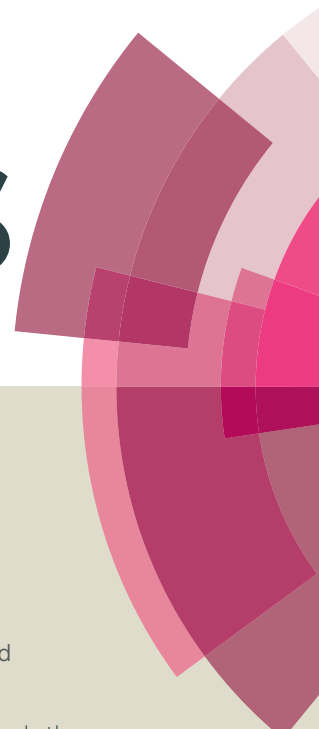


RSC Advances



This article can be cited before page numbers have been issued, to do this please use: P. H. Hoang and B. Nguyen Xuan, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, DOI: 10.1039/C5RA16922D.



This is an *Accepted Manuscript*, which has been through the Royal Society of Chemistry peer review process and has been accepted for publication.

Accepted Manuscripts are published online shortly after acceptance, before technical editing, formatting and proof reading. Using this free service, authors can make their results available to the community, in citable form, before we publish the edited article. This *Accepted Manuscript* will be replaced by the edited, formatted and paginated article as soon as this is available.

You can find more information about *Accepted Manuscripts* in the [Information for Authors](#).

Please note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the text and/or graphics, which may alter content. The journal's standard [Terms & Conditions](#) and the [Ethical guidelines](#) still apply. In no event shall the Royal Society of Chemistry be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this *Accepted Manuscript* or any consequences arising from the use of any information it contains.

Selective Isomerization of Epoxides Using of Magnetically Recyclable ZSM-5 Zeolite Catalyst

Phan Huy Hoang^{*,1} and Nguyen Xuan Bach²

¹ School of Chemical Engineering, Hanoi University of Science & Technology, No.1 Dai Co Viet Street, Hanoi, Vietnam.

² Hanoi Pedagogical University 2, Nguyen Van Linh Street, Phuc Yen District, Vinh Phuc Province, Vietnam.

Corresponding E-mail: hoang.phanhuy@hust.edu.vn

Acknowledgement: This research is funded by Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) under grant number "104.01-2013.02"

Abstracts:

The application of magnetically recyclable ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) for epoxide isomerization reaction was presented. This catalyst exhibited the high catalytic efficiency for liquid phase rearrangement of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide, as well as high efficiency in separation, recycling with long lifetime and no significant loss of catalytic activity. The influences of reaction conditions such as solvent, reaction time, catalyst loading and temperature on efficiency of epoxide isomerization were also investigated. Moreover, it was noticeable that for the epoxides investigated the high catalytic activity observed over MZZ catalyst (conversion over 98% after 2hrs reaction for both of two epoxides) was accompanied by the achievement of high selectivities, typically 79% and 82% for 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide respectively, towards desired products with commercial applications.

Introduction

Epoxides are very important and versatile intermediates in organic synthesis since they can be readily transformed into a wide range of organic compounds [1,2]. Isomerization of epoxides over acid catalysts is an important process to yield carbonyl compounds and its halogenated derivatives [3], which are valuable compounds or intermediates used for production of fragrances, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. Several catalytic systems have been developed for the isomerization of epoxides to carbonyl compounds [4-8]. Acid-catalyzed epoxide rearrangement reaction usually leads to ketones and aldehydes, whereas the base-catalyzed reaction forms allylic alcohols as main products

[9]. Using of homogeneous catalysis presents numerous drawbacks such as loss of the catalyst, corrosivity, toxicity and generation of contaminated streams in most cases. Thus many efforts have been conducted to find out heterogeneous catalysts to solve these problems. For this reason heterogeneous catalysts such as alkaline earth metal sulfonates, mixed-metal oxides, silica–alumina gels, natural silicates, Nafion-H and zeolites have been tested for isomerization of epoxide [10-14]. Nevertheless, the competitive aldol condensation or polymerization of aldehydes and rapid deactivation of catalysts by aggregation or coke formation are still difficult problems at the industrial scale [3,9,15]. The use of conventional catalysts often results in the formation of aldol condensation products and mixtures of ketones and aldehydes as by-products. The numerous molecules formed by aldol condensation are the first step in the formation of coke thus limiting the lifetime of catalysts.

