



Mass vs. Diameter

Rapid analysis of the particle size and structure.

femtoG.com

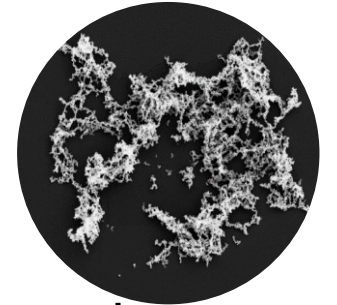
Franz Friebel, Dr. sc. ETH Zürich

franz.friebel@femtoG.com / +41 76 520 2970



What is a particle? → Sample preparation!

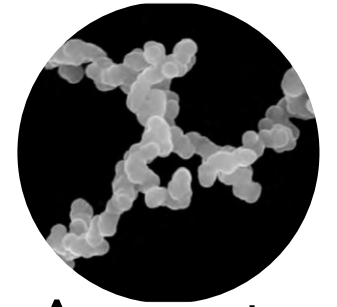
The preparation of a sample material prior to any particle size analysis defines which structural level will be detected.



Agglomerates

Dry dispersion

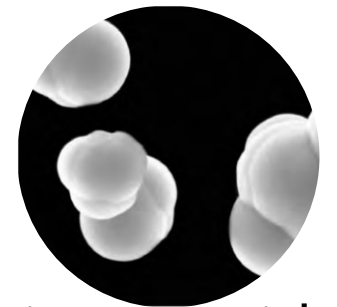
Powder → Aerosolization → Deagglomeration in Venturi nozzles



Aggregates

Wet dispersion

Suspension → sonification 10 – 300 J/ml → Spray dispersion
working fluids: water, ethanol, acetone, hexane

