

# Supporting Information

## On-line attenuated total reflection infrared spectroscopy (ATR-IR): A powerful tool for investigating Methyl cyclopentenone synthesis process

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### 1 Experimental sections

#### ESI 1: Procedure for MCP synthesis

##### Step 1: Synthesis of N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide from 2-methylfuran

33.4 g dimethylamine hydrochloride was solved in 15.72 g distilled water, then added 31.17 g formaldehyde. After stirring the mixture for 0.5 h at 50-52 °C, added 30 g 2-methylfuran, raised the temperature to 60 °C for continue reaction (equipped with reflux condenser).

##### Step 2: Ring opening reaction of N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide

60.0 g N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide was added into 90 g distilled water, then added 59.64 g 30 % hydrochloric acid dropwise to adjust the pH value of the reaction solution below 1.0. Heating the reaction mixture to 98-100 °C and reacted for 6 h.

##### Step 3: Closed loop reaction of 1-(dimethylamino) hexane-2,5-dione

Cooled the reaction liquid above to 65 °C, then added 125 g sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to 12-13. Reacting for 0.5 h at 70-80 °C, stepped by a quick cooling to 25 °C, and the organic phase was obtained by static stratification.

#### **Step 4: 2-(dimethylamino)-3-methyl-2-cyclopentene-1-one rearrange to MCP**

35.2 g 2-(dimethylamino)-3-methyl-2-cyclopentene-1-one was added to 18 g of distilled water, and then 29.6 g hydrochloric acid was added to the mixture. Heating the mixture to 98-100 °C and reacted for 3 h. Then cooled the reaction mixture to 50 °C by stages, and finally cooled it to 10 °C.

#### **ESI 2: Monitoring the synthesis of MCP by ATR-IR**

*In situ* ATR-IR spectra were obtained by inserting the ATR probe into the reaction bottle during the whole synthesis process. The spectrum of the reaction solution before adding 2-Methylfuran was taken as the spectral background when monitoring step 1. The infrared spectrum of water was collected as the spectral background for deduction when monitoring the following synthesis process.

#### **ESI 3: Quantification method for N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide**

Quantitative univariate model was established for N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide by monitoring the intensity of infrared absorption at 1562 cm<sup>-1</sup> of standard series. The concentration of the standard series were determined by HPLC.

#### **ESI 4: Study on the formation mechanism of the side product generated in Step1**

25.7 g dimethylamine hydrochloride was solved in 15.72 g distilled water, then added 31.17 g formaldehyde. After stirring the mixture for 0.5 h at 50-52 °C, added 30 g 2-methylfuran, raised the temperature to 60 °C for continue reaction (equipped with reflux condenser).

## **2 Supporting Figures**

**Fig. S1** Infrared absorption spectra of 2-methylfuran (98 %) and N, N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide (99 %) at T = 298.15 K and P = 1 atm.

**Fig. S2** Infrared absorption spectrum of pure N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide (black curve, T = 298.15 K and P = 1 atm) and N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide in simulated reaction solution (red curve, T = 333.15 K and P = 1 atm).

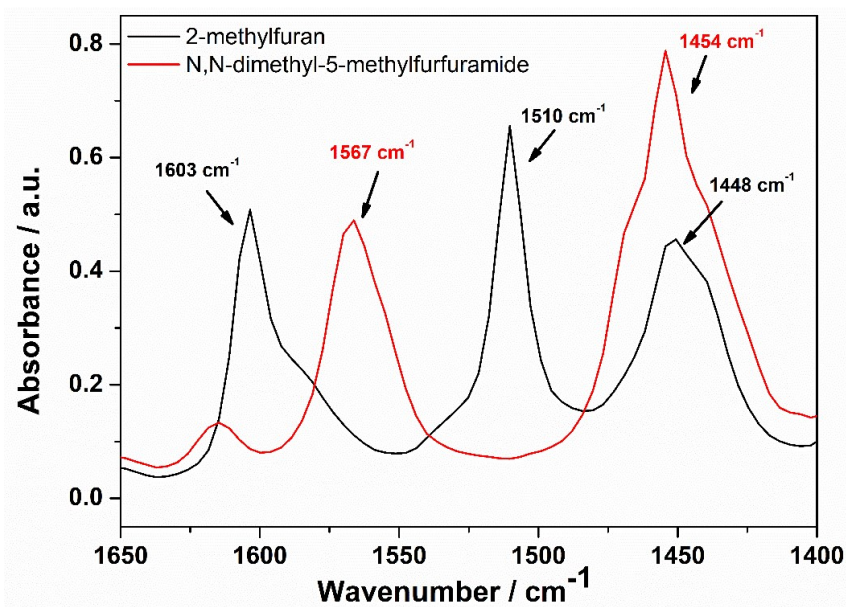
**Fig. S3** Quantitative working curve of N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide.

