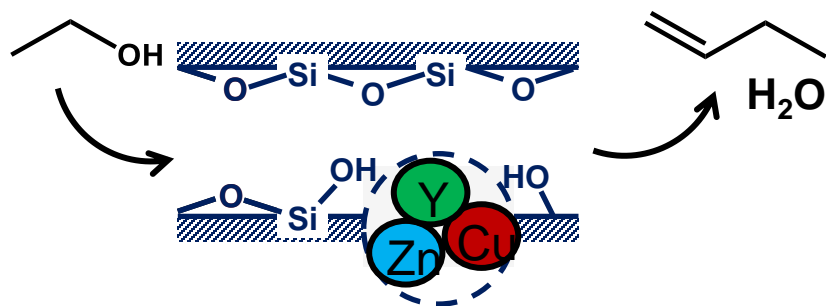


# Quantification of Active Sites for Ethanol Upgrading over Yttrium-Containing Beta Zeotypes

James W. Harris

Department of Chemical and  
Biological Engineering  
The University of Alabama



Halder Topsoe Catalysis Forum  
Gilleleje, Denmark  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# The University of Alabama

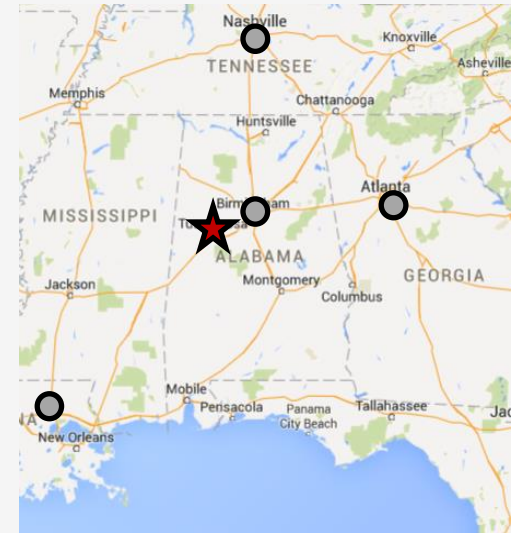
Tuscaloosa, AL

**Capstone state public university of Alabama (est. 1831)**

**1000 acre residential campus**

**37,842 students (2020)**

**Tuscaloosa, AL (pop. 101,129)**





# The University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL



- **3<sup>rd</sup> oldest engineering program in the US (1837)**
- **Chemical engineering program over 100 years old (1910)**
  - **>600 UG students; 6<sup>th</sup> largest in US & Canada**
  - **~55 PhD Students, 19 Faculty**

Ranked #1 for **Goldwater Scholars** since 2007

Often ranked in the top 5 in the nation for **National Merit Finalists**

# The University of Alabama

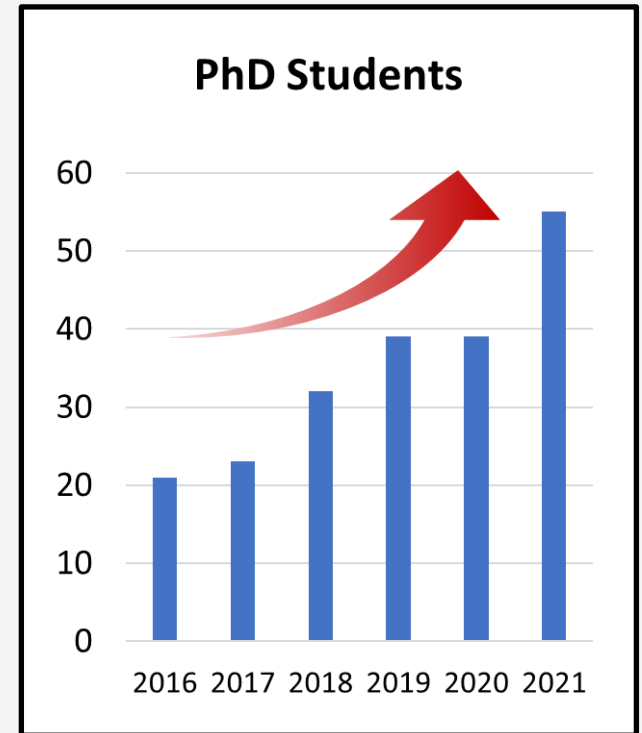
Tuscaloosa, AL

## Rapid Expansion of Faculty Expertise

- 8 assistant professors
- ~30% of the faculty have received NSF-CAREER Awards

## A Period of Unprecedented Growth

- Number of PhD students up 260% in over five years
- External research funding growing at an average pace of 36% per year over the last five years





# Harris Laboratory Personnel

## Research Group

### 1 Postdoc:

Dr. Adam Twombly

### 6 PhD Students:

Alex Minne

Syd Foster

Ethan Iaia

**Shivangi Borate**

Elyse Kimpiab

Britney Mack

### 5 B.S. ChBE students

Treycen Garton

Adam Honson

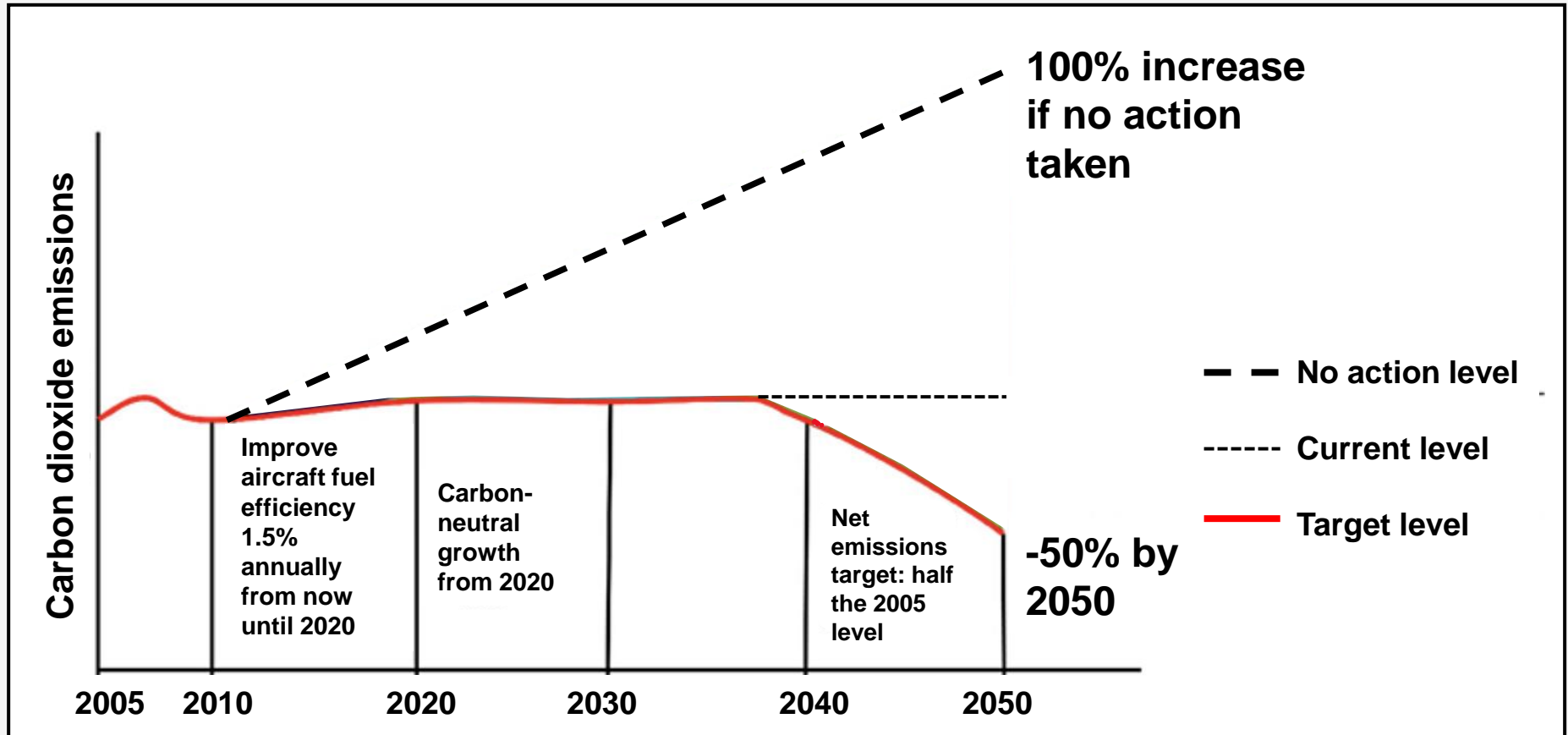
Mary Elizabeth Martin

Gabe Miller

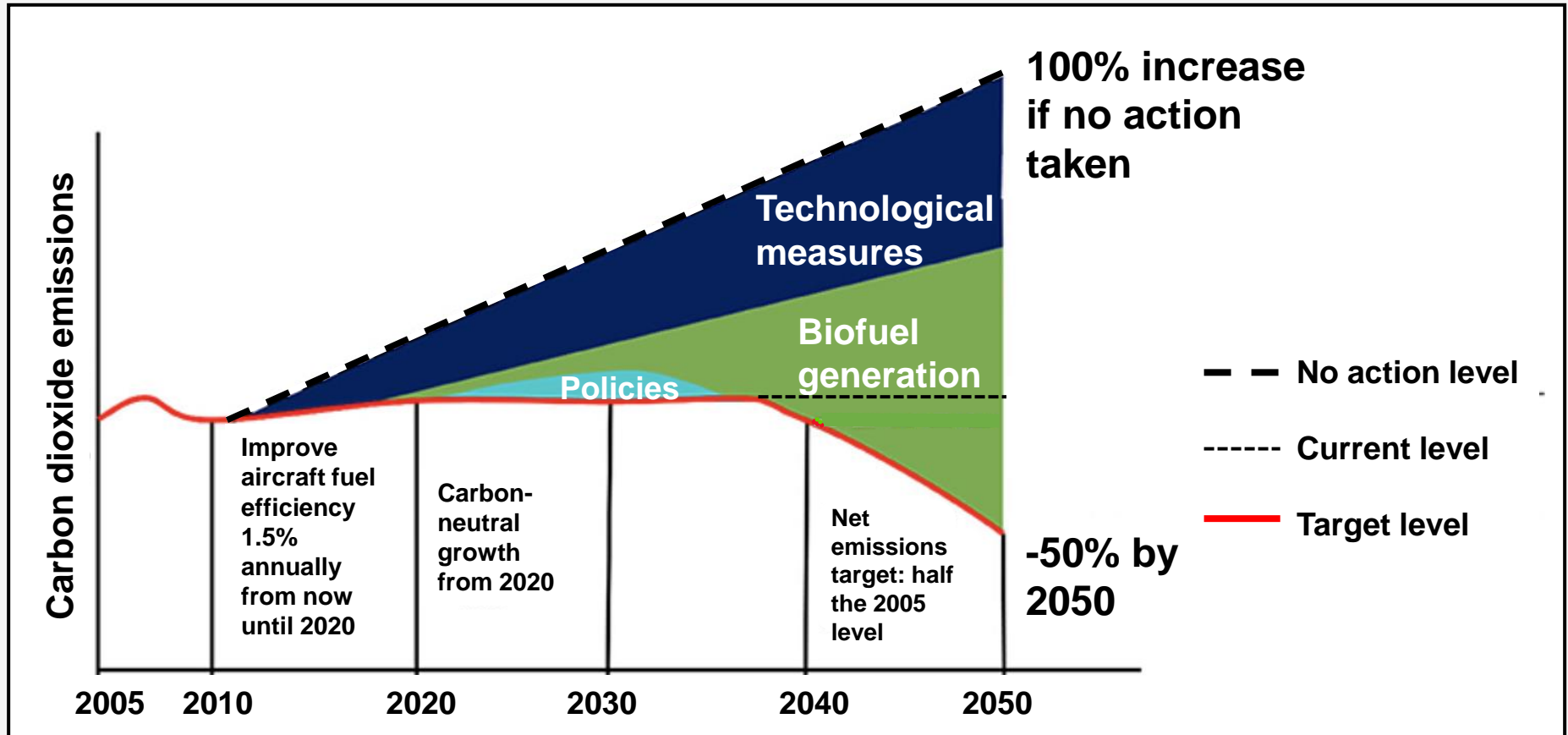
Katherine Perkinson



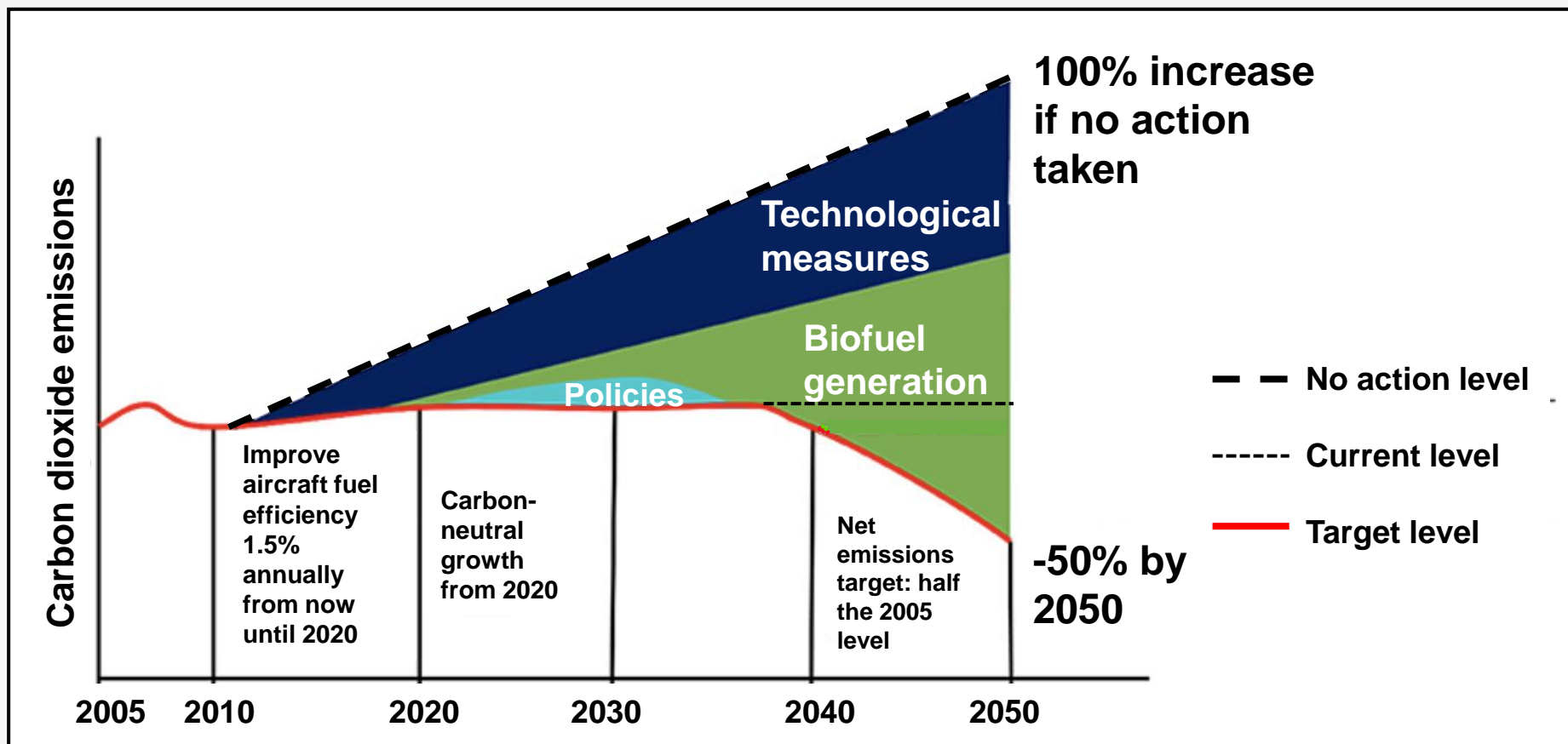
# IATA's target net carbon emission



# IATA's target net carbon emission



# IATA's target net carbon emission



**Highest mitigation contribution from sustainable jet fuel (SAF) generation**

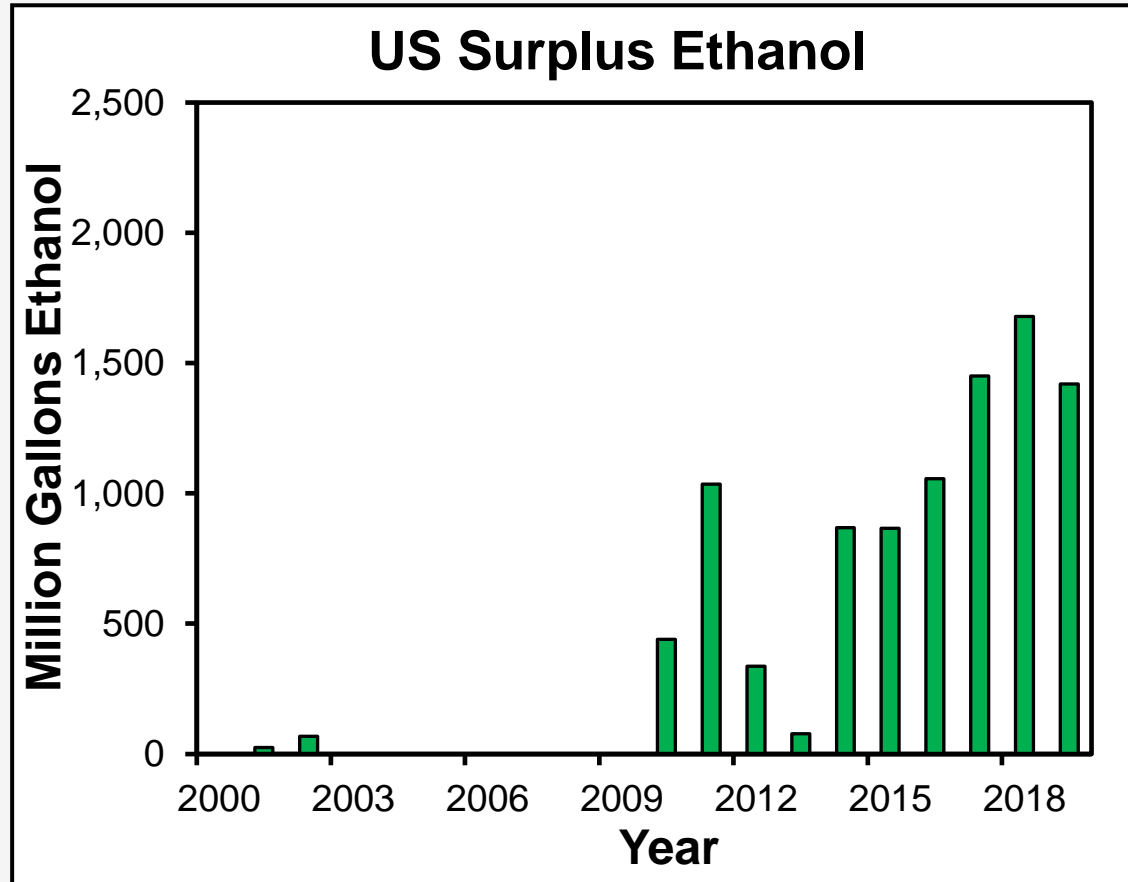


# Increasingly Large Ethanol Surplus

## Biomass (Corn)



## Ethanol



# Upgrading Ethanol to Jet Fuel

**Biomass (Corn)**



**Ethanol**



**Jet Fuel ( $C_{>9}$ )**



**Alkanes, Olefins,  
BTX**

# Upgrading Ethanol to Jet Fuel

**Biomass (Corn)**



**Ethanol**

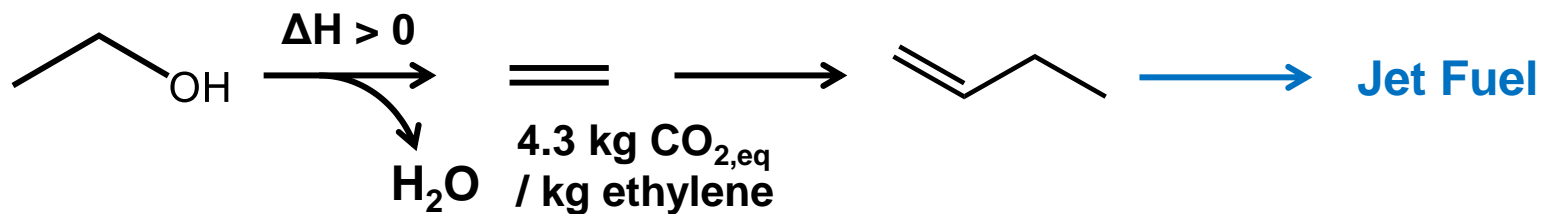


**Jet Fuel (C<sub>>9</sub>)**



**Alkanes, Olefins,  
BTX**

Current Route:



# Upgrading Ethanol to Jet Fuel

**Biomass (Corn)**



**Ethanol**

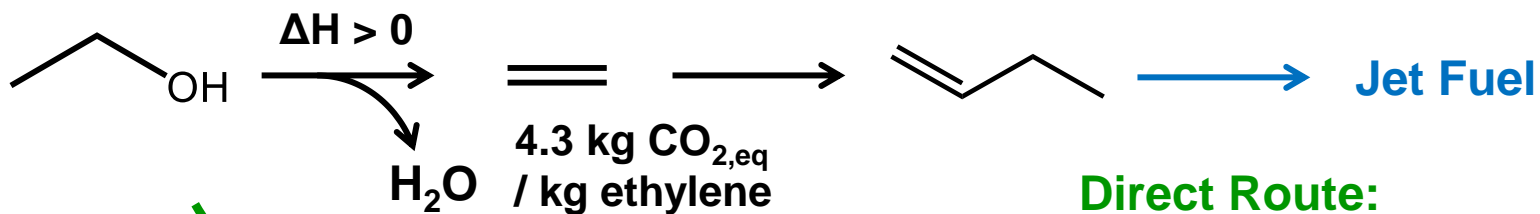


**Jet Fuel (C<sub>>9</sub>)**



**Alkanes, Olefins,  
BTX**

Current Route:

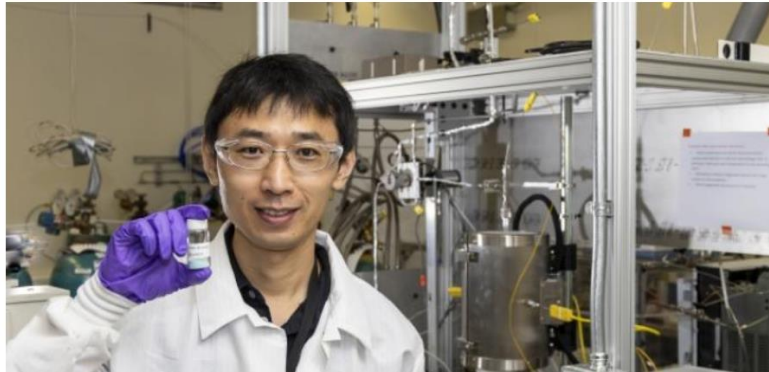


Direct Route:  
Single step processes  
reduces GHG  
emission by 50%



# Upgrading Ethanol to Jet Fuel

Prometheus Fuels licenses energy-saving ORNL ethanol-to-jet-fuel process



Vertimass licenses ORNL biofuel-to-hydrocarbon conversion technology

Topics: Materials • Clean Energy • Functional Materials for Energy • Biological Systems

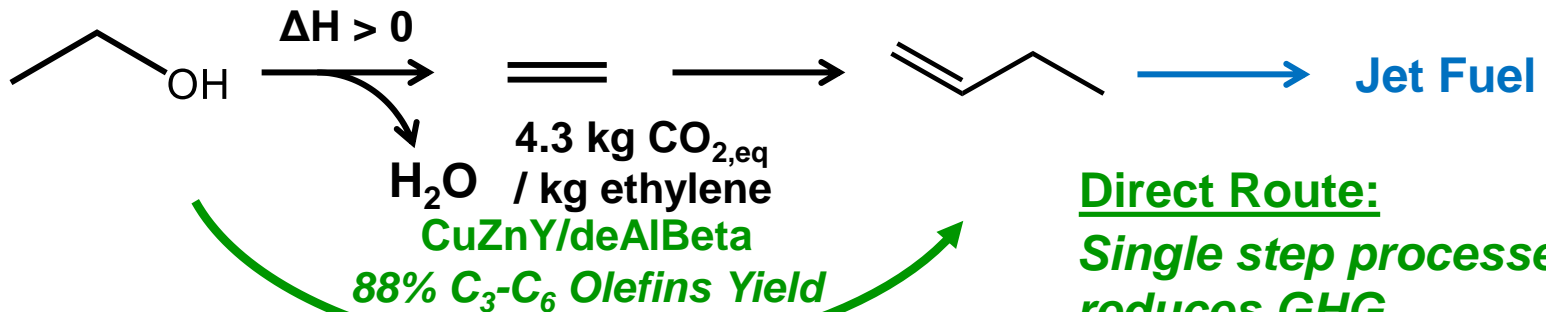
March 6, 2014

OAK RIDGE, Tenn., March 6, 2014 — Vertimass LLC, a California-based start-up company, has licensed an Oak Ridge National Laboratory technology that directly converts ethanol into a hydrocarbon blend-stock for use in transportation fuels.



The ORNL technology offers a new pathway to biomass-derived renewable fuels that can lower

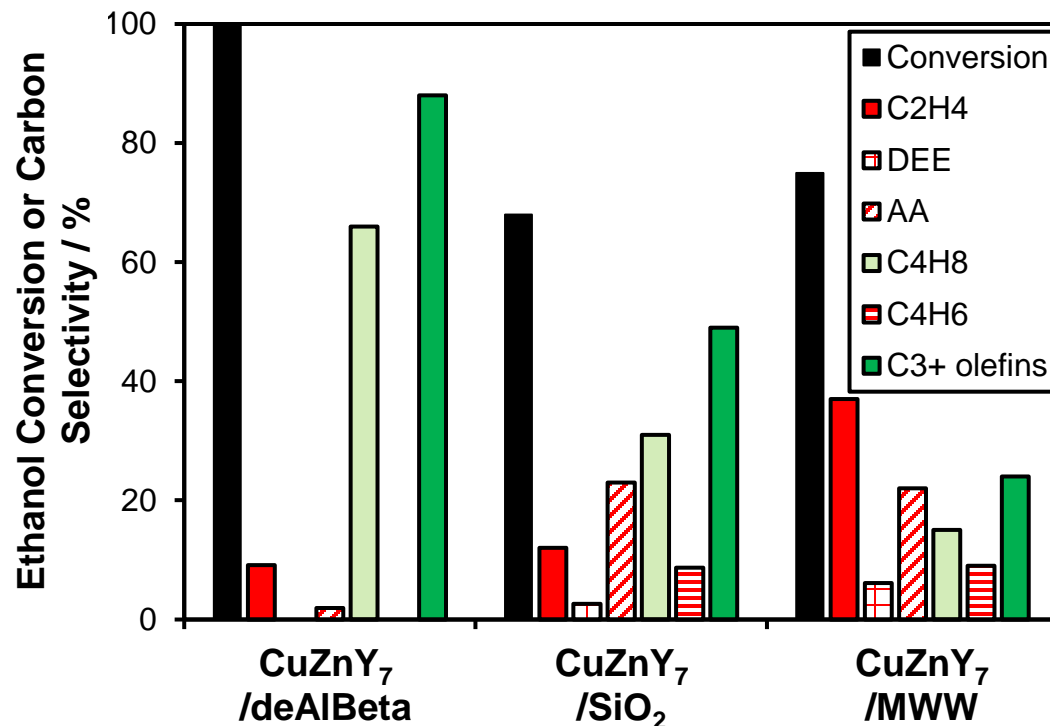
## Current Route:



**Direct Route:**  
Single step processes  
reduces GHG  
emission by 50%

***A cheaper and more sustainable route for converting ethanol to jet fuel***

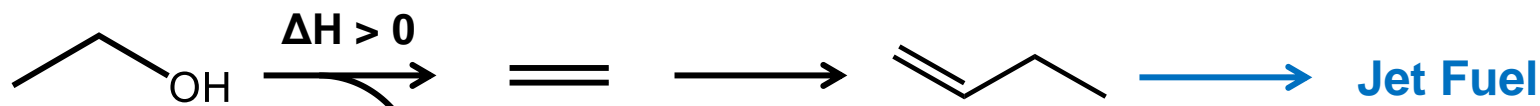
# Upgrading Ethanol to Jet Fuel over CuZnY/deAlBeta



**Reaction Conds.:**

623 K, 7.1 kPa  
 C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH, 94.3 kPa  
 H<sub>2</sub>, WHSV 0.51 h<sup>-1</sup>

Zhang et al., ACS  
*Catal.*, 11 (2021)  
 9885-9897

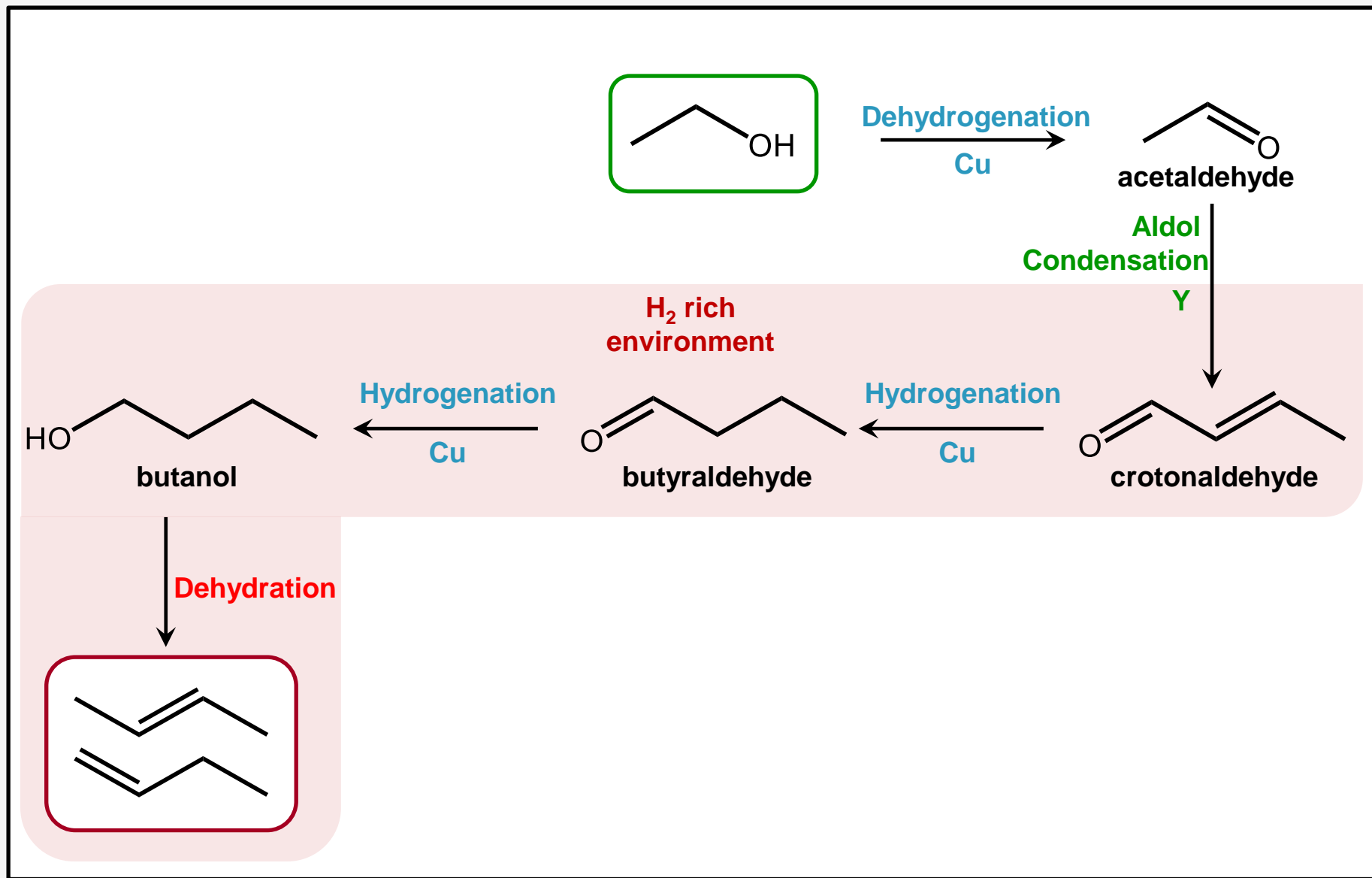


$\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
 4.3 kg CO<sub>2,eq</sub> / kg ethylene  
 CuZnY/deAlBeta  
 88% C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> Olefins Yield

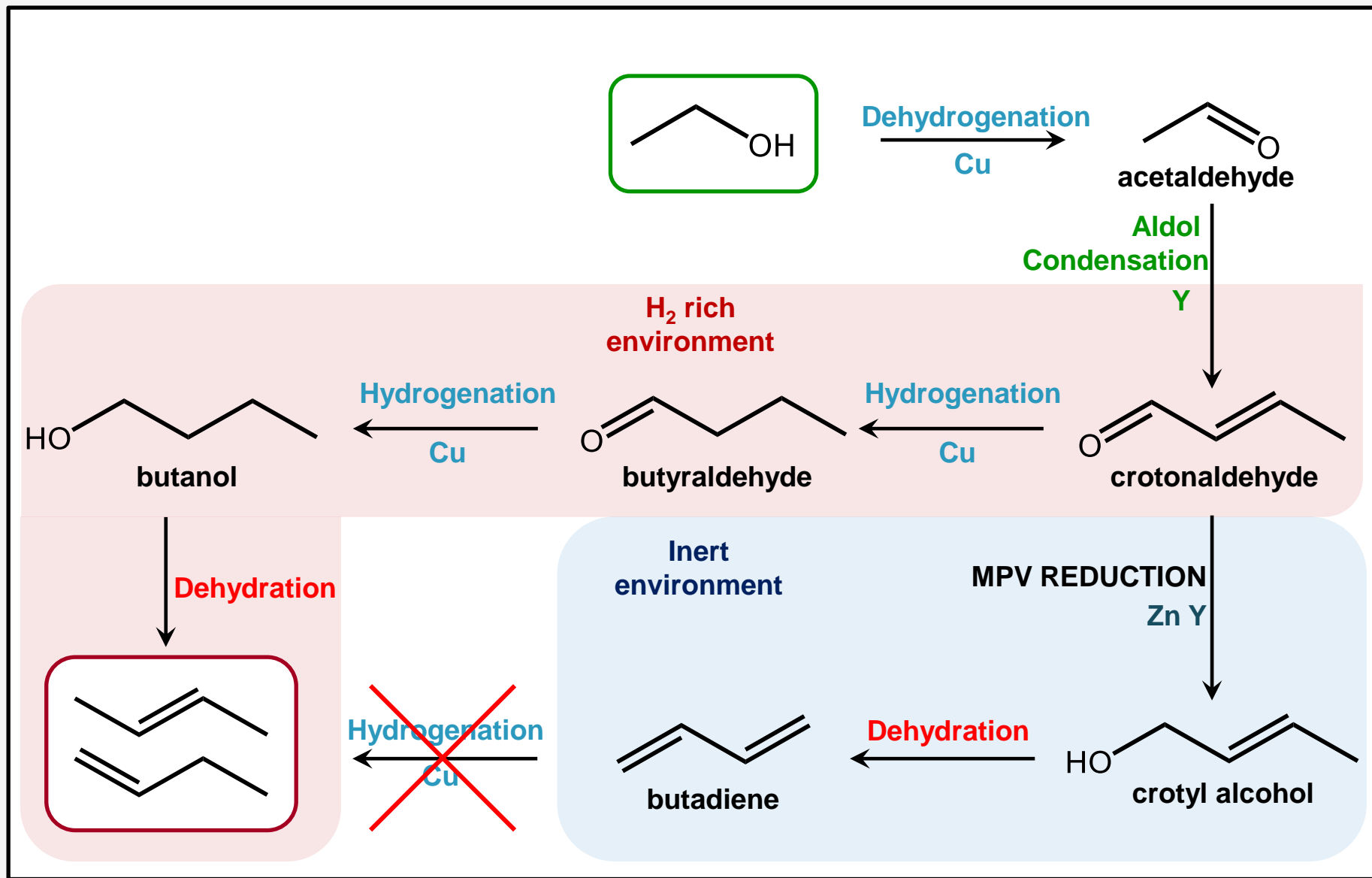
**Direct Route:**  
 Single step processes  
 reduces GHG  
 emission by 50%

**High selectivity to C<sub>3+</sub> olefins without significant C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, DEE, or C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub> formation**

# Proposed Ethanol to Butene Reaction Pathway



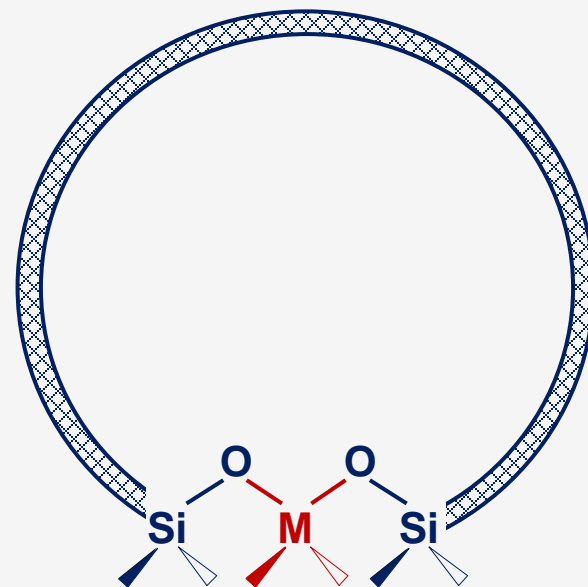
# Proposed Ethanol to Butene Reaction Pathway





# *Metal-containing porous catalysts have broad site distributions*

*Secondary Confining Pore*

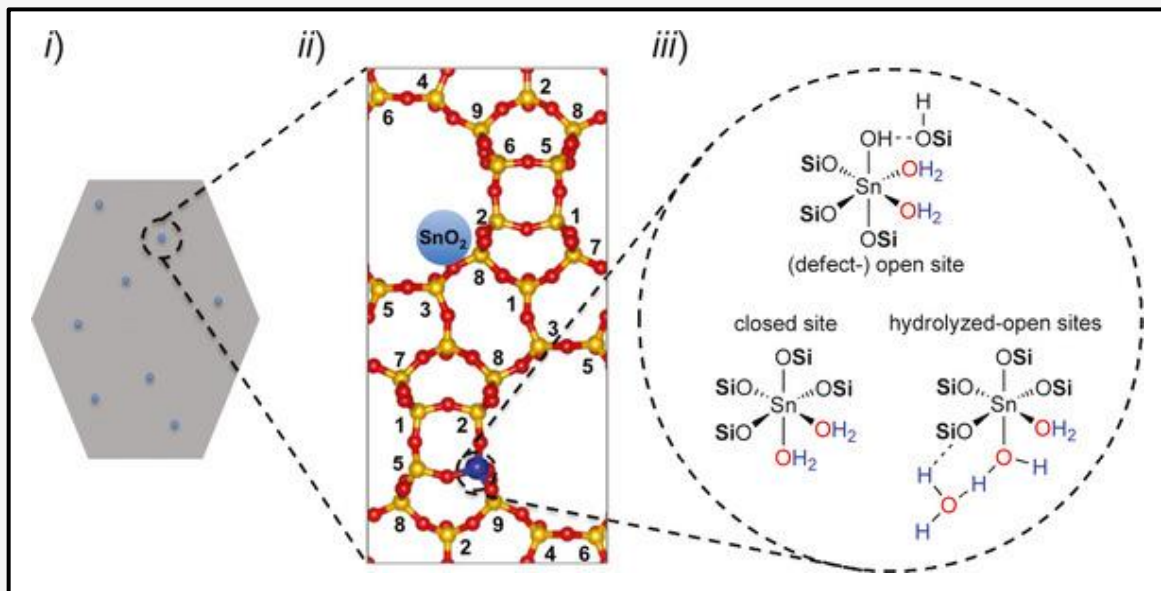


*Primary Binding Site*

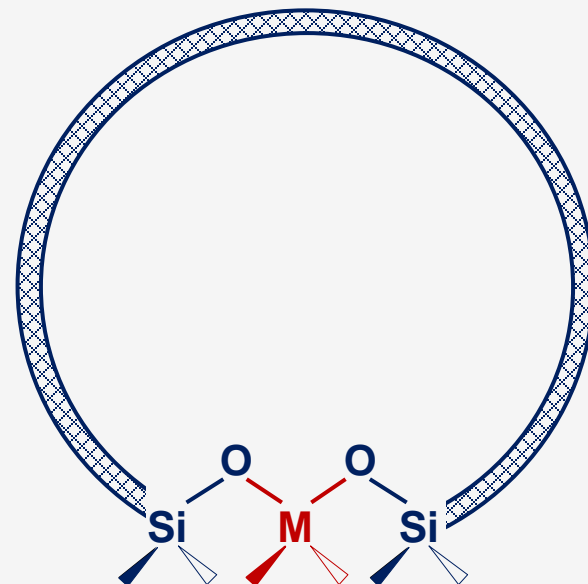
- Different oxidation number
- Different T-sites / pore geometry
- Spatial distributions
- Different local coordination

# Metal-containing porous catalysts have broad site distributions

## Zeolites With Framework Metal Atoms



## Secondary Confining Pore

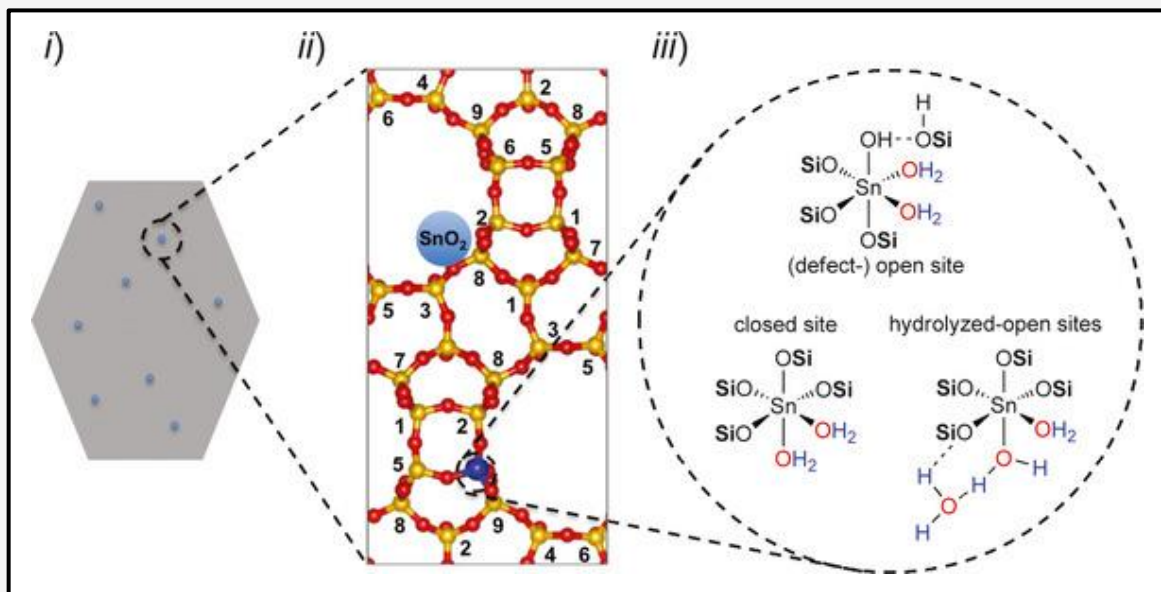


**Primary Binding Site**

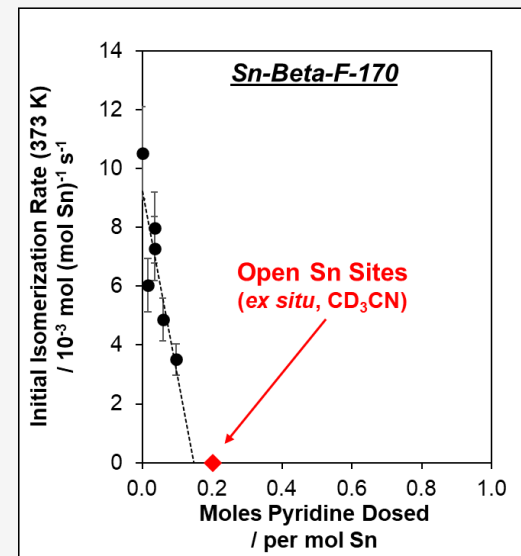


# Metal-containing porous catalysts have broad site distributions

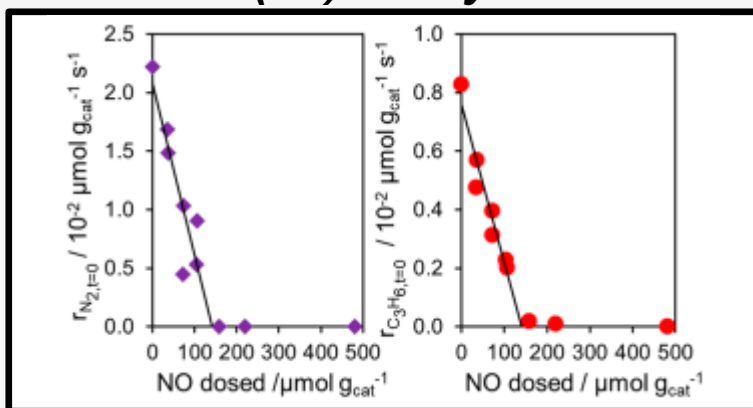
## Zeolites With Framework Metal Atoms



~20% of Sn in Sn-Beta catalyzes glucose isomerization



~6% of Fe in MIL-100(Fe) catalyzes C-H bond activation



Simons et al., *JACS*, 141 (2019) 18142-18151

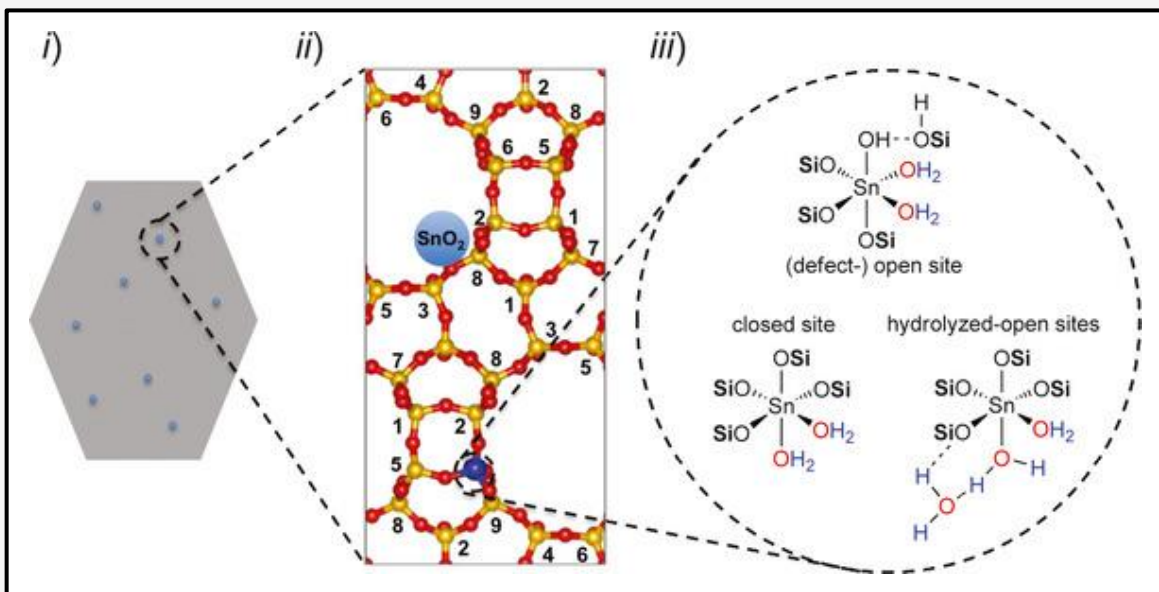
Harris et al., *J. Catal.*, 335 (2016) 141-154

