



# Structure and Dynamics of Glycerol in Gamma-Alumina Nano-pores

G. Campos-Villalobos

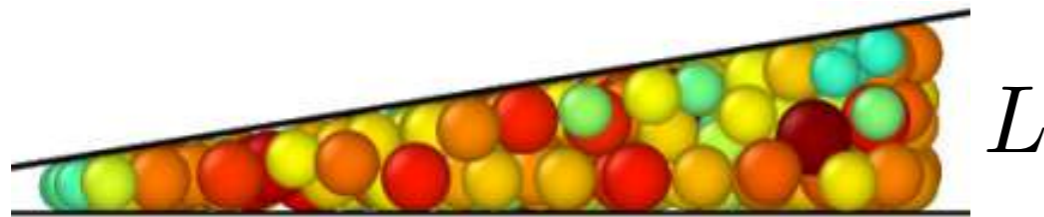


...or why glycerol can move faster under confinement?

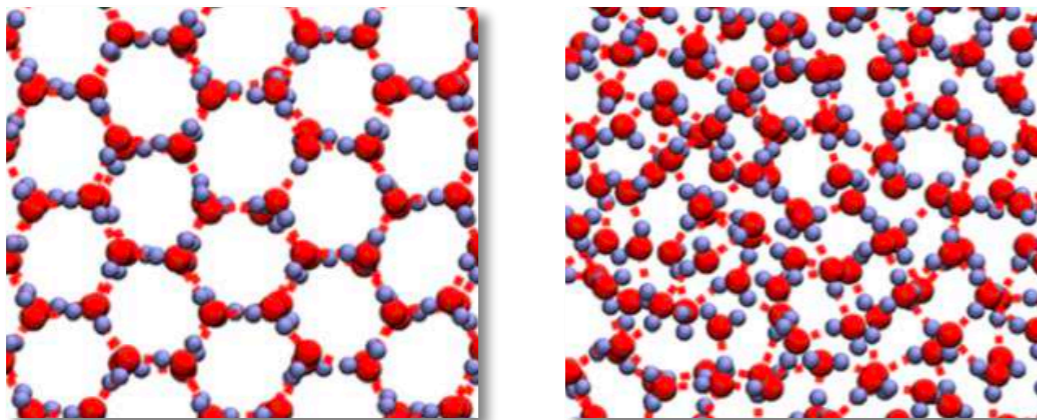
G. Campos-Villalobos

# The Classical Picture of Confined Liquids

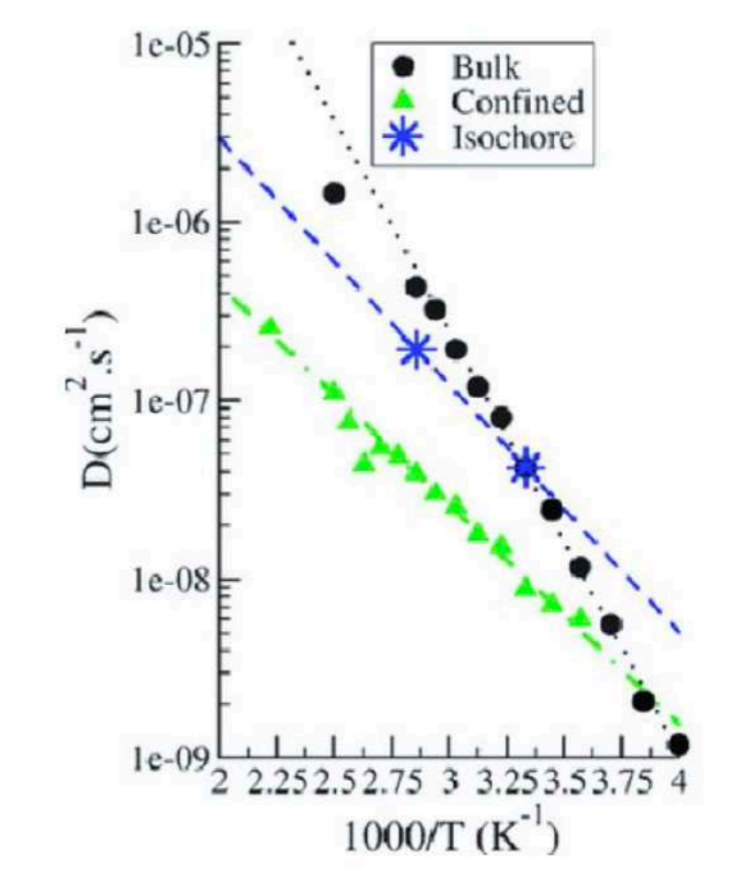
The equilibrium and transport properties of liquids geometrically confined in nano-sized pores are dramatically different to those in the bulk state



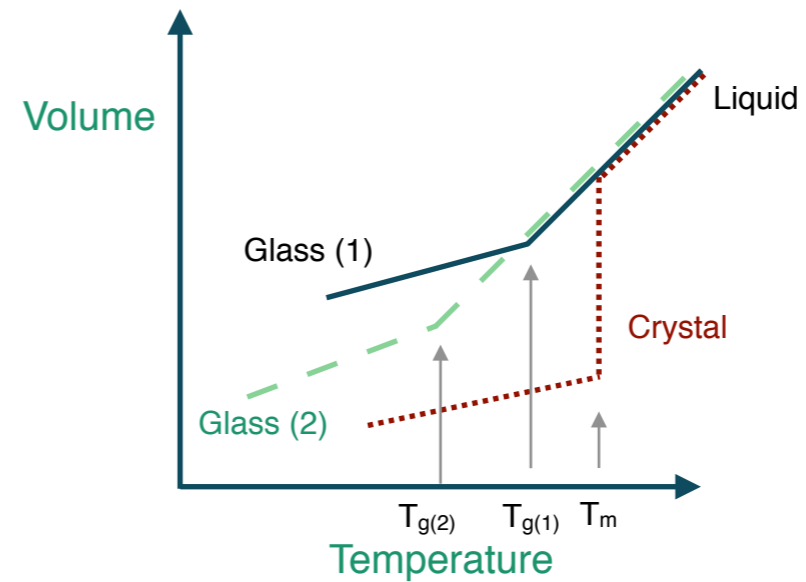
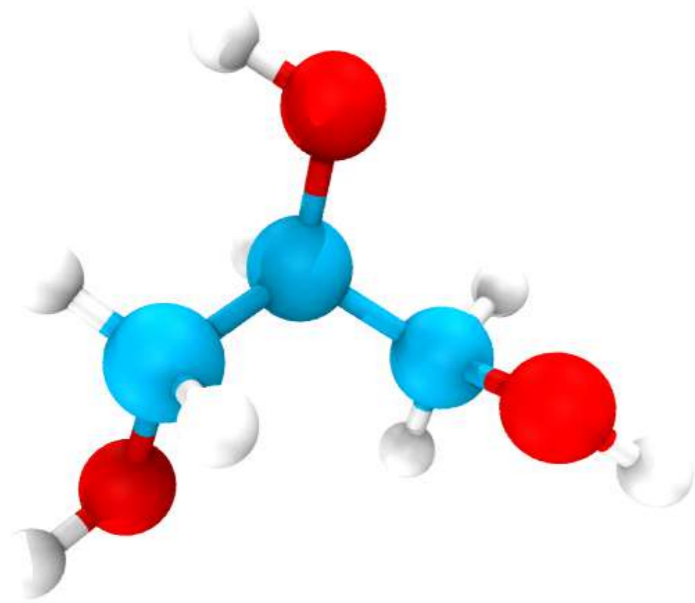
Phase Transitions



Low mobility



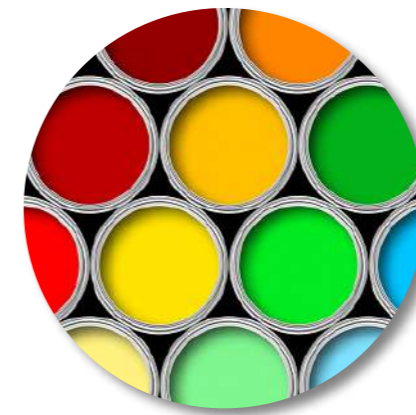
# The Curious Case of Glycerol



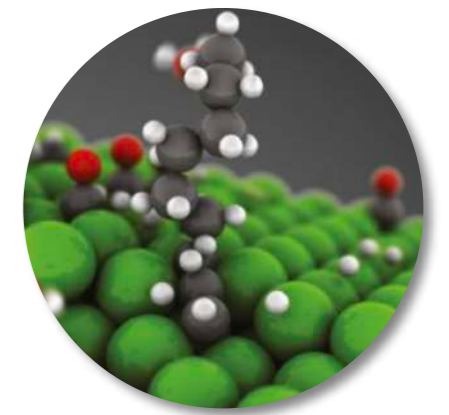
Glycerol is a glass-former



Cometics



Bio-Inks



Heterogeneous Catalysis

# The Curious Case of Glycerol

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## Confinement induces both higher free volume and lower molecular mobility in glycerol

Duncan Kilburn<sup>a)</sup> and Paul E. Sokol

*Indiana University Cyclotron Facility, 2401 Milo B. Sampson Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47408, USA*

