

# Integration: Critical at the Start of the Chemical Industry, *Not So Much Now.....*



Mark Jones

*Creative Director*  
MJPhD, LLC

**8 September 2022**



## ■ What I hope to leave you with

- Integration was crucial in the development of the chemical industry but has decreased in importance
- Inorganic chemistry created the chemical industry and remains important, but not particularly valued
- Scale remains the major source of competitive advantage in commodity chemicals

# Chemical Industry Technology Waves

## Inorganic

- mined materials
- electrochemical
- active reagents allow transformations

## Functionalization

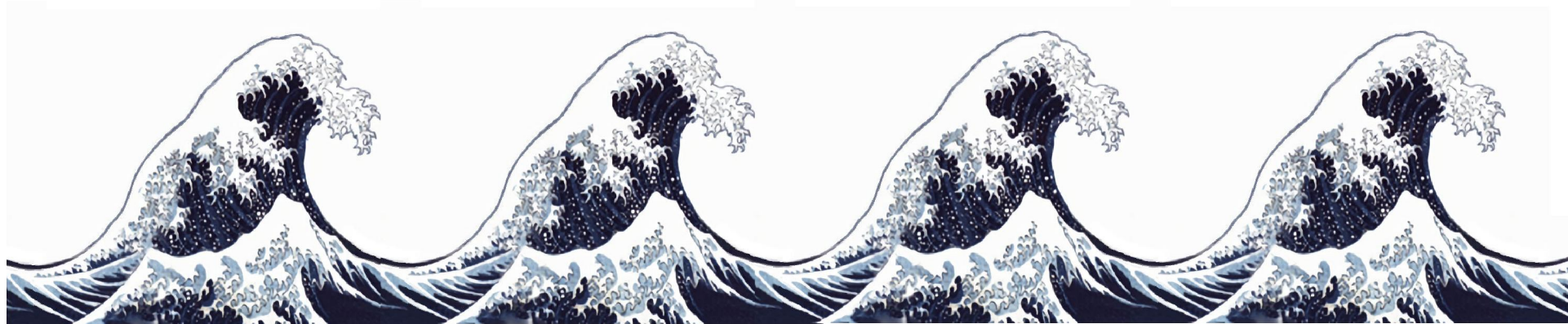
- use inorganics to transform organic substrates
- make dyes, solvents and drugs

## Cellulosics

- use inorganics to transform natural materials
- partially synthetic polymers

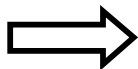
## Polymers

- took off with synthetic rubber
- continues today



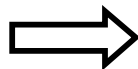
1760-1910

rocks



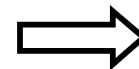
1870-1930

coal



1895-1935

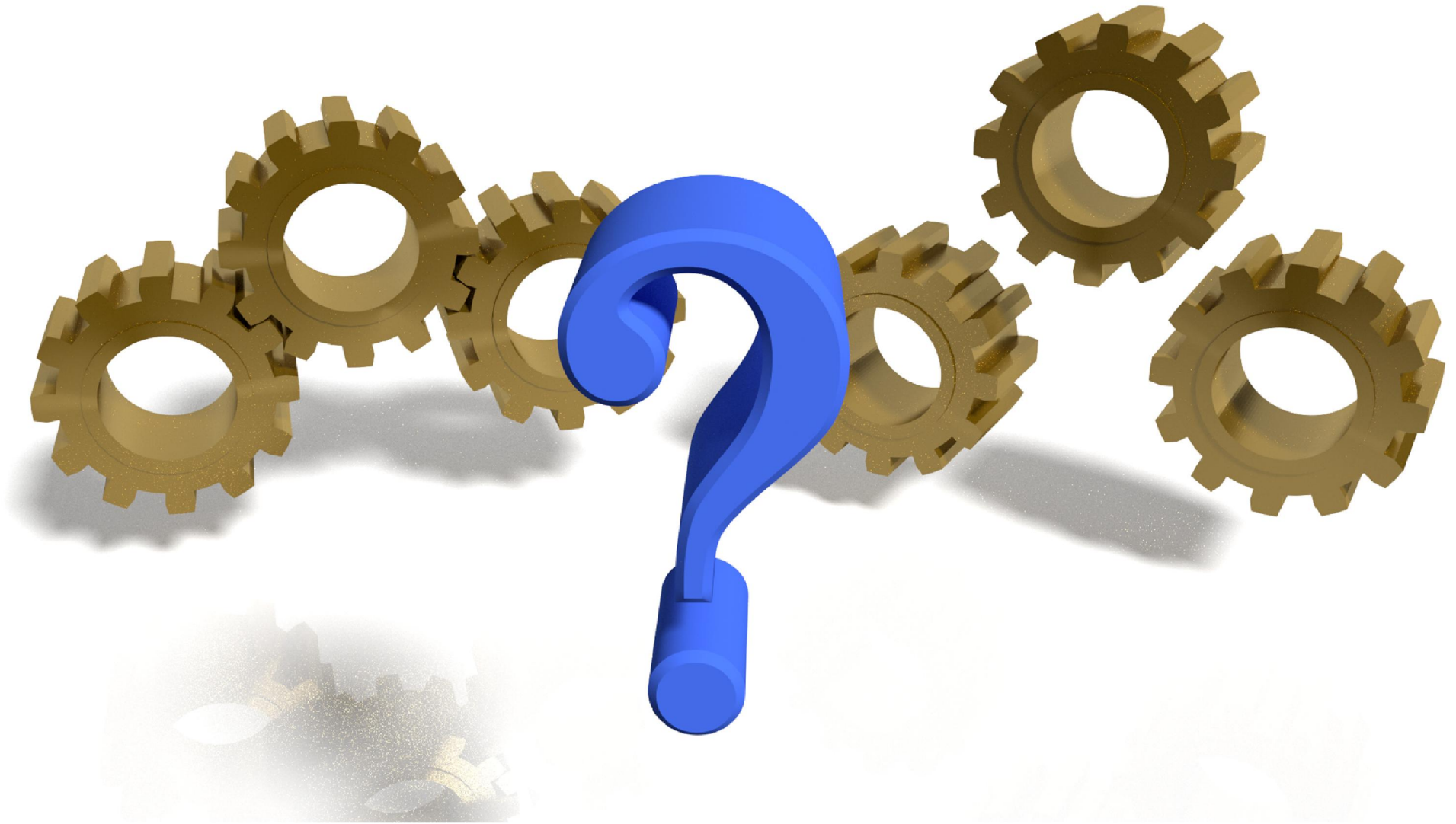
biomass



1925-present

petroleum  
NGL

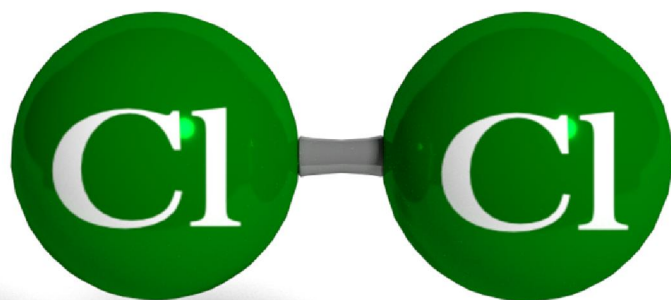
## ■ What is Integration?



## ■ Integration

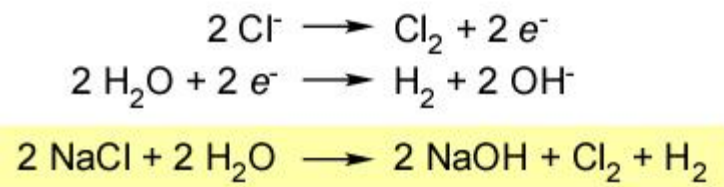
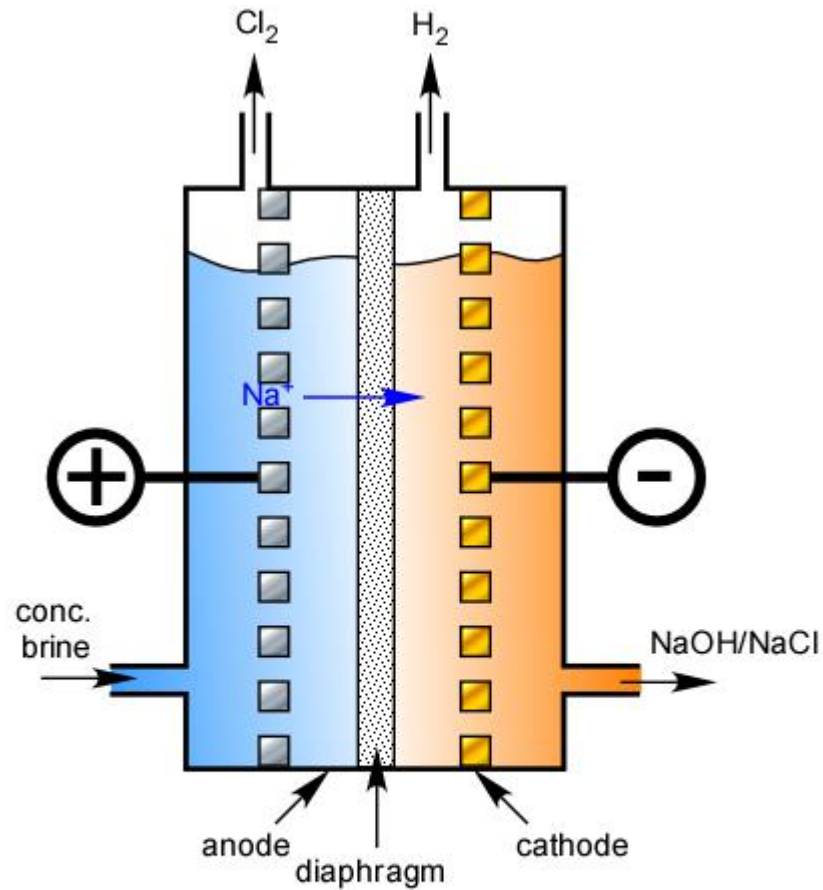


Linkage of mass and energy flows that create a significant advantage.



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# Chlor-Alkali



■ Bleach was the Product

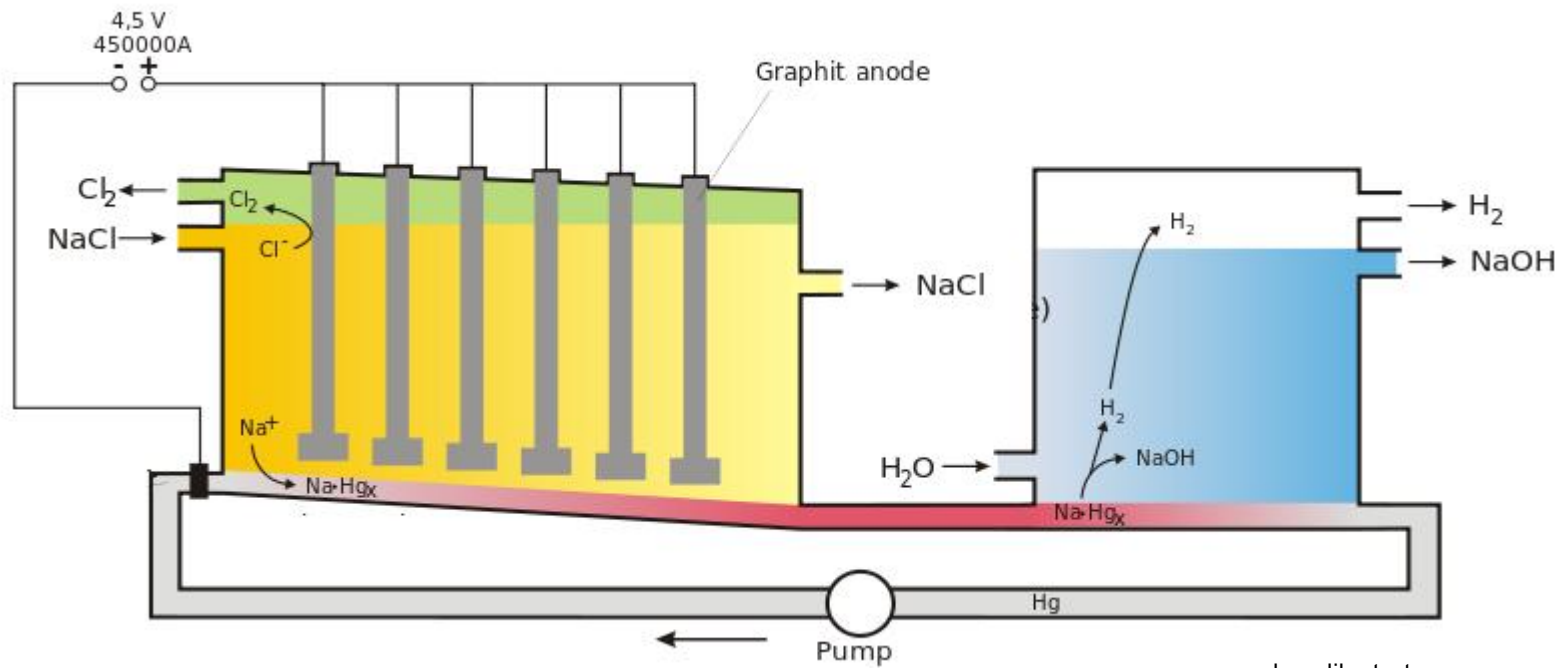


The oxidizing power of chlorine was what was desired.

*No net production of alkali*

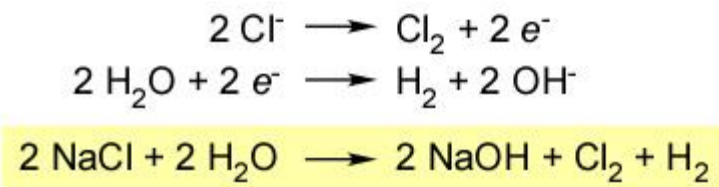
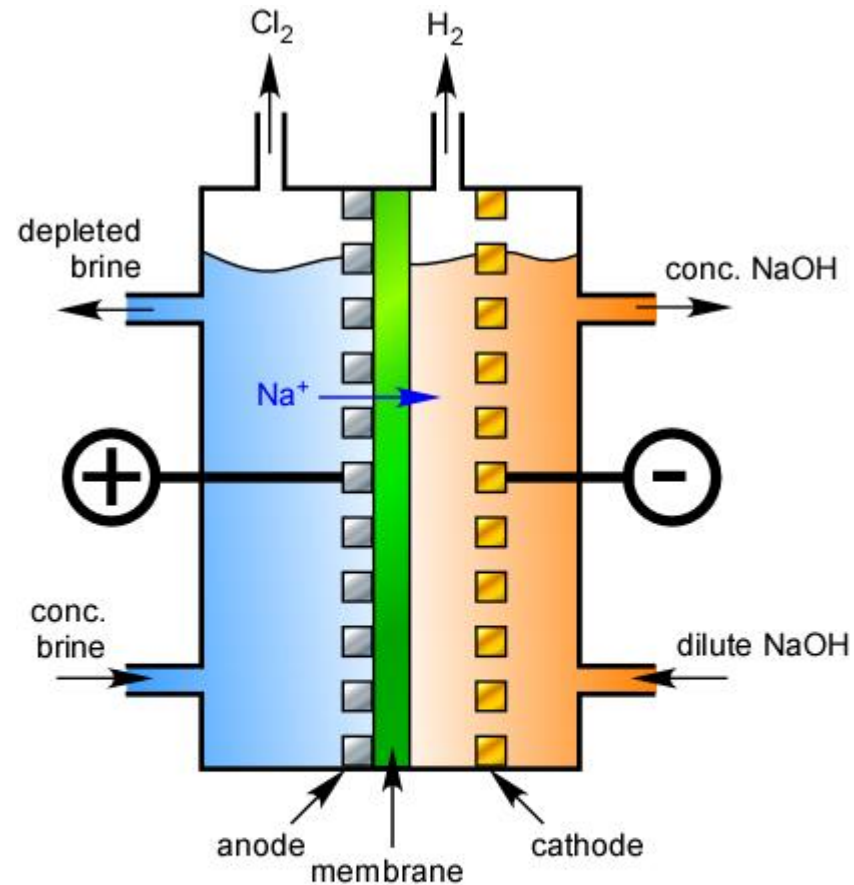


