

Catalysis for renewable resources: bioalcohol conversion

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Introduction

- Dehydration of bioalcohols on zeolites
 - First principles kinetic model development
 - Experimental validation
 - Reaction path analysis
 - Effect of zeolite
 - Industrial reactor scale
- Conclusions

Bioalcohols to hydrocarbons as a green route



First-principles based multiscale modeling



From molecular to industrial reactor scale



	lab scale	industrial
Catalyst mass (kg)	$1 - 10 \times 10^{-4}$	$1 - 10 \times 10^{3}$
L (m)	0.890	1 – 10
d _r (m)	0.011	0.1 – 2
T ⁰ (°C)	170 – 250	250 - 500
p _{EtOH,0} (bar)	0.08 - 0.30	5 - 30
F _{EtOH,0}	1 − 10 ×10 ⁻⁴ g/s	10 – 1000 kg/s

Acid catalyzed ethanol conversion



 $p_{EtOH,0}$ = 20 kPa : W/F_{EtOH,0} = 8 kg s mol⁻¹

Scope of this presentation: dehydration



Nudged Elastic Band calculation



Dispersion – corrected pbcDFT-D



$$E_{DFT-D} = E_{DFT} + E_D$$



IAMkin

$$E_{D} = -\frac{s_{6}}{2} \sum_{L} \sum_{i, j \in L=0} \frac{\sqrt{c_{6}^{i} c_{6}^{j}}}{\left|r_{ij} - L\right|^{6}} f_{D}\left(\left|r_{ij} - L\right|\right)$$

□ Plane wave basis set & Projector Augmented Wave method

GGA PBE-D2 implementation for zeolites ^{1,2}.

□ Brillouin zone sampling restricted to the *Γ point*.

□ Convergence criteria: $E_{cutoff} = 600 \text{ eV}$, $\Delta E_{SCF} = 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$, Max force = 0.02 eV/Å

Dimer method for transition state location ³

□ Statistical thermodynamics & PHVA – MBH⁴

1 Grimme J. Comput. Chem. 27 (2006) 1787 3 Henkelman et al. J. Chem. Phys. 111 (1999) 7010

2 **Kresse** et al. *J. Phys. Rev. B* **48** (1993) 13115 4 **De Moor** et al. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **7** (2011) 1090



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Zeolite-catalyzed alcohol dehydration



- Influence on yields of
 reaction conditions?
 zeolite framework?
- Need to know
 reaction mechanism
 thermo & kinetics
 - H-FAU H-ZSM-5 H-MOR H-ZSM-22



Conversion (%)





Alcohol adsorption in zeolites

Ethanol adsorption in H-ZSM-5



- van der Waals interactions
- H-bonding
- electrostatic interactions
 - depend on:
 - adsorbate structure
 - zeolite structure

H-bonding and protonation



Alcohol adsorption & reaction in zeolites



Linear alcohol chemisorption



Ethanol to Ethene: H-ZSM-5



Ethanol to Ethene: H-ZSM-5



Ethanol to Diethyl ether: H-ZSM-5



Ethanol to Diethyl ether: H-ZSM-5



Diethyl ether to Ethene:H-ZSM-5



Diethyl ether to Ethene: H-ZSM-5



Reaction mechanism ethanol dehydration



M.-F. Reyniers & G.B. Marin, Annu. Rev. Chem. Biomol. Eng. 5 (2014) 563

MARI's and Rate-Determining Steps

		Α	B	С
(1)	$EtOH(g) + * \leftrightarrow M1$	1	1	0
(2)	M1 ↔ M2	1	0	0
(3)	M2 \leftrightarrow Ethoxy + H ₂ O _(g)	1	0	0
(4)	Ethoxy ↔ Ethene*	1	0	0
(5)	Ethene* ↔ Ethene _(g) + *	1	0	1
(6)	$M1 + EtOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow D1$	0	1	0
(7)	D1 ↔ D2	0	1	0
(8)	$D2 \leftrightarrow DEE^* + H_2O_{(g)}$	0	1	0
(9)	$DEE^* \leftrightarrow DEE_{(g)} + *$	0	1	-1
(10)	DEE* ↔ C1	0	0	1
(11)	C1 \leftrightarrow Ethene*+ EtOH _(g)	0	0	1
Path A	$EtOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow Ethene_{(g)} + H_2O_{(g)}$			
Path B	$EtOH_{(g)}+EtOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow DEE_{(g)} + H_2O_{(g)}$			
Path C	$DEE_{(g)} \leftrightarrow Ethene_{(g)} + EtOH_{(g)}$			24



