

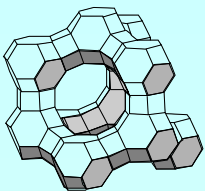
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# ***Applications of in situ spectroscopy in zeolite science***

**Michael Hunger**

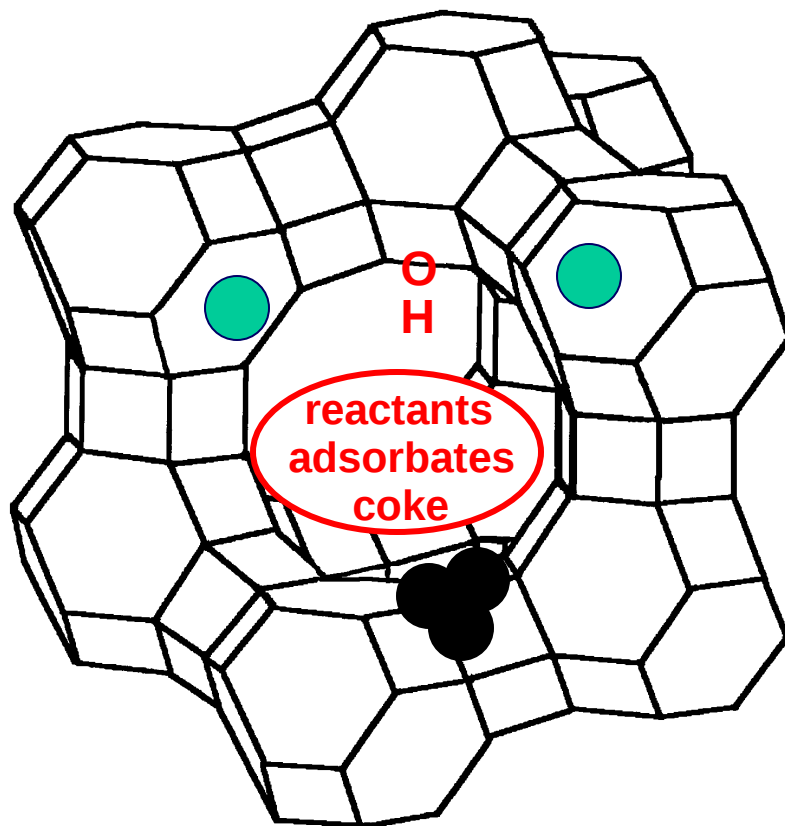
***Institute of Chemical Technology  
University of Stuttgart, Germany***

***14th International Zeolite Pre-Conference School  
23 – 25 April 2004, Stellenbosch, South Africa***



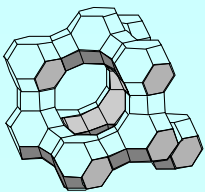
## Components of heterogeneous reaction systems

catalyst framework, extra-framework species, and surface sites



spectroscopically sensitive behaviors:

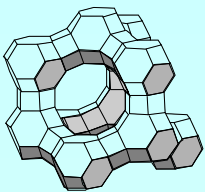
- various vibrations
- electron transitions
- unpaired electrons
- nuclear spins



## Contents

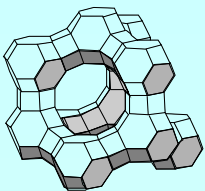
spectroscopic methods applied for studies of heterogeneous reaction systems under *in situ* conditions in the laboratory scale:

- **Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy**
  - hydroxyl groups, reactants, adsorbates, coke
- **UV-Vis spectroscopy**
  - surface sites, conjugated double bonds, carbenium ions, coke
- **electron spin resonance (ESR):**
  - paramagnetic surface sites, adsorbates, coke
- **solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR):**
  - framework, surface sites, adsorbates, coke



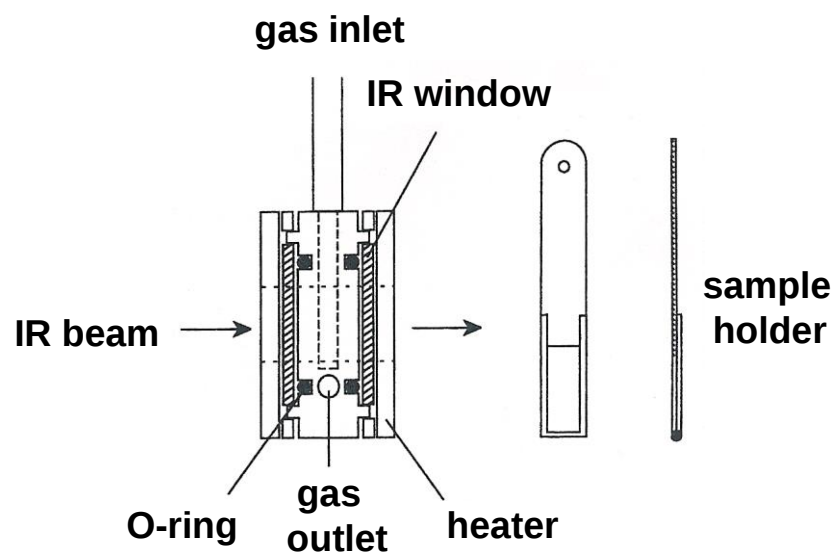
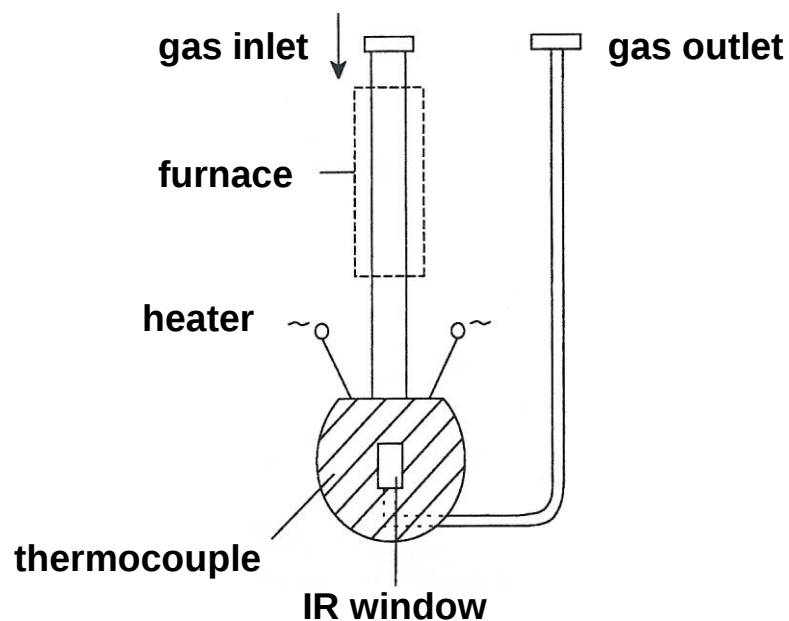
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***In situ FTIR spectroscopy in  
zeolite science***

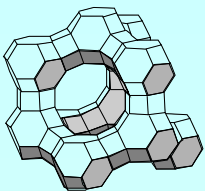


# FTIR spectroscopy

## scheme of an *in situ* IR cell

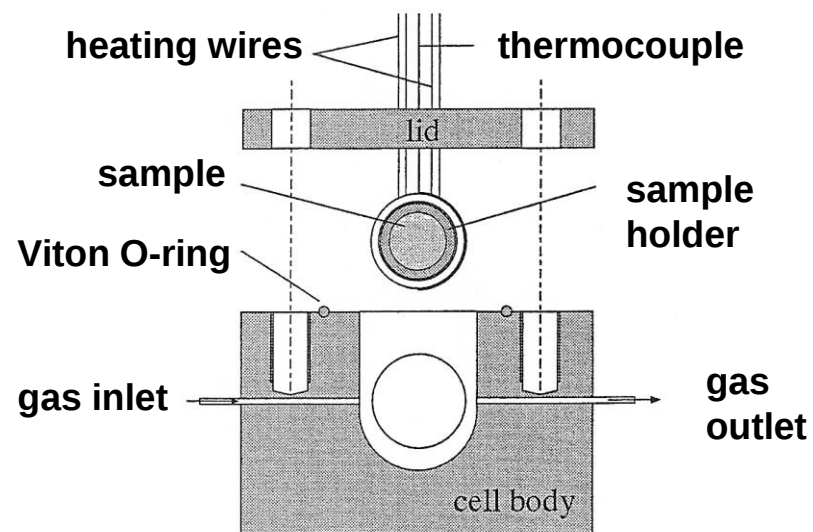
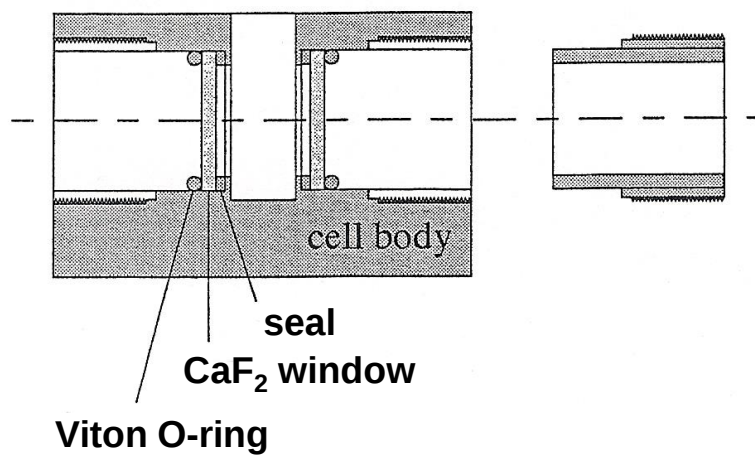