# Mercury Cells

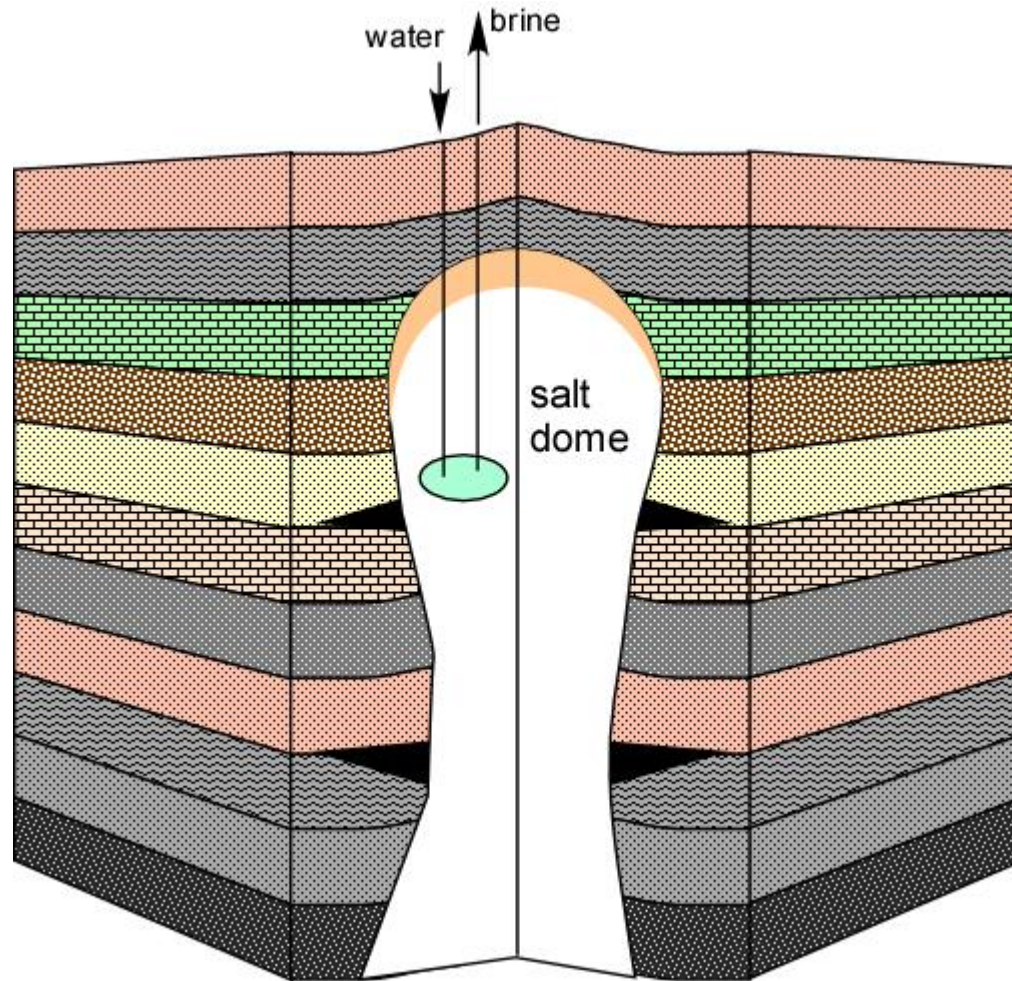


chem.libretexts.org

## Membrane Cells



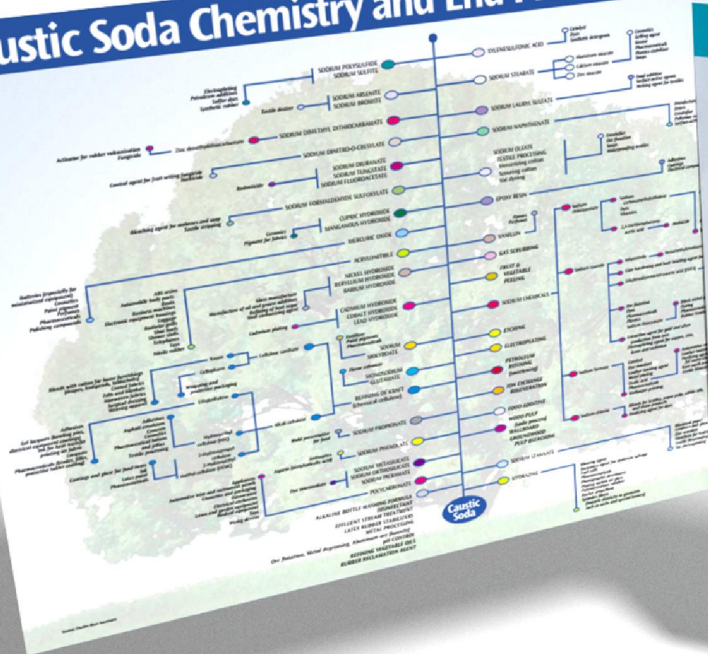
# ■ Solution Brine Mining



■ Balancing the ECU

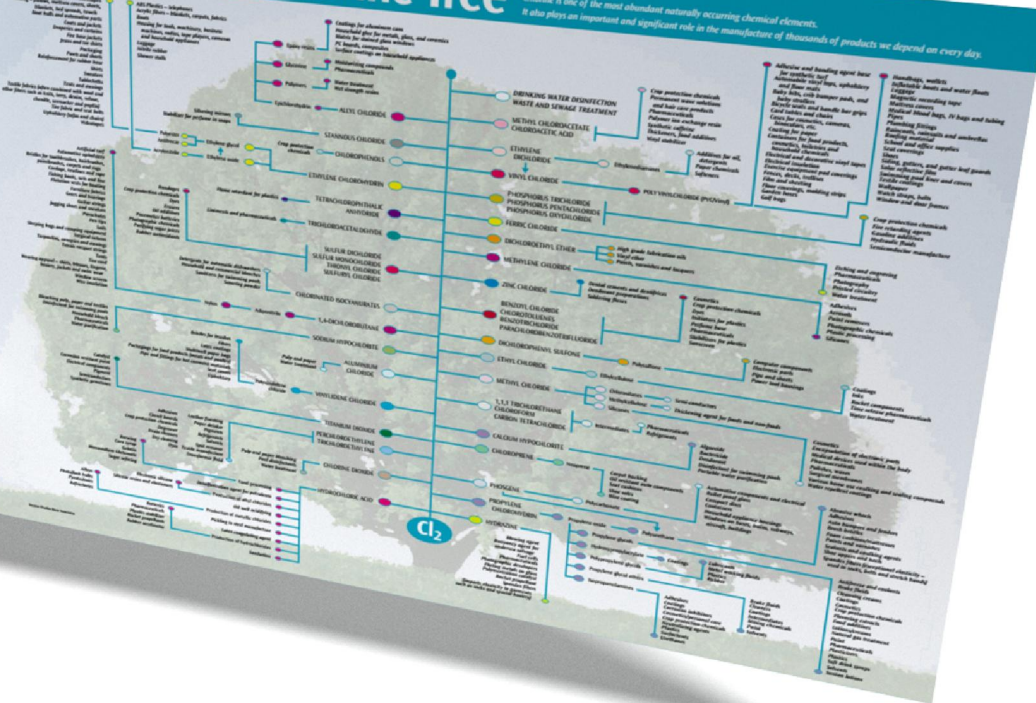


# Caustic Soda Chemistry and End Product Uses

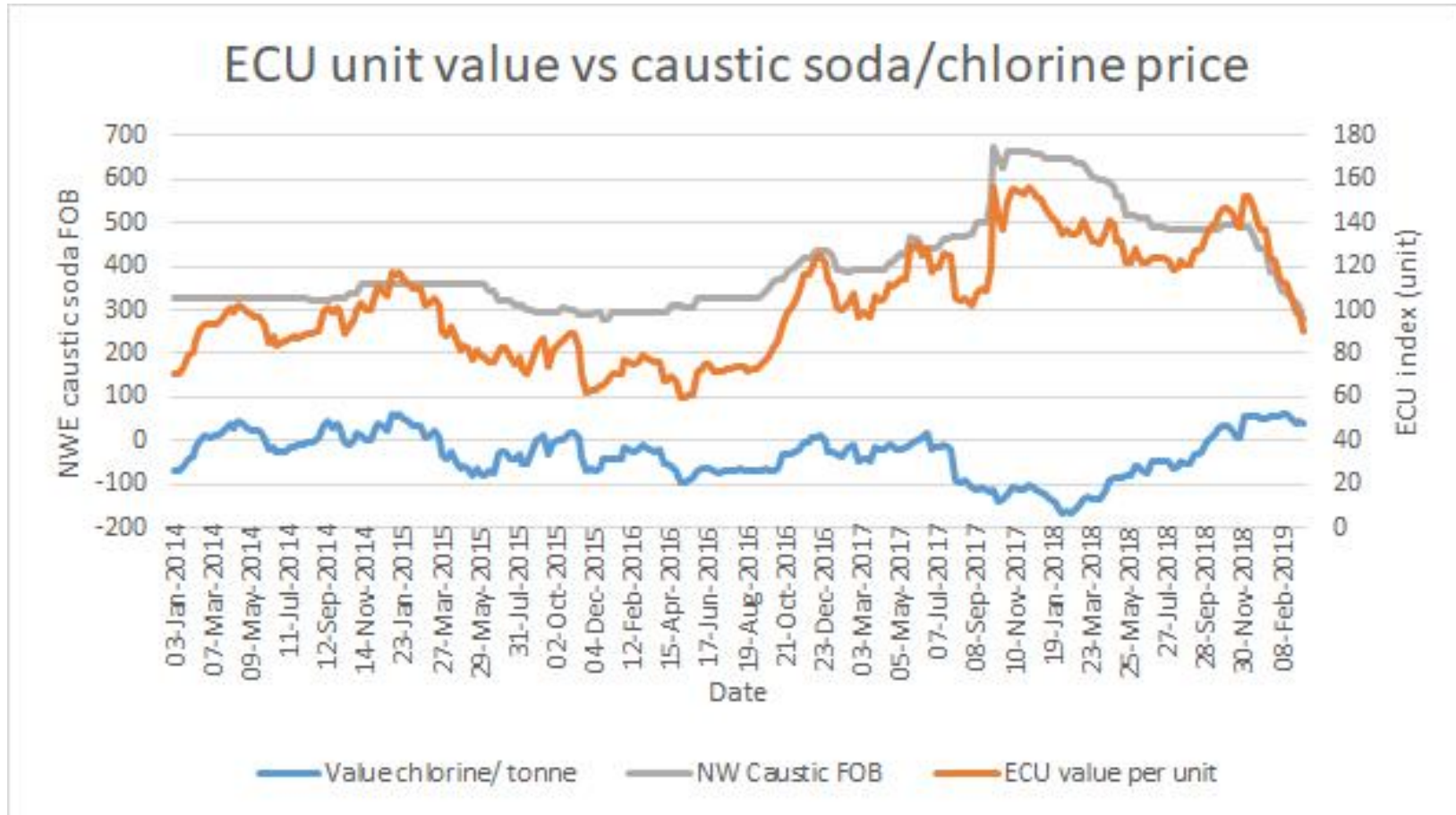


# Products of the Chlorine Tree

Chlorine is one of the most abundant naturally occurring chemical elements. It also plays an important and significant role in the manufacture of thousands of products we depend on every day.

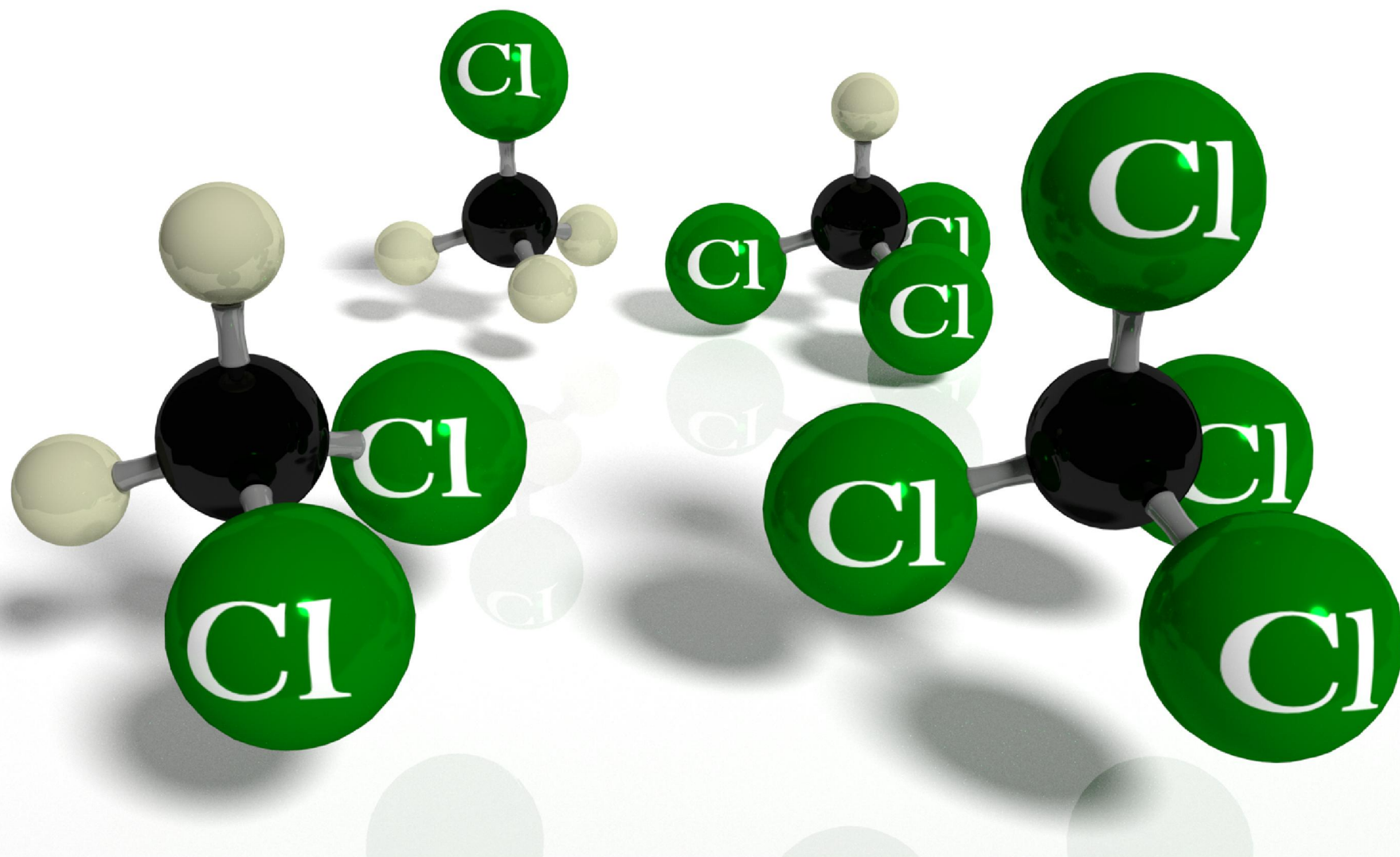


# ■ ECU Pricing



[ics.com/explore/resources/news/2019/03/21/10336962/insight-european-ecu-values-fall-to-the-lowest-level-since-2016/](https://www.ics.com/explore/resources/news/2019/03/21/10336962/insight-european-ecu-values-fall-to-the-lowest-level-since-2016/)

■ Organochlorides

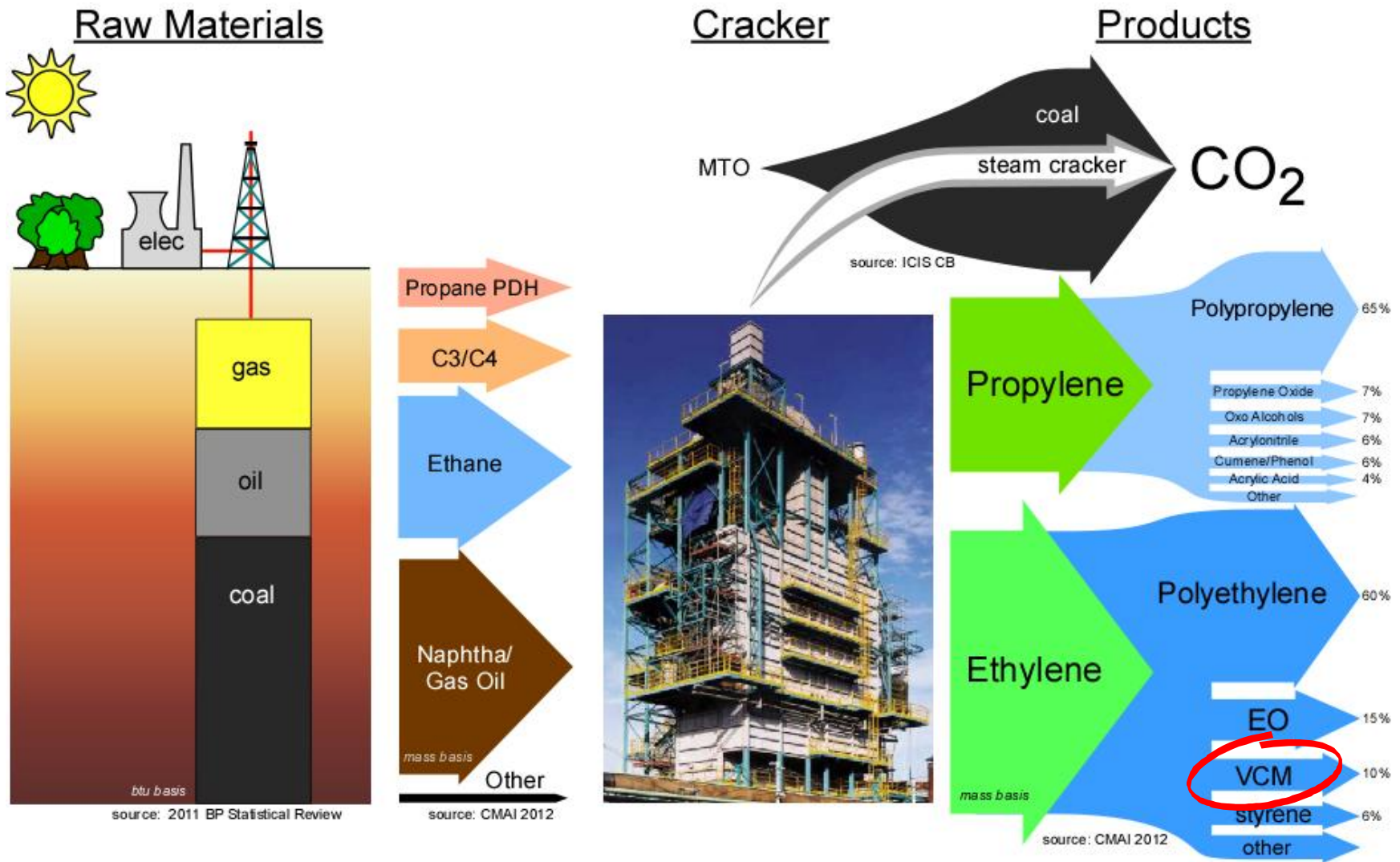




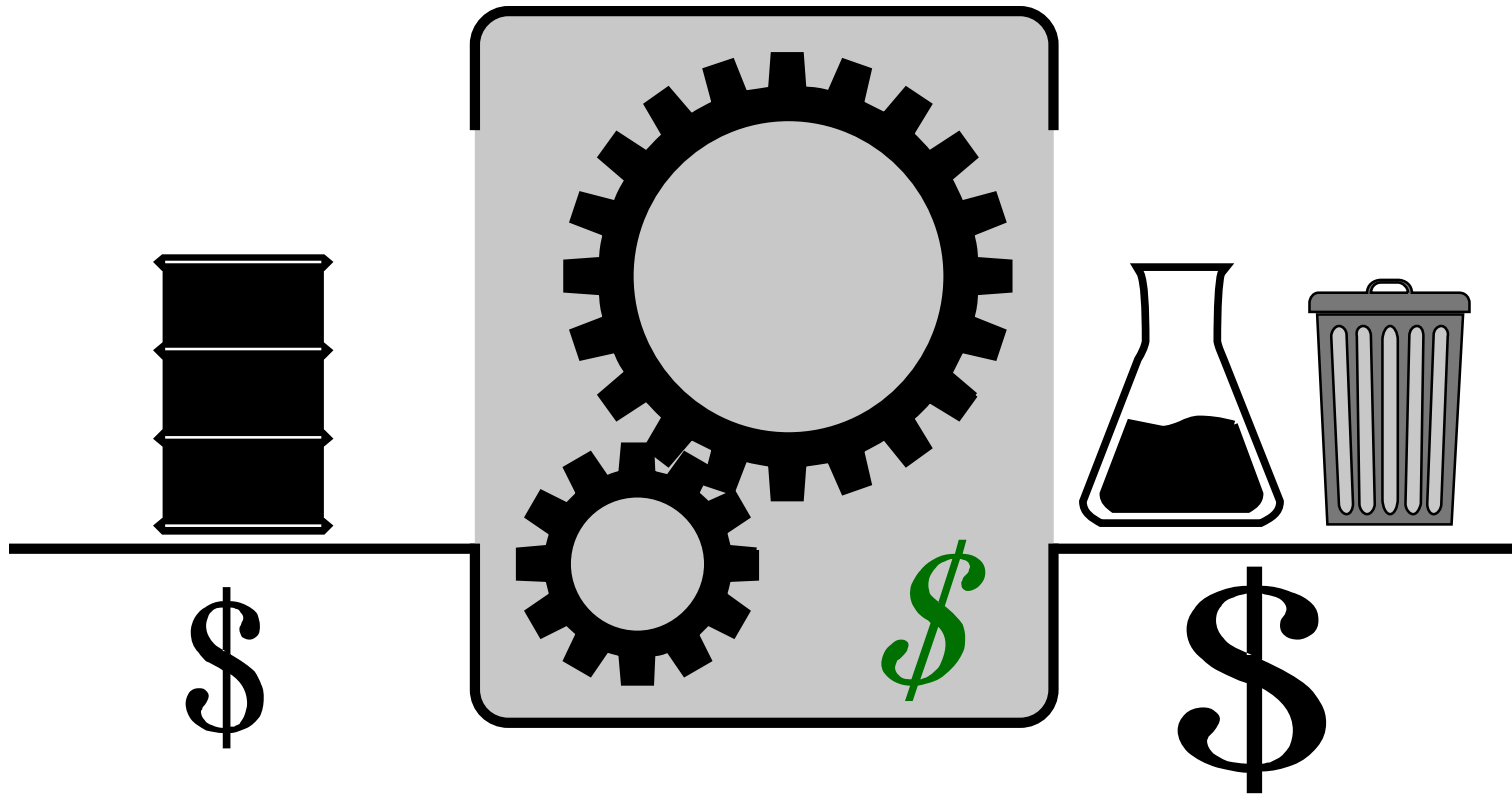
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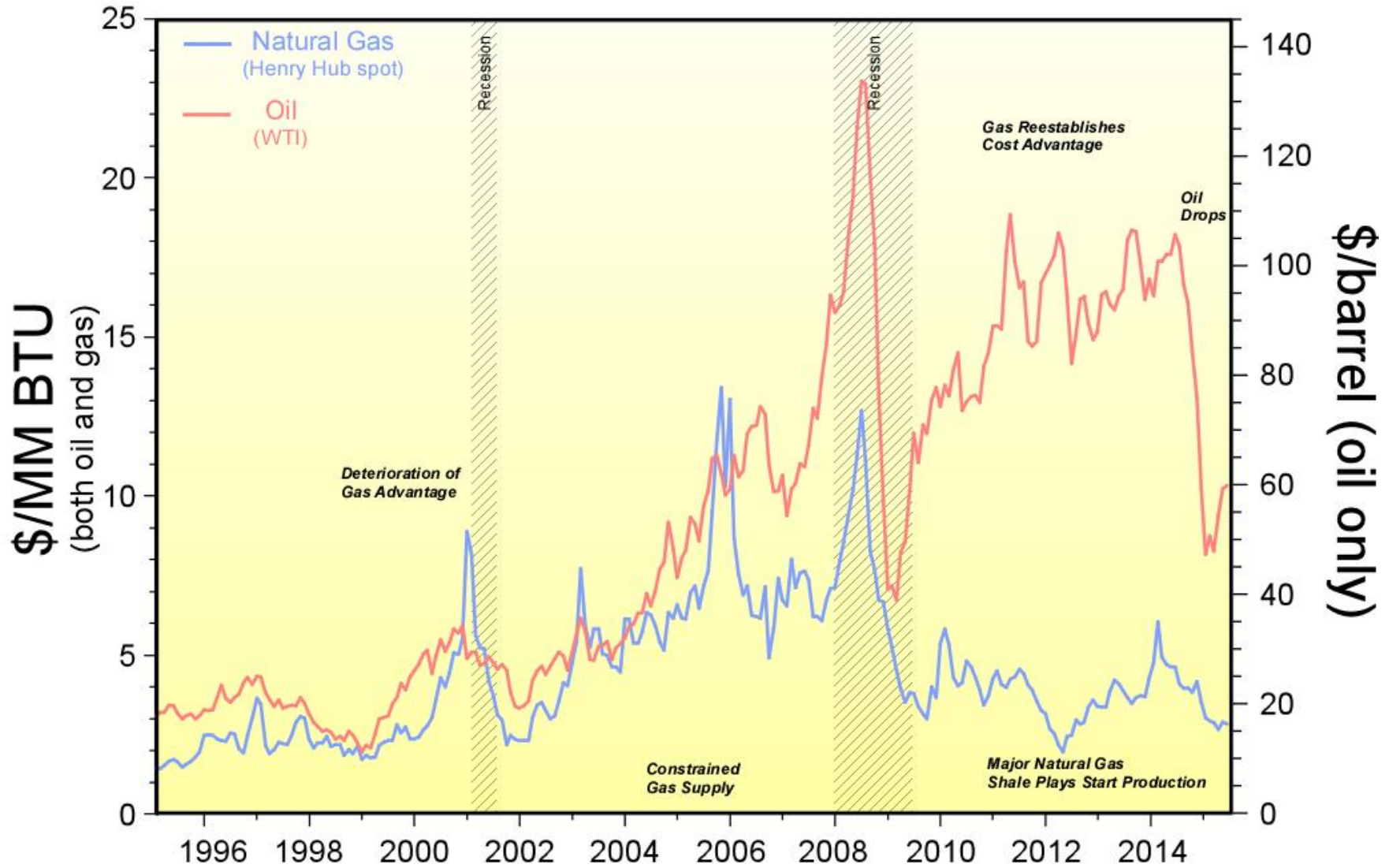
# Chemical Industry Snapshot



