



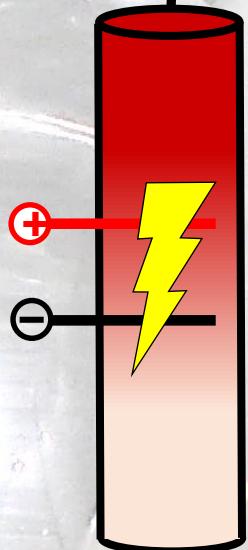
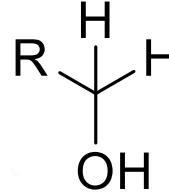
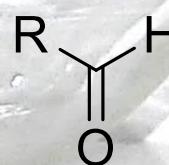
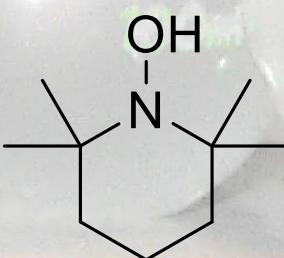
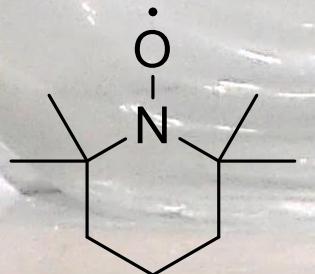
# Continuous anodic oxidation of TEMPO as a mediator for selective synthesis of aldehydes from primary alcohols

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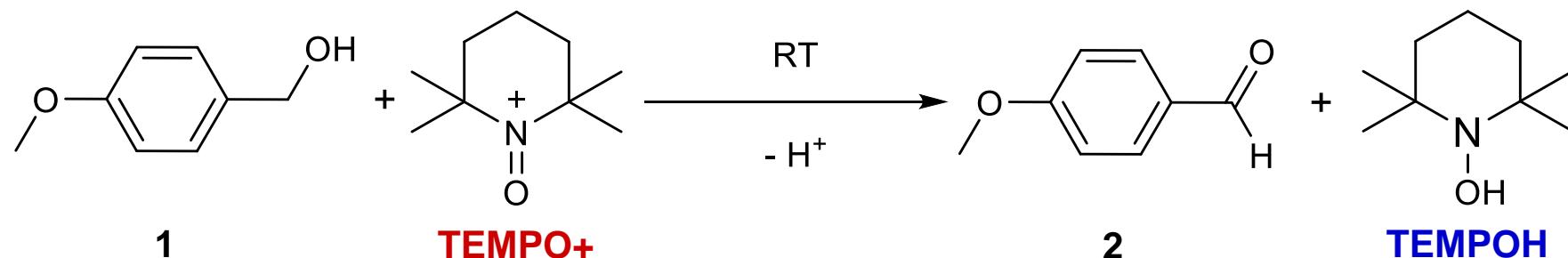


# Outline

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- Anelli Oxidation
- One-Phase Approach
  - Mixing and Residence Time
- Multi-Phase Approach
  - Mixed Double Emulsions
- Electrooxidation
  - Voltammetry Experiments → Batch Process → Continuous Process
- Outlook

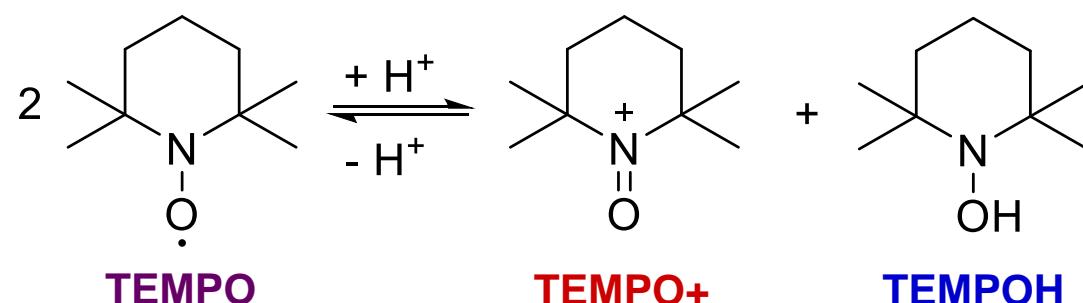
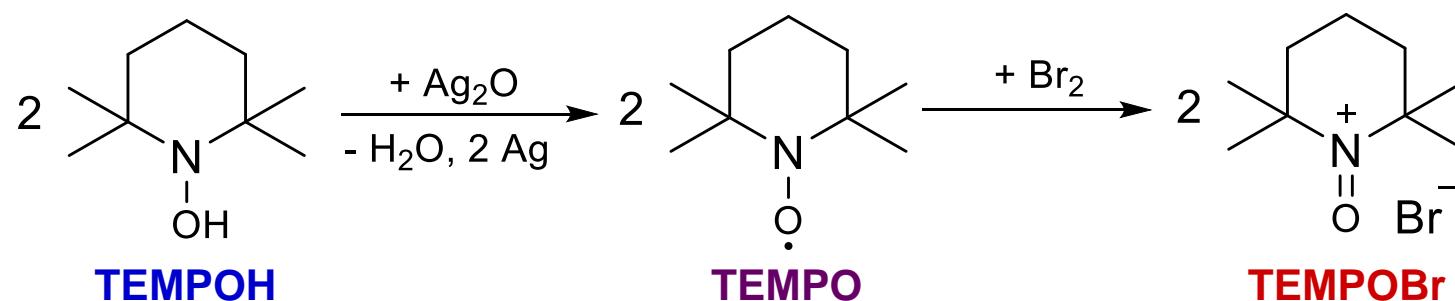
# Anelli Oxidation



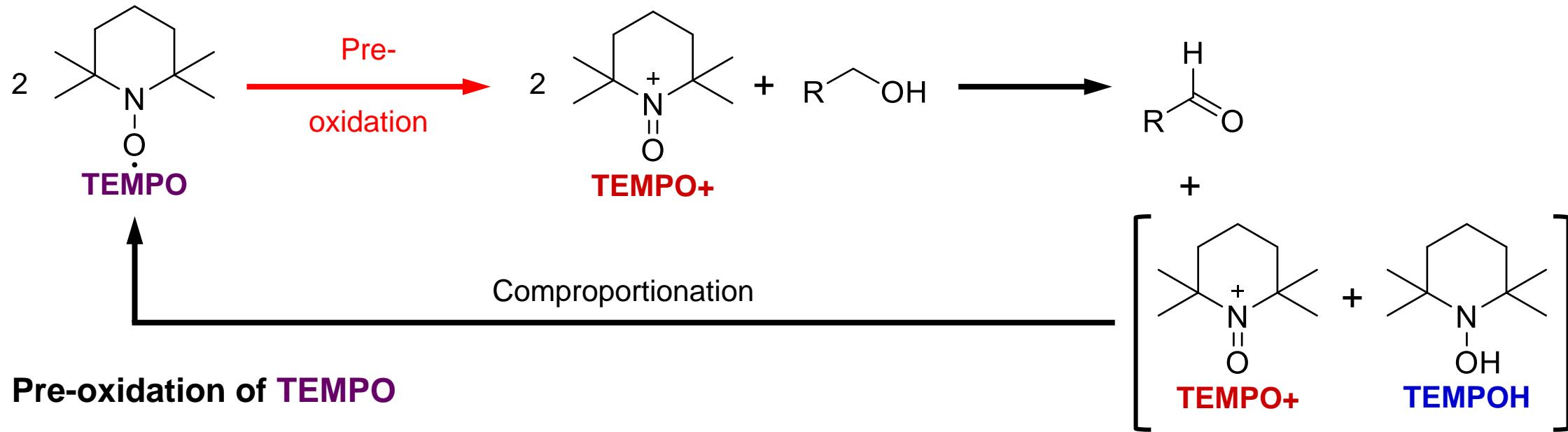
V.A. Golubev,  
E.G. Rozantsev,  
M.B. Neimann, *Izv.Akad.Nauk SSSR*, **1965**, 11, 1927-1936.

P.L. Anelli, C. Biffi,  
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*J.Org.Chem.*, **1987**, 52, 2559-2562.

M. Zhao, J. Li, E. Mano,  
et al., *J.Org.Chem.*, **1999**, 64, 2564-2566.



# Anelli Oxidation

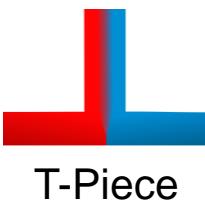
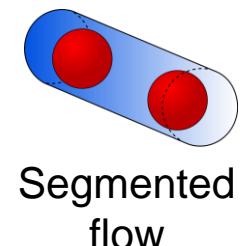
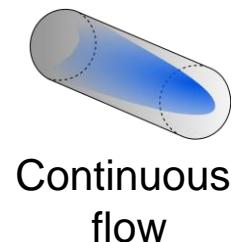
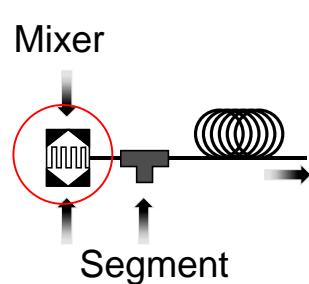


## Pre-oxidation of TEMPO

- NaOCl in situ causes *side products*
- Br<sub>2</sub> in organic solvents (*requires separation*)
- electrochemical oxidation in water (*several alcohols insoluble, solvent changes, phase separation*)

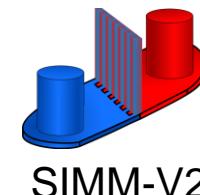
↷ multiphase flow with excess of TEMPO<sup>+</sup>