- up to 523 K under high-vacuum and up to 923 K at  $p = 1$  bar

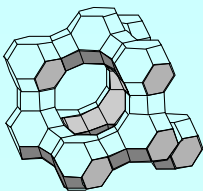


# FTIR spectroscopy

## scheme of an *in situ* IR cell

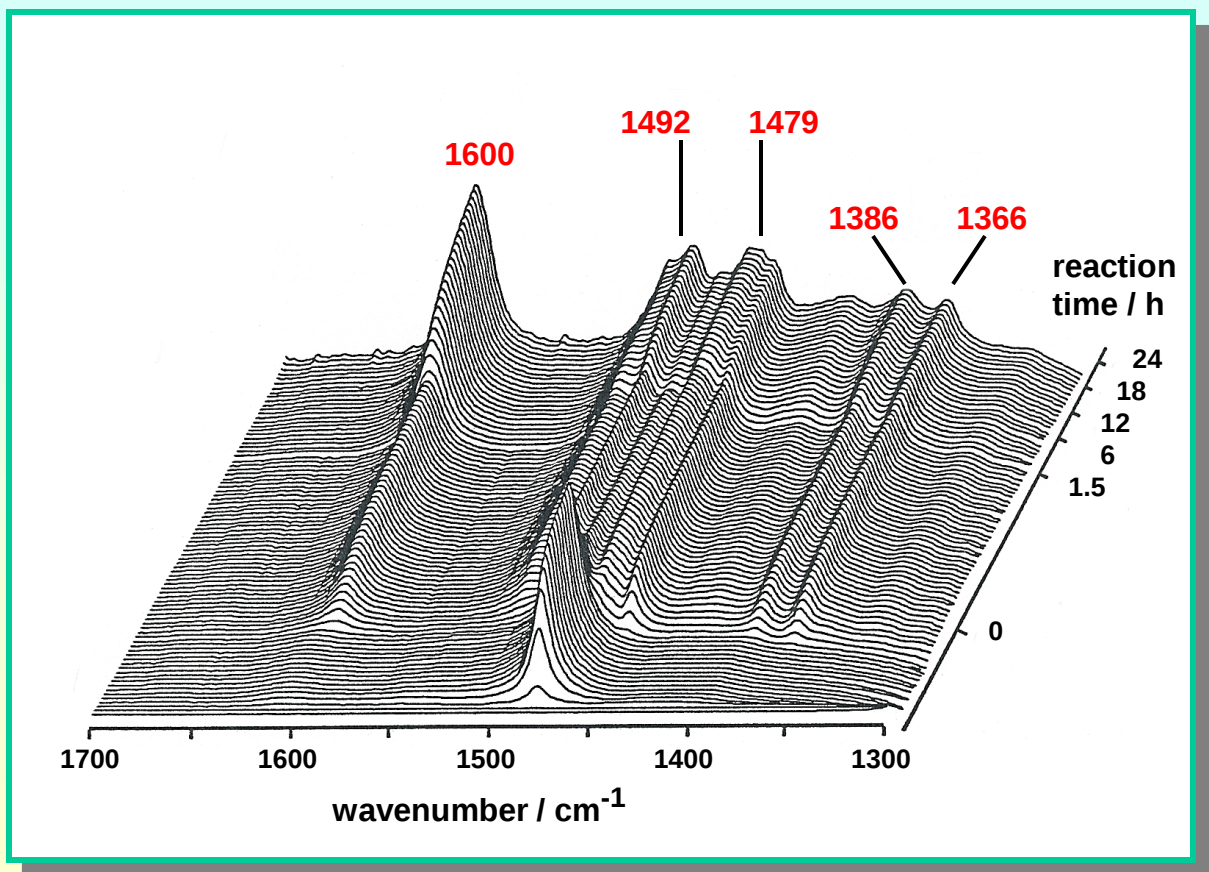


- maximum temperature of 870 K at up to  $p = 5$  bar



# FTIR spectroscopy

synthesis of cumene by benzene and propene on zeolite H-EU-1 ( $n_{\text{Si}}/n_{\text{Al}} = 17$ ) at 448 K



**1366  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
C-H deformation vibration  
of diisopropylbenzene

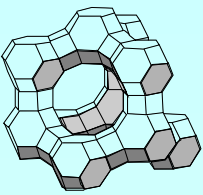
**1386  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
C-H deformation vibration  
of cumene

**1479  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
ring vibration of benzene

**1492  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
ring vibration of cumene

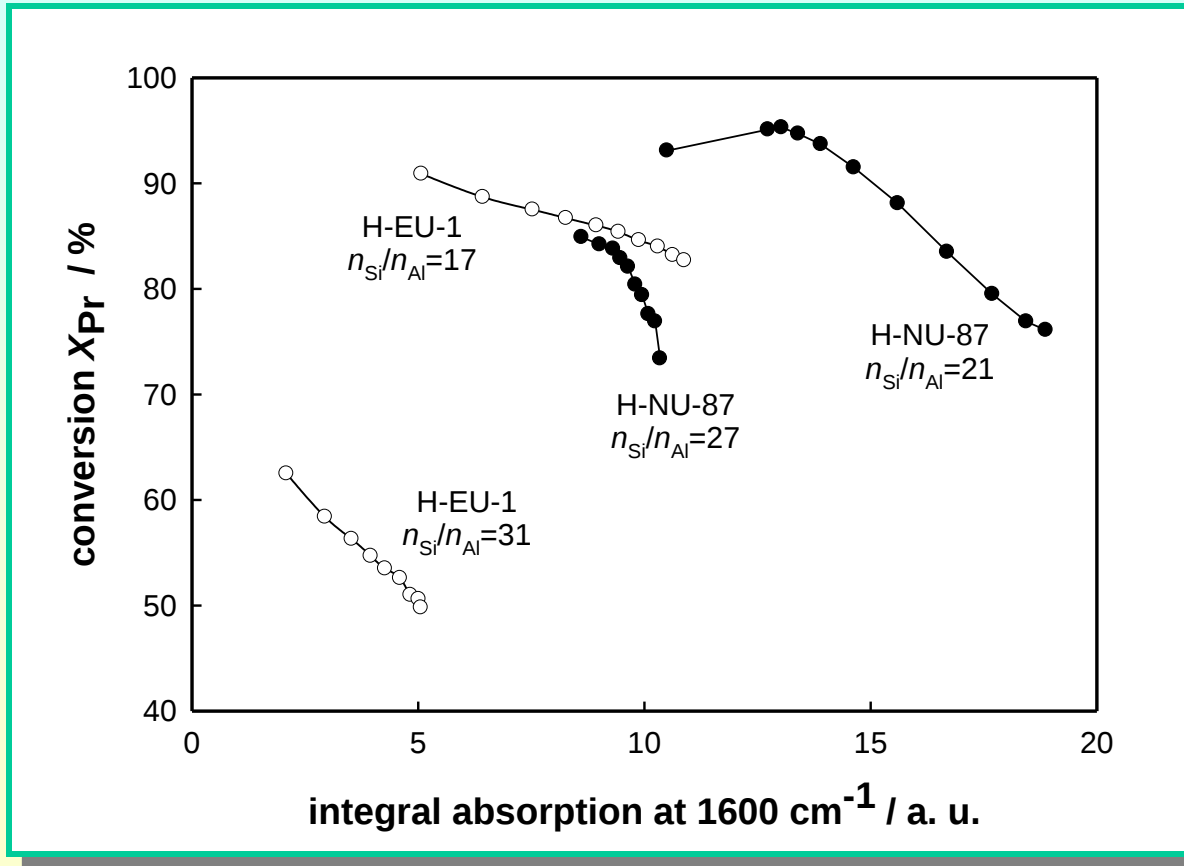
**1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
ring vibration of polyaromatics,  
conjugated polyene structures

→ coke formation  
starts with injection  
of propene



# FTIR spectroscopy

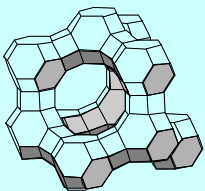
## dependence of the catalytic activity on the formation of coke



**zeolite H-EU-1:**  
 structure type EUO  
 10-ring pores [100]  
 0.41 x 0.54 nm  
 large side pockets

**zeolite H-NU-87:**  
 structure type NES  
 10-ring pores [100]  
 0.48 x 0.57 nm

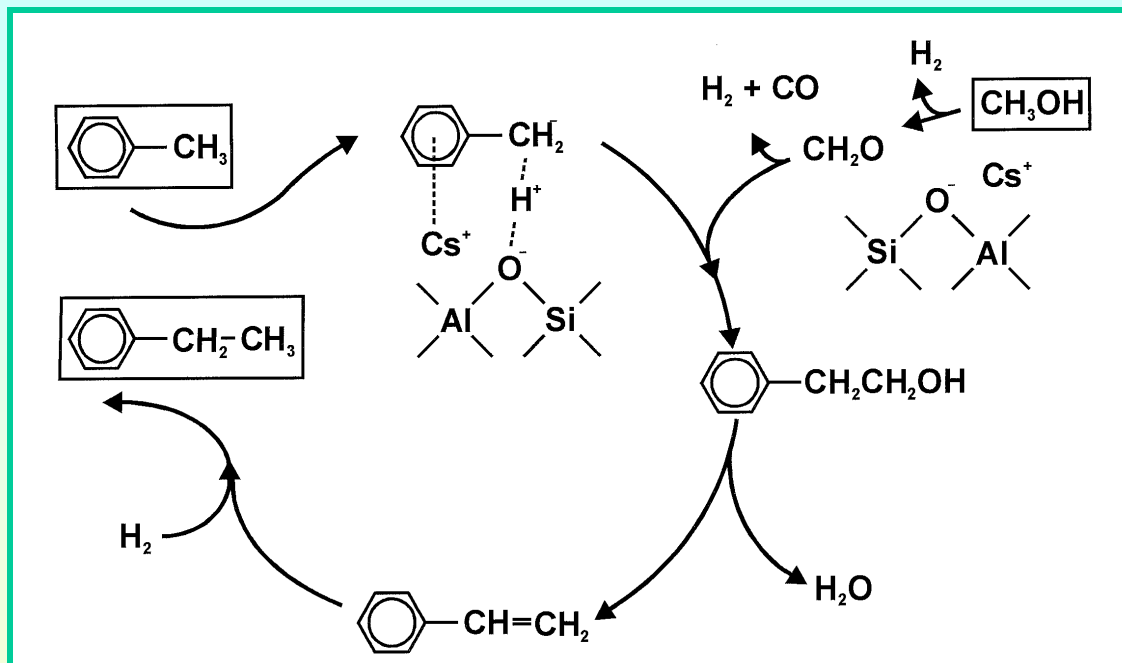
→ depends on the  
 aluminum content  
 and pore geometry



## Side-chain alkylation of toluene with methanol on basic zeolites

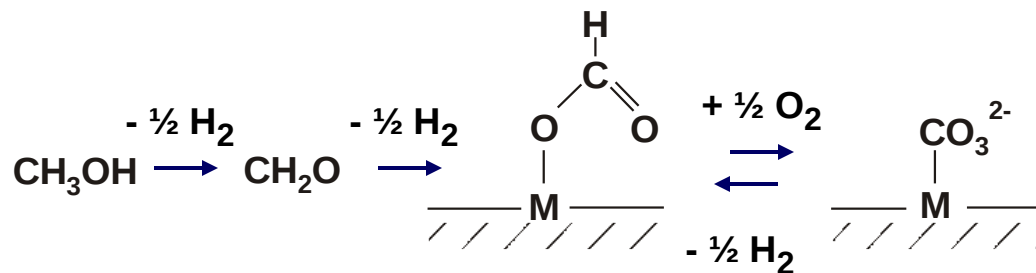
- reaction scheme proposed by Yashima et al. , J. Catal. 26 (1972) 303:

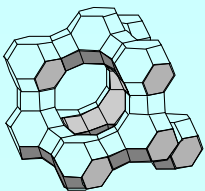
- activation of toluene by adsorption on the zeolite
- conversion of methanol to formaldehyde catalyzed by base sites



- proposed surface species:

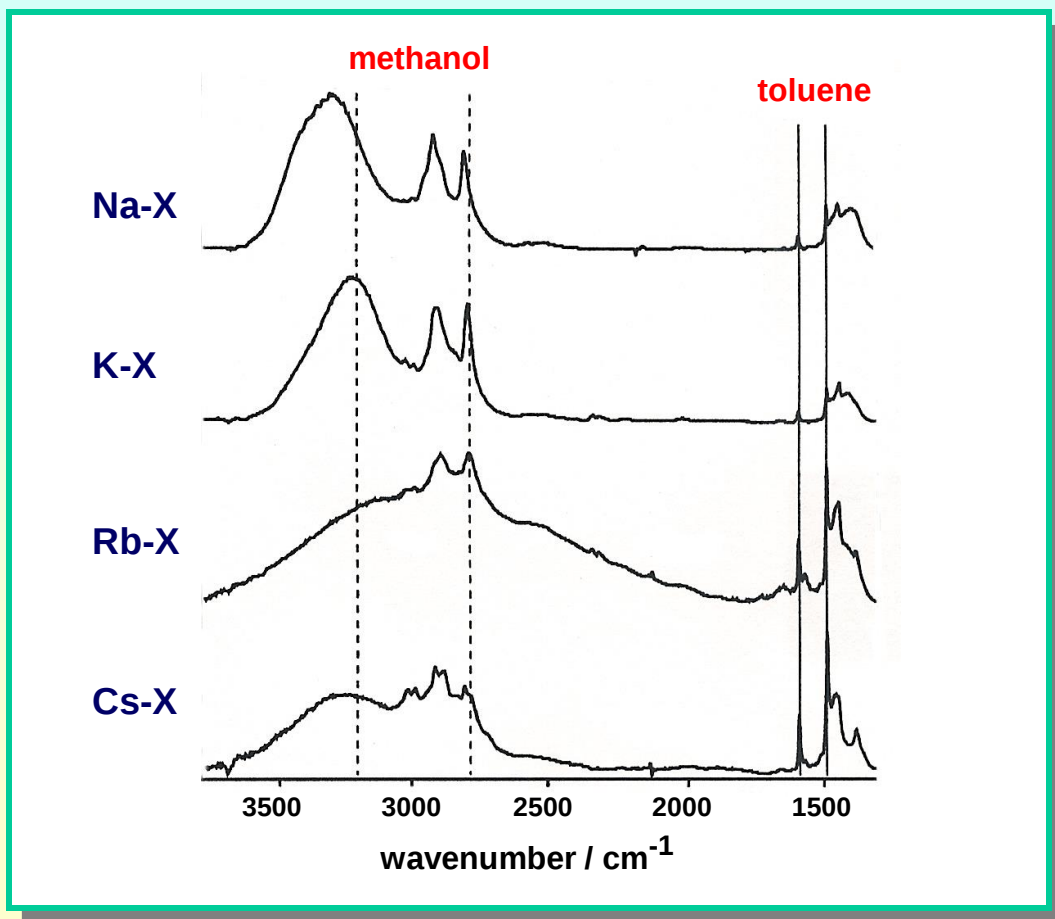
- surface formate species
- carbonates





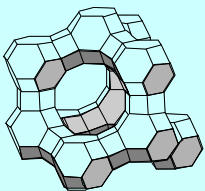
## FTIR spectroscopy

coadsorption of toluene and methanol on alkali-exchanged zeolites X at 308 K



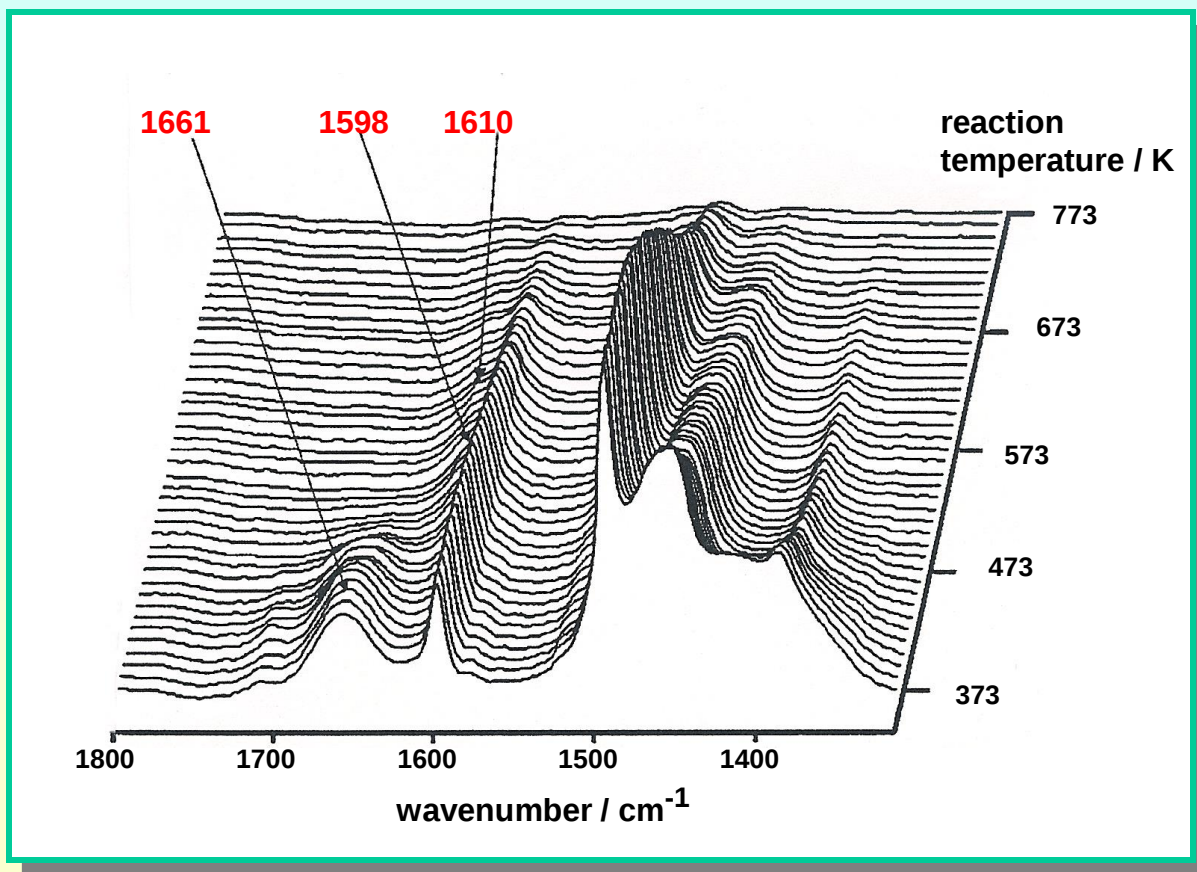
→ same co-adsorbed states independent on the sequence of adsorption

→ Cs-X: highest ratio (2:1) of adsorbed toluene in comparison with adsorbed methanol



# FTIR spectroscopy

side-chain alkylation of toluene on zeolite Cs-X (100% Cs) at 373 to 773 K



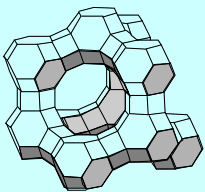
**1400 - 1500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
ring deformation vibration

**1598  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
C-C vibration of toluene

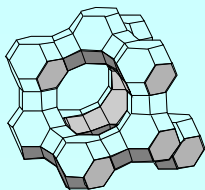
**1610  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
surface formate species

**1661  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ :**  
adsorbed dimethyl ether

→ surface formate species occur at reaction temperature

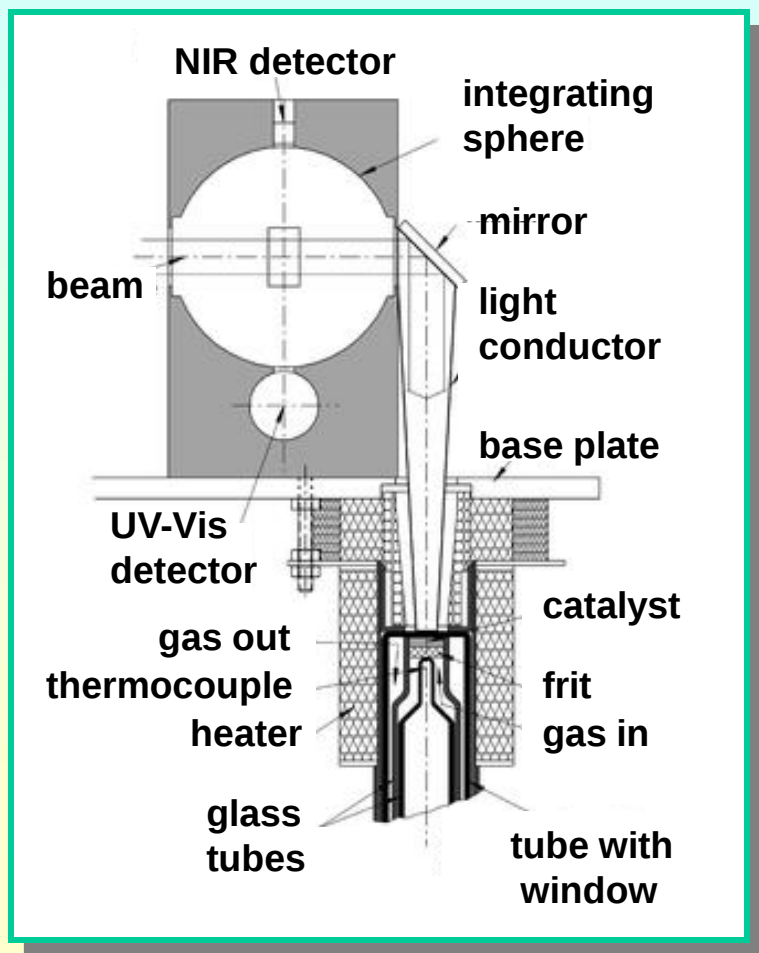


# ***In situ UV-Vis spectroscopy in zeolite science***

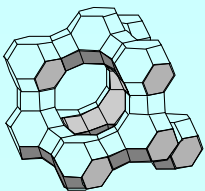


# UV-Vis spectroscopy

## scheme of an *in situ* UV-Vis/NIR setup

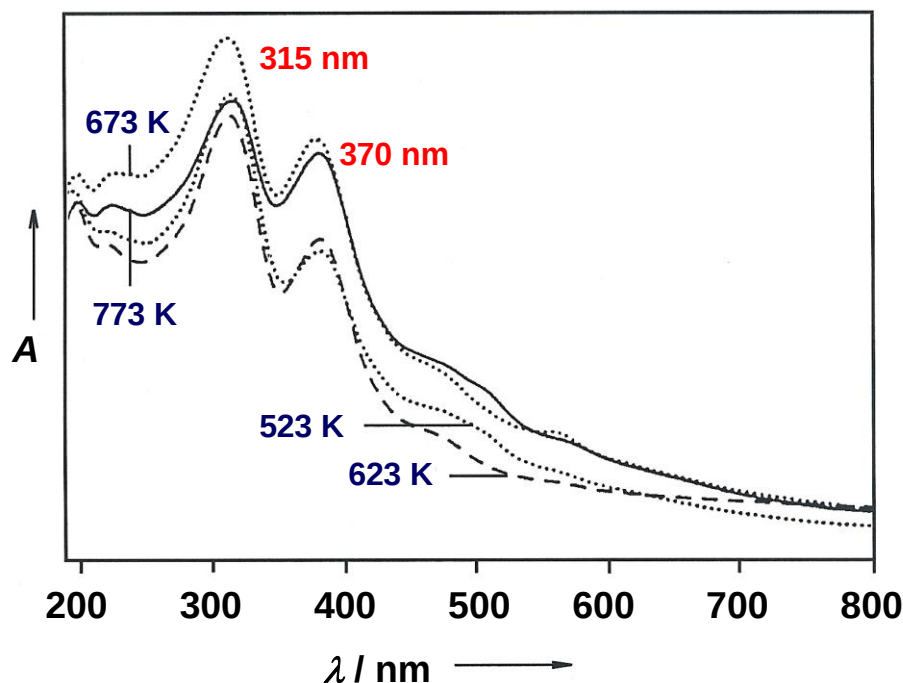


- suitable for *in situ* investigations at temperatures up to 723 K
- combination of UV-Vis and NIR spectroscopy
- increase of signal-to-noise ratio by 25% due to the light conductor
- horizontal arrangement of the powder material



