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(54) **ARYLALKYLSULFONIC ACIDS AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING SAME**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates new and improved processes for the preparation of arylalkylsulfonic acids derived from aromatic or substituted aromatic molecules and AOS acid (generally a mixture of alkenesulfonic acid and sultones, produced from the sulfonation of alpha olefins). The invention involves the use of a superacid catalyst to effectuate the conversion of AOS acid and aromatic reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid under substantially anhydrous conditions, whereby a substantial improvement in the rate of conversion of the reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid and/or improvement in mono-alkylation selectivity is realized, as compared to methods of preparation previously disclosed. Also useful as an alkylation promoter is the arylalkylsulfonic acid reaction product itself, produced in situ or from a previous reaction (i.e., a self-catalyst heel). The new processes generally afford arylalkylsulfonic acids with substantially improved conversion yields, highly desirable lighter color, and reduced odor, as compared to previously known methods. The acids produced by the inventive process may be neutralized to form arylalkylsulfonates (i.e., a neutralized form of the acid) which are useful in a variety of end use applications as surfactants and/or emulsifiers.

ARYLALKYLSULFONIC ACIDS AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates to arylalkylsulfonic acids and new and improved processes for the preparation of arylalkylsulfonic acids derived from aromatic or substituted aromatic molecules and alpha olefin sulfonic acid ("AOS acid"; generally a mixture of alkenesulfonic acid and sultones, produced from the sulfonation of alpha olefins). More particularly, the invention relates to the use of a superacid catalyst (or an effective alkylation promoter) to effectuate the conversion of AOS acid and aromatic reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid under substantially anhydrous conditions. In accordance with this conversion process, a substantial improvement in the rate and selectivity of conversion of the reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid is realized, as compared to methods of preparation previously disclosed. The processes of the invention generally do not require an AOS acid conversion step (i.e., conversion whereby water is added and removed, along with heating, to and from the crude AOS acid to convert sultones to alkene sulfonic acid) prior to alkylation, nor is there a requirement of digesting the AOS prior use in the alkylation process. Further, the invention allows for achievement of higher selectivity (i.e., monoalkylation versus undesirable polyalkylation and/or AOS acid dimerization/oligomerization) via use of excess aromatic reactants, while at the same time achieving excellent reaction rates.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] Alkylbenzene sulfonic acids and the corresponding sulfonates (i.e., neutralized sulfonic acid) have found wide spread use as surfactants in a variety of detergent, emulsion and industrial applications. These materials typically comprise a substituted aromatic ring, with an alkyl group at one position on the ring and a sulfonic acid moiety attached to another position on the ring; polyalkylates may also be present. Synthetic detergents based on the reaction of propylene tetramer and benzene using Lewis acid catalysts, such as $AlCl_3$ for example, were once widely used in laundry detergent formulations, but such use as diminished significantly due to environmental concerns. Also used in such formulations, although somewhat less popular, are alkylbenzene sulfonates based on branched alkyl groups. Linear alkylbenzenes starting materials which are based on the reaction of linear olefins (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 3,585,253; to Huang, Jun. 15, 1971) or linear chloroparaffins (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 3,355,508; to Moulden, Nov. 28, 1967) with benzene in the presence of a Lewis Acid catalyst are also well known in the surfactant art. These materials possess excellent detergency properties and are rapidly biodegradable. More recently, HF (or the Detal process variation) has become the alkylation catalyst of choice for the preparation of alkylated benzenes and other alkylated aromatic compounds, based upon environmental objections to the use of $AlCl_3$.

[0005] Detergent use is the predominant market for alkylbenzene sulfonates. However, these products are also employed in considerable quantities as additives in lubricants, coolants, industrial surfactant formulations, dispersants, emulsifiers, corrosion inhibitors and demulsifiers.

Alkylbenzene sulfonates find widespread use in many industries among which are the petroleum recovery, refining, emulsion polymerization, textile dyeing, agriculture, institutional cleaning, drilling fluids, paper processing, coatings, and adhesives industries.

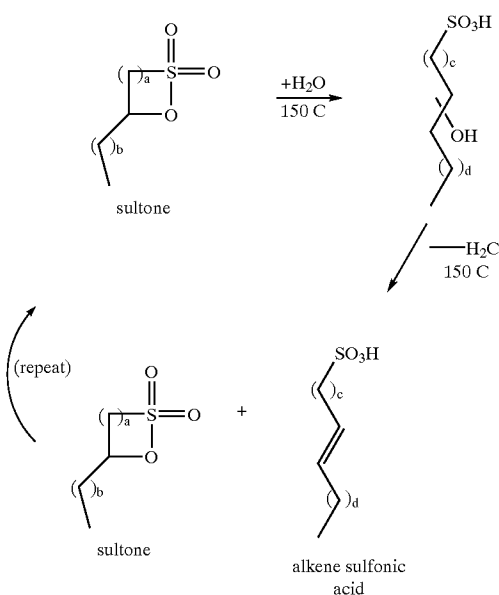
[0006] Present processes for producing alkylaromatics are designed to optimize the yields of detergent alkylate (predominantly monoalkylbenzene). The yields of heavy alkylate (predominantly dialkylbenzene) are therefore low. These heavy alkylates, however, find considerable demand as oil soluble surfactants and specialty chemicals. Dialkylbenzene sulfonates (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,004,638; to Burdyn, et. al., Jan. 25, 1977; 4,536,301; to Malloy, et. al., Aug. 20, 1985), alkyl xylene sulfonates (see, e.g., EP121964) and dialkyl phenol polyethoxy alkyl sulfonates (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,220,204; to Hughes, et. al., Sep. 2, 1980) have all been used to increase the productivity of crude oil. Recently, U.S. Pat. No. 6,043,391; to Berger, et. al., Mar. 28, 2000, disclosed new sulfonic acid materials and processes for producing di- and tri-alkylbenzenes where both linear and branched alkyl groups are present on the same benzene ring.

[0007] Alkoxyated alkyl substituted phenol sulfonates have been produced and found to be useful as surfactants in numerous applications (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,049,311; to Rasheed, et. al., Sep. 17, 1991, listing many uses for these compounds including use in enhanced oil recovery processes, as corrosion inhibitors, hydrotropes, foaming agents in concrete formation, surfactants for dye carriers, surfactants for fiber lubricants, surfactants for emulsion polymerization, as textile detergents, as foaming agents for drilling fluids, and as agricultural emulsifiers).

[0008] Alpha-olefin sulfonates (AOS) are widely used as surfactants in personal care, emulsion polymerization and fire-fighting foam applications, as well as a wide variety of other uses. These materials are typically produced on a commercial scale by sulfonating an alpha-olefin with SO_3 , in a falling film sulfonator (see, e.g., Weil, Stirton and Smith; JOACS Vol 42, October 1965, pp 873-875, describing the reaction of hexadecene-1 and octadecene-1 with SO_3 followed by neutralization with NaOH to form the corresponding hexadecene sulfonates). The AOS precursor alpha-olefin sulfonic acid typically comprises alkene sulfonic acid and various sultones. As is well known to those of skill in the art, AOS correspondingly does not comprise a single component, but predominantly a mixture of two materials: an alkene sulfonate and a hydroxyalkane sulfonate. The hydroxyalkane sulfonate is present due to the formation of intermediate sultones when SO_3 reacts with the alpha olefin. Neutralization, with NaOH for example, not only neutralizes the alkene sulfonic acid formed during the sulfonation reaction, but also opens the sultone ring forming additional alkene sulfonate and hydroxyalkane sulfonate. This results in a final product comprising approximately 60-70% alkene sulfonate, approximately 30% 3-, and 4-hydroxy sulfonate and approximately 0-10% disulfonate material; these percentages can vary greatly depending on the sulfonation and neutralization conditions which are utilized.

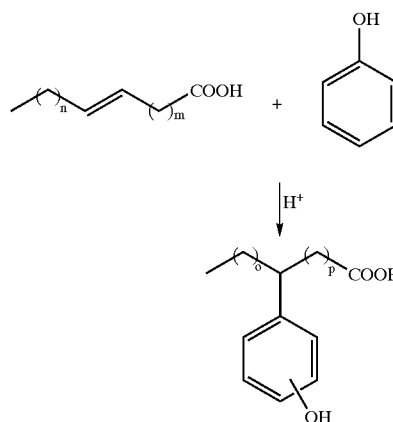
[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 3,845,114, to Sweeney, et. al., Oct. 29, 1974, teaches that the addition of limited amounts of water to alkene sulfonic acid with subsequent heating to 150° C. converts the sultone to alkene sulfonic acid and hydroxyalkane sulfonic acid. The presence of water during the ring-opening prevents dimerization of the alkene sulfonic acid. Removal of the water dehydrates the hydroxyalkane sulfonic acid back to sultone and alkene sulfonic acid, but leaves the already present alkene sulfonic acid intact. Repeating the process of adding limited amounts of water, heating to 150° C. and removing the water reduces the hydroxyalkane sulfonic acid content and increases the alkene sulfonic acid content. This "conversion" process is shown below in Scheme 1. Typically, for example, for a linear alkyl material, a may be 1 and b may be an integer from about 10 to 12, giving c+d=10-12. Very recently, U.S. Pat. No. 6,043,391 ("the '391 patent"); to Berger, et. al., Mar. 28, 2000, disclosed sulfonic acid materials and processes for producing such materials which required the use of this water/conversion process for the preparation of such materials. In the '391 patent, crude alkene sulfonic acid (containing significant amounts of sultone) produced from the reaction of an alpha-olefin and SO₃, is subjected to the aforementioned water addition and removal process for conversion of sultone to alkene sulfonic acid, which is then used to alkylate a variety of aryl compounds such as benzene, naphthalene, or substituted benzene and naphthalenes.

Scheme 1: Conversion of Sultone to Alkene Sulfonic Acid



[0010] Ault, et. al., JOACS, Vol 39, February 1962, pp 132-133, describes the acid catalyzed addition of 10 phenols and phenyl ethers to oleic acid. It was discovered that by using an acid catalyst, such as polyphosphoric acid or methane sulfonic acid, production of aryl substituted stearic acids was possible, as depicted in Scheme 2. Typically, for example, for a linear alkyl material, m+n may equal 14, thus o+p equal 15.

Scheme 2: Production of Aryl Substituted Stearic Acid



[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 3,502,716; to Kite, Mar. 24, 1970, discloses the use of alkali or alkaline earth metal carboxylates reacted at high temperature with hydroxy sulfonic acid an hydrides to produce the corresponding alkali or alkaline earth alkene sulfonate salts.

[0012] U.S. Pat. No. 3,951,823; to Straus, et. al., Apr. 20, 1976, teaches the reaction of AOS acid with itself and other sulfonated monomers to produce disulfonated dimers having good foaming properties for use in foam well cleanup applications. The '823 patent specifically requires that both monomers contain a sulfonate group and further teaches that suitable starting materials must contain at least about 5 nonaromatic carbon atoms per molecule, a sulfonate functional group, i.e., —SO₃—, and one of the following: (1) a carbon-carbon double bond, i.e., —CH=CH—; (2) an alcohol hydroxy group, or a sulfonate ester group of which the above sulfonate group is a component, i.e., a sultone, and the functional groups must be substituents attached to non-aromatic carbon atoms with the balance being carbon and/or hydrogen.

[0013] Also, as general alkene sulfonic acid and aromatic sulfonic acid background, see e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 2,336,113, Suter, C., Dec. 26, 1944, disclosing the condensation of olefin sulfonic acids with aromatic compounds; U.S. Pat. No. 3,845,114, Sweeney, et. al., Oct. 29, 1974 disclosing processes for conversion of sultones to alkene sulfonic acids; U.S. Pat. No. 3,721,707, Straus, et. al., Mar. 20, 1973, describing organic sulfonic acid oligomers and processes for producing same; U.S. Pat. No. 3,873,590, Straus, et. al., Mar. 25, 1972, describing methyl esters of sulfonic acid oligomers; U.S. Pat. No. 3,875,102, Straus, et. al., Apr. 1, 1975, describing use of methyl esters of sulfonic acid oligomers plasticized with polyvinyl chloride; U.S. Pat. No. 3,953,338, Straus, et. al., describing the use of oligomeric sulfonic acids for foam well cleanup; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,034,161, Alink, B. A., Jul. 23, 1991, describing the synthesis of aryl-substituted aliphatic acids.