Wolf et al., *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 99 (2016) 916-927

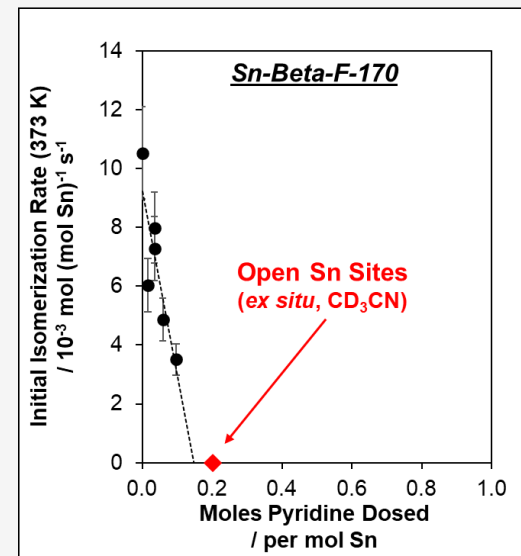


# Metal-containing porous catalysts have broad site distributions

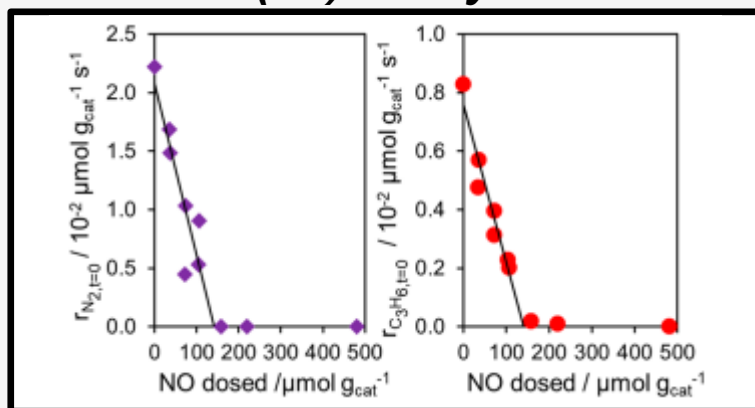
## Zeolites With Framework Metal Atoms



~20% of Sn in Sn-Beta catalyzes glucose isomerization



~6% of Fe in MIL-100(Fe) catalyzes C-H bond activation



**Need to quantify the subset of sites that perform the catalysis!**

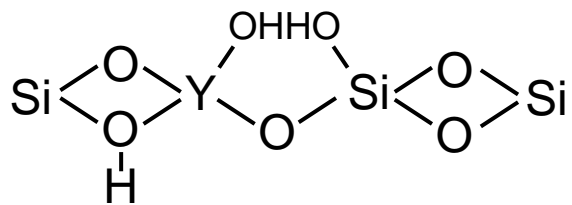
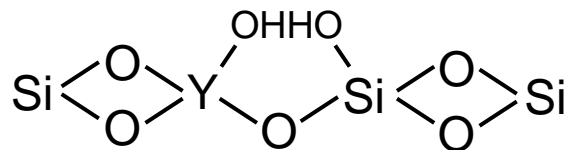
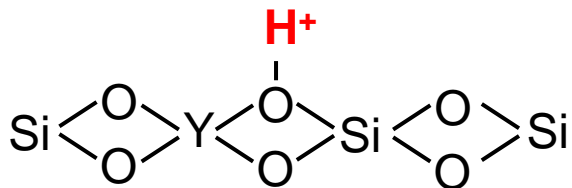
Simons et al., *JACS*, 141 (2019) 18142-18151

Harris et al., *J. Catal.*, 335 (2016) 141-154

Wolf et al., *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 99 (2016) 916-927

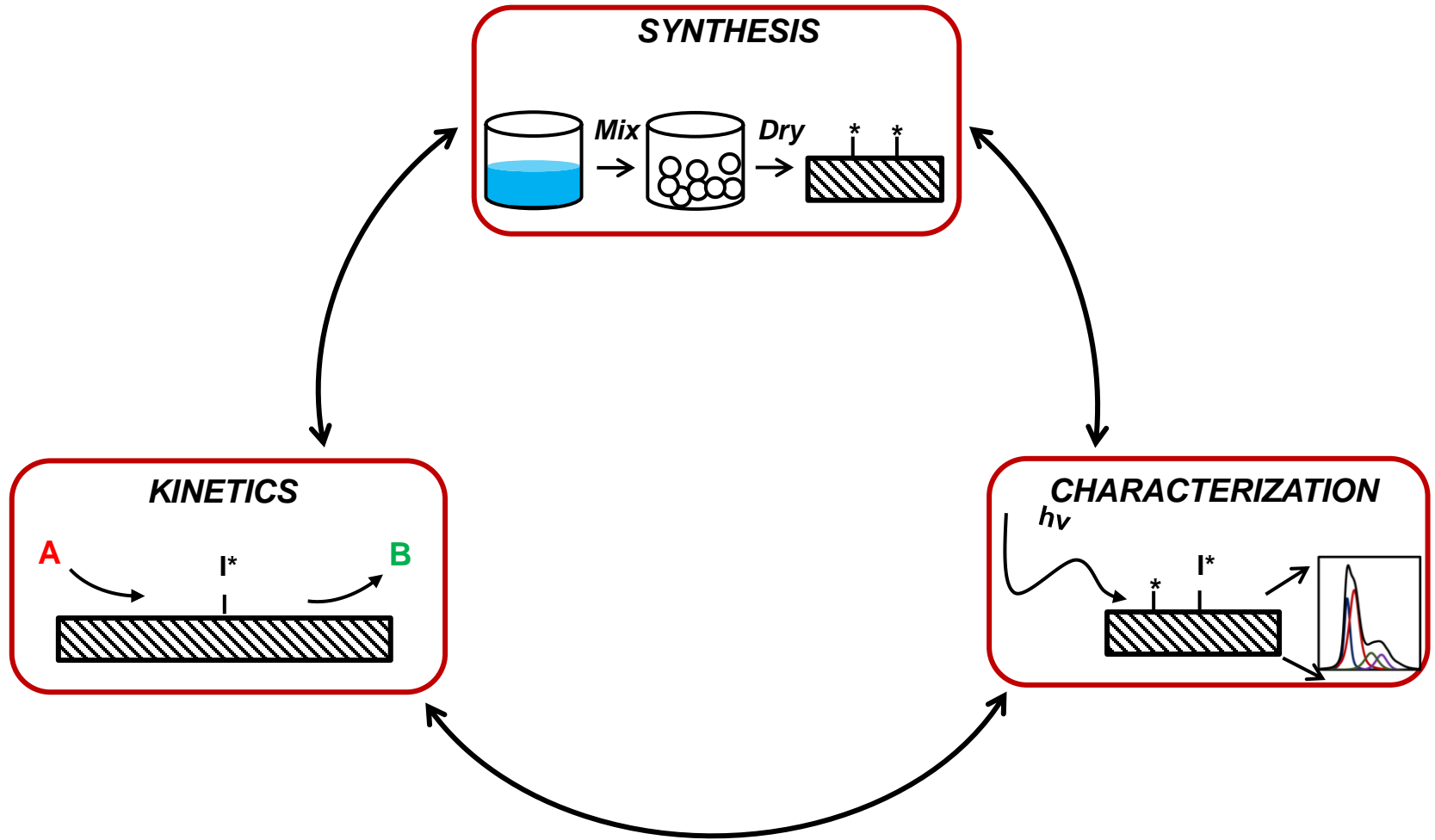
# What sites are relevant in (Cu, Zn)Y/deAlBeta catalysts?

**What are the active sites and how many are there?**

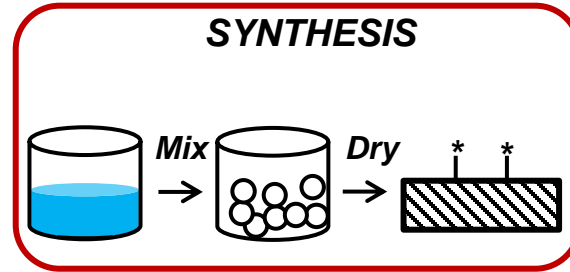


**???**

# Research Strategy



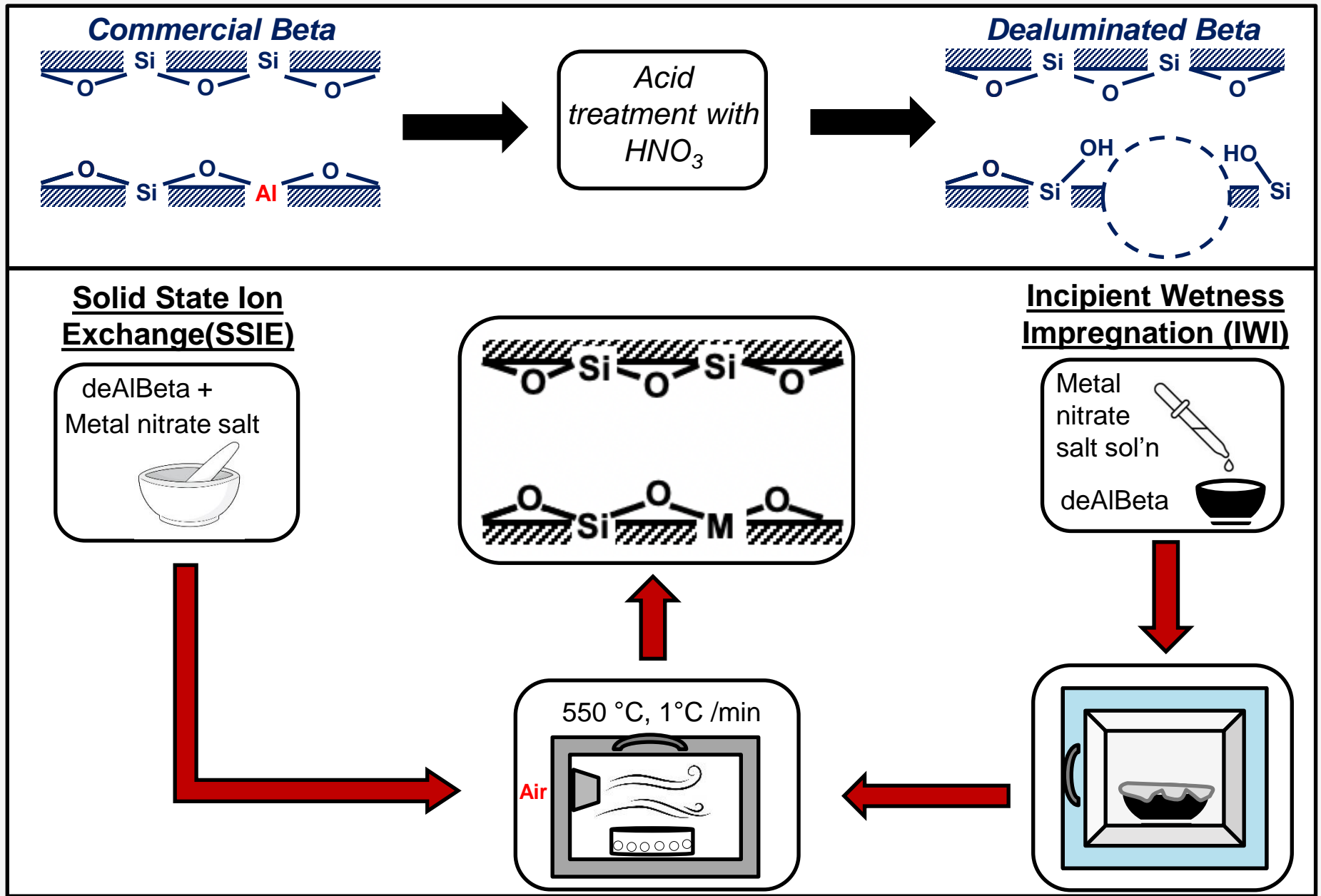
# Synthesizing Beta zeolite



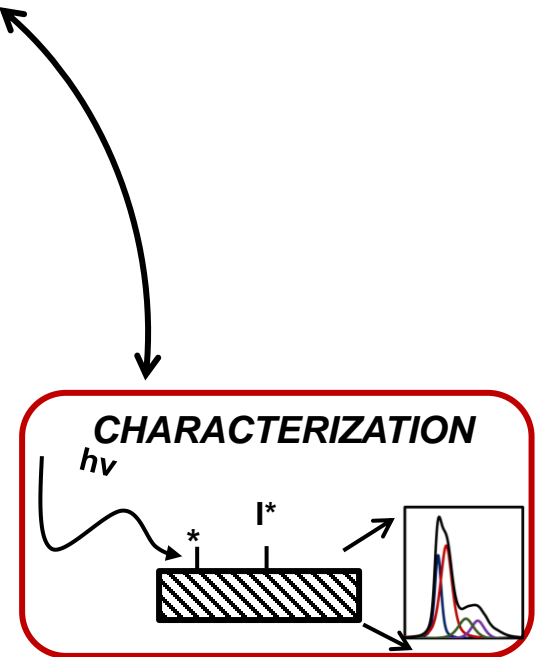
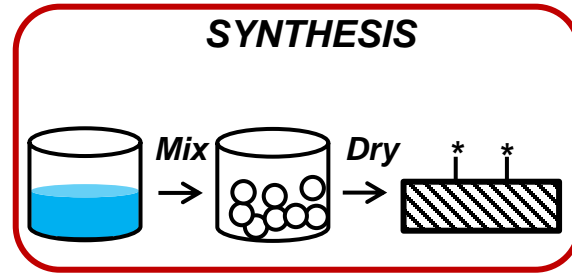




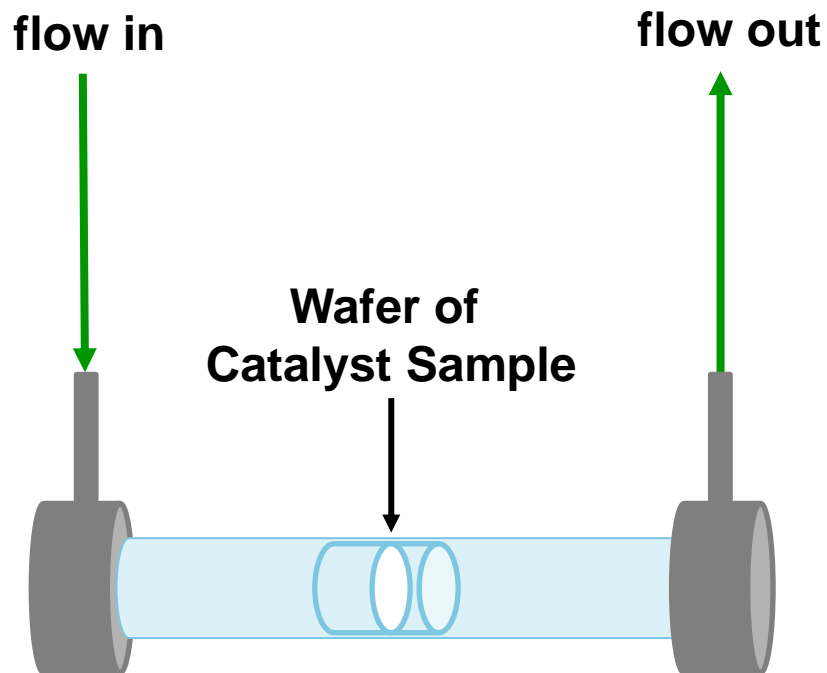
# Metal incorporation into dealuminated Beta (deAlBeta)



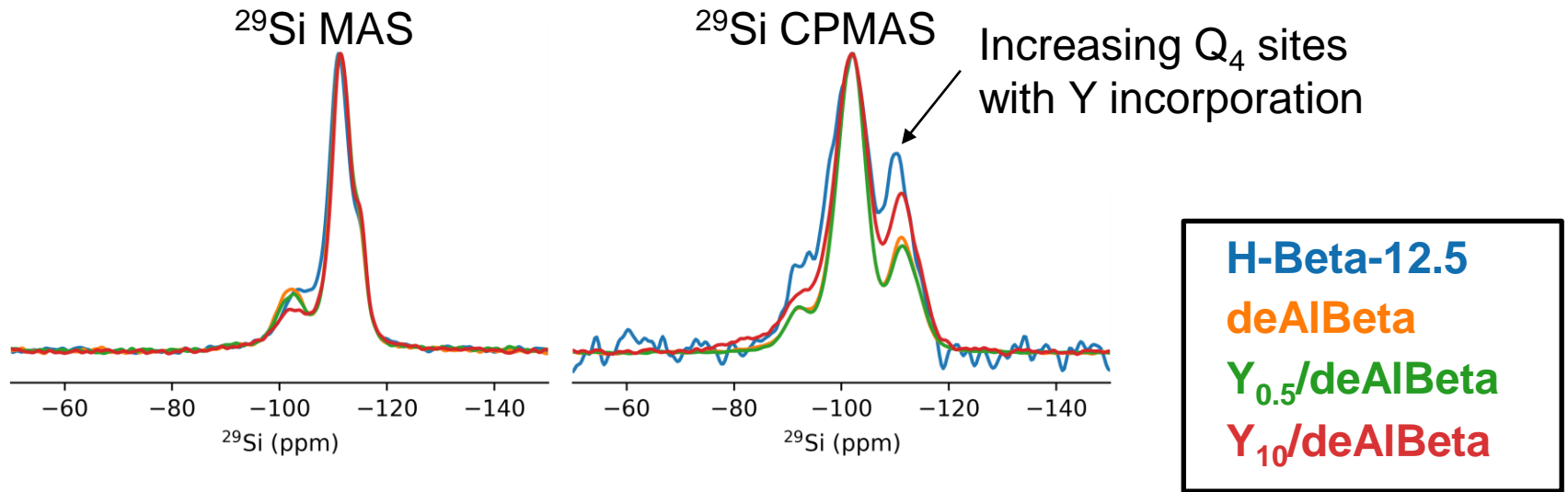
# Characterizing the catalysts



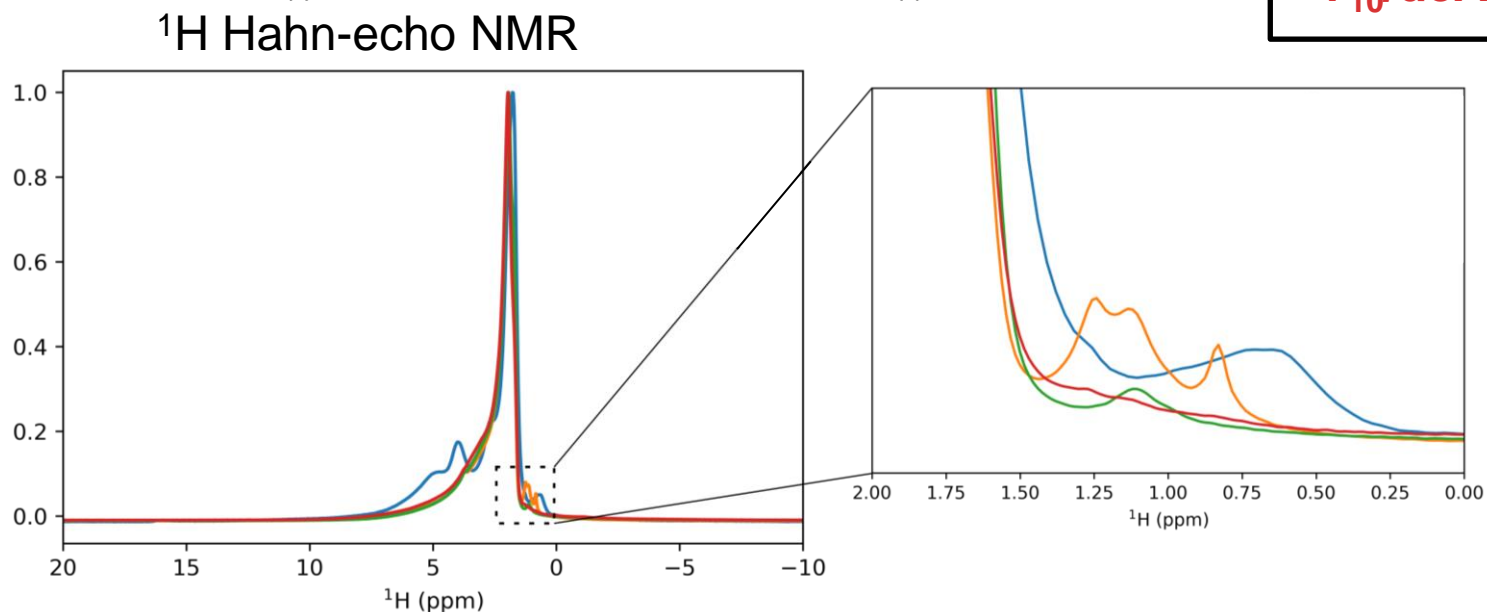
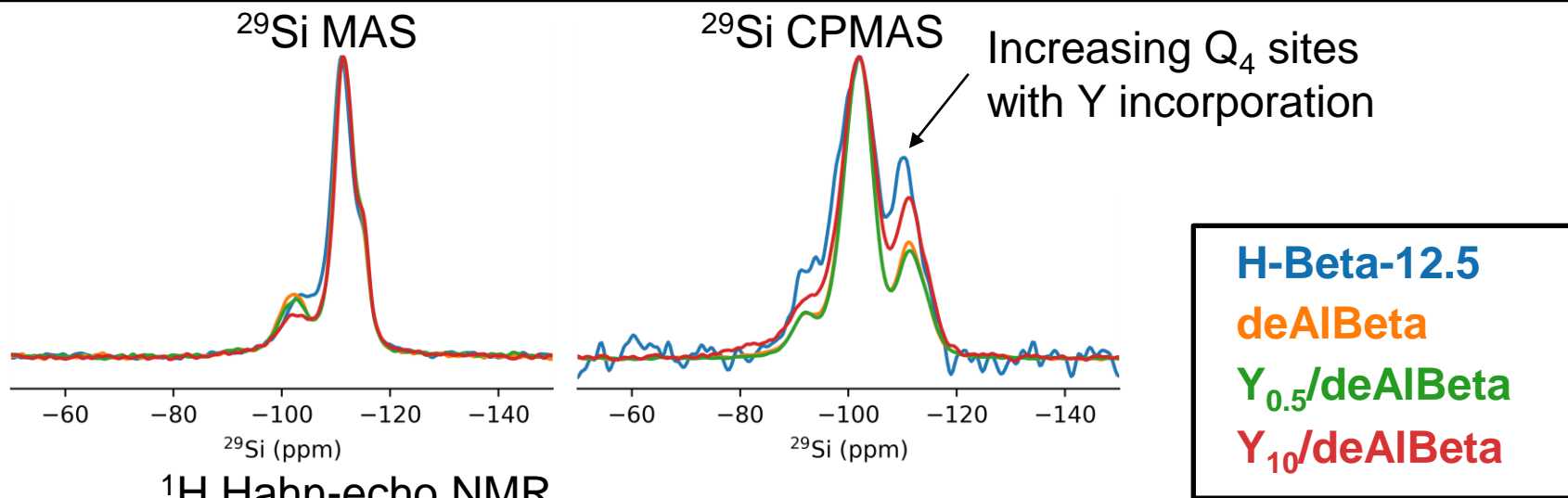
# Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy



# SSNMR of Y/deAlBeta Samples



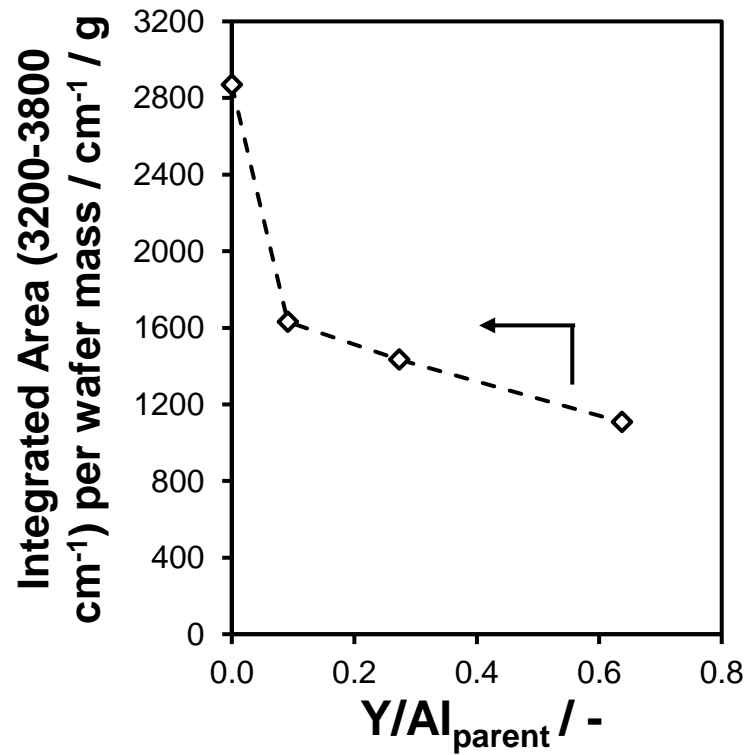
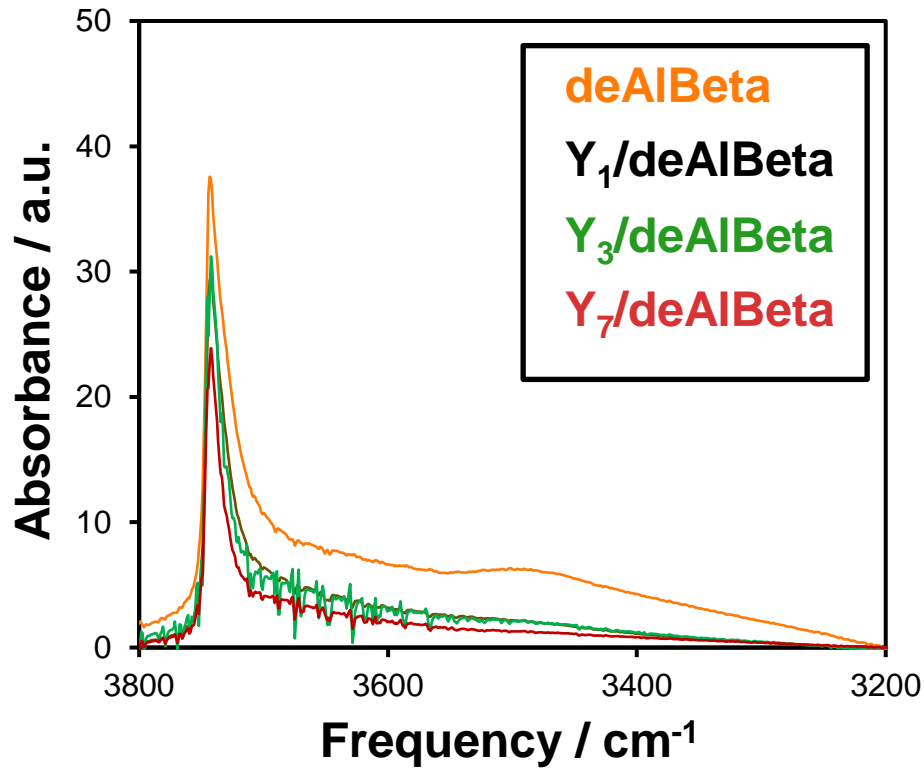
# SSNMR of Y/deAlBeta Samples



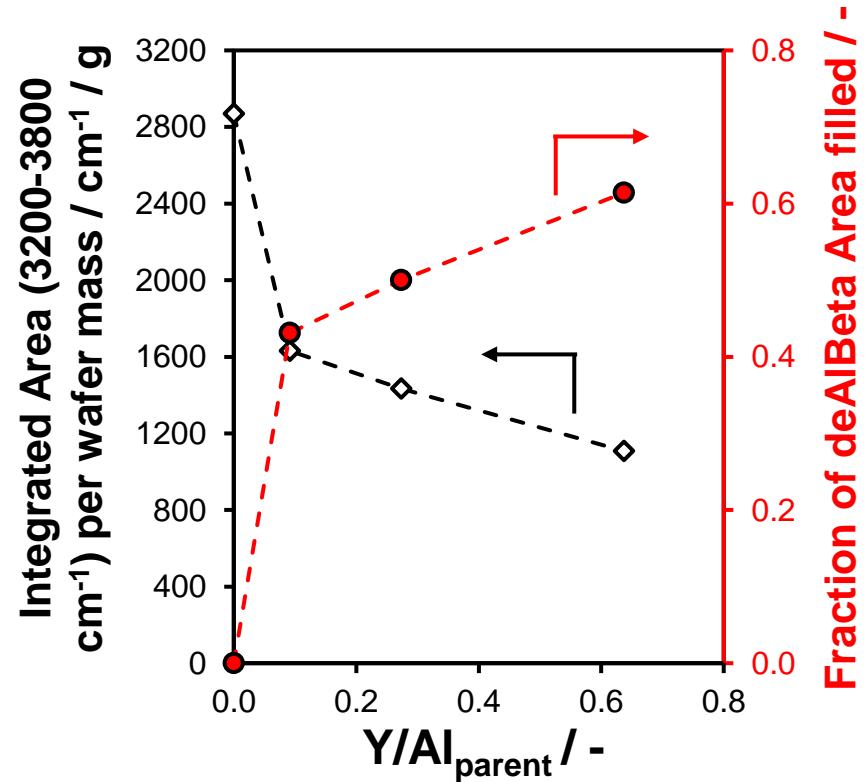
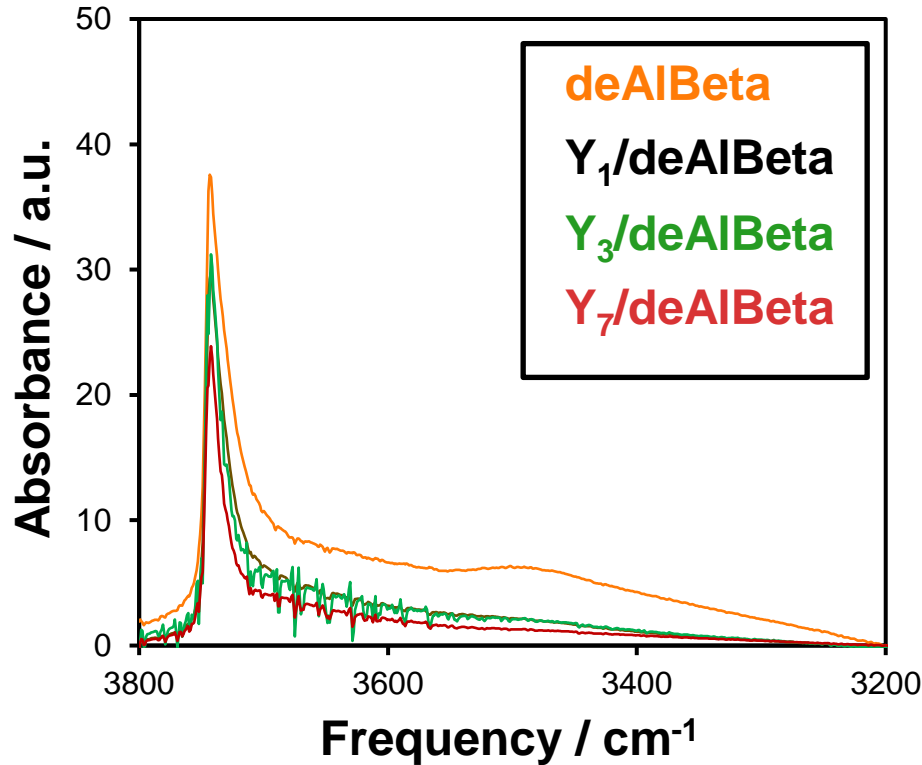
**Hydroxyls generated by dealumination are largely eliminated by 0.5 wt% Y ( $0.05 Y/\text{Al}_{\text{parent}}$ ), and completely by 10 wt% Y ( $0.9 Y/\text{Al}_{\text{parent}}$ )**



# IR of Y/deAlBeta Samples – O-H region

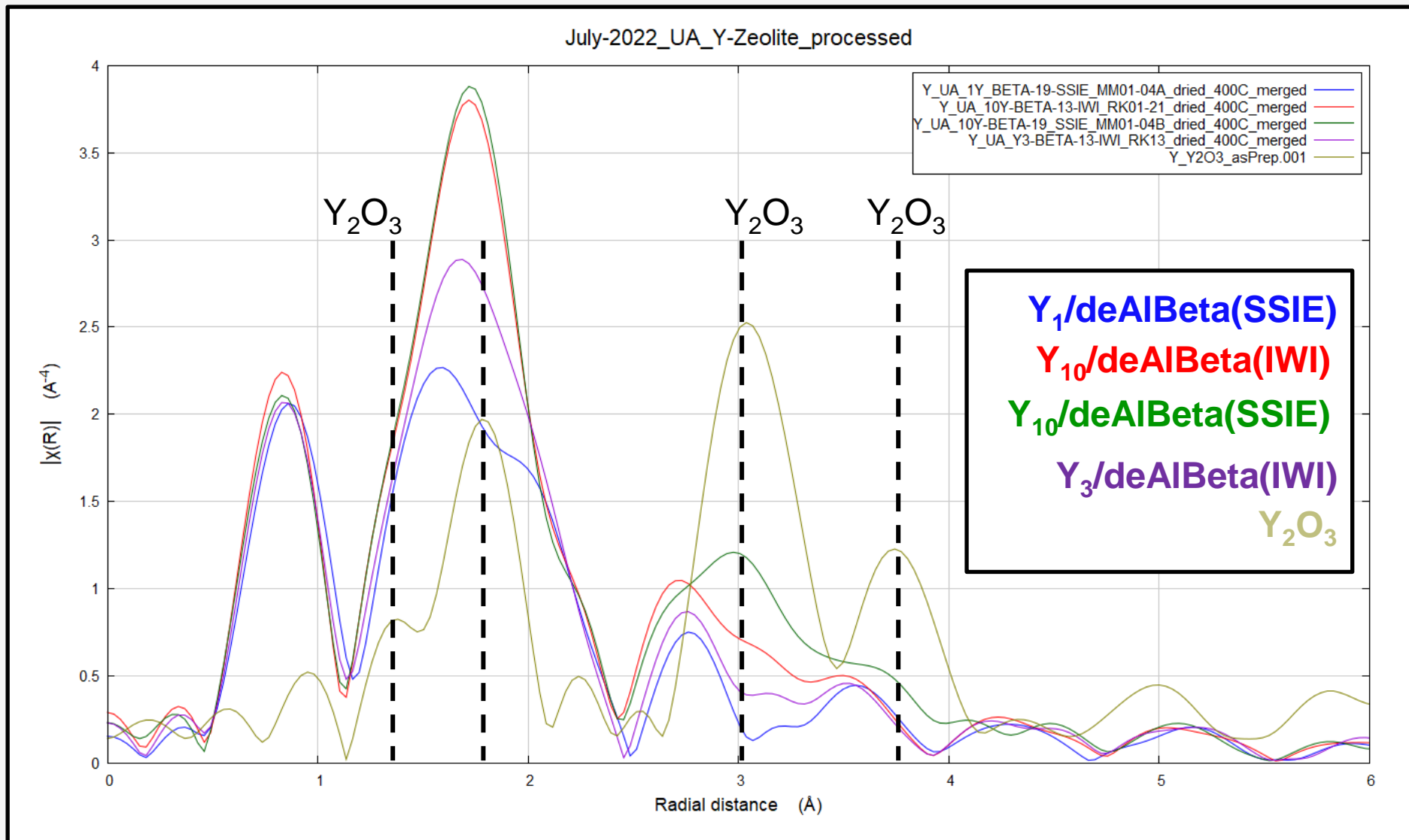


## IR of Y/deAlBeta Samples – O-H region



***Y incorporation by SSIE results in decreased  $\nu(\text{O-H})$  region area, suggesting incorporation of Y at vacancies formed from dealumination***

# Y *k*-edge EXAFS of Y/deAlBeta samples



***Above 1 wt%, all samples have some oxide-like peaks***

# Y *k*-edge EXAFS of Y/deAlBeta samples

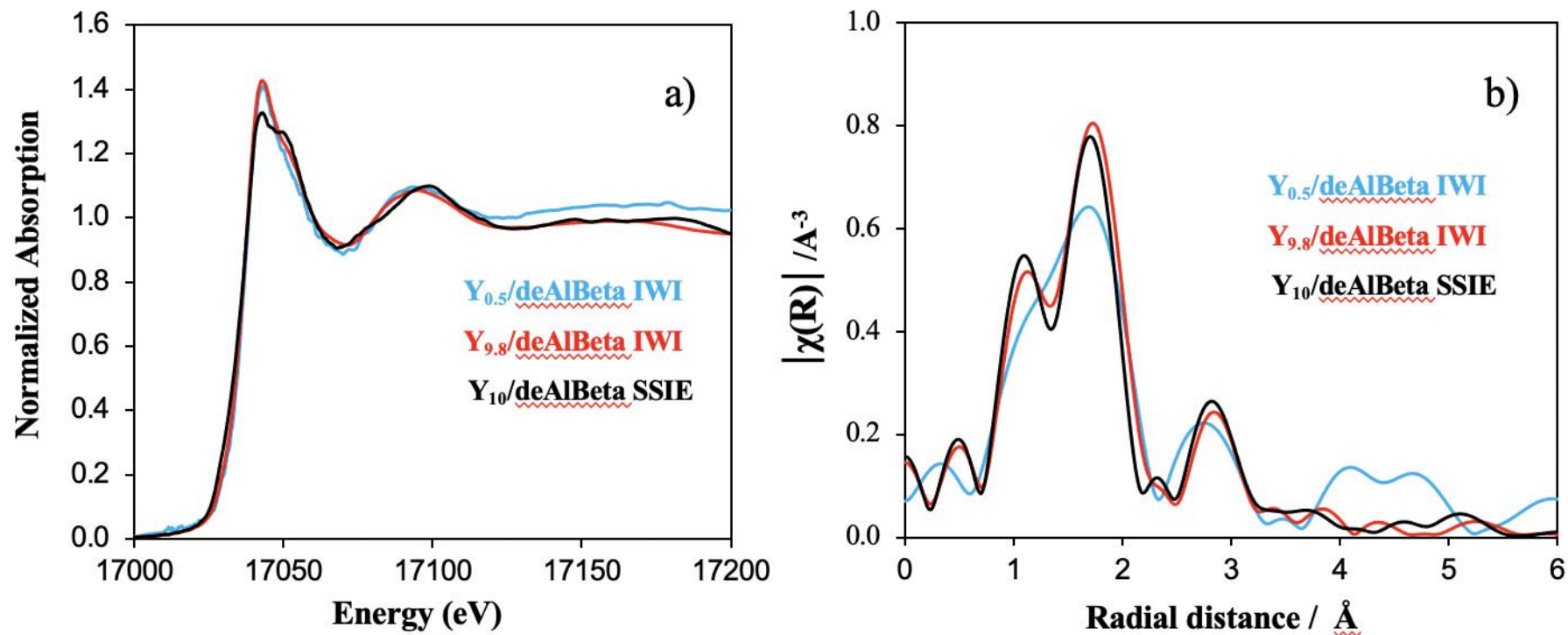
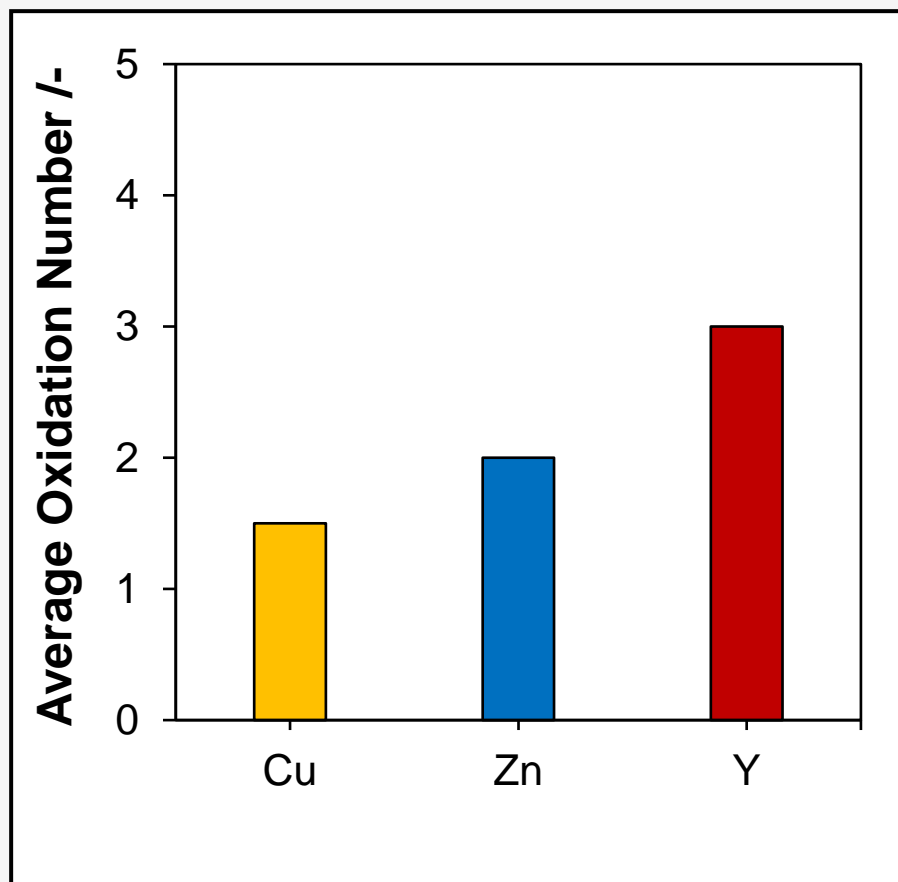


Figure 3 Y K edge XAS spectra of Y/deAlBeta of varied loading and synthesis techniques (a) XANES spectra, (b) k<sup>2</sup>-Weighted FT EXAFS

***Above 1 wt%, all samples have some oxide-like peaks***

# In-Situ Transmission X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

## XANES



## Argonne National Laboratory Advanced Photon Source (APS)

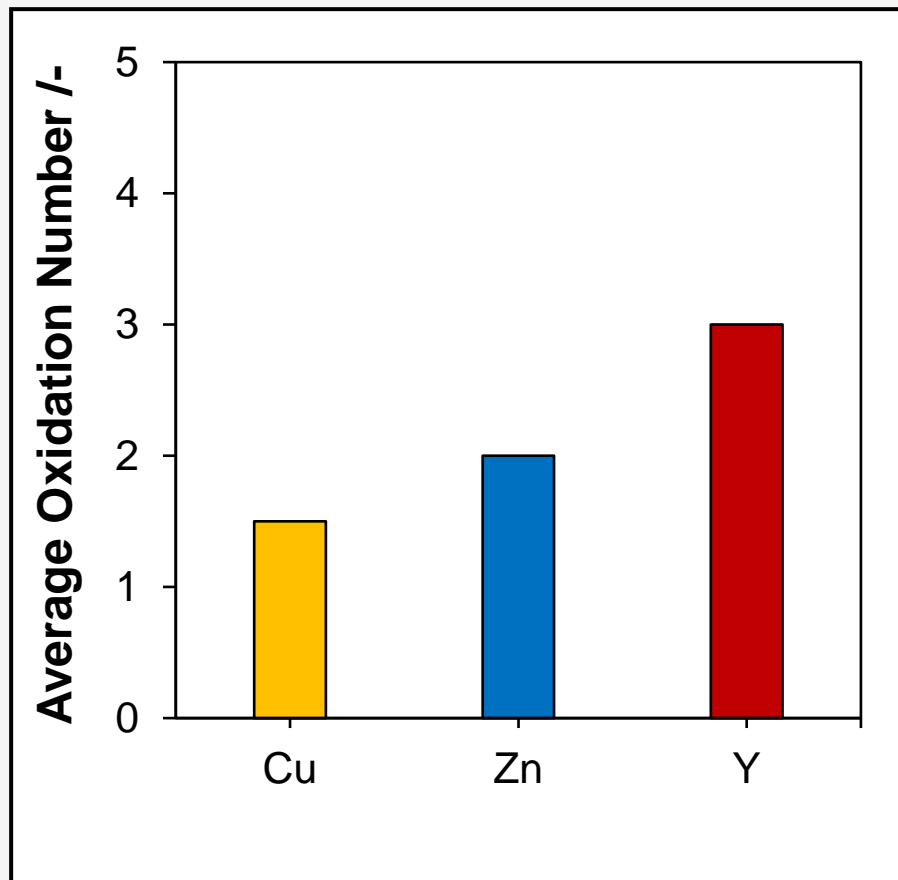


After treatment in flowing 3.5 kPa H<sub>2</sub>, 98 kPa He, for 2 h at 673 K

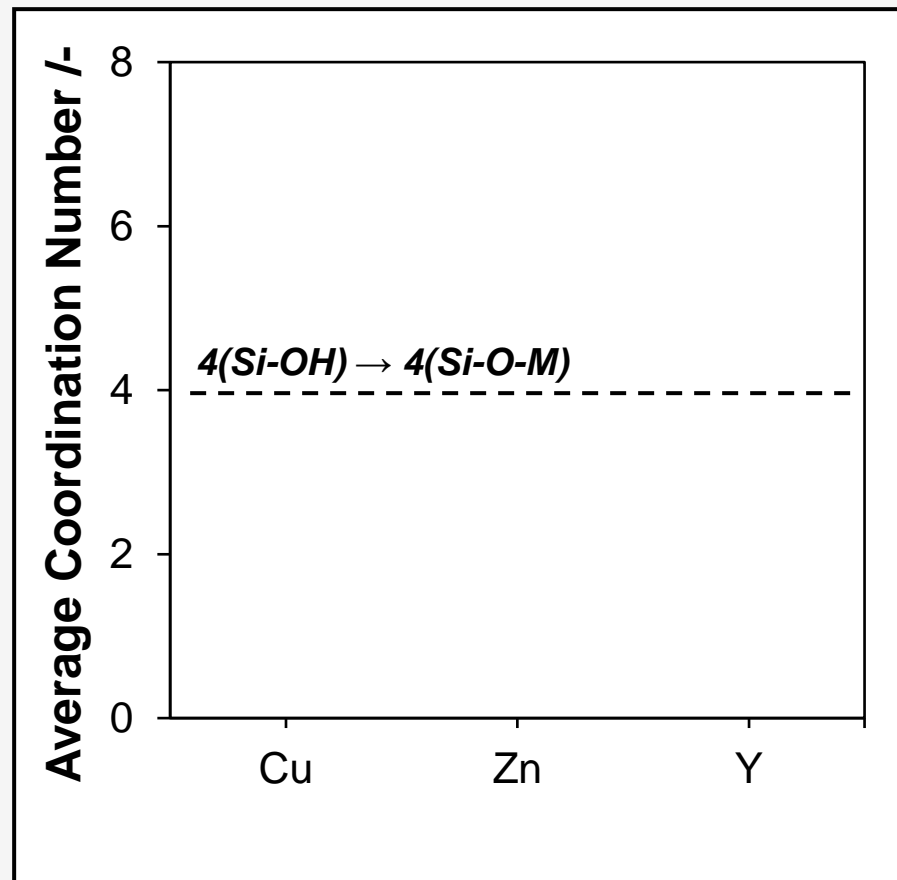
Zhang, Wegener, Samad et al., *ACS Catal.*, 11 (2021) 9885-9897