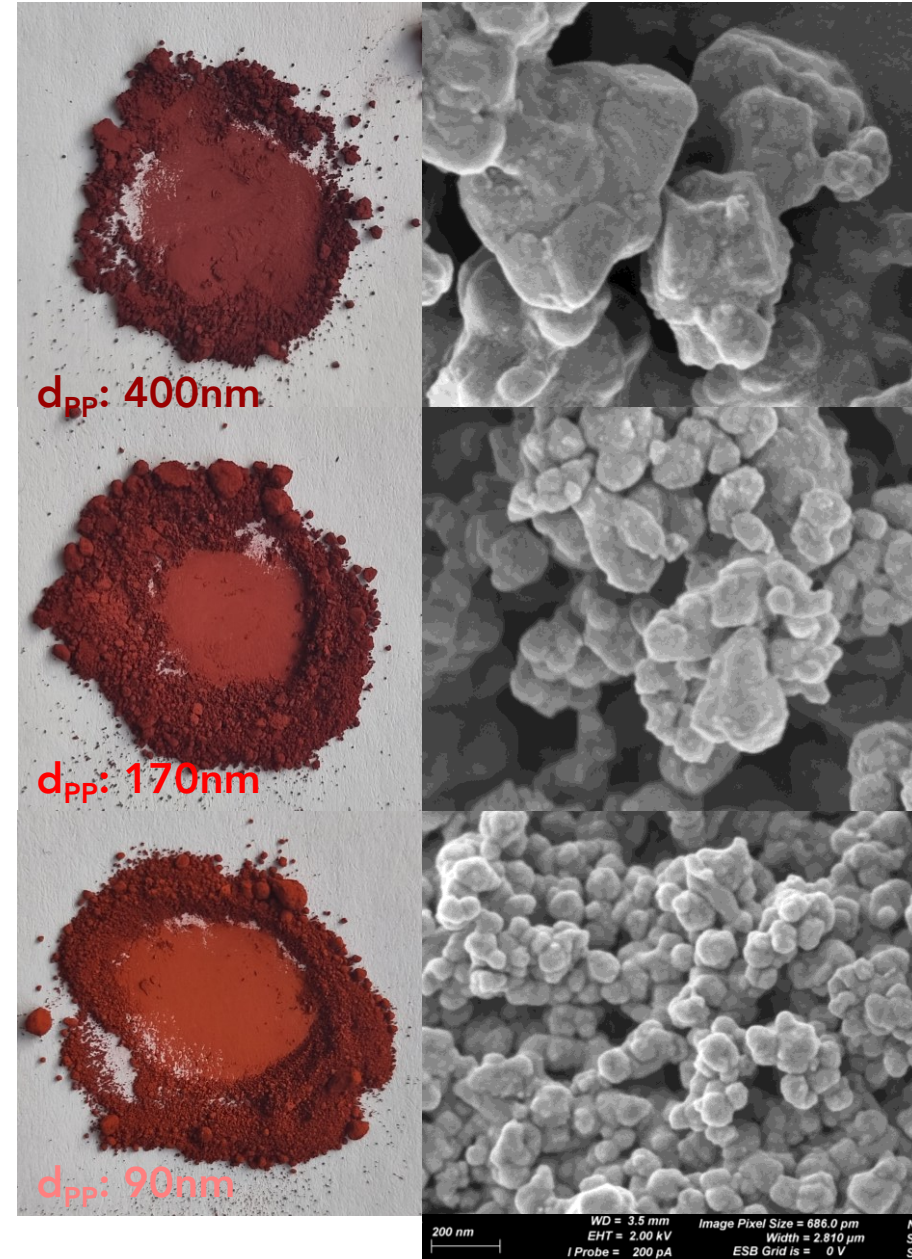


Primary particles

Direct sampling from reactor

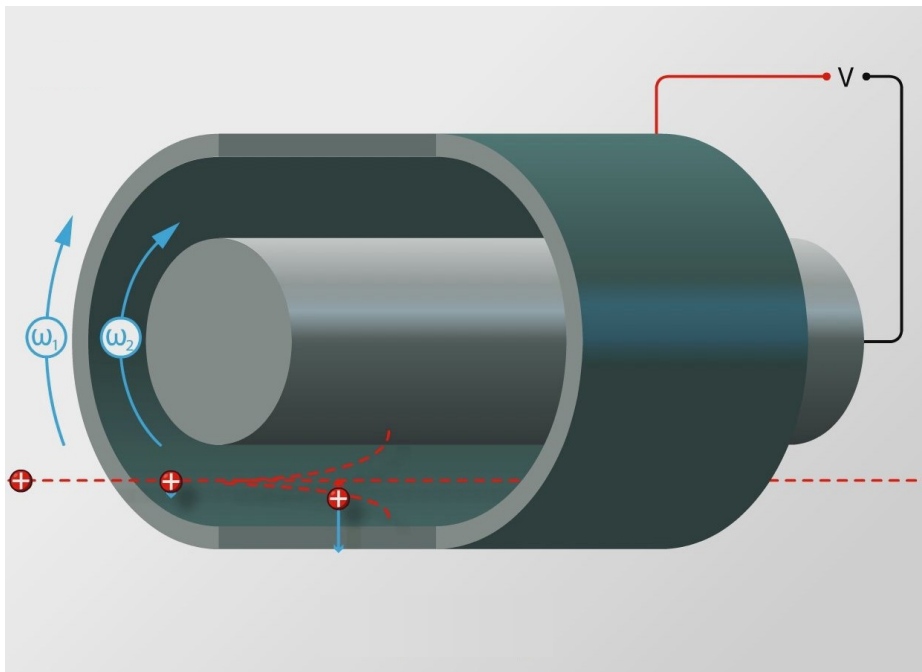
What is the size of a particle?

- Commercially available iron red pigment
 - Fe_2O_3 / Magnetite
- „Spheres with different diameters“, according to manufacturer
- Different colour / refractive indices
 - Optical sizing methods diffraction?
- material density vs. effective particle density
 - Sedimentation analysis?



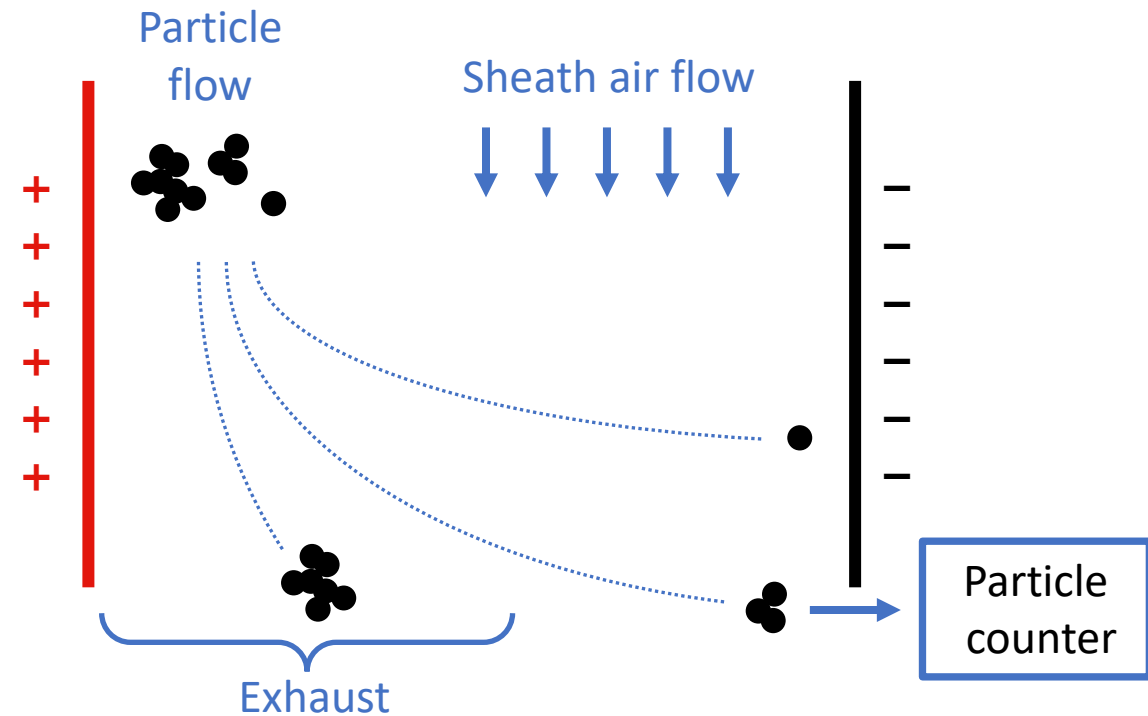
Simultaneous analysis of mass and diameter

