



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

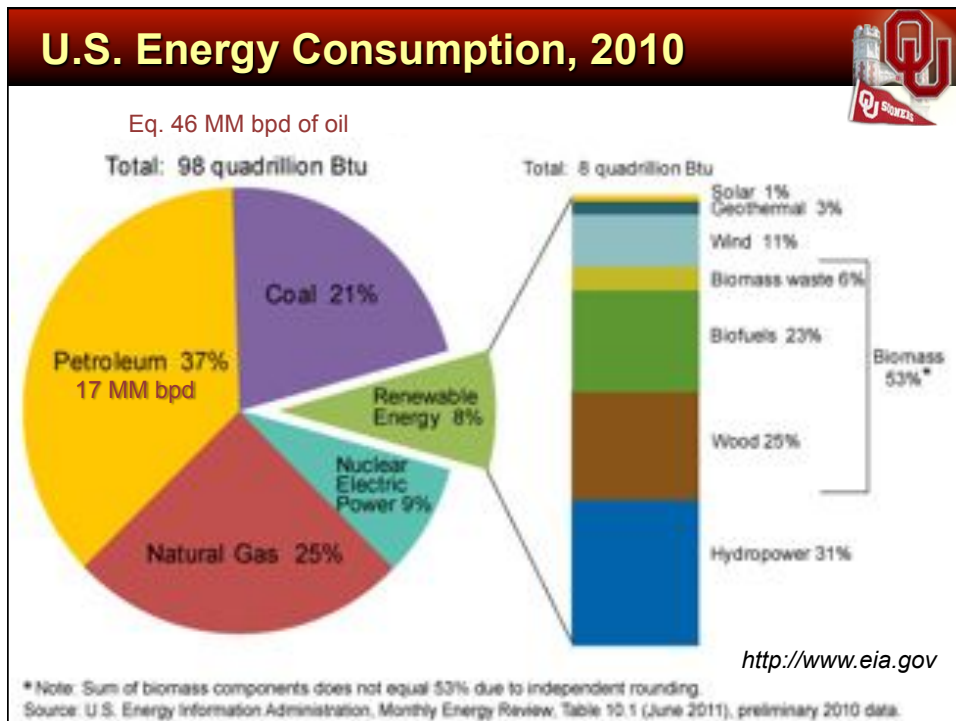
Catalytic Upgrading of Vapors and Liquids from Pyrolysis of Biomass

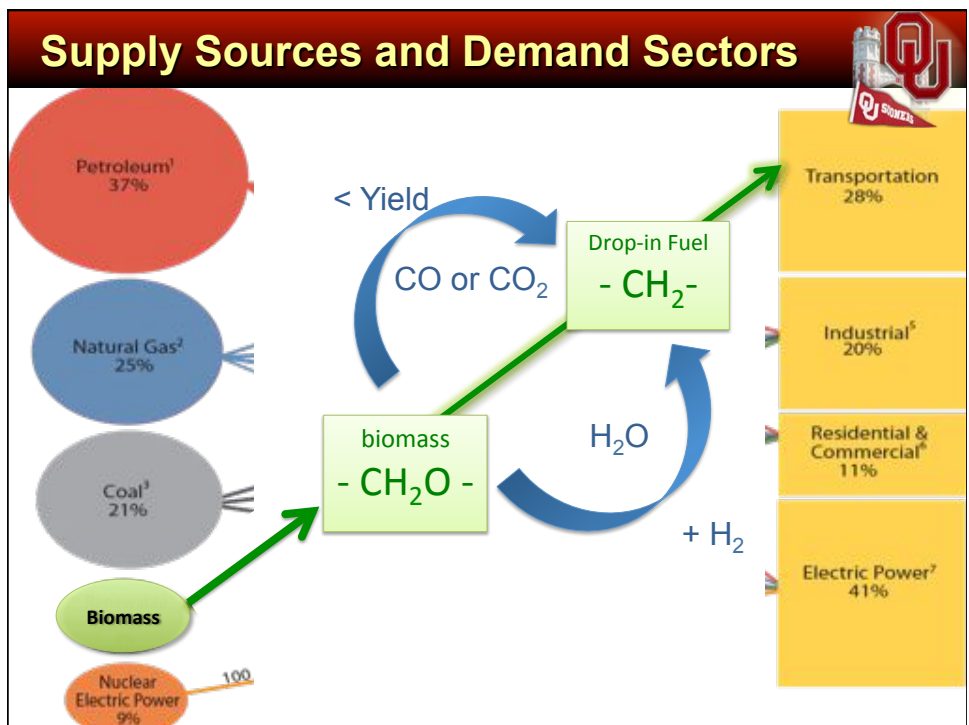
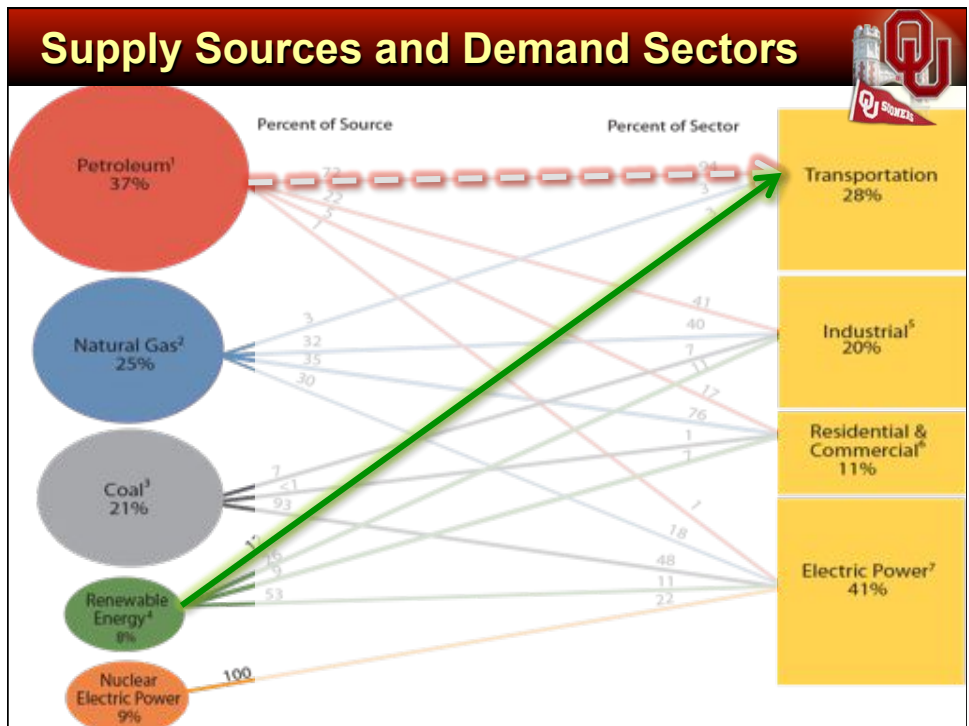


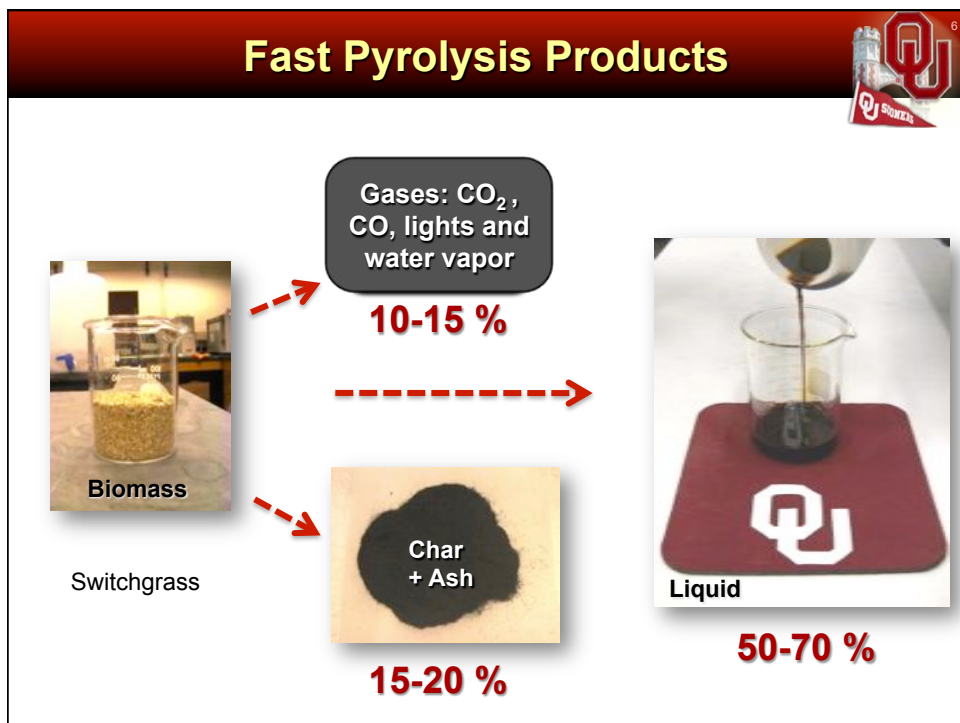
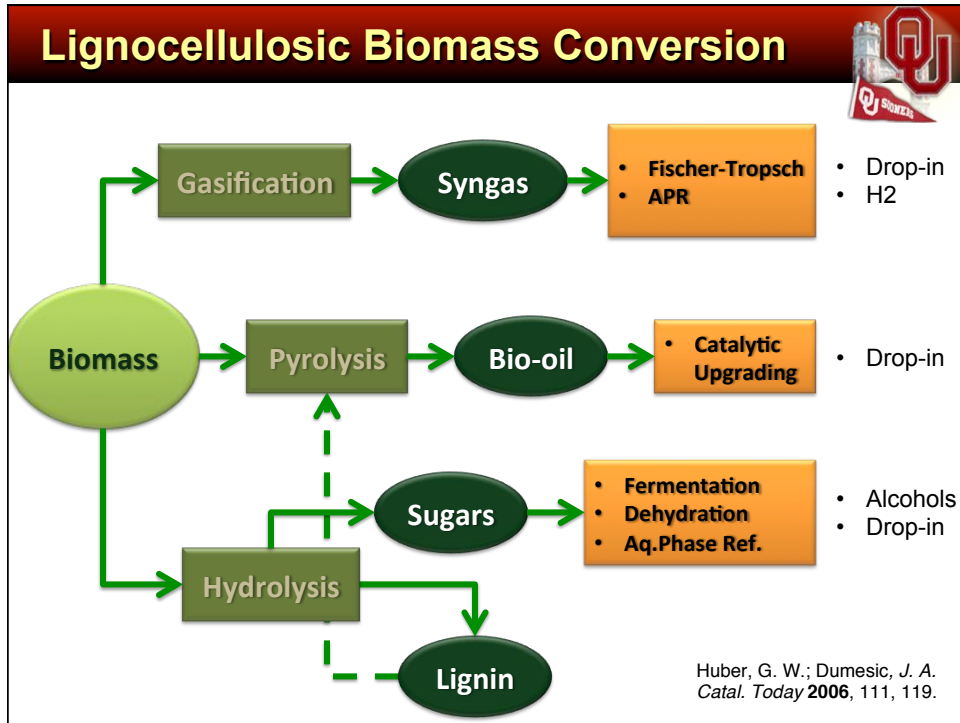
Daniel E. Resasco

*Center for Biomass Refining
School of Chemical, Biological and Materials
Engineering,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, OK 73019, USA*









OU Pyrolysis Pilot Unit (Kg-scale)

Reactor operating conditions

biomass type:	switchgrass	Fluidized bed material	ground glass
bed particle size	425 -710 μm	Fluidizing gas	N_2
Gas flow rate	3.46 kg/hr = 30L/min, 25 °C	Reactor temperature	500 °C
		Biomass feed rate	0.5 kg/hr

OU Pyrolysis Pilot Unit (Kg-scale)

TYPICAL PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

Reactor operating conditions

biomass type:	switchgrass	Fluidized bed material	ground glass
bed particle size	425 -710 μm	Fluidizing gas	N_2
Gas flow rate	3.46 kg/hr = 30L/min, 25 °C	Reactor temperature	500 °C
		Biomass feed rate	0.5 kg/hr

Concept: catalytic cascade to upgrade/refine pyrolysis oil liquids



BIOMASS

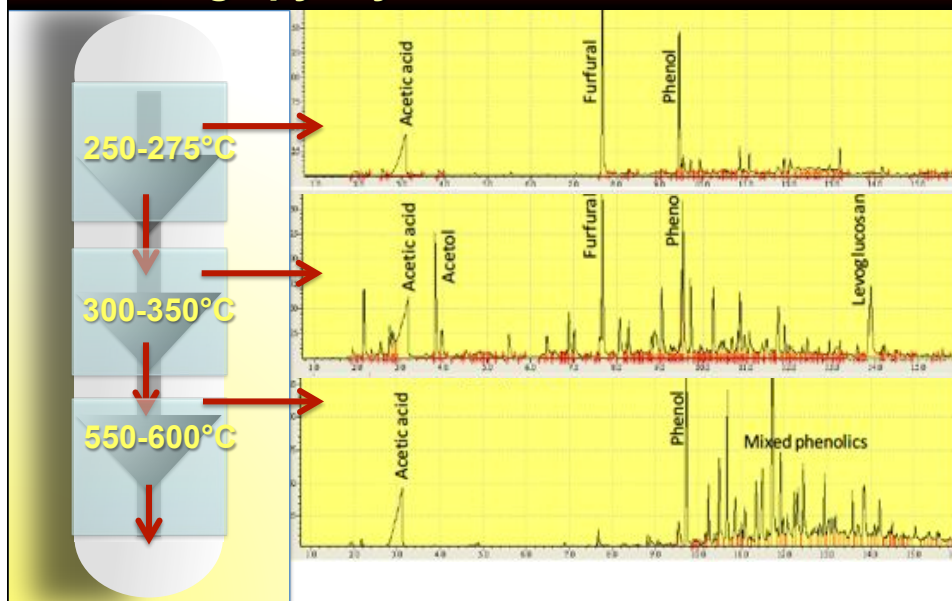
- CELLULOSE
- HEMICELLULOSE
- LIGNIN

- **Small oxygenates**
(aldehydes, alcohols, ketones, acids)
- **Sugar-derived compounds**
(levoglucosan, furfurals)
- **Lignin-derived phenolics**
(guaiacol, vanillin, anisole, etc.)

