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1 Selective hydrodeoxygenation of bio-oil derived products: Acetic 2 acid to propylene over hybrid CeO₂-Cu/zeolite catalysts

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4 5 Abstract

6 Conversion of acetic acid, the light oxygenate from biomass pyrolysis, to propylene
7 can be achieved via keto-hydrodeoxygenation (KHDO) over hybrid CeO₂-Cu/zeolite
8 catalysts at >573 K under atmospheric H₂. The catalyst containing CeO₂ and Cu/HY (25wt%
9 of Cu/HY) was employed to obtain up to 85% conversion of acetic acid with 49% selectivity
10 to propylene. Acetone, propylene and propane are obtained via ketonization-hydrogenation-
11 dehydration over the three-component catalyst while ethanol, acetaldehyde, ethylene, ethane
12 and ethyl acetate can also be produced from hydrogenation-dehydration over Cu/zeolites
13 alone. The catalyst containing Cu/HY provides higher selectivity to olefin products, as
14 compared to that containing Cu/HZSM-5. The reaction is suppressed by the presence of
15 water. Nevertheless, high catalyst stability (>60 hours on stream) can be obtained. The
16 KHDO can be applicable for the conversion of acetic acid, a biomass derived product, to
17 hydrocarbons using a sequential bed system of the three-component catalyst and HZSM-5
18 catalyst.

19

20 1. Introduction

21 Today the world's highest demand for petrochemical feedstock is small olefins,
22 especially propylene and ethylene.^{1,2} As fossil reserves are running low, the biomass-derived
23 products have become promising future sources. The strategy involves deoxygenation of
24 small oxygenates to olefins with a minimal hydrogen consumption. Among those oxygenates
25 derived from, acetic acid is a potential feedstock as it can be largely obtained from biomass
26 pyrolysis^{3,4} and fermentation of agricultural products and wastes.⁵ However, the controlled
27 deoxygenation of acetic acid to olefins is somewhat challenging. This is due to high oxygen
28 content in the molecule, as compared to other feedstocks. Many works have focused on
29 partially deoxygenation via ketonization over metal oxide catalysts (MgO, CdO, MnO₂, and
30 Fe₂O₃) to acetone, CO₂ and water.⁶⁻¹¹ Alternatively, the dehydration of acetic acid to
31 ethenone, which leads to rapid deactivation of catalyst, was also reported.^{12,13} Meanwhile,
32 the hydrodeoxygenation (HDO) of acetic acid have been investigated over Pt-Sn alloy, Cu
33 and Co catalysts. In this case, ethanol, acetaldehyde and ethyl acetate are obtained.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ The
34 esterification facilitated by acidic support can increase the degree of oxygen removal but
35 inhibit the further hydrogenation to hydrocarbons.¹⁷ Many noble metals including Pt, Pd, Ni,
36 and Rh were found to be effective catalysts for liquid and gas phase hydrogenation of acetic
37 acid to hydrocarbons.^{4,15,18,19} However, high H₂ pressure (> 4 MPa) or high temperature
38 (typically > 698 K) is required to obtain appreciable activity over these metals.^{4,20} In addition,

39 the hydrocarbons obtained are mainly paraffins (ethane and methane), presumably due to
40 successive hydrogenation, decarboxylation and hydrogenolysis over those metals.^{15,18,21}

41 According to obstacles mentioned above, a novel approach for obtaining olefins from
42 acetic acid is proposed in this work via keto-hydrodeoxygenation process. Previous work
43 demonstrated that ketone could be hydrodeoxygenation to olefin via a controlled
44 hydrogenation-dehydrogenation.²² At the same time, acetic acid can be selectively ketonized
45 over various metal oxides that are relatively inert for hydrogenation and dehydration.²³⁻²⁵
46 Hence, it is possible to incorporate these metal oxides into the hydrodeoxygenation catalysts
47 for a single stage conversion of acetic acid to olefins via ketonization-hydrogenation-
48 dehydration. In this work, CeO₂ will be selected as ketonization catalyst due to high activity
49 especially at low temperature.⁹ Cu/HY and Cu/HZSM-5, showing high hydrodeoxygenation
50 activity from the previous work,²² will be incorporated for hydrogenation-dehydration of the
51 ketone formed. Despite the difference in catalytic parameters for each step, formulation of
52 the three-component catalyst (CeO₂/Cu/Zeolites) that works isothermally at relatively mild
53 condition will be optimized. Their effects on the reaction and products are also highlighted,
54 together with the role of water presents in acetic acid feed.

55

56 2. Experimental procedure

57 CeO_2 (99.9%) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich[®]. HY and HZSM-5 were
58 commercially obtained from Tohso and Zeochem[®], respectively. The metal oxides and
59 zeolite were calcined in air at 723 K for 5 h before use. 5 %wt Cu/zeolites were simply
60 prepared by incipient wetness impregnation. Briefly, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ precursor (Ajax Fine
61 Chem) was dissolved in deionized water (~0.01 M) and slowly dropped onto zeolites until wet.
62 The sample was dried at 333 K in an oven for 15 min, and then the loading was repeated until
63 desired metal content was reached. The samples were kept to dry at 333 K overnight and
64 calcined in air at 723 K for 5 h. The CeO_2 was physically mixed with Cu/zeolite to obtain
65 hybrid CeO_2 -Cu/zeolite catalyst (7-40 %wt Cu/zeolites) then pelletized to the size of 600–850
66 μm . The three-component catalyst is referred to as CeO_2 -Cu/Zeolite(X), where X is %wt of
67 Cu/Zeolite in the mixed catalyst.

68 Elemental composition of the catalysts was determined by X-ray fluorescence
69 spectrometer (XRF; Siemens). Specific surface area (BET) of catalysts was measured using
70 nitrogen adsorption analyzer (Quantachrome) at 77 K and 0.05–0.30 P/P₀. Reducible metal
71 oxide species in the catalysts were analyzed by temperature programmed reduction (TPR).
72 The catalysts were treated in air at 723 K for 5 hours prior to heating from 323-1173 K in
73 10% H_2/Ar . The hydrogen consumption was recorded with an on-line thermal conductivity
74 detector (VICI).²⁶ Copper dispersion on zeolites support was also analyzed by surface-
75 selective TPR technique. Briefly after typical TPR, the sample was *in situ* treated with N_2O

76 for selective oxidation of surface copper to copper (I) oxide at 333 K for 2 hours. Then, the
77 surface-oxidized sample was subjected to a secondary TPR, in which the reduction took place
78 only at the copper (I) oxide on the surface. The surface copper could be calculated directly
79 from hydrogen consumption of $\text{Cu(I)} \rightarrow \text{Cu(0)}$ as described by Hoang *et al.*²⁷ The Cu
80 dispersion is referred to mole ratio of Cu on the surface over the bulk. Detail of calculations
81 for Cu dispersion using this procedure can be found as described in by Sagar *et al.*²⁸ Acidity
82 of all zeolite samples was quantified by NH_3 -TPD. 1% NH_3/He was pre-adsorbed at 323 K.
83 TPD was carried out in He at $10 \text{ K}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ from 323–973 K.²⁹ The particle size of Cu on
84 support was estimated by TEM with LaB_6 emitter (FEI Tecnai G² 20, 200 kV).

85 The catalytic testing was conducted in a fixed bed flow reactor (6 mm i.d. Pyrex[®]) at
86 atmospheric pressure. The $\text{CeO}_2\text{-Cu/Zeolites}$ catalysts were primarily activated at 723 K (2
87 $\text{K}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) under stream of air ($30 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) for 5 h. Subsequently, the catalyst was flushed
88 with N_2 and treated in H_2 at 723 K for another 2 h. The system was cooled down to the
89 reaction temperature (573 K) and the reaction was carried out at atmospheric hydrogen
90 pressure. The acetic acid was introduced by a syringe pump at the rate of 0.5-1.0 g/h. The
91 products were analyzed by an on-line GC-FID. A Hayesep[®] P (1/8" X 8') was used as
92 separating column.

93

94 3. Results and discussions

95 3.1 Catalyst characterization

96 All copper/zeolite samples possess relatively high surface area ($> 360 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$) with
97 dispersion 54-65% as tabulated in Table 1. The copper loading is approximately 5%wt for
98 both zeolites. The CeO_2 shows relatively low surface area, due to low porosity ($< 11 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$).
99 The increase in weak acidity of Cu/HY and Cu/HZSM-5, as compared to the parent zeolites
100 (NH_3 -TPD), is an evidence for exchangeable copper cation in zeolites.

101 The Cu/HY and Cu/HZSM-5 samples show two reduction peaks at 473 and 520 K
102 (Figure 1), corresponding to copper oxide aggregates and highly dispersed copper oxide in
103 the pore of zeolite^{30,31}, respectively. The Cu dispersion on HY is somewhat higher than that
104 on HZSM-5 (peak at $\sim 520 \text{ K}$), presumably due to a better diffusion of the Cu precursor in
105 the larger pore of HY. This is consistent with the TEM images shown in Figure 2. The
106 Cu/HY possesses relatively small Cu particles (Figure 2a) and some of them (dark spot) are
107 well aligned in the pore of HY (light grey plane). While a relatively lower Cu dispersion on
108 HZSM-5 can be evidenced by large semicircle Cu particles, deposited on the external surface
109 of HZSM-5 crystals (Figure 2b).