# In-Situ Transmission X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

## XANES



## XAFS



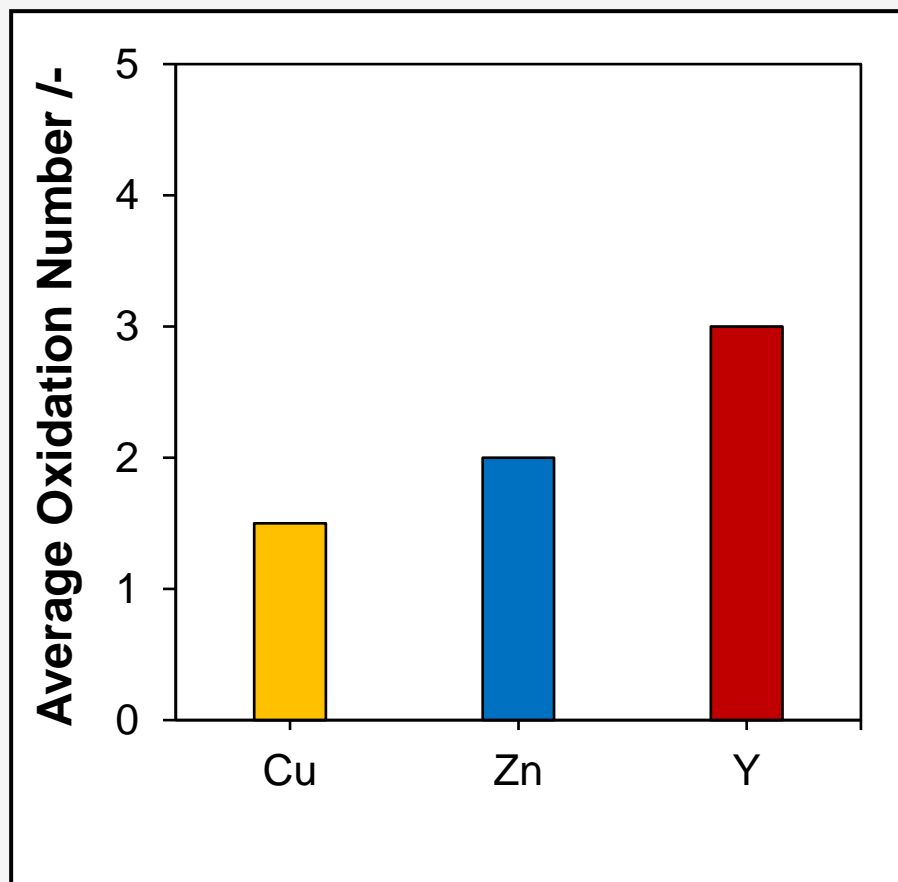
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Zhang, Wegener, Samad et al., *ACS Catal.*, 11 (2021) 9885-9897

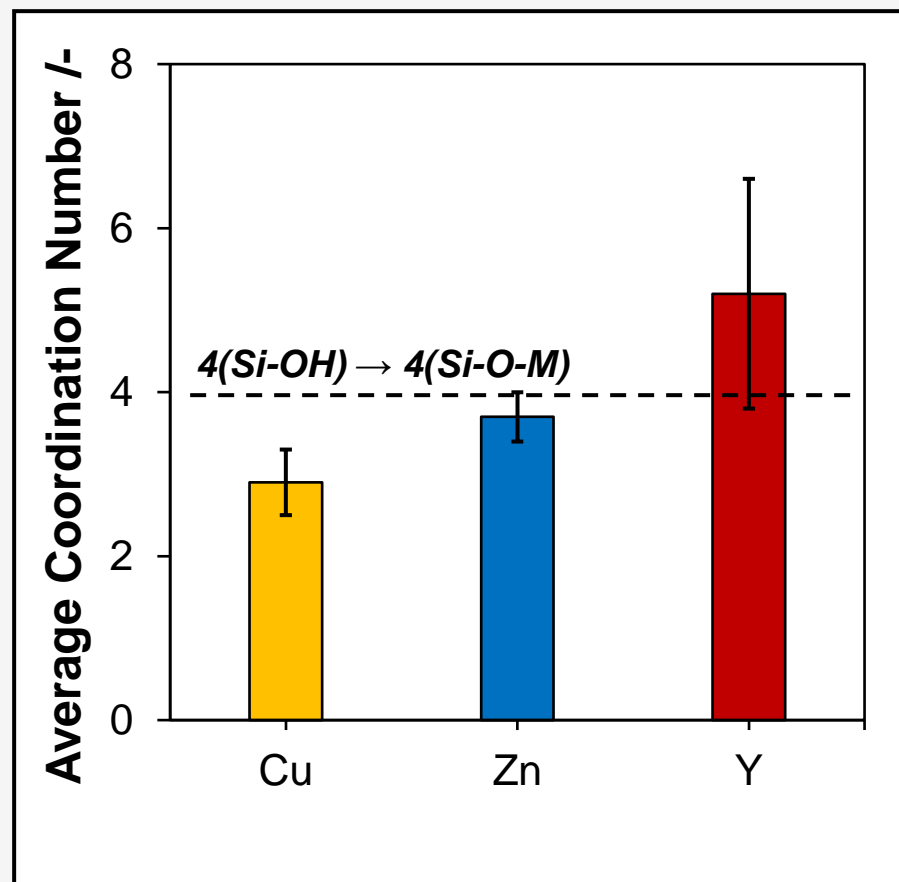


# In-Situ Transmission X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

## XANES



## XAFS

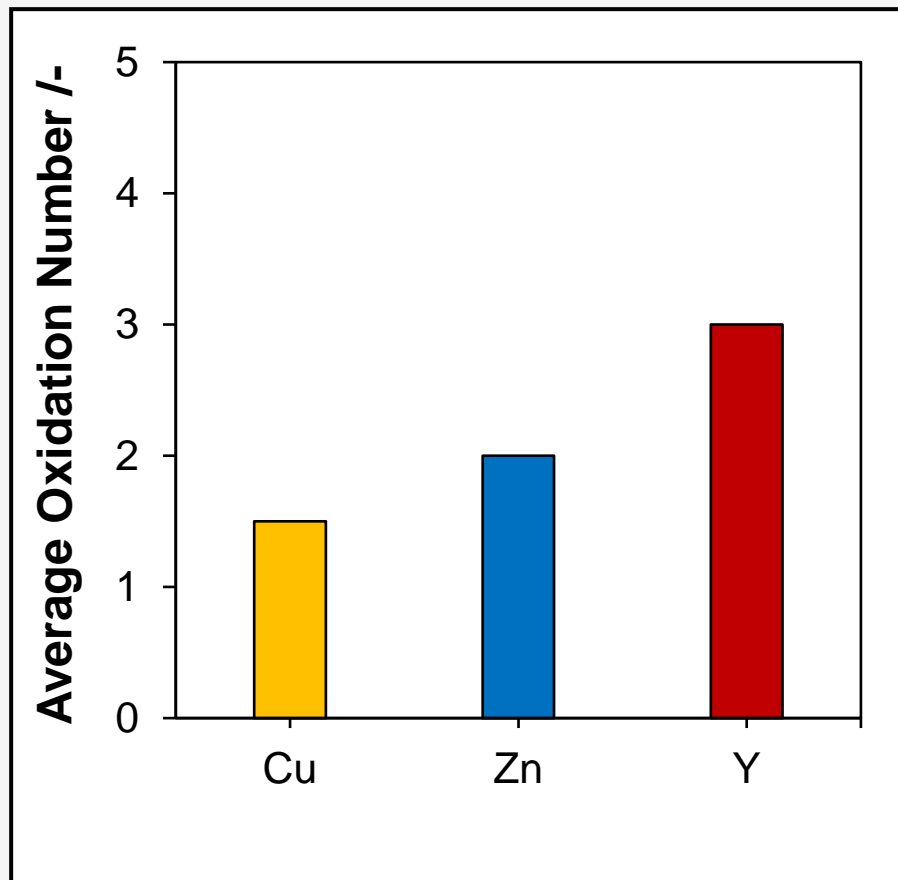


After treatment in flowing 3.5 kPa H<sub>2</sub>, 98 kPa He, for 2 h at 673 K

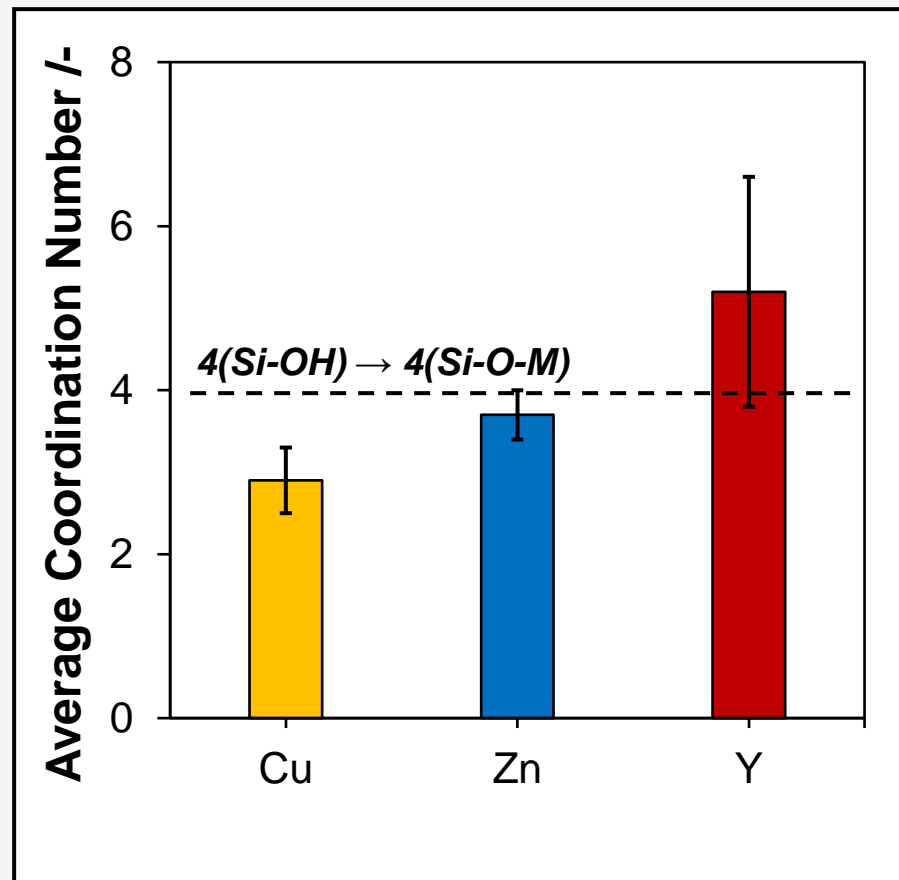
Zhang, Wegener, Samad et al., *ACS Catal.*, 11 (2021) 9885-9897

# In-Situ Transmission X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

## XANES



## XAFS

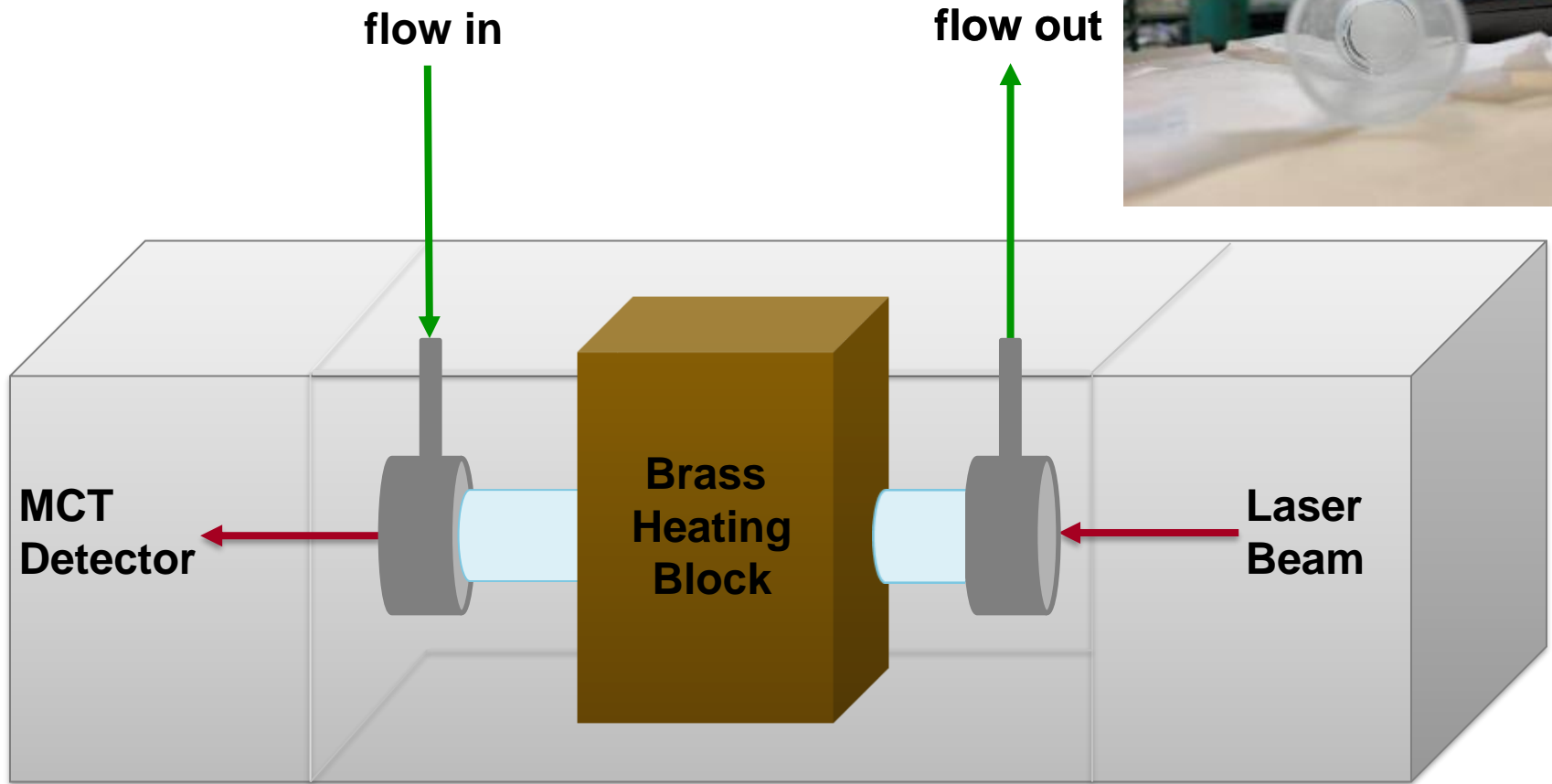


- Mixture of  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  oligomers isolated Y sites?
- No  $\text{Y}_x\text{O}_y$  observed by HRTEM or XRD

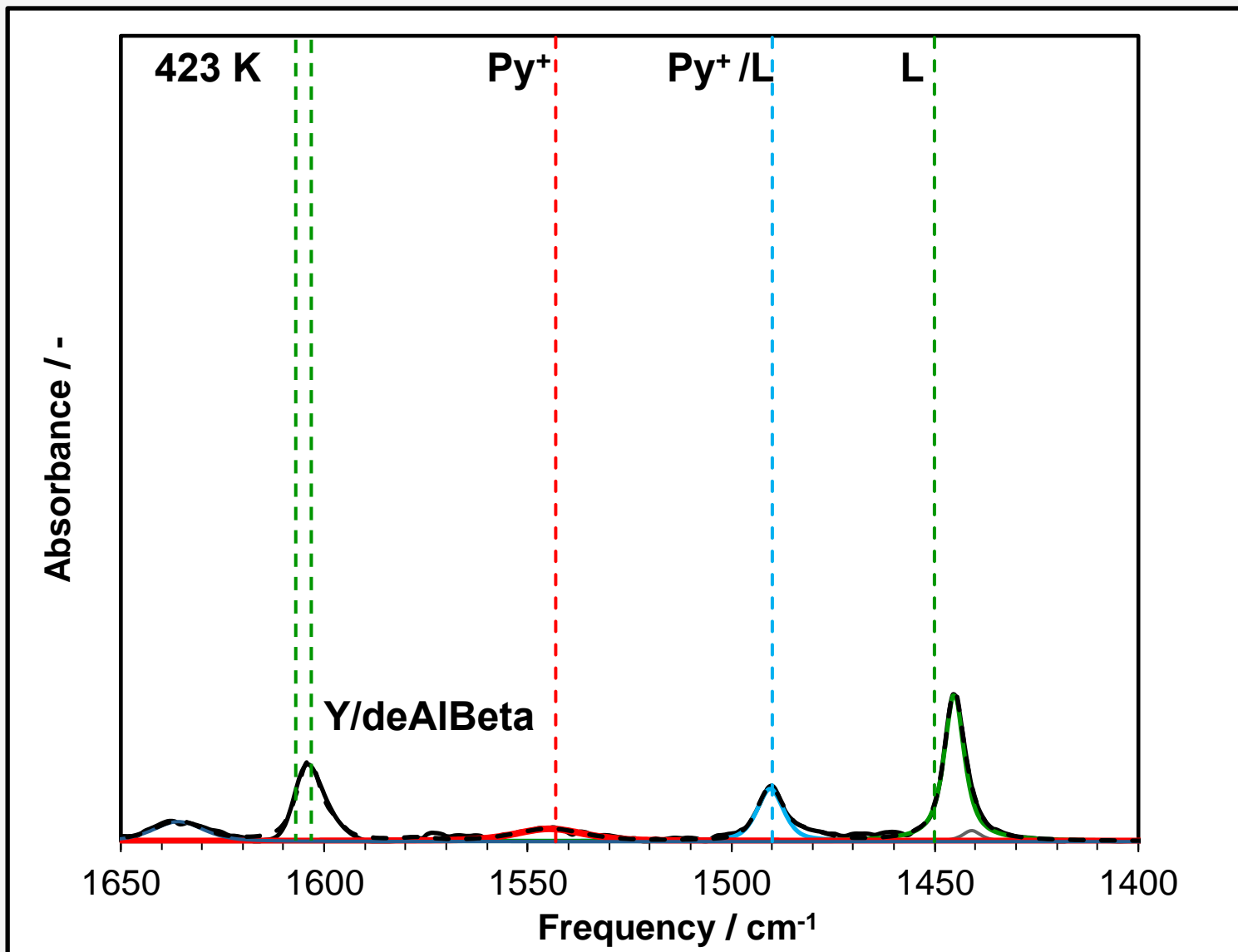
After treatment in flowing 3.5 kPa  $\text{H}_2$ , 98 kPa He, for 2 h at 673 K

Zhang, Wegener, Samad et al., *ACS Catal.*, 11 (2021) 9885-9897

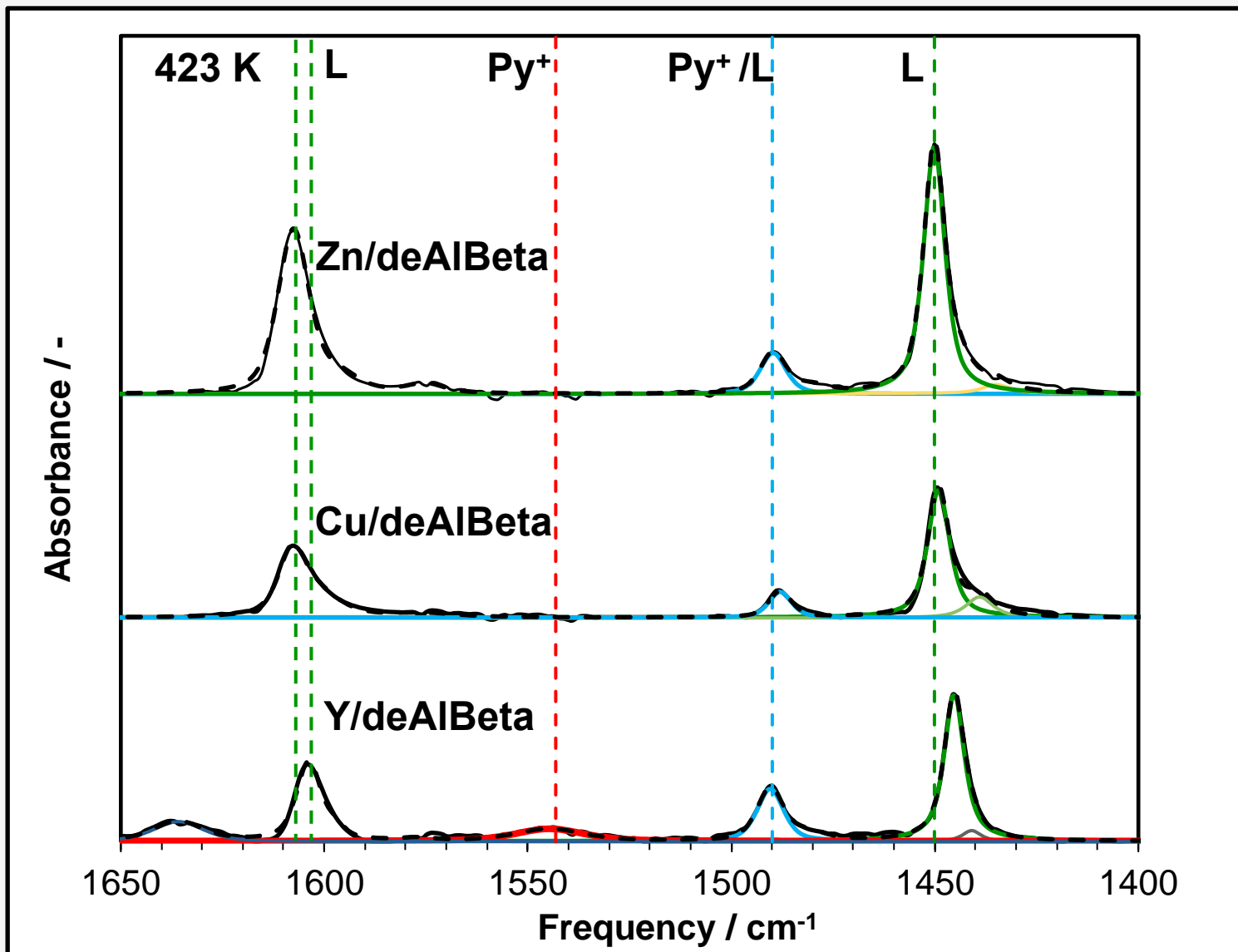
# Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy



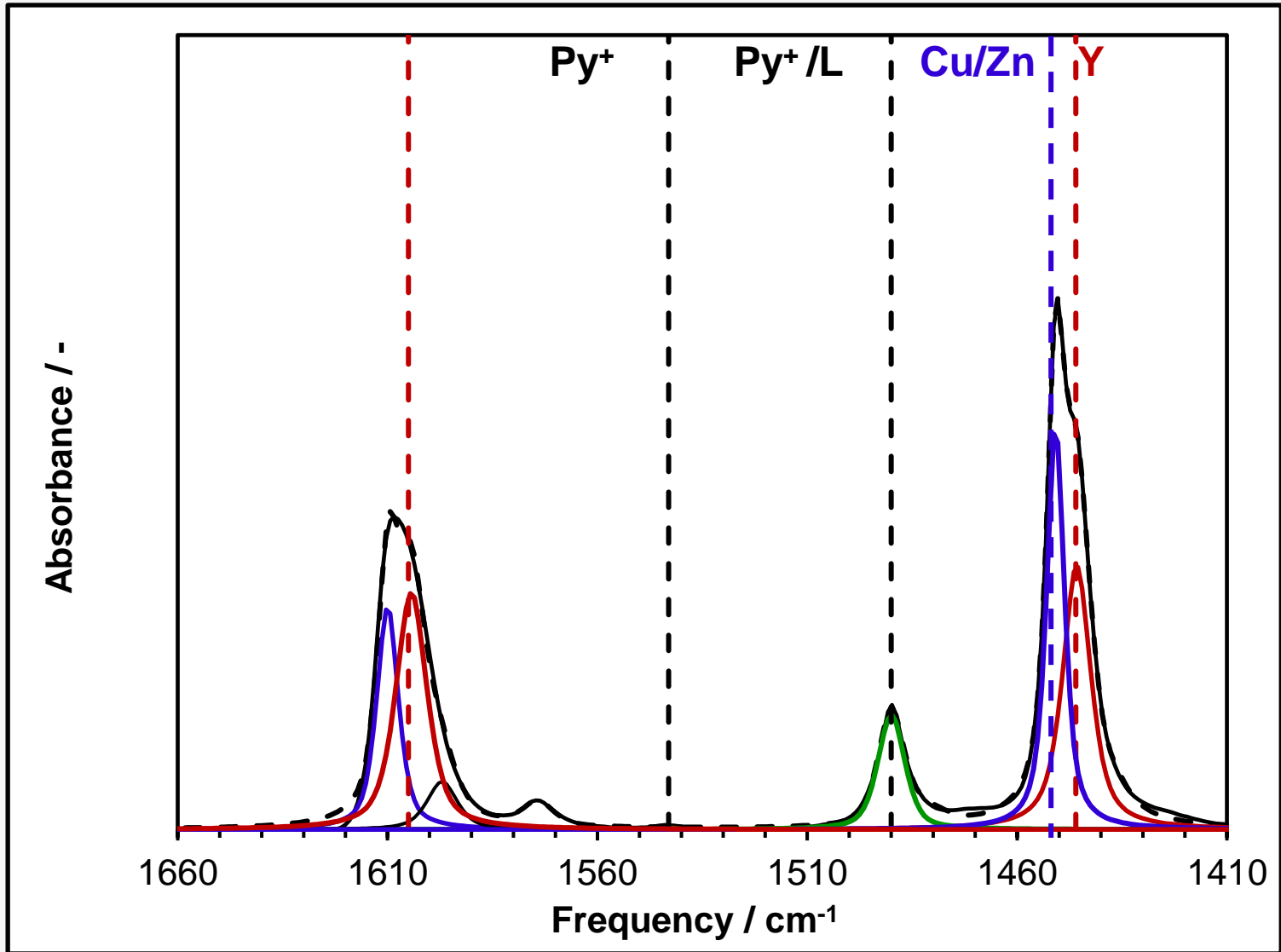
# Pyridine IR: M/deAlBeta



# Pyridine IR: M/deAlBeta



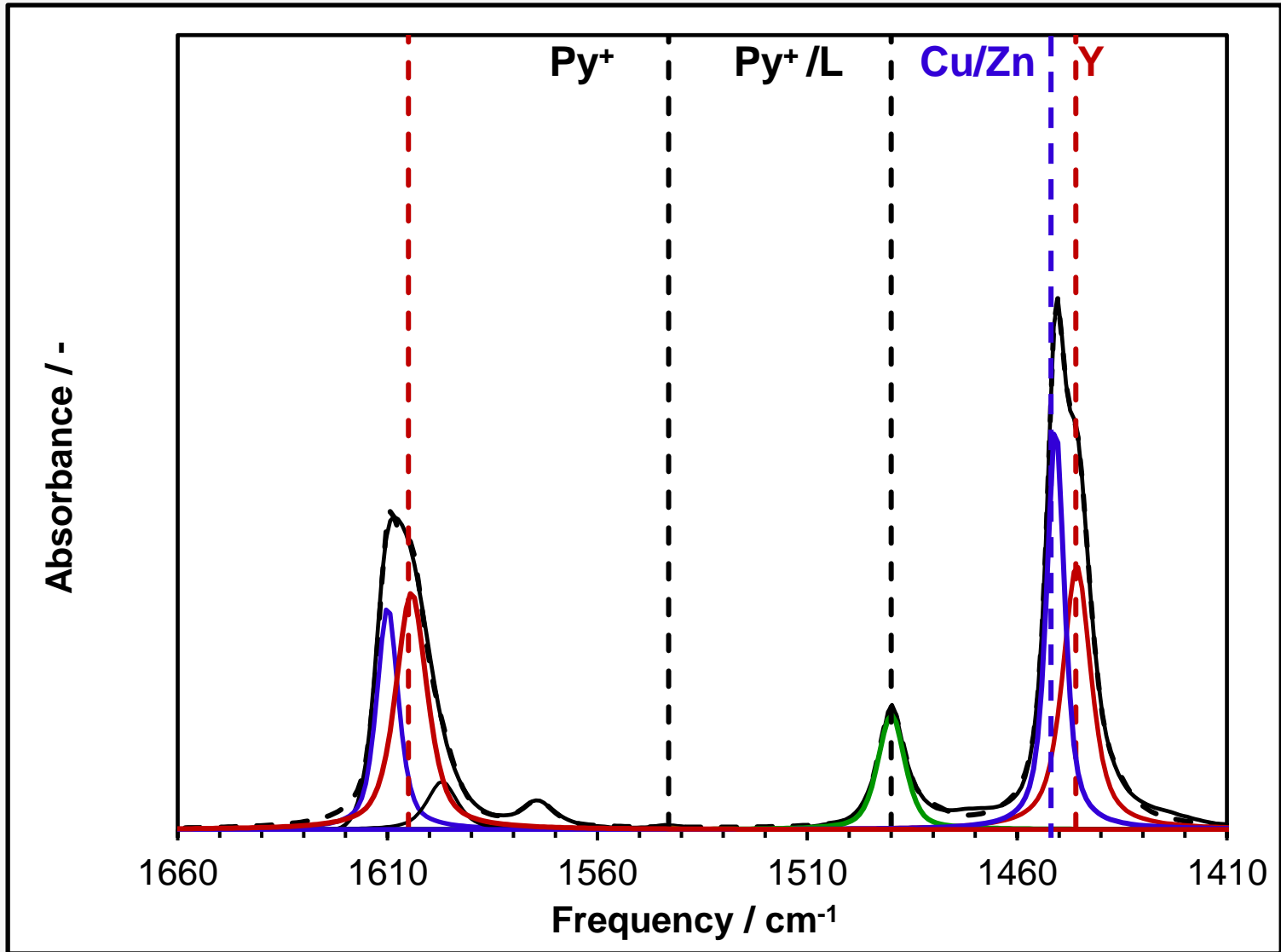
# Pyridine IR: CuZnY/deAlBeta



*Can distinguish Y LAS sites from Cu & Zn LAS sites...*



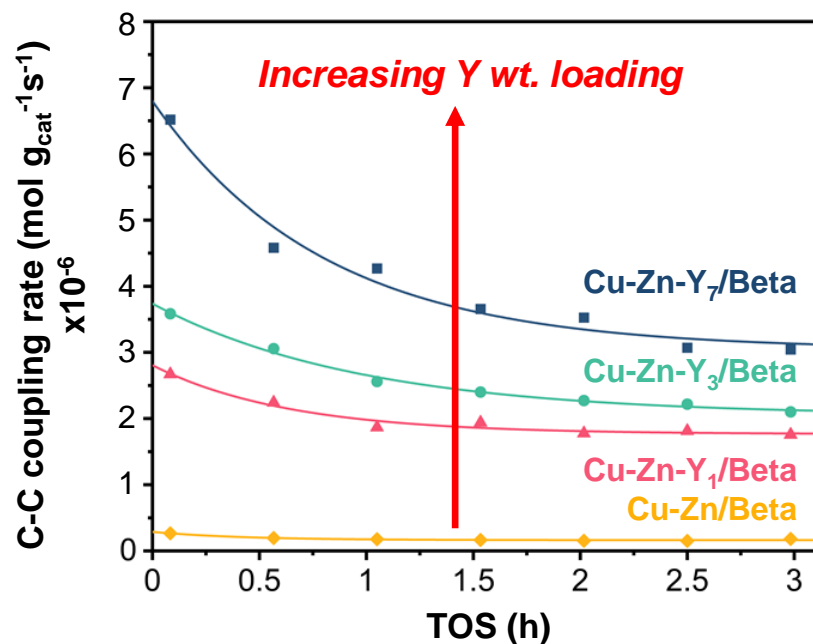
# Pyridine IR: CuZnY/deAlBeta



***Can distinguish Y LAS sites from Cu & Zn LAS sites... and  $\text{Py}^+$  no longer present in CuZnY/Beta***

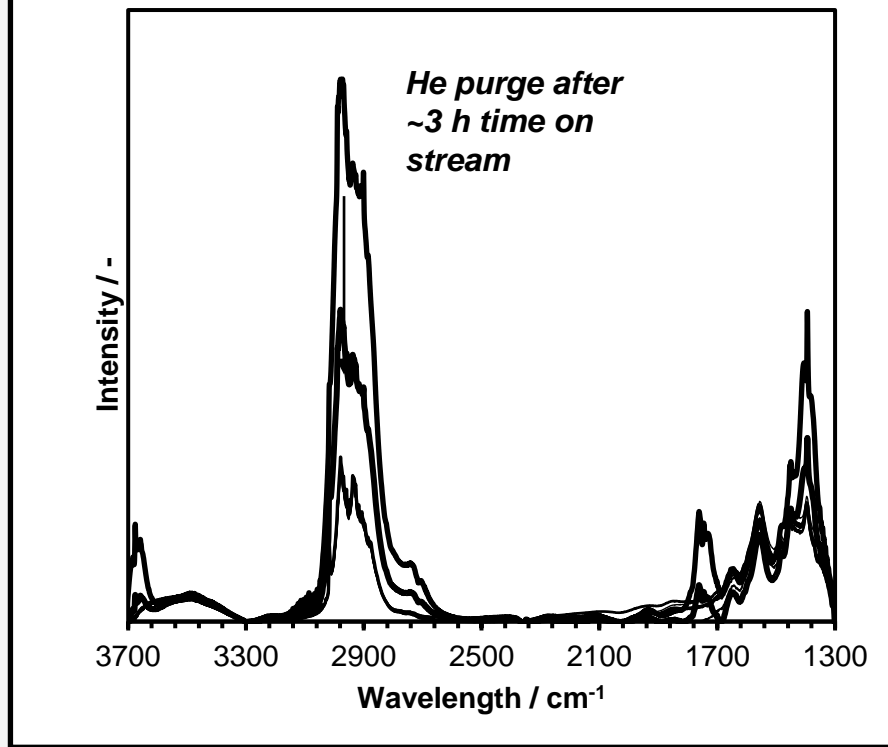
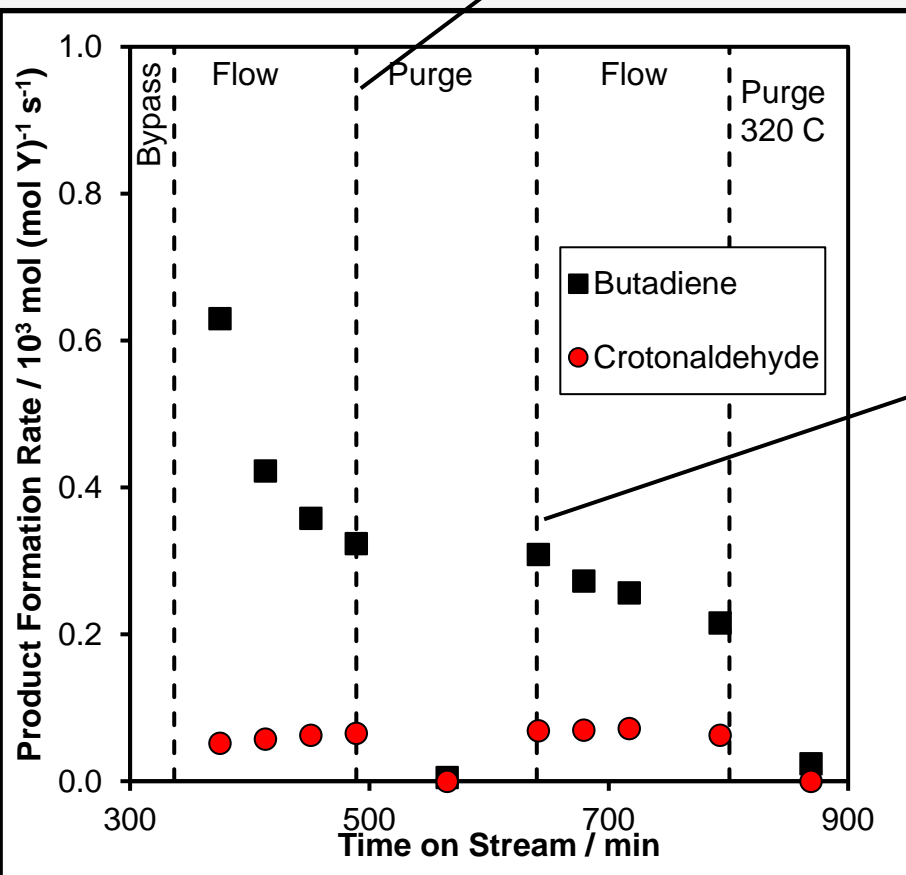
# Measurement of product formation rates on CuZnY/deAlBeta

$$r_{C-C \text{ coupling}} = \frac{(r_{\text{butenes}} + r_{\text{butadiene}} + r_{\text{C4aldehydes}} + 2 \times r_{\text{hexenes}} + 3 \times r_{\text{octenes}})}{m_c}$$



\*Data Collected by Junyan Zhang, ORNL

# Flow experiment on $Y_{9.8\%}/\text{Beta}$ in IR cell



$Y_{9.8\%}/\text{Beta}$ ;  $T=503 \text{ K}$  and  $593 \text{ K}$

## Flow mode

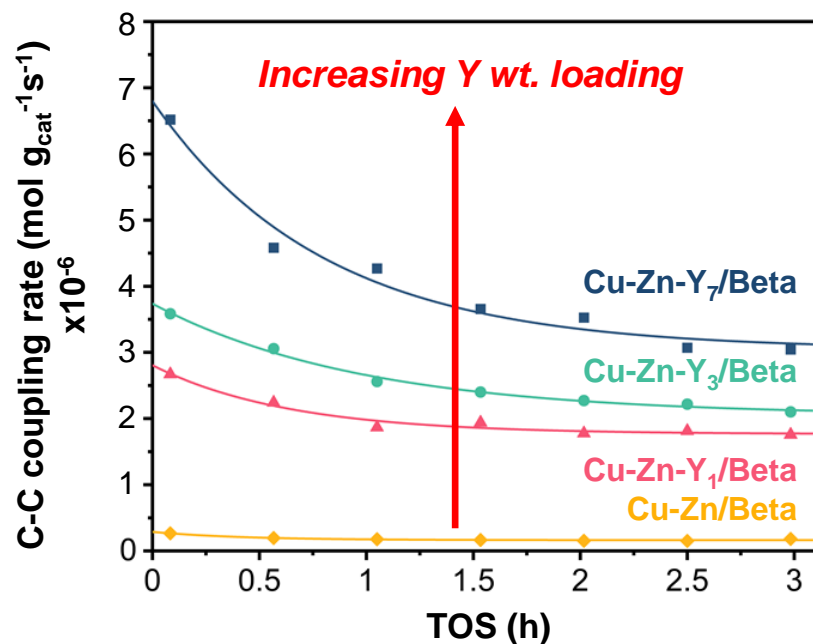
Total flowrate  $100 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  (1.04% in He) as internal standard, reactant partial pressures ( $p_{\text{AcH}} = 0.0048$ ,  $p_{\text{EtOH}} = 0.03$ ) kept constant.

## Purge mode

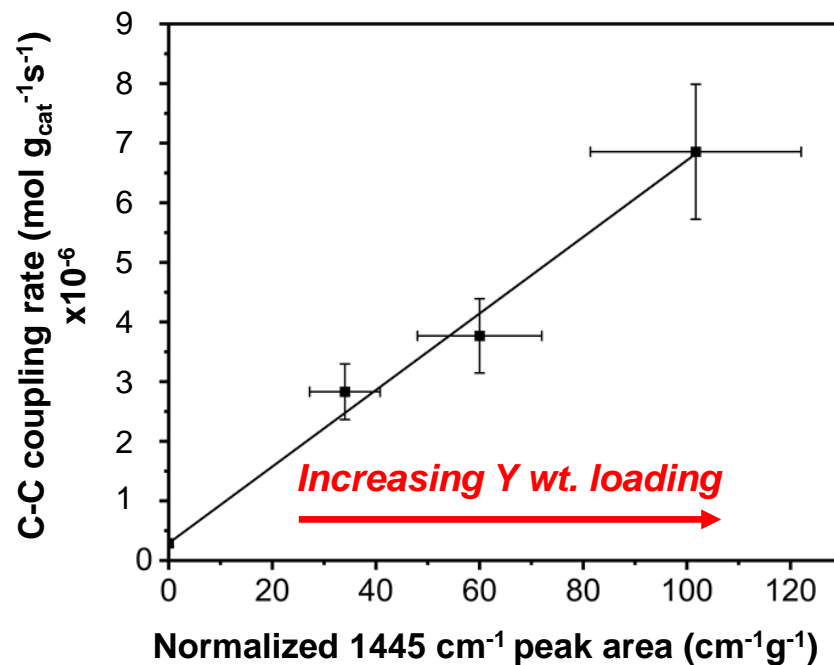
Reactants (EtOH and AcH) switched off during He purge mode. Total flowrate  $100 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  (1.04% in He) as internal standard.

