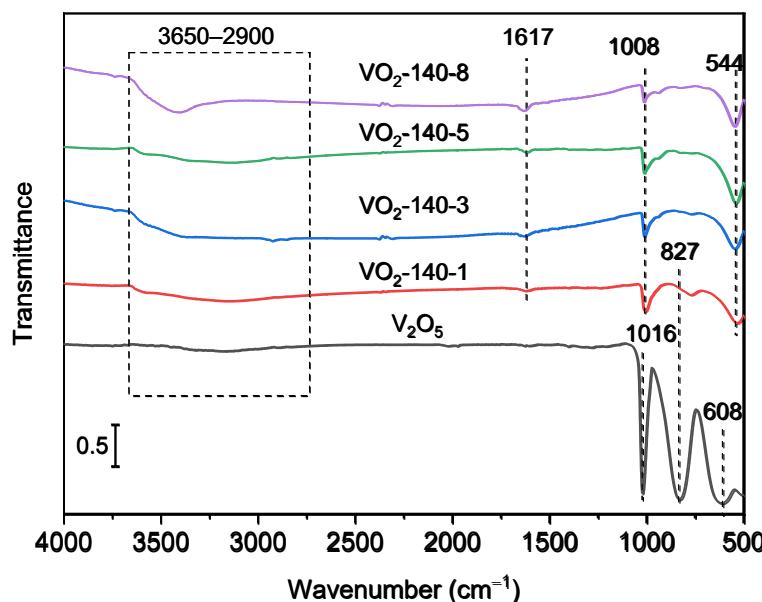


# Facile hydrothermal synthesis of VO<sub>2</sub> nanosheets as robust catalysts for liquid-phase selective oxidation of benzyl alcohol under atmospheric O<sub>2</sub>

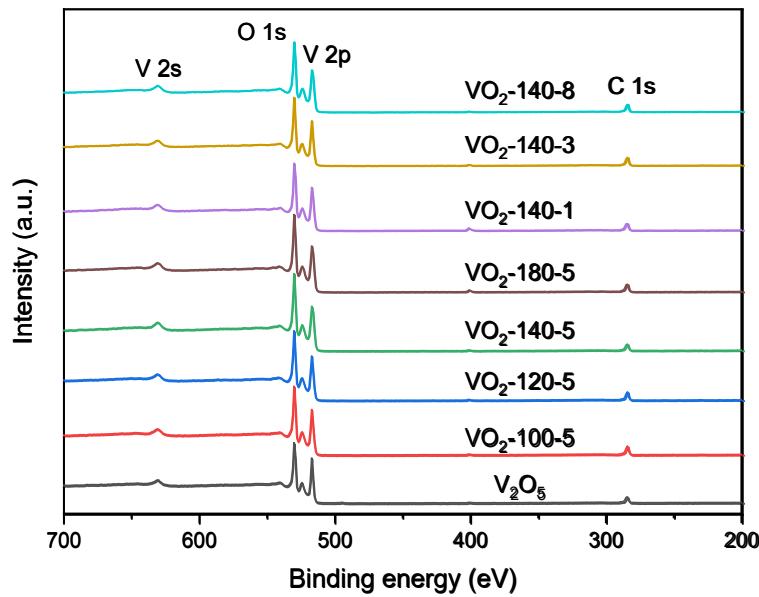
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Petrochemical Engineering, Changzhou University, Gehu Middle Road 21,  
Changzhou, Jiangsu 213164, PR China*

