# Selective Photocatalytic Oxidation of (hetro) aryl alcohols to aldehydes and ketones by Visible-Light-Absorbing threedimensional Ni/ZnO nanoparticles

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### **General information**

The chemical materials utilized in this study were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka, and Merck. The progression of the reactions was monitored using thin-layer chromatography (TLC). Infrared spectra of the samples were obtained using a Bruker FTIR-Tensor II spectrophotometer. The quantity of nickel nanoparticles catalyst (Ni/ZnO) was determined using inductively coupled plasma (ICP). Surface morphologies and microstructures were examined using field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM, TESCAN MIRA2) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM, Philips EM 208S). Phase composition was determined with a Philips PW1730 XRD instrument in the 2θ range of 20° to 80° at room temperature. BET surface areas of the catalyst were analyzed through nitrogen adsorption at 77 K using a BET BELSORP Mini II. Elemental analysis was conducted with a Thermo Finnigan Flash EA-1112 CHNS analyzer. UV–vis diffuse reflectance spectrum was performed with a PERKIN ELMER LAMBDA 365 spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker, Avance 400 (at 400 MHz, 376 MHz, and 100 MHz respectively).

 Table S1. Results BET for three-dimensional Ni/ZnO nanoparticles

|              | BET surface area (m <sup>2</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup> )                                    | 31.928 |
|--------------|--|--------|
| Surface area | BJH adsorption cumulative surface area of pores (m <sup>2</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup> )     | 42.073 |
|              | Mean pore diameter (nm)  | 39.175 |
| Pore size    | Pore size distribution (nm)  | 7.98   |
|              | Single point adsorption total pore volume of pores (cm <sup>3</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup> ) | 0.3127 |
| Pore volume  |  | 0.3193 |
|              | BJH adsorption cumulative volume of pores (cm <sup>3</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup> )          |        |
| 1            | 1  | 1      |



Fig. S1. A) Adsorption/desorption isotherm, B) BET Plot, C) Langmuir Plot, D) t-Plot, E) BJH-Plot of Ni/ZnO nanoparticles

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#### Characterization data:



Clear liquid; FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3062, 2965, 2942, 2843, 2729, 1701, 1678, 1519, 1469, 1440, 1382, 1136 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.80 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.77 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz,), 6.96-6.92 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz), 3.83 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 190.62, 164.60, 131.78, 129.99, 114.38, 55.36.

#### 3, 5-Dimethoxybenzaldehyde<sup>[2]</sup>



Colorless solid, m.p: 44-48 °C (lit. 45-48 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3049, 2971, 2929, 2837, 2814, 1708, 1610, 1582, 1468, 1429, 1381, 1268, 1149, 1028 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.91 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  (ppm) = 191.93, 161.24, 138.22, 107.14, 107.10, 55.61; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 65.05; H, 6.07. Found: C, 65.09; H, 5.94.

#### 4-Chlorobenzaldehyde [3]



White solid, m.p: 47-48 °C (lit. 47.5 °C); FT-IR (thin film):  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3071, 2857, 2756, 1683, 1579, 1478, 1384, 1286, 1200, 1146, 1083, 811, 699, 533 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.85-7.82 (d, 2H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.54-7.51 (d, 2H, *J* = 8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  (ppm) = 191.03, 141.04, 134.70, 131.22, 129.56; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>ClO: C, 59.81; H, 3.59. Found: C, 59.80; H, 3.52.



Slightly yellow powder, m.p: 42-43 °C (lit. 43 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3068, 2856, 2741, 1699, 1636, 1564, 1502, 1464, 1439, 1316, 1221, 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 10.42 (s, 1H), 8.13-8.11 (d, 1H, J = 8 Hz), 7.96-7.94 (d, 1H, J = 8 Hz), 7.82-7.78 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  (ppm) =188.25, 134.02, 133.74, 131.40, 129.79, 124.42; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 55.64; H, 3.34; N, 9.27. Found: C, 55.89; H, 3.19; N, 9.31.

