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Comparisons on Formation Characteristics of NO_x Precursors during Pyrolysis of Lignocellulosic Industrial Biomass Wastes

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Abstract: Lignocellulosic industrial biomass wastes (IBWs) are dominant biomass resources in China while their thermal reutilization may bring serious environmental issues due to high nitrogen content. Investigation on the formation of NO_x precursors during their pyrolysis is significant. Based on the pyrolysis of three typical ones - medium-density fiberboard waste (MFW), Chinese herb residue (CHR) and tea stalk waste (TSW) in a horizontal tubular quartz reactor, similarities and distinctions on the formation characteristics of NH₃ and HCN were investigated with the help of chemical absorption – spectrophotometry, XPS and TGA technologies. The results indicated that amide-N was the overwhelming nitrogen functionality in lignocellulosic IBWs, determining the dominance of NH₃ among NO_x precursors. However, the ratio and total yield of HCN-N and NH₃-N could be changed by affecting intrinsic formation pathways owing to pyrolysis conditions as well as physicochemical properties. Joint effects of thermal conditions on each NO_x precursor yield were sequenced as rapid pyrolysis at high temperatures > slow pyrolysis at high temperatures > rapid pyrolysis at low temperatures ≈ slow pyrolysis at low temperatures. Meanwhile, heating rate during slow pyrolysis had an ignorable impact. As a result, during rapid pyrolysis at high temperatures, larger particle size (0~900 μm) could significantly decrease the total yield by 16~17 wt% as well as favor NH₃-N yield, while both pyrolysis atmosphere and

1 moisture content presented limited effects. Furthermore, different thermal stability of amide-N type together with distinctive fuel
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3 components in three lignocellulosic IBWs led to their distinctions on the ratio of TSW > CHR > MFW at all temperature range
4
5 and the total yield of MFW > CHR > TSW at low temperatures. However, total yield at high temperatures was observed at 20–45
6
7 wt%, which had no relationship with fuel types. These observations would provide some helpful guidance on clean thermal
8
9 reutilization of lignocellulosic IBWs.
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13 *Keywords:* Lignocellulosic IBWs; Amide-N; NO_x precursors; NH₃; Thermal stability
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18 1. INTRODUCTION

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20 With regard to biomass pyrolysis, besides converting biomass to bio-fuels with high grade heat in the absence of oxygen, it
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22 often occurs in gasification or combustion process when significantly less oxygen is provided than required for the stoichiometric
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24 coefficient.¹ During pyrolysis, fuel-bound nitrogen (Fuel-N) in biomass will be evolved into NO_x precursors such as NH₃, HCN
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26 and HNCO as well as the nitrogen in tar (Tar-N) and the nitrogen in char (Char-N). NO_x precursors can be converted into
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28 undesirable nitrogen-containing products including NO, N₂O and NO₂ during subsequent gasification or combustion. NO and NO₂
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30 contribute to the formation of acid rain and photochemical smog. N₂O results in the enhancement of greenhouse effect and the
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32 destruction of stratospheric ozone layer.² Hence, to investigate the formation characteristics of NO_x precursors during biomass
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34 pyrolysis is significant for their thermal utilization.
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41 Among biomass resources, industrial biomass wastes (IBWs) have been generally labeled as those with high organic matter that
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43 are mainly produced from light industry field, such as beverage production, wastewater treatment, food industries and
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45 pharmaceutical industries, etc. Statistics³ suggest that the amount of IBWs from major light industrial process in China exceeds
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47 200 million tons per year. However, due to either the extrinsic introduction or the intrinsic existence for IBWs production,
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49 nitrogen content has been universally observed at a high level, such as coffee waste, soybean cake and fiberboard waste of 3–4
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51 wt%^{4,5}, mycelia waste and sewage sludge of 6–8 wt%^{6–8}. It is essential to investigate the formation of NO_x precursors during
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53 pyrolysis of these IBWs with high nitrogen content. As for NO_x precursors, HNCO is produced with a minor amount as well as
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1 decomposed into HCN when pyrolysis temperature increases.² In addition, HNCO can be also hydrolyzed into NH₃ in wet
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3 sampling systems according to the reaction: $\text{HNCO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{NH}_3 + \text{CO}_2$.^{4,7} Hence, NH₃ and HCN have been commonly
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5 identified as the main species.
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8 Up to now, some studies have been conducted on the formation of NO_x precursors during IBWs pyrolysis.⁴⁻¹⁴ Their formation
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10 pathways were briefly summarized as initial decomposition of Fuel-N and further conversion of Char-N/Tar-N formed in primary
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12 reactions, which was correlated with pyrolysis conditions such as temperature, heating rate and pyrolysis atmosphere, and also
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14 influenced by physicochemical properties of fuels referring to particle size, moisture content and fuel components. Among IBWs,
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16 sewage sludge was the most common one widely investigated.^{6-8,10-14} Some conclusions on the effects of pyrolysis conditions were
17
18 comprehensively obtained. NH₃-N yield ($Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$) and HCN-N yield ($Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$) showed an increasing trend in varying degrees with
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20 the pyrolysis temperature for both slow and rapid pyrolysis.^{6-8,11,14} However, it was proved that a certain amount of heterocyclic-N
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22 (pyridinic-N, pyrrolic-N) were detected in raw sewage sludge besides the main protein-N structure^{11,13,14}, which was similar to that
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24 in peat or low-rank coals.¹⁵ Furthermore, it was also reported that hetero-aromatic structures would release nitrogen as HCN while
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26 proteins (and/or amino acids) would mainly produce nitrogen as NH₃. Due to complex nitrogen functionalities in sewage sludge,
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28 effects of pyrolysis conditions on the yields and dominant species of NO_x precursors were contradictable. Based on slow pyrolysis
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30 under a similar condition, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ was observed in a great discrepancy of being far more than, equivalent to and less than $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ in
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32 studies of Tian et al.⁶, Wei et al.¹⁴, and Chen et al.⁷, respectively. Based on rapid pyrolysis, some studies^{8,11,12} proposed that NH₃
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34 was the main one while HCN was observed to dominate in other studies^{6,7,10}. Besides, during slow pyrolysis, Tian *et al.*¹³ reported
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36 that increasing heating rate would cause more rapid rise of both $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ for sewage sludge, which was totally in
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38 contradiction with the result of de Jong *et al.*¹⁶ focusing on some special biomass pyrolysis. As we know, there were many other
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40 various IBWs produced from lignocellulosic biomass utilization besides sewage sludge. With regard to lignocellulosic biomass,
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42 Hansson *et al.*² demonstrated that the majority of nitrogen in them was bound in proteins. It was inferred that nitrogen
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44 functionalities in lignocellulosic IBWs were closer to that in conventional biomass compared with sewage sludge. Herein, a
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46 variety of conclusions on sewage sludge couldn't fully reflect the characteristics of NO_x precursors for lignocellulosic IBWs. As
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1 for these IBWs, Tian *et al.*⁹ summarized the formation route of each NO_x precursor during cane trash pyrolysis. Becidan *et al.*⁴
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3 described the relationship between NO_x precursors and pyrolysis conditions for three high N-content IBWs. Yuan *et al.*⁵ and Chen
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5
6 *et al.*⁷ suggested that dominant species during pyrolysis of soybean cake and mycelia waste were NH₃ and HCN, respectively. It
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8 seemed that different specific lignocellulosic IBWs might have their distinctive characteristics on the formation of NO_x precursors.
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10 However, based on lignocellulosic IBWs with relevant nitrogen functionalities, there was still a lack of knowledge about
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12 similarities and discrepancies on the formation characteristics of NO_x precursors during their pyrolysis. Comparisons on the
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14 characteristic of each NO_x precursor produced therefore needed to be further explored.
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18 In addition, it was mentioned that some physicochemical properties of conventional biomass would be partly correlated with the
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20 conversion of Fuel-N during their pyrolysis or gasification. Ren *et al.*¹⁷ studied the effect of particle size on the formation of NO_x
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22 precursors during wheat straw pyrolysis. The result showed that large size was helpful for the formation of NH₃ while small size
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24 favored HCN. Moreover, Liu *et al.*¹⁸ found that NH₃ concentration in biogas decreased with the increase of moisture content
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26 during biomass gasification. For example, an increase in moisture content from 10 to 30 wt% resulted in a decrease of NH₃
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28 emission from 230 to 175 ppmv. Additionally, as for fuel's components, it was observed differently that the HCN/NH₃ ratio would
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30 either go up¹⁹⁻²¹ or drop down⁵ with the increase of H/N ratio in fuels. However, Hansson *et al.*² proposed that HCN/NH₃ ratio was
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32 not significantly correlated with the fuel's O/N ratio. It was also reported that the ash and ash components in fuels had diverse
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34 effects on the yield of each NO_x precursor during straw pyrolysis due to their catalytic performance^{21,22}. Due to the distinctive
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36 requirement of production processes, most lignocellulosic IBWs had more complex physicochemical properties such as different
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38 shape forms, high moisture content and various fuel components compared with conventional biomass.^{4,5,7,9} Subsequently, these
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40 particular physicochemical properties in lignocellulosic IBWs would be essential to the formation of NO_x precursors in their real
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42 thermal reutilization. However, investigations on these aspects were rarely witnessed before.
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51 Focusing on the deficiencies of predecessors' work on lignocellulosic IBWs, the objective of this article was to fully identify
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53 the characteristics of NO_x precursors to acquire some consistent valuable information during their pyrolysis. A woody one -
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55 medium-density fiberboard waste (MFW), and two herbaceous ones - Chinese herb residue (CHR) and tea stalk waste (TSW)
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1 were employed. With regard to the selection of target lignocellulosic IBWs, three convincing reasons on their similar
2 characteristics have been proposed: (1) They were typically originated from different industrial fields with huge amount of 3.2
3 (MFW), 12 (CHR) and 2 (TSW) million tons per year.^{3,23} (2) All of them could be regarded as renewable energy sources due to
4 their abundant organic matters and excellent heating value.²⁴⁻²⁶ Subsequently, they could be well-reutilized and converted into
5 high value-added byproducts by thermal-chemical processes.^{24,27-30} (3) They were reported to contain a considerable amount of
6 nitrogen related to the extrinsic additives (resin for MFW^{24,31}) or the intrinsic components (protein/amino acid for CHR^{27,28},
7 protein/caffeine for TSW²⁶). Hence, based on pyrolysis of three lignocellulosic IBWs, effects of both pyrolysis conditions and
8 physicochemical properties of fuels on the formation of NO_x precursors were discussed and compared in detail. Meanwhile,
9 similarities and distinctions on the characteristics of NO_x precursors during pyrolysis of these IBWs with similar nitrogen
10 functionalities were also summarized.