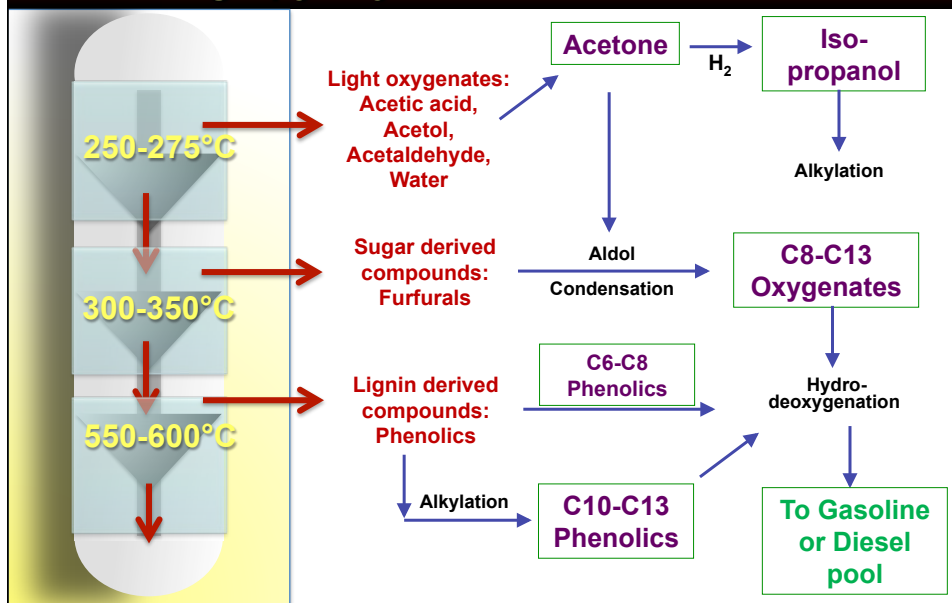
Challenges:

- eliminate excess O
- maximize C retention
- minimize H₂ consumption
- optimize fuel properties
(from varying feedstocks)
- Catalyst deactivation

Concept: catalytic cascade connected to a multi-stage pyrolysis



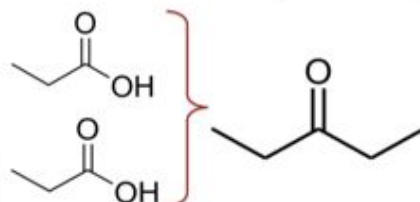
Concept: catalytic cascade connected to a multi-stage pyrolysis



Model Compound Studies

- **Small oxygenates**
(aldehydes, alcohols, ketones, acids)

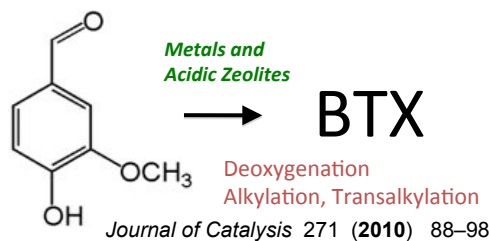
Aldol
Condensation
Ketonization
Esterification
Aromatization



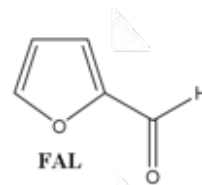
Basic and Acidic Zeolites – Mixed Oxides

Applied Catalysis A, 379 (2010) 172 and 385 (2010) 80

- **Lignin-derived phenolics**



Sugar-derived compounds



Bases

Aldol Condensation
And Canizarro Reaction

C8 C11 C13

*Pd, Ni
Ru*

Deoxy
genation

Diesel



Strategy No. 1 “Building up C-C chains”

Acid-Catalyzed Condensation
and Aromatization of
Small Oxygenates

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Aromatization of Propanal on H-ZSM5



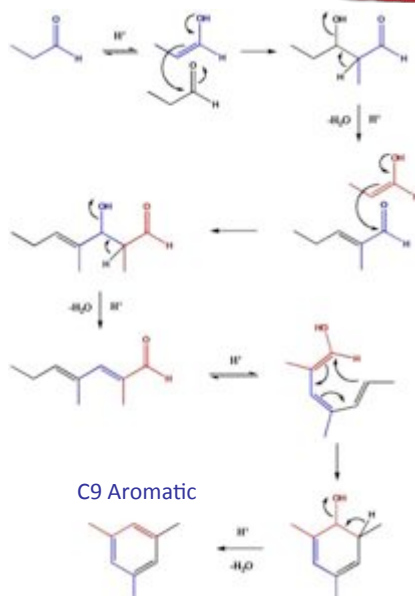
Initial Concept:

- Oxygenates to Olefins
- Olefins to Oligomers
- Oligomers to Aromatics

Aromatization of Propanal on H-ZSM5



- Aldol Dimerization
- Dehydration
- Aldol Trimerization
- Dehydration
- Enol and Rearrangement
- Aromatization
- Dehydration



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Aromatization of Propanal on H-ZSM5



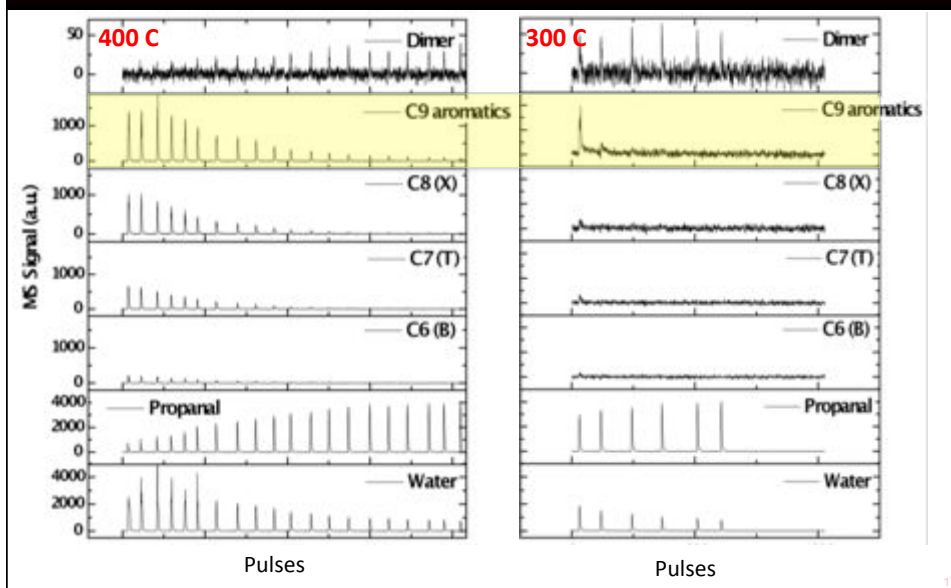
Feed	Propanal	Propylene	
Conditions	W/F =0.13 h HZSM-5 (45) 400 °C	W/F =4 h HZSM-5 (45) 400°C	W/F =4h HZSM-5 (25) 500°C
Conversion	76	42	66
Gas (C ₁ -C ₃)	32	-	38
isoalkenes (C ₄ -C ₉)	3	42	10
Aromatics	41	1	17

Product Yield Distribution after 60 min on stream in a fixed bed reactor

Journal of Catalysis 271 (2010) 201–208

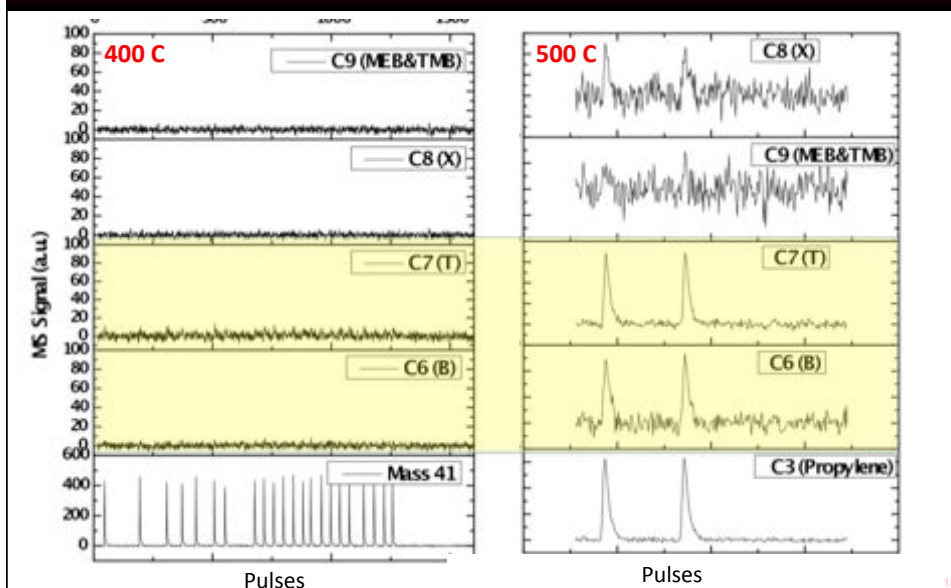
16

Pulses of Propanal on H-ZSM5 produce C9 Aromatics



17

Pulses of Propylene on H-ZSM5 produce C6-C7 Aromatics



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Varying Crystallite Size

H-ZSM-5
Si/Al = 45
Crystallite Size ~
< 100 nm
From
Sud
Chemie

H-ZSM-5
Si/Al = 45
Crystallite Size ~
>1,000 nm
Synthesized
In-House

Catalysis Communications 11 (2010) 977–981 19

Varying Crystallite Size

H-ZSM-5
Si/Al = 45
Crystallite Size ~
< 100 nm
From
Sud
Chemie

H-ZSM-5
Si/Al = 45
Crystallite Size ~
>1,000 nm
Synthesized
In-House

W/F (h)	Small Crystallites (TOS=30)	Small Crystallites (TOS=60)	Small Crystallites (TOS=90)	Small Crystallites (TOS=120)	Large Crystallites (TOS=30)	Large Crystallites (TOS=60)	Large Crystallites (TOS=90)	Large Crystallites (TOS=120)
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2	15	10	15	15	70	30	15	15
0.4	35	25	35	35	85	60	40	35
0.6	65	55	65	65	95	85	65	55
0.8	95	90	95	95	100	95	85	75
1.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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Varying Crystallite Size



