

# Dewatering of High Salinity Brines by Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis

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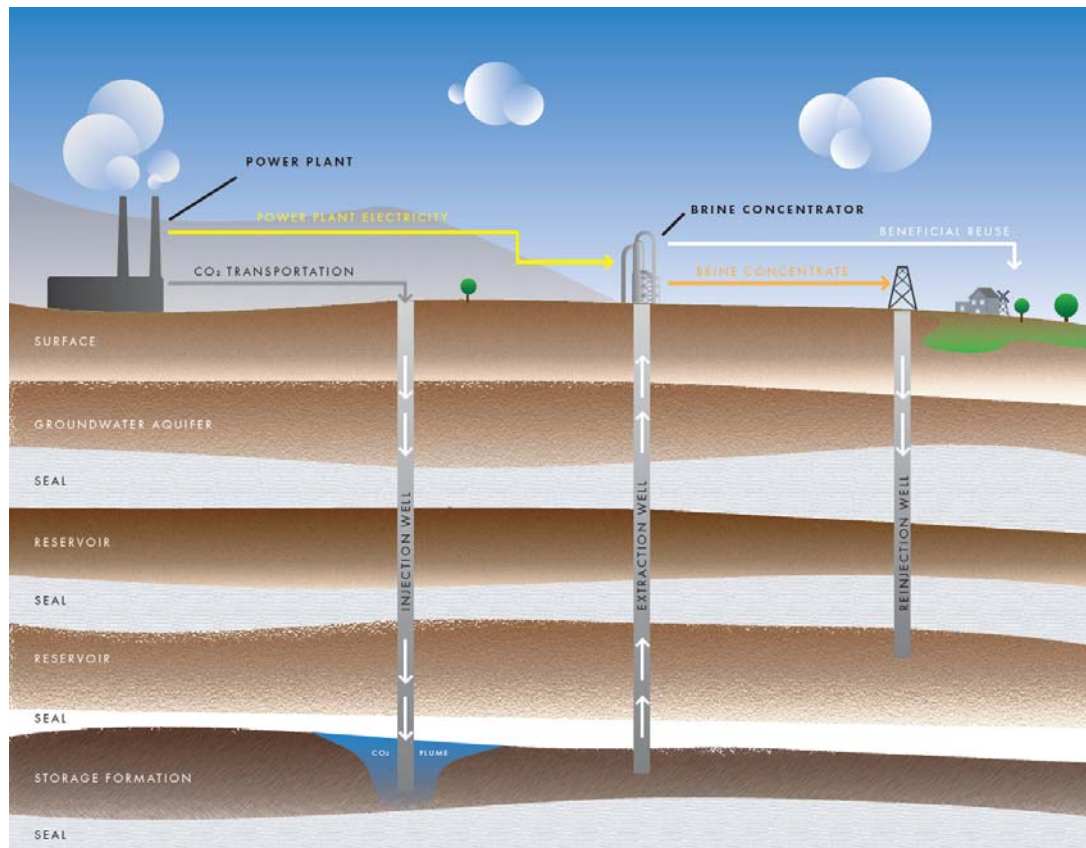
Carnegie Mellon University



# Motivation: Extracted CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Brines

Capture CO<sub>2</sub> and prevent its release into the atmosphere

Store CO<sub>2</sub> by compression and injection into deep saline formations

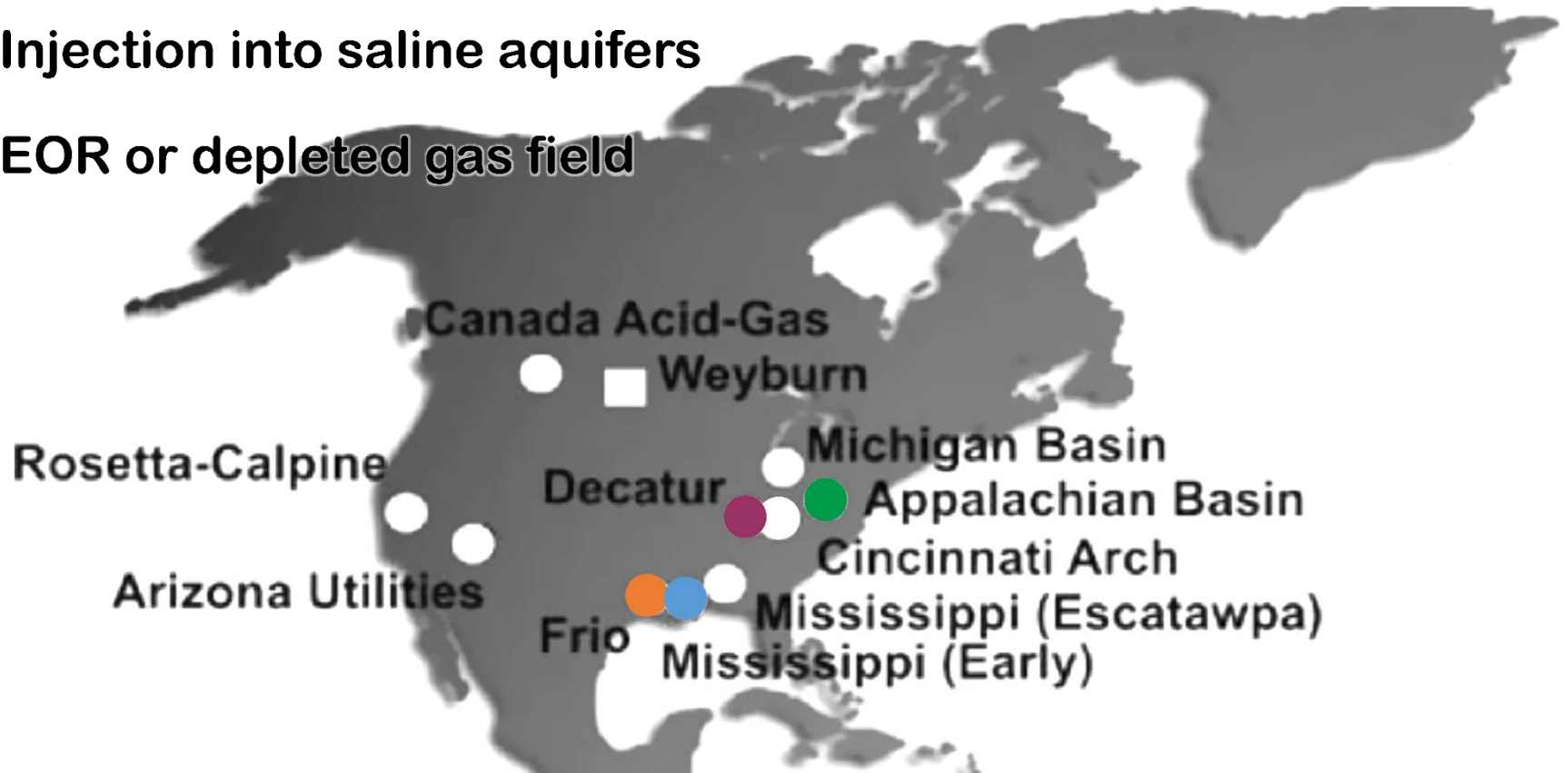


Saline formation CO<sub>2</sub> storage scheme

- Manage subsurface pressure and increase storage capacity
- **Treatment and disposition**
  - Cannot discharge to surface waters
  - Concentrate brine and reinject into alternate formation
    - Fresh water production
  - Crystallize salt for its commercial value at select locations

# Brine Composition

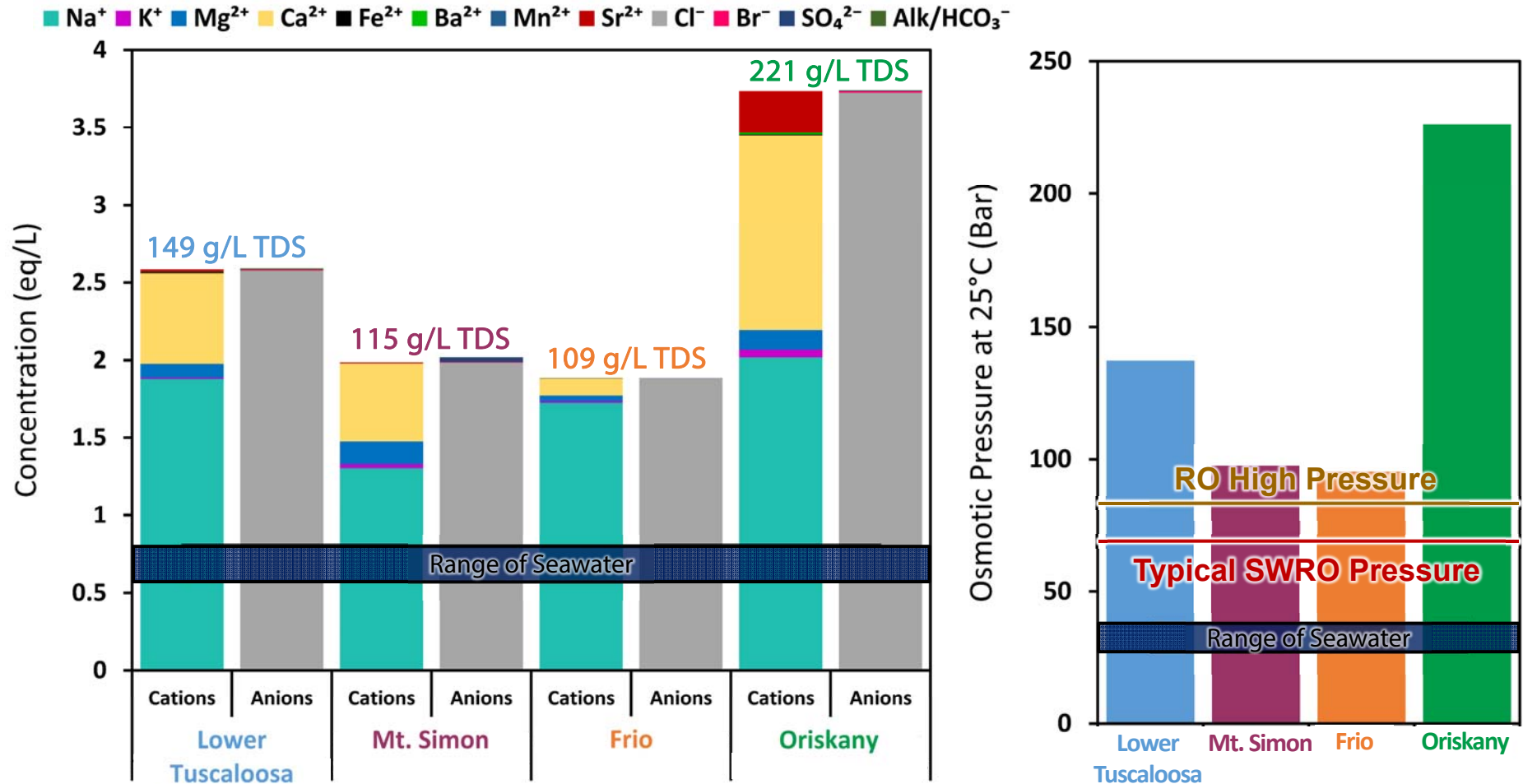
- Injection into saline aquifers
- EOR or depleted gas field



Lower Tuscaloosa 149 g/L TDS	Mt. Simon 115 g/L TDS	Frio 109 g/L TDS	Oriskany 221 g/L TDS
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Survey of subsurface brines

# Eastern U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Brines

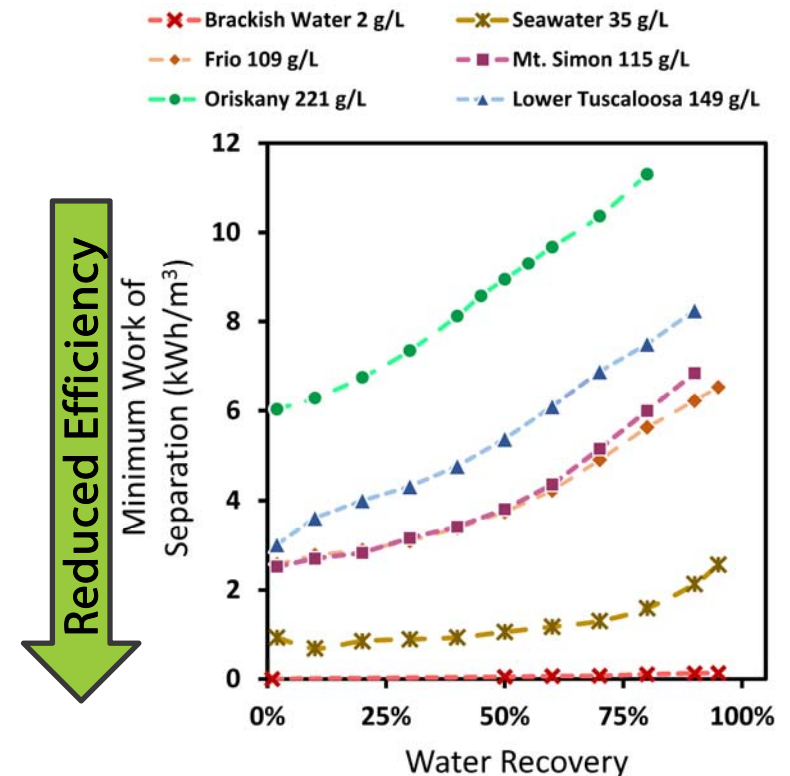
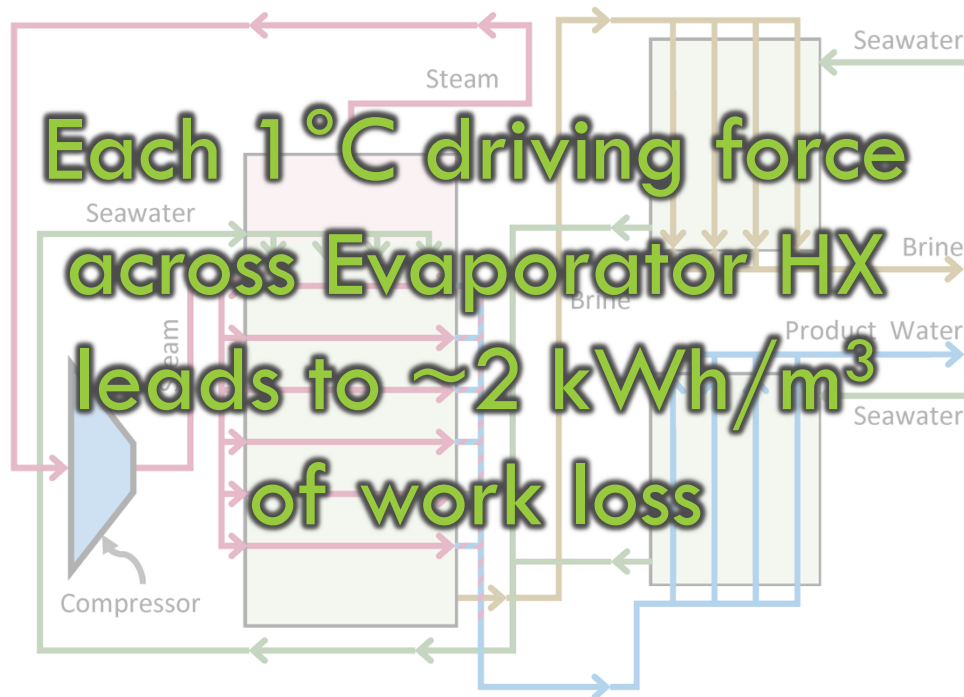


Composition (eq/ L) of four brines extracted from GCS-relevant formations in the eastern U.S. assuming complete dissociation. Osmotic pressure calculated from water activity determine using Geochemist's Workbench v9 with the thermo\_phrqpit database.