# One-Phase Approach



Small window for efficient mixing;  
broad residence time distribution

Residence time controlled

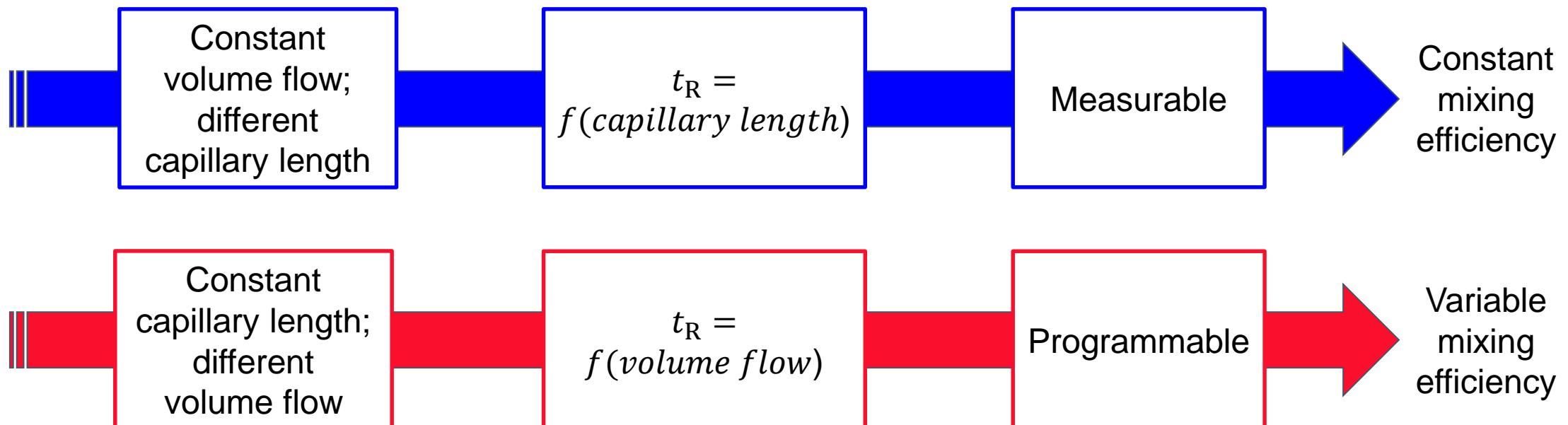


Mixing controlled;  
broad residence time distribution

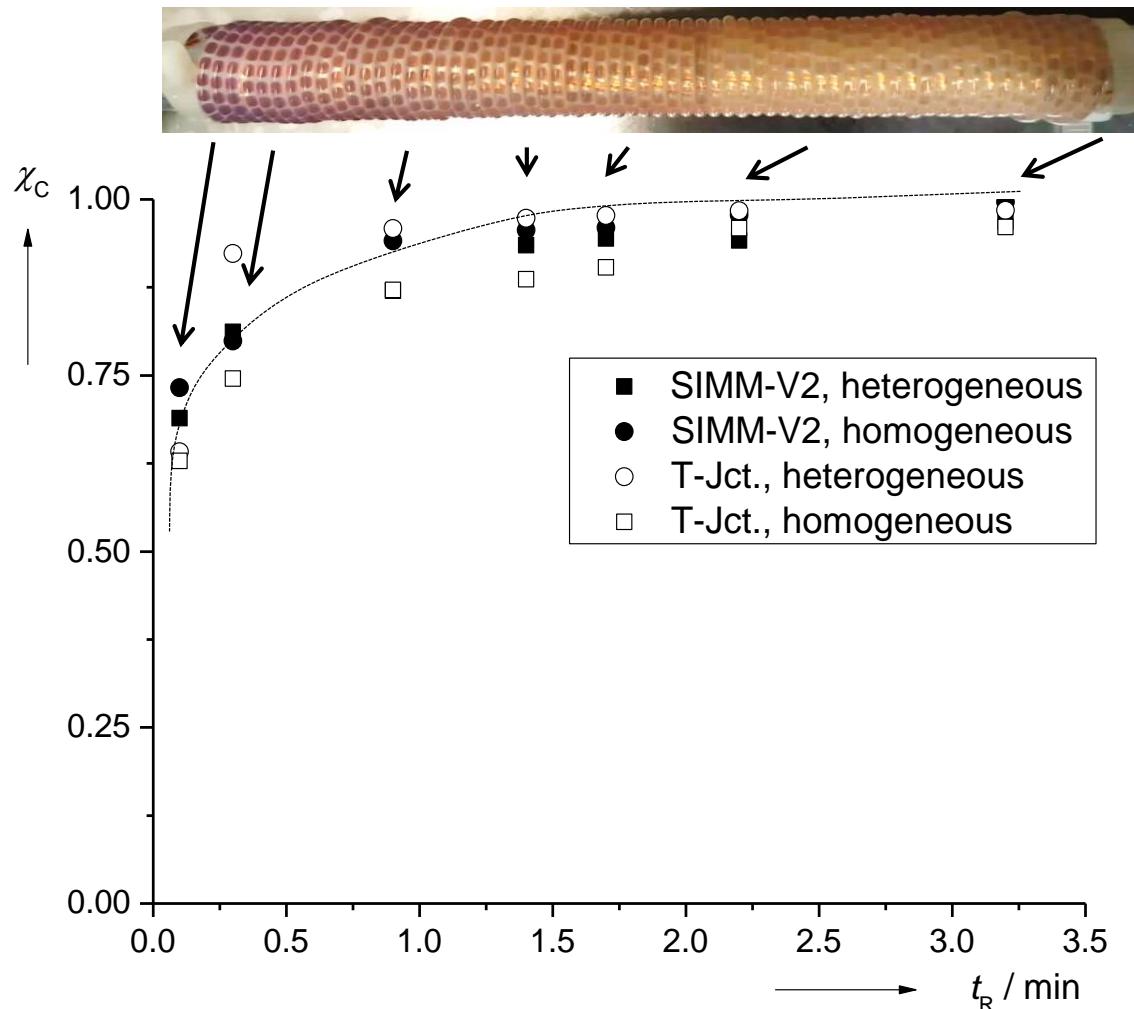
Mixing and residence time controlled

# One-Phase Approach

$$\text{Residence time } t_R = \frac{\text{Channel length}}{\text{Volume flow}}$$



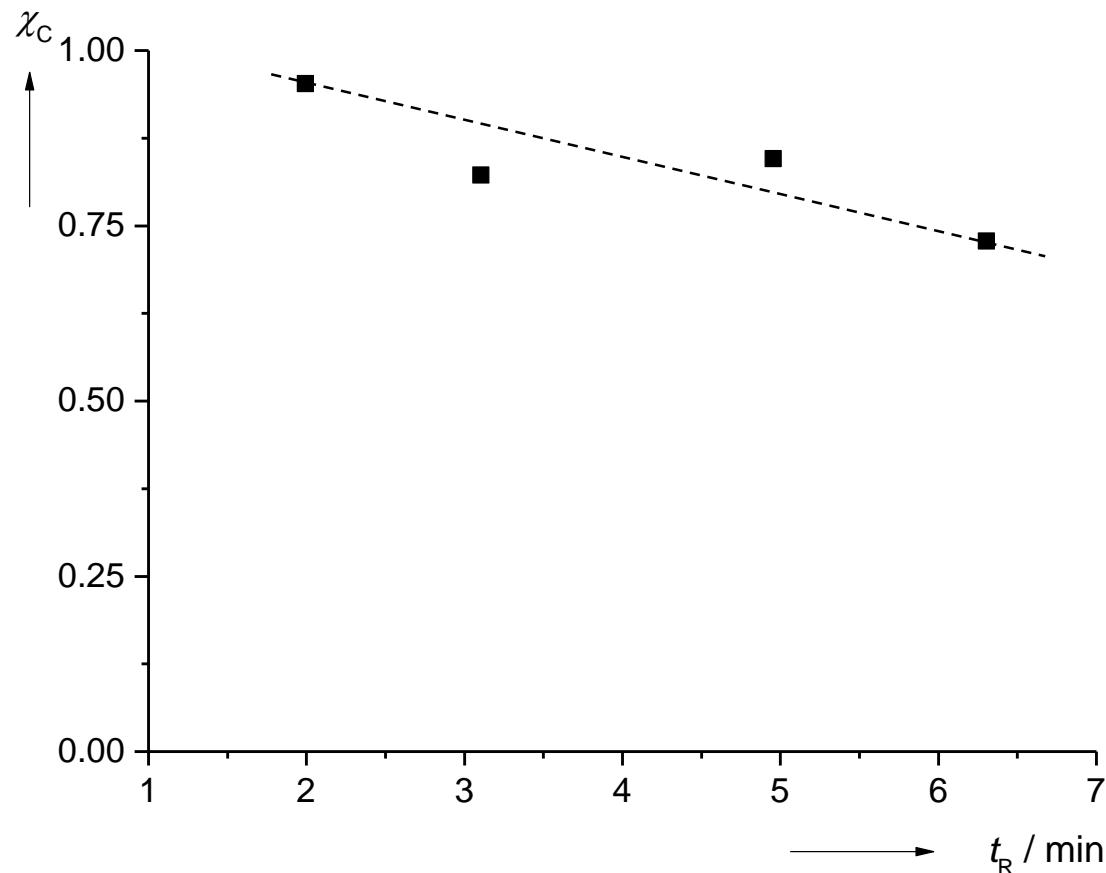
# One-Phase Approach



## Residence time dependency:

- Fixed flow rates
- Observation by GC and by eye (bleaching)
- Full conversion after approx. 3.5 min
- No significant differences between mixer types and flow patterns
  - Kinetic limit reached

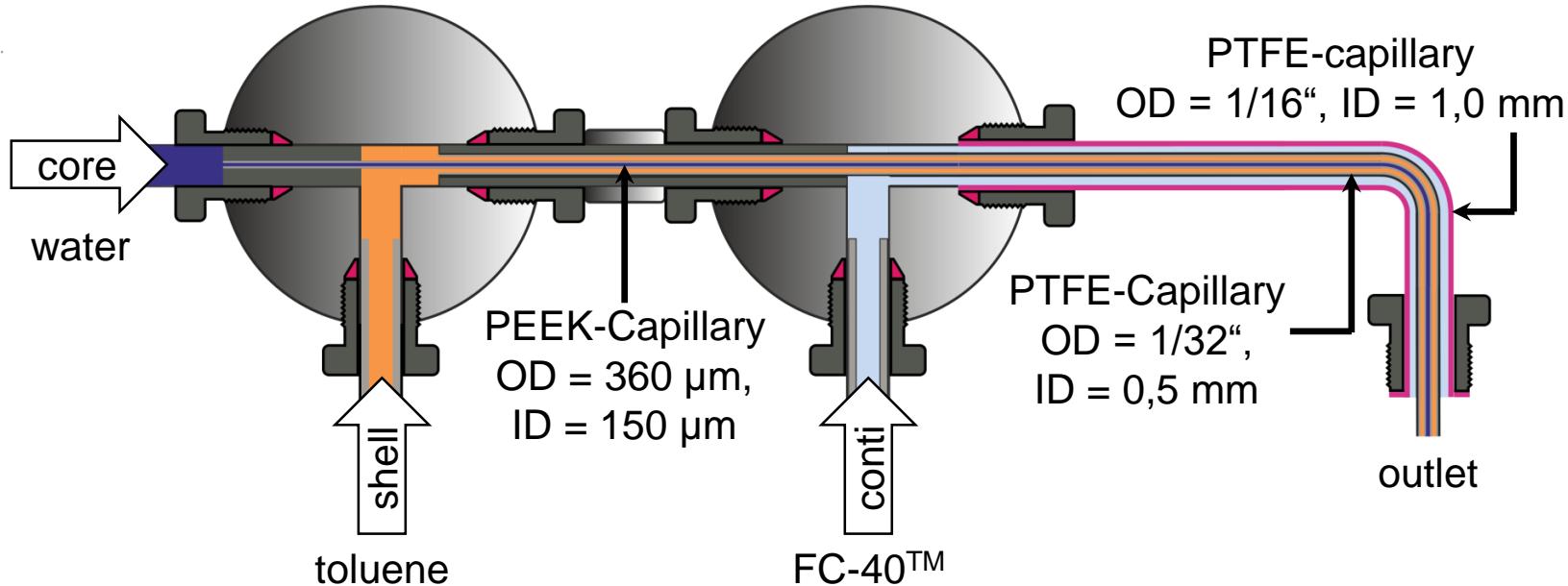
# One-Phase Approach



## Flow rate/mixing dependency:

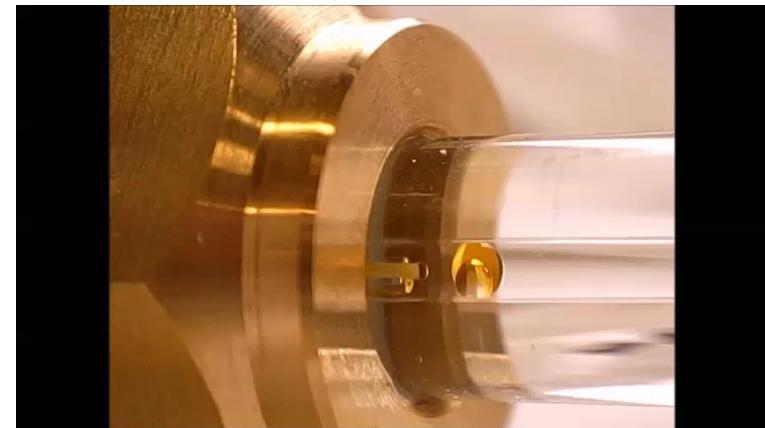
- Fixed reactor volume
- Conversion decreases with increasing residence time
  - Decreasing flow rate/mixing efficiency
- Increased reaction time unable to compensate loss in mixing efficiency

