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Unveiling structure

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# You can also ask ...



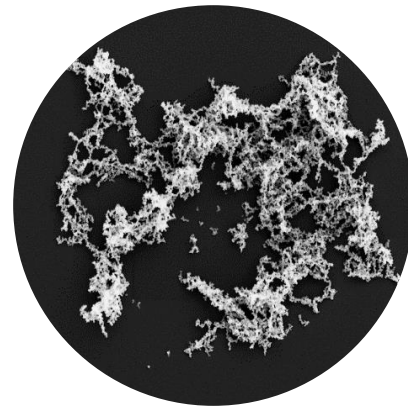
**Jörg Wieder, Dr. sc. ETH Zürich**  
Co-founder



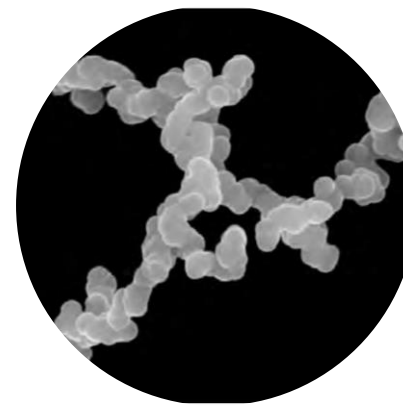
**Jonathan Symonds, Dr.**  
Managing Director at  
 **Cambustion**



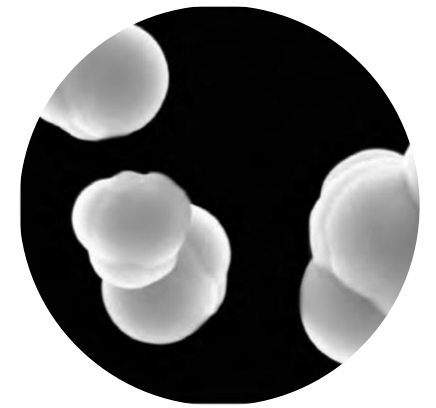
Powder



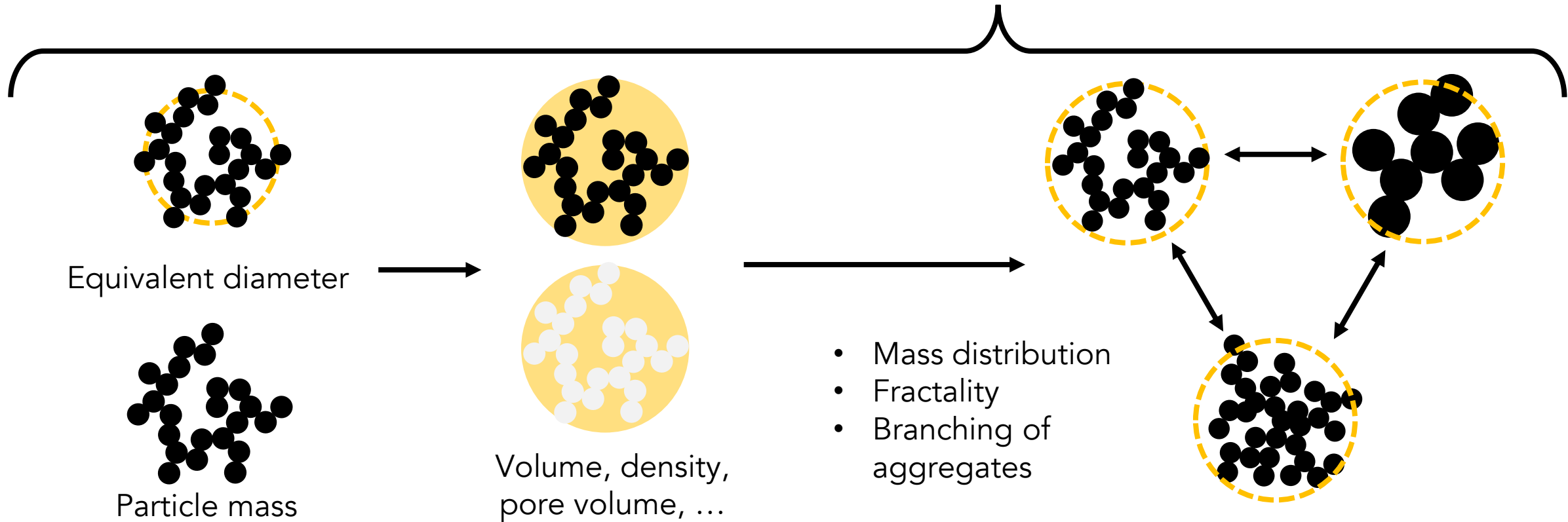
Agglomerates



Aggregates



Primary particles



# Sample preparation

- **Dry dispersion**

Powder → Aerosolization → Deagglomeration in Venturi nozzles

## **Wet dispersion**

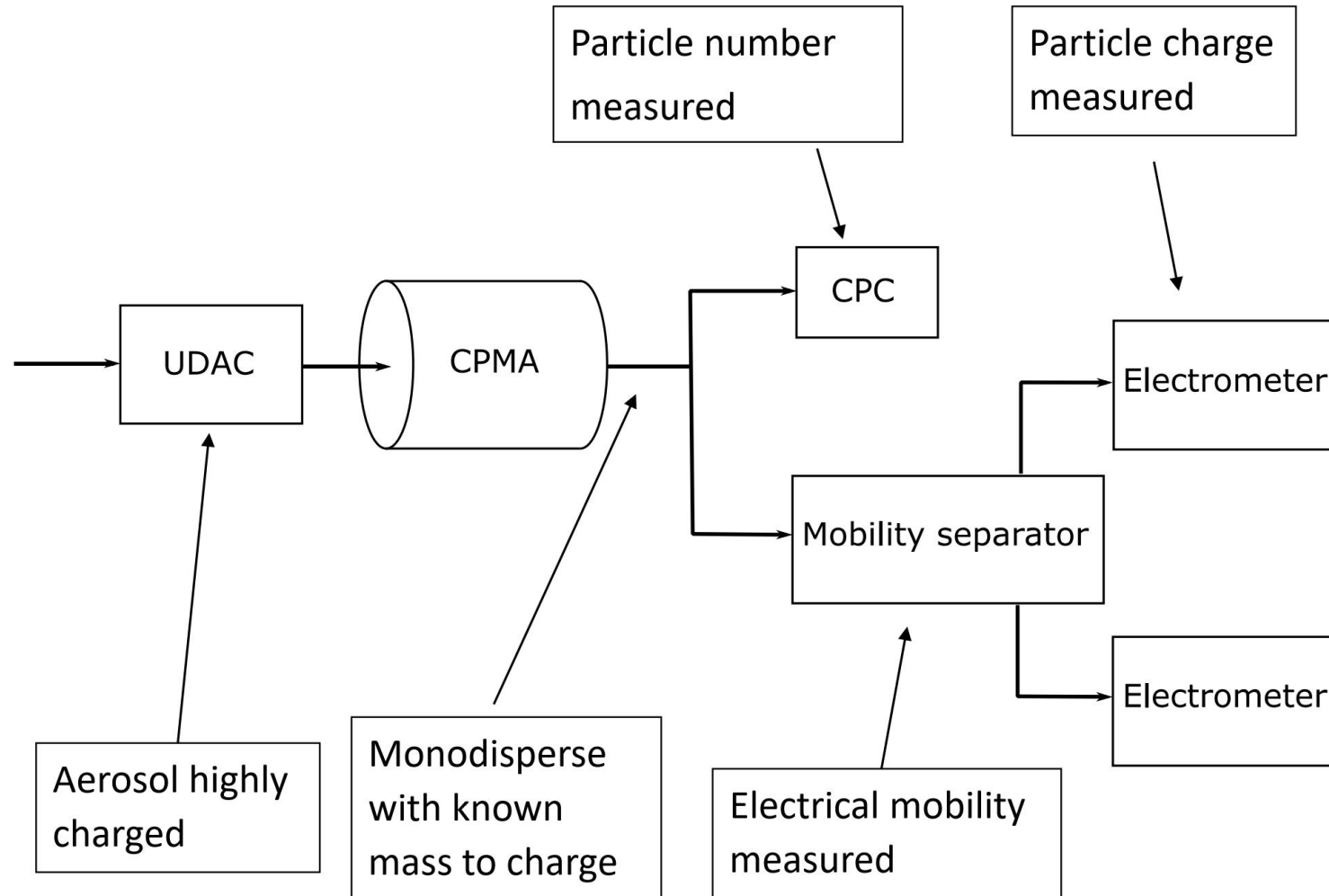
Aqueous suspension → 5min sonification 60W → Spray dispersion