H-ZSM-5

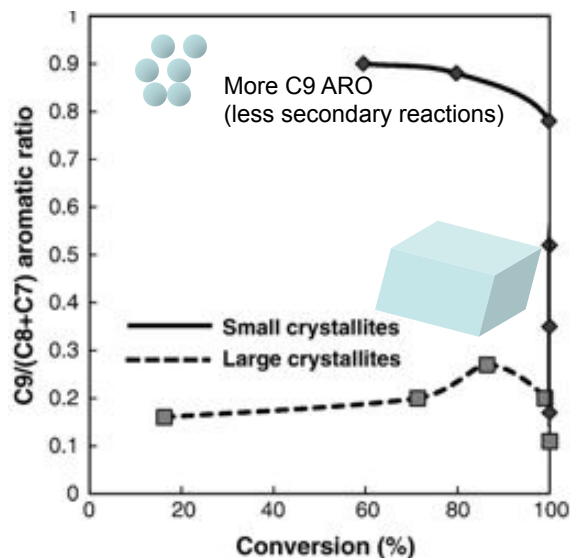
Si/Al = 45

Crystallite
Size ~

< 100 nm

From

Sud
Chemie



H-ZSM-5

Si/Al = 45

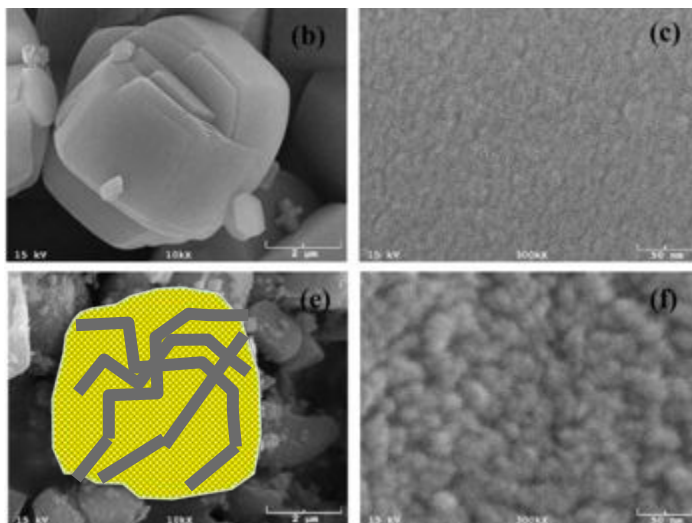
Crystallite
Size ~

>1,000 nm

Synthesized
In-House

Catalysis Communications 11 (2010) 977–981 ²¹

Varying Mesoporous Structure



SEM

HZSM-5
catalysts
with
controlled
mesoporosity
generated by
desilication

Journal of Catalysis 271 (2010) 88–98

Varying Mesoporous Structure

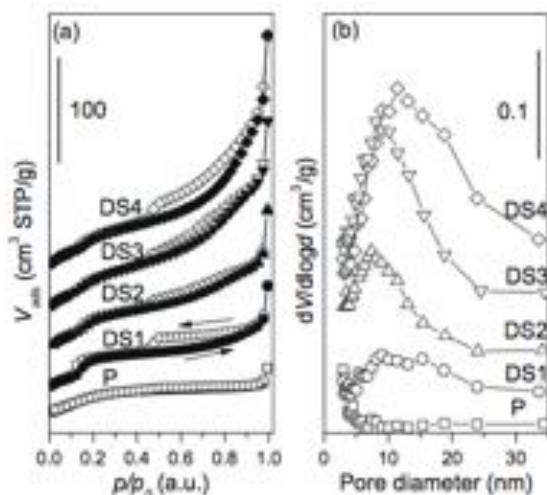


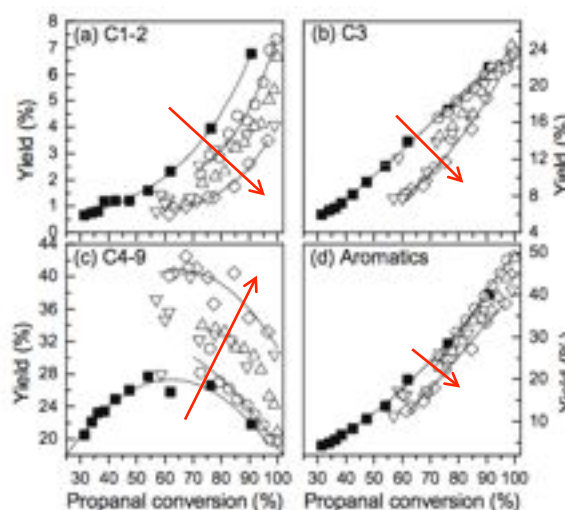
Fig. 3. N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherms (a) and mesopore pore size distributions (b) of parent zeolite (P) and desilicated zeolite samples (DS1 to DS4) of increasing desilication severity.

J. Catalysis 271 (2010) 88–98

BET

As the degree of desilication increases, the mesoporosity increases.

Varying Mesoporous Structure



Product Distribution

As mesoporosity increases:

- a) Less C1-C3
- b) More isoparaffins and C4-C9 olefins
- c) Slightly less aromatics

Due to reduced residence time inside microcrystalline structure

J. Catalysis 271 (2010) 88–98



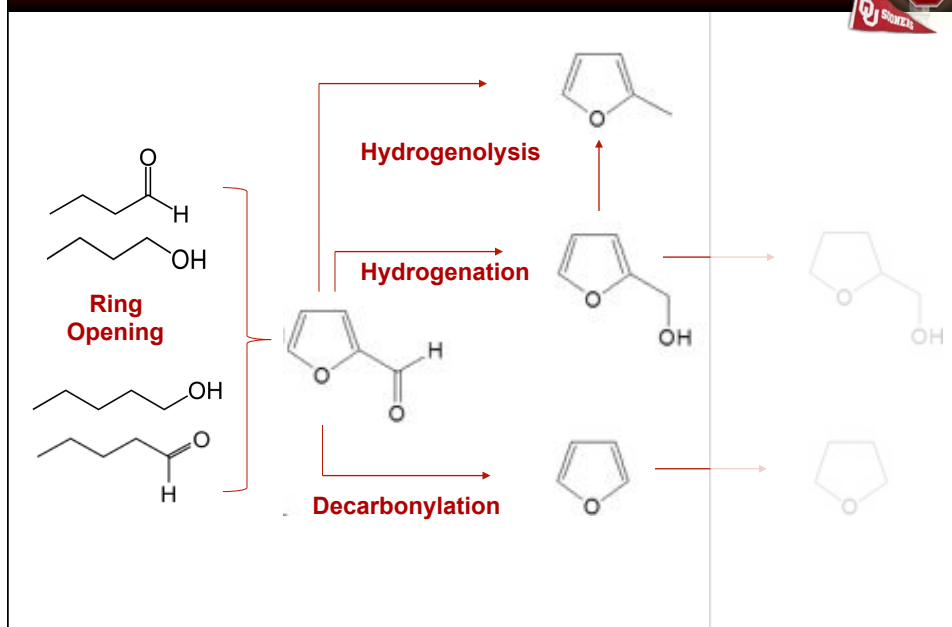
Strategy No. 2

“Breaking C-O bonds instead of C-C bonds”

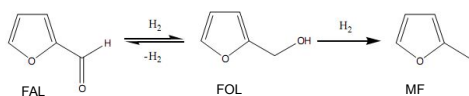
Hydro-deoxygenation
of Furfural

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Furfural Conversion on Metal Catalysts



Kinetics. Furfural over Cu/SiO₂



❖ Langmuir-Hinshelwood model

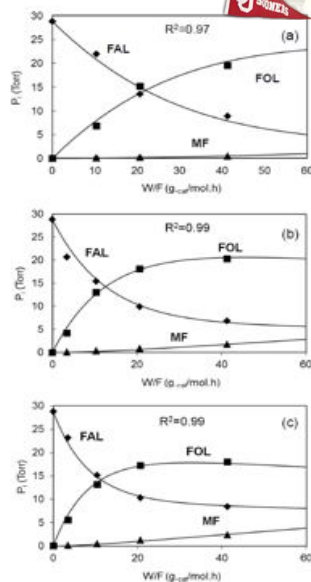
$$r_{FAL} = -k_1 K_{FAL} P_{FAL} \theta_V + \frac{k_{-1}}{K} K_{FOL} P_{FOL} \theta_V$$

$$r_{FOL} = k_1 K_{FAL} P_{FAL} \theta_V - \left[\frac{k_{-1}}{K} K_{FOL} P_{FOL} \theta_V + k_2 K_{FOL} P_{FOL} \theta_V \right]$$

$$r_{2 \rightarrow MF} = k_2 K_{FOL} P_{FOL} \theta_V$$

$$\theta_V = \frac{1}{1 + K_{FAL} P_{FAL} + K_{FOL} P_{FOL} + K_{MF} P_{MF} + K_{H_2}^{1/2} P_{H_2}^{1/2}}$$

Sitthisa, Balbuena, Resasco
J. Catalysis, 277 (2011) 1-13



Kinetics. Furfural over Cu/SiO₂

Table 2. Kinetic and thermodynamic parameters obtained from fitting the experimental data of with the kinetic model at various temperatures

Temp (°C)	Equilibrium constant (K _{eq})	Rate constant (mmol/g_cat.h)		Adsorption constant (Torr ⁻¹)				
		k ₁	k ₂	K _{FAL}	K _{FOL}	K _{MF}	K _{H₂}	K _{H₂}
230	4.56	3.00	0.10	0.29	0.18	0.083	11.9x10 ⁻⁵	0.25
270	2.98	5.93	0.24	0.12	0.11	0.063	4.2x10 ⁻⁵	0.10
290	2.01	8.05	0.34	0.08	0.09	0.056	2.7x10 ⁻⁵	0.07

$$\ln K = -\frac{\Delta H^\ominus}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^\ominus}{R}$$

Heat of adsorption, ΔH_{ads} (kcal.mol⁻¹)

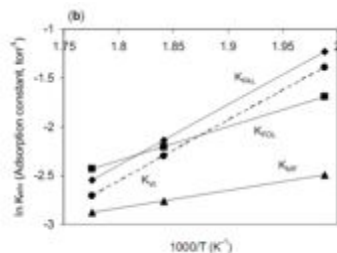
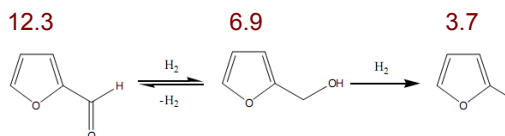


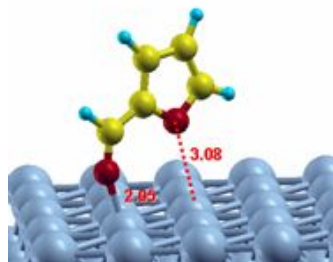
Fig. 7. Rate constants k_i (a) and adsorption equilibrium constants K_{ads} (b) as a function of inverse temperature.



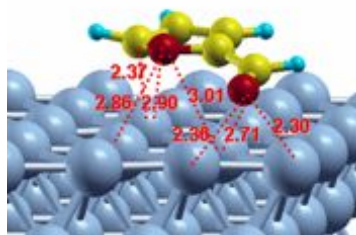
Furfural more strongly adsorbed than furfuryl alcohol and MF.

Sitthisa, Balbuena, Resasco
J. Catalysis, 277 (2011) 1-13

DFT. Furfural over Cu (111)



$$\Delta H_{\text{ads}} < 0$$

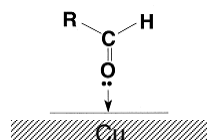


$$\Delta H_{\text{ads}} > 0$$

❖ Carbonyl perpendicular mode is preferred

❖ Parallel adsorption modes are not favored (endothermic !)

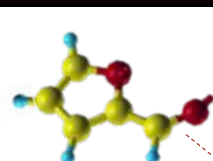
❖ Interaction between carbonyl O and surface is main contributor to adsorption strength



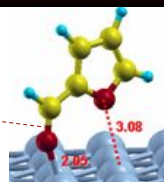
η^1 -aldehyde

Sitthisa, Balbuena, Resasco
J. Catalysis, 277 (2011) 1-13

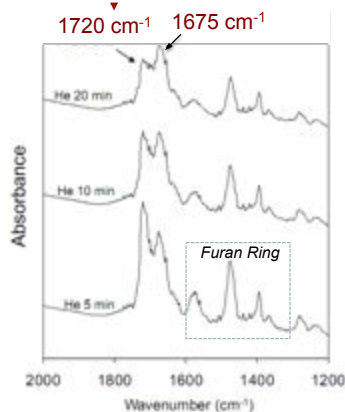
DRIFTS. Furfural over Cu



Gas phase



η^1 -aldehyde

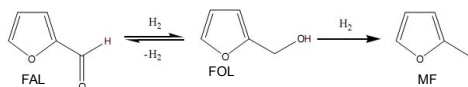


❖ Gas phase furfural shows the C=O stretching vibration mode at 1,720 cm^{-1} .

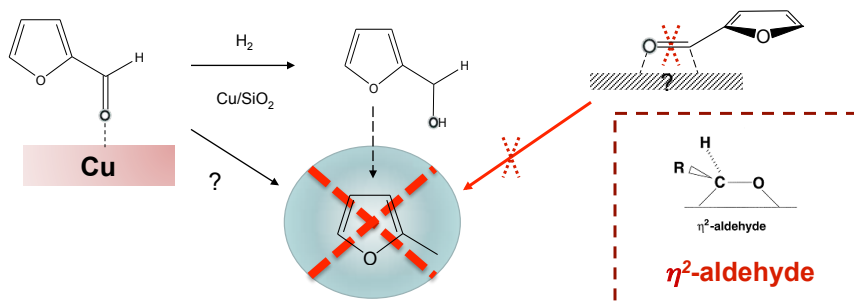
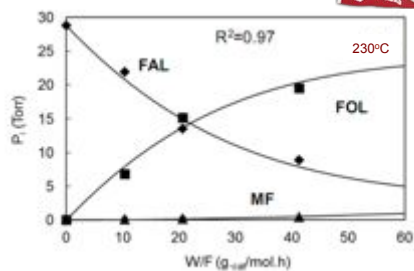
❖ C=O stretching band in adsorbed furfural appears downshifted from the wavenumber observed for gas-phase furfural.