# Thermal / Evaporative Desalination

## Current commercially available technologies

- Mechanical Vapor Compression (MVC) or MVC-MED hybridization



Minimum work required to produce a m<sup>3</sup> of pure water. Calculations were done at 20°C using the ELECNRTL method within AspenPlus V8.4.

# Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis

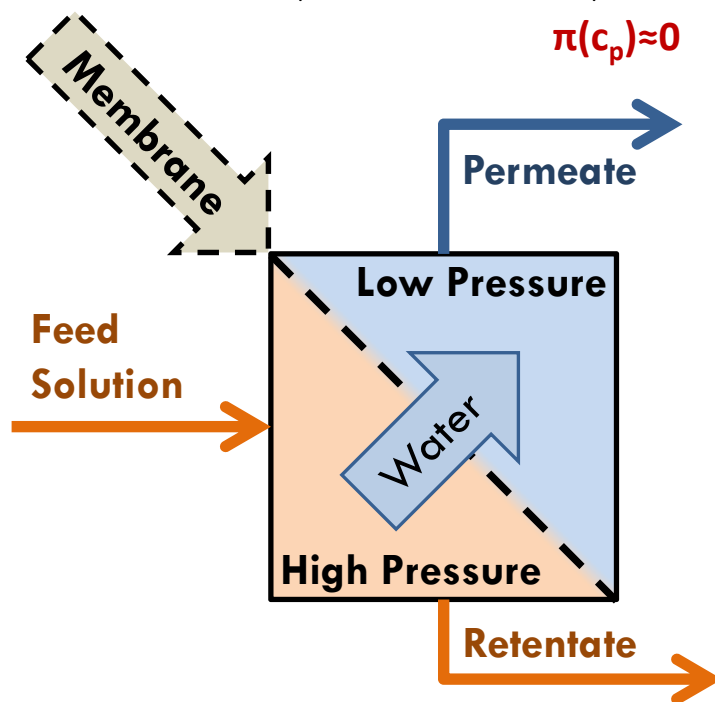


Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis (OARO) differs from conventional RO and FO

## Reverse Osmosis

$$J_w = A \cdot \{ [P_f - P_p] - [\pi(c_{f,m}) - \pi(c_p)] \}$$

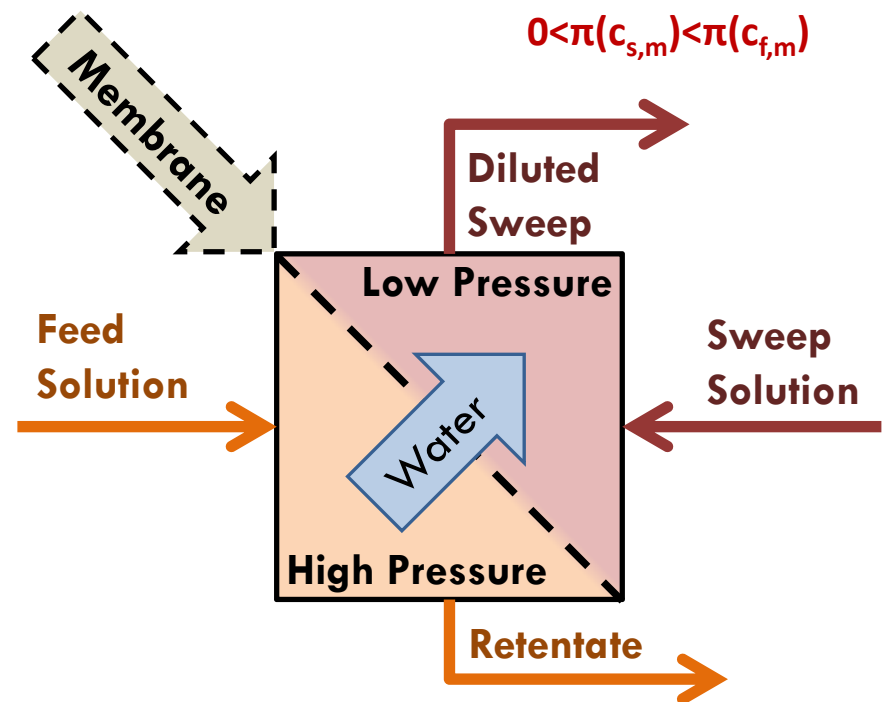
$\pi(c_p) \approx 0$



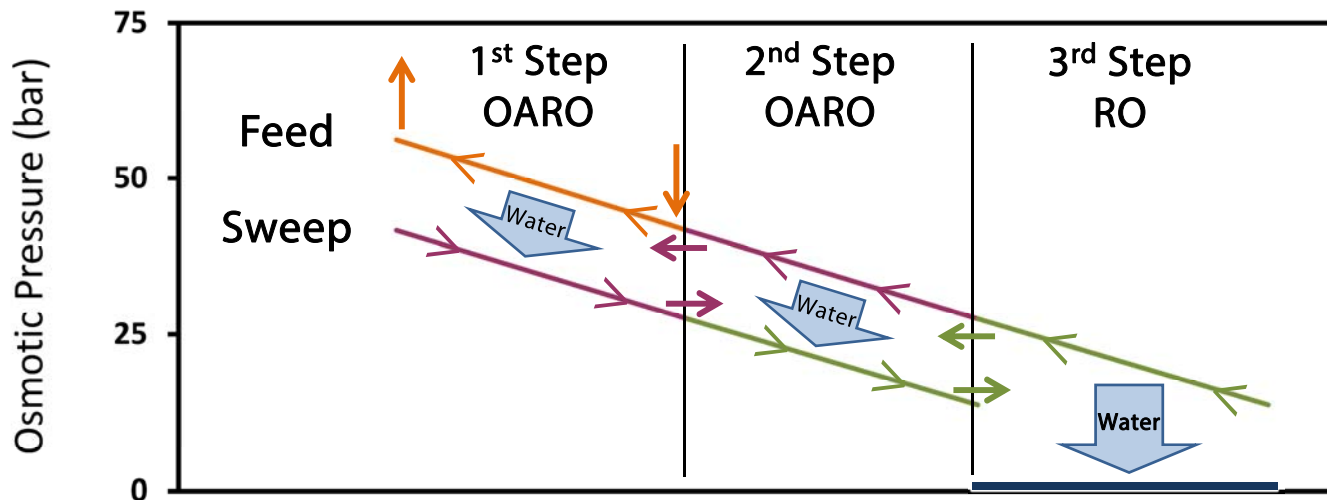
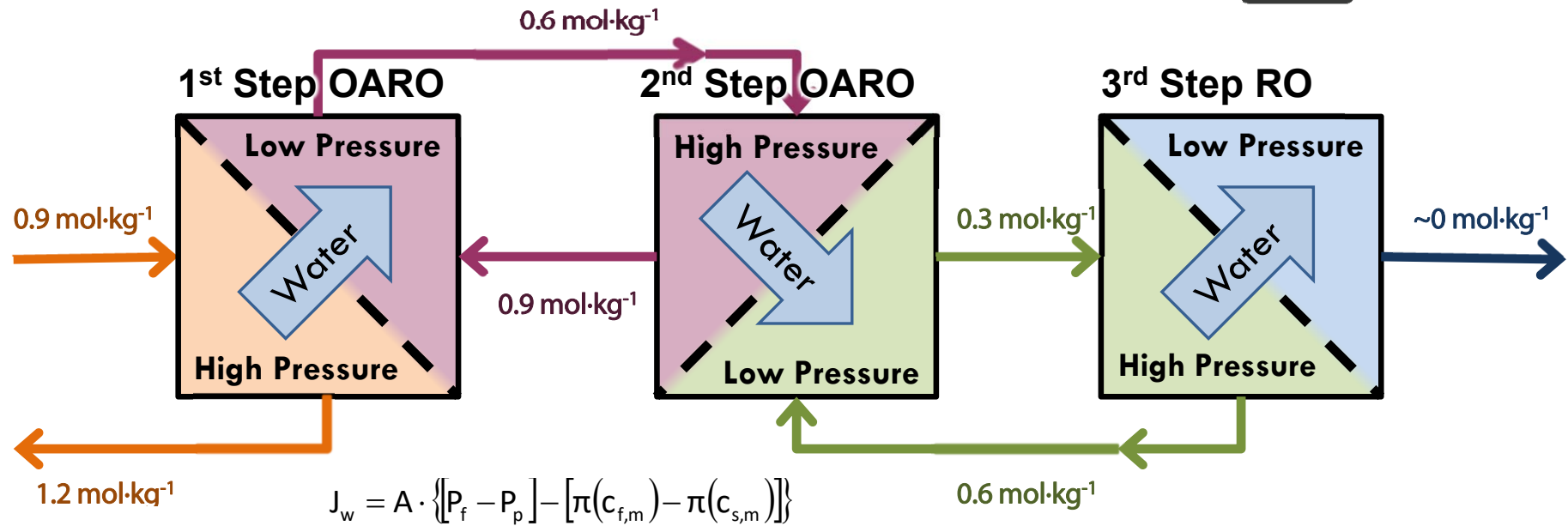
## Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis

$$J_w = A \cdot \{ [P_f - P_p] - [\pi(c_{f,m}) - \pi(c_{s,m})] \}$$

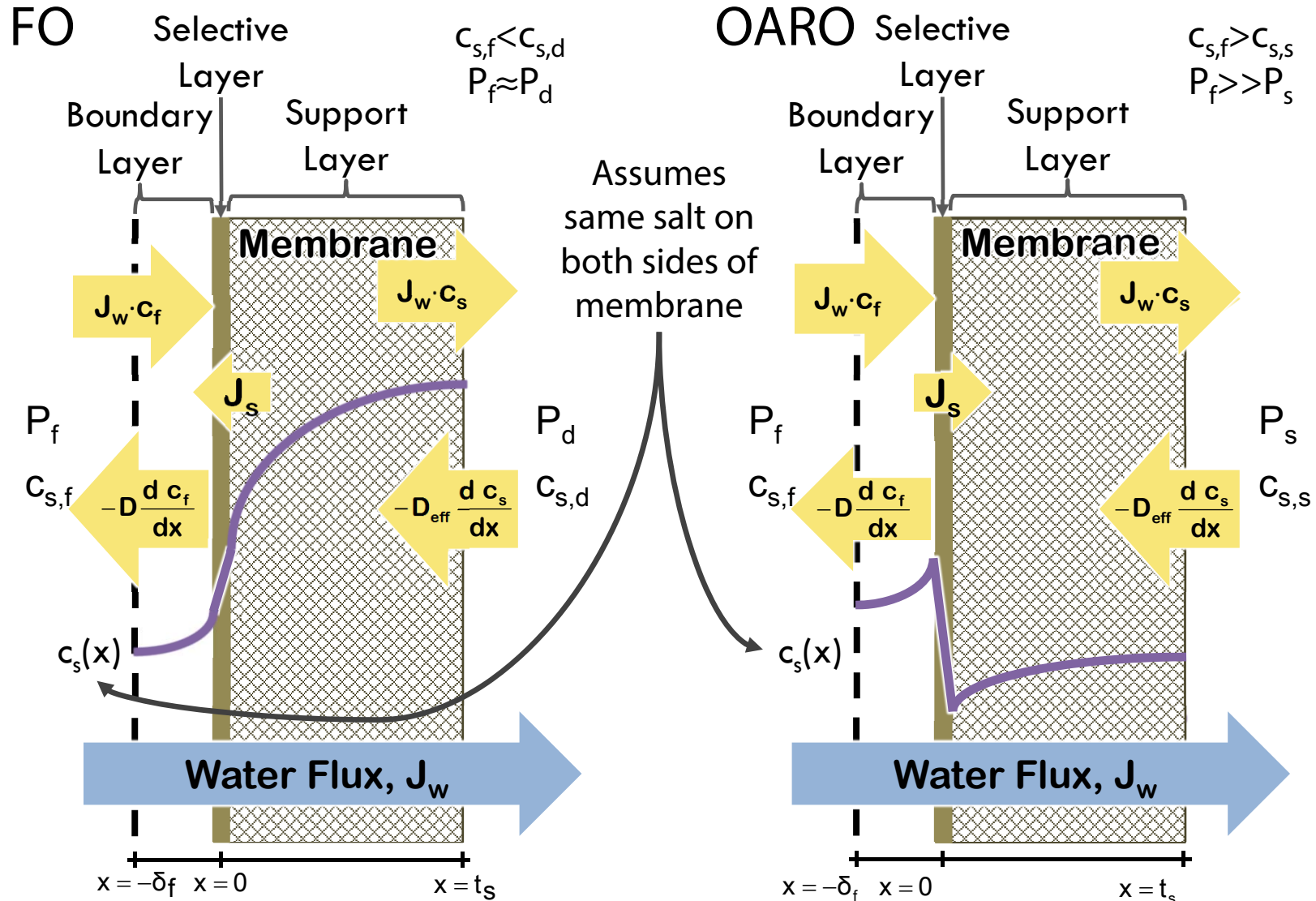
$0 < \pi(c_{s,m}) < \pi(c_{f,m})$



# Process Configuration



# Mass Transport in Membrane Support Layers





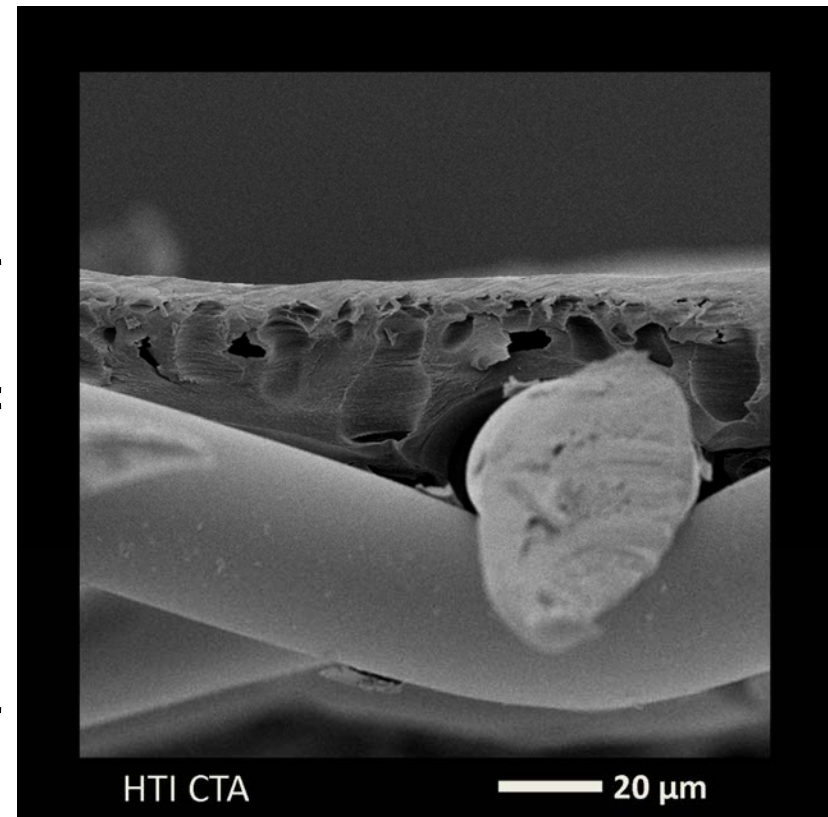
# Cellulose Acetate Membranes

**Cellulose Triacetate FO membrane developed by Hydration Technology Innovations (HTI)**

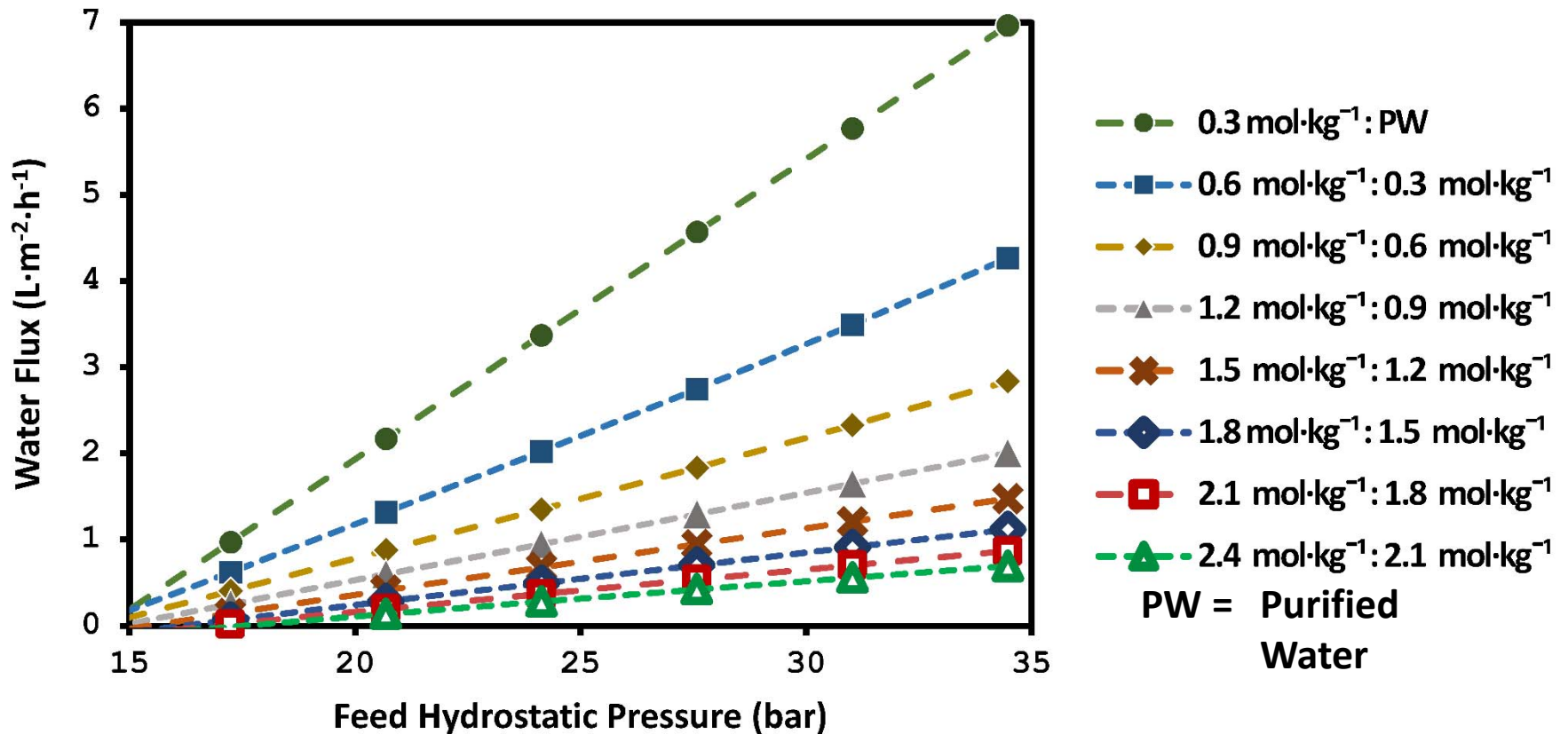
**Subsequent iteration manufactured by Fluid Technology Solutions (FTSH<sub>2</sub>O)**

CTA selective layer  
And support layer

Embedded  
hydrophilic mesh

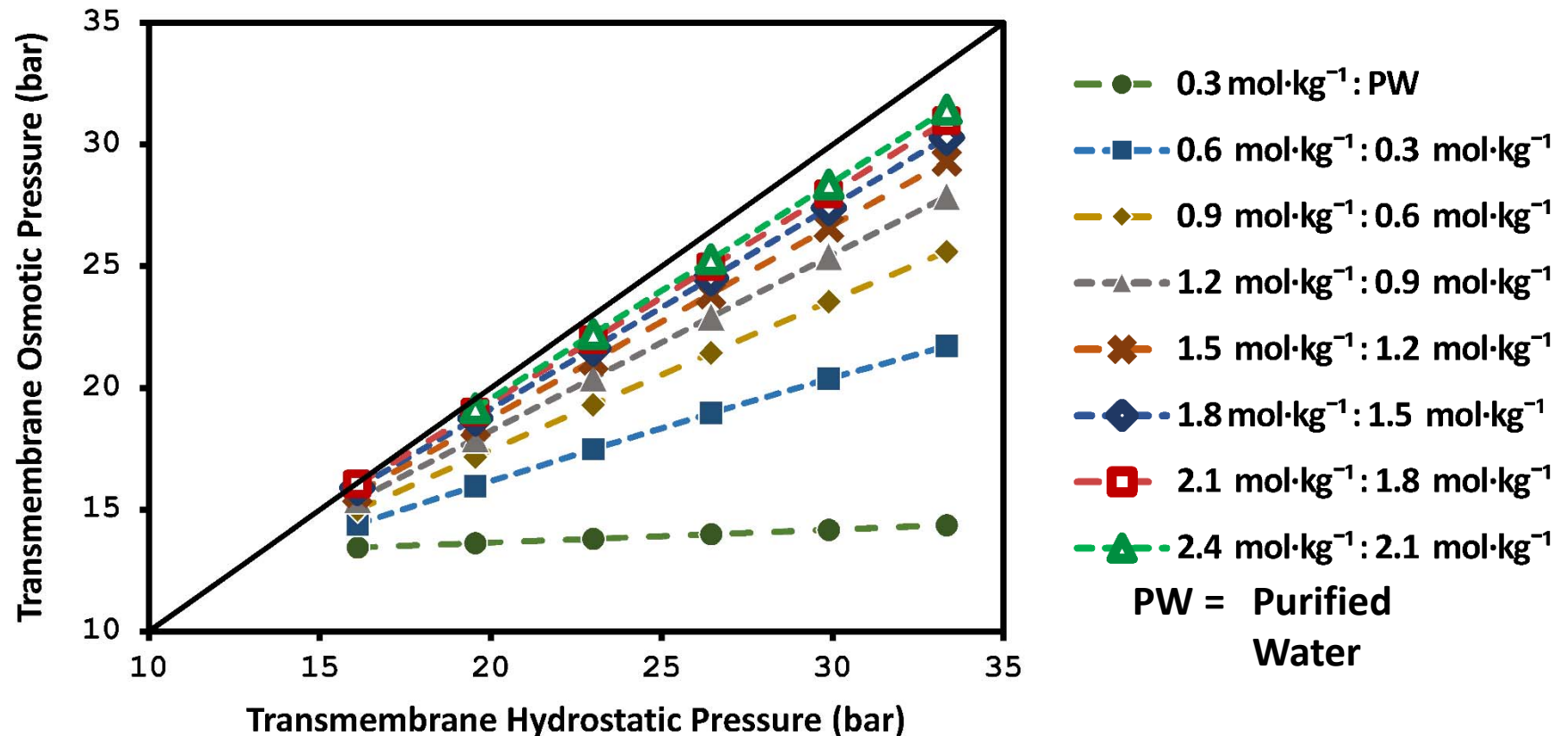


# Simulated Water Flux



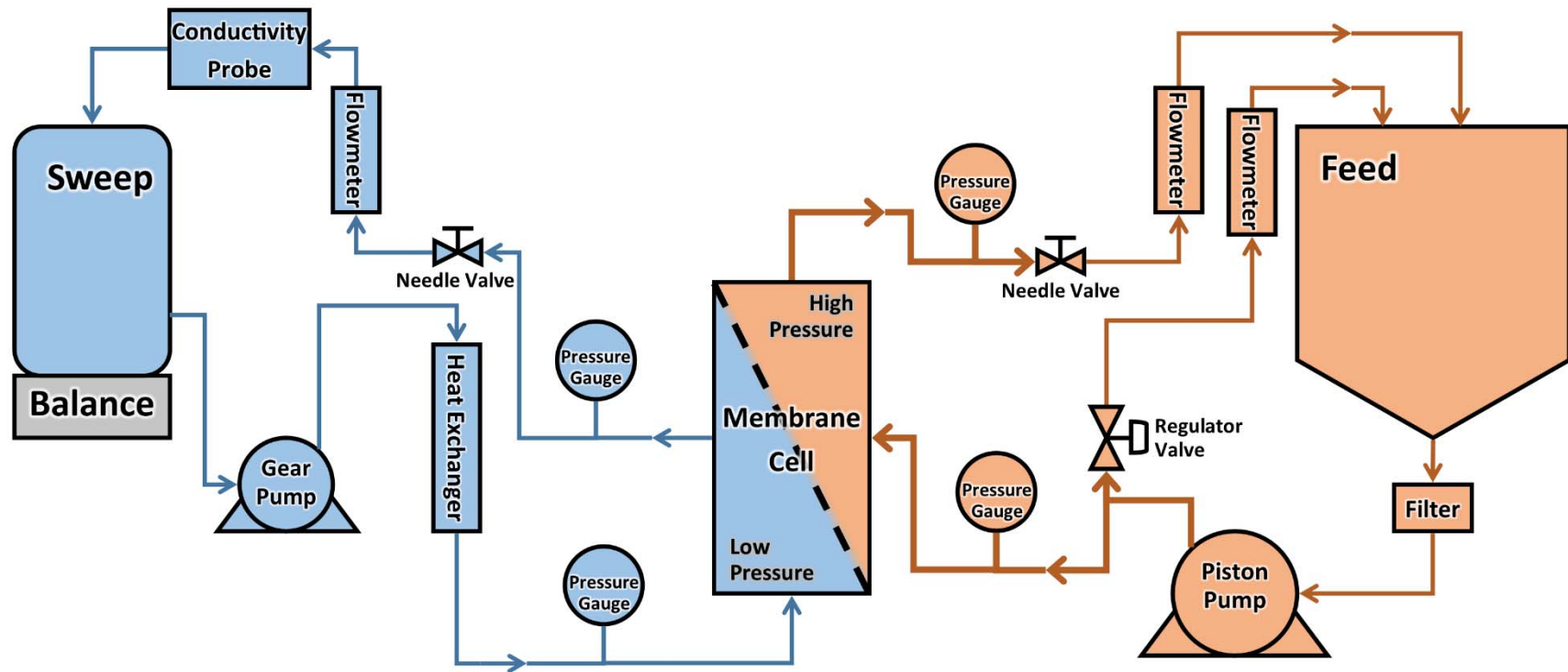
Simulated water flux for HTI's woven support CTA membrane in OARO. Assumes constant A and B of  $0.3672 \text{ L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\cdot\text{bar}^{-1}$  and  $0.2768 \text{ L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  respectively, structural parameter increases linearly with applied feed hydrostatic pressure, external boundary layer thickness of  $50 \mu\text{m}$ , sweep pressure of 1 bar, and a temperature of  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

# Transmembrane Osmotic Pressure

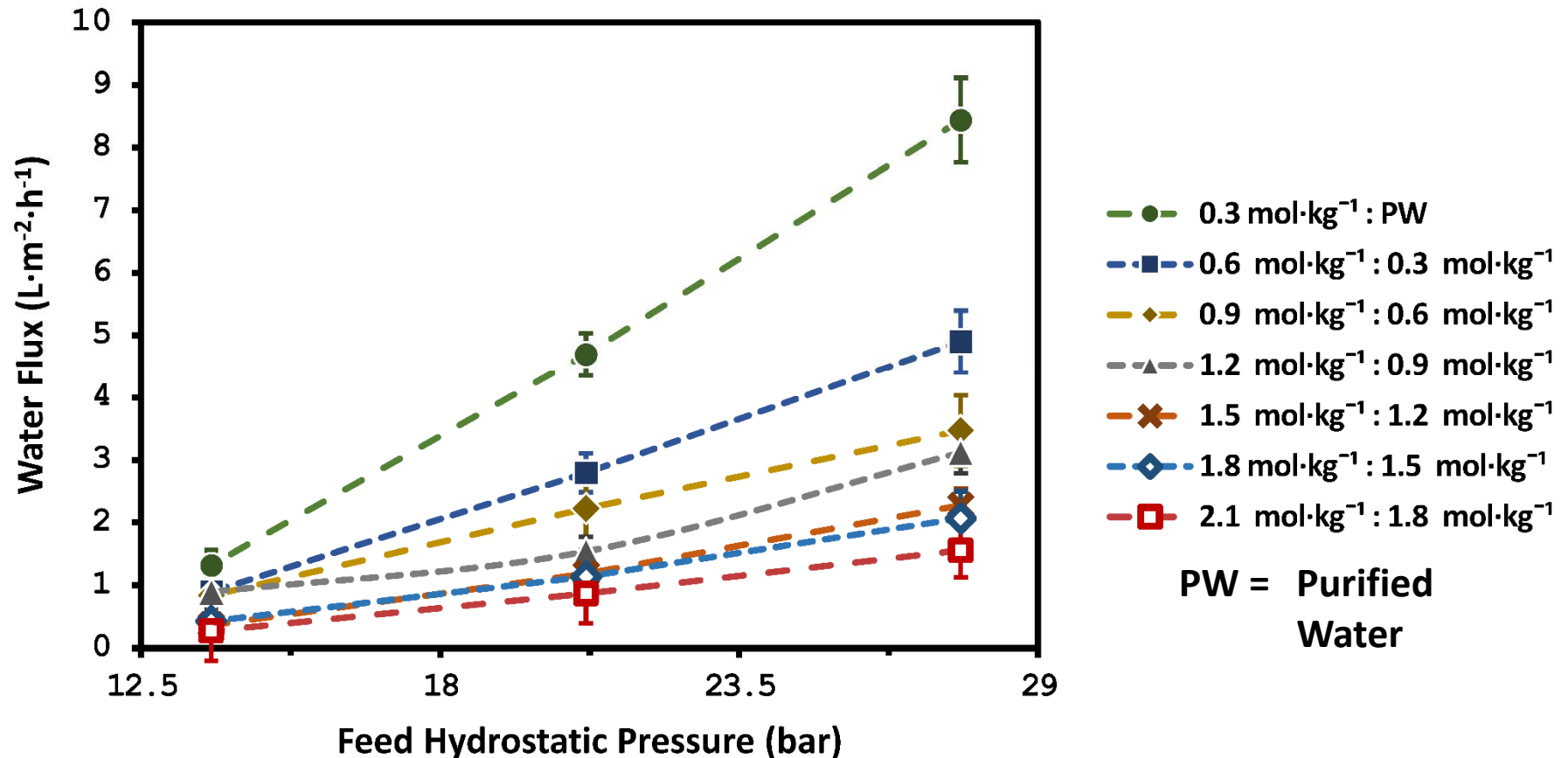


Simulated transmembrane osmotic pressure for HTI's woven support CTA membrane in OARO. Assumes constant A and B of  $0.3672 \text{ L} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{h}^{-1} \cdot \text{bar}^{-1}$  and  $0.2768 \text{ L} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$  respectively, structural parameter increases linearly with applied hydrostatic pressure, external boundary layer thickness of  $50 \mu\text{m}$ , and a temperature of  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