The use of zeolitic catalysts for the isomerization of epoxide showed main advantage due to their well defined pore system compared with homogeneous systems or other heterogeneous catalysts such as metal oxides, silica–alumina gels or metal sulfates [16,17]. Indeed, zeolite materials in their proton form have been found to catalyze this type of reactions [16,18]. Moreover, the well defined pore system of zeolites may suppress the side reactions mentioned above [9,19]. Hence, high selectivities to aldehydes could be achieved in the isomerization of styrene oxide and derivatives over various acid zeolites. Besides, the practical application of catalysts in liquid phase reactions is hindered by both high costs and difficulties in catalyst separation and recycling. Many different approaches have been suggested to solve the difficulties in catalyst separation, such as filtration, polymeric supports and other new separation techniques [20-22]. Each separation method has its own limitations of cost, efficiency or generation of secondary waste. Magnetic separation has emerged as a robust, highly efficient and rapid catalyst separation tool as it provides a convenient method for removing and recycling magnetized species by applying an appropriate magnetic field

[20,21,23]. This approach may prevent the agglomeration of the catalyst particles during recovery and can increase the durability of the catalysts [24].

We were, therefore, motivated that magnetically recyclable ZSM-5 zeolite that was synthesized by deposition of ZSM-5 zeolite on the surface of silica-coated magnetite particles, could be applied for isomerization of epoxide to overcome the aboved mentioned problems. These magnetic zeolite particles could take fully the advantages that are offered by both magnetic separation and zeolite catalyst. Herein, we report the application of magnetically recyclable ZSM-5 zeolite for epoxide rearrangement reaction for improve the efficiency of synthesis process in separation, recycling, lifetime and catalytic activity of catalyst.

Materials and Methods

Synthesis of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite particles

Core/shell-structured magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) was obtained by following reported method that was developed by our own group [20]. The uniform magnetite (Fe_3O_4) particles were synthesized by a coprecipitation method by using $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ as precursors. These Fe_3O_4 particles were then used as core for fabrication of silica coated magnetite beads ($\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{SiO}_2$). Magnetite particles were added to a solution containing 50 mL of ethanol, 5 mL of distilled water, and 2 g of aqueous ammonia at room temperature and the resulting solution was vigorously stirred for 30 min. Tetraethoxysilane (TEOS, 0.4 mL) was then rapidly added and the solution aged at room temperature for 12 h. Then the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{SiO}_2$ nanoparticles were magnetically separated, washed and then dried. The silica coated magnetite particles were then introduced to ZSM-5 synthetic solution for hydrothermal synthesis at 150 °C in 20h to obtain core - shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) catalyst. The synthetic zeolite solution was obtained after aging for 12 h by stirring at room temperature, with a mole ratio of the composition of $\text{TEOS}/\text{TPAOH}/\text{NaAlO}_2/\text{KOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O} = 8:1.05:0.1:0.85:64.500$.

Epoxide rearrangement reaction

To examine the catalytic efficiency as well as the separation and recycle of the magnetic zeolite particles, the catalytic rearrangements of epoxide were performed. All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere in a 100 ml two necked round bottomed flask equipped with a water condenser and a magnetic stirrer. The solvent and the catalyst were initially placed in the flask. In a typical experiment, epoxide (1 g) was directly added to a mixture of magnetic zeolite catalyst and solvent (10 ml) and the mixture was stirred for the appropriate reaction time. The employed catalyst loading was 5% w/w over reactant (1 g of epoxide and 50 mg of catalyst). When the reaction was complete, the catalyst was separated by external magnetic field and washed several times, then the solvent was removed to get the products [4].

Characterization

X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed on a Rigaku D/max IIIc (3 kW) with a θ/θ goniometer equipped using a Cu-K α radiation generator. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was performed using a JEM 2100F, JEOL, Japan, operating at 200 kV. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was performed using a JSM-7000F, JEOL, Japan. Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) analysis was used to determine the surface areas of the samples. The Si/Al ratio of the samples was determined by induced coupled plasma-atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES) with a Varian VISTA-AX equipment. Temperature programmed desorption of ammonia (NH₃-TPD) was performed on a conventional apparatus equipped with a thermal conductivity detector to determine the acidic properties of the catalysts. The sample was pretreated at 500 °C for 2 h with a N₂ flow and then cooled down to ambient temperature. NH₃ was supplied to the system followed by flushing with N₂ at 150 °C for 1 h. The TPD profile was obtained by heating the sample from 150 to 500 °C at a rate of

15 °C/min. The NH₃ desorbing between 150 and 500 °C was trapped in boric acid and then titrated with a standard H₂SO₄ solution [3,15]. According to the individual peak area, the amount of NH₃ can be calculated and then converted into the acid concentrations with the assumption of one NH₃ molecule per acid site.

