

# Processing aspects of enzymatic rearrangement *(for hardstock production)*

**R.M.M. Diks**

Unilever, Group Supply Chain S&D

Vlaardingen, The Netherlands - [rob.diks@unilever.com](mailto:rob.diks@unilever.com)

# Contents

---



- Introduction
- Kinetics & deactivation
- Processing & reactor set-up



# History ER process



- '33 earliest publication on (trans)esterification<sup>1</sup>
- '79 first patent (interesterification)<sup>2</sup>
- '83 first application in oils and fats modification<sup>3</sup>
- '85 publication on biocatalysis in organic media<sup>4</sup>
- '86 solvent free processing in PBR

.....

2004 First large scale plant hardstock production US

2007 First large scale plant hardstock production EU

2011 ~ 300 kT capacity (EU)  
~ 500 kT capacity (Global)

1. Sym E.A. (1933), Biochem. Z., 258, 304;

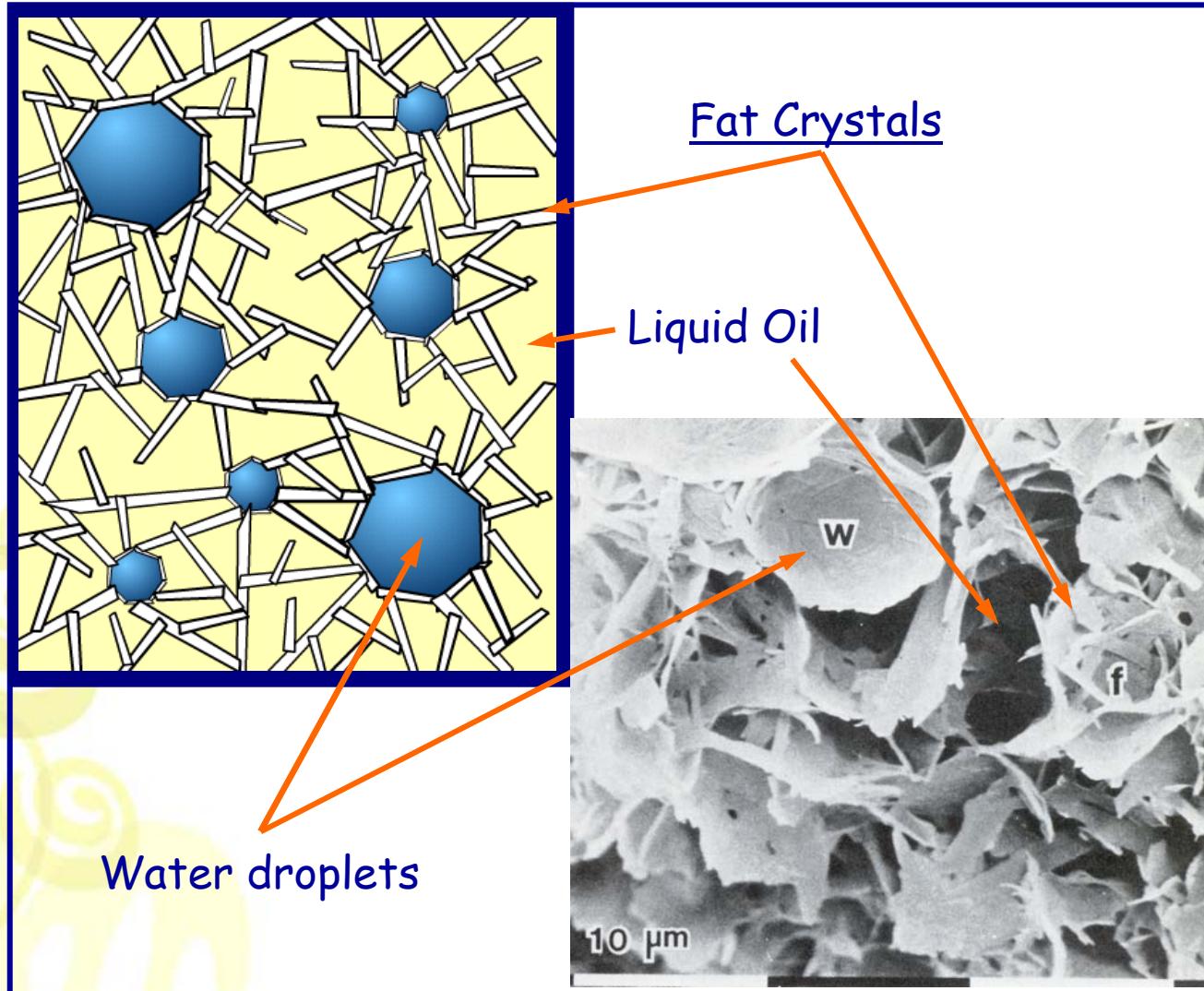
2. Coleman M.H., Macrae A.R. (1979), US Patent 4,275,081

