

**Supplementary Information**

**Aromatisation of bio-derivable isobutyraldehyde over HZSM-5 zeolite catalysts**

Jeff Deischter<sup>a</sup>, Kai Schute<sup>a</sup>, Dario S. Neves<sup>b</sup>, Brigitte E. Ebert<sup>b</sup>, Lars M. Blank<sup>b</sup> and Regina Palkovits<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lehrstuhl für Heterogene Katalyse und Technische Chemie, Institut für Technische und Makromolekulare Chemie, RWTH Aachen University, Worringerweg 2, D-52074 Aachen, Germany.

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Applied Microbiology (iAMB), RWTH Aachen University, Worringerweg 1, 52074 Aachen, Germany.

\* Corresponding Author: palkovits@itmc.rwth-aachen.de

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Fig. S1** XRD patterns of (a) HZSM-5 catalysts with different Si/Al ratios and of (b) Zeolite Y, Beta and Mordenite.

**Fig. S2** (a) Nitrogen physisorption adsorption-desorption isotherms (offset: 50 cm<sup>3</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>); (b) DFT pore size distributions (offset: 0.01 cm<sup>3</sup>A<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>).

**Fig. S3** XRD diffractograms of H-ZSM-5 (90) before and after calcination of spent catalyst.

**Fig. S4** The effect of WHSV on the aromatisation performance over HZSM-5(80) catalyst. Reaction conditions: IBA : N<sub>2</sub> = 10 : 1, WHSV = 2-10 h<sup>-1</sup>, reaction pressure = 1 atm, reaction temperature = 400°C.

**Fig. S5** (a)H-ZSM-5 (90) catalyst after reaction, (b) catalyst before reaction.

**Fig. S6** IBA converted and BTX yielded until the start of catalyst deactivation for different HZSM-5. WHSV = 3 h<sup>-1</sup>, reaction pressure = 1 atm, reaction temperature = 400°C. Deactivation defined as drop of conversion below 100%.

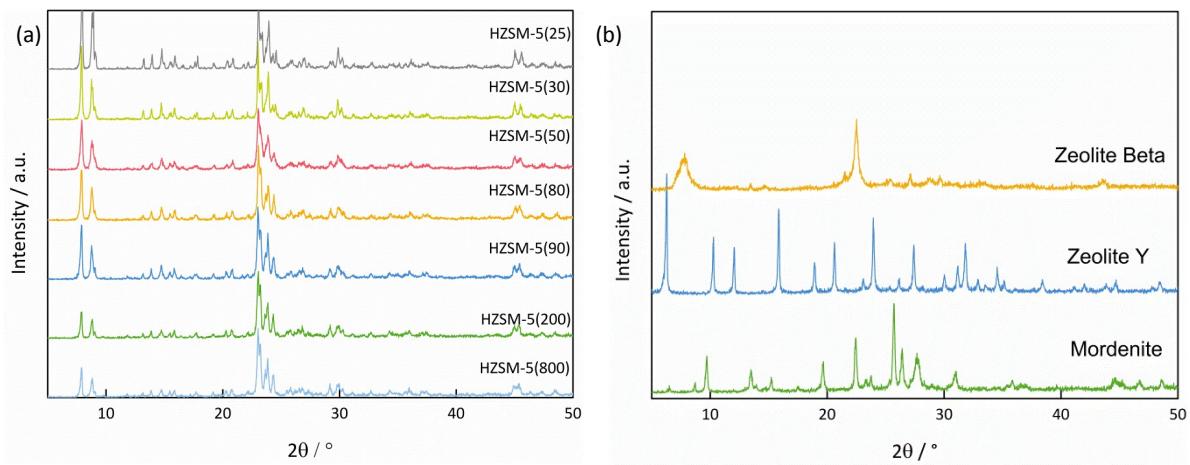
**Fig. S7** Exemplary Gas-Phase GC-analysis of the aromatisation of IBA using a HZSM-5 80 zeolite.