## **Direct sampling from reactor**

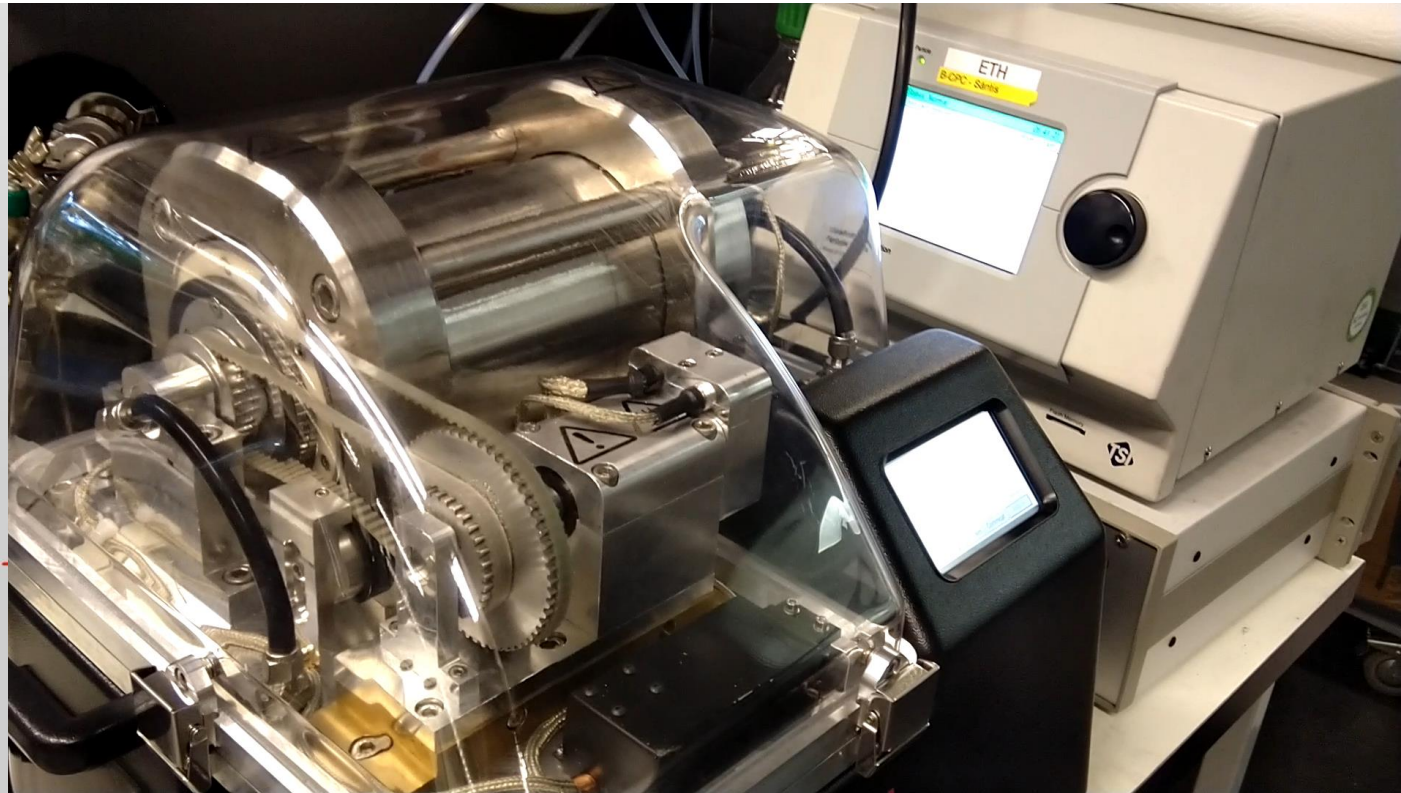
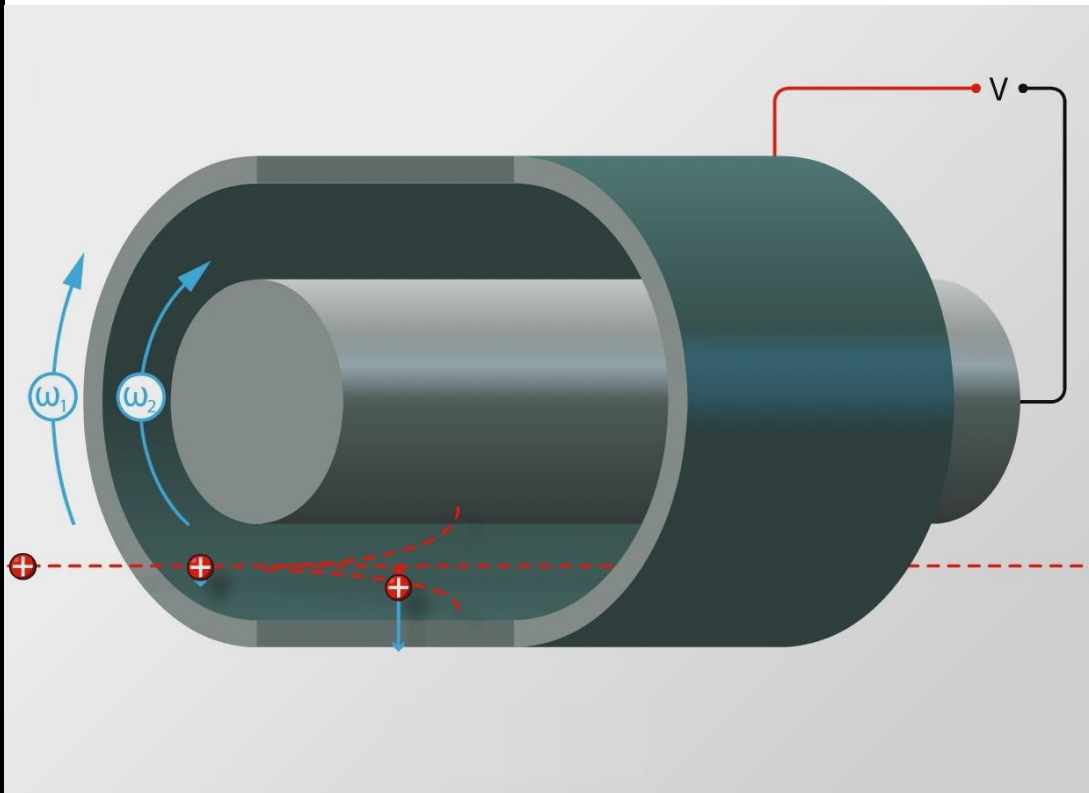
*Coming soon:*

