

ARTICLE

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Kinetics of Direct DME Synthesis from CO<sub>2</sub> rich syngas under variation of the CZA-to-γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ratio of a mixed catalyst bed

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#### S1. Reduction procedure and conditioning

Before performing the kinetic measurements, the CZA share of the catalytic bed was activated at atmospheric pressure with a volume flow of 300 ml min<sup>-1</sup> containing 5% of H<sub>2</sub> and 95% of N<sub>2</sub>. The system was heated from 373 to 473 K at a heating rate of 20 K h<sup>-1</sup>. This temperature was hold for one hour, followed by further heating to 513 K at a heating rate of 12 K h<sup>-1</sup>. Finally, the H<sub>2</sub> concentration in the gas flow was increased to 50%, maintaining the same total flow rate for an additional hour. Posterior to the catalyst reduction, the operating conditions 300 ml min<sup>-1</sup>, 503 K, 20% COR and 50 bar, were set to allow the catalyst system to run in. This operating point was maintained and the concentration of the product gas was monitored until a steady state of the catalyst system could be assumed (between 12 and 20 h time on stream).

#### S2. A priori Criteria.

**Table S1.** Calculated criteria for the verification of assumptions.

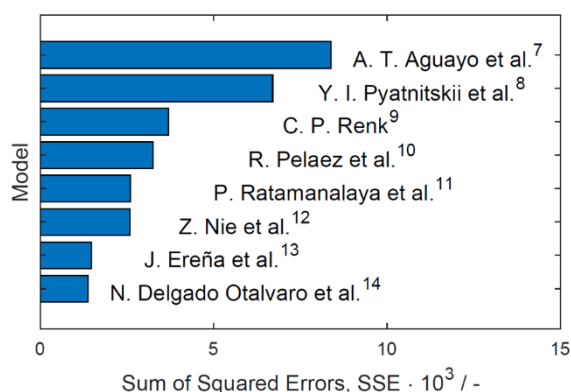
Phenomena to be neglected	Criteria	Equation	Calculated Value*
Outer mass transfer	Mears <sup>1</sup>	$\eta Da_{II} = \frac{r_{j,eff}}{\beta_i c_i} < \frac{0.05}{ n }$	0.0182
Inner mass transfer	Weisz-Prater <sup>2</sup>	$\psi = \frac{(r_{j,eff} l_c^2) n + 1}{D_{i,eff} c_{i,s} 2} < 0.15$	9.30E-06
Outer heat transfer	Mears <sup>1</sup>	$\frac{ \Delta H_R  r_{j,eff} R E_A}{\lambda T R T} < 0.15$	0.0008
Inner heat transfer	Anderson <sup>3</sup>	$\frac{ \Delta H_R  r_{j,eff} r_{kat}^2 E_A}{\lambda T_s R T} < 0.75$	0.0397
Radial Gradients	d/D-ratio <sup>4</sup>	$24 < \frac{d_{tube}}{d_{particle}} < 48$	24
Non-Isothermal operation	Rule of Thumb	$\Delta T = T_{max} - T_{min}$	2
Axial dispersion	Bodenstein Number <sup>5</sup>	$Bo = \frac{u_0 L}{D_{ax}} > 100$	481
Pressure drop	$\Delta p/L$ Zhavoronkov Correlation <sup>6</sup>	$\frac{\Delta p_{max}}{p} \sim 0$	5.0 E-08

\*for the worst-case scenario

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### S3. Model Discrimination.

For the initial model discrimination, the available experimental data were first simulated using eight different kinetic models from the open literature<sup>7–14</sup>. The sum of the squared errors between the measured and predicted composition of the product gas was calculated for each model and depicted in Fig. S1. In this figure, the models are named after the first author.