## ■ Simplified Chemical Industry



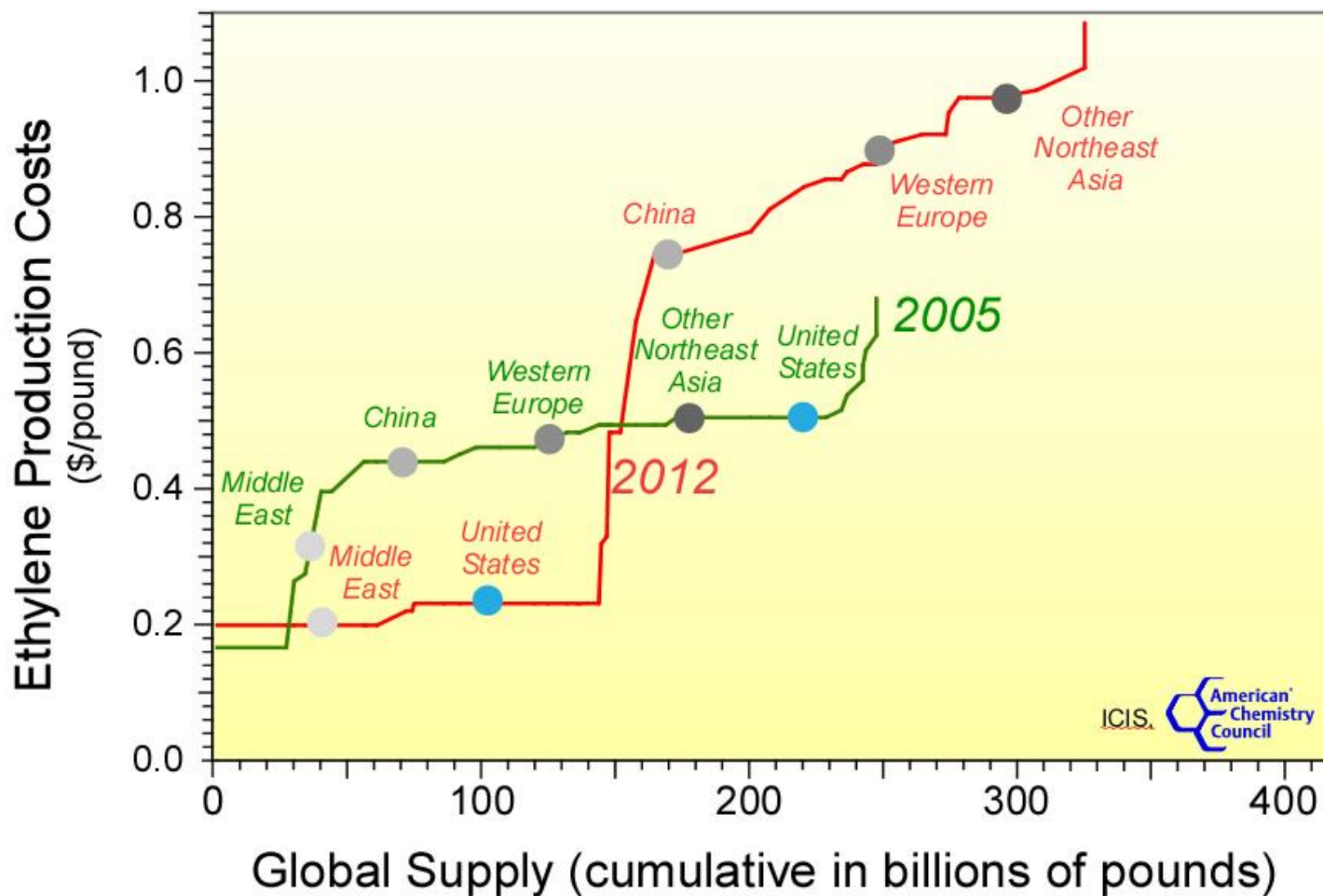
# Recent Industry History



# Ethane Price Now Tracks Gas

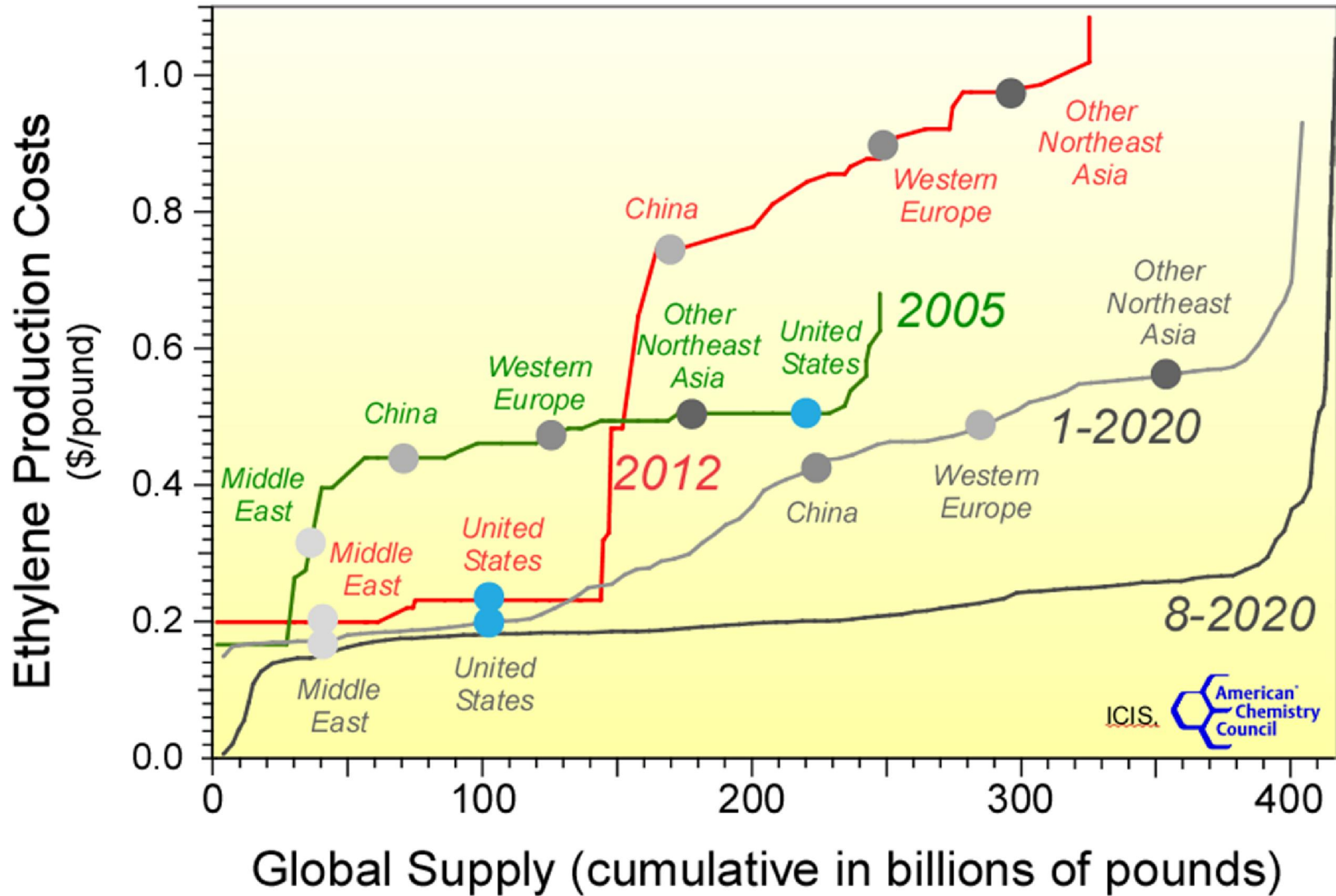


## ■ Impact of Low Gas Prices

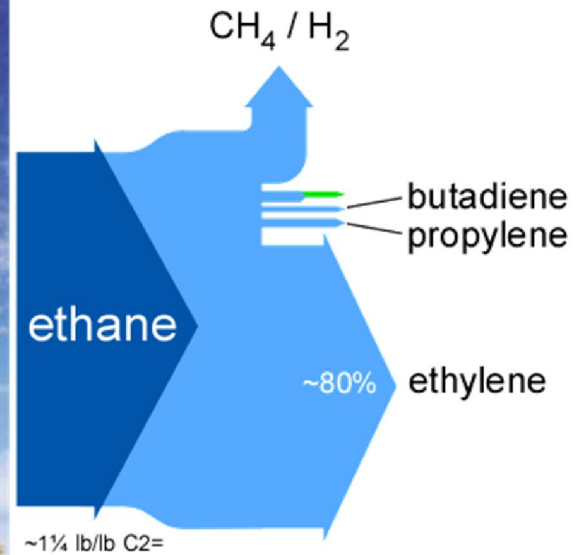
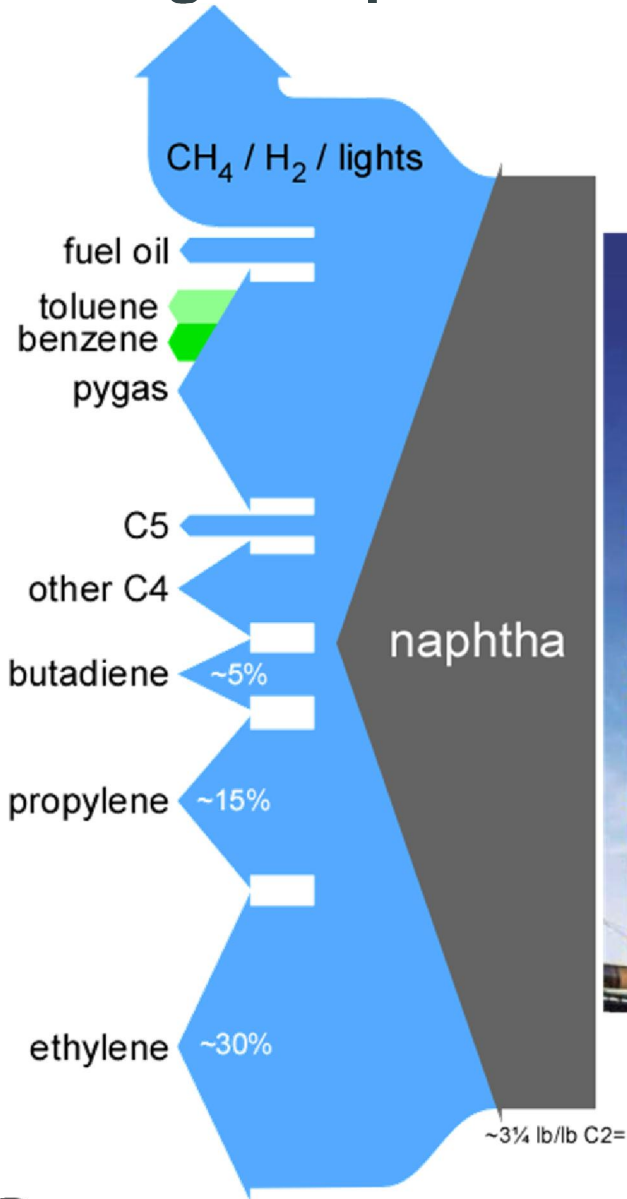


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## Impact of Low Gas Prices

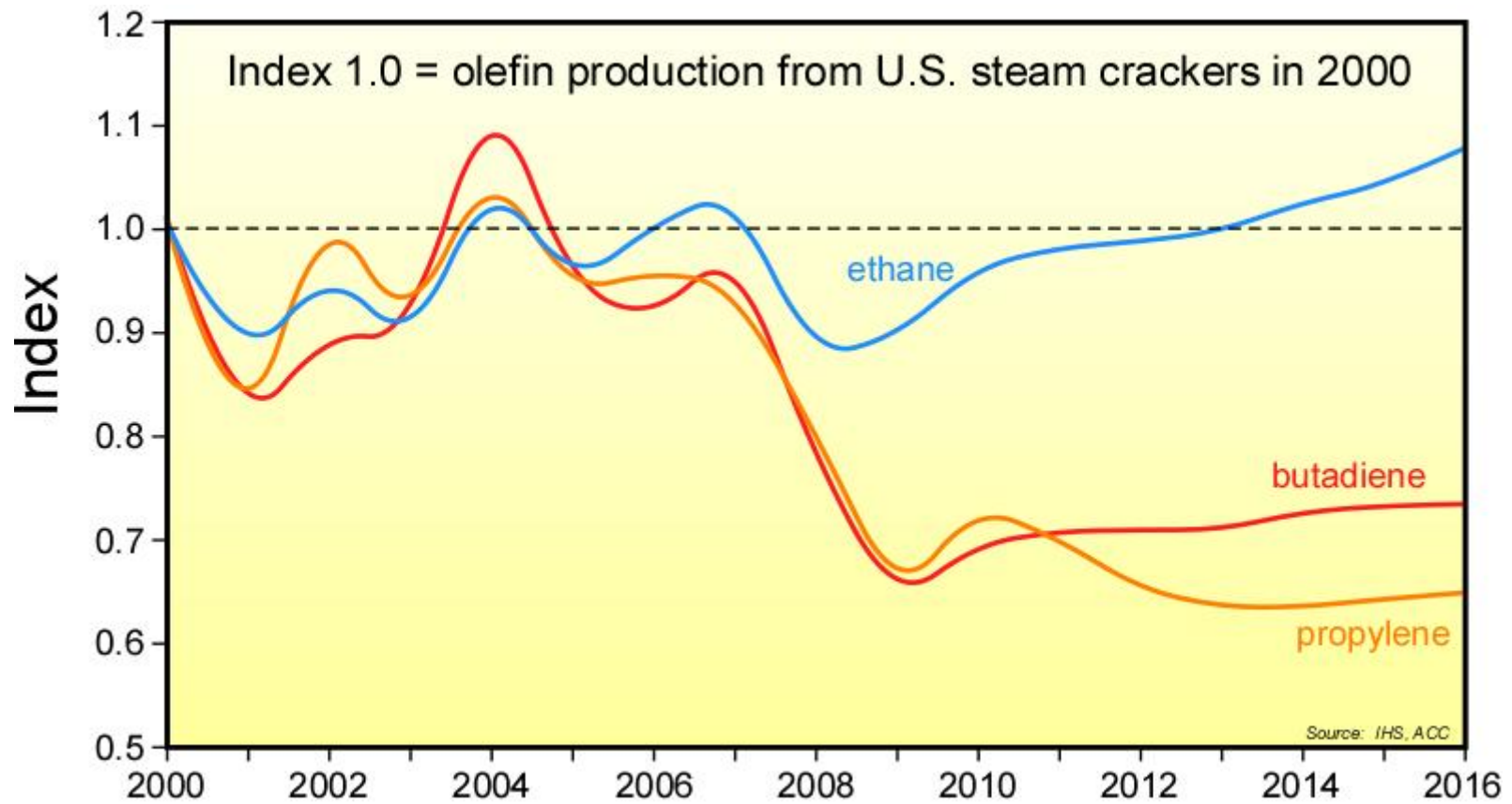


# Cracking Comparison



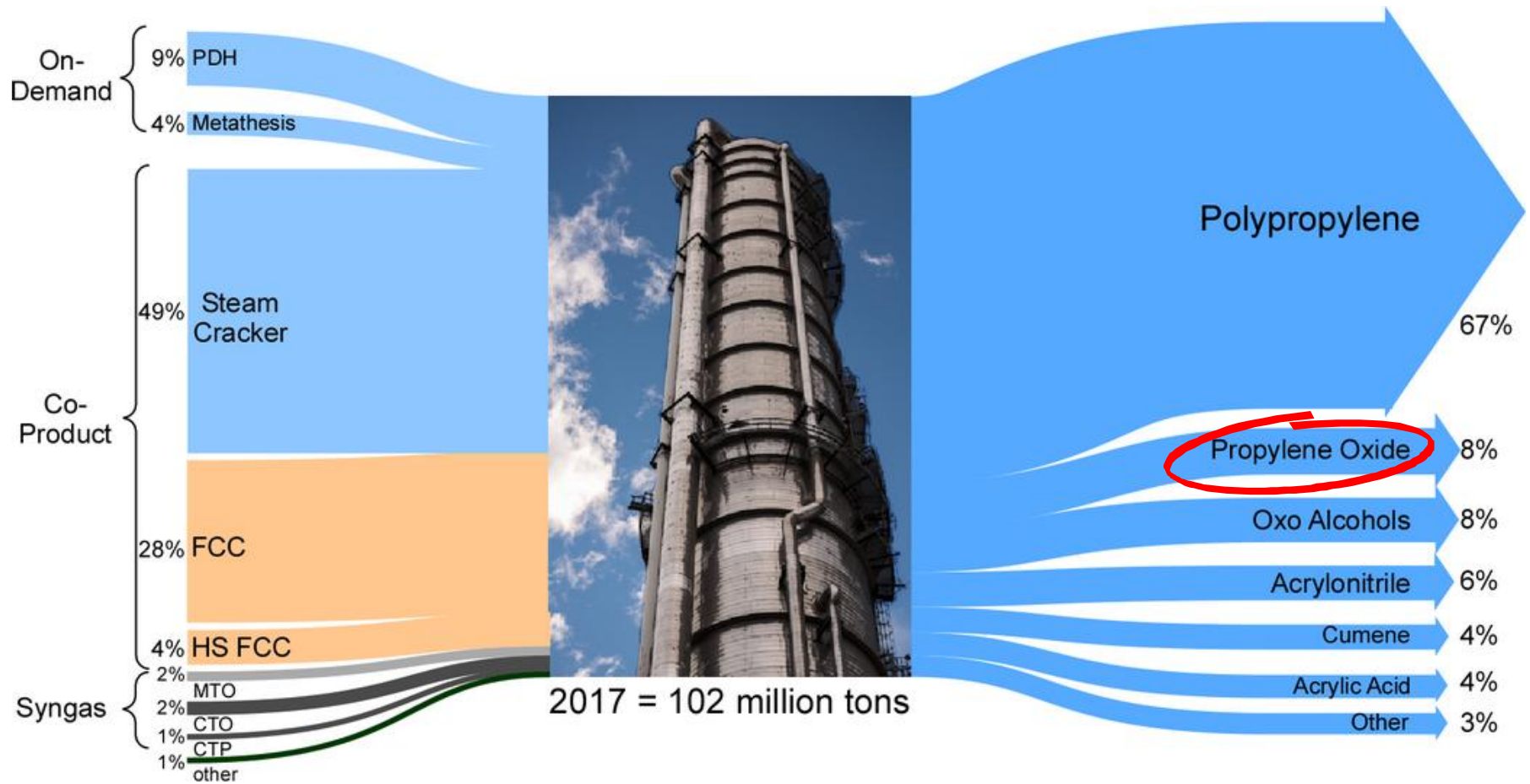
*same amount of ethylene*

## ■ Production of C3/C4 Dropped





# World Propylene

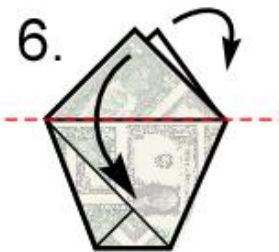
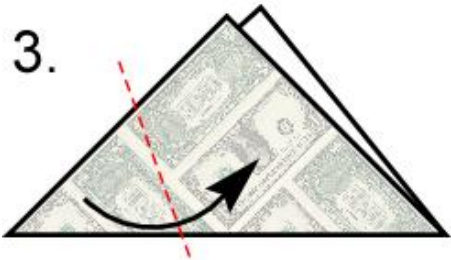
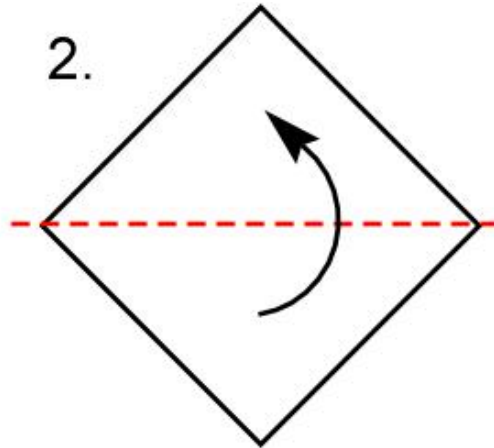
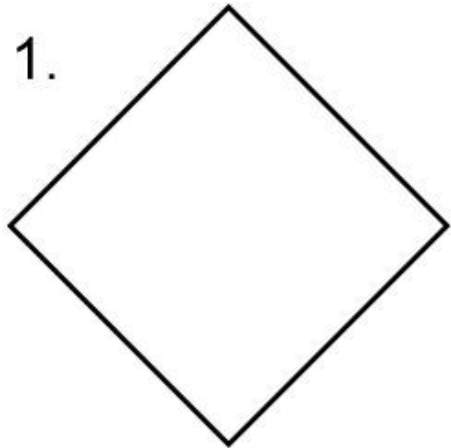


## ■ Scale Is Important



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## Scale Demo



Make a cup  
with an  $8\frac{1}{2}$ "  
square and  
another with a  
 $4\frac{1}{4}$ " square

# *Origami Demo of Scale*



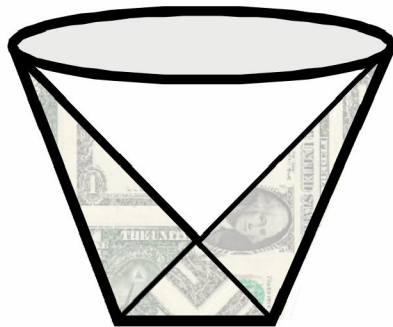
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<https://www.mjphd.net/OrigamiDemo.html>

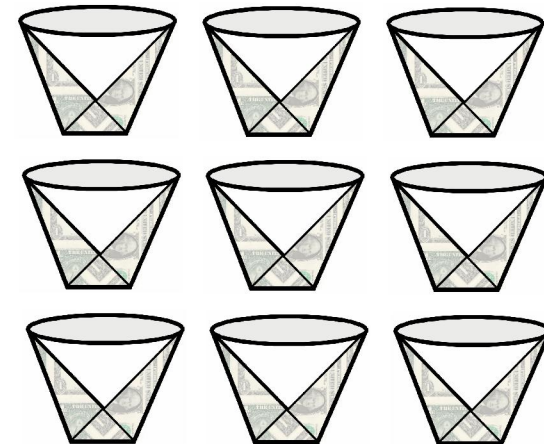
# ■ Impact of Scale to Contain Same Volume



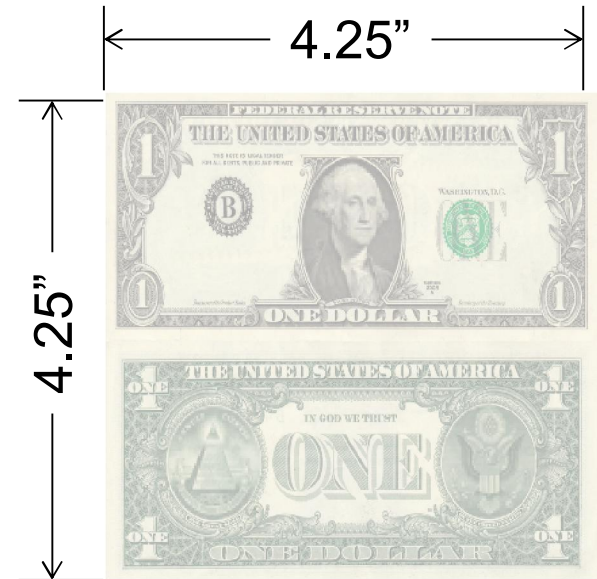
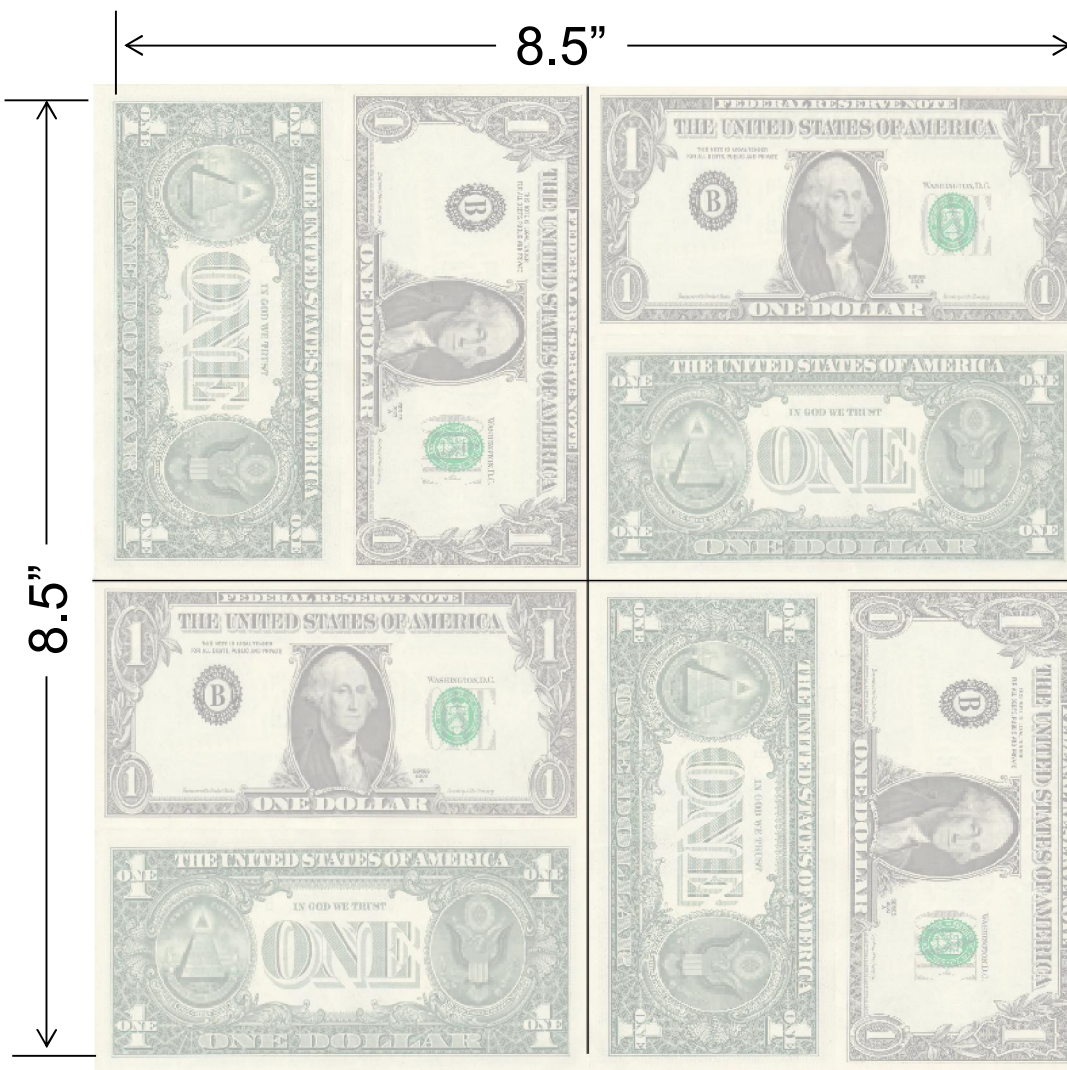
>2X material  
~9X labor to construct



