



# **DLR's Contribution to the Helmholtz Virtual Institute Solar Syngas: Materials for solar-thermochemical fuels production**

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Knowledge for Tomorrow

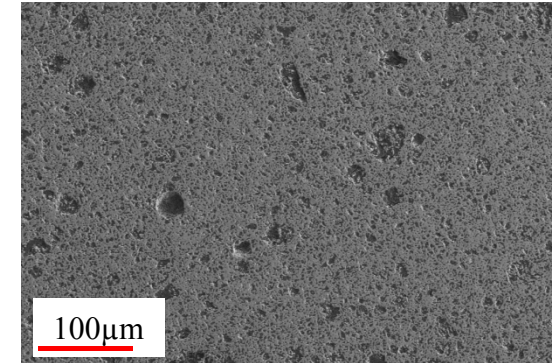
## Overview

- Material characterization
  - Thermodynamic properties
  - Thermal expansion
  - Degradation
- Material development
  - Tailored perovskites
- Meso scale particle production
  - Drip casting
- Particle characterization
  - Heat transfer in particle bed at high T low p

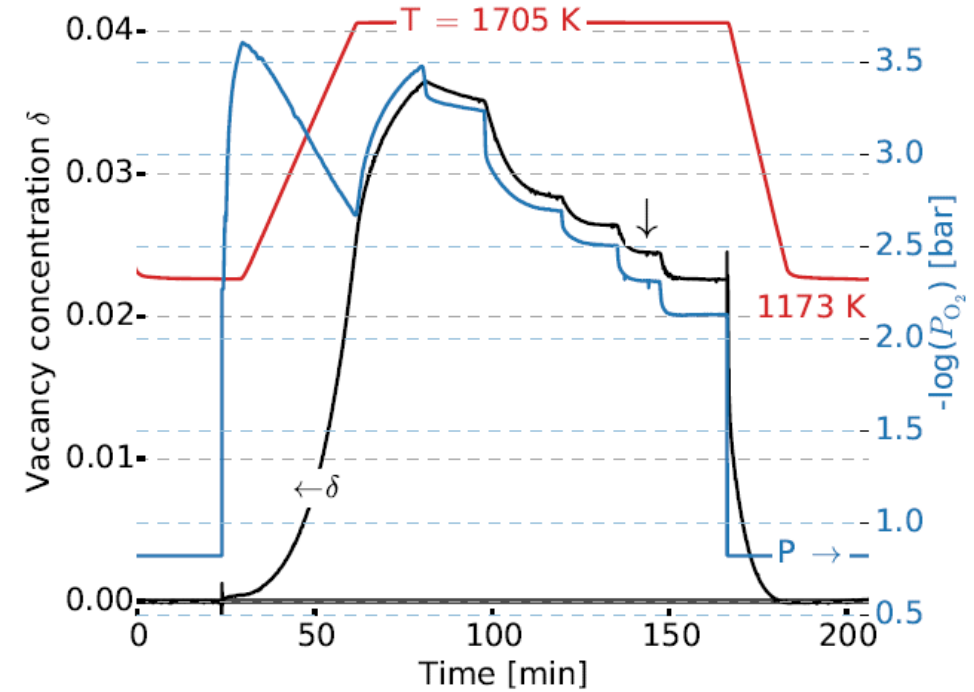


# Ceria and Ceria Zirkonia: Statistical Thermodynamics

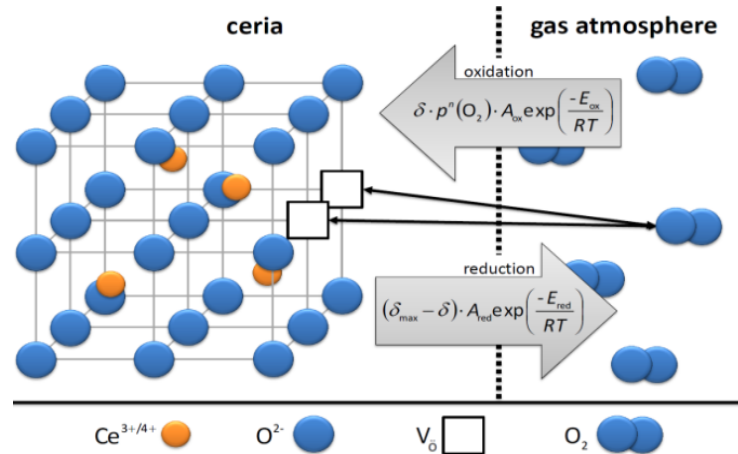
Material:  
 $Ce_{0.85}Zr_{0.15}O_2$   
(porous granules)



Vacancy concentration  $\delta$ , the oxygen partial pressure  $pO_2$  and the temperature profile for a typical TGA experiment

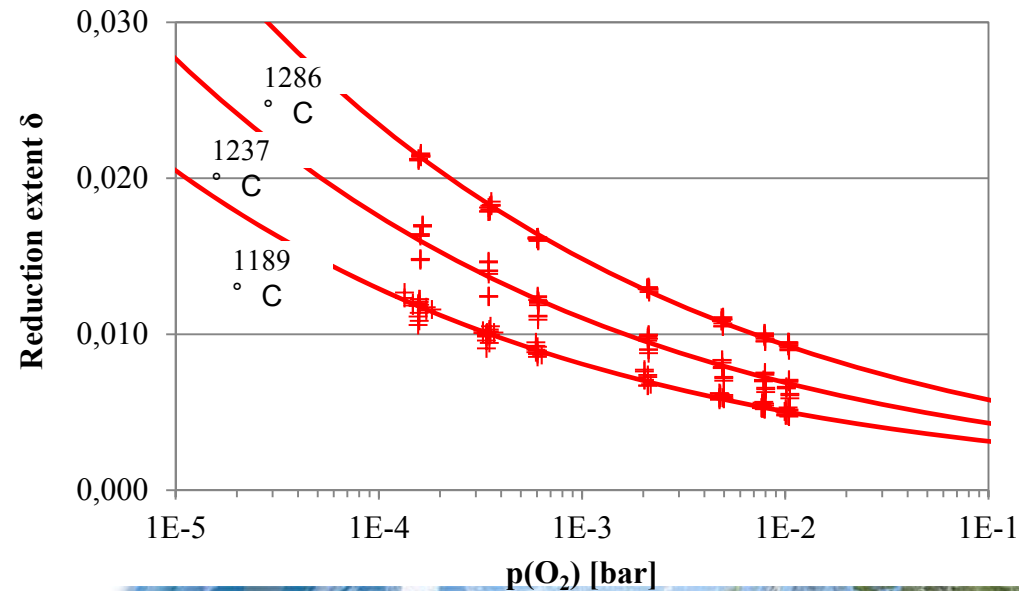


# Ceria and Ceria Zirkonia: Statistical Thermodynamics – Thermodynamic Model



$$\delta(p(\text{O}_2), T) = \frac{\delta_{\text{max}} \cdot \frac{A_{\text{Red}}}{A_{\text{Ox}}} \cdot p^{-n}(\text{O}_2) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E}{RT}\right)}{1 + \frac{A_{\text{Red}}}{A_{\text{Ox}}} \cdot p^{-n}(\text{O}_2) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E}{RT}\right)}$$

