



New High-throughput reactor for biomass valorisation



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MÁLAGA

What is Mechanochemistry ?

For Academics 

- Planetary Ball Milling
- Dry Milling or Liquid assisted
- Run at ambient temperature, never controlled heating
- Mostly Batch however trends to make it continuous in last publications

For Industrials 

Grinding
Mixing
Mechanical Alloying for metallurgists

Mechanochemistry, is a chemical transformations initiated or sustained by mechanical force

Do, Jean-Louis & Friscic, Tomislav. (2016). Mechanochemistry: A Force of Synthesis. ACS Central Science

FEED *the*
NEED

A+B -> C+D

A,B,C,D: Solid, Liquid or Gas

Breakthrough Innovation for Green Chemistry Reactors

High-throughput Reactor®



Breakthrough Innovation for Green Chemistry Reactors

- Continuous flow
- Heating controlled up to 200°C
- In Situ Induction
- Scale-up industrial

Our first innovation
High-throughput Reactor®
(patented)



Advantages

- **Micro-Emulsion**
- **Relevant for heterogeneous catalysis**
- **Surface Regeneration**
- **Temperature increases reactants activity**

- **Stoichiometric ratios**
- **Avoid excess**
- **Solvent amount can be reduced**

- **Increase selectivity and yield**
- **Increase kinetic**
- **Decrease energetic cost**
- **Save energy versus batch Reactors**

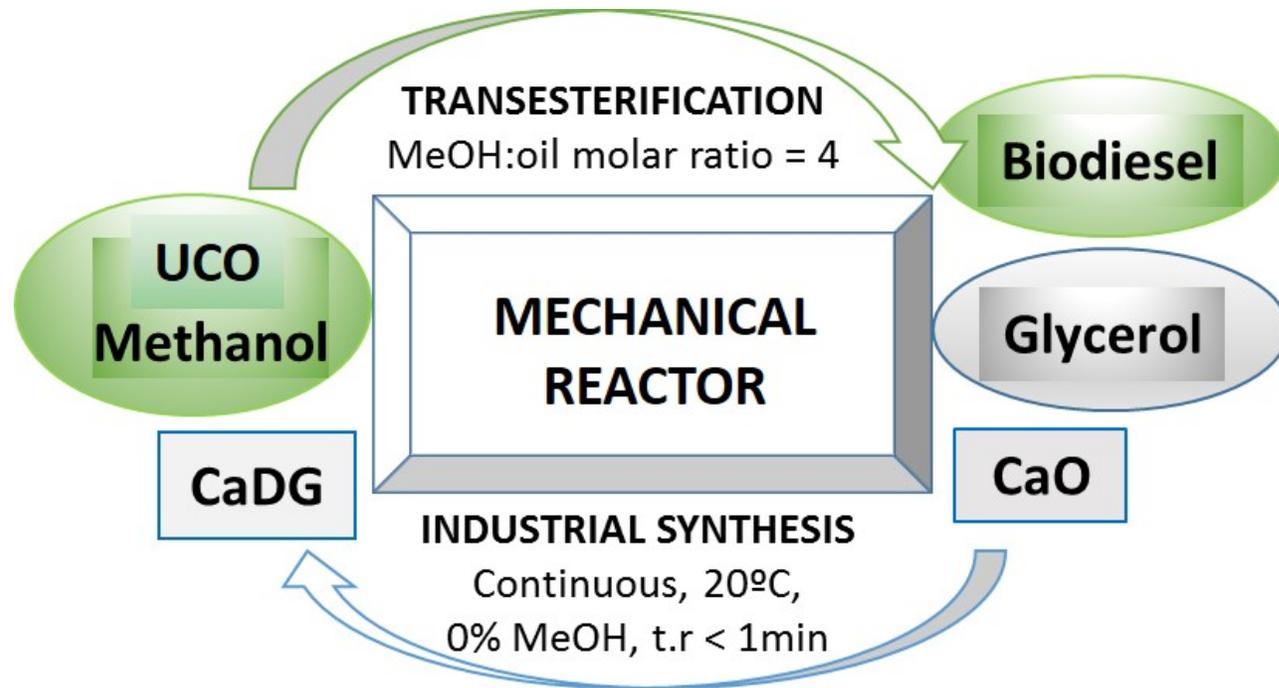
**Combination of heating, catalyst
and local pressure**



Why ?

