

New Energies for a Better and Sustainable World: Challenges and Perspectives



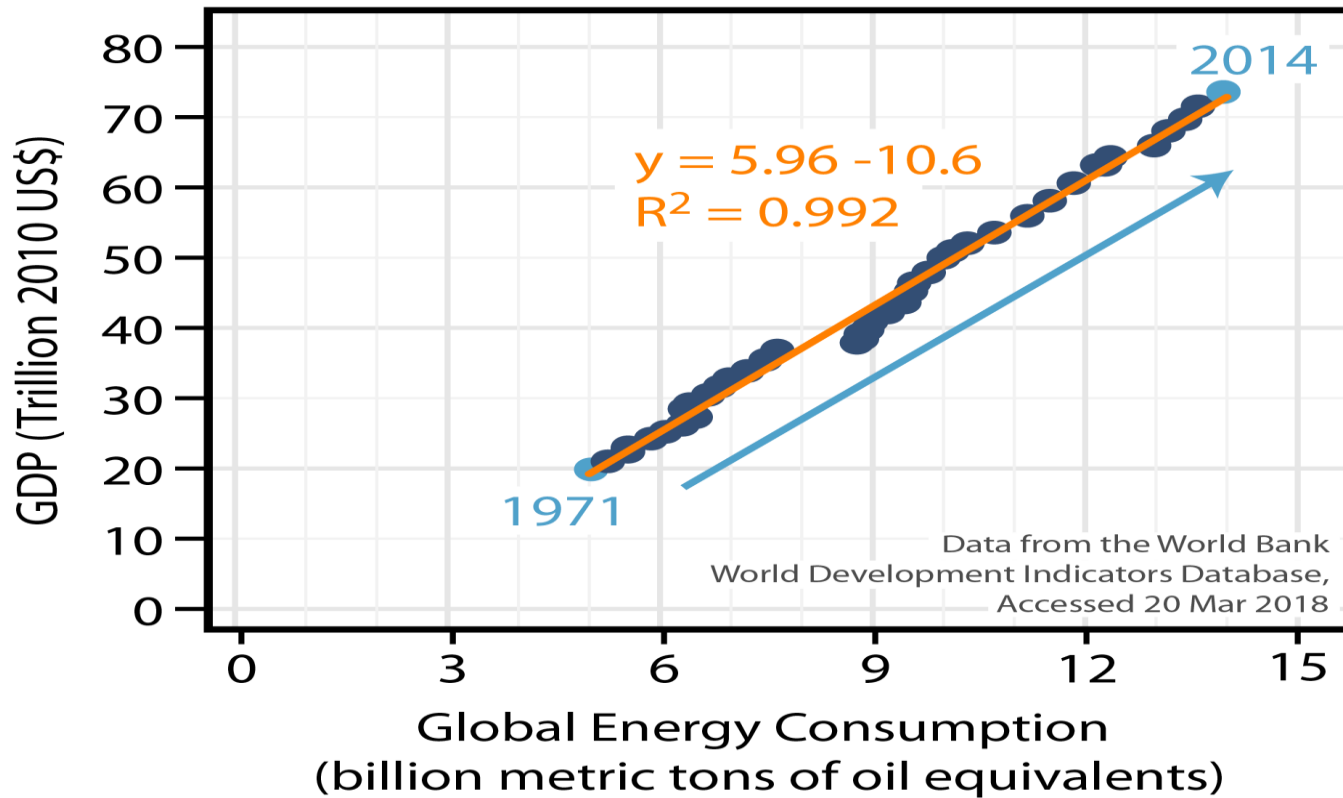
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School of Chemical Engineering
Laboratory of Optimization, Design and Advanced Process Control - LOPCA
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State University of Campinas – UNICAMP – Brazil
Fapesp/Bioen- Process Engineering Coordination
HUB Director of the New Energies Research Center-CINE



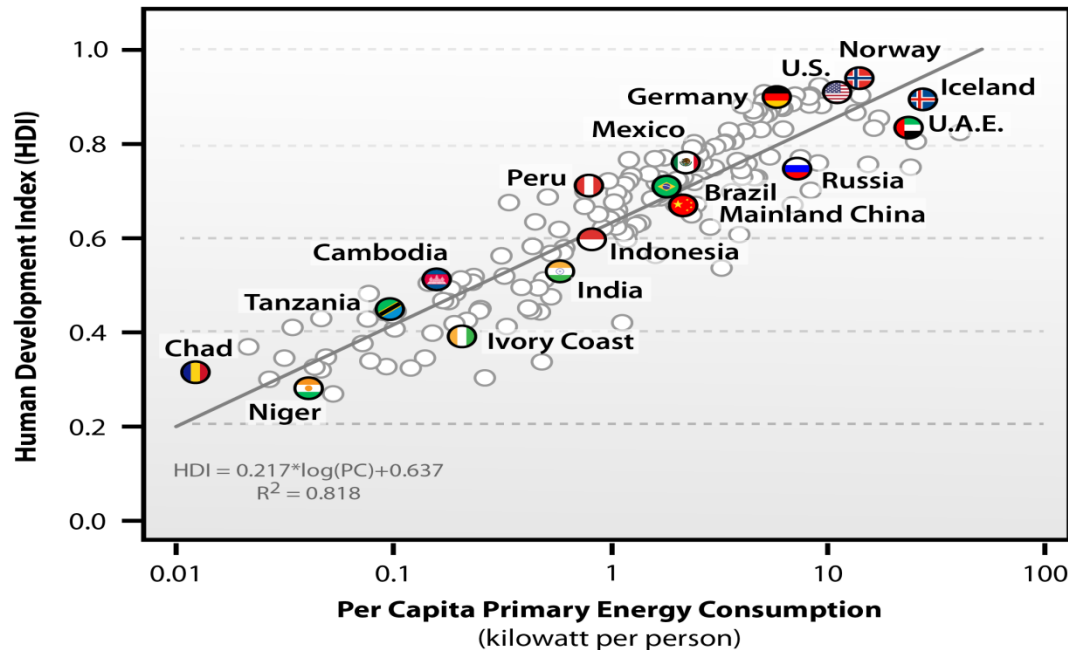
Energy Consumption and Wealth: A Linear Relationship



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Energy Consumption & Human Well Being are Linked: NO Countries have Both High HDI and Low Energy Use



- No enough energy (including fuels)for everybody, **even** with nowadays population
- Biobased processes should be energetically efficient and, if possible, to export energy

Relationship between 2008 per capita primary energy consumption and human development indices (HDI) for 171 countries. Human development indices are also from the HDRO: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>. Per capita primary energy consumption data are from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA):

<http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/IEDIndex3.cfm> .

All data were accessed on Nov. 17, 2011.



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Many ways of energy are possible

It should account for, but not only Availability, Sustainability, Eases to transform, but also Suitability for each use

Primary sources

- **No Renewable :Oil, Coal, Nuclear**
- **Renewable: Wind, Solar, Biomass, Geothermal, ...**

Science and Technology : may contribute: process development (in an integrated design of feedstock and process) and new materials.

