

Where are we with green biorefineries?



Rafal Lukasik

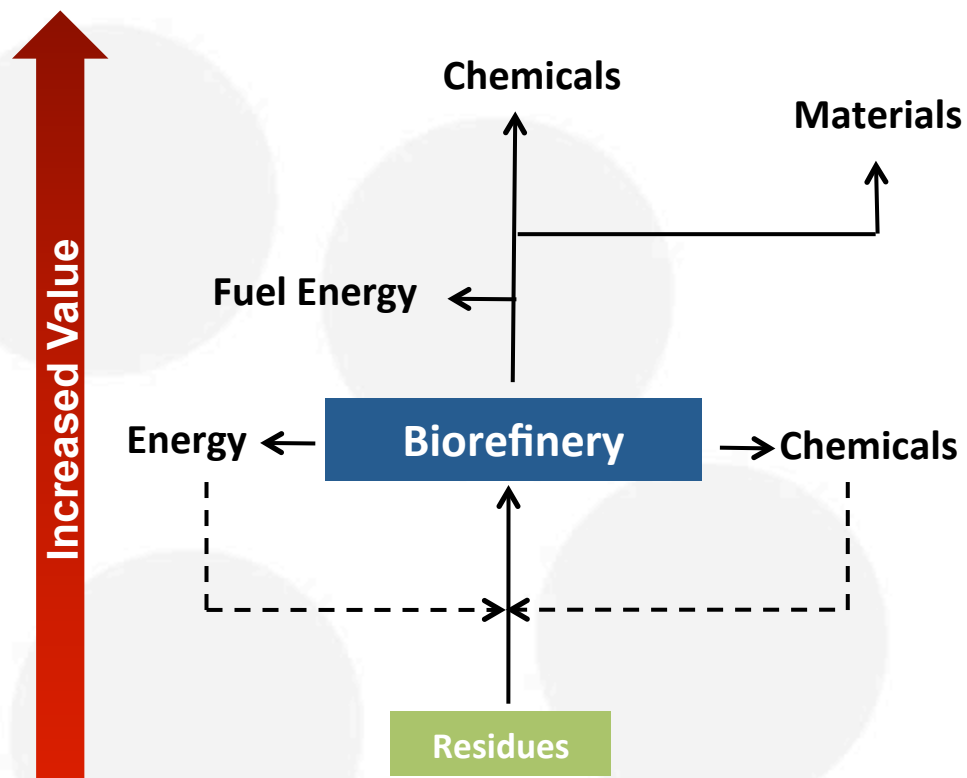
National Laboratory of Energy and Geology,
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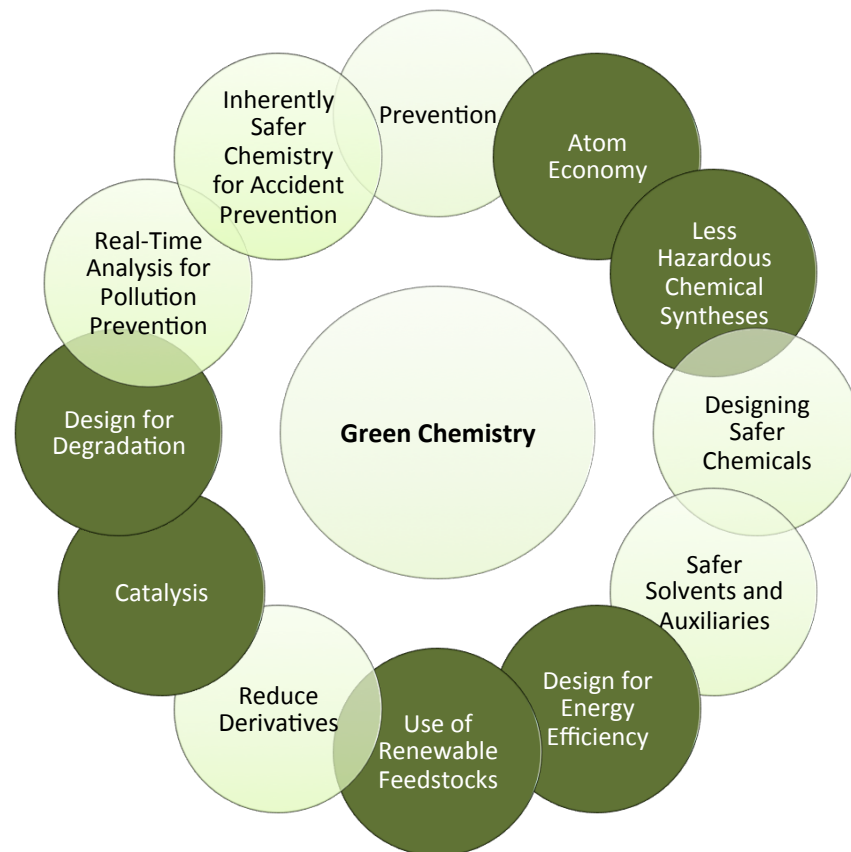
GOVERNO DE
PORTUGAL

MINISTÉRIO DO AMBIENTE,
ORDENAMENTO DO TERRITÓRIO E ENERGIA

Biorefinery and the role of Green Chemistry



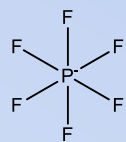
SIADÉB www.siaddeb.org (2014)



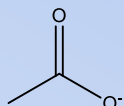
P.T. Anastas and J.C. Warner, Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice, Oxford University Press, New York, 1998.

What ionic liquids are?

Anions

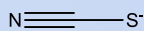


hexafluorophosphate



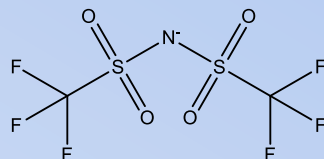
acetate

Cl⁻
chloride

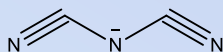


thiocyanate

I⁻
iodide



bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)amide

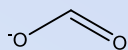


dicyanamide

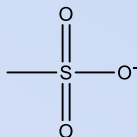
Br⁻
bromide



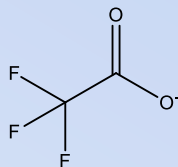
trifluoromethanesulfonate



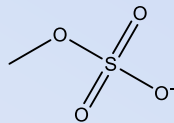
formate



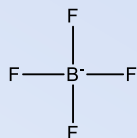
methanesulfonate



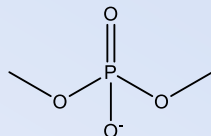
trifluoroacetate



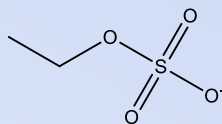
methylsulfate



tetrafluoroborate

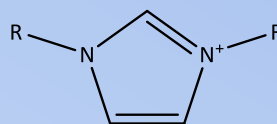


dimethylphosphate

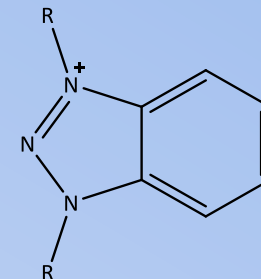


ethylsulfate

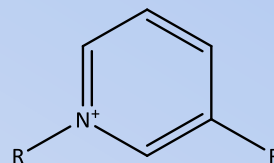
Cations



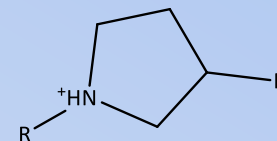
1-alkyl(1)-3-alkyl(2)-imidazolium



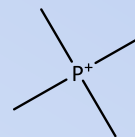
1-alkyl(1)-3-alkyl(2)-benzotriazolium



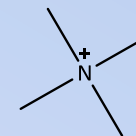
1-alkyl(1)-3-alkyl(2)-pyridinium



1-alkyl(1)-3-alkyl(2)-pyrrolidinium



tetraalkylphosphonium



tetraalkylammonium

Properties of ILs

- High polarity
- Negligible volatility
- Thermal stability
- High conductivity
- Large electrochemical window

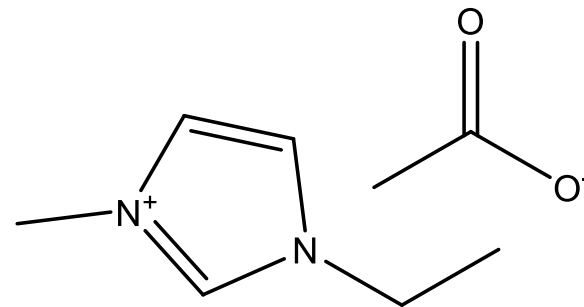


Solvent power

Properties of ILs can be tailored, e.g.:

- Density and Viscosity
- Solubility
- Lipophilicity and polarity

The **toxicity** and **biodegradability** of ionic liquids are an issue



1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium acetate

Pre-treatment of biomass with ILs

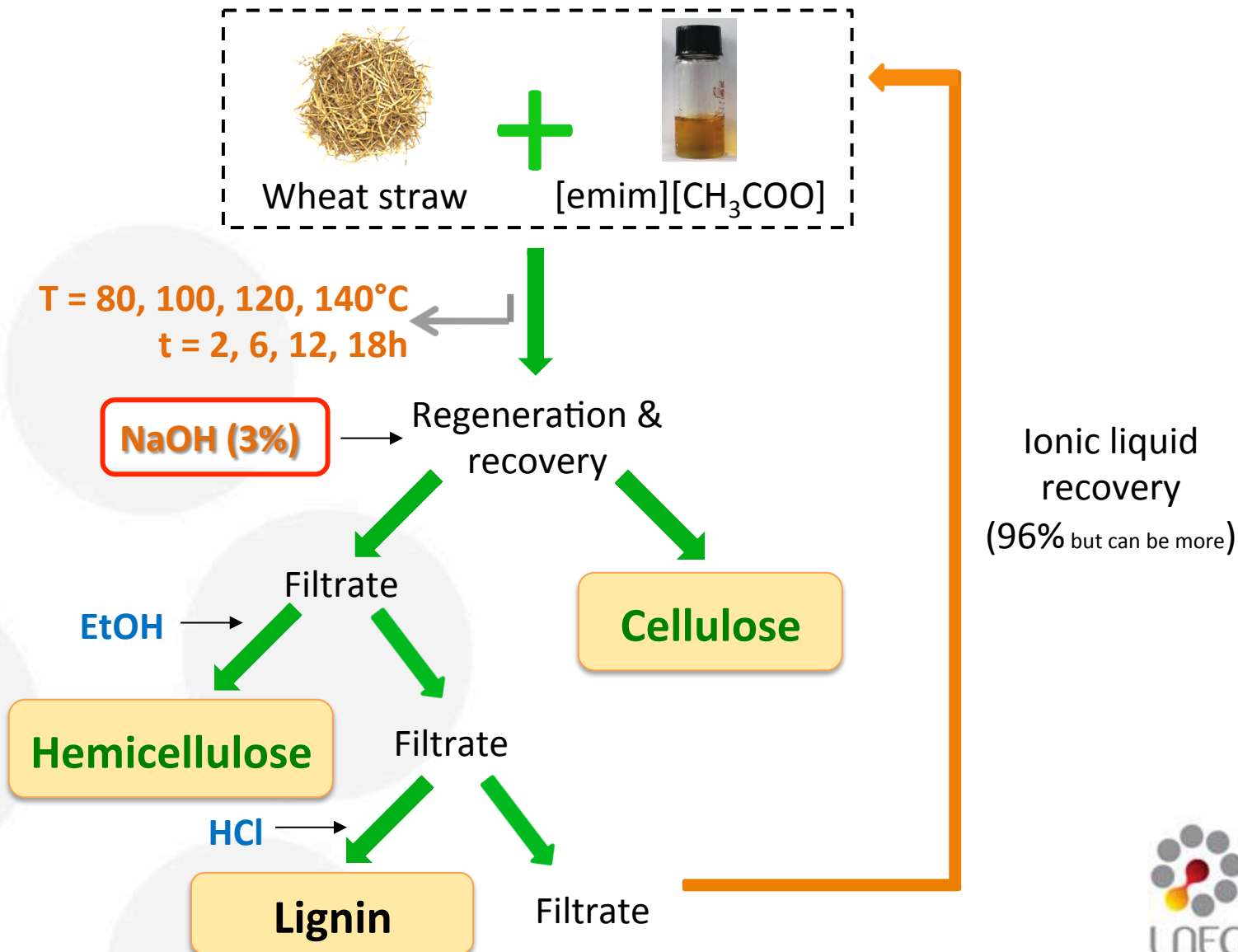
- 1) Alter the physicochemical properties of the biomass macromolecular components;
- 2) Extract a specific macromolecular fraction;
- 3) Perform different fractionation approaches after dissolution.

Advantages:

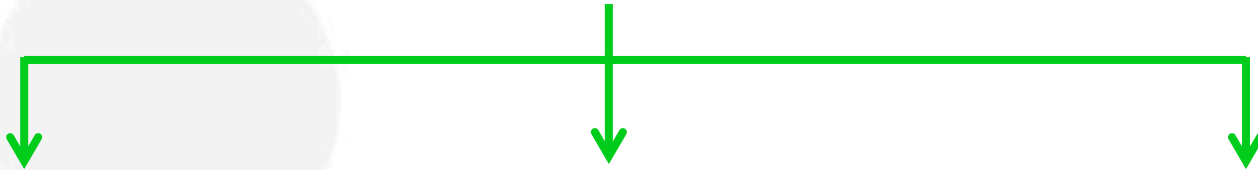
- ✓ ↓ Cellulose crystallinity;
- ✓ ↑ Extraction of lignin
- ✓ Less degradation of monosaccharides;
- ✓ Recyclability and reuse of ILs.



