



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



2023 PhD Week

Energy and Environmental Engineering Sciences

18/10/2023

MOLECULAR APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE CATALYSIS

Rita Mazzoni

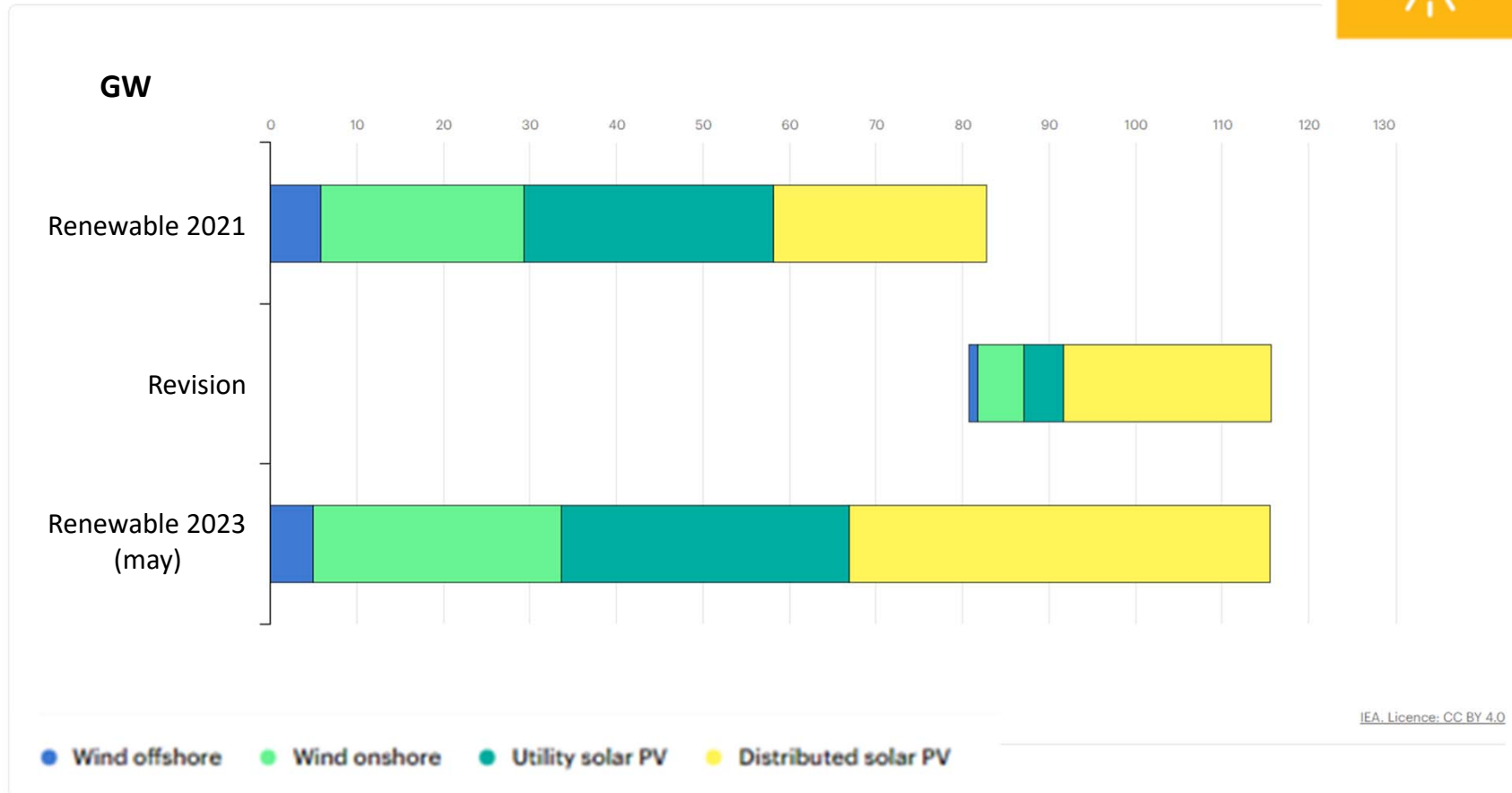
Department of Industrial Chemistry «Toso Montanari»

Sustainability 2030 Agenda: Where do we need to (rapidly) go?



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





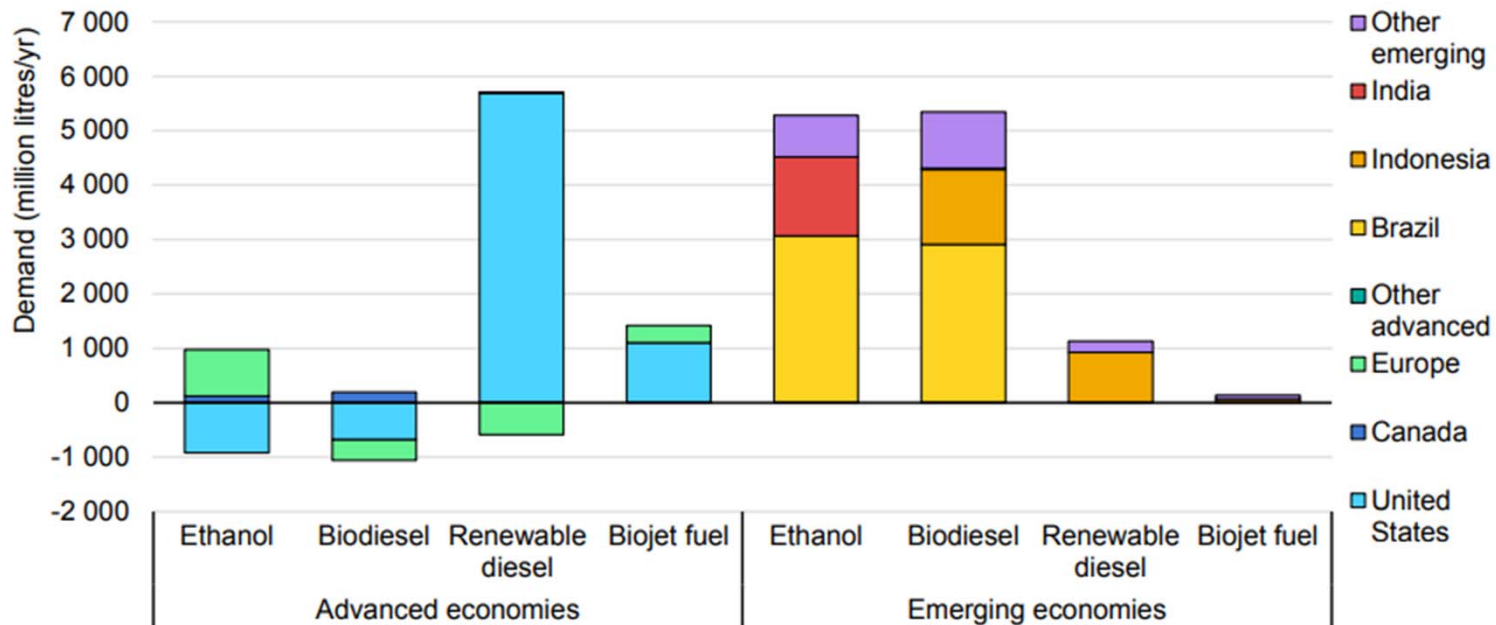
Appears in
[Renewable Energy Market Update - June 2023](https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/european-union-capacity-additions-in-2023-2024)

<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/european-union-capacity-additions-in-2023-2024>

IEA, European Union capacity additions in 2023-2024, IEA, Paris
<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/european-union-capacity-additions-in-2023-2024>, IEA. Licence: CC BY 4.0



Biofuel demand growth by fuel and region, 2022-2024



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

- EU Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII), aims to achieve 14% renewable transport fuels by 2030

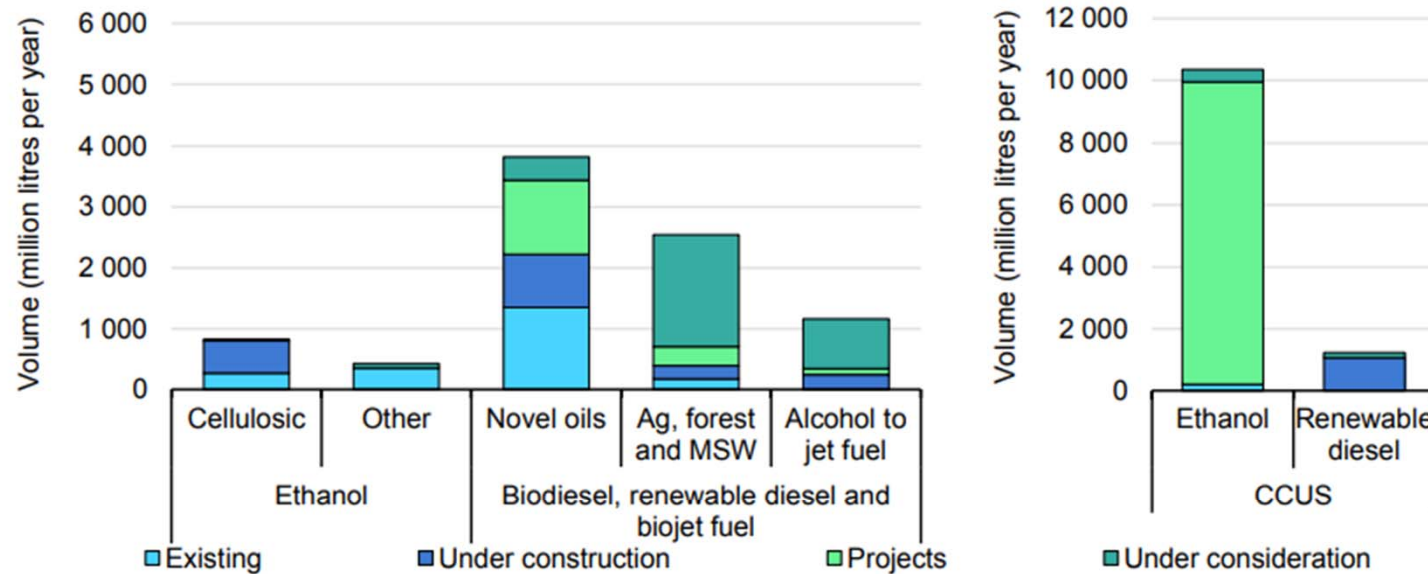
IEA, European Union capacity additions in 2023-2024, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/european-union-capacity-additions-in-2023-2024>, IEA. Licence: CC BY 4.0



The shadow of feedstock supply crunch



Existing and planned biofuel capacity using non-conventional feedstocks and incorporating CCUS, 2021-2030



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

Notes: CCUS = carbon capture, utilisation and storage. MSW = municipal solid waste. "Existing" projects are those with operational capacity as of the end of 2022. "Under construction" are projects being built as of Q1-2023. "Projects" are those with announced final investment decisions or otherwise highly likely to move forward as of Q1-2023. "Under consideration" covers all other announced projects with planned operation dates as of Q1-2023.



What do we need to (re-)use as feedstocks?

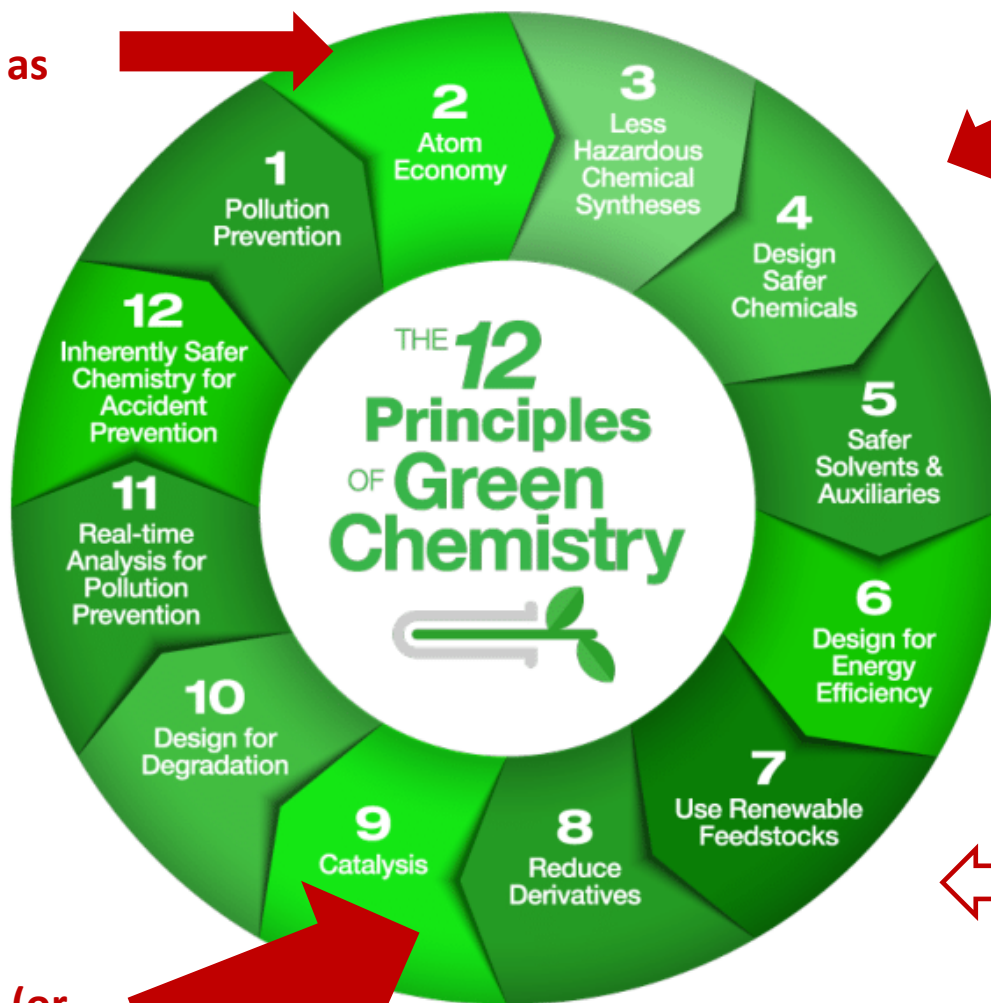


Waste hierarchy



Let's move to the «molecular» side of the moon: the twelve sustainable rules for chemists

Waste of the process: null or as low as possible



Homogeneous (or «molecular») in our case

Even better if waste

What's app in the industrial world of homogeneous catalysis?



Post



Johnson Matthey
@Johnson_Matthey

JM's investment in homogeneous ester hydrogenation allows us to provide our customers with enhanced safety, simplicity, and sustainability of their synthetic routes.



JM Johnson Matthey
Inspiring science, enhancing life

"As the pharmaceutical industry faces mounting pressure to achieve sustainability, the use of simpler catalytic processes is an unmissable opportunity to minimise the environmental impact of operations and improve green credentials."

Dr Antonio Zanotti-Gerosa
R&D Director



Johnson Matthey

163.293 follower

2 giorni · Modificato



? Did you know ? In 2030, 30 billion litres of sustainable aviation fuel (#SAF) will need to be produced to stay in line with global net zero projections? 🌍 ✈️

🧠 Hear from our SAF expert [Paul Ticehurst](#), Senior Business Development Director, as he delves into some of the ways governments can stimulate further growth for SAF 📊

Find the article here: <https://bit.ly/3LzRmpl>

#SustainableAviation #CatalysingNetZero

This is actually still in the heterogeneous world of catalysis, but it is a very interesting trend anyway

Can sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production be scaled to help fuel aviation's growth?

This pink dot represents the amount of SAF produced globally in 2022

300,000,000 litres

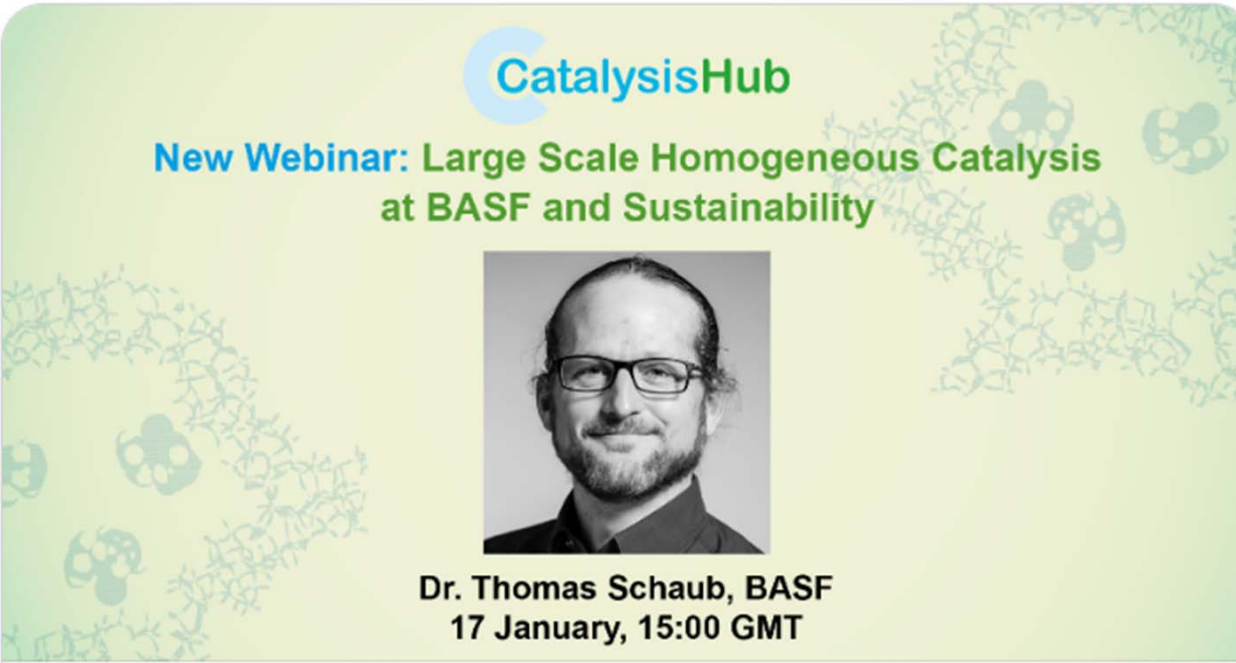
30,000,000,000 litres

This blue dot represents the amount of SAF needed to be produced in 2030 to stay in line with net zero projections

JM Johnson Matthey
Inspiring science, enhancing life


What's app in the industrial world of homogeneous catalysis?

New webinar on homogeneous catalysis coming up




CatalysisHub

New Webinar: Large Scale Homogeneous Catalysis at BASF and Sustainability



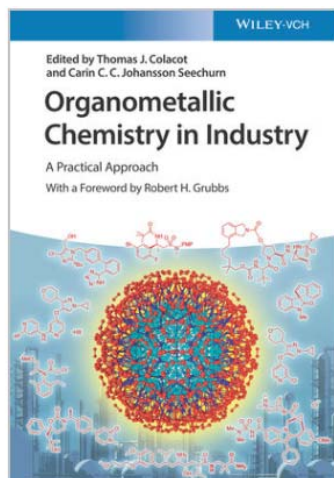
Dr. Thomas Schaub, BASF
17 January, 15:00 GMT

 **UK Catalysis Hub**
9 dicembre 2022 · 🌐

We have a new webinar coming up on the 17th January 2023 on **Large Scale Homogeneous Catalysis at BASF and Sustainability** with Dr. Thomas Schaub. For Dr. Thomas ... **Altro...**



Molecular catalysis become convenient when selectivity is compulsory



- **Heterogeneous** catalysts dominate chemical and petrochemical industry: ~ 95% of all chemical processes use **heterogeneous** catalysts.
- **Homogenous catalysts** are used when **selectivity** is critical and product-catalyst **separation problems** can be solved.

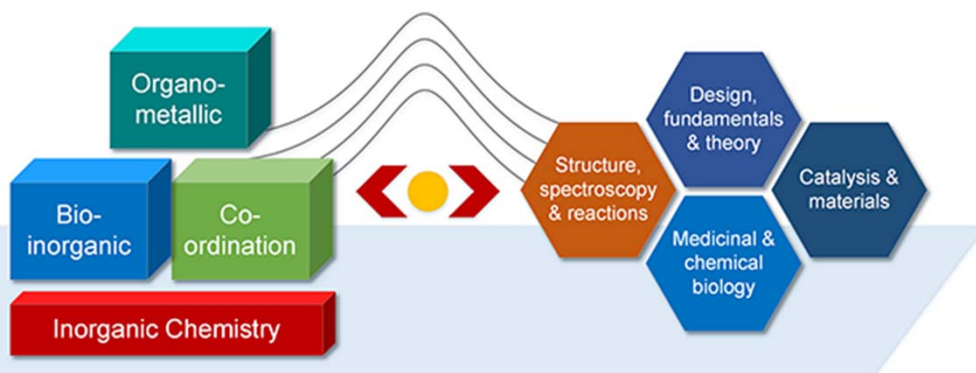
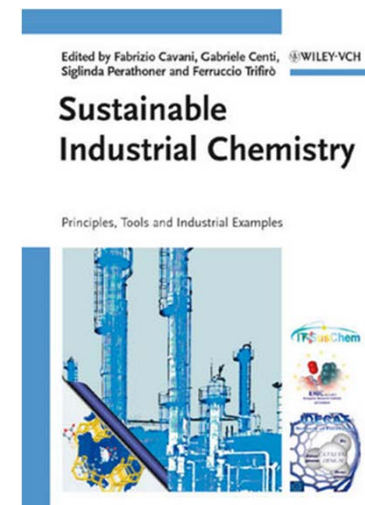
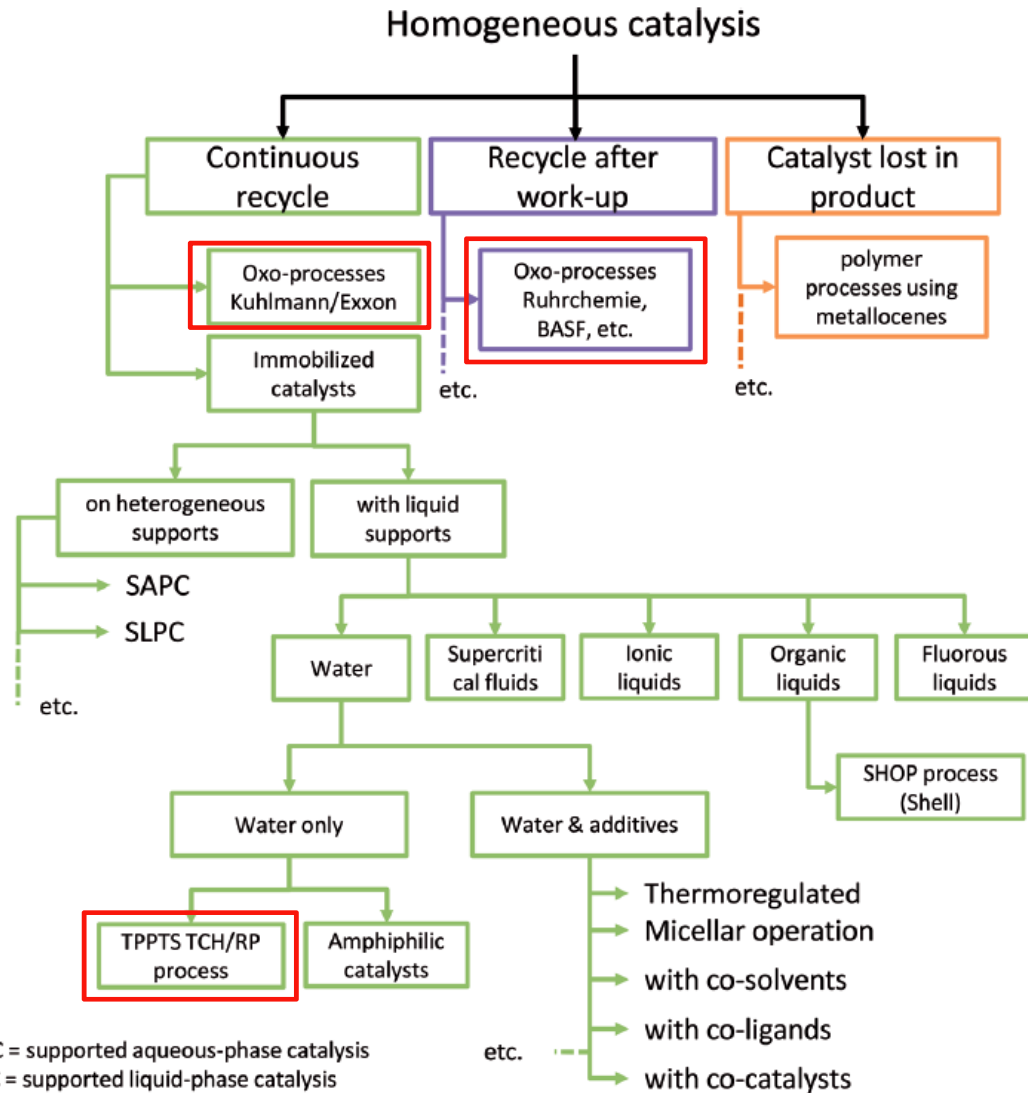


Figure 1.2 Vision of the F³-Factory (future, fast, flexible).
Source: elaborated by ETP SusChem (<http://www.suschem.org>).