*Liquid dispersion in organic solvents*

# Full schematic: Mass & Mobility Aerosol Spectrometer (M<sup>2</sup>AS)



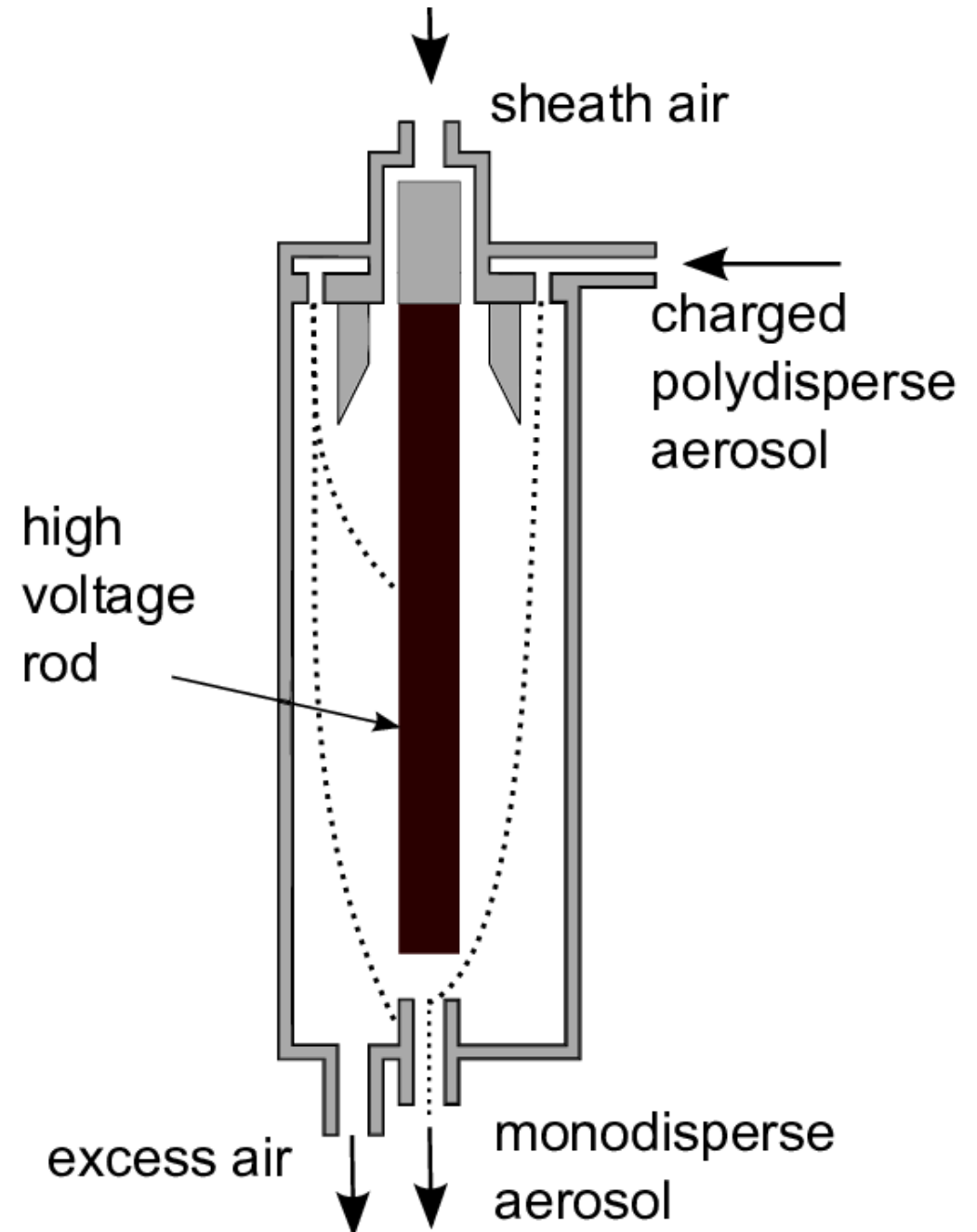
# Centrifugal Particle Mass Analyzer



Centrifugal and electrostatic forces  
→ selection of particles from  $10^{-18}$  to  $10^{-12}$  gram

# Mobility diameter

- Drag-force in air
  - Scales with geometric dimensions
  - No preferred orientation
    - e.g. chains, needles, platelets
  - **Independent of density**
  - **Independent of material**
- Conversion into aerodynamic diameter possible



# raw data – Low Colour Furnace Black

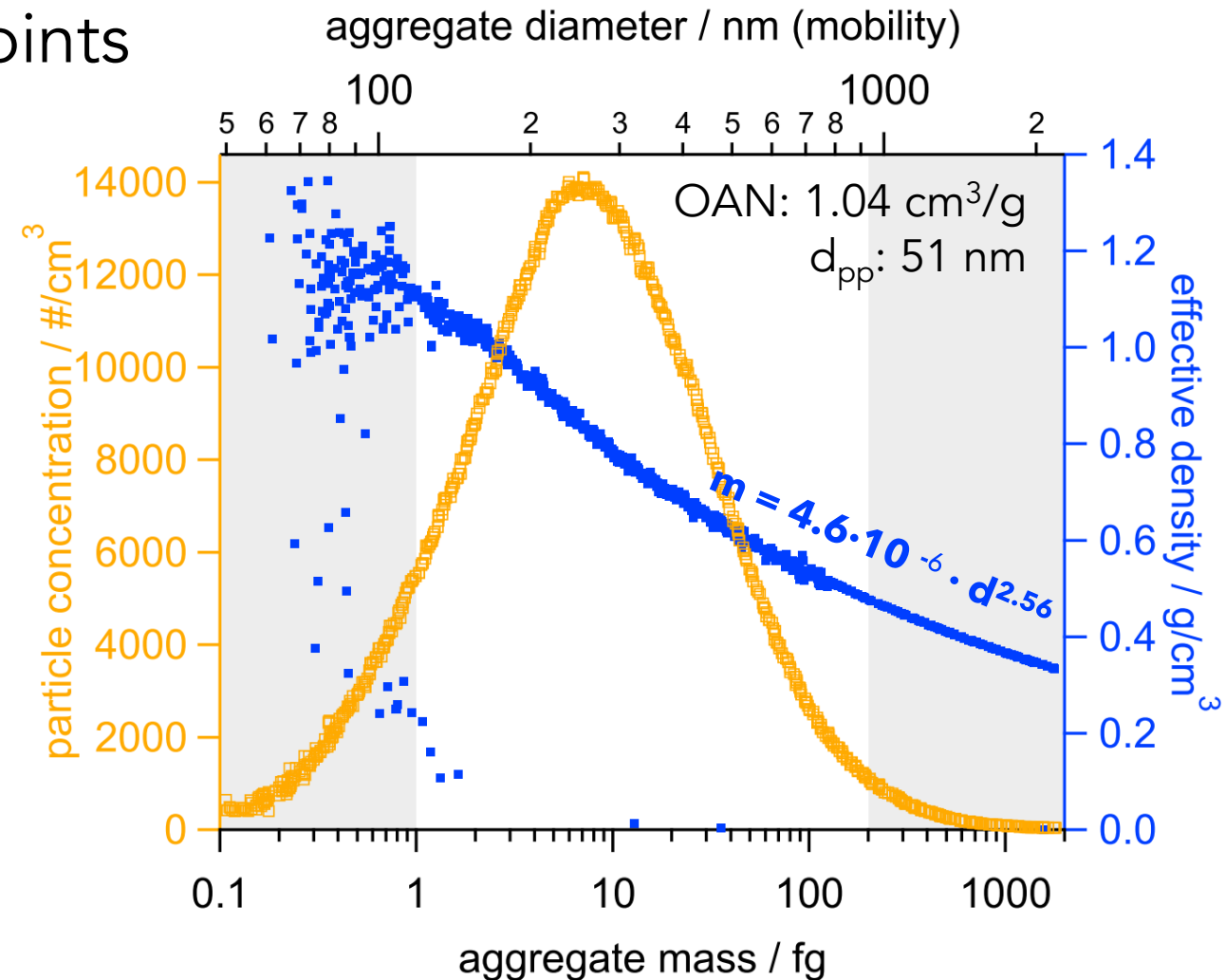
- 12.3 min per scan; 740 data points  
→ **21 mio** particles counted

$m_{50}$ : 6.2 fg

$d_{50}$ : 240 nm

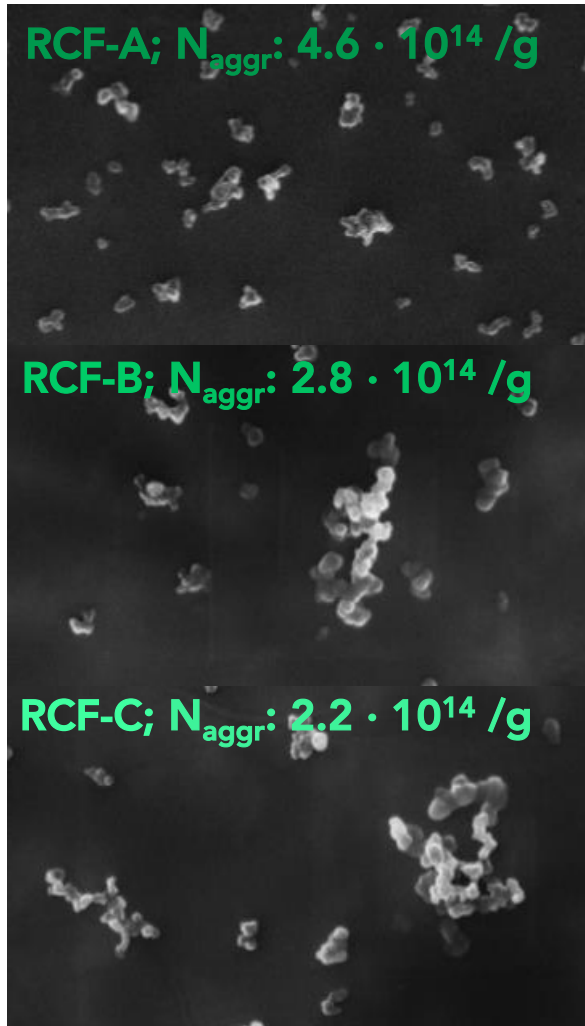
$\rho_{50}$ : 0.86 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