3-step fractionation



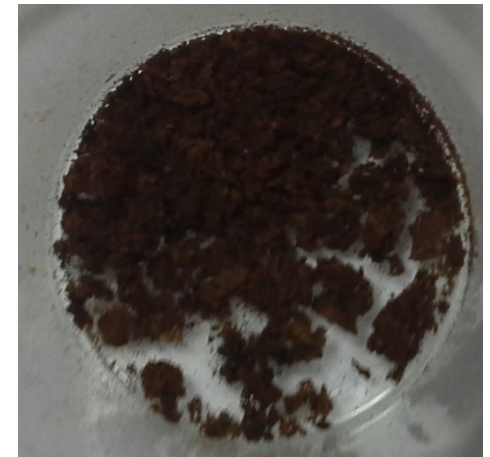
3-step fractionation



Cellulose

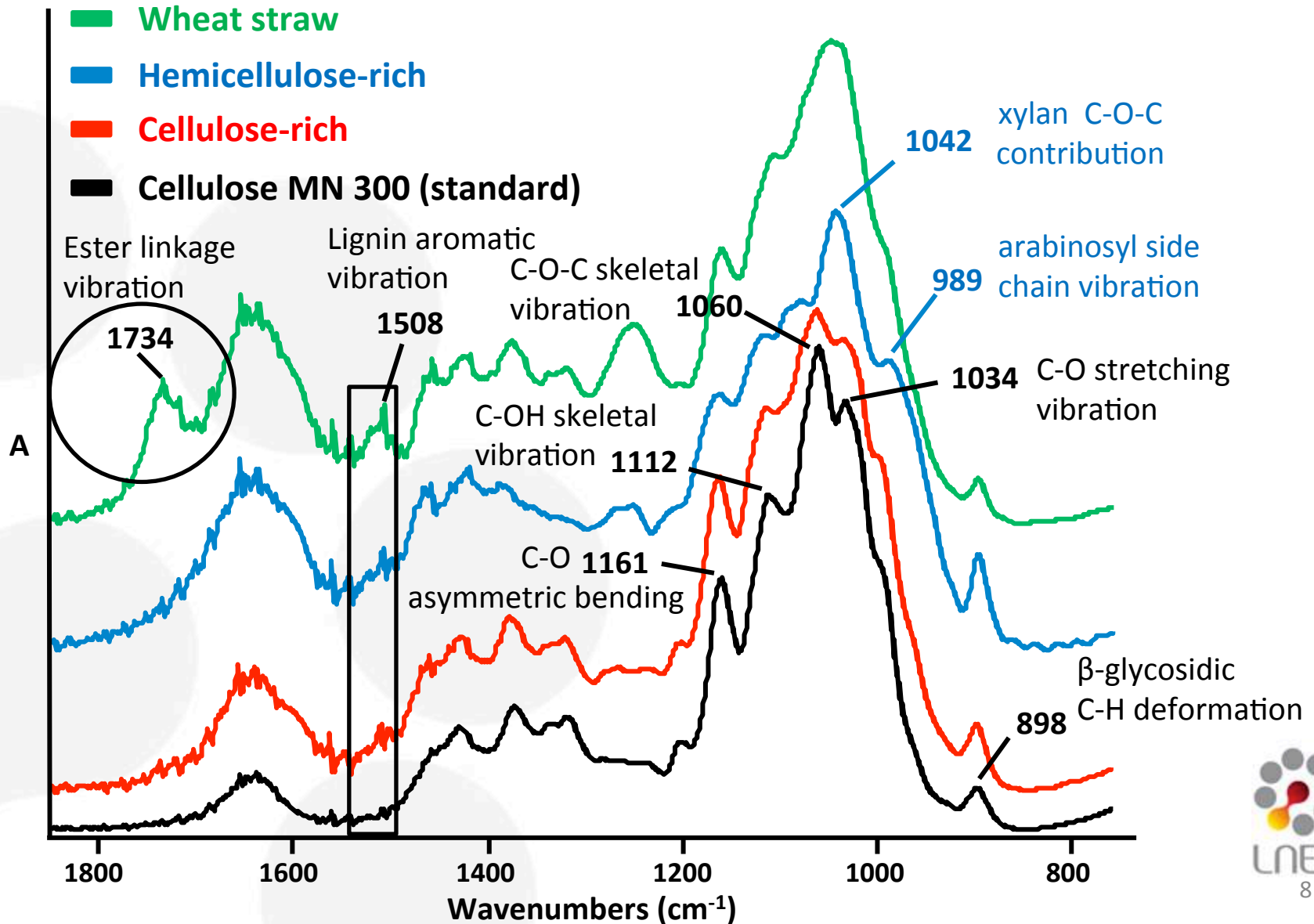


Hemicellulose

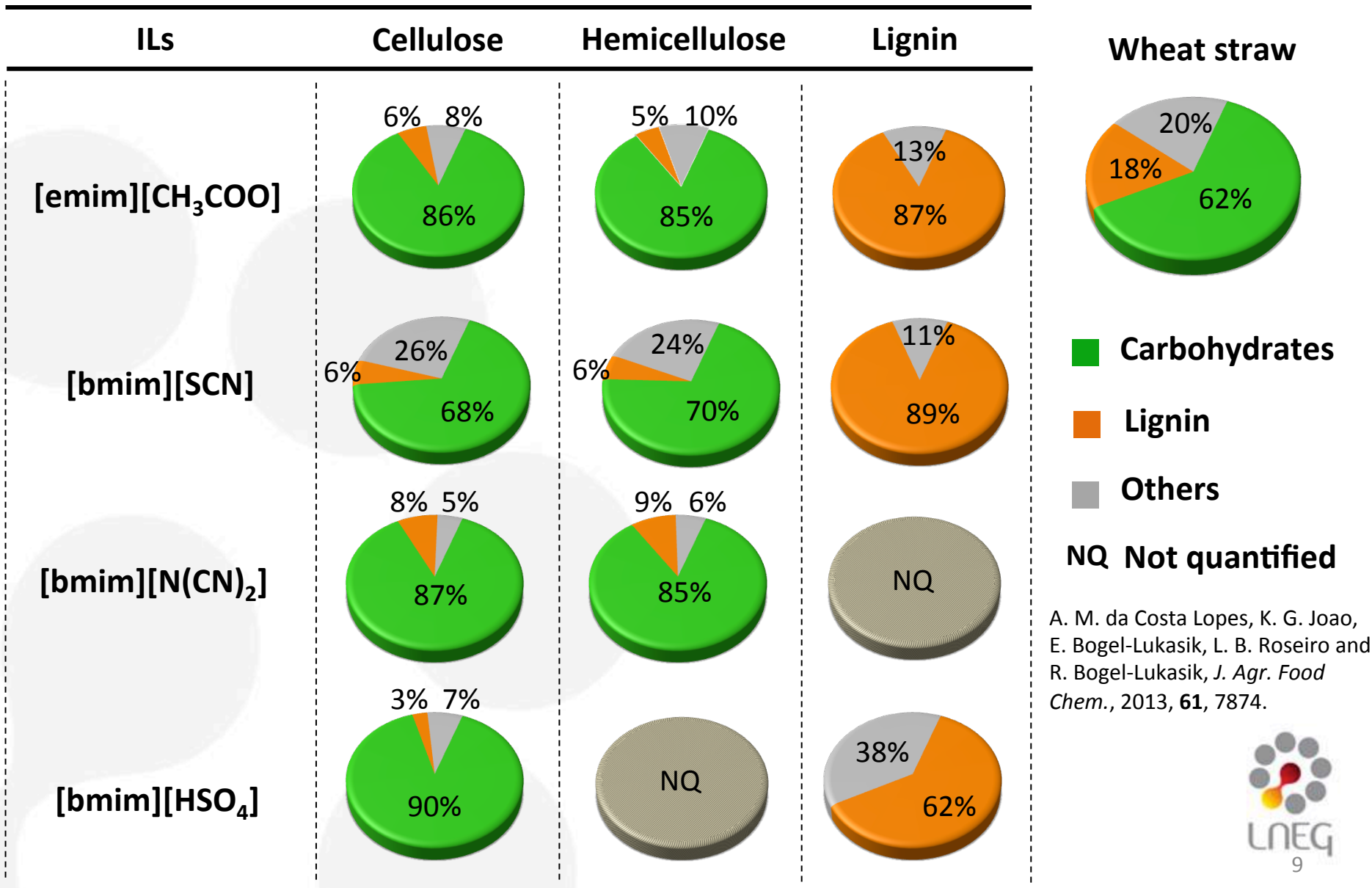


Lignin

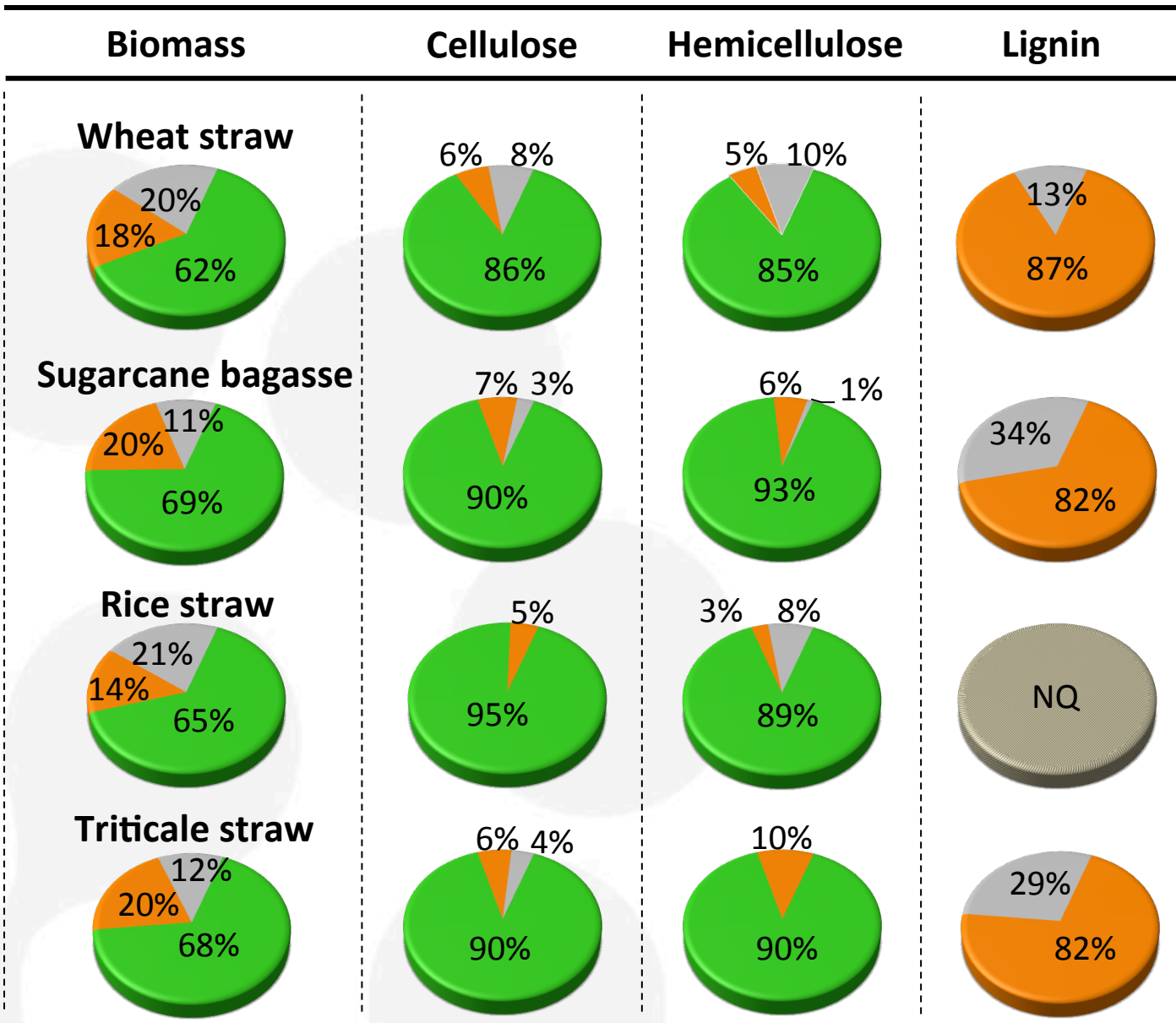
FTIR spectra of carbohydrate samples



Results with ILs



Results with different types of biomass

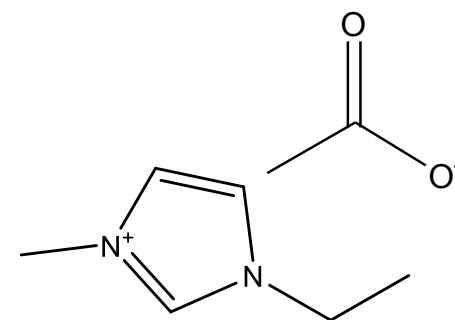


■ Carbohydrates

■ Lignin

■ Others

NQ Not quantified



[emim][CH₃COO]



