

## Surface Properties of Zirconium Oxide and Its Catalytic Activity for Isomerization of 1-Butene

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Received February 21, 1978; revised September 7, 1978

Acidic, basic, oxidizing, and reducing properties of  $ZrO_2$  were measured by the ir spectra of adsorbed pyridine, by  $CO_2$  adsorption or the ESR of diphenylnitroxide radical formed from diphenylamine and  $O_2$ , by the ESR of adsorbed triphenylamine, and by the ESR of adsorbed nitrobenzene, respectively. The variations of these properties with pretreatment temperature of  $ZrO_2$  were independent of each other. The maximum concentrations of these sites and the pretreatment temperatures at which the maxima were obtained were  $3.9 \times 10^{-8}$  mole/ $m^2$  and  $400^\circ C$  for acidic sites,  $1.7 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/ $m^2$  and  $700^\circ C$  for basic sites measured by diphenylamine,  $1.5 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/ $m^2$  and  $700^\circ C$  for oxidizing sites, and  $4.3 \times 10^{-8}$  mole/ $m^2$  and  $500^\circ C$  for reducing sites. Among these properties, it was the basic property with which the activity for isomerization of 1-butene correlated best. The activity was poisoned not only by  $CO_2$  but also by  $NH_3$  or triethylamine, indicating that the active sites consist of both basic and acidic sites. The results of the coisomerization of 1-butene- $d_0/d_8$  showed that the reaction involved primarily an intramolecular hydrogen transfer.

### INTRODUCTION

Zirconium oxide is known to exhibit characteristic catalytic behavior in dehydration, hydrogenation, and hydrogen exchange reactions. In the dehydration of 2-alkanols, thermodynamically unstable 1-olefins are selectively formed (1). In the exchange reaction of 2-propanol- $d_8$  with surface H atoms, a methyl D is exchanged on  $ZrO_2$  but not on the other oxides such as  $SiO_2-Al_2O_3$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ , or  $TiO_2$  (2). These characteristics were considered due to the acid-base bifunctional nature of  $ZrO_2$  surface. In the hydrogenation of 1,3-butadiene, 1,4-addition of H atoms was observed and the molecular identity of H atoms was maintained during the hydrogenation (3). However, the surface properties of  $ZrO_2$  have scarcely been studied. In this paper, acid-base and oxidizing-

reducing properties of  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at various temperatures were measured, and the nature of active sites for isomerization of 1-butene was discussed on the basis of the observed surface properties and the mechanistic study of the reaction.

### EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

#### *Catalysts and Reagents*

Zirconium hydroxide was prepared by hydrolysis of  $ZrOCl_2$  (Wako Pure Chemicals Ind.) with 28% aqueous ammonia. The precipitate was washed with deionized water until no chloride ions were detected with a silver nitrate test solution and was dried at  $100^\circ C$  for 24 hr. Zirconium oxide was obtained by calcining the hydroxide at various temperatures between 300 and  $900^\circ C$  in air for several hours. The oxide

was outgassed at the calcination temperatures for 2 hr before use.

Diphenylamine and triphenylamine were briefly degassed at room temperature before use. Pyridine and triethylamine were purified by repeating a freeze-thaw cycle several times followed by passage through a KOH column and 4A molecular sieves, respectively. All these reagents were purchased from Wako Pure Chemicals Ind. 1-Butene (99% purity) was distilled through 4A molecular sieves thermostated at dry ice-acetone temperature.

### *Measurements of Surface Properties*

*Acidity.* Acidity was measured by the ir spectra of adsorbed pyridine as follows. In order to determine the extinction coefficient of the adsorption band for each sample, a known amount of pyridine (ca.  $5 \times 10^{-9}$  mole) was adsorbed on a self-supported disk sample in an *in situ* cell. The extinction coefficients of the bands at 1605 and 1445  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were obtained from Beer's law.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, the sample was exposed to 10 Torr of pyridine vapor at 100°C for 30 min and then outgassed at 100°C for 30 to 40 min. In some experiments, pyridine was adsorbed at 200 or 300°C. The ir spectra were recorded at ambient beam temperature (ca. 47°C) with a JASCO DS701G infrared spectrophotometer.