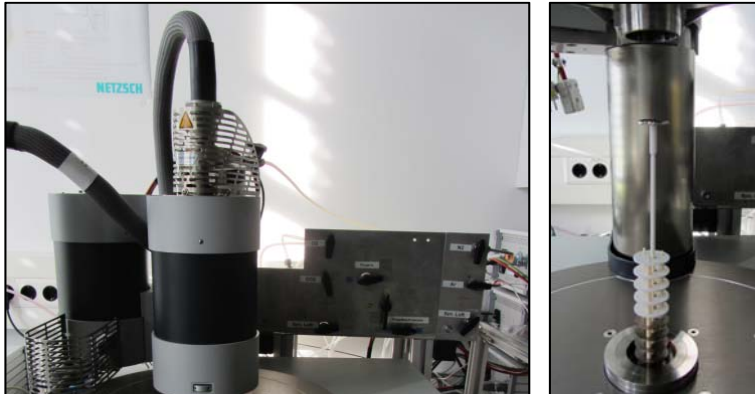
	$\delta_{\text{max}}$	$A_{\text{Red}}/A_{\text{Ox}}$	$n$	$\Delta E$	$R^2$
		[bar <sup>n</sup> ]	-	[kJ/mol]	
■ CeO <sub>2</sub>	0,5	12575 ± 7550	0,2320 ± 0,0079	206,7 ± 8,2	0,9754
■ CeZr-S16	0,425	101 ± 11	0,2084 ± 0,0019	121,6 ± 1,4	0,9893



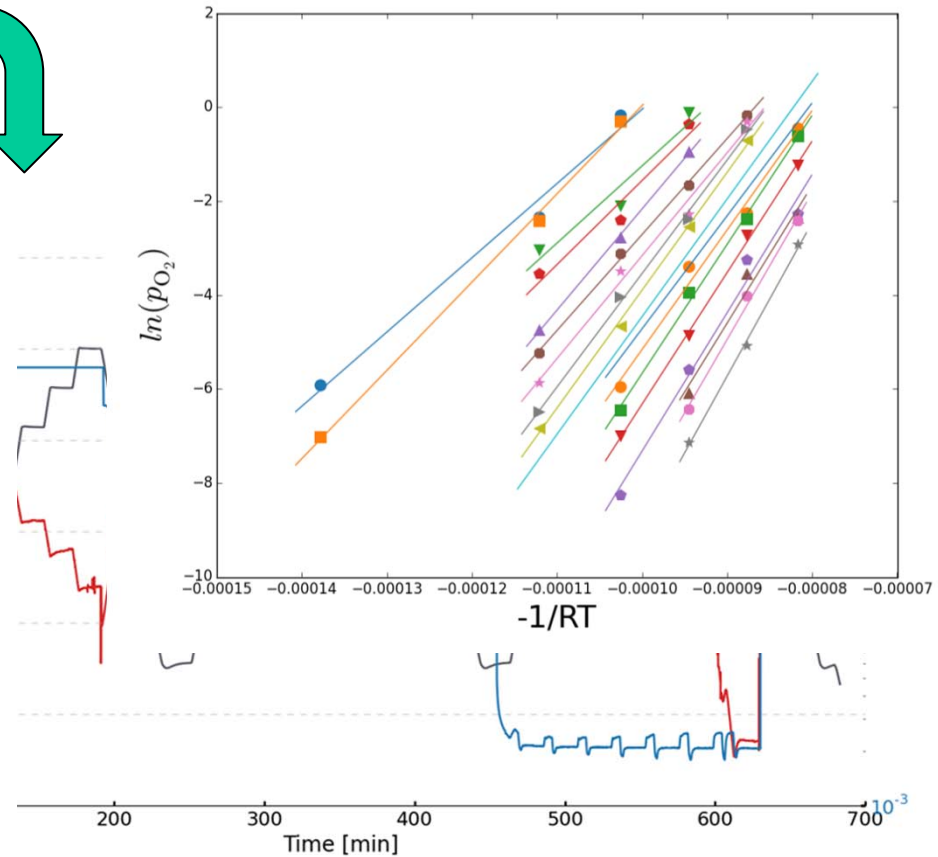
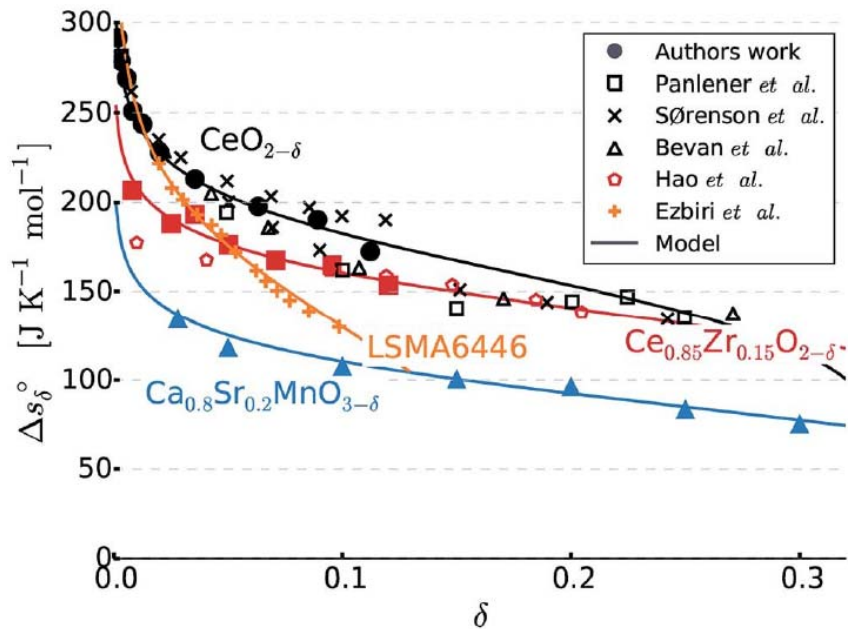
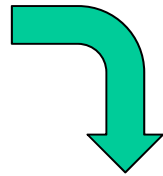
B. Bulfin et al. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2016,18, 23147-23154



# Redox tests of $\text{SrMn}_x\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{O}_{3-\delta}$ in a thermobalance



$$\frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{p_{\text{O}_2}}{p^\circ} \right) = \frac{\Delta h^\circ_0(\delta)}{RT} + \frac{\Delta s^\circ_0(\delta)}{R} \Bigg|_{\delta=\text{const}}$$



Bulfin, B. et al. (2017). "Applications and Limitations of Two Step Metal Oxide Thermochemical Redox Cycles; A Review." Journal of Materials Chemistry A

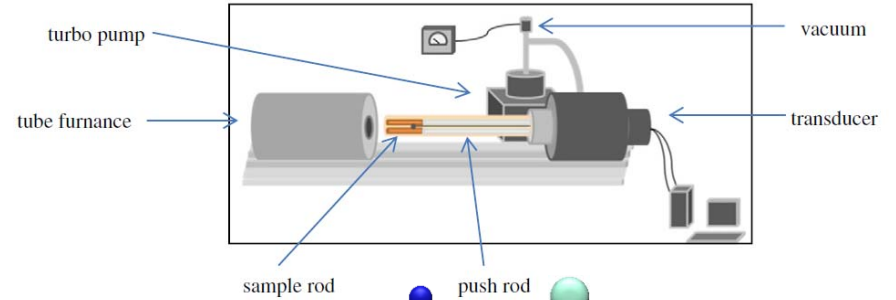


# Investigation of reduction by dilatometry

[Thermal expansion]  $\longrightarrow$  [ Thermal expansion ] +  
 [  $(\Delta V)\downarrow$  (oxygen vacancies) <  $(\Delta V)\uparrow$  ( $Ce^{4+} \rightarrow Ce^{3+}$ ) ]  
 reduction temperature