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Butanol to Butene: H-ZSM-5



Butanol to Dibutyl ether: H-ZSM-5



Dibutyl ether to Butene:H-ZSM-5

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Reaction mechanism butanol dehydration



MARI's and Rate-Determining Steps

		А	В	С
(1)	$BuOH(g) + * \leftrightarrow M1$	1	1	0
(2)	M1 ↔ M2	1	0	0
(3)	M2↔ Butene*+ $H_2O_{(g)}$	1	0	0
(4)	$Butene^* \leftrightarrow Butene_{(g)} + *$	1	0	1
(5)	M1 + $BuOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow D1$	0	1	0
(6)	D1 ↔ D2	0	1	0
(7)	$D2 \leftrightarrow DBE^* + H_2O_{(g)}$	0	1	0
(8)	$DBE^* \leftrightarrow DBE_{(g)} + *$	0	1	-1
(9)	DBE* ↔ C1	0	0	1
(10)	C1 \leftrightarrow Butene*+ BuOH _(g)	0	0	1
Path A	$BuOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow Butene_{(g)} + H_2O_{(g)}$			
Path B	$BuOH_{(g)}+BuOH_{(g)} \leftrightarrow DBE_{(g)}+H_2O_{(g)}$			
Path C	Path C $DBE_{(g)} \leftrightarrow Butene_{(g)} + BuOH_{(g)}$			30

Effect of chain length on kinetics



	Surface species
M1	Chemisorbed alcohol monomer
ZeOR	Alkoxide (ethoxy, butoxide)
R=	Adsorbed alkene (ethene*/butene*)
D1	Chemisorbed alcohol dimer
Ether*	Adsorbed Ether (DEE/DBE)

Increase in alcohol chain length has marginal influence on activation enthalpy but leads to significant increase in activation entropy

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Experimental procedures



	HZSM-5	
Prope	erties	
Si/Al	15	40
c _{H+} (mol kg ⁻¹)	0.77	0.36
BET (10 ³ m ² kg ⁻¹)	430	436
V _{micro} (10 ⁻⁵ m ³ kg ⁻¹)	1.1	1.1

Experimental conditions		
Temperature (K)	453 – 523	
p _{EtOH,in} (kPa)	8 - 50	
W/F _{EtOH,in} (kg s mol ⁻¹)	1.5 – 17.0	

Reactor equations

Reactor continuity equations for each gas-phase component i with PSSA for the surface species k:

$$R_{k} = \sum_{j} v_{jk} r_{j} = 0$$

with *e*. *g*. $r_{j} = k_{j} \theta_{k} p_{i}$

$$\theta_{H^+} + \sum_k \theta_k = 1$$

$$\frac{dF_i}{dW} = C_t R_i = C_t \sum_j v_{ji} r_j$$

$$F_i = F_{i,0} \text{ at } W = 0$$

- F_i molar flow rate of component *i* (mol s⁻¹)
- W catalyst mass (kg)
- C_t acid site concentration (mol H⁺ kg⁻¹)
- R_i net production frequency of component i (molecules site⁻¹ s⁻¹ = mol mol_H+⁻¹ s⁻¹)
- r_j turnover frequency of elementary step j
 - (molecules site⁻¹ s⁻¹ = mol mol_H+⁻¹ s⁻¹)
- k_j rate coefficient of elementary step j
- θ coverage of surface species k
- p_i partial pressure of gas phase component *i*
- v_{ji} stoichiometric coefficient of component *i* in the elementary step *j*

Experimental validation



Parity diagrams


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Comparison with literature data

H-ZSM-5 T : 400 K $P_{BuOH,0}$: 0.7 kPa P total : 101 kPa Site time: 37 mol_{H+} s mol⁻¹

			This work	Experimental #
1	TOF for production of Butene	(mol /mol H+ /s)	3.5 10 ⁻⁵	4.1 10 ⁻⁵
2	TOF for production of DBE	(mol /mol H+ /s)	2.3 10-4	5.1 10-4
3	Conversion	(mol %)	2.1	~ 2

