

**Supporting Information:**

**Thermal Regeneration of Sn-Containing Silicates and  
Consequences for Biomass Upgrading: From Regeneration to Pre-  
activation**

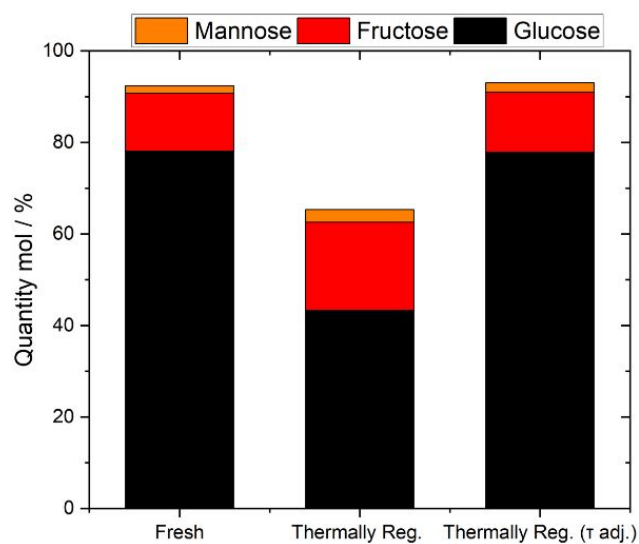
Luca Botti<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniele Padovan<sup>2</sup>, Ricardo Navar<sup>2</sup>, Søren Tolborg<sup>3</sup>, Juan S. Martinez-Espin<sup>3</sup>, Ceri  
Hammond<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, London, SW7 2AZ, UK

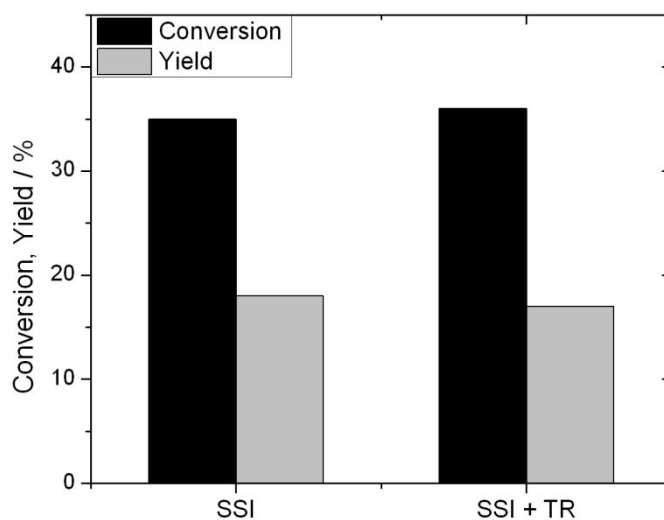
<sup>2</sup>Cardiff Catalysis Institute, Cardiff University, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3AT, UK

<sup>3</sup>Haldor Topsøe A/S, Sustainable Chemicals, Haldor Topsøes Allé 1, 2800-Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

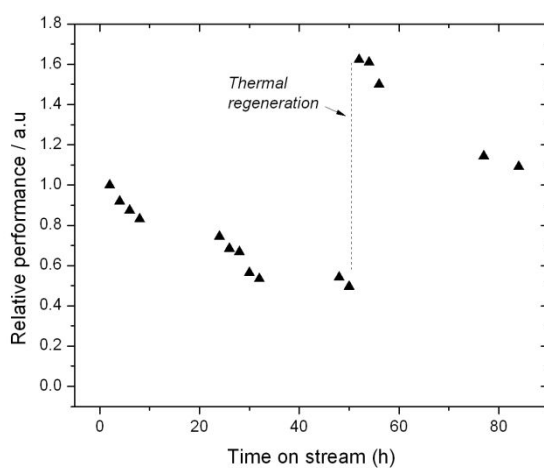
\* [ceri.hammond@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ceri.hammond@imperial.ac.uk)