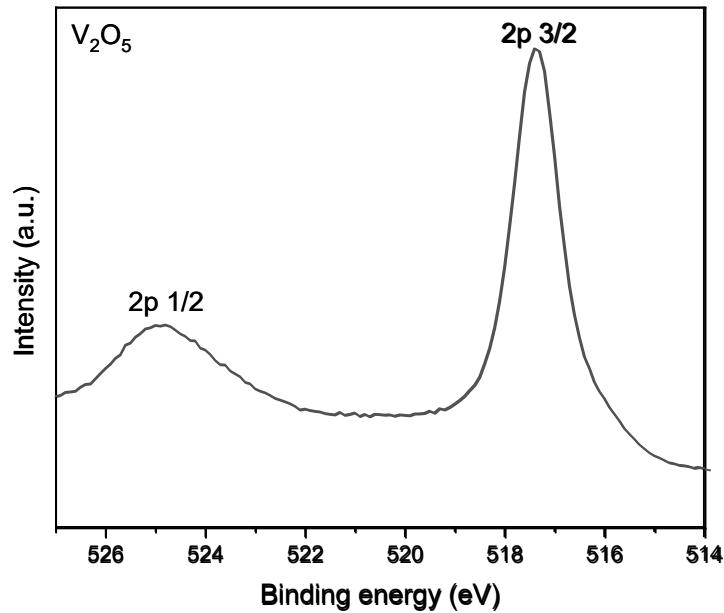


**Fig. S1** FT-IR spectra of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>-140-1, VO<sub>2</sub>-140-3, VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5, and VO<sub>2</sub>-140-8 materials.

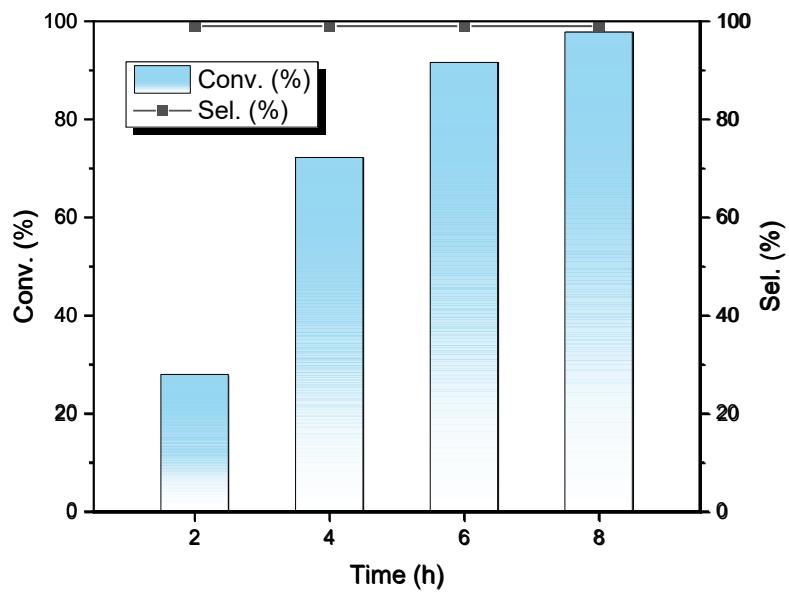
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<sup>\*\*</sup> Corresponding author. E-mail: [xuebing@cczu.edu.cn](mailto:xuebing@cczu.edu.cn) (B. Xue) ORCID: 0000-0001-6740-4665



**Fig. S2** XPS survey of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}100\text{-}5$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}120\text{-}5$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}5$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}180\text{-}5$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}1$ ,  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}3$ , and  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}8$ .