Homogeneous catalysis recycling modes



General scheme of the possibilities for HOMOGENEOUS CATALYSIS to **improve** in term of **usability and recyclability**

... the successful case of **hydroformilation** →

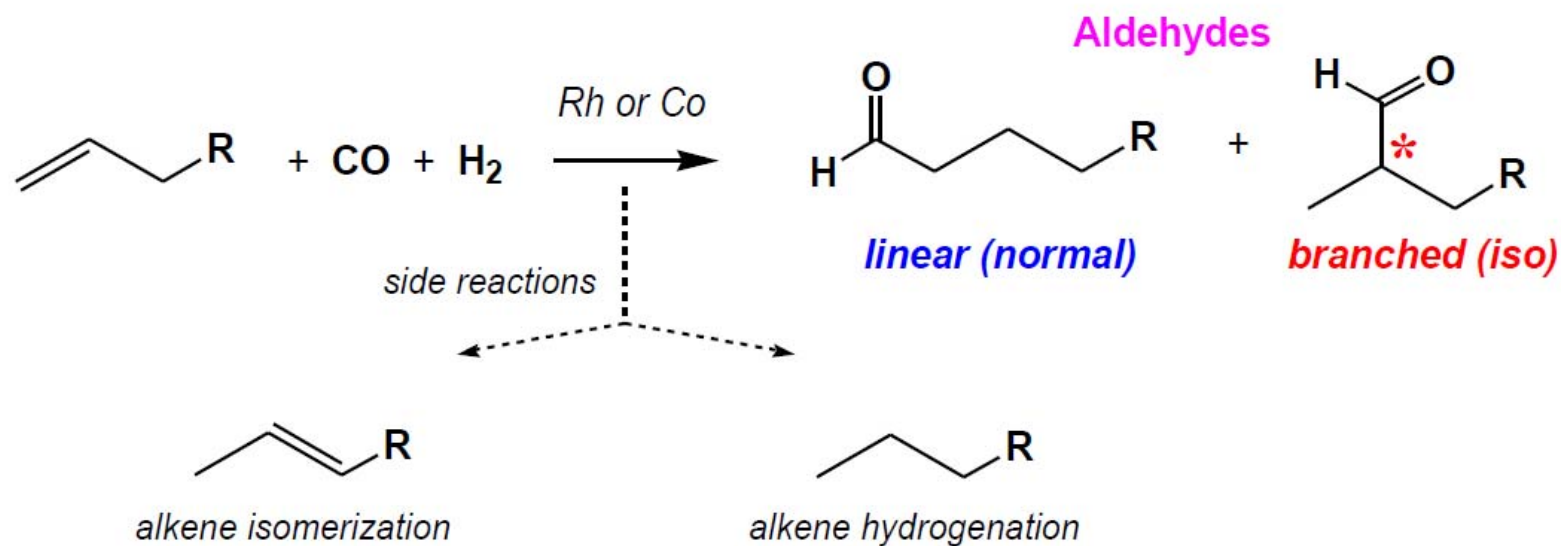
SAPC = supported aqueous-phase catalysis
SLPC = supported liquid-phase catalysis



Hydroformylation from the beginning to multiphase approach



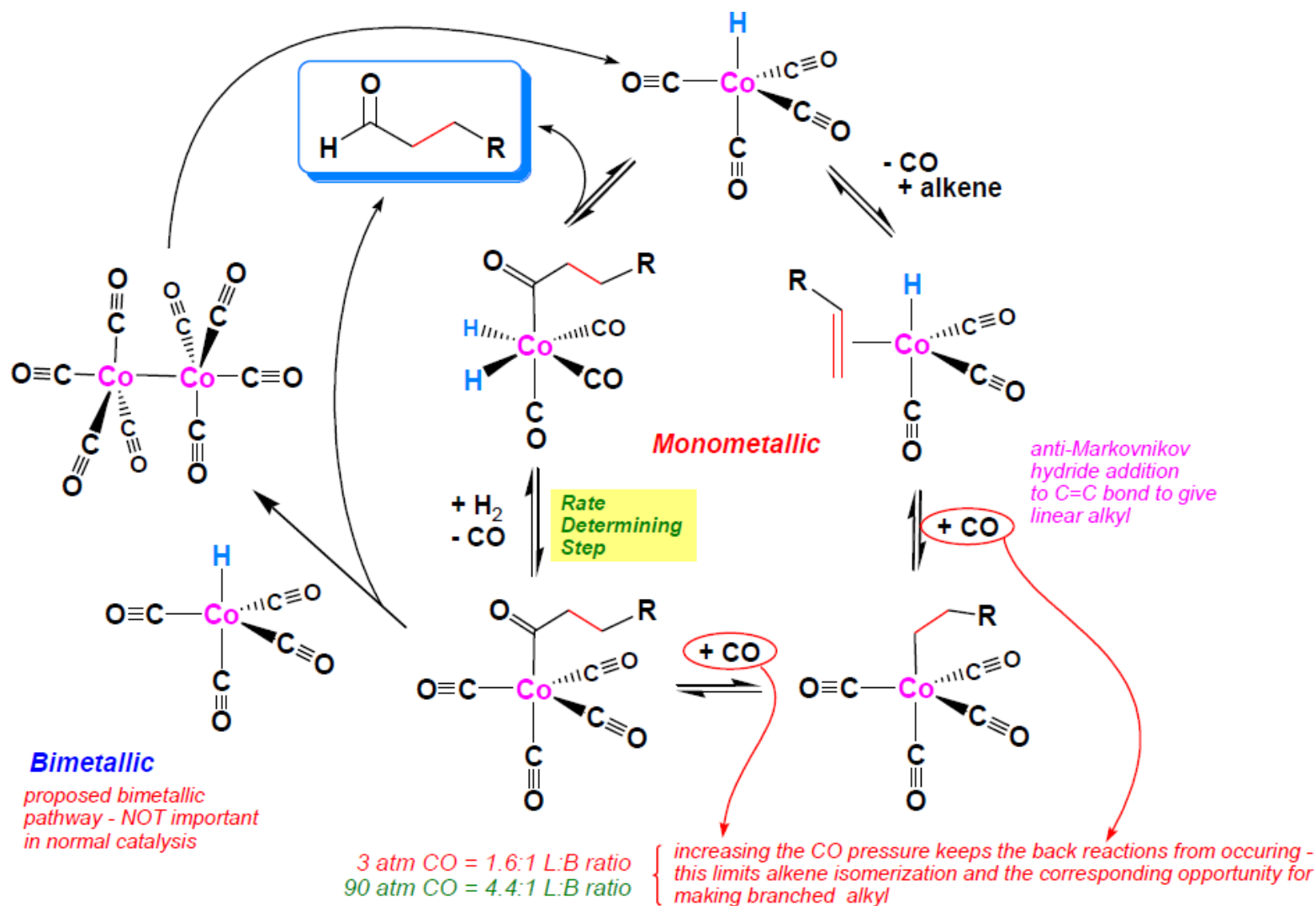
Hydroformylation (Oxo) Catalysis



- Largest homogeneous catalytic process
- > 15 billion pounds of aldehydes (alcohols) per year
- Commercial catalysts are complexes of Co or Rh
- Selectivity to linear (normal) or branched (iso) products is important



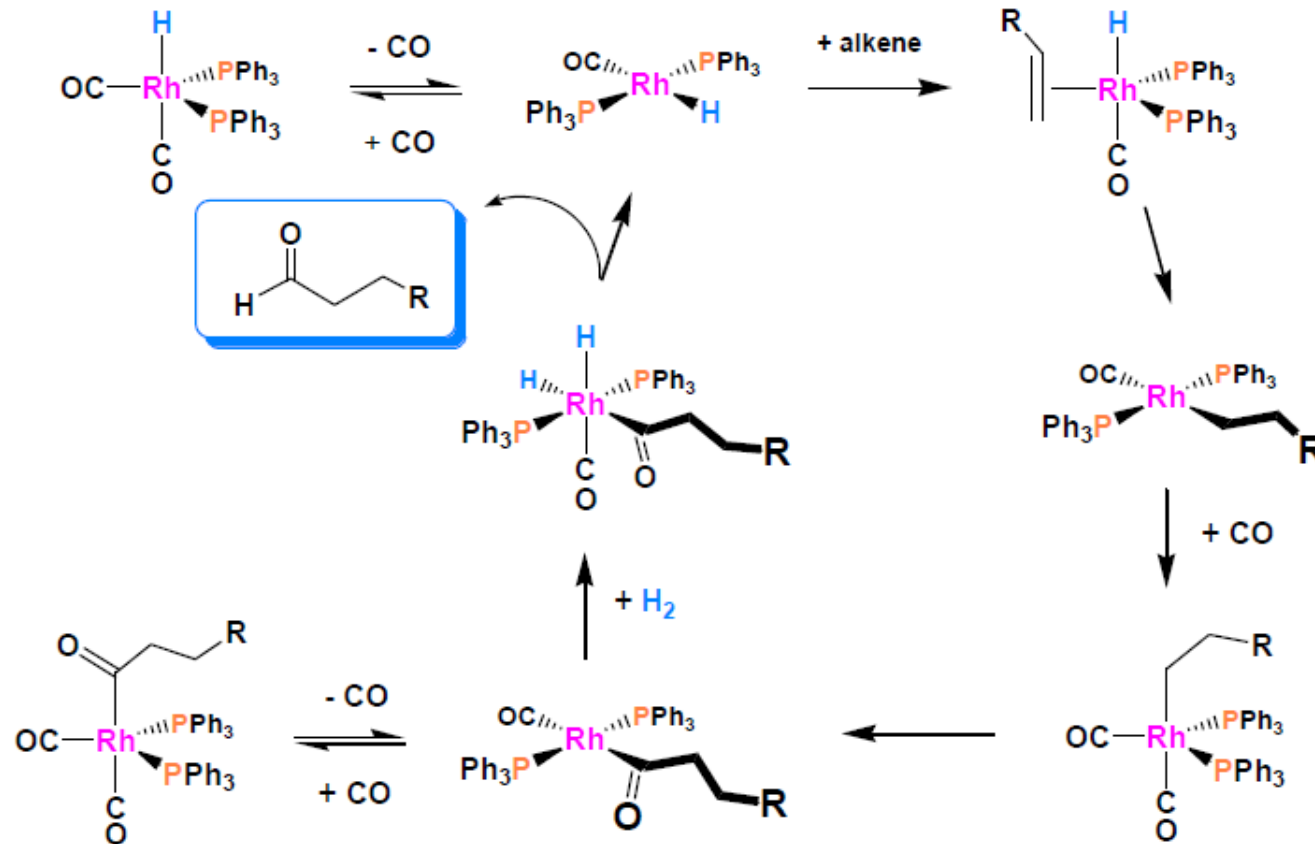
A very complicated mechanism: «a good run for homogeneous money»





Hydroformylation: the rhodium generation

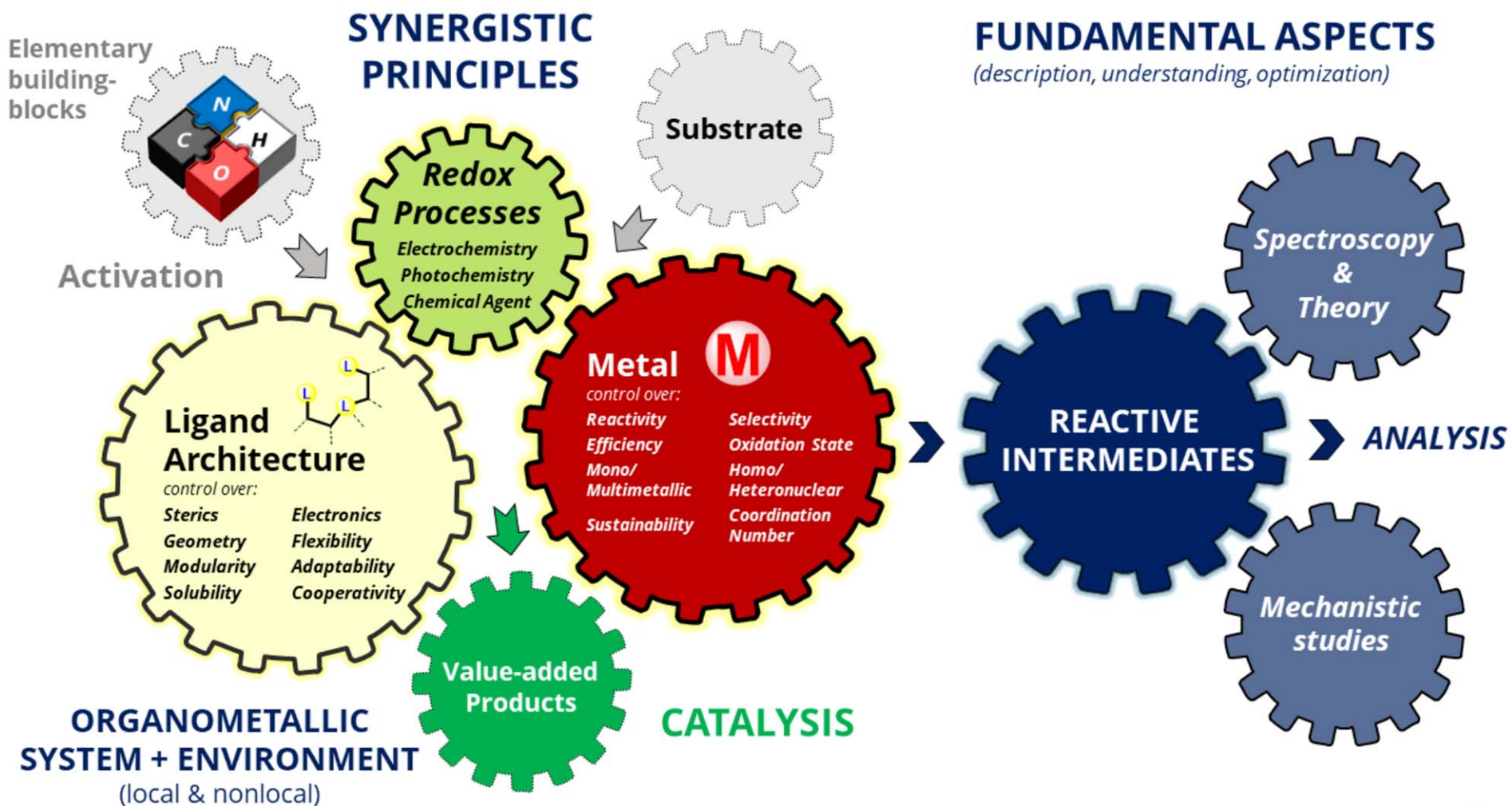
Rh/PPh₃ Hydroformylation Cycle



... .. efficiency (conditions and selectivity) refining toward **COMMERCIALIZATION**

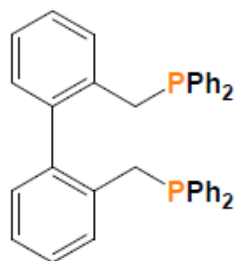


Relevance and tools for a molecular (homogeneous) catalyst design

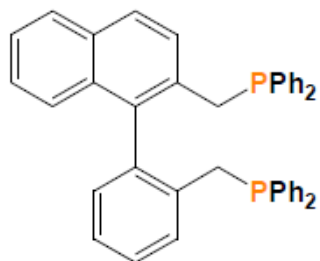




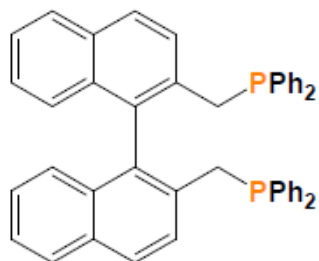
Rhodium based hydroformylation: the next generation



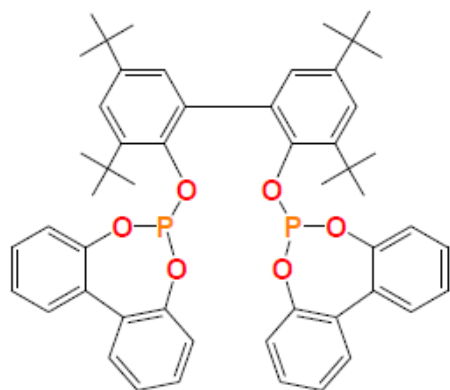
Bisbi



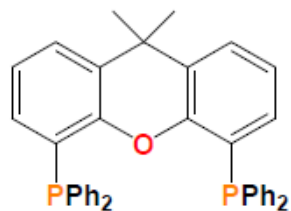
Bisbi*



Naphos



UC-44



Xantphos

Catalyst (1 mM)	Init TOF (min ⁻¹)	Aldehyde L:B	% iso
Rh/PPh ₃ (1:400)	13(1)	9:1	< 0.5
Rh/Bisbi (1:5)	25(2)	70:1	< 0.5
Rh/Naphos (1:5)	27(1)	120:1	1.5
Rh/Xantphos (1:5)	13(2)	80:1	5.0

A closely related bisphosphine ligand used by Herrmann and Beller (independently) for hydroformylation studies is Naphos (not to be confused with the Binap bisphosphine ligand that has the PPh₂ groups directly bonded to the naphthalene rings).

An excellent example of sustainable chemical homogeneous catalysis process
Ruhrchemie/Rhône-Poulenc's (RCH/RPs) oxo process
 a prototype of an aqueous biphasic process

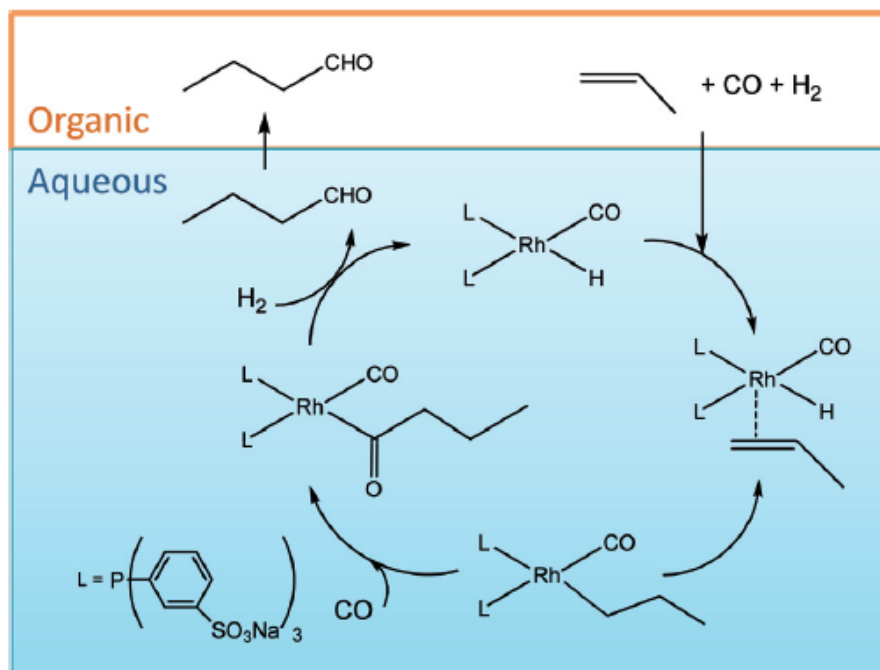
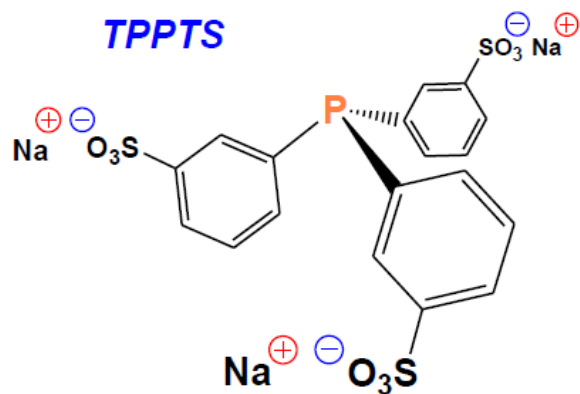
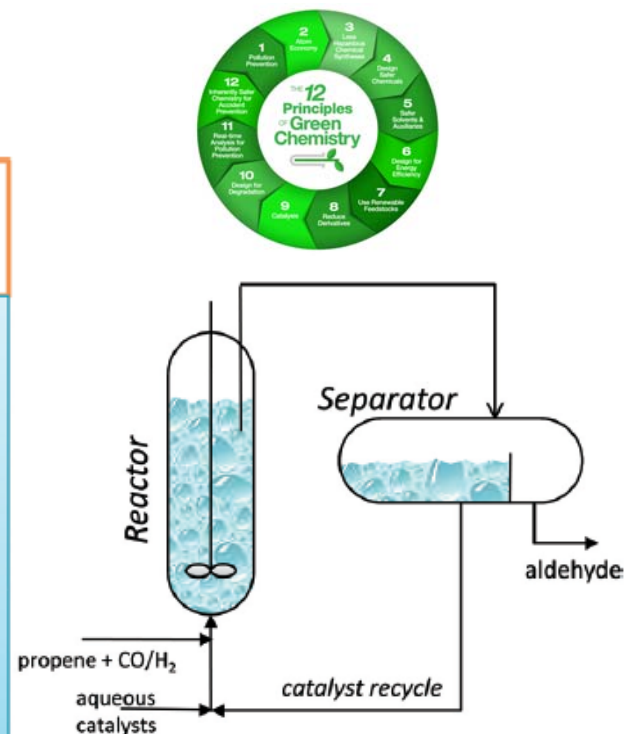
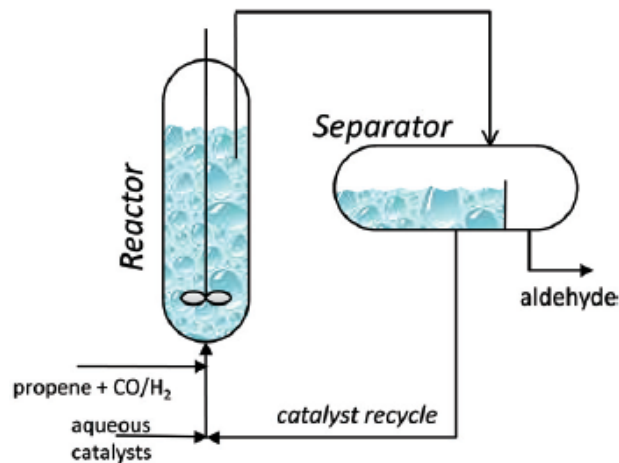


Figure 2.3 Ruhrchemie/Rhône-Poulenc hydroformylation process.
 Source: adapted from Sheldon *et al.* [2].

