

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Organic Leaching Science

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EPA Public Meeting on the Development of New Waste  
Leaching Procedures under RCRA

July 22-23, 1999

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel

Arlington, VA

# Outline

- Review of key leaching issues related to use of tests and modeling.
- How batch tests relate to more realistic leaching in the environment.
- How do we determine when equilibrium conditions are observed?
- How can we deal with kinetic limitations?
- Conclusions/suggestions.

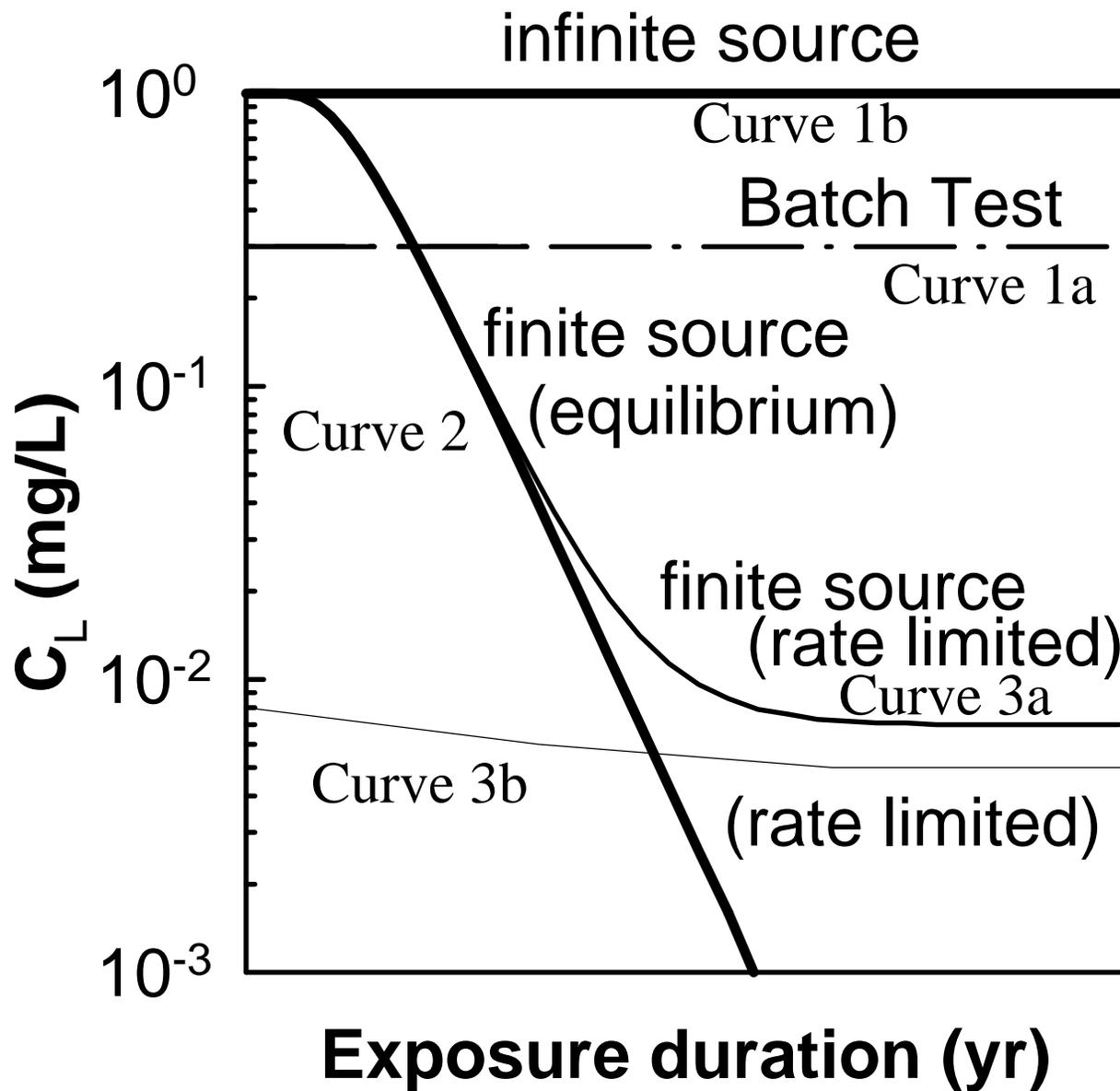
## Key Leaching Issues

- What is the role of batch tests for describing leaching for organic compounds?
- How do we incorporate factors such as presence of residual NAPL, kinetics and various loss processes?