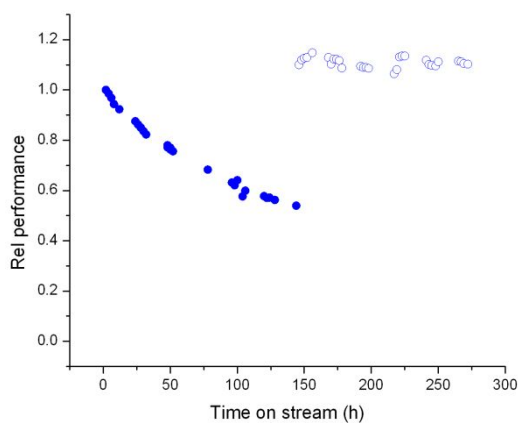
**Figure S1.** Carbon balance for continuous glucose isomerisation carried out by fresh 10Sn-Beta, thermally regenerated 10Sn-Beta, and thermally regenerated Sn-Beta at an adjusted contact time to have the same level of conversion of the fresh Sn-Beta sample. The reaction effluent was measured at 0.5 h of time on stream. Conditions: 1 wt. % glucose in methanol, 0.75 mL min<sup>-1</sup> (or 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for the adjusted contact time experiment with thermally regenerated Sn-Beta), 0.1 g catalyst, 110 °C.



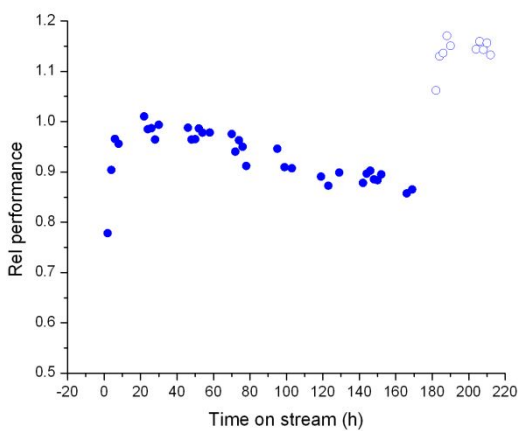
**Figure S2.** Catalytic activity of 10Sn-Beta for glucose isomerisation at 110 °C after conventional solid state incorporation (the heat treatment procedure of which involves heating to 550 °C for 3 h in N<sub>2</sub>, followed by 3 h in air) (labelled SSI), or solid state incorporation followed by an additional thermal treatment at the conditions of thermal regeneration (550 °C, 3 h, air) (labelled SSI + TR). Conditions: 1 wt. % glucose in methanol, 0.75 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 0.1 g catalyst, 110 °C.