*Basicity.* Amounts of basic sites were measured by two methods. One method involved adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$ . The pretreated sample (300 mg) was exposed to 20 Torr of  $\text{CO}_2$  at 100°C for 30 min and outgassed at this temperature for 30 min. The  $\text{CO}_2$  molecules retained on the surface were collected in a liquid  $\text{N}_2$  trap by heating the sample at 500°C for 30 min. The collected  $\text{CO}_2$  was expanded and its amount was volumetrically measured. In the other method, the diphenylnitroxide radicals formed from diphenylamine adsorbed on

<sup>1</sup>Only bands due to pyridine adsorbed on a Lewis acid site were observed.

basic sites in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$  were measured by ESR. A sufficient quantity of diphenylamine for covering one monolayer was adsorbed on the sample at 180°C for 20 hr in an all-glass ESR cell through a breakable seal. The adsorbed diphenylamine was converted to the diphenylnitroxide radical when  $\text{O}_2$  was admitted to the system. The number of spins was determined by comparing them with the intensity of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in CaO whose spin concentration had been calibrated by DPPH solution in benzene. The concentration of DPPH was determined by the uv spectroscopy, in which the extinction coefficient of  $1.45 \times 10^4$  at 530 nm was used (4).

*Oxidizing and reducing properties.* The number of oxidizing sites was determined by ESR measurement of triphenylamine cation radicals formed from triphenylamine in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ . The procedure was the same as in the case of the basicity measurement using diphenylamine.

The number of reducing sites was determined by ESR measurement of nitrobenzene anion radicals formed on the surface when nitrobenzene was adsorbed.

### *Surface Area*

Specific surface area was measured by the BET method using  $\text{N}_2$ .

### *Reaction Procedure*

Kinetic measurements of the isomerization of 1-butene were carried out in a closed recirculation reactor having a volume of ca. 290 ml. A 60-mg sample of catalyst was used and 100 Torr of 1-butene was reacted at 80 or 100°C. The reaction mixture was periodically withdrawn and analyzed by gas chromatography. Propylene carbonate (30%) on Uniport C was used for the packing in an 8-m chromatographic column of 4-mm-o.d. copper tubing.

In the poisoning experiments,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ , and triethylamine were used as poisons.

The catalyst was exposed to about 20 Torr of a poison at 100°C for 30 min. Then the poison was partly desorbed by outgassing at elevated temperatures for 30 to 40 min. The activity was measured as mentioned above.

For the coisomerization of nondeuterio and perdeuterio 1-butene (5), a micro-catalytic pulse reactor was employed. A mixture containing equal amounts of 1-butene- $d_0$  and - $d_8$  (17  $\mu$ mole) was passed over 60 mg of the catalyst in a He carrier whose flow rate was 133 ml/min. Products were first trapped in a liquid N<sub>2</sub> trap and flash evaporated into a gas chromatographic column. The separated isomers were collected in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and subjected to the mass spectrographic analysis.

The poisoning effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> in the coisomerization were examined for ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated at 500°C. For the experiments, 890 mg of the catalyst was used. Outgassing temperatures of the poisons were 230°C for CO<sub>2</sub> and 200°C for NH<sub>3</sub>. The flow rates of a He carrier were 159 ml/min for the CO<sub>2</sub>-poisoned experiment and 41 ml/min for the NH<sub>3</sub>-poisoned experiment.

## RESULTS

### Surface Area

Specific surface areas of ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated at different temperatures are given in Table 1. The surface areas decreased monotonously with the rise in pretreatment temperature.