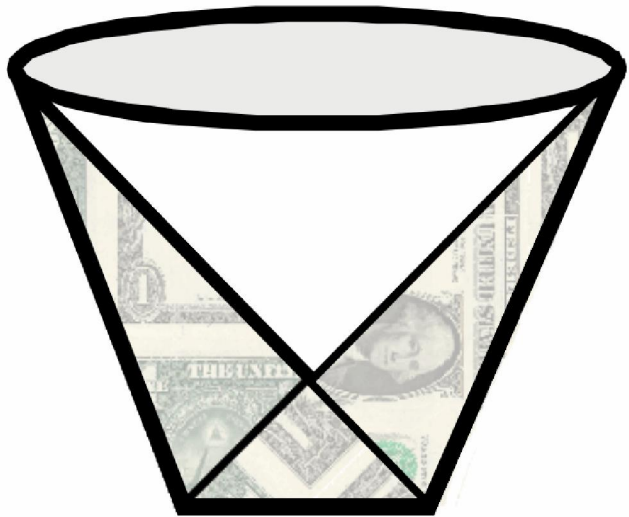
==



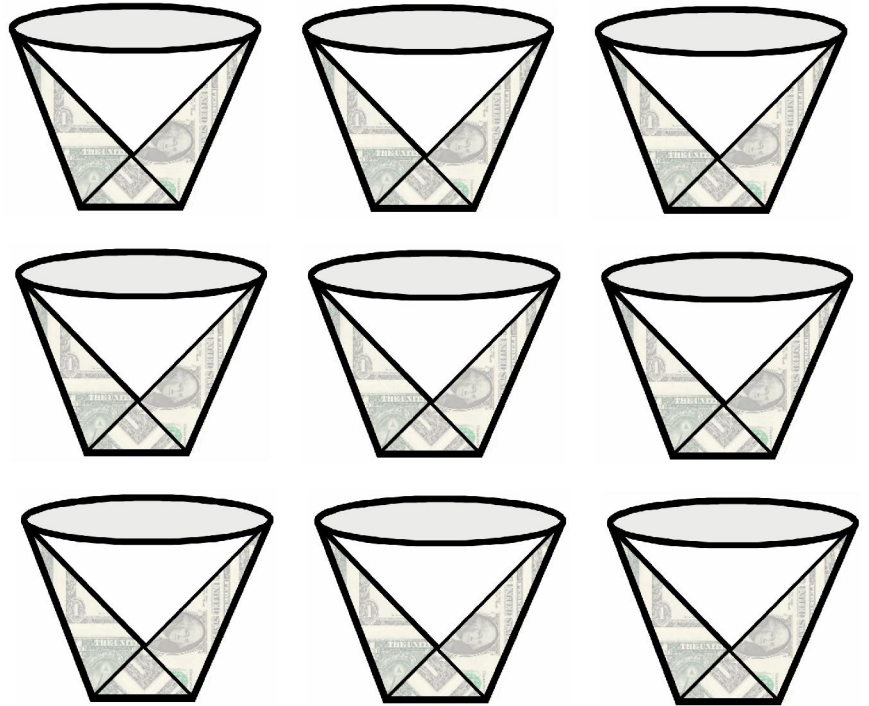
# Video Demo



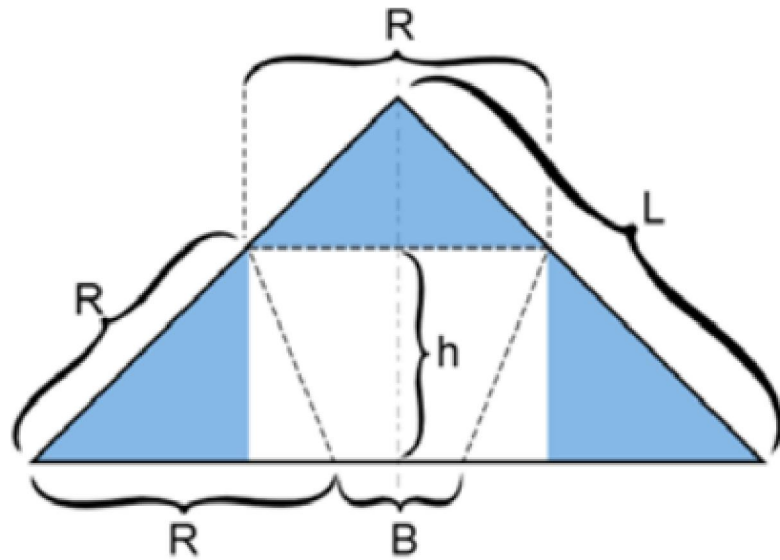
**Scale Wins**



**=**



■ Demo Math



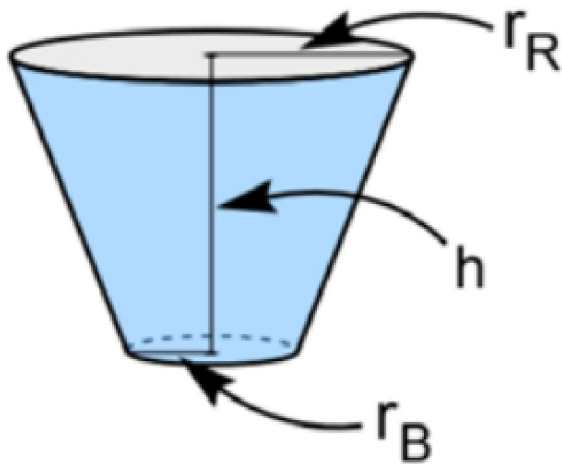
$$A = L^2$$

$$h = \frac{L}{1 + \sqrt{2}}$$

$$R = \frac{\sqrt{2} L}{1 + \sqrt{2}}$$

$$B = \frac{L(2 - \sqrt{2})}{1 + \sqrt{2}}$$

$$\frac{V_L}{V_{L/2}} = 8$$

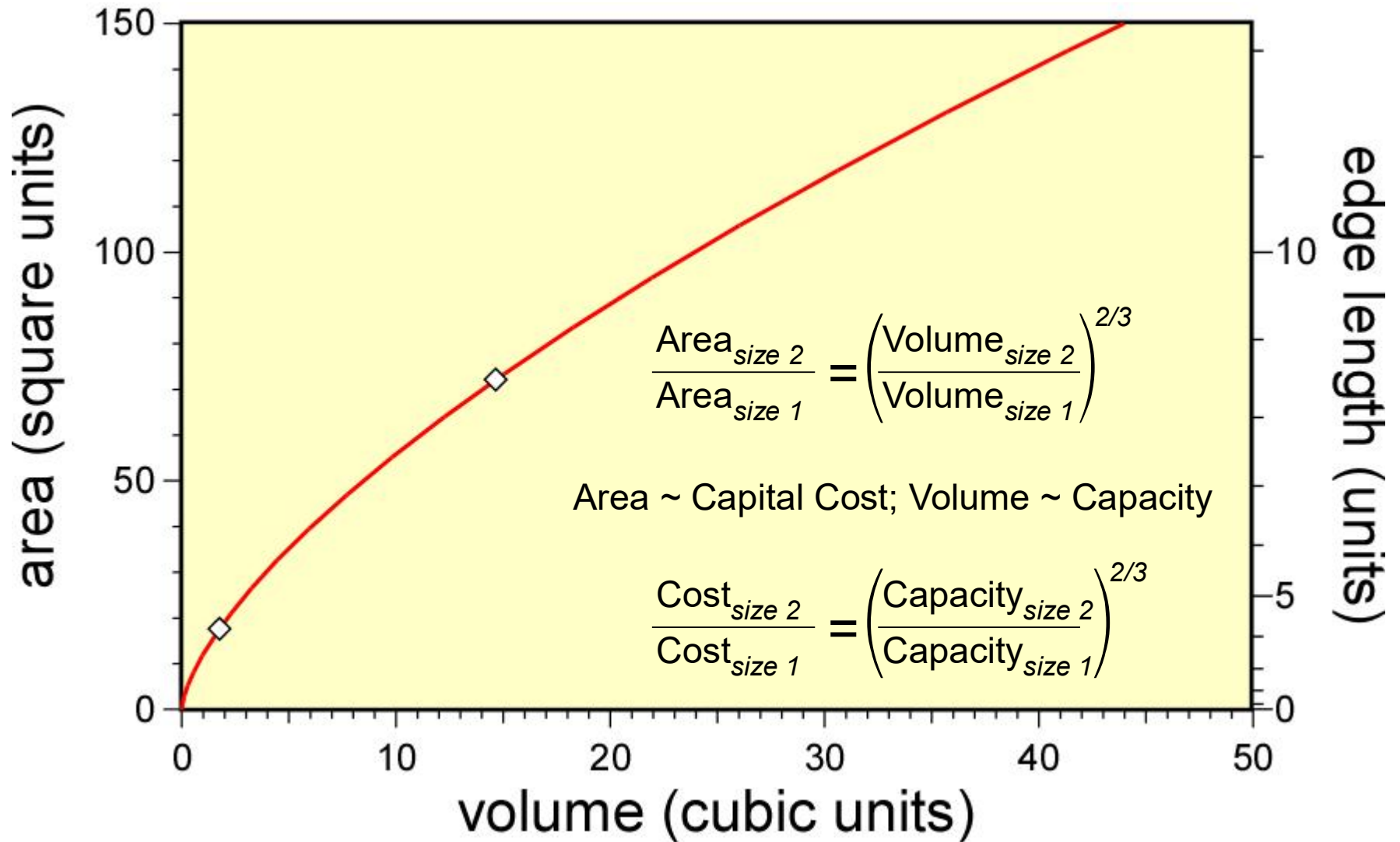


$$r_B = \frac{B}{\pi} = \frac{L(2 - \sqrt{2})}{\pi(1 + \sqrt{2})}$$

$$r_R = \frac{R}{\pi} = \frac{\sqrt{2} L}{\pi(1 + \sqrt{2})}$$



## ■ Power Law

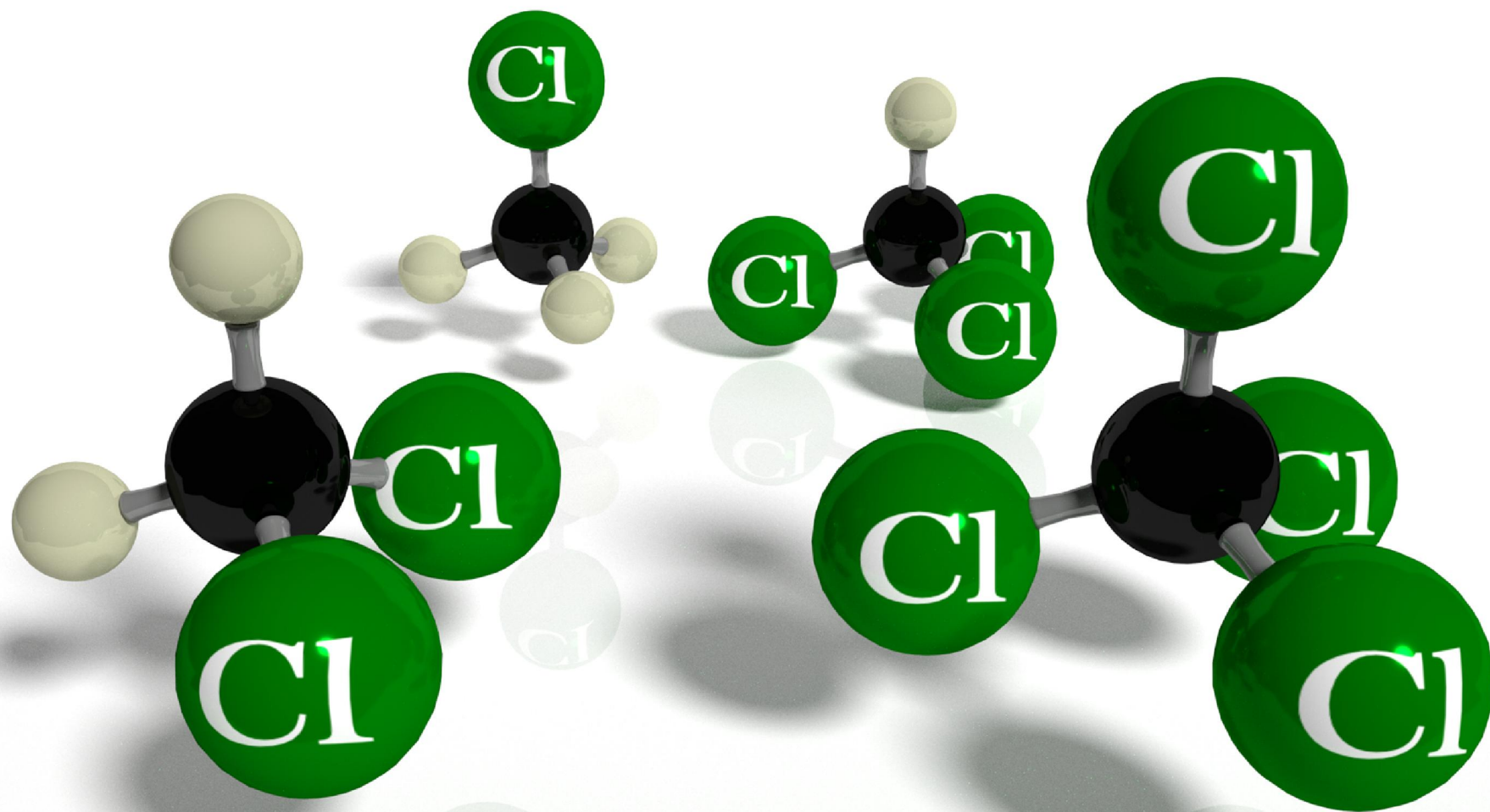


## ■ Scale Always Wins

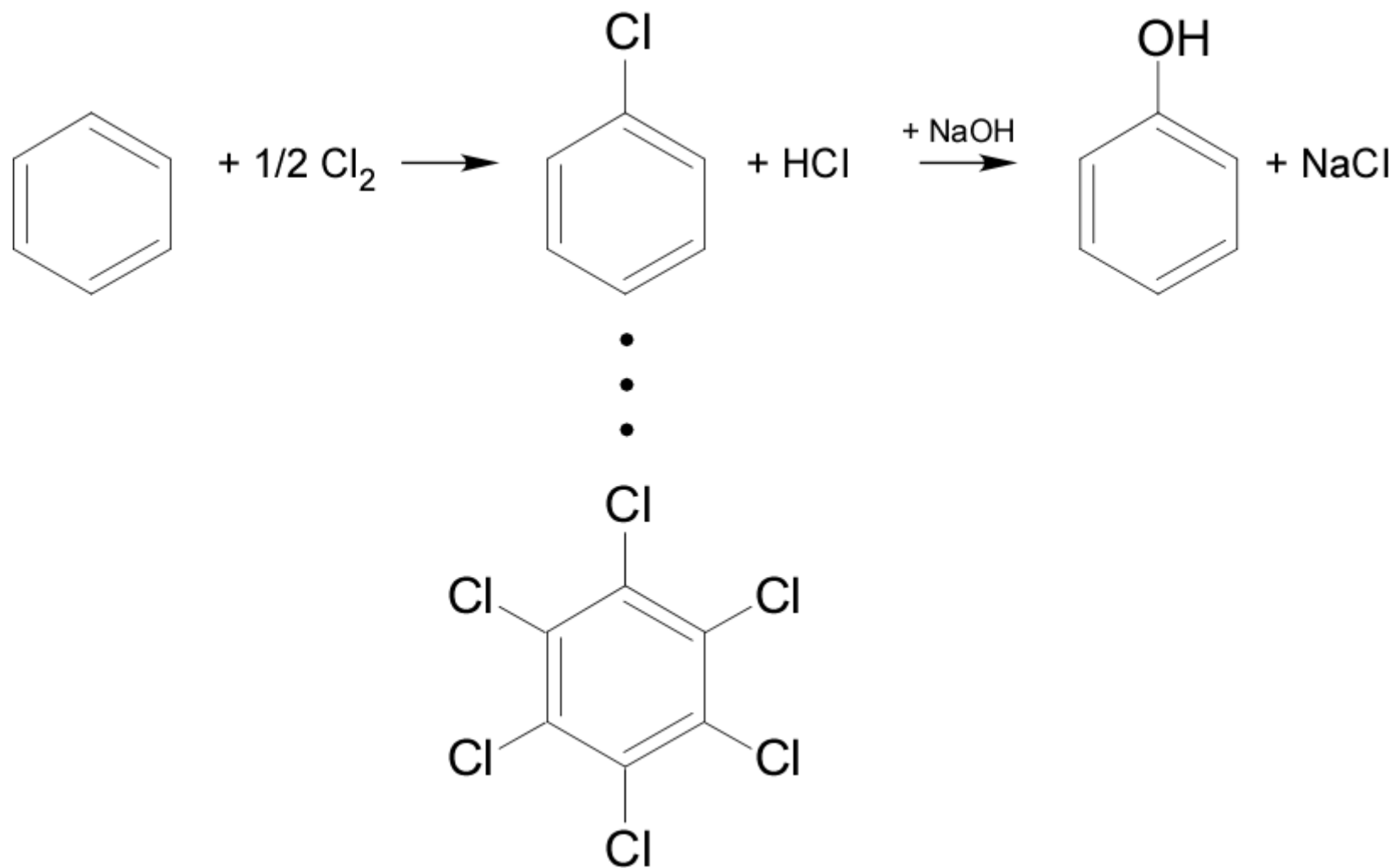


If you are moving mass around, scale reduces cost faster than experience.