28 2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

30 2.1. Materials.

31 The samples of MFW, CHR and TSW investigated were provided by a furniture manufacture plant, a herbal-tea beverage
32 production company and a green-tea production enterprise in China, respectively. Prior to the use and analysis, necessary
33 pretreatments of samples were applied, which included crushing, sieving and drying in sequence to make sure the dry samples
34 with suitable particle size. The proximate, ultimate and N-component analyses of samples were presented in Table 1.

44 2.2. Apparatus and Procedure

45 The experimental system mainly consisted of a gas supplying system, a pyrolyzer and a sampling system. The detailed
46 schematic diagram was shown in Fig. 1. The carrier gas (e.g. Ar, N₂ and CO₂) with purity of 99.999% controlled by a mass flow
47 meter was used to provide a different inert atmosphere for pyrolysis. The pyrolyzer was a horizontal tubular quartz reactor of 44
48 mm in inner diameter and 1200 mm in length. It was heated by a horizontal electric furnace with a temperature controller
49 governing temperature and heating rate. The operating temperature was monitored by a *k*-type thermocouple inserted into the
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1 reactor. The sampling system was directly connected with the reactor in a flexible seal way. The connection pipe was constantly
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3 heated by an electrical heating belt to avoid tar condensation. To minimize the inaccuracy of NO_x precursors caused by their
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5 condensation in solutions^{7,32}, tar was sampling by a cold trap immersed in ice/water mixture without organic solvent. Meanwhile,
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8 NH_3 and HCN were absorbed by two sampling lines in parallel. The cold trap was maintaining at about 273.15 K controlled by
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10 ice/water mixture to ensure the complete collection of tar. Four impingers arranged in series comprised each sampling line, the gas
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12 flow of which was controlled by a three-way control valve. For each group, The first and last one were kept empty to prevent
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14 suck-back and remove moisture, respectively. The remaining two with the same bubbling absorber (100 mL) were used to trap
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16 each NO_x precursor. The absorbing solutions for NH_3 and HCN were H_3BO_3 (5 g/L) and NaOH (0.2 mol/L), respectively. Finally,
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18 clean pyrolysis gas after the sampling system was vented or collected for gas analysis if necessary. All experiments were carried
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20 out based on the designated operational conditions shown briefly in Table 2.
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26 During each slow pyrolysis, about 3 g of sample contained by a ceramic boat was firstly placed into the center of pyrolyzer and
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28 then the desired carrier gas with a flow rate of $600 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ was maintained at least 30 min to purge air out. After the flushing
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30 period, carrier gas was adjusted to $400 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. And the heating system was started to heat up the pyrolyzer to desired final
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32 temperature at pre-designated heating rate. The final temperature was then held for 30 min to ensure the completion of all
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34 reactions. During each rapid pyrolysis, about 3 g of sample was loaded into a ceramic boat and then placed at the cold side of
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36 quartz tube. A gas flow of carrier gas ($400 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$) was started to remove any air from the system and the pyrolyzer was heated
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38 up to the selected final temperature. When the set reactor temperature was attained and the reactor had been flushed for at least 30
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40 min, ceramic boat was rapidly pushed into pre-heated zone and kept for the same residence time as slow pyrolysis to ensure that
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42 all pyrolysis products were completely generated.
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49 At the end of each run, char remained in ceramic boat was collected, weighed and stored for further analysis. Other pyrolysis
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51 products passed through sampling system and were separately collected. Firstly, tar retained in cold trap was firstly washed by
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53 isopropanol and then retrieved by evaporating the isopropanol solvent with rotary evaporator. After the tar sampling, NH_3 and
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55 HCN left in pyrolysis gas were collected in parallel sampling lines with the corresponding absorbing solutions, respectively. The
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gas flow of two sampling lines were recorded by volumetric gas meter to help for the calculation of NH_3 and HCN in absorbing solution.

After the experiment, based on standards of HJ 536-2009 and HJ 484-2009, concentrations of NH_4^+ and CN^- ion in each absorber were quantified by spectrophotometric method using a water quality analyzer (DR2700, HACH, USA). Each experiment was carried out three times under the same condition to ensure the reliability, and the standard deviation for all results were within $\pm 5\%$. The amounts of $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ and HCN-N could be calculated by the gas flow of sampling line and the corresponding ion concentration. Yields of NO_x precursors were described as follows.

$$Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}} = 14.01 \cdot c_1 \cdot V_1 / \left((Q_1 / (Q_1 + Q_2)) \cdot 18.04 \cdot m_{\text{Fuel-N}} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$Y_{\text{HCN-N}} = 14.01 \cdot c_2 \cdot V_2 / \left((Q_2 / (Q_1 + Q_2)) \cdot 26.02 \cdot m_{\text{Fuel-N}} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$Y_{\text{total}} = Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}} + Y_{\text{HCN-N}} \quad (3) \quad R_{\text{HCN-N} / \text{NH}_3\text{-N}} = Y_{\text{HCN-N}} / Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}} \quad (4)$$

where $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ were percentage of $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ and HCN-N from Fuel-N , respectively, $\text{wt}\%$; Y_{total} was defined as total yield of two NO_x precursors, $\text{wt}\%$; $R_{\text{HCN-N} / \text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ was defined as ratio of $\text{HCN-N} / \text{NH}_3\text{-N}$, 1; $m_{\text{Fuel-N}}$ were nitrogen mass of feedstocks, mg; c_1 and c_2 were concentrations of NH_4^+ and CN^- in absorbing solution, respectively, $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$; V_1 and V_2 were volumes of the corresponding absorbing solutions, respectively, mL; Q_1 and Q_2 were gas flow of sampling line for NH_3 and HCN, respectively, $\text{mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$.

Especially, based on several experiments with typical operational conditions, yields of Char-N and Tar-N were determined as follows: mass of both char and tar were calculated by gravimetric method, and nitrogen content in char and tar were analyzed with an elemental analyzer (Vario EL cube, Elementaranalyse, Germany).

