



# Improving Silica Removal By EDI and GTM

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makers of  
**Electropure EDI**  
products

**SnowPure**  
*High Technology Water*

makers of  
**Electropure EDI**  
products

Headquarters

San Clemente,  
California



## Electropure™ EDI Operating in 49 Countries



## The Electropure™ EDI History

- **1977** *Harry O'Hare EDI Prototype*
- **1979** *HOH Water Technology founded*
- **1984** *HOH EDI Patent Issued*
- **1988** *EPM series EDI*
- **1996** *HOH becomes Electropure*
- **1999** *Excellion™ IX Membrane Patents*
- **1999** *XL™ series EDI*
- **2004** *XL-HTS™ High Temperature Stable*
- **2005** *Electropure Management Buyout--SnowPure formed*
- **2006** *Electropure China Sales Office Opened*
- **2007** *XL-R™ series EDI improvements*
- **2008** *SnowPure International (Hong Kong) formed*
- **2009** *EXL™ series EDI introduced in China*
- **2010** *EXL™ series EDI introduced worldwide*
- **2012** *EXL-HTS high volume, high temperature for sanitization*
- **2013** *XL-DER EDI for Hemodialysis*

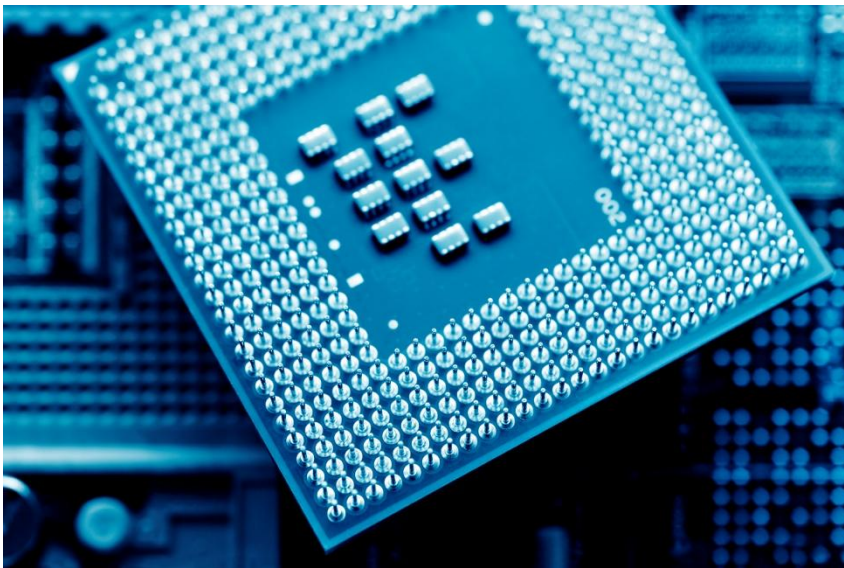
# Agenda

1. Importance of Silica for Power Plants
2. Old EDI Model: Working Bed - Polishing Bed
3. New EDI Model: Electropure Specific Ion Model
4. Discussion: Specific RO-EDI Cases
5. Rules to Optimize  $\text{SiO}_2$  in EDI

## Silica is Important in Power Plants and Electronics

Semiconductor Fabs

$\text{SiO}_2 < 0.1 \text{ ppb}$

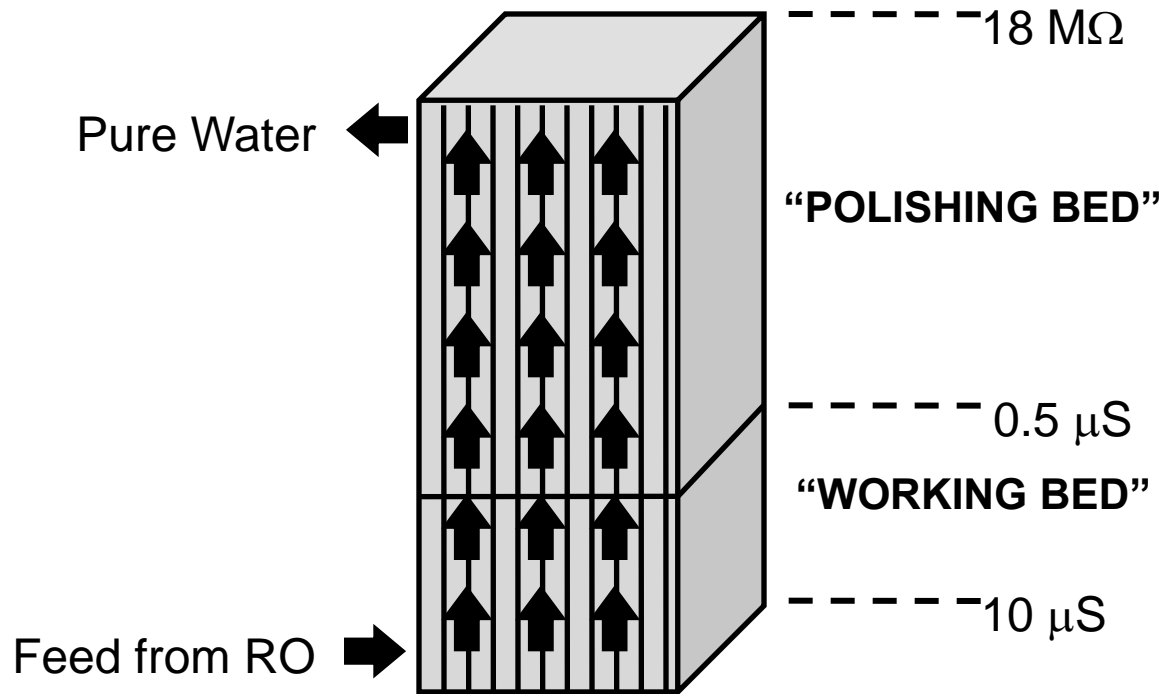


Combined Cycle High  
Pressure Boilers

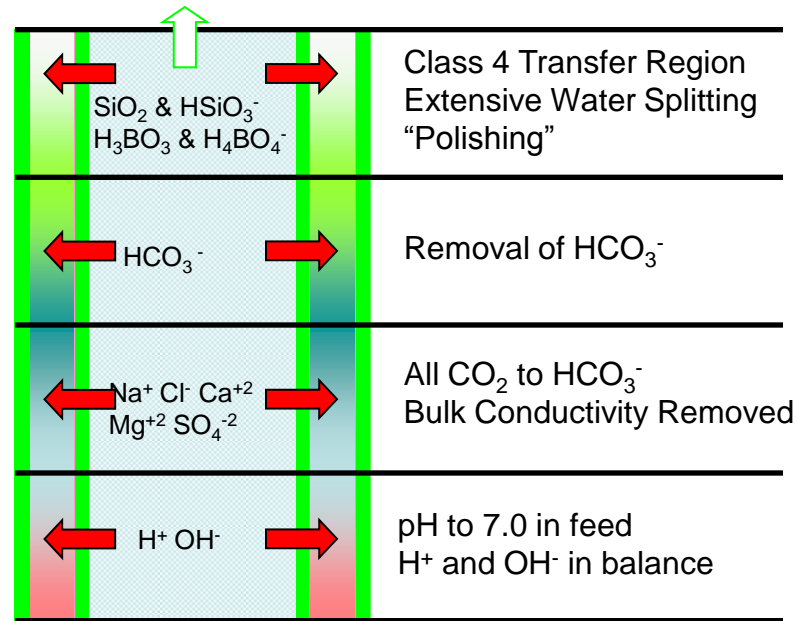
$\text{SiO}_2 < 5 \text{ ppb}$



## Old EDI Model: Working Bed-Polishing Bed



## Electropure's New Specific Ion Model



I:  $\text{H}^+$   $\text{OH}^-$

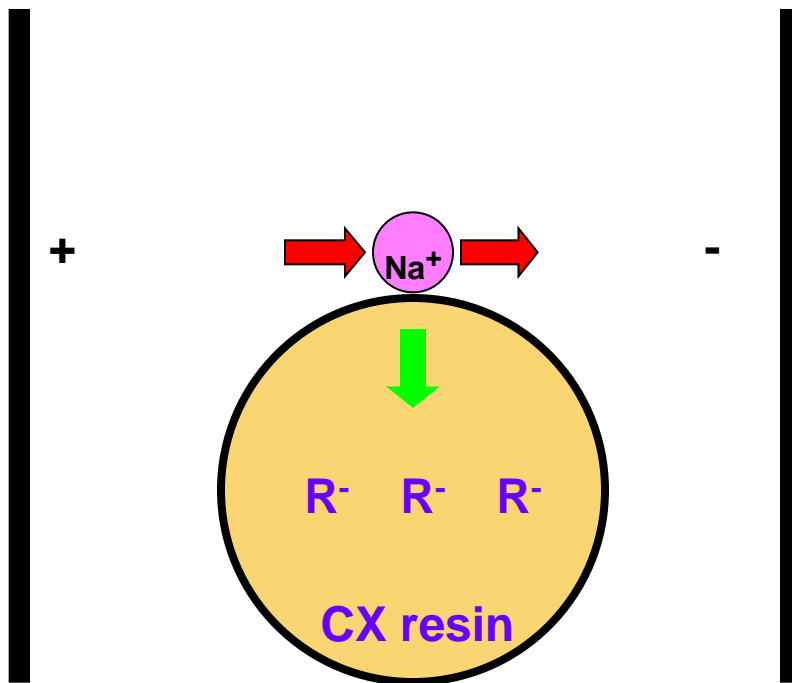
II:  $\text{Na}^+$   $\text{Cl}^-$   $\text{Ca}^{+2}$   $\text{Mg}^{+2}$   $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$