**Figure S1.** Total sum of squared errors for the implemented models

After this initial screening, the five models with the lower residual squared sum were parametrized to fit the experimental data. The model by Delgado Otalvaro et al.<sup>14</sup> agreed best with the available experimental data. Hence, the model structure and respective mechanistic assumptions were chosen for fine-tuning. To enable a direct comparison of the tested models and parameters, these have been compiled in Table S2. Additionally, the mean relative error between the predictions with the different models, and the experiments for each species  $i$  ( $RE_i$ ) is also given.  $RE_i$  is calculated by:

$$RE_i = 100\% \frac{1}{No. Exps} \sum_{n=1}^{No. Exps} \frac{|y_{i,out,measured,n} - y_{i,out,predicted,n}|}{y_{i,out,measured,n}}$$

The indices of the reaction rates, and rate constants in Table S2 correspond to the following reactions:

1.  $\text{CO}_2 + 3 \text{H}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
2.  $2 \text{CH}_3\text{OH} \rightleftharpoons \text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
3.  $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2$
4.  $\text{CO} + 2 \text{H}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$
5.  $n\text{CO} + (2n + 1)\text{H}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+2} + n\text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Table S2.** Compilation of tested reaction kinetic models with the respective specific parameters, and resulting relative error for each species.

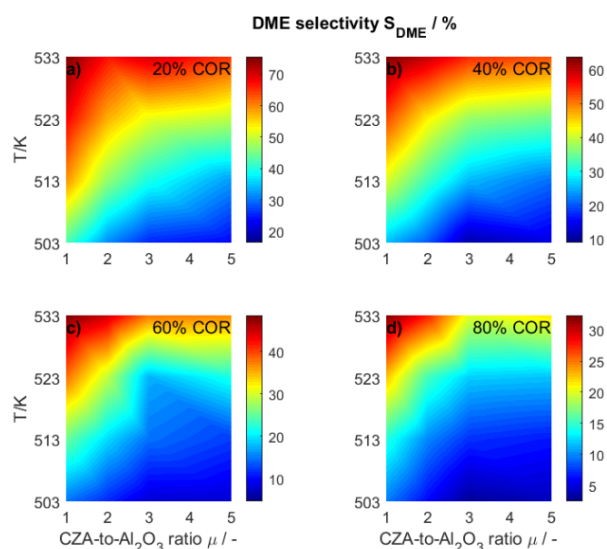
Model	Rate expressions	Model specific parameter	RE/%
N. Delgado Otalvaro <sup>14</sup>	$r_1 = k_1 \frac{\left(f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}^3 - \frac{f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_{f,1}}\right) [(1 - \varepsilon_{\text{bed}}) \rho_{\text{CZA}} \xi_{\text{CZA}}]}{\left(1 + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} + K_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{CO}} + \sqrt{K_{\text{H}_2}} f_{\text{H}_2}\right)^3}$ $r_2 = k_2 \left(f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2 - \frac{f_{\text{DME}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{f,2}}\right) [(1 - \varepsilon_{\text{bed}}) \rho_{\text{ALOX}} \xi_{\text{ALOX}}]$ $r_3 = k_3 \frac{\left(f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \frac{f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}}{K_{f,3}}\right) [(1 - \varepsilon_{\text{bed}}) \rho_{\text{CZA}} \xi_{\text{CZA}}]}{1 + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} + K_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{CO}} + \sqrt{K_{\text{H}_2}} f_{\text{H}_2}}$	$k_1 = \exp(-6.94) \exp\left[-\frac{21.81}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $k_2 = \exp(-2.07) \exp\left[-\frac{42.77}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $k_3 = \exp(-2.75) \exp\left[-\frac{10.82}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $K_{\text{CO}} = \exp(-15.32) \exp\left[\frac{14.03}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $K_{\text{CO}_2} = \exp(-0.57) \exp\left[-\frac{0}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $K_{\text{H}_2} = \exp(-19.51) \exp\left[\frac{14.68}{R T_R} \left(\frac{T_R}{T} - 1\right)\right]$ $[r_j] = \text{mol m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$	CO 9.7 CO2 7.1 H2 1.5 DME 54.5
J. Ereña <sup>13</sup>	$r_2 = k_2 \left(f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2 - \frac{f_{\text{DME}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_2}\right)$	$k_2 = 3.41 \cdot 10^{-3} \exp\left(-\frac{63.5}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548}\right)\right)$	CO 11.3