❖ Furan ring bands do not change position

Furfural Conversion over Cu/SiO₂



❖ The reaction of furfural (FAL) on Cu/SiO₂ gives mainly furfuryl alcohol (FOL), with MF as a minor product, which is significant only above 230°C.



Intermediates on Group VIII Metals

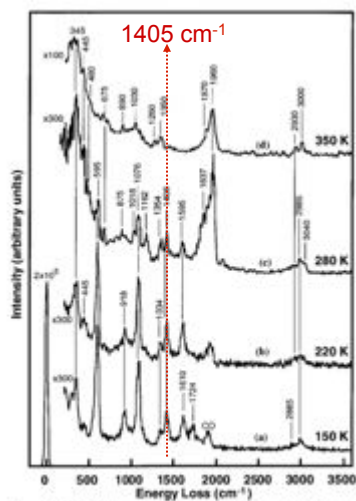
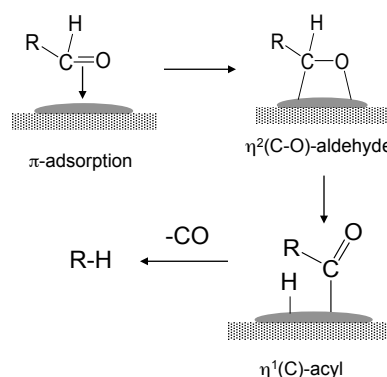


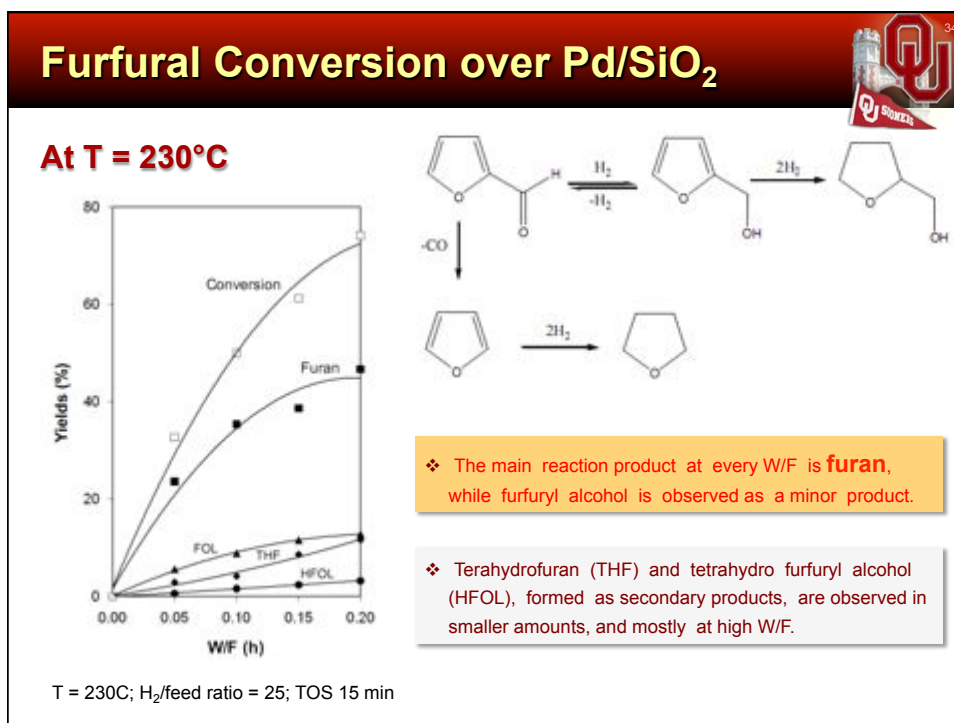
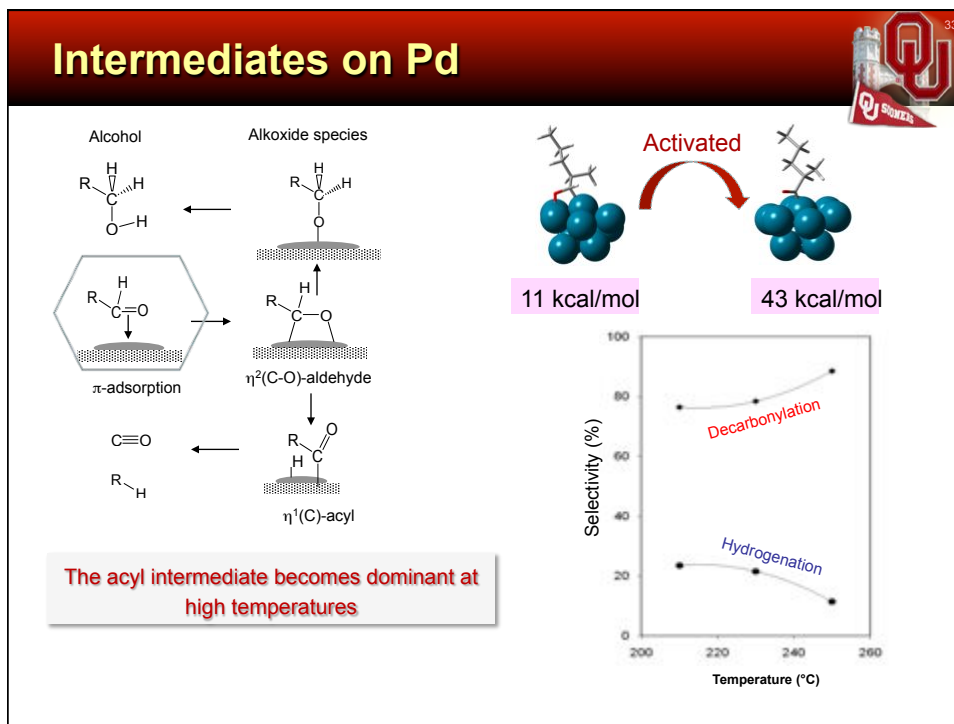
Figure 5. HREELS after an exposure of 4.2 L of acetaldehyde at 150 K and after subsequent annealing at indicated temperatures.

M.A. Barteau J. Phys. Chem. 101 (1997) 7939

❖ preferred mode on Group VIII metals
 η^2 -aldehyde

❖ η^2 configuration can convert to acyl

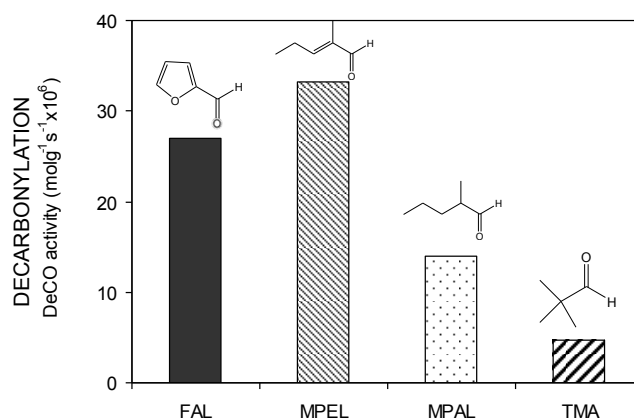
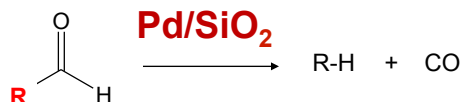




Decarbonylation of Other Aldehydes



What is the role of the ring?

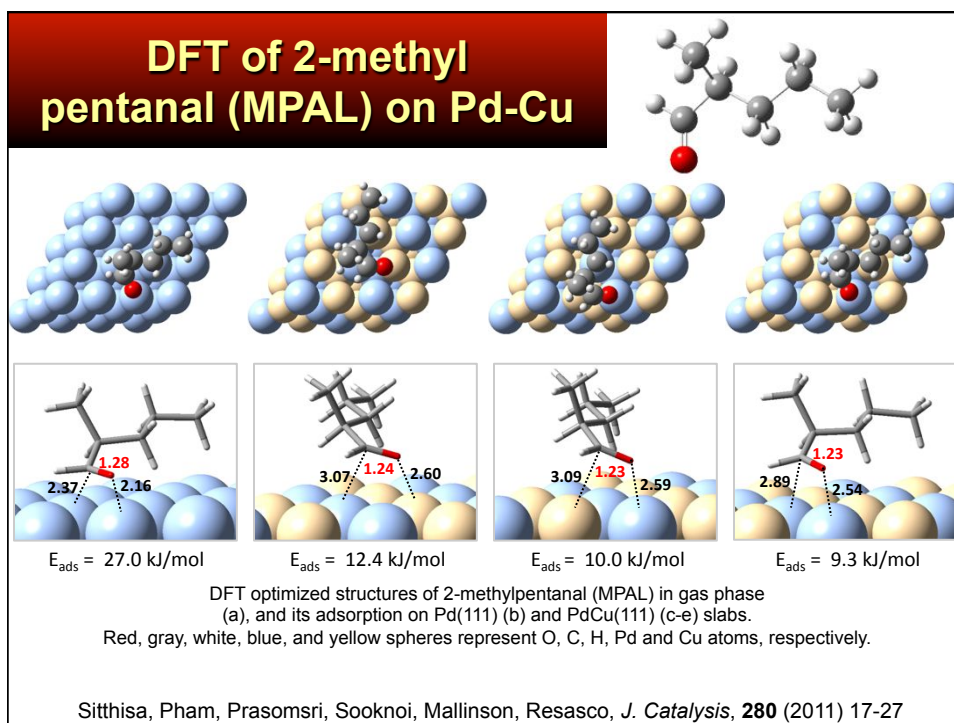
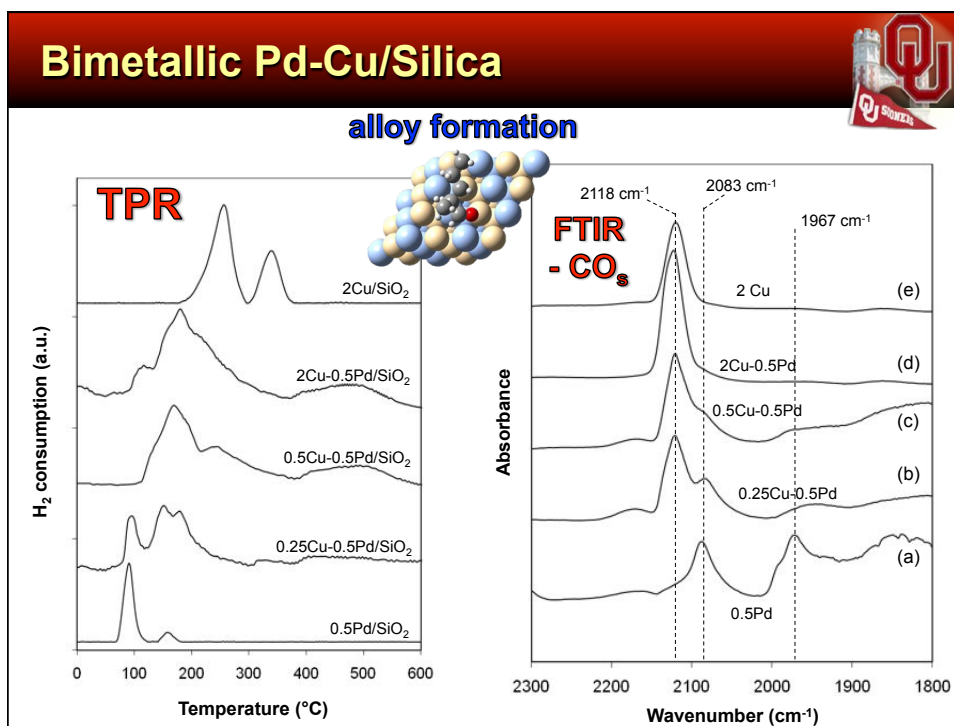