### Acidic Property

Infrared spectra of pyridine adsorbed on ZrO<sub>2</sub> at different temperatures are shown in Fig. 1. Absorption bands at 1600, 1485, and 1440 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which are attributed to the pyridine coordinately bonded to Lewis acid sites, were observed when adsorbed at 100°C. However, when pyridine was adsorbed at 200 or 300°C, the absorption band at 1550 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is assigned

TABLE 1  
Specific Surface Areas of ZrO<sub>2</sub> Pretreated at Various Temperatures

Pretreatment temperature (°C)	Surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)
300	175.5
400	109.0
500	64.5
600	32.1
700	21.4
800	10.8
900	9.9

to the pyridinium ion, was observed in addition to the bands of coordinately adsorbed pyridine. This implies that the hydroxyl groups on ZrO<sub>2</sub> are too weak to act as Brønsted acid at 100°C but become active at 200 to 300°C.

The amount of pyridine irreversibly adsorbed at 100°C on a unit surface area basis is shown in Fig. 2 as a function of pretreatment temperature of ZrO<sub>2</sub>. The maximum value of  $3.9 \times 10^{-8}$  mole/m<sup>2</sup> ( $2.4 \times 10^{16}$  molecules/m<sup>2</sup>) was observed when ZrO<sub>2</sub> was pretreated at 400°C.

### Formation of Radical from Diphenylamine and Oxygen

When diphenylamine was adsorbed from benzene solution on ZrO<sub>2</sub> followed by introduction of O<sub>2</sub>, the sample developed gray coloration and a singlet signal of ESR with  $g = 2.002 \pm 0.004$  was observed at room temperature. Addition of a small amount of H<sub>2</sub>O to the system resulted in a change in the color of the surface to pinky red and then immediately to beige, accompanied by a red coloration of the benzene solution. When diphenylamine was added to the sample which had already adsorbed a sufficient quantity of triphenylamine (the ionization potential of triphenylamine is lower than that of diphenylamine), the ESR signal intensity increased. When the adsorption of diphenylamine was performed

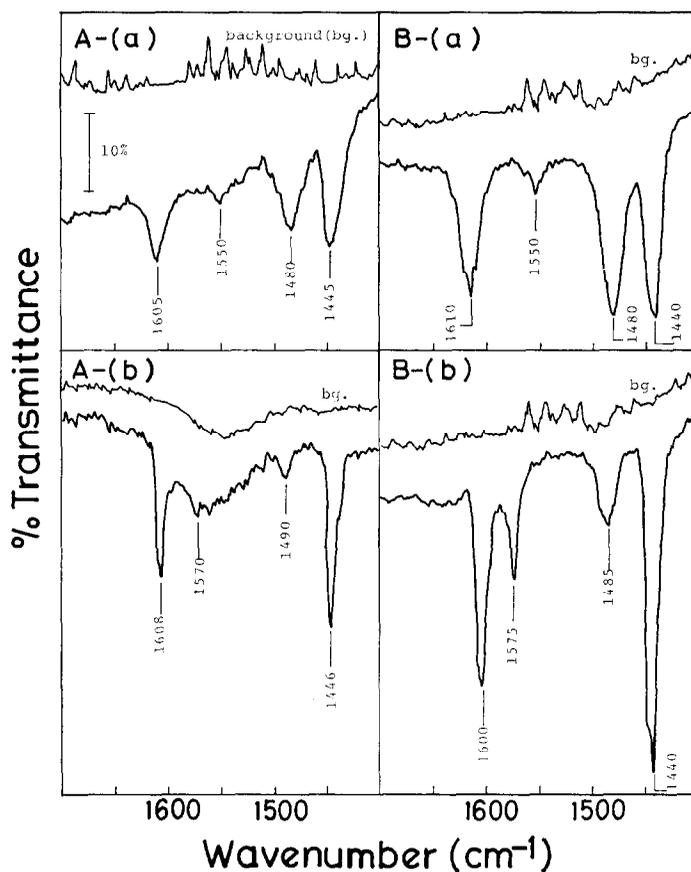


FIG. 1. Infrared spectra of pyridine adsorbed on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $300^\circ C$  (A) and  $500^\circ C$  (B). Adsorption temperature: A-(a),  $200^\circ C$ ; B-(a),  $300^\circ C$ ; A-(b) and B-(b),  $20^\circ C$ , followed by evacuation at  $100^\circ C$ .

in a vapor phase at  $180^\circ C$ , the same coloration and ESR signal were observed as in the case of the adsorption from