Enzymatic hydrolysis

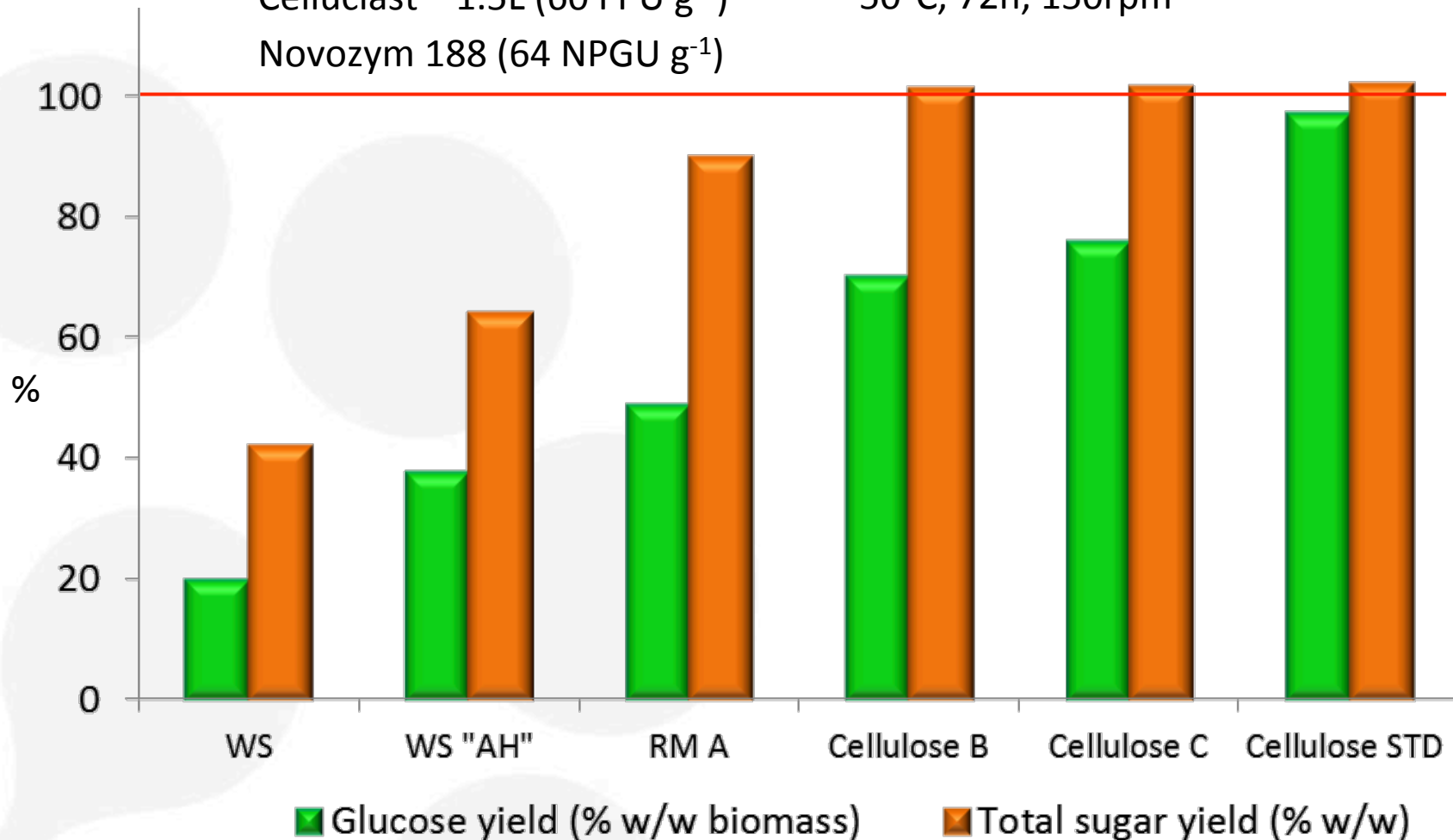
Enzymes:

Celluclast[®] 1.5L (60 FPU g⁻¹)

Novozym 188 (64 NPGU g⁻¹)

Conditions:

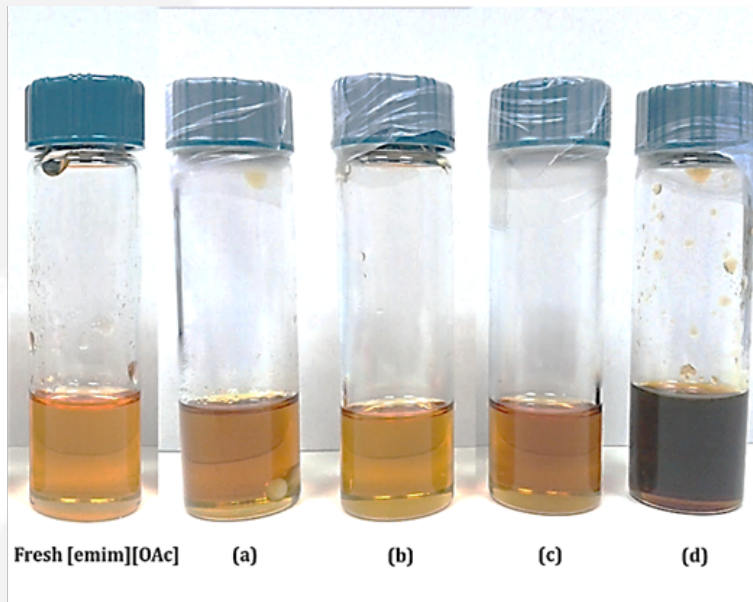
50°C, 72h, 150rpm



WS – wheat straw; AH – acid hydrolysed; RM – regenerated material; STD - standard

CE analysis of recovered [emim][CH₃COO]

✓ ILS recovery yields were generally up to 90% (w/w).



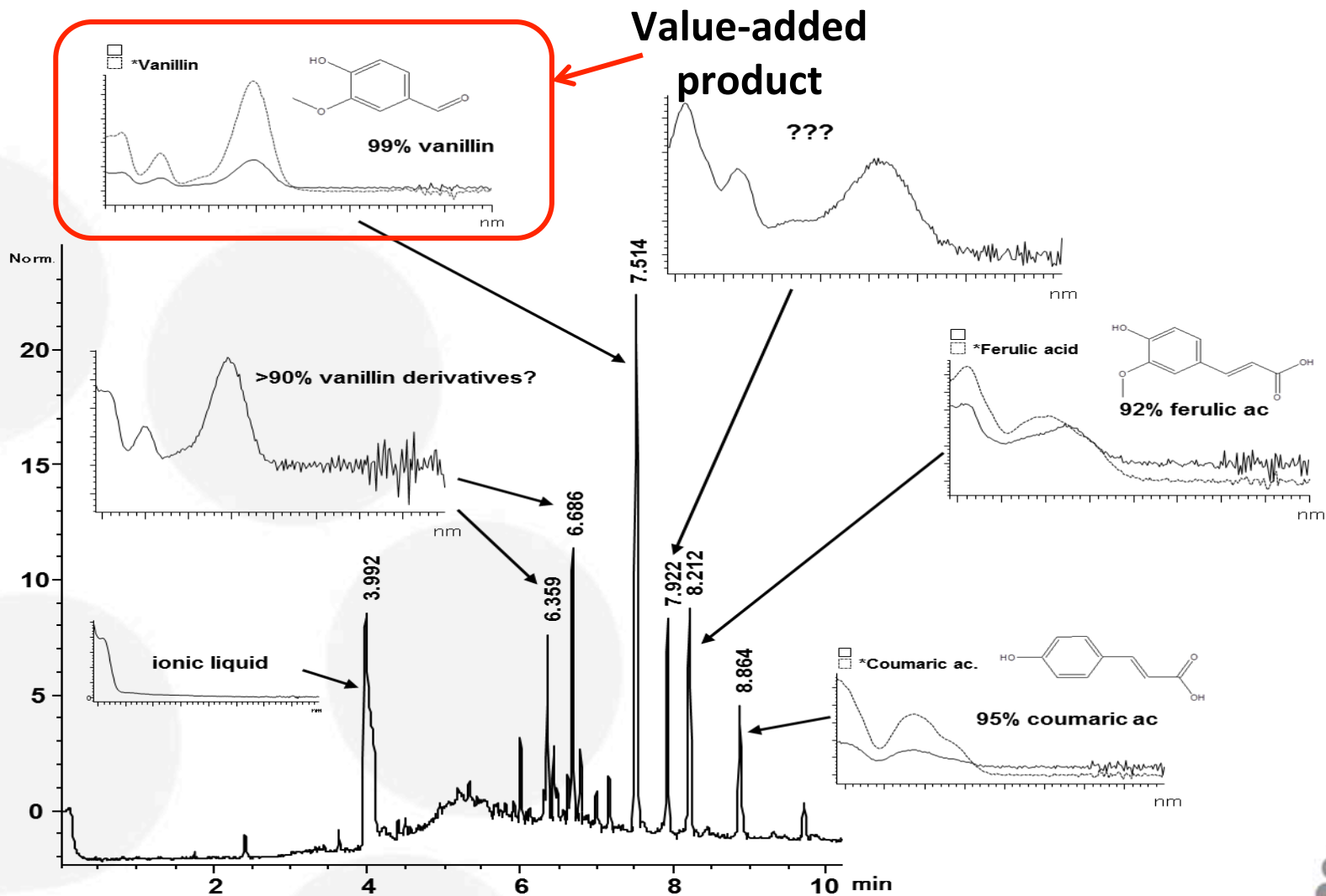
Colour of the fresh [emim][OAc] and recovered ILS after the wheat straw pre-treatment at different temperatures: **(a)** 80°C; **(b)** 100°C; **(c)** 120°C and **(d)** 140°C.

Solid Phase
Extraction
(SPE)



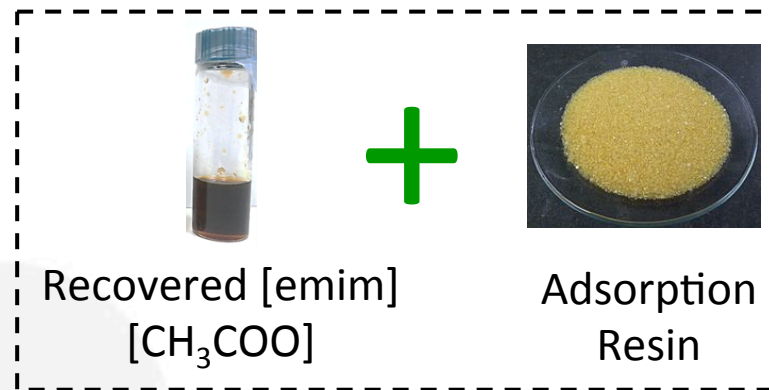
Capillary
Electrophoresis
(CE)

CE analysis of recovered [emim][CH₃COO]



Electropherogram recorded at 320 nm showing the phenolic profile of the recovered IL after pre-treatment at 100°C during 18h.