Victoria García Sakai<sup>b)</sup>

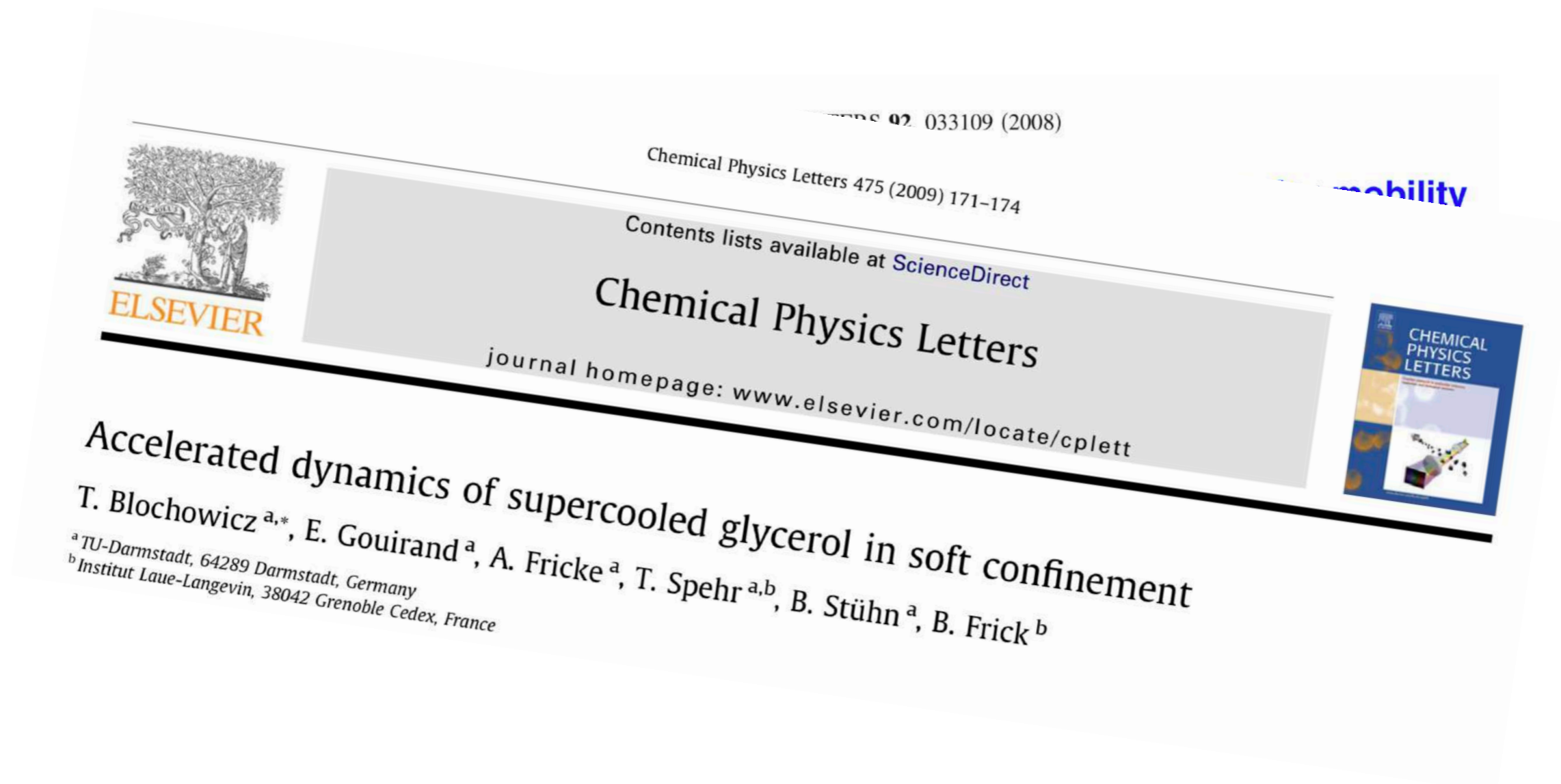
*NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8562, USA and Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Maryland College Park, Maryland 20742, USA*

M. Ashraf Alam

*H. H. Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom*

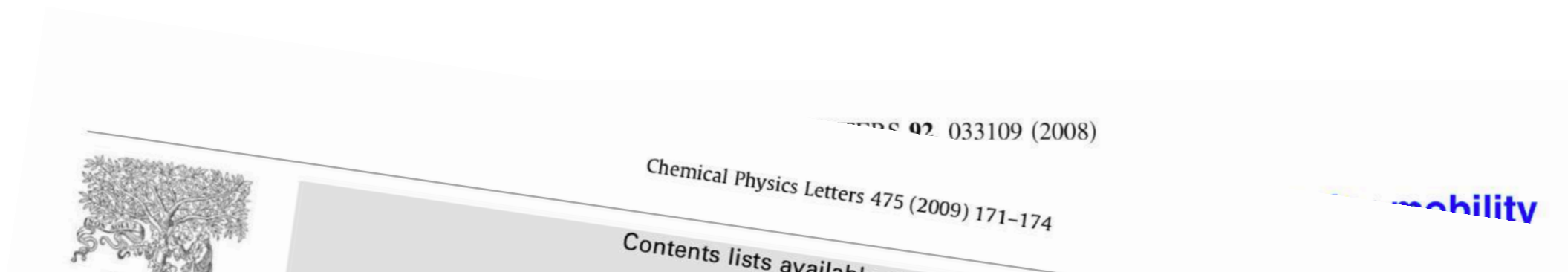
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# The Curious Case of Glycerol





# The Curious Case of Glycerol



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## Hydrogen Bonding Network Disruption in Mesoporous Catalyst Supports Probed by PFG-NMR Diffusometry and NMR Relaxometry

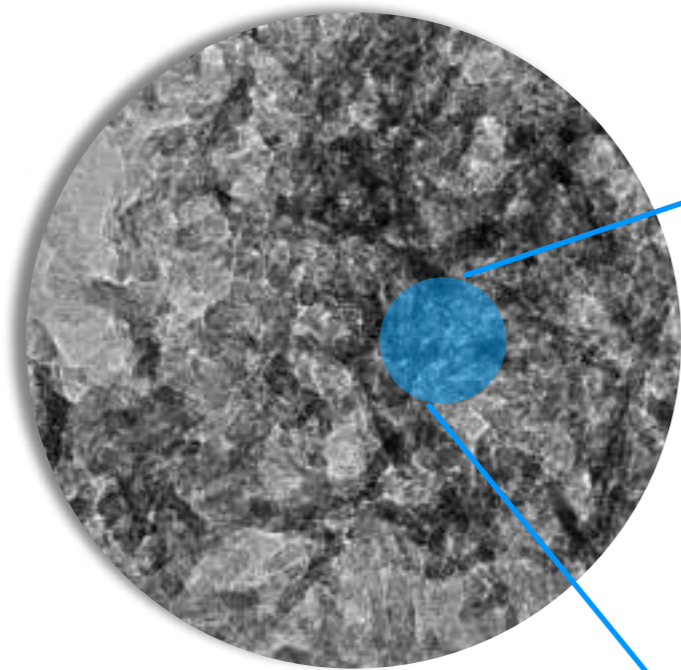
Carmine D'Agostino, Jonathan Mitchell, Lynn F. Gladden, and Mick D. Mantle\*

Department of Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology, University of Cambridge, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3RA, U.K.