The structures of products obtained from the rearrangement reactions were confirmed by their ¹H- NMR spectra. The yield of the aldehyde product was also determined by ¹H- NMR with trimethylphenylsilane (PhSiMe₃) as internal standard, which was added after the synthetic work-up just prior to the NMR analysis. The ¹H NMR spectra were performed in CDCl₃ on a Bruker DMX600 spectrometer with a 7788 Hz spectral width, a relaxation delay of 1.0 s, and a pulse width of 30°. The catalyst reaction products were also analyzed with a VARIAN 3800 gas chromatograph equipped with a capillary column (HP-FFAP) with dimensions 60m×0.32mm, using a flame ionization detector (FID). Identification of the different reaction products was performed by mass spectrometry (VARIAN SATURN 2000) using standard compounds.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) particles

Core/shell-structured magnetically recyclable ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) was obtained by following reported method that was developed by our own group [20]. The MZZ particles were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and shown in Figure 1. Figure 1A showed XRD patterns of the as-synthesized MZZ particles. Two sets of diffraction peaks appeared in their XRD patterns, one set of peaks was consistent with the magnetite Fe₃O₄ crystals (JCPDS card No. 19-0629), while the other set of peaks matched well with ZSM-5 zeolite (JCPDS card No. 44-0002) [20]. This result indicated that core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) particles have been successfully prepared. The TEM images (Fig. 1B,C) showed that the as-obtained

magnetic zeolite particles were homogeneous in size and morphology with an average diameter of about 300 nm, and each particle just contains one single Fe_3O_4 core.

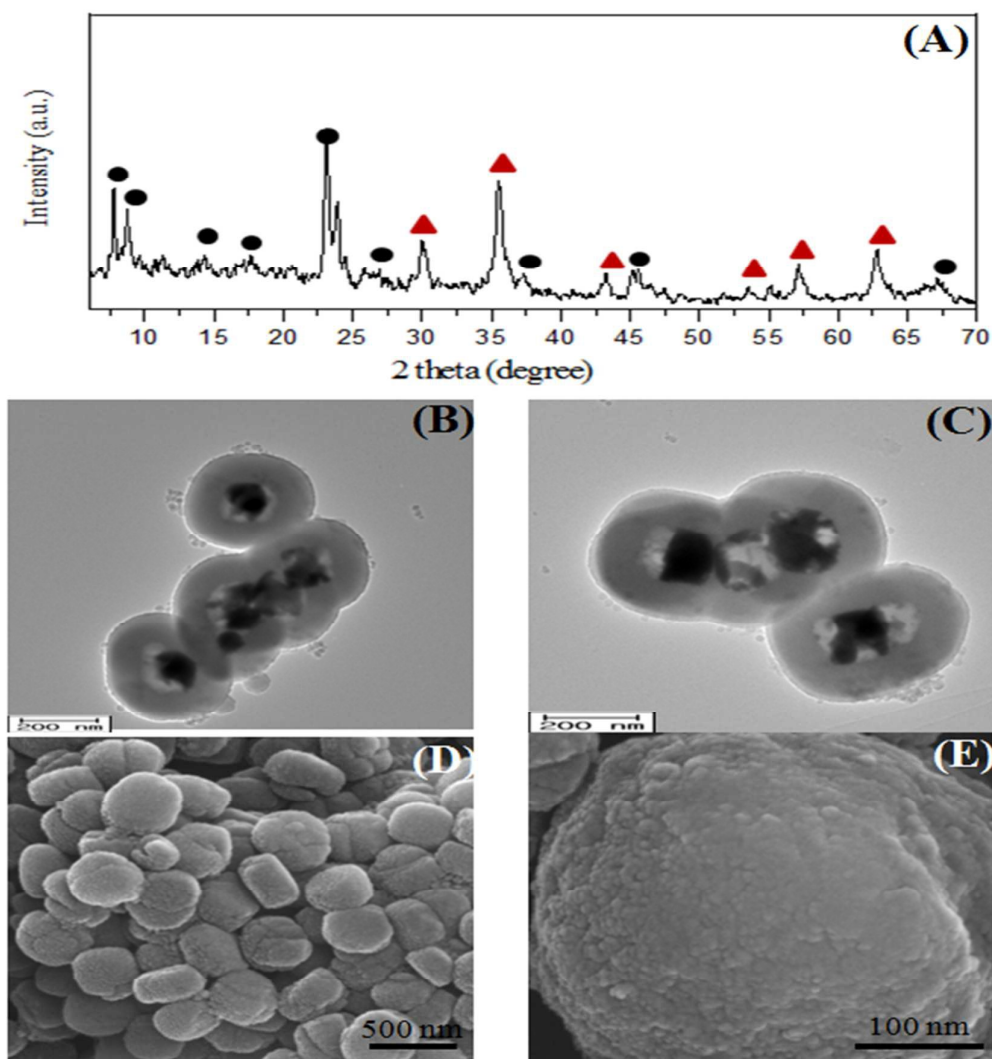


Figure 1. XRD patterns (A) of as-prepared magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) particles (The red marks (▲) are assigned to standard patterns of magnetite and the black marks (●) are assigned to standard patterns of ZSM-5 zeolite), TEM images (A,B) and SEM images (C,D) of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) particles.