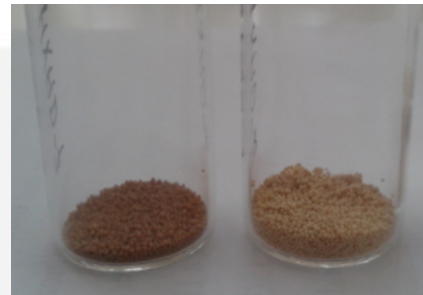
Phenolic extraction from recovered IL



- Small scale batch process

T = room temperature
t = 30 minutes

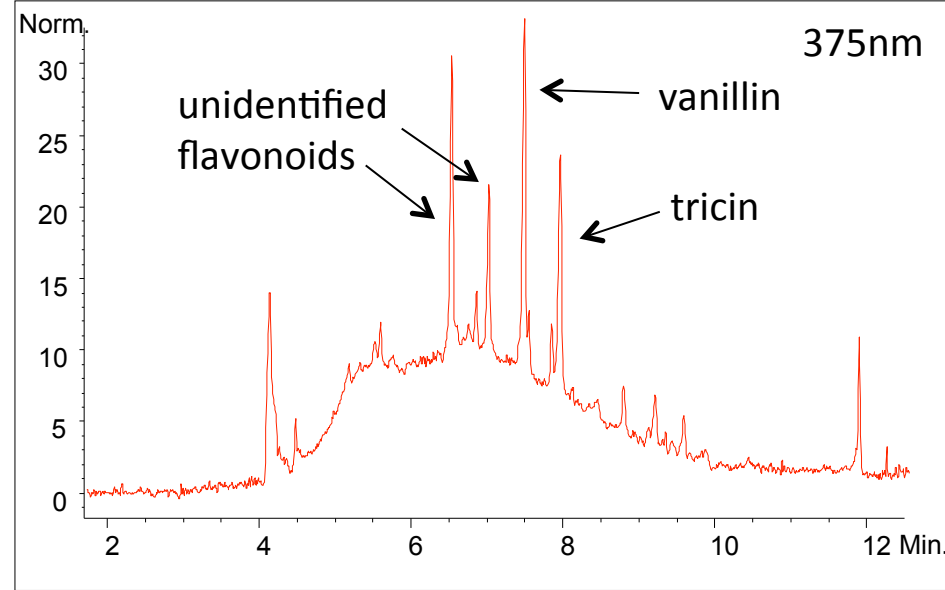
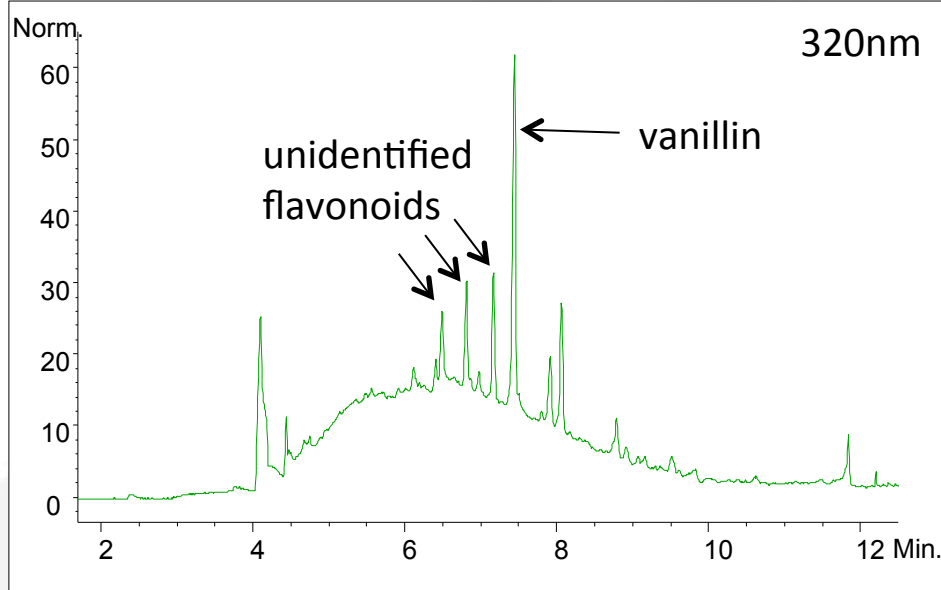
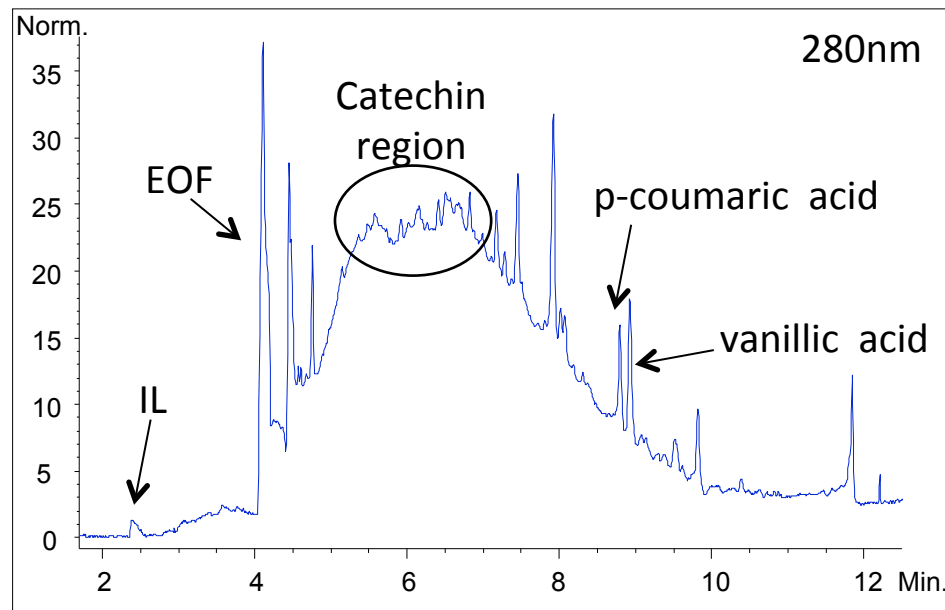
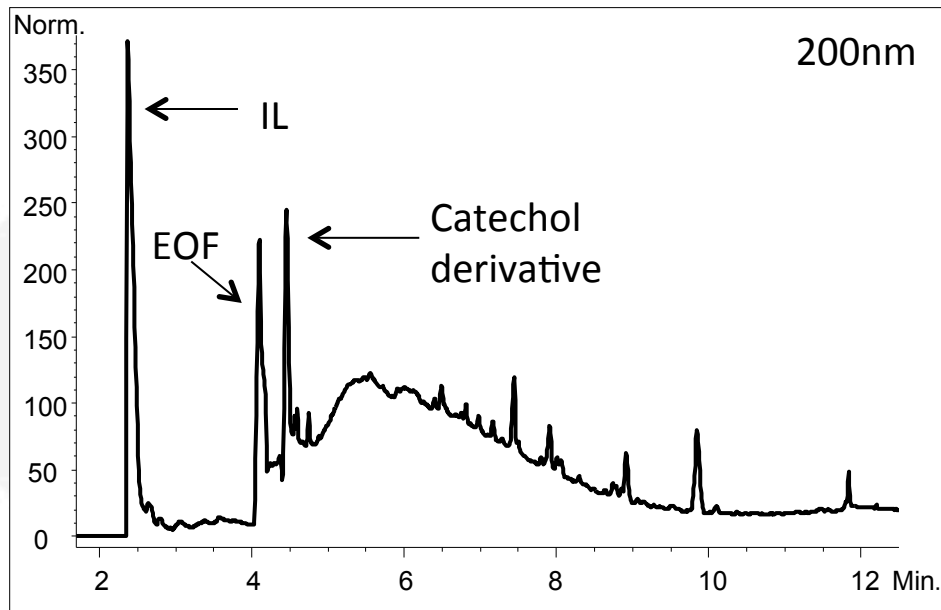
- Filtration
- Washing (H₂O)



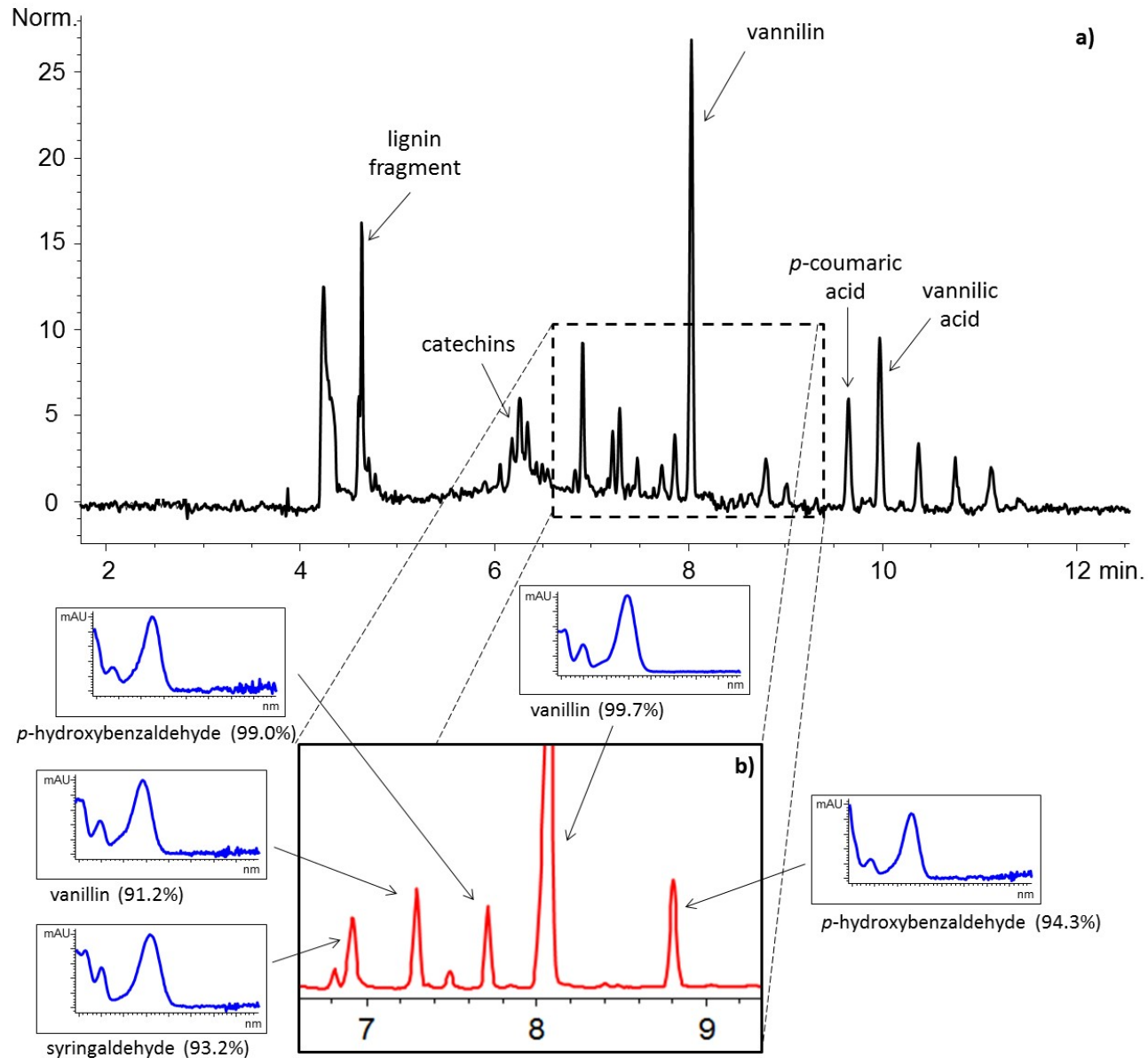
- Extraction of phenolics (MeOH)

Identification and quantification of phenolics
by capillary electrophoresis

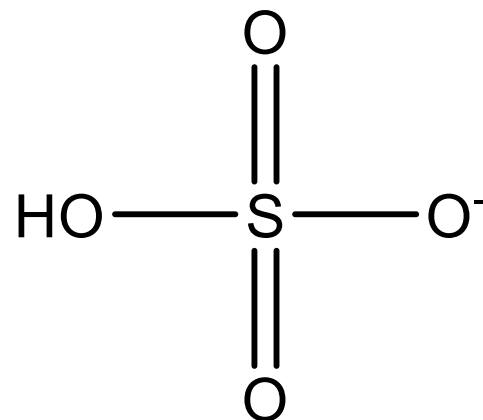
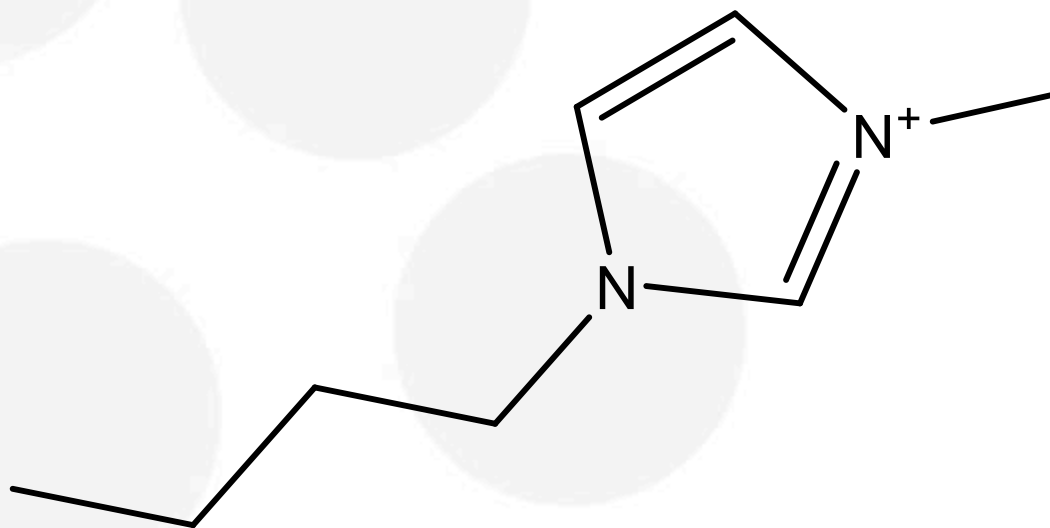
CE of extracted samples by Amberlite XAD-7