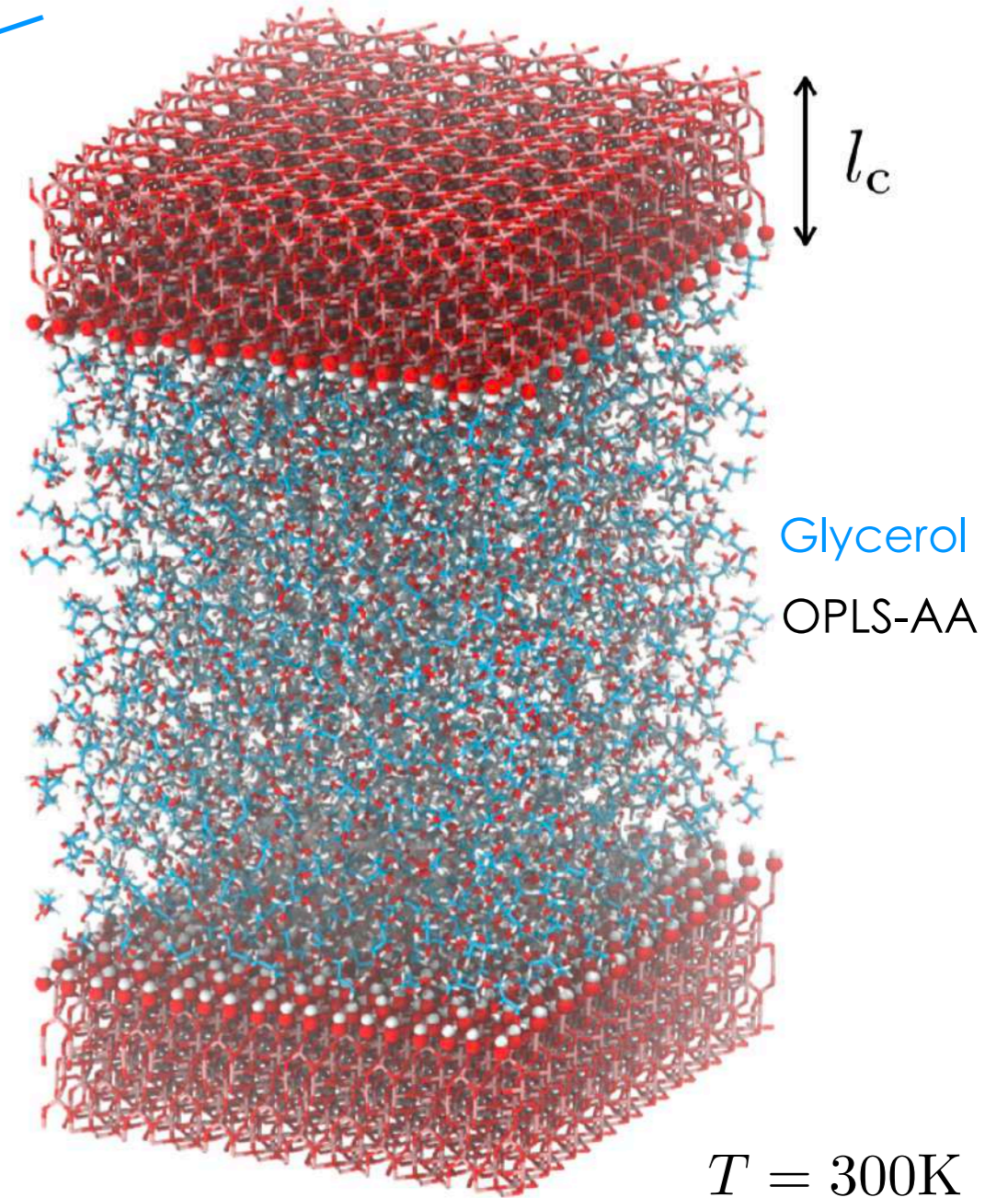
# Model Systems



Glycerol in Gamma-Alumina

## Gamma-Alumina

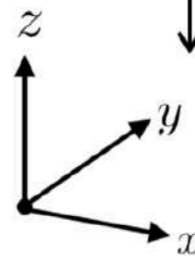
{100} hydroxylated facet exposed to the liquid. CLAYFF force-field



Pore size  $l_z$

$$\rho_{\text{conf}} = \frac{M_{\text{glycerol}}}{V_{\text{pore}}}$$

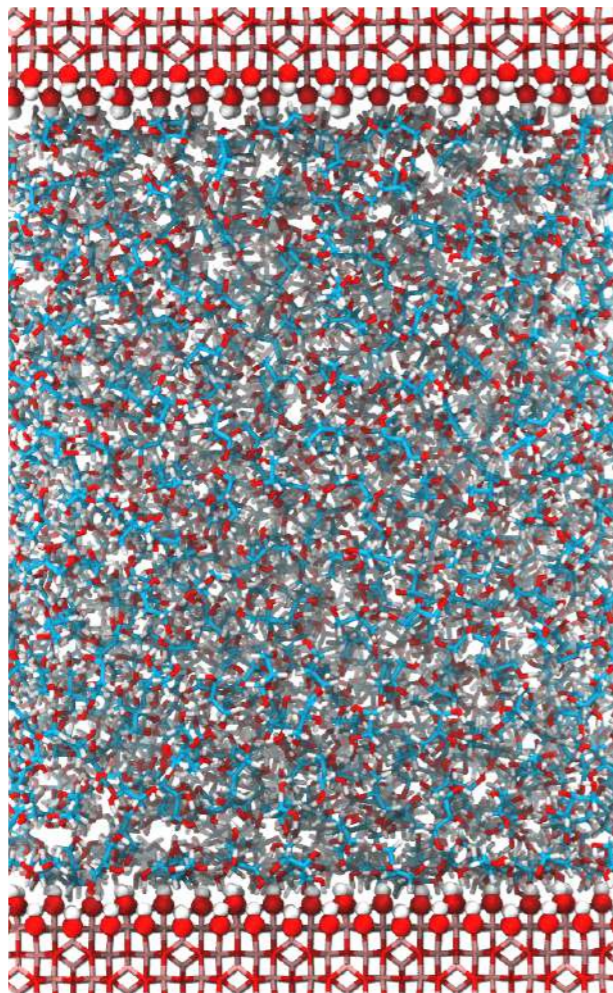
A measure of the pore saturation



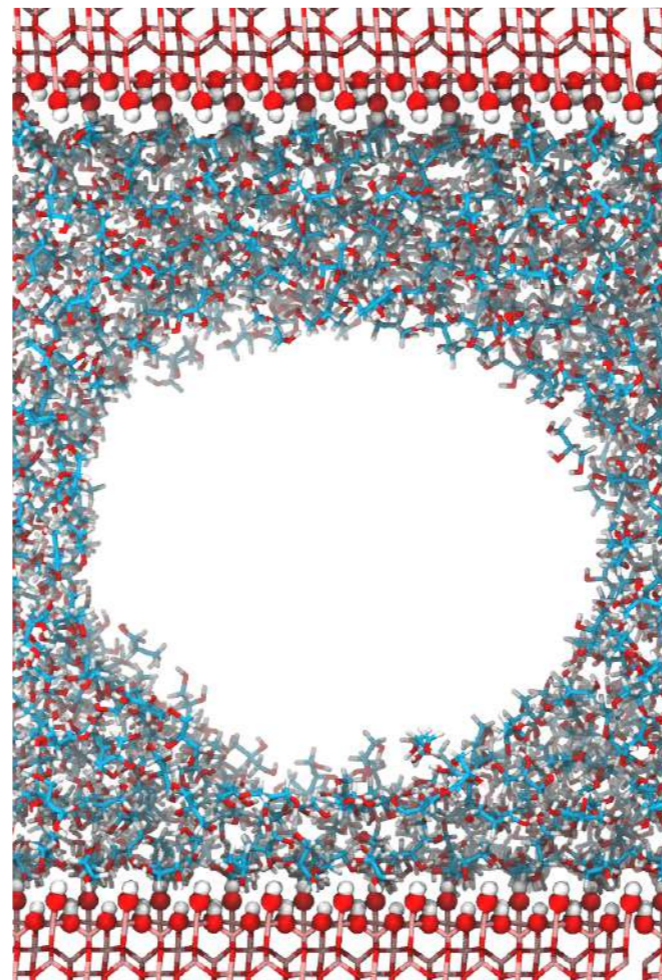


# Order and Symmetry Breaking at Interfaces

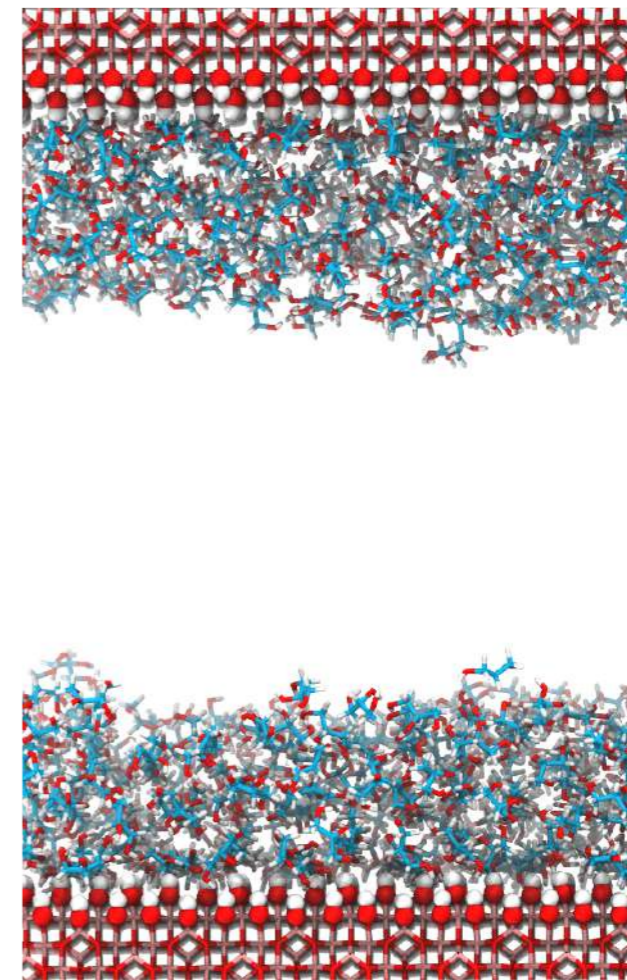
Reduction of Pore Saturation  $\rho_{\text{conf}}$