Centrifugal Particle Mass Analyzer



Centrifugal force vs
electrostatic forces

Particle mobility size analyzer

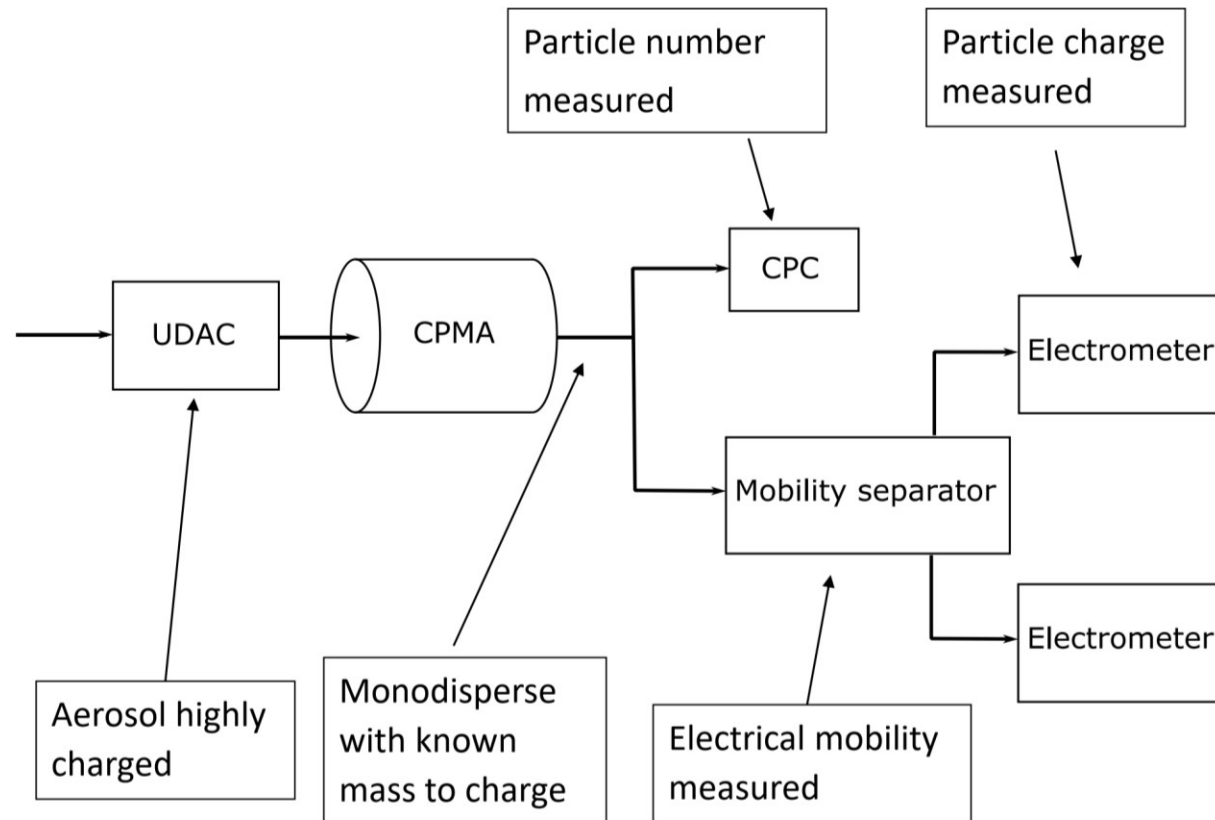


Electrostatic forces vs
drag force

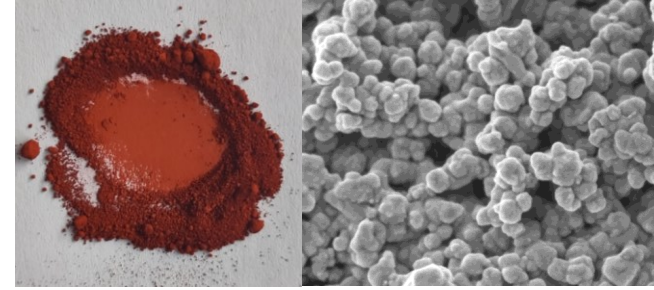
Particle
counter

Simultaneous analysis of mass and diameter

Full schematic: Mass & Mobility Aerosol Spectrometer (M²AS)



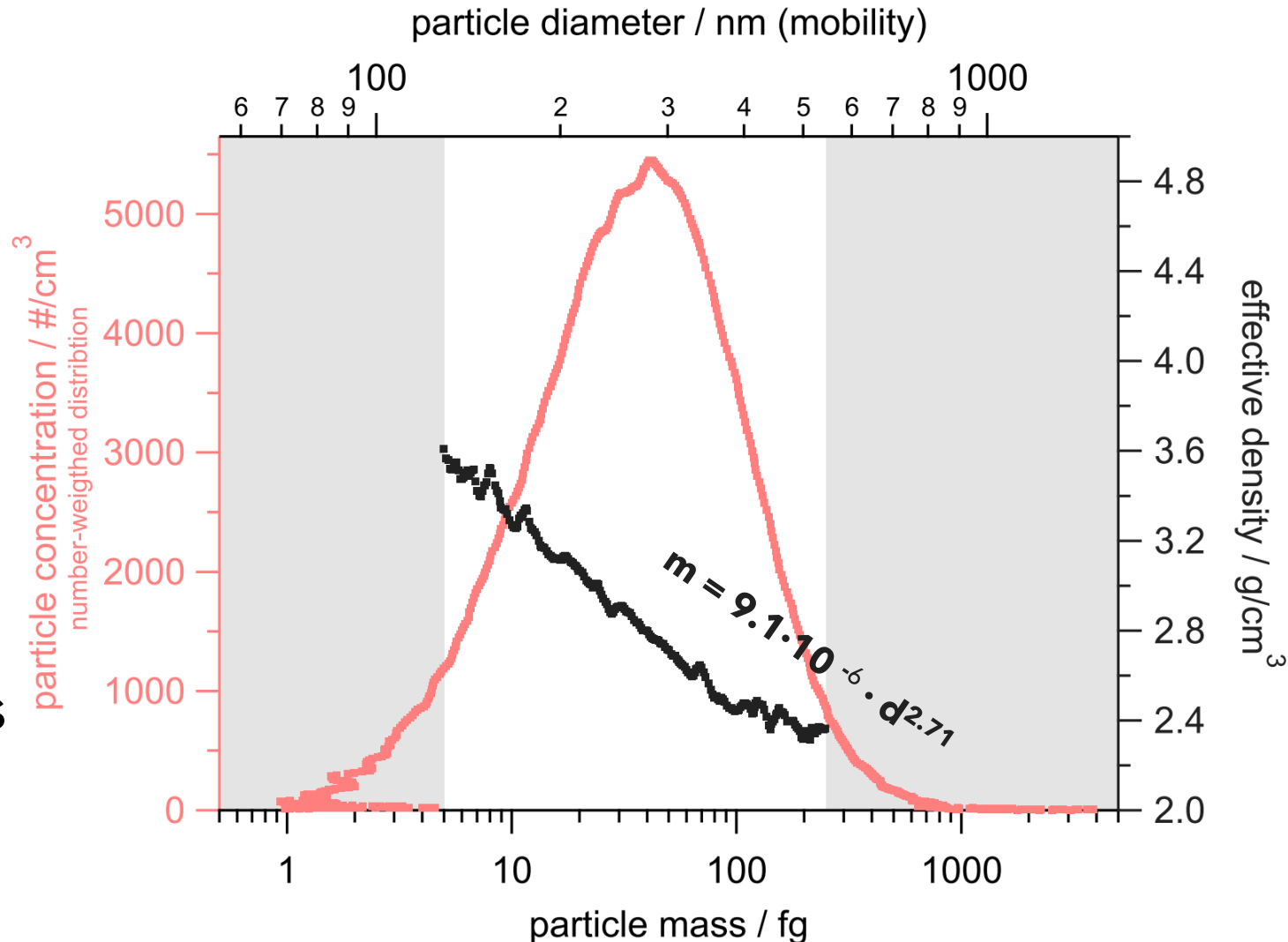
Fe₂O₃ pigment; d_{pp}: 90nm



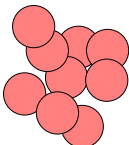
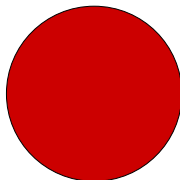
- 10 min per scan; 600 data points
→ 4.7 mio particles counted