III:  $\text{HCO}_3^-$   $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$

IV:  $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$

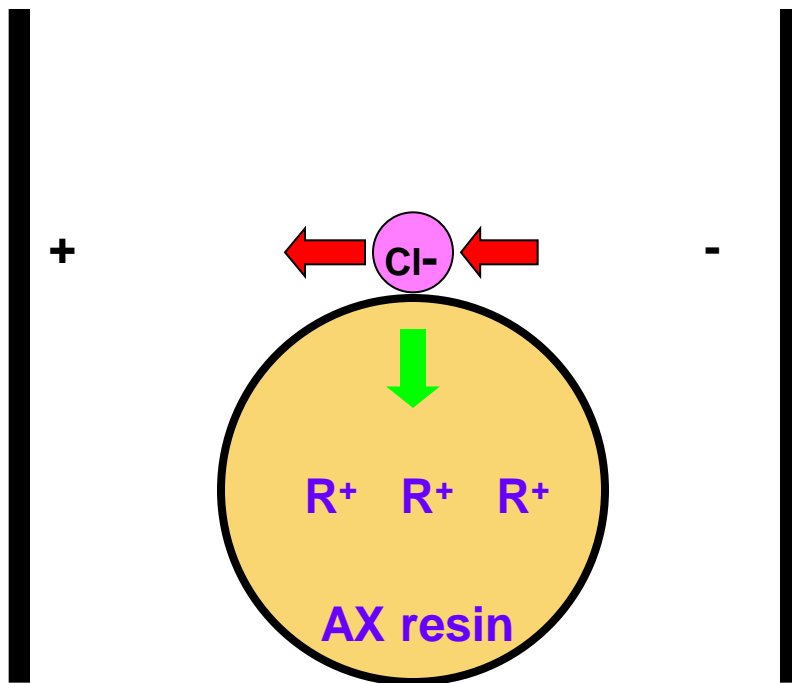




# Forces on Cations in EDI



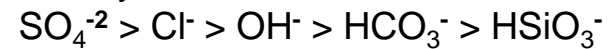
- Force 1: 
  - Electrical Attraction to resin
  - K, Selectivity Coefficient
- Force 2: 
  - Electrical attraction to electrodes
  - E, Charge/Mass
  
- K, Selectivity Coefficient
  - $\text{Ca}^{+2} > \text{Mg}^{+2} > \text{K}^+ > \text{Na}^+ > \text{H}^+$
- E, Electrical Force/Mass
  - $\text{H}^+ > \text{Mg}^{+2} > \text{Ca}^{+2} > \text{Na}^+ > \text{K}^+$

# Forces on Anions in EDI

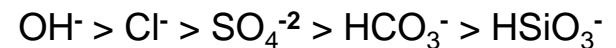


- Force 1: 
  - Electrical Attraction to resin
  - K, Selectivity Coefficient
- Force 2: 
  - Electrical attraction to electrodes
  - E, Charge/Mass

K, Selectivity Coefficient



E, Electrical Force/Mass



## Electropure's 4 Classes of Ions

Electropure™ Ion Class	Characteristics	Example Ions
Class 1	Low Selectivity High Mobility	H <sup>+</sup> OH <sup>-</sup>
Class 2 "Conductivity"	High Selectivity Medium Mobility	Ca <sup>+2</sup> Mg <sup>+2</sup> Na <sup>+</sup> Cl <sup>-</sup> SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>
Class 3 "Bicarbonate"	Low Selectivity Low Mobility Moderate Charge, Polar at pH 7	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> pK = 6.3
Class 4 "Weakly Ionized Ions"	Very Low Selectivity Very Low Mobility Low charge at pH 7	HSiO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> pK = 9.8 H <sub>4</sub> BO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> pK = 9.3

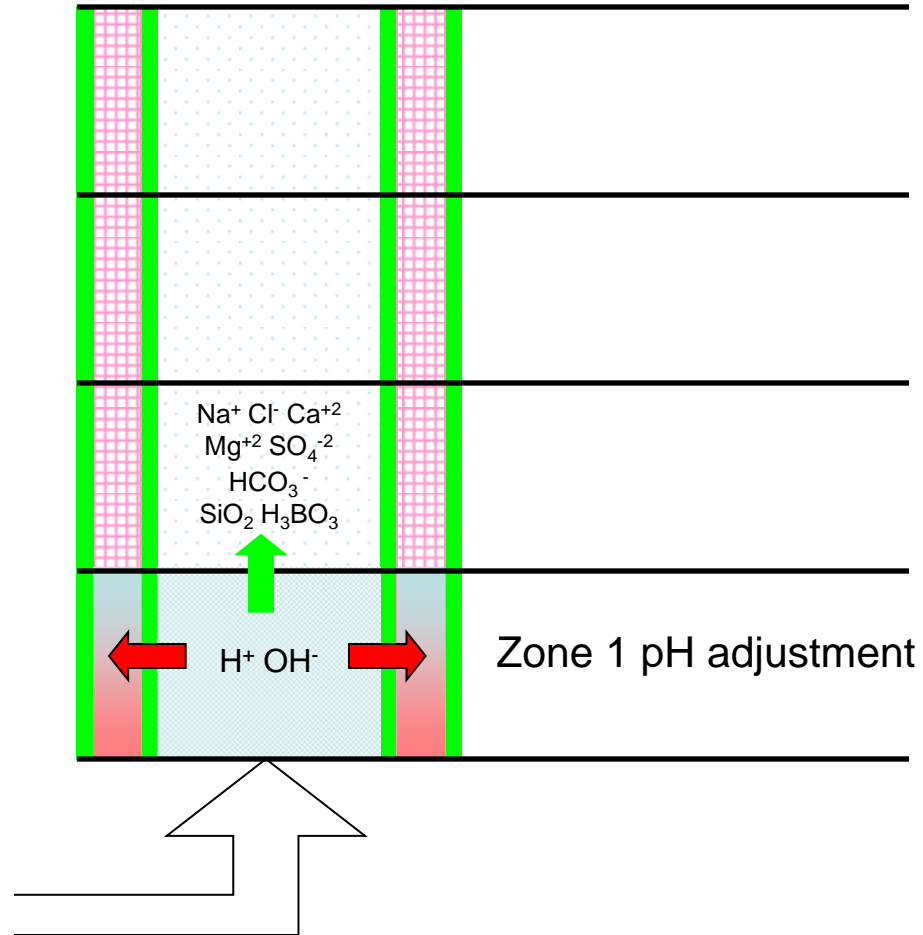
## Class1: H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup>

1: H<sup>+</sup> OH<sup>-</sup>

2: Na<sup>+</sup> Cl<sup>-</sup> Ca<sup>+2</sup> Mg<sup>+2</sup> SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup>

3: HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>(g)