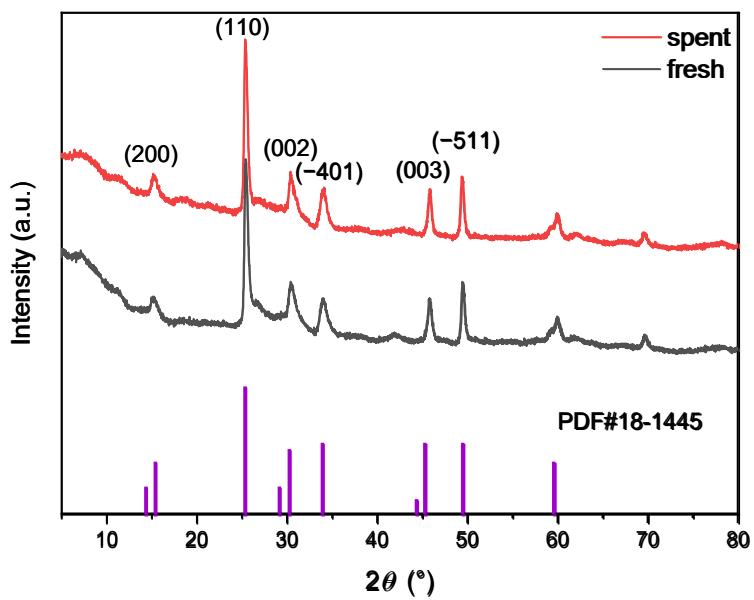


**Fig. S3** V 2p spectrum of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ .

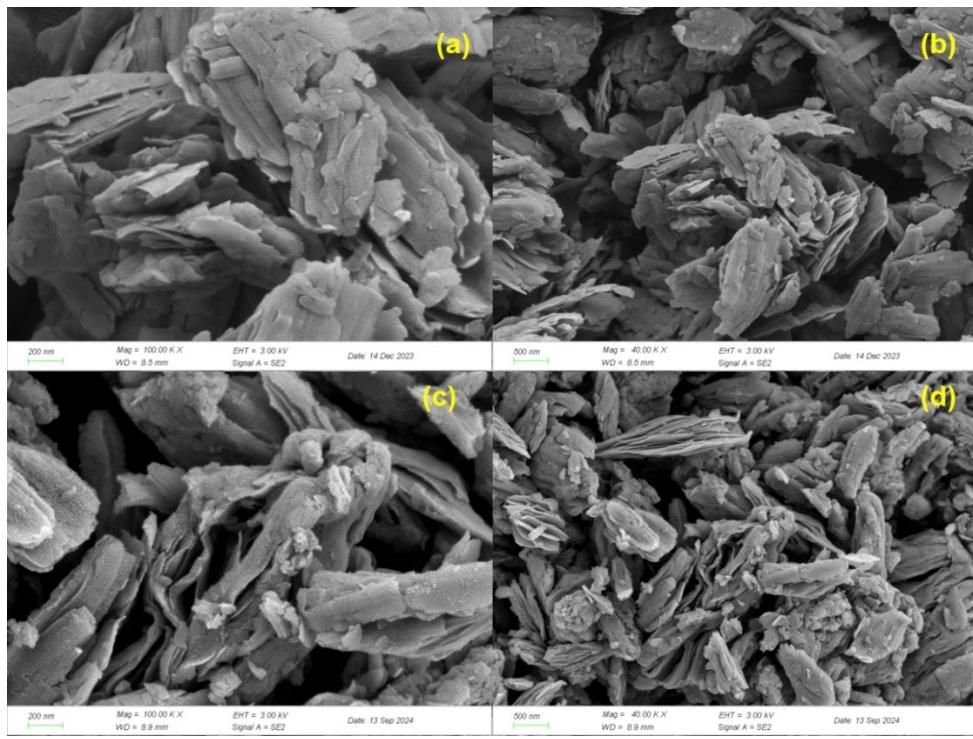


**Fig. S4** Influence of reaction time on the catalytic performance of VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5.

