

## Supporting information

### **Facile preparation of a polyoxometalate nanoparticle via solid-state chemical reaction for aerobic oxidation desulfurization catalysis**

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## Figure Caption

**Table S1** The comparison between various POM catalysts under aerobic conditions.

**Table S2** Results of elemental analysis of catalysts (theoretical calculated values in brackets).

**Fig. S1** FTIR spectra of  $(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ ,  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle.

**Fig. S2** The XRD patterns of  $(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$  and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle.

**Fig. S3** The  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectra of  $(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ ,  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle.

**Fig. S4** Cyclic voltammograms of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder.

**Fig. S5** The SEM image of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder.

**Fig. S6** XPS spectra of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder (**a**); spectra of V2p elements (**b**) and Ag3d elements (**c**) of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder.

**Fig. S7** Cyclic voltammograms of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle in nitrogen and oxygen atmosphere.

**Fig. S8** DR-UV spectra of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle in  $\text{N}_2$  and in  $\text{O}_2$ .

**Fig. S9** The gasoline before the reaction (left) and after (right) treatment.

**Fig. S10** UV spectrum of reaction mixture after separating catalyst.

**Fig. S11** The dissolving test of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle in AODS of DBT.

**Fig. S12** The IR, XRD, SEM and XPS of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle before and after the reaction.

**Fig. S13** The precipitation of  $\text{DBTO}_2$  after aerobic oxidative treatment.

**Fig. S14** XPS spectra of V2p elements (**a**) and Ag3d elements (**b**) of  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle after reaction.

## Materials

All chemicals and solvents used in this work were AR grade or better without further purification. For oxidation desulfurization, thiophene, DBT, BT and 4,6-DMDBT were prepared from the stock solution.

## Physical measurements

IR spectra ( $4000\text{-}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) were recorded in KBr disks on a Nicolet Magna 560 IR spectrometer. UV-Vis spectra (200-800 nm) were recorded on a Cary 500 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer. DR-UV-Vis spectra (200-800 nm) were obtained on a UV-2600 UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu). The UV-visible spectra were recorded on T1810. XPS were recorded on an Escalab-MK II photoelectronic spectrometer with Al  $K\alpha$  (1200 eV). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and energy-dispersive X-ray (EDAX) spectroscopy were performed using a XL30 ESEM FEG at 25 kV (PhilipsXL-30). EDAX was performed to take into account of the P, V, Mo, C, N, Ag and O elements. Elemental analysis was carried out using a Leeman Plasma Spec (I) ICP-ES and a P-E 2400 CHN elemental analyzer. The XRD patterns of the samples were collected on a Japan Rigaku Dmax 2000 X-ray diffractometer with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.154178\text{ nm}$ ). The Cyclic voltammetry curve was performed using Shanghai Chenhua Instrument Co., Ltd. CHI600E electrochemical Workstation. The particle-size distribution was to use Zetasizer Nano ZSE test analysis. The BET surface area was carried out using American Mike ASAP2020M gas adsorption analyzer and AUTOSORB-IQ-MPXR gas adsorption analyzer. The  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectrum of  $(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ ,  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle were obtained using a Bruker AVANCE III spectrometer at 400 MHz. The identification and quantification of DBT, 4,6-