**New vision is required: thermodynamics, kinetics, transport phenomena etc are necessary but not enough.....
multidisciplinarity**



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Solar Energy - With optimum atmospheric conditions, i.e. cloudless open sky, the maximum illumination observed at midday at sea level is 1 kW/m²

South Western
Europe 1500
kWh/m² at year

Saara's desert
2600 kWh/m² at
year

North Western
Europe 800 a
1200 kWh/m²
at year

Typical photovoltaic installation (NREL- USA) Retrieved on 2011-11-03. which would produce an average of roughly 22 W/m² (roughly 10% of the average insolation), throughout the year. **20 % considering 12h per day of sun light. In practice 10 % (day of 24 hs)**

Photosynthetic Efficiency → the fraction of light energy converted into **chemical energy** during **photosynthesis** in plants and algae. Simplified chemical reaction



Overall photosynthetic efficiency of 3 to 6% of total solar radiation

Oil palm plantation → 0.7 W/m².

Sugar Cane Plantation → 0.86 W/m² (Solar irradiation is 1kW / m²)

Most crop plants store around 0.25% to 0.5% of the sunlight in the product (corn kernels, potato starch, etc.)

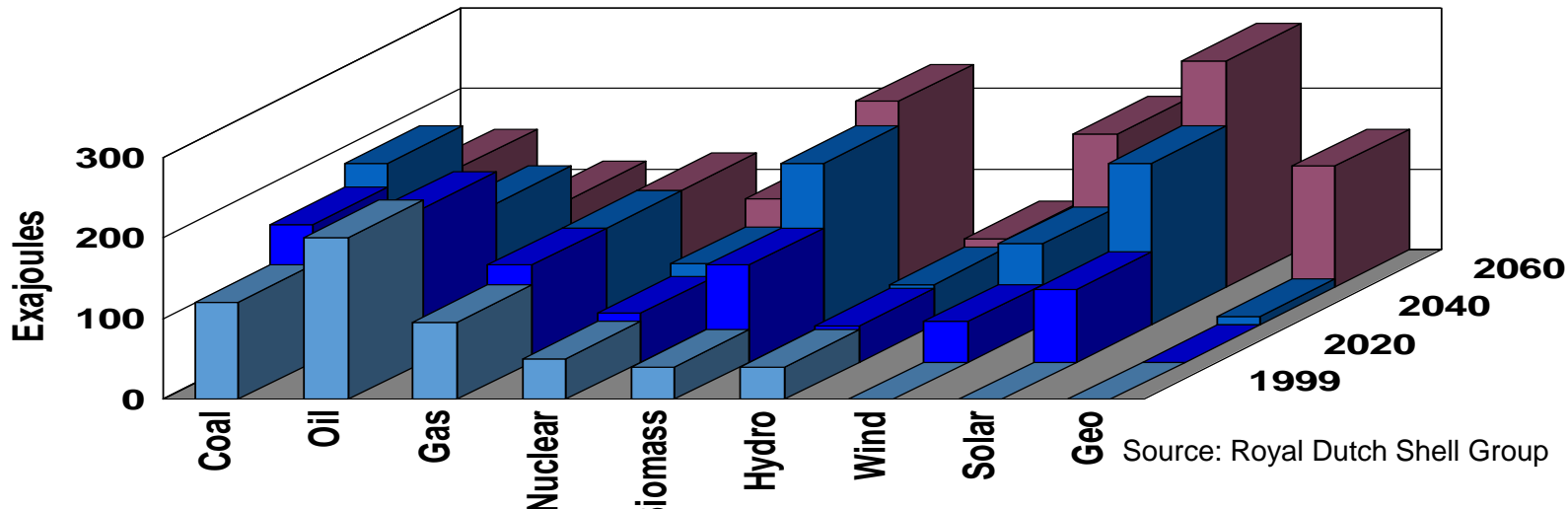


Electricity / Biofuels / Chemicals



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The future is renewable?



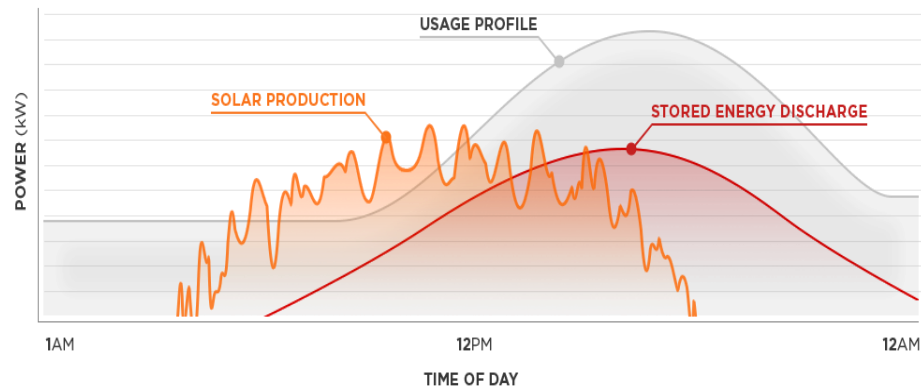
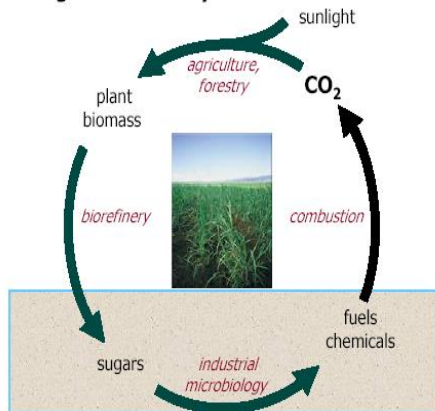
- Photovoltaic panels would produce electricity
- Converting the biofuels into mechanical energy entails the loss of a large portion of the energy.
- Liquid fuel (high energy content) is much more convenient for a vehicle than electricity, but **new technologies may change this scenario**)
- For aviation only liquid biofuel is possible (at least so far....)
- Chemicals- society requires in many activities, including housing, food production and care/health applications



Electricity / Biofuels / Chemicals

- Sustainable future for a better world will need more renewable energy
- By 2050 Electrical energy are expected to move from 18% to 50%
- CO₂ emissions must be reduced
- Solar Energy -Photo Voltaics (1st , 2nd , 3rd) generations and solar driven route to synthesize molecules
- Methane (Biomethane) to fuels.
- Energy has to be stored

Balancing the Carbon Cycle: Industrial Biotechnology



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New Energies Research Center-CINE



1) Sustainability and low carbon emissions

2) Materials science and electrochemistry is the link among all divisions.

3) Computational simulation, including multiscale calculations and molecular dynamic simulations, will help to understand phenomena and guide paths

To perform worldclass research in the areas of energy carriers, energy storage, methane to products and computational material science and chemistry.