# Multi-Phase Approach

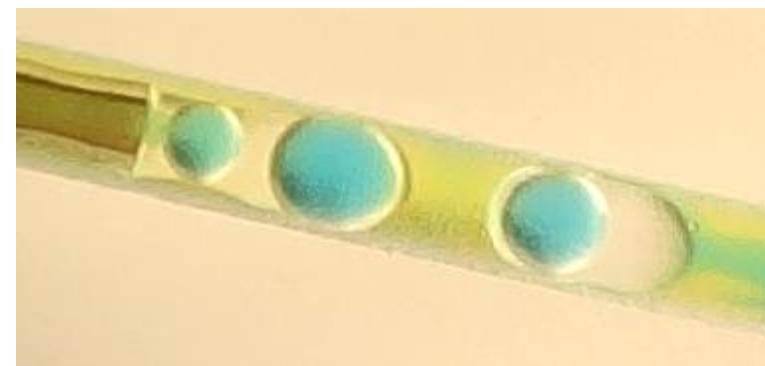


## Coaxial double emulsion generator

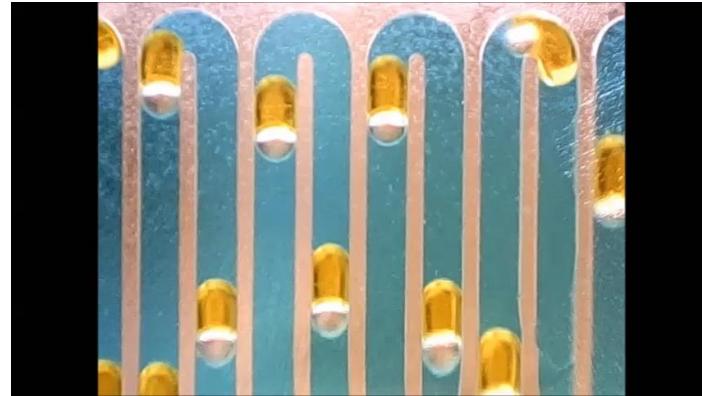
- 2 T-junctions to insert core and shell capillary into main channel
- Coplanar outlet of inner capillaries
- Core droplet is infused into shell droplet while latter is generated



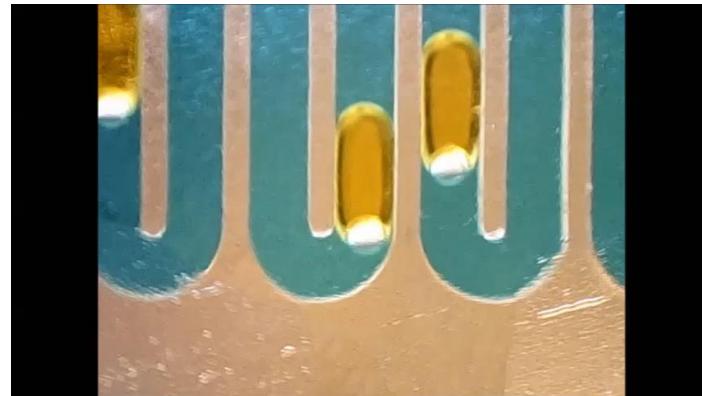
Video: [Link](#)



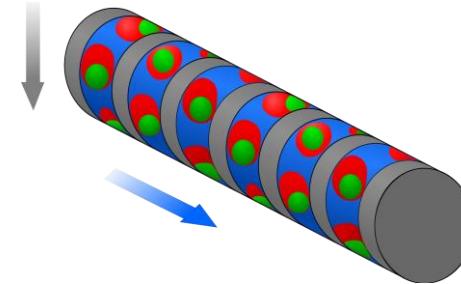
# Multi-Phase Approach



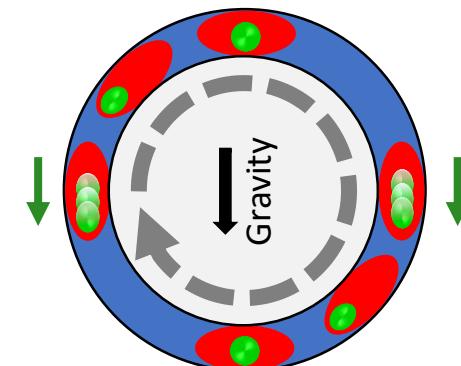
Video: [Link](#)



Video: [Link](#)



Reversal point

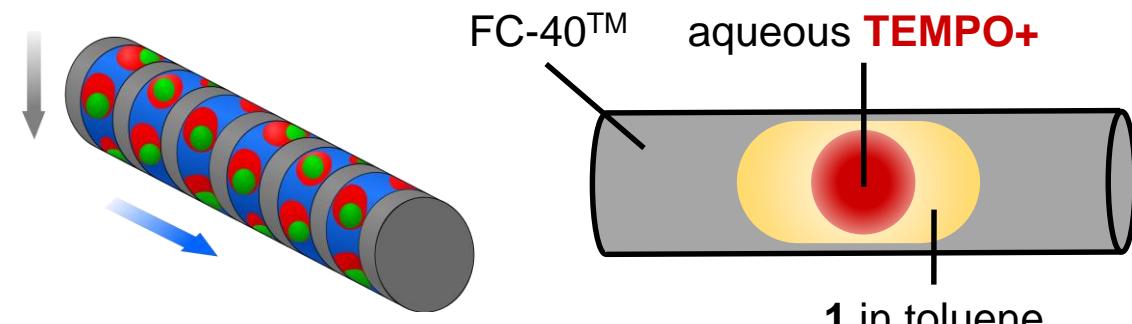
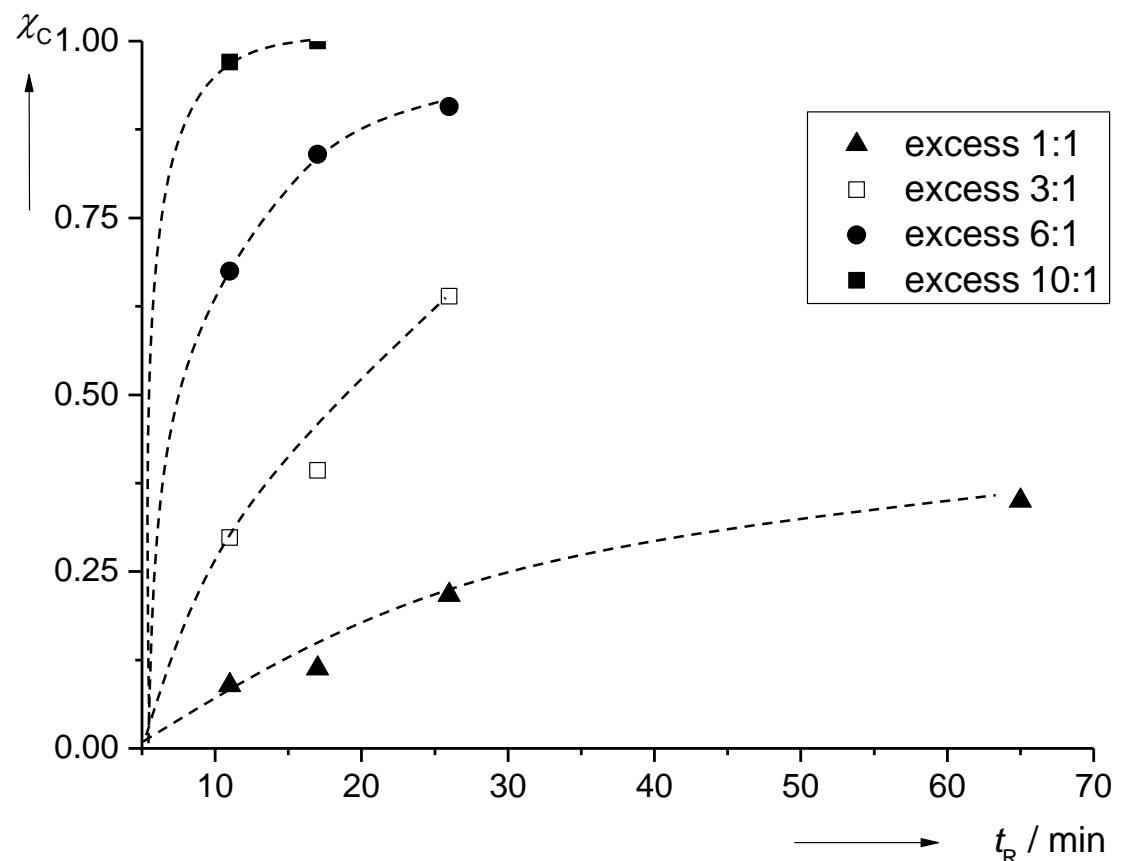


Reversal point

## Passive mixing:

- Gravity induced
- Capillary coiled on cylinder
- Double emulsion, core droplet pulled downwards by gravity
  - Crosses shell droplet twice every winding