# Measurement of product formation rates on CuZnY/deAlBeta

$$r_{C-C \text{ coupling}} = \frac{(r_{\text{butenes}} + r_{\text{butadiene}} + r_{\text{C4aldehydes}} + 2 \times r_{\text{hexenes}} + 3 \times r_{\text{octenes}})}{m_c}$$

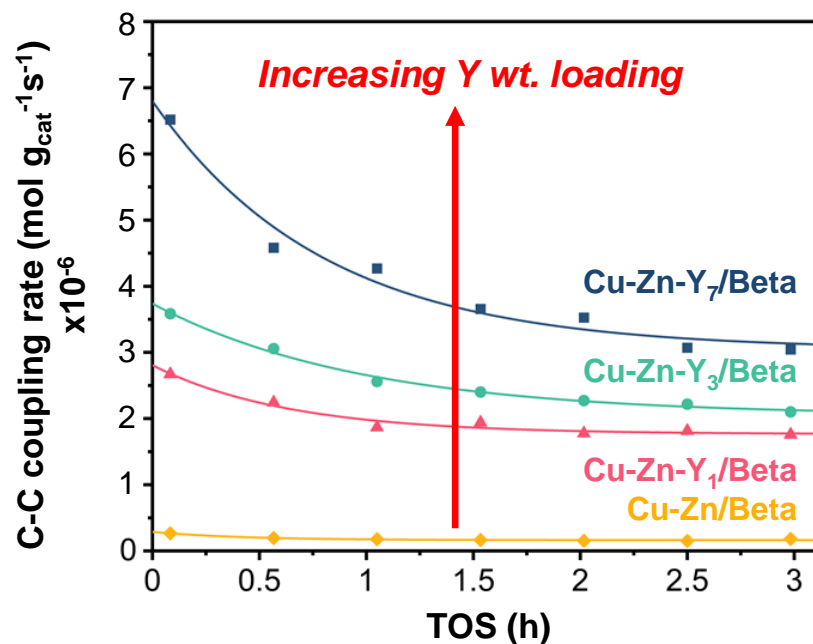


\*Data Collected by Junyan Zhang, ORNL

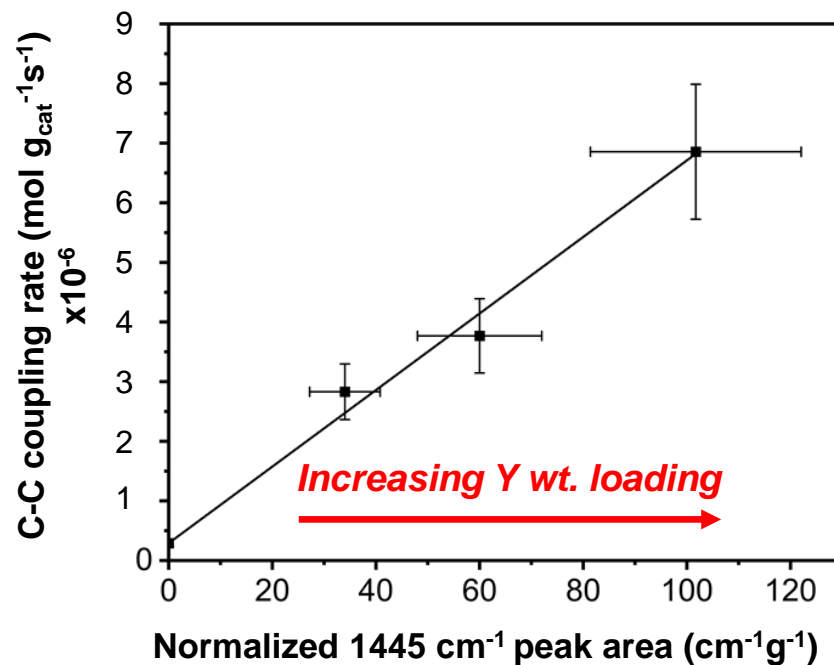


# Measurement of product formation rates on CuZnY/deAlBeta

$$r_{C-C \text{ coupling}} = \frac{(r_{\text{butenes}} + r_{\text{butadiene}} + r_{\text{C4aldehydes}} + 2 \times r_{\text{hexenes}} + 3 \times r_{\text{octenes}})}{m_c}$$



\*Data Collected by Junyan Zhang, ORNL



**C-C coupling rates correlate linearly with  $Y_{LAS}$  density measured by pyridine IR**

# *Quantification of IMECS to Enable Quantitative Chemisorption IR*

**Beer-Lambert law**

$$A = \epsilon b C$$

**A = absorbance**

**$\epsilon$  = molar extinction coefficient**

**b = path length**

**C = concentration**



# Quantification of IMECS to Enable Quantitative Chemisorption IR

Beer-Lambert law

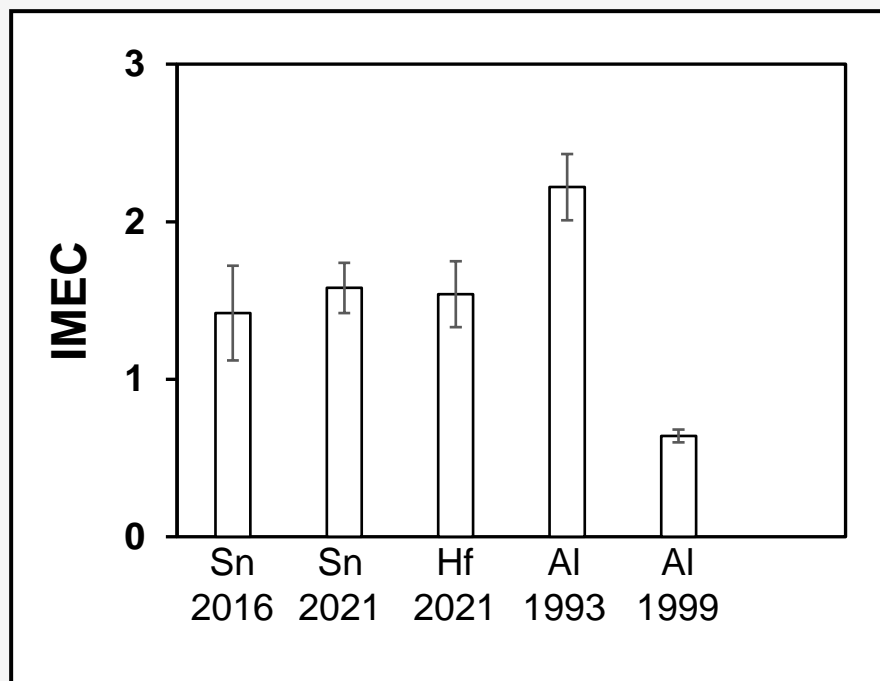
$$A = \epsilon b C$$

A = absorbance

$\epsilon$  = molar extinction coefficient

b = path length

C = concentration



C. A. Emeis., *J Catal.*, 141 (1993) 347-354

Selli and Forni, *Micropor. Mesopor. Mat.*, 31 (1999) 129 - 140

Harris et al., *J Catal.*, 335 (2016) 141-154

Johnson et al., *J. Catal.*, 404 (2021) 607-619

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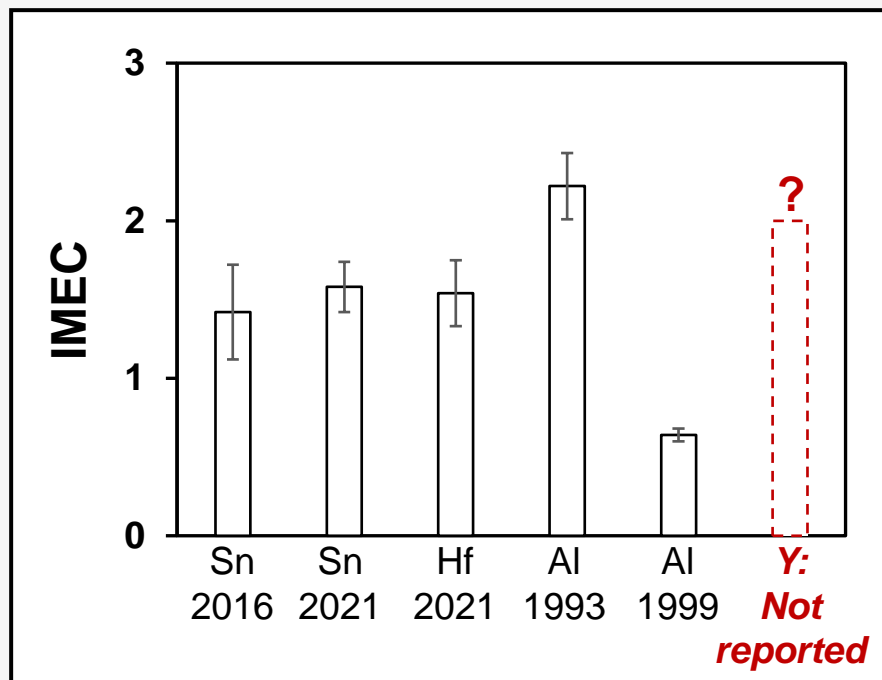
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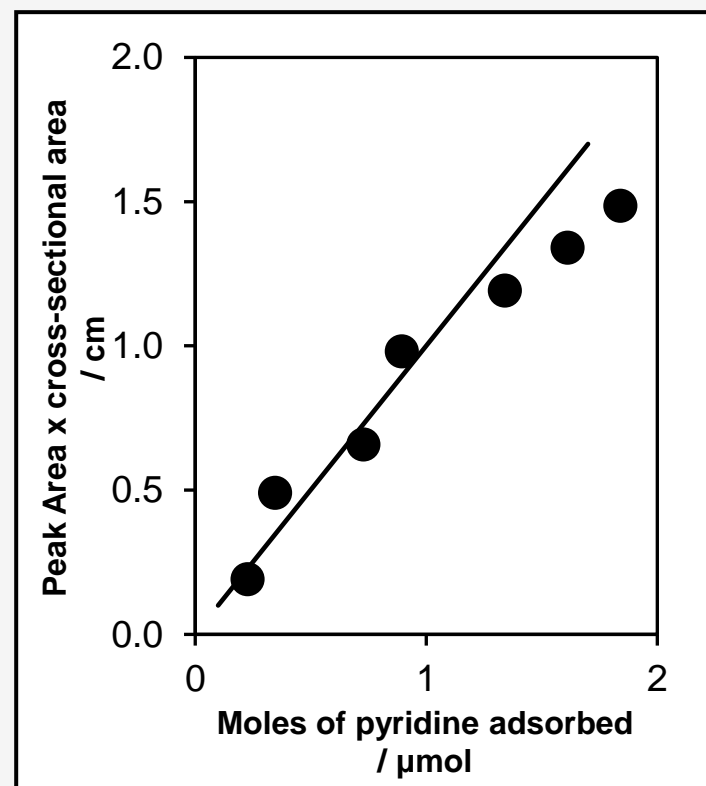
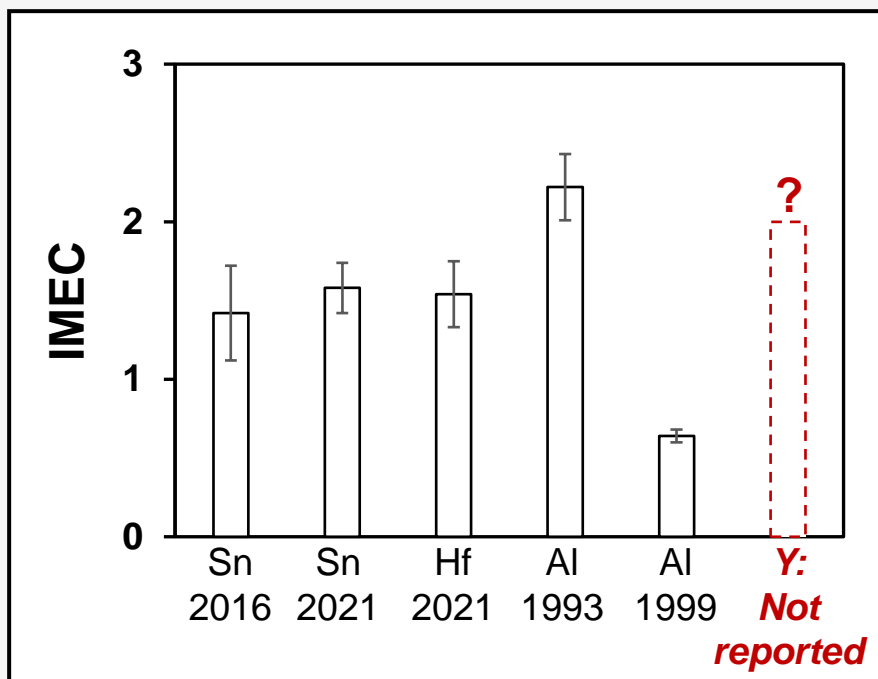
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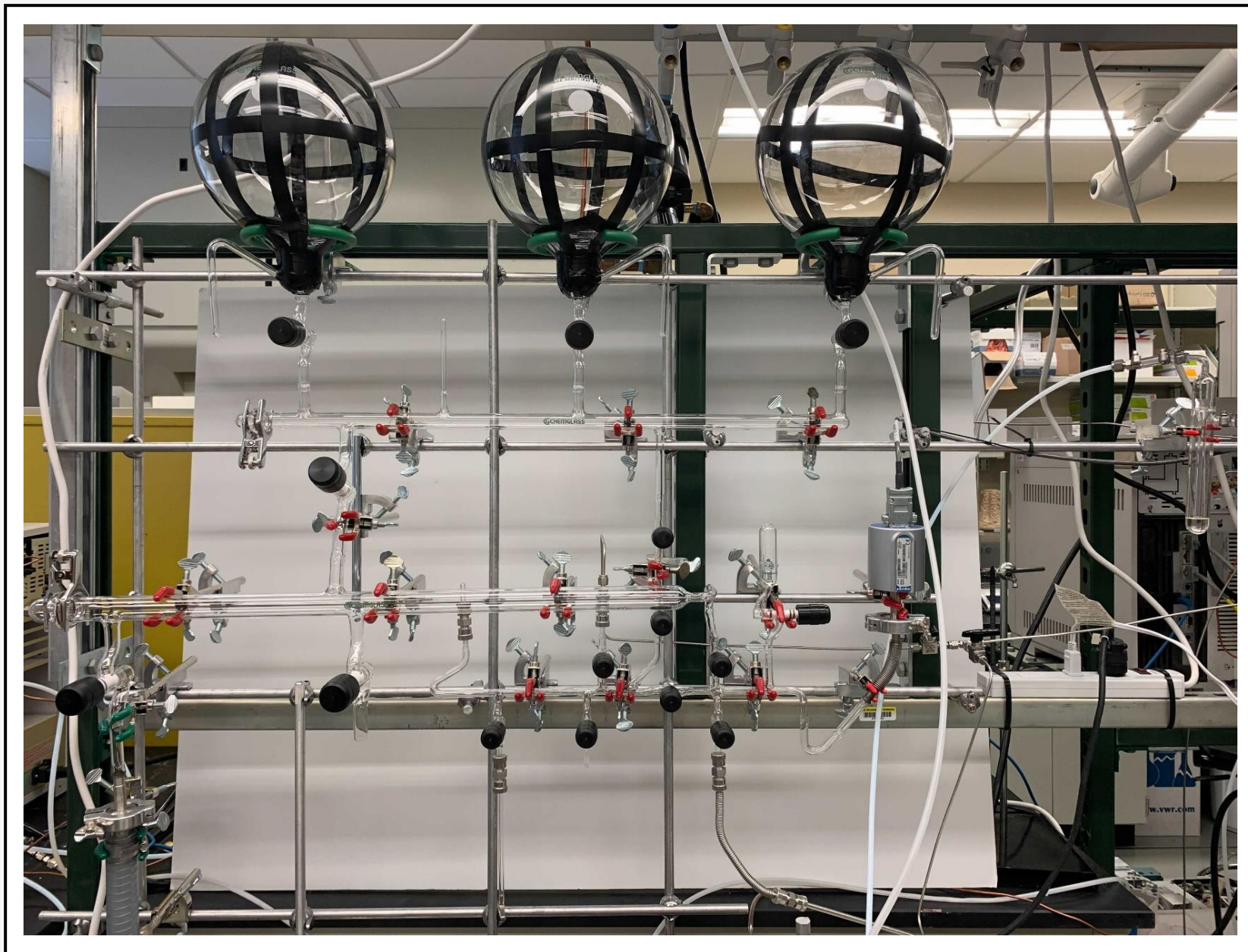
C. A. Emeis., *J Catal.*, 141 (1993) 347-354

Selli and Forni, *Micropor. Mesopor. Mat.*, 31 (1999) 129 - 140

Harris et al., *J Catal.*, 335 (2016) 141-154

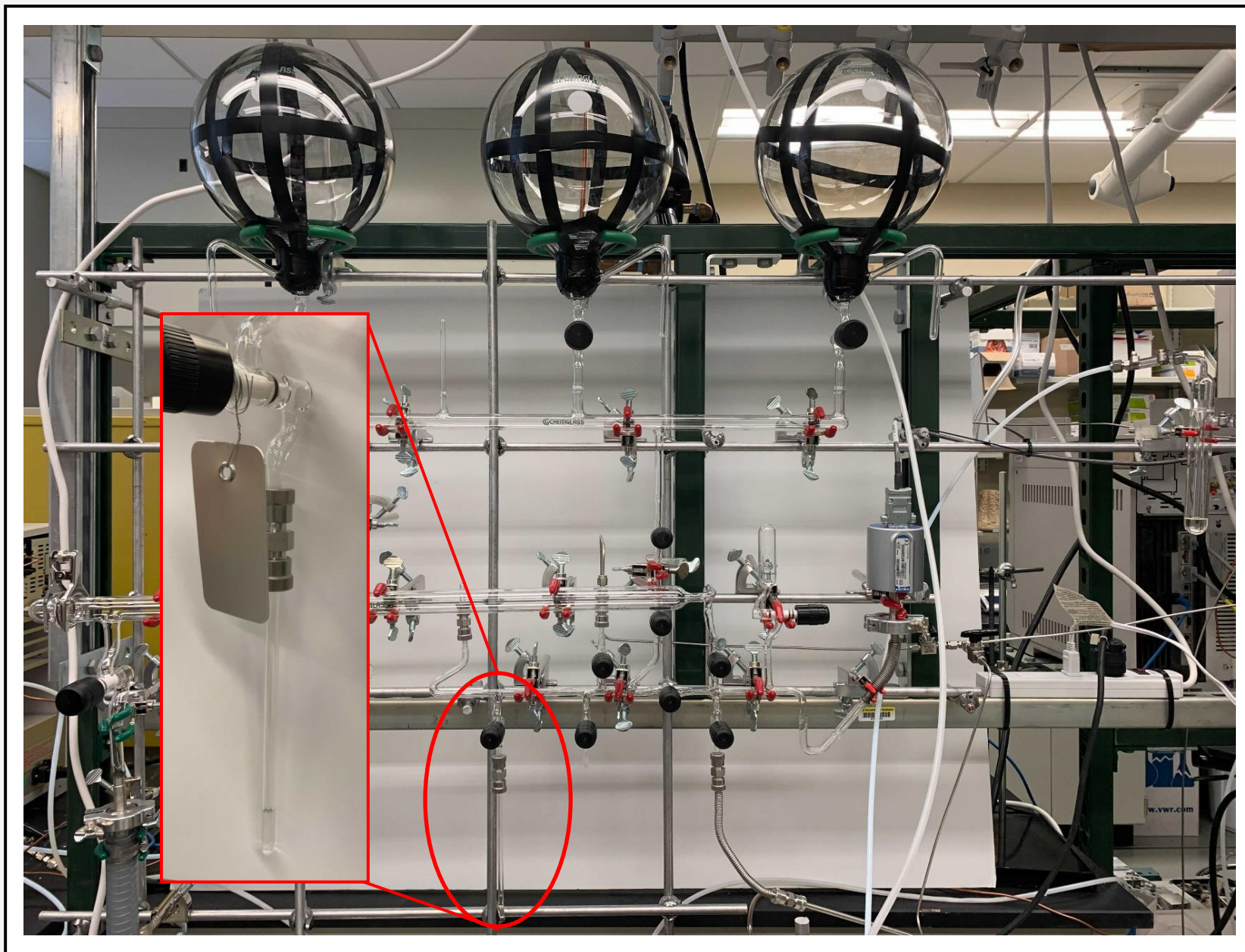
Johnson et al., *J. Catal.*, 404 (2021) 607-619

# *Custom Glass Vacuum Manifold*





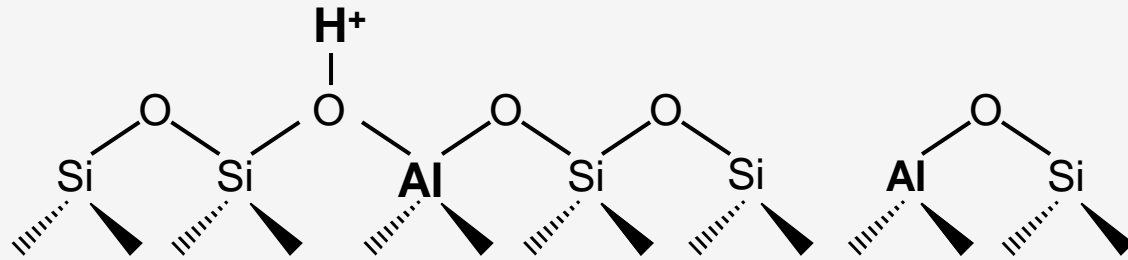
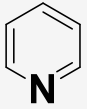
# Custom Glass Vacuum Manifold



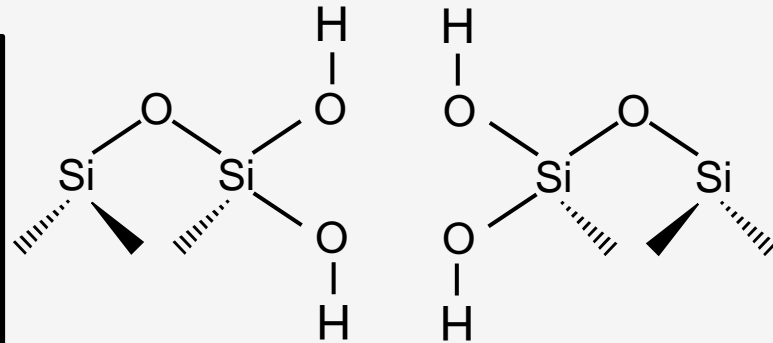


# Pyridine Adsorption on Dealuminated Beta

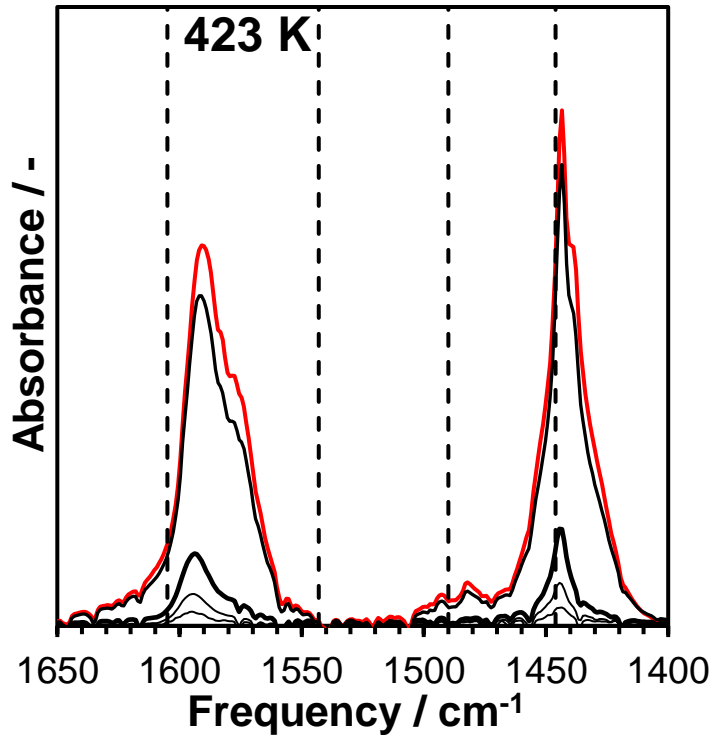
423 K  
10 – 40 torr



H-Beta



Dealuminated  
Beta



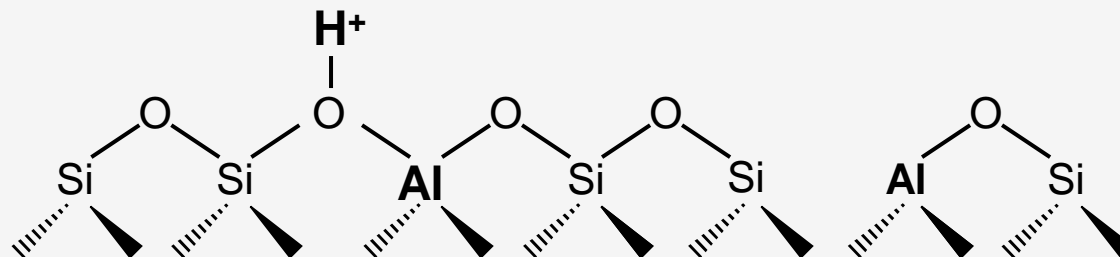
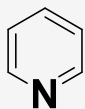
- Red = pyridine flow
- Black = He purge



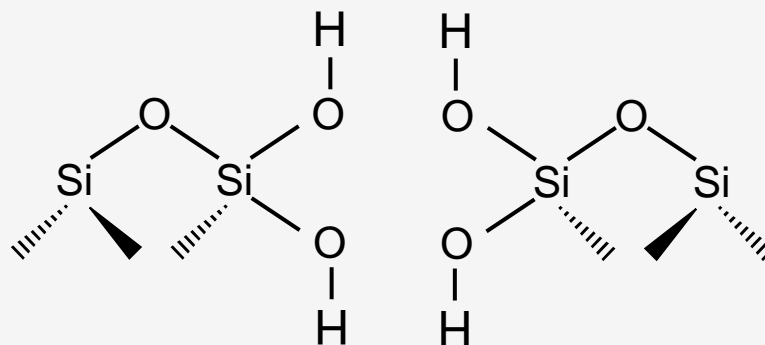


# Pyridine Titration of Lewis Acid Sites

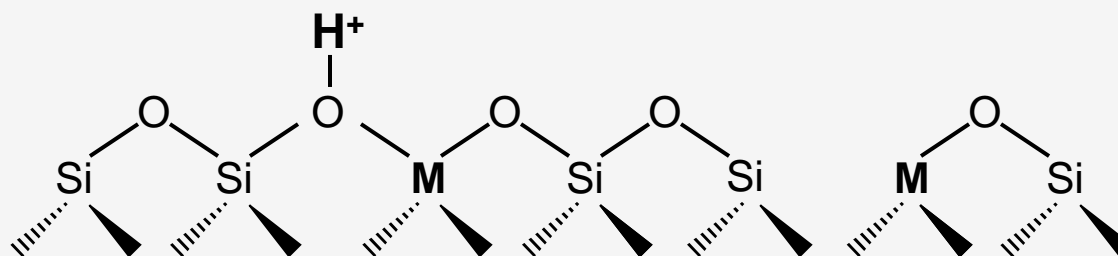
423 K  
10 – 40 torr



H-Beta



Dealuminated  
Beta



M Beta

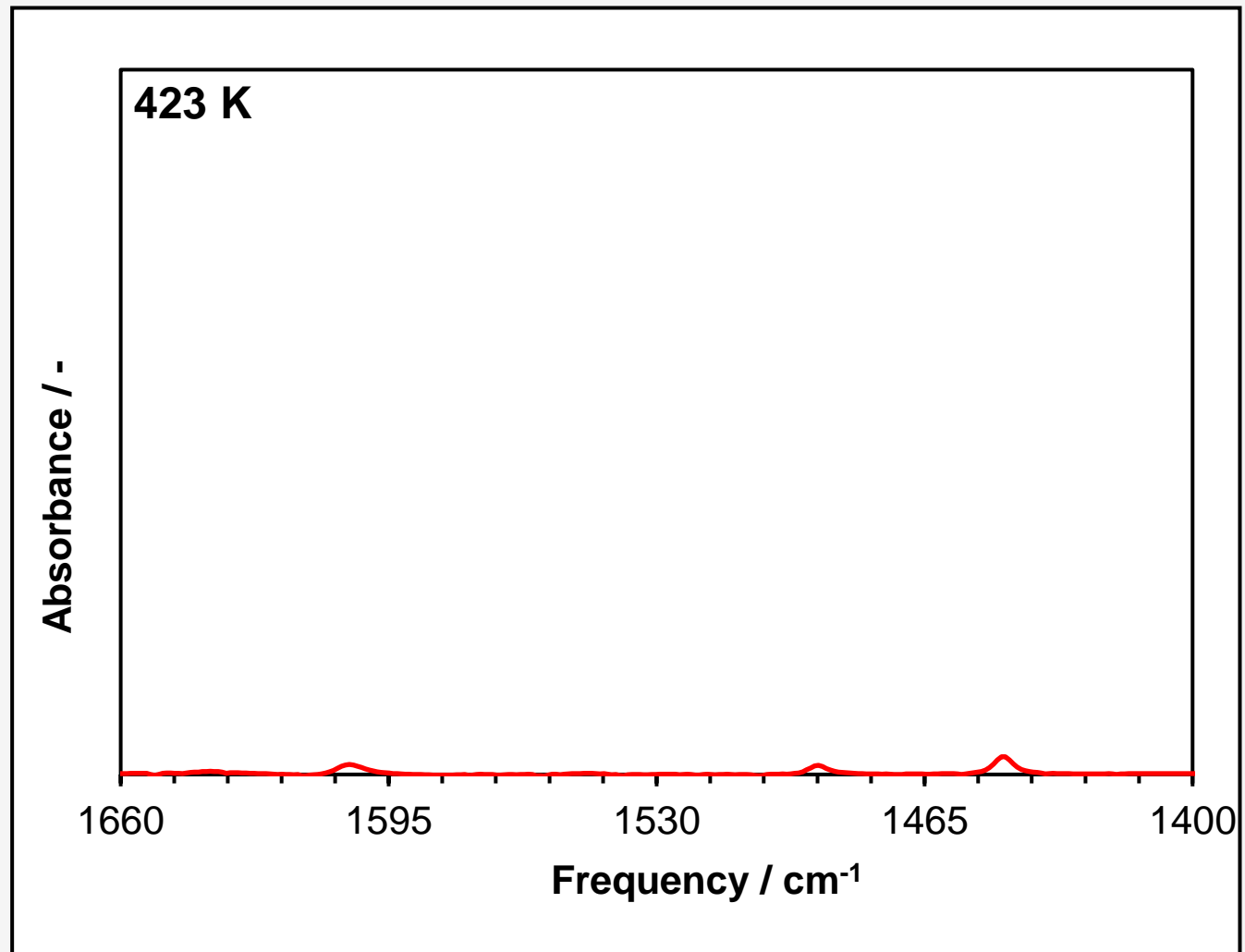
**We would expect  
Y-containing  
zeolites to have  
charge balancing  
protons (akin to  
aluminosilicate  
zeolites)**

# *Pyridine Titration on Y/deAlBeta Under Vacuum*

Step 1: Dose

Step 2: Saturate

Step 3: Evacuate

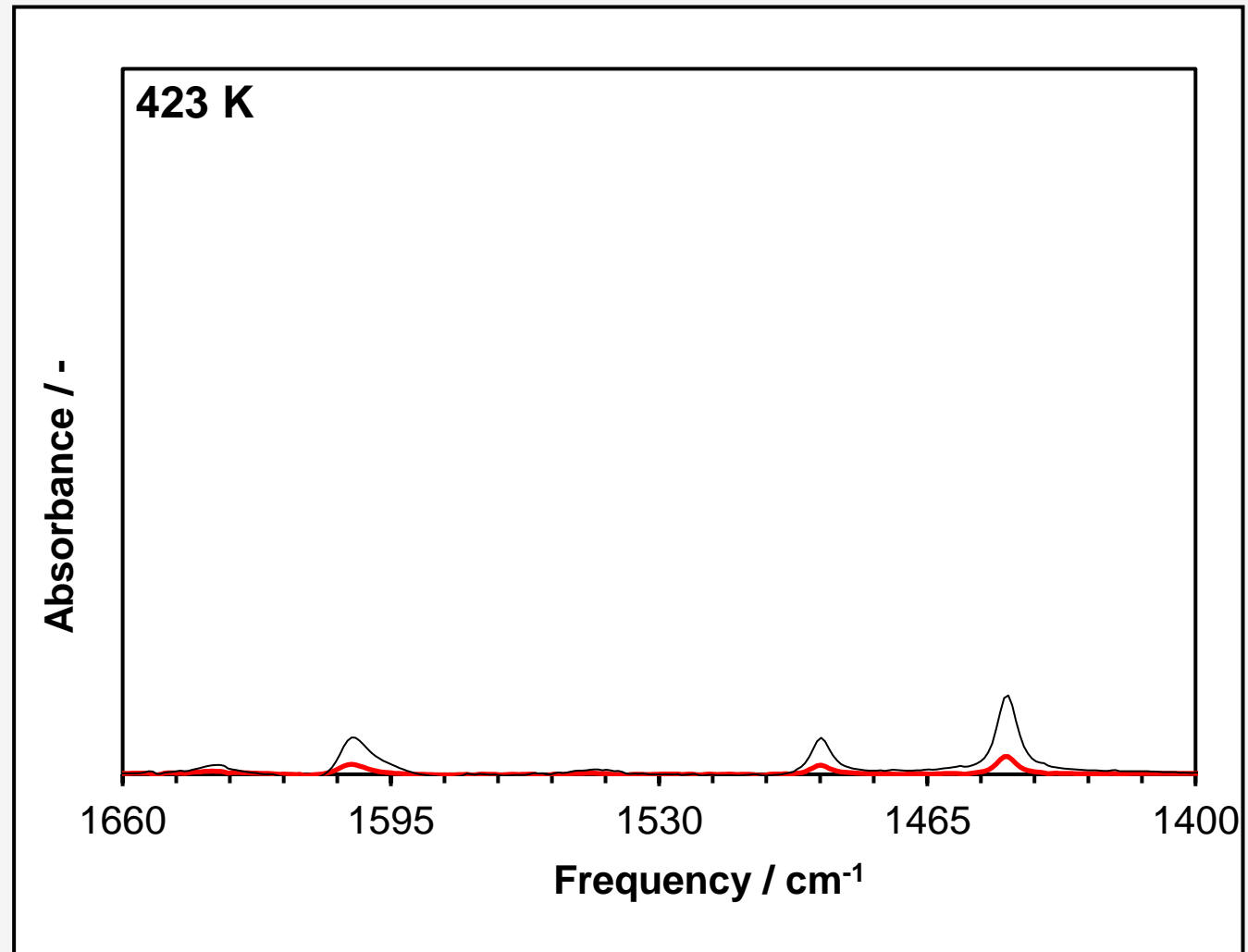


# Pyridine Titration on Y/deAlBeta Under Vacuum

Step 1: Dose

Step 2: Saturate

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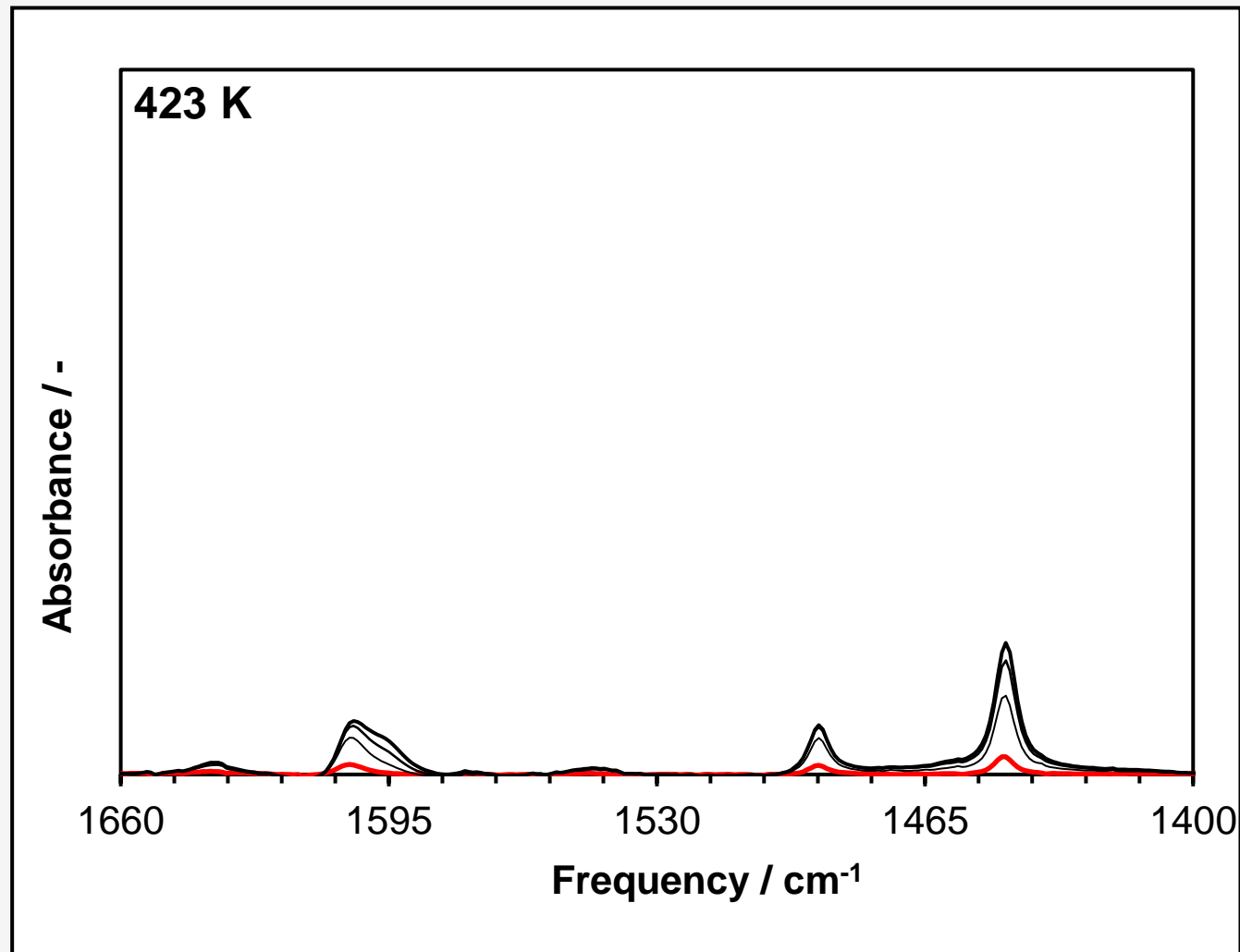


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Step 1: Dose

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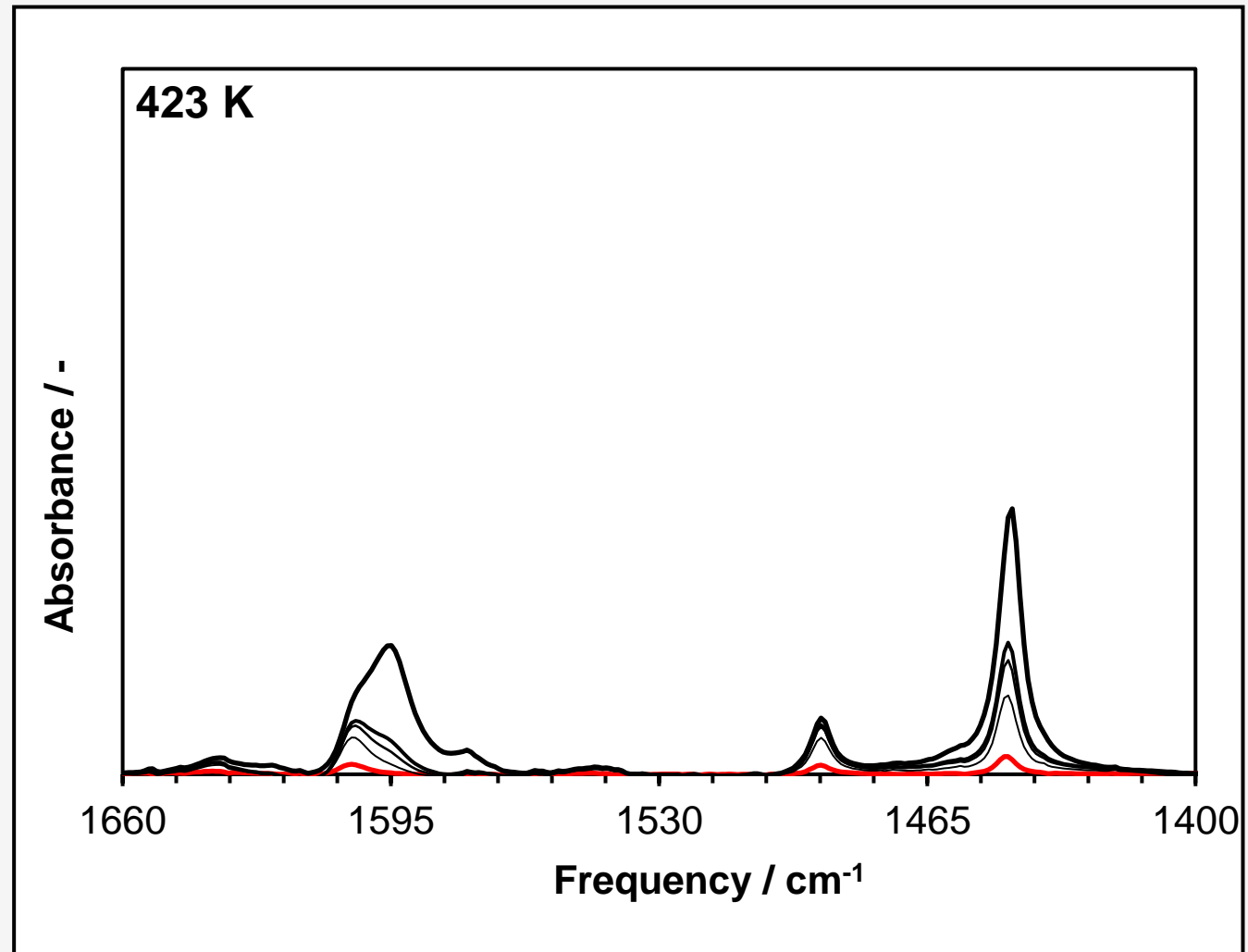


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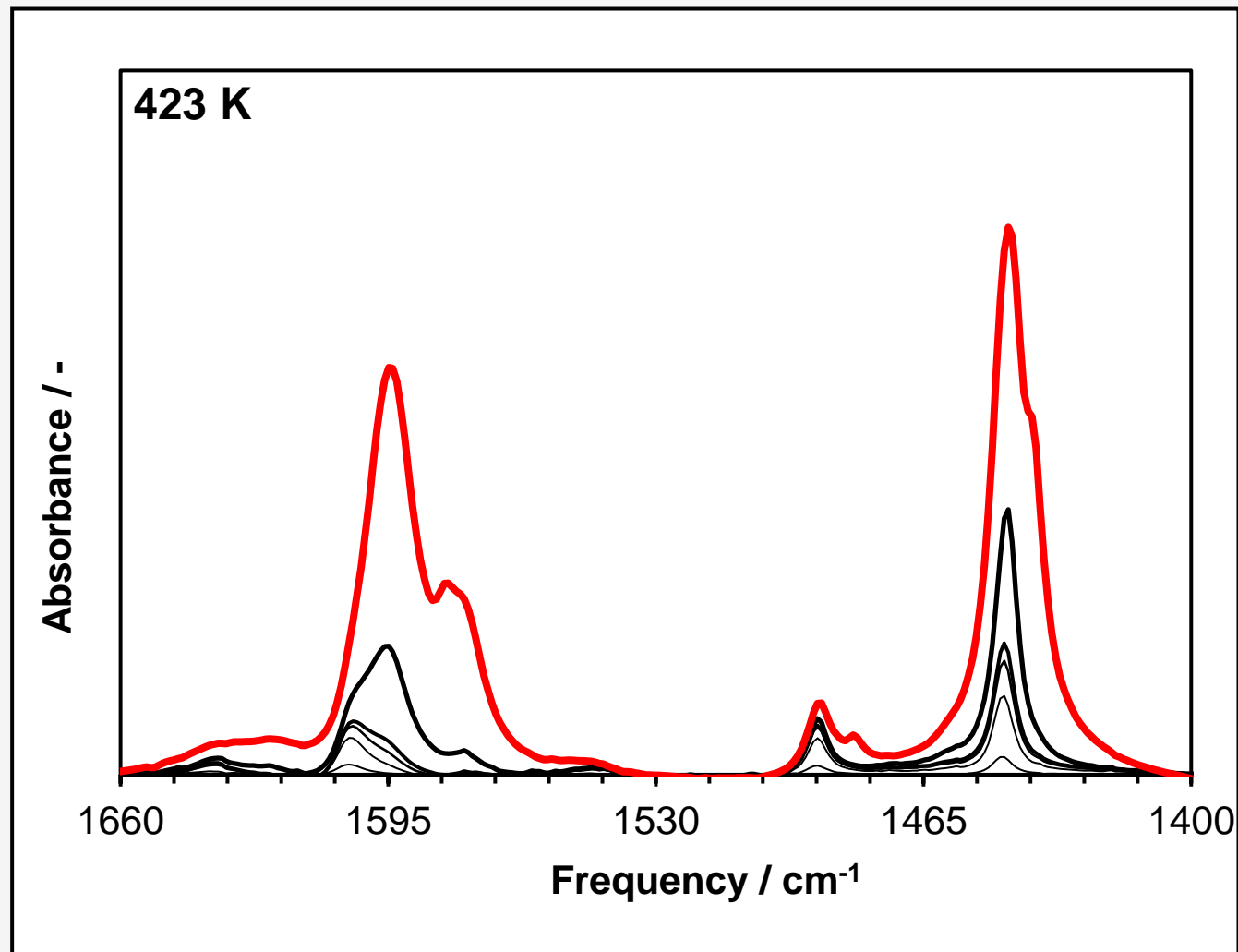


