The effects of  $\mathrm{TiO}_{2}$  phase and  $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$  supports on methyl oleate epoxidation.



A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering Department of Chemical Engineering Faculty of Engineering Chulalongkorn University Academic Year 2018 Copyright of Chulalongkorn University

## ผลของเฟสของไททาเนียม ไดออกไซด์ และตัวรองรับ ซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์ ที่มีผลต่อปฏิกิริยา อิพ็อก ซิเดชัน ของเมทิล โอลิเอต



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาวิศวกรรมศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาวิศวกรรมเคมี คณะวิศวกรรมศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ปีการศึกษา 2561 ลิขสิทธิ์ของจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

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งานวิจัยนี้ศึกษาเรื่องปฏิกิริยาอิพ็อกซิเดชันของเมทิลโอลิเอตกับไททาเนียม ได ้ออกไซด์หรือไททาเนียม ไดออกไซด์บนตัวรองรับซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์กับไฮโดรเจนเปอร์ออกไซด์ การศึกษาของตัวเร่งปฏิกิริยาชนิดไททาเนียม ไดออกไซด์สนใจไททาเนียม ไดออกไซด์จาก อุตสาหกรรมและสังเคราะห์จากวิธีโซลเจล ความสามารถในการเร่งปฏิกิริยาและความสามารถ ในการเลือกเกิดของตัวเร่งจากอุตสาหกรรมมีค่าสูงที่สุดคือ ไททาเนียม ไดออกไซด์ชนิด บี ซึ่งให้ ค่าอยู่ที่ร้อยละ 46.10 และร้อยละ 79.75 ตามลาดับ สาหรับสังเคราะห์ด้วยวิธีโซลเจลตัวเร่ง ปฏิกิริยาที่ให้ค่าสูงที่สุดคือการเผาที่อุณหภูมิ 300 องศาให้ความสามารถในการเร่งปฏิกิริยาอยู่ที่ ร้อยละ 75.82 และความสามารถในการเลือกเกิดอยู่ที่ 90.85 เนื่องจากความเป็นผลึกที่ต่าและ พื้นที่ผิวที่มาก ซิลิกอนไดออกไซด์ต่างชนิดกัน แสดงค่าความสามารถในการเร่งปฏิกิริยาและ ความสามารถในการเลือกเกิดที่ต่างกัน ซิลิคาไลท์มีความสามารถในการเร่งปฏิกิริยาสูงที่สุดโดย มีค่าร้อยละ 44.41ตัวรองรับเอสบีเอ 15 มีความสามารถในการเลือกเกิดสูงที่สุดโดยมีค่าร้อยละ 58.90 การสังเคราะห์ที่ต่างกันแสดงความสามารถในการเร่งปฏิกิริยาที่เท่ากันที่ค่าประมาณร้อย ละ 35 อย่างไรก็ตามการฝังตัวแบบเปียกให้ค่าการเลือกเกิดที่ร้อยละ 28.43 ซึ่งมากกว่าวิธี สังเคราะห์แบบอื่น ไททาเนียมที่ต่างกันให้ผลว่าเมื่อ ไททาเนียมมากขึ้นความสามารถในการเร่ง ปฏิกิริยาจะมาขึ้นแต่ความสามารถในการเลือกเกิดจะน้อยลงโดยเพิ่มไททาเนียมจากร้อยละ 1.5 ถึงร้อยละ 15 ความสามารถในการทำปฏิกิริยาเพิ่มจากร้อยละ 18.86 เป็นร้อยละ 97.49 และ ความสามารถในการเลือกเกิดลดลงจากร้อยละ 42.44 เป็น 0

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KEYWORD: epoxidation of methyl oleate; epoxide methyl oleate; TiO2/SiO2; TiO2
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supports on methyl oleate epoxidation.. Advisor: Prof. Piyasan Praserthdam, Ph.D. Co-advisor: Wipark Anutrasakda, Ph.D.

This work studies about the epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate with TiO2 or TiO2/SiO2 catalysts and hydrogen peroxide. Study of TiO2 catalysts interests in catalysts from commercial and sol gel method. The highest catalytic activity and selectivity of TiO2 from commercial is TiO2 commercial type B which gives 46.10% and 79.75%, respectively. For sol gel method, the highest catalytic activity at 75.82% and selectivity at 90.85% is TiO2 calcination temperature at 300OC, due to low crystallinity and high surface area. TiO2/ SiO2 with different type of SiO2 support (MCM-41, SBA-15, silicalite, silica gel and fumed silica) shows different catalytic activity and selectivity. The highest catalytic activity is TiO2/Silicalite with 44.41% conversin. The highest selectivity is TiO2/SBA-15 with 58.90% selectivity. TiO2/SiO2 by different synthesis method (wet impregnation, grafting and incipient wetness impregnation) show the same catalytic activity around 35%. However, wet impregnation method gave higher selectivity at 28.43% than other synthesis method. TiO2/SiO2 with different Ti loading show that the more Ti loading give more catalytic activity but less selectivity of epoxidation reaction. Which increase Ti from 1.5% to 15% catalytic activity increase from 18.86% to 97.49% and selectivity decrease from 42.44% to 0.00% selectivity.

Field of Study:	Chemical Engineering	Student's Signature
Academic	2018	Advisor's Signature
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		Co-advisor's Signature

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Nichaphat Sangkanchanavanich

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# CHAPTER I

#### 1.1. Introduction

Palm is one of the most abundant agricultural goods in Thailand. In the south of Thailand, although rubber is the first in amount, the second most are palm. The problem is that nowadays palm is overstocked. Thus, its price is extremely low. Therefore, palm is changed into biodiesel, which will increase palm selling price. However, we cannot use more than B5 (B5 is 5% biodiesel and 95% diesel.) because of mechanical problems. In the past, we use B5 and nowadays we use B3 which uses less biodiesel. So, biodiesel is overstocked. Consequently, its price is extremely low. Therefore, this project's purpose is to raise the value of biodiesel from palm.

The largest share of renewables in the industry is fat and oils. Thus, the development of renewable raw materials is likely to be an important issue. Furthermore, fat and oils of vegetable and animal can be converted to fatty acid methyl ester (FAMEs) for biodiesel. Vegetable oils and their FAMEs are large scale, biodegradable, ecofriendly, low toxicity and inexpensive. The largest scale of biodiesel is from palm oil and the major compositions derived from palm oil is methyl oleate (C18:1) [1-5]. In the present, biodiesel is overpriced due to the large scale and low demand for biodiesel. On the other hand, electrical energy has played an important role as a renewable energy in this industry such as the car industry. Also, the electrical energy has been investigated in many types of research because this is an eco-friendly and cleaner energy. Therefore, the study of high-value product from biodiesel is widely studied (i.e., hydrogenation, ozone cleavage, and epoxidation). Biodiesel mostly consists of unsaturated fatty acid methyl ester, so epoxidation reaction is interesting. Epoxidation reaction converts the unsaturated double bonds fatty acid methyl ester to oxirane ring or epoxide. Epoxide of fatty acid derivatives from vegetable oils are used in large scale application [5-8] such as plasticizers [3] and stabilizer in PVC, intermediates in polyurethane polyols [9], components for lubricants [10], cosmetics, polymer precursors for the preparation of various polymers [11], wood impregnation, biofuel additives[12] and pharmaceuticals [1].

In industrial scale, epoxidation reaction is performed by the Prileshajew reaction, a homogeneous reaction using soluble mineral acids such as H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, HCl or H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> as catalysts. The peracid will attack the double bonds then form the oxirane ring. The Prileshajew reaction is widely used as PVC plasticizer and intermediates. The Prileshajew reaction uses per carboxylic acid such as peracetic or performic with hydrogen peroxide as an oxidant. Hydrogen peroxide promotes the formation of peracetic acid [2, 7, 12, 13]. However, there are problems concerning this reaction. Firstly, Peracids and highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide are toxic. On the other contrary, hydrogen peroxide produces only water as a by-product. Therefore, hydrogen peroxide is commonly used [14, 15]. Secondly, C1-C3 carboxylic acids are corrosive. Thirdly, the homogeneous reaction is difficult for catalyst separation and low selectivity. A side reaction is the oxirane ring opening due to the acidic reaction. According to Figure 4, the side reactions of epoxidation are ring opening, oxidative cleavage, and rearrangement. [2, 11-13, 16].

Those problems from Prileshajew reaction can eliminate by using a heterogeneous catalyst. Heterogeneous catalysts are easy to separate, reuse and give high selectivity. Heterogeneous catalysts have been reported for epoxidation reaction such as acidic resin, metal oxides, Ti-silicas, Nd(v) -silica, Sulfated-SnO<sub>2</sub> and polyoxometalate [2, 5, 8, 10, 12]. Over the past decade, metal oxide catalyst has been widely developed with the structure of microporous and mesoporous materials. According to the broad modification such as calcination temperature, metal loading and supported material of metal oxides. Many metal ions have been reported such as rhenium, molybdenum, titanium, vanadium, chromium, and tungsten as catalysts [15, 17-19]. Titanium-silica catalysts have been widely studied according to high conversion, selectivity, and recoverability [6]. Titanium dioxide has been generally used in many reactions such photocatalytic reaction, selective catalytic as reduction. transesterification and epoxidation reaction [20]. Silica supported presence high dispersion for metal oxide. Silica surface is fairly inert and hydrophilic [21]. Mostly,  $TiO_2$ -SiO<sub>2</sub>, Ti-MCM-41, and TS-1 are used as catalysts [2, 4, 8, 16].

This project focuses on heterogeneously catalyzed epoxidation of methyl oleate with hydrogen peroxide as oxidant, acetonitrile as solvent at constant temperature and pressure. Study in catalytic activity, the selectivity of  $TiO_2$  and  $TiO_2$  with different  $SiO_2$  supported.

