

## Supplementary data

### Hydrogenolysis process for liginosulfonate depolymerization using synergistic catalysts of noble metal and metal chloride

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**Table S1** The main composed elements of sodium lignosulfonate.

| Elements       | Content (%) |
|----------------|-------------|
| C              | 42.65       |
| H              | 5.05        |
| O <sup>a</sup> | 40.40       |
| N              | 0.18        |
| S              | 5.07        |
| Na             | 6.65        |

<sup>a</sup> The oxygen content was estimated by the conservation of mass based on the assumption that the samples only contain C, H, N, S, Na and O.

**Table S2** The main components of the volatile products.

| RT (min)           | Compound                                 | Structure | RT (min) | Compound                                       | Structure |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Aliphatic alcohols |                                          |           |          |                                                |           |
| 3.63               | 1-Propanol, 2-methyl-                    |           | 5.08     | 1-Butanol, 2-methyl-                           |           |
| 4.25               | 1-Butanol                                |           | 5.67     | 1-Pentanol                                     |           |
| 4.51               | 3-Heptanol                               |           | 6.38     | 1-Pentanol, 2-methyl-                          |           |
| 4.72               | Ethanol, 2-methoxy-                      |           | 6.83     | Propanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, methyl ester       |           |
| Monomers           |                                          |           |          |                                                |           |
| 5.60               | Benzene, 1,2,3-trimethyl-                |           | 16.91    | Phenol, 3,4,5-trimethyl-                       |           |
| 11.83              | Benzene, 1,2-dimethoxy-                  |           | 17.29    | p-Isopropylphenetole                           |           |
| 12.71              | 3,4-dimethoxytoluene                     |           | 17.39    | Benzene, 1-butyl-4-methoxy-                    |           |
| 13.43              | Phenol, 2-methoxy-                       |           | 17.49    | Phenol, 4-propyl-                              |           |
| 14.05              | 1,4-Benzenediol, 2,3,5-trimethyl-        |           | 17.92    | Phenol, 2-methoxy-6-(1-propenyl)-              |           |
| 14.37              | Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-methyl-              |           | 18.66    | Phenol, 2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-6-methyl-        |           |
| 14.99              | Phenol                                   |           | 18.77    | Benzene, 2-methoxy-4-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)- |           |
| 15.12              | Ethanone, 1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)- |           | 18.93    | Phenol, 2-methyl-5-(1-methylethyl)-            |           |

|                         |                                      |  |       |                                                |  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------|------------------------------------------------|--|
| 15.36                   | Phenol,2,3,6-trimethyl-              |  | 19.51 | Ethanone,1-(2,4,5-triethylphenyl)-             |  |
| 15.44                   | Phenol, 2,3,5-trimethyl-             |  | 19.96 | Benzene,1,2-diethyl-3,4,5,6-tetramethyl-       |  |
| 15.77                   | Phenol, 3,5-dimethyl-                |  | 20.12 | Benzene,1,2,3,4-tetramethyl-5-(1-methylethyl)- |  |
| 15.83                   | 3-tert-Butyl-4-hydroxyanisole        |  | 20.22 | Benzene,1-methoxy-4-(1-methyl-2-propenyl)-     |  |
| 16.00                   | Phenol,2-methoxy-4-propyl-           |  | 20.30 | 1,4-Benzenediol,2,6-dimethyl-                  |  |
| 16.50                   | Phenol, 3,4-dimethyl-                |  | 21.37 | 1,3-Benzenedicarboxylic acid,dimethyl ester    |  |
| 16.82                   | Phenol,2,3,4,6-tetramethyl-          |  |       |                                                |  |
| Other volatile products |                                      |  |       |                                                |  |
| 3.46                    | Pentanoic acid,methyl ester          |  | 9.34  | 2-Cyclopenten-1-one,2,3,4,5-tetramethyl-       |  |
| 4.12                    | Butanoic acid,2-methyl-,methyl ester |  | 20.62 | Benzofuran, 2,3-dihydro-2,2,4,6-tetramethyl-   |  |
| 7.02                    | Cyclopentene, 1-methyl-              |  | 21.35 | 1H-Inden-1-one, 2,3-dihydro-3,4,7-trimethyl-   |  |
| 9.16                    | 2-Cyclopenten-1-one,2,3,4-trimethyl- |  |       |                                                |  |

Condition: 0.5 g sodium lignosulfonate, 0.1 g 5% wt Pt/C, 1 mmol CrCl<sub>3</sub>, 40 ml methanol, 3 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 280 °C, 5h; Analysis condition: GC-MS capillary column: HP-INNOWAX, 30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 um.

