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Three-step Crystallization in Synthesis of ZSM-5 without Organic Template

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Abstract. ZSM-5 was synthesized without organic template through three steps crystallization by adding seed solution. ZSM-5 crystals was characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy and nitrogen adsorption/desorption technique. XRD and FTIR showed that this method produced the ZSM-5 and quartz as byproduct. Nitrogen adsorption/desorption technique was ascertained the formulation of micro-meso porosity of hierarchical ZSM-5.

Keywords : ZSM-5, without organic template, micro-meso porosity

1 Introduction

Commonly, ZSM-5 is synthesized through the addition of organic template as organic structure-directing agent (SDA), namely TPAOH (Xue [1]; Wang [2], Zhu [3]; Tao [4]) or TPABr (Xiao [5]; Pan [6]; Schmid [7]). Prasetyoko [8] synthesized pure ZSM-5 from rice husk ash with the addition of silicalite-1 through the crystallization at 175 °C for 24 hours. Pan [6] studied the synthesis of ZSM-5 from dealuminated metakaolin with crystallization at 180 °C for 72 hours organic template free. The results as well as ZSM-5 synthesized by using TPABr as a template.

Hence, much research has been directed to develop ZSM-5 synthesis method by the gradual crystallization. Kim [9] reported that ZSM-5 can be observed without the addition of the organic template through a two-step process of crystallization. Crystallization at high temperature (190 °C) were intended to accelerate the nucleation and crystallization at a lower temperature (150 °C) that aims to control the size of crystals and crystal size distribution. The results showed a rapid nucleation and crystallization at high temperatures can form large crystals. Xianliang [10] also studied about the control of crystallization condition, at temperature of 150 °C and 190 °C. They added a nucleation solution before crystallization. The results showed that crystal of ZSM-5 is formed if nucleation solution is made at high temperature (190 °C) and crystallization is done at a lower temperature (150 °C) with mole ratio of SiO₂/Na₂O < 0.18. The lower mole ratio of SiO₂/Na₂O > 0,18 produced a mordenit material. Mostafa [11] synthesized ZSM-5 without organic template by gradual crystallization at 180-°C which continued at 120-°C and then at room temperature with the addition of ZSM-5 seed. The results showed that the ZSM-5 formed is partial microporous crystalline nanosize with high surface area. The gradual crystallization in synthesis of zeolite also intended to acquire mesoporous particles, as done by Xianliang [10] to gain a hierarchical porous zeolite NaY particles without organic matter as a mesoporous structure directing agent. The use of organic template and organic species as mesophase directing agent (usually use hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB)) have many problems, such as high production costs and the results of thermal decomposition of the species can cause environmental pollution.

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In this study, we use three step crystallization in the synthesis of ZSM-5 using seed solution without the addition of an organic template. The results obtained are compared with the synthesis without seed solution and hierarchical ZSM-5 which was synthesized using TPAOH as organic template and CTAB as mesophase directing agent.

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2 Experimental

2.1. Zeolite synthesis

All chemicals directly used without purification, include tetraethyl orthosilicates (TEOS, Merck, 99%); sodium aluminate, NaAlO_2 (Sigma Aldrich, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 50 - 55\%$); sodium hydroxide (NaOH, Merck, $\geq 98\%$); tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (TPAOH, Merck, 40% wt solution in water), hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB, AppliChem).

The synthesis of ZSM-5 in gradual crystallization using seed solution (A) performed by dissolving NaOH with distilled water by stirring then sodium aluminate gradually add while stirring. Thereafter, the TEOS was incorporated into the mixture dropwise, so that obtained the molar composition of mixture: $10\text{Na}_2\text{O} : 100\text{SiO}_2 : 1, 25\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 : 1800\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The mixture was divided in two parts (A1 and A2). The first mixture (A1) was allowed for 19 h at room temperature and then the mixture put in a stainless steel autoclave and heated in an oven at 190°C for 4 h (Xianliang [10]). The second mixture (A2) was allowed at room temperature for 24 h. After that, A1 was blended with A2. The mixture was heated gradually at 100°C for 24 h, 120°C for 24 h, and 150°C for 24 and 36 h. The product isolated by centrifugation, rinsed with distilled water, and then dried at 105°C for 24 h.

