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ONLINE ISSN : 1349-273X

PRINT ISSN : 1346-8804

Journal of the Japan Petroleum Institute

Vol. 46 (2003) , No. 6 pp.383-386



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Optimization of Cu-based Oxide Catalyst for Methanol Synthesis by the Activity Map Envelope Derived from a Neural Network

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(Received: May 26, 2003)

The combinatorial approach is a successful tool for material development and for heterogeneous catalyst development. Combinatorial tools were developed consisting of a high-throughput screening reactor using a 96-well microplate, activity mapping by a neural network and optimization by a genetic algorithm. The tools were designed and manufactured to optimize Cu-based oxide catalyst for methanol synthesis. Escape from local optima in the search space is easy by GA, but the efficiency of search is not so high. Instead of GA, a more straight-forward method was applied: all 230, 000 activities of all possible combinations of catalyst components with 5% resolution were predicted by a neural network. These activities were visualized by mapping using two parameters, such as Cu and Zn composition, to find the global optimum.

Keywords: [Combinatorial chemistry](#), [High-throughput screening](#), [Genetic algorithm](#), [Neural network](#), [96 well microplate](#), [Methanol synthesis catalyst](#)



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Kohji OMATA, Masahiko HASHIMOTO, Yuhsuke WATANABE, Tetsuo UMEGAKI and Muneyoshi YAMADA, *Journal of the Japan Petroleum Institute*, Vol. **46**, No. 6, p.383 (2003) .

doi:10.1627/jpi.46.383

JOI JST.JSTAGE/jpi/46.383

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