# SAB Leaching Test Issues

- L/S ratio
  - Kinetics
  - pH
  - Colloid/emulsion formation/oily phase
  - Particle size reduction
  - Volatile losses
  - Interactions with other wastes
- L/S ratio, kinetics, and aspects of the oily phase issue will be addressed in this presentation.

# Batch vs. More Realistic Leaching Behavior



# **How Can One Translate Batch Data to More Realistic Leaching ?**

# Comparison of Batch and Fixed-bed Leaching for Oily Wastes

- Approach for obtaining appropriate leaching parameters from batch tests.
- Use of batch parameters to describe fixed-bed leaching.

## Required Parameters from Batch Tests

- $C_{Lo}$  - leachate concentration at a leachate/waste ratio extrapolated to zero.
- $K_w$  - partition coefficient.

## Determination of $K_w$ and $C_{L0}$ for a Given Waste

$K_w$  and  $C_{L0}$  can be determined for a given waste from:

- a batch test and waste analysis.
- multiple batch leachate tests.

Alternatively,  $K_w$  and  $C_{L0}$  can be estimated for a given waste from:

- oil content or TPH.
- application of Raoult's Law.

# Modeling Batch Extraction

( I ) Single batch extraction and waste analysis:

$$K_w = \frac{C_{To}}{C_L} - \frac{V^L}{M_w} \quad C_{Lo} = \frac{C_{To}}{K_w}$$

( II ) Multiple batch extractions at various leachate/waste ratios:

$$\frac{1}{C_L} = \frac{1}{K_w C_{Lo}} \left( \frac{V^L}{M_w} \right) + \frac{1}{C_{Lo}}$$

$C_L$  = leachate concentration emanating from waste (mg/L)

$C_{Lo}$  = leachate concentration (mg/L)

$C_{To}$  = initial total concentration (mg/kg)

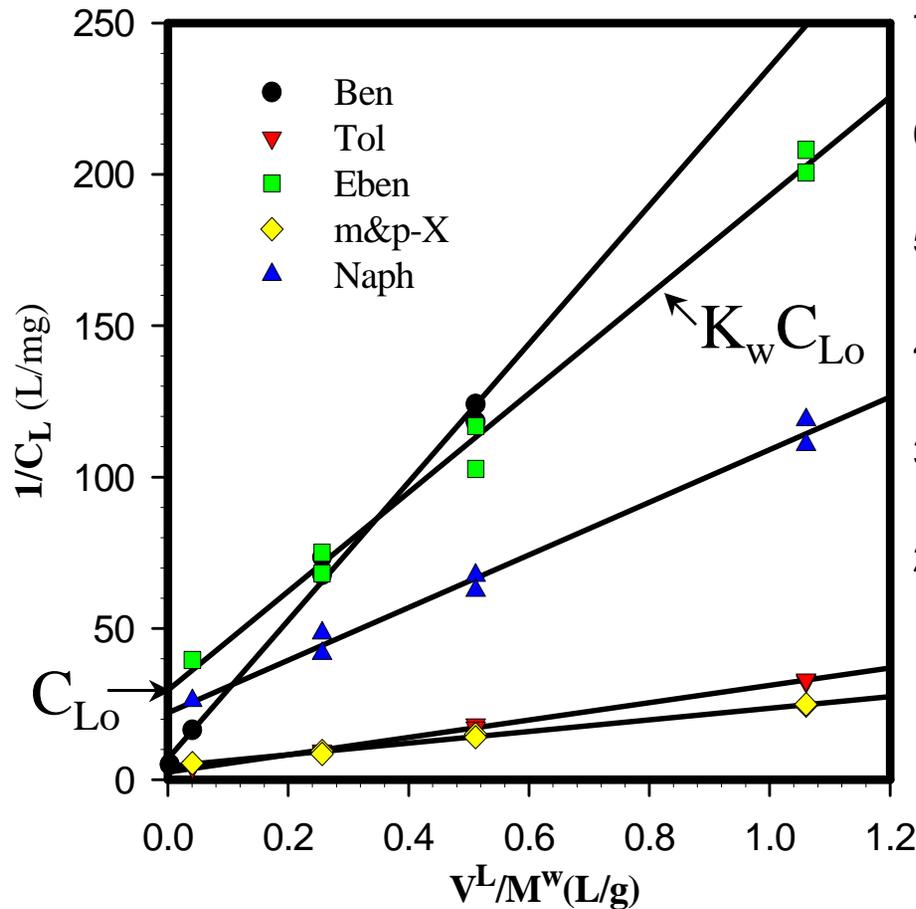
$K_w$  = waste-leachate partition coefficient (L leachate/kg waste)