110

111 3.2 Catalytic activity testing

112 *Effect of reaction temperature*

113 Figure 3 displays the effect of temperature on acetic acid conversion over the three-
114 component catalyst containing 75%wt of CeO₂ and 25%wt of Cu/HY (CeO₂-Cu/HY(25)).
115 The conversion increases gradually with the reaction temperature and reaches 100% at above
116 598 K (Figure 3a). The C₃ products including acetone, propylene, and propane and CO₂ are
117 produced via ketonization of acetic acid and subsequent hydrodeoxygenation of the acetone
118 formed, so called keto-hydrodeoxygenation (KHDO) process. The selectivity to acetone is
119 relatively high at 548 K suggesting that ketonization activity can be readily promoted over
120 the CeO₂ component while the hydrogenation-dehydration of the acetone produced is not
121 facilitated at this temperature. This is probably due to competitive adsorption by acetic acid
122 over the Cu/HY at low temperature. It is worth noting that, over Cu/zeolites, the
123 hydrogenation-dehydration of acetone alone can be accomplished at > 473 K, as reported in
124 previous work.²² When the temperature was increased from 548-598 K, the selectivity to
125 propylene increases with the decrease in acetone. This is not only because acetic acid is less
126 competitive at this temperature, but also the hydrogenation-dehydration is increasingly
127 promoted by the Cu/HY component. However, the propylene selectivity turns down with a
128 sharp increase in propane at > 598 K despite that the Cu alone cannot promote propylene
129 hydrogenation.^{22,32} The observed propane yield in this case is presumably derived from H-
130 transfer process. As propylene is formed, it would be protonated on the acid sites within a

131 proximate vicinity of Cu. Hence, some of the protonated propylene can be hydrogenated by
132 H-transfer from the proximate metal sites. This is particularly the case at high temperature
133 since H-transfer can also be promoted from the hydrocarbon pools.³³⁻³⁵

134 As mentioned earlier that acetic acid competitively adsorbed on Cu/HY at low
135 temperature, the C₂ products including acetaldehyde, ethanol, ethylene, and ethane are also
136 observed, together with ethyl acetate (Figure 3b). The result from acetic acid conversion over
137 Cu/zeolites alone (Table 2) reveals that these C₂ products are derived from a direct
138 hydrodeoxygenation (HDO) of acetic acid. Over copper catalyst, the acetic acid can be
139 hydrogenated to acetaldehyde and then ethanol. Acetaldehyde selectivity is decreased while
140 ethanol, ethylene, and ethane are increased when the reaction temperature is raised from 548-
141 598 K (Figure 3b). Since ethanol can be readily dehydrated to ethylene over the acid sites at
142 high temperature, the acetaldehyde-ethanol equilibrium is not limited over Cu/HY as ethylene
143 is formed. Accordingly, acetaldehyde is largely consumed by hydrogenation-dehydration
144 process as the temperature is raised. In a manner similar to propane, ethane can also be
145 produced by H-transfer to ethylene at relatively high temperature.

146 In fact, the observed high selectivity of ethyl acetate (Figure 3a) at low temperature
147 suggests that ethanol is readily formed, but captured by acetic acid via esterification.
148 However, the selectivity to ester decreases when the temperature is increased due to the
149 running low of acetic acid. It is noted that no esterification between acetic acid and *i*-propanol
150 was found probably due to rapid dehydration of the *i*-propanol, as compared to the ethanol.

151 The selectivity to ethanol, ethylene and ethane turn down at > 598 K (Figure 3b) while C_3
152 hydrocarbons is largely observed. This is because the KHDO of acetic acid is more favorable
153 at high temperature, as compared to the direct HDO. This is in consistence with observed
154 increase in ketonization activity of CeO_2 at high temperature as shown in Figure S1. It is
155 worth noting that, as the catalyst contains acidic zeolite (CeO_2 -Cu/HY(25)), the ethylene and
156 propylene produced can be further oligomerized to C_4 - C_5 olefins, particularly at > 598 K.
157 According to the products observed, the overall reaction scheme for keto-
158 hydrodeoxygenation of acetic acid can be proposed in Figure 4.

159

160 *Effect of the catalyst composition*

161 The KHDO of acetic acid depends largely on the component of catalyst, as shown by
162 the experiments with various %weight of the CeO_2 in the catalyst composition (Figure 5). It
163 is clear that the acetic acid conversion increases when the CeO_2 is increased (Figure 5a).
164 Since the ketonization of acetic acid is primarily promoted in KHDO, the catalyst with high
165 CeO_2 content would be more active for overall acid conversion. In consistence with this
166 result, the yields of KHDO products, including acetone (Figure 5a) and propylene (Figure
167 5b), are also increased, together with CO_2 . However, the insufficient Cu/HY results in a drop
168 of subsequent HDO activity, as seen by a decline in propylene yield when CeO_2 content is
169 higher than 75%wt (CeO_2 -Cu/HY(25), Figure 5b). The increase in CeO_2 plays no significant

170 role for direct HDO of acetic acid initially. Yields of ethyl acetate and acetaldehyde remain
171 similar from 60 to 75%wt CeO₂ (CeO₂-Cu/HY(40) to CeO₂-Cu/HY(25)). The observed
172 increase in ethanol yield (Figure 5b) is resulted from a reduced concentration of acetic acid
173 remained in the reaction stream when ketonization is boosted. In line with this view,
174 dehydration to ethylene is also promoted initially. However, at CeO₂ content higher than
175 86%wt (CeO₂-Cu/HY(14)), the overall HDO activity is significantly suppressed. This is seen
176 from drop of propylene, ethyl acetate, ethanol, acetaldehyde and ethylene. According to the
177 results, it is clear that CeO₂ play significant role for initial activation of acetic acid to acetone
178 while CuHY is essentially required for olefin production from both HDO of acetone
179 produced and direct HDO of acetic acid. Hence, the combination of these catalysts would
180 lead to a successful olefin production from acetic acid. With the reaction conditions used in
181 this study, optimum yields of propylene and ethylene can be obtained over CeO₂-Cu/HY(25)
182 with ~55% conversion.

183

184 *Effect of the zeolite framework*

185 It is clear from Figure 6a that CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25) is more active for acetic acid
186 conversion, as compared with CeO₂-Cu/HY(25). This is because a similar level of conversion
187 is obtained from both catalysts, despite that Cu/HZSM-5 possesses lower acidity (by NH₃-
188 TPD, Table 1). However, at the similar level of conversion, acetone yield from CeO₂-

189 Cu/HZSM-5(25), (~34%) is higher than that from CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) (~24%) while propylene
190 yield from both catalysts is not so significantly different (3-5% differences) (Figure 6b). At
191 steady state, one may expect that as higher acetone is left unconverted, yield of propylene
192 should be accordingly lower. Nevertheless, the observed increased yield of acetone without
193 proportional change in propylene yield can be attributed to the fact that ketonization of acetic
194 acid to acetone can also be facilitated by HZSM-5 (250).^{36,37} This is evidenced by a
195 noticeable selectivity to acetone (11.3%) when acetic acid was fed over Cu/HZSM-5 alone
196 (Table 2). Accordingly, the ketonization of acetic acid is additionally promoted as seen by
197 higher yield to CO₂ over CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25). However, the further hydrogenation-
198 dehydration of the acetone produced to form propylene is somewhat limited over this
199 catalyst. This is probably due to the competitive adsorption of acetic acid over the acetone in
200 the zeolite and also the lower Cu dispersion as mentioned earlier (Figure 2).

201 Although CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25), seems to be less effective for KHDO to produce
202 propylene, this catalyst provides high selectivity for direct HDO of acetic acid to ethylene. It
203 can be seen from Figure 6c that, higher yield to ethylene can be obtained from CeO₂-
204 Cu/HZSM-5(25). In the opposite manner, CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) gives mainly ethyl acetate that is
205 an ester of acetic acid and ethanol, derived from direct HDO of acetic acid (Figure 6a). In a
206 support manner, the results in Table 2 provide the same conclusion as above. Over Cu/HY,
207 high selectivity to ethyl acetate is obtained while ethylene selectivity is significantly
208 enhanced over Cu/HZSM-5. This is presumably because esterification can be inhibited by the

209 confinement of the medium pore zeolite; HZSM-5, which in turn, promotes mainly
210 monomolecular dehydration of the ethanol formed to ethylene. It is worth emphasizing again
211 that CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25) provides much lower selectivity to ethyl acetate despite that the
212 same level of conversion is obtained for both catalysts. This means that acetic acid must be
213 converted to acetone from both CeO₂ and zeolite component in the CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25). In
214 a different manner, the ketonization is promoted solely by CeO₂ component in the CeO₂-
215 Cu/HY(25) and the Cu/zeolite component of this catalyst facilitates mainly hydrogenation-
216 dehydration and also the esterification.

217 Although several reaction networks take place over these three component catalysts,
218 both CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25) and CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) possess relatively high stability up to 60
219 and 30 hours on stream, respectively. However, a slightly drop in hydrogenation-dehydration
220 over CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25) can be noticed. This is presumably because ketonization of
221 acetic acid to acetone also takes place over the Cu/HZSM-5 component, as discussed earlier.
222 Hence, some of the acetone formed over the acid site may well undergo aldol condensation to
223 higher MW products deposited in the pores.^{38,39} On the opposite manner, no ketonization of
224 acetic acid take places over Cu/HY, only hydrogenation-dehydration of acetone produced
225 over CeO₂ component, is promoted over the Cu component in CeO₂-Cu/HY(25). Together
226 with a high dispersion of Cu active site in this catalyst, acetone can be readily hydrogenated.
227 Hence, the CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) provides a relatively higher stability for propylene production,
228 as compared to the CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25).

229 *Physical mixed bed vs Sequential bed*

230 To minimize direct HDO of acetic acid taking place over Cu/zeolite, two separated
231 beds containing CeO₂ and Cu/HY catalyst was tested at the same total contact time (343+114
232 g.h.mol⁻¹) as the physical mixed bed (457 g.h.mol⁻¹). It can be seen from Table 3 that the
233 sequential bed gives a relatively higher conversion, as compared to the physical mixed bed
234 system. This is because, in the physical mixed bed, part of acetic acid is in contact with
235 Cu/zeolite that possesses higher surface area, as compared to the CeO₂. Hence, a relatively
236 less fraction of acetic acid is in contact with the CeO₂ and a lower activity can be expected
237 over the physical mixed bed. This is because the ketonization is kinetically second order and
238 highly sensitive to the partial pressure of acetic acid^{25,40}. Accordingly, as the virtual pressure
239 of acetic acid on the catalyst surface is reduced, the rate is markedly decreased. In a support
240 manner, the reaction with the same contact time, but higher acetic acid partial pressure,
241 provides a higher activity (Table 3). This emphasizes the role of acetic acid partial pressure
242 on the ketonization activity, as discussed previously.