#### 1.2. Objective

To investigate the effects of different  $SiO_2$  supports of  $TiO_2$  catalysts on epoxidation reaction.

#### 1.3. Scope of research

Effect of  $\text{TiO}_2$  phase and  $\text{SiO}_2$  supported with epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate with hydrogen peroxide as oxidant. Acetonitrile is used as a solvent. The reaction temperature is 50  $^{\circ}$ C.

1.3.1. Synthesis of different crystallinity of  $TiO_2$  from various calcination temperatures (100°C, 200°, 300°C, 400°C, and 500°C) by sol-gel method.

1.3.2. Synthesis of  $TiO_2$  with different  $SiO_2$  type (MCM-41, SBA-15, silicalite, silica-gel, and fumed silica) via incipient wetness impregnation method.

1.3.3. Synthesis of  $TiO_2$ /fumed  $SiO_2$  by different synthesis methods (incipient wetness impregnation, wet impregnation, and grafting).

1.3.4. Synthesis of  $TiO_2$ /fumed  $SiO_2$  with different  $TiO_2$  loadings (1.5%, 2.5%, 3.2%, 4.0%, 4.7%, 10%, and 15%) via incipient wetness impregnation method.

1.3.5. Characterization of the catalysts by  $N_2$ -physisorption, SEM-EDX, XRD, UV-vis, TGA, FTIR and XPS.

1.3.6. Catalytic activity and selectivity of epoxidation reaction were investigated by GC-MS column DB-5

#### 1.4 Research methodology



Then the thesis is arranged as follows:

**Chapter I** presented the motivation of the research, the research objective, the research scopes, and the research methodology.

Chapter II presented the theory and literature reviews of epoxidation reaction and basic knowledge of physical and chemical properties of reactant (methyl oleate), solvent (acetonitrile), oxidant (Hydrogen peroxide) and products (methyl oleate epoxide) including their application.

Chapter III presented the synthesis of the catalyst, epoxidation of methyl oleate testing, and characterization techniques in this study.

Chapter IV presented the result of epoxidation testing, and characterization techniques.Chapter V presented the discussion of epoxidation testing



#### CHAPTER II

#### BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEWS

This chapter is undertaken to review the fundamental concept and literature based on past researches. The first section of the chapter will investigate the general information about the epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate. Then, the following section will explain about  $TiO_2$ . Finally, the last section will describe about  $TiO_2$  with  $SiO_2$  supported.

#### 2.1. Epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate

Oils and fats of vegetable are the most interesting renewable feedstock. Oils and fats can be converted to fatty acid methyl ester (FAMEs) by transesterification. According to **Table 1**, the most component of FAMEs from palm is methyl oleate  $(C_{19}H_{36}O_2)$ , which consist of one double bond. Physical properties of methyl oleate are listed in **Table 2**. This FAMEs or biodiesel can be upgraded to the high-value product such as epoxide, fatty alcohol, methyl ester sulfonate, and biowax. Heterogenous epoxidation reaction is the most interesting reaction, due to mind condition reaction, acid-free reaction and easy to remove the catalyst.

Fatty acid		Palm	Olive	Peanut	Rape	Soybean	Sunflower	Grape	H.O. Sunflower	Almond	Corn
Lauric	C12:0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Myristic	C14:0	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Palmitic	C16:0	36.7	11.6	8.0	4.9	11.3	6.2	6.9	4.6	10.4	6.5
Palmitoleic	C16:1	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6
Stearic	C18:0	6.6	3.1	1.8	1.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.4	2.9	1.4
Oleic	C18:1	46.1	75.0	53.3	33.0	24.9	25.2	19.0	62.8	77.1	65.6
Linoleic	C18:2	8.6	7.8	28.4	20.4	53.0	63.1	69.1	27.5	7.6	25.2
Linolenic	C18:3	0.3	0.6	0.3	7.9	6.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.1
Arachidic	C20:0	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Gadoleic	C20:1	0.2	0.0	2.4	9.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Behenic	C22:0	0.1	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0
Erucic	C22:1	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Lignoceric	C24:0	0.1	0.5	1.8	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
Nervonic	C24:1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0

Table 1 composition of biodiesel from vegetable oil.         [2]	22]
--	-----

 Table 2 Physical properties of methyl oleate.

Properties	Information
Molecular weight	296.49 g/mol
Density	0.874 g/ml at 20 $^{\circ}$ C
Normal boiling point	218 <sup>o</sup> C
Vapor pressure	10 mmHg (205 <sup>o</sup> C)

According to Figure 1, epoxidation reaction converts the double bond to oxirane ring [2]. As shown in Figure 2, epoxidation has two path way. The first path way is direct epoxidation. This path way, epoxidation form by Ti-OOH site on the catalyst [14]. The second path way is allylic oxidation. Which epoxidation form by radical of TiO. Epoxidation of methyl oleate converts to methyl oleate epoxide ( $C_{19}H_{36}O_3$ ). Methyl oleate epoxide is also known as Epoxidized methyl oleate, Methyl 3-octyloxiraneoctanoate, Methyl 8- (3-octyloxiranly) octanoate, Methyl 9,10-epoxyoctadecanoate, Methyl 9,10-epoxystearate, Octadecanoic acid, 9,10-epoxy-, methyl ester, 3-Octyloxiraneoctanoic acid methyl ester and Oxiraneoctanoic cid, 3-octyl-, methyl ester. The physical properties of methyl oleate epoxide are listed in Table 3.



Figure 1 epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate. [2]



Figure 2 path way of epoxidation reaction. [14]

Table	3 F	Physical	prop	oerties	of methy	/l oleate	epoxide
-------	-----	----------	------	---------	----------	-----------	---------

Properties	Information
Molecular weight	312.49 g/mol

Applications of methyl oleate epoxide include the additive for lubricants, intermediates in polymer and plasticizer. Oxirane ring or epoxide can improve oxidation and low temperature properties. Therefore, methyl oleate epoxide uses as an additive for lubricants [10, 23]. Methyl oleate epoxide also uses as intermediates in polymer. It is also an intermediate used to synthesize biobased polyurethane. Ring opening of methyl oleate improves rheological properties of PVC. so it uses as intermediates for bioplasticizer in PVC [24]. The main advantages of methyl oleate epoxide are low diffusion coefficients, low volatility and biodegraded by the microbial agent[3]. Therefore, methyl oleate epoxide is used as plasticizer of polymeric materials.

#### 2.1.1. Prileshajew reaction

In industry, epoxidation reaction is carried out by the prileshajew reaction. The prilshajew reaction is a homogenous reaction. The prilshajew reaction is the eponymous name of Nikolaus Prileshajew who first revealed this reaction in 1909. Prileahajew reaction uses per carboxylic acid such as peracetic and performic and hydrogen peroxide as oxidant. Commonly used acid catalysts such as H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, HCl or H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. According to Figure 2, (a) hydrogen peroxide and acetic acid react to give peracetic acid. (b) This peracetic acid reacts with unsaturated fatty acids methyl ester and converts to epoxide. (c) An excess of hydrogen peroxide and acetic acid permit ring opening of epoxide[25]. This reaction is difficult to neutralize or separate the strong acids catalyst. Therefore, it causes a ring opening reaction. New sustainable process based on green reagent and clean technology is important. The first sustainable process is an ion-exchange resin catalyst. Since the resin can be easily separated from the solution. In many epoxidation reactions, yields are low because epoxide converted

to ring opening [26]. Therefore, the heterogeneous catalyst is interesting. Hydrogen peroxide is used as oxidants because it produces only water as the by-product.

 $2 H_2O_2(aq) \longrightarrow 2 H_2O(l) + O_2(g)$ 

equation 1

$$\begin{array}{c} H_2O_2 + CH_3CO_2H \leftrightarrow CH_3CO_3H + H_2O \quad (a) \\ & (b) \\ R_1CH = CH - R_2 + CH_3CO_3H \longrightarrow R_1 - CH - CH - R_2 + CH_3CO_2H \\ & epoxide \end{array} \qquad (e) \\ R_3 - CH - CH - R_2 \xrightarrow{H^+} R_2 - CH - CH - R_2 \xrightarrow{H_2O} R_1 - CH - CH - R_2 \\ & OH \\ & O$$

2.1.2. Side reaction of epoxidation

According to Figure 3, there are 3 side reaction of the epoxidation reaction, including rearrangement, hydrolysis or ring opening, and oxidative cleavage. Ketones are derived from rearrangement reaction. Both hydrolysis and oxidative cleavage are formed under acidic conditions. Those side reactions expand with increasing reaction time. Nevertheless, the lower epoxidation selectivity is mainly due to hydrolysis reaction [5, 8]. According to equation 1, the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide is one of the results of hydrolysis. The decomposition of hydrogen peroxide is up to 78% in 5 h. This explains the loss of activity along the reaction time. In fact, as long as reaction goes the oxidant are lost and formed water, which is able to produce a ring opening reaction [13]. On the contrary, a small amount of water is necessary to rehydrate the surface of the catalyst.