In addition, thermogravimetric behaviors and nitrogen functionalities of raw samples were confirmed using a simultaneous thermal analyzer (Q50, TA Instruments, USA) and a X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (ESCALAB 250Xi, Thermo VG Scientific, UK), respectively. TGA was performed with the temperature range of 50 - 900 °C at the designated heating rate (15, 30, and 80 °C $\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) in argon atmosphere with a flow rate of 40 mL/min. XPS spectra were acquired at a constant pass energy of 30 eV and a step size of 0.1 eV, with a spot size of 500 μm in diameter and an electron takeoff angle of 90°, using a Al K α (1486.68

1 eV) X-ray source operating at 150 W.
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6 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

7 3.1. Comparisons on the Characteristics of Lignocellulosic IBWs 8 9

10 Fig. 2A presents TG/DTG profiles of three lignocellulosic IBWs as a function of temperature with different heating rate.
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12 Predominant weight loss occurs at 220~500 °C for MFW and 200~550 °C for both CHR and TSW, respectively, which is
13 attributed to initial degradation of hemicellulose and further degradation of lignin and cellulose.^{24,27,29} Besides, both TG and DTG
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15 curves for each lignocellulosic IBW change very little with increasing heating rate except the slight movement towards a higher
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17 temperature caused by the delayed kinetics of decomposition³³, which reveals that heating rate is not an important factor for
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19 thermal degradation of lignocellulosic IBWs.
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26 Based on the calibration of 284.6 eV to principal C 1s component and the following curve-fitting principles: a mixed Gaussian
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28 (70%) - Lorentzian (30%) line shape, a FWHM of 1.65 eV and a Shirley-type background, XPS nitrogen (1s) spectra of three
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30 lignocellulosic IBWs after the resolution were obtained in Fig. 2B. XPS-peak-differentiating curve at binding energy of $399.9 \pm$
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32 0.2 eV almost coincides with the original signal curve. According to energy positions of relevant nitrogen functionalities: 398.8,
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34 399.9, 400.4, 401.4 (± 0.2) and 402-405 eV (pyridinic-N, protein-N/amide-N/amine-N, pyrrolic-N, quaternary-N and N-oxide,
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36 respectively)^{13,14,34}, protein-N (amide-N or amine-N) may be suggested to be the nitrogen functionality in each IBW. And no
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38 hetero-aromatic nitrogen structures are detected in XPS spectra. Leppalahti et al.¹⁵ indicated that nitrogen functionalities were
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40 transforming from pyridinic-N/pyrrolic-N to protein-N/amine-N with the increase of Fuel-O from coal to wood. Hansson et al.²
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42 mentioned that protein-N was the main nitrogen source in wood. Knicker et al.³⁵ demonstrated that 80-90% nitrogen was assigned
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44 to amide/peptide structures in herbaceous biomass. Subsequently, it is reasonable that one single peak is witnessed in each
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46 lignocellulosic IBW spectrum. According to the detected data in Table 1, polyamide, protein and protein/caffeine are found to be
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48 overwhelming nitrogen components for MFW, CHR and TSW, respectively. It is easy to know that both polyamide and protein are
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50 the polymerization forms of amide-N. Meanwhile, caffeine containing amide-N bond may be regarded as one of amide derivatives.
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1 Furthermore, energy position of amide-N was indistinguishable from that of amine-N (protein-N)³⁴ and quite close to that of
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3 caffeine (399.80 eV)³⁶ in XPS spectrums. Hence, the single XPS peak for each lignocellulosic IBW can be assigned as amide-N.
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5 Based on proximate, ultimate, thermogravimetric and XPS analyses, distinctions on three lignocellulosic IBWs are summarized.
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8 1) Compared with two herbaceous IBWs, temperature range of predominant weight loss for MFW is narrower due to its higher
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10 volatile close to wood.²⁴ Meanwhile, reaction rate and temperature at DTG peak are also higher. Besides, an obvious shoulder
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12 peak at 294~320 °C is observed in DTG curve of MFW due to decomposition of polyamide structure³¹, demonstrating that
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14 polyamide is the most labile amide-N type. 2) The discrepancy of binding energy on target XPS peak for MFW and CHR/TSW is
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16 due to different nitrogen sources for the former (polyamide structure⁴) and the latter two (protein or caffeine^{26,37}). Ash and
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18 nitrogen content for three lignocellulosic IBWs are both distinctive, corresponding to overall weight loss in TG curve and peak
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20 area in XPS spectra, respectively. 3) Comparing two herbaceous IBWs, both thermogravimetric behaviors and nitrogen
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22 functionalities are considerably similar. Nevertheless, difference on ash component, ash content and nitrogen source are quite
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24 obvious. Caffeine contributes to about 11.5% of total nitrogen for TSW besides main protein structures. In addition, it was proved
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26 that abundant caffeine structure was found in bio-oil from low-temperature pyrolysis of coffee ground³⁸, indicating caffeine
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28 containing both amide and heterocyclic C-N bonds is more thermally stable than protein.
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38 **3.2. The Formation of NO_x Precursors with Pyrolysis Conditions**

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40 3.2.1. *Effect of heating rate during slow pyrolysis.* Heating rate during slow pyrolysis can determine the amount of pyrolysis
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42 products.¹ To better understand the characteristics of NO_x precursors during slow pyrolysis, based on pyrolysis temperature:
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44 800 °C, atmosphere: Ar, particle size: 0~300 μm, moisture content: 0%, effect of heating rate on the formation of NO_x precursors
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46 was firstly confirmed. Fig. 3 gives the changes of $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ with heating rate during slow pyrolysis of three samples.
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50 $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ decreases by a certain amount while $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ has an ignorable change with the increasing heating rate, which is obviously
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52 different from the results of predecessors' work.^{13,16} In addition, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ constantly behaves more predominant than $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ when
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54 pyrolyzing at any heating rate. It was well-known that secondary reactions of Tar-N/Char-N were responsible for the formation of
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1 NO_x precursors when pyrolyzing at high temperatures.^{2,10-13} In these secondary reactions, NH₃ was produced by decomposition of
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3 primary amines, bimolecular reaction between imine and amine (in tars), and hydrogenation among heterocyclic-N, HCN and H
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5 radicals (in chars), while HCN was mainly originated from thermal cracking of amine-N (in tars). Based on TG-DTG curves,
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7 volatiles in lignocellulosic IBWs can be almost released below 550 °C. During slow pyrolysis, volatiles will be swept out of the
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9 reactor instantly together with a relatively mild release when samples are heated slowly to a high final temperature. As a
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11 consequence, secondary reactions of Tar-N can't have strongly responded when massive volatiles release (below 550 °C).
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15 Meanwhile, the remaining volatiles and H radicals at high temperatures are limited. Hence, at high temperatures, the weak thermal
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17 cracking of Tar-N during slow pyrolysis results in a small amount on $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ with an ignorable fluctuation at different heating rate.
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20 However, the relatively high $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ may be due to NH₃ accumulation from the direct thermal decomposition of nitrogen
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22 functionality in fuels during heating process. With the increase of heating rate, the shorter residence time of HCN and H radicals
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24 with char will weaken hydrogenation reactions (the main formation pathway of NH₃ during slow pyrolysis at high temperatures⁶),
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26 leading to a decrease on $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$. However, the mild drop on $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and the minor fluctuation on $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ have indicated that heating
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28 rate does not play an important role in the formation of NO_x precursors, corresponding to the thermogravimetric behaviors
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30 affected by heating rate. In addition, it was evident that the formation of each NO_x precursor strongly depended on nitrogen
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32 functionalities in fuels.^{2,19} The origins of NH₃ involved the depolymerization of protein-N (in fuels), the
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34 deamination/decomposition/bimolecular reactions of amine-N (in tars) and the hydrogenation of heterocyclic-N (in chars) in
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36 sequence with the increase of temperature during pyrolysis.^{11,12,13} This demonstrated a fact that every formation pathway of NH₃
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38 was strongly linked with the initial thermal conversion of Fuel-N. As a result, it can be inferred that the predominant position of
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40 $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ depends on the overwhelming amide-N observed in lignocellulosic IBWs, having no relationship with heating rate.
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51 *3.2.2.Characteristics of NO_x precursors during slow and rapid pyrolysis.* Based on the above conclusion that the variation of
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53 heating rate don't remarkably affect each NO_x precursor yield, 15 °C•min⁻¹ is chosen as a fixed heating rate during slow pyrolysis.
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55 Characteristics of NO_x precursors during slow and rapid pyrolysis of three samples were investigated and compared. Fig. 4
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1 displays changes of $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ at the temperature range from 300 to 900 °C during both slow and rapid pyrolysis.

