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ΔΙΕΡΓΑΣΙΕΣ ΔΙΑΧΩΡΙΣΜΟΥ

Μάθημα 1ο

Ακαδημαϊκό έτος 2017-2018



Separation Processes

- Since Antiquity (Βώλος ο Μενδησιος ή ψευδοδημόκριτος-distillation)
 - Metals, fragrances, paints, potash
 - Evaporation of seawater for salt production
 - Asphalt
 - Liquids distillation
- Separations in our body
 - Kidney (membrane for the selective separation of water from the metabolic by-products).

Separations by Crystallization

- Crystallization must surely rank as the oldest unit operation, in the chemical engineering sense.
- Sodium chloride, for example, has been manufactured by this process since the dawn of civilization.
- Today there are few sections of the chemical industry that do not, at some stage, utilize crystallization as a method of production, purification or recovery of solid material.

Separations by Crystallization

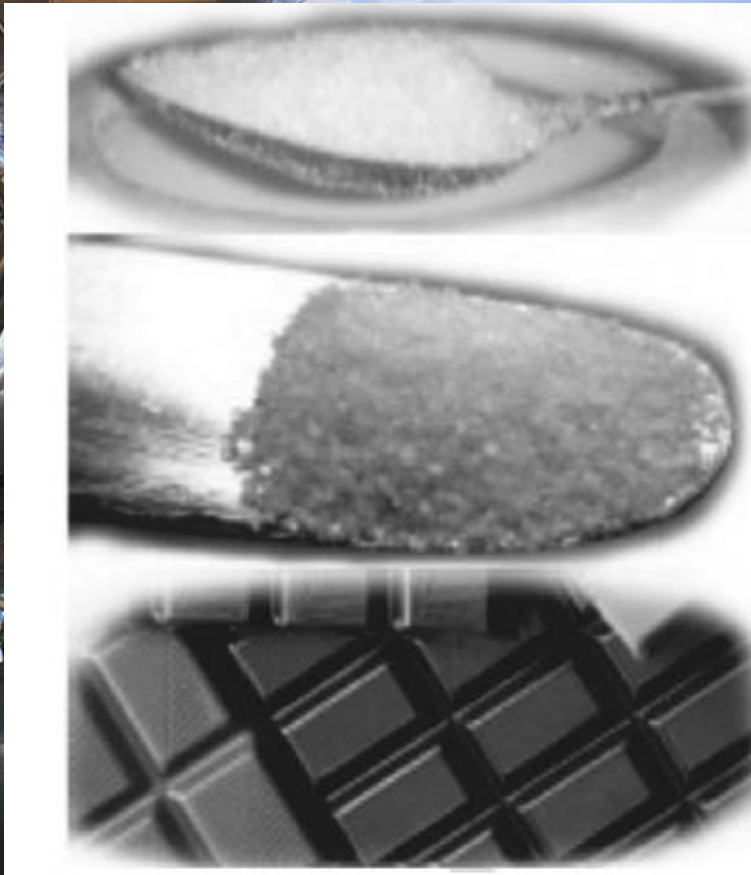
- Apart from being one of the best and cheapest methods available for the production of pure solids from impure solutions, **crystallization** has the additional advantage of giving an end product that has many desirable properties.
- Uniform crystals have good flow, handling and packaging characteristics: they also have an attractive appearance, and this latter property alone can be a very important sales factor.



Crystallization through the ages

- Crystallization belongs to the oldest unit operations known to mankind.
- Namely, the crystallization of salts can be found through the ages. Early civilizations in coastal areas used large open ponds, salines, to crystallize out the salt, which could then be easily handled, stored, transported, traded, and finally used.
- Salines around the seaport of Ostia are said to have facilitated the development of Roma and the Roman Empire.

- Today, crystalline products can be found in every aspect of life.
- Relevant **product properties** are determined by **crystal properties** and thus tailored via crystallization.



Sugar,
table salt,
and chocolate

Crystallization...

- **Sugar** extracted from plants and crystallized to meet a certain particle size distribution, (PSD 700-800 μm , free of fines \Rightarrow which allows a free-flowing product
- that does not agglomerate. Finally, the process arrives at purities of $>99.5\%$ in an essentially single-step process of a seeded batch crystallization.
- **Table salt** also is required to be free flowing and not to agglomerate even in the high relative humidity environment of a kitchen. Here, additives can be employed during the crystallization, which is usually continuously operated evaporation crystallization.