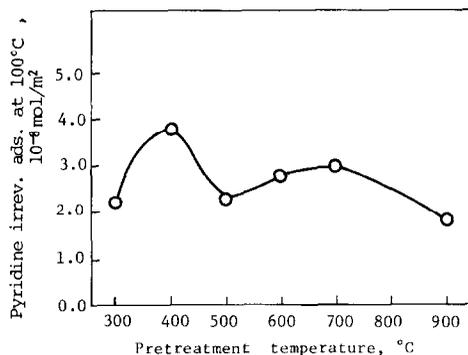


FIG. 2. Amount of pyridine molecules irreversibly adsorbed at  $100^\circ C$  on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at various temperatures.

solution. Once the radicals were formed in the presence of  $O_2$ , the intensity of the ESR signal was not changed by removal of  $O_2$  from a gas phase.

In Fig. 3, amount of the radicals formed on the surface when diphenylamine was adsorbed from a vapor phase at  $180^\circ C$  is plotted against pretreatment temperature of  $ZrO_2$ . The maximum number of the radicals was formed on  $ZrO_2$  that had been pretreated at  $700^\circ C$ , the number of the radicals being  $1.7 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/ $m^2$  ( $1.1 \times 10^{17}$  radicals/ $m^2$ ).

#### Adsorption of $CO_2$

The amounts of  $CO_2$  molecules adsorbed are also shown in Fig. 3. The values were

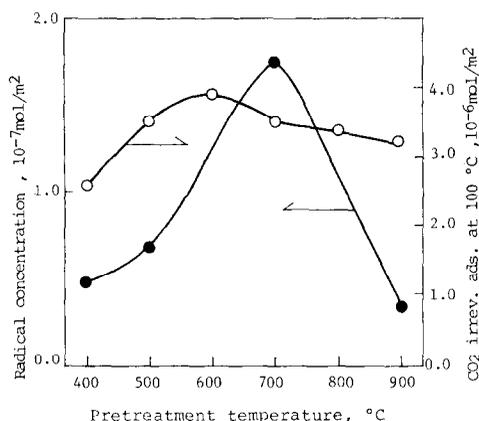


FIG. 3. Amounts of diphenylnitroxide radicals (●) and CO<sub>2</sub> irreversibly adsorbed at 100°C (○) on ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated at various temperatures.

much larger than the values of diphenylnitroxide radicals formed on the surface and did not change much with pretreatment temperature of ZrO<sub>2</sub>.

#### Reducing Properties

When ZrO<sub>2</sub> was exposed to nitrobenzene vapor at 20°C, the surface of the oxide turned to a brownish pink; at the same time, an ESR signal appeared. The signal was constituted of three major lines, one central sharp line with  $g = 2.003$  and two wings on each side. This signal was assigned to a nitrobenzene anion radical ( $\delta$ ). After the sample was exposed to nitrobenzene for 24 hr at room temperature, the color became brown and the resolution among the three lines declined. The radical concentration after 48 hr is plotted against pretreatment temperature in Fig. 4. The maximum value was observed when ZrO<sub>2</sub> was pretreated at 500°C, the concentration being  $4.3 \times 10^{-8}$  mole/m<sup>2</sup> ( $2.6 \times 10^{16}$  radicals/m<sup>2</sup>).

#### Oxidizing Property

Adsorption of triphenylamine on ZrO<sub>2</sub> did not give any ESR signal, although the ZrO<sub>2</sub> surface developed a light blue color. Subsequent addition of O<sub>2</sub> caused an

immediate change in surface color to greenish gray, and a triplet signal with  $g = 2.005$  was observed by ESR, and was assigned to the cation radical of triphenylamine. The amplitude of the signal was independent of oxygen pressure. The number of cation radicals as a function of pretreatment temperature of ZrO<sub>2</sub> is shown in Fig. 4. The maximum radical concentration was obtained on ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated at 700°C, and its value was  $1.5 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/m<sup>2</sup> ( $9.3 \times 10^{16}$  radicals/m<sup>2</sup>).

