

# Unlocking High Selectivity and Stability of Cobalt-based Catalyst in *n*-Butanol Amination Reaction

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## Supplementary Tables

**Table S1** Textural properties and Co content of cobalt-based catalysts using different supports.

| Catalysts                          | Co content <sup>a</sup><br>(wt.%) | S <sub>BET</sub> <sup>b</sup><br>(m <sup>2</sup> /g) | S <sub>ext</sub><br>(m <sup>2</sup> /g) | V <sub>total</sub> <sup>c</sup><br>(cm <sup>3</sup> /g) | V <sub>micro</sub><br>(cm <sup>3</sup> /g) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 3Co/SSZ-13                         | 3.2                               | 712                                                  | 32                                      | 0.30                                                    | 0.26                                       |
| 3Co/USY                            | 3.3                               | 840                                                  | 127                                     | 0.64                                                    | 0.27                                       |
| 3Co/S1                             | 3.3                               | 432                                                  | 124                                     | 0.30                                                    | 0.12                                       |
| 3Co/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 3.5                               | 204                                                  | 203                                     | 0.53                                                    | —                                          |
| 3Co/SiO <sub>2</sub>               | 3.3                               | 294                                                  | 282                                     | 0.91                                                    | —                                          |

<sup>a</sup> Co content was determined by XRF analysis;

<sup>b</sup> Specific surface area calculated by the BET method;

<sup>c</sup> Total pore volume measured at P/P<sub>0</sub> = 0.99.

**Table S2** Calculated proportions of CoO<sub>x</sub> nanoparticles and nanoclusters on nCo/S1 catalysts based on H<sub>2</sub>-TPR hydrogen consumption.

| Catalysts | Co content <sup>a</sup><br>(wt.%) | CoO <sub>x</sub> nanoparticles <sup>b</sup><br>(%) | CoO <sub>x</sub> nanoclusters <sup>b</sup><br>(%) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 5Co/S1    | 5.4                               | 97                                                 | 3                                                 |
| 1Co/S1    | 1.1                               | 26                                                 | 74                                                |

<sup>a</sup> Co content was determined by XRF analysis;

<sup>b</sup> Relative contents of CoO<sub>x</sub> nanoparticles and nanoclusters were estimated by deconvoluting the H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles.

**Table S3** Quantitative XPS analysis of surface cobalt oxidation states in nCo/S1 catalysts.

| Catalysts | Co <sup>3+</sup> (%) | Co <sup>2+</sup> (%) |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 5Co/S1    | 49                   | 51                   |
| 1Co/S1    | 17                   | 83                   |

**Table S4** Texture properties of 3Co/S1, 3Co/S1-250 h and 3Co/S1-250 h-C.

| Catalysts      | $S_{\text{BET}}^{\text{a}}$<br>( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ) | $S_{\text{ext}}$<br>( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ) | $V_{\text{total}}^{\text{b}}$<br>( $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ ) | $V_{\text{micro}}$<br>( $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ ) |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 3Co/S1         | 432                                                      | 124                                           | 0.30                                                        | 0.12                                             |
| 3Co/S1-250 h   | 260                                                      | 58                                            | 0.20                                                        | 0.08                                             |
| 3Co/S1-250 h-C | 413                                                      | 144                                           | 0.27                                                        | 0.11                                             |

<sup>a</sup> Specific surface area calculated by the BET method;

<sup>b</sup> Total pore volume measured at  $P/P_0 = 0.99$ .

**Table S5** Textural properties and Co content of 3Co/S1 catalysts before and after acid treatment.

| Catalysts     | Co content <sup>a</sup><br>(wt.%) | S <sub>BET</sub> <sup>b</sup><br>(m <sup>2</sup> /g) | S <sub>ext</sub><br>(m <sup>2</sup> /g) | V <sub>total</sub> <sup>c</sup><br>(cm <sup>3</sup> /g) | V <sub>micro</sub><br>(cm <sup>3</sup> /g) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| S1            | —                                 | 431                                                  | 128                                     | 0.30                                                    | 0.12                                       |
| 3Co/S1        | 3.3                               | 432                                                  | 124                                     | 0.30                                                    | 0.12                                       |
| 3Co/S1-AW-1.7 | 2.7                               | 373                                                  | 170                                     | 0.27                                                    | 0.11                                       |
| 3Co/S1-AW-2.5 | 1.9                               | 354                                                  | 199                                     | 0.29                                                    | 0.08                                       |