4: SiO<sub>2</sub> H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>



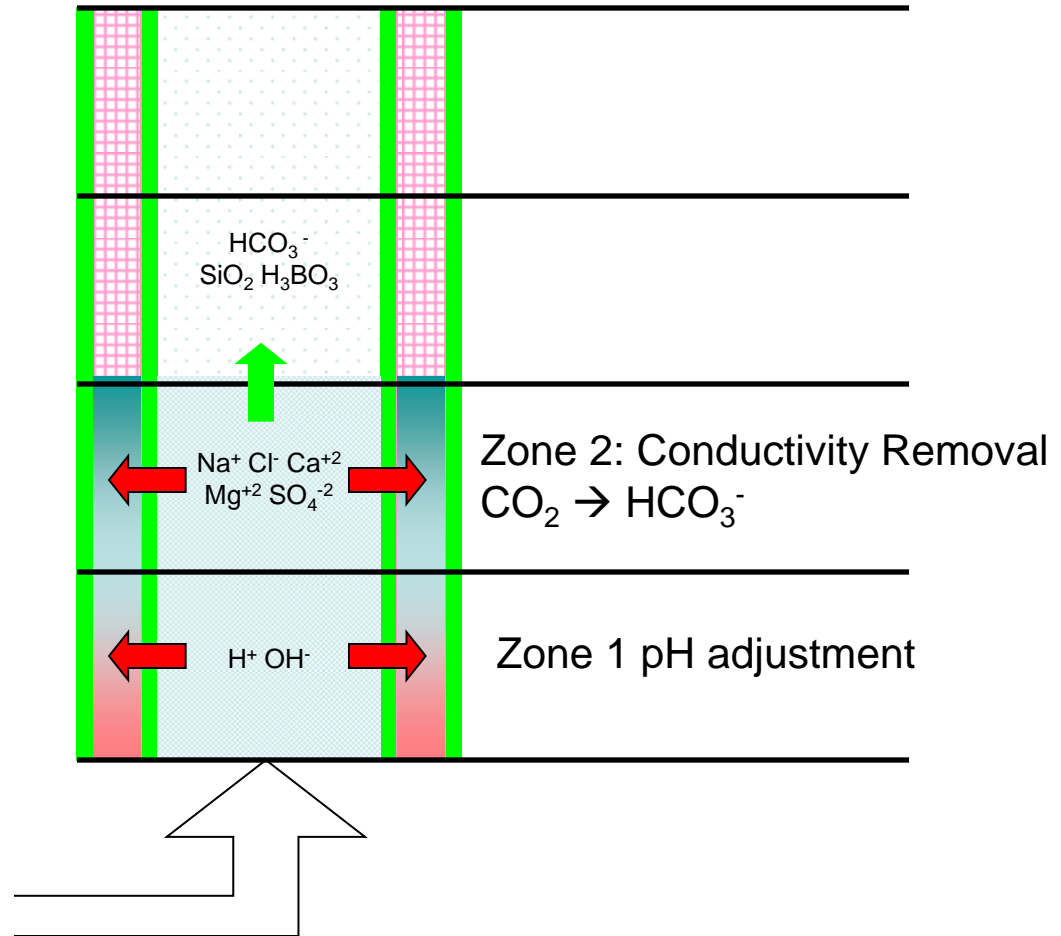
Class 2: Easy Ions

1:  $H^+$   $OH^-$

2:  $Na^+$   $Cl^-$   $Ca^{+2}$   $Mg^{+2}$   $SO_4^{-2}$

3:  $HCO_3^-$   $CO_2(g)$

4:  $SiO_2$   $H_3BO_3$



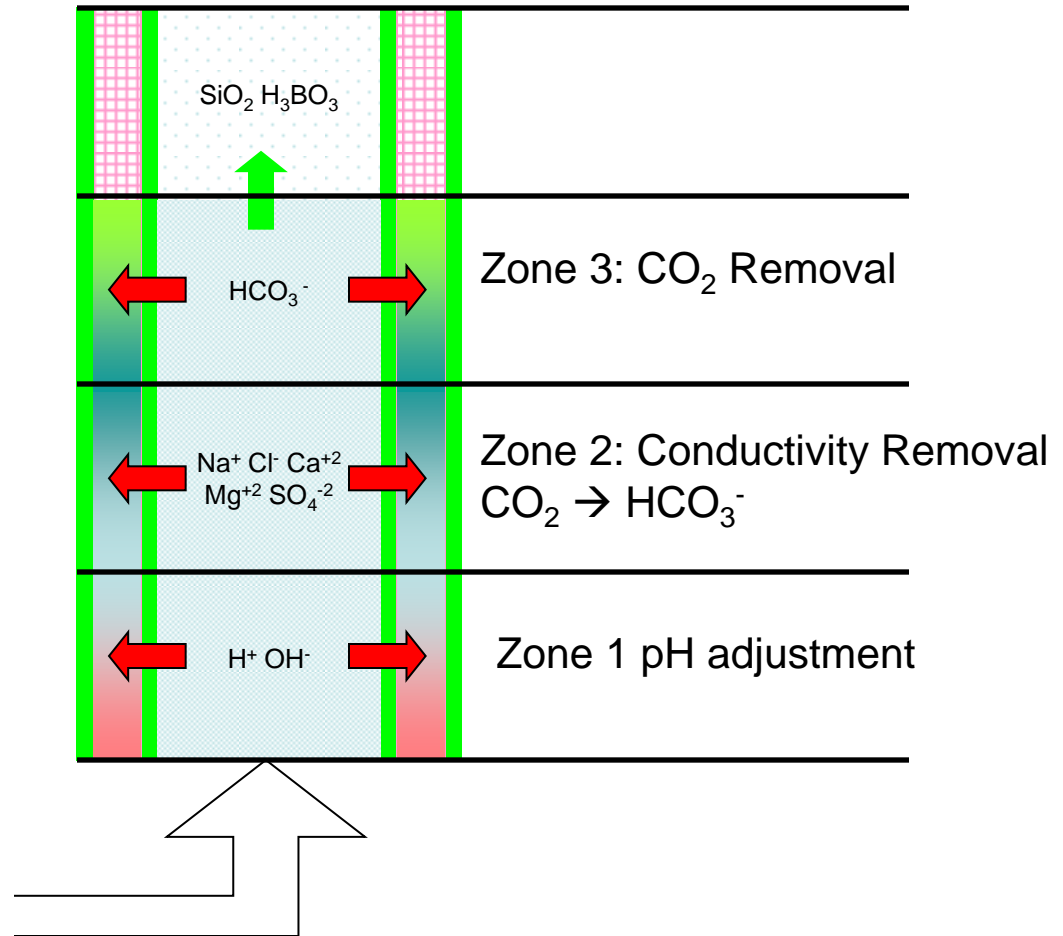
Class 3: Bicarbonate Ion  
 $\text{HCO}_3^-$

1:  $\text{H}^+$   $\text{OH}^-$

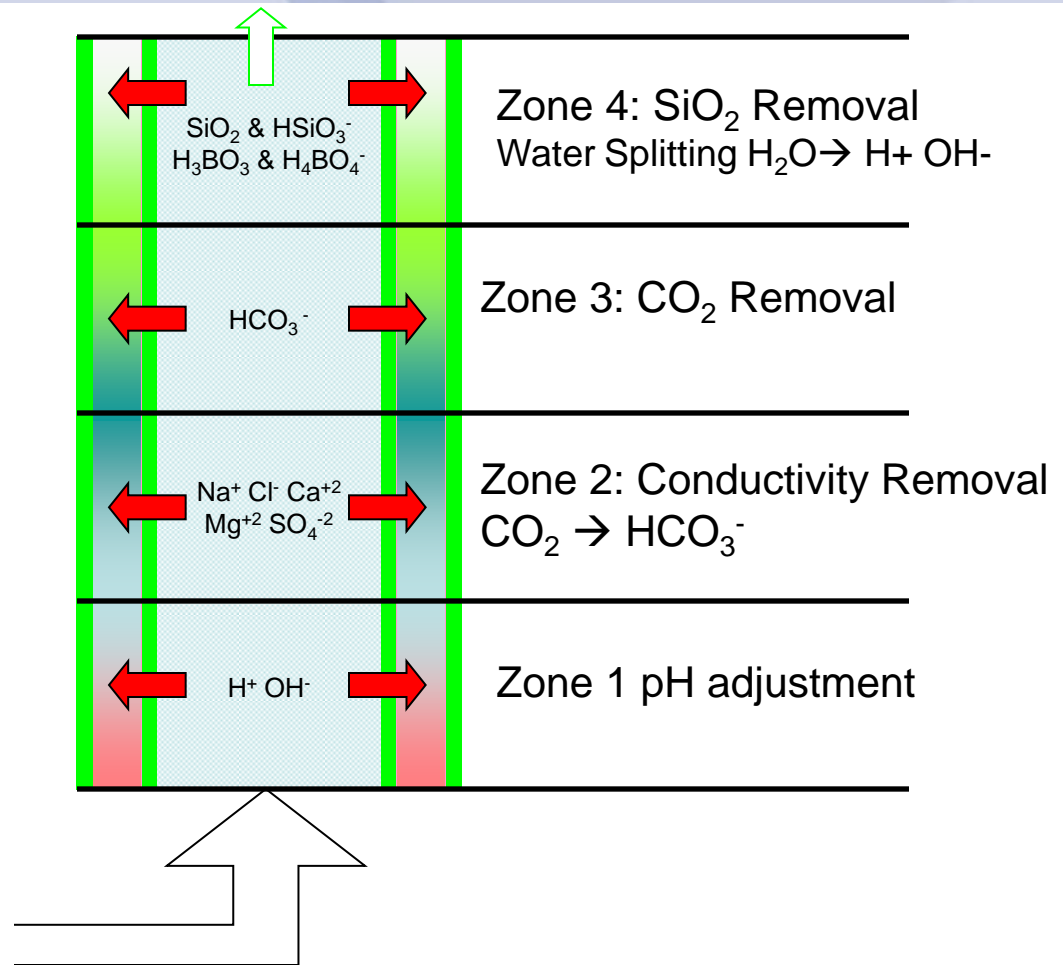
2:  $\text{Na}^+$   $\text{Cl}^-$   $\text{Ca}^{+2}$   $\text{Mg}^{+2}$   $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$