[0014] The foregoing description of the related art indicates that a variety of alkene sulfonic acid materials have been prepared using a variety of processes. Further, the foregoing references teach several ways in which alkene sulfonic acid materials can be reacted with aromatic mate-

rials to produce derivative sulfonic acid materials. However, to date, prior processes have required the conversion of crude acid from the reaction of an alpha-olefin and SO_3 , via the repeated hydrolysis and dehydration with water, resulting in the formation of alkene sulfonic acid as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 3,845,114. Such conversion is time consuming, inconvenient, and on a commercial scale, can be quite costly. Additionally, prior alkene sulfonic acid alkylation processes have failed to produce alkylated products with high reaction throughput rates (i.e. yields) and/or high levels of selectivity toward the desired mono-alkylate products, versus undesirable dialkylate and/or AOS acid dimmer/oligomer materials. Typically, prior art processes which attempted to increase selectivity toward mono-alkylate production via the use of excess aromatic compound were not successful and lower rates were typically obtained.

[0015] In view of the limitations associated with previously known alkene sulfonic acid processing technologies, a need exists for a superior alkylation process whereby a substantial improvement is realized in terms of the reaction rate and reaction product selectivity. Additionally, there is a need for an alkene sulfonic acid alkylation process which does not require tedious conversion of crude alkene sulfonic acid (i.e., conversion whereby water is added and removed in a cyclic manner (and heating is applied) to and from the crude AOS acid to convert the sultone to alkene sulfonic acid) prior to alkylation. Further, there is a need for an alkene sulfonic acid alkylation process which does not require digestion of the crude alkene sulfonic acid prior to its use in the alkylation process.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0016] This invention relates to arylalkylsulfonic acids and new and improved processes for the preparation of arylalkylsulfonic acids derived from aromatic (or substituted aromatic) molecules and AOS acid. It has been surprisingly discovered that crude AOS acid, which contains an appreciable amount of sultone material, can be directly converted to arylalkylsulfonic acids, without the use of water addition/removal conversion cycles. In accordance with this discovery, the invention relates to the use of a superacid catalyst (or an alkylation promoter) to effectuate the conversion of AOS acid and aromatic reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid under substantially anhydrous conditions, whereby a substantial improvement in the rate (and monoalkylation selectivity) of conversion of the reactants to arylalkylsulfonic acid is realized, as compared to methods of preparation previously known. The processes of the invention generally do not require an AOS acid conversion step (i.e., conversion, whereby water is added and removed in a repeated cyclic fashion, along with heating, to and from the crude AOS acid to convert the sultone to alkene sulfonic acid) prior to alkylation. Additionally, the processes of the invention do not require that the AOS acid be digested (defined hereinafter) prior to use in the alkylation reaction.

[0017] Accordingly, the invention encompasses a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising alkylating an aromatic compound with an AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions. Generally, the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, a mono-substituted aromatic compound, a poly-

substituted aromatic compound, alkylbenzene, alkoxyalted benzene, a polycyclic aromatic compound, a mono-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, a poly-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, naphthalene and alkylnaphthalene, or a mixture thereof. The AOS acid typically comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof. The AOS acid may also be predominantly sultone material. The superacid catalyst is generally selected from the group consisting of a solid super-acid, a perfluorosulfonic acid resin (e.g., Nafion® NR50, a registered trademark of E. I. duPont de Nemours Co.), a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a metal sulfate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium tungstate, a superacid zeolite, a sulfated metal oxyhydroxide, a sulfated metal oxysilicate, a superacid metal oxide, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ or a mixture thereof.

[0018] As previously stated, it has been surprisingly discovered that the processes of the invention generally do not require an AOS acid conversion step. Although less preferred and also not required, the method can optionally further comprise digesting (distinct from conversion and defined hereinafter) the AOS acid, optionally in the presence of water, and optionally in the presence of the aromatic compound, and if present, removing said water prior to alkylation, such that the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions.

[0019] It is a further object of the invention to provide a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid, comprising:

[0020] a) sulfonating an alpha olefin to form an AOS acid;

[0021] b) alkylating an aromatic compound with the AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions and at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid.

[0022] The processes of the invention may also comprise alkylating the aromatic compound with an AOS 0.15 acid in the presence of an alkylation promoter comprising the arylalkylsulfonic acid itself, i.e., a reaction heel, either from a previous preparation or prepared concurrently in the process being practiced. These embodiments may also include the use of a superacid catalyst in combination with the alkylation promoter.

[0023] It is further an object of the invention to provide arylalkylsulfonic acids produced by the processes disclosed herein. Another object of the invention is to provide arylalkylsulfonates produced by neutralization of the arylalkylsulfonic acids from the processes disclosed herein. A further object of the invention is a detergent or emulsion composition comprising such sulfonates.

[0024] The reaction of AOS acid with an aromatic compound, in the presence of the superacid catalyst (or arylalkylsulfonic acid alkylation promoter heel), may be carried out in batch mode, semi-continuous or in a continuous flow process such as provided by, for example, a continuous stirred tank reactor. In addition to improved rates of conversion, the new processes generally afford arylalkylsulfonic acids with substantially higher conversion yields, highly desirable lighter color and reduced odor, as compared to previously known methods for preparing such acids.

[0025] Further, the invention allows for achievement of higher selectivity (i.e., monoalkylation) via use of excess

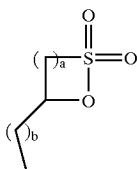
aromatic, while at the same time achieving excellent reaction rates. This discovery is especially surprising, as in previously known methods, the use of excess aromatic dramatically slows reaction rates such that the reaction is not commercially practical or such that very high reaction temperatures are needed, resulting in very poor product color and odor.

[0026] These and other objects and advantages are achieved by the invention description below.

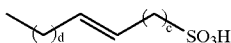
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0027] The invention provides a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising alkylating an aromatic compound with an AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst and at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions. Typically, the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 1:1 to about 30:1. Ideally, the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 2:1 to about 10:1. The aromatic compound is generally selected from the group consisting of benzene, a mono-substituted aromatic compound, a poly-substituted aromatic compound, alkylbenzene, alkoxyated benzene, a polycyclic aromatic compound, a mono-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, a poly-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, naphthalene and alkynaphthalene, or a mixture thereof. More specifically, the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, propylbenzene and naphthalene, or a mixture thereof. Ideally, the aromatic compound is benzene or toluene. Although somewhat less preferred, the aromatic compound may also be selected from the group consisting of phenol, alkylphenol, alkoxyated phenol, and alkoxyated alkylphenol, or a mixture thereof.

[0028] The AOS acid generally comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof. The sultone is generally of the formula:



[0029] and the alkene sulfonic acid is generally of the formula:

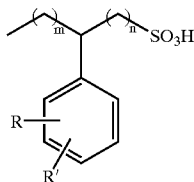


[0030] wherein a is 1, 2 or 3 and b is an integer 1 to 31; wherein c and d are independently integers 0 to 33, provided that c+d 1 to 33. Typically, although not necessarily critical, the molar ratio of alkene sulfonic acid to sultone is from about 1:1 to about 1:4.

[0031] The superacid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a solid superacid, a perfluorosulfonic acid (e.g.,

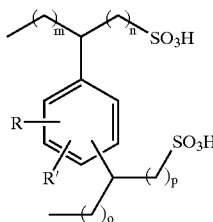
Nafion® NR50) or a resin thereof, a superacid zeolite, a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a metal sulfate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium tungstate, a sulfated metal oxyhydroxide, a sulfated metal oxysilicate, a superacid metal oxide, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, or a mixture thereof. Generally, the perfluorosulfonic acid resin is a copolymer of sulfonyl fluoro-vinyl ether and a fluorocarbon.

[0032] The arylalkylsulfonic acid comprises a compound of the formula:



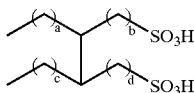
[0033] wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl. Typically, processes of the invention provide this material as the primary component in excess of 30% by weight, and ideally in excess of 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the arylalkylsulfonic acid.

[0034] The arylalkylsulfonic acid may further comprise a compound of the formula:



[0035] wherein m and n are independently 0-34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein o and p are independently 0-34, provided that o+p is at least 2 and wherein o+p is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl. Ideally, processes of the invention provide this material as a minor component relative to the monoalkylsulfonate material.

[0036] The arylalkylsulfonic acid may further comprise an AOS acid dimer compound of the formula:



[0037] wherein a and b are independently 0-34, provided that a+b is at least 2 and wherein a+b is equal to or less than 34; wherein c and d are independently 0-34, provided that

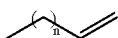
c+d is at least 2 and wherein c+d is equal to or less than 34. Although the above structure indicates a dimer acid connected by one carbon-carbon bond, two acid molecules may be connected together by two carbon-carbon bonds, thereby producing a cyclic type dimer acid (oligomeric acids are also contemplated). Again ideally, processes of the invention provide this material as a minor component relative to the monoalkylate material.

[0038] Typically, the alkylation processes detailed herein are conducted at a temperature from about 80° C. to about 200° C.; the alkylation is always conducted at a temperature below the decomposition temperature of the reactants or products. Ideally, the alkylation is conducted at a temperature from about 100° C. to about 150° C.

[0039] In another embodiment, the invention further provides a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid, comprising:

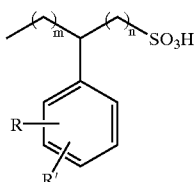
[0040] a) sulfonating an alpha olefin to form an AOS acid;

[0041] b) alkylating an aromatic compound with the AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions and at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid. In accordance with this embodiment, the aromatic compound is selected from the group of materials previously defined above, with the AOS to aromatic ratio as previously defined. Further, the AOS acid comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof, as previously discussed; the sultones and alkene sulfonic acids are of the formulas and present in the ratios as detailed above. The superacid catalysts useful in accordance with this embodiment are the same as those previously described; the temperature at which the alkylation is conducted is as previously detailed. Additionally, the arylalkylsulfonic acid comprises compounds similar to those described above. The alpha olefins useful in this embodiment are of the formula



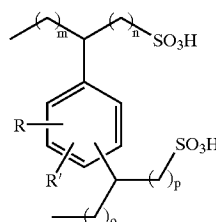
[0042] wherein n=1-33. Additionally, branched olefins may be used, as well as internal olefins which are either linear or branched; vinylidines may also be used.

[0043] In yet another embodiment, the invention provides a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising alkylating an aromatic compound with an AOS acid in the presence of an alkylation promoter comprising a compound of the formula:

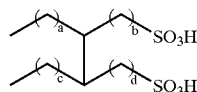


[0044] wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C₁₋₃₆ alkyl or substituted alkyl, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid; and wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions; and wherein the alkylation promoter is present in at least about 25% by weight, based on the weight of the AOS acid. Ideally, the alkylation promoter is present in at least a 1:1 ratio with the AOS acid. Most ideally, the alkylation promoter is present in at least a 2:1 ratio with the AOS acid. The alkylation promoter may be prepared in situ during an alkylation reaction or may originate from a previous arylalkylsulfonic acid formation reaction. The term "alkylation promoter" as used herein means the materials described above and below, wherein such materials are very strong anhydrous acid materials which are capable of effectuating the alkylation reaction to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid with the requisite properties, i.e., selectivity, yield, color, etc.

[0045] In accordance with this embodiment, the alkylation promoter may further comprise a compound of the formula:



[0046] wherein m and n are independently 0-34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein o and p are independently 0-34, provided that o+p is at least 2 and wherein o+p is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C₁₋₃₆ alkyl or substituted alkyl. Further, the alkylation promoter may comprise a compound of the formula:



[0047] wherein a and b are independently 0-34, provided that a+b is at least 2 and wherein a+b is equal to or less than 34; wherein c and d are independently 0-34, provided that c+d is at least 2 and wherein c+d is equal to or less than 34. Again, this dimer acid material may contain a cyclic type structure as previously discussed above, and/or may be oligomeric in nature.