→ 1 g of carbon black contains  
 $5 \cdot 10^{13}$  particles

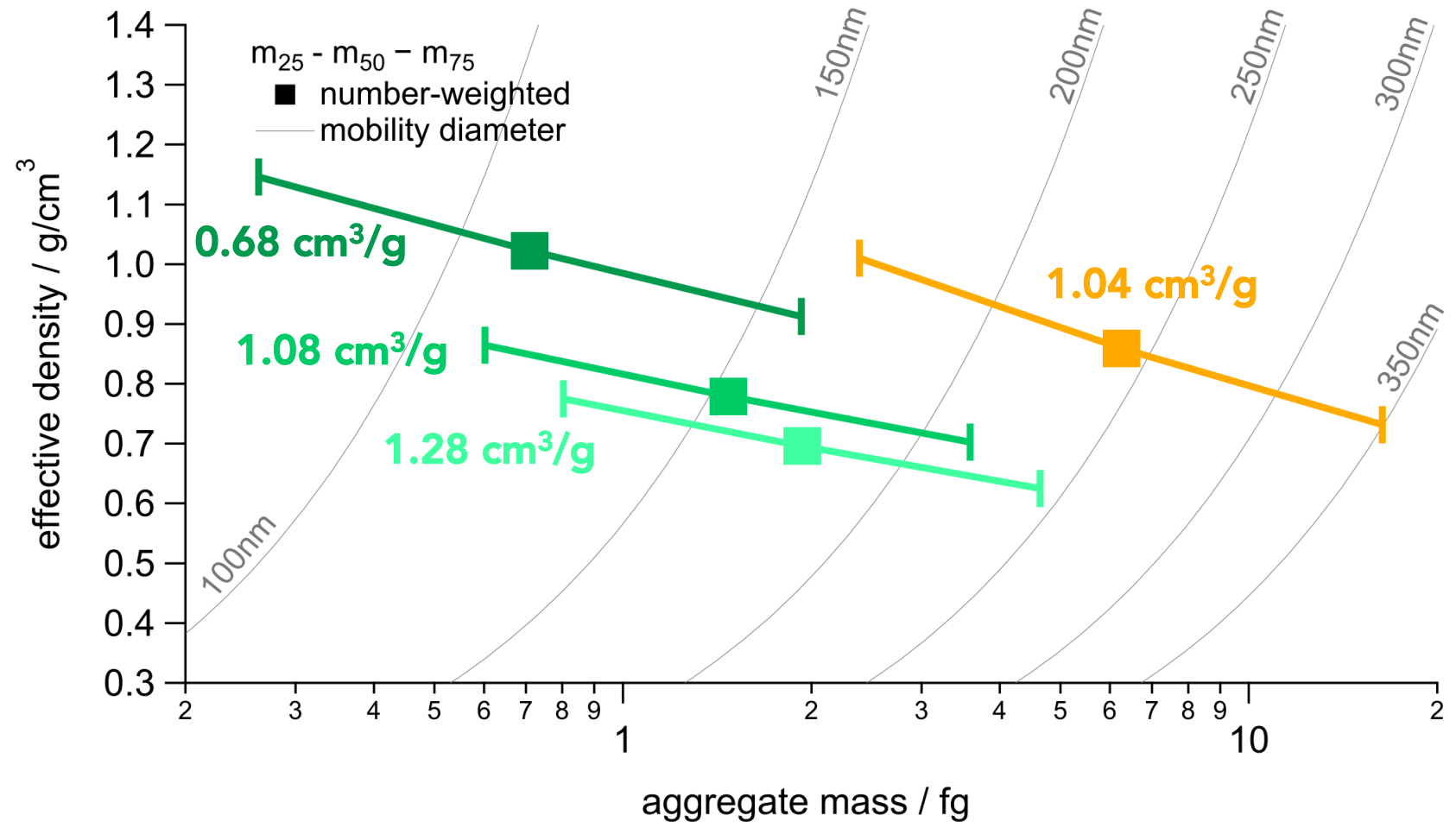




# Aggregation level vs PP-diameter

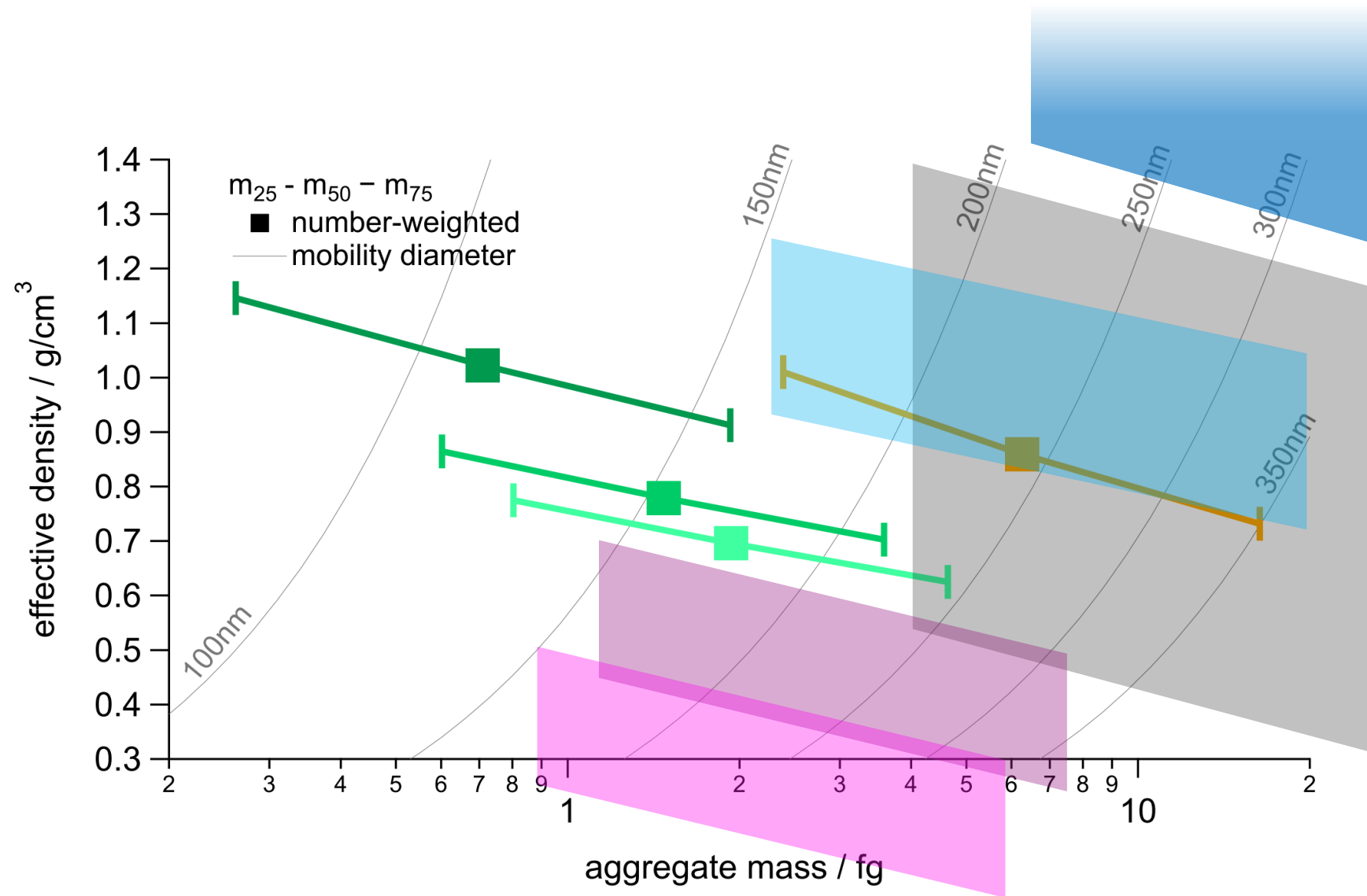


Regular Colour Furnace Black  $d_{pp}: 27nm$   
 Low Colour Furnace Black  $d_{pp}: 51nm$