**Fig. S8** Liquid phase GC-analysis of the aromatisation of IBA using a HZSM-5 80 zeolite.

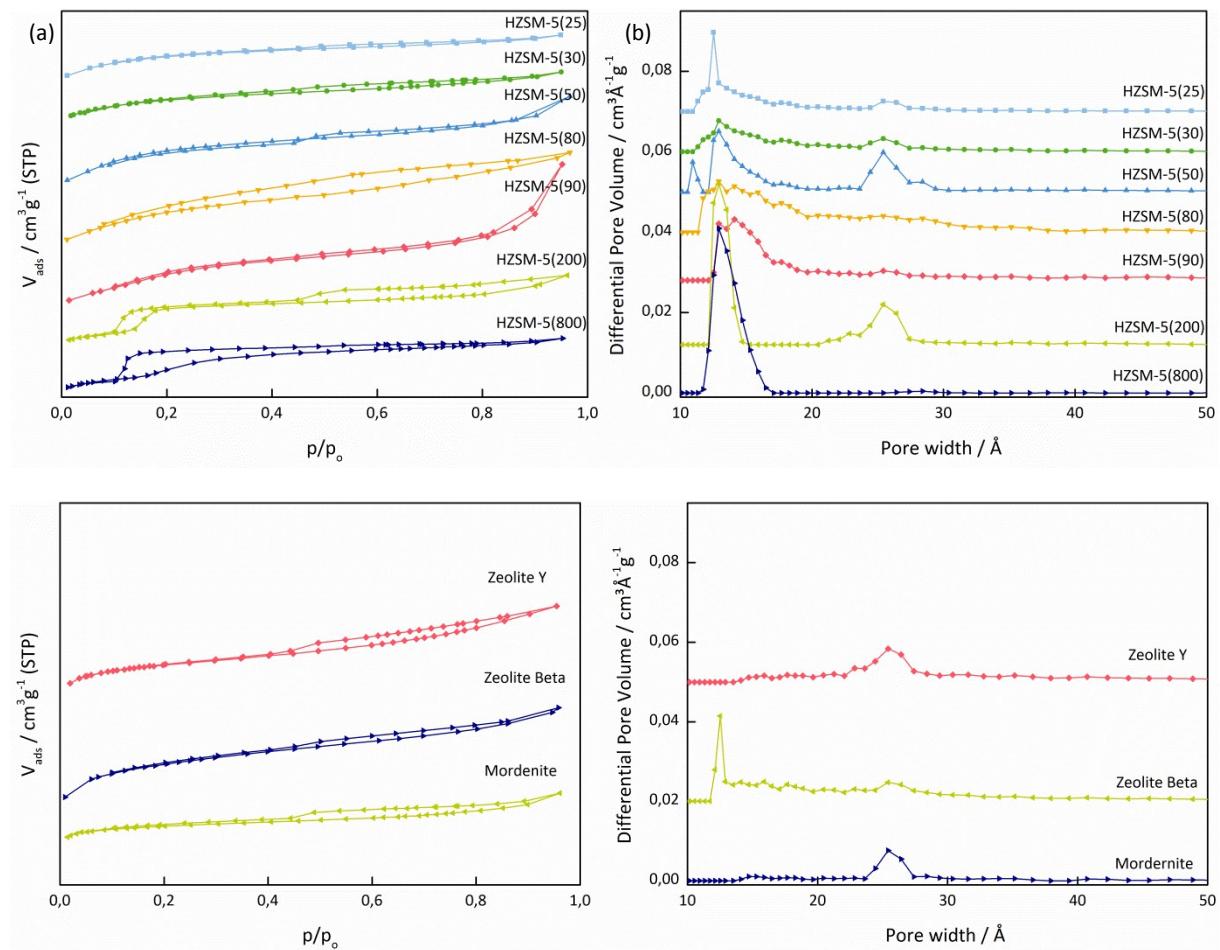
**Fig. S9** BTX performance and IBA conversion for different HZSM-5 zeolites. T = 400 °C, WHSV = 3h<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S1** Aromatic composition for the conversion of IBA over H-ZSM-5 (80). T = 400 °C, WHSV = 3h<sup>-1</sup>.

