

# **Conversion of ethanol to 1,3-butadiene over high-performance Mg-ZrO<sub>x</sub>/MFI nanosheet catalysts via the two-step method**

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## Experimental

### 1.1 Materials

Ethanol (EtOH, 99.7%, Sinopharm), tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS, 98%, Aldrich),  $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (99%, Aldrich),  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (99.5%, Aldrich),  $\text{ZrO}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (99.9%, Aldrich), tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (TPAOH, 2.0 mol/L in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , Aldrich), and magnesium acetylacetonate (99%, Aldrich) were used as received without further purification.

### 1.2 Catalyst Preparation

Synthesis of 20%Cu/SiO<sub>2</sub>: The catalyst was prepared by ammonia evaporation method. In detail, a mixture solution consisting of 5 mL ammonium hydroxide, 100 mL deionized water and 0.75 g  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  was filled in a flask and stirred for 3 h at 298 K, and then added with 1 g SiO<sub>2</sub> (size <100 mesh, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co.). The mixture was heated to 353 K and further stirred until the pH value reached 7. The precipitation was filtered, dried at 373 K overnight, and calcined at 673 K for 4 h. Before used in reaction for ethanol conversion to acetaldehyde, the catalyst was made into tablets, crushed and sieved to 20-40 mesh without reduction.

### 1.3 Catalytic performance of 20%Cu/SiO<sub>2</sub> for ethanol conversion to acetaldehyde in the first reactor.

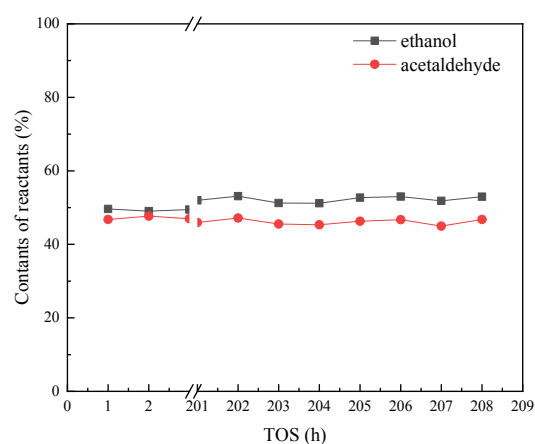


Fig. S1 Contents of ethanol and acetaldehyde in the products of ethanol conversion in the first fixed-bed reactor as a function of reaction time. (The time on stream was started to be counted after the 24 h induction period for catalyst activation)

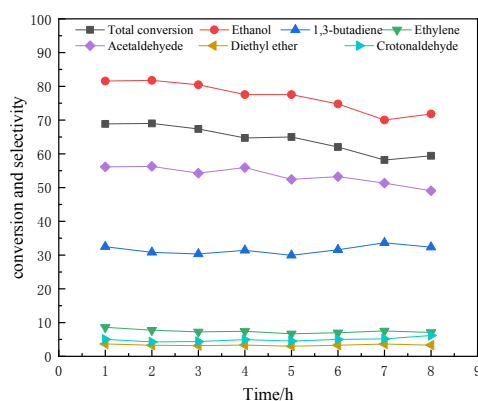


Fig. S2 Catalytic performance of 24Zr/MFI(NS) in ethanol conversion.

Table S1.

Texture property of various MFI(NS) supported Zr catalysts.

Catalyst	$S^a_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^b_{\text{Ext}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^b_{\text{meso}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Pore <sup>d</sup> (nm)
MFI (NS)	468	268	200	0.1	0.46	3.9
4%Zr/MFI (NS)	445	246	199	0.1	0.44	3.7
16%Zr/MFI (NS)	357	160	197	0.08	0.35	3.6

<sup>a</sup> Total surface area is determined by using the BET equation. <sup>b</sup> External surface area and mesopore volume are determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method. <sup>c</sup> Micropore volume is determined by the t-plot method. <sup>d</sup> Pore size distribution is determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method.

Table S2.

Texture property of 16%Zr loaded on different supports.