243 For the sequential bed, the acetic acid is solely in contact with CeO₂ in the first bed.
244 Accordingly, a higher conversion of acetic acid to acetone can be expected, as also seen from
245 an increase in CO₂ selectivity. The higher ketonization efficiency in the sequential bed also
246 leads to the higher propylene selectivity after the second bed (Cu/HY). This is because the
247 competitive adsorption by acetic acid over Cu/HY is reduced as more acetone is produced
248 from the first bed and less acetic acid is remained in the reaction stream. Accordingly,

249 hydrodeoxygenation of acetone can be readily promoted while the products from direct HDO
250 of acetic acid are noticeably lower than those obtained from the mixed catalyst (i.e. ethyl
251 acetate selectivity decreases from 29.6 to 4.3%). However, the paraffinic hydrocarbons
252 (propane and ethane) were detected from the sequential bed system, probably due to higher
253 H-transfer efficiency at high conversion.

254

255 *Effect of water*

256 Together with acetic acid, water is always present in gas stream from the pyrolysis
257 biomass. Hence, the effect of water on the direct HDO is primarily studied as shown in Table
258 2. It can be seen that the conversion is significantly drop when 50%wt acetic acid (aq) is used
259 as feed. This is due to (i) the effect of feed dilution as mentioned earlier and (ii) an interaction
260 of water with the three component catalyst ($\text{CeO}_2\text{-Cu/HY(25)}$). To verify the later, an
261 experiment with alternate switching between acetic acid and aqueous acetic acid were tested
262 as displayed in Figure 7. It can be seen that the acetic acid conversion drops markedly after
263 the feed is replaced by aqueous acetic acid. Nevertheless, the activity can be fully recovered
264 after water withdrawal. This is clearly due to the competitive adsorption between acetic acid
265 and water on the catalyst (Figure 7a). The presence of water strongly affects the olefin yields
266 including propylene and ethylene. This is not only because the conversion is decreased, but
267 water would also interact preferentially with the zeolites. Hence, hydrogenation-dehydration

268 of the acetone formed and direct HDO of acetic acid are somewhat inhibited. The observed
269 similar yield of acetone after introducing water is attributed to a combination effect between
270 (i) a reduced ketonization (to form acetone) over the CeO_2 component and (ii) a decrease in
271 hydrodeoxygenation (to convert acetone) over the Cu/HY. The presence of water also
272 decreases yield of ethyl acetate, as the esterification is a reversible process. Moreover, the
273 intermediates carbonyl compound i.e. acetaldehyde is increased with a decrease in ethanol, as
274 the hydrogenation activity is suppressed (Figure 7b). These results are in agreement with the
275 direct HDO of acetic acid over Cu/HY as tabulated in Table 2. It is worth noting again that
276 water does not permanently deactivate the catalyst. As seen in Figure 7, the activity and
277 selectivity of all products was recovered after water was removed.

278

279 *Light distilled hydrocarbons from KHDO of acetic acid*

280 In the practical point of view, a separate bed system would provide more advantage in
281 controlling and tuning the catalyst performance. As olefins are obtained from KHDO of
282 acetic acid, adding another sequential bed of HZSM-5 (Si/Al ~ 13) can lead to a production
283 of higher hydrocarbon as shown in Figure 8. With excess of catalyst (the sequential beds of
284 CeO_2 -CuHY-HZSM-5), the hydrocarbon products including light olefins (ethylene,
285 propylene, and butylene), LPG (C2-C4 paraffins), gasoline (C5-C10 olefins), and C7-C9
286 aromatics can be obtained from acetic acid. A slight increase of selectivity to intermediate

287 acetone with the decrease of paraffins production indicates that the deactivation also takes
288 place, presumably over the Cu/HY catalyst. While, the continuous increase in propylene
289 selectivity with a decrease in C5-C10 olefins and C7-C9 aromatics selectivity are evidences
290 for the HZSM-5 deactivation, which is typically observed for acid-catalyzed reaction.
291 Nevertheless, this clearly demonstrates a potential catalyst system/process for conversion of
292 acetic acid to hydrocarbon products.

293 4. Conclusion

294 The acetic acid can be successfully converted to propylene via keto-
295 hydrodeoxygenation (KHDO) over the three component catalyst containing CeO₂ and Cu
296 loaded acid zeolites (CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25) or CeO₂-Cu/HY(25)) at relatively low
297 temperature (573 K) and atmospheric pressure. Ketonization of acetic acid to acetone
298 initially takes place and the acetone formed is subsequently hydrogenation-dehydration to
299 propylene. Direct hydrodeoxygenation of acetic acid is also observed producing ethylene and
300 other C₂-oxygenates. With higher Cu dispersion, CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) provides higher stability
301 and more selective conversion of acetic acid to olefin products, as compared to that over
302 CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5(25). The presence of water suppresses the overall activity, particularly the
303 hydrogenation-dehydration. With a sequential bed system composing of CeO₂, Cu/HY and
304 HZSM-5, the KHDO can be applicable for the conversion of acetic acid, a biomass derived
305 product, to olefins and higher hydrocarbons.

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311 *Keyword:* ketonization; hydrodeoxygenation; Cu/zeolites; acetic acid; olefins

312

313 **Note**

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Selective hydrodeoxygenation of bio-oil derived products: Acetic acid to propylene over hybrid CeO₂-Cu/zeolite catalysts

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Figure 1 Temperature program reduction of 5%Cu/zeolites

Figure 2a TEM image of Cu/HY (i) at 440kX (ii) at 285kX (iii) insertion (1,580 kX) with background/contrast adjustment to display Cu particle well aligned in the HY pore

Figure 2b TEM image of Cu/HZSM-5 (i) at 440 kX (ii) at 97 kX

Figure 3 Effect of temperature to acetic acid KHDO over CeO₂-Cu/HY(25)* at 457 g.h.mol⁻¹,
H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹

a) conversion, propylene, propane, acetone, ethyl acetate, carbon dioxide

b) ethylene, ethane, *n*-butane, C5 olefins, acetaldehyde, ethanol

*number in parenthesis represents %wt of Cu/Zeolite in the three-component catalyst

Figure 4 The reaction network for acetic acid KHDO over CeO₂-Cu/zeolite

Figure 5 Effect of CeO₂-Cu/HY composition (from CeO₂-Cu/HY(40) to CeO₂-Cu/HY(7)) for
acetic acid KHDO at 457 g.h.mol⁻¹ and 573 K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹, 1st hour on stream

a) conversion, acetone, ethyl acetate, carbon dioxide

b) propylene, *i*-propanol, ethylene, acetaldehyde, ethanol

Figure 6 Comparison between CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) (*opened symbol*) and CeO₂-Cu/HZSM(25)
(*closed symbol*) for acetic acid KHDO at 457 g.h.mol⁻¹ and 573 K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹

a) conversion (circle), acetone (triangle), ethyl acetate (rectangular)

b) propylene (circle), acetaldehyde (triangle)

c) carbon dioxide (circle), ethylene (triangle)

Figure 7 Effect of water to acetic acid KHDO over CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) at 457 g.h.mol⁻¹ and 573

K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹

a)conversion, acetone, propylene, ethyl acetate

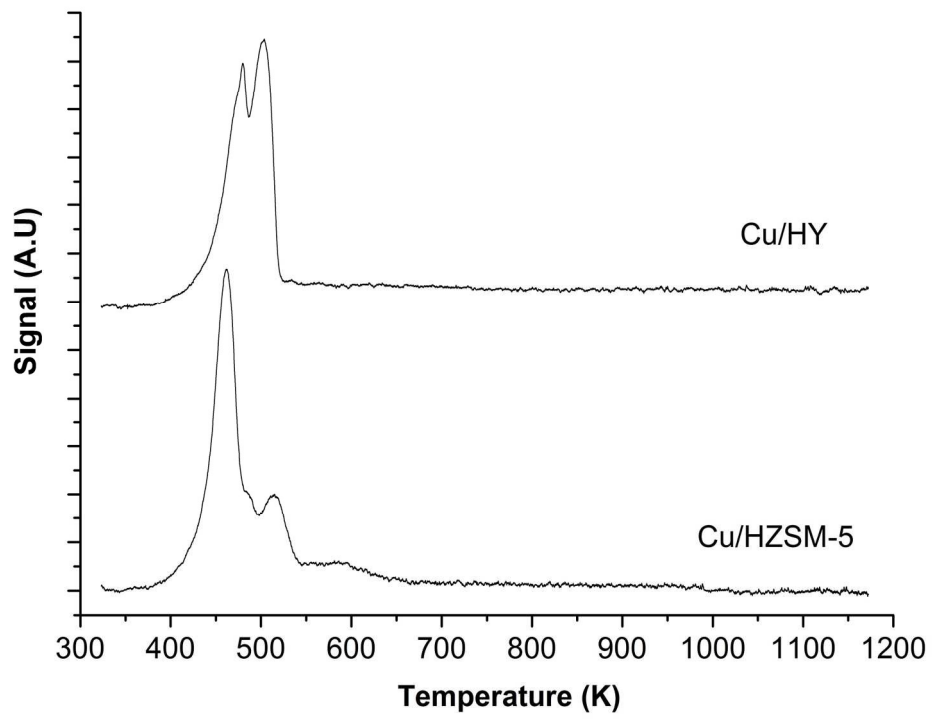
b)ethylene, ethanol, acetaldehyde, carbon dioxide