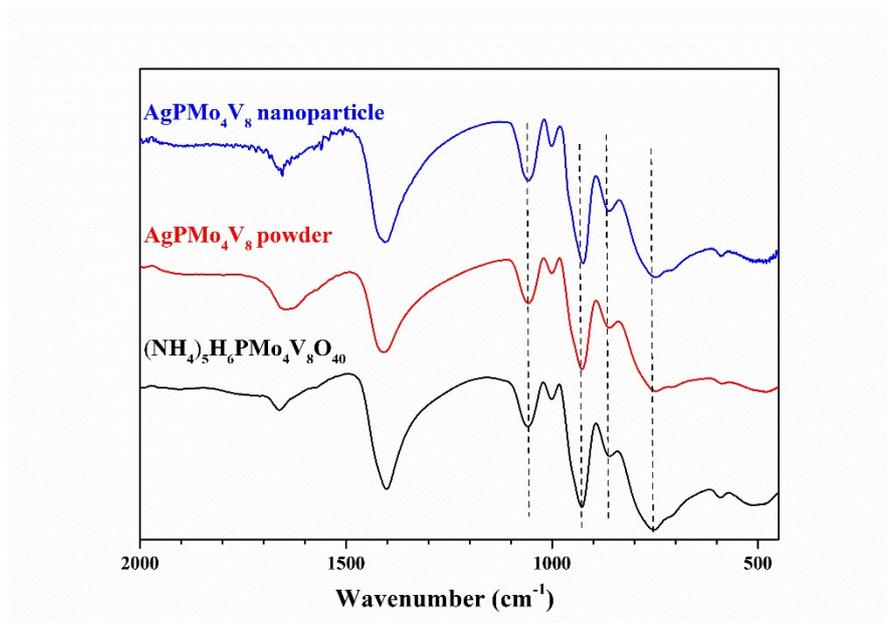
DMDBT, BT and thiophene in decalin were performed by Gas Chromatography (GC). The sulfur content in real diesel was tested by ICP-AES (ICAP 6300).

**Table S1** The comparison between various POM catalysts under aerobic conditions.

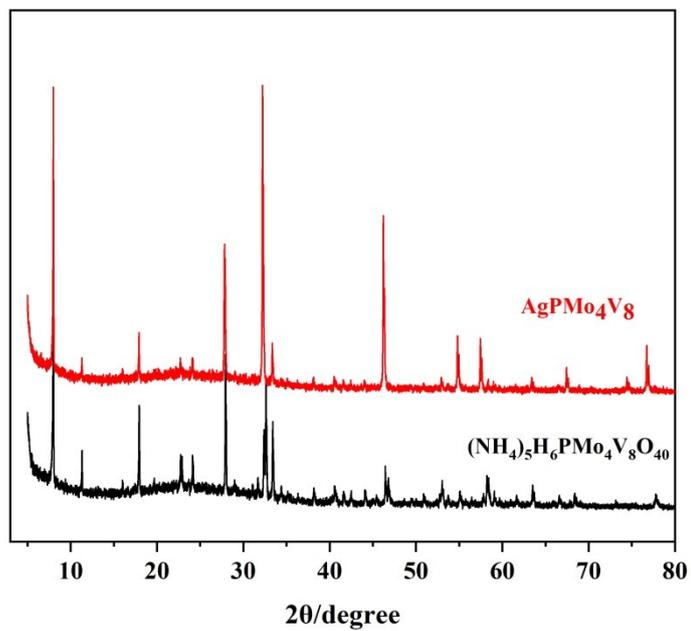
Catalyst and usage	Solvent	Substrate	Oxidant	T (°C)	Reaction time (h)	Con. (%)
[C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sub>3</sub> H <sub>3</sub> V <sub>10</sub> O <sub>28</sub> 40 mg	Decalin	DBT	O <sub>2</sub>	97	7	100
M <sub>2</sub> (PcTN) <sub>2</sub> /W-HZSM-5 (M = Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn and Mn) 100 mg	-	T BT DBT	O <sub>2</sub>	60	3	> 85
[(C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>37</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>3</sub> Co(OH) <sub>6</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> 11 mg	Decalin	4,6-DMDBT DBT BT	O <sub>2</sub>	80	5 7 12	100 100 65
[C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sub>3</sub> HIV <sub>9</sub> O <sub>28</sub> 40 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT	O <sub>2</sub>	90 90	6 7	100 100
[Cu <sub>2</sub> (BTC) <sub>4/3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>6</sub> [H <sub>3</sub> PV <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>10</sub> O <sub>40</sub> ] 44 mg	Decalin	DBT	O <sub>2</sub>	80	1.5	100
(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub> PV <sub>8</sub> Mo <sub>4</sub> O <sub>40</sub> 20 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT BT T	O <sub>2</sub>	100	6 6 11 12	100 100 100 97
IMo <sub>6</sub> @iPAF-1 10 mg	Decalin	4,6-DMDBT BT T	O <sub>2</sub>	90	5 7 10	100 100 97.6
[PyPS] <sub>3</sub> Co(OH) <sub>6</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> and Benzenesulfonic acid and polyethylene glycol 20 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT BT	O <sub>2</sub>	60	4 6 8	100 100 100
Na <sub>3</sub> Fe(OH) <sub>6</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> and Benzenesulfonic acid and polyethylene glycol 20 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT BT	O <sub>2</sub>	60	3 3 6	99 99 95
Na <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> CrMo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>24</sub> and PEG (polyethylene glycol)/SSA (5- sulfosalicylic acid) 20 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT	O <sub>2</sub>	60	2 3	100 100
(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> Co(OH) <sub>6</sub> Mo <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> and p- toluenesulfonic acid 20 mg	Decalin	DBT	O <sub>2</sub>	70	0.5	100
Ag <sub>6</sub> (NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> PMo <sub>4</sub> V <sub>8</sub> O <sub>40</sub> 20 mg	Decalin	DBT 4,6-DMDBT BT T	O <sub>2</sub>	100	3.5 2 6 8	100 100 100 97

