

# Pyrolysis: a technological platform for Bioenergy, Biofuels and Bio-products

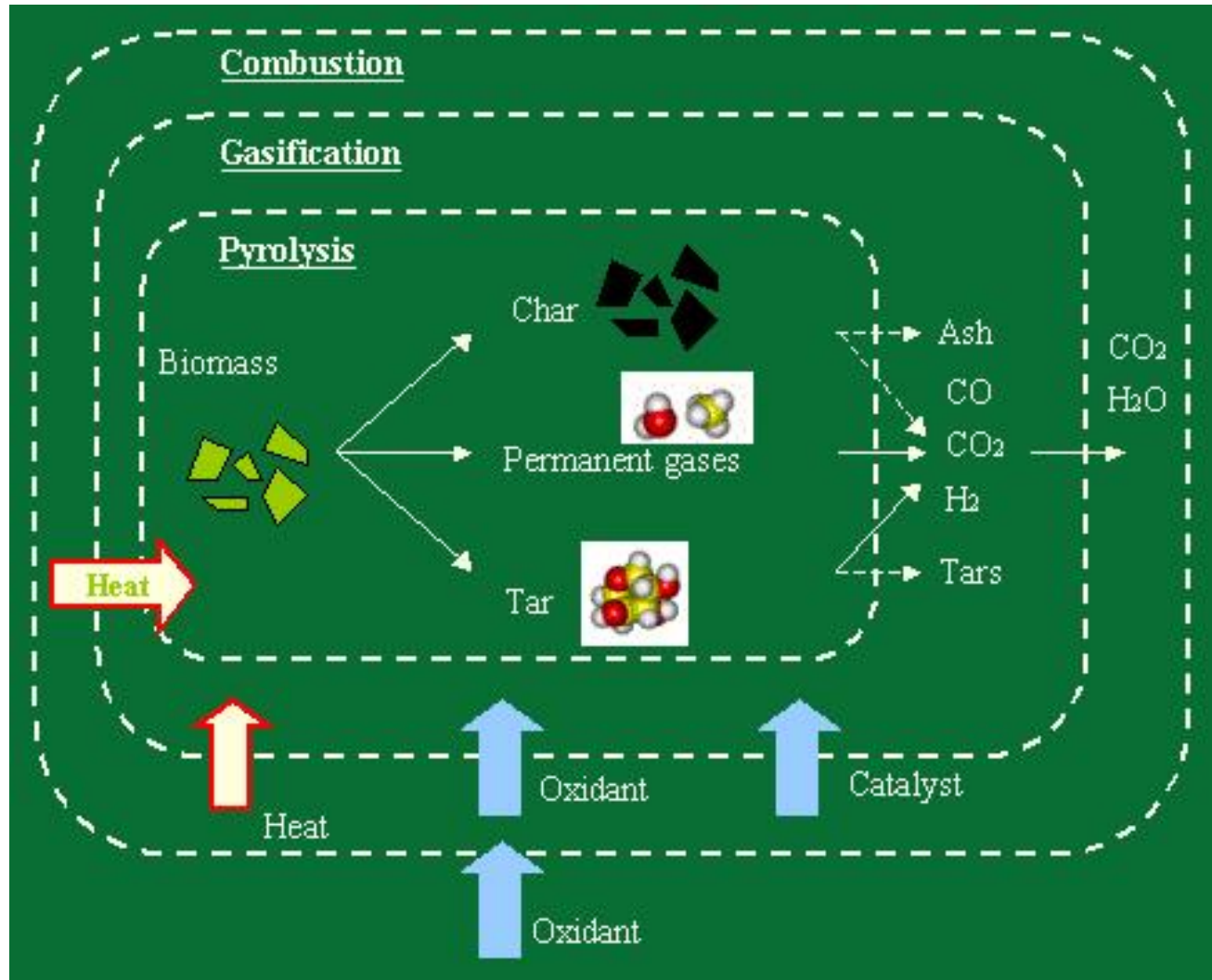
Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa

**18 de Maio de 2022**

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**







Pyrolysis is the direct thermal decomposition of the organic matrix in the absence of oxygen to produce solid, liquid and gas products.

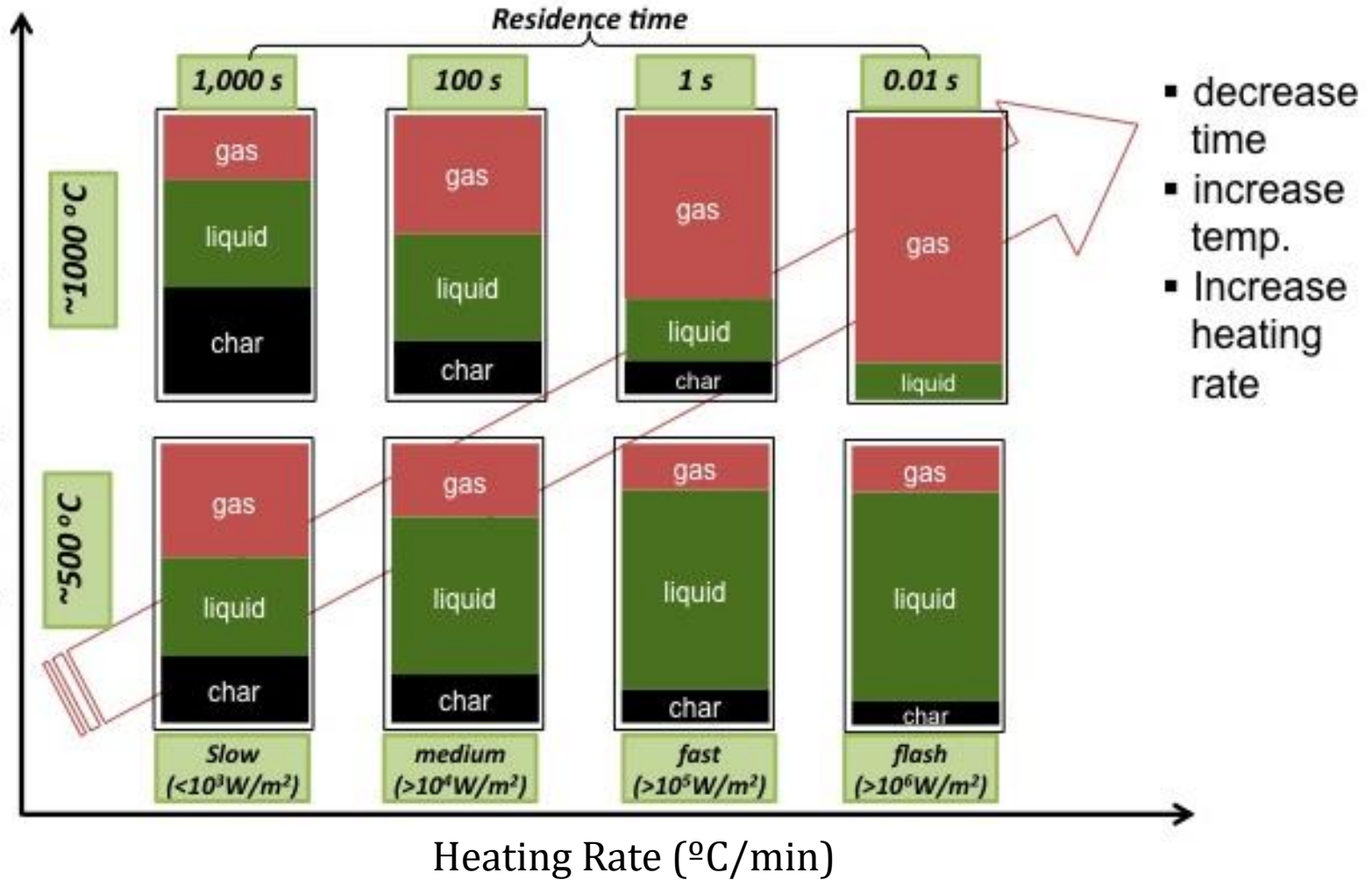


## Biomass Conversion Processes

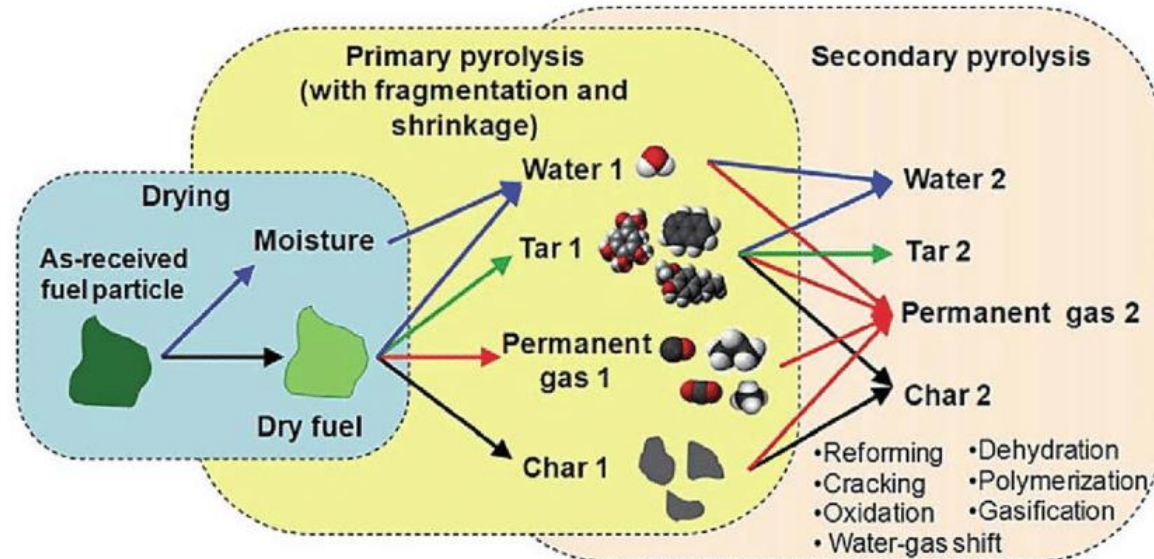
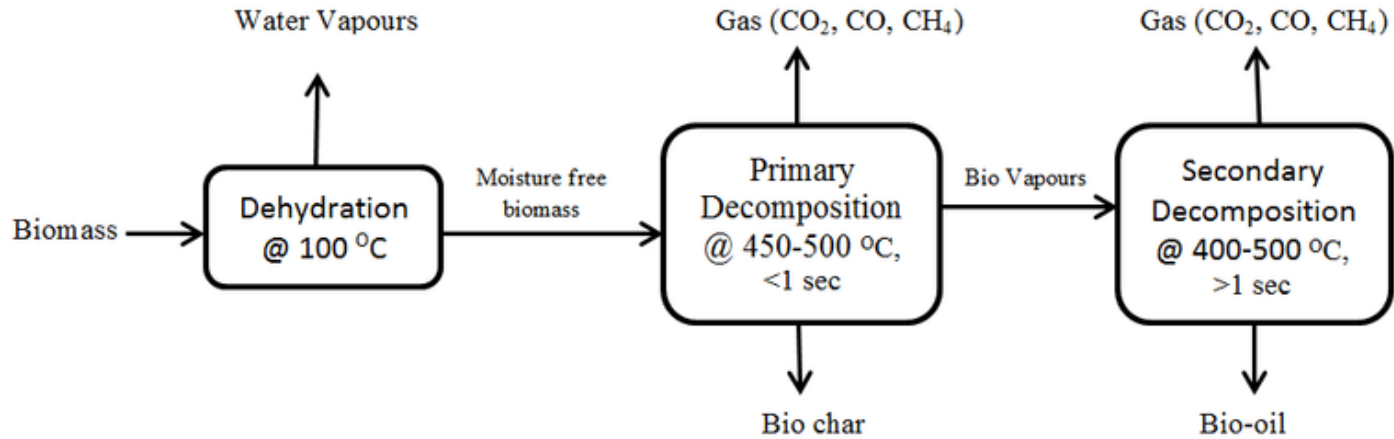
|  | Liquid | Solid | Gas |
|--|--------|-------|-----|
| <b>Fast Pyrolysis</b><br>Moderate temperature<br>Short reaction time | 75%    | 12%   | 13% |
| <b>Carbonisation</b><br>Low temperature<br>Long reaction time        | 30%    | 35%   | 35% |
| <b>Gasification</b><br>High temperature<br>Long reaction time        | 5%     | 10%   | 85% |