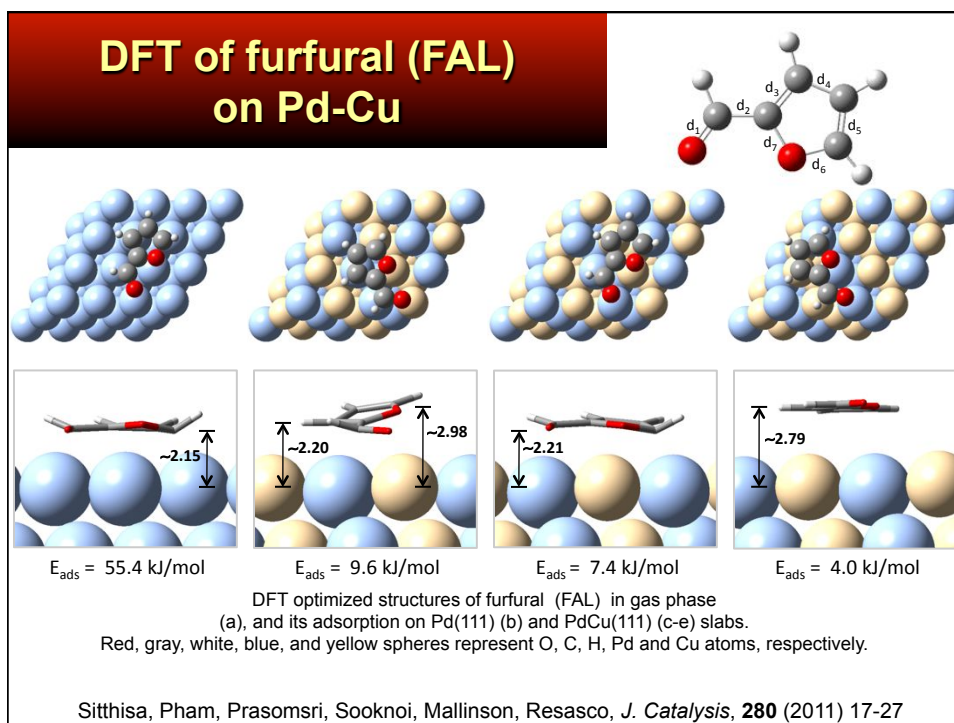
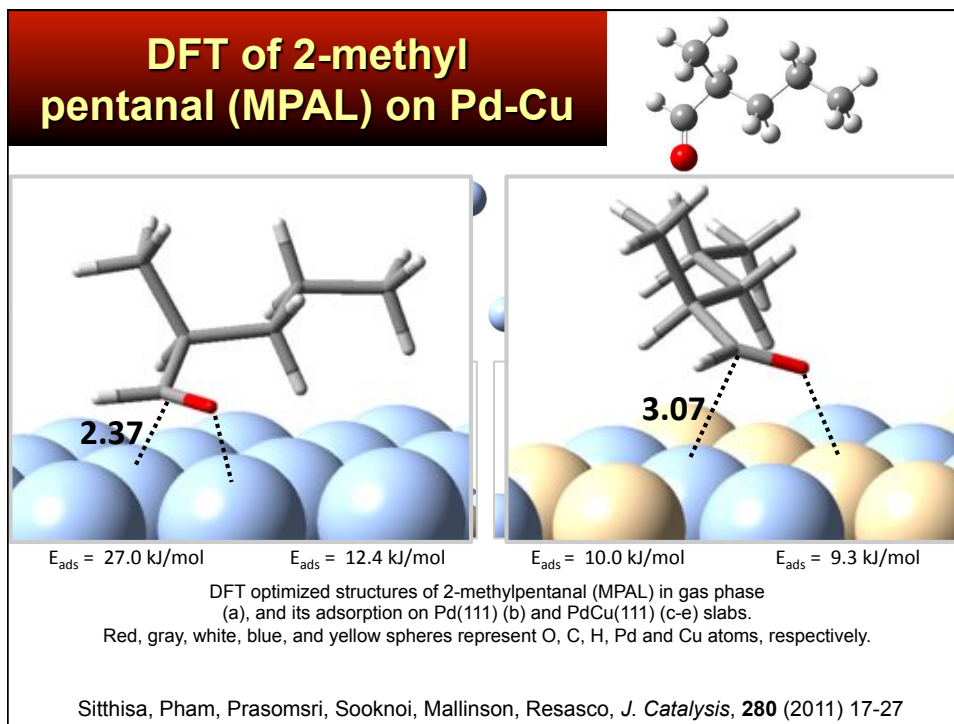
0.006 mole/h of aldehydes, 1%Pd/SiO₂, 250°C, 1 atm, 62.4 ml/min of hydrogen

Decarbonylation of Other Aldehydes

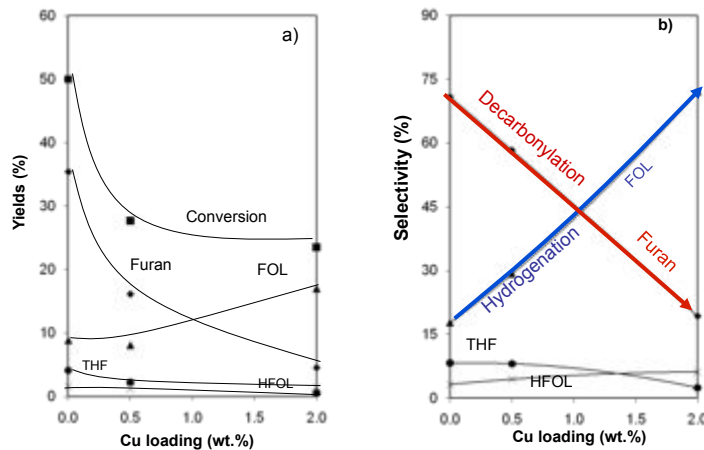


Aldehydes	$\eta^1(\text{C})$ -Acyl	(DFT) ΔH_{ads} (kcal.mol ⁻¹)	Activity ($\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)
		16.3	4.7
		22.0	14.0
		27.5	27.0
		33.4	33.2





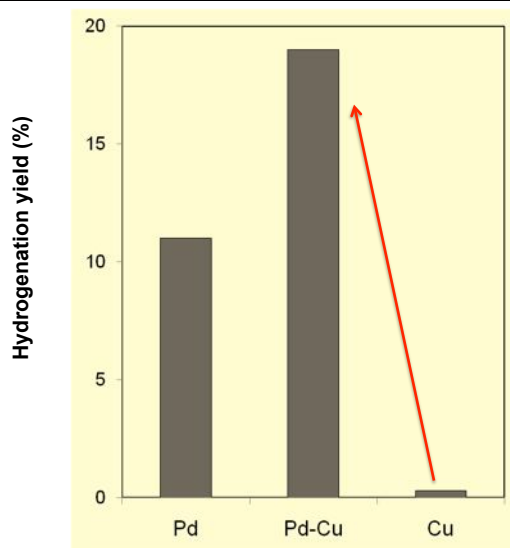
Furfural on Pd/SiO₂ and Pd-Cu/SiO₂



W/F = 0.1 h, Temp = 230°C, H₂/Feed ratio = 25, H₂ pressure = 1 atm, TOS = 15 min

- ❖ The total activity for FAL is decreased when the Cu metal was incorporated
- ❖ The yield of the decarbonylation products, furan, is greatly reduced while the yield of hydrogenated products (FOL) significantly increases as a function of Cu loading

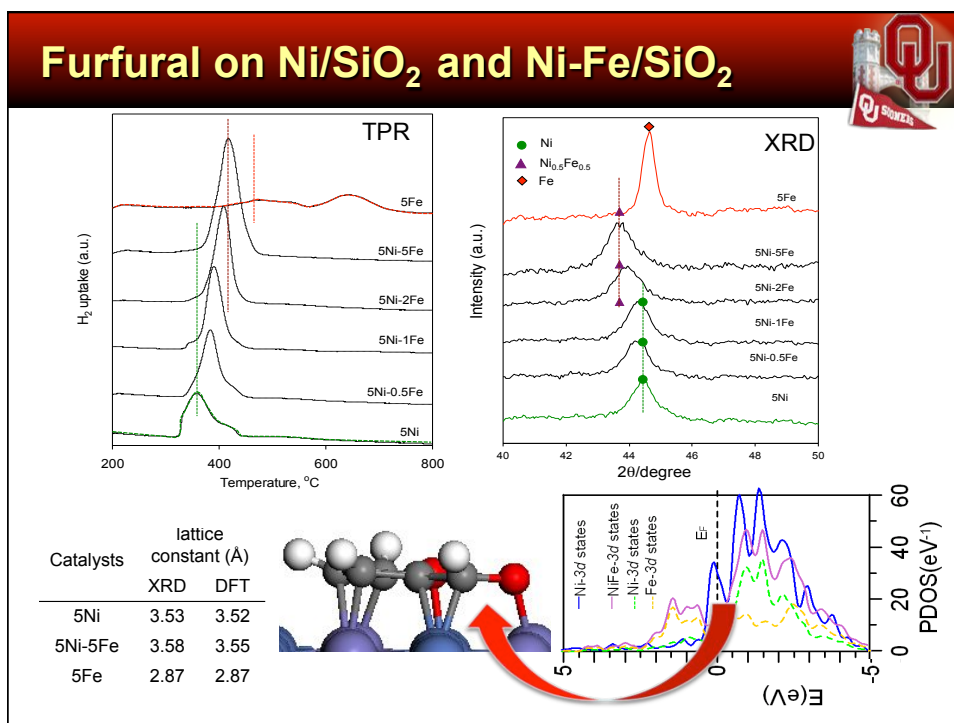
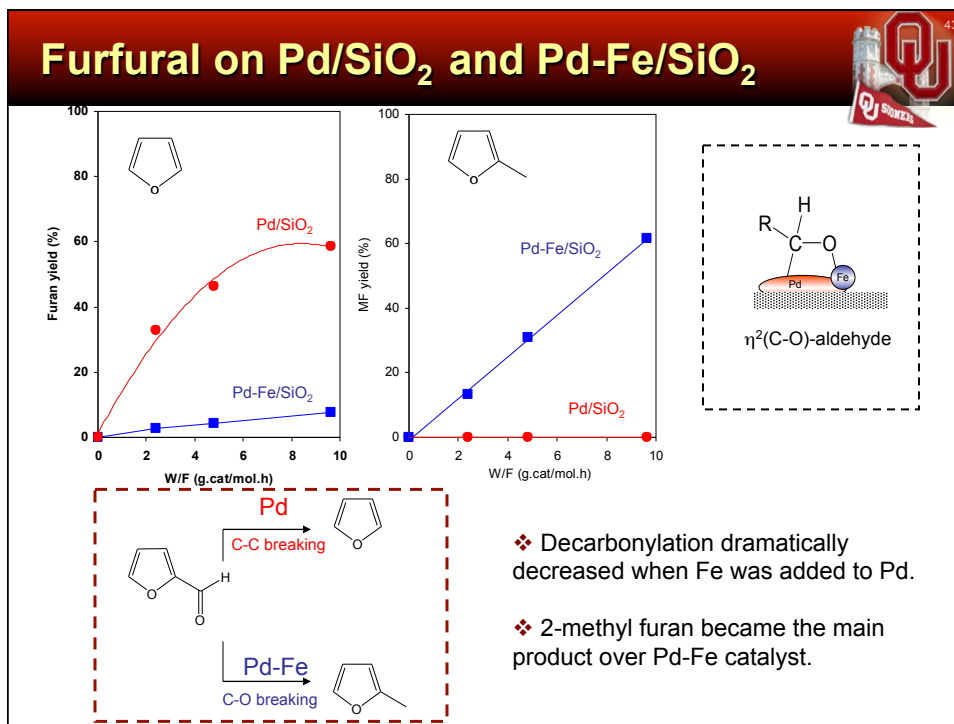
Furfural on Pd/SiO₂ and Pd-Cu/SiO₂

