

Greener Solvents

Dr. Tamer Andrea
Queen's University



GreenCentre Canada

The Commercialization Gap



Typical stage of university technologies:

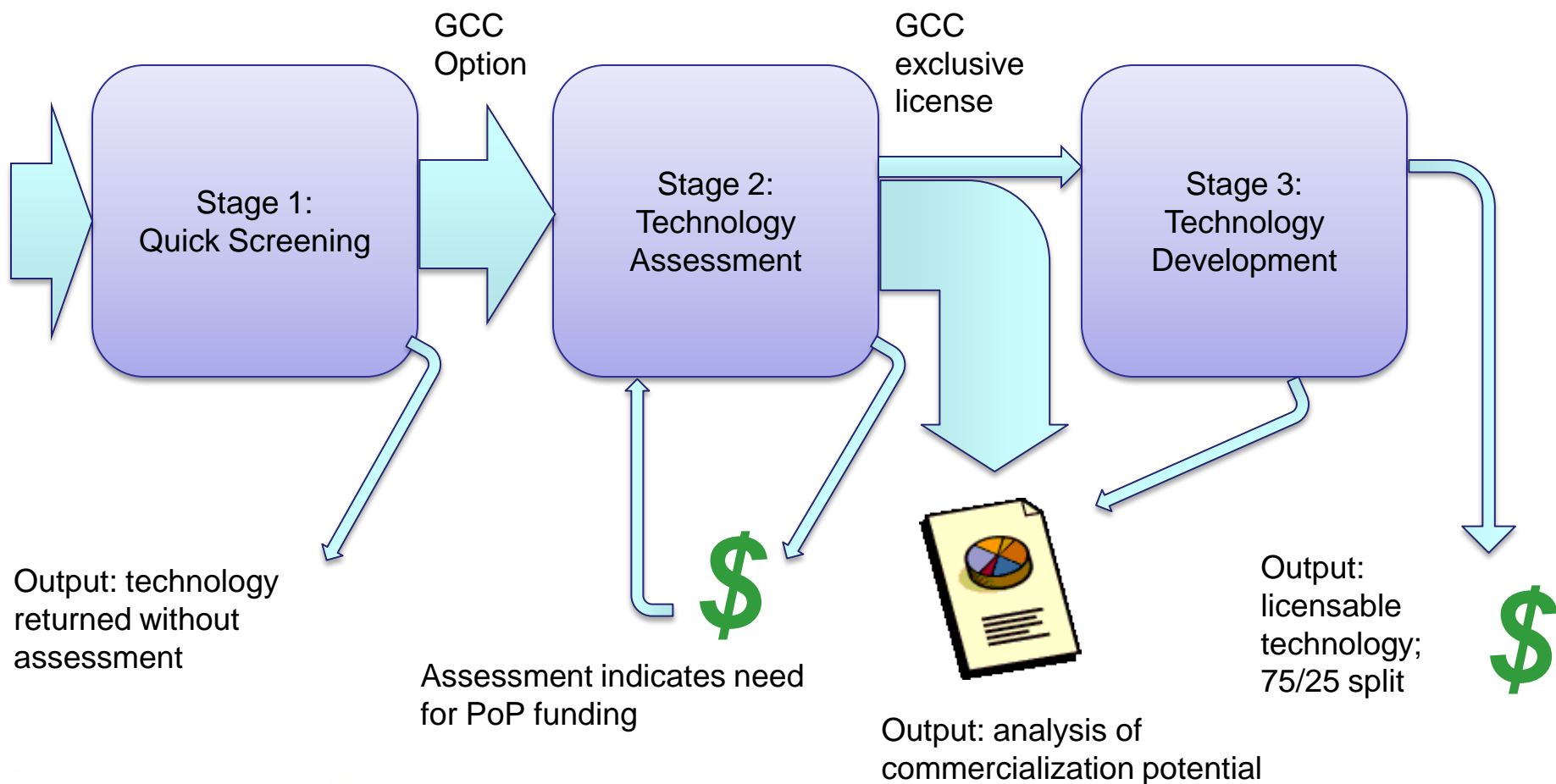
- Bench-test proof of utility
- Applications speculative and unproven
- Incomplete material characterization
- Grams of sample
- Manufacturing feasibility not studied



What Industry wants:

- Demonstrated scale-up
- Optimization
- Field-test proof of utility
- Kilograms of sample

Process for Technology Disclosures



Green Solvents

Dr. Philip Jessop
Queen's University



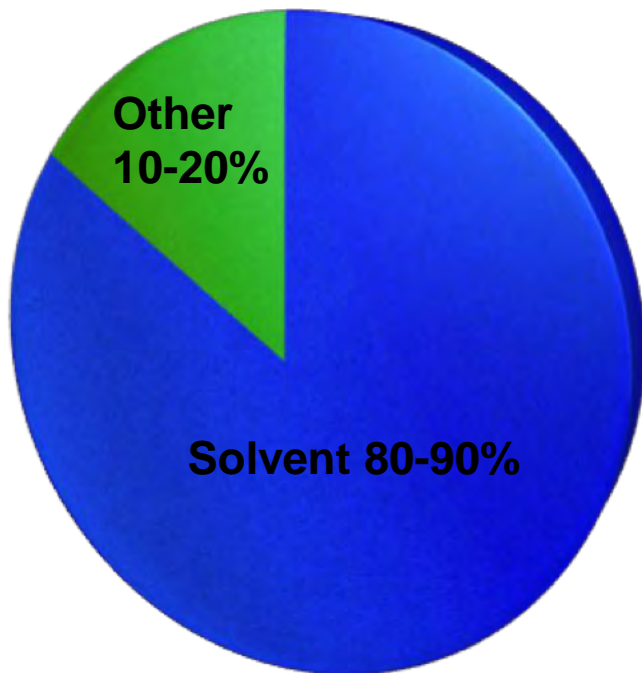
GOALS OF GREEN CHEMISTRY: REDUCE SOLVENT USE

$$\text{"E" factor} = \frac{\text{Mass of waste}}{\text{Mass of product}}$$

Industry segment	Product tonnage	E factor
Bulk chemicals	$10^4 - 10^6$	<1 - 5
Fine chemicals	$10^3 - 10^4$	5 - 50
Pharmaceuticals	$10 - 10^3$	25 - over 100

R. Sheldon, CHEMTECH 1994, 38.

Mass utilization in fine chemical production



http://www.caraet.com/Waste_solvent.htm

Explosion, fire at Quebec plant two; 19 more sent to hospital

SHERBROOKE, Que. — The Canadian Press
Published Thursday, Nov. 08 2012, 3:11 PM EST



Hexane Leak Cited for Explosions At Soybean Plant

Radio Iowa, Des Moines; Associated Press

February 2008



Streets explode in Louisville, Kentucky
13 Feb 1981



Barton Solvents Plant, Jul 2007

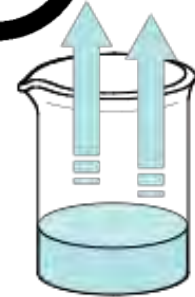
PROBLEMS WITH CURRENTLY USED SOLVENTS

In the US in the early 1990's:

- solvent production was 26 million tons p.a.
- of tracked chemicals, many of the top chemicals released or disposed of were solvents (MeOH, toluene, xylene, CS₂, MEK, CH₂Cl₂)

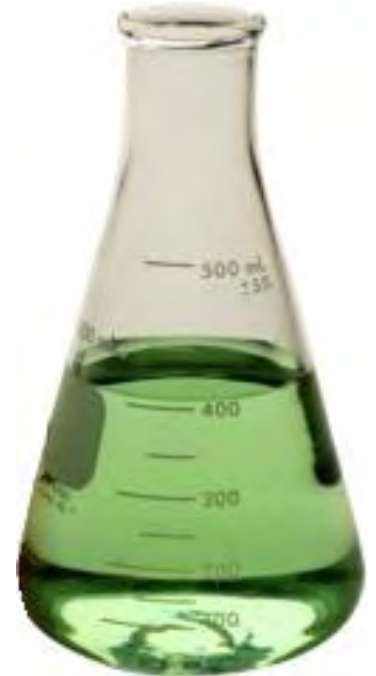
Organic solvent hazards

- flammable (almost all except chlorinated solvents)
- carcinogenic (chlorinated solvents and aromatics)
- high vapour pressure (i.e. inhalation route)
- narcotic (ether, chloroform)
- toxic (MeOH, CS₂)
- mutagens/teratogens (toluene)
- peroxides (ethers)
- smog formation



OUTLINE

1. Reducing the Impact of Solvents
2. Solvent Properties
3. Greener Conventional Solvents
4. Unconventional Solvents
5. Conclusions



DECREASING THE IMPACT OF SOLVENTS

1. Reduce the volume of solvent

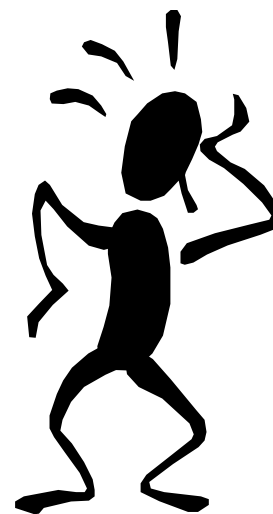
- use higher concentrations
- use solvent for more than one step

2. Make the solvents greener

- carefully chosen conventional solvents
- new green solvents

Murphy's Law of Solvents

“The best solvent for any process step is bad for the subsequent step.”



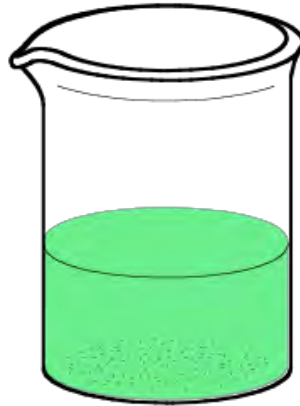
AN IMAGINARY PROCESS

Step 1



high
polarity
solvent

Step 2



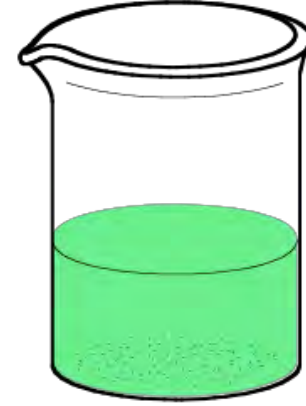
low
polarity
solvent

Step 3



high
polarity
solvent

Step 4

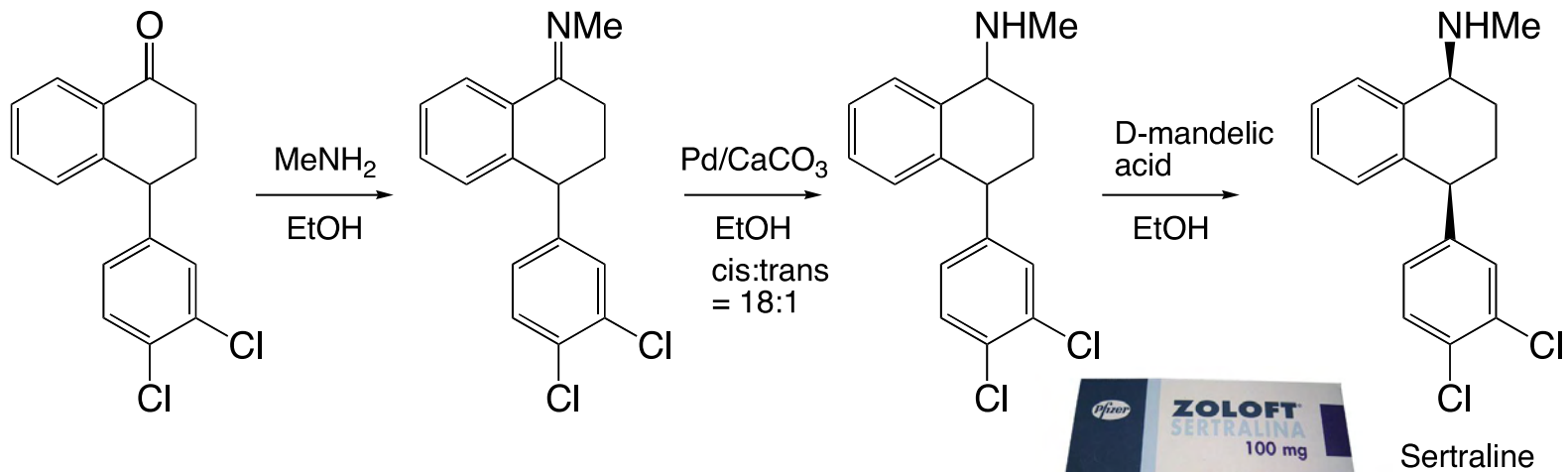
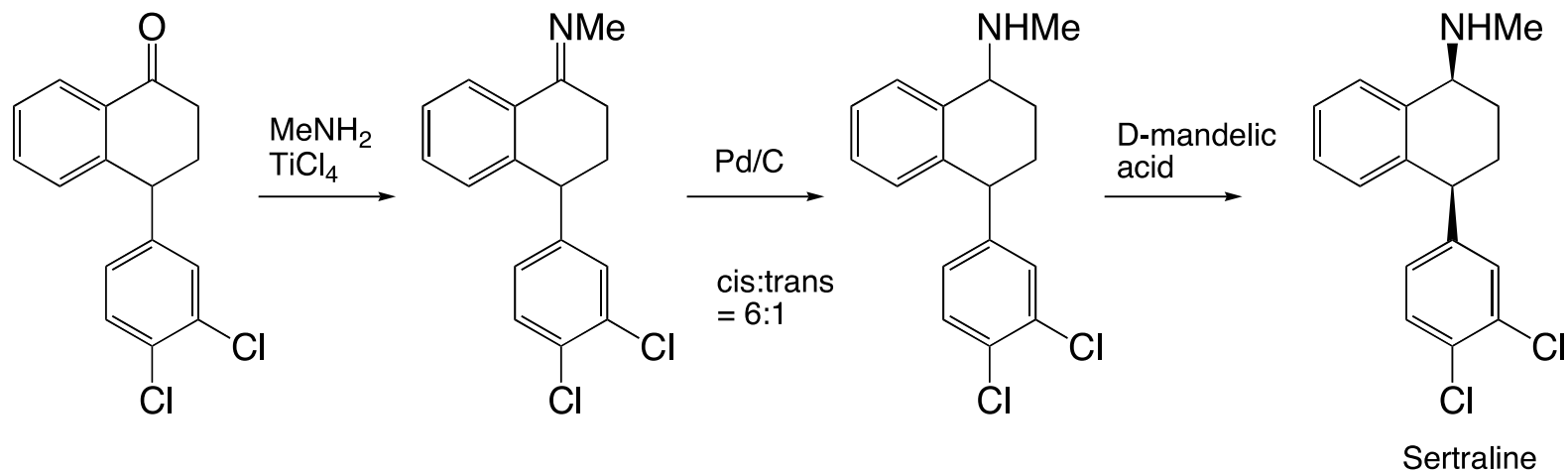


low
polarity
solvent

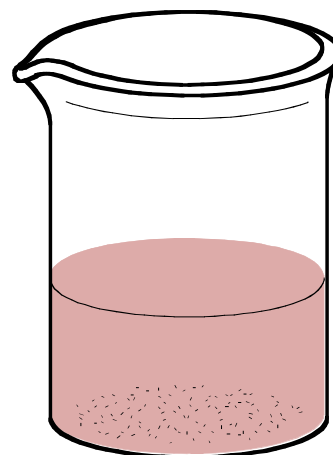
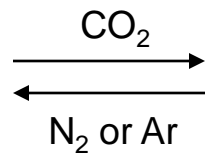
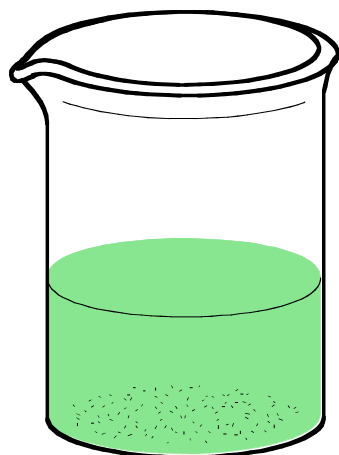
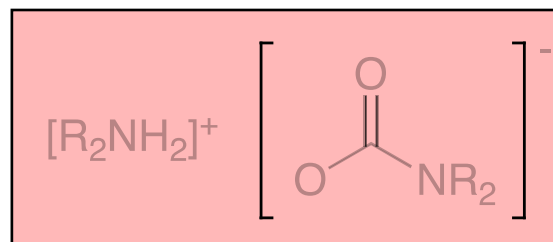
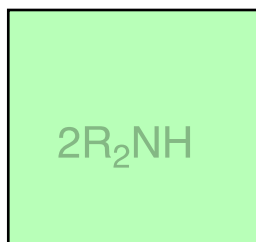
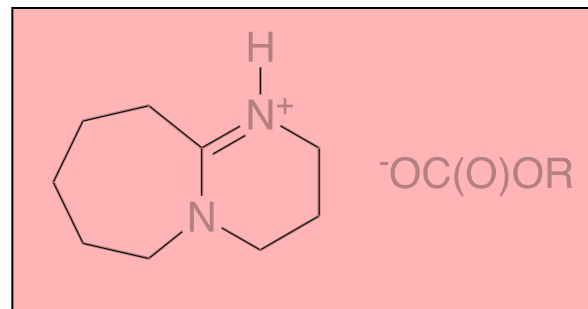
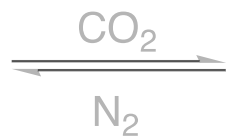
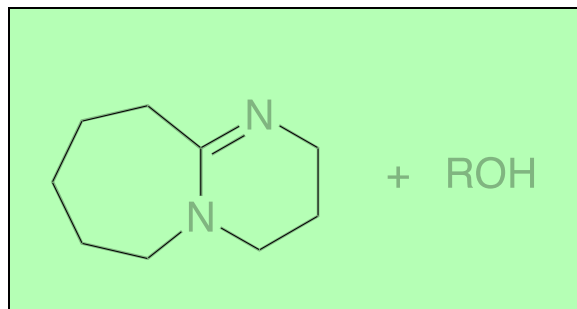
Solving Murphy's Law of Solvents

