



# Modern Methods in Heterogeneous Catalysis Research

## Fritz Haber Institute, Berlin, 24 November 2006



# Integrated Catalytic Processes

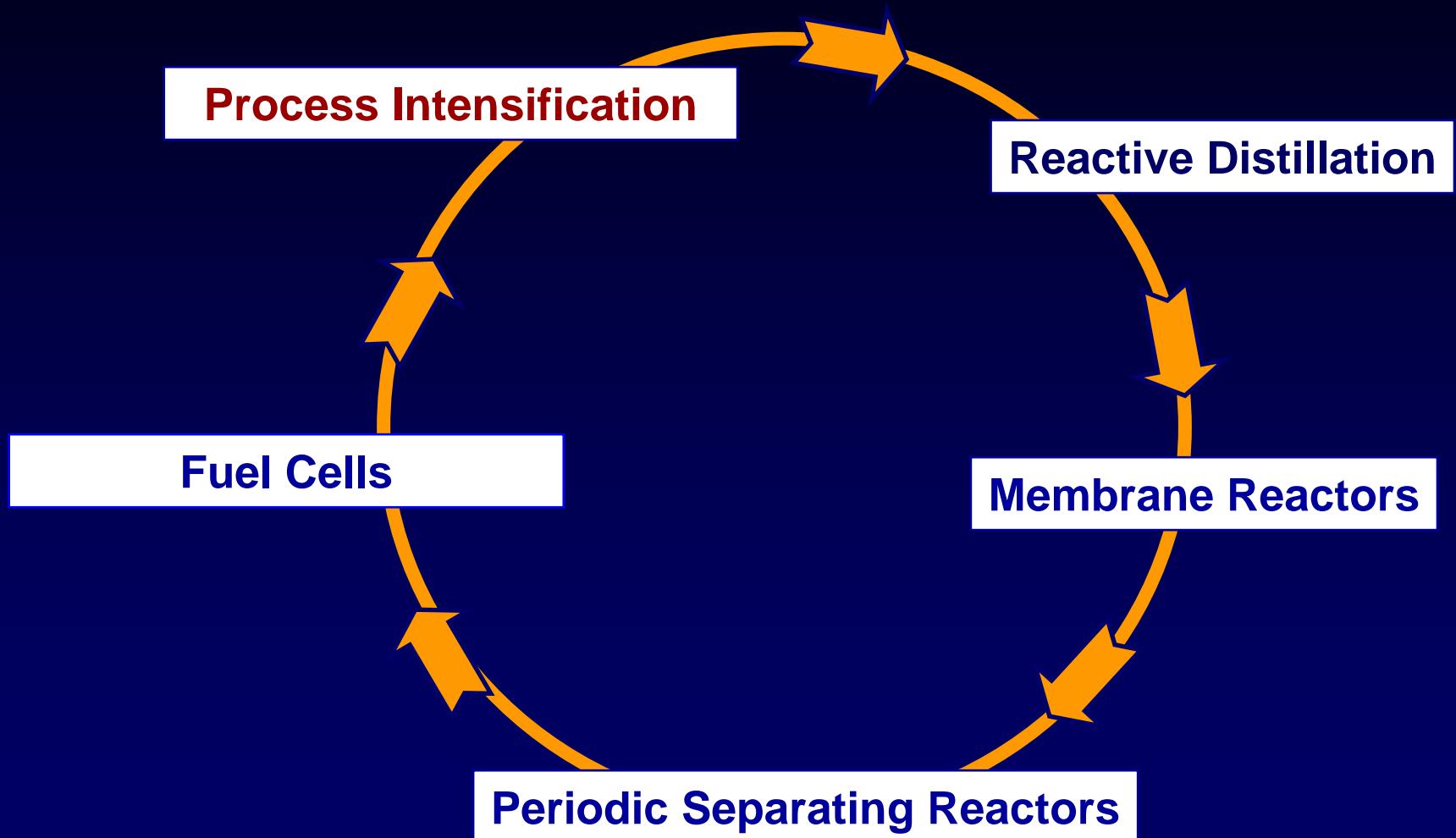
Dr. Techn. Liisa Rihko-Struckmann

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Sandtorstraße 1, 39106 Magdeburg, Germany*

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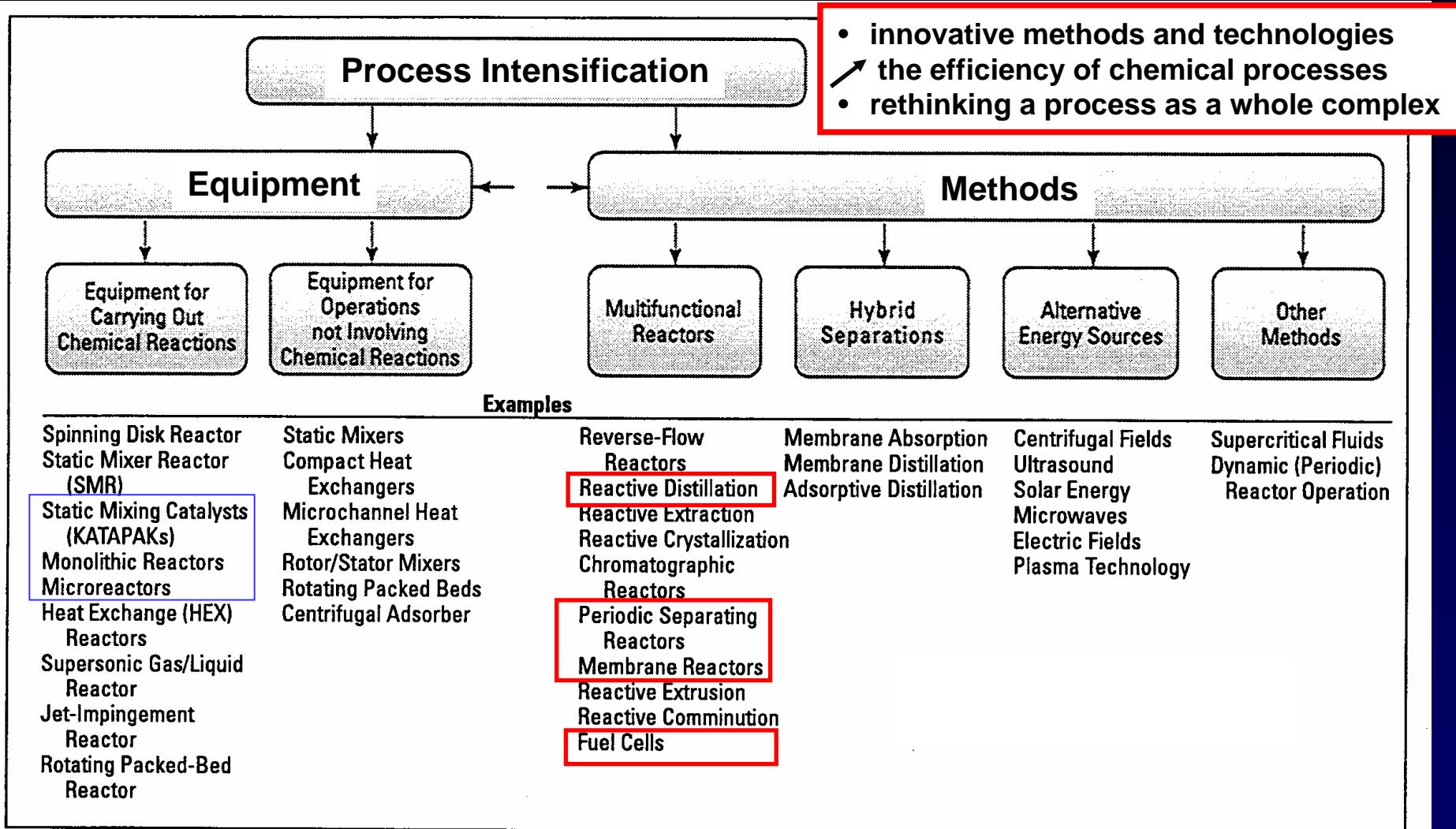
# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline





# Process Intensification

- innovative methods and technologies
- the efficiency of chemical processes
- rethinking a process as a whole complex





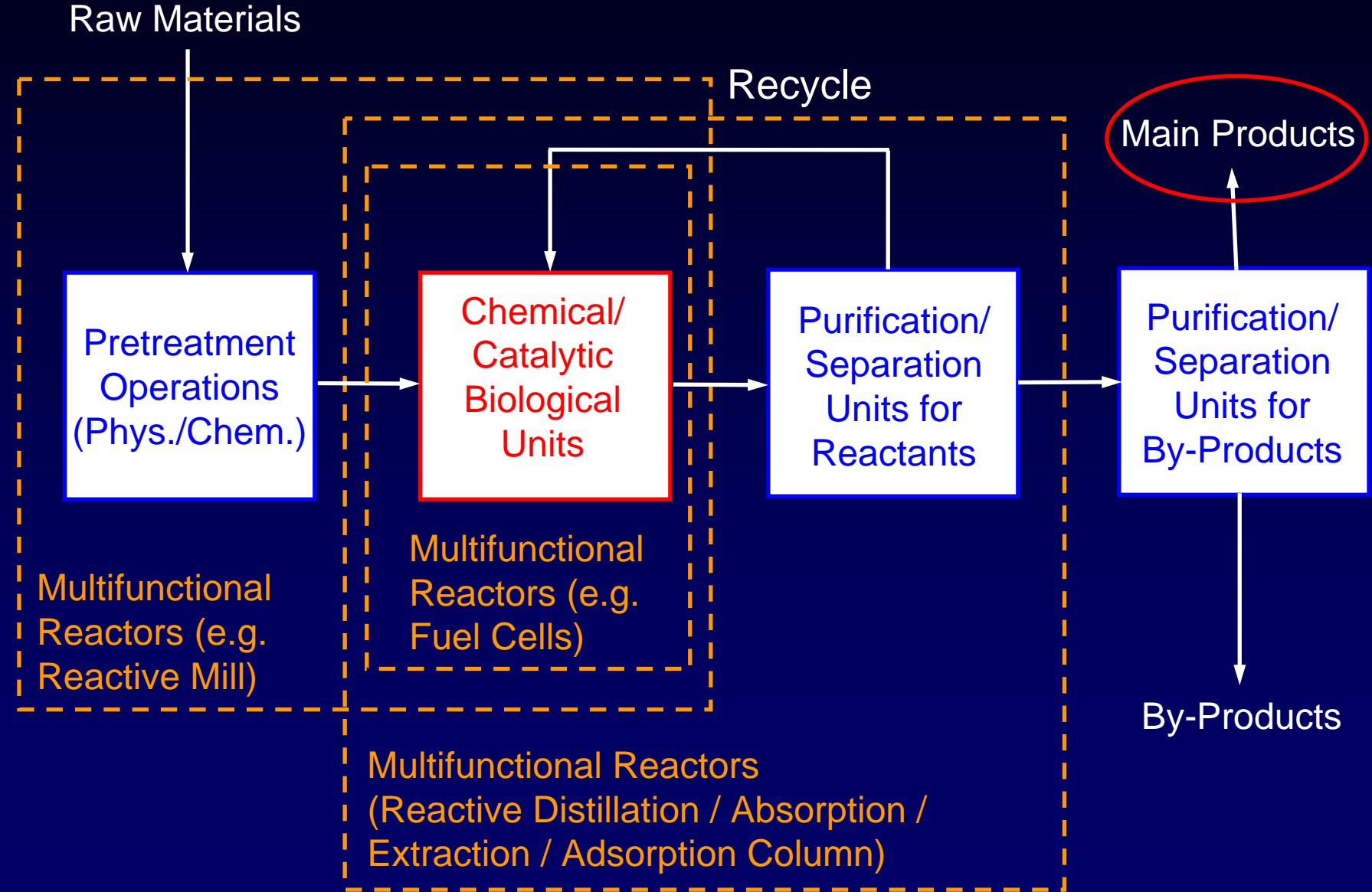
# Potential of Integrated Catalytic Processes

Synergetic interactions of chemical and physical unit operations may lead to:

- ↑ increase of productivity from process intensification
- ↑ increase of selectivity of reactions and/or separations
- ↑ improve separation by „reacting away“ azeotropic mixtures
- ↑ more efficient (in situ) use of energy
- ↑ inherent safety
- ↑ improved environmental compatibility  
(e.g. by avoidance of by-products and hazardous solvents).

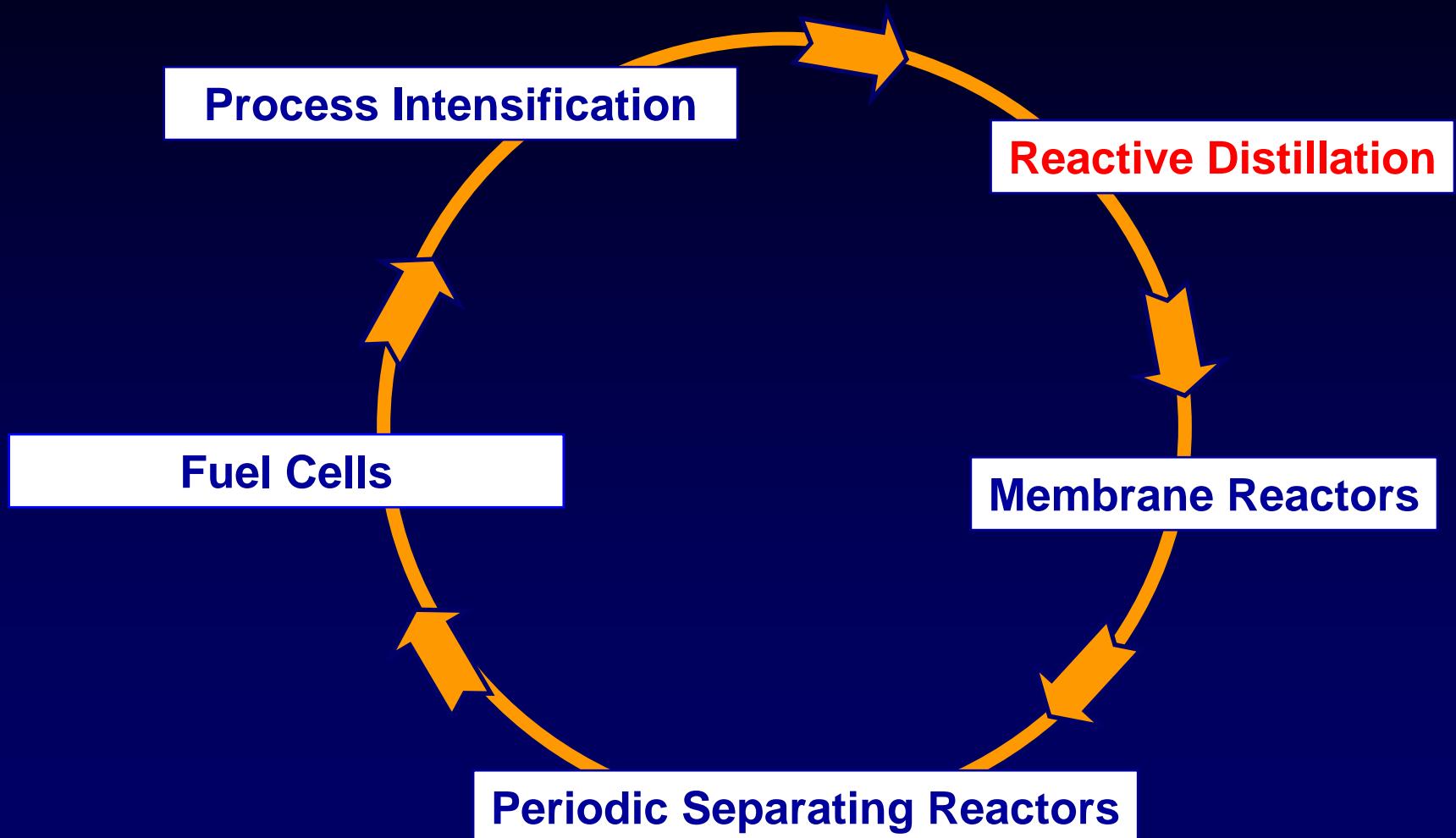


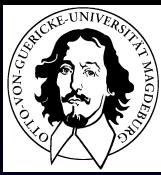
# Integration of Unit Operations in Multifunctional Reactors





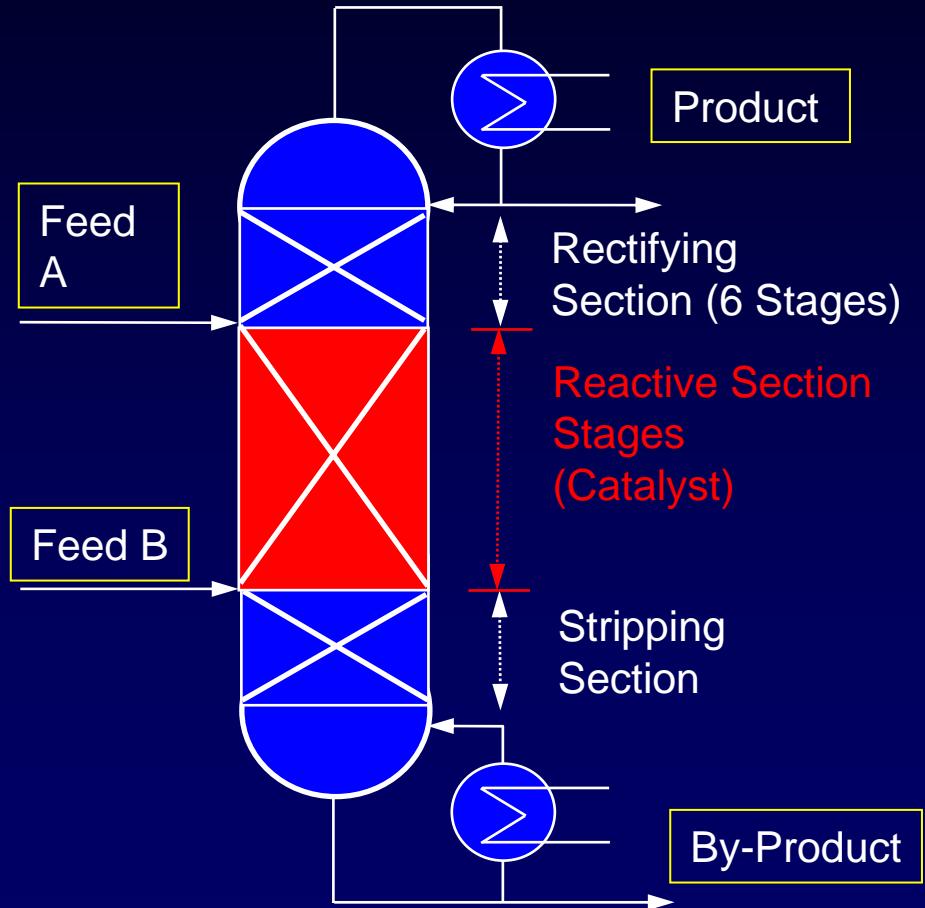
# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline





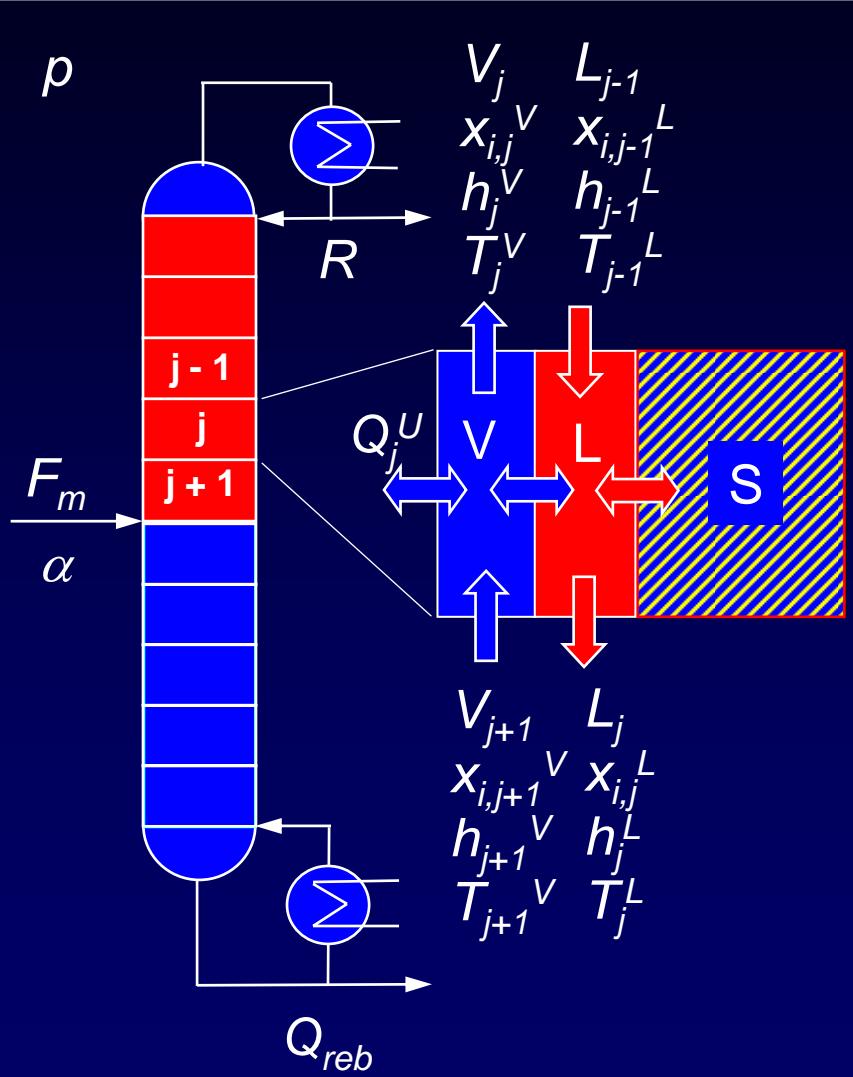
# Reactive Distillation

- Combination of a Reactor and a Distillation Unit





# Modeling of Catalytic Distillation Column



PSEUDOHOMOGENEOUS MODEL  
+ V/L mass transfer model  
+ reaction microkinetics

HETEROGENEOUS MODEL  
("Fully rate-based")  
+ V/L mass transfer model  
+ reaction microkinetics  
+ intraparticle mass transfer  
(Maxwell-Stefan-eqs.)

