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(54) Title: SKELETAL ISOMERIZATION OF FATTY ACIDS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the skeletal isomerization of unsaturated linear fatty acids to branched fatty acids which comprises contacting said unsaturated linear fatty acids with at least one large pore zeolite catalyst wherein said at least one zeolite catalyst comprises a material having a three dimensional channel structure having a pore diameter of at least 6.0 Å. In another embodiment, the invention relates to a process for the skeletal isomerization and hydrogenation of unsaturated linear fatty acids to saturated branched fatty acids which comprises contacting said unsaturated linear fatty acids with at least one metal-zeolite catalyst.



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