1. A Compromise Solvent
2. A Switchable Solvent

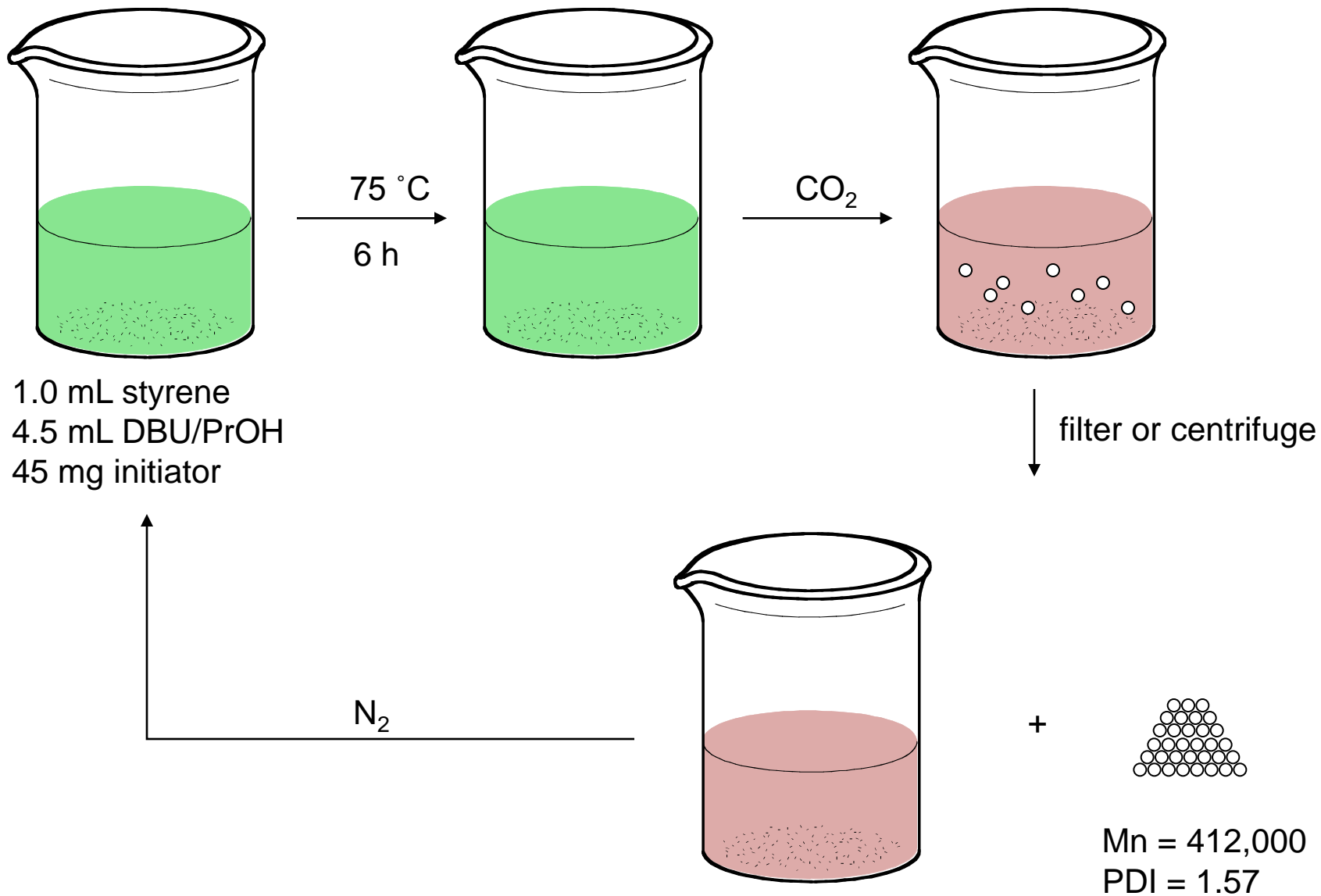
CAREFUL SELECTION OF A TRADITIONAL SOLVENT



SWITCHABLE-POLARITY SOLVENT



APPLICATION TO POLYSTYRENE SYNTHESIS



DECREASING THE IMPACT OF SOLVENTS

1. Reduce the volume of solvent

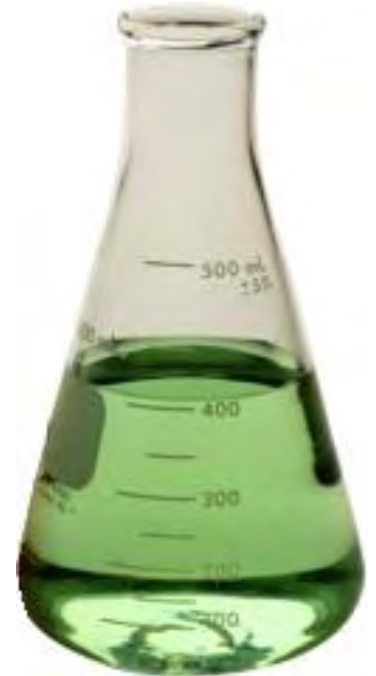
- use higher concentrations
- use solvent for more than one step

2. Make the solvents greener

- carefully chosen conventional solvents
- unconventional solvents

OUTLINE

1. Reducing the Impact of Solvents
2. Solvent Properties
3. Greener Conventional Solvents
4. Unconventional Solvents
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PROPERTIES OF CONCERN

For green-ness

boiling point / energy to distill

flash point

energy to distill

cumulative energy demand

the 10 factors

For utility

polarity

basicity / hydrogen-bond accepting ability

acidity / hydrogen-bond donating ability

viscosity

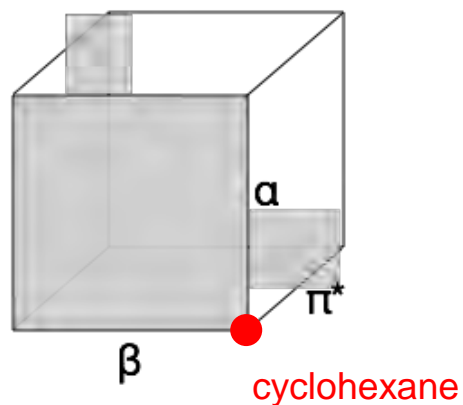
THE TOOLBOX ANALOGY



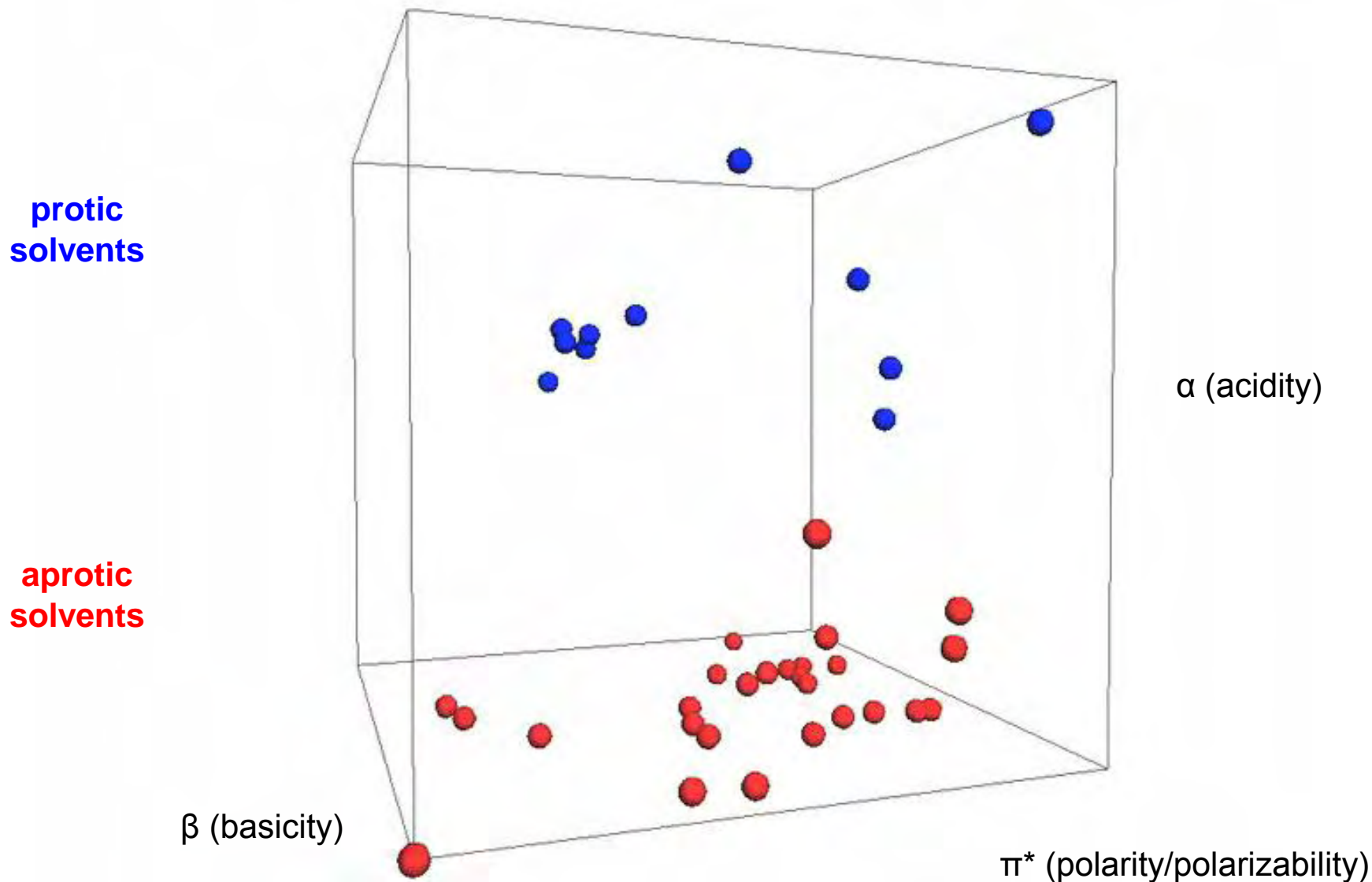
high basicity, low polarity

KAMLET-TAFT SOLVATOCHROMIC PARAMETERS

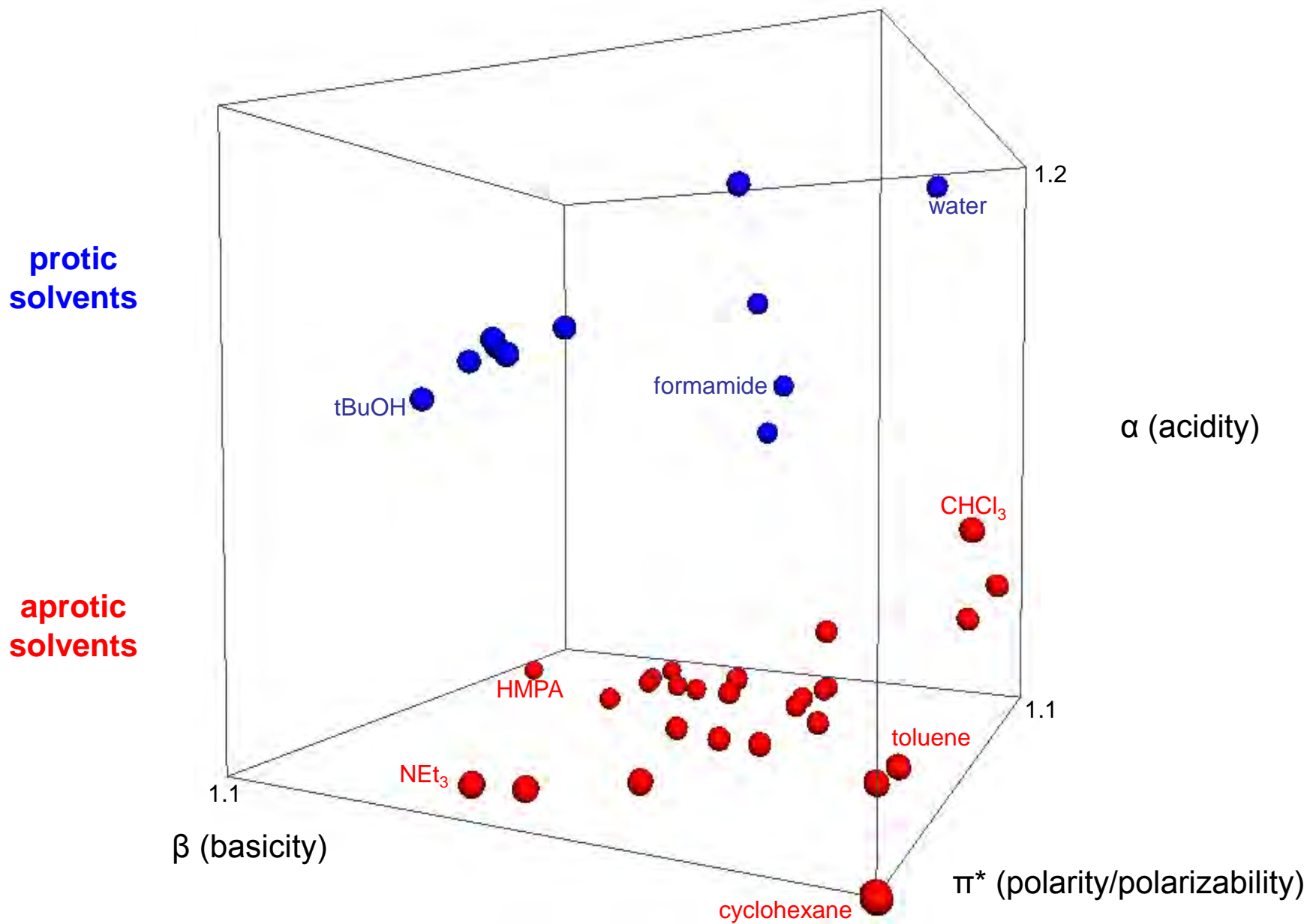
Solvent	α acidity or proticity or H-bond donating ability	β basicity or H-bond accepting ability	π^* polarity & polarizability
cyclohexane	0	0	0
benzene	0	0.1	0.59
MeCN	0.19	0.31	0.75
NEt ₃	0.14	0.71	0
water	1.17	0.47	1.09



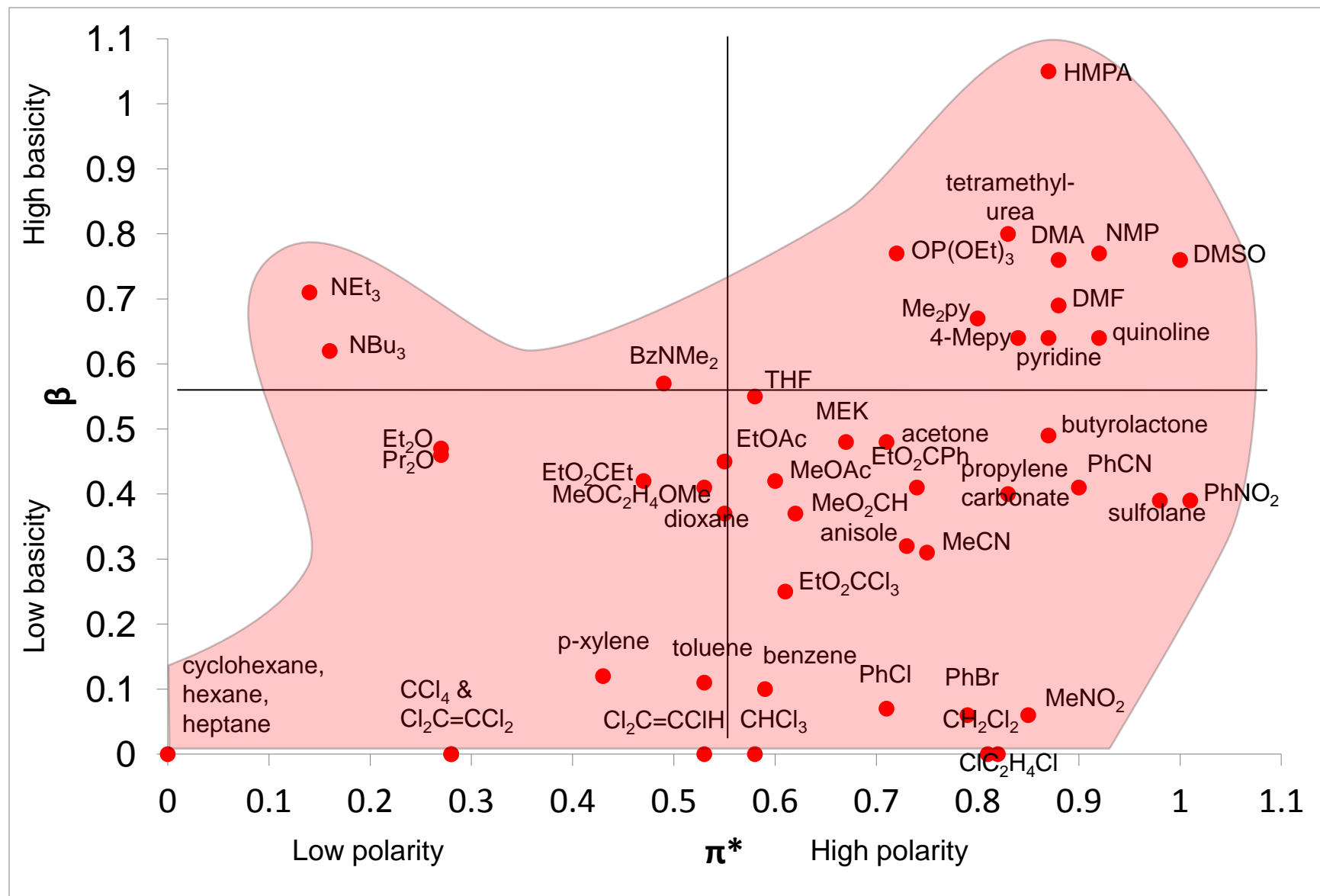
KAMLET-TAFT SOLVATOCHROMIC PARAMETERS



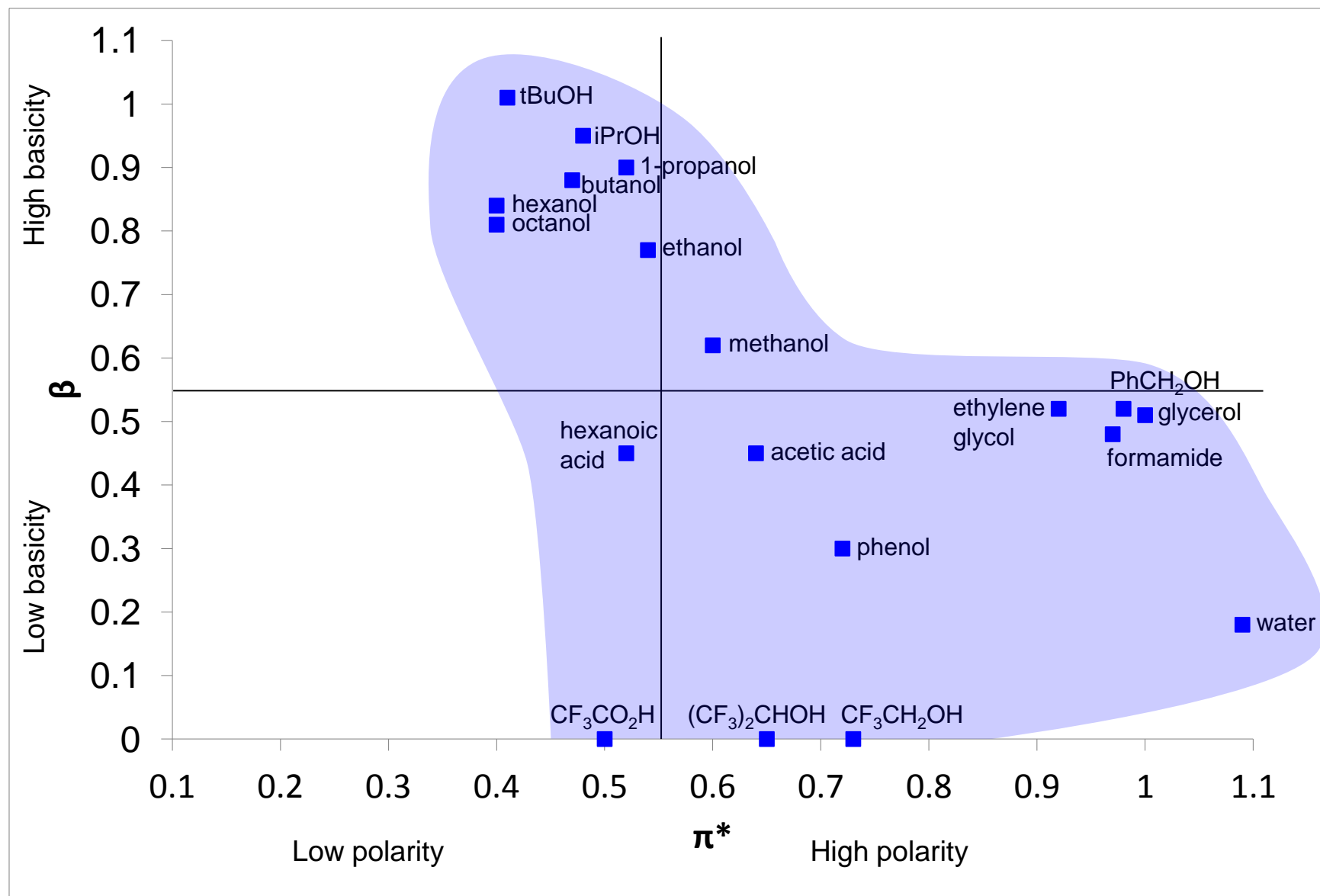
KAMLET-TAFT SOLVATOCHROMIC PARAMETERS



SURVEY OF SOLVENTS (APROTIC)

