

Electrical conductivity response and sensitivity of ZSM-5, Y, and mordenite zeolites towards ethanol vapor

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Abstract: This work is an attempt to search for highly selective sensing materials for ethanol vapor. The electrical conductivity response of ZSM-5, Y, and mordenite zeolites towards ethanol vapor have been investigated for the effects of the framework, the charge balancing cation type, and the Si/Al ratio. All zeolites were characterized using XRD, FT-IR, SEM, TGA, BET, and NH(3)-TPD techniques. For the effect of the zeolite framework type, H(+Y) has a higher electrical conductivity sensitivity value than that of H(+MOR) because of a greater pore volume and available surface area. For the effect of the charge balancing cation, all NH(4)(+)ZSM-5 zeolites (Si/Al=23, 50, 80, 280) show negative responses, whereas the H(+Y) zeolites (Si/Al=30, 60, 80) and the H(+MOR) zeolites (Si/Al=30, 200) show positive responses. These differing behaviors can be traced to the electrostatic field at the cation sites in zeolite micropores, and their hydrophilic-hydrophobic character, which affect the adsorption properties of the zeolites. For the effect of Si/Al ratio, the electrical conductivity sensitivity towards the ethanol decreases with increasing Si/Al ratio or decreasing Al content, and there is a lesser degree of interaction between ethanol molecules and the active sites of the zeolites due to its higher hydrophobicity and the lower amount of cations. However, the H(+Y) (Si/Al=5.1) and the H(+MOR) (Si/Al=19) zeolites have lower conductivity sensitivity than those of H(+Y) (Si/Al=30) and H(+MOR) (Si/Al=30), respectively. The interactions between the C(2)H(5)OH molecules and the zeolites with respect to the electrical conductivity sensitivity were investigated and verified through infrared spectroscopy.

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