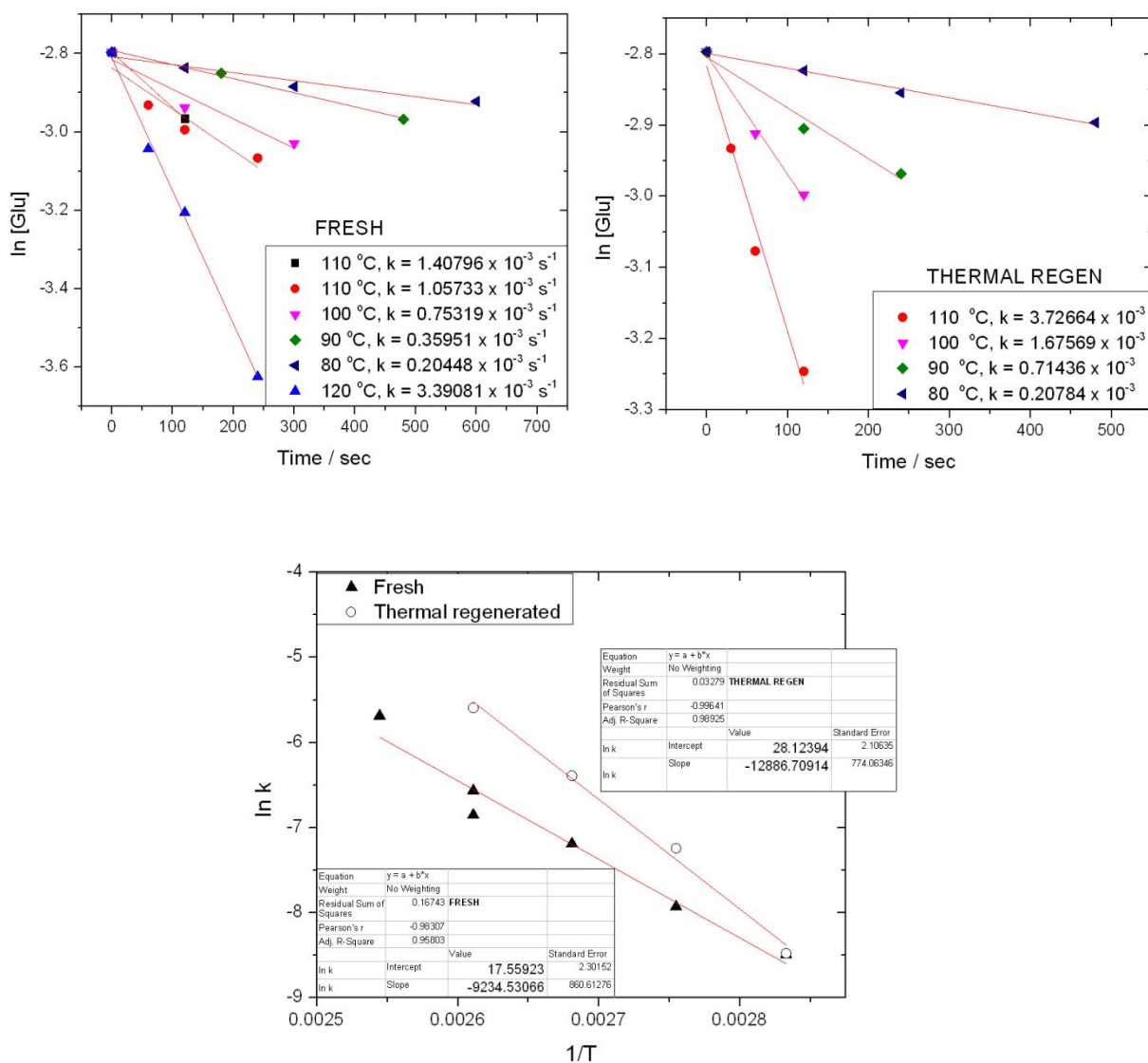
**Figure S3.** (Left) Relative performance of 2Sn-Beta for glucose isomerisation at 110 °C in MeOH prior to and following thermal regeneration. Reaction conditions: 1 wt. % glucose in methanol, 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 0.1 g catalyst, 110 °C.



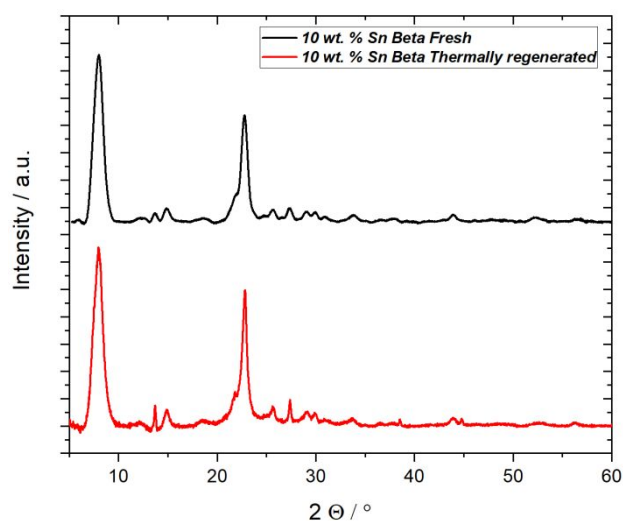
**Figure S4.** (Left) Relative performance of 2Sn-Beta for the catalytic transfer hydrogenation of furfural as fresh catalyst (cycle 1, filled circles) and following thermal regeneration (empty circles). Reaction conditions: 0.2 M furfural in 2-butanol, flow rate 0.07 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 100 °C, 0.2 g 2Sn-Beta. Thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air.