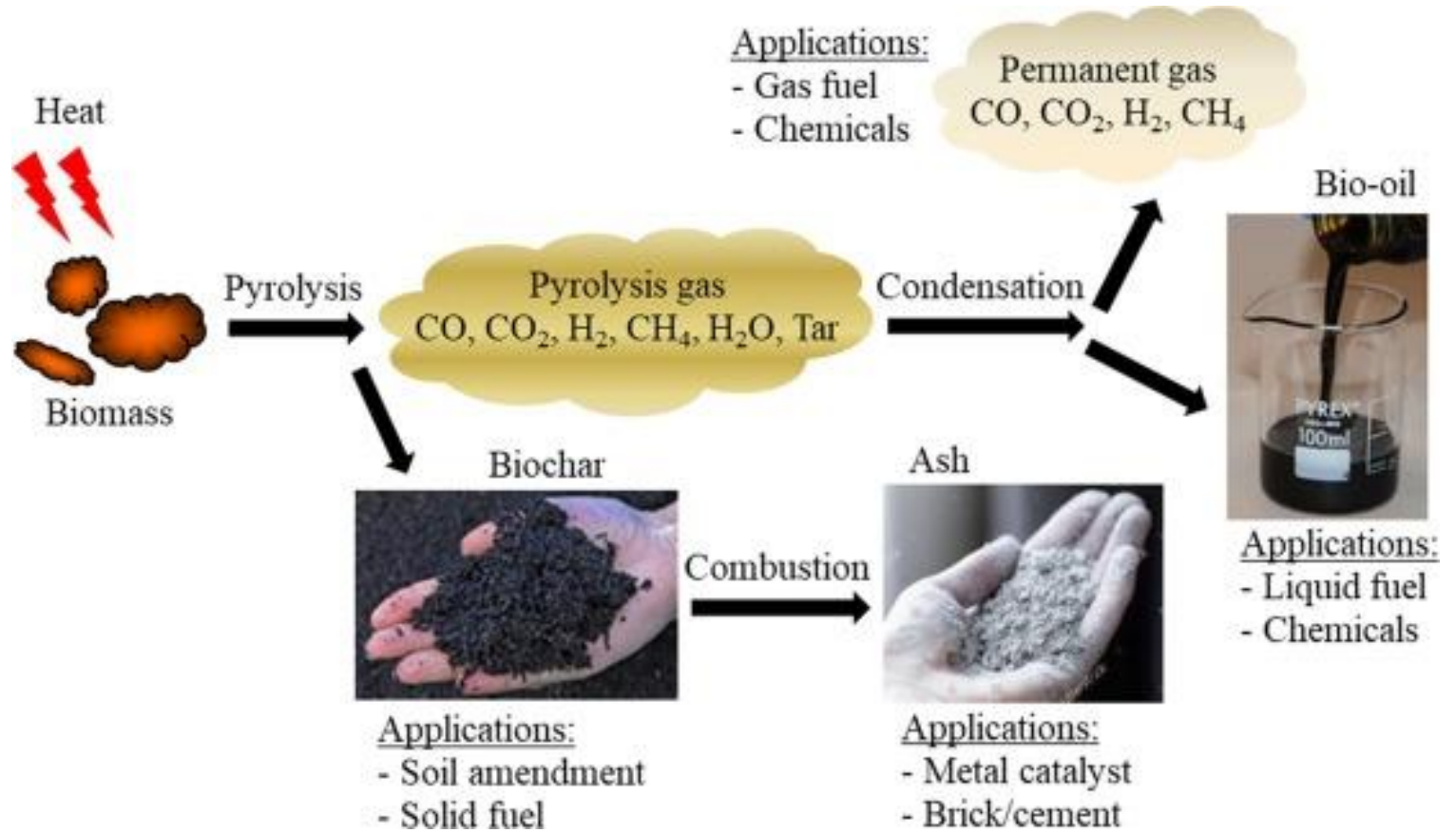
Critical parameters: Heating/cooling rate and residence time

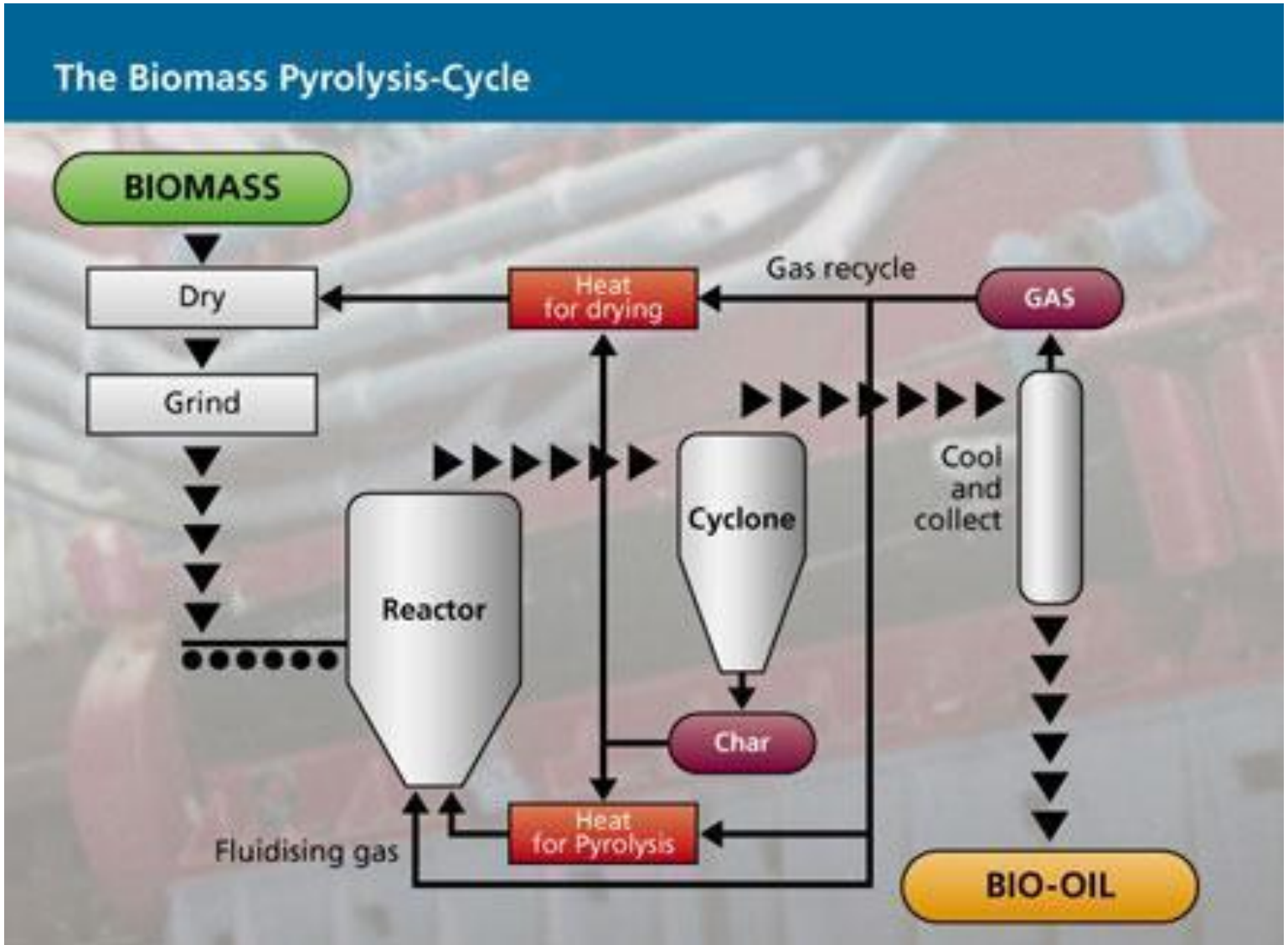


## Pyrolysis Reactions

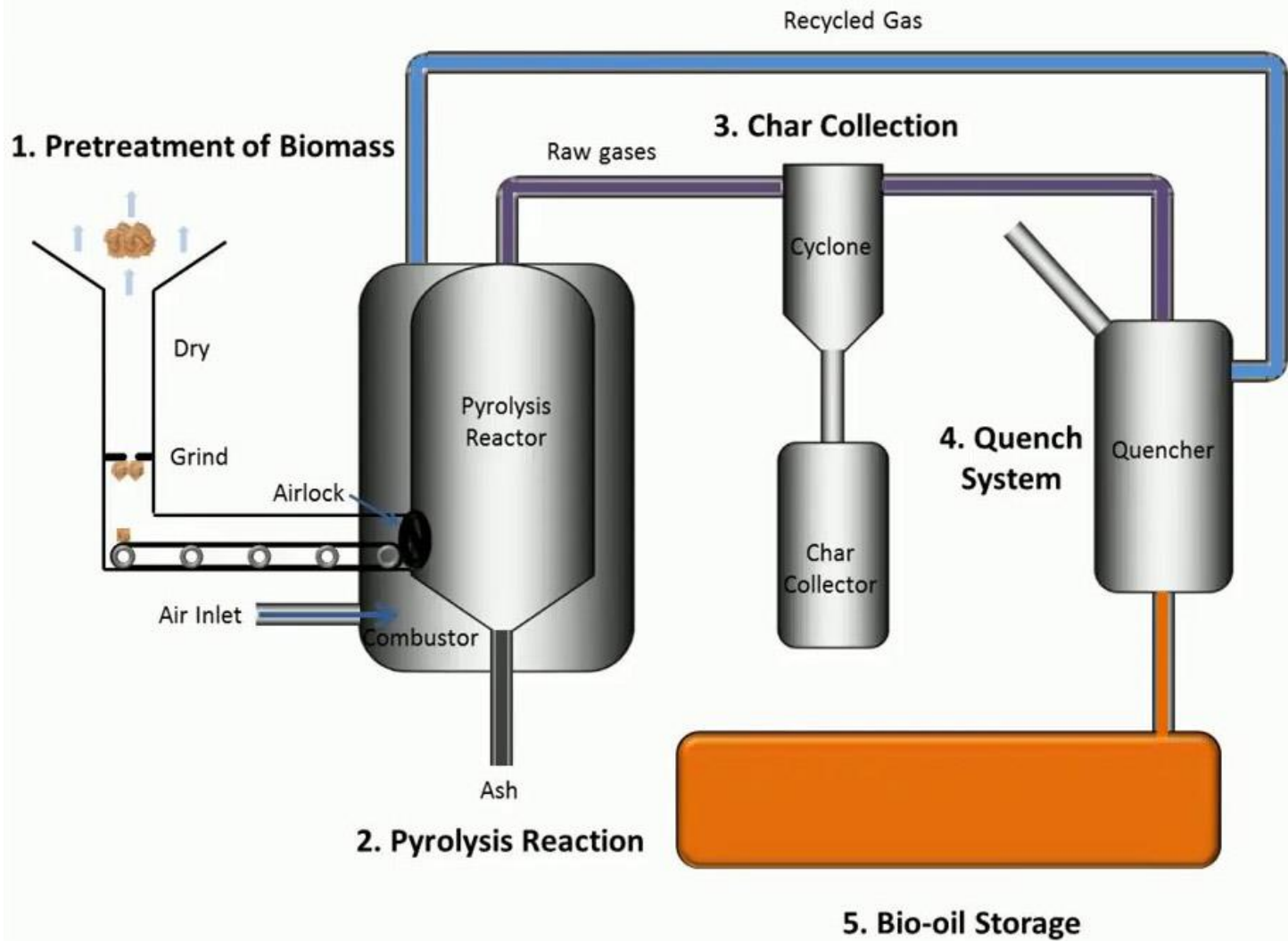


## Pyrolysis Products





## Pyrolysis Process





## Pyrolysis Products



End-of-Life-Tyre



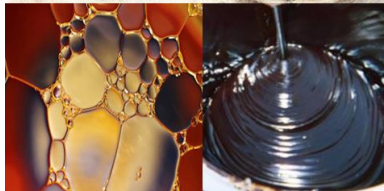
Oil product (bench-scale pyrolysis) at 500 °C



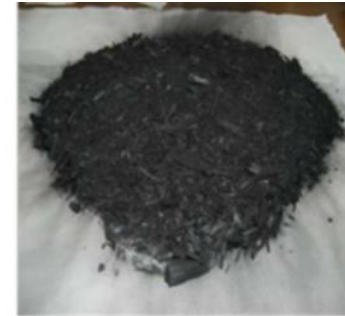
rCB product (pilot-scale thermal pyrolysis) at 500 °C



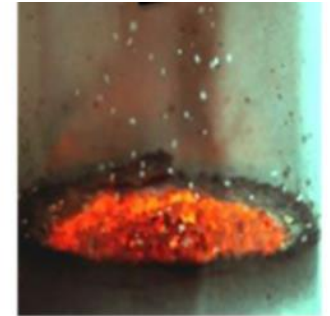
Oil product (pilot-scale thermal pyrolysis) at 500 °C