Site <https://www.cineenergy.org>



A solar driven route to synthesize molecules - Dense energy Carriers

Coordinator - PI : Dr. Ana Flavia Nogueira

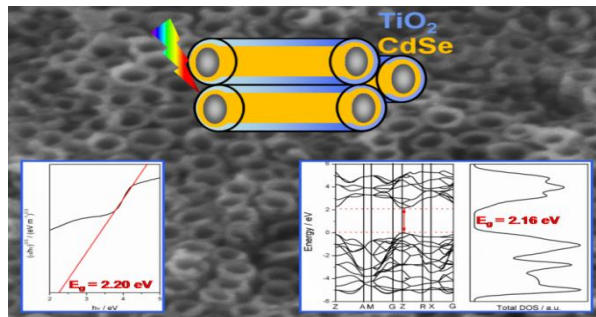
Chemistry Institute- University of Campinas

“Understand the fundamentals of the main solar driven routes to synthesize dense energy carriers, using in situ techniques, high performance (nano)materials and boost the efficiency using perovskite solar cells”

Photoanodes and photocathodes: synthesis, doping, co-catalyst investigation nanostructuring, deposition methods

In-situ (photo)electrochemical, imaging (TEM) and Synchrotron characterizations

Perovskite solar cells: from lab to large scale devices



In situ electrochemical TEM and measurements

Nanomaterials and catalysts



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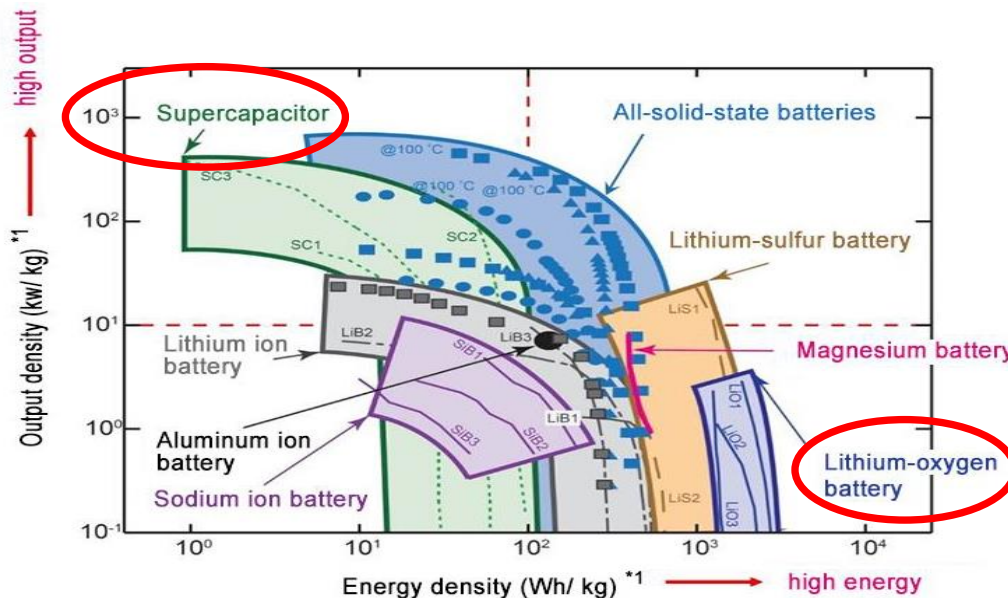
Advanced Energy Storage - Why Li-Air & Supercapacitors?



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Coordinator - PI : Prof. Rubens Maciel Filho

School of Chemical Engineering - University of Campinas



- Represent both ends for high energy and high output density
- Unanswered questions
- What are the main guidelines for the technology?



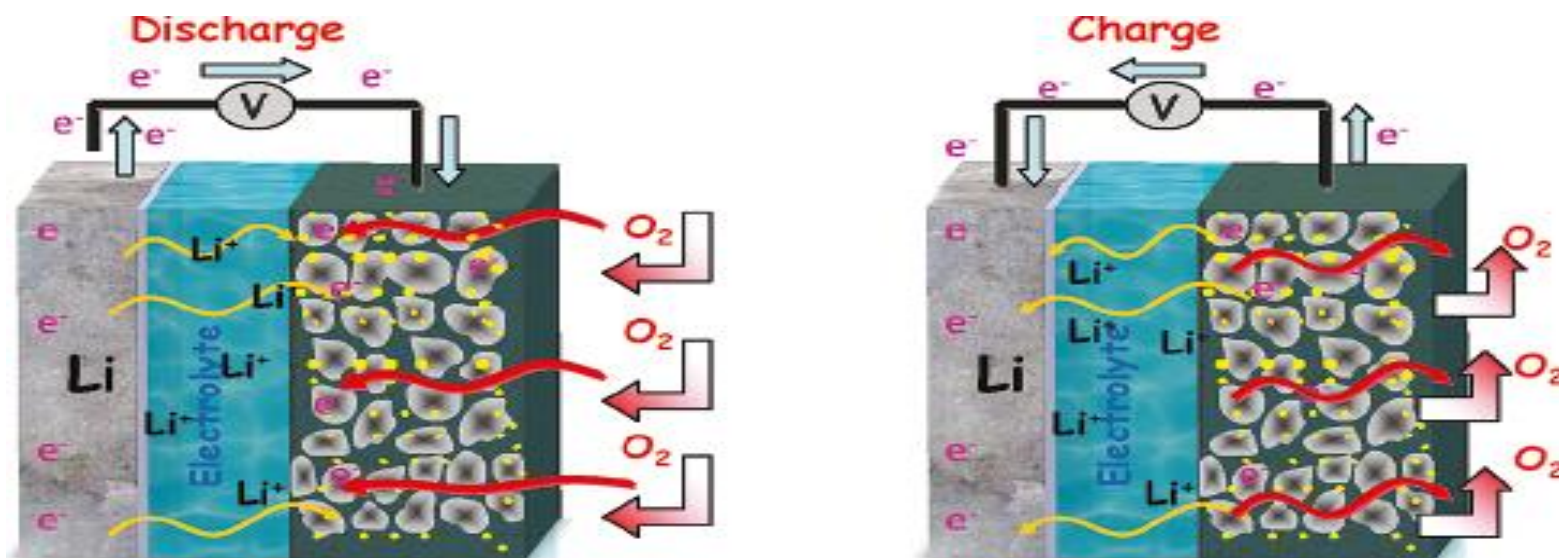
Li-O₂ Batteries



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Li-O₂ Batteries

- The Li⁺ reacts with the adsorbed O₂ species and produces Li₂O₂ as discharge products



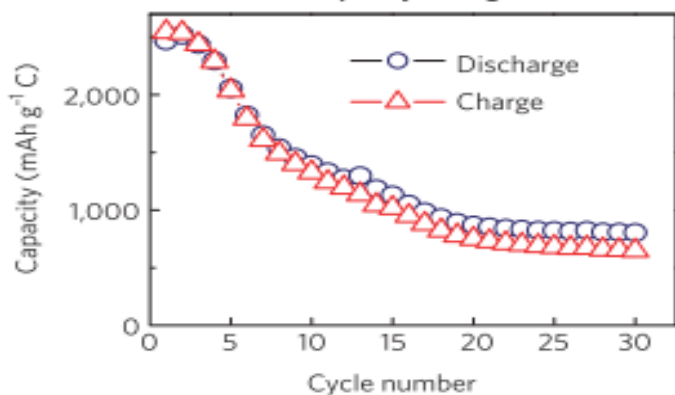
Girishkumar, G, McCloskey, B, Luntz, A C, Swanson, S, Wilcke, W; Lithium-Air Battery: Promise and Challenges. The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters 2010

- The reaction can be reversed, releasing O₂, and depositing the Li⁺ in the anode.