<sup>a</sup> Co content was determined by XRF analysis;

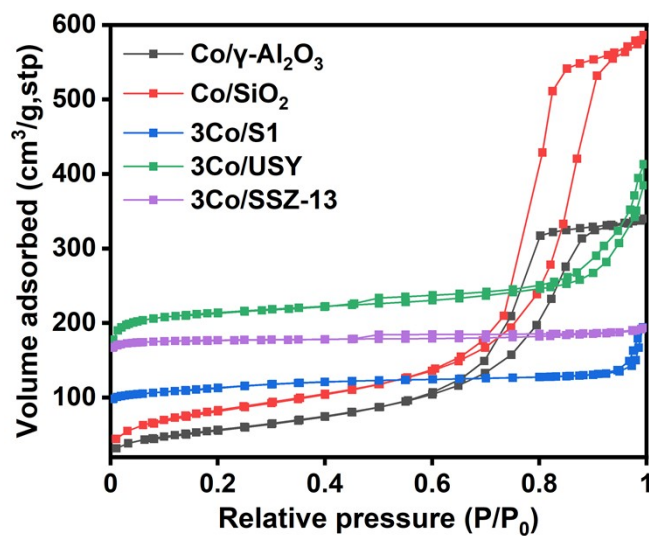
<sup>b</sup> Specific surface area calculated by the BET method;

<sup>c</sup> Total pore volume measured at P/P<sub>0</sub> = 0.99.

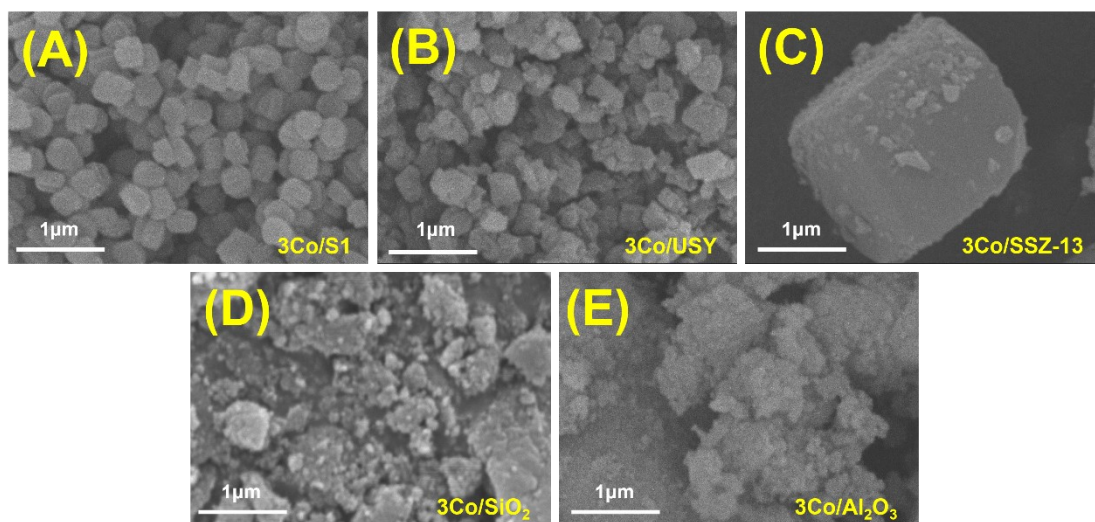
**Table S6** Quantitative XPS analysis of surface cobalt oxidation states in 3Co/S1 catalysts before and after acid treatment.

| Catalysts     | Co <sup>3+</sup> (%) | Co <sup>2+</sup> (%) |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3Co/S1        | 43                   | 57                   |
| 3Co/S1-AW-1.7 | 40                   | 60                   |
| 3Co/S1-AW-2.5 | 33                   | 67                   |

## Supplementary Figures



**Fig. S1.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption and desorption isotherms of Co-based catalysts with different supports.



