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Supplementary Materials for

Ruthenium-Catalyzed "Open-Loop" Recycling of Polyethylene *via* **Tandem Isomerization-Metathesis (ISOMET)**

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1. Materials and Methods

All metathesis reactions were conducted under nitrogen atmosphere using Schlenk technique or under argon using a glovebox. The reagents and solvents (Aldrich) including deuterated solvents (Eurisotop) were used as received, unless otherwise stated. 1-Octadecene (Aldrich) was filtered through a short pad of activated alumina in the glovebox. Preliminary high-pressure reactions were carried out in a 150 mL Fischer-Porter bottle, using 99.9% purity ethylene (Linde). The gaseous reaction products in the preliminary reactions were analyzed on-line by a Shimadzu GC-2010 gas chromatograph (GC) equipped with a 50-m HP-PLOT-Fused Silica column (Al_2O_3 , KCI) and flame ionization detector (FID). The propylene response factor has been calibrated by injecting a predefined amount (in mmol) of gas. GC-MS analyses were carried out using a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Ultra instrument fitted with an ZB-5MSi column for the preliminary reactions. BICAAC metathesis catalysts **1** and 2 were synthesized according to literature procedure.¹ The virgin polymer (Polyethylene TIPELIN, MOL Petrochemicals, CAS: 25213-02-9 (grades made by Phillips technology); 25087-34-7 (grades made by Mitsui technology); melting point: 125 -145 °C; flash point: 350 - 370 °C; Solubility: insoluble in water, soluble in hydrocarbons (80 °C); density: 934 - 964 kg/m³ (23 °C); Bulk density: 500 - 550 kg/m³; MFR flow index (at 190 °C): 2.16 kg load 0.06 - 2 g/10min; 5 kg load 0.26 - 1,3 g/10min; 21.6 kg load 8 -30 g/10min) was used as received. The municipal HDPE waste was sorted, washed, the labeling was removed, and the clean plastic was shredded. All reactions were conducted under argon atmosphere using Schlenk technique. Semi-batch reactions were carried out in in-house manufactured 20-, 50- and 900-mL autoclaves (figure S12). Toluene was degassed and stored over molecular sieve (4Å) under argon atmosphere. Pyrolysis oils were degassed with argon prior to use. Scaled-up experiments have been carried out using 3.5 grade ethylene (99.95% from Westfalen). The gas analysis of the scaled up experiments have been carried out using on-line Agilent 8860 GC equipped with a Plot Fused Silica column (Al₂O₃/KCl) (length: 50 m, inner diameter: 0.32 mm, film thickness: 0.5 μ m), SSL Inlet (temperature: 250 °C, pressure: 0.8 bar, flow: 13.6 mL/min) and FID (temperature: 250 °C, flow: 1.4 mL/min) with helium as carrier gas (oven temperature program: 5 min isothermal at 50 °C, increase to 200 °C with 8 °C/min, then hold 40 min at 200 °C). The propylene response factor has been calibrated by injecting a predefined amount (in mmol) of gas.

2. HDPE Pyrolysis reactions

Fig. S1.: TGA of TIPELIN 6010B.

2.1. Pyrolysis of virgin and post-consumer HDPE plastics

The pyrolysis test of the virgin HDPE granule was carried out in a batch reactor, where the temperature was gradually raised to 450 °C. The reactor was fitted with a water-cooled heat exchanger to condensate the hydrocarbon vapors into pyrolysis oil. During the first 20 minutes of the test the temperature was raised to 250 °C; between the 20th and 40th minutes the temperature was set to 350 °C; between the 40th and 70th minutes of the experiment, the temperature was raised to 400 °C; and after the 70th minute the temperature was elevated to 450 °C. The temperature of the reactor as a function of time is shown in figure S1. The measurement was carried out for a total of 3 hours. The

inert atmosphere was ensured by the introduction of nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 2 l/h.The amount of feedstock measured was 750 g of HDPE granulate. During pyrolysis, beside the liquid and gaseous products some solid residue formed. The yields obtained are 89.69% (liquid), 8.65% (gas), 1.66% (solid), respectively. GC-FID analysis of the gas phase showed 26 Vol% propylene and 12 Vol% ethylene. The propylene and ethylene response factor has been calibrated by injecting a predefined amount (in mmol) of gas. Rest of the gas phase involved saturated $C1 - C5$ hydrocarbons, but these components were not determined quantitatively.