3. Macrae A.R. (1983), JAOCS, 60, 2, 243.

4. Zaks A., Klibanov A.M. (1985), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci, 82, 3192.

5. Hansen T.T., Eigtved P. (1986), World Conf. Oils Fats Ind.', S. 365.

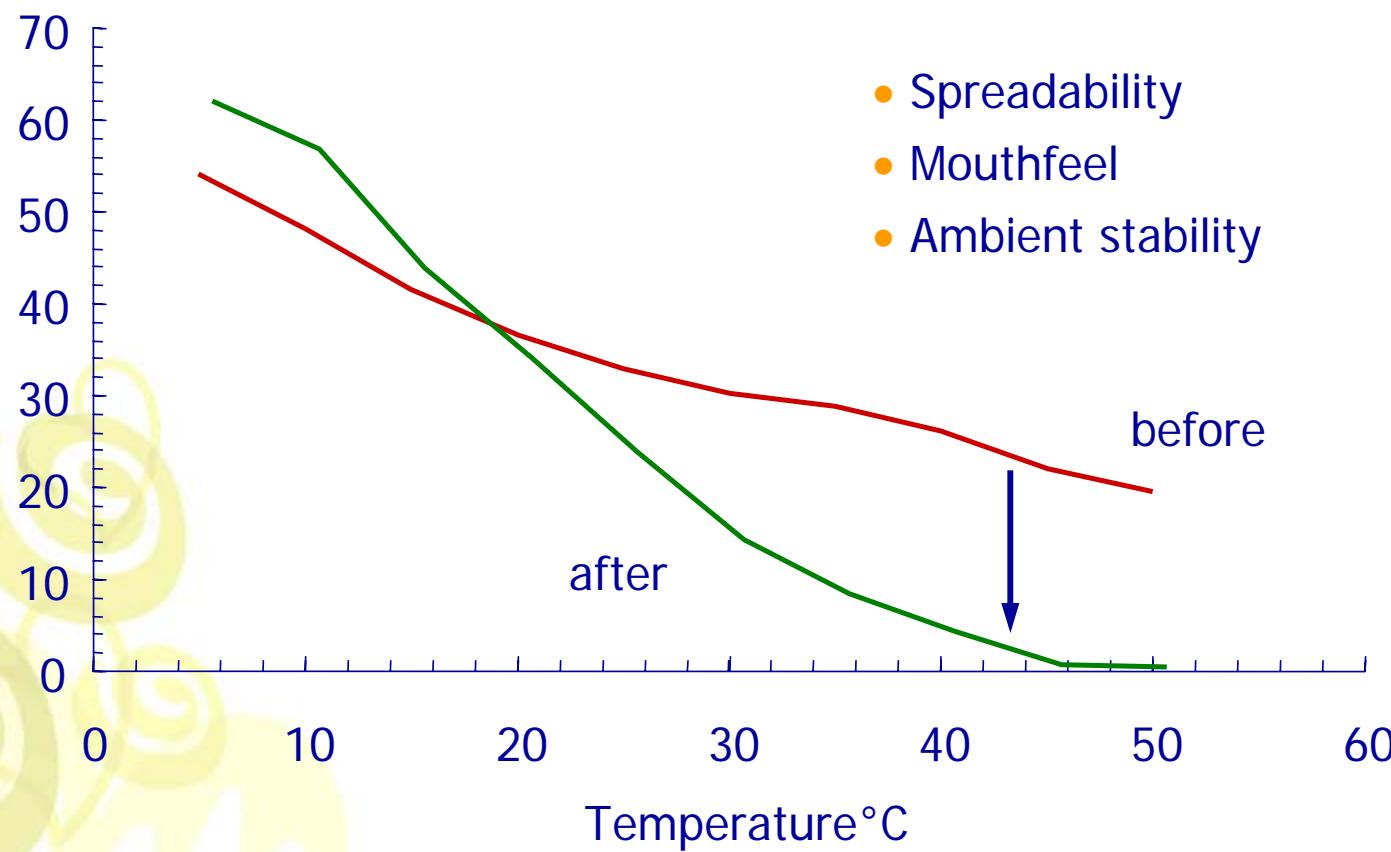
# Structure of a fat continuous spread



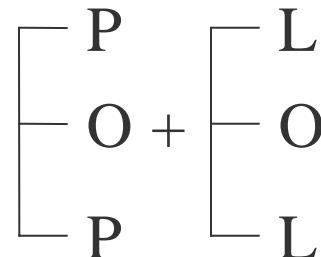
# Fat melting properties



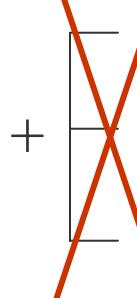
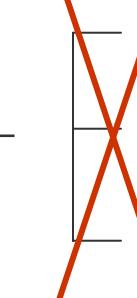
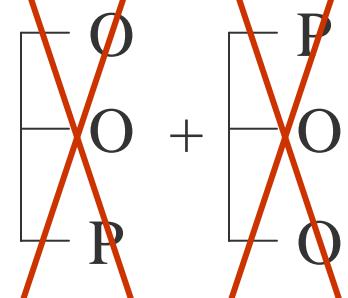
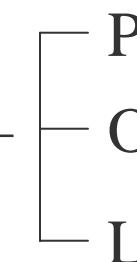
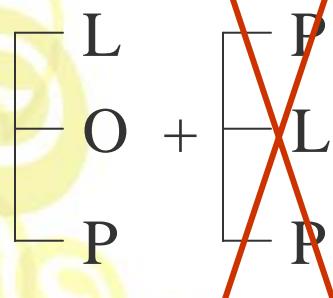
Solid Fat Content [SFC %-w/w]



# Enzymatic Rearrangement



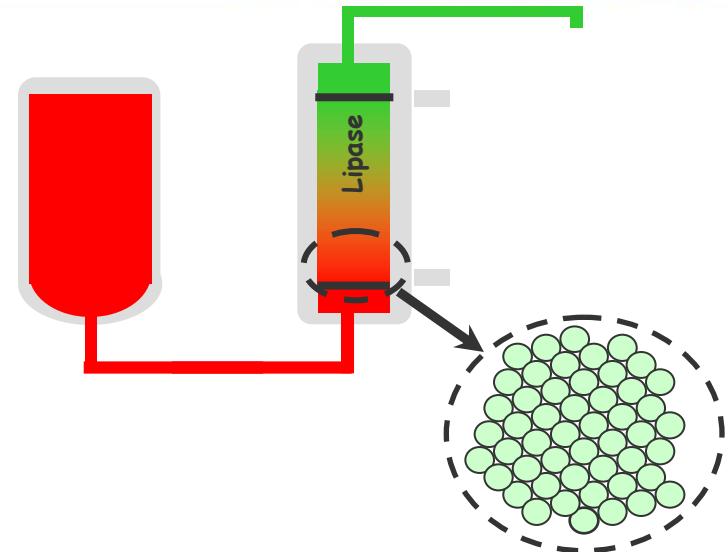
Lipase 60 °C



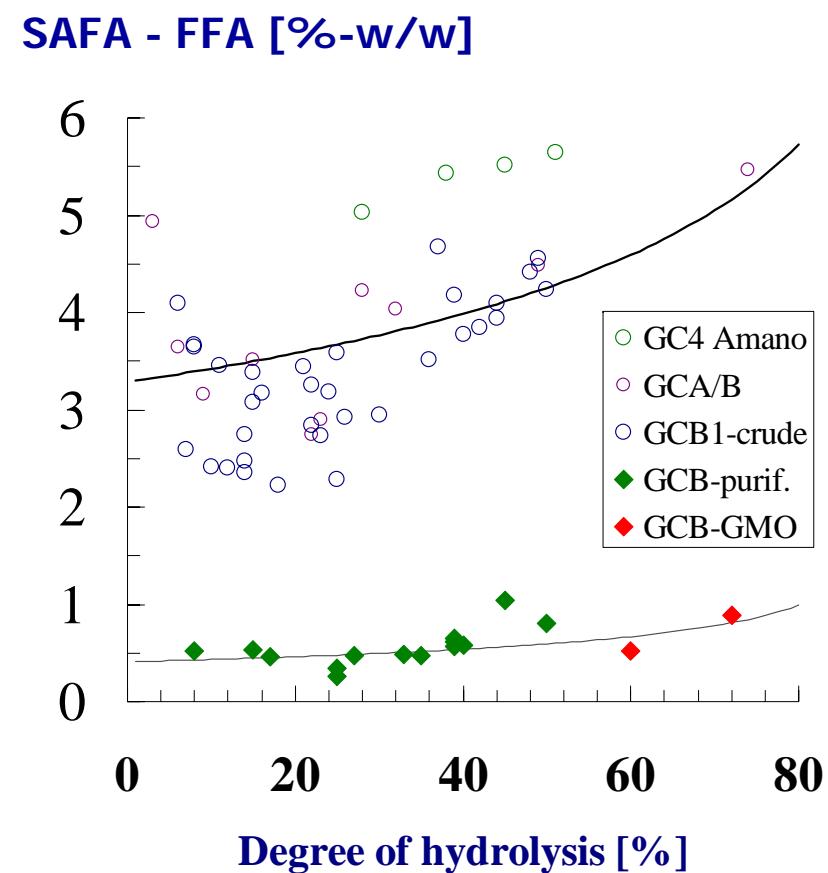
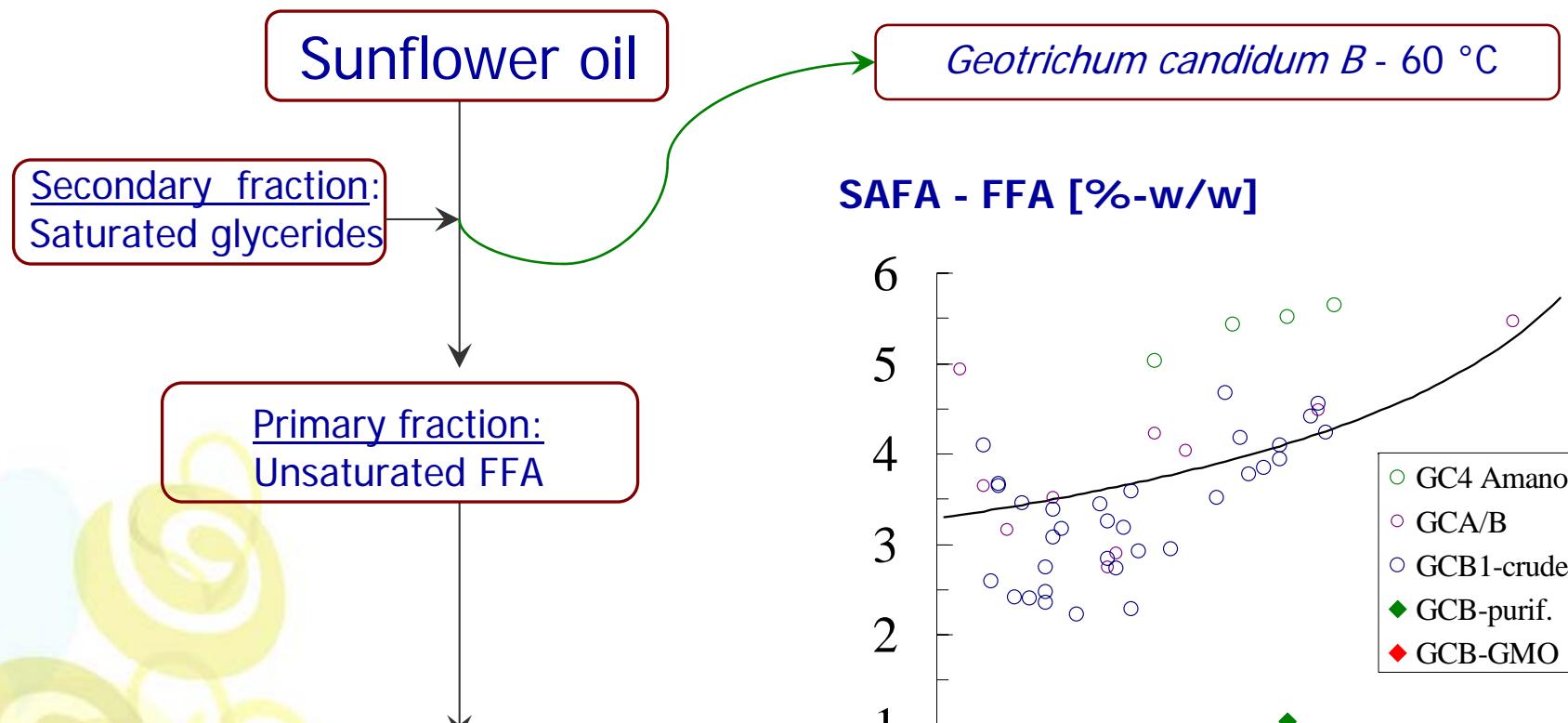
Lipases generally *sn*-1,3 specific