$V^L$  = volume of leachate (L)

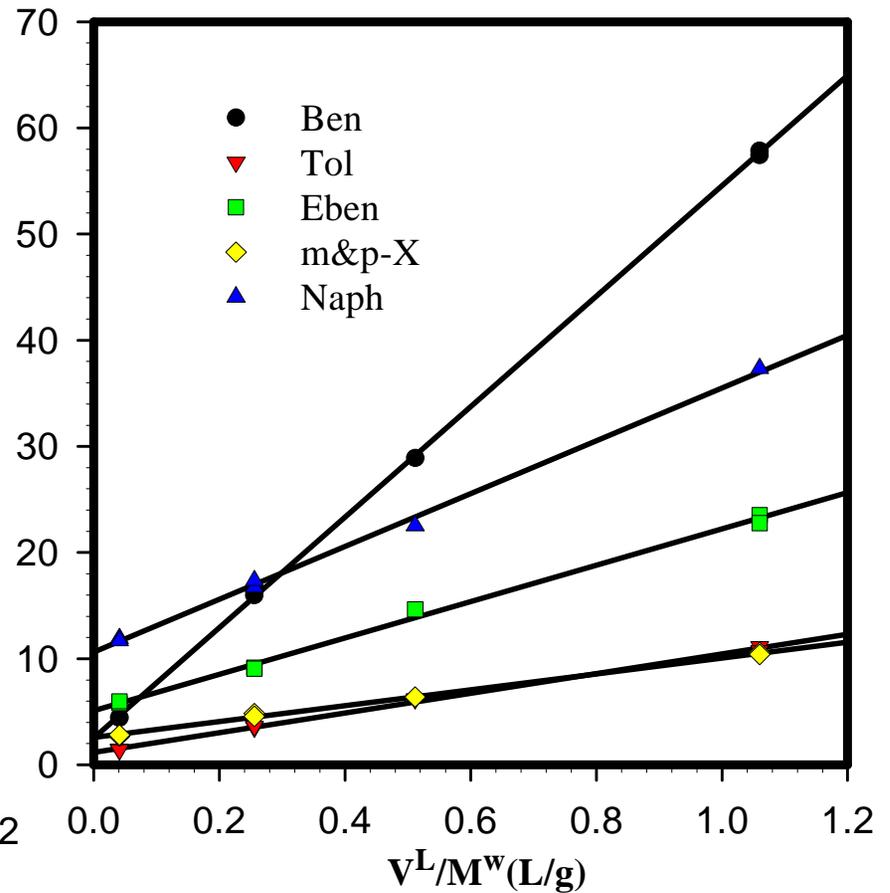
$M_w$  = mass of waste (kg)

$$C_T = K_w C_L$$

# Multiple Batch Leachate Tests



Crude Oil Tank Bottoms Sludge



Hydrorefining Catalyst

# Theoretical Description of Fixed-Bed Leaching (Equilibrium Conditions)

$$\frac{C_L}{C_{L_0}} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{Pe}{4t^*}} (1 - t^*) \right] - \frac{1}{2} \exp(Pe) \operatorname{erfc} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{Pe}{4t^*}} (1 + t^*) \right]$$