**Table S2** Results of elemental analysis of catalysts (theoretical calculated values in brackets).

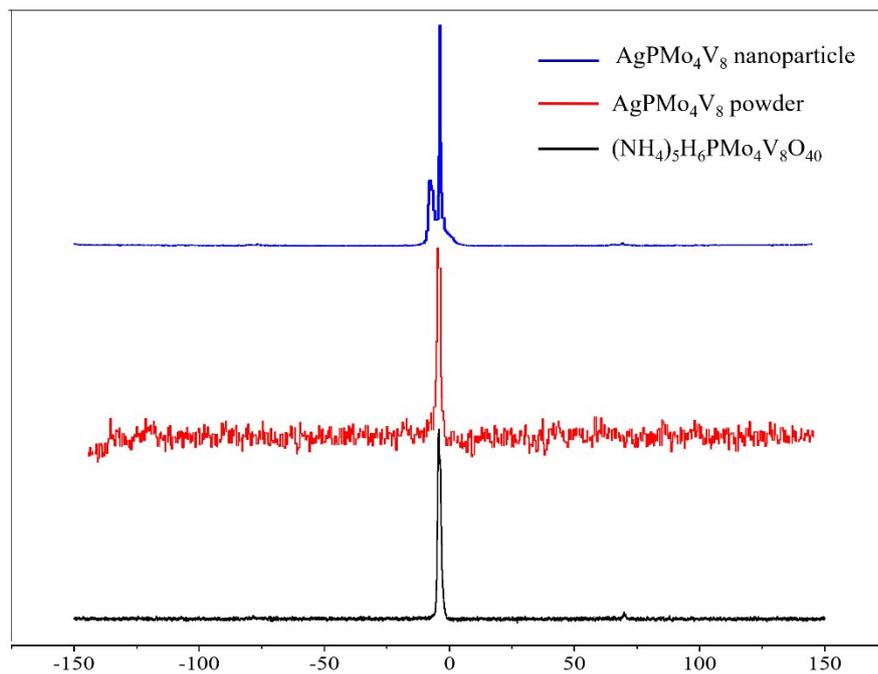
Catalysts	Elementary results (calculated values in parenthesis)/%					
	Ag	N	H	P	Mo	V
$\text{Ag}_6(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ powder	29.43 (29.02)	3.18 (3.58)	0.92 (0.88)	1.41 (1.32)	17.45 (17.33)	18.53 (18.55)
$\text{Ag}_6(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ nanoparticle	29.42 (29.02)	3.17 (3.58)	0.91 (0.88)	1.42 (1.32)	17.54 (17.33)	18.53 (18.55)



