Innovations for Conversion of Biomass to High Value Chemicals by Photocatalytic Process

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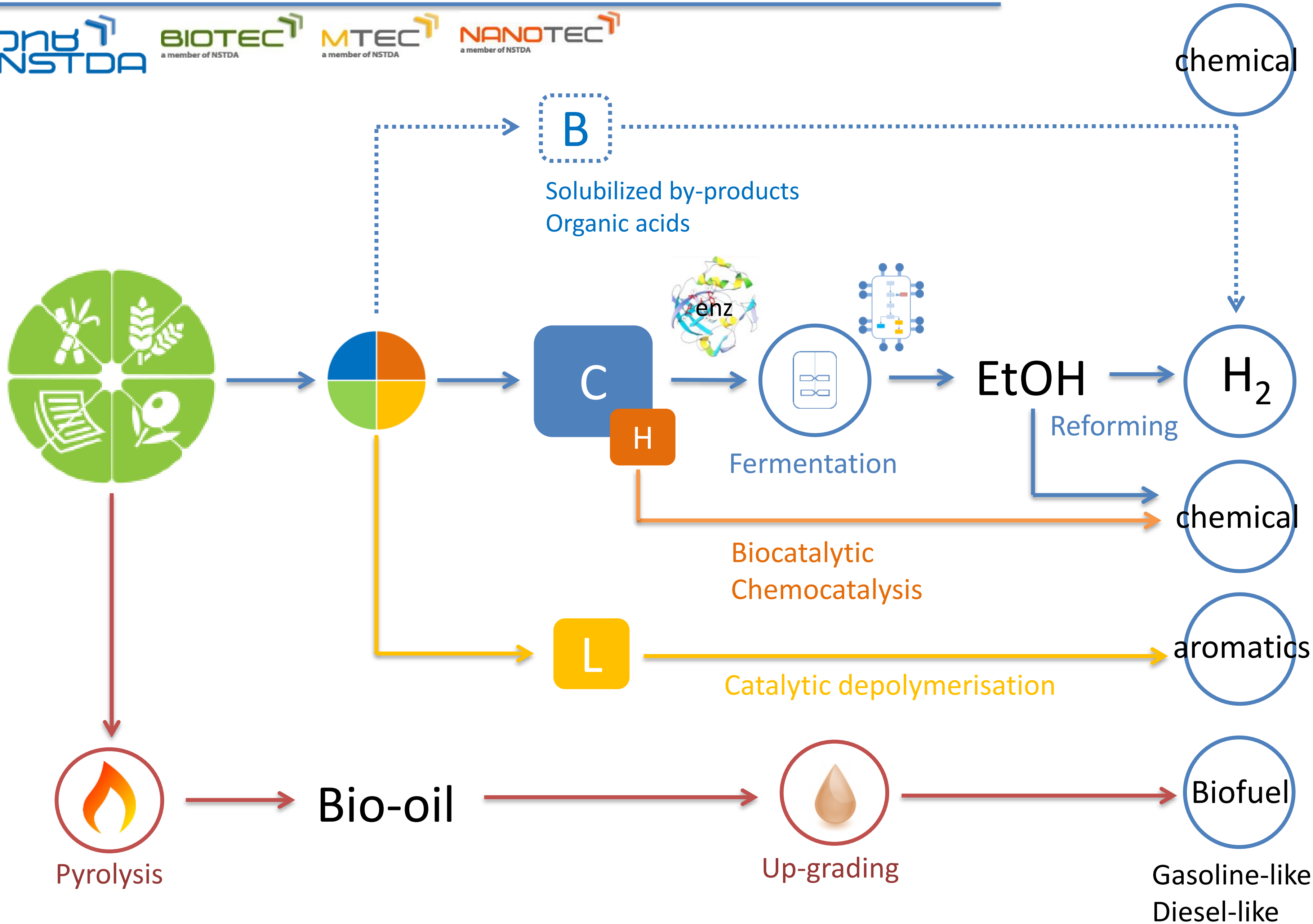
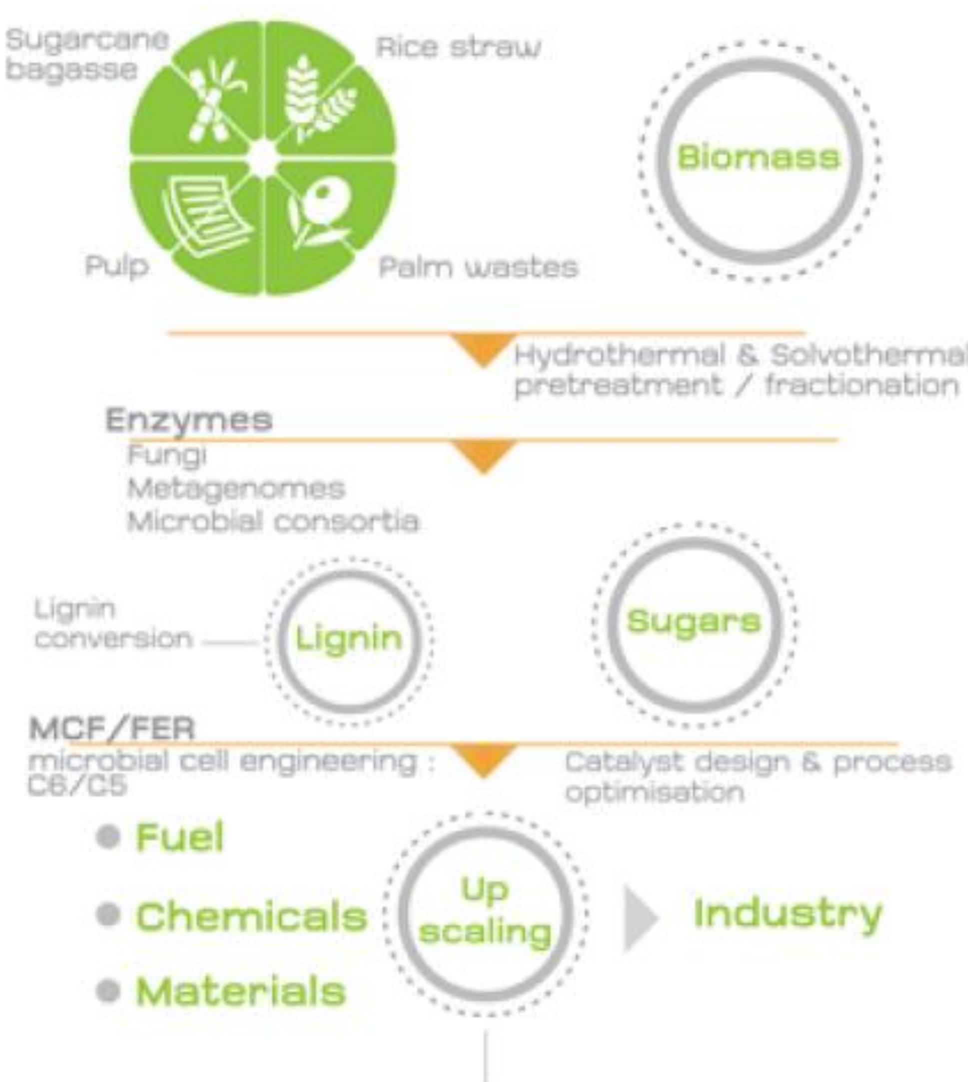
NSTDA Integrated biorefinery research network



IBL core research themes



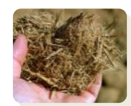
Process integration

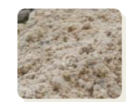
Pretreatment & Fractionation

- Green process: LHW/ORG
- Efficiency/Selectivity

Enzymatic hydrolysis

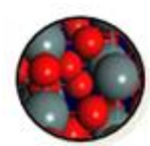
- Cellulolytic enzyme
- High solid hydrolysis process


Bagasse


Cassava pulp

Catalysts & Biocatalysts for conversion

- Sugars: Cell factory
- Lignin: Catalytic conversion


Catalyst


Biocatalyst


Cell factory [MCF]

BIOTEC a member of NSTDA
National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) 113 Thailand Science Park, Paholyotin Road, Klong 1, Klong Luang, Patumthani 12120, THAILAND