# Pyridine Titration on Y/deAlBeta Under Vacuum

Step 1: Dose

Step 2: Saturate

Step 3: Evacuate

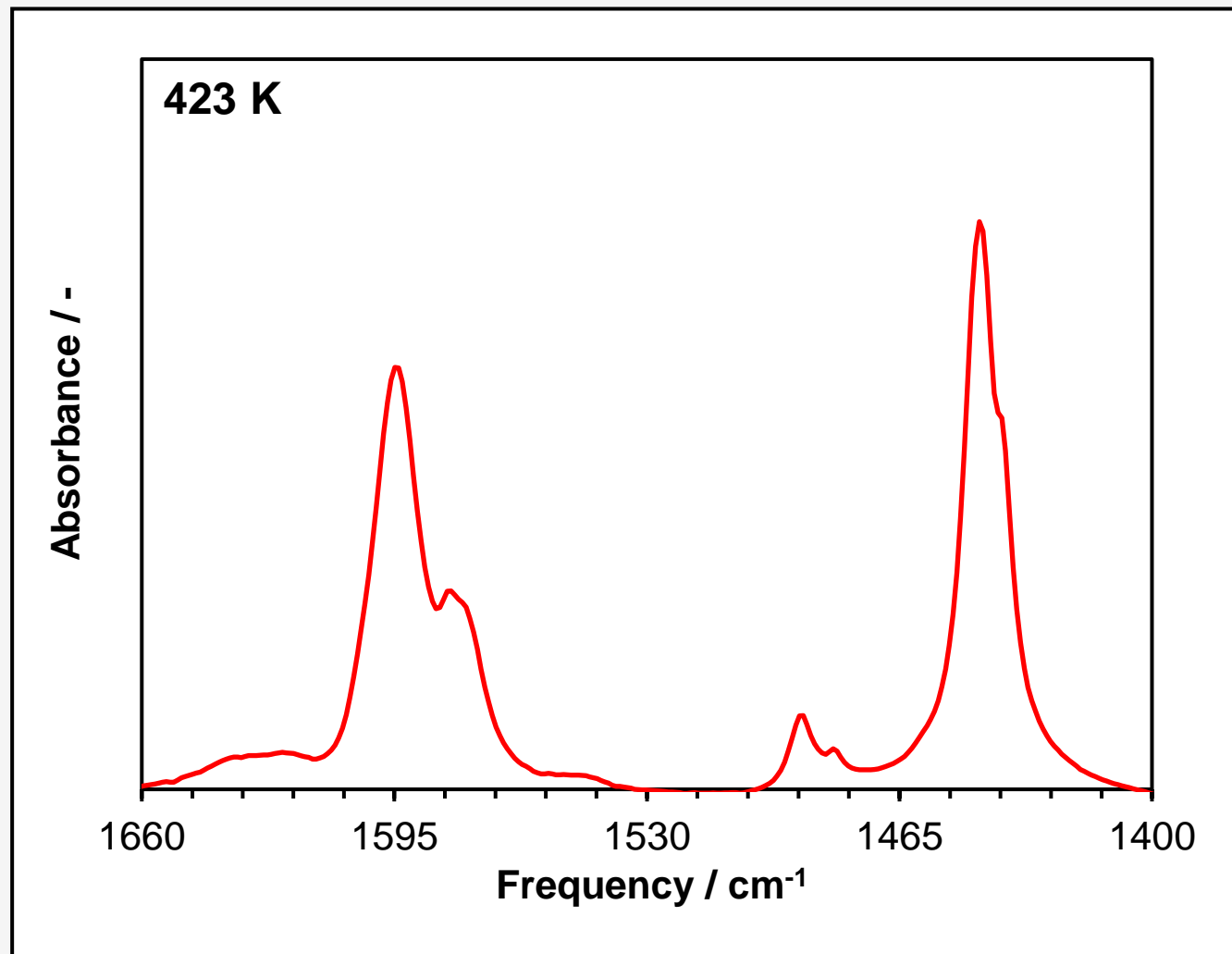


# Pyridine Titration on $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Under Vacuum

Step 1: Dose

Step 2: Saturate

Step 3: Evacuate



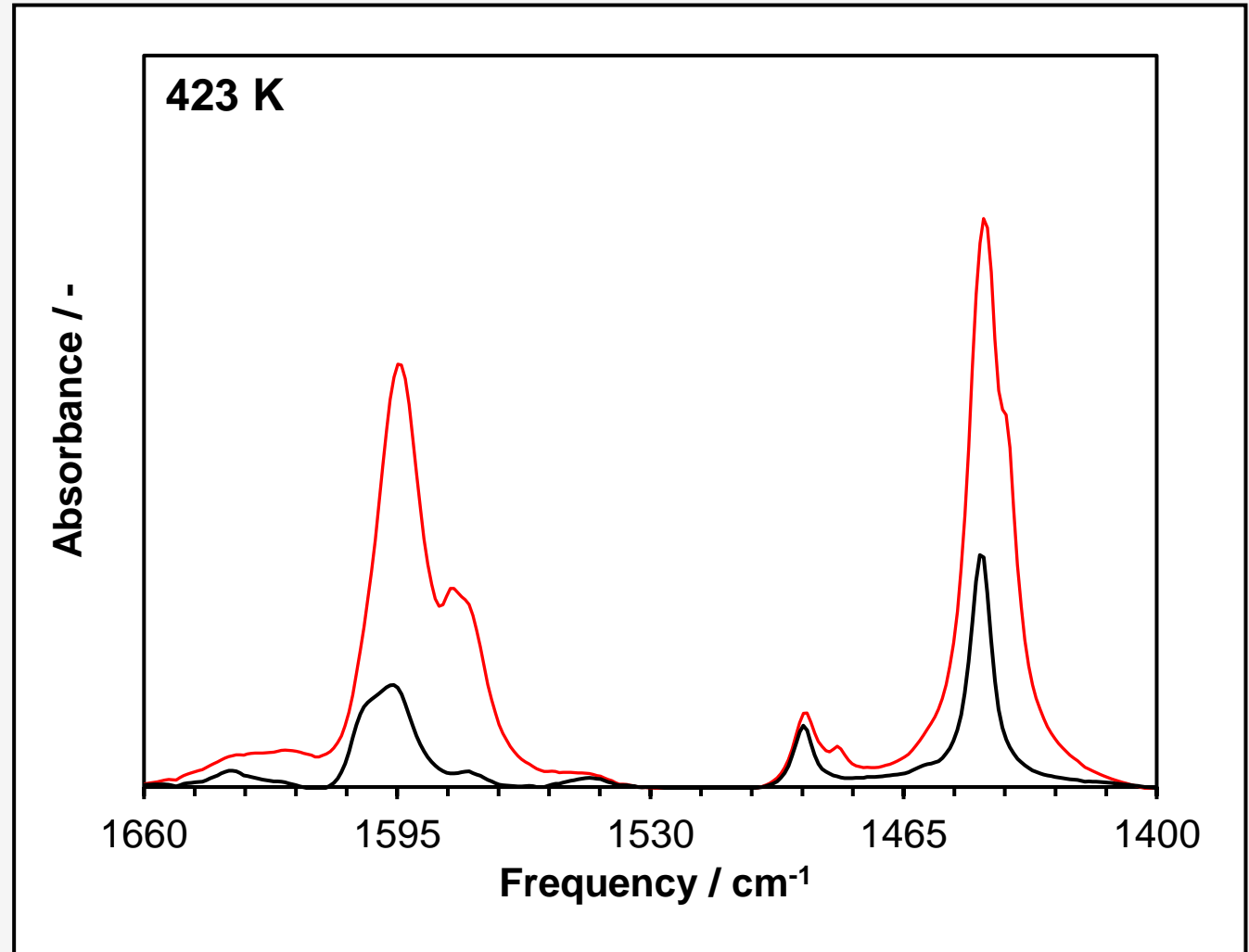
- Red = saturated pyridine dose

# Pyridine Titration on Y/deAlBeta Under Vacuum

Step 1: Dose

Step 2: Saturate

Step 3: Evacuate



- Red = saturated pyridine dose
- Black = evacuation

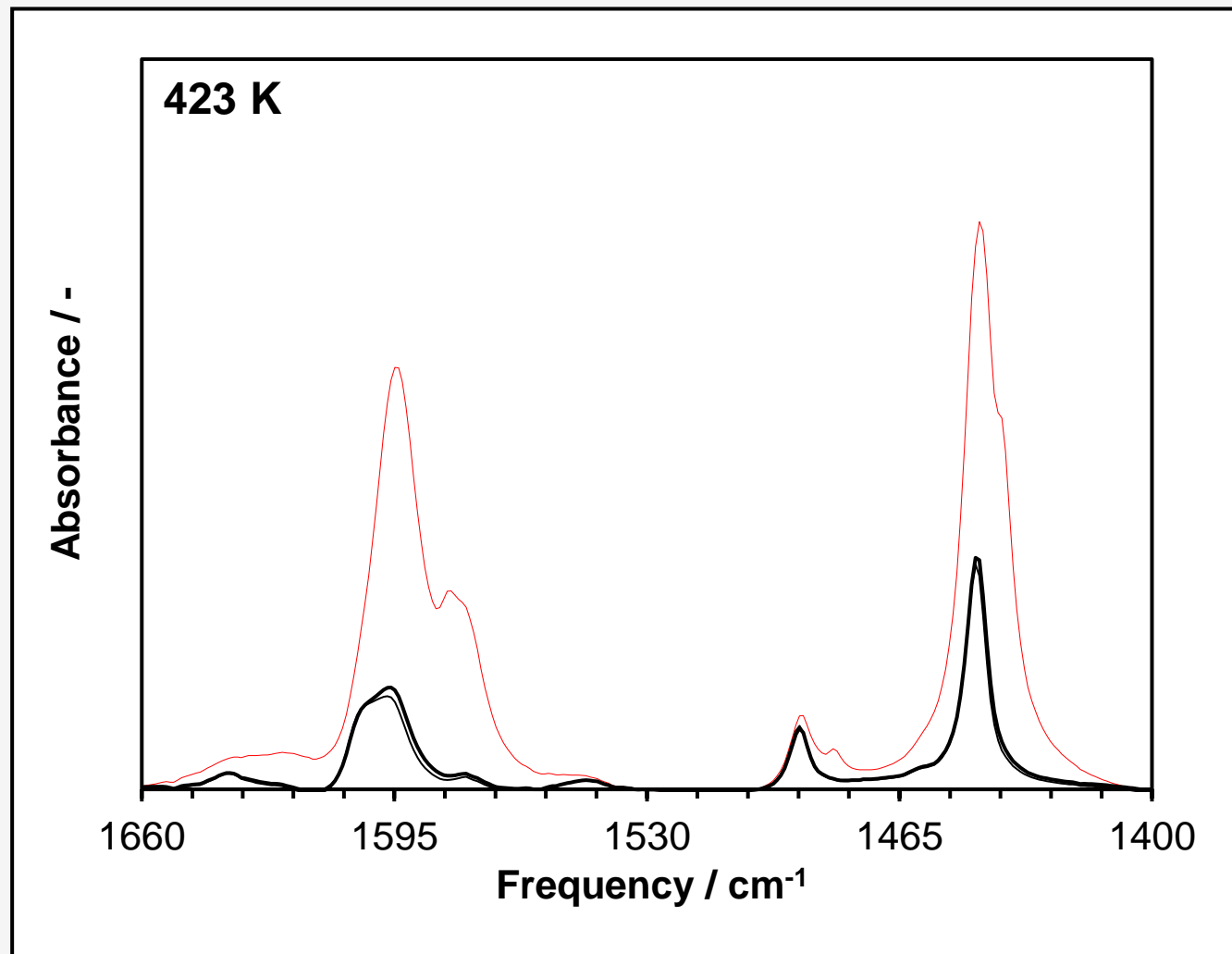


# Pyridine Titration on Y/deAlBeta Under Vacuum

Step 1: Dose

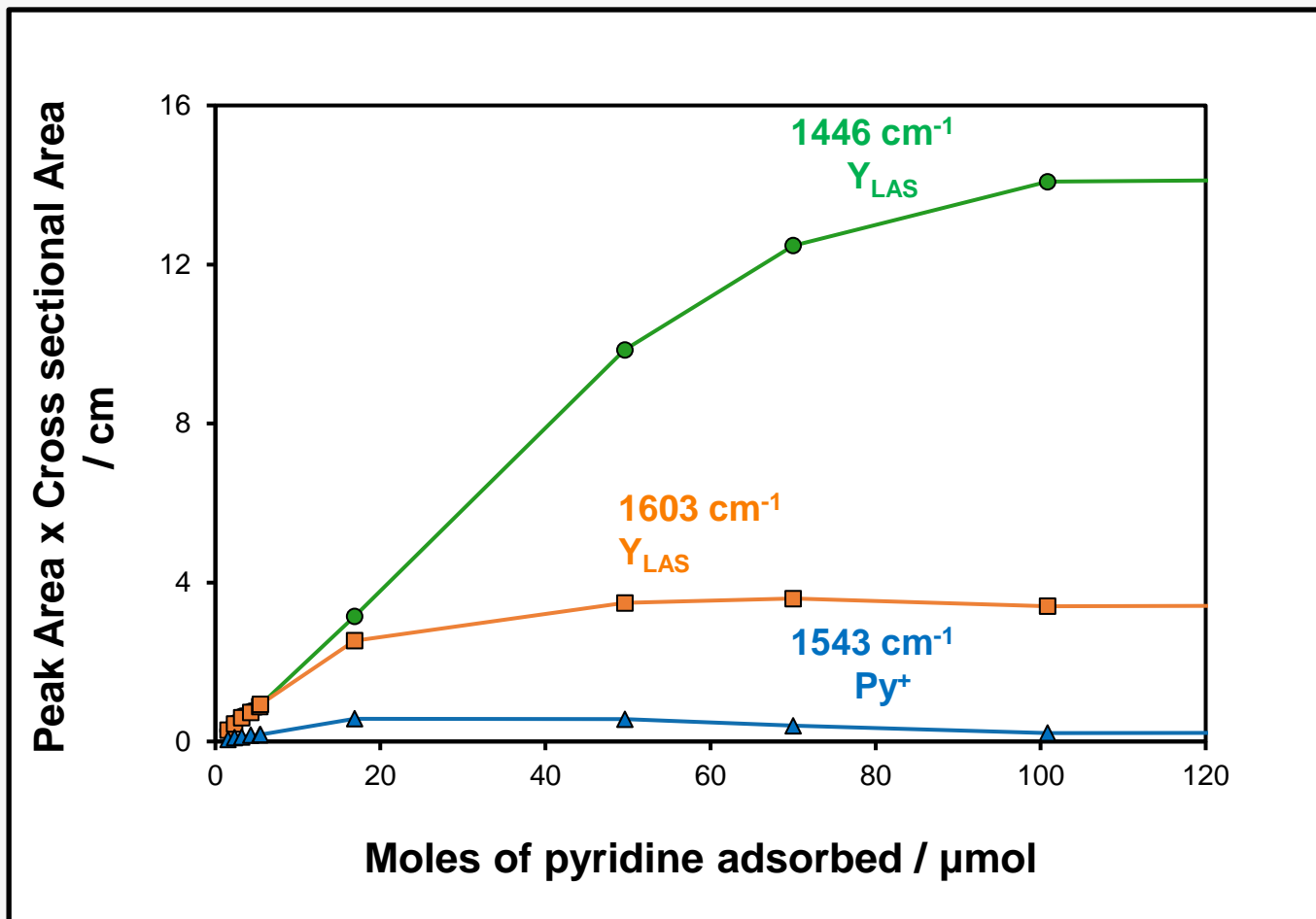
Step 2: Saturate

Step 3: Evacuate

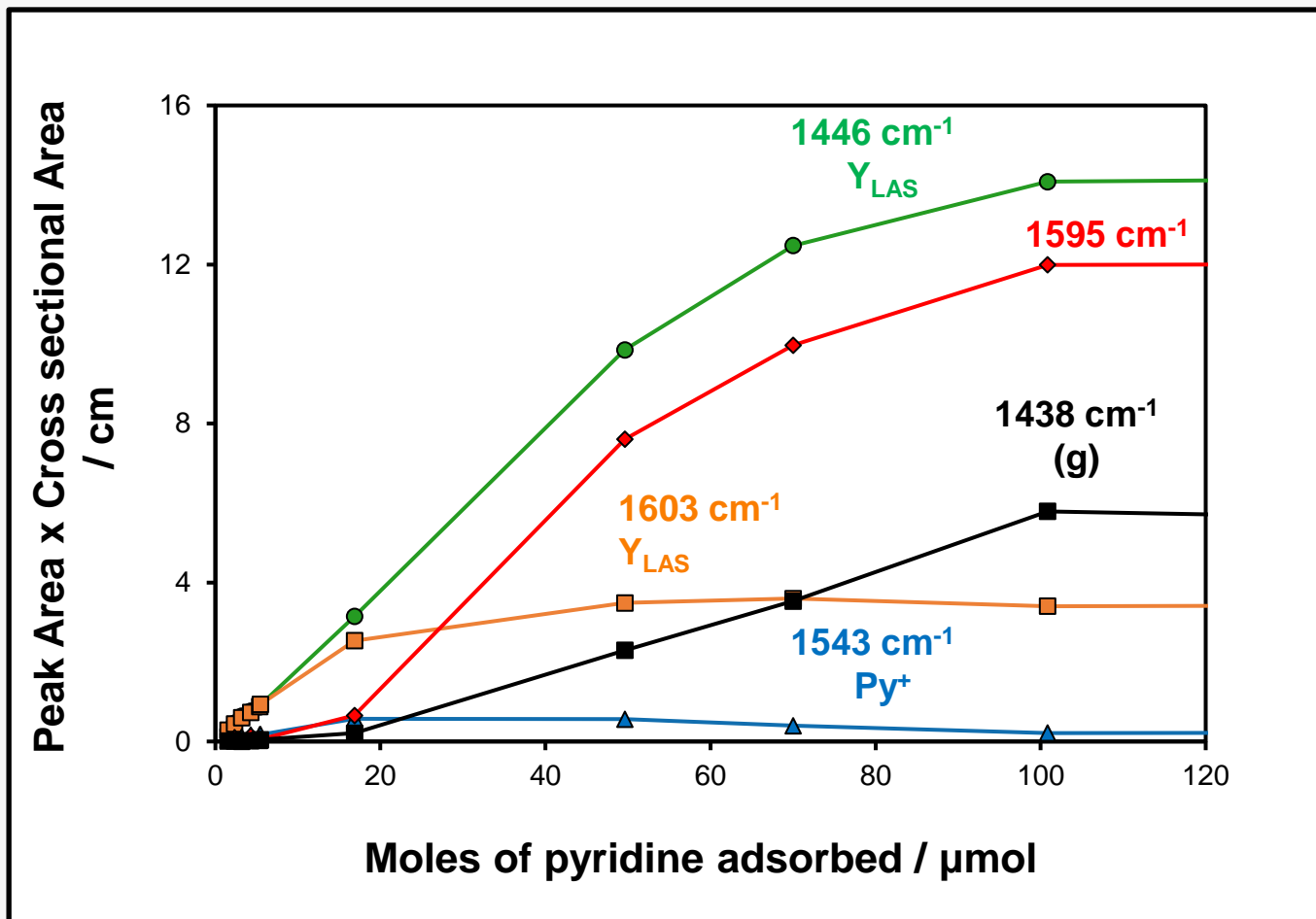


- Red = saturated pyridine dose
- Black = evacuation

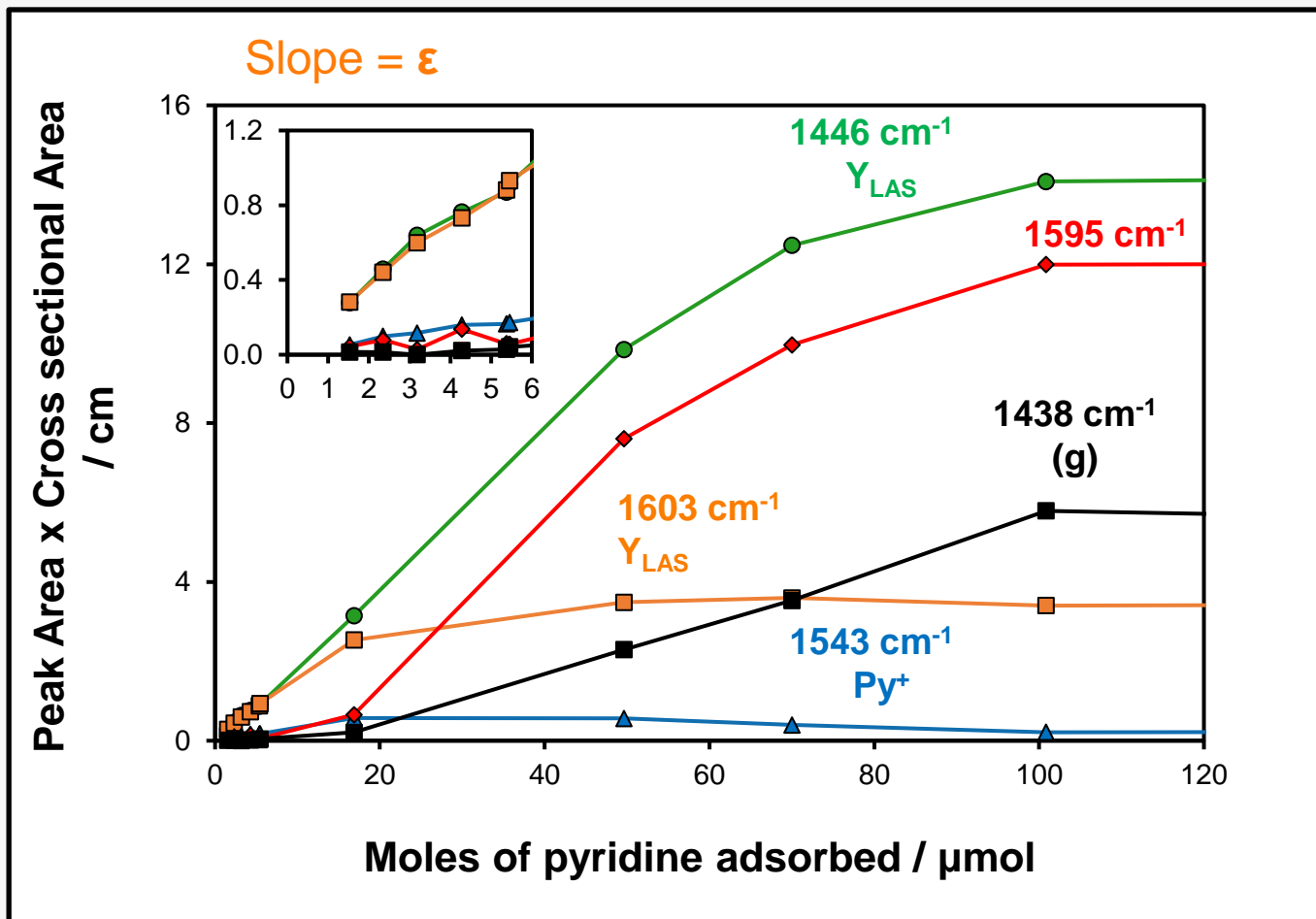
# IMEC for Pyridine Bound to Lewis Acidic Y sites ( $Y_{10}/deAlBeta$ )



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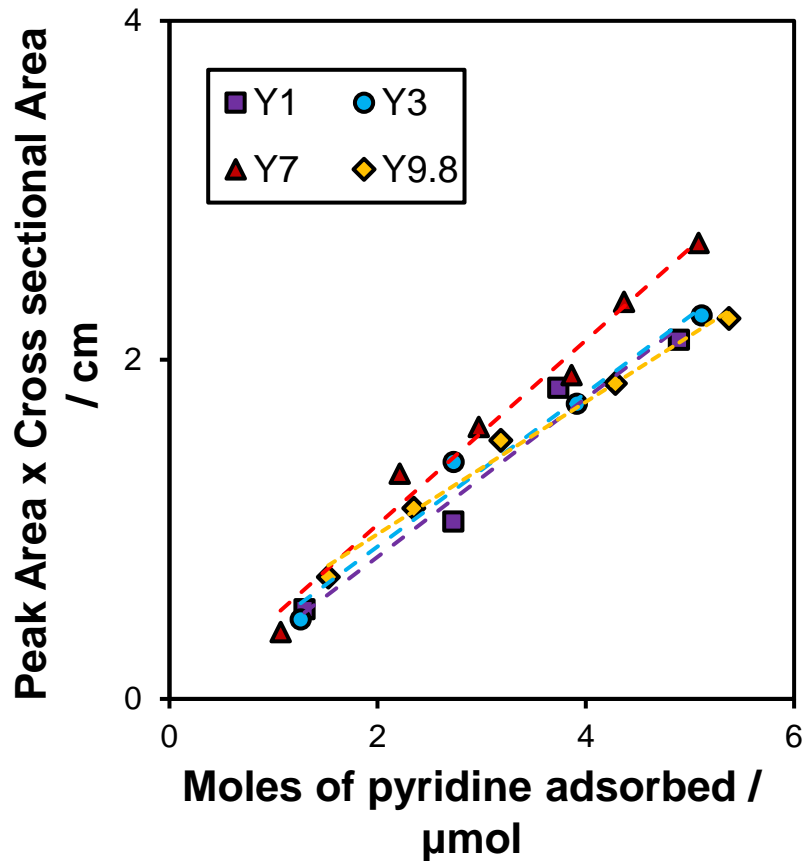


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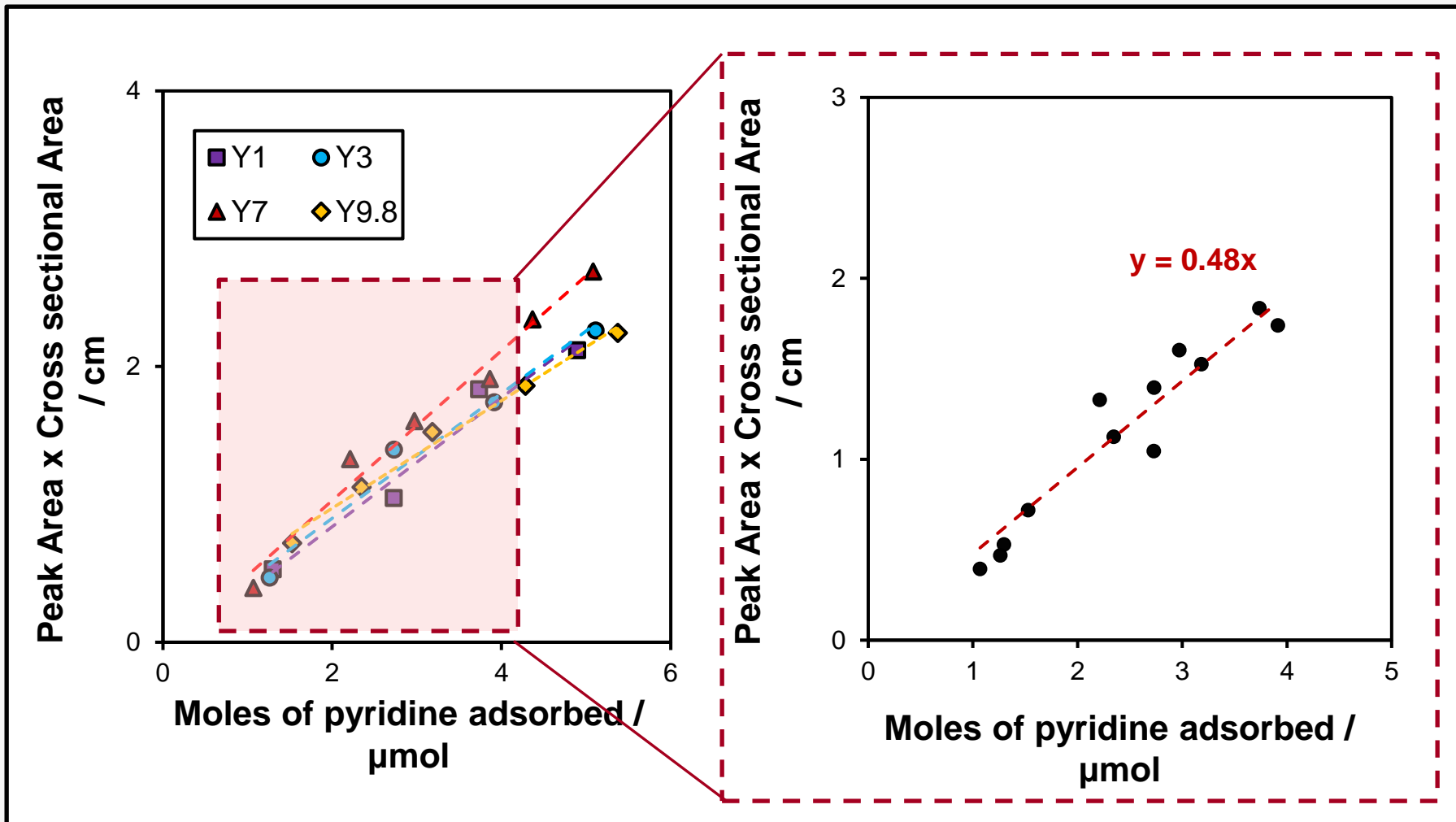


$$A = \epsilon b C$$

# Comparison of Initial Slopes – Various Y/deAlBeta Samples

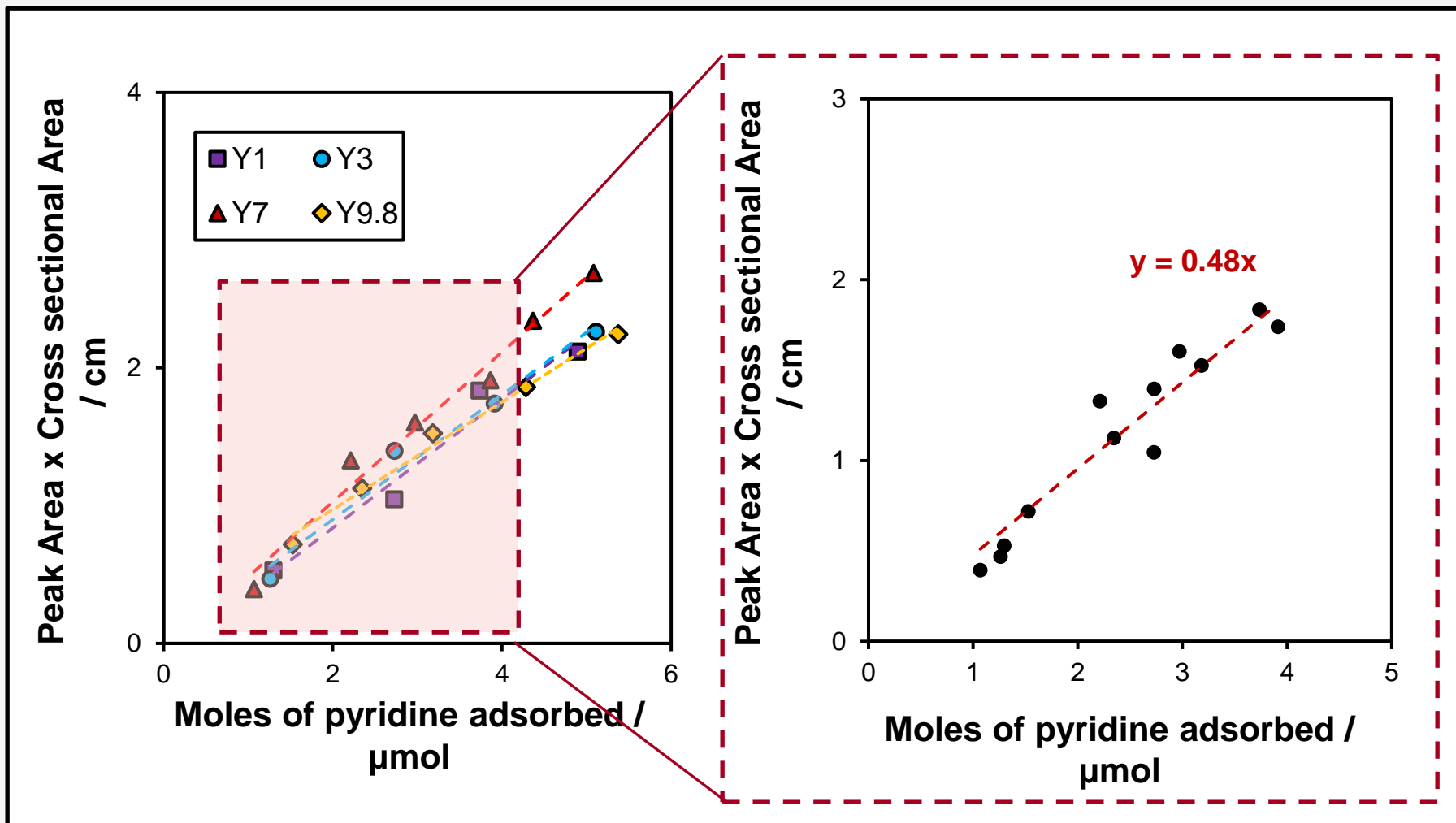


# Comparison of Initial Slopes – Various Y/deAlBeta Samples



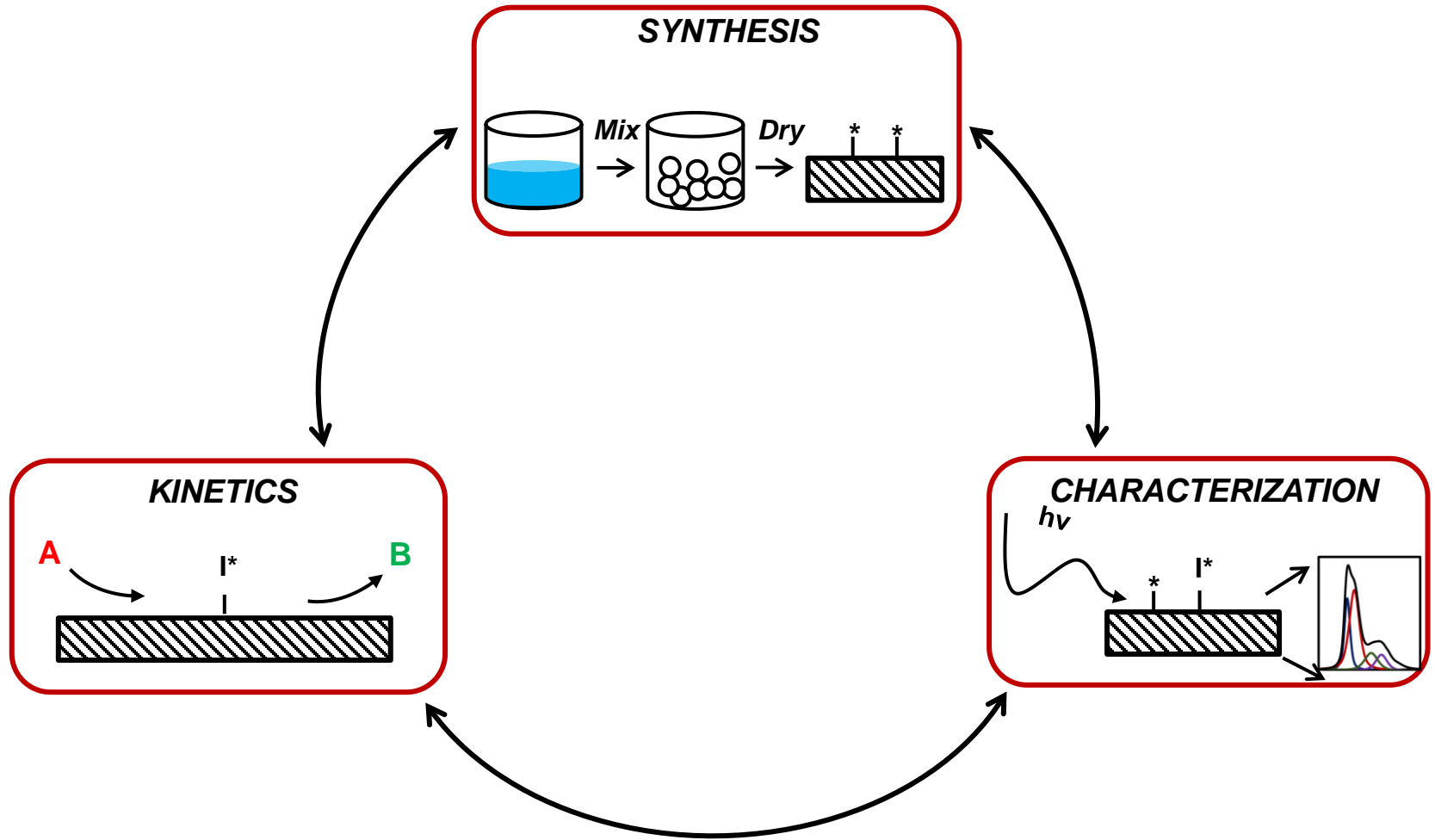
$$A = \epsilon b C$$

# Comparison of Initial Slopes – Various Y/deAlBeta Samples



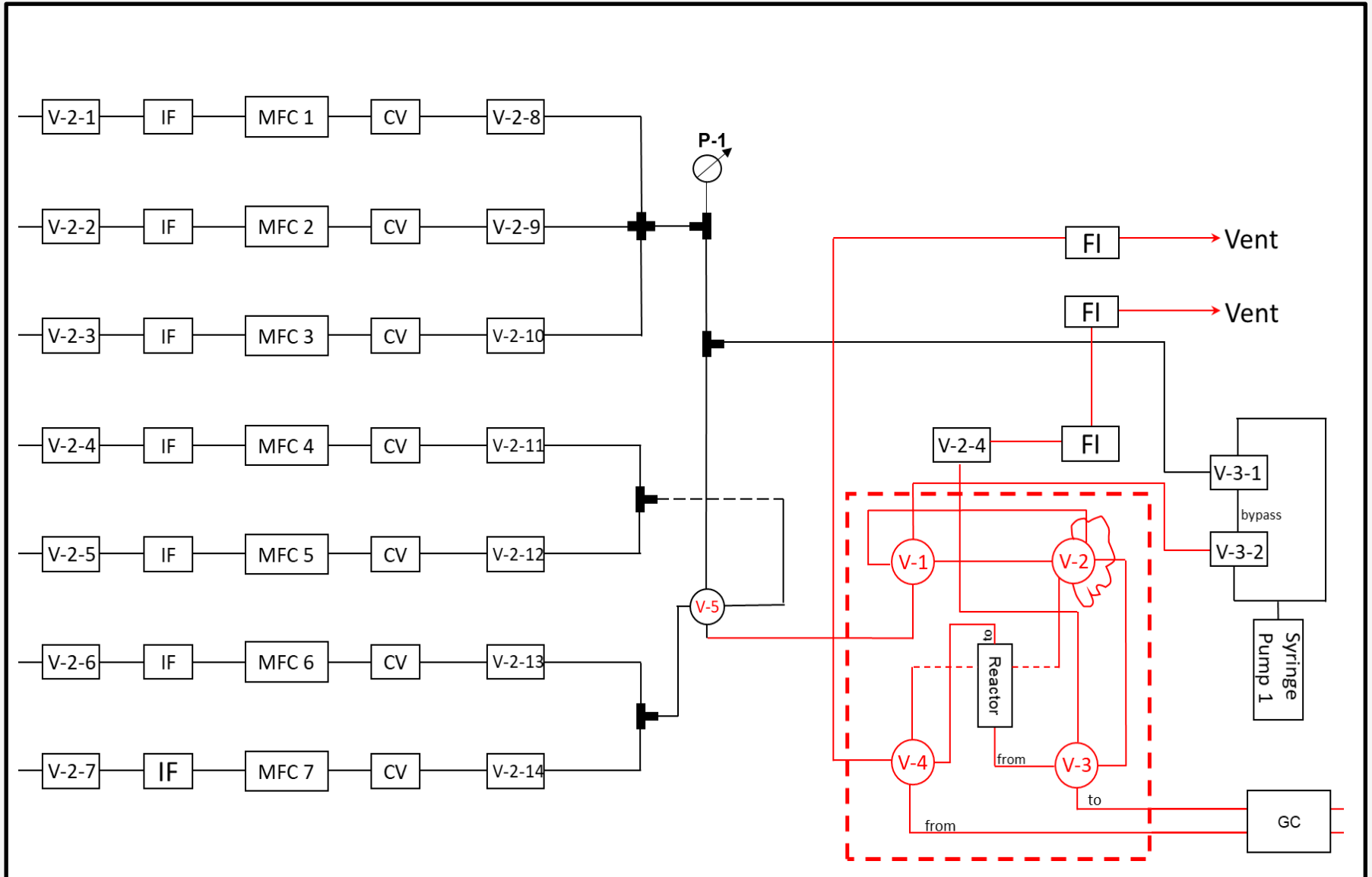
**We can quantify YLAS by ex situ pyridine IR, but is that a relevant quantity?**

# Kinetic measurements

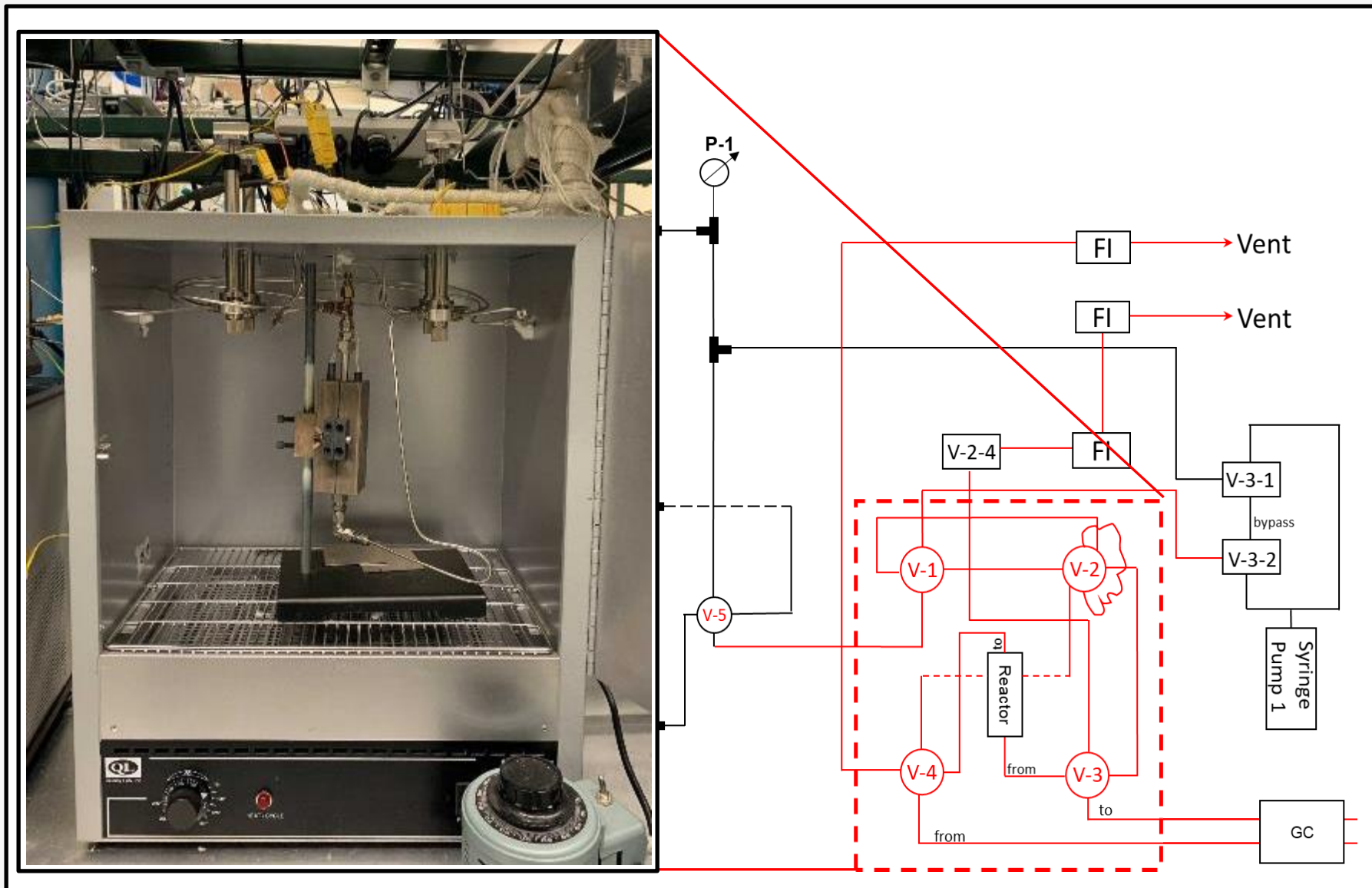




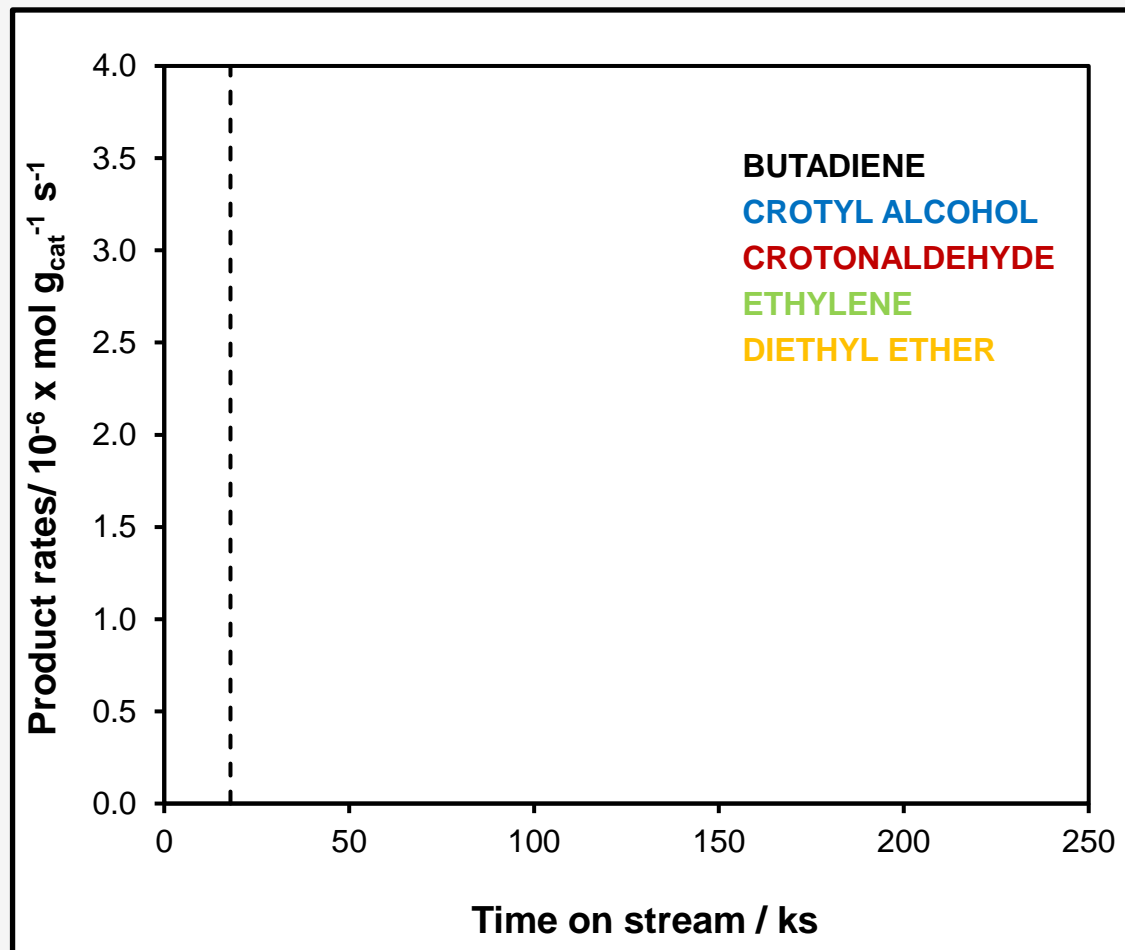
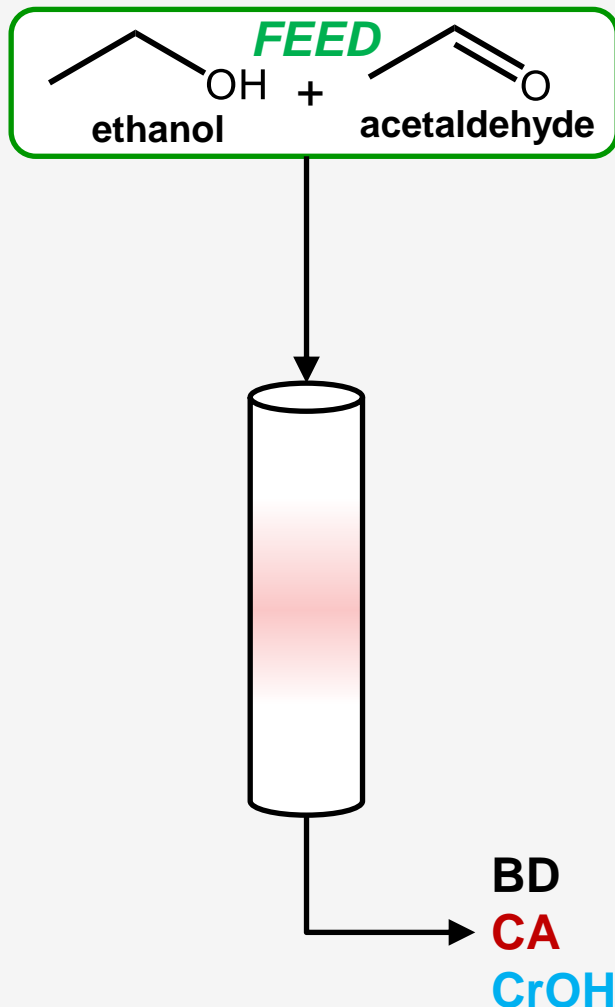
# Process Flow Diagram of Reactor Setup



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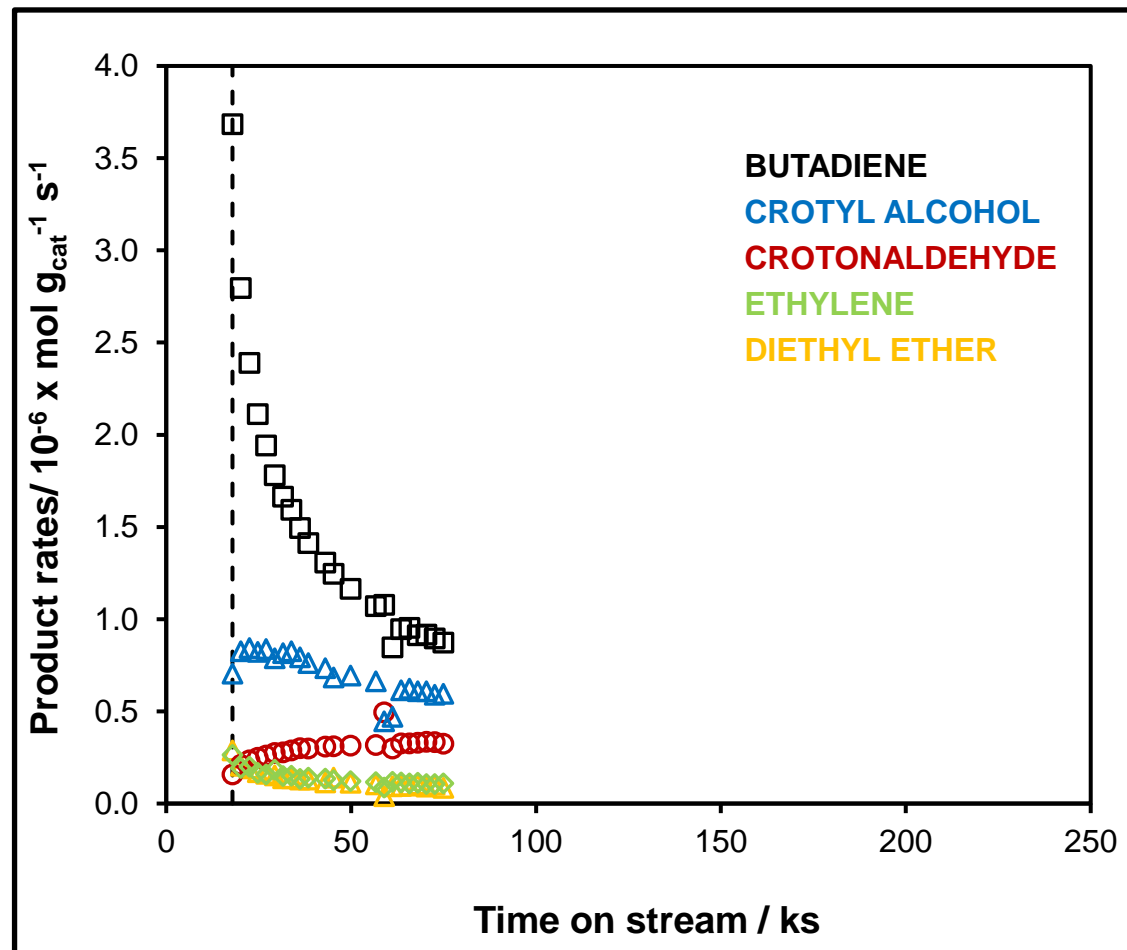
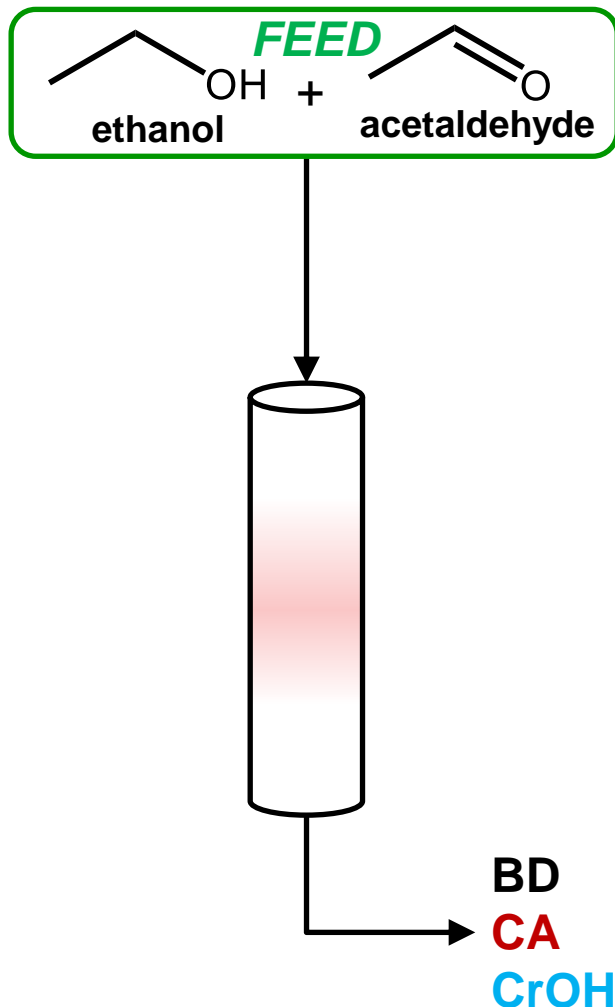
# Quantification of Y Active Sites via In Situ Titrations