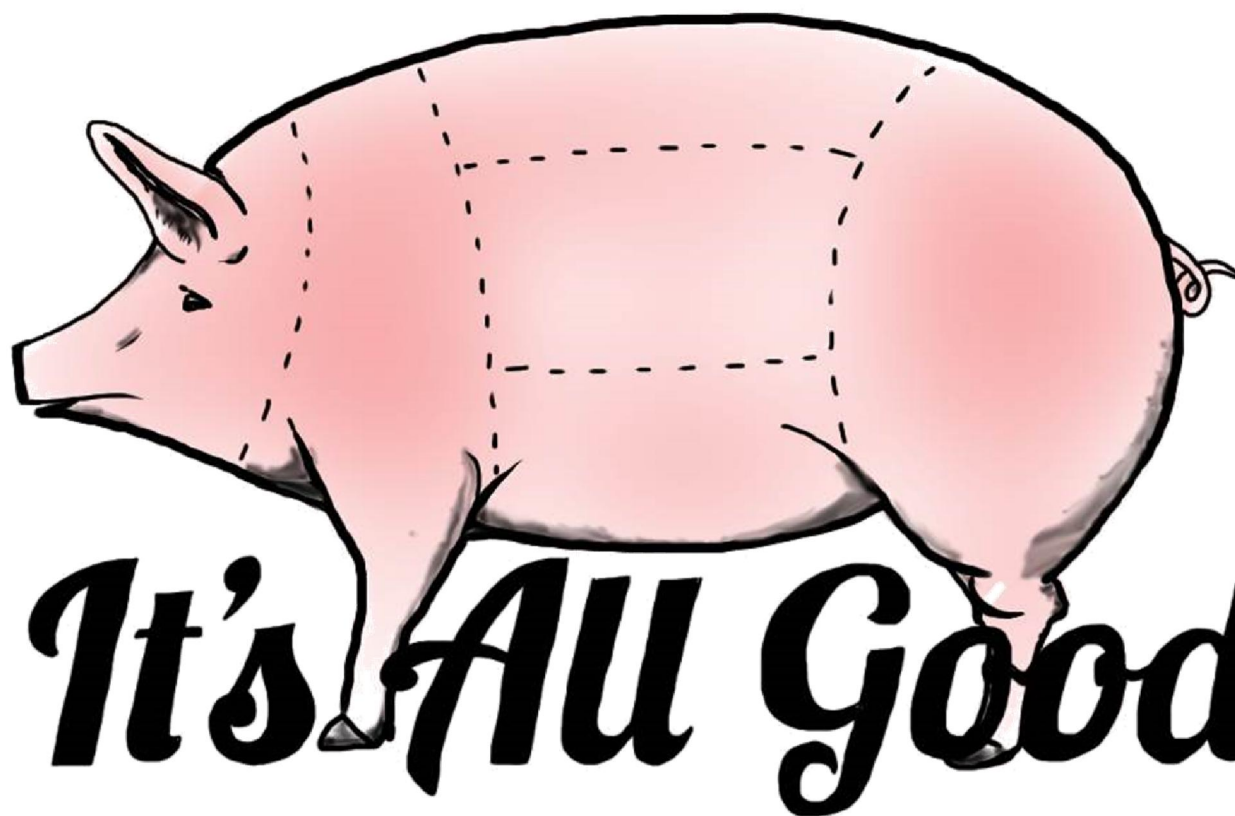
■ Organochlorides



## ■ Chlorine as an Oxidant

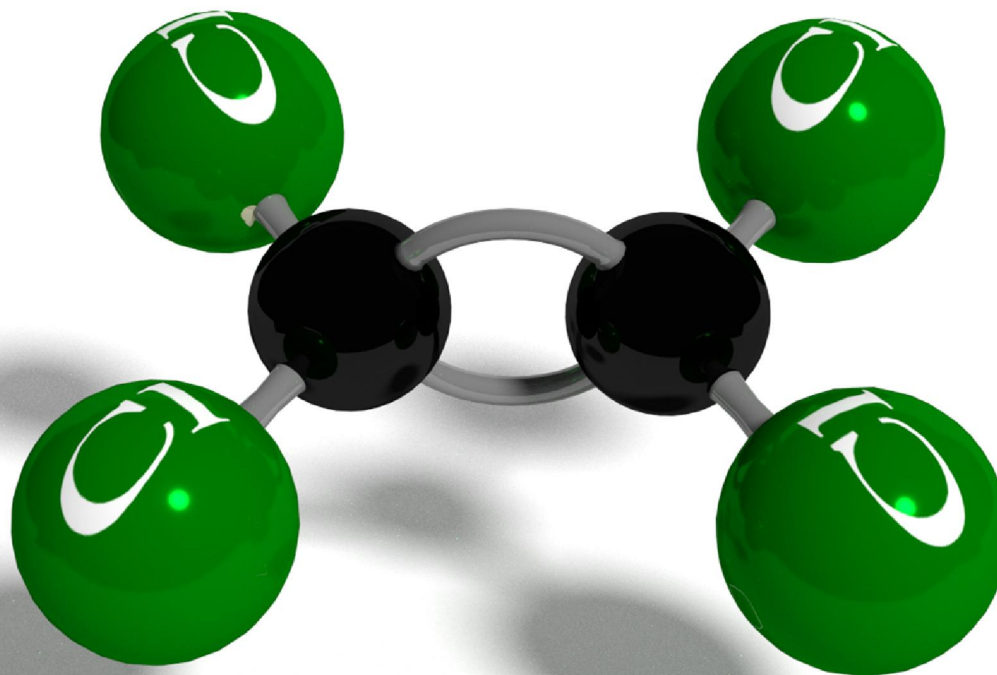


■ All Reaction Products Find Uses

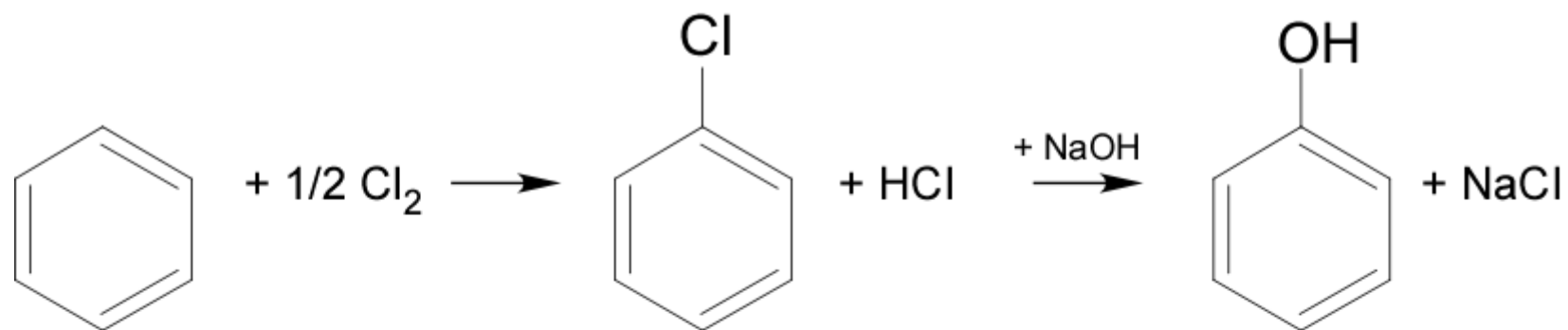


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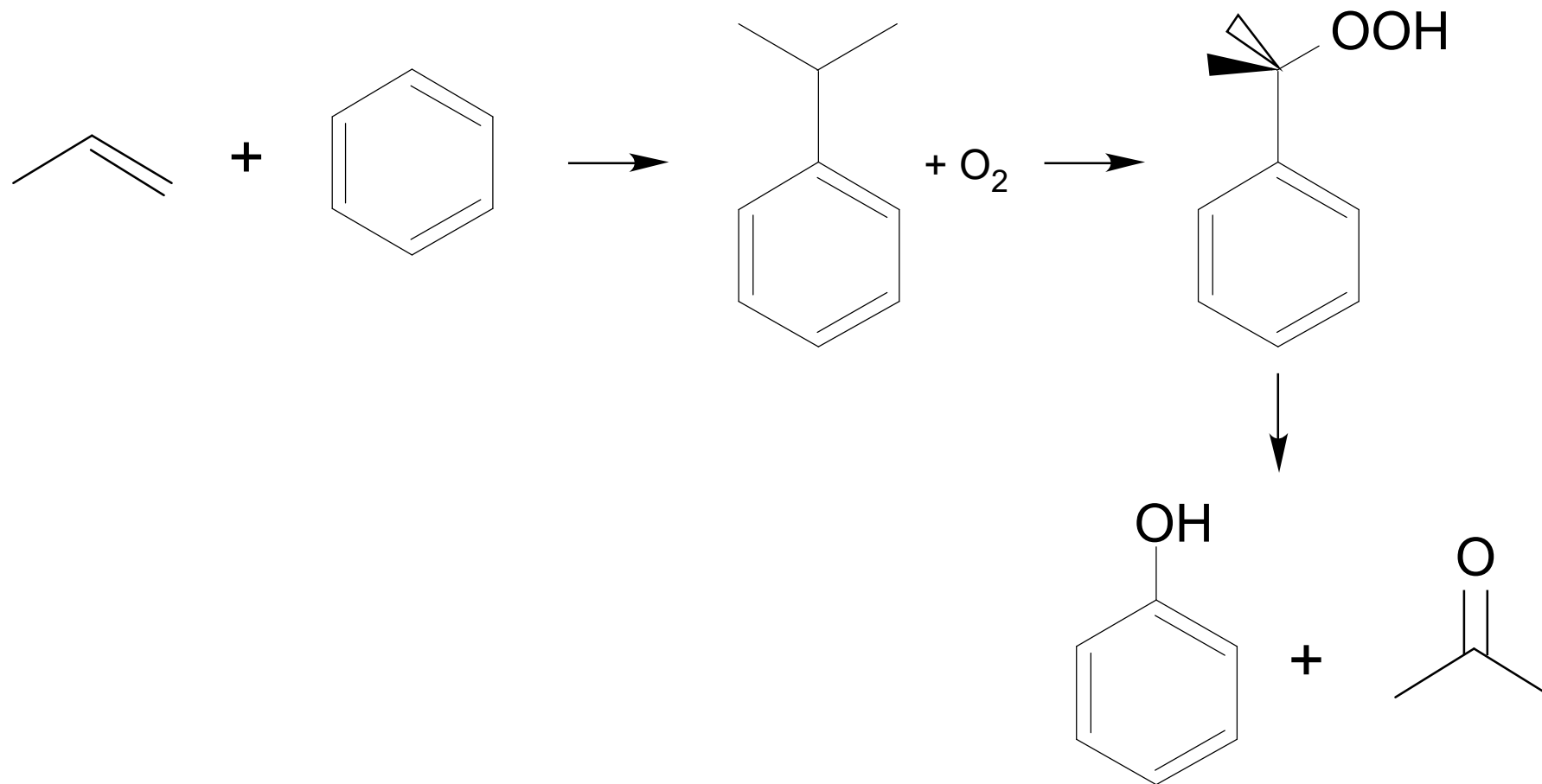
■ Perchloroethylene



## ■ Chlorine as an Oxidant



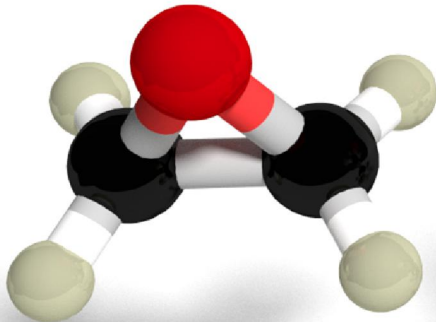
## ■ Phenol Today



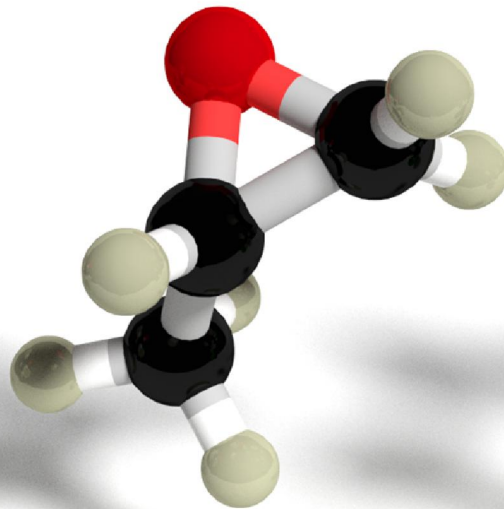


**Epoxides**

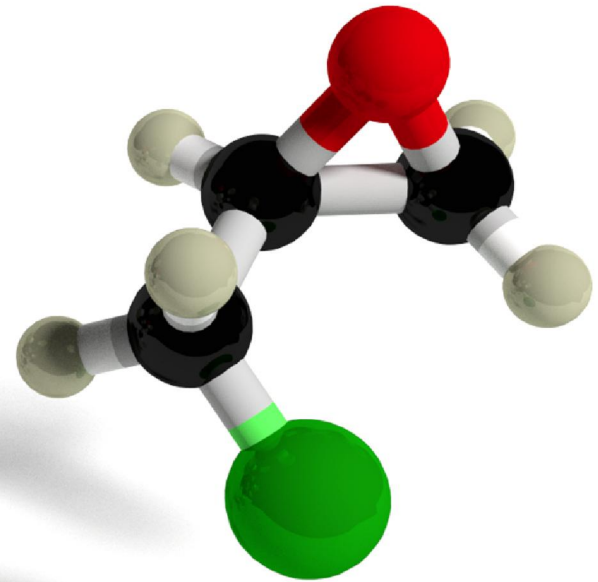
EO  
ethylene oxide



PO  
propylene oxide

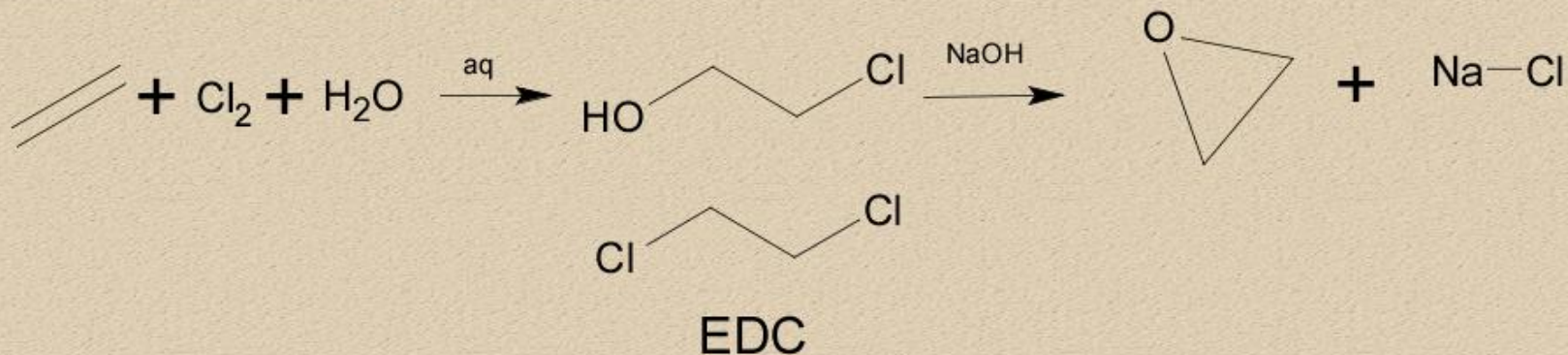


EPI  
epichlorohydrin



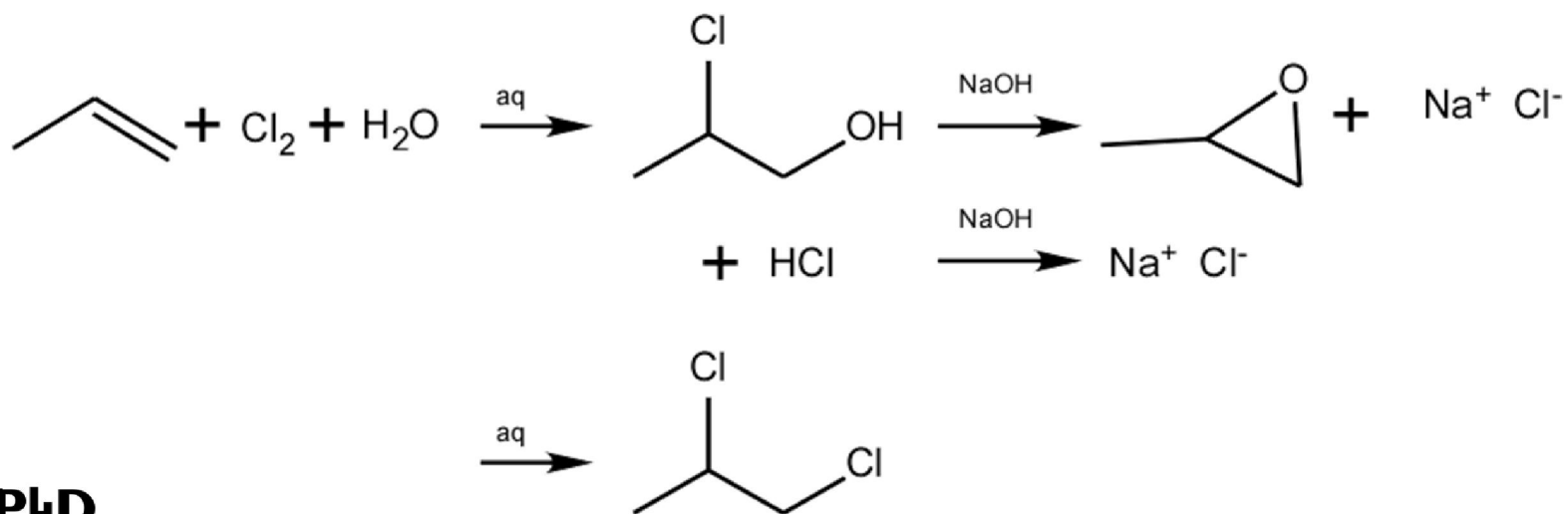
## Chlorohydrin Chemistry

### Chlorohydrin Ethylene Oxide



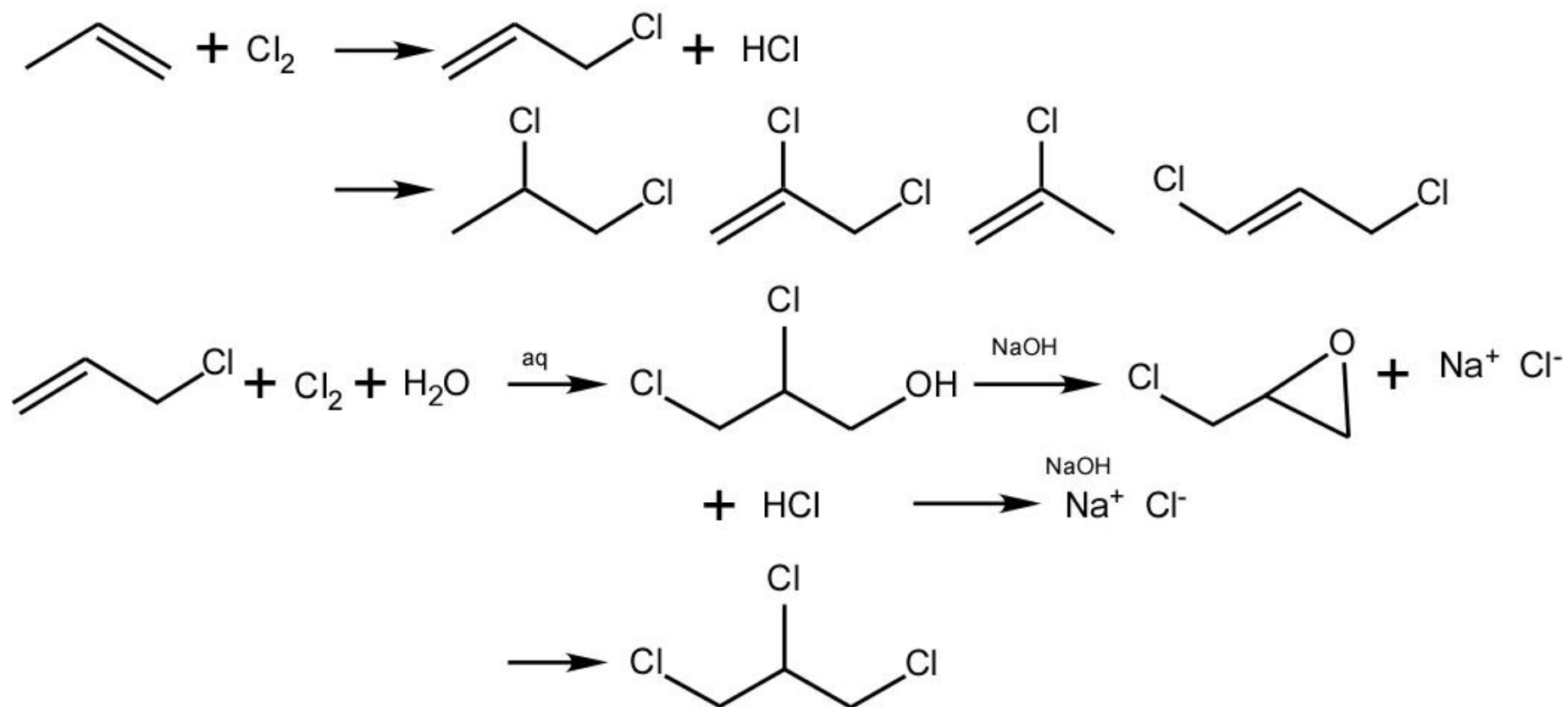
1915-1975

### Chlorohydrin Propylene Oxide

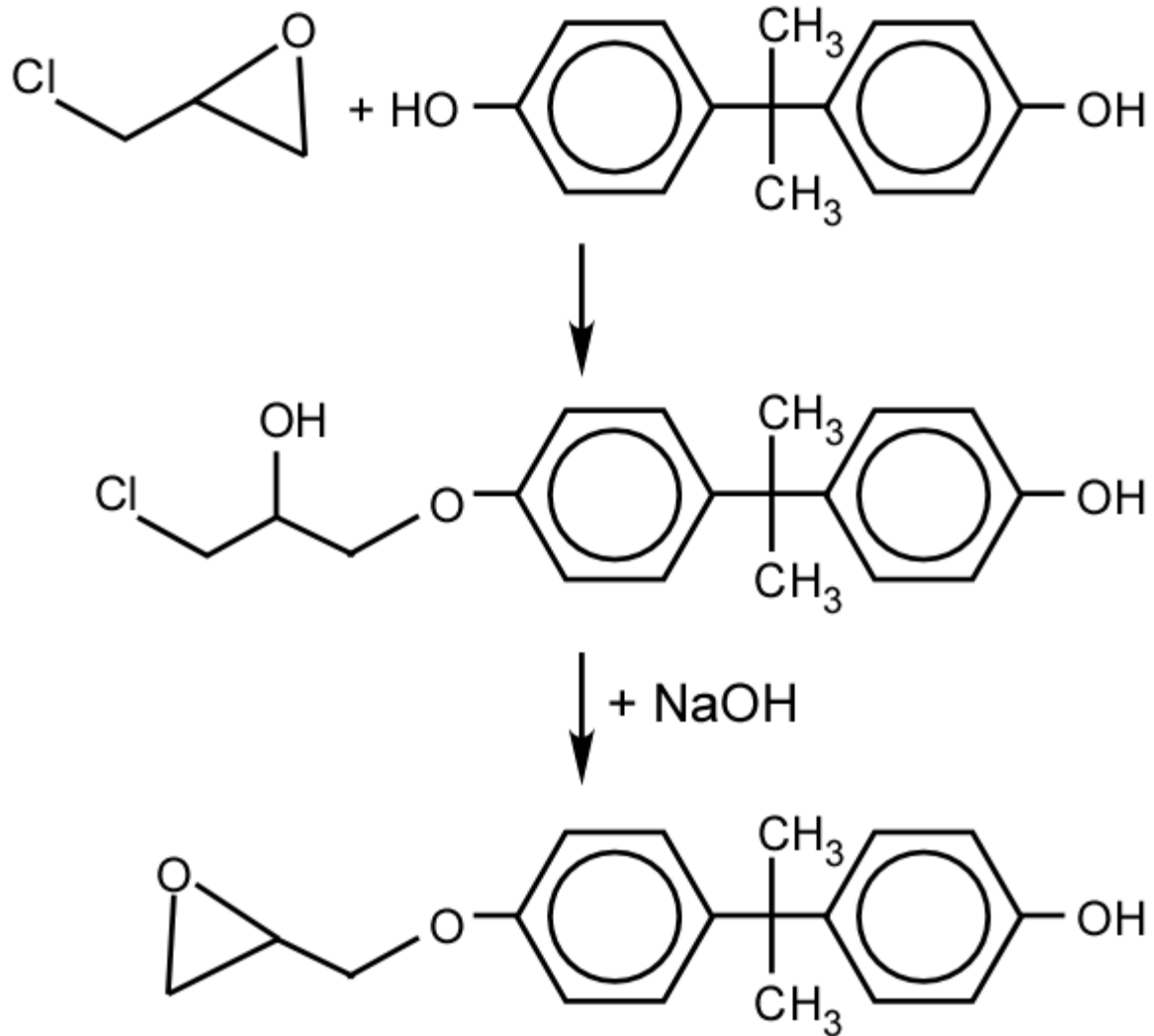


## More Chlorohydrin Chemistry

### Chlorohydrin Epichlorohydrin



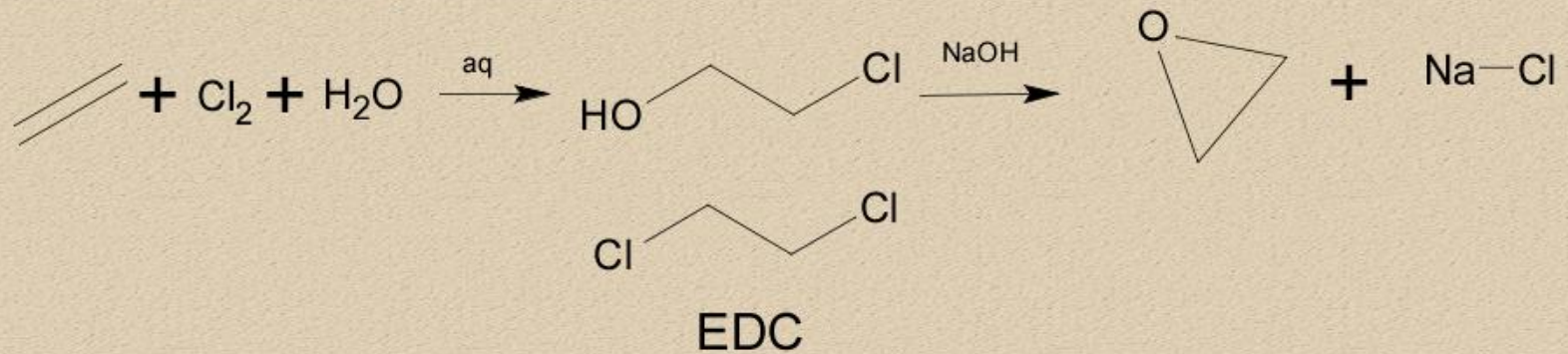
## ■ Epoxy Resins



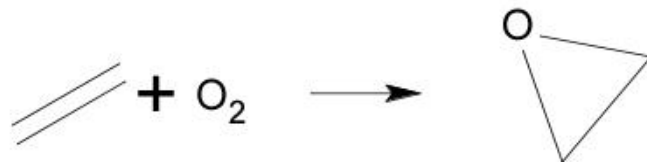
**MJPhD**

## Direct Oxidation

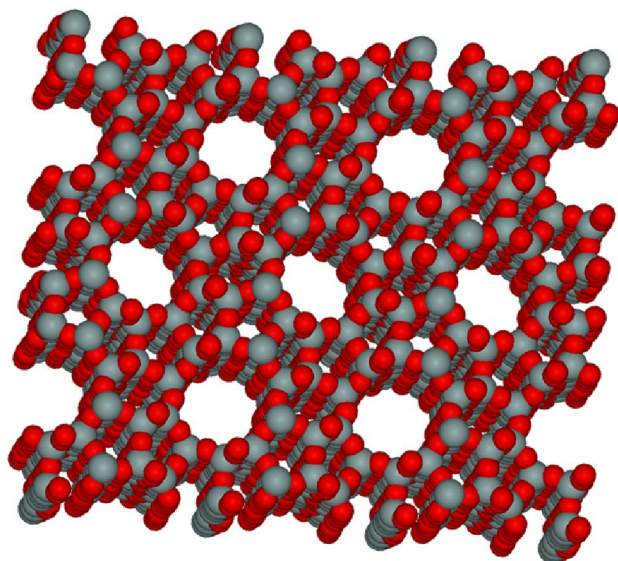
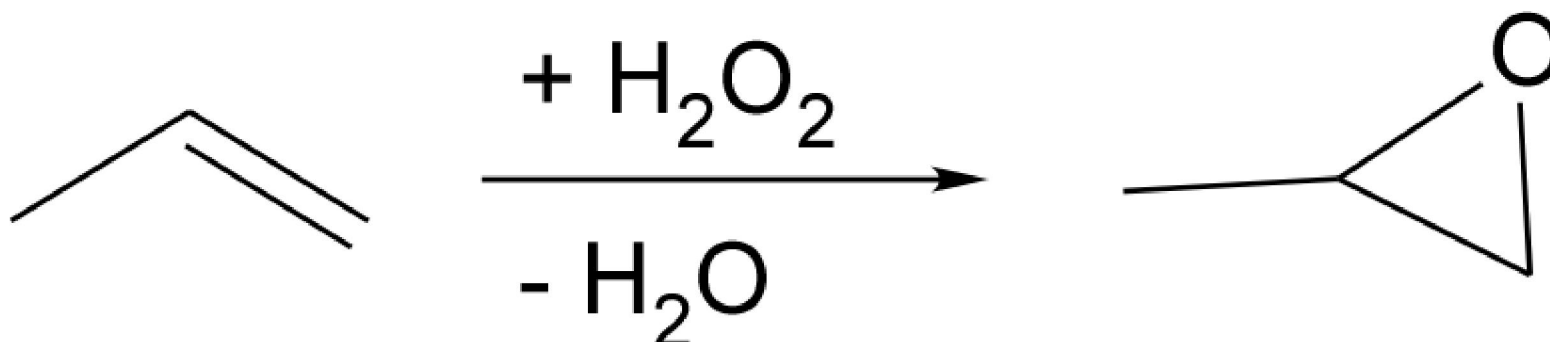
### Chlorhydrin Ethylene Oxide