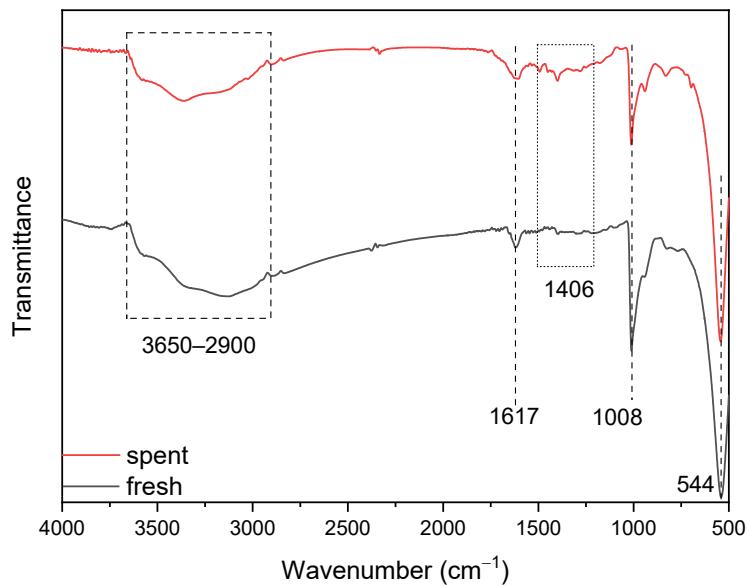
Reaction conditions: 1 mL of BZA, 4 mL of toluene,  $W_{\text{catal.}} = 40$  mg, and  $T = 95$  °C.



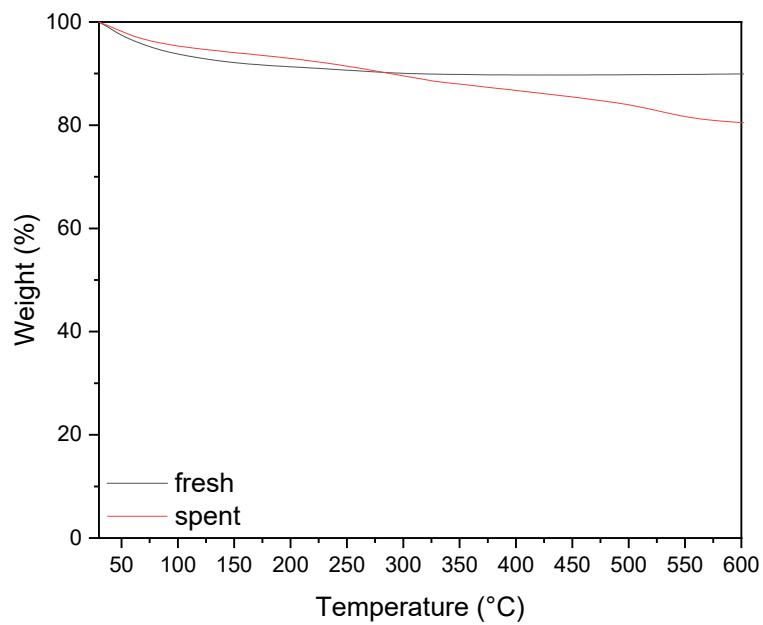
**Fig. S5** XRD patterns of the fresh and spent VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5.



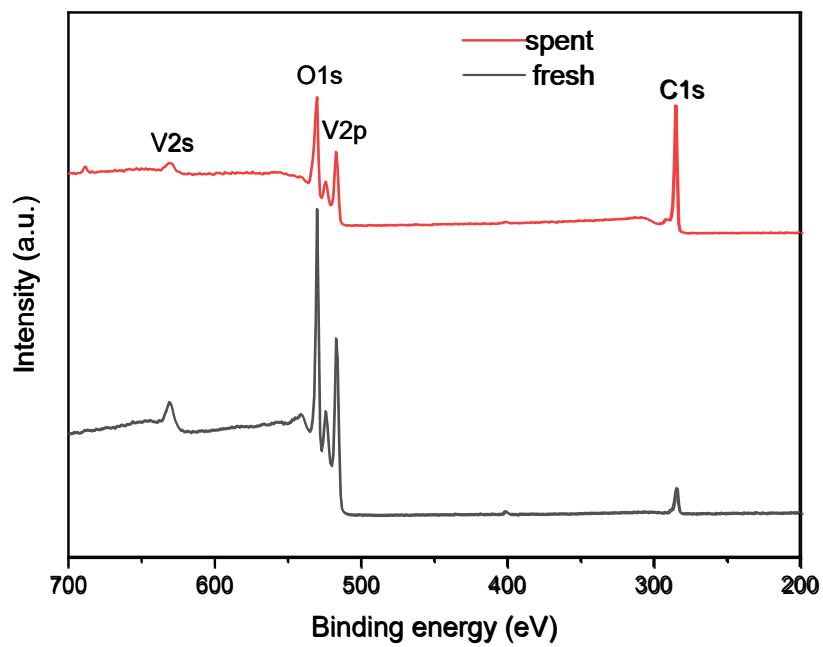
**Fig. S6** SEM images of fresh (a&b) and recycled VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5 (c&d) catalysts. The figures a and c were the magnified images of figures b and d.