*acyl-migration*

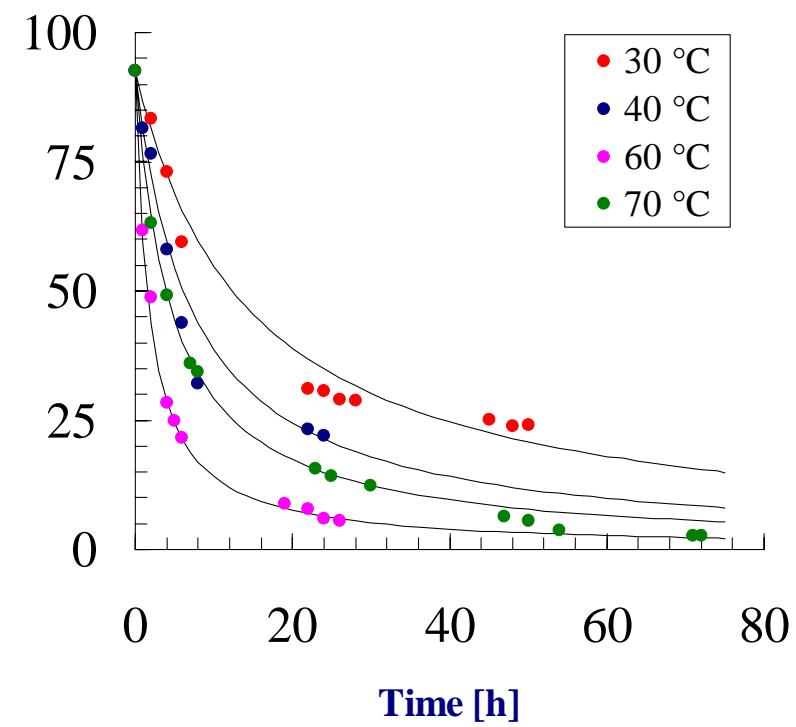
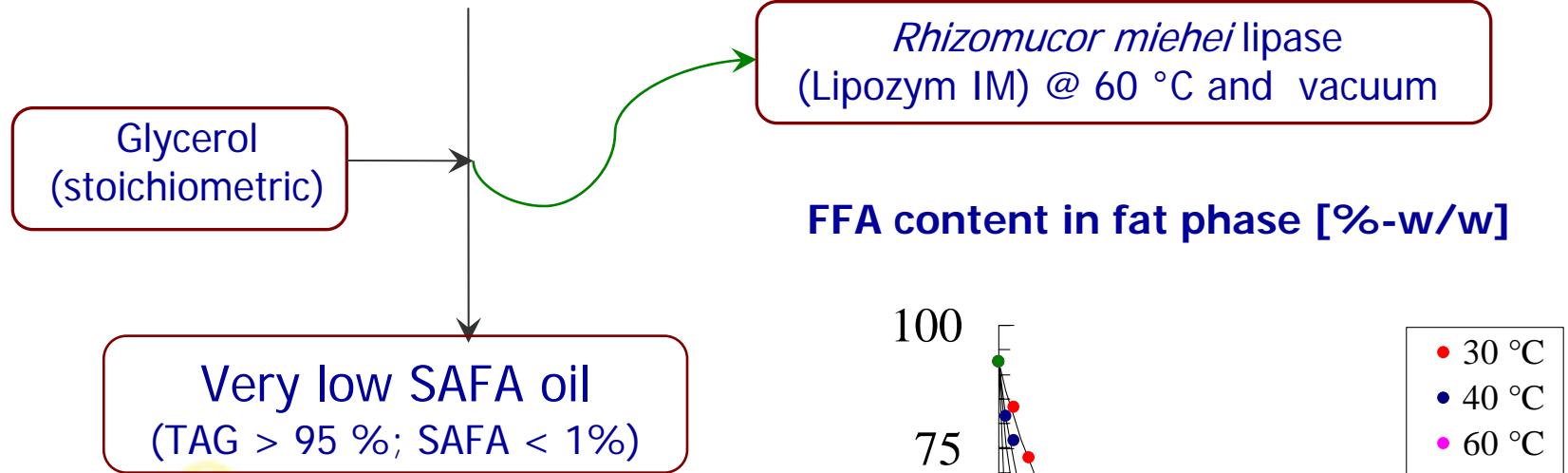
catalyst random



# Cis- $\Delta 9$ fatty acid hydrolysis



# Impact acylmigration



# ER kinetics



## TAG Rearrangement (primary - slow)



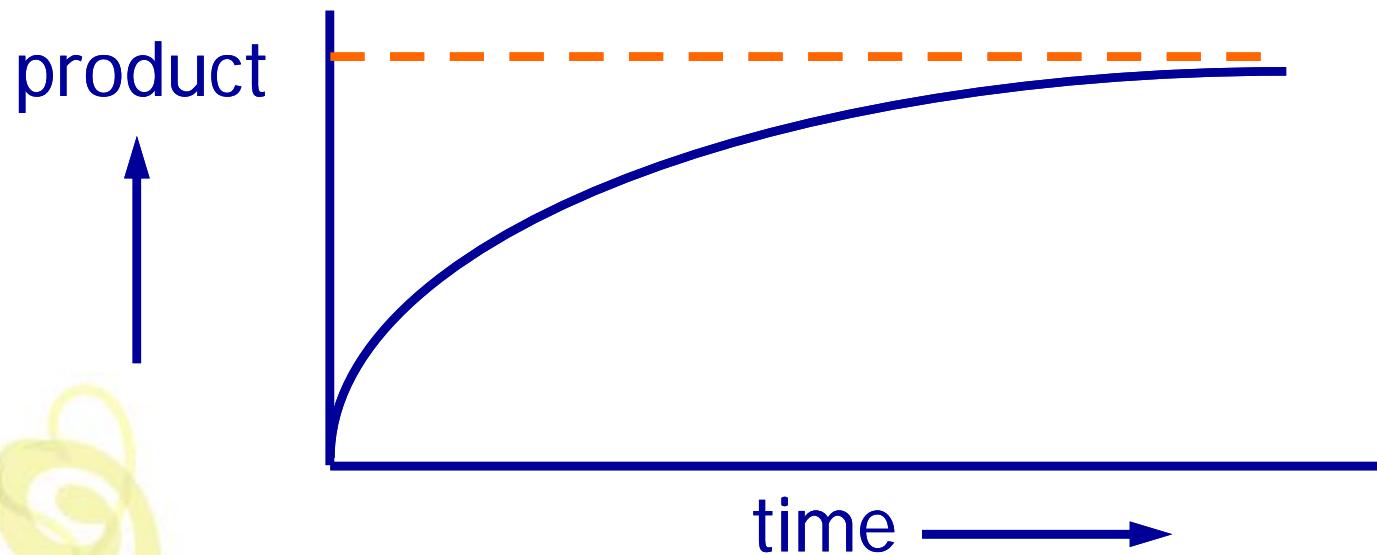
## Hydrolysis (secondary - quick)



# Modeling - Pseudo 1st-order



"Just swapping the fatty acids..."