Bio-oil



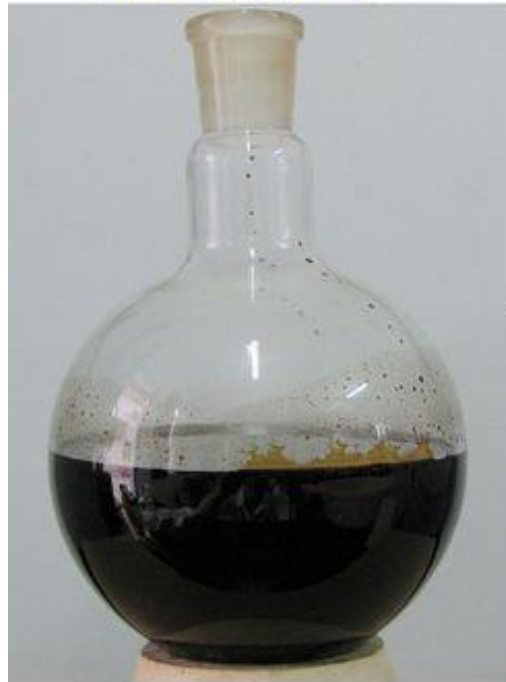
Bio-char



Syn-gas

## Pyrolysis Products

**Raw bio-oil**



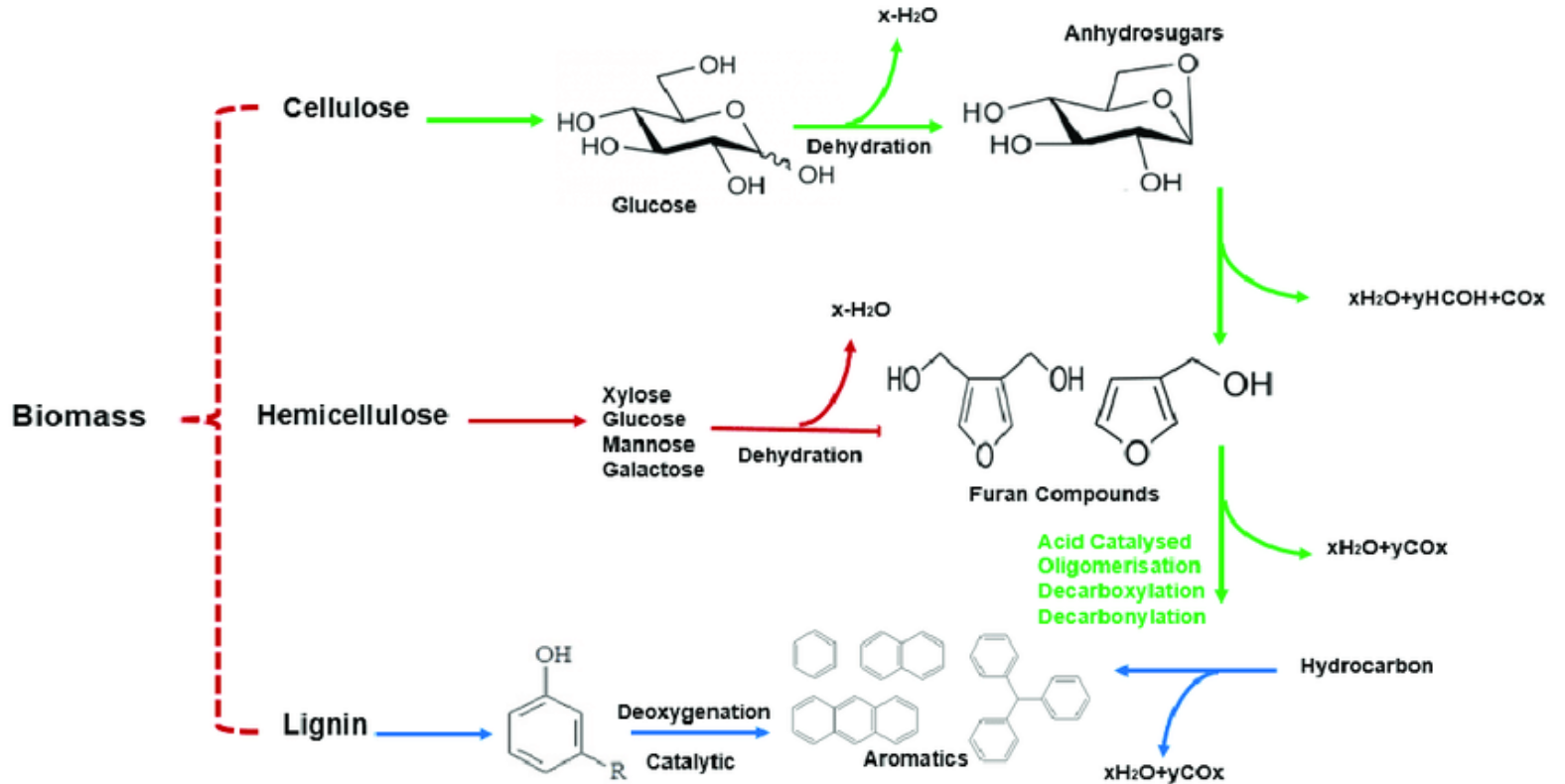
**Six fractions of distillate**



**Atmospheric distillation residue**

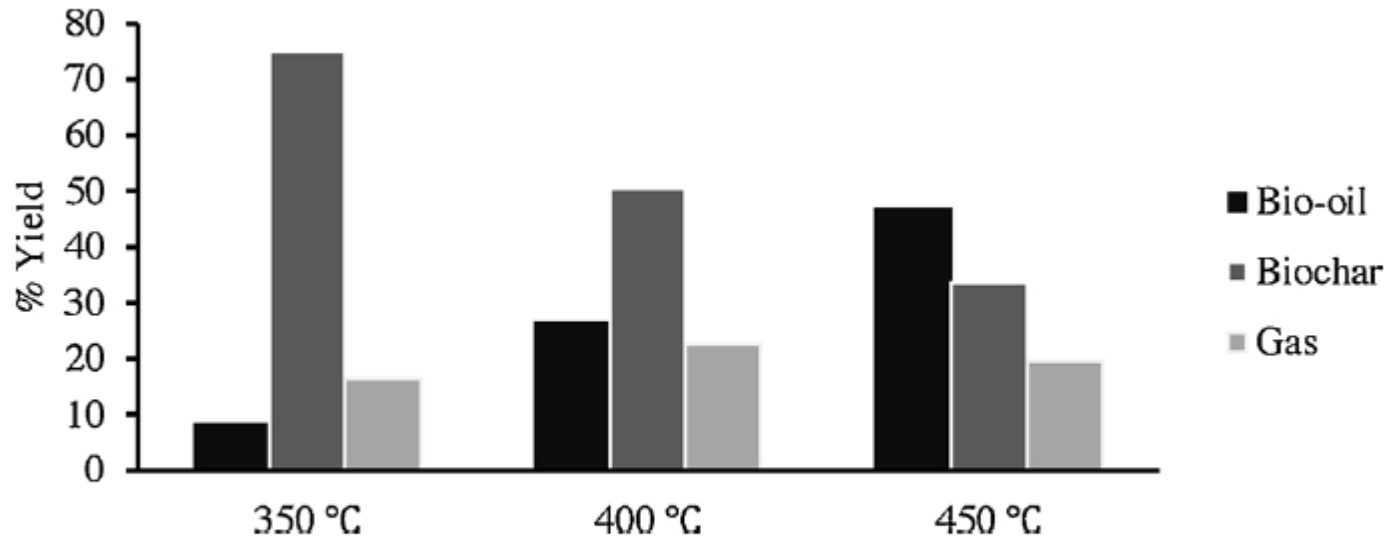


## Pyrolysis of lignocellulosic biomass





## Pyrolysis of biomass wastes



**Fig. 4.** Corrugated cardboard (CCB) pyrolysis product (oil, char, and gas) yields.

Sotoudehnia et al., Characterization of bio-oil and biochar from pyrolysis of waste corrugated cardboard *Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis* 145 (2020) 104722



## Pyrolysis of biomass wastes

**Composição  
do  
Bio-óleo**

**Compostos  
Cíclicos  
Aromáticos  
Oxigenados**

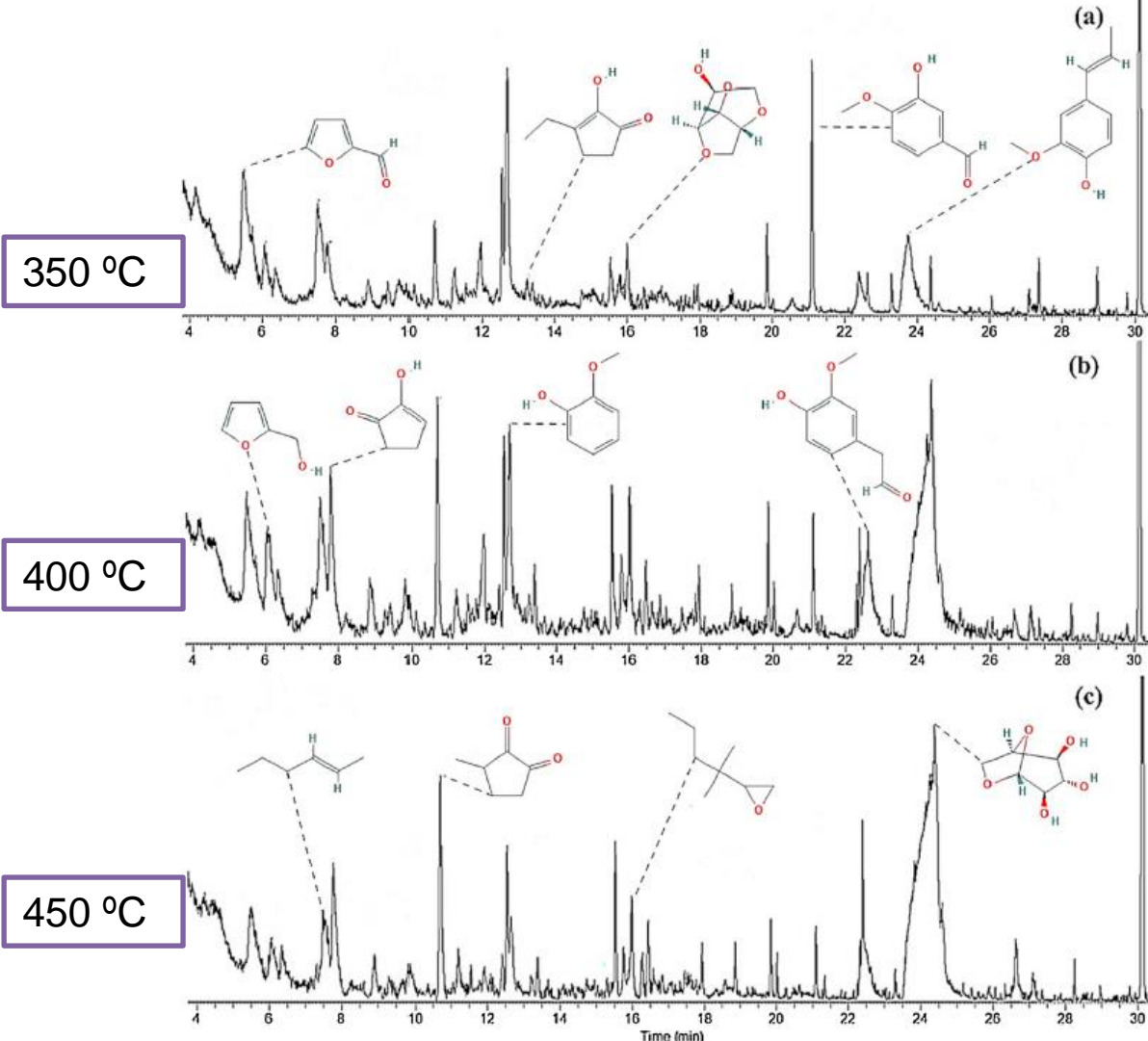


Fig. 10. GC-MS Chromatograms of corrugated cardboard (CCB) fresh bio-oil at (a) 350 °C, (b) 400 °C, and (c) 450 °C.



| Compound                                  | Formula        | M+  |
|---|----------------|-----|
| Furfural                                  | $C_5H_4O_2$    | 96  |
| 2-Furfuryl alcohol                        | $C_5H_6O_2$    | 98  |
| Butanedial                                | $C_4H_6O_2$    | 86  |
| 2-Hexene, (E)-                            | $C_6H_{12}$    | 84  |
| 2-Hydroxycyclopent-2-en-1-one             | $C_5H_6O_2$    | 98  |
| 2-Propylfuran                             | $C_7H_{10}O$   | 110 |
| Phenol                                    | $C_6H_6O$      | 94  |
| 2-Cyclopenten-1-one, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-  | $C_6H_8O_2$    | 112 |
| Heptanal                                  | $C_7H_{14}O$   | 114 |
| Styrene                                   | $C_8H_8$       | 104 |
| 2H-Pyran-2,6(3H)-dione                    | $C_5H_4O_3$    | 112 |
| 1,2-Cyclopentanedione, 3-methyl           | $C_6H_8O_2$    | 112 |
| 1-Acetyloxypropane-2-one                  | $C_5H_8O_3$    | 116 |
| Butanoic acid, 2-propenyl ester           | $C_7H_{12}O_2$ | 128 |
| Furaneol                                  | $C_6H_8O_3$    | 128 |
| Phenol, 2-methoxy-                        | $C_7H_8O_2$    | 124 |
| 2-Furancarboxaldehyde, 5-(hydroxymethyl)- | $C_6H_6O_3$    | 126 |
| 2-Cyclopenten-1-one, 3-ethyl-2-hydroxy-   | $C_7H_{10}O_2$ | 126 |
| Pentane, 3-ethyl-3-methyl-                | $C_8H_{18}$    | 114 |
| Octane, 2-methyl-                         | $C_9H_{20}$    | 128 |
| Guauacol,3-methyl-                        | $C_8H_{10}O_2$ | 138 |
| 3,4-Dimethylcyclohexanol                  | $C_8H_{16}O$   | 128 |

## Pyrolysis of biomass wastes

Properties of bio-oil obtained from corrugated cardboard (CCB) pyrolyzed at various temperatures.

| Sample ID      | Water content (%) | Calorific Value (MJ kg <sup>-1</sup> ) | pH   |
|----------------|-------------------|--|------|
| CCB350 Bio-oil | 58.3              | 21.2                                   | 3.17 |
| CCB400 Bio-oil | 52.0              | 21.5                                   | 3.25 |
| CCB450 Bio-oil | 50.0              | 21.7                                   | 4.13 |