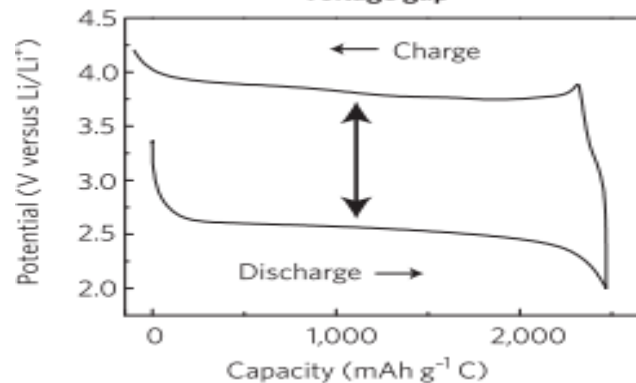
Main challenges

Capacity fading



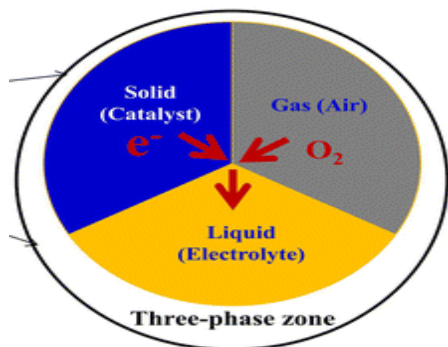
Capacity loss during cycling

Voltage gap

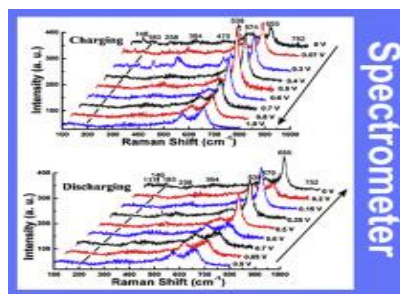


Large overpotentials for charge and discharge

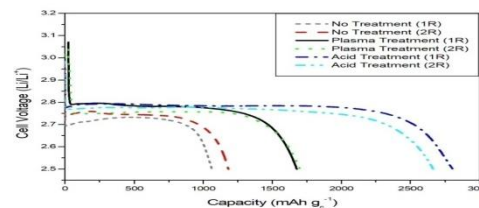
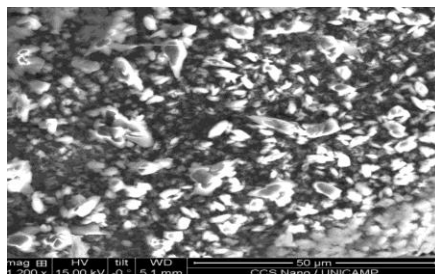
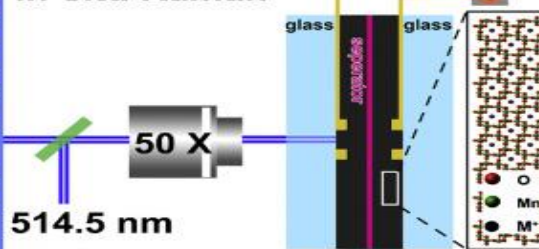
Bruce *et al.* Nature, 2011. Yan-Jie Wang, Electrochemical Energy Reviews 2018



Triple-phase boundary management



In-situ Raman



CNT- carbon nanotubes

Methane to Products

Coordinator - PI : Dr. Fabio Coral Fonseca

Nuclear and Energy Research Institute



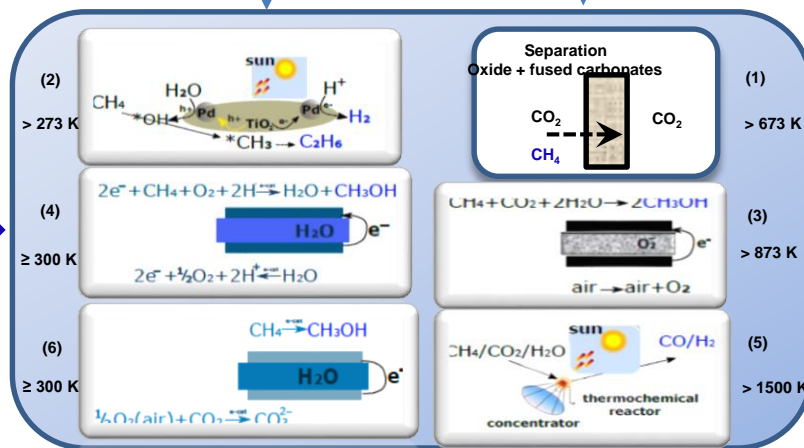
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Strategy

Future Scenario

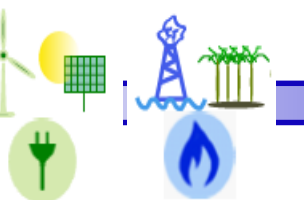
M2P Projects

Monetised
Natural Gas



Advanced feedstock
Chemical industry

Fuels



Cheap and abundant

Example of Computational developments: Selective Conversion of Methane to High Density Carriers based on Porous and Nano-Materials