# Test System at Carnegie Mellon

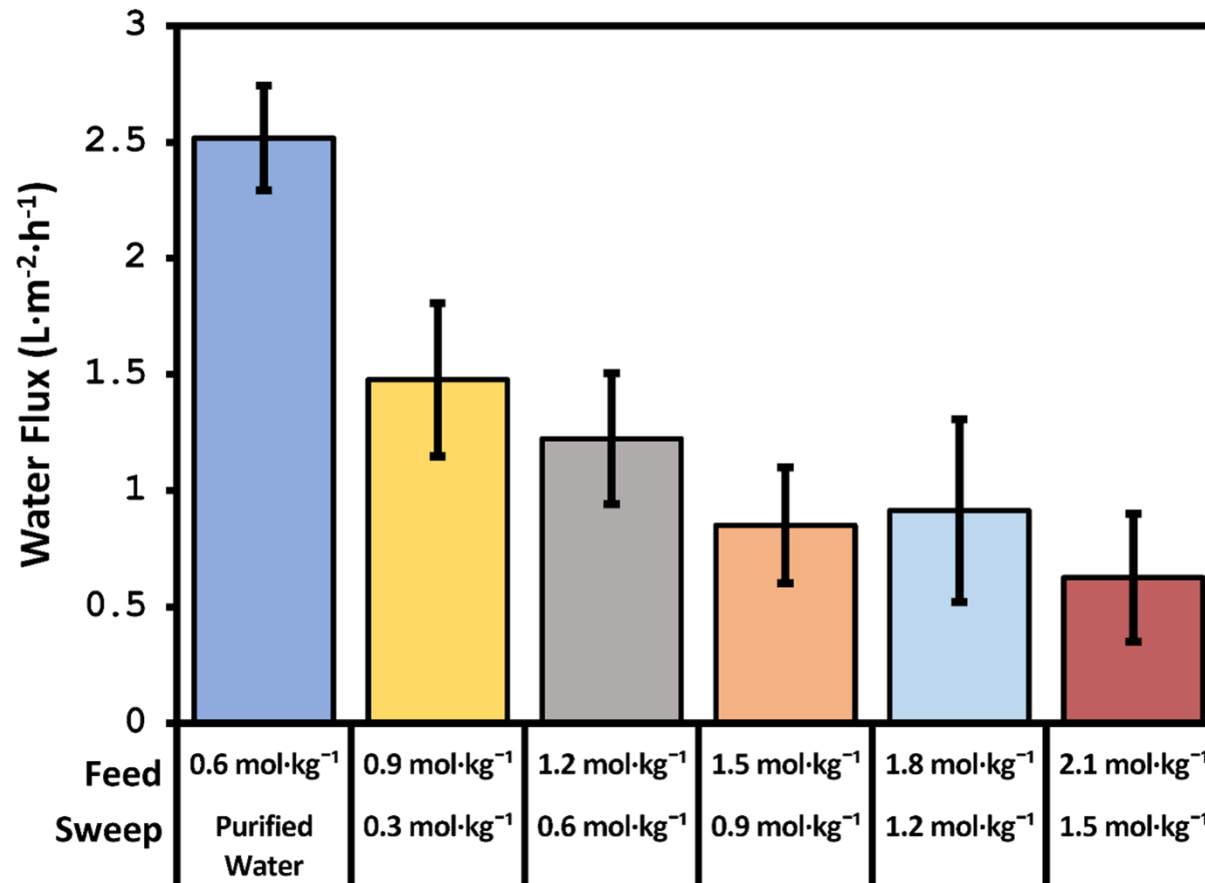


# 0.3 mol · kg<sup>-1</sup> Bulk Concentration Difference



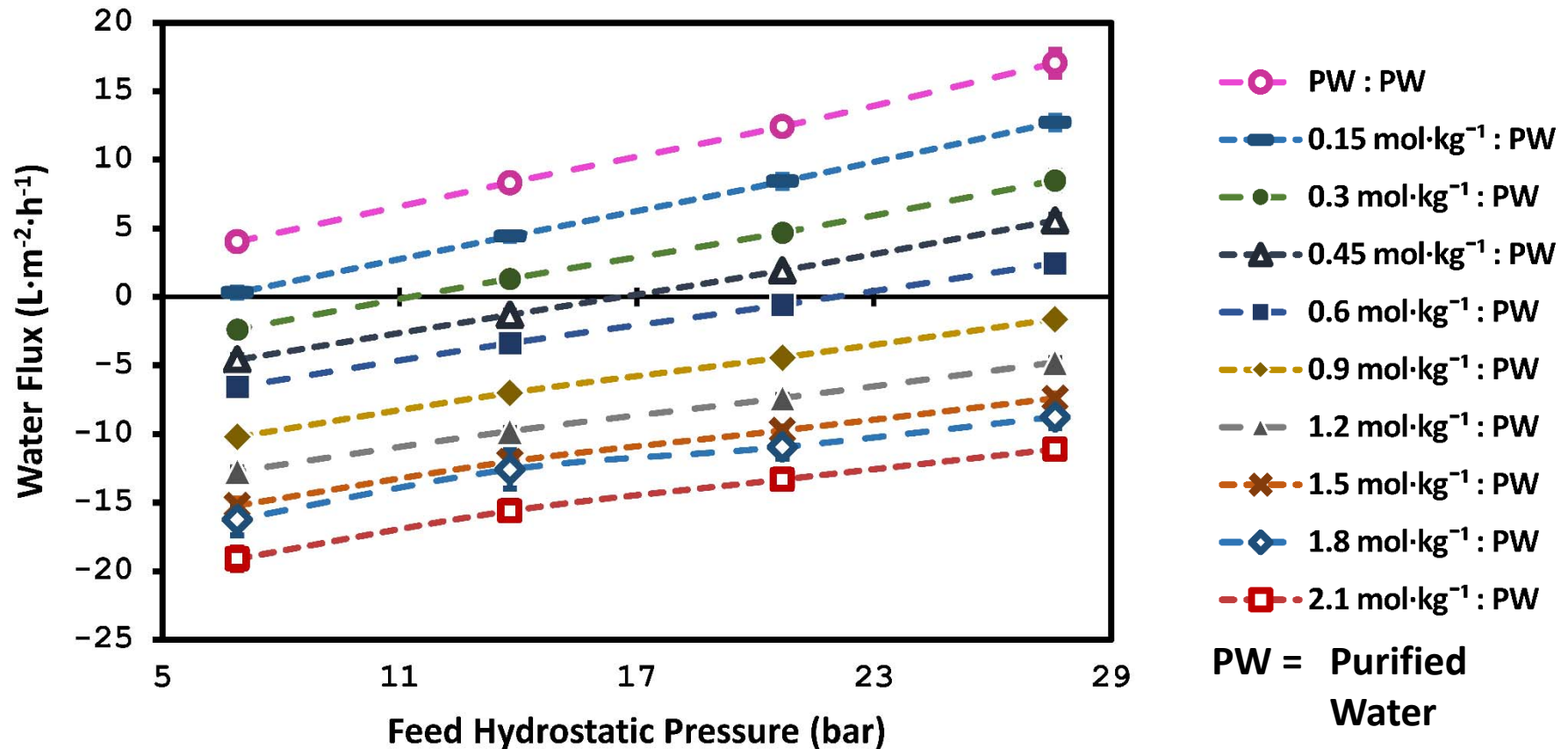
Water flux observed for FTS's woven supported CTA membrane using constant concentration difference of 0.3 mol·kg<sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub><sup>-1</sup> between feed and sweep solutions of sodium chloride at 25°C with a feed flowrate 1.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, sweep flowrate of 0.5 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, and average sweep pressure ~1 bar.

# 0.6 mol · kg<sup>-1</sup> Bulk Concentration Difference



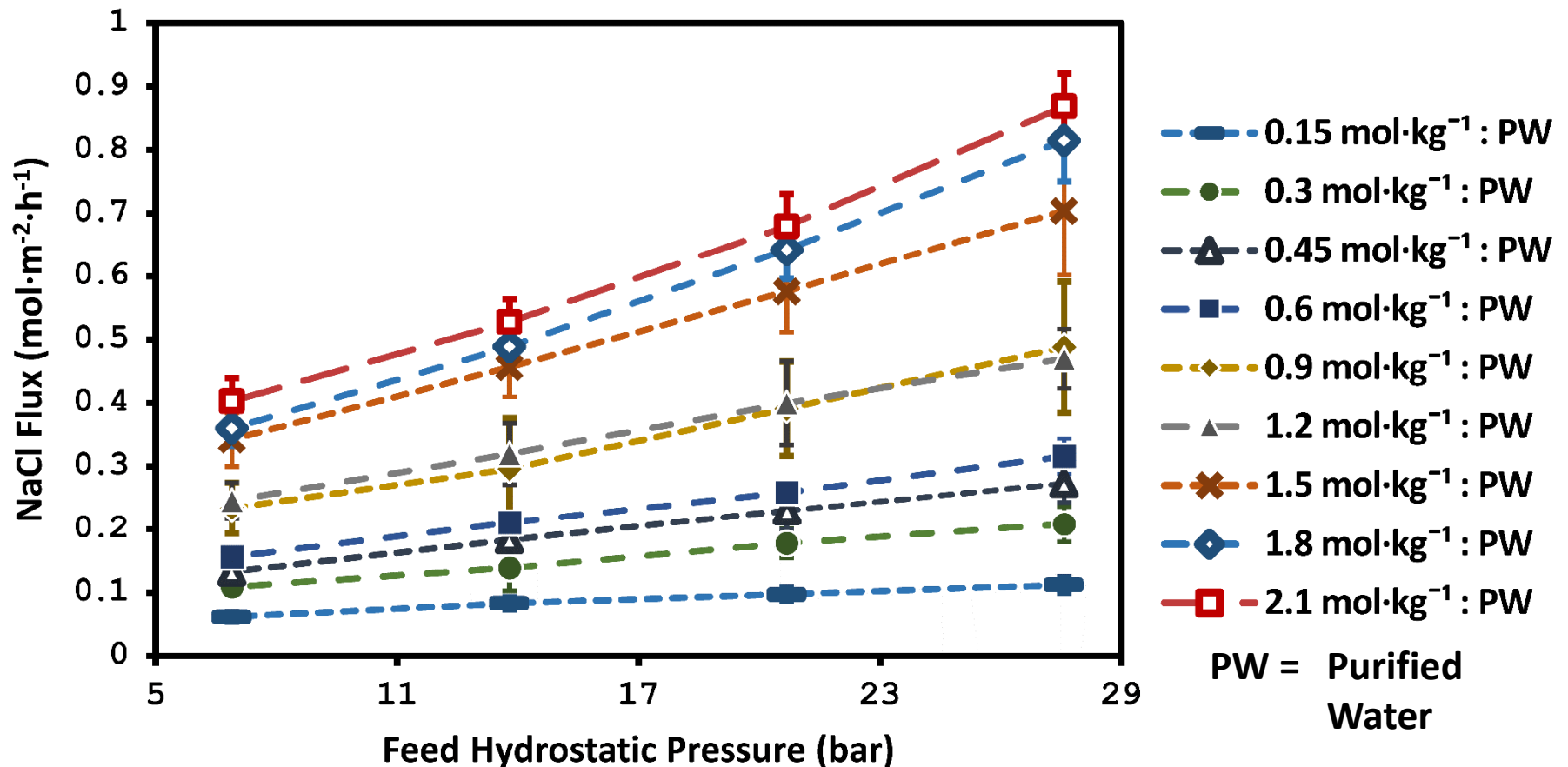
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# Water Flux – Purified Water Sweep



Water flux observed for FTS's woven supported CTA membrane using feed (selective layer) solutions of sodium chloride with a purified water sweep (support layer) at 25°C with a feed flowrate 1.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, sweep flowrate of 0.5 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, and average sweep pressure ~1 bar.

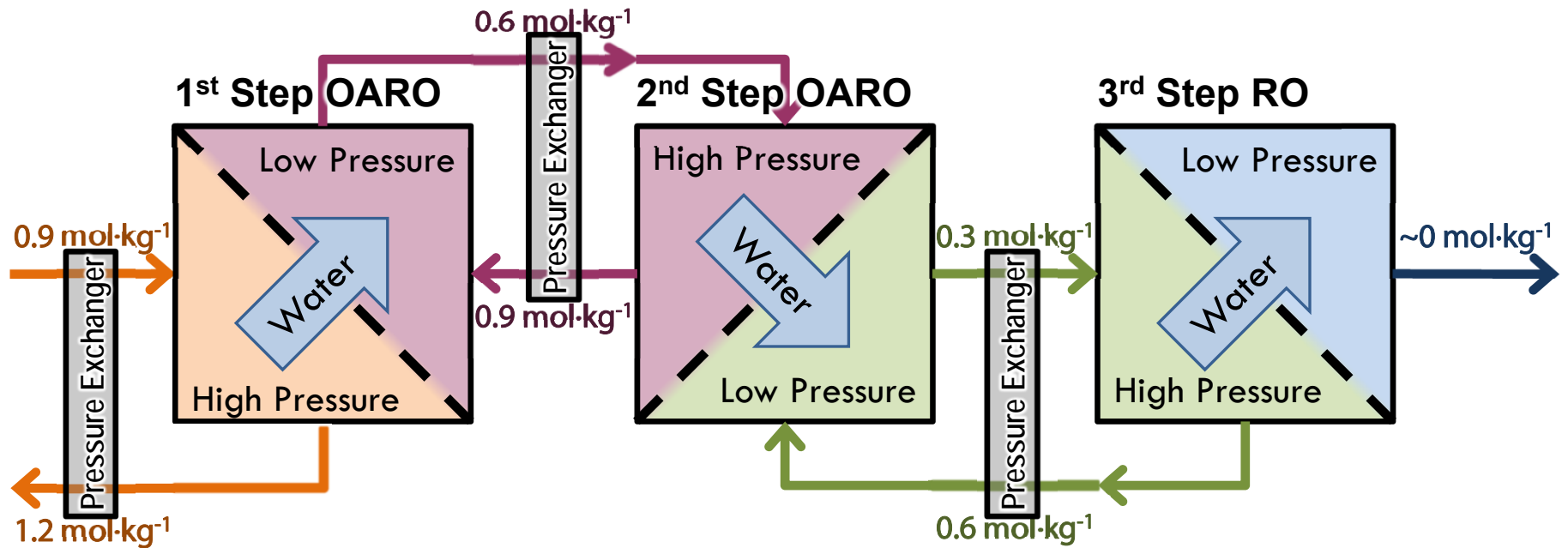
# Salt Flux – Purified Water Sweep



Salt flux observed for FTS's woven supported CTA membrane using feed (selective layer) solutions of sodium chloride with a purified water sweep (support layer) at 25°C with a feed flowrate 1.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, sweep flowrate of 0.5 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, and average sweep pressure ~1 bar.