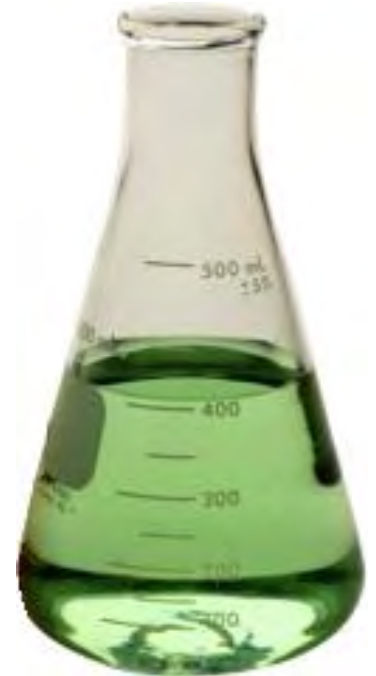


SURVEY OF SOLVENTS (PROTIC)



OUTLINE

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PFIZER SOLVENT SELECTION GUIDE

Water

Acetone

Ethanol

2-Propanol

1-Propanol

Heptane

Ethyl Acetate

Isopropyl acetate

Methanol

MEK

1-Butanol

t-Butanol

Cyclohexane

Toluene

Methylcyclohexane

TBME

Isooctane

Acetonitrile

2-MeTHF

THF

Xylenes

DMSO

Acetic Acid

Ethylene Glycol

Pentane

Hexane(s)

Di-isopropyl ether

Diethyl ether

Dichloromethane

Dichloroethane

Chloroform

NMP

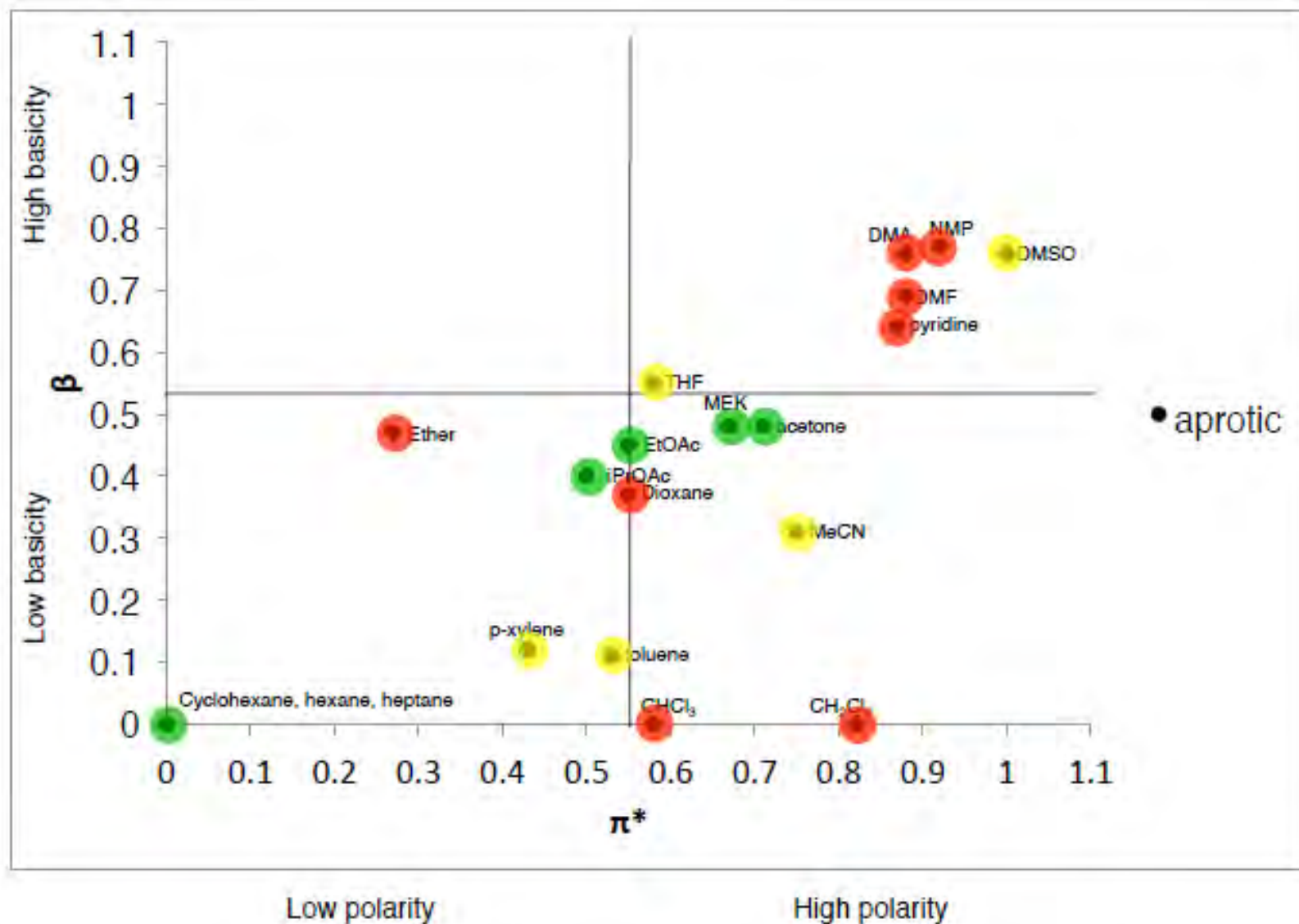
DMF

Pyridine

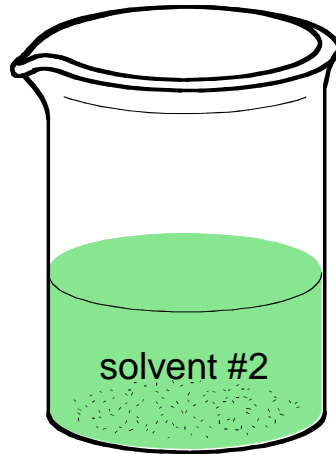
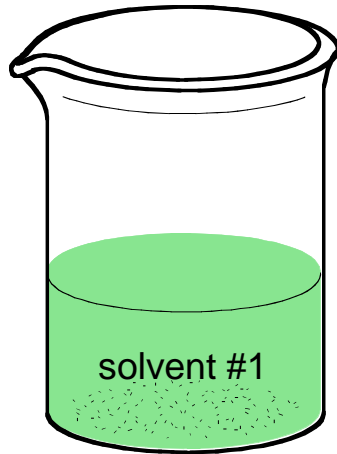
DMAc

Dioxane

Dimethoxyethane



WHICH SOLVENT IS GREENER?



General Comparison

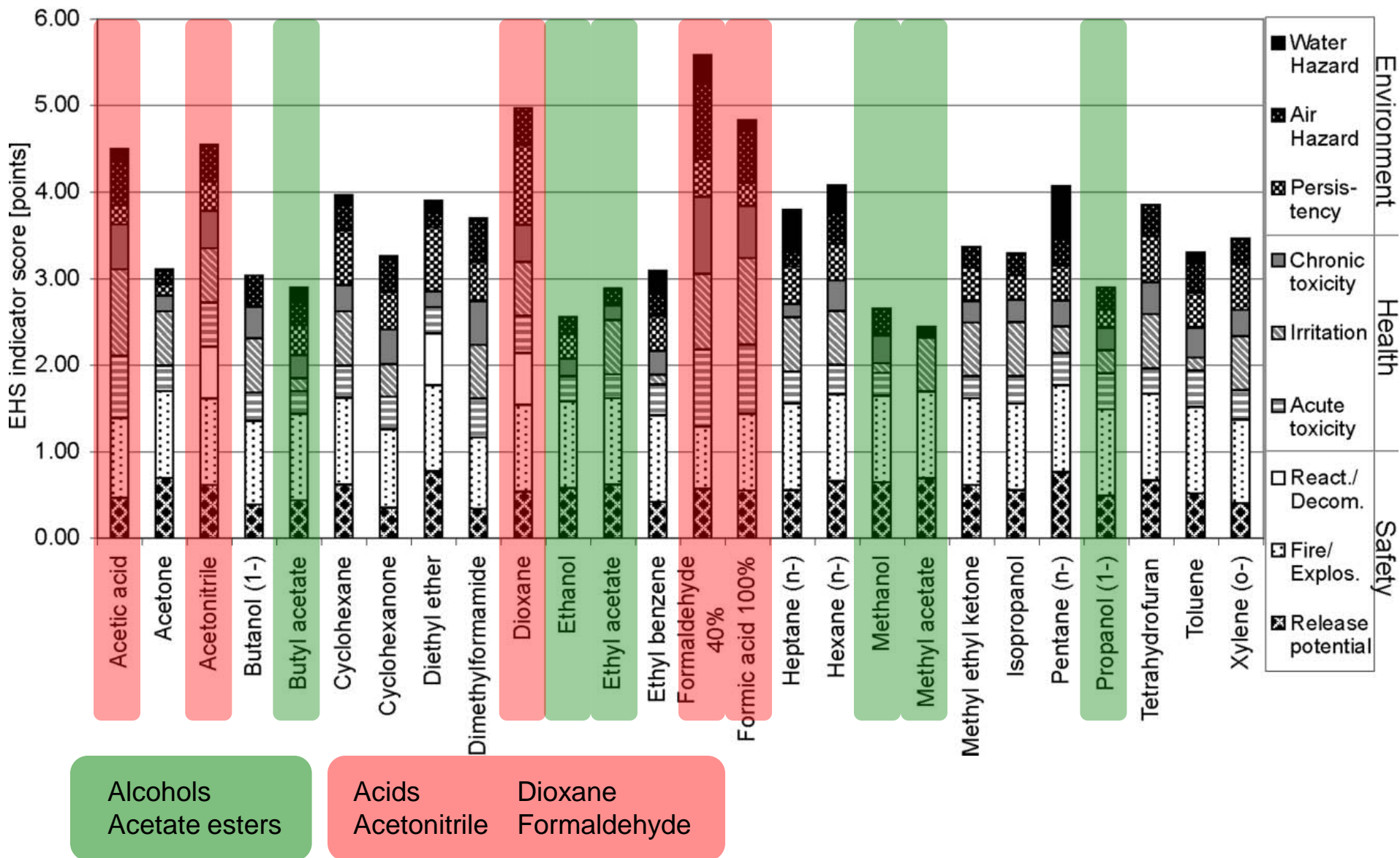
- solvent impact
- solvent impact including manufacture
- energy to manufacture / cumulative energy demand

Application-Specific Comparison

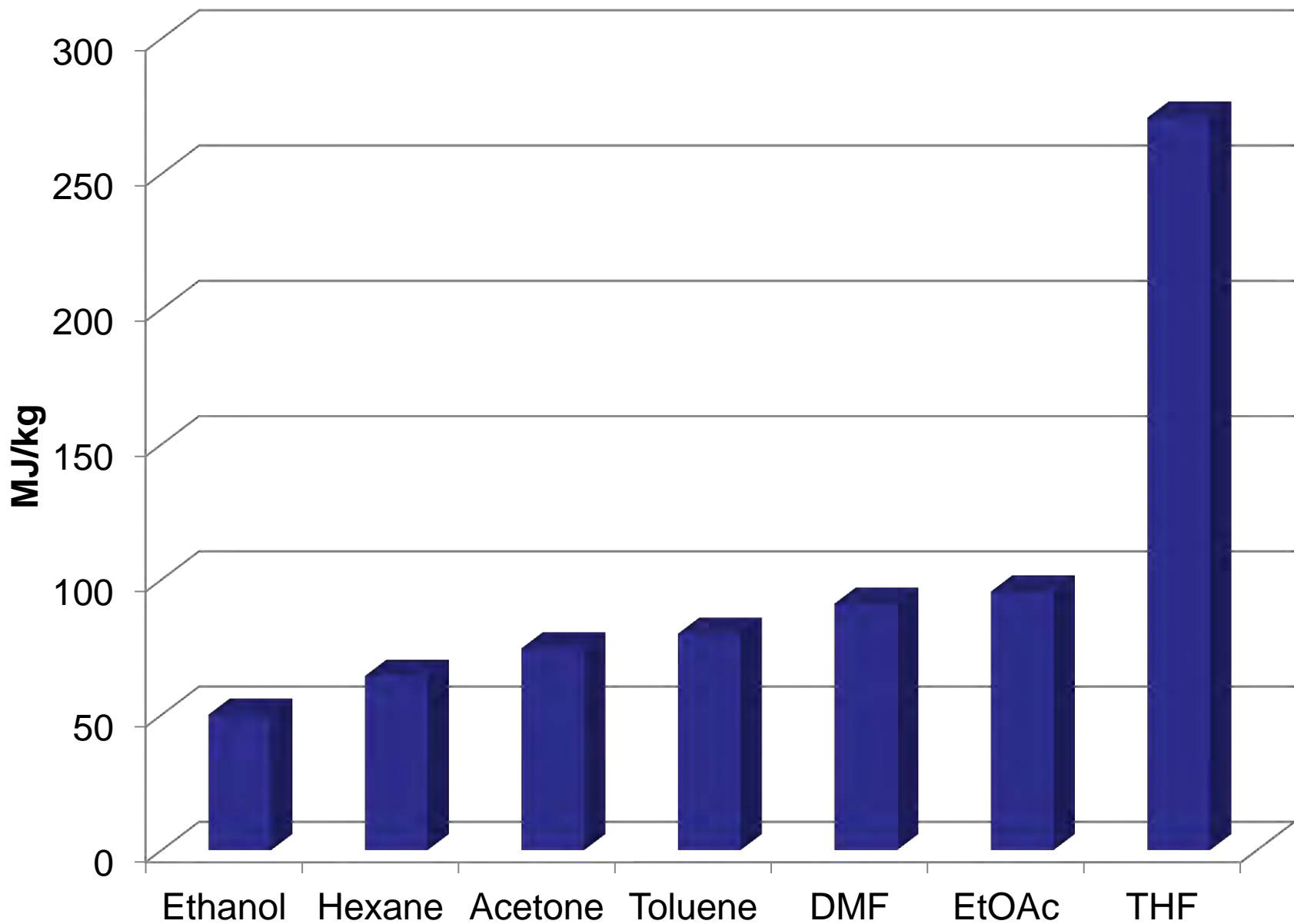
- ISO LCA

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS

EHS assessment of organic solvents

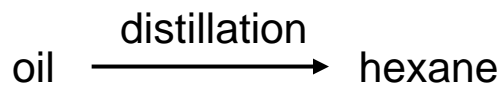


ENERGY REQUIREMENT FOR MANUFACTURE

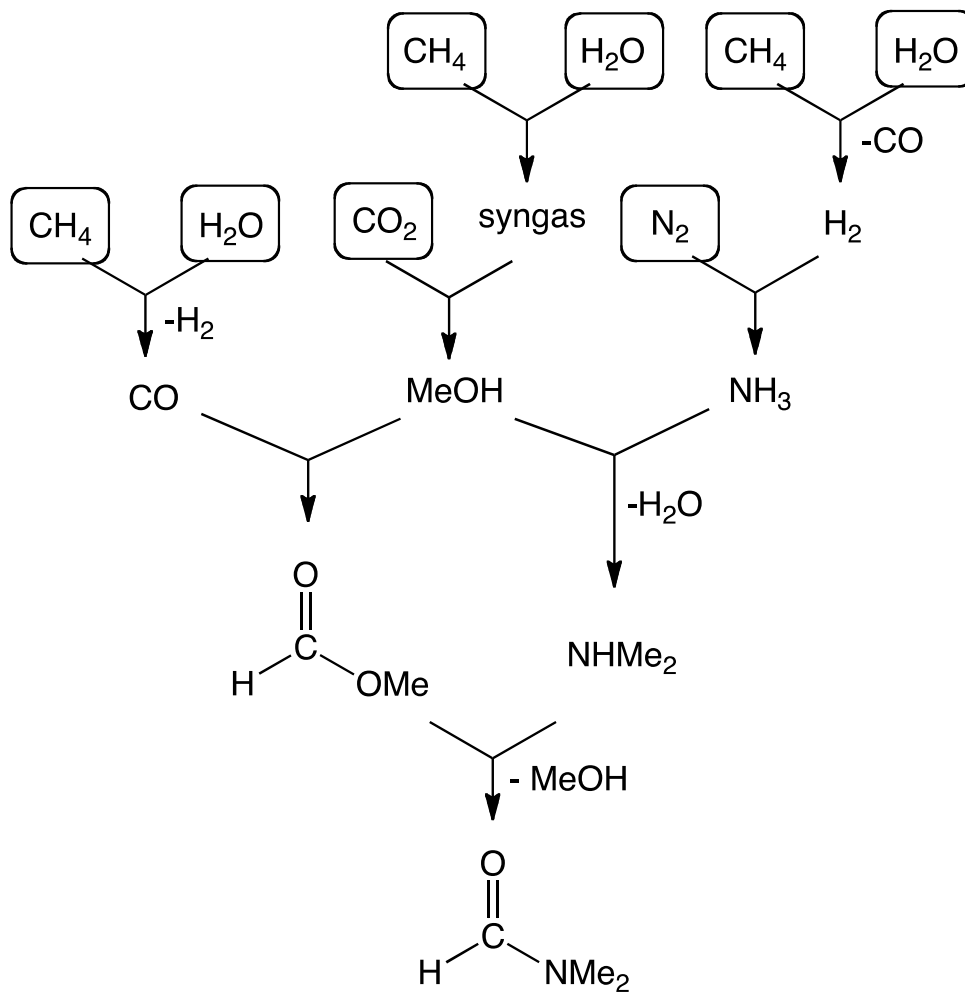


ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOLVENT

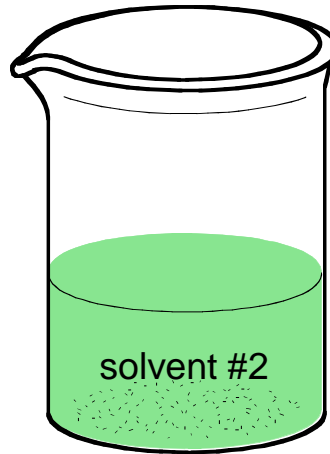
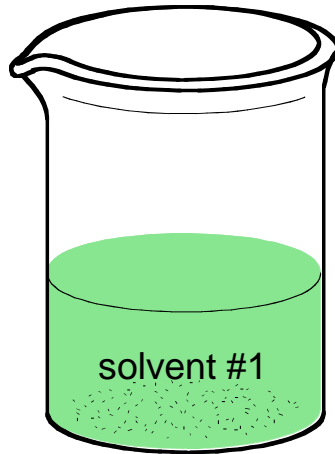
How is hexane made?