As a comparison, the synthesis of ZSM-5 also carried out gradually without seed solution with similar molar composition with synthesis ZSM-5 using seed solution. The mixture was stirred for 5 h without seed solution, then allowed for 24 h at room temperature. The mixture was inserted into stainless steel autoclave and then closed tightly and heated in an oven at 100°C for 24 h, 120°C for 24 h, and 150°C for 24 h (B). Synthesis of zeolites in the gradual crystallization without seed solution also performed at low temperature, starting at 60°C for 48 h and then at 80°C for 48 h, and at 100°C for 24 h (C). The solid obtained at each of the crystallisation washed up to neutral pH and dried overnight at 105°C .

Hierarchical ZSM-5 (Hie-ZSM-5) also used as a comparison was synthesized following the modified method of Eimer [12] and Goncalves [13]. Sodium aluminate was mixed with TEOS through stirring for 30 min, then added TPAOH and aquades so obtained composition: $1\text{SiO}_2 : x\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 : 0.2\text{TPAOH} : 38\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($x = (\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)^{-1}$, $x = 1/40$ or mole ratio of Si/Al = 20). The mixture was stirred for 15 min, then hydrothermal process was conducted by entering the mixture into a polypropylene bottle, and heated in an oven at 80°C for 48 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and then was added CTAB gradually up to a mole ratio of $\text{SiO}_2/\text{CTAB} = 3.85$. The mixture was stirred about 30 min then allowed for 3 h. The solids formed washed with distilled water until neutral pH, then dried at 60°C for 48 h. The dried solid was calcined at 550°C for 1 h in N_2 and continued in air for 6 h. The catalyst was previously reported by Hartati [20].

2.2. Characterization

X-ray diffraction patterns (XRD) was measured using a Philips X'pert XRD instrument with $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation in the 2θ range from 5 to 50° in steps of 0.02° . Infrared spectra measured on an infrared spectrophotometer (FTIR) Shimadzu using a KBr pellets techniques in range of wavenumbers of $400 - 4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ with a spectral resolution of 4 cm^{-1} , 45 scans, at room temperature. Nitrogen adsorption/desorption done at 77 K using Quantachrome Nova version 10. Samples were degassed at 250°C before measured. The micropore surface area of samples were measured using Brunauer – Emmett – Teller (BET) method on $P/P_0 = 0.3$, while the mesopore surface area, pore volume, and pore diameter were determined by Barrett – Joyner – Halenda (BJH) method.

3. Results and discussion

The crystalline phase and type of zeolite formed were identified by X-ray diffraction (XRD). Figure 1 shows the XRD pattern of samples synthesized by some variation of temperature in the gradual crystallization. It can be seen that the sample that synthesized without organic template and without the addition of seed solution (Figure. 1.A) clearly shows the characteristic peaks of MFI were detected on 2θ around $7-9^\circ$ and $23-25^\circ$ as well as the peaks of Hie-ZSM-5. However, in sample A appears peaks at $2\theta = 20,92^\circ$ and $26,72^\circ$ corresponding to peaks of $\alpha\text{-SiO}_2$ (quartz) (Wang [2]). The formation of quartz together in the results of the synthesis of ZSM-5 can be caused by a fairly high alkaline levels and weak template (Sang [14]; Yue-ming and Wang-ming, [15]). The formation of the impurities such as quartz can also be occurred when the synthesis is done in a long time (Guth and Kessler [16]), as was done in this study. Synthesis of zeolites through gradual crystallization was done using the same material composition with mixture used in synthesis using seed solution. The XRD patterns in Figure 1.B shows that the crystal of ZSM-5 has been formed, however there are other peaks at 2θ around 22° and at around $27,5^\circ$ indicate α -cristobalite (Shinohara and Kohyama [17], Prasetyoko [8]). Diffraction pattern in Figure 1.B also shows peak at 2θ near $26,72^\circ$ indicate of $\alpha\text{-SiO}_2$, while the peaks at 2θ around $6,5^\circ$ and $10,5^\circ$ show of mordenite (Xianliang [10]). The XRD pattern in Figure 1.C shows that the results of the synthesis of zeolites without the organic template and without the addition of seed solution a like big hum typically of the amorphous solids. This indicates that the ZSM-5 is not formed.