# And other materials

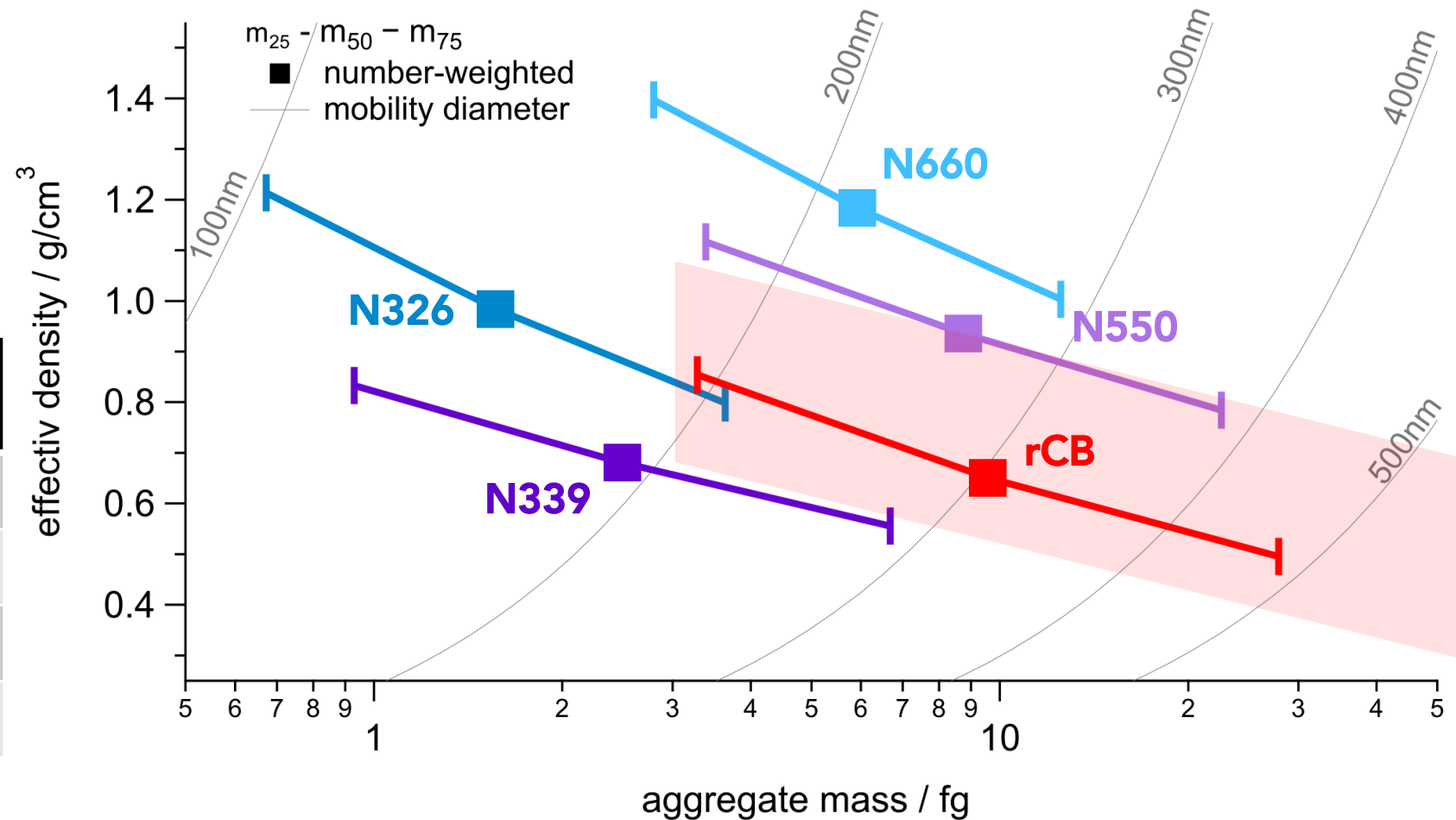
- TiO<sub>2</sub>-pigment
- TiO<sub>2</sub>-photocatalytic
- Methane-pyrolysis
- Precipitated silica
- Pyrogenic silica



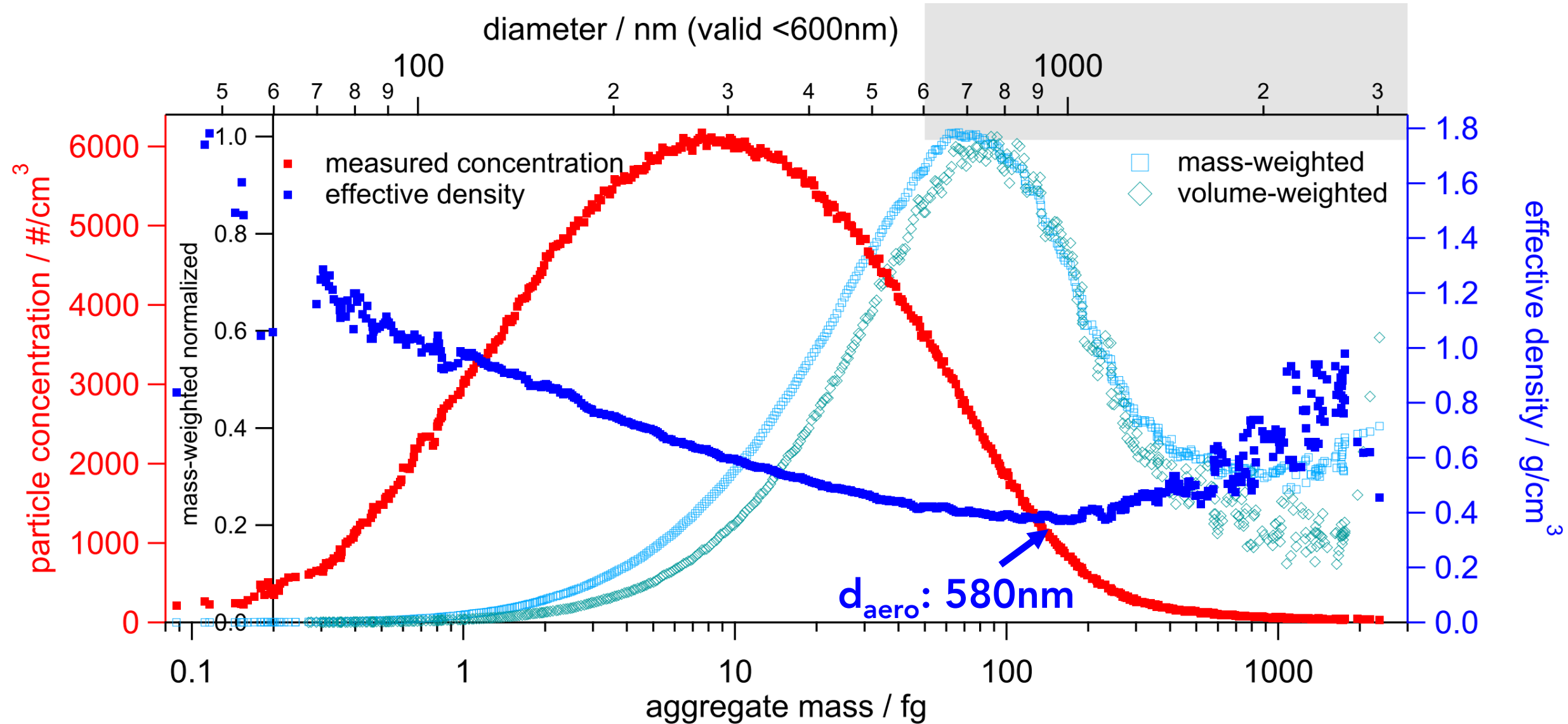
# Tire-grade vs rCB

rCB is heavier and larger than tire-grade  
 → fused aggregates  
 → dense mineral components