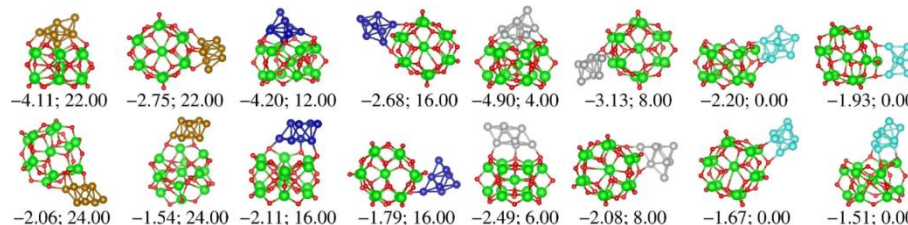
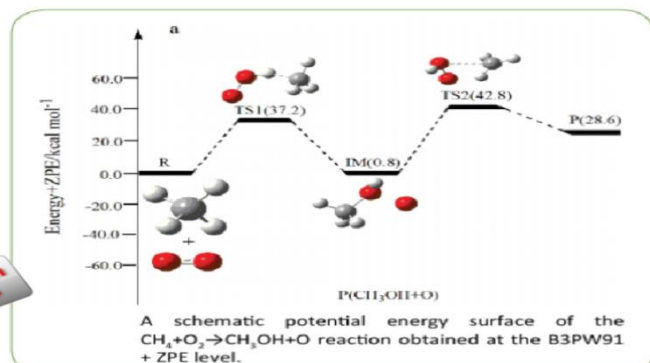
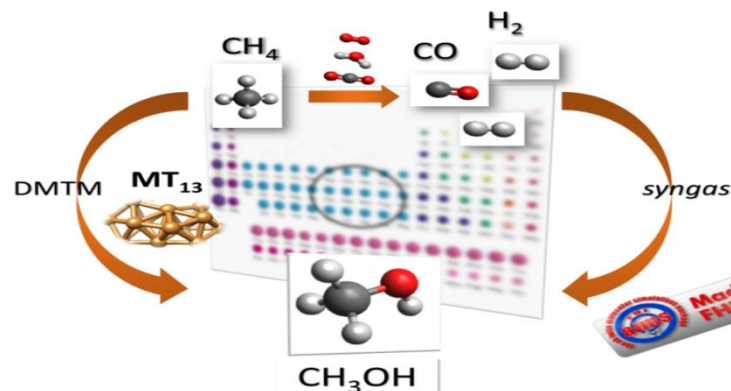
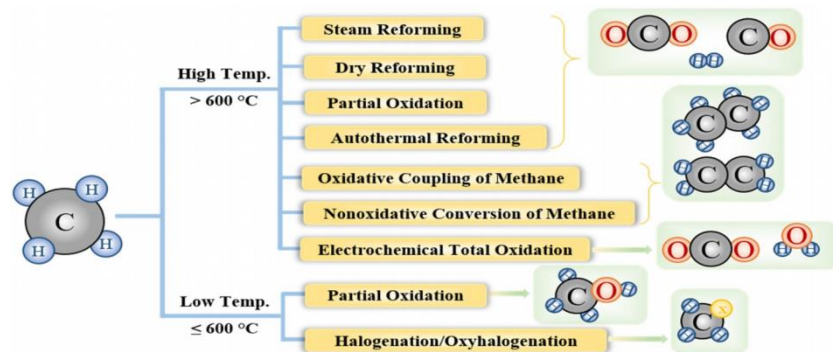
Coordinator - PI : Dr. Juarez L. F. da Silva

São Carlos Institute of Chemistry – IQSC – University of São Paulo



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Catalysis Today 285 (2017) 147–158



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SÃO PAULO RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Biomass based approach

- **BIOMASS** availability which may be region dependent and logistic will pay an important role. (+- 70% of the biofuel/bioenergy costs)
- The nature of the **CONVERSION PROCESSES** employed, that means, the ability to efficiently utilize the energy content of biomass, attending the market demands.
- **Meta-metabolonics-** design of biomass and microorganism in synergy to specific functions
- **Model for social impact and rural development taking into account restriction to food production**
- **Global Water footprint**
- **Global Carbon footprint**
- **Global Green House Gas Emissions**
- **Logistic of biomass with biomass densification**



Corn stover



Sugar-Cane
Bagasse



Hardwood



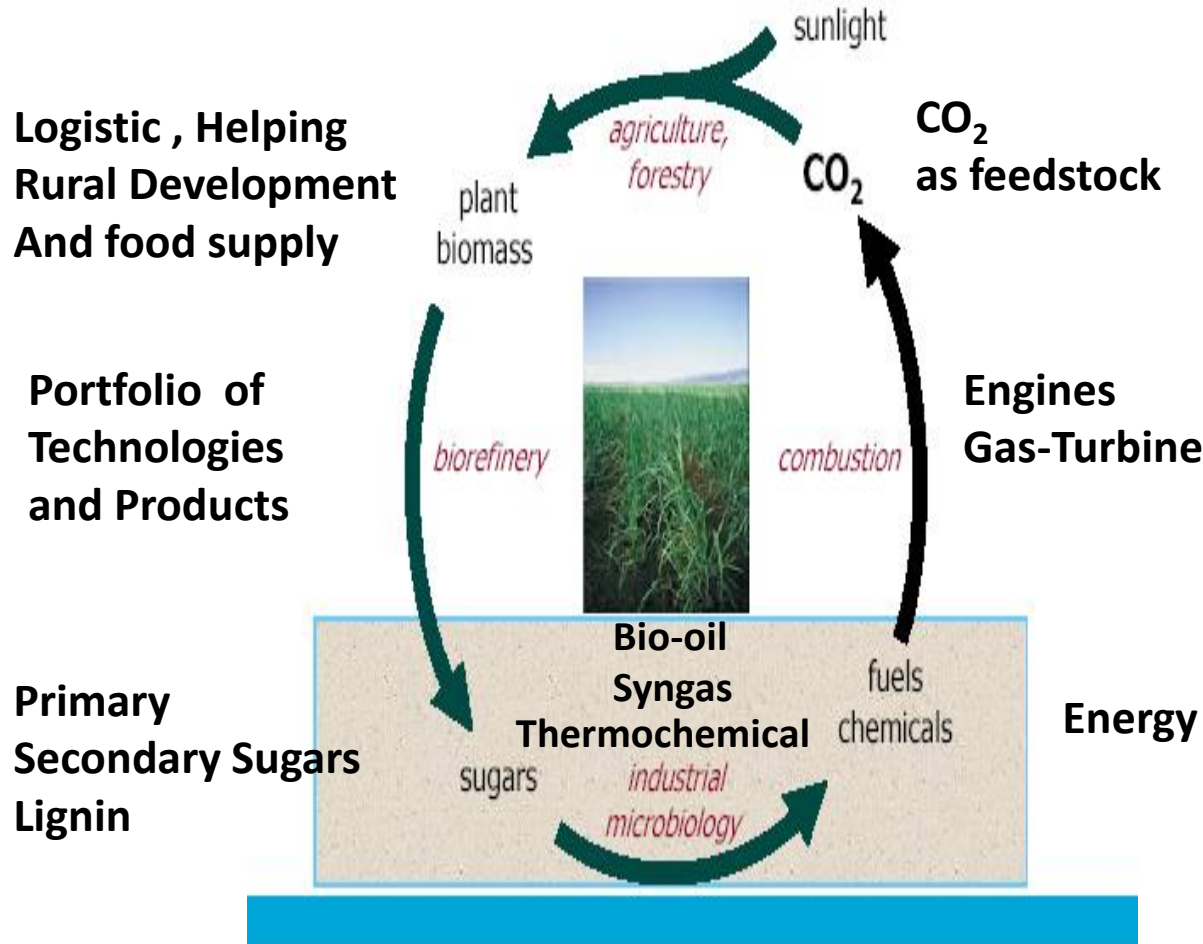
Softwood

Bioeconomy/Circular - Meta-Reverse Engineering- Thermobiochemical routes



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Balancing the Carbon Cycle: Industrial Biotechnology



The whole process – from biomass to product deliver → not only economically competitive