# UV-Vis spectroscopy

Conversion of isobutane and 1-butene (9 : 1) on zeolite La,H-Y



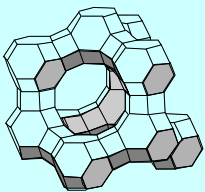
sensitive for:

- hydrocarbons with conjugated double bonds
- unsaturated carbenium ions

→ **315 nm:**  
monoenyl carbenium ions

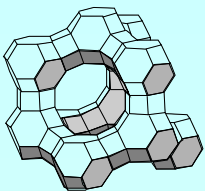
**370 nm:**  
dienyl carbenium ions

**450 nm:**  
trienyl carbenium ions



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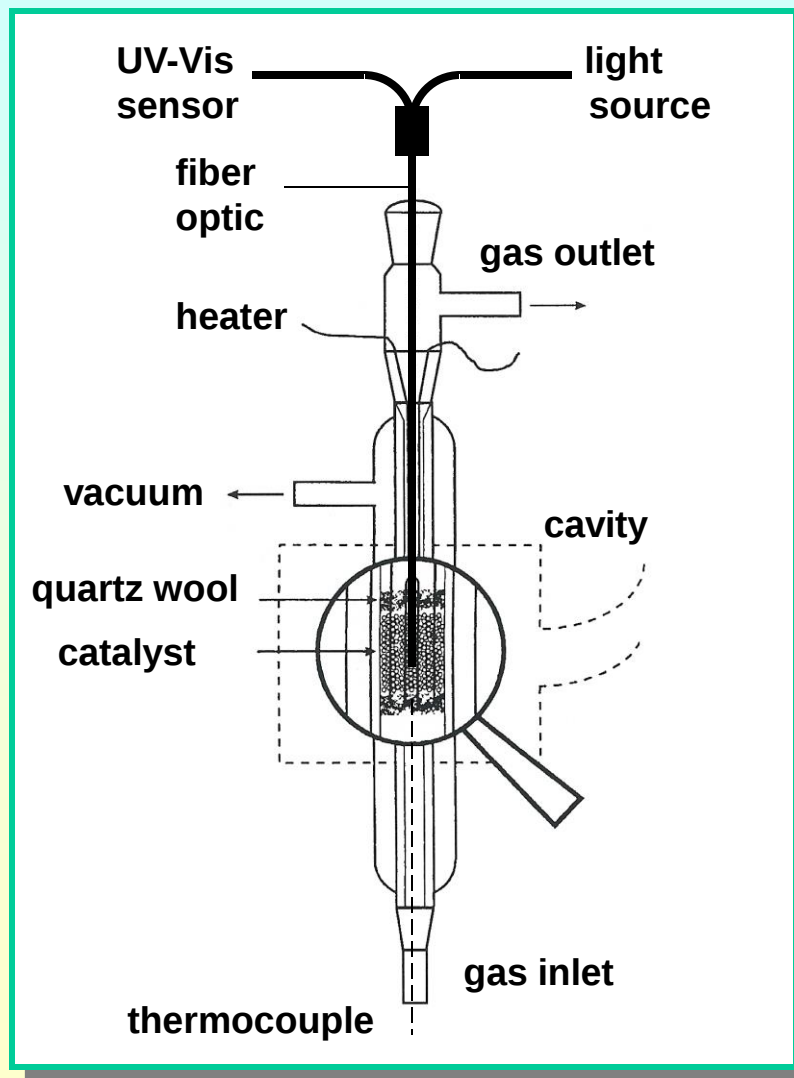
***In situ ESR spectroscopy in  
zeolite science***

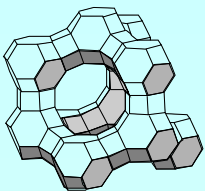


# ESR spectroscopy

## scheme of an *in situ* ESR cell

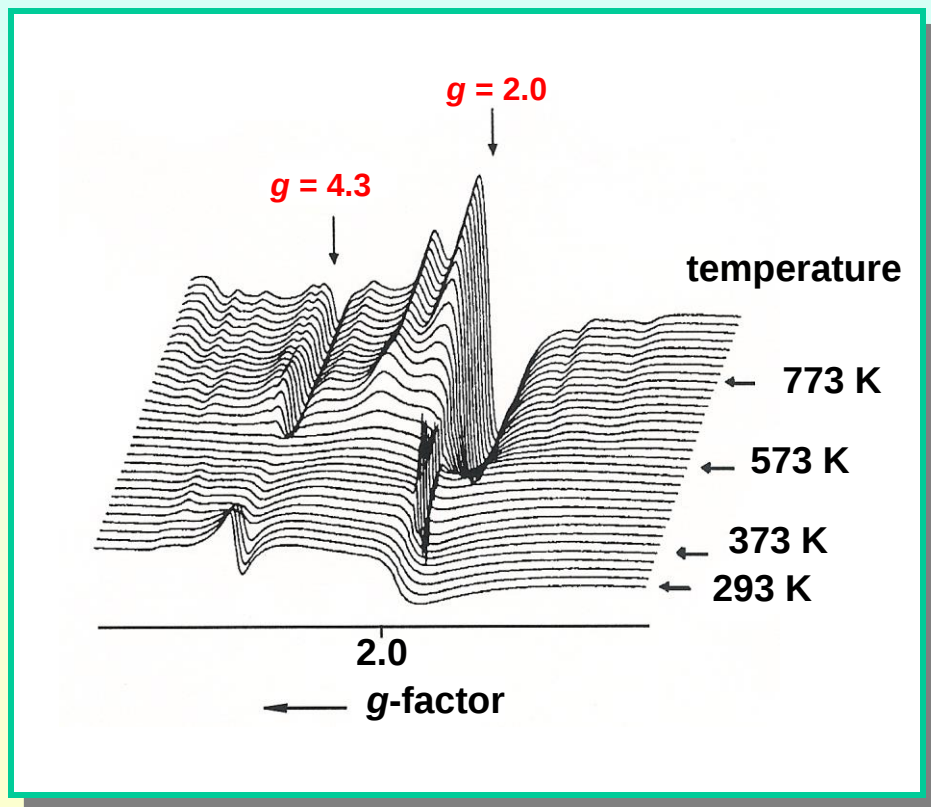
- ESR flow reactor for X-band ( $B_0 = 0.35$  T,  $\nu = 9.5$  GHz)
- suitable for *in situ* investigations at temperatures of up to 780 K
- combination of ESR and UV-Vis spectroscopy





# ESR spectroscopy

## X-band *in situ* ESR spectrum of Fe/AlPO<sub>4</sub>-5 recorded during calcination

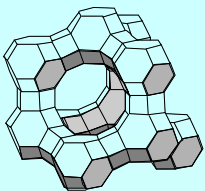


→ Fe<sup>3+</sup> species with different local structures:

***g* = 2.0:**  
octahedral Fe<sup>3+</sup> coordinated to four lattice oxygen bridges and two extra-framework ligands in the pores

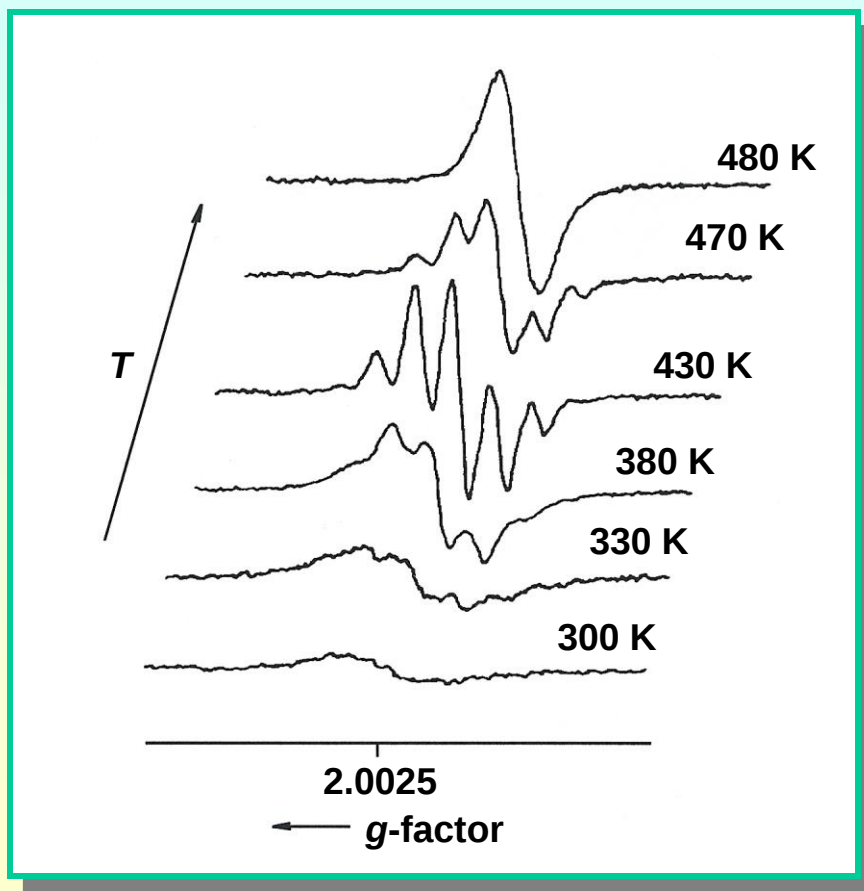
***g* = 4.3:**  
octahedral Fe<sup>3+</sup> in lattice defects coordinated to bridging oxygen and terminal oxygen

(also assigned to tetrahedrally coordinated Fe<sup>3+</sup>)



# ESR spectroscopy

## X-band *in situ* ESR spectrum recorded during conversion of ethene on H-MOR



→ formation of coke:

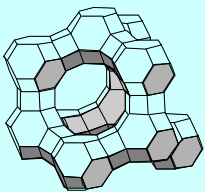
**$T = 380 - 470$  K:**

olefinic and allylic radicals  
due to oligomerization of ethene,  
hf-splitting, e.g. by coupling with Al,  
low-temperature coke

**$T > 470$  K:**

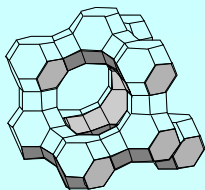
polyaromatic radicals,  
high-temperature coke

(1 radical per 1000 molecules)