**Table S3** Surface properties of the different catalysts.

| Catalysts | Surface area <sup>a</sup>         | Total pore volume <sup>b</sup>     | Pore diameter <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|           | (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) | (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) | (nm)                       |
| Pd/C      | 1023.89                           | 0.45                               | 3.79                       |
| Ni/C      | 910.81                            | 0.46                               | 3.83                       |
| Ru/C      | 1189.62                           | 0.22                               | 3.80                       |
| Pt/C      | 1239.76                           | 0.65                               | 3.82                       |

<sup>a</sup> MultiPoint Brunauer, Emmett &Teller (BET) method.

<sup>b</sup> Barrett, Joyner & Halenda (BJH) method.

**Table S4** The main composed elements of the oligomers.<sup>a</sup>

| Elements       | Content (%) |
|----------------|-------------|
| C              | 44.67       |
| H              | 5.75        |
| O <sup>b</sup> | 47.98       |
| N              | 0.25        |
| S              | 0.58        |
| Na             | 0.77        |

<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition: 0.5 g lignosulfonate, 0.1 g Pt/C, 1 mmol CrCl<sub>3</sub>, 3 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 5 h, 280 °C.

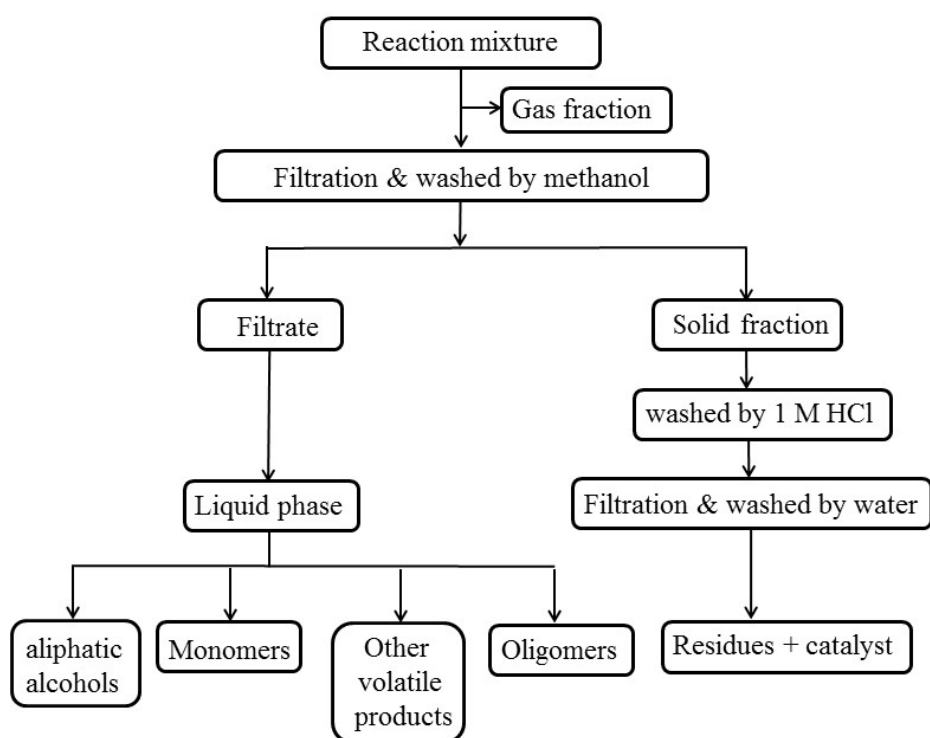
<sup>b</sup> The oxygen content was estimated by the conservation of mass based on the assumption that the samples only contain C, H, N, S, Na and O.