Crystallization

- Finally, one of the main components of chocolate, **cocoa fat** has to be crystallized in a certain crystal modification or polymorph to achieve the special mouth taste of chocolate.
- This modification is unstable at room temperature and achieved via melt crystallization, where the crystals of the desired modification are generated and grown via a temperature program. In addition, additives can be used to stabilize the required modification. The unstable modification of the fatty acid ester can recrystallize to a more stable one, resulting in undesired changes in the
- appearance of the product.



The Alchemists...
(Painting, 17th century)

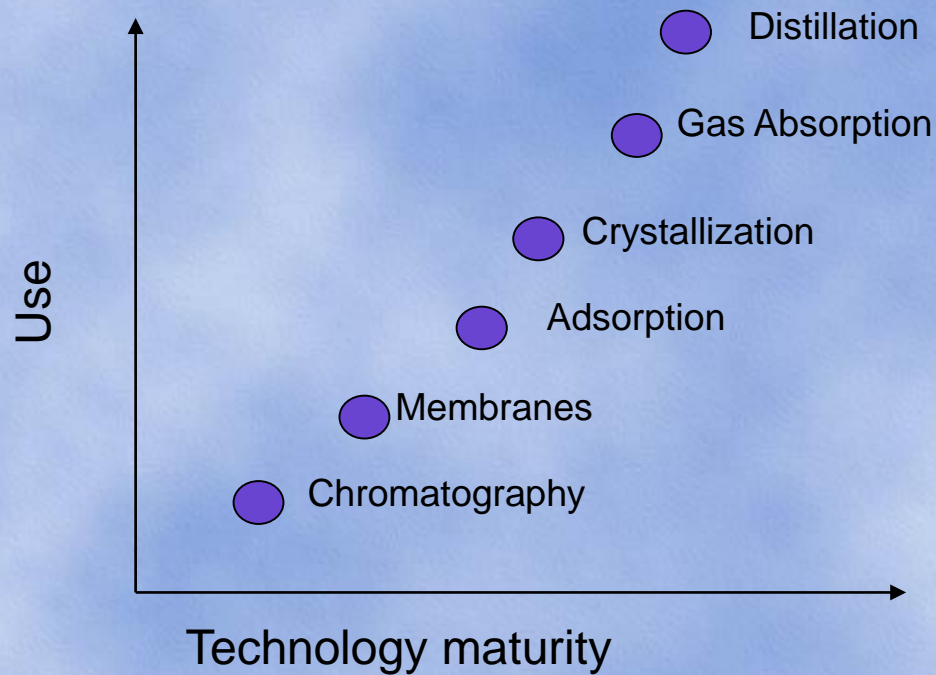


The efficiency of a separation depends on:

- Molecular properties
 - MW, volume, van der Waals surface, Molecular shape, Polarizability, dielectric constant, electric charge, dipole moment, gyroscopic ratio
- Thermodynamic and transport properties
 - Vapor pressure, solubility, adsorption, diffusivity

