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**BATH**

# To butadiene and beyond!

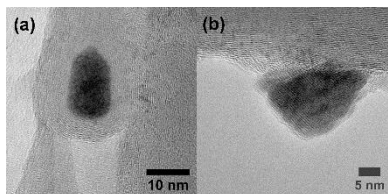
**Dr. Matthew Jones**  
**University of Bath, UK**  
**Department of Chemistry**



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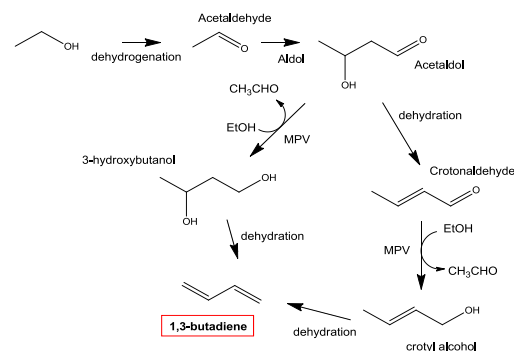
# Projects on the go!

## CO<sub>2</sub> conversion



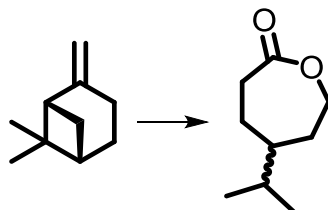
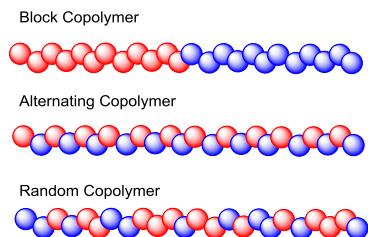
*ChemPhysChem* 2017, 3211. *ChemSusChem*, 2015, 4064. *Cat. Sci. Technol.*, 2014, 3351 *Cat. Sci. Technol.*, 2013, 1202.

## Biorenewables upgrading



*ChemSusChem*, 2018, 1073. *ChemCatChem* 2016, 2376. *Catal. Today*, 2016, 1232. *Catal. Commun.*, 2014, 25. WO Patent granted WO/2014/180778.

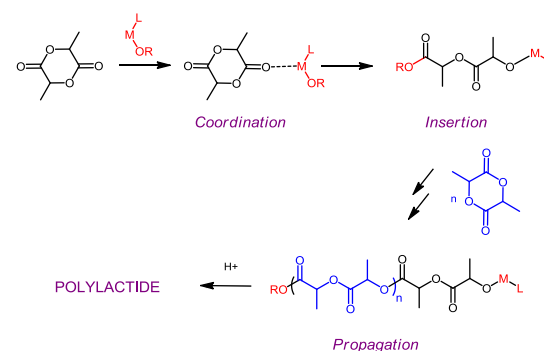
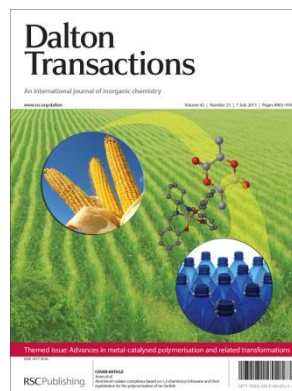
## Copolymers and new monomers



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*Dalton Trans.*, 2016, 13846  
*Poly. Chem.*, 2017, 833.

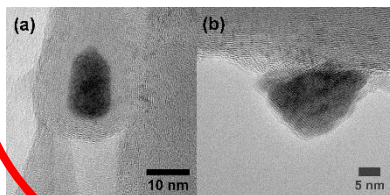
## Sustainable Polymerisations



*Organometallics* 2018, 1719. *ChemSusChem*, 2017, 3547. *Dalton Trans.*, 2017, 5048. *Chem. Commun.* 2016, 10431. *Organometallics* 2016, 3837. *Chem. Sci.*, 2015, 5034.

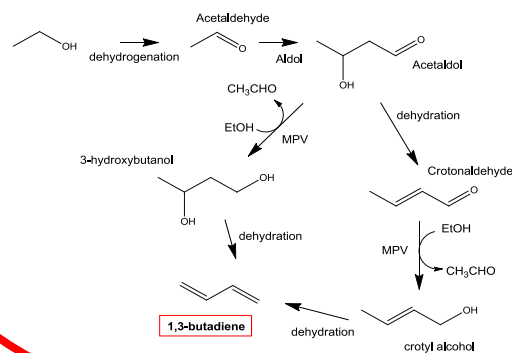
# Projects on the go!

## CO<sub>2</sub> conversion



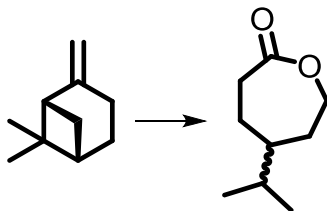
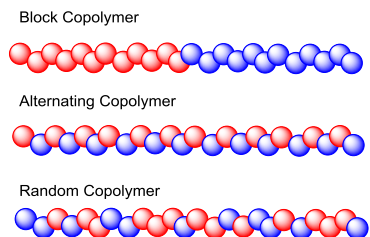
*ChemPhysChem* 2017, 3211. *ChemSusChem* 2015, 4064. *Cat. Sci. Technol.*, 2014, 3351 *Cat. Sci. Technol.*, 2013, 1202.

## Biorenewables upgrading



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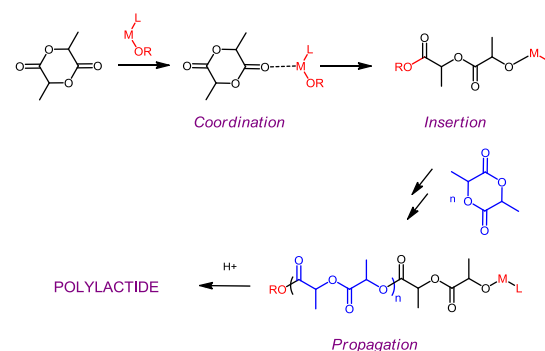
## Copolymers and new monomers



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*Dalton Trans.*, 2016, 13846  
*Poly. Chem.*, 2017, 833.

## Sustainable Polymerisations



*Organometallics* 2018, 1719. *ChemSusChem*, 2017, 3547. *Dalton Trans.*, 2017, 5048. *Chem. Commun.* 2016, 10431. *Organometallics* 2016, 3837. *Chem. Sci.*, 2015, 5034.

# Key stage 3 Science lesson



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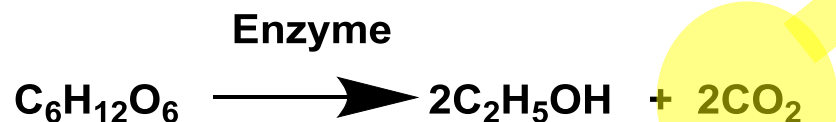
# How do we make ethanol?

- Biomass?
- How much sugar is in this jar of smarties?
- How much ethanol can we get?



## How do we make ethanol?

- Fermentation of sugar

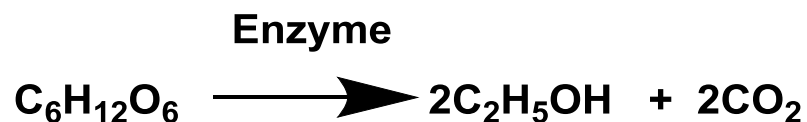


Is this bad?

- How much sugar is in this jar of smarties?
- How much ethanol can we get?

## How do we make ethanol?

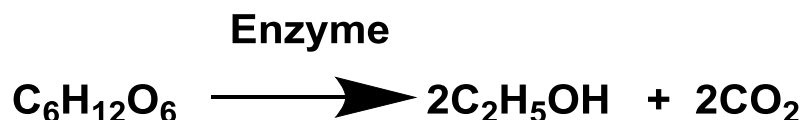
- Fermentation of sugar



- How much sugar is in this jar of smarties?
  - 1832 smarties = 430 g of sugar
- How much ethanol can we get?

## How do we make ethanol?

- Fermentation of sugar



- How much sugar is in this jar of smarties?

– 1832 smarties = 430 g of sugar

- How much ethanol can we get?

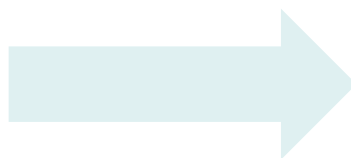
215 g EtOH (assuming 100% conversion)

130 g ethene (polyethene) ca. 20 plastic bags

**Is this a good assumption?**



# Should we use smarties to make ethanol??



## Ethanol as a platform chemical

- How much ethanol is produced in Brazil annually?
- What can we use ethanol for?

## Ethanol as a platform chemical

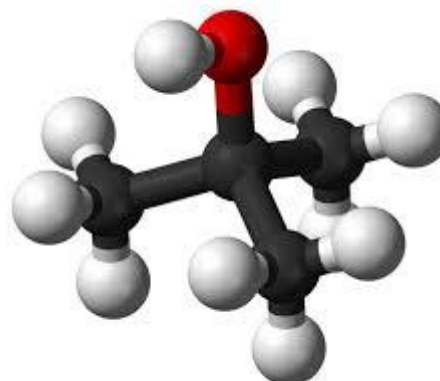
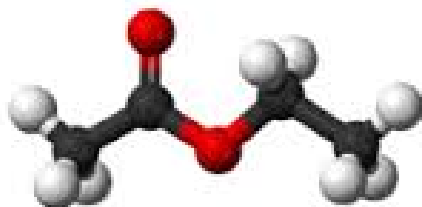
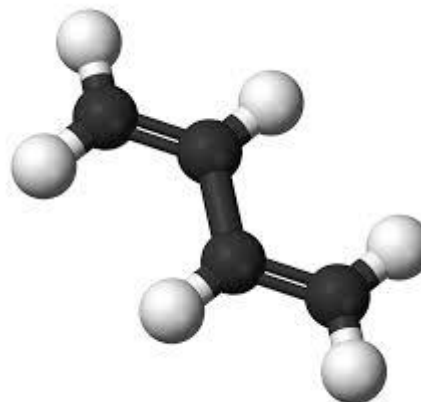
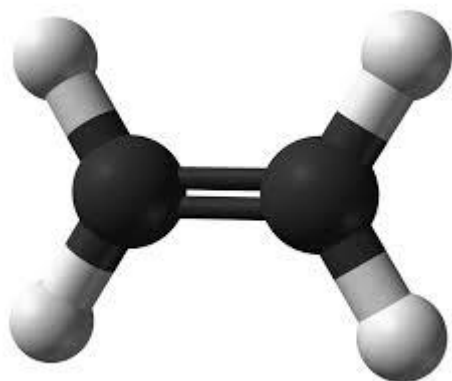
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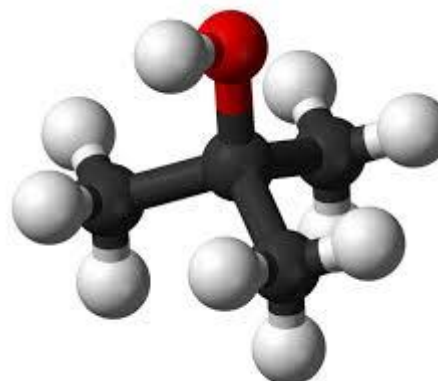
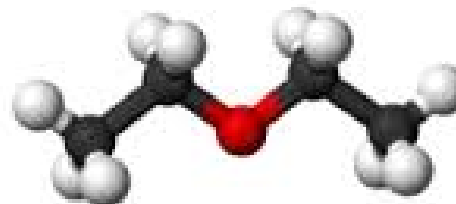
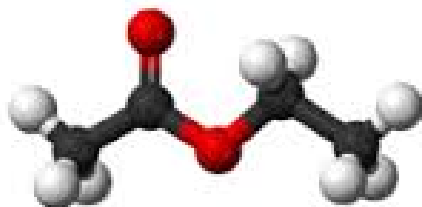
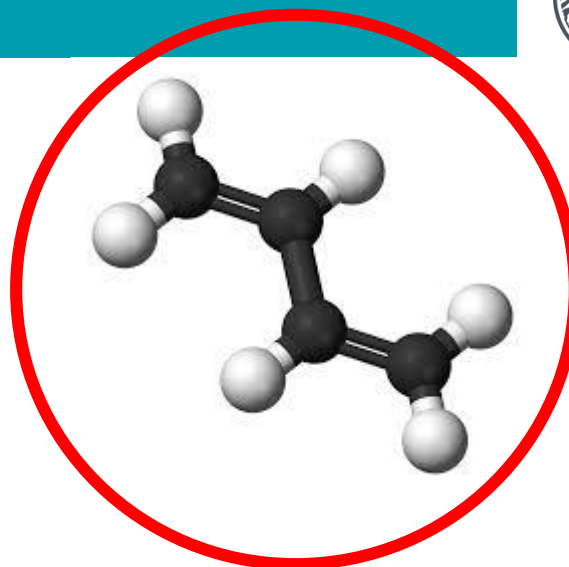
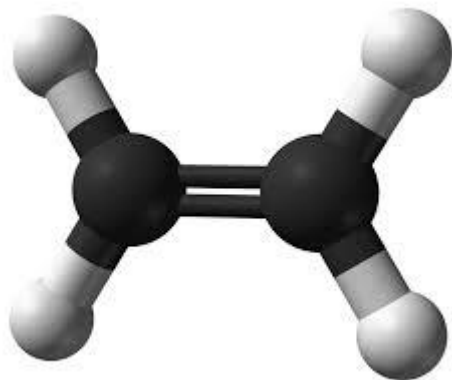
**23.4 billion litres in 2014**

**If a car travels 10,000 km/yr it needs ca. 1,000 litres**

**234,000,000,000 km ca. 5.8 million times round the world**

- What can we use ethanol for?