Aqueous Biphasic Operations



RCH/RP



- **Milder reaction conditions** (e.g. lower pressure);
- **reduction of energy consumption is obtained;**
- **volume of wastewater 70-times lower** than that for the Co-cat high pressure process

E-FACTOR < 0.1
total waste / product

Conventional oxo process: cobalt catalyst

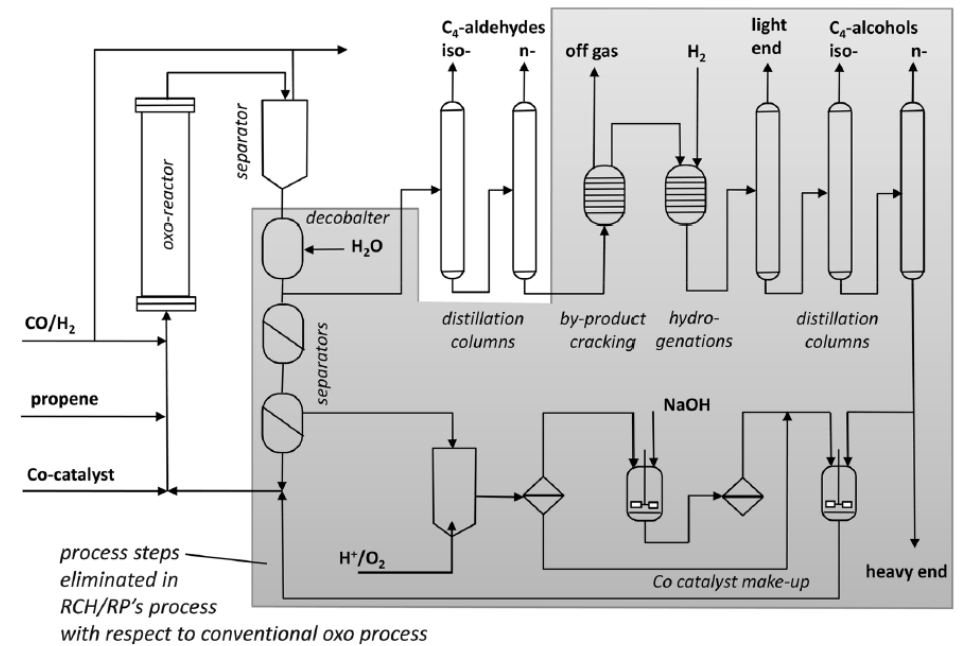
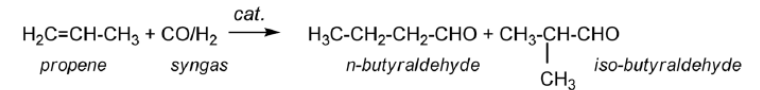


Figure 2.4 Schematic flow-sheet of a conventional oxo process, with an indication of the parts that are eliminated in the RCH/RPs process. Source: adapted from Cornils and Herrmann [65].

E-FACTOR 0.6-0.9
total waste / product

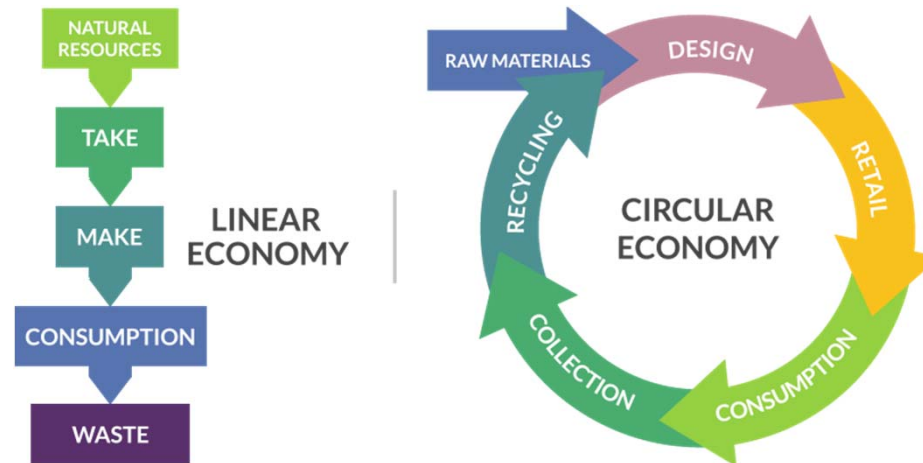


The Guerbet reaction case study: bio-ethanol homologation



IS THERE ANY PLACE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES TO PRODUCE OXO-ALCOHOLS?

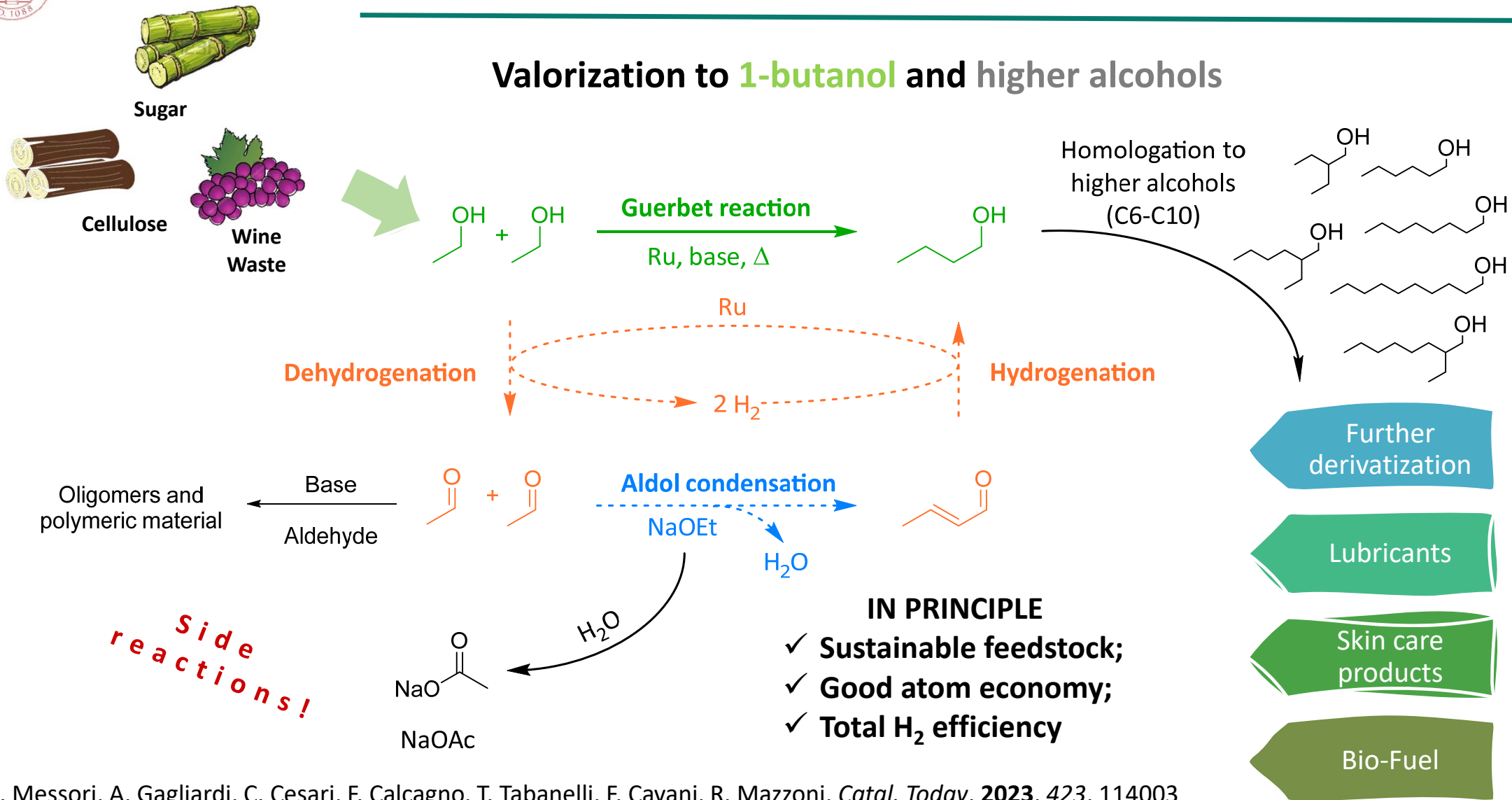
- **OXO-ALCOHOLS** SUCH AS BUTANOL ARE USUALLY PRODUCED FROM FOSSIL FUELS BY THE **OXO-PROCESS**;
- OTHERWISE THE **ABE PROCESS** EXPLOITS **ENZIMES CATALYSIS**;
- A CATALYTIC PROCESS THAT TRANSFORMS ETHANOL IN HIGHER ALCOHOLS IS KNOWN AS **GUERBET REACTION** THAT WOULD BE AN **IDEAL MECHANISM** FOR THE HOMOLOGATION OF ALCOHOL PURPOSES, BUT...
- THE REACTION STILL HAVE SOME **HEAVY DRAWBACKS**;
- LET'S RECALL A COUPLE OF SUSTAINABLE CONCEPTS: **WASTE REUSE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**





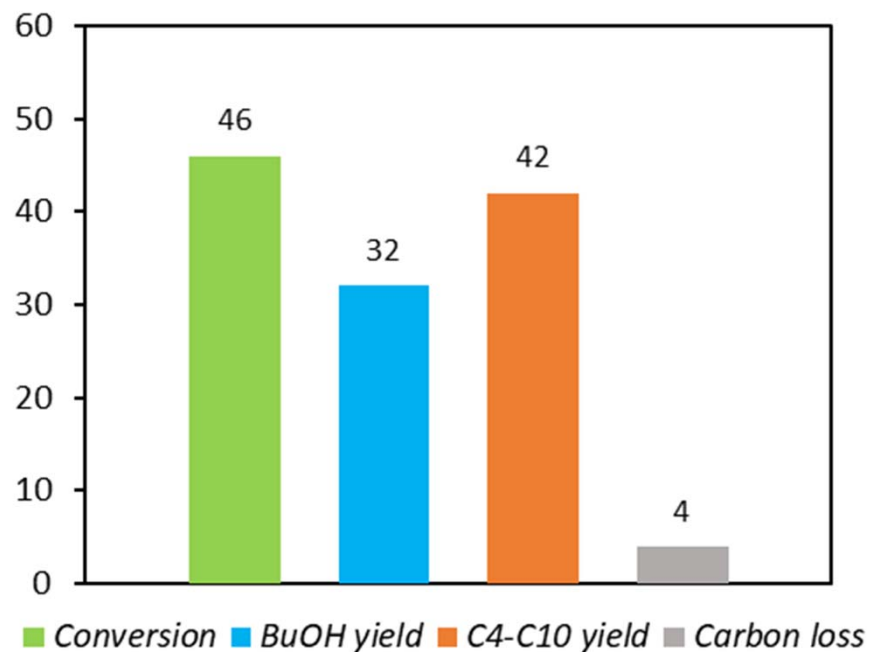
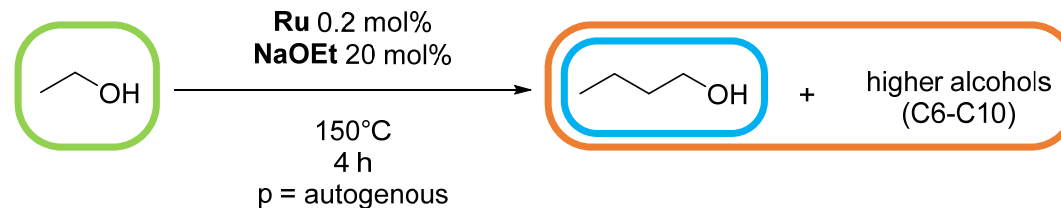
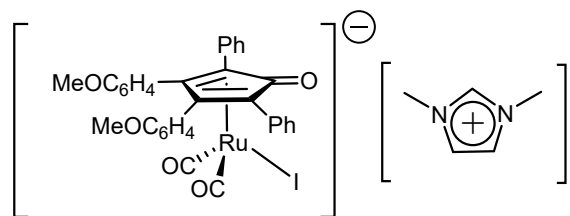
The Guerbet reaction: homogeneous catalysts, liquid phase

Valorization to 1-butanol and higher alcohols





OUR Ru-CATALYST



Solventless reaction
performed by
Ru/NaOEt system

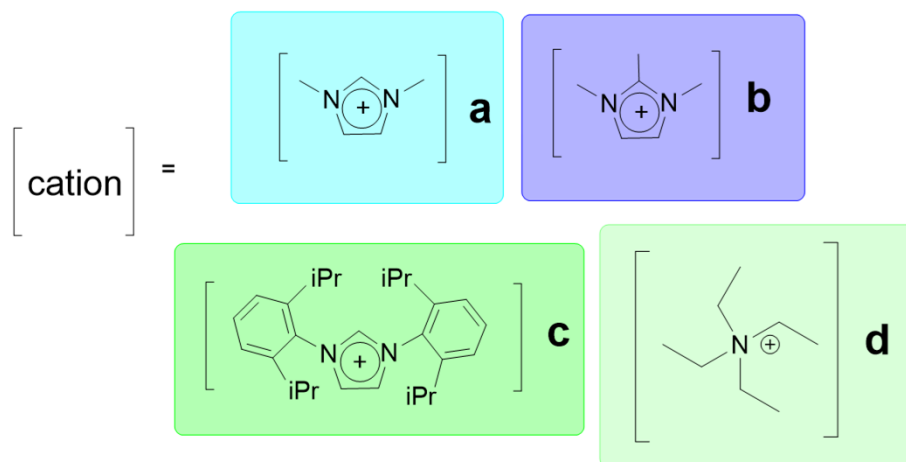
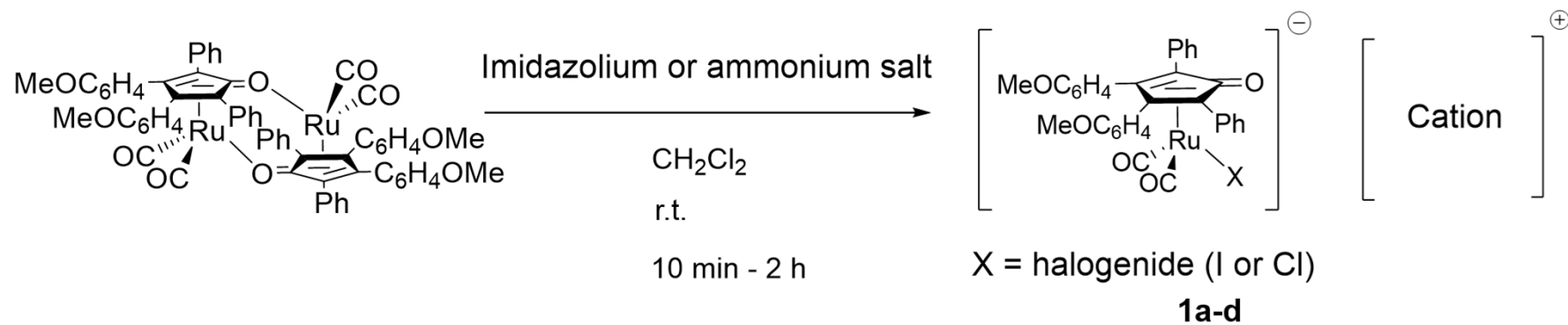
The catalyst
shows **water**
tolerance

Ru catalyst can
be **reused**

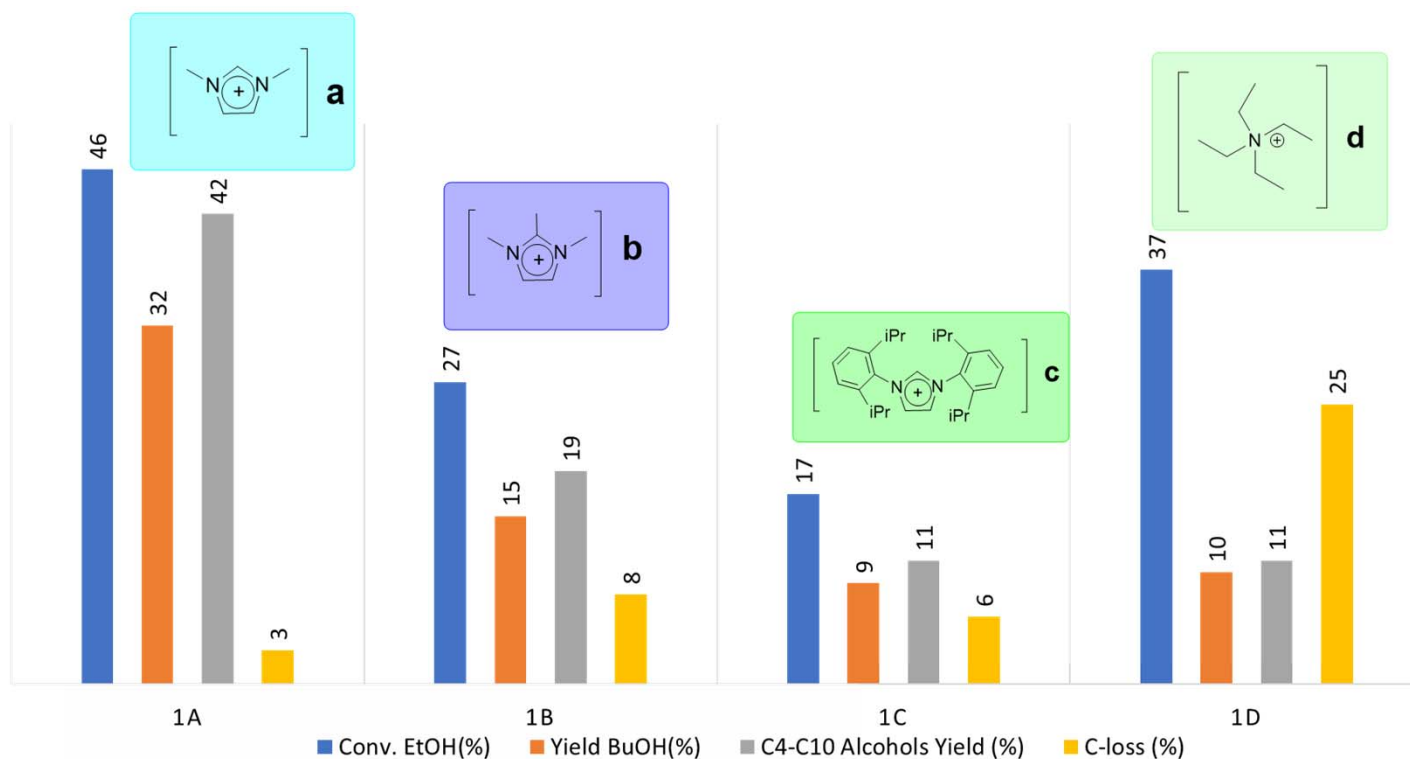
R. Mazzoni, C. Cesari, V. Zanotti, C. Lucarelli, T. Tabanelli, F. Puzzo, F. Passarini, E. Neri, G. Marani, R. Prati, F. Viganò, A. Conversano, F. Cavani, *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* **2019**, 7, 224.