Figure 4 Side reaction for the epoxidation of methyl oleate with  $H_2O_2$ . [8]

#### 2.1.3. Effect of temperature

Temperature has affected on both activity and selectivity. Epoxidation reaction was active at low temperature. According to **Table 4**, increasing temperature activity of epoxidation also increased. A slightly increase in reaction temperature can promote the selectivity of an epoxide. However, the selectivity of epoxide is decreased when the temperature is higher than 25  $^{\circ}$ C [12]. According to **Figure 5**, the conversion of epoxidation of methyl oleate is increased with increasing temperature. On the other hand, selectivity is slightly affected by temperature up to 60  $^{\circ}$ C. At higher temperatures, the formation of by-products also occurs [2]. The optimum reaction temperature of methyl oleate is 50  $^{\circ}$ C. Both **Table 4** and **Figure 5** showed that different substrates have different optimum reaction temperatures. Therefore, it showed that epoxidation reaction was favored at low temperature.

entry	T (°C)	C (%)	monoepoxide (%)	diepoxide (%)	total epoxides (%)
1	5	77.8	28.7	49.3	63.7
2	15	84.3	15.1	59.2	66.8
3	25	100.0	4.7	90.4	92.8
4	35	100.0	2.5	87.9	89.2
5	45	100.0	0.0	82.1	82.1

 Table 4 Effect of Temperature on Epoxidation of methyl oleate.
 [12]



Figure 5 Effect of reaction temperature on conversion of methyl oleate X<sub>∞</sub>and epoxide selectivity S<sub>∞</sub> in the epoxidation of methyl oleate over TS-1. [2]

2.1.4. Effect of solvent

The solubility of FAMEs and oils in hydrogen peroxide solution is limited. To obtain a homogenous of hydrogen peroxide and methyl ester solvent is required. According to **Table 5**. and Turco et al. (2016) [13], Solvent has affected to both conversion and selectivity. However, different substrates are suitable with different solvents. Polarity and the protic/aprotic nature of solvent are also affected on conversion and selectivity of epoxidation.

Soybean oil showed good activity with ethyl acetate. Due to the production of acetic acid in the final product, this acetic acid can react with hydrogen peroxide and convert to peracetic acid. Peracetic acid can promote the higher conversion of epoxidation. However, the presence of peracetic acid promotes the degradation of epoxide by ring opening reaction. On the other hand, soybean oil showed low activity with acetonitrile. This can be explained that oil is poorly dissolved in acetonitrile. Acetonitrile fills most of pore volume of catalyst, so soybean oil can not react with the active sites.

By the way, acetonitrile is suitable for methyl ester such as methyl oleate. Due to, the high polarity of acetonitrile ( $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = 37$ ). This can be explained by considering to the solubility of both reactants and solvent. Methyl oleate is miscible in all solvent, hydrogen

peroxide and water are soluble in high polarity solvent. The physical properties of acetonitrile and hydrogen peroxide were list in Table 6 and Table 7.

Table 5 Influence of the solvent on the initial rate of reaction, conversion of methyloleate  $X_{MO}$ , selectivity S= and conversion of hydrogen peroxide  $X_{H2O2}$  in the epoxidation of

Solvent	Initial Rate $r_0$ (mol l <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup> )	Conversion X <sub>MO</sub> (%)	Selectivity S <sub>ME</sub> (%)	Conversion X <sub>H2O2</sub> (%)
Ethylacetate	0.025	98	36	72
Acetone	0.024	92	52	36
Acetonitrile	0.021	93	87	97
Acetonitrile/ methanol	0.016	79	85	62
Diglyme	0.015	79	84	66
Methanol	0.002	20	17	57
Diisopropylether	0.005	4	31	67

methyl oleate over TS-1 (Ind.) at 323 K after 24 h. [2]

Table 6 Physical properties of acetonitrile.

	/ Street Summer ()
Properties	Information
Molecular weight	41.05 g/mol
Density	0.786 g/ml at 25 °C
Melting point	งกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย -48 <sup>o</sup> C (lit)
Normal boiling point	nt ngkorn Universit 81 - 82 <sup>o</sup> C (lit)
Vapor pressure	72.8 mmHg (20 <sup>o</sup> C)

 Table 7 Physical properties of hydrogen peroxide.

Properties	Information
Molecular weight	34.01 g/mol
Density	1.11 g/ml

#### 2.1.5 Effect of reaction time

Both conversions of methyl oleate and selectivity of methyl oleate epoxide show as a function of reaction time. According to **Figure 6**, the rate of epoxidation reaction was increased with reaction time. However, both the rate of epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate and degradation of hydrogen peroxide strongly rose at first 5 h of the reaction. The degradation of hydrogen peroxide converts hydrogen peroxide to  $H^+$  and  $H_2O$ . Since the degradation of hydrogen peroxide occurred with increasing reaction time. In agreement with **Figure 4**, the side reaction of epoxidation was existing. Then, the selectivity of methyl oleate epoxide was decreased with increasing reaction time. [2, 6] After 5 h of reaction time the conversion of epoxidation was slightly slow down. Since Ti leaching or adsorbed reaction residues hindering the access of the active site.



Figure 6 Conversion and selectivity as a function of time of methyl oleate epoxide. [2]

2.2. TiO<sub>2</sub>

Titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) which is also known as titania, has been widely used as a pigment in paints, catalysts, catalysts supported, filter coating cosmetics and foodstuffs. Therefore, it is claimed that titanium dioxide is one of the common materials due to its non-toxicity, low cost, and relatively high chemical stability [27, 28]. Titanium dioxide exists in both crystalline and amorphous forms. However, titanium dioxide has three major crystalline phases. First is rutile, the most stable phases with small crystals size below 11 nm. Second is anatase, with large crystals size above 35 nm. Third is brookite,

with crystals size between anatase and rutile. According to Figure 7, those three phases indicate different  $TiO_2$  crystal structures. Rutile and anatase are reported more than brookite, due to their higher activity. The most active phase is anatase phase. The most stable phase at high temperature is rutile. Rutile can be observed at temperature between 400 to 800  $^{\circ}C$  [29-31]. The physical properties of  $TiO_2$  and their three different phases were listed in Table 8. According to Table 8. Anatase has crystal system as tetragonal with dipyramidal habit, which is mainly used in photocatalyst under UV irradiation. However, rutile also has a tetragonal crystal structure with prismatic habit. Therefore, rutile is mostly used as pigment in paint [31, 32].



Figure 7 TiO<sub>2</sub> crystal structures: rutile (a), anatase (b) and brookite (c). Ti<sup>4+</sup> sits at the center of the octahedron and O<sub>2</sub> at each corner. [31]

Table	8 Physic	al properties of TiO	16
Iable		a properties of $\Pi O_2$ .	

Properties ALONGKORN	UNIVERSITY Information
Molecular weight	79.866 g/mol
Melting point	1844 <sup>o</sup> C
Normal boiling point	2973 <sup>o</sup> C
Crystal system	
Anatase	Tetragonal
Rutile	Tetragonal
Brookite	Orthorhombic
Density	
Anatase	3830 kg/m <sup>3</sup>

Properties	Information
Rutile	4240 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Brookite	4170 kg/m <sup>3</sup>

Titanium dioxide is mostly used as semiconducting transition metal oxide. Moreover,  $TiO_2$  are used in solar cells, photocatalytic, chemical sensor, self-cleaning, environmental purification, pigments, adsorbents, paints, paper, plastic, cosmetics, catalytic and medical [33].  $TiO_2$  can be synthesis be many methods such as sol-gel, microemulsion, flame synthesis, ultrasonic irradiation, oxidation hydrothermal synthesis, and hydrolysis precipitation. However, the different synthesis methods give different properties of  $TiO_2$ . Moreover, the same synthesis methods using different starting materials, amounts of materials, solvent or temperature result in different  $TiO_2$  properties [34-37].

Sol-gel method is the best method to synthesize ultra-fine metallic oxide and nanocrystalline TiO<sub>2</sub>. The sol-gel method formation follows by Scheme1. Moreover, the physical properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> can be easily modified by using sol-gel method. This method is carried out in solution and prepared in mild condition (low temperature and pressure). A typical example of the former approach is dispersion of oxides or hydroxides in water with the pH adjusted so that the solid particles remain in suspension rather than precipitate out. A typical example of the later approach is the addition of metal alkoxide to water. The alkoxide is hydrolyzed giving the oxide as a colloidal product. This method gives nanometer-sized of TiO<sub>2</sub> with high purity. However, sol-gel method derived amorphous products. Therefore, heat treatment at high temperature to obtain crystalline Calcination process results in reduction of surface area and phase products. transformation. Sol-gel process is the evolution of inorganic networks through the formation of sol (colloidal suspension) and gelation of sol to form a network in the gel (continuous liquid phase).[38] A sol is a dispersion of solid powder in liquid suspension solution. Sol is formed from hydrolysis and polymerization reaction of precursors, which usually use inorganic metal salts or metal organic compounds. However, metal alkoxides are mostly used because its react with water. Complete polymerization and loss of solvent lead to transformation of liquid sol to solid gel phase. A gel has both liquid and solid state, which presents a solid network filled in liquid components.[34, 39]

Scheme. 1 The formation of sol-gel process. M-O-R + H<sub>2</sub>O M-OH + R-OH Hydrolysis (2.1) M-O-H + HO-M M-O-M + H<sub>2</sub>O Water condensation (2.2) M-O-R + HO-M M-O-M + R-OH Alcohol condensation (2.3)

#### 2.3. TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Silica supported of metal oxides catalysts present of a higher percentage of metal oxide dispersion.  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts have higher mechanical strength, thermal stability and surface area than pure  $TiO_2$ . Silica surface has hydroxyls group. Due to their hydrophilic character, it can be both adsorptive or reactive sites. The different types of titanium species present a distinguish kinds of TiOx species (tetrahedral and octahedral coordination). Hydrophobicity catalyst decreases the side reaction of epoxidation. According to Figure 8, water played an important role in epoxidation reaction. When water adsorbs on Ti active site, titanium change coordination from tetrahedral to octahedral. Whereas, hydrogen peroxide leads to the formation of Ti-OOH (an activated intermediate) [14]. According to Figure 9 and Figure 10, show the surface hydroxyl group of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$ . Which different silica support give different surface hydroxyl group. Due to the different structure of silica support.