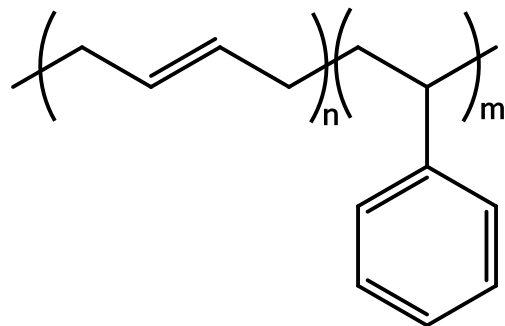




# How is butadiene made?

95% is produced as the by-product of ethene production from steam crackers (breaking down of large hydrocarbons into smaller ones)

Uses of butadiene?



SBR – used as an alternative to natural rubber

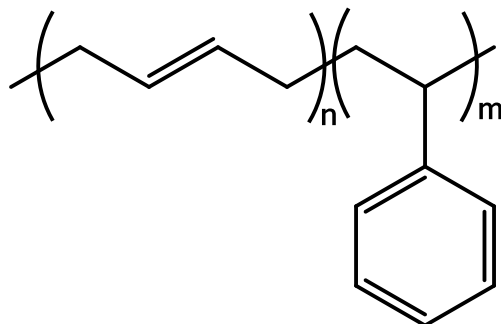
What is shale gas?

Methane ca. 76%, Ethane ca. 16%, Propane 6% (rest butanes)

# How is butadiene made?

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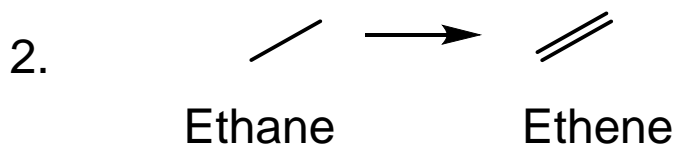
Methane ca. 76%, Ethane ca. 16%, Propane 6% (rest butanes)





# How is ethene made?

1. Steam cracking of higher hydrocarbons



What are the consequences of a new *cheap* supply of ethane?

What is shale gas?

Methane ca. 75%, Ethane ca. 16%, Propane 6% (rest butanes)

Mn/Zn doped sepiolite systems (*J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1981, 401-402)

MgO/Na<sub>2</sub>O/SiO<sub>2</sub> (*Applied Catalysis*, 1988, **43**, 117-131)

Hydroxyapatite (*J. Catal.*, 2008, **259**, 183-189; butanol)

Tantalum oxide on silica (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1947, **69**, 593-599)

Various metal oxides on silica (*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Process Design and Development*, 1963, **2**, 45-51)

MgO/Na<sub>2</sub>O/SiO<sub>2</sub> (*J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1985, 1613-1614)

One pass system binary, ternary oxides— fluidised bed (Bhattacharyya *I&EC Process design and Dev.*, 1963, 45.)

1920s-30s Lebedev's single pass system



vs



Problem reproducing results.....



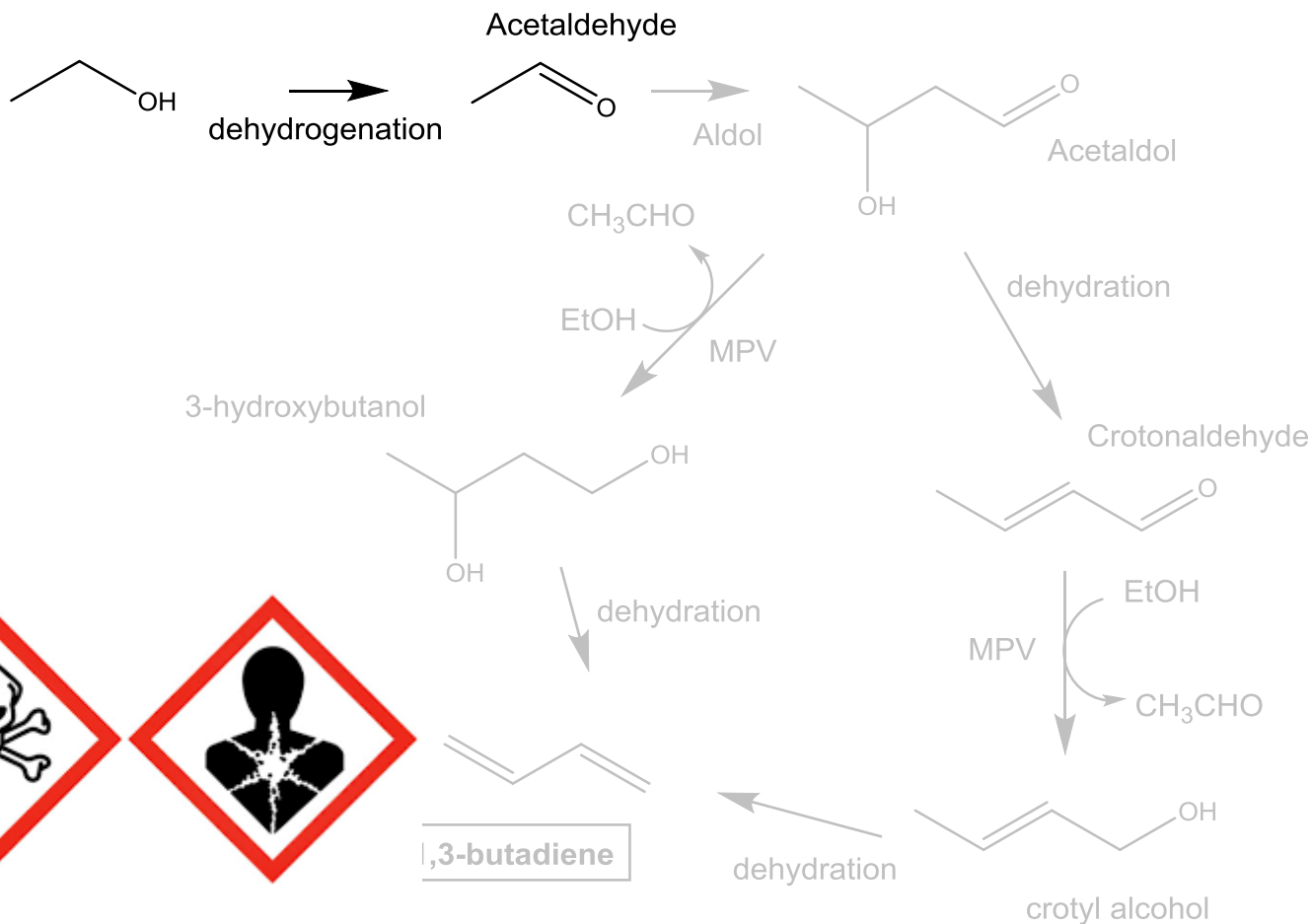
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Experimental sections very vague (if present!)

