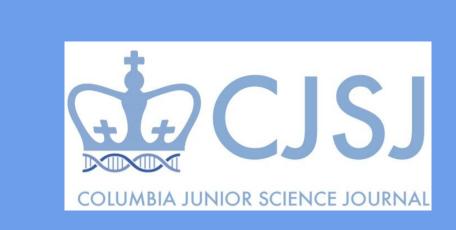


Converting CO₂ to Ethanol Using Metal-Organic Frameworks and Copper **Catalysts for Automotive Tailpipes**

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Research Motivation

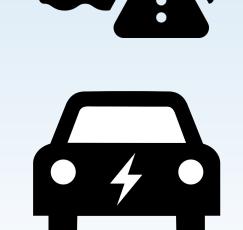


Climate change: Driven by increasing carbon dioxide emissions.

Transportation: Cars and vans accounted for



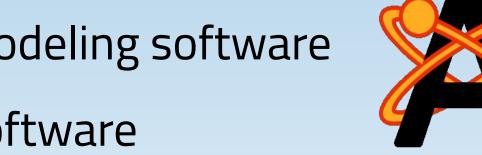
48% of transportation-related CO₂ emissions. Natural Disasters: Rising temperatures and sea levels



Underprivileged communities: Affected due to limited disaster relief and healthcare access. **Current solutions:** EV and bio-based fuels face sustainability challenges

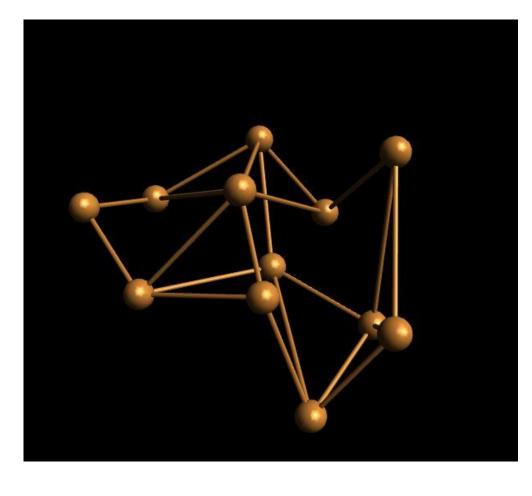
Methods & Materials

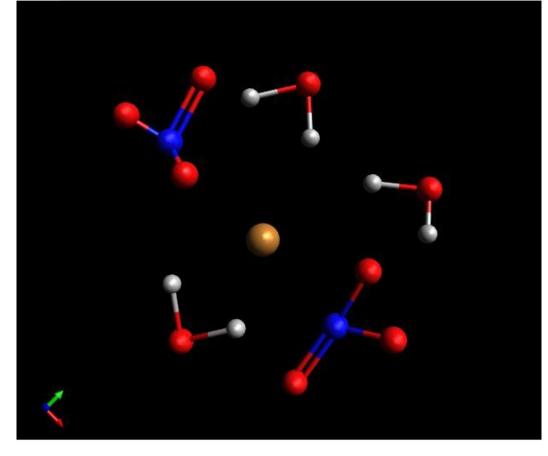
- Software Used:
 - Avogadro molecular modeling software

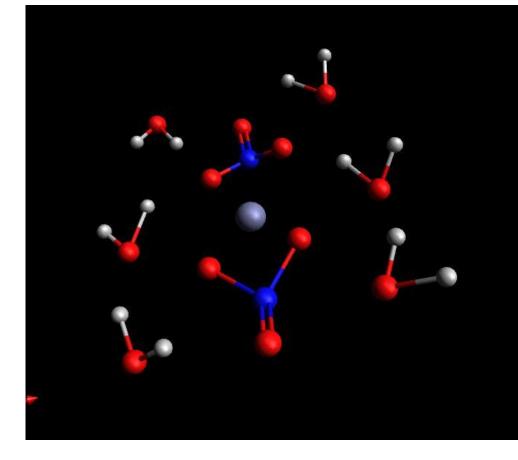


- ChemreaX modeling software
- MITSimplify simulation software Catalyst
- Reaction: Conditions simulated at ambient pressure with varying temperatures (100°F - 600°F).

$$ext{CO}_2 + 3 ext{H}_2 \xrightarrow{ ext{Catalyst}} ext{C}_2 ext{H}_5 ext{OH} + ext{H}_2 ext{O}$$







Organic compounds used in simulation

Procedure

This project captures vehicle CO₂ emissions and converts them into ethanol using MOFs and a copper catalyst, providing a sustainable way to reduce emissions and produce renewable fuel.