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Renewability exergy index

$$\lambda = \frac{\Sigma B_{\text{products/byproducts}}}{B_{\text{fossil}} + B_{\text{destroyed}} + B_{\text{deactivation}} + B_{\text{disposal}} + \Sigma B_{\text{emissions/residues}}}$$

$$0 \leq \lambda < 1$$

Environmentally unfavorable

$$\lambda > 1$$

Environmentally favorable

$$\lambda = 1$$

Reversible process with non-renewable inputs

$$\lambda \rightarrow \infty$$






Reversible process with renewable inputs



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Comparative Energy Balance to Crop Choice and Design as Feedstock (e.g. Ethanol)

PROCESS Feedstock	Corn ¹	Switchgrass ¹	Sugar cane ²
Energy unit	(GJ/ha.yr)	(GJ/ha.yr)	(GJ/ha.yr) 
Crop production energy consumption	18.9	17.8	13.9 
Biomass Energy	149.5 ³	220.2	297.1 ⁴ 
Agricultural energy ratio	7.9	12.3	21.3 
Ethanol production energy consumption	47.9	10.2	3.4 



1- Source: ORNL, 2- Source: Copersucar/UNICAMP, 3-No credit for corn stover, 4- No credit for sugar cane leaves,

Ethanol Productivity

Brazilian sugarcane ethanol is the biofuel presenting the highest productivity in the world (today: 6,000 l/ha.year) and the best renewable energy ratio:

9-13 liters renewable energy/liter fossil energy

US corn ethanol: 1.4-1.8

German biodiesel: 3.0

Oil - Each unit of energy invested to produce oil in the 1940s yielded the equivalent of 110 energy units (1 to 100)

Nowadays – depending upon the oil field 1-10

Evolutionary Engineering and the 1G Learning Curve



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Learning curve of Biochemical/Thermochemical

2G Routes → important knowledge

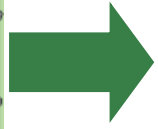
1G
(40 years)

2G Biochemical

In 10 years?

70's

Today



82 %

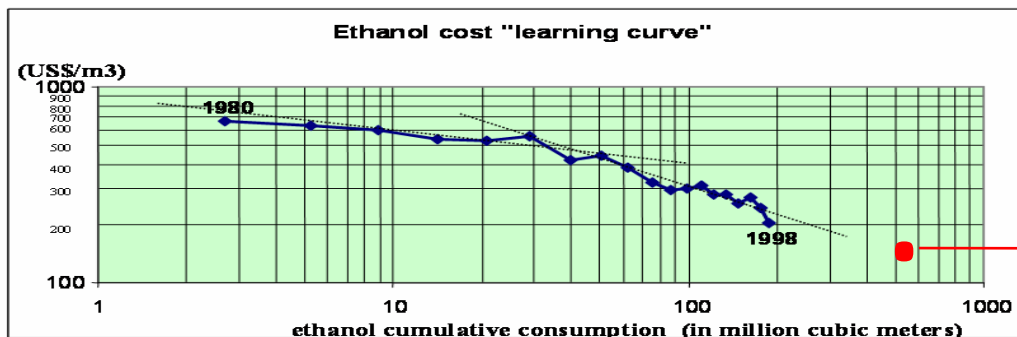


40-60 %



2 Millions ha- Sugar 4.5 Mt,
80 Mt of Sugar Cane- 1 Billion liters

8.5 Millions ha
Sugar 36 Mt
23 Billions liters



Goldemberg, J.

40 years

US\$ 20-25 cents → production cost of
1 liter of ethanol (70% due to sugar cane)



Lignocellulosic Conversion- Decision making – couple with different alternatives



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Sustainable concept of Biobased Production → requires to be energetically self-sufficient and even Electricity Exporter

Thermochemical Routes Challenges

- 1) Syngas production
- 2) Gas purification
- 3) Catalyst development for efficient process
- 4) Separation and purification
- 5) Bio-oil based process

Biochemical Route 2G Challenges

- 1) Pre-treatment in large scale
- 2) Delignification
- 3) Enzymes- costs and on site production
- 4) Fermentation time
- 5) C5 fermentation
- 6) Separation and purification

To other raw materials - Impact of Logistic

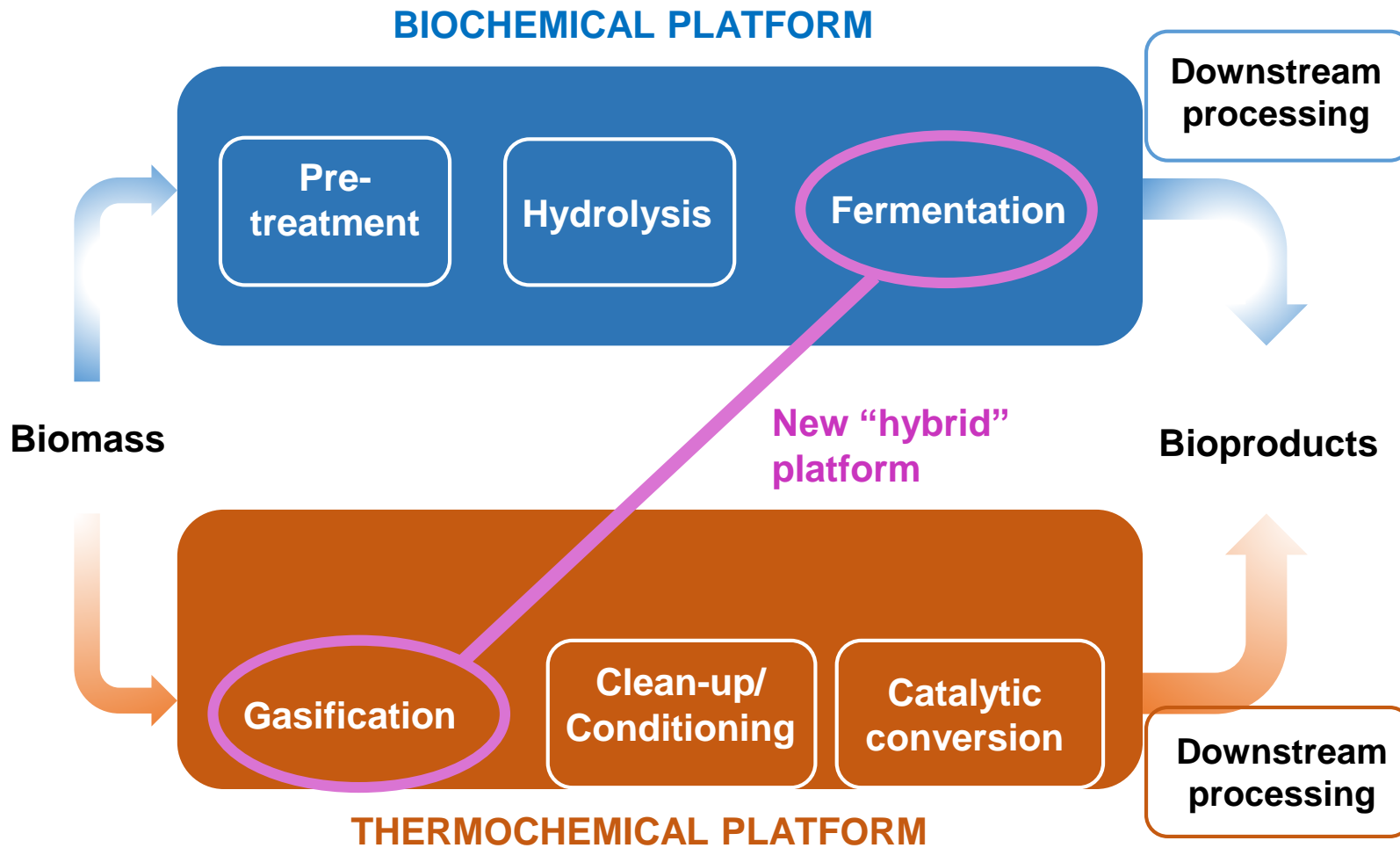


A point to be considered is its possible integration with the first generation units and this may lead to a careful choice of the process that leads to economically and robust solution to use byproducts as feedstock for energy and chemicals. Flexibility of Thermochemical route, in terms of raw material should be addressed- any lignocellulosic material and use of Solid Municipal Waste