Chemical separation processes

- play a central role in chemical engineering



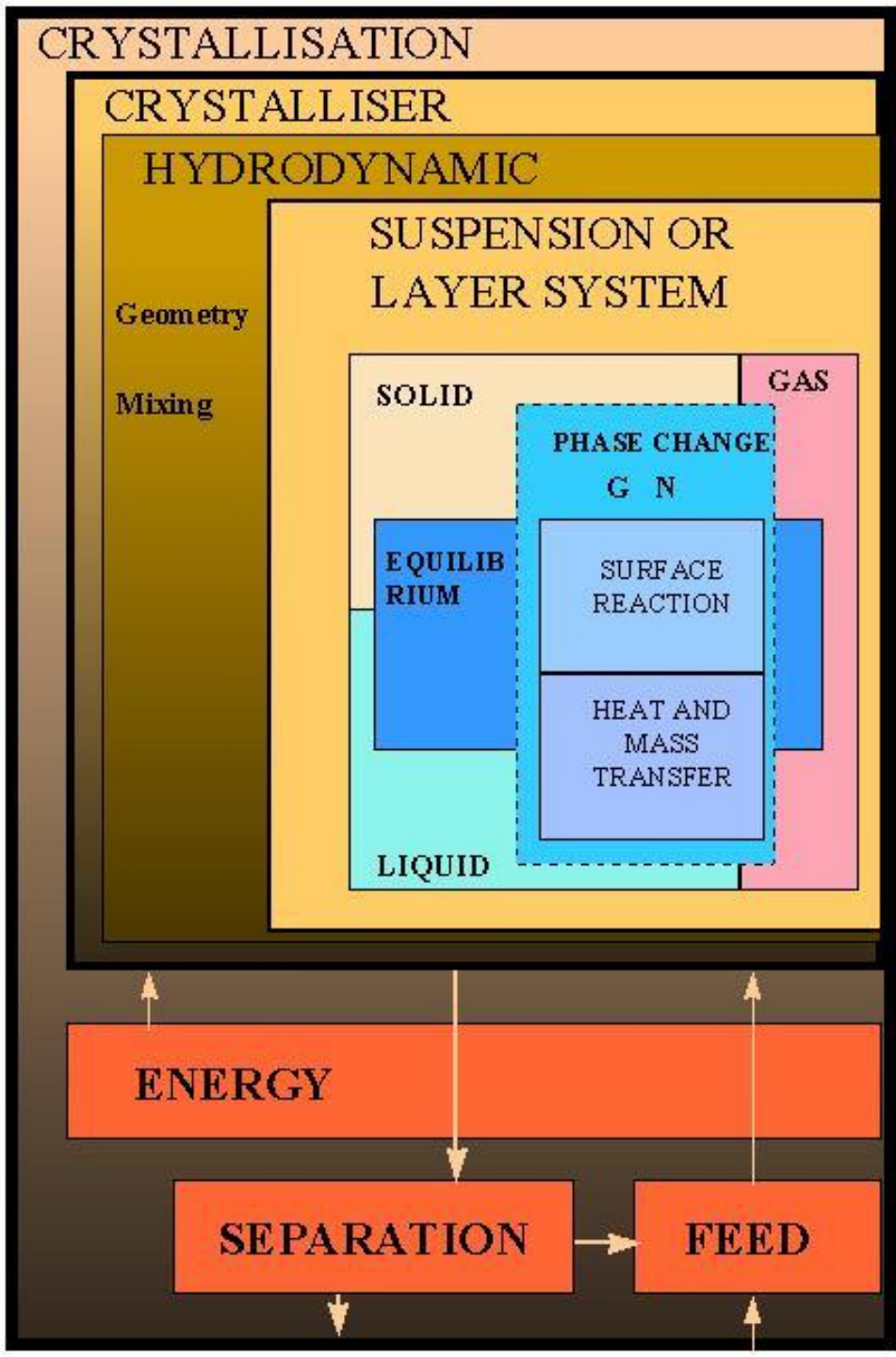
A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, featuring large, shiny metal pipes and structures against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The pipes are arranged in a complex network, with some curving upwards and others running horizontally. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Purpose of this course

- Become familiar with separation technologies and the respective scientific fundamentals
- ***Crystallization***: Separation of solids from the liquid phase
 - Purification of products and of raw materials
 - Preparation of solids (misc. products, catalysts)

Crystallization

- Core of the materials science
- **"Who dominates materials dominates technology."**
(Dr. Sekimoto, Japanese businessman and eminent scientist, specialist in communications. Chairman, NEC)
- Crystal Growth is a universal phenomenon in the field of materials.
- It has a long history but a significant impetus, which accelerated its evolution from "a substance potting art" to a science in its own right, was the **invention of the transistor** in 1948, and the subsequent need for high purity semiconductor single crystals.
- ***As a result crystal growth has developed into a core discipline in materials science***