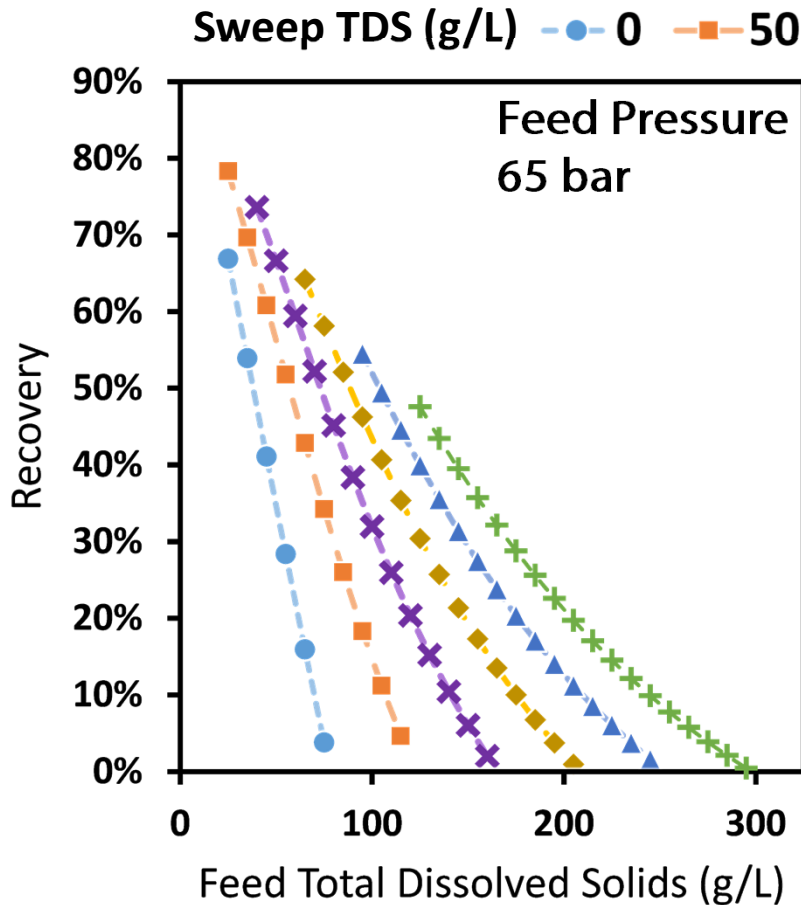
# OARO Process Simulations



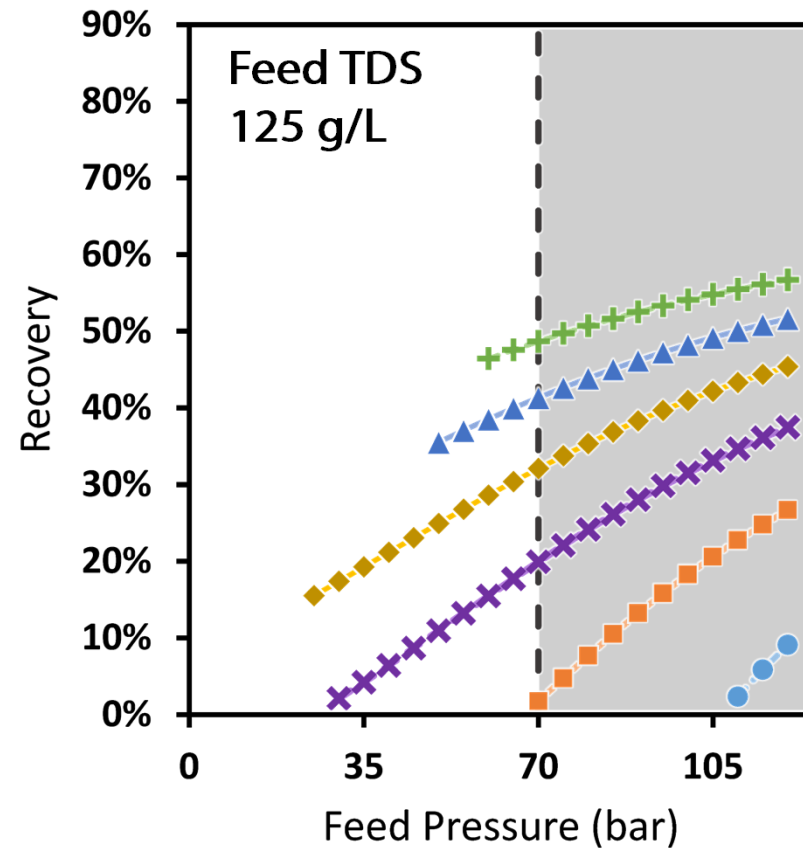
## Assumes

- Steady state
- Perfectly selective membrane
- Reynolds number of 1000 for sweep and feed
- 5 kPa pressure drop per meter of module
- 1 m wide by 10 m long module
- Membrane water permeance of  $0.36 \text{ L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\cdot\text{bar}^{-1}$
- Membrane structural parameter of  $1000 \mu\text{m}$
- Temperature  $25^\circ\text{C}$

# System Model Recovery Rates

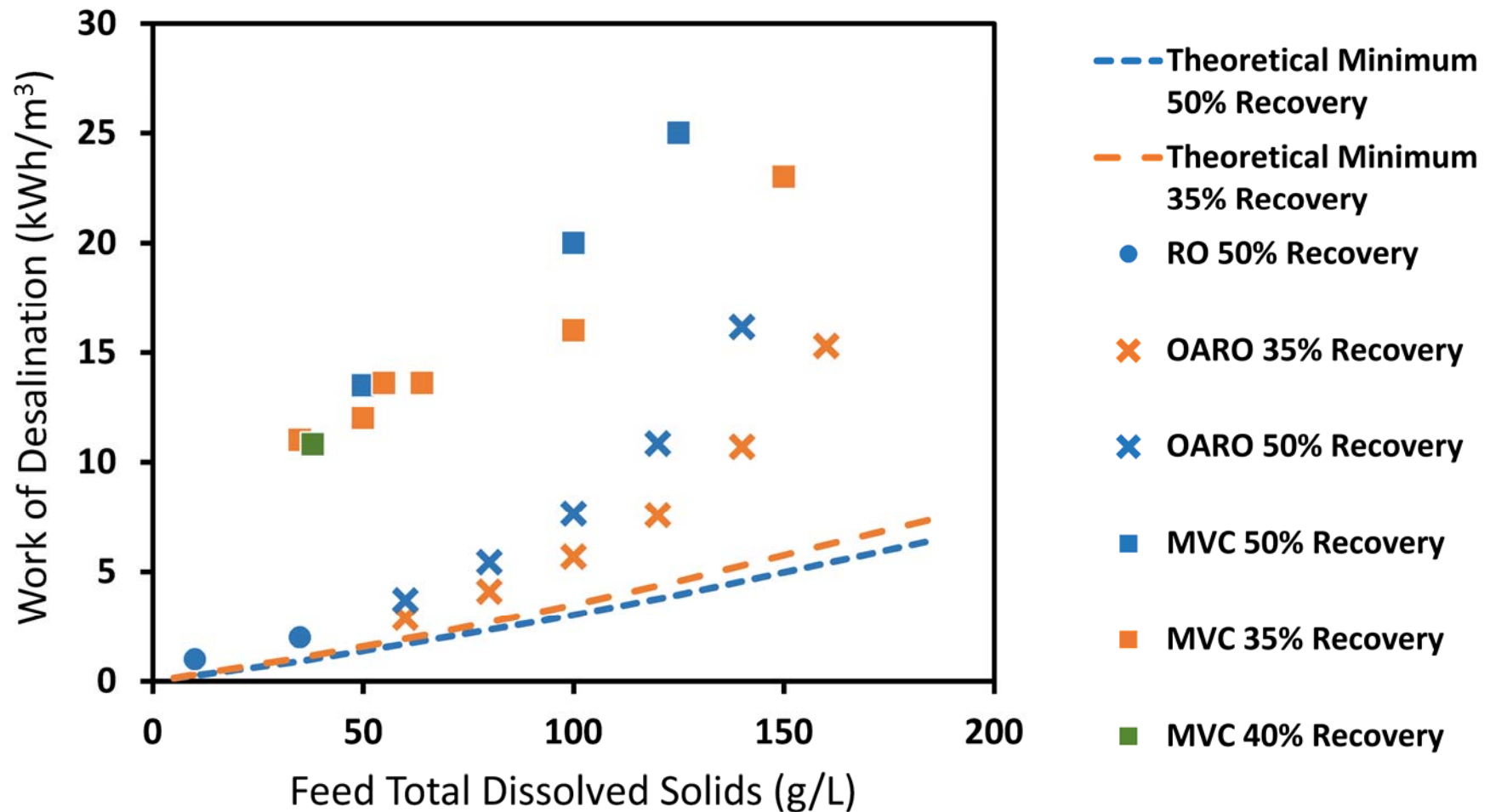


Maximum water recovery for a constant feed pressure of 65 bar with variable feed concentration and sweep concentration.



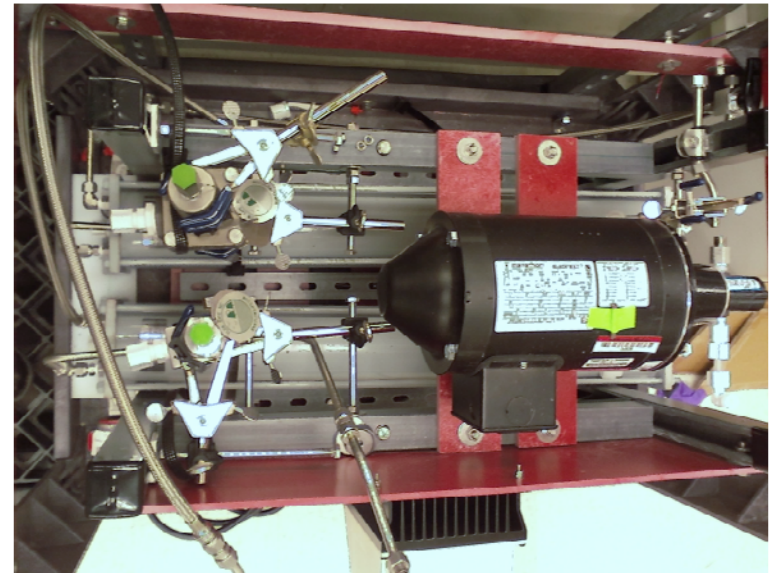
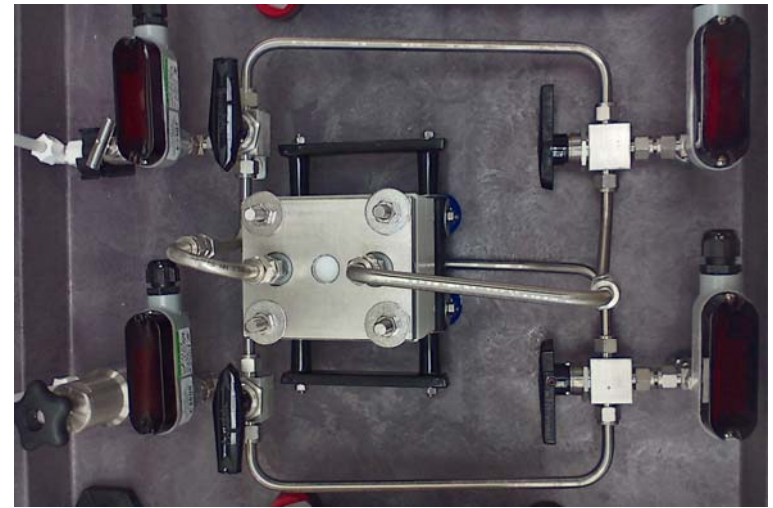
Maximum water recovery for a constant feed concentration of 125 g/L with variable feed pressure and sweep concentration.

# Comparison of OARO Simulations vs. MVC



Energy consumption of RO, MVC, OARO water treatment and theoretical minimum work with respect to feed TDS concentration and recovery

# NETL's Test System



# Conclusions & Future Work

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- OARO appears to be fundamentally feasible in for single bench tests and with simple models
  - **Able to dewater other high salinity brines**
- Characterize flat sheet and hollow fiber membrane on NETL system to better capture salt transport in OARO
- Determine mass transport properties both external and internal of membrane
- Work with CMU collaborators for refined process simulations for techno-economic analysis for comparison with MVC

# Acknowledgements



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  - Don Ferguson
  - Ed Robey
- NETL Project Management
  - Jessica Mullen
  - Barbara Carney
  - Karol Schrems
  - Bob Romanosky



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# Questions?

Thank you for your attention.



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# Governing Equations for OARO

$$J_w = A \cdot \left\{ [P_f - P_s] - [\pi(c_{f,m}) - \pi(c_{s,m})] \right\} \quad \text{Water Flux}$$

$$J_s = B \cdot [c_{f,m} - c_{s,m}] \quad \text{Salt Flux}$$

$$c_{f,m} = c_{f,b} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) + \frac{B}{J_w} \cdot \left[ \frac{c_{f,b} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) - c_{s,b} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right)}{1 + \frac{B}{J_w} \cdot \left\{ \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right) \right\}} \right] \cdot \left[ 1 - \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) \right]$$

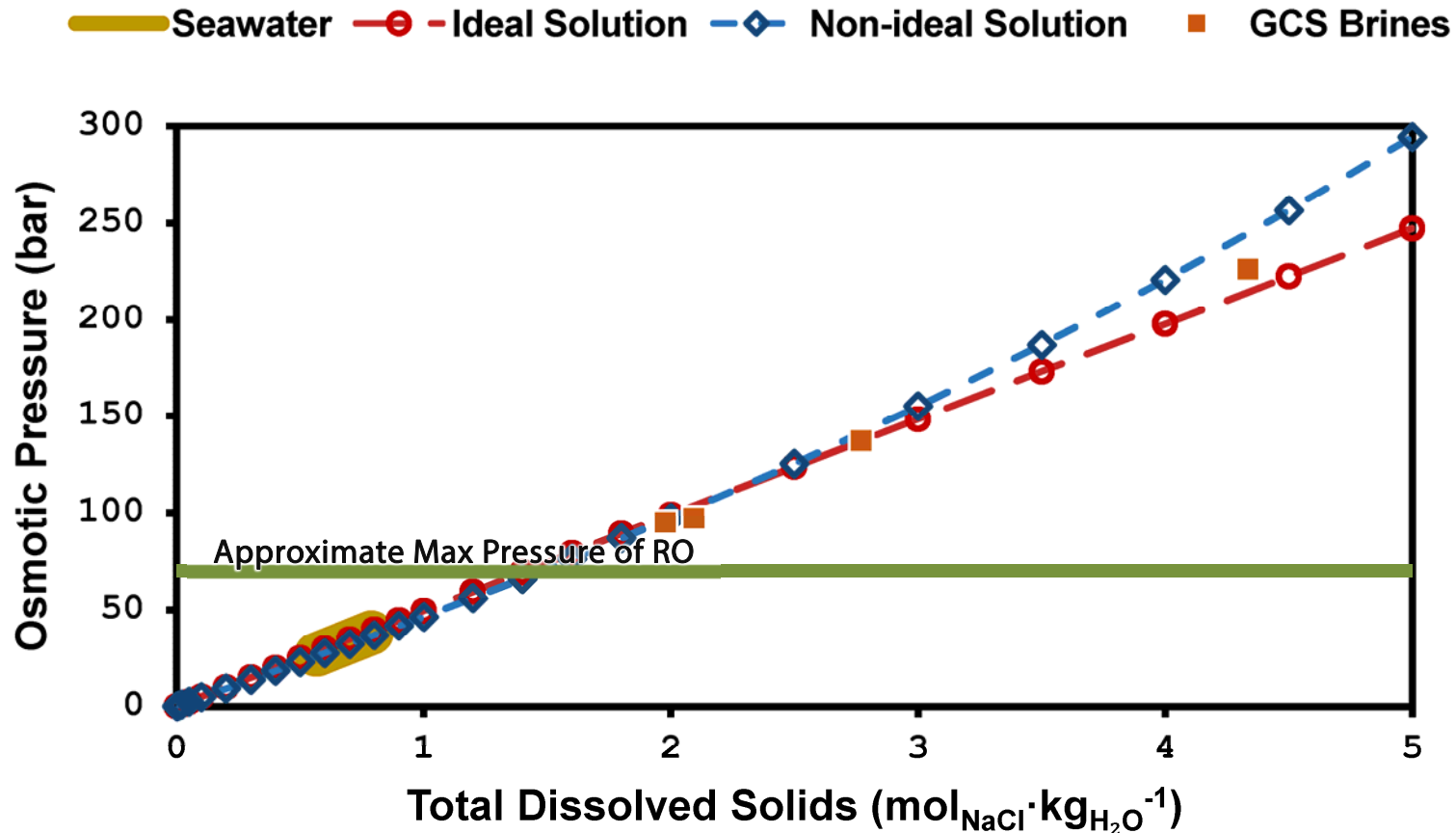
$$c_{s,m} = c_{s,b} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right) + \frac{B}{J_w} \cdot \left[ \frac{c_{f,b} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) - c_{s,b} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right)}{1 + \frac{B}{J_w} \cdot \left\{ \exp\left(\frac{J_w \delta_f}{D}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right) \right\}} \right] \cdot \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{J_w S}{D}\right) \right]$$