Figure 8 Mechanism of inactivation of amorphous titanosilicate epoxidation catalysts in presence of water.[14]



 $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts have been widely study such as varies of Ti loading and calcination temperature. As shown in Figure 11 and Figure 12  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  was used in transesterification reaction, the more Ti loading and calcination temperature gave more  $TiO_2$  peak in anatase form. According to Table 9 and Table 10, conversion and selectivity decreased when the  $TiO_2$  peaks occurred.  $TiO_2$  peaks were detected at 14% Ti loading and calcination temperature more than  $600^{\circ}C$ . Therefore, Ti loading more than 14% and calcination temperature more than  $600^{\circ}C$  gave less in both conversion and selectivity of transesterification. Both conversion and selectivity decrease when increasing Ti% loading and calcination temperature because of  $TiO_2$  block pore mouth of catalysts. [20]

The most important peak from FTIR was 960 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which show Ti-O-Si. According to **Figure 13** and **Figure 14**, more Ti loading give more absorbance of Ti-O-Si. The active site of epoxidation reaction is  $TiO_2$  in tetrahedral coordination form, which can detect by both UV-vis and XPS. According to **Figure 15**, Ti in tetrahedral coordinate was

detected 465.4 eV for  $Ti^{4+} 2p_{1/2}$  and 458.8 eV for  $Ti^{4+} 2p_{3/2}$ . The peaks shift to lower eV due to  $Ti^{3+}$  was detected. As shown in **Figure 16**, the UV-vis spectra of  $Ti^{4+}$  was detected



at 215 nm. However, 295 nm was occurred due to Ti with 5 or 6 coordination. [41-43] **Figure 11** XRD patterns of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts with different  $TiO_2$  loadings: (a) support; (b) 1%; (c) 5%; (d) 10%; (e) 12%; (f) 14%; (g) 16%; (h) 20%; and (i) nano anatase  $TiO_2$ . [20]

		6				
TiO <sub>2</sub> Loadings (wt %)	Conversion* (%)	Selectivity (%)			Yield (%)	
		AN	MPO	DPO	MPO	DPO
1	42.9	0.6	80.8	18.3	34.3	7.9
5	51.5	0.6	76.7	22.7	39.5	11.7
10	62.3	0.7	74.2	25.0	46.2	15.6
12	66.3	0.6	73.9	25.3	49.0	16.8
14	65.9	0.7	74.1	25.1	48.8	16.5
16	62.4	0.8	75.2	23.4	46.9	14.6
18	56.8	0.9	76.4	22.5	43.4	12.9
20	50.8	1.0	77.4	21.4	39.3	10.9

Reaction conditions: 0.1 mol DMO, 0.3 mol phenol, 1.8 g catalyst (calcined at 550 °C), conducted at 180 °C for 2 h. \*Based on charged DMO.

Table 9 Catalytic Activity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts with Different  $TiO_2$  Loadings. [20]



Figure 12 XRD spectra of 12 wt%  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts under different calcination temperature: (a)  $300^{\circ}C$ ; (b)  $400^{\circ}C$ ; (c)  $500^{\circ}C$ ; (d)  $550^{\circ}C$ ; (e)  $600^{\circ}C$ ; (f)  $700^{\circ}C$ ; and (g)

800 <sup>°</sup> C. [20]											
Calcination	Conversion*	Selectivity (%)			Yield (%)						
Temperature (°C)	(%)	AN	MPO	DPO	MPO	DPO					
300	48.8	2.1	78.3	19.1	38.2	9.3					
400	49.2	1.0	79.1	19.7	38.9	9.7					
500	58.1	0.7	74.2	25.0	43.1	14.5					
550	66.3	0.6	73.9	25.3	49.0	16.8					
600	65.4	1.1	74.6	24.0	48.8	15.7					
700	62.1	1.2	76.7	21.6	47.6	13.4					
800	52.6	1.5	81.7	16.3	43.0	8.6					

Reaction conditions: 0.1 mol DMO, 0.3 mol phenol, 1.8 g catalyst (12 wt%  $TiO_2$  loading), conducted at 180  $^\circ C$  for 2 h. \*Based on charged DMO.

Table 10 Effect of Calcination Temperature on Catalytic Properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>. [20]



Figure 14 FTIR region in absorbance mode: (a) SBA-15; (b) 40Ti-SBA-iso; (c) 20Ti-SBA-iso; (d) 40Ti-SBA-P25 and (e) 20Ti-SBAP25. [42]



Figure 16 UV/vis spectra of the Ti-MCM-41 catalysts with different molar ratios of Si:Ti in the crystallization gel (respectively, 40:1, 30:1, 20:1, and 10:1). [41]
# 2.4. Other catalyst for epoxidation reaction

The commonly catalysts for epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate are  $TiO_2/SiO_2$ , TS-1 and Ti-MCM-41. However, there are many kinds of metal oxide catalyst in epoxidation reaction. Examples of other catalysts are shown in **Table 11**.

 Table 11 Other catalysts for epoxidation reaction.

catalyst	oxidant	T ( <sup>0</sup> C)	solvent	Ref
2-	Oxidant add in	25	dichloromethane	[12]
percarboxyethy	catalyst		2	
lfunctionalized				
silica				
TiMCM-41	tert-	90	ethyl acetate	[6]
Ti/SiO <sub>2</sub>	butylhydroperoxide			
TS-1	hydroperoxide	50	acetonitrile	[2]
Ti-MCM-41	A STREET			
TiO <sub>x</sub> -SiO <sub>2</sub>		AND -		
WO <sub>x</sub> -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	C.		25	
MoO <sub>x</sub> -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		9		
MoO <sub>x</sub> -SiO <sub>2</sub>	จุหาลงกรณเ	เหาวทย		
TS-1	hydroperoxide	50	acetonitrile	[8]
manganese(IV)	Hydroperoxide	25	acetonitrile	[44]
complex				
[LMn(O) <sub>3</sub> MnL](				
$PF_6)_2$				
MoO <sub>x</sub>	tert-Butyl	80	1,2-	[45]
encapsulated	hydroperoxide		Dichloroethane	
inside hollow				
silica spheres				

catalyst	oxidant	T ( <sup>o</sup> C)	solvent	Ref
peroxophospho	hydrogen peroxide	35-40	-	[18]
tungstate				
MoO <sub>3</sub> /Bipyridin	tert-Butyl	55, 75	benzene	[19]
edicarboxylate	hydroperoxide			
Hybrid				
$H_5 PV_2 Mo_{10}O_{40}$	sodium sulfite oxygen	65	Acetic acid	[46]
Nb/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	hydrogen peroxide	80	acetonitrile	[47]
Nb/SiO <sub>2</sub>		11/200		
Polyoxometalat	hydrogen peroxide 🔾	70,75	acetonitrile	[17]
e-Paired	-//m			
Polymer				
Coated Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1/150			
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	hydrogen peroxide	80	acetonitrile	[13]
	จุหาลงกรณ์ม	หาวิทย	บาลัย	

# CHAPTER III

# EXPERIMENTAL

In this chapter, it consists of the detail of chemicals, catalyst preparation, characterization and catalytic epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate test.

## 3.1. Materials and chemicals

The chemicals used in both catalyst preparation and epoxidation are listed in **Table 12** and **Table 13**, respectively.

Chemicals	Chemicals name	Purity (%)	Suppliers
TiOCH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>24</sub>	Titanium (IV)	97	Aldrich
	isopropoxide		
HNO <sub>3</sub>	Nitric acid	70	Asia pacific specialty
			chemical limited
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	Ethanol absolute	100	Merck
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Silica, fumed	99.8	Aldrich
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Silica gel	99.8	Sigma-Aldrich
$C_6H_{12}O$	cyclohexanol	99	Aldrich

# Table 12 Chemicals used in catalyst preparation.

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Table	13 Chemicals used in epoxidation reaction.	

Chemicals	Chemicals name	Purity (%)	Suppliers
$C_{19}H_{36}O_{2}$	Methyl oleate	99	Aldrich
$H_2O_2$	Hydrogen peroxide	30 (w/w) in $H_2O$	Aldrich
$C_{10}H_8$	naphthalene	>98	Fluka
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	acetonitrile	99.8	Aldrich

## 3.2. Preparation of catalyst

3.2.1 Synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub> by sol-gel method

A sol-gel method was used to prepare tianium dioxide by using titanium isopropoxide as a precusor. The method began with 7.33 ml of 70% nitric acid was added to 1,000 ml of deionized water as the acid solution was stirring. Then 83.33 ml of titanium isopropoxide was poured slowly and the suspension appeared. The suspension was stirred continuously around 3 days or until sol became clear. In this step sol has pH around 1. Therefore tianium dioxide sol was dialyzed in a cellulose membrane with a molecular weight cutoff of 3500 (Spectum companies, Gardena, CA) by deionized water until pH of sol became 3.5. The dialyzed sol was dired at 110 °C overnight, crushed, ground and the calcined at 100°C, 200°C, 300°C, 400°C and 500°C for 2 hours with a heating rate 10°C/min.