# 1,3-Butadiene Mechanism



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1,3-butadiene

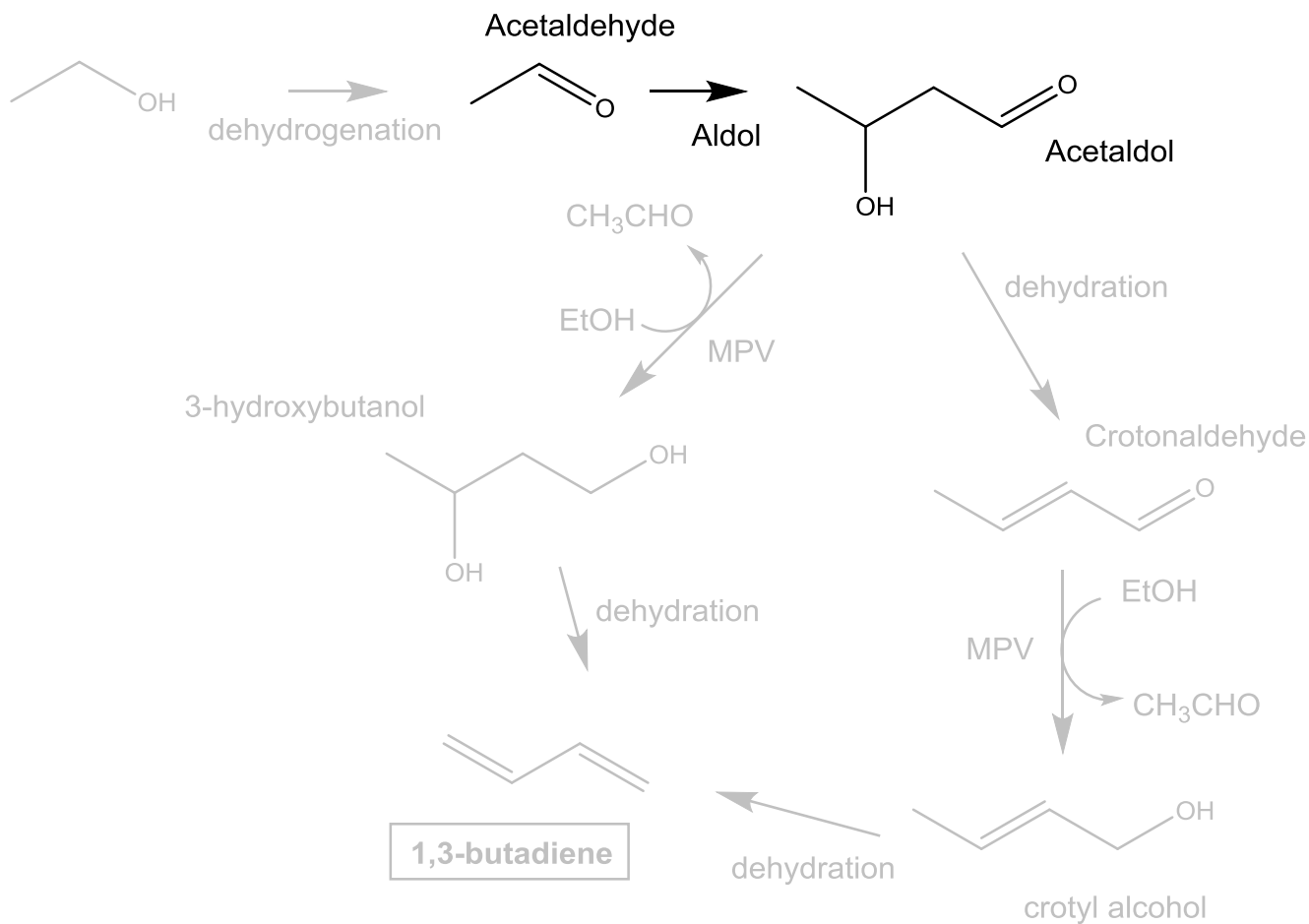


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# 1,3-Butadiene Mechanism



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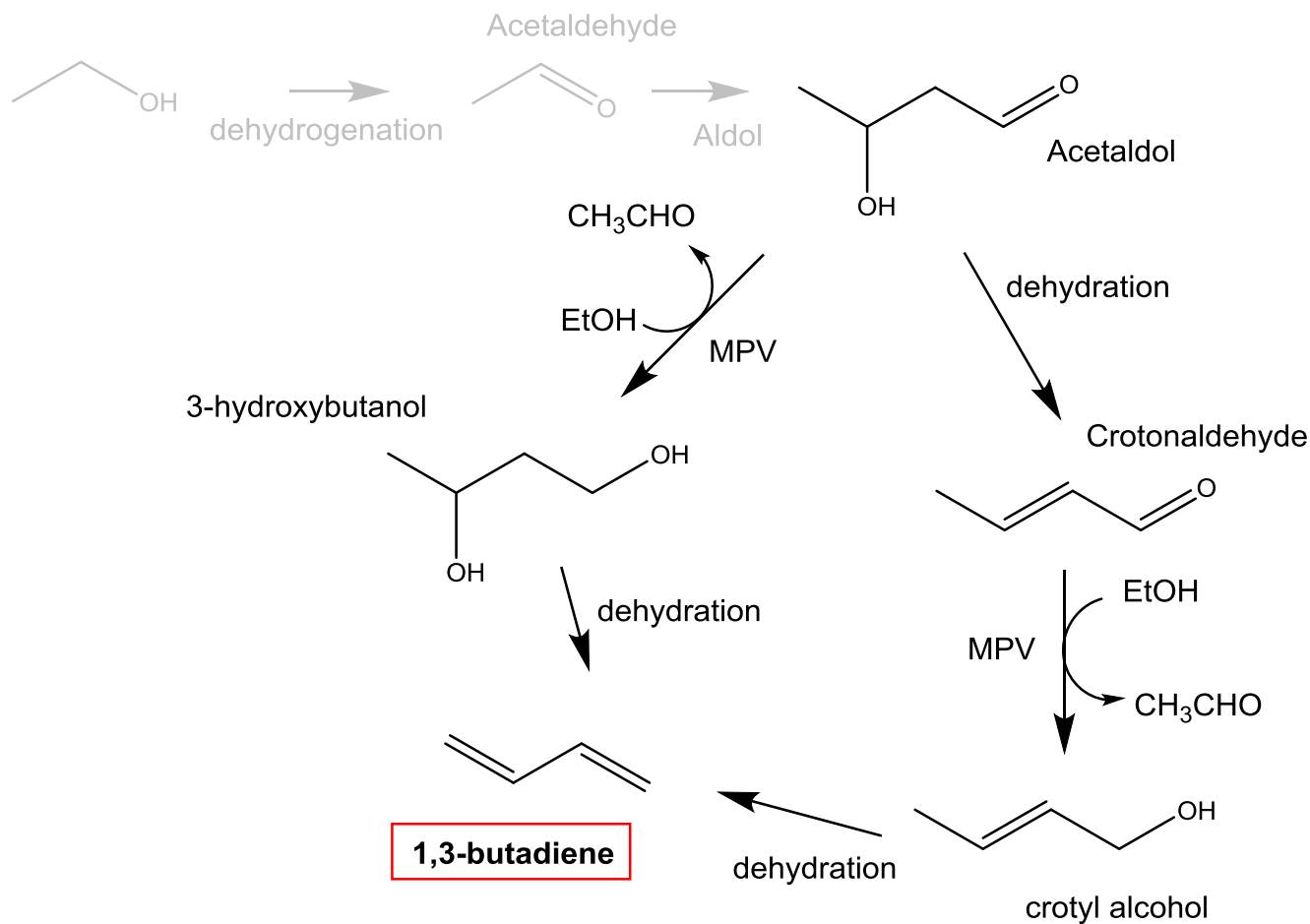


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# 1,3-Butadiene Mechanism



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# Back to basics

Catalyst Description	Conversion / %	Selectivity Measurements / %				
		1,3-BD	Ethylene	Acetaldehyde	Ether	1-butene
Co:Zn	17.0	6.5	29.8	47.4	16.1	0.4
Cu:Zn	29.0	20.9	42.1	30.1	4.6	2.2
Co:Zr	20.0	3.9	66.9	5.9	14.1	9.4
Cu:Co	17.0	10.8	39.3	37.6	10.9	1.4
Co:Mn	13.0	23.0	47.0	19.2	9.6	1.3
Ce:Zr	24.0	26.6	40.0	27.8	3.5	2.1
Hf:Zn	15.0	4.9	26.9	57.0	11.0	0.2
Mn:Zr	10.5	28.8	46.4	9.3	15.5	0
Cu:Mn	18.0	10.1	10.6	61.7	15.4	2.1
Mn:Zn	17.0	19.0	28.0	35.5	16.5	1.0
Zr:Zn	46.0	38.9	41.1	10.3	6.7	3.0



# Back to basics

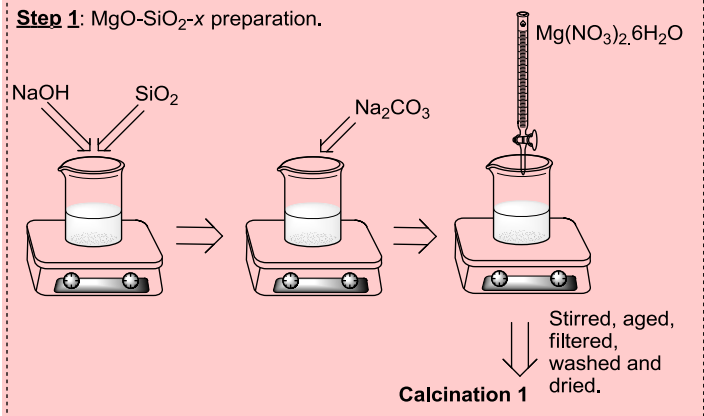
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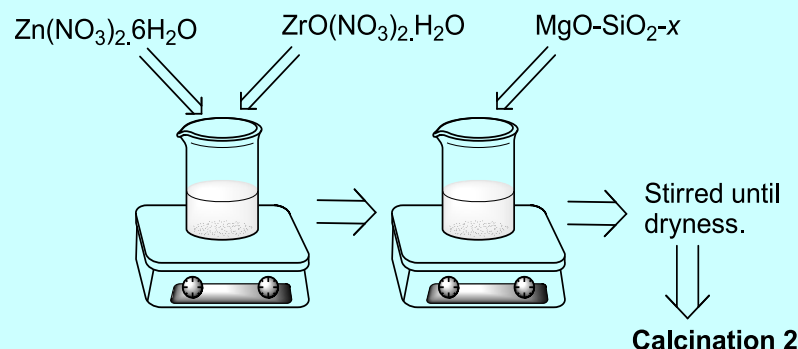


# Water/ZrZn/MgO:SiO<sub>2</sub>-1 system

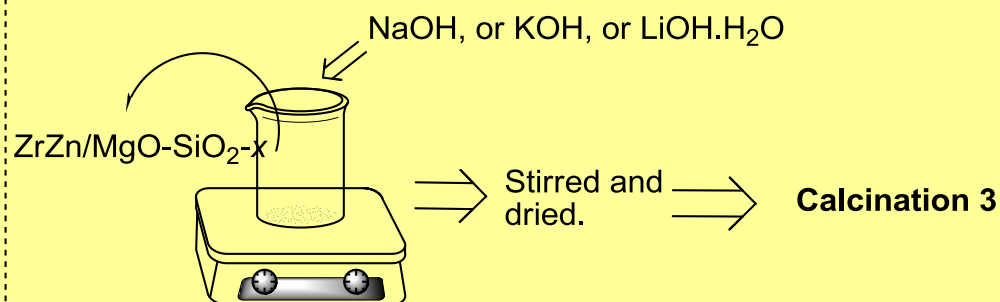
## Step 1: MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-x preparation.



## Step 2: ZrZn/MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-x preparation.



## Step 3: γ-Me/ZrZn/MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-x preparation.



Previous systems too much ethene/diethyl ether use MgO.

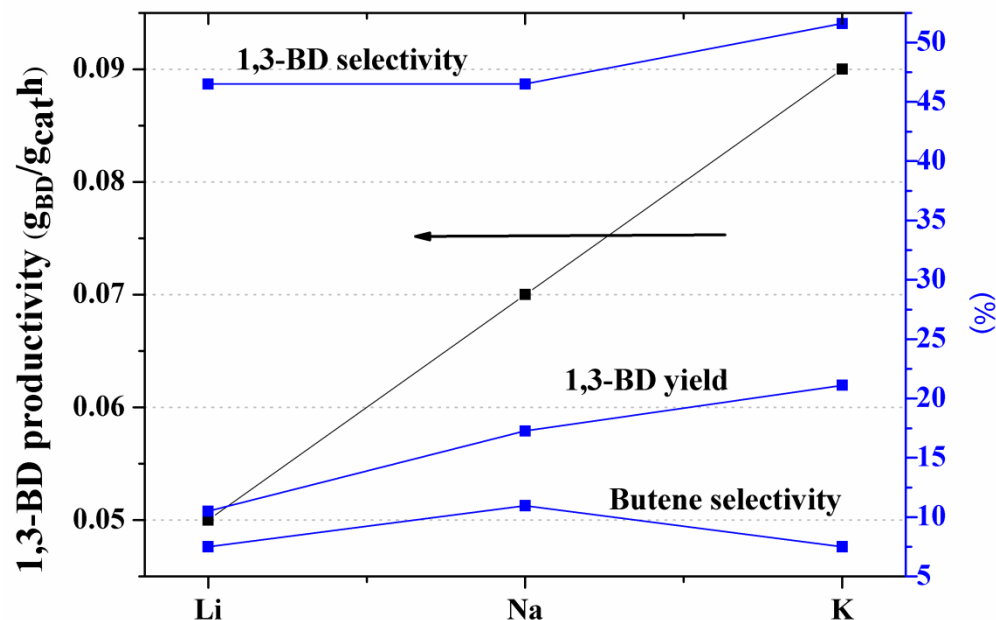
I do not like when we cannot repeat work in the literature..... systematic

# Water/ZrZn/MgOSiO<sub>2</sub>-1 system

**Table 1** Catalytic results for 3 h of time on stream temperature 375 °C and WHSV = 0.62 h<sup>-1</sup>.

Entry	Catalyst	X (%)	Selectivities (%mol)					1,3-BD yield (%mol)	1,3-BD productivity (g <sub>BD</sub> /g <sub>cat</sub> ·h)
			1,3-BD	AcH	Ethene	DEE	Butene		
1	ZrZn/MgO-SiO <sub>2</sub> -1	40	35.9	8.3	32.2	9.8	9.2	30.4	0.13
2	1.2-Na/ZrZn/MgO-SiO <sub>2</sub> -1	24	46.5	13.1	18.7	4.6	10.9	17.3	0.07
3	Water/ZrZn/MgO-SiO <sub>2</sub> -1	46	32.5	6.6	34.9	10.4	10.6	26.8	0.11

# Comparison of NaOH effect with KOH and LiOH



**81  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$**

**219  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$**

**243  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$**

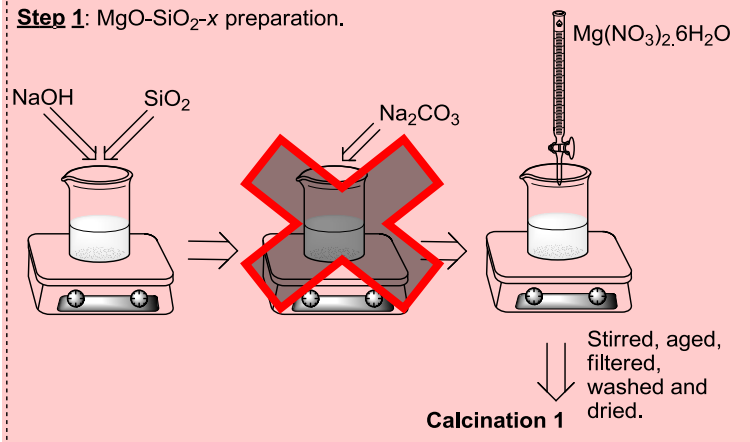
Both systems were effective in the suppression of ethanol dehydration, presenting lower selectivities to ethene and DEE.

The best performance observed for  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  containing samples may be related to its higher surface area.