} Interface Concentrations

- A Membrane Water permeance
- B Membrane solute permeability
- S Membrane structural parameter
- $J_w$  Water flux
- $J_s$  Salt flux
- $P_f$  Feed hydrostatic pressure

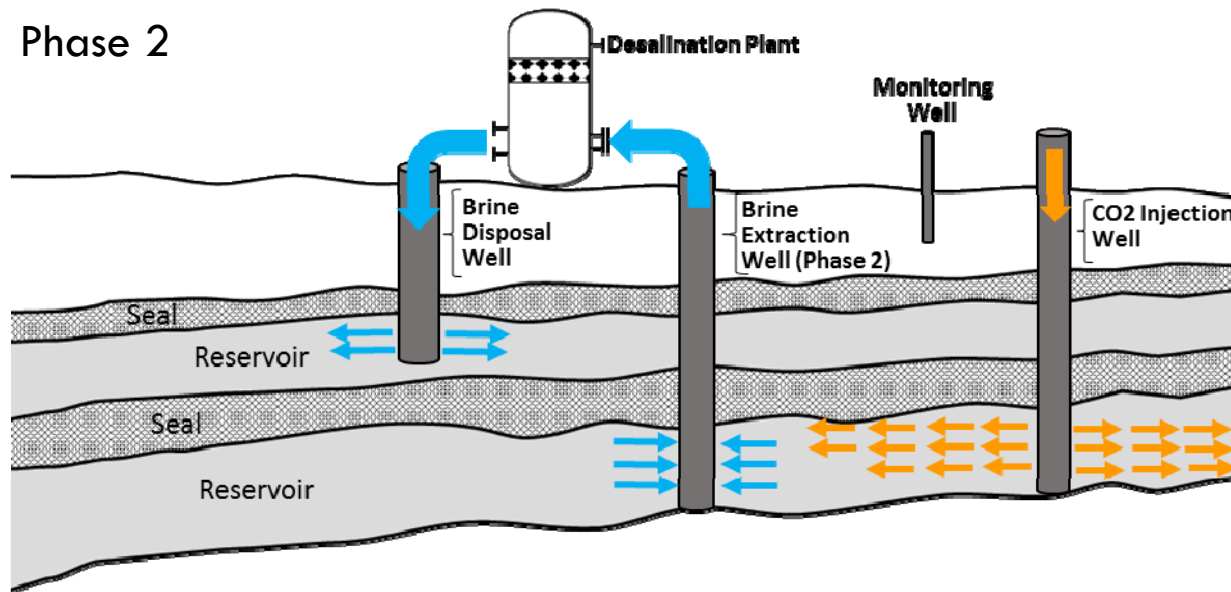
- $P_s$  Sweep hydrostatic pressure
- $c_{f,m}$  Feed salt concentration
- $c_{s,m}$  Sweep salt concentration
- D Salt diffusion coefficient
- $\delta_f$  Feed boundary layer thickness
- $\pi(c)$  Osmotic pressure as a function of concentration

# Osmotic Pressure of Brines



Osmotic pressure of sodium chloride solutions and produced brines at 25°C  
 Brine osmotic pressures calculated using Geochemist's Workbench v9 with thermo\_phrqpitz

# Dual-mode Extraction/Injection Wells



## Phase 2-CO<sub>2</sub> Storage

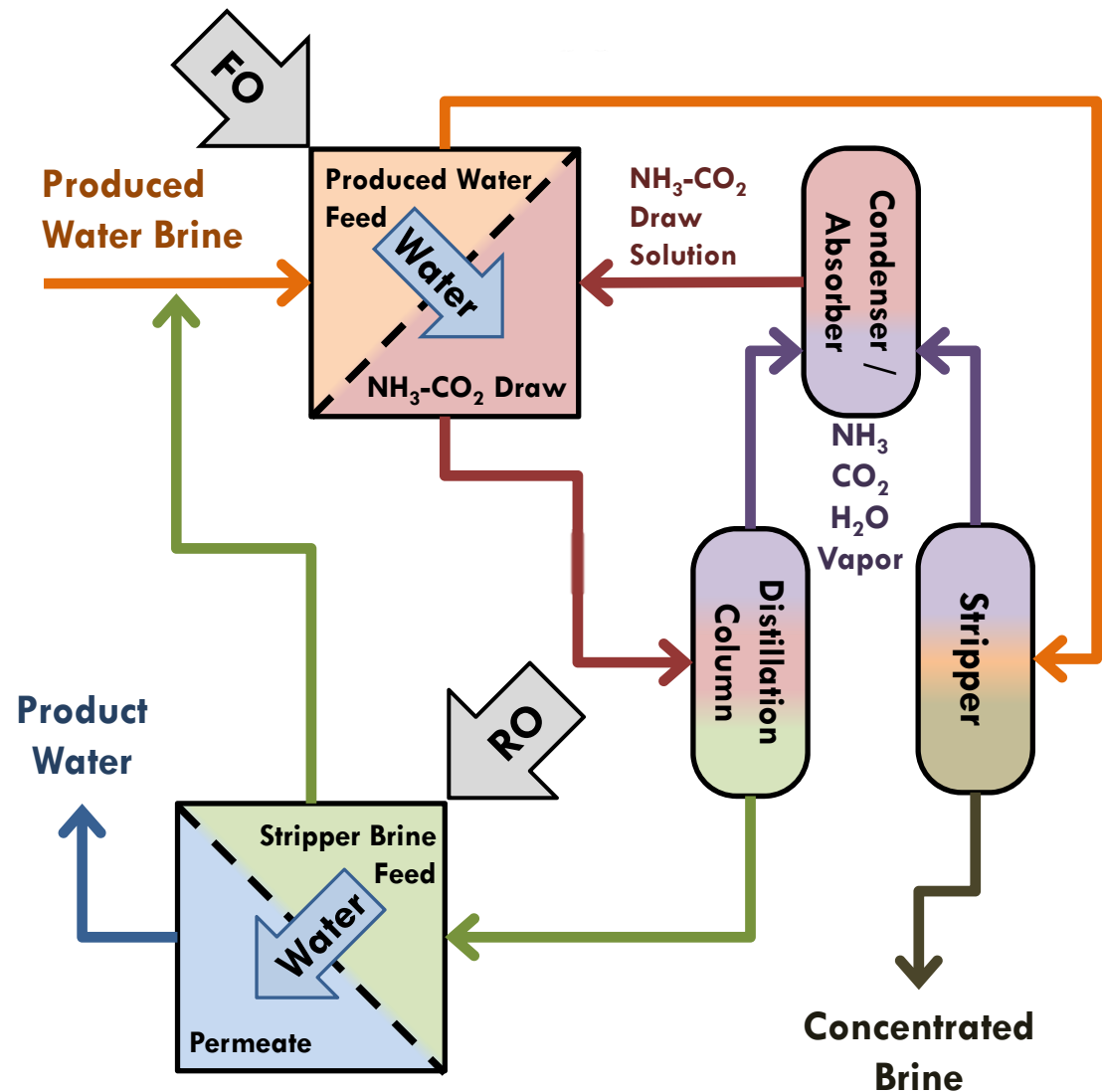
- Pre-injection brine extraction well is converted to a CO<sub>2</sub> injection well
- New brine extraction well is put into operation with processing facility and new brine injection well
- A monitoring well may be completed in an overlying formation to assess possible seal leakage

# High Salinity Brine Dewatering with FO

NH<sub>3</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> osmotic brine concentrator pilot that was operated in the Marcellus Shale Concentrate brines up to 180 g/L TDS

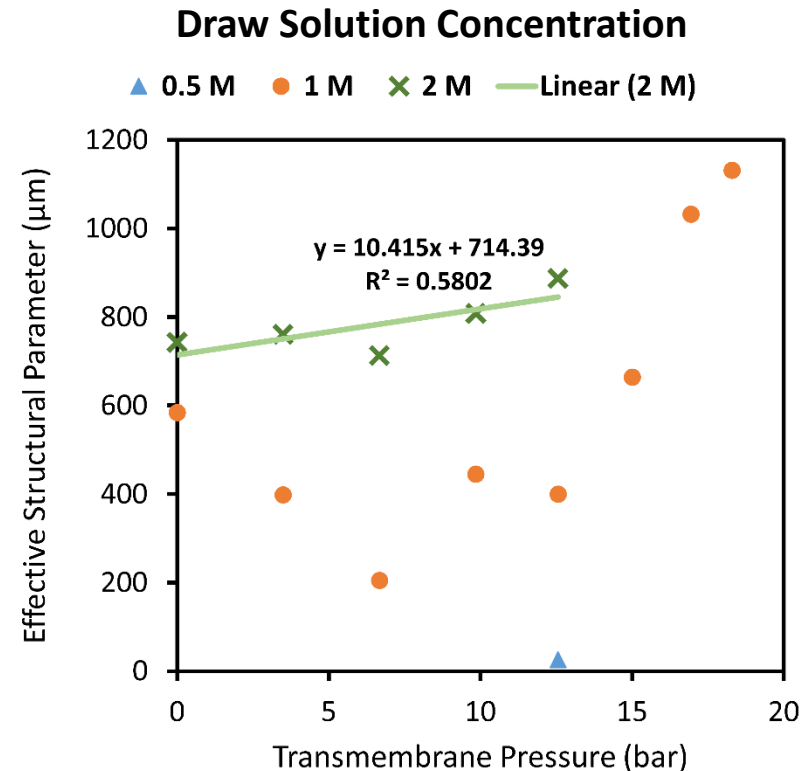
Process consists of:

- FO stage @ low TMP
- Draw solute recovery
- RO stage @ high TMP



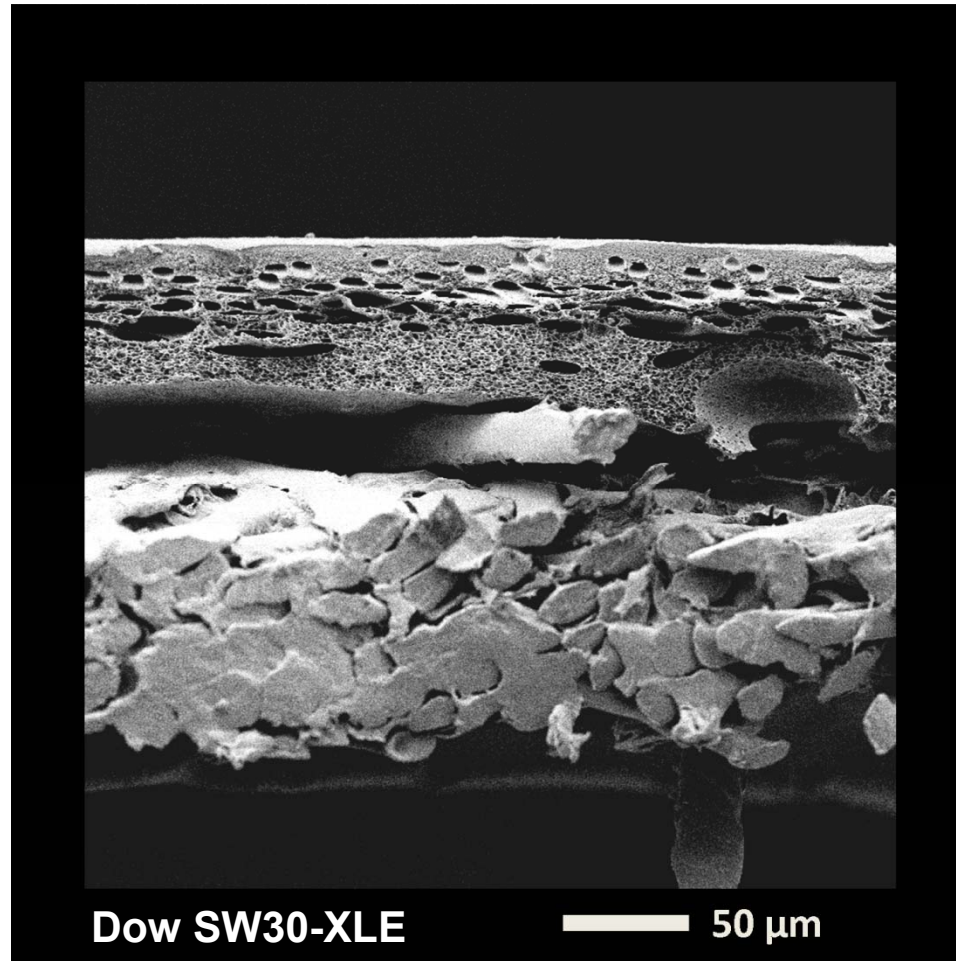
# CA Membranes in PRO

- Structural parameters are often calculated in studies that develop and/or characterize membranes for forward osmosis
- Structural parameters may change as a membrane is compacted by applied hydrostatic pressure
- Accurate simulation of OARO should measure membrane properties at conditions which reflect process conditions



**Effective structural parameter of Hydration Technology Innovations' (HTI) woven supported cellulose triacetate membrane calculate from pressure retarded osmosis using a 0.01 M sodium chloride feed at 25°C**