3.2.2 Synthesis of  $\text{TiO}_2$  with  $\text{SiO}_2$  supported by incipient wetness impregnation method

Silica supported are fumed silica, silicalite, SBA-15, MCM-41 and silica gel. First, 5 g. of silica supported was heated at  $110^{\circ}$ C overnight. Then titanium isopropoxide 0.52 mL was added in absolute ethanol. The volume of ethanol base on pore volume of the silica supported. The titanium isopropoxide solution was dropped to silica supported at room temperature until it became slurry. The catalyst product was dried at room temperature for 1 h. Then dried at  $110^{\circ}$ C overnight. The solid catalyst crushed into fine powder, following by calcination at 550 K under air for 5 h to get white powder of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

3.2.3 synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub> /fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> by incipient wetness impregnation method

5 g of fumed-silica was dried at  $110^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. Then titanium isopropoxide 0.3 mmol (0.89 mL) was added in absolute ethanol. The volume of ethanol was 2.3 mL (base on pore volume of the fumed silica supported which 0.64 mL/g). The titanium isopropoxide solution was dropped to silica supported at room temperature until it

became slurry. The catalyst product was dried at room temperature for 1 h. Then dried at  $110^{\circ}$ C overnight. The solid catalyst crushed into fine powder, following by calcination at 550 K under air for 5 h to get white powder of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

# 3.2.4 Synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>/fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> by wet impregnation method

Fumed silica was dried overnight (at 110  $^{\circ}$ C). Titanium isopropoxide solution was prepare by 0.3 mmol (0.89 cm3) of titanium isopropoxide and 5 mL absolute ethanol. 5 g. of fumed-silica was added and stir with titanium isopropoxide solution at 50  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 h. Then dried at 110  $^{\circ}$ C overnight. The solid was crushed into fine powder, followed by calcination at 550  $^{\circ}$ C under air for 5 h to obtain TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>

# 3.2.5 Synthesis of $TiO_2$ /fumed $SiO_2$ by grafting method

5 g of fumed-silica was dried at 110<sup>o</sup>C overnight. Then 0.3 mmol (0.89 cm<sup>3</sup>) of titanium isopropoxide was added in cyclohexanol. Fumed-silica was added to titanium isopropoxide solution ( $C_{TIP} = 0.02$  mol/l) under reflux at 160 <sup>o</sup>C for 2 h. Then dried at 110 <sup>o</sup>C overnight. Then crushed and calcined at 550 <sup>o</sup>C under air for 5 h to obtain white powder of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.[2]

3.2.6 Synthesis of  $TiO_2$ / fumed  $SiO_2$  with different Ti loading by incipient wetness impregnation method

First, 5 g. of fumed silica was dried at  $110^{\circ}$ C overnight. Then titanium isopropoxide 0.52, 0.89, 1.26 and 1.63 cm<sup>3</sup> add in 3, 2.48, 2.21, 1.84 and 1.47 cm<sup>3</sup> absolute ethanol respectively. The titanium isopropoxide solution was dropped to fumed silica supported at room temperature until it became slurry. The catalyst product was dried at room temperature for 1 h. Then dried at  $110^{\circ}$ C overnight. The solid catalyst crushed into fine powder, following by calcination at 550 °C under air for 5 h to get white powder of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

### 3.3. Catalyst characterization techniques

### 3.3.1. N<sub>2</sub>-physisorption

The surface area, pore volume and pore diameter were measured by the Brunauer– Emmet–Teller (BET) method on a Micromeritics ASAP 2020 instrument. The measurements were performed with nitrogen as adsorbate at liquid nitrogen temperature following the samples pretreatment at 200  $^{\circ}$ C under vacuum 12 h. Sample of N<sub>2</sub>-physisorption was heated at 110  $^{\circ}$ C overnight before analyzing.

 $N_2$  physisorption was carried out on a micromeritics chemisorb 2750 to determine the specific area at the single point of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> by using 30%  $N_2$ /He after preheat sample at 200<sup>o</sup>C for 1 h.

3.3.2. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX)

The morphologies of catalysts were determined by scanning electron microscope (SEM) which operated by using a model of JEOL mode JSM-6400. The elemental distribution on a surface were investigated by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) that was performed by using Link Isis series 300 program. Sample of SEM-EDX was heated at 110 <sup>o</sup>C overnight before analyzing.

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3.3.3. X-ray Diffraction (XRD)

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were analyzed by X- ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 Advance) using Cu K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> irradiation at range between 20 ° to 80 ° with a scan speed 0.5 sec/step for TiO<sub>2</sub>. X- ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 Advance) using Cu K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> irradiation at range between 1.2 ° to 50 ° with a scan speed 0.5 sec/step for TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>. The lattice parameter and d-spacing were calculated based on Bragg's law. Crystallite size was calculated by Scherrer equation.

#### 3.3.4. UV-visible spectroscopic analysis (UV-vis)

UV-vis analysis was used to obtain the information about the coordination geometry of Ti cations and the ligand environment. The absorption range is 200 to 500 nm obtained by Perkin Elmer Lambda 650 spectrophotometer. The step size for the scan was 1 nm.

#### 3.3.5 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR)

FT-IR analysis was used to provide functional group as a chemical structure of the catalyst. FT-IR was obtained by using a Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrometer. Catalyst was performed on compacted powder disk of 0.5-1 g of each catalyst.

3.3.6 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)

The binding energy of each core atomic orbital of catalysts was determined by AMICUS spectrometer which using MgK $\alpha$  X-ray radiation (1253.6 eV) and AlK $\alpha$  X-ray radiation (1486.6 eV) at voltage 15kV and current of 12 mA. The pressure in the analysis chamber was less than 10-5 Pa. The small amount of sample was brought to pretreat at 110°C for 24 hours before the analysis.

3.3.7 Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)

The amount of carbon content in the catalyst was determined by TA Instruments SDT Q 600 analyzer, which measures the amount of weight changed of material after reaction testing and provided the chemical phenomena such as decomposition temperature (finding reaction temperature range), and solid-gas reactions (oxidation). The samples of 10-20 mg and a temperature ramping from 298 to 1273 K at 2 K/min were used in the operation with N<sub>2</sub> UHP carrier gas.

# 3.4 Catalytic activity on epoxidation reaction

3.4.1. Epoxidation reaction

The preparation of the substrate solution is listed in **Table 14**. First, drop naphthalene in acetonitrile. Then add methyl oleate to this solution.

Table 14 list of substrate solution.

Chemicals	Volume (ml)
C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (MO)	0.1
$C_{10}H_8$	10
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.06

Catalytic epoxidation tests were carried in a 50 cm<sup>3</sup> three necked round-bottom glass reactor with a reflux condenser. The reactor was heated in an oil bath with constant reaction temperature at 50°C and magnetic stirring at 500 rpm. First, add 300 mg of catalyst in the reactor. Follow by addition of substrate solution and wait until substrate solution became 50°C. Then add 70 mg of hydrogen peroxide. The epoxidation starts at the time hydrogen peroxide was added. Samples 0.2 mL were taken from the reaction mixture after 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 h of reaction. The catalyst was removed from the samples by filtration. The sample was analyzed by gas chromatography.



3.4.2. Reaction products analyzed

The reaction mixtures were analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) and gas chromatography with flame ionization detector (GC-FID). GC-MS instruments were equipped with a DB-5 column ( $30 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ mm} \times 0.25 \text{ um}$ ). GC-FID instruments were equipped with a Rtx-5 column ( $30 \text{ m} \times 0.32 \text{ mm}$ ). According to Table 15, the temperature of column increased from 180 °C to 250 °C then hold 10 min, at heating rate 5 °C/min. Temperature of injector and detector was 250 °C.

Table15 list of gas chromatography condition.

Shimadzu GC2014	Shimadzu GC2014			
FID	FID-MS			
Rtx-5	DB-5			
Helium (99.99 vol.%)	Helium (99.99 vol.%)			
Air (99.9 vol.%)	Helium (99.99 vol.%)			
180 °C	180 <sup>0</sup> C			
250 °C	250 <sup>o</sup> C			
250 °C	250 <sup>o</sup> C			
	Shimadzu GC2014 FID Rtx-5 Helium (99.99 vol.%) Air (99.9 vol.%) 180 °C 250 °C 250 °C			

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## CHAPTER IV

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion in this chapter consist of four parts, including the effect of calcination temperature (100, 200, 300, 400 and 500  $^{\circ}$ C) of TiO<sub>2</sub> by sol-gel method, the second part, the effect of SiO<sub>2</sub> support (fumed silica, silica gel, silicalite, MCM-41 and SBA-15) of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> by incipient wetness impregnation method, the third part, the effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>/fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> synthesis method (incipient wetness impregnation method, wet impregnation method and grafting method), and the fourth part, the effect of Ti loading (7,12,17,22 and 27% TIP) of TiO<sub>2</sub>/fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> by incipient wetness impregnation wetness impregnation method. The catalyst characteristics were investigated by SEM-EDX, XRD, FTIR, UV-vis, XPS, N<sub>2</sub> physisorption and TGA.

#### 4.1. Epoxidation of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different calcination temperatures

4.1.1. Catalytic activity and selectivity of  $TiO_2$  catalyst

Catalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts for epoxidation of methyl oleate is shown in Figure 17. The highest catalytic activity of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> is commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B with 38.86% conversion. Moreover, the lowest catalytic activity of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> is the commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A with 11.32% conversion. For TiO<sub>2</sub> by sol-gel method, 100°C and 200°C calcination temperature have same catalytic activity around 40% conversion. Moreover, 300°C calcination temperature have highest catalytic activity around 75% conversion. However, 400°C and 500°C calcination temperature has lower catalytic activity than 300°C but higher than 100°C and 200°C, which catalytic activity around 65% conversion. According to Figure 18, selectivity of epoxidation showed the same trend as the catalyst activity that 300°C calcination temperature gave highest selectivity of epoxidation of methyl oleate. However, 100°C and 200°C TiO<sub>2</sub> showed lower selectivity of epoxidation. Since 100°C and 200°C are complex TiO<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 17 Conversion of all  $TiO_2$  catalysts in epoxidation of methyl oleate at 5 h.



Figure 18 Selectivity of all  $TiO_2$  catalyst in epoxidation of methyl oleate at 5 h.