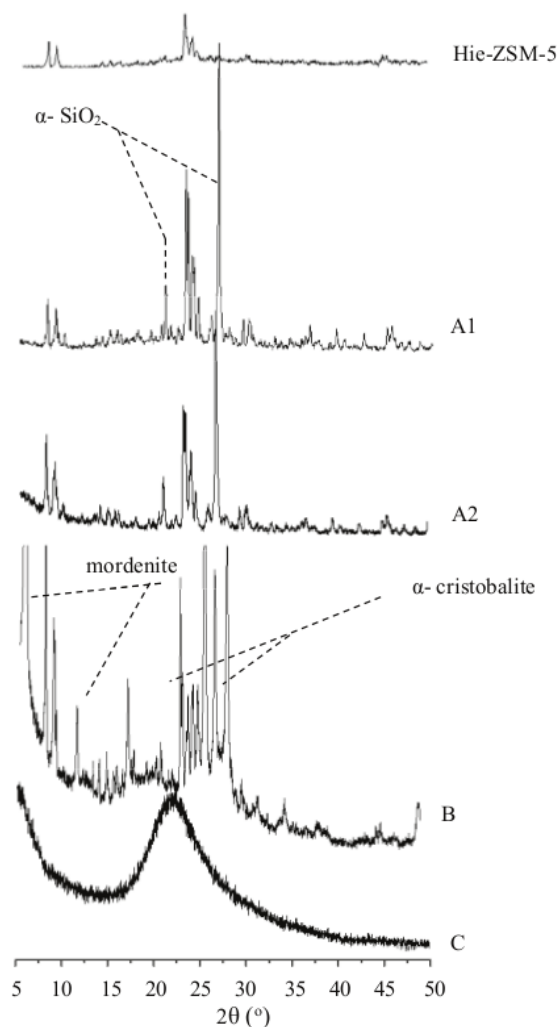


Figure 1. XRD pattern of samples

FTIR spectra at wavenumbers 400-2000 cm^{-1} is shown in Figure 2. Samples A and B in Figure 2 show a typical peak D5R at wavenumbers around 550 cm^{-1} and the vibration of external asymmetric at around 1223 cm^{-1} which became the structure identifier for MFI structure of ZSM-5 as also appear in Hie-ZSM-5 spectra. This is in accordance to the results of Kim [9] which shows that the gradual crystallization begins with warming at high temperature up to 190 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ can accelerate the formation of the crystal nuclei, so that it can generate ZSM-5. However, that peaks are not appear in sample C. The shoulder band at 1223 cm^{-1} is an asymmetric external vibration ($\leftarrow \text{OTO} \rightarrow$) which is characteristic peak of ZSM-5 (Khatamian [18]). A strong absorption at about 1100 cm^{-1} is an asymmetric internal vibration ($\leftarrow \text{OTO} \rightarrow$), a weak absorption at about 795 cm^{-1} shows the vibration of external symmetry ($\leftarrow \text{OTO} \rightarrow$), and absorption at about 450 cm^{-1} shows the vibrational of T-O from TO_4 (T = Si or Al) (Li and Wu [19]).

Table 1. Wavenumber of stretching and bending vibration of FTIR spectra

Sample	Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)				
	External Asimetry	Internal Asimetry	External Simetry	D5R	T-O Bending
A1	1223	1084	799	546	453
A2	1223	1084	799	546	453
B	1230	1086	783	544	445
C	-	1100	797	-	463
Hie-ZSM-5	1223	1110	797	545	453