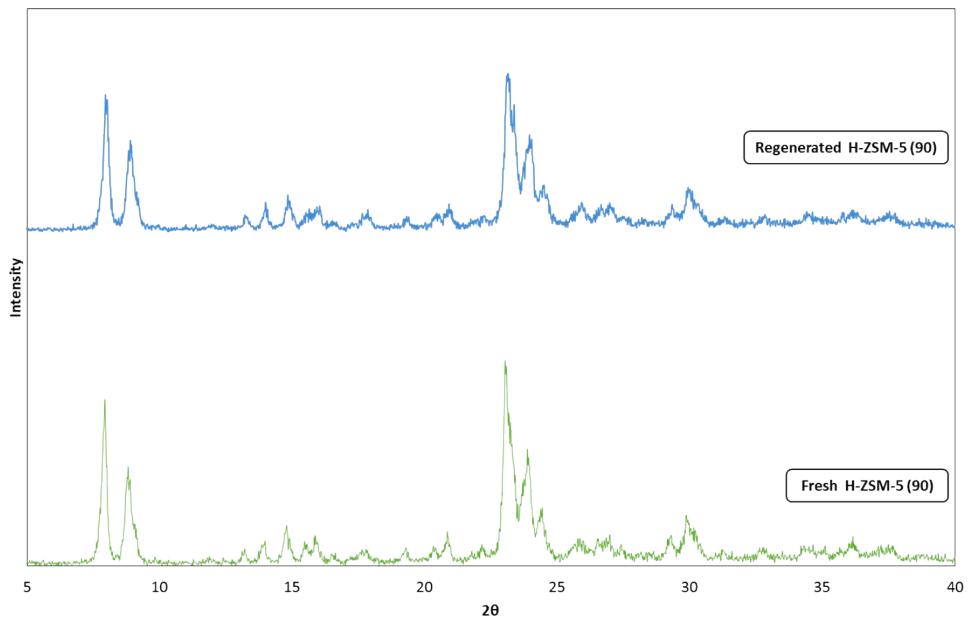
**Table S2** Product composition over time for the conversion of IBA over HZSM-5(80) catalysts. T = 400 °C, WHSV = 3h<sup>-1</sup>.



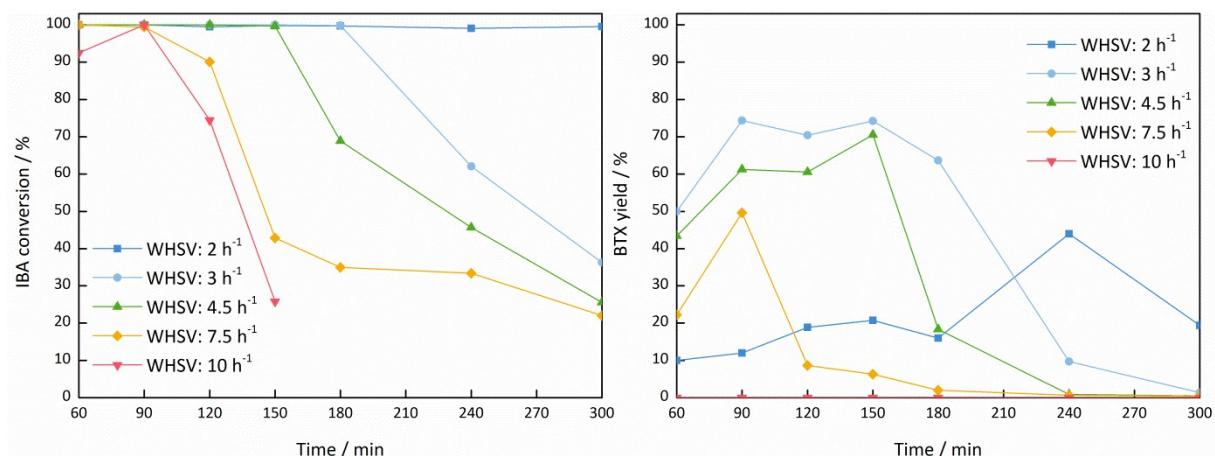
**Fig. S1** XRD patterns of (a) HZSM-5 catalysts with different Si/Al ratios and of (b) Zeolite Y, Beta and Mordenite.