### Direct Oxidation Ethylene Oxide



## Hydroperoxidation

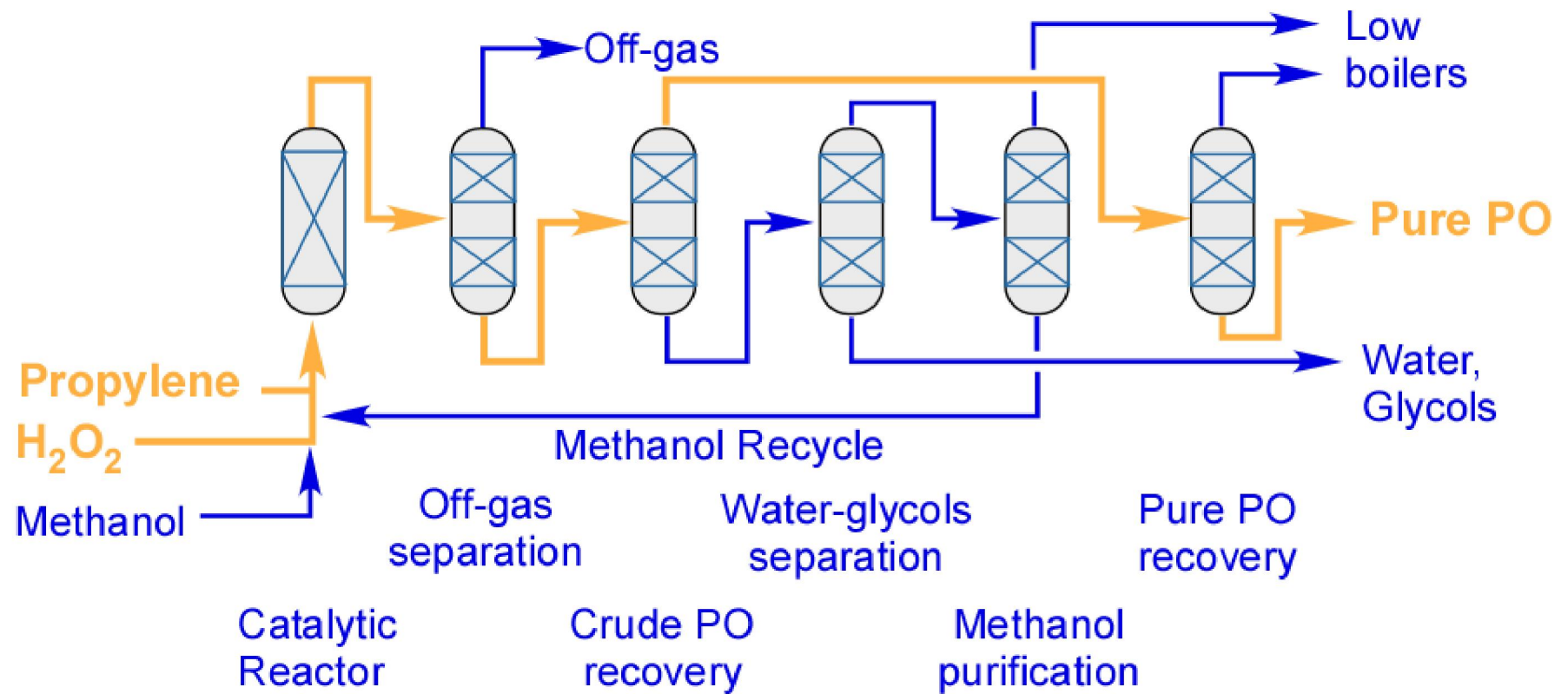


titanium silicate catalyst

0.5 nm pores

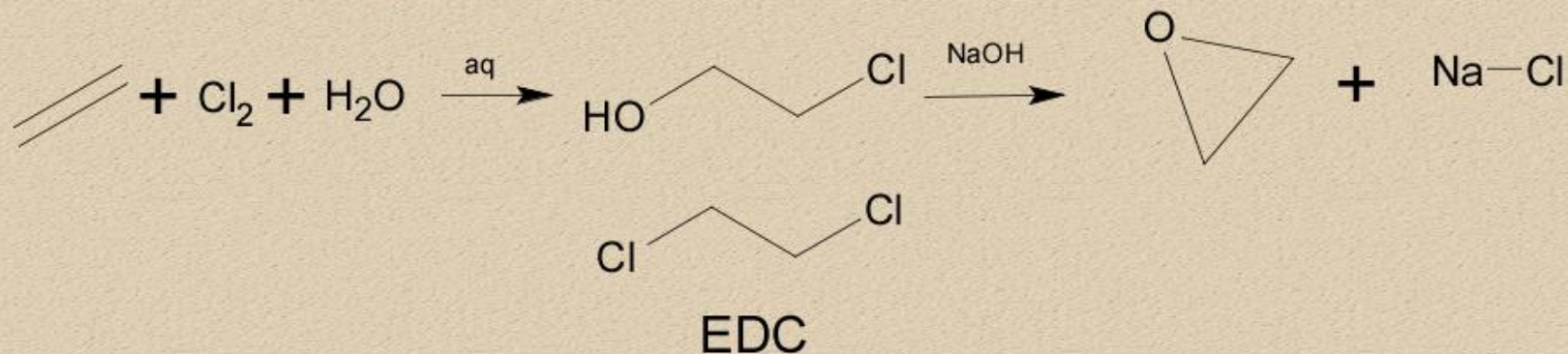
suitable for packed bed reactor

# Simplified Process Flowsheet

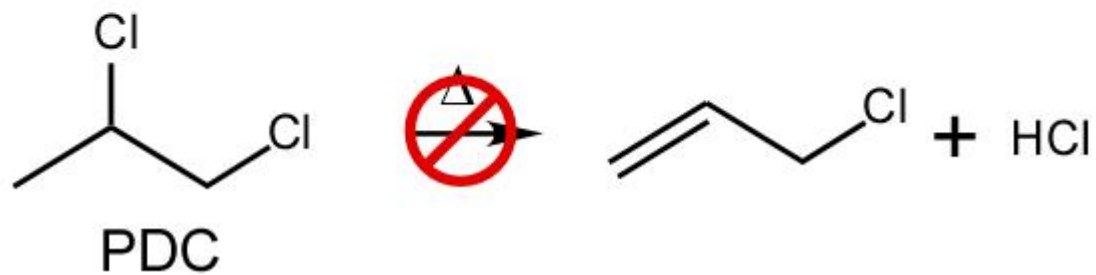
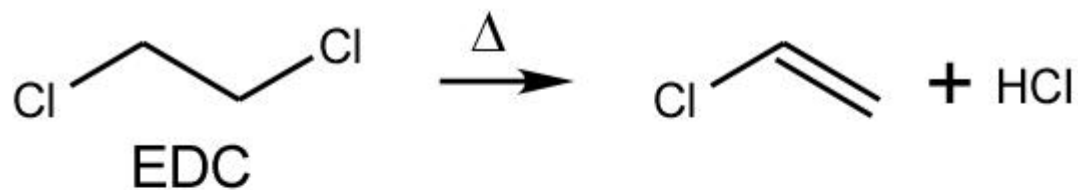


## Chlorohydrin Chemistry

### Chlorohydrin Ethylene Oxide



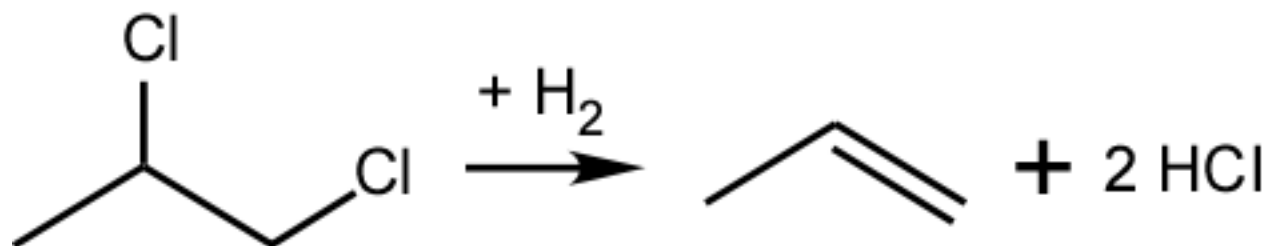
1915-1975



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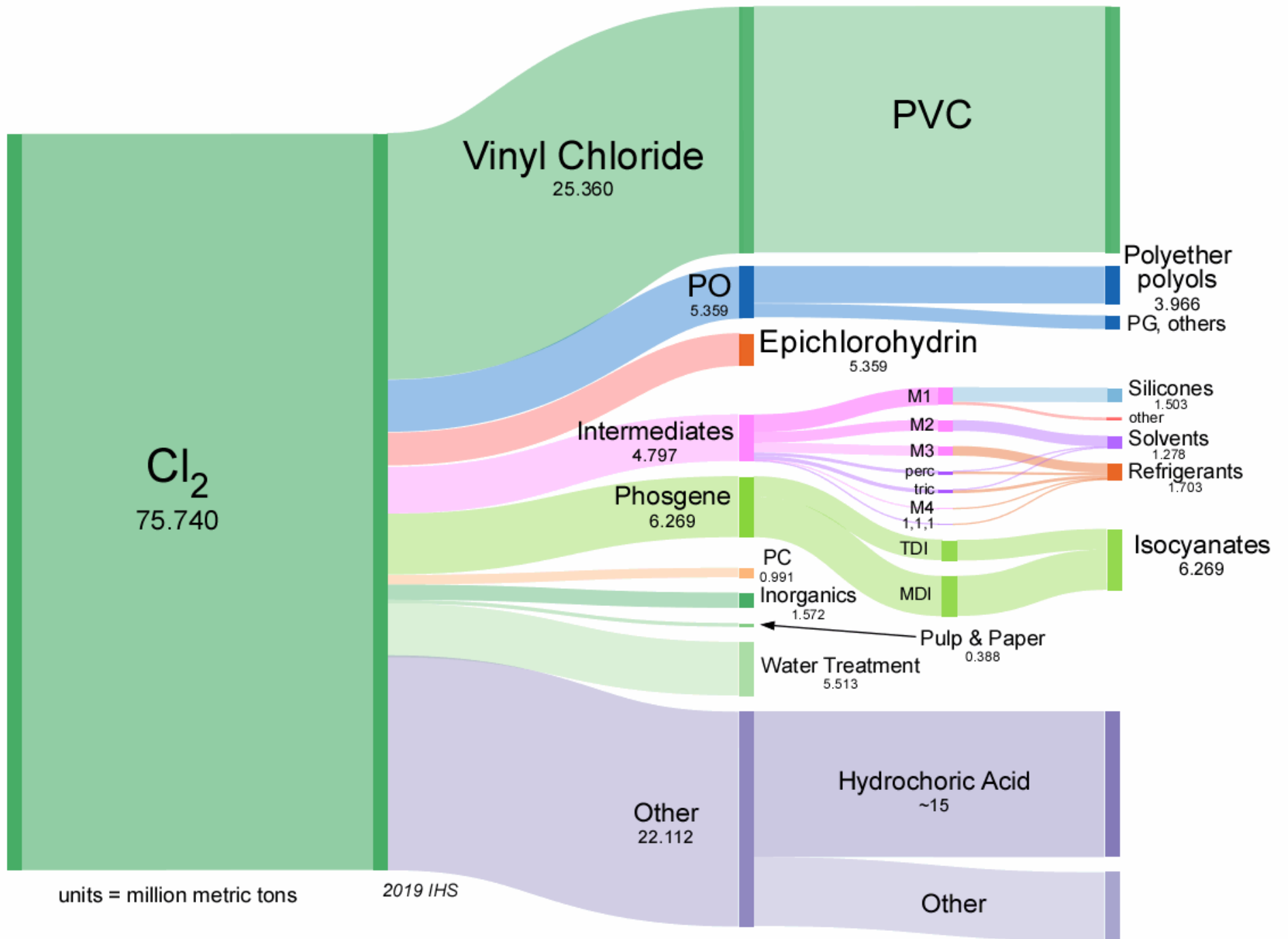


