Pore size effects on physicochemical properties of Fe-Co/K-Al_2O_3 catalysts and their catalytic activity in CO_2 hydrogenation to light olefins

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ABSTRACT

In this work, the hydrogenation of CO_2 to light olefins has been studied over the Fe-Co/K-Al_2O_3 catalysts, while focusing on the impact by the pore sizes of Al_2O_3 supports including 6.2 nm (S-Al_2O_3), 49.7 nm (M-Al_2O_3) and 152.3 nm (L-Al_2O_3) on the structure and catalytic performance. The characterization results demonstrate that the pore sizes of the Al_2O_3 supports play a vital role on the crystallite size of Fe_2O_3, the reducibility of Fe_2O_3 and the adsorption-desorption of CO_2 and H_2. The catalyst with the smallest pore size (CS-Al_2O_3) allows the formation of a small Fe_2O_3 crystallite size due to pore confinement effects, yielding a low active component (Fe) after reduction at 400 °C for 5 h. The catalysts with the larger pore sizes of 49.7 nm (CM-Al_2O_3) and 152.3 nm (CL-Al_2O_3) provide the larger Fe_2O_3 crystallite sizes which require a longer reduction time for enhancing degree of reduction, resulting in a high metallic Fe content, leading to a high CO_2 conversion and a high selectivity toward hydrocarbon. Eliminating diffusion limitation by increasing the pore sizes of Al_2O_3 supports can suppress the hydrogenation of olefins to paraffins and thus the largest pore catalyst (CL-Al_2O_3) gives the highest olefins to paraffins ratio of 6.82. Nevertheless, the CL-Al_2O_3 also favors the formation of C_{5+} hydrocarbon. Therefore, the highest light olefins yield (14.38%) is achieved over the catalyst with appropriated pore size (CM-Al_2O_3).

KEYWORDS

Light olefins; CO_2 hydrogenation; Fe-based catalysts; Al_2O_3; Pore sizes

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was financially supported by the Thailand Research Fund(grant no. RSA6280007), the Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Materials Technology (PETROMAT), the Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC), NSTDA, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand, through its program of Research Network of NANOTEC (RNN), the Kasetsart University Research and Development Institute(KURDI), and The Capacity Building of KU Students on Internationalization Program. BL1.1W Multiple X-ray Techniques at the Synchrotron Light Research Institute (SLRI), Thailand is acknowledged for the facilities and the beamtime for 2D-XRD measurement.