SPECIFICATIONS  
+ specifications:  $p$ ,  $F$ ,  
Relative volatility  $\alpha$ ,  $Q$ ,  $R$



# Reactive Batch Distillation: Model Equations

## Mass Balances

$$\frac{d x_i}{d \tau} = \underbrace{\left( x_i - y_i(\underline{x}, T) \right)}_{\text{Separation by Distillation}} + Da \cdot \underbrace{\left( v_i - x_i v \right)}_{\text{Influence of Stoichiometry}} \cdot \underbrace{r^*(\underline{x}, T)}_{\text{Reaction Kinetics}}$$

## Damköhler Number

$$Da \equiv \frac{k_+(T_{ref}) \cdot c_{sites} \cdot V_{cat}}{\dot{V}^o}$$

apparent Rate constant

concentration of active sites on catalyst

## Boiling Temperature

$$T = T(\underline{x}, p)$$

- + rate control over pressure !
- + T is not a dynamic variable !



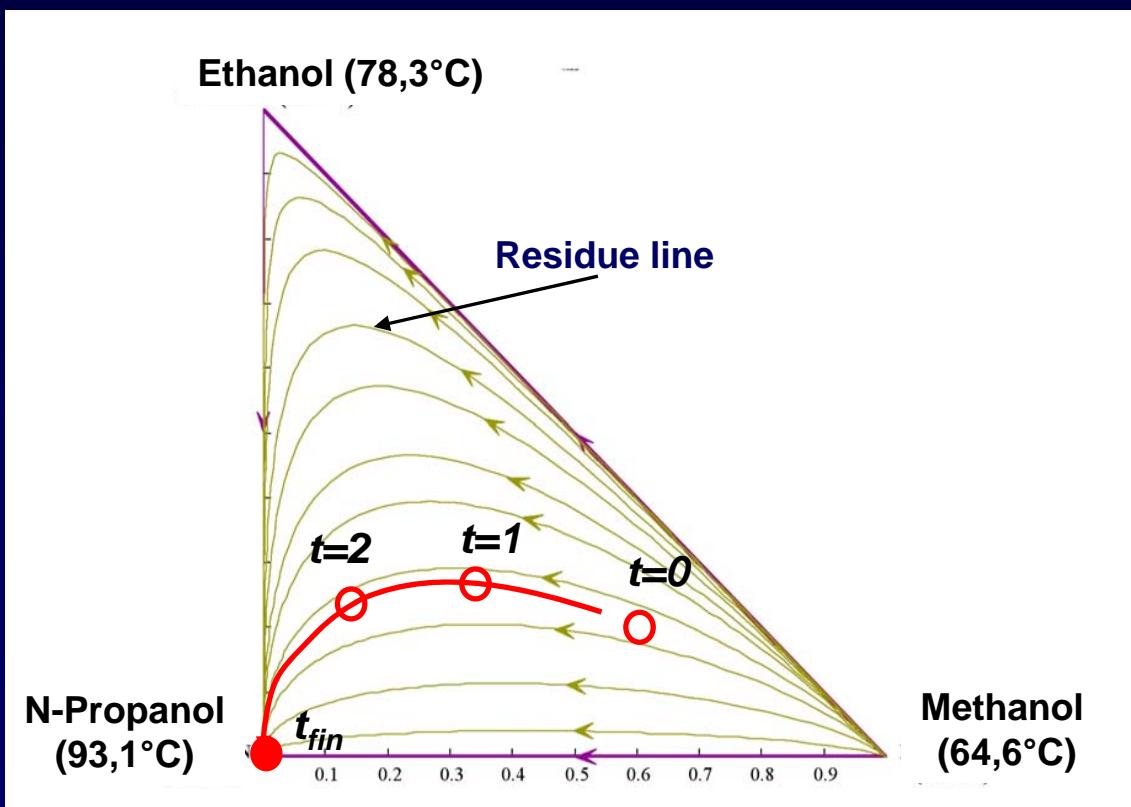
# Residue Curve Maps

- Liquid residue composition with time
- 1-stage distillation (batch distillation) with no reflux
- equilibrium relationship of ternary mixtures
- bottom and overhead products
- the feasibility of separation of homogeneous mixtures (stages / energy !)
- the design and operation of a distillation column (azeotropic mixtures)

Example (ideal, no azeotropes)

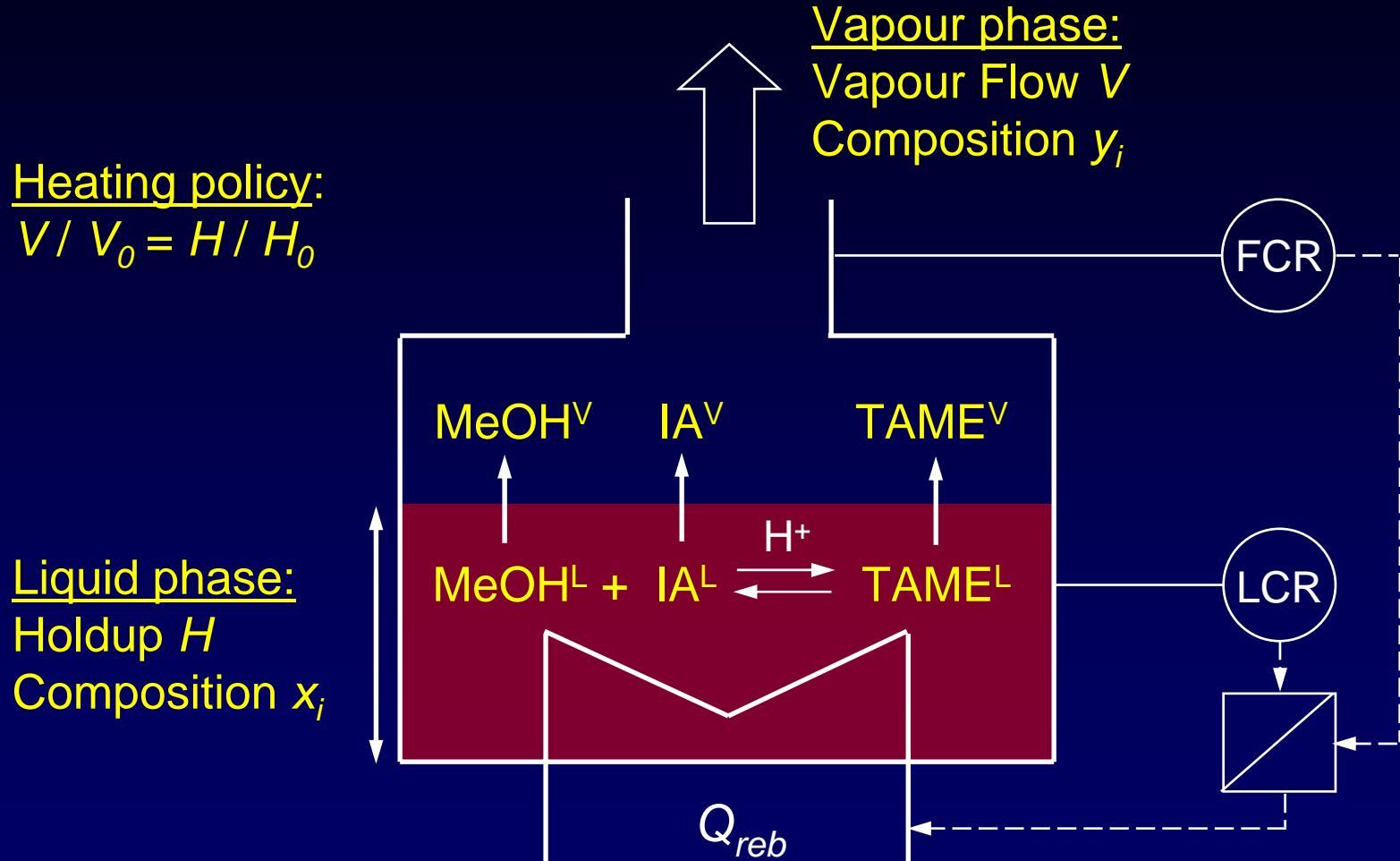
Starting mixture ( $t=0$ ):

• MeOH	0,6
• EtOH	0,25
• N-PrOH	0,15



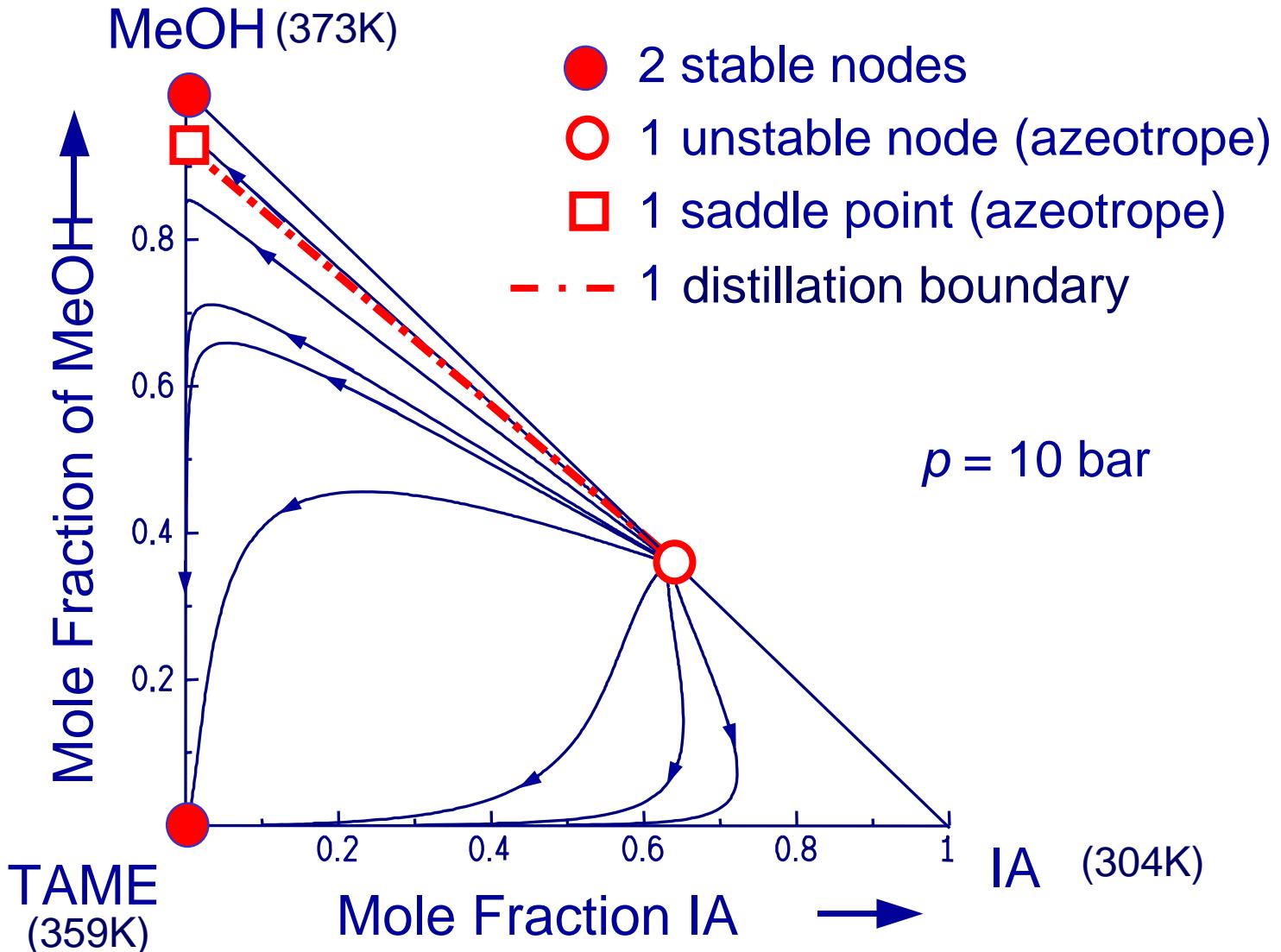


# Reactive Batch Distillation: MeOH + IA $\leftrightarrow$ TAME



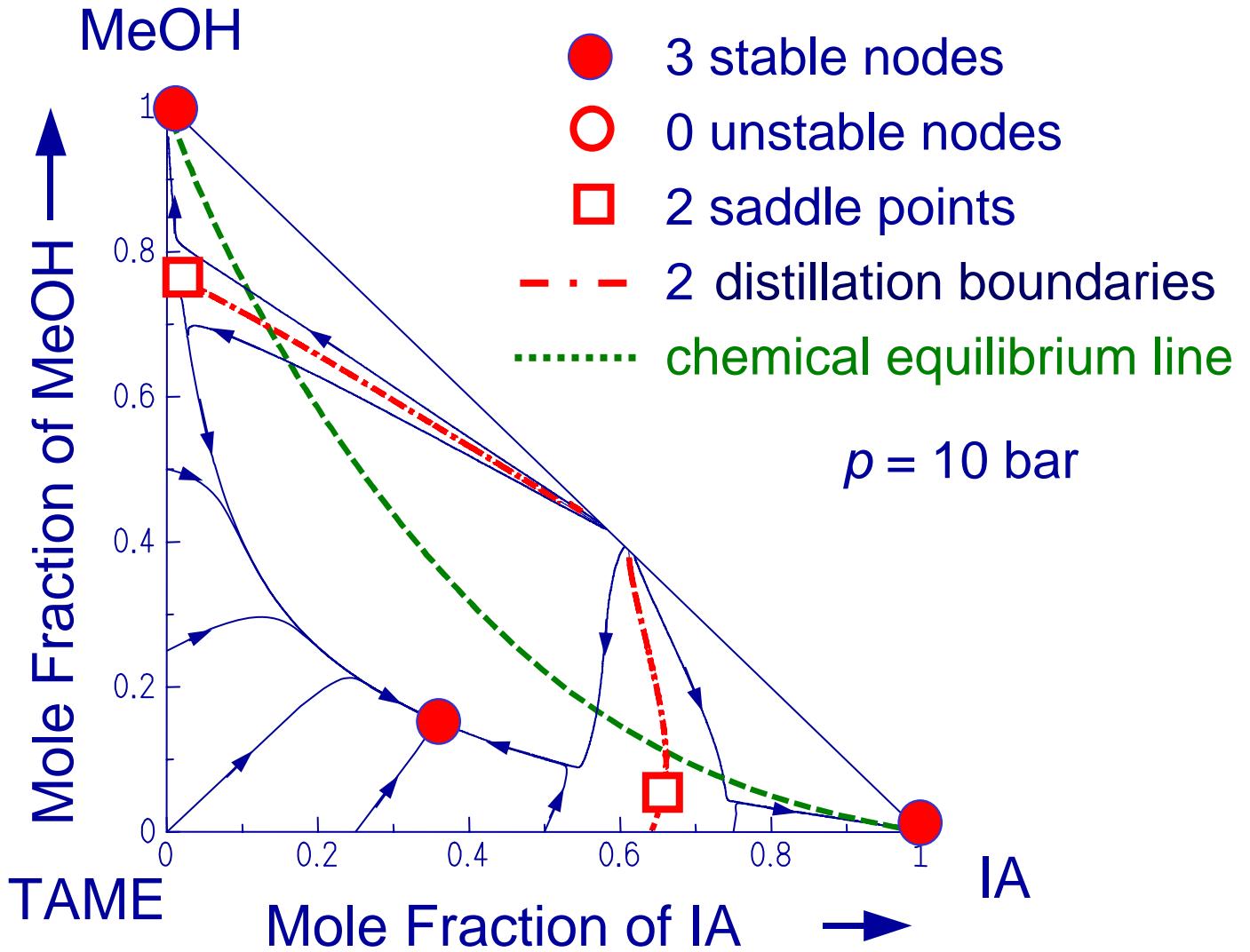


# Catalytic Batch Distillation for TAME-Synthesis: No Reaction ( $Da = 0$ )



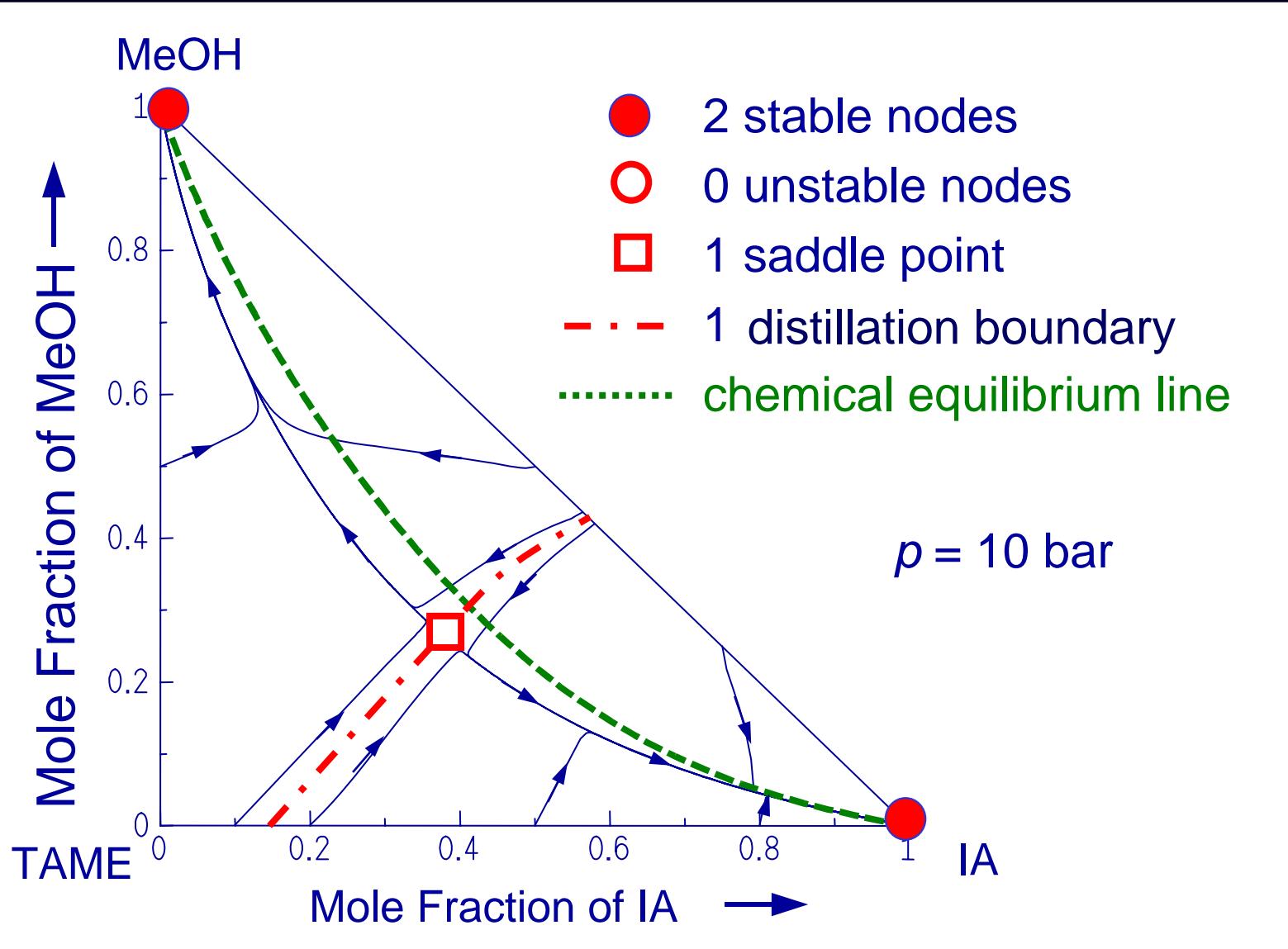


# Catalytic Batch Distillation for TAME-Synthesis: Slow Reaction ( $Da = 10^{-4}$ )



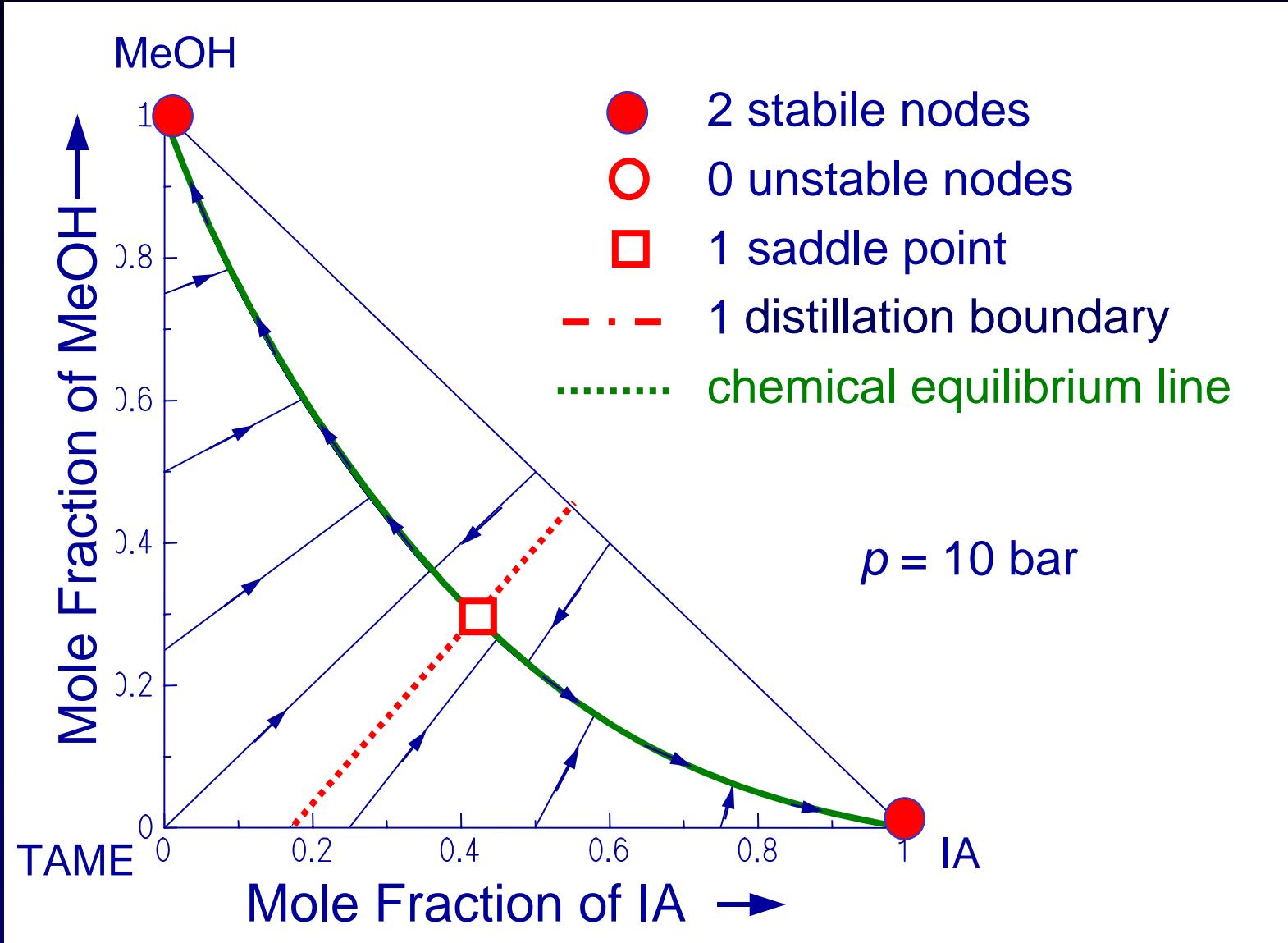


# Catalytic Batch Distillation for TAME-Synthesis: Fast Reaction ( $Da = 10^{-3}$ )





# Catalytic Batch Distillation for TAME-Synthesis: Reaction in Equilibrium ( $Da > 1$ )





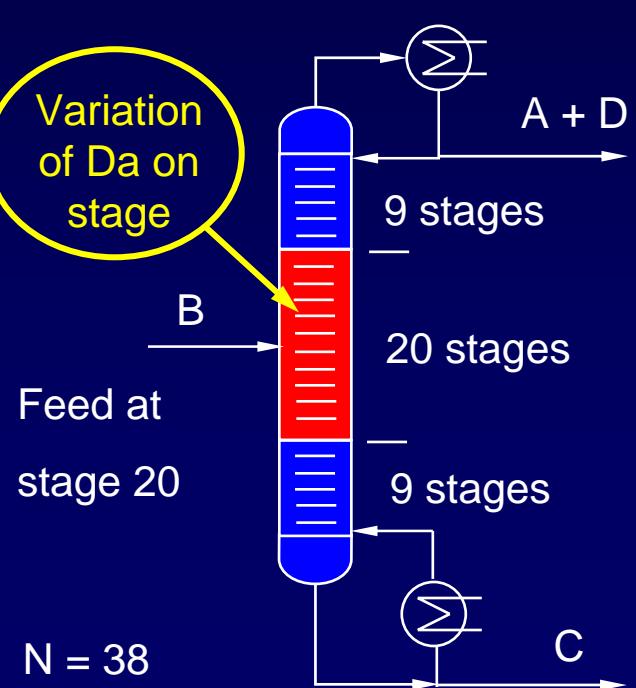
# Studies of Side Reactions: Influence of Stage Damköhler Number