**Fig. S2.** SEM images of (A) 3Co/S1, (B) 3Co/USY, (C) 3Co/SSZ-13, (D) 3Co/SiO<sub>2</sub> and (E) 3Co/γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

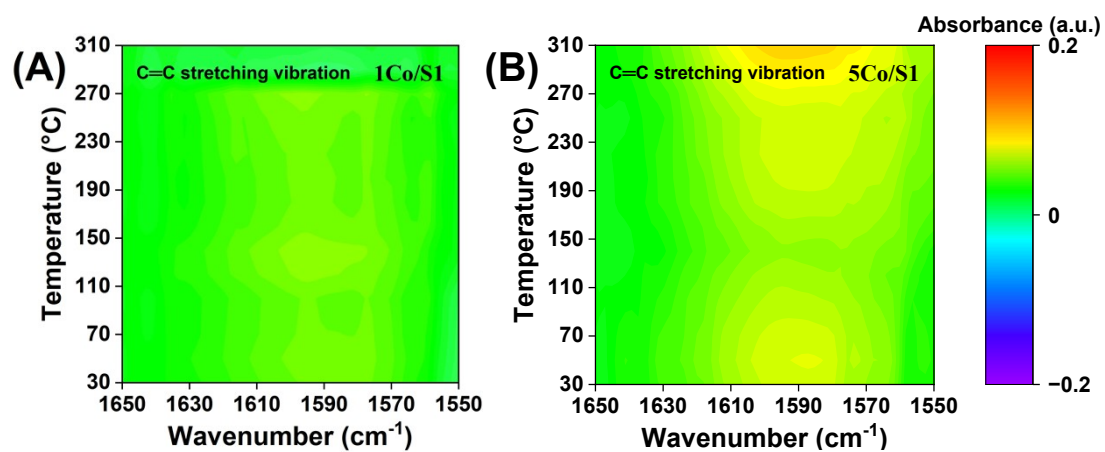
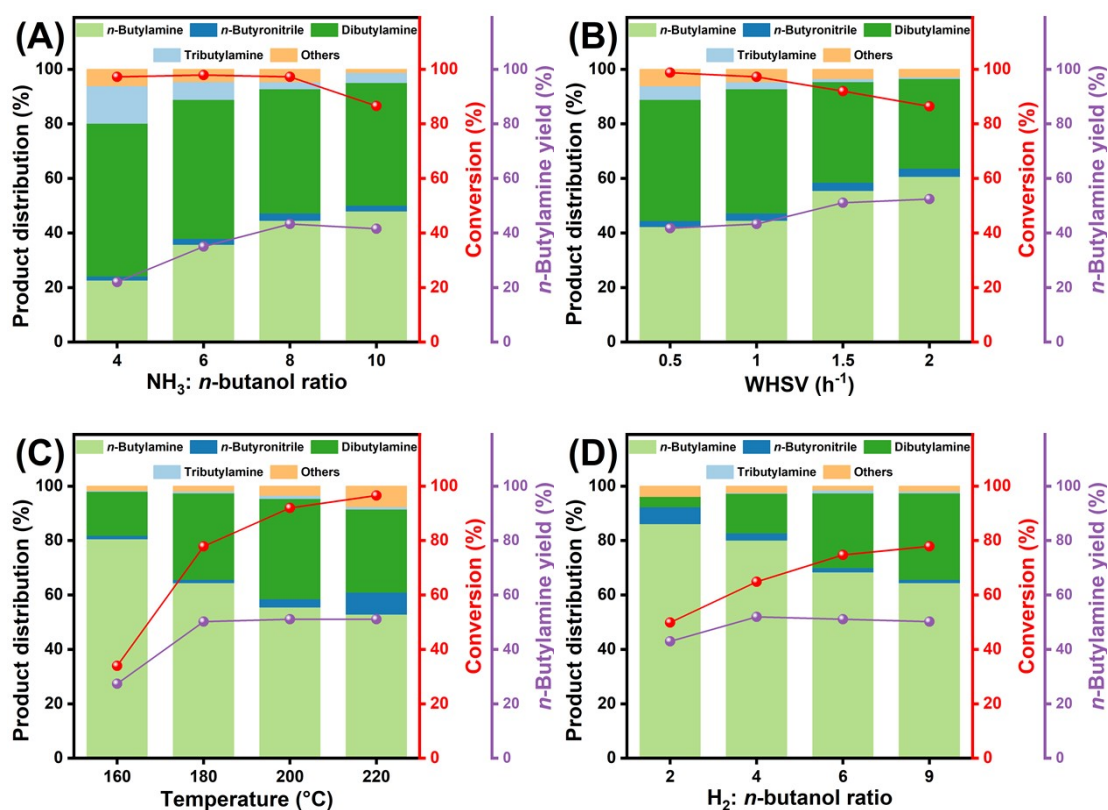