Family	Temp	Type of reaction	Advantage	Catalyst	Carrier	Patent
Mineral	20°C	S + S → S	Output 10t/h No other industrial process	No	Water	Calcium Zincate
Mineral	20°C	S + S → S	Mechanical activation Decrease calcination temperature	No	Water	Aluminate
Mineral	20°C	S + S → S	Mechanical activation Decrease calcination temperature	No	Water	Zincate
Organic	20°C	L + S → L + S	Yield, no solvents, decrease time Increase ROI	No	Glycerol	Calcium Diglyceroxide CadG
Organic	20-60°C	L + L → L + L	Save energy vs conventional process, Decrease Mass Transfer Limitations Increase ROI	Heterogeneous CaDG	No need	Transesterification
Organometallic	85°C	L + S → L + S	Save energy vs conventional process Increase ROI	No	Glycerol	Zinc Glyceroxide
Organic	56°C	L + L + L → L + L	Save energy vs conventional process Increase ROI	Yes	Yes	Pending
	<i>Up to 200°C</i>	<i>More to come! S+G, L+G</i>	<i>Free test for user to estimate ROI</i>		<i>Neutral liquid</i>	<i>More to come!</i>

1. Optimisation of CaDG



Formation reaction:



Reaction time: 2 h, 4h, 12h

Temperature: 50° C- 120° C

Batch condition, laboratory scale

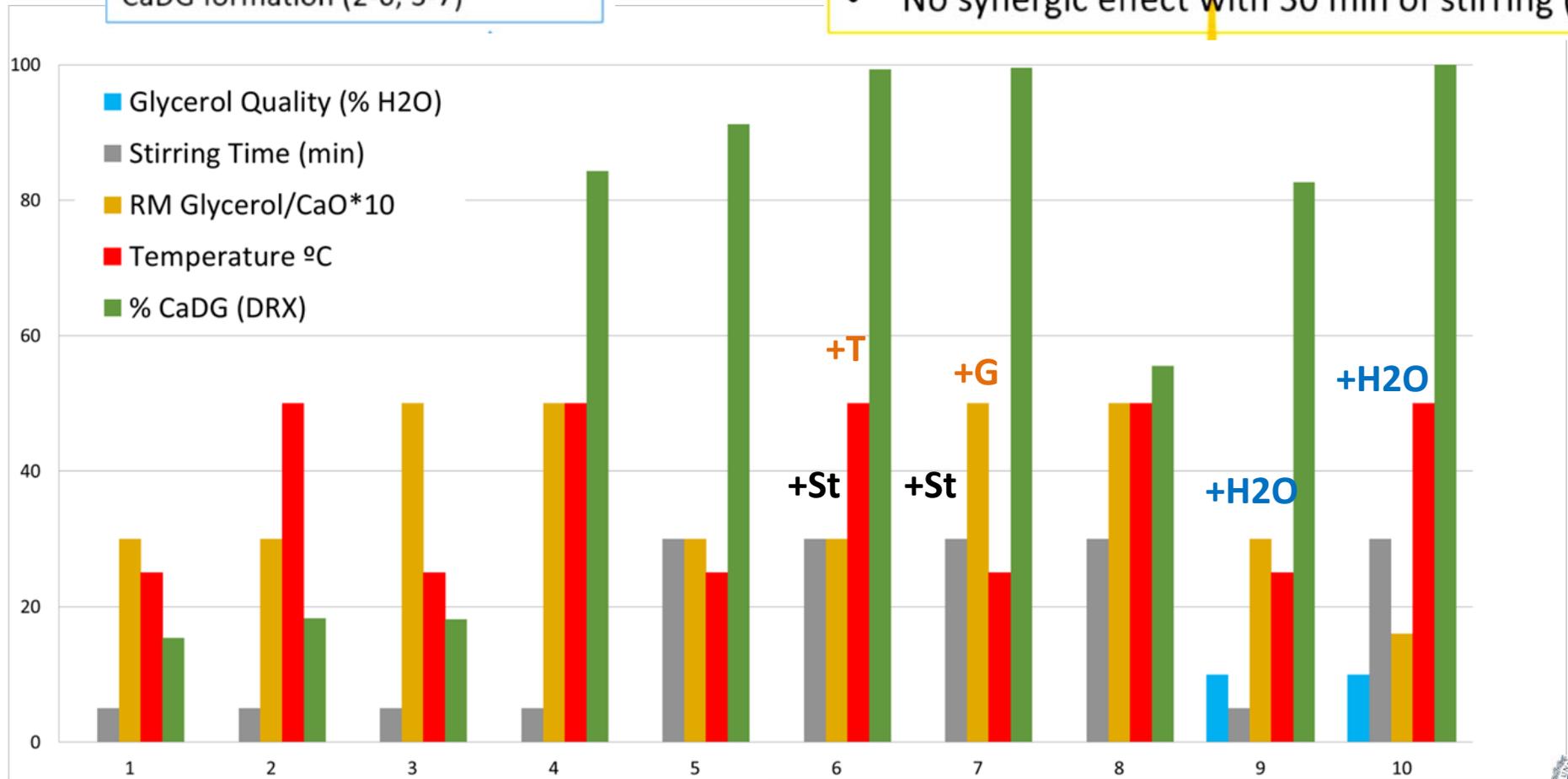
Esipovich A. et al. J Mol Catal A Chem 2014; Lisboa FdaS. et al. J Braz Chem Soc.2014; Reyero I. et al.Chem Eng Res Des 2014; León-Reina et al., J. Catal. 300 (2013) 30;