$$k_{\text{cat}} \cdot C_{\text{cat}} \cdot t = -\ln (1-X)$$

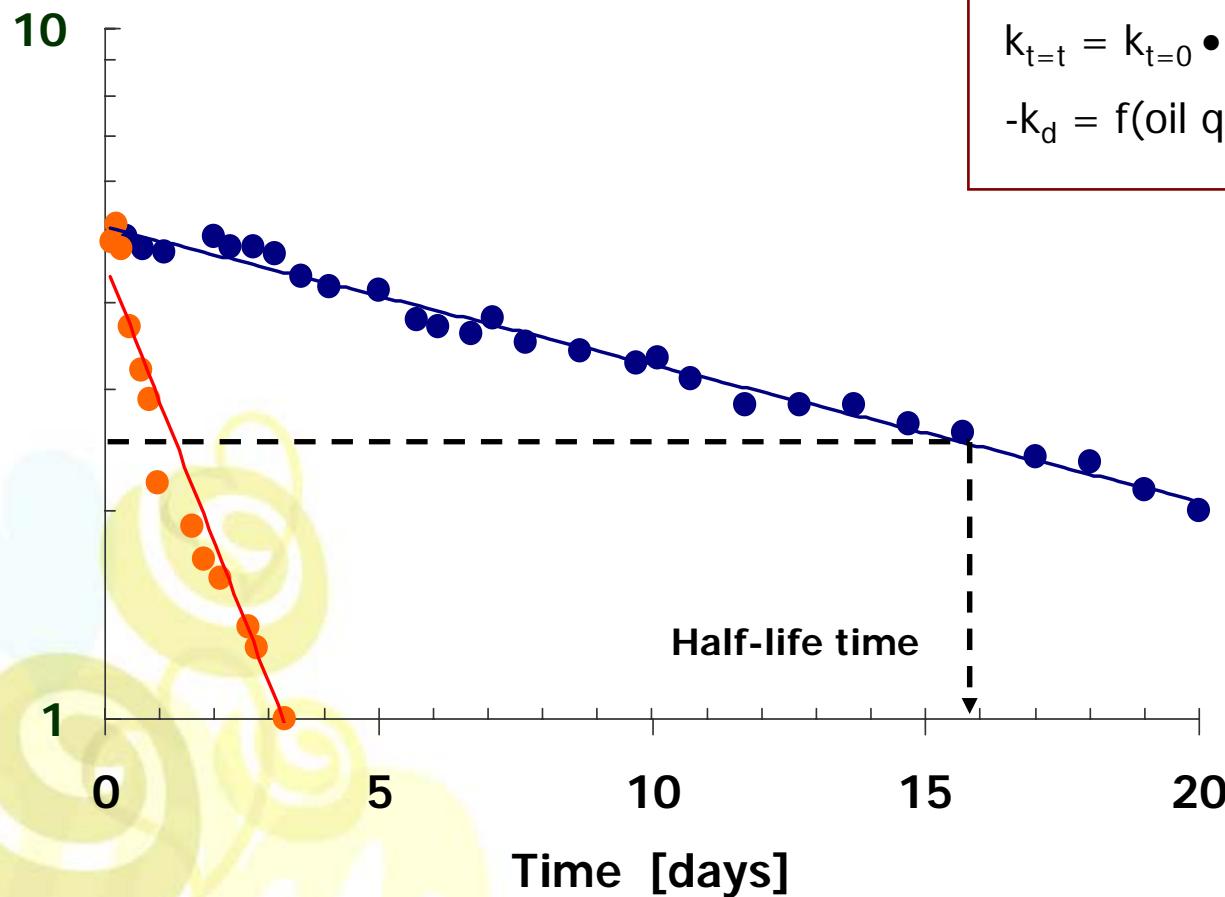
X = relative degree of conversion

(representative change between starting blend and product)

# Catalyst deactivation (1<sup>st</sup> order)



Activity (ton/m<sup>3</sup>. h)



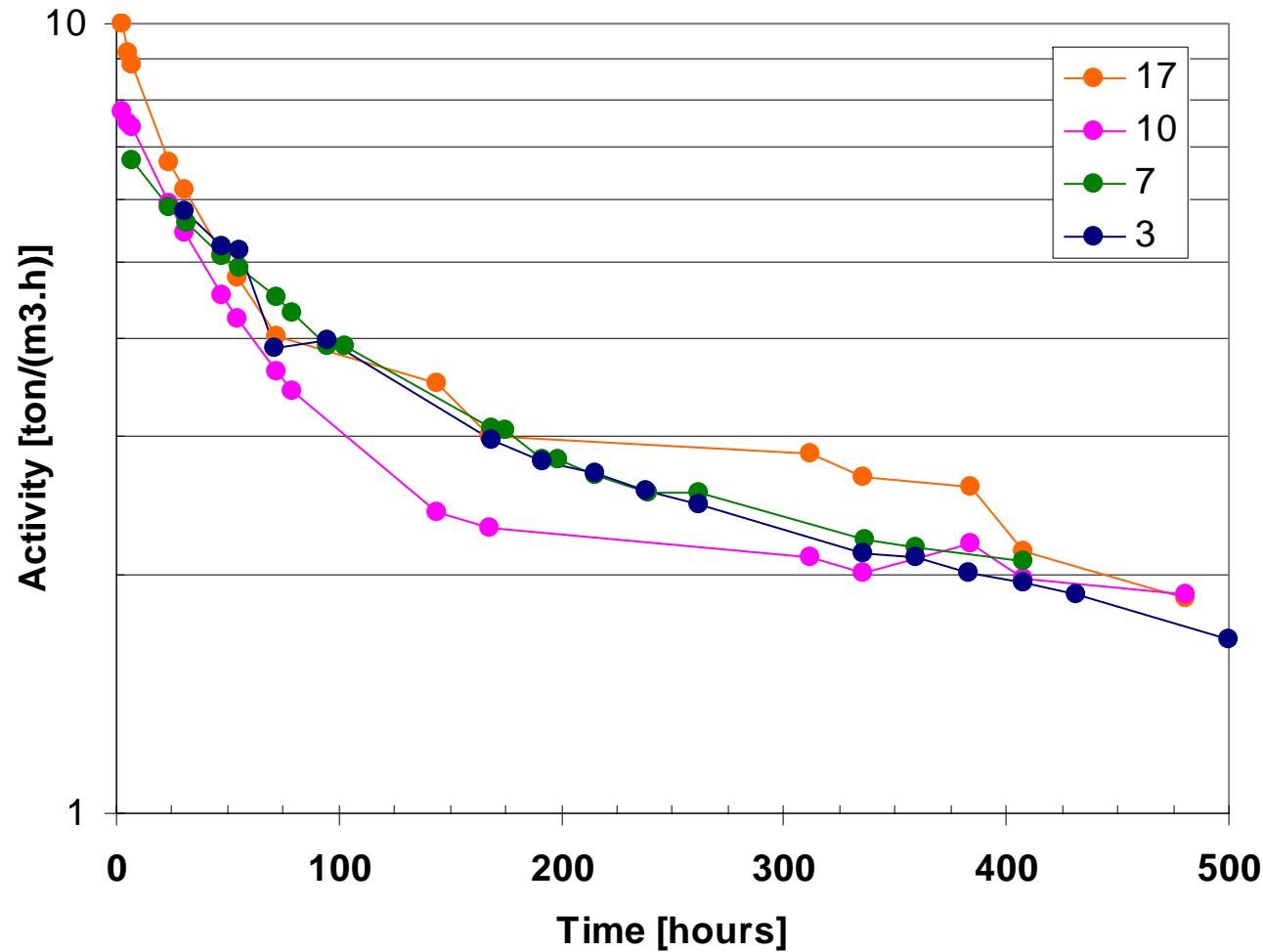
First-order deactivation kinetics:

$$k_{t=t} = k_{t=0} \cdot e^{(-k_d \cdot t)}$$

$$-k_d = f(\text{oil quality, } T, a_w)$$

*R. oryzae* lipase / Accurel EP100

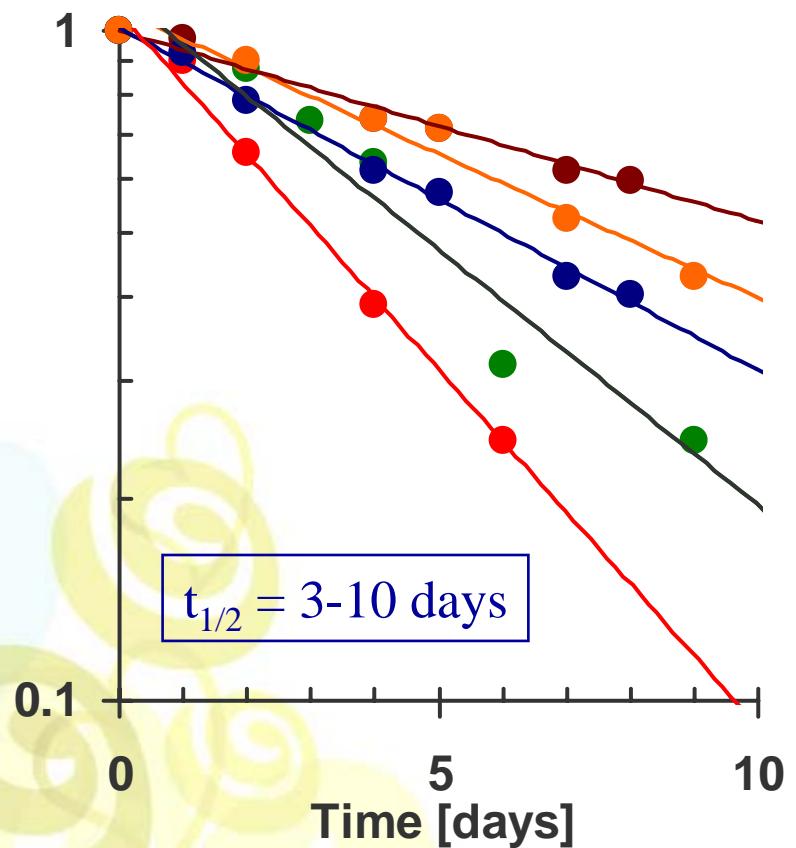
# Catalyst deactivation (2<sup>nd</sup> order)