#### Isomerization of 1-Butene

The variations of the activity and the ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene are plotted against pretreatment temperature of ZrO<sub>2</sub> in Fig. 5. Activity is expressed as initial conversion per unit time on a unit surface area basis. The ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene was obtained by extrapolation to zero conversion. The activity of ZrO<sub>2</sub> appeared on pretreatment at 400°C and reached the maximum on pretreatment at 800°C and then rapidly decreased on pretreatment at 900°C. The ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene gradually decreased as the pretreatment temperature was raised.

Figures 6 and 7 show the recovery of activity with an increase in outgassing

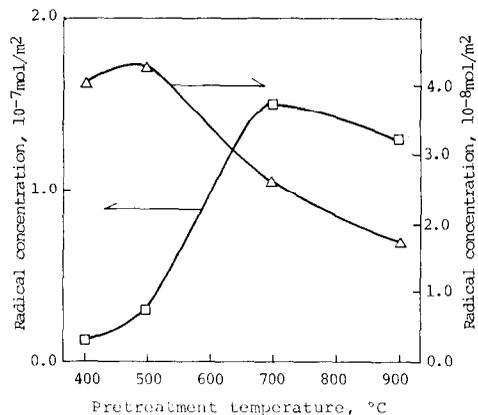


FIG. 4. Amounts of triphenylamine cation radicals (□) and nitrobenzene anion radicals (Δ) on ZrO<sub>2</sub> pretreated at various temperatures.

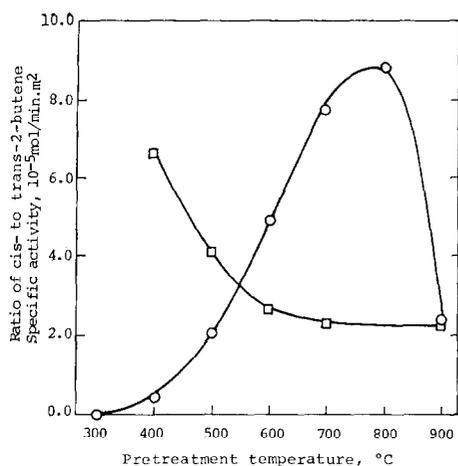


FIG. 5. Changes in the activity for isomerization of 1-butene (O) and in the ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene (□) with pretreatment temperature of  $ZrO_2$ .

temperature of poisons adsorbed on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 500 and 700°C in the poisoning experiments. The reaction was completely retarded by all poisons irreversibly adsorbed at 100°C for both catalysts. In the poisoning experiments with  $NH_3$  or

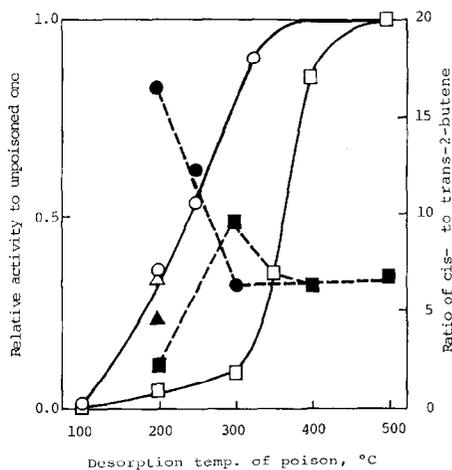


FIG. 6. Recovery of the activity and the ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene for isomerization of 1-butene over  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 500°C by desorption of preadsorbed  $NH_3$  (O, ●), triethylamine (Δ, ▲) and  $CO_2$  (□, ■). Open symbols represent activity, solid symbols represent *cis*-/*trans*-ratio. Reaction temperature: 100°C for triethylamine poisoning, 80°C for  $NH_3$  and  $CO_2$  poisoning.