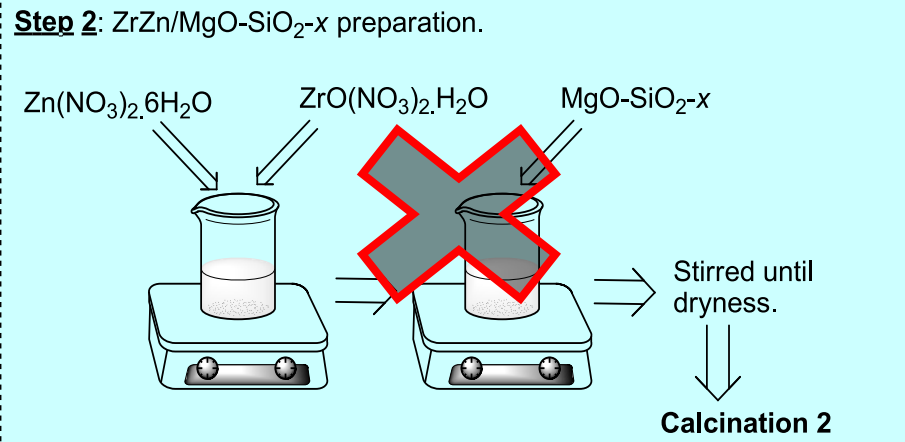
Change 1 variable this has an effect on another

# Effect of calcination step removal

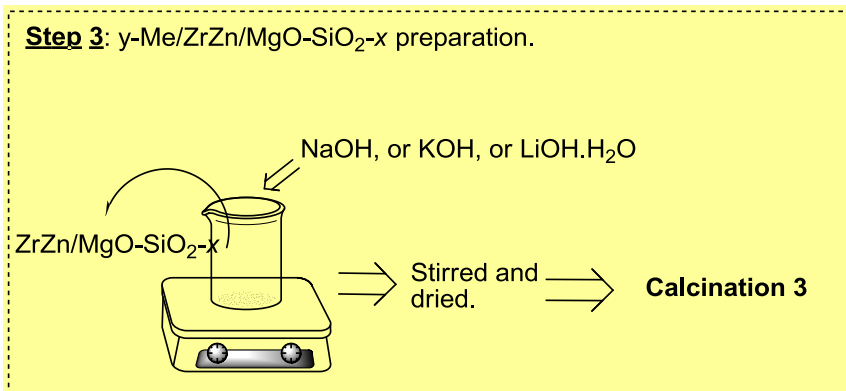
## Step 1: $\text{MgO-SiO}_2\text{-x}$ preparation.



## Step 2: $\text{ZrZn/MgO-SiO}_2\text{-x}$ preparation.



## Step 3: $\gamma\text{-Me/ZrZn/MgO-SiO}_2\text{-x}$ preparation.

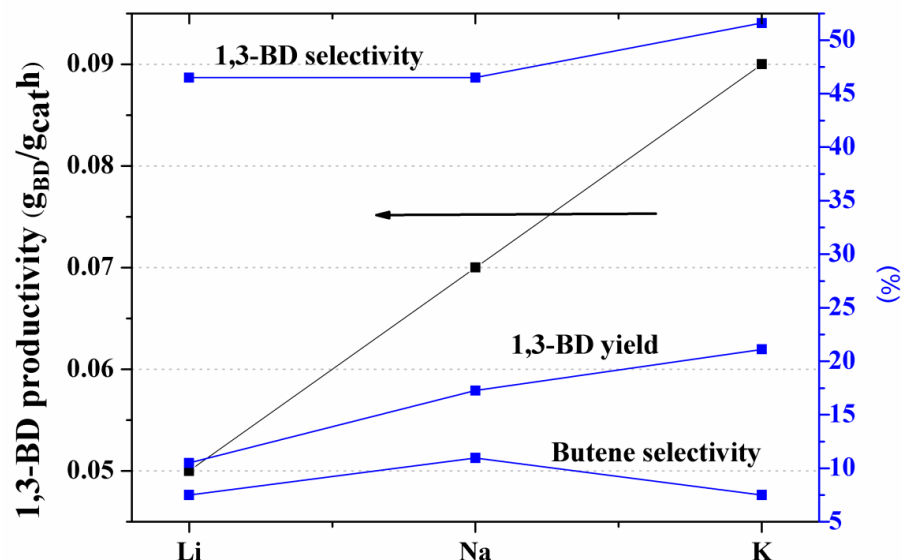


Or just one calcination

Typically 3 but more energy intensive

# Comparison of NaOH effect with KOH and LiOH

## 3 calcination steps

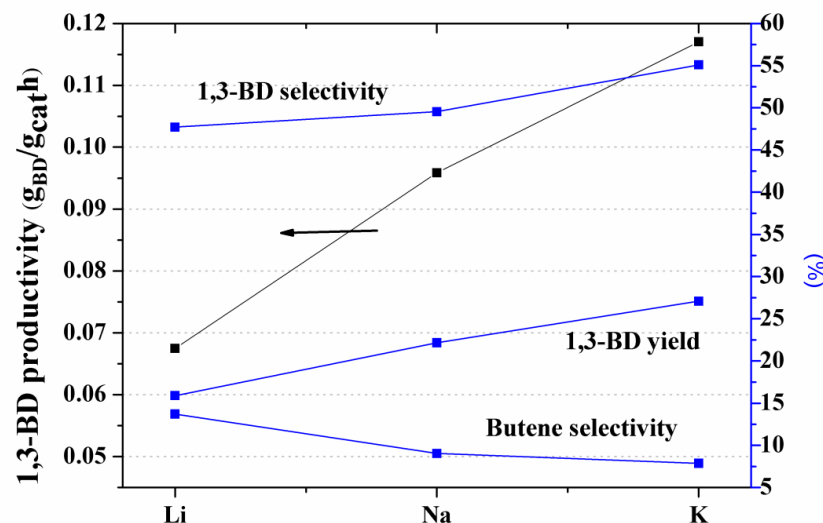


81 m<sup>2</sup>/g

219 m<sup>2</sup>/g

243 m<sup>2</sup>/g

## 1 calcination step



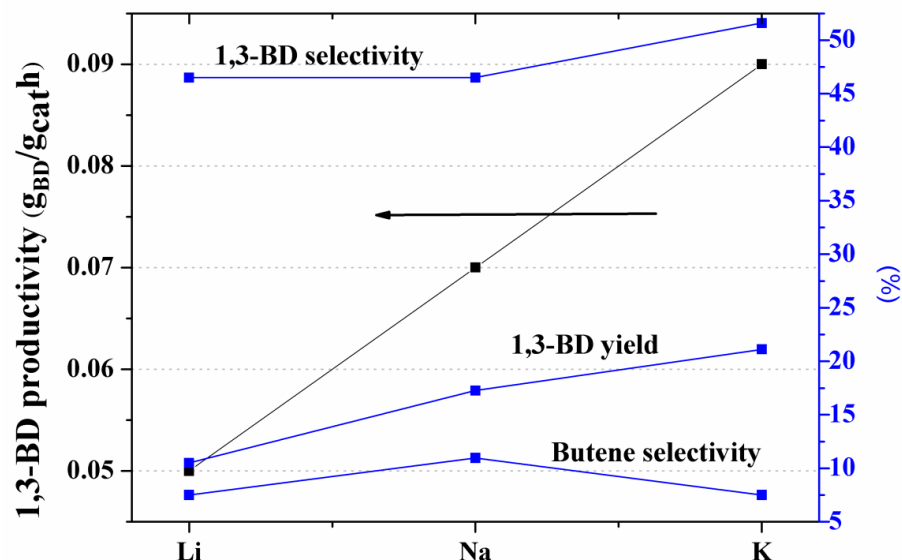
210 m<sup>2</sup>/g

290 m<sup>2</sup>/g

305 m<sup>2</sup>/g

# Comparison of NaOH effect with KOH and LiOH

## 3 calcination steps

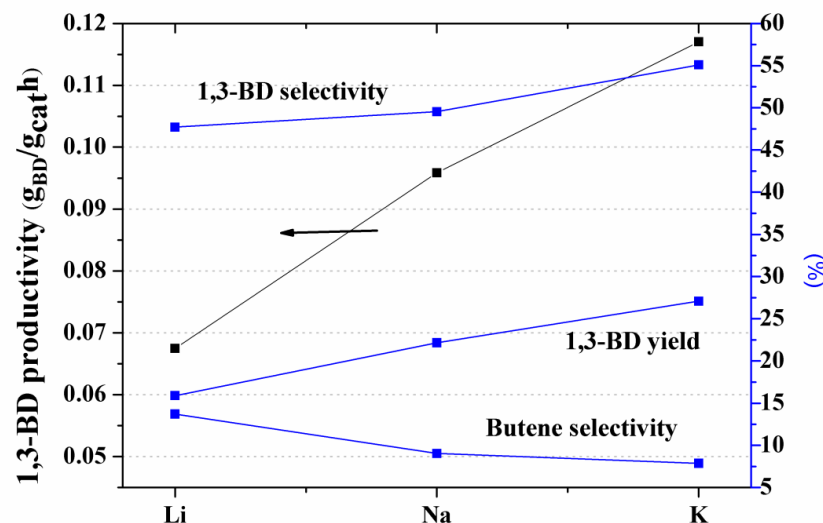


81 m<sup>2</sup>/g

219 m<sup>2</sup>/g

243 m<sup>2</sup>/g

## 1 calcination step



210 m<sup>2</sup>/g

290 m<sup>2</sup>/g

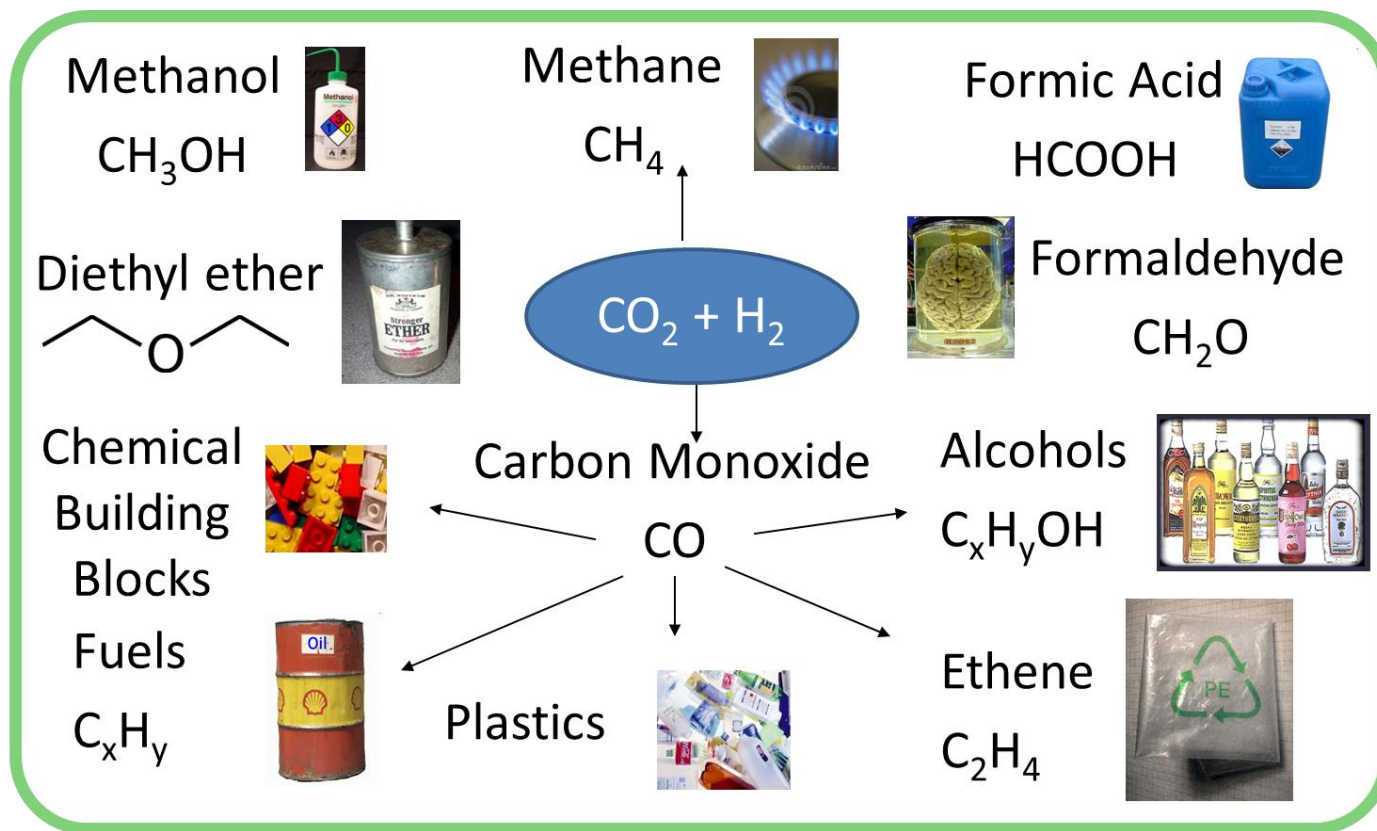
305 m<sup>2</sup>/g

Where are we going with this?