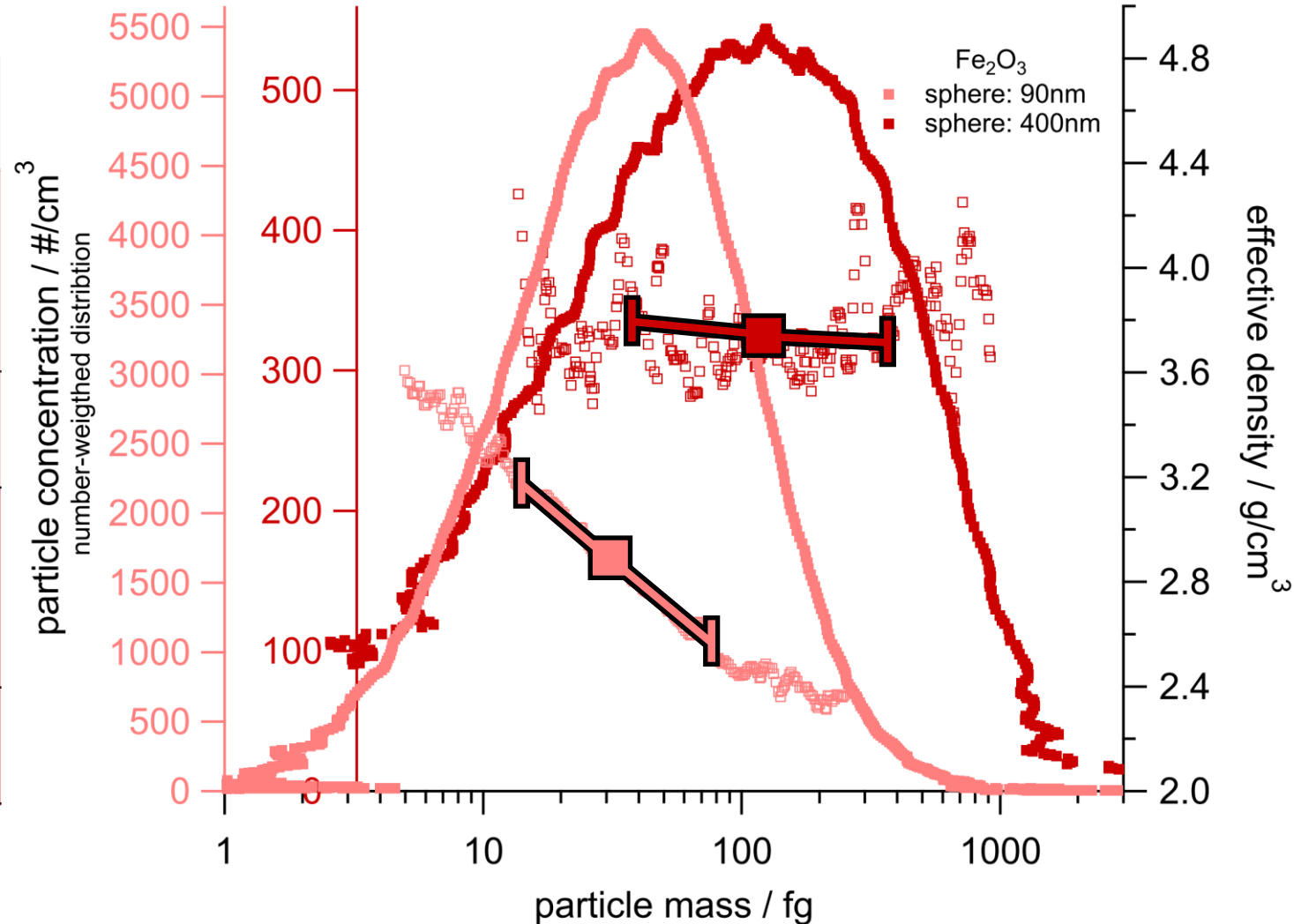
m₅₀: 31 fg
d₅₀: 274 nm
ρ₅₀: 2.9 g/cm³

→ 1 gram of powder contains
1.8 · 10¹³ single particles



Comparison of two Fe₂O₃ pigments

Median mass	Median diameter	Particles per gram	«Fractal»-index
90nm sphere @ 5.0 g/cm ³ m _{sphere} : 1.9 fg → fractal-like aggregate			
31 fg	274 nm	18 · 10 ¹² /g	2.71
400nm sphere @ 5.0 g/cm ³ m _{sphere} : 167 fg → isolated «spherical» particles			
109 fg	380 nm	2.2 · 10 ¹² /g	2.97