Fig. S3. FTIR spectra of adsorbed *n*-butanol on 1Co/S1 and 5Co/S1.



**Fig. S4.** *n*-Butanol conversion, product distribution, and *n*-butylamine yield over 3Co/S1 catalyst under varying reaction conditions.

Reaction conditions: (A)  $T = 200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{WHSV} = 1\text{ h}^{-1}$ , molar ratio  $\text{H}_2$ : *n*-butanol = 9; (B)  $T = 200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , molar ratio  $\text{H}_2$ :  $\text{NH}_3$ : *n*-butanol = 9:8:1; (C) molar ratio  $\text{H}_2$ :  $\text{NH}_3$ : *n*-butanol = 9:8:1,  $\text{WHSV} = 1.5\text{ h}^{-1}$ ; (D)  $T = 180\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , molar ratio  $\text{NH}_3$ : *n*-butanol = 8:1,  $\text{WHSV} = 1.5\text{ h}^{-1}$ .

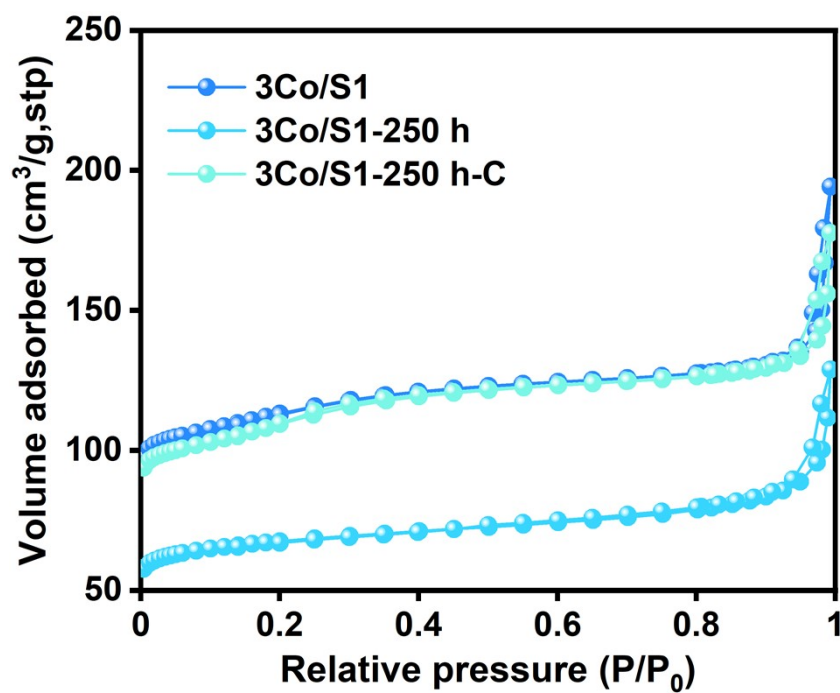


Fig. S5. N<sub>2</sub> adsorption and desorption isotherms of 3Co/S1, 3Co/S1-250 h and 3Co/S1-250 h-C.