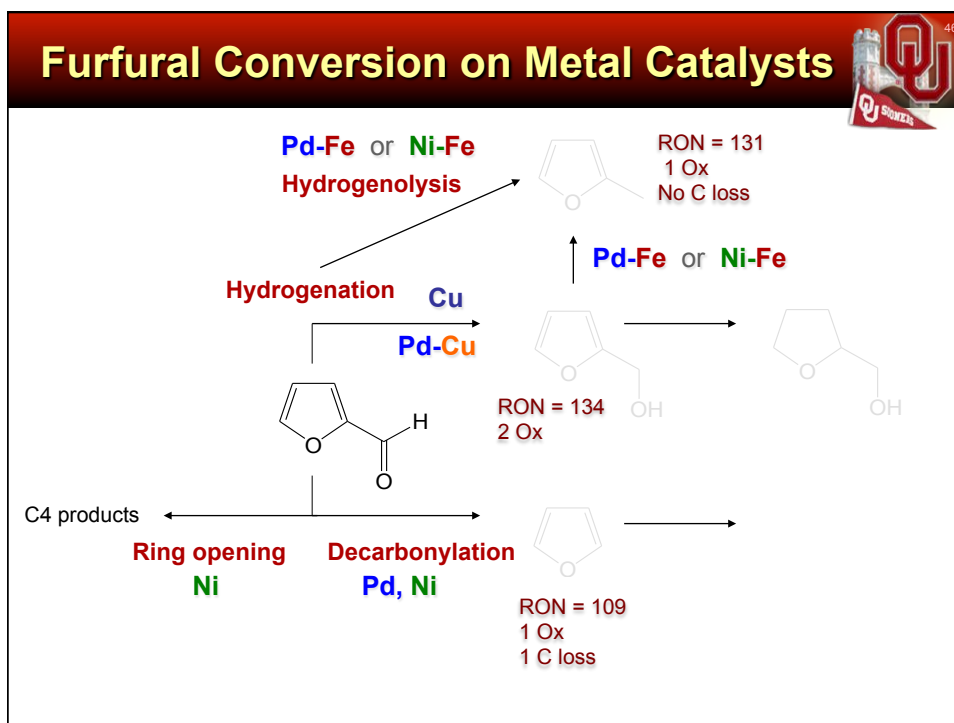
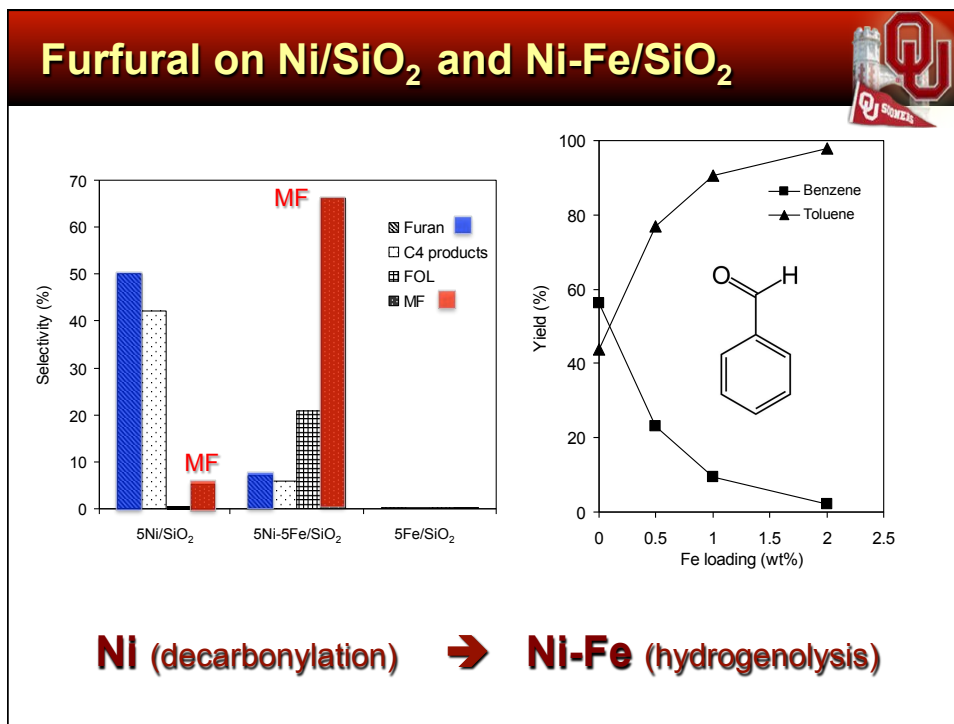


Dramatic increase in **yield** of furfuryl alcohol on the Pd-Cu catalyst with high **selectivity**.

W/F = 0.2 h, Temp = 250°C,
H₂/Feed ratio = 25,
Pressure = 1atm,
TOS = 15 min.

Sitthisa, Pham, Prasomsri, Sooknoi, Mallinson, Resasco, *J. Catalysis*, **280** (2011) 17-27







Strategy No. 3

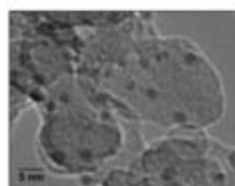
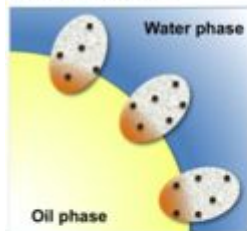
Multi-functional Catalysis in Bi-Phasic Liquid Systems Stabilized by Nanoparticles

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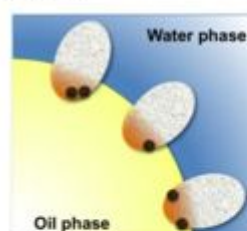
Conversion in Liquid Phase (biphasic)



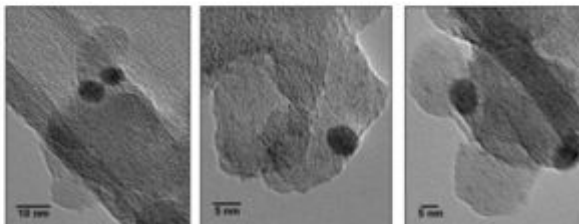
a) Pd on both sides:



b) Pd on the hydrophobic side:



Pd
clusters
Supported
on Janus
particles



Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis 2010, 352, 2359 – 2364

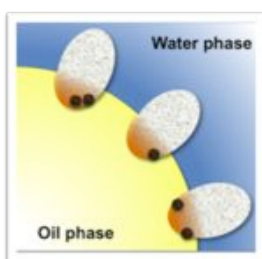
48

Rates only depend on thermodynamic activities of reactants and products

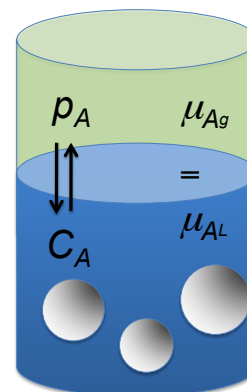


Reactions on surfaces do not detect the presence of contacting fluid, unless:

- Mass transport limitations (changes in local chemical potential)
- Competitive adsorption
- Solvation of kinetically relevant intermediates



Therefore, phase selectivity in emulsions only due to a, b, c

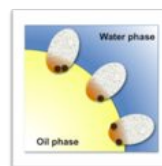
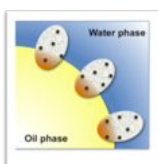
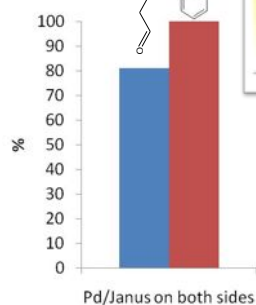


R. J. Madon, E. Iglesia, J. Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical 163 (2000) 189

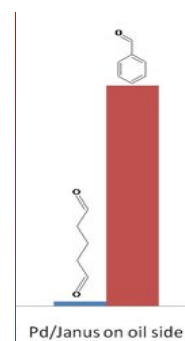
Conversion in Liquid Phase (biphasic)



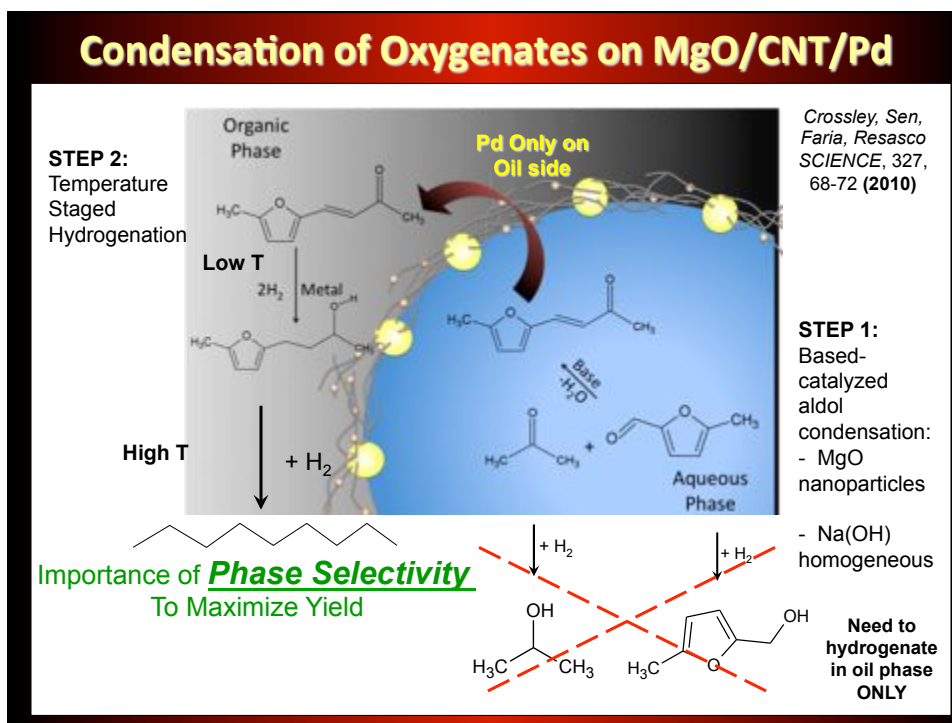
■ Conversion of glutaraldehyde
■ Conversion of benzaldehyde



Semi-batch reactor
at T=100°C
continuous flow of
H₂ 110 sccm
through liquid
at P= 200 psi;
0.03 g catalyst ,
reaction time 3 h.



Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis 2010, 352, 2359 – 2364



Strategy No. 4

“Eliminate O while keeping C in the fuel range”

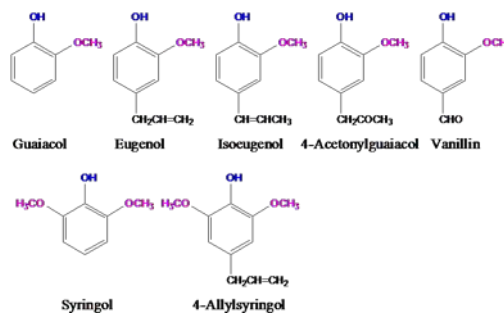
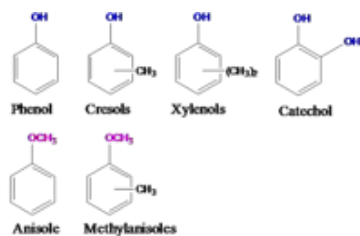
Selective Hydro-Deoxygenation of Phenolic Compounds

52

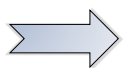
Lignin-derived Phenolics



Oxygenated aromatics



Industrial Approaches



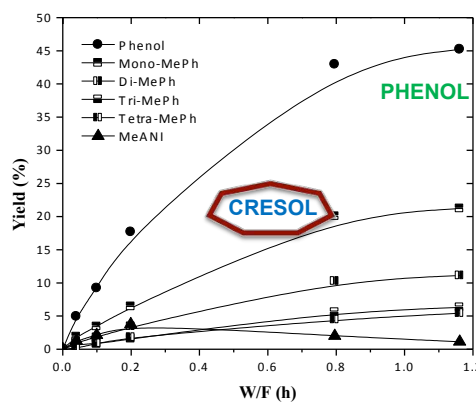
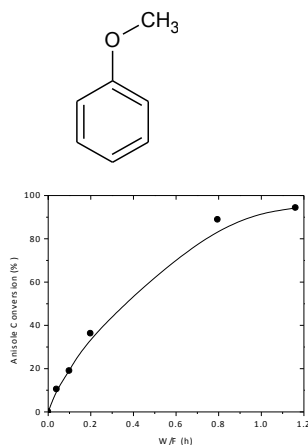
- Co-processing in FCC units
- Severe HDT

Alternative:



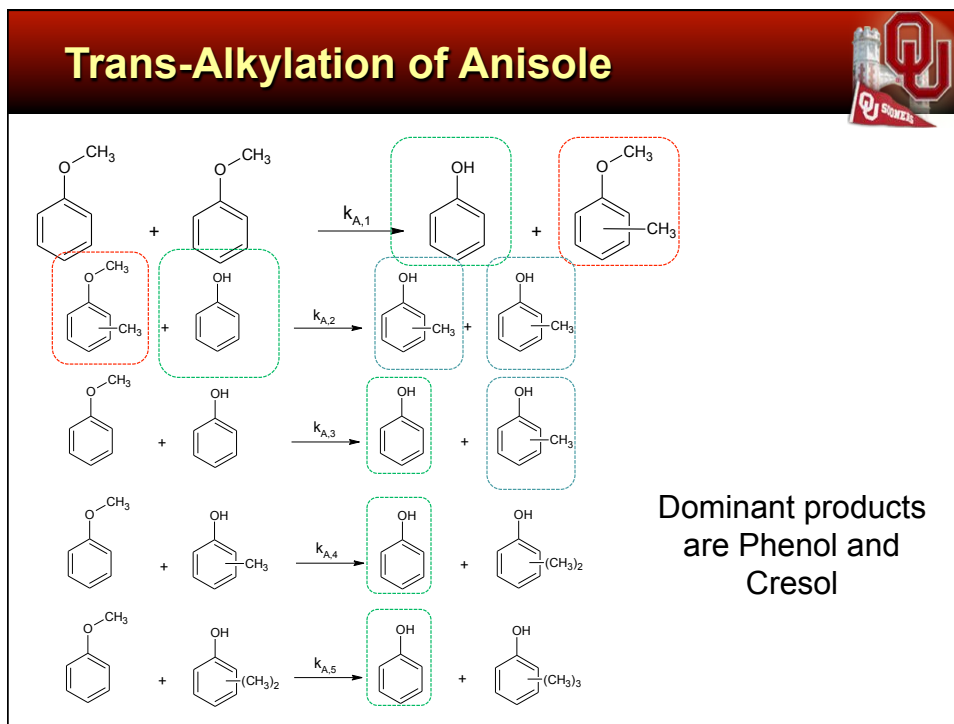
Mild hydrotreating (remove O, keep C)