Fully saturated pore



Bubble

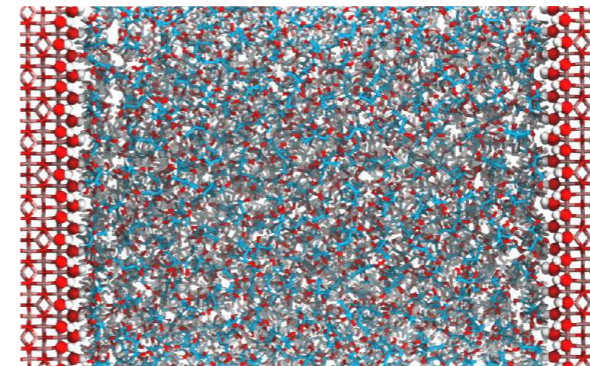
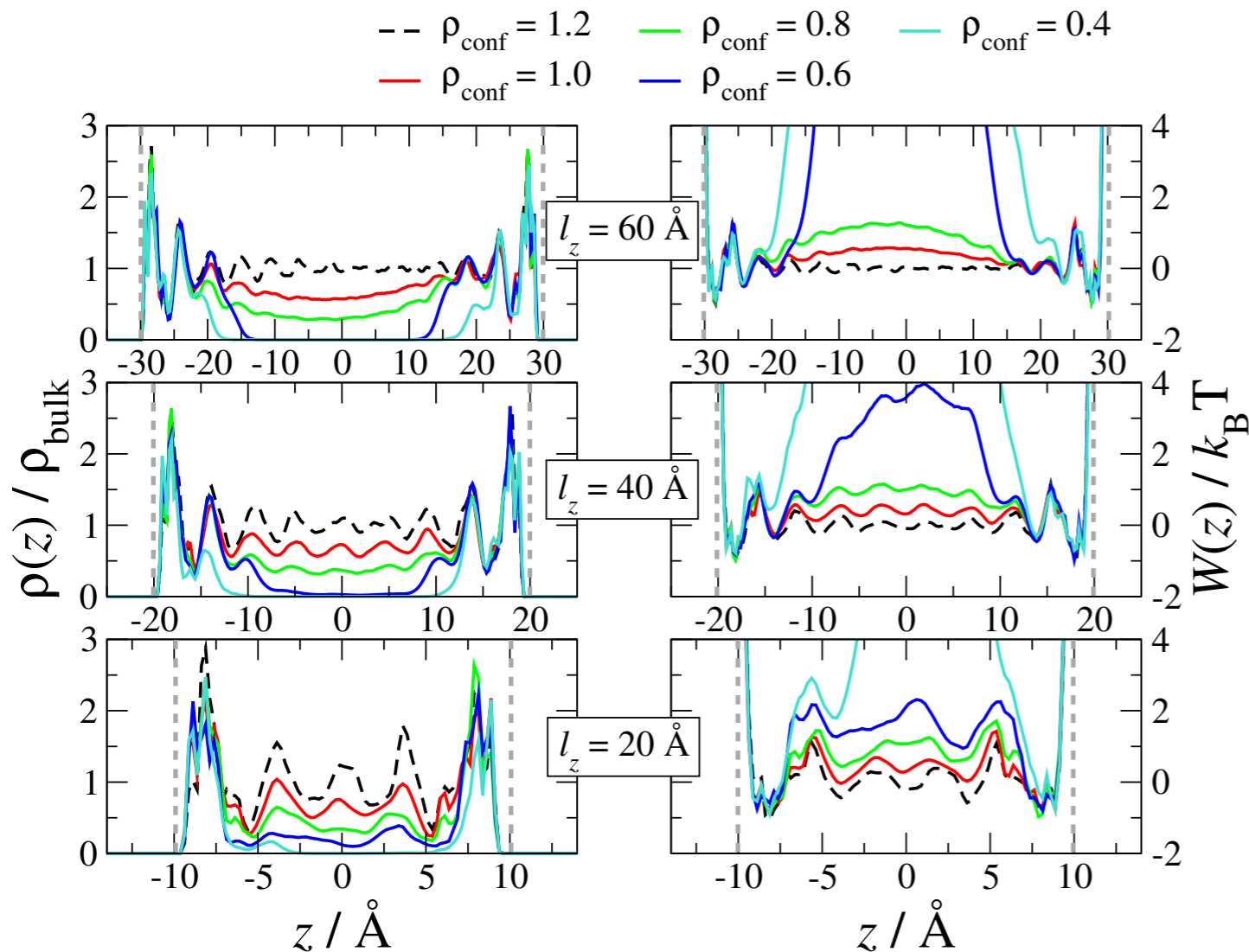


Adsorbed liquid films

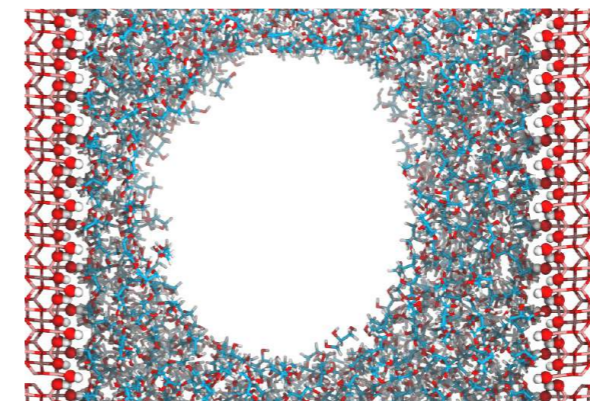


# Order and Symmetry Breaking at Interfaces

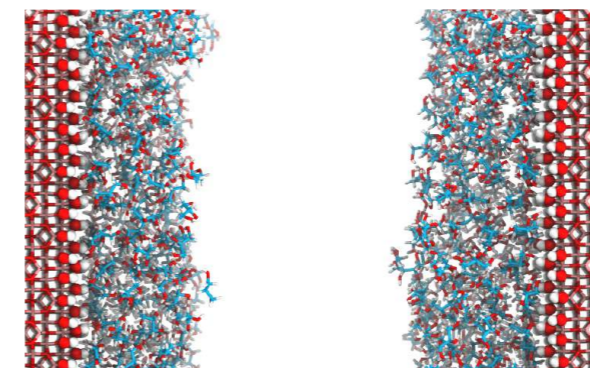
Formation of discrete molecular layers close to the surface



Fully saturated pore



Bubble

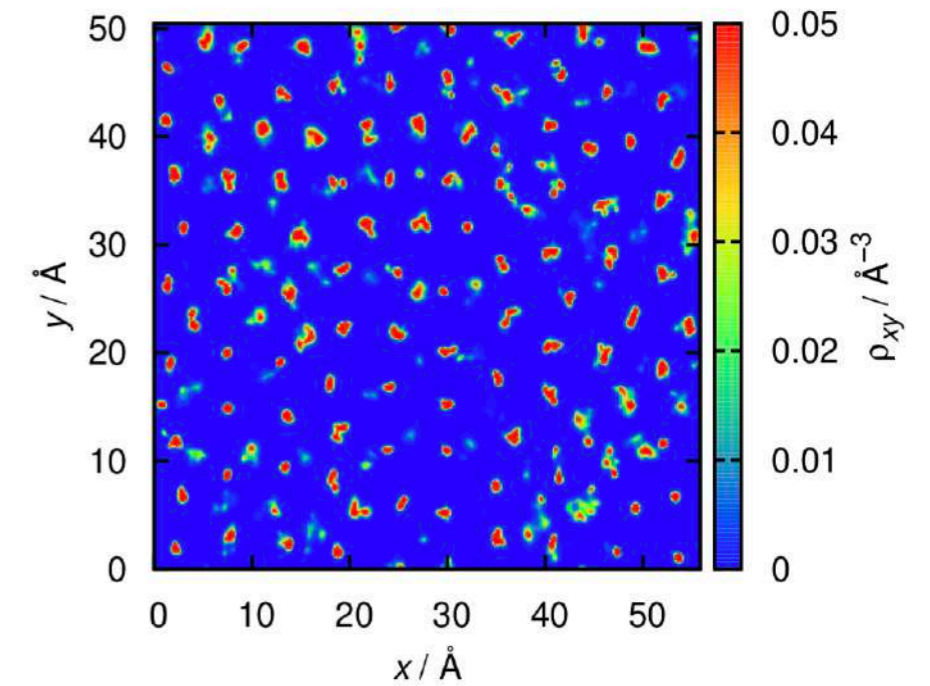
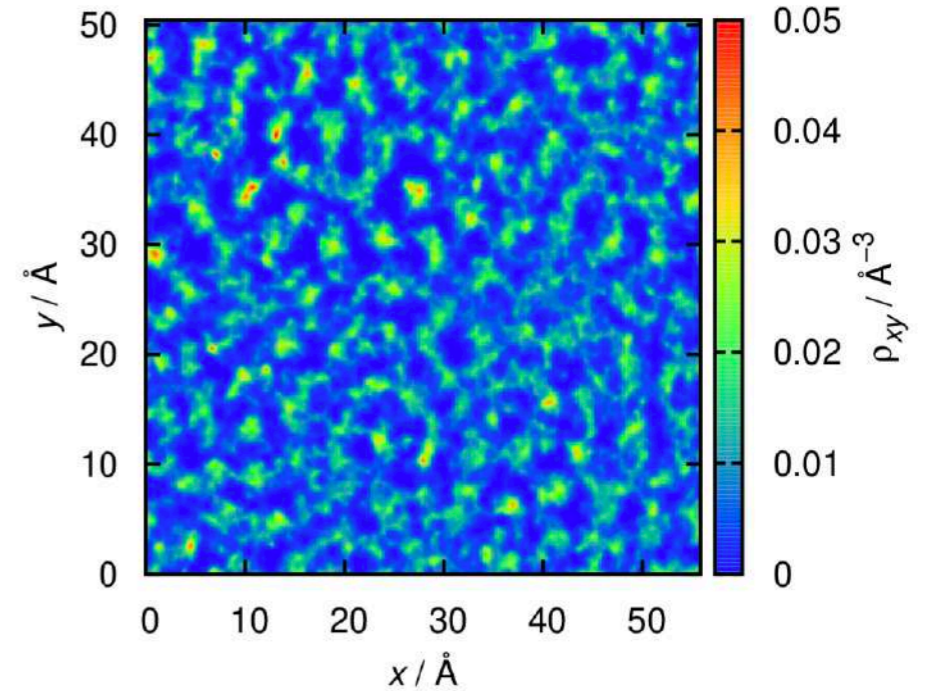
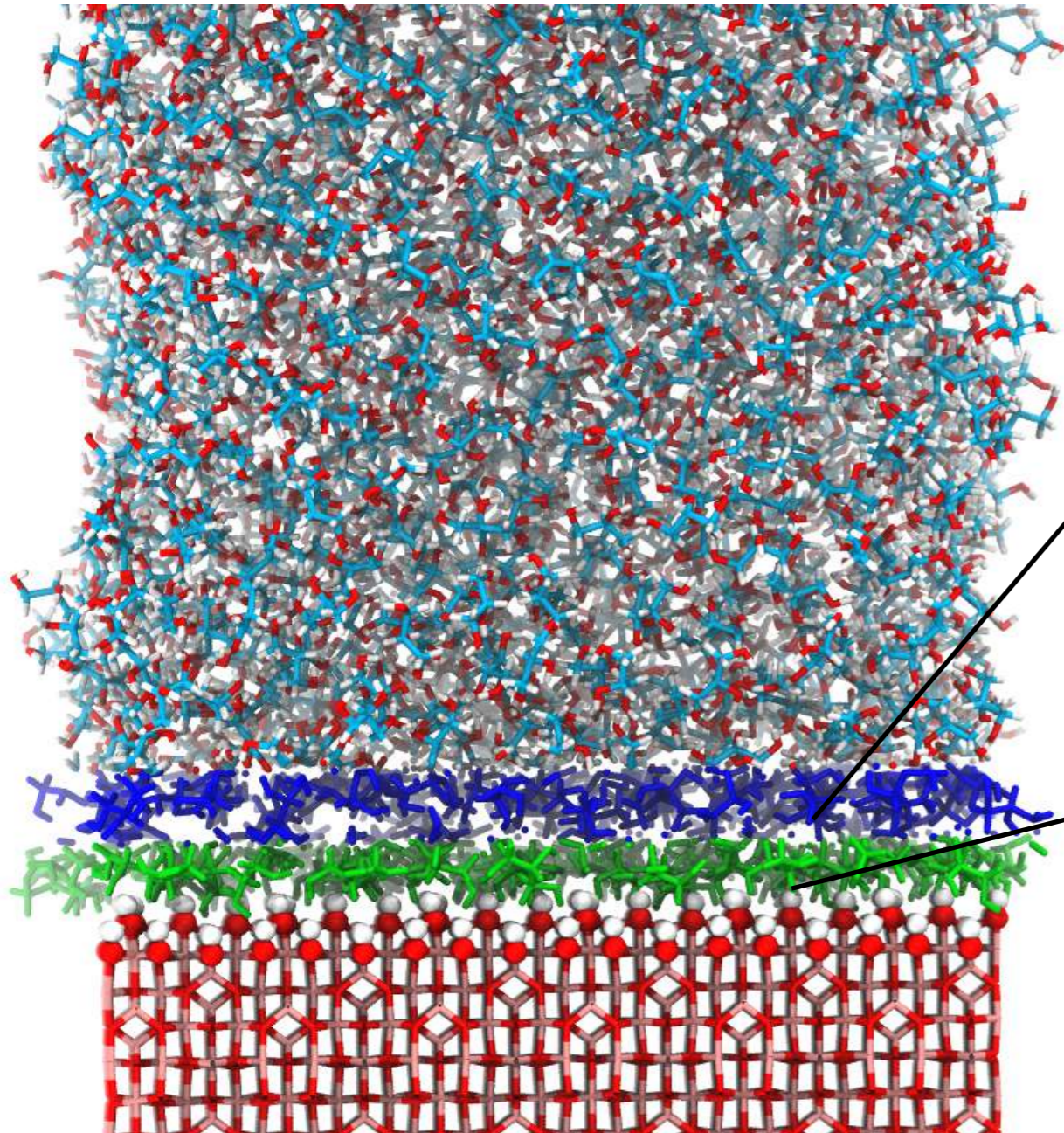