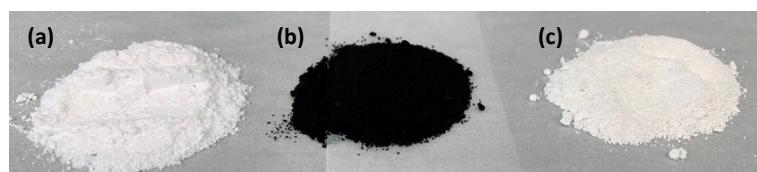
**Fig. S2** (a) Nitrogen physisorption adsorption-desorption isotherms (offset:  $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{g}^{-1}$ ); (b) DFT pore size distributions (offset:  $0,01 \text{ cm}^3 \text{\AA}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ ).



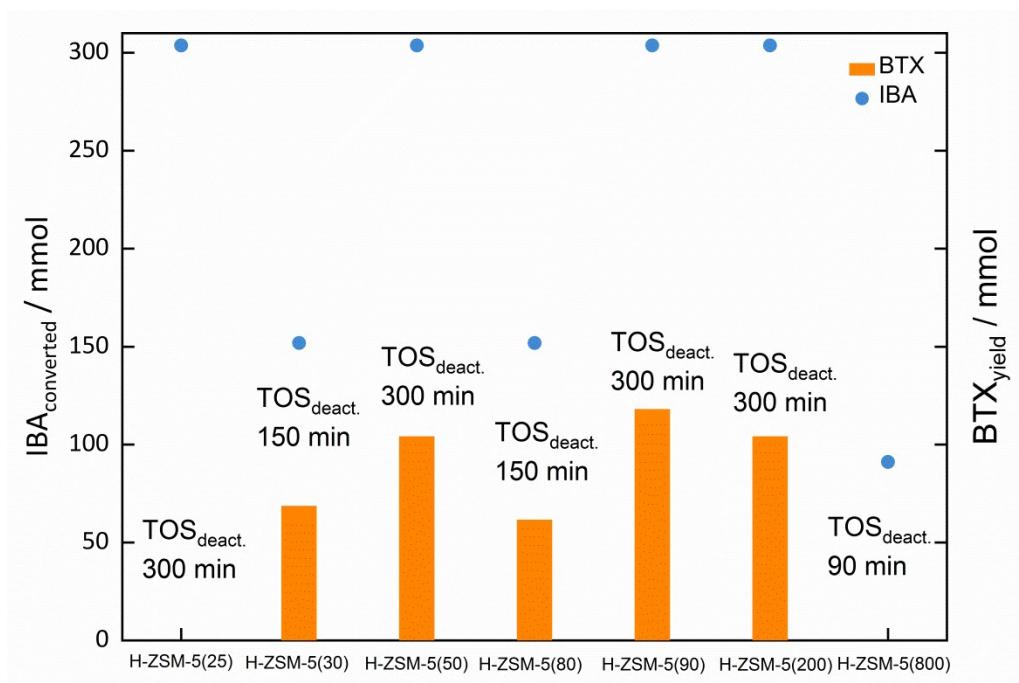
**Fig. S3** XRD diffractograms of H-ZSM-5 (90) before and after calcination of spent catalyst.