Catalyst	$S^a_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^b_{\text{Ext}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^b_{\text{meso}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Pore <sup>d</sup> (nm)
16%Zr/MFI(NS)	357	160	197	0.08	0.35	3.6
16%Zr/MFI(micro)	336	80	256	0.21	0.1	0.8
16%Zr/SiO <sub>2</sub>	393	366	27	0.01	0.62	6.2

<sup>a</sup> Total surface area is determined using the BET equation. <sup>b</sup> External surface area and mesopore volume are determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method. <sup>c</sup> Micropore volume is determined by the t-plot method. <sup>d</sup> Pore size distribution is determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method.

Table S3.

Texture property of various Mg-Zr/MFI(NS) catalysts.

Catalyst	$S^a_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^b_{\text{Ext}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{m}^2\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^c_{\text{micro}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	$V^b_{\text{meso}}$ ( $\text{cm}^3\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Pore <sup>d</sup> (nm)
1.2Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS)	354	178	176	0.09	0.36	3.8
1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS) organic Mg	360	180	180	0.09	0.37	3.7
19.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS)	228	71	157	0.07	0.25	4.2
1.2%Mg/MFI(NS)	446	240	206	0.1	0.43	3.8
19.2%Mg/MFI(NS)	419	194	225	0.11	0.4	4.1

<sup>a</sup> Total surface area is determined using the BET equation. <sup>b</sup> External surface area and mesopore volume are determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method. <sup>c</sup> Micropore volume is determined by the t-plot method. <sup>d</sup> Pore size distribution is determined from the adsorption isotherm by the BJH method.

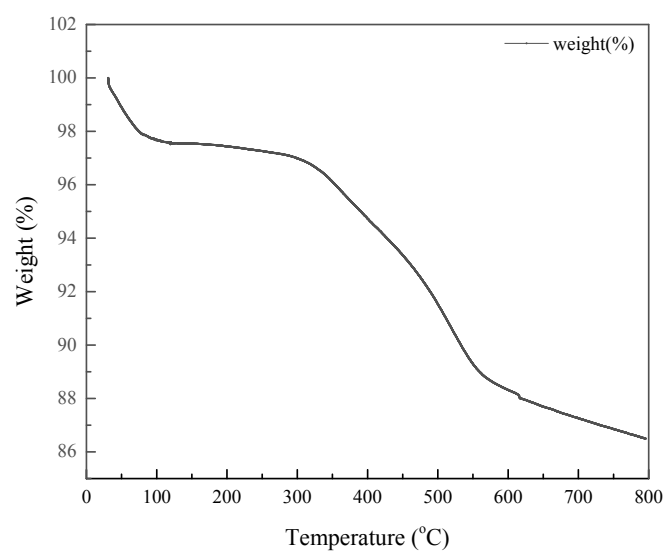


Fig. S3 TG curve of 1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS) catalyst after 7 days reaction.

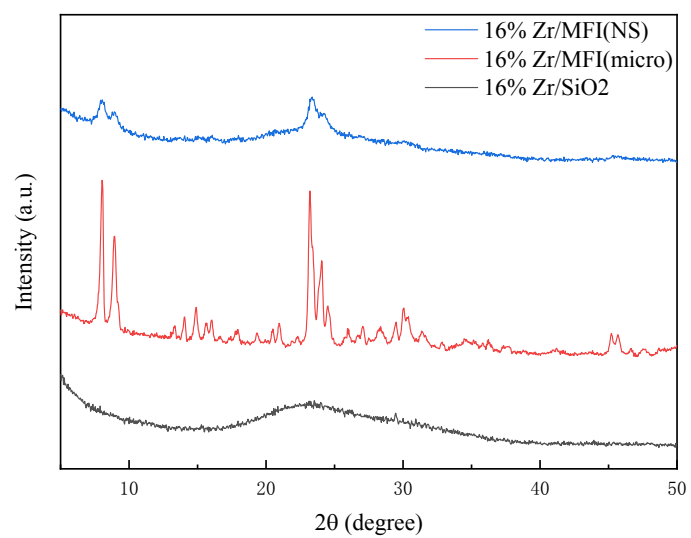


Fig S4. XRD patterns of Zr catalysts loaded on different supports.

Fig. S5 TEM image (a), HAADF-STEM image (b) and EDS mapping (c-g) of 1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS).

Fig. S6 SEM images of the fresh (left image) and the spent (right image) 1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS).

Fig. S7 HAADF-STEM image (a) and EDS mapping (b-f) of the spent 1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS).

Fig. S8 XRD patterns of the spent 1.2%Mg-16%Zr/MFI(NS).