3:  $\text{HCO}_3^-$   $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$

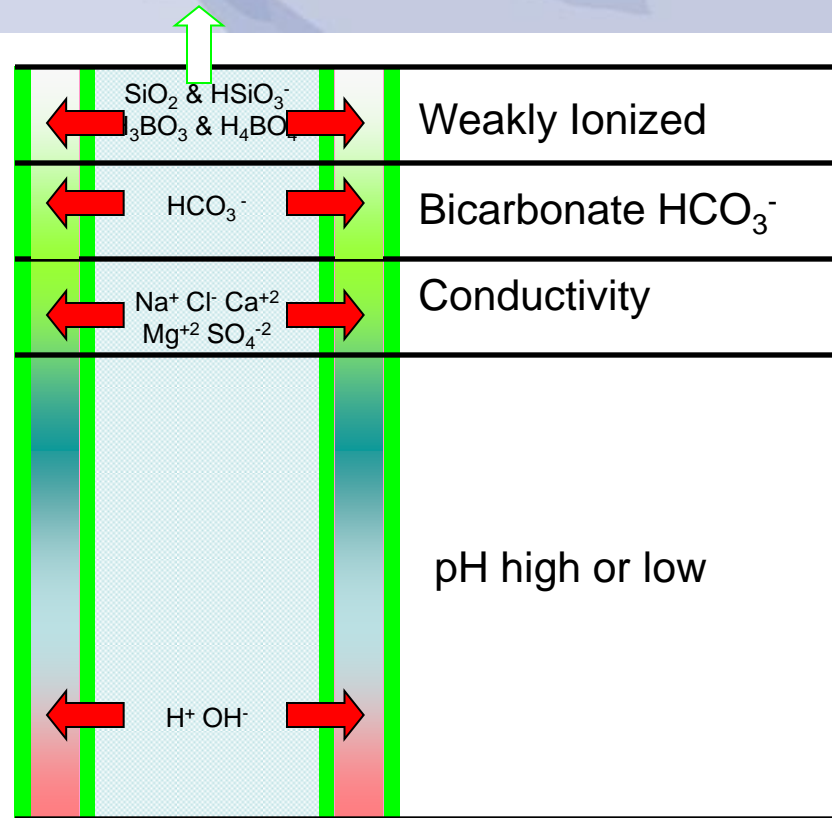
4:  $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$



**Class 4: Difficult Ions  
(SiO<sub>2</sub>)**



Case of high or low pH in EDI feed



1:  $\text{H}^+$   $\text{OH}^-$

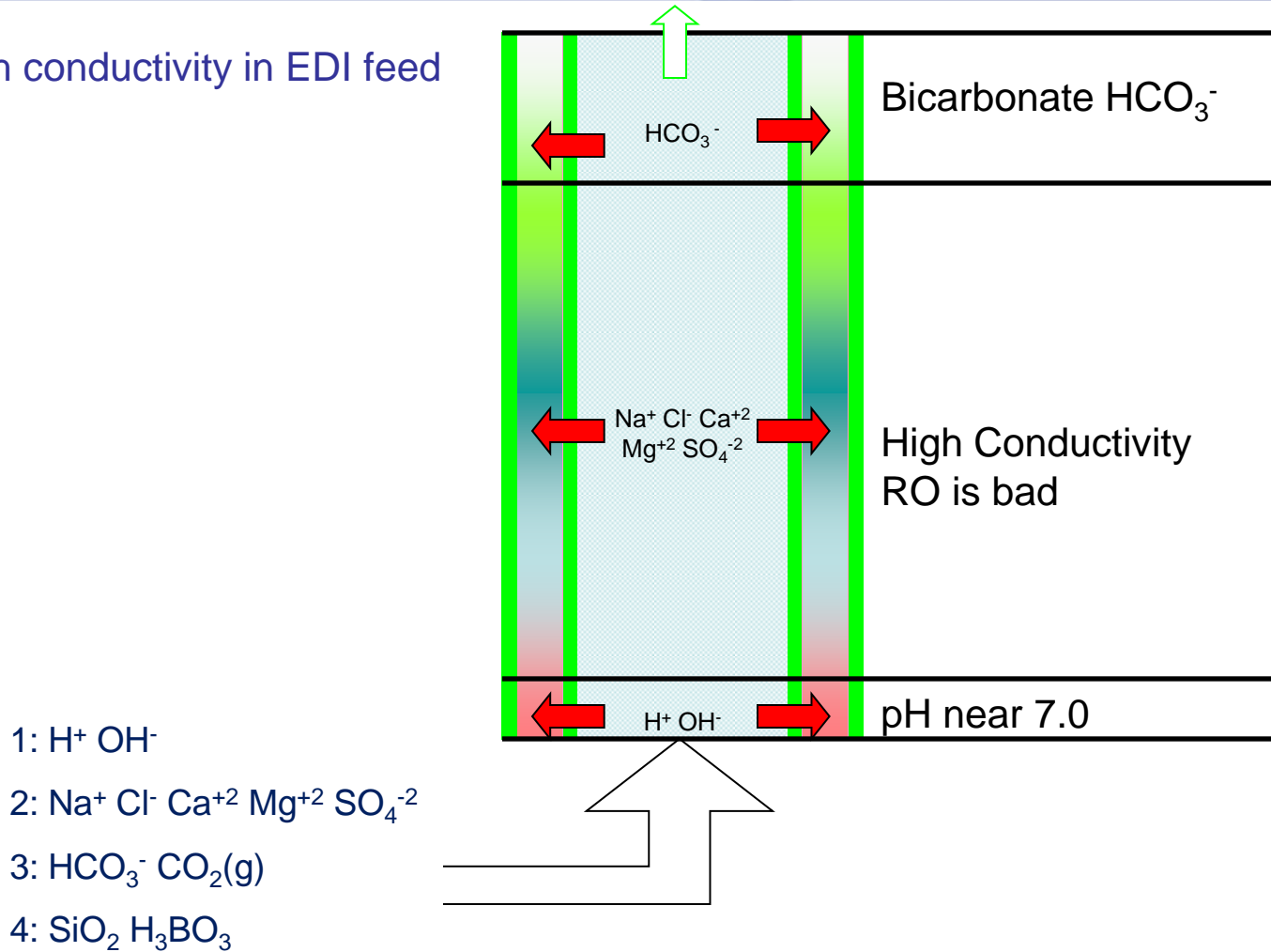
2:  $\text{Na}^+$   $\text{Cl}^-$   $\text{Ca}^{+2}$   $\text{Mg}^{+2}$   $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$