**Reaction conditions:** T = 503 K; P = 124 kPa;  
**Gas Flows:** 0.4 kPa AcH, 0.000148 kPa Py (0.01% in EtOH), 3 kPa EtOH,  
0.98 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>, bal He; Total flow 100 cm<sup>3</sup>.min<sup>-1</sup>;  
**Catalyst:** 0.01 g Y<sub>3</sub>/Beta diluted in 0.09 g SiO<sub>2</sub>

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

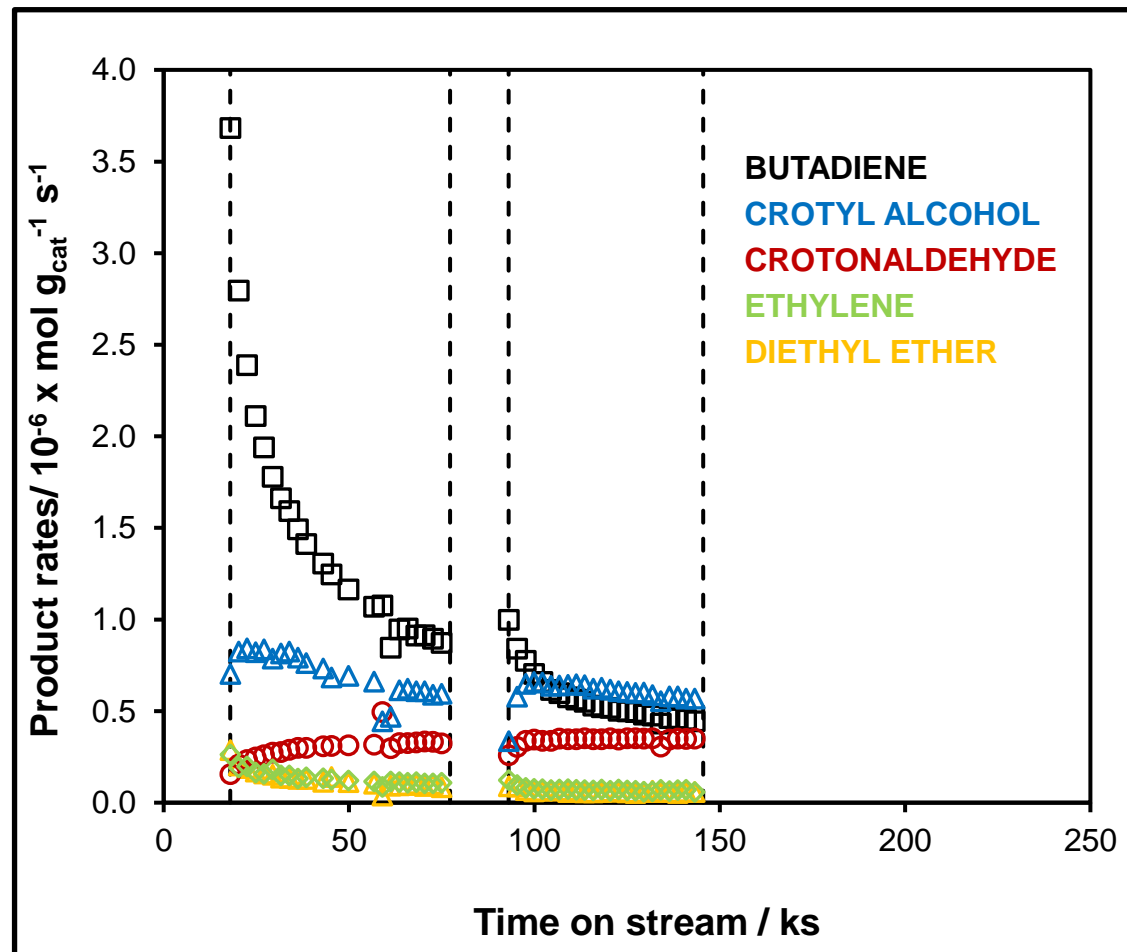
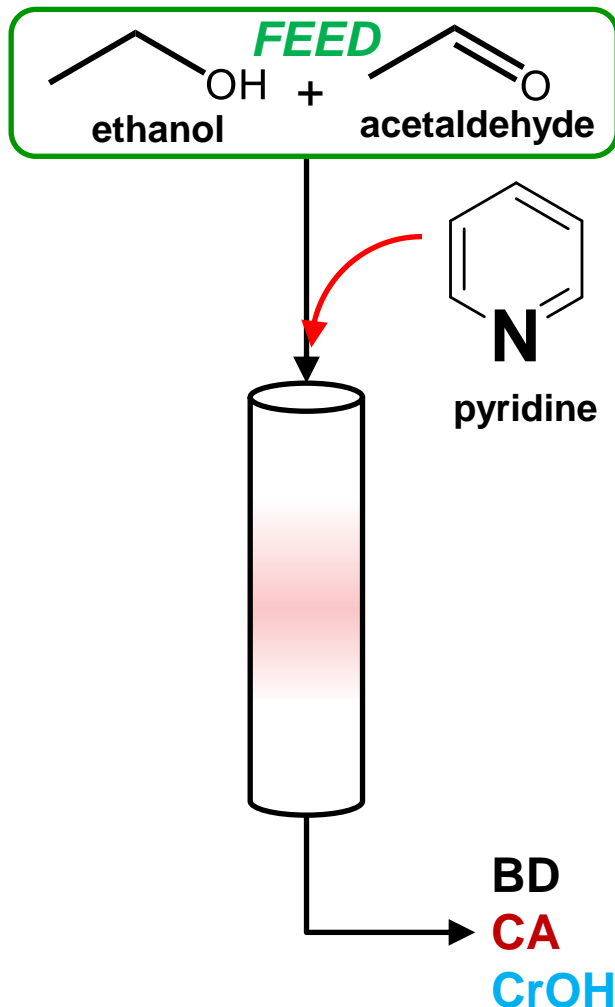
# Quantification of $\gamma$ Active Sites via In Situ Titrations



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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

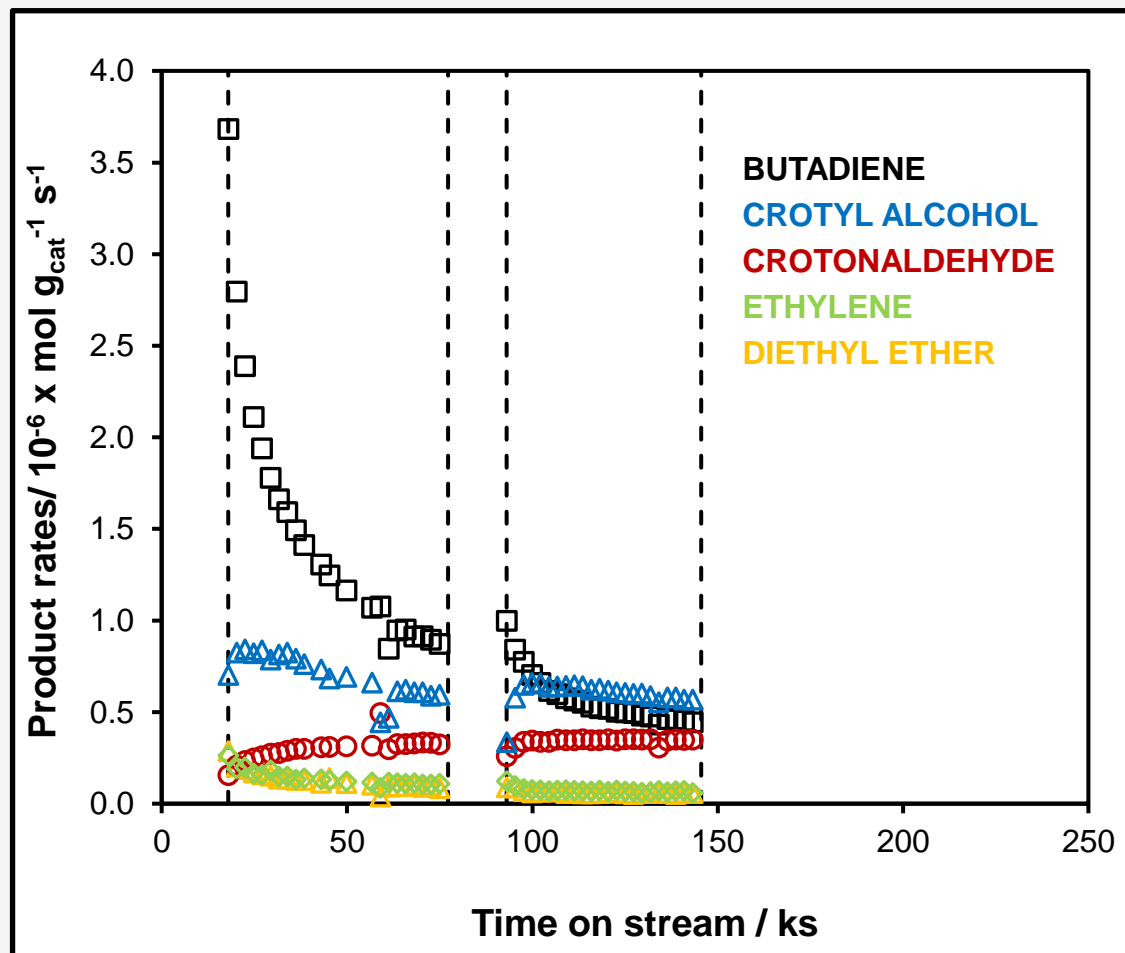
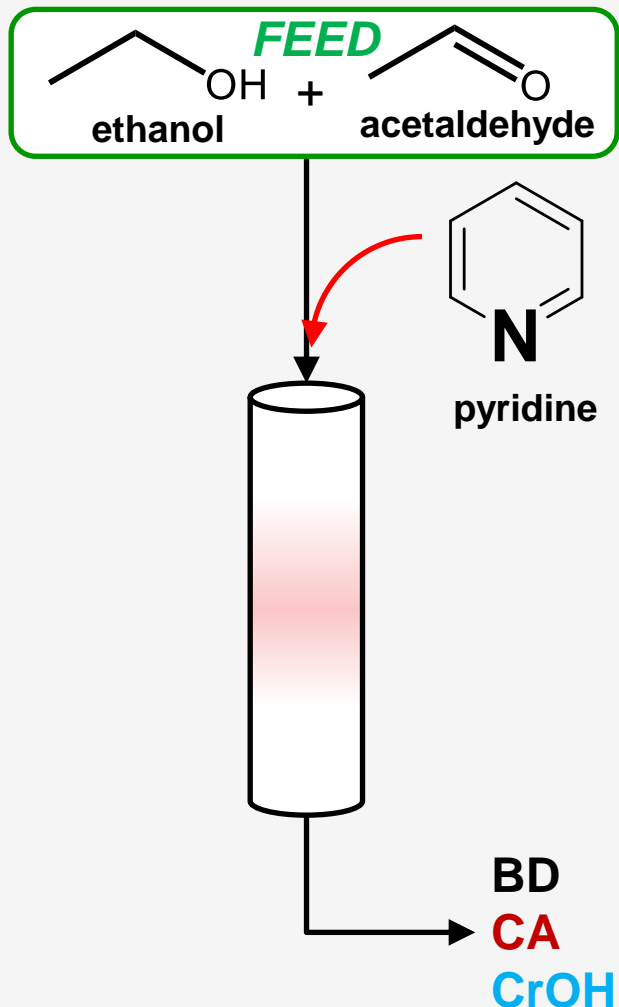
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

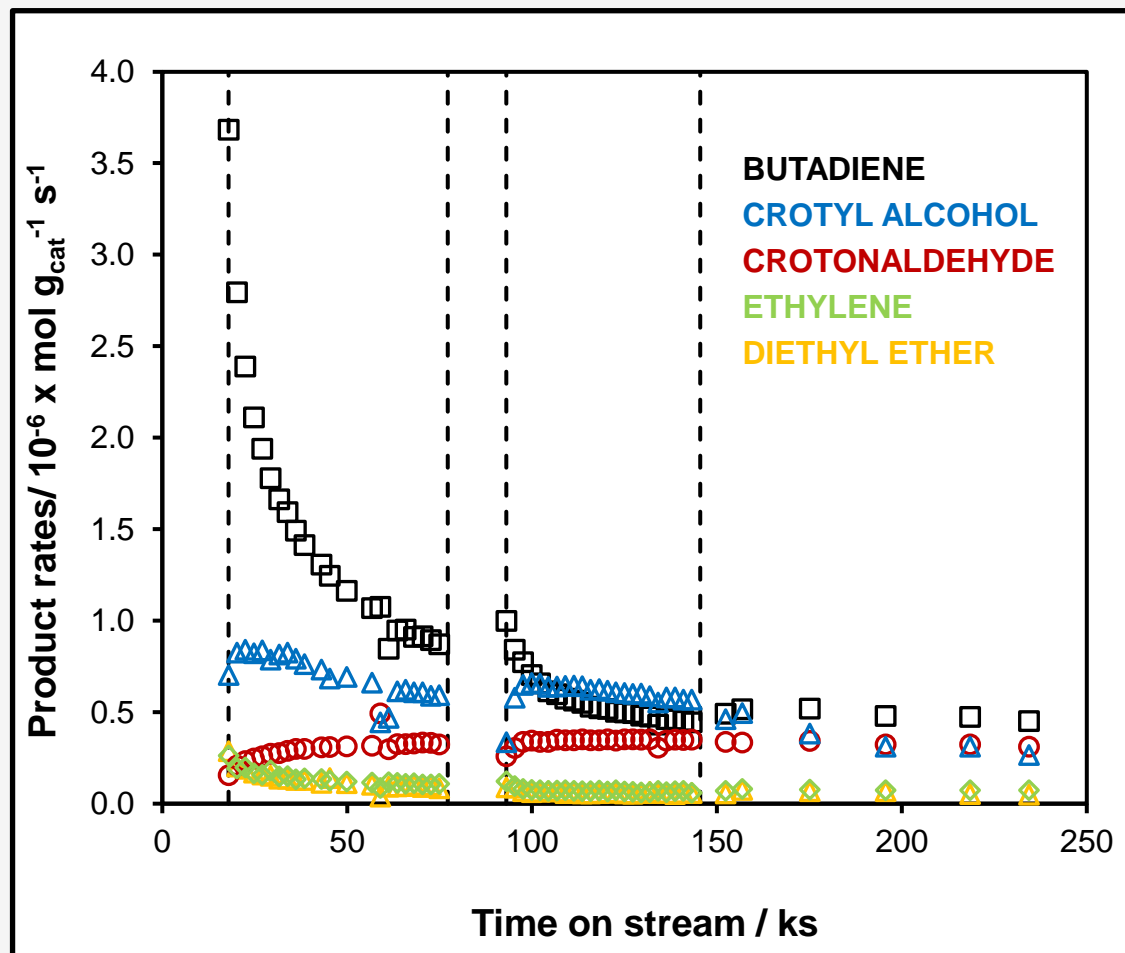
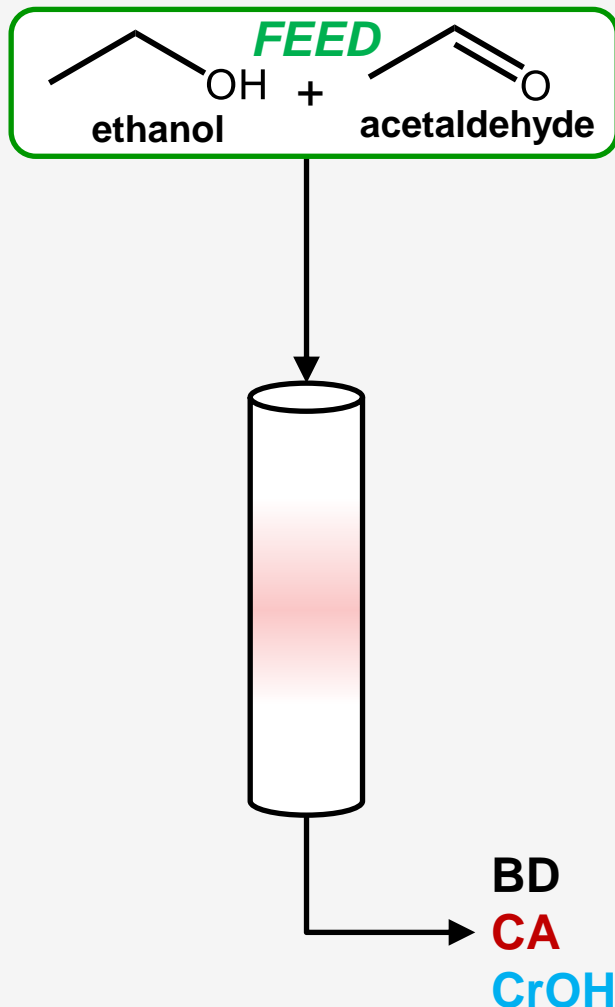
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

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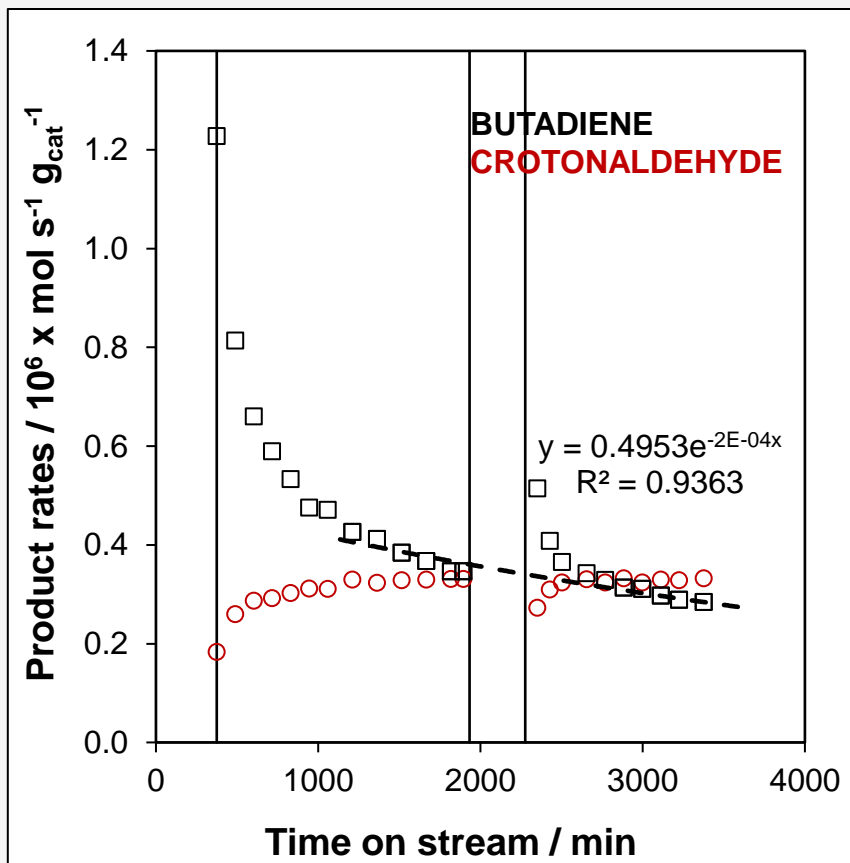


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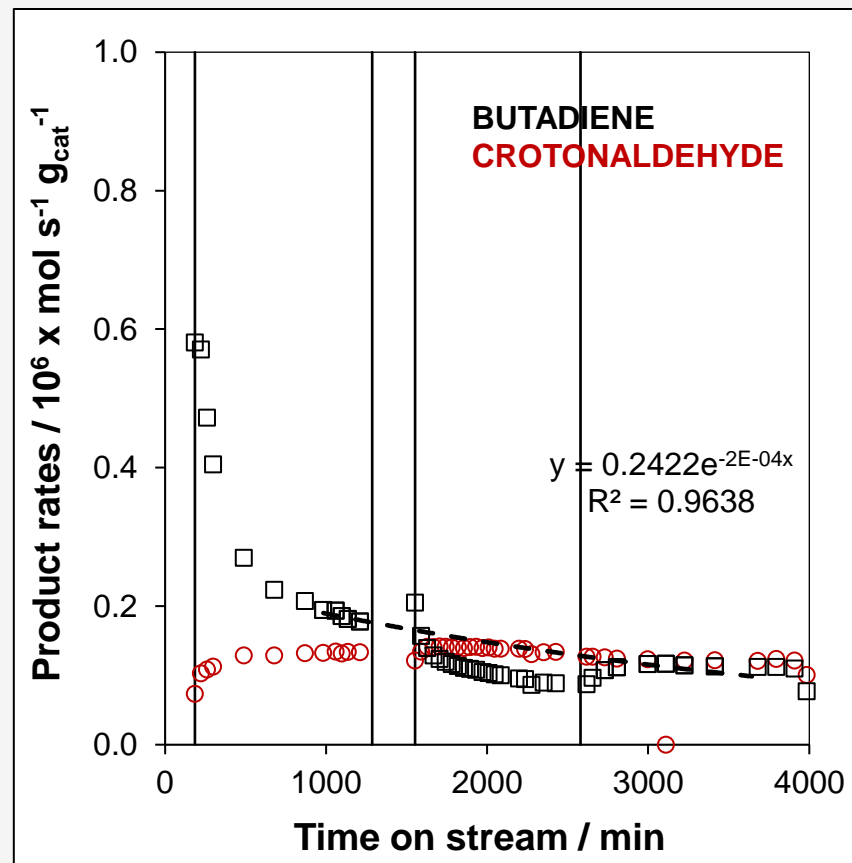
Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# *EtOH-AcH co feed on $Y_{0.5}/deAlBeta$*

## TOS data without pyridine titration



## TOS data with pyridine titration



**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503 \text{ K}$ ,  $P = 124 \text{ kPa}$

**Gas flows:** without Py titration-  $0.7 \text{ kPa AcH}$ ,  $3 \text{ kPa EtOH}$

with Py titration-  $0.5 \text{ kPa AcH}$ ,  $0.000148 \text{ kPa Py}$  (0.01% in EtOH),  $3 \text{ kPa EtOH}$

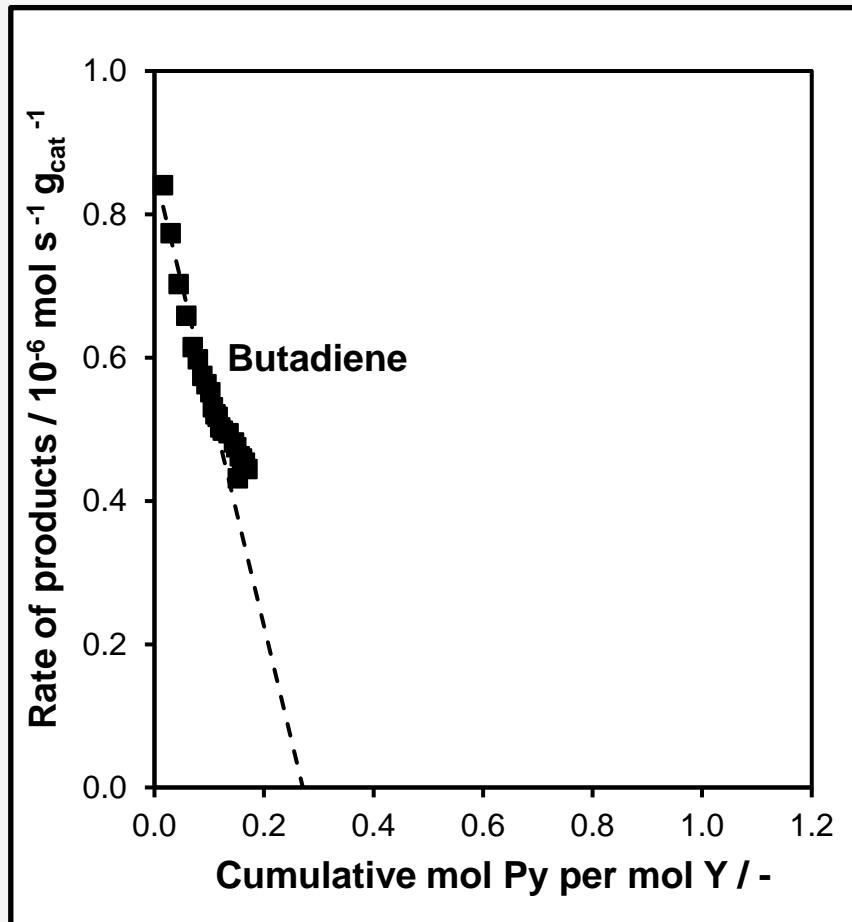
$0.98 \text{ kPa CH}_4$ , bal He. Total flow:  $100 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

**Catalyst:**  $0.01 \text{ g } Y_{0.5}/deAlBeta$  diluted with  $\text{SiC}$  or  $\text{SiO}_2$



# Quantification of Active Sites via In Situ Titrations

$Y_3/deAlBeta$

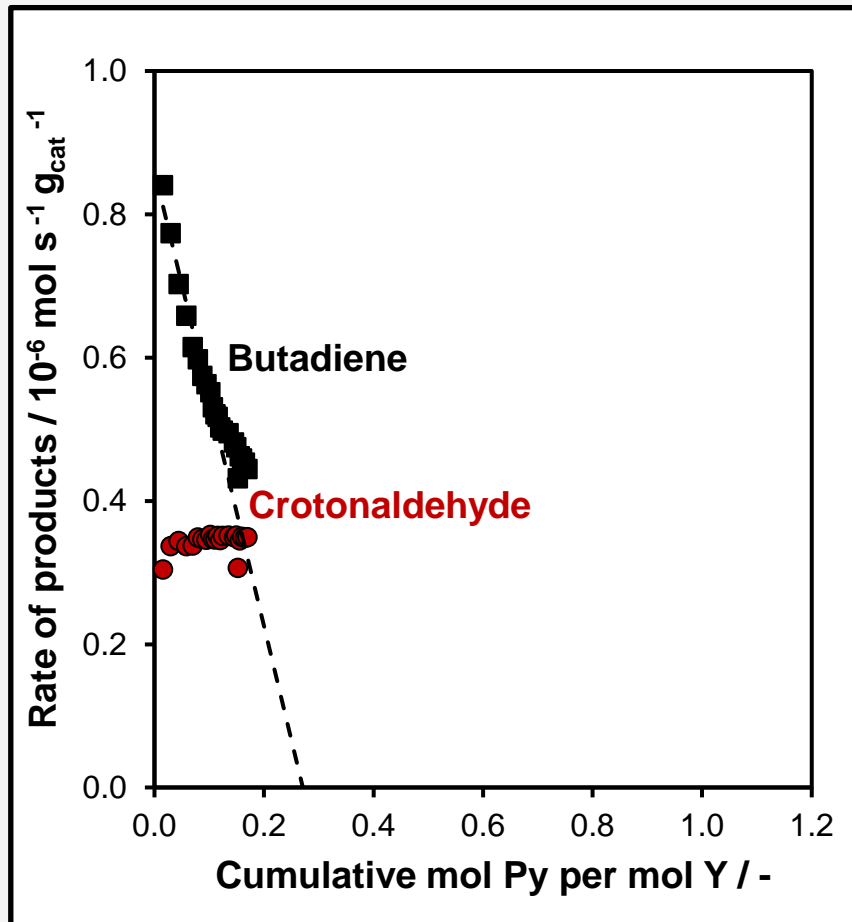


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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

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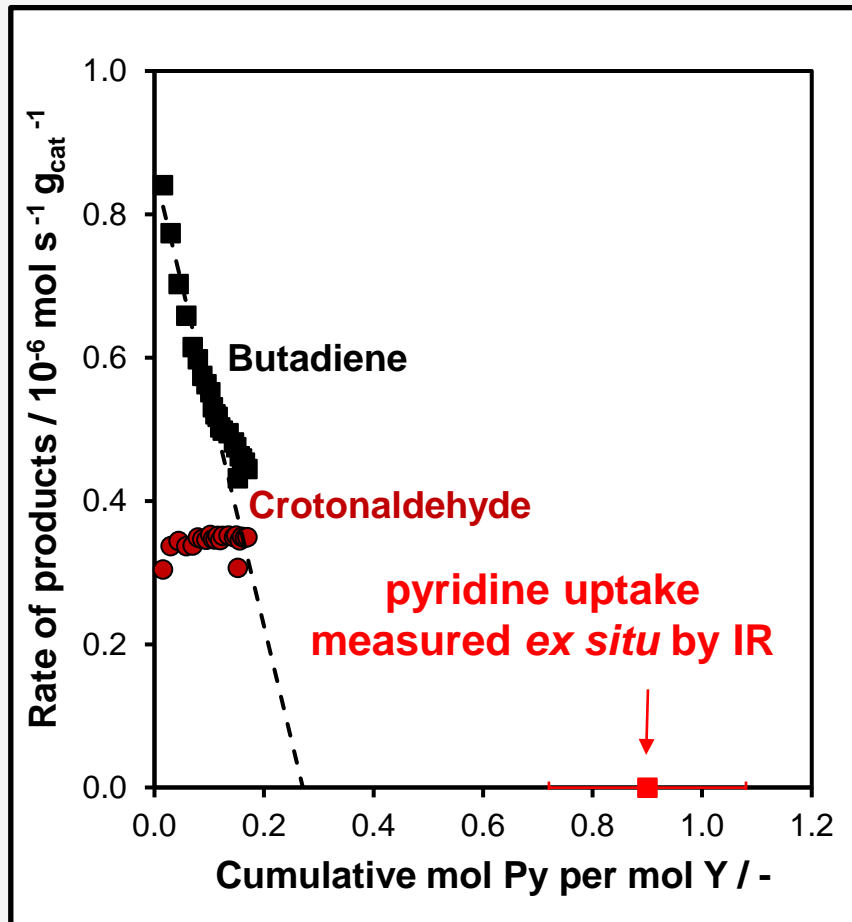


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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

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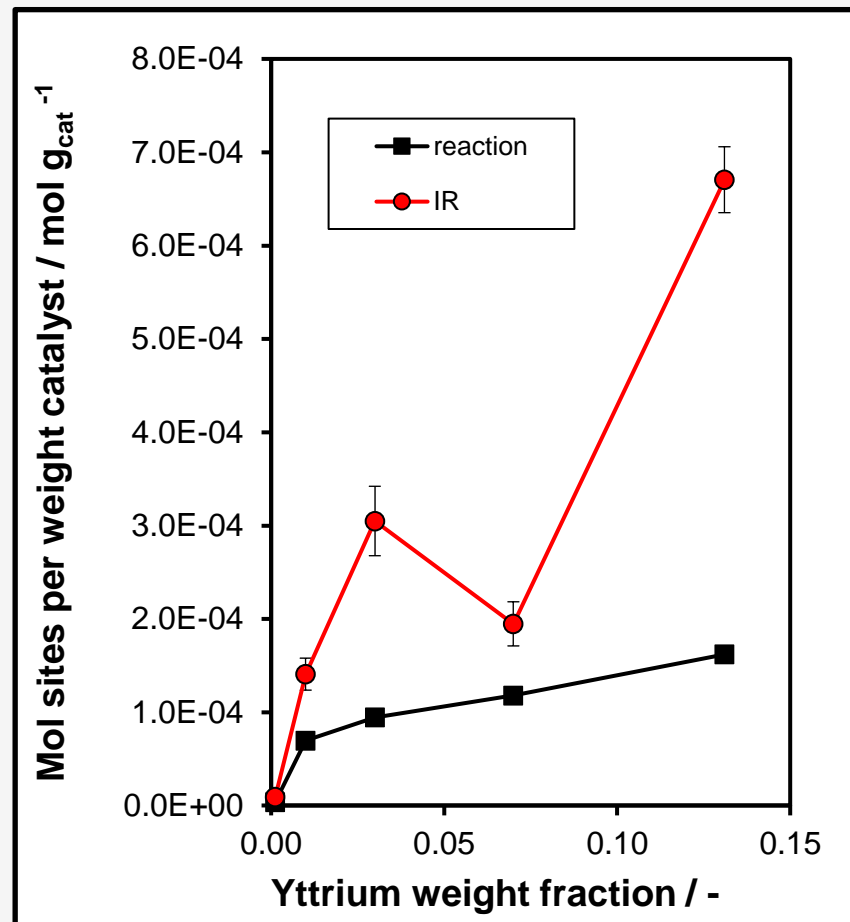
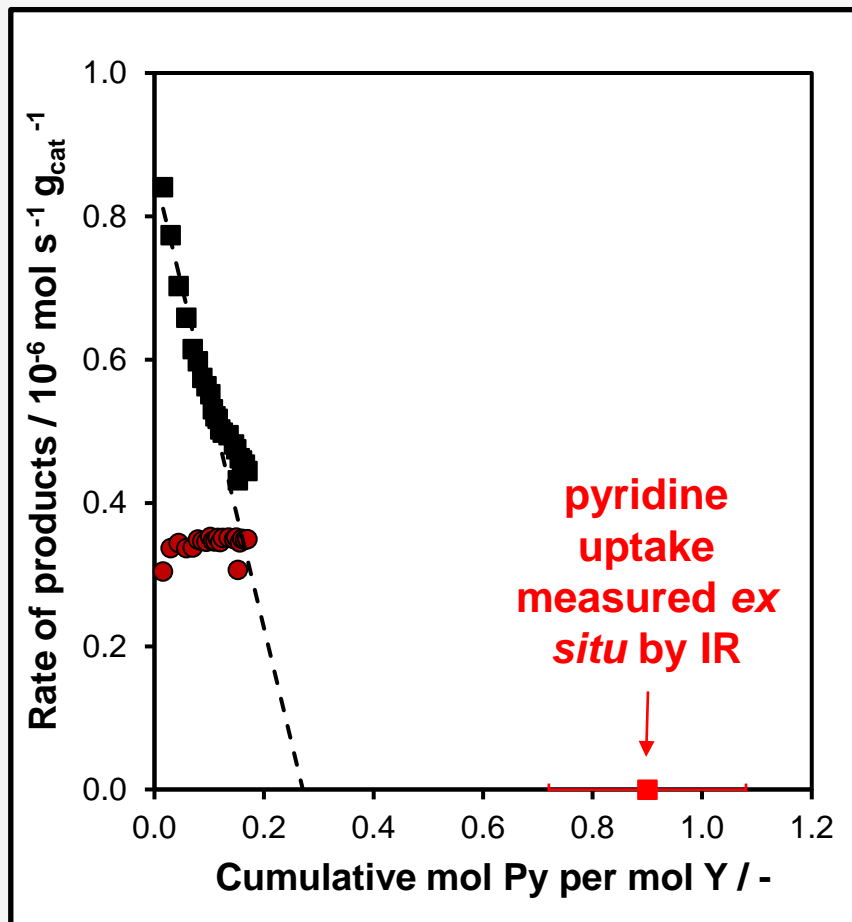


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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# Comparison of *in situ* and *ex situ* site titrations

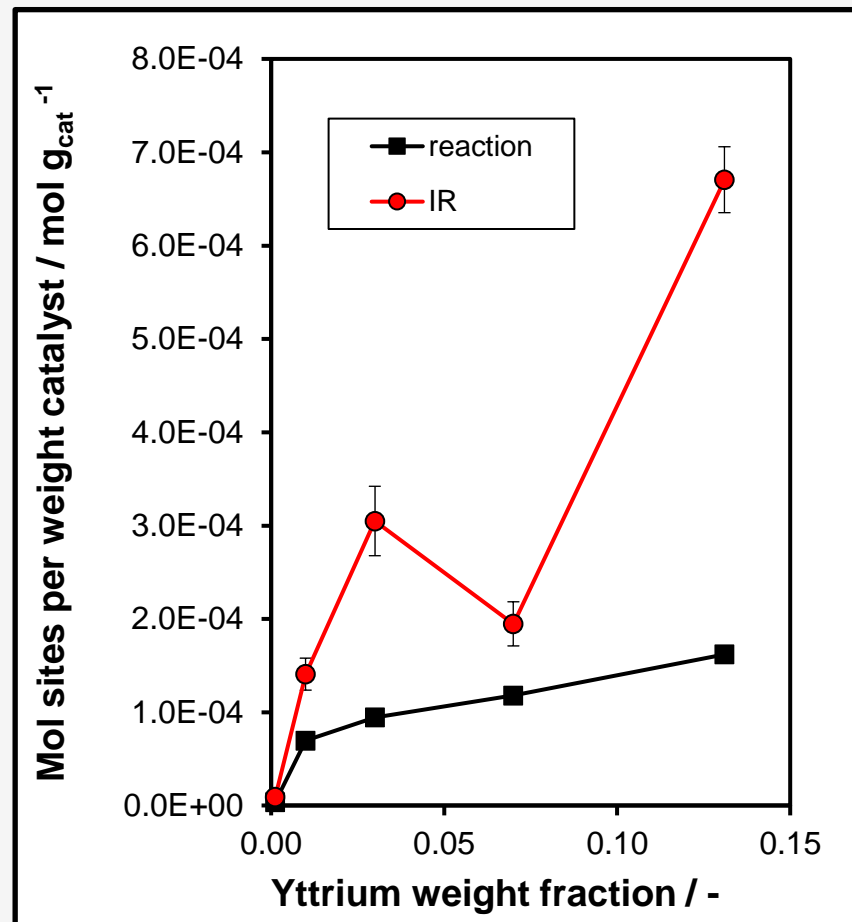
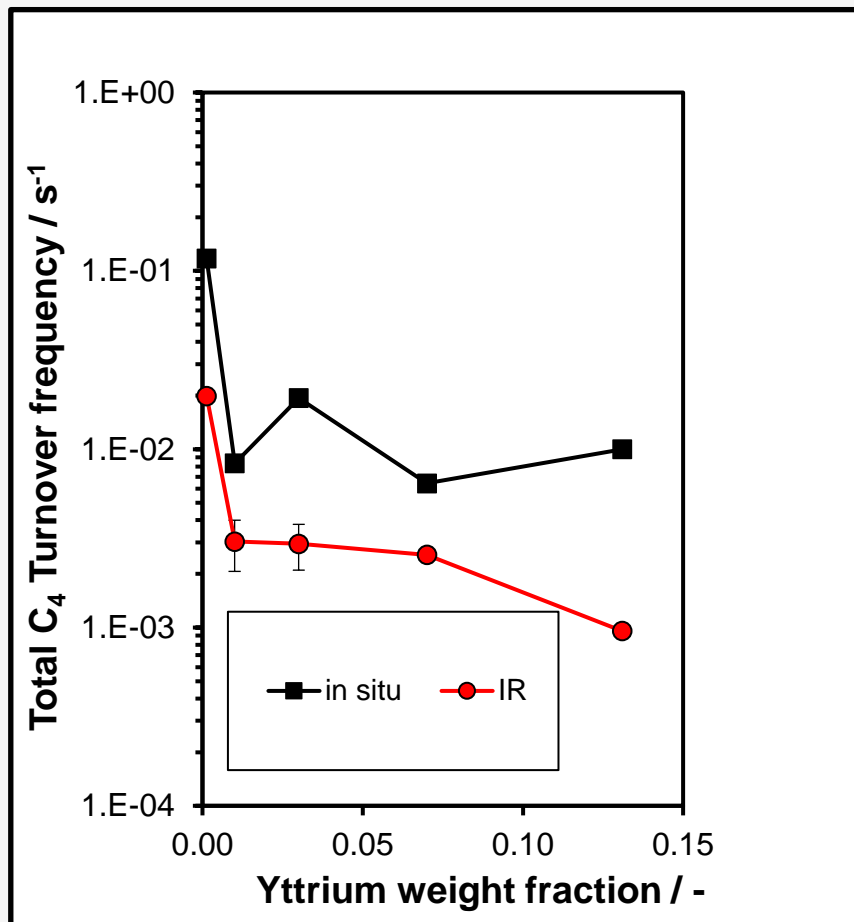
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

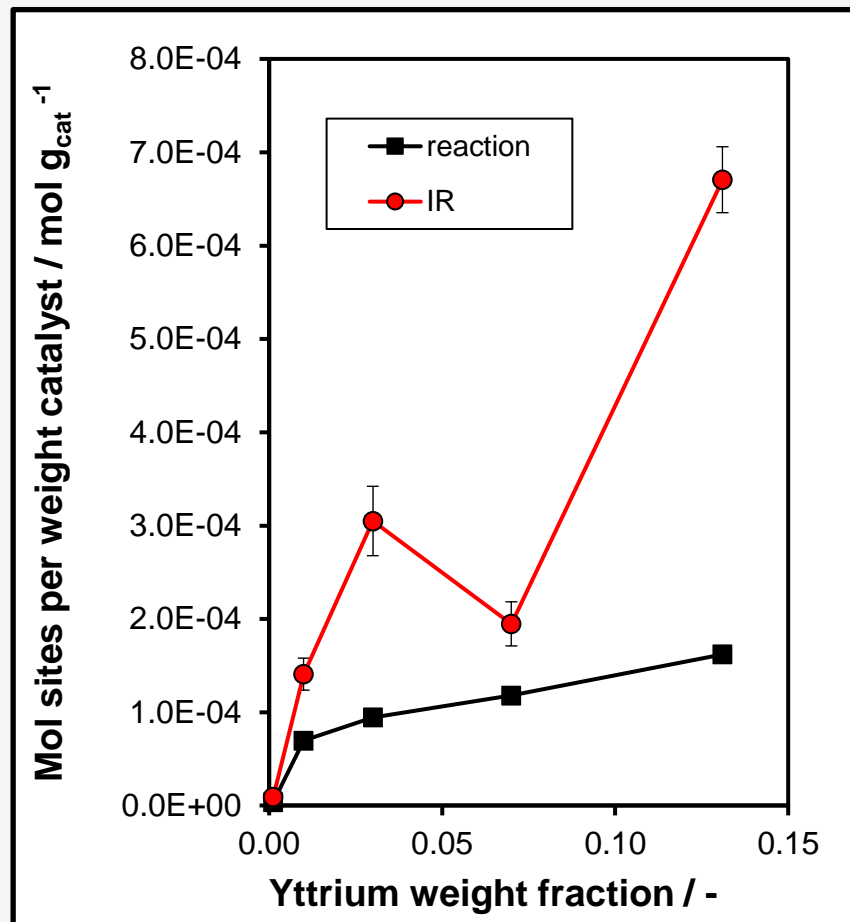
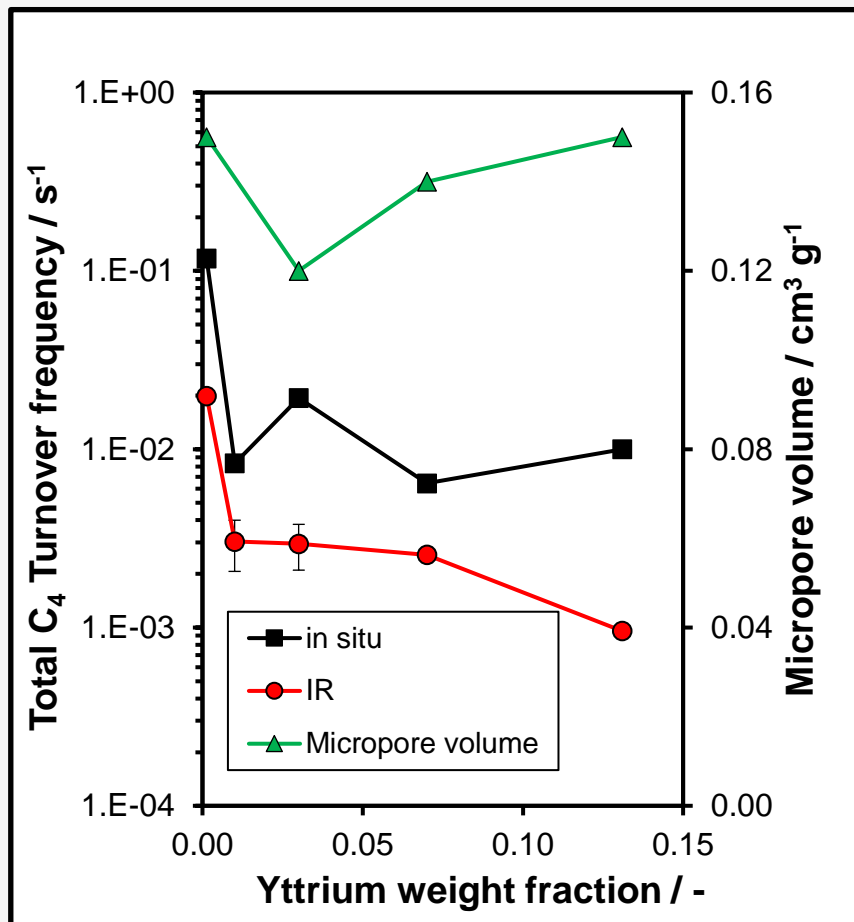
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