Adsorbed liquid films



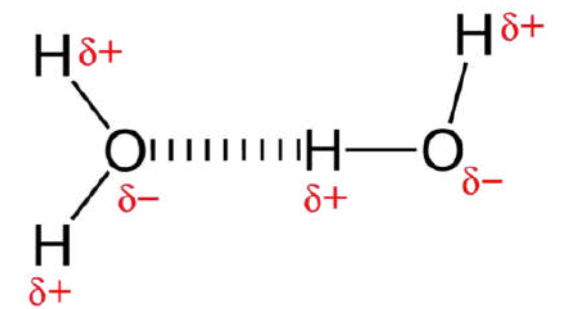
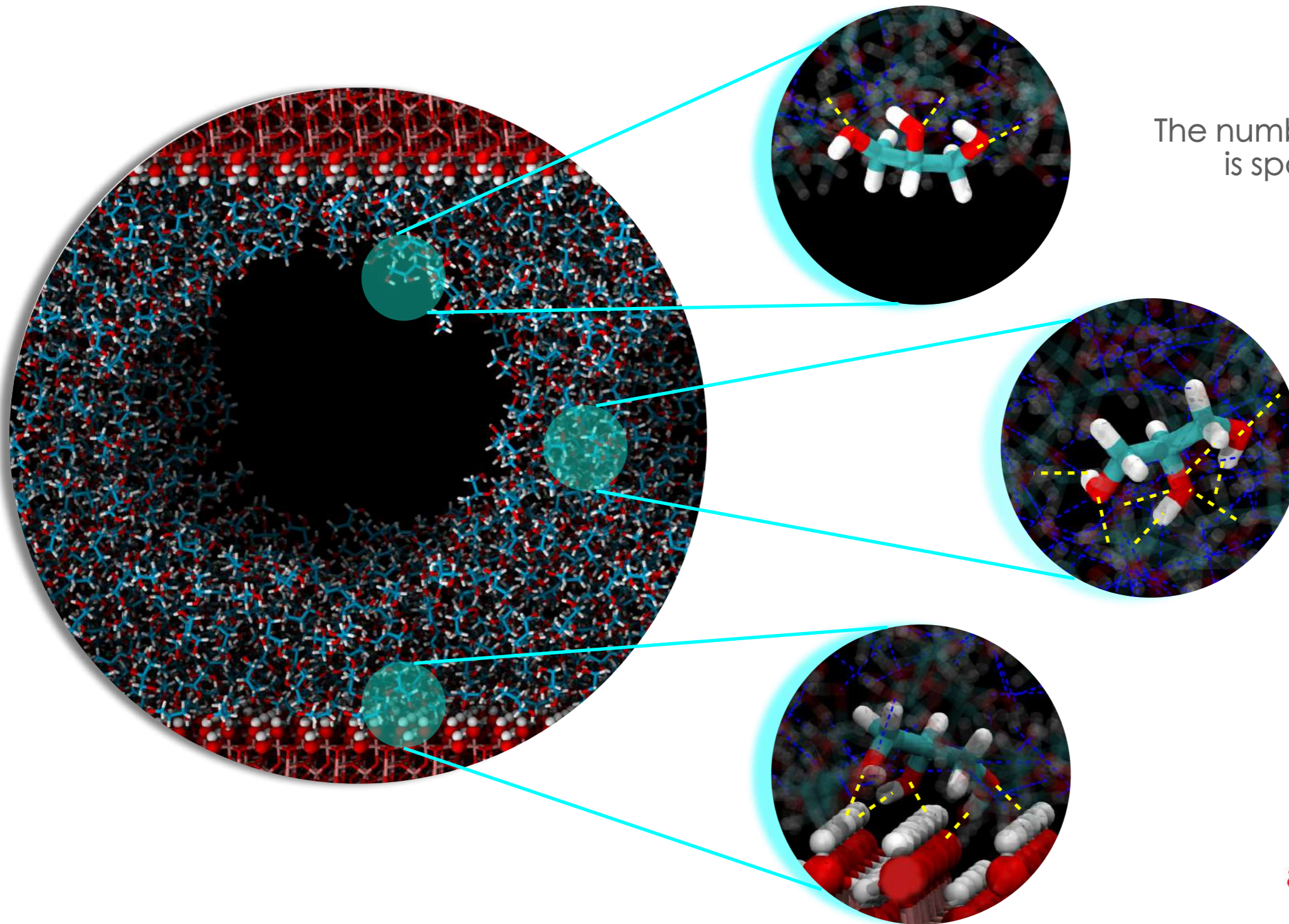
# Order and Symmetry Breaking at Interfaces