Ru-CATALYSTS: screening of the counterions

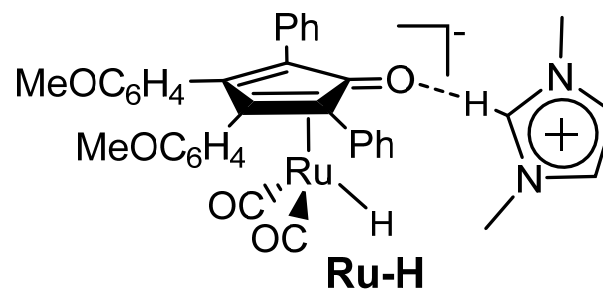


Ru-CATALYSTS: the role of steric encumbrance and of the hydrogen bond



DFT CALCULATION

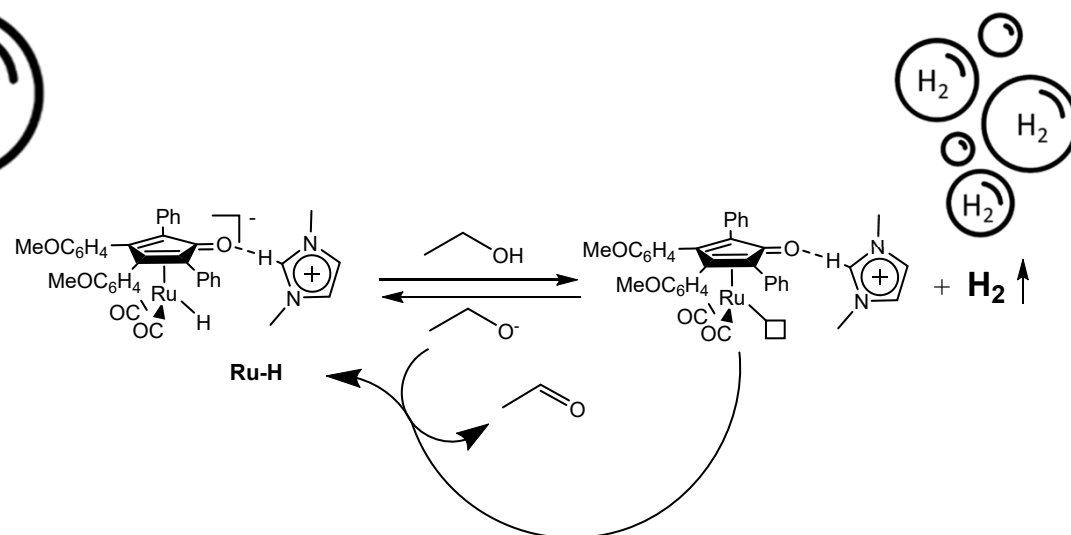
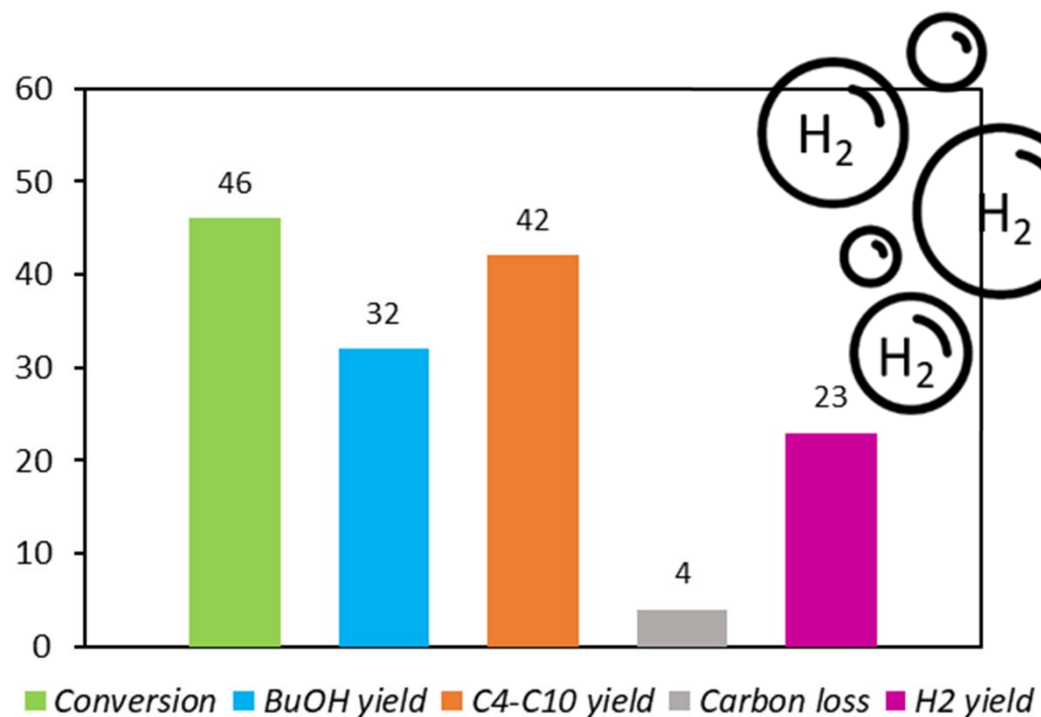
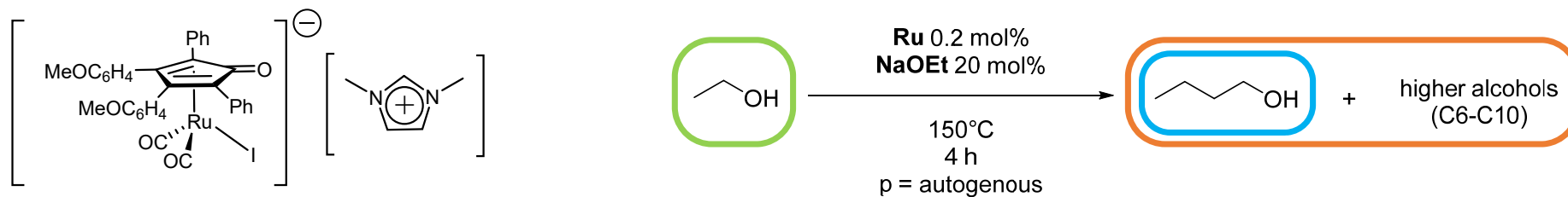
- **Hydrogen bond** improve the stability of the tight ion pair and of the active species;
- Steric hinderance disfavour the hydrogen bond.



✓ The best catalyst active species

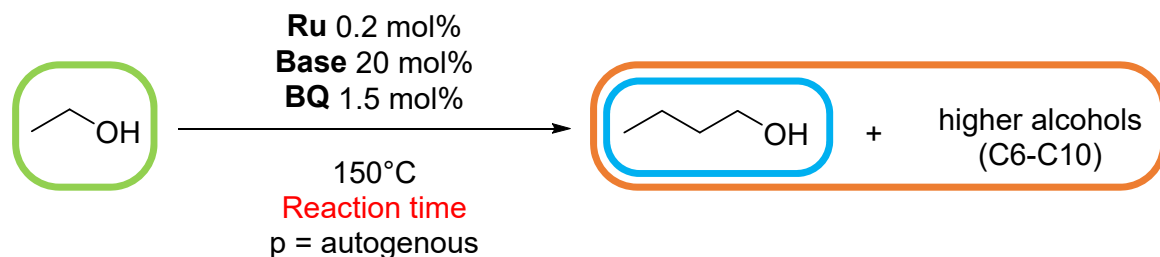


H₂ PRODUCTION: UNEXPECTED «SIDE» REACTION

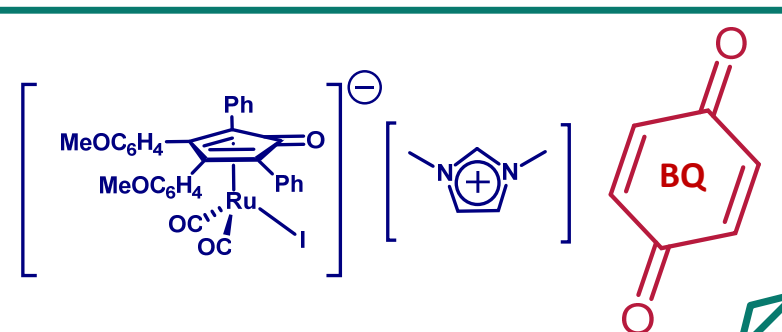
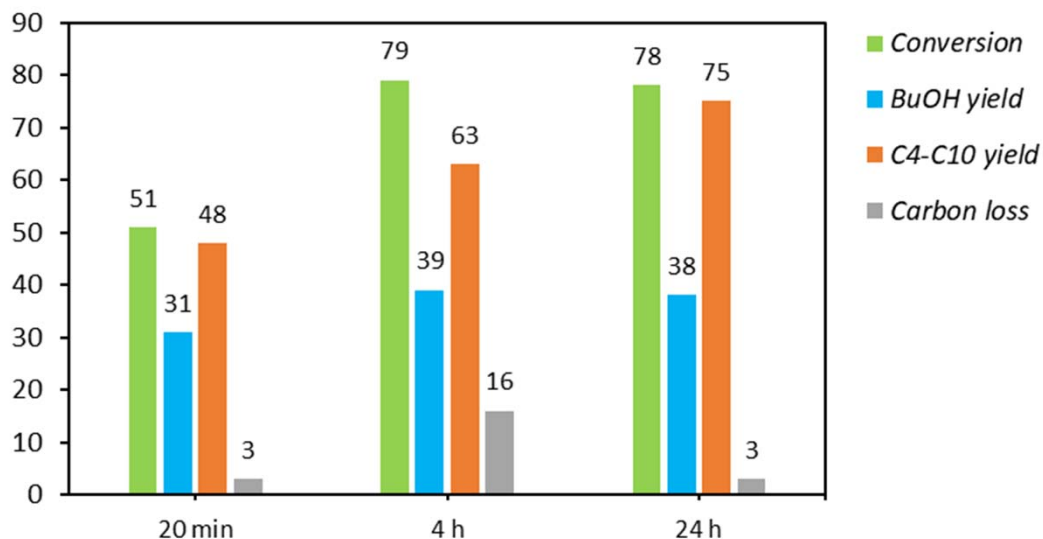




BENZOQUINONE: A BIO-MIMETIC COOPERATIVE CO-CATALYST



Reaction Time



Guerbet by Ru/BQ/NaOEt system:

- ✓ Solventless;
- ✓ Water tolerant;
- ✓ Recyclable;
- ✓ Faster (4-120 times vs SoA);
- ✓ More efficient (30% increased conversion vs Ru/NaOEt);
- ✓ Highly selective;
- ✓ Suppress side H₂ production

Cesari, C.; Gagliardi, A.; Messori, A.; Monti, N.; Zanotti, V.; Zacchini, S.; Rivalta, I.; Calcagno, F.; Lucarelli, C.; Tabanelli, T.; Cavani, F.; Mazzoni, R. *J. Catal.* **2022**, *405*, 47

Patent WO2019193079 (A1)





MOVING TO THE LARGER AND THE GREENER



TUNING THE SELECTIVITY BY CHANGING THE HEADSPACE

V liq (ml)	Vr (ml)	V _{liq} /V _r (%)	Conv. EtOH (%)	BuOH yield (sel.) %	C ₆ -C ₁₀ yield (sel.) %	H ₂ yield (%)	C-loss (%)
0.5	53.8	0.9	76.0	27.4 (36)	26.1 (34)	24.4	22.5
0.5	13.4	3.7	77.3	33.8 (44)	30.6 (40)	16.7	12.9
0.5	7.5	6.7	71.3	38.6 (54)	27.2 (38)	9.2	5.6
1	7.5	13.3	63.2	41.0 (65)	20.3 (32)	9.7	1.9

Headspace volume decrease

- ✓ Butanol selectivity increase
- ✓ H₂ yield decrease
- ✓ Better carbon balance



- ✓ Best configuration: use of **waste biomasses** and in an integrated cogeneration unit.
- ✓ Enabling the recovery of the catalytic system **up to five cycles** to scenario: **reduction** in the impacts **higher than 50%** for the categories of **global warming potential**, - **41%** for the **mineral resource scarcity** and around -**16%** for the **fine particulate matter** formation.

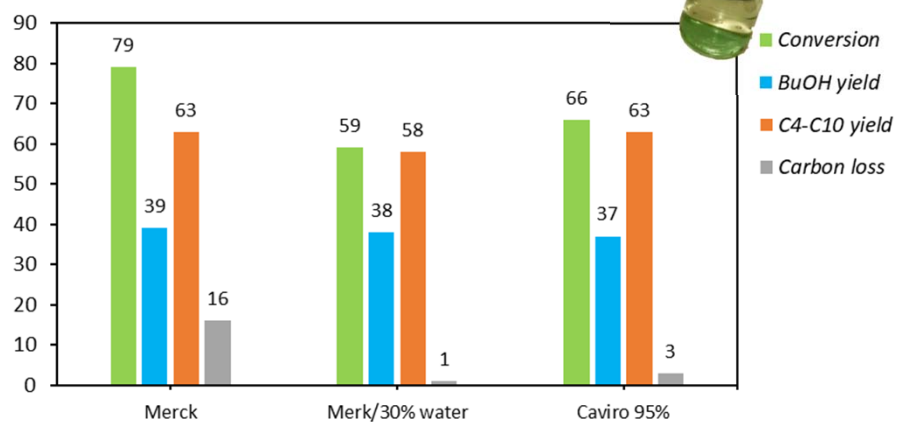
A. Piazza, T. Tabanelli, A. Gagliardi, F. Cavani, C. Cesari, D. Cespi, F. Passarini, A. Conversano, F. Viganò, D. Di Bona, R. Mazzoni, *Sust. Chem. Pharm.*, **2023**, 35, 101222

TRASFERABLE TO A REAL MATRIX and RECYCLABLE

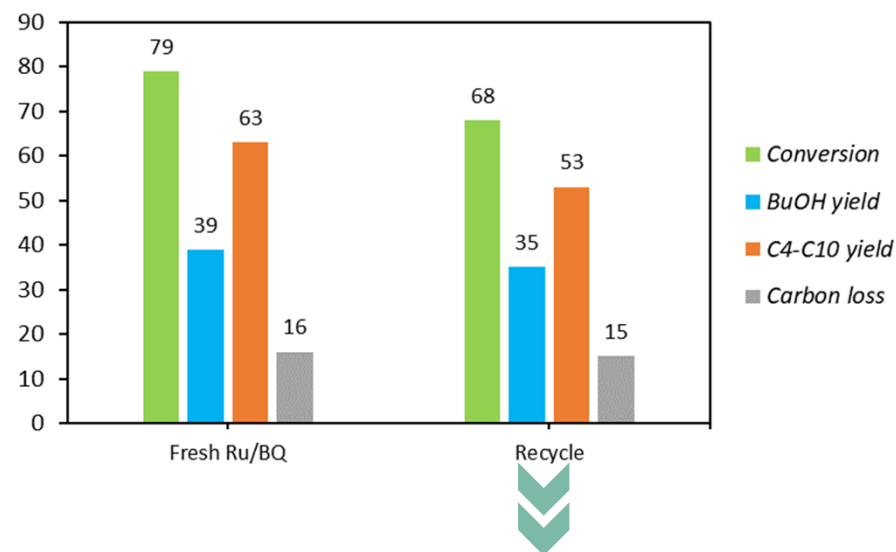
✓ THE CATALYTIC PROCESS CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO A MATRIX OF **WINE WASTES** FURNISHED BY **CAVIRO S.P.A.**

Heads and tails from ethanol distillation

Impurities	Amount (mg/100 mL)
Acetaldehyde	73.20
Methanol	127.93
Acetal	512.85
1-Propanol	383.52
Isobutanol	77.35
2-Butanol	4.55
Isoamyl alcohol	0.19
Ethyl acetate	98.85
Isoamyl acetate	0.25
2-Butanone	2.41
Allyl alcohol	0.18



✓ CATALYST SYSTEM RECYCLE



- 1) Catalytic run
- 2) Remove alcohol mixture
- 3) Re-load fresh EtOH/NaOEt
- 4) Catalytic run

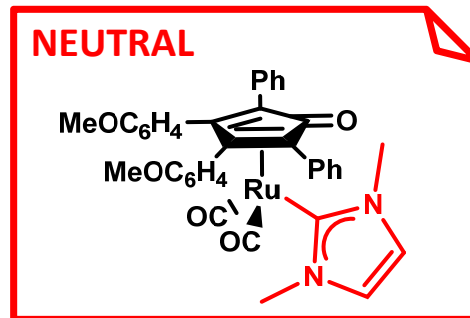
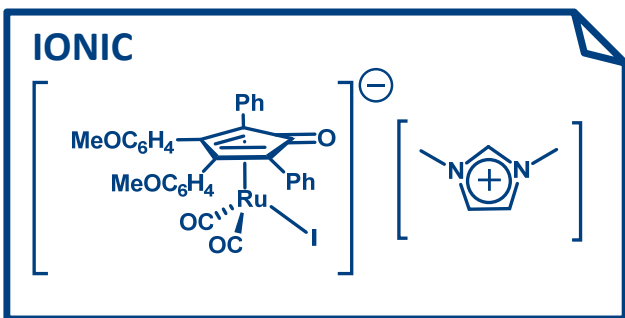
Problems still to be solved:

- high amount of base;
- multiple recycling



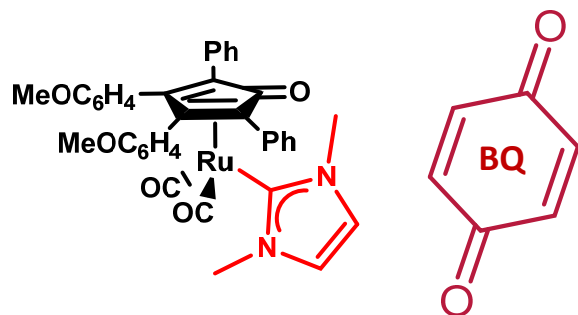
MECHANISTIC INSIGHT

FROM IONIC TO COVALENT CATALYST

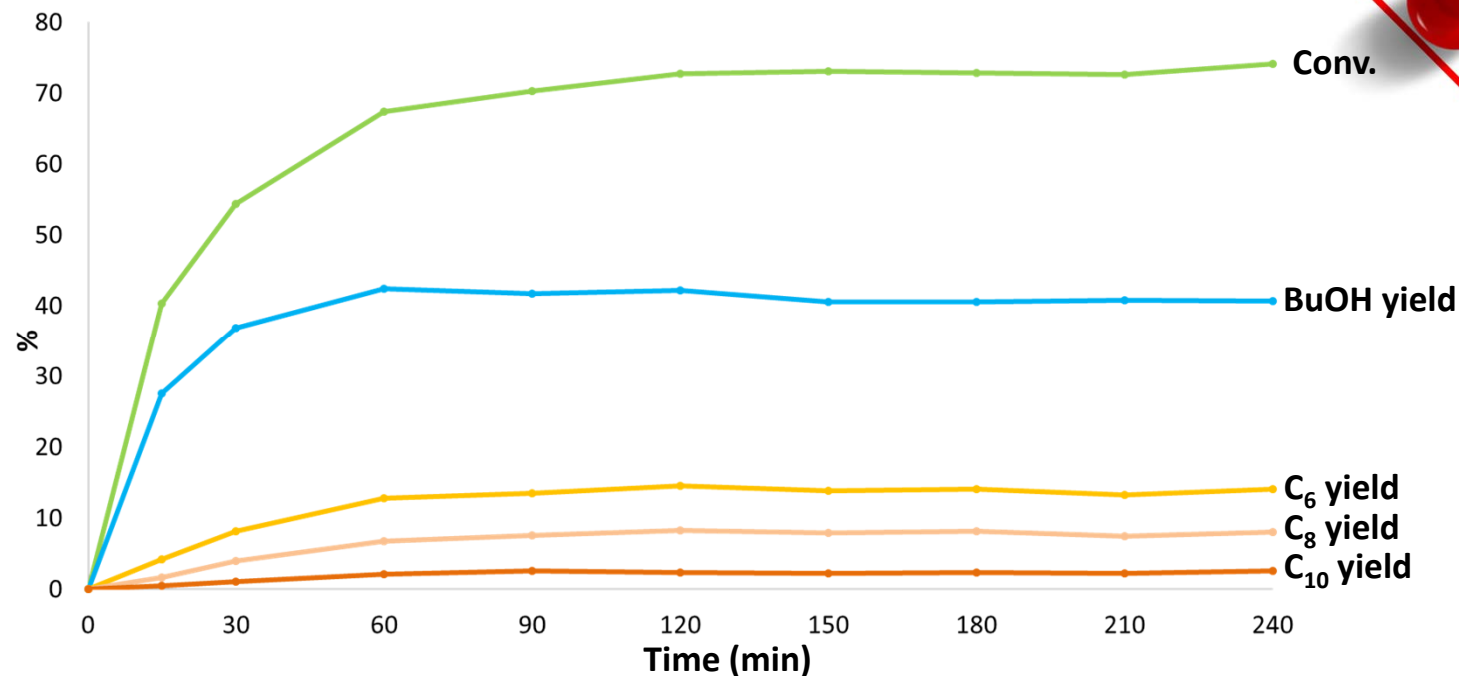


- ✓ The **NHC** catalyst is **more efficient** (down to **0.02% loading**);
- ✓ The catalyst **can be recycled**;
- ✓ Neutral complex, easier DFT calculation

- ✓ The co-catalyst **BQ** still **boosts** conversion and yield.

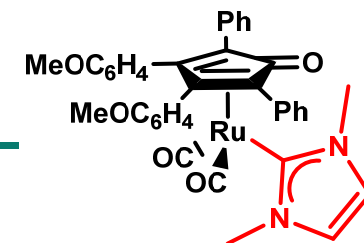


T = 150°C; Cat = 0,2% ;
NaOEt = 20% ; BQ = 0,5%





MECHANISTIC INSIGHT: Ru CATALYST ACTIVATION



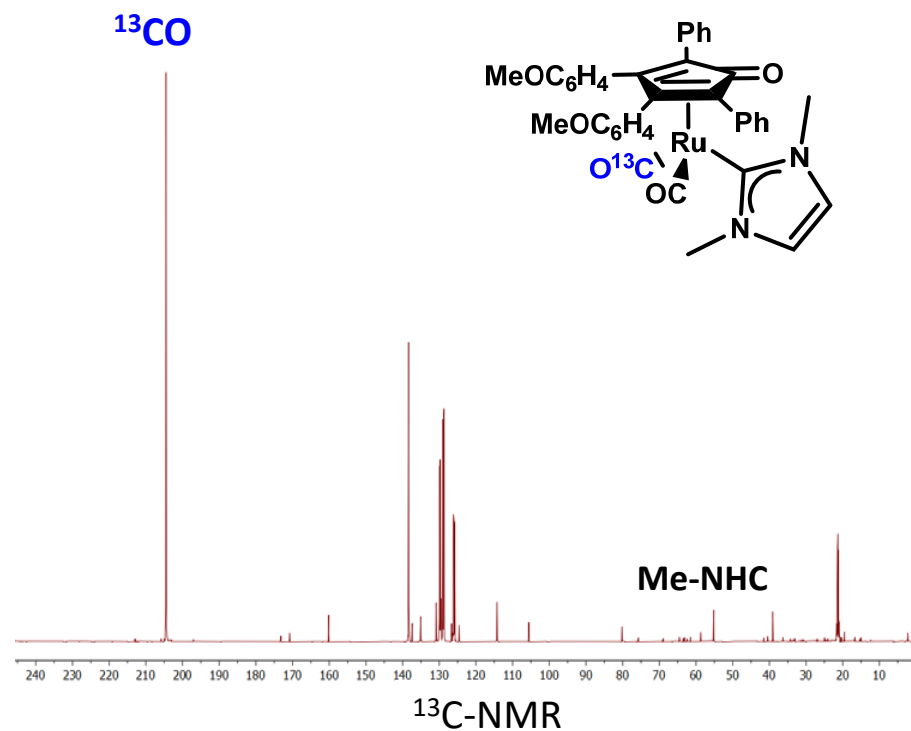
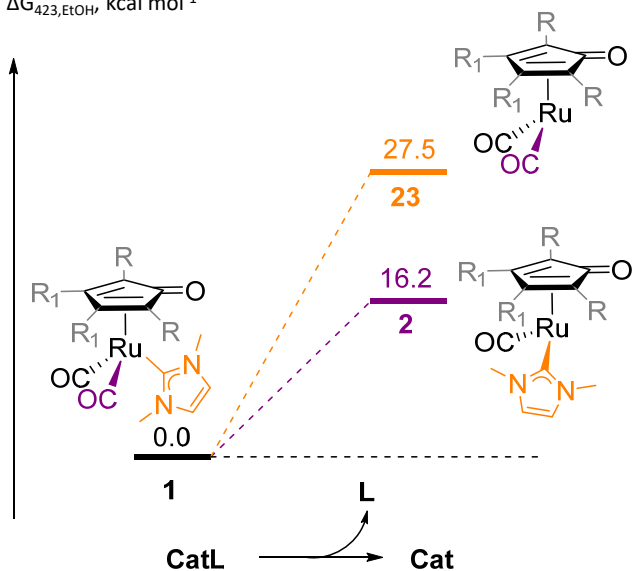
ACTIVATION *via* CO DISSOCIATION