How is DMF made?



WHICH SOLVENT IS GREENER?



General Comparison

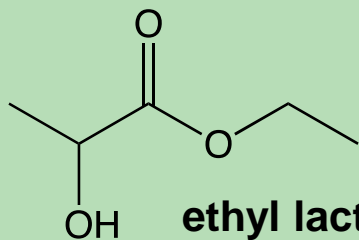
- solvent impact
- solvent impact including manufacture
- energy to manufacture / cumulative energy demand

Application-Specific Comparison

- ISO LCA

Why would this give a different result?

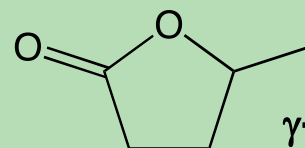
PROPOSED NEW GREEN ORGANIC SOLVENTS



ethyl lactate

low toxicity, biodegradable, renewable

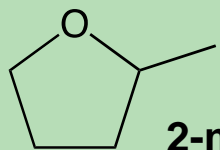
Aparicio, *Green Chem.* (2009) 11, 65



γ -valerolactone

low toxicity, biodegradable, renewable

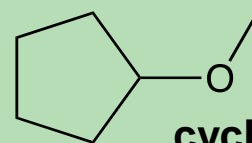
Horvath, *Green Chem.*, 2008, 10, 238



2-methyltetrahydrofuran

renewable

Aycock, *Org. Process Res. Dev.* 2007, 11, 156

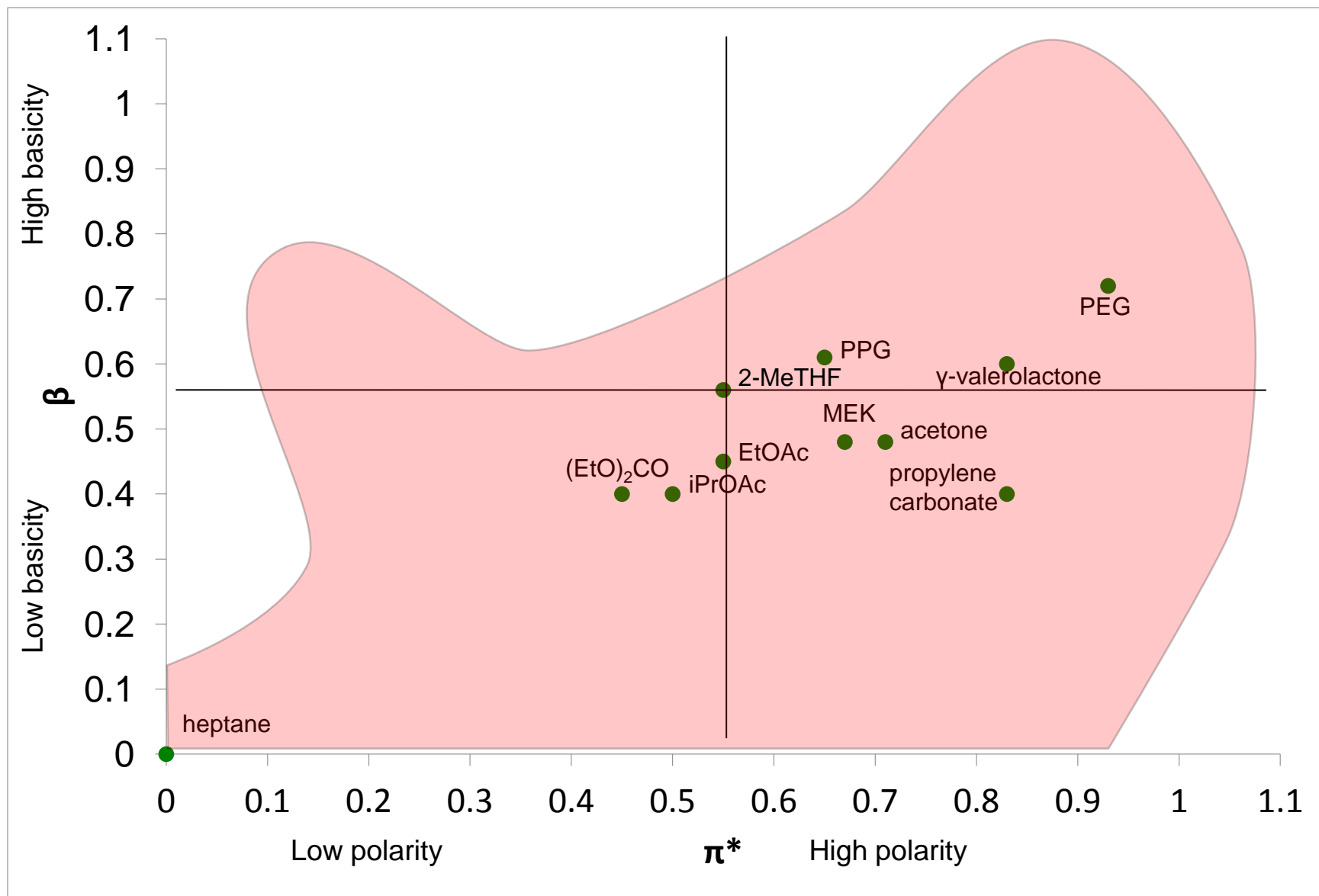


cyclopentylmethylether

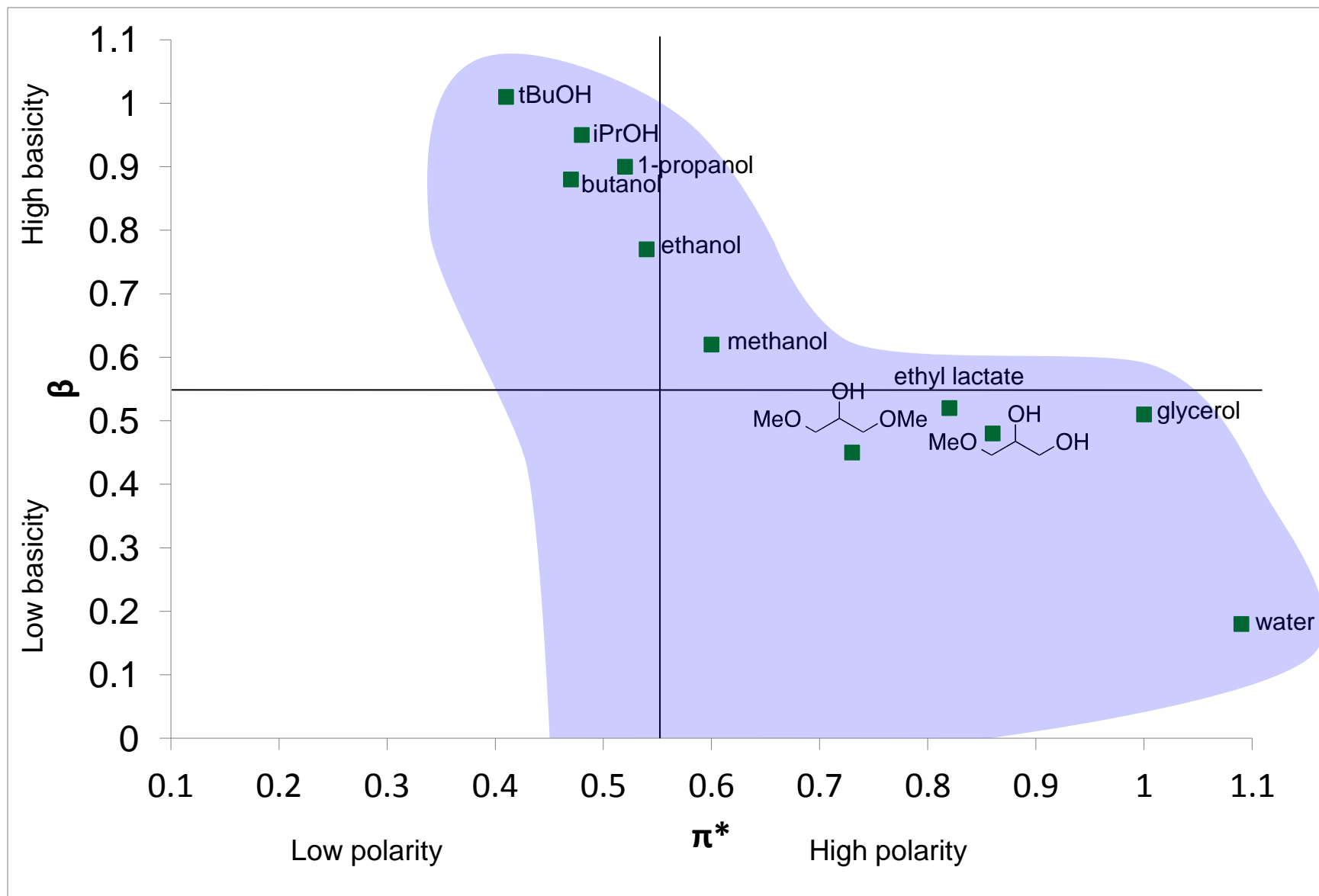
doesn't form peroxides, low solubility in water

Watanabe, *Org. Process Res. Dev.* 2007, 11, 251

GREEN SOLVENTS (APROTIC)

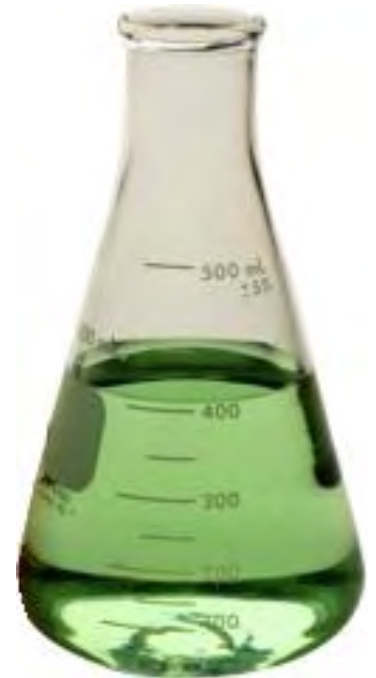


GREEN SOLVENTS (PROTIC)

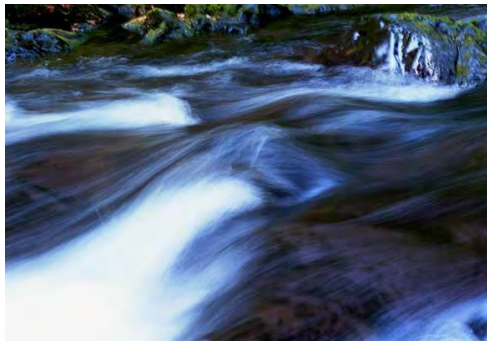


OUTLINE

1. Reducing the Impact of Solvents
2. Solvent Properties
3. Greener Conventional Solvents
4. Unconventional Solvents
5. Conclusions



UNCONVENTIONAL SOLVENTS



water



liquid polymer



switchable solvent



supercritical CO₂



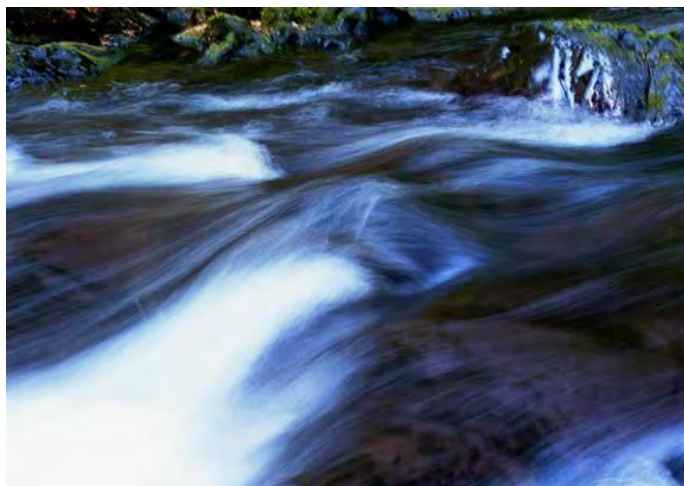
ionic liquid



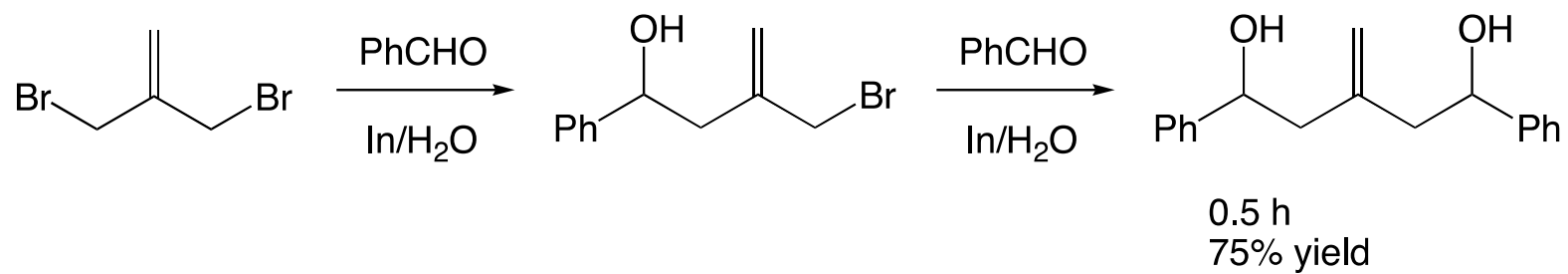
CO₂-expanded liquid

IN WATER

Why not water?

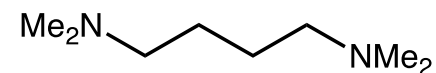
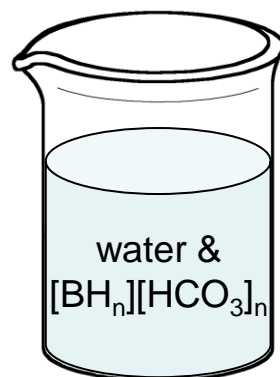
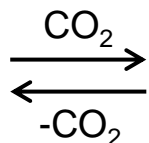
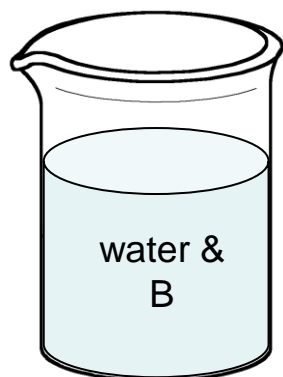