Research Themes

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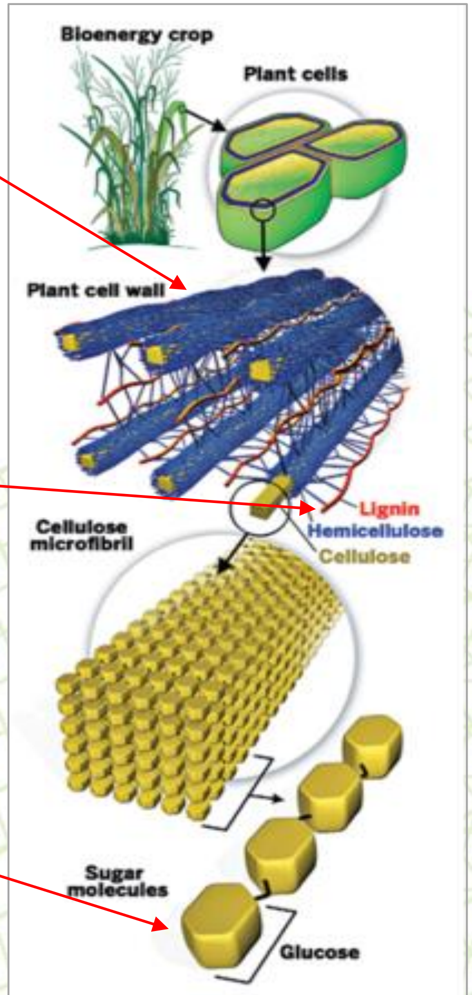
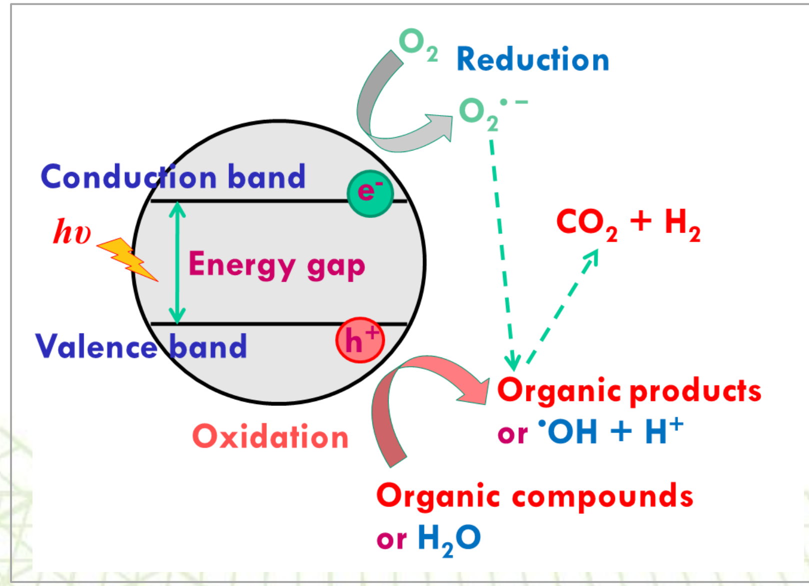
Theme 3
Biomass Pretreatment

Theme 2
Lignin Conversion

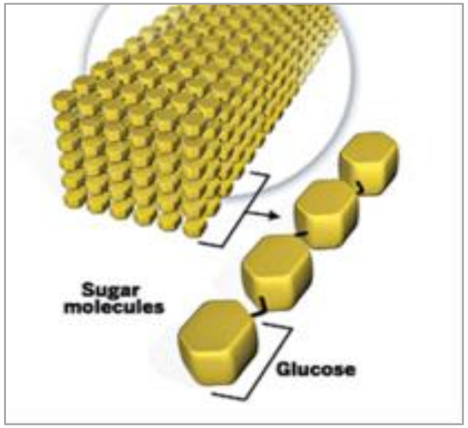
Theme 1
Sugar Conversion



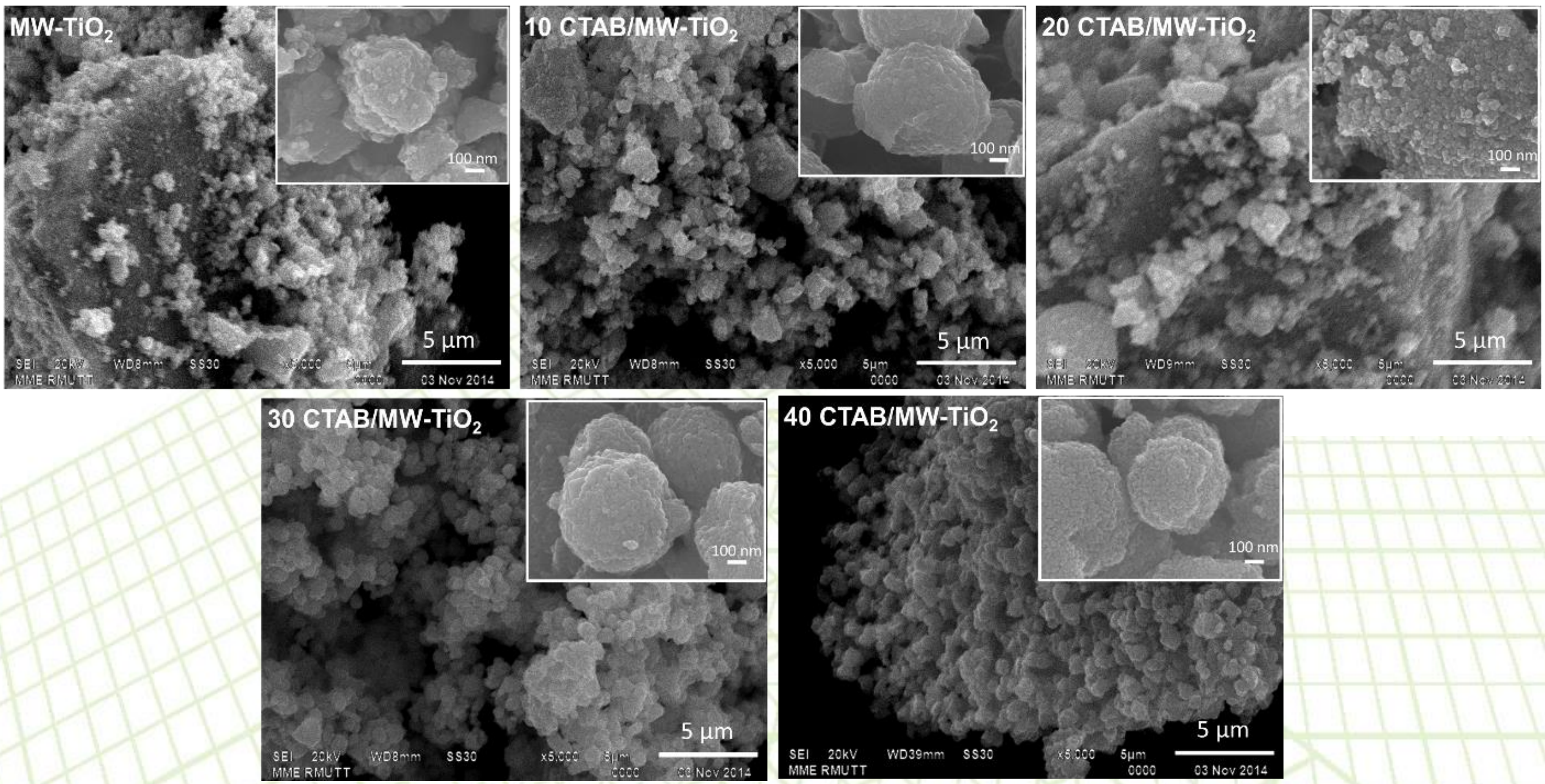


Value-added Fuels & Chemicals

Theme 1: Sugar Conversion



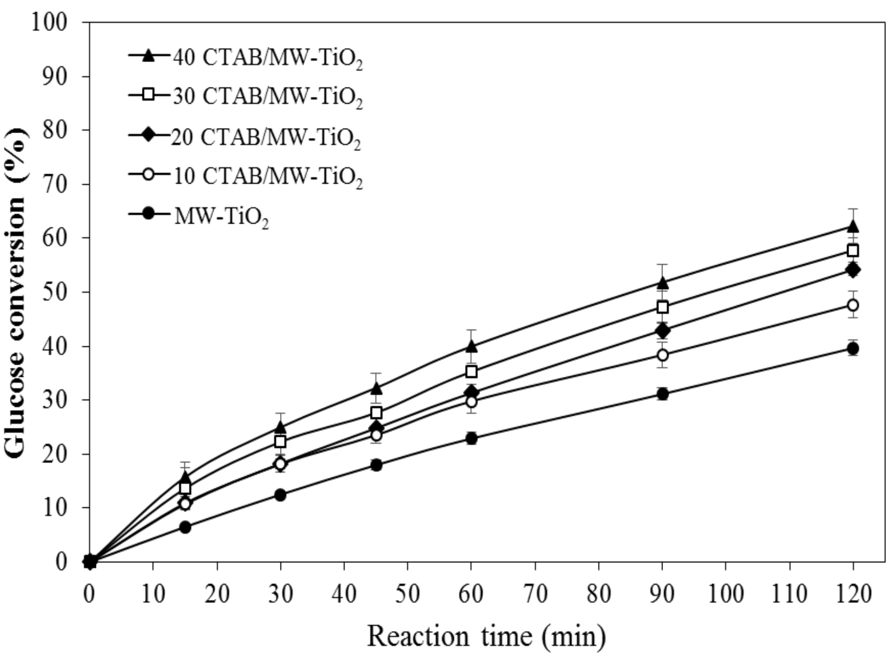
Development of TiO_2 Fabrication with CTAB Surfactant