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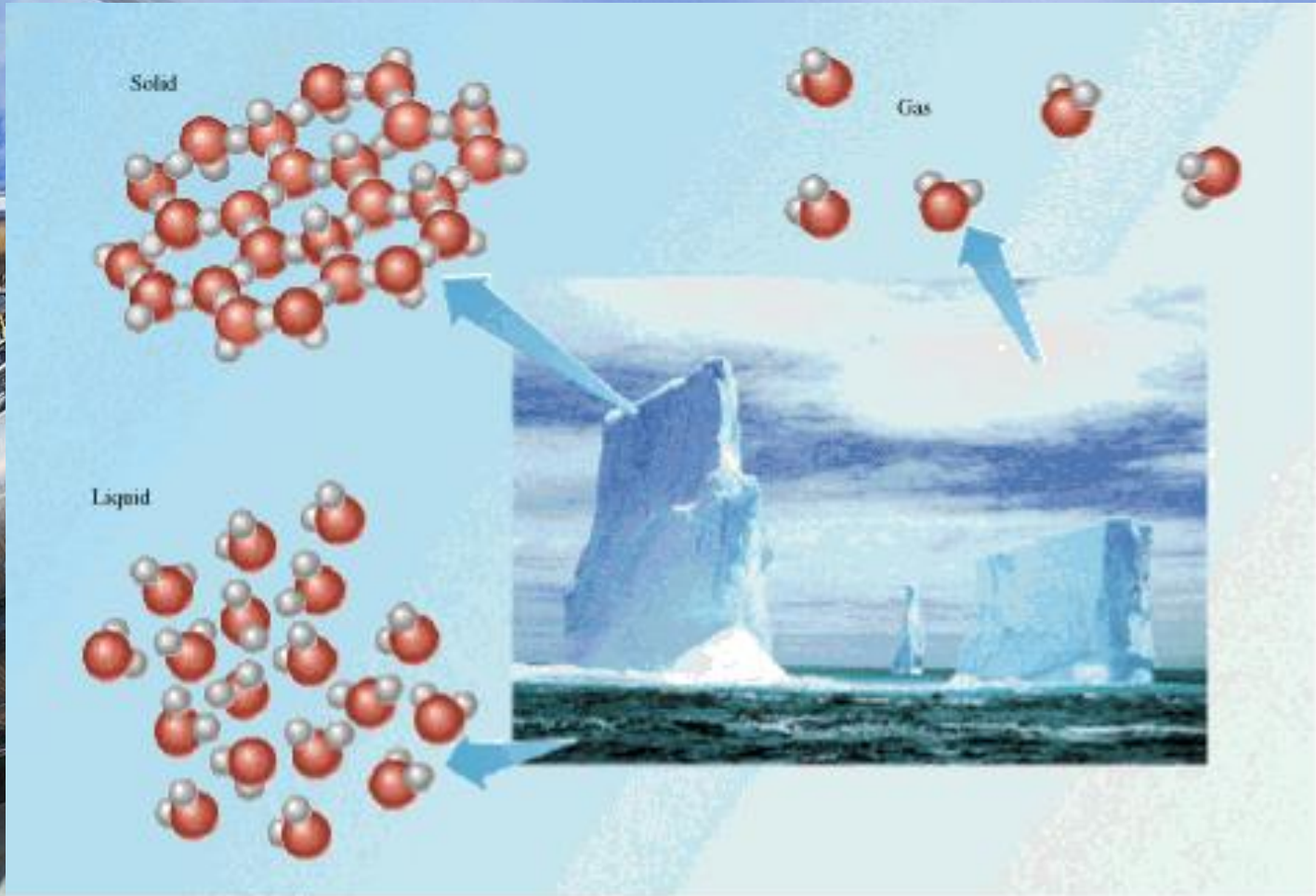
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Crystallization

- Separation method of a substance in a more or less pure state from a mixture of substances
- The separation of substances from mixtures is possible provided that special thermodynamic conditions may be established
- For *mixtures* in the liquid state, under these specific conditions, the component molecules tend towards the crystalline state to lower the energy of the system
- The *ordered rearrangement of molecules in the crystalline lattice* involves the release of a latent heat as phase change takes place

Planet Earth is composed of many mixtures



Mixtures

Heterogeneous mixtures : has one or more visible boundaries between the components.