http://students.washington.edu/~haoli/photo_gallery/archives/olympic/



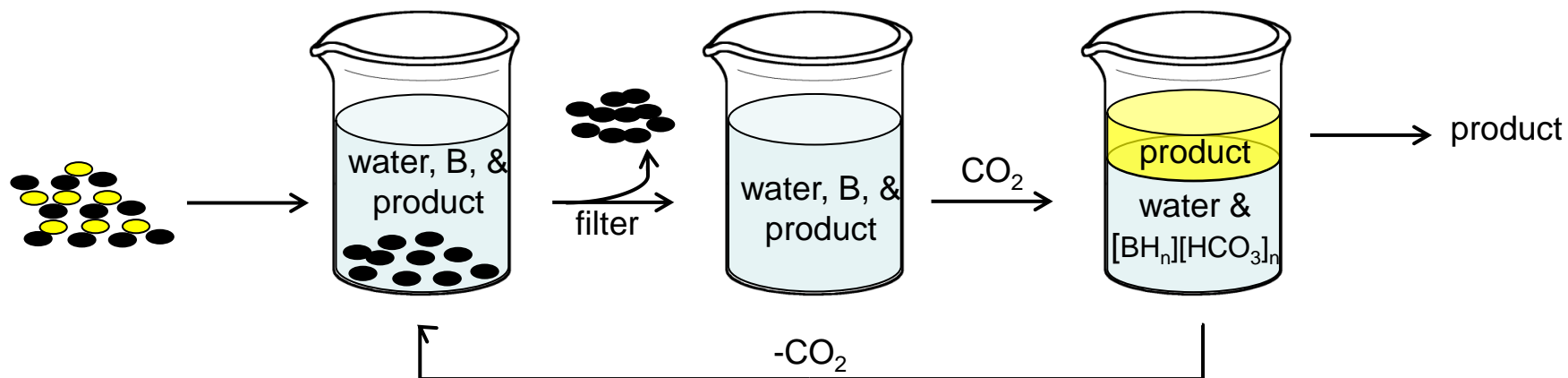
Li, 1995

SWITCHABLE WATER



- low ionic strength
- low osmotic pressure
- good solvent for polar organics

- high ionic strength
- high osmotic pressure
- poor solvent for polar organics



IONIC LIQUIDS



NaCl, mp 801 °C



NaBF₄, mp 384 °C



[P'Bu₃Me]O₃SC₆H₄Me, mp < RT

Nonvolatile

Nonflammable

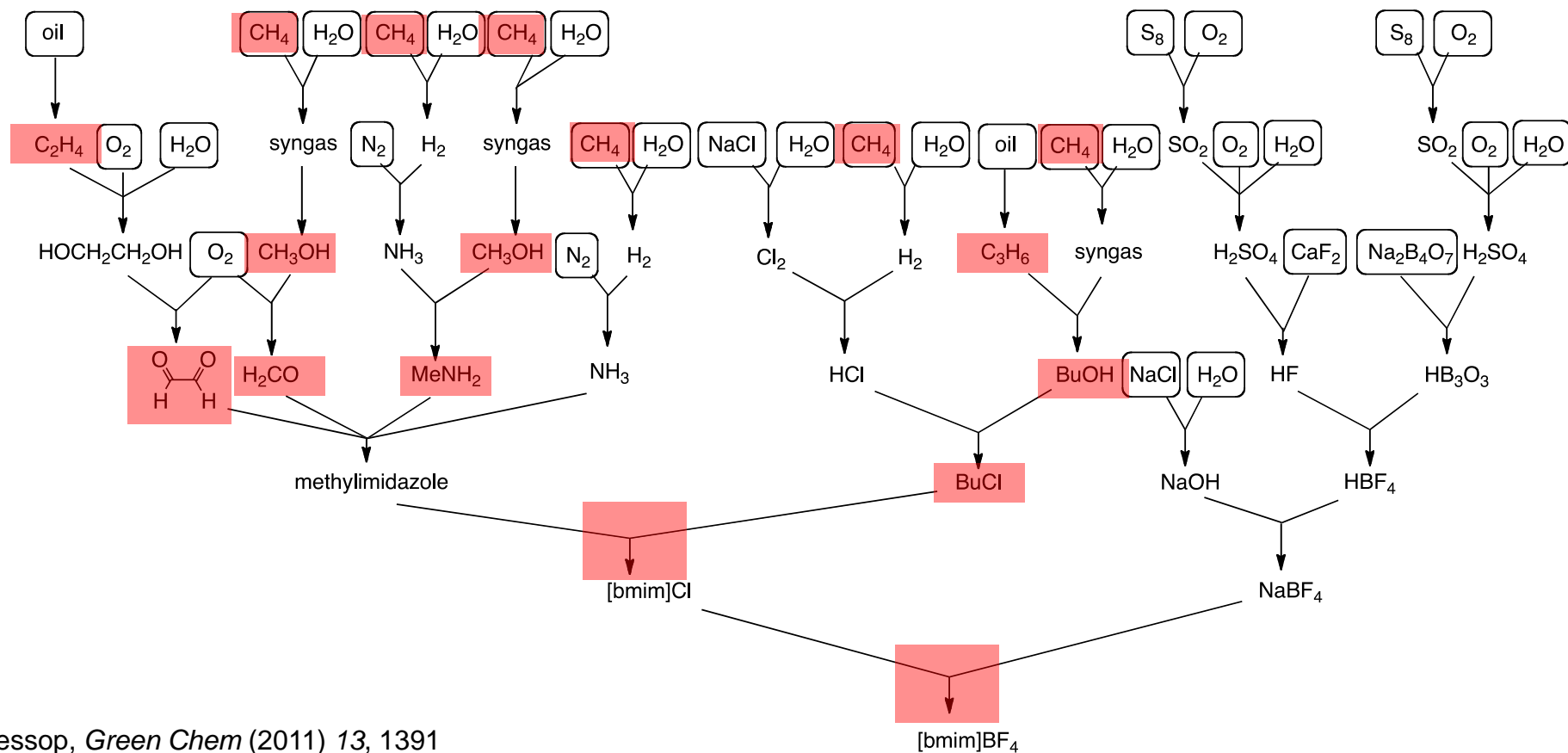
Doesn't create smog

No inhalation hazards

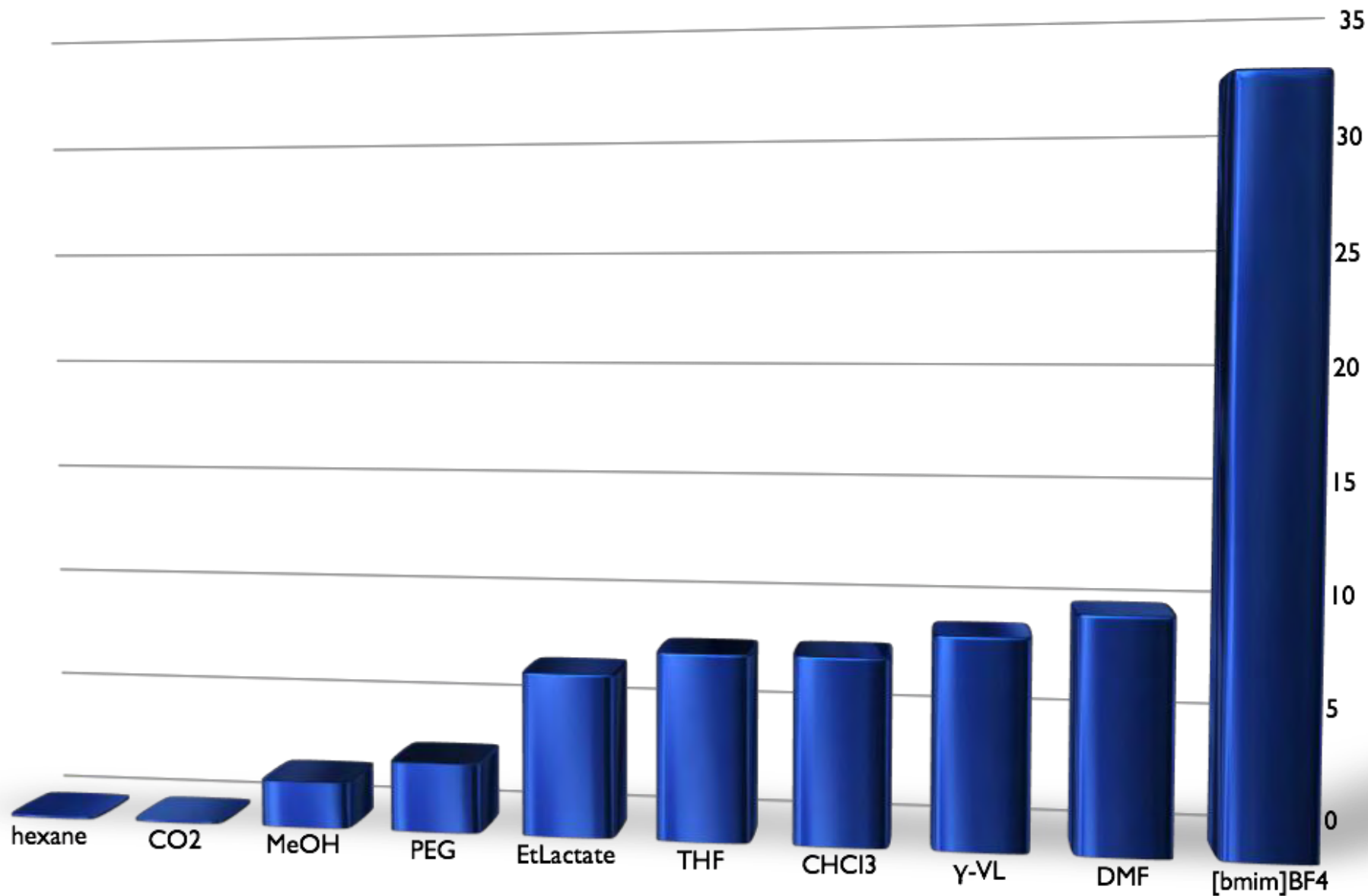
BY GENERAL COMPARISON, ARE IONIC LIQUIDS GREEN?

	ADP	GWP	ODP	HTP	FAETP	MAETP	TETP	POCP	AP	EP	VOC
[Bmim][BF ₄]	5.8E-2	3.5E+0	6.1E-7	6.1E-1	5.2E-2	4.4E+3	1.2E-2	4.5E-3	4.2E-2	1.8E-3	1.6E-2
H ₂ O	3.3E-6	5.7E-4	8.4E-10	1.8E-4	3.5E-5	6.4E-1	1.2E-5	5.5E-7	4.5E-6	1.7E-7	1.6E-6
LPDE	2.6E-2	1.4E+0	3.1E-7	1.8E-1	4.5E-2	3.5E+2	6.7E-3	5.0E-3	1.2E-2	9.1E-4	1.1E-2
acetone	3.8E-2	2.0E+0	0.0E+0	2.3E-2	3.1E-3	5.4E+1	9.8E-4	4.2E-4	1.4E-2	1.6E-3	4.6E-3
benzene	3.1E-2	1.6E+0	9.4E-7	1.3E-1	2.0E-2	6.9E+1	3.8E-4	1.9E-3	1.0E-2	9.6E-4	9.1E-3

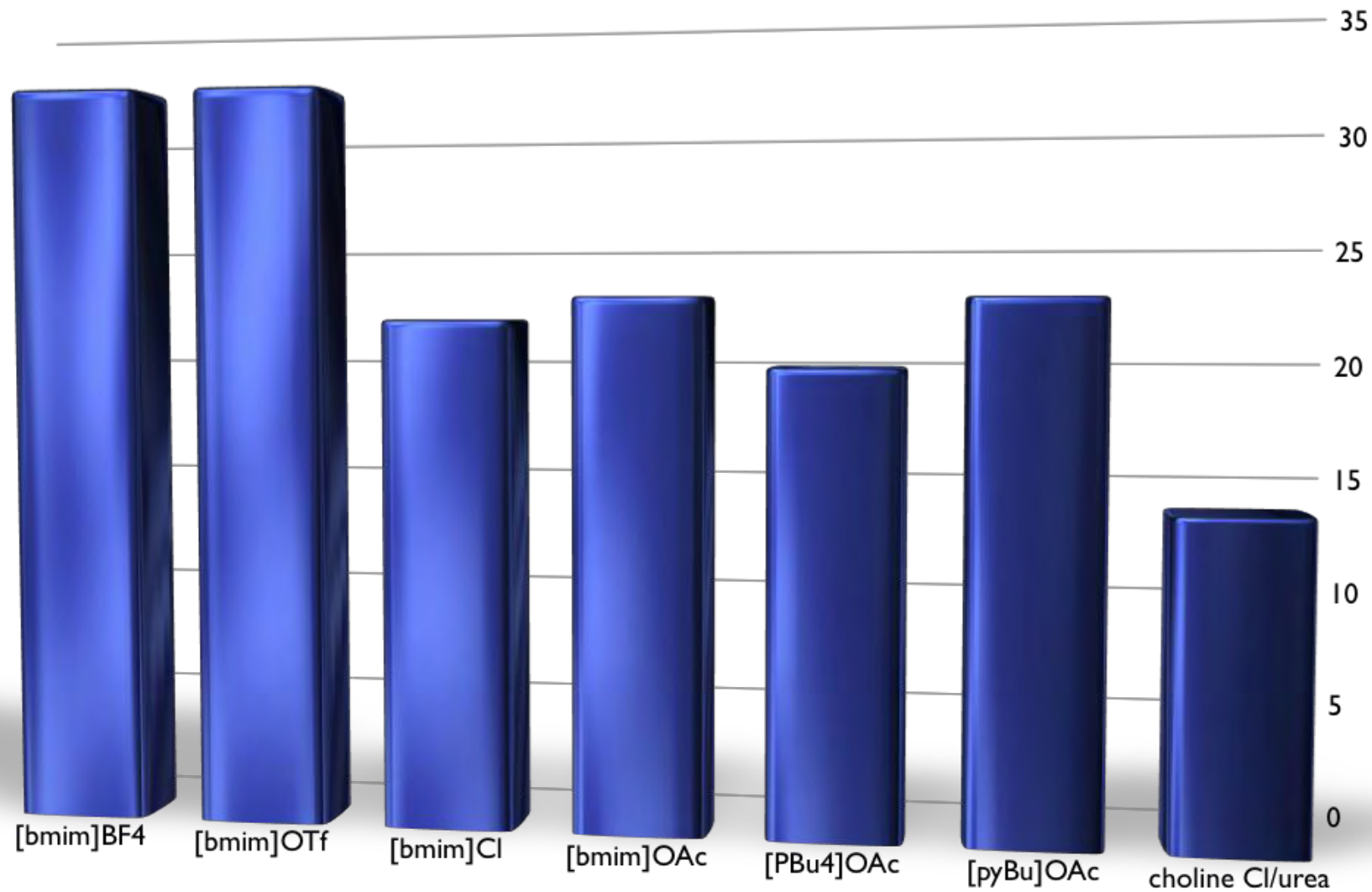
Zhang, *Env. Sci. Tech.* (2008) 42, 1724




CHEMICAL STEPS IN SOLVENT SYNTHESIS



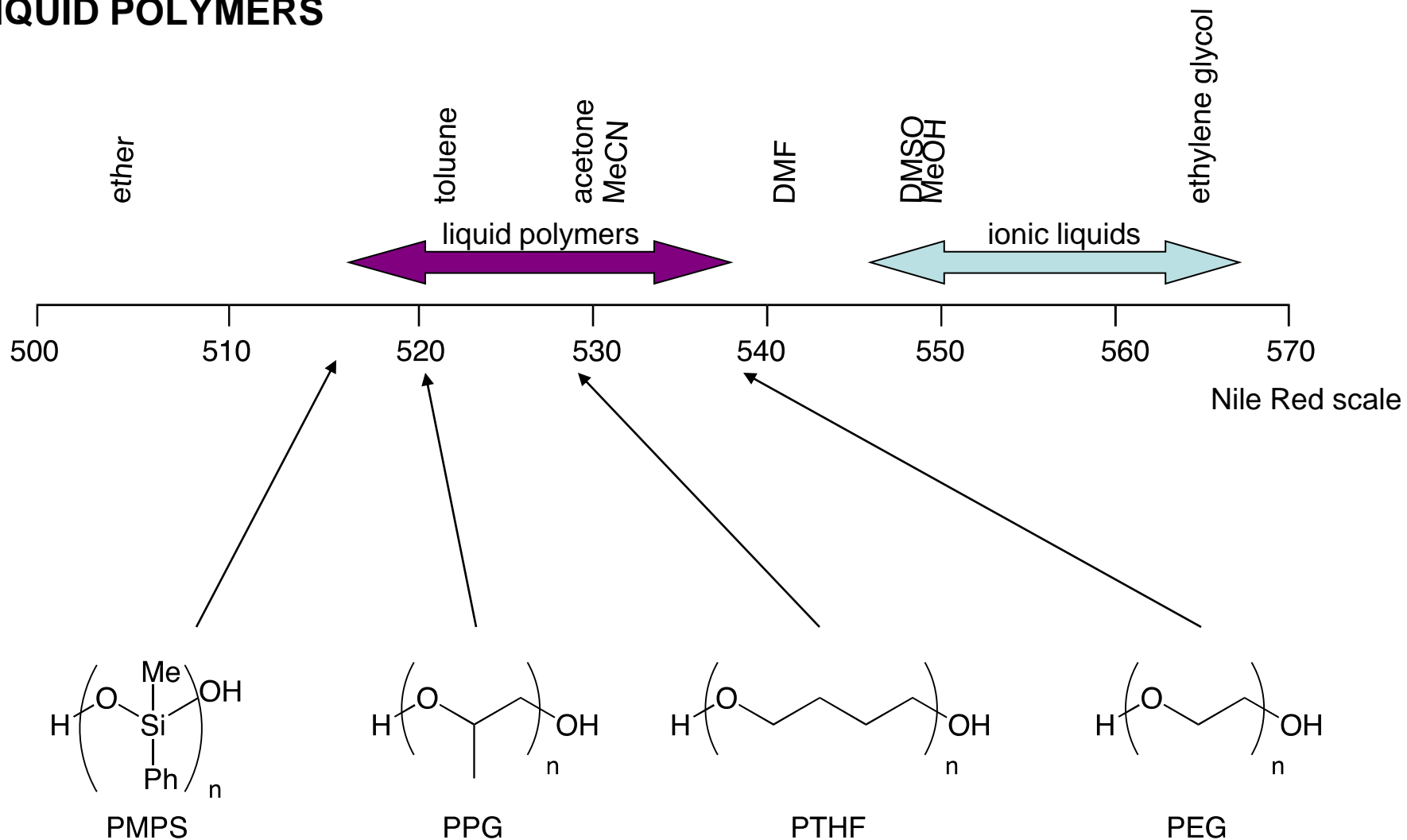
CHEMICAL STEPS IN SOLVENT SYNTHESIS



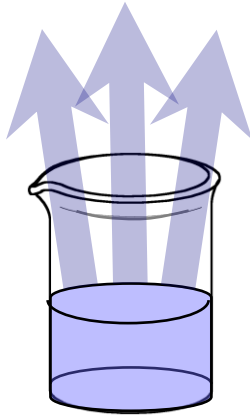
A clear glass beaker is shown, partially filled with a colorless liquid. The beaker is centered in the frame against a plain, light-colored background. The text 'Liquid Polymers' is printed in black, and 'Green Solvents?' is printed in green, both in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is positioned in the middle of the beaker's body, partially overlapping the liquid level.

Liquid Polymers
Green Solvents?