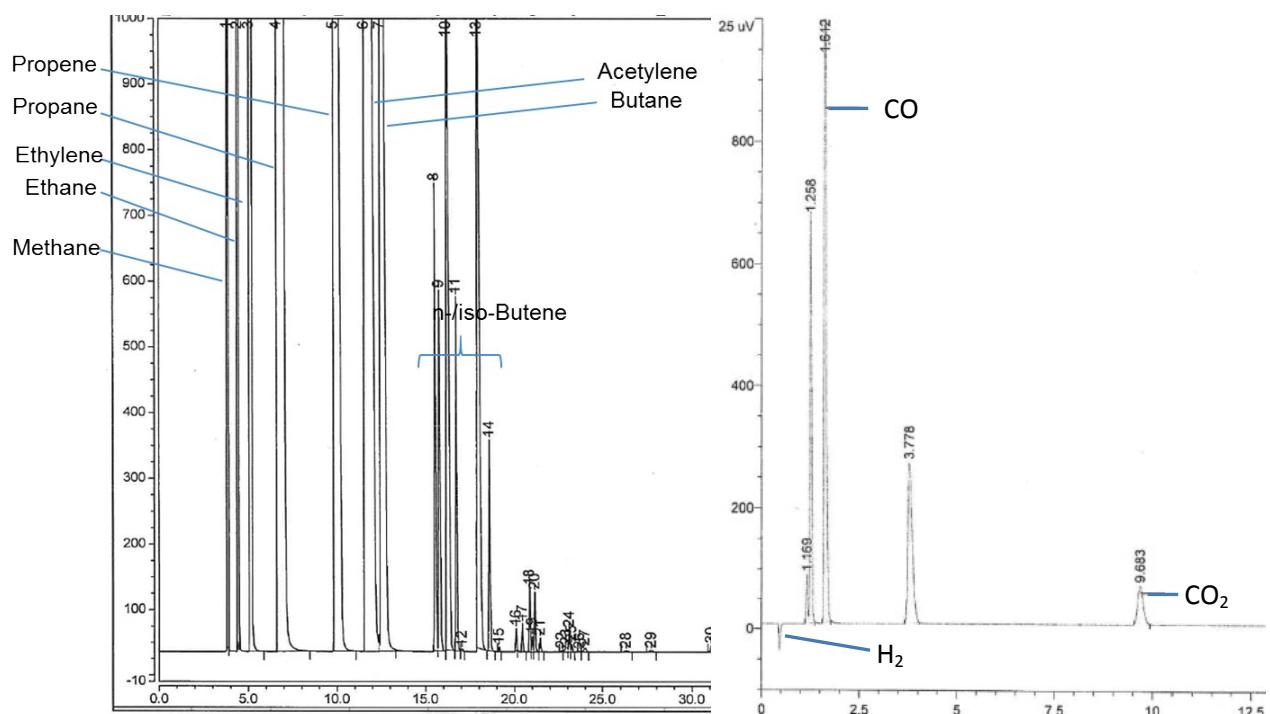
**Fig. S4** The effect of WHSV on the aromatisation performance over HZSM-5(80) catalyst. Reaction conditions: IBA : N<sub>2</sub> = 10 : 1, WHSV = 2-10 h<sup>-1</sup>, reaction pressure = 1 atm, reaction temperature = 400°C.



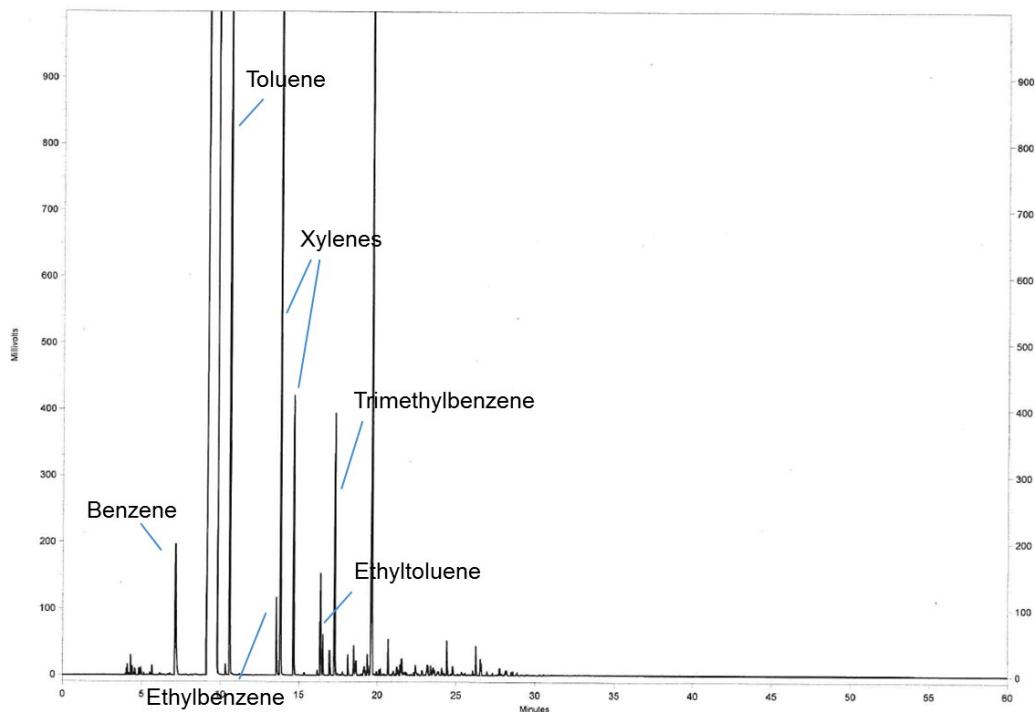
**Fig. S5** H-ZSM-5(90) catalyst (a) before reaction, (b) after reaction (c) after regeneration.