Synergy between Thermo and Biochemical Routes



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DE MEDEIROS, E. ; POSADA, J. A. ; NOORMAN, H. ; OSSEWEIJER, P. ; MACIEL FILHO R. .
. JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION, v. 168, p. 1625-1635, 2017.

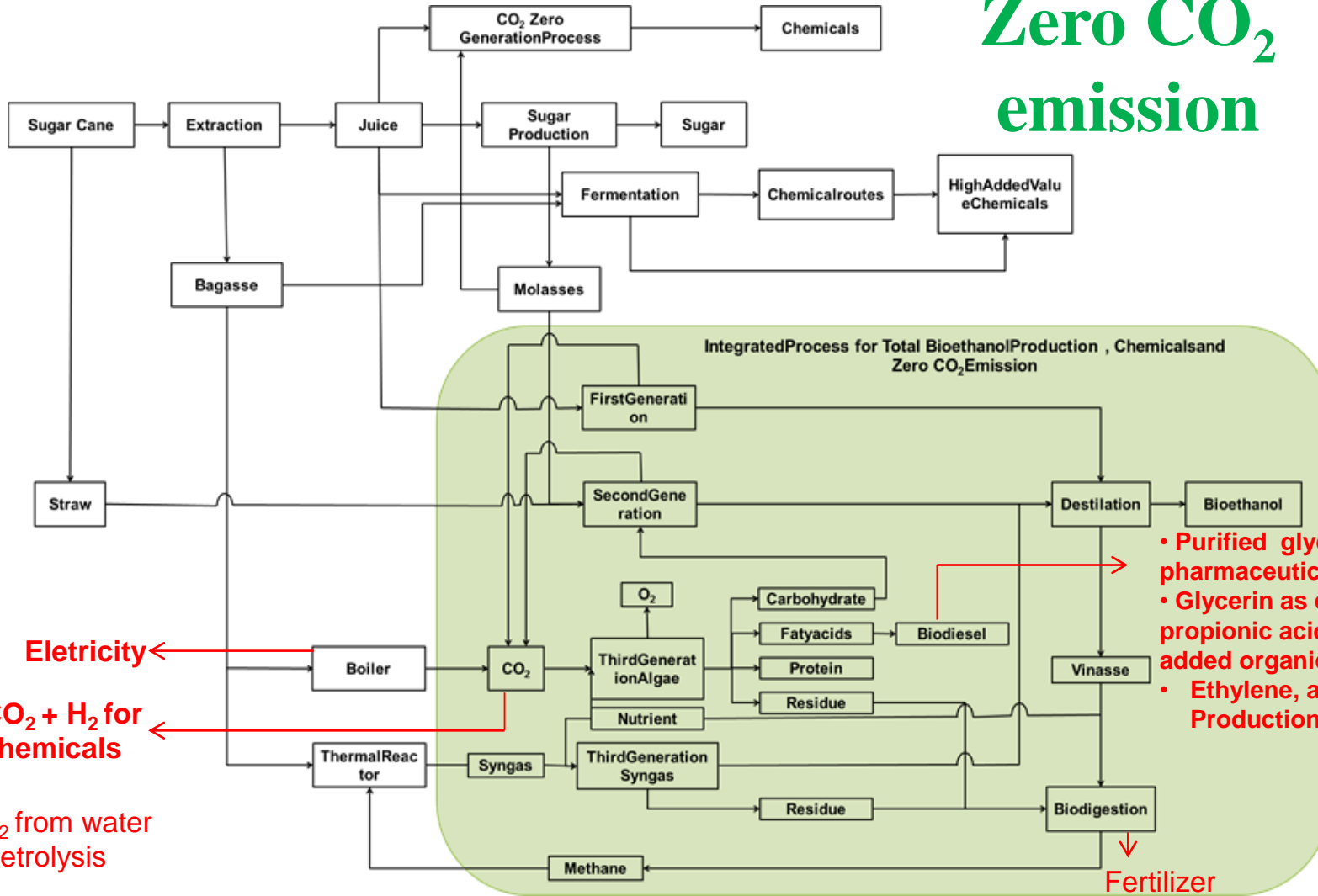
Biomass → Bio-oil → Upgrade and/or Co-Processing - Fapesp-H2020

Integrated Circular Process



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Zero CO₂ emission



Search for more efficient Fermentation-Global Negative Cycle of CO₂

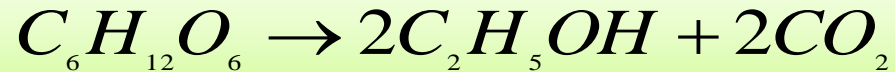
1. Microorganism → *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