# Issues with TFC Chemistry



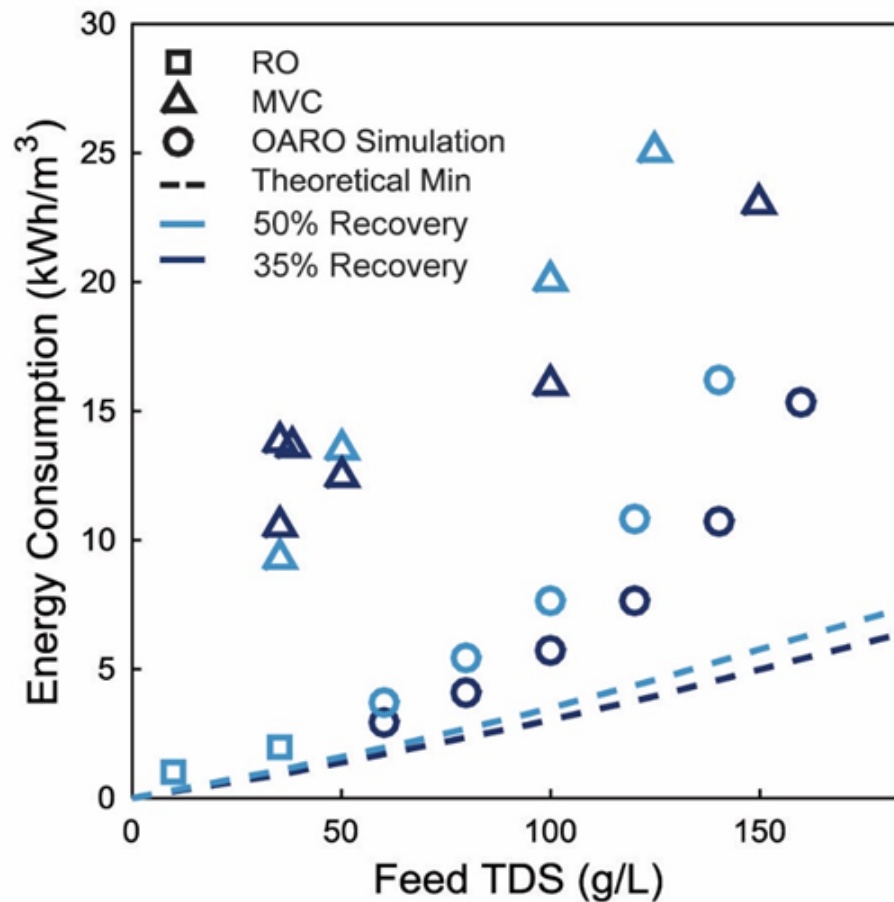
Hydrophobic support layer

Polyamide (PA) Selective Layer

Polysulfone (PSu)  
Polymer Layer

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)  
Fabric Layer

# Comparison of OARO Simulations vs. MVC



## Assumes

- Steady state
- Perfectly selective membrane
- Reynolds number of 1000 for sweep and feed
- 5 kPa pressure drop per meter of module
- 1 m wide by 10 m long module
- Membrane water permeance of  $0.36 \text{ L}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\cdot\text{bar}^{-1}$
- Membrane structural parameter of  $1000 \mu\text{m}$

Significantly less electricity consumption using OARO than from MVC

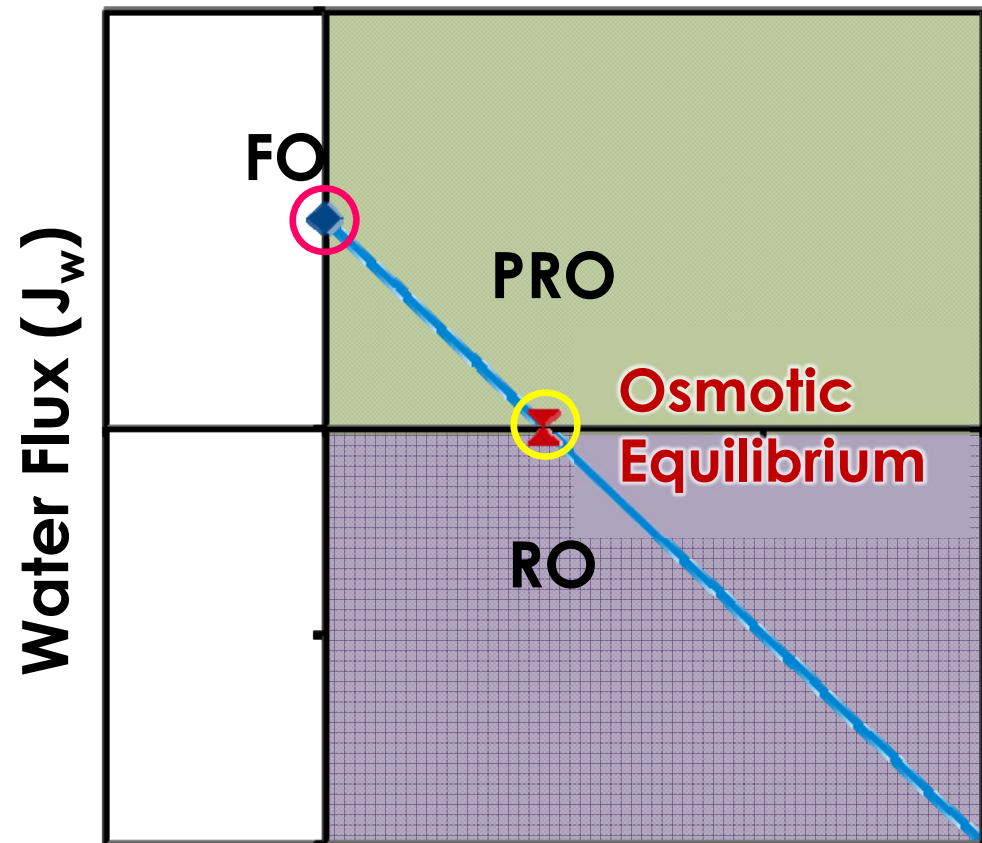
# Osmotic and Hydrostatic Pressure

- Fixed osmotic pressure gradient
- Water flux into concentrated solution is positive

$$J_w = A(\Delta\pi - \Delta P)$$



$$J_w = A(\Delta P - \Delta\pi)$$

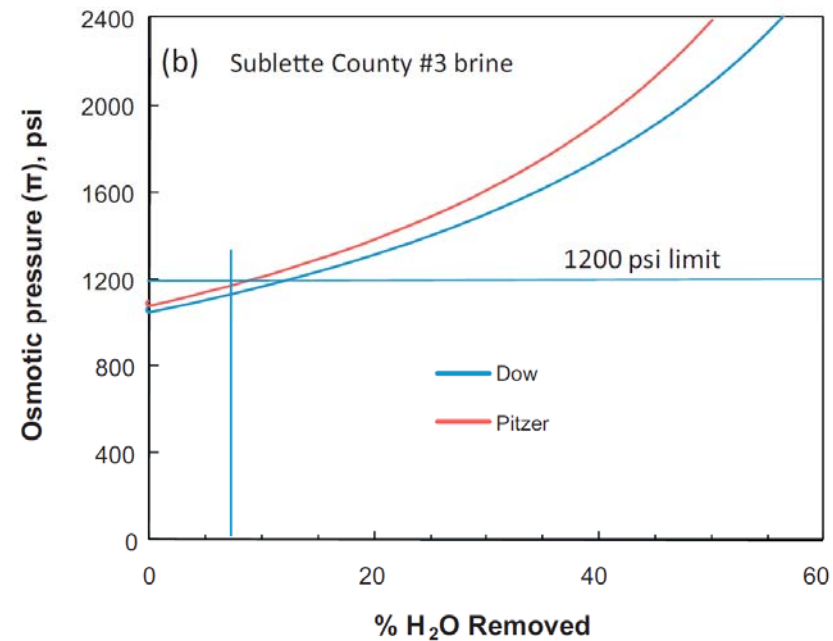
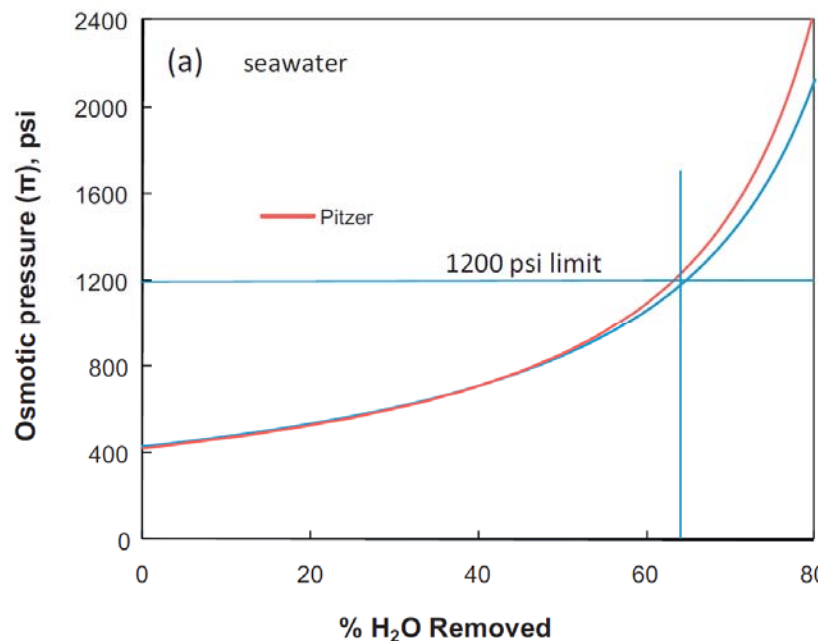


$$\Delta P = P_{\text{concentrated}} - P_{\text{dilute}}$$



# Prior Study of RO on GCS Brines

- Brine Concentration > Sea water (TDS ~ 35 g/L)
- Limited by mechanical stability of membrane
- Water recovery of brines > 85 g/L TDS is negligible for a 1200 psi membrane

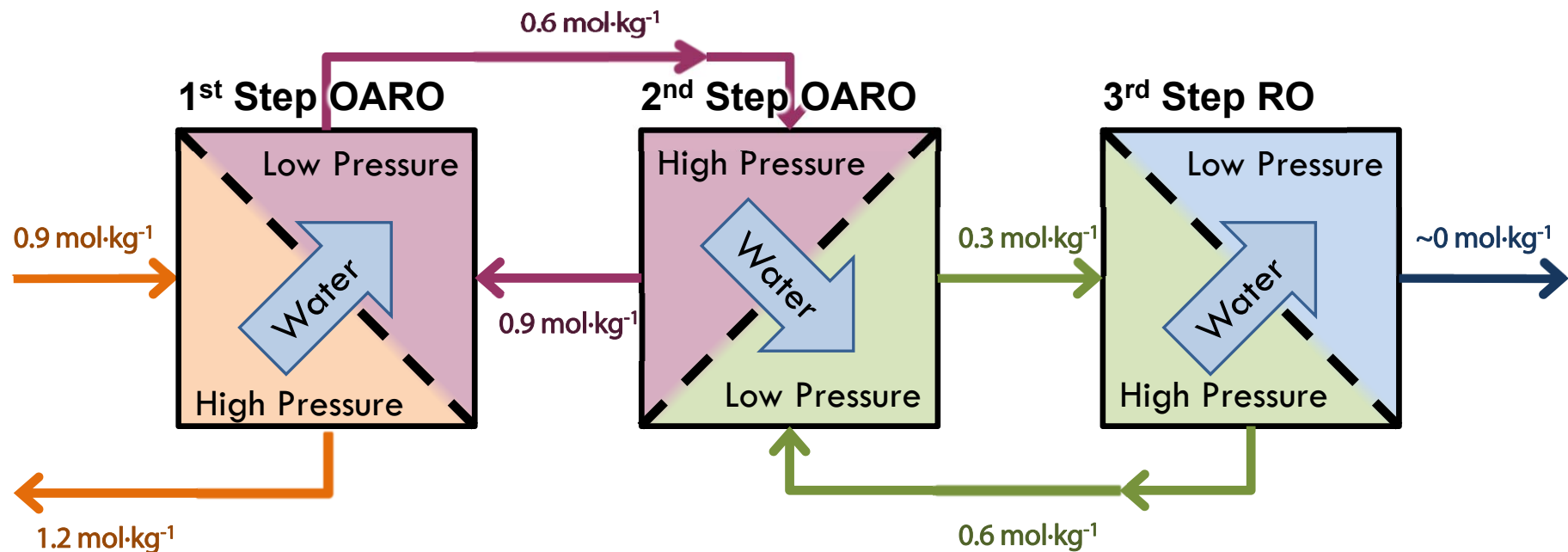


Comparison of maximum water recovery using RO comparing seawater (a) and a 86 g/L brine (b) from a CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration site in Wyoming

# Process Configuration

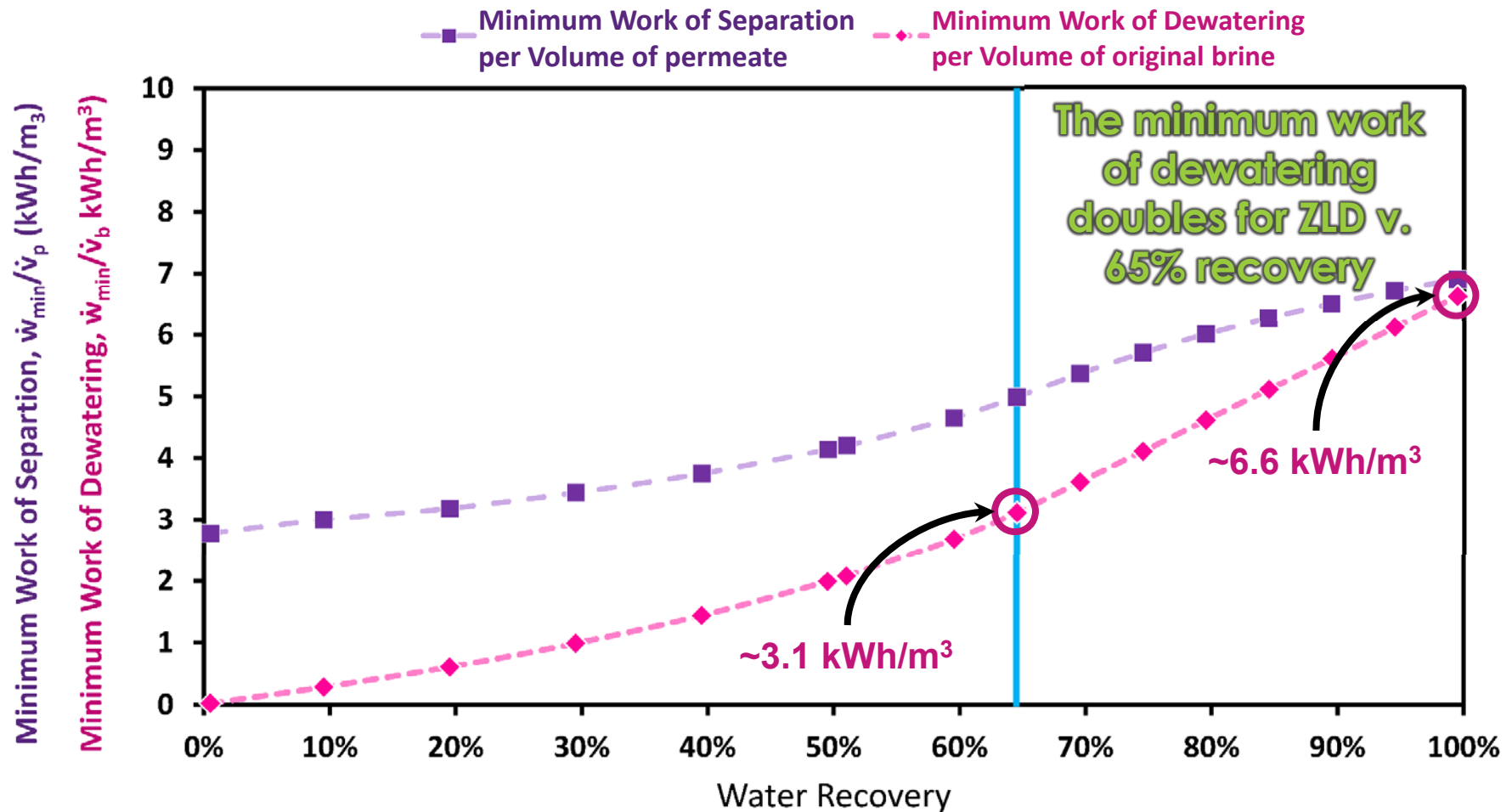
## The OARO process

- Seeks to concentrate a brine in steps



- Pressure limitations will affect concentration difference between the feed and sweep solutions