[0048] Further in accordance with this embodiment, the AOS acid comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone, with the structures/formulas for such materials being as previously defined, or a mixture thereof. The alkylation promotion agent may further comprise a superacid catalyst, such as those previously described.

[0049] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising

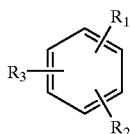
[0050] a) sulfonating an alpha olefin to form an AOS acid which comprises an alkene sulfonic acid and a sultone;

[0051] b) alkylating an aromatic compound with the AOS acid in the presence of an alkylation promoter, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, and wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions. The alpha olefin, alkene sulfonic acid, sultone, the alkylation promoter and arylalkylsulfonic acid are as previously defined. This embodiment may further comprise the use of a previously identified superacid catalyst in combination with the alkylation promoter.

[0052] The invention provides arylalkylsulfonic acids produced by the processes identified herein.

[0053] Aromatic Compounds

[0054] The aromatic compound may generally be any compound which is capable of being alkylated with an alkene sulfonic acid (which comprises alkene sulfonic acid molecules and sultones, or alternatively a material which predominantly comprises sultones). Generally, and in addition to any of the compounds previously identified, the aromatic compound can be any one of those identified and produced in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,146,026; Berna Tejero, et. al., Sep. 8, 1992; 6,129,219; Kojima, et. al., Jan. 2, 2001; 5,157,158; Berna Tejero, et. al., Oct. 20, 1992; Waller, F. J., Catalysis With a Perfluorinated Ion-Exchange Polymer, ACS Symp. Ser. (1986), 308 (Polym. Reagents Catal.), 42-67; Haran, N. P., et. al., Catalysis by Ion Exchange Resins-Alkylation, 1978, Chem. Petro-Chem. J., v. 9, n. 7, p. 21-28; and Olah, G. A., et. al., Perfluorinated Resinsulfonic Acid (Nafion®-H) Catalysts in Synthesis, 1986, Synthesis, v. 7, pp. 513-531 (all incorporated herein in entirety). The aromatic compound may be of the general formula



[0055] where naphthalene and any other polycyclic aromatics may be substituted for benzene, and where none is defined as no substitution in the structure and where R₁, R₂ and R₃ are independently none, alkyl (branched or linear C₁₋₃₆), or alkyloxy (derived from ethylene-, propylene- or butylene-oxide, or a mixture thereof), provided that any alkoxy group is stable to the highly acidic processing conditions. Branching of the alkyl group(s) may be in present in a variety of positions and as generally described in WO 00/43478; Scheibel, et. al.; pub. Jul. 27, 2000, incorporated herein by reference.

[0056] AOS Acids

[0057] As used herein the term "AOS acid" (or alpha olefin sulfonic acid) means an acid material which is the

reaction product of sulfonating an olefin, typically an alpha olefin, and generally comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof (the formulas for such materials are as previously described). Alkene sulfonic acid (or AOS acid which contains an appreciable amount of alkene sulfonic acid) is the precursor to alpha-olefin sulfonate or AOS which is a widely used surfactant with many applications for foaming, cleaning, emulsifying, and wetting. AOS acid is typically produced through the reaction of SO₃ with mono-olefinic hydrocarbon, as shown for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,061,617; 2,572,605; and 3,444,191, all incorporated in the entirety herein. A process for producing high yields of alkene sulfonic acids is found in Weil, et. al., JAOCS, Vol. 41, October 1965, pp 873-875. The ratio of alkene sulfonic acid to sultone is from 1:1 to about 1:4 depending on manufacturing temperature, pressure, flow rates and other parameters known to those skilled in the art. The position of the double bond of the alkene sulfonic acid and the number of carbons in the sultone ring can also vary depending on these same parameters.

[0058] As an alternative embodiment, sultone based AOS acid, i.e., sultone which contains no alkene sulfonic acid or only trace amounts (less than 2 weight percent) of alkene sulfonic acid can be utilized in the alkylation methods described herein.

[0059] The processes of the invention generally do not require an AOS acid conversion step. As used herein, conversion is defined as the addition and removal of water in a cyclic fashion, with the application of heat (i.e. the crude acid is heated to just below its decomposition temperature), to and from the crude AOS acid to convert the sultone present in the crude acid mixture to alkene sulfonic acid prior to alkylation. Although less preferred and not required, the methods described can optionally further comprise digesting the AOS acid, optionally in the presence of water, and optionally in the presence of the aromatic compound, and removing said water prior to alkylation, such that the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions. As used herein, digestion is defined a thermal heating of alkene sulfonic acid (or sultone relative to the alkene sulfonic acid), for a limited period of time (i.e., about 1-120 minutes) at a temperature less than the decomposition temperature of the acid (i.e. 40-200° C.). However, digestion is distinct from conversion. In practicing digestion, water is not added and removed in a cyclic manner, as is the case with conversion. As a further distinction, digestion does not necessarily convert sultones to alkenes as is achieved with conversion; generally in the absence of water, thermal digestion actually may convert alkene sulfonic acids to sultones, an opposite effect of conversion.

[0060] As is well known to those of skill in the art, olefin starting materials, superacid catalysts and crude alkene sulfonic acids may be somewhat hygroscopic and inherently contain trace amounts of water. Accordingly, the term "substantially anhydrous" as used herein for describing alkylation conditions denotes reaction mixtures which are basically free of added water, excepting trace amounts which are typically associated with the process reactants. Quantitatively, the term "substantially anhydrous" generally denotes a material which contains less than about 1% by weight of water, based on the weight of the crude AOS acid utilized.

[0061] Superacid Catalysts

[0062] In addition to those previously identified, the superacid catalysts useful herein are generally any superacid catalyst which is capable of catalyzing alkylation an aromatic compound with an AOS acid at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions. Generally and in addition to those previously discussed, the superacid catalyst can be any one of those identified in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,146,026; Berna Tejero, et. al., Sep. 8, 1992; 6,129,219; Kojima, et. al., Jan. 2, 2001; 5,157,158; Berna Tejero, et. al., Oct. 20, 1992; Waller, F. J., Catalysis With a Perfluorinated Ion-Exchange Polymer, ACS Symp. Ser. (1986), 308 (Polym. Reagents Catal.), 42-67; Haran, N. P., et. al., Catalysis by Ion Exchange Resins-Alkylation, 1978, Chem. Petro-Chem. J., v. 9, n. 7, p. 21-28; and Olah, G. A., et. al., Perfluorinated Resinsulfonic Acid (Nafion®-H) Catalysts in Synthesis, 1986, Synthesis, v. 7, pp. 513-531. Further superacid catalysts are those identified in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,304,688 ("the '688 patent) and 5,708,563; the definition of "superacid" as used herein is provided in the '688 patent, along with methods of measuring superacidity and various classes of suitable superacid catalysts.

[0063] Generally, the amount of super acid catalyst used is at least about 25% by weight, based on the amount of AOS acid. Ideally, the superacid catalyst is present in an amount of at least 100% by weight, based on the amount of AOS acid.

[0064] Alternative Catalyst Embodiments

[0065] The catalyst(s) used herein may be homogeneous or heterogeneous, with the later being particularly preferred, based upon ease of separation from the product and recyclability. Mixtures of superacids and an alkylation promoter may be utilized. Although less preferred and not desirable, known very strong anhydrous acids may be utilized alone or in combination with the superacids and/or alkylation promoter previously identified, provided that such use or combination is capable of catalyzing the alkylation of an aromatic compound with an AOS acid at a temperature sufficient to produce a predominantly monoalkylated arylalkylsulfonic acid, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions, without the need for conversion of the starting AOS acid. These less preferred very strong anhydrous acid catalysts are weaker in strength than traditional superacid catalysts. Examples of suitable optional very strong acid catalysts include any sulfonic acid type ion-exchange catalysts and catalyst resin systems which is capable of effectuation the alkylation detailed herein, such as for example, Amberlyst-15, acidic zeolites, acidic clays or a mixture thereof. Other effective very strong acid catalysts include macroreticular sulfonic acid polymers such as sulfonated poly(styrene-divinylbenzene) ion exchange resins.

[0066] The arylalkylsulfonic acids produced in accordance with the invention may be used "as is" or neutralized with a variety of bases such as NaOH, KOH, Ca(OH)₂, MgO₂, Ba(OH)₂, NH₃, monoethanol amine (MEA), diethanol amine (DEA), triethanol amine (TEA), iso-propanol amine, and other amines, or mixtures of such bases, to form the corresponding sulfonates.

[0067] The arylalkylsulfonates are excellent surfactants, i.e., they are effective as surface and interfacial tension

reducers, wetting agents, foaming agents and grease-cutting agents. The sulfonates can be used in cleaning and emulsion formulations, including hard surface cleaners, shampoos, body washes, liquid and powdered laundry detergent formulations, personal care cleansing formulations, water-in-oil emulsions, oil-in-water emulsions, and the like.

[0068] Optional Ingredients

[0069] The arylalkylsulfonates can be blended with other traditional surfactants, such as nonionic, cationic, anionic, and amphoteric/zwitterionic surfactants. The arylalkylsulfonates or blends thereof with traditional surfactants can be formulated into a variety of end use products such as personal care compositions (shampoos, body washes, soap bars, etc.), hard surface cleaners, laundry cleaning compositions (liquids, heavy duty liquids, and powders), dish cleaning compositions (light duty liquids), oil-in-water emulsions, water-in-oil emulsions, and the like. These end use products may also contain various ingredients typically associated with them. The traditional surfactants, along with other application specific optional ingredients, which may be blended with the arylalkylsulfonates disclosed herein are those detailed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,218,346; 6,254,859; 6,172,026; 6,165,499; 5,945,394; 5,746,945; 5,705,147; 5,637,758; and 5,616,781 all to Stepan Company, incorporated herein by the entirety.

[0070] All documents, e.g., patents, journal articles and test methods, cited above or below are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. In the following examples, all amounts are stated in percent by weight of active material unless indicated otherwise. One skilled in the art will recognize that modifications may be made in the present invention without deviating from the spirit or scope of the invention. The invention is illustrated further by the following examples which are not to be construed as limiting the invention or scope of the specific procedures or compositions described herein. All levels and ranges, temperatures, results etc., used herein are approximations unless otherwise specified.

[0071] The terms listed below and as used herein have the following meanings and/or are supplied by the companies indicated

Term	Definition
Nafion® NR50	Perfluorosulfonic acid resin catalyst; available from Aldrich Chemical Company, Milwaukee, WI, and a registered trademark of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
Nation® SAC-13	10-20 weight percent of Nafion Acidic polymer on a high surface area amorphous silica support; available from Aldrich Chemical Company, Milwaukee, WI, and a registered trademark of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
Amberlyst® 15	Strongly acidic, macroreticular, sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer ion-exchange resin; available from and a registered trademark of Rohm and Haas Co.
Zirconium Tungstate	1/8" cylinders of ZrO ₂ doped with 13% WO ₃ ; Engelhard Corporation, Beachwood, OH

EXAMPLE 1

[0072] This example demonstrates the utility of Nafion® NR50 perfluorosulfonic acid resin as a catalyst for the

substantially anhydrous, high-yield preparation of C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonic acid from AOS acid. To a 300 mL glass-lined autoclave were added 20.0 g (0.0805 moles) of crude C₁₋₂ alkene sulfonic acid (AOS Acid, EW=248.4), prepared via falling film reaction of 1-dodecene with SO₃, 112 mL of benzene, and 20 g of Nafion® NR50 perfluoro-sulfonic acid resin catalyst that had been previously dried under N₂ at 150° C. for 2 hours. As characterized by acid content and ¹H NMR analysis, the starting crude AOS acid was a mixture of approximately 60% sultones and 40% alkene sulfonic acids. In order to remove incidental water taken up by the AOS acid during handling, the reactor was heated to 1200C with a single valve of the autoclave open to atmosphere and 40 mL of benzene and benzene/water azeotrope were distilled off from the reaction mixture. At this point, the reaction mixture contained 10 molar equivalents of benzene relative to AOS acid. The open valve was then closed and the reaction mixture was heated with stirring at 1300C (30-40 p.s.i.) for 15 hours. Upon cooling, the reaction mixture was removed from the autoclave, filtered, and concentrated by vacuum rotary evaporation to afford a viscous, brown oil. Titration of the product with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol indicated 2.905 meq acid/g product (94% of the theoretical value of 3.063 meq acid/g for 100% C₁₂ benzene arylalkylsulfonic acid). ¹H NMR spectroscopy (methanol d-4) indicated high conversion of AOS acid during the reaction, as judged by the absence of peaks corresponding to alkene sulfonic acids (vinyl protons, δ 6.0-5.0 ppm) and a very minimal peak at δ 4.6 ppm, corresponding to sultone. Based on relative proton integration, the sultone content was estimated at less than 0.2%. The proton spectrum contained all of the expected features for C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonic acid: δ 7.4-6.7, multiplet, 5.0H, aromatic protons; δ 3.0-2.2, several sets of multiplets, 1.0H, RCH(phenyl)R'; δ 2.8, multiplet, 2.0H, RCH₂SO₃H; δ 2.0-0.8, overlapping multiplets and triplets, alkyl CH₂ and CH₃. The presence of several sets of ¹H NMR multiplets for backbone RCH(phenyl)R' protons indicates that there are multiple positional isomers (positions of attachment of the aromatic ring along the alkylsulfonic acid chain). Percent incorporation of benzene into the product was found to be 100% versus theory based on the 5.0 integration value for aromatic protons. This result suggests that dialkylation (reaction of benzene alkylsulfonic acid with second mole of AOS acid) and AOS dimerization and/or oligomerization occurred to only minor or minimal extents.