Optimisation of CaDG

Stirring Time, Glyc/CaO Molar ratio, Temperature and water presence
ATD-TG, Elemental Analysis and X-Ray diffraction

Higher stirring time, increases CaDG formation (2-6, 3-7)

Excess of glycerol → Increases CaDG formation (5-7)
50 °C → Increases CaDG formation (5-6)
• No synergic effect with 30 min of stirring (5-8)



With Low stirring time, excess of glycerol and temperature is needed to increase % of CaDG

Addition of water, increases % of CaDG (1-9, 4-10)

Optimisation of CaDG

**Stirring Time, Glyc/CaO
Molar ratio, Temperature
and water presence**
ATD-TG, Elemental Analysis
and X-Ray diffraction

Entry	Glycerol Quality (wt.% H ₂ O)	Stirring time (min)	Glyc/CaO MR*	Temp (°C)	% CaDG (XRD)
1	0	5	30	25	15.40
2	0	5	30	50	18.30
3	0	5	50	25	18.10
4	0	5	50	50	84.30
5	0	30	30	25	91.20
6	0	30	30	50	99.30
7	0	30	50	25	99.50
8	0	30	50	50	55.50
9	10	5	30	25	82.60
10	10	30	50	50	100

Industrial Calcium Diglyceroxide Synthesis Protocol PATENTED (PCT/FR2017 052675):