	$r_3 = k_3 \left( f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \frac{f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}}{K_3} \right)$ $r_4 = k_4 \frac{\left( f_{\text{H}_2}^2 f_{\text{CO}} - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_4} \right) r_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} \right)}$ $r_5 = k_5 \frac{\left( f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2}^3 - \frac{f_{\text{HC}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_5} \right)}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} \right)}$	$k_3$ : not given $k_4 = 2.4 \cdot 10^{-5} \exp \left( -\frac{90.0}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548} \right) \right)$ $k_5 = 1.23 \cdot 10^{-7} \exp \left( -\frac{9.9}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548} \right) \right)$ $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 2.67 \cdot 10^{-3} \exp \left( \frac{384.8}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548} \right) \right)$ $K_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.13 \cdot 10^{-3} \exp \left( \frac{43.4}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548} \right) \right)$  $[k_2] = \text{mol}_{\text{DME}} (\text{mol}_c)^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $[k_4] = \text{mol}_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} (\text{mol}_c)^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-3}$ $[k_5] = \text{mol}_{\text{HC}} (\text{mol}_c)^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-4}$ $[E_a] = \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ $[\Delta H_{\text{ads}}] = \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ $[K_i] = \text{bar}^{-1}$	CO2 7.6  H2 1.6  DME 62.8
Z. Nie <sup>12</sup>	$r_1 = k_1 \frac{f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}^3 \left( 1 - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{f_1} f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}^3} \right)}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} + K_{\text{H}_2} f_{\text{H}_2} \right)^4}$ $r_2 = k_2 \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \left( 1 - \frac{f_{\text{DME}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{f_2} f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2} \right)}{\left( 1 + \sqrt{K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}} f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \right)^2}$ $r_4 = k_4 \frac{f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2}^2 \left( 1 - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_{f_4} f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2}^2} \right)}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{CO}_2} + K_{\text{H}_2} f_{\text{H}_2} \right)^3}$	$k_1 = 5.059 \cdot 10^3 \exp \left( -\frac{67515}{R T} \right)$ $k_2 = 1.602 \cdot 10^3 \exp \left( -\frac{43473}{R T} \right)$ $k_4 = 7.380 \cdot 10^3 \exp \left( -\frac{54307}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CO}} = 3.934 \cdot 10^{-6} \exp \left( \frac{37373}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.858 \cdot 10^{-6} \exp \left( \frac{53795}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{H}_2} = 0.6716 \exp \left( -\frac{6476}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} = 3.480 \cdot 10^{-6} \exp \left( \frac{54689}{R T} \right)$  $[r_j] = \text{ml g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	CO 36.5  CO2 10.6  H2 6.7  DME 100
P. Ratamana laya <sup>11</sup>	$r_2 = k_2 \frac{\left( p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2 - \frac{p_{\text{DME}} p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{\text{eq}_2}} \right)}{\left( 1 + \sqrt{K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}} p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \right)^2}$ $r_3 = k_3 \frac{\left( p_{\text{CO}} p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \frac{p_{\text{CO}_2} p_{\text{H}_2}}{K_{\text{eq}_3}} \right)}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{CO}} p_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + K_{\text{CO}_2} p_{\text{CO}_2} + \sqrt{K_{\text{H}_2}} p_{\text{H}_2} \right)^2}$ $r_4 = k_4 \frac{\left( p_{\text{CO}} p_{\text{H}_2}^2 - \frac{p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_{\text{eq}_4}} \right)}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{CO}} p_{\text{CO}} + \sqrt{K_{\text{H}_2}} p_{\text{H}_2} + K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \right)^3}$	$k_2 = 1.69 \cdot 10^8 \exp \left( -\frac{69787}{R T} \right)$ $k_3 = 1202.8 \exp \left( -\frac{20437}{R T} \right)$ $k_4 = 40.498 \exp \left( -\frac{18203}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} = 0.9535 \exp \left( \frac{16243}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 6.992 \exp \left( \frac{26452}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CO}} = 4.49 \cdot 10^{-7} \exp \left( \frac{60528}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.092 \cdot 10^{-7} \exp \left( \frac{66924}{R T} \right)$ $K_{\text{H}_2} = 0.2487 \exp \left( \frac{30961}{R T} \right)$  $[K_i] = \text{bar}^{-1}$	CO 36.1  CO2 10.7  H2 6.7  DME 100
R. Pelaez <sup>10</sup>	$r_1 = \frac{k_1}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \right)^3} \left( f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2} - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{\text{eq}_1} f_{\text{H}_2}^2} \right)$ $r_2 = k_2 \left( f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2 - \frac{f_{\text{DME}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{\text{eq}_2}} \right)$ $r_3 = k_3 \left( f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \frac{f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}}{K_{\text{eq}_3}} \right)$ $r_4 = \frac{k_4}{\left( 1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \right)^3} \left( f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2} - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_{\text{eq}_4} f_{\text{H}_2}} \right)$	Equation for temperature dependency of the rate or adsorption constants is not given. Parameter estimates:  $k_{1,\text{at } 523 \text{ K}} = 2.55 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol kg}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $E_{a,1} = 3.8 \text{ kJ/mol}$ $k_{2,\text{at } 523 \text{ K}} = 8.13 \text{ mol kg}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $k_3$ : not given ( $r_3$ at equilibrium) $k_{4,\text{at } 523 \text{ K}} = 6.43 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ mol kg}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $E_{a,4} = 171.8 \text{ kJ/mol}$ $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 19 \text{ bar}^{-1}$	CO 25.8  CO2 13.2  H2 6.4  DME 99.5