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3 As Fig. 4 shows, NH_3 is the dominant NO_x precursor during both slow and rapid pyrolysis at almost any final temperature,
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5 which reveals that dominant species of NO_x precursors won't be related to thermal conditions but probably depend on nitrogen
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7 functionalities in fuels. However, each NO_x precursor yield is varied with different final temperature under two pyrolysis types. As
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9 for slow pyrolysis, $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ is produced at an ignorable amount while $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ keeps a relatively remarkable level at low temperatures
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11 (<500 °C). The reason for this phenomenon is that the direct decomposition of amide-N contributes to the formation of NH_3 while
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13 there is no formation pathway for HCN except the weak dehydrogenation of amine-N (from decomposition of amide-N) at this
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15 temperature range, which is similarly depicted during slow pyrolysis of sewage sludge.¹³ With the increasing pyrolysis
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17 temperature, Fuel-N conversion into both NH_3 and HCN slowly increase. When temperature goes up above 800 °C, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ has a
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19 slight drop for all samples. In Section 3.2.1, it is mentioned that secondary reactions at high temperatures are main contributors to
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21 each NO_x precursor and the detailed routes have been summarized. It is apparent that increasing temperature can guarantee that
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23 these secondary reactions become more and more obvious and intense, which consequently leads to the rise of both $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and
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25 $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$. The slow release rate of NH_3 and HCN during slow pyrolysis can be explained that both hydrogenation of heterocyclic-N
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27 (in chars) into NH_3 and thermal cracking of amine-N (in tars) into HCN^{6,11} are largely restricted due to less volatiles and H
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29 radicals remained at high temperatures. In addition, the slight decrease on $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ may be attributed that the decomposition of NH_3
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31 by inverse ammonia synthesis reactions⁵ has become stronger than the formation of NH_3 by hydrogenation reactions when
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33 temperature goes up high.
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43 As for rapid pyrolysis, it is interesting to note that both $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ are basically identical with that of slow pyrolysis
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45 below 500 °C, indicating that pyrolysis type has no effect on the formation of NO_x precursors at low temperatures. This may be
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47 due to that the direct decomposition of Fuel-N to NO_x precursors is hardly correlated with pyrolysis type. When temperature
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49 increases from 500 to 900 °C, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ shows an increment of 21.0 wt%, 20.3 wt% and 18.2 wt% while $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ presents an increment
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51 of 18.3 wt%, 23.5 wt% and 27.9 wt% for MFW, CHR and TSW, respectively. A more dramatic change on $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ than $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ is
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53 observed for two herbaceous IBWs, indicating that thermal cracking of amine-N is more prevailing than hydrogenation of
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1 heterocyclic-N when pyrolyzing at high temperatures. This phenomena distinguished by the type of IBWs are in detail explained
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3 in the subsequent discussions (effect of fuel's components). In addition, it is observed that each NO_x precursor yield with rapid
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5 pyrolysis is much higher than that with slow pyrolysis at high temperatures. Tian et al.¹¹ mentioned that secondary cracking of
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7 Tar-N/Char-N were the major pathways for NH_3 and HCN, and the decomposition of intermediates contributed to above 80% of
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9 total productions. Higher temperature can provide more activation energies to accelerate reaction rate meanwhile rapid pyrolysis
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11 can guarantee more volatiles involved in secondary cracking reactions, which shall be responsible for the higher $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$.
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13 Moreover, there is no plateau or drop for $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ above 800 °C compared with slow pyrolysis, indicating that the main formation
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15 pathway of NH_3 (hydrogenation reaction) is still more dominant than other consumption pathways of NH_3 due to the more intense
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17 secondary cracking reactions.
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23 In sum, it is crucial to emphasize the conclusion that both pyrolysis type and temperature won't change the dominant species of
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25 NO_x precursors but play a joint role in each NO_x precursor yield for three lignocellulosic IBWs. Both $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ are less
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27 influenced by pyrolysis temperature and independent of pyrolysis type at low temperatures (<500 °C), while show great
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29 diversities at high temperatures (>500 °C) due to the different dominant secondary reactions affected by pyrolysis type and
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31 temperature. Hence, rapid pyrolysis at high temperatures was chosen for the following discussion.
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38 *3.2.3. Effect of pyrolysis atmosphere.* Nitrogen is the most common inert atmosphere available for the investigation on the
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40 pyrolysis process.²⁸⁻³⁰ In addition, carbon dioxide is often considered as the gasifying agent to investigate the *in-situ* gasification
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42 of pyrolysis char. Thus, atmosphere is another pyrolysis condition affecting the formation of NO_x precursors when served as
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44 carrier gas during biomass pyrolysis. The effects of different gas atmosphere on the formation of NO_x precursors were compared
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46 during rapid pyrolysis of lignocellulosic IBWs at 600~900°C. Changes of $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} vs. temperature in different
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48 atmosphere were depicted in Fig. 5.
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53 Both $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} increase with the increase of pyrolysis temperature in N_2 or CO_2 atmosphere, suggesting that the
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55 higher temperature favors the production of HCN and promotes the conversion of Fuel-N into NO_x precursors, which is consistent
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1 with that in Ar atmosphere discussed above.

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3 Comparing N₂ and Ar atmosphere, two curves on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ vs. temperature are basically in coincidence for each IBW (See
4 Fig 5A), which demonstrates that N₂ isn't capable of affecting the balance between NH₃ and HCN produced at high temperatures.
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6 In addition, Y_{total} in N₂ atmosphere has a smaller drop than that in Ar atmosphere (See Fig 5B). It is inferred that the presence of N₂
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8 may slightly hinder the formation reactions of NO_x precursors related to N₂ in nitrogen chemistry.¹⁸ Hence, the presence of N₂
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10 won't promote the formation of NO_x precursors during lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis. This observation is also indirectly
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12 supported by the view of Stubenberger *et al.*²⁰ that the only relevant source for NO_x emissions was the conversion of Fuel-N
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14 during solid biomass combustion.
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21 Compared with Ar, Y_{total} has an evident drop when pyrolyzing in CO₂ atmosphere(See Fig 5B), reflecting that the presence of
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23 CO₂ can suppress the production of both NH₃ and HCN. This is in accordance with the results found in amino acid pyrolysis under
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25 Ar/CO₂ atmosphere.³⁹ However, there are some distinctions on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ among lignocellulosic IBWs (See Fig 5A). As for
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27 TSW and MFW, $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ curve in CO₂ atmosphere is initially beneath that in Ar atmosphere and then close to even beyond it
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29 with the increase of temperature. It was reported that the introduction of CO₂ could consume active N-sites that had the potential
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31 to form HCN in Ar atmosphere.¹⁷ Thus, due to the relatively weaker secondary reactions at lower temperatures (600-700 °C), the
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33 formation of HCN (thermal cracking of amine-N) is not so prevailing. In this situation, it is deduced that the inhibition effect on
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35 HCN by CO₂ is more significant under a pure CO₂ atmosphere. Subsequently, the restraint of HCN is stronger than that of NH₃,
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37 which causes a lower $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$. On the contrary, at higher temperatures (700-800 °C), increasing temperature can provide more
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39 activation energies for the prevailing thermal cracking of amine-N to produce HCN and a more gasification-similar atmosphere
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41 for CO₂ to consume NH₃, leading to a remarkable increase on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$. As for CHR, $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ curve in CO₂ atmosphere is
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43 always maintaining above that in Ar atmosphere with the temperature. One possible explanation is that the presence of CO₂ may
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45 weaken the catalytic performance of ash components on the conversion of fuel-N into NH₃ due to enough high ash content in
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47 CHR.⁴⁰ In a word, CO₂ atmosphere can be partly inhibit the production of NO_x precursors during lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis.
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3.3. The Formation of NO_x Precursors with Physicochemical Properties of Fuels

Having different shapes, containing high moisture and including various ash components are typical characteristics of most lignocellulosic IBWs. It is significant for their clean reutilization to understand the characteristics of NO_x precursors affected by these physicochemical properties. Hence, effects of physicochemical properties of fuels involving particle size, moisture content and fuel components on the formation of NO_x precursors were subsequently investigated.