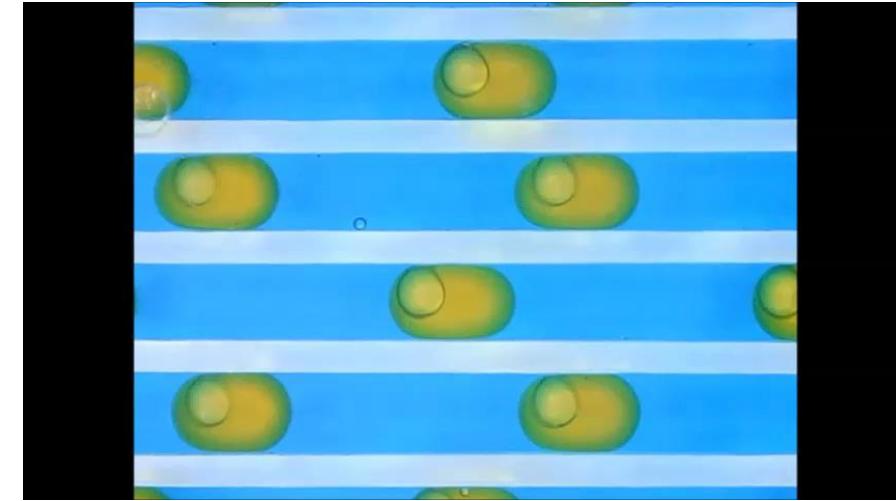
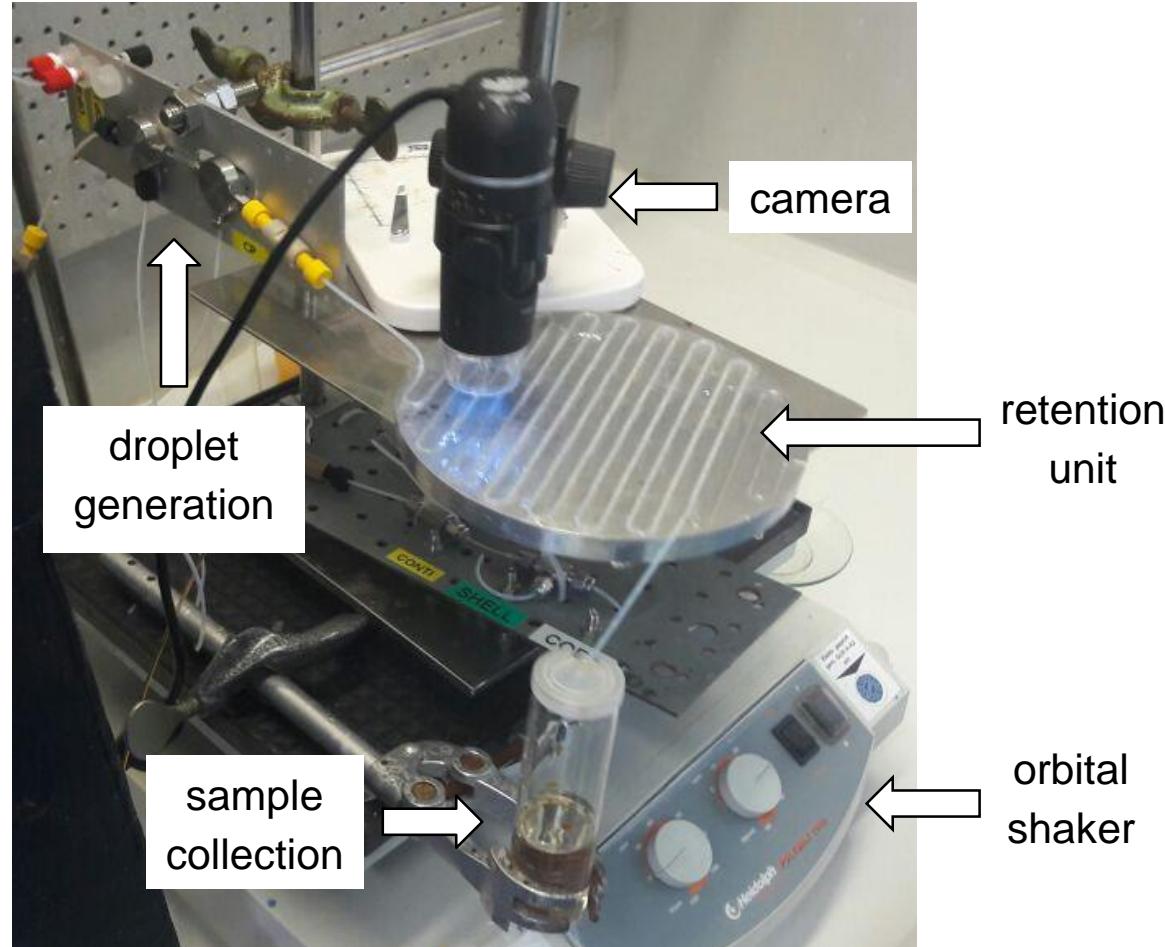
# Multi-Phase Approach



## Gravity induced mixing:

- Oxidant and alcohol in different phases
  - Interface reaction
  - Extended reaction time necessary
- 9-fold excess of **TEMPO+** reduces reaction time to 17 min
- Easy recycling of remaining **TEMPO+**

# Multi-Phase Approach

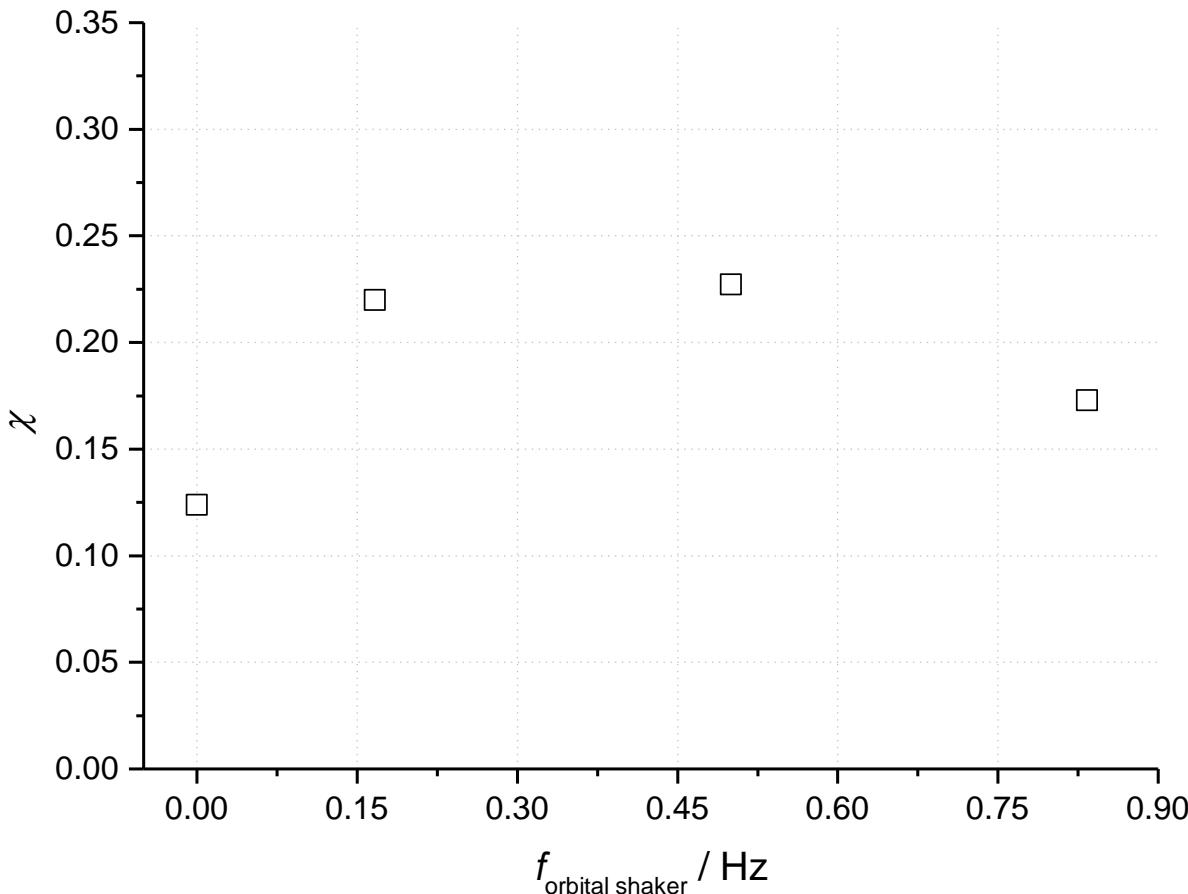


Video: [Link](#)

## Active mixing:

- Retention unit mounted on orbital shaker
- Double emulsion, jiggling of core droplet
  - Stirring of shell phase with adjustable frequency

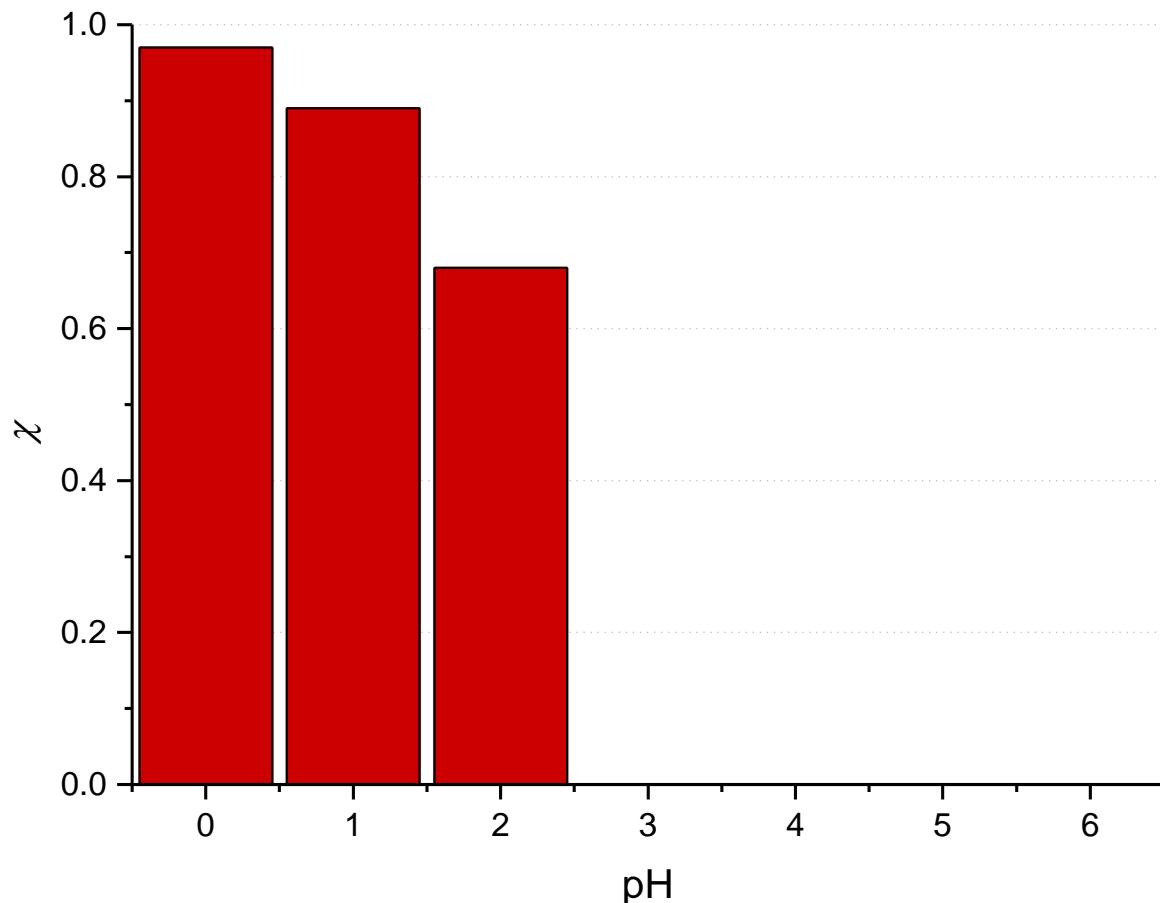
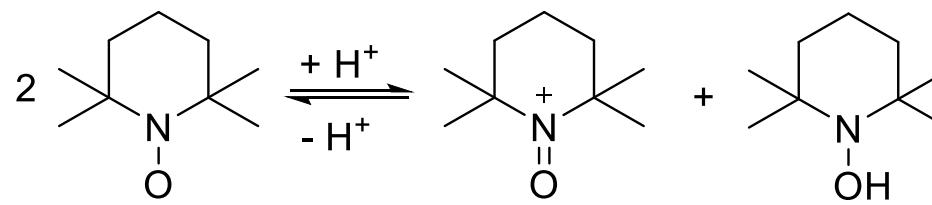
# Multi-Phase Approach