PREDICTED BY COMPUTATIONS

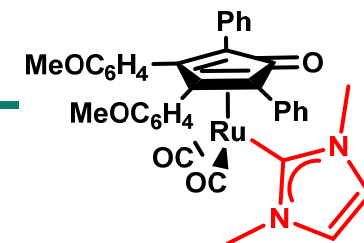
CONFIRMED BY ^{13}CO LABELLED NMR EXPERIMENTS

COMPUTATIONS: DFT methodology

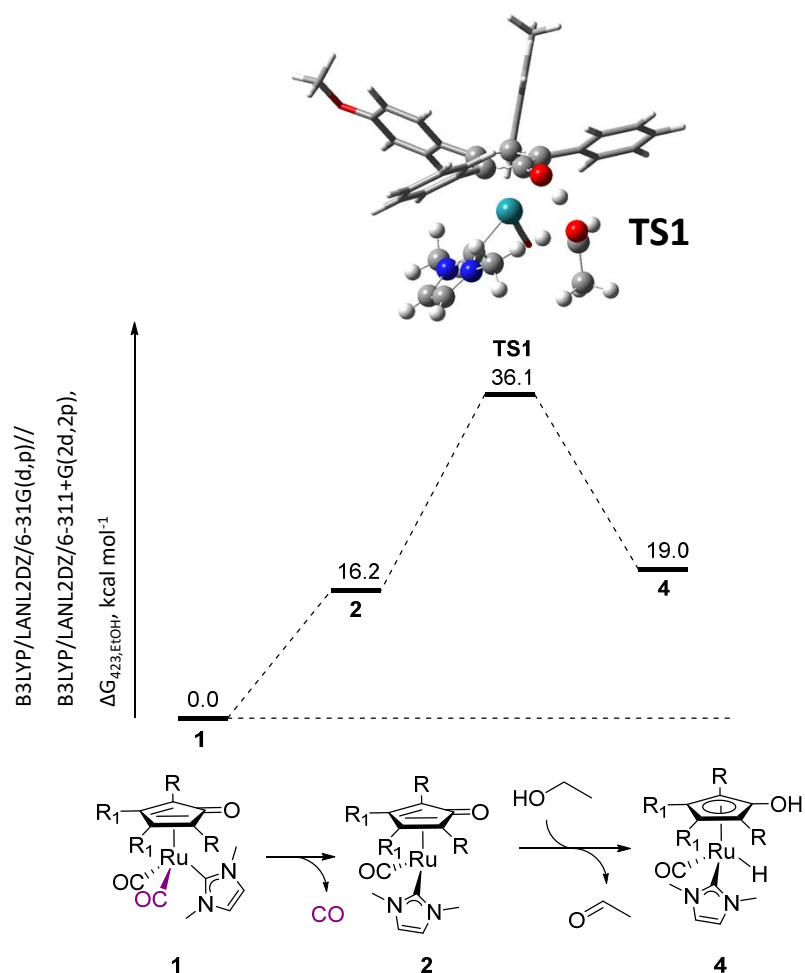
B3LYP/LANL2DZ/6-31G(d,p)//
B3LYP/LANL2DZ/6-311+G(2d,2p),
 $\Delta G_{423, \text{EtOH}}$, kcal mol $^{-1}$



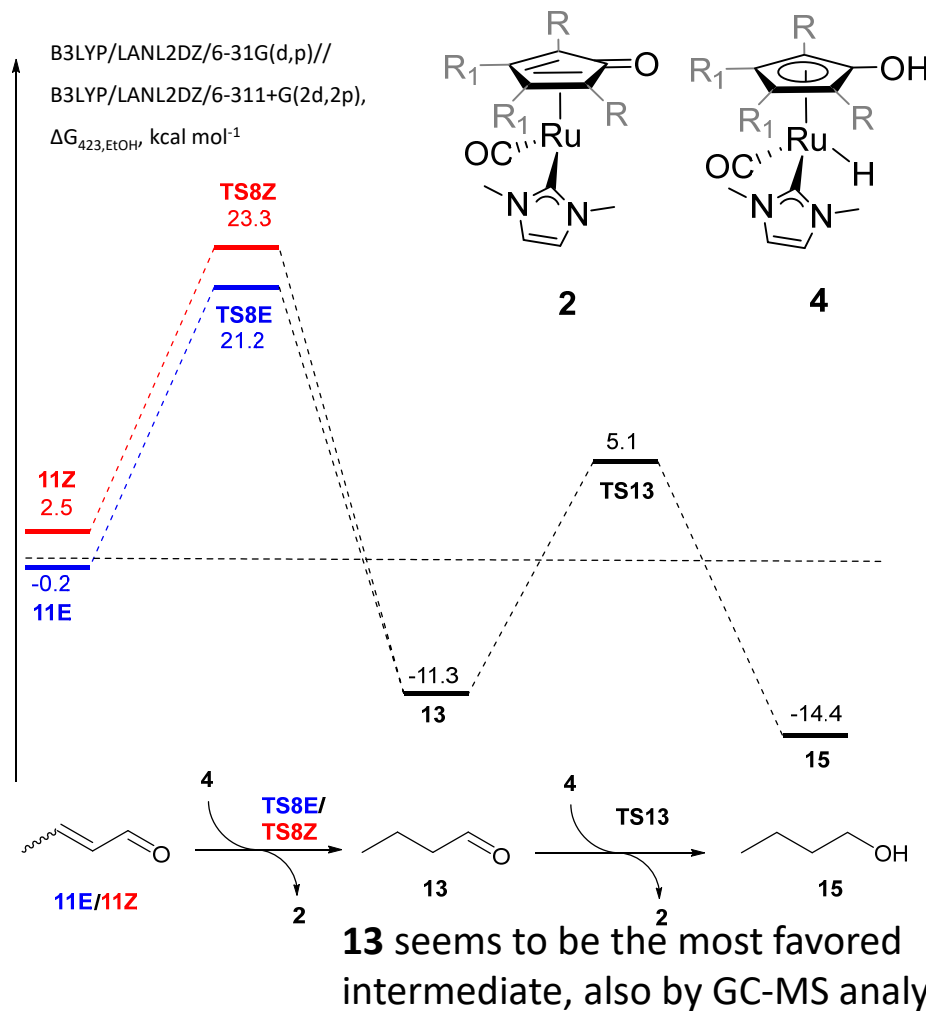
MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS: (DE)HYDROGENATION BY Ru-CAT



DEHYDROGENATION

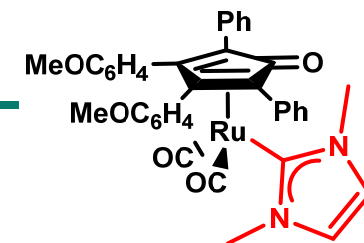


DOUBLE HYDROGENATION

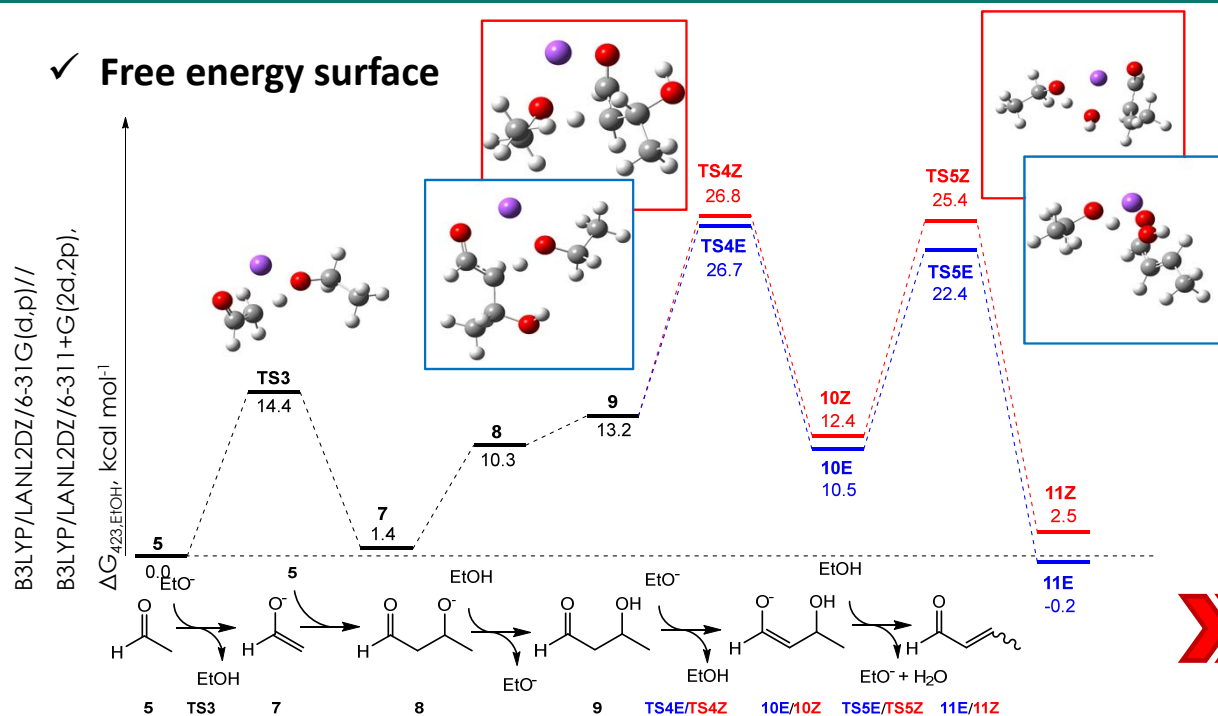


To get **15** from **11E/11Z** there are 16 possible pathways.

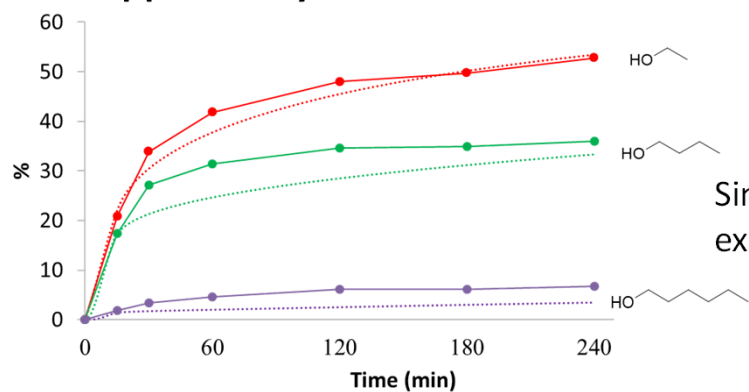
MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS: THE COMPLETE CYCLE



Free energy surface

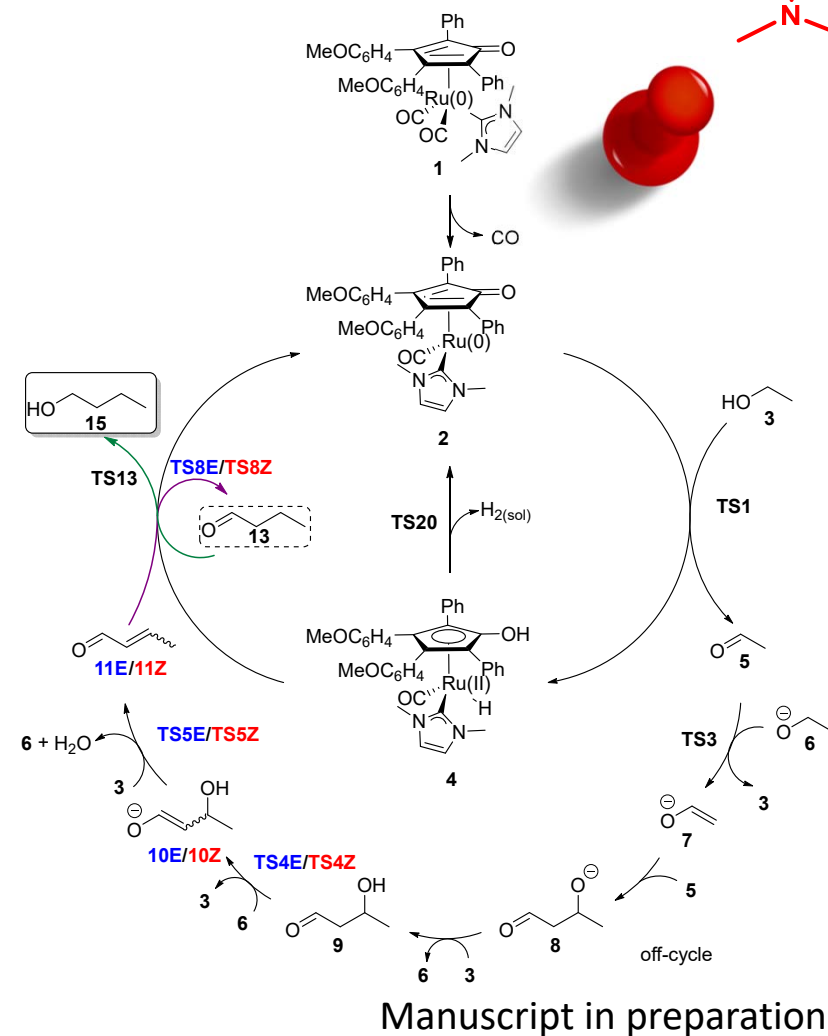


Supported by kinetic model



Simulated (dashed lines)
experimental (solid lines)

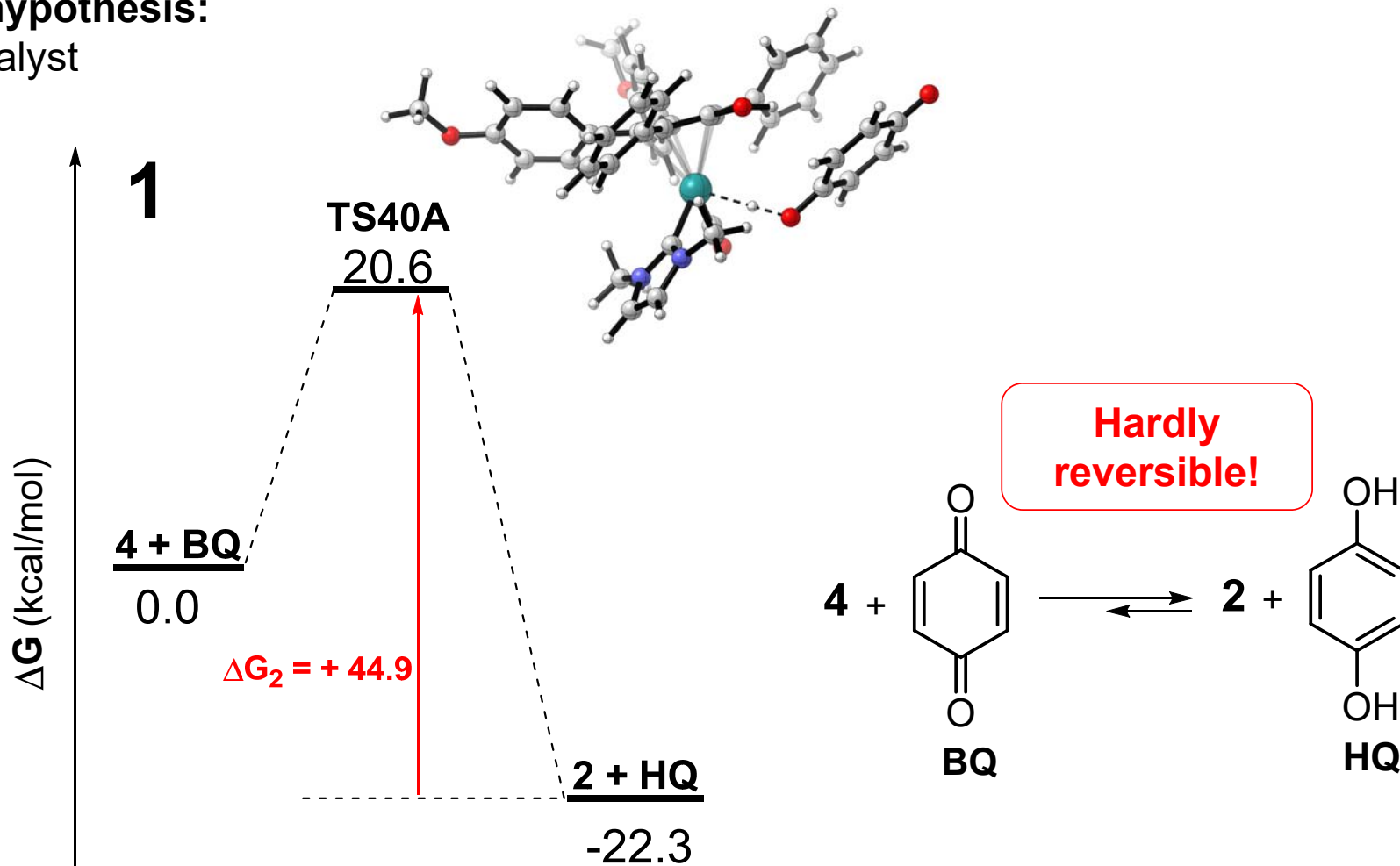
The mechanism



THE ROLE OF BENZOQUINONE: TWO HYPOTHESES

1) Hydrogen storage hypothesis:

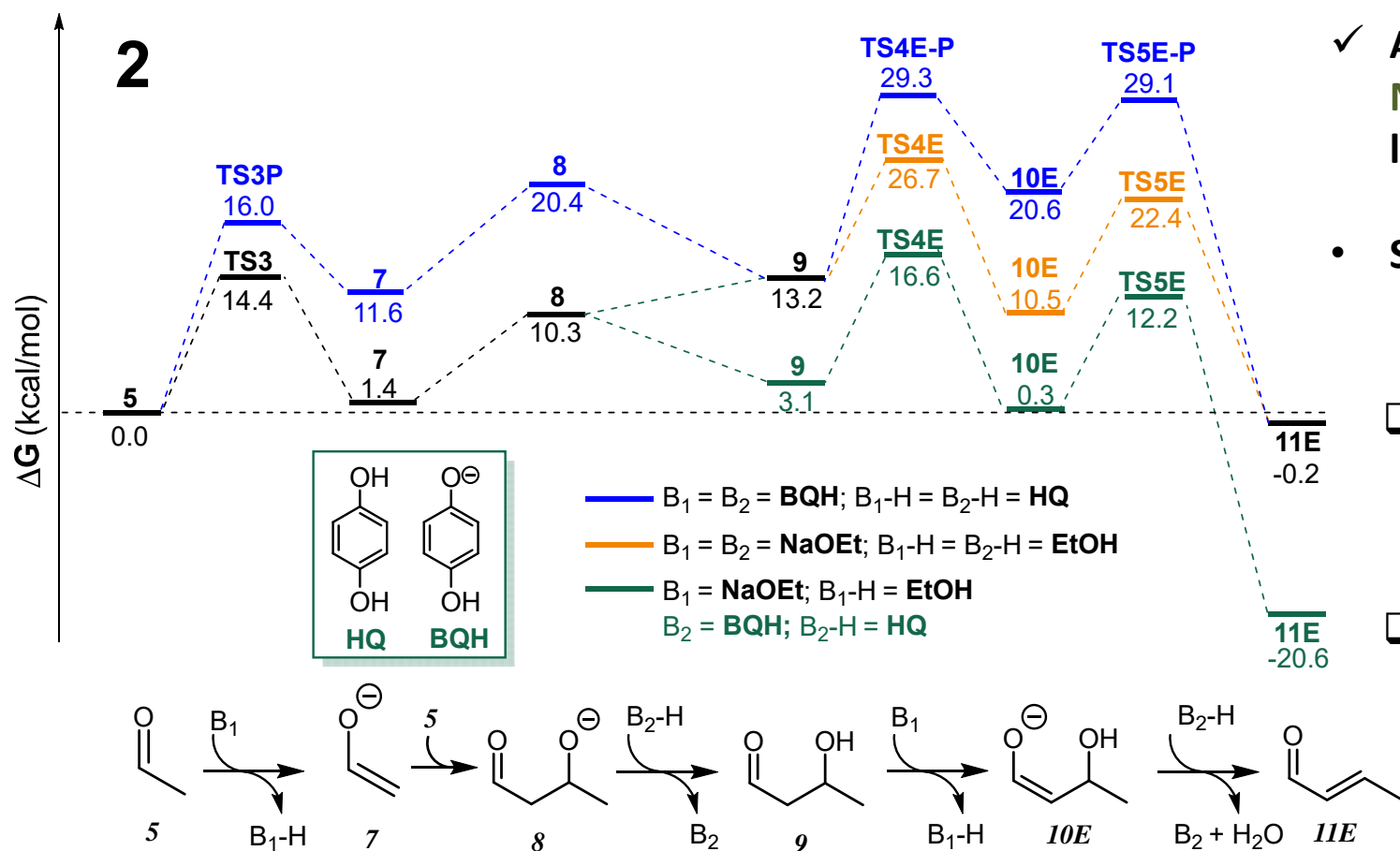
BQ is reduced by the catalyst to hydroquinone (HQ).



B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)//
B3LYP/6-311g++(2d,2p),
 $\Delta G_{150^\circ\text{C}, \text{PCM}}$

THE ROLE OF BENZOQUINONE: TWO HYPOTHESES

2) **Mixed mechanism for aldol condensation:** hydroquinone replaces ethanol as proton source in the C-C coupling mechanism.