CE of extracted samples by resin and CO₂ treatment

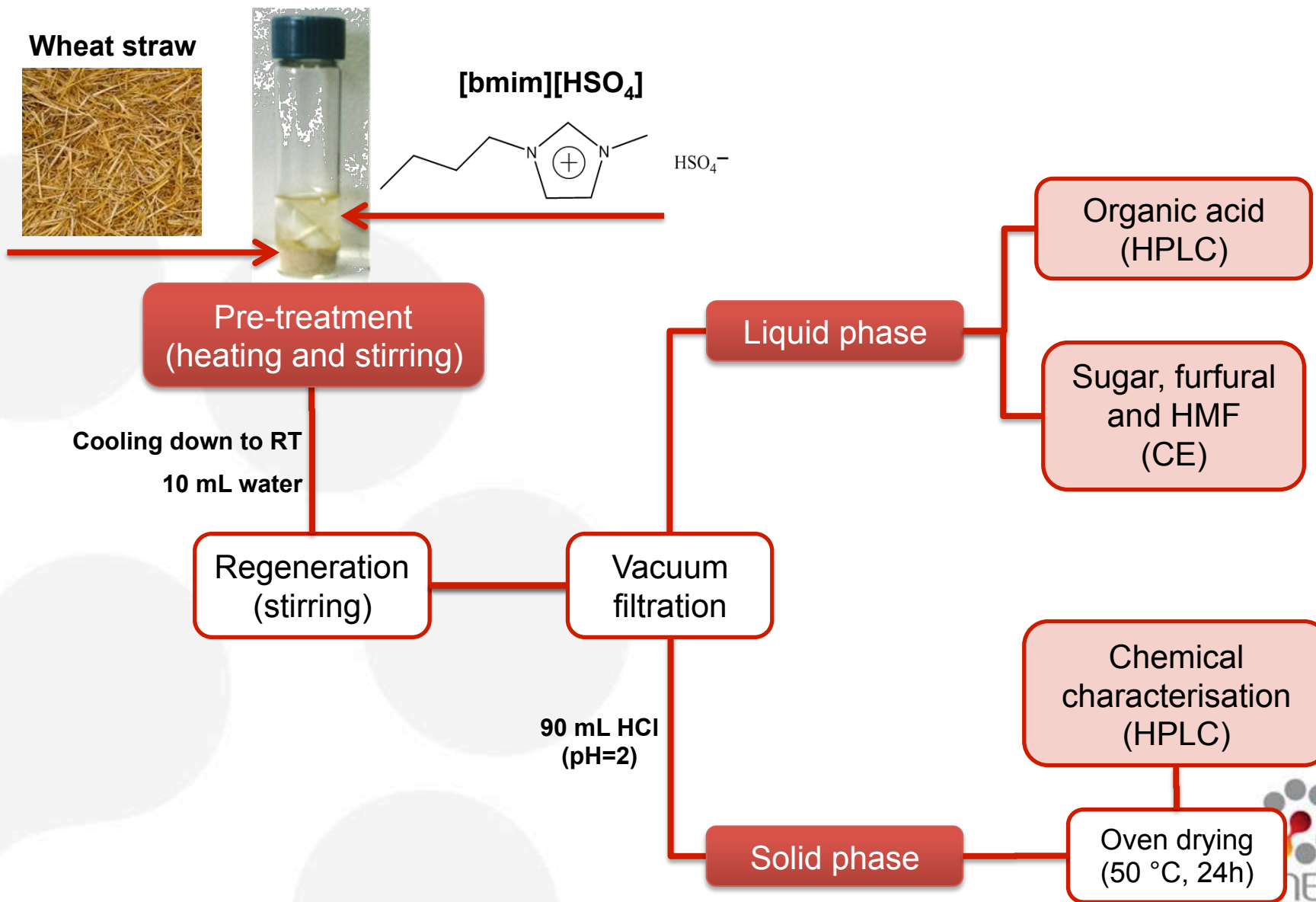


[bmim][HSO₄] solvent and catalyst for biomass

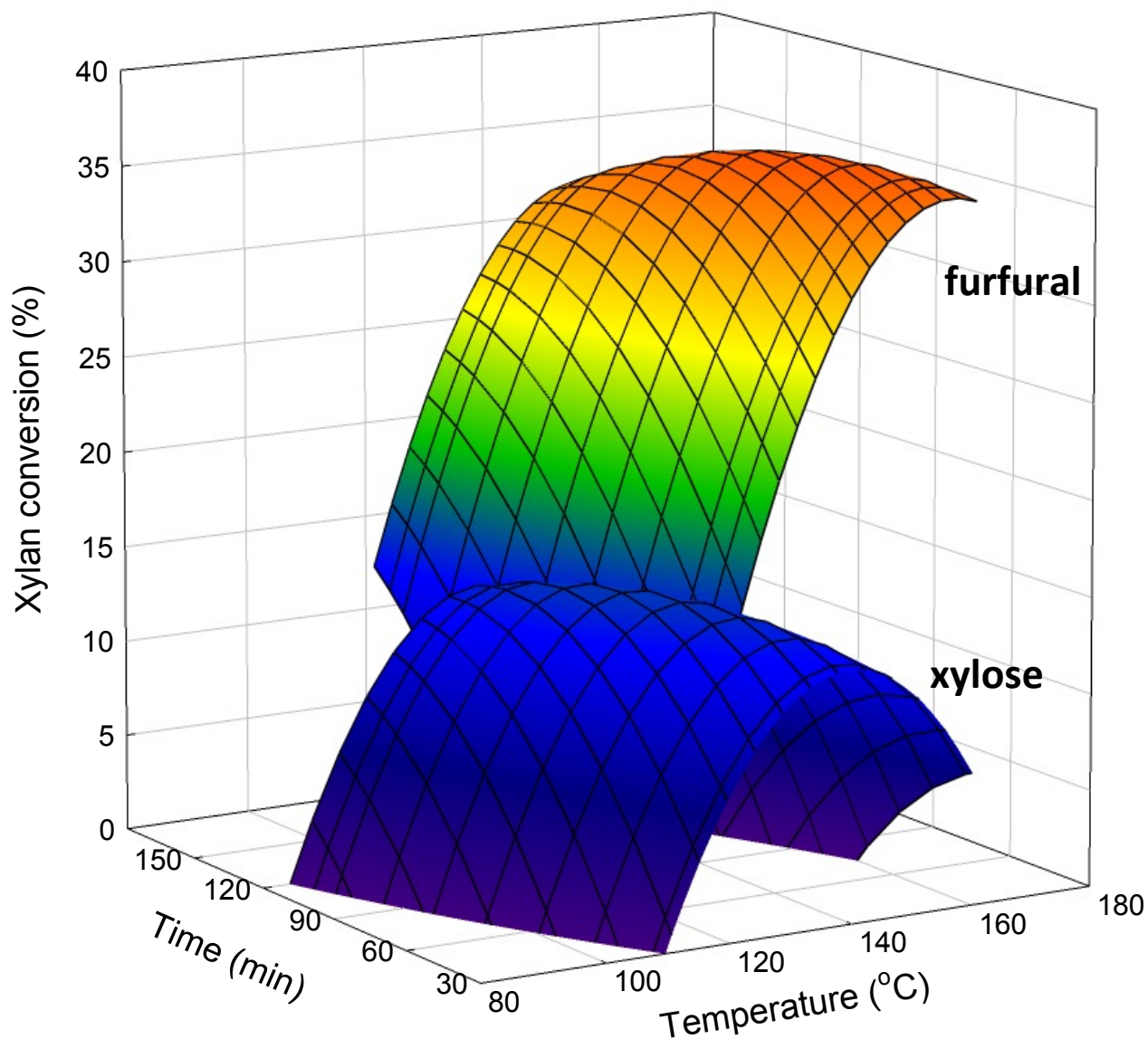


1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hydrogen sulphate

Methodology for [bmim][HSO₄]



Conversion of biomass with [bmim][HSO₄]



Conditions:

10% Biomass

1.2% humidity



Fermentation in ILs

Possible products (at least up to now...)

- 1) Ethanol
- 2) Lipids
- 3) Organic acids (succinic acid)

ONLY 6 WORKS!

Fermentation in ILs

Microorganism		Ionic Liquid		Incubation conditions			Product		
Family	specie	Type	Concentration	T (°C)	t (h)	Substrate		Yield (%)	Ref.
Fungi	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> BN	[emim][H2PO2]	-	35	192	rice straw	ethanol	0.125g/g biomass (64.2% theoretical)	Nakashima, 2011
Yeast	<i>Rhodospiridium Toruloides</i>	[emim][Cl]	[30 - 60] mM	30	100	glucose	Lipids	~ [12 - 11] g.L-1	Huang, 2013
		[emim][DEP]	[30 - 60] mM	30	100	glucose		~ [10 - 8] g.L-1	
		[emim][OAc]	[30 - 60] mM	30	100	glucose		~ [2 - 1] g.L-1	
	<i>Saccharomyces Cerevisiae</i>	[emim][Cl]	100 mM	30	6	glucose	ethanol	~ 18 g.L-1	Nakashima, 2011
		[emim][DEP]	100 mM	30	6	glucose		~ 17 g.L-1	
		[emim][DEP]	200 mM	34	170	cellulose		~ 1.5 g.L-1	
		[emim][OAc]	100 mM	30	6	glucose		~ 17 g.L-1	
		[emim][OAc]	[5.90 - 33.5] mM	30	72	glucose		~ [10 - 9] g.L-1	
		[52.4 - 59.0] mM	30	72	glucose	~ 2 g.L-1	Ouellet, 2011		
Bacteria	<i>Actinobacillus succinogenes</i>	[amim][Cl]	0.01 %	37	12	glucose	Succinic acid	14.65 g.L-1	Wang, 2014
			0.1 %	37	12	glucose		16.00 g.L-1	
			1.0 %	37	12	glucose		12.41 g.L-1	
			-	37	12	Pinewood		0.24 g/gbiomass	
			-	37	12	corn stover		0.09 g/gbiomass	
			-	37	12	SE-corn stover		0.31 g/gbiomass	
			-	37	12	HCW-corn stover		0.27 g/gbiomass	
			-	37	12	HCW-corn stover		0.27 g/gbiomass	

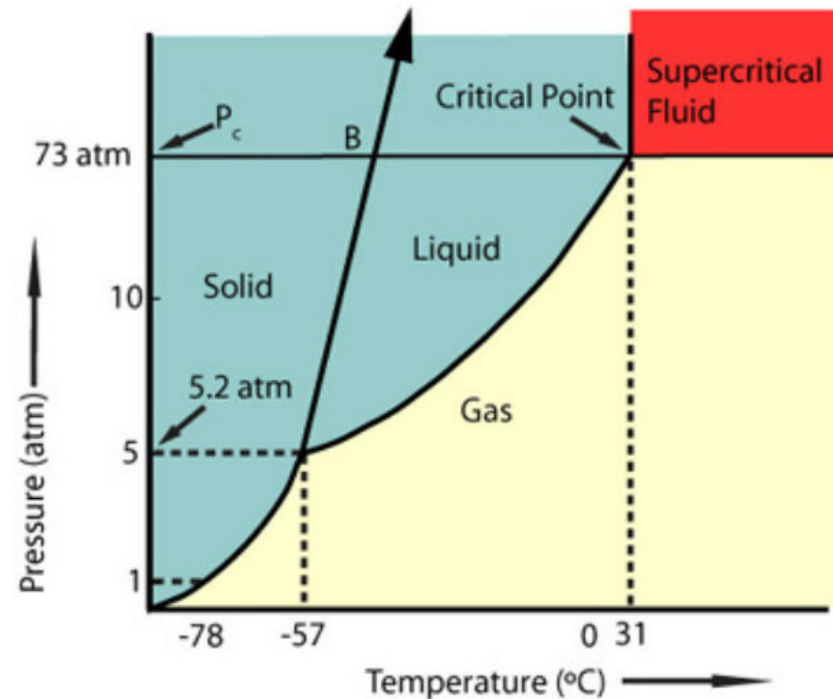
Supercritical fluids

Supercritical fluids (SCFs) are defined as substances above their critical temperature, T_c , and critical pressure, p_c .

- ❑ Unique physicochemical properties such as liquidlike density and gaslike diffusivity
- ❑ Tunable properties
- ❑ Environmentally sustainable
- ❑ Easily to scale up

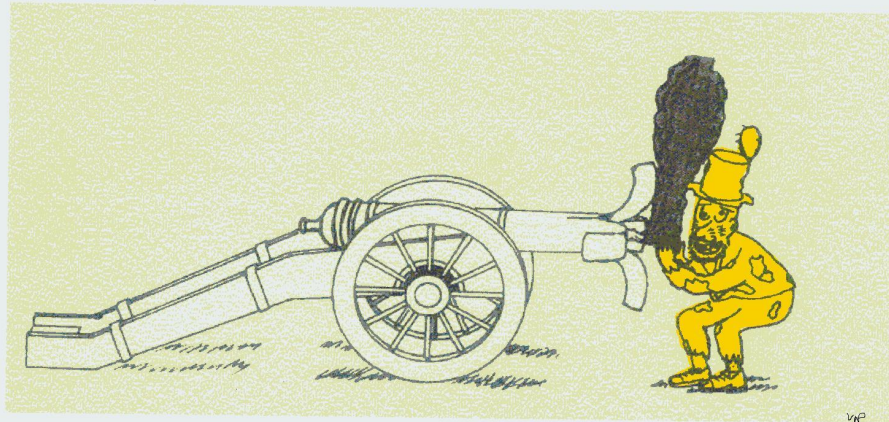
Typical fluids: CO₂, H₂O, propane, butane

	Density (g/mL)	Viscosity (P)
gas	~10 ⁻³	0.5-3.5·10 ⁻⁴
ScF	0.2-0.9	0.2-1.0·10 ⁻³
liquid	0.8-1.2	0.3-2.4·10 ⁻⁴