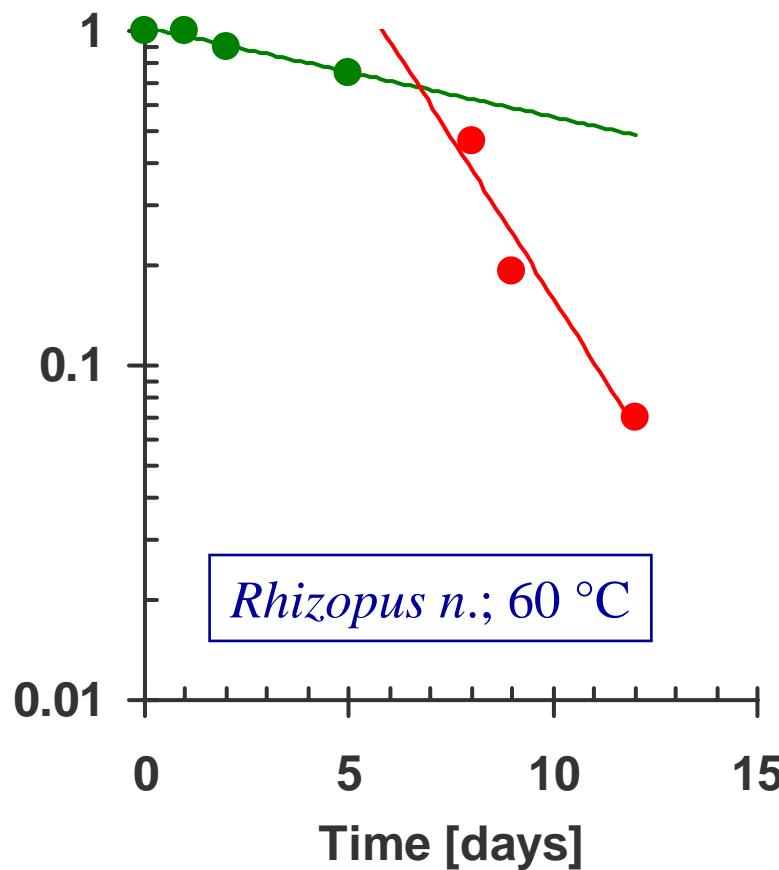
# Effect of oil quality



Relative catalyst activity



Relative catalyst activity



*R. oryzae* lipase / Accurel EP100

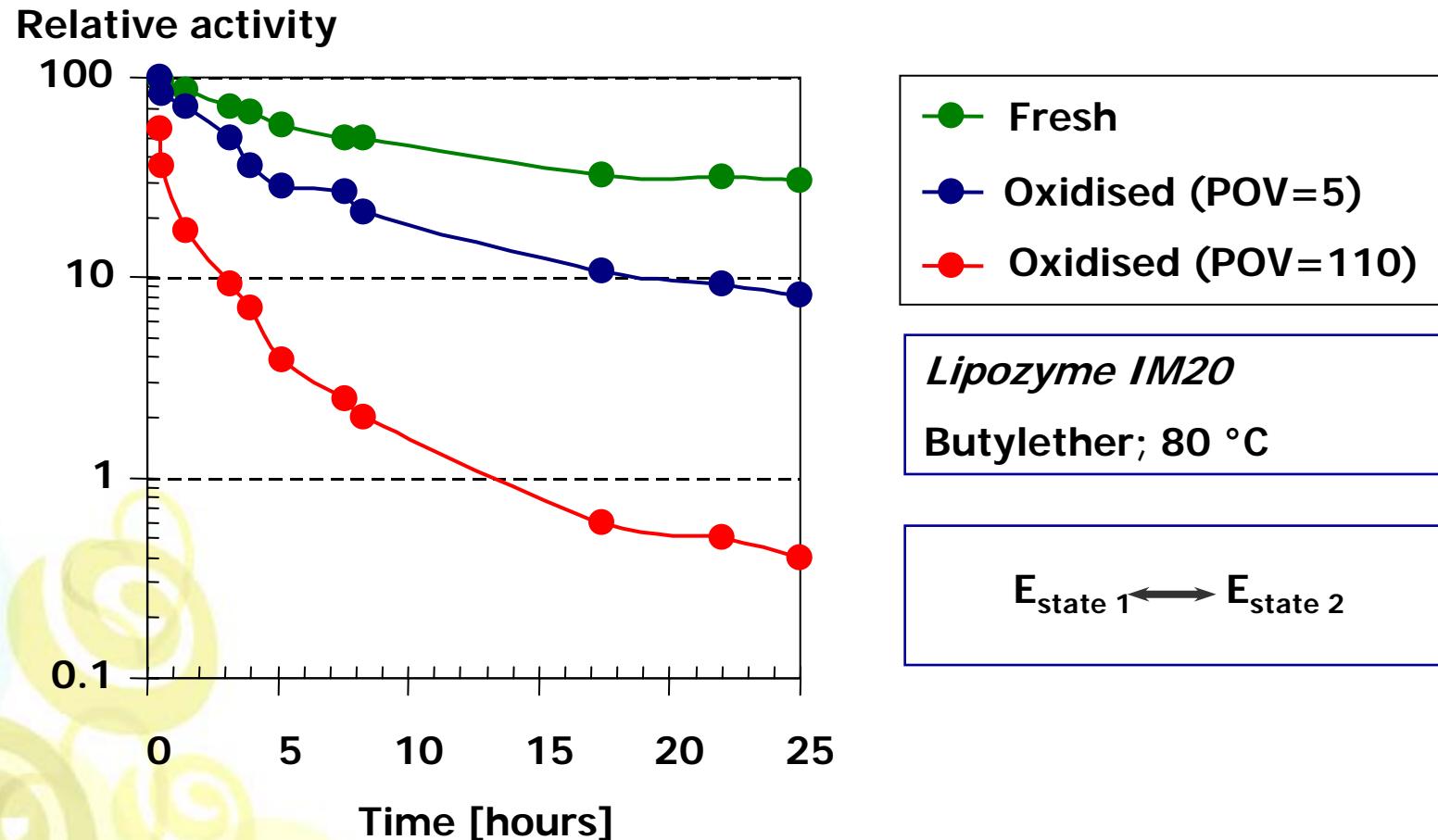
# Deactivation mechanisms

---



- Thermal (denaturation)
- Fouling (apparent)
- Poisoning
  - hydroperoxides (POV)
  - secondary oxidation products (PAV)
  - metals
  - phospholipids
  - triterpenoids
  - acids
  - .....