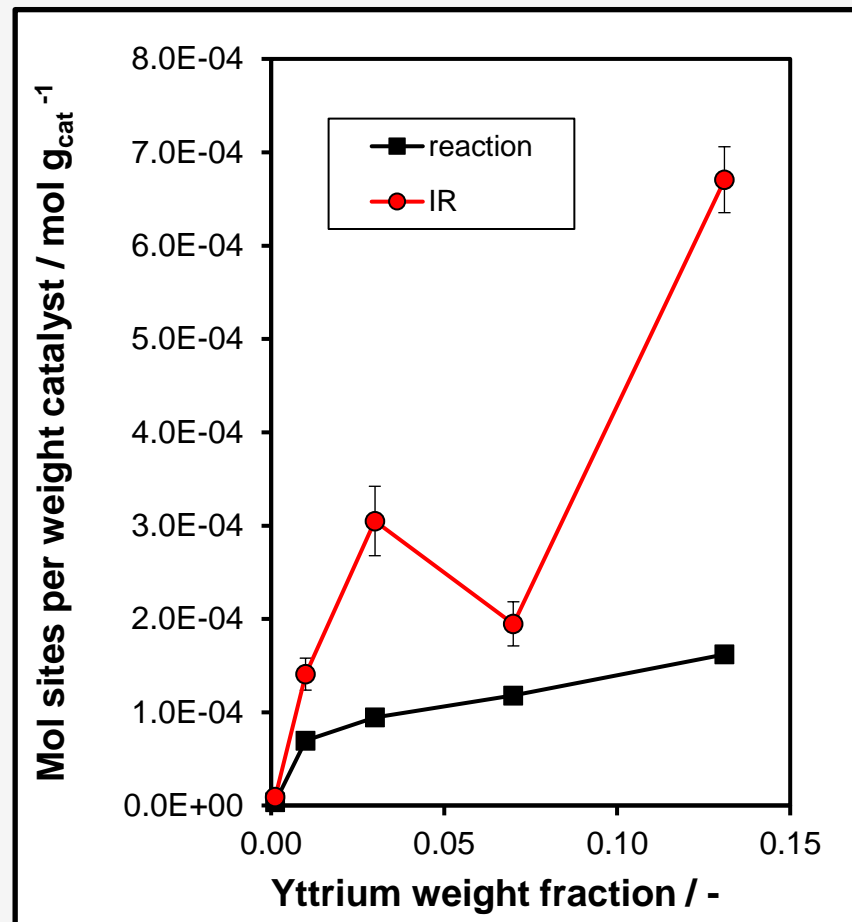
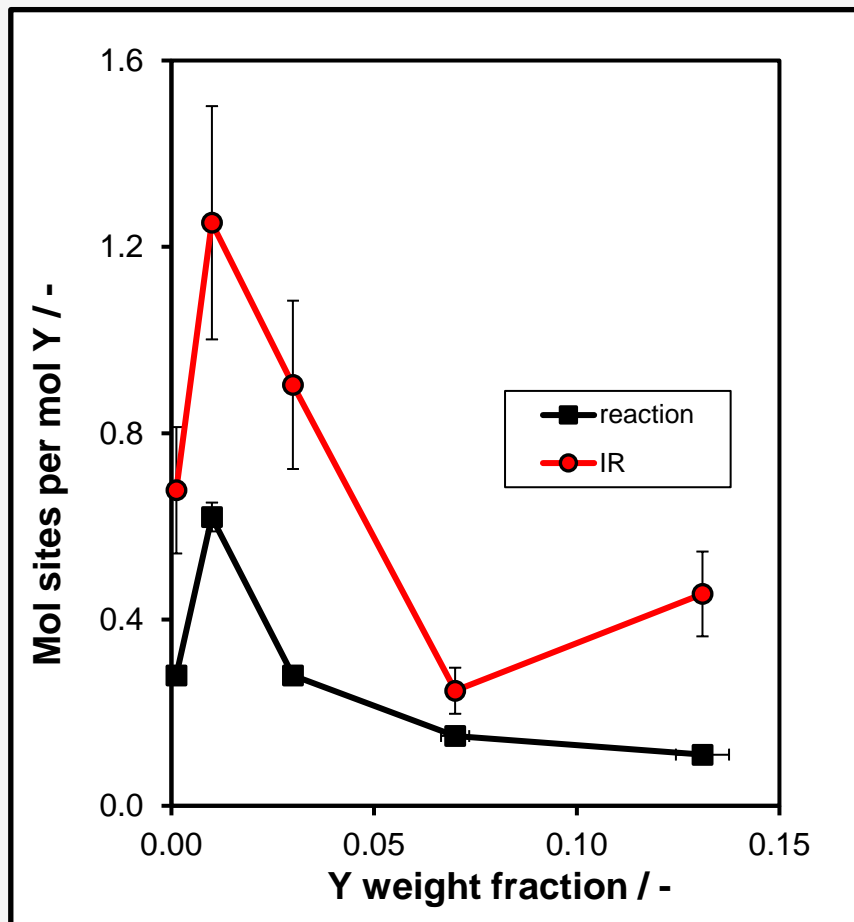
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

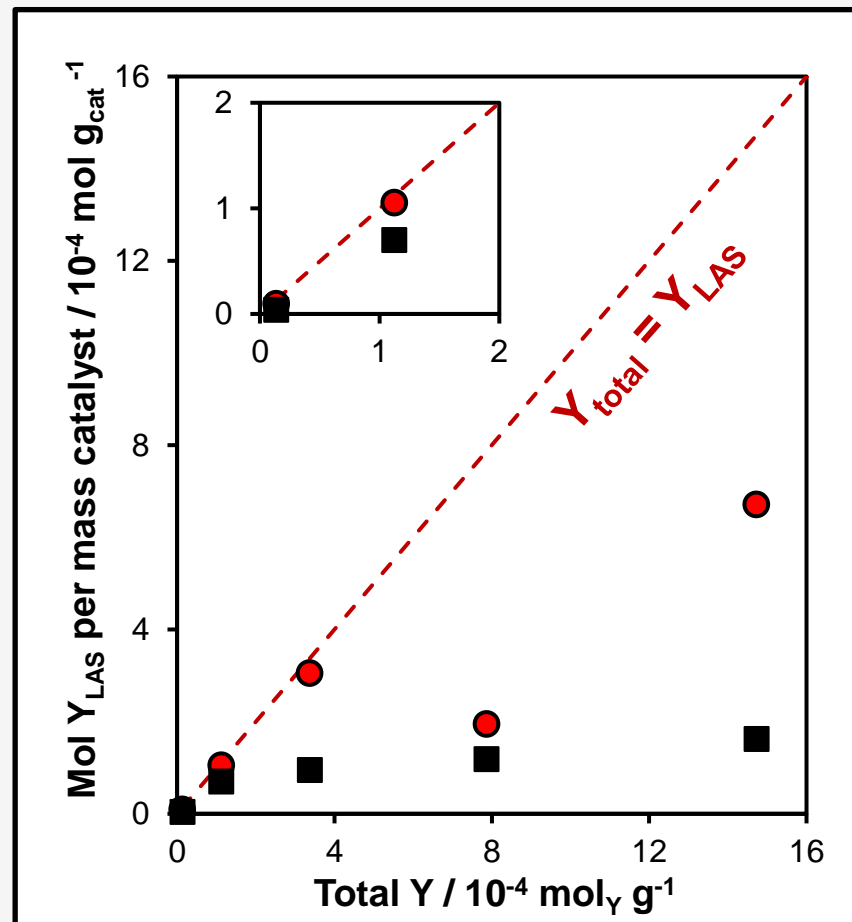
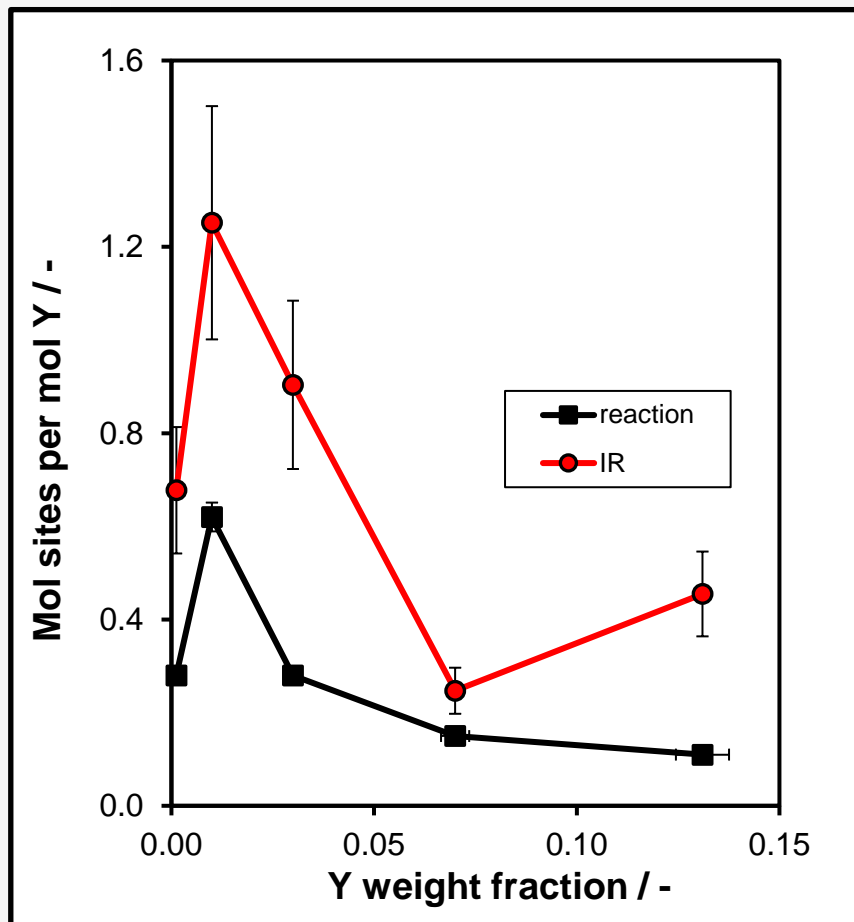
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Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# A minority of the total Y binds pyridine during reaction or under vacuum



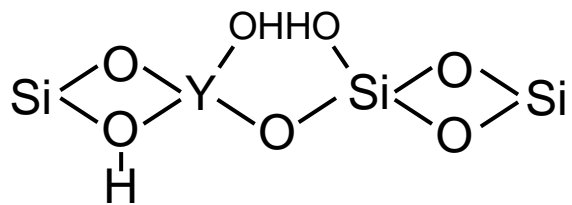
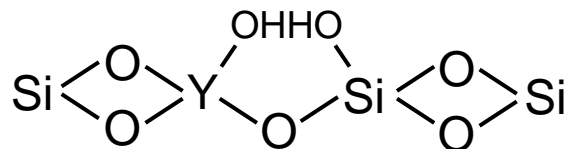
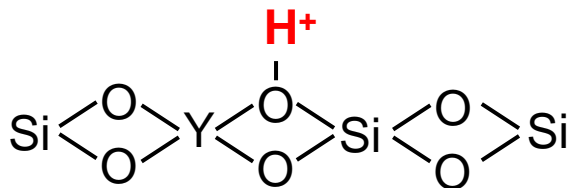
**Reaction conditions:** T= 503 K; P = 124 kPa;  
**Gas Flows:** 0.4 kPa AcH, 0.000148 kPa Py, 3 kPa EtOH,  
0.98 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>, bal He; Total flow 100 cm<sup>3</sup>.min<sup>-1</sup>;  
**Catalyst:** 0.01 g Y<sub>v</sub>/Beta diluted in 0.09 g SiO<sub>2</sub>

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*



# What sites are present in Y/deAlBeta samples?

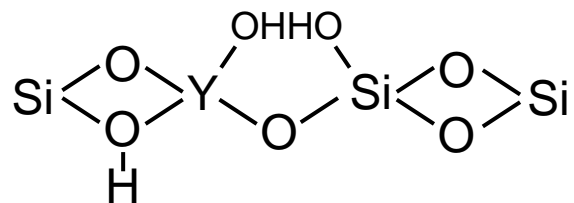
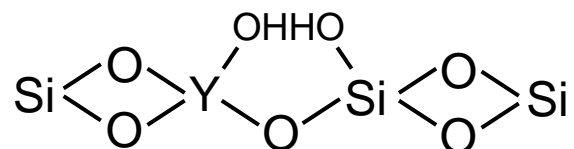
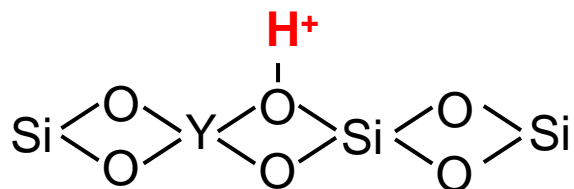
**What are the active sites and how many are there?**



- **Minimal  $H^+$  in Y/deAlBeta**
- **BD forming sites  $\neq$  sites titrated in IR**
- **Crotonal forming sites unaffected by pyridine**

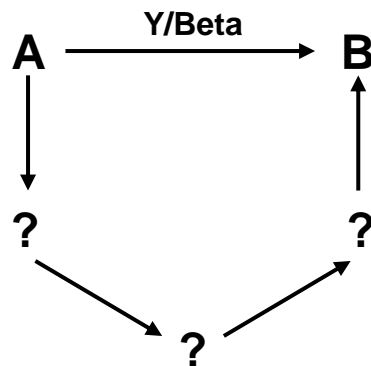
# How do we get from A to D (or E...)?

**What are the active sites and how many are there?**



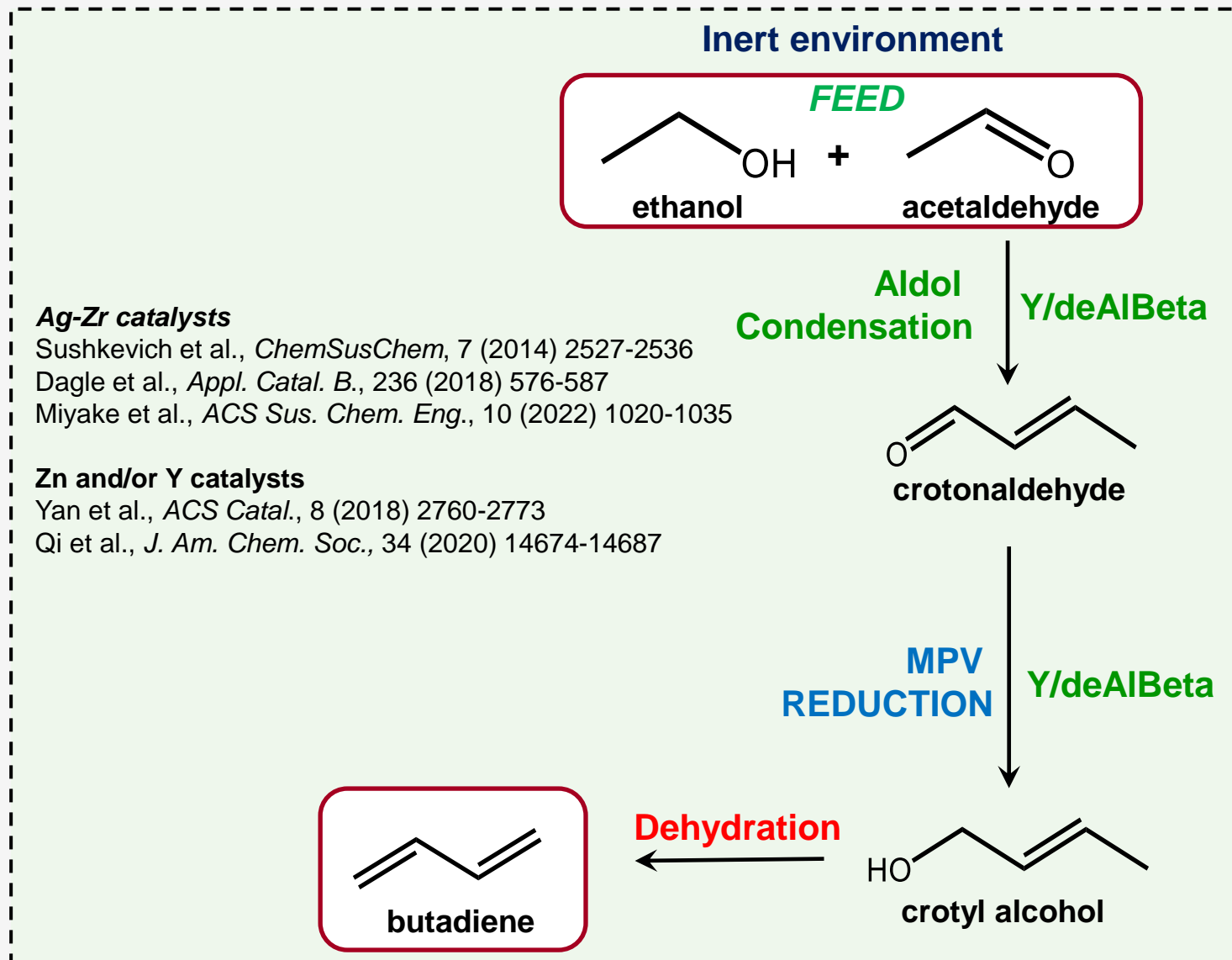
- **Minimal H<sup>+</sup> in Y/deAl/Beta**
- **BD forming sites ≠ sites titrated in IR**
- **Crotonal forming sites unaffected by pyridine**

**What is the reaction pathway?**



**What intermediates?**

# Proposed Ethanol to Butadiene Reaction Pathway on Y/deAlBeta



## Ag-Zr catalysts

Sushkevich et al., *ChemSusChem*, 7 (2014) 2527-2536

Dagle et al., *Appl. Catal. B.*, 236 (2018) 576-587

Miyake et al., *ACS Sus. Chem. Eng.*, 10 (2022) 1020-1035

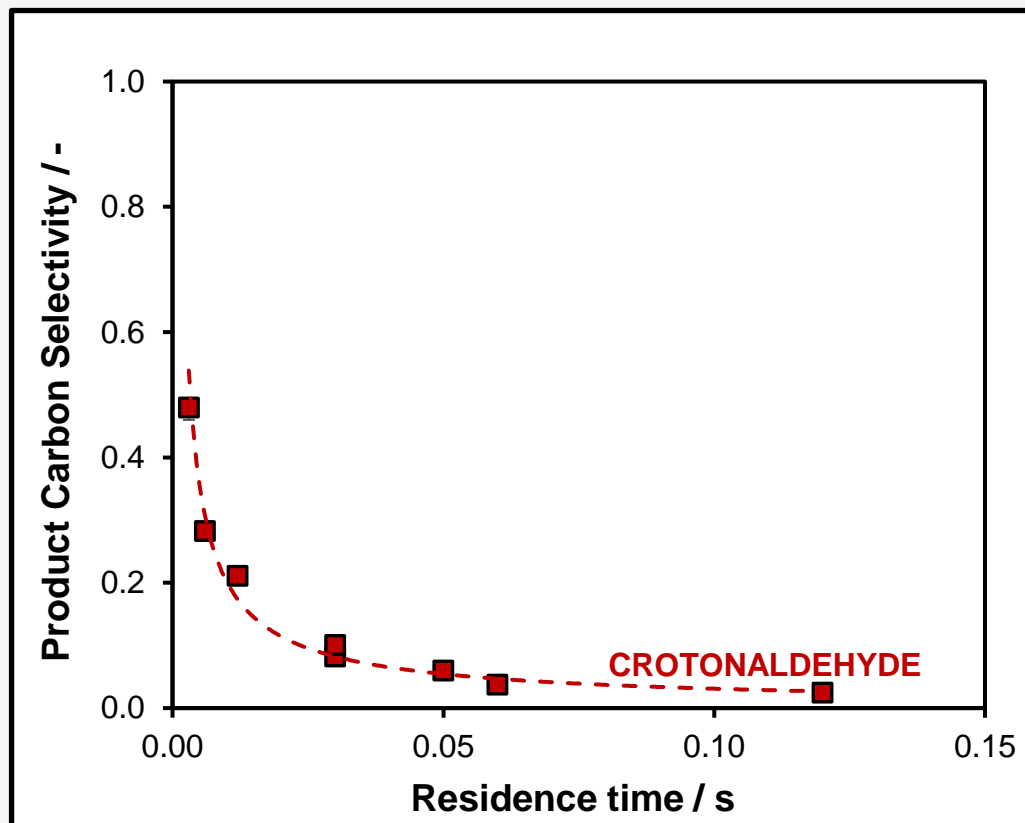
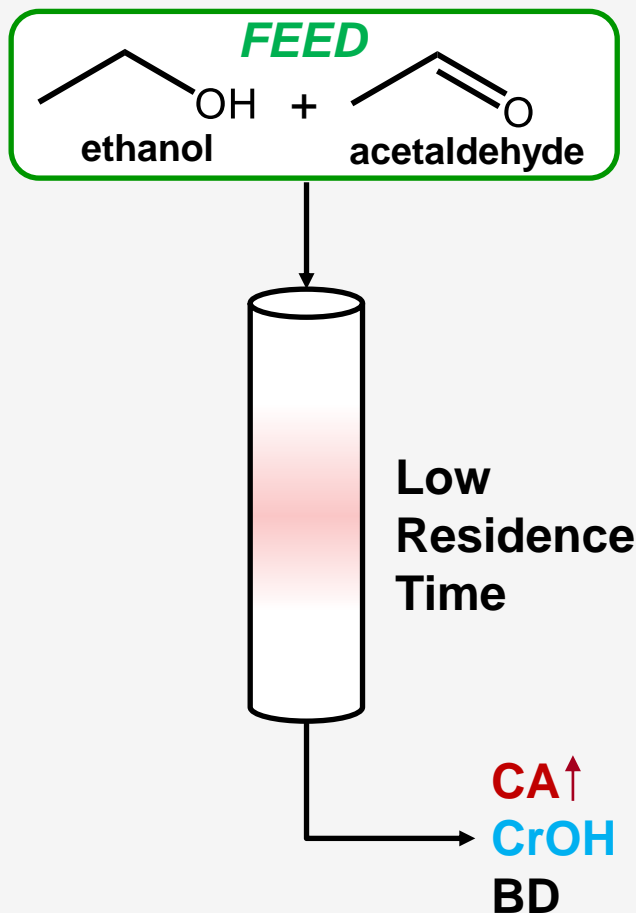
## Zn and/or Y catalysts

Yan et al., *ACS Catal.*, 8 (2018) 2760-2773

Qi et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 34 (2020) 14674-14687

*Is crotonaldehyde actually an intermediate en route to butadiene?*

# Probing reaction pathway by varying residence time



Reaction conditions:  $T = 503$  K;

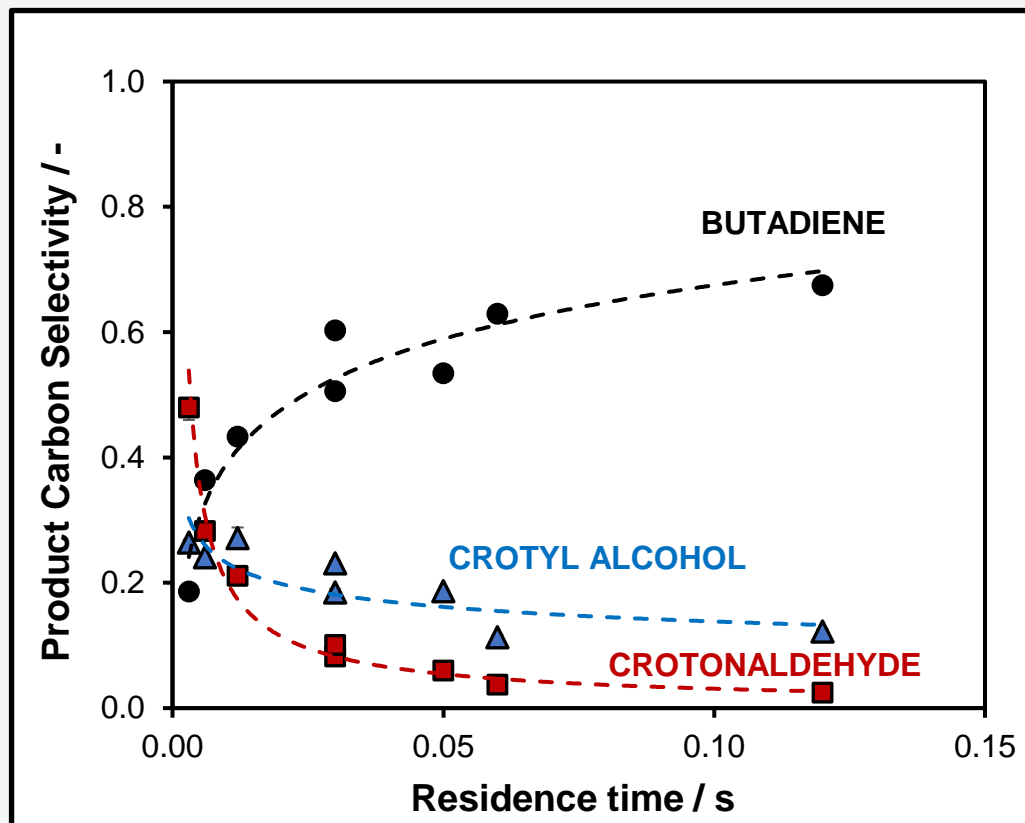
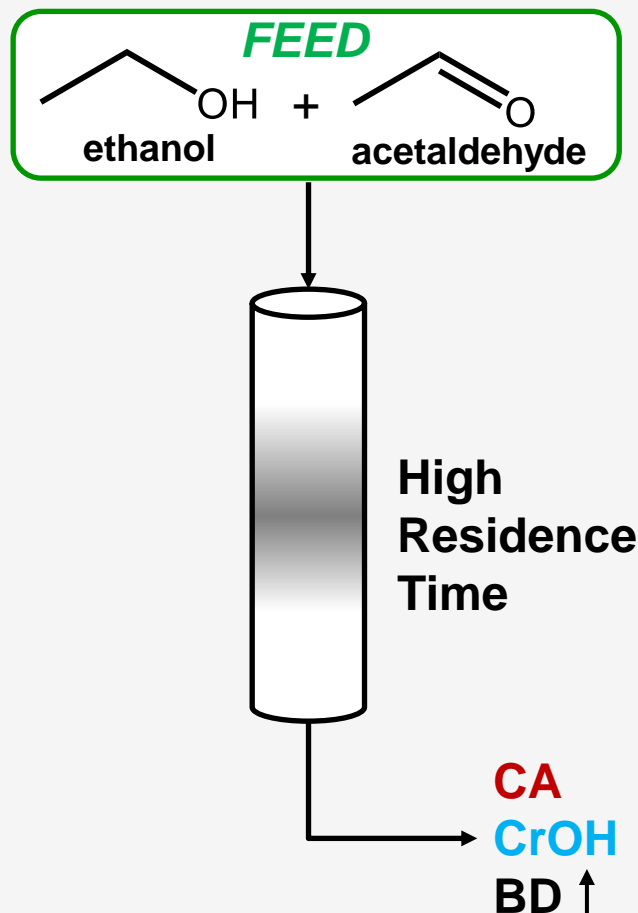
Gas Flows:  $P_{\text{AcH}} = 1$  kPa and  $P_{\text{EtOH}} = 5.8$  kPa,  $0.098$  kPa  $\text{CH}_4$ , bal He;

Total flowrates varied:  $50$ - $200$   $\text{cm}^3 \text{min}^{-1}$

Catalyst: Pure  $\sim 0.1$  g  $\text{Y}_{0.5}/\text{deAlBeta}$ , diluted  $\sim 0.01$  g  $\text{Y}_{0.5}/\text{Beta}$  in  $\sim 0.09$  g SiC

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# Probing reaction pathway by varying residence time



Reaction conditions:  $T = 503$  K;

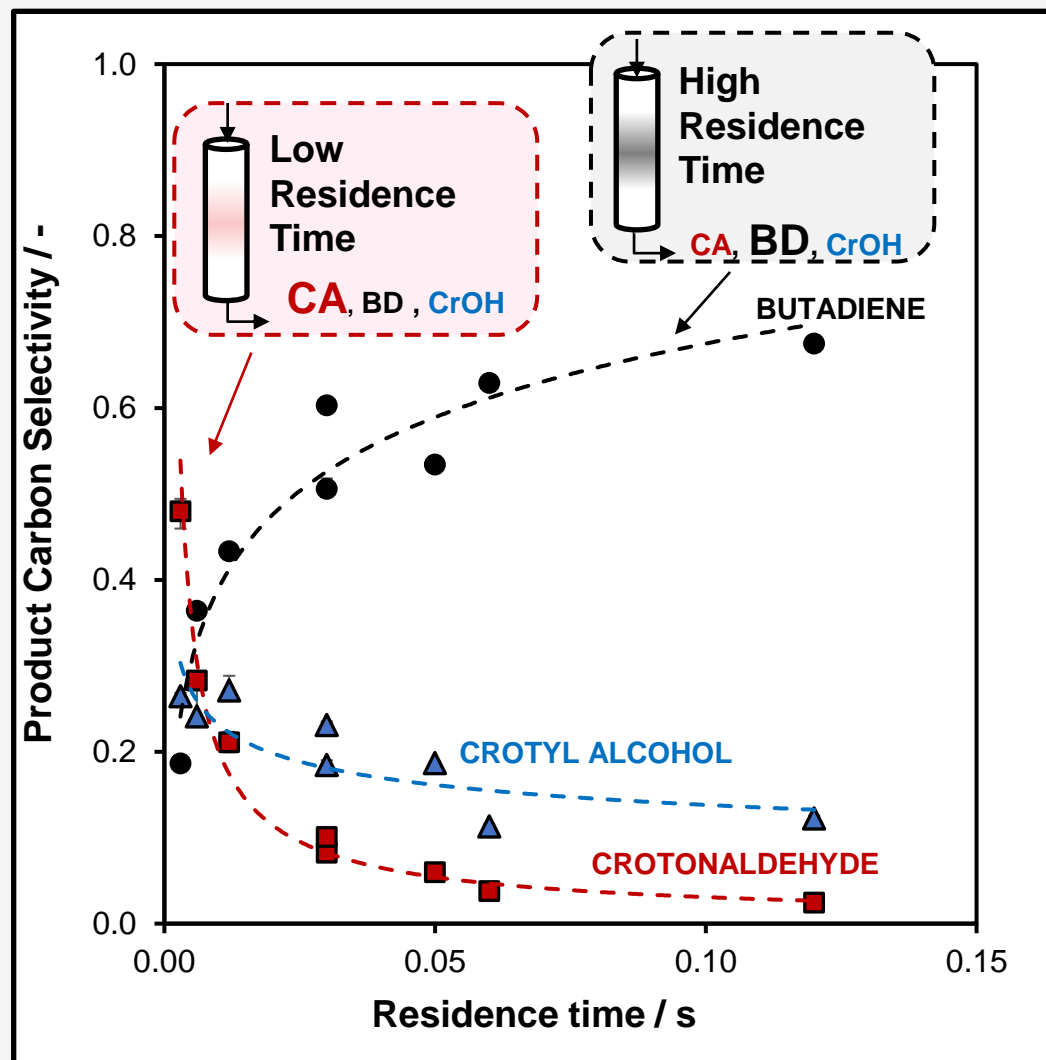
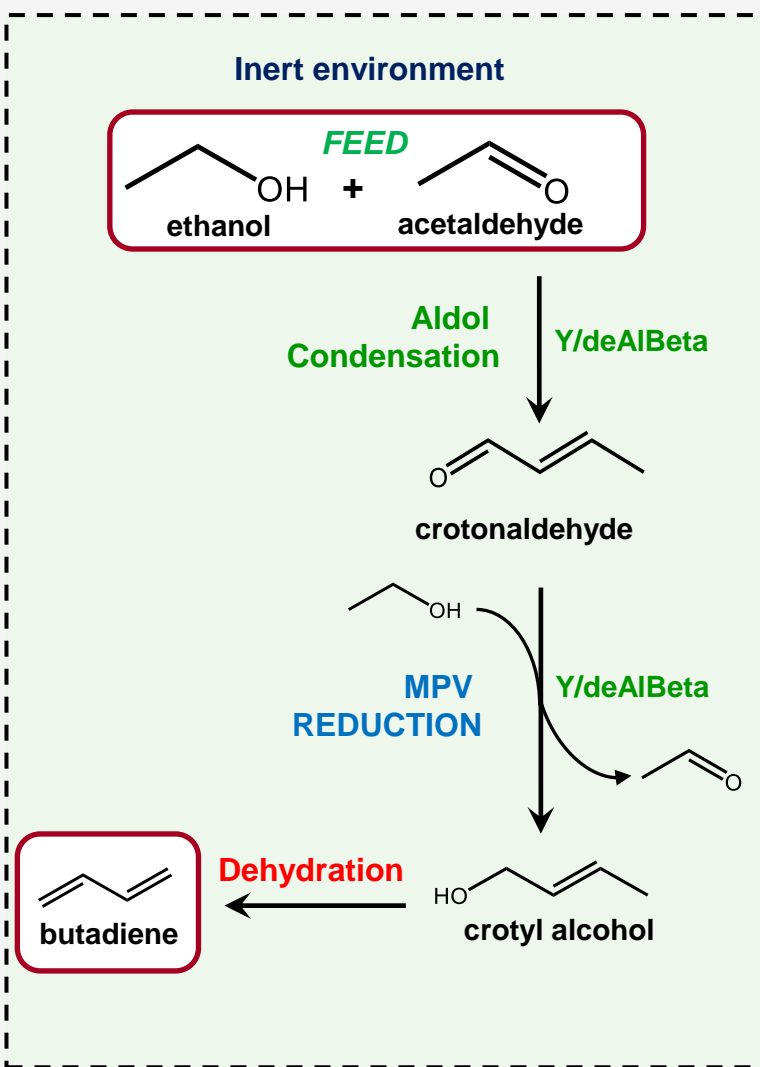
Gas Flows:  $P_{\text{AcH}} = 1$  kPa and  $P_{\text{EtOH}} = 5.8$  kPa,  $0.098$  kPa  $\text{CH}_4$ , bal He;

Total flowrates varied:  $50$ - $200$   $\text{cm}^3 \text{min}^{-1}$

Catalyst: Pure  $\sim 0.1$  g  $\text{Y}_{0.5}/\text{deAlBeta}$ , diluted  $\sim 0.01$  g  $\text{Y}_{0.5}/\text{Beta}$  in  $\sim 0.09$  g SiC

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# Probing the reaction pathway



**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503\text{ K}$ ;

**Gas Flows:**  $P_{AcH} = 1\text{ kPa}$  and  $P_{EtOH} = 5.8\text{ kPa}$ ,  $0.098\text{ kPa CH}_4$ , bal He;

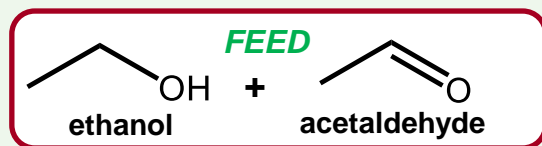
Total flowrates varied:  $50\text{--}200\text{ cm}^3\text{ min}^{-1}$

**Catalyst:** Pure  $\sim 0.1\text{ g Y}_{0.5}/deAlBeta$ , diluted  $\sim 0.01\text{ g Y}_{0.5}/Beta$  in  $\sim 0.09\text{ g SiC}$

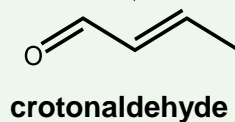
Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# Probing the reaction pathway

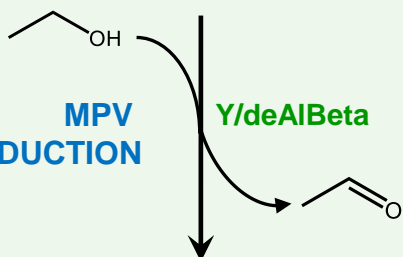
Inert environment



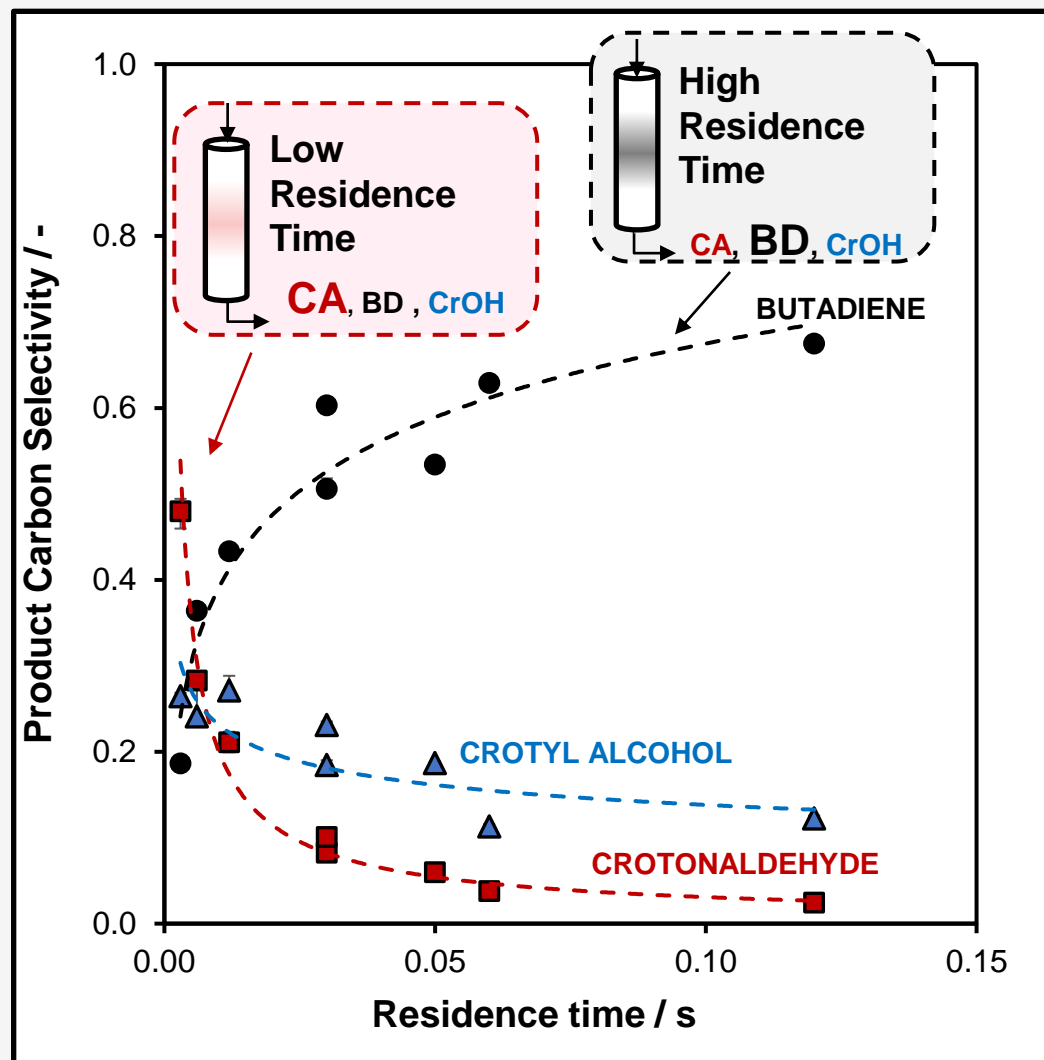
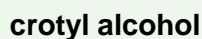
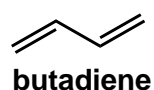
**Aldol  
Condensation** Y/deAlBeta



**MPV  
REDUCTION** Y/deAlBeta



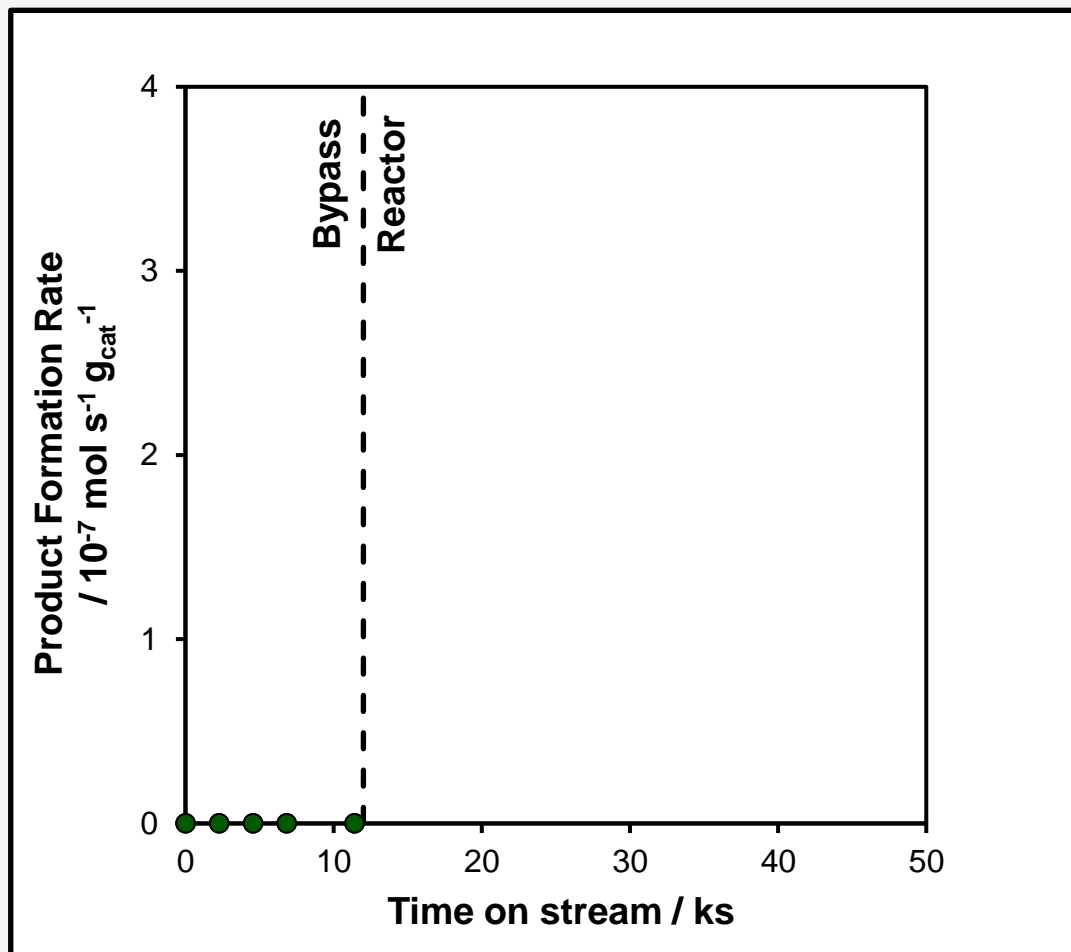
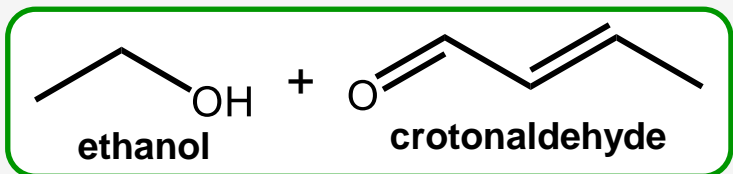
**Dehydration**



**Crotonaldehyde is a primary product, butadiene is a terminal product**

# How is crotonaldehyde consumed? MPV reduction?

FEED



Reaction conditions: T= 483 K; P=124 kPa

Gas Flows: 0.014 kPa CA, 1 kPa EtOH, 0.98 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>, bal He; Total flowrate 100 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>

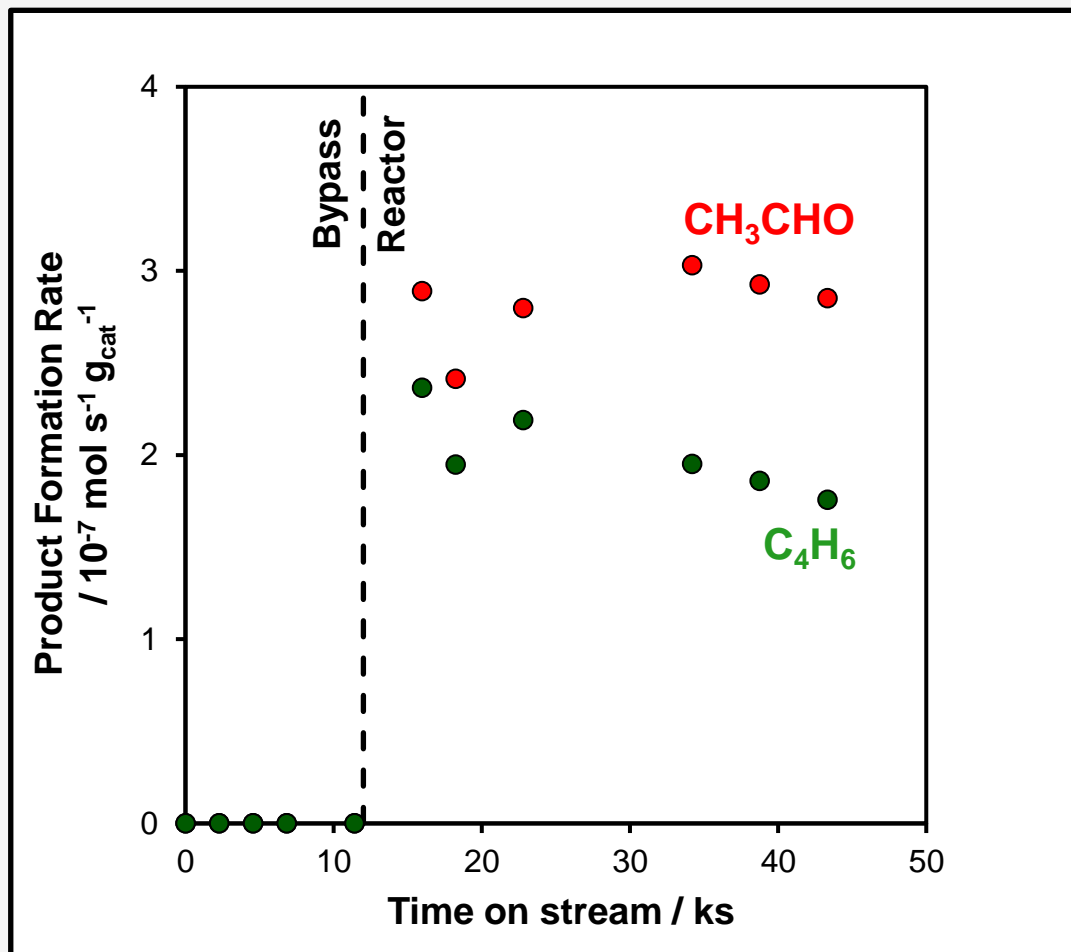
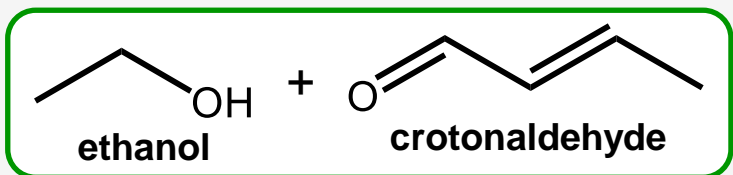
Catalyst: diluted ~0.01 g Y<sub>3</sub>/deAlBeta in ~0.09 g SiC

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*



# How is crotonaldehyde consumed? MPV reduction?

FEED



Reaction conditions: T= 483 K; P=124 kPa

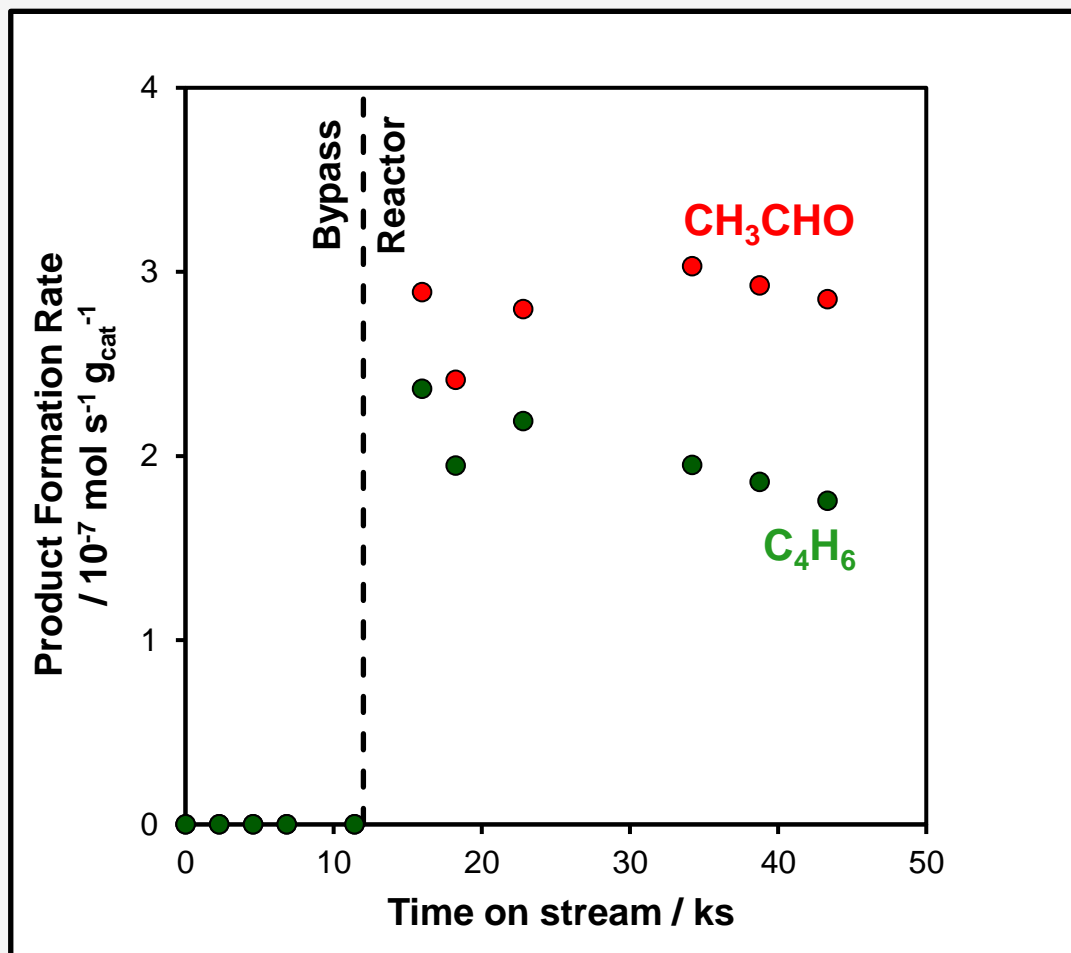
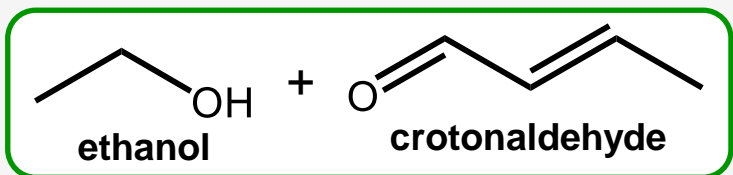
Gas Flows: 0.014 kPa CA, 1 kPa EtOH, 0.98 kPa  $\text{CH}_4$ , bal He; Total flowrate  $100 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

Catalyst: diluted  $\sim 0.01 \text{ g Y}_3/\text{deAlBeta}$  in  $\sim 0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

# How is crotonaldehyde consumed? MPV reduction?

FEED



**Crotonaldehyde reacts with ethanol to form acetaldehyde and BD**

Reaction conditions: T= 483 K; P=124 kPa

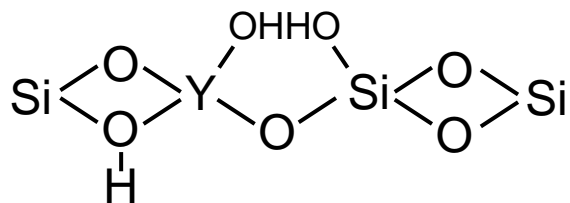
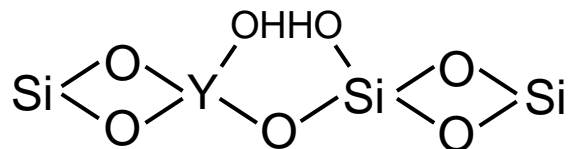
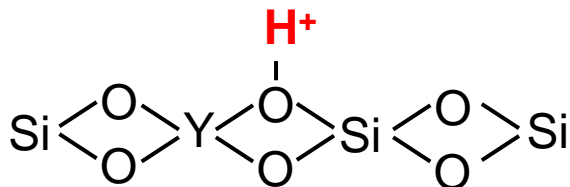
Gas Flows: 0.014 kPa CA, 1 kPa EtOH, 0.98 kPa  $\text{CH}_4$ , bal He; Total flowrate  $100 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

Catalyst: diluted  $\sim 0.01 \text{ g Y}_3/\text{deAlBeta}$  in  $\sim 0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

Borate, Samad, Harris et al., *in prep*

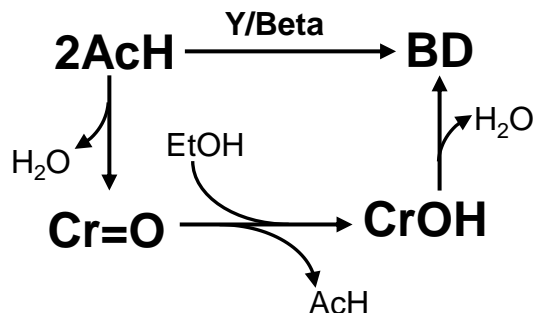
# How do we get from acetaldehyde and ethanol to butadiene?