Main Rxn  
Side Rxn

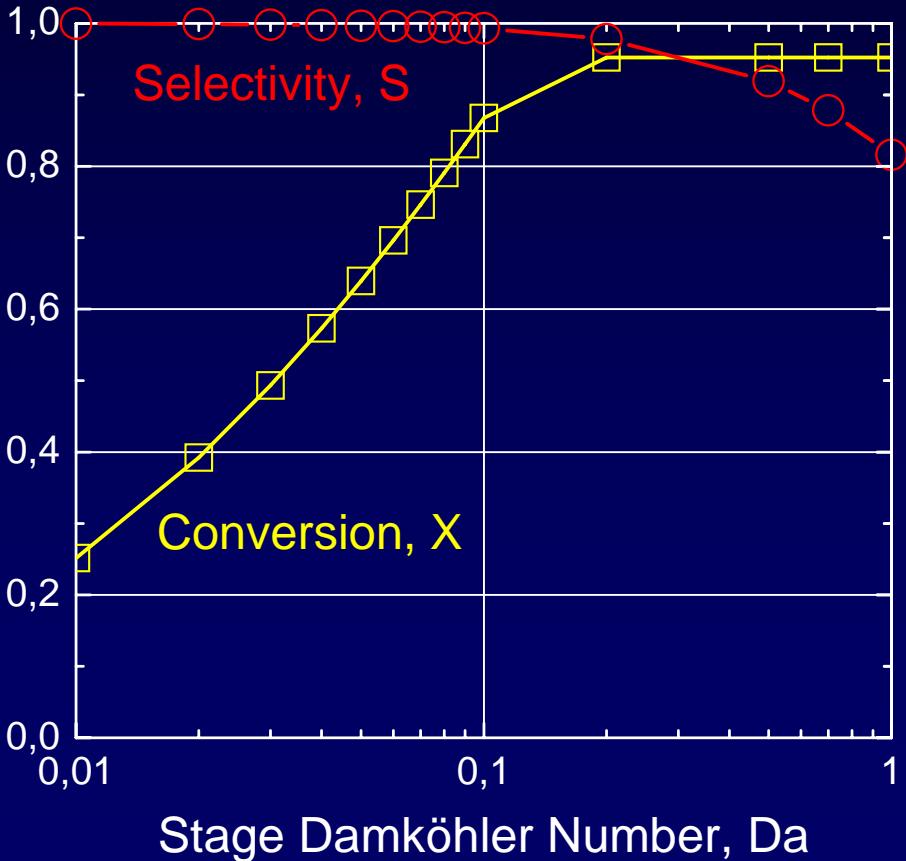


$$\alpha_{\text{AC}} = 10$$
$$\alpha_{\text{BC}} = 3$$
$$\alpha_{\text{DC}} = 13$$

$$K_{\text{eq}} = 0.25$$
$$R = 3.8$$



$$r_{\text{main}}^* = \frac{x_B^2 - x_A x_C / K_{\text{eq}}}{(1 + 5 x_C)^2} \quad r_{\text{side}}^* = \frac{0.1 x_C^2}{(1 + 5 x_C)^2}$$





# Studies of Side Reactions: Influence of Catalyst Position

Main Rxn



Side Rxn



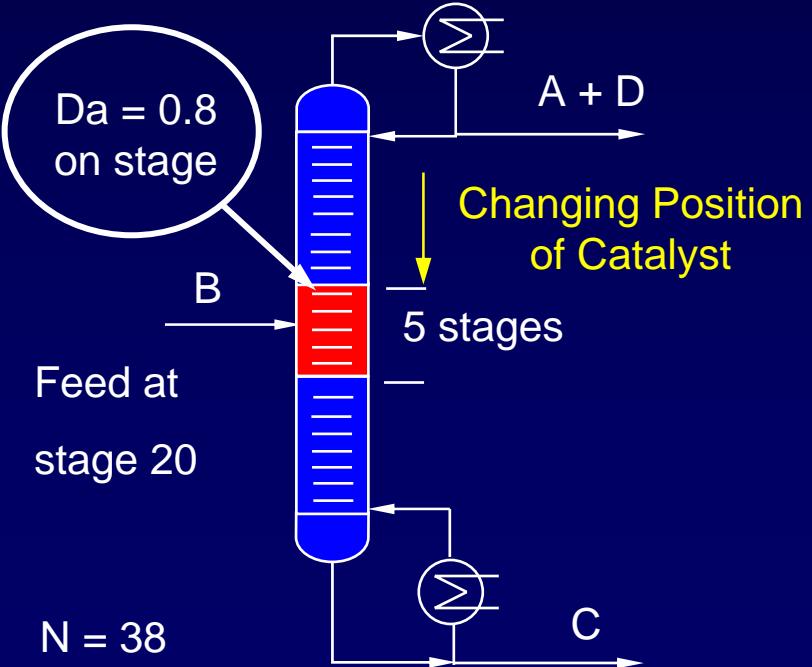
$$\alpha_{\text{AC}} = 10$$

$$K_{\text{eq}} = 0.25$$

$$\alpha_{\text{BC}} = 3$$

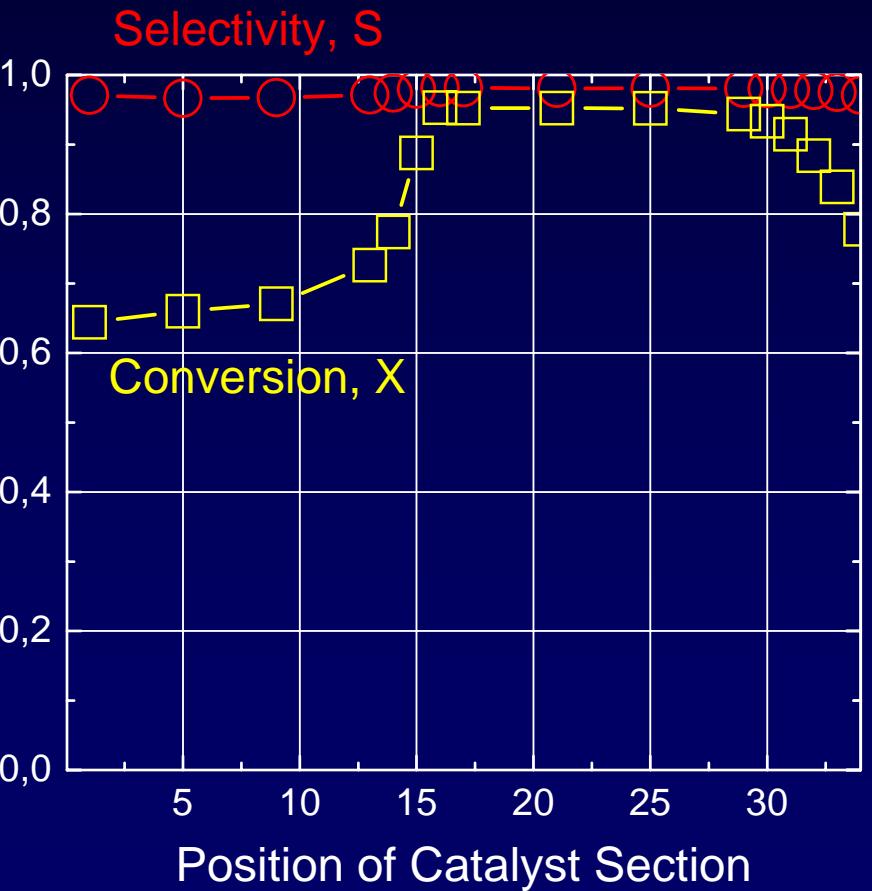
$$R = 3.8$$

$$\alpha_{\text{DC}} = 13$$



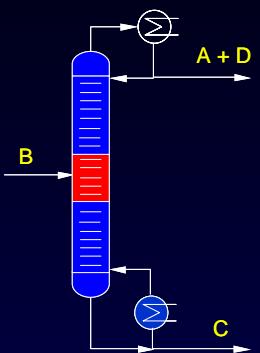
$$r_{\text{main}}^* = \frac{x_B^2 - x_A x_C / K_{\text{eq}}}{(1 + 5 x_C)^2}$$

$$r_{\text{side}}^* = \frac{0.1 x_C^2}{(1 + 5 x_C)^2}$$

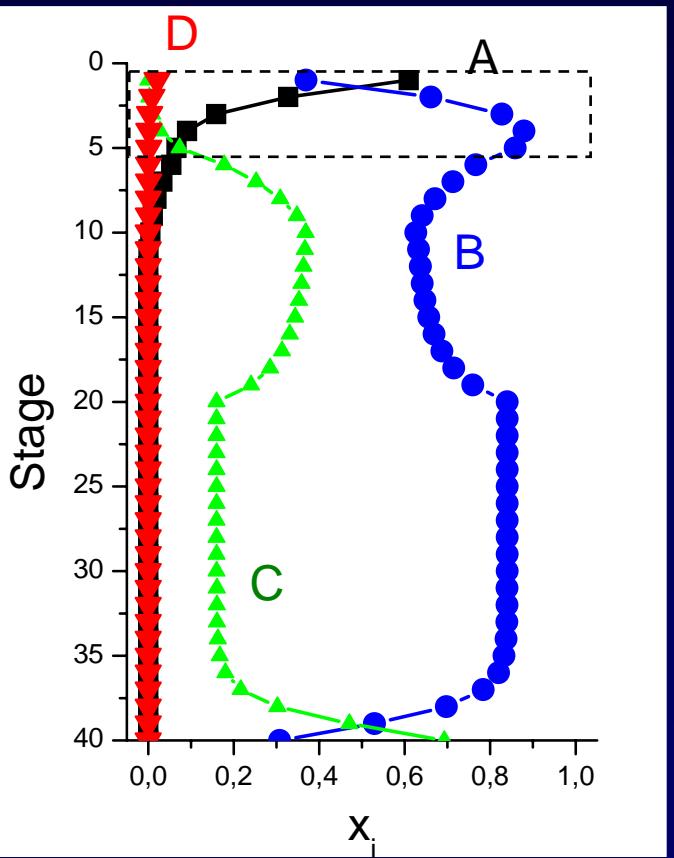
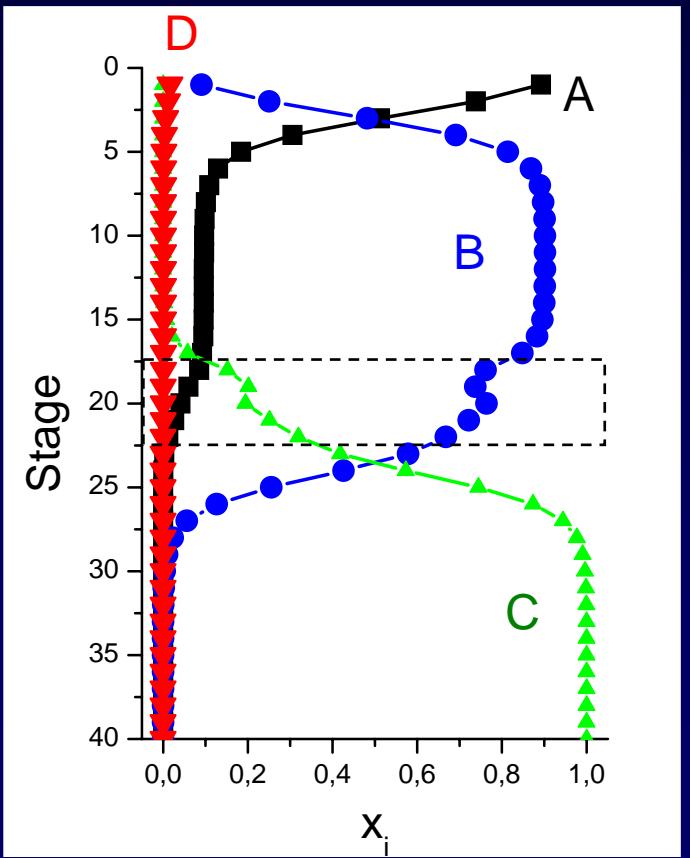
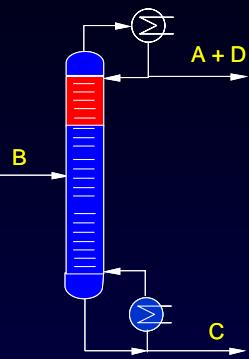




# Studies of Side Reactions: Influence of Catalyst Position (Da = 0.2, Reactive Stages = 5)



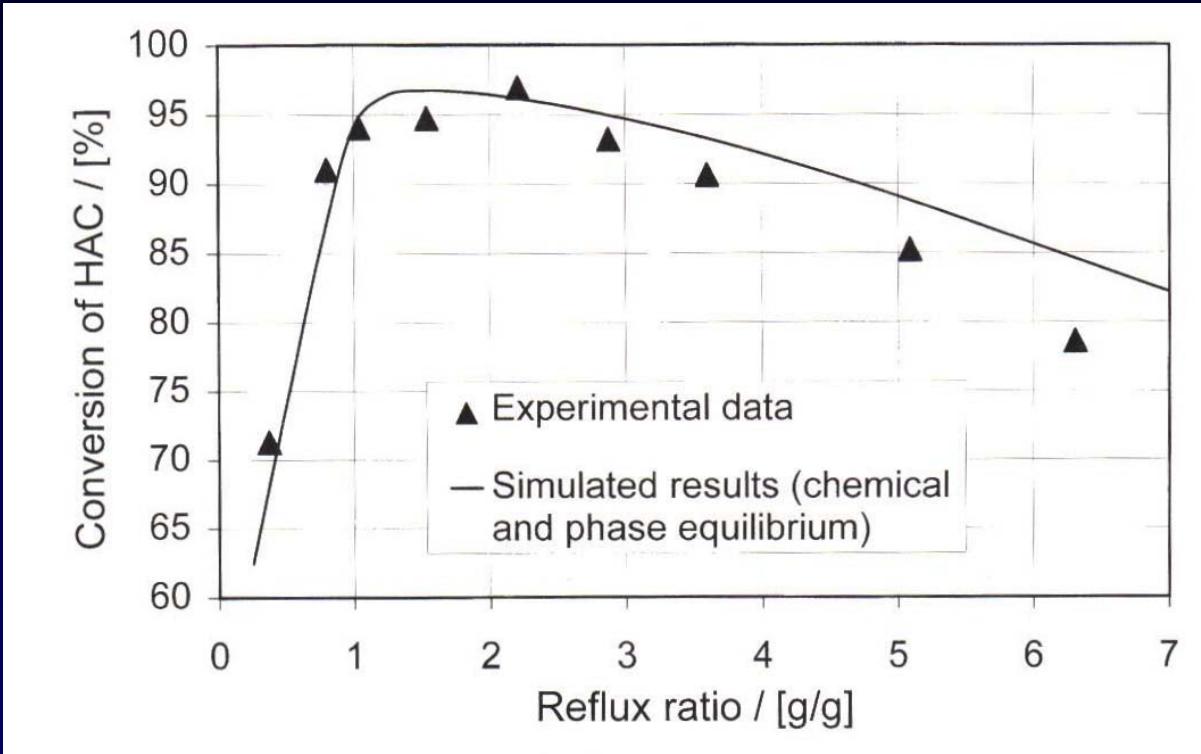
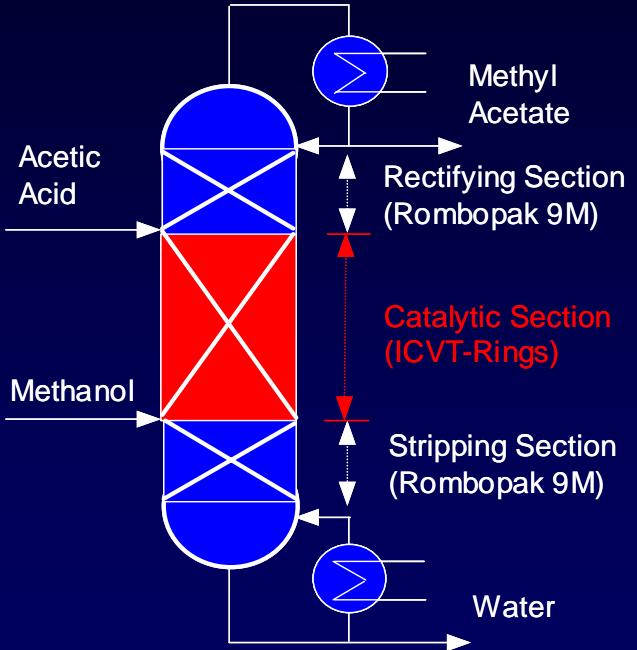
$$\frac{r_{main}^*}{r_{side}^*} \sim \frac{x_B^2 - x_A x_C / K_{eq}}{x_C^2}$$





# Influence of Reflux Ratio on Conversion

Conversion of Acetic Acid

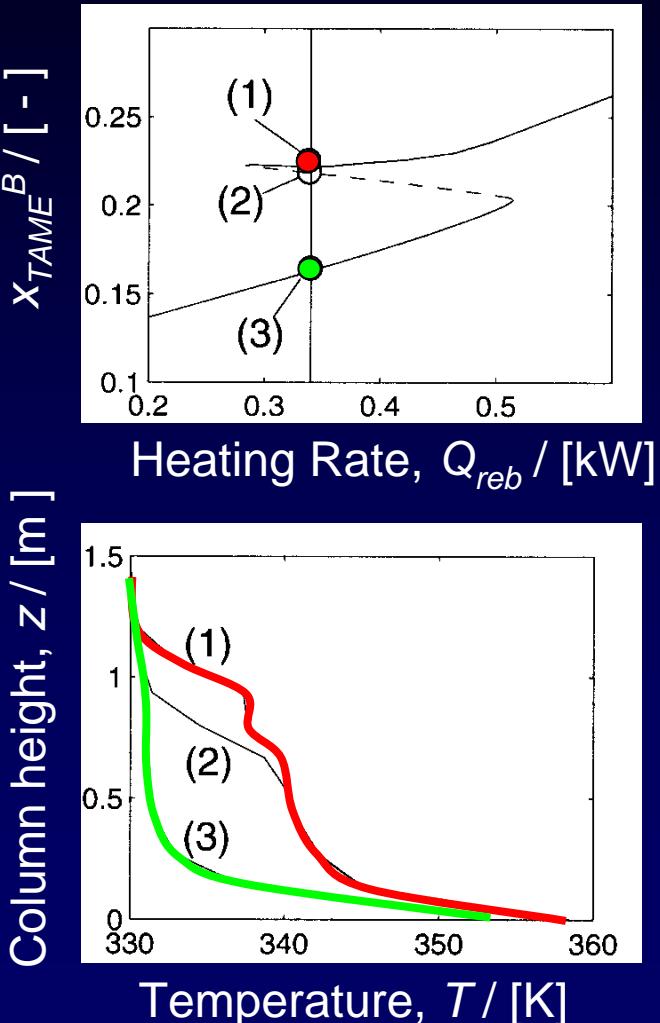


There is an optimal reflux ratio !