Proximate and ultimate analysis and calorific value of corrugated cardboard (CCB) and pyrolysis biochars.

|  | CCB          | CCB 350 °C Biochar | CCB 400 °C Biochar | CCB 450 °C Biochar |
|--|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| % N                                    | 0.12 ± 0.01  | 0.11 ± 0.01        | 0.16 ± 0.01        | 0.18 ± 0.01        |
| % C                                    | 43.24 ± 0.00 | 46.84 ± 0.01       | 51.33 ± 0.47       | 54.17 ± 0.32       |
| % H                                    | 5.80 ± 0.03  | 5.70 ± 0.01        | 4.80 ± 0.06        | 3.70 ± 0.03        |
| % Ash                                  | 4.0 ± 0.2    | 5.0 ± 0.3          | 5.2 ± 0.3          | 12.3 ± 0.6         |
| % Fixed carbon                         | 13.1 ± 0.7   | 17.2 ± 0.9         | 27.8 ± 1.4         | 41.8 ± 2.1         |
| Calorific value (MJ kg <sup>-1</sup> ) | 18 ± 0.9     | 18.4 ± 0.9         | 19.7 ± 1.0         | 20.4 ± 1.0         |

## ASTM quality standards for pyrolysis bio-oil used for combustion in boilers

**Table 6.1.** ASTM burner fuel standard D 7544 for fast pyrolysis bio-oil.

| Property  | Grade G | Grade D |
|---|---------|---------|
| Gross heat of combustion, MJ/kg, min                  | 15      | 15      |
| Water content, % mass, max                            | 30      | 30      |
| Pyrolysis solids content, % mass, max                 | 2.5     | 0.25    |
| Kinematic viscosity at 40 °C, mm <sup>2</sup> /s, max | 125     | 125     |
| Density at 20 °C, kg/dm <sup>3</sup>                  | 1.1–1.3 | 1.1–1.3 |
| Sulphur content, % mass, max                          | 0.05    | 0.05    |
| Ash content, % mass, max                              | 0.25    | 0.15    |
| pH  | Report  | Report  |
| Flash point, °C, min                                  | 45      | 45      |
| Pour point, °C, max                                   | -9      | -9      |







**Table 1**

Comparison of selected properties of bio-oils derived from pyrolysis of rice husk and bio-oils derived from pyrolysis of wood and heavy petroleum fuel oil.

| Properties                   | Bio-oils derived from pyrolysis of rice husk [9] | Bio-oils derived from pyrolysis of wood [10] | Heavy petroleum fuel oil [11] |
|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Water content (wt%)          | 25.2   | 15–30  | 0.1                           |
| pH                           | 2.8  | 2.5  | –                             |
| Elemental composition (wt%)  | C 41.7   | 54–58  | 85                            |
|                              | H 7.7  | 5.5–7.0                                      | 11                            |
|                              | O 50.3   | 35–40  | 1.0                           |
|                              | N 0.3  | 0–0.2  | 0.3                           |
| Ash                          | –  | 0–0.2  | 0.1                           |
| HHV (MJ/kg)                  | 17.42  | 16–19  | 40                            |
| Viscosity (at 50 °C) (mPa s) | 128  | 40–100                                       | 180                           |
| Solids (wt%)                 | –  | 0.2–1  | 1                             |
| Distillation residue (wt%)   | –  | Upto 50                                      | 1                             |

## Catalytic upgrading of pyrolysis oil or vapors

The major drawbacks of the bio-oil is that it is:

- highly oxygenated,
- viscous,
- corrosive and
- thermally unstable



Presence of water and oxygenated compounds reduces its calorific value and change significantly the combustion characteristics.

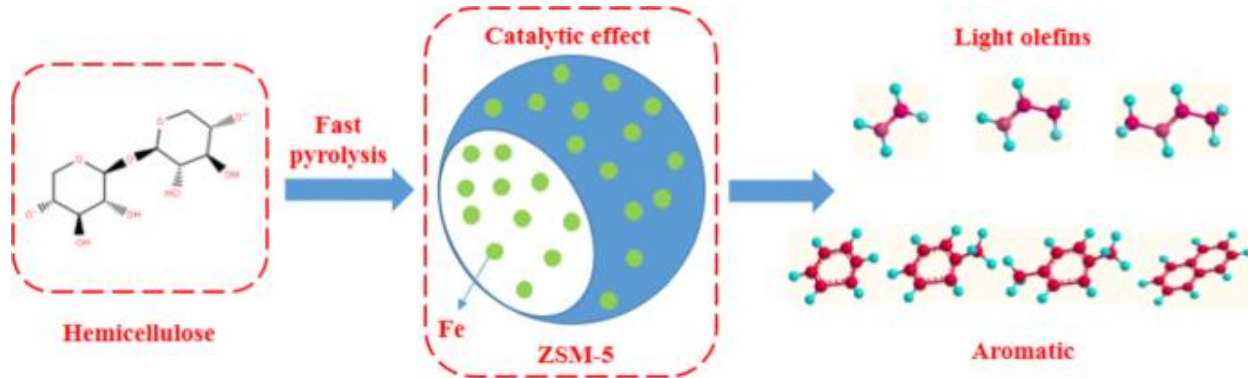


Presence of particles and water limits its potential for direct use in engines or turbines.

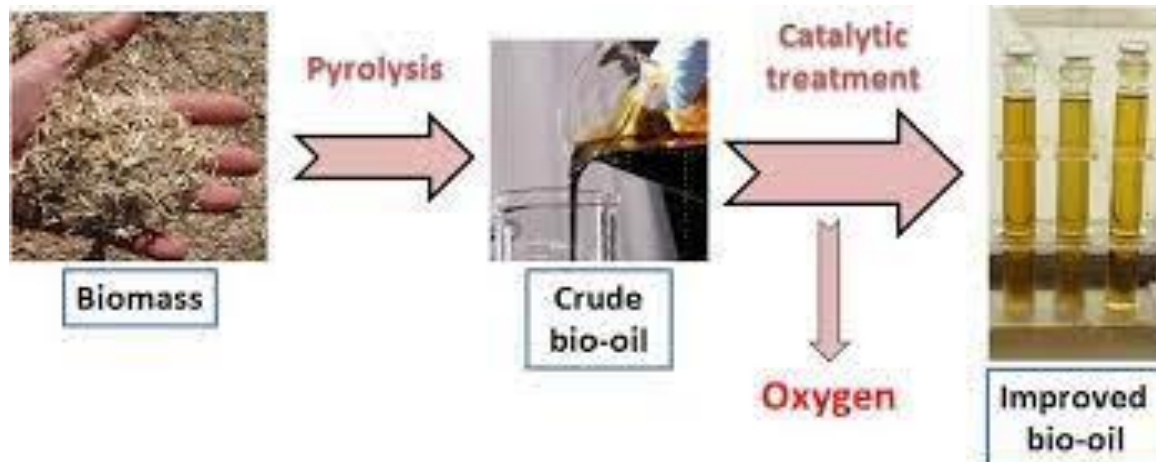


## Catalytic upgrading of pyrolysis oil or vapors

Direct use of the catalyst during pyrolysis



Pyrolysis + Catalytic upgrading of the bio-oil



## Catalytic upgrading of pyrolysis oil or vapors

### Type of catalytic treatments:

#### (1) CoMo or NiMo + H<sub>2</sub> - hydrodeoxygenation or hydrotreating catalysts

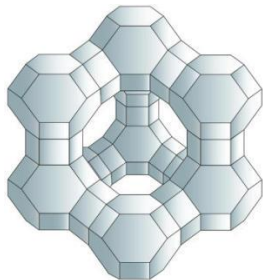


Remove sulphur from fossil fuels

Remove oxygen or nitrogen from fossil fuels

Convert double bond to single bonds

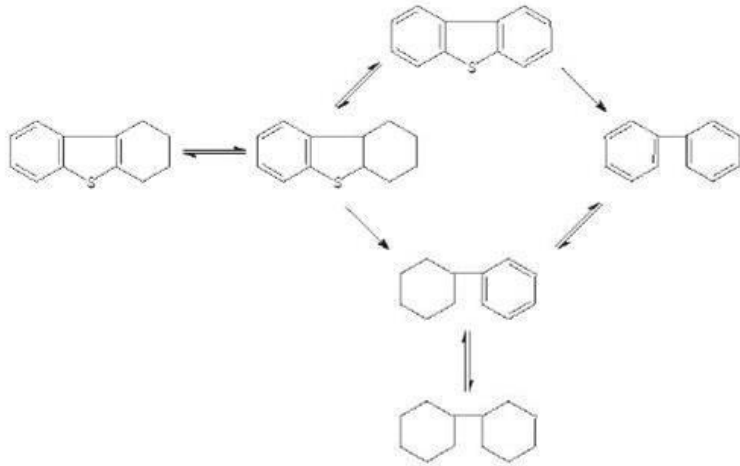
#### (2) zeolite upgrading



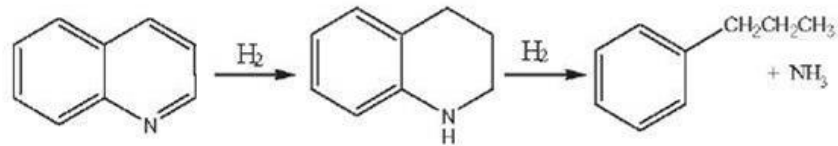
Catalytic cracking - break large hydrocarbon molecules into gasoline, diesel, kerosene, waxes and all kinds of other by-products of petroleum.



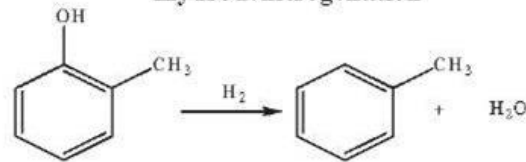
**Catalytic upgrading of pyrolysis oil or vapors**