## Stirred double emulsion:

- 1.7 eq of **TEMPO+** used
- Conversion 12% in 3 min without mixing
- Increase to approx. 22% conversion between 0.2 Hz and 0.5 Hz
- Maximum expected around 0.35 Hz
- Further Investigation necessary

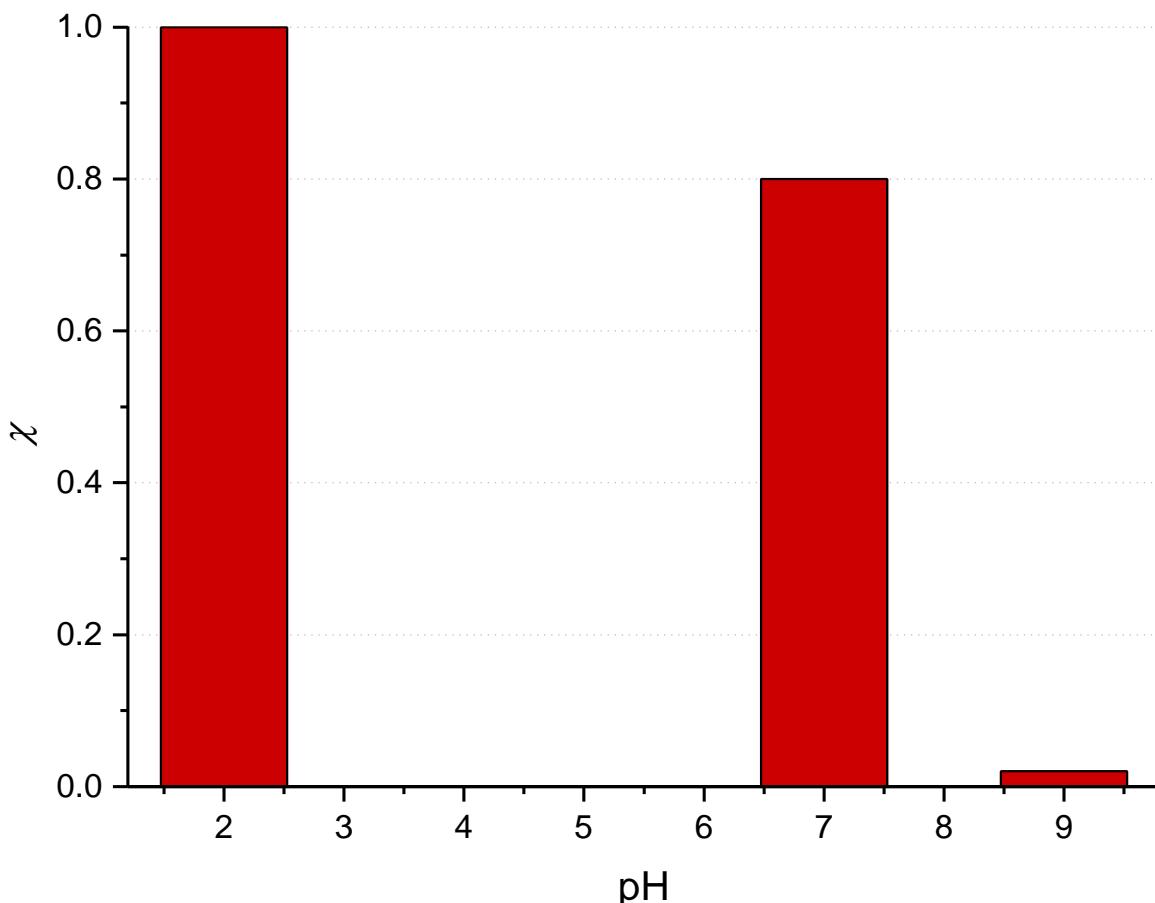
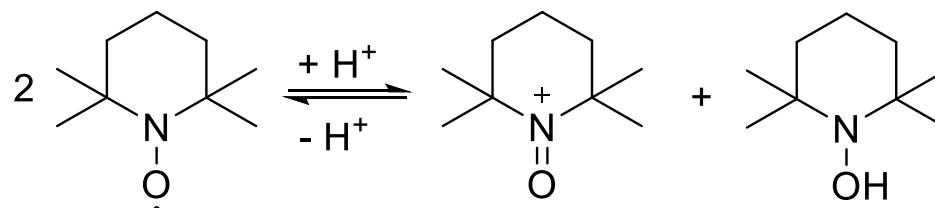
# Electrooxidation



## Disproportionation of TEMPO:

- Full conversion to **TEMPO+** and **TEMPOH** at pH = 0
- At pH = 2 **TEMPO+** yield is 68%
  - Proportion of 33% of **TEMPO+**, **TEMPO** and **TEMPOH** each
- pH  $\geq 3$  suppresses disproportionation

# Electrooxidation

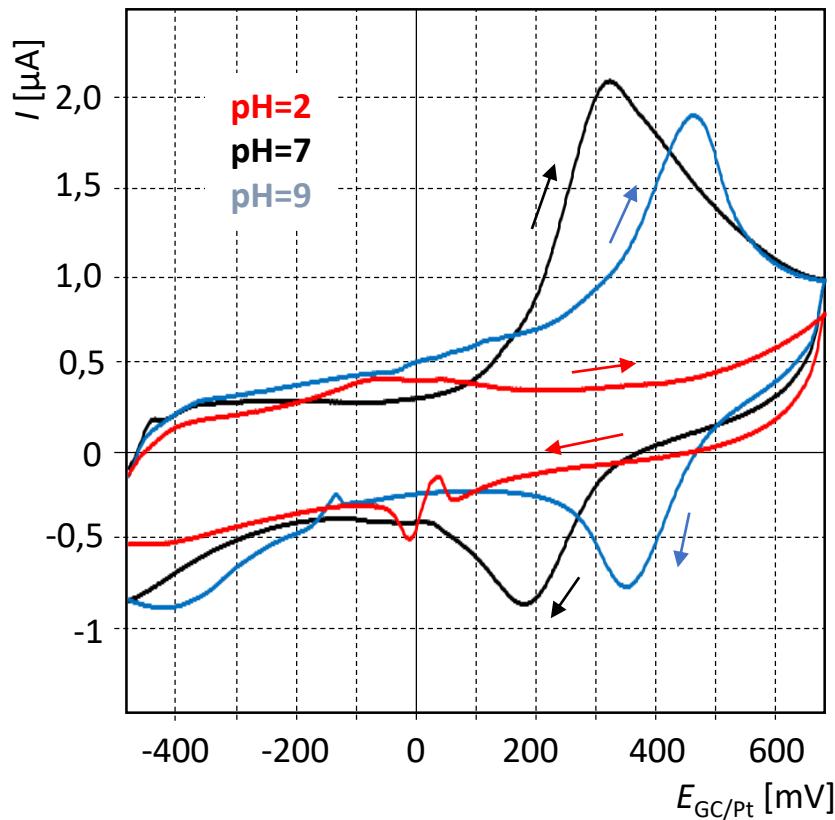


## Comproportionation of TEMPO+ and TEMPOH:

- **TEMPOH** formed in situ by adding 1 to **TEMPO+**
  - Almost total comproportionation at pH = 9
  - 80% **TEMPO+** left in neutral media
  - No comproportionation at pH = 2

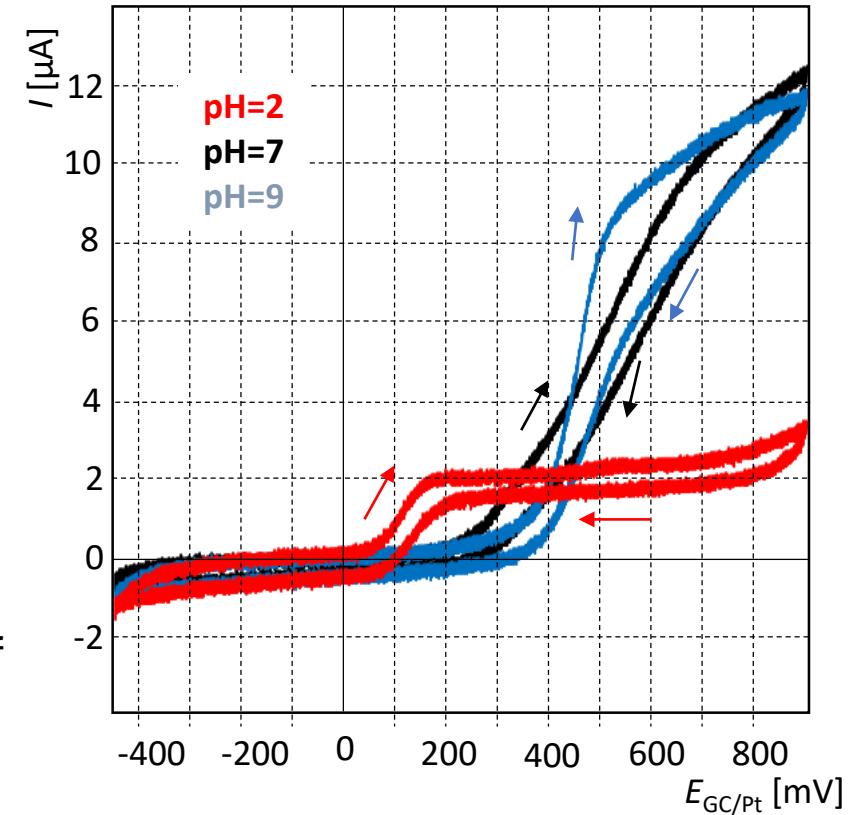
## Alcohol oxidation with stoichiometric amounts of **TEMPO+** requires pH < 2