**Table S5** The sulfur content of the lignosulfonate and the residues with different catalysts.

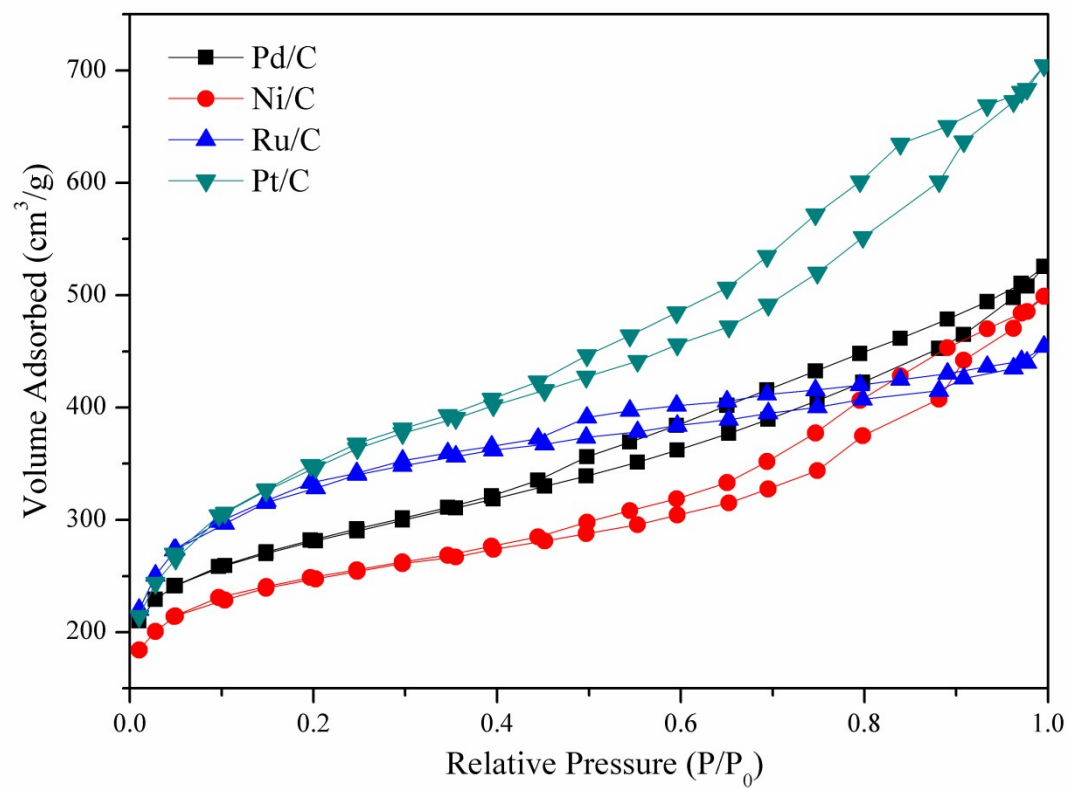
| Component  | Lignosulfonate <sup>a</sup> | Residues <sup>b</sup> |                   |                         |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
|            |                             | No catalyst           | CrCl <sub>3</sub> | Pt/C+ CrCl <sub>3</sub> |
| S (weight) | 5.07%                       | 2.47%                 | 0.83%             | 0.66%                   |

<sup>a</sup> Measured by a vario EL III element analyzer;

