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## **Ozonation using hollow fiber contactor technology and its perspectives for micropollutants removal in water: A review**

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1 Ozonation using hollow fiber contactor technology and its perspectives  
2 for micropollutants removal in water:  
3 a review

4  
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19

20 **Abstract**

21 Membrane contactor is a device generally used for the removal or the absorption of a gas into  
22 another fluid. The membrane acts as a barrier between the two phases and mass transfer  
23 occurs by diffusion and not by dispersion. This article is a review of the application of  
24 membrane contactor technology for ozonation applied to water treatment. The challenge of  
25 removing micropollutants is also discussed. In the first part, the ozonation process is  
26 mentioned, in particular chemical reactions induced by ozone and its advantages and  
27 disadvantages. In the second part, generalities on membrane contactor technology using  
28 hollow fibers are presented. Then, the benefit of using a membrane contactor for the  
29 elimination of micropollutants is shown through a critical analysis of the influence of several  
30 parameters on the ozonation efficiency. The impact of the membrane material is also  
31 highlighted. Finally, several modeling approaches are presented as a tool for a better  
32 understanding of the phenomena occurring in the contactor and a possible optimization of this  
33 process.

34 **Keywords:** Membrane contactor; Ozonation; Micropollutants; Mass transfer; Modeling

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## 43 **1. Introduction**

44 To protect the ecosystem and drinking water resources, requirements on water treatment will  
45 become increasingly stricter. It is only a matter of time before treatment plants will be  
46 required to incorporate treatment steps to ensure that micropollutants (i.e. harmful substances,  
47 detectable in the environment at very low concentrations (ng/L up to µg/L)) are eliminated  
48 and do not enter the water bodies. For instance, in Switzerland, a new Swiss water protection  
49 act entered into force in 2016 aiming to reduce the discharge of micropollutants from  
50 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) (Office fédéral de l'environnement, 2014). As a  
51 consequence, selected WWTPs must be upgraded by an advanced treatment for  
52 micropollutants abatement with suitable and economic options such as ozonation. Ozone  
53 treatment is easy to automate and clean to handle. It provides a chemical-free means of  
54 removing 90 percent of emerging contaminants (Prieto-Rodríguez et al., 2013; Snyder et al.,  
55 2006). It can be quite simply incorporated into existing and new applications and is a reliable  
56 and control-supported process. Another advantage of ozonation is the direct oxidation,  
57 breaking the molecule which is destroyed and not only absorbed. Ozonation is thus an  
58 interesting technology for water reuse since it can both disinfect and oxidize, or be used with  
59 other technologies in a multiple-barrier concept.

60 The conventional reactors used during the ozonation processes are presented in Table 1. A  
61 schematic drawing of each reactor is exposed in Figure 1. Depending on the application (i.e.  
62 the objectives of the ozonation), the reactor is chosen according to its contact time (especially  
63 for slow reactions), its hydrodynamics (especially for fast and moderately fast reaction, where  
64 a plug flow is preferable), and its ozone transfer (especially for very fast reaction, where a  
65 high interfacial area is preferable). Generally, ozone in water treatment is injected in the form

66 of bubbles, with disadvantages such as operational costs, stripping of volatile organic  
67 compounds, high footprint of the reactor, mass transfer limitations (leading to high energetic  
68 costs) and foam generation. Moreover, in some cases, these processes do not ensure a  
69 controlled dosage, and can lead to the production of by-products sometimes more dangerous  
70 than the original products (Gao et al., 2016; Gogoi et al., 2018; Schlüter-Vorberg et al., 2015).

71

72 Table 1: Conventional reactors used for ozonation, adapted from Suez, 2007

Type of reactor	Dispersed phase	Value range of $k_L a$ according to the literature (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Value range of gas retention $\xi_g$	Value range of power consumption (kW.m <sup>-3</sup> of reactor)	Advantages	Disadvantages	Application fields
<b>Bubble column with porous diffusers</b>	Gas	0.0001-0.1 ( $K_{La}$ between 0.005 and 0.12 (Chabanon and Favre, 2017))	< 0,2	0.01- 1	Smooth operation Low maintenance cost	Risk of clogging Complex hydrodynamics	Drinking water (Low ozone dose transferred and slow reaction)
<b>Turbine engine or with radial diffuser</b>	Gas	0.01-0.2	< 0.1	0.5 - 4	Gas/Liquid mix and contact Flexible to the variation in the liquid flow	High energy consumption Mechanical equipment maintenance	Drinking water and wastewater (High ozone dose transferred, moderately fast reaction)
<b>Packed column</b>	Liquid	0.005-0.02 $K_{La}$ between 0.0004 and 0.07 (Chabanon and Favre, 2017))	> 0.3	0.01 - 0.2	Transfer and plug flow Low maintenance cost	Risk of fouling of the lining	Gas washing, production of ozonated water (Fast reaction)
<b>Static mixer</b>	Gas	0.1-10	Around 0.5	10 - 200	Mix and transfer Low maintenance cost Low size of installation	High energy consumption Short contact time Risk of clogging	Drinking water and wastewater (Very fast reaction)

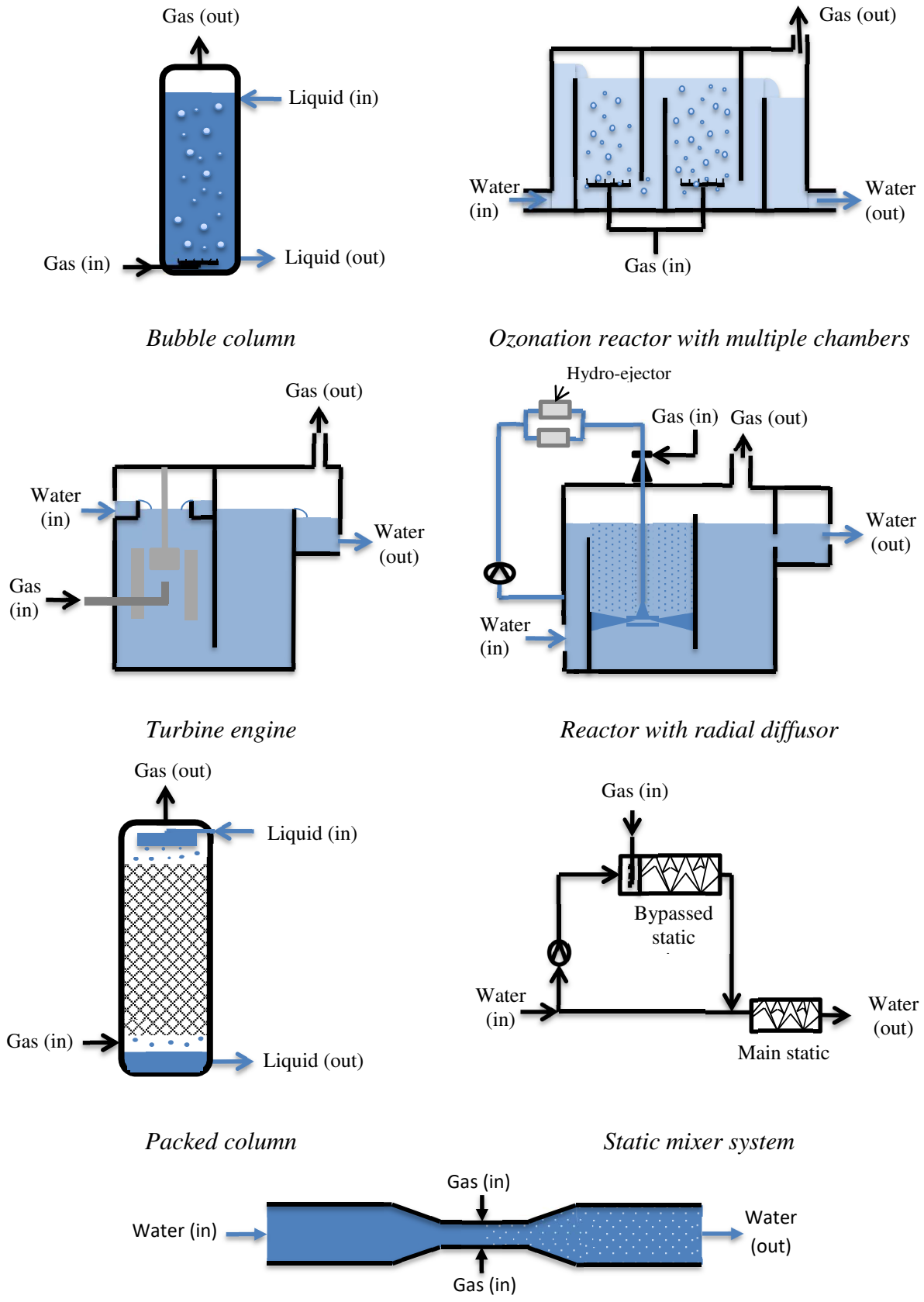
<b>Venturi injector</b>	Gas	0.06-0.21 (Roustan, 2003)	1-10 (Roustan, 2003)	N.A.	<p>High mass transfer (Cachon et al., 2019; Ozkan et al., 2006)</p> <p>High gas-liquid interfacial area</p> <p>High energy efficiency</p> <p>Applicable to short contact time (Briens et al., 1992)</p> <p>No additional equipment needed (i.e. located directly in the process stream) (Bauer et al., 1963)</p> <p>Minimal maintenance (Cachon et al., 2019)</p>	Power from a recirculating pump required, or pressurized water supply (Cachon et al., 2019)	Petroleum refining, Hydrogenation, Fermentation, Waste-water treatment (Briens et al., 1992)
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*Venturi injector*

77 Figure 1: Schemes of conventional reactors used for ozonation

78 The use of membrane contactors for ozone diffusion in water treatment recently emerged as a  
79 very interesting option. Indeed, by using a bubbleless operation, membrane contactors can  
80 overcome these challenges. Indeed, membrane contactors have been pointed out as a good  
81 alternative for the transfer of gas to the liquid phase (Alves dos Santos et al., 2015; Berry et  
82 al., 2017; Pabby and Sastre, 2013; Stylianou et al., 2016), and to control the dosage of ozone  
83 during ozonation processes (Atchariyawut et al., 2009; Bamperng et al., 2010; Berry et al.,  
84 2017; Janknecht et al., 2001; Jansen et al., 2005; Leiknes et al., 2005; Merle et al., 2017;  
85 Picard et al., 2001; Pines et al., 2005; Shanbhag et al., 1998, 1995; Stylianou et al., 2018,  
86 2016; Wenten et al., 2012; Zoumpouli et al., 2018). The following list describes the major  
87 advantages of a membrane contactor technology:

- 88 • This process has a smaller foot print than conventional reactor, thanks to its large  
89 interfacial area. Since treatment of wastewater are targeted, very fast reaction will  
90 occur and thus the transfer will be accelerated by the reaction, as a consequence it is  
91 interesting to develop high interfacial area in the reactors. According to Reed et al.,  
92 membrane contactors have an interfacial area between 1640 and 6562  $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^3$ .  
93 According to Chabanon et al., membrane contactors have a surface area/volume ratio  
94 around 1,000-10,000  $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^3$ , whereas this ratio is between 50 and 600  $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^3$  for a  
95 bubble column and between 10 and 500  $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^3$  for a packed column. (Chabanon and  
96 Favre, 2017). In contrast, conventional contactors have an interfacial area between 3  
97 and 492  $\text{m}^2/\text{m}^3$ .(Reed et al., 1995). Pines et al (2005) have carried out calculations, an  
98 hypothetical case of 167  $\text{m}^3/\text{h}$  flow rate and 2 mg/L transferred ozone dose was used in  
99 order to compare the volume required for hollow fiber membrane contactors (PVDF)  
100 configurations compared to a fine-bubble diffuser contactor. The assumptions were a  
101 gas  $\text{O}_3$  concentration of about 6%, no chemical reaction and a system mass transfer  
102 limited. Stylianou et al (2016) have carried out the same calculations based on their

103 experimental results obtained with ceramic tubular membrane. The volume of each  
104 reactor was 12 m<sup>3</sup>, 1.9 m<sup>3</sup> and 0.15 m<sup>3</sup> respectively for bubble column; ceramic  
105 tubular membrane contactor and PVDF hollow fiber membrane. This first approach  
106 demonstrates the real interest of membrane contactor to increase the compactness of  
107 the unit operation.

- 108 • The mass transfer (i.e. the KLa) obtained with a membrane contactor is significantly  
109 higher than with other conventional reactors. For a membrane contactor, the mass  
110 transfer is estimated between 0.05 and 0.50 s<sup>-1</sup>, whereas it is between 0.005 and 0.12  
111 s<sup>-1</sup> for a bubble column and between 0.0004 and 0.07 s<sup>-1</sup> for a packed column. The  
112 difference is mainly due to a surface area/volume ratio particularly interesting with the  
113 membranes.
- 114 • The compound of interest (i.e. here the ozone molecule) has a uniform distribution,  
115 thanks to the large exchange surface (i.e. interfacial area) offered by the hollow fiber  
116 membranes.
- 117 • The risk of flooding and of entrainment of the dispersed phase is avoided thanks to a  
118 bubbleless process.
- 119 • Increasing the production capacity of a membrane contactor is easy by adding more  
120 membrane modules (i.e. this process is especially modular).
- 121 • The exchange surface is independent of the flow rates. The process can work  
122 efficiently at different gas/liquid ratios, and therefore has a wide range of capacities  
123 for the same number of modules.
- 124 • Operations are performed under low pressures because transfer is driven by the  
125 concentration gradient and not by the pressure gradient. Therefore, energy requirement  
126 by this process is lower.

- 127 • A gas stream recycling can be implemented, and thus energy and reagent savings can  
128 be made.
- 129 • Thanks to the independent flow adjustment for gas and liquid phases, an optimization  
130 of applied reagent dosage (i.e. here ozone) also allows to save reagent.
- 131 • All the ozone diffused through the membrane is transferred into the liquid phase  
132 (reacting or not in this phase), due to the bubbleless process. The rest (in the gas  
133 phase) can be recycled to the ozone generator thanks to a lower moisture content than  
134 in conventional processes (Phattaranawik et al., 2005; Stylianou et al., 2016). In  
135 comparison to bubble column where 25% of ozone is not transferred in the liquid  
136 phase, fewer reagents are needed for the same oxidation.
- 137 • Less by-products (e.g. bromates) could be produced than in conventional ozonation  
138 processes thanks to the minimization of the dissolved ozone concentration ((Heeb et  
139 al., 2014; Merle et al., 2017).