#### 4.1.2. Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst

According to Table 16, 500°C TiO<sub>2</sub> has lower anatase weight fraction and surface area than both 300°C and 400°C TiO<sub>2</sub>. Moreover, 500°C has highest crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst by sol-gel method. The crystal sizes of TiO<sub>2</sub> were calculated from the half-width of peaks using Scherrer's equation (d =  $0.9\lambda/\beta\cos\theta$ ). The size of the anatase phase was calculated from  $2\theta$  = 25.3°. The weight fraction of the anatase phase was calculated from  $2\theta$  = 25.3° and 48.1. Calcination temperature above 300°C, the anatase crystal size was a function of calcination temperature. The increasing of calcination temperature resulted in a slightly increase of the anatase crystal size from 5.0 nm at temperature 100 °C to 9.9 nm at 500°C. Both commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> showed higher anatase crystal size than TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts from sol-gel method. Commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A showed the highest anatase crystal size at 18.3 nm. However, commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B exhibited the anatase crystal size at 11.3 nm. The anatase weight fraction was higher at low temperature and slightly decrease at high temperature. Calcination temperature at 100 °C anatase weight fraction exhibited of 90.6 wt.% . However, at 500 °C calcination temperature the anatase weight fraction decrease to 56.2 wt.%. The highest anatase weight fraction was commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B, which show 99.7 wt.% of anatase. On the other hand, commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A showed 86.5 wt.% of anatase, which higher than calcination temperature 300 °C, 400 °C and 500 °C. However, TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst by sol-gel method found that higher calcination temperature gave higher crystallinity. The highest crystallinity of all TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A, which exhibit 41.9% crystalline. the lowest was commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B, which showed 10.2% crystalline. Anatase crystallite size of TiO<sub>2</sub> grew with increasing calcination temperature. On the other hand, the specific surface area of TiO<sub>2</sub> decreased from 188 m<sup>2</sup>/g to 73 m<sup>2</sup>/g. The sintering at surface of TiO<sub>2</sub> is affected from high temperature. However, the more surface area, the more catalyst activity occurs because larger surface area implies higher number of active site[34].

XRD pattern of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts calcined at various temperatures and commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> were characterized by the bulk crystalline structures of TiO<sub>2</sub> the results are shown in Figure 19. When the calcination temperature below 400 °C, anatase was the domain phase, with peaks at  $2\theta = 25.3^{\circ}$ ,  $37.8^{\circ}$ ,  $48.1^{\circ}$ ,  $54.0^{\circ}$  and  $55.1^{\circ}$ . TiO<sub>2</sub> from sol-gel method was also found small brookite phase peak at  $2\theta = 30.8^{\circ}$ . Rutile phase appeared above 300 °C and normally become domain at 600 °C [29, 34, 38]. Moreover, crystallinity at high temperature was higher than the low temperature. XRD pattern of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A showed both anatase and rutile phase without brookite phase. However, commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B showed anatase as the main phase. In addition, commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A showed a sharper peak than commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B.

Catalyst	Crystallite size	Anatase weight	%crystallinity	Surface area
	(nm)	fraction		(m²/g)
		(wt.%)		
Commercial A	18.3	86.5	41.9	35
Commercial B	11.3	99.7	10.2	112
500°C	9.9	56.2	24.9	73
400°C	7.5	รณมา77.5 ทยา	ลัย 21.1	111
300°C	GH <sub>7.2</sub> ALON	GKORI <sub>80.7</sub> NIVER	SITY <sub>18.5</sub>	147
200°C	5.0	90.4	15.4	174
100°C	4.9	90.6	14.5	188

Table16 Crystallite size, Anatase weight fraction and %crystalline of TiO2 catalysts.



Figure 19 X-ray diffraction pattern of all  $TiO_2$  catalysts prepared by sol-gel method and commercial  $TiO_2$ .

Figure 20. shows the FT-IR spectra of all TiO<sub>2</sub> sol-gel catalysts. The spectrum of  $TiO_2$  calcined at 100°C has several characteristic absorptions peak: Peak observed at 3200 – 3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to stretching vibration of O-H bond. Peak observed at 2162 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to the weak band C C Stretching vibration. The little peaks at 2020 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1975 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to C= C= C Stretching. Peaks at 1738 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1637 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to stretching vibration of C=O bond. In addition, peak at 1637 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to stretching vibration of H–O–CH<sub>2</sub> and H–O–H bending of absorbed water. Peaks observed at 1365 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1215 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to stretching vibration of C-O Stretching. Peak observed at 610 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to stretching vibration of Ti-O–Ti. When the temperature of calcined increase from 200°C to 400°C show the reduction of unrelated peak of C C Stretching, C=C=C stretching, C=O bond, H–O–CH<sub>2</sub>, H–O–H bending of absorbed water and C-O stretching. C=O bond, H–O–CH<sub>2</sub>, H–O–H

500°C show clearly characteristic absorptions of O-H and Ti-O-Ti Stretching due to complex compounds are decomposed with high calcination temperature [48-50].

From Figure 21, TGA of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst before calcination conform with the FT-IR spectrum. The increasing of calcination temperature will decrease weight of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. From TGA, weight of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst stable at temperature above 500 °C. According to TGA and FT-IR spectrum, increasing of calcination temperature will decrease H<sub>2</sub>O and other compound such as C=C=C, C-O and etc. The result from TGA and FT-IR show that below 300 °C TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was a complex of TiO<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 20 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) of all  $TiO_2$  catalysts prepared by sol-gel method.



Figure 21 Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) of gel  $TiO_2$  (TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst before calcination).

Figure 22 and Figure 23 show that TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst have more crystallinity give the less catalyst activity. Moreover, more surface area had more catalyst activity because larger surface area implies higher number of active site. According to Figure 24, catalytic activity was a function of reaction time. The long reaction time give high catalytic activity. [2, 6]

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Figure 22 %Conversion with surface area and %crystalline of  $TiO_2$  catalysts.



Figure 23 %Selectivity with surface area and %crystalline of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts.





The highest conversion and selectivity of epoxidation reaction of  $TiO_2$  catalysts was  $TiO_2$  catalyst calcination at 300 °C. Therefore,  $TiO_2$  catalyst calcination at 300 °C was interesting for testing with reaction time and reused catalyst. According to **Figure** 24, conversion of  $TiO_2$  catalyst calcination at 300 °C was a function of reaction time. The increasing of reaction time for 5 h. increase the conversion of epoxidation reaction.

According to Figure 25 and Figure 26, both conversion and selectivity of  $TiO_2$  catalyst calcination at 300 °C decrease with increase run of epoxidation reaction.

Moreover, conversion of epoxidation reaction was slightly decrease as a function of run of epoxidation reaction. However, selectivity of epoxidation reaction significantly decreases with run of epoxidation reaction.



Figure 25 Conversion of reuse  $TiO_2$  catalyst calcination temperature at 300  $^{\circ}C$  at 5 h.





# 4.2. Epoxidation of $TiO_2/SiO_2$ catalysts with different $SiO_2$ supported

4.2.1. Catalytic activity and selectivity of  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$  catalyst with different  $\text{SiO}_2$  supported.

The result of TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst found that more crystallinity gave less conversion and more surface area causes more conversion. Therefore, SiO<sub>2</sub> support is interesting for this reaction because SiO<sub>2</sub> support gave less crystallinity and high surface area. According to Figure 27, TiO<sub>2</sub>/Silicalite gave the highest conversion which gave 44.4% conversion at 5h. However, TiO<sub>2</sub>/ Silica gel gave the lowest conversion with 5% conversion at 5h. TiO<sub>2</sub>/ fumed-SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>/MCM-41, and TiO<sub>2</sub>/ SBA-15 gave same conversion around 16% conversion at 5h. The selectivity of epoxidation in Figure 28 shows that no epoxidation reaction when using TiO<sub>2</sub>/silica-gel. However, TiO<sub>2</sub>/silicalite gave lower selectivity than TiO<sub>2</sub>/MCM-41, fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> and SBA-15.



Figure 27 Catalytic activity of all  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts in epoxidation of methyl oleate.



Figure 28 Selectivity of all  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst in epoxidation of methyl oleate at 5 h.

4.2.2. Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst with different SiO<sub>2</sub> supported

The thermal gravimetric analysis result show in Table 17 and Figure 29. According to Table 17, different SiO<sub>2</sub> support was adsorbed different amount of H<sub>2</sub>O. As show in Figure 29, TiO<sub>2</sub>/silicagel show constant weight at 400<sup>o</sup>C. However, weight of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SBA-15, MCM-41, silicalite and fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> decrease along the increase of temperature. Moreover, TiO<sub>2</sub>/SBA-15 show the highest H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed at 21.65 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O. Therefore, TiO<sub>2</sub>/SBA-15 give higher selectivity than other silica support. Due to lower amount of H<sub>2</sub>O, which can occur the ring opening. The more H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed make the less side reaction. H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed of silicalite, fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> are the same but the selectivity of fumes SiO<sub>2</sub> was higher than silicalite. According to the smaller pour mouth of silicalite, which make longer reaction. That lead to ring opening of epoxide.

Catalyst	wt% H <sub>2</sub> O adsorbed
TiO <sub>2</sub> /Silicalite	4.11
TiO <sub>2</sub> /fumed SiO <sub>2</sub>	4.7
TiO <sub>2</sub> /SBA 15	21.65
TiO <sub>2</sub> /MCM 41	9.84
TiO <sub>2</sub> /Silica gel	10.95

Table 17  $H_2O$  adsorbed by Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA).



Figure 29 Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  with different support.

According to Figure 30, all catalyst has different size of support. However, both fumed-silica and silicalite gave a little bit different in SEM between  $SiO_2$  supported and  $TiO_2/SiO_2$ . All-silica support gave sphere morphology. However, fumed-SiO<sub>2</sub> showed larger size of catalyst than both  $SiO_2$ -gel and Silicalite. The smallest catalyst was

silicalite. Thus, silicalite gave the highest surface area. Therefore, silicalite gave the highest catalyst activity. From SEM-EDX, found that Ti is well dispersed for all TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>. TiO<sub>2</sub>/fumed-SiO<sub>2</sub> was represented as a characteristic of TiO<sub>2</sub>/MCM-41 and TiO<sub>2</sub>/SBA-15. Due to same catalyst activity and selectivity of TiO<sub>2</sub>/fumed-SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>/MCM-41, and TiO<sub>2</sub>/SBA-15. The same Ti wt. % loading of TIP gave difference catalytic activity. According to **Table 18**, the highest catalytic activity is TiO<sub>2</sub>/Silicalite, which gave 31.26% conversion at 1 h. The lowest catalytic activity is TiO2/Silica gel with 0.83% conversion at 1 h. However, the highest Ti wt.% at surface is TiO2/Silica gel. The lowest Ti wt.% at surface are TiO2/fumed-silica, TiO2/SBA-15 and TiO2/ MCM-41. Therefore, the Ti wt.% at surface of the same TIP concentration did not affect catalyst activity and selectivity. High Ti wt.% at surface of catalyst gave high catalyst activity. However, TiO2/silica-gel gave low catalyst activity because of high Ti wt.% at surface[20]. On the other hand, high Ti wt.% at surface of catalyst gave low selectivity of epoxide.