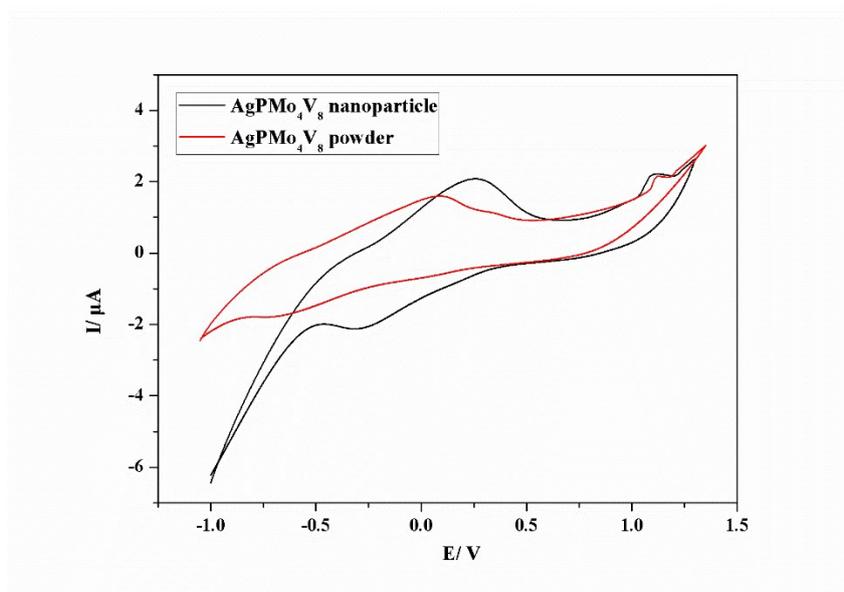
**Fig. S1** FTIR spectra of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>5</sub>H<sub>6</sub>PMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub>O<sub>40</sub>, AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> powder and AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle.



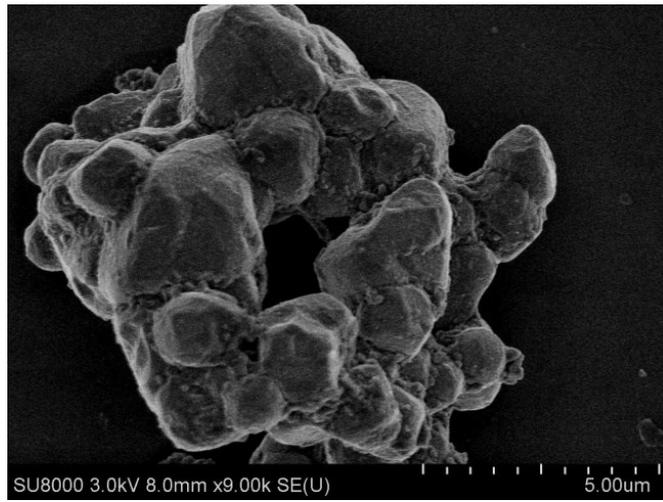
**Fig. S2** The XRD patterns of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>5</sub>H<sub>6</sub>PMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub>O<sub>40</sub> and AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle.