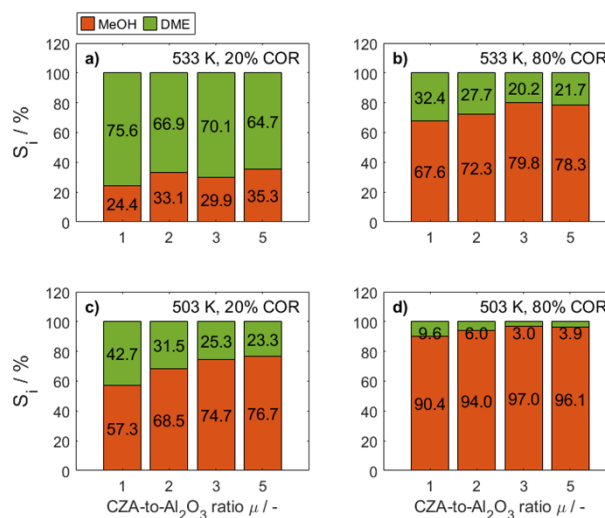
C. P. Renk <sup>9</sup>	$r_2 = k_2 c_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^{1,1} - k_{2'} c_{\text{DME}}^{1,2} c_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ $r_3 = k_3 c_{\text{CO}}^{0,2} c_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{1,3} - k_{3'} c_{\text{H}_2}^{0,4} c_{\text{CO}_2}^{0,2}$ $r_4 = k_4 c_{\text{H}_2} c_{\text{CO}}^{0,5} - k_{4'} c_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^{2,4}$	$k_2 = 5.1 \cdot 10^1 \exp\left(-\frac{0}{RT}\right)$ $k_{2'} = 8.6 \cdot 10^6 \exp\left(-\frac{31}{RT}\right)$ $k_3 = 1.5 \cdot 10^4 \exp\left(-\frac{0.2}{RT}\right)$ $k_{3'} = 2.6 \cdot 10^9 \exp\left(-\frac{107}{RT}\right)$ $k_4 = 1.4 \cdot 10^{13} \exp\left(-\frac{138}{RT}\right)$ $k_{4'} = 1.1 \cdot 10^{11} \exp\left(-\frac{44}{RT}\right)$ $[E_a] = \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ $[k_j] = [k_{j'}] = \text{ml g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{ml}^{n-1} \text{mol}^{1-n}$	CO 26.8 CO2 12.4 H2 7.6 DME 100
Y. I. Pyatnitskii <sup>8</sup>	$r_1 = k_1 \frac{p_{\text{CO}_2} p_{\text{H}_2} \left(1 - \frac{p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_1 p_{\text{H}_2}^3 p_{\text{CO}_2}}\right)}{\left(1 + a_3 \frac{p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{p_{\text{H}_2}} + a_1 \sqrt{p_{\text{H}_2}} + a_2 p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}\right)^3}$ $r_2 = k_2 \frac{p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} \left(1 - \frac{p_{\text{DME}} p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_2 p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2}\right)}{1 + K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} p_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} + \frac{p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}}$ $r_3 = -k_3 \frac{p_{\text{CO}_2} \left(1 - K_3 \frac{p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} p_{\text{CO}}}{p_{\text{H}_2} p_{\text{CO}_2}}\right)}{1 + a_3 \frac{p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{p_{\text{H}_2}} + a_1 \sqrt{p_{\text{H}_2}} + a_2 p_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}$	$k_1 = 0.00107 \exp\left(\frac{4414}{T}\right)$ $k_2 = 2.82 \cdot 10^6 \exp\left(-\frac{6938}{T}\right)$ $k_3 = 1.22 \cdot 10^7 \exp\left(-\frac{11398}{T}\right)$ $a_1 = 0.499 \exp\left(\frac{2068}{T}\right)$ $a_2 = 6.62 \cdot 10^{-11} \exp\left(\frac{14928}{T}\right)$ $a_3 = 3453.38$ $K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} = 2.20 \cdot 10^{-5} \exp\left(\frac{7738}{T}\right)$ $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.051 \exp\left(\frac{626}{T}\right)$ $[a_1] = \text{bar}^{-0.5}, [a_2] = \text{bar}^{-1}$ $[a_3] = -$ $[k_1] = \text{mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $[k_2] = \text{mol}_{\text{DME}} \text{g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-1}$ $[k_3] = \text{mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-1}$ $[K_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}] = \text{bar}^{-1}, [K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}] = \text{bar}$	CO 26.6 CO2 18.4 H2 7.3 DME 98.5
A. T. Aguayo <sup>7</sup> (Model 1)	$r_2 = k_2 \left(f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}^2 - \frac{f_{\text{DME}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_2}\right)$ $r_3 = k_3 \left(f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - \frac{f_{\text{CO}_2} f_{\text{H}_2}}{K_3}\right)$ $r_4 = k_4 \left(f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2}^2 - \frac{f_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}}}{K_4}\right)$ $r_5 = k_5 \left(f_{\text{CO}} f_{\text{H}_2}^3 - \frac{f_{\text{HC}} f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{K_5}\right)$	$k_2 = 1.44 \exp\left(-\frac{80.64}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548}\right)\right)$ $k_3 \text{ not given } (r_3 \text{ in equilibrium})$ $k_4 = 1.91 \cdot 10^{-6} \exp\left(-\frac{11.3}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548}\right)\right)$ $k_5 = 2.04 \cdot 10^{-7} \exp\left(-\frac{15.92}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{548}\right)\right)$ $[E_a] = \text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ $[k_2] = \text{mol}_{\text{DME}} (\text{mol}_{\text{H}_2})^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-2}$ $[k_4] = \text{mol}_{\text{CH}_3\text{OH}} (\text{mol}_{\text{H}_2})^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-3}$ $[k_5] = \text{mol}_{\text{HC}} (\text{mol}_{\text{H}_2})^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1} \text{bar}^{-4}$	CO 35.7 CO2 9.9 H2 7.3 DME 127.2