3:  $\text{HCO}_3^-$   $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$

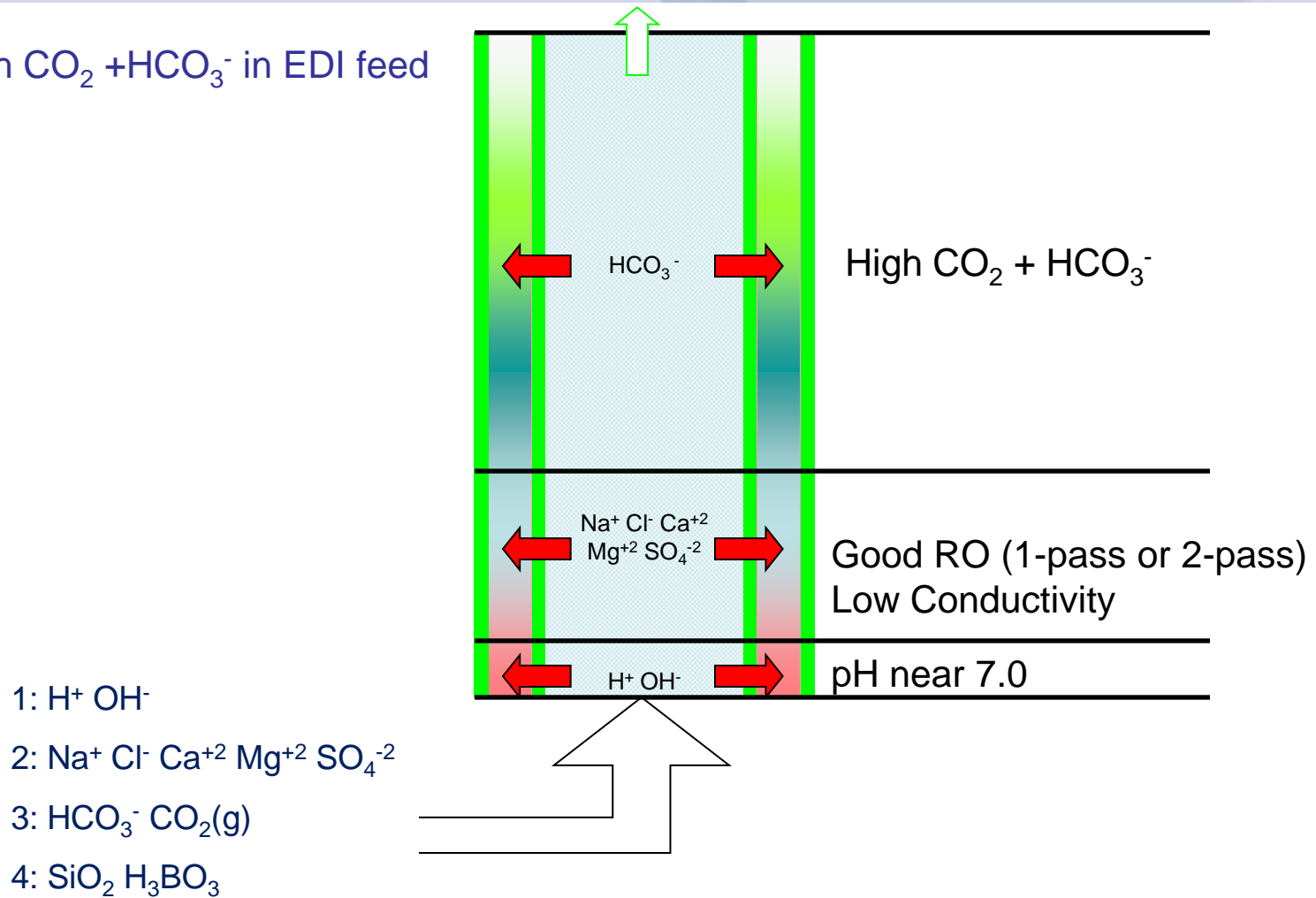
4:  $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$



Case: High conductivity in EDI feed

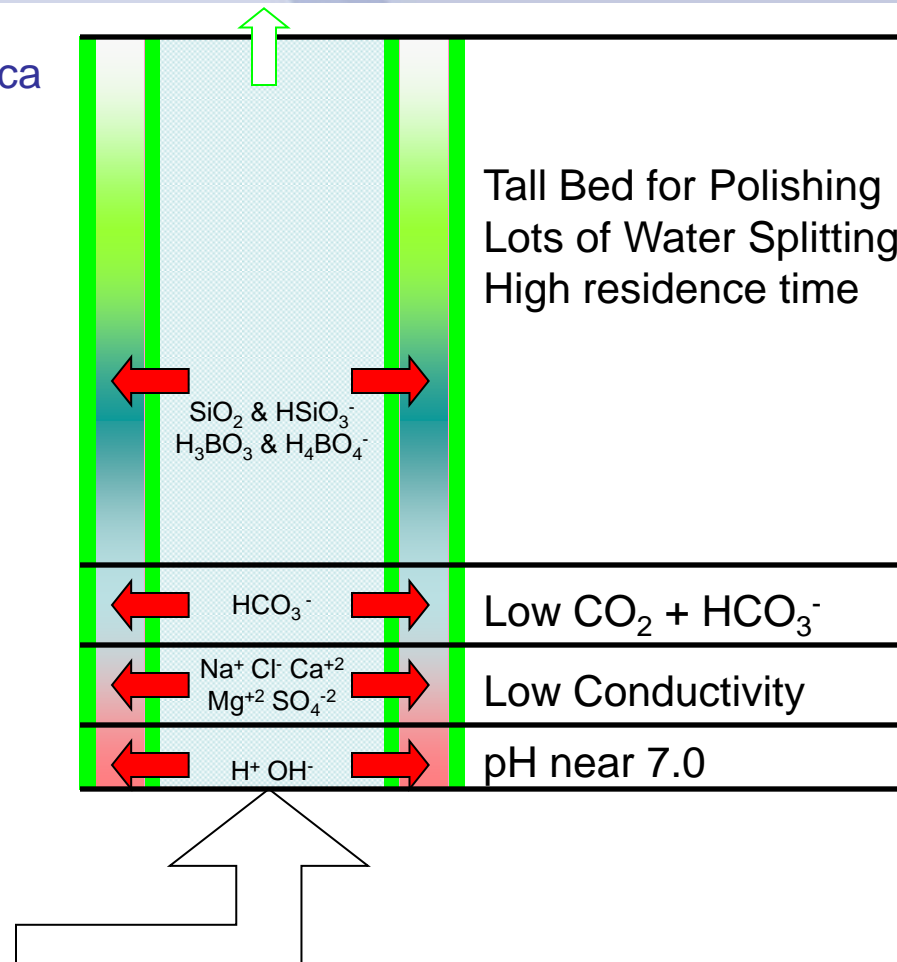


Case: High  $\text{CO}_2 + \text{HCO}_3^-$  in EDI feed



## EDI Optimized for Removal of Silica

1. pH in Control (6.5 to 7.5)
2. High Rejection RO
3. CO<sub>2</sub> Removal System (GTM)
4. Voltage Is Not Too Low

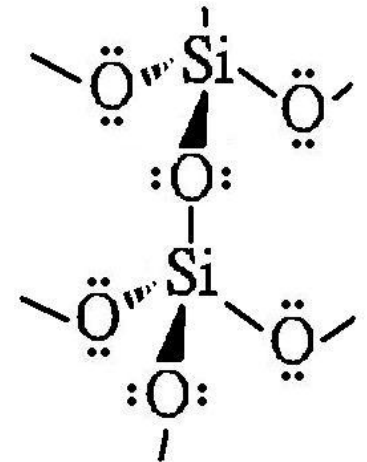
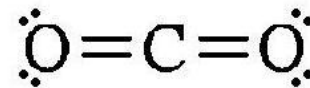


## EDI “How Does It Work” Summary

- Silica < 5 ppb
- Working Bed-Polishing Bed EDI Model
- Electropure Specific Ion EDI Model
- Electropure’s 4 Classes of ions
- Optimization Rules for SiO<sub>2</sub>
  - pH of Feed (RO permeate) near 7
  - High rejection RO System
  - Removal of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Voltage is High-Good Water Splitting

## How does EDI remove $\text{CO}_2$ and $\text{SiO}_2$ ?

- EDI removes charged ions
- $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$  are not charged
- How to optimize EDI Systems to remove  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$