Hypothesis: MOFs and a copper catalyst are expected to efficiently capture vehicle emissions and convert them into ethanol, boosting carbon capture and sustainable fuel production.

Model copper catalyst and MOF using Avogadro

Analyze data using Python, NumPy, matplotlib

Study temperature effects

(100°F-600°F) on efficiency and yield

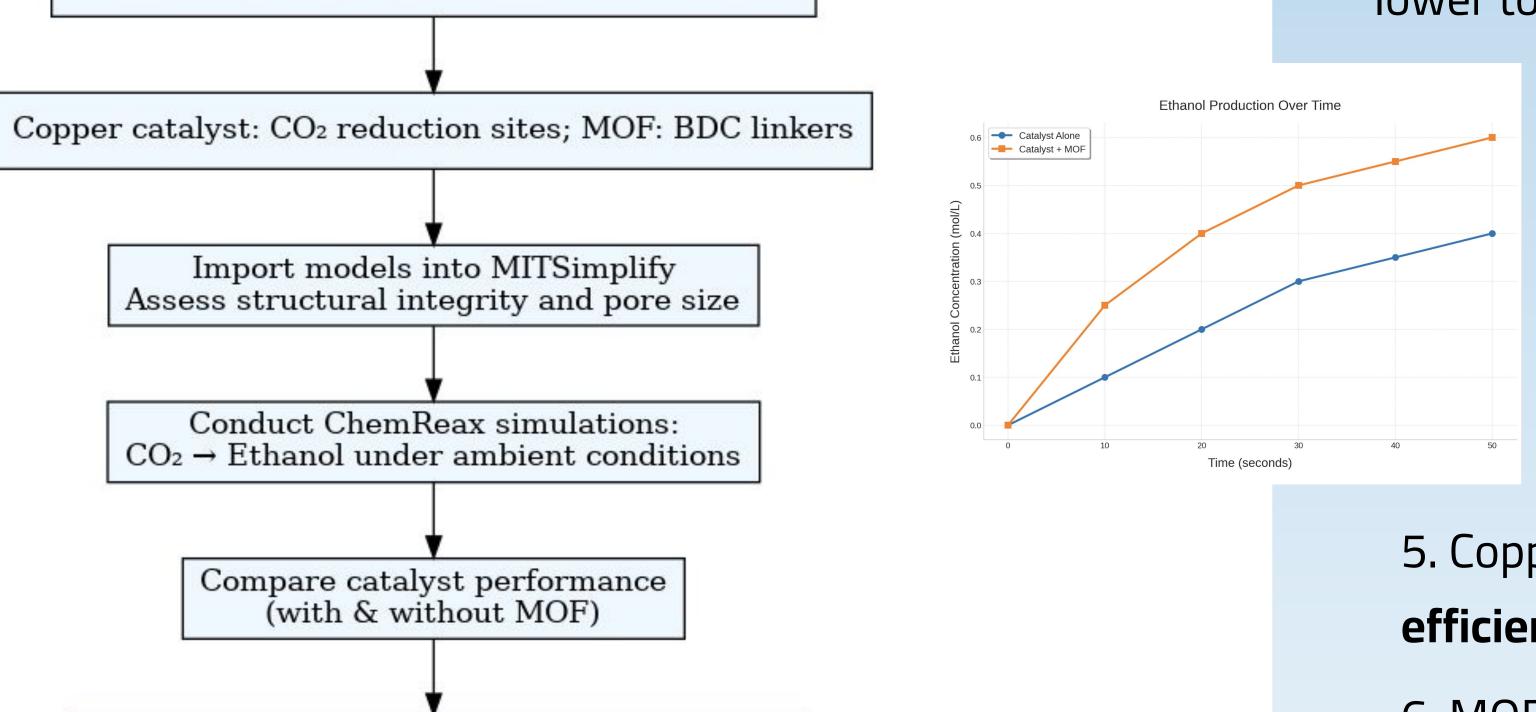
Identify optimal ethanol production (~400°F)