**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the possible impurities generated during Step 1.

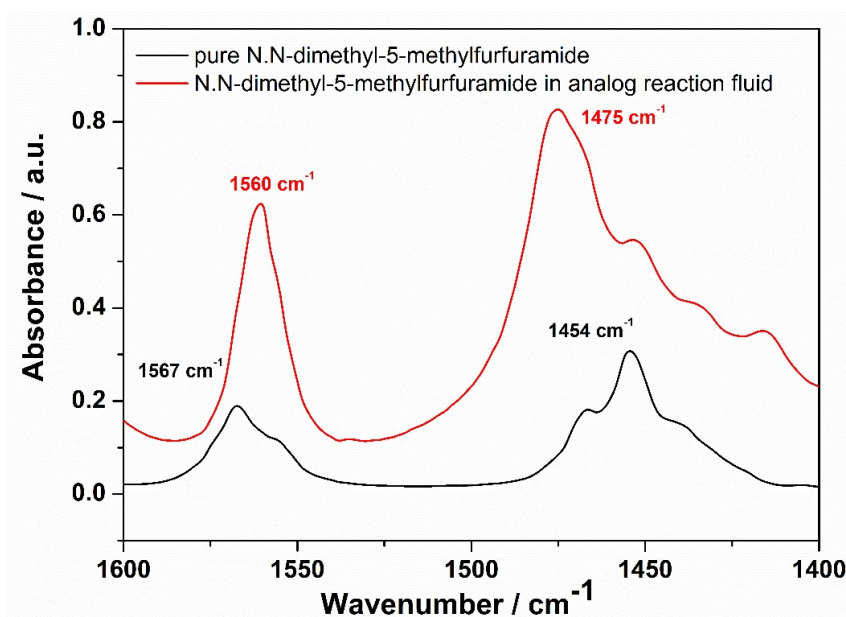
**Fig. S5** Second derivative of infrared spectrum collected during the reaction process between pure formaldehyde and 2-methylfuran under same experimental conditions.

**Fig. S6** GC-MS spectrum of the reaction solution between (5-methylfuran-2-yl)methanol and 2-methylfuran.

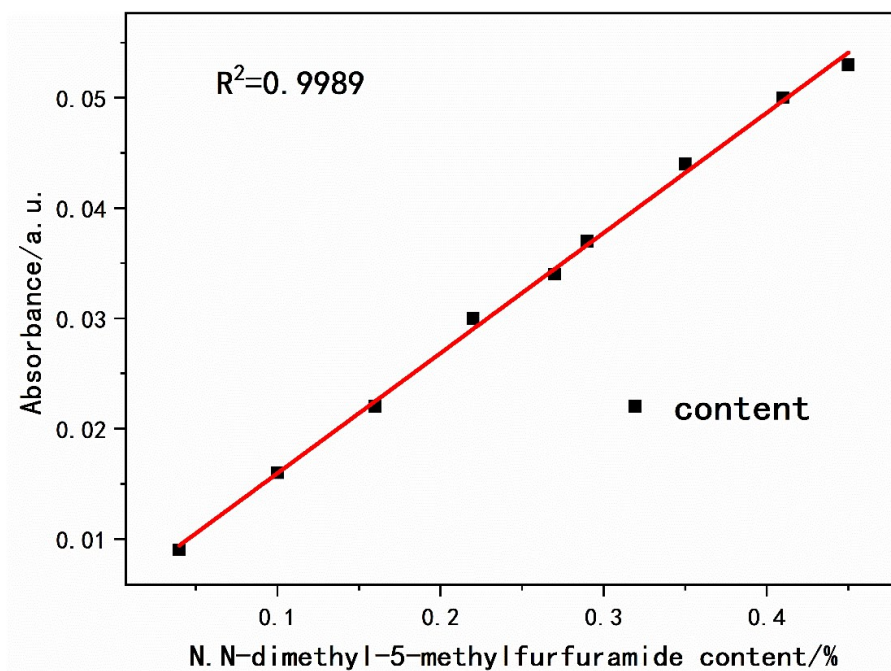
**Fig. S7** 3D IR spectra of closed-loop reaction (Step 3) of 1-(dimethylamino) hexane-2,5-dione.



