

OLIGOMERIZATION OF OLEFINS

ABSTRACT

A process for producing substantially linear hydrocarbons by oligomerizing a lower olefin at elevated temperature and pressure comprises contacting the lower olefin under oligomerization conditions with constrained intermediate pore siliceous acidic zeolite, e.g., ZSM-22, -23 or -35, having Brönsted acid activity. The zeolite is pre-treated with a dicarboxylic acid, e.g. oxalic acid, under conditions to effect a reduction of at least 20% in the surface acidity of the zeolite, as determined by tri-tertiarybutylbenzene conversion, without substantial reduction in the overall activity of the zeolite as indicated by alpha value.