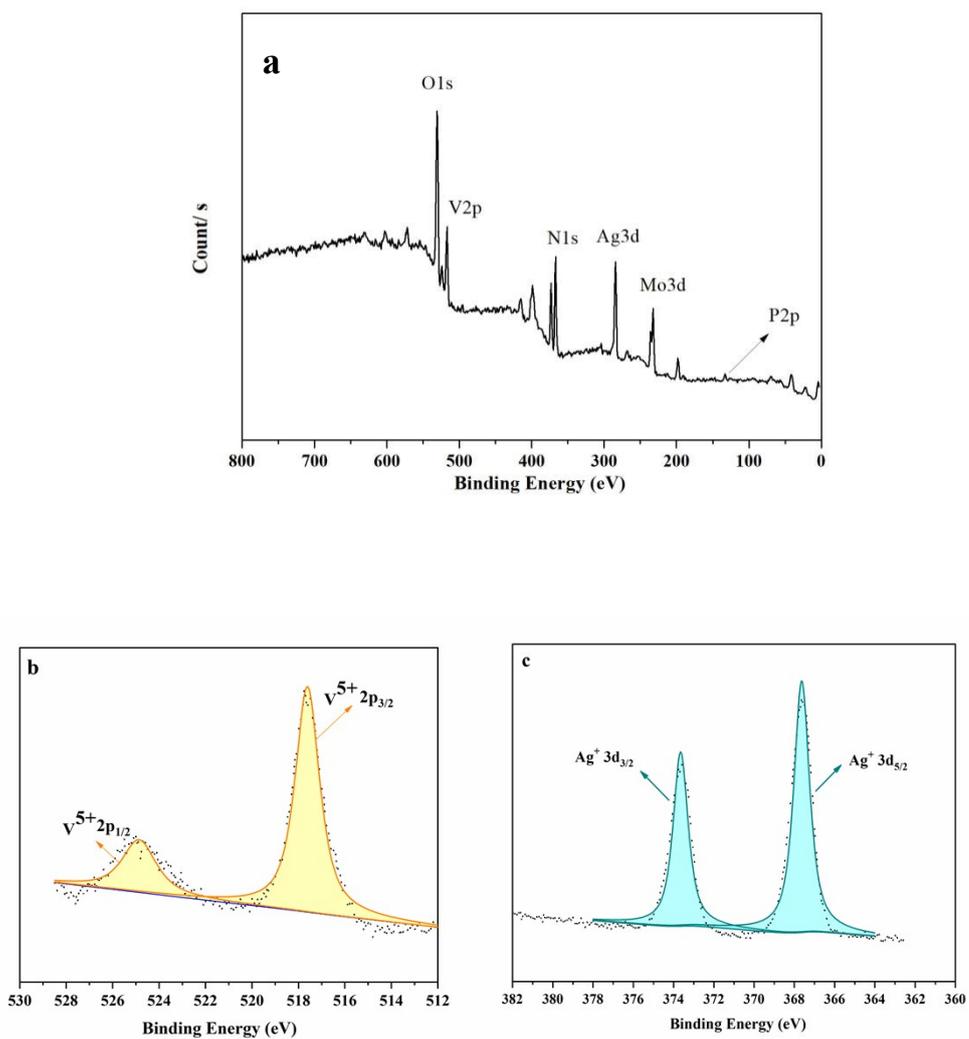
**Fig. S3** The  $^{31}\text{P}$  MAS NMR spectra of  $(\text{NH}_4)_5\text{H}_6\text{PMo}_4\text{V}_8\text{O}_{40}$ ,  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  powder and  $\text{AgPMo}_4\text{V}_8$  nanoparticle.



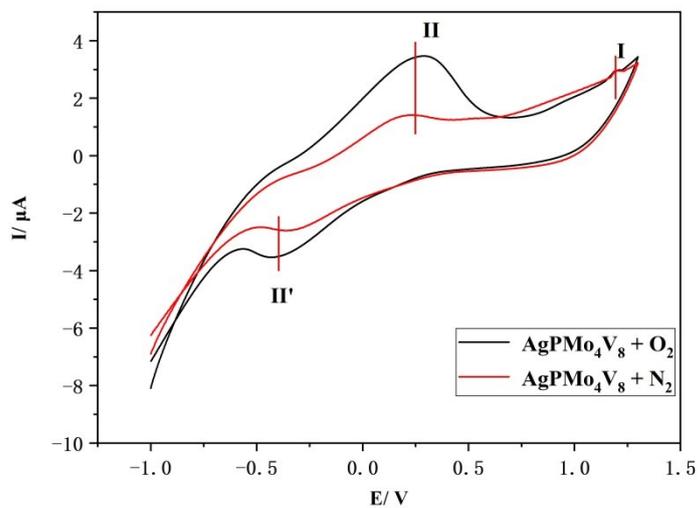
**Fig. S4** Cyclic voltammograms of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle and AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> powder.