## S4. Selectivity

The selectivity towards DME is displayed here in Figs. S2 and S3 complementary to Figs. 1, 2 and 4 of the manuscript.



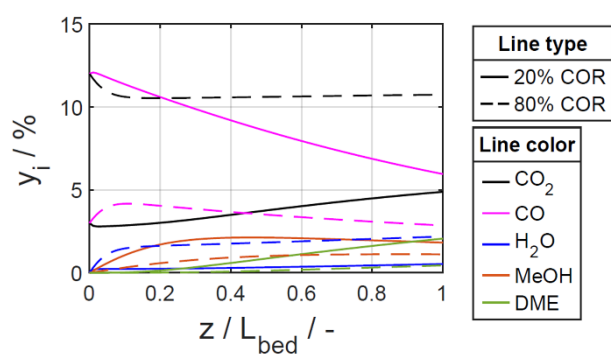
**Figure S2.** DME selectivity determined experimentally and plotted as a function of the temperature ( $T$ ) and the CZA-to- $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ratio ( $\mu$ ) for CORs of **a)** 20% **b)** 40% **c)** 60% **d)** 80%. Experimental conditions summarized in Table 1.



**Figure S3.** Selectivity of methanol and DME at specific conditions: **a)** 533 K, 20% COR, **b)** 533 K, 80% COR, **c)** 492 K, 20% COR **d)** 492 K, 80% COR

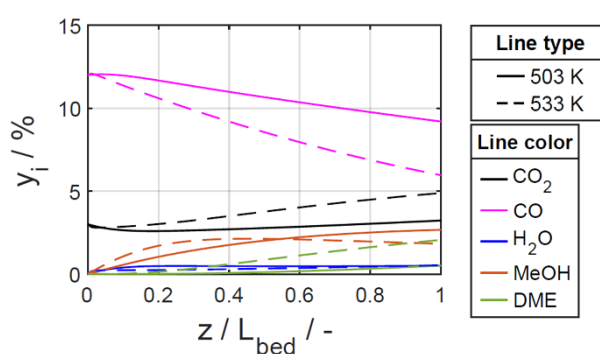
## S5. Mole percentage profiles including CO and CO<sub>2</sub>

The concentration profiles of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> are shown here for the sake of completeness.



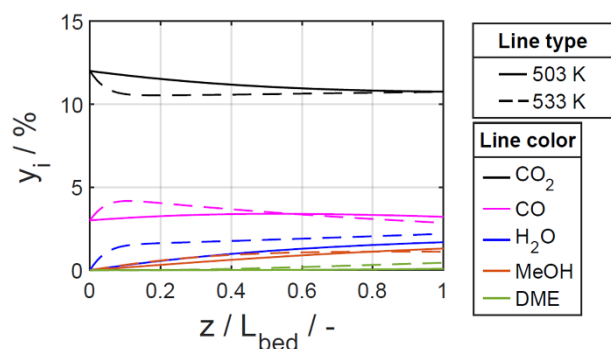
**Figure S4.** Mole percentage profiles of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, water, methanol and DME at  $T=533$  K,  $\mu=2$ .

(—) Solid lines: 20% COR, (---) Dashed lines: 80% COR



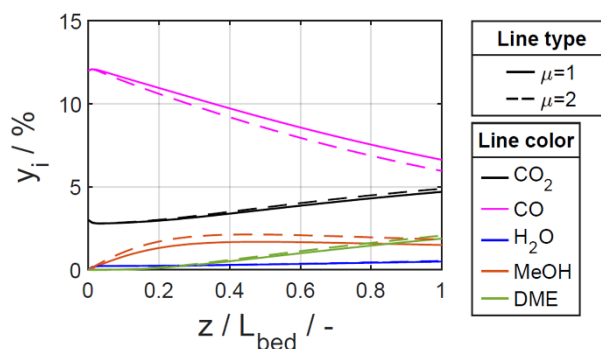
**Figure S5.** Mole percentage profiles of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, water, methanol and DME at  $\mu=2$  and COR=20%.

(—) Solid lines:  $T=503$  K, (---) Dashed lines:  $T=533$  K



**Figure S6.** Mole percentage profiles of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, water, methanol and DME at  $\mu=2$  and COR=80%.

(—) Solid lines:  $T=503$  K, (---) Dashed lines:  $T=533$  K



**Figure S7.** Mole percentage profiles of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, water, methanol and DME at  $T=533$  K, COR=20%.