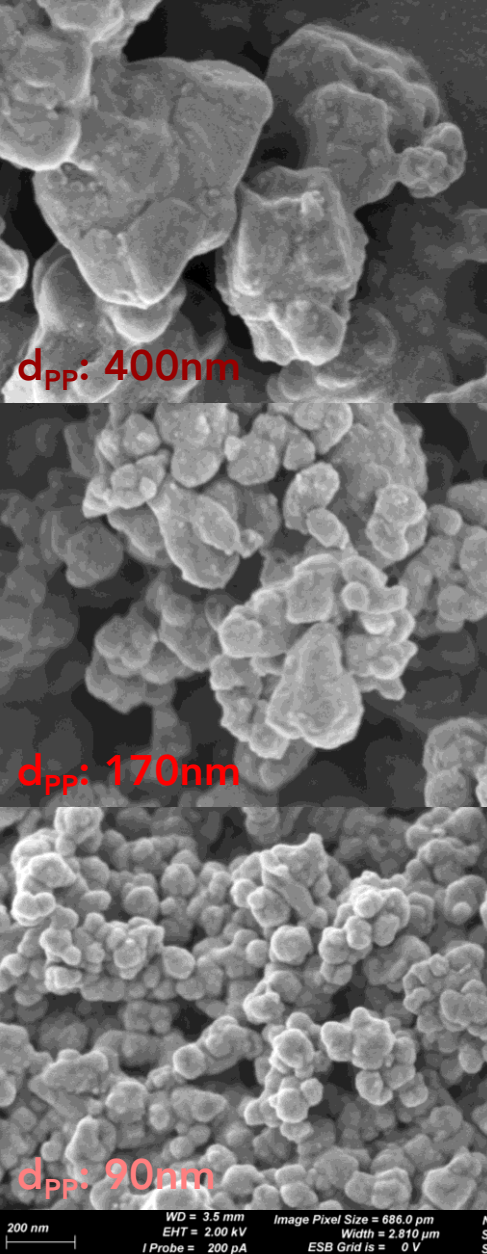
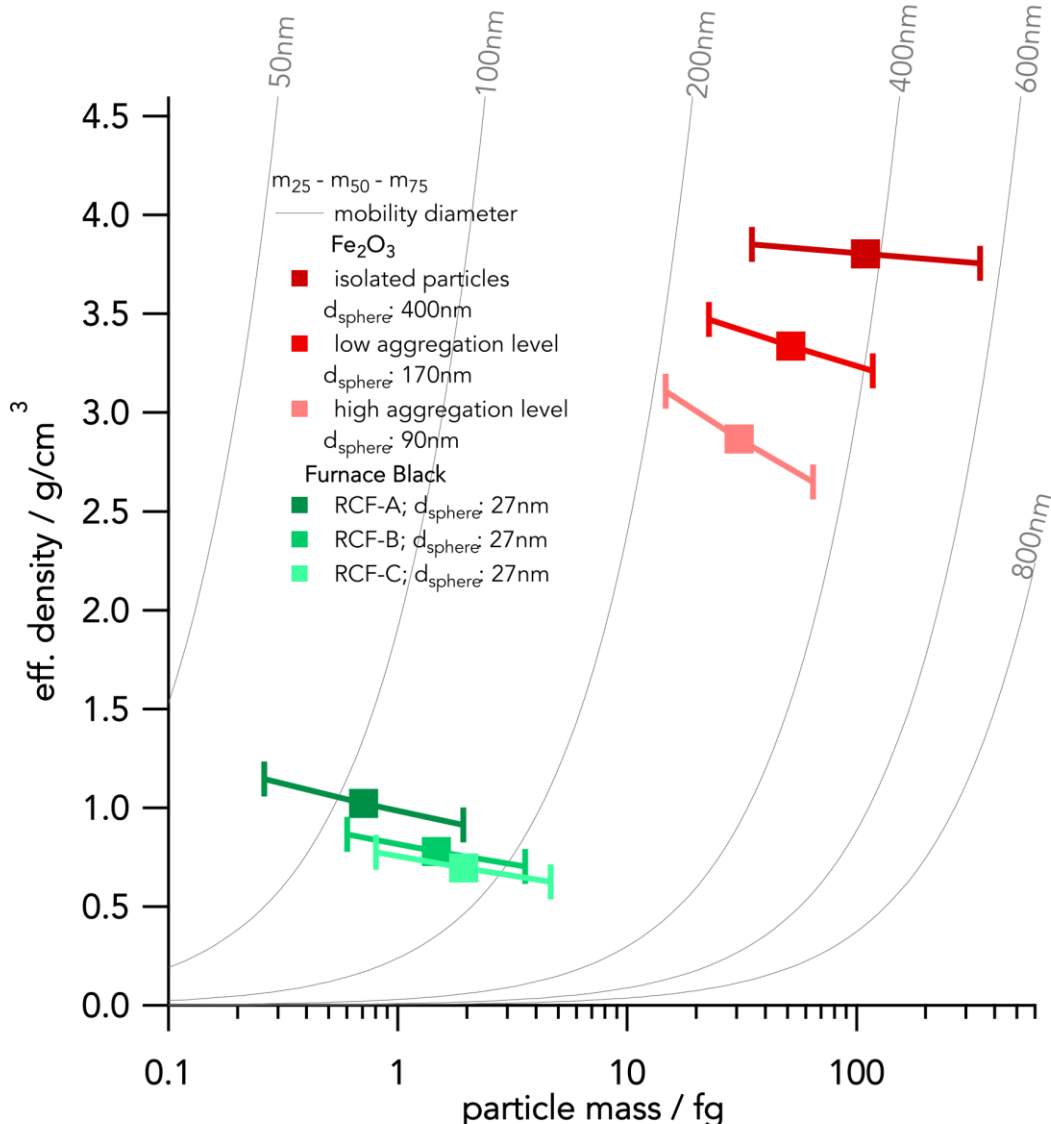
Primary particle size: Fe₂O₃

Increase primary particle size from 90 to 400 nm

- higher sphericity
- higher fractal index
- lower aggregation level
- less pore volume

sample preparation:

1. ultrasound deagglomeration
2. nebulizing and drying



Aggregation level: Carbon Black

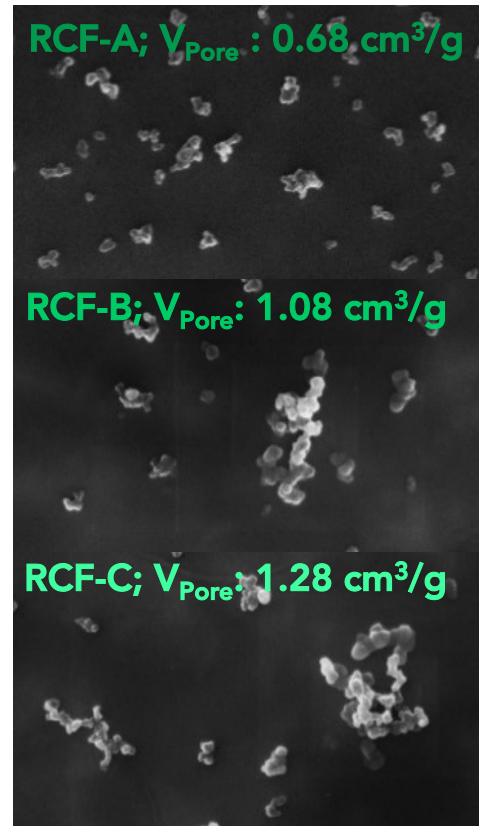
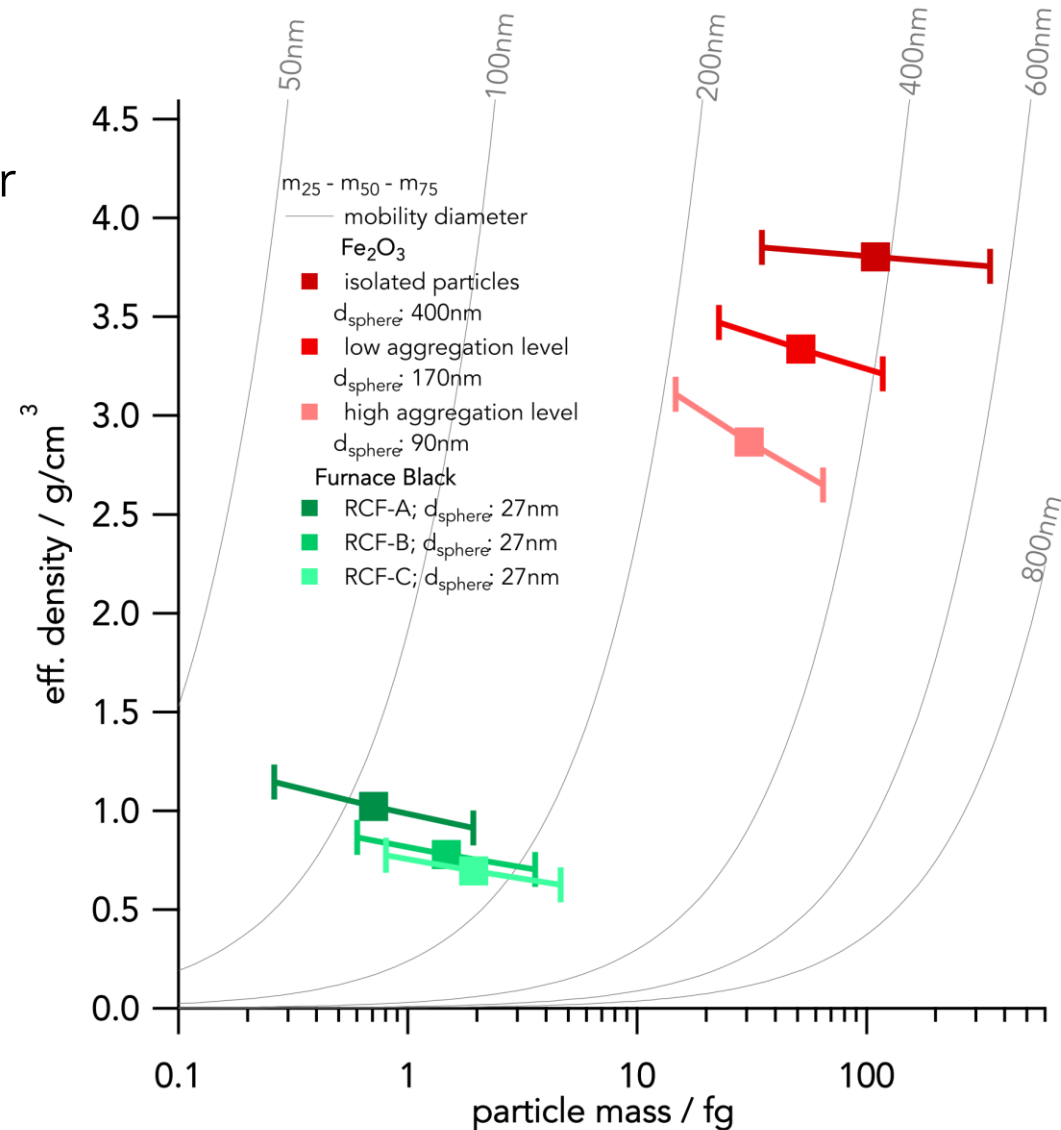
Increasing aggregation level and constant primary particle diameter of 27nm

- constant sphericity
- constant fractal index
- heavier and larger particles
- lower density
- higher pore volume

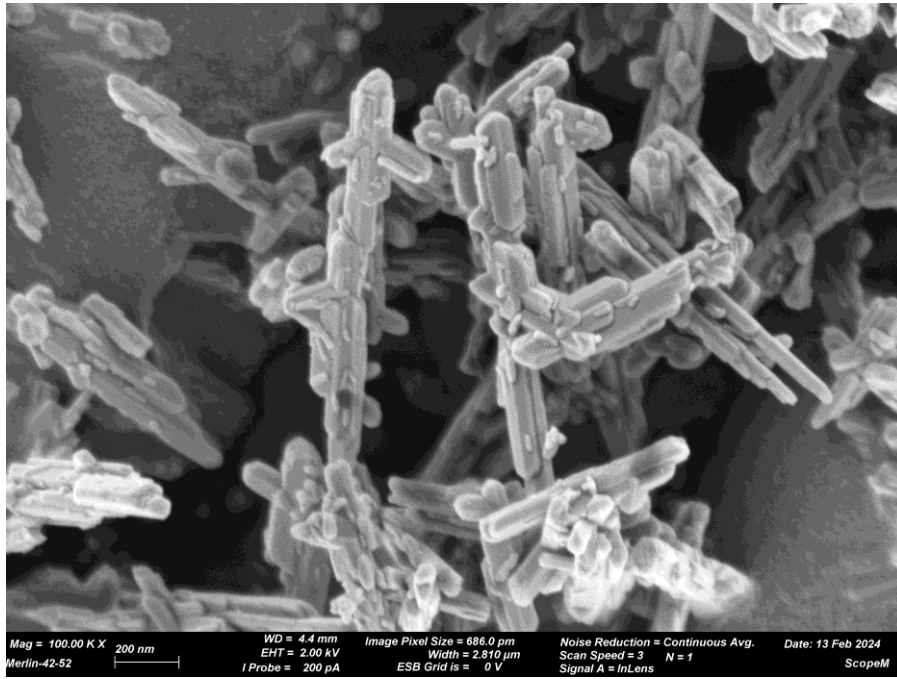
sample preparation:

dry-dispersion

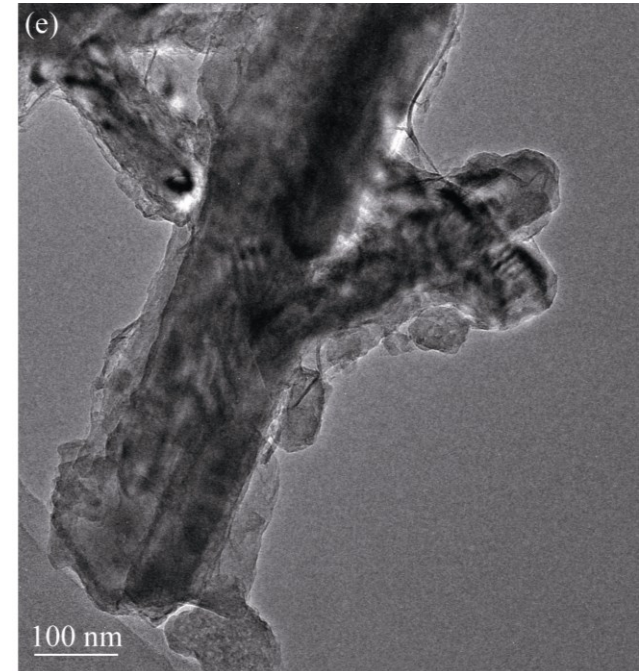
(sampling from reactor)



