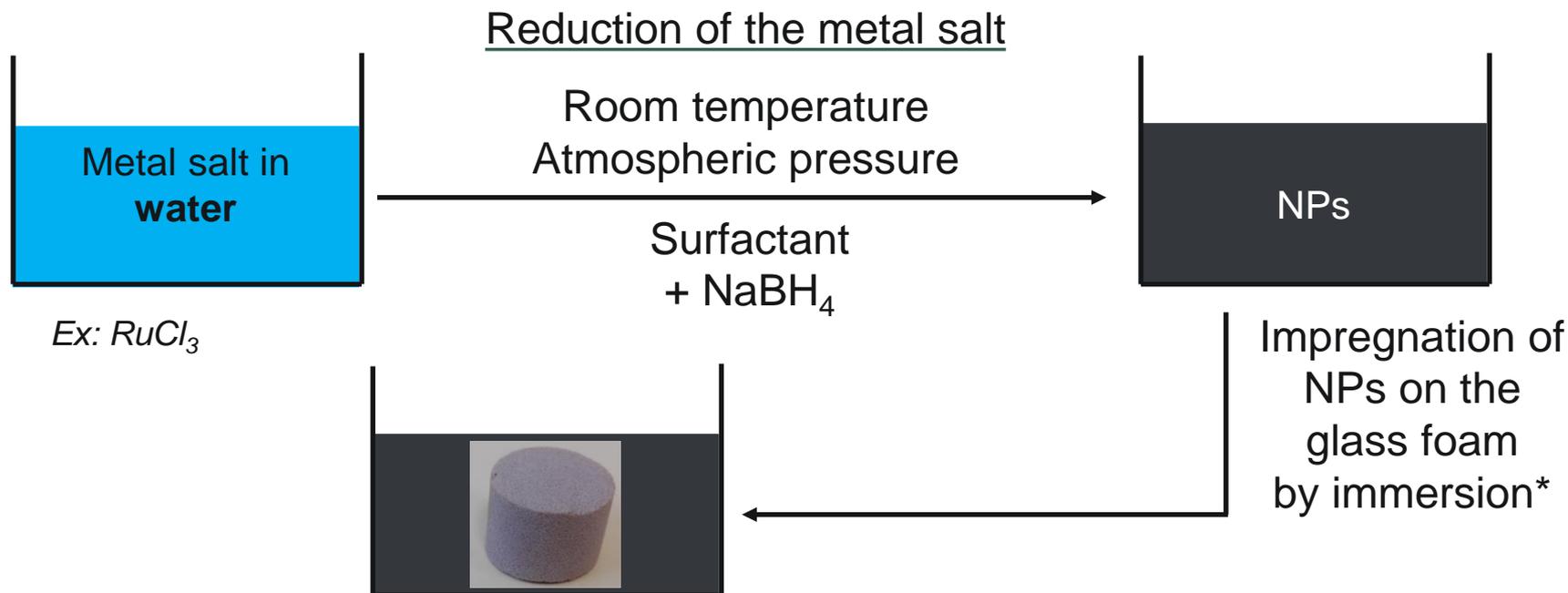
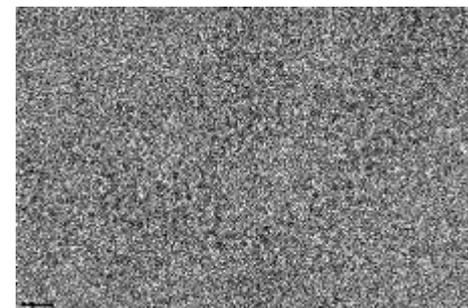
Impregnation of metal catalysts on the glass foam

❖ Synthesis of metal Nanoparticles (NPs)

→ use of various metals (Rh, Ru, Pt, Au...)

→ NPs of 2-5 nm

→ high specific area and lot of active sites



→ easy and reproducible impregnation method with a low amount of metal ($\approx 0.1\%$)

Impregnation of metal catalysts on the glass foam

❖ Successful deposits of Rh, Ru, Au, Pd

- drying in an oven
- without washcoat

Before impregnation



After impregnation
with Ru NPs



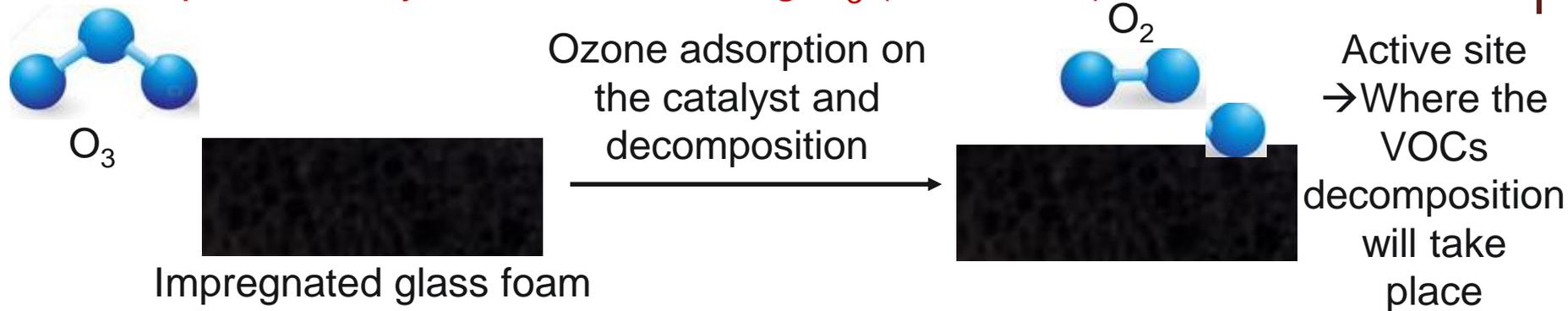
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Performances of the impregnated glass foams in catalytic ozonation