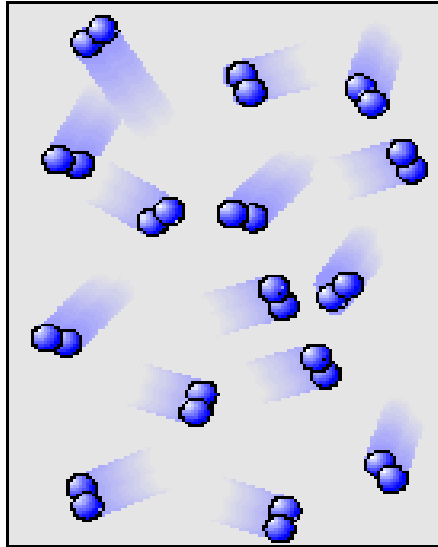
Homogeneous mixtures : have no visible boundaries because the components are mixed as individual atoms, ions, and molecules.

Solutions : A solution is also a homogeneous mixture

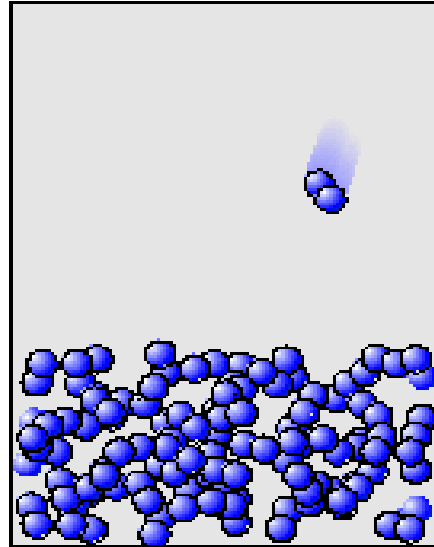
Solutions in water are called *aqueous solutions*, and are very important in chemistry.

Although solutions are normally considered as liquids, they can exist in all three physical states.

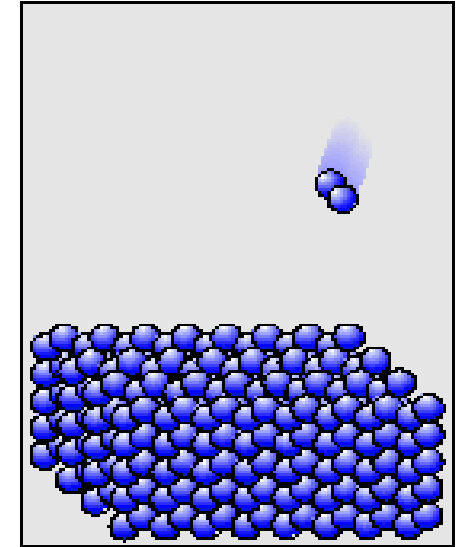
States of Matter



gas
disorder



liquid
*short range
order*



solid
*long range
order*

Conversions between states are called "phase transitions" or "changes of state"

A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, featuring large, shiny metal pipes and structures against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The pipes are arranged in a complex, curved pattern, and the overall scene is brightly lit.

Separating Mixtures

- The components in a mixture retain their identities
- We use properties that distinguish the components to separate mixtures
- the more similar the properties are, the more difficult it is to separate them



Separating Mixtures

Basic strategies for separation

- **phase conversion**: convert components of the mixture into other forms that are easy to isolate
- **phase transfer**: add a new phase that collects some components from the mixture

Separation Methods 1

| TECHNIQUE | BASIS FOR SEPARATION |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| adsorption / desorption | phase transfer to a solid surface |
| chromatography | phase transfer from a mobile mixture to a stationary phase |
| condensation (Συμπύκνωση) | phase separation by condensing gases in the mixture to liquids |
| dialysis (διαπίδωση) | phase transfer through a porous membrane that allows some molecules to pass through, but not others |
| effusion (Διάχυση) | gases with faster molecules flow through tiny pinholes faster than gases with slow molecules |

Separation Methods 2

| TECHNIQUE | BASIS FOR SEPARATION |
|--|--|
| dissolution (washing, solvent extraction) | soluble components can be washed away, leaving behind insoluble components (phase transfer to a washing solvent) |
| electrorefining (ηλεκτροδιύλιση) | separate a metal from impurities by dissolving it and then plating it onto an electrode |
| filtration | collect solid particles on a filter |
| floatation (Επίπλευση) | dense components sink, and lighter ones float |
| ion exchange | ions in the mixture bind to surfaces with oppositely charged sites (phase transfer to an ion exchange resin) |

Separation Methods 3

| TECHNIQUE | BASIS FOR SEPARATION |
|---|---|
| precipitation | convert solutes to an easily separated solid form |
| scrubbing | bubble mixture through a solution that selectively absorbs a component (phase transfer from gas to solution) |
| stripping | a gas bubbled through the mixture carries off the most volatile components (phase transfer from solution to gas) |
| volatilization (drying, distillation, sublimation) | components with widely differing volatility can be driven out of the mixture by heating (phase change from solid or liquid to gas) |

Separating Mixtures

Filtration : Separates components of a mixture based upon *differences in particle size*. Normally separating a precipitate from a solution, or particles from an air stream.