**Fig. S6** IBA converted and BTX yielded until the start of catalyst deactivation for different HZSM-5. WHSV = 3 h<sup>-1</sup>, reaction pressure = 1 atm, reaction temperature = 400°C. Deactivation defined as drop of conversion below 100%.



**Fig. S7** Exemplary Gas-Phase GC-analysis of the aromatisation of IBA using a HZSM-5 80 zeolite. T = 400 °C, WHSV = 3h<sup>-1</sup>.



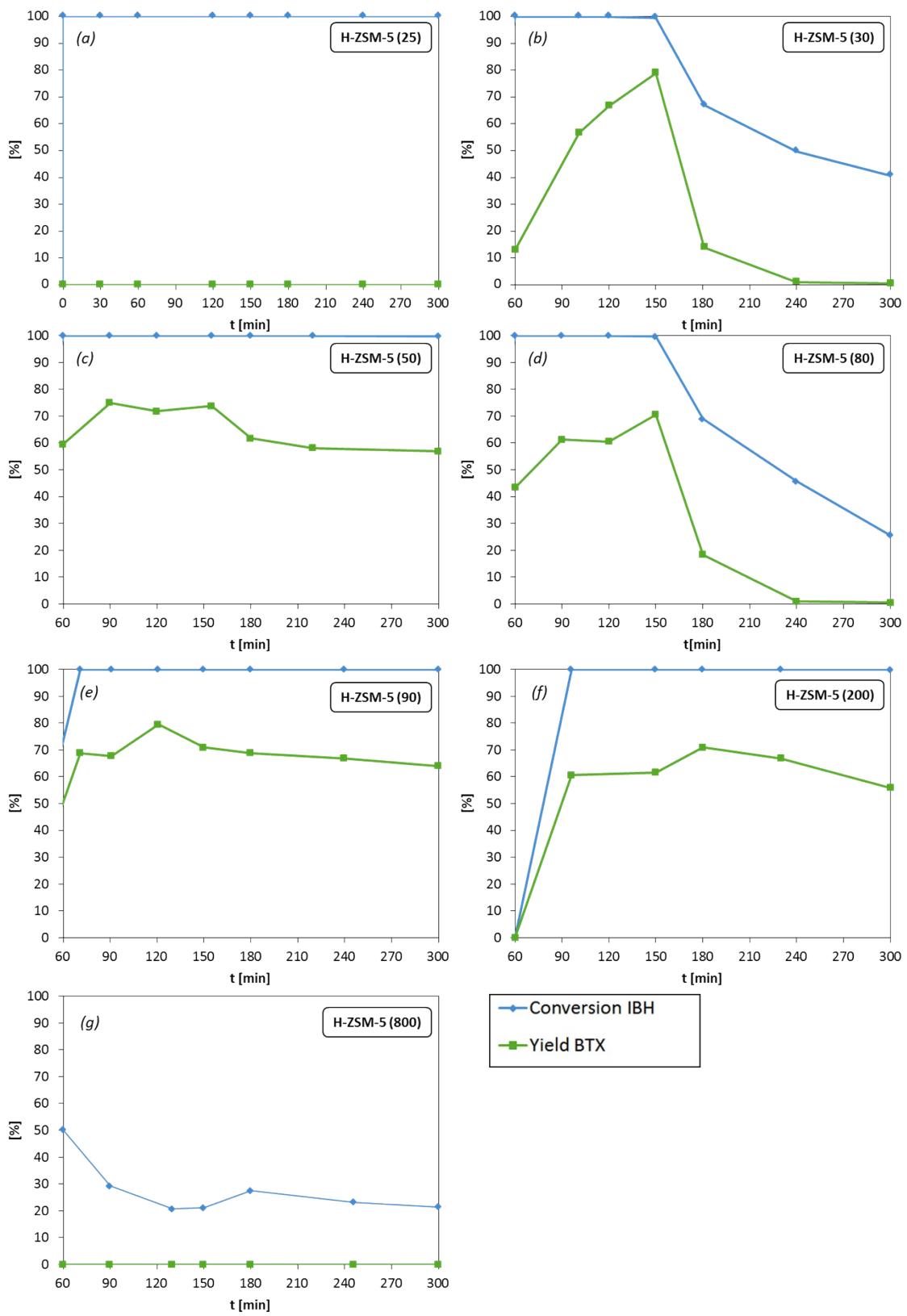
**Fig. S8** Liquid phase GC-analysis of the aromatisation of IBA using a HZSM-5 80 zeolite.  $T = 400\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{WHSV} = 3\text{ h}^{-1}$ .