LIQUID POLYMERS

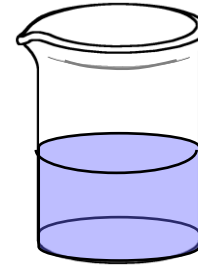


SOME ORGANIC SOLVENTS ARE VOLATILE



Volatile Solvents

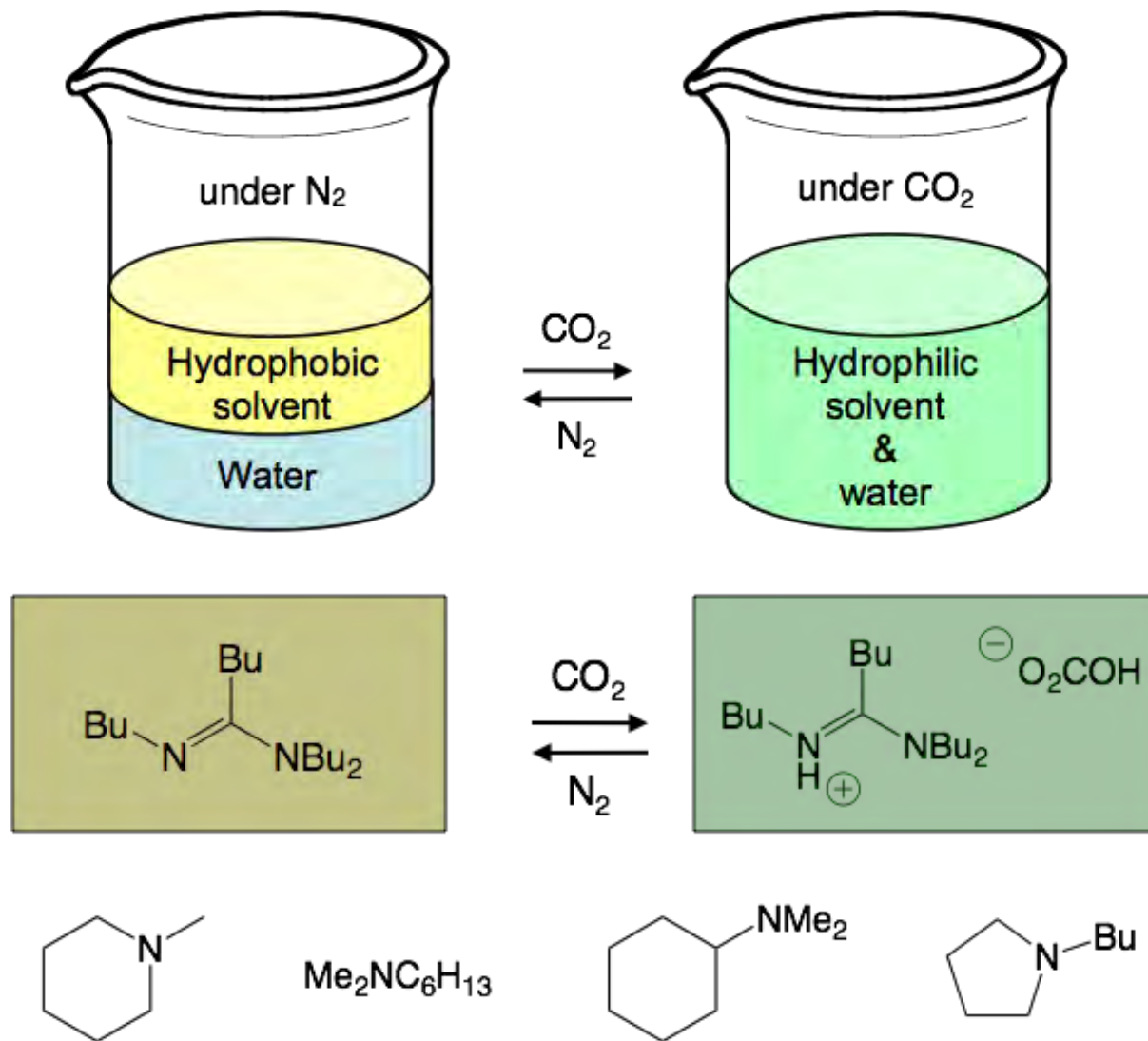
- flammability
- high insurance costs
- vapour losses
- smog formation
- inhalation hazards
 - toxic,
 - narcotic,
 - mutagenic,
 - carcinogenic



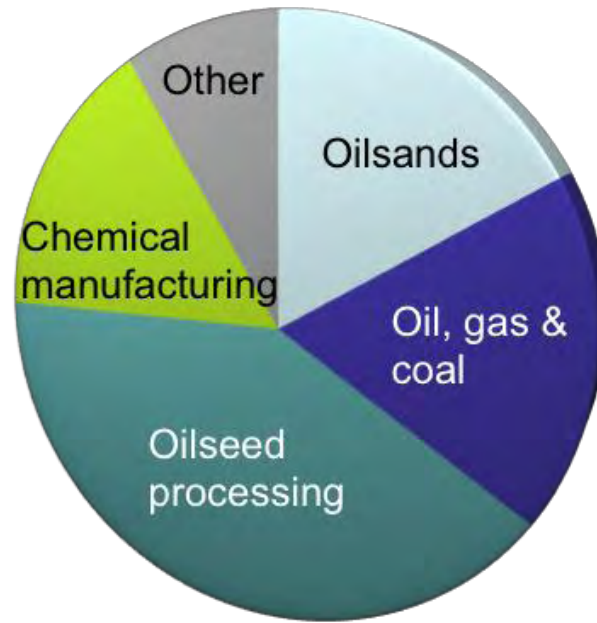
Nonvolatile Solvents

- no flammability
- low insurance costs
- no vapour losses
- no smog formation
- no inhalation hazards

SWITCHABLE-HYDROPHILICITY SOLVENTS



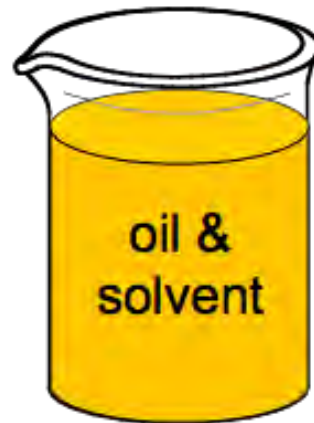
A REAL WORLD PROBLEM



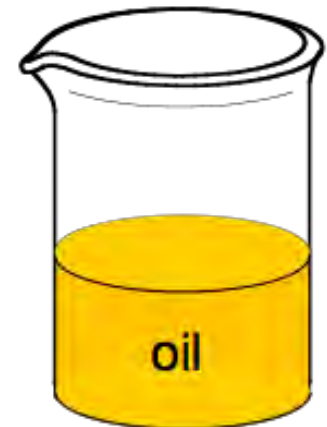
hexane emissions to air in Canada (NPRI, 2007)



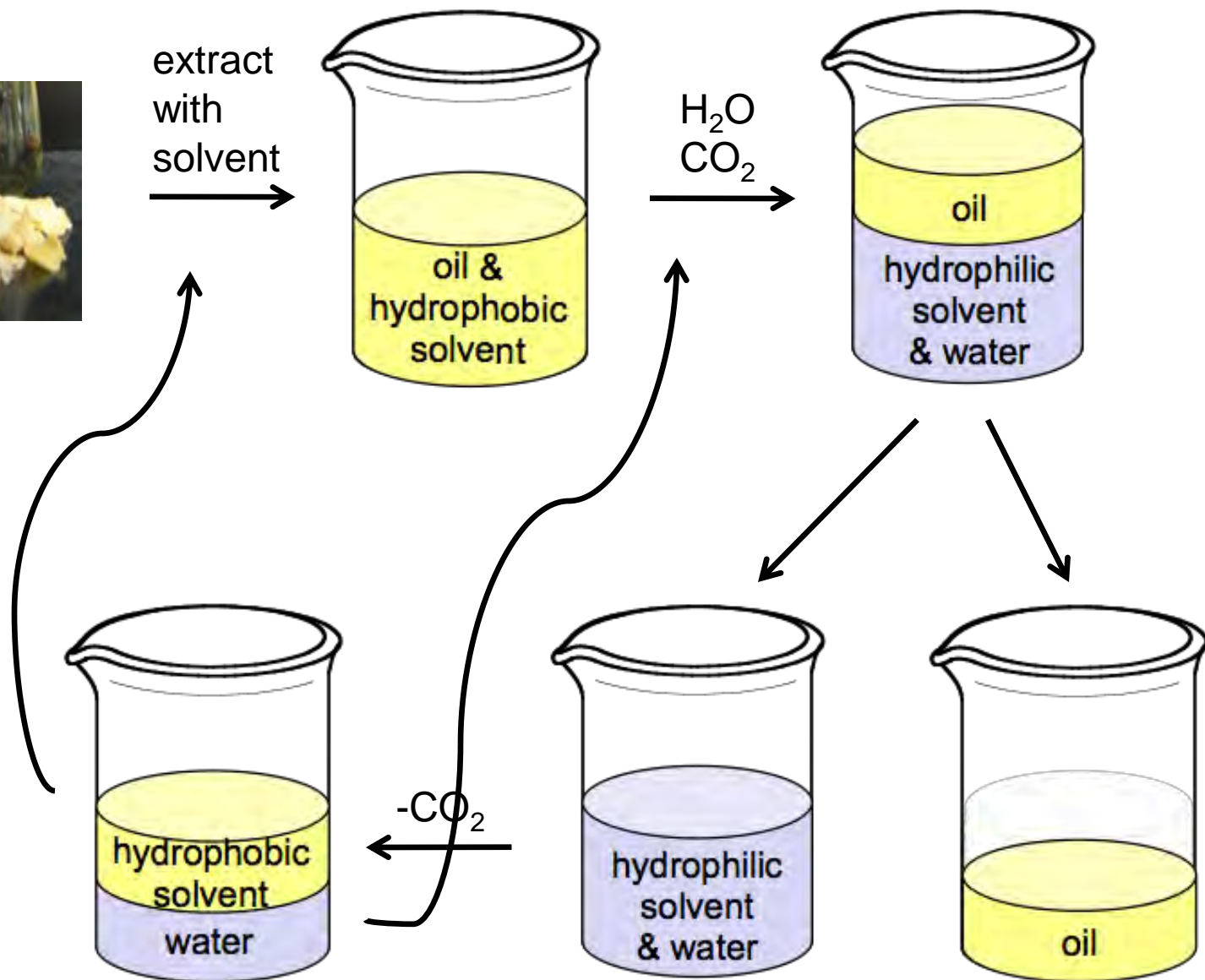
extract
with
solvent
→



distill
→

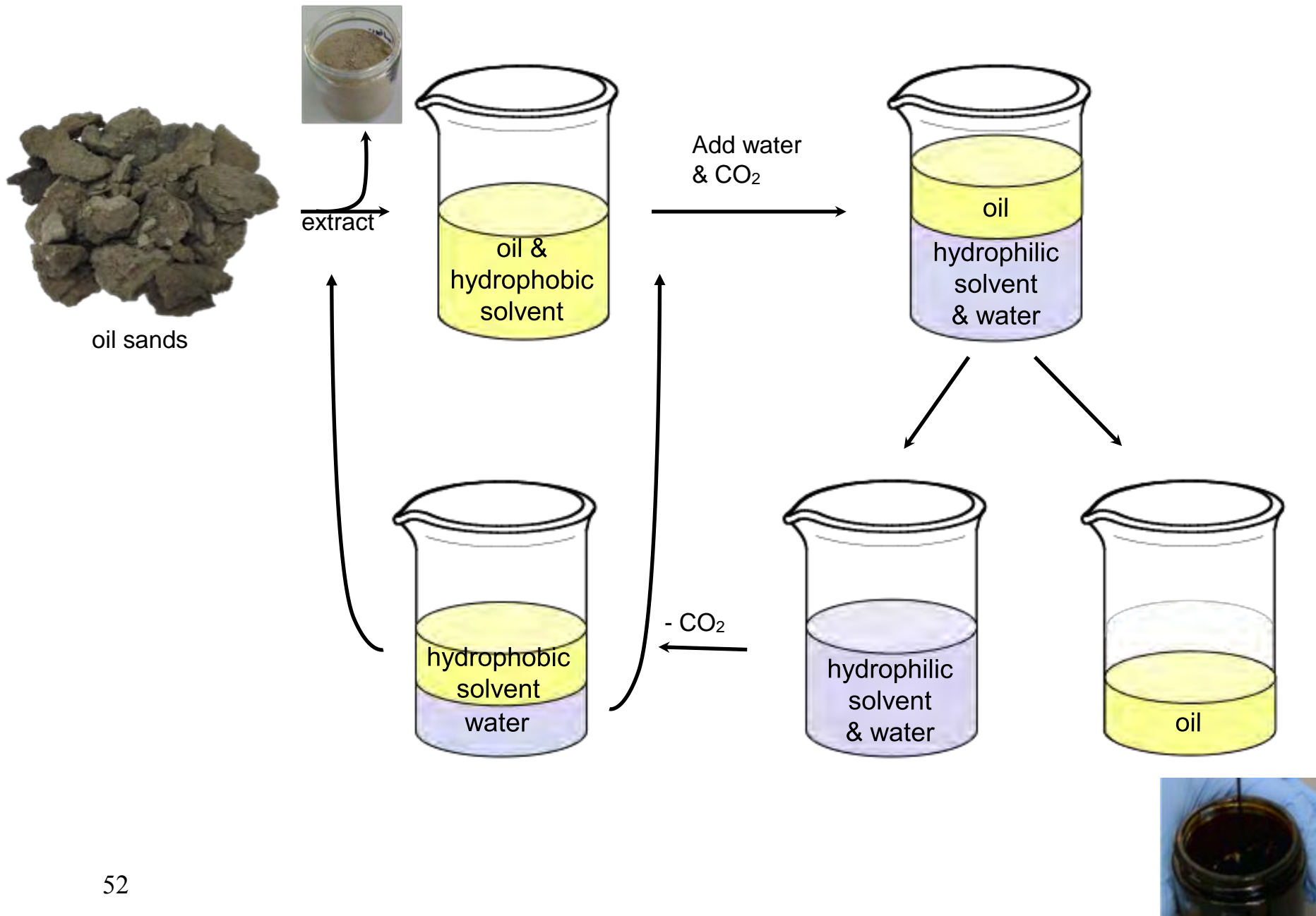


SOY EXTRACTION WITHOUT DISTILLATION

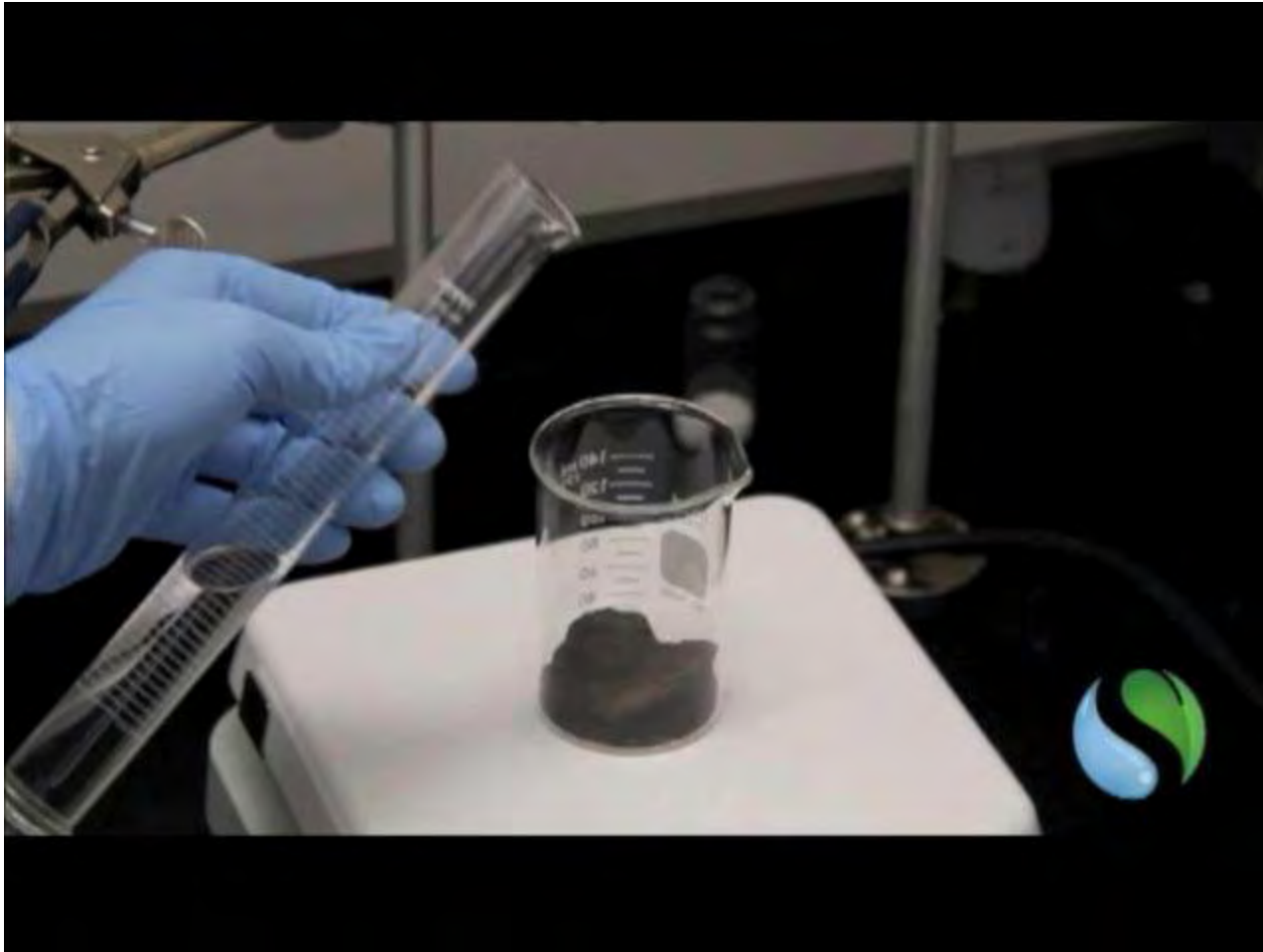




USING A SWITCHABLE-HYDROPHILICITY SOLVENT



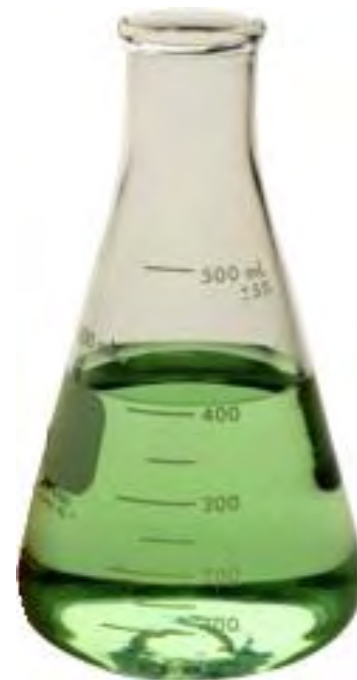
OIL SANDS



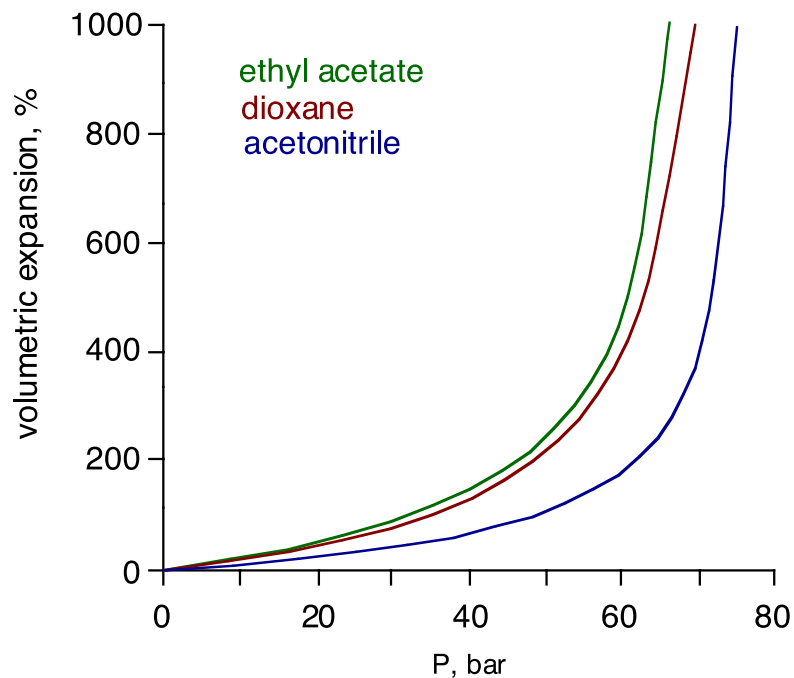


OUTLINE

1. Reducing the Impact of Solvents
2. Solvent Properties
3. Greener Conventional Solvents
4. Unconventional Solvents
 - Ionic Liquids
 - Liquid Polymers
 - Switchable Solvents
 - Gas-Expanded Liquids
 - Supercritical Fluids
5. Conclusions



EXPANSION OF LIQUIDS BY CO₂



Volumetric expansion of aprotic solvents by CO₂ at 40°C (Kordikowski, 1995)



CO₂-expanded NEt₃ (Jessop, 1996)

Characteristics:

- tunable polarity
- tunable solvent properties
- lowered melting point
- improved mass transfer rates
- improved solubility of reagent gases