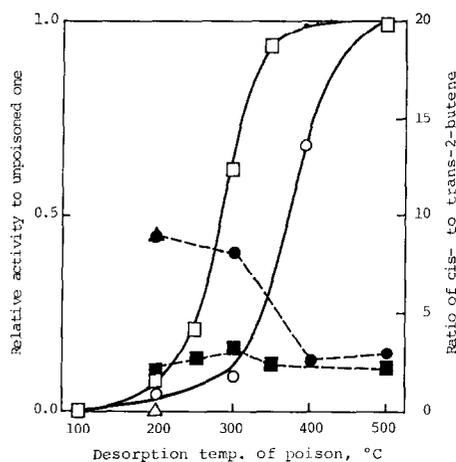


FIG. 7. Recovery of activity and the ratio of *cis*-2-butene to *trans*-2-butene for isomerization of 1-butene over  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 700°C by desorption of preadsorbed  $NH_3$ , triethylamine, and  $CO_2$  adsorbed at 100°C. Symbols are explained in legend to Fig. 6. Reaction temperature: 100°C in all cases.

triethylamine, the activity was recovered by outgassing at much lower temperature for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 500°C than for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 700°C. On the other hand, the reverse results were obtained in the case of the poisoning with  $CO_2$ . The temperatures at which the activities recovered to 90% their original values by outgassing after poisoning with  $CO_2$  were about 410°C for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 500°C and 330°C for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at 700°C.

The results of the coisomerization of 1-butene- $d_0/d_3$  are summarized in Table 2. Over the unpoisoned catalyst, the amounts of exchanged products were small, though a slight increase in the exchanged products was observed as the pretreatment temperature was lowered. The low values of the number of H (or D) atoms exchanged per molecule (AEM value) indicate that the reaction involves primarily an intramolecular H transfer. The isotope effects were about 3 in all the cases of unpoisoned catalysts.

Poisoning with  $NH_3$  gave rise to an increase in the isotope effect, but did not

TABLE 2  
Isotopic Distribution of Product Isomers in Coisomerization of 1-Butene- $d_0/d_8$  over  $ZrO_2$

Pretreatment temperature (°C)	Reaction temperature (°C)	Ratio of <i>cis</i> -/ <i>trans</i> -	Product	Amount of each product (%)	Isotopic distribution (%)								AEM <sup>a</sup>	IE <sup>b</sup>
					$d_0$	$d_1$	$d_2$	$d_3, d_4$	$d_5$	$d_6$	$d_7$	$d_8$		
400	98	1.58	<i>trans</i>	7.3	64.4	6.9	1.1	0	0.4	1.8	7.3	18.1	0.212	2.6
			<i>cis</i>	11.5	67.1	2.9	0.5	0	0	1.3	6.8	21.4	0.133	2.7
700	99	1.39	1	81.2	41.9	0.3	0	0	0	0.4	6.3	51.1	0.074	0.73
			<i>trans</i>	4.9	71.8	1.9	0.2	0	0	0.4	4.3	21.4	0.074	2.9
900	99	1.38	<i>cis</i>	6.9	74.5	1.2	0.1	0	0	0.4	3.8	20.0	0.060	3.3
			1	88.2	43.6	0	0	0	0	0.4	5.9	50.2	0.067	0.78
500 (Poisoned by CO <sub>2</sub> )	100	2.9	<i>trans</i>	3.7	72.8	2.5	0.3	0	0	0	3.3	21.1	0.064	3.0
			<i>cis</i>	5.2	78.0	0	0	0	0	0	2.9	19.1	0.029	3.5
500 (Poisoned by NH <sub>3</sub> )	100	7.6	1	91.1	46.6	0	0	0	0	0.4	5.6	47.4	0.064	0.85
			<i>trans</i>	7.4	50.8	9.9	4.6	0	0	6.4	7.1	21.2	0.390	1.9
Reactant			<i>cis</i>	21.0	48.8	13.3	3.8	0	0	3.4	9.9	20.8	0.376	1.9
			1	71.6	42.0	6.9	1.7	0	0	1.1	9.9	38.4	0.224	1.0
500 (Poisoned by NH <sub>3</sub> )	100	7.6	<i>trans</i>	2.0	75.5	4.9	1.7	0	0	1.5	4.3	12.1	0.156	4.6
			<i>cis</i>	15.3	74.4	7.2	0.5	0	0	0	4.3	13.6	0.125	4.6
Reactant			1	82.7	40.0	1.0	0.6	0	0	1.1	8.0	49.3	0.124	0.71
			1	51.2	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	4.7	44.0	0.047	1.05

<sup>a</sup> Calculated from  $\sum_{i=0}^8 i \cdot N_i + \sum_{i=1}^8 (8-i) \cdot N_i$ .