[0073] The recovered Nafion® NR50 catalyst was used repeatedly in more than 10 reactions under conditions identical to those described above. The catalyst was found to retain full activity without change in reaction product characteristics upon recycling.

EXAMPLE 2

[0074] This example demonstrates the utility of a dispersion of Nafion® NR50 on silica (i.e., Nafion® SAC-13) as a catalyst for the high-yield preparation of C₁₄₋₁₆ toluene alkylsulfonic acid from AOS acid.

[0075] For this reaction, C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid (EW=286), prepared via falling film reaction of a 65:35 ratio of C₁₄/C₁₆ alpha-olefins with SO₃, was used. Acid titration and ¹H NMR analysis indicated that this crude AOS acid was a mixture of approximately 60% sultones and 40% alkene sulfonic acids. To a 100 mL round bottom flask was added

11.0 g (0.0385 mole) of C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid, 35.4 g (0.385 mole) of toluene, and several teflon boiling chips. The flask was fitted with a short-path still and 20.5 mL (0.192 mole) of toluene and toluene/water azeotrope were distilled from the solution in order to remove trace amounts of water. The remaining solution consisted of a 1:5 molar ratio of AOS acid to toluene. Upon cooling, 26.1 g of the solution (10.0 g of AOS acid) was transferred to a 50 mL round bottom flask, equipped with reflux condenser and N₂ inlet, that contained 10.0 of Nafion® SAC-13 catalyst. The catalyst had been previously dried under N₂ at 150° C. for 3 hrs. The reaction flask was heated to a constant ~116° C. reflux for 8 h. Over the course of reaction, the mixture lightened in color from dark purple to moderate reddish-brown. During the reaction, 0.2-0.5 g aliquots of liquid were removed periodically for analysis by titration with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol. Because the conversion of sultone to product resulted in a net mole equivalent generation of sulfonic acid per mole of sultone, the % of sultone converted in the mixture was calculated by interpolation between starting and final acid levels. Acid content in the reaction mixture versus time was as follows.

TABLE 1

Time/Hours	meq acid/g in Rxn Mixture	% Sultone Converted
0	0.5612	0
2	1.0715	71.5
4	1.2306	93.8
6	1.2746	>99 ^a

^a<0.5% sultone by ¹H NMR spectroscopy

[0076] Upon cooling, the reaction mixture was filtered, washing the catalyst with several portions of fresh toluene. The combined filtrates were concentrated by vacuum rotary evaporation to afford a brown, viscous oil. Titration of the product with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol indicated 2.533 meq acid/gram of product (theory for 100% C₁₄₋₁₆ toluene alkylsulfonic acid=2.645). ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis indicated full conversion of AOS acid and exhibited all of the spectral features expected for C₁₄₋₁₆ toluene alkylsulfonic acid: δ 7.2-6.8, multiplet, 4.1H, aromatic protons; δ 3.0-2.2, several sets of multiplets, 1.0H, RCH-(tolyl)R'; δ 2.8, multiplet, 2.0H, RCH₂SO₃H; δ 2.3, singlet, 3.0H, R—ArCH₃; δ 2.0-0.8, overlapping multiplets, 28.9H, alkyl CH₂ and CH₃. The normalized proton content of 4.1 aromatic protons and 3.0 tolyl-CH₃ protons relative to RCH₂SO₃H compares favorably to the theoretical value of 4.0H (aromatic) and 3.0H (tolyl-CH₃) for 100% toluene alkylsulfonic acid.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES A, B, C, and D

[0077] These examples demonstrate the slow reaction rate and diminished selectivity for alkylation versus AOS acid oligomerization in the reactions of AOS acid with toluene without added catalyst. Reactions between crude C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS Acid and toluene were carried out in round bottom flasks (A and B) or in an autoclave (C and D), depending on the temperature of reaction. Kinetics of reaction were monitored in terms of conversion of sultone to sulfonic acid, either by titration of aliquots with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol or by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The following results were obtained:

TABLE 2

Example	Mole Equivalents Toluene	Temp. (° C.)	Time (hours)	% Sultone Conversion ^a
A	2	130	4	-9.3
			11	7.2
			16	34.5
			20	85.3
			27	-99
B	13.4	110	4	-1.3
			9	-8.5
			13	-15.6
C	5	150	4	-22.3
			20	>99
D	2	150	4	13.2
			20	>99

^aNegative value indicates net generation of sultone from alkene sulfonic acids.

[0078] The negative sultone conversion values indicate that there were net increases in total sultone in the reaction mixtures in the course of these reactions. These increases were due to the conversion of alkene sulfonic acids to sultones. As compared to the conversion versus time data provided in Example 2, where 93.8% conversion of sultone was achieved after 4 hours of reaction, the rates of sultone conversion for the uncatalyzed reactions were very slow, even at 150° C. Comparison of the 4 hour data points for comparative Examples C and D indicates that a major effect of increasing toluene molar equivalents relative to AOS acid was to decrease rate of sultone conversion to product.

[0079] For Examples A, C, and D, products were isolated by vacuum rotary evaporation. For these samples, ¹HNMR spectroscopy indicated the absence of alkene sulfonic acids and only trace amounts of sultones. The sum of the integration values for the RCH₂SO₃H and RR'R"CH peaks (δ3.2-2.1H, minus integration due to ArCH₃) was set to 3.0 H. The normalized spectral data indicated that only 77-84% of the theoretical amount of toluene was incorporated into the products, which is substantially lower than the incorporation achieved in the superacid-catalyzed reaction described in Example 2. Information about the product compositions was obtained based on the assumption that possible side products include AOS dimer acids, resulting from the oligomerization of AOS acid, and toluene dialkylsulfonic acids, resulting from the dialkylation of toluene with 2 equivalents of AOS acid. The fraction of toluene dialkylsulfonic acid (dialkylate) in the aromatic-containing portion of the product was estimated crudely from the ratio of aromatic protons to tolyl-CH₃ protons. For 100% monoalkylate, this ratio has a theoretical value of 1.333 (4 protons/3 protons). For 100% dialkylate, the ratio has a theoretical value of 1.000 (3 protons/3 protons). The fraction of dialkylate in the aromatic-containing portion of the product was calculated as follows:

$$[0080] \text{ Fraction ArCH}_3 \text{ as dialkylate} = [1.333 - (\text{ArH integration} / \text{ArCH}_3 \text{ integration})] / 0.333$$

[0081] Assigning RCH₂SO₃H groups as a reference of 1 molar unit, molar quantities were calculated, recognizing that dialkylates and AOS acid dimers each contain 2 mole

equivalents of sulfonic acid. These quantities were calculated as follows:

$$[0082] \text{ Mole RSO}_3\text{H} = 1.0$$

$$[0083] \text{ Mole ArCH}_3 = \text{ArCH}_3 \text{ integration} / 3$$

$$[0084] \text{ Mole dialkylate} = \text{Fraction ArCH}_3 \text{ as dialkylate} * \text{Mole ArCH}_3$$

$$[0085] \text{ Mole toluene alkylsulfonic acid} = \text{Mole ArCH}_3 - \text{Mole dialkylate}$$

$$[0086] \text{ Mole AOS dimer acid} = [1.0 - \text{Mole toluene alkylsulfonic acid} - (\text{Mole dialkylate} * 2)] / 2$$

[0087] By summing the molar quantities of toluene alkylsulfonic acid, dialkylate, and AOS dimer acid to give a total molar quantity, it was trivial to calculate mole fractions for each component. By far, the largest error in this analysis was the estimation of (Fraction ArCH₃ as dialkylate). Small errors in integration values could lead to large error in this estimation. Therefore, the composition of product in terms of dialkylate versus AOS must be viewed as qualitative. The results of the NMR analyses were as follows:

TABLE 3

Example:	A	C	D
Integration: RCH ₂ SO ₃ H + RR'R"CH	3.0	3.0	3.0
Integration: ArCH ₃	2.49	2.53	2.32
Integration: ArH	3.27	3.33	3.06
% Toluene Incorporation vs. Theory	83	84	77
Fraction of ArCH ₃ as dialkylate	0.0616	0.0578	0.0430
Mole fraction toluene alkylsulfonic acid	0.875	0.886	0.851
Mole fraction dialkylate	0.057	0.054	0.038
Mole fraction AOS dimer Acid	0.067	0.059	0.111

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE E

[0088] This example demonstrates the ineffectiveness of sulfuric acid as a catalyst for the reaction of C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid with toluene. To a 250 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar and reflux condenser was added 10.0 g (0.035 mole) of crude C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid, 43.25 g (0.409 mole) of toluene, and 0.36 g (0.0035 mole) of 95% sulfuric acid. The reaction mixture was refluxed (111° C.) and conversion was monitored in terms of acid content by titration of aliquots with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol. Results for this reaction and a control reaction without added sulfuric acid were as follows:

TABLE 4

Time/hours	meq acid/g	
	H ₂ SO ₄ Catalyst	No Catalyst
0	0.3744	0.2613
2	0.2756	0.2811
6	0.2430	0.2381
10	0.2200	0.2210
13	0.2173	0.1998

[0089] Both the reaction with added H₂SO₄ and the control reaction exhibited substantial loss in acid content as a consequence of net generation of sultones from alkene sulfonic acids. These data clearly demonstrate that sulfuric acid was ineffective in promoting the conversion of sultones to arylalkylsulfonic acid.

EXAMPLES 3-6

[0090] These examples demonstrate the utility of superacidic materials as catalysts for the substantially anhydrous preparation of Cl_2 benzene alkylsulfonic acid from C_{12} δ -sultone (1,4-sultone). Crude C_{12} AOS acid was digested at 90°C . for 24 hours to convert all alkene sulfonic acid and gamma sultone (1,3-sultone) to delta sultone (1,4-sultone). The acid was then dissolved in a 50/50 mixture of ethanol and water and neutralized to $\text{pH}>10$ with sodium hydroxide. This solution was extracted with several portions of hexanes, and the combined extracts were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated to a wax. The crude sultone was crystallized at -30°C . from hexanes (ca. 6:1 ratio hexanes to sultone), filtered while cold, and dried to afford high purity dodecene δ -sultone (dodecene-1,4-sultone) as a white, crystalline solid. The sultone contained less than 0.1% water, as determined by Karl Fischer titration.