# Electrooxidation

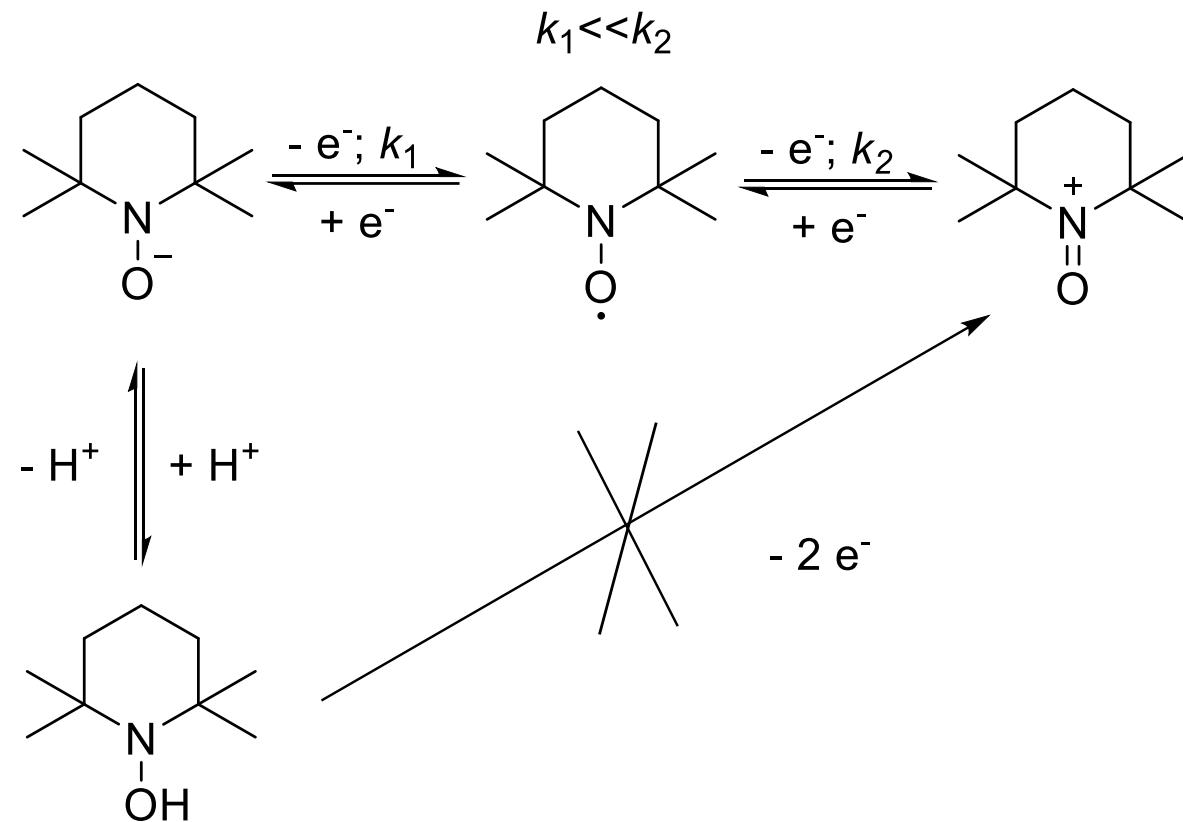


## CV and RDE measurements of TEMPOH:

- No conversion to **TEMPO+** observed in acidic medium ( $\text{pH} = 2$ )
- Neutral or alkaline medium required
- Intermediary **TEMPO** not observed
  - Proved by additional CV/RDE measurements of **TEMPO**



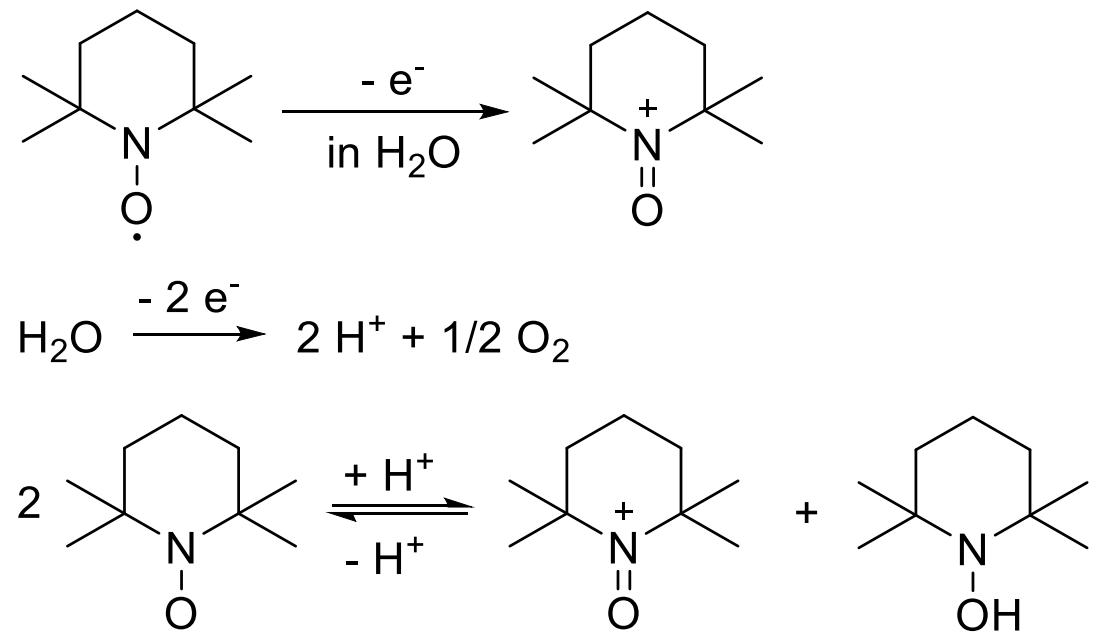
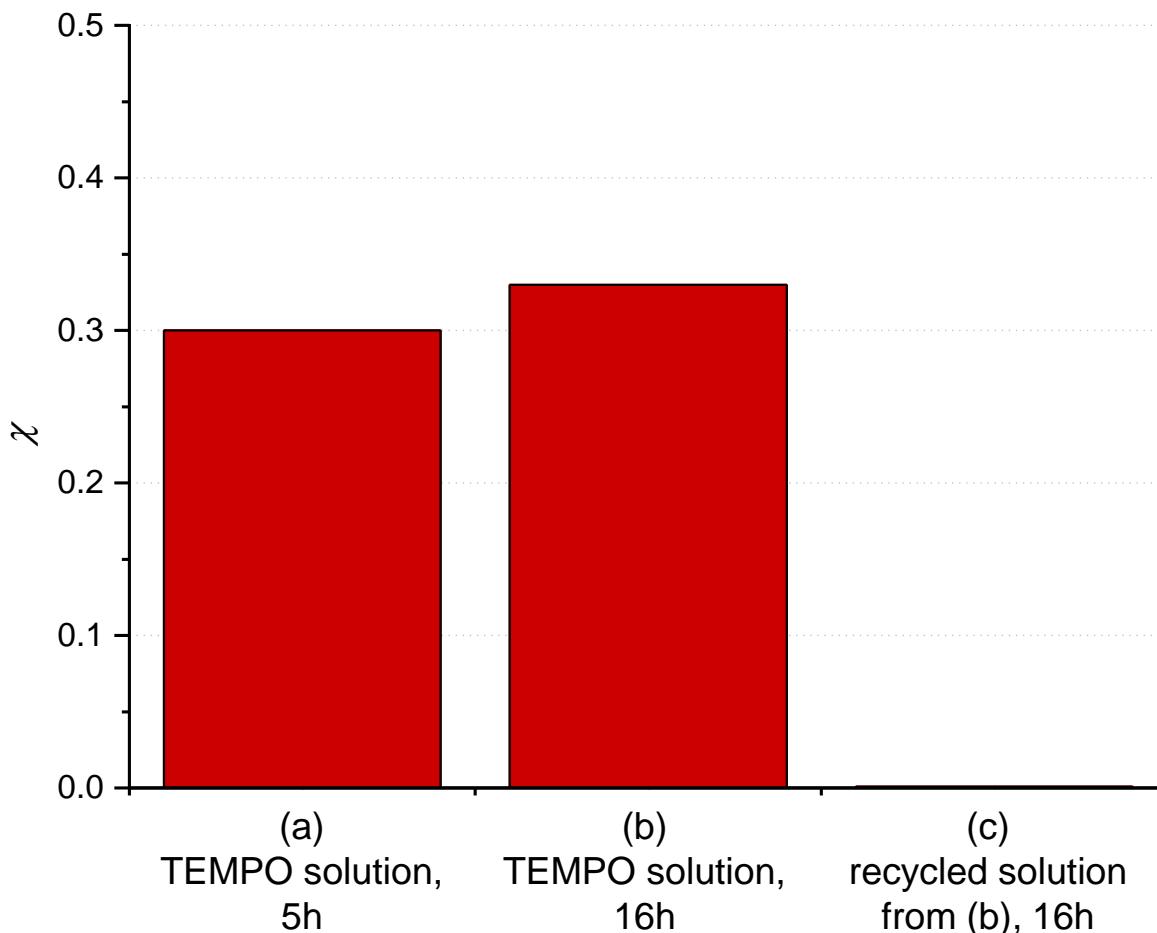
# Electrooxidation



## Oxidation path:

- Easy oxidation **TEMPO**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO<sup>+</sup>**
- No direct oxidation **TEMPOH**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO<sup>+</sup>**
- Only in alkaline media
  - Preceding deprotonation to **TEMPO<sup>-</sup>**
  - **TEMPO<sup>-</sup>**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO<sup>+</sup>**
  - **TEMPO<sup>-</sup>**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO** much slower than **TEMPO**  $\rightarrow$  **TEMPO<sup>+</sup>**