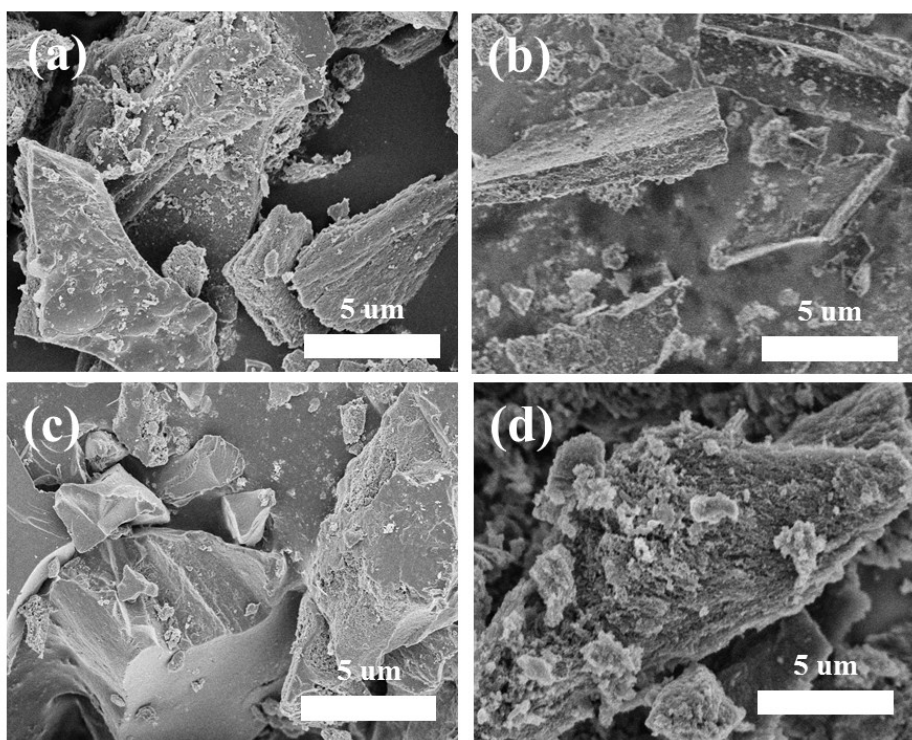
<sup>b</sup> Measured by EDS.



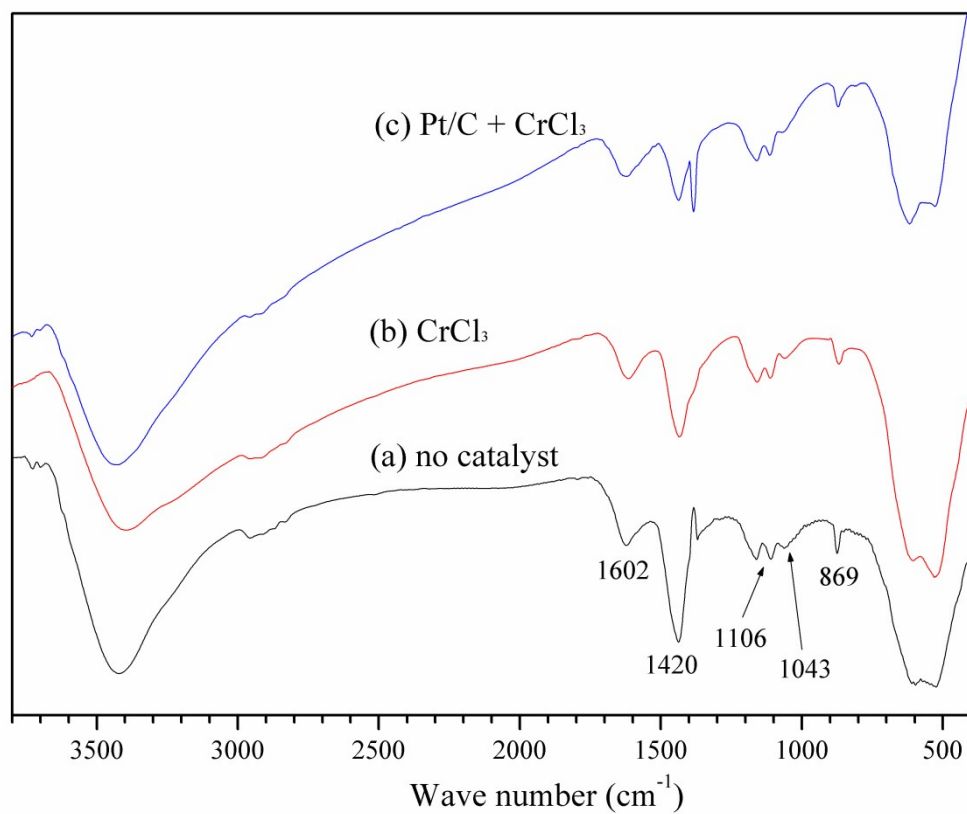
**Fig. S1** Separation procedure for the hydrogenolysis products.