The chemical composition and some textural properties of the catalysts are shown in Table 1. The BET surface area and external surface area of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite were calculated to be 428.2 and 86.8 m^2/g , respectively. These results suggest that these MZZ particles had high surface area, and was higher than conventional ZSM-5 zeolite. It could be

explained that the as-obtained MZZ particles after coating of zeolite layer on Fe₃O₄/SiO₂ core had the rough surfaces (see Figure 1D,E), presumably due to the random growth of the ZSM-5 zeolite particles [20]. These rough surfaces could provide high surface area and large external surface areas for the adsorption of guest species. Moreover, core-shell structure with void space generated from shrinkage of silica coated magnetite core also could be attributed to contribute to the high surface area of MZZ particles.

Table 1. Chemical composition and textural properties of MZZ catalyst

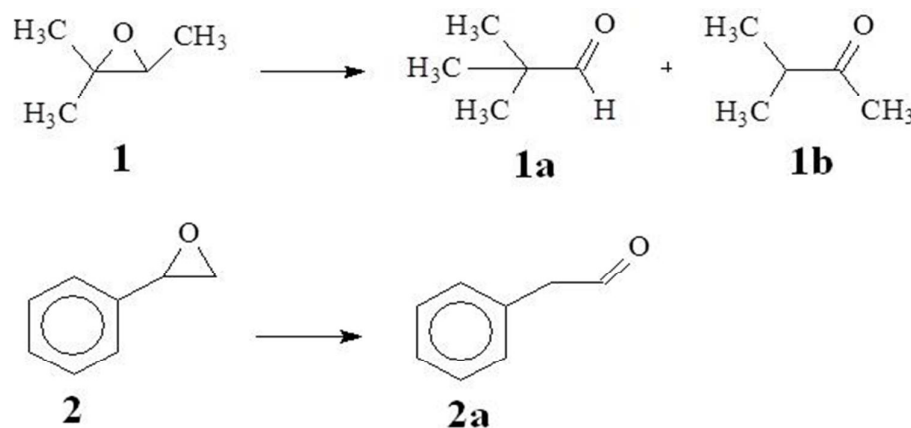
Catalyst	Si/Al, (mol/mol)	Pore diameter, Å	S _{BET} , m ² /g	S _{EXT} , m ² /g	V _{pore} , cm ³ /g	Acidity (mmol/g)
Magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite	86	5.5	428.2	86.8	0.219	0.48

As also seen in Table 1, MZZ samples possessed Si/Al molar ratios slightly higher than that corresponding to the synthesis gels (Si/Al = 86). The acidity of MZZ sample has been investigated by NH₃-TPD measurement. The total amount of ammonia desorbed (mmol/g) may be related to the number of acid sites. It's seen that the acidity of MZZ was relatively high with acid concentration of 0.48 mmol/g, and comparable to the results reported in the literature [3,15, 26]. It is well known that zeolites have been widely used in ion exchange, adsorbents, separation and catalysis for organic synthesis. The magnetic separation has emerged as a robust, highly efficient separation tool with many advantages. It provides a convenient method for removing and recycling by applying an appropriate magnetic field [20,24]. Thus in this current work, we applied as-synthesized MZZ catalyst for liquid phase epoxide isomerization reaction to exploit the advantages of these particles for the organic synthesis.

Catalytic and recycle efficiency of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite

Isomerization of epoxides over acid catalysts is an important process to yield carbonyl compounds and its halogenated derivatives [3], which are valuable compounds or

intermediates used for the preparation of perfumes, synthetic food flavourings and pharmaceuticals. However, the competitive aldol condensation or polymerization of aldehydes and rapid deactivation of catalysts by coke formation are still difficult problems at the industrial scale [3]. Thus core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst was applied for epoxide isomerization reaction in order to assess the advantages offered by both magnetic separation and zeolite catalyst. Two epoxides having different molecular geometry have been selected as model compounds: 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Catalytic rearrangement of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane (**1**) and styrene oxide (**2**)