Supercritical fluids

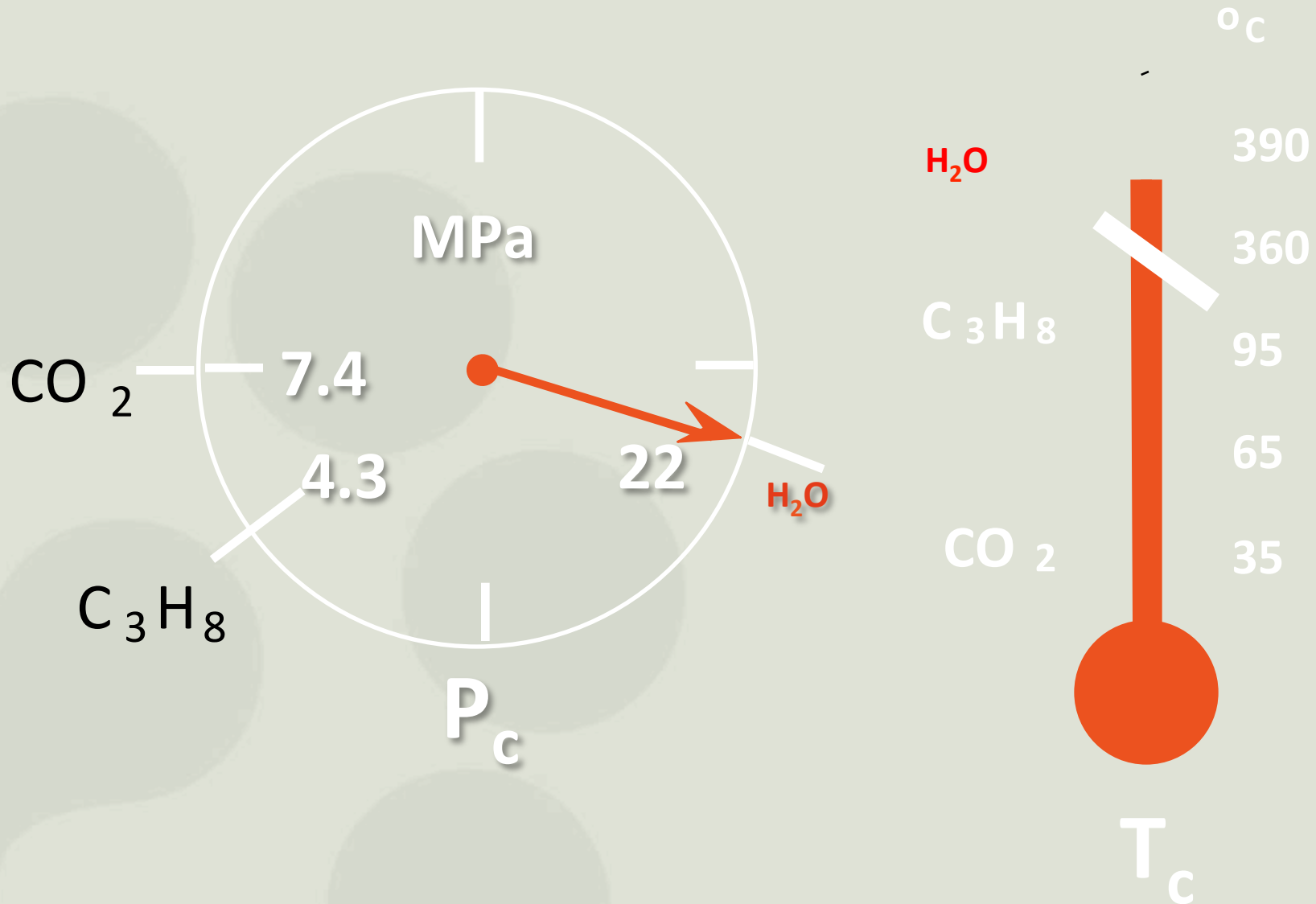
1st acoustic measurement of a Critical Point



Baron Cagniard de La Tour

Baron Charles Cagniard de La Tour discovered the critical point of a substance in his famous cannon barrel experiments. Listening to discontinuities in the sound of a rolling flint ball in a sealed cannon filled with fluids at various temperatures, he observed the critical temperature.

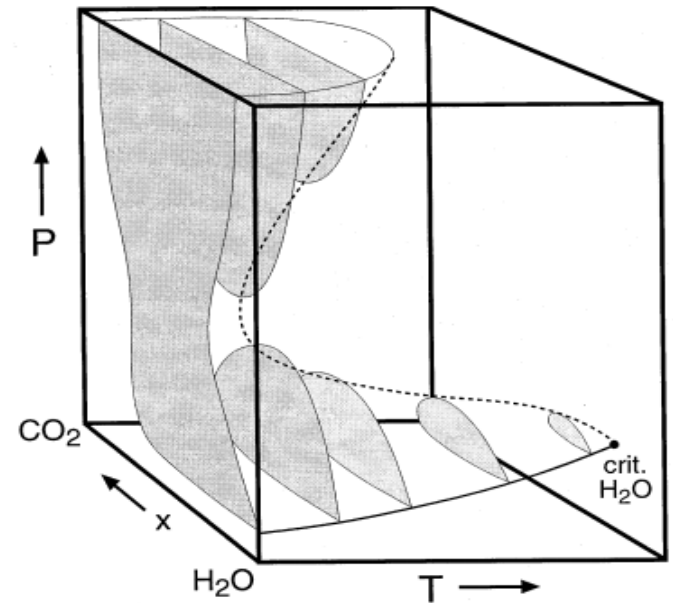
Proprieties of supercritical fluids



High pressure CO₂-H₂O binary system

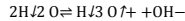
CO₂-H₂O mixture advantages

- ❑ Sustainable and green solvent
- ❑ GRAS - generally recognized as safe
- ❑ Nontoxic, nonflammable and inexpensive reagent
- ❑ ↓Temperatures and ↓ degradation products
- ❑ It can act as a detoxification methodology



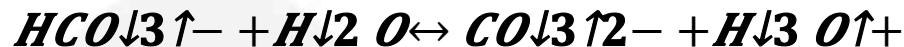
High pressure CO₂-H₂O binary system

Water-only reaction



CO₂ + H₂O binary system

- ☐ Mixture becomes more acidic (pH ≈ 3) → ↑ dissolution of hemicellulose
 ↑ Enzymatic digestibility of cellulose



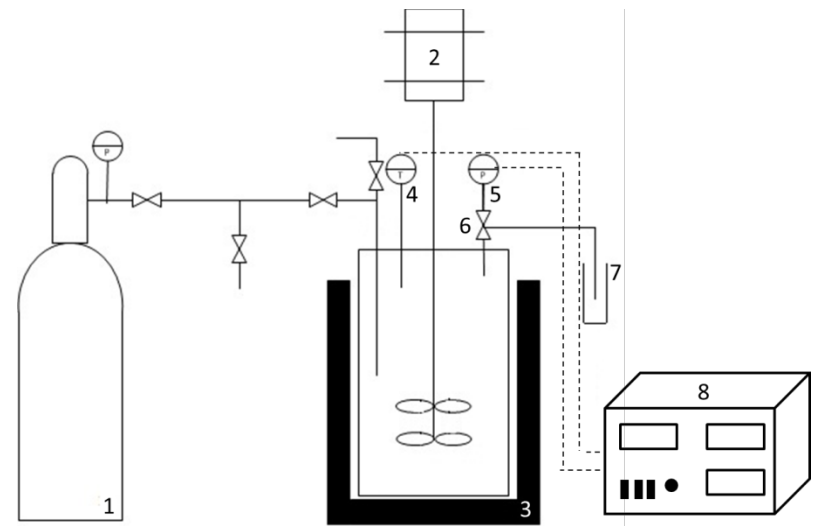
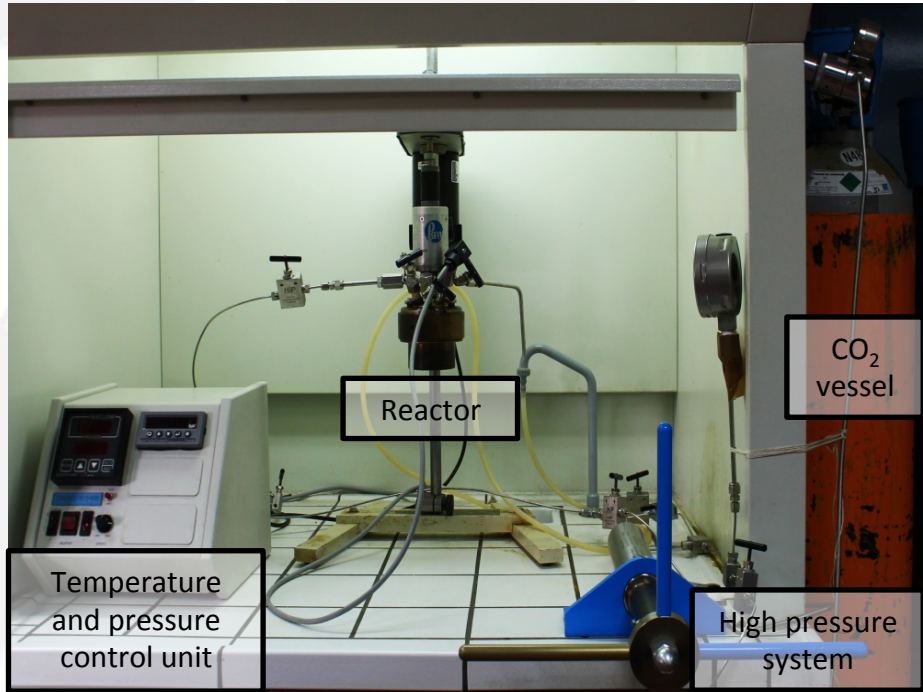
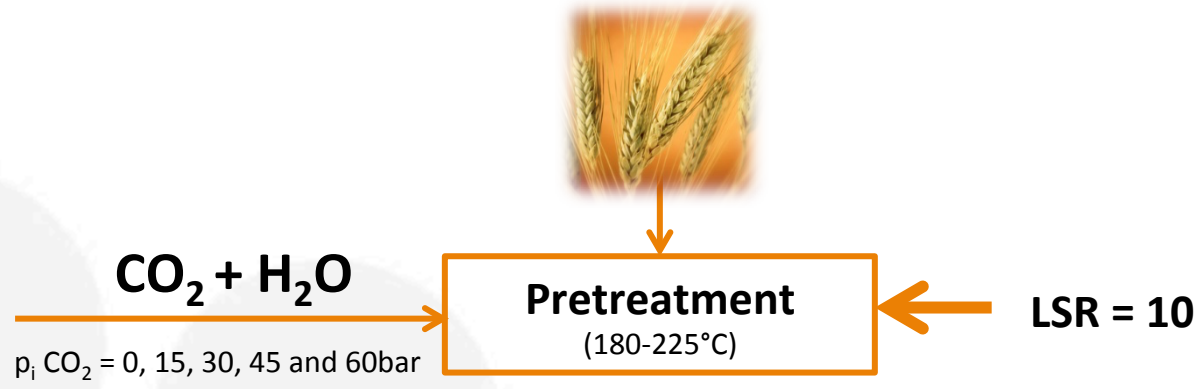
Estimated pH

$$\text{pH} = 8.00 \times 10^{-6} \times T^2 + 0.00209 \times T - 0.216 \times \ln(P/\text{CO}_2) + 3.92^*$$

50 bar of CO ₂	20 / 35 bar of CO ₂	A.H
3.72	3.78	5.5 (at 220°C)

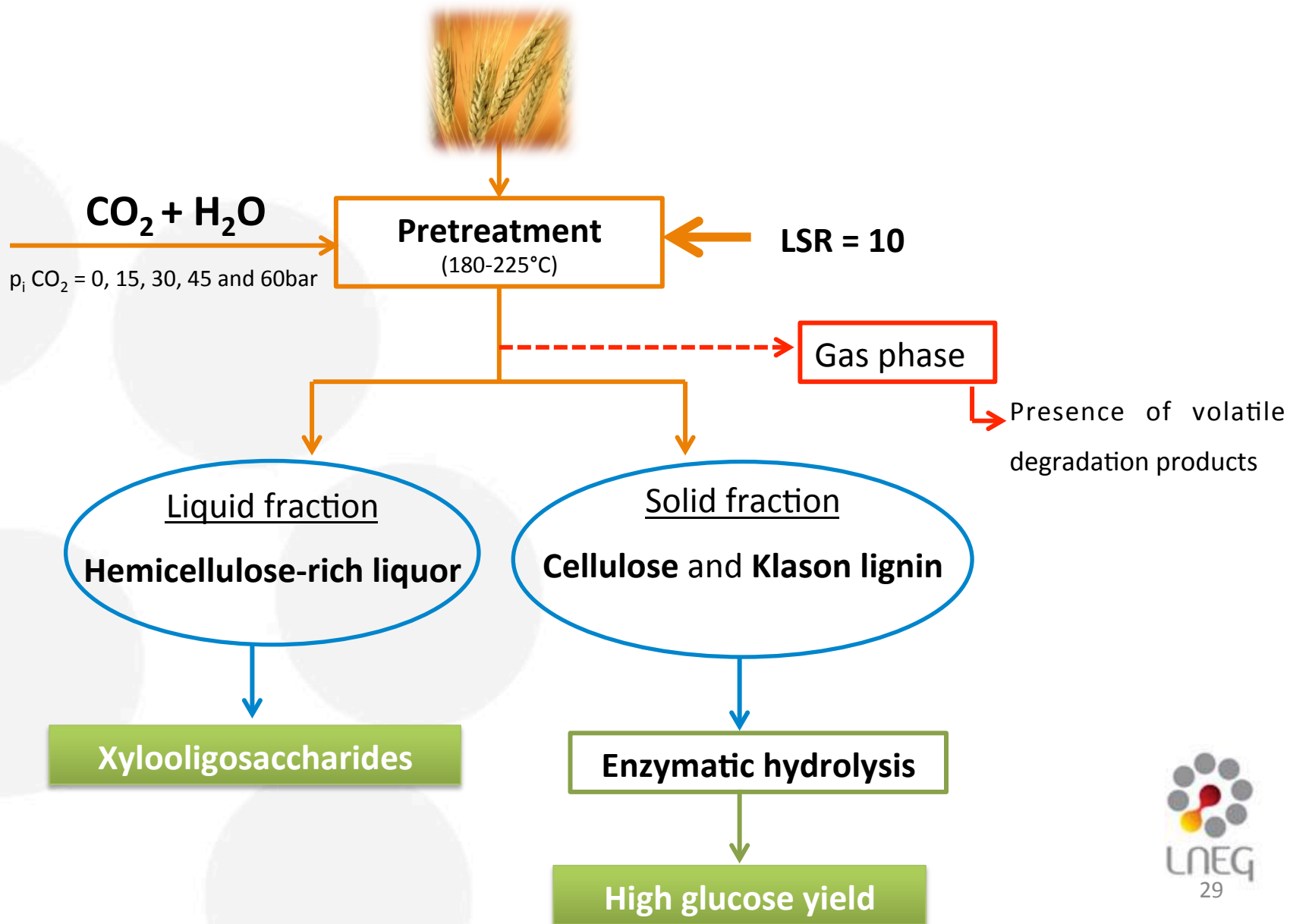
*G.P. van Walsum, Appl. Biochem. Biotechnol., 91-3 (2001)
 317.