Figure 8 Light distilled hydrocarbons from acetic acid over sequential beds of CeO₂-Cu/HY -

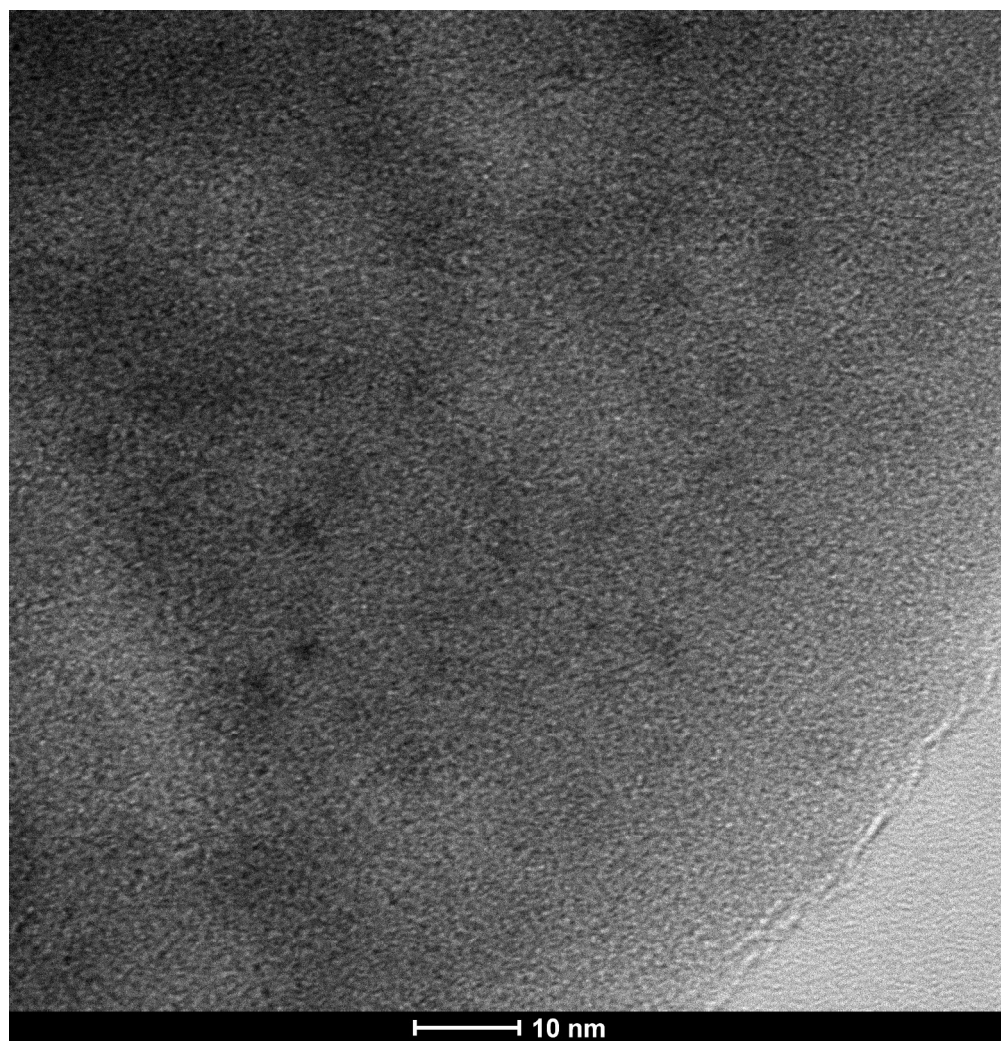
HZSM-5 at 343-114-80 g.h.mol⁻¹ and 573 K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹

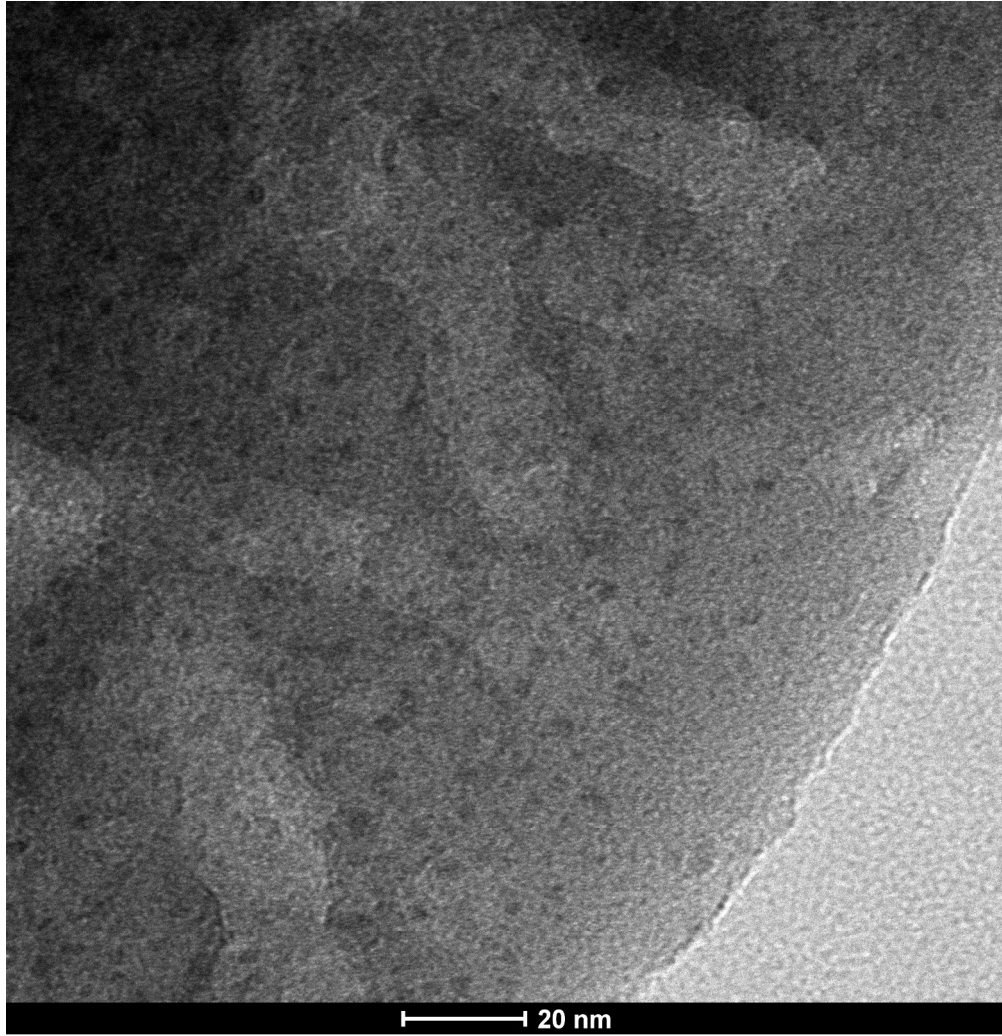
a)conversion, propylene, acetone, ethylene, carbon dioxide

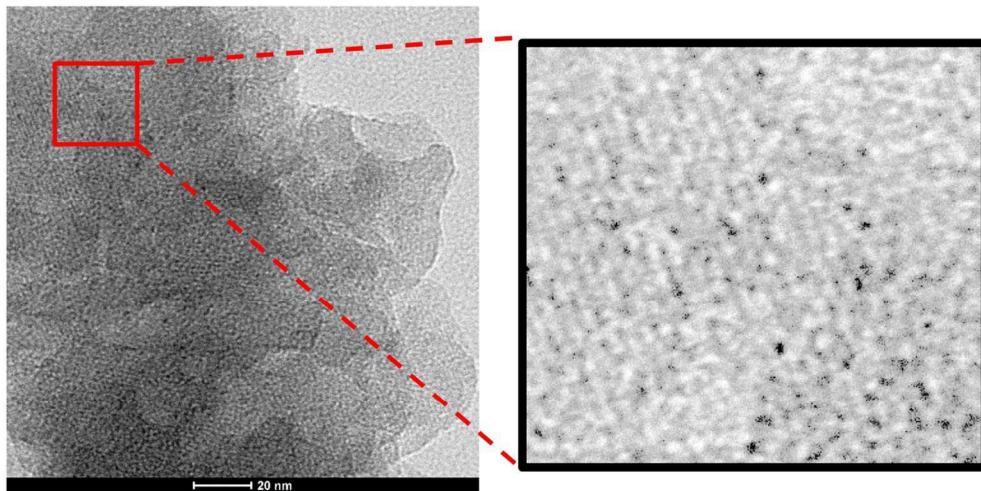
b)butenes, paraffins C2-C4, olefins C5-C10, aromatics C7-C9