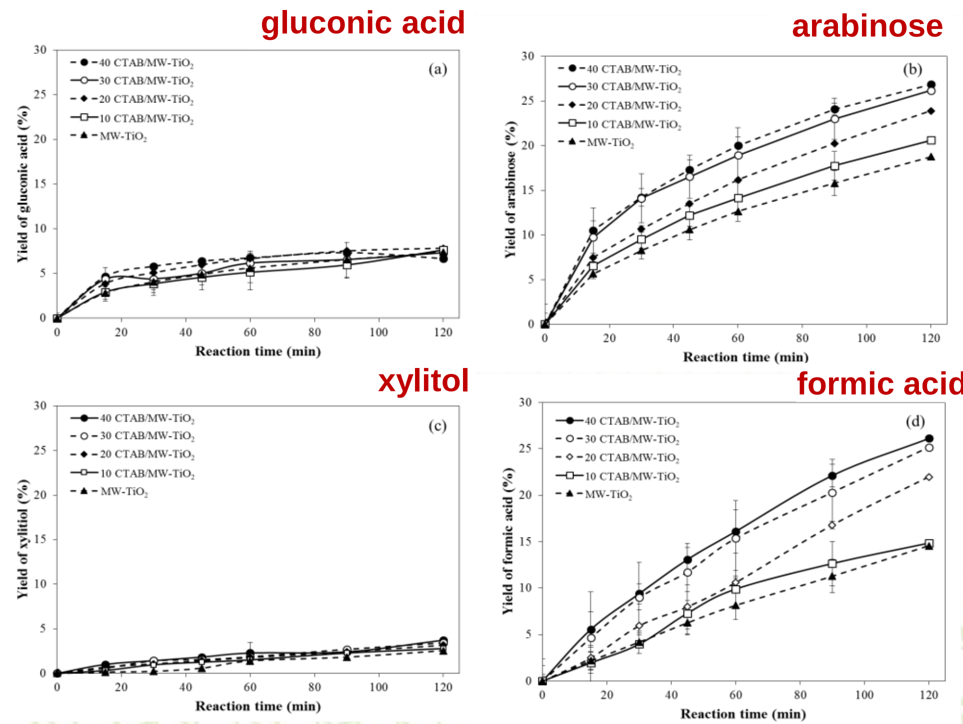
SEM and FESEM images of TiO_2 photocatalysts synthesized by different concentrations of CTAB

Photocatalytic Activity of TiO_2 Modified by CTAB

The results of development of TiO_2 fabrication with CTAB surfactant



Photocatalytic conversion of glucose with TiO_2 synthesized with different concentrations of CTAB in MW.



Product yields of photocatalytic conversion of glucose with TiO_2 photocatalysts synthesized by different concentrations of CTAB

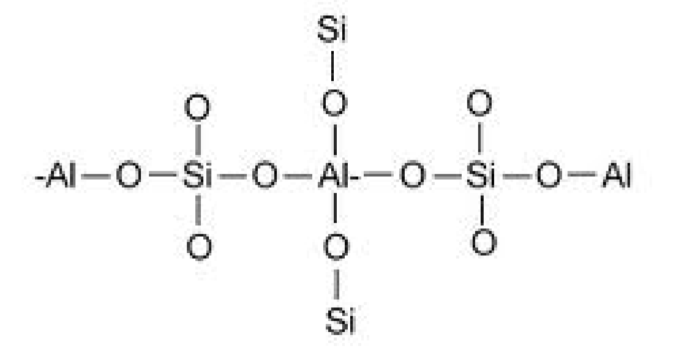
Modification of TiO_2 with Zeolite Supporters

Zeolites

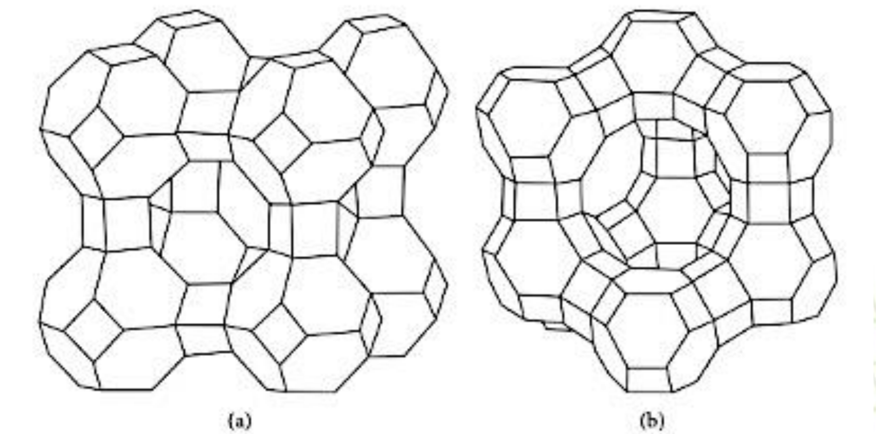
Zeolites are hydrated aluminosilicate minerals made from interlinked tetrahedral of alumina (AlO_4) and silica (SiO_4).

Advantages of Zeolites

✓ Improved selectivity
✓ High activity
✓ Excellent absorption ability



Basic Zeolite Structure



Structure of zeolite A (a) and faujasite-type zeolites X and Y (b) formed by sodalite cages

(Lutz, 2014).

Modification of TiO_2 with Zeolite Supporters

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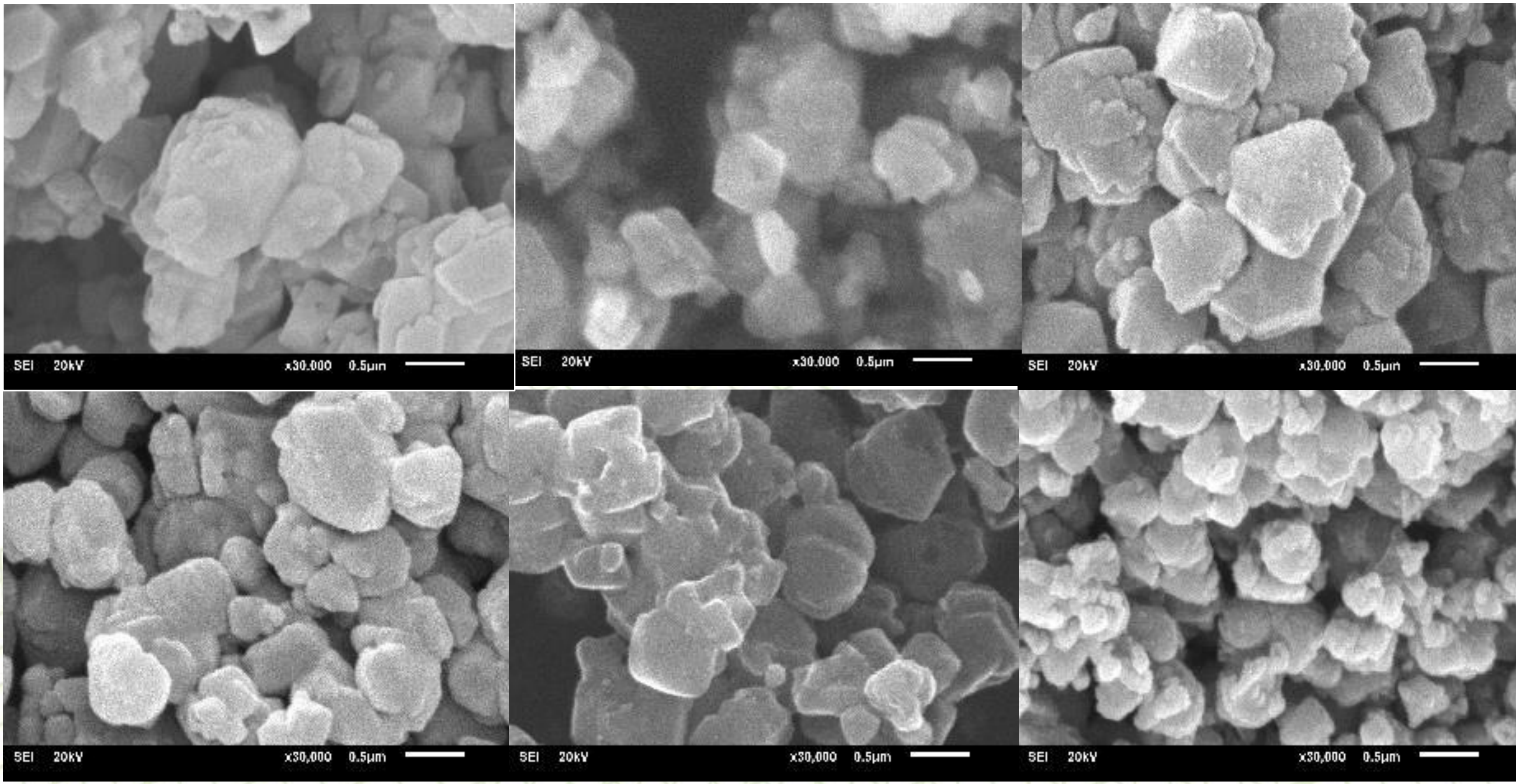

SEM images (30000x) of ZeY, TiO_2 (5%)/ZeY(95%), TiO_2 (15%)/ZeY(85%), TiO_2 (30%)/ZeY(70%), TiO_2 (45%)/ZeY(55%),and TiO_2.