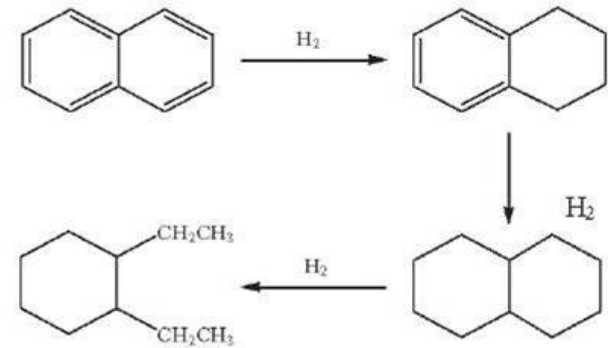
**Hydrodesulfurization**



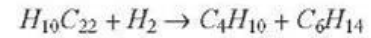
**Hydrodenitrogenation**



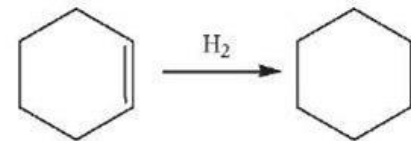
**Hydrodeoxygenation**



**Hydrogenation of aromatics**



**Hydrocracking**



**Saturation of olefins**

**Pyrolysis Bio-oils**



**Upgrading/Hydrodeoxygenation**

- Biofuels
- Bioliquids



Adapted from: <http://www.btg-btl.com>

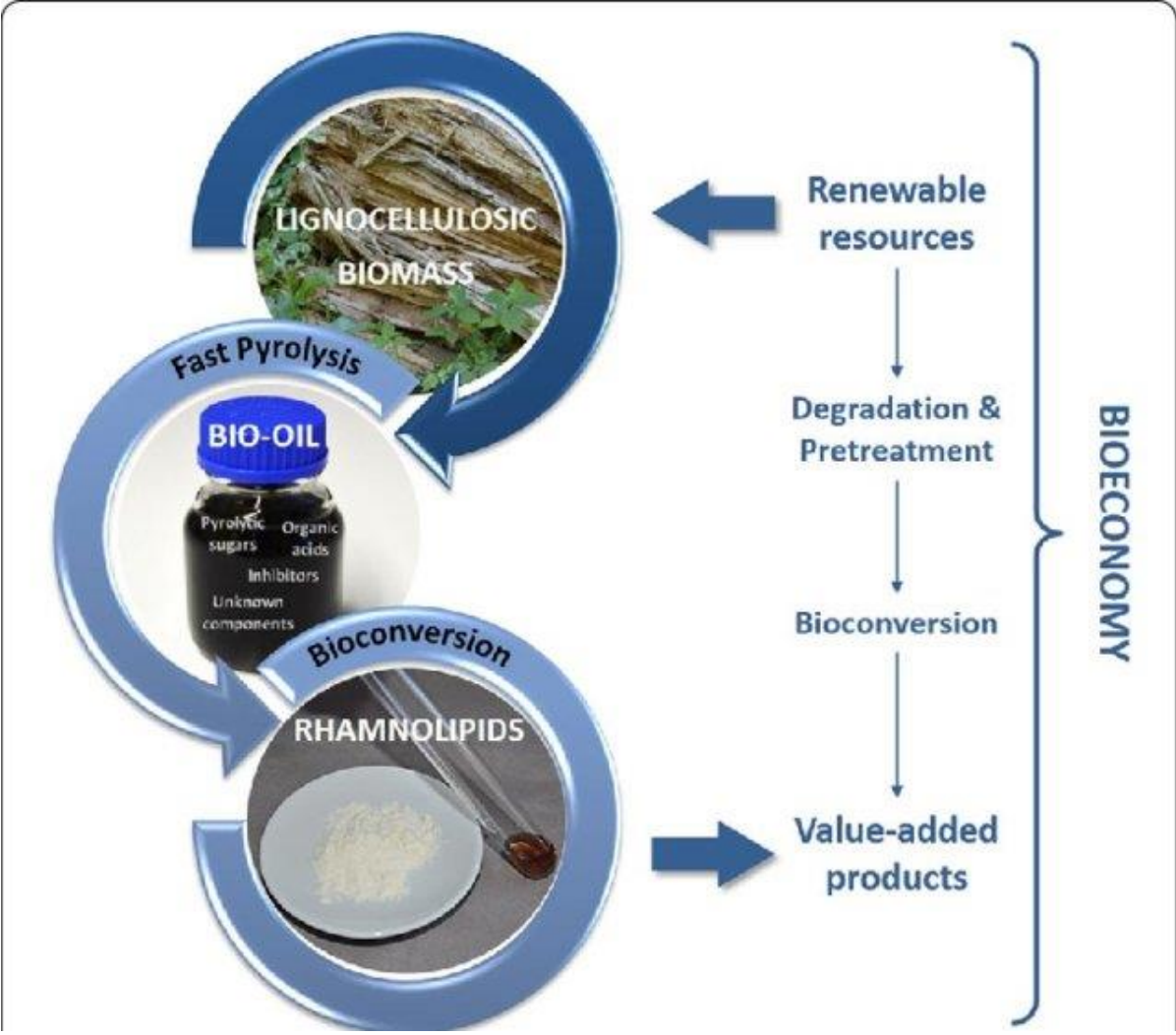
**Biological Fermentation**

- Bulk Chemicals
- Specialty Chemicals
- Biopolymers

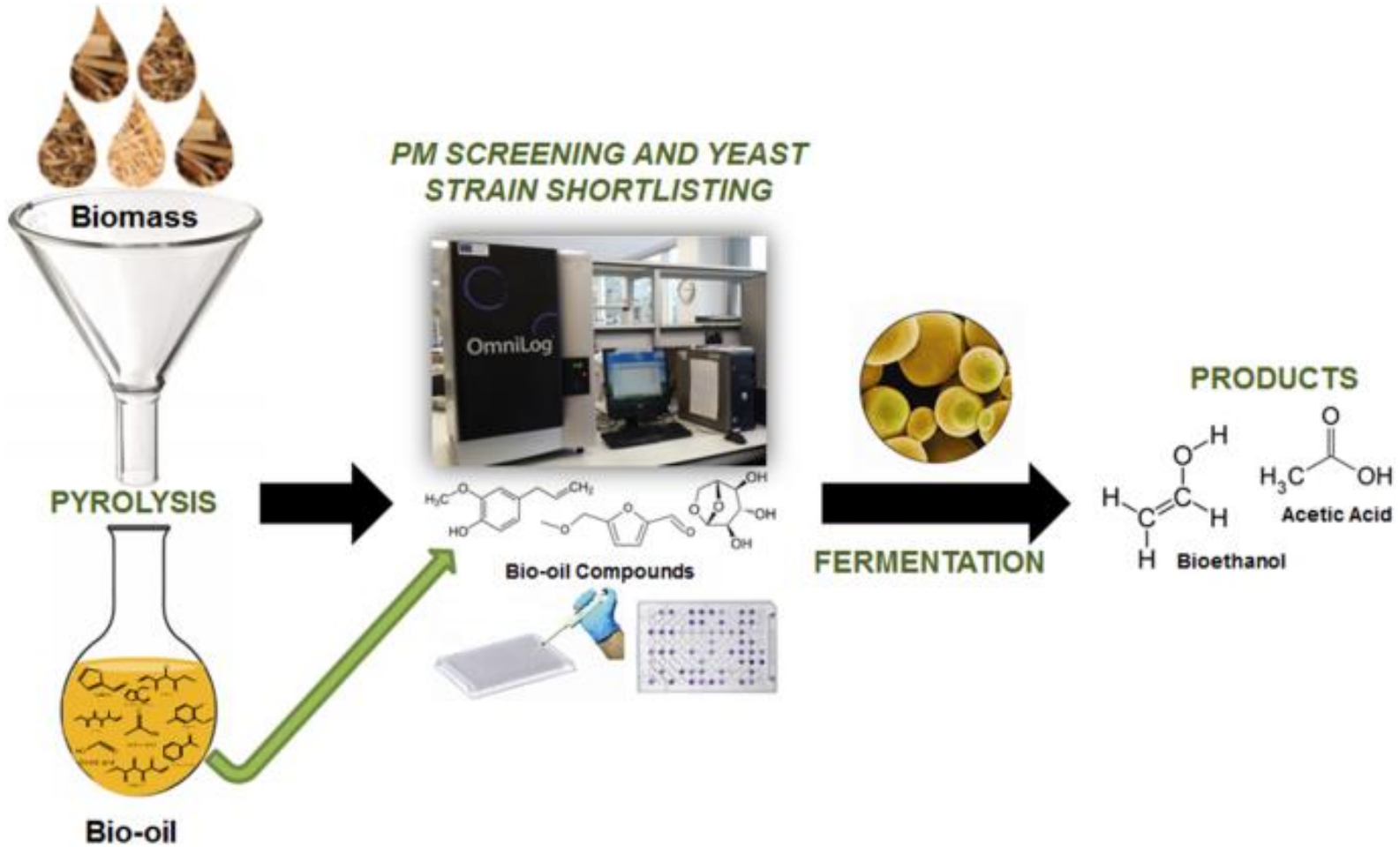




## Production of Rhamnolipids - Biosurfactants

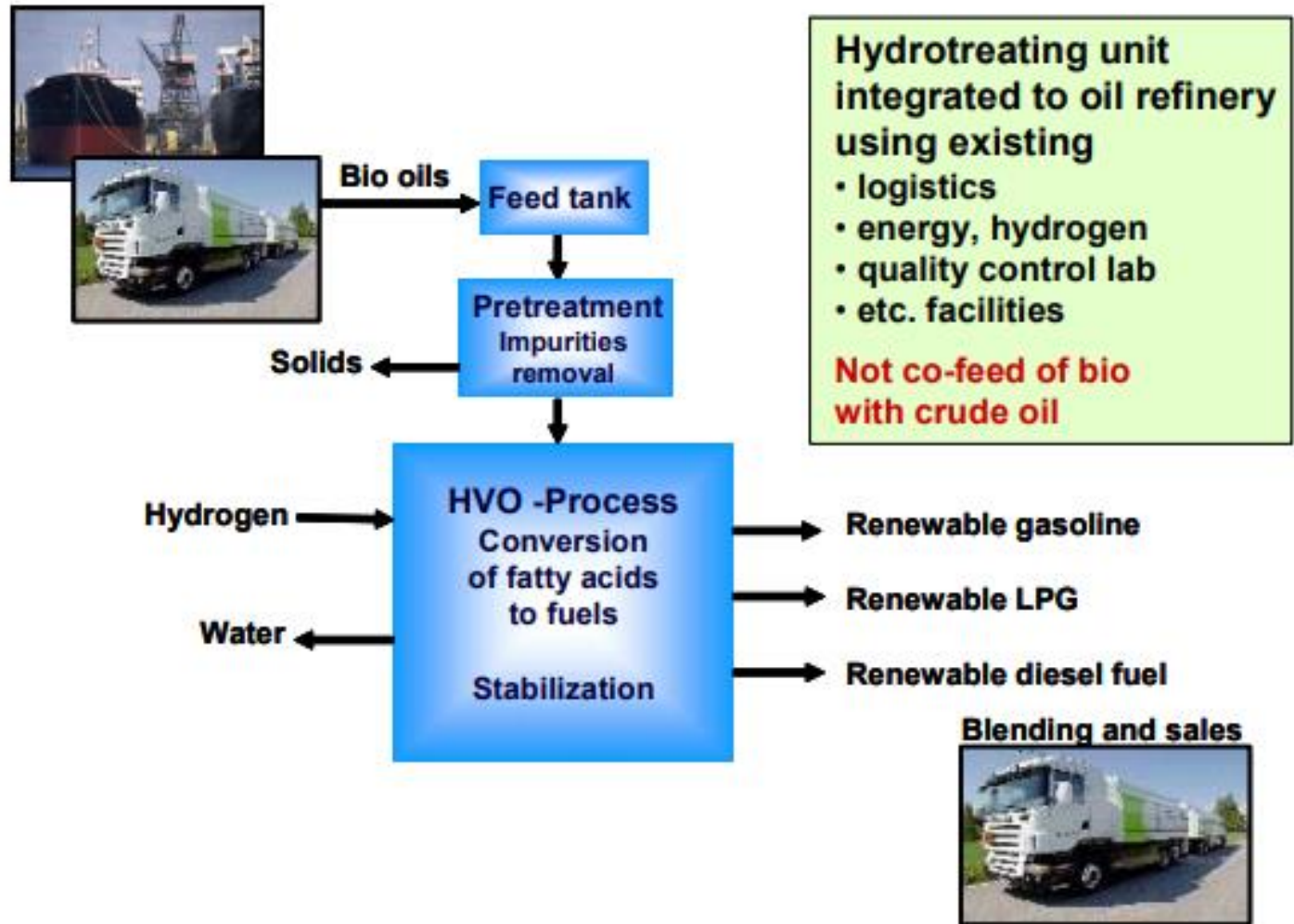


**Production of Bioethanol and Acetic acid**



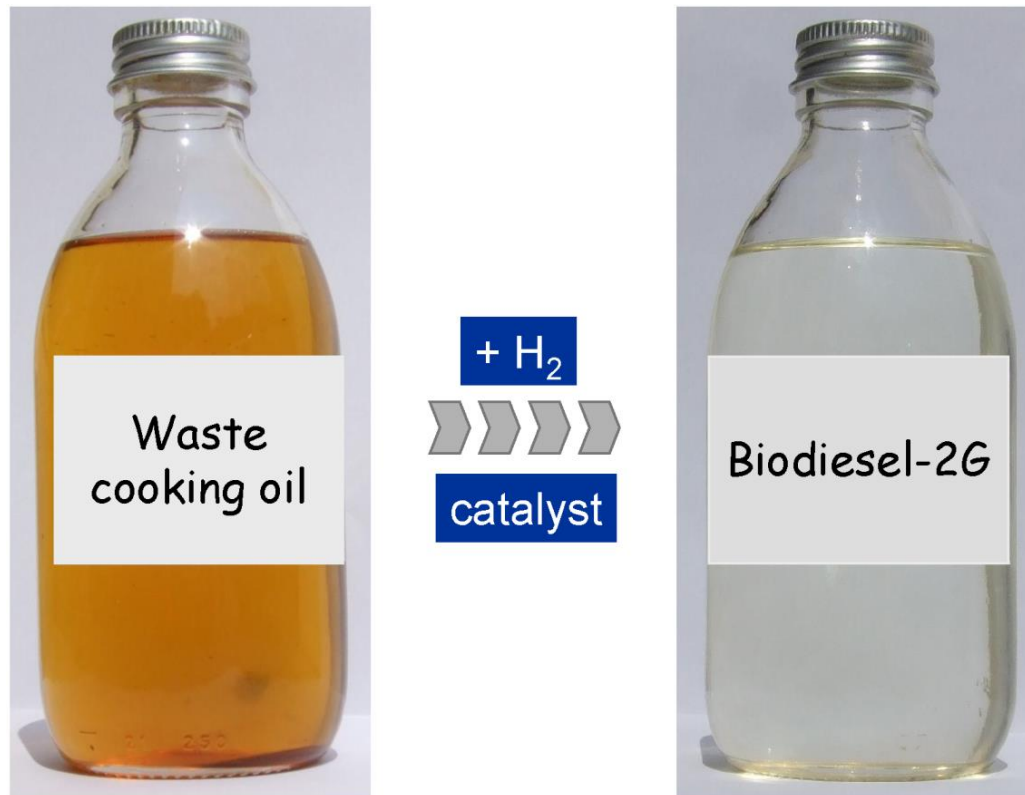


## Pyrolysis of oils and fats



## Pyrolysis of oils and fats

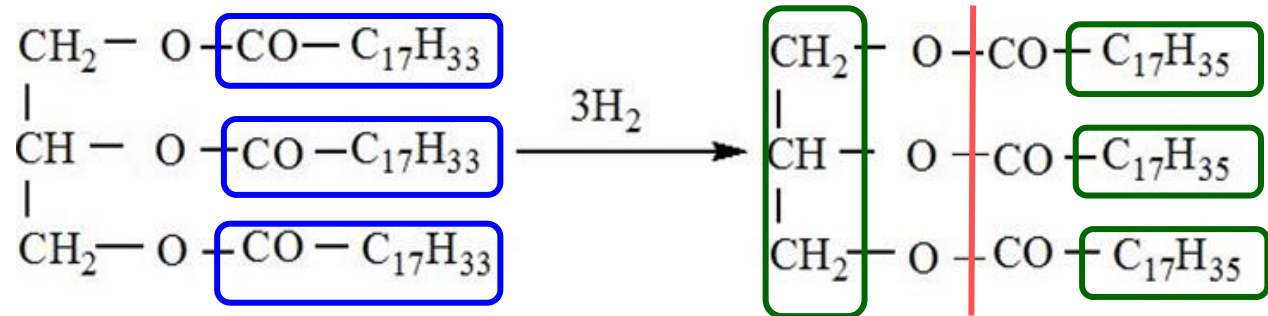
### HVOs - Hydrogenated vegetable oils - Second generation biodiesel