Table 18 Conversion of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst and composition of each  $TiO_2$  species at catalyst surface.

, 	A CARLON ALCON	and a second second	
Catalyst	Conversion	Selectivity	$T_i (u, t, 0/)^a$
Catalyst	(%, at 5 h)	(%, at 5 h)	11 (WL.%)
TiO <sub>2</sub> /Silicalite	ลงก44.41 มหาร์	22.38	5.91 ± 1.60
TiO <sub>2</sub> /fumed SiO <sub>2</sub>	18.86	42.44	1.13 ± 0.35
TiO <sub>2</sub> /SBA 15	16.40	58.90	1.25 ± 0.20
TiO <sub>2</sub> /MCM 41	12.56	40.26	1.36 ± 0.23
TiO <sub>2</sub> /Silica gel	0.83	0	9.21 ± 0.52

<sup>a</sup> Ti wt.% from SEM-EDX



Figure 30 Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDX) results of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst.



Figure 32 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  with different  $SiO_2$  support.



Figure 33 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> with different support.

The difference of all SiO<sub>2</sub> support is their silinol group and crystalline at surface. From XRD pattern in Figure 31, silicalite shows different XRD pattern from other silica support. Silicalite shows single reflection at  $2\theta = 23^{\circ}$ , which indicates monoclinic (silicalite) [8]. However, all TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst did not show the reflection at  $2\theta = 25.3$ , which is characteristic for crystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> in anatase phase because of low Ti% loading.

Figure 32 shows the FT-IR spectra of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst. In the spectrum of  $TiO_2/Silicalite$  catalyst, there are several characteristic absorptions: Peak observed at 3780 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to Si–OH stretching of silanols and H-bonded Si–OH stretching of surface hydroxyl. Peak observed at 3500 – 3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> 1730 and 1610 cm-1 corresponds to starching and bending modes of adsorbed water molecules. Peak observed at 2970 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to stretching vibration of weak OH stretching. Peak observed at 2160 and 2020 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to overtone modes of silica frame. Peak

observed at 1065 and 970 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to Si–O stretching region at higher frequencies. Peak observed at 798 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to O-H bending mode of hydrogen bonded. [51, 52]. Since Ti wt.% loading of TIP was 1.5%. Then all several characteristic absorptions peaks of Ti-O stretching were blocked out by SiO<sub>2</sub> support. However, small characteristic peak at 960 cm<sup>-1</sup> was indicated that difference type of Ti stretching such as Ti bonds with the SiO<sub>4</sub> group (Si-O···Ti), titanol groups (Ti=O), Si-O bond within the O···H groups, Ti-O bond within TiO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra and SiO O bonds within defective SiOH sites (OH) Ti [42, 53].

The chemical state of Ti and the typical specimen spectra of Ti 2p were investigated by XPS measurement. According to **Figure 33**, all  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$  catalysts showed two main peaks of Ti, which binding energies at 466.3 eV and 459.5 eV for Ti  $2p_{1/2}$  and Ti  $2p_{3/2}$ , respectively. The XPS peaks at 466.3 eV for Ti  $2p_{1/2}$  and 459.5 eV for Ti  $2p_{3/2}$  are corresponded to Ti<sup>4+</sup>. [43, 54] MCM-41, silicalite, and silica gel show a strong peak at both 466.3 eV and 459.5 eV than SBA-15 and fumed SiO<sub>2</sub>.

According to Figure 34 and Table 19, the only silicalite was microporous material with type I and type II isotherm ( $p/p_0$  more than 0.9). Other SiO<sub>2</sub> support were mesoporous material with type IV isotherm with H1 hysteresis loop [8, 14]. The more wt% of H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed gave more % selectivity of methyl oleate epoxide. However, silicalite which are microporous material give less selectivity, due to the effect of pore size.

Figure 35, shows that tetrahedral coordination was increased with increasing of selectivity of methyl oleate epoxide. However, all  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts show wavelength around 220 nm, which be a  $TiO_2$  with tetrahedral. On the othe hand,  $SiO_2$ -gel give wavelength around 259 nm, which be a  $TiO_2$  with 5 or 6 coordination. The  $TiO_2$  with tetrahedral coordinate was the active size of epoxidation reaction. Therefor,  $TiO_2$  with SBA-15 catalyst give the highest selectivity and  $TiO_2$  with  $SiO_2$  – gel give lowest selectivity.[2, 8, 14]



Figure 34  $N_2$  physisorption of TiO<sub>2</sub> with different SiO<sub>2</sub> supports

 Table 19 Effect of pore size and Wt% H2O adsorbed to selectivity of TiO2/SiO2 support.

Pore size (nm)	Wt% H <sub>2</sub> O	%Selectivity (5 h.)
	adsorbed	
N/A	4.11	22.38
11.5	4.7	42.44
5.2	21.65	58.90
2.4	9.84	40.26
8.6	10.95	0
	Pore size (nm) N/A 11.5 5.2 2.4 8.6	Pore size (nm)         Wt% H <sub>2</sub> O adsorbed           N/A         4.11           11.5         4.7           5.2         21.65           2.4         9.84           8.6         10.95



Figure 36 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed and selectivity of all catalysts

According to Figure 36, the more  $H_2O$  adsorbed give the more selectivity of epoxidation. However, pore size of catalysts also effects to selectivity. Non-porous

material gives higher selectivity than porous material. However, microporous give the less selectivity.

## 4.3. Epoxidation of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts by different synthesis method

4.3.1. Catalytic activity and selectivity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts by different synthesis method.

After, we had selected fumed-SiO<sub>2</sub> as a supported. However, there are several synthesis methods for  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts. Therefore, the different methods of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  were interesting. In this part, three different interested synthesis methods were incipient wetness impregnation, wet impregnation and grafting method. Catalytic activity form three different methods of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  for epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate with hydrogen peroxide show in **Figure 37**. The catalytic activity of those three different synthesis methods was increased with reaction time. The catalytic activity of the reactions using the catalysts synthesis from wet impregnation, incipient wetness impregnation and grafting methods at 5 h were 35.21%, 38.23% and 38.52%, respectively. This result showed similar catalytic activity of the three different catalysts synthesis.

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Figure 37 Catalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> different synthesis methods.

According to Figure 38, the highest selectivity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by three different synthesis methods was  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst that synthesis by wet impregnation method (28%). On the other hand, the other  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst using incipient wetness impregnation (13%) and grafting method (15%) gave similar selectivity of methyl oleate epoxide. Therefore, the best catalyst synthesis method was wet impregnation. However, incipient wetness impregnation is the quickest way to synthesis  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst.

## 4.3.2. Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> by different synthesis method

According to Figure 39, SEM micrographs of fumed silica support (Figure 39 A),  $TiO_2$ / fumed-SiO\_2 by incipient wetness impregnation (Figure 39 B),  $TiO_2$ / fumed-SiO\_2 by grafting (Figure 39 C) and  $TiO_2$ / fumed-SiO\_2 by wet impregnation (Figure 39D) show similar small sphere particles morphology. The surface of catalyst from SEM-EDX show

in **Table 20**, the result showed that the wet impregnation method gave highest Ti wt%. According to **Table 20**, single point surface area of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst showed that the incipient wetness impregnation gave the highest surface area  $(312 \text{ m}^2/\text{g})$ . However, surface area of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  from three different synthesis method are not difference (273-312 m<sup>2</sup>/g). Moreover, surface area, Ti wt% and surface morphology did not affect to catalytic activity. However, the Ti wt% had an effect on catalyst selectivity. The highest Ti wt% gave highest selectivity.



Figure 38 Selectivity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  different synthesis methods.



Figure 39 SEM micrographs of A) fumed silica support, B)  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by incipient wetness impregnation, C)  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by grafting and D)  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by wet impregnation.

Table 20 Wt% of Ti on TiO2/SiO2 surface from SEM-EDX analysis and surface areafrom N2 physisorption analysis.

methodาหาลงกรถ	Conversion		
Chulalongk	(at 5 h)		
Incipient wetness impregnation	1.78	312	38.23%
grafting	1.55	273	38.52%
Wet impregnation	3.41	304	35.21%

According to Figure 40, the XRD of three different TiO2/SiO2 catalyst synthesis showed strong reflection around  $2\Theta = 22$ , attributing to the amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub>. No significant TiO<sub>2</sub> peak intensity was observed, which the characteristic peak of crystalline titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) in the anatase phase is reflect around  $2\Theta = 25.40$ , probably due to low TiO<sub>2</sub> loading (around 1.5% Ti). In addition, no characteristic peaks either in



anatase or rutile phases of  $TiO_2$  crystalline were observed at the  $TiO_2$  loading range of 1-15 wt%. [8, 11, 55]

Figure 40 X-ray diffraction patterns of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by wet impregnation, incipient wetness impregnation and grafting method.

The UV-Vis spectra of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  of three different catalysts were compared in Figure 4.1. Nature and coordination geometry of Ti were characterized by UV-Vis spectra. Isolated tetrahedral Ti oxide coordination shows a typical band below 250 nm. The peak around 210 nm was assigned to the ligand-to-metal charge-transfer (LMCT) transition of the isolated Ti oxide monomer with tetrahedral coordination. The results from UV-Vis spectra show that those three  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts had Ti oxide with tetrahedral coordination. No band centered at 260-300 nm and near 330 nm, which indicated the absence of the hexacoordinated Ti species and anatase phase, respectively.  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by wet impregnation has higher intensity of Ti due to high Ti wt% [2, 8, 11, 15, 21, 56]. The results are selectivity of epoxidation follow by Ti wt% of catalyst and the different synthesis method give the same catalytic activity. Therefore, the interesting  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst effect was %Ti loading.