## ■ PDC Hydro

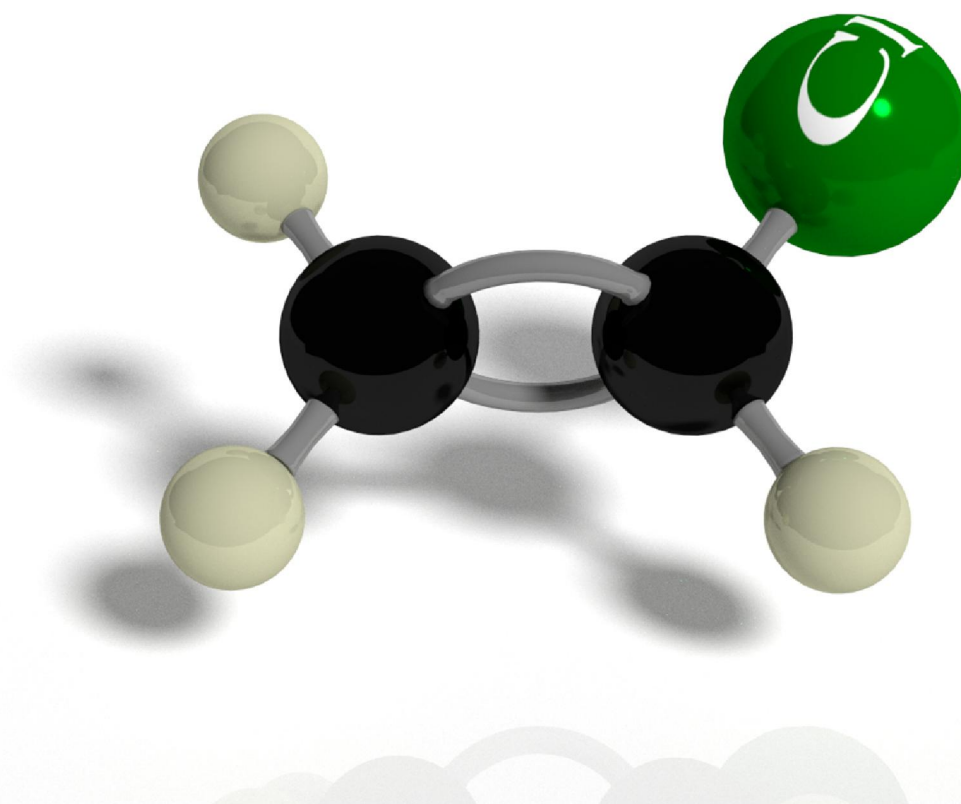


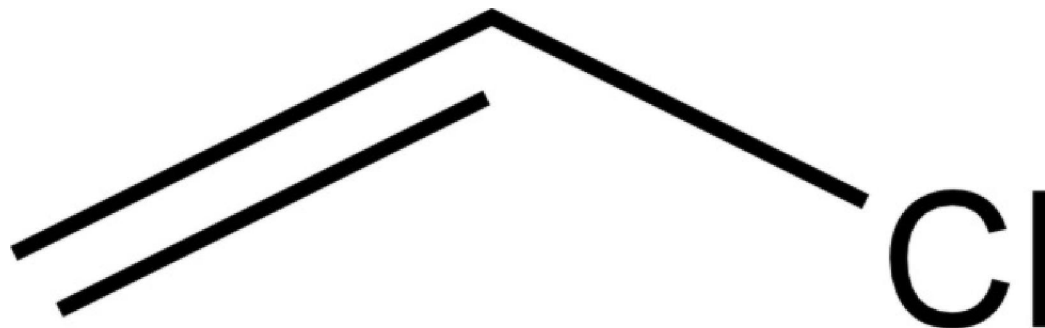
PtCu catalyst developed by Larry Ito

Carbon supported



**Vinyl Chloride**





## Vinyl Chloride Monomer(VCM)

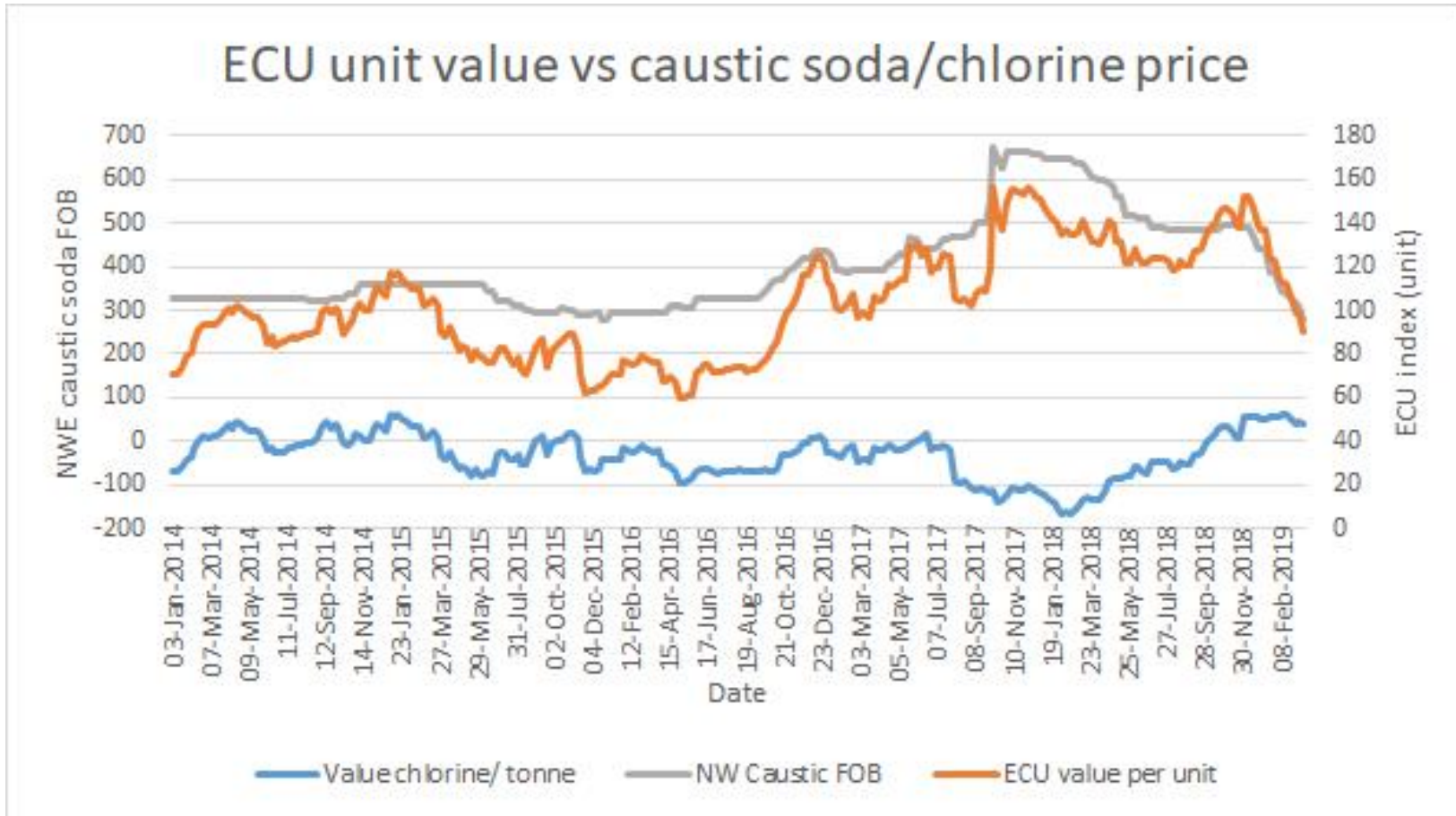
Dow produced ~5 billion pounds/year

World demand is 49 billion pounds

Growth averages 4-5%

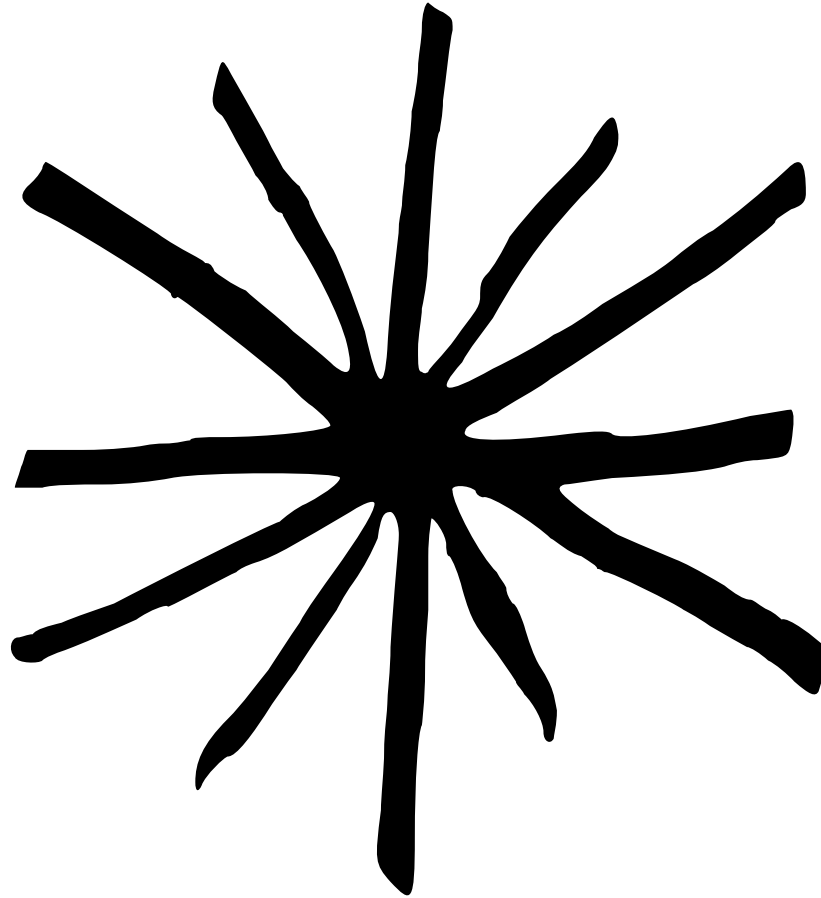
Source: Chemical Week product focus

# ECU Pricing



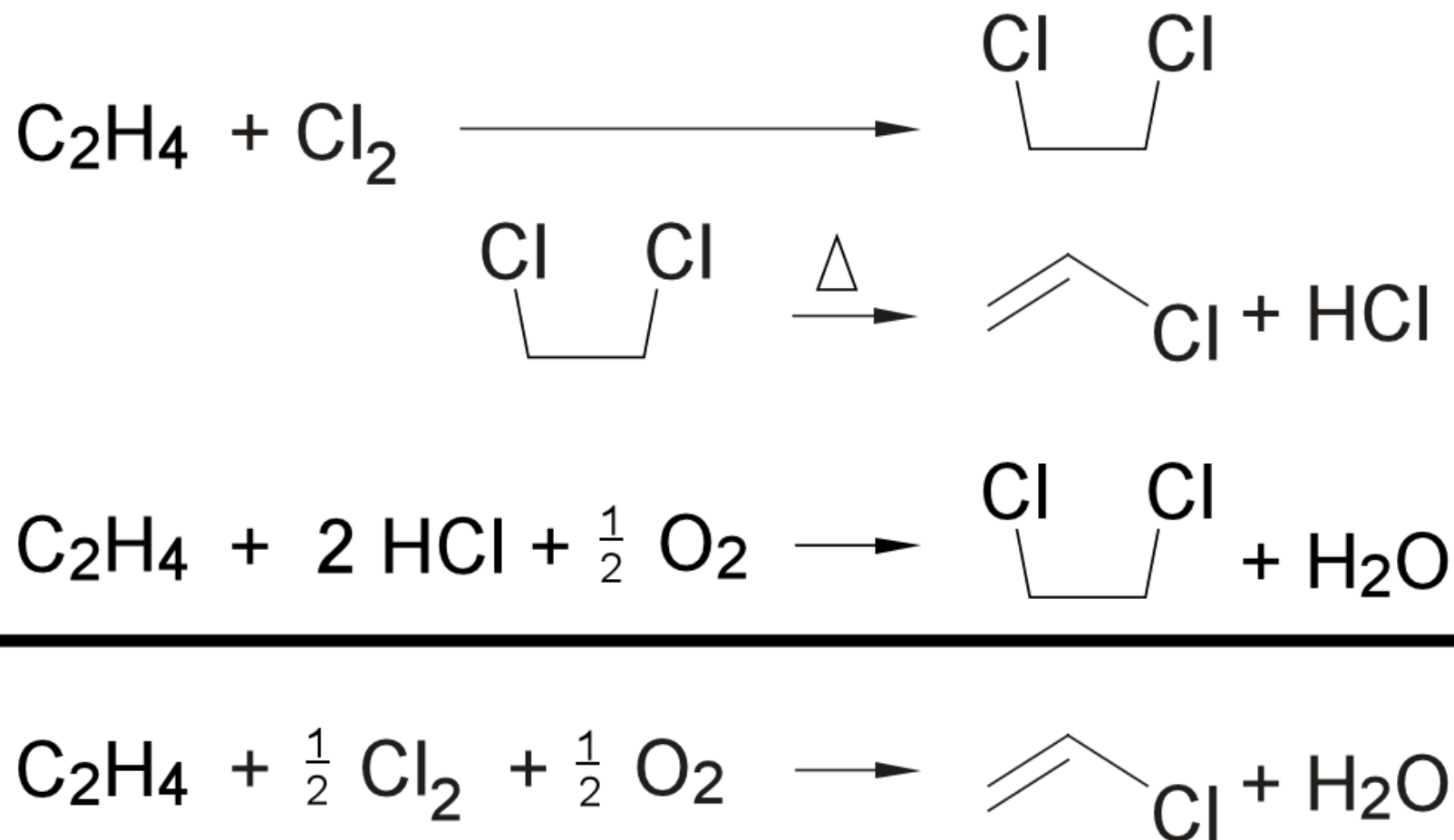
[ics.com/explore/resources/news/2019/03/21/10336962/insight-european-ecu-values-fall-to-the-lowest-level-since-2016/](https://www.ics.com/explore/resources/news/2019/03/21/10336962/insight-european-ecu-values-fall-to-the-lowest-level-since-2016/)

■ Breakfast of Champions

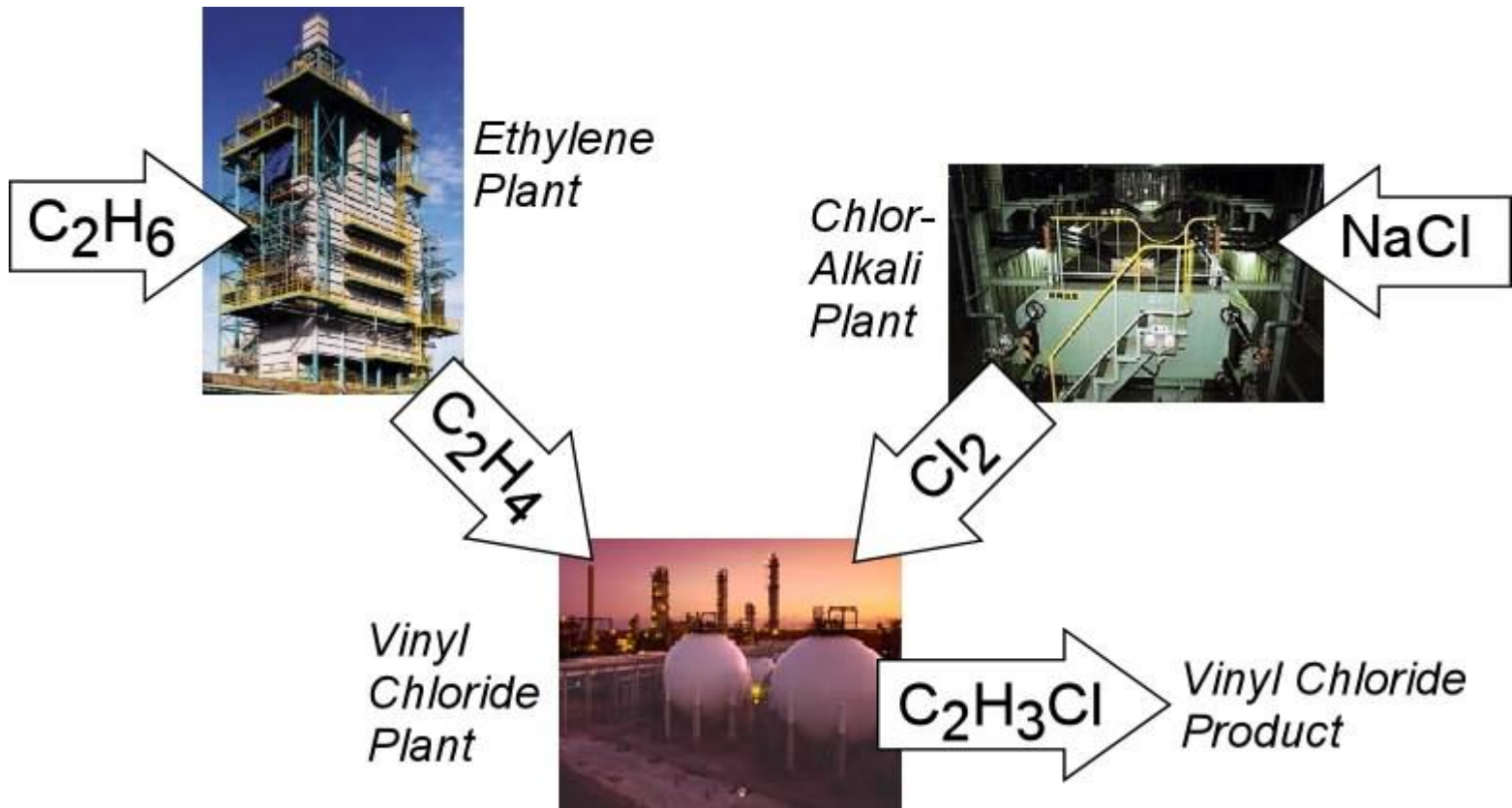


see Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions*  
or  
Pete Davidson's *The King of Staten Island*