Multicomponent system



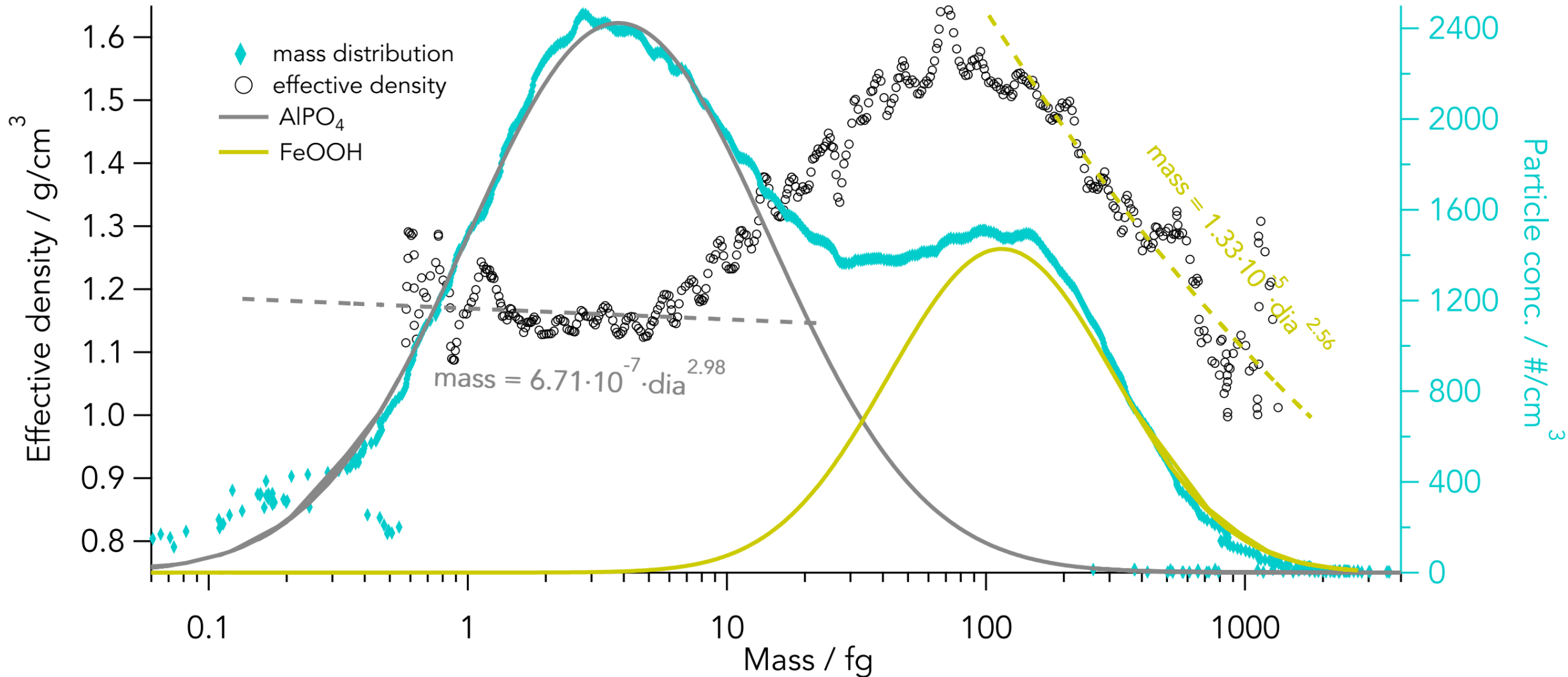
Uncoated FeOOH



FeOOH + AlPO₄ shell

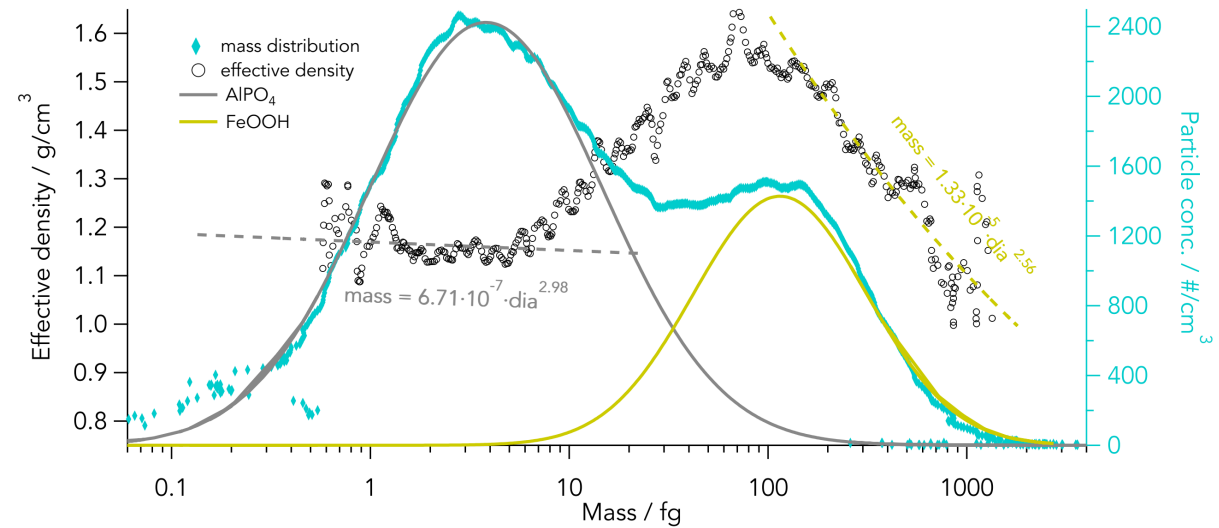
- Different refractive indice → laser diffraction?
- Undefined particle density → sedimentation analysis?
- What are the constituent particles?

FeOOH Pigment with AlPO₄ coating

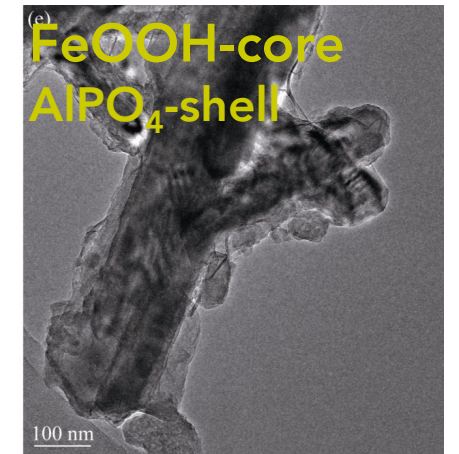


FeOOH Pigment with AlPO₄ coating

Median mass	Particles per gram	Mass fraction		«Fractal»-index
		measured	spec-sheet	
AlPO ₄ isolated non-aggregated particles				
3.8 fg	11 · 10 ¹² /g	10%	26%	2.98
FeOOH rods: 100 x 700nm @ 4.0 g/cm ³ (+coating) m _{rod} : 29fg (+7fg)				
115 fg	4.7 · 10 ¹² /g	90%	(74%)	2.56



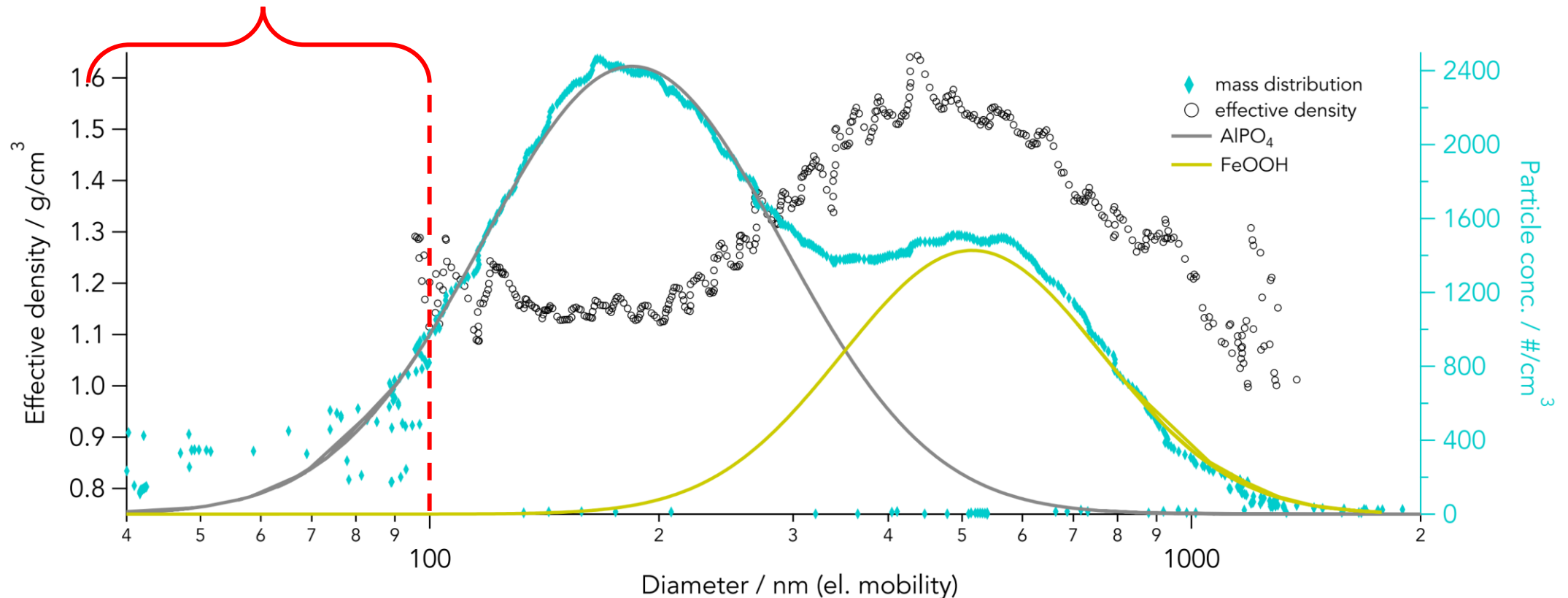
- 40% of AlPO₄ does not adhere to the FeOOH core
→ reduced color strength, loss of material, ...



Definition of a nanomaterial according to the European Commission

„ ... 50 % or more of the particles in the number size distribution [...] in the size range 1 nm -100 nm.“

nano particle content: 6% or $9.4 \cdot 10^{11}$ nanoparticles per gram



Summary

- Rapid analysis of particle size and structure
 - THE mass and A diameter
- Multicomponent systems require a multiparameter analysis
- (Nano-)particle concentration in a powder



Nanoparticle release vs. dispersion intensity
 Titanium dioxide, bismut vanadate, pearlescent pigment

→ franz.friebel@femtoG.com