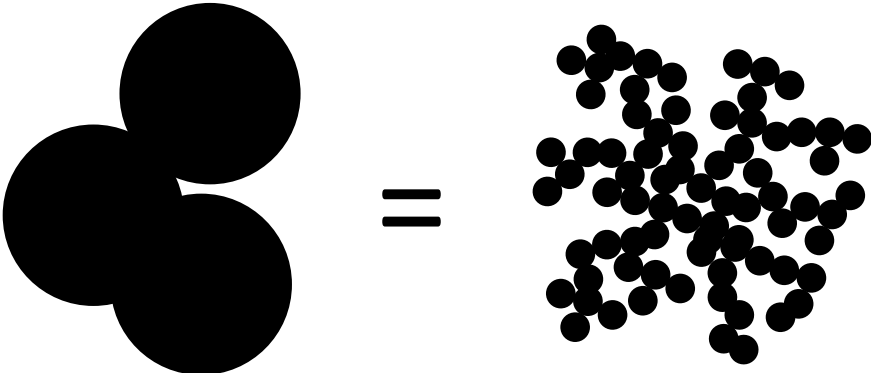
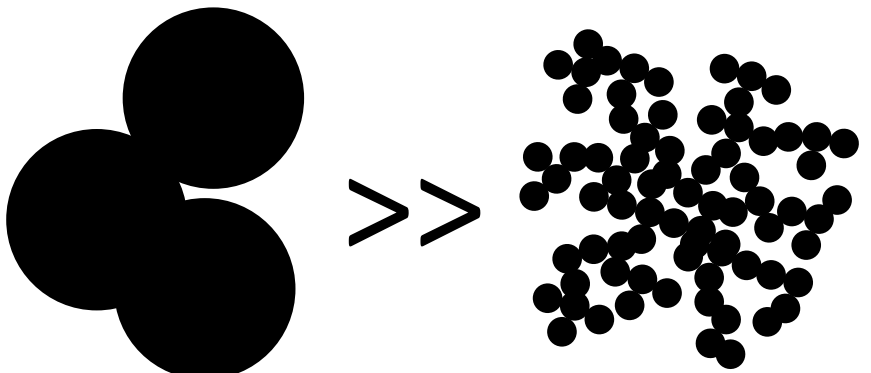
	OAN cm <sup>3</sup> /g	dia <sub>pp</sub> nm
N660	0.90	67
N550	1.21	56
N339	1.20	26
N326	0.72	27



# Raw data – rCB



# Diameter estimates

	Drag-force equivalent	Settling velocity equivalent
<b>Air</b>	$d_{mob}$ Mobility diameter (Mass – mobility aerosol spectrometer)	$d_{aero}$ Aerodynamic diameter (calculated from mass + $d_{mob}$ )
<b>Water</b>	$d_{hydro}$ Hydrodynamic diameter (Dynamic Light scattering)	$d_{stokes}$ Stokes diameter (Centrifugal photosedimentation)
	diffusivity and mobility → geometry	geometry and effective density
observed diameter		

# Diameter conversion

## → Centrifugal Photosedimentation

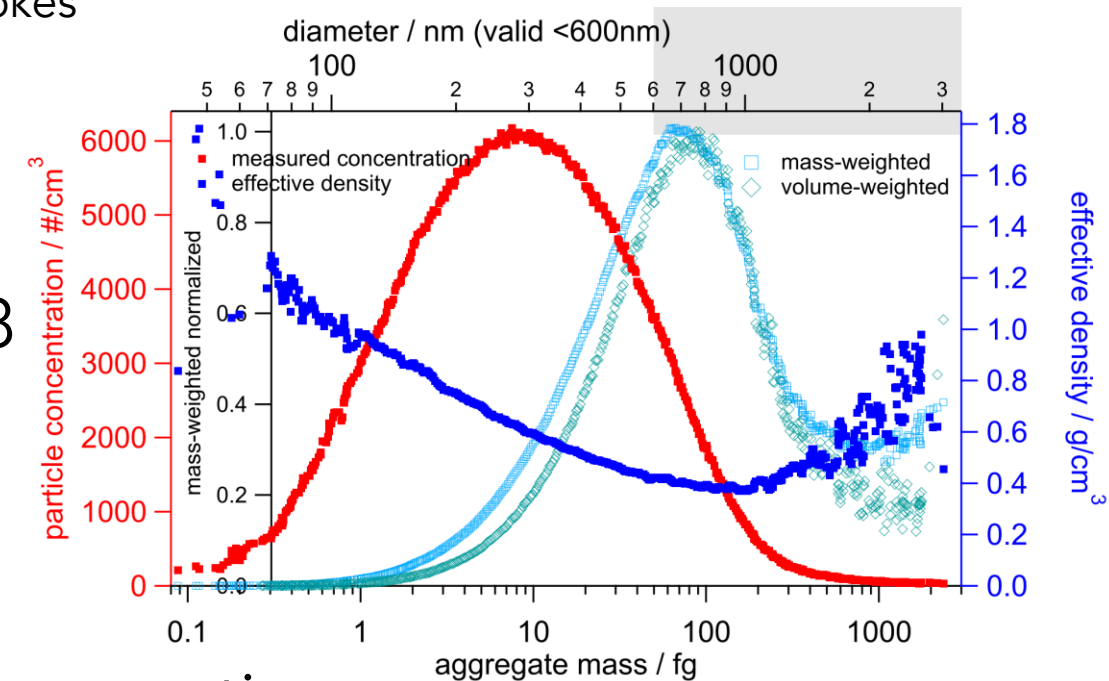
1. Fitting femtoG number-weighted mass-distribution
2. Extrapolation to mass-weighted distribution
3. Converting the  $d_{\text{mob}}$  into  $d_{\text{hydro}}$  and  $d_{\text{stokes}}$

- $d_{\text{hydro}} \approx 1.1 \cdot d_{\text{mob}} (\pm 20\%)$

- $d_{\text{stokes}} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_{\text{eff,hydro}}}{\rho_{\text{true}}}} \cdot d_{\text{hydro}}$

- Correction factor for surfactant bias: 0.88
  - (reference N550, STSA: 39 m<sup>2</sup>/g)

- $d_{\text{stokes}} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_{\text{eff}}}{\rho_{\text{true}}}} \cdot d_{\text{mob}} \cdot 0.953 \cdot 0.88$