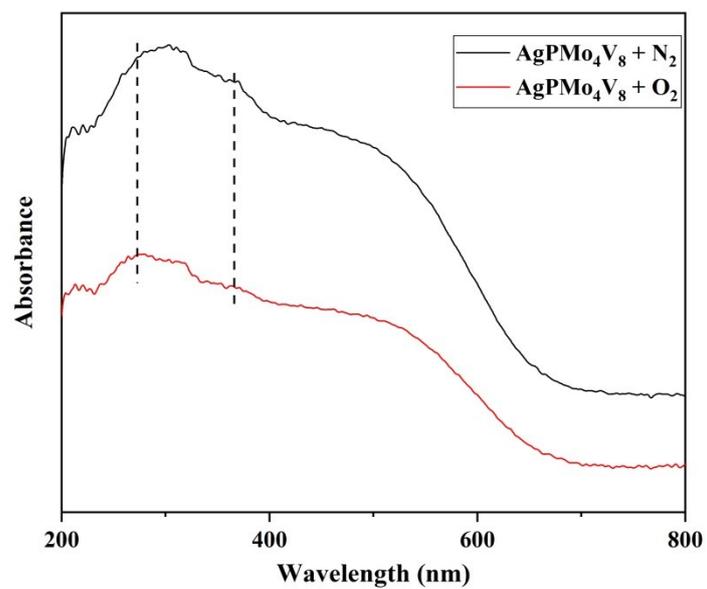
**Fig. S5** The SEM image of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> powder.



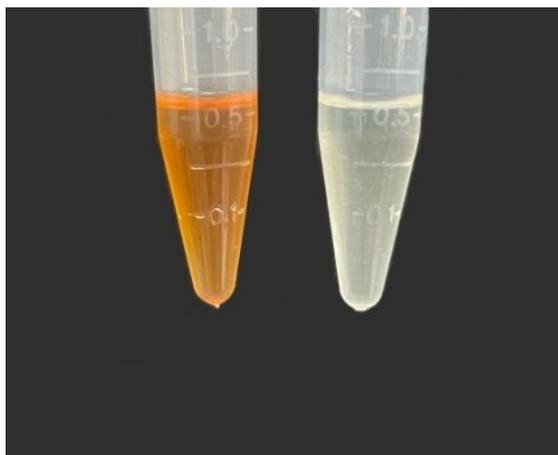
**Fig. S6** XPS spectra of  $AgPMo_4V_8$  powder (**a**); spectra of V2p elements (**b**) and Ag3d elements (**c**) of  $AgPMo_4V_8$  powder.



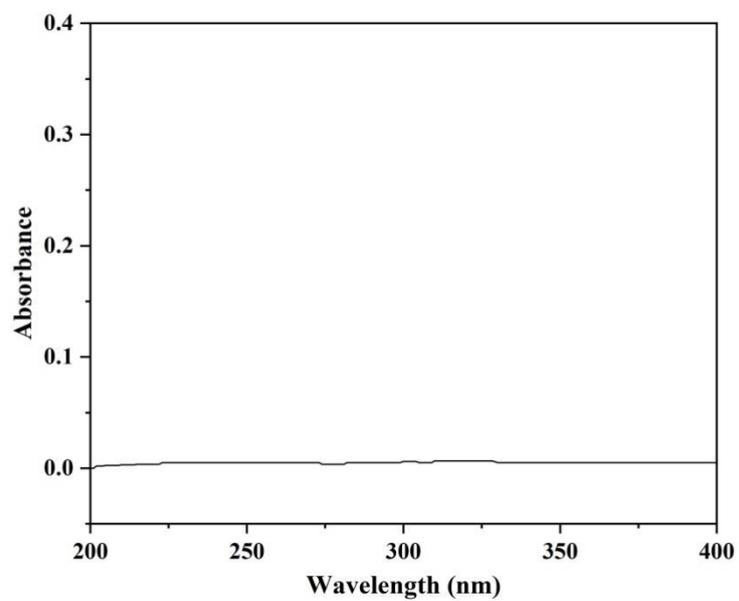
**Fig. S7** Cyclic voltammograms of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle in nitrogen and oxygen atmosphere.