140 On the contrary, according to several studies, the main disadvantages of the membrane  
141 contactor process are the following (Gabelman and Hwang, 1999; Mulder, 1996).

- 142 • The risk of wetting is important and depends on the transmembrane pressure. Its  
143 consequence is a lower ozone transfer.
- 144 • A risk of bubbling is common and also depends on the transmembrane pressure.  
145 Ozone which is diffused by bubbles through the membrane may not be completely  
146 transferred into the liquid phase, and thus stays in gaseous form.
- 147 • The liquid can cause the fouling of the fibers. Fouling is one of the main problems in  
148 the application of porous membrane for water treatment (Van Geluwe et al., 2011).  
149 Gas/liquid contactors are less sensitive to fouling than filtration membranes) because  
150 no flow circulates through the membrane pores (Van Geluwe et al., 2011; Yu et al.,

151 2015). However, membrane contactors have generally a small diameter, and therefore  
152 suspended particles in the gas phase or in the liquid phase can cause plugging (Van  
153 Geluwe et al., 2011). When the gas circulates in the lumen and the liquid in the shell  
154 side, this phenomenon is limited. There is little available literature on ozone transfer  
155 into water with membranes, and to date no literature concerning the fouling during  
156 such a process. Most studies focus on ozone as a pretreatment (i.e. as a supplementary  
157 agent) within hybrid treatment processes, leading to the reduction of fouling or the  
158 increase of the biodegradation of contaminants in membrane bioreactor, and therefore  
159 to better membrane performances (Kim et al., 2008; Laera et al., 2012; Van Geluwe et  
160 al., 2011; Zoumpouli et al., 2018).

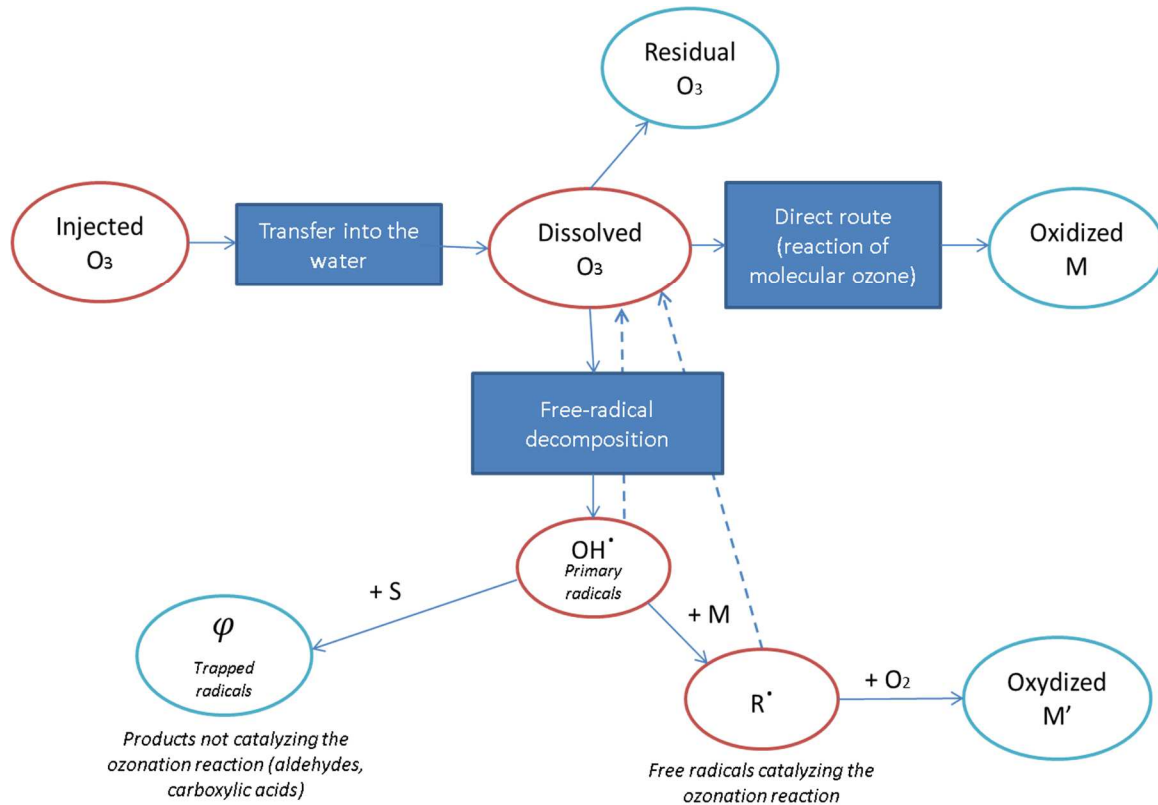
- 161 • The overall resistance to transfer is increased due to the addition of a new phase (i.e.  
162 the membrane).
- 163 • A bypass may be created into the shell side. If the liquid is in the shell side, a part of  
164 the water could not be treated. If the gas is in the shell side, a part of the oxidizing  
165 compound could not be transferred in the other phase.

166 In recent years, very interesting reviews on advanced oxidation processes for water treatment  
167 were generated, but none concerning the ozonation with membrane contactors (Von Gunten,  
168 2018). In this context, this review focuses on the ozonation of water using membrane  
169 contactors, that had not yet been previously reviewed in detail. Hollow fibers and tubular  
170 technologies for the elimination of micropollutants in water are described more specifically.  
171 The significance of the membrane material is highlighted, as well as the importance of the  
172 modeling in order to optimize the transfer. Conversely, processes like ozonation on catalytic  
173 membranes, or ozonation for cleaning, are not covered.

174

175 **2. General principles of ozonation**

176 2.1. Ozonation reaction



177

178 Figure 2: Ozonation reaction in water during oxidation of a pollutant M

179 The ozonation reaction is described in Figure 2 (Nawrocki and Kasprzyk-Hordern, 2010).  
180 Several mechanisms occur simultaneously and by chain reactions during degradation of an  
181 organic substance M. In the first case, molecular ozone can directly oxidize the polluting  
182 substance. In the second case, ozone can decompose into hydroxyl radicals. This way leads to  
183 a succession of radical reactions, initiated by the interaction between hydroxyl radicals and  
184 ozone (Gordon, 1995; Westerhoff et al., 1997). Hydroxyl radicals are non-selective and have  
185 strong oxidation properties (Kanakaraju et al., 2018).

186 These mechanisms coexist and the kinetic expression of the reaction can be described by  
187 equation 1:

$$\begin{aligned} 188 \quad r_M &= k_{O_3}[O_3][M] + k_{OH^\circ}[OH^\circ][M] \\ 189 \quad &= [O_3][M][k_{O_3} + k_{OH^\circ}R] \quad [1] \end{aligned}$$

190 Where:

- 191 •  $r_M$ : reaction rate ( $\text{mol.L}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ )
- 192 •  $[HO^\circ]$ : concentration of hydroxyl radicals ( $\text{mol.L}^{-1}$ )
- 193 •  $[O_3]$ : concentration of molecular ozone ( $\text{mol.L}^{-1}$ )
- 194 •  $k_{O_3}$ ,  $k_{HO^\circ}$ : second-order rate constant for the reaction of micropollutant (M) with  $O_3$   
195 and  $HO^\circ$  ( $\text{L. mol}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ )
- 196 •  $R=[HO^\circ]/[O_3]$ : ratio between the concentration of hydroxyl radicals and the  
197 concentration of molecular ozone, varying between  $10^{-9}$  and  $10^{-7}$  and depending on the  
198 water type (according to Elovitz et al., 2000)

199 The mechanism favoring the oxidation efficiency depends on the  $k_{O_3}$  value, which is a second  
200 order rate constant. When  $k_{O_3} < 100 \text{ mol.L}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ , the main way of degradation is the radical  
201 mechanisms. When  $k_{O_3}$  is between 100 and 10,000  $\text{mol.L}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ , both radical and molecular  
202 mechanisms occur simultaneously with the same order of magnitude. When  $k_{O_3} > 10,000$   
203  $\text{mol.L}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ , molecular mechanisms are promoted. (Bourgin et al., 2017)

## 204 2.1. Ozonation efficiency for the elimination of micropollutants in water

205 Advanced treatment technologies remove MP more efficiently than primary and secondary  
206 treatments (Luo et al., 2014). Several studies about the application of ozonation for MP  
207 elimination have been carried out (Behera et al., 2011; Huber et al., 2003; Lishman et al.,  
208 2006; Paxéus, 2004; Santos et al., 2007). Ozone eliminates a wide range of MP in WWTP,  
209 with a dose of dissolved ozone around 3-8  $\text{mgO}_3/\text{L}$  (Gomes et al., 2017; Hollender et al.,

210 2009; Margot et al., 2013; Nakada et al., 2007; Reungoat et al., 2012, 2010; Rosal et al.,  
211 2010). This process is also efficient on several pharmaceuticals often detected in surface  
212 waters (Tootchi et al., 2013). The degradation efficiency of MP depends on several  
213 parameters (see 2.3. Influential parameters), in particular their reaction rates with O<sub>3</sub> and  
214 HO°, which involve different mechanisms of MP removal (see 2.3.2. Influence of the reaction  
215 rate of the compound with O<sub>3</sub> and HO°).

216 From equation 1, a chemical kinetic model can be deduced for the prediction of  
217 micropollutants abatement by ozonation (Elovitz and Von Gunten, 1999; Guo et al., 2018;  
218 Lee et al., 2014, 2013; Lee and von Gunten, 2016; Wang et al., 2018) :

$$219 \quad -\ln\left(\frac{M}{M_0}\right) = k_{O_3} \int [O_3] dt + k_{HO^\circ} \int [OH^\circ] dt \quad [2]$$

220 Where:

- 221 •  $k_{O_3}$  ,  $k_{HO^\circ}$  : second-order rate constant for the reaction of micropollutant (M) with O<sub>3</sub>  
222 and HO°
- 223 •  $\int [O_3] dt$  and  $\int [HO^\circ] dt$  : O<sub>3</sub> and HO° exposures, which are defined as the time-integrated  
224 concentration of O<sub>3</sub> and HO° over a given reaction period

225 Other species than molecular ozone and hydroxyl radicals play an important role in the  
226 mechanisms of ozone consumption (Westerhoff et al., 1997). As shown in Figure 2, a part of  
227 hydroxyl radicals does not react with micropollutants but with scavengers. The presence of  
228 scavengers depends on the matrix to treat (e.g. natural water, drinking water, and wastewater)  
229 (Buffle et al., 2006). It corresponds to some background water constituents, for instance  
230 carbonates (Yao et al., 2018). By scavenging hydroxyl radicals, some compounds can inhibit  
231 the ozone decomposition without producing hydrogen peroxide or superoxide radical ions.  
232 Other compounds can promote ozone decomposition by forming superoxide radical ions.

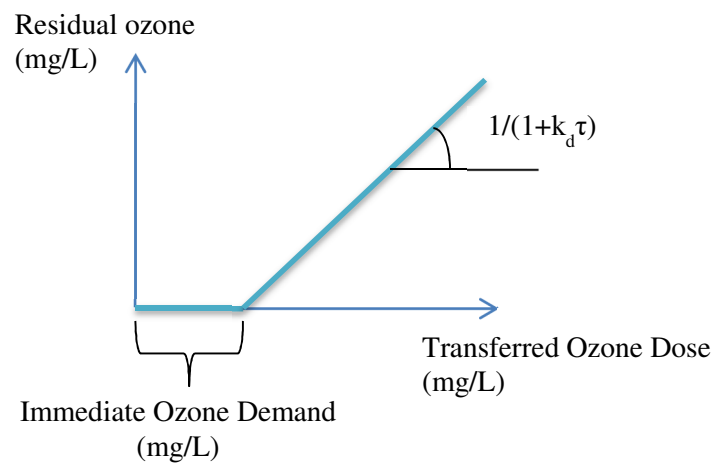
233 Water with natural organic matter will be consequently complex to model because of its  
234 heterogeneity (Westerhoff et al., 1997) (see 2.2.1.) .

235

236 2.2. Influential parameters

237 2.2.1. Effect of matrix

238 The efficiency of ozonation process depends on the matrix to treat. For instance, water is a  
 239 complex mixture with a lot of different compounds, both organic and inorganic. They react



240 simultaneously, with molecular and free-radical mechanisms. Therefore, it is possible to  
 241 formulate the overall ozone consumption of water using two criteria. The first one is the  
 242 Immediate Ozone Demand (IOD), which represents the amount of ozone to apply before  
 243 detecting a measurable residue of ozone. It reflects very fast reactions of the natural organic  
 244 matter of the water with ozone. The higher the pH and the temperature of the water are, the  
 245 faster the ozone self-destructs. The second criterion is the slow consumption velocity. This is  
 246 defined by  $k_d$ , which is in this case a first order rate constant. In order to determine these two  
 247 characteristics, a graph (see Figure 3) can be drawn, representing the residual ozone in  
 248 function of the transferred ozone dose. The intercept of the straight line with the horizontal  
 249 axis gives the IOD, and the slope allows calculating  $k_d\tau$ , which is the Damköhler number  
 250 (Roustan et al., 1998) .

251 Figure 3: Determination of Immediate Ozone demand (mg/L) and  $k_d$  ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ), in a G/L  
 252 contactor operating continuously for the 2 phases, adapted from Roustan et al., 2003

253 For instance, for a surface water at  $18^\circ\text{C}$ , the IOD is about  $0.4 \text{ gO}_3/\text{m}^3$  and the  $k_d$  about  $0.18$   
 254  $\text{min}^{-1}$  (Roustan, 2003). Another example is provided by the works of Cruz-Alcalde et al.,

255 2019. The authors measured an average IOD of 16 mgO<sub>3</sub>/L at the outlet of the biological  
256 treatment of 5 different WWTP.

257 Antoniou et al. predicted the ozone dose to be transferred to remove 42 pharmaceuticals. They  
258 found that the sensitivity of pharmaceuticals to degradation with ozone differs, depending on  
259 the target compound, but mostly on the matrix (i.e. the type of water) (Antoniou et al., 2013).  
260 Specifically, most of the difference is explained by the Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC) of  
261 the water to be treated (Antoniou et al., 2013; Hansen et al., 2016). Antoniou et al. correlated  
262 the specific dose of ozone required to achieve reduction by one decade of each investigated  
263 pharmaceutical with the DOC of the effluent, which consumes a part of the dissolved ozone  
264 available by reacting with it.