Modification of TiO_2 with Zeolite Supporters

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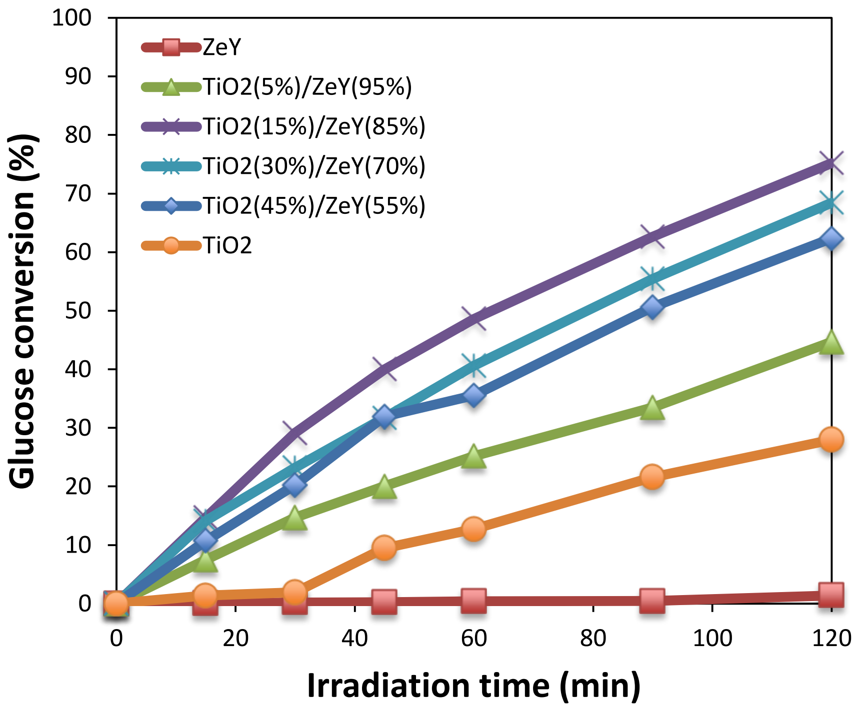
The results of modification of TiO_2 with zeolite supporter

Photocatalytic conversion of glucose



Photocatalyst	S_{BET} (m^2/g)
ZeY	590.76
TiO_2(5%) /ZeY(95%)	588.36
TiO_2(15%) /ZeY(85%)	524.41
TiO_2(30%) /ZeY(70%)	494.57
TiO_2(45%) /ZeY(55%)	419.44
TiO_2	34.38

Modification of TiO_2 with Zeolite Supporters

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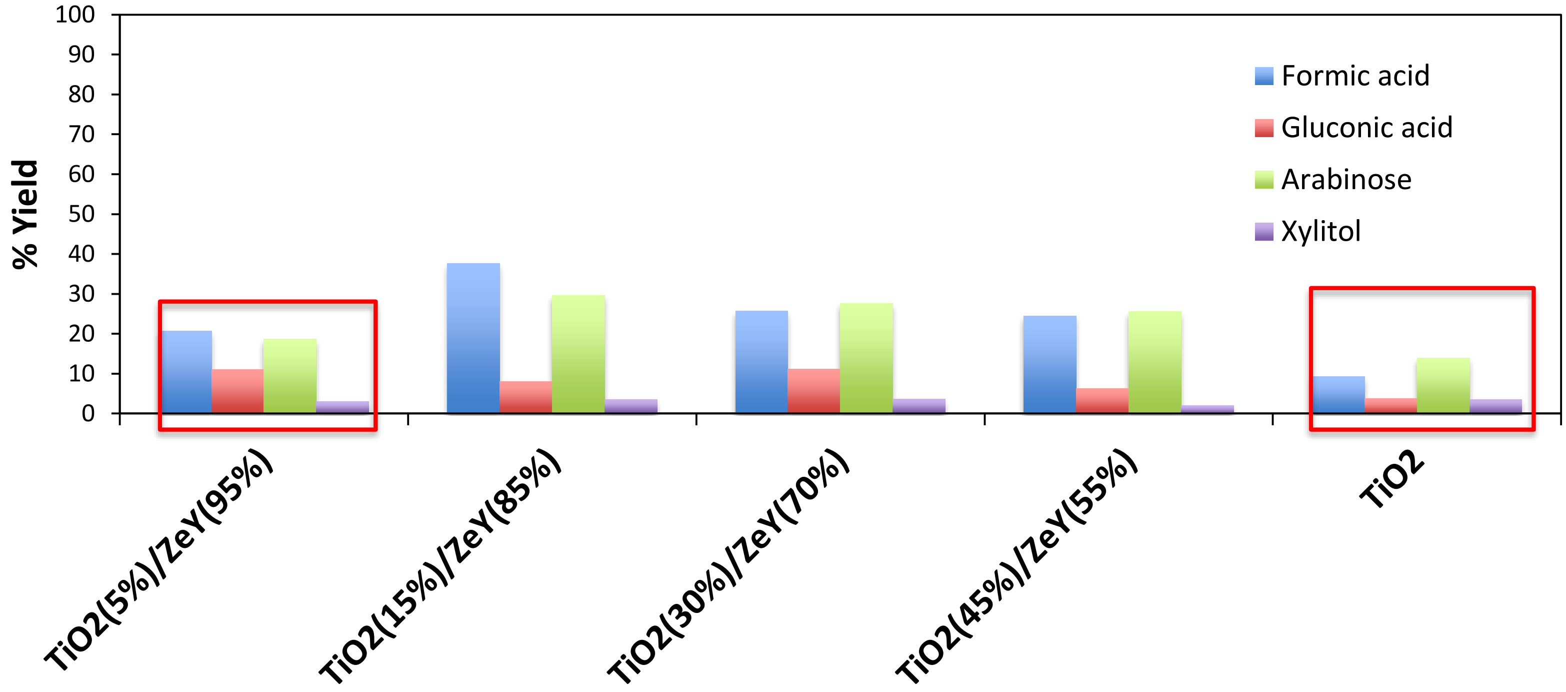
The results of modification of TiO_2 with zeolite supporter

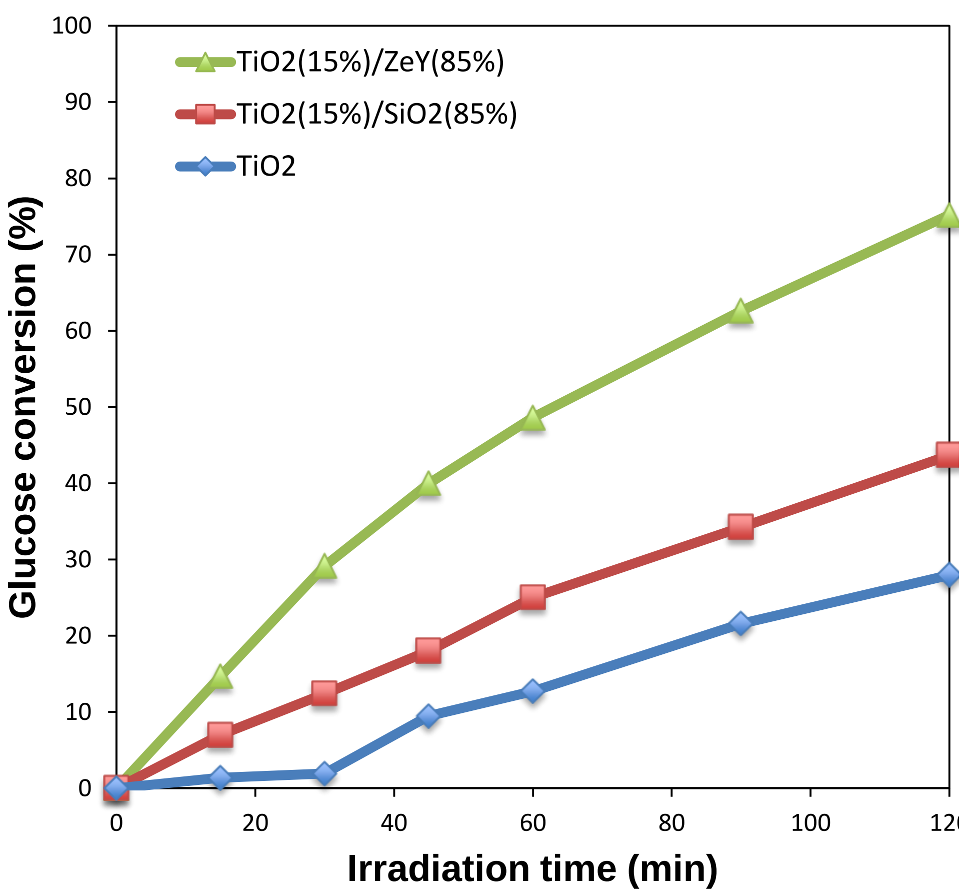
Product Yields



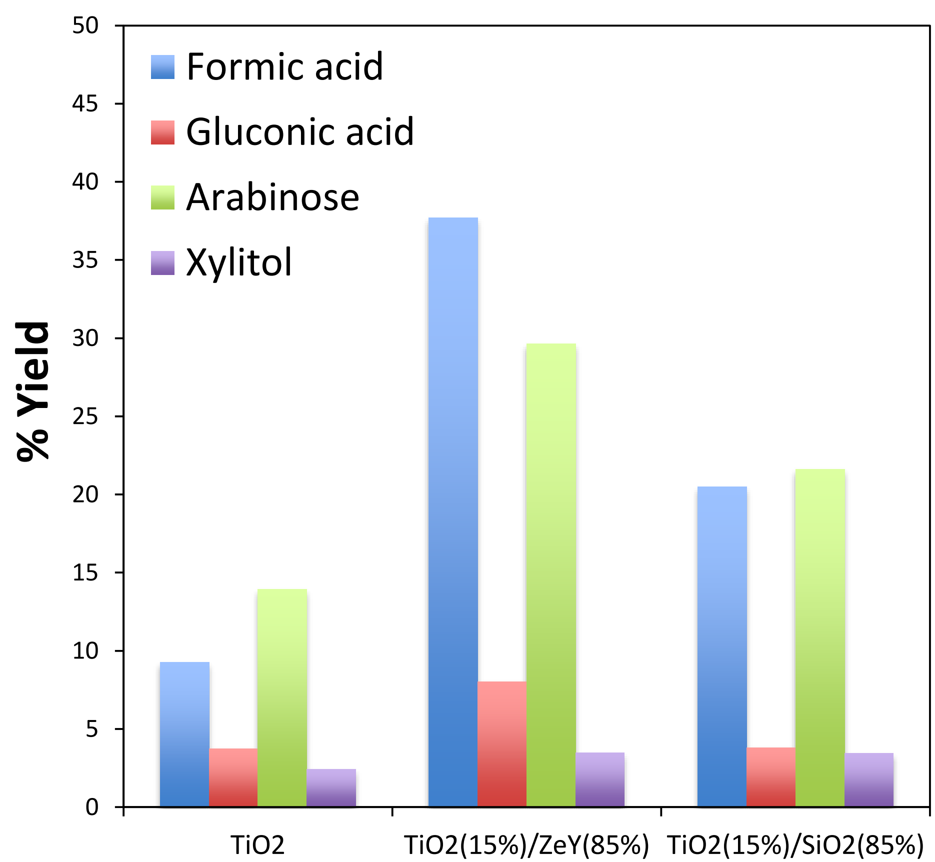
Modification of TiO_2 with Zeolite Supporters