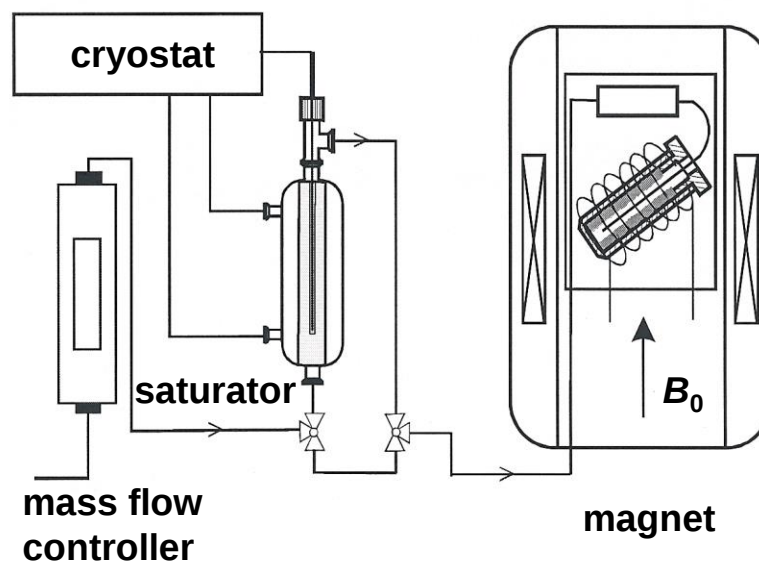
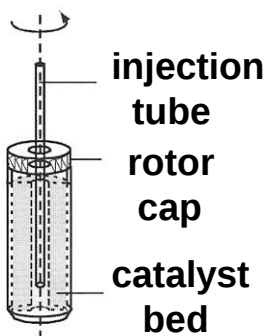
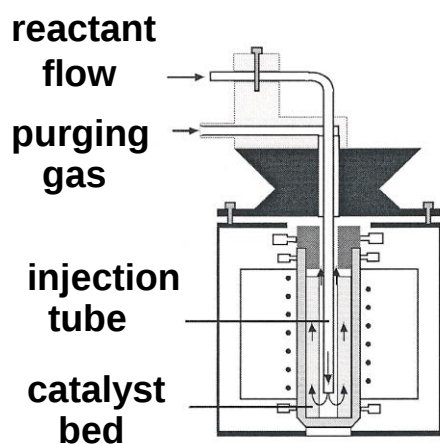
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***In situ solid-state NMR spectroscopy  
in zeolite science***

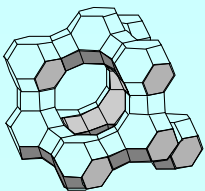


# Continuous-flow (CF) MAS NMR technique

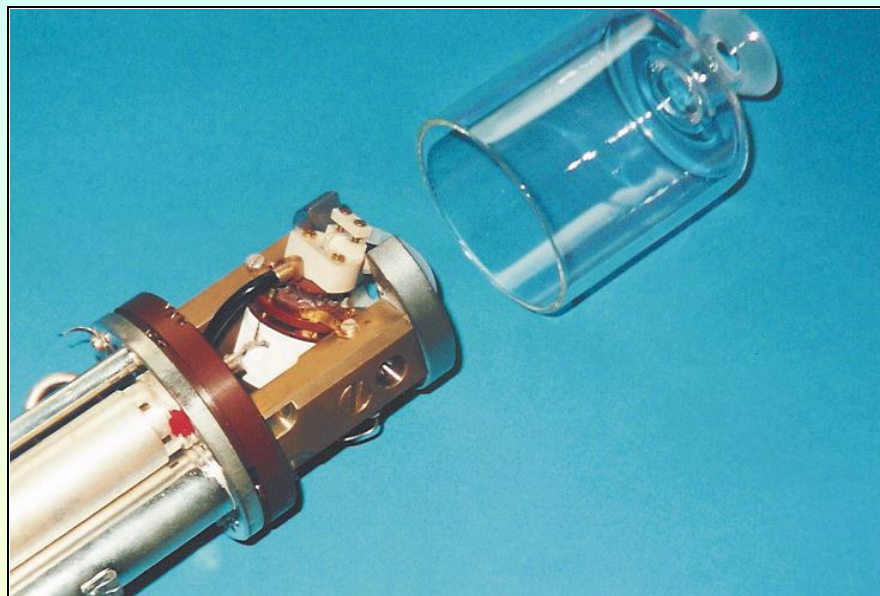
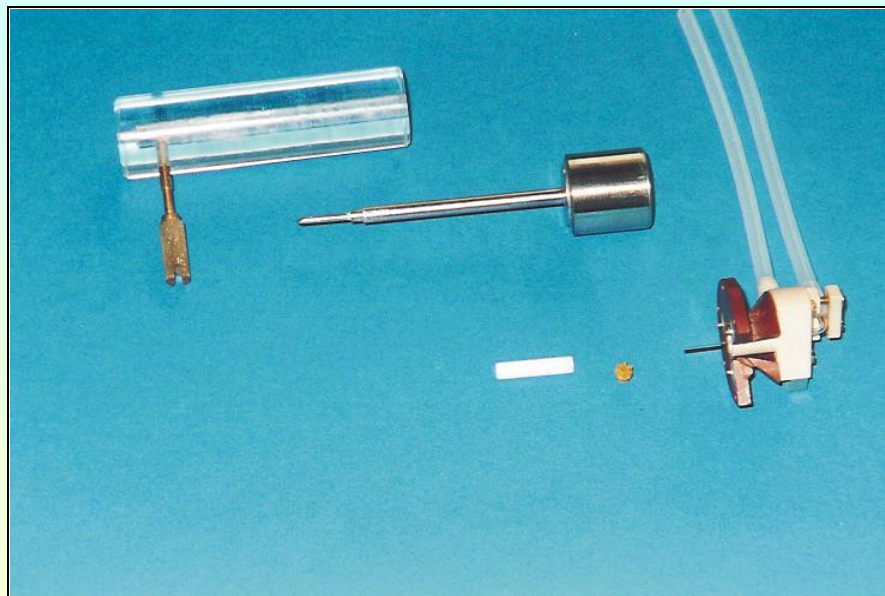
## scheme of an *in situ* MAS NMR probe



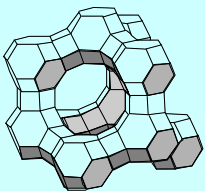
- continuous injection of reactants into a spinning MAS NMR rotor reactor ( $T < 923$  K)



## ***Continuous-flow (CF) MAS NMR technique***



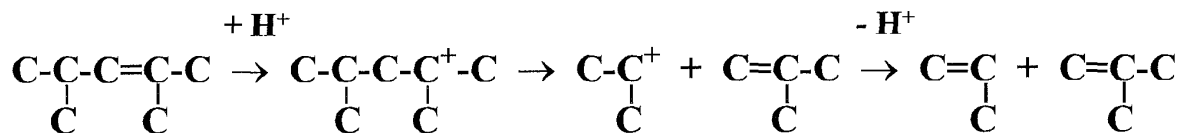
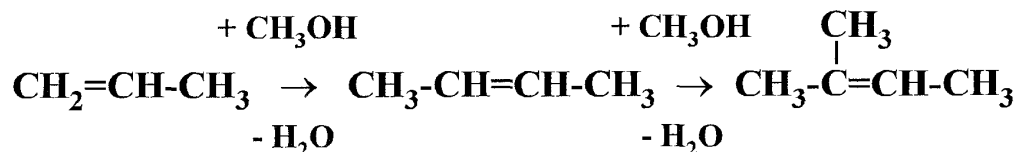
A. Buchholz et al., *Microporous & Mesoporous Mater.* 57 (2003) 157.

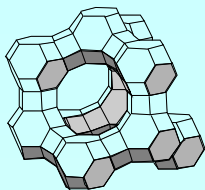


# Methanol to olefin (MTO) conversion on acidic zeolites

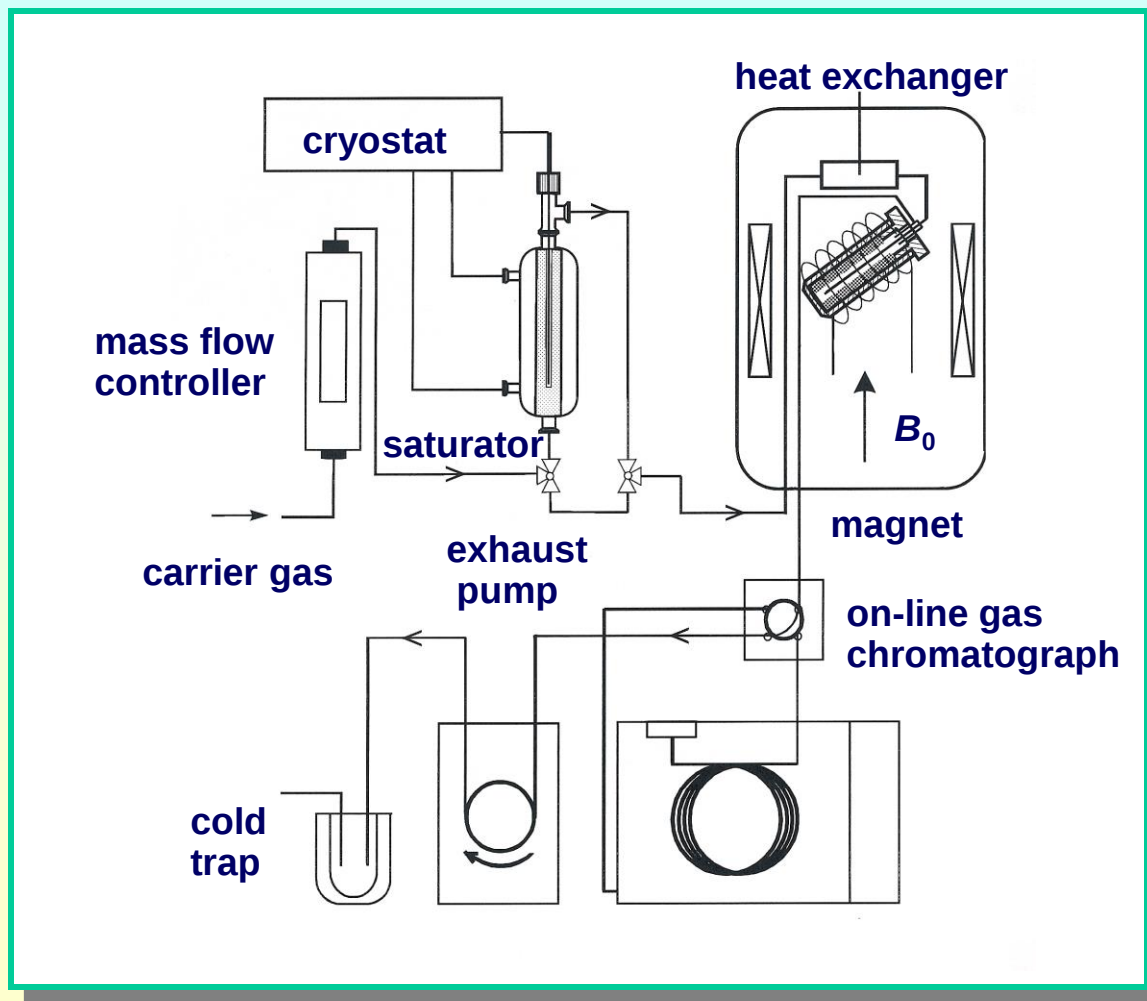
reaction mechanisms proposed in the literature:

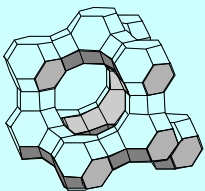
- carbene mechanism (Swabb and Gates)
- oxonium ylide mechanism (Berg and Olah)
- hydrocarbon pool mechanism (Haag, Dessau, Hoelderich)





# ***Coupling of in situ CF MAS NMR and on-line gas chromatography***

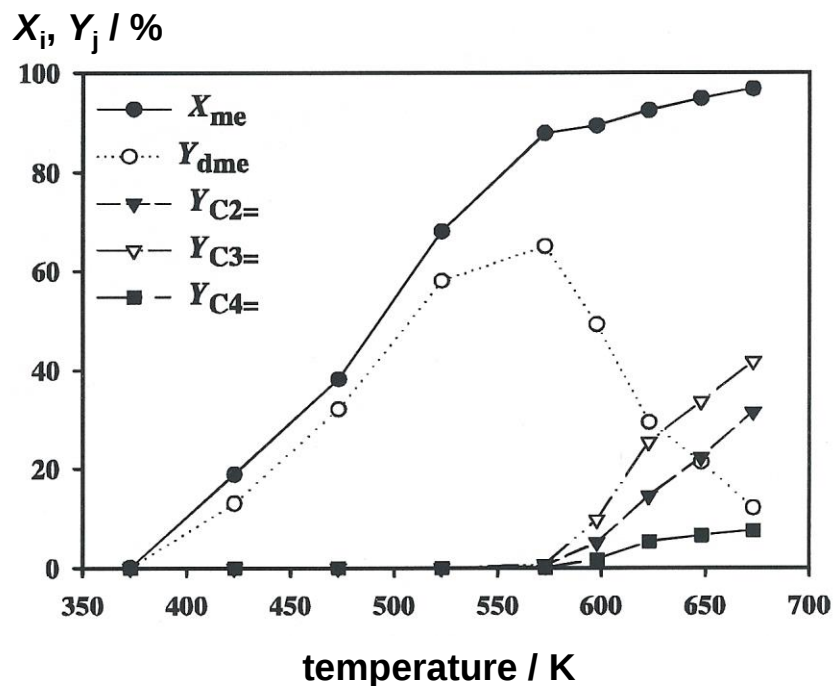




# Conversion of methanol on H-ZSM-5 in a fixed-bed and in an MAS NMR rotor reactor

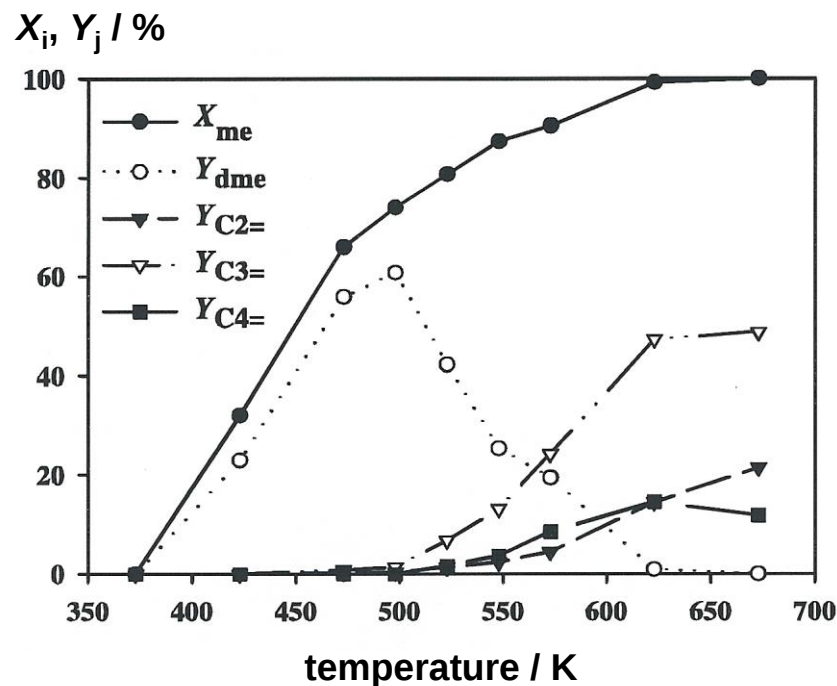
**fixed-bed reactor**

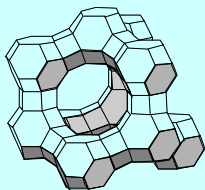
$W_{\text{cat}}/F_{\text{me}} = 25 \text{ gh/mol}$



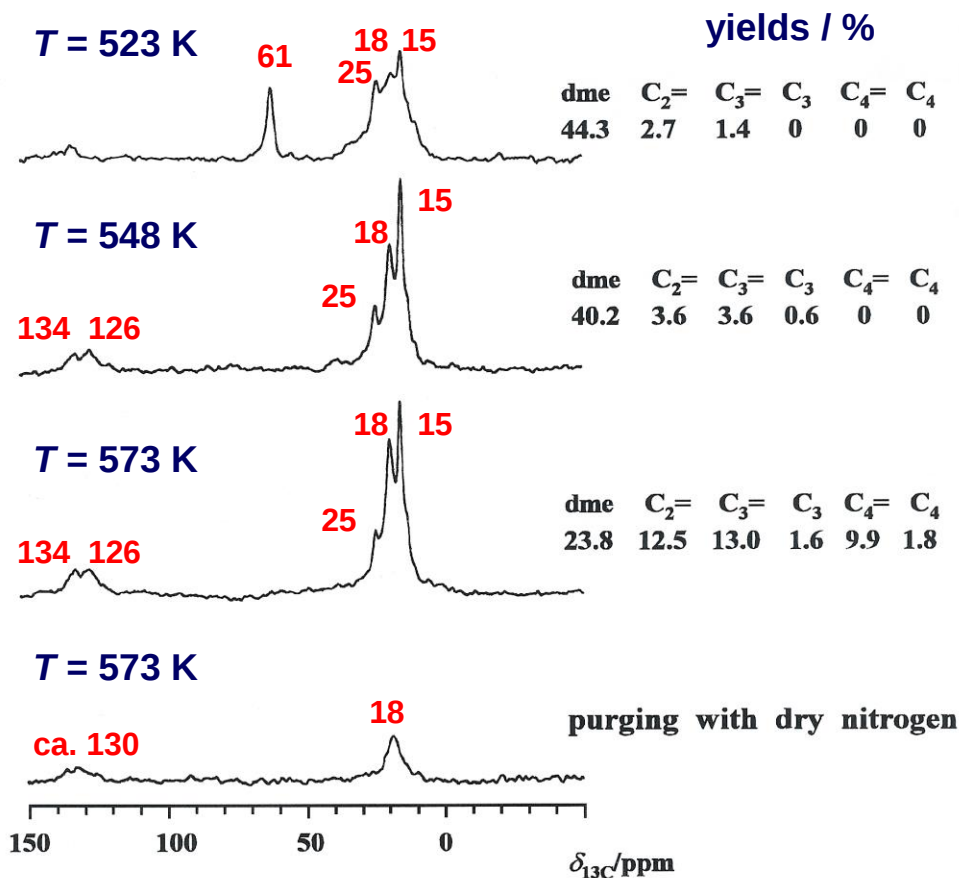
**spinning (2 kHz) MAS NMR rotor reactor**

$W_{\text{cat}}/F_{\text{me}} = 25 \text{ gh/mol}$





# Conversion of methanol on H-ZSM-5 studied by in situ $^{13}\text{C}$ CP MAS NMR



→ olefinic compounds, e.g.:

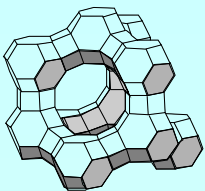
- 3-hexene (14.4, 25.9, 131.2 ppm)
- 2,3-hexadiene (17.5, 126.2, 132.5 ppm)

....

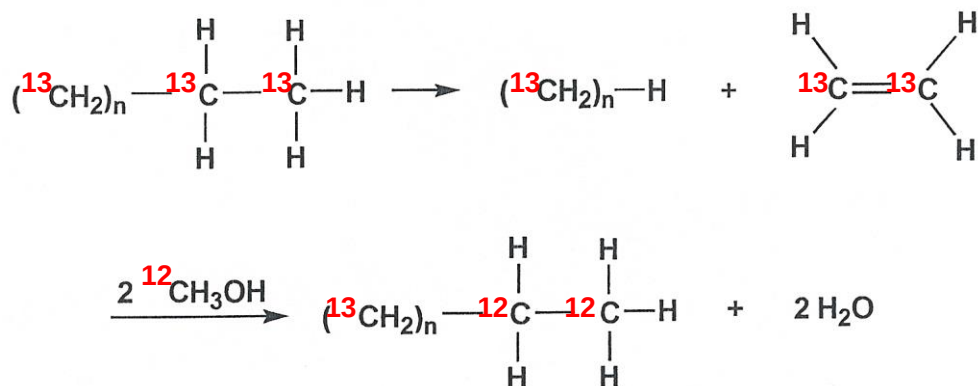
and polymethylaromatics, e.g.:

- toluene (20.3, 127-138 ppm)
- ....
- hexamethylbenzene (17.6, 132.1 ppm)

→ aromatic compounds dominate after purging with pure carrier gas



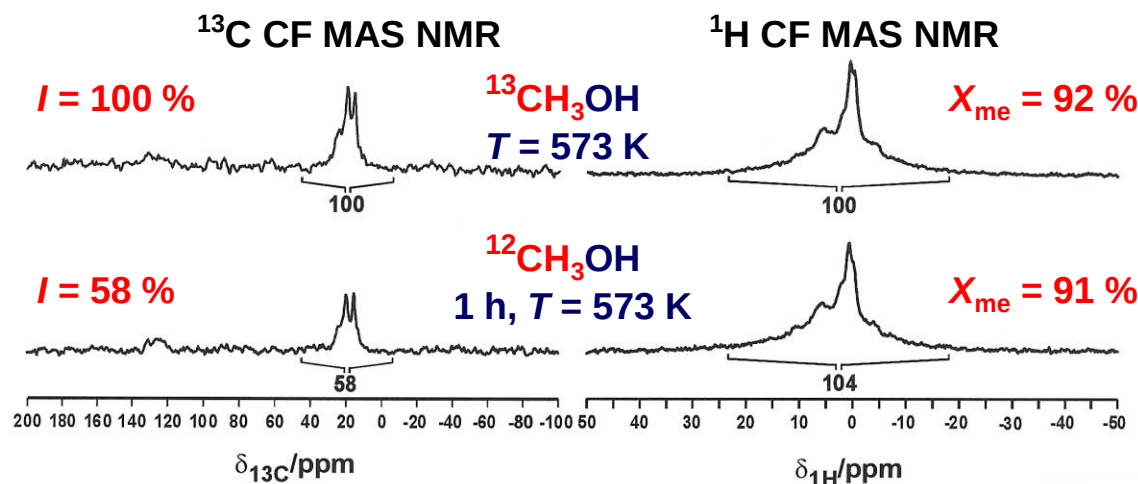
# Role of the hydrocarbon pool in the MTO process on H-ZSM-5