[0091] For each reaction, 1 part dry catalyst, 1 part dodecene δ -sultone, and a specified amount of aromatic reagent (expressed in mol equivalents versus sultone), were reacted for a period of time sufficient to achieve $>99\%$ conversion of the sultone. After removal of the catalyst by filtration and concentration of the product by vacuum rotary evaporation, analysis of the product was conducted via ^1H NMR spectroscopy in methanol d_4 . For all of these examples, the analyses indicated full conversion of sultone, no detectable amounts of alkene sulfonic acids, and structural features as expected for arylalkylsulfonic acids. Reaction conditions and results in terms of percent of theoretical aromatic incorporation into product were as follows:

TABLE 5

Example	Catalyst	Equivalents of Aromatic (vs. Sultone)	Rxn Time (Hrs)	Rxn Temp. ($^\circ\text{C}$.)	Aromatic Incorporation (% of theory)
3	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50 ³	10 eq. of benzene	12	130	92%
4	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50 ^a	13.4 eq. of toluene	6	111	97%
5	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50 ^a	10 eq. of phenol	20	120	97%
6	Zirconium Tungstate ^b	10 eq. of toluene	11	111	95%

³Dried for 2 hrs. at 150°C .

^bEngelhard Corporation, Beachwood, OH: $\frac{1}{8}$ " cylinders of ZrO_2 doped with 13% WO_3 , calcined at 750 – 850°C . for 1 hr.

EXAMPLES 7-8

[0092] These examples demonstrate the negative effect of water on the kinetics of superacid catalyzed and uncatalyzed reactions of C_{12} AOS acid with benzene. For each example, crude C_{12} AOS acid, 1 mole equivalent of benzene, optional water, and optional catalyst were placed in a 23 mL poly-(tetrafluoroethylene)-lined acid digestion bomb (Parr Instrument Company, Moline, Ill., part #4749). After sealing, the digestion bomb was placed in a 120°C . oven for 20 hours without stirring. Upon cooling, a small aliquot of the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was analyzed by ^1H NMR spectroscopy in methanol d_4 . Using the sultone ring proton at $-\delta$ 4.6 ppm as an integration standard, estimates were made for the relative molar amounts of acid-equivalent units (sulfonic acid or anhydride) present in the reaction mixture as sultone (δ 4.6 ppm signal), alkene sulfonic acid (via vinylic protons), hydroxy-alkane sulfonic acid (via δ 4.2 ppm signal), toluene alkyl-sulfonic acid (via aromatic proton signals), and the sum of

dialkylates and AOS dimer acids (via accounting for the total alkyl chain proton integration after subtraction of the contributions of the other identified components). Reaction conditions and results in terms of percent conversion of AOS acid and selectivity for C_{12} benzene alkylsulfonic acid were as follows:

TABLE 6

Example	Catalyst	Wt % H_2O on AOS acid	% Conversion of AOS acid	% Selectivity for alkylsulfonic acid ^a
7a	None	0.063 ^b	67.4	14.6
7b	None	0.5	64.5	13.4
7c	None	2.0	39.2	12.9
8a	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50 ^c	0.142 ^b	81.4	25.1
8b	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50	0.5	78.4	18.8
8c	Nafion $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ NR50	2.0	62.4	16.4

^aOf the converted AOS acid, the percentage that was converted to benzene alkylsulfonic acid.

^bIncidental water present in the AOS acid, as measured by Karl Fischer titration.

^cDried for 2 hrs at 150°C .

[0093] Comparison among the entries within Example 7 and within Example 8 indicates that increasing water content decreased both conversion of AOS acid and selectivity for benzene alkylsulfonic acid. These data exemplify the desirability of performing the reaction between AOS acid and an aromatic compound to afford arylalkylsulfonic acids under substantially anhydrous conditions. In addition, comparison of data between Examples 7 and 8 reveals that, even without

any stirring, the presence of heterogeneous superacid catalyst improved both AOS acid conversion and selectivity for benzene alkylsulfonic acid.

EXAMPLE 9

[0094] This example demonstrates the utility of a strongly acidic ion-exchange resin as a catalyst for the high-yield preparation of C_{12} toluene alkylsulfonic acid from AOS acid. To a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, toluene-pre-filled Dean-Stark trap, condenser, and N_2 inlet was added 95 g (0.382 mole) of crude C_{12} alkene sulfonic (AOS) acid. In order to remove water adsorbed by the acid during storage and handling, the solution was heated to reflux for 30 minutes, collecting ~ 0.3 mL of water in the Dean-Stark trap. The trap was then replaced with a 23×2 cm column of dry molecular sieves and the solution was further refluxed until the condensation front reached the top of the column (approximately 15 minutes). Upon cooling, 40 mL (0.05 mole C_{12} AOS acid and 0.25

mole toluene) of this dried solution was transferred under N₂ to a 250 mL 4-neck flask that was equipped with magnetic stir bar, thermocouple, condenser, N₂ inlet, and septum. To this flask was added 12.4 g of thoroughly washed and dried (115° C. under vacuum) Amberlyst® 15 catalyst. The mass ratio of AOS acid to catalyst was 1:1. The reaction mixture was then heated in a 130° C. oil bath for 6 h; the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture was 117-119°. Upon cooling, the reaction mixture was filtered, washing the catalyst with several portions of fresh toluene. The combined filtrates were concentrated by vacuum rotary evaporation (70° C., <250 mtorr) to afford a deep red, viscous oil. Titration of the product with 0.1 N cyclohexylamine in methanol indicated 2.736 milliequivalents of sulfonic acid per gram of product (theory for 100% C₁₂ toluene alkylsulfonic acid =2.937). ¹H NMR spectroscopy (methanol d-4) indicated complete conversion of AOS acid to the desired toluene alkylsulfonic acid, with aromatic incorporation corresponding to 102% of theory for monoalkylate product.

EXAMPLE 10

[0095] This example demonstrates the utility of linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid as a catalyst for the reaction of AOS acid with an aromatic compound to afford a mixed sulfonic acid product. To a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, condenser, thermocouple, and N₂ inlet was added an azeotropically dried solution of 20.0 g (0.0805 mole) of C₁₂ AOS acid and 37.1 g (0.403 mole) of toluene. To this solution was added 54.5 g (0.171 mole) of linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid (obtained by the falling-film sulfonation of linear alkylbenzene with SO₃; average chain length of C_{11.4}, MW=318.1) that had been dried by azeotropic distillation with toluene. The reaction mixture was then refluxed (129° C.) for 3 h. Periodic analysis of aliquots pulled from the reaction indicated that the acid content of the reaction mixture had leveled off after 2 h. Upon cooling, the product was isolated by vacuum rotary evaporation to afford a deep red, viscous oil. The acid content of the product was 2.995 milliequivalents acid/gram. ¹H NMR analysis indicated the expected product composition, with an approximately 2:1 ratio of linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid to C12 toluene alkylsulfonic acid.

EXAMPLE 11

[0096] This example demonstrates the utility of an AOS-acid digestion step prior to reaction with toluene as a means

of improving the rate of reaction for the synthesis of arylalkylsulfonic acid. To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar was added 15.0 g (0.0524 moles) of dry C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid. The flask was heated under N₂ at 150° C. for 1 hour. Upon cooling, 9.67 g (0.105 moles) of toluene was added, the flask was fitted with a reflux condenser and N₂ inlet, and the mixture was heated in a 130° C. oil bath until acid content had become constant. Sultone conversion for this reaction, together with a control reaction in which no digestion step had been used, was as follows:

TABLE 7

Reaction Time (hours)	Approximate % Sultone Conversion	
	Example 15	Control (no digestion)
0	5	0
2	9	-9
9	54	-1
13	91	
14		24
18	99	55
22		99

EXAMPLES 12-15

[0097] These examples demonstrate the utility of using toluene alkylsulfonic acid product from a previous reaction as a promoter for the reaction of AOS acid with toluene. For each example, C₁₄₋₁₆ toluene alkylsulfonic acid (low dialkylate and low AOS dimer acid content), prepared by Nafion® NR50-catalyzed reaction of AOS acid with toluene in a process comparable to those given in Example 2, was used as a promoter in the reaction of C₁₄₋₁₆ AOS acid with toluene. Progress of reaction was monitored by cyclohexylamine titration of sulfonic acid that had been generated from the conversion of sultones in the AOS acid, taking into account the sulfonic acids already present in the reaction system from alkene sulfonic acid and the promoter acid. Reaction conditions and approximate sultone conversion were as follows:

TABLE 8

Example:	12	13	14	15
Reaction Temp.	130	130	130	130
Mole equivalents Toluene	2	2	2	5
Mole equivalents toluene alkylsulfonic acid as reaction promoter ^a	0.25	1.0	2.0	2.0
Reaction Time(hours):	Approx. % Sultone Conversion	Approx. % Sultone Conversion	Approx. % Sultone Conversion	Approx. % Sultone Conversion
0.5	0	<1	19	10
1	-1	15	54	21
2	-2	56	90	56
3	-1	86	>99	81
4	0	95		91
5	2	98		>99
8		>99		

TABLE 8-continued

Example:	12	13	14	15
10.5	24			
12	39			
15.5	82			
19	96			
23	>99			

^aOne mole equivalent of toluene alkylsulfonic acid relative to AOS acid was equal to 1.32 mass equivalents.

[0098] It is apparent from the data that as the amount of toluene alkylsulfonic acid added to the reaction as a promoter was increased, the rate of sultone conversion increased dramatically. Comparative Example A provides data as a control reaction: relative to this control reaction, the presence of 0.25 mole equivalents of toluene alkylsulfonic acid (Example 12) afforded a noticeably improved rate of conversion. Comparison of data for Examples 14 and 15 indicate that an effect of increasing the equivalents of toluene used was to decrease the rate of sultone conversion.

[0099] The products of the reactions were isolated and analyzed by ¹H NMR, utilizing the methods described in Comparatives examples A-D. The compositions identified were a reflection of the fate of both the AOS acid in the reaction and the toluene alkylsulfonic acid that was incorporated as a promoter. Negative mole fraction values for AOS dimer acids (which were evaluated based on subtraction of toluene alkylsulfonic acid and dialkylates from total acid) are a reflection of the errors associated with NMR integration and the computation methods used to calculate composition. The NMR analysis results were as follows:

TABLE 9

Example	12	13	14	15
Integration: $\text{RCH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{H} + \text{RR}'\text{R}''\text{CH}$	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Integration: ArCH_3	2.60	2.68	2.64	2.92
Integration: ArH	3.35	3.43	3.37	3.79
% Toluene vs. theory for 100% toluene alkylsulfonic acid	86	89	88	97
Fraction of ArCH_3 as dialkylate	0.137	0.155	0.167	0.113
Mole fraction toluene alkylsulfonic acid	0.856	0.860	0.846	0.927
Mole fraction dialkylate	0.136	0.158	0.170	0.118
Mole fraction AOS dimer acid	0.007	-0.018	-0.016	-0.045

[0100] The above compositional analyses indicate that the method used in these examples was effective to providing mixtures of arylalkylsulfonic acids with minor, but significant, amounts of aryl dialkylsulfonic acids (dialkylates) and negligible amounts of AOS dimer acid. The presence of minor amounts of dialkylates was supported by the presence of small peaks in ¹H NMR region of δ 6.9-6.65 ppm. These small peaks were minimal in products of very high toluene alkylsulfonic acid composition (for example, the product of Example 2).

EXAMPLE 16

[0101] This example demonstrates the utility of repeatedly using the products of previous syntheses of benzene alkyl-

sulfonic acid to afford products that are substantially enriched in benzene dialkylsulfonic acids. To a 300 mL glass-lined autoclave was added 19.75 g (0.0795 mole) of crude C₁₂ AOS Acid, 74 g (0.947 mole) of benzene, and 51.89 g (0.159 mole) of C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonic acid that had been previously prepared via the process described in Example 1. With a single valve of the autoclave open to atmosphere, the reactor was heated to 120° C. and 50 mL of benzene and benzene/water azeotrope were distilled off from the reaction mixture. At this point, the reaction mixture contained 5 molar equivalents of benzene relative to AOS acid. The reactor was cooled, an additional 50 mL of benzene was added, and the distillation of 50 mL of benzene and benzene/water azeotrope was repeated. The open valve was then closed and the reaction mixture was heated with stirring at 130° C. (30-40 p.s.i.) for 4 hours. Upon cooling, the product was isolated by vacuum rotary evaporation. The process was then repeated 3 times, each time using 51 grams of the product of the previous reaction to promote the reaction of 19.75 g of C₁₂ AOS acid with 5 mole equivalents of benzene.