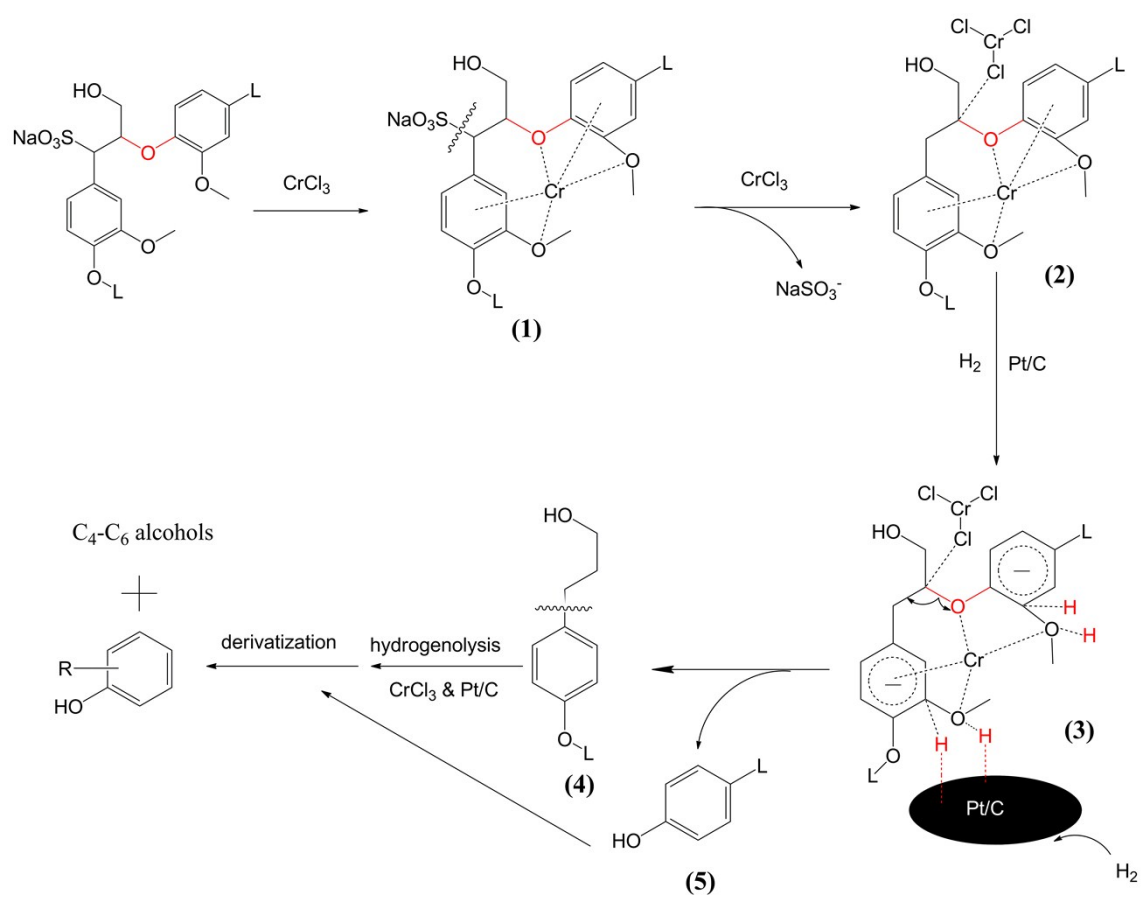
**Fig. S2** The N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms of Pd/C, Ni/C, Ru/C and Pt/C.