The results of modification of TiO_2 with zeolite supporter

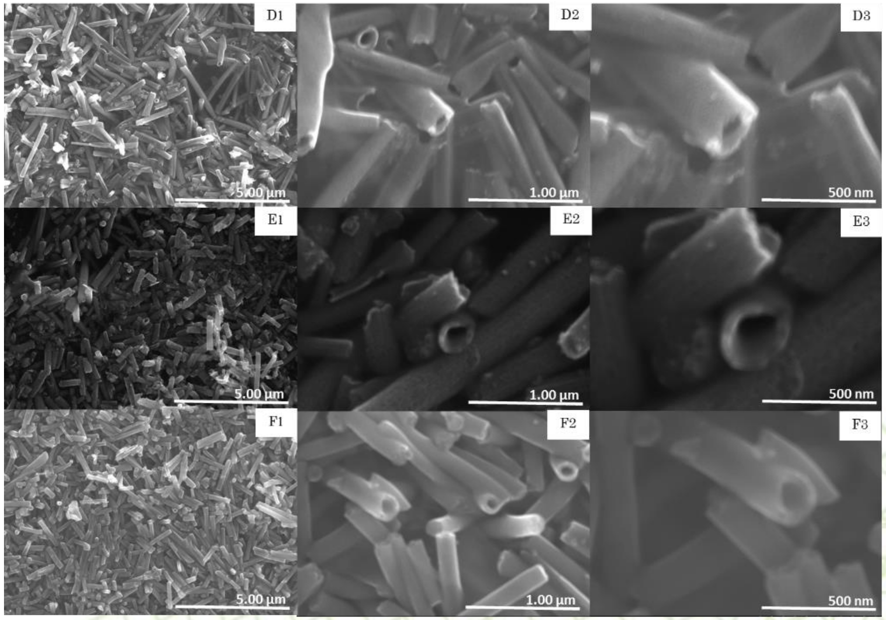
Photocatalytic conversion of glucose



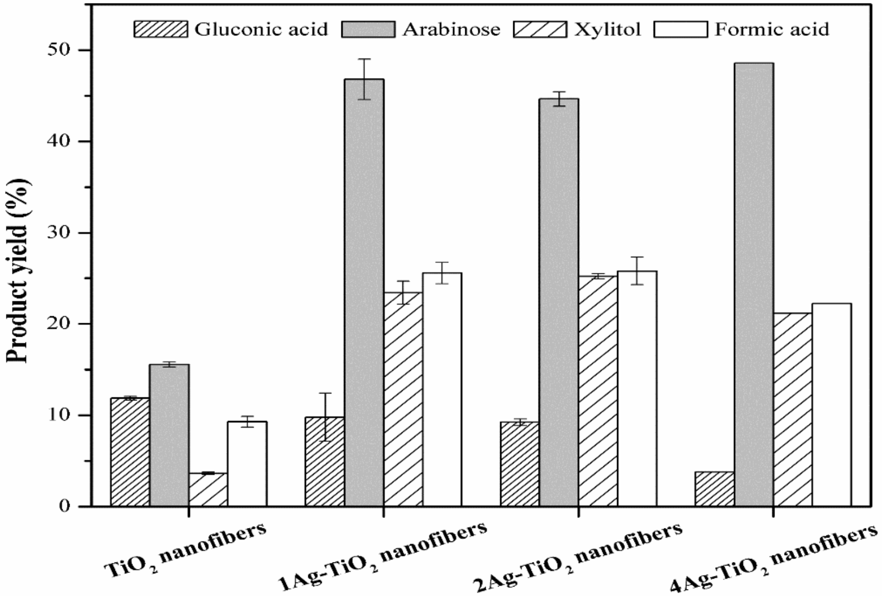
Product Yields



TiO_2 Nanofiber Photocatalysts

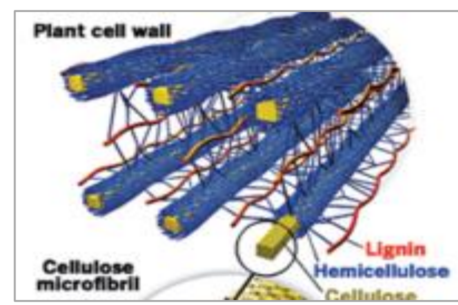


SEM images of TiO_2 nanofibers from co-axial horizontal electrospinning at inner flow rate 0.5 ml/h at magnifications of (D1) 10.0k, (D2) 50.0k and (D3) 100.0k, inner flow rate 1.0 ml/h at magnifications of (E1) 10.0k, (E2) 50.0k and (E3) 100.0k and inner flow rate 1.5 ml/h at magnifications of (F1) 10.0k, (F2) 50.0k and (F3) 100.0k.

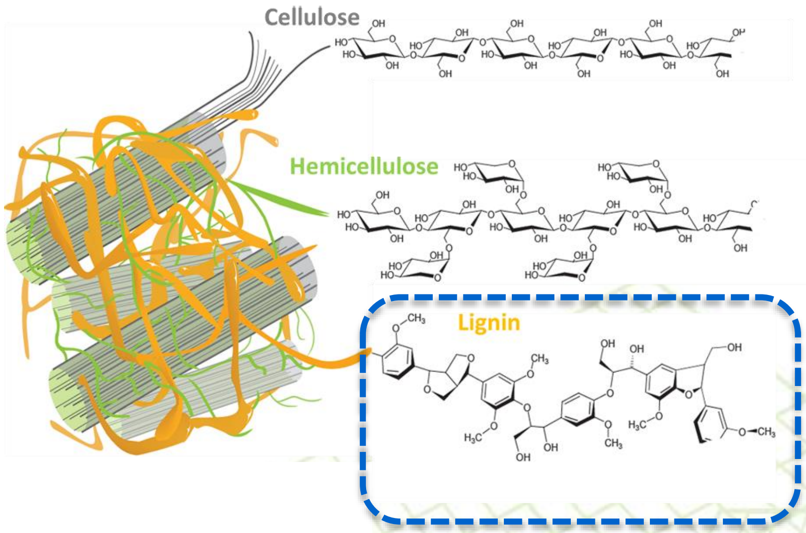


Yields of formic acid, gluconic acid, arabinose, and xylitol from photodecomposition of glucose