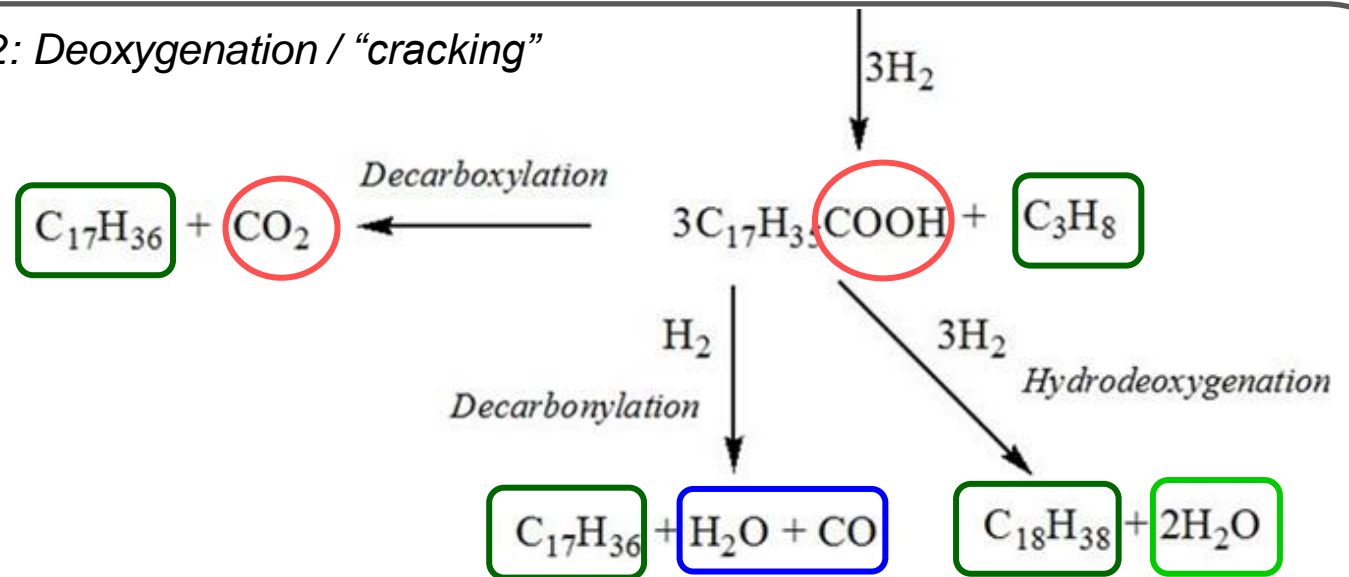
Diretiva (UE) 2018/2001 do Parlamento Europeu e do Conselho de 11 de dezembro de 2018 relativa à promoção da utilização de energia de fontes renováveis

## Hydrogenation of oils and fats

Step 1: Hydrogenation of double bonds C=C



Step 2: Deoxygenation / "cracking"



**Triglyceride pyrolysis**

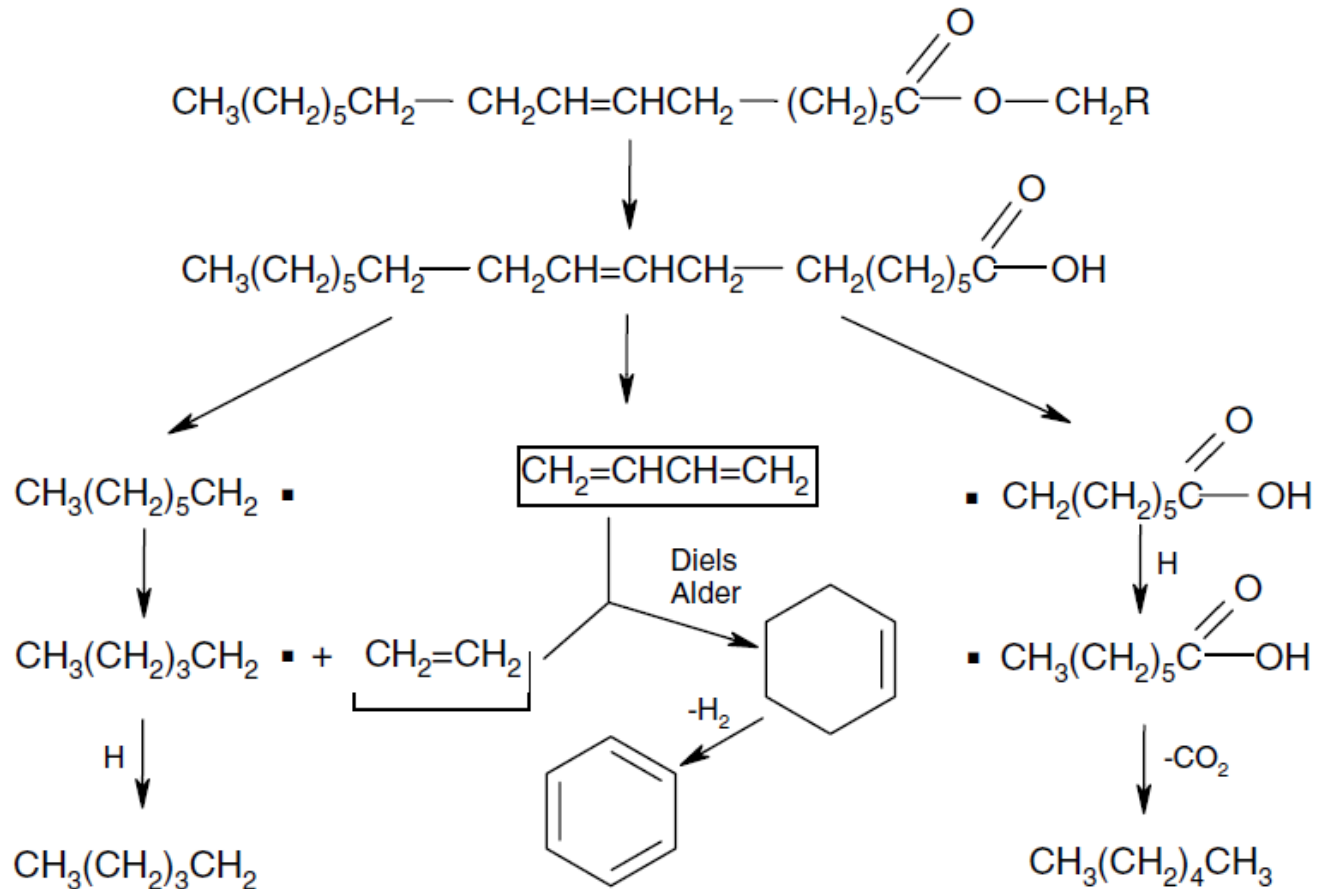


Fig. 3. Reaction mechanism for the pyrolysis of triglycerides (Schwab et al., 1988).