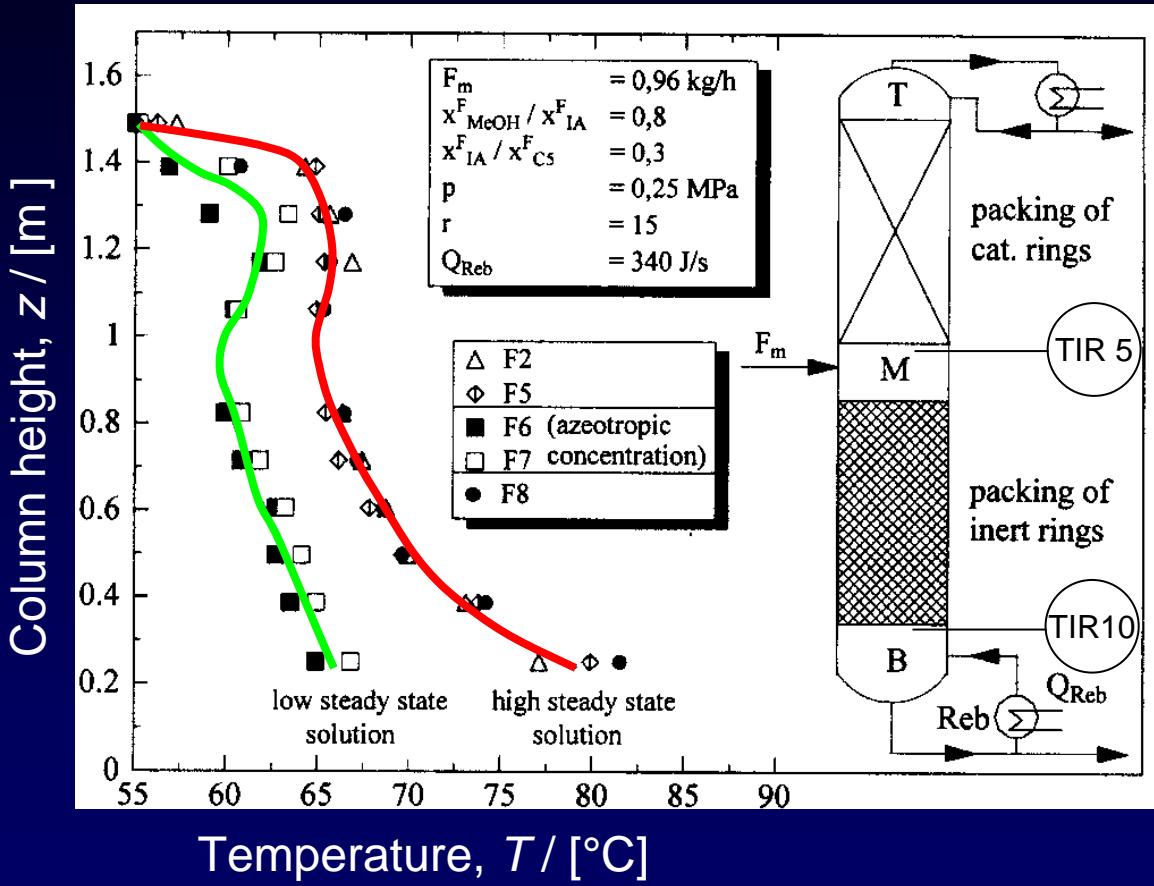


# Multiple Steady States of TAME CD Column: Model Predictions and Experimental Results

## Model Predictions

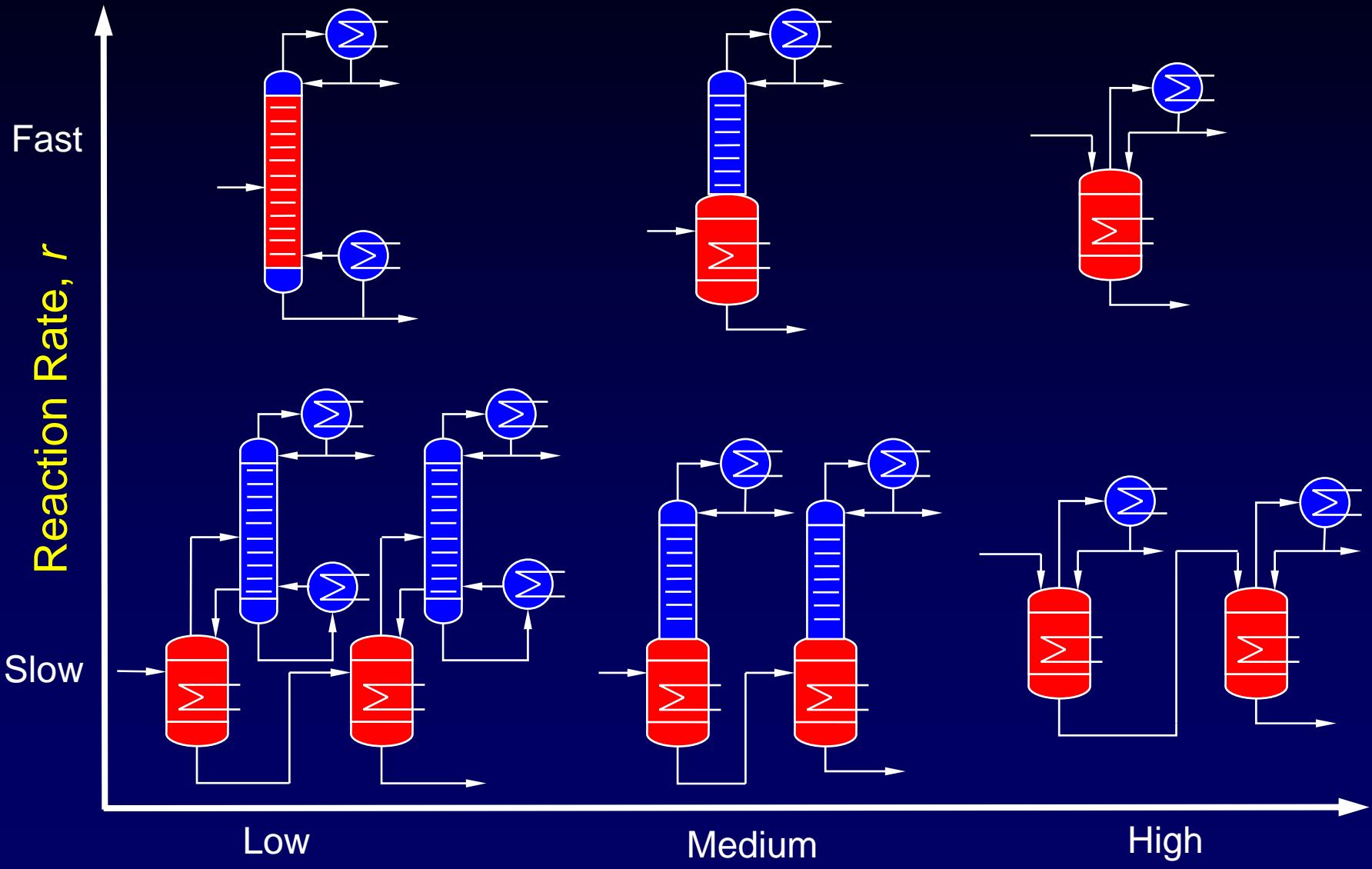


## Experimental Liquid Phase Temperatures





# Mapping of Reactor-Separator Systems for Esterification: Alcohol + Acid $\leftrightarrow$ Ester + H<sub>2</sub>O





# Simple Guideline for CD Reactor Selection

## □ Slow reactions: $Da \ll 1$

- + reaction kinetics is limiting
- + high residence time
- + hom. catalysis: high liquid holdup
- + het. catalysis: high catalyst holdup

## □ Solution

- + tray column (bubble caps)
- + packed column with random packing
- + column with external side reactors

## □ Fast reactions: $Da \geq 1$

- + mass transfer is limiting
- + low residence time sufficient
- + hom. catalysis: low liquid holdup
- + het. catalysis: low catalyst holdup

## □ Solution

- + packed column
- + tray column with low holdup

increase  $p$



# Catalytic Distillation Processes

## Process Examples of Catalytic Distillation



# Motives for Application of Reactive Distillation

	Motives	Examples
Reaction Problems	Overcoming Limitations of Chemical Equilibrium	$\text{Methanol} + \text{Acetic Acid} \rightleftharpoons \text{Methyl Acetate} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ $\text{Methanol} + \text{Isobutene} \rightleftharpoons \text{Methyl-}tert\text{.-butylether (MTBE)}$ $\text{Formaldehyde} + 2 \text{ Methanol} \rightleftharpoons \text{Methylal} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
	Increase of Selectivity	$\text{Chlorohydrins} \rightarrow \text{Propylene Oxide} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Proplene Glycol}$ $2 \text{ Acetone} \rightarrow \text{Diacetone Alcohol} \rightarrow \text{Mesityl Oxide} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ $\text{Isobutane} + 1\text{-Butene} \rightarrow \text{Isooctane} + 1\text{-Butene} \rightarrow \text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{24}$
	Use of Heat of Reaction	$\text{Propene} + \text{Benzene} \rightarrow \text{Cumene}$ $\text{Ethylene Oxide} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ethylene Glycol}$
Separation Problems	Separation of Closely Boiling Mixtures	$m\text{-Xylene} / p\text{-Xylene}$ (Reactive Entrainer: Na-p-Xylene) $\text{Cyclohexene} / \text{Cyclohexane}$ (Reactive Entrainer: Formic Acid) $1\text{-Butene} / \text{Isobutene}$ (Reactive Entrainer: Methanol / Water)
	Breaking of Azeotropes	$\text{Methyl Acetate} / \text{Water} ; \text{Methyl Acetate} / \text{Methanol}$ (Entrainer: Acetic Acid)
	High Purity Separation	$\text{Hexamethylene Diamine} / \text{Water}$ (in Nylon 6,6 process) (Reactive Entrainer: Adipic Acid)



# Production of Methyl Acetate

Reaction:



Catalysts:  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  / Acidic Ion Exchange Resin

Chemical Equilibrium Constant:  $K_x(25^\circ\text{C}) = 5.2$

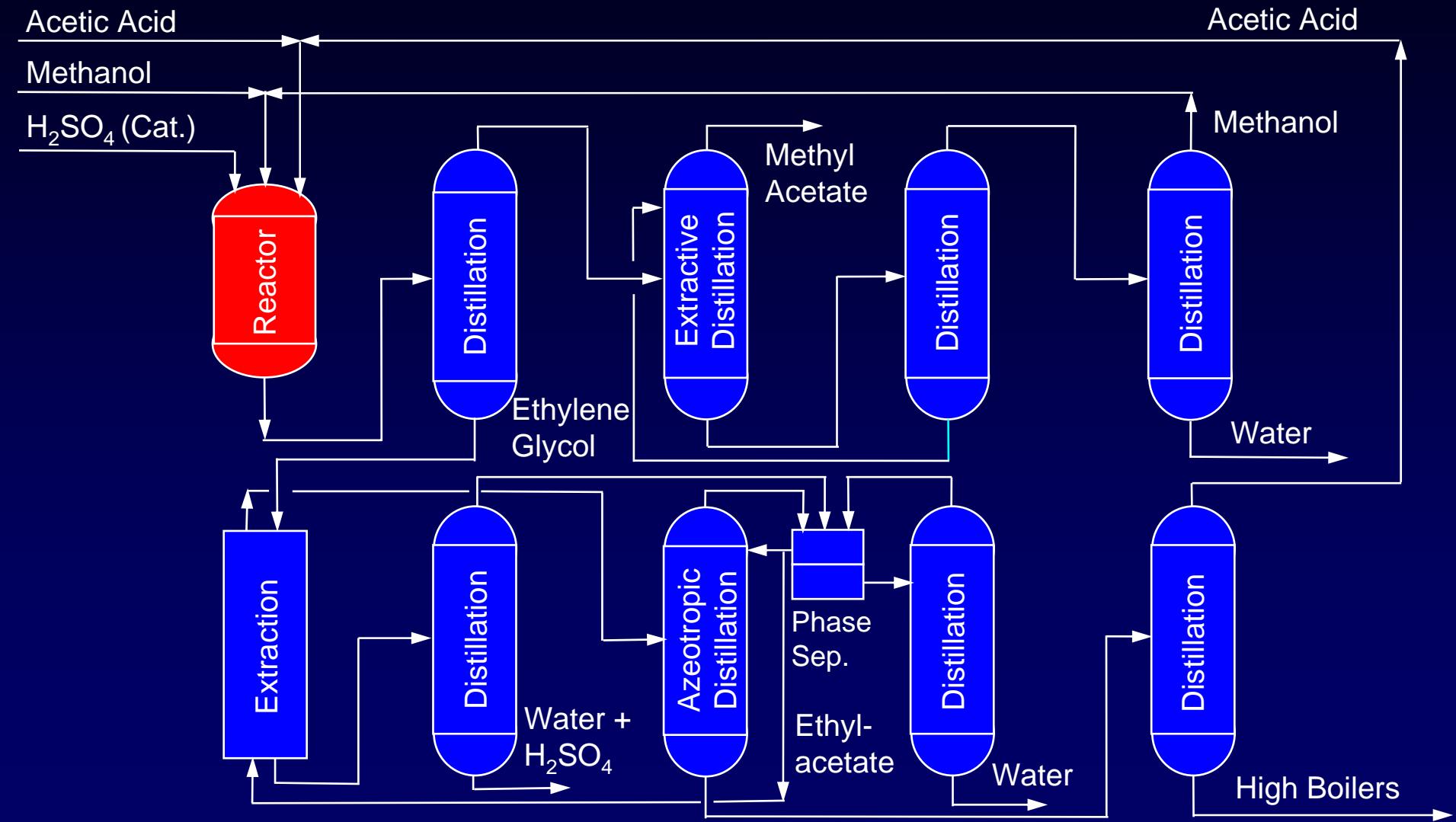
Boiling Sequence at  $p = 0.1 \text{ MPa}$ :

hom. azeotrope MeAc/Methanol	53.8 °C
hom. azeotrope MeAc/Water	56.7 °C
Methylacetate (MeAc)	56.9 °C
Methanol	64.6 °C
Water	100.0 °C
Acetic Acid	118.0 °C

L/L-phase splitting: in ternary system MeAc/Methanol/Water



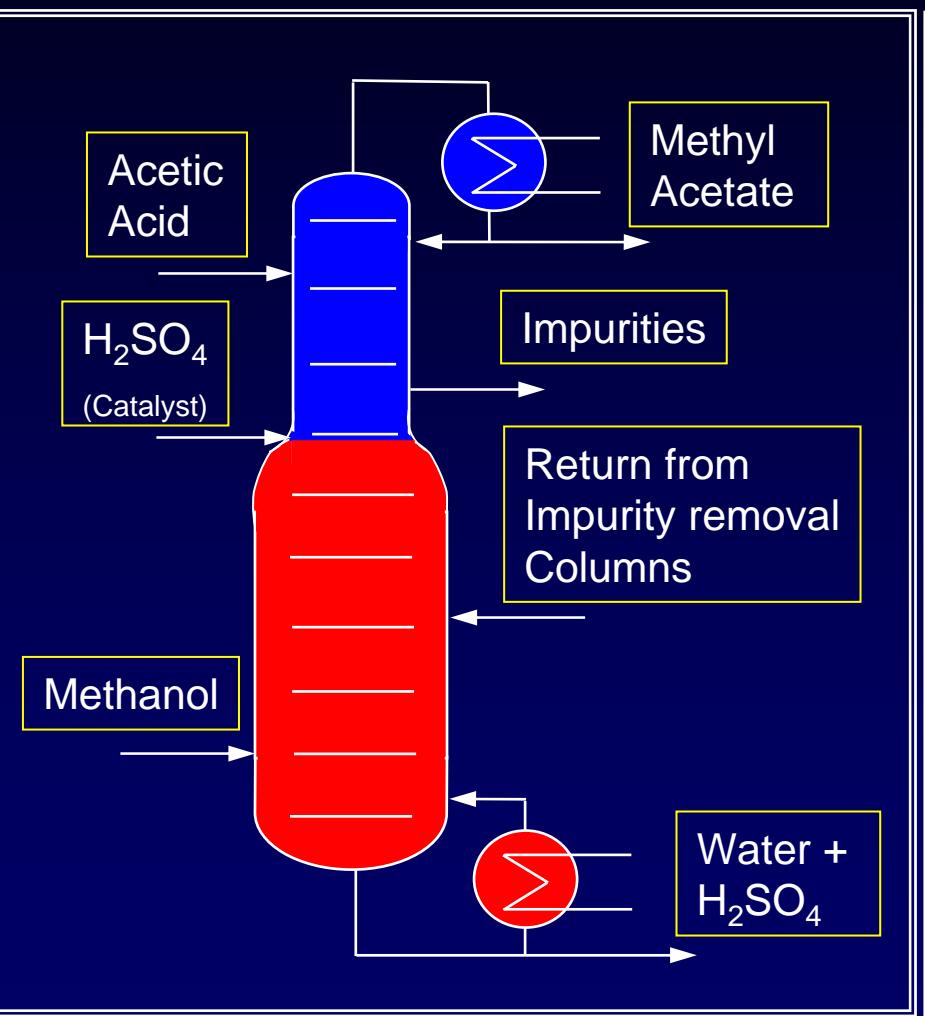
# Production of Methyl Acetate (Conventional Process)



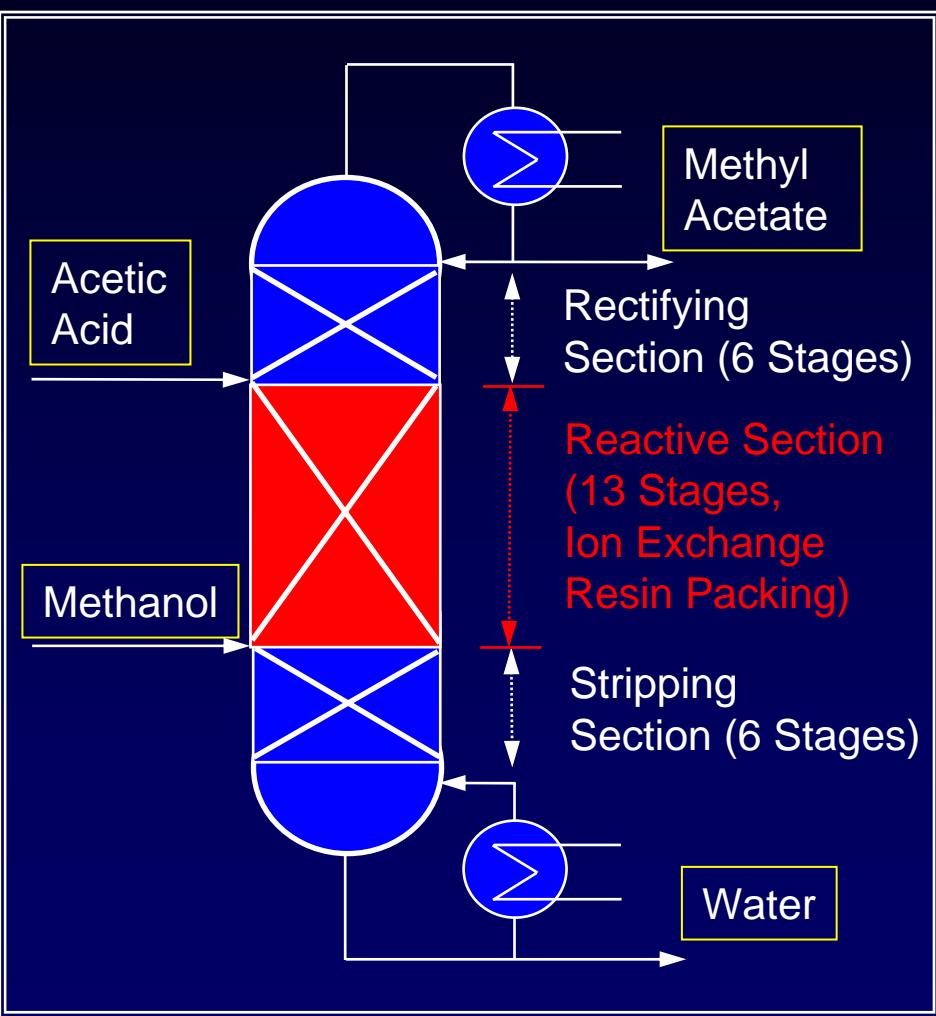


# Production of Methyl Acetate (CD Processes)

Homogeneously Catalyzed Reaction\*



Heterogeneously Catalyzed Reaction\*\*



\* Agreda, V.H.; Partin, L.R., US Patent No. 4,435,595 (1984, Eastman-Kodak-Process)

\*\*Bessling, B.; Löning, J.-M.; Ohligschläger, A.; Schembecker, G.; Sundmacher, K., *Chem. Eng. Technol.* **21** (1998) 393-400.