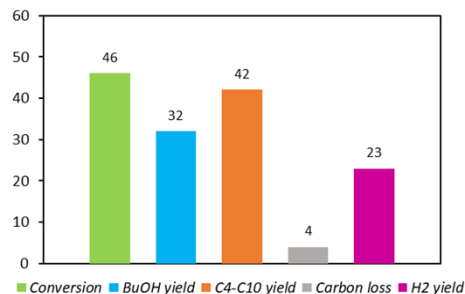
THEORETICAL OUTCOME

- ✓ Aldol condensation catalysed by **NaOEt + BQ/HQ** shows a by far lower energy than the sole **NaOEt**;
- Sole **BQH** is even more unfavored

THEORETICAL SUGGESTIONS

- BQ/HQ** is likely to compete with the Cannizzaro side reaction.
- Acidity of the co-catalyst is likely to improve the efficiency

Concluding remarks



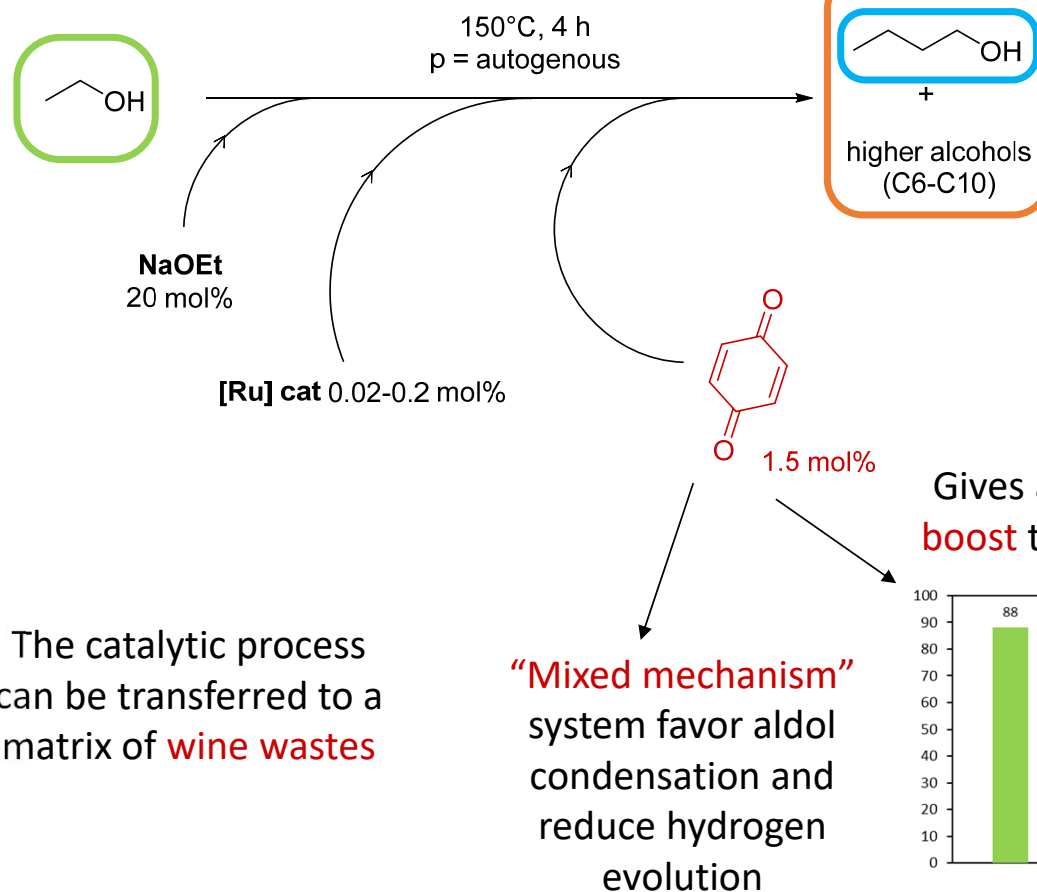
Solventless reaction performed by **Ru/NaOEt** system

The reaction shows **water tolerance**

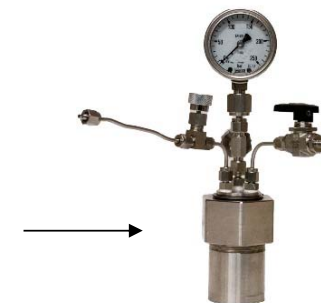
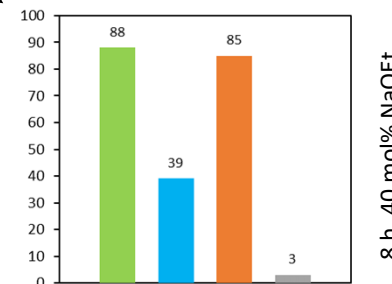
Ru can be **reused**



The catalytic process can be transferred to a matrix of **wine wastes**



Gives an impressive **boost** to the reaction



Selectivity tuning

Future perspective

- Immobilization towards heterogeneous catalysis to
- Improve recycle to
- Design by calculation to
- Further Improve the catalysts productivity

Acknowledgments



CIRI FONTI RINNOVABILI, AMBIENTE,
MARE ED ENERGIA - FRAME

Prof. Valerio Zanotti
 Prof. Fabrizio Cavani
 Dr. Cristiana Cesari
 Dr. Tommaso Tabanelli
 Dr. Carlo Lucarelli
 Dr. Anna Gagliardi
 Dr. Alessandro Messori
 Dr. Andrea Piazzi
 Dr. Massimiliano Curcio
 Dr. Nicola Monti
 Dr. Giacomo Corelli

DFT

Prof. Ivan Rivalta
 Dr. Francesco Calcagno

LCA

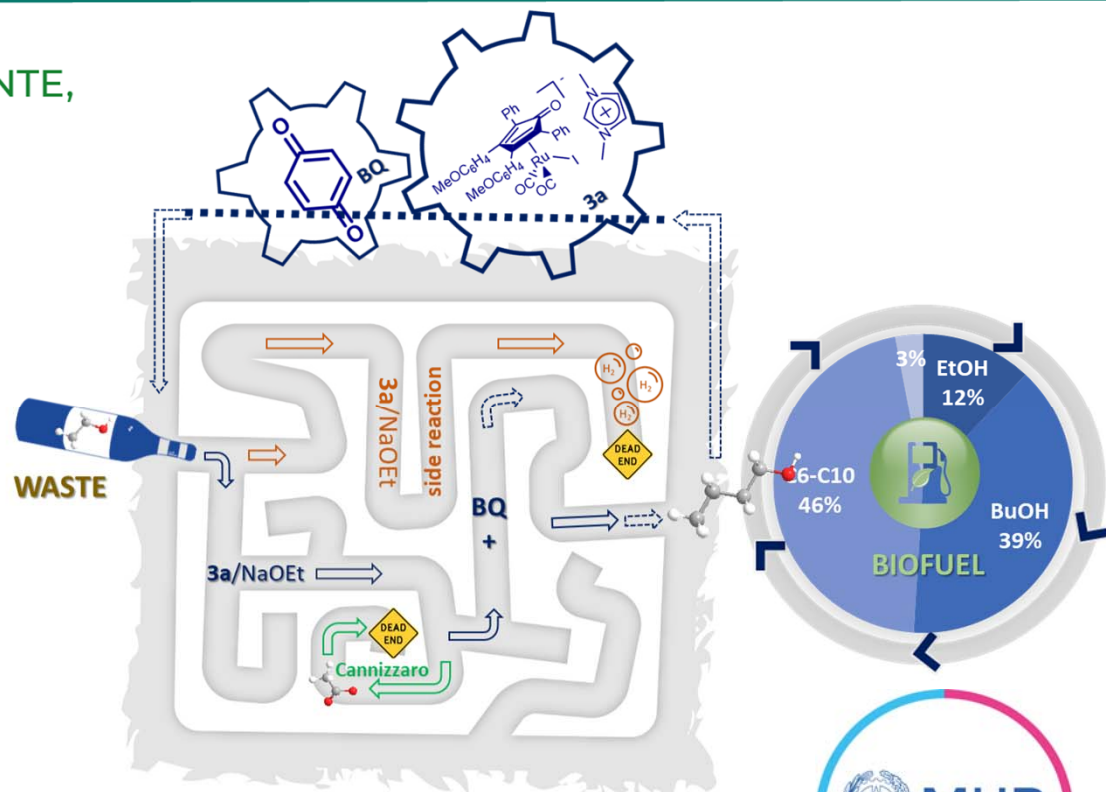
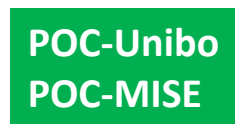
Prof. Fabrizio Passarini
 Dr. Daniele Cespi



Ing. Giovanni Marani
 Dott.ssa Rosa Prati

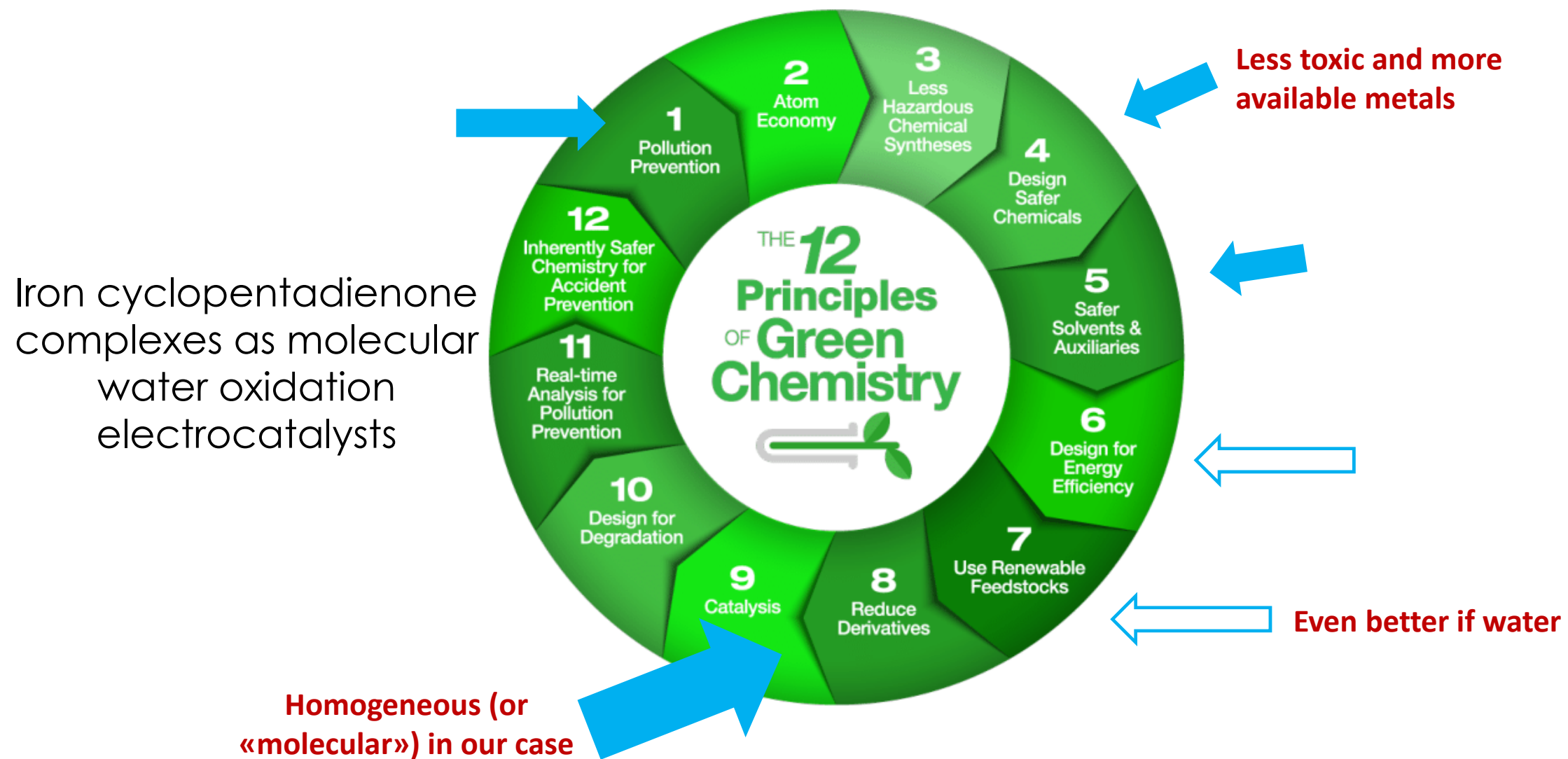


Prof. Federico Viganò
 Antonio Conversano



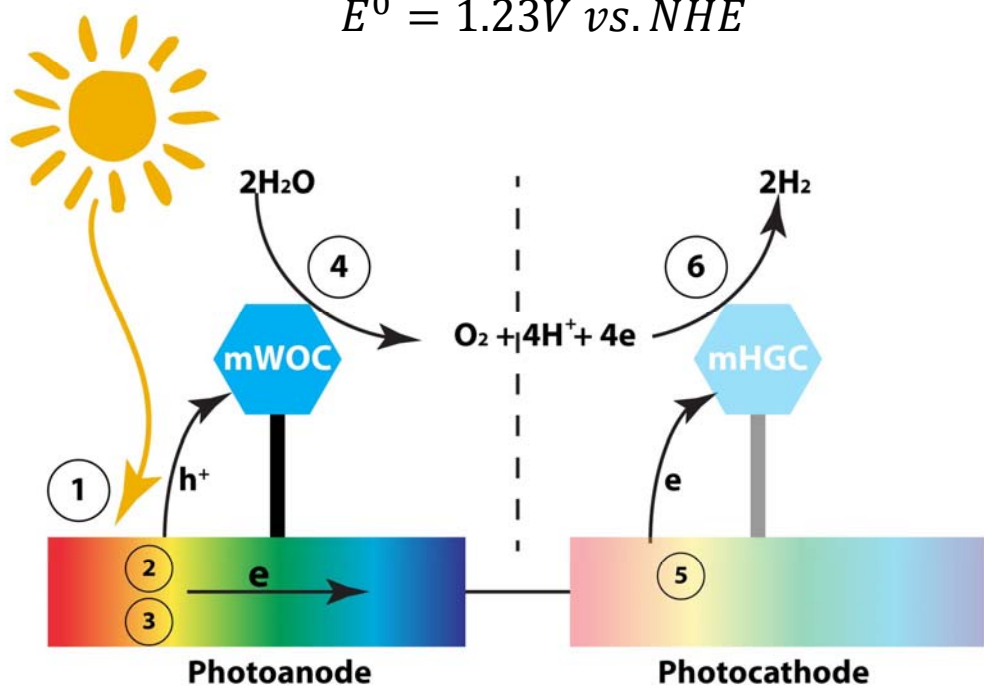
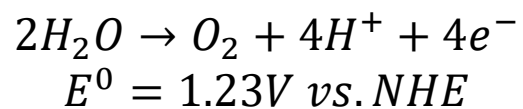
PRIN 2022 - ALCOVAL

Molecular Water Oxidation Catalysis: the second case study

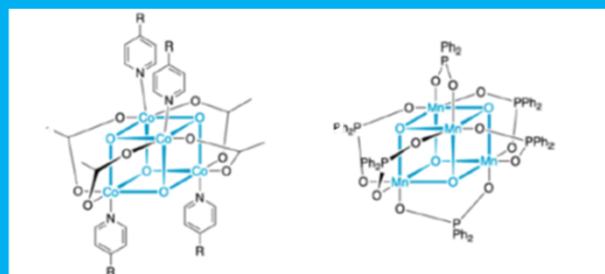
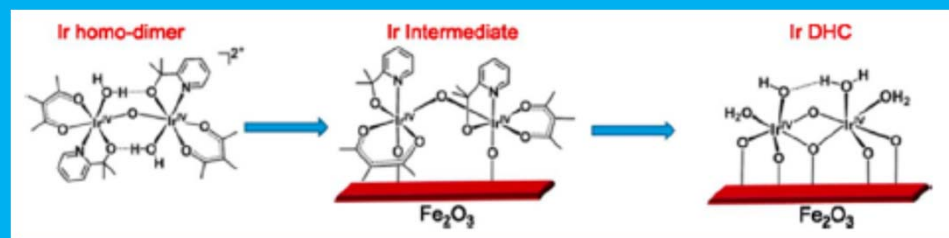


The Role of mWOC in Advanced Solar Fuels

Hybrid systems involving molecular catalysts: e.g. Photoelectrochemical H₂ and O₂ production from water



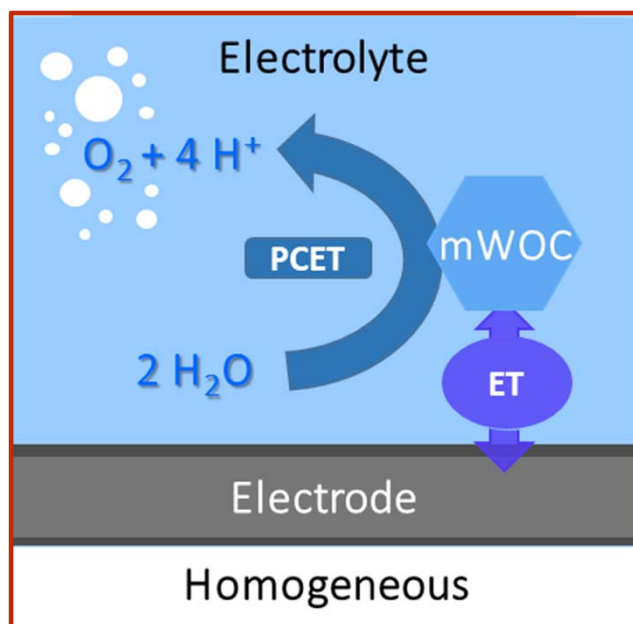
EXAMPLES of mWOC



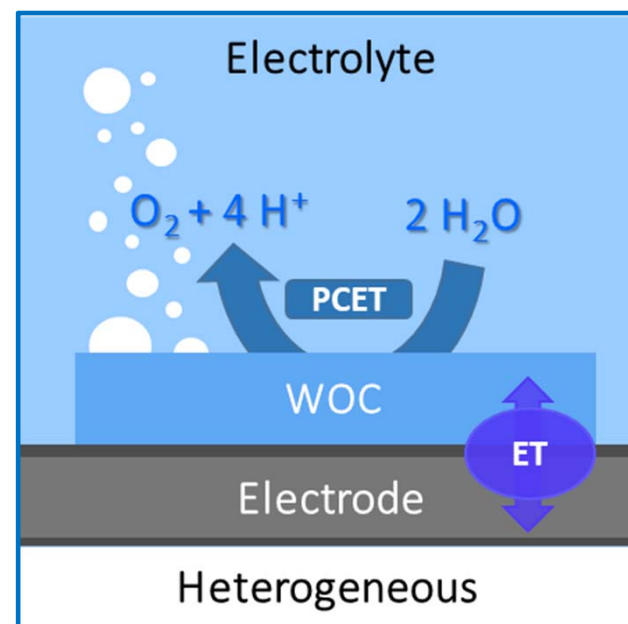
R. H. Crabtree and G. W. Brudvig et al. *ACS Energy Lett.*, 2020, 5, 3195

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Water Oxidation Catalysis: Homogeneous vs Heterogeneous



Vs.



Advantages

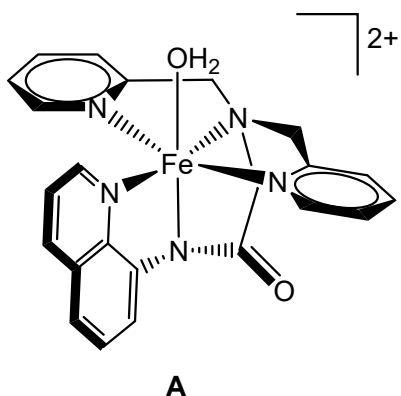
- High efficiency;
- High atom economy;
- Well defined active sites;
- Tunability;
- Mechanistic insights.

Drawbacks

- High Overpotential;
- Stability:
 - ligand oxidation;
 - ligand loss;
 - dimerization/oligomerization;
 - complex reorganization

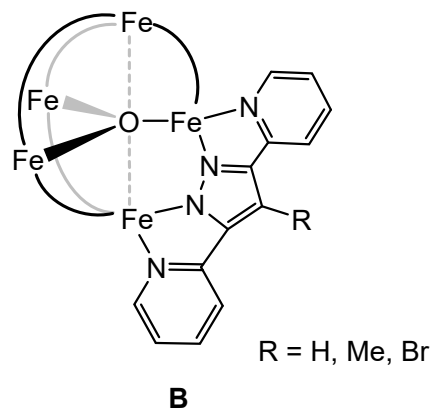
Earth Abundant (Fe) Based Molecular mWOC Electrocatalysts

- Most efficient mWOC: noble metals (e.g. Ru and Ir) based complexes;
- Fe based mWOC: state of the art.



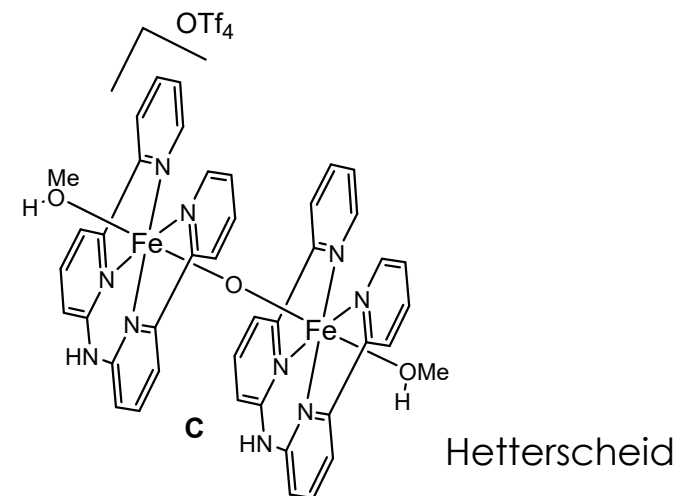
Meyer

TOF = 0.015 s⁻¹; Overpotential > 0.2-0.25 v



Masaoka

TOF = 1900 s⁻¹; Overpotential > 0.5 v



Hetterscheid

TOF = 0.12 s⁻¹; Overpotential > 0.3-0.4 v

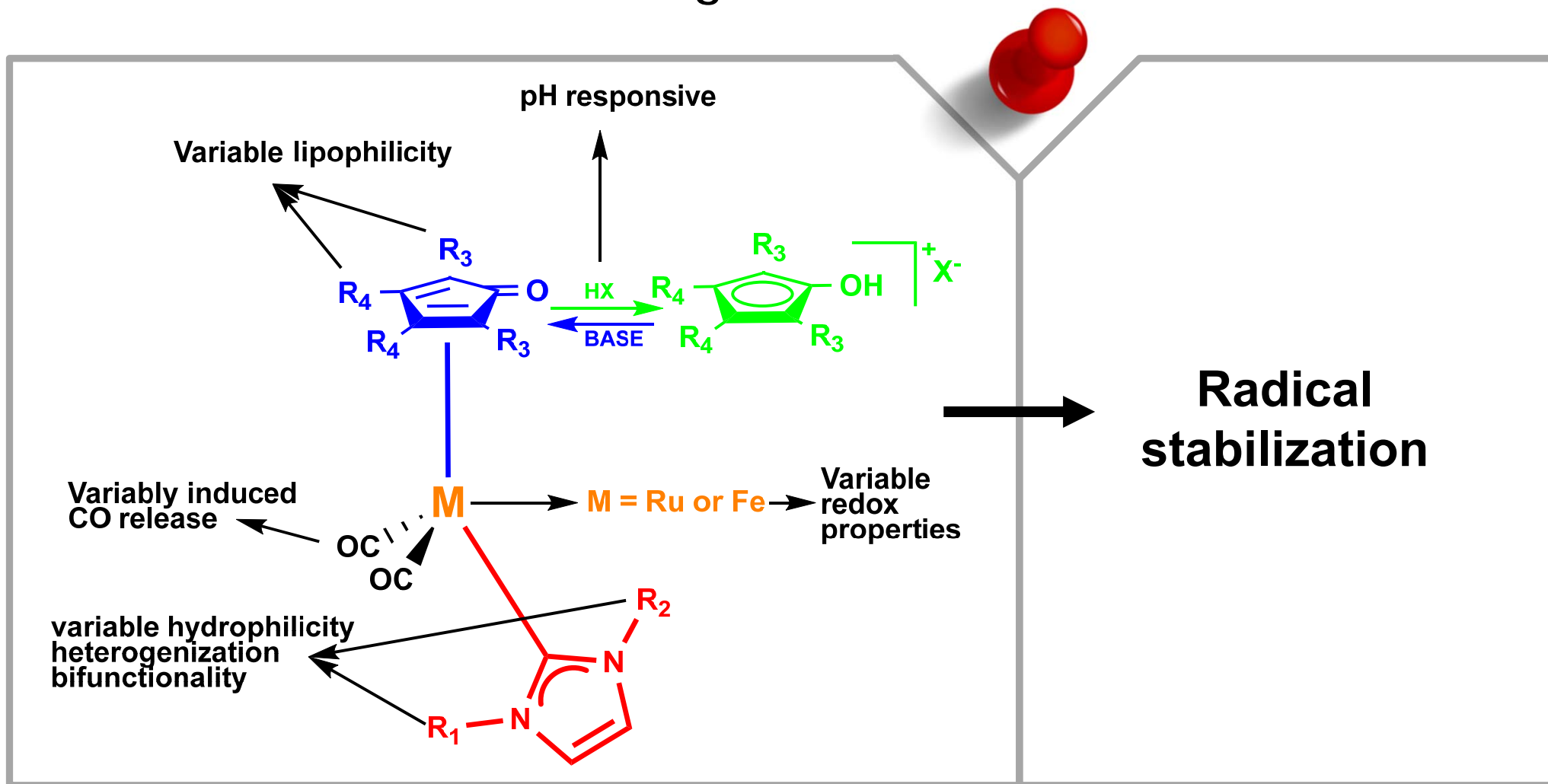


D (Llobet) Found oxidative degradation. Heterogeneous Iron oxide is the real catalyst