3.3.1. Effect of particle size. Based on a fixed rapid pyrolysis condition with temperature of 800 °C, atmosphere of Ar and moisture content of 0 %, effect of particle size on the conversion of Fuel-N into NO_x precursors for three lignocellulosic IBWs were discussed. Changes of $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} vs. particle size are shown in Fig. 6.

During rapid pyrolysis of lignocellulosic IBWs, Y_{total} presents a similar remarkable decrement by 16~17 wt% when particle size increases from 0~300 μm to 600~900 μm (See Fig 6B). Meanwhile, $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ also has an obvious drop, indicating that the conversion of Fuel-N into NO_x precursors favours NH_3 with the increase of particle size (See Fig 6A). As is known, the devolatilization rate shall be improved with the reduction in particle size, which results in the release of more volatiles during rapid pyrolysis process.⁴¹ Subsequently the chance for secondary reactions of Tar-N can be largely enhanced, promoting the production of both NH_3 and HCN. Thereby, small particle size is more favorable for Y_{total} . The conclusion on Y_{total} is in agreement with the study of Ren *et al.*¹⁷ that focused on slow pyrolysis of wheat straw. However, the change of $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ with the particle size is opposite. It was found that larger particle size during slow pyrolysis would lead to more NH_3 production and explained that this situation provided more chance of secondary reactions, and then influenced the selectivity of N-conversion. Two opposite conclusions on $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ by particle size are both reasonable due to the main different influencing pathways of NH_3 under different pyrolysis types. In addition, the decrease on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ with the increasing particle size can be explained that longer gas residence time within the char pores in larger particles promotes the hydrogenation of HCN into NH_3 . The similar phenomenon and explanation can be found elsewhere.^{4,17} It is also deduced that the decline of $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ is more dramatic than that of $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ when particle size increases during rapid pyrolysis of lignocellulosic IBWs.

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3 3.3.2. *Effect of moisture content.* During rapid pyrolysis with a fixed condition (T_{final} : 800 °C, atmosphere: Ar, particle size: 0~300
4 μm), effect of moisture content on the formation of NO_x precursors for three lignocellulosic IBWs were investigated. Changes of
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6 $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} vs. moisture content are illustrated in Fig. 7.
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11 Characteristics of NO_x precursors with the moisture content show different trends among three lignocellulosic IBWs. When
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13 moisture increases from 0% to 20%, Y_{total} firstly has an obvious drop and then goes up continually for MFW and TSW while keeps
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15 a constant rise trend for CHR (See Fig. 7B). However, $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ presents a mild change for each lignocellulosic IBW while has
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17 a slight drop from a wet state to a wetter state (See Fig. 7A). The above phenomena may be explained by the balance of two
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19 opposite effects caused by moisture content. On one hand, it is easy to understand that the presence of moisture will to some
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21 extent cause the temperature delay of reaction region due to the energy consumption for vaporization when sample is pushed into
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23 reactor. Compared with a dry sample, either lower temperature at target reaction time or shorter retention time at target
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25 temperature will make secondary reactions weaker under the same pyrolysis condition for a wet one. This is called as the
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27 inhibition effect. On the other hand, the self-gasification condition can be formed with the introduction of high moisture content
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29 during rapid pyrolysis. Meanwhile, additional H radicals can therefore be generated for this “self-gasification” of sample by H_2O
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31 as moisture.⁹ Subsequently thermal cracking of volatiles under self-gasification condition and hydrogenation of Char-N by H
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33 radicals can be enhanced. This is labeled as the promotion effect. Therefore, it can be inferred that inhibition effect is more
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35 prevailing when sample varies from a dry state to a low wet state for both TSW and MFW, leading to the decrease on both NH_3
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37 and HCN. However, no drop for CHR is probably due to that promotion effect is always stronger than inhibition effect by the
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39 interaction between high ash content and moisture under a self-gasification condition.⁴² Meanwhile, the rise of Y_{total} for a wet
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41 sample with the increase of moisture content in Fig. 7B is attributed that the more dominant promotion effect results in the
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43 increase of HCN (thermal cracking of volatiles) and NH_3 (hydrogenation of Char-N), respectively. In addition, hydrogenation of
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45 Char-N seems more intensive than thermal cracking of volatiles. Thus, the drops on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ are observed in Fig. 7A. And the
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47 hydrolysis of HCN into NH_3 may also contribute to this phenomenon.
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3 3.3.3. *Effect of fuel components.* As discussed above, characteristics of NO_x precursors affected by both pyrolysis conditions and
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5 some physicochemical properties have much in common, there are still some distinctions on that for each IBW with different
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7 amide-N type and particular fuel components. Based on Ar atmosphere, particle size of 0~300 μm and moisture content of 0 %,
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9 Changes of $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} during rapid pyrolysis of three lignocellulosic IBWs were compared. Meanwhile, yields of
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11 Char-N and Tar-N with the pyrolysis temperature were also presented (See Fig. 8).
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16 Effects of pyrolysis temperature on both $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} can correspond to the phenomenon and explanation presented in
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18 Section 3.2.2. Making a comparison of three lignocellulosic IBWs, $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ has a constant sequence of TSW > CHR > MFW
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20 at all temperature range (See Fig. 8A). As for Y_{total} , it is produced with sequence of MFW > CHR > TSW at low temperatures (<
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22 500°C) while independent of fuel types at high temperatures (> 500°C) (See Fig. 8B). The observations can be explained by the
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24 difference of fuel's components among three lignocellulosic IBWs (referring to thermal stability of amide-N type, ash content,
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26 nitrogen content), and the detailed explanations are given as follows.
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31 At low temperatures, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ mainly contributes to Y_{total} because $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ is produced at a small amount with minor fluctuation. It
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33 is demonstrated above that the thermal stability of relevant amide-N types is sequenced as: caffeine > protein > polyamide. The
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35 highest $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ for MFW is due to the direct decomposition of polyamide at low temperatures. Meanwhile, the highest Tar-N yield
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37 and the lowest Char-N yield are also observed (See Fig. 8C). It was reported that the maximum emission of NH₃ occurred around
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39 300°C as well as most of HNCO emitted between 250 and 400°C during UF resin pyrolysis³¹, corresponding to the higher $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$
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41 at 300 °C. This can also explain the mild drop on Y_{total} from 300 to 400 °C. Besides, caffeine (more stable) in TSW will be directly
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43 released into tar phase without decomposition at low temperatures³⁸, resulting in a higher ratio of Tar-N/Char-N compared with
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45 CHR (See Fig. 8C). Subsequently, a lower $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ for TSW is ascribed to the direct decomposition of less amide-N. And the lower
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47 nitrogen content in TSW may also contribute to this observation.¹⁹ Hence, $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ with sequence of MFW > CHR > TSW results in
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49 the changes of both $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} at low temperatures.
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56 On one hand, thermal degradation of herbaceous IBWs have a wider temperature range than that of woody IBW, which causes
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stronger secondary reactions at high temperatures. As a result, more intense thermal cracking of amine-N will form more HCN. Compared with CHR, TSW contains more Tar-N that has a larger drop at high temperatures (See Fig. 8C). This is probably attributed to the cracking of abundant caffeine remained in tar³⁸. The ring-opening of this structure can cause a more dramatic increase on $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$. For instance, $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ reaches up a high level even more than $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ for TSW between about 860-900 °C (See Fig 4C). Hence, $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ is observed with sequence of TSW > CHR > MFW at high temperatures. On the other hand, NH_3 mainly originates from hydrogenation reactions activated by H radicals besides direct decomposition of Fuel-N at high temperatures. The highest $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ for MFW may be attributed to the major accumulation effect caused by the easier cracking of polyamide³¹ as well as the minor hydrogenation effect related to the presence of possible N-sites. As for herbaceous IBWs, ash components are important factors for the formation of NO_x precursors during rapid pyrolysis.³⁷ Zhou et al²² proved that calcium and potassium could promote $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$. Differently, iron could promote $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ while suppress $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$. Thereby, CHR with higher amounts of ash and its components can result in a higher $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ than TSW. The bigger drop on Char-N for CHR at high temperatures can also support this view. Furthermore, it is more obvious that $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ is influenced by higher ash content in CHR under a gasification-similar or self-gasification condition^{40,42}, making the distinctive characteristics of NO_x precursors when discussing the influence of CO_2 atmosphere or moisture content above. To summarize, the opposite sequences of $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ for three lignocellulosic IBWs cause a constant sequence of $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and an almost equivalence of Y_{total} at high temperatures. Besides, it is interesting to note that $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ goes up with the increase of H/N ratio, which is consistent with the results in early studies.¹⁹⁻²¹