<sup>b</sup> Calculated from  $(\sum_{i=0}^8 N_i + 0.5N_4) / (\sum_{i=0}^8 N_i + 0.5N_4)$ , where  $N_i$  represents a fraction of the isomer containing  $i$  D atoms in a molecule.

TABLE 3

Comparison of the Activity for Isomerization of 1-Butene and Surface Properties of ZrO<sub>2</sub> Pretreated at 700°C before and after Treatment with CHCl<sub>3</sub>

	Before treatment (BT)	After treatment (AT)	(AT)/(BT)
Activity	$7.2 \times 10^{-5}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup> /min	$0.43 \times 10^{-5}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup> /min	0.06
Basicity by diphenylamine	$1.7 \times 10^{-7}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	$0.051 \times 10^{-7}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	0.03
Basicity by CO <sub>2</sub>	$3.5 \times 10^{-6}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	$1.8 \times 10^{-7}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	0.05
Oxidizing property	$1.5 \times 10^{-7}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	$3.7 \times 10^{-7}$ mole/m <sup>2</sup>	2.5

affect the AEM value much. On the contrary, poisoning with CO<sub>2</sub> resulted in an increase in the AEM value and a decrease in the isotope effect.

In Table 3 the effects of the treatment with chloroform on the activity and surface properties are given. Upon treatment the activity and the number of the radicals formed from diphenylamine decreased, while the number of oxidizing sites increased.

#### DISCUSSION

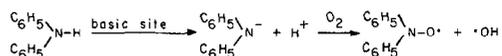
##### *The Process of Formation of the Radical from Diphenylamine and O<sub>2</sub>*

The processes of forming radicals from diphenylamine and O<sub>2</sub> on some oxides were studied in detail (7). In the case of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, a singlet ESR signal was observed, accompanied by gray coloration of the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> surface. The radical species generated on the surface could be transferred from the surface into benzene by addition of polar liquid such as H<sub>2</sub>O. The dissolved paramagnetic species in benzene gave a red coloration. The radical species formed on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were determined to be diphenylnitroxide radicals. The formation of diphenylamine cation radical is also possible and this occurred on SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> under the comparable condition. In this case the color of the oxide surface was greenish black and the material dissolved into benzene caused a blue fluorescence (7).

In the case of ZrO<sub>2</sub>, the color developed on the surface was gray and its benzene

solution became red upon addition of H<sub>2</sub>O. This indicates that diphenylnitroxide radicals were produced on ZrO<sub>2</sub> from diphenylamine and O<sub>2</sub>.

An increase in the signal amplitude of the ESR was observed when diphenylamine was added to the ZrO<sub>2</sub> that had adsorbed triphenylamine followed by admission of O<sub>2</sub>. This suggests that the sites for the formation of diphenylnitroxide radicals were different from the sites for the formation of triphenylamine cation radicals, because the ionization potential of triphenylamine is lower than that of diphenylamine. Therefore, it is considered that the diphenylnitroxide radicals were formed on ZrO<sub>2</sub> by an action of basic sites as follows.



The concentration of diphenylnitroxide radicals was taken as the concentration of basic sites, since the radicals could not desorb from the sites unless a polar molecule was added. Since the pK<sub>a</sub> value of diphenylamine is 23, only strong basic sites could be measured by this method. Actually the numbers of basic sites measured by this method were one order of magnitude lower than those measured by CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption.