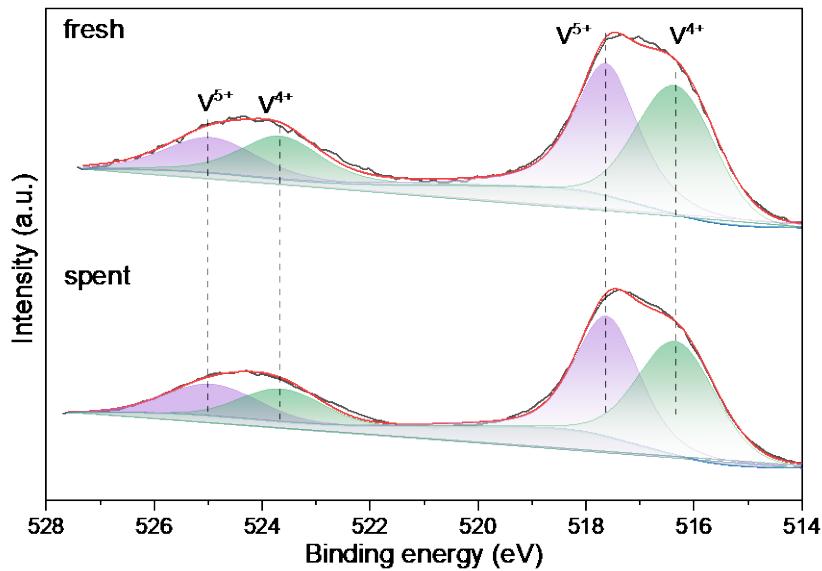
**Fig. S7** FT-IR spectra of the fresh and spent VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5.



**Fig. S8** TG curves ( $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere) of the fresh and spent  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}5$  catalysts



**Fig. S9** XPS survey of the fresh and spent  $\text{VO}_2\text{-}140\text{-}5$ .



**Fig. S10** V 2p spectra of the fresh and spent VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5.

**Table S1** Molar percentages of various O species.

Material	O <sub>H</sub> (%) <sup>a</sup>	O <sub>V</sub> (%)	O <sub>L</sub> (%)
VO <sub>2</sub> -140-1	7.8	20.3	71.9
VO <sub>2</sub> -140-3	7.7	25.7	66.6
VO <sub>2</sub> -140-5	7.0	28.5	64.5
VO <sub>2</sub> -140-8	7.6	26.6	66.8

<sup>a</sup> The O<sub>H</sub>, O<sub>V</sub>, and O<sub>L</sub> indicate hydroxyl oxygen in V-OH, oxygen vacancy, and lattice oxygen, respectively.

**Table S2** Catalytic performance of VO<sub>2</sub>-140-5 with various volumes of BZA <sup>a</sup>.

V <sub>BZA</sub> (mL)	V <sub>toluene</sub> (mL)	Conv. (%)	Sel. (%)
1	4	91.6	>99.9
2	3	63.4	>99.9
3	2	20.3	>99.9
4	1	9.6	>99.9
5	—	7.5	>99.9

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions:  $W_{\text{catal.}} = 40 \text{ mg}$ ,  $T = 95 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $t = 6 \text{ h}$