The experiment was also carried out using municipal HDPE plastic waste (tipically detergent bottles). During the preparation of the raw material, the bottles were sorted out, cleaned, and shredded. In the experiment with the municipal HDPE waste, the reactor vessel was charged with 340 g of shredded plastic (the mass of shredded plastic per unit volume is lower than that of virgin HDPE granules). The yields of the obtained liquid, gas and solid residues were 62.04%, 12.96% and 25.00%, respectively.

Fig. S2.: Temperature profile of HDPE plastic pyrolysis.

2.2. Pretreatment of HDPE pyrolysis oils.

Virgin HDPE: The crude pyrolysis oil (16.4 mL, 12.3 g) was fractionated under vacuum (2 mbar) at room temperature for 0.5 hour and then at 100 °C for 1 hour, resulting in a light (5.2 mL, 3.9 g – virgin light, 32%) and a heavy liquid phase (11.2, 8.4 g – virgin heavy, 68%). The light fraction contained volatile compounds up to C10 while the heavy fractions contained mainly \geq C11 hydrocarbons, predominantly terminal alkenes, alkanes and dienes.

Post-consumer HDPE: The data given below refer to the molecular composition of a crude postconsumer HDPE pyrolysis gas (table S1) and oil (table S2). The crude pyrolysis oils (800 ml) were fractionated under vacuum (2 mbar) at room temperature for 1 hour and then at 100 °C for 2 hours, resulting in a light (300 ml – post-consumer light, 37%) and a heavy liquid phase (500 ml – postconsumer heavy, 63%). The heavy fraction of post-consumer HDPE pyrolysis oil (500 ml) was further purified by filtration through a short plug of alumina to give 400 ml of purified heavy fraction (postconsumer heavy (filtered)). The light fraction contained volatile compounds up to C10 while the heavy fractions contained mainly ≥ C11 hydrocarbons, predominantly terminal alkenes, alkanes and dienes.

According to quantitative GC-MS analysis, the heavy fraction contained 55 wt% alkanes, 40 wt% alkenes and 5 wt% dienes (the response factors of each homologue are shown in table S3).

Fig. S3.: GC-FID of pyrolysis gas phase.

Table S1.: Peak table of pyrolysis gas phase. (C1-C4 region of the chromatogram, entry13: summary of the full chromatogram).

*AUC: area under the curve

*AUC: area under the curve

Fig. S4.: GC-MS of crude municipal HDPE plastic pyrolysis oil.

Fig. S5.: GC-MS of light fraction of municipal HDPE plastic pyrolysis oil.

Fig. S6.: GC-MS of heavy fraction of post-consumer HDPE pyrolysis oil.

Alkane	Response factor	Alkane	Response
C6	4.50	C16	1.14
C7	4.00	C17	1.07
C8	3.52	C18	1.00
C ₉	2.99	C19	1.00
C10	2.46	C ₂₀	1.00
C11	2.13	C ₂₁	1.00
C12	1.79	C ₂₂	1.00
C13	1.57	C ₂₃	1.00
C14	1.34	C ₂₄	1.00
C15	1.24	C ₂₅	1.00

Table S3.: Response factors to 1-octadecene for olefins

Equation for calculation of corrected AUC (area under the curve) for olefins:

$$
AUC_{corrected} = \frac{AUC_{C18}^{0}}{AUC_{C18}} * AUC_{Cn} * RF_{Cn}
$$

Where $^{AUC_{C18}^{0}}$ denotes the AUC of 1-octadecene in heavy fraction of HDPE pyrolysis oil, AUC_{C18} denotes the AUC of 1-octadecene in the reaction mixture after ISOMET reaction, AUC_{Cn} denotes appropriate olefin's AUC in the reaction mixture after ISOMET reaction and $^{RF}c_n$ denotes the ratio of AUC-s of appropriate olefin and 1-octadecene if equivalent amount is injected on GC-MS.