2. Invertase Reaction



3. Fermentation Reactions

Main Reaction



$$Y_{MAX} = 0.51 \text{ g ethanol} / \text{g glucose}$$

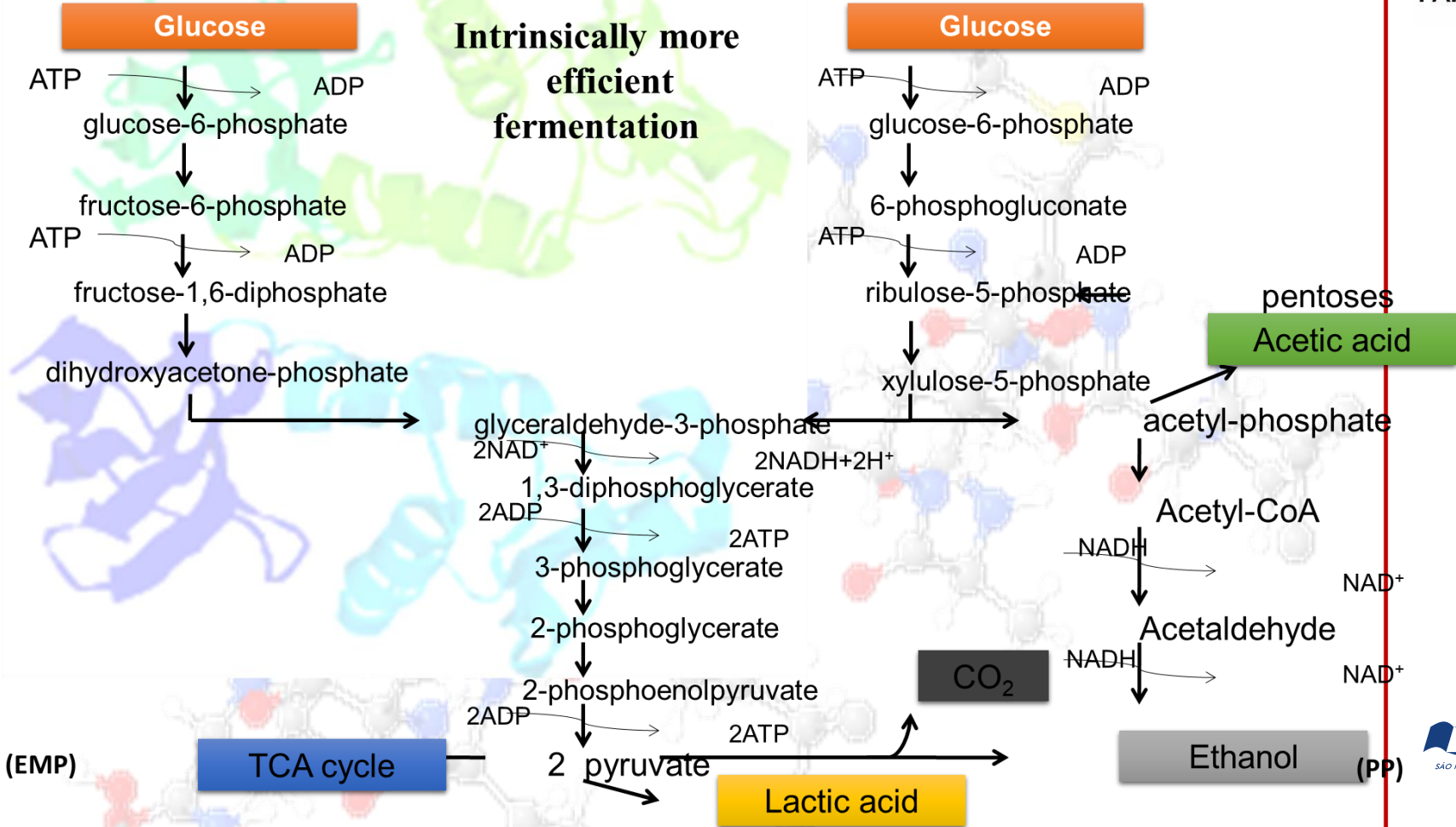


90 % of the theoretical yield due to secondary reactions.

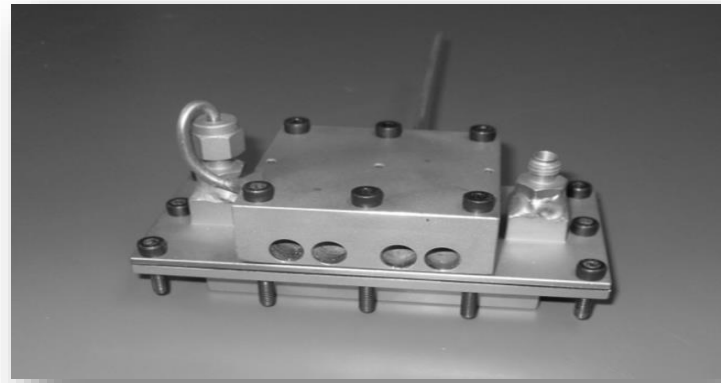
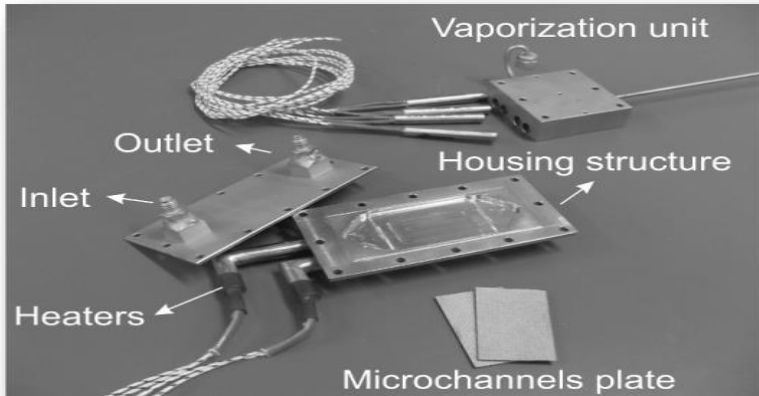
LATIC ACID PLATFORM



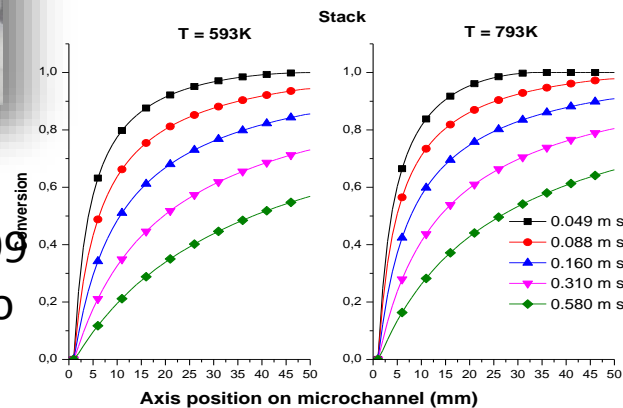
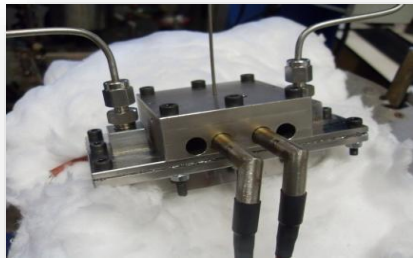
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Microchannel Reactor- H2 from Ethanol for Fuels Cells



Final microreactor assembly containing microchannels plates.



Case	593 K	
	[kg s ⁻¹]	V [L h ⁻¹]
A	8,477E-08	3,39
B	1,478E-07	5,91
C	1,905E-07	7,62
D	2,268E-07	9,07
E	2,565E-07	10,26

Patent:BR2013000499
Unicamp, Macie Filho
et. all

Final Remarks

- **Sustainable Energy is required for a human development**
- **Solar Energy should be better explored . Electricity storage have to be improved**
- **New materials with potential to develop high energy density batteries**
- **Feedstock productivity with photosynthetic evaluation, availability and logistic - play crucial role- circular process design**
- **Sustainability analysis → economic, social and environmental evaluation is necessary**
- **Several scenarios with biomass and circular process design approach have to be considered**
- **|Electricity and biofuels – they should not compete . They may compose an alternative energy matrix.**
- **Economic viability is essential → society, in general, is not to pay more because is renewable- criteria of circular economy have to be met**



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Acknowledge

Researchers students and researchers of LOPCA/LDPS and CINE



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