# CO<sub>2</sub> UTILISATION



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We do need a sustainable source of H<sub>2</sub>

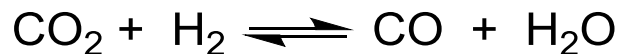


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# CO<sub>2</sub> conversion – it's not that simple

## Reverse water-gas shift reaction

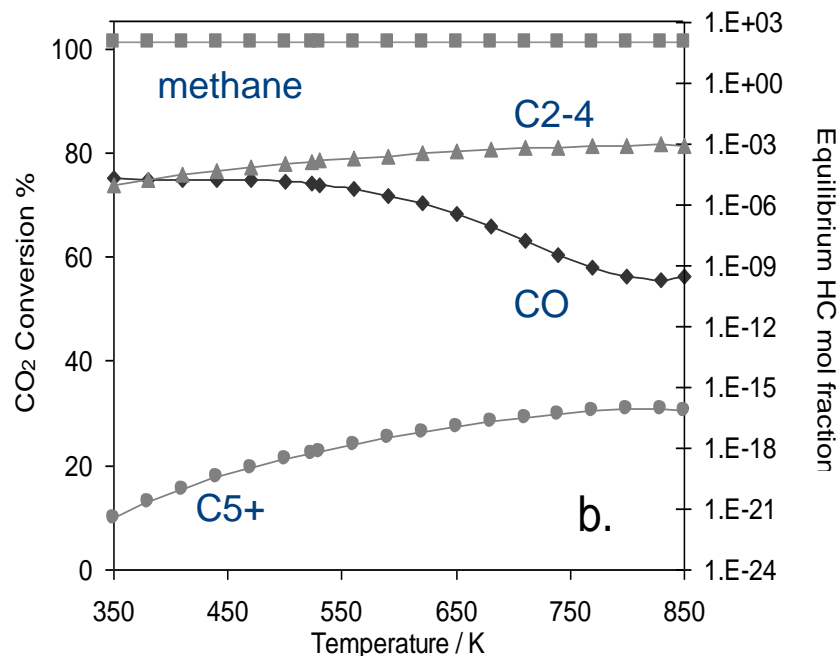
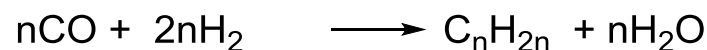
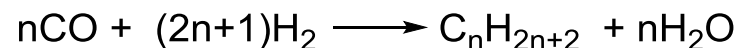


thermodynamically unfavorable:

$$\Delta G_r^o = 20.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

So it would be best to work with CO rather than CO<sub>2</sub>. But CO<sub>2</sub> is what we are emitting in the atmosphere!

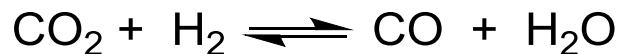
## Fischer-Tropsch reactions



the most thermodynamically stable product is methane

# Our approach

## Reverse water-gas shift reaction



thermodynamically unfavorable:

$$\Delta G_r^\circ = 20.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

life cycle  
assessment

catalyst  
synthesis

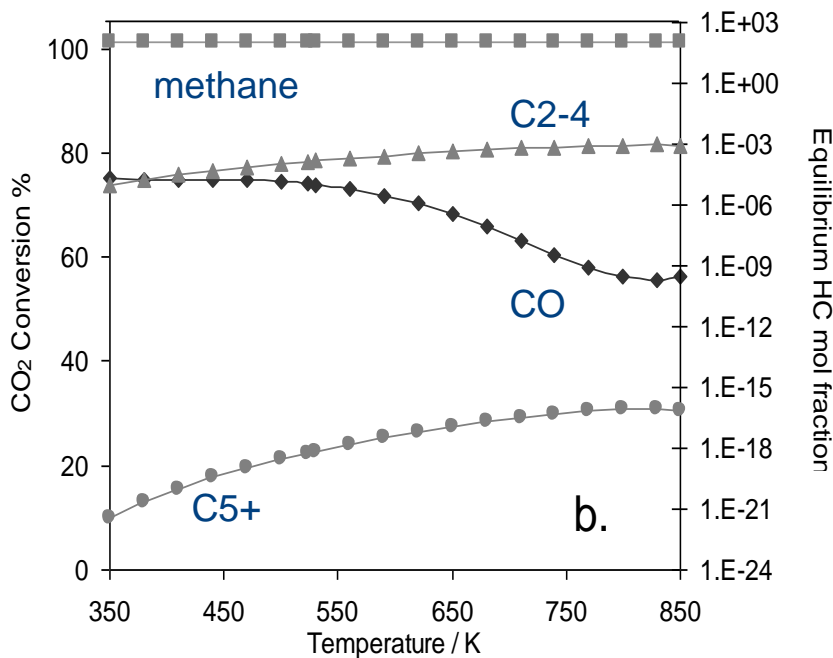
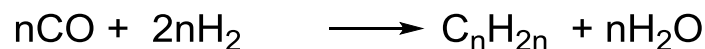
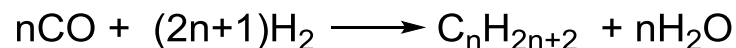
process  
optimization

catalyst  
optimization



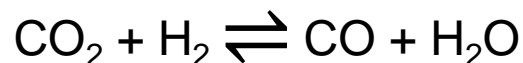
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## Fischer-Tropsch reactions

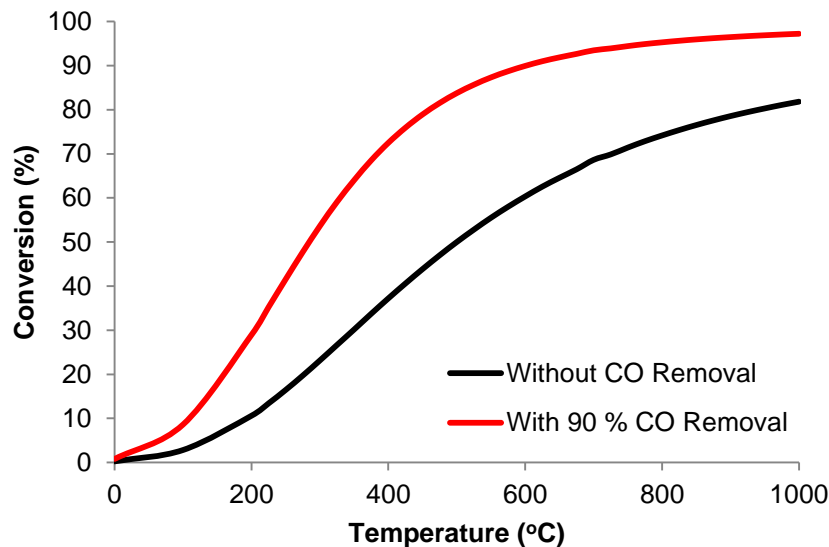


the most thermodynamically stable product is methane

Reverse water-gas shift reaction



The reverse water-gas shift reaction is an equilibrium process and as such  $\text{CO}_2$  conversion is limited by thermodynamics



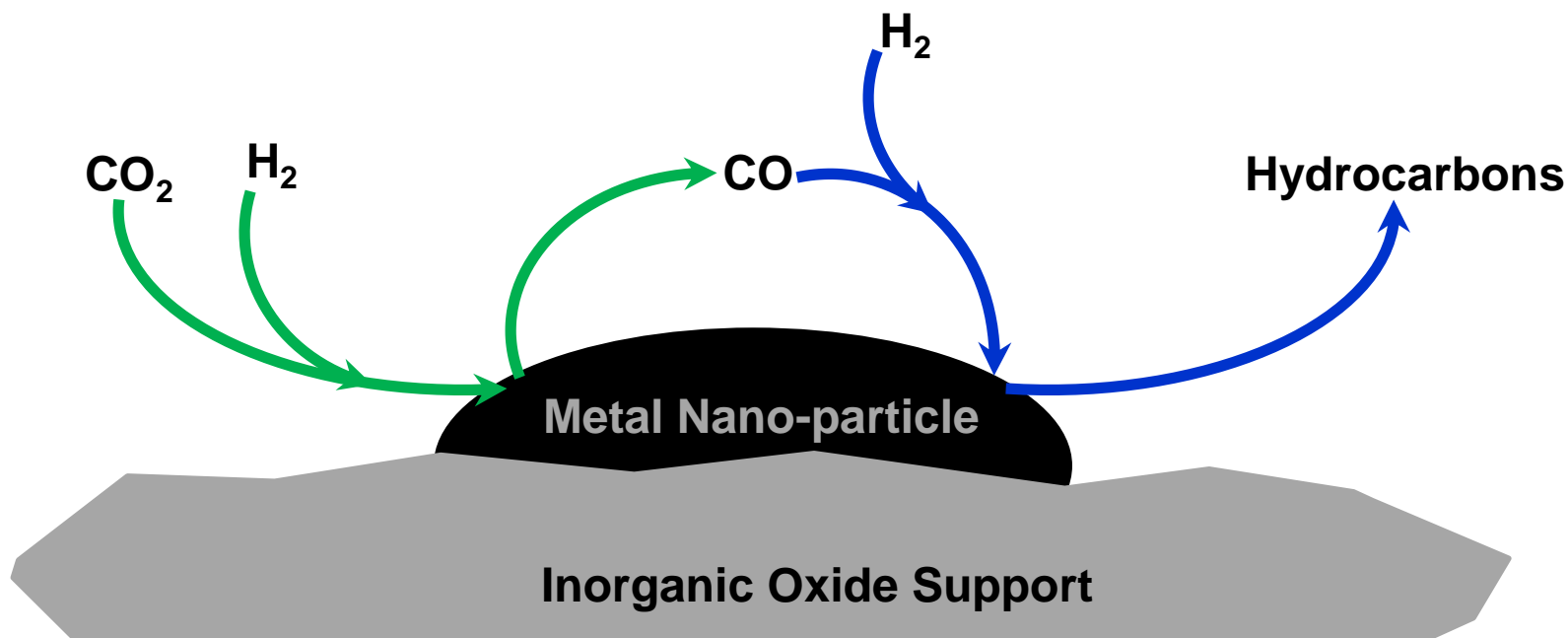
# CO<sub>2</sub> to hydrocarbons

CO<sub>2</sub> can be converted to hydrocarbons through a two-step process

## RWGS



## Fischer-Tropsch



The majority of previous work has been conducted using 'traditional' Fischer-Tropsch catalysts based on iron and cobalt

iron 26 <b>Fe</b> 55.845	cobalt 27 <b>Co</b> 58.933
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

**Cobalt**

## Iron

- Active for both the RWGS reaction and FT
- Relatively high selectivity towards higher hydrocarbons and olefins
- lower conversions observed when CO<sub>2</sub> is used as a carbon feedstock

- High activity for the FT process
- Higher chain growth probability than iron for FT
- Not RWGS active
- Generally high (>75%) selectivity to methane with CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation

The majority of previous work has been conducted using 'traditional' Fischer-Tropsch catalysts based on iron and cobalt

iron 26 <b>Fe</b> 55.845	cobalt 27 <b>Co</b> 58.933
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**Cobalt**