The double bond content of the heavy fraction is 1 mmol/mL, which was determined by 1 H NMR measurement with *tert*-butyl methyl ether as the internal standard. The terminal/internal olefin ratio is around 75/25 (fig. S6).

Fig. S7.: NMR-quantification of the olefin content in the purified pyrolysis oils.

3. Catalytic experiments

3.1. Representative example of the preliminary ISOMET reaction of 1-octadecene in the presence of 1,7-octadiene

In a glovebox, a Fischer-Porter bottle was charged with isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 3 mg, 3.15 µmol, 0.02 mol%), 1-octadecene (4 g, 15.8 mmol), solution of 1,7-octadecene (1.7 mg, 15.5 µmol, in 170 µL toluene, 0.1 mol%), toluene (3 mL) and the solution of the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 0.096 mg, 0.16 µmol, 0.001 mol% in 100 µL toluene). The Fischer-Porter bottle was closed in the glovebox under argon atmosphere. Then it was brought out of the glovebox and connected to the ethylene line equipped with a pressure gauge. First the ethylene line was purged five times, then the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged five times with ethylene (purity: 3.0; 99.9%). The ethylene pressure was set to 10 bar, the bottle was closed and heated to 75 °C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the gas phase was collected for GC-FID analysis. The reaction was carried out with neat 1,7-octadiene and as well as with crude pyrolysis oil.

Fig. S8.: Graphical presentation of the variation of turn over number (TON) as a function of the amount of added 1,7-octadiene.

Table S4.: Variation of turn over number (TON) as a function of the amount of added 1,7-octadiene.

3.2. Representative example of the ISOMET reaction of 1-octadecene in the presence of different catalyst inhibitors (for table 2)

In a glovebox, a Fischer-Porter bottle was charged with isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 3 mg, 3.15 µmol, 0.02 mol%), 1-octadecene (4 g, 15.8 mmol), solution of inhibitor (50 ppm, 0.78 µmol in 150 µL toluene), toluene (3 mL) and the solution of the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 0.096 mg, 0.16 µmol, 0.001 mol% in 100 µL toluene). The Fischer-Porter bottle was closed in the glovebox under argon atmosphere. Then it was brought out of the glovebox and connected to the ethylene line equipped with a pressure gauge. First the ethylene line was purged five times, then the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged five times with ethylene (purity: 3.0; 99.9%). The ethylene pressure was set to 10 bar, the bottle was closed and heated to 75 °C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the gas phase was collected for GC-FID analysis.

3.3. Representative example of the ISOMET reaction of HDPE pyrolysis oils

In a glovebox, a Fischer-Porter bottle was charged with isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 20 mg, 21 µmol), (fractionated) pyrolysis oil (4 mL), toluene (3 mL) and the solution of the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 0.5 mg, 0.8 µmol in 100 µL toluene). The Fischer-Porter bottle was closed in the glovebox under argon atmosphere. Then it was brought out of the glovebox and connected to the ethylene line equipped with a pressure gauge. First the ethylene line was purged five times, then the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged five times with 3.0 ethylene (purity: 3.0; 99.9%). The ethylene pressure was set to 10 bar, the bottle was closed and heated to 75 °C. After 3, 6 and 24 hours, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the gas phase was collected for GC-FID analysis. At each sampling, the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged three times and refilled with ethylene.

Fig. S9.: GC-MS of heavy fraction of post-consumer HDPE pyrolysis oil after ISOMET. The change in the composition of the heavy fraction was determined by integrating the GC-MS chromatogram, which was corrected with the appropriate response factors.