Theme 2: Lignin Conversion



Photocatalytic Conversion of Lignin to High-value Products



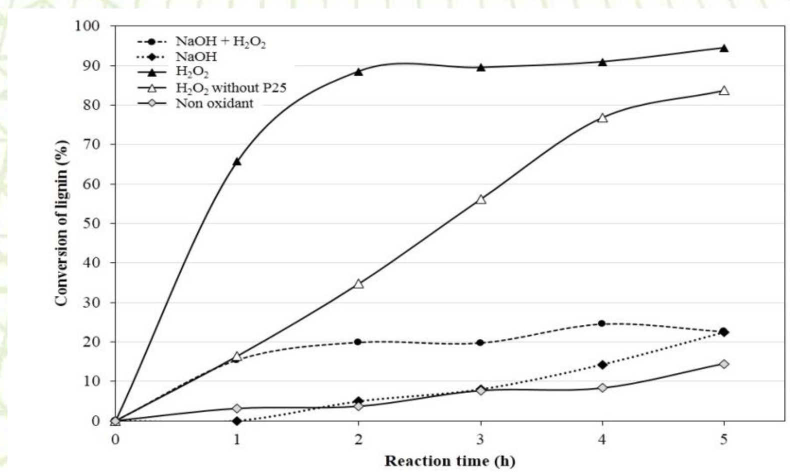
hv

TiO_2

Photocatalytic activity

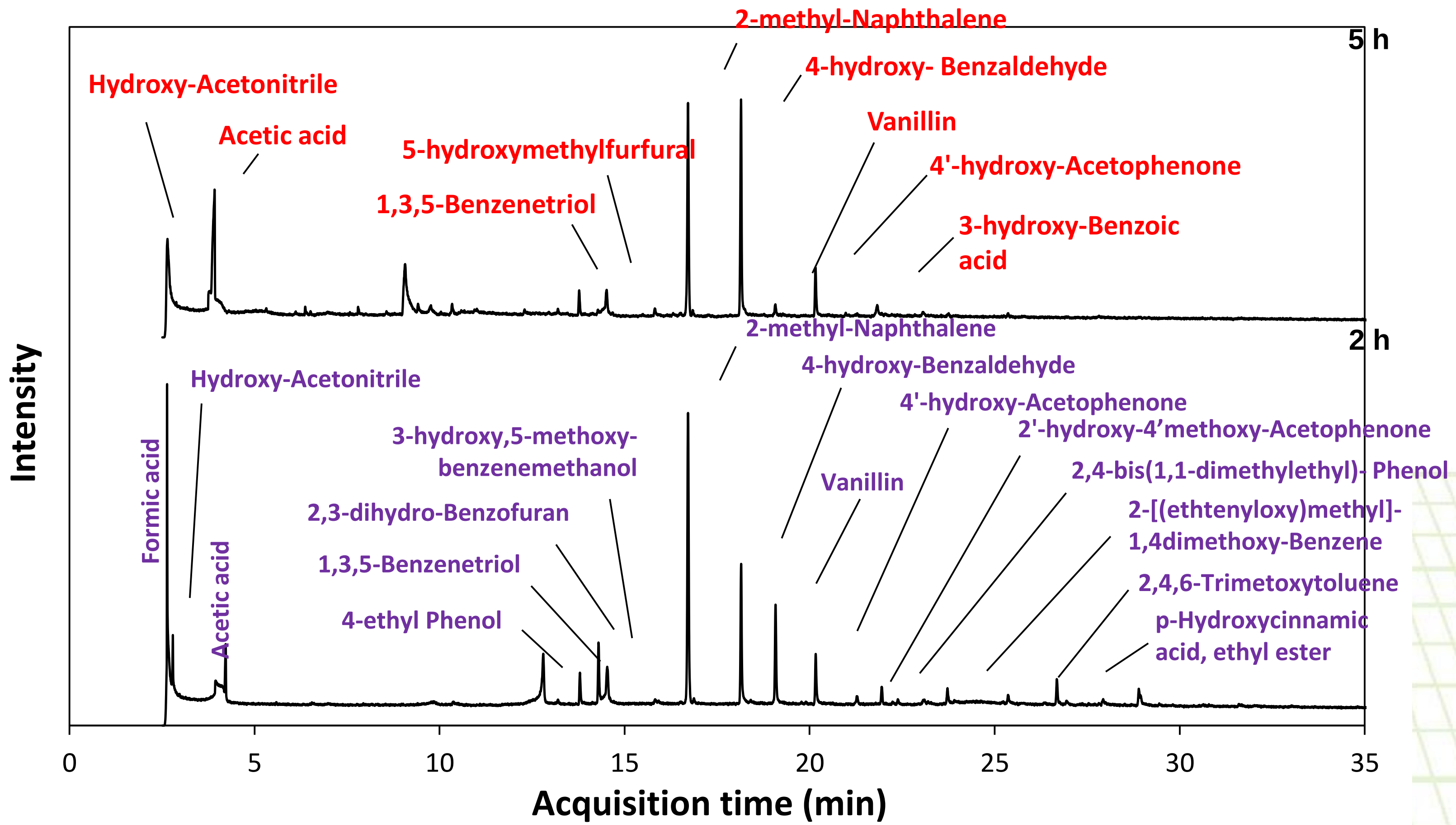
Composition of the biomass

http://www.psb.ugent.be/bio-energy/313-lignin



Effect of kraft lignin concentration on photocatalytic conversion of kraft lignin (reaction conditions: 1g/L of P25, 100/0 v/v of water to ACN and 400 W of UV-lamp).

Products from Conversion of Lignin



GC-MS spectra of hydrocarbon compounds derived from photocatalytic conversion of kraft lignin catalyzed by P25 under UV irradiation for 2 and 5 h.

Price of High-value Chemicals

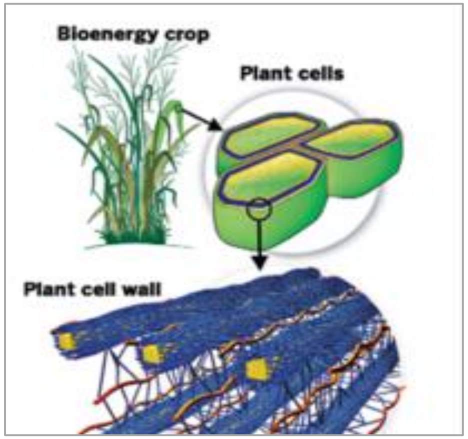
Chemicals from glucose conversion

Products	Price (THB)/kg	Applications
Gluconic acid	337	acidity regulator
Arabinose	1685-5055	sweetener
Xylitol	33.7-168.5	sweetener
Formic acid	16.513-18.53	preservative and antibacterial agent, use in cleaning products, dyeing and finishing textiles products, and use in direct formic acid fuel cell (DFAFC)

Chemicals from lignin conversion

Products	Price (THB)/kg	Applications
2-methyl naphtalene	33.7-50.55	textile dyeing, printing and metal surface water treatment and chelating, used in organic synthesis,pesticide, pharmaceutical and dyne intermedite
4-hydroxy-benzaldehyde	33.7-3370	pharmaceutical intermediate, antiallergic agent blood system agent and anesthetic agents
Vanillin	33.7-505.5	synthetic flavor and fragrance
4'-hydroxy-acetophenone	3370	used in the manufacture of medicinal reagent

Theme 3: Biomass Pretreatment



Photocatalytic Pretreatment of Biomass

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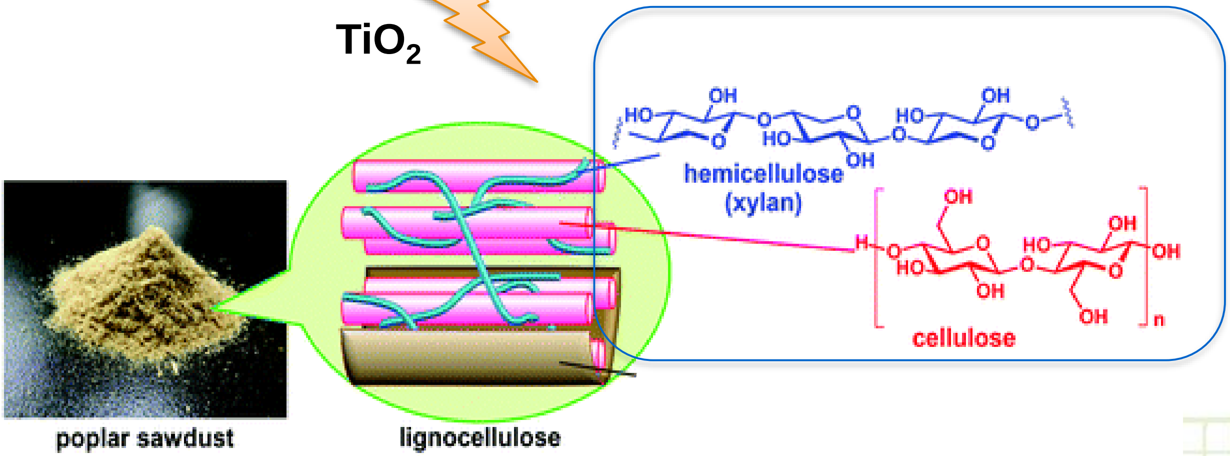
Concept of Photocatalytic Pretreatment of Biomass

TiO_2



Biomass structure

Enzymatic hydrolysis

Glucose, fructose, xylose

Photocatalytic process

High-value chemicals

Photocatalytic Pretreatment of Biomass

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① **Blank Pretreatment**

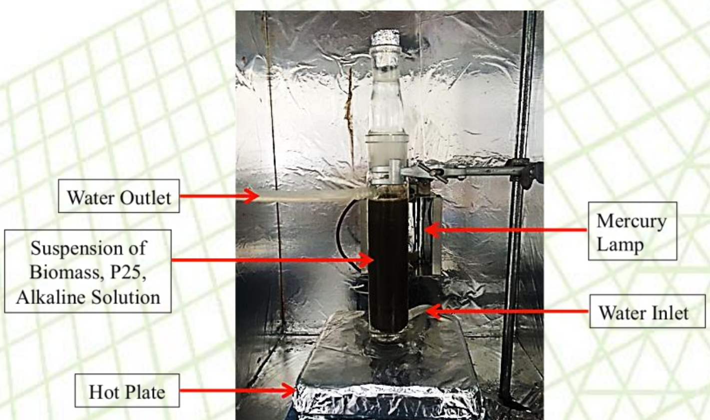
Pretreated suspension filtrated by vacuum filter