Continuous Temperature 25° C

Glycerol / CaO molar ratio = 5

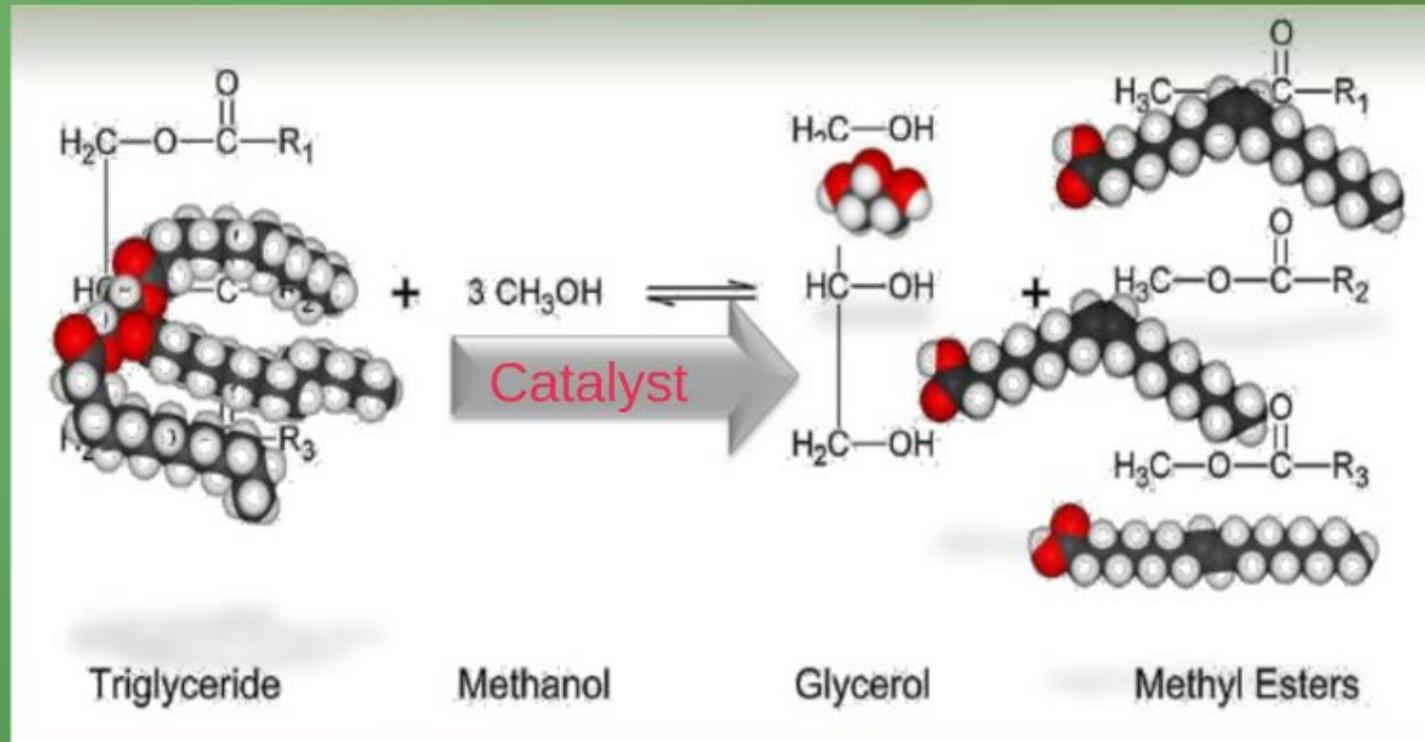
Residence Time = 20 s

Stirring Time = 30 min

No methanol

2. Biodiesel production

Transesterification Reaction Path



REACTIONS CONDITIONS:

Temperature: 50 °C

Methanol:oil molar ratio of 4:1

1.5% of weight of catalyst by oil.

High-throughput REACTOR

VS

CLASSIC 3-NECK

2. Biodiesel production

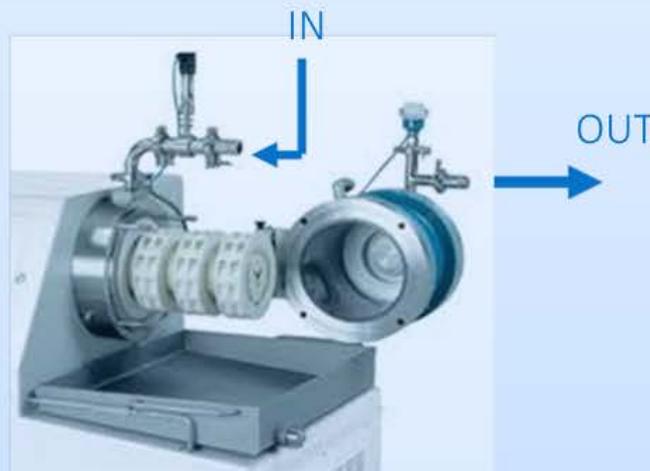
Reaction condition & Machine Parameters

Parameters	Grinding bead	Diameter (mm)	Rotation (tour/min)	Input Flow rate (L/h)	Reactor's technology // grinding chamber volume	% wt catalyst	Molar Ratio MeOH:Oil
Possibilities tested	SiLibeads, Zirmil	0.2 -0.5 - 0.75 - 1	2000 - 5000	4 – 10 – 30 – 45 – 90 - 150	ECM or KD agitator discs // 0.3L - 0.6L	1.5 – 10	4 – 5 – 10
Selection	Zirmil	0.5	2986	45	ECM agitator discs // 0,5L	1.5 - 5	4