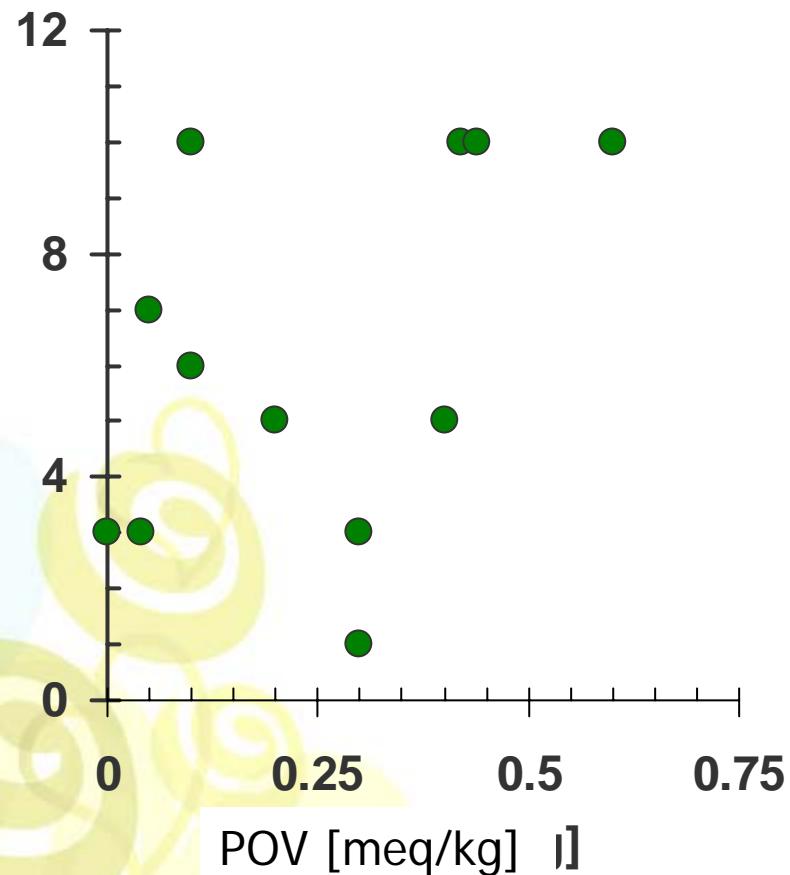
# Oxidation products



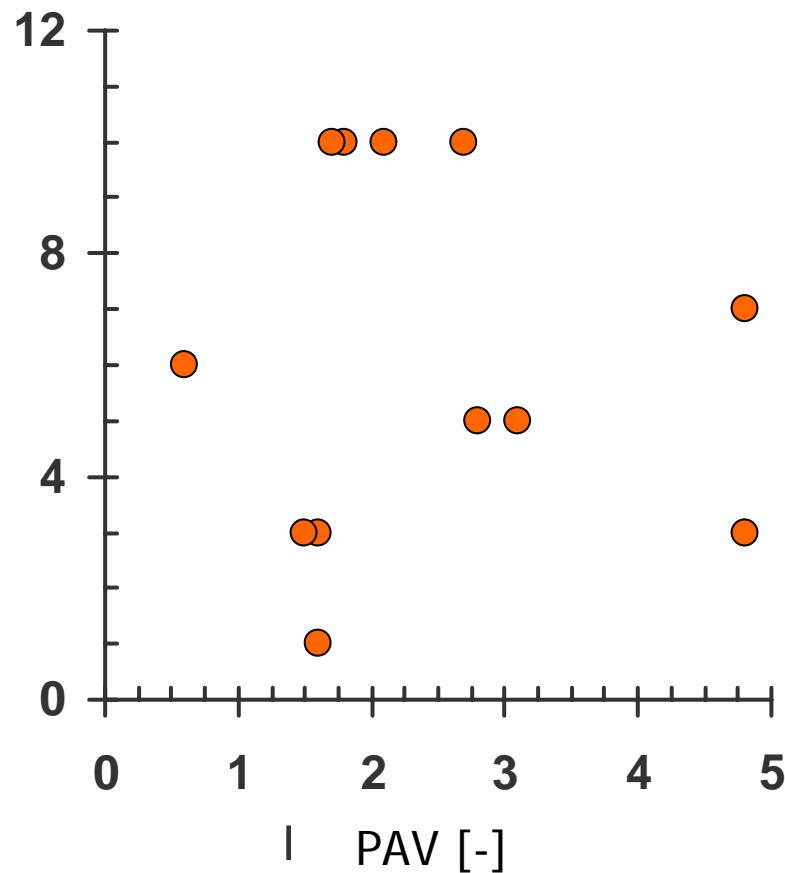
# Oil quality parameters (2001)



Half-life time [days]

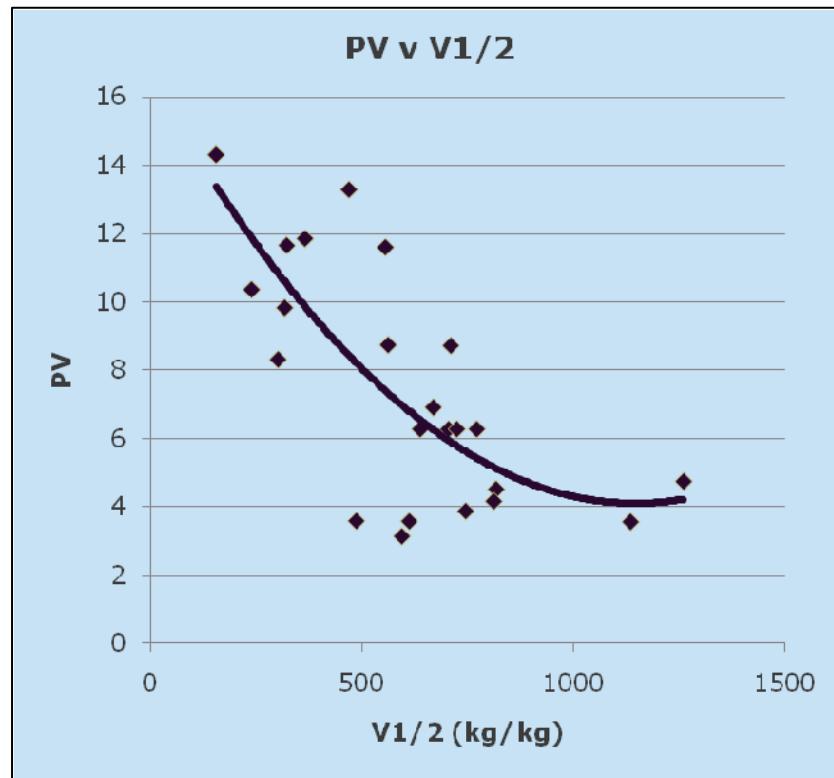
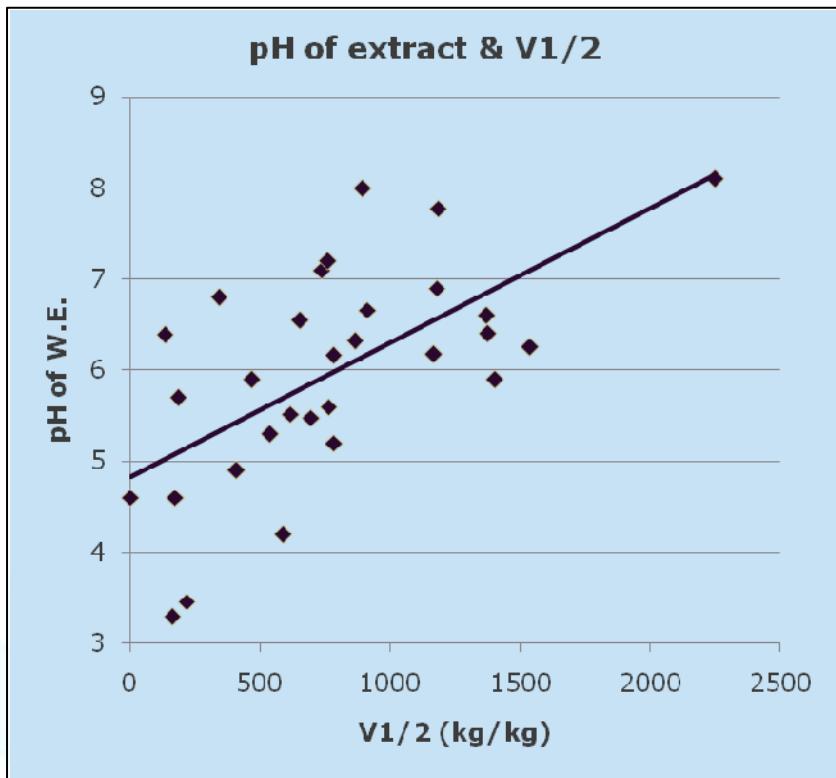


Half-life time [days]



