Electronic Supplementary Information for

Direct Degradation of Cellulose to 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural in Hot Compressed Steam with Inorganic Acidic Salts

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Fig S1-S4 showed the impact of reaction time, reaction temperature, carrier gas flow rate and the catalyst dosage on the products yields. All these reaction was conducted with NaHSO4 as catalyst. Fig S5-S7 showed the GC chromatogram, 1H NMR and 13C NMR spectrum of products isolated from the aqueous solvent by evaporation process. The evaporation process is conducted at 80 °C in the air.

Fig S8 showed the photograph of the apparatus used

Supplementary Figures



Fig. S1 Solid residue weight and HMF yield as function of reaction time under following reaction condition: temperature, 210° C; reaction pressure, 1.3MPa; water feed, 1.0ml/min; carrier gas flow rate, 500ml/min; NaHSO₄ as catalyst with loading of 10wt.%



Fig. S2 Influence of temperature on the degradation of cellulose in the steam. Reaction condition: carrier gas flow rate 500ml/min; pressure, 1.3MPa; water feed, 1.0ml/min; reaction time, 180min; NaHSO₄ as catalyst with loading of 10wt.%



Fig. S3 Influence of the carrier gas flow rate on the HMF yield Reaction condition: temperature, 210 °C; pressure, 1.3MPa; water feed, 1.0ml/min; reaction time, 180min; NaHSO₄ as catalyst with loading of 10wt.%



Fig. S4 Influence of the catalyst dosage on the HMF yield Reaction condition: temperature, 210 °C; pressure, 1.3MPa; water feed, 1.0ml/min; reaction time, 180min; NaHSO₄ as catalyst; carrier gas flow rate 500ml/min



Fig. S5 GC chromatogram of the products isolated from aqueous solution by evaporating out the water.

Due to that the FF and 5-methylfurfural could be evaporated with the water, so neglectable FF and 5-methylfurfrual peaks were detected in GC chromatogram. But other reaction such as condensation and oxidation could take place during the evaporation process. A certain amount of HMF was oxidized to 2,5-Diformylfuran during the evaporation process, other condensation reaction also took place during the evaporation process.



Fig. S6. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the separated HMF in the Dimethyl sulfoxide-d6. The highest peaks around 40 ppm were ascribed to the chemical shift of solvent. The chemical shifts labeled on the HMF molecule structure were corresponding to the spectrum.



Fig. S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of the isolated products in the Dimethyl sulfoxide-d6. Other peaks were ascribed to byproducts such as furfural and 5-methyl-2-furaldehyde.



Fig S8 Photograph of the apparatus used