## Pyrolysis of olive husk oil



Liquid Product



**Light Fraction**

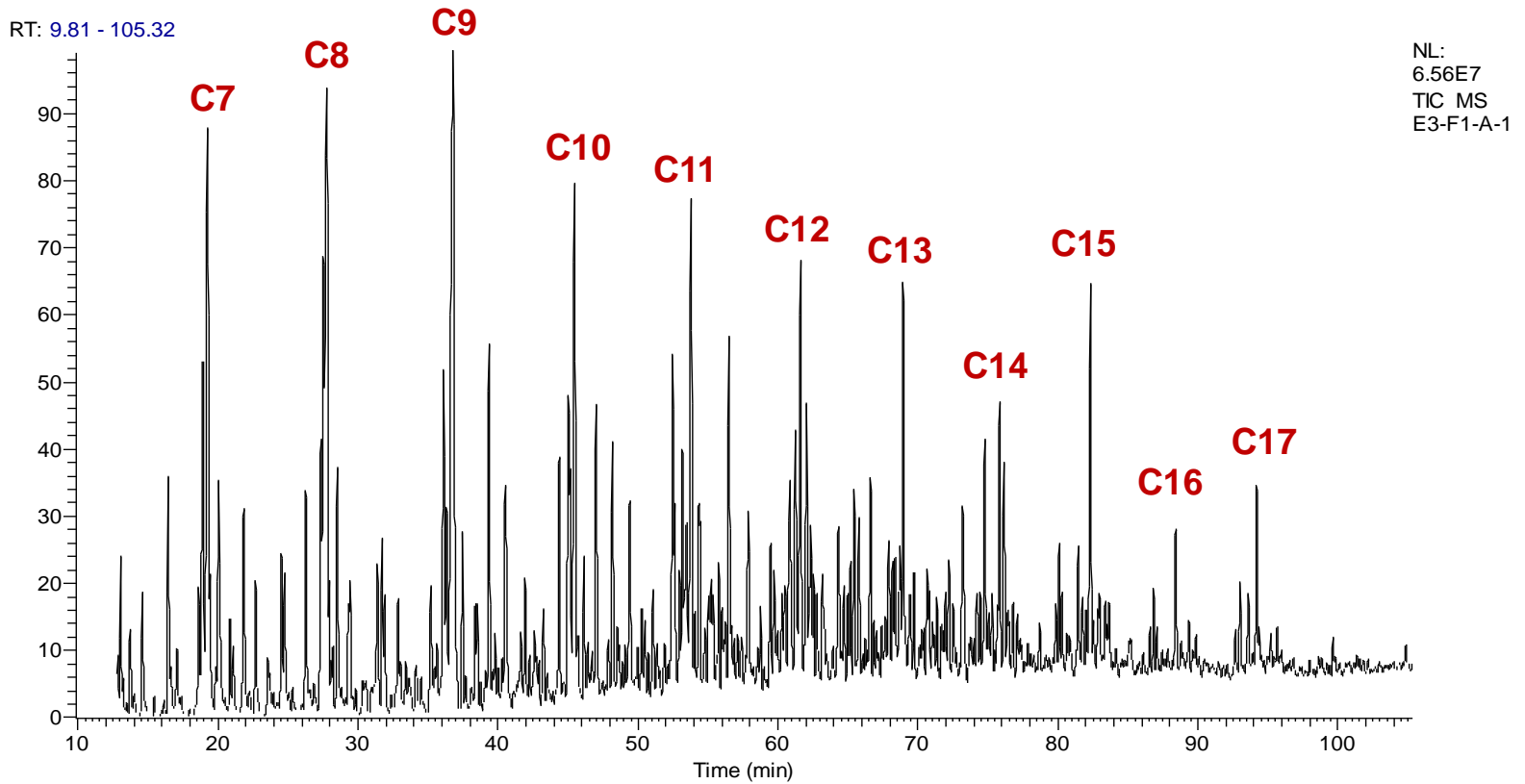
similar to  
Gasoline

**Heavy Fraction**

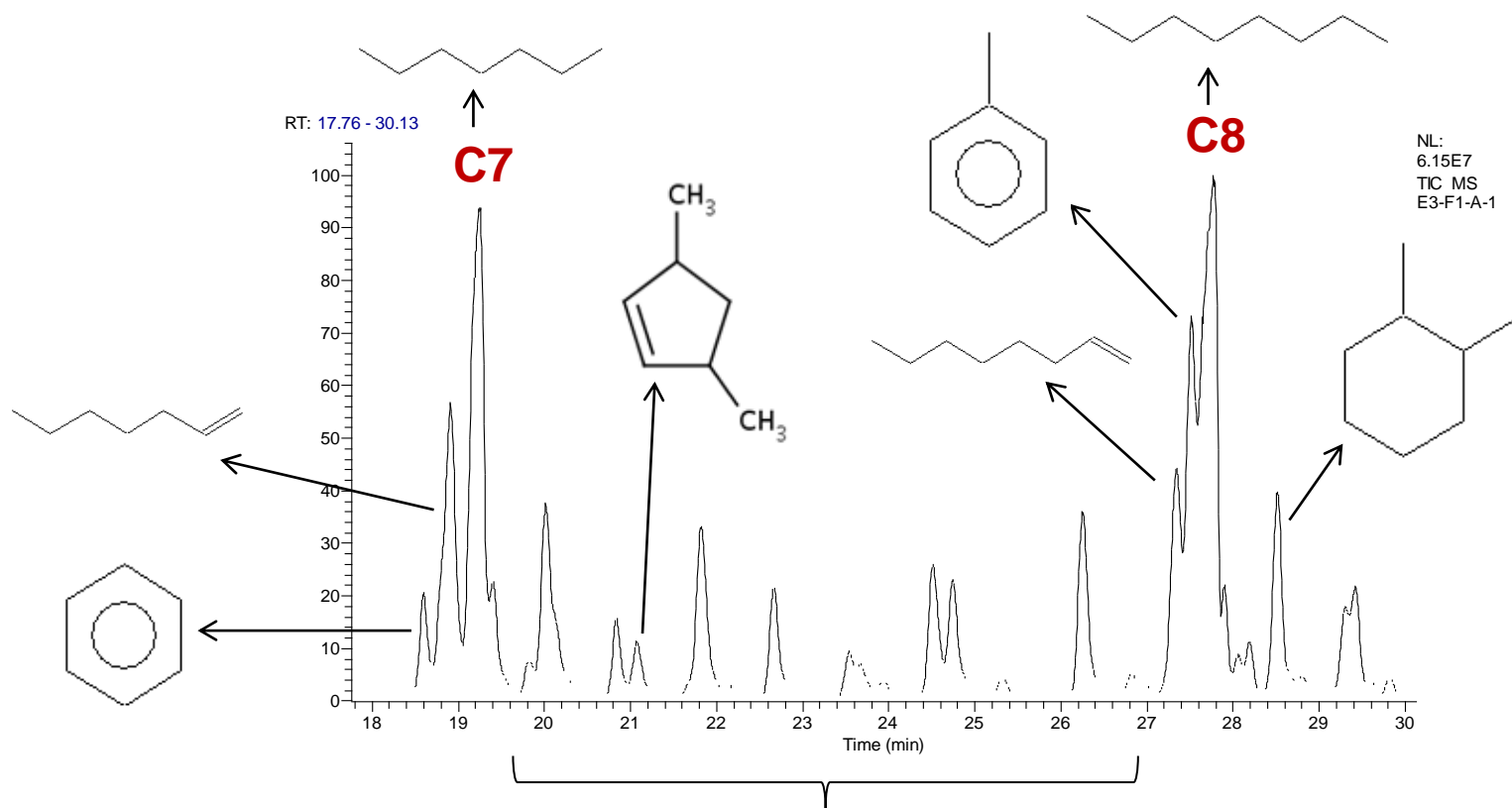
similar to  
Diesel



## GC-MS profile – Light Fraction

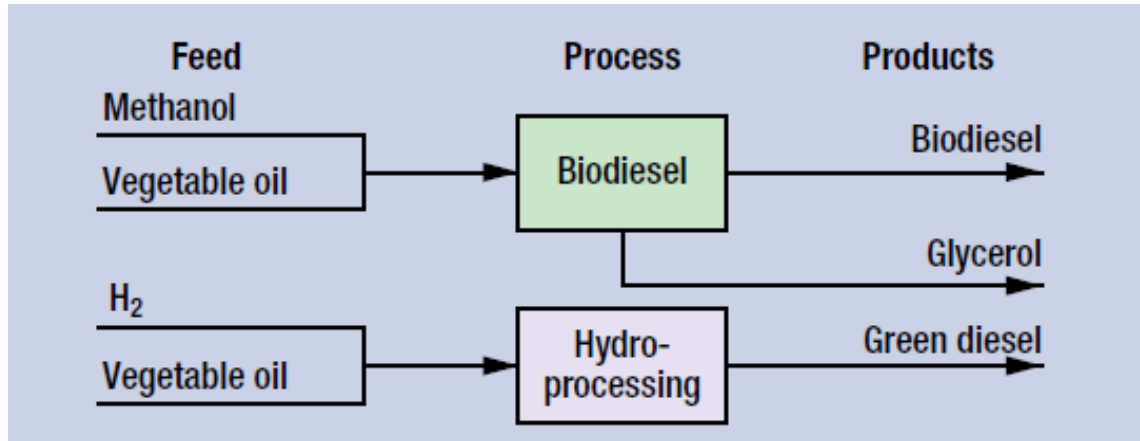


## GC-MS profile – Light Fraction



**Heptene or Cyclopentene  
isomers**





**Honeywell  
UOP**

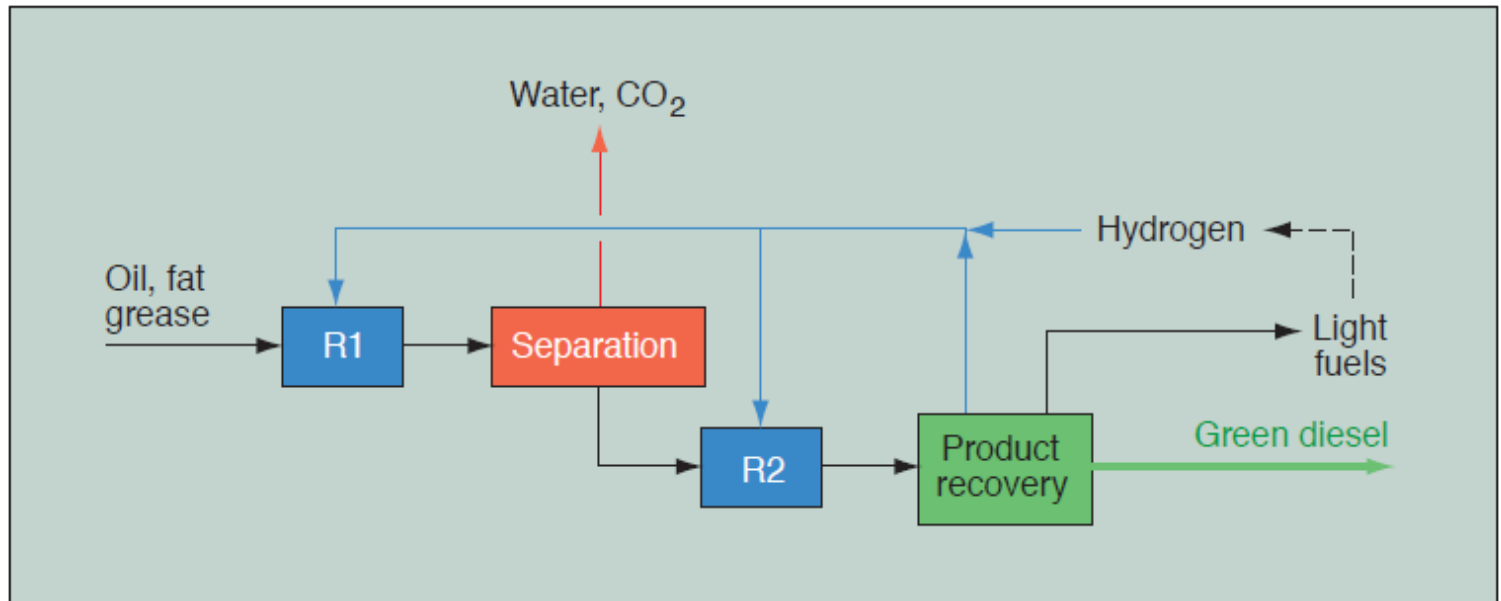
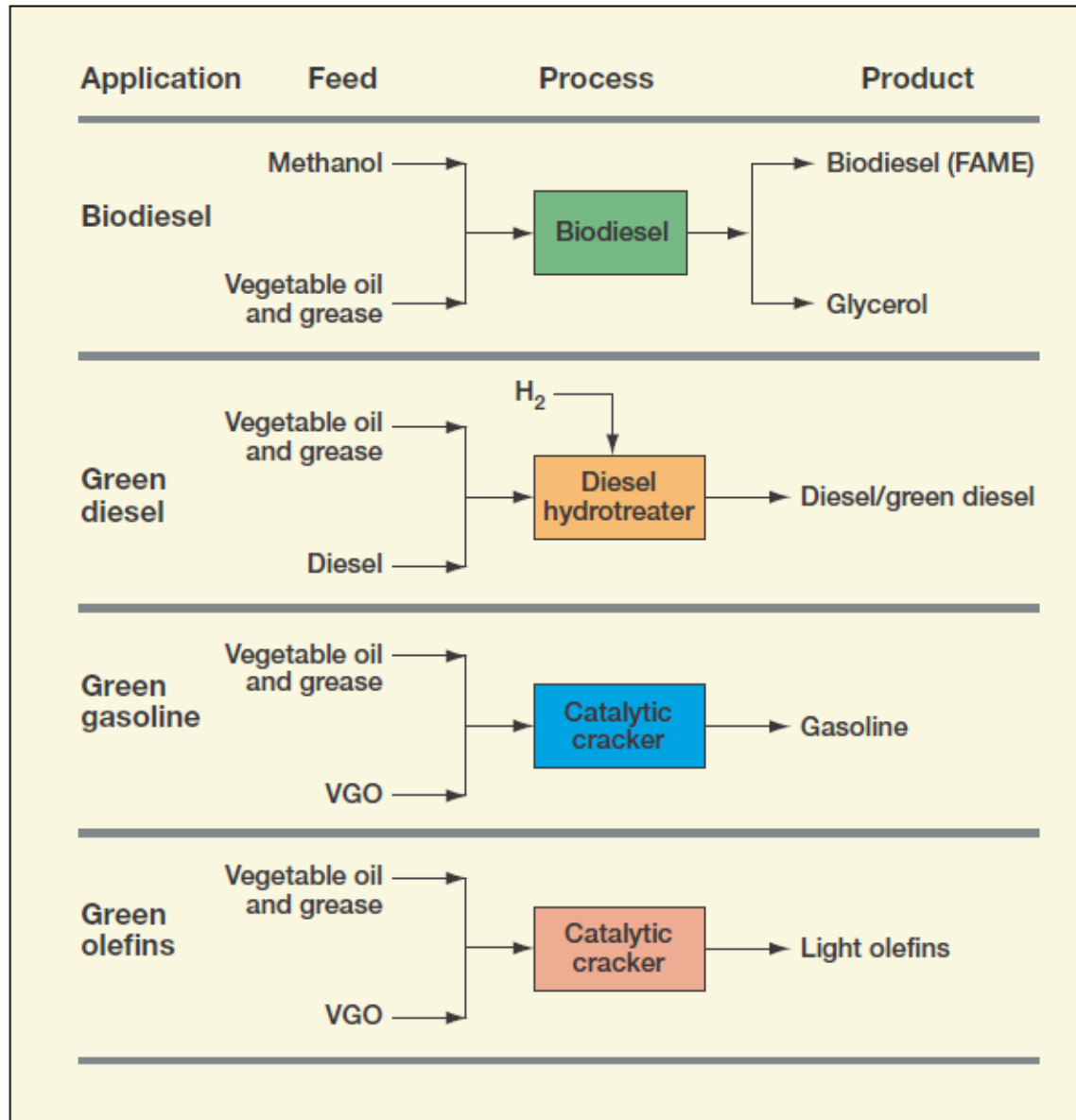


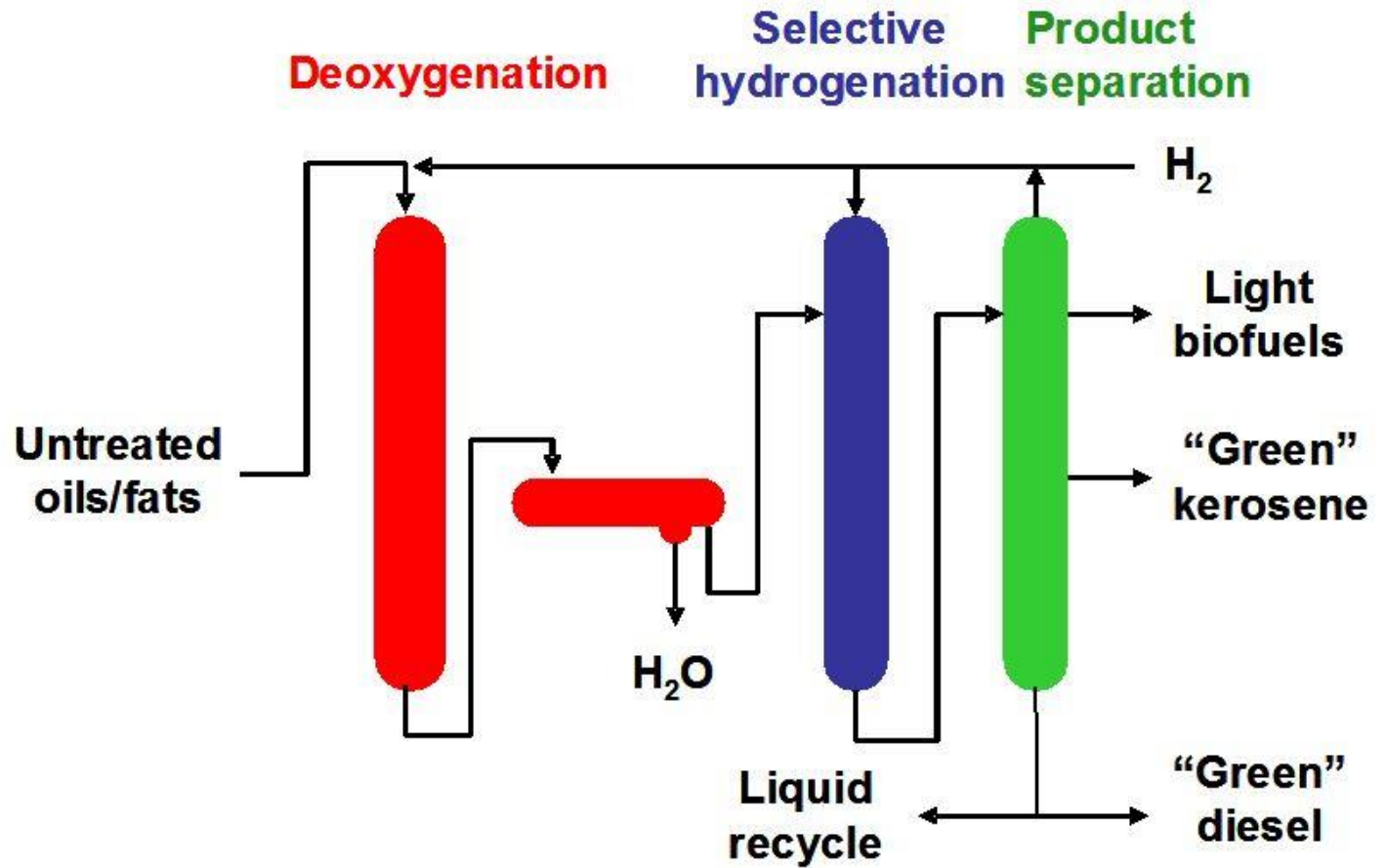
Figure 1 Simplified Ecofining process diagram