## Iron

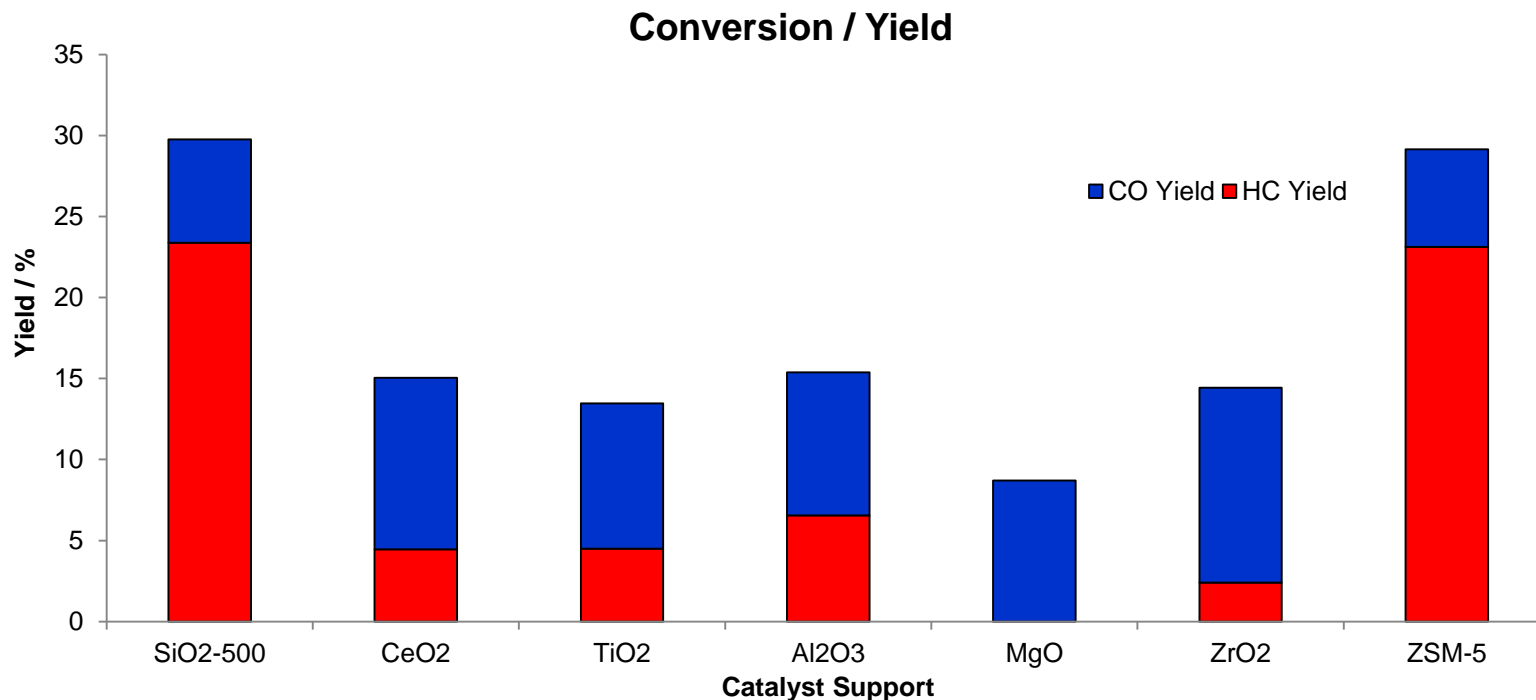
- Active for both the RWGS reaction and FT
- Relatively high selectivity towards higher hydrocarbons and olefins
- lower conversions observed when CO<sub>2</sub> is used as a carbon feedstock

- High activity for the FT process
- Higher chain growth probability than iron for FT
- Not RWGS active
- Generally high (>75%) selectivity to methane with CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation



Cobalt-based catalysts have also been shown to give high CO selectivities. Variation of the catalyst support can play an important role in directing selectivity away from hydrocarbon products.

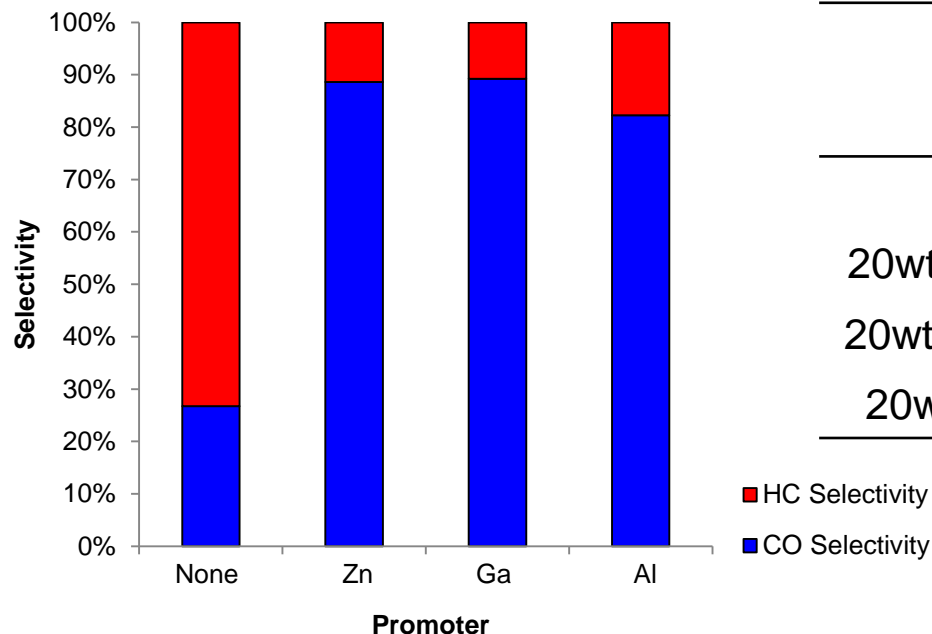
Catalyst:  
20wt%Co/3wt%Mo/1wt%Na





# Promoter Addition ( $\text{SiO}_2$ supported)

The addition of the appropriate promoters can greatly improve selectivity towards CO or HCs.



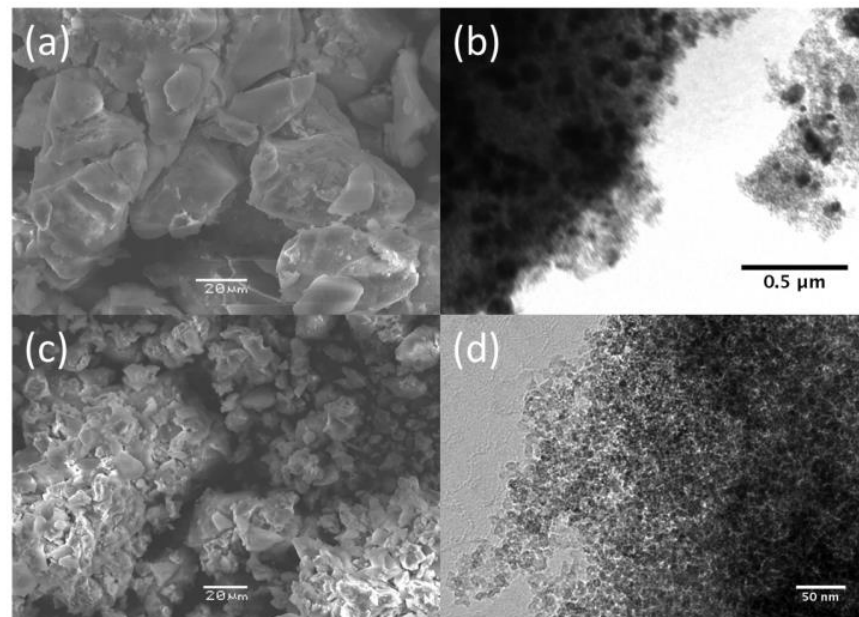
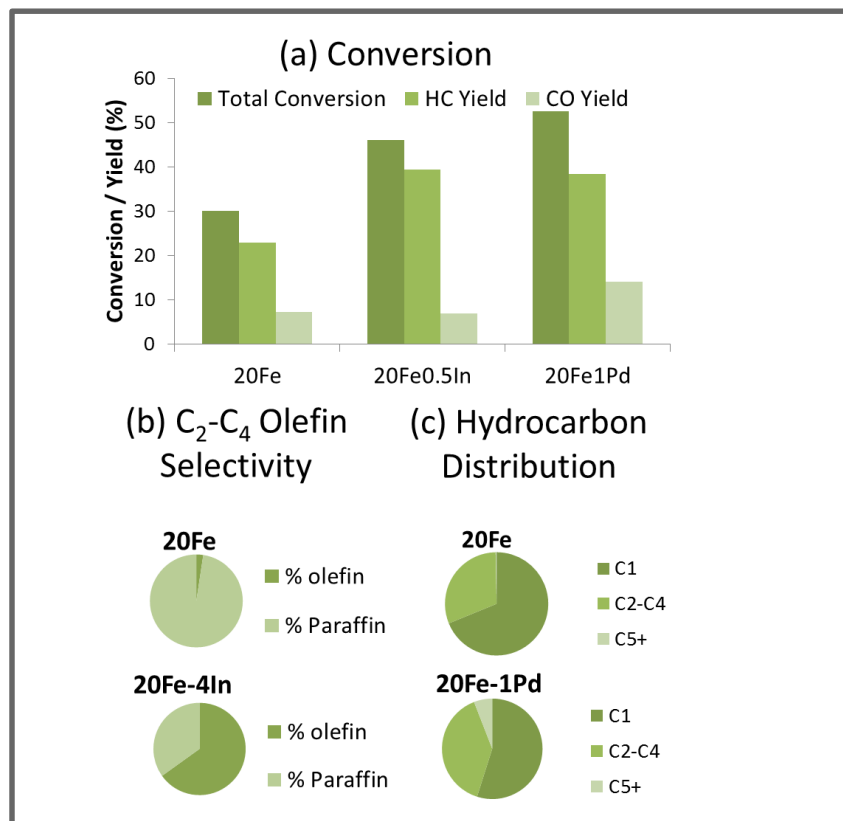
Catalyst Composition	CO <sub>2</sub> Conversion (%)
20wt%Fe/SiO <sub>2</sub> -250Å	35
20wt%Fe/10wt%Zn/SiO <sub>2</sub> -250Å	8
20wt%Fe/10wt%Ga/SiO <sub>2</sub> -250Å	7
20wt%Fe/1wt%Al/SiO <sub>2</sub> -250Å	28

T = 370 °C

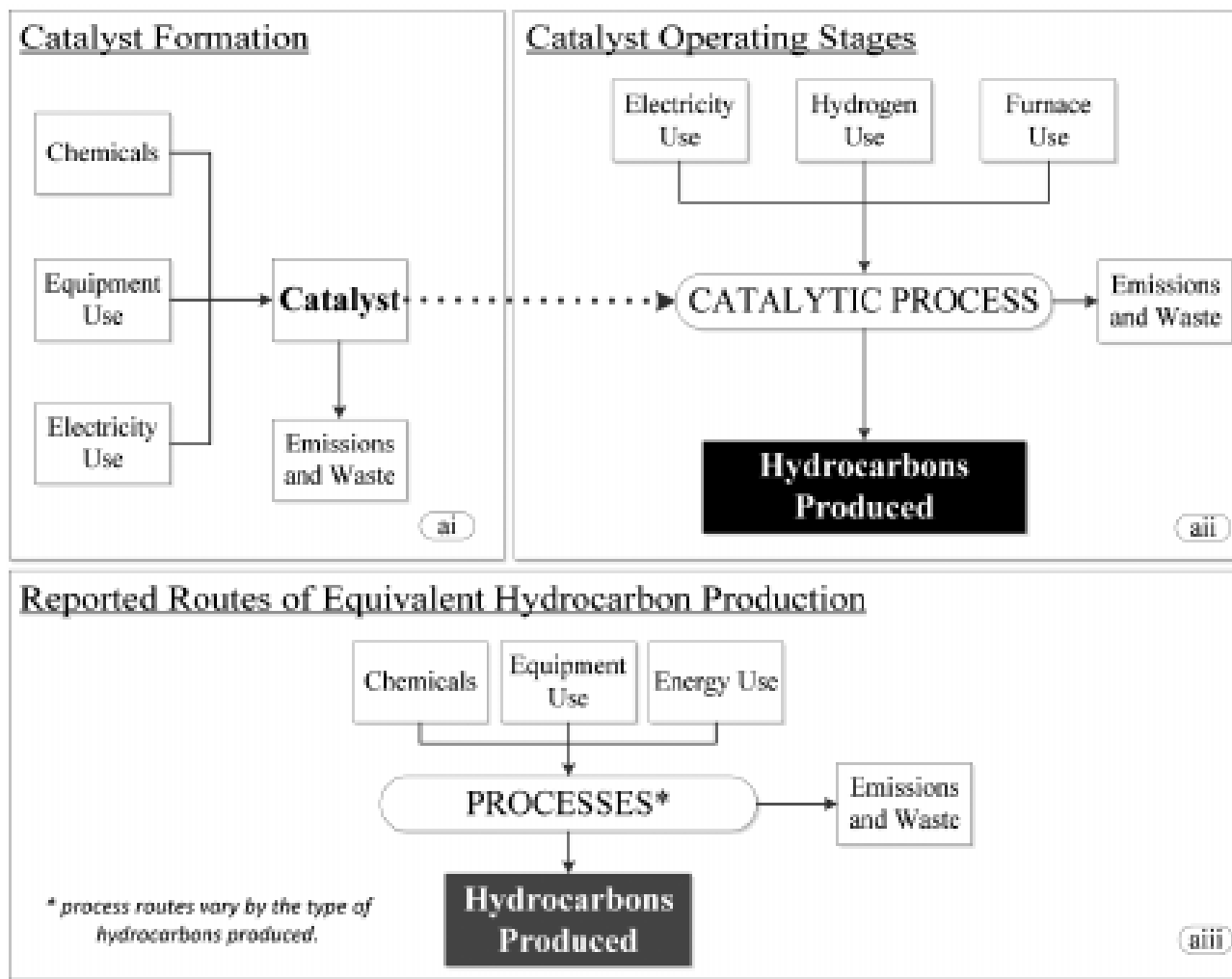
HC selectivity of Fe/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst can be improved by the addition of promoters.