3.4. Formation Characteristics of NO_x Precursors during Pyrolysis of Lignocellulosic IBWs

Based on the above discussion, similarities and distinctions on the formation characteristics of NO_x precursors are summarized (See Fig. 9). The $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ value is less than 1 during three lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis under any pyrolysis conditions, demonstrating the dominance of NH_3 among NO_x precursors, which tightly depends on amide-N in fuels. Both pyrolysis conditions and physicochemical properties inevitably alter $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} in varying degrees by intrinsically influencing

1 either primary or secondary reactions. Joint effects of pyrolysis type and temperature on each NO_x precursor yield are classified:
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3 slow pyrolysis at $T_{low} \approx$ rapid pyrolysis at $T_{low} <$ slow pyrolysis at $T_{high} <$ rapid pyrolysis at T_{high} . Meanwhile, heating rate during
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5 slow pyrolysis has a minimal impact. As a consequence, at T_{high} with rapid pyrolysis, larger particle size (from 0~300 to 600~900
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7 μm) can strikingly decrease Y_{total} by 16~17 wt% as well as be more favourable for $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$. However, both pyrolysis atmosphere and
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9 moisture content behave limited effects. Also, some distinctions on the characteristics of NO_x precursors for each IBW are
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11 observed due to thermal stability of amide-N type and particular fuel components. Sequences in $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ of $\text{TSW} > \text{CHR} >$
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13 MFW at all temperature range and Y_{total} of $\text{MFW} > \text{CHR} > \text{TSW}$ at T_{low} during rapid pyrolysis are obtained. However, Y_{total} at T_{high}
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15 is observed at a range of 20~45 wt%, having no relationship with fuel types. The founding is in accordance with the previous
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17 results under similar pyrolysis conditions^{4,8,10}.
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26 4. CONCLUSIONS

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28 In order to acquire more information on the clean thermal reutilization of lignocellulosic IBWs, three typical types with high
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30 nitrogen content were introduced to investigate the formation of NO_x precursors during their pyrolysis. Similarities and
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32 distinctions on the characteristics of NH_3 and HCN were analyzed and compared. NH_3 was the more predominant NO_x precursor
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34 during lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis, depending on the overwhelming nitrogen functionality - amide-N. However, due to
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36 pyrolysis conditions as well as physicochemical properties, $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and Y_{total} could be changed by affecting intrinsic
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38 formation pathways. Both $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ had little changes with heating rate during slow pyrolysis, and mild equal variations
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40 for two pyrolysis types at low temperatures, while were greatly enhanced during rapid pyrolysis at high temperatures.
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42 Subsequently, under this situation, increase on particle size strikingly decreased Y_{total} by 16~17 wt% as well as favored $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$.
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44 However, effects of both pyrolysis atmosphere and moisture content were restricted. Moreover, different thermal stability of
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46 amide-N type and particular fuel components in these IBWs resulted in their distinctions on $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ of $\text{TSW} > \text{CHR} > \text{MFW}$
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48 at all temperature range and Y_{total} of $\text{MFW} > \text{CHR} > \text{TSW}$ at low temperatures. But then Y_{total} at high temperatures was observed at
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50 20~45 wt%, which is independent of fuel types. These observations could be helpful for the control of NO_x precursors formation
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1 in thermal reutilization of lignocellulosic IBWs.
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13 **Notes**
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16 The authors declare no competing financial interest.
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33 **ABBREVIATIONS**
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36 IBWs = industrial biomass wastes; MFW = medium-density fiberboard waste; CHR = Chinese herb residue; TSW = tea stalk
37 waste; $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ = $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ yield; $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ = HCN-N yield; Y_{total} = total yield of HCN-N and $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$; $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ = ratio of HCN-N and
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13 14 15 16 **Table captions**

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54 **Figure 9.** Formation characteristics of NO_x precursors during lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis

Table 1

Properties of lignocellulosic IBWs in this work

Samples	Proximate analysis (wt%, db)			Ultimate analysis (wt%, daf)					N-component content analysis (% , db) ^b				
	V	FC	A	C	H	S	N	O ^a	N _{fuel}	N _{protein}	N _{polyamide}	N _{cafféine}	N _{others}
MFW	81.50	17.98	0.52	46.49	6.14	0.00	3.24	44.13	3.11	0.12	2.99	/	/
CHR	67.71	15.63	16.66	51.14	6.80	0.18	3.37	38.51	2.50	2.42	/	/	0.08
TSW	73.71	22.06	4.23	50.41	6.58	0.07	1.94	41.00	2.00	1.62	/	0.23	0.15

Ash analysis (%) ^c											
Samples	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	MgO	Na ₂ O	Fe ₂ O ₃	P ₂ O ₅	CaO	K ₂ O	TiO ₂	ZnO	SrO
CHR	21.98	7.92	7.66	0.40	4.82	4.56	20.78	7.64	0.44	0.09	0.08
TSW	0.50	1.50	5.97	0.30	0.25	16.86	8.61	31.20	0.11	0.07	0.03

^a by difference; ^b based on weight of nitrogen; ^c expressed as form of metal oxide.**Table 2**

Operational conditions chosen for experiments

Conditions	Unit	Value range
pyrolysis type	°C·min ⁻¹	slow pyrolysis: 15, 30, 80; rapid pyrolysis: ~10 ³
pyrolysis temperature	°C	from 300 to 900 with an interval of 100
pyrolysis atmosphere	/	Ar, N ₂ , CO ₂
particle size	µm	0~300, 300~600, 600~900
moisture content	%	0, 5, 10, 15, 20

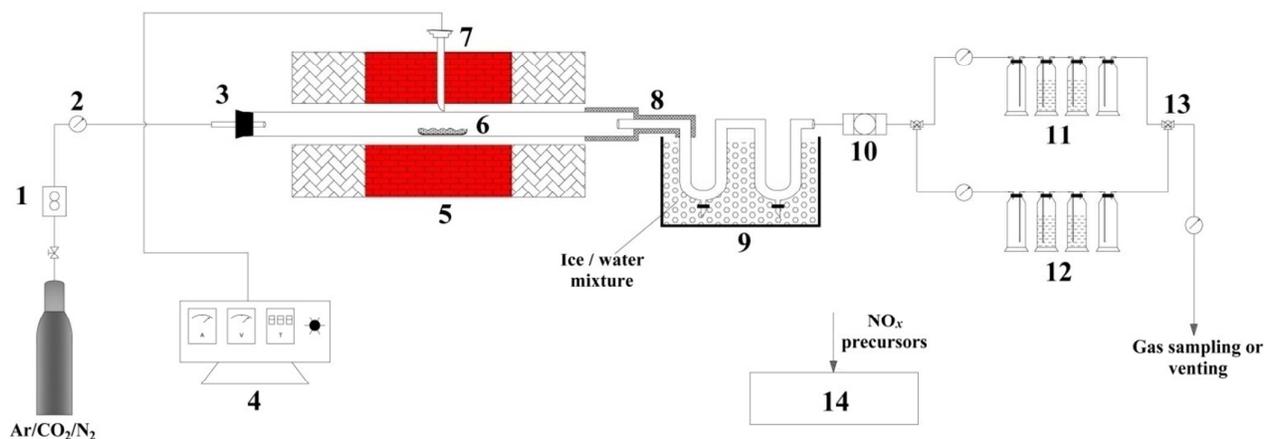


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental system: 1-mass flow meter, 2-volumetric gas meter, 3-rubber plug, 4-temperature controller, 5-horizontal tubular quartz reactor, 6-ceramic boat, 7-thermocouple, 8-electrical heating belt, 9-tar trap, 10-cotton filter, 11-HCN absorber, 12-NH₃ absorber, 13-three-way control valve, 14-spectrophotometry