It is known that the solvent plays an important and sometimes decisive role in the catalytic behavior of a catalyst [25]. In most of organic reactions, solvents must be added to dilute reactants in order to control the side reactions and prevent the catalyst deactivation. Therefore, first attempt we studied the effect of the solvent on epoxide isomerization by doing several isomerization reactions of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide with several solvents and under identical conditions. Table 2 showed the conversion results obtained using 0.05 g of MZZ, after various reaction time at 40°C. From the Table 2, it is evident the importance of the correct selection of solvents. The results indicated that the conversions of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide in presence of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst (MZZ) were different with different solvents used. The conversions were low

in methanol even after 4 hrs, presumably due to the weakening of the acidity of the zeolite catalytic sites by hydrogen bonding to methanol, hindering the participation of the proton in the solvolysis of the oxirane ring [4,25]. Moreover, the low selectivity towards aldehyde obtained might be related with the basic character of the methanol which could accelerate the formation of alcohol byproduct [9,25,26]. The conversion yield was high after just 1 hr in solvents of acetone and dichloromethane. It's observed that the higher solvent polarity the lower conversion of epoxide. This behavior may be explained by the decrease in the substrate concentration within the pores of the catalyst as the polar nature of the solvent increases [25]. Indeed, the higher the solvent polarity, the lower the concentration of the substrate in the vicinity of the active sites and the lower the epoxide conversion would be, as indicated by the experimental results. However, a low polar solvent such as toluene showed slow reaction with the lower epoxide conversion than acetone. This catalytic performance over magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite could be more related with intraparticle diffusion problems, arising from the limited pore size of the zeolitic material, than with the polarity effects [25].

The results also showed that the conversion obtained in the rearrangement of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane over MZZ catalyst was slight higher than that obtained using styrene oxide. It is well established that in addition to the different reactivity of the epoxide, the catalytic performance over MZZ catalyst is also related to the overall accessibility of the substrate to the active sites, which is influenced by the possible presence of both steric and intracrystalline diffusion problems. 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane molecule has a lower dimensions than that of styrene oxide as well as much lower than the diameter of the ZSM-5 zeolite micropores [26]. Hence, this molecule could enter more easily the zeolite micropores and thus gave higher reactivity than molecule of styrene oxide. As a result of above findings, acetone was used as the solvent for next studies.

Table 2. Effect of solvent on isomerization of epoxide using magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst ^a

Solvent	2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane isomerization			Styrene oxide isomerization	
	Reaction time, h	Conversion ^b , %	Selectivity ^c , %	Conversion, %	Selectivity, %
Methanol	1	34.7	40.4 (15.2) ^d	31.4	65.7
	2	50.2	40.9 (15.0)	46.8	66.1
	4	60.3	40.0 (15.8)	54.5	65.5
Dichloromethane	1	84.5	75.2 (14.0)	80.1	80.0
	2	95.8	74.8 (14.6)	91.7	79.1
	4	97.1	75.7 (14.1)	96.0	79.5
Acetone	1	86.3	77.8 (12.7)	84.6	82.8
	2	96.9	79.0 (12.0)	93.5	82.1
	4	~100	78.2 (12.1)	99.1	82.7
Toluene	1	48.7	58.1 (23.5)	40.2	88.7
	2	60.9	57.3 (23.9)	53.9	88.0
	4	72.4	58.0 (24.3)	63.8	88.2

^a Reactant (1 g) and MZZ catalyst (0.05 g) in 10 ml solvent at desired temperature under N₂ atmosphere.

^{b,c} Calculated from GC and ¹H NMR.

(^d) Selectivity of **1b**

As also seen in Table 2, the conversion yields of epoxide using magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst (MZZ) increased with the increase of reaction time. In particular, the conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane was 86.3% for reaction time of 1hr and nearly complete (~100%) for reaction time of 4 hrs in acetone solvent, with the selectivity of **1a** product (2,2-dimethylpropanal) was about 78.2% together with 12.1% second product **1b**, methylisopropylketone). While the conversion of styrene oxide was 84.6% for 1 hr reaction time and 99.1% for 4 hr reaction time in acetone solvent, with the selectivity of **2a** product (phenylacetaldehyde) was over 82%. These obtained conversions were high and comparable to the results reported in the literatures [3,4,26]. It is well-known that the acid catalytic epoxide isomerization includes of the initial attack step of the electrophilic reagent to the

oxirane ring, followed by the ring opening, resulting intermediate carbocations that subsequently could be transformed into aldehyde and/or ketone products [26]. The branch (2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane) and cyclic epoxide (styrene oxide) are both reactive epoxides that favours the initiation step of the isomerization reaction, and thus results the high conversion of reaction. Furthermore, core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite had a high surface area and high external surface area due to rough surface and core-shell structure. This high surface area could enhance accessibility of the epoxide molecules to the active sites of catalyst. And for the sterically hindered epoxides, the catalytic rearrangement could occur on the external surface of the zeolite [20,26]. Hence the high conversion of reactants could be achieved over core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite.