**Table S1** Aromatic composition for the conversion of IBA over H-ZSM-5 (80).  $T = 400\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{WHSV} = 3\text{ h}^{-1}$ .

Aromatic hydrocarbons	Aromatics distribution [%]
Benzene	5.1
Toluene	28.9
<i>p, m</i> -Xylenes	33.8
<i>o</i> -Xylene	9.3
Ethylbenzene	4.6
<i>p, m, o</i> -Ethyltoluene	9.1
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	6
Naphthalenes	3.2

**Table S2** Product composition over time for the conversion of IBA over HZSM-5(80) catalysts.  $T = 400\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{WHSV} = 3\text{ h}^{-1}$ .

T (min)	Conversion (%)	Product yield (%)							Aromatic yield (%)	BTX yield (%)
		C <sub>1</sub> -C <sub>4</sub> gaseous	C <sub>4</sub> -C <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>9</sub>	C <sub>10+</sub>		
60	99.8	37.7	-	7.7	25.2	17.2	7.2	5.0	62.3	50.0-
90	100	10.2	-	10.2	33.8	30.4	10.1	5.3	89.8	74.4
120	100	15.4	-	8.9	31.2	30.3	10.1	4.1	84.6	70.4
150	100	9.9	-	8.2	31.4	34.6	11.8	4.1	90.1	74.2
180	99.8	20.4	0.3	5.7	25.3	32.6	12.1	3.5	79.3	63.6
240	62.1	86.7	0.4	0.5	3.3	5.9	2.6	0.6	12.9	9.7
300	36.3	98.0	0.4	0.26	0.4	0.7	0.3	0	1.6	1.3



**Fig. S9** BTX performance and IBA conversion for different HZSM-5 zeolites. T = 400 °C, WHSV = 3h<sup>-1</sup>.

Calculation to determine the yield ( $i = \text{substance}$ ,  $m_{i,GC} = \text{mass of substance in GC sample}$ ,  $m_{Std} = \text{mass of GC-standard medium}$ ,  $\text{Area}_i = \text{peak area of substance } i$ ,  $k_{f,i} = \text{calibration factor for substance } i$ ,  $n_{i,GC} = \text{amount of } i \text{ in GC-sample}$ ,  $n_{total,i} = \text{amount of } i \text{ in process}$ ,  $Y_i = \text{yield of substance } i$ ):

$$m_{i,GC} = \frac{m_{Std} \cdot \text{Area}_i}{\text{Area}_{Std}} \cdot k_{f,i} \quad (1)$$

$$n_{i,GC} = \frac{m_{i,GC}}{M_i} \quad (2)$$

$$n_{total,i} = \frac{n_{i,GC} \cdot m_{total}}{m_{sample}} \quad (3)$$

$$Y_i = \frac{n_{total,i}}{n_{IBA,0}} \quad (4)$$

Calculation of IBA converted until the start of catalyst deactivation in Fig. S6 ( $n_{IBA} = \text{amount of IBA in mmol}$ ,  $m = \text{mass of IBA}$ ,  $X = \text{conversion of IBA (in this case} = 1)$ ):

$$n(IBA_{converted}) = \frac{m_{IBA}}{M_{IBA}} \cdot X(IBA) \quad (5)$$

Calculation of BTX yielded until catalyst deactivation, under the assumption, that 1.75 mmol IBA (4 carbon) is needed to form 1 mmol of BTX (7 carbon) ( $Y(BTX) = \text{yield of BTX}$ ):

$$n(BTX_{yielded}) = \frac{n(IBA_{converted}) \cdot Y(BTX)}{1.75} \quad (6)$$