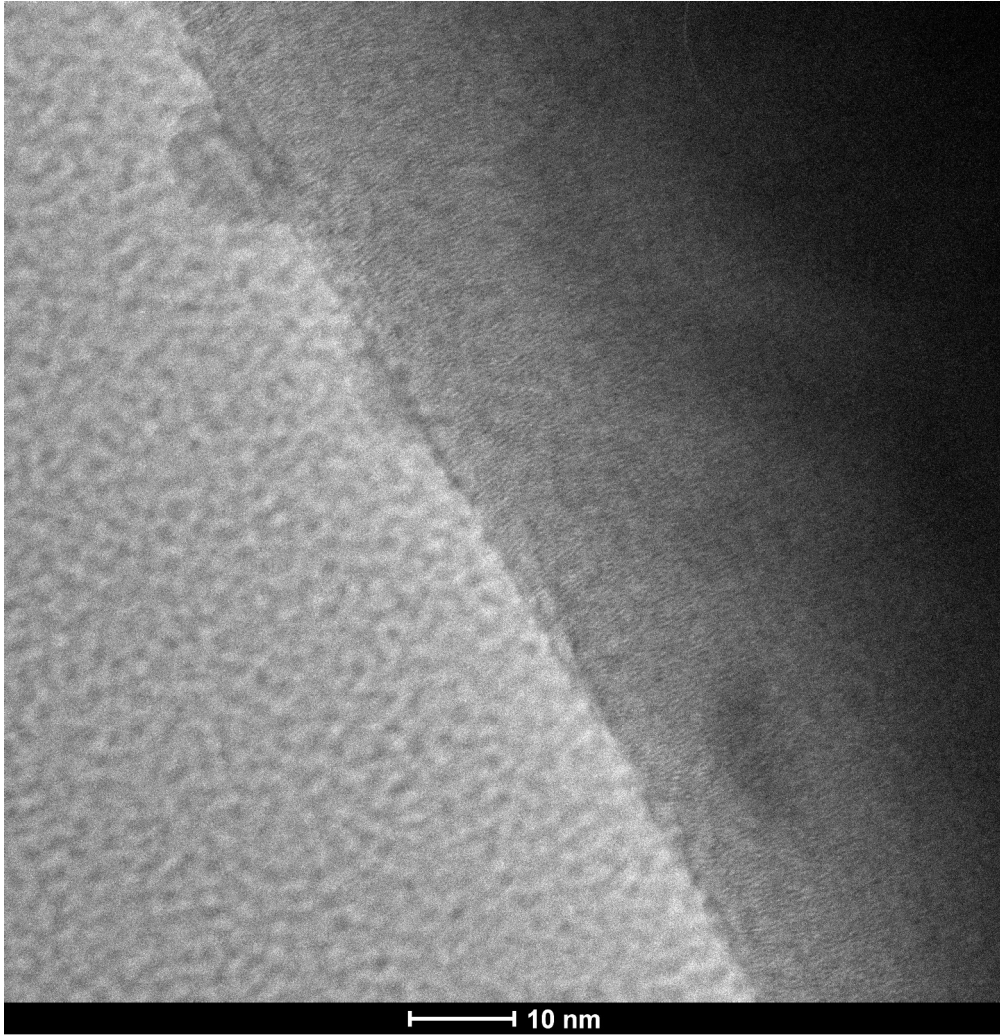
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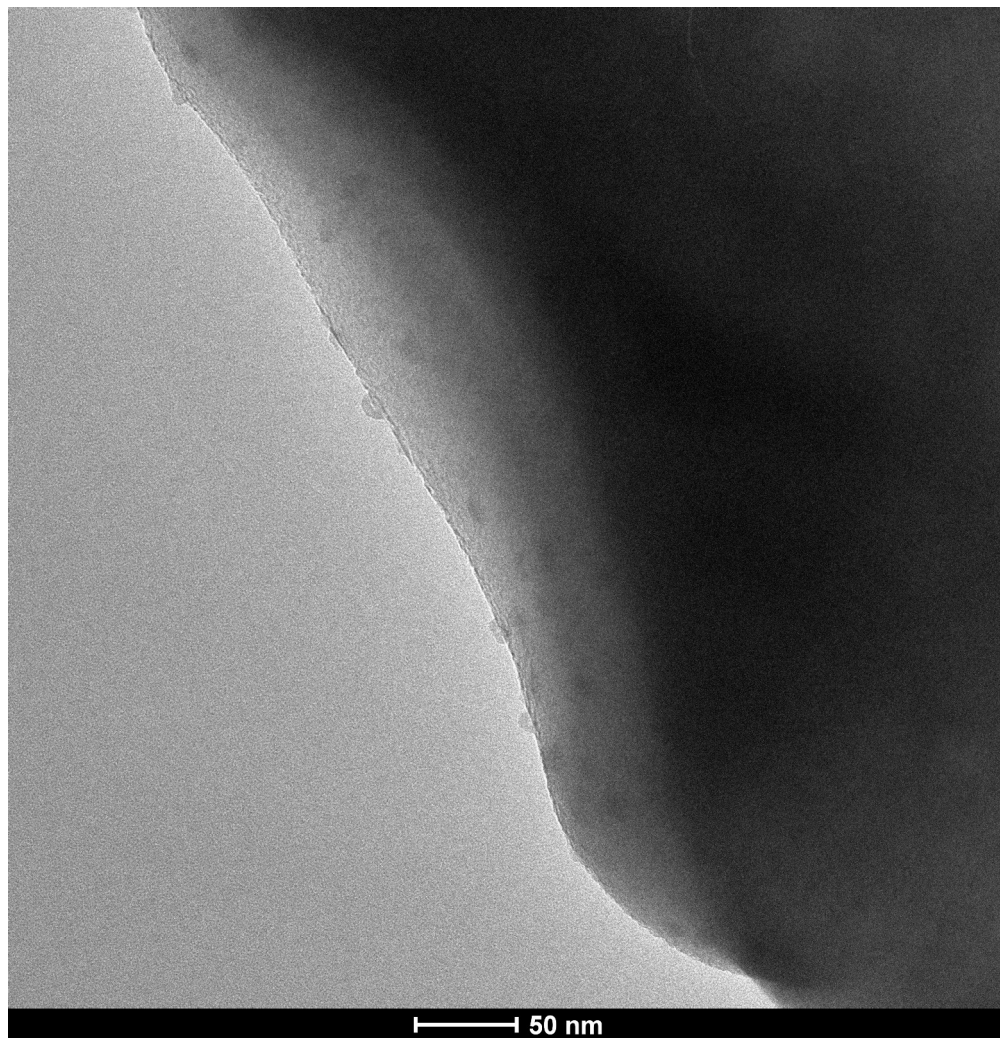