Several reactions were conducted using various amount of MZZ catalyst to investigate the influence of zeolite catalyst loading on isomerization of epoxides (Figure 2). It was found that increasing the catalyst loading from 0% to 5% w/w over reactant would increase the conversion of reactants (2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide). It is clear from the results that reaction carried out in absence of catalyst yielded a low conversion. These results showed that the contribution of the non-catalyzed reactions is negligible under the conditions used in these reactions (Fig. 2), similar to the previous reports [3,4,26]. Moreover in the absence of catalyst, the selectivity of **1a** and **1b** product was 48.8% and 42.3% respectively, while the selectivity of **2a** product was 79.1%. These results were lower than that obtained from reaction in the presence of catalyst. This indicated that the zeolite catalyst would favour the formation of aldehyde products [4,9,19]. The highest conversions of reaction were obtained at catalyst loading of 5%, for which the conversion was ~100% and 99.1% after 4hrs for 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide, respectively. At the amount of catalyst lower than 5% could still give good conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide, but the reactions were slower and longer reaction times were

required in order for them to go to completion. However, when increased the amount of catalyst from 5% to 7% w/w over reactant brought a decrease in the conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane as well as styrene oxide. The reduction in conversion may be due to increased formation of a polymeric material when increased catalyst loading [4]. A series of experiments was therefore conducted using a zeolite catalyst loading of 5% w/w over reactant (0.05 g for 1 g reactant) for further studies.

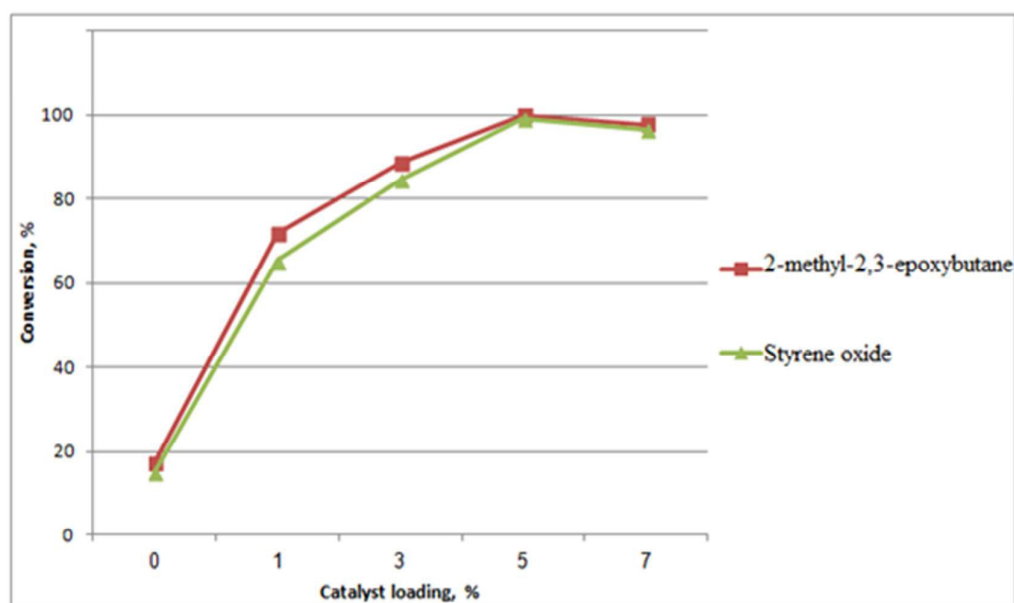


Figure 2. Effect of MZZ catalyst loading on isomerization of epoxide (Reaction conditions: reactant (1 g) in 10 ml acetone, at 40°C under N₂ atmosphere after 2hrs reaction).

Another study was carried out at different temperatures, the results were shown in Table 3. The obtained results denoted that the temperature influenced significantly on the epoxide isomerizations. It could be seen that conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide increased with the increase of temperature from 30 to 50°C. However, when temperature further increased to 60°C brought a decrease in the conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane as well as styrene oxide. This behavior could be explained that the temperature of reaction was higher than boiling point of solvent thus the evaporation of solvent could be occurred during reaction resulting in the loss of solvent and decreasing the conversion. Hence

the suitable temperature for epoxide isomerization was chosen as 50°C, and this temperature was used for next experiments.

Table 3. Effect of temperature on isomerization of epoxide using magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst ^a

Temperature, °C	Conversion ^b , %	
	2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane	Styrene oxide
30	83.8	81.4
40	96.9	93.5
50	99.4	98.6
60	98.1	97.3

^a Reactant (1 g) and MZZ catalyst (0.05 g) in 10 ml acetone under N₂ atmosphere after 2hrs reaction.