$C_L$  = leachate concentration emanating from waste (mg/L)

$C_{L_0}$  = initial ( $t=0$ ) leachate concentration (mg/L)

$t^*$  = non-dimensionalized leaching time,  $(Qt)/(M_w K_w)$

$Q$  = leachate flow rate (L/day)

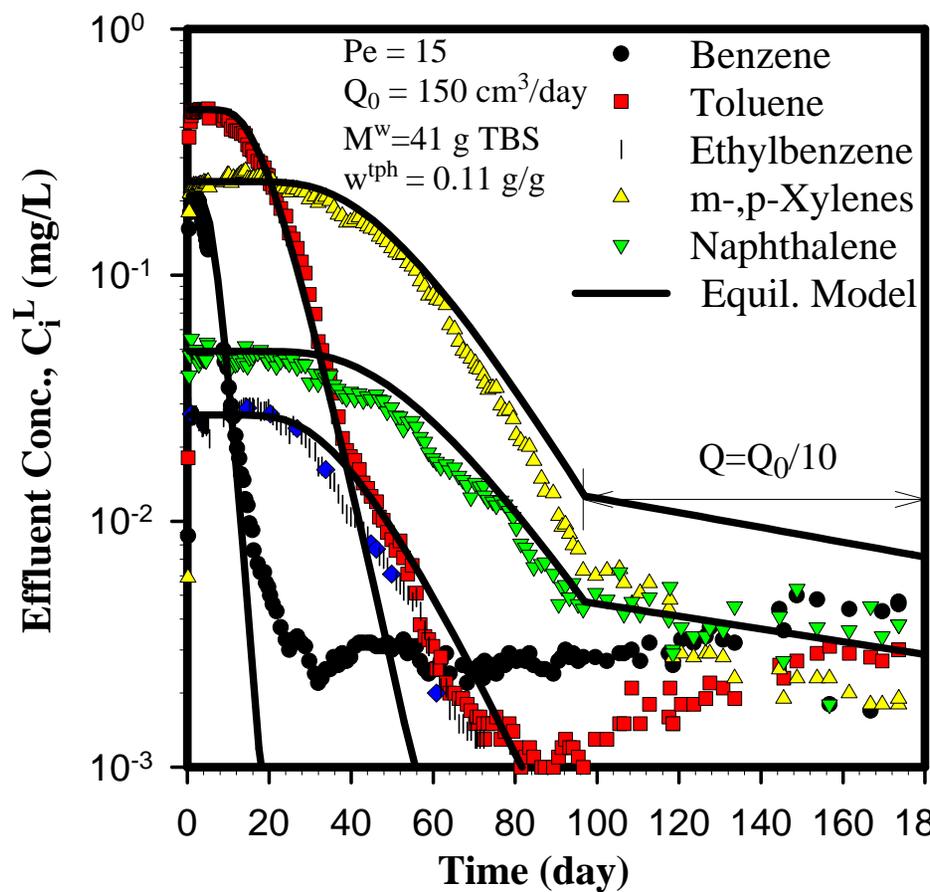
$M_w$  = mass of waste (kg)

$K_w$  = waste-leachate distribution coefficient (L/kg)