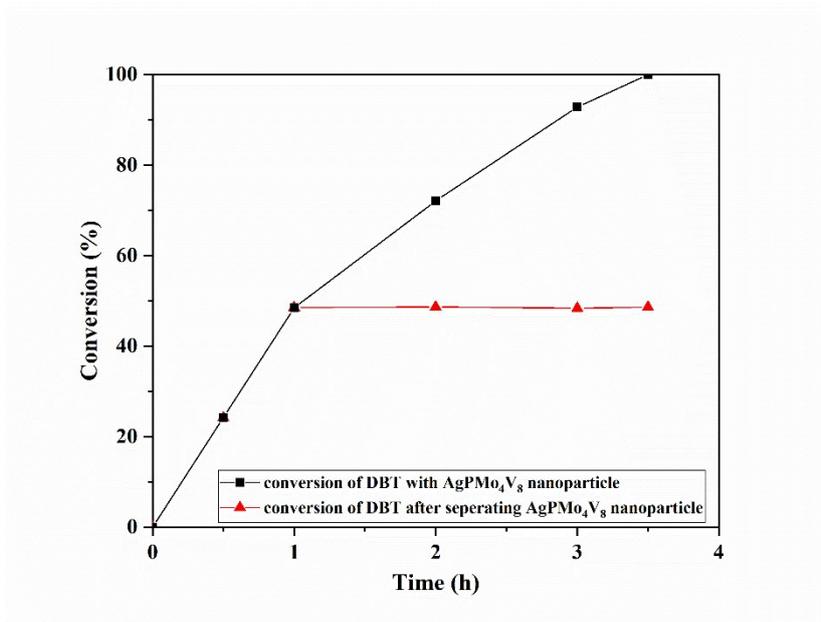
**Fig. S8** DR-UV spectra of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle in N<sub>2</sub> and in O<sub>2</sub>.