3.4. Quantitative conversion of the olefin content of the pyrolysis oil

First run: In a glovebox, a Fischer-Porter bottle was charged with isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 91 mg, 96 µmol), (fractionated) pyrolysis oil (1 mL), toluene (4 mL) and the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 7.4 mg, 11.8 µmol). The Fischer-Porter bottle was closed in the glovebox under argon atmosphere. Then it was brought out of the glovebox and connected to the ethylene line equipped with a pressure gauge. First the ethylene line was purged five times, then the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged five times with 3.0 ethylene (purity: 3.0; 99.9%). The ethylene pressure was set to 10 bar, the bottle was closed and heated to 75 °C. The sampling was carried out at times according to the tables below (table S5). At each sampling, the Fischer-Porter bottle was purged three times and refilled with ethylene. After 24 hours, when no significant amount of propylene formation was observed, the reaction mixture was filtered through a silica plug to remove catalyst impurities.

Second run: In a glovebox, the reaction mixture of **Batch 1** was added to a Fischer-Porter bottle alongside with isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 91 mg, 96 µmol), toluene (2 mL) and the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 7.4 mg, 11.8 µmol). Reaction was carried out according to **Batch 1,** with different sampling times.

Table S5.: Propylene yield at each sampling point (**Batch 1**).

Overall propylene yield is calculated according to the followings:

1 mL HDPE pyrolysis oil is 750 mg ($d_{pyrolysis oil}$ = 0.75 g/mL). The mono olefin content is 40%, which is equal to 300 mg. If it is considered that C15 olefin is the statistical mean component, then the

theoretical propylene yield according to the following equation:

 $C_{15}H_{30}$ (210 g) + 12 $C_{2}H_{4}$ (336 g) = 13 $C_{3}H_{3}$ (546 g) is (546/210)*300 mg = **780 mg**.

The **propylene yield is** (511 mg/780 mg)*100 = **66%**.

Considering the 109,2 mg butene content it is equal to 163,8 mg of propylene according to the following equation:

 C_4H_8 (56 g) + C_2H_4 (28 g) = 2 C_3H_6 (84 g) (84 g/56 g)*109.2 mg (butene) = **163.8 mg**

Fig. S10.: GC-MS of heavy fraction of post-consumer HDPE pyrolysis oil after two consecutive ISOMET reactions.

3.5. Representative example of the semi-batch ISOMET reaction of 1-octadecene

20 mL and 50 mL reactions: In a typical reaction, the metathesis catalyst (**1**, table S6) was dissolved in 1-octadecene and toluene under argon in a Schlenk-flask. The isomerization catalyst was weighted into the autoclave under air, which was subsequently closed, evacuated and flushed with argon three times. Then, the 1-octadecene toluene solution was transferred to the autoclave with a syringe through a blank plug-in under a continuous counterflow of argon. After pressurizing the autoclave with ethylene, it was placed into an aluminum cone, which had previously been heated to the desired reaction temperature, on a conventionally stirring plate. The reaction solution was stirred for the desired reaction time. When the reaction was complete, the autoclave was cooled in an ice bath and the gas phase was collected for GC analysis.

Autoclave	$V_{\textit{substrate}}$	$n_{substrate}$	$m_{met.cat.}$	$n_{met.cat.}$	$m_{iso.cat.}$	$n_{iso.cat.}$	$V_{toluene}$
	[ML]	[mmol]	[mg]	[µmol]	[mg]	[µmol]	[ML]
20 mL	5.0	15.6	0.09	0.156	3	3.13	3.0
50 mL	12.5	39.1	0.23	0.391		7.81	7.5

Table S6.: Applied catalyst and substrate quantities of preliminary ISOMET reactions in 20 mL/50 mL autoclaves.

900 mL reactions: In a typical reaction, the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 4.15 mg, 7.031 µmol, 0.001 mol%) was dissolved in 225 mL 1-octadecene and 135 mL toluene under argon in a Schlenk-flask. The isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 129 mg, 0.141 mmol, 0.02 mol%) was weighed into the autoclave under air, which was then sealed, evacuated and purged three times with argon. The 1-octadecene toluene solution was transferred to the autoclave using a PTFE cannula through the V-02 valve in an argon atmosphere. The autoclave was then connected to the laboratory plant and pressurized with 10 bar of ethylene through the V-01 bypass. The autoclave was then heated to the target reaction temperature while stirring. After that, it was pressurized with ethylene to the appropriate pressure using a mass flow controller (MFC) and stirred until the desired reaction time. During the reaction, the gas phase of the autoclave was analyzed by GC *in situ* every 90 minutes.