EFFECT OF SOLVENT CHOICE

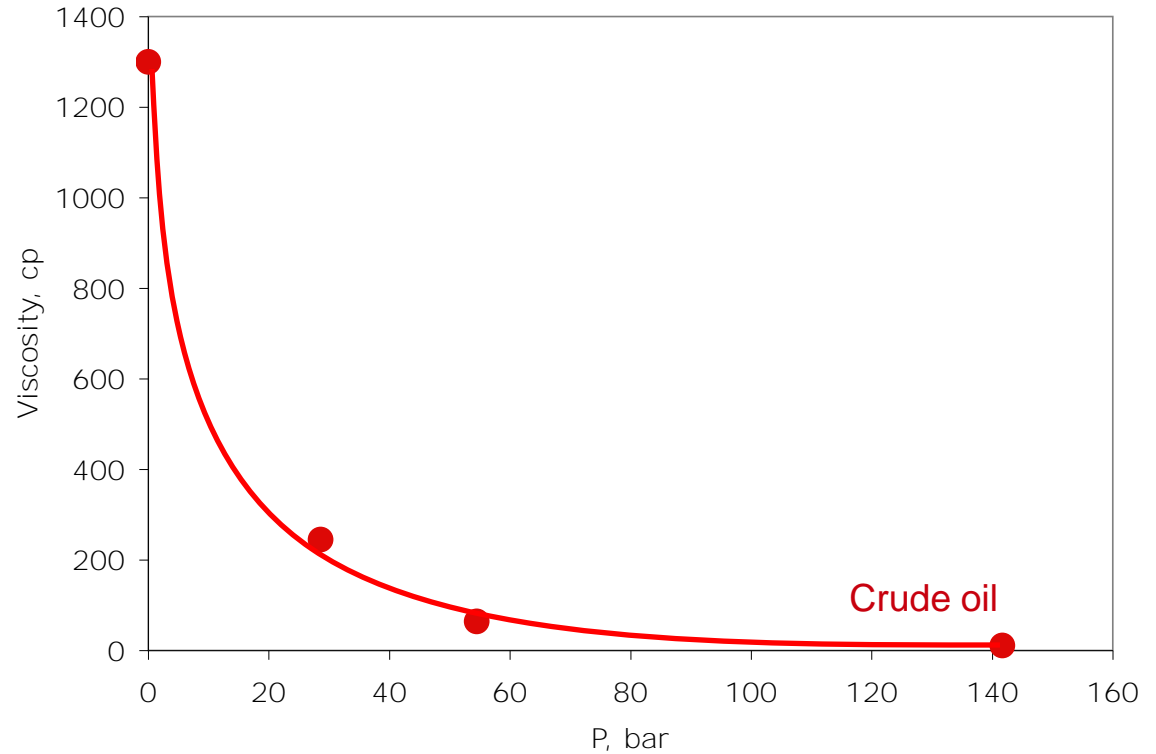
Expansion with CO₂ increases in the order:

water < ionic liquid < liquid polymer < protic polar < aprotic polar < nonpolar

Class	Examples	Volumetric change	Properties that change	Properties that don't change
I	Water Glycerol	Very small	Acidity	Most
II	Hexane Methanol DMF	Very large	All	None
III	Ionic liquids Liquid polymers Crude oil	Moderate	Viscosity Phase behaviour	Polarity

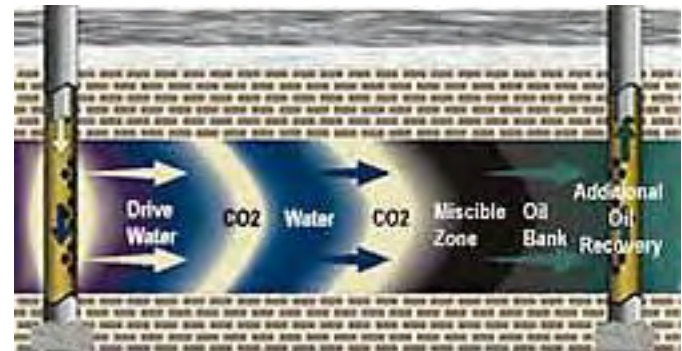
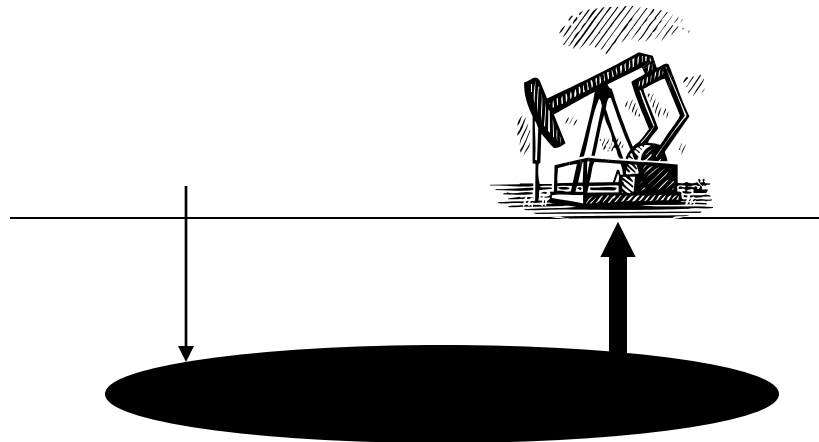
VISCOSITY

Solvent	viscosity (cP)
CO ₂ (1 atm)	0.015
pentane	0.22
benzene	0.60
water	0.89
cyclohexane	0.90
CCl ₄	0.91
mercury	1.53
[bmim]PF ₆	450
shampoo	1000



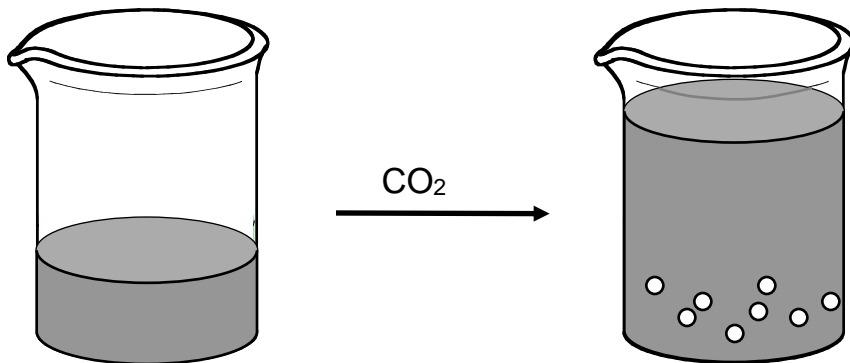
Viscosity of CO₂-expanded crude oil at 49 °C

Simon & Graue, J. Petrol. Technol. (1965) 102.

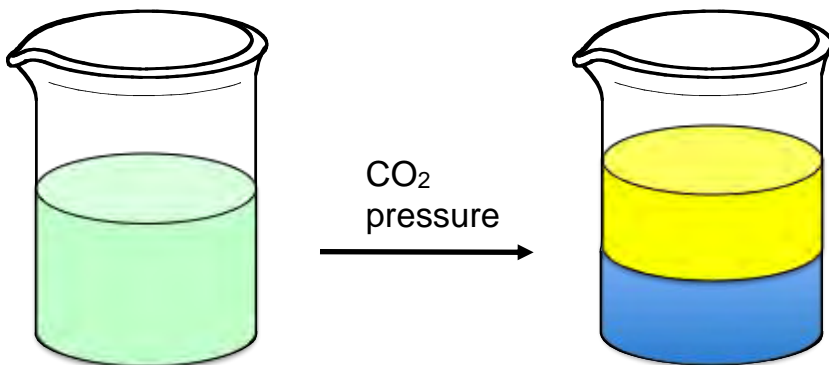


CO₂ CAN TRIGGER *INSOLUBILITY AND IMMISCIBILITY*

Polar solids are precipitated from solution when the solvent is expanded with CO₂



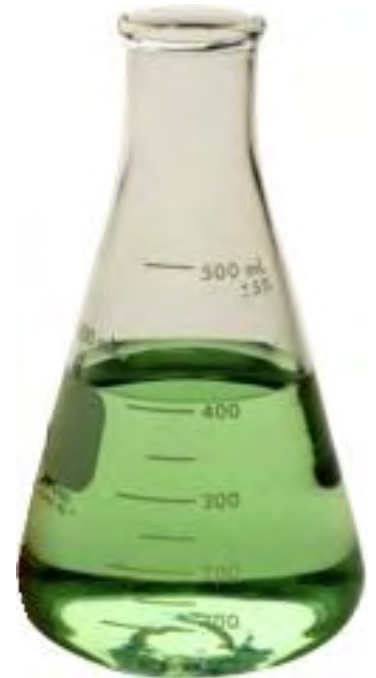
Some miscible liquids become immiscible when expanded with CO₂



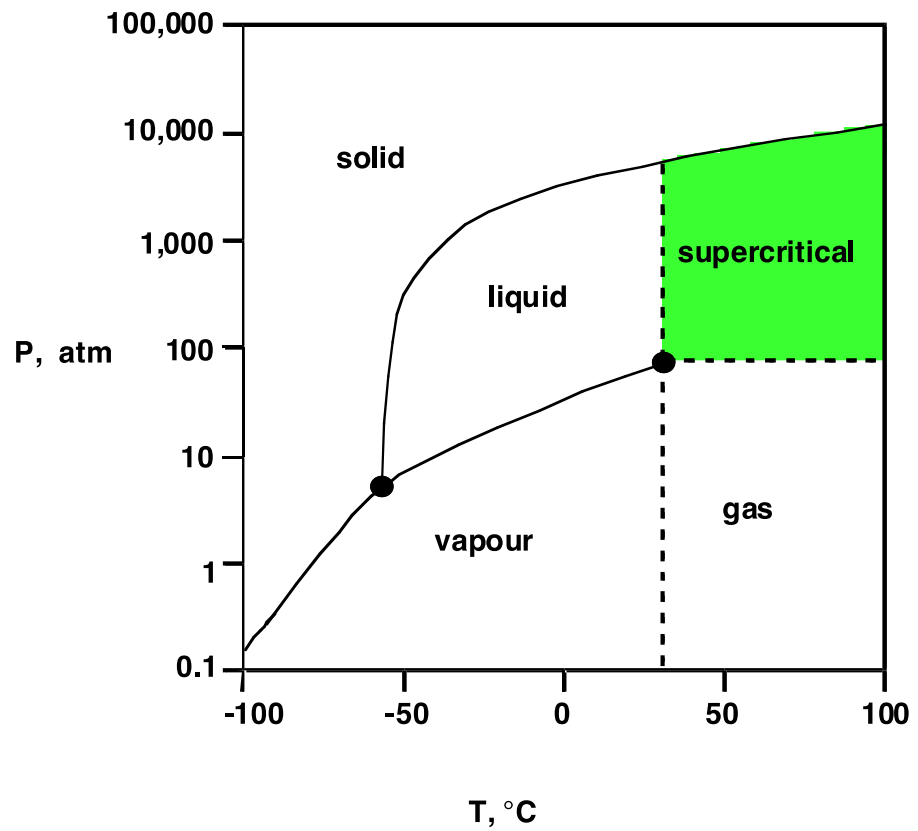
Solvent A	Solvent B	P, bar
water	methanol	80
water	1-propanol	68
water	acetic acid	75
water	acetone	26
water	THF	<10
water	1,4-dioxane	<28
water	MeCN	<19

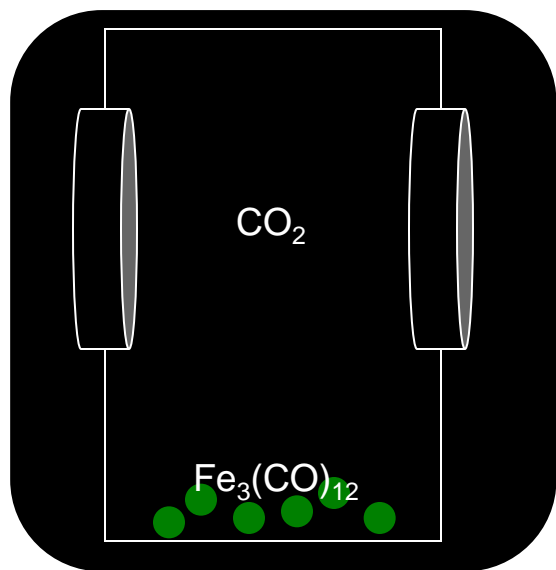
OUTLINE

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SUPERCRITICAL CO₂





CO₂ AS A SOLVENT



Natex CO₂ decaffeination plant



DuPont fluoropolymer plant, N.C



Prep SFC (Novasep)



CO₂ dry cleaning

<http://www.natex.at/album/index.htm>

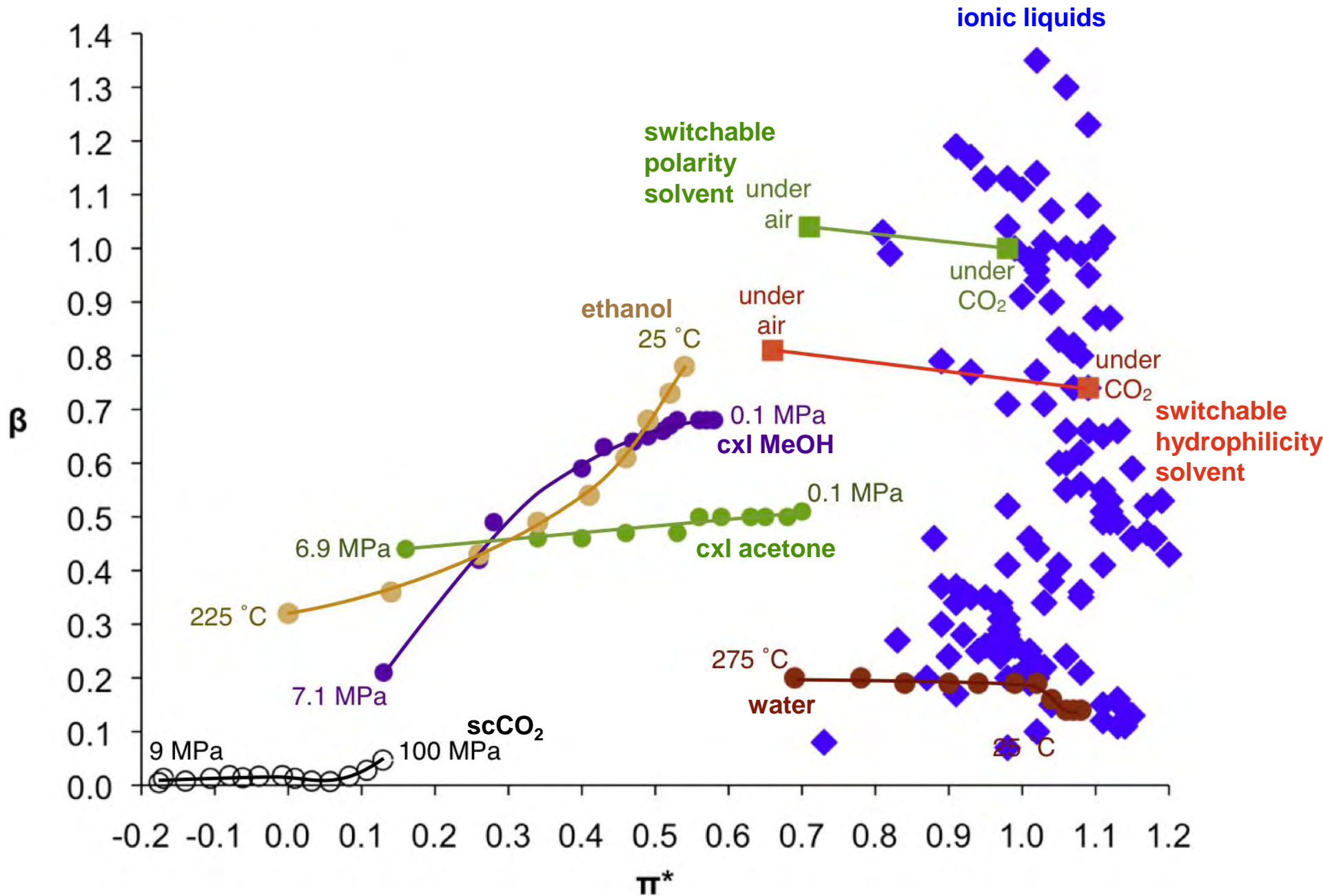
http://www.metropolitanmachinery.com/sail_star.htm

<http://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/contractors/purification/novasep/novasep3.html>

scCO₂ AS A SOLVENT

	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Safety	Nonflammable Nontoxic In-situ fire/explosion suppression	Pressure
Economics	Free	Pressure
Environment	Recycled material No smog, ozone contribution Naturally occurring	
Process benefits	Rapid mass transfer High solubility of reagent gases Controllable solubilizing power Easy to separate	Pressure Low solubility of some reagents