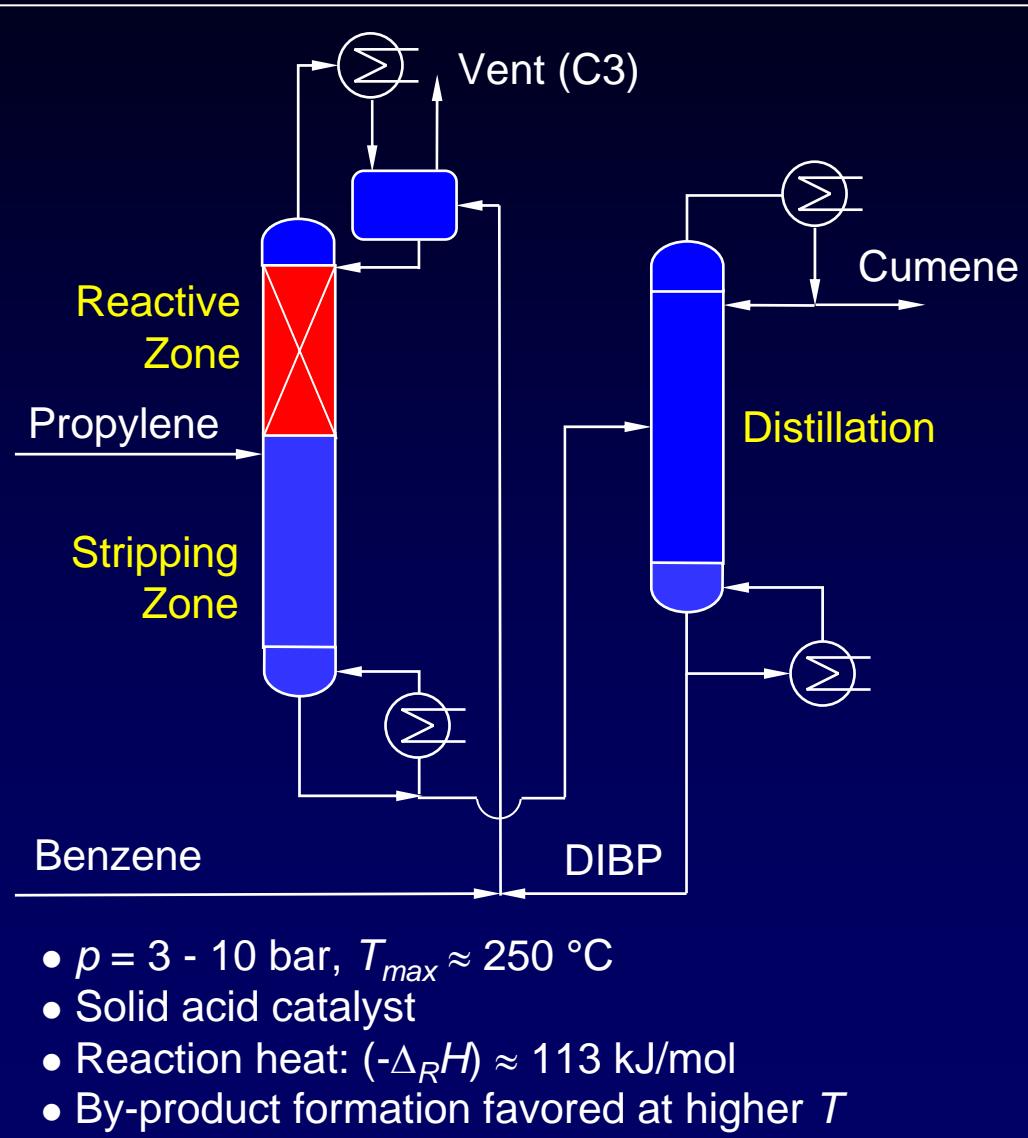
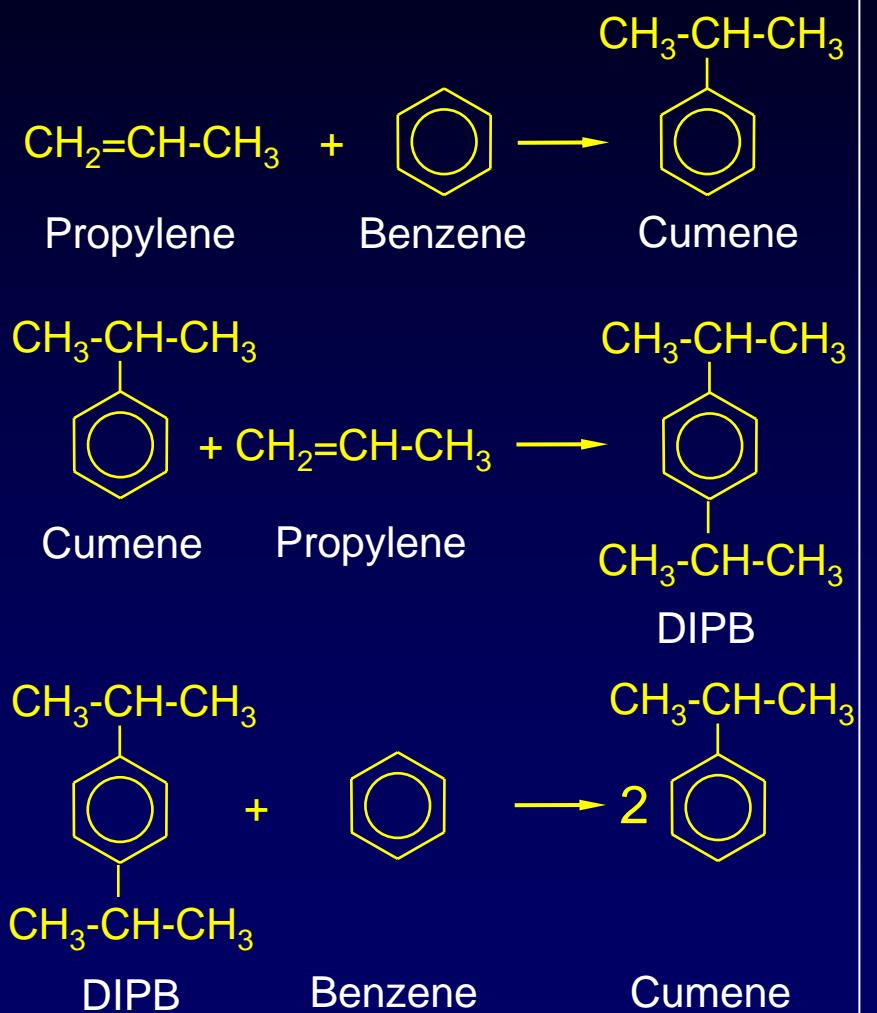


# CD Application for Highly Exothermic Reactions

## Example: Cumene Production

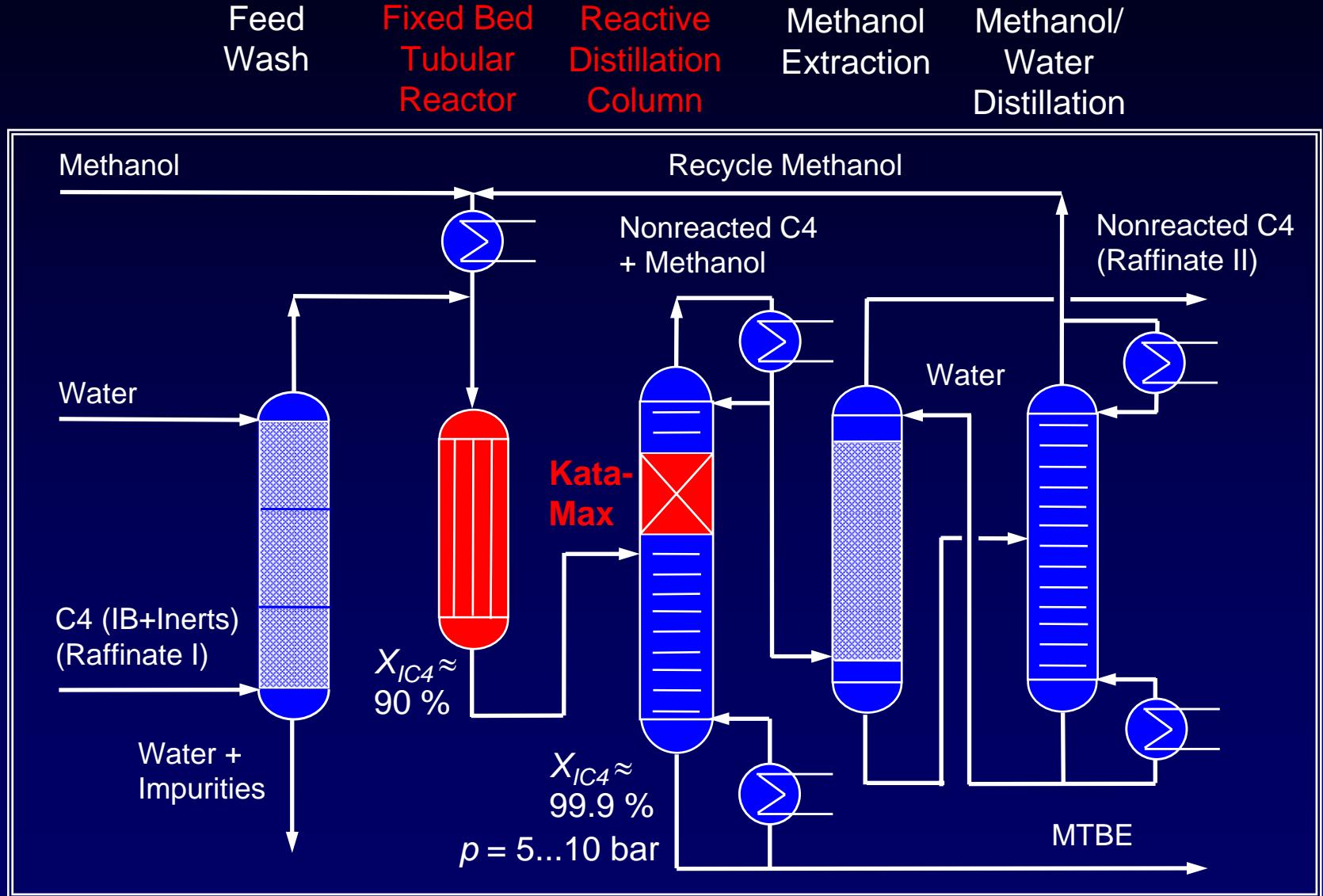


### Reaction Scheme





# RD Application for High Purity Separation, Example: C4-Separation (Hüls-UOP\*)

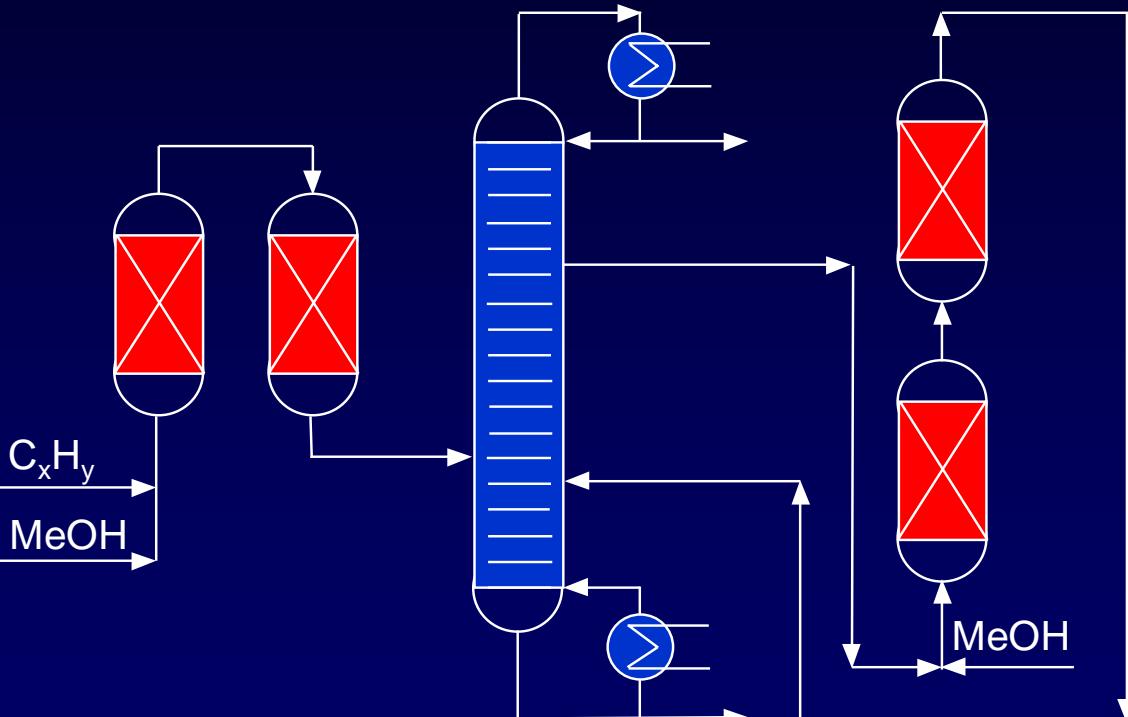




# RD System based on Pre- and Side Reactors

## Ether Production Flow Scheme (Neste Oil)

Pre-Reactors



### Advantages

- easy catalyst replacement
- easy control of reactant-ratio
- independent of specific catalyst packing
- distillation column hydraulics and mass transfer not affected by catalyst structure
- high  $Da/N$ -ratio achievable

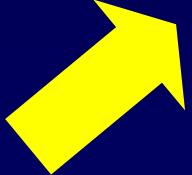


# Catalytic Packings: Aspects of Selection

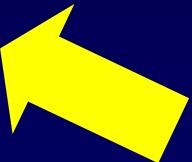
Reaction Rate  
(Catalyst Holdup:  $\varepsilon_{\text{cat}}$ )



Catalytic Packing  
in CD Columns



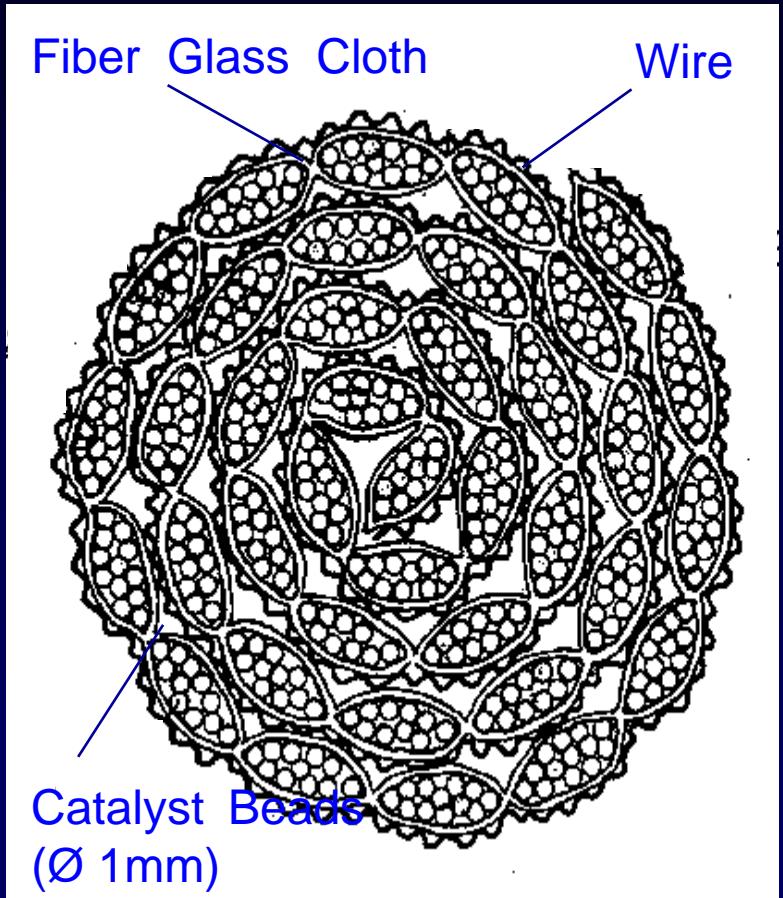
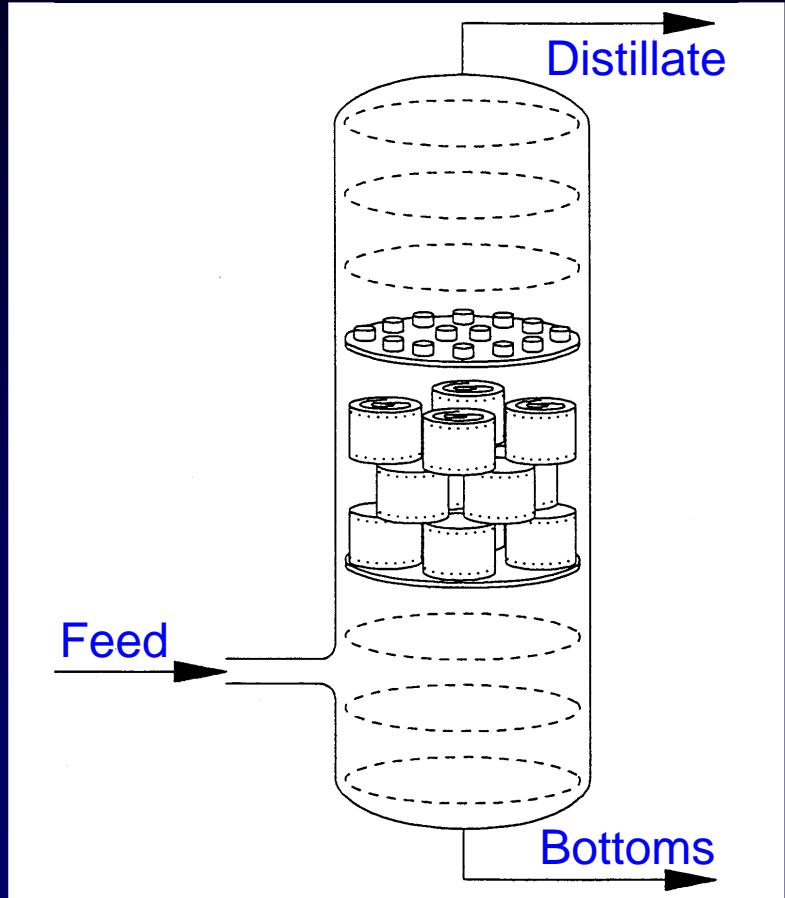
Hydraulic Capacity  
(Void Fraction:  $1 - \varepsilon_{\text{cat}}$ )



Mass Transfer  
Efficiency  
(Number of Theoretical  
Stages: NTSM)



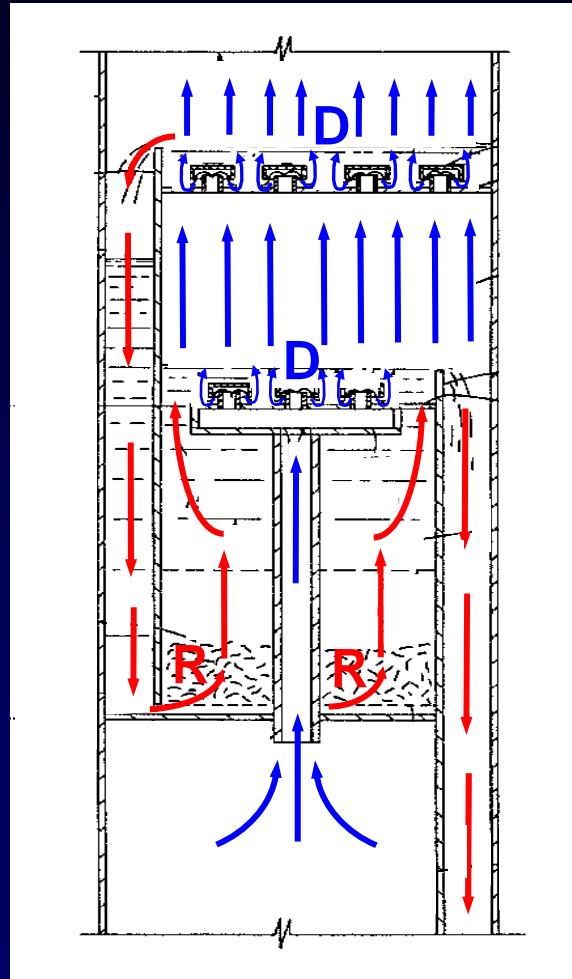
# Catalytic Bales (CD Tech)



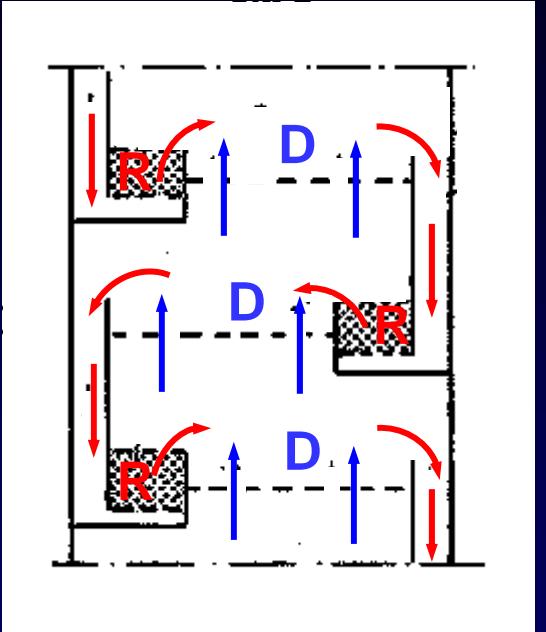


# Catalytic Distillation Trays

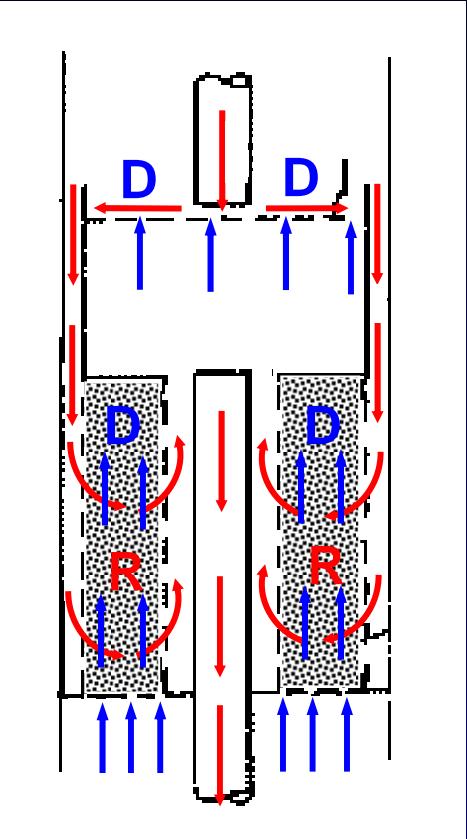
CR & L



IFP



SNAMPROGETTI



Lionel, A. et al., US 5368691 (1994)

Domenico, S. et al., US 5493059 (1996)



# Structured Catalytic Packings

KATAPAK-S (Sulzer Chemtech)

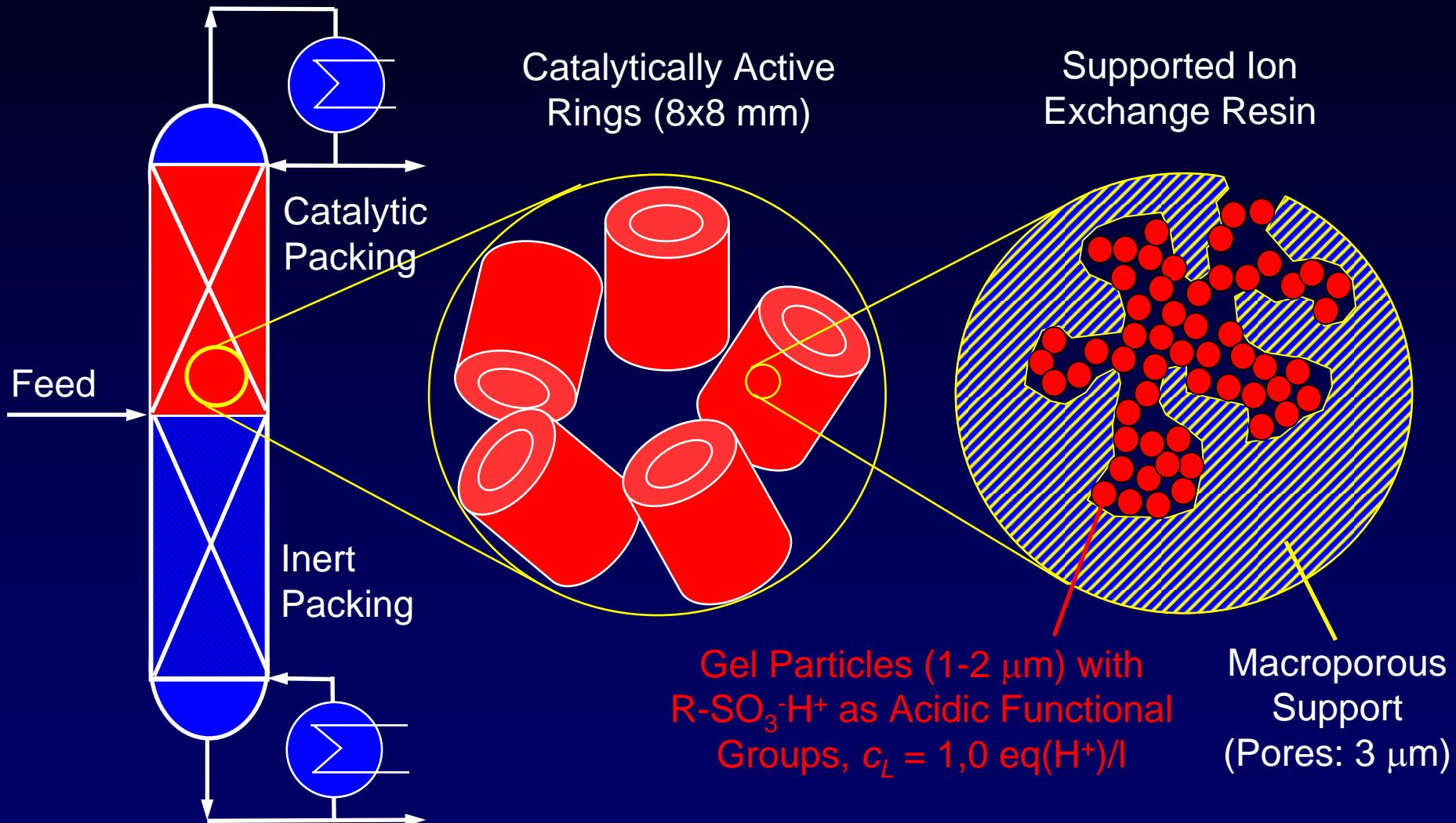
MULTIPAK (Julius Montz)