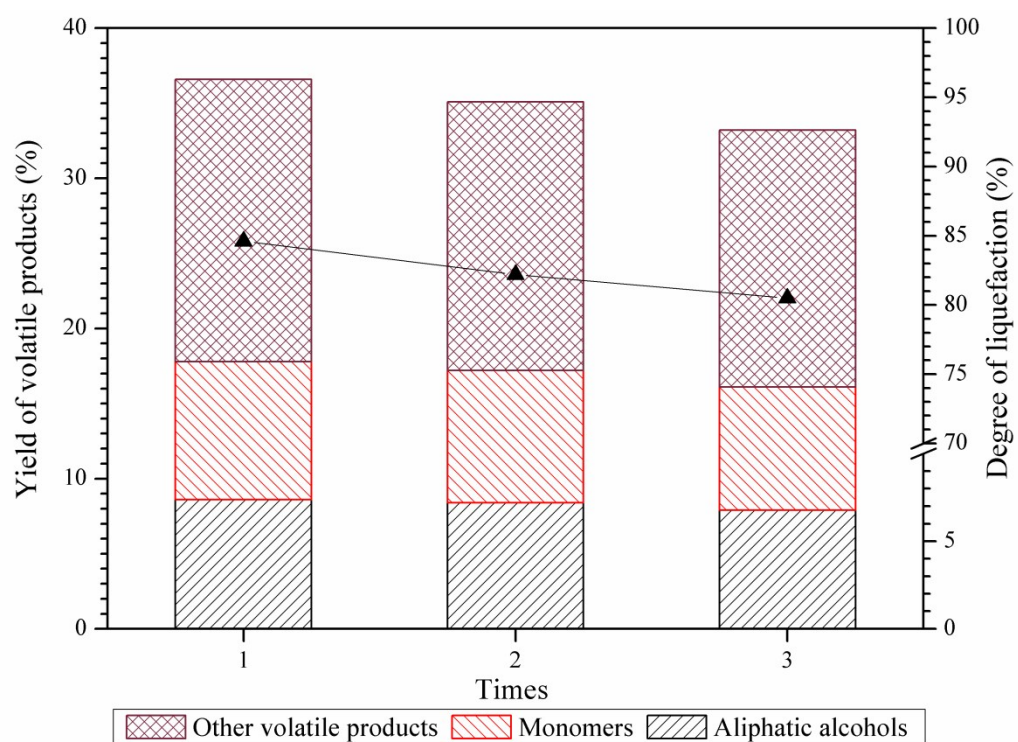
**Fig. S3** SEM images of the fresh (a) Pd/C, (b) Ni/C, (c) Ru/C and (d) Pt/C.



