

Supporting information

Bubble formation in catalyst pores; curse or blessing?

Roger B. Espinosa^{a,c}, Michel H.G. Duits^b, Daniel Wijnperlé^b, Frieder Mugele^b, Leon Lefferts^{a*}

^a Catalytic Processes and Materials, Faculty of Science and Technology, MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Twente, P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, Netherlands

^b Physics of Complex Fluids, Faculty of Science and Technology, MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Twente, P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, Netherlands

^c Present address: Beele Engineering, Vierde Broekdijk 12, 7122JD, Aalten, Netherlands.

* Corresponding author, email: l.lefferts@utwente.nl

Table S1: Nanochannels studied and their characteristics.

Nanochannel ID	Nanochannel length (μm)	Nanochannel width (μm)	Catalyst length (μm)	Catalyst width (μm)
L1,1	2900	10	35	6
L1,2	2900	30	35	26
L1,3	2900	50	35	46
L1,4	2900	70	35	66
L1,5	2900	10	180	6
L1,6	2900	30	180	26
L1,7	2900	50	180	46
L1,8	2900	70	180	66
L1,9	2900	10	250	6
L1,10	2900	30	250	26
L1,11	2900	50	250	46
L1,12	2900	70	250	66
L2,1	8500	10	35	6
L2,2	8500	30	35	26
L2,3	8500	50	35	46
L2,4	8500	70	35	66
L2,5	8500	10	250	6
L2,6	8500	30	250	26
L2,7	8500	50	250	46
L2,8	8500	70	250	66
L2,9	8500	10	3140	6
L2,10	8500	30	3140	26
L2,11	8500	50	3140	46
L2,12	8500	70	3140	66
L3,1	14000	10	35	6
L3,2	14000	30	35	26
L3,3	14000	50	35	46
L3,4	14000	70	35	66
L3,5	14000	10	250	6
L3,6	14000	30	250	26
L3,7	14000	50	250	46
L3,8	14000	70	250	66
L3,9	14000	10	3140	6
L3,10	14000	30	3140	26
L3,11	14000	50	3140	46
L3,12	14000	70	3140	66