Stringaro, J.P., EP 631813 A1 (1993)

Gorak, A., Kreul., L. U., DE 197 01 045 A1 (1998)

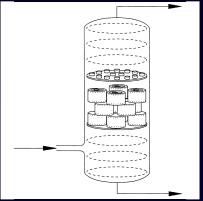


# Catalytic Distillation Process for Fuel Ether Production (TU Clausthal)





# Some Properties of Catalytic Packings



Katapak

Void Fraction	$[m^3/m_{col}^3]$	0.49	0.75*	0.75*
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Catalyst Loading	$[m_{cat}^3/m_{col}^3]$	0.51	0.20*	0.20*
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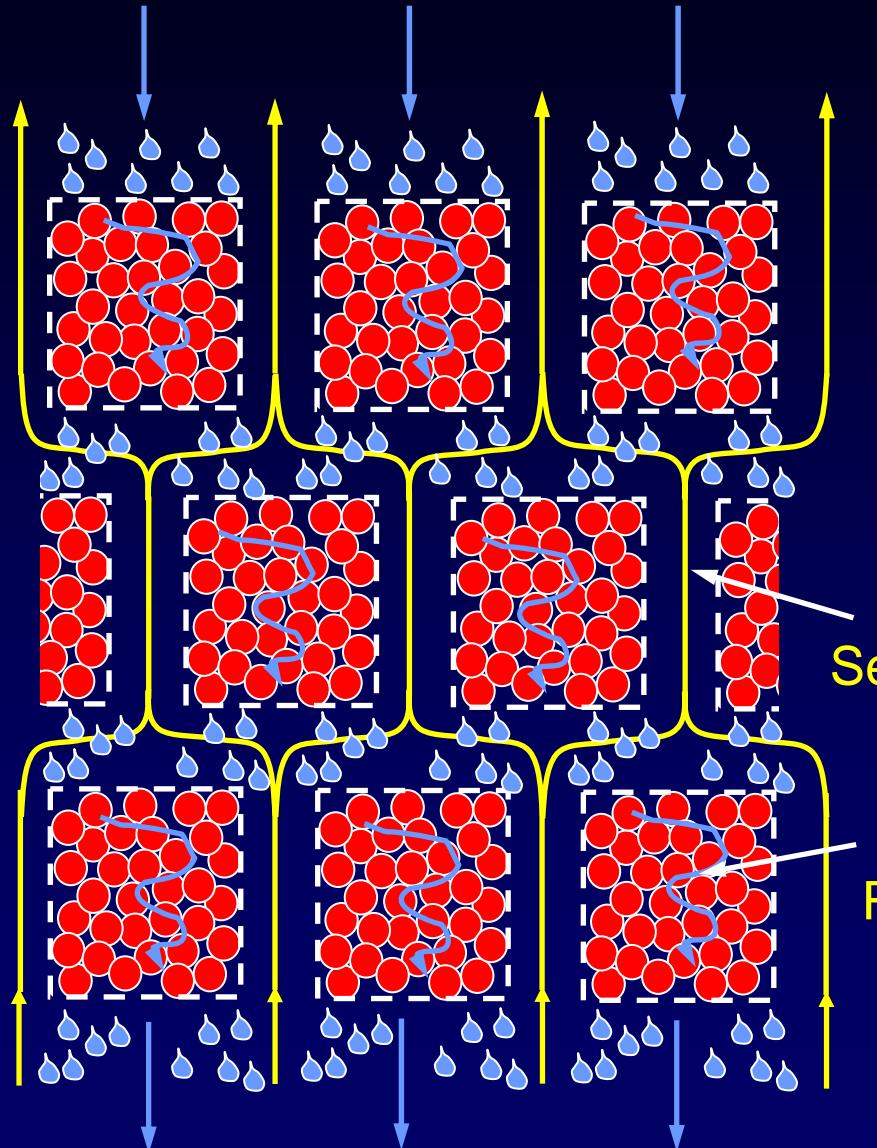
Catalyst Surface-to-Volume Ratio	$[m_{cat}^2/m_{cat}^3]$	1129	4000*	4000*
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Packing Surface-to-Volume Ratio	$[m_{cat}^2/m_{col}^3]$	576	800*	800*
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\* See: Lebens, P. J. M., Kapteijn, F., Sie, T.N., Moulijn, J.A., *Chem. Eng. Sci.* 54 (1997) 1359-1365.

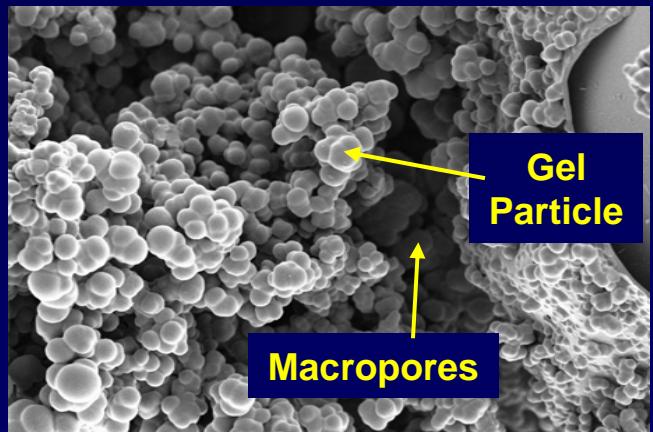


# Three-Levels-of-Porosity Concept



Three Pore Levels:

- I. Pores inside catalytic particles
- II. mm-Pores between catalytic particles
- III. cm-Pores between the catalytic pockets



see e.g.: Krishna, R., Sie, S.T.,  
*Chem. Eng. Sci.* **49** (1994) 4029-4065.



# Summary RD

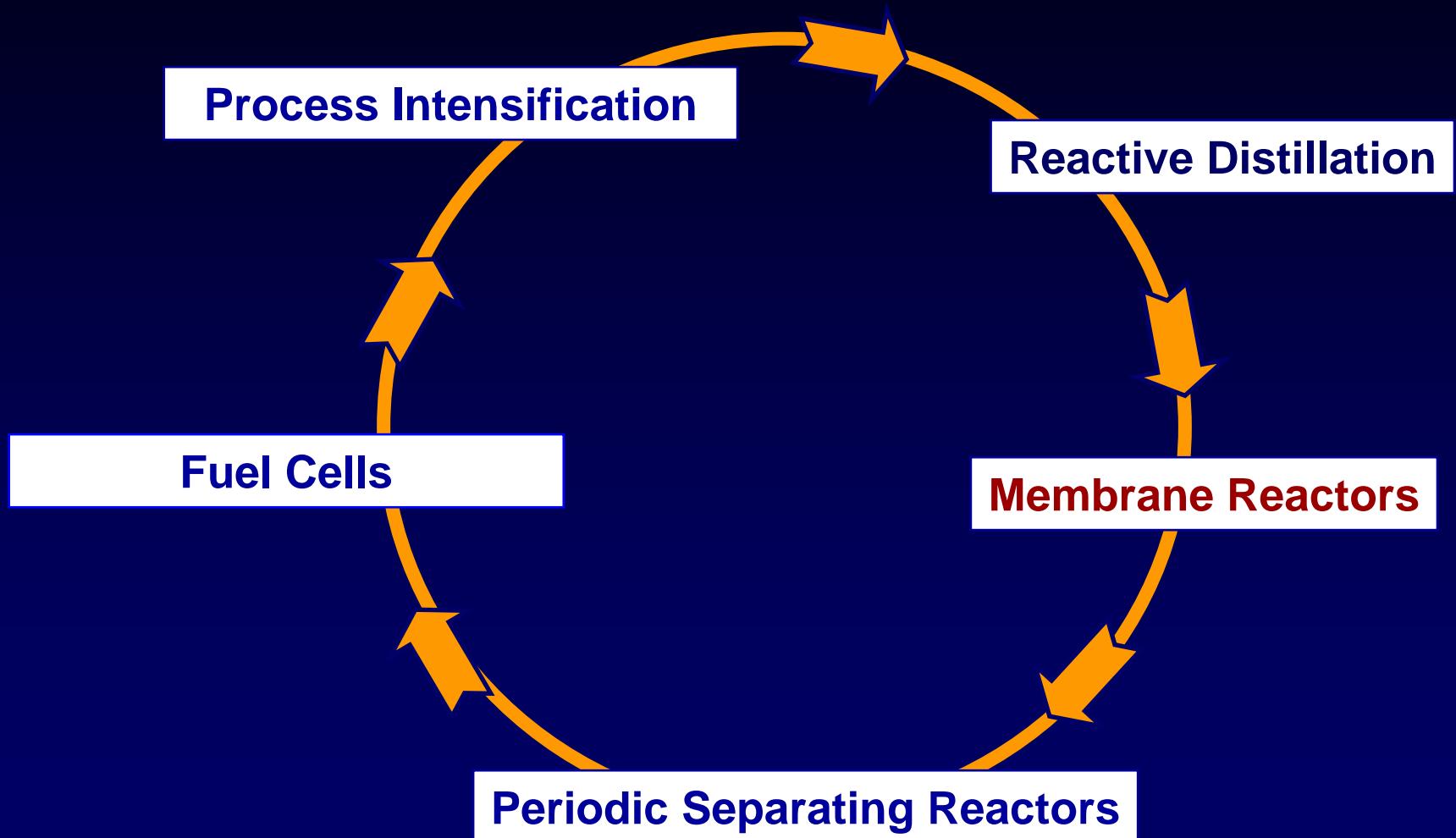


- Reduced downstream processing
  - Overcoming limitations of thermodynamic equilibrium
  - Breaking of azeotropes
  - Increasing selectivity
  - Utilisation of the  $\Delta H_r$  for evaporation
  - Separation of isomeric mixtures
- 

- Compatible  $T$ - $p$  range
- Very slow reactions
- Gas-liquid reaction (high T and p)
- Catalyst life time

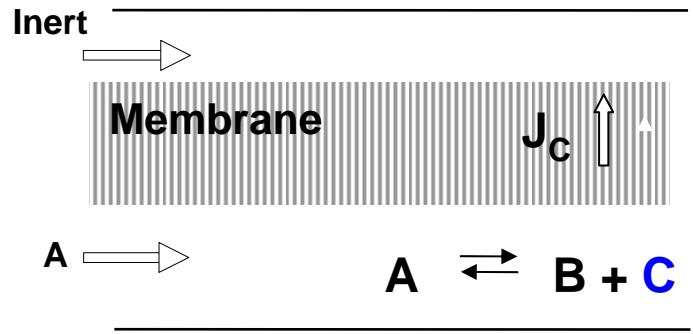


# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline



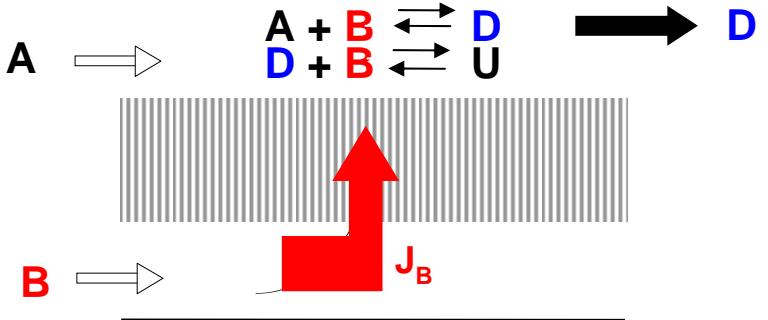
# Catalytic Membrane Processes

## Selective product removal ("Extractor")



- enhanced conversion of reversible reactions

## Controlled reactant dosing ("Distributor")



- dosing of critical reactants
- selectivity improvements
- cleaning of B from impurities

### Advantages:

- „overcome“ equilibrium
- suppress unwanted subseq. reaction
- controlled reaction, hot spots
- cogeneration of electric power (EMR)

### Challenges:

- reactor size/productability
- materials
- costs
- optimal dosing



# Electrochemical Membrane Reactor

## Porous Membranes

- gaseous oxygen
- nonselective
- permselective microporous
- alumina
- silica
- zeolites

## Ceramic Dense Membranes

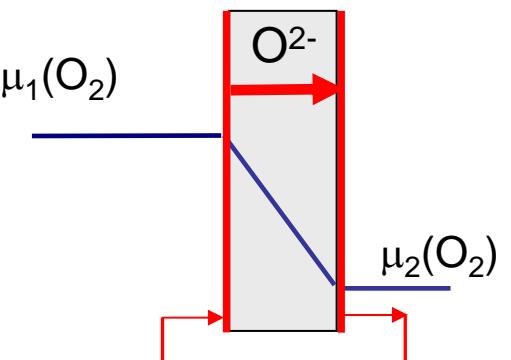
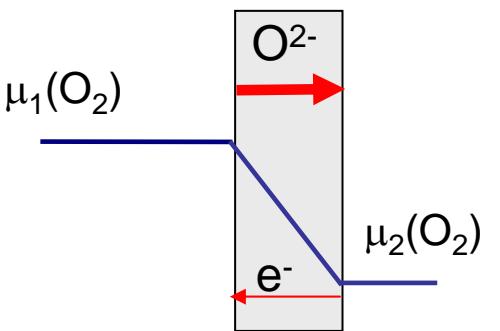
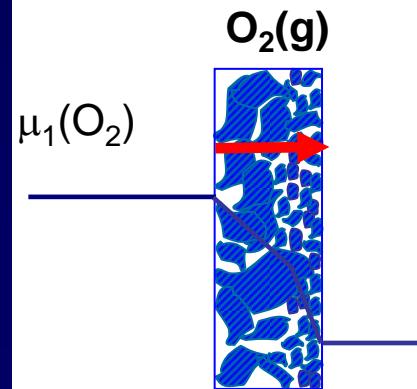
- oxygen transfer as ion  $O^{2-}$
- good permselectivity towards oxygen
- reactor efficiency limited by permeability (T!)

### Mixed Ion Electron Conducting Membranes

- $\sigma_{ion}$  and  $\sigma_{el}$  high
- internal circuit for electrons
- simple construction as reactor

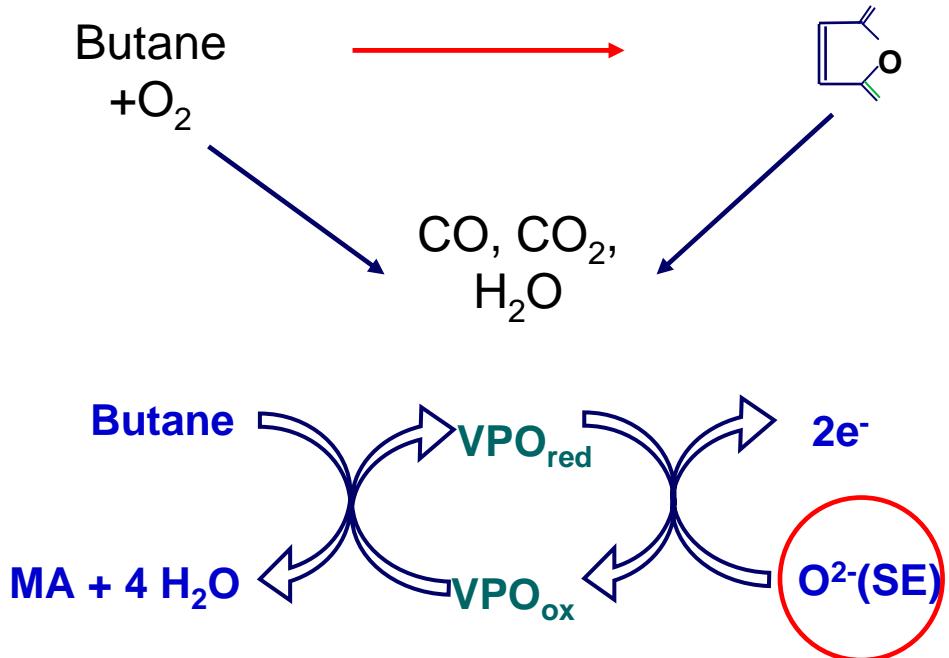
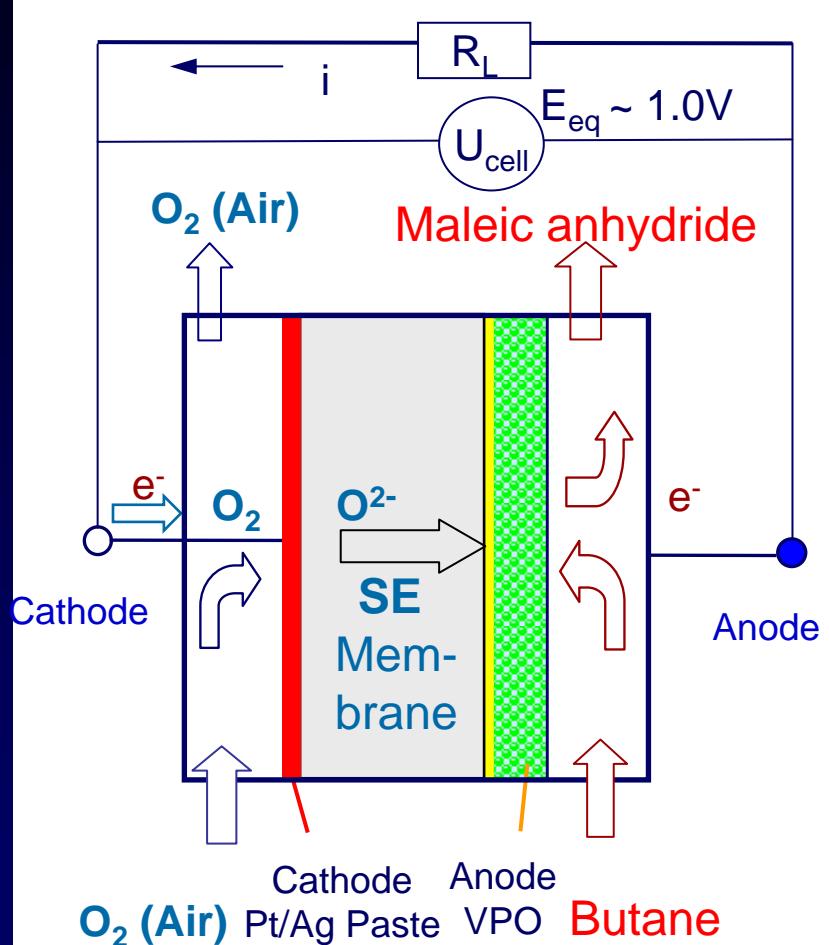
### Oxygen Ion Conducting Solid Electrolytes (SE)

- $\sigma_{ion}$  high and  $\sigma_{el}$  low
- external circuit for electrons
- complex construction





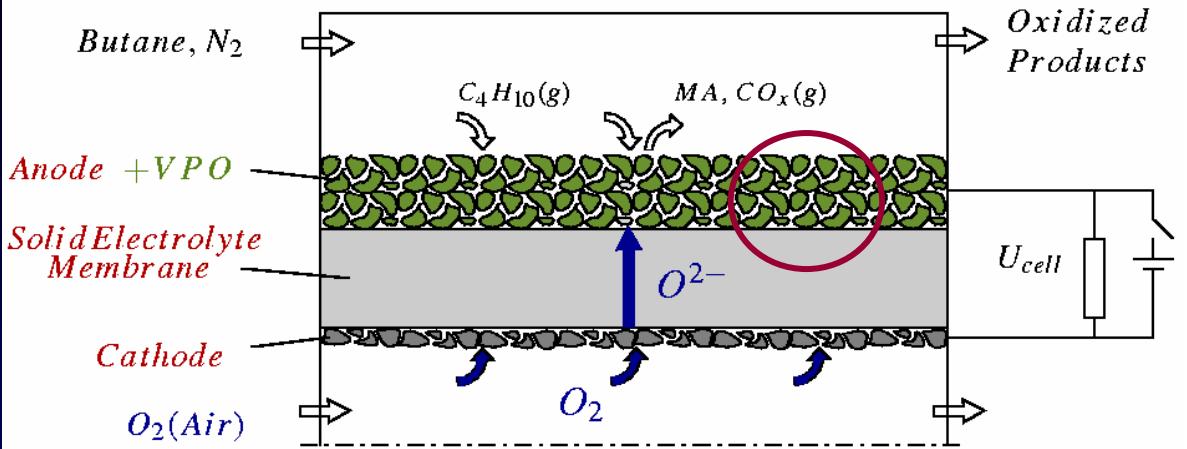
# EMR in Butane Partial Oxidation



## Electrochemical process:

- reoxidation of catalyst electrochemically
- + control of catalyst oxidation state
- + no gas phase oxygen
- + total oxidation suppressed

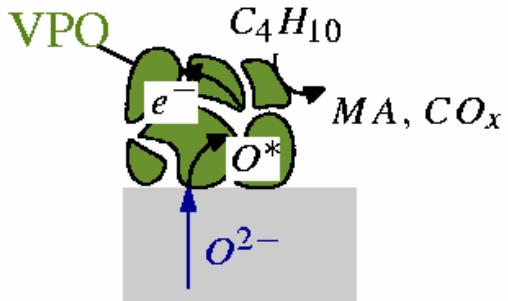
# EMR Electrode Construction



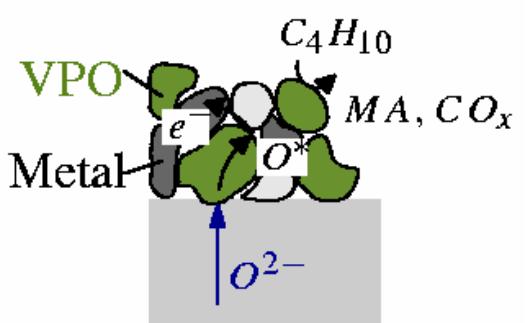
## Advantages:

- no prior air separation units
- faradaic coupling of oxygen feed to cell current  
→ forced periodic operation
- driving force  $\Delta_R G \sim U^0_{cell}$  (fuel cell mode)  
→ cogeneration of electricity

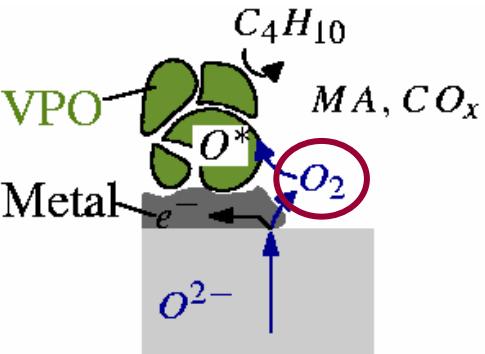
**Optimal case: Anode mixed ( $O^{2-}$  and  $e^-$ ) conducting**



**Composite anode**



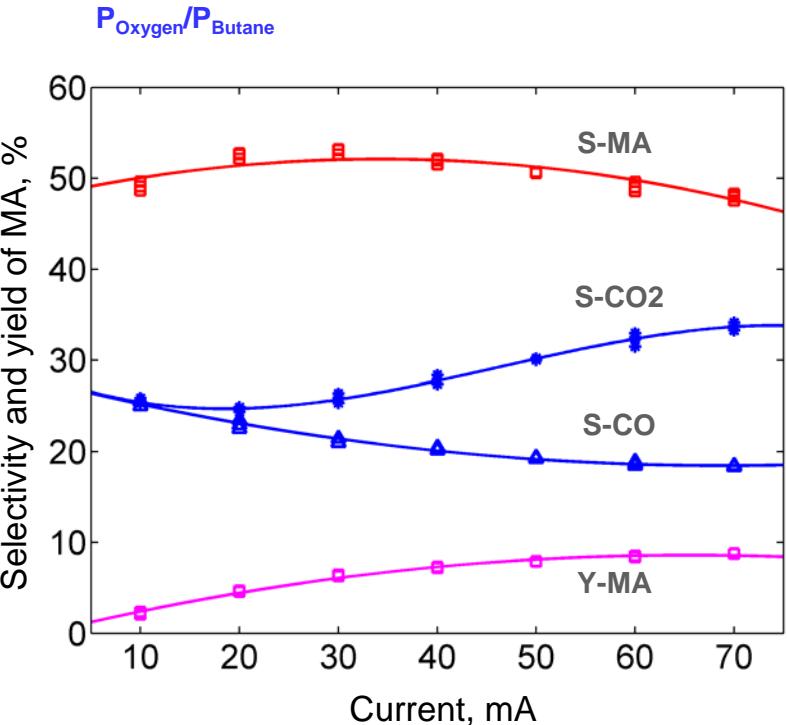
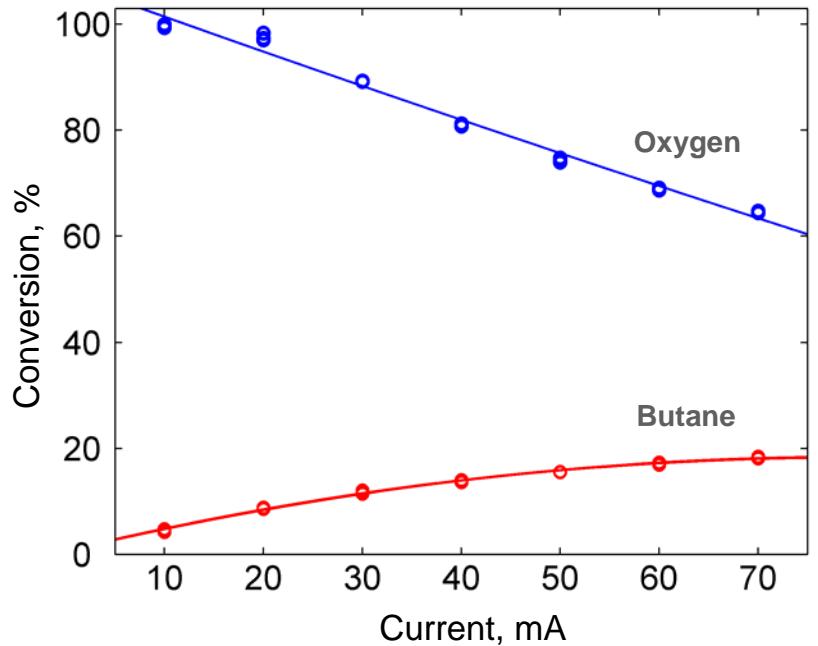
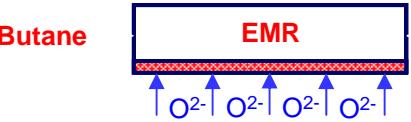
**Present study:**



# Current Effect in EMR

Experimental condition:

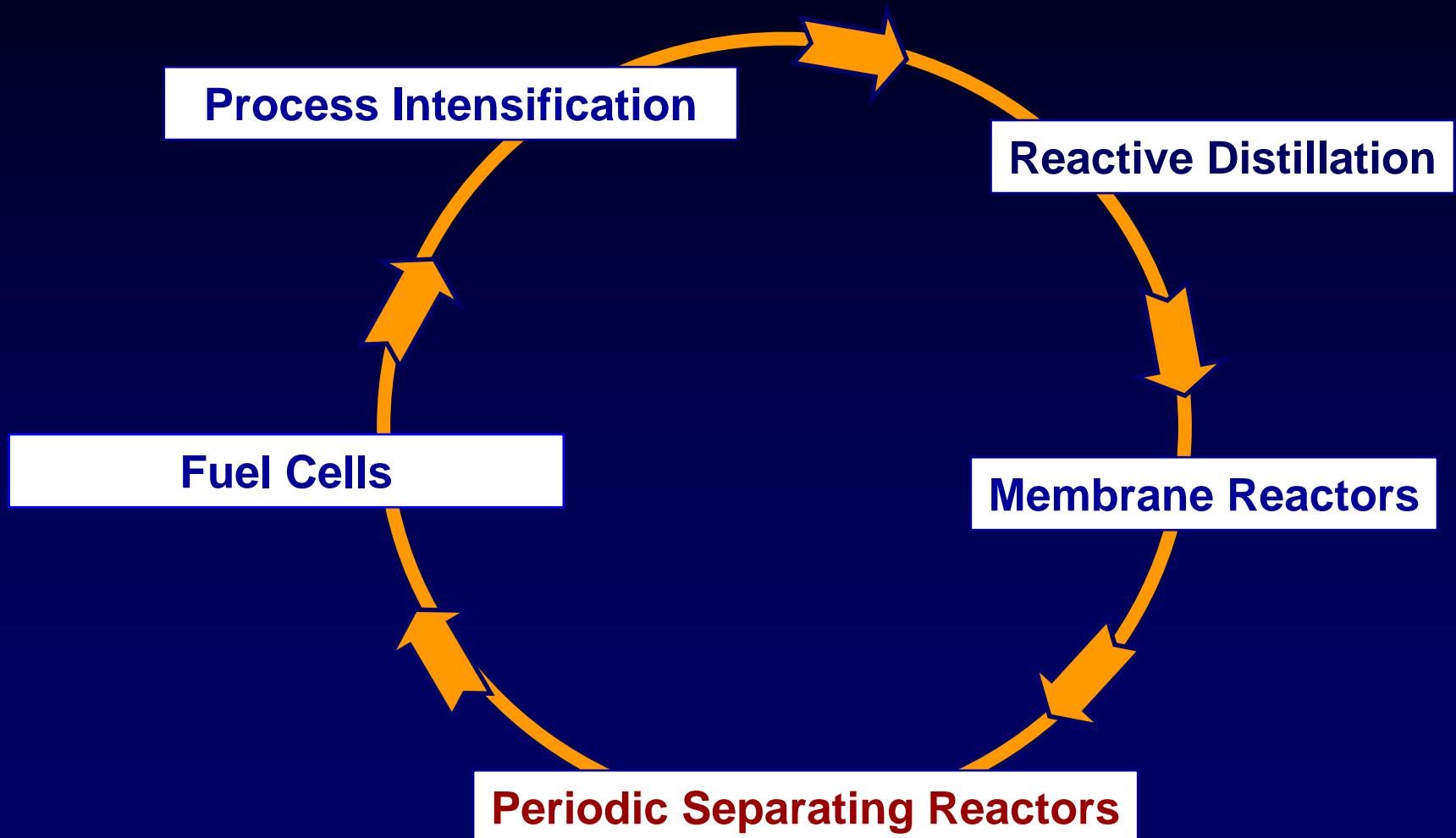
$T=480\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $P_{\text{Butane}}=0.55\text{ kPa}$ ;  $F=35\text{ ml/min}$ ;  $I=0.44\text{-}3.1\text{ mA/cm}^2$



- High current is favorable for butane conversion and MA yield
- $S_{\text{MA}}$  has a maximum w.r.t. current

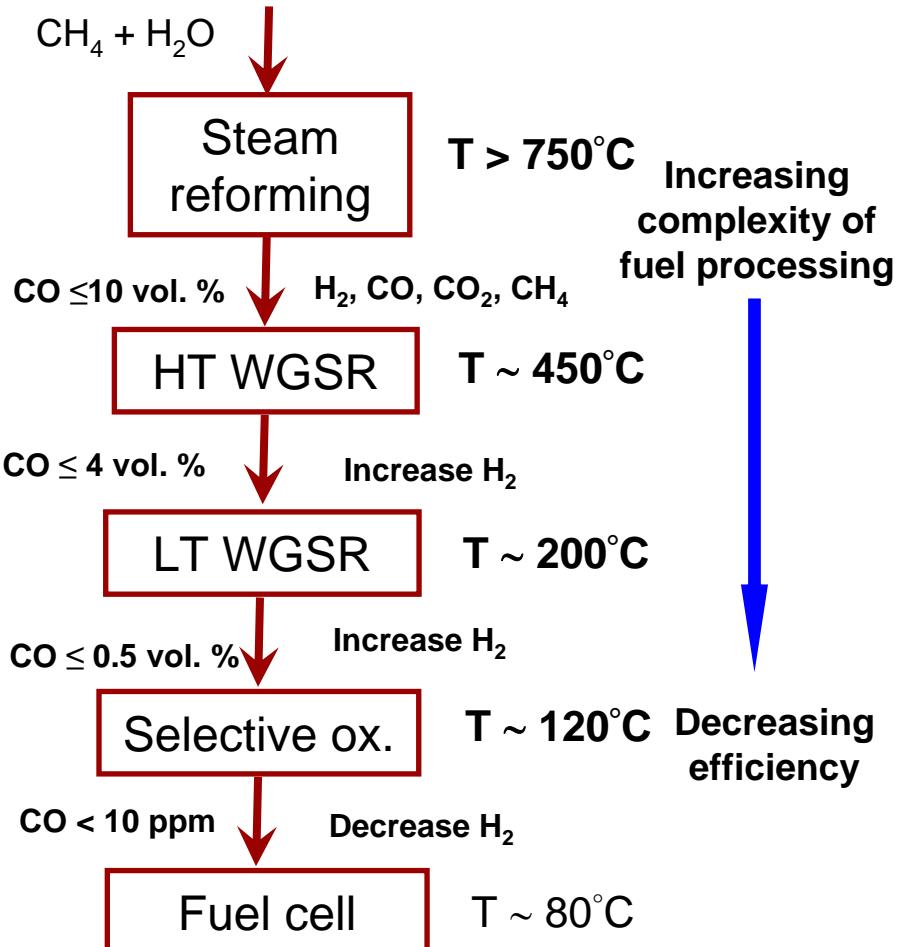


# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline

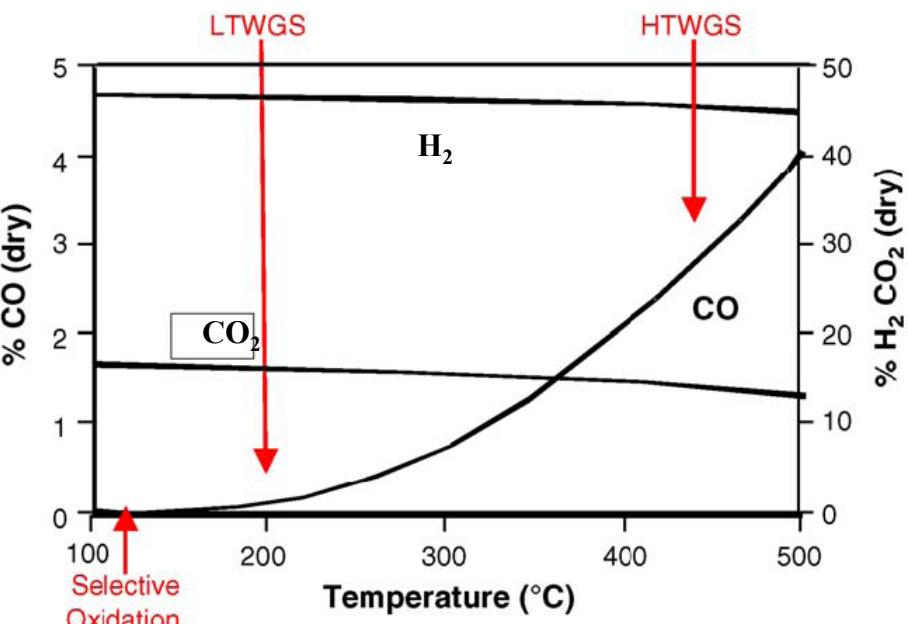




# Water Gas Shift (WGS) Reaction



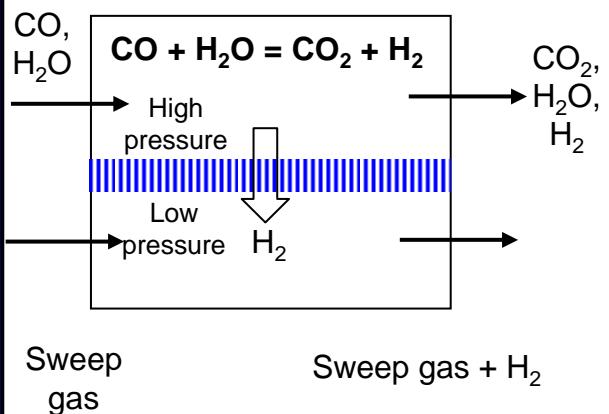
Equilibrium concentrations in WGS as a function of temperature



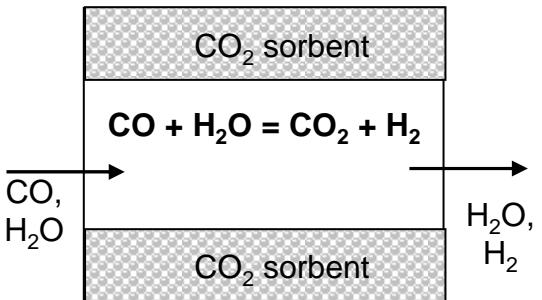


# Hydrogen Purification- single step processes

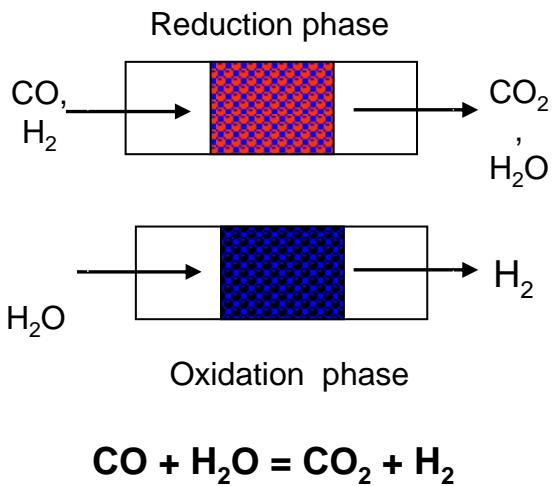
WGS with  
H<sub>2</sub>-separating  
membrane



WGS with CO<sub>2</sub>  
capture



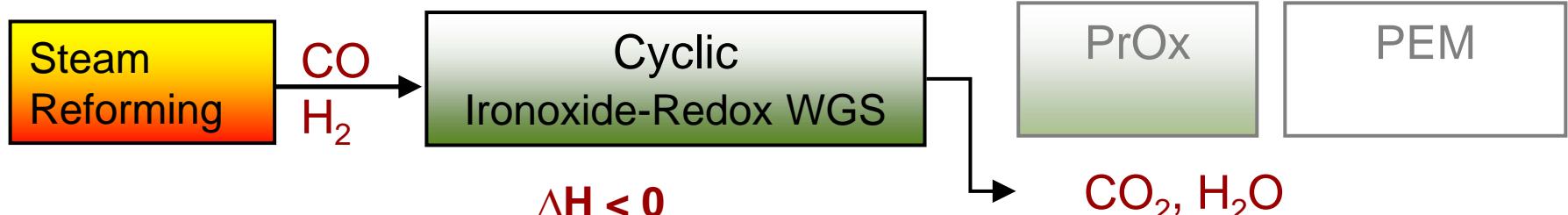
WGS with periodic  
separating reactor





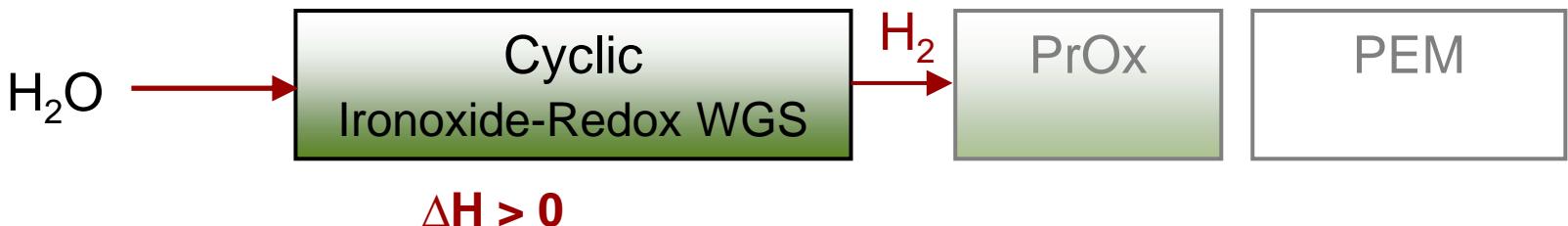
# Periodic Separating Reactor

**Phase 1:** Reduction of Iron oxide  
 $\text{Gas (CO, H}_2\text{)} + \text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 \rightarrow \text{FeO}_x + \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$



**Phase 2:** Re-Oxidation with Steam  
 $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{FeO}_x \rightarrow \text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 + \text{H}_2$

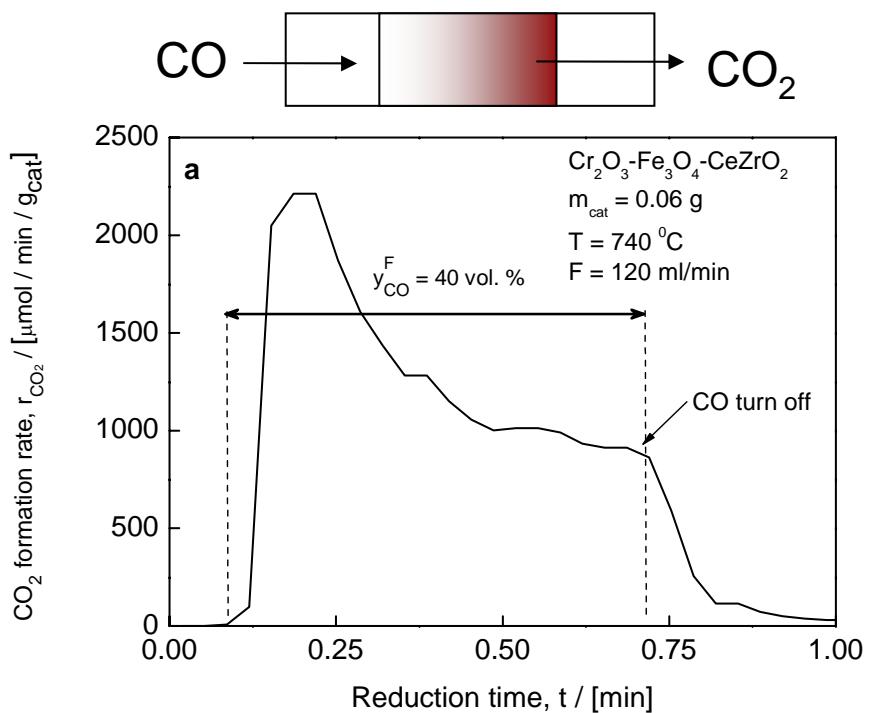
Overall reaction  
 $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2$   
 $\Delta H = -41 \text{ kJ/mol}$