# Iron Catalysts: Palladium Promotion

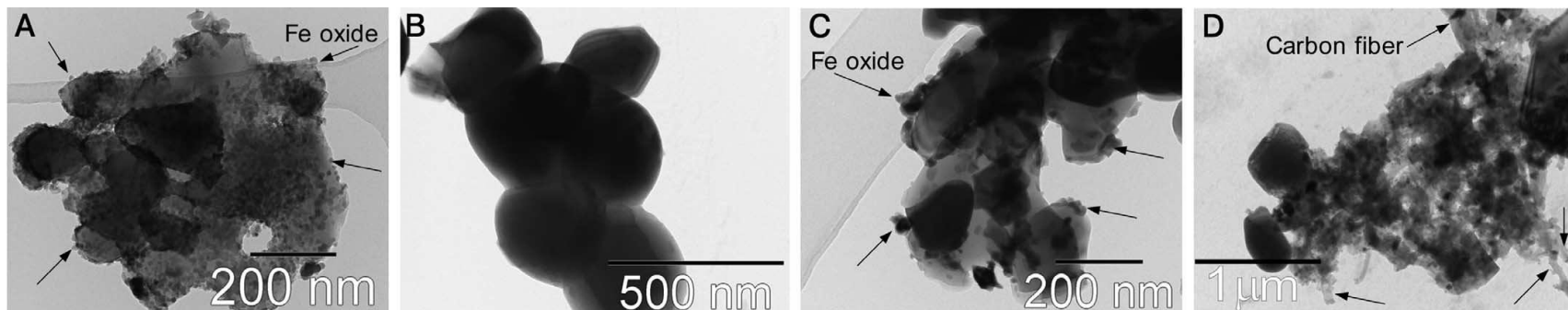
The addition of palladium was found to improve the performance of an iron-silica catalyst system



# Iron Catalysts: Palladium Promotion



# Why iron and carbon?



**Table 1.** Product selectivity and catalytic activity at 1 bar. Catalytic tests were performed at 350°C and a H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio of 1; results after 15 hours on stream are shown (CO conversion: 0.5 to 1.0%). The product mixture that was analyzed consisted of C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> hydrocarbons. Iron time yield (FTY) represents moles of CO converted to hydrocarbons per mol of Fe per second; %C is defined as carbon atoms in a product with respect to the total number of C atoms in the hydrocarbon mixture. CO<sub>2</sub> was not measured.

Sample	FTY (10 <sup>-6</sup> mol <sub>CO</sub> /g <sub>Fe</sub> ·s)	Selectivity (%C)			
		CH <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> –C <sub>4</sub> olefins	C <sub>2</sub> –C <sub>4</sub> paraffins	C <sub>5</sub> +
Fe/CNF	1.41	23	61	4	12
Fe/α-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (12 wt % Fe)	0.65	22	61	4	13
Fe/β-SiC	6.52	31	58	4	7
Fe/SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.14	38	56	5	1
Fe/γ-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.07	54	44	2	0
Fe-Ti-Zn-K	0.13	83	16	1	0
Fe-Cu-K-SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.20	43	46	2	9
Bulk Fe	0.08	76	21	2	1



# Fe-nanoparticle – CNT catalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion

## Conventional process:

complex, inefficient, expensive

CNT  
synthesis

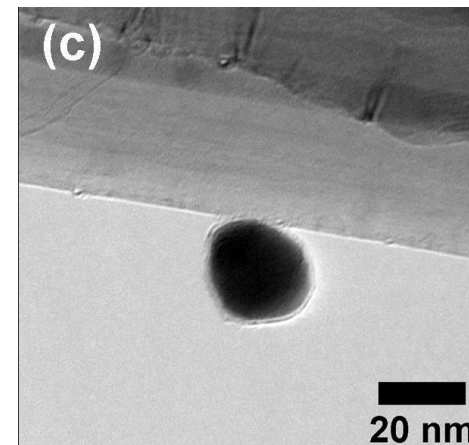
removal of  
residual iron

impregnation  
of Fe catalyst

drying and  
calcination



catalyst activation

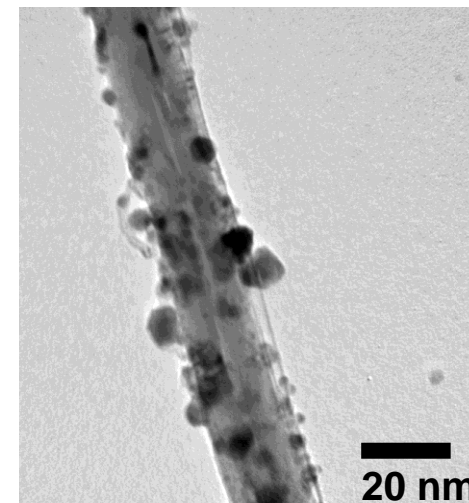


## One-step process:

Fe@CNT  
synthesis

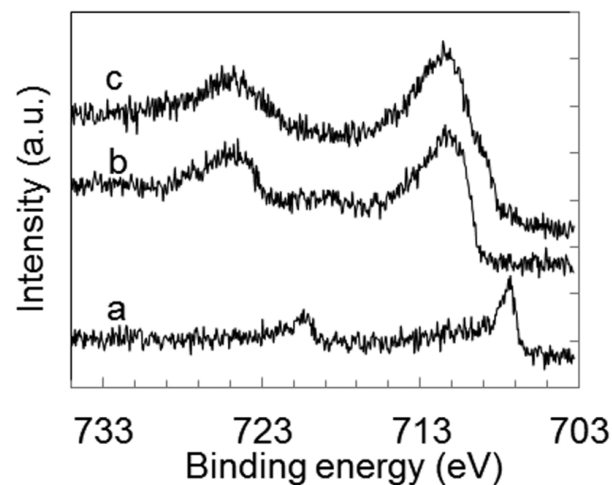
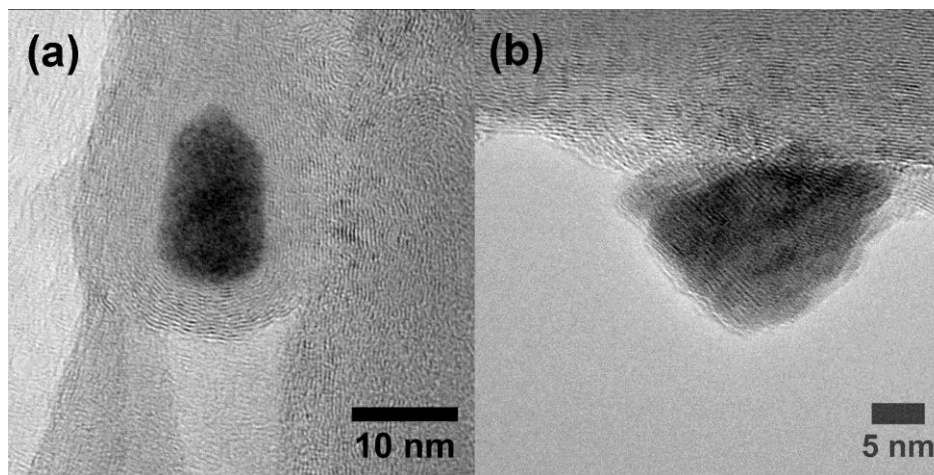
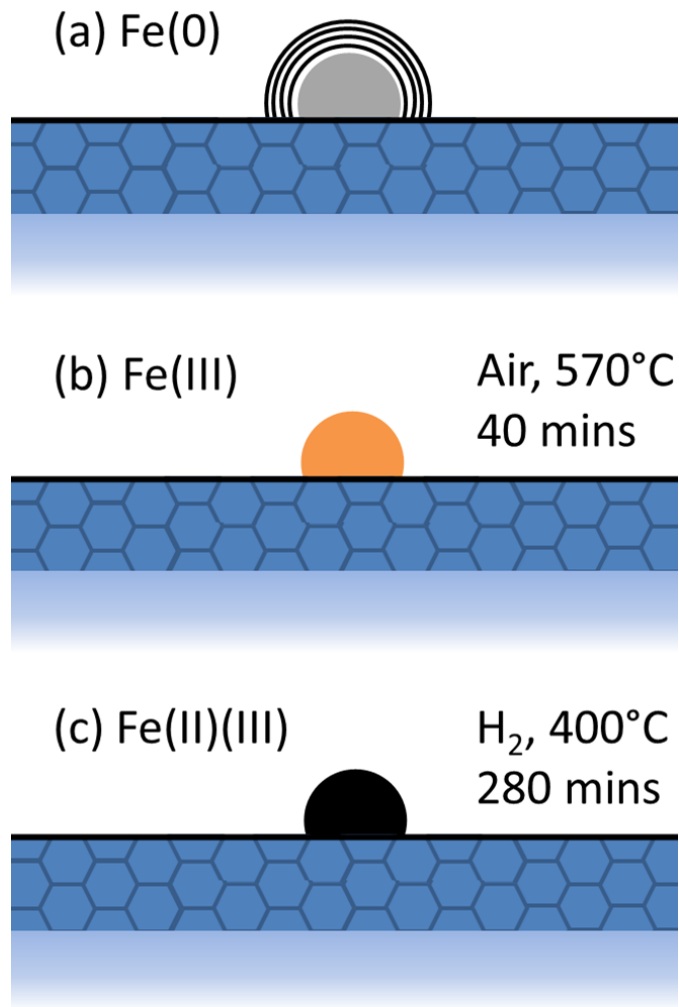


Fe nanoparticles used to  
synthesize the CNTs are re-used  
as catalysts for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion



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# Fe@CNT: Fe nanocatalyst activation



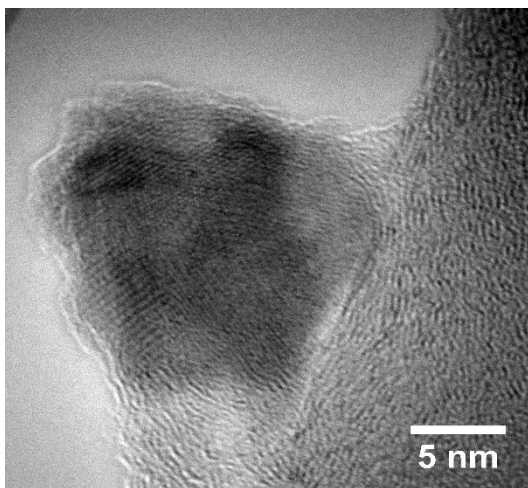


# CO<sub>2</sub> conversion using Fe@CNTs

Ambient pressure, 370 °C, 4 hours

Catalyst	FTY (10 <sup>-5</sup> ) mol/g s	CO	CH <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2-4</sub>	C <sub>5+</sub>
<b>Fe@CNT</b>	11	45.1	29.3	24.3	1.3
Fe decorated CNT	3.0	82.4	12.4	5.2	0