^b Calculated from GC and ¹H NMR.

In heterogeneous catalysis, the stability of the catalyst is an important issue from the viewpoint of a green sustainable protocol. Therefore, the recycle efficiency and stability of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite was tested by recycling and reusing the catalyst seven times (Figure 3). In typical, samples of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite particles were recovered from the reactions by using external magnetic field, then were regenerated by calcination at 550°C and reused in isomerization reactions identical to those from which the samples were recovered. The obtained results were recorded in Table 4. It was seen that the magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite catalyst could be recycled and reused efficiently for several times with only modest reduction in the conversion of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane as well as styrene oxide. It indicated that the magnetic zeolite had long durability and was more resilient to catalytic deactivation. It could be assumed that the easy removing and recycling of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) by applying an appropriate external magnetic field would prevent the agglomeration of the catalyst particles hence may increase the durability of the zeolite catalysts with no significant loss of catalytic activity [20,24]. Moreover, the high surface area as well as high external surface area of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite could enhance

accessibility of the epoxide molecules to the active sites and enhance the diffusion and transfer of products out of catalyst pore. This could reduce the formation of coke in catalyst pore and/or surface that may limit the lifetime of catalyst and thus increase the durability of catalyst.

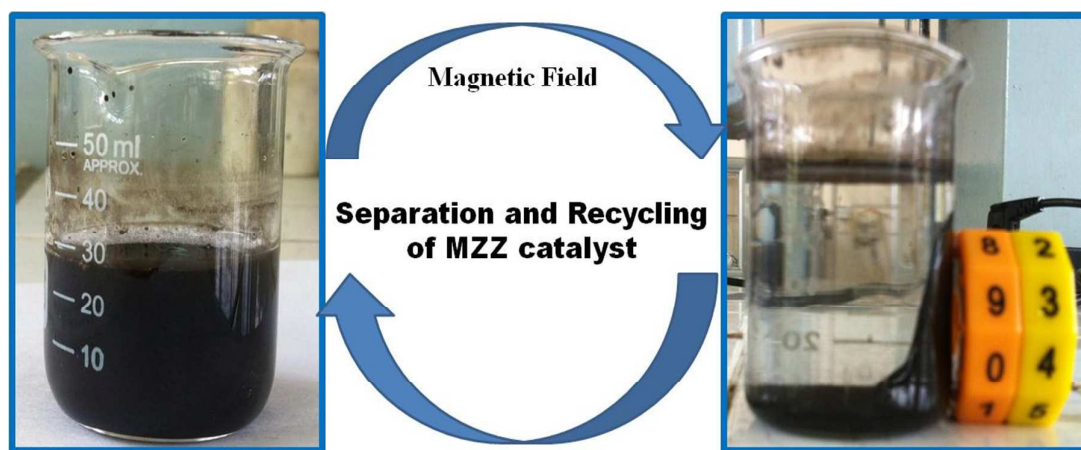


Figure 3. Separation and reuse of magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite for isomerization of epoxide

Table 4. Separation and re-use of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) catalyst in the isomerization of epoxide according to Scheme 1^a

Recycles number (run)	Conversion (%) ^b	
	2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane	Styrene oxide
1	99.4	98.6
2	96.8	94.3
3	93.6	93.1
4	92.0	92.8
5	91.2	91.0
6	89.5	88.7
7	88.1	86.2

^a Reactants (1 g) and MZZ catalyst (0.05 g) in acetone (10 ml) at 50°C temperature under N₂ for 2hrs.

^b Calculated from ¹H NMR.

Furthermore, it is to be noted here that, homogeneity of core-shell catalyst particles were maintain in the samples and etching of the sacrificial SiO₂ layer for resulting the voids did not continue even after several times of catalyst recycling. The shell layer of MZZ particles after several reaction cycles did not change, and small zeolite particles could not be

detected in the reaction solution. The isomerization of 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide over pristine zeolite ZSM-5, which was obtained from similar molar ratio composition of zeolite synthetic gel with MZZ particles were investigated. Under similar reaction condition, isomerization over pristine zeolite ZSM-5 resulted in conversion of 95.6% and 93.8% for 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide, respectively. These conversion values were slightly lower than conversion values obtained from MZZ catalyst (99.4% and 98.6% for 2-methyl-2,3-epoxybutane and styrene oxide, respectively). This behavior could be attributed to the slightly higher surface area as well as higher external surface area of MZZ particles than pristine ZSM-5. This result indicated that magnetite core was well insulated from the shell layer of zeolite and did not affect the catalytic reaction. These observations strongly suggest that the reaction proceeds heterogeneously over the catalyst.