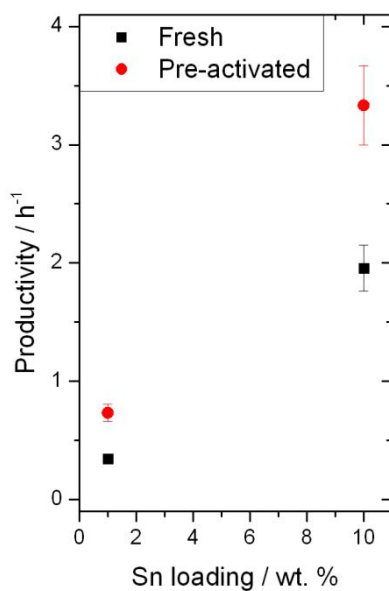
**Figure S5.** (Left) Relative performance of 2Sn-Beta for the Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of cyclohexanone as fresh catalyst (cycle 1, filled circles) and following thermal regeneration (empty circles). Reaction conditions: 0.33 M cyclohexanone in 1,4-dioxane, 0.08 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 100 °C, 0.4 g 2Sn-Beta. Thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air.



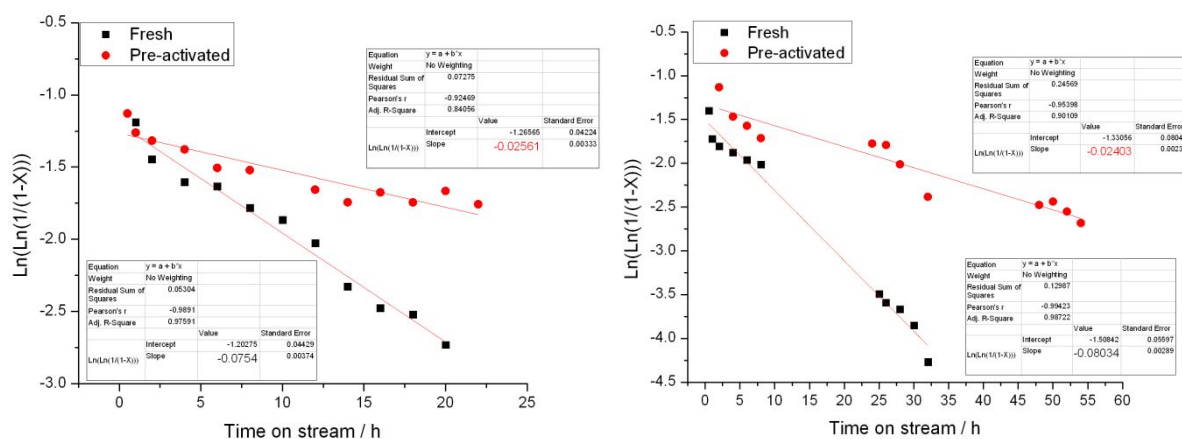
**Figure S6.** (Top Left) Rate plots determined for fresh 10Sn-Beta between 80-120 °C. (Top Right) Rate plots determined for 10Sn-Beta after thermal regeneration between 80-110 °C. Kinetic rate constants determined for each experiment are provided in the insets. (Bottom) Resulting Arrhenius plots for fresh 10Sn-Beta and 10Sn-Beta following thermal regeneration. Glucose isomerisation reactions performed between 80-120 °C in pressurised Ace tubes at the following conditions: 1 wt. % glucose in methanol, reaction solution 4 g, temperature 80-120 °C, 0.027g catalyst.