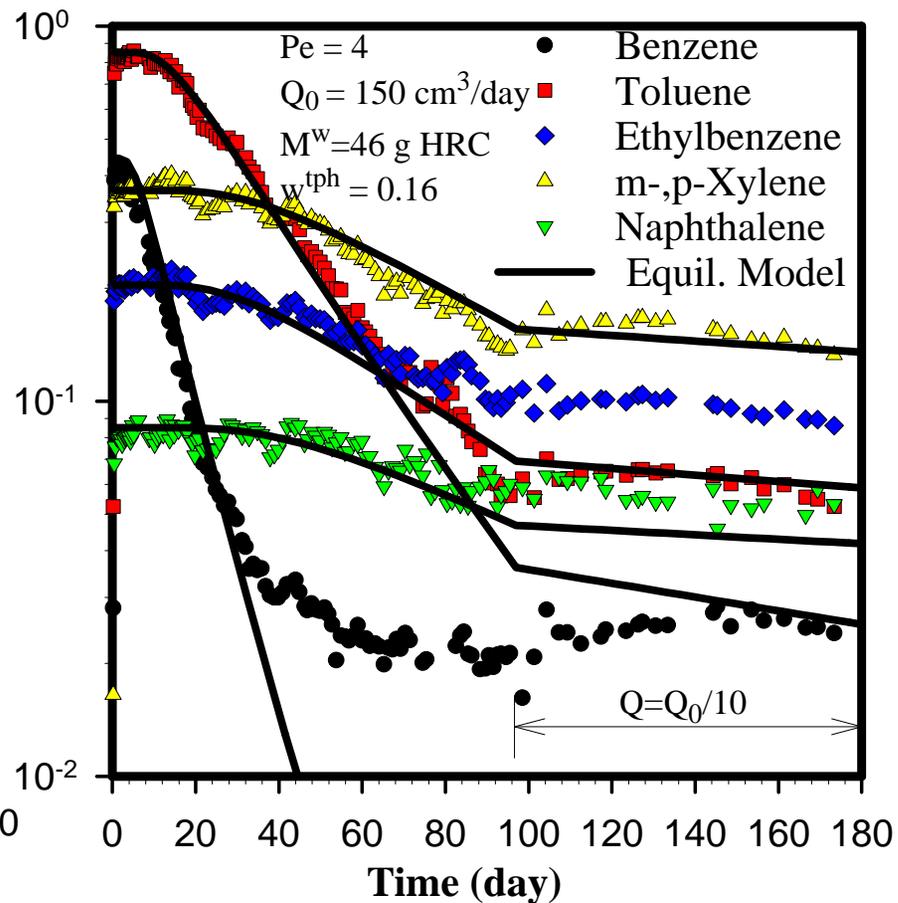
$Pe$  = Peclet number in waste zone,  $v_y L / D_y$

**$K_w$  and  $C_{L_0}$  can be determined independently  
from Batch leaching tests.**

# Fixed-Bed Leaching Curves



Crude Oil Tank Bottoms Sludge



Hydrorefining Catalyst

- Curves were generated from batch parameters with a theoretical equilibrium dissolution model. Asymptotic concentrations reflect rate-limited release.

## Conclusion

- A simple batch test can be used to describe more realistic leaching

Caveats:

- (1) for equilibrium leaching conditions &
- (2) in the absence of other loss processes, e.g., volatilization and degradation.

# Accounting for the effect of NAPL residual

# Effect of NAPL on Partitioning

Equilibrium partitioning:

$$C_T = K_w C_L$$

where:

$$K_w = f \left( S_w^{\text{water}} + S_a^{\text{air}} K_H + S_o^{\text{NAPL}} K_o \right) + r_b \underbrace{F K_d}_{\text{avail. fraction}}$$

**Note: The effect of NAPL is accounted for in measured values of  $K_w$ . This increases equilibrium partitioning.**

## Observed vs. Theoretical $K_w$

	TBS (tph = 0.11g/g)		HRC (tph = 0.16 g/g)		Soil ( $f_{oc} = 0.003$ )
	Measured	Theoretical <sup>1</sup>	Measured	Theoretical <sup>1</sup>	$0.63f_{oc}K_{ow}$
Benzene	30	32	48	46	0.26
Toluene	85	131	126	190	0.93
Ethylbenzene	227	489	347	707	2.7
m-, p-Xylenes	180	480	298	694	3.0
Naphthalene	252	886	427	1280	4.4

<sup>1</sup> Raoult's Law ( $\gamma_i^o=1$ ;  $MW_o=150$ )

TBS - crude oil tank bottoms dewatered sludge.