[#] Experimental result of Makarova et al., J. Catal. 149 (1994) 36

Experimental validation



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 - Reaction path analysis: Ethanol dehydration

Reaction path analysis



T: 500 K, P_{EtOH,0}: 100 kPa







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Reaction path analysis



Effect of temperature





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Effect of partial pressure of water



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Zeolite Frameworks



Si/AI = 95

Effect of zeolite: Path A Ethanol to Ethene

ZeOH	$\Delta G^{\ddagger} = G_{TS2} - G_{M1} (kJ/mol)$
H-FAU	146
H-MOR	137
H-ZSM-5	124
H-ZSM-22	119



10-MR zeolites more reactive than 12-MR zeolites



Effect of zeolite: B Ethanol to Diethyl ether:

ZeOH	$\Delta G^{\ddagger} = G_{TS8} - G_{D1} (kJ/mol)$		105	TCO
H-FAU	138		125 -	
H-MOR	142		100 -	
H-ZSM-5	129			
H-ZSM-22	113		75 -	
$ \begin{array}{c} H_5C_2 \\ 0 \\ H \\ H \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ Al \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ Al \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ $	$\begin{array}{c} H \\ O \\ H \\$	ΔG _{500K} (kJ/mol)	50 - 25 - 0 - -25 -	ΔG [‡] ZeOH +2EtOH _(g)
10-MR :	zeolites more reactive		-50 -	
tha	n 12-MR zeolites		-75 -	D1

TS stabilization: vdW & hydrogen bonds



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TS 8 stabilization: electrostatic interactions



Effect of zeolite: C Diethyl ether to Ethene



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Zeolite Frameworks









Si/AI = 35

Butanol dehydration: Effect of Zeolite



Effect of zeolite on conversion: paths A and B

Zaalita	Frame work	Pore	$\Delta G^{\ddagger} = G_{TS3} - G_{M1}$
Zeonte	structure	dimension	(kJ/mol)
H-FER	2D (10 and 8 MR)	4.2 x 5.4 [001], 3.5 x 4.8[010]	115
H-ZSM-5	3D (10 MR)	5.1 x 5.5 [100], 5.3 x 5.6 [010]	119
H-ZSM-22	1D (10 MR)	4.6 x 5.7 [001]	122



Effect of zeolite: Path A Butanol to Butene



Effect of zeolite: Path B Butanol to Ether



Effect of zeolite: Path C Dibutyl ether to Butene



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From lab to industrial reactor



Equilibrium composition



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Industrial dehydration reactor

bio-ethanol (aqueous ethanol solution)



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Reactor model equations

Continuity equations for surface species k and gas-phase components i :

$$R_k = \sum_j v_{jk} r_j = 0$$

with $e.g.r_j = k_j \theta_k p_i$

$$\theta_{H^{+}} + \sum_{k} \theta_{k} = 1$$

$$\frac{dF_{i}}{dW} = C_{t}R_{i} = C_{t}\sum_{j} v_{ji}r_{j}$$
Figure 4 and 5 an

Energy equation:

$$Gc_p \frac{dT}{dW} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \Delta H_{f,i} R_i C_t$$
$$T = T^0 \text{ at } W = 0$$

- F_i molar flow rate of component *i* (mol s⁻¹)
- W catalyst mass (kg)
- C_t acid site concentration (mol H⁺ kg⁻¹)
- R_i net production frequency of component i (molecules site⁻¹ s⁻¹ = mol mol_H+⁻¹ s⁻¹)
- r_j turnover frequency of elementary step j (molecules site⁻¹ s⁻¹ = mol mol_H+⁻¹ s⁻¹)
- k_i rate constant of elementary step j
- θ coverage of surface species k
- p_i partial pressure of gas phase component *i*
- v_{jk} stoichiometric coefficient of component k in the elementary step j
- T temperature (K)
- c_p specific capacity (J kg⁻¹ K⁻¹)
- G mass flow rate (kgs⁻¹)
- $\Delta H_{f,i}$ enthalpy of formation of component *i* (J mol⁻¹)

Industrial multibed adiabatic operation



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Conclusions

- Detailed reaction network can be constructed with limited a priory assumptions
- Kinetic parameters can be calculated ab initio with chemical accuracy i.e. allowing to describe conversion and selectivity at relevant conditions
- Interaction of functional groups with catalyst can be described accurately as well as the effect of catalyst framework