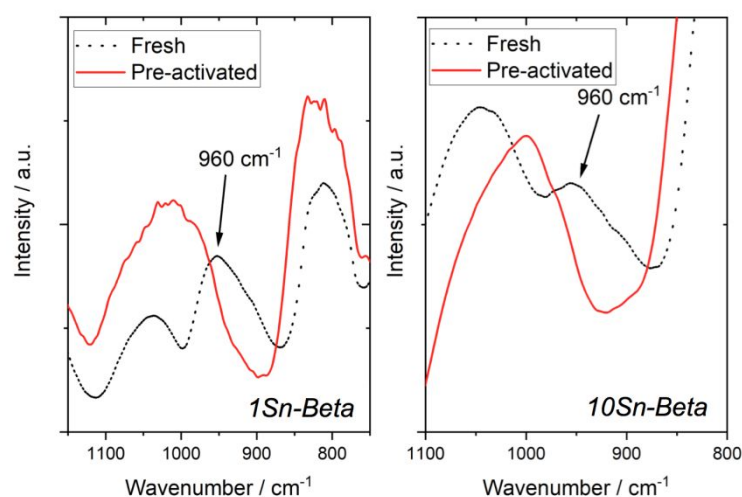
**Figure S7.** X-Ray diffraction analysis for 10Sn-Beta prior to (Fresh, top) and following thermal regeneration (bottom) after continuous glucose isomerisation in methanol at 110°C and thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air.



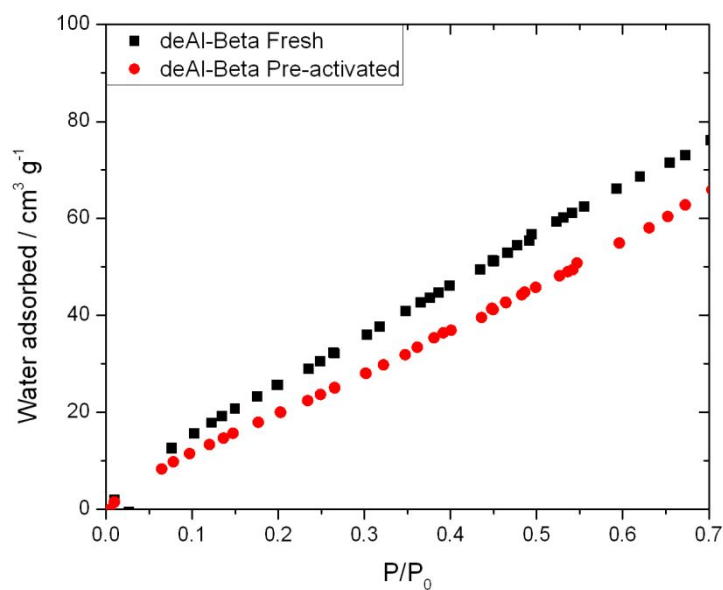
**Figure S8.** Productivity values achieved by various Sn-Beta catalysts of different Sn loadings during batch operation, prior to (black squares) and following (red circles) pre-activation in methanol at 110 °C for 0.5 h at a flow of 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and thermal treatment performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. Experimental conditions described in SI Table S6.