**What are the active sites and how many are there?**



- **Minimal  $H^+$  in Y/deAlBeta**
- **BD forming sites  $\neq$  sites titrated in IR**
- **Crotonal forming sites unaffected by pyridine**

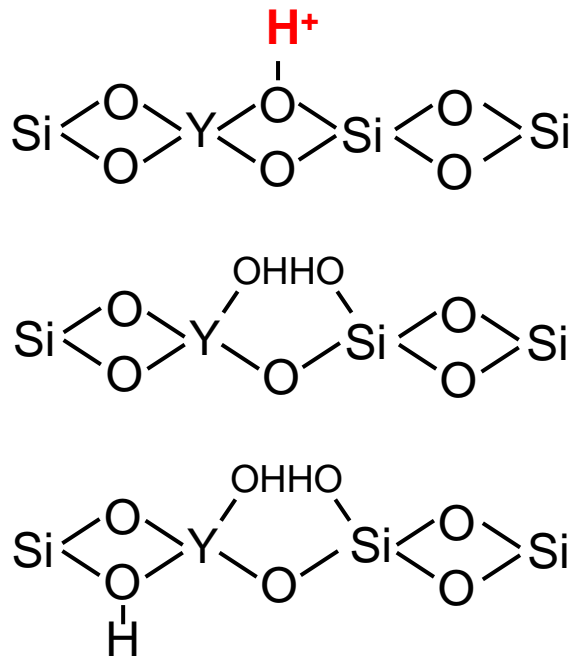
**What is the reaction pathway?**



- **Crotonal is an intermediate that can undergo MPV reduction with ethanol, which leads to BD formation**

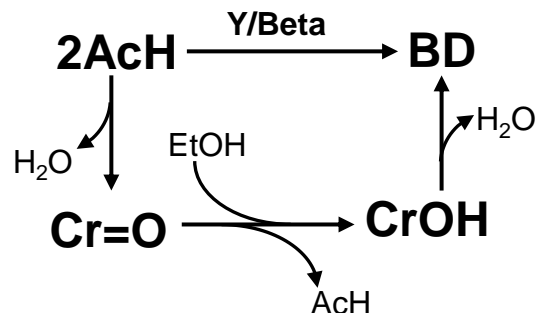
# Can we measure kinetics?

**What are the active sites and how many are there?**



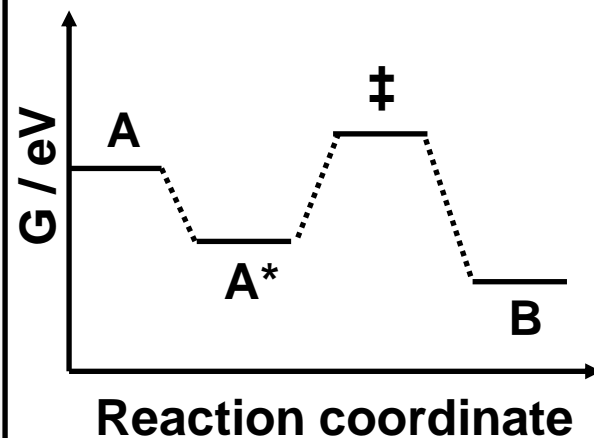
- **Minimal  $H^+$  in Y/deAlBeta**
- **BD forming sites  $\neq$  sites titrated in IR**
- **Crotonal forming sites unaffected by pyridine**

**What is the reaction pathway?**



- **Crotonal is an intermediate that can undergo MPV reduction with ethanol, which leads to BD formation**

**What are the reaction mechanisms?**



# Reaction order test on $Y_{10}/deAlBeta$ (IWI)

Product rates variation wrt

$P_{EtOH}$

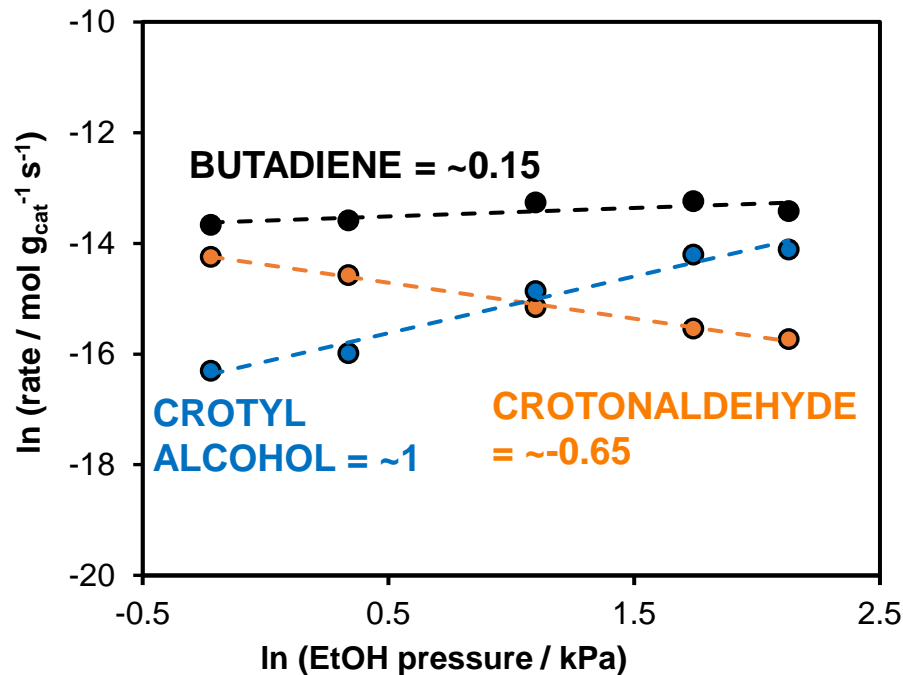
Sum of  $C_4$  product rate variation

wrt  $P_{EtOH}$

# Ethanol Reaction Order over $Y_{10}/deAlBeta$ (IWI)

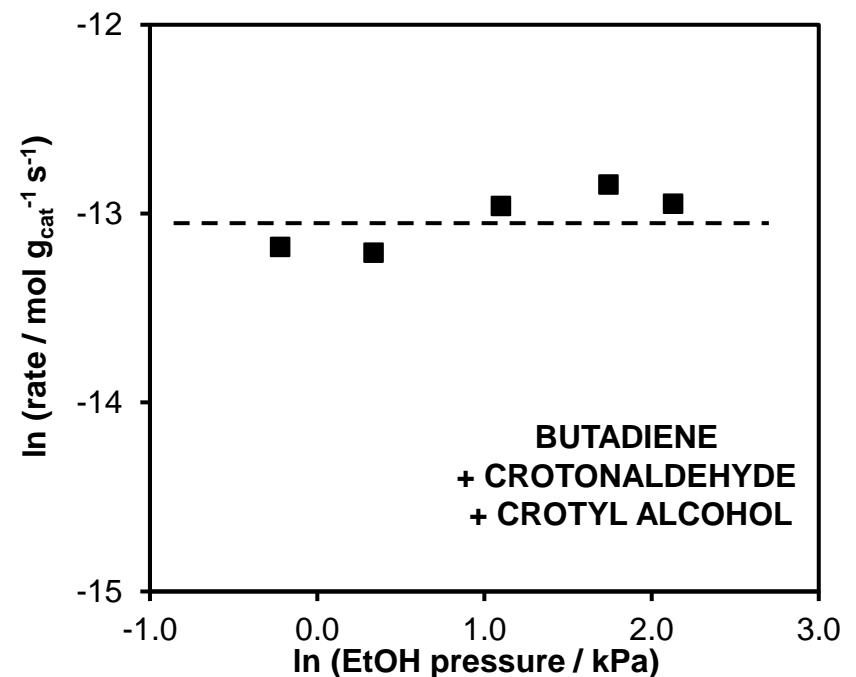
Product rates variation wrt

$P_{EtOH}$



Sum of C<sub>4</sub> product rate variation

wrt  $P_{EtOH}$



Reaction conditions: T= 503 K; P=124 kPa

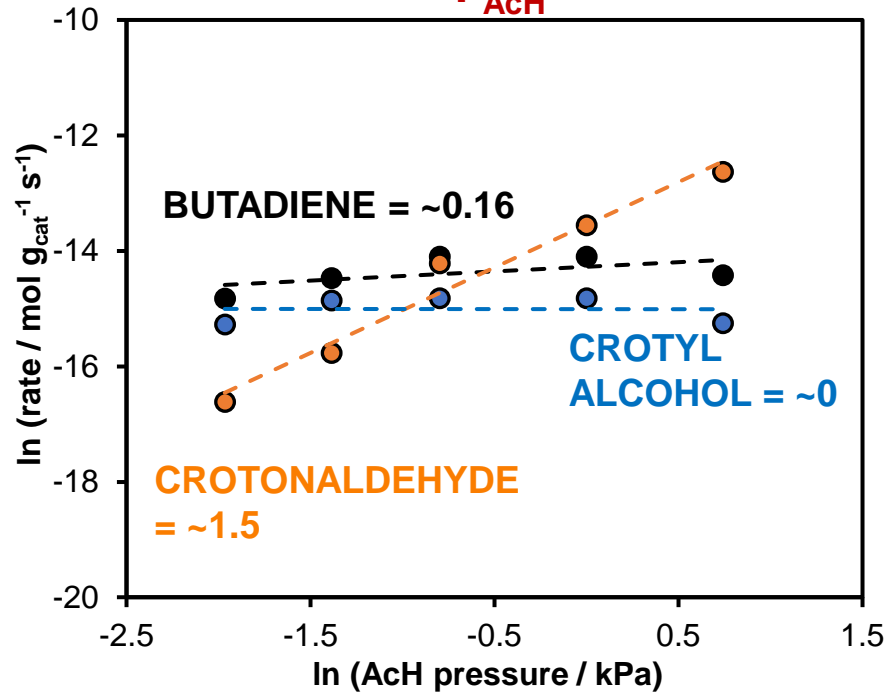
Gas Flows: Partial pressure of EtOH and Ach varied, 0.098 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>,  
bal He; Total flowrate 100 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>

Catalyst: diluted  $\sim 0.01$  g  $Y_{10}/deAlBeta$  in  $\sim 0.09$  g SiC

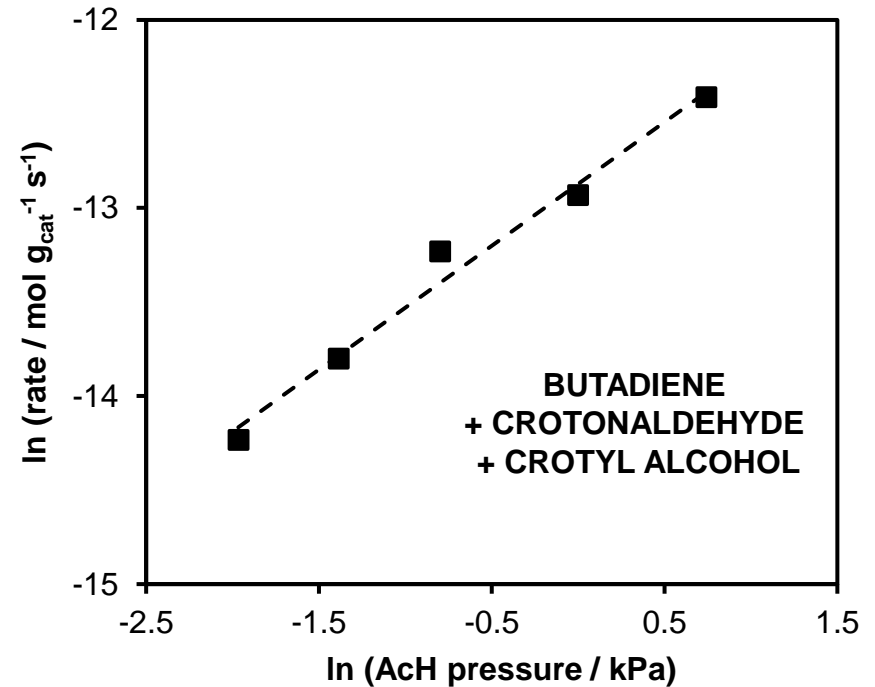
# Acetaldehyde Reaction Order over $Y_{10}/deAlBeta$ (IWI)

## Product rates variation wrt

$P_{AcH}$



## Sum C<sub>4</sub> variation with $P_{AcH}$



**Reaction conditions:** T= 503 K; P=124 kPa

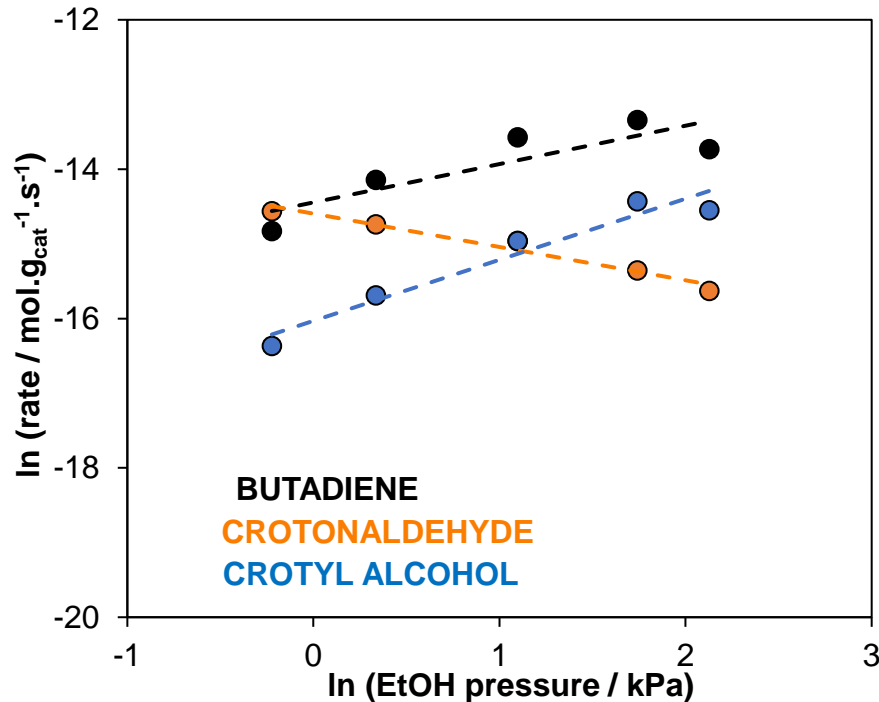
**Gas Flows:** Partial pressure of EtOH and AcH varied, 0.098 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>, bal He; Total flowrate 100 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>

**Catalyst:** diluted ~0.01 g Y<sub>10</sub>/deAlBeta in ~0.09 g SiC

# Reaction order test on $\text{La}_4/\text{deAlBeta}$ (IWI)

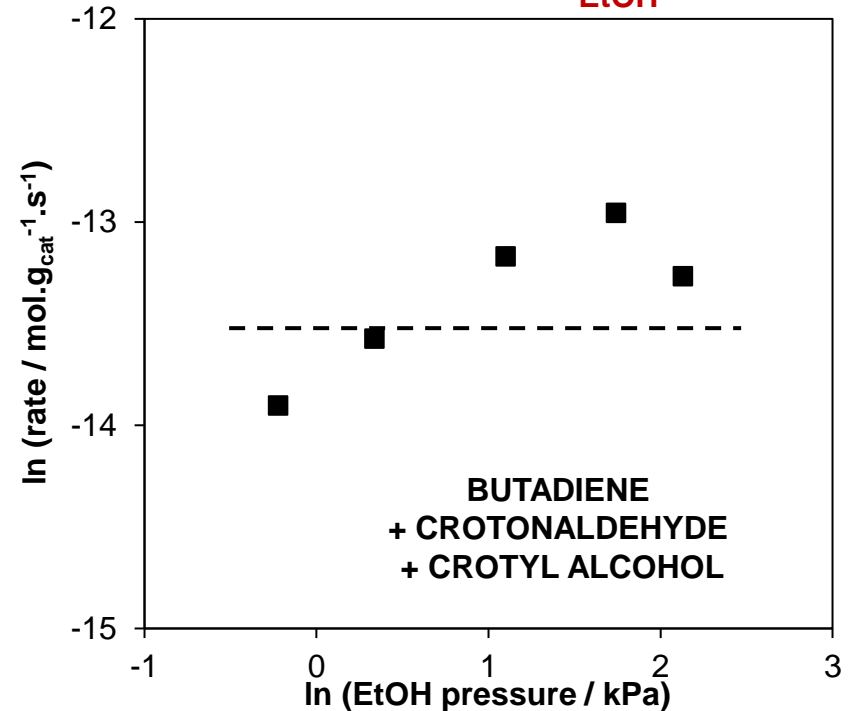
## Product rates variation wrt

$P_{\text{EtOH}}$



## Sum of C<sub>4</sub> product rate

variation wrt  $P_{\text{EtOH}}$



*Kinetic dependencies likely vary with identity of the rare earth metal*

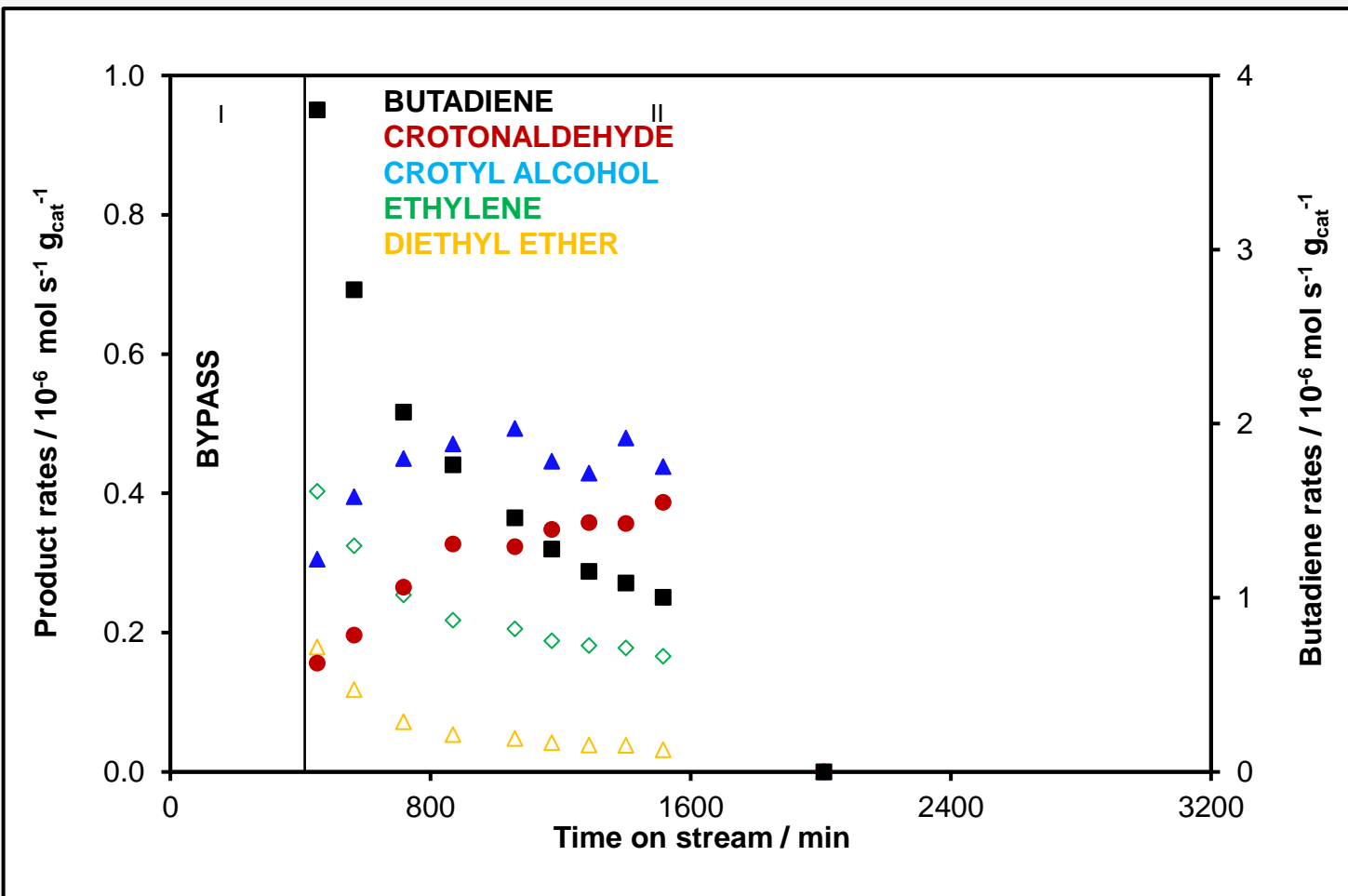
Reaction conditions: T= 503 K; P=124 kPa

Gas Flows: Partial pressure of EtOH and Ach varied, 0.098 kPa CH<sub>4</sub>,  
bal He; Total flowrate 100 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>

Catalyst: diluted ~0.01 g La<sub>4</sub>/deAlBeta in ~0.09 g SiC



# Kinetic isotope effect experiments on $Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}$



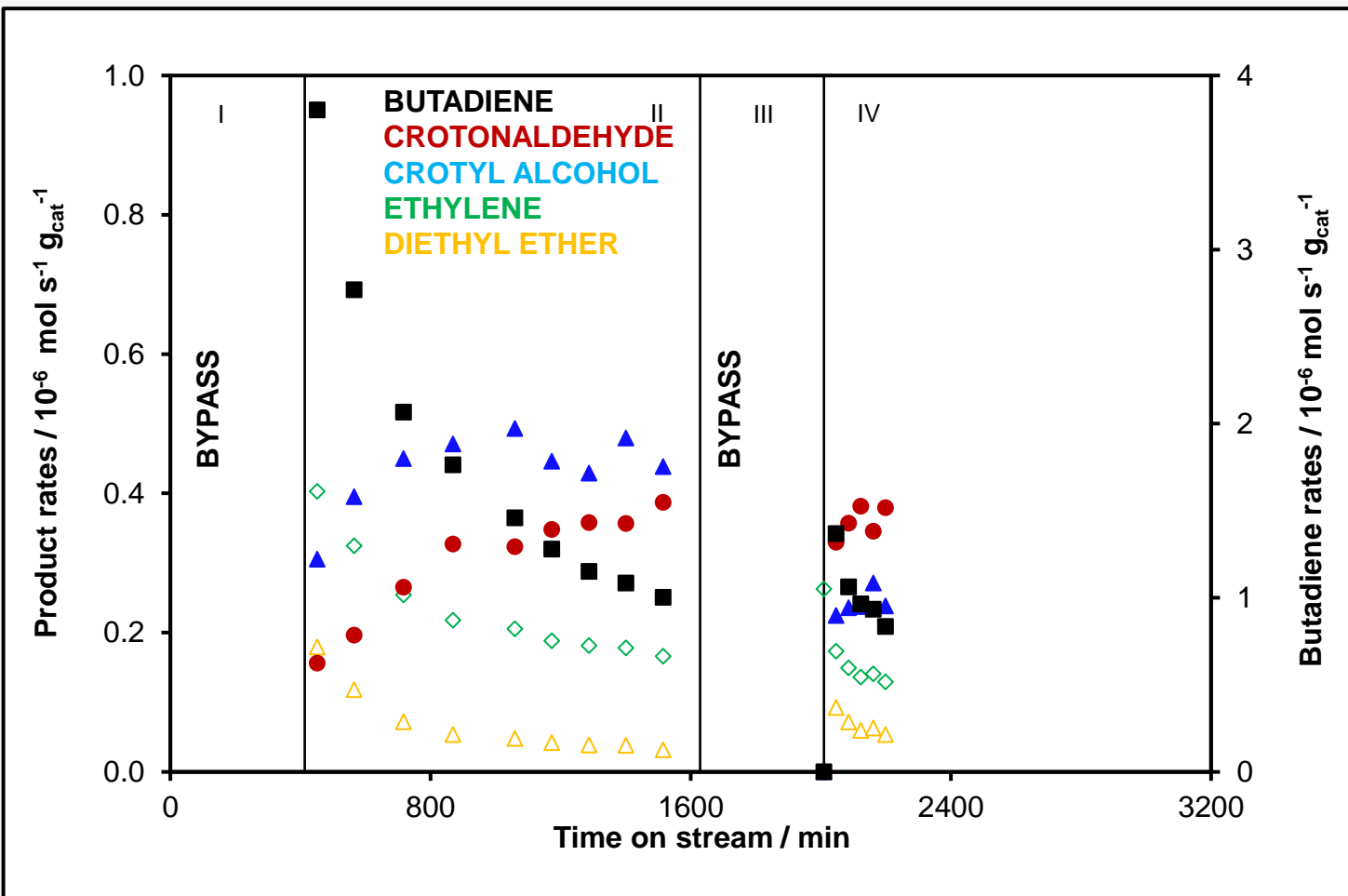
I-II.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503 \text{ K}$ ,  $P = 124 \text{ kPa}$

**Gas flows:**  $1.5 \text{ kPa EtOH}$ ,  $0.2 \text{ kPa AcH}$  (H form reagents: panels II and VIII, D-form EtOH and H-form AcH panel IV, D-form EtOH and AcH: panel VI, Bypass conditions: panels I, III, V and VII),  $0.98 \text{ kPa CH}_4$ , Balance He. Total flow  $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

**Catalyst:**  $0.01 \text{ g } Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}(19)$  diluted with  $0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

# Kinetic isotope effect experiments on $Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}$

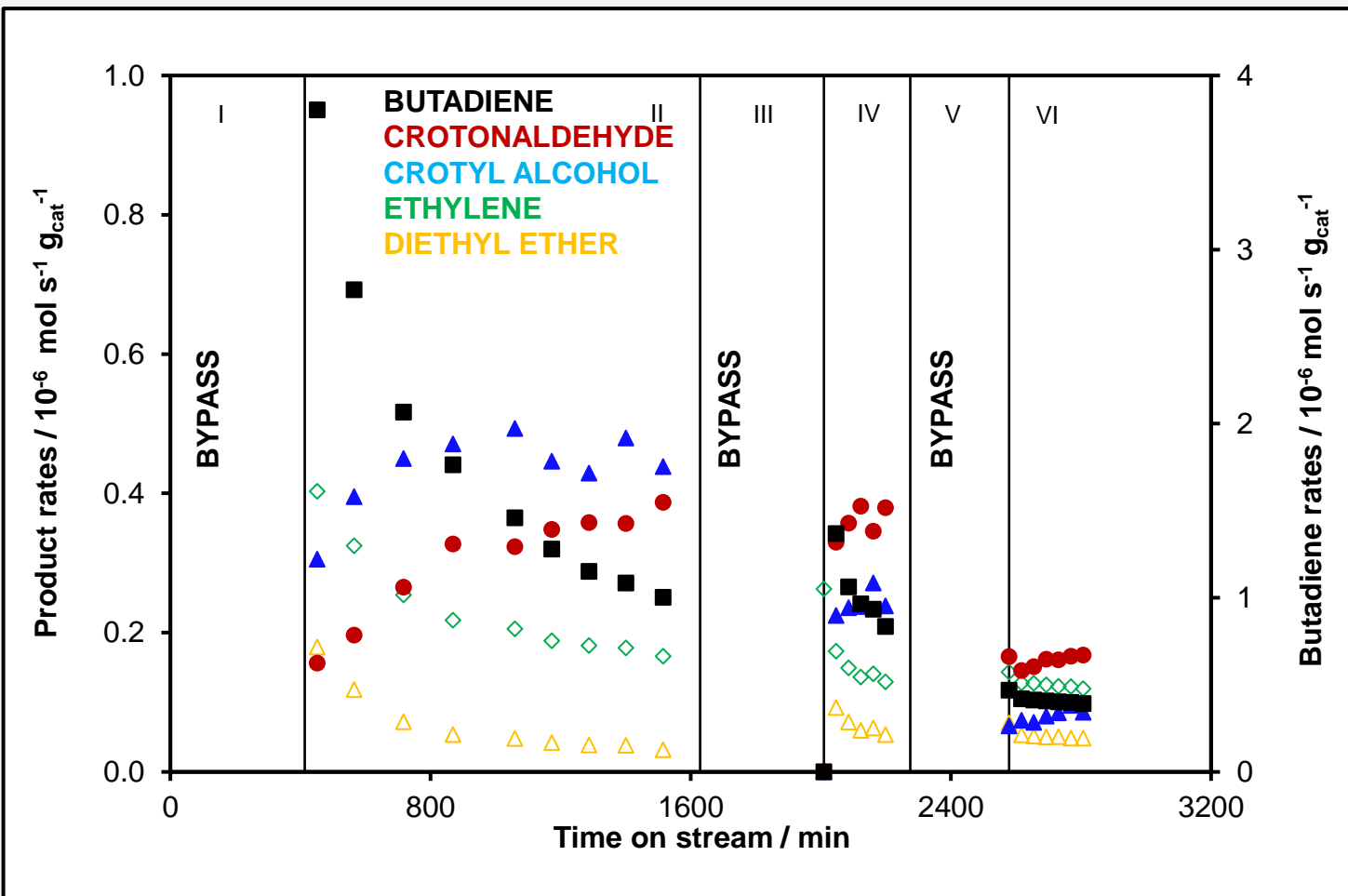


**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503 \text{ K}$ ,  $P = 124 \text{ kPa}$

**Gas flows:**  $1.5 \text{ kPa EtOH}$ ,  $0.2 \text{ kPa AcH}$  (H form reagents: panels II and VIII, D-form EtOH and H-form AcH panel IV, D-form EtOH and AcH: panel VI, Bypass conditions: panels I, III, V and VII),  $0.98 \text{ kPa CH}_4$ , Balance He. Total flow  $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

**Catalyst:**  $0.01 \text{ g } Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}(19)$  diluted with  $0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

# Kinetic isotope effect experiments on $Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}$



I-II.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

III-IV.  $\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{OD} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

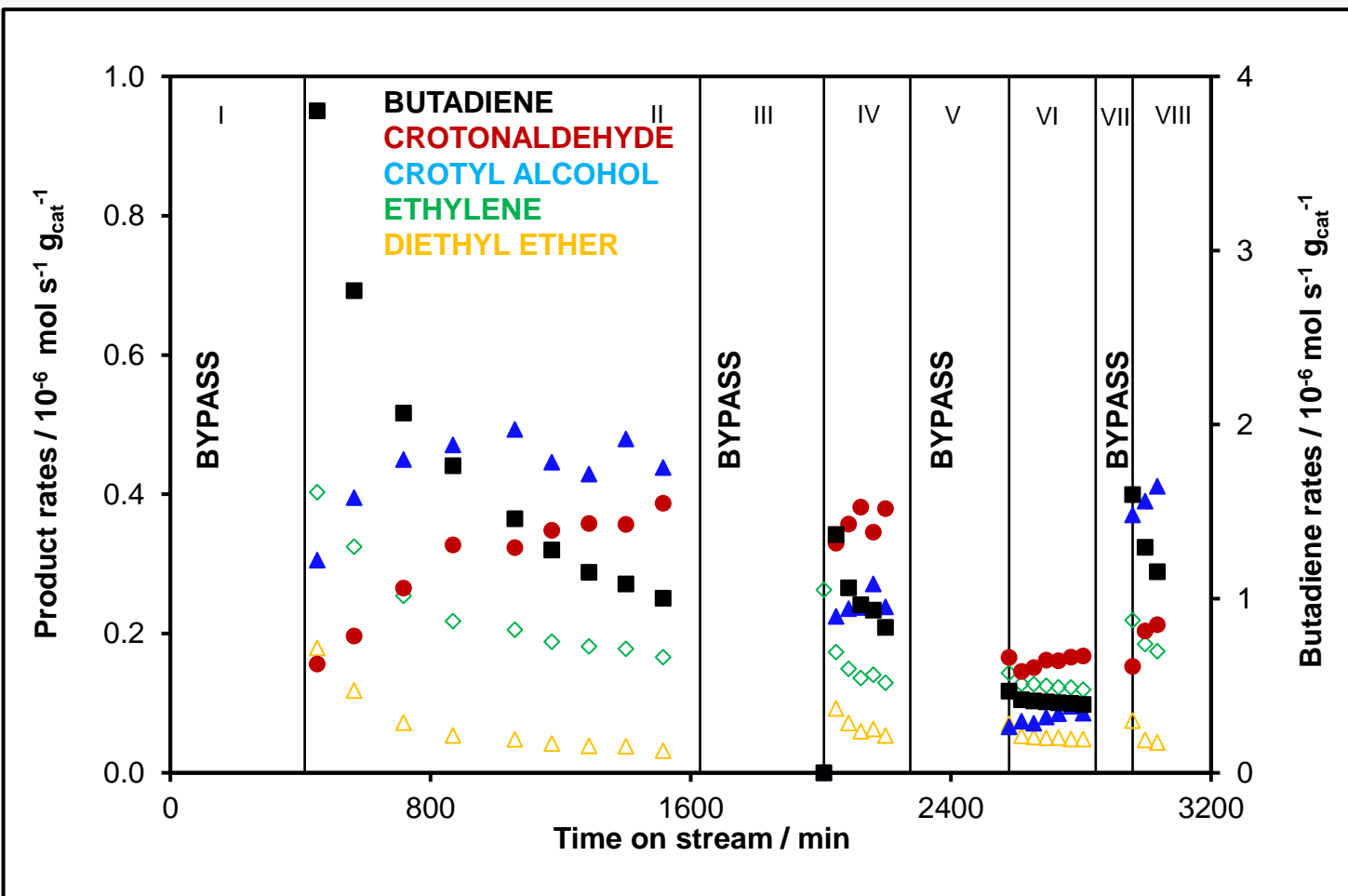
V-VI.  $\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{OD} + \text{CD}_3\text{CDO}$

**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503 \text{ K}$ ,  $P = 124 \text{ kPa}$

**Gas flows:**  $1.5 \text{ kPa EtOH}$ ,  $0.2 \text{ kPa AcH}$  (H form reagents: panels II and VIII, D-form EtOH and H-form AcH panel IV, D-form EtOH and AcH: panel VI, Bypass conditions: panels I, III, V and VII),  $0.98 \text{ kPa CH}_4$ , Balance He. Total flow  $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

**Catalyst:**  $0.01 \text{ g } Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}(19)$  diluted with  $0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

# Kinetic isotope effect experiments on $Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}$



I-II.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

III-IV.  $\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{OD} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

V-VI.  $\text{C}_2\text{D}_5\text{OD} + \text{CD}_3\text{CDO}$

VII-VIII.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

**Reaction conditions:**  $T = 503 \text{ K}$ ,  $P = 124 \text{ kPa}$

**Gas flows:**  $1.5 \text{ kPa EtOH}$ ,  $0.2 \text{ kPa AcH}$  (H form reagents: panels II and VIII, D-form EtOH and H-form AcH panel IV, D-form EtOH and AcH: panel VI, Bypass conditions: panels I, III, V and VII),  $0.98 \text{ kPa CH}_4$ , Balance He. Total flow  $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$

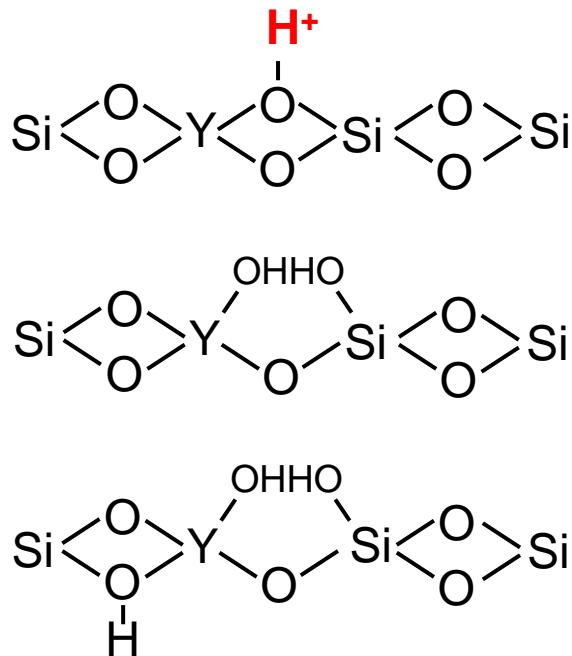
**Catalyst:**  $0.01 \text{ g } Y_5/\text{deAlBeta}(19)$  diluted with  $0.09 \text{ g SiC}$

## *Isotopic labeling experiments on $Y_5/deAlBeta$*

Products	Measured rates averaged / $10^{-6} \text{ mol s}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$				KIE values	
	$R_{H\_initial}$	$R_{H\_final}$	$R_{D\_EtOH}$ $D_6$	$R_{D\_EtOH}$ $D_6+AcH-D_4$	$R_H/R_D$ only ethanol labeled	$R_H/R_D$ both labeled
Butadiene	1.08	1.23	0.91	0.40	1.2	3.1
Crotonaldehyde	0.37	0.21	0.37	0.16	1.0	1.3
Crotyl alcohol	0.45	0.40	0.25	0.09	1.8	4.6
<b>Total <math>C_4</math></b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Ethylene	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.12	1.3	1.5
DEE	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.6	0.9

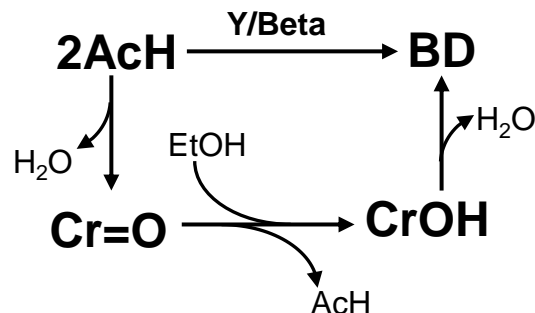
# Can we measure kinetics?

**What are the active sites and how many are there?**



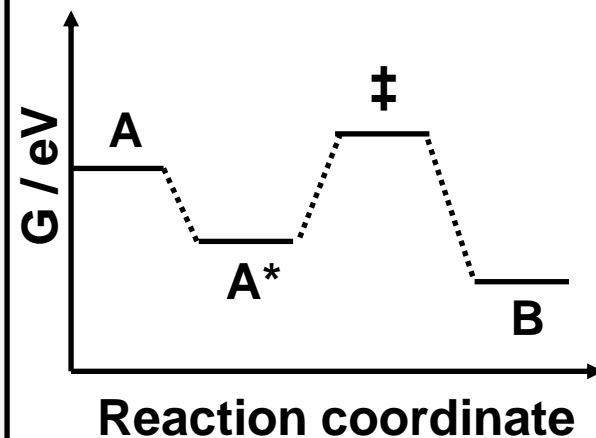
- **Minimal  $H^+$  in Y/deAlBeta**
- **BD forming sites  $\neq$  sites titrated in IR**
- **Crotonal forming sites unaffected by pyridine**

**What is the reaction pathway?**



- **Crotonal is an intermediate that can undergo MPV reduction with ethanol, which leads to BD formation**

**What are the reaction mechanisms?**



- **$C_{4+}$  product formation is:**
  - **$\sim 0$  order in  $C_2H_5OH$**
  - **$>1^{st}$  order in  $CH_3CHO$**

# Acknowledgements

## *U. Alabama*

- Nohor “River” Samad (M.S. 2022, Westrock)
- Sumin Lee (B.S. 2020; Ga. Tech)
- Ryan Kitchen (B.S. 2022)
- Chase McGee (REU 2022, U. Conn.)
- Zahra Almohamedhusain (B.S. 2024)

## Johns Hopkins U.

- Prof. Brandon Bukowski
- Prof. Michael Tsapatsis

## *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

- Dr. Junyan Zhang
- Dr. Michael Cordon
- Dr. Stephen Purdy
- Dr. Meijun Li
- Dr. Andrew Sutton
- Dr. Zhenglong Li (Now: Zhejiang University, China)



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# Questions?

## ***U. Alabama***

- Nohor “River” Samad (M.S. 2022, Westrock)
- Sumin Lee (B.S. 2020; Ga. Tech)
- Ryan Kitchen (B.S. 2022)
- Chase McGee (REU 2022, U. Conn.)
- Zahra Almohamedhusain (B.S. 2024)

## **Johns Hopkins U.**

- Prof. Brandon Bukowski
- Prof. Michael Tsapatsis

## ***Oak Ridge National Laboratory***

- Dr. Junyan Zhang
- Dr. Michael Cordon
- Dr. Stephen Purdy
- Dr. Meijun Li
- Dr. Andrew Sutton
- Dr. Zhenglong Li (Now: Zhejiang University, China)



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