Conversion of Anisole - Acid Catalyst

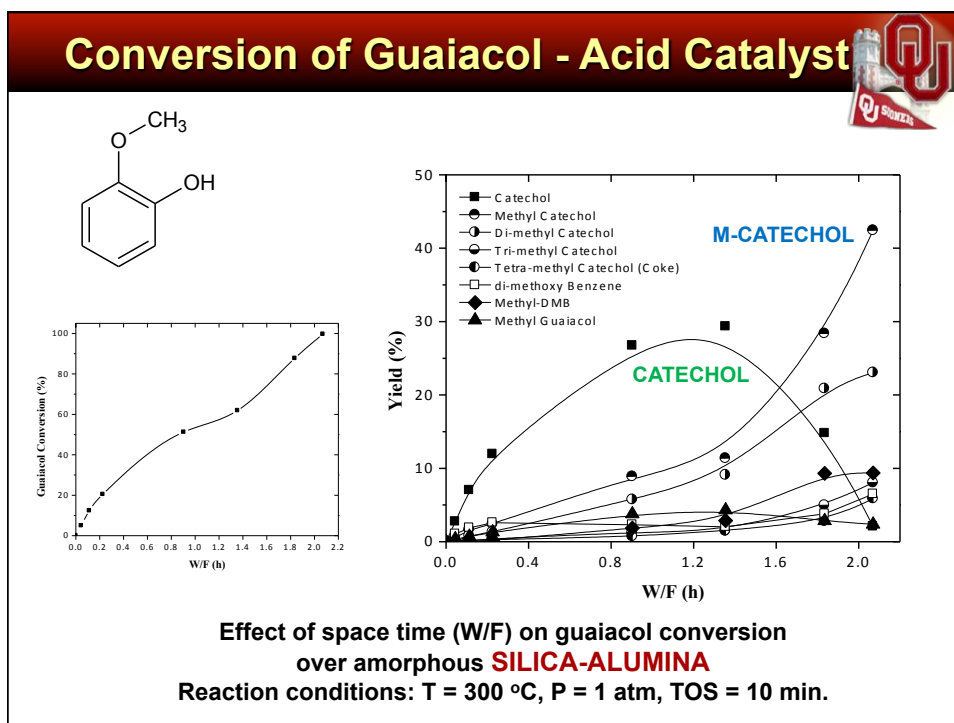


Effect of space time (W/F) on anisole conversion over amorphous **SILICA-ALUMINA**
 Reaction conditions: T = 300 °C, P = 1 atm, TOS = 10 min.

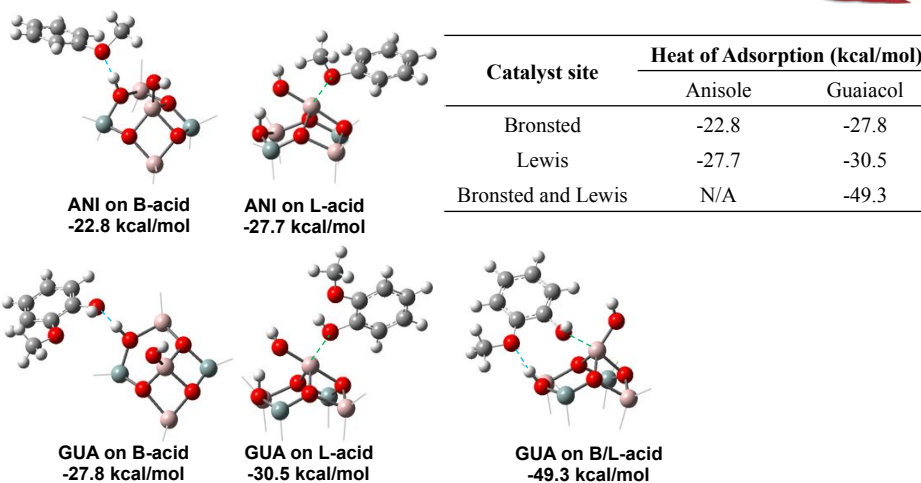
Trans-Alkylation of Anisole



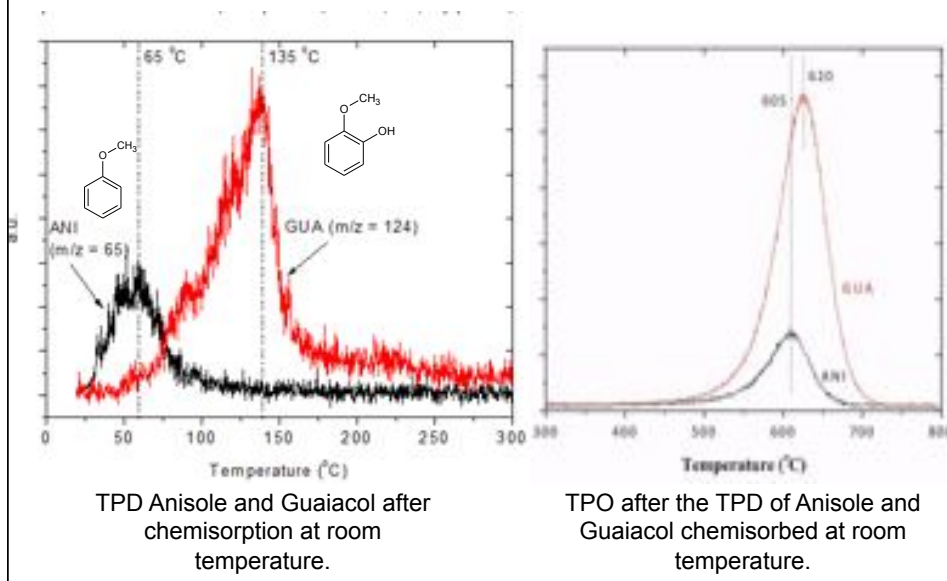
Conversion of Guaiacol - Acid Catalyst



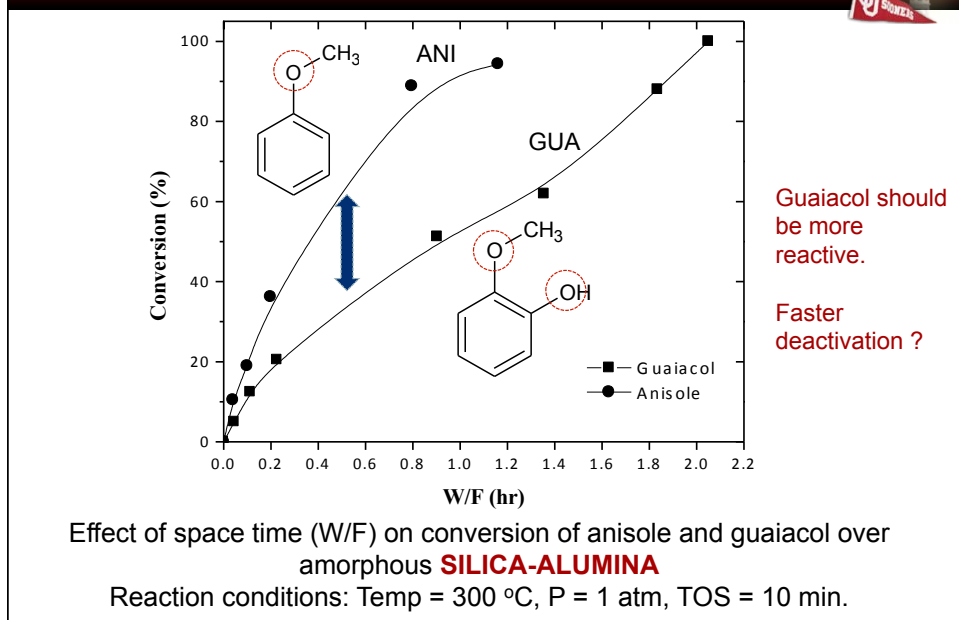
DFT - Anisole and Guaiacol Adsorption (Brønsted/Lewis Acid Sites)



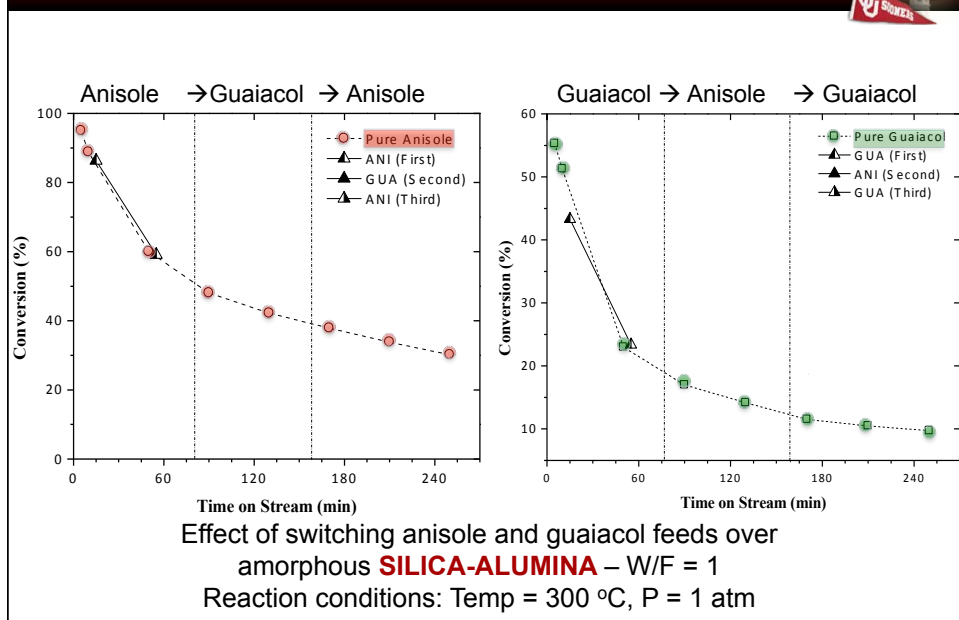
Temperature Programmed Desorption



Anisole Vs. Guaiacol



Anisole Vs. Guaiacol



Effect of co-feeding hydrocarbons



Oxygenates: **Anisole** (Bio-oil model compound)

Co-feeds: **Tetralin** (good H-donor)
n-Decane
 Benzene
 Propylene

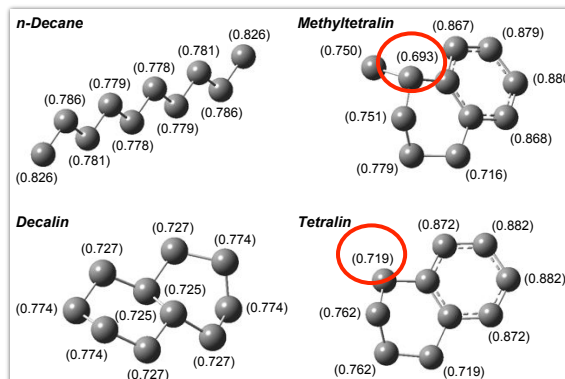
Catalysts: HY zeolites (Si/Al=15 and 40)

Temp: 400 °C

Pressure: 1 atm He

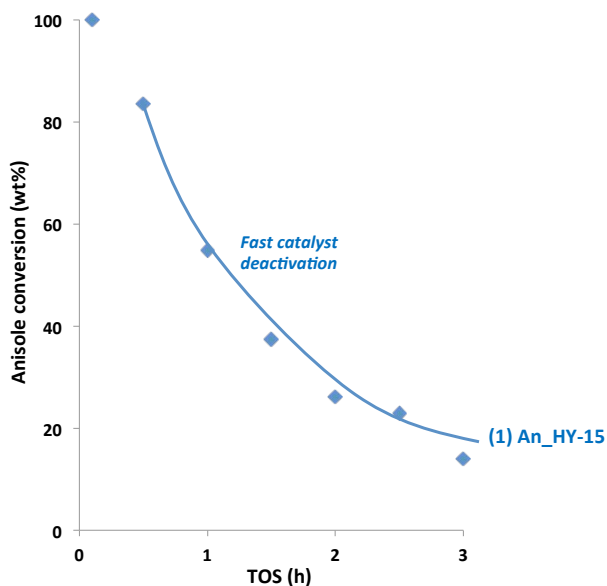
Relative hydrogen transfer ability:
DFT study