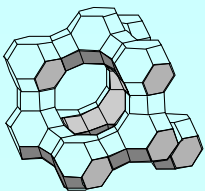


switching of the reactant flow induces a decrease of the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -isotopes in the alkyl groups:

→ alkyl groups are involved in the formation of olefins

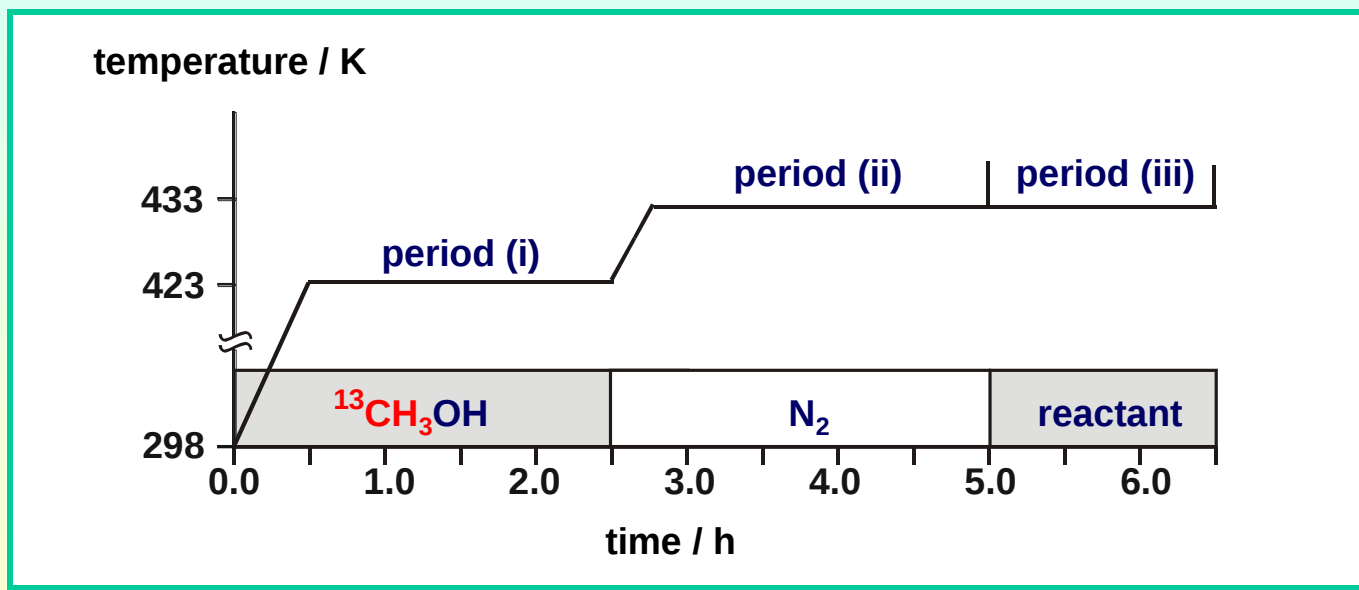
→ hydrocarbon pool plays an active role in the MTO process



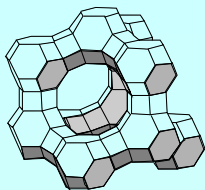


# *Study of surface methoxy groups by in situ SF (stopped-flow) MAS NMR*

selective preparation of adsorbates by purging of volatile reactants in period (ii)

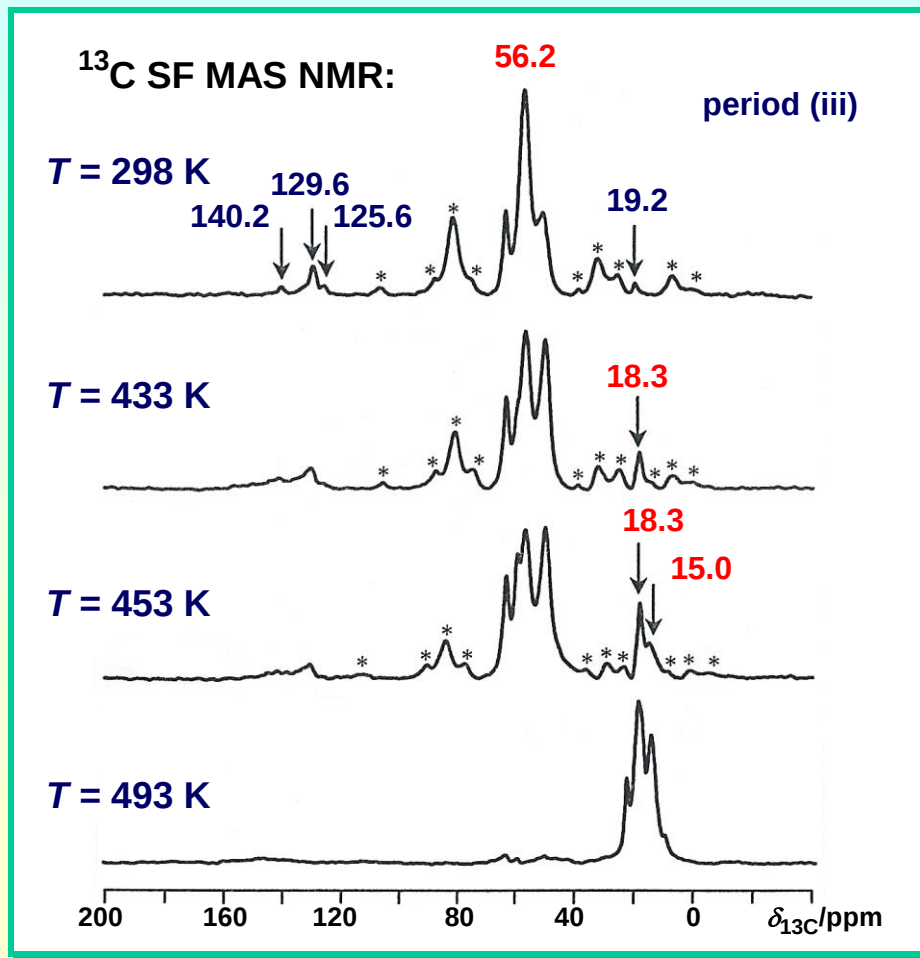


investigation of the reactivity of intermediates



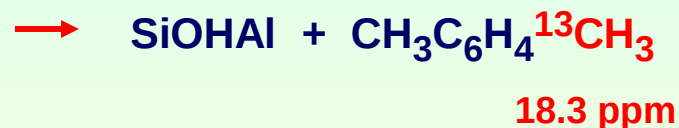
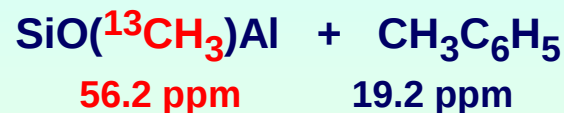
# Methylation of aromatics by surface methoxy groups

reaction of methoxy groups with toluene on zeolite H-Y

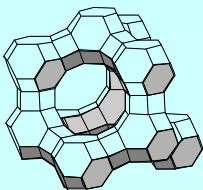


methoxy

toluene

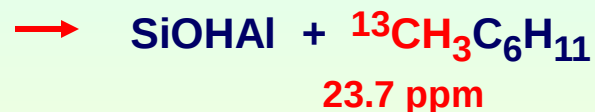
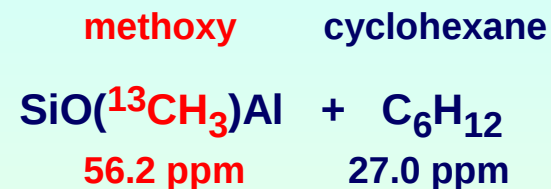
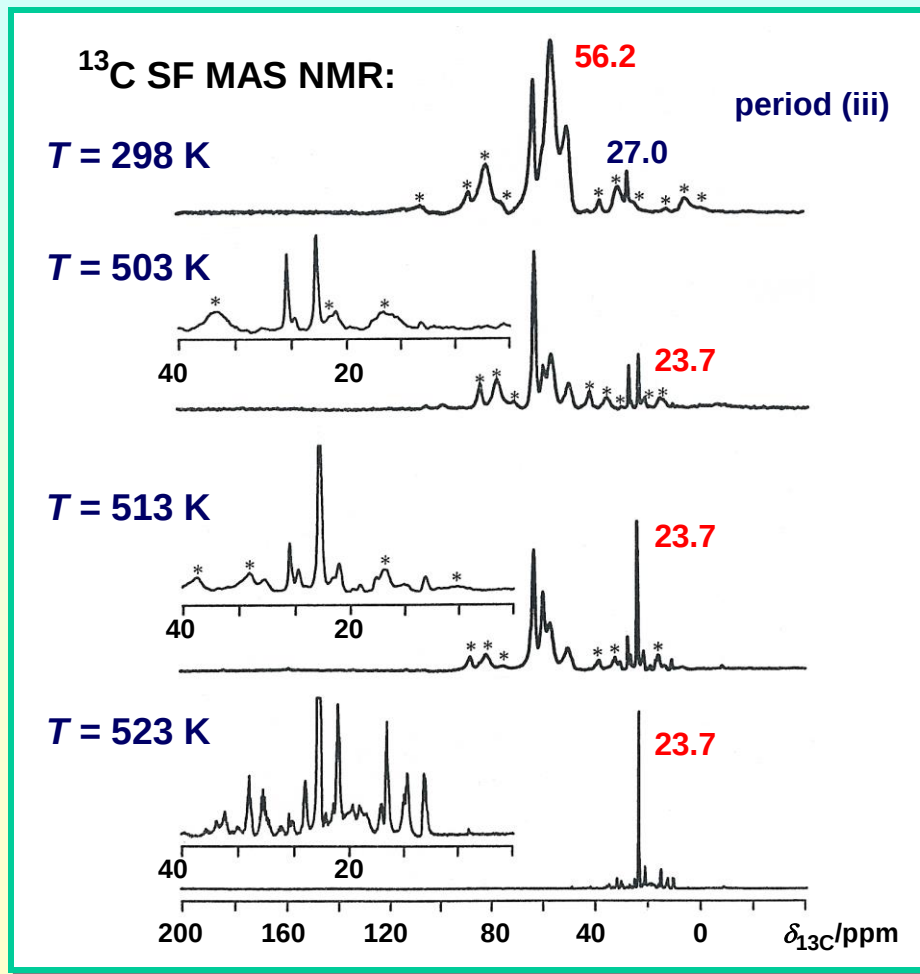


- methylation of aromatics by surface methoxy groups starts at  $T = 433 \text{ K}$