❖ Principle of catalytic ozonation using O₃ (ambient T)



❖ Tests of ozone decomposition at room temperature

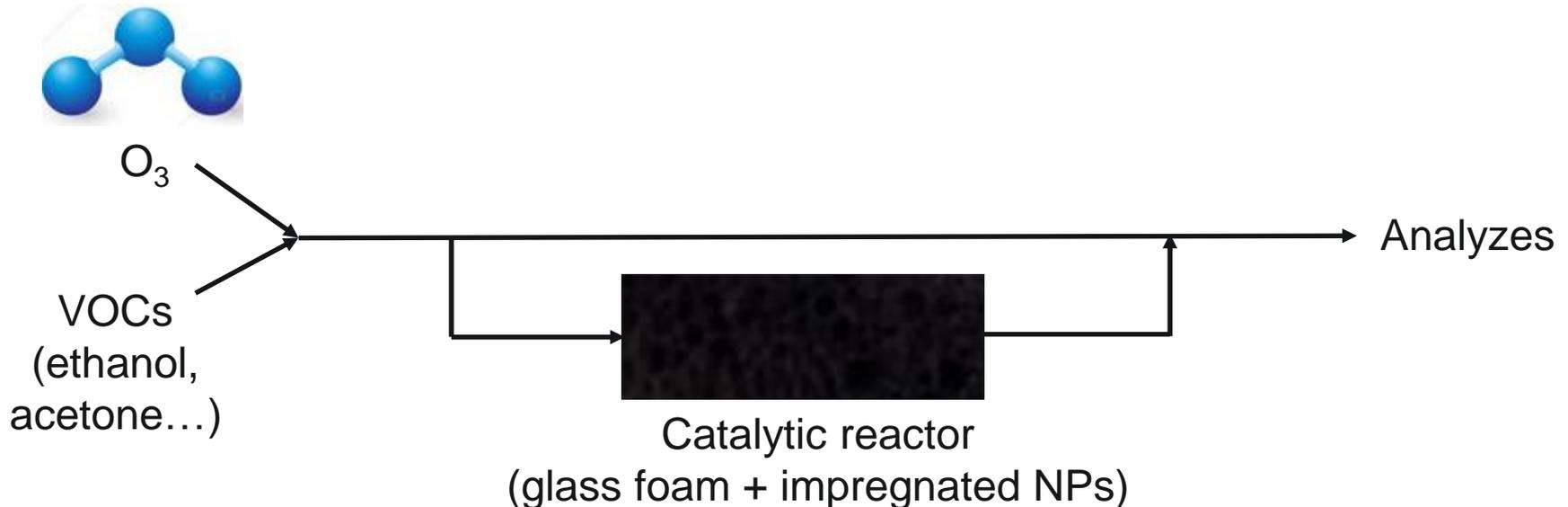
- first-order kinetic : $\frac{d[O_3]}{dt} = -k_1 * [O_3]$

Glass foam composition	Metal	k ₁ (s ⁻¹)
No glass foam	No metal	0.064*10 ⁻³
AlN + TiO ₂	Au	6.7*10 ⁻³
AlN + TiO ₂	Rh	2.3*10 ⁻³
AlN + TiO ₂	Pd	1.2*10 ⁻³
AlN + TiO ₂	Ru	7.0*10 ⁻³
AlN + TiO ₂ + MnO ₂	Ru	42.0*10 ⁻³

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Performances of the impregnated glass foams in catalytic ozonation

❖ Tests of VOCs removal at room temperature with a continuous reactor



Glass foam composition	Metal	Acetone removal	Ethanol removal
AlN + TiO ₂	Ru	30 %	75%

Operating conditions :

- **Low gas superficial velocity** → need to improve the mass transfer
- 13.5 g.Nm⁻³ of ozone at the input of the reactor
- Residence time : 30 secondes



Conclusion and prospect

- ❖ Development of the synthesis of an innovative catalytic material from recycled glass wastes
 - glass foams with modular properties (porosity, pore size, hydrophilicity...) synthesised from recycling glass wastes
 - easy to do NPs solution, various metals can be used, low amount of metal ($\approx 0.1\%$)
- ❖ Impregnated glass foams are active in catalytic ozonation to remove a lot of VOCs (acetone, ethanol...) for industrial air treatment
- ❖ Other tries in catalytic ozonation are in progress in order to optimize material properties
- ❖ Tests with O_2 as oxidant ($250^\circ C \leq T \leq 350^\circ C$) are in progress for indoor air treatment





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