High pressure CO₂-H₂O binary system

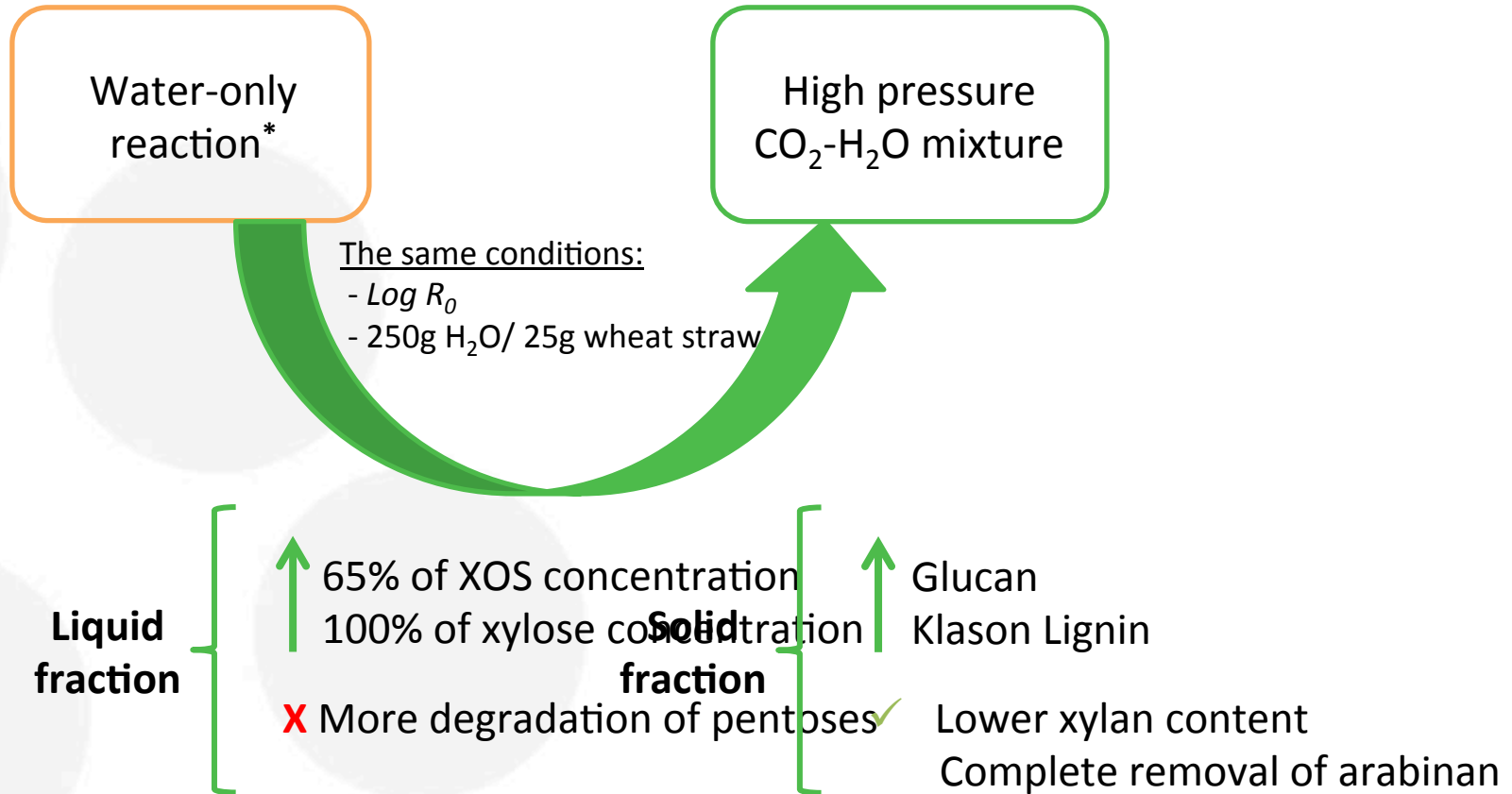


Pre-treatment system.

High pressure CO₂-H₂O binary system

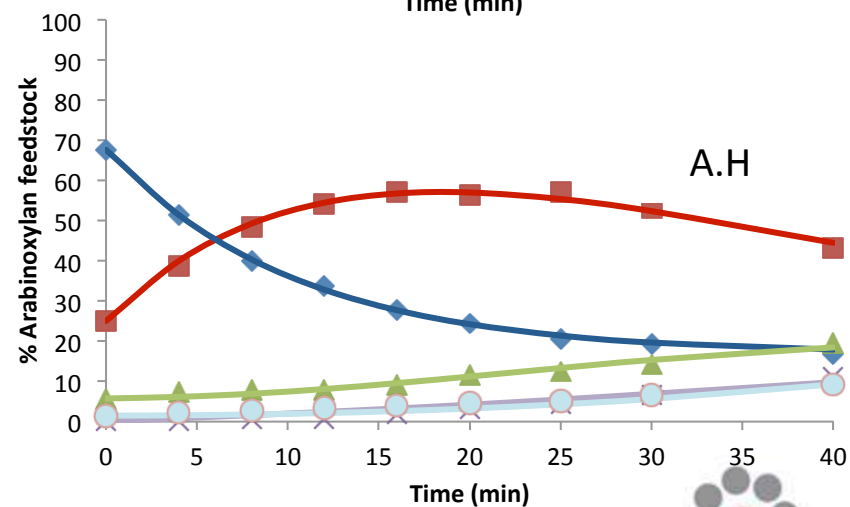
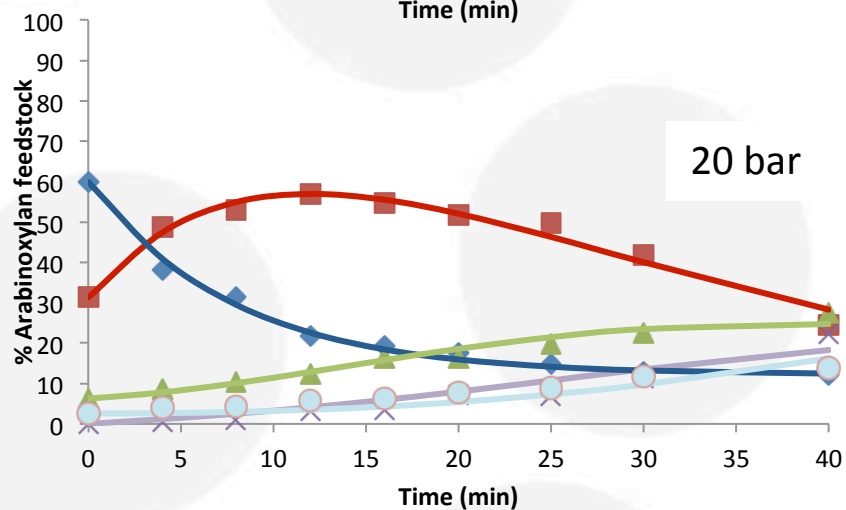
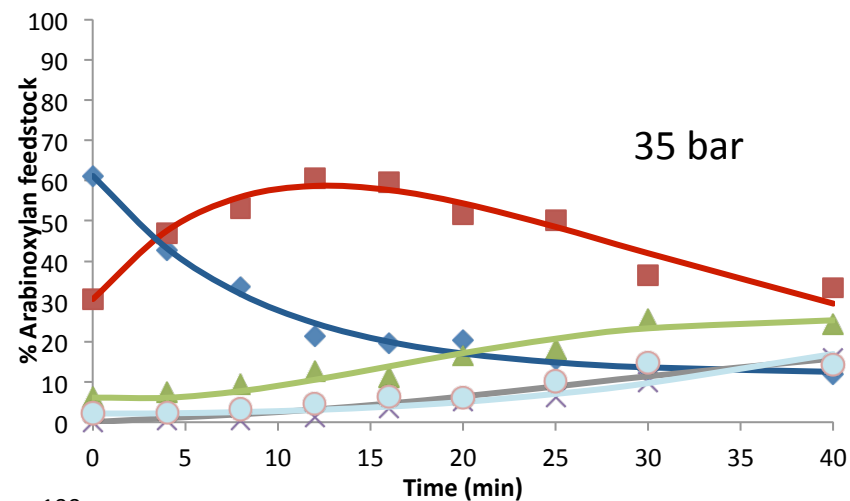
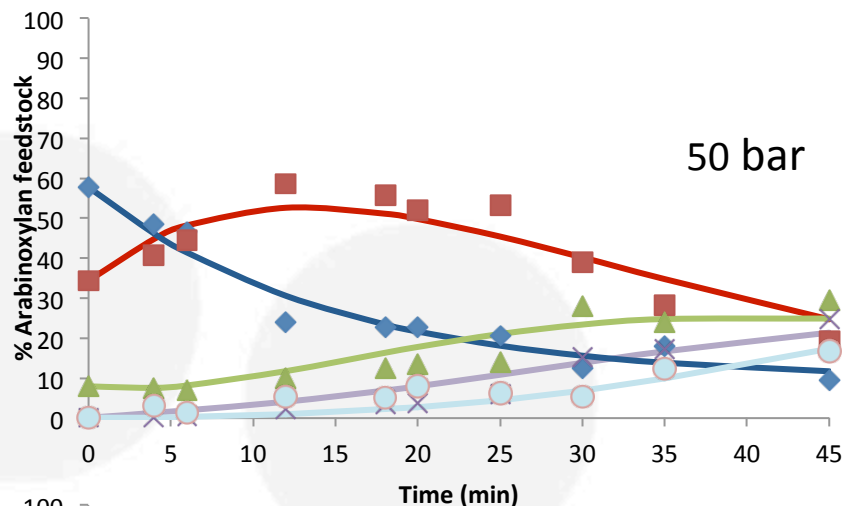


Effect of CO₂ addition to water-only reaction



✓ The *in situ* formed **carbonic acid** enhances the **hydrolysis** of hemicellulose

Effect of initial CO₂ pressure

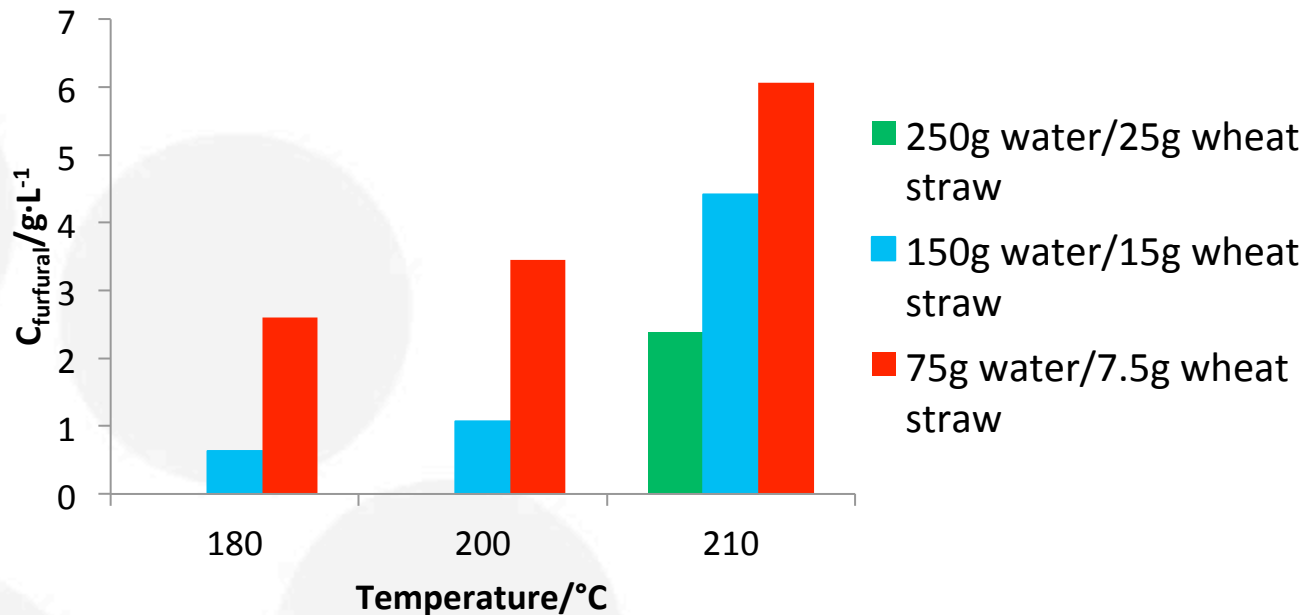


◆ Arabinoxylyan
 ■ AXOS
 ▲ Arabinoxylose
 × Furfural
 ○ DP



Production of volatile products

Gas phase



Furfural concentration in the recovered gas phase from depressurization for studied temperatures and biomass loading.