[0102] The products from each cycle were characterized by ¹H NMR in terms of mole fractions of C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonic acid, benzene dialkylsulfonic acid (dialkylate), and AOS dimer acids. Unlike products derived from toluene, the aromatic signals for benzene alkylsulfonic acid (δ 7.34-7.09 ppm) and benzene dialkylsulfonic acid (δ 7.08-6.85 ppm) were resolved. Therefore, the relative amounts of mono- vs. dialkylate were readily calculated and were subject to less error than calculations for toluene-based products. To normalize integration values, δ 3.2-2.1 ppm ($\text{RCH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{H} + \text{RR}'\text{R}''\text{CH}$) was set equal to 3.0H. The molar equivalents of benzene alkylsulfonic acid, dialkylate, and AOS dimer acids were then calculated as follows:

[0103] Molar Equivalents:

[0104] Benzene alkylsulfonic acid = $\text{Integration ArH} (\delta 7.34-7.09 \text{ ppm}) / 5.0$

[0105] Dialkylate = $\text{Integration ArH} (\delta 7.08-6.85 \text{ ppm}) / 4.0$

[0106] AOS dimer = $[3.0 - (\text{benzene alkylsulfonic acid} * 3.0) - (\text{dialkylate} * 6.0)] / 6.0$

[0107] By summing the molar equivalents, it was trivial to calculate mole fractions for each component. The results of NMR analyses were as follows:

TABLE 10

Reaction Cycle	1	2	3	4
Integration: $\text{RCH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{H} + \text{RR}'\text{R}''\text{CH}$	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Integration: ArH of Benzene Alkylsulfonic acid	3.30	2.80	2.48	2.363
Integration: ArH of dialkylate	0.608	0.732	0.785	0.778
Mole fraction benzene alkylsulfonic acid	0.795	0.718	0.663	0.642
Mole fraction dialkylate	0.183	0.235	0.263	0.264
Mole fraction AOS dimer acid	0.022	0.048	0.074	0.094

[0108] The above compositional analyses indicate that the method used in these examples was effective to providing mixtures of arylalkylsulfonic acids with significant amounts of aryl dialkylsulfonic acids and lesser amount of AOS dimer acids. On a weight basis the product of cycle 4 contained 51% benzene alkylsulfonic acid, 37% benzene dialkylsulfonic acid, and 12% AOS dimer acid.

EXAMPLES 17-19

[0109] These examples demonstrate the utility of reacting AOS acid with arylalkylsulfonic acid in the absence of additional aromatic compounds to afford mixtures of arylalkylsulfonic acids, aryl dialkylsulfonic acids, and AOS dimer acids. For each reaction, arylalkylsulfonic acid that had been previously synthesized from C_{12} AOS acid and an aromatic compound using Nafion® NR50 catalyst was used. Equimolar mixtures of these acids with C_{12} AOS acid were reacted at elevated temperature until acid content became constant and were then analyzed by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. Toluene-derived products were analyzed by the method described in Comparative Examples A-D, whereas benzene-derived products were analyzed by the method described in Example 16. The follow results were obtained:

TABLE 11

Example	17	18	19
Aromatic	Toluene	Benzene	Benzene
Reaction Time (hours)	2	20	1
Reaction Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$.)	130	100	150
Mole Fraction	0.236	0.504	0.460
Arylalkylsulfonic acid			
Mole fraction dialkylate	0.818	0.284	0.319
Mole fraction	-0.055	0.212	0.222
AOS dimer acid			

[0110] As was discussed in Examples 12-15, a negative mole fraction value for AOS dimer acid (which was evaluated based on subtraction of toluene alkylsufonic acid and dialkylates from total acid) is a reflection of the errors associated with NMR integration and the computation methods used to calculate composition for toluene-derived products. Even so, the spectroscopic data clearly supported a substantial conversion of starting material to dialkylate in the reaction of Example 17.

EXAMPLE 20

[0111] This example illustrates the useful surfactant properties of the sodium salts of arylalkylsulfonic acids prepared from the superacid catalyzed reaction of AOS acid with aromatic compounds.

[0112] Aqueous solutions of sodium salts of arylalkylsulfonic acids, synthesized via the reactions of AOS acids with aromatic compounds in methods comparable to those of Examples 1-2, were prepared by neutralization of the acids with sodium hydroxide in de-ionized (DI) water. Surface tensions of 0.1 wt % surfactant solutions in DI water were measured on an electrobalance tensiometer equipped with a platinum Wilhelmy plate after 2 h equilibration at 25°C . Foamability (initial foam height) and foam stability (foam height after 5 minutes) of 0.1 wt % surfactant solutions in DI water were determined at 25°C . utilizing the apparatus described in ASTM D 1173-53 "Standard Test Method for Foaming Properties of Surface-Active Agents."

[0113] Wetting performance of 0.1 wt % surfactant solutions in DI water was evaluated at room temperature ($22\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$.) according to the method described in ASTM D 2281-68 "Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Wetting Agents by the Skein Test."

[0114] The following test results were obtained:

TABLE 12

Sodium Salt	Surface Tension (dyne/cm)	Wetting Time (sec.)	Initial Foam Height (cm)	5 min. Foam Height (cm)
C_{12} Benzene Alkylsulfonic Acid	40.2	25	16.5	16.5
C_{12} Toluene Alkylsulfonic Acid	37.7	15	16.5	15.5
C_{12} Xylene Alkylsulfonic Acid	35.9	20	17.0	16.5
C_{12} Cumene Alkylsulfonic Acid	34.5	21	16.0	15.5
C_{14-16} Toluene Alkylsulfonic Acid	36.5	41	15.5	15.5

[0115] The above data demonstrate that a variety of arylalkylsufonic acid sodium salts exhibit good surface tension lowering properties, moderately good wetting performance, and very good foamability and foam stability properties.

EXAMPLE 21

[0116] This example demonstrates the useful detergent properties of the sodium salts of C_{12} Benzene alkylsulfonic acids enriched in dialkylates and AOS dimer acids, as prepared by the method described in Example 16.

[0117] Aqueous solutions of sodium salts of sulfonic acids were prepared by neutralization of the acids with sodium hydroxide in de-ionized (DI) water. These surfactants were evaluated for their ability to clean artificially soiled fabrics by washing fabric swatches in 1 liter of 0.05 wt % solutions of the surfactants in 90 ppm 3:2 Ca/Mg hard water. A laboratory scale washing machine (Terg-o-tometer, United

States Testing Co., 1415 Park Ave., Hoboken, N.J.) was utilized with the following test conditions: duplicate swatches of soiled fabrics, as specified in the table below, all swatch types combined in a single pot for a single surfactant; 100° F. wash water, -80° F. rinse water; 100 RPM agitation; 10 minute wash, 5 minute rinse. Detergency was measured in terms of swatch color difference (AE; larger values =greater detergency), which was calculated from photoelectric colorimeter data on swatches before and after washing as follows:

$$\Delta E=[(L_w-L_u)^2+(a_w-a_u)^2+(b_w-b_u)^2]^{1/2}$$

[0118] where:

[0119] L=reflectance

[0120] a=redness/greenness

[0121] b=yellowness/blueness

[0122] w=after washing

[0123] u=before washing

[0124] The following detergency results were obtained:

TABLE 13

Sodium Salt	Detergency (ΔE)				
	DS Cot ^a	DS PC ^b	DS Poly ^c	WFK Cot ^d	EMPA-101 ^e
C _{11,4} Linear Alkylbenzenesulfonic Acid	4.83	3.31	3.56	2.34	7.63
C ₁₂ Benzene Alkylsulfonic Acid ^g	4.43	3.87	4.48	2.34	6.63
Example 16, Cycle #1	6.42	5.00	6.18	3.61	7.51
Example 16, Cycle #2	6.04	4.84	5.87	3.42	7.11
Example 16, Cycle #3	6.43	5.33	6.40	2.67	7.05
Example 16, Cycle #4	6.56	5.44	7.26	2.83	7.67

^adust/sebum soil on cotton

^bdust/sebum soil on polyester/cotton blend

^cdust/sebum soil on polyester

^dpigment (86% clay, 8% lampblack, 4% black iron oxide, 2% yellow iron oxide) and lanolin on cotton, Washerei Forschungs Institute of Krefeld, Germany

^ecarbon black and olive oil on cotton, Eldgenossische Materials Prüfungs Anstalt of St. Gall, Switzerland

^fprepared via the method described in Example 1

[0125] The above data demonstrate that, relative to C₁₄ linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid sodium salt (LAS), which is a widely utilized anionic surfactant for laundry and cleaning applications, C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonic acid sodium salt displays comparable detergency performance in the unformulated single-surfactant tests. In addition, the above data illustrate the improved detergency of C₁₂ benzene alkylsulfonates that are enriched in dialkylates and AOS dimer acid salts, as produced by the method detailed in Example 16.

EXAMPLES 22-23 and COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE F

[0126] These examples demonstrate the use of arylalkyl-sulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in solvent-free all-purpose cleaner formulations.

[0127] Solvent-free all-purpose cleaner formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below:

TABLE 14

Ingredient	Example 22	Example 23	Comparative Example F
Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (40% Active)	1.38 g	1.38 g	1.39 g
Tetra-sodium EDTA ^a	0.44	0.43	0.45
Sodium metasilicate · 5H ₂ O	0.22	0.21	0.21
C ₁₂ Benzene Alkylsulfonic acid	0.88	—	—
C ₁₂ Toluene Alkylsulfonic acid	—	0.88	—
Ninol® 11-CM ^b	—	—	0.88
Sodium Hydroxide (50% aqueous)	0.11	0.13	0.11
DI Water	46.96	46.97	46.94
Appearance	Clear Solution	Clear Solution	Clear Solution
pH	10.49	11.37	11.97

^aEDTA = ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid

^bNinol® 11-CM is a detergent grade modified coco alkanolamide and is a registered trademark of the Stepan Company, Northfield, IL.

[0128] Examples 22 and 23 are comparable in composition to Comparative Example F, except that Ninol® 11-CM was replace with an equivalent amount of C₁₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid. In all three formulations, a clear solution was obtained, indicating good compatibility of the arylalkylsulfonic acids with the other formulating components.

EXAMPLES 24-25 AND COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE G

[0129] These examples demonstrate the use of arylalkyl-sulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in all-purpose cleaner formulations.

[0130] Solvent-containing all-purpose cleaner formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below:

TABLE 15

Ingredient	Example 24	Example 25	Comparative Example G
Propylene Glycol	0.69 g	0.68 g	0.69 g
N-Butyl Ether	—	—	—
Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (40% Active)	0.88	0.89	0.88
Tetra-sodium EDTA ^a	0.46	0.46	0.46
C ₁₂ Benzene Alkylsulfonic acid	0.67	—	—
C ₁₂ Toluene Alkylsulfonic acid	—	0.69	—
Ninol® 11-CM ^b	—	—	0.68
Sodium Hydroxide (50% aqueous)	0.15	0.15	0.10
DI Water	47.15	47.13	47.19
Appearance	Clear Solution	Clear Solution	Clear Solution
pH	11.36	11.25	12.28

^aEDTA = ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid

^bsee Examples 22-23 for definition

[0131] Examples 24 and 25 are comparable in composition to Comparative Example G, except that Ninol® 11-CM was replace with an equivalent amount of C₁₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid. In all three formulations, a clear solution was obtained, indicating good compatibility of the arylalkylsulfonic acids with the other formulating components.

EXAMPLES 26-27 AND COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE H

[0132] These examples demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in pine oil cleaner concentrate formulations.