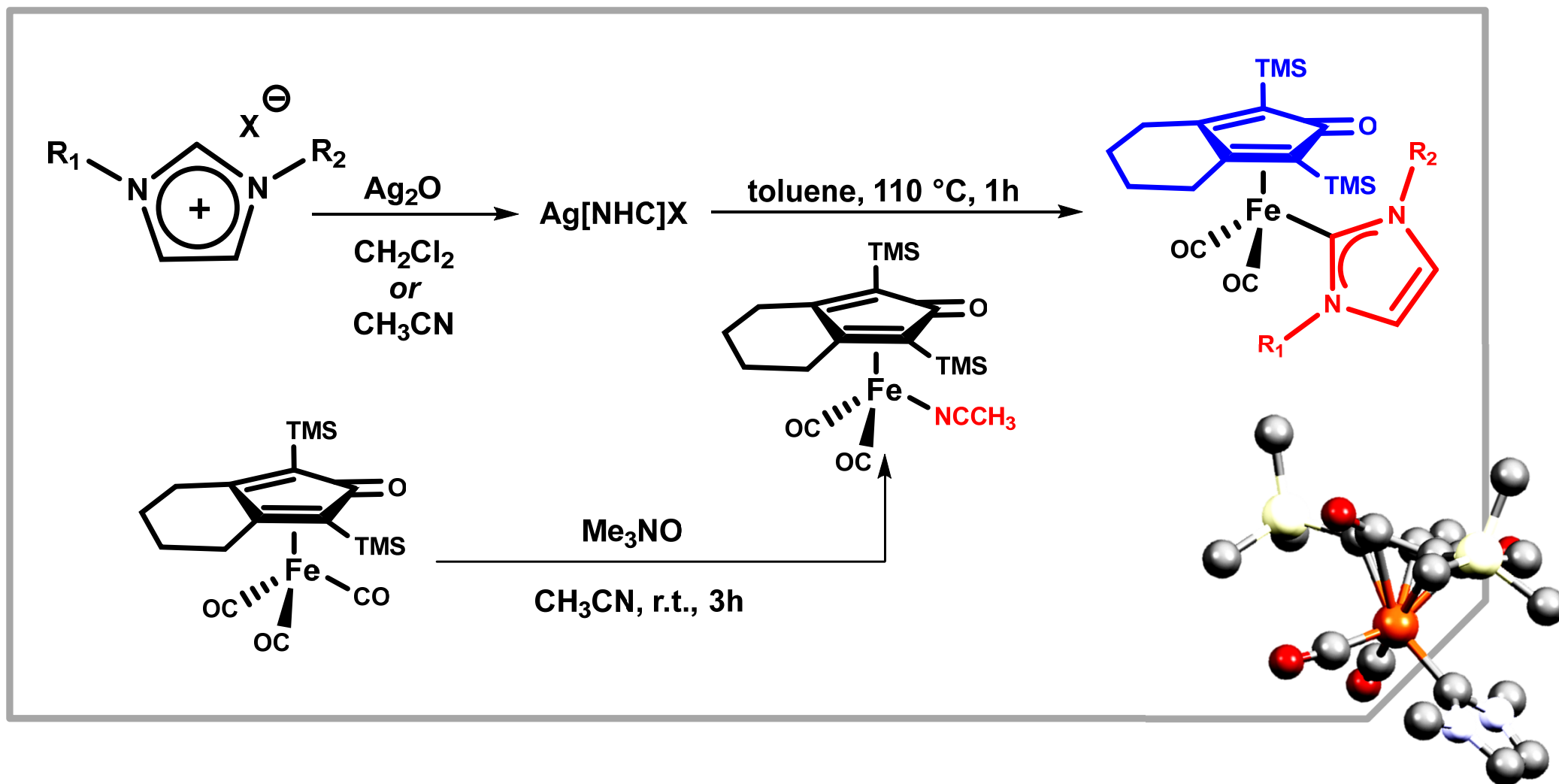
- **Drawbacks:** lower activity, high overpotential; instability.

A) T. J. Meyer, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2014, 136, 5531–5534. B) S. Masaoka et al., Nature, 2016, 530, 465–468.
C) D. G. Hetterscheid, ACS Catal., 2018, 8, 1052–1061 D) A. Llobet, iScience, 2020, 23, 101378

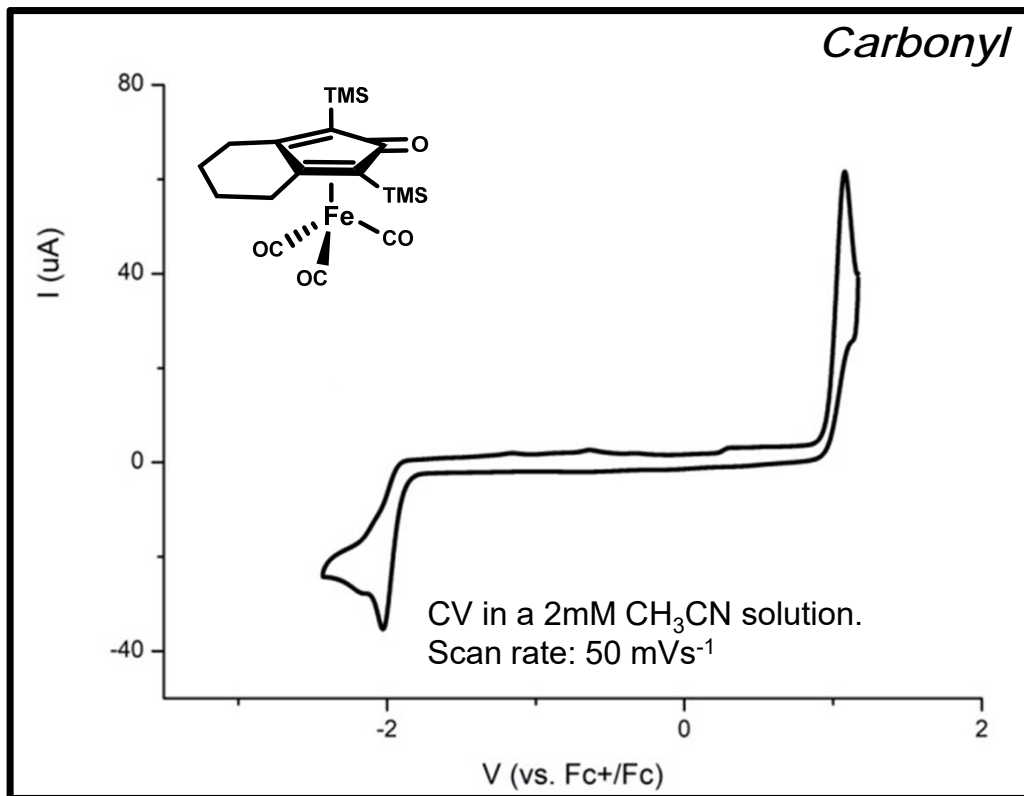
Cyclopentadienone and N-heterocyclic Carbene a Powerful Ligands Combination



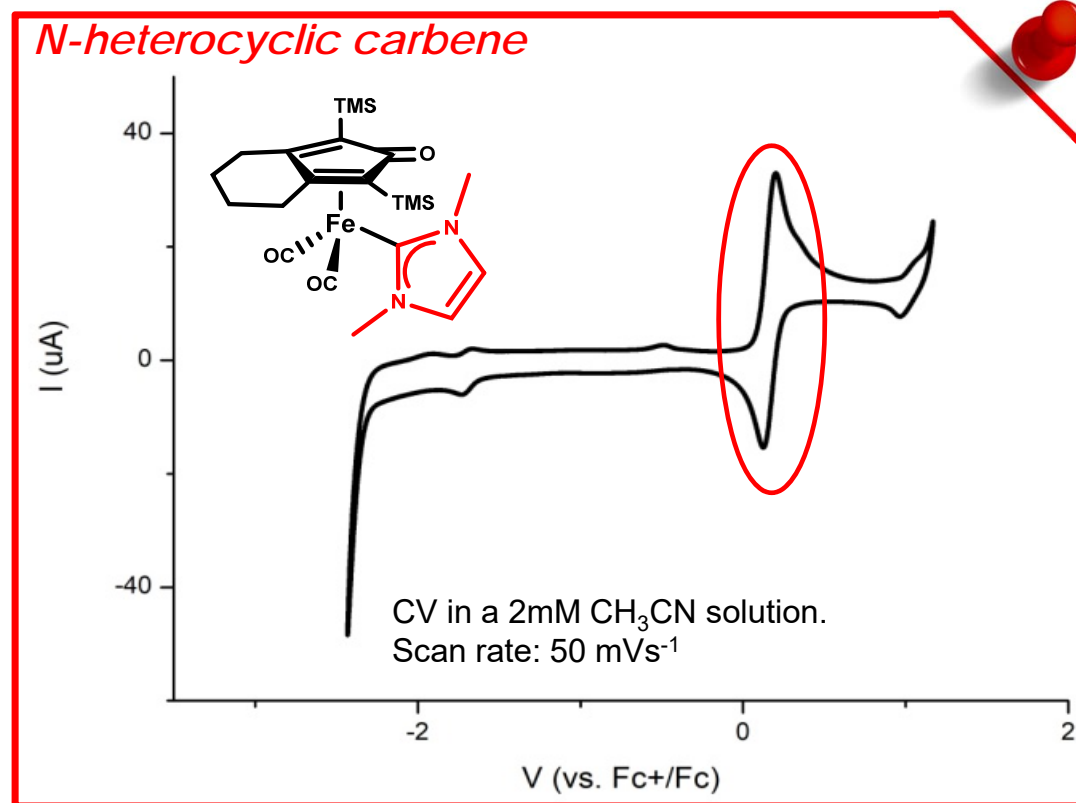
From Ruthenium to **Iron**: the same easy way of synthesis



Cyclopentadienone-NHC iron(0) Complexes as Water Oxidation Catalysts



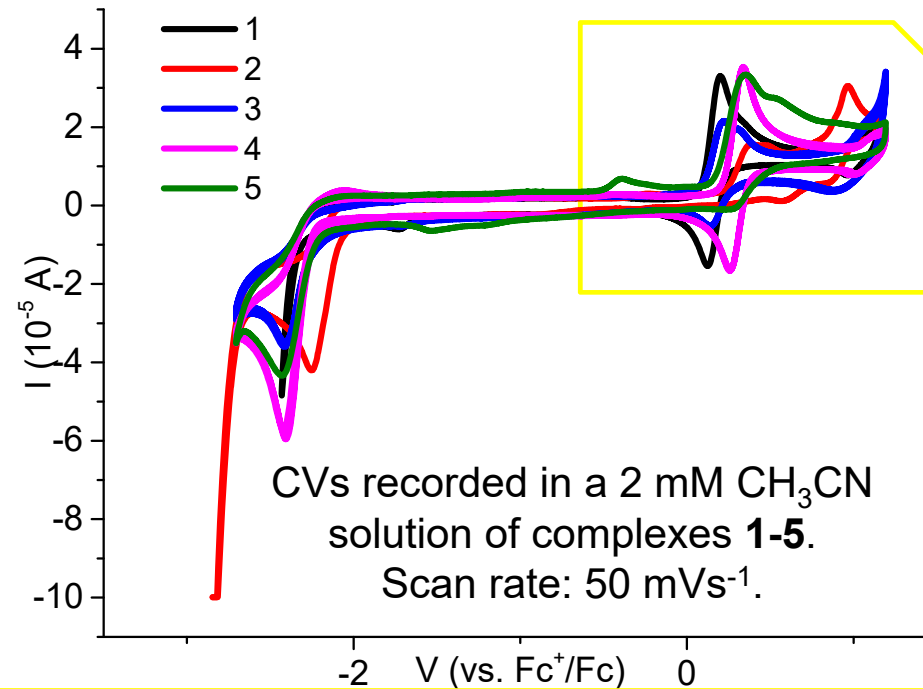
- Irreversible process.



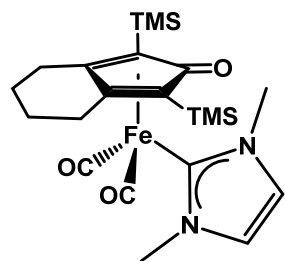
- ✓ Reversible process at + 0.16 V vs. Fc⁺/Fc
- ✓ O₂/H₂O vs Fc⁺/Fc = ca. - 0.2 V in H₂O at pH = 14

✓ **NHC** shifts the potential towards a region suitable for water oxidation reaction

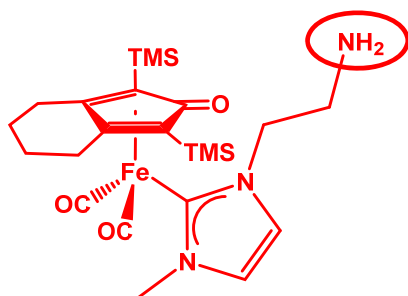
The Effect of Ligands Functionalization on Redox Properties



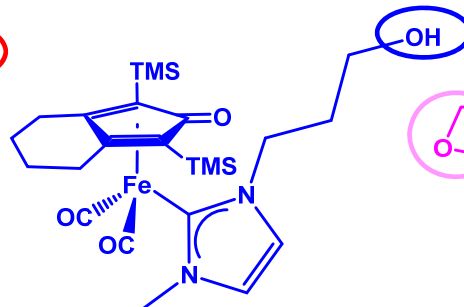
E_{ox}'' (V vs. Fc⁺/Fc)



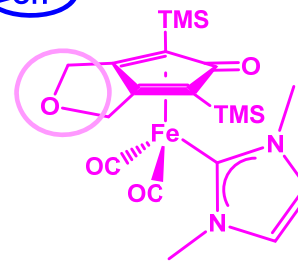
✓ **1**, Reversible
+0.16 V



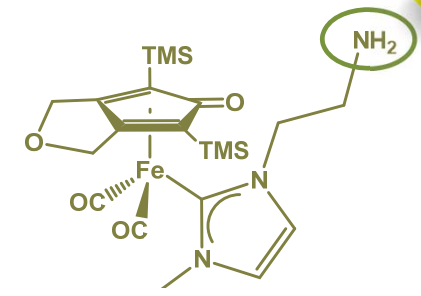
2, +0.40 V/+0.97 V
Affected by NH₂



✓ **3**, Reversible
+0.19 V

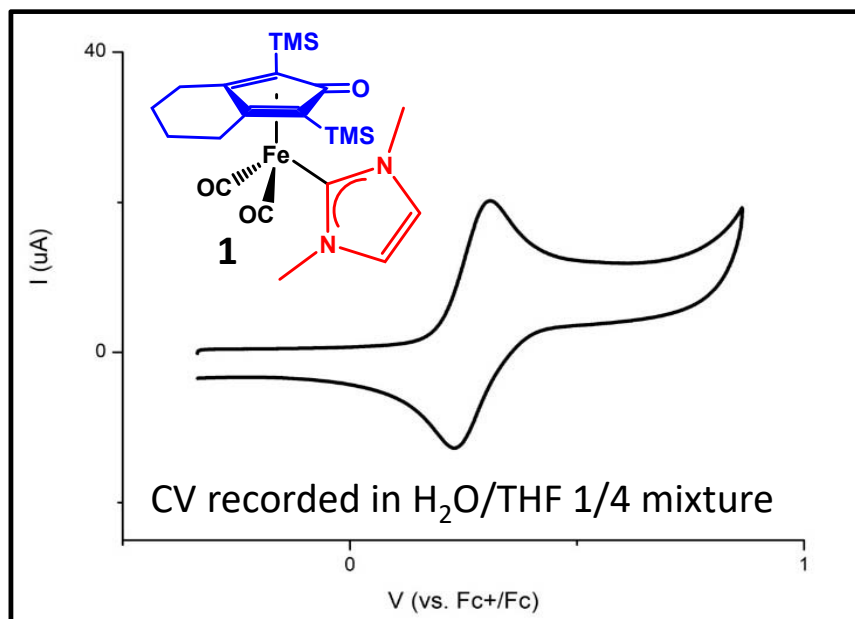


✓ **4**, Reversible
+0.31 V



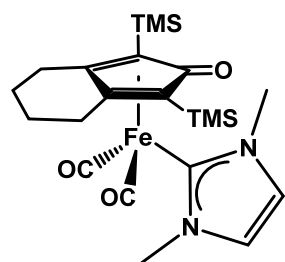
5, +0.35 V
Affected by NH₂

Promising Redox Behaviour is Maintained in H₂O/THF Mixture

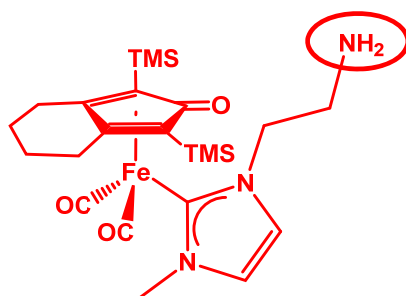


- ✓ Similar CV in H₂O/THF 1/4 mixture
- ✓ Reversible process at + 0.28 - + 0.40 V vs. Fc⁺/Fc for **1**, **3** and **4**
- ✓ O₂/H₂O vs Fc⁺/Fc = ca. - 0.2 v in H₂O at pH = 14

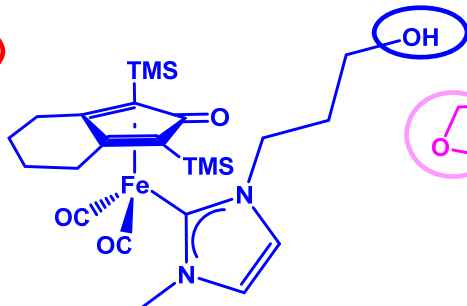
$E_{ox}^{o'}$ (V vs. Fc⁺/Fc)



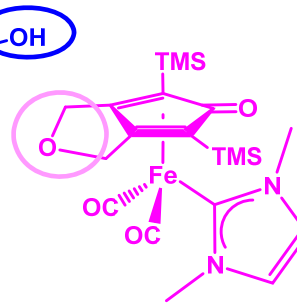
✓ **1**, Reversible
+0.28 V



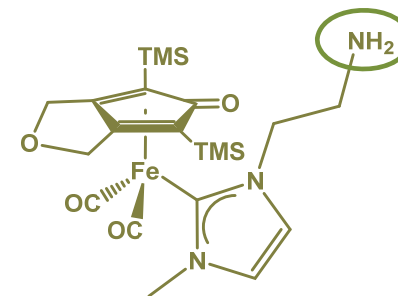
2, +0.42 V/+0.64 V
Affected by NH₂



✓ **3**, Reversible
+0.29 V



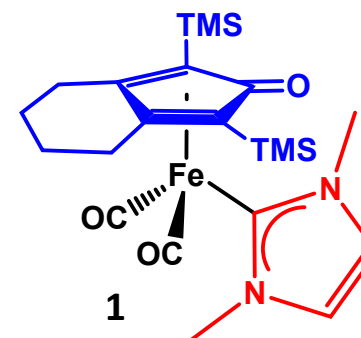
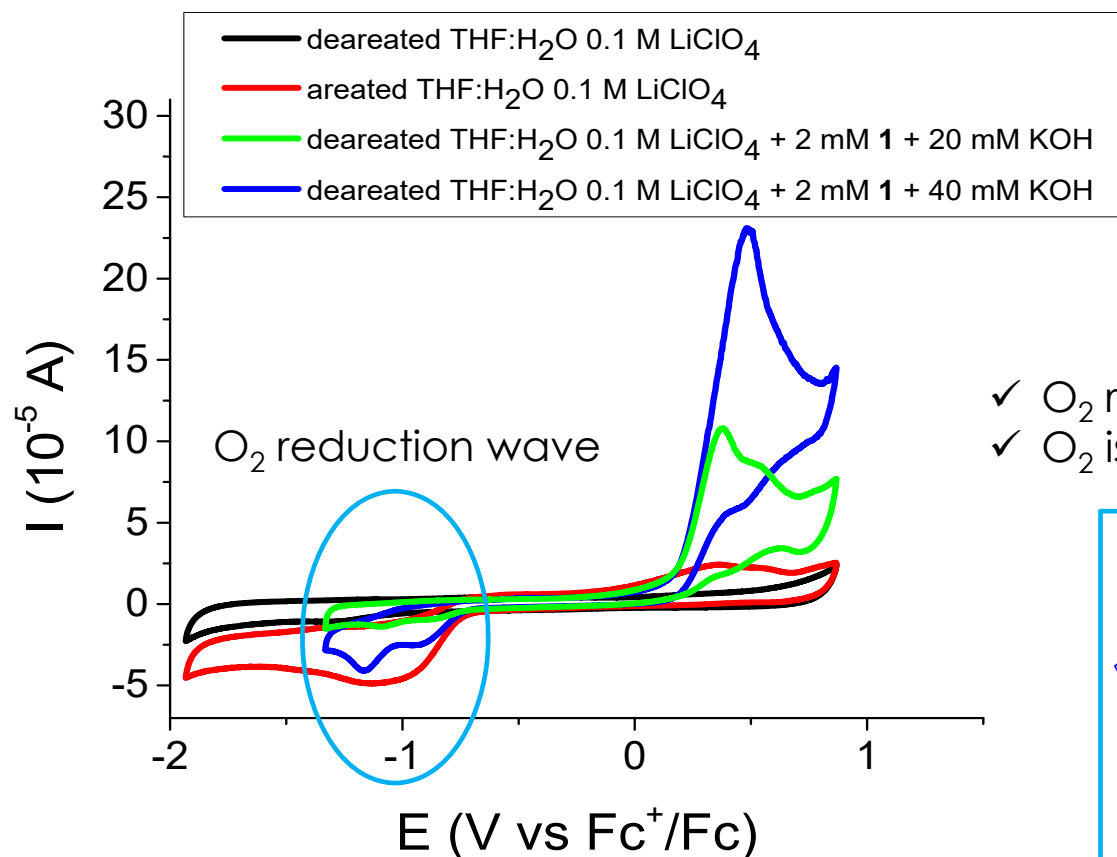
✓ **4**, Reversible
+0.40 V



5, +0.50 V
Affected by NH₂

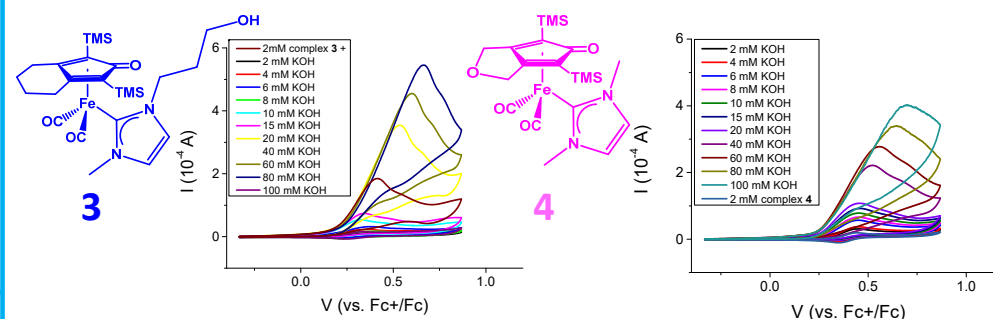
Electrocatalysis

CVs (scan rate = 0.050 V s⁻¹) recorded at a glassy carbon electrode in THF/H₂O solutions highlights O₂ generated by the electrocatalytic process.