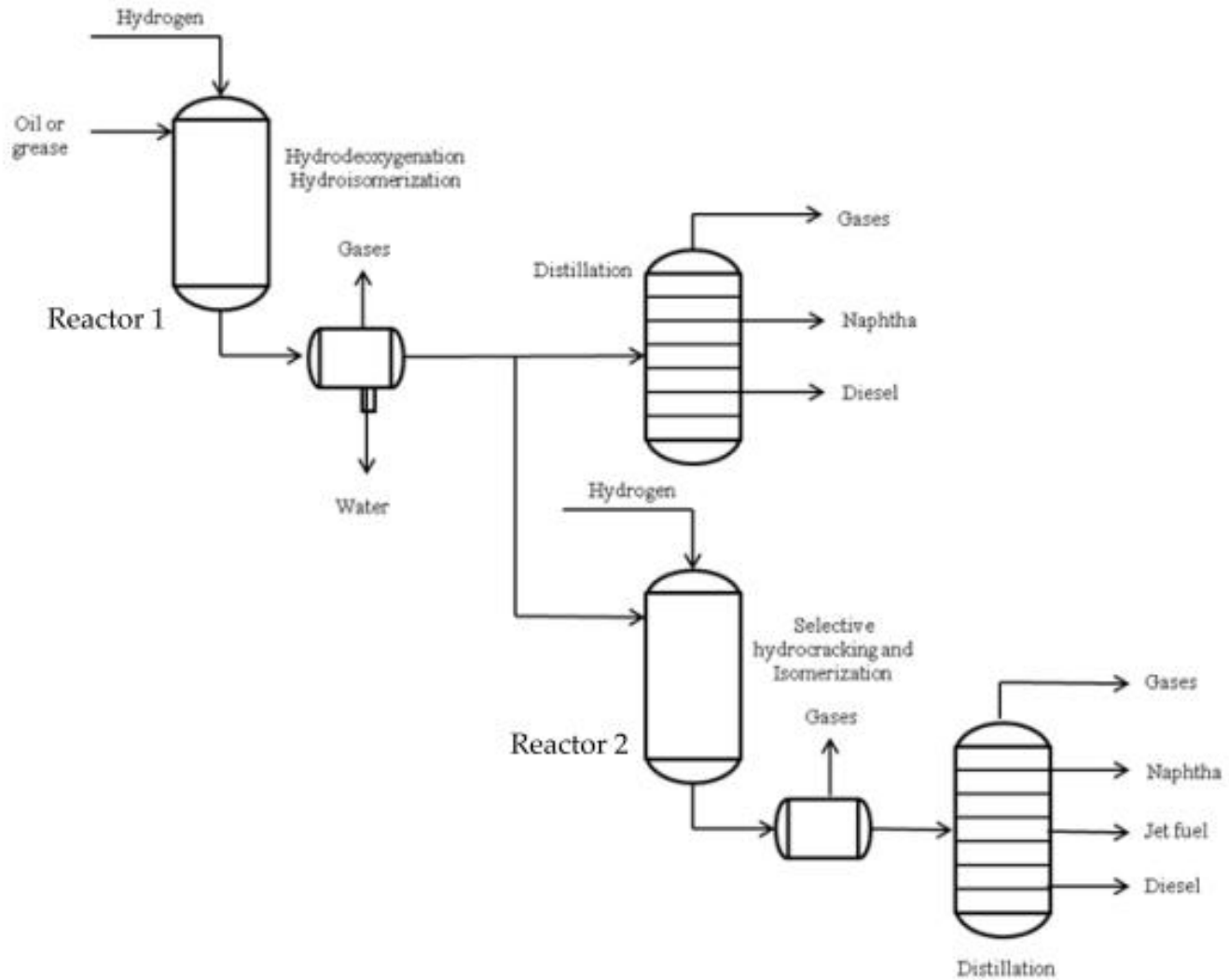




## Honeywell UOP Ecofining™ process



<https://uop.honeywell.com/en/industry-solutions/renewable-fuels>



**Figure 3.** Schematic representation of a two-step process for obtaining green naphtha, jet fuel, and diesel coupling hydrodeoxygenation and selective hydrocracking.



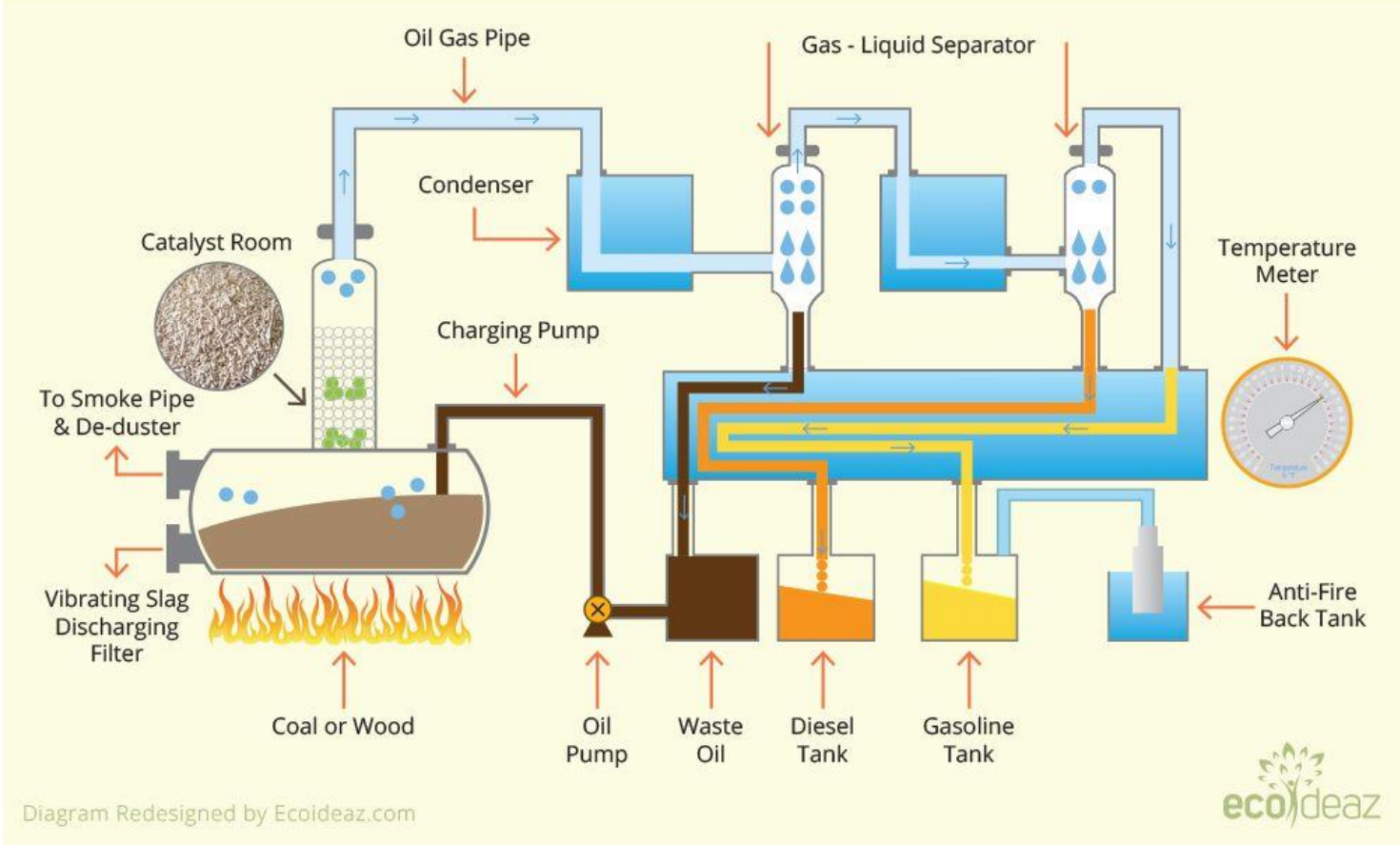
Paraguay



Galp Energia Licenses UOP/Eni Ecofining Hydroprocessing Technology for Renewable Diesel Production



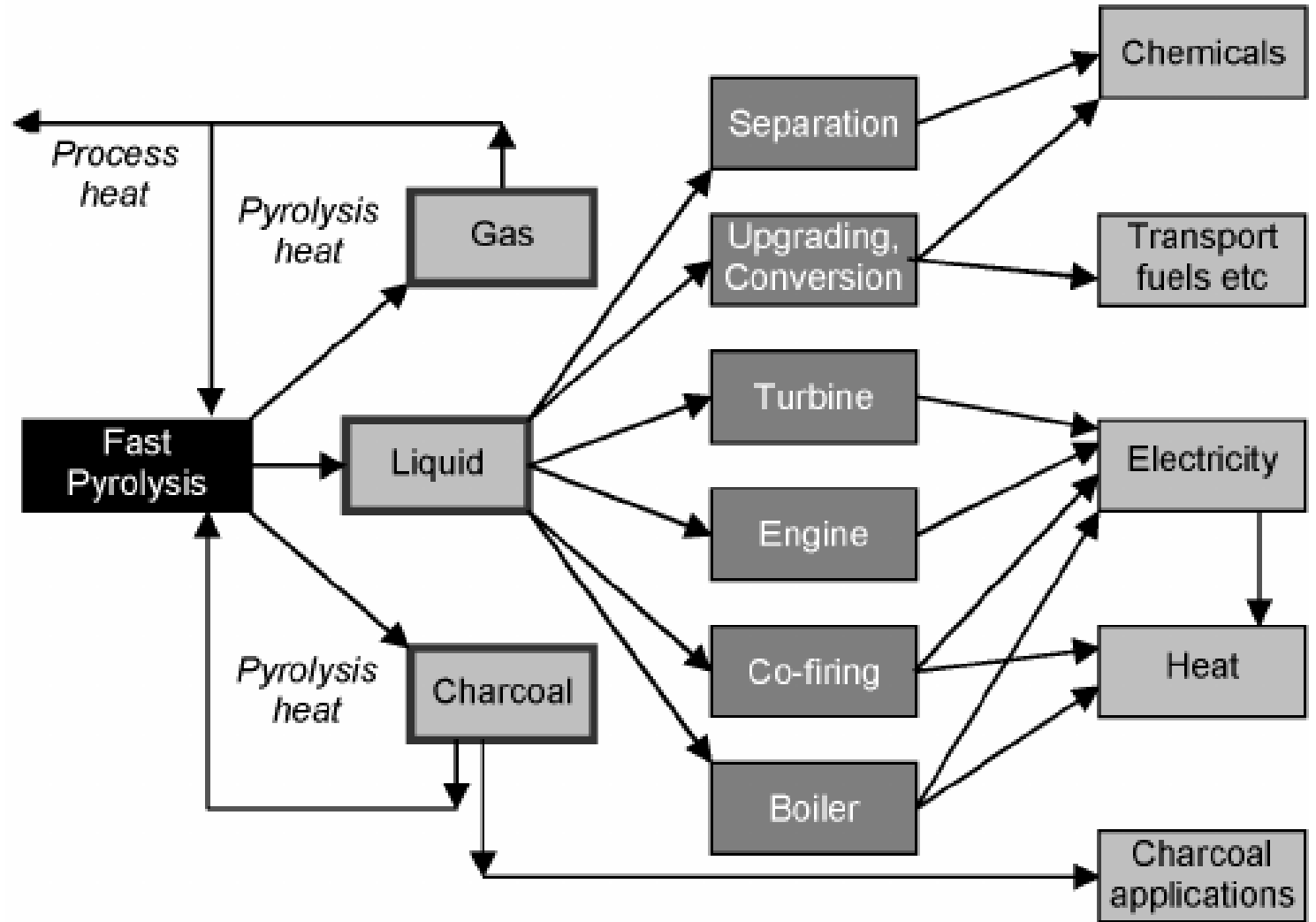
# Plastic Pyrolysis Process





<https://www.idtechex.com/en/research-article/could-pyrolysis-help-the-world-overcome-its-plastic-waste-problem/21261>

**Pyrolysis as a platform for production of bioenergy and biofuels**





Pyrolysis of waste oils for the production of biofuels: A critical review  
Guangcan Su, Hwai Chyuan Ong, M. Mofijur, T.M. Indra Mahlia, Yong Sik Ok  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.127396>

Hydrocarbons recovery through catalytic pyrolysis of  
compostable and recyclable waste plastics using a novel  
desk-top staged reactor  
Prakashbhai R. Bhoi, Md Hafizur Rahman  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eti.2022.102453>





Thank you for your attention

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Any questions?