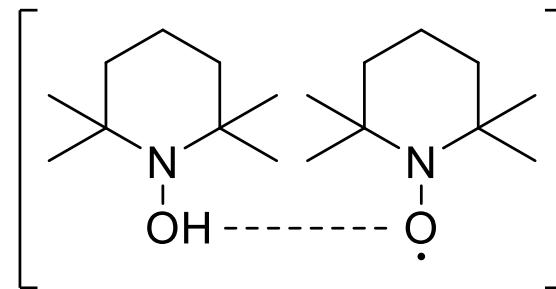
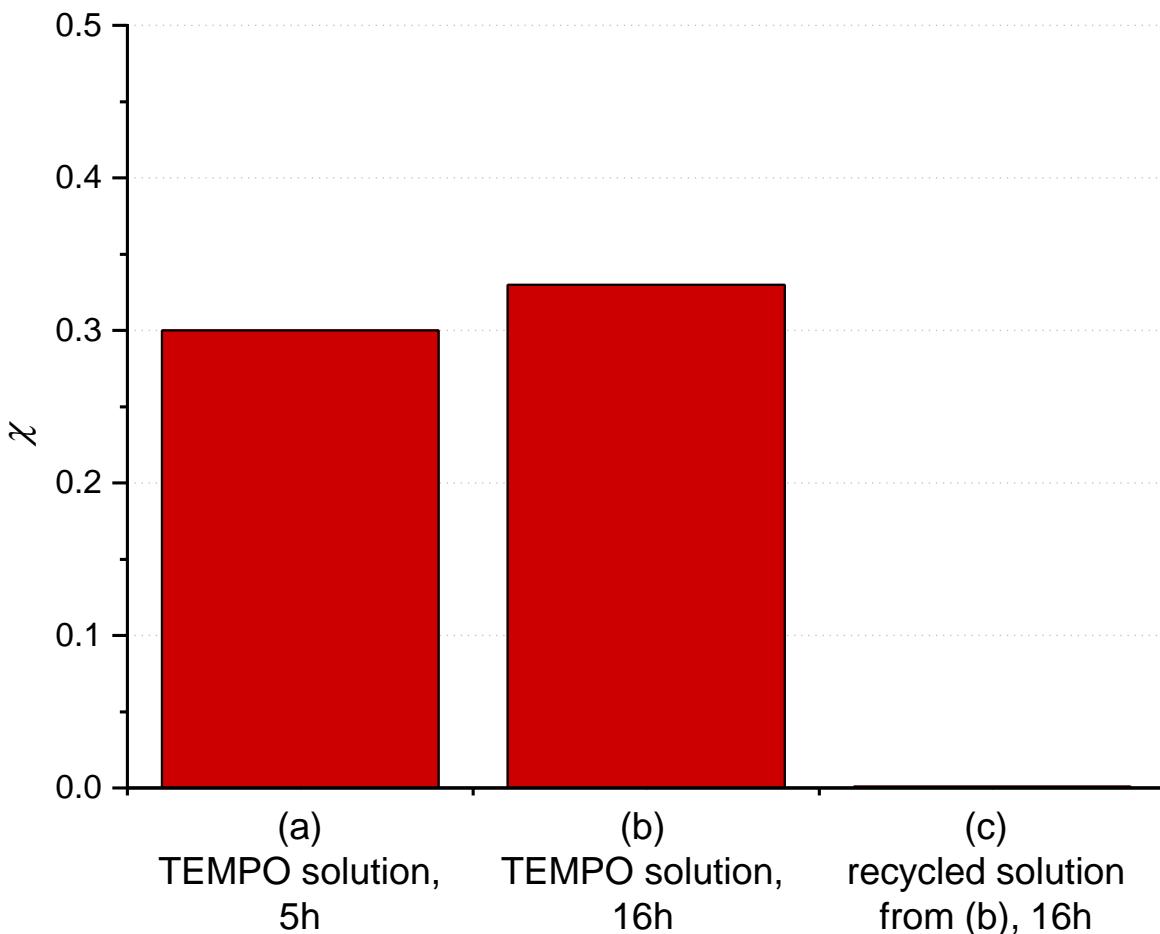
# Electrooxidation



## Batch electrolysis:

- Maximum yield 33%
- Decomposition of water acidifies anolyte
  - Disproportionation of **TEMPO**

# Electrooxidation

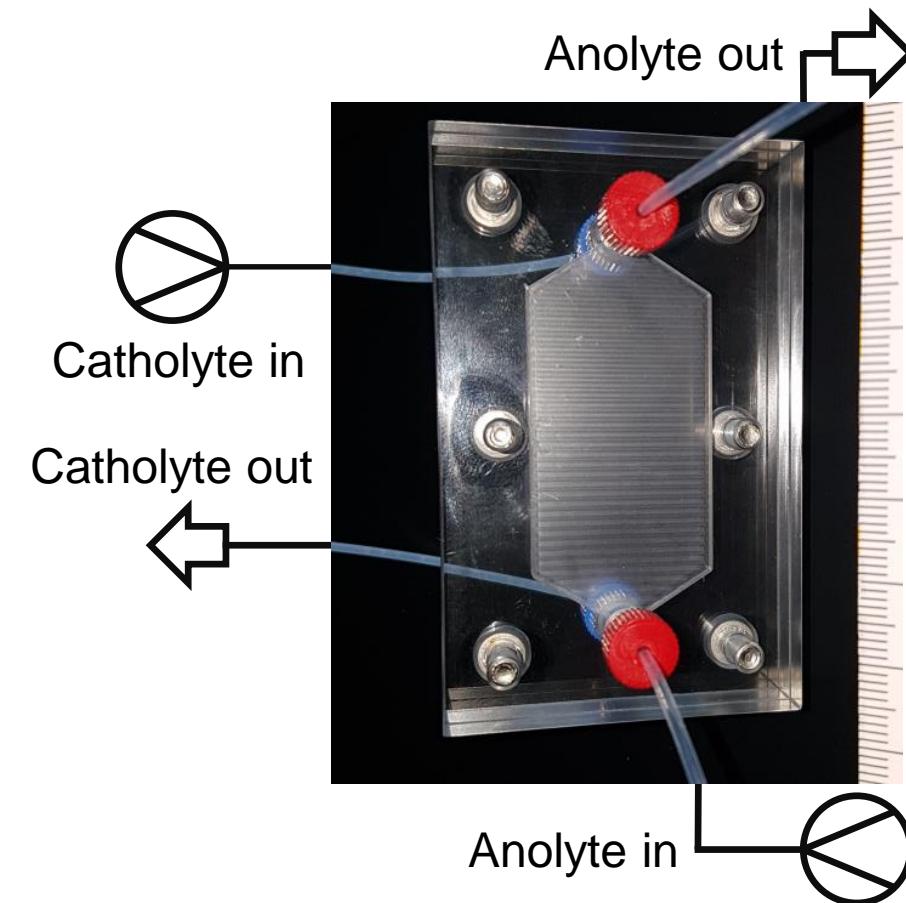
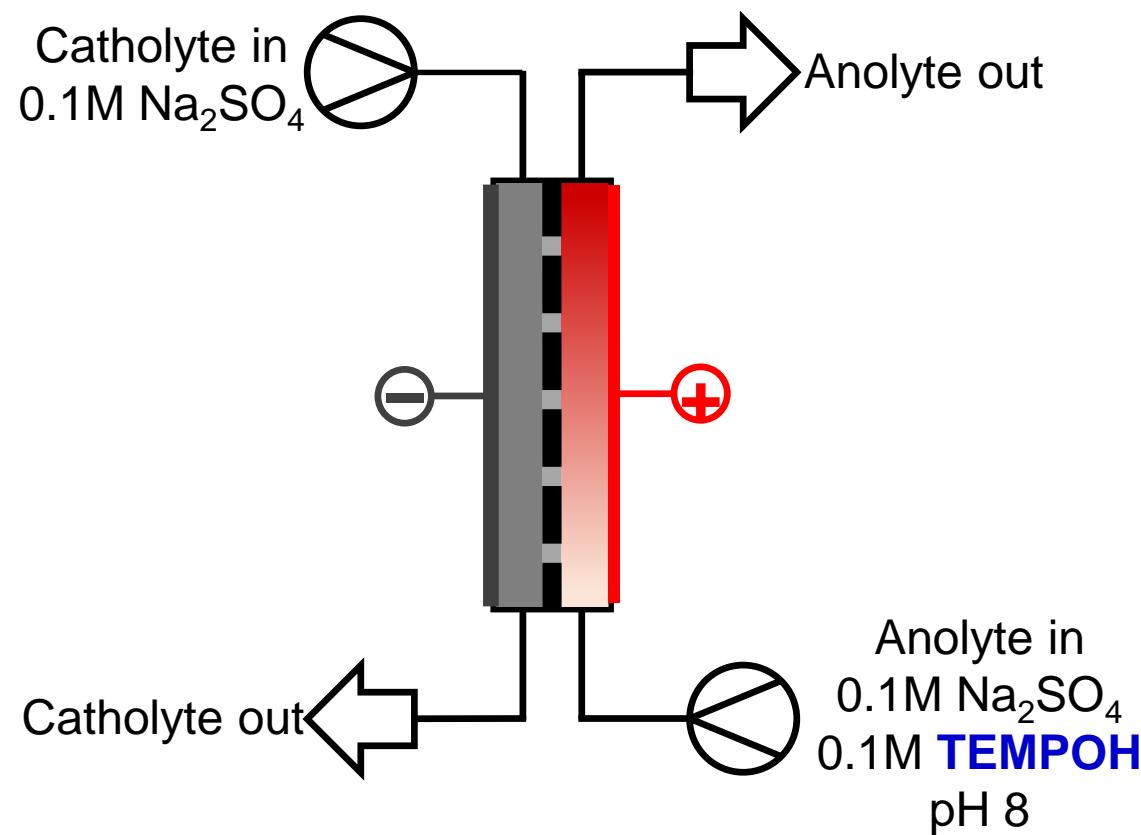