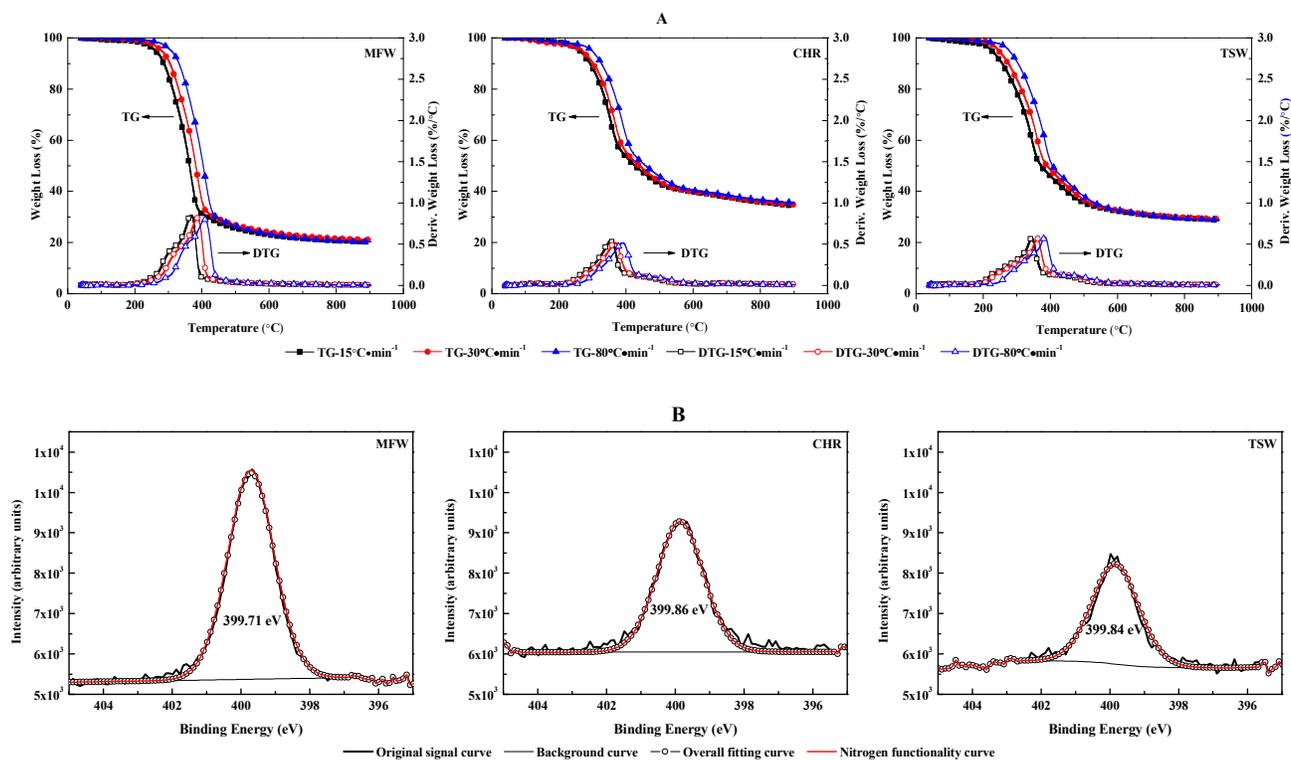


Fig. 2. TG/DTG and XPS analyses of three samples: A-TG/DTG profiles with different heating rate, B-N 1s XPS spectra.

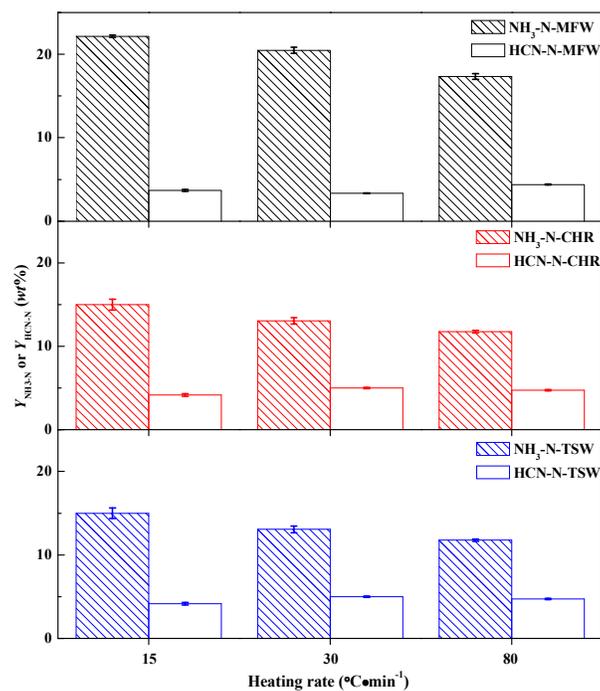


Fig. 3. $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ vs. heating rate during slow pyrolysis of three samples

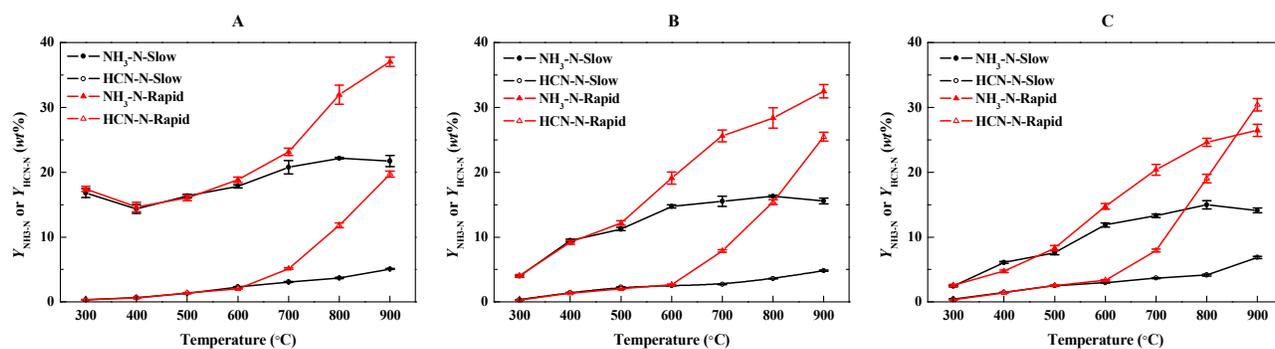


Fig. 4. $Y_{\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$ and $Y_{\text{HCN-N}}$ at different final temperature during slow ($15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) and rapid pyrolysis of three samples: A-MFW, B-CHR, C-TSW.

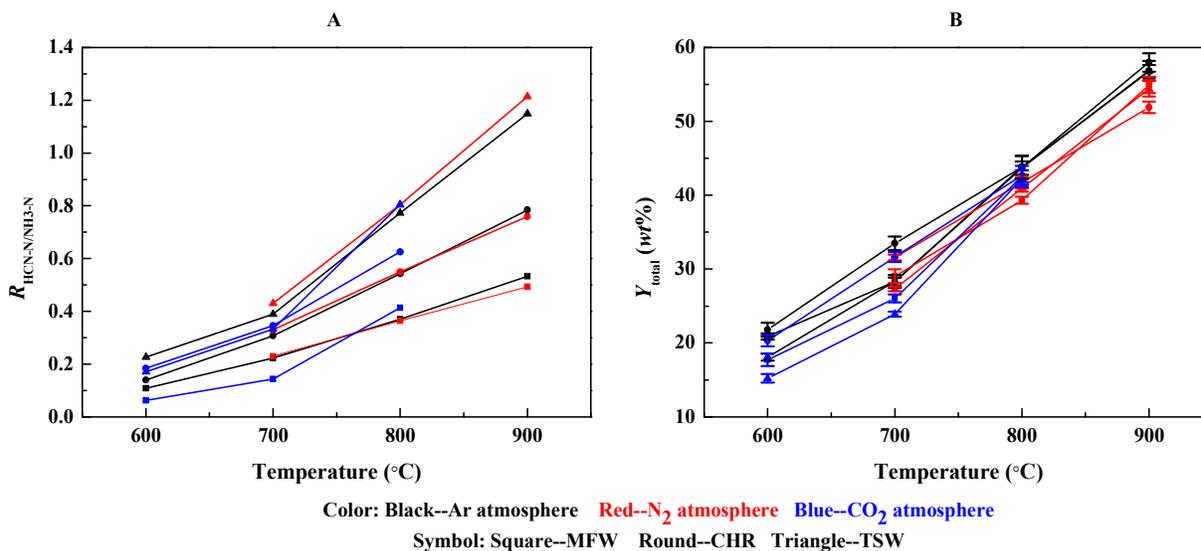


Fig. 5. Effect of different atmosphere on the characteristics of NO_x precursors during rapid pyrolysis: A- $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$, B- Y_{total} .