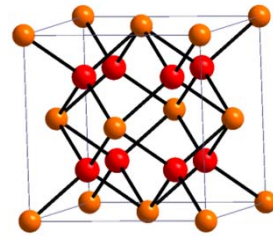
Length variation:

$$\left( \frac{\Delta L}{L_{CeO_2}} \right) = \frac{L_{CeO_{2-\delta}}(T) - L_{CeO_2}(T)}{L_{CeO_2}(T)}$$

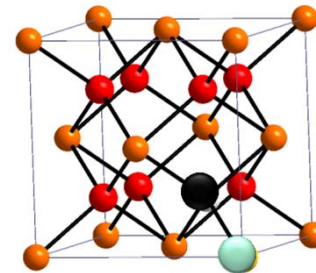
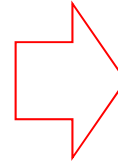


polycrystalline sample rod

oxidized

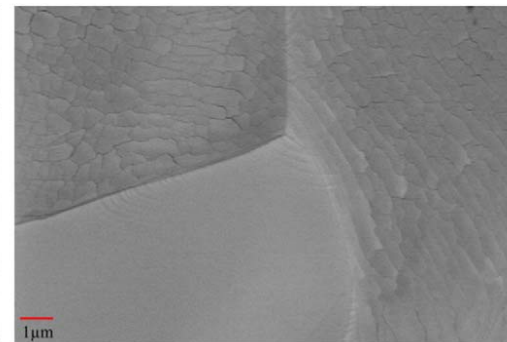
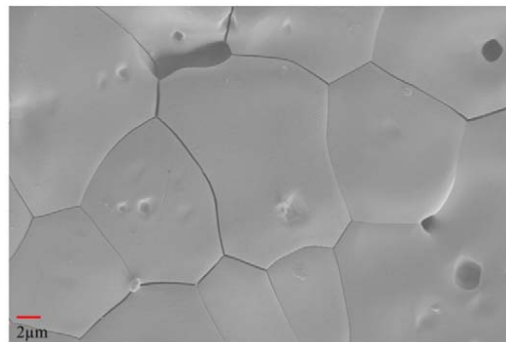


oxygen loss



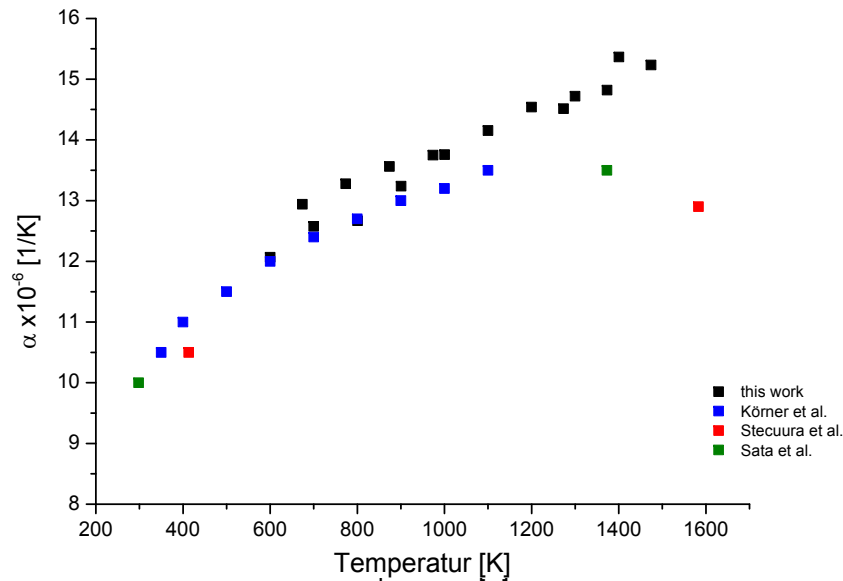
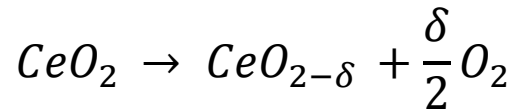
$Ce^{4+}$  97pm     $Ce^{3+}$  114,3pm

reduced



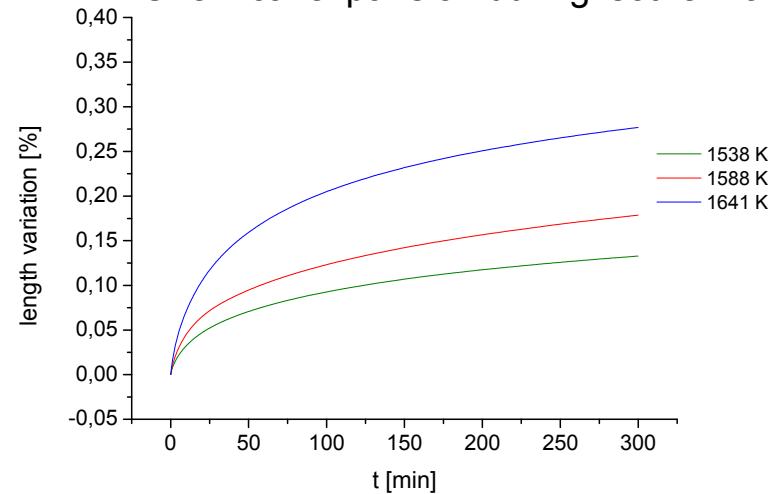
# Thermal and chemical Expansion during reduction

under reduced atmosphere ( $p_{O_2} = 2-7 \times 10^{-9}$  atm )