##### *Relation between Surface Properties and the Activity for Isomerization of 1-Butene*

Since the variations of the surface properties with pretreatment temperature

were independent of each other, it is considered that there are different types of sites on  $ZrO_2$ . Among these sites, basic sites measured by the adsorption of diphenylamine correlated best with the activity for isomerization of 1-butene. Besides the correlation, the activity and basicity decreased upon treatment with chloroform, while the number of oxidizing sites increased. It is likely that the basic sites participate in the isomerization of 1-butene. However, strong poisoning effects of both the basic molecules ( $NH_3$  and triethylamine) and the acidic molecule ( $CO_2$ ) suggest that acidic sites as well as basic sites are involved in the active sites for the reaction. The idea that the active site on  $ZrO_2$  is an acid-base pair site and that each site is cooperative in a reaction was proposed for interpretation of the selective formation of 1-olefins in the dehydration of 2-alkanols (1).

The initiation of the isomerization reaction could be either abstraction of an allylic H from 1-butene by basic sites or addition of an  $H^+$  from acidic sites. Dominant intramolecular H transfer in the coisomerization reveals that the reaction is mainly initiated by the abstraction of an  $H^+$  by basic sites. Perhaps, Lewis acid sites assist the abstraction of the  $H^+$  by polarizing the butene molecule or stabilizing the resulting carbanion. However, intermolecular H transfer is involved in the reaction to some extent over the catalyst pretreated at a low temperature. The contribution of the intermolecular H transfer became more enhanced when the catalyst was partly poisoned by  $CO_2$ . The active sites unblocked by partial poisoning with  $CO_2$  are not single acid sites but are acid-base pair sites whose basic strength is weak, because the further addition of  $CO_2$  could completely block all active sites. Since the main reaction involves intramolecular H transfer, the effect of  $NH_3$  poisoning is not so large. Nevertheless, the changes in the isotope effect and

probably in the AEM value caused by  $NH_3$  poisoning were opposite to those caused by  $CO_2$  poisoning. The characteristics of base-catalyzed isomerization were pronounced by the partial poisoning with  $NH_3$ . Therefore, it is suggested that there is more than one kind of acid-base pair site which is different in the strength of acidic and basic properties.

The strength of acidic and basic properties of the active sites is dependent on pretreatment temperature of  $ZrO_2$ . Most of the adsorbed  $NH_3$  on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $500^\circ C$  was removed by evacuation at  $300^\circ C$ , while most of the adsorbed  $NH_3$  on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $700^\circ C$  could be removed only by evacuation at  $500^\circ C$ . On the other hand,  $CO_2$  is adsorbed more strongly on the active sites of  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $500^\circ C$  than on those of  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $700^\circ C$ . Therefore, the basic property is more pronounced for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $500^\circ C$  than for  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $700^\circ C$ , whereas the acidic property is just the reverse.

The acid-base pair sites are probably exposed zirconium ions with adjacent  $O^{2-}$  ions which are generated by removal of  $H_2O$  molecules from neighboring OH groups, as was proposed for crystalline aluminosilicate (8) and  $Al_2O_3$  (9). The OH groups on  $ZrO_2$ , like those on  $Al_2O_3$ , are not capable of protonating the butene molecule.

The number of  $CO_2$  molecules removed from the surface of  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $500^\circ C$  is  $2.7 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/ $m^2$  ( $1.6 \times 10^{17}$  molecules/ $m^2$ ) after evacuation at  $300^\circ C$ , with which most of the active sites were blocked. Therefore, the number of active sites on  $ZrO_2$  pretreated at  $500^\circ C$  is about  $1.6 \times 10^{17}$  sites/ $m^2$ . Based on this value and the rate ( $3.7 \times 10^{-7}$  mole/ $m^2$ /sec at  $100^\circ C$ ), the turnover frequency for isomerization is calculated to be 1.4 molecules/site/sec. The value of  $2.1 \times 10^{-2}$  molecules/site/sec was estimated for the reaction temperature of  $28^\circ C$  using the activation energy of

14 kcal/mole which was obtained for  $ZrO_2$  evacuated at  $500^\circ C$ . This value is about the same order as those observed at  $28^\circ C$  on  $Al_2O_3$  (10) but much smaller than that found with  $La_2O_3$  (52 molecules/site/sec at  $0^\circ C$ ) (11).

Since the active sites are only about 2% in surface coverage, all the acid-base pair sites do not serve as active sites. Only those pair sites whose polarizing strength exceeds a certain strength may be able to act as the active site.

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