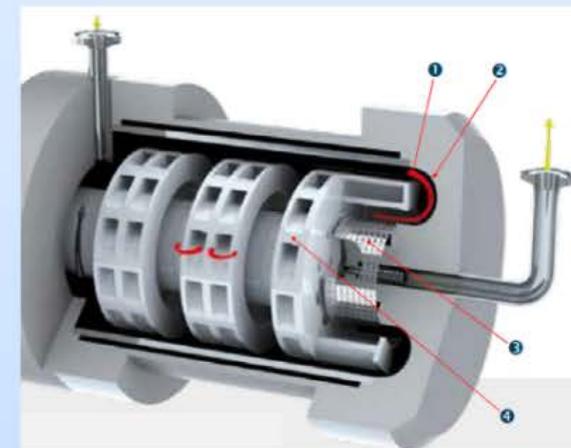


Zirmil Chemical Analysis

ZrO2	93%
Y2O3	5%
Others	2%

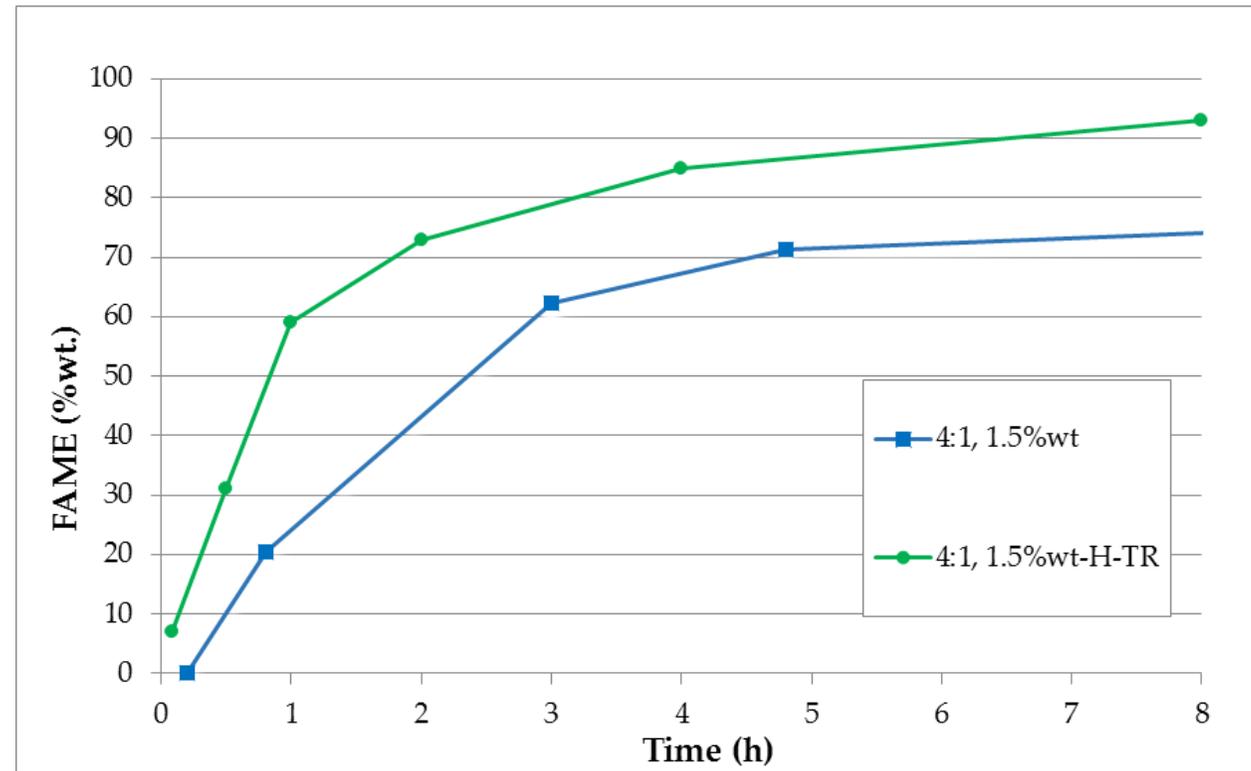


ECM



2. Biodiesel production

Kinetics of FAME yield under conventional and high-throughput reactor (H-TR) at 50 °C, 4/1 methanol:oil molar ratio and 1.5% of weight percentage of catalyst by oil weight.c



the high-throughput reactor is very promising, since both low temperature and methanol:oil molar ratio have been used

Conclusions

This breakthrough technology will open new opportunities for greener and more efficient chemical processes:

as it is demonstrated, in biodiesel production and catalyst preparation to:

- i) shorten reaction times (from h to min) as a result of the activation by mechanical energy;
- ii) decrease the reaction temperature, since mechanical activation takes place under non-equilibrium conditions;
- iii) improve reactions kinetics as mass transfer limitations are reduced, while the collision between beads and reactants increases the probability of contact between them;
- iv) minimize the use of reactants (methanol);
- v) increase volume treated (from mL to L), enabling a real scale-up; and
- vi) enhance the yields and/or selectivity, as regeneration of catalyst surface takes place simultaneously to the reaction.



THANK YOU!