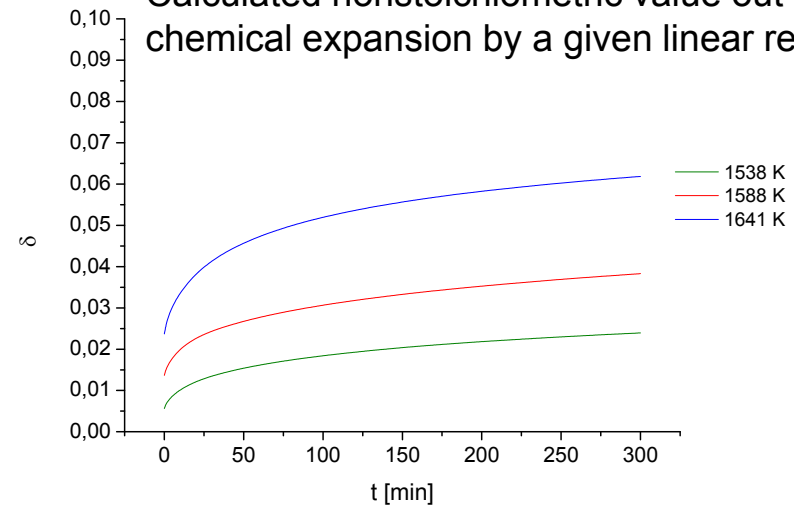


Thermal expansion coefficient

Chemical expansion during isothermal segment

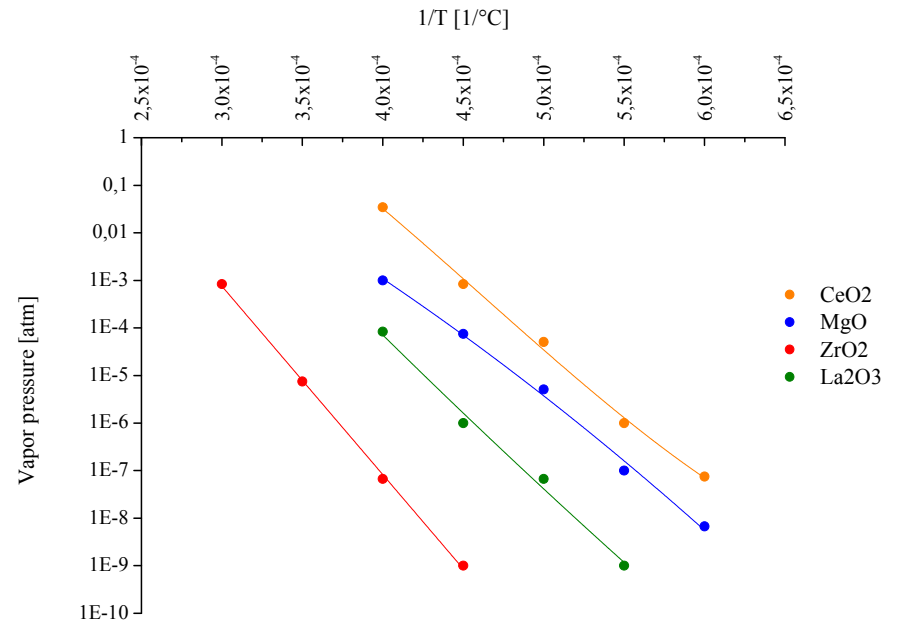
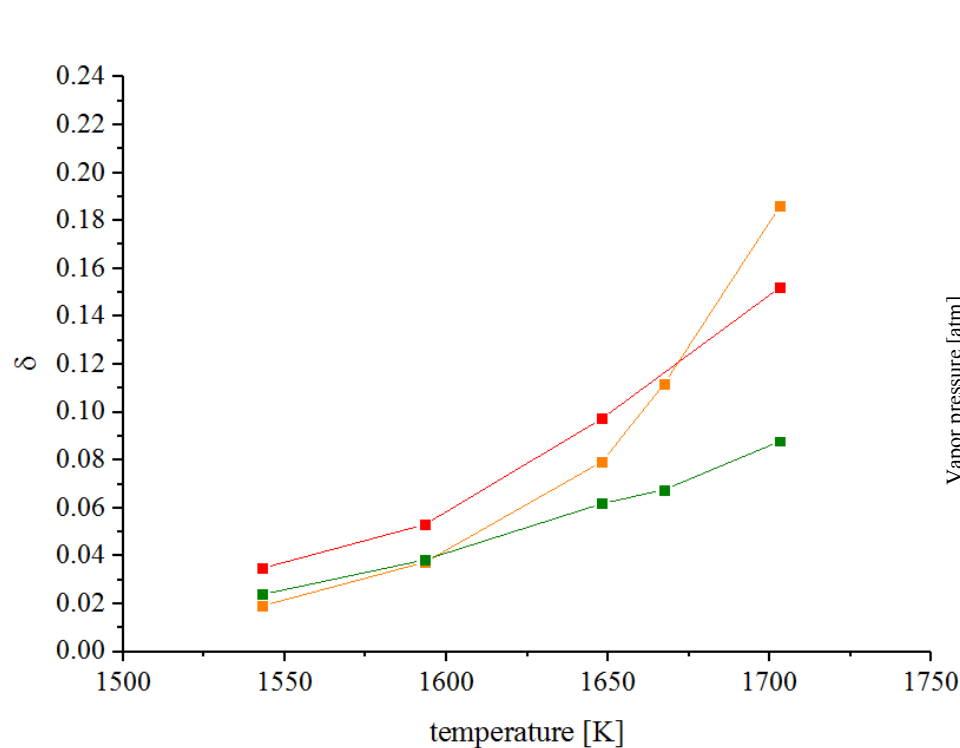


Calculated nonstoichiometric value out of the chemical expansion by a given linear relationship



# Degradation of (Ce,Zr)O<sub>2</sub> Redox Ceramics by selective sublimation

In a previous study on redox characteristics of ceria data suggest sublimation of ceria at high temperature above 1660K and low pO<sub>2</sub> ( $2-7 \times 10^{-9}$  atm) [Knoblauch, N.; Simon, H.; Schmücker, M., Solid State Ionics 2017,301, 43–52, DOI10.1016/j.ssi.2017.01.003]



— balance CeO<sub>2</sub> — length variation CeO<sub>2</sub> — balance Ce<sub>0.85</sub>Zr<sub>0.15</sub>O<sub>2</sub>



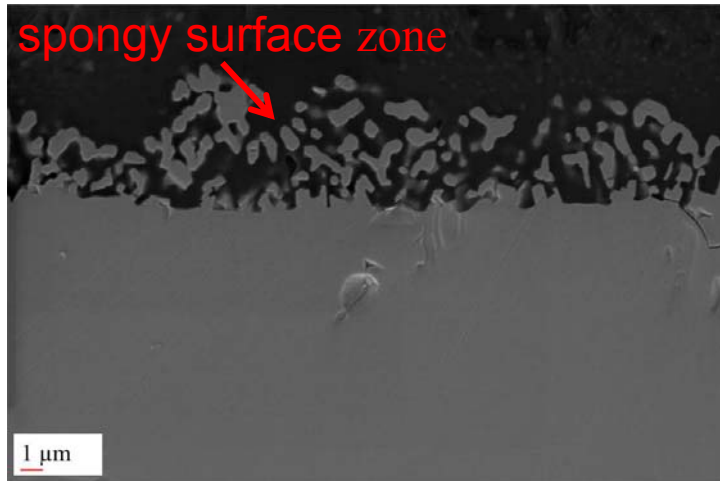
N. Knoblauch et.al., Inorganics, Special Issue "Cerium-based Materials for Energy Conversion" coming soon



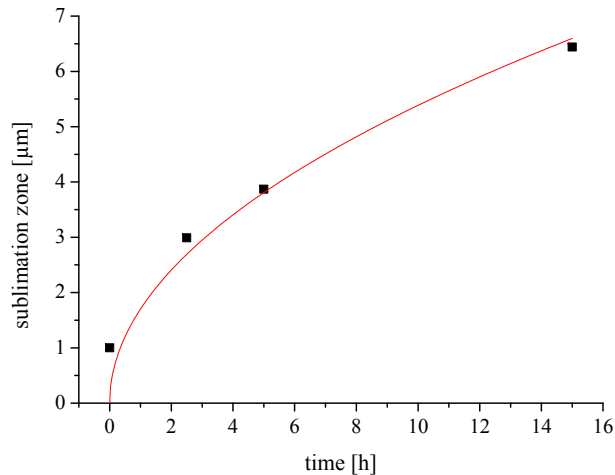
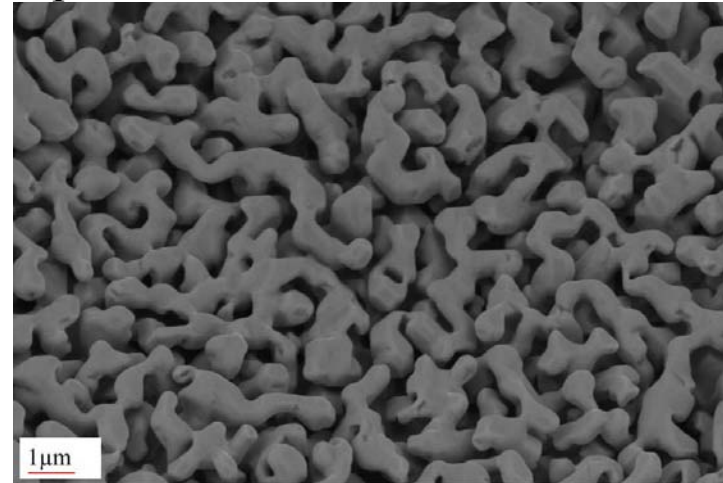
# Characterisation by SEM