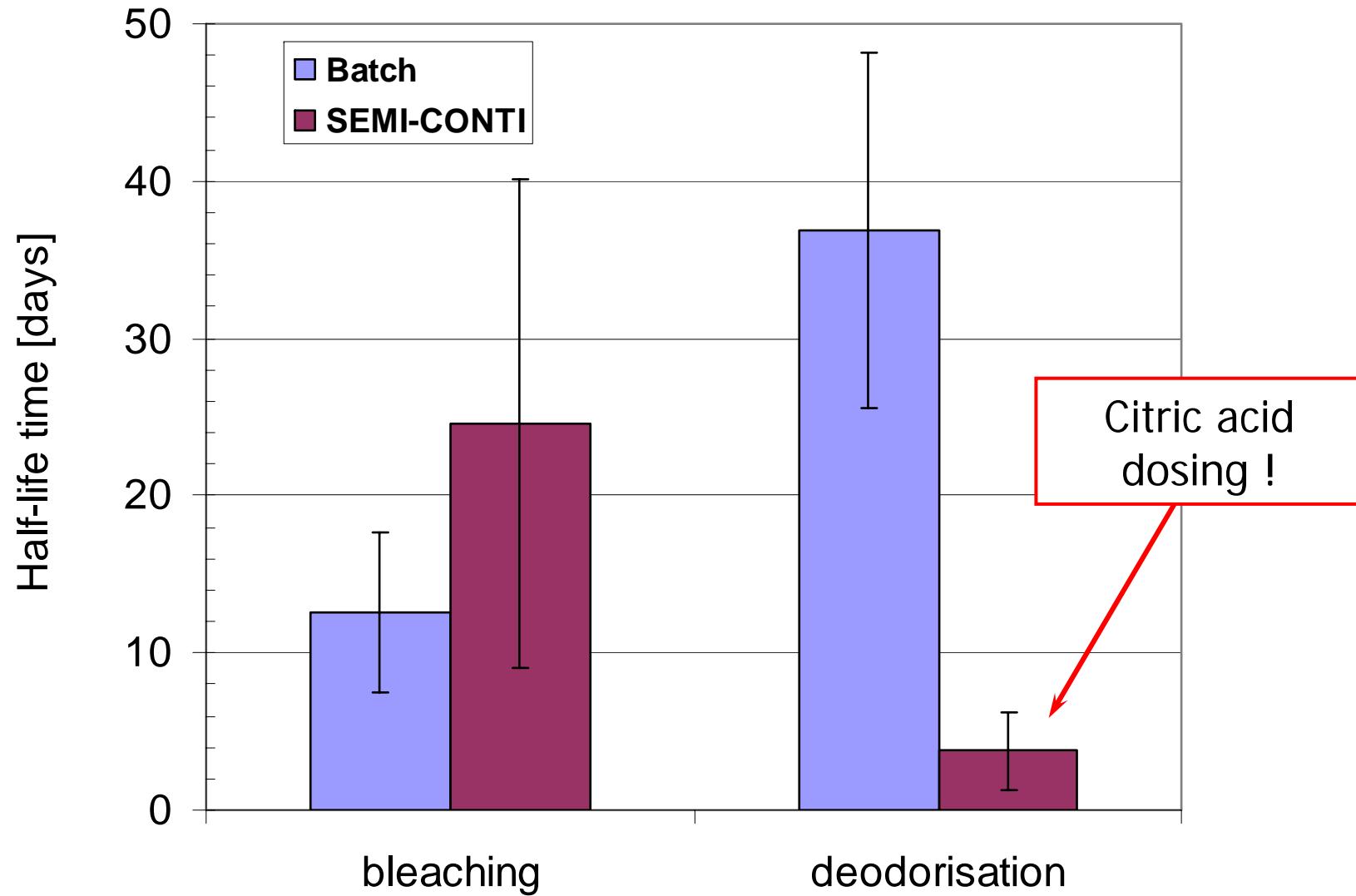
*R. oryzae* lipase / Accurel EP100

# Oil quality parameters (2005)

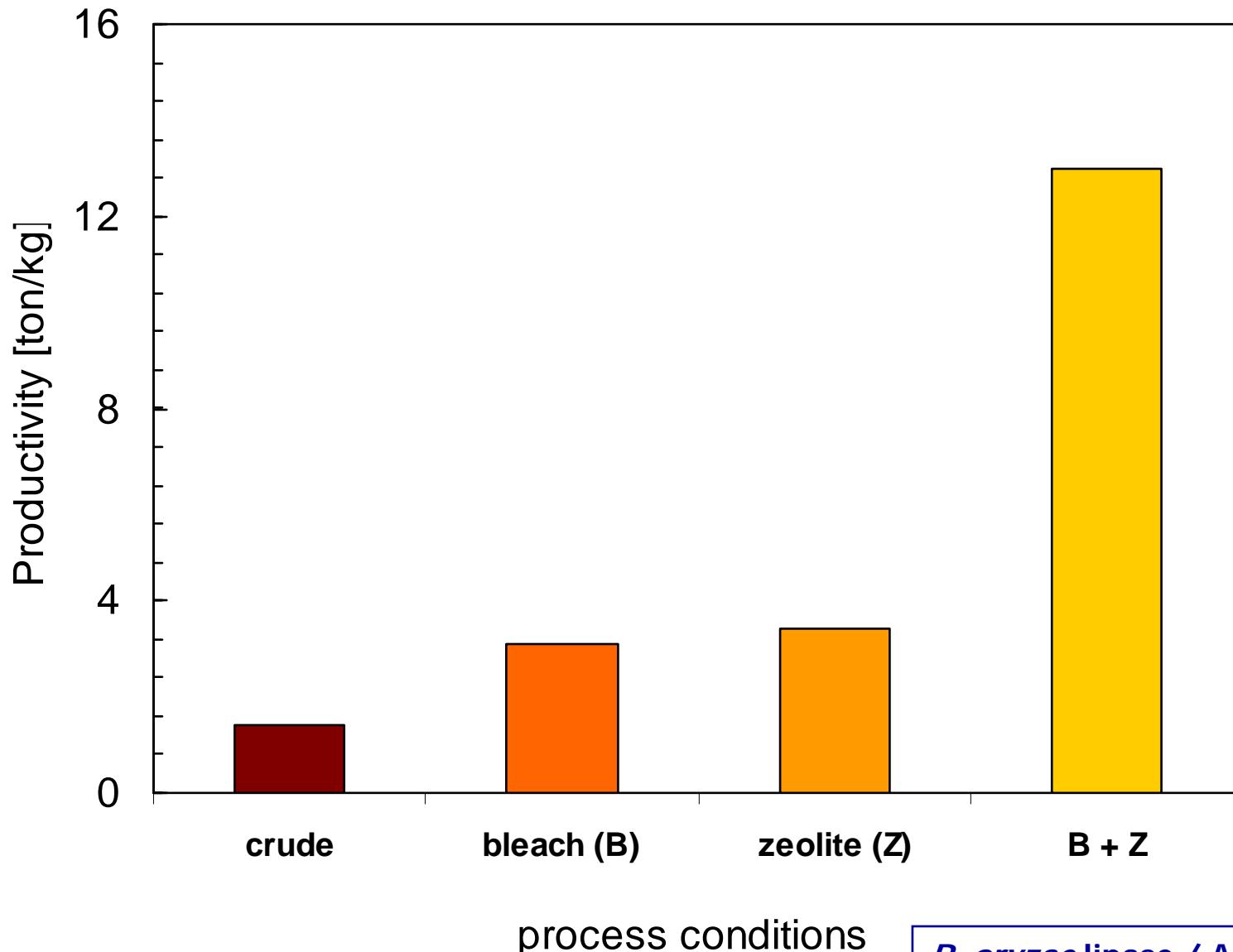


V1/2= the amount of oil processing when reaching half the initial activity

# Pretreatment – processing



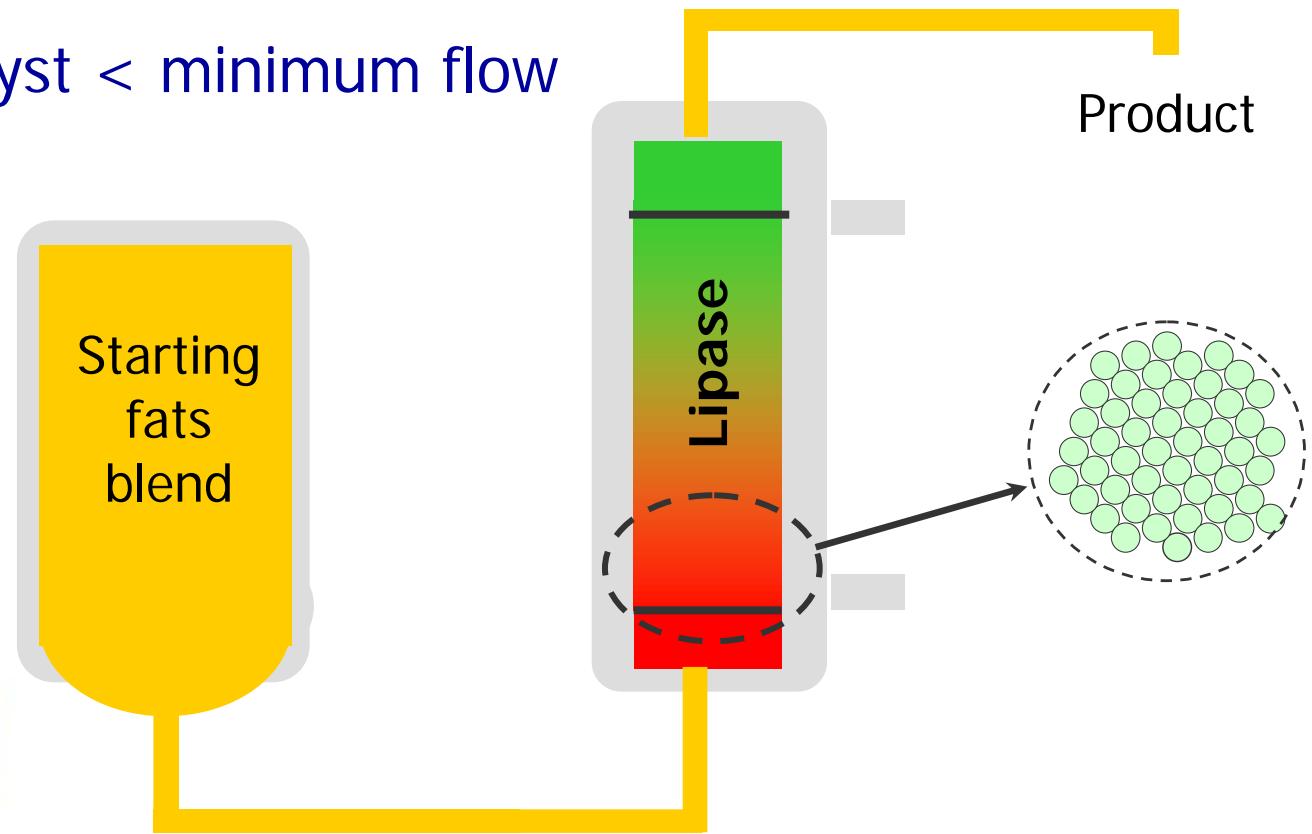
# Pretreatment – silica /zeolites



*R. oryzae* lipase / Accurel EP100

# Single Packed Bed Reactor (PBR)

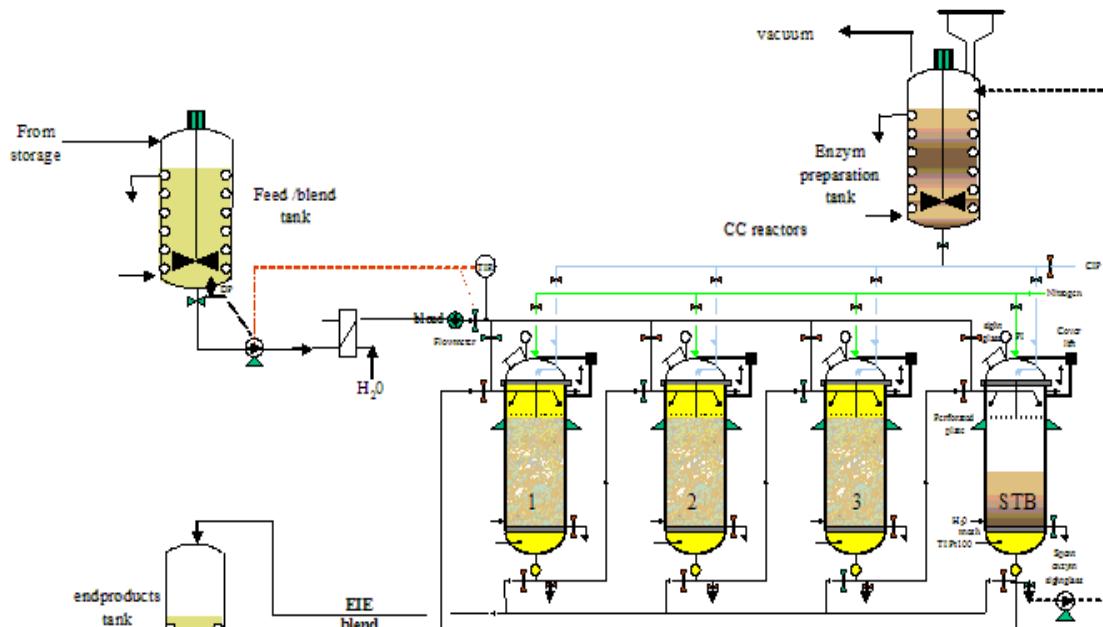
- How to deal with deactivation ?
  - Constant degree of conversion
  - Decreasing flow
  - Change catalyst < minimum flow



# Series of PBRs



- Catalyst refreshment in the stand-by reactor

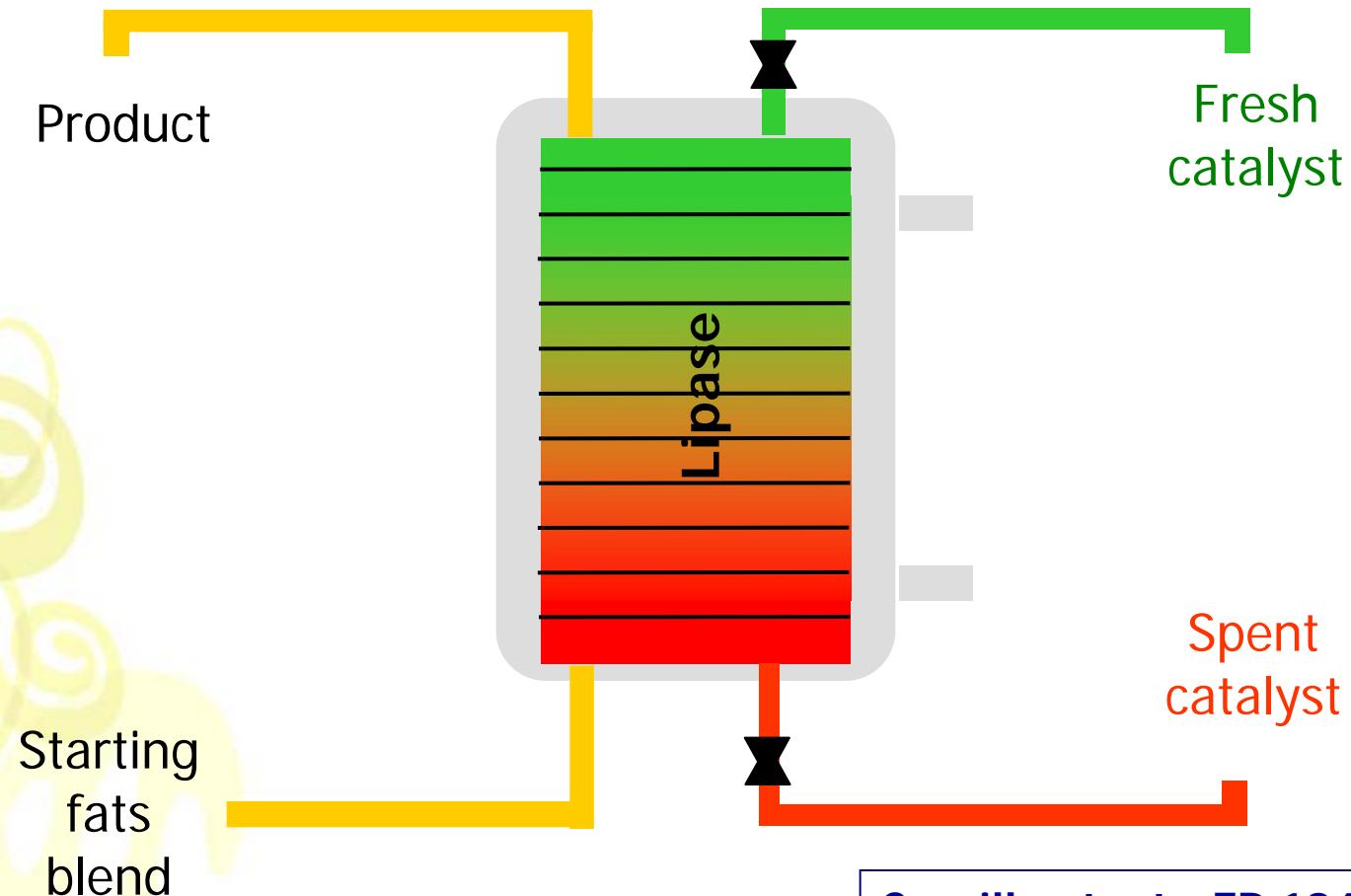


oils & fats  
desmet ballestra

# Semi-continuous PBR



- Semi-continuous catalyst refreshment
- Minimum catalyst exposure



Cargill patent - EP 1840 204 B1

# Summary



- Enzymatic rearrangement has developed into a commercially viable alternative to chemical interesterification.
- The process kinetics can adequately be described using simple first-order modelling.
- Lipase deactivation:
  - seems mainly due to poisoning (oil quality & acids);
  - requires adequate pre-refining;
  - can be described by simple kinetics (enzyme specific).
- Several reactor systems have been developed to deal with catalyst deactivation.



---

Thank You !