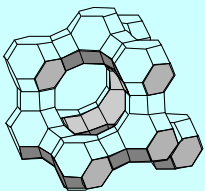


# Methylation of alkanes by surface methoxy groups

reaction of methoxy groups with cyclohexane on zeolite H-Y

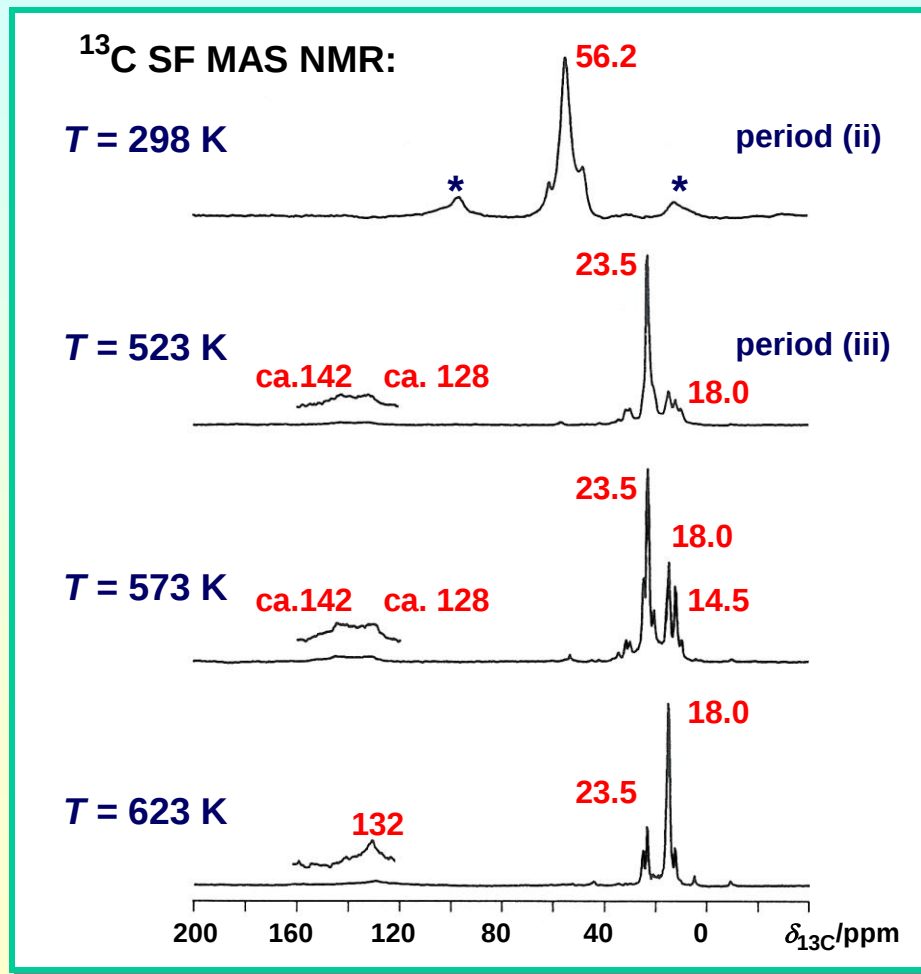


- methylation of alkanes by surface methoxy groups starts at  $T = 503 \text{ K}$
- intermediates of ylide or carbene nature



# Role of surface methoxy groups in the MTO process

## stopped-flow conversion of methoxy groups on zeolite H-Y



- initiation of the hydrocarbon formation at  $T = 523 \text{ K}$

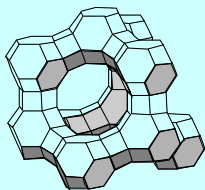
- formation of aliphatics:

→ isobutane (23.3, 24.6 ppm)  
isobutene (23.7, 119.5, 141.4 ppm)  
dimethylbutadiene (20.1, 111.3, 142.1 ppm)

....

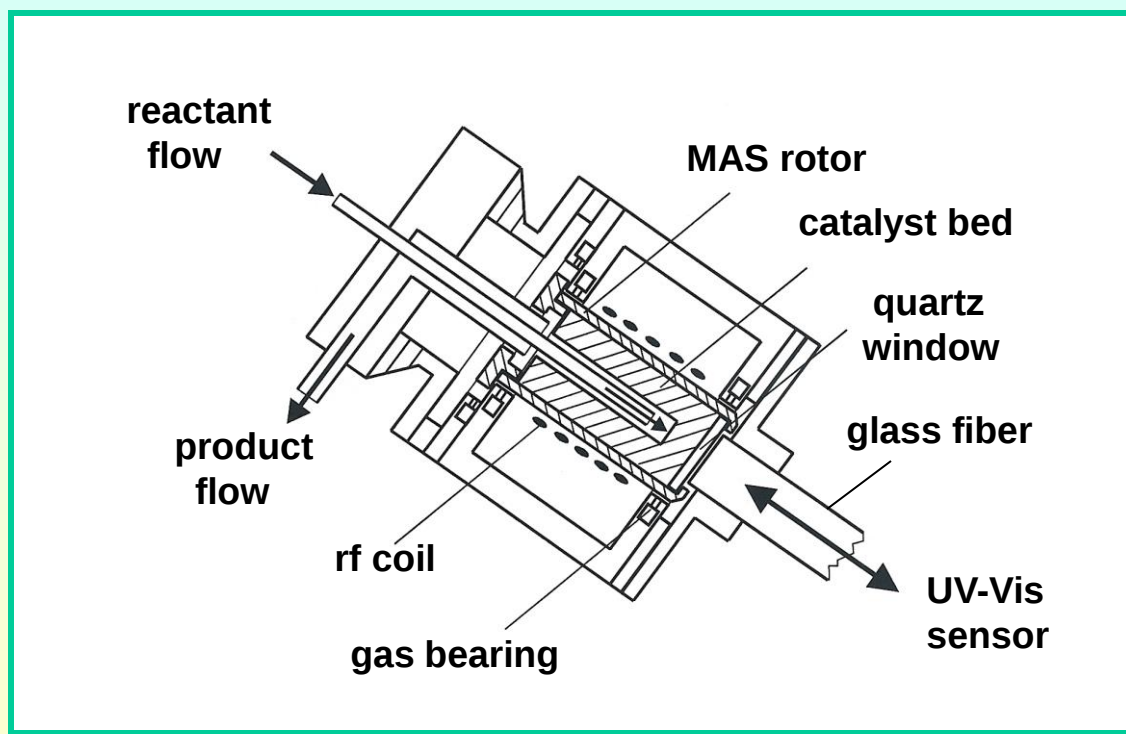
and aromatic compounds:

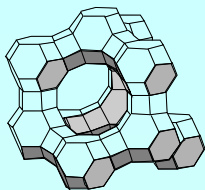
→ benzene (128.6 ppm)  
....  
hexamethylbenzene (17.6, 132.1 ppm)



## ***MAS NMR/UV-Vis coupling***

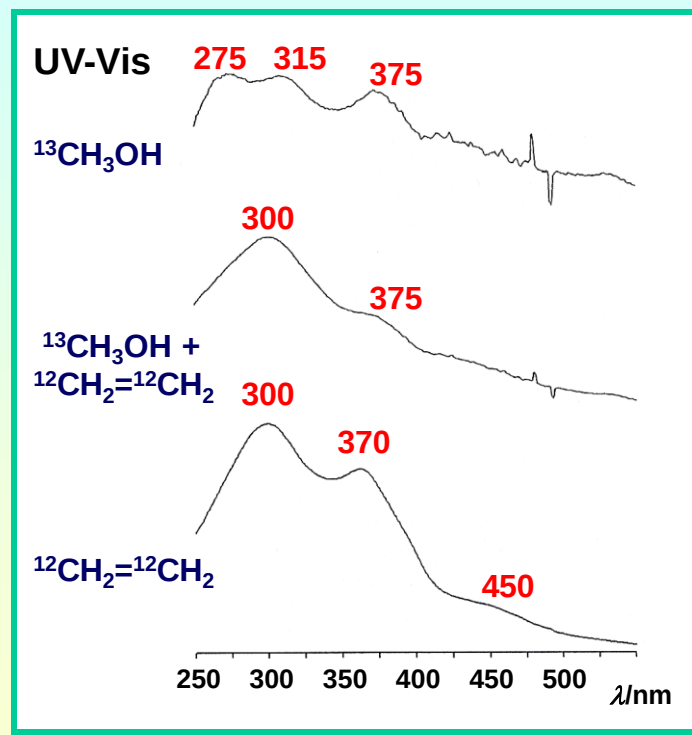
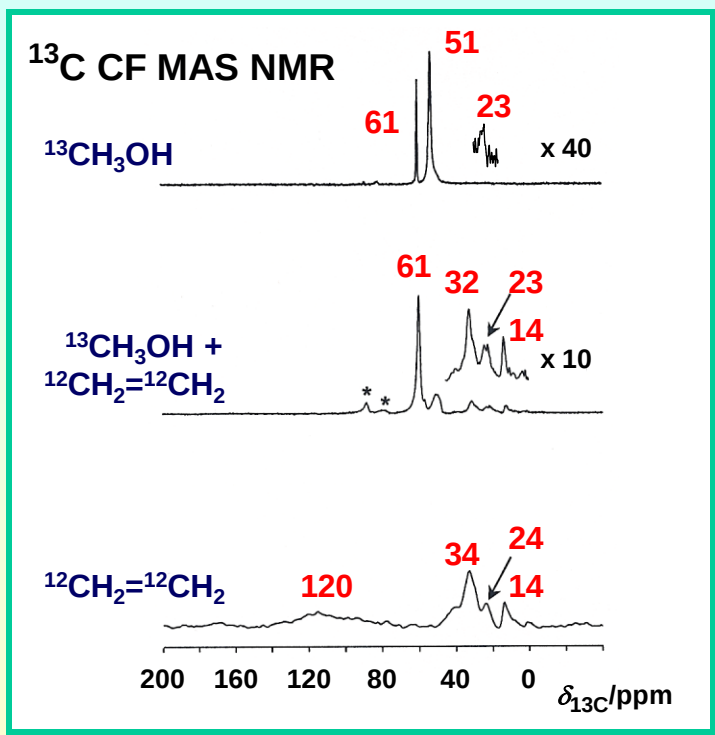
**installation of a quartz fiber optic at the bottom of a CF MAS NMR turbine**





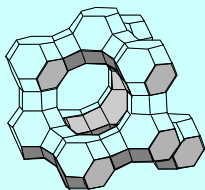
# MAS NMR/UV-Vis coupling

conversion of  $^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  on dealuminated H-ZSM-5 at 423 K



→ **275 nm:** neutral aromatic compounds  
**315 nm:** monoenyl carbenium ions

**375 nm:** dienyl carbenium ions  
**450 nm:** polyaromatic compounds



# *Comparison of Methods*

## advantages:

### FTIR:

- low costs
- commercially available
- large temperature range

### UV-Vis:

- low costs
- high sensitivity
- large temperature range

### ESR:

- high sensitivity
- sensitive for the local structure of adsorbates and surface sites

### NMR:

- large number of NMR sensitive nuclei
- good separation of signals

## disadvantages:

### FTIR:

- broad and overlapping bands
- no direct quantitative evaluation
- problematic assignment of bands

### UV-Vis:

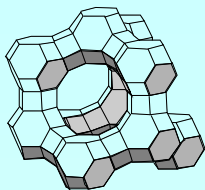
- limited application
- broad and overlapping bands
- problematic assignment of bands

### ESR:

- limited application
- strong line broadening at high temperatures

### NMR:

- high costs
- low sensitivity
- limited temperature range



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