A. M. Janiszewska, M. Grzeszczuk,  
*Electroanalysis*, 2004, 16 (20),  
1673-1681.

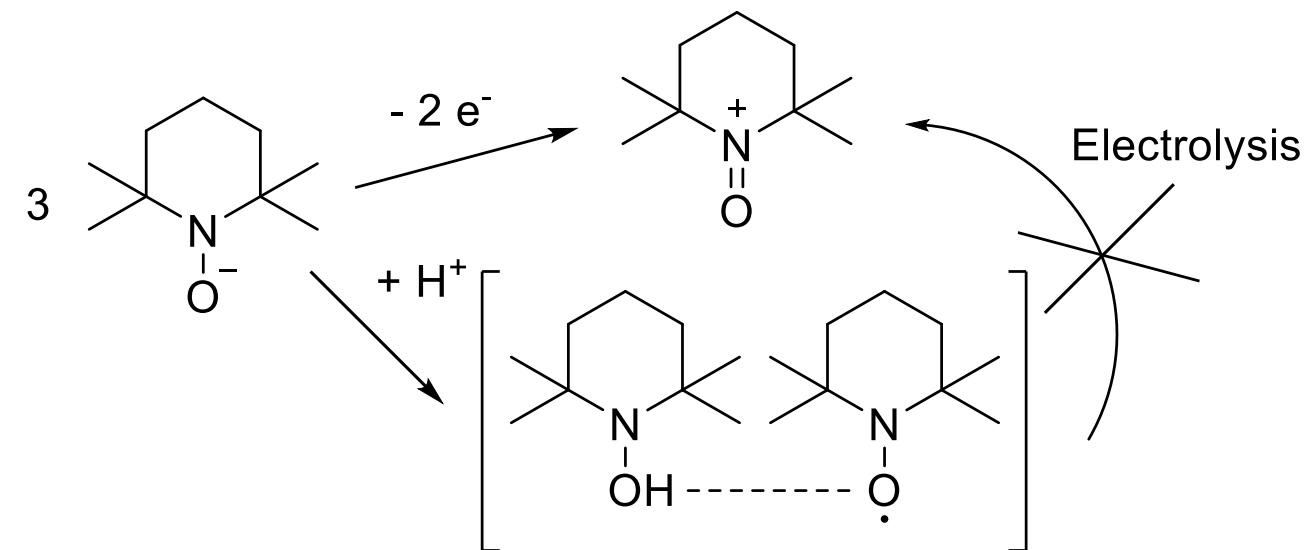
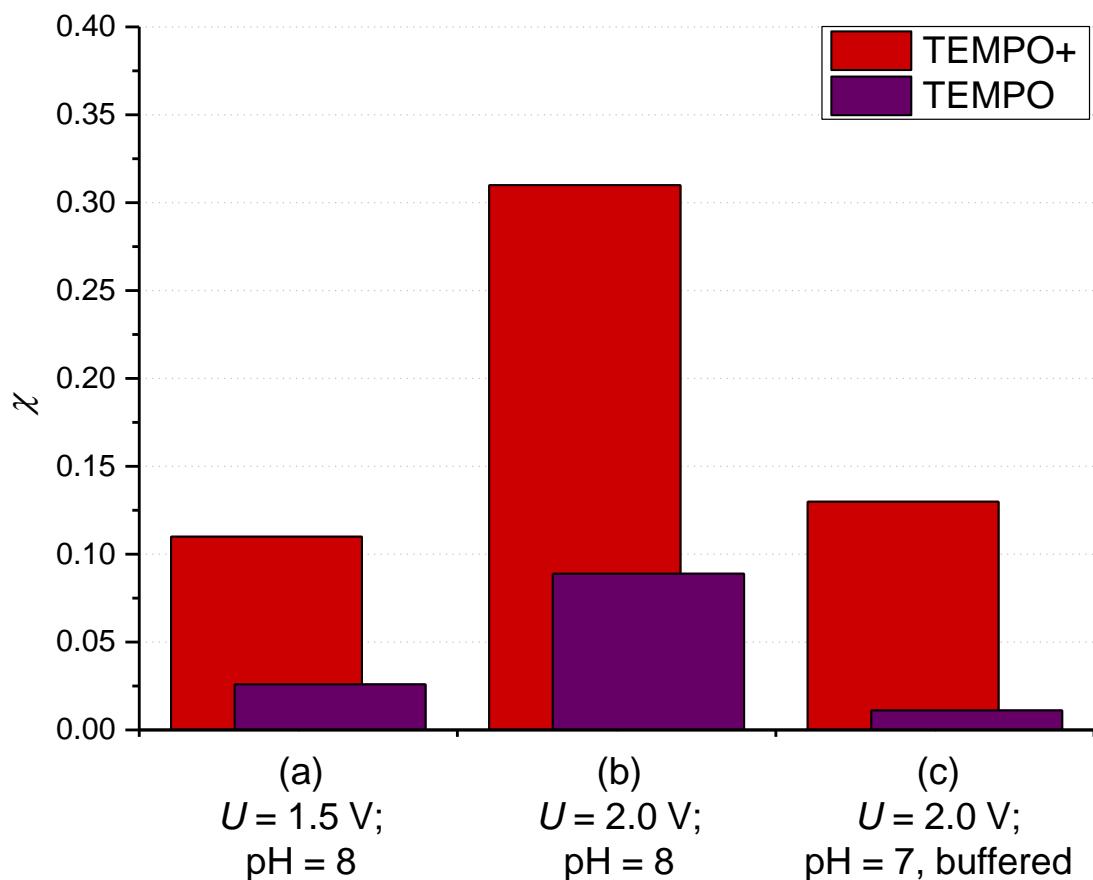
## Batch electrolysis:

- Maximum yield 33%
- Decomposition of water acidifies anolyte
  - Disproportionation of **TEMPO**
- **TEMPOH** associates with **TEMPO**
  - Oxidation is prevented

# Electrooxidation



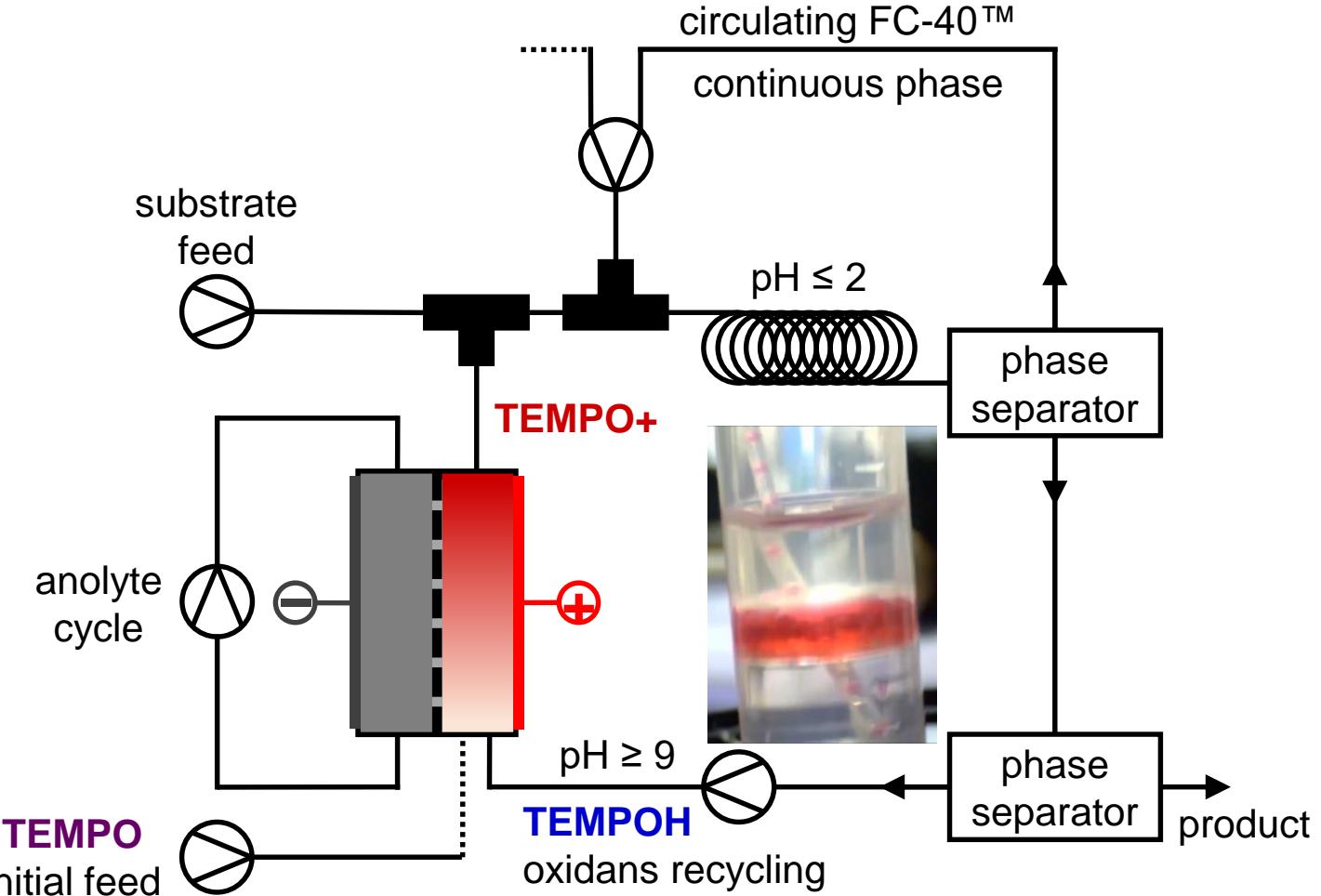
# Electrooxidation



## Continuous electrolysis:

- Decomposition of water  $\rightarrow$  acidification
- Maximum yield 33%
- Buffering at pH = 7 prevents dimerization, lowers oxidation yield due to protonation of **TEMPO<sup>•</sup>**

# Outlook



## Electrochemical microstructured reactor:

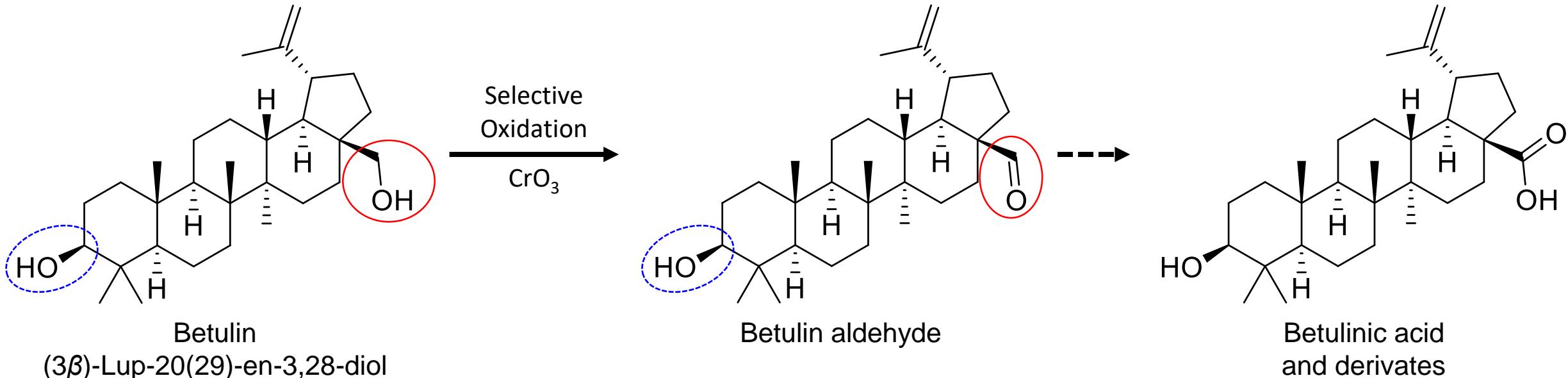
- Divided cell (Nafion™ membrane)
- Ti meshed metal baffle, platinized
- Galvanostatic mode

## Challenges:

- pH change required
- Flow rate adjustment
- Continuous phase separation
- Recirculation of mediator

**Objective: Fully automated process**

# Outlook



Betula  
pendula



Fraxinus  
americana



Sorbus  
americana

## API synthesis from natural/renewable resources

- Antitumor and –inflammatory properties
- Treatment of leukemia, malaria etc.

# Conclusions

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- One-phase process requires much shorter reaction time than multi-phase reaction
- Multi-phase approach simplifies oxidans recycling significantly
  - Allows usage of huge excess of oxidans
  - Allows mixing in segmented flow
- Disproportionation equilibrium of **TEMPO** requires pH < 2 for optimal oxidation conditions
- Alkaline medium required for reoxidation of **TEMPOH**
- Water decomposition and association of **TEMPOH** and **TEMPO** major problems in batch and continuous oxidation, maximum yield of **TEMPO+** 33%
- Fully integrated continuous process requires pH changes and continuous phase separation
- Applications in API synthesis, focus on betulin and derivates

# Thank You!

Prof. Dr. Holger Löwe



Christoph Deckers



Dr. Julian Heinrich