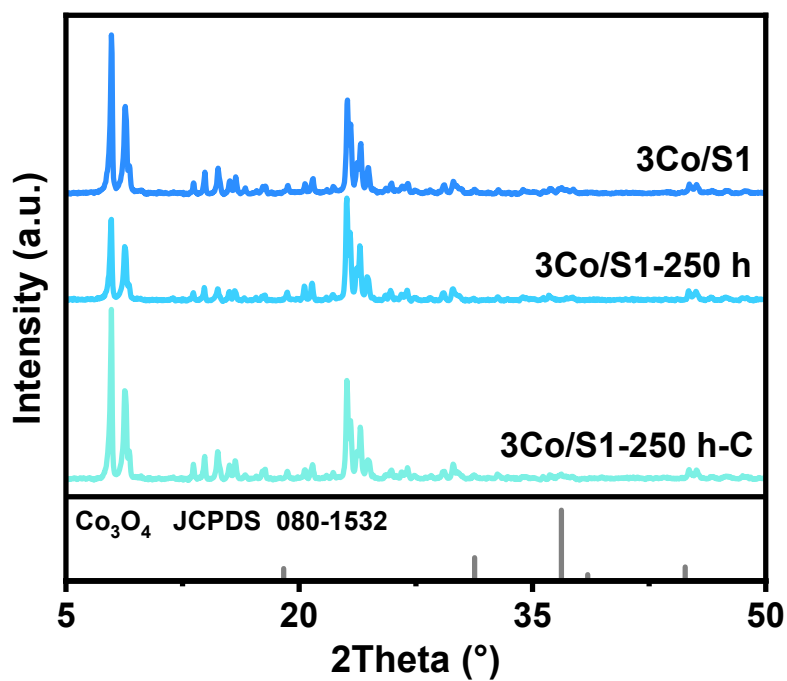
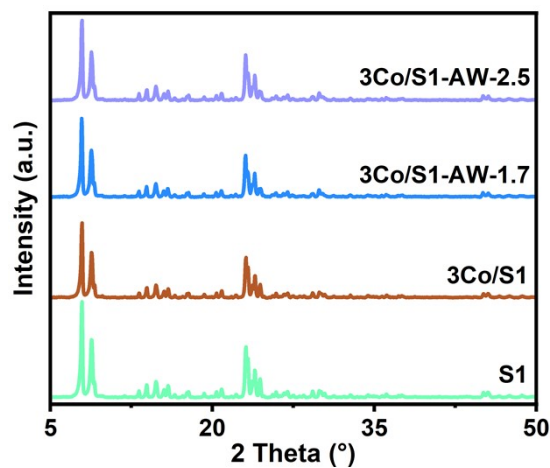
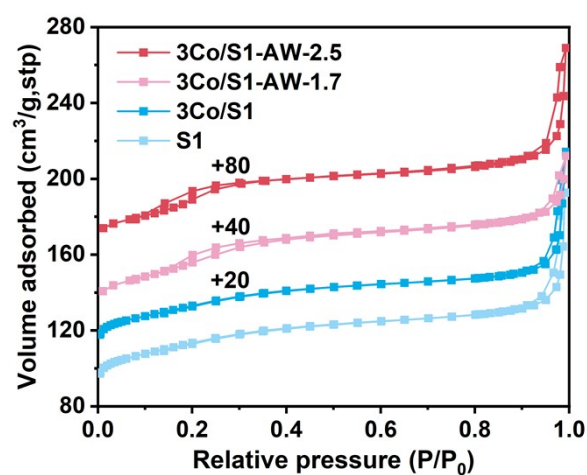


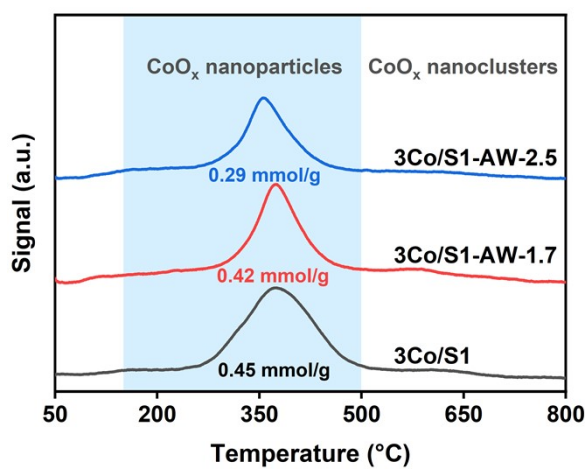
Fig. S6. XRD patterns of 3Co/S1, 3Co/S1-250 h and 3Co/S1-250 h-C.