#### 265 2.2.2. Influence of the reaction rate of the compound with O<sub>3</sub> and HO°

266 As seen previously, the rate constant k<sub>O<sub>3</sub></sub> is a significant parameter for the ozonation  
267 efficiency. This parameter depends on the compound. A high second order reaction rate with  
268 O<sub>3</sub> leads to a good elimination of the pollutant. Yue et al. showed that compounds with a high  
269 k<sub>O<sub>3</sub></sub> were effectively removed with a rate superior to 95% with an ozone dose transferred  
270 varying between 0.3 and 1.5 mg/L, and a contact time of 8.6 min during pilot-scale  
271 experiments using a conventional ozonator (Yue et al., 2009). Bourgin et al. came to the same  
272 conclusions during conventional ozonation of surface water (i.e. Lake Zürich water,  
273 Switzerland). For instance, diclofenac and carbamazepine, with a k<sub>O<sub>3</sub></sub> superior to 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>,  
274 were removed at more than 90% even for the lowest ozone dose transferred of 0.5 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>  
275 (Bourgin et al., 2017). Zimmermann et al. showed the same results within a gas bubble  
276 column. For substances reacting fast with ozone (e.g. diclofenac and carbamazepine, k<sub>O<sub>3</sub></sub>=10<sup>4</sup>  
277 M<sup>-1</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>), they observed a good elimination for an ozone dosage transferred between 0.21 to  
278 1.24 gO<sub>3</sub>.gDissolved Organic Carbon<sup>-1</sup>, except for the lowest dose (Zimmermann et al., 2011).

279 For compounds with a low to moderate reaction rate with  $O_3$  (i.e. ozone resistant compounds  
280 with  $k_{O_3}$  up to  $10^1 M^{-1}.s^{-1}$ , and moderately ozone-resistant compounds with  $k_{O_3}$  between  $10^2$   
281 and  $10^3 M^{-1}.s^{-1}$ ), generally, oxidation increases with increasing ozone exposure and is  
282 influenced by the quality of the water matrix (Bourgin et al., 2017; Yue et al., 2009;  
283 Zimmermann et al., 2011). Yue et al. showed variable results. For instance, ibuprofen and  
284 clorfibric acid were removed between 3 and 62%. The same phenomena was observed for  
285 bezafibrate, which was removed between 28 and 99% under the same ozone exposure (Yue et  
286 al., 2009). Bourgin et al. found that sucralose (i.e. compound which only react with  $HO^\circ$  and  
287 have a low reaction rate with  $O_3$ ) was removed between 19 and 90%. The author also found  
288 that during conventional ozonation of resistant compounds, the abatement was moderate, even  
289 with a high ozone dose transferred of  $3 mgO_3.L^{-1}$  (Bourgin et al., 2017). In their work about  
290 transformation by-products of pharmaceutically compounds during drinking water ozonation,  
291 Tootchi et al. selected carbamazepine as pharmaceutical with a fast reaction rate with ozone  
292 and bezafibrate as pharmaceutical with a slow to moderate reaction rate with ozone (i.e.  
293 respectively over and under  $10^4 M^{-1}.s^{-1}$ ). The authors found that the major oxidation pathway  
294 for carbamazepine was the direct route (i.e. reaction with molecular ozone), while for  
295 bezafibrate it was both radical and molecular reactions (Tootchi et al., 2013).

### 296 2.2.3. Influence of operating parameters

297 Other parameters have an influence on the ozonation efficiency. For example, a higher pH  
298 promotes free radical mechanisms and causes a faster ozone decomposition because of the  
299 presence of hydroxide anions (Buffle et al., 2006; Mecha et al., 2016). A higher temperature  
300 leads to a better mobility of the water molecules and thus to a lower water viscosity and a  
301 higher water diffusivity. A higher ionic strength decreases the solubility of ozone and thus  
302 makes ozonation processes more difficult. The influence of these parameters is discussed later  
303 with more details in the specific case of membrane contactors (section 5).

### 304 2.3. Ozonation by-products

305 During the ozonation reaction, a low mineralization can occur (i.e. the oxidation could be  
306 incomplete). It conducts to the accumulation of intermediates, which are degradation by-  
307 products. These by-products in some cases, but not systematically, could be potentially more  
308 toxic than the initial contaminants (Gao et al., 2016; Gomes et al., 2017; Luo et al., 2014;  
309 Margot et al., 2013; Petala et al., 2008, 2006; Stalter et al., 2010a, 2010b; von Gunten,  
310 2003a).

311 Several by-products can be cited as examples, like the NDMA (i.e. N-Nitrosodimethylamine),  
312 or the formaldehydes, which are produced by the reaction between ozone and natural organic  
313 matter (Hollender et al., 2009; Richardson, 2003; Samadi et al., 2015; Wert et al., 2007).

314 According to Gao et al., the products of parabens after reaction with hydroxyl radicals have a  
315 higher toxicity to green algae than the original paraben. They showed that when the alkyl-  
316 chain length of the parabens increases, the ecotoxicity of the degradation products also  
317 increases (Gao et al., 2016).

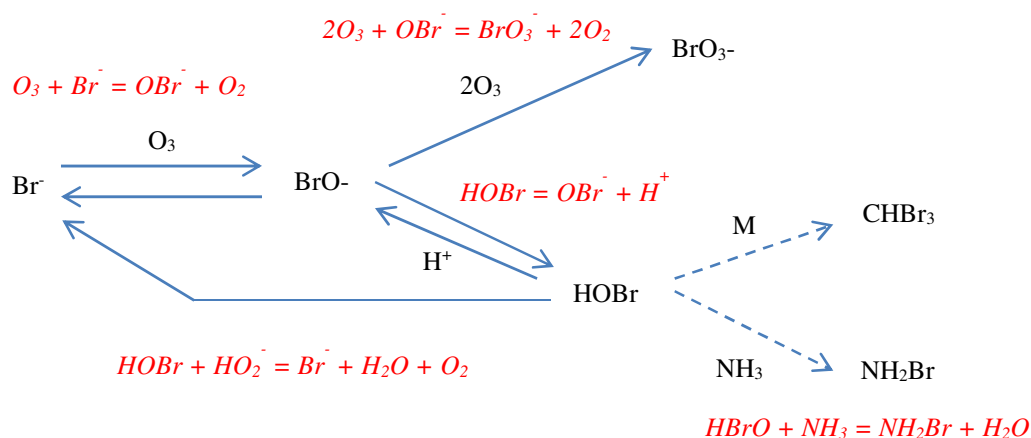
318 Bromates are other degradation by-products. They are formed during the ozonation of  
319 bromide-containing waters, such as river waters (Nobukawa and Sanukida, 2000; von Gunten,  
320 2003a). Bromates are potentially carcinogenic and are not removed in biological filtration  
321 processes. Moreover, it is the only ozonation by-product regulated in drinking water (Merle et  
322 al., 2017; von Gunten, 2003a). Therefore, a lot of studies about water ozonation focus on this  
323 compound. A limit was established by the European Union at 10 µg/L in drinking water, but  
324 with the recommendation for the member states of having a lower value if possible (AIDA,  
325 1998).

326 The bromate-forming mechanism is described in the Figure 4. In order to minimize bromates'  
 327 formation, several solutions can be considered.

328 Figure 4: Bromate formation – chemical pathway, adapted from von Gunten, 2003b

329 The first one is an ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) addition. NH<sub>3</sub> does not alter the ozone stability, and  
 330 therefore does not interfere with oxidation processes. NH<sub>3</sub> reacts with HOBr, which is an  
 331 important intermediate of the bromates' formation. Adding NH<sub>3</sub> leads to a lower bromates'  
 332 formation up to a certain concentration of ammonia (except during the initial phase of  
 333 ozonation in which it has no influence). No improvement is noticed beyond this limit. A  
 334 balance between HOBr and NH<sub>3</sub> is established, which always leaves a fraction of HOBr,  
 335 transformed then into BrO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (i.e. bromates). This method is therefore not efficient with waters  
 336 that already have a medium or high level of ammonia (von Gunten, 2003b).

337 A second solution to minimize bromates' formation is a pH depression. This method



338 influences bromates' formation by shifting the balance between HOBr and OBr<sup>-</sup> toward  
 339 HOBr. When the pH decreases, hydroxyl radicals' exposure decreases as well, leading to a  
 340 smaller overall oxidant exposure (i.e. ozone and hydroxyl radicals' exposure) and a lower  
 341 bromates' formation. In the same way as the solution of ammonia addition, this solution does

342 not reduce the initial fast bromates' formation, which is almost independent of the pH (von  
343 Gunten, 2003b).

### 344 **3. Generalities on membrane contactors with hollow fibers**

#### 345 3.1. Principle of a G/L membrane contactor with hollow fibers

346 In gas/liquid membrane contactors, the membrane acts as an interface between two phases. In  
347 contrast with membranes used for filtration, membrane contactors are non-selective (i.e. they  
348 don't offer any preference between compounds). The phases could be liquid/liquid or  
349 gas/liquid. The phases are keeping separated. The operation is bubbleless, thus the transfer  
350 takes place mainly by diffusion and not by dispersion of one phase into another. The driving  
351 force of the transfer is the concentration gradient. However, the pressure gradient have to be  
352 taken carefully to keep the interface at the entrance of the pores (Gabelman and Hwang, 1999)  
353 and thus avoid some problems with the membrane.

354 Depending on the membrane material, the fluids, and the operational conditions, the interface  
355 could be on one side or the other of the membrane, and sometimes inside. For a gas/liquid  
356 system and a hydrophobic membrane, the phase that fills the pores is the gas one. For a  
357 hydrophilic membrane, the liquid phase fills the pores. The best configuration for the  
358 diffusion of ozone is described in a next part.

359 Membranes could be made with organic (polymers) or inorganic (ceramic) materials. The  
360 selection of the material is made according to the future use of the membrane contactor, the  
361 fluids to keep in contact, the desired fluxes, etc.

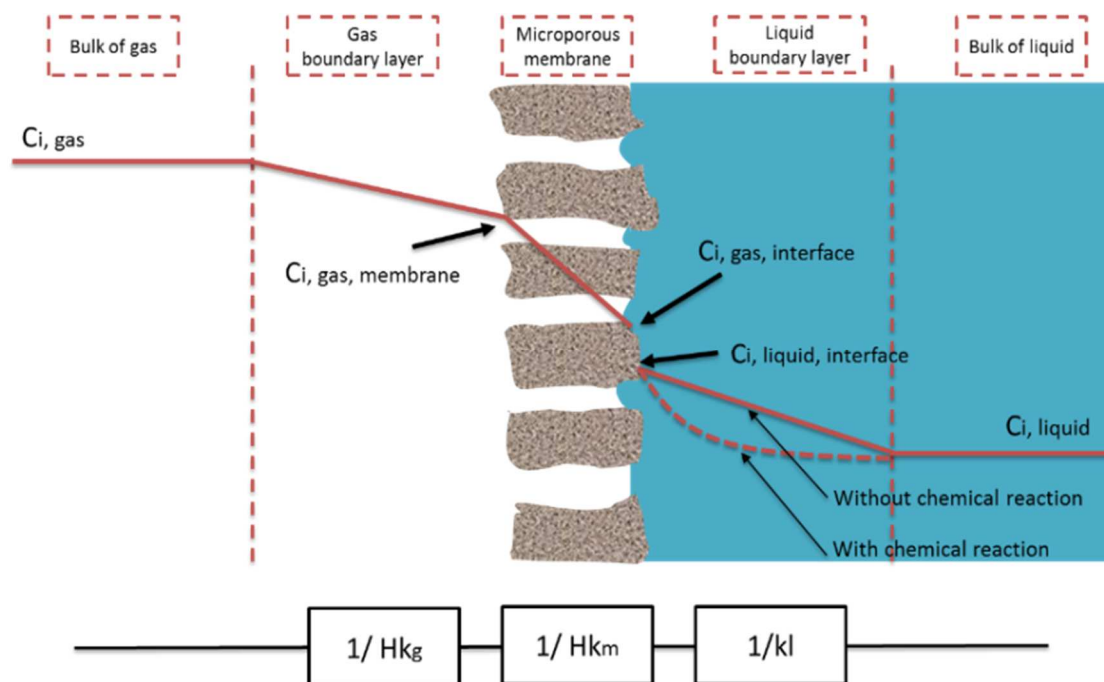
362 According to several sources about gas absorption membrane contactor (Al-Saffar et al.,  
363 1995; deMontigny et al., 2006; Dindore et al., 2005; Li et al., 2010), counter-current mode

364 performs better than co-current mode. According to DeMontigny (deMontigny et al., 2006),  
 365 counter-current mode can be up to 20% more efficient than co-current mode.

366

367 3.2. Mass transfer using membrane contactors

368 As described by Bamperng et al. (see Figure 5), the absorption of a gas into the liquid phase is  
 369 broken down into several parts (Bamperng et al., 2010). The first is a transport of the  
 370 interested gas from the bulk of gas to the interface, between gas phase and a membrane. The  
 371 second is the transport of gas through the membrane pores. The last part is the dissolution of a  
 372 gas component into a liquid, eventually with a chemical reaction in addition which accelerates  
 373 the transfer.



374

375 Figure 5 : Mass transfer regions and resistance-in-series in non-wetted membrane contactor,  
 376 adapted from Atchariyawut et al., 2007

377

378 3.2.1. Henry's law

379 At the interface between the 2 phases, the Henry's law is applicable if the following  
380 assumptions are respected. The solute (i.e. here the ozone) has to be slightly soluble in the  
381 solvent ( $x_{O_3} < 0.05$ ) and the gas phase is assumed to be perfect (moderate pressure and a  
382 temperature far from the condensation temperature) (Roustan, 2003).

383 
$$C_i = K_{Hi} \cdot p_i \quad [3]$$

384 According to this law, dissolved gases concentrations ( $C_i$  in mol/L) are proportional to the  
385 partial pressure of the gas in the air ( $p_i$  in hPa), depending on the dissolution constant of the  
386 gas ( $K_{Hi}$  in mol.kg<sup>-1</sup>.hPa<sup>-1</sup> or mol.L<sup>-1</sup>.hPa<sup>-1</sup>). Henry's law constant depends on the compound  
387 and can be expressed in several ways, and thus in several units.