HRC - hydrorefining catalyst.

- Residual NAPL in oily wastes significantly increases  $K_w$  compared with  $K_d$  for sorption only.

## Theoretical Values of $K_o$

$$K_o = \frac{C_o}{C_L} = \frac{1}{g_i^o} \frac{MW_i}{MW_o} \frac{10^6}{S_i^{aq}}$$

$K_o$  = oil-leachate partition coefficient ((L leachate/kg oil)

$S_i^{aq}$  = subcooled solubility of contaminant in water (mg/L)

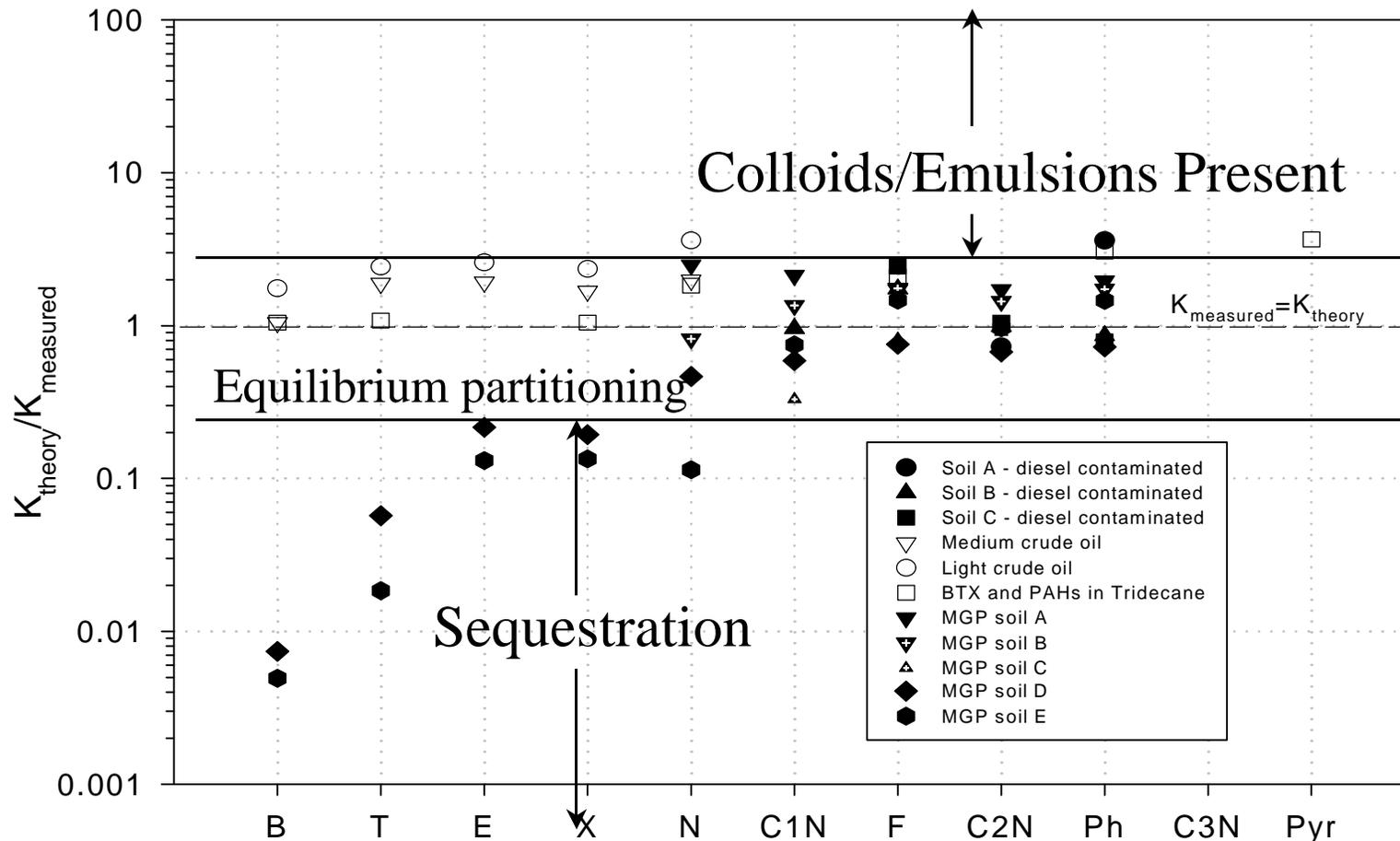
$MW_i$  = molecular weight of chemical

$MW_o$  = molecular weight of oil phase

$\gamma_i^o$  = activity coefficient of chemical in oil phase in Raoult's Law sense (unitless)

**Raoult's Law :  $\gamma_i^o = 1$**

### Comparison of Theoretical (Raoult's Law) and Measured (48 hr Batch Experiments) Partition Coefficients



Notes: 1) diesel contaminated and MGP soils -  $K_{measured}$  determined from single batch (48 hours) leachate and total waste analyses.

- For oily wastes, Raoult's Law is a useful measure of equilibrium behavior. Can be used to indicate presence of colloids/emulsions and sequestration (kinetics).

## Conclusions Regarding Residual NAPL

- Residual NAPL has a significant impact on  $C_T$  vs.  $C_L$  relationship.
- Raoult's Law can be used to assess whether equilibrium conditions exist in batch tests.
  - useful especially for oily wastes which tend to have high  $K_w$ .
- Raoult's Law can also be useful for estimating leaching in the absence of leach tests.

## How can we determine when rate limitations exist?

- I. By comparing with predicted leaching using batch tests at a fixed L/S ratio.
  - useful for an initial assessment.
- II. Using more definitive ROR tests.

# How do we account for kinetics?

- Using rate of release (ROR) tests.
  - Modified batch, fixed-bed and other rate of release (ROR) approaches have been developed.
- Rate constants can then be compared with those for other loss processes using an appropriate modeling framework.

# Example ROR Methods

Current methods:

- Aqueous modified batch methods.
- Aqueous fixed-bed methods.

Alternative methods under development:

- Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE).
- Accelerated Solvent Extraction (ASE).
- Thermal Desorption Mass Spectrometry (TDMS).



## Quantitative Treatment of Slow Release (cont.)

$$\frac{dq_2}{dt} = k_2 \left[ K_d (1 - F) C_L - q_2 \right]$$

slow rate constant
slow fraction

leaching
volatilization
degradation

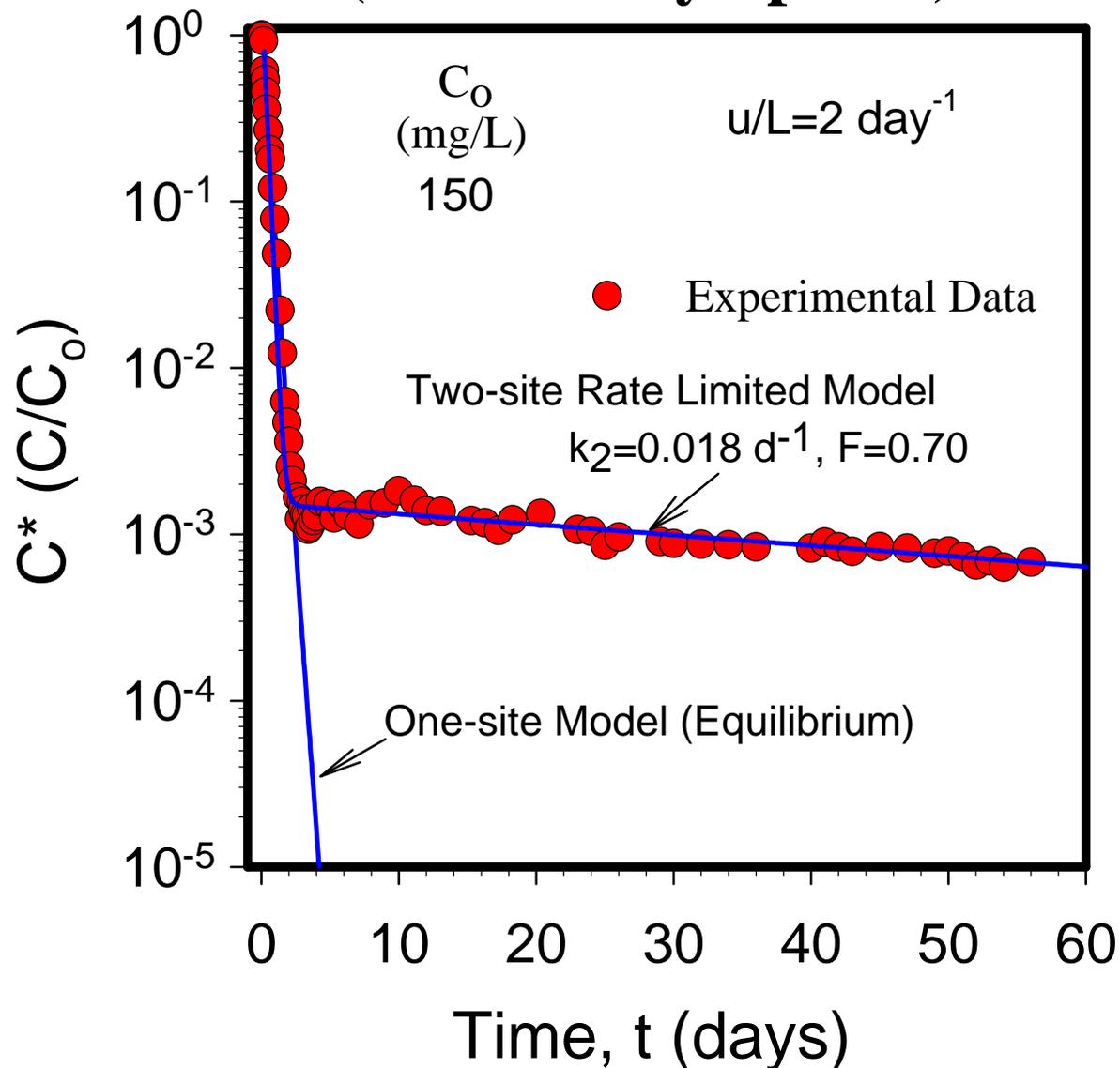
and

$$\Lambda = \frac{u}{L} + I_V + I_D$$

# Slow Release Example

- Fixed-bed desorption of benzene from an aged silty loam soil.
  - Measurements of  $k_2$  and F.

# Rate-limited Desorption of Benzene from a Silty Loam Soil (Laboratory Spiked)



## When is Slow Release Important?

Relative to leaching:

$$k_2 \mathbf{r}_b K_d (1 - F) < \frac{u}{L}$$

Relative to biodegradation or volatilization:

$$k_2 \mathbf{r}_b K_d (1 - F) < I_V \text{ or } I_D$$

# Conclusions/Suggestions

- Simple batch tests are useful for describing leaching for organic compounds from oily wastes, esp. if equilibrium conditions occur.
- Separate test methods should be used to determine kinetics when needed.
- Estimation methods/separate tests should be used to account for other loss processes, e.g., volatilization and degradation.
- Appropriate tests should reflect a tiered approach to waste assessment.

# Other Issues

- NAPL migration, volatilization, degradation.
- Lab-to-Field translation.
- Field-scale heterogeneities:
  - soil type
  - contaminant distribution
  - paths for various transport processes, e.g., leaching, volatilization, etc.
- Sampling considerations.
- Modeling considerations.
- Other specific test related issues.