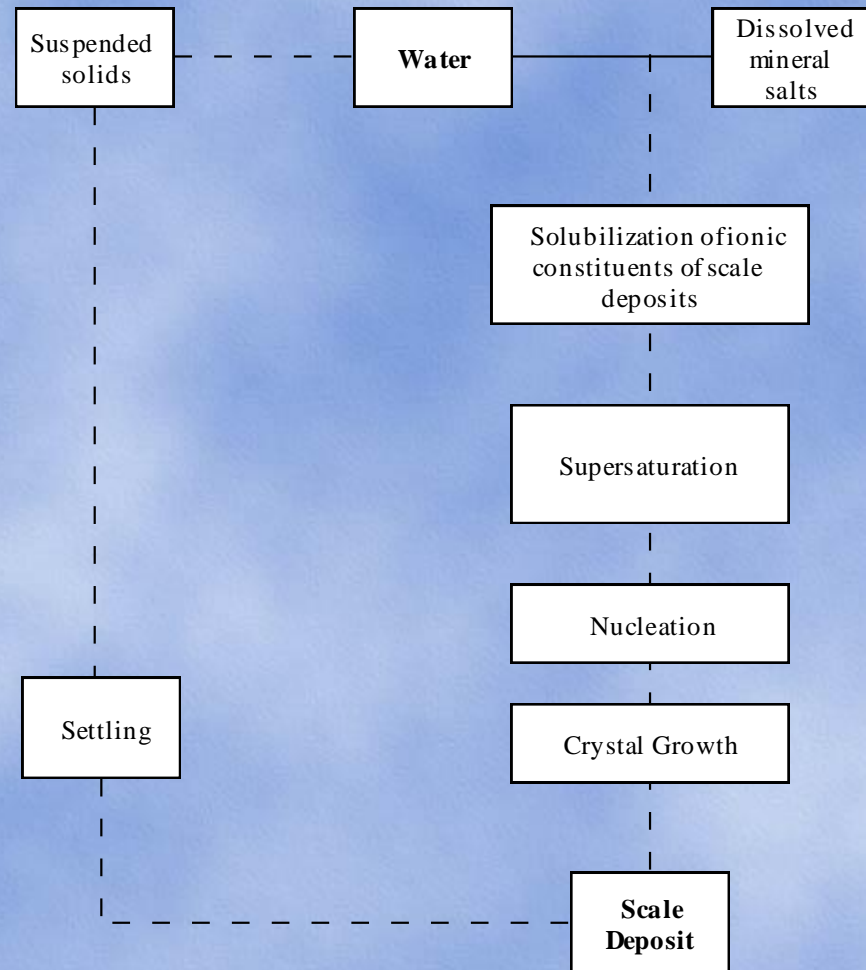
Crystallization : Separation is based upon *differences in solubility* of components in a mixture.

Distillation : separation is based upon *differences in volatility*.

Extraction : Separation is based upon *differences in solubility* in different solvents (major material).

Chromatography : Separation is based upon *differences in solubility* in a solvent versus a stationary phase.

Scale Deposits (καθαλατώσεις) Formation in water systems: A special case of separation where crystallization is instrumental





Crystallization

- Crystallization from solutions is an important **process for separation and for the purification** for a broad spectrum of industries :
 - Sugar
 - NaCl
 - Fertilizers
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Catalysts
 - Chemical specialties, substances of high added value



Table 1.1 Examples for the annual production of crystalline products in various fields.

| Product | Produced in | Production (t/a) |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Sodium chloride | 2001 in the EU | 38 350 000 |
| Sugar | 2001 in the EU | 15 000 000 |
| Caprolactam | 2002 worldwide | 3 500 000 |
| Ascorbic acid | 2009 worldwide | 110 000 |
| Acetylsalicylic acid | 2008 worldwide | 35 000 |



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What is sought using crystallization as a technique?