Filtration

Liquid Product

Further product analysis by HPLC

② **Photocatalytic Pretreatment**

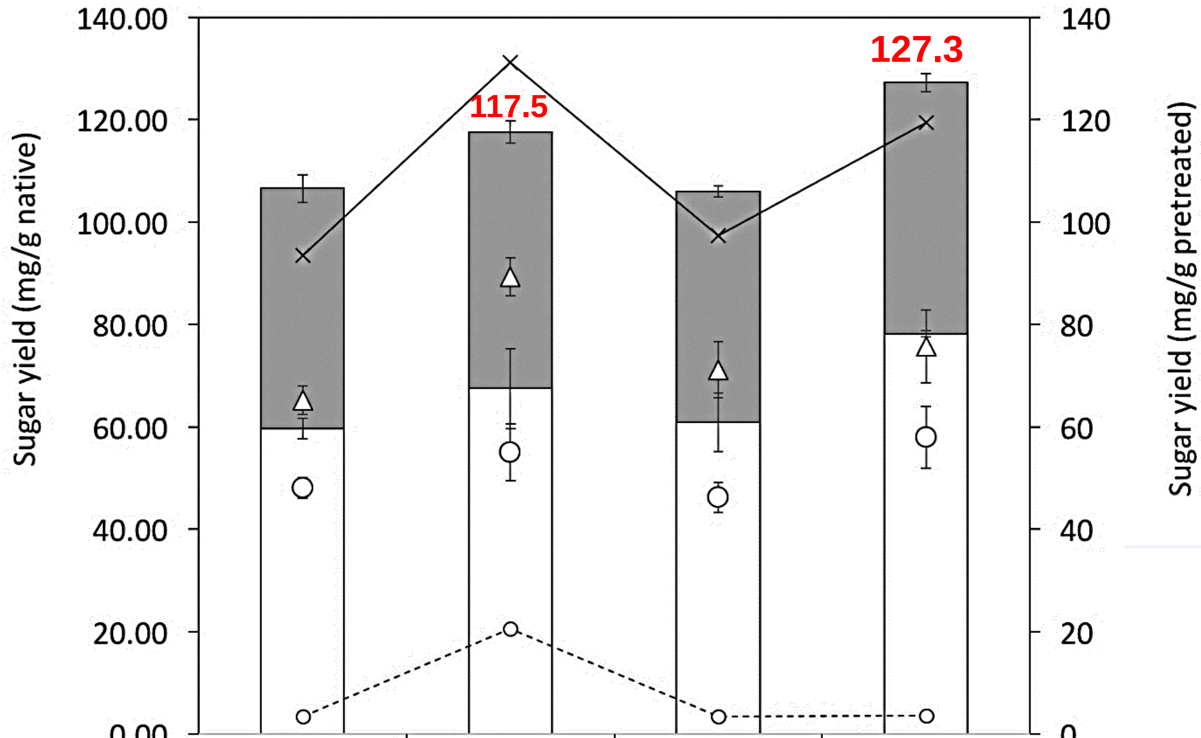


Solid Product (neutral)

Dilute with DI water until neutral

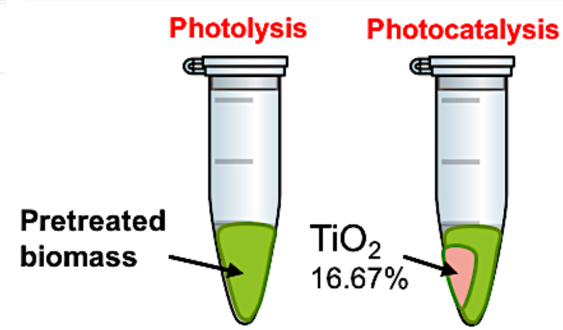
Further enzymatic hydrolysis

Photocatalytic Pretreatment of Biomass



	Bagasse + H2O	Bagasse + H2O + UV	Bagasse + H2O + TiO2	Bagasse + H2O + TiO2 + UV
Pentose(mg/g native)	47.00	50.09	45.12	49.07
Glucose(mg/g native)	59.60	67.46	60.88	78.18
O Pentose (mg/g pretreated)	48.11	55.00	46.23	57.91
Δ Glucose (mg/g pretreated)	65.18	89.36	71.09	75.71
Total sugar (mg/g pretreated)	93.53	131.22	97.27	119.49
Weight loss (%)	3.48	20.64	3.42	3.65
Catalyst in Solid Phase (%)	0.00	0.00	16.47	16.67

Condition:
Biomass = 7.5 g
Solvent (water) = 150 ml
TiO_2 = 1.5 g
Temperature = 25 °C
Time = 24 h



Sugar digestibility yields in photocatalytic pretreatment (solvent = water) compared with blanks (no catalyst and/or no UV irradiation).

Overall Research Outputs

Overall Research Outputs

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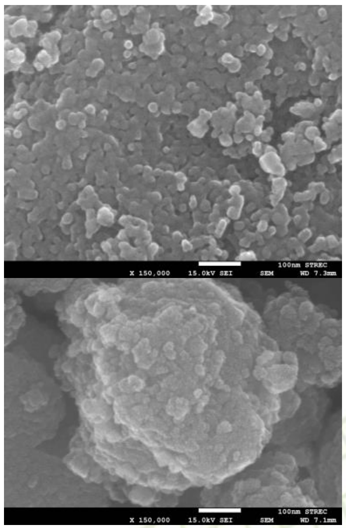
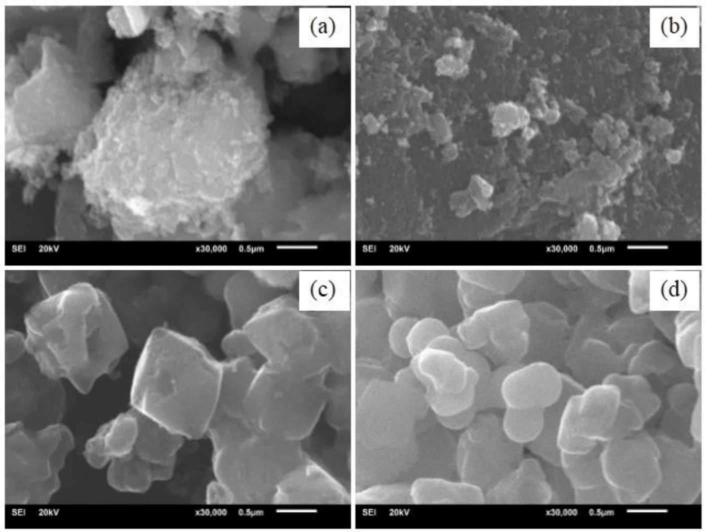
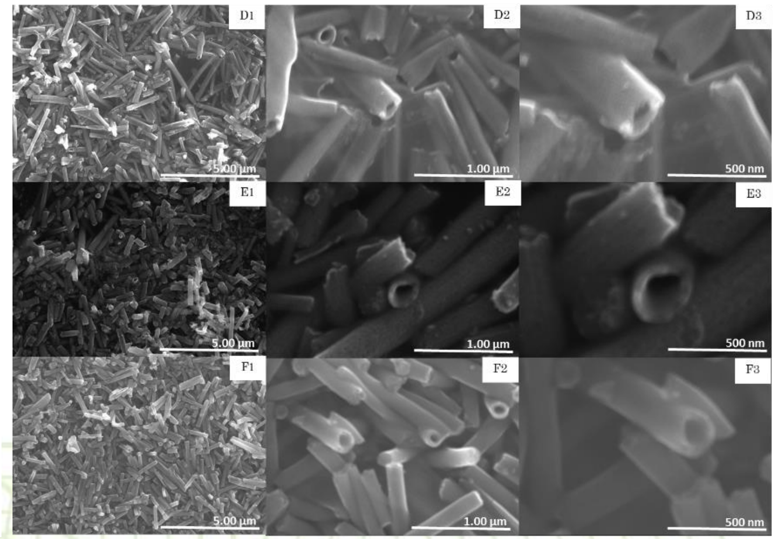
Synthesized Photocatalysts



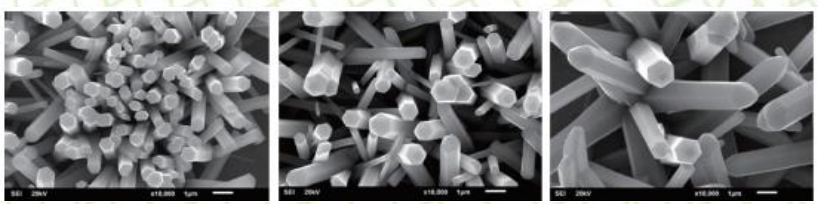
TiO_2 nanoparticles



Zeolite supported TiO_2



TiO_2 nanofibers and nanotubes



TiO_2 nanowires

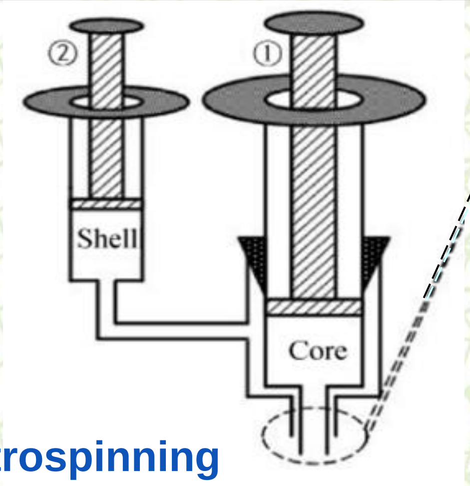
High-value chemicals

- Xylitol
- Gluconic acid
- Arabinose
- Formic acid
- Vanillin
- 2-methyl naphtalene
- 4-hydroxy-benzaldehyde
- *Etc.*