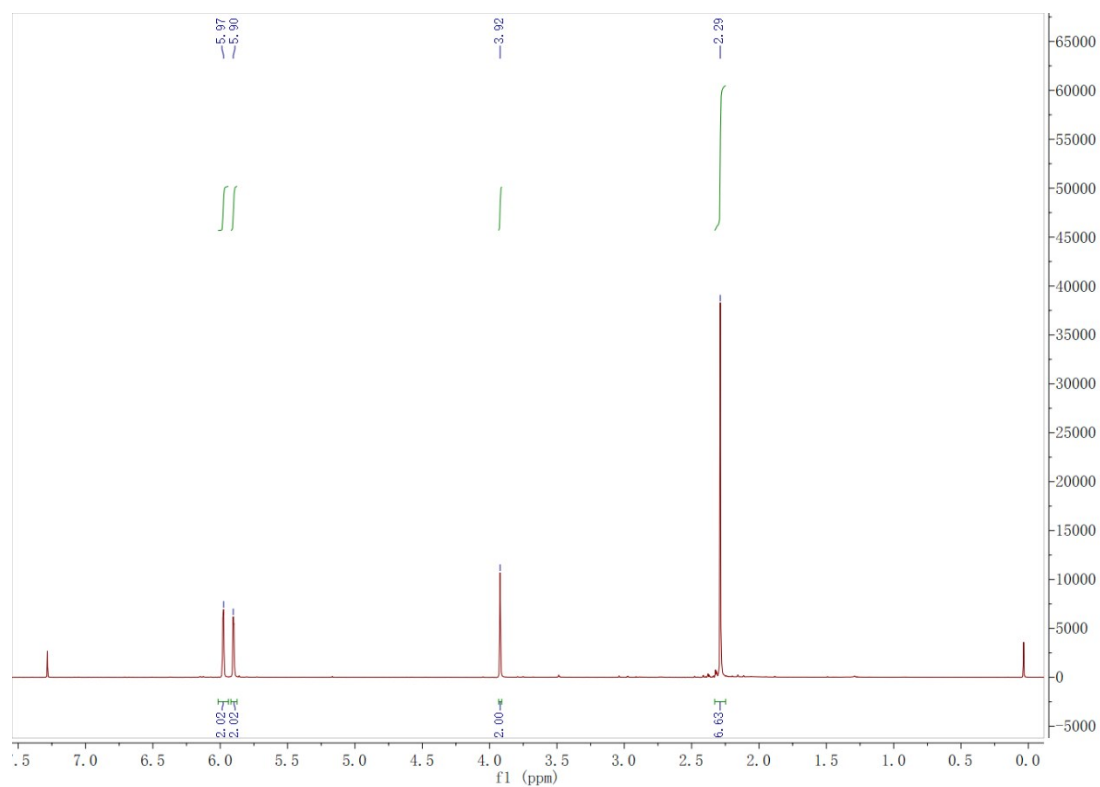
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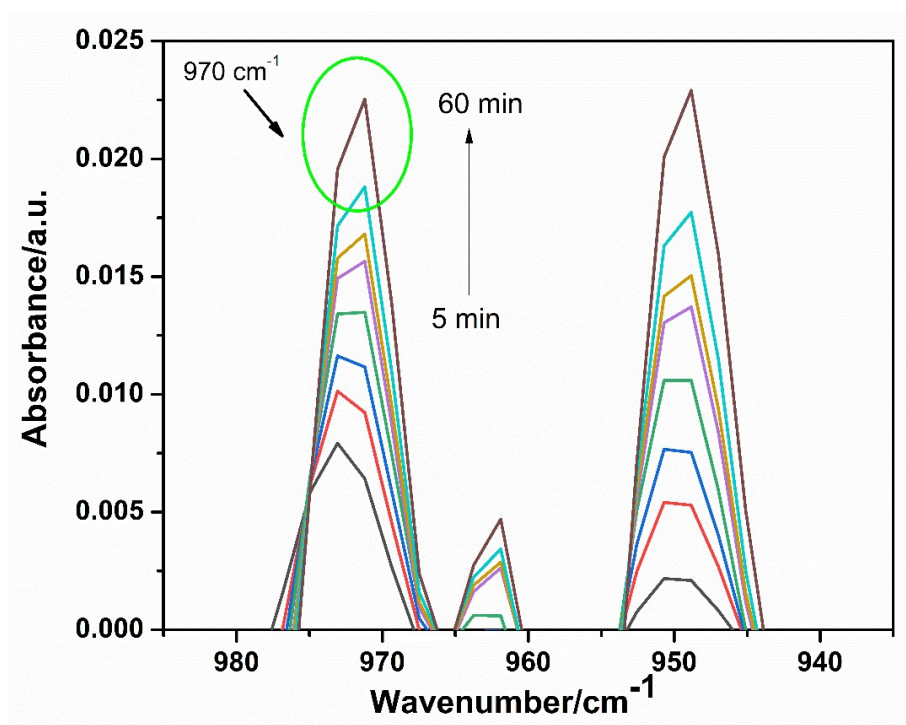
**Fig. S2** Infrared absorption spectrum of pure N.N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide (black curve, T = 298.15 K and P = 1 atm) and N.N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide in simulated reaction solution (red curve, T = 333.15 K and P = 1 atm).