In-plane ordering



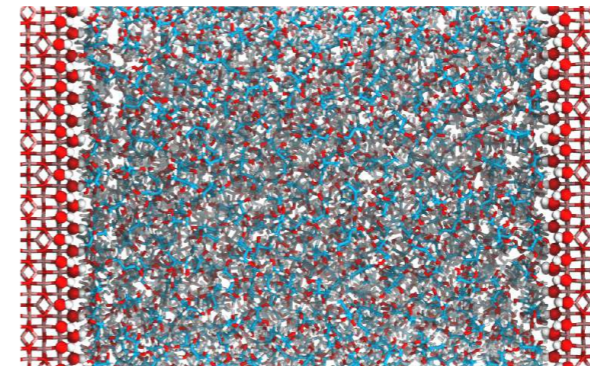
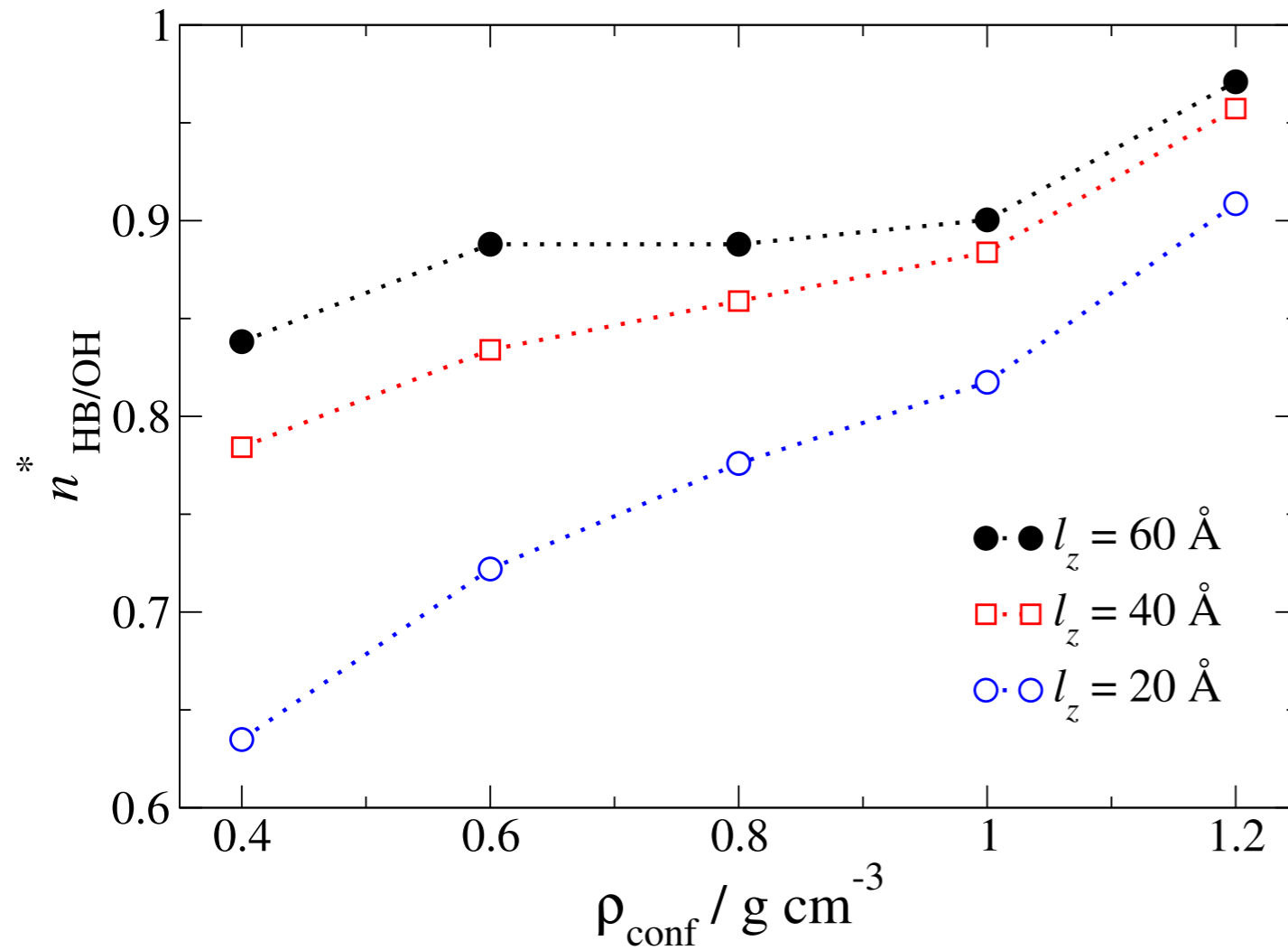


# Interfacial Effects

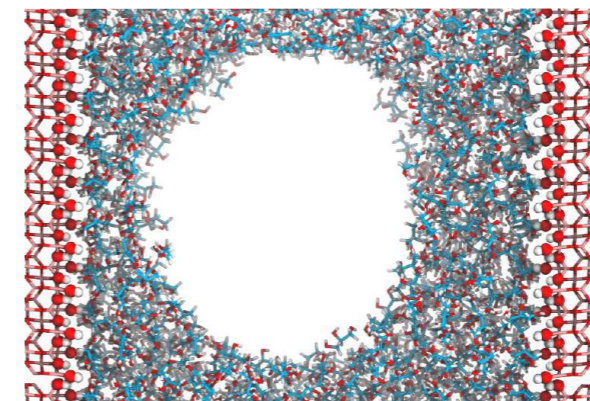


# Interfacial Effects

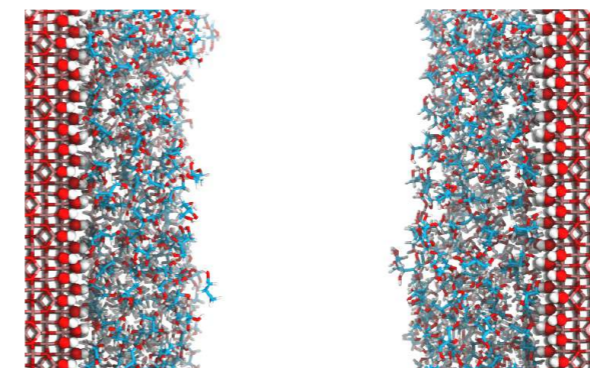
HB change with confinement length and density



Fully saturated pore



Bubble

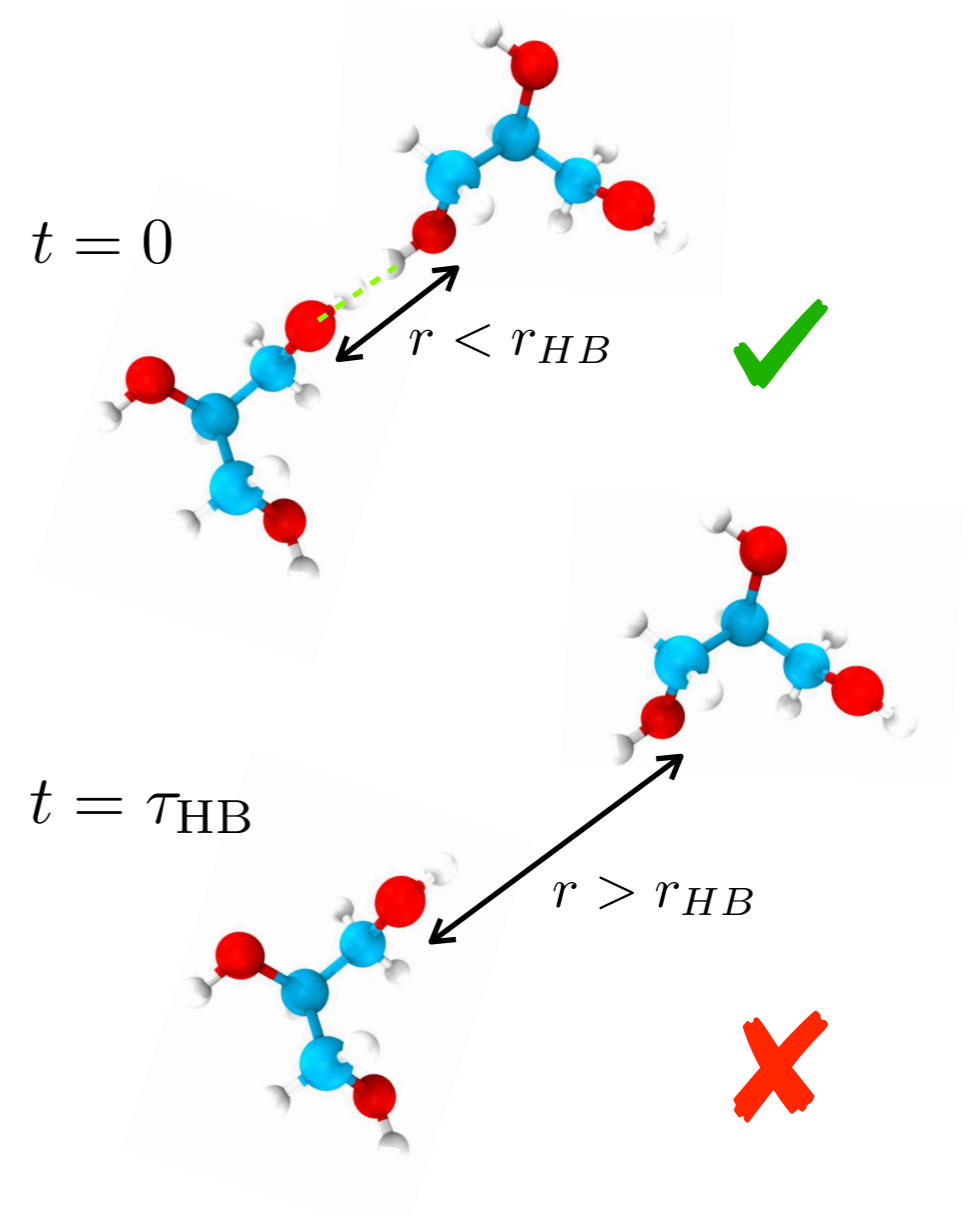
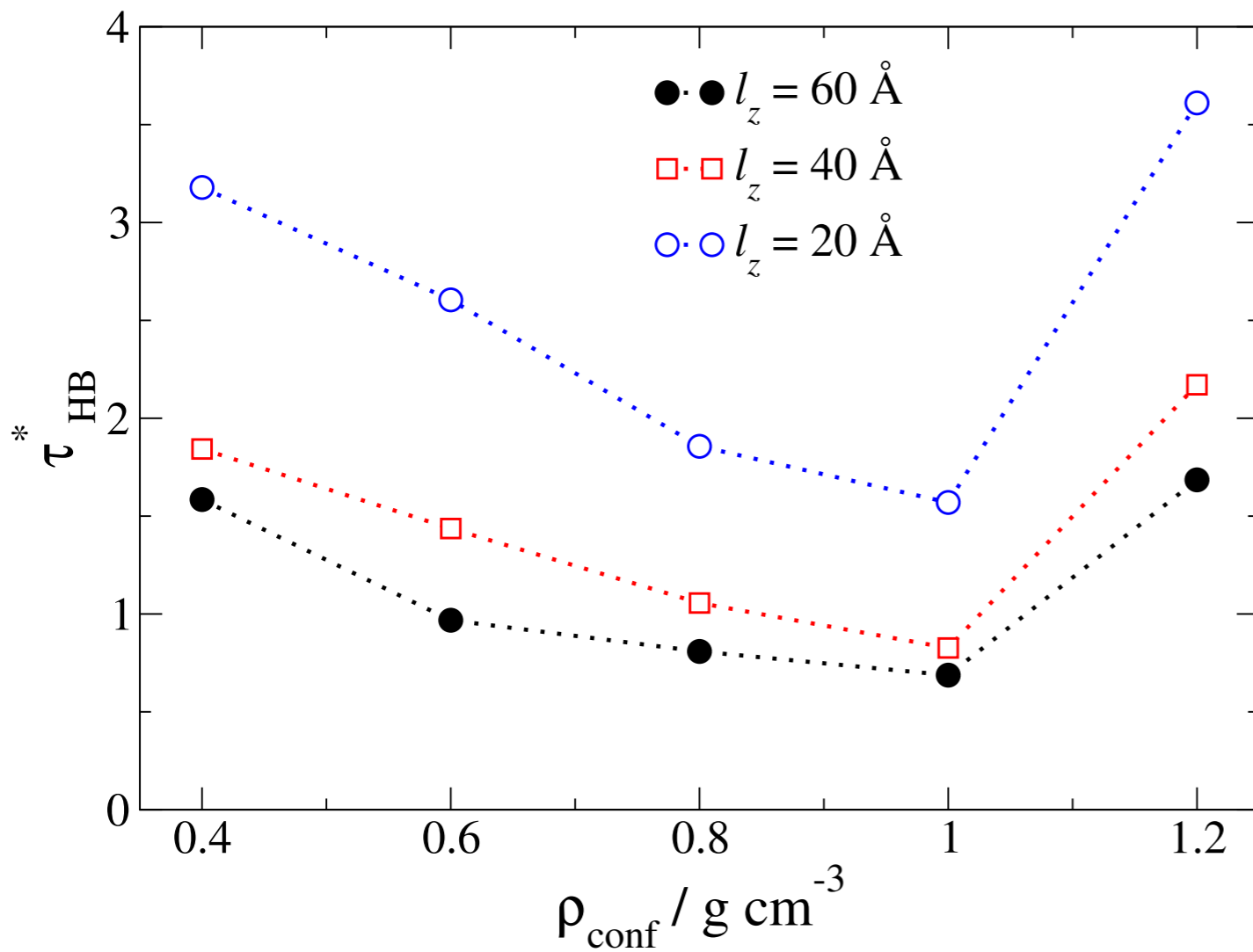