- Production of pure products
- Synthesis of products with specific characteristics
 - Crystallites size distribution
 - density
 - Filterability
 - Viscosity of suspensions (in the liquid phase or in air)
 - Particles rheology

The main task in the field of crystallization is the development of theories and techniques to control the purity, size distribution and shape of the produced crystallites


Last 40 years...

- Important steps in understanding fundamentals of crystallization which helped in the design of the respective reactors (crystallizers)
- Fundamental problem is the prediction of size (size distribution) in the practice of crystallization
- Development and treatment of the methodology of population balance of the crystals
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Other important landmarks...

- Realization of the importance of secondary nucleation (δευτερογενής πυρηνογένεση) due mainly to the contact between crystals, and with the impeller of the reactor
- Secondary nucleation, plays important role in several cases, in determining the operation of the crystallizers



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The background of the slide is a photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant. It features several large, silver-colored metal pipes and structures, some with scaffolding, set against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The pipes are arranged in a complex, vertical and horizontal pattern, suggesting a large-scale industrial process.

Crystallization

Crystallization from solution is a separation technique where a solid phase is separated from a mother liquor.

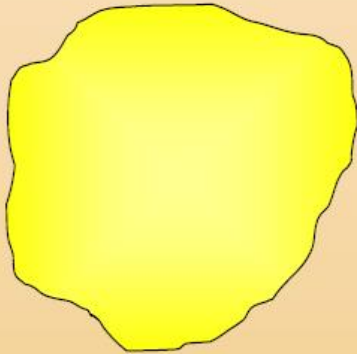
The dispersed phase of a mixture consisting of numerous "solid particles" also forms the final product, that has to meet the required product specifications.

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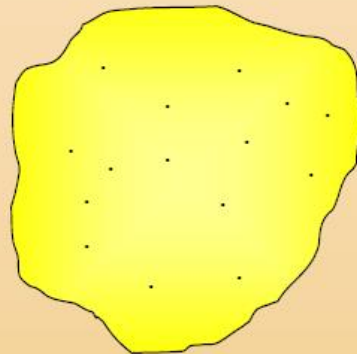
Crystalline products

- In different industries, the important requirements that a crystallized solid-state product has to fulfill are:
- its phase or polymorph, thermodynamic and kinetic stability during its storage life
- growth morphology and size distribution, which ultimately determine the product solid-state properties such as separation, flow, compaction, dissolution, and packing.
- The above requirements are met by controlling crystallization conditions which determine various processes such as nucleation, **crystal growth**, **aggregation**, **Ostwald ripening**, and **phase transformation**.

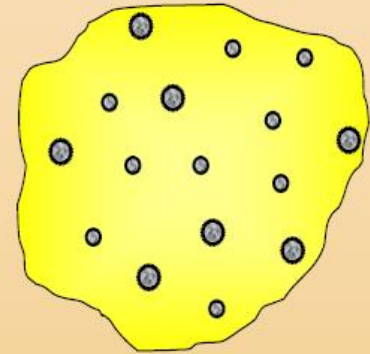
Liquid



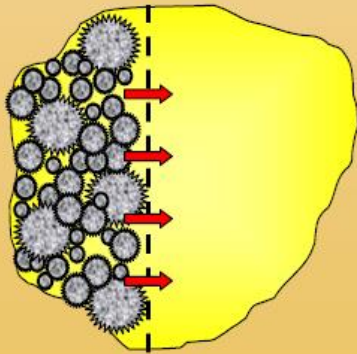
Nucleation



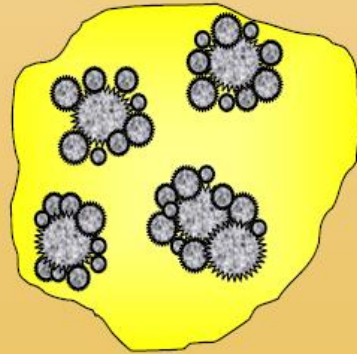
Crystallisation



Separation



Agglomeration



Ripening