- No correction for optical detection / Mie correction

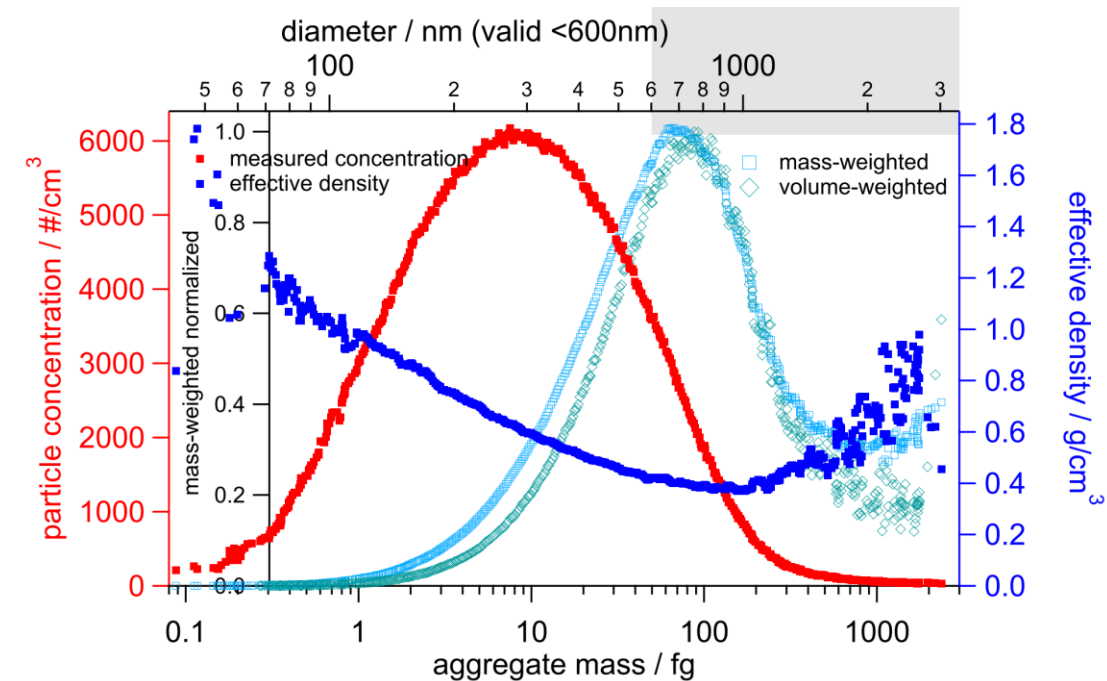
# Diameter conversion

## → Laser diffraction

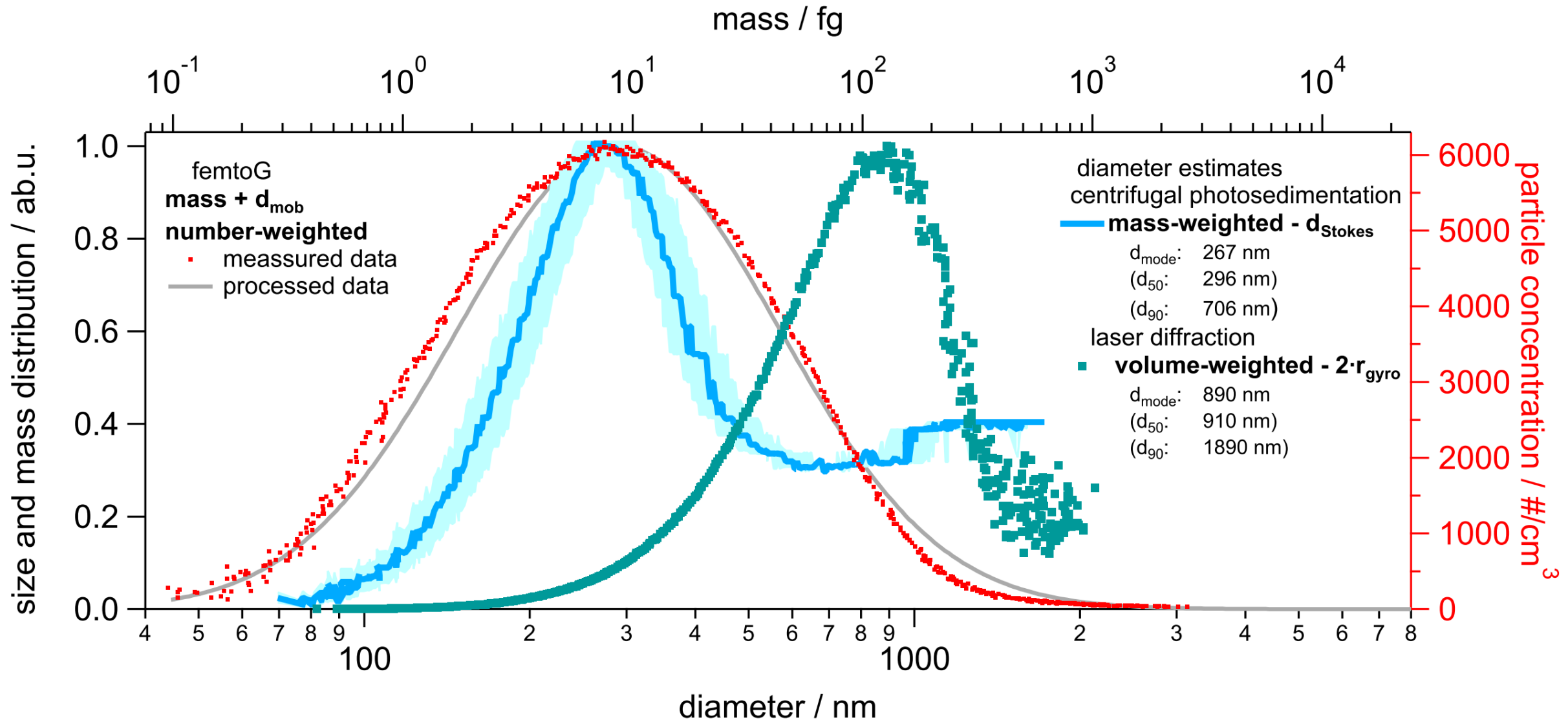
- Forward scattering depends on radius of gyration
- large scattering angles - complex interaction with rCB-aggregates
  - no reference diameter

→ volume-weighted size distribution

→  $d_{\text{mob}} \approx 0.85 \cdot 2r_{\text{gyro}}$



# Comparison with other sizing methods





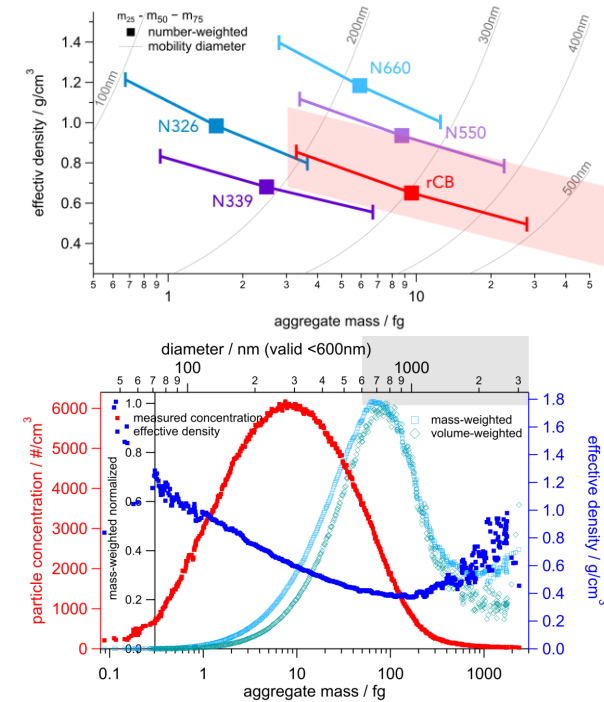
# Mass vs. Diameter - A new approach for analysing particle size and structure

- Rapid analysis of vCB and rCB
  - 5-15 min time resolution
  - online product monitoring
- 1 g of vCB contains  $10^{13}$  to  $10^{15}$  aggregates
- rCB consists of two distinct particle populations

get the presentation →



<https://femtog.com/assets/CarbonBlackSummit2023.pdf>





## Fast and comprehensive vCB/rCB characterization



Lab analysis



Research projects



Process monitoring



Consulting

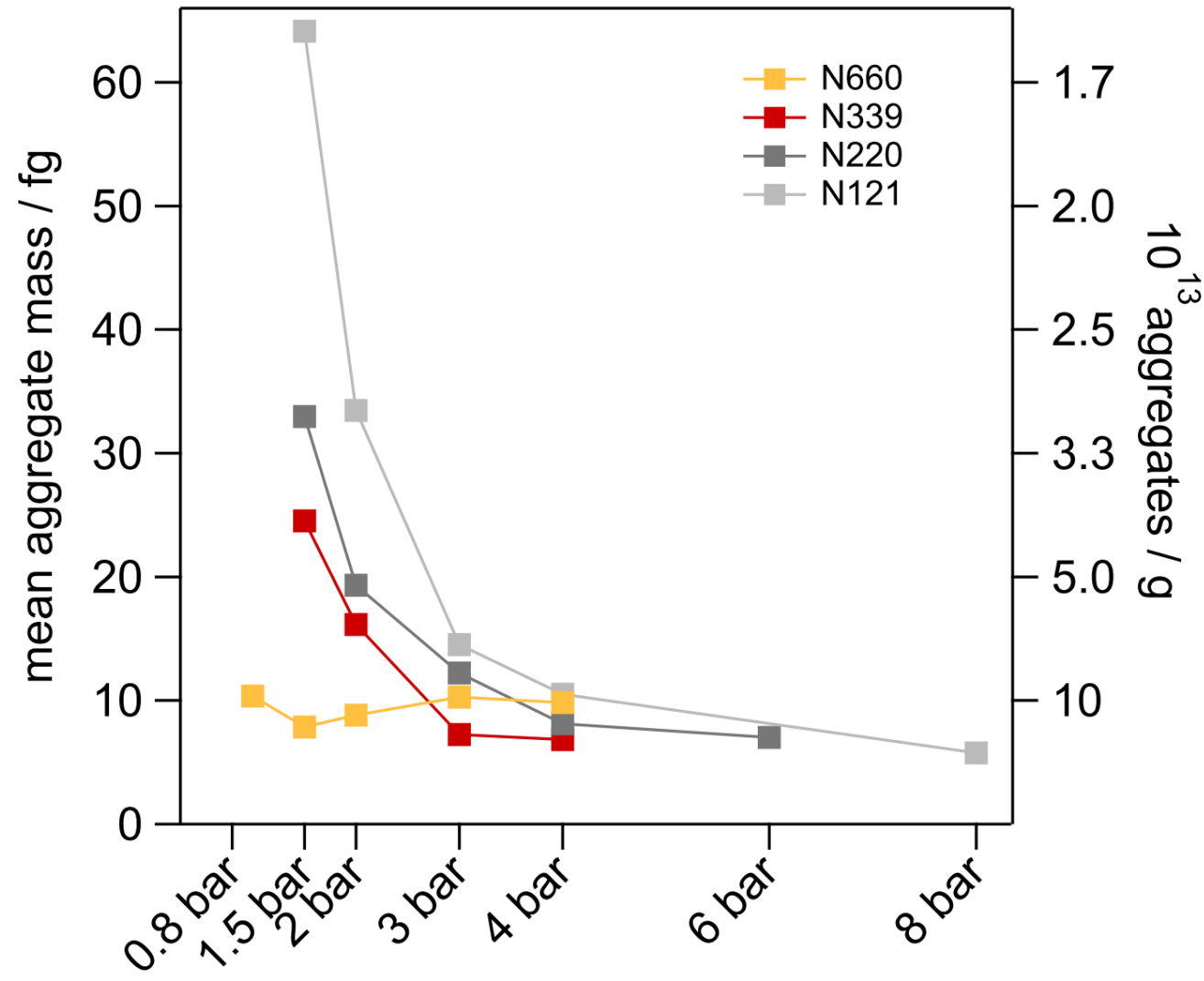
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# Deagglomeration efficiency