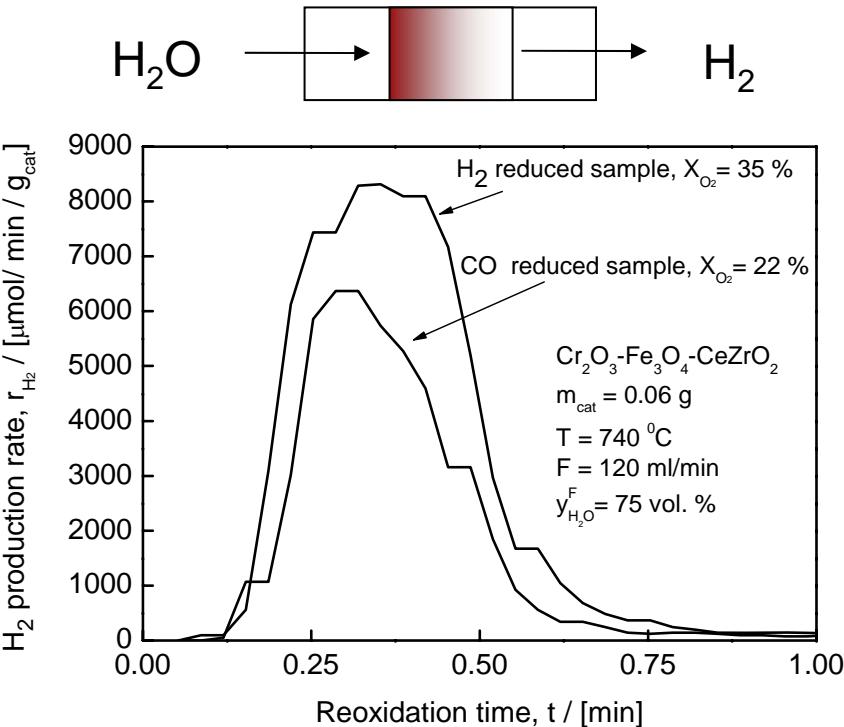


# Feasibility of Cyclic WGS

## Reduction with CO

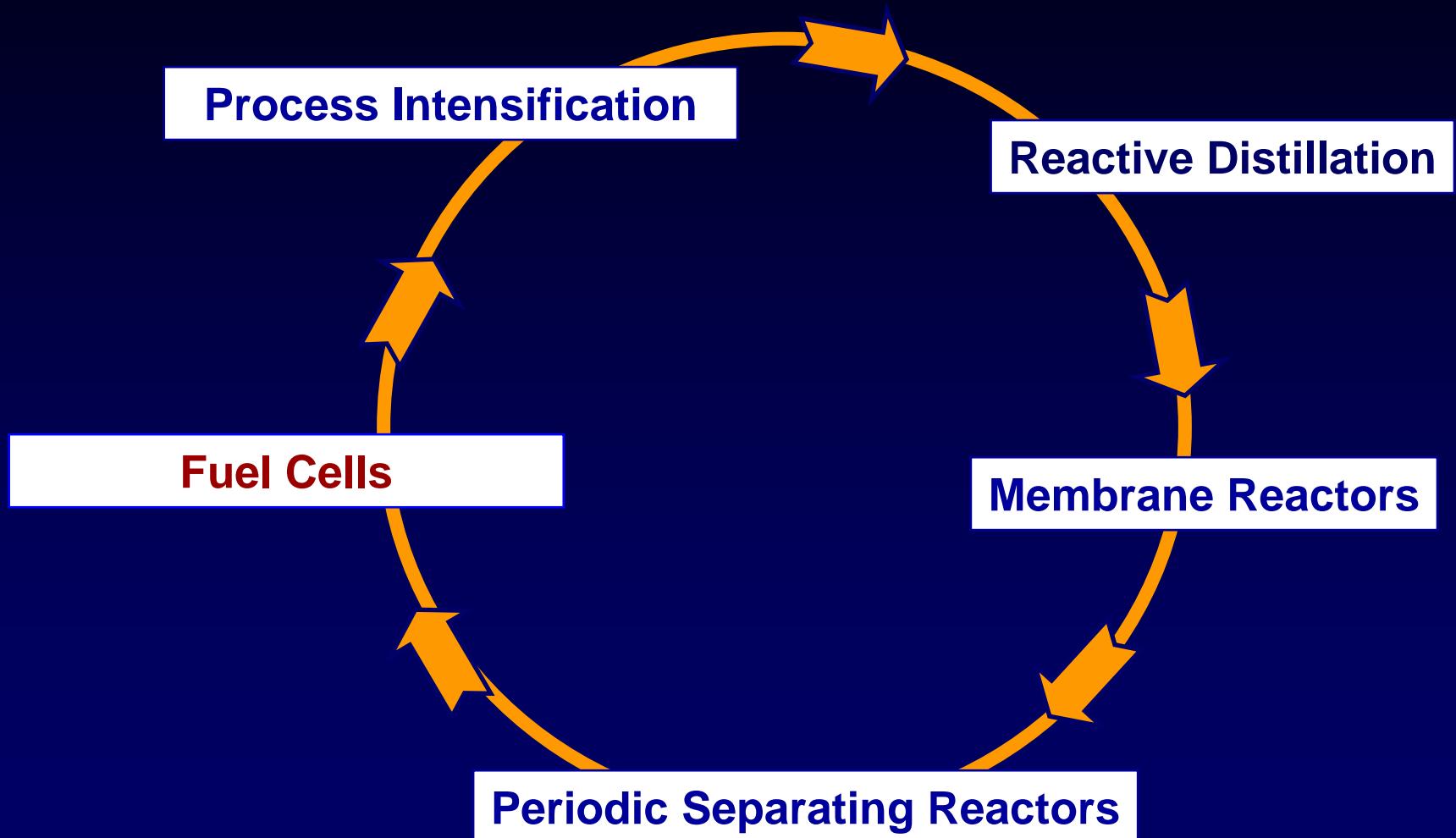


## Re-Oxidation with H<sub>2</sub>O





# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline





# HT Fuel Cells

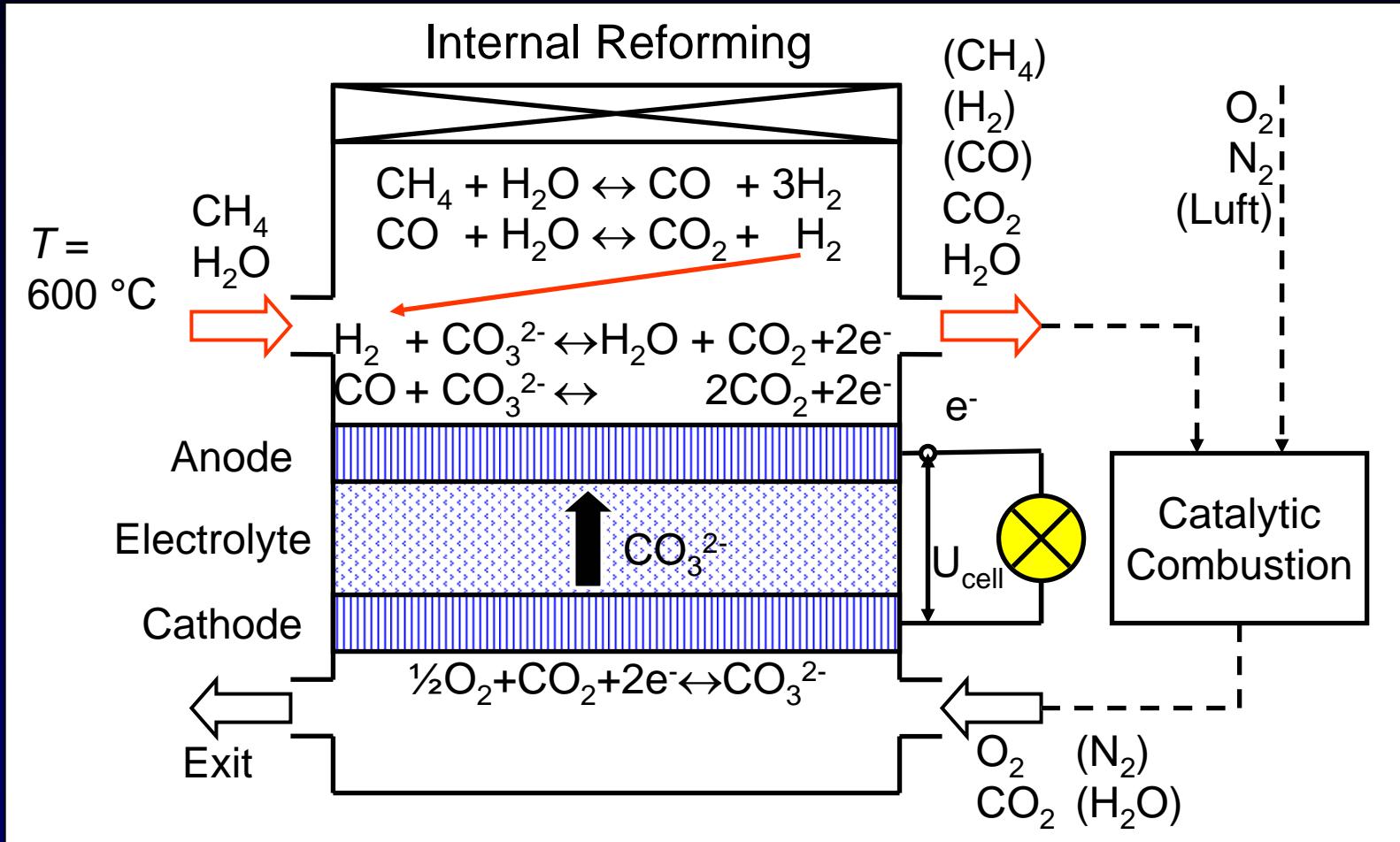
## HotModule in Magdeburg University

- Developed by MTU CFC Solutions GmbH
- Start in October 2002
- Molten-Carbonate Fuel Cell (MCFC)
- Feed natural gas

HotModule bei der IPF in Magdeburg



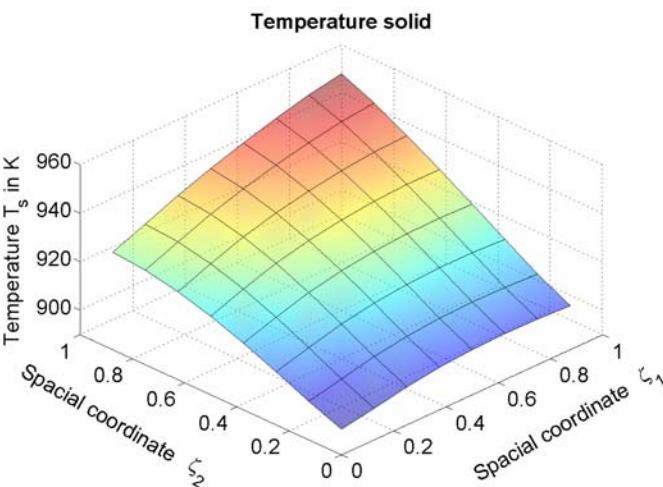
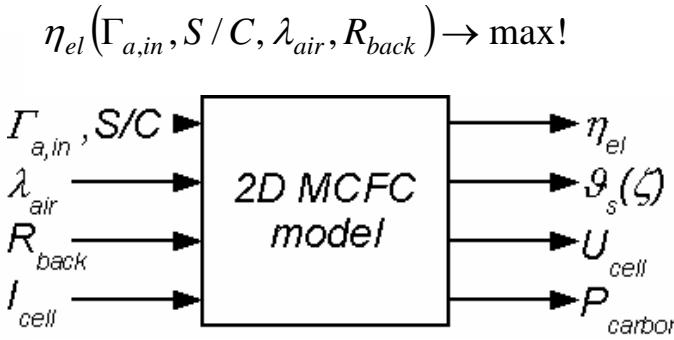
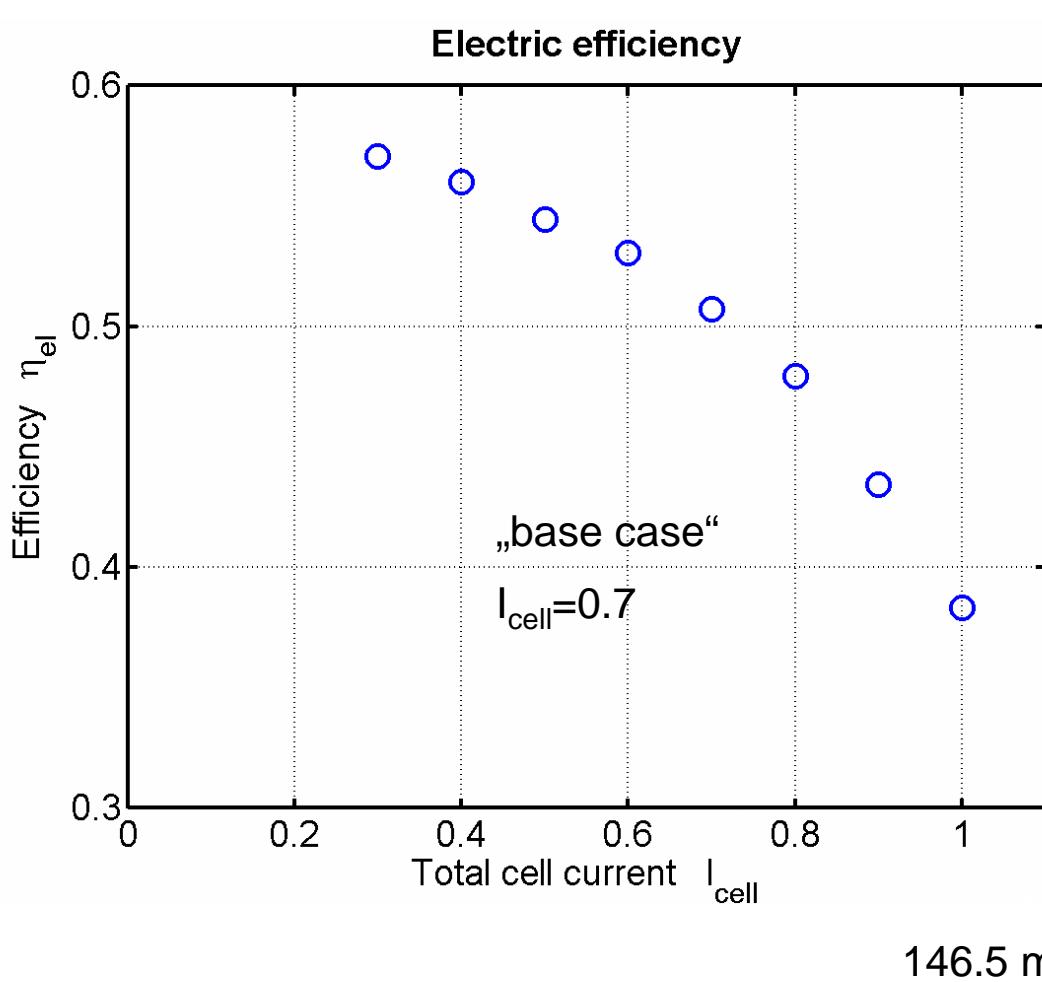
# Optimized Internal Reforming in MCFC



- Mass coupling (reforming + WGS + electrochemical Oxidation)
- Energetical coupling ( $\Delta H_r$ )

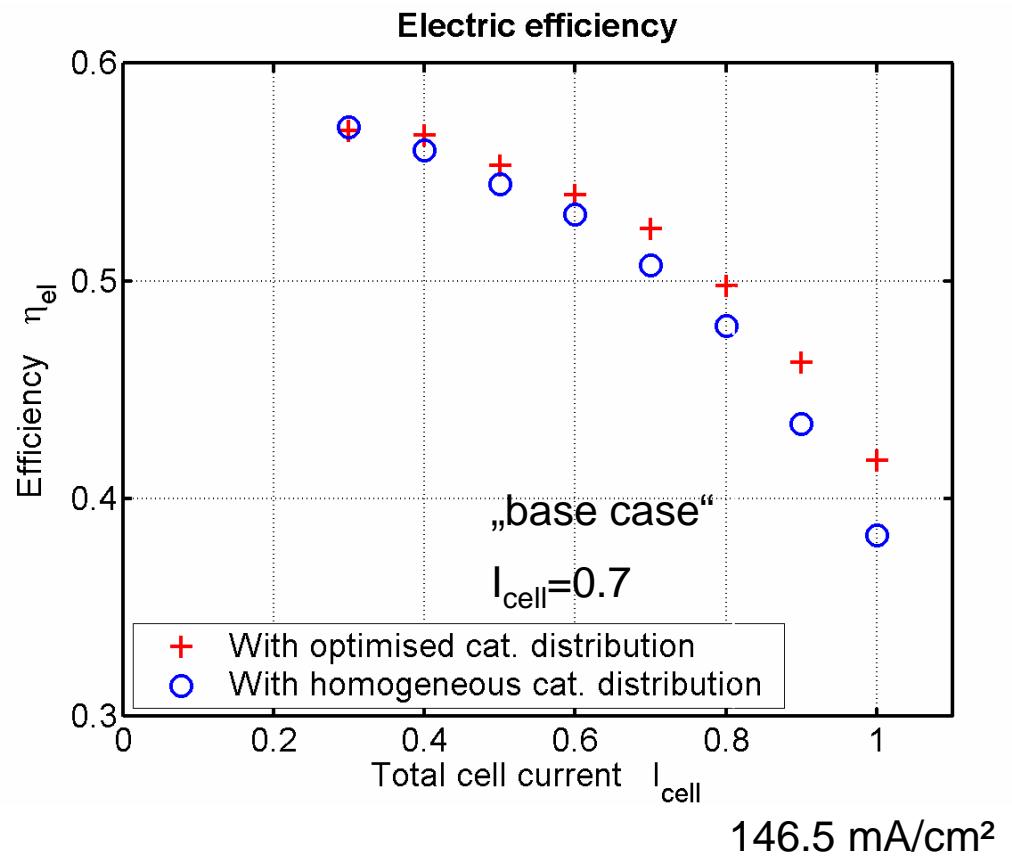


# Optimization of operating conditions

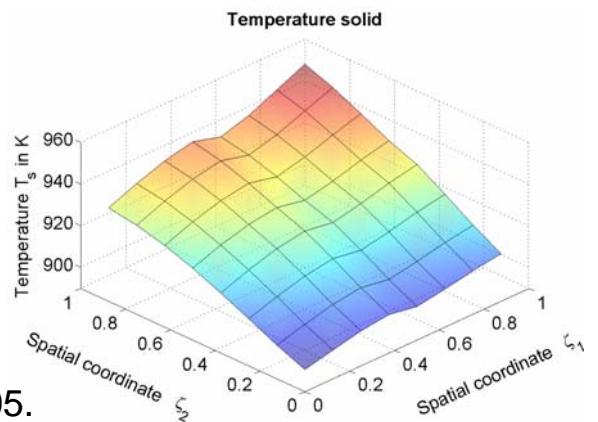
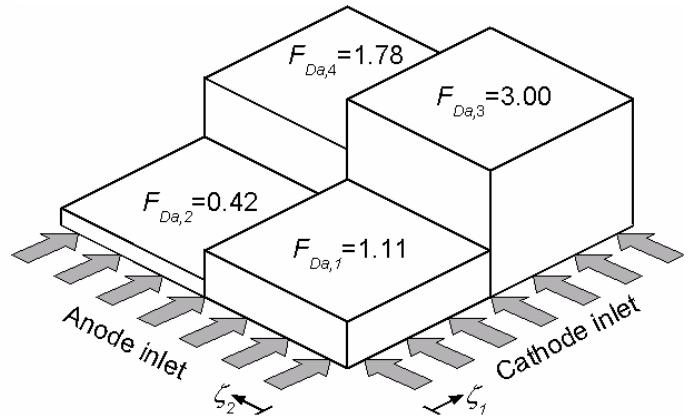




# Optimization of reforming catalyst distribution



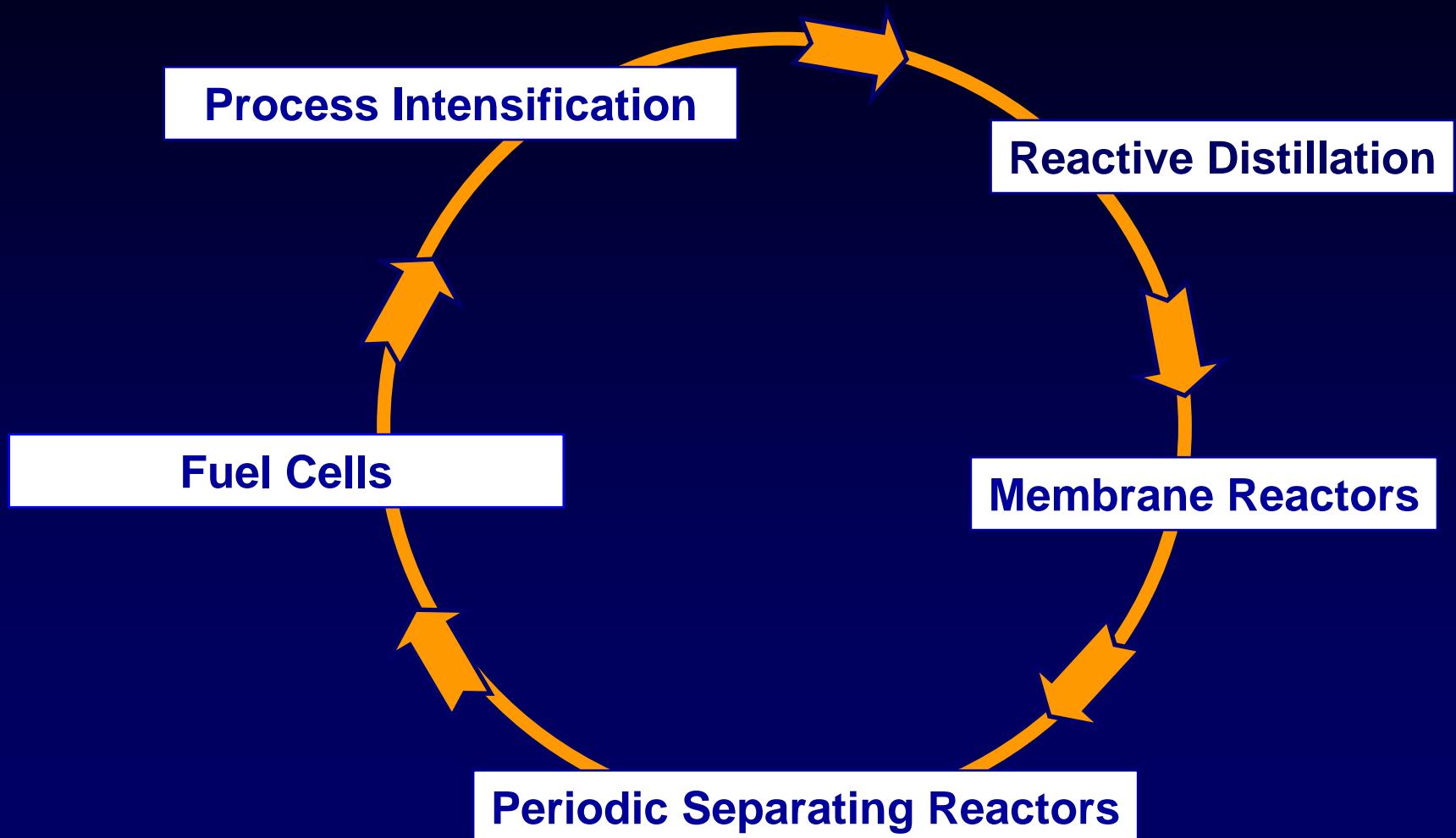
$$\eta_{el}(\Gamma_{a,in}, S/C, \lambda_{air}, R_{back}, F_{Da}) \rightarrow \max!$$



P. Heidebrecht, Fortschritt-Berichte, VDI-Verlag, Düsseldorf, 2005.  
P. Heidebrecht, K. Sundmacher, Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 44 (10), 2005



# Integrated Catalytic Processes –Lecture Outline





## Acknowledgements

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- Dr. V. Galvita (C - WGS)
- Dr. Ye, B. Munder, L. Chalakov (EMR)
- Dr. P. Heidebrecht (MCFC)