Enhanced Development and Control of Continuous Processes





Continuous Flow Chemistry - Analysis Challenges

- FlowIR[™] for Continuous Flow Chemistry
- Application One Oxazole Formation
- Application Two Fluorination Reaction
- Application Three Accurate Control of Reagent Addition in Multi-step Segmented Flow Processes Using Inline Infra-red Monitoring
- Summary

Continuous Chemistry - Analysis Challenges

One of the main analytical challenges is real-time inline monitoring for enhanced understanding and control of reactions, especially when dealing with multistep sequences



- Chemical
 - Information concerning reaction monitoring is highly desirable, as this normally requires taking a sample offline for TLC, LCMS, UV, etc.
 - Inline monitoring would greatly assist with rapid optimization procedures
- Chemical
 - Information concerning the stability of reactive intermediates is highly desirable, as these cannot always be detected by other methods
- Technical
 - Information concerning dispersion and diffusion is highly desirable as these are unavoidable side effects of continuous flow very important to characterize these parameters for multistep reaction sequences

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FlowIR[™] for Flow Chemistry



FlowIR™

- Designed specifically for flow chemistry
- High performance with no utility requirement (except power)
- Universal (fits with any flow system)

- Determination of dispersion effects
 - Used for stoichiometric control
- Multi-step/stage reaction control
- Faster structural information in real time
- Immediate determination of steady-state conditions
- Immediate detection of reaction start/end point
- Information on reaction mechanism/pathway
- Detection of transient intermediates
- Information without the need to sample



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Oxazole Formation

Monitoring a continuous oxazole formation within a microfluidic device (10µL)





- Oxazole formation is monitored by following its unique carbonyl absorbance at 1721cm⁻¹
- Benzylamine column shown to be an effective scavenger of excess acid chloride (used to drive reaction to completion)
- Dispersion effect caused by columns clearly shown in product trend curve



Baumann, M.; Baxendale, I. R.; Ley, S. V.; Smith, C. D.; Tranmer, G. K. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 5231-5234. C.F. Carter, H. Lange, I.P. Baxendale, S.V. Ley, J. Goode, N. Gaunt, B. Wittkamp, Org. Proc. Res. Dev., 2010, 14, 393-404.

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Fluorination Reaction Using DAST

Experimental setup



Fluorination Reaction

Dispersion effects are clearly monitored



Expected time for product to come out of the reaction line: 20 mins (A), [4mL total volume at 0.2mL/min = 20 mins]

- Actual 36 mins (A+B)
- Additional time B is required due to dispersion, diffusion and chromatographic effects caused by polymer-supported reagents

C.F. Carter, H. Lange, I.P. Baxendale, S.V. Ley, J. Goode, N. Gaunt, B. Wittkamp, Org. Proc. Res. Dev., 2010, 14, 393-404.

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Application Three - Accurate Control of Reagent Addition in Multi-step Segmented Flow Processes Using Inline Infrared Monitoring

Summary

Accurate Control of Reagent Addition in a Multi-step Process

- The unavoidable dispersion of the reaction "plug" is a significant issue when performing multi-step sequences in flow
- The controlled addition of exact stoichiometries of reagents to a product stream is therefore challenging with the current commercially available flow equipment
- Poor control is wasteful on small scale (chiral/expensive/toxic material used in excess) and requires additional purification.



 Current situation - use the IR to generate a dispersion curve of the intermediate and manually switch the pump on

Accurate Control of Reagent Addition in a Multi-step Process

Alternative: use real-time concentration of a product specific band from the ReactIR[™] and convert it into a flow rate that allows the third stream to be dispensed proportional to the concentration of the intermediate via LabVIEW



Can We Add a Third Stream with Accurate 1:1 Stoichiometry?

- X = stoichiometry between the two components
- F = flow rate of output process
- [D] = conc of third stream component
- A = peak height value measured by IR
- k = conversion factor

Flow rate of third stream = $\frac{XFk}{[D]} \cdot A$

- K determined from a concentration screen of the intermediate
- Test system: two inert compounds (4-chlorobenzophenone & 3-methyl-4-nitroanisole)



H. Lange, C. F. Carter, M. D. Hopkin, A. Burke, J. G. Goode, I. R. Baxendale and S. V. Ley, Chem Sci, 2011, 2, 765-769

Can We Add a Third Stream with Accurate 1:1 Stoichiometry?

4-chlorobenzophenone

3-methyl-4-nitroanisole



- Third stream successfully added with 1:1 stoichiometry for >97% of the material
- Limitation at the ends of the dispersion curves arises from inaccuracy of piston pumps at very low flow rates
- Absolute ratios determined using 1H NMR spectroscopy to confirm results



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Application to yne-one Project



No IR control

- 10 equiv toxic hydrazine used
- Visual observation used to manually switch the third pump
- Extensive purification required

With IR control

- Amount of toxic hydrazine pumped reduced to 3 equiv.
- Reduced reaction temperature to avoid polymerisation of terminal acetylene
- Plug of silica gel allows chromatographic separation with IR detection
- Crystalline material obtained from both processes

Application to yne-one project



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- ReactIR[™] DS Micro Flow Cell (FlowIR[™]) has been shown to instantaneously obtain highly molecular-specific chemical information. This can provide a unique insight into continuous flow chemistry
- The case studies demonstrate that FlowIR[™] can be used with a range of different scale flow reactors:
 - Microscale 10µL (Future Chemistry)
 - Meso scale flow reactors (Uniqsis, Vapourtec)
 - Large kilo lab flow reactors (Alfa Laval)
- The ability to track dispersion curves now makes it feasible to accurately apply a third stream via a feedback controlled flow that exactly matches the required amount of reagent to the output of the first flow reactor. This leads to improved product yield and reduced purification steps.