Adsorbed liquid films



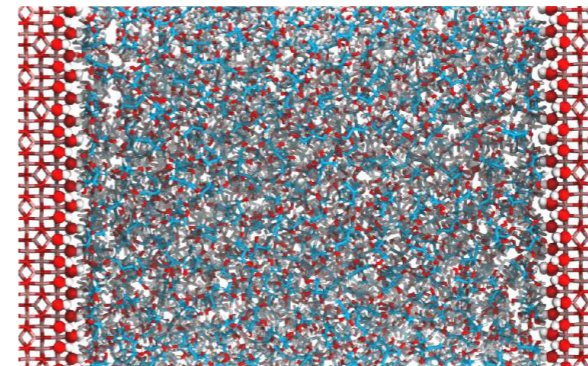
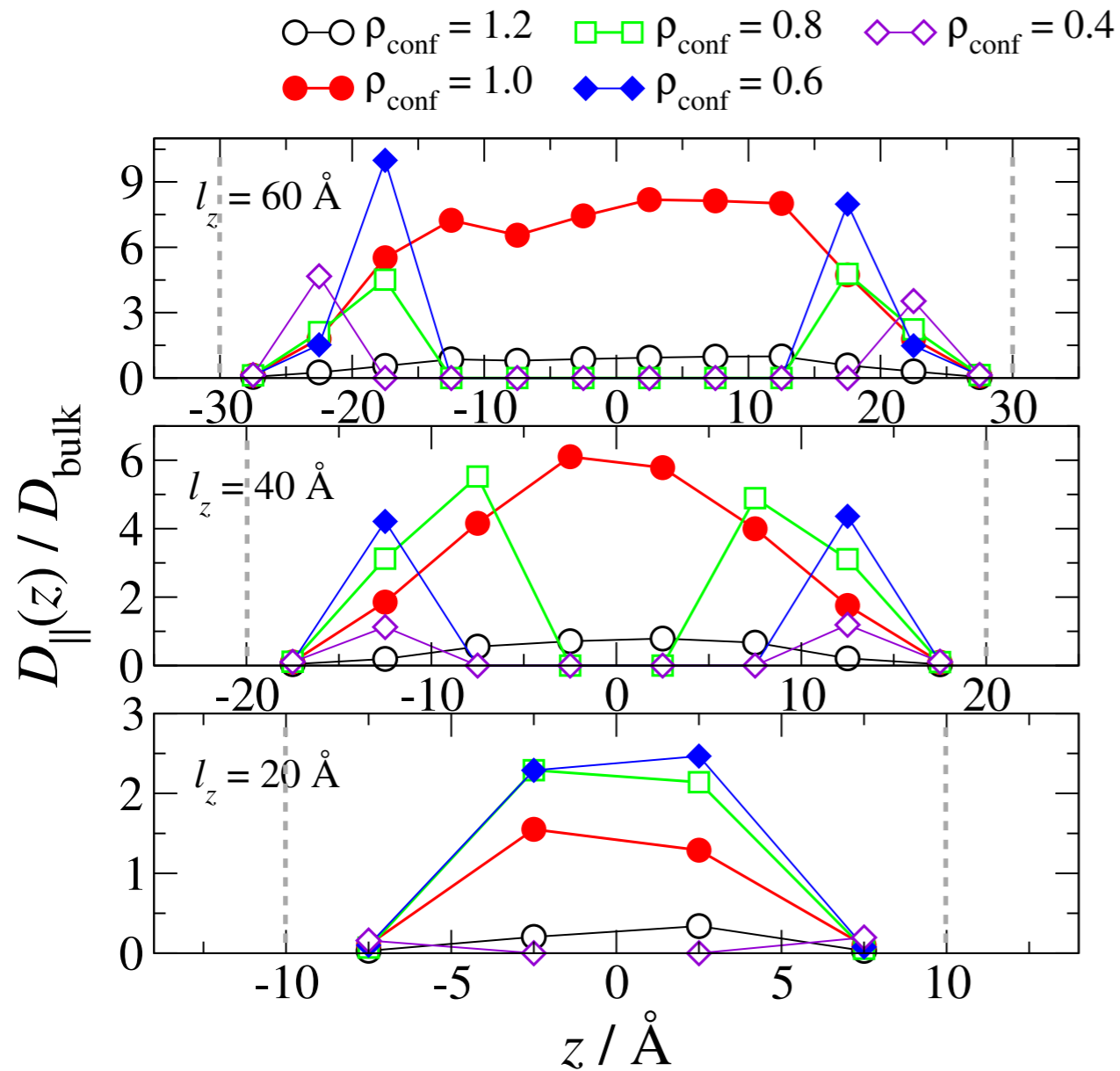
# Consequences on the Dynamics: HB Networks