Detoxification effect during depressurization

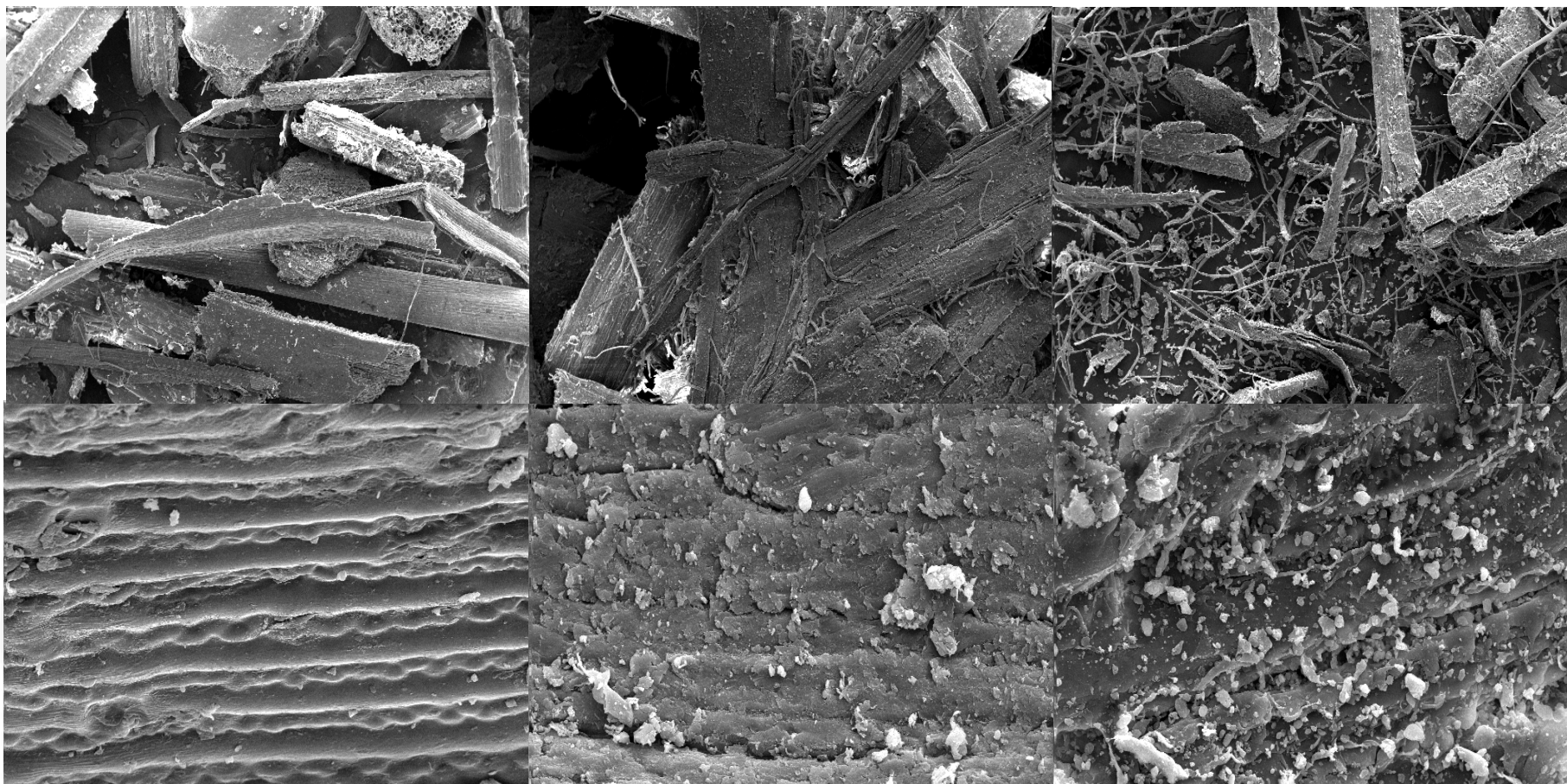


Effect of process on the ultrastructure of residue

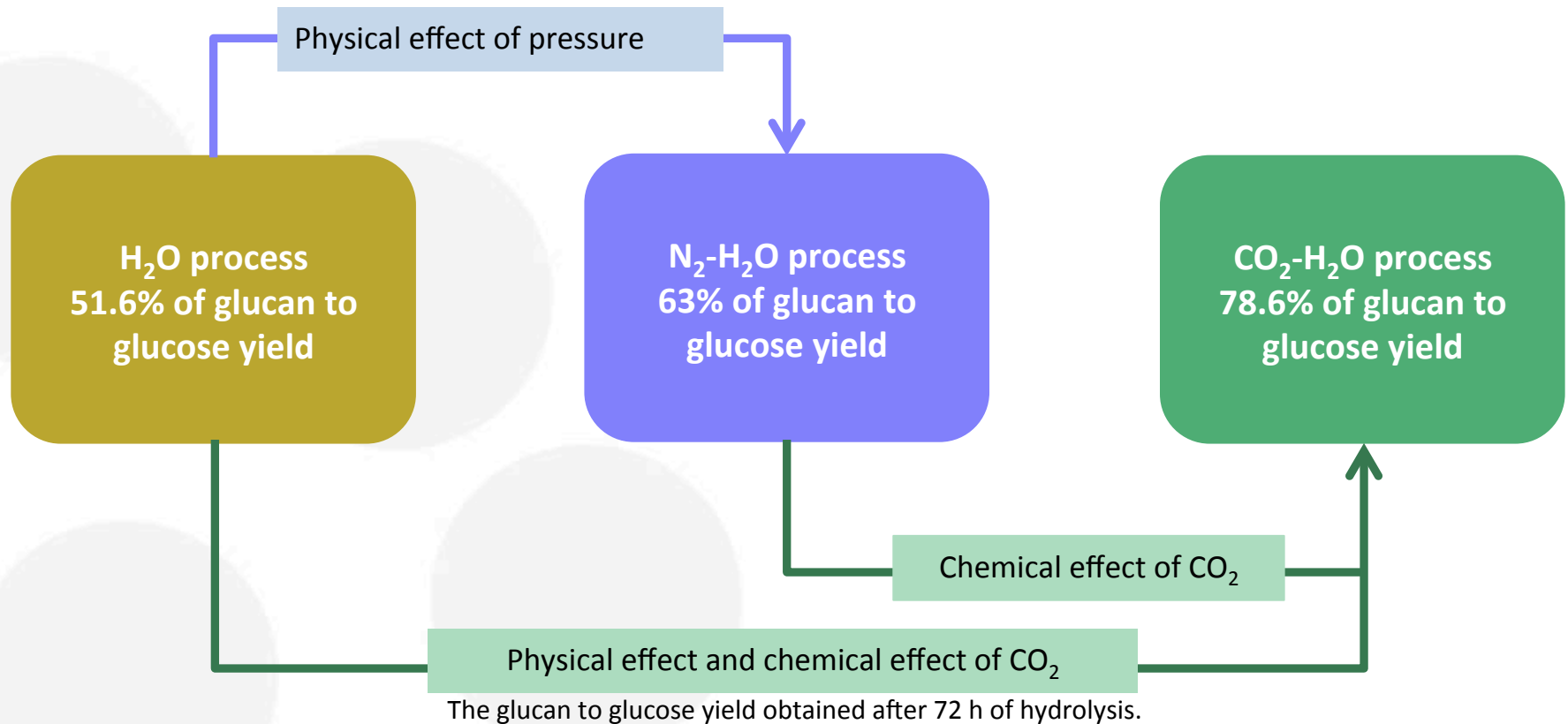
Untreated

Treated at 225°C without CO₂

Treated at 225°C with 45 bar of CO₂



Effect of CO₂ pressure (chemical and physical)



Pre-treatment conditions:

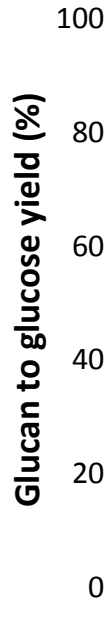
Temperature: 225°C

Initial pressure: 54 bar (when N₂ and CO₂ are present)

Effect of CO₂ pressure



Enzymatic hydrolysis



High pressure CO₂-H₂O mixture – promising technology for development of green biorefinery concept

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¹Unit of Biorefinery, National Laboratory of Energy and Geology (LNEG), L.P., Lisbon, Portugal; *e-mail: rafal@lneg.pt
²LAQV-REQUIMTE, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
³Department of Chemistry, FURG Regional University of Blumenau, Blumenau, Brazil

PROBLEM & CHALLENGE

The biorefinery concept embraces a whole crop approach of biomass conversion pathways leading to a wide range of value-added products.

PROBLEM: Conventional biorefinery's technologies are still:
 • Hazardous chemicals based
 • Not environmentally friendly
 • Require severe reaction conditions
 • Resultative leading to low total sugar yields

CHALLENGE: To develop **NOVEL AND CLEANER TECHNOLOGY** for efficient biomass processing in biorefinery concept. It would be characterized by:
 • No need of hazardous chemicals and their neutralization
 • Lower waste generation
 • Natural efficient

PROPOSED SOLUTION: Enable formation of azeotropic (carbonic acid) by only addition of CO₂ to the aqueous media

Objectives:
 • Selective hydrolysis of biomass-derived hemicelluloses into C₅-sugars
 • Disruption of recalcitrant structure yielding
 • High enzymatic conversion
 • Development of suitable approach for the production of fuel precursors (furfural)

Importance to the field:
 • Development of new, sustainable and low environmental impact route to produce a wide range of valuable chemicals within the biorefinery concept

EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP & METHODS

1st step - Hemicellulose hydrolysis into C₅-sugars
 2nd step - Furfural production from C₅-sugars

RESULTS & PERSPECTIVES

1st step - Effect of CO₂ in hydrolysis of hemicellulose into C₅-sugars
 2nd step - Furfural production from produced C₅-sugars

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FCT, LAQV, COST, CAPES

- 225°C 54 bar
- 225°C 45 bar
- 225°C 30 bar
- 225°C 15 bar
- Autohydrolysis
- Untreated

Enzymatic conditions: Celluclast® 1.5 L (64 FPU/g) and Novozym 188 (60 FPU/g); 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer (pH = 4.8) and 2 % (w/w) sodium azide solution, 250 rpm and 50°C

enzymatic yield

pressure CO₂ within biorefinery concept.



Final remarks

With green solvents we can (up to now):

- Pre-treat and fractionate biomass to high purity fractions
- Produce sugars (C_5 and C_6 solutions selectively)
- Tune the process to obtain value-added compounds directly (e.g. oligosaccharides, vanillin) and selectively (xylose or furfural)
- Perform fermentation in green solvents

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COST EUBiS TD1203 Food waste valorisation for sustainable chemicals, materials & fuels

Pesquisador Visitante Especial 155/2012

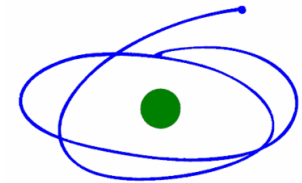
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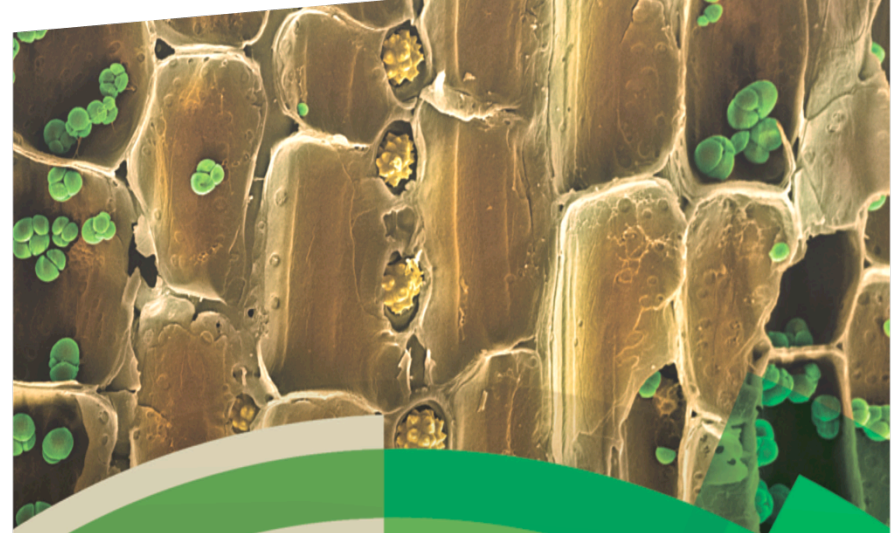


C A P E S



FOREWARD by **T. Welton**

1. Biorefinery and Green Chemistry by **J.-P. Mikkola**
2. The dissolution of biomass in ionic liquids towards pre-treatment approach by **C. Afonso**
3. Ionic Liquid Pre-treatment of Lignocellulosic Biomass for Biofuels and Chemicals by **S. Singh**
4. Biomass Hydrolysis in Ionic Liquids by **R. Martínez-Palou**
5. Relevance of Biomass Feedstocks for Ionic Liquid-assisted Extraction of Biomolecules by **R. Bogel-Lukasik**
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8. Ionic liquids as efficient tools for the purification of biomolecules and bioproducts from natural sources by **M. G. Freire**
9. Ionic Liquids in the Biorefinery: How Green and Sustainable are they? by **R. A. Sheldon**
10. Future of ionic liquid biorefineries by **A. Stark**



RSC Green Chemistry

Ionic Liquids in the Biorefinery Concept

Challenges and Perspectives

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