**Fig. S4** FT-IR analysis of the residues with different catalysts

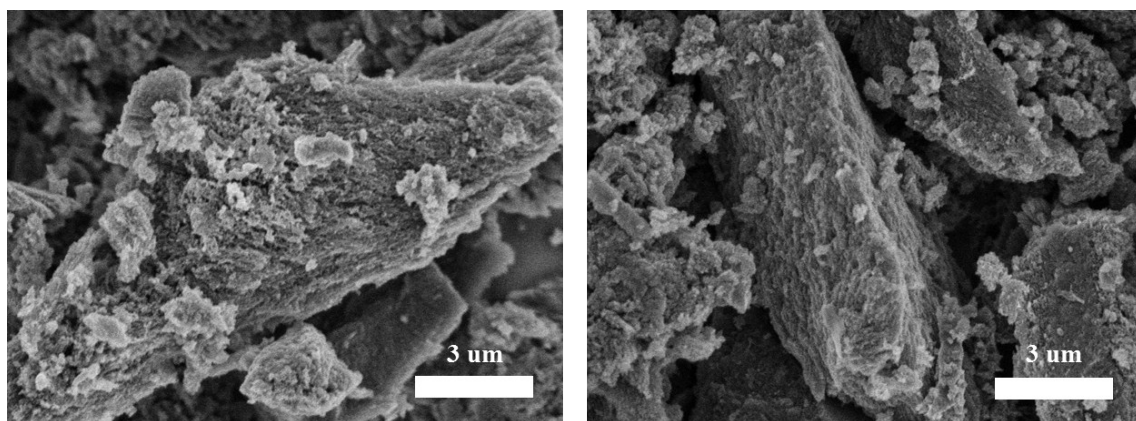


**Fig. S5** Proposed catalytic mechanism of synergistic catalysis.

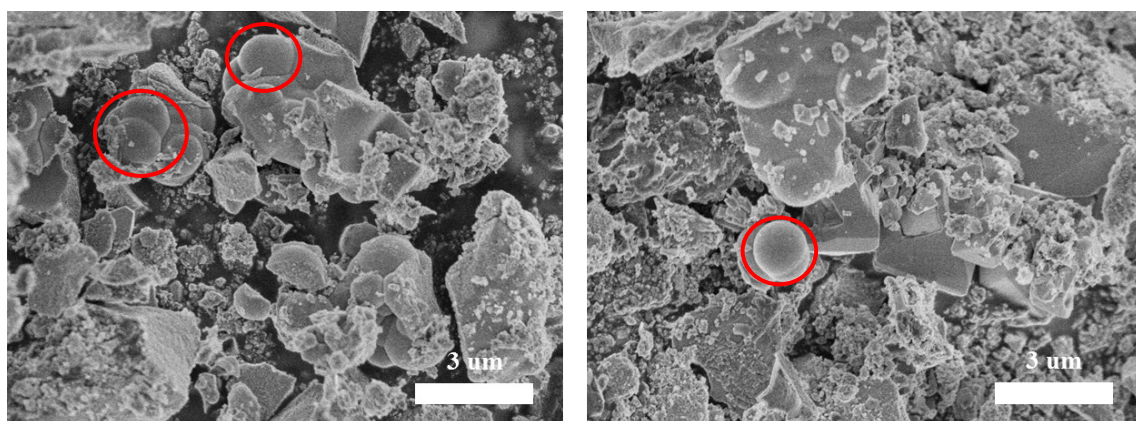


**Fig. S6** The recyclability of Pt/C catalyst

Conditions: 0.1 g 5 wt% Pt/C, 1 mmol  $\text{CrCl}_3$ , 280 °C, 3 MPa  $\text{H}_2$ , 5 h.