HB lifetime

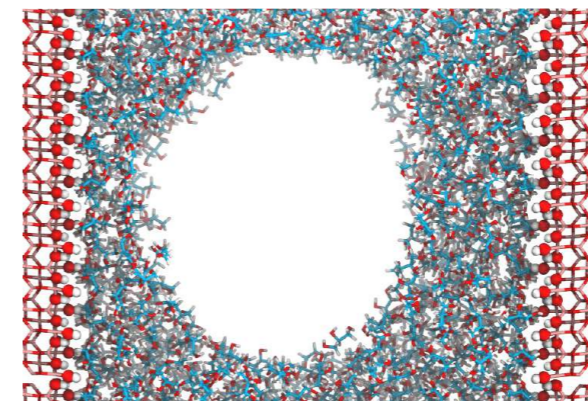


# Consequences on the Dynamics: Diffusion

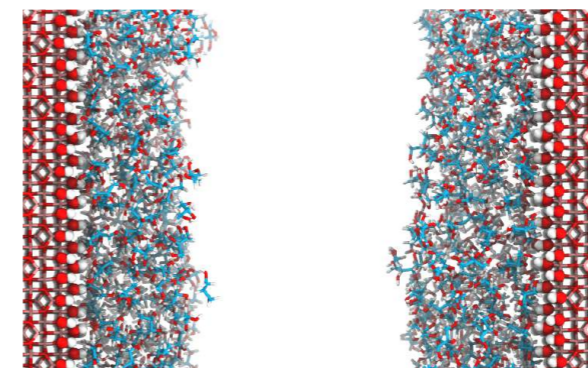
Local diffusion coefficient



Fully saturated pore



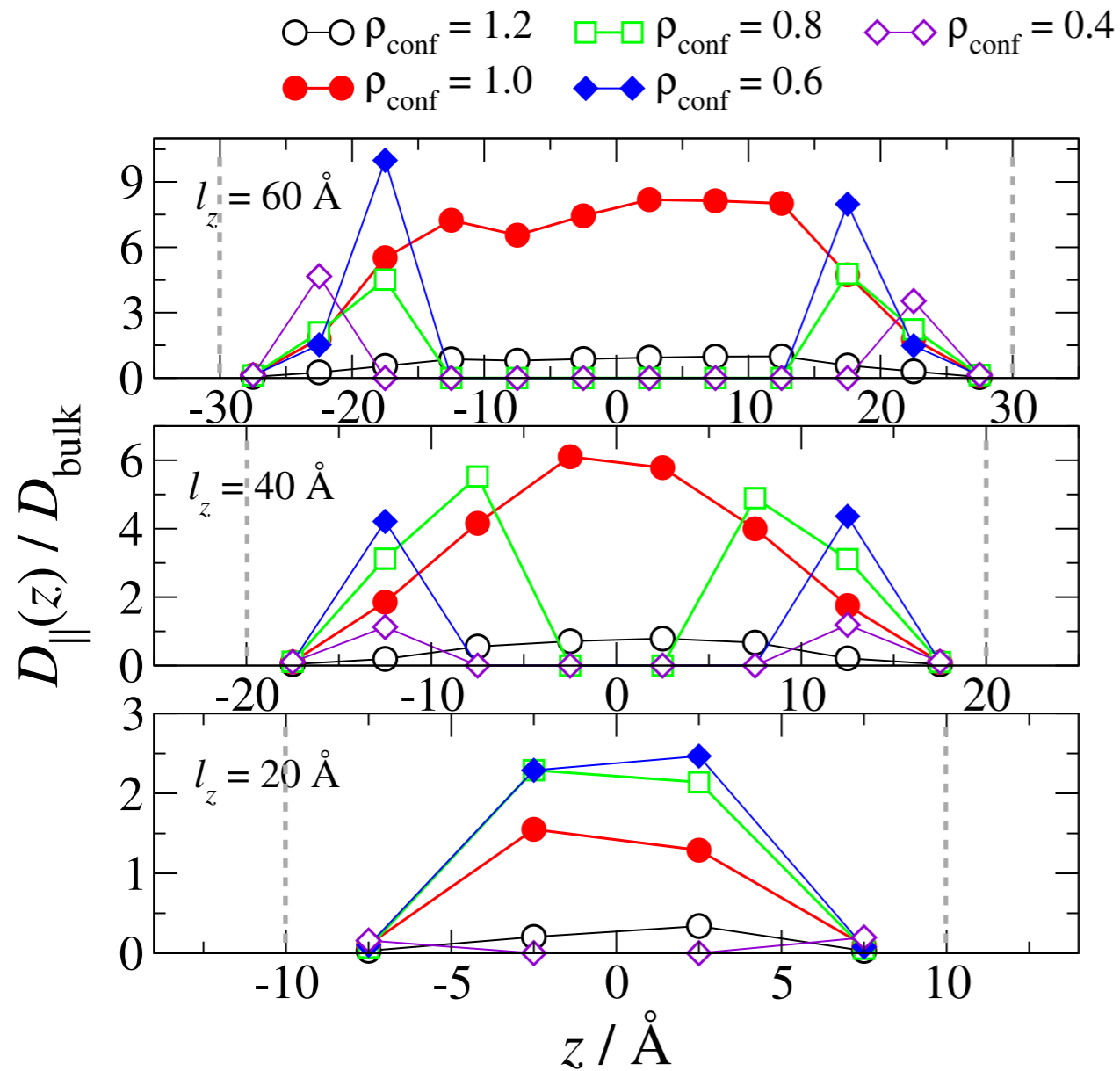
Bubble



Adsorbed liquid films

# Consequences on the Dynamics: Diffusion

Local diffusion coefficient

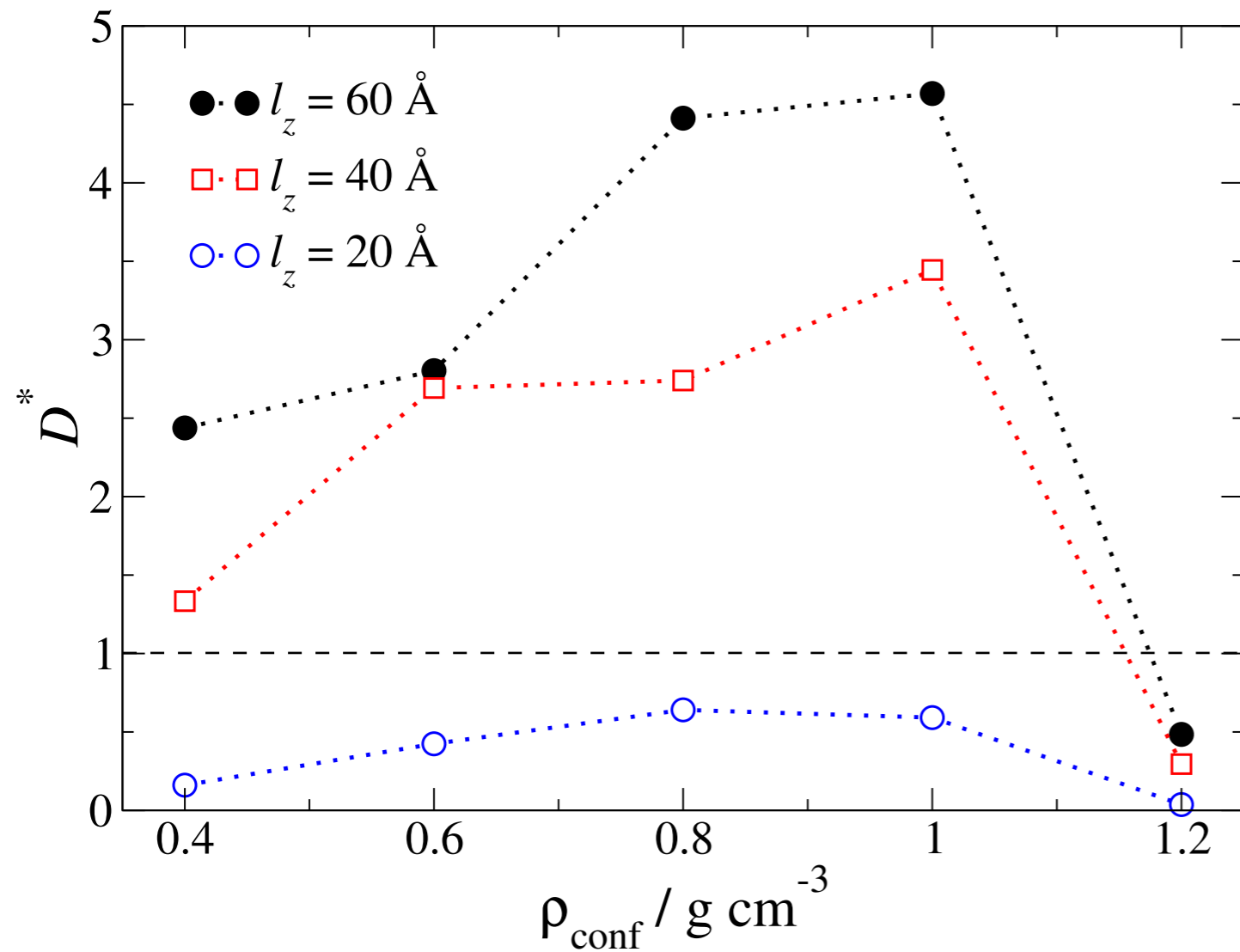


$$D_{\text{conf}} = \langle D_{\parallel}(z) \rangle = \frac{\int_{l_z} D_{\parallel}(z) \rho(z) dz}{\int_{l_z} \rho(z) dz}$$



# Consequences on the Dynamics: Diffusion

Global diffusion coefficient



Enhanced molecular self-diffusion  
in confinement

# Outlook

1

The solid imposes a heterogeneity in the liquid, causing the structural and dynamical properties to acquire a spatial dependence

2

The formation of interfaces with the solid and vacuum regions is found profoundly affect the kinetics of breaking and re-formation of hydrogen bonds

3

A necessary condition for the enhancement in the molecular diffusion is the partial saturation of the pores



# Acknowledgements

- Alessandro Patti
- Flor R. Siperstein
- Carmine D'Agostino

# THANK YOU!



**MULTIMAT**  
A multiscale approach towards  
mesostructured porous material design