[0133] Pine oil cleaner concentrate formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below. Cleaning performance on vinyl tiles at room temperature was evaluated using ASTM D 4488-95, Annex A5, "Particulate and Oily SoilNinyl Tiles Test Method." This test used a modified Gardner Straight Line Washability Apparatus, as described in ASTM D 4488-95, Annex A4. The formulations were evaluated at 3.9 mL of concentrate diluted to 500 mL with DI water. Formulations and tests results were as follows:

TABLE 16

Ingredient	Example 26	Example 27	Comparative Example H
Pine Oil	10.03 g	10.01 g	10.01 g
Ninol ® 11-CM ^a	4.50	4.50	4.50
Nonylphenol 12 ^b	2.50	2.50	2.50
Lauramine Oxide (30% Active)	0.25	0.25	0.25
C ₁₂ Benzene	1.00	—	—
Alkylsulfonic acid	—	1.00	—
C ₁₂ Toluene	—	—	—
Alkylsulfonic acid	—	—	1.00
Dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid	—	—	1.00
Isopropanol	5.00	5.00	5.00
DI Water	26.75	26.75	26.75
Appearance	Clear Solution	Clear Solution	Clear Solution
pH	8.95	9.05	8.95
Gardner Straight Line Washability			
Average Percent Soil Removal	72.9%	81.7%	73.7%

^asee Examples 22–23 for definition
^b12 mole ethoxylate of nonylphenol

[0134] The above data demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids in Pine Oil cleaner concentrate formulations. Performance of the C₁₋₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid-containing formulations equaled or slightly surpassed the performance of the dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid (LAS) control formulation (Comparative Example H).

EXAMPLES 28-29 AND COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE 1

[0135] These examples demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in economy light-duty liquid formulations for use as dish detergents.

[0136] Economy light-duty liquid formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below. Performance as dish-washing liquids was evaluated using the Mini-Plate Test, which is described in full in Example 1 of U.S. Pat. No. 5,637,758; to Sajic, et. al., Jun. 10, 1997. For each example, 6 g of a 10 wt % solution of formulation in

DI water was diluted to 400 g with tap water. Formulations and tests results were as follows:

TABLE 17

Ingredient	Example 28	Example 29	Comparative Example I
BIO-TERGE ® AS-40 ^a	15.39 parts	15.4 parts	15.4 parts
STEOL ® CS-460 ^b	9.0	9.0	9.0
Cocamidopropyl	4.0	4.0	4.0
Betaine (30% Active)	—	—	1.0
C ₁₁₋₁₄ Linear Alkylbenzenesulfonic Acid	—	—	—
C ₁₂ Benzene AASA	1.02	—	—
C ₁₂ Toluene AASA	—	1.0	—
NaOH (50% aq.)	0.406	Q.S.	0.294
Sulfuric acid (10% aq.)	0.02	0.02	0.06
NaCl	3.0	3.0	3.0
DI Water	70.6	70.6	70.6
Total w/w	100.0	100.0	100.0
Appearance 25° C.	Clear liquid	Clear liquid	Clear liquid
pH (as is) 25° C.	6.04	6.06	5.99

TABLE 17-continued

Ingredient	Example 28	Example 29	Comparative Example I
Color Gardner	2	1	1
Viscosity (cps) 25° C. with 3% NaCl	30	40	120
Mini-Plate Test Performance			
Mini-plates washed	15	15	18

^aBIO-TERGE AS-40 is a 40% active CC₁₄₋₁₆ alpha olefin sulfonate and is a registered trademark of the Stepan Company, Northfield, IL
^bSTEOL CS-460 is a 60% active sodium laureth sulfate with 3 moles of ethylene oxide and is a registered trademark of the Stepan Company, Northfield, IL

[0137] The above data demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids in economy light-duty liquid formulations. Performance of the C₁₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid-con-

taining formulations demonstrated minor difference in performance relative to the dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid (LAS) control formulation (Comparative Example I).

EXAMPLES 30-31 AND COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE J

[0138] These examples demonstrate the use of arylalkyl-sulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in “Ultra” dish detergent formulations.

[0139] Light-duty liquid formulations, comparable to “Ultra” dish detergent formulations, were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below:

TABLE 18

Ingredient	Example 30	Example 31	Comparative Example J
C ₁₁₋₁₄ Linear Alkylbenzenesulfonic Acid	—	—	12.30 parts
C ₁₂ Benzene AASA	13.67 parts	—	—
C ₁₂ Toluene AASA	—	11.74 parts	—
Sodium Hydroxide (50% aq)	3.03	2.4	3.03
STEOL® CS-370 ^a	5.28	5.26	5.25
ALPHA-STEP® MC-48 ^b	7.23	7.84	7.23
Cocamidopropylamine oxide (33% Active)	4.54	4.53	4.55
Magnesium Sulfate, (27% aq)	3.89	3.91	3.88
Ethanol	3.00	1.80	1.50
Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (40% Active)	3.03	3.00	3.00
Propylene Glycol	1.50	1.51	1.50
Water	24.69	16.77	8.69
Citric Acid	0.01	—	—
Total w/w	69.87	58.76	50.93
Appearance 25° C.	Clear liquid	Clear liquid	Clear liquid
pH (as is) 25° C.	6.98	7.00	6.93

^aSTEOL®CS-370 is a 70% active sodium laureth sulfate with 3 moles of ethylene oxide and is a registered trademark of the Stepan Company, Northfield, IL

^bALPHA-STEP®MC-48 is a 37% active mixture of sodium alpha-sulfo methyl C₁₂₋₁₈ Ester and sodium alpha-sulfo C₁₂₋₁₈ fatty acid salt, and is a registered trademark of the Stepan Company, Northfield, IL

[0140] Examples 30 and 31 are comparable in composition to Comparative Example J, except that C₁₁₋₁₄ linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid was replace with a similar amount of C₁₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid. In all three formulations, a clear solution was obtained, indicating good compatibility of the arylalkylsulfonic acids with the other formulating components.

EXAMPLES 32-33 AND COMPARATIVE
EXAMPLE K

[0141] These examples demonstrate the use of arylalkyl-sulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in “Premium Ultra” dish detergent formulations.

[0142] Light-duty liquid formulations, comparable to “Premium Ultra” dish detergent formulations, were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below:

TABLE 19

Ingredient	Example 32	Example 33	Comparative Example K
C ₁₁₋₁₄ Linear Alkylbenzenesulfonic Acid	—	—	12.13 parts
C ₁₂ Benzene AASA	13.57 parts	—	—
C ₁₂ Toluene AASA	—	15.61 parts	—
STEOL CS® 460 ^a	9.01	9.00	9.00
ALPHA-STEP® MC-48 ^b	7.50	7.60	7.50
NINOL® 40-CO ^c	2.25	2.25	2.25
Sodium Hydroxide (50% aq.)	3.11	3.20	3.115
Ethanol	1.0	1.00	1.00
Citric Acid	0.51	0.18	0.01
DI Water	15.39	29.49	15.385
Total w/w	52.34	68.33	50.39
Appearance 25° C.	Clear liquid	Dark liquid	Clear liquid
pH (as is) 25° C.	6.95	6.49	7.08
Viscosity (cps) 25° C.	850	1500	1100

^asee Examples 28–29 for definition

^bsee Examples 30–31 for definition

^cNINOL® 40-CO is a diethanolamine cocamide and is a registered trademark of the Stapan Company, Northfield, IL

[0143] Examples 32 and 33 are comparable in composition to Comparative Example K, except that C₁₄ linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid was replace with similar amounts of C₁₋₂ arylalkylsulfonic acid.

EXAMPLES 34-36

[0144] These examples demonstrate the use of arylalkyl-sulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in heavy-duty laundry detergent powder formulations.

[0145] Powdered laundry detergent formulations were prepared in a laboratory blender using the ingredients listed in the table below. Detergent performance was evaluated using a method comparable to that described in Example 21. Test conditions were: 1.5 g of formulation in 1 L of 140-150 ppm hard water (2:1 Ca/Mg); duplicate swatches of soiled fabrics, as specified in the table below, all swatch types combined in a single pot for a single formulation; 100° F. wash water; 100 RPM agitation; 10 minute wash; hand rinse for 1 minute. Formulations and tests results were as follows:

TABLE 20

Ingredient	Example 34	Example 35	Example 36
Formulation Type	Premium	Economy	Economy
Soda Ash	55.44 parts	66.00 parts	66.00 parts
Zeolite A ^a	15.72	10.00	10.00
Nonylphenol 10 ^b	2.10	2.00	2.00
C ₁₂ Toluene Alkylsulfonic acid	14.40	12.00	0.00
C ₁₂ Benzene Alkylsulfonic acid	0.00	0.00	12.00
Sodium Metasilicate	10.48	10.00	10.00
SAVINASE™ 16L type EX ^c	0.62	0.00	0.00

TABLE 20-continued

Ingredient	Example 34	Example 35	Example 36
ALCO3574 ^d	1.24	0.00	0.00
Terg-O-Tometer Performance (Detergency (δE))			
WFK/Cot ^e	6.40	3.48	3.18
WFK/PC ^f	2.67	2.00	0.27
DS/Cot ^e	11.40	8.45	8.38
DS/PC ^e	21.02	20.39	17.14
EMPA-116/Cot ^g	35.12	20.14	18.97

^acomplex sodium aluminosilicate, "type A", 100% active powder
^b10 mole ethoxylate of nonylphenol
^cSAVINASE™ 16L type EX is a protease enzyme with 16 KNPU/g activity and is a trademark of Novo Nordisk, Denmark
^danti-redeposition polymer, 40% active, Alco Chemical, a division of National Starch and Chemical Company, Chatanooga, TN
^esee Example 21 for definition
^fpigment (86% clay, 8% lampblack, 4% black iron oxide, 2% yellow iron oxide) and lanolin on polyester/cotton blend, Washerei Forschungs Institute of Krefeld, Germany
^gblood, milk, and carbon black on cotton, Eldgenossiche Materials Prufungs Anstalt of St. Gall, Switzerland

[0146] The above detergency results are indicative of good detergent performance and are comparable with the performance expected of respective linear alkylbenzenesulfonate-based premium and economy heavy-duty powder laundry detergent formulations.

EXAMPLES 37-40

[0147] These examples demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in unbuilt and built economy heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent formulations.

[0148] Liquid laundry detergent formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below. Detergent performance was evaluated using a method comparable to that described in Example 21. Test conditions were: 1.85 g of formulation in 1 L of 140-150 ppm hard water (2:1 Ca/Mg); duplicate swatches of soiled fabrics, as specified in the table below, all swatch types combined in a single pot for a single formulation; 100° F. wash water; 100 RPM agitation; 10 minute wash; hand rinse at 70° C.

TABLE 21

Ingredient	Example 37	Example 38	Example 39	Example 40
Formulation Type	Unbuilt	Built	Unbuilt	Built
DI Water	83.72 parts	74.86 parts	83.52 parts	74.47 parts
Sodium Hydroxide (50% Aqueous)	2.04	2.82	2.11	2.73
C ₁₂ Toluene Alkylsulfonic Acid	9.27	11.98	—	—
C ₁₂ Benzene Alkylsulfonic Acid	—	—	9.36	12.14
Nonylphenol 9 ^a	4.97	6.39	5.00	6.50
Soda Ash	—	1.97	—	2.00
Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (40%)	—	1.98	—	2.16
Total	100	100	100	100
Total Actives	15	20	15	20
pH (as-is)	6.5	11.77	6.05	11.78
Appearance	Clear, low-viscosity	Clear, viscous	Clear, low-viscosity	Clear, viscous
pH (in Terg-O-Tometer pot)	7.61	8.87	7.64	8.86
Terg-O-Tometer Performance (Detergency (□E))				
DS/Cot ^b	6.07	7.88	6.91	6.88
DS/Poly ^b	4.05	7.17	4.21	4.17
DS/PC ^b	5.48	8.77	7.44	6.22
WFK/Cot ^b	4.12	4.70	4.66	3.45
WFK/PC ^c	2.89	5.25	4.20	4.14
DMO/Cot ^d	10.13	9.57	10.82	7.78

^a9 mole ethoxylate of nonylphenol
^bsee Example 21 for definition
^csee Examples 34–36 for definition
^ddirty motor oil on cotton

[0149] The above detergency results are indicative of good detergent performance and are comparable with the performance expected of respective linear alkylbenzenesulfonate-based economy heavy-duty liquid detergent formulations.