#### 3-Nitrobenzaldehyde<sup>[4]</sup>



Slightly yellow powder, m.p: 58 °C (lit. 58 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3072, 2862, 2729, 1719, 1606, 1559, 1461, 1359, 1254, 1131 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 10.14 (s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.52-8.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 12 Hz), 8.27-8.24 (d, 1H, *J* = 12 Hz), 7.81-7.77 (t, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 189.77, 148.77, 137.39, 134.69, 130.42, 128.60, 124.45; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 55.64; H, 3.34. Found: C, 55.48; H, 3.74.

#### 4-Formylbenzonitrile<sup>[5]</sup>



White solid, m.p: 100-102.5 °C (lit. 100-102.5 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3049, 2827, 2759, 2234, 1738, 1611, 1545, 1517, 1276, 1168 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  10.11 (s, 1H), 8.02-8.00 (d, 2H, *J*= 8 Hz), 7.87-7.85 (d, 2H, *J*= 8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,)  $\delta$  (ppm) =190.67, 138.73, 132.92, 129.90, 117.74, 117.59; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO: C, 73.27; H, 3.84; N, 10.68. Found: C, 73.30; H, 3.81; 10.68.

#### 4-Nitrobenzaldehyde [1]



Slightly yellow powder, m.p: 104-106 °C (lit. 103-106 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3087, 2876, 2786, 1703, 1676, 1602, 1587, 1544, 1459, 1457, 1410, 1373, 1335, 1287, 1248, 1197, 1124, 1098 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 10.18 (s, 1H), 8.43-8.40 (d, 2H, J= 12 Hz), 8.12-8.08 (d, 2H, J= 12 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  (ppm) = 190.32, 151.13, 140.16, 130.50, 124.32; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 55.64; H, 3.34; N, 9.27. Found: C, 55.59; H, 3.37; N, 9.17.

#### Picolinaldehyde [6]



Brown liquid; FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) =3067, 2883, 2726, 1716, 1617, 1547, 1519, 1426, 1321 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) =10.06 (s, 1H), 8.78-8.76 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.95-7.93 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.90-7.88 (t, 1H, J= 4 Hz), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) =194.01, 153.10, 150.16, 136.86, 128.00, 122.07;

#### Furan-2-carbaldehyde<sup>[7]</sup>



Colorless liquid; FT-IR (thin film): *v* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) =3065, 2846, 2768, 1702, 1678, 1565, 1474, 1392, 1221, 1154, 1061, cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) =9.87 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.72 (d, 1H, *J*= 8 Hz), 7.71-7.70 (t, 1H, *J*= 8 Hz), 7.16-7.15 (d, 1H, *J*= 8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,) δ (ppm) =183.09, 143.93, 136.58, 135.19, 128.43.

#### 1H-Indole-2-carbaldehyde [8]



Clear yellow solid, m.p: 197-198 °C (lit. 197-198 °C); FT-IR (thin film): v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3058, 2852, 2754, 1702, 1515, 1437, 1372, 1149 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) =11.33 (s, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H), 8.11-8.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,)  $\delta$  (ppm) =185.13, 136.84, 124.42, 123.69, 122.24, 121.39, 118.72, 112.11; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO: C, 74.47; H, 4.86; N, 9.95. Found: C, 74.21; H, 4.92; N, 9.87.

## III. Spectra

# A) <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra:



210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl(ppm)









Figure S7.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 3-nitrobenzaldehyde in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S9.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 2-nitrobenzaldehyde in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S11.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 4-nitrobenzaldehyde in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.







Figure S15.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 4-formylbenzonitrile in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of furan-2-carbaldehyde in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S19.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 1H-indole-2-carbaldehyde in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

# **B) FT-IR spectra:**



Figure S20. FT-IR spectra of 4-Chlorobenzaldehyde.



Wave Number (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

Figure S21. FT-IR spectra of 4-Nitrobenzaldehyde

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