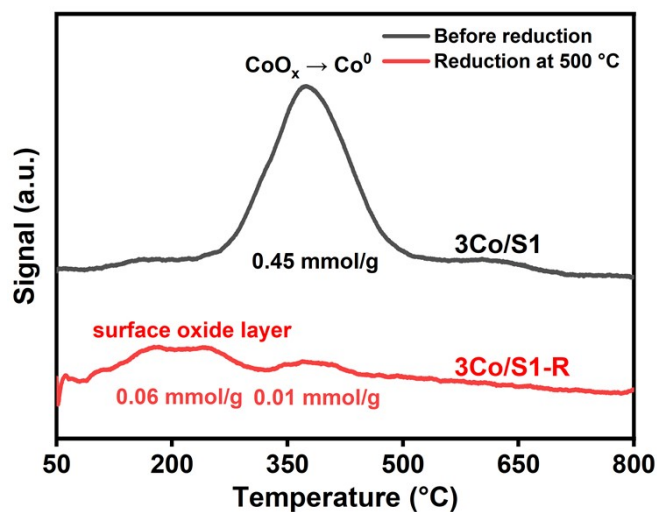
**Fig. S7.** XRD patterns of 3Co/S1 catalysts before and after acid treatment and support S1.



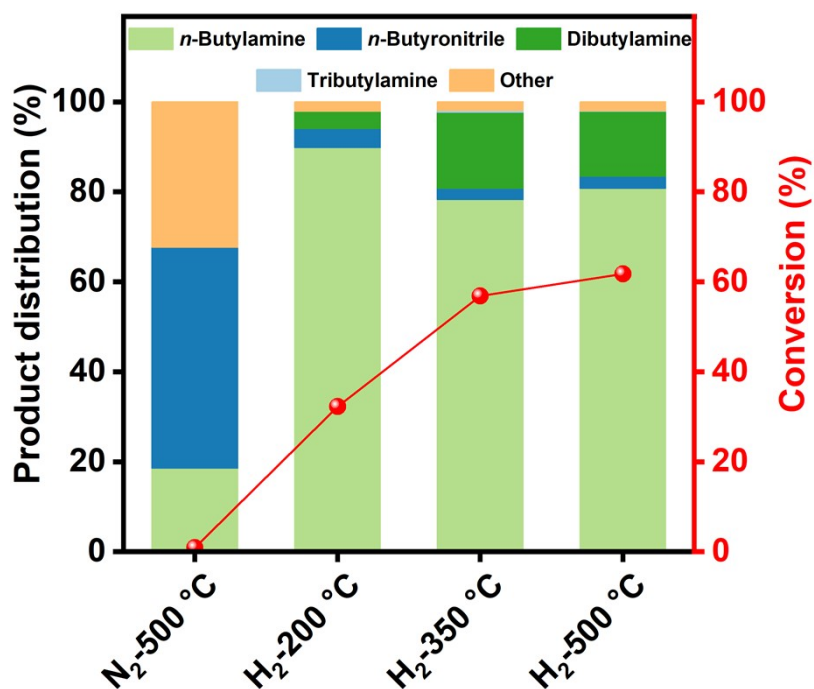
**Fig. S8.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption and desorption isotherms of 3Co/S1 catalysts before and after acid treatment and support S1.



**Fig. S9.** H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of 3Co/S1 catalysts before and after acid treatment.



**Fig. S10.** H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of 3Co/S1 catalyst before and after reduction. Reduction condition: 500 °C in the fix bed for 2 h with 50 ml/min of H<sub>2</sub>.



**Fig. S11.** Effect of reduction temperature on *n*-butanol conversion and product distribution over 3Co/S1 catalyst.

Reaction conditions:  $T_{\text{reaction}} = 180\text{ °C}$ ; molar ratio H<sub>2</sub>: NH<sub>3</sub>: *n*-butanol = 4:8:1; WHSV = 1.5 h<sup>-1</sup>.