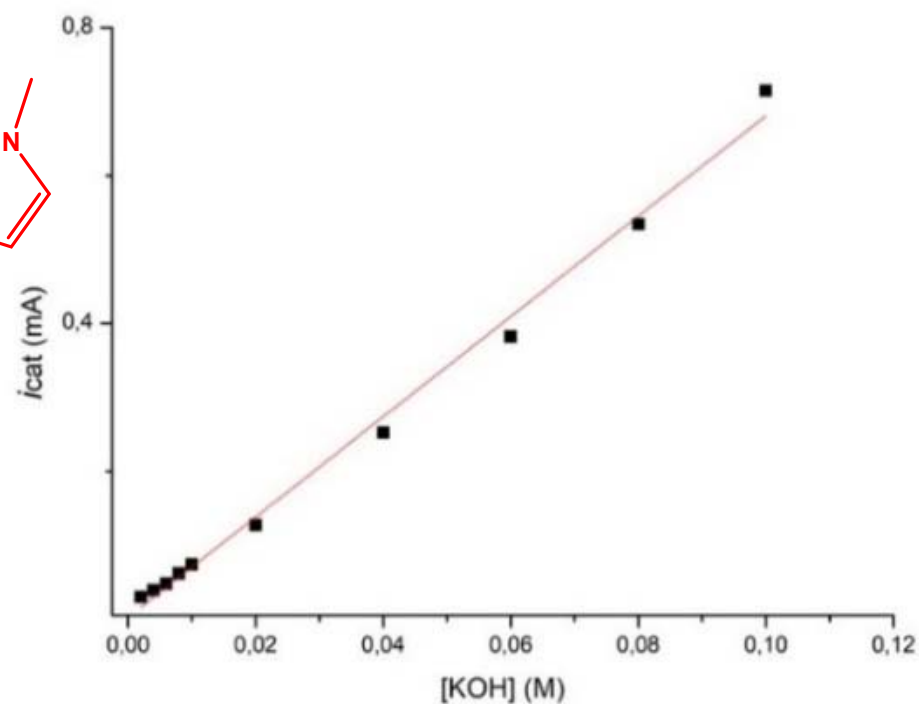
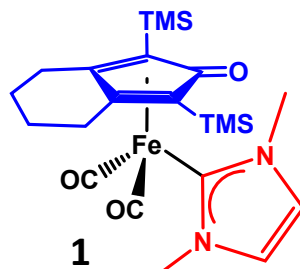
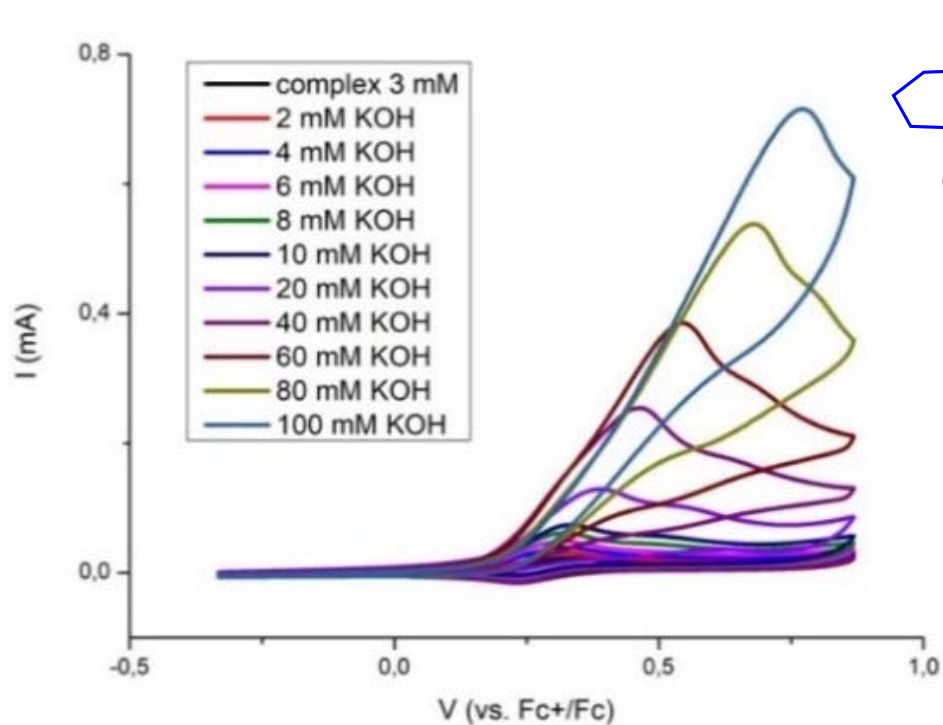


- ✓ O₂ reduction appears in deaerated electrolyte;
- ✓ O₂ is produced by electrocatalysis.

✓ O-based substituents on cyclopentadienone or NHC



Current increases increasing pH: base dependent mechanism



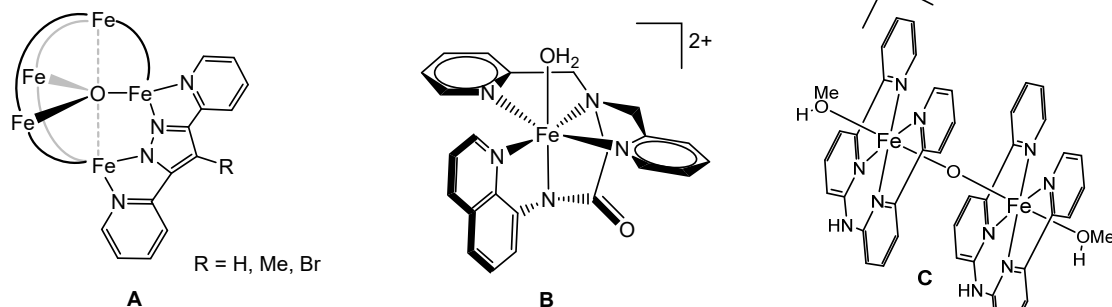
CVs in 3mM solution (THF/H₂O, 4:1) of **1** after subsequent KOH additions. Scan rate: 50 mVs⁻¹.

Increasing currents after base addition.

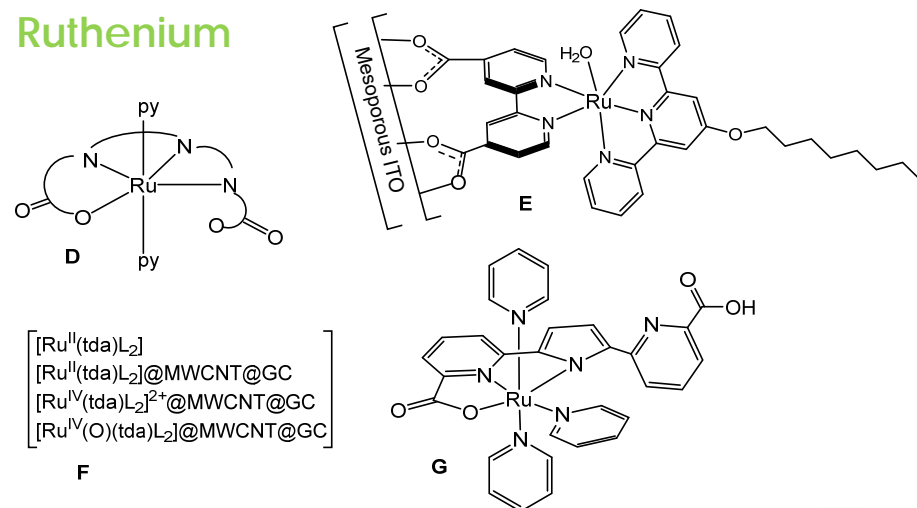
✓ A stable, effective electrocatalyst for water oxidation in basic H₂O/THF mixture

Efficiency: our catalyst vs. SoA

Iron

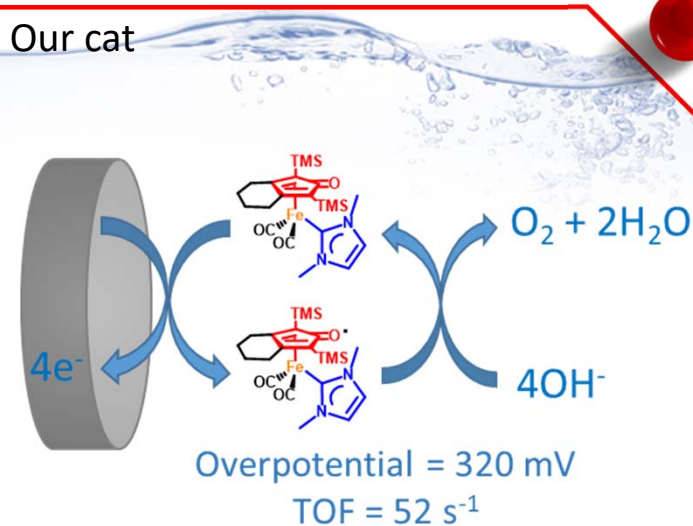


Ruthenium



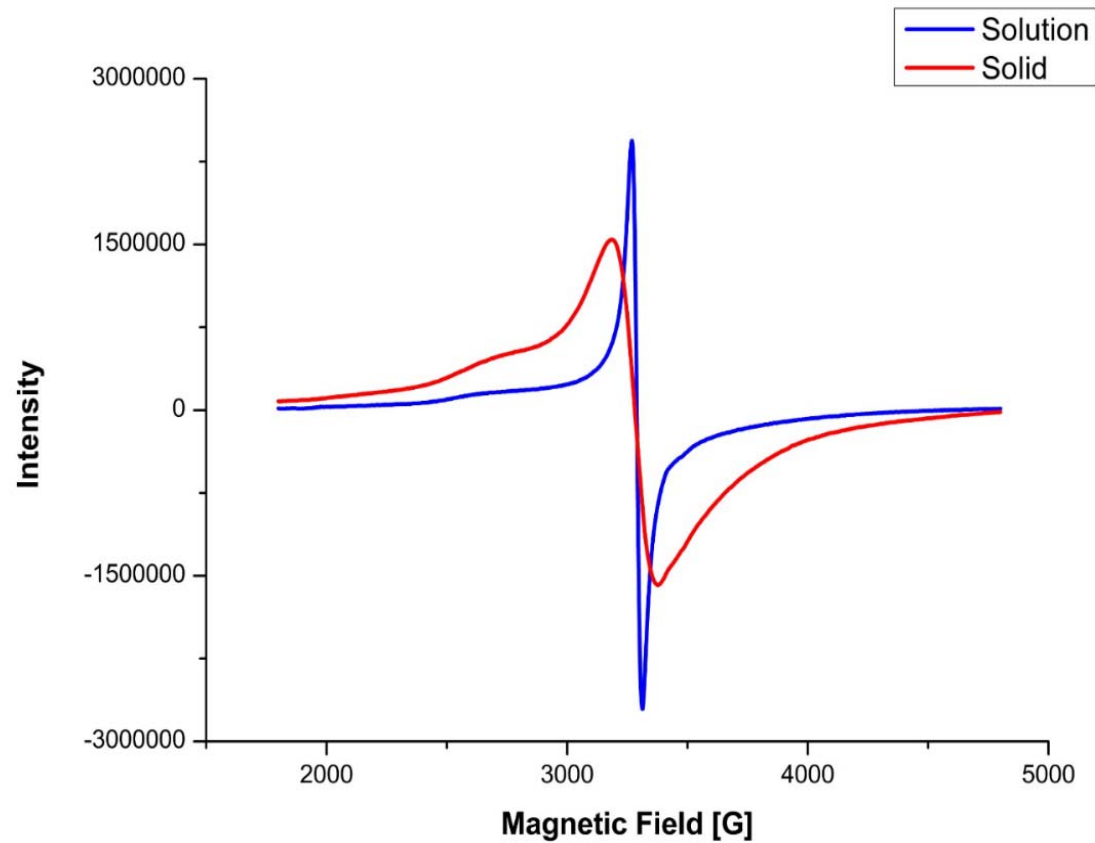
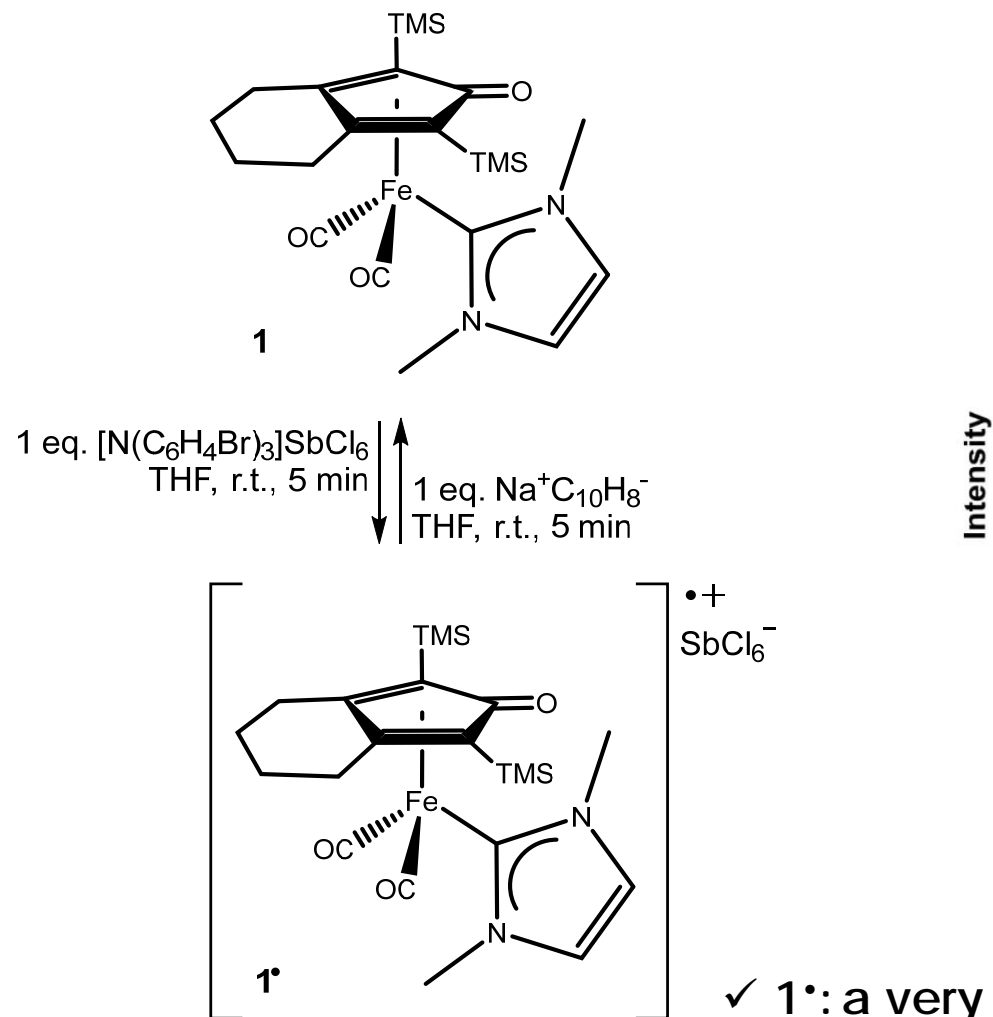
Complex	Electrolyte + Reactant	TOF (s ⁻¹)	E	Overpotential (V)
A (degradation)	ACN Et ₄ NClO ₄ + Water	1900	1.08 V vs Fc ⁺ /Fc	> 0.5
B	CAN 0.5 LiClO ₄ + Water	0.015	1.58 V vs NHE	0.2 – 0.25
A (degradation)	ACN TBAP (0.1 M) + Water	300	1.09 V vs Fc ⁺ /Fc	0.65
C	Water Na ₂ SO ₄	0.12	1.75 V vs RHE	0.3 – 0.4
D	pH 7 phosphate buffer	8000	1.43 V vs NHE	0.6
E	0.1 M KNO ₃ solution pH 5.9	0.031	1.50 V vs Ag/AgCl	0.41
F	PBS pH 7	8935	1.45 vs NHE	0.634
G	pH 7	9400	1.25 vs NHE	0.434
Our cat	THF:H ₂ O LiClO ₄	52	0.28 vs Fc ⁺ /Fc	0.32

Our cat



A. Cingolani, I. Gualandi, E. Scavetta, C. Cesari, S. Zacchini, D. Tonelli, V. Zanotti, P. Franchi, M. Lucarini, E. Sicilia, G. Mazzone, D. Nanni and R. Mazzoni, *Catal. Sci Technol.* 2021, 11, 1407-1418

Mechanistic Insight: Experimental (a Monoelectronic Process)

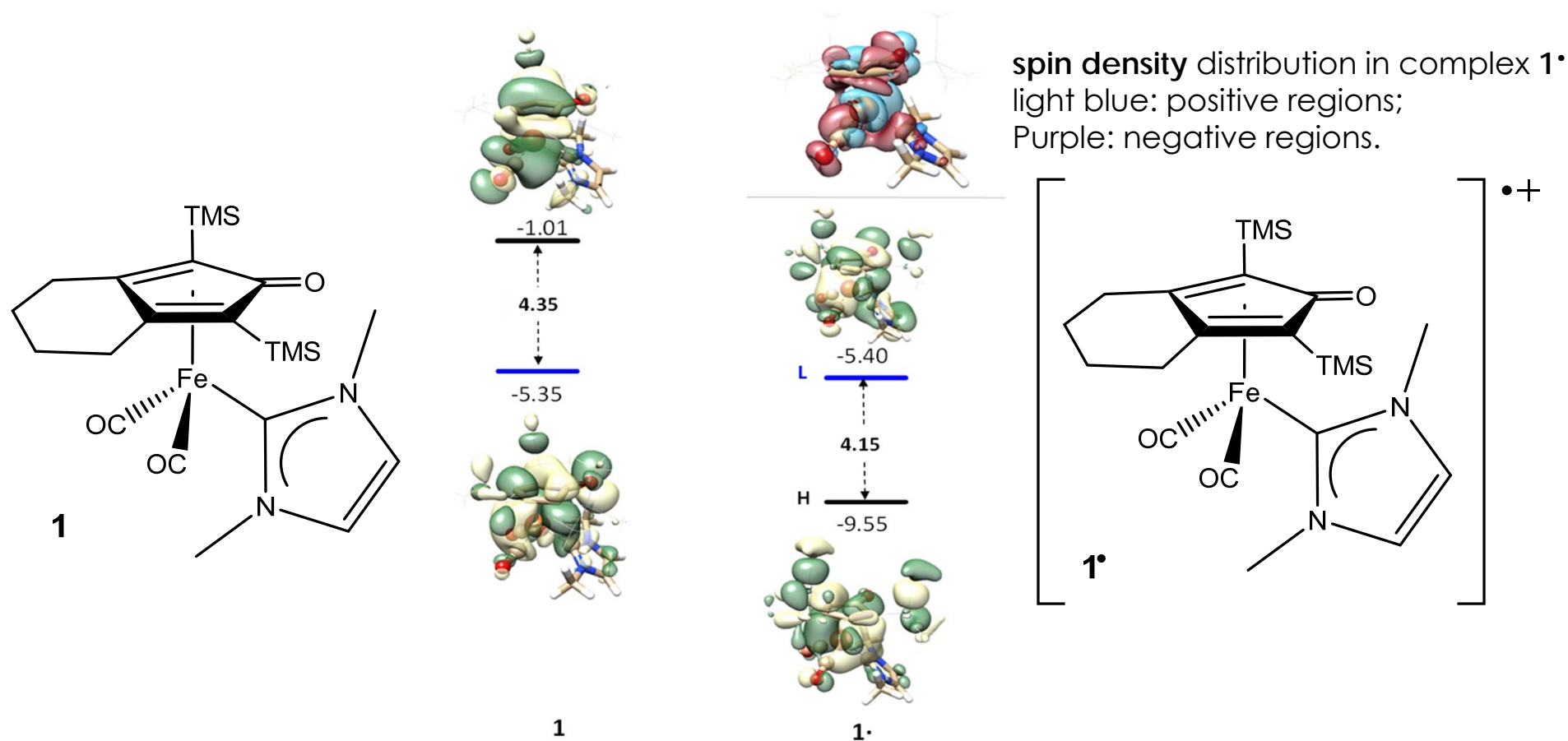


EPR of $1^{\bullet+}$ in solid (red line) and THF solution (blue line)

✓ $1^{\bullet+}$: a very persistent radical cation

The first step of the cycle: a reversible generation of the radical complex $1^{\bullet+}$

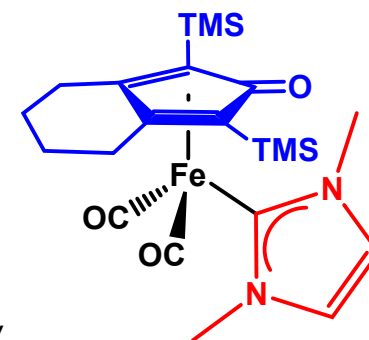
Mechanistic Insight: DFT Calculations (Frontier Orbitals of 1 and 1[•], and Spin Density of 1[•])



Frontier molecular orbital diagrams HOMO (H) and LUMO (L) together with the corresponding plots of the orbital surfaces.

Conclusion

- Both ligands play a key role in electrochemistry of the whole system.
- NHC shifts the anodic process in a region suitable for water oxidation;
- Cyclopentadienone favour a monoelectronic redox route as demonstrated by isolation of radical complex **1**[•] from an exhaustive mono-electronic oxidation;
- Complex **1**, resulted as the best catalyst, is **stable** under WOC conditions and show competitive TOF and overpotential.



Future perspective

- Design new complexes to increase the water solubility of type **1** iron complexes;
- Mechanistic insight by means of EPR characterization (further investigation)
- Immobilization or hybridization toward artificial photosynthetic applications;

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

University of Bologna - Department of Industrial Chemistry

- *The lab (synthesis and more)*

Valerio Zanotti

Andrea Cingolani

Cristiana Cesari

Alessandro Messori

Andrea Masetti

Nicola Monti

- *Electrocatalysis*

Isacco Gualandi

Erika Scavetta

Domenica Tonelli

- *X-Ray Diffraction*

Stefano Zacchini

University of Bologna - Department of Chemistry

- *EPR measures (Unibo – Department of Chemistry)*

Paola Franchi

Marco Lucarini

*University of Calabria - Department of
Chemistry and Chemical Technologies*

- *DFT calculation (University of Calabria)*

Emilia Sicilia

Gloria Mazzone



Who really work, me aside... a picture from yesterday lab

Above all,
Thanks to them



Immediately after...

Thank you! for your kind attention



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