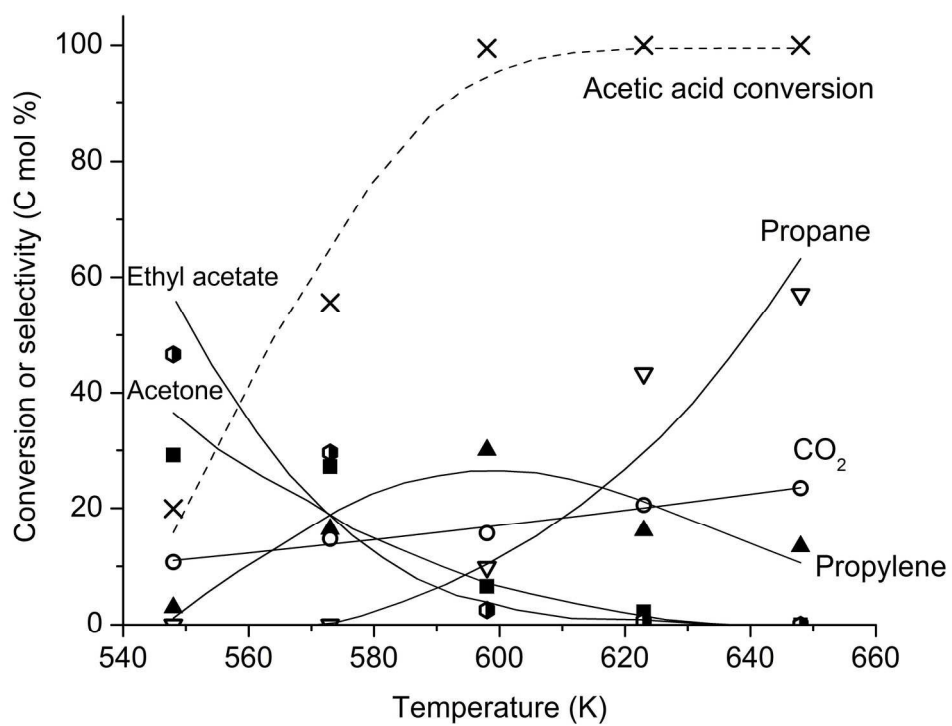




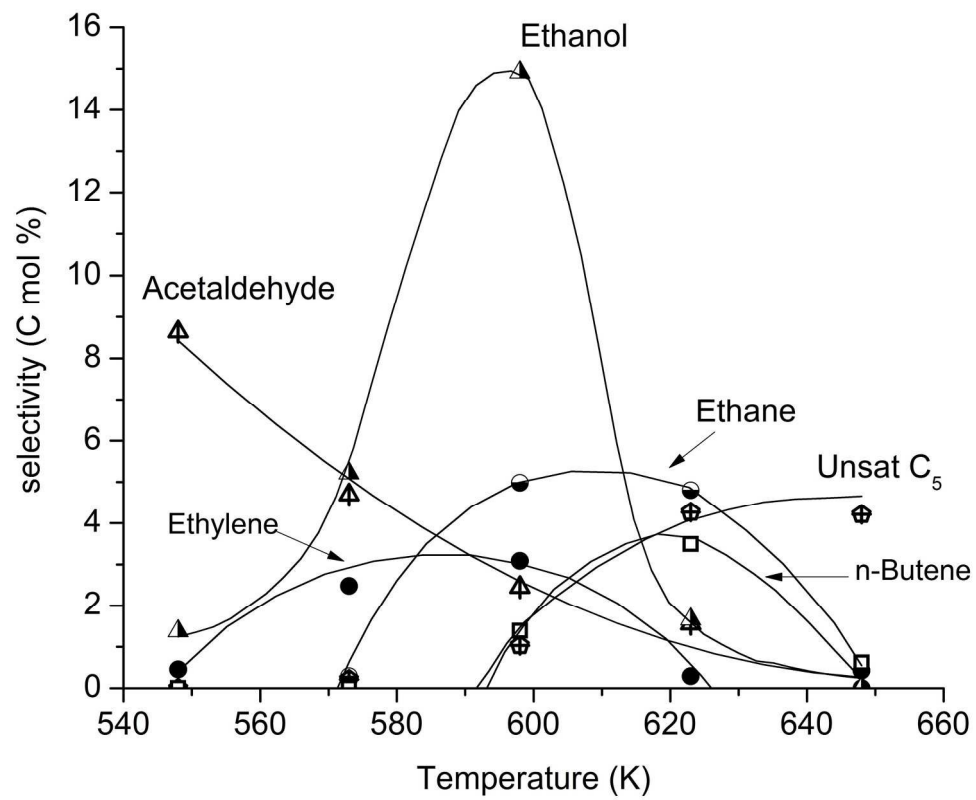
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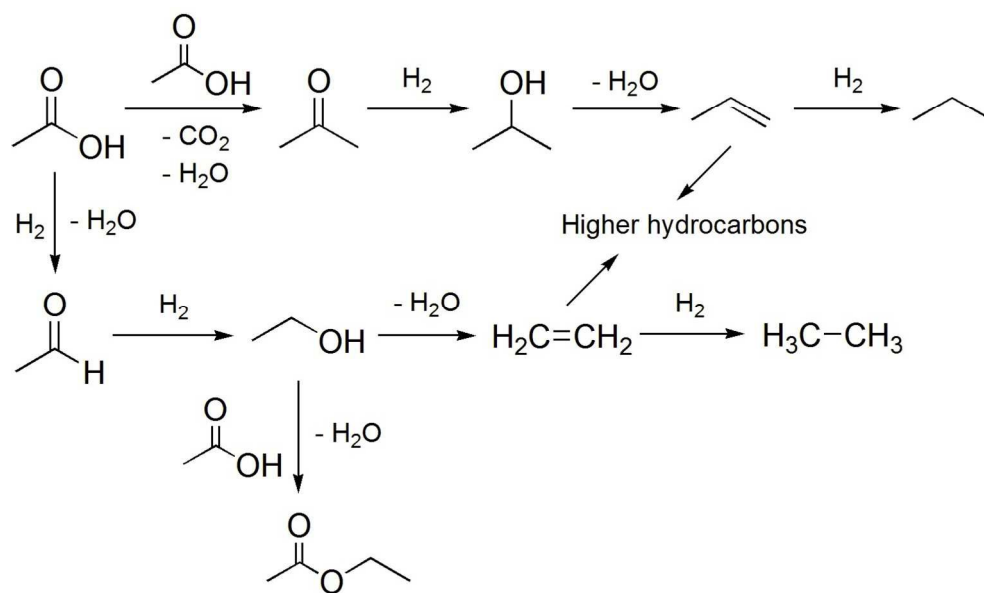