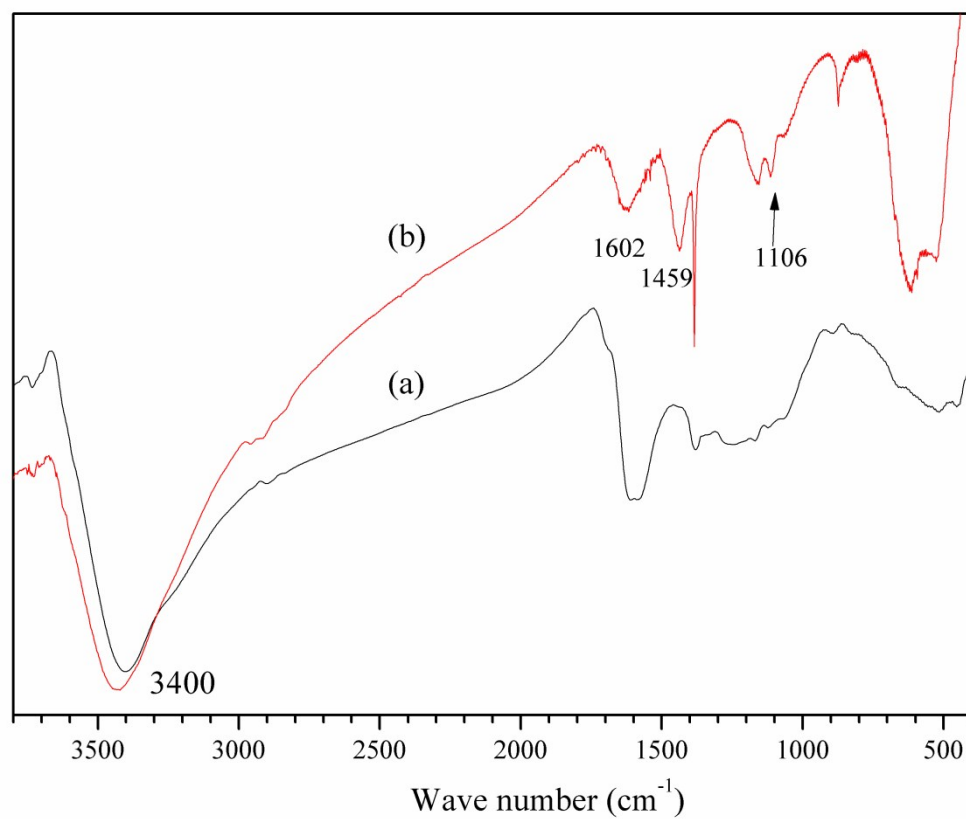


(a) fresh Pt/C

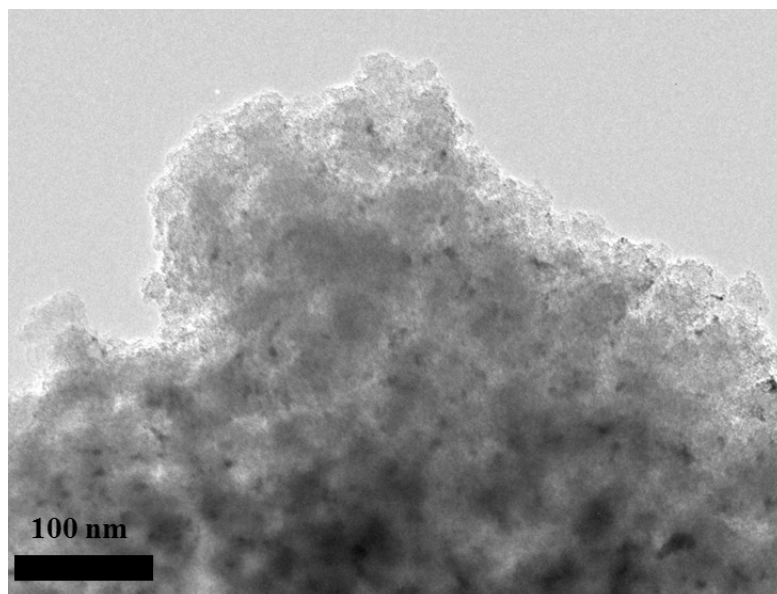


(b) recovered Pt/C after 3 runs

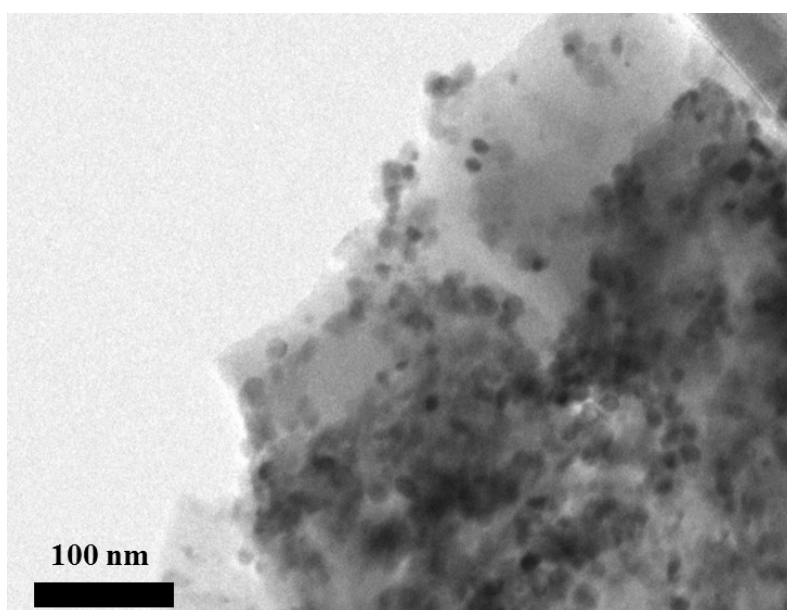
**Fig. S7** SEM images of (a) fresh Pt/C and (b) recovered Pt/C after 3 runs.



**Fig. S8** FT-IR spectrum of (a) fresh catalyst and (b) recovered catalyst after 3 runs



(a) fresh Pt/C



(b) recovered Pt/C after 3 runs

**Fig. S9** TEM images of (a) fresh Pt/C and (b) recovered Pt/C after 3 runs.