e.g. reduced  $Ce_{0.85}Zr_{0.15}O_2$  (1683K ( $pO_2=2,96E-9$  atm))

cross section



top view

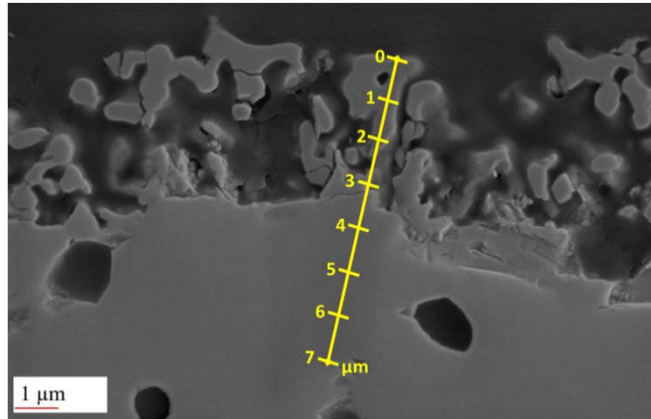


Measured length of spongy surface zone after reduction at 1683K for various length of time

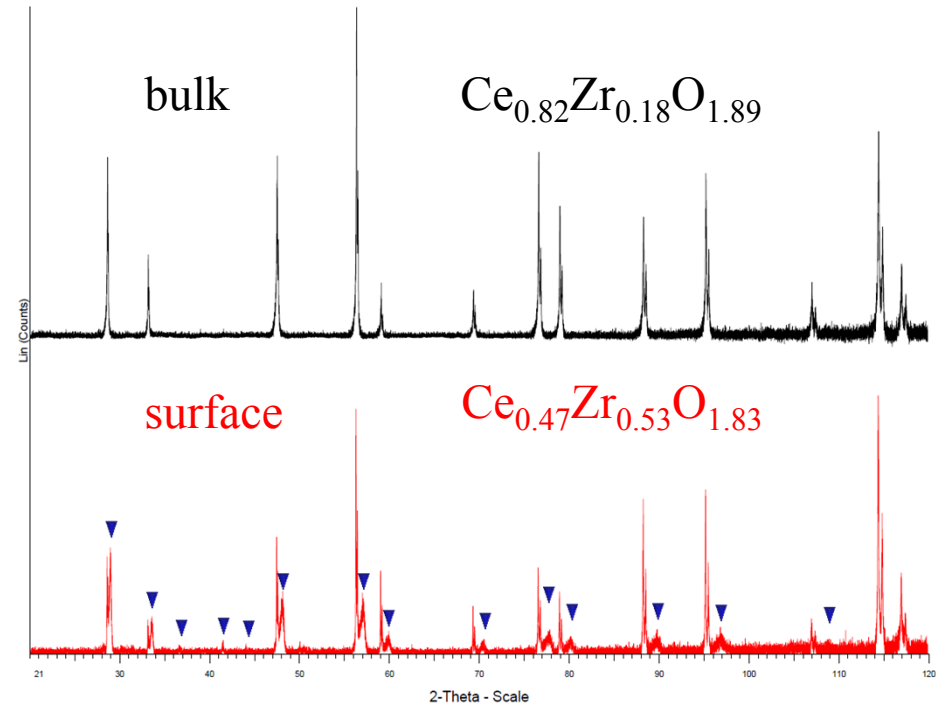
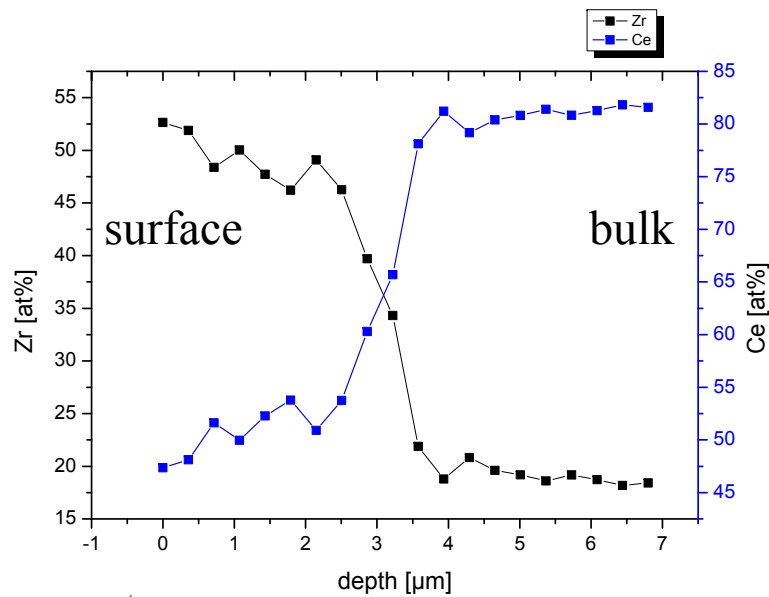
	time [h]	length [µm]
1	2,5	2,99
2	5	3,87
3	15	6,44

# Characterisation by EDX and x-ray diffraction

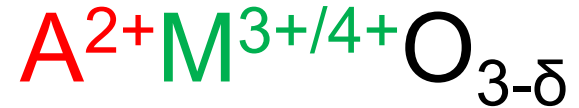
*e.g. reduced  $Ce_{0.85}Zr_{0.15}O_2$  (1683K ( $pO_2=2,96E-9$  atm))*



**!**  $Ce_2Zr_2O_7$  Pyrochlore formation at the surface



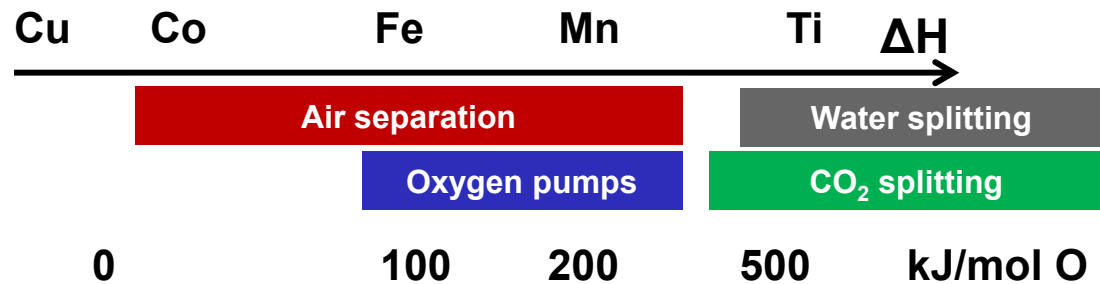
# Development of new materials Perovskites for redox cycles