Figure 41 UV-Vis spectra of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  by wet impregnation, incipient wetness impregnation and grafting method.

#### 4.4. Epoxidation of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading

4.4.1. Catalytic activity and selectivity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalysts with different %Ti loading

According to Figure 42 and Figure 43, the catalytic activity and selectivity of epoxidation reaction of methyl oleate are a function of %Ti loading. For catalytic activity, the more % Ti loading give more catalytic activity of epoxidation reaction. Moreover, increase % Ti from 1.5% to 15% Ti loading increase catalytic activity from 18.86% to 97.49% conversion. However, the more %Ti loading give less epoxide from epoxidation reaction. Which increase % Ti loading from 1.5% to 15% to 15% decrease selectivity of epoxidation reaction from 42.44% to 0.00% selectivity. Therefore, the more %Ti loading give more catalytic activity but less selectivity of epoxidation reaction.

The Ti leaching of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  of 2.5% Ti loading were interested because of high catalytic activity and selectivity of epoxidation reaction. The catalytic activity and selectivity of Ti leaching show in Figure 44 and Figure 45 respectively. The catalytic activity and selectivity of  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  catalyst slightly decease as a function of reuse catalyst. The catalytic activity was decrease from 29.51% to 15.47% conversion with

increase number of reuse catalyst. The selectivity of epoxidation reaction was decrease from 20.76% to 7.53% selectivity with increase number of reuse catalyst.



Figure 42 Catalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading.



Figure 44 Conversion of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading.


Figure 45 Selectivity of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading.

#### 4.4.2. Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading

According to Figure 46, X-ray diffraction of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading show same result of the diffraction peaks at %Ti below 4.0%. At 4.7% Ti loading, anatase phase appeared, which peaks  $2\theta = 25.3^{\circ}$ , 37.8°, 48.1°, 54.0° and 55.1°. At low Ti loading, TiO<sub>2</sub> species were highly dispersed on the silica surface. Therefore, TiO<sub>2</sub> species exist in highly dispersed on silica surface at Ti loading below 4.7%. The intensity of anatase phase increase with the increase of Ti loading. The bulk crystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> formed above the monolayer of surface TiO<sub>2</sub>. The bulk crystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> could physically blocked the pour mouths of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst leading to the increase of crystallinity of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. Therefore, the more Ti loading give the more catalytic activity but the less selectivity of epoxidation reaction. Due to, high crystallinity of high Ti loading on TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst lead to low selectivity but high conversion.



Figure 46 X-ray diffraction (XRD) of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different %Ti loading.

According to Figure 47, fourier transform infrared spectra of all catalysts revealed a small characteristic peak at approximately 960 cm<sup>-1</sup> was indicated that difference type of Ti stretching such as Ti bonds with the SiO<sub>4</sub> group (Si-O…Ti), titanol groups (Ti=O), Si-O bond within the O…H groups, Ti-O bond within TiO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra and SiO O bonds within defective SiOH sites (OH) Ti [42, 53]. Furthermore, these bands were more intense reasonable from the Ti content in its structure of supports. On the other hand, the characteristics band at  $\approx$  1081 related to the antisymmetric stretching vibration and changes in Si-O-Si deformation.



**Figure 47** Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> with different %Ti loading.



#### CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst shows that the more crystallinity gave the less catalyst activity. The commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B has less crystallinity. Therefore, the commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type B gave higher catalytic activity than the commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> type A. At high calcination temperature, anatase phase is not stable and sintering occurred. Therefore, at 500°C TiO<sub>2</sub> gave less anatase phase, more crystallinity and less surface area than another TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. Since, larger surface area implies higher number of active site. Thus, 500°C showed lower catalytic activity than 300°C and 200°C TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. However, TiO<sub>2</sub> at 100°C and 200°C calcination temperature showed a complex compound. Which not form TiO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, 100°C and 200°C TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst gave lower conversion and selectivity than another TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst.

Since, crystallinity and surface area affect to catalyst activity of epoxidation of methyl oleate, then  $SiO_2$  support are interesting. Those five differences of  $SiO_2$  supported gave different catalytic activity and selectivity. The highest catalytic activity is  $TiO_2$ /silicalite because of their specific silanols group and higher Ti wt.% at surface. The highest selectivity is  $TiO_2$ /SBA-15. Due to strong absorptions of H<sub>2</sub>O, which lead to low side reaction.  $TiO_2$ / fumed  $SiO_2$  gave higher selectivity than silicalite and MCM-41 because of bigger pore mouth than MCM-41 and silicalite.

Fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> gave high catalytic activity and selectivity. Therefore, the study of synthesis method of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> used fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> as a support. Those three different synthesis method gave the same catalytic activity. However,  $TiO_2/SiO_2$  synthesis by wet impregnation gave higher selectivity due to high Ti wt%.

Ti loading affect to both catalytic activity and selectivity. Therefore, the study of Ti loading was important. The result is the more Ti loading gave the more catalytic activity. However, the more Ti loading gave the less selectivity. Due to, more side reaction occured at high Ti loading.

### 5.2 Recommendations

- The effects of amount of catalysts, temperature and drop of hydrogen peroxide should be investigated in the next researches.
- 2. The further study of commercials catalysts for epoxidation reaction of biodiesel should be researches.
- 3. Effect of Ti loading to selectivity of epoxidation reaction.



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## APPENDICES

### APPENDICES A: CALCULATION OF CRYSTALLITE SIZE

Calculation of the crystallite size by Debye-Scherrer equation

The crystallite size can be calculated from  $2\theta$  profile analysis, FWHM, by Debye-Scherrer equation (A.1) that was suitable for partical size below 100 nm.

Debye-Scherrer equation:

$$D = \frac{\kappa\lambda}{\beta_{cos}\theta}$$
(A.1)  
Where  
$$D = \text{Average size of the crystal (Å)}$$
$$K = \text{Dimensionless shape factor (0.9)}$$
$$\lambda = \text{The x-ray wavelength (1.54439 Å for CuK_{\alpha})}$$
$$\beta = \text{The x-ray diffraction broadening (radian)}$$
$$\theta = \text{Observed peak angle (degree)}$$

The broadening of a single diffraction peak is the product of the crystallite dimensions in the direction perpendicular to the planes that produced the diffraction peak. The X-ray diffraction broadening can be obtained by using Warren's equation (A.2).

Warren's equation:

$$\beta^{2} = \beta_{M^{-}}^{2} \beta_{S}^{2}$$
$$\beta = \sqrt{\beta_{M^{-}}^{2} \beta_{S}^{2}}$$
(A.2)

Where

 $\beta_{M}$  = Measured peak width in radians at half peak height

 $\beta_s$  = Corresponding width of a standard material

**Example** : Calculation of the crystallite site of pure  $TiO_2$  calcined at 400°C for two hours The half-weight width (101) diffraction peak

$\beta_{M}$	=	1.1295	degree
$\beta_{M}$	=	0.019713	radian

The corresponding half-height width of peak of  ${\rm TiO_2}$ 

βs	=	0.00075	radian
10			



# APPENDICES B: CALCULATION OF WEIGHT FRACTION OF ANATASE, RUTILE AND BROOKITE PHASE OF $\text{TiO}_2$

Calculation of the weight fraction

The phase of TiO<sub>2</sub> can be calculated from the integrated intensities of peaks at 20 of 25.3° was assigned to anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>, whereas the peak at 27.4° corresponded to be rutile phase and the peak at 30.6° was associated to brookite.

The weight fraction of  $TiO_2$  sample can be calculated as follows equation (B.1)-(B.3).

24111 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	
$W_{A} = \frac{A_{A}}{A_{A} + A_{B} + A_{R}}$	(B.1)
$W_{B} = \frac{A_{B}}{A_{A} + A_{B} + A_{R}}$	(B.2)
$W_{R} = \frac{A_{R}}{A_{A} + A_{B} + A_{R}}$	(B.3)

Where

$W_A$	=	Weight fraction of anatase phase $\text{TiO}_2$
$W_{\rm B}$	=	Weight fraction of brookite phase TiO <sub>2</sub>
$W_{R}$	=	Weight fraction of rutile phase TiO <sub>2</sub>
A <sub>A</sub>	=	The intensity of anatase peak
$A_{B}$	=	The intensity of brookite peak
$A_{R}$	=	The intensity of rutile peak

 $\mbox{Example}$  : Calculation of the phase contents  $\mbox{TiO}_2$  calcined at 400°C for two hours

Where

The integrated intensities of anatase $(A_A)$	=	742
The integrated intensities of brookite $(A_{\rm B})$	=	73
The integrated intensities of rutile $(A_R)$	=	141

The weight fraction of the phase content can be calculated by as follows:



# APPENDICES C: CALCULATION OF CATALYST PREPARATION

For  $TiO_2$ / fumed  $SiO_2$  by incipient wetness impregnation

**Example:** 12%TIP of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> or 2.5% Ti of TiO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Reagent:

absolute ethanol	100%

Titanium	isoprop	oxide	(TIP)	97%
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Volume of absolute ethnol:

0.64 cm<sup>3</sup>/g Fumed SiO<sub>2</sub> (pore volume) 0.64cm<sup>3</sup>/g \*5 g 5 g. of fumed  $\text{SiO}_2$  contain 3.2 cm<sup>3</sup> of solution 0.89 cm<sup>3</sup> Constant TIP at 3.2-0.89 cm<sup>3</sup> Used of absolute ethanol 2.31 cm<sup>3</sup>

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