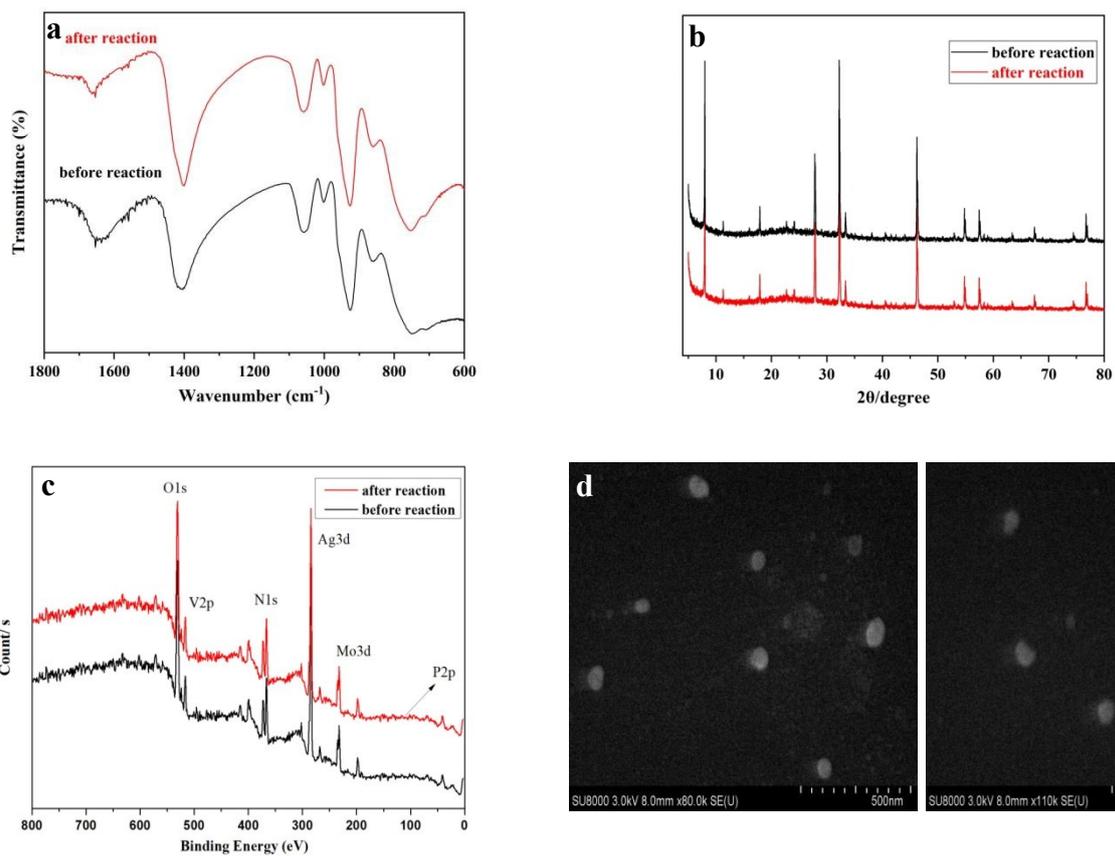
**Fig. S9** The gasoline before the reaction (left) and after (right) treatment.



**Fig. S10** Uv spectrum of reaction mixture after separating catalyst.



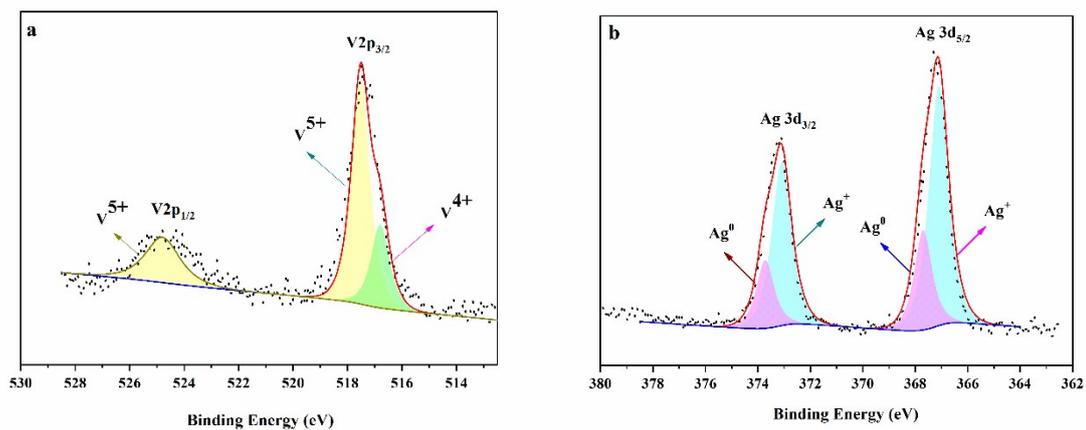
**Fig. S11** The dissolving test of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle in AODS of DBT.



**Fig. S12** The IR (a), XRD (b), XPS (c) and SEM (d) of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle before and after the reaction.



**Fig. S13** The precipitation of  $\text{DBTO}_2$  after aerobic oxidative treatment.



**Fig. S14** XPS spectra of V2p elements **(a)** and Ag3d elements **(b)** of AgPMo<sub>4</sub>V<sub>8</sub> nanoparticle after reaction.