Reduction from perovskite to **brownmillerite**:



gradual reduction possible -> non-stoichiometry  $\delta$



➤  $A^{2+}M^{3+/4+}O_3$ : Reaction enthalpy mainly governed by choice of transition metal  $M^{3+/4+}$

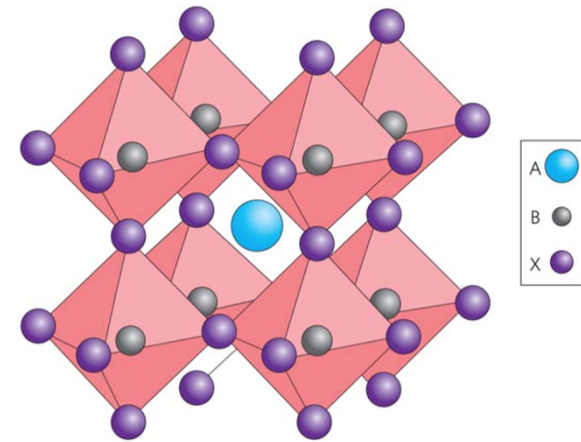


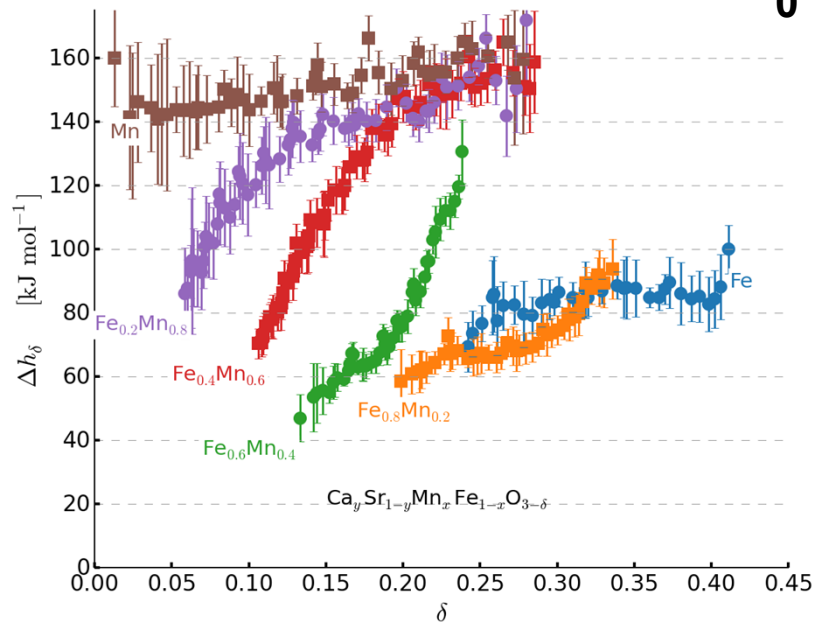
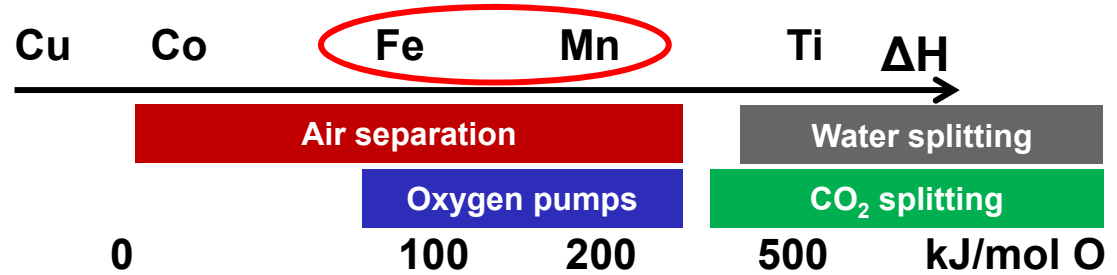
Image: Eames et al.

Bulfin, B. et al. (2017). "Applications and Limitations of Two Step Metal Oxide Thermochemical Redox Cycles; A Review." Journal of Materials Chemistry A



# Tailored thermodynamic properties Mn-Fe solid solutions

\*in the fully oxidized state



$\Delta H$  per mol O

same crystal structure in oxidized state

Materials suitable for oxygen pumping,  
selection according to operation  
parameters

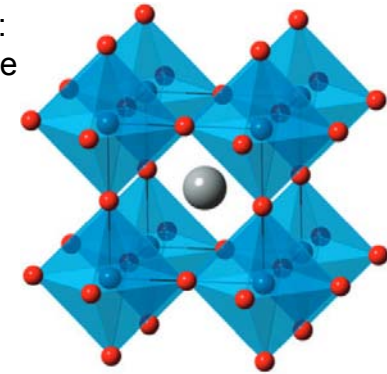
Vieten, J. et al. (2016). "Perovskite oxides for application in thermochemical air separation and oxygen storage." Journal of Materials Chemistry A 4(35): 13652-13659.

Vieten et al. (2017), Redox thermodynamics and phase composition in the system  $\text{SrFeO}_3 - \delta - \text{SrMnO}_3 - \delta$ . Solid State Ionics, 308, 149-155



S. Richter

Tassel, Kageyama 2011:  
Square planar coordinate  
iron oxides



## Selection of redox material

- Low reduction temperatures<sup>1</sup>
- Non-stoichiometric redox characteristics
- Scalable synthesis

**Strontium Iron Oxide**  
**SrFeO<sub>3-δ</sub>**



<sup>1</sup>Vieten et al. 2016, J. Mater. Chem. A



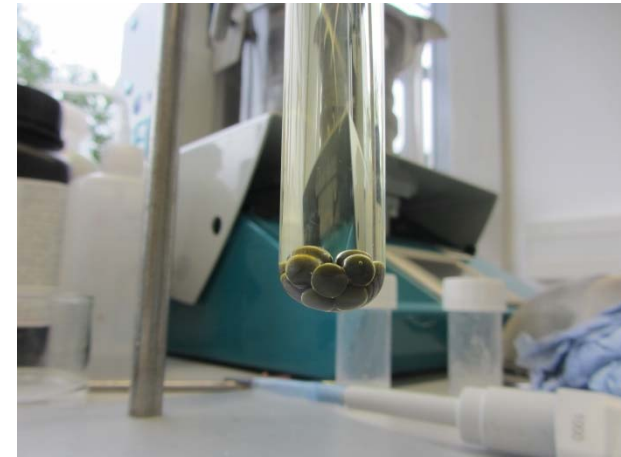
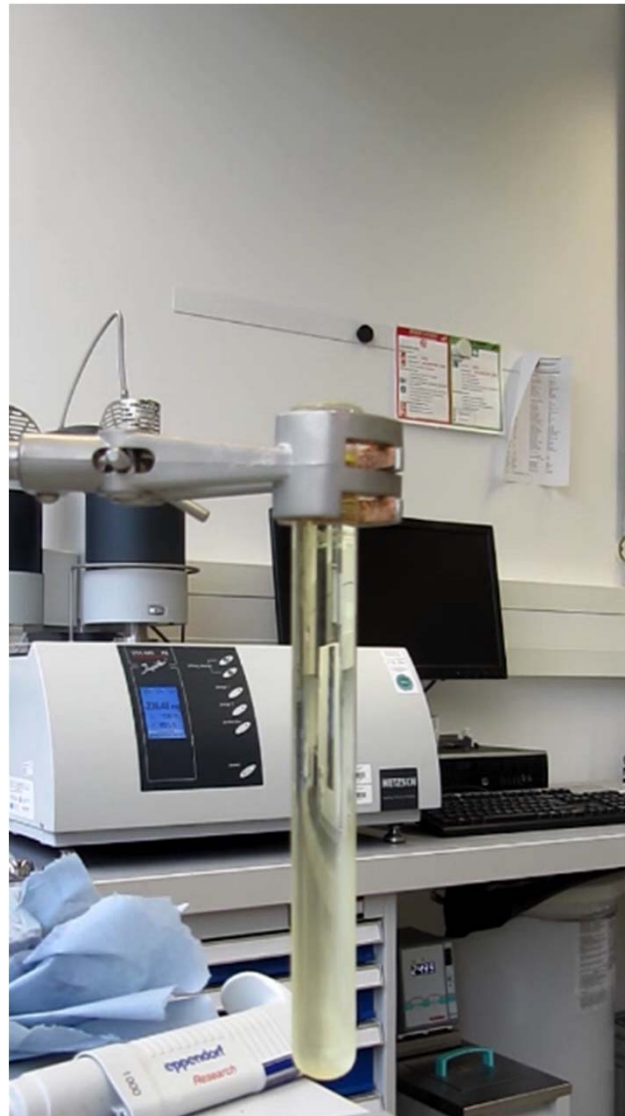
## SrFeO<sub>3-δ</sub> synthesis