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Glossary

- *Electrostatic potential:* evaluated from the interaction between a negative unit charge and the local charge density. This factor is critical in stabilizing positively charged adsorbed complexes and especially transition states in the zeolite.
- *Elementary step:* a reaction in which reactants are transformed into products without passing through another reaction intermediate
- Transition state theory for reaction rate coefficients:

$$k = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G^{\ddagger}}{k_B T}\right) = \frac{k_B T}{h} \frac{q^{\ddagger}}{q} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta E_0^{\ddagger}}{k_B T}\right)$$

where $q = q_{vib}$ immobile surface species

(apart from Ethene* where a 2D translation and 1D rotation is assumed)

 E1 reaction (elimination, unimolecular) – In this reaction, the rate determining step involves a heterolytic cleavage of the bond between the leaving group and the carbon atom leading to formation of a carbenium ion. The second step involves deprotonation of an adjacent hydrogen by a base.

B--base LG-Leaving group

Glossary

E2 reaction(elimination, bimolecular) –E2 reaction is a concerted reaction involving a synchronous deprotonation and departure of the leaving group. E2-type elimination requires the atoms or groups involved in the reaction to be in the same plane with a torsional angle θ = 180°, i.e. antiperiplanar orientation of the leaving group (LG) and the β-hydrogen (hence also called as anti-elimination).

• **Syn elimination** – This is a concerted elimination mechanism, where the leaving group (LG) and the hydrogen atom are in the same plane and have a syn coplanar orientation (torsional angle $\theta \approx 0^\circ$; eclipsed or near eclipsed conformation)



- **SN1 (substitution, unimolecular)** –In this reaction, the rate determining step involves a heterolytic cleavage of the bond between the leaving group and the carbon atom leading to formation of a carbenium ion which undergoes a substitution reaction with the nucleophile.
- SN2 (substitution, bimolecular) is a concerted reaction involving simultaneous bond breaking (between the carbon atom and leaving group) and bond formation(between carbon atom and the attacking nucleophile). The transition state for a SN2 type substitution involves a penta-coordinated carbon atom with a trigonal bipyramidal geometry with the incoming nucleophile and the leaving group occupying the axial positions (bond angle Nu--C--LG ≈ 180°)

Zeolite topologies



E1 like













E2 (anti elimination)





Syn elimination





Syn elimination





<u>TS6</u>



<u>TS6</u>



1

Η

Ethoxy

K







1

Η

Ethoxy

K

 \mathbf{O}















Ethanol-assisted syn-elimination





Syn elimination





E1 like

















E2 (anti elimination)









1-butene

Syn elimination









Syn elimination

α

C2

_0











1-butoxide



 $\xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} C_2H_5\\H_2C}{\overset{\beta}{=}} \\ \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} 0\\ \beta\\ 0\\ \end{array}} \\ \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} 0\\ \beta\\ \end{array}} \\ \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} 0\\ \beta\\ \end{array}} \\ \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} 0\\ \end{array}}$

1-butene*





1-butoxide



 $\xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} C_{2}H_{5} \\ H_{2}C = \int \\ H^{\beta} \\ \downarrow O^{b} \\ \downarrow O^{b} \\ \downarrow O^{a} \\ \end{pmatrix} } \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} O^{a} \\ O^{a} \\ \downarrow \\ \end{pmatrix} }$

1-butene*





1-butoxide + 1-butanol (g)



 $\xrightarrow{ \begin{array}{c} C_{2}H_{5} \\ H_{9}C_{4} \\ O_{+}^{2} \\ H^{1} \\ O_{-}^{b} \\ H^{1} \\ O_{-}^{b} \\ O_{-}^{a} \\ \end{array} } \xrightarrow{ \begin{array}{c} C_{2}H_{5} \\ H^{\beta} \\ H^{\beta} \\ H^{\beta} \\ H^{\beta} \\ \end{array} }$

DBE*





1-butoxide + 1-butanol (g)



 $H_{9}C_{4} \xrightarrow{C_{2}H_{5}}_{H^{9}C_{4}} H^{\beta}$

DBE*









butanol-assisted syn-elimination









Syn elimination





<u>TS11</u>



H₉C⊿







DBE*