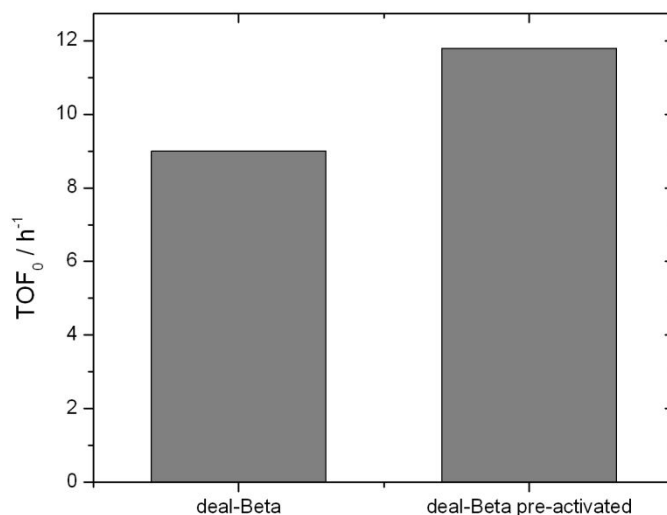
**Figure S9.** Levenspiel plots for 1Sn-Beta (Left) and 10Sn-Beta (right), prior to (black squares) and following (red circles) pre-activation in methanol at 110 °C for 0.5 h. All experiments performed with a 1 wt. % glucose in methanol solution, 0.1 g catalyst, 110 °C. Flow rates as follows: 1Sn-Beta Fresh = 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; 1Sn-Beta Pre-activated = 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; 10Sn-Beta Fresh = 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; 10Sn-Beta Pre-activated = 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S10.** Magnification on DRIFT spectra of 1- and 10Sn-Beta catalysts, in both fresh and pre-activated states, emphasising the 960 cm<sup>-1</sup> vibration prior to and following pre-activation in methanol at 110 °C for 0.5 h.



**Figure S11.** Vapour isotherm of dealuminated beta prior to (black squares) and following (red circles) pre-activation. At  $P/P_0$  values of 0.2, the quantity of water adsorbed by the sample decreased from  $26.3 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$  to  $19.0 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$ , indicating approximately 30 % increase in hydrophobicity following pre-activation.



**Figure S12.** Catalytic performance of 10Sn-Beta depending on whether the dealuminated precursor material was untreated (deal-Beta) or pre-activated in a flow of MeOH (deAl-Beta pre-activated) prior to incorporation of Sn. Pre-activation performed in a flow of methanol at  $110^\circ\text{C}$  for 0.5 h, prior to calcination at  $550^\circ\text{C}$ . Reaction conditions for all experiments: 1 wt. % glucose in methanol,  $1.5 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ , 0.1 g catalyst,  $110^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Table S1.** Experimental conditions related to the initial regeneration study of 10Sn-Beta during continuous glucose isomerisation in methanol. Thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. Washing regeneration performed at 0.75 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for 20h with MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (90:10 w/w). (Experimental conditions related to Figure 1).

| Description                                  | Feed                       | Temperature (°C) | Mass (g) | Flow (mL min <sup>-1</sup> ) | X <sub>Glu</sub> (%) | Y <sub>Fru</sub> (%) |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh                              | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 35                   | 18                   |
| 10Sn-Beta after 1 <sup>st</sup> Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 53                   | 21                   |
| 10Sn-Beta after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 52                   | 20                   |

**Table S2.** Experimental conditions related to alternating regeneration study for 10Sn-Beta during continuous glucose isomerisation in methanol. Thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. Washing regeneration performed at 0.75 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for 20h with MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (90:10 w/w). (Experimental conditions related to Figure 2)

| Description                            | Feed                       | Temperature (°C) | Mass (g) | Flow (mL min <sup>-1</sup> ) | X <sub>Glu</sub> (%) | Y <sub>Fru</sub> (%) |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh                        | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 35                   | 18                   |
| 10Sn-Beta 1 <sup>st</sup> Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 52                   | 22                   |
| 10Sn-Beta 1 <sup>st</sup> Washing Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 20                   | 12                   |
| 10Sn-Beta 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.75                         | 50                   | 21                   |

**Table S3.** Experimental conditions related to contact time online profile of 10Sn-Beta for continuous glucose isomerisation in methanol. Thermal regeneration performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. (Experimental conditions related to Figure 3, Right).

| Description                  | Feed                       | Temperature (°C) | Mass (g) | Flow (mL min <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh              | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 0.2                          |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh              | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 0.37                         |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh              | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 0.75                         |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh              | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 1.5                          |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 0.37                         |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 0.75                         |
| 10Sn-Beta Fresh Thermal Reg. | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.25     | 1.5                          |