- High temperature solid state reaction
- Precursors: SrCO<sub>3</sub> & Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>
- Mesoscale synthesis
- Manual pestling of annealed material
- Ball milling



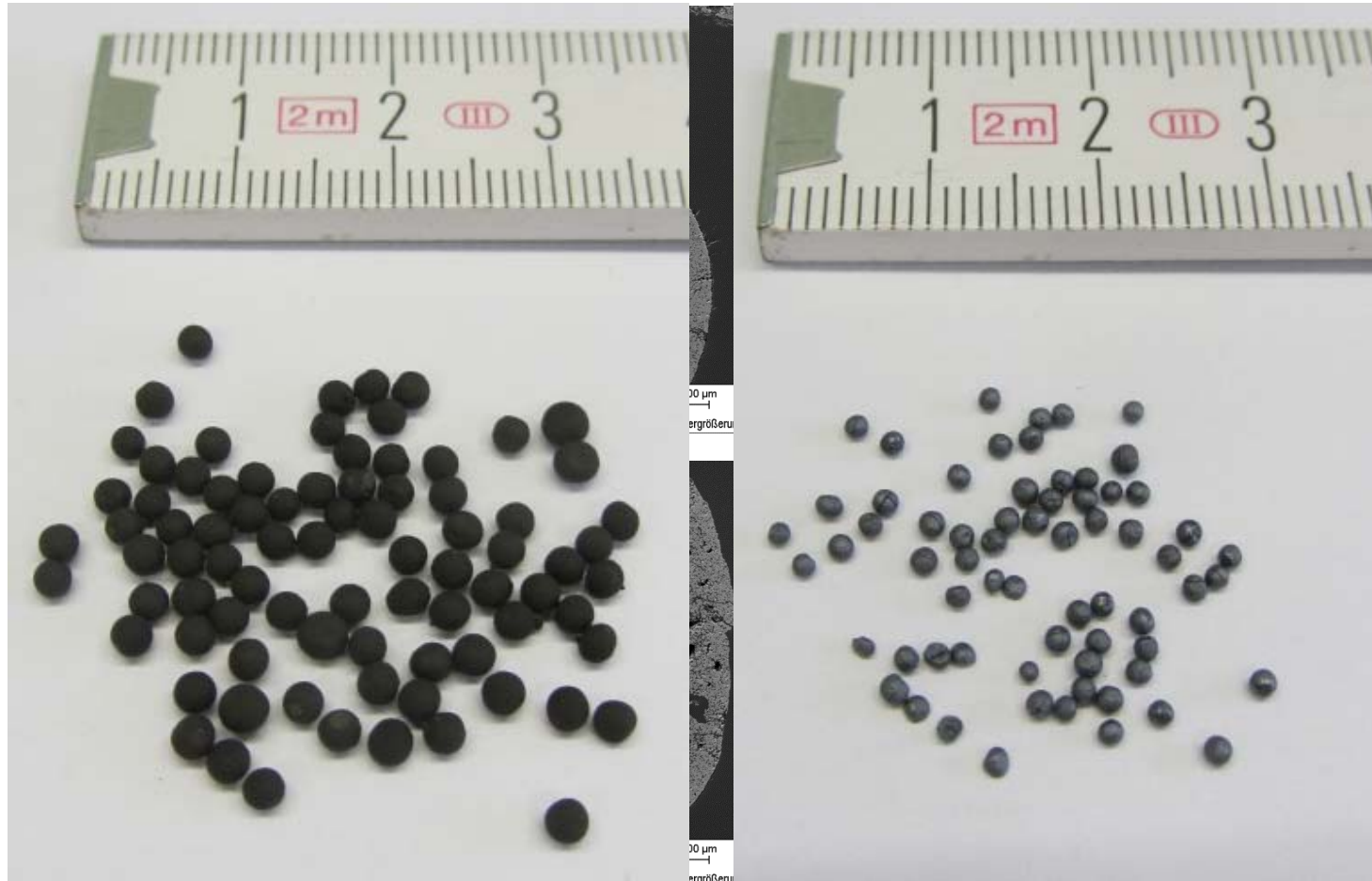
## Granulation

- Drip casting
- Slurry dripped into cooled oil bath
- Separation from oil



## Granulation – post treatment

- Washing
- Drying
- Sintering



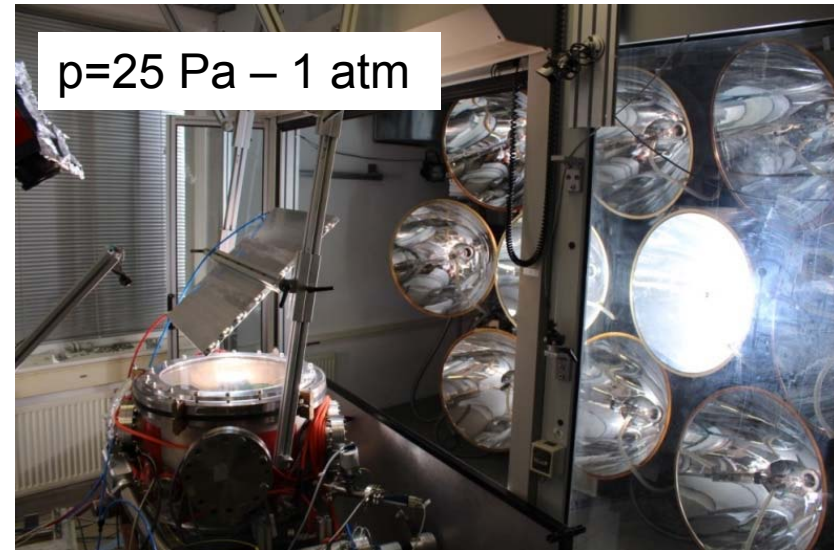
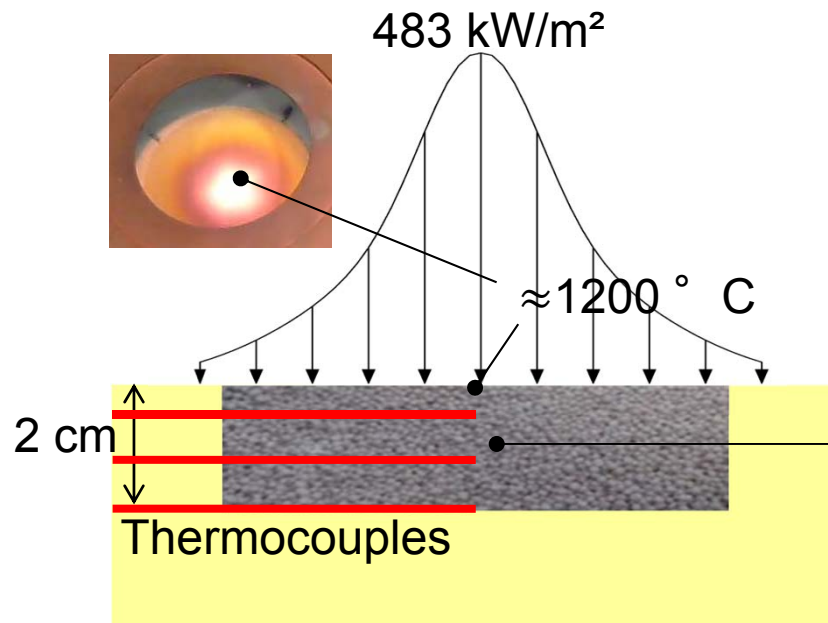