(—) Solid lines:  $\mu=1$ , (---) Dashed lines:  $\mu=2$

## S6. Overview of selected studies conducted at different CZA-to- $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ratios

**Table S3.** Overview of selected studies conducted at different CZA-to- $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ratios

Study - named after first author	Catalyst system and properties	Feed, conditions, reactor,* catalyst particle size	Optimal catalyst bed composition**
R. Pelaez et al. <sup>10</sup>	- CZA: CHEMPACK $S_{\text{BET}}$ : 76.6 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Pore volume: 0.257 cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>  - $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : BASF $S_{\text{BET}}$ : 239.9 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Pore volume: 0.545 cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> 250-270 °C, 30 bar, 0.067-0.244 kgh/Nm <sup>3</sup> 100-250 $\mu$ m CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 70/30, 85/15, 92.5/7.5%	CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 92.5/7.5% regarding CO conversion and DME yield
N. Delgado Otalvaro et al. <sup>14</sup>	Commercial CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> /Inert 220-260 °C, 50 bar, 200-700 Nml/min, 250-500 $\mu$ m (model-based optimization)	65.5% CZA, 34.5% $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (v.) without dilution. Regarding conversion of CO <sub>x</sub> and DME yield
K. L. Ng et al. <sup>15</sup>	- CZA - $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : Norton Chemicals Co.	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> /He, 250 °C, 50 bar, 27500 h <sup>-1</sup> , Gradientless, internal-recycle-type reactor, stacked catalysts, 250-500 $\mu$ m, CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1/0, 1/0.5, 1/1, 1/2	CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1/2 regarding DME yield***
C. Peinado et al. <sup>16</sup>	-CZA: Katalco 51-8  - $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : Alfa Aesar bimodal $S_{\text{BET}}$ : 220-280 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> , 270-290 °C, 25-50 bar, 5000-7500 h <sup>-1</sup> , 250-300 $\mu$ m, CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 90/10, 50/50, 10/90	CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 50/50 regarding DME productivity
J. W. Bae et al. <sup>17</sup>	- CZA: prod. in-house CuO/ZnO/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> =50/40/10  - $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : prod. in-house $S_{\text{BET}}$ : 437.8 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> : 41/21/38 v. %, 250 °C, 40 bar, 11000 h <sup>-1</sup> Pellet form hybrid catalyst CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1, 3, 5	CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1 Regarding the DME selectivity  CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 5 Regarding the CO conversion
J. Abu-Dahrieh et al. <sup>18</sup>	-CZA: prod. in-house CuO/ZnO/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> =60/30/10 $S_{\text{BET}}$ : 56.9 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> pore size: 1.05 nm	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> /Ar: 31/4/62/3 v. %, 200-260 °C, 20 bar, 2400 ml g <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> , 250-425 $\mu$ m,	CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1 and CZA/HZSM-5: 3 regarding the DME yield

	- NH4ZSM-5, HZSM-5 and $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : prod. in-house, S <sub>BET</sub> : 117 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> , Pore size = 1.035 nm	admixed catalyst, CZA/ $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> : 1, 2, 3	
A. Ateka et al. <sup>19</sup>	Comparison of different commercial and in-house made catalyst systems  - CuO–ZnO–ZrO <sub>2</sub> , CuO–ZnO–MnO, and CuO/ZnO/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  CZA: S <sub>BET</sub> : 24 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> , Pore volume: 0.081 cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Cu dispersion: 5.2%  - SAPO-18 and $\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  SAPO-18: S <sub>BET</sub> : 480 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> , Pore volume: 0.39 cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Total acidity: 0.42 mmol <sub>NH<sub>3</sub></sub> /g <sub>cat</sub>	CO/CO <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> , 275 °C, 30 bar, 3.7 g h (mol <sub>C</sub> ) <sup>-1</sup> , 125–500 $\mu$ m, Bifunctional catalysts CZA/SAPO-18: 1, 2, 5, 10	CZA/SAPO-18: 2 regarding yield and selectivity of DME for CO <sub>2</sub> free feeds (H <sub>2</sub> /CO=3)

\* The reactor type is a fixed bed tubular reactor, with mechanically mixed catalyst bed unless otherwise stated

\*\* percentages and ratios in weight, unless otherwise stated

\*\*\* In this study the mass of CZA was held constant while the mass of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was increased to achieve a higher  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-to-CZA ratio. Hence, the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-to-CZA ratio leading to the highest performance was the case at which the total catalyst mass was also the highest.

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