## CO<sub>2</sub> Chemistry



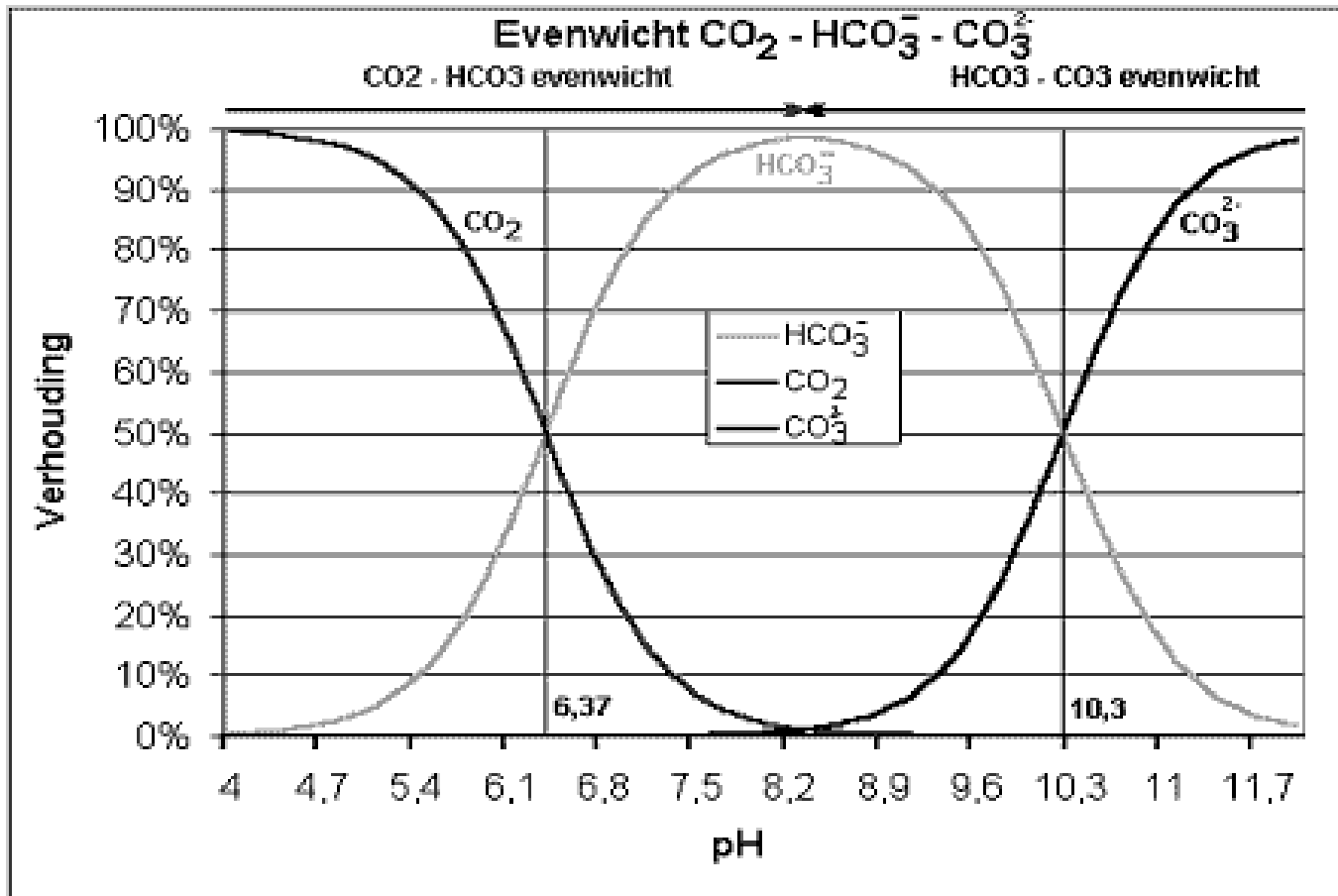
## CO<sub>2</sub> Chemistry and pH



pH = 6.4

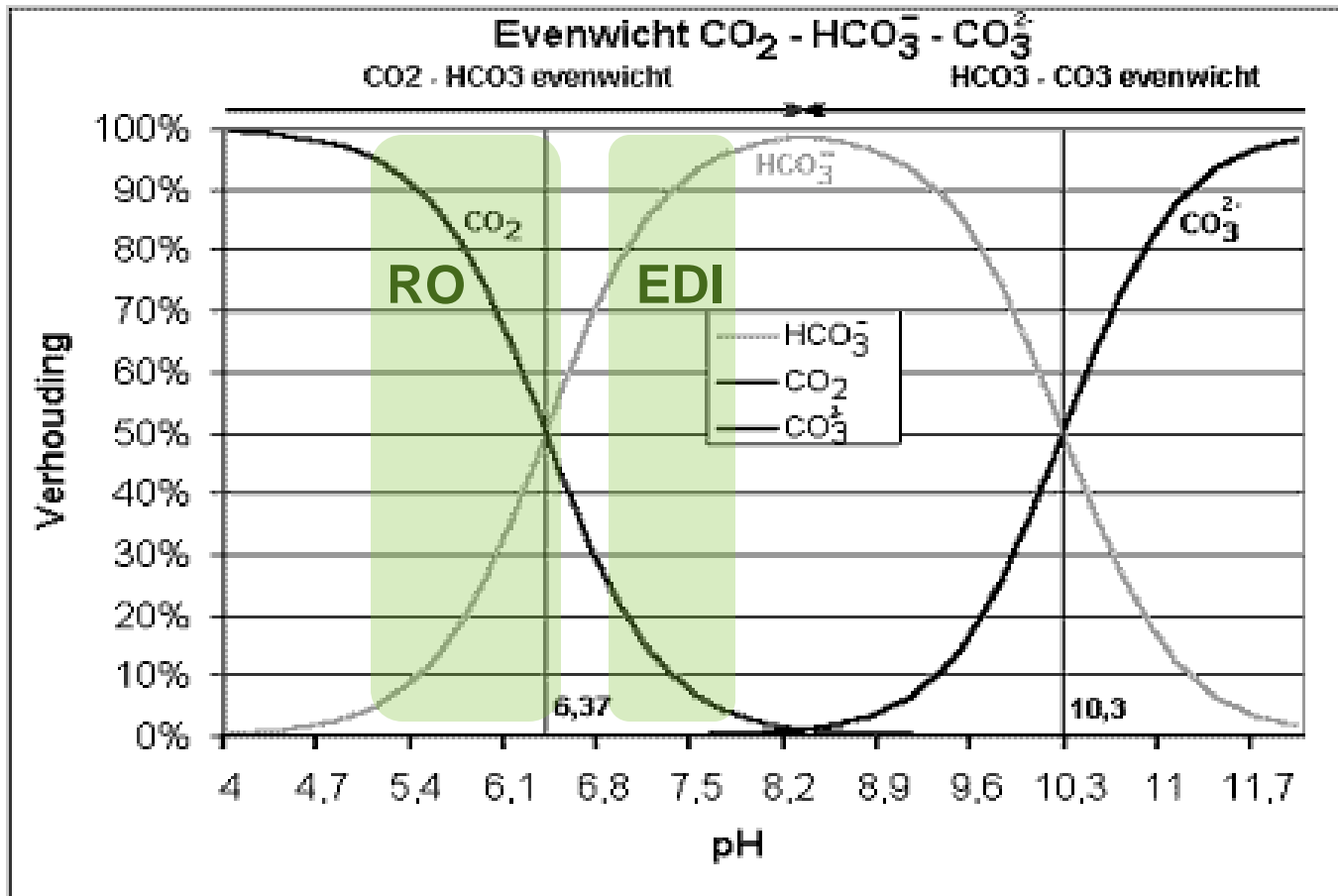
pH = 10.3

# CO<sub>2</sub> Chemistry and pH

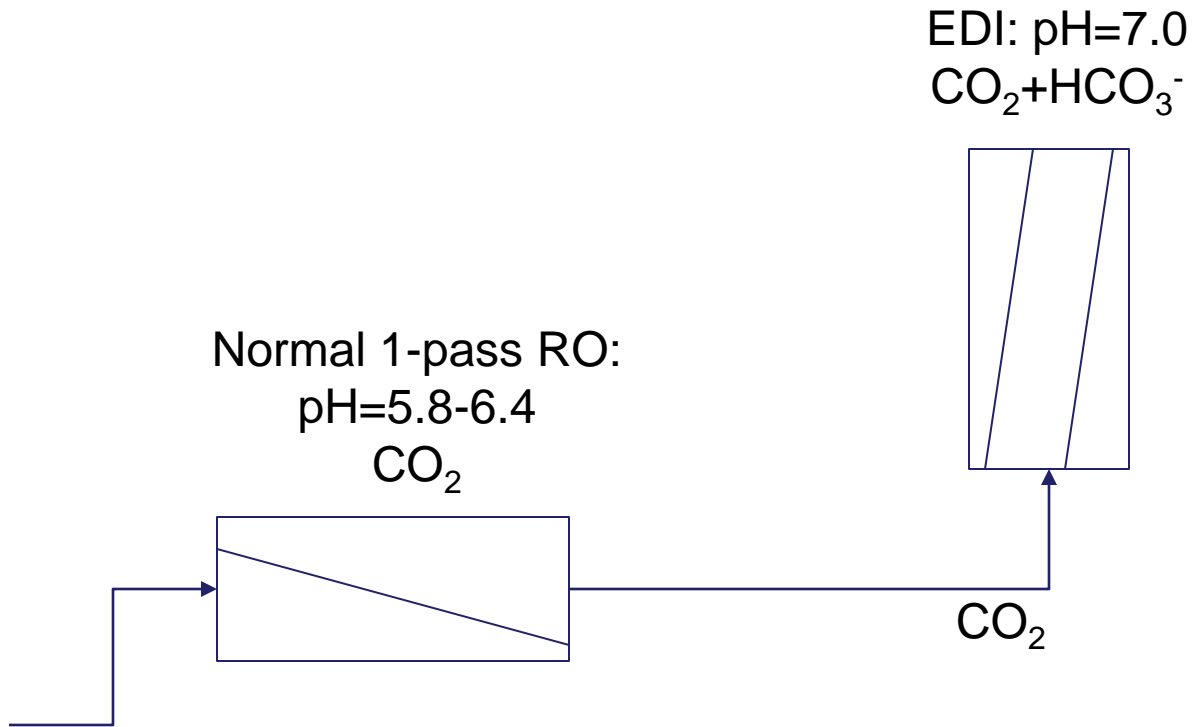




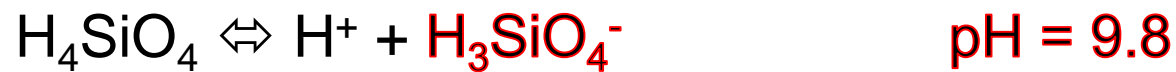
# CO<sub>2</sub> Chemistry and pH



# CO<sub>2</sub> in RO-EDI Systems



## SiO<sub>2</sub> Chemistry and pH



Silica is charged only above pH 9.8

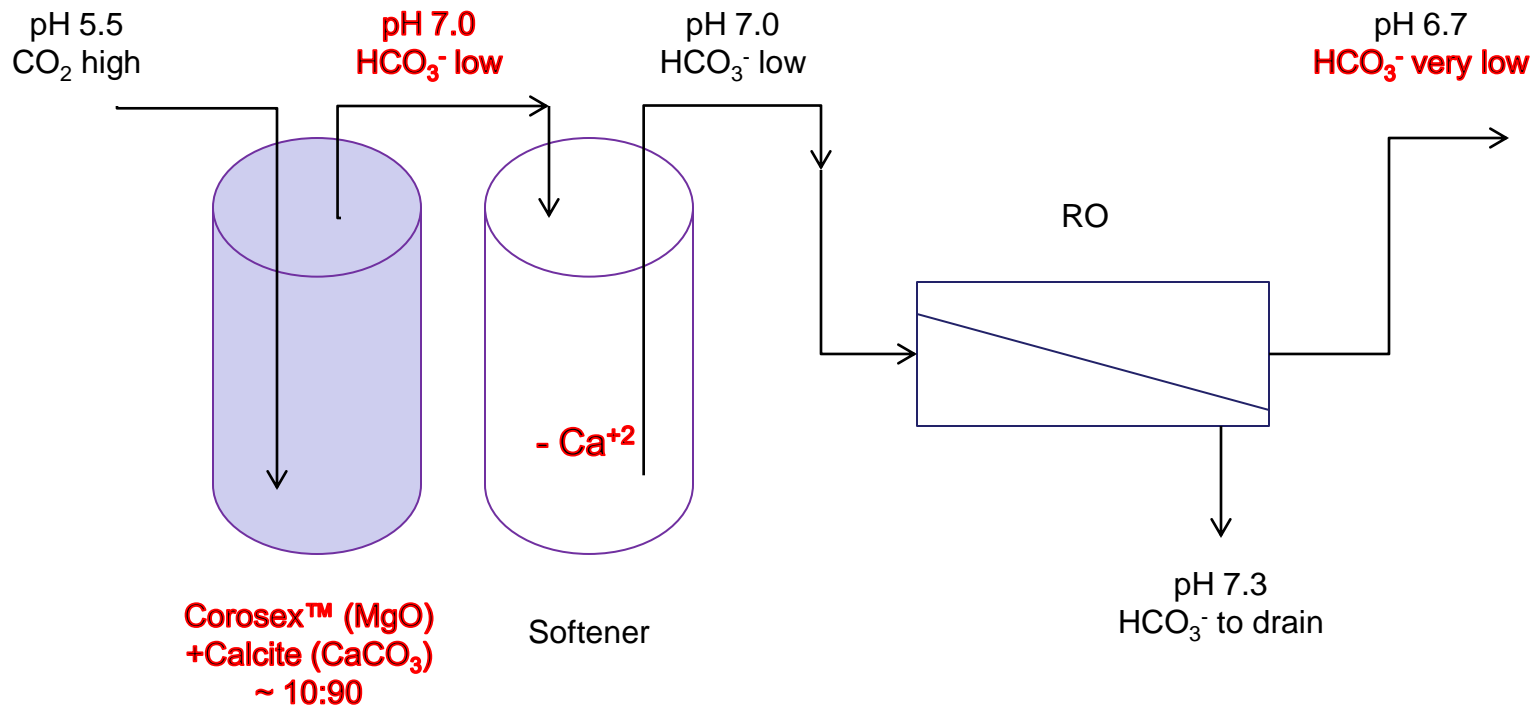
## CO<sub>2</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> Conclusions

- RO: at pH < 6.4 CO<sub>2</sub> is difficult to reject