**Table S4.** Parameters for <sup>119</sup>Sn CPMG MAS NMR analysis of various Sn-Beta samples employed in this study. CP and DE Spectra were normalised for publication in Figure 4.

| Entry | Analysis           | t1 (s) | Scan Number |
|-------|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| 1     | Direct Excitation  | 2      | 24000       |
| 2     | Cross Polarisation | 1      | 14000       |
| 3     | Direct Excitation  | 135    | 512         |

**Table S5.** Kinetic diameter and extent of pre-activation of the solvents investigated during pre-activation studies.

| Solvents    | Kinetic diameter (nm) <sup>1,2</sup> | Extent of pre-activation |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MeOH        | 0.38                                 | 2                        |
| EtOH        | 0.43                                 | 1.56                     |
| 2-PrOH      | 0.47                                 | 1                        |
| BuOH        | 0.5                                  | 0.95                     |
| Acetone     | 0.47                                 | 0.87                     |
| cyclohexane | 0.51                                 | 1.25                     |
| 1,4-dioxane | 0.7                                  | 1.373                    |

**Table S6.** Experimental conditions for different loadings of Sn-Beta employed in continuous glucose isomerisation in methanol. Pre-activation performed by treatment in MeOH at 110°C at a flow of 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for 0.5 h, followed by thermal treatment performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. (Experimental conditions related to Figure 6 and Figure 7, Left).

| Description              | Feed                       | Temperature (°C) | Mass (g) | Flow (mL min <sup>-1</sup> ) | X <sub>Glu</sub> (%) | Y <sub>Fru</sub> (%) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 0.5Sn Beta               | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.3                          | 41                   | 16                   |
| 1Sn-Beta                 | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.6                          | 34                   | 13                   |
| 2Sn-Beta                 | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.8                          | 38                   | 16                   |
| 10Sn-Beta                | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.9                          | 37                   | 16                   |
| 0.5Sn Beta Pre-activated | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 0.5                          | 46                   | 18                   |
| 1Sn-Beta Pre-activated   | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 1                            | 36                   | 12                   |
| 2Sn-Beta Pre-activated   | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 1.2                          | 45                   | 18                   |
| 10Sn-Beta Pre-activated  | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 110              | 0.1      | 1.5                          | 47                   | 18                   |

**Table S7.** Experimental conditions for different loadings of Sn-Beta employed for batch glucose isomerisation in methanol. Pre-activation performed by treatment in MeOH at 110°C at a flow of 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and thermal treatment performed at 550 °C for 3h in air. 4 g of reaction solution was employed in each batch experiment. (Experimental conditions related to SI Figure S8 and Figure 7, Right).

| Description             | Reaction solution          | Time (min) | Temperature (°C) | Mass (g) | X <sub>Glu</sub> (%) | Y <sub>Fru</sub> (%) | Productivity (h <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1Sn-Beta                | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 5          | 110              | 0.09     | 6.5                  | 3.6                  | 0.35                            |
| 10Sn-Beta               | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 5          | 110              | 0.027    | 11                   | 8.2                  | 1.96                            |
| 1Sn-Beta Pre-activated  | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 4          | 110              | 0.09     | 11                   | 6.8                  | 0.73                            |
| 10Sn-Beta Pre-activated | 1wt. % glucose in methanol | 4          | 110              | 0.027    | 15                   | 6.9                  | 3.33                            |

## References

- (1) Bettens, B.; Dekeyzer, S.; Van Der Bruggen, B.; Degève, J.; Vandecasteele, C. Transport of Pure Components in Pervaporation through a Microporous Silica Membrane. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2005**, *109* (11), 5216–5222.
- (2) Bowen, T. C.; Li, S.; Noble, R. D.; Falconer, J. L. Driving Force for Pervaporation through Zeolite Membranes. *J. Memb. Sci.* **2003**, *225* (1–2), 165–176.