OVERVIEW OF UNCONVENTIONAL GREEN SOLVENTS

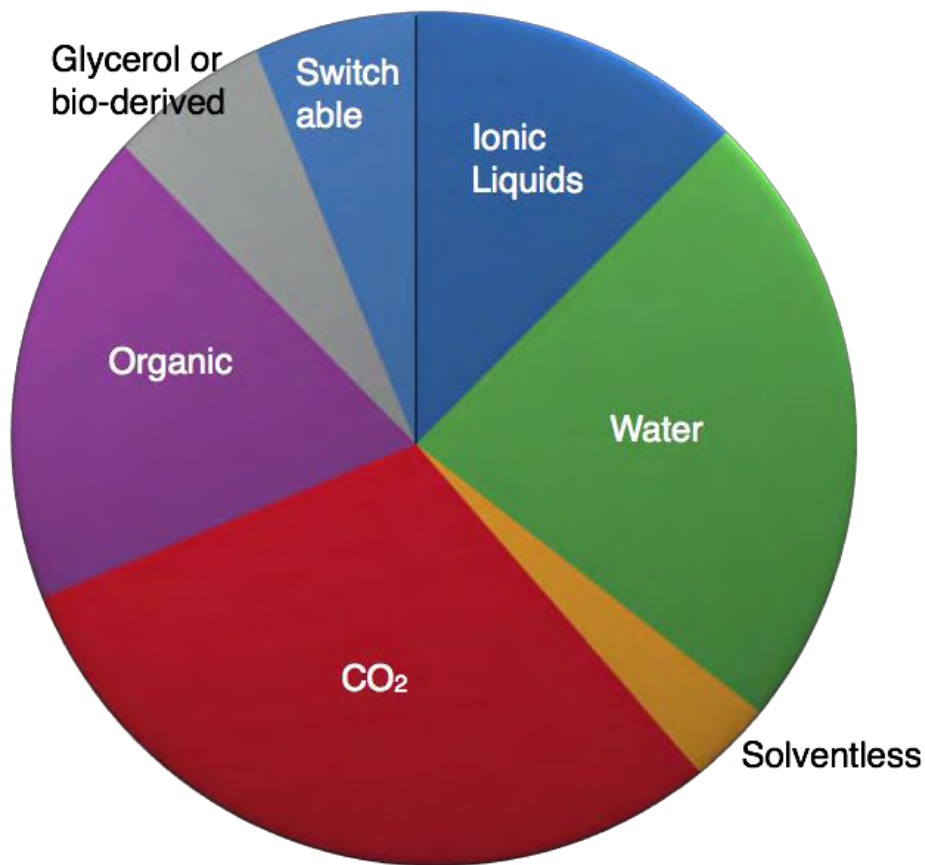


SURVEY

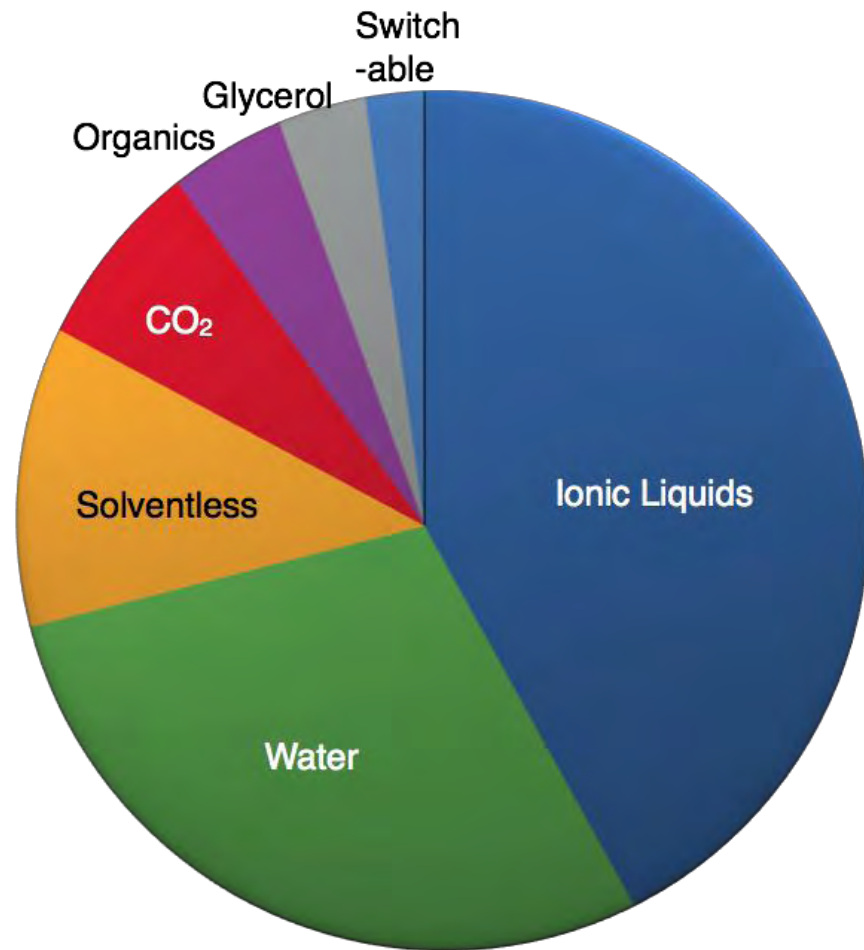
If the adoption of greener solvents over the next 20-30 years will reduce environmental damage from human activities, then the adoption of what class of solvents will be responsible for the greatest reduction in environmental damage?

- *Bioderived solvents (glycerol, 2-methylTHF, valerolactone, etc.)*
- *CO₂ (liquid, supercritical, expanded liquid)*
- *Conventional organic solvents (carefully selected)*
- *Ionic liquids*
- *Switchable solvents*
- *Solvent-free conditions*
- *Water (including liquid, superheated, supercritical, on-water)*

SURVEY

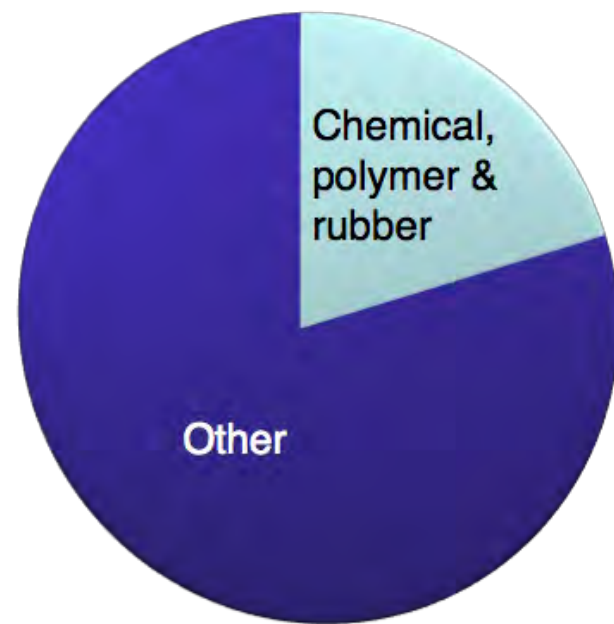
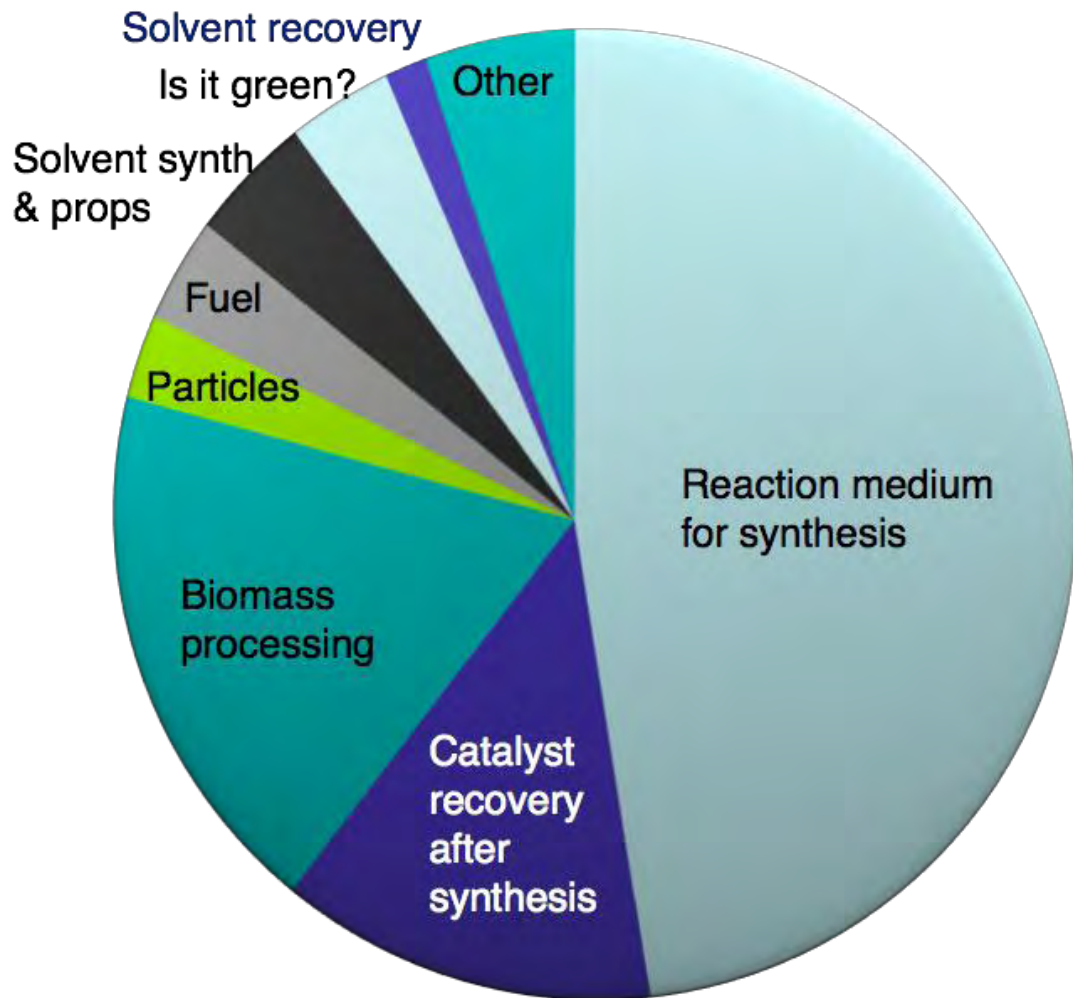


survey results



solvents described in related papers in Green Chemistry in 2010

WHAT DO WE CHOOSE TO STUDY?



Uses of CH_2Cl_2



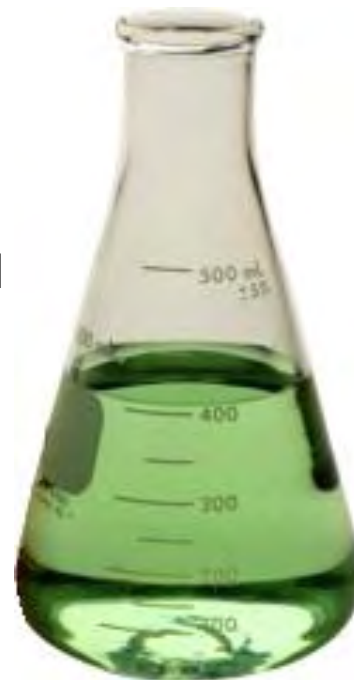
CONCLUSIONS

No solvent is perfectly green.

The nonconventional solvents are more exciting, but it's the conventional ones that are greening the industry.

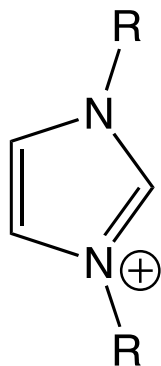
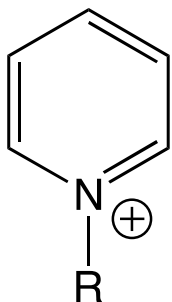
We're making progress populating the map with green solvents.

Is it really green? Consider the solvent's synthesis and its effect on the entire process.



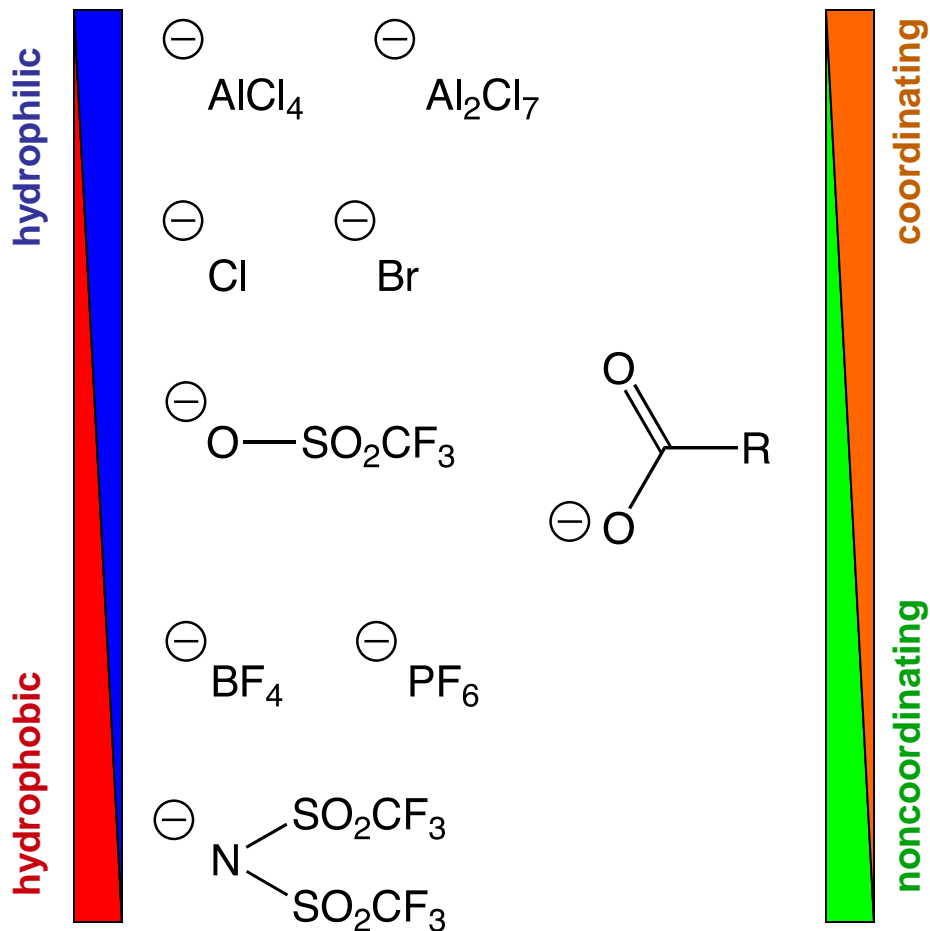
CATIONS AND ANIONS

Cations

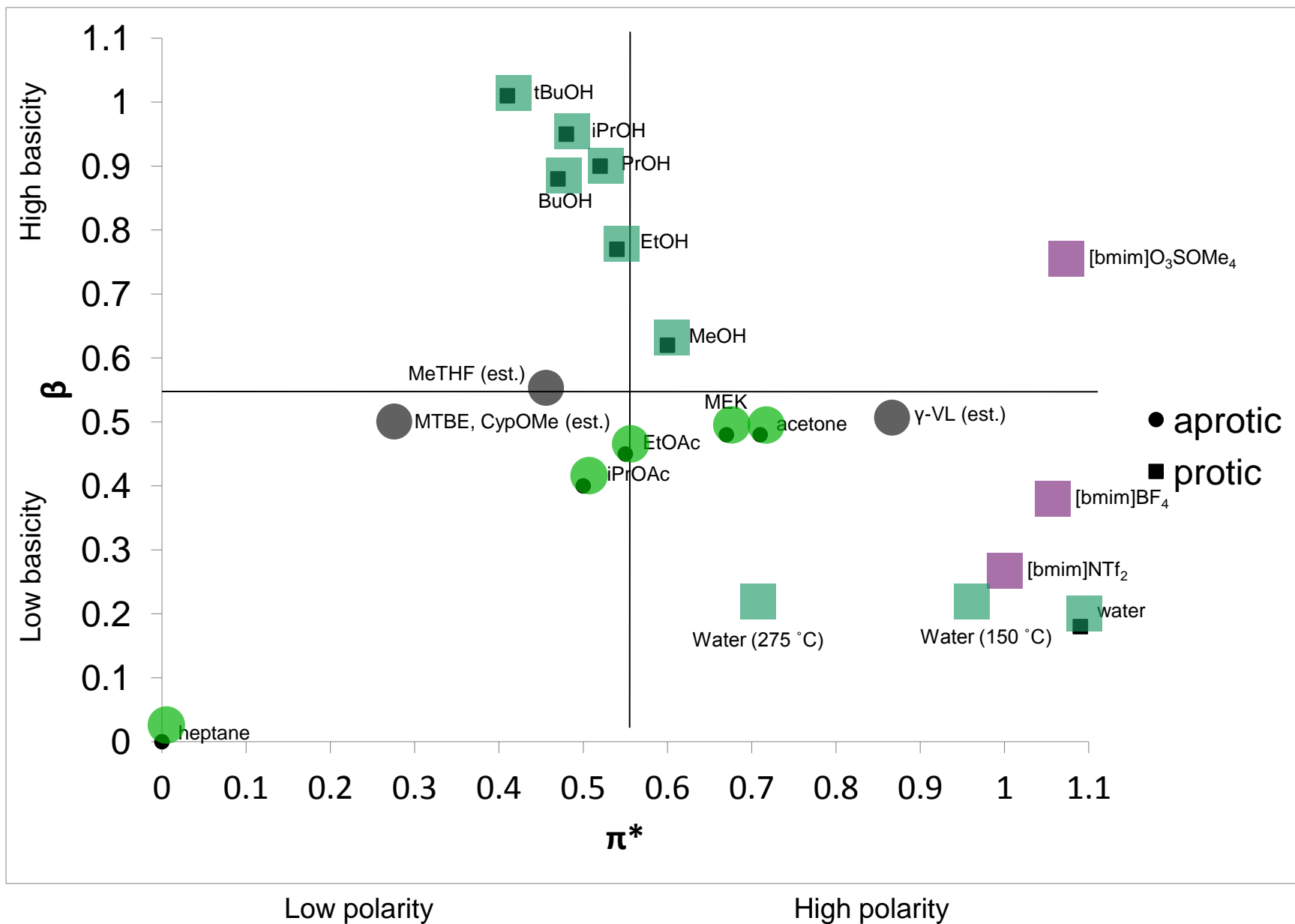


emim
bmim
hmim

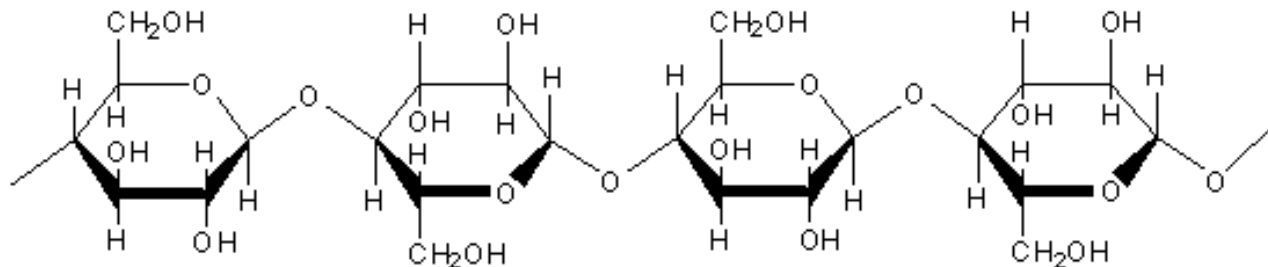
Anions



GREEN SOLVENTS

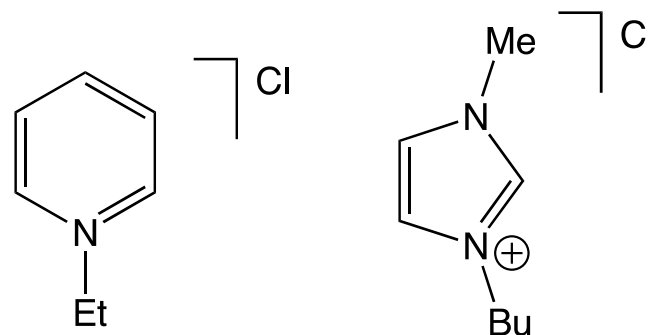


DISSOLVING CELLULOSE



Solvents known to dissolve cellulose:

- Strong alkali & CS₂
- Cellosolve (EtOCH₂CH₂OH)
- ZnCl₂ solution
- DMA / LiCl



Graenacher, US Pat.
1943176, 1934

Rogers, JACS (2002)
124, 4974

Uses of IL cellulose solutions

- separation from lignin
- prep of cellulose for conversion to EtOH
- derivatization of cellulose

ELECTROCHEMISTRY AND ELECTRODEPOSITION