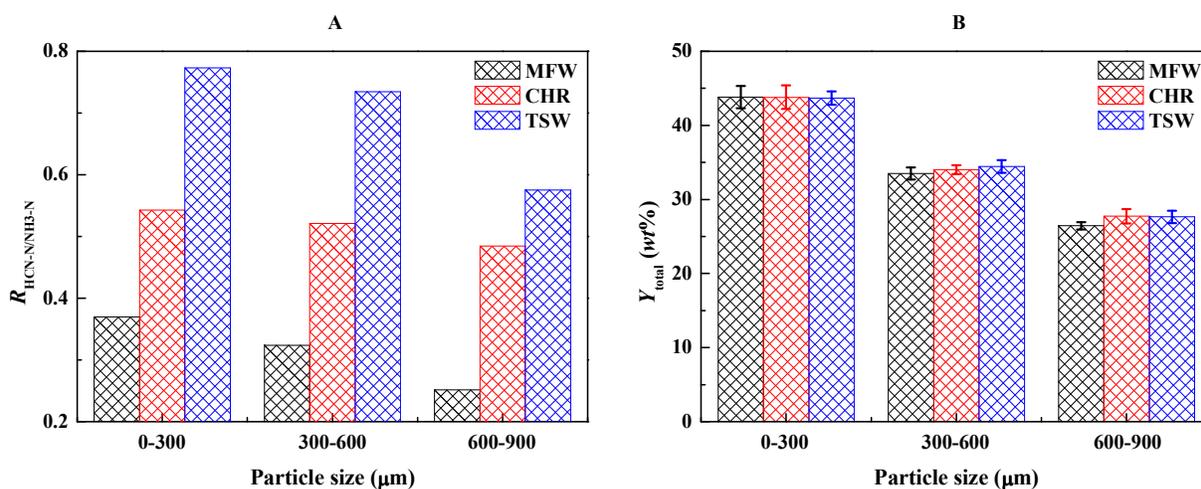


Fig. 6. Effect of particle size on the characteristics of NO_x precursors during rapid pyrolysis: A- $R_{\text{HCN-N/NH}_3\text{-N}}$, B- Y_{total} .

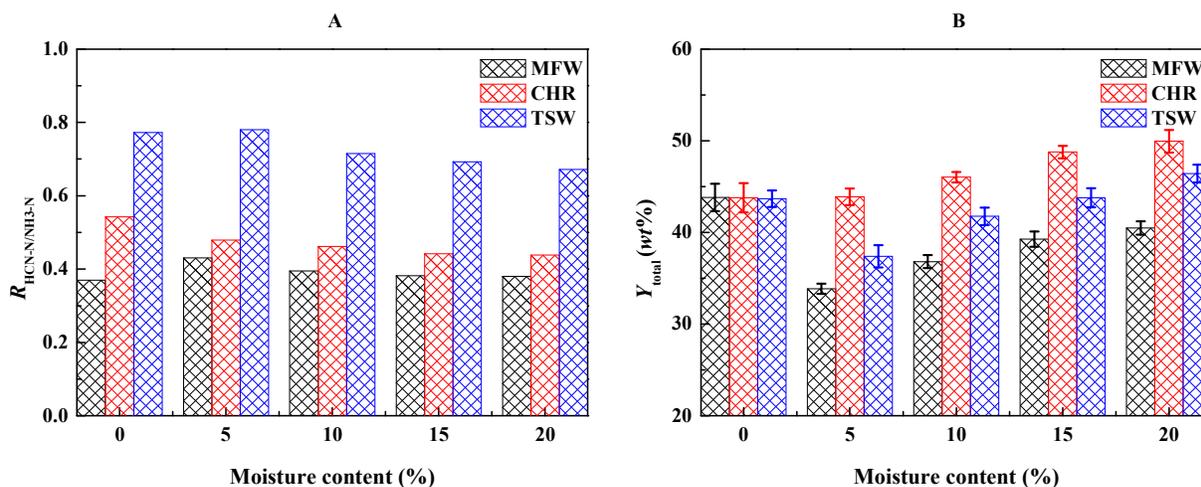


Fig. 7. Effect of moisture content on the characteristics of NO_x precursors during rapid pyrolysis: A- $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$, B- Y_{total} .

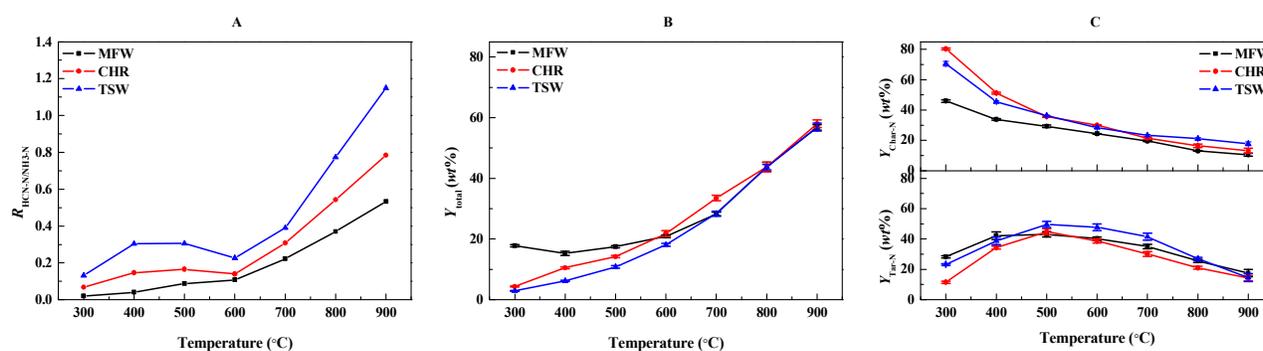


Fig. 8. Characteristics of NO_x precursors (A- $R_{\text{HCN-N}/\text{NH}_3\text{-N}}$, B- Y_{total}) and Char-N/Tar-N yield (C) vs. the temperature during rapid pyrolysis of three lignocellulosic IBWs.

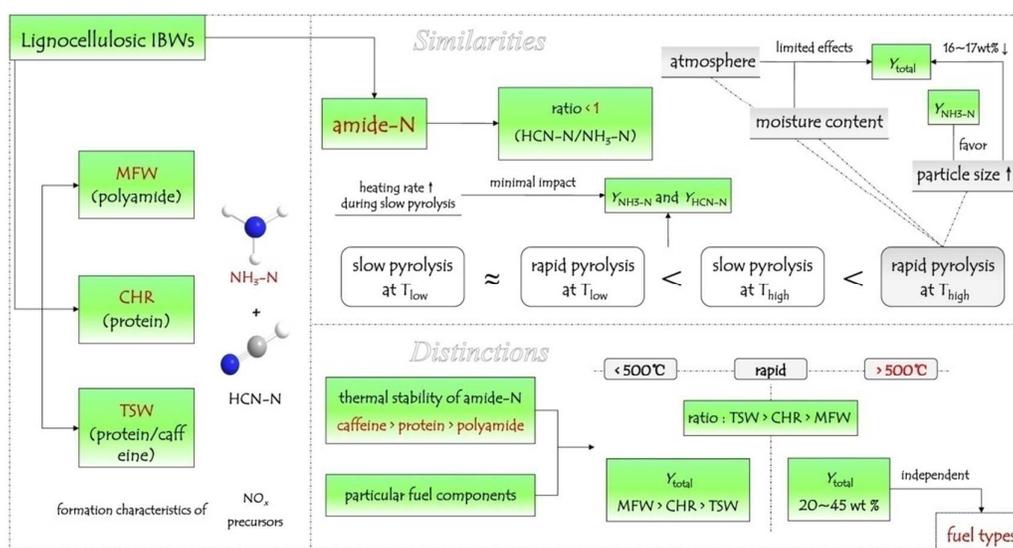


Fig. 9. Formation characteristics of NO_x precursors during lignocellulosic IBWs pyrolysis