3.6. Design-of-Experiment for ISOMET reaction of 1-octadecene in 20 mL and 50 mL autoclaves

For both Design-of-Experiments (DoE) ethylene pressure and reaction temperature were sampled at 3 different conditions, each. For visualization of the surface plots interpolation and smoothing was applied as implemented in the Python package "scipy". In detail, the z-data was first interpolated by a cubic function and subsequently smoothed with a filter function.

Entry	$T[^{\circ}C]$	p [bar]	TON [-]
1	80	10	1700
$\overline{2}$	80	20	2400
3	80	30	600
4	90	10	3400
5	90	20	9600
6	90	30	750
7	100	10	1400
8	100	20	5200
9	100	30	1350

Table S7.: Conditions and results for DoE in 20 mL autoclaves.

Table S8.: Conditions and results for DoE in 50 mL autoclaves.

Entry	$T[^{\circ}C]$	p [bar]	TON [-]
$\mathbf{1}$	90	15	400
$\overline{2}$	90	20	2200
3	90	25	570
4	100	15	680
5	100	20	4900
6	100	25	4800
7	110	15	4600
8	110	20	5500
9	110	25	7700

Fig. S11.: : Laboratory plant scheme for ISOMET reactions in a 900 mL autoclave in batch/semicontinuous mode operation.

3.7. Representative example of preliminary ISOMET reactions of HDPE pyrolysis oils in 50 mL autoclaves

In a typical reaction, the metathesis catalyst (**1**, 1.63 mg, 2.76 µmol, 0.1 mol%) was dissolved in melted HDPE pyrolysis oil heavy fraction (2.5 mL, 2,75 mmol C=C) and toluene (5.5 mL). The isomerization catalyst (20.0 mg, 0.221 mmol, 0.8 mol%) was weighed into the autoclave under air, which was closed, evacuated and flushed with argon three times. Then, the HDPE pyrolysis oil toluene solution was transferred to the autoclave with a syringe through a blank plug-in under a continuous counterflow of argon. After pressurizing the autoclave with ethylene, it was placed into an aluminum cone, which had previously been heated to the desired reaction temperature, on a conventionally stirring plate. The reaction solution was stirred for the desired reaction time. When the reaction was complete, the autoclave was cooled in an ice bath and the gas phase was collected for GC analysis.

3.8. Representative example of preliminary ISOMET reactions of municipal HDPE pyrolysis oils in 900 mL autoclave

In a typical reaction, the metathesis catalyst (**2**, 68,0 mg 0,110 mmol, 0,09 mol%) and the isomerization catalyst (**RuH**, 808 mg, 0,880 mmol, 0,7 mol%) were weighted into a Schlenk-flask under argon. Previously melted pyrolysis wax (110 mL, 121 mmol C=C) and 250 mL toluene were added to the reaction mixture under argon. The autoclave was closed and evacuated and flushed with argon three times. The HDPE pyrolysis oil toluene solution was transferred to the autoclave using a PTFE cannula through the V-02 valve in an argon atmosphere. The autoclave was then connected to the laboratory plant and heated to 90 °C and subsequently pressurized to 8 bar of ethylene through the V-01 using a mass flow controller (MFC) while stirring. During the reaction, the gas phase of the autoclave was analyzed by GC *in situ* every 60-90 minutes.

Fig. S12.: Picture of laboratory plant used for carrying out ISOMET reactions in 900 mL.

Fig. S13.: : Autoclaves used for semi-batch reactions.

4. References

1) M. Nagyházi, Á. Lukács, G. Turczel, J. Hancsók, J. Valyon, A. Bényei, S. Kéki and R. Tuba, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 2022, **61**, e2022044.