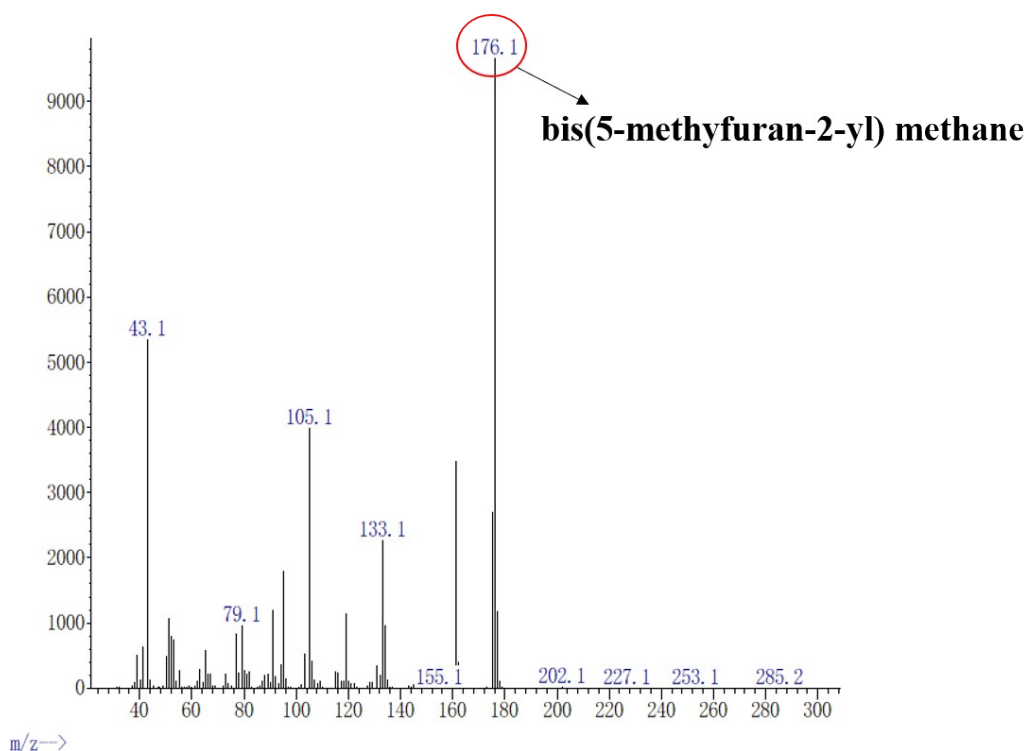
**Fig. S3** Quantitative working curve of N,N-dimethyl-5-methylfurfuramide.



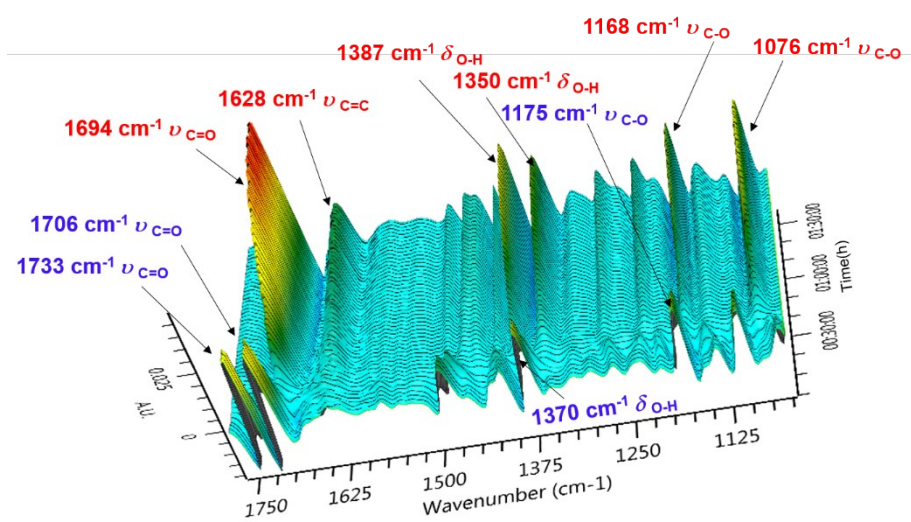
**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the possible impurities(bis(5-methylfuran-2-yl)methane) generated in Step 1.



**Fig. S5** Second derivative of infrared spectrum collected during the reaction process between pure formaldehyde and 2-methylfuran under same experimental conditions.



**Fig. S6** GC-MS spectrum of the reaction solution between (5-methylfuran-2-yl) methanol and 2-methylfuran.



**Fig. S7** 3D IR spectra of closed-loop reaction (Step 3) of 1-(dimethylamino) hexane-2,5-dione.