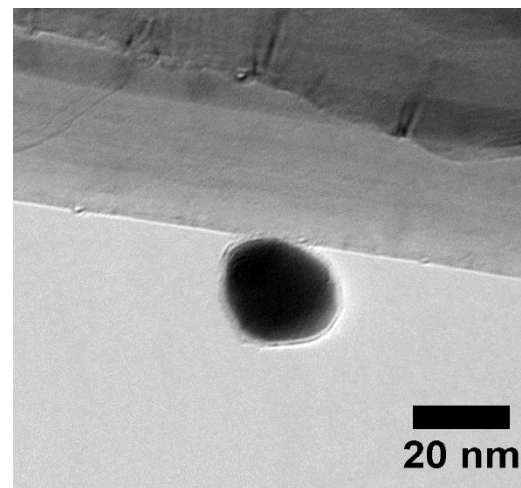
Fe@CNT



*in-situ* Fe deposition



Fe decorated CNT



*ex-situ* Fe deposition



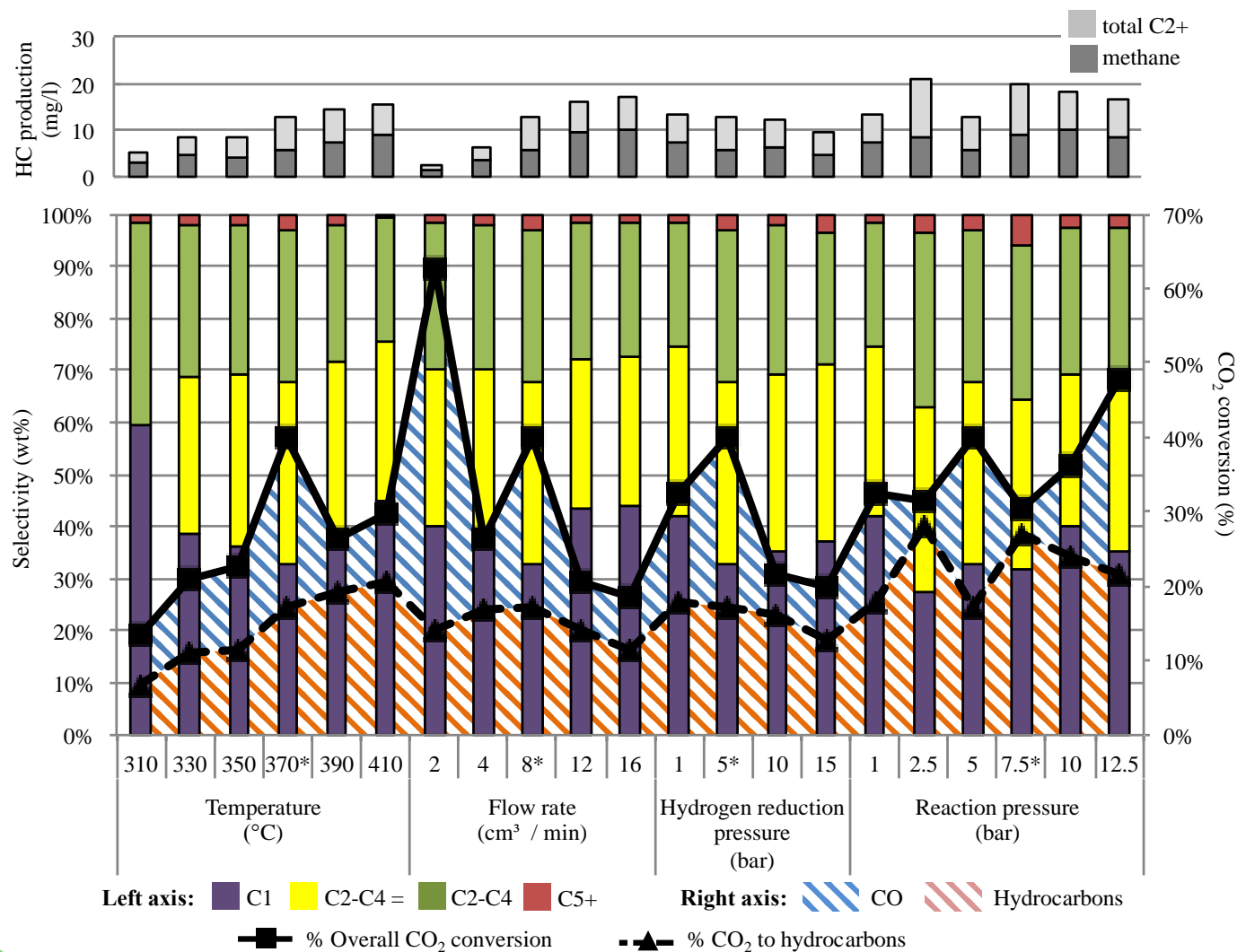
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*Cat. Sci. Technol.* 2013, 1153  
Patent filed

# Catalytic variable optimisation



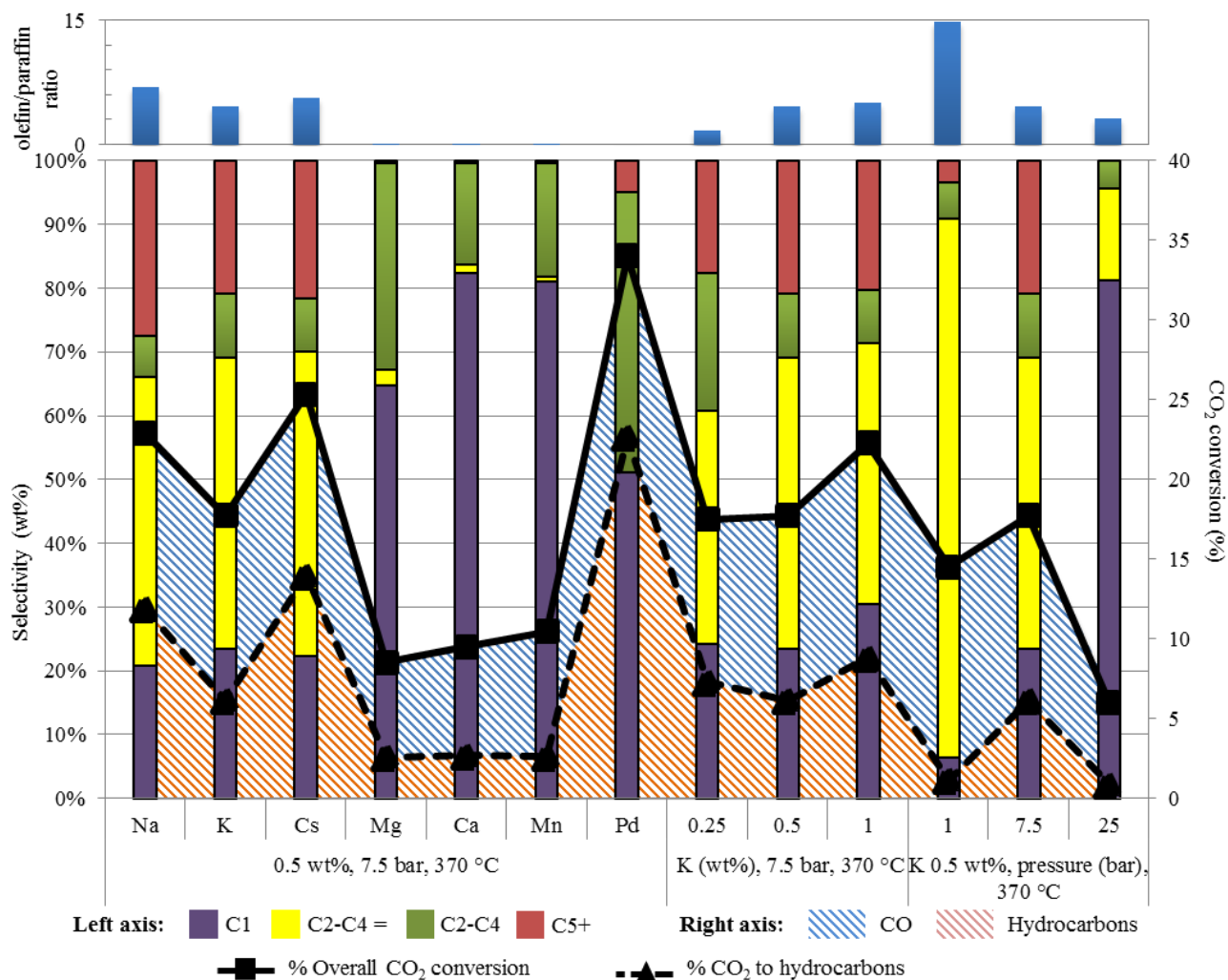
UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



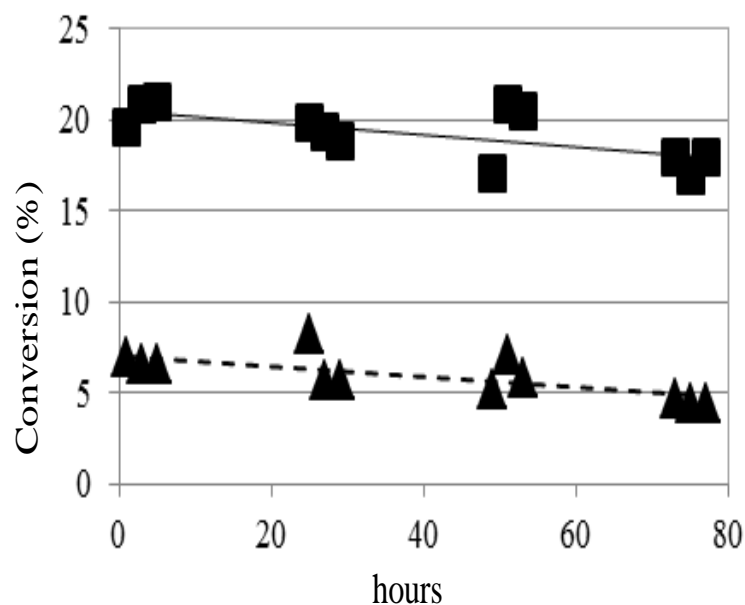
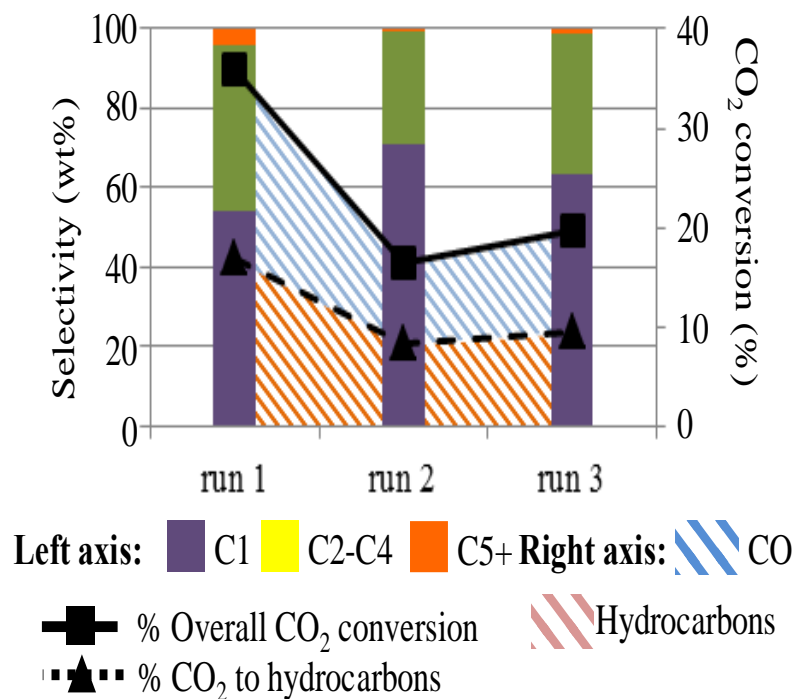
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# Promoter investigation



# Longevity and recyclability



Area for improvement

- Industrial relevant catalysts prepared and tested. Selectivity very sensitive to preparation conditions and operational parameters
- We have prepared highly efficient iron and cobalt nanoparticle catalysts using a one-step method for the conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to hydrocarbons, with high conversion and selectivity to long hydrocarbons using promoters.
- Life Cycle Assessment was used to optimise catalyst preparation, promoters and process parameters to minimise embodied impacts and maximise hydrocarbon offsets. We have shown there is a credible route towards carbon neutral carbon dioxide utilisation.

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Dr Daniel Minnett

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**Any questions?**

**Feel free to contact me if you want  
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