EXAMPLES 41-42

[0150] These examples demonstrate the utility of arylalkylsulfonic acids as surfactant ingredients in premium heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent formulations.

[0151] Liquid laundry detergent formulations were prepared using the ingredients listed in the table below. Detergent performance was evaluated using a method comparable to that described in Example 21. Test conditions were: 1.68 g of formulation in 1 L of 140-150 ppm hard water (2:1 Ca/Mg); duplicate swatches of soiled fabrics, as specified in the table below, all swatch types combined in a single pot for a single formulation; 100° F. wash water; 100 RPM agitation; 10 minute wash; hand rinse at 70° C. Formulations and tests results were as follows:

TABLE 22

Ingredient	Example 41	Example 42
DI H ₂ O	50.42 parts	49.61 parts
Sodium Hydroxide (50% aqueous)	1.95	2.11
Optical Brightener	0.10	0.10
Calcium Chloride	0.05	0.06
C ₁₂ Toluene	8.86	—
Alkylsulfonic Acid C ₁₂ Benzene	—	8.86
Alkylsulfonic Acid		
Propylene Glycol	4.73	4.76
Boric Acid	0.95	0.95
Sodium Laureth Sulfate (60% Active)	18.55	18.60
Nonylphenol 9 ^a	10.66	10.70
Fragrance	0.11	0.11
Dye (1% Solution)	0.01	0.01
SAVINASE™ 16L type Ex ^b	0.057	0.58
TERMAMYL® 300L type DX ^c	0.29	0.29
ISP PVP K30 ^d	0.95	0.96
ALCO 3564 ^e	0.47	0.47
Sodium Xylene	1.86	1.86
Sulfonate (40% Active)		
Total	100	100
Total Actives	31	31
pH (as-is)	8.87	8.70
Appearance		
pH (in Terg-o-tometer pot)	Hazy, viscous 7.94	Hazy, viscous 7.93
Terg-O-Tometer Performance (Detergency δE)		
DS/Cot ^f	10.62	10.62
DS/PC ^f	9.93	10.08
WFK/Cot ^f	4.90	4.40
WFK/PC ^b	3.98	3.55
Grass/Cot ^g	8.64	9.09
EMPA 111 ^h	15.95	15.12

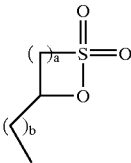
^a9 mole ethoxylate of nonylphenol
^bsee Examples 34–36 for definition
^cTERMAMYL® 300L type DX is an alpha-amylase enzyme with 300 KNU/g activity and is a registered trademark of Novo Nordisk, Denmark
^dPolyvinylpyrrolidone, 66.8 × 10³ molecular weight, International Specialty Products, New Jersey
^eanti-redeposition polymer, 40% active, Alco Chemical, a division of National Starch and Chemical Company, Chattanooga, TN
^fsee Example 21 for definition
^ggrass soil on cotton
^hblood on cotton, Eldgenossische Materials Prüfungs Anstalt of St. Gall, Switzerland

[0152] The above detergency results are indicative of good detergent performance and are comparable with the performance expected of linear alkylbenzenesulfonate-based premium heavy-duty liquid detergent formulations.

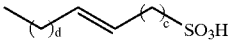
[0153] The invention and the manner and process of making and using it, are now described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, to make and use the same. It is to be understood that the foregoing describes preferred embodiments of the present invention and that modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims. To particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention, the following claims conclude this specification.

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising alkylating an aromatic compound with an AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst and at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions.
- 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, a mono-substituted aromatic compound, a poly-substituted aromatic compound, alkylbenzene, alkoxyated benzene, a polycyclic aromatic compound, a mono-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, a poly-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, naphthalene and alkylnaphthalene, or a mixture thereof.
- 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of phenol, alkylphenol, alkoxyated phenol, and alkoxyated alkylphenol, or a mixture thereof.
- 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, propylbenzene and naphthalene, or a mixture thereof.
- 5. A method according to claim 4, where in the aromatic compound is benzene or toluene.
- 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the AOS acid comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof.
- 7. A method according to claim 6, and wherein the sultone is of the formula:



and wherein the alkene sulfonic acid is of the formula:



wherein a is 1, 2 or 3 and b is an integer 1 to 31; wherein c and d are independently integers 0 to 33, provided that $c+d=1$ to 33.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of alkene sulfonic acid to sultone is from about 1:1 to about 1:4.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 1:1 to about 30:1.

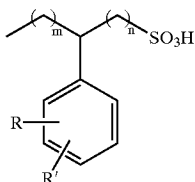
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 2:1 to about 10:1.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the superacid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a solid superacid, a perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a metal sulfate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium tungstate, a sulfated metal oxyhydroxide, a sulfated metal oxysilicate, a superacid metal oxide, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, or a mixture thereof.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the superacid catalyst is a perfluorosulfonic acid resin or a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin.

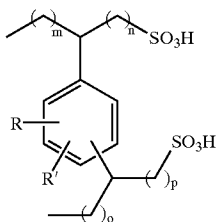
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the perfluorosulfonic acid resin is a copolymer of sulfonyl fluorovinyl ether and a fluorocarbon.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid comprises a compound of the formula:



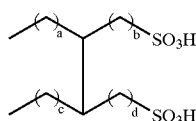
wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that $m+n$ is at least 2 and wherein $m+n$ is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid further comprises a compound of the formula:



wherein m and n are independently 0-34, provided that $m+n$ is at least 2 and wherein $m+n$ is equal to or less than 34; wherein o and p are independently 0-34, provided that $o+p$ is at least 2 and wherein $o+p$ is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid further comprises an AOS acid dimer compound of the formula:



wherein a and b are independently 0-34, provided that $a+b$ is at least 2 and wherein $a+b$ is equal to or less than 34; wherein c and d are independently 0-34, provided that $c+d$ is at least 2 and wherein $c+d$ is equal to or less than 34.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature from about 80°C . to about 200°C .

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature from about 100°C . to about 150°C .

19. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid, comprising:

- sulfonating an alpha olefin to form an AOS acid;
- alkylating an aromatic compound with the AOS acid in the presence of a superacid catalyst,

wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions and at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, a mono-substituted aromatic compound, a poly-substituted aromatic compound, alkylbenzene, alkoxybenzene, a polycyclic aromatic compound, a mono-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, a poly-substituted polycyclic aromatic compound, naphthalene and alkylnaphthalene, or a mixture thereof.

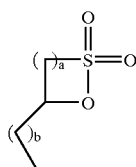
21. A method according to claim 19, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of phenol, alkylphenol, alkoxyphenol, and alkoxyalkylphenol, or a mixture thereof.

22. A method according to claim 20, wherein the aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene, propylbenzene and naphthalene, or a mixture thereof.

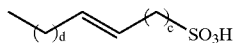
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the aromatic compound is benzene or toluene.

24. A method according to claim 20, wherein the AOS acid comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the sultone is of the formula:



and wherein the alkene sulfonic acid is of the formula:



wherein a is 1, 2 or 3 and b is an integer 1 to 31; wherein c and d are independently integers 0 to 33, provided that c+d=1 to 33,

26. A method according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio of alkene sulfonic acid to sultone is from about 1:1 to about 1:4.

27. A method according to claim 19, wherein the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 1:1 to about 30:1.

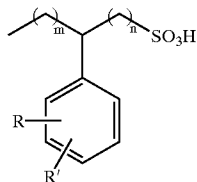
28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the molar ratio of aromatic compound to AOS acid is from about 2:1 to about 10:1.

29. A method according to claim 19, wherein the super-acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a solid super-acid, a perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a metal sulfate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium tungstate, a sulfated metal oxyhydroxide, a sulfated metal oxysilicate, a superacid metal oxide, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, or a mixture thereof.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the super-acid catalyst is a perfluorosulfonic acid resin or a supported perfluorosulfonic acid resin.

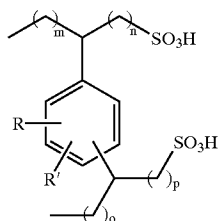
31. A method according to claim 30, wherein the perfluorosulfonic acid resin is a copolymer of sulfonyl fluorovinyl ether and a fluorocarbon.

32. A method according to claim 19, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid comprises a compound of the formula:



wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl.

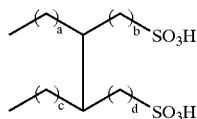
33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid further comprises a compound of the formula:



wherein m and n are independently 0-34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34;

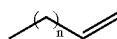
wherein o and p are independently 0-34, provided that o+p is at least 2 and wherein o+p is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the arylalkylsulfonic acid further comprises an AOS acid dimer compound of the formula:



wherein a and b are independently 0-34, provided that a +b is at least 2 and wherein a +b is equal to or less than 34; wherein c and d are independently 0-34, provided that c+d is at least 2 and wherein c+d is equal to or less than 34.

35. A method according to claim 19, wherein the alpha olefin is of the formula

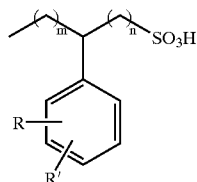


wherein n=1-33.

36. A method according to claim 19, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature of about 80° C. to about 200° C.

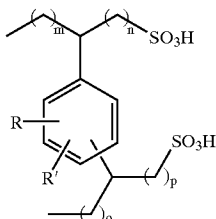
37. A method according to claim 36, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature of about 100° C. to about 150° C.

38. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising alkylating an aromatic compound with an AOS acid in the presence of an alkylation promoter comprising a compound of the formula:



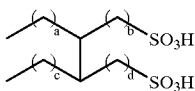
wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C_{1-36} alkyl or substituted alkyl, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid; and wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions; and wherein the alkylation promoter is present in at least 25% by weight, based on the weight of the AOS acid.

39. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid according to claim 38, wherein the alkylation promoter further comprises a compound of the formula:



wherein m and n are independently 0-34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein o and p are independently 0-34, provided that o+p is at least 2 and wherein o+p is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C₁₋₃₆ alkyl or substituted alkyl.

40. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid according to claim 39, wherein the alkylation promoter further comprises a compound of the formula:



wherein a and b are independently 0-34, provided that a +b is at least 2 and wherein a +b is equal to or less than 34; wherein c and d are independently 0-34, provided that c+d is at least 2 and wherein c+d is equal to or less than 34.

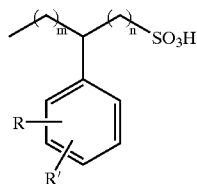
41. A method according to claim 38, wherein the AOS acid comprises an alkene sulfonic acid, a sultone or a mixture thereof.

42. A method according to claims 38, wherein the alkylation promotion agent further comprises a superacid catalyst selected from the group consisting of a solid super-acid, a perfluorosulfonic acid resin, a supported perfluorosulfonic

acid resin, a metal sulfate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium tungstate, a sulfated metal oxyhydroxide, a sulfated metal oxysilicate, a superacid metal oxide, CF₃SO₃H, or a mixture thereof.

43. A method for preparing an arylalkylsulfonic acid comprising

- sulfonating an alpha olefin to form an AOS acid which comprises an alkene sulfonic acid and a sultone;
- alkylating an aromatic compound with the AOS acid in the presence of an alkylation promoter comprising compounds of the formula:



wherein m and n are independently integers 0 to 34, provided that m+n is at least 2 and wherein m+n is equal to or less than 34; wherein R and R' are independently branched or straight chain C₁₋₃₆ alkyl or substituted alkyl, wherein the alkylation is conducted at a temperature sufficient to produce an arylalkylsulfonic acid, and wherein the alkylation is conducted under substantially anhydrous conditions.

44. An arylalkylsulfonic acid produced by the process of claims 1.

45. An arylalkylsulfonic acid produced by the process of claims 19.

46. An arylalkylsulfonic acid produced by the process of claims 38.

47. An arylalkylsulfonic acid produced by the process of claims 43.

* * * * *