# Minimum Work of Dewatering



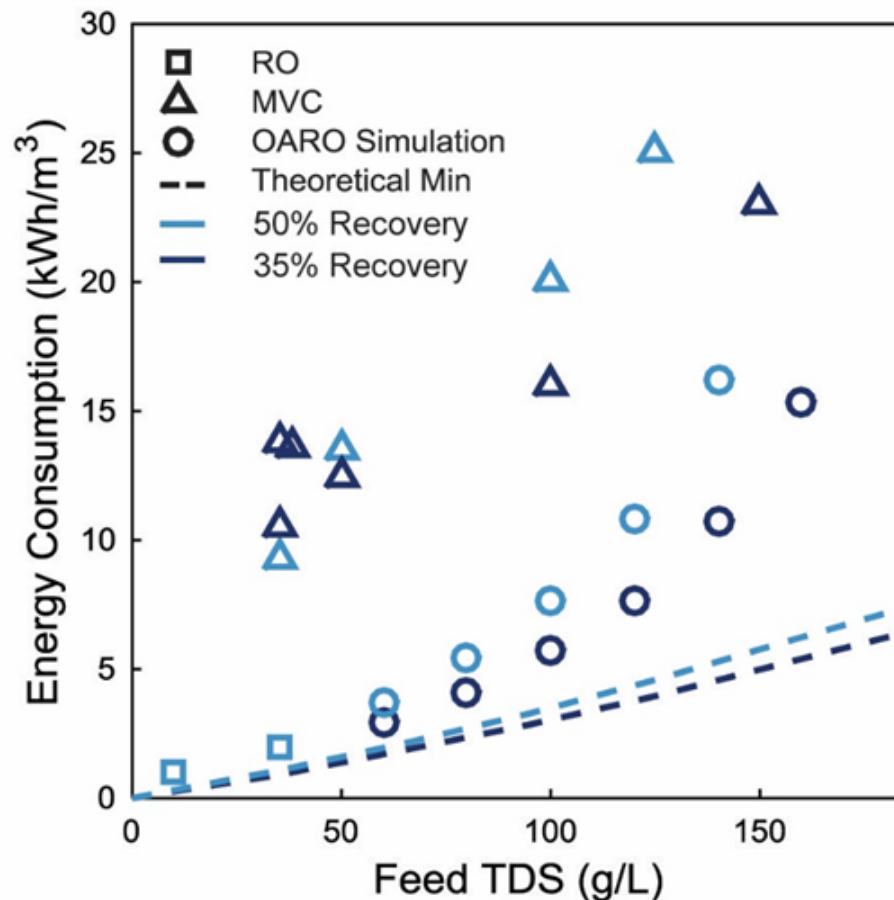
2 mol/L (117 g/L) sodium chloride solution at 20°C using the NRTL electrolyte equation of state with AspenPlus V8.4

# General Experimental Plan



Test Regime	Test Pressures	Feed	Sweep
Compaction	31.0 bar	Purified Water	Purified Water
RO/PRO Water and Salt Flux	27.6–6.9 bar in 6.9 bar increments	Purified Water	Purified Water
		0.15 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		0.3 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		0.45 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		0.6 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		0.9 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		1.2 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		1.5 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
		1.8 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	" "
OARO Water Flux	27.6–6.9 bar in 6.9 bar increments	0.9 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.3 & 0.6 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>
		1.2 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.6 & 0.9 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>
		1.5 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.9 & 1.2 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>
		1.8 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	1.2 & 1.5 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>
		2.1 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	1.5 & 1.8 mol·kg <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> <sup>-1</sup>

# Comparison of OARO Simulations vs. MVC

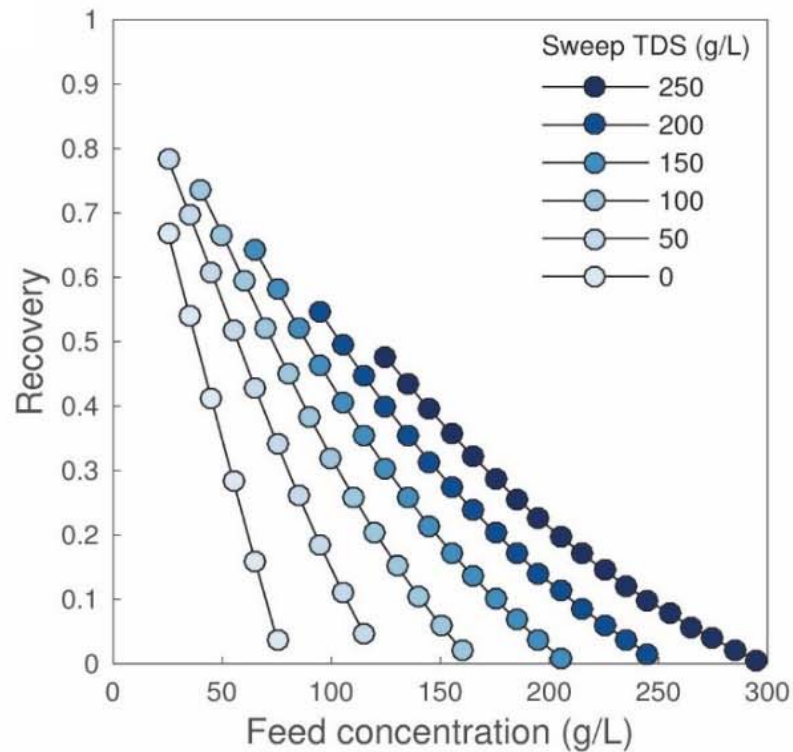


## Assumes

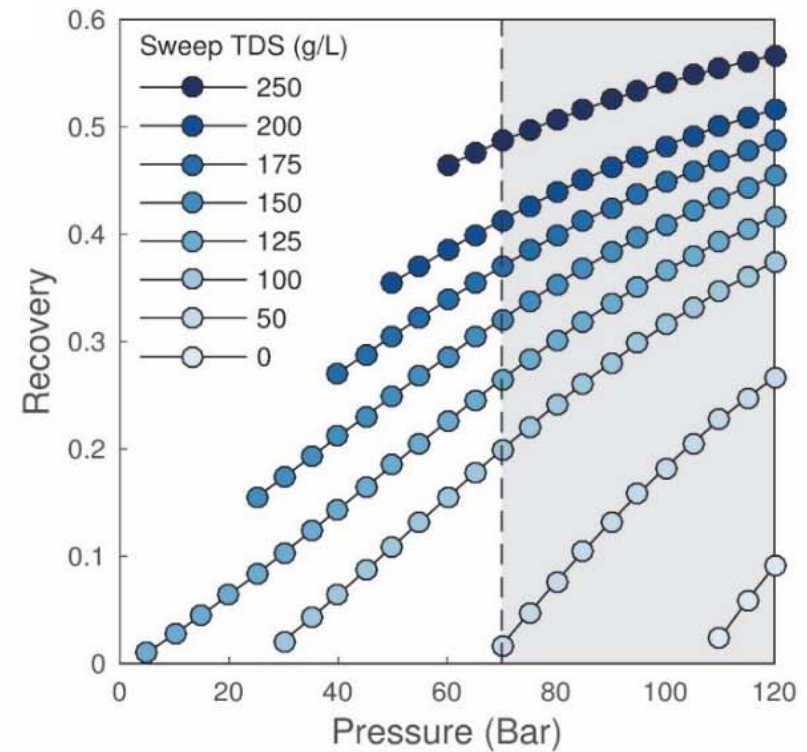
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# System Model Recovery Rates

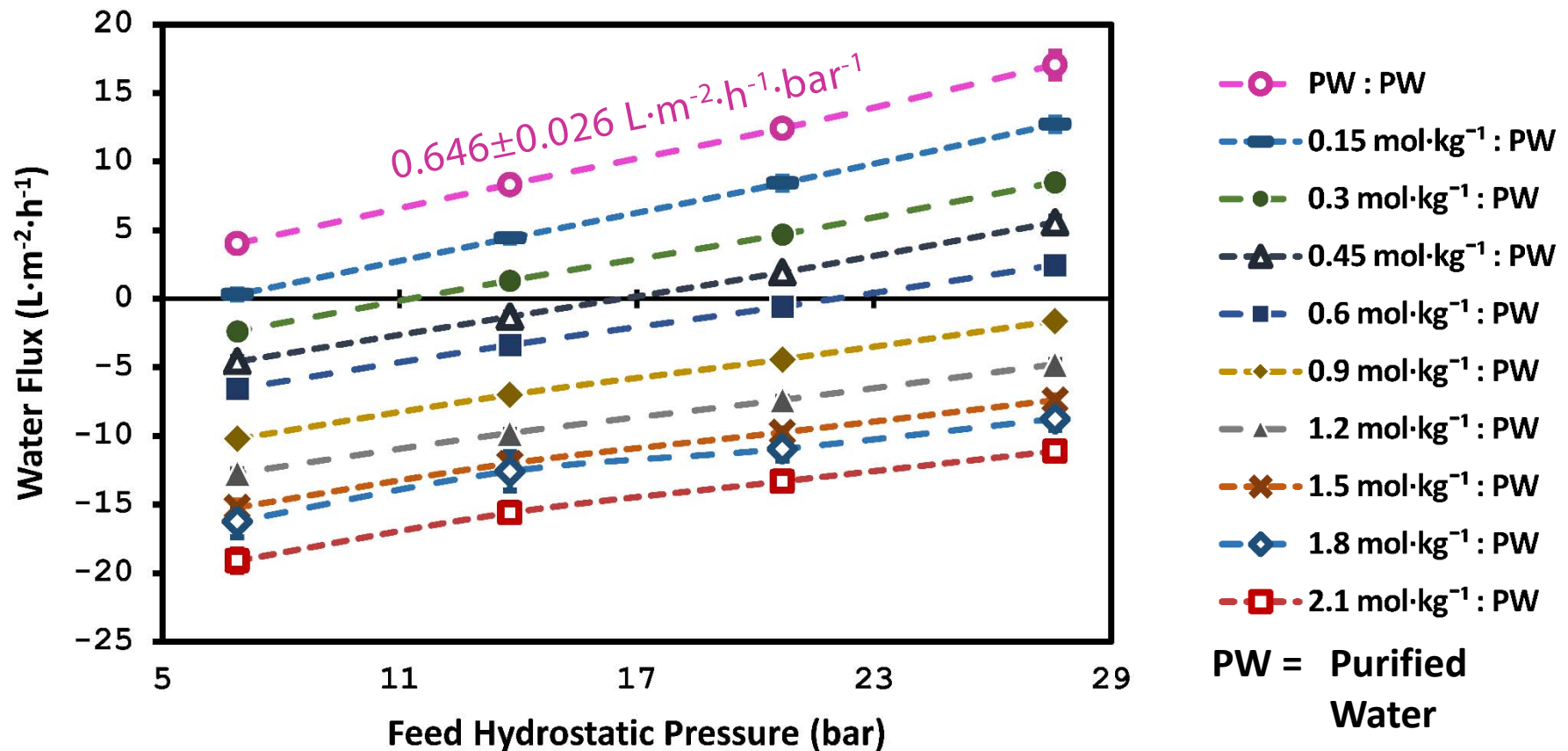


OARO recovery for a constant feed pressure of 65 bar and variable feed concentration and sweep concentration.



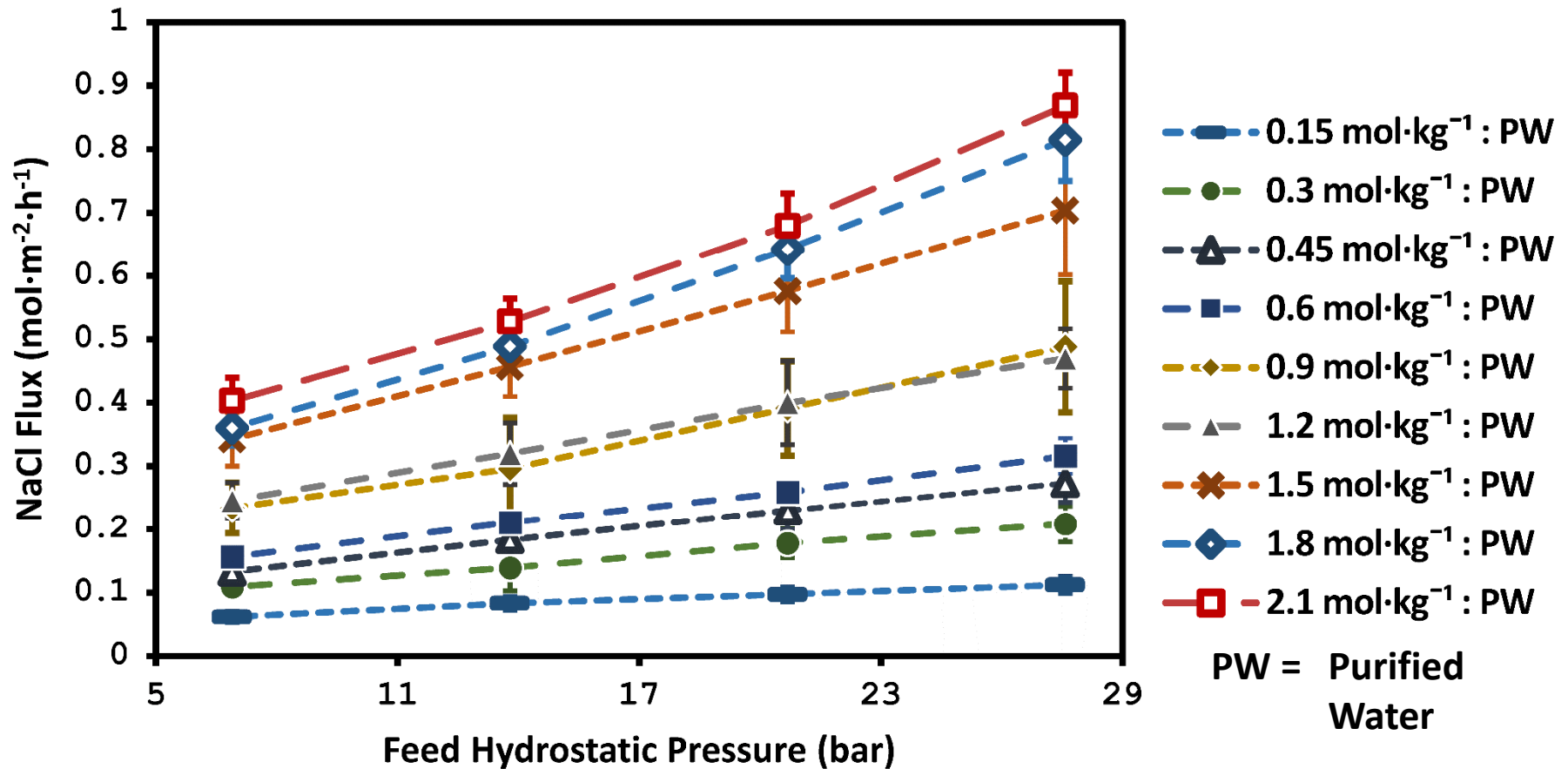
OARO recovery for a feed with a TDS concentration of 125 g/L and variable feed pressure and sweep concentration.

# Water Flux – Purified Water Sweep



Water flux observed for FTS's woven supported CTA membrane using feed (selective layer) solutions of sodium chloride with a purified water sweep (support layer) at 25°C with a feed flowrate 1.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup> and a sweep flowrate of 0.5 L·min<sup>-1</sup>.

# Salt Flux – Purified Water Sweep



Salt flux observed for FTS's woven supported CTA membrane using feed (selective layer) solutions of sodium chloride with a purified water sweep (support layer) at 25°C with a feed flowrate 1.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup> and a sweep flowrate of 0.5 L·min<sup>-1</sup>.



# NETL's Test System