## ■ Conventional Production

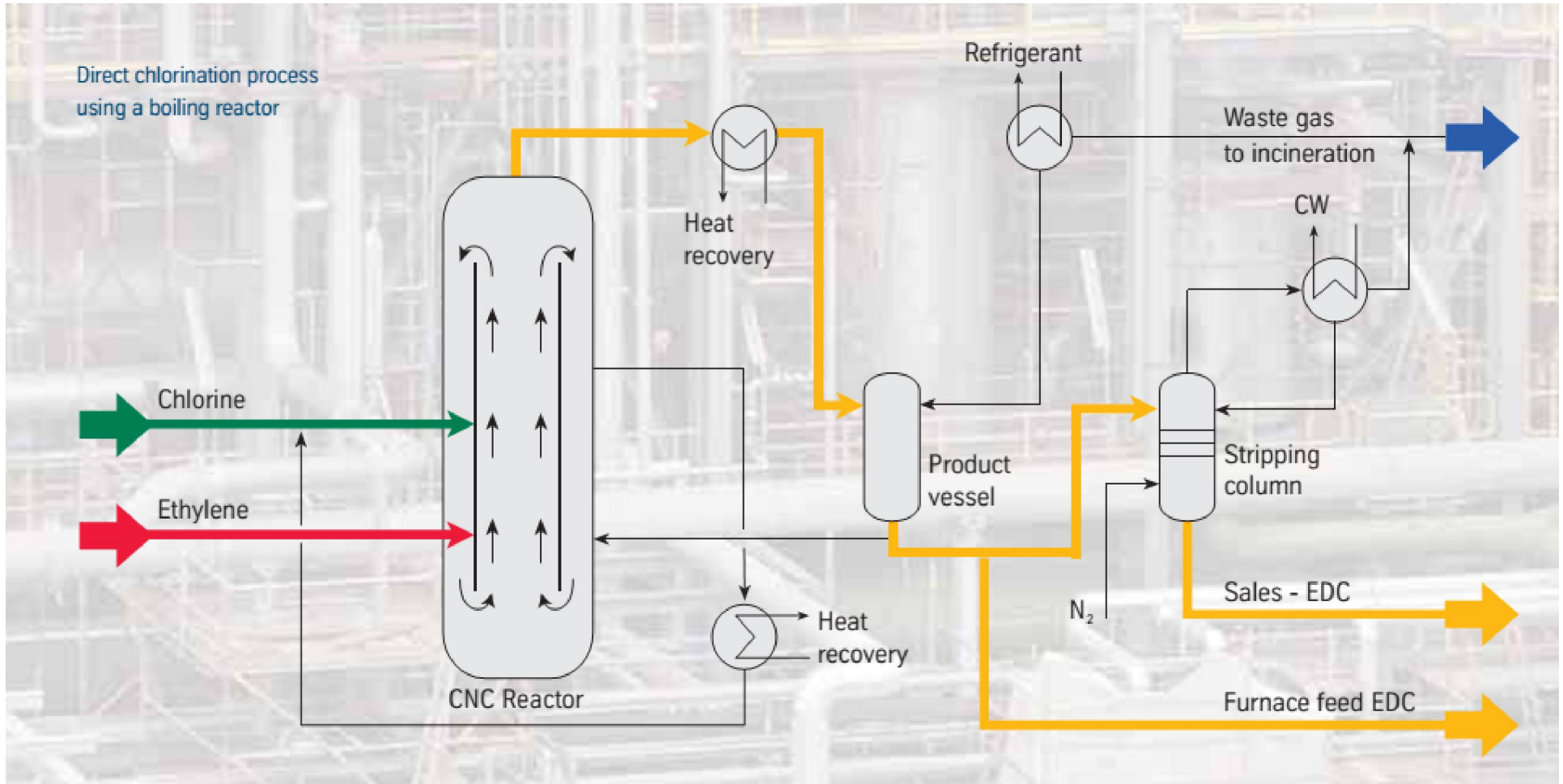


## Conventional VCM

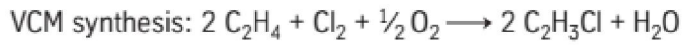




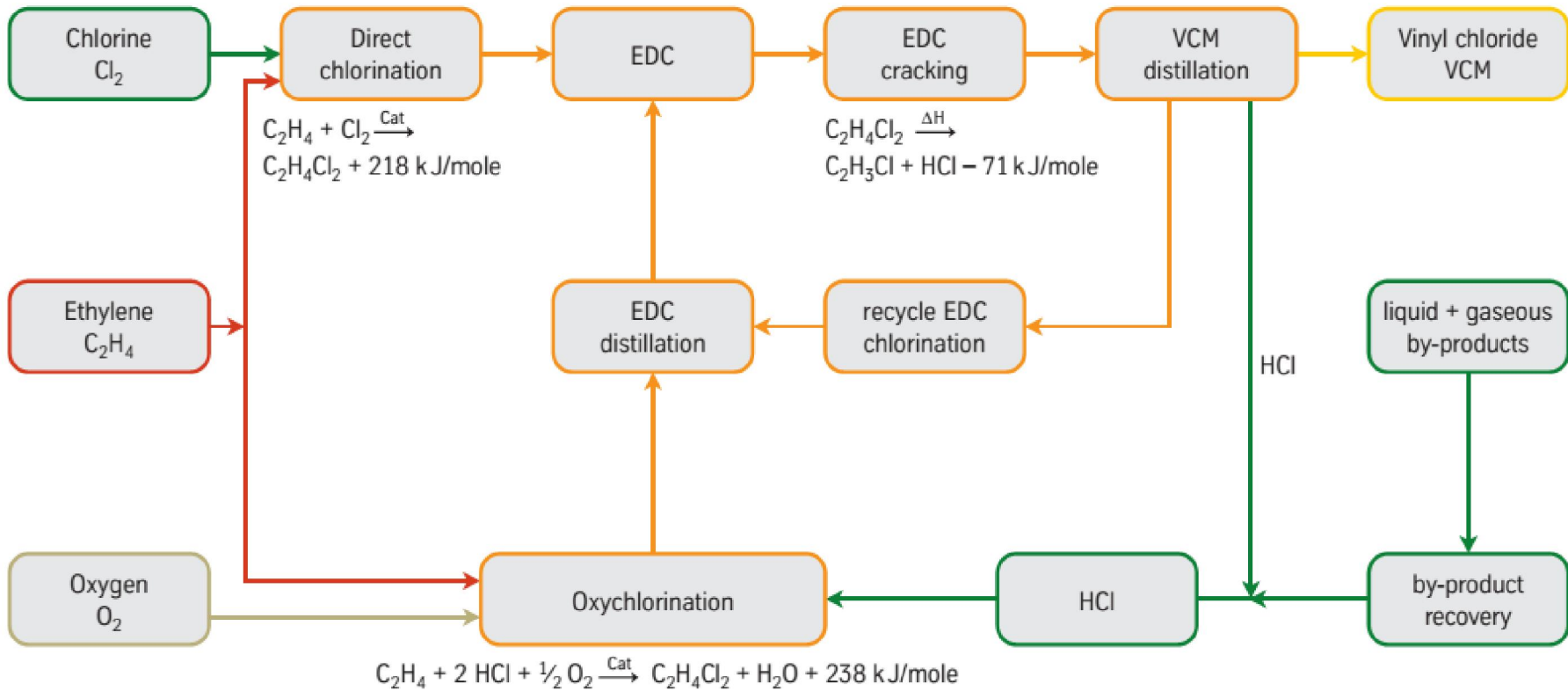
# Direct Chlorination



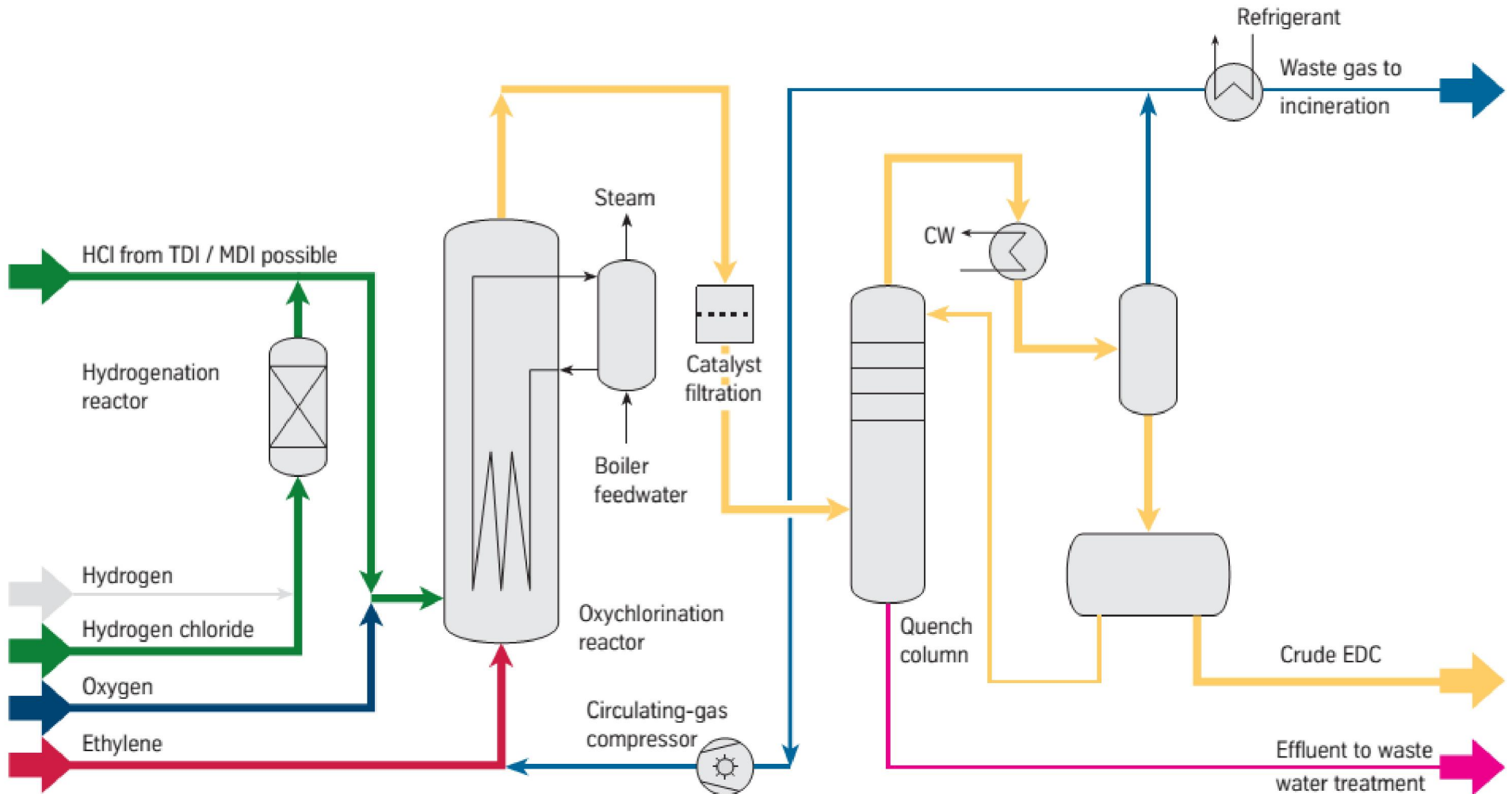
# More Detail



Schematic diagram of a VCM plant



# Oxychlorination

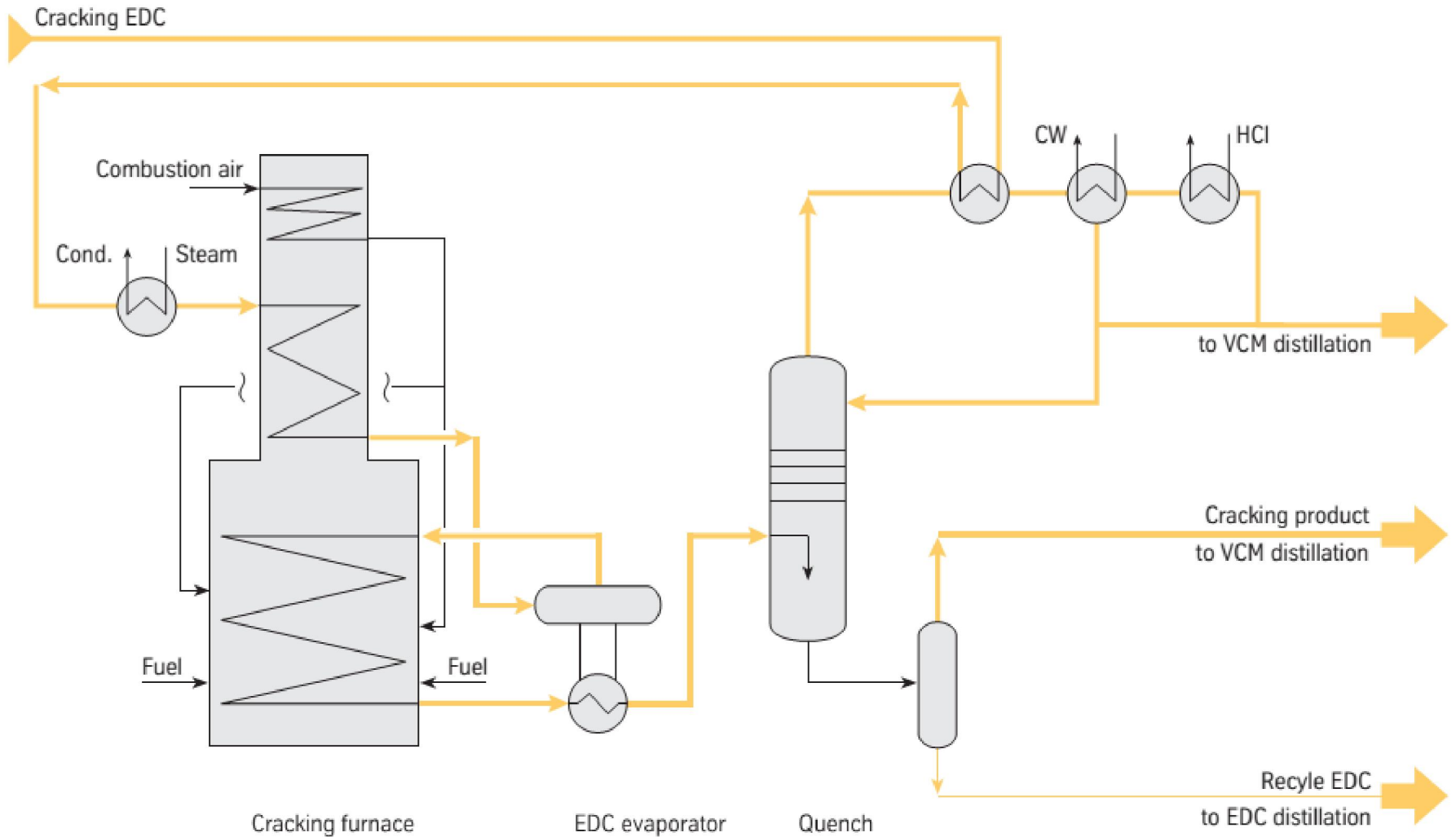


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Vinnolit

Uhde  
ThyssenKrupp

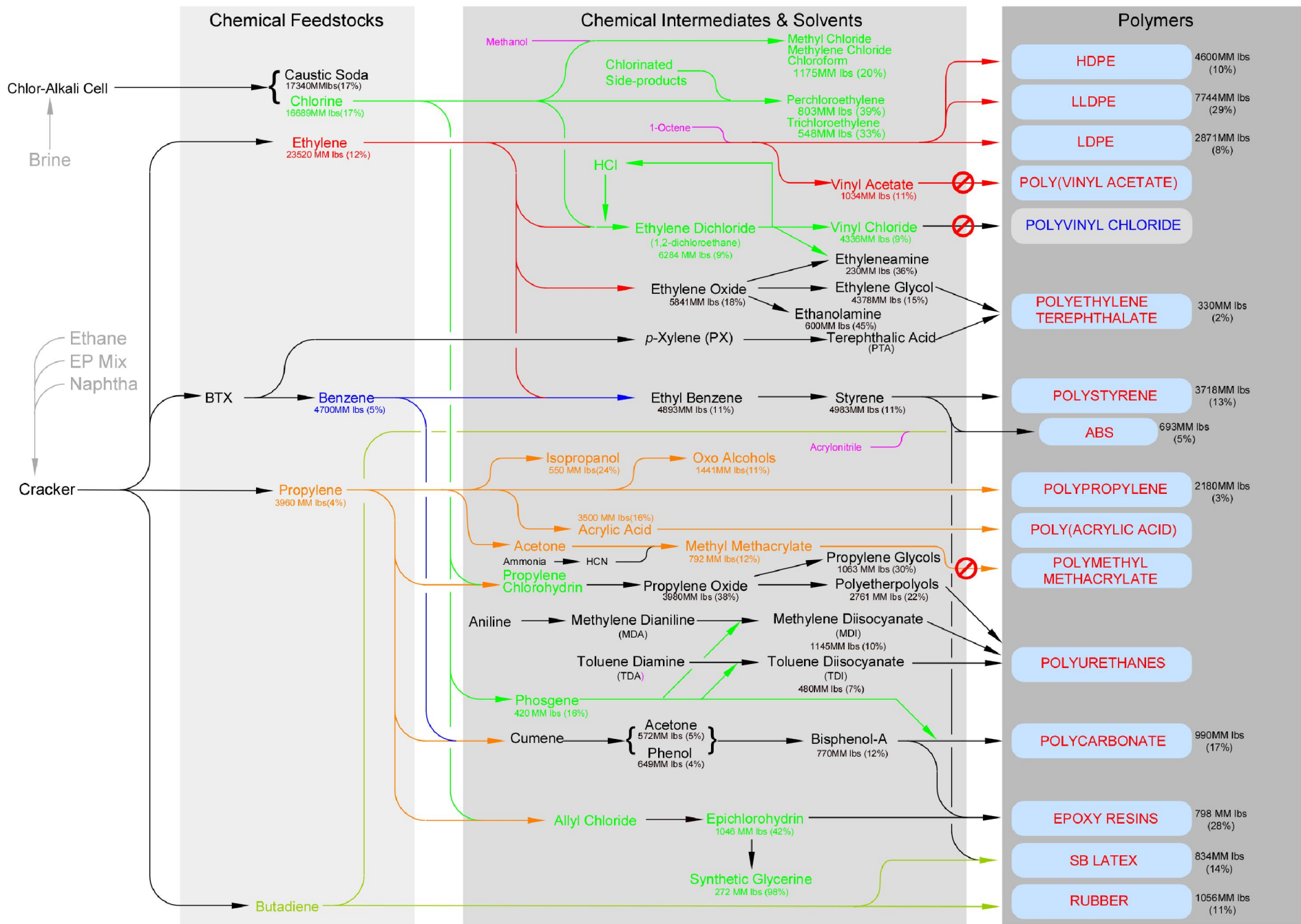
# Cracking



Vinnolit

Uhde  
ThyssenKrupp

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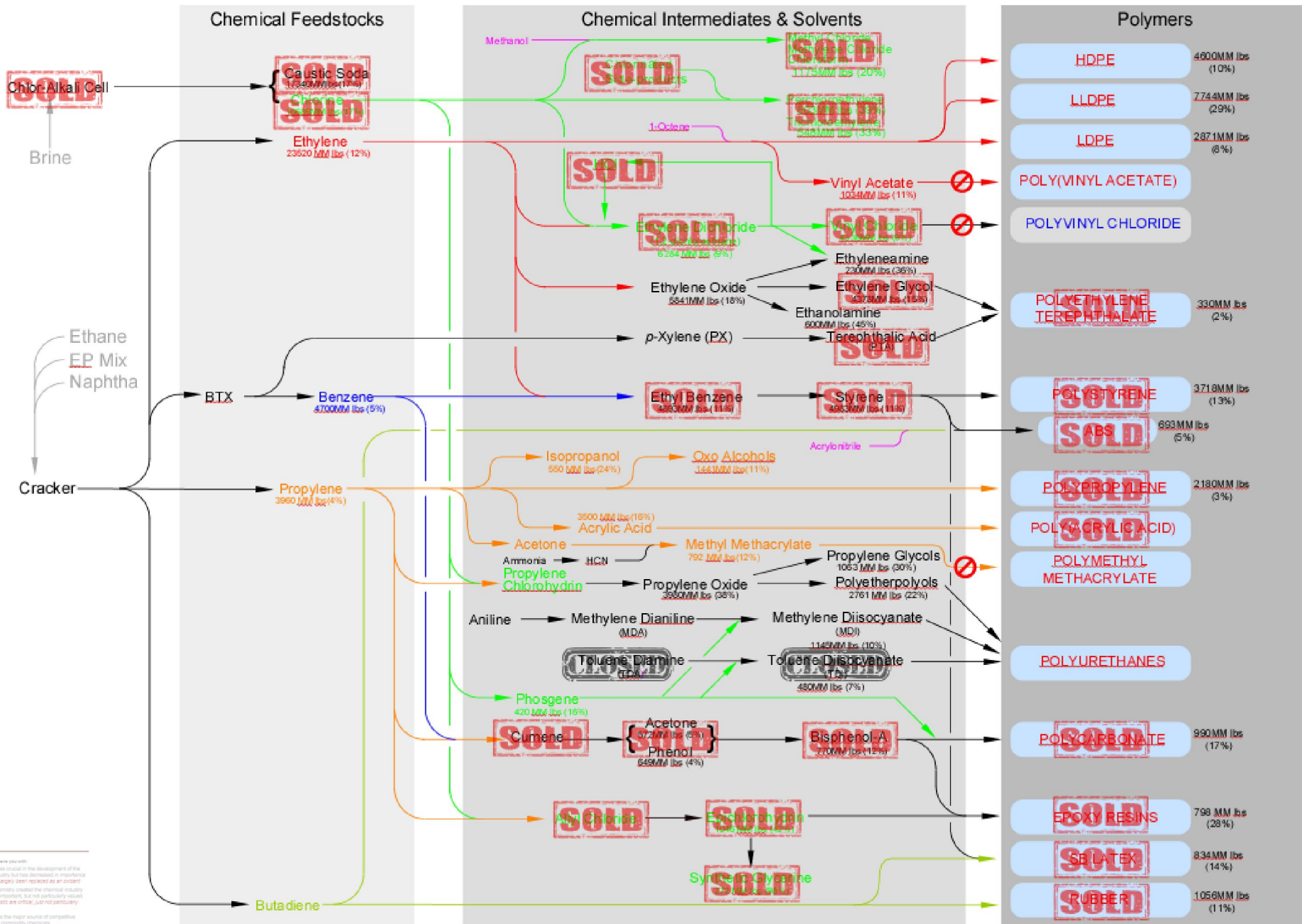


Volumes are world production unless noted.

Purchased chemicals are in pink.

NON-Confidential - from published sources

MEJ-2/2003



What I hope to leave you with:

- Integration was crucial in the development of the chemical industry but has decreased in importance
- chlorine has largely been replaced as an oxidant
- Inorganic chemistry created the chemical industry and remains important, but not particularly valued
- vinyl and oxo are critical, just not particularly profitable
- Scale remains the major source of competitive advantage in commodity chemicals
- For nonferrous metals, production cost is king and scale covers production cost

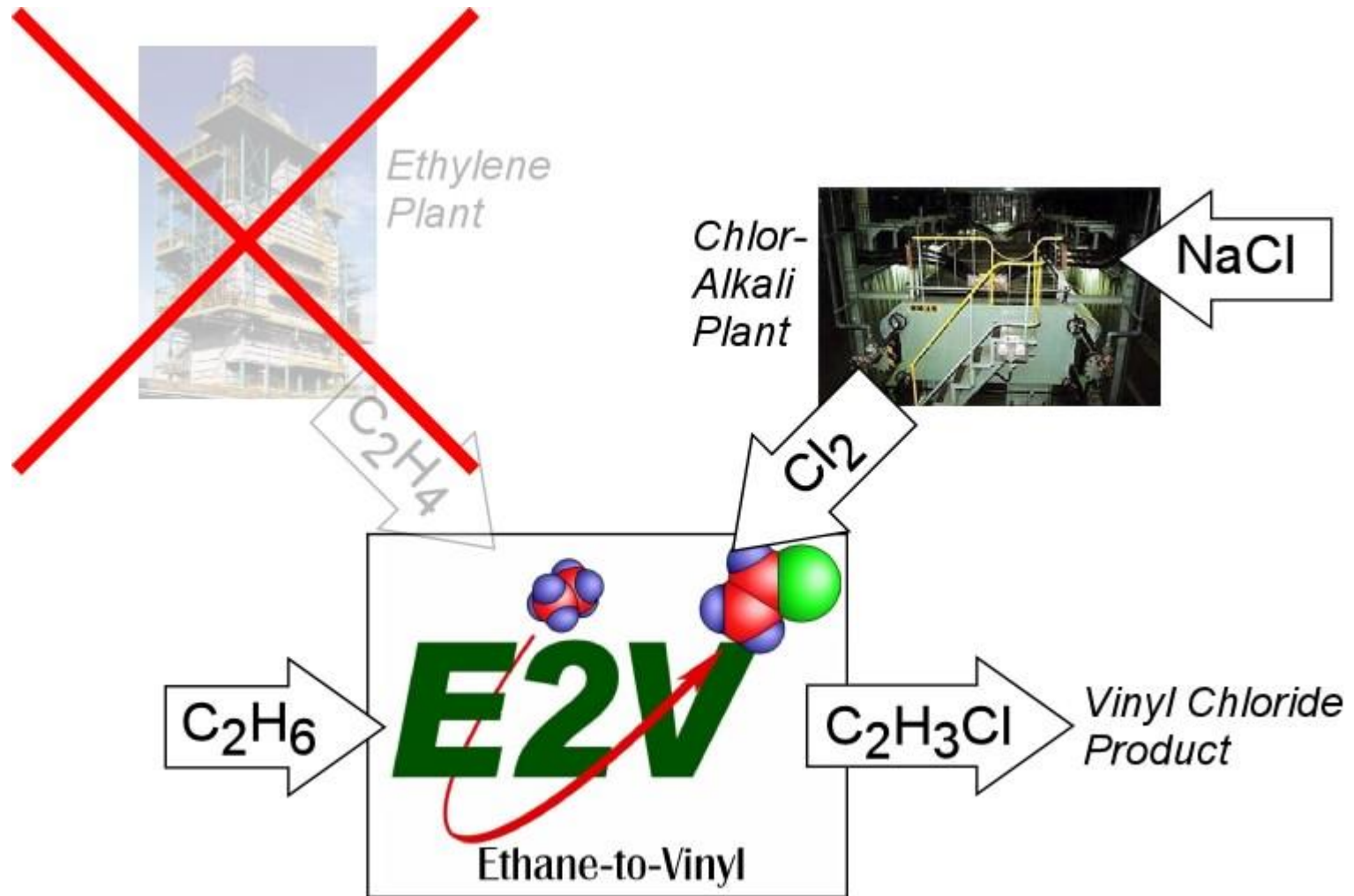
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MEJ-2/2003

**E2V**



# Lanthanide Catalyst

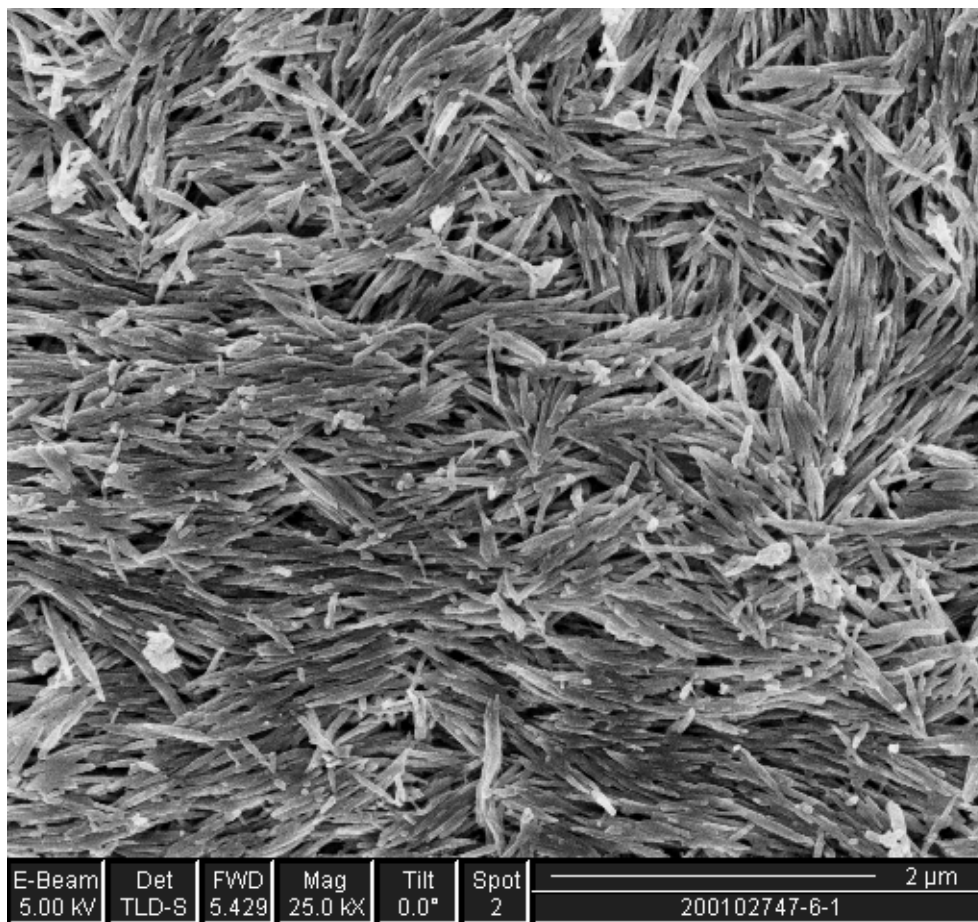
A periodic table with a large yellow callout box for Lanthanum (La). The callout box contains the following information: atomic number 57, atomic weight 138.91, symbol La, electronegativity 1.10, and electron configuration  $6s^2 5d^1$ . The name "Lanthanum" is written at the bottom of the box. The periodic table shows the lanthanide series starting from Yttrium (Y) and Lanthanum (La) in the 5th period, and continuing through the 6th period.

**not a redox metal!**

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 58<br>Ce | 59<br>Pr | 60<br>Nd | 61<br>Pm | 62<br>Sm | 63<br>Eu | 64<br>Gd | 65<br>Tb | 66<br>Dy | 67<br>Ho | 68<br>Er | 69<br>Tm | 70<br>Yb | 71<br>Lu |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|



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# Fluidized Bed



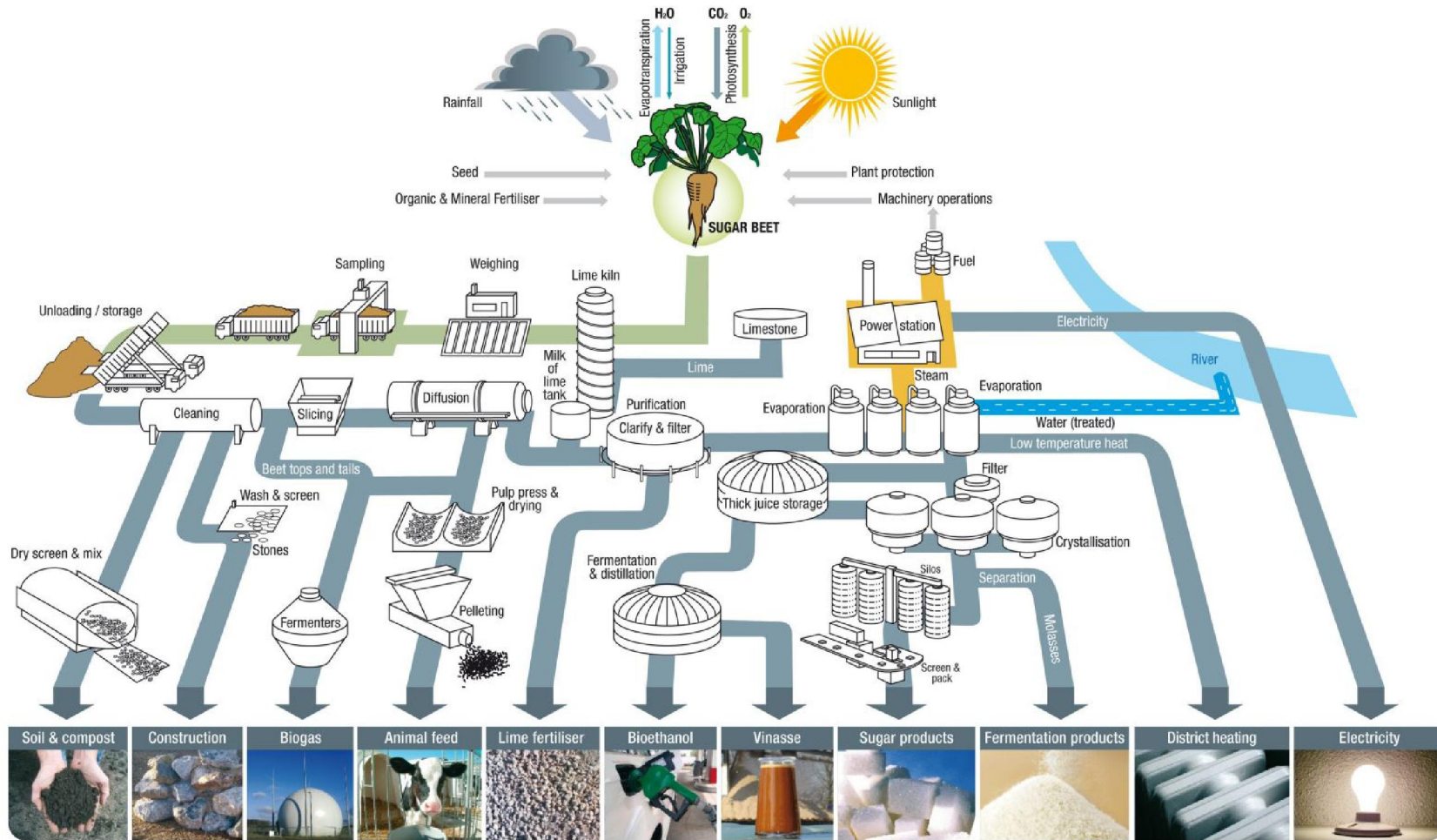
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## ■ What I hope I've left you with

- Integration was crucial in the development of the chemical industry but has decreased in importance  
*chlorine has largely been replaced as an oxidant*
- Inorganic chemistry created the chemical industry and remains important, but not particularly valued  
*vinyl and caustic are critical, just not particularly profitable*
- Scale remains the major source of competitive advantage in commodity chemicals  
*for undifferentiated materials, production cost is king and scale lowers production cost*

# Integrated Biorefinery

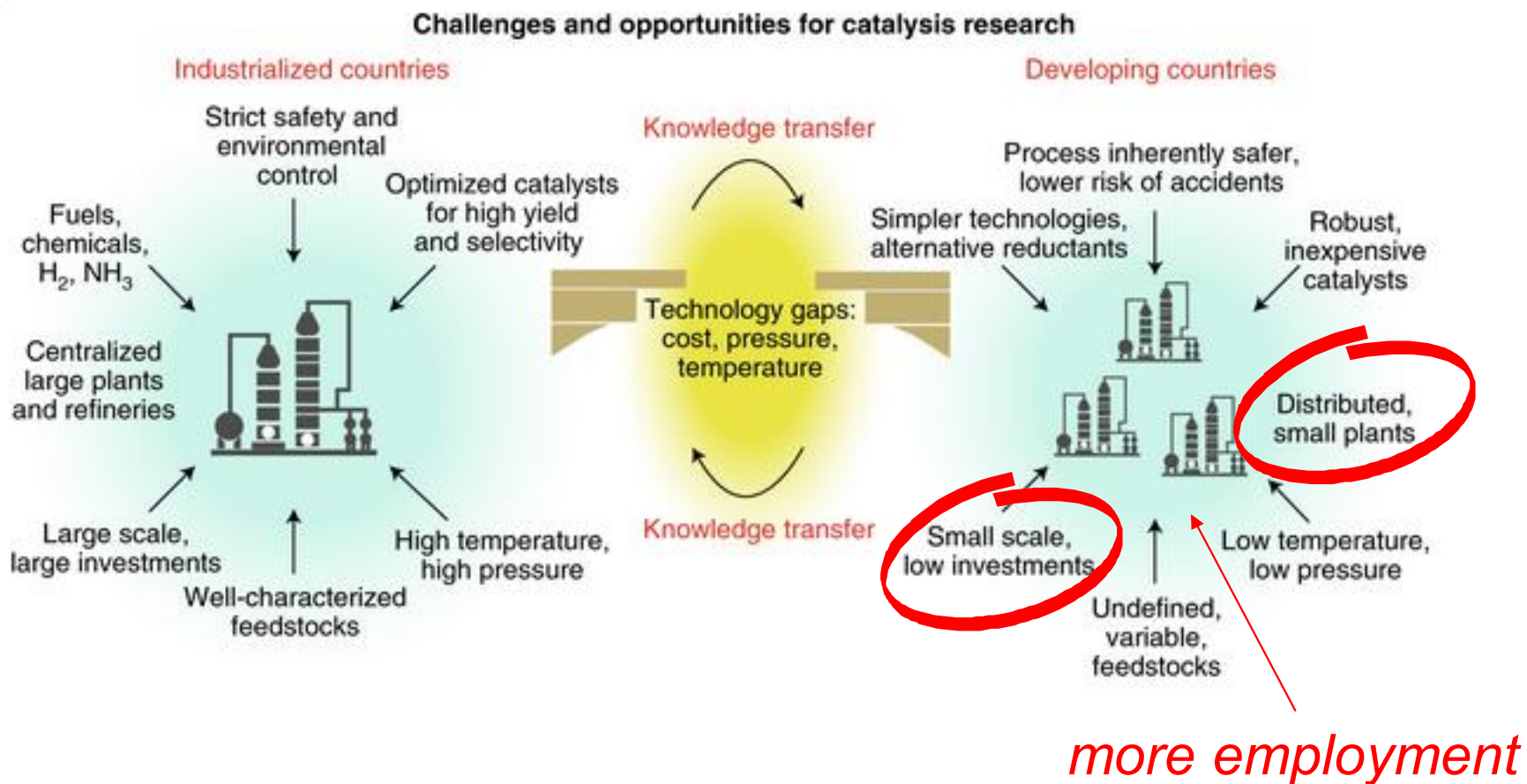
## FROM BEET FIELD TO SUGAR FACTORY



Source: CIBE and CEFS (after British Sugar)

[prokris.nl/production/](http://prokris.nl/production/)

# ■ Distributed Manufacturing



Resasco DE, Wang B, Sabatini D. Distributed processes for biomass conversion could aid UN Sustainable Development Goals. *Nature Catalysis*. 2018 Oct;1(10):731.



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