**DMT >
 tetralin > decalin
 > n-decane**



T. Prasomsri, R. E. Galiasso, W. E. Alvarez, T. Sooknoi, D. E. Resasco, *Appl. Catal. A*, **389**, 140-146, **2010**

Conversion of Pure Anisole



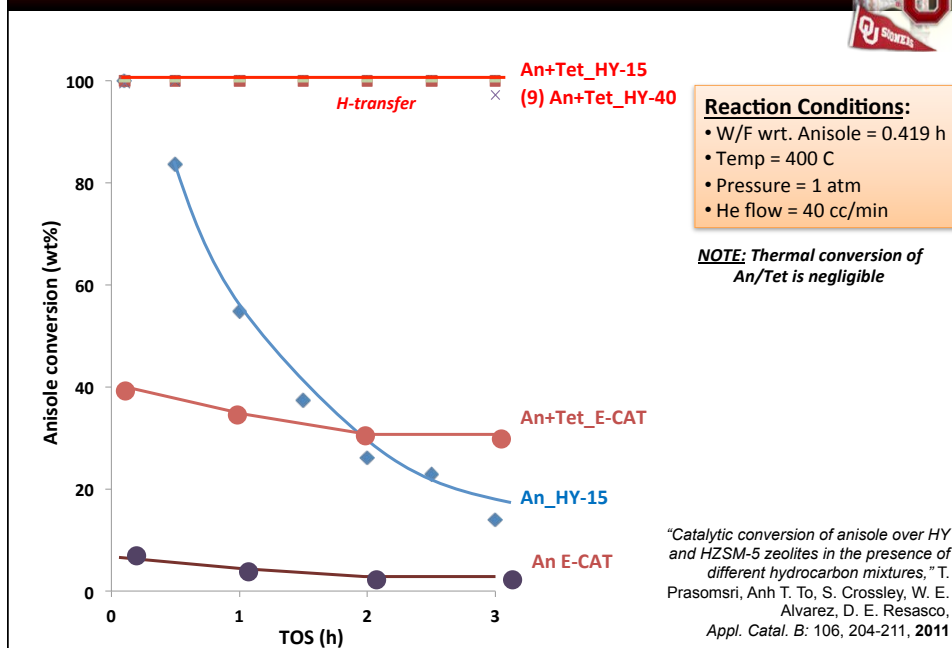
Reaction Conditions:

- W/F = 0.419 h
- Temp = 400 C
- Pressure = 1 atm
- He flow = 40 cc/min

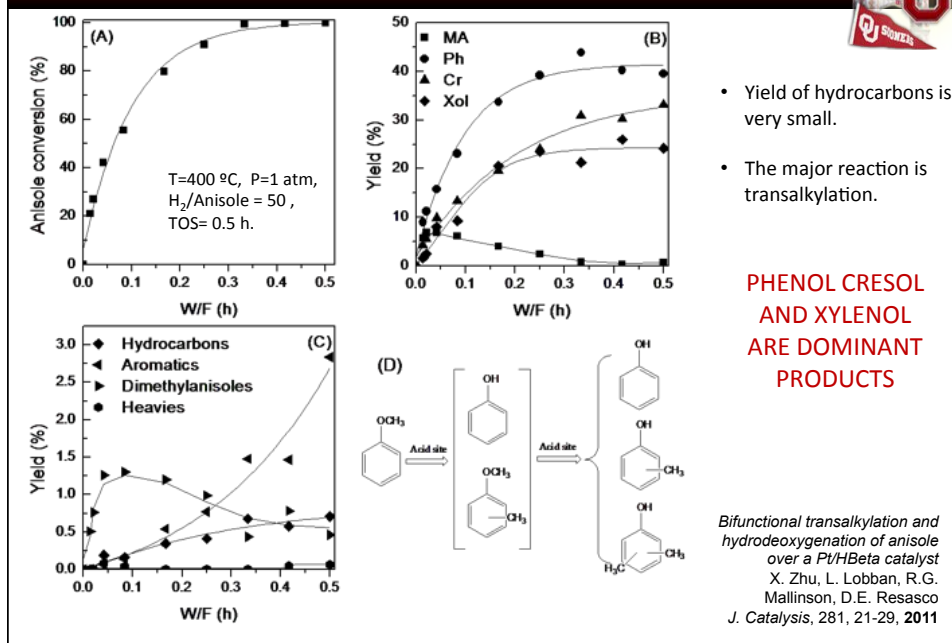
NOTE: Thermal conversion of An/Tet is negligible

"Catalytic conversion of anisole over HY and HZSM-5 zeolites in the presence of different hydrocarbon mixtures," T. Prasomsri, Anh T. To, S. Crossley, W. E. Alvarez, D. E. Resasco, *Appl. Catal. B*: 106, 204-211, **2011**

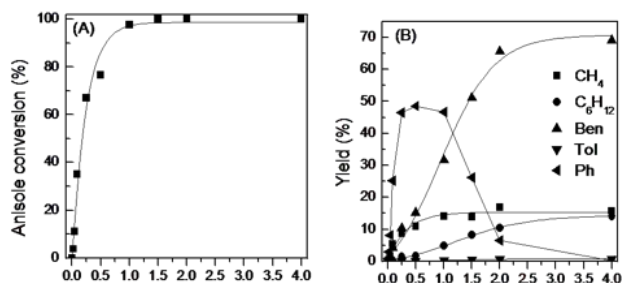
Conversion of Anisole in Mixed Feeds



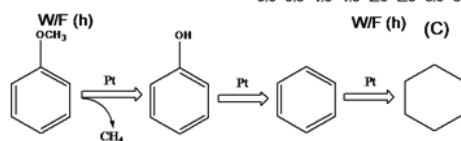
Anisole conversion over H-Beta



Anisole conversion over 1% Pt/SiO₂



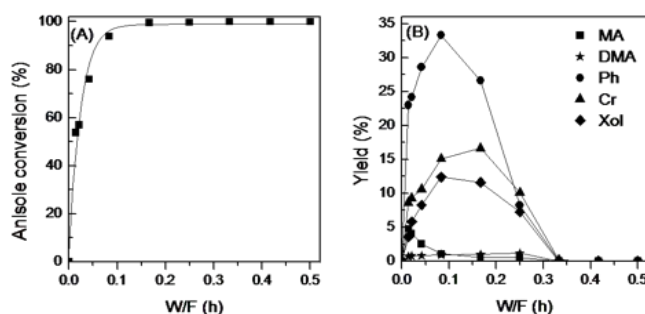
- One carbon is lost by methane formation.
- Phenols is the primary product, and can be hydrodeoxygenated to benzene.
- Benzene can be further hydrogenated to cyclohexane which is undesirable.



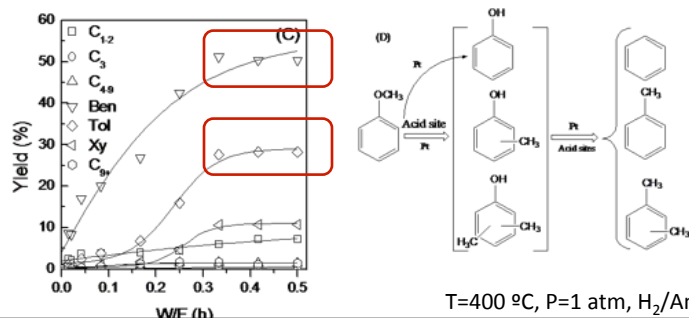
Bifunctional transalkylation and hydrodeoxygenation of anisole over a Pt/HBeta catalyst
X. Zhu, L. Lobban, R.G. Mallinson, D.E. Resasco
J. Catalysis, 281, 21-29, 2011

Reaction conditions: T=400 °C, P=1 atm, H₂/Anisole=50, TOS= 0.5 h.

Anisole conversion over 1% Pt/H-Beta



- Transalkylation and hydrodeoxygenation take place over acid and metal sites, respectively.



- Yields of hydrocarbons is enhanced significantly

- The carbon number is preserved.

T=400 °C, P=1 atm, H₂/Anisole=50, TOS= 0.5 h.

Summary



- Upgrading of bio-oil with maximum yield and minimum oxygen is a challenging task >> It needs multi-stage solution.
- Studies with model compounds are valuable to identify different catalytic strategies
- Oxygen functionalities (-OH, -OCH₃, C=O) can be used to enlarge C-C backbone chain
- Oxygen functionalities are highly deactivating of catalysts. Hydrogen usage is important.
- Liquid-phase processes (biphasic) offer promise for operating at milder conditions and minimize hydrogen consumption

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Faculty:

R. G. Mallinson; T. Sooknoi; L. L. Lobban; F. Jentoft; R. Jentoft;
P. Balbuena

Students and Post-docs:

Trung Hoang, Xinli Zhu, Surapas Sitthisa, Ming Sen, Teerawit Prasmosri, Sunya Boonyasuwat, Tu Pham, Jimmy Faria, Pilar Ruiz, Paula Zapata.

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- Department of Energy - National Science Foundation / EPSCOR - Oklahoma Bioenergy Center - State Grant

Is Phase Selectivity (thermodynamically) possible ?

Phase 1

$$r_A = ka_A^1$$

$$r_A^1 = (k\gamma_A^1)c_A^1$$

$$\mu_A^1 = \mu_A^2$$

$$f_A^1 = f_A^2$$

$$a_A^1 = a_A^2$$

$$\gamma_A^1 c^1 = \gamma_A^2 c^2$$

$$r_A^1 = r_A^2$$

Phase 2

$$r_A = ka_A^2$$

$$r_A^2 = (k\gamma_A^2)c_A^2$$

The rates should be the same no matter the location of the reactants UNLESS

Mass Transport Effects

Phase A

C_i^A is the Solubility of i in Phase **A**

$$J_i^A = -\frac{DC_i^A}{RT} \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial x}$$

If the Solubility

$C_i^A > C_i^B$

Then the Flux

$J_i^A > J_i^B$

Phase B

C_i^B is the Solubility of i in Phase **B**

$$J_i^B = -\frac{DC_i^B}{RT} \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial x}$$

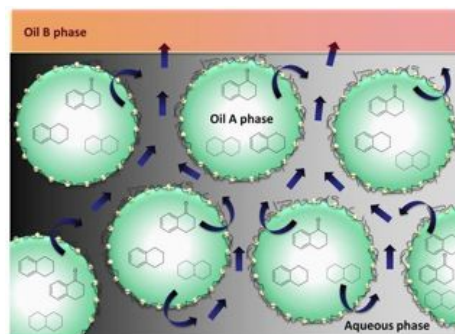
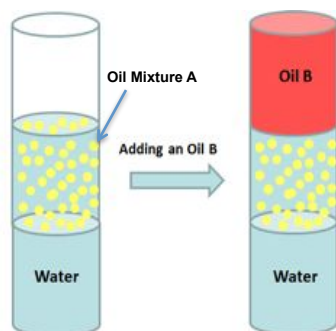
DIFUSSION RESISTANCE

$$R_{Diffusion} = \partial x \frac{RT}{DC_i^B}$$

Mass Transport Effects



Organic molecules from the oil droplets in the O/W emulsion to oil on the single phase



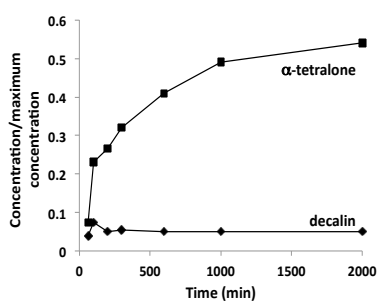
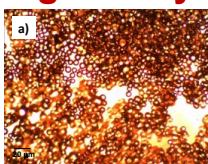
Oil Inside the Droplets: Tetralone + Decalin
Oil B: Tetralin
Aqueous Phase: DI Water

LogP of Tetralone = 2.24
Log P of Decalin = 3.88
Log P of Tetralin = 3.15

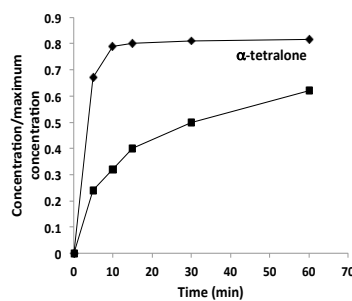
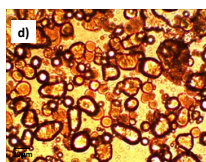
Mass Transport Effects



Stagnant System



Under Stirring (200rpm)



LogP of Tetralone = 2.24
Log P of Decalin = 3.88
Log P of Tetralin = 3.15

Crossley S, Faria J, Shen M, Resasco D.E, *SCIENCE*, **327**, 68-72 (2010)

Ni-Fe
Phase
Diagram