- RO: at pH < 9.8 SiO<sub>2</sub> is difficult to reject
- EDI: at pH = 7.0 HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is weak
- EDI: at pH = 7.0 H<sub>4</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub> is weak
- GTM: at pH < 6.0 GTM is very good for CO<sub>2</sub>

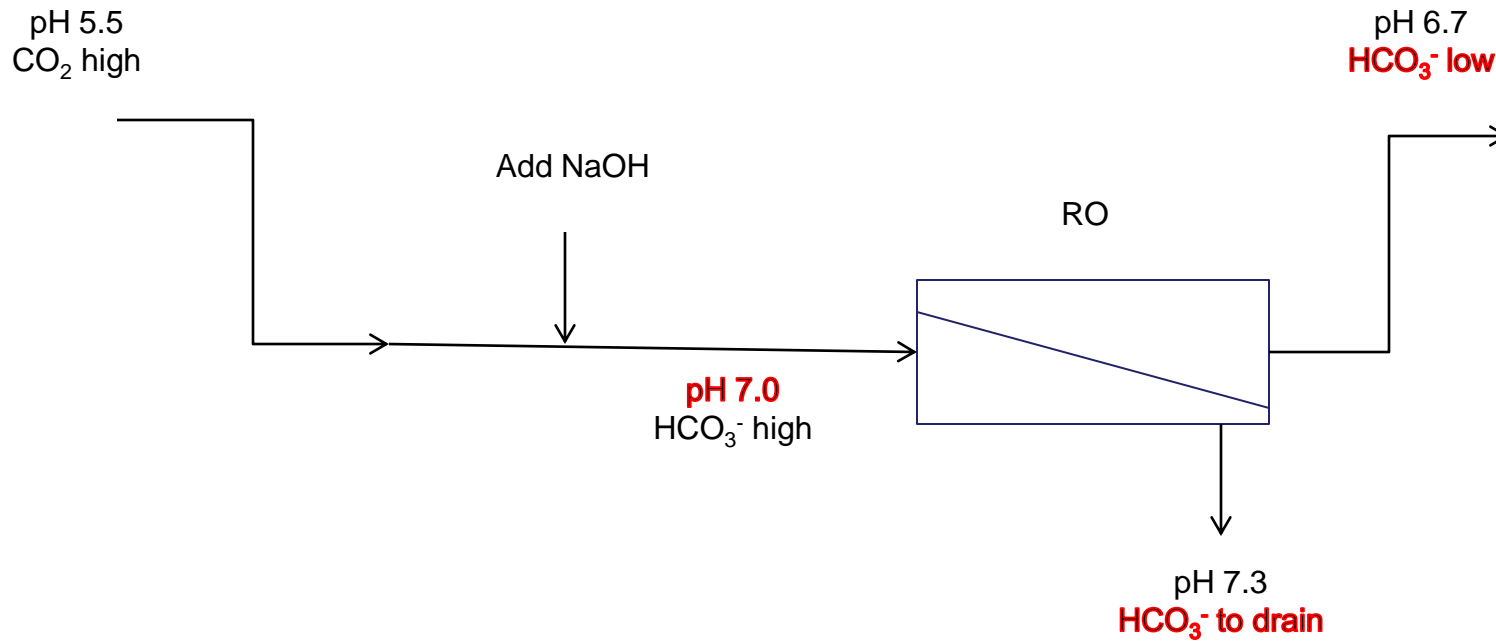
## RO and CO<sub>2</sub>

1. Use Corosex to remove CO<sub>2</sub> before the RO
2. pH in 1-pass RO above 6.8
3. Raise pH in 2-pass RO to above 8.3

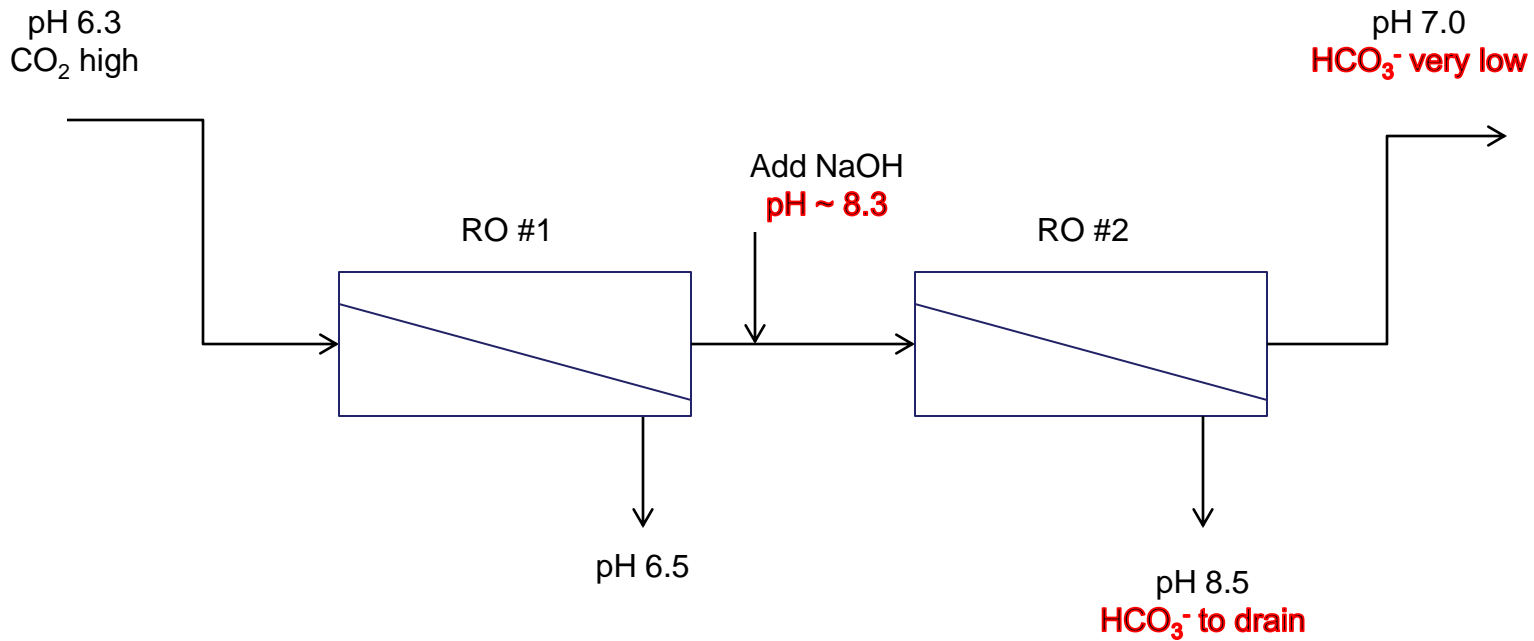
# RO Option #1 (Corosex™)