- test for agglomerate stability
  - work in progress
- number of bonds  $\approx$  PP-number
  - change in mass
- pressure  $\rightarrow$  shear



# diffusion limited cluster aggregation

## theoretical aggregate size

N330

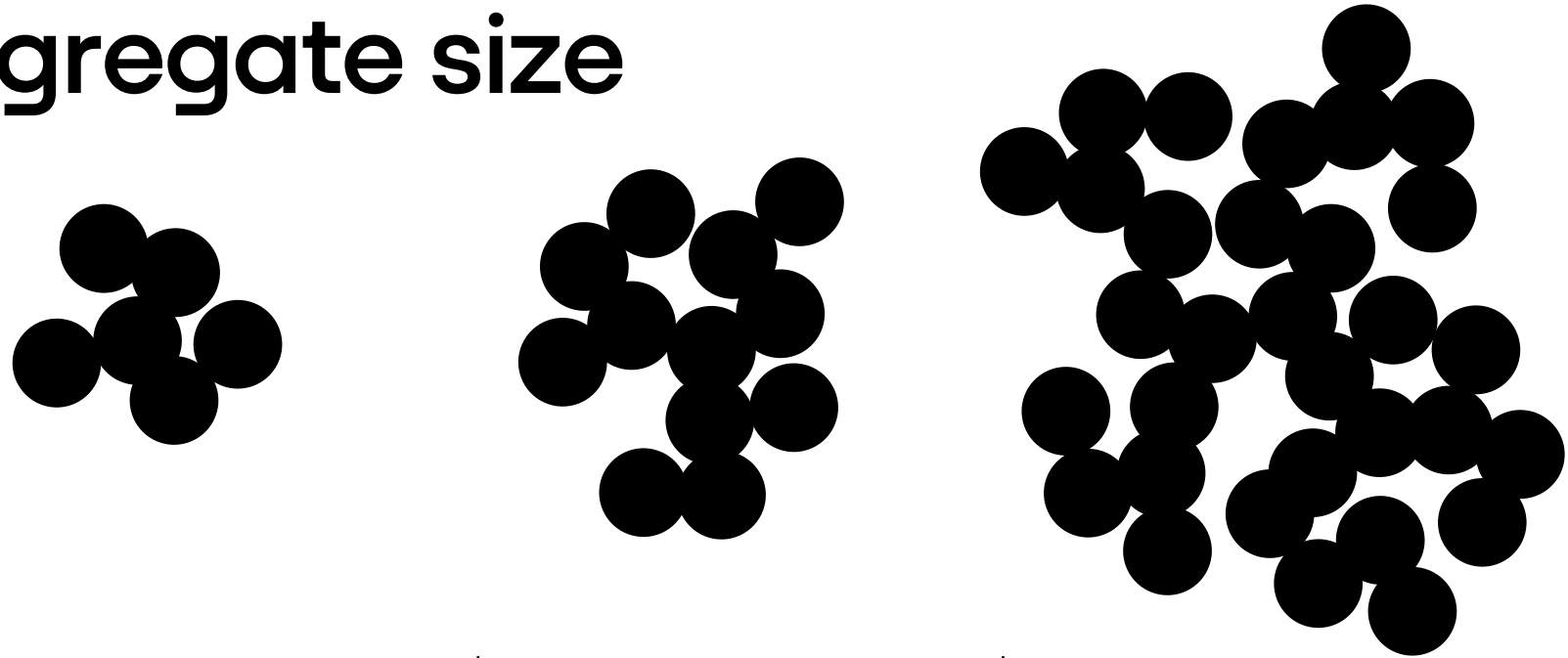
$d_{pp}$  : 30 nm; SSA = 78 m<sup>2</sup>/g

$d_{TEM,q0}$ : 105 nm

$d_{TEM,q3}$ : 225 nm

$d_{stokes,q3}$ : 133 nm

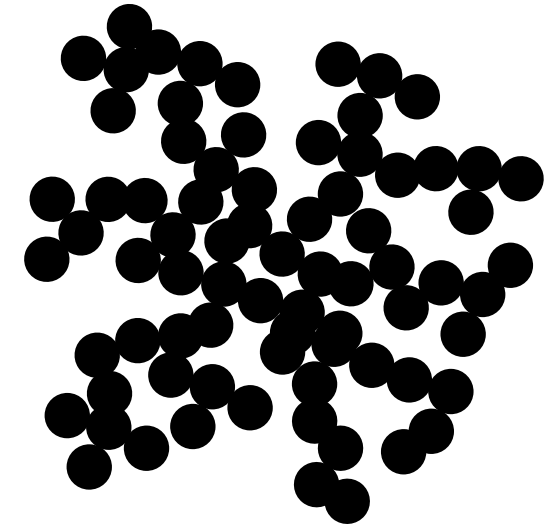
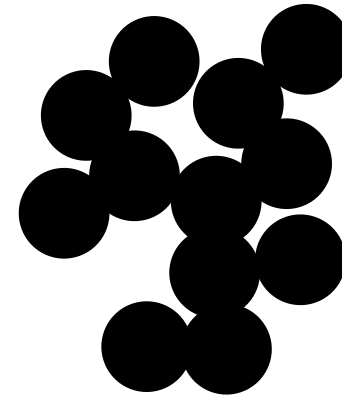
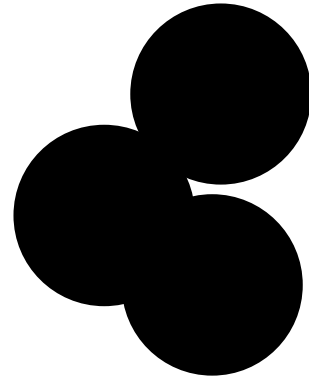
(Donnet et al. 1993)



$N_{pp}$		40	400	4000
mass / fg	$\propto N_{pp}^1$	1.05	10.5	104.6
$d_{mob}$ / nm ( $\approx 0.85 \cdot d_{gyro}$ ; $\approx 0.9 \cdot d_{hydro}$ )	$\propto N_{pp}^{0.5}$	164	559	2029
$d_{stokes}$ / nm	$\propto N_{pp}^{0.24}$	75	129	222
$d_{TEM}$ / nm (2D cross-section)	$\propto N_{pp}^{0.33}$	103	221	476

# Constant aggregate mass / $m = 1.04 \text{ fg}$ based on DLCA theory

grades:  
N6xx  
N330  
N1xx



$d_{pp} / \text{nm}$	60	30	15
SSA / $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$	54	108	216
$N_{pp}$	5.00	40	320
$d_{mob} / \text{nm}$ ( $\approx 0.85 \cdot d_{gyro}$ ; $\approx 0.9 \cdot d_{hydro}$ )	126	164	247
$d_{stokes} / \text{nm}$	92	75	61
$d_{TEM} / \text{nm}$ (2D cross-section)	103	103	103