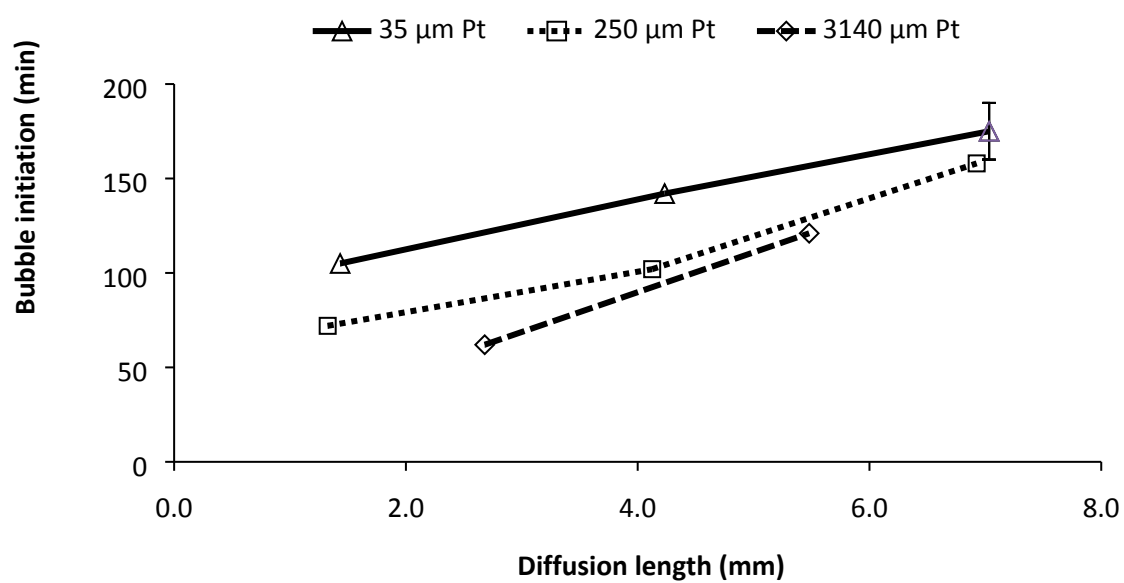


Figure S1: Effect of the diffusion length and the Pt length on the bubble initiation time for a constant nanochannel width of 50 μm and different platinum lengths (35, 250 and 3140 μm). The experiments were performed with 0.64 mole H₂O₂/L.

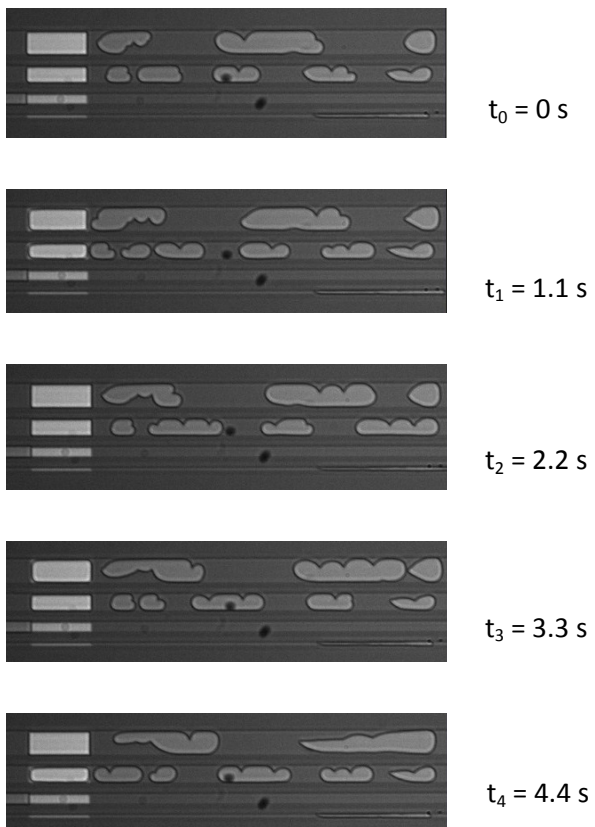


Figure S2: Evolution of the bubbles growing towards the microchannel filled with H_2O after 532 min of experiment. Images were taken every 1.1 second. Nanochannels have a length of 2.9 mm, widths of 10, 30, 50 and 70 μm and a platinum length of 180 μm . The experiment was performed with a solution of 0.64 mole $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{L}$.



L4 ab
32h40min_7fps.avi

Movie S3. Real time movie of the experiment with a H_2O_2 concentration of 1.49 mole/L, shown in table 1. Recording performed after 32h and 40min of reaction time.

Calculation of H₂O₂ conversion

The conversion of H₂O₂ in the experiments with bubble formation towards the nanochannel filled with water (presence of convective flow) was calculated according to Equation F1:

$$\text{Conversion } H_2O_2 = \frac{H_2O_2 \text{ converted}}{H_2O_2 \text{ fed}} * 100 = \frac{2 * (V_{O_2,f} - V_{O_2,i})}{t_f - t_i} * \frac{P}{v * A * [H_2O_2]} * 100$$

Equation F1

Where $V_{O_2,f}$ and $V_{O_2,i}$ (m³) are the volumes of the oxygen bubble at times t_f and t_i (s) respectively; P is the pressure in the nanochannel (1 + ΔP bar), R (m³ * bar * K⁻¹ * mol⁻¹) is the constant of ideal gases, T (K) is the temperature in the nanochannel, v (m * s⁻¹) is the linear velocity of the liquid in the nanochannel, A (m²) is the cross-sectional area of the nanochannel and [H₂O₂] (mole * m⁻³) is the concentration of H₂O₂ in the feed stream.