## Part A: Operando FT-IR Studies of heterogeneous catalytic reactions: pitfalls and benefits.

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# **Operando FT-IR Studies of heterogeneous catalytic reactions:**

# Pitfalls Benefits.

## **Pitfalls:**

- Temperature control
- flow control
- in IR reaction cells

## Catalytic reactor and spectroscopic IR cells

U-shaped quartz reactor in a tubular furnace



Heat loss through IR windows Transmission IR cell (ca. 20 mg wafer)



#### Diffuse reflectance IR cells



Harrick (powder, up to 80 mg)



Modified Spectra-Tech (powder, up to 60 mg)

### Measure-thermocouple positioning



*Figure 1*. Schematic representation of the various sample beds used in this study: (A) in the U-shaped quartz reactor, (B) in the "Sandwich" transmission cell, (C) in the Harrick DRIFTS cell and (D) in the Spectra-Tech DRIFTS cell

### CO methanation as a "bulk temperature probe"



#### IR cells bed "cooler" than expected

*Figure 3.* (A) Arrhenius-type plots relating the natural logarithm of the reaction rate of CO methanation to the reciprocal temperature. (B) Same plots as (A), except that the reaction temperature of the IR cells was corrected by the value given in the legend. Feed 10% CO + 35%  $H_2$  in Ar.

## DRIFTS: bed surface (top) temperature



## Surface temperature by optical pyrometry



#### DRIFTS cells bed surface "much cooler" than expected at High T

*Figure 6.* Comparison of the temperature read using the optical pyrometer on the various IR cells and the corresponding sample bed temperature. The sample bed temperature was measured with a thermocouple located in the cell as described in Table 1 and Fig. 1. The optical pyrometer was held at about 20 cm from the sample bed filled with the powdered form (for the Spectra-Tech and Harrick DRIFTS cells) and a self-supported wafer (in the case of the Sandwich transmission cell) of the Ni/alumina

# Supported CoOx for CO hydrogenation in custom-made DRIFTS cell: reduction at 450°C?



#### Spectra-tech DRIFTS cell hydrodynamics: "ill-defined" reactor





Fig. 4. Kr mass spectrometer signal during a switch from 2% Kr/Ar to pure Ar and the corresponding normalized residence time distribution (RTD). The total flowrate was always 100 ml min<sup>-1</sup>.

Meunier et al., Appl. Catal. A 340 (2008) 196

#### Artistic impression of a post-experiment wafer (NOx storage-Reduction)

#### Aabspec



#### Alcohol condensation at 300 °C using the same catalyst



**Temperature (mis)control and bad hydrodynamics?** 

#### **Modified DRIFTS cell from Spectra-Tech.**

CO + O<sub>2</sub> over 2% Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub>.



## Validation of modified DRIFTS cell

Meunier et al., Appl. Catal. A 340 (2008) 196

J. Catal. 247 (2007) 277

Au-Ce-La-O catalyst Water-gas shift: 2 % CO + 7 % H<sub>2</sub>O

> $10^{3}/T$  (1/K) -og (rate CO<sub>2</sub> formation, mol/g/s) 2.00 2.20 2.40 2.60 (200 °C) -5.5 Quartz plug flow reactor (Medford) Modified DRIFT cell -6 (Belfast) (130 °C) -6.5

**Ensure kinetic relevance of the IR cell-based data** 

## Validation of modified DRIFTS cell

CO hydrogenation (30% CO + 60 % H<sub>2</sub> at 1 bar) on 14 wt.% Co (8 nm)  $/Al_2O_3$  : TOF = 14 x 10<sup>-3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>



*Figure 8.* The influence of cobalt particle size on the TOF (220 °C,  $H_2/CO = 2$ , 1 bar).

## **Operando FT-IR Studies of heterogeneous catalytic reactions: pitfalls and benefits.**

## **Benefits:**

- transport in zeolites
- CO heat of adsorption
- catalyst surface poisoning
- adsorbate reactivity

### **Isooctane transport in large and small H-ZSM-5**



#### 1 mg powder is enough!





### H-ZSM-5: pore diameter ca. 0.55 nm



kinetic diameter = 0.62 nm





#### **Isooctane in H-ZSM-5: effect of mesoporosity**



ca. 4-fold reduction in the characteristic diffusion path length

Meunier et al., Micropor. Mesopor. Mater. 148 (2012) 115

#### CO adsorption on Pt-Sn/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> pre-reduced at 400°C

- Feed: 2%CO/H<sub>2</sub>
- T decreased from 325-50°C



#### CO heat of adsorption on $Pt/Al_2O_3$ and $Pt-Sn/Al_2O_3$

Moscu et al, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, 50, 8590-8592.



1. CO bonding much weaker on Pt-Sn / Pt

2. Effect of surface coverage on ΔH not significant for Pt-Sn

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#### Introduction of O2 at 225°C (Red spectrum is under CO/H2/Ar only)

Moscu et al, *Catal Today*, 2015, in press.



#### Impact of the Reconstruction of Gold Particles on the Heats of Adsorption of Linear CO Species Adsorbed on the Au Sites of a 1% Au/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Catalyst

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#### **IR is site and coordination-specific!**

## **Toluene hydrogenation: Effect of CO<sub>2</sub>**





Various Rh-CO are formed, but no CO(g)

#### Correlation between toluene conversion and Pt-CO



**Conversion correlates Pt-CO signal whatever [CO<sub>2</sub>]** 

#### $Rh/Al_2O_3$ (D=55%): linear carbonyls assignment



High-wavenumber carbonyls, on dense plans, displaced by toluene.
Low-wavenumber carbonyls, on low coordination sites, more stable.
→ Low dispersion samples should be more resistant to deactivation.



No carbonyl nor carbonate formation on  $Rh/SiO_2$  when  $CO_2$  is added.

Scalbert et al., J. Catal 318 (2014) 61

## DRIFTS + MS + SSITKA

#### (SSITKA: Steady-State Isotopic Transient Kinetic Analysis)



#### DRIFTS: Formate exchange over Pt-CeO<sub>2</sub> $2\% \ ^{12}CO + 7\% \ H_2O \rightarrow 2\% \ ^{13}CO + 7\% \ H_2O$



Slope = k

## Formate DRIFT signal calibration

Na-formate deposition (by IWI) over the CeO<sub>2</sub> support Spectra recorded at 100°C under Ar



[formates] can be determined accurately

# *Pt/CeO*<sub>2</sub>: *rate of CO*<sub>2</sub> *formation vs. rate of formate decomposition*

Meunier et al. J. Catal. 252 (2007) 18



# Formate decomposition during CO hydrogenation on 14% Co/Al $_2O_3$

**30%** CO + 60 % H<sub>2</sub> at 1 bar, 220°C



**Two-type of formates: fast and slow** 

#### Conclusions

## **Operando FT-IR Studies of heterogeneous catalytic reactions: pitfalls and benefits.**

- Necessity to compare activity in IR cell and standard reactor
- Understand the origin of the differences, if any.
   (impurities, bed by-pass, temperature gradients)
- Improve cell design.

- Many relevant information for kinetic modelling can be obtained (using differential conditions): transport, nature(s) and coverage of sites, heat and mode of adsorption, poisoning, adsorbate reactivity.... 32





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