Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1004-9541(16)30028-3

DOI: doi: 10.1016/j.cjche.2016.03.005

Reference: CJCHE 499

To appear in:

Received date: 14 January 2016 Revised date: 6 March 2016 Accepted date: 7 March 2016



Please cite this article as: Gan Panxue, Tang Shengwei, Research Progress in Ionic Liquids Catalyzed Isobutane/Butene Alkylation, (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.cjche.2016.03.005

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Research Progress in Ionic Liquids Catalyzed Isobutane/butene

Alkylation*

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Abstract: The complicated reaction mechanism and the character of competitive reactions leads to a stringent

requirements for the catalyst of C4 alkylation process. Due to their unique properties, ionic liquids (ILs) are

thought to be new potential acid catalysts for C4 alkylation. An analysis of the regular and modified

chloroaluminate ILs, novel BrØnsted ILs and composite ILs used in isobutane/butene alkylation shows that the use

of either ILs or ILs coupled with mineral acid as homogeneous catalysts can help greatly adjust the acid strength.

By modifying the structural parameters of the cations and anions of the ILs, the solubility of the reactants could

also be adjusted, which in turn displays a positive effect on improving the activity of ILs. Immobilization of ILs is

an effective way to modulate the surface adsorption/desorption properties and acid strength distribution of the solid

acid catalysts. Such a process has a tremendous potential to reduce the deactivation of catalyst and enhance the

activity of the solid acid catalyst. The development of novel acid catalysts for C4 alkylation is a comprehensive

consideration of acid strength and its distribution, interfacial properties and transport characteristics.

Keywords alkylation, isobutane, butene, catalyst, ionic liquid

Supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China(No. 21276163, No.21576168)

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