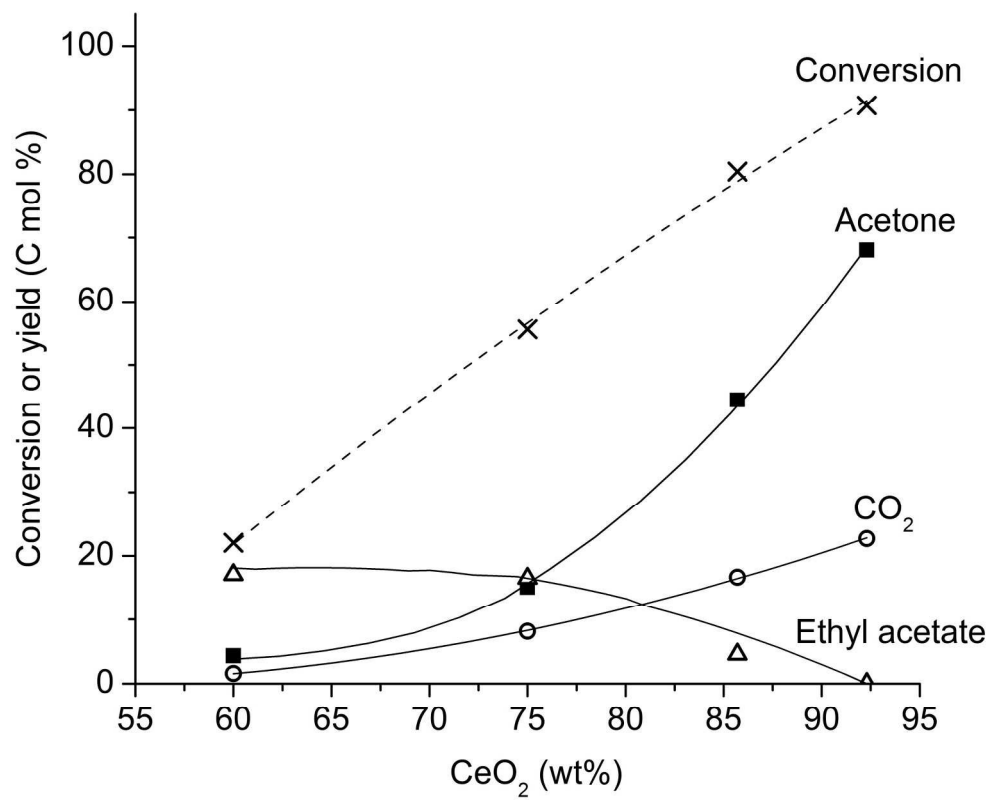
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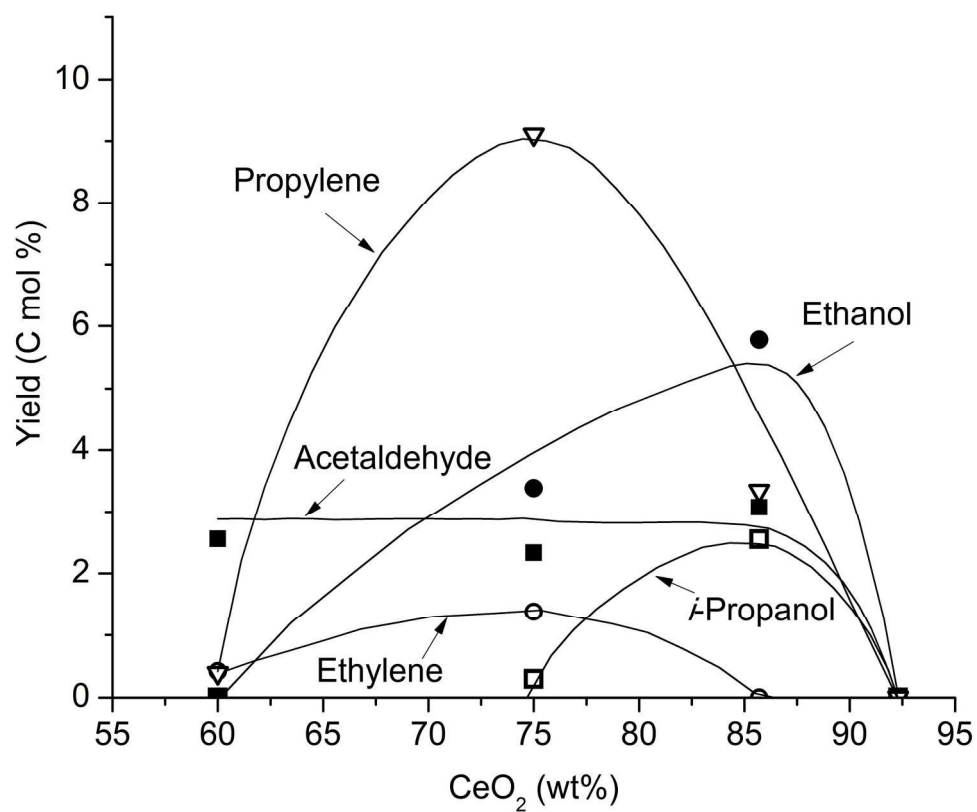
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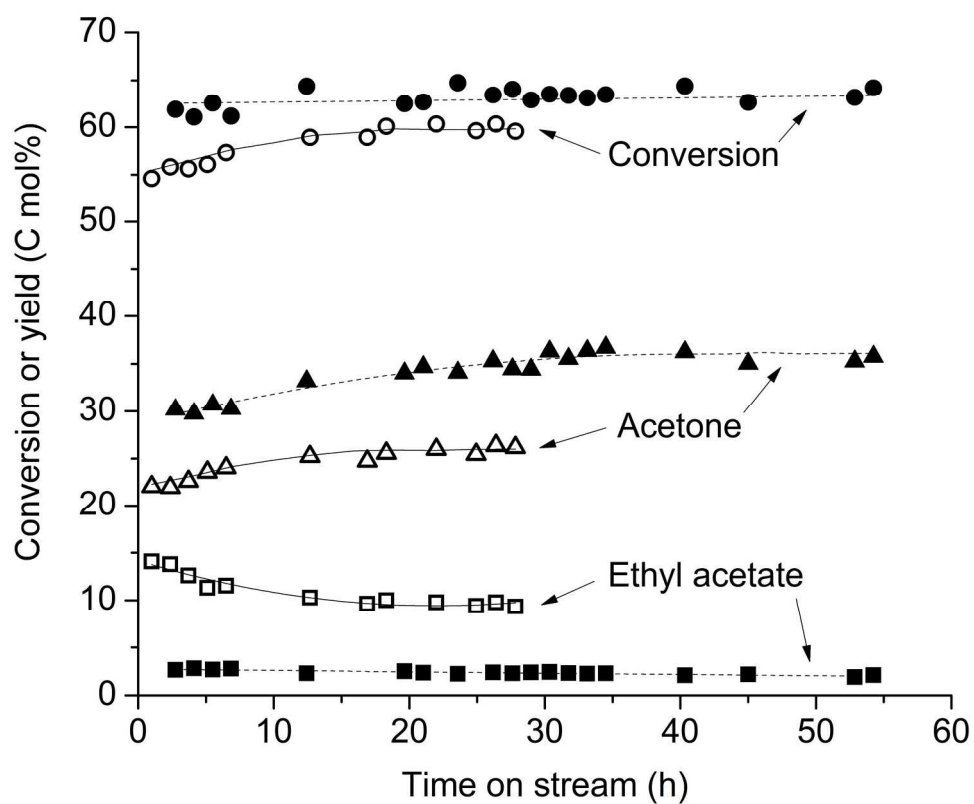
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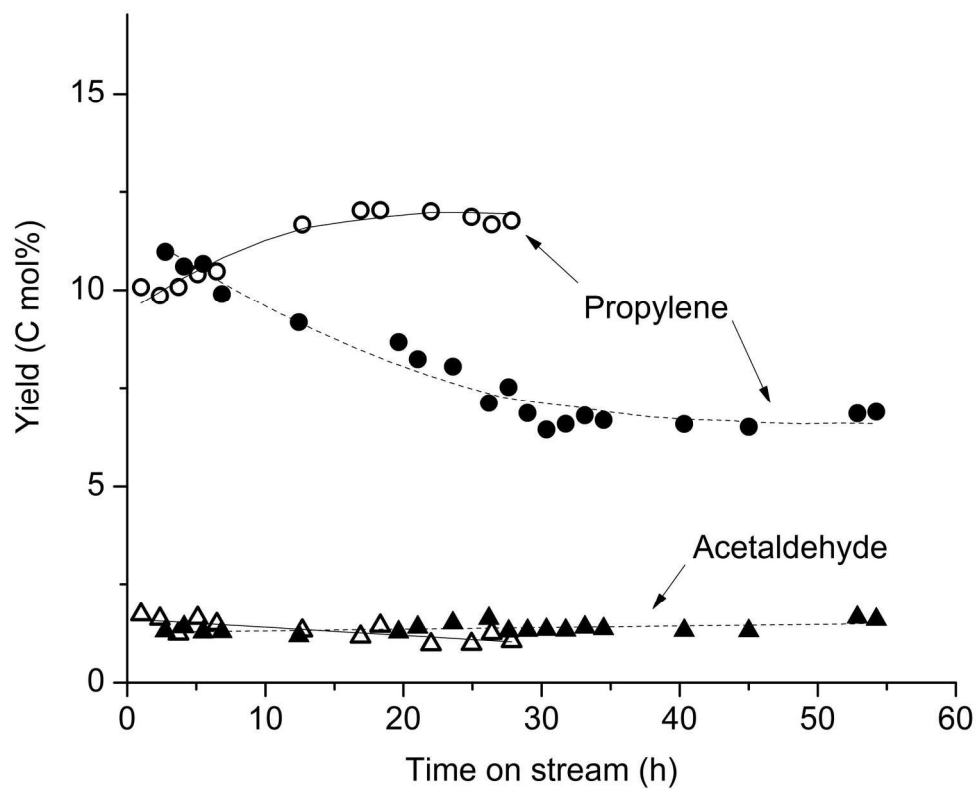
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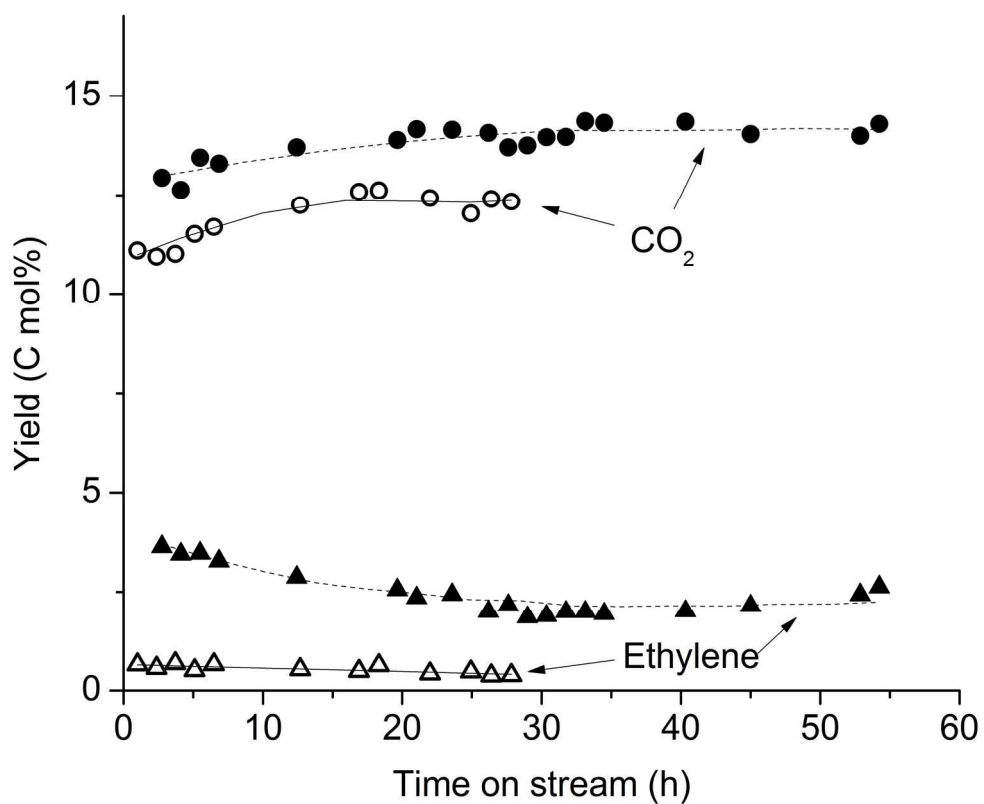
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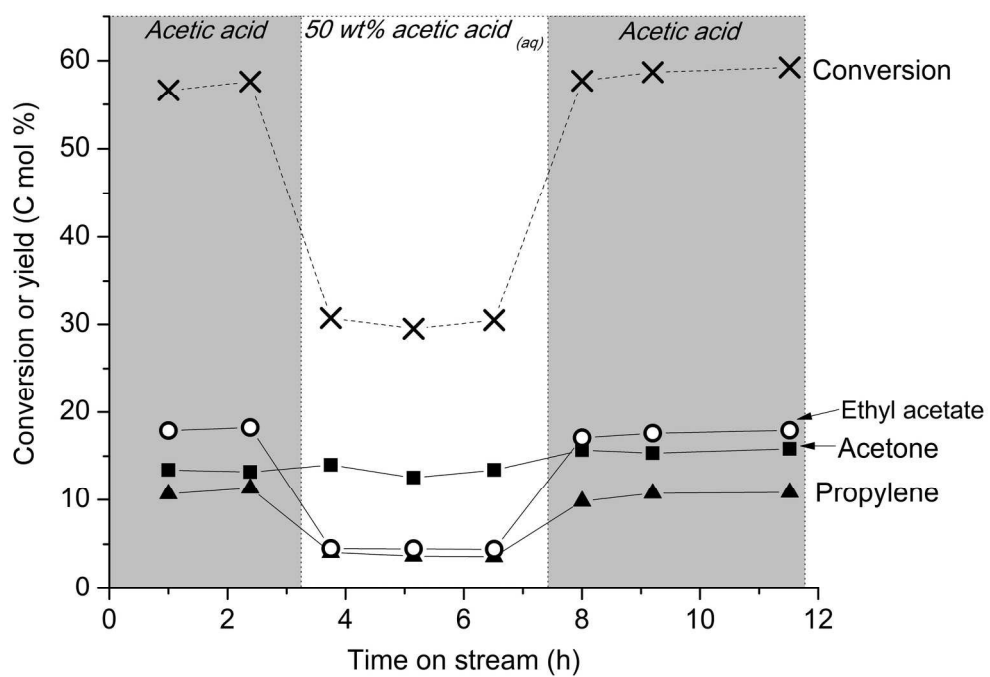
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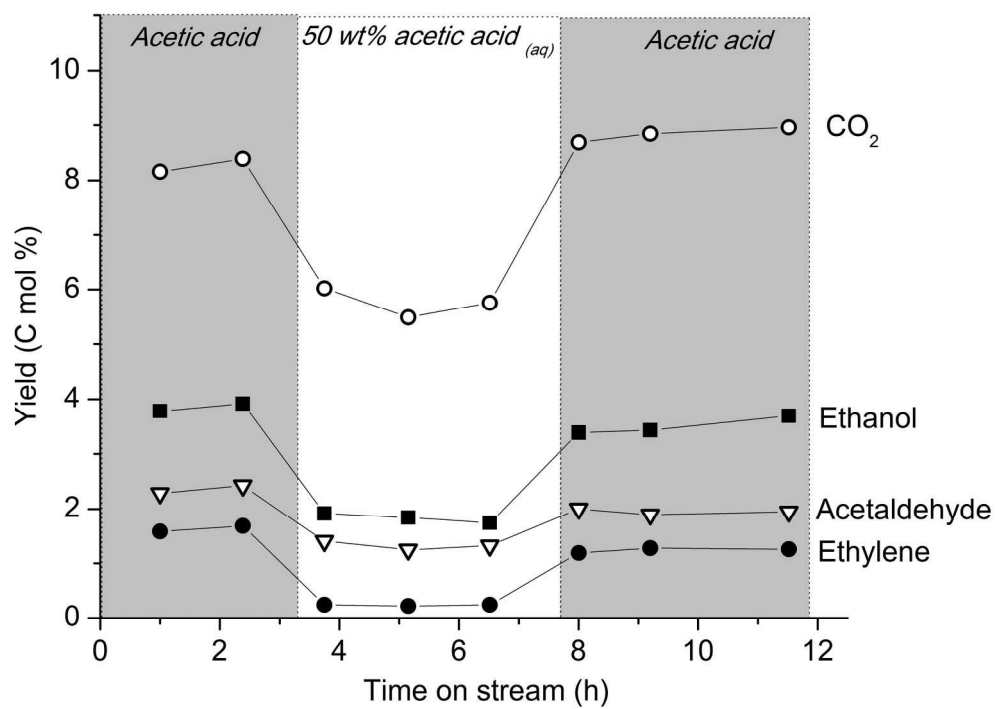
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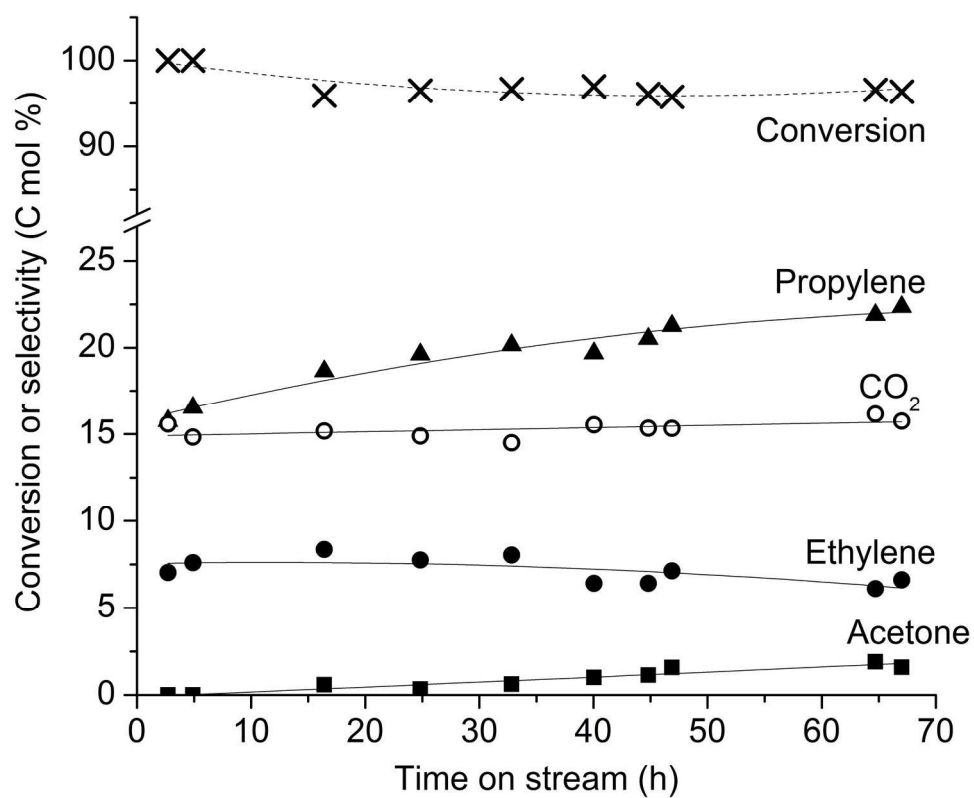
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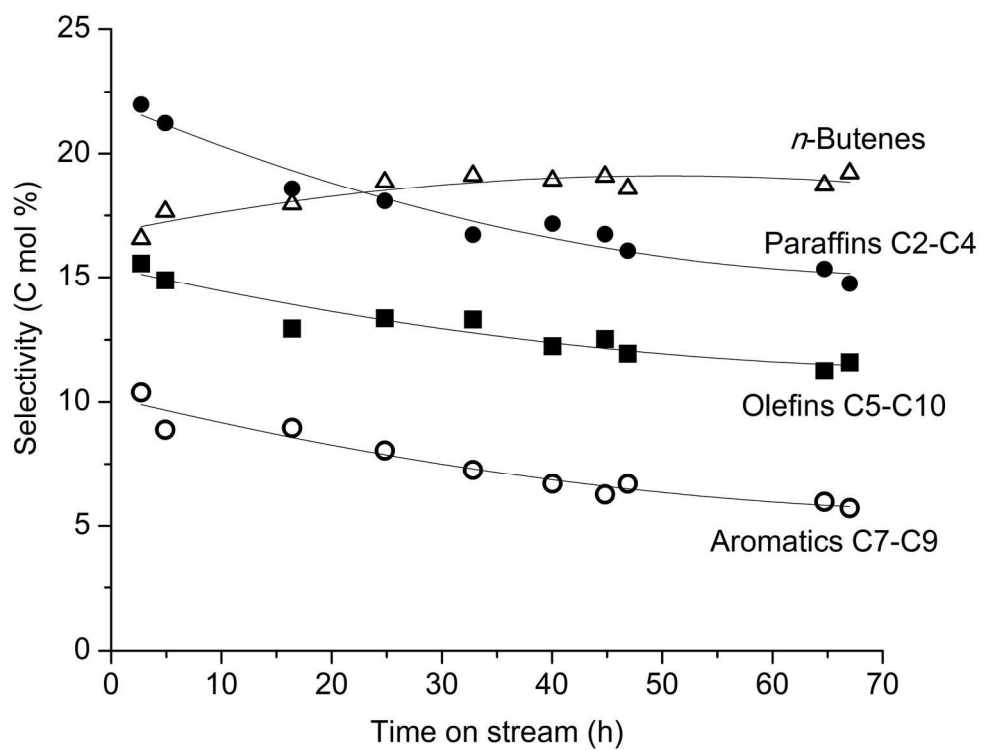
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184x133mm (300 x 300 DPI)