Conclusion

The catalytic activities and recycle efficiency of core-shell magnetic ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) was investigated. The catalytic performance of MZZ in epoxide isomerization showed that this catalyst presented a high catalytic efficiency with both high epoxide conversions and high selectivity towards the desired products. Being magnetically separable, these MZZ catalyst particles were conveniently separated, easily regenerated by heating and reused up to seven times with no significant loss of catalytic activity. This core-shell magnetically recyclable catalyst is a promising candidate for other important organic conversions and industrial catalytic applications.

References

- [1] E. N. Jacobsen and M. H. Wu, In *Comprehensive Asymmetric Catalysis II*, Jacobsen, E. N.; Pfaltz, A.; Yamamoto, H., Eds.; Springer-Verlag: New York, 1999; Chapter 18, p. 649.
- [2] I. Karame', M. L. Tommasino and Marc Lemaire, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2003, 44, 7687–7689.

- [3] M. L. Gou, R. Wang, Q. Qiao and X. Yang, *Micropor. Mesopor. Mat.*, 2015, 206, 170–176.
- [4] K. Smith, G. A. El-Hiti and M. Al-Shamali, *Catal. Lett.*, 2006, 109, 77–82.
- [5] B. Rickborn and R.M. Gerkin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1968, 90, 4193.
- [6] G. Stork and J.W. Schulenberg, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1962, 84, 284.
- [7] M. Banerjee, U.K. Roy, P. Sinha and S. Roy, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 2005, 690, 1422.
- [8] A.M. Anderson, J.M. Blazek, P. Garg, B.J. Payne and R.S. Mohan, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2000, 41, 1527.
- [9] D. P. Serrano, R. van Grieken, J. A. Melero and A. García, *Appl. Catal. A: General*, 2004, 269, 137–146.
- [10] H. Kochkar, J.M. Clacens and F. Figueras, *Catal. Lett.*, 2002, 78, 91–94.
- [11] F. Zaccheria, R. Psaro, N. Ravasio, L. Sordelli and F. Santoro, *Catal. Lett.*, 2011, 141, 587–591.
- [12] G.K.S. Prakash, T. Mathew, S. Krishnaraj, E.R. Martinez and G.A. Olah, *Appl. Catal. A*, 1999, 181, 283–288.
- [13] M. Chamoumi, D. Brunel, P. Geneste, P. Moreau and J. Solofo, *Stud. Surf. Sci. Catal.*, 1991, 59, 573–579.
- [14] V.V. Costa, K.A. da Silva Rocha, I.V. Kozhevnikov and E.V. Gusevskaya, *Appl. Catal. A*, 2010, 383, 217–220.
- [15] M. L. Gou, R. Wang, Q. Qiao and X. Yang, *Catal. Commun.*, 2014, 56, 143–147.
- [16] R. van Grieken, D. P. Serrano, J. A. Melero and A. García, *J. Catal.*, 2005, 236, 122–128.
- [17] W.F. Hölderich and H. van Bakkum, *Stud. Surf. Sci. Catal.*, 2001, 137, 821.
- [18] W.F. Hölderich in: R. A. Sheldon, H. van Bakkum (Eds.), *Fine Chemicals through Heterogeneous Catalysis*, Wiley/VCH, Weinheim, 2001, p. 217.
- [19] R. Dimitrova, V. Minkov and N. Micheva, *Appl. Catal. A*, 1996, 145, 49.
- [20] P. H. Hoang and L. Q. Dien, *Chem. Eng. J.*, 2015, 262, 140–145.
- [21] L. M. Rossi, N. J. S. Costa, F. P. Silva and R. Wojcieszak, *Green Chem.*, 2014, 16, 2906–2933.
- [22] C. C. Tzschucke, C. Markert, W. Bannwarth, S. Roller, A. Hebel and R. Haag, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2002, 41, 3964–4000.

- [23] J. Svoboda, Magnetic methods for the treatment of minerals, Elsevier, 1987.
- [24] M. Shokouhimehr, Y. Piao, J. Kim, Y. Jang and T. Hyeon, *Angew. Chem.*, 2007, 119, 7169–7173.
- [25] R. van Grieken, D. P. Serrano, J. A. Melero and A. García, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem*, 2004, 222, 167-174.
- [26] D. P. Serrano, R. van Griekena, J. A. Melero, A. Garcí and C. Vargasa, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.*, 318 (2010) 68–74.

Highlight of the work

The magnetically recyclable ZSM-5 zeolite (MZZ) with high catalytic activity, high efficiency in separation, recycling and long lifetime for epoxide isomerization reaction was presented.

Graphic