# Heat transfer properties of Ceria particles at low pressures

## Fixed Bed Experiment with Ceria

Investigate effective conductivity as function of temperature and pressure

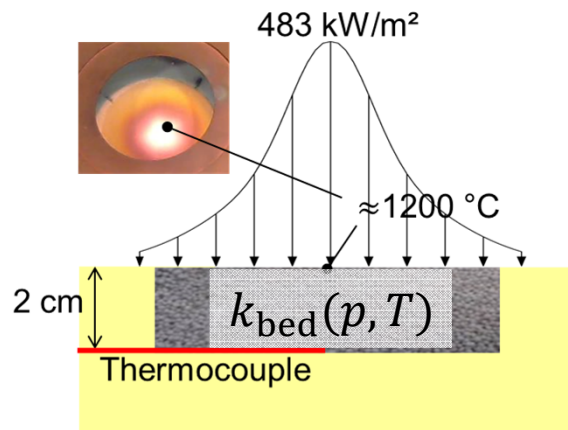
$$k_{\text{bed}}(p, T)$$



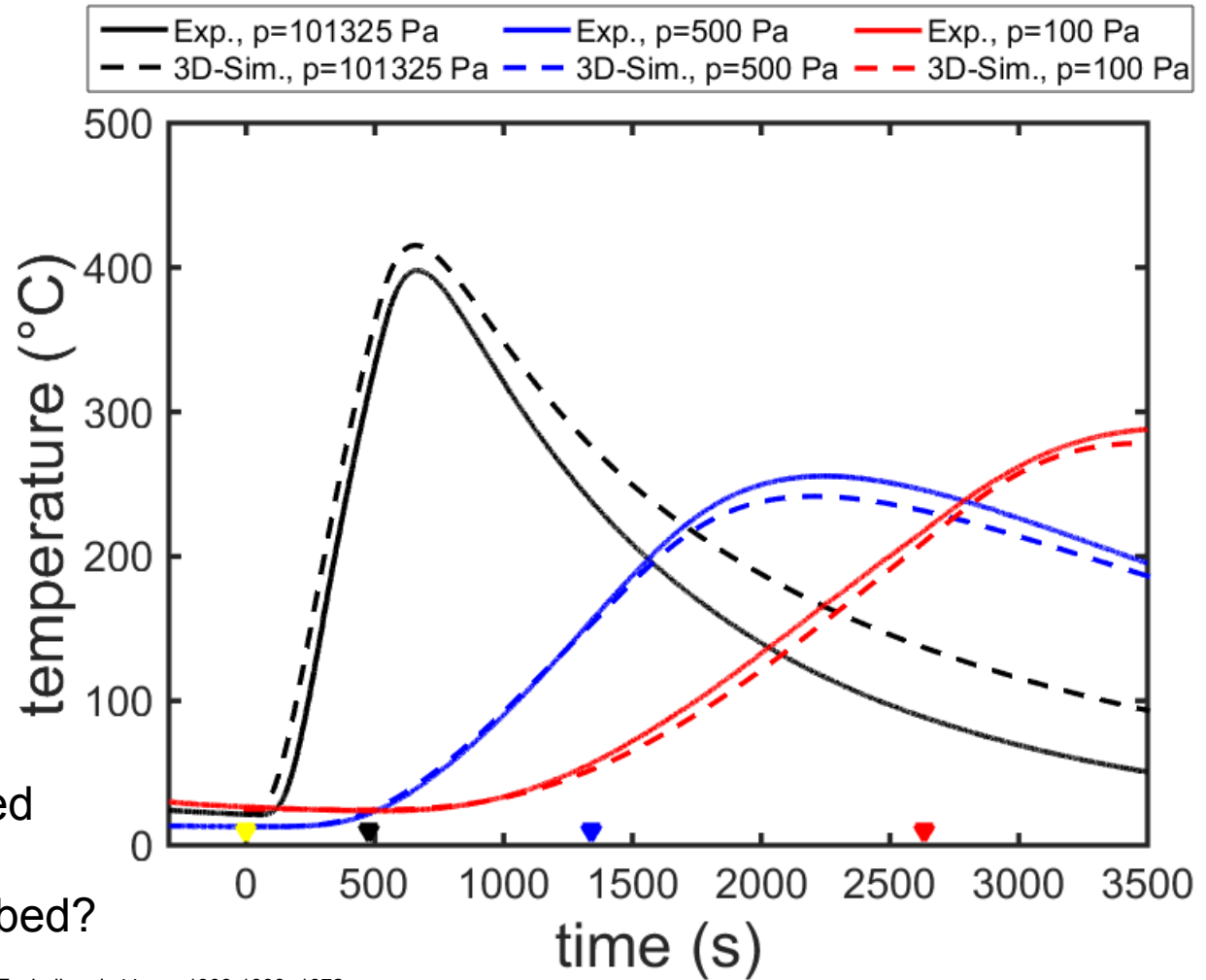
ceria particles  
212-500 μm



# Comparison with Simulation



- Simulation with continuum model [1,2]
- Very low heat transfer → particle mixing required
- How to model a moving bed?



[1] P. Zehner and E. U. Schlünder, *Chemie Ingenieur Technik*, vol. 44, pp. 1303-1308, 1972.

[2] R. Bauer, Düsseldorf: VDI-Verl., 1977.



## Summary

- Thermodynamic data from TGA measurements
- Reduction extent from dilatometry experiments
- Degradation by selective sublimation
- Tailored perovskites for oxygen pumping
- Production of spherical Strontium Iron Oxide particles
- Pressure dependence of effective thermal conductivity in particle bed
  
- Other topics of DLR within SolarSynGas
  - Indirect particle based concept
  - Particle-particle heat exchanger
  - Indirect particle reactor
  - Sweep gas demand
  - Vacuum pumping requirements
  - Thermo-chemical pumping
  - Air separation
  - ...





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Thank you very much for your attention!