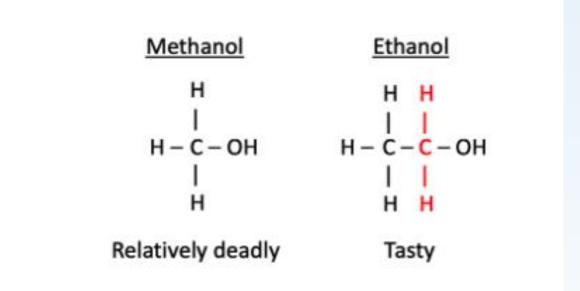
Develop predictive model:

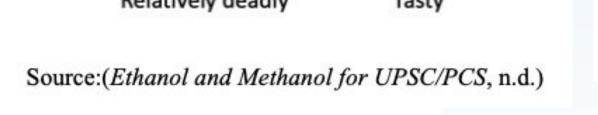
Ethanol vs. miles driven & CO2 emissions

Estimate yield:

~5.61 oz ethanol/mile (91% Faradaic efficiency)

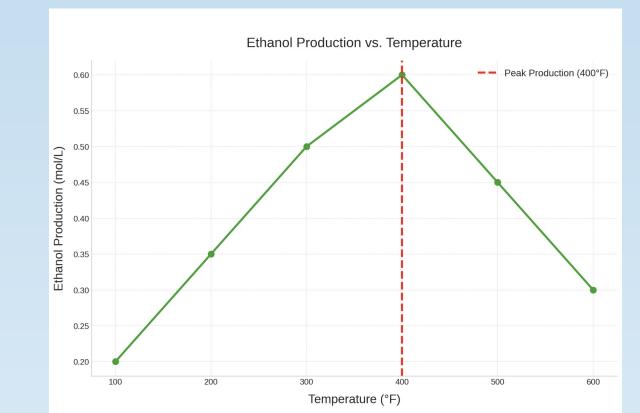


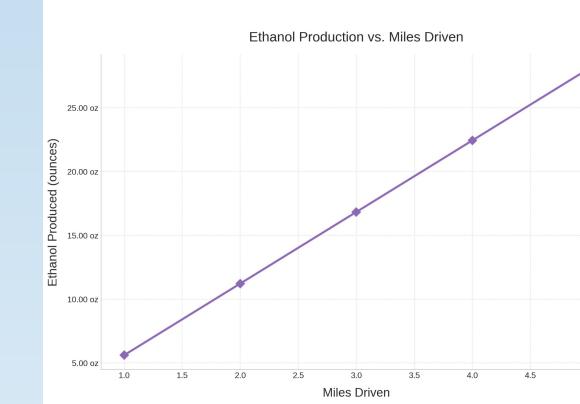




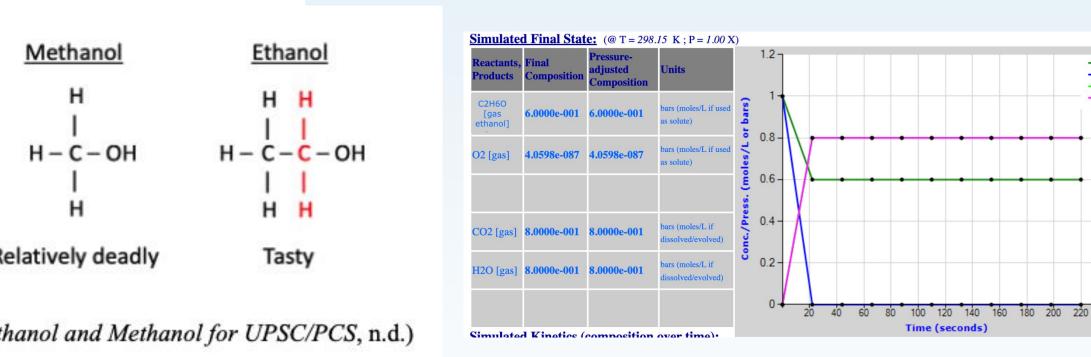
Results & Discussion

- 1. Optimal production temperature: ~400°F, aligning with typical car engine conditions.
- 2. Predictive model: ~5.61 oz ethanol/mile from vehicle CO₂ emissions.
- 3. Sustainability benefit: Produced ethanol can be reused in MOF synthesis, creating a closed-loop system.
- 4. Ethanol preferred over methanol due to higher efficiency and lower toxicity.





- 5. Copper catalyst (CCZ-AE-ox) achieved **91% Faradaic** efficiency, producing 0.4 mol/L ethanol in 50 seconds.
- 6. MOF addition increased ethanol production to 0.6 mol/L in 20 seconds (25% improvement).







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Diagram of a Metal Organic Framework(MOF)