194x157mm (300 x 300 DPI)



187x142mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Selective hydrodeoxygenation of bio-oil derived products: keto-hydrodeoxygenation of Acetic acid to propylene over hybrid CeO_2 -Cu/zeolite catalysts

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Tables

Table 1 % Dispersion, copper area, surface area, and acidity of copper catalysts and supports

Catalyst	Si/Al	%Cu loading	% Dispersion	Cuarea	BET surfacearea	Acidity($\mu\text{mol/g}$)	
		wt%		($\text{m}^2/\text{g}_{\text{Cu}}$)	(m^2/g)	Weak	Strong
CeO₂	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
HY	153	-	-	-	713	54	65
HZSM-5	152	-	-	-	376	56	65
Cu/HY	166	5.1	65	499	568	158	62
Cu/HZSM-5	173	5.2	54	414	361	92	20
CeO₂-Cu/HY*	166	1.3	-	-	150	43	15
CeO₂-Cu/HZSM-5*	173	1.3	-	-	98	26	5

*values estimated from those of the parent catalysts

Table 2 Direct HDO of acetic acid over 5% Cu/zeolites

	Cu/HY	Cu/HZSM-5	
Feed	Acetic acid	50wt% aq. acetic acid	Acetic acid
Conversion(Cmol%)	24.2	2.9	13.9
Selectivity(Cmol%)			
Acetaldehyde	11.7	16.4	24.2
Ethanol	2.8	-	-
Ethyl acetate	81.6	83.6	42.1
Ethylene	3.9	-	15.1
Acetone	-	-	11.3
Propylene	-	-	1.8
CO ₂	-	-	4.3

48 g.h.mol⁻¹ and 573 K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹, 1st hour on stream

Table 3 KHDO of acetic acid over CeO₂-Cu/HY(25) by different systems and acetic acid concentrations

	Mixed catalys t (457g. h.mol ⁻¹)	Seque ntialbe d (343+1 14g.h. mol ⁻¹)	
Acetic acid in H₂(mol%)	1.2	2.3	1.2
Conversion(Cmol%)	55.6	85.4	88.9
Selectivity(Cmol%)			
Acetone	27.2	8.8	1.7
Propylene	16.4	45.9	49.4
Propane	-	2.6	7.8
Acetaldehyde	3.4	2.6	2.4
Ethanol	5.2	5.2	5.9
Ethyl acetate	29.6	7.7	4.3
Ethylene	2.5	3.6	4.1
Ethane	-	1.4	4.4
CO ₂	14.7	19.2	19.6

573 K, H₂ 30 ml.min⁻¹, 1 hour on stream

Selective hydrodeoxygenation of bio-oil derived products: Acetic acid to propylene over hybrid $\text{CeO}_2\text{-Cu}$ /zeolite catalysts

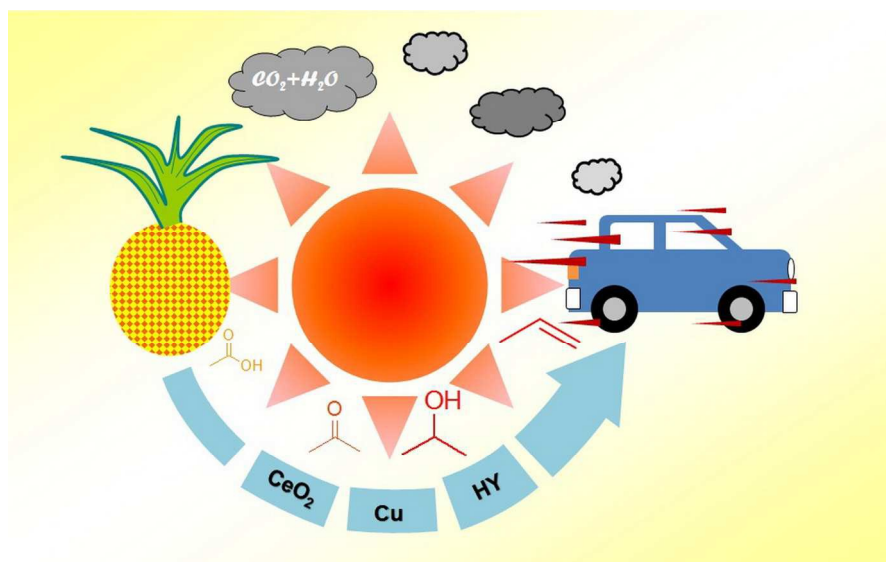
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Propylene and light distillates can be directly obtained from keto-hydrodeoxygenation of acetic acid over a single bed of $\text{CeO}_2\text{-Cu}$ /zeolite catalyst.