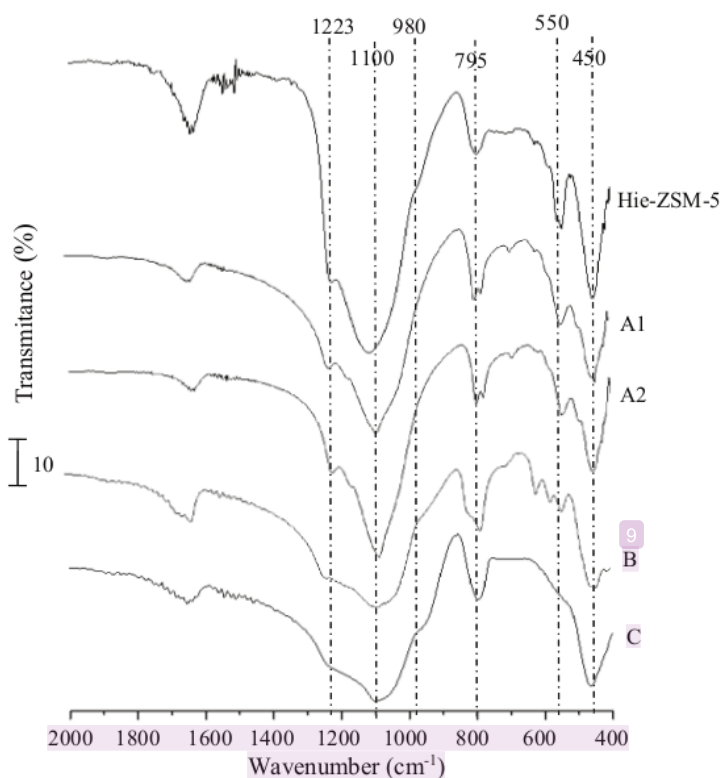
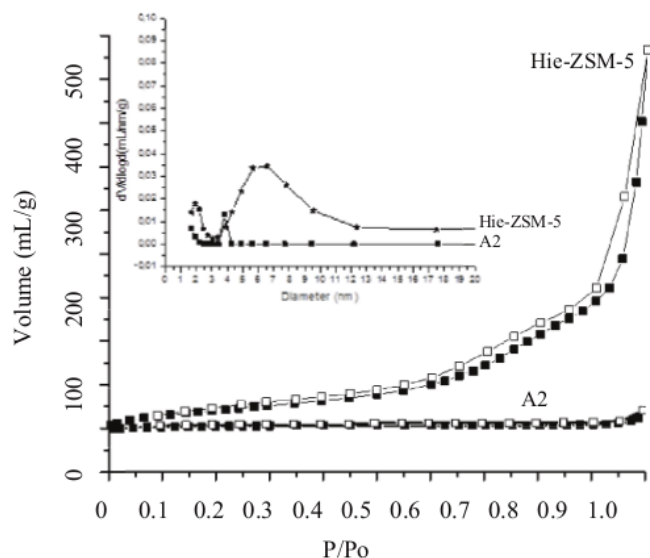


Figure 2. FTIR spectra of samples

The FTIR spectra support the XRD data that show the ZSM-5 can be synthesis by gradual crystallization at high temperature and by addition of seed solution. Figure 1.B shows FTIR spectra of sample C does not show clear peak at 2θ around 550 cm^{-1} and 1223 cm^{-1} . FTIR spectra at Figure 1.C does not show the bands at around 550 cm^{-1} and 1223 cm^{-1} which are in accordance with the XRD pattern of an amorphous solid (Figure 1.C).

Figure 3 shows that isotherm curve of N₂ adsorption/desorption of zeolite ZSM-5 (A2) is lower than Hie-ZSM-5 which shows that A2 has a smaller porosity and surface area. This is consist with the data shown in Table 2. Table 2 also shows that the sample A2 has a hierarchical porous but the dominant of its surface is microporous. It is different from Hie-ZSM-5, which has a hierarchical porous with large meso-micro porous surface area. From the Figure 3 (insert), it can be stated that both samples showed hierarchical porous structure.



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Figure 3. Isotherm N₂ adsorption/desorption of samples and pore diameter of samples (insert)

Table 2. Pore structure properties of samples

Sample	Surface Area Mesoporous ^a (m ² /g)	Surface Area Microporous ^b (m ² /g)	Pore Volume ^a (mL/g)	Pore Diameter ^a (nm)
Hie-ZSM-5 ^{*)}	177.233	241.756	0.701	6.575
A2	13.015	213.844	0.031	3.808

a. determined by BJH

b. determined by BET method at P/P₀ = 0.3

*) as reported previously by Hartati [20]

4. CONCLUSIONS

Synthesis of ZSM-5 with step crystallization can be performed at a high temperature (100 °C for 24 h, 120 °C for 24 h, and 150 °C for 24 or 36 h) with the addition of seed solution. ZSM-5 obtained has a hierarchical pore with the majority of micropores than ZSM-5 synthesized with the organic template and mesophase template. This method also produced the quartz mineral in small quantities.

6 Acknowledgement

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