## RO Option #2 (pH >6.8)



## RO Option #3 (2-pass RO high pH)

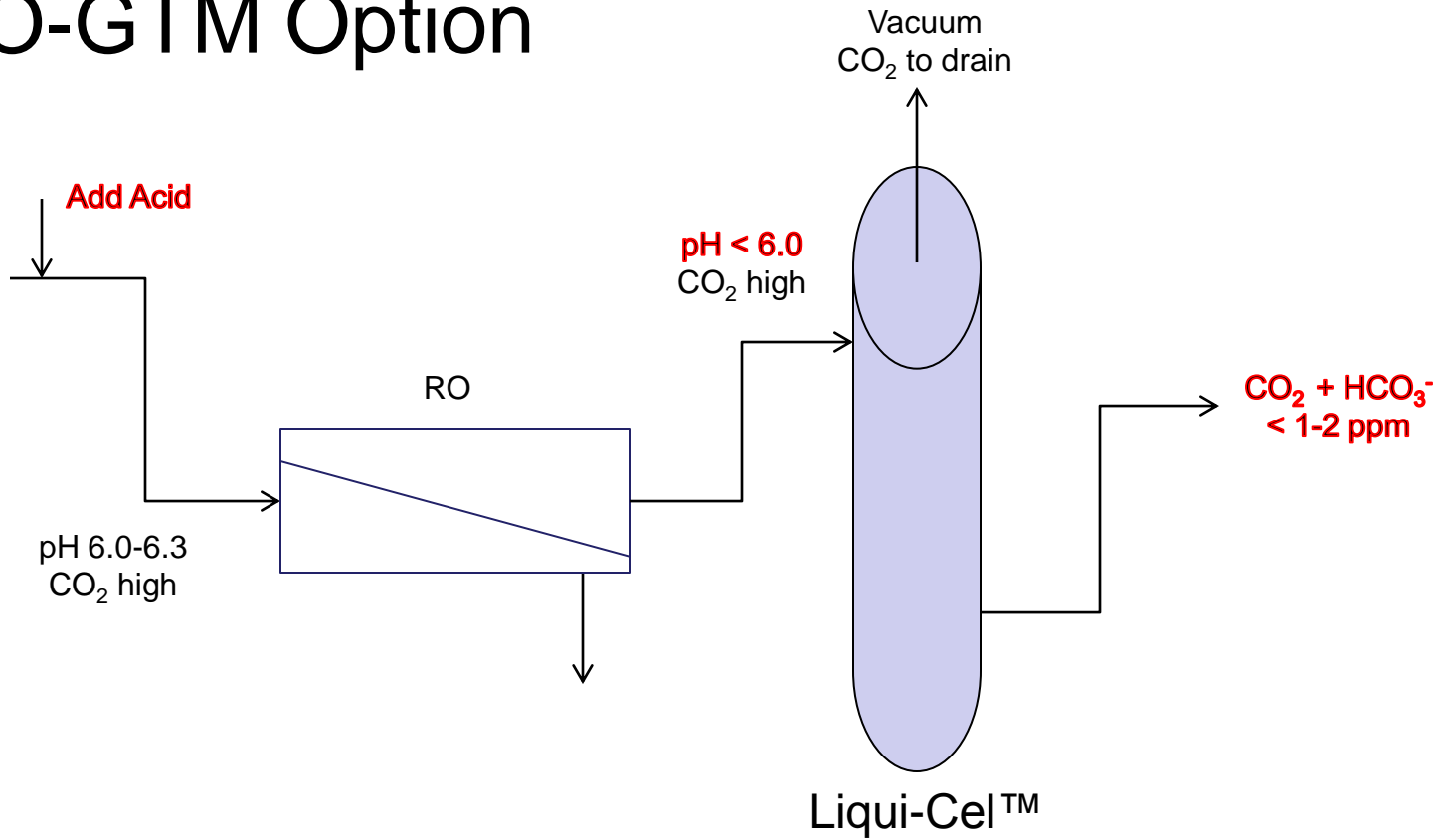




## GTM (Gas Transfer Membrane) and CO<sub>2</sub>

- Use GTM (Liqui-Cel™) to remove CO<sub>2</sub> after the RO
- pH must be right for GTM
  - GTM removes CO<sub>2</sub> (gas) not HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>
  - pH should be < 6.0

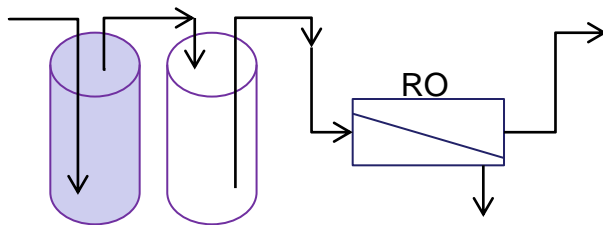
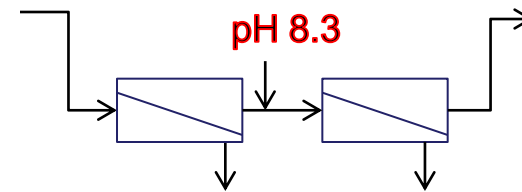
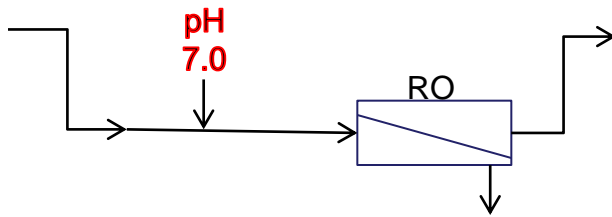
# RO-GTM Option



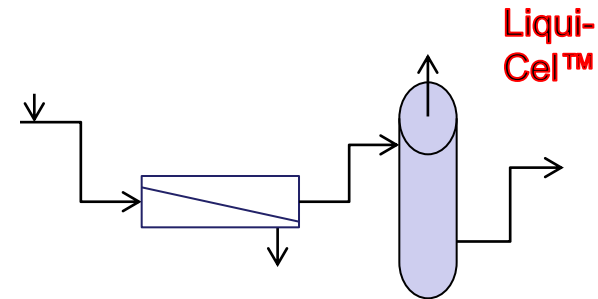
# EDI Pretreatment Options

- Corosex™ removal of CO<sub>2</sub>
- RO removal of CO<sub>2</sub> pH > 6.6
- 2-pass RO pH > 8.3
- RO-GTM pH < 6.0

# EDI Pretreatment Options



**Corosex™  
+Calcite**



**Liqui-Cel™**

## Conclusion for CO<sub>2</sub>

- pH is important
  - pH < 6.4 (for GTM) CO<sub>2</sub>
  - pH > 6.4 (for RO) HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>
- Remove CO<sub>2</sub> before EDI
- Remove CO<sub>2</sub> in EDI (pH = 7.0)

## Conclusion for $\text{SiO}_2$

- pH is important
  - $\text{H}_3\text{SiO}_4^-$  above pH = 9.8
- $\text{SiO}_2$  competes with  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$   
 $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{HCO}_3^-$   $\text{Cl}^-$ 
  - $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  are stronger
- Use EDI pretreatment
  - $\text{CO}_2$  and conductivity removal
- EDI will remove up to 99% of  $\text{SiO}_2$ 
  - 0.200 ppm → **2 ppb  $\text{SiO}_2$**