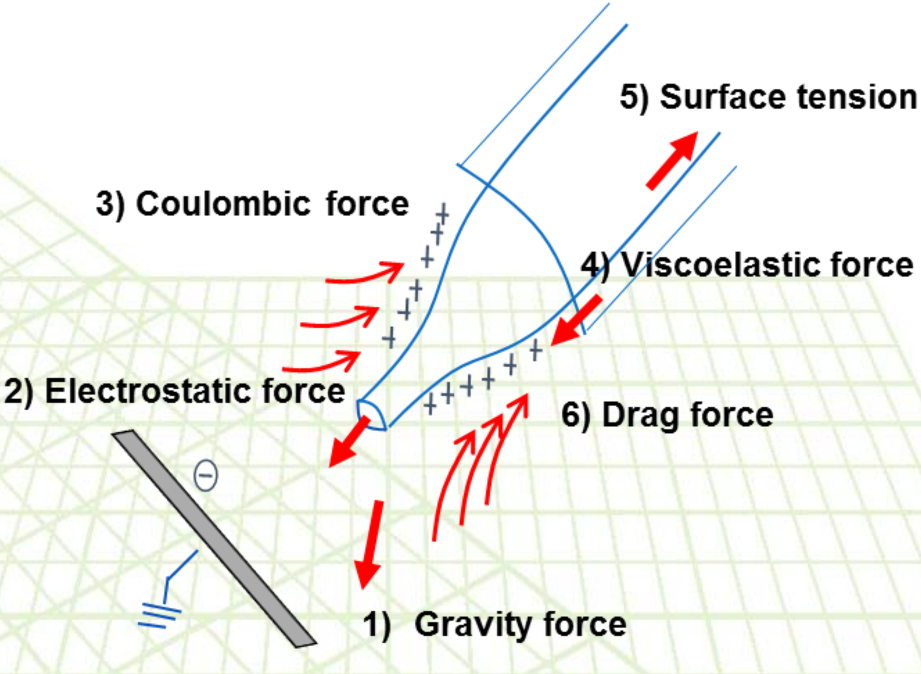
Electrospinning

Electrospinning is a technique to produce the polymer nanofibers from a wide variety of materials and versatile applications.
Different methods of electrospinning:

1. Direct electrospinning
2. Emulsion electrospinning
3. Coaxial electrospinning

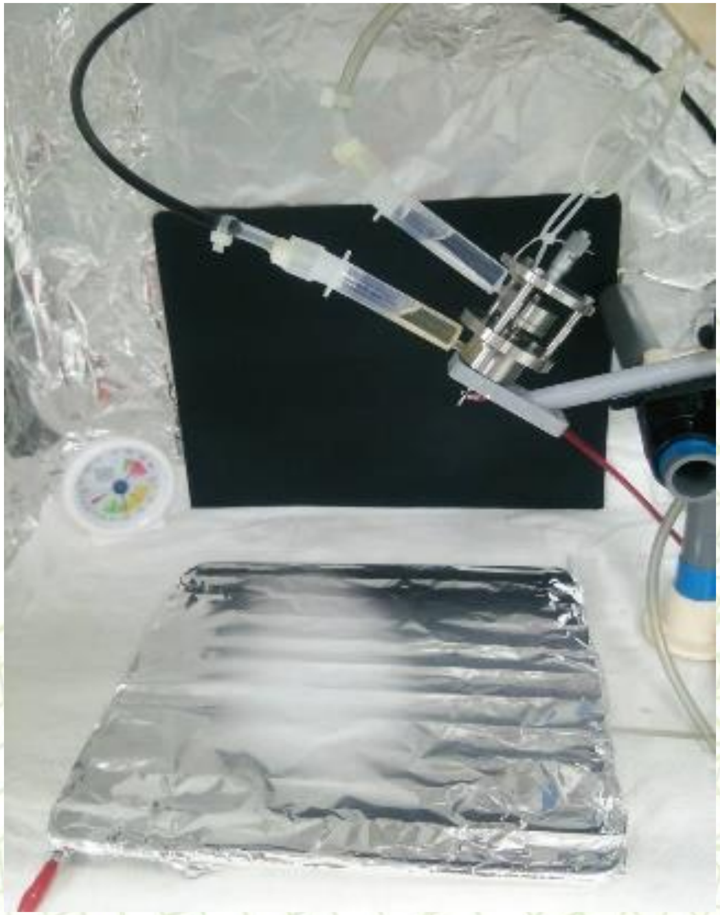


Coaxial electrospinning with two-capillary spinneret.



Electrospinning force balance

Electrospinning



Experimental setup

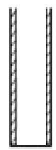
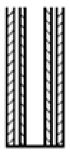
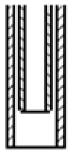
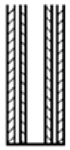
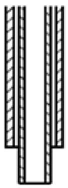
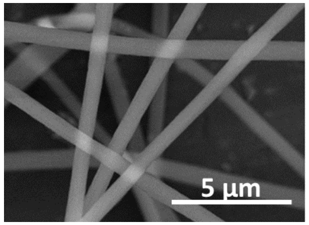
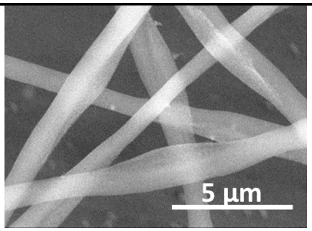
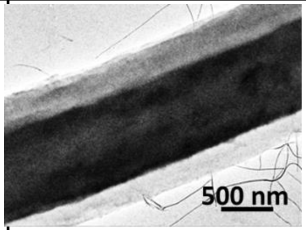
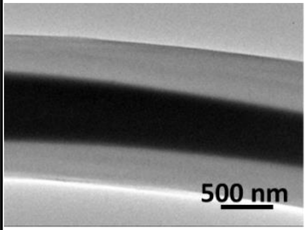
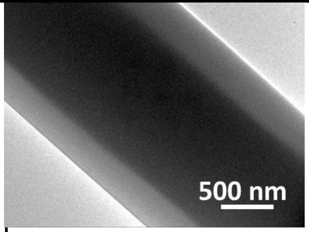
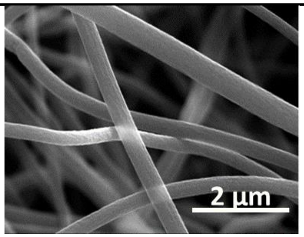
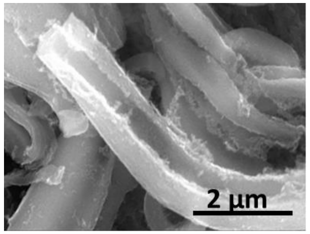
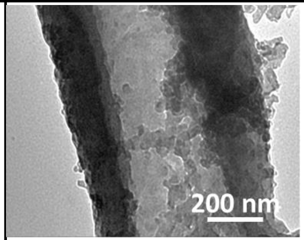
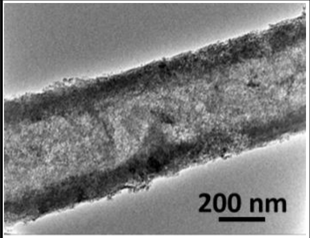
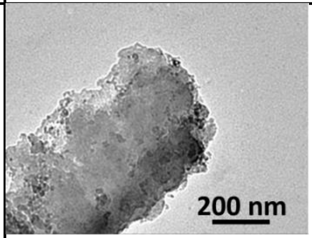
Internal factors:

- **Type of polymer,**
- **Type of solvent,**
- **Solution concentration (viscosity),**
- **Solution conductivity*, etc.***

External factors:

- **Collecting distance,**
- **Applied voltage,**
- **Solution flow rate,**
- **Ambient temperature, humidity*, etc***

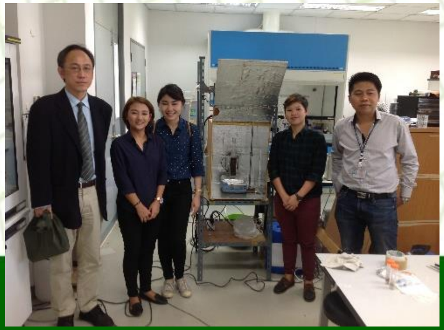
Balance levels of inner/outer nozzle end

	SEM Images		TEM Images		
Nanofibers	**PAN**	**PAN/PMMA**	**PAN/PMMA**		
Nozzle	**Single nozzle**	**Coaxial nozzle**	**Inward**	**Normal**	**Outward**
Illustration					
As spun nanofiber ***(Before calcination)***					
Carbon Nanofiber ***(After calcination)***					

Project Outputs

Exchange Researches

Name	Exchange Period	Research Topic
Ms. Kamonchanok Roongraung	18 Feb 2016 – 19 July 2016	Nano-scaled Photocatalysts for Energy Applications
Mr. Suriyachai Nopparat	28 Sep 2016 – 31 May 2017	Modification of Visible Light Photocatalytic Activity for Biomass Conversion to Value-added Chemicals
Ms. Nutsanun Klueb-arb	14 Nov 2016 – 23 Dec 2016	A Study of Reaction Pathways in Photocatalytic Conversion of Sugars to High-Value Fuels and Chemicals
Ms. Puangphen Hongdilokkul	14 Nov 2016 – 23 Dec 2016	Photocatalytic Upgrading of Lignin to High Value Products by Nanostructured Catalysts
Ms. Kanyanee Sanglee	6 Feb 2017 – 17 Mar 2017	Development of Visible-Light Irradiation Responded Metal Oxide for Photocatalytic and Photovoltaic Applications



Project Outputs

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Papers

- Navaporn Kaerkitcha, Surawut Chuangchote, and Takashi Sagawa (2016) "Control of physical properties of carbon nanofibers obtained from coaxial electrospinning of PMMA and PAN with adjustable inner/outer nozzle-ends," *Nanoscale Research Letters*, 11(1), 1-9.

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