388 3.2.2. The membrane mass transfer coefficient

389 The membrane mass transfer coefficient  $k_m$  is defined by the following relation, using the  
390 membrane structure properties:

391 
$$k_m = \frac{D_g \times \varepsilon_m}{\tau_m \times l_m} \quad (\text{Mavroudi et al., 2006}) [4]$$

392 Where:

- 393 -  $k_m$  : Mass transfer coefficient in the membrane (m.s<sup>-1</sup>).
- 394 -  $D_g$  : Diffusion coefficient in the gas phase (m<sup>2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>)
- 395 -  $\varepsilon_m$ : Membrane porosity (dimensionless)
- 396 -  $\tau_m$  : Membrane tortuosity (dimensionless)
- 397 -  $l_m$  : Membrane thickness (m)

398 3.2.3. Molar flux

399 The molar flux of the compound of interest (i.e. here the ozone) at the gas side can be  
400 expressed by:

401 
$$J_i = k_g \times (C_{i,gas} - C_{i,gas,interface}) \quad (\text{Berry et al., 2017}) [5]$$

402 Where:

- 403 -  $J_i$ : Molar flux of the compound of interest across the membrane ( $\text{mol.m}^{-2}.\text{s}^{-1}$ )  
404 -  $k_g$ : Mass transfer coefficient in the gas ( $\text{m.s}^{-1}$ ).  
405 -  $C_{i,gas,interface}$ : Concentration of the compound of interest at the interface on the gas side  
406 ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )  
407 -  $C_{i,gas}$ : Concentration of the compound of interest in the gas bulk ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )

408 The molar flux across the membrane can be described by:

409 
$$J_i = k_m \times (C_{i,gas,membrane} - C_{i,gas,interface}) \quad (\text{Berry et al., 2017}) [6]$$

410 Where:

- 411 -  $C_{i,gas,membrane}$ : Concentration at the gas-membrane interface ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ ), which can be described  
412 by  $C_{i,gas,membrane} = C_{i,gas,interface}/S$ , where  $S$  is the solubility of the gas in the membrane.  
413 Some studies assumed that  $C_{i,gas,membrane} = C_{i,gas}$  (i.e. the concentration at the gas-membrane  
414 interface) is continuous (Pines et al., 2005; Shen et al., 1990).  
415 -  $C_{i,gas,interface}$ : Concentration at the membrane-liquid interface on the membrane side  
416 ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ ), which can be described by  $C_{i,gas,interface} = C_{i,liquid,interface} \times H_e$ , where  $H_e$  is the  
417 Henry's law constant (dimensionless, as described in [7]) and  $C_{i,liquid,interface}$  is the  
418 concentration at the membrane-liquid interface on the liquid side.

419 The molar flux at the liquid phase side is described in the following equation.

420 
$$J_i = k_L \times (C_{i,liquid,interface} - C_{i,liquid}) \quad (\text{Berry et al., 2017}) [8]$$

421 Where:

422 -  $k_L$ : Mass transfer coefficient in the liquid ( $\text{m.s}^{-1}$ )

423 -  $C_{i,liquid,interface}$  : Concentration of the compound of interest at the interface on the liquid  
424 side ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )

425 -  $C_{i,liquid}$  : Concentration of the compound of interest in the liquid bulk ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )

426 Therefore, thanks to the previous equations, the following formula can be used to express the  
427 molar flux from the overall mass transfer coefficient (Berry et al., 2017).

428 
$$J_i = K_L \times \left( \frac{C_{i,gas}}{S} - H_e \times C_{i,liquid} \right) [9]$$

429 Where  $K_L$  is the overall mass transfer coefficient ( $\text{m.s}^{-1}$ ) described in the following section  
430 (see 3.2.4).

431 The mass balance on the liquid phase for steady state conditions can be described by:

432 
$$\frac{dC_{i,liquid}}{dx} = \frac{1}{u_{L,mean}} K_L a \times \left( \frac{C_{i,gas}}{S} - H_e \times C_{i,liquid} \right) \quad (\text{Berry et al., 2017}) [10]$$

433 Where:

434 -  $a$  : Surface area of membrane per volume of liquid ( $\text{m}^2.\text{m}^{-3}$ )

435 -  $x$  : Direction of the flow (m)

436 -  $u_{L,mean}$  : Mean liquid velocity ( $\text{m.s}^{-1}$ )

437 Integrating the previous equation leads to the following relation, allowing the calculation of  
438 the theoretical  $K_L a$ . The boundary conditions are such that the concentration of the compound  
439 of interest (i.e. the ozone) at the liquid inlet (i.e.  $x=0$ ) is zero, and is equal to  $C_{i,liquid,out}$  at the  
440 liquid outlet (i.e.  $x=L$ , representing the membrane length):

441 
$$\frac{K_L a.L}{u_{L,mean}} = \frac{1}{He} \ln \left( \frac{\frac{c_{i,gas}}{S}}{c_{i,gas-He} \times c_{i,liquid,out}} \right) [11]$$

442 3.2.4. The overall mass transfer coefficient

443 The total resistance can be described by the resistance in series model, by analogy to Ohm's  
 444 Law:

445 
$$\frac{1}{K_L \times A_{outer}} = \frac{1}{S \times k_g \times A_{inner}} + \frac{1}{k_m \times A_m} + \frac{He}{k_L \times A_{outer}} \text{ (Berry et al., 2017) [12]}$$

446 Where:

- 447 -  $K_L$  : Overall mass transfer coefficient ( $m.s^{-1}$ )
- 448 -  $k_m, k_g, k_L$ : Mass transfer coefficient, respectively in the membrane, in the gas, and in the  
 449 liquid ( $m.s^{-1}$ ). When a chemical reaction occurs in the liquid,  $k_L$  can be replaced with  
 450  $k_L = \frac{k_L^r}{E}$ , such as  $E = \frac{J_{O_3} \text{ with reaction}}{J_{O_3} \text{ without reaction}}$ . E is called the enhancement factor and takes into  
 451 account the effect of the reaction, which increases the concentration gradient and therefore  
 452 the transfer speed at the interface (see Figure 5) (Nguyen, 2018). E can also be described  
 453 in terms of Hatta number and instantaneous enhancement factor.
- 454 -  $A_{outer}, A_m, A_{inner}$ : Respectively the outer, logarithmic mean, and inner surface of the  
 455 membrane ( $m^2$ )
- 456 - S: Solubility (e.g. of ozone) in the membrane material (dimensionless)

457 - He: Solubility (e.g. of ozone) in water (dimensionless). He can be described by the  
 458 following equation.

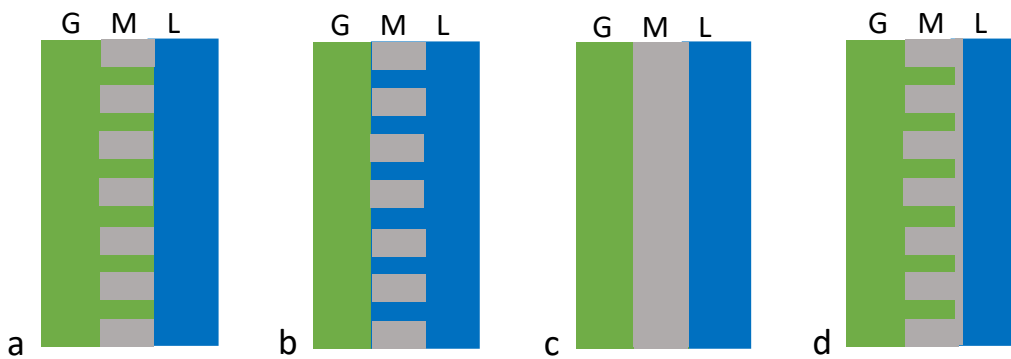
459 
$$He = \frac{1}{\alpha} = \left( \frac{c_{O_3,G}}{c_{O_3,L}} \right)_{eq} \text{ (Roustan, 2003) [13]}$$

460 This equation is one form of the Henry's law. For the dissolution of ozone in water at 295K,  
 461 the Henry's constant is 3.823 (mg/L)/(mg/L) (Atchariyawut et al., 2009). At 293K, this same  
 462 constant is reduced to 2.907 (Roustan, 2003).

463 For hollow fibers membranes where the gas flows inside the fibers and the liquid outside, the  
 464 previous equation becomes  $\frac{1}{K_L} = \frac{d_o}{S \times k_g \times d_i} + \frac{d_o}{k_m \times d_{ln}} + \frac{He}{k_L}$ , where  $d_i$ ,  $d_{ln}$ ,  $d_o$  are respectively  
 465 the inner, logarithmic mean, and outer diameters of the fibers (m).

466 **4. Membrane materials**

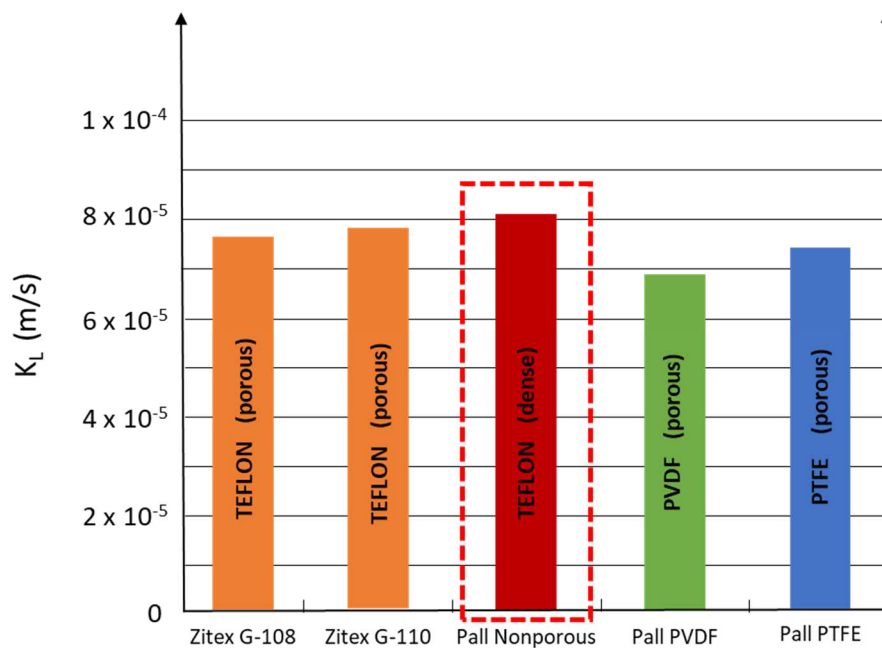
467 4.1. Membrane materials for gas/liquid membrane contactors



468 4.1.1. Microporous/dense membrane

469 Figure 6: Membrane configurations (a. non-wetted porous membrane, b. wetted porous  
 470 membrane, c. dense membrane, d. composite membrane), adapted from Nguyen et al., 2011

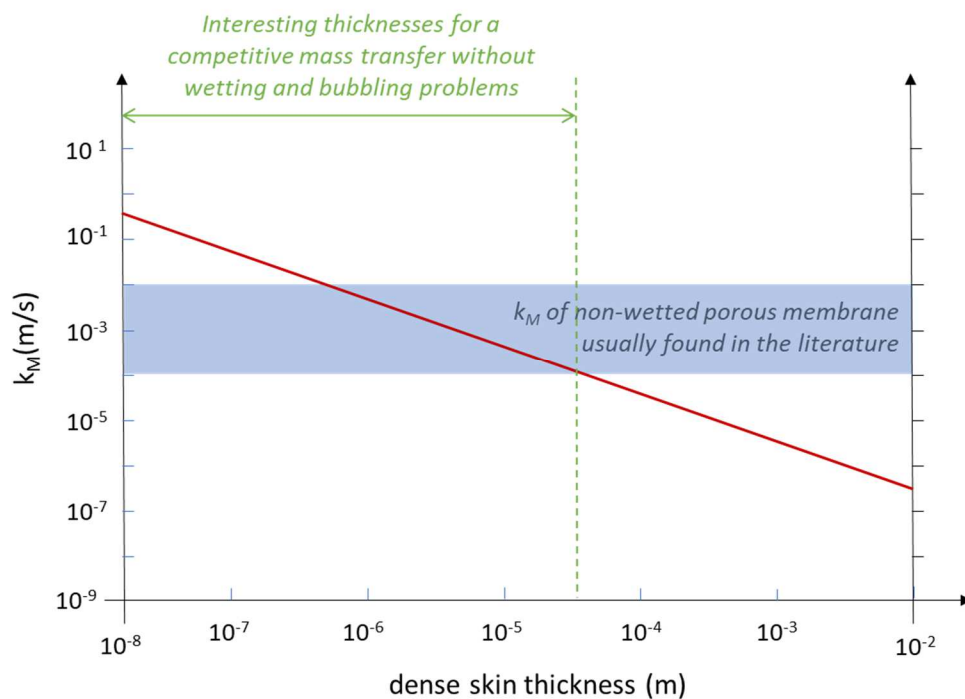
471 The material of the membrane affects its performance and has to be chosen according to its  
 472 application. Properties of the membrane, especially the pore size and the surface porosity,



473 influence the transfer rate. Membranes can be classified in 3 categories: dense, porous, or  
 474 composite (see Figure 6). According to Bakeri et al., the higher the pore size is, the higher the  
 475 membrane mass transfer coefficient is (i.e. resistance within membrane is higher in dense  
 476 membrane than in microporous) (Bakeri et al., 2012). Yet, higher pores increase the risk of  
 477 wetting, which reduces the transfer quickly (Bakeri et al., 2012). Therefore, the operating  
 478 pressure can be higher with dense membrane than with microporous because no bubbles are  
 479 formed (i.e. no risk of bubbling). However, during their experiments, Pines et al. found a  
 480 global mass transfer coefficient comparable between a Teflon nonporous membrane (i.e. a  
 481 dense membrane) and different porous membranes (see Figure 7). The porous membranes  
 482 used in this work were made with Teflon, PVDF, or PTFE. The pore volume was from 45 up  
 483 to 55%. The pore size was from 0.5 up to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and membrane thickness from 0.102 to 0.254  
 484 mm. (Pines et al., 2005)

485 Figure 7: Global mass transfer coefficient at liquid side Reynolds number of 2000 for  
 486 different materials, adapted from Pines et al., 2005

487 According to Nguyen et al., a dense material can compete with classical porous membrane  
 488 contactors materials, depending on the dense skin thickness (i.e. it can have the same mass  
 489 transfer coefficient in the membrane) (see Figure 8). In their work, the authors highlighted the  
 490 interest of composite fibers for the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption. The fibers were fabricated from porous  
 491 polymers as supports and coated with dense permeable (here to CO<sub>2</sub>) materials. The use of a  
 492 dense or a composite membrane seems therefore to be a possible solution to avoid bubbling  
 493 and wetting problems (i.e. transmembrane pressure limitations), without minimizing the  
 494 global mass transfer. (Chabanon and Favre, 2017; Nguyen et al., 2011)



495 Figure 8: Effective mass transfer coefficient of a dense skin layer versus the layer thickness  
 496 for a polymer permeability of 500 Barrer, adapted from Nguyen et al., 2011

497 4.1.2. Advantages and disadvantages of organic membranes used in membrane  
 498 contactor

499 Table 2 summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of various organic materials which can  
 500 be used for membrane contactor.

Family	Abbreviation	Material	Characteristics	Advantages	Disadvantages	Sources
Polyolefins and fluoropolymers	PVDF*	Polyvinylidene fluoride	Hydrophobic. Semi-crystalline (4 different crystalline forms with for each different mechanical and chemical resistances). Less hydrophobic than PTFE, but more hydrophobic than the other materials presented here. Degradation temperature between 375 and 400°C, and thus appropriate for water treatment.	Thermal stability, resistant to most of the corrosive chemicals and organic compounds. More resistant to ozone than PP. Better ozone flux than with PTFE for a same Reynolds number (liquid), but lower flux at long-term (after a couple of hours).	Sensitive to adsorption	(Bamperng et al., 2010; Choi and Kim, 2011; Khaisri et al., 2009; Mori et al., 1998)
	PTFE*	Polytetrafluoroethylene	Hydrophobic (contact angle between water and membrane at 110° for a PTFE dense film). More hydrophobic than PVDF.	High thermal and chemical stability (resistant to solvents and oxidizers). More resistant to ozone than PVDF.		(Khaisri et al., 2009; Mori et al., 1998)
	PE	Polyethylene	Hydrophobic	High thermal and chemical stability (resistant to solvents and oxidizers)		(deMontigny et al., 2006; Drioli et al., 2006)
	PP	Polypropylene				
Polysulfones	PES	Polyether sulfone	Less hydrophilic than cellulose acetate	High thermal and chemical stability, stable at a wide range of pH values, resistant to chlorine.	Risk of fouling by adsorption	(Drioli et al., 2006)
	PSu	Polysulfone	Contact angle between water and membrane at 73°			(Zhang et al., 1989)
Cellulose and its chemical derivatives	CA	Cellulose acetate (di or tri)	Hydrophilic	Low fouling, high permeability to water, good selectivity.	Low thermal and chemical stability (especially to basis and chlorine)	(Mark, 1999; Zhang et al., 1989)
Polyamides and Polyimides	PA	Polyamide	Low permeability to water (use for nanofiltration and reverse osmosis membranes)	High thermal, chemical, and mechanical stability, good selectivity.	Sensitive to chlorine, risk of fouling by adsorption of proteins	(Kwon et al., 2012, 2011)

502 Table 2: Synthesis of the different organic materials used in membrane contactors (\* Material resistant towards ozone)

## 503 4.2. Membrane materials used for ozonation with membrane contactors

### 504 4.2.1. Organic/inorganic membrane

505 Organic membranes are made with polymers. They are often used because of the possibility to  
506 modulate their intrinsic properties (e.g. mechanical, thermal, selectivity, etc). These  
507 membranes can be prepared by sintering, stretching, track-etching, phase inversion, or other  
508 ways. A material often used with ozone is for instance the PVDF (i.e. polyvinylidene fluoride)  
509 (Atchariyawut et al., 2007; Bamperng et al., 2010; Jansen et al., 2005; Khaisri et al., 2009;  
510 Leiknes et al., 2005; Pines et al., 2005).

511 Inorganic membranes are made with ceramic, metals, glass, or zeolite. They can be porous  
512 (e.g. ceramic) or dense (e.g. made with metals or glass). Ceramics are the major class of  
513 inorganic membranes. These membranes are prepared by mixing a metal (e.g. aluminium,  
514 titanium, silicium, zirconium) with a non-metal (i.e. nitride, oxide, or carbide). They are  
515 prepared by sintering or sol-gel processes, and have a great thermal, chemical, and  
516 mechanical stability (Mulder, 1996). Membranes can also be hybrid (i.e. composed with both  
517 organic and inorganic materials).

518 Ceramic membranes could be a good alternative for membrane contactors in comparison to  
519 organic membranes because of their chemical, thermal, and mechanical stabilities. They seem  
520 therefore to be an appropriate material for the use of ozone, which is a strong oxidant.  
521 However, those membranes have hydrophilic properties due to the presence of hydroxyl  
522 groups on their surface, and thus water is able to penetrate in their pores resulting in a higher  
523 mass transfer resistance (Bamperng et al., 2010; Stylianou et al., 2016). Consequently,  
524 ceramic membranes have a lower mass transfer coefficient compared to hydrophobic organic  
525 membranes. The surface of ceramic membranes can be modified by grafting hydrophobic  
526 compounds in order to solve this problem. The ozone mass transfer of such membranes may

527 be 5 times higher than non-grafted ceramic membranes (Picard et al., 2001). In the  
528 experiments of Kukuzaki et al., the authors used shirasu porous glass (i.e. as membrane),  
529 coated with nonafluorohexyltrichlorosilane (i.e. a highly hydrophobic compound). The ozone  
530 mass transfer coefficient of these membranes was higher than the one of non-coated  
531 membranes (i.e. the overall mass transfer coefficient was about  $10^{-6}$  m/s for the hydrophilic  
532 non-coated membranes and about  $10^{-5}$  m/s for the hydrophobic coated membranes) (Kukuzaki  
533 et al., 2010).

534 Other disadvantages of ceramic membranes have to be considered. Ceramic membranes have  
535 a higher cost than polymeric counterparts (i.e.  $\geq$  \$1,000 /m<sup>2</sup> versus \$100/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively for  
536 the ceramic versus the polymeric membrane material), due to higher production costs and  
537 expensive starting materials (Amin et al., 2016; Ciora and Liu, 2003). However, the  
538 membrane performance stability can be assured because of a higher cleaning efficiency with  
539 harsh chemical if necessary (thanks to better chemical and thermal resistances). Therefore,  
540 ceramic membranes have less fouling propensity, and thus a longer operational life, making  
541 the cost of ceramic membranes more competitive (Ciora and Liu, 2003; Guerra and  
542 Pellegrino, 2013).

543 Moreover, another drawback is the higher inner diameter of the ceramic in comparison to  
544 polymeric membranes, leading to a lower surface area per unit volume. Tubular membranes  
545 (i.e. internal diameter between 5 mm and 15 mm) and capillary membranes (i.e. internal  
546 diameter between 0.5 mm and 5 mm) can be produced with ceramic materials, but hollow  
547 fibers (i.e. internal diameter  $<$  0.5 mm) are tougher to obtain, unlike with polymeric materials  
548 (Amin et al., 2016).

#### 549 4.2.2. Hydrophobic/hydrophilic membrane

550 As explained before, pores are filled with liquid in hydrophilic membranes while they are  
551 filled with gas using a hydrophobic membrane. Ozone and oxygen diffusion are higher in gas  
552 than in water, thus the membrane resistance is lower with a hydrophobic membrane.  
553 However, wetting and condensation problems may occur, unlike with hydrophilic membrane  
554 (see 5.1 Transmembrane operating pressure (TMP) using membrane as gas/liquid contactor).

#### 555 4.2.3. Sustainability

556 The sustainability of membrane material under highly reactive character of ozone is one of the  
557 main challenges of using a membrane contactor for ozonation.

558 Bamperng et al. compared a membrane contactor with PVDF material to a membrane  
559 contactor with PTFE material, for the ozonation of dye wastewater. They found that PTFE has  
560 a better sustainability because its performance was barely reduced, while PVDF lost 30% of  
561 its initial performance within a few hours (Bamperng et al., 2010). Dos Santos et al.  
562 investigated the resistance to ozone oxidation of organic (i.e. polymeric) membranes in order  
563 to select the best material to use in ozonation process for water treatment. The authors showed  
564 that materials with electrophilic atoms attached to the carbon in the polymer backbone (e.g.  
565 PVDF and PTFE) have a good resistance to ozone. They observed that membranes with single  
566 C-C or Si-C bonds (e.g. PP and PDMS) also have a good resistance to ozone but showed  
567 structural modifications after a long period of use. Lastly, materials with carbon-carbon  
568 double bonds (e.g. PEI and PES) were highly degraded (Alves dos Santos et al., 2015).

### 569 **5. Ozonation using membrane contactors**

570 In this review, experiments using oxygen as gas (instead of ozone) have also been taken into  
571 account as oxygen and ozone are oxidizing gas, and have a relatively similar behavior.

## 5.1. Transmembrane operating pressure (TMP) using membrane as gas/liquid contactor

If the pressure of the liquid is too high, membrane could be wetted (i.e. the liquid phase penetrates into the membrane pores and the membrane loses its hydrophobicity), creating a stagnant film which interferes with the transfer. The transfer is therefore better when the gas/liquid interface is kept at the membrane surface. Moreover, ozone diffusivity is better inside the gas than inside the liquid, and thus ozone transfer is promoted when the interface is located on the liquid side of the membrane. It highlights the importance of the material used, especially its hydrophobicity (Goh et al., 2019; Picard et al., 2001; Xu et al., 2019).

Picard et al. quantified the influence of the membrane's humidity. The authors studied the drying time of wet membranes before an experiment, and made a correlation with the transfer rates obtained. They concluded that water inside the membrane pores is a major limiting factor to the transfer (Picard et al., 2001). The maximum pressure to avoid this phenomenon is called the breakthrough transmembrane pressure, or the liquid entry pressure of water (LEP<sub>w</sub>), or the wetting pressure (Choi and Kim, 2011; Smolders and Franken, 1989). It is defined by Laplace equation such as  $EP_w = -\frac{B\gamma_L}{d_p}$ , with  $d_p$  the diameter of the largest pore,  $B$  the form factor of the pore, and  $\gamma_L$  the superficial tension of the liquid (Xu et al., 2019). In order to determine the LEP<sub>w</sub> of a membrane, the method described by Smolder and Franken can be used (Smolders and Franken, 1989)(Choi and Kim, 2011). This consists of applying a slight pressure in the liquid phase of about  $0.3 \times 10^5$  Pa, during at least 10min. Then, the pressure is increased by step of  $0.68 \times 10^3$  Pa. The LEP<sub>w</sub> is reached when a continuous flow is observed in the permeate side (i.e. in the gas phase).

The liquid pressure has to be higher than the gas pressure, in order to avoid bubbling (i.e. cross of bubbles in the liquid side), but lower than the breakthrough transmembrane pressure. This TMP depends on the membrane pore size: small pores allow higher pressure. For

596 instance, microporous membranes have a breakthrough transmembrane pressure of about 20  
597 kPa. (Fang et al., 2004)

## 598 5.2. Effect of several parameters on mass transfer

### 599 5.2.1. Effect of liquid velocity

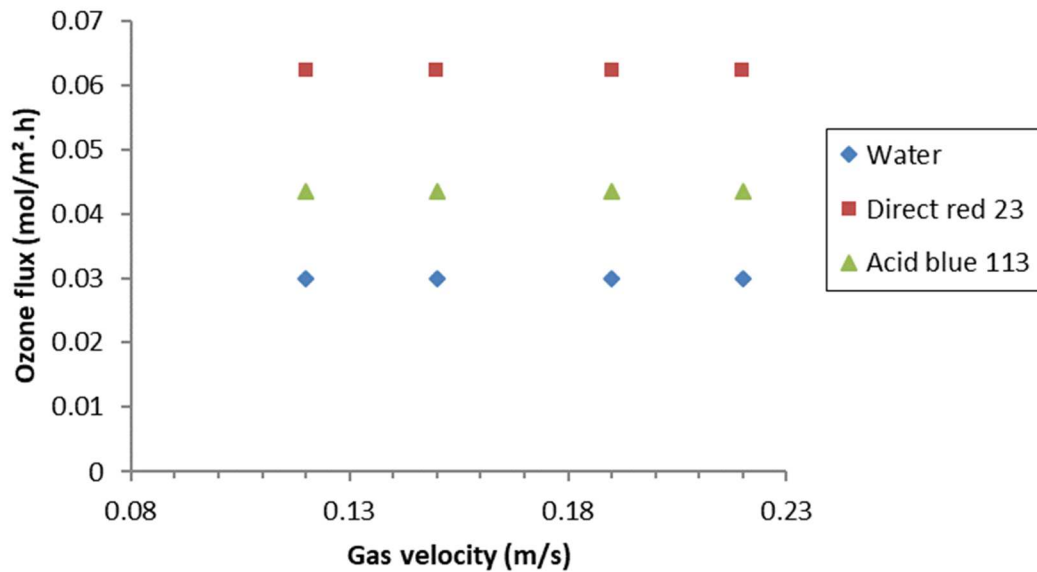
600 Ozone flux increases with increasing liquid velocity (Atchariyawut et al., 2009; Bamperng et  
601 al., 2010; Pines et al., 2005; Stylianou et al., 2016; Zoumpouli et al., 2018). In the  
602 experiments of Atchariyawut et al., Bamperng et al., Pines et al., Stylianou et al., and  
603 Zoumpouli et al., ozone flowed through the shell side and the liquid through the tube side (i.e.  
604 inside the fibers). Ozone flux was calculated from a mass balance in the gas phase or in the  
605 liquid phase. Concentration gradient is the driving force for the ozone transfer into the  
606 membrane. When the liquid flow velocity increased, the resistance to ozone transfer at the  
607 interface between the gas and liquid phases decreased (i.e. the liquid mass transfer coefficient  
608  $k_L$  increases). The concentration difference was maintained high and thus higher ozone flux  
609 could be transferred. This trend was demonstrated for both porous and non-porous  
610 membranes. According to Zoumpouli et al., liquid flow velocity is the dominant parameter for  
611 ozone transfer, followed by membrane thickness and ozone gas concentration (Zoumpouli et  
612 al., 2018). However, it must be noticed that in these experiments, the impact of other  
613 parameters (e.g. the pH) was not investigated.

614 For practical applications, it seems interesting to keep a high liquid velocity to have a high  
615 mass transfer and to keep important shear forces at the surface of the membrane that could  
616 decrease a possible fouling. However, higher liquid velocity implies lower residence time. For  
617 many applications, it is important to reach a given value of dissolved ozone concentration in  
618 order to get sufficient kinetic reaction or good disinfection level. As a consequence, a

619 compromise between high liquid velocity (i.e. high transfer) and high dissolved ozone  
620 concentration should be found.

## 621 5.2.2. Effect of gas

### 622 5.2.2.1. Gas velocity



623

624 Figure 9: Ozone molar transfer flux as function of gas flow velocities with PVDF membrane  
625 at  $T=28^{\circ}\text{C}$ , liquid phase velocity = 0,46 m/s, and initial dye concentration = 100 mg/L,  
626 adapted from Bamperng et al., 2010

627 Ozone flux is not influenced by gas velocity. The work of Bamperng et al (see Figure 9)  
628 showed that when gas velocity increases, ozone flux is not impacted (Bamperng et al., 2010).  
629 These experiments were made using water, direct red 23, and acid blue 113 (i.e. two dyes)  
630 and with a hollow fiber polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane module. The ozone was  
631 produced with ozone generator by pure oxygen. The gas velocity varied between 0.12 and  
632 0.22 m/s, and the ozone concentration was 40 mg/L. The liquid phase velocity was set at 0.46  
633 m/s and the initial dye concentration was set as 100 mg/L. The ozone fluxes for pure water

634 were determined by mass balance in the liquid phase, and the ozone fluxes for dye solution by  
635 mass balance in the gas phase. Results showed that for both water and dye solution (i.e. the  
636 liquid phase), the ozone flux did not evolve with an increasing gas velocity.

637 As seen previously (5.2.1), ozone flux is influenced by liquid velocity, therefore the mass  
638 transfer resistance is in the liquid phase, and not in the gas phase (Atchariyawut et al., 2009,  
639 2007; Bamperng et al., 2010; Berry et al., 2017; Khaisri et al., 2009). In addition, Pines et al.  
640 found that the resistance is higher in the liquid film than in the membrane (Pines et al., 2005).

#### 641 5.2.2.2. Nature of the gas

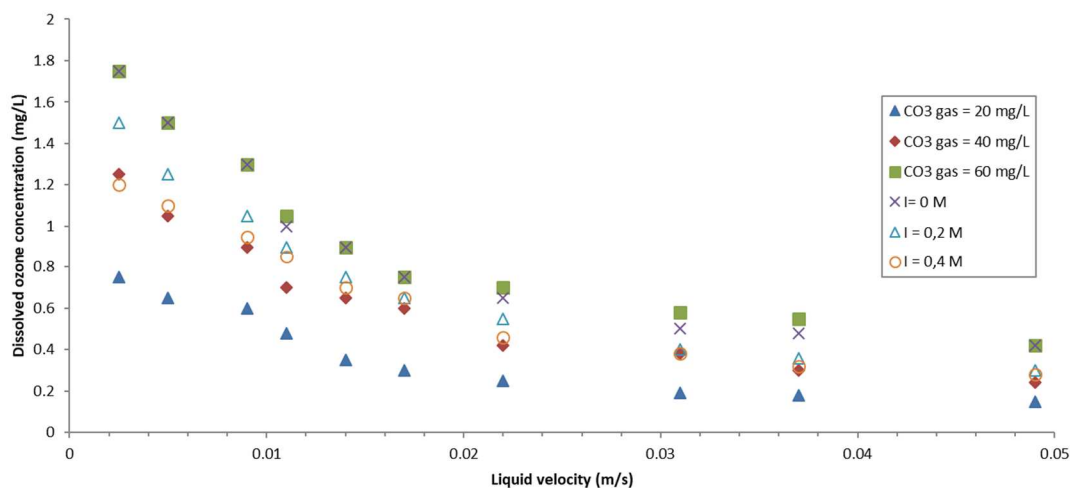
642 According to Berry et al., unlike ozone, the mass transfer resistance of oxygen is located in  
643 the membrane (Schwarzenbach et al., 2006). Côté et al. showed that oxygen mass transfer  
644 coefficient was better with pure oxygen than with air (Côté et al., 1989). According to the  
645 authors, this difference in transfer comes from the formation of nitrogen bubbles (i.e. with  
646 air), which strip the oxygen. The bubbles are formed against the fibers, and then escape to the  
647 liquid side and its outside in the form of gas, since the water is initially saturated with  
648 nitrogen at atmospheric pressure. Thus, the mass transfer in a membrane contactor depends on  
649 the nature of the gas. These results were obtained with gas inside the fibers and liquid in the  
650 shell.

#### 651 5.2.2.3. Concentration in the gas

652 When the concentration of ozone in the gas increases, the dissolved ozone concentration  
653 measured at the outlet of the contactor in the liquid phase also increases. Stylianiou et al.  
654 obtained the results represented in the Figure 10, at a liquid temperature of 20°C, with a  
655 hydrophobically modified  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramic membrane (Stylianou et al., 2016). It is important  
656 to note that the membrane used was tubular, which implies a larger diameter than with hollow

657 fibers (see 4.2.1). The ozone concentration was measured with potassium iodide method. The  
 658 authors made the same experiments for different temperatures (i.e. 15, 25, 30 and 30°C), with  
 659 different concentrations (i.e. 20, 40 and 60 mg/L). All the plots present the same trend as seen  
 660 in the Figure 10.

661 The concentration of a compound (e.g. ozone or oxygen) at the interface between gas and  
 662 liquid is linked to its partial pressure by Henry's law (see 3.2.1) with respect to its  
 663 concentration in the gas phase (i.e.,  $C_{interface} = \frac{C_{O_3,gas}}{s}$  where  $s$  is the dimensionless partition  
 664 coefficient for ozone (Stylianou et al., 2016)). Therefore, when the concentration in the inlet  
 665 gas increases, partial pressure also increases. According to the results of Stylianiou presented  
 666 previously, the increase of partial pressure should raise the same way.



667  
 668 Figure 10: Dissolved ozone concentration at the outlet of the contactor for different ozone  
 669 concentration in gas phase and for several ionic strengths, in function of liquid velocity, at  
 670 20°C, adapted from Stylianou et al., 2016

671

#### 672 5.2.2.4. Operating gas pressure and oxidant partial pressure

673 In the experiments of Côté et al. with dense hollow fiber membranes, the global mass  
674 coefficient  $K$  is independent of oxygen partial pressure up to 3 bars ( $K=28.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m.s}^{-1}$ )  
675 (Côté et al., 1989). However, at higher pressure,  $K$  dropped to  $23.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m.s}^{-1}$ . Côté  
676 explained this drop with the apparition of micro-bubbles on the surface of the fibers. This  
677 phenomenon could be avoided with a higher water velocity, preventing the partial pressure  
678 from exceeding the saturation point. In contrast, Ahmed et al. showed in their studies that the  
679 mass transfer coefficient  $K$  increases with increasing operating pressure (Ahmed et al., 2004).  
680 The same result was obtained in previous studies (Ahmed and Semmens, 1992a, 1992b; Li et  
681 al., 2010). Li et al. found that, for hydrophilic treated polypropylene hollow fiber membranes,  
682 when the operating pressures increases from 20 to 100 kPa, the membrane resistance  
683 decreased almost linearly from  $8.8 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $4.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s.m}^{-1}$  (i.d 1/K), giving a higher oxygen  
684 flux due to the higher partial pressure of oxygen (Li et al., 2010). These results go against  
685 Côté's conclusions. However, the same ultimate pressure beyond which bubbles appear was  
686 mentioned. It represents one of the limits of this process.

#### 687 5.2.3. Effect of temperature

688 The experiments of Stylianiou et al. showed that temperature has a very little impact on the  
689 dissolved ozone concentration, compared to the influence of liquid velocity, pH, and ozone  
690 concentration values in the gas phase (Stylianou et al., 2016). However, temperature affects  
691 ozone diffusivity, decomposition rate constant, and ozone solubility in the water. At the  
692 interface, Henry's law is applicable (see 3.2.1), which depends on the temperature (Sotelo et  
693 al., 1989). When the temperature increases, water molecules have a greater mobility, and thus  
694 the viscosity of water decreases and its diffusivity increases (by around 1.2 times every  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$   
695 according to Stylianiou et al.). As a consequence, the mass transfer coefficient in the liquid

696 phase raises. In the same way, when the temperature increases, lower energy is required for  
697 the reaction between ozone and hydroxyl ions, and thus the ozone decomposition rate  
698 increases (by around 1.5 times every 5°C). Conversely, ozone equilibrium concentration  
699 decreases (by around 1.15 times) due to the decrease of gas solubility. Therefore, it seems  
700 important to take this factor into account.

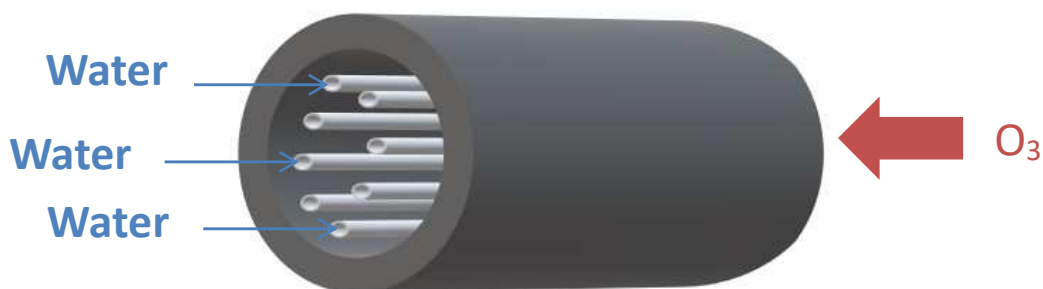
#### 701 5.2.4. Effect of transfer direction

702 The majority of the studies about ozonation using a membrane contactor use the gas in the  
703 shell side and the liquid inside the fibers. The main advantage of this configuration is a good  
704 distribution of the dissolved ozone in the liquid, thus allowing a good treatment of the  
705 pollutants. However, this configuration is more favorable to clogging. The circulation of the  
706 liquid in the shell side greatly reduces this risk. Nevertheless, a risk of short circuit in the shell  
707 appears, and therefore this configuration promotes the formation of areas without dissolved  
708 ozone, in which the pollutants are not treated (i.e. there is a risk of mal-distribution of the  
709 dissolved ozone and of channeling of the water in the carter (Dindore et al., 2005). According  
710 to Wenten et al., the best configuration for iodide ozonation with a membrane contactor is the  
711 one illustrated in the Figure 11 where the gas (ozone) passes through the tube side (i.e. inside  
712 the fibers) and the liquid (acidic iodide) solution passes through the shell side (Wenten et al.,  
713 2012). It corresponds to the configuration where the higher iodine concentration is obtained at  
714 the outside of the system (i.e. the objective was to oxidize iodide into iodine). In their study  
715 and for this configuration, the highest iodine concentration reached 300 mg/L, after a contact  
716 time of 720s. For the other configuration, where the ozone was flowing in the shell side, the  
717 highest concentration reached 35 mg/L, after a contact time of 1800s. According to the  
718 authors, the difference between the two results can be explained by the reaction of the ozone  
719 with the membrane material when the gas was running in the shell side. It causes the  
720 transformation of the ozone into oxygen, which reacts very slowly with iodide.



721

722 Figure 11: Configuration of membrane contactor with internal/external ozone transfer



723

724 Figure 12: Configuration of membrane contactor with external/internal ozone transfer

725 5.2.5. Effect of chemical reaction

726 When the liquid used in the contactor is pure water, no chemical reaction takes place. In the  
 727 experiments of Stylianiou et al., ozone flux is lower with pure water than with surface water  
 728 (Stylianiou et al., 2016). It can be explained by the concentration gradient, which is maintained  
 729 higher when ozone reacts with surface water, and in this case with micropollutants. According  
 730 to Roustan et al., with hollow fiber organic membrane, the mass transfer coefficient of oxygen

731  $K_{La}$  is 6 times higher with fast reaction time in the liquid than without (i.e.  $0.240\text{ s}^{-1}$  for  $0.040$   
732  $\text{s}^{-1}$  without) (Roustan, 2003). Therefore, the oxygen mass transfer is also 6 times higher with  
733 fast reaction than without. This is reflected in the mass transfer model with the several  
734 dimensionless numbers. The first one is the Hatta's number. It gives information on the  
735 competition between reaction and diffusion speed, inside the liquid film. It also indicates  
736 where the chemical reaction takes place. For a second order reaction (see 2.1, this number is  
737 defined by  $Ha = \frac{\sqrt{k_{O_3} C_{i,liquid} D_{O_3,L}}}{k_L}$ , where  $D_{O_3,L}$  is the diffusivity of ozone in liquid phase  
738 ( $\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $C_{i,liquid}$  is the concentration of the targeted compound in the liquid phase ( $\text{mol}.\text{m}^{-3}$ ),  
739  $k_L$  is the transfer coefficient in liquid phase ( $\text{m}.\text{s}^{-1}$ ), and  $k_{O_3}$  is the 2<sup>nd</sup> order reaction rate  
740 constant of ozone with the compound of interest ( $\text{m}^3.\text{mol}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$ ). If  $Ha$  is small (i.e.  $Ha < 0.3$ ),  
741 the reaction is slow compared to the diffusion. If  $Ha$  is high (i.e.  $Ha > 3$ ), the reaction is fast  
742 compared to the diffusion.

743 The enhancement factor ( $E = \frac{\text{Flux at the interface with chemical reaction}}{\text{Flux at the interface without chemical reaction}}$ ) describes the  
744 importance of the chemical reaction on the mass transfer at the interface between the gas and  
745 liquid phase. If  $E=1$ , the reaction does not accelerate the transfer. If  $E > 1$ , the reaction  
746 accelerates the transfer.

747 Another number is helpful to characterize the transfer, and to determine the material which  
748 reacted in the liquid film: the M criterion, such as:  $M = \frac{\text{Flux between liquid film and bulk of liquid}}{\text{Flux at the interface between gas and liquid}}$   
749 . When  $M=1$ , all the compound quantity transferred from the gas phase to the liquid phase is  
750 also transferred to the bulk of liquid. Therefore, the chemical reaction only takes place in the  
751 bulk of liquid and the reaction does not accelerate the mass transfer (i.e.  $E=1$  and  $Ha < 0.3$ ).  
752 The concentration profile of the compound in the liquid film is linear. When  $M < 1$ , the  
753 reaction takes place in both liquid film and bulk of liquid, and thus reaction accelerates the  
754 transfer (i.e.  $E > 1$  and  $Ha$  between 0.3 and 3). When  $M=0$ , all the compound in the liquid

755 phase reacts in the film. No molecule reaches the bulk of liquid. The reaction accelerates the  
756 transfer (i.e.  $E > 1$  and  $Ha > 3$ ).

### 757 5.2.6. Effect of pH

758 According to Wenten et al., pH of the liquid phase does not have a significant impact on the  
759 ozonation of iodide into iodine (Wenten et al., 2012). However, several studies revealed the  
760 opposite (Bamperng et al., 2010; Stylianou et al., 2016). Free radicals mechanisms are  
761 promoted with increasing pH and ozone decomposition is faster due to the presence of  
762 hydroxide anions. Therefore, ozone resistant compounds may react by indirect reaction thanks  
763 to the formation of hydroxyl radicals, which are non-selective oxidants. Simultaneously,  
764 ozone decomposition at higher pH keeps the ozone concentration gradient higher, and thus  
765 promotes the flux through the membrane. In their experiments on dye solutions, Bamperng et  
766 al. showed that the higher the pH solution was, the higher the ozone flux was (Bamperng et  
767 al., 2010). In the study of Stylianou et al., the reaction rate constant increased with the pH  
768 increase (see Table 3) (Stylianou et al., 2016).

769 Table 3: Influence of pH on reaction order and rate constant of ozone decomposition at 20°C,  
770 adapted from Stylianou et al., 2016

pH	Reaction order n	Rate constant of
		ozone decomposition $K' (1/s \cdot (L/mg)^{(n-1)})$ ( $\pm 5\%$ )
4	2	0,0017
6	2	0,0049
9	1	0,624

771

### 772 5.2.7. Effect of ionic strength

773 Stylianiou et al. investigated the effect of ionic strength on ozone flux (Stylianiou et al., 2016).  
774 Ionic strength was adjusted by the addition of NaCl solution. The authors made the same  
775 experiments for different temperatures (i.e. 15, 25, 30 and 30°C), with different  
776 concentrations (i.e. 0, 0.2 and 0.4 M). All the plots present the same trend as in the Figure 10,  
777 where the dissolved ozone concentration at the outlet of the contactor decreases when the  
778 liquid velocity increases. Zero ionic strength corresponds to the use of deionized water  
779 without the addition of NaCl.

780 An increase of ionic strength decreases the solubility of ozone and thus also decreases the  
781 equilibrium concentration of ozone at the interface between gas and liquid, as described by  
782 Henry's law (see 3.2.1). The ionic strength has also an impact on the surface tension, and thus  
783 on the allowable transmembrane pressure (see 5.1. Indeed, dissolved salts increase the surface  
784 tension, and in the same way the breakthrough pressure.

785

### 786 5.2.8. Effect of surfactant

787 Côté et al. studied the impact of surfactant in liquid phase on the oxygen flux (Côté et al.,  
788 1989). For these experiments, commercial soap containing 3.2% by weight of anionic  
789 surfactant was added to the initial deoxygenated water. It appeared that the addition of soap  
790 increased the mass transfer coefficient (i.e. 7% for a liquid velocity of 2.28 cm/s and 20% for  
791 a velocity of 7.71 cm/s). According to the authors, it is a significant parameter because the  
792 amount added (i.e. 190.5 mg/L) is equivalent to approximately 6 mg/L of surfactant (i.e.  
793 lauryl sulphate), which is a concentration often observed in wastewater (Boon,  
794 1980). Surfactants have an impact on the surface tension, and thus on the allowable

795 transmembrane pressure (see 5.1. Indeed, surfactants decrease the surface tension, and in the  
 796 same way the breakthrough pressure. Therefore, the risk of wetting is higher.

797 5.2.9. Effect of membrane material

798 The membrane material has a significant role in the mass transfer efficiency. As mentioned  
 799 above (see 3.1), membranes have to be porous in order to facilitate the transfer, and  
 800 hydrophobic to avoid the wetting phenomenon, which leads to the formation of a stagnant  
 801 film inside the membrane and thus to a reduced mass transfer. Ozone is a very strong oxidant,  
 802 and thus can attack the membrane material if this one is not sufficiently resistant. For an  
 803 application of ozonation with a membrane contactor, two materials stand out: the PVDF and  
 804 the PTFE which are the only organic membranes that can be used with ozone. According to  
 805 Bamperng et al., PTFE leads to a more stable and higher flux than PVDF for a long operation  
 806 period (i.e. few hours of use) (Bamperng et al., 2010).

807 5.2.10. Summary table of the effect of parameters on mass transfer

808 Table 4: Effect of parameters on mass transfer

Parameters	Range in literature	Influence on the ozone transfer when the parameter increases	Sources
Liquid velocity	0.002 - 0.9 m/s	+	(Atchariyawut et al., 2009; Bamperng et al., 2010; Pines et al., 2005; Stylianou et al., 2016; Zoumpouli et al., 2018)
Gas velocity	0.003 - 0.22 m/s	=	(Atchariyawut et al., 2009, 2007; Bamperng et al., 2010; Berry et al., 2017; Khaisri et al., 2009)
Concentration of O <sub>3</sub> in the gas	20 - 60 mg/L	+	(Stylianou et al., 2016)
Operating gas pressure	6.9 - 413.7 kPa	+	(Ahmed et al., 2004; Ahmed and Semmens, 1992a, 1992b;

			Li et al., 2010)
Temperature	15 - 50°C	+	(Stylianou et al., 2016)
pH	4 - 9	+	(Bamperng et al., 2010; Stylianou et al., 2016)
Ionic strength	0 - 0.4 mol/L	-	(Stylianou et al., 2016)
Surfactant	0 - 6 mg/L	+	(Côté et al., 1989)
Chemical reaction	With or Without (pure water)	+ (With)	(Stylianou et al., 2016)
Transfer direction	In/Out or Out/In	+ (In/Out)	(Wenten et al., 2012)

809

### 810 5.3. First results on micropollutants

811 During their experiments, Stylianou et al. showed the technical feasibility of a membrane  
812 contactor for the removal of various micropollutants in surface waters with diffusion of ozone  
813 and peroxone (Stylianou et al., 2018). They studied the transformation of carbamazepine  
814 (CBZ), benzotriazole (BZT), p-chlorobenzoic acid (pCBA), atrazine (ATZ), and the  
815 formation of bromates in a ceramic tubular membrane contactor, where the gas was in the  
816 shell side. The CBZ was removed at more than 90%, with a diminution of its concentration  
817 below 0.1 µM at 0.4mgO<sub>3</sub>/mgDOC. BTZ, pCBA, and ATZ was removed respectively at 70,  
818 57, and 49%. The removal efficiency followed the reactivity order of the compounds with O<sub>3</sub>.  
819 The addition of peroxone reduced the elimination of CBZ by 8%, but increased the  
820 elimination of ozone-resistant compounds (i.e. pCBA and ATZ) by about 5-10%.

821 In order to make a comparison between the different contacting ozonation processes, batch  
822 experiments (i.e. conventional, prepared by continuously bubbling ozone and therefore O<sub>3</sub>  
823 saturated) and continuous experiments with ceramic tubular membranes having different inner  
824 surface per volume were performed. The results for the CBZ (i.e. the ozone reactive  
825 compound) were similar whatever the process. However, the hydroxyl radical exposure was  
826 slightly higher in the conventional experiments for ozone and peroxone processes, which  
827 leads to a better abatement of ozone-resistant compounds in the conventional process. Thus,

828 the authors suggest that using a membrane with a high inner surface per volume, like for  
829 instance the hollow fibers, leads to a better efficiency of ozonation processes thanks to a more  
830 uniform distribution of oxidants (i.e. ozone and peroxone) in the water to be treated.

831 Concerning the bromate formation, Stylianiou and al. showed that ozone concentration lower  
832 than 20 mg/L are required to be under the regulated concentration limit of bromate (i.e. they  
833 did not achieve this limit even at a concentration of 0.020 mg/L, which was the lowest  
834 concentration used during their experiments). Indeed, European Commission and US EPA  
835 defined this limit at 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in drinking water (EC directive 98/83; USEPA,1998). The ozone  
836 concentration is a very important parameter to minimize the formation of these compounds. In  
837 their experiments, Stylianiou et al. found a high bromate concentration of 49  $\mu\text{g/L}$  at 0.8  
838  $\text{mgO}_3/\text{mgDOC}$  with the ozone process. In these experiments, comparing with conventional  
839 process, membrane processes led to a higher bromates' formation. To conclude, the authors  
840 suggest that the use of membrane contactor with both a low ozone gas concentration and the  
841 highest possible inner surface per volume are required to improve the micropollutants  
842 abatement and to reduce the bromates' formation.

843 Merle et al. worked on a combination of a membrane contactor with advanced oxidation  
844 process for the abatement of micropollutants and the minimization of the bromates' formation  
845 (Merle et al., 2017). The authors used PTFE hollow fiber membrane. The water flowed inside  
846 the fibers, and the gas inside the shell. They focused especially on bromates' production, and  
847 studied the abatement of pCBA because of its high reactivity with hydroxyl radicals and low  
848 reactivity with molecular ozone (i.e. ozone-resistant compound). Compared to the  
849 conventional peroxone process (i.e. with bubbles), this process showed a better abatement of  
850 micropollutants and less bromates formation, for groundwater and surface water treatment.  
851 For instance, for a groundwater containing 180  $\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  of bromides and 0.48  $\text{mgDCO.L}^{-1}$ , with  
852 a hydrogen peroxide concentration of 5.67  $\text{mgH}_2\text{O}_2.\text{L}^{-1}$ , and an ozone concentration in the gas

853 phase of  $0.5 \text{ g.Nm}^{-3}$ , an abatement of p-CBA of 95% was achieved after 300 s of residence  
854 time, and less than  $0.5 \text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$  of bromates were produced. In the conventional process,  $8 \text{ }\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$   
855 was formed under the same conditions. It can be noted that with a higher ozone concentration  
856 in the gas phase (i.e.  $1\text{g/Nm}^3$ ,  $2.5 \text{ g/Nm}^3$  and  $10 \text{ g/Nm}^3$  in these experiments), the p-CBA  
857 abatement was better and faster, but more bromates were produced.

858

## 859 **6. Modeling of ozone and oxygen mass transfer through membrane contactors for the** 860 **elimination of micropollutants**

861 Several studies have investigated the modeling of ozone and oxygen transport through  
862 membrane contactors during ozonation processes, from the gas phase to the liquid phase.  
863 Most of these works focused on applications such as  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption, acid gas capture (i.e.  
864 gas-liquid absorption), or liquid-liquid extraction (Faiz et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014).

865 The modeling of such processes is useful for a better understanding of the physical and  
866 chemical phenomena occurring. It enables the evaluation of parameters' influence, and  
867 therefore can lead to an optimization of the modeled process. Before modeling, membrane  
868 ozonation was described through global mass transfer coefficients, and therefore could not be  
869 scaled-up to different devices or experimental conditions. (Kukuzaki et al., 2010; Stylianou et  
870 al., 2016). In addition, modelling can be used in design and optimization of cross-flow  
871 membrane modules for multi-components membrane gas absorption processes.

872 Several types of computational approaches can be seen for ozone transport simulation in  
873 membrane contactor processes. Three methods will be presented here. In the first one,  
874 dimensionless numbers are used (in particular the Sherwood number) and hypotheses are  
875 assumed in order to simplify the equations and to avoid a numerical resolution. In the second  
876 approach presented here, ozone concentrations are obtained from the partial pressures. In the

877 last method, software like Comsol Multiphysics for example is used in order to solve the  
 878 transfer equations and directly determine concentration profiles, by simulating the ozone mass  
 879 transfer through a membrane into a liquid. A synthesis of several studies on this subject is  
 880 available in Table 5.

881 Table 5: Synthesis of the studies about modelling of ozone diffusion with membrane  
 882 contactors

Publication	Modeling and determination of	Type of membrane	Investigated parameters
Ozone Mass Transfer Studies in a Hydrophobized Ceramic Membrane Contactor: Experiments and Analysis. (Stylianou et al., 2016)	Concentration of dissolved ozone at the module output	Tubular membrane Porous (Ceramic - Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	Liquid velocity Liquid pH Gas concentration Membrane length Temperature Order of the ozone decomposition reaction
Mass transfer studies in flat-sheet membrane contactor with ozonation (Phattaranawik et al., 2005)	Ozone transfer coefficient (developed indirectly from the oxygen transport) Ozone flux Ozone concentration at membrane/liquid interface	Plane membrane Porous (PVDF)	Flow rates Temperature Matrix for ozone flux determination (pure water/solution of sodium nitrite)
A single tube contactor for testing membrane ozonation (Zoumpouli et al., 2018)	Concentration profiles Transfer resistance Transfer coefficients Ozone flux Residual ozone concentration	Tubular membrane Non porous (PDMS)	Liquid velocity Matrix (pure water/surface water/waste water/solution with humic acid) Membrane diameter Gas concentration
Modeling of ozone mass transfer through non-porous membranes for water treatment (Berry et al., 2017)	Concentration profiles Transfer resistance Overall transfer coefficient	Non porous capillary membrane (PDMS)	Membrane length, Thickness membrane Liquid velocity Gas diffusivity in the membrane Gas solubility in the membrane

883

#### 884 6.1. Development of a mass transfer model based on dimensionless numbers

885 Stylianou, Kostoglou, and Zouboulis studied the ozone mass transfer in a hydrophobized  
 886 ceramic membrane contactor (Stylianou et al., 2016). The gas was a mixture of ozone and  
 887 oxygen, and flowed in the shell of the contactor. The liquid was in the tube. Based on  
 888 experiments, the authors developed a mathematical model, representing the occurring  
 889 phenomena and extracting the most important parameters. A first step was to model only the

890 mass transfer, without taking into account the enhancement factor due to ozone  
 891 decomposition. The transfer was considered as a multiphase system with three steps: diffusion  
 892 in gas phase, transfer through the membrane pores, and diffusion to water. This is therefore a  
 893 convection-diffusion mechanism. Generally, the steady state partial differential conservation  
 894 equation is solved in order to obtain the ozone mass transfer. However, the authors used the  
 895 Leveque solution and the corresponding Sherwood number, since all the experimental  
 896 conditions matched (e.g. laminar flow). The dissolved ozone concentration at the outlet of the  
 897 contactor was then obtained thanks to a mass balance and the Sherwood number.

$$898 \quad C_f = C_{eq} + (C_0 - C_{eq})e^{-\frac{4LD_{O_3,L}Sh}{u_{L,mean}d_i^2}} \quad [14]$$

899 With:

- 900 -  $C_f$  : Solute concentration at the tube outlet ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )
- 901 -  $C_{eq}$ : Solubility of ozone in the liquid ( $C_{eq} = HP_f$ , where H is a variant of the Henry's law  
 902 constant in  $\text{mol.m}^{-3}.\text{hPa}^{-1}$  and  $P_f$  the partial ozone pressure in hPa) ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )
- 903 -  $C_0$  : Feed ozone concentration ( $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$ )
- 904 -  $L$  : Total tube length (m)
- 905 -  $D_{O_3,L}$  : Diffusivity of ozone in the liquid phase (i.e. water) ( $\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$ )
- 906 -  $Sh$  : Sherwood number of the liquid phase (Sh can be described by a global form such as  
 907  $Sh = \frac{K_L L_c}{D} = A \times Re^B \times Sc^C$ , where A, B, C are empirical constants, Sc is the Schmidt  
 908 number, Re is the Reynolds number, Lc is the hydraulic diameter of the liquid phase, D is  
 909 the diffusivity, and  $K_L$  is the overall mass transfer)
- 910 -  $u_{L,mean}$  : Mean liquid velocity ( $\text{m.s}^{-1}$ )
- 911 -  $d_i$  : Internal diameter of the tube (m)

912 Then, the mass transfer model was completed with the ozone decomposition (i.e. a mass  
913 transfer and reaction model were defined). Generally, conservation equations (i.e. diffusion  
914 and convection terms), and reaction terms, are solved numerically. Transfer and reaction are  
915 assumed to occur simultaneously. Transfer, as mentioned before, is assumed to follow  
916 Leveque relation, and reaction rate is assumed to depend on the cross-sectional averaged  
917 solute concentration. The governing equation for the perimeter averaged ozone concentration  
918 is described by the following equation:

$$919 \quad u_{L,mean} \frac{dC}{dz} = \frac{4DSh}{d^2} (C_{eq} - C) - r_M \quad [15]$$

920 By using the Euler explicit numerical discretization scheme with a fine mesh, for example  
921 with a discretization at N points with step such as  $\delta=L/N$ , a set of differential equations results  
922 can be found easily.

923 For Reynolds numbers of the liquid side up to 100 (i.e. laminar regime), dissolved ozone  
924 concentration at the outlet of the membrane contactor calculated with the developed model fit  
925 well with the experimental results (deviation around 5%). Moreover, ozone properties (e.g.  
926 diffusivity, ozone equilibrium concentration, ozone self-decomposition order and rate)  
927 calculated from the model fit the experimental and theoretical data. The extrapolation of data  
928 for the study of different devices and experimental conditions is possible, by changing the  
929 value of major physical parameters (e.g. diffusivity, solubility). The authors also studied the  
930 influence of several parameters such as the liquid velocity, the pH, the gas concentration, the  
931 membrane length, and the temperature. They came to the conclusion that the pH and the  
932 ozone concentration have the greatest impact on the dissolved ozone concentration at the  
933 outlet of the contactor. Moreover, they noted that the ozone flux increased with the liquid  
934 velocity (i.e. with the Reynolds number).

935 6.2. Development of a mass transfer model by using transfer coefficient and partial  
936 pressures

937 The mass transport in a membrane contactor (i.e. across concentration boundary layer of gas  
938 phase, through porous membrane, and liquid boundary layer) can be described with global  
939 and individual mass transfer coefficients. In order to determine these coefficients, the  
940 resistance-in-series model can be used. Phattaranawik, Leiknes, and Pronks studied ozone  
941 mass transfer in porous flat-sheet membrane contactor, made with PVDF (Phattaranawik et  
942 al., 2005). The liquid side Reynolds numbers ranged from 454 to 1469 for the experiments  
943 with O<sub>2</sub>, and to 1136 for the experiments with O<sub>3</sub>, both corresponding to a laminar flow. To  
944 model mass transfer without reaction, the authors determined ozone mass transfer coefficients  
945 indirectly from oxygen transfer measurements to remove ozone decomposition and potential  
946 reactions in the liquid. The oxygen mass transfer coefficient in the liquid phase is correlated  
947 to Sherwood number and can be deducted from this correlation. It can also be calculated from  
948 the Wilson plot method, a method which is also valid for the determination of the membrane  
949 mass transfer coefficient. With this method, the liquid mass transfer and the membrane mass  
950 transfer coefficients can be separated from the overall mass transfer coefficient. The authors  
951 focused on liquid mass transfer coefficient. They deduced this coefficient for the ozone from  
952 the oxygen coefficient, using in particular the surface renewal theory (see Equation 15).

953 
$$k_{L,O3} = \left( \frac{D_{O3,L}}{D_{O2,L}} \right)^{0.5} \times k_{L,O2} = 0.789 \times k_{L,O2} \quad (\text{Cussler, 2009}) \quad [15]$$

954 To model ozone mass transfer with a chemical reaction, an enhancement factor was added to  
955 the individual transfer coefficient of the liquid film. The global transfer coefficient is  
956 described by the equation [12] (see 3.2.4. The overall mass transfer coefficient).

957 The authors described the procedure followed for calculating ozone fluxes without chemical  
958 reaction (i.e. with pure water), and with chemical reaction (i.e. with sodium nitrite solutions).  
959 The procedure with pure water can be summarized in several main steps. First, the ozone flux  
960 is assumed and the effluent ozone concentrations in both gas and liquid streams are calculated  
961 by mass balance. The average ozone concentrations are then determined. The concentrations  
962 at both membrane surfaces, and the ozone partial pressures at the membrane surfaces are  
963 calculated, and the flux are deducted from these pressures. Finally, the new calculated flux is  
964 compared with the flux previously assumed. When the difference between the assumed and  
965 the calculated flux is smaller than 0.01%, the procedure is finished. If not, the calculated flux  
966 is the new assumed flux, and the procedure begins again (i.e. the loop begins again). With a  
967 chemical reactions, the procedure is more complex than without, due to the presence of  
968 oxidation. Phattaranawik at al. concluded that both procedures can be used to design the  
969 ozonation membrane contactor in pilot scale. However, the mathematical model should be  
970 refined with residual ozone concentration because of the authors' assumption of zero effluent  
971 ozone concentrations in the liquid stream.

### 972 6.3. Determination of concentration profiles with software for the resolution of transfer 973 equations

974 Another approach is the numerical modeling thanks to Computational Fluid Dynamics  
975 (CFD) software (Berry et al., 2017; Zoumpouli et al., 2018). The steps of the CFD  
976 simulation set-up are described by Tu et al. (Tu et al., 2018). The first step is to define a  
977 domain (2-D or 3-D) and a geometry based on the studied membrane dimensions. For a  
978 gas/liquid membrane contactor, 3 domains can be defined: the gas phase, the membrane,  
979 the liquid phase. Then, the optimal mesh has to be chosen in order to obtain the best  
980 compromise between accuracy and computing time. The model can be scaled if necessary,  
981 and the convergence criteria have to be set, representing the acceptable residual after all the

982 iterations. The next step is the specification of the governing equations (i.e. species and  
 983 momentum equations), and of the boundary conditions. The CFD software takes care to  
 984 couple and solve these equations, and therefore concentration profiles are obtained (Berry  
 985 et al., 2017) .

986 During their works, Berry et al. used Comsol Multiphysics ® in order to obtain concentration  
 987 profiles. The simulation was made with the gas flowing inside the tube and the liquid outside,  
 988 in a non-porous capillary membrane made with PDMS. The gas was pure oxygen or a mixture  
 989 of ozone and oxygen. Variations from 3.5 to 2210 of the liquid side Reynolds number were  
 990 performed, corresponding to a laminar flow. The regime was also laminar on the gas side. The  
 991 equations solved by the software, and their application conditions, are synthetized in Table 6.

992

993

994

995 Table 6: Governing equations of the mass transport used by Berry et al.

		Gas section ( $0 \leq r \leq R_i$ )	Membrane section ( $0 \leq r \leq R_i + L_m$ )	Liquid section ( $R_i + L_m \leq r \leq R_i + L_m + L_w$ )
Momentum transport	Assumptions	Ideal and incompressible gas Laminar, steady state, and Newtonian flow	gas velocity negligible because of the low gas permeability in the membranes	Laminar, steady, and fully developed flow Co-current configuration. Constant liquid density and constant liquid viscosity.
	Boundary conditions	axial symetrie : no flow crossing the boudary ( $u_r, g = 0$ when $r = 0$ ) membrane wall: no-slip ( $u_z, g = 0$ whan $r = R_i$ ) the velocity in the r-directions at all the boundaries are almost zero ( $u_r, g = 0$ )	x	Velocity in the r-directions at all the boundaries almost null ( $u_r, L = 0$ ) Membrane wall : no-slip ( $u_z, L = 0$ when $r = R_i + L_m$ ) Inlet: Averaged velocity specified at the inlet ( $u_z, L = u_L, \text{mean when } z = 0$ )

		Tube inlet: flow is fully developed and velocity profile is parabolic ( $u_{z,g}=2u_{g,mean}[1-(r/R_i)^2]$ ) Tube outlet: flow is fully developed ( $\partial u_{z,g}/\partial z=0$ when $z=0$ )		Outlet: Fully developed flow ( $\partial u_{z,L}/\partial z=0$ when $z=L$ )
	Equations	Continuity: $\nabla \cdot u_g$ Navier-Stokes: $\rho_g(u_g \cdot \nabla u_g) = -\nabla \rho_g + \mu_g \nabla^2 u_g$	$u_g=0$	Continuity: $\nabla \cdot u_L$ Navier-Stokes: $\rho_L(u_L \cdot \nabla u_L) = -\nabla \rho_L + \mu_L \nabla^2 u_L$
Species transport	Assumptions	Transport only by diffusion and convection, no reaction taking place in the system	Transport only by diffusion and convection, no reaction taking place in the system. No mutual interaction between the gases of the mixture ( $O_2/O_3$ ) (Dhingra and Marand, 1998)	Isotropic mass diffusivity of $i$
	Boundary conditions	Axial symmetry: no material flow across the boundary ( $\partial u_{g,j}/\partial r=0$ when $r=0$ ) Tube inlet: $C_{g,j}=C_{g,j,0}$ Tube outlet: the gas flux is predominantly by convection ( $\partial u_{g,j}/\partial z=0$ when $z=L$ )	Gas-membrane interface: interfacial transport defined by the solubility laws ( $C_{m1,j}=C_{g,j,i}/S_j$ when $r=R_i$ ) Membrane inlet: insulated boundary ( $\partial C_{m,j}/\partial z=0$ when $z=0$ ) Membrane outlet: insulated boundary ( $\partial C_{m,j}/\partial z=0$ when $z=L$ )	Concentrations of $O_2$ and $O_3$ nulle: $C_{L,j,0}=0$ Membrane-liquid interface: interfacial transport defined by the solubility laws ( $C_{m1,j}=H_j C_{L,j,i}$ when $r=R_i+L_m$ )
	Equations	$u_g \cdot \nabla C_{g,j} = D_{g,j} \nabla^2 C_{g,j}$	$D_{m,j} \left[ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial C_{m,j}}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 C_{m,j}}{\partial z^2} \right] = 0$	$u_L \cdot \nabla C_{L,j} = x \nabla^2 C_{L,j}$

996

997 The model established by the authors resulted in the determination of the concentration  
998 profiles. It can be used as a base for the prediction of the ozone and oxygen transfer for  
999 various designs, materials, and hydraulic conditions. Sherwood numbers obtained with this  
1000 model fit with those found in the literature (Berry et al., 2017) . The main conclusions are as  
1001 follow. First, the gas solubility is a parameter which cannot be neglected, in particular for the  
1002 oxygen. The main resistance of the ozone transfer is on the liquid side, and the main  
1003 resistance of the oxygen transfer is in the membrane.

1004 Zoumpouli et al. had a similar approach than Berry et al. (Zoumpouli et al., 2018). However,  
1005 the configuration of the membrane contactor was different. The simulation was made with the

1006 liquid flowing inside the tube and the gas in the shell, in a non-porous tubular membrane  
1007 made with PDMS. The gas studied was a mixture of ozone and oxygen. The effect of added  
1008 peroxone (i.e.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ) in the liquid phase was also investigated. The liquid side Reynolds  
1009 number was varied up to 290. For Reynolds numbers less than 100, the simulation results  
1010 were moderately overpredicted, in comparison to experimental measures. This may be a result  
1011 of a non-uniform dispersion of  $\text{O}_3$  for low flowrates. For Reynolds numbers over 100, results  
1012 obtained during the experiments fitted well with the simulation results, with an absolute  
1013 difference lower than 0,5 mg/L. Their main conclusion is the importance of the liquid  
1014 velocity as a major parameter for the determination of the ozone global transfer, followed, in  
1015 that order, by the membrane length and the gas concentration.

## 1016 **7. Conclusion**

1017 Membrane contactors for ozone diffusion is a recent unit operation for water treatment by  
1018 ozonation. Using a hollow fiber membrane contactor, ozone is added uniformly to the water  
1019 to be treated, through many dosing points and with a great mass transfer surface area. It leads  
1020 to a better transformation rate of micropollutants than with conventional ozonation processes,  
1021 and potentially to a lower bromates' formation thanks to a lower residual ozone concentration.

1022 In addition, membrane contactors offer other advantages, like its modularity, its small foot  
1023 print, and the independent flow adjustment for gas and liquid phases. Gas can also be  
1024 recycled, leading to energy and reagents savings.

1025 Many parameters influence the mass transfer during ozonation using membrane contactors.  
1026 When carefully chosen, the efficiency of the process can then be greatly enhanced. For  
1027 instance, the choice of the fiber material used is a crucial parameter. It has to provide a good  
1028 ozone transfer through the membrane, but resist to ozone even for a long use. PTFE and  
1029 PVDF membranes seem to be good choices for an ozonation application. The pressures to

1030 apply to the different phases also depend on the material chosen. The transmembrane pressure  
1031 seems to be the major difficulty of membrane contactor technology. It has to be set carefully,  
1032 in order to avoid bubbling and wetting problems.

1033 The modeling of membrane processes for ozonation is useful to optimize reactor design and  
1034 operating conditions and to study the influence of membrane properties. This optimization  
1035 enables to achieve the best pollutant removal, for the minimum by-products' production and  
1036 the minimum ozone consumption.

1037 . An important challenge to overcome will be the development of more efficient membrane  
1038 material. Hydrophobic membranes have to be manufactured with coating or grafting  
1039 techniques, which could lead to complicated modification routes and excessive use of  
1040 chemicals. Moreover, studies about long term stability of the membranes used will be  
1041 essential to apply the process on an industrial scale. Finally, a key point concerns the  
1042 